



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 Part 1

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Borough Sign Love

Nuneaton Borough have made their first signing for the new season after Michael Love penned a two year deal. The 26-year-old, who lives in Burbage, started his career at Bedworth United under Brendan Phillips before having spells with Hinckley Town and Hinckley Athletic from where he was snapped up by Wigan Athletic for £50,000.

The full-back then had a spell with Wycombe Wanderers before joining Stevenage, where he became a firm favourite with the fans at Broadhall Way. Love was part of the Stevenage side that took Newcastle United to a 3rd round replay, but broke his leg in the match at St James' Park.

Lee Charles Signs

Lee Charles has become the second signing for Borough after joining on a two year deal from fellow Nationwide Conference side Hayes. Charles has gained Football League experience with Queens Park Rangers, Barnet and Cambridge United.

The England non-league international was offered full-time football by Doncaster Rovers and Telford but has decided on a move to Manor Park. Stevenage, Boston and Kingstonian were also in the chase for the Luton-based player. Charles began his career with Chertsey Town where he was a prolific goalscorer and Ray Wilkins paid £67,500 to take him into the Football League with Queens Park Rangers.

Phillips Nets Sykes

Brendan Phillips has completed his third new season signing under the Bosman Ruling when Alex Sykes signed from Forest Green Rovers on a one year deal. The 26-year-old left-sided midfielder has experience with Mansfield Town in the Football League and also Cheltenham Town, Westfields and Endsleigh FC.

Two More Join Borough

Nuneaton Borough have signed Stafford Rangers' hitman Richard Mitchell and Hereford United's Mark Taylor. Mitchell, 26, scored a phenomenal 42 goals in 52 games last season and has hit almost 100 during the past three seasons. Also putting pen to paper was 34-year-old Taylor who will add experience to an already competitive midfield and take on a coaching role with the youth and reserve teams.

Mitchell, who lives in Stoke began his career with Port Vale and was in the Conference with Macclesfield and Southport before joining Stafford Rangers in 1995. Taylor

began his career with Walsall from where he joined Sheffield Wednesday for £50,000. After two years with the Owls he was sold to Shrewsbury Town for £70,000 in 1991, where he spent the remainder of his Football League career.

Crowley Re-signs

Dave Crowley has signed a one year extension to his contract, which will take him into his sixth year with the club. However, Stuart Ryder is set to make a permanent move to Stafford Rangers, where he will link up with former Borough colleagues Leigh Everitt and Richard Williams.

Bradbury Joins Backroom Staff

Ron Bradbury has been added to Nuneaton Borough's backroom staff for the new season. The former Atherstone United boss will work with the reserve and youth teams – and also act as a scout.

Borough Break Transfer Record



Nuneaton Borough have smashed their transfer record by signing Marc McGregor from Forest Green Rovers for £35,000. The 22-year-old striker has put pen to paper on a two year deal after making the shock switch yesterday.

The Tewkesbury-based player will link up with one of his former colleagues at the Lawn, Alex Sykes, who has also been added to the Borough squad. McGregor hit 16 goals in total last season and was capped at England non-league international level. McGregor was on trial with Manchester City this year and has also attracted interest from Bristol City.

Borough Junior Supporters' Club

Nuneaton Borough have launched a new scheme to attract the next generation of supporters. As part of an overhaul both on and off the pitch ahead of the 2000-01 season the Manor Park side have unveiled the Nuneaton Borough Junior Supporters' Club. Open to anyone between five and 15 it promises to be one of the best value packages in the Nationwide Conference.

Paul Everard – aka Brewno The Bear – is helping to co-ordinate the scheme along with Martin Hier. Everard said: “We just want to offer the best possible opportunities for juniors to come and watch Boro play.”...



Brewno The Bear lines up with club community officer Martin Hier to help launch the Nuneaton Borough Junior Supporters' Club. The duo are hoping that as many youngsters snap up the chance to support the Manor Park side during the coming season.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

King Back At Borough

Nuneaton Borough have welcomed on board their seventh new face for the coming season after re-signing Ian King. Just 24 hours after smashing the club transfer record for Marc McGregor, the 25-year-old midfielder returns after a two year break from Manor Park – but initially on a non-contract basis.

Ian Reed Sold To Worcester City

Nuneaton Borough's Ian Reed has been sold to Worcester City in a £3,000 deal. The 24-year-old left winger made just ten full appearances in an injury wrecked season after his switch from Halesowen Town last summer.

Paddy Mullen New Commercial Manager

Nuneaton Borough are aiming to take giant steps towards their ambition of a place in the Football League after appointing Paddy Mullen as their new commercial manager. With an entire lifetime working in football both on and off the field it is hoped that Mullen's contacts and know-how will generate considerable income for the Manor Park side.

After representing England at schoolboy level, Mullen went on to turn professional with West Bromwich Albion. But it was the non-league game at which the player excelled with spells at Worcester City and Hereford United. During his time with the Bulls a partnership was formed with Colin Addison and the duo have worked together for the past 30 years until Mullen left Scarborough a month ago. Chairman Phil Clayton is relishing the prospect of his new commercial manager...

Ducros Moves To Kidderminster

Nuneaton Borough's star striker Andy Ducros has become Kidderminster Harriers record signing after completing an £80,000 deal with the Nationwide Conference champions. The 22-year-old met Harriers' manager Jan Molby and chairman Lionel Newton and personal terms were agreed for him to make the move back into the Football League...

2000-2001

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 15-07-2000

Borough: Young, Thackeray (Weaver 30), Love (Thompson 60), Simpson (Brennan 60), Barnett (Thackeray 60), Williams (Simpson 80), Wray (King 30), Taylor (Kotylo 60), McGregor (Mitchell 30), Francis (McGregor 60), Sykes (Wray 60).

Borough made the journey to The Valley to take on Redditch United in a pre-season friendly game.

The game was played over three 30 minute periods, allowing for substitutions to be made in an orderly fashion. It was pretty much a training exercise, as was stressed by Brendan Phillips at the end of the game. “I'm pretty pleased with the way things went overall. We've not picked up any serious injuries and it was a good workout.

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Marc McGregor's efforts were rewarded in the latter stages and Richard Mitchell also chipped in with a goal and made an excellent contribution to the game. Ian King opened the scoring with a lovely free kick, leaving the keeper rooted to the spot and setting an example for others to follow.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 22-07-2000

Borough: Young, Thackeray (Wray 65), Love, Simpson, Gittens, Angus (Weaver 65), King (Brennan 55), Taylor (Williams 75), McGregor (Francis 65), Mitchell, Sykes (Kotylo 55). **Sub:** Shoemake.

Borough welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

The Second Division side started well and forced Borough into long spells of defending, but the home side soaked up the pressure before gradually coming into the game and took the lead with just a minute of the first-half remaining. With Ian King using the width of the Manor Park pitch to good effect the goal was a mere matter of time as Borough stretched the Cambridge defensive line until it snapped. The breakthrough finally came when Richard Mitchell scored his second goal in as many games. Terry Angus returned the ball into the area from Andy Thackeray's corner and the striker pounced on the loose ball from four yards to give the keeper no chance.

Former Borough target Ben Abbey came off the bench at half-time to try and add a bit of sting to the Cambridge attack, but Angus and Gittens kept the striker out of the game. Ryan Young was outstanding in the Boro goal and Karl Brennan put in an exceptional performance. Boro killed off the game as a contest in the 85th minute. Brennan was found in acres of space as the United defence was ripped apart. The youngster held his nerve and unselfishly squared to the in-rushing Michael Love whose shot was blocked by the keeper only for Mitchell to be on hand to tap into the empty net.

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 25-07-2000

Boro: Young, Thackeray (Wray 45), Crowley, Angus, Love (Sykes 46), King (Taylor 60), Williams, Brennan (Thompson 80), Kotylo (Weaver 45), Mitchell (McGregor 46), Francis. **Sub:** Shoemake.

Northampton: Welch (Sollitt 77), Spedding, Sampson, Hope, Hendon, Harvreaives, Frain, Hunt (Savage 63), Hodge, Cabbiadini, Howard (Forrester 46). **Subs:** Gould, Green, Thompson, Morrow, Webster, Dobson.

Borough welcomed Northampton Town to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

The game started with Borough in the ascendancy as Francis found half a yard on the edge of the area, but looped the ball high over the keeper and the crossbar in the third minute. Their confident start continued two minutes later as Krystof Kotylo held off a challenge to find Francis whose lovely lay-off led to Mitchell shooting wide of the upright. Northampton's first threat came from a free-kick wide on the right after Karl Brennan was adjudged to have fouled John Hodge. He picked himself up to take the kick and Gabbiadini latched on to the end of it, but his flamboyant volley went tamely wide.

With 15 minutes gone Boro were forcing the issue and Francis had a shot blocked and Barry Williams thumped the rebound wide as the home side looked the more likely to score. Ryan Young watched a poor Frain effort trickle past the post and took a tremendous high catch off Chris Hargreaves' forehead. With both sides working hard the action became very bitty with the midfield being by-passed by both sets of defenders. With a minute to go to half-time Young was forced into his first serious save of the night. Steve Howard made inroads into the left side of the area, but his eventual shot was shovelled wide by the keeper at the near post at the expense of a corner.

Ian King unleashed a Beckham style free kick from the edge of the area in the first minute of the second half producing a fine fingertip save from Cobblers' keeper Keith Welch. Borough had a scare as Brennan lost possession on the edge of his own area, but James Hunt failed to capitalise as Young was quickly off his line to smother the danger. Alex Sykes pushed a shot wide as Boro looked the better side with 15 minutes to go. Boro pushed for a winner and Sykes' left-wing cross was nodded down by Williams for Brennan to somehow fail to connect as he failed to turn the ball in at the far post. Young made a wonderful save from David Savage.

Borough got the breakthrough with just seconds to go. Sampson's complete miskick led to a corner on the right hand side. Sykes swung the cross over and found Simon Weaver with his back to goal. He held off a challenge and kept his cool to square the ball to Francis who made no mistake from six yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Wolverhampton W. 27-07-2000

Boro: Young, Wray (Brennan 54), Love (Stevenson 80), Simpson, Weaver, Angus, King, Taylor (Kotylo 75), McGregor (Mitchell 87), Mitchell (Francis 62), Sykes (Thompson 80). **Sub:** Shoemake.

Wolves: Stowell, Green, Loughlin (McQuade 54), McKinnon (Crowe 71), Epesse-Titi, Andrews, Proudlock, Taylor (Melligan 71), Fiawoo (Tudor 58), Larkin (Leonard 84), Simpson (Downes 82). **Sub:** Murray.

Boro welcomed Wolverhampton Wanderers to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough's first attempt on goal was an Ian King shot from distance that didn't really trouble Stowell in the visitors' goal. A minute later Wray went on a mazy run into the danger zone. His eventual cross seemed to be a very poor one but it somehow managed to squirm its way through to Mark McGregor, but an offside flag brought the move to a halt. Proudlock went close as he beat the offside trap and raced into the area, but was beaten to the ball by Ryan Young.

McGregor go a useful shot in, which was diverted for a corner by Ryan Green before Boro fell behind at the close of the first half. Weaver missed an important header allowing Larkin to sneak in and lift the ball over the exposed keeper.

The second half began as the first had ended with Wolves scoring a goal. A lack of concentration and communication



in Borough's defence left Fiawoo with the simple task of pushing the ball past the again exposed Young. Boro were still plugging away up front with McGregor and Richard Mitchell covering a lot of ground. McGregor had a thumping shot blocked in the area and Mark Taylor hit the rebound straight at Stowell as Borough tried in vain to get back into it. McGregor headed over after stealing a yard at the far post, and then had a shot charged out for a corner after cushioning Brennan's cross on his chest.

The third goal of the game came when Shane Tudor hit a wonder strike in the 64th minute. His blistering 30 yarder went straight as a die and in off Young's left hand post, giving him no chance. Stowell was forced into a save from his own player as Keith Andrews dived to get his head to a cross and tried to divert the ball back to his keeper, but Stowell pulled off a great save. The final action came in front of the Cock and Bear stand as Kotylo's cross to the back post was nodded in to the danger area by Thompson, and a classic goalmouth scramble then ensued with the goalkeeper finally grabbing the ball after Francis, Wray and Brennan had all tried to turn it into the net.

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough 29-07-2000

Stalybridge: Ingham, Beesley, Scott, Williamson, McCartney, Baress, Sullivan, Parr, Filsom, Jones, Ogley. Subs: Steele, Heaton, Ord, Davy.

Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Simpson, Gittens, Angus, King, Taylor, McGregor, Mitchell, Sykes. Subs: Brennan, Crowley, Kotylo, Wray, Weaver.

Borough made the journey to the Bower Fold to face Stalybridge Celtic in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough began the game on top and Celtic were chasing shadows early on, but Boro pressure had to pay and the only surprise was that it took almost 30 minutes for the first goal to come. It was worth waiting for though as a free kick wide on the right was drilled in by Ian King on the edge of the area, he flicked the ball up and over the defender's head and ran around him before he lifted it over the next opponent with a deft volley before bringing the ball down and finding the corner of the net with his shot.

The lively Tony Sullivan was a thorn in Boro's side all afternoon and he almost opened the scoring in the 18th minute after forcing Simpson into a mistake. Young had rushed from his goal to help the defender clear the danger which meant the net was unguarded when the ball found its way to Sullivan but Jon Gittens made a superb stop on the line. The miss was punished by King's goal but Boro were ahead for less than ten minutes as Celtic clawed their way back into the game with a free far post header from Kevin Parr that left Young rooted to the spot.

Parr then had a shot charged down before Boro again took the lead four minutes before the break with a goal from Andy Thackeray. Sykes was found in acres of space on the left allowing time for a perfectly measured cross to the far post for the awaiting Mark McGregor who cushioned a header back

across the goal for the unmarked captain to do the easy bit, albeit at the second attempt.

Boro were caught cold at the start of the second half after Young came rushing to the edge of his area and realised he had to punch the ball and made a poor connection which fell to Sullivan who crashed the ball into the empty net from 30 yards. The referee asked for Martin Filsom to be substituted after he sought to assault Terry Angus. The second half fizzled out as the game lost its shape and rhythm, but in the final few minutes the hosts almost grabbed a late winner as the impressive Sullivan beat three players on a mazy run and then let fly from 30 yards, but the ball flew just wide.

The game ended on a sour note as Phillips jumped off the bench to remonstrate with the referee after Kevin Parr clattered into Brennan with a late, high tackle. The young midfielder got gingerly to his feet and was relieved to hear the final whistle. The bad news from the game was that Shaun Wray dislocated his shoulder and will be out for six weeks.

Nuneaton Borough v Chasetown

01-08-2000

Boro: Young, Bacon, Thompson (Gibbins 55), Williams, Cooper, Weaver, Stevenson, Brennan, Francis (Peacock 66), Kotylo, Tarr (Hanney 51). Sub: Griffin.

Chasetown: Atkins, Stevenson, Fardoe, Gilby, Haddaway, Reyner, Oldaker, Evans, McMahon, Rawlinson, Neuchterlien. Subs: Bradbury, Hyden, Banks, Donovan, Machin, Dutton.

Boro welcomed Chasetown to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough carved out the first chance of the game after just six minutes. A sweeping move involving half the team was completed when Nathan Thompson's pass into the area was met by Delton Francis whose curling shot was beautifully tipped over the bar by the alert and very agile Pete Atkins. Boro had totally run the game from the first whistle and it was no surprise when they took the lead on ten minutes. Youngster Anthony Tarr kept his head in a goalmouth scramble and thumped the ball into the far corner of the net from 12 yards, leaving Atkins with no chance.

Young showed his ex-team mates what they were missing with three good stops, especially when Chris Rawlinson latched onto a through ball from Steve Oldaker, but Young was again out quickly to smother the danger. With ten minutes to go before the break Atkins pulled off two remarkable saves in the space of a minute. The first came as Thompson found Francis in space, who eventually pulled the ball back for Thompson who looked sure to score, but for the agility of the Chasetown keeper. Atkins again came to the rescue when Stevenson hit a rocket through the defensive wall but the unsighted keeper pulled off a remarkable save.

Borough eventually extended their lead on the stroke of half-time when Brennan controlled Carl Bacon's pass and set up Stevenson, who let fly with the outside of his right foot from the corner of the area.



The number of substitutions made after the break upset the rhythm of the game, but Chasetown continued to compete and deservedly got a reward for their efforts when Craig Machin received the ball on the corner of the 18 yard box. He controlled the ball before flicking it into the air and volleyed a thunderous shot past Young. Francis broke through and had a golden chance to restore Borough's two goal lead, but his control let him down.

Stevenson curled a free kick just wide before Peacock went on a mazy run that saw him run out of room, and he had to settle for a corner. The last chance of the game fell to Stevenson. The ball dropped over his shoulder and he caught it sweet on the volley but just didn't get the elevation required to guide the ball over the advancing Young.

Nuneaton Borough v Sheffield United 05-08-2000

Boro: Young, Thackeray, Gittens, Simpson (Weaver), Williams, Angus, Taylor (Brennan 45), Charles (Francis 77), McGregor (Mitchell 77), King (Kotylo 77), Sykes. Sub: Rachel.

Sheffield: Duke, Dempsey, Weber, Doane, Santos, Clarke, Anderson Kozluk (Tongue 59), Smith (T. Thompson 63), Kovlbau (Lopes 81), Burley. Subs: L. Thompson, Ward.

Boro welcomed Sheffield United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

The game kicked off in bright sunshine and there were barely 60 seconds on the clock when Ian King spotted Lee Charles in space. He showed a lightning turn of speed as he raced clear of his marker and he drew the keeper out and pushed the ball past him into the corner of the net. Boro's lead was shortlived however, and after eight minutes Andy Smith got away down the right and put the ball over to the far post where Anderson scored with a powerful downward header that beat Young all ends up.

The United youngsters showed great energy, even in the baking sun and kept up the high tempo. Boro, however, should have retaken the lead after 25 minutes when Andy Thackeray missed a great chance to score. Charles pulled the ball back into his path and after seeing his initial shot saved he simply wasn't quick enough to react and he got crowded out of a busy penalty area. Two minutes later an even better chance came along. Barry Williams won possession midway into the Sheffield half and after riding two challenges, slipped the ball into the path of Ian King who flicked the ball past the keeper, but was sent crashing to the ground by Duke. McGregor stepped up to take the penalty but saw his spot kick saved and although Charles rushed in to head the rebound goalwards, the ball hit the bar and ricocheted away.

Three minutes later Borough took the lead as Alex Sykes, stood on the corner of the 18-yard box, crashed an unstoppable volley into the roof of the net with the keeper completely beaten. The home side almost added to their lead before the break as Charles turned and hit an instinctive shot that scraped the post.

The second half started more sedately and it was 15 minutes into the second period before either goalkeeper was troubled. The game progressed at a slower pace and it was 60 minutes old when Sheffield, pressing for an equaliser, almost drew level when Thackeray cleared off the line and Gittens headed the ball up in the air during the confusion, before Young claimed the ball. The keeper though was powerless to stop Sheffield's equaliser a few minutes later as he was left completely exposed. He managed to parry the first effort from Burley, but not his second from just six yards out.

Boro should have restored their lead two minutes later when Charles raced clear and reached the edge of the box where there was just one defender and the goalkeeper to beat. He squared the ball to Thackeray who completely missed his kick from eight yards. There were more chances in the final ten minutes as first Francis hit a shot straight at Duke from 20 yards and then Brennan had a shooting chance from inside the area but the ball got stuck under his feet. Weaver had a goal-bound effort hacked off the line and Richard Mitchell was denied by Duke's agility as his low shot on the turn was finger-tipped around the post for another Borough corner as they ended the game on top.

Nuneaton Borough v Barnsley 10-08-2000

Boro: Matthews, Bacon, Love (Stevenson 45), Williams, Weaver, Crowley (Simpson 45), Kotylo, Charles (Smith 62), Mitchell (Francis 45), Brennan (Thompson 45), Sykes.

Barnsley: Hirschfield, O'Callaghan (Goodyear 45), Corbo (N. Austin 45), Mulligan (Hood 68), K. Austin (Welch 45) Dudgeon, Young, Neil (Fallon 68), Savic (Barrowclough 45), Turner, Brady. Sub: Siddall.

Borough welcomed Barnsley to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough started well and dominated the early exchanges and won a fruitless corner on five minutes as Charles stepped inside a defender but O'Callaghan blocked his goal-bound effort. Kotylo hit a long range effort over the bar before Barnsley won possession and retained the ball with a good display of passing football. Jason Matthews was a mere spectator as Garry Brady hit a chance over the bar, but Boro were still in the game and could have taken the lead on 18 minutes. Carl Bacon won a corner which was swung in by Alex Sykes to Williams who connected well with a flying volley but Hirschfield saved.

Boro were almost made to pay as Garry Brady got past Michael Love and put in a cross which Sini Savic headed over the bar. Charles missed a chance on the half-hour mark as Karl Brennan played him in, but a cruel bounce robbed him of the chance. Two minutes later the Boro defence was all over the place as Brady played a ball into the path of Brian O'Callaghan who calmly pushed the ball past Matthews and into the net. The keeper then made a superb save from Mike Turner as the Tykes looked to extend their lead. Three minutes later it was 2-0 as Turner galloped away to the edge



of the area, checked back, and put in a shot that gave the keeper no chance. Boro were in danger of losing touch and they fell further behind as Matthews dropped a clanger, missing his kick from a routine Weaver back-pass, allowing Savic the simple task of slotting the ball into the unguarded net from 25 yards.

Boro started the second half well and Sykes was very busy in trying to inspire the home side. Boro got on top and shots and corners rained on Hirschfield's goal but to no avail. The Barnsley keeper pulled off the save of the match after 65 minutes with a point blank reflex stop from Charles' powerful header. The home side then got a goal following a good right wing move and Charles flicked a diving header past the visitors' keeper from Bacon's cross.

Barnsley almost restored their three goal lead but Matthews made a good save from Turner. Youngster Lee Smith, on as sub for Lee Charles, hit a screamer from well outside the area but Hirschfield punched clear. Barnsley scored a fourth goal three minutes from time when substitute Nathan Hood lifted a harmless looking cross into the box but Craig Goodyear was quickest to the ball and clipped a looping header over Matthews and into the net.

Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-08-2000

Bedford: Heeps, Daniels (Jackman 63), Wilson, Covington, G. Williams, Heard, Inman, Turner (Sherlock 30), Paul (Slinn 45), Banya (Drew 45), Lawley. **Sub:** Lomas.

Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love (Simpson 70), Crowley (Brennan 65), Gittens, Angus, Taylor, Charles, McGregor (Sykes 67), King (Mitchell 65), B. Williams. **Sub:** Shoemake.

Boro made the journey to the New Eyrrie to play Bedford Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Boro were first to show and Ian King played a neat one-two with Lee Charles before hitting a shot straight at James Heep in the home goal. Paul Daniels then played Paul Turner clear and his shot was blocked by Ryan Young and Terry Angus cleared the rebound off the line. Barry Williams headed wide from Michael Love's corner and then headed over following a King corner. Boro took the lead after 35 minutes when a sliced crossfield pass from Angus fell to the unmarked Andy Thackeray, who took the ball round Heeps and slotted it into an empty net.

Borough almost doubled their lead three minutes later when Williams played Charles clear down the right, but his cross-shot was finger-tipped round the post by Heeps. Bedford tried to hit back, but apart from a Covington shot that drifted onto the roof of the net, they were never a threat.

The second half started with Borough attacking and King put a shot just wide from 20 yards out. Barry Williams then ran from deep towards the goal, but his shot dipped a yard over the bar. Bedford hit back and Carl Dale broke through the middle and his low shot shaved the post with Young beaten. After 75 minutes, good work from Charles saw him

play Alex Sykes clear, but his powerful shot was charged down by a Bedford defender. The home side equalised after 77 minutes when an Eddie Lawley left-wing cross evaded everyone except the energetic Drew who stole in on the blind side to give Young no chance with his close range shot. Bedford thought they had fashioned a winner on 85 minutes when Lawley again found Drew, but the effort was disallowed following an offside decision.

Nuneaton Griff v Nuneaton Borough 16-08-2000

Boro: Windsor, Bacon, White, Barry, Owen (Cooper), Gibbons, Stevenson, Peacock, Siddu (Padmore), Terrill, Thompson. **Sub:** Scarr.

Borough made the journey to The Pingles to face Nuneaton Griff in a pre-season friendly.

Borough fielded what to all intents and purposes was a reserve side against their local rivals. The Borough youngsters slipped to a 2-0 defeat in front of a healthy crowd of 420.

Doncaster Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 19-08-2000

Doncaster: Warrington, Marples (Shaw 63), Ryan, Atkins, Walling, Barnard, Paterson, Kelly (Watson 63), Alford, Halliday, McIntyre. **Subs:** Foster, Duerden, Richardson.

Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Crowley, Gittens, Angus, Taylor, Charles, McGregor, King (Brennan 29), Williams. **Subs:** Simpson, Sykes, Mitchell.

Boro made the journey to Belle Vue to play Doncaster Rovers in a Nationwide Conference game.

Doncaster dictated the play for the first 20 minutes and had Boro on the back foot, but failed to press home their advantage. Carl Alford had a chance for the home side after three minutes but skied his shot over the bar from six yards. Terry Angus then chipped the ball over Warrington in the Doncaster goal but his shot landed on the roof of the net, before Rovers hit back and Mark Atkins put a tremendous header wide of the post. Boro created their first real opening as Michael Love sent a left wing cross into the area for Barry Williams to head just over the bar.

Alford had a shot deflected for a corner before Boro came more into the game and a succession of crosses and corners rained in on the Doncaster goal. The goal that the home side had threatened duly arrived after 26 minutes when Alford chested the ball into the path of Paterson who pushed the ball past Crowley and shot from 25 yards, leaving Young standing. However, Boro quickly picked themselves up and were level three minutes later when Mark Taylor hit a stunning 30 yard shot that hit the underside of the crossbar and fell into the net with more than a little assistance from the goalkeeper.

Boro were forced into a change as Ian King limped off with a groin injury to be replaced by Karl Brennan. Boro had a great chance to take the lead shortly before the break when Marc McGregor rode two challenges as he made his way into the area, but his shot was well saved by Warrington.



Boro created the first chance of the second half when Karl Brennan took a free kick and found Angus lurking at the back post. He managed to get his head on the ball but couldn't keep it down. With an hour of the game gone Boro began to pick up the pace and were unlucky not to go ahead as Williams and then Thackeray brought the best out of Warrington. McGregor turned provider as his slide rule pass put Thackeray through on goal but the keeper was out quickly to stop the danger.

The travelling support sensed an upset as McGregor and Brennan created mayhem in and around the home penalty area. Brennan put a long high cross to the back post and McGregor picked up the loose ball and drove it hard across the six yard box, but no-one was on hand to touch it into the net and Taylor eventually skied the ball out of the ground. Michael Love crashed in a shot from 25 yards, but Warrington was well positioned. The crossbar came to Borough's rescue after 74 minutes when Paterson's lob beat the out of position Young.

The last ten minutes produced some hectic stuff as Young came out to claim a cross and found himself stranded. Love came to the rescue with a clearance over the stand. Alford hit a free kick wide from a good position on the edge of the area before Brennan went on a mazy run and won a corner. Doncaster hit back and Boro were forced to defend in depth but they broke out and Brennan laid the ball off to Crowley who saw McGregor starting a run and laid on a perfect pass as the striker ran clear. He had time to steady himself and make a decision. The keeper committed himself early and lay on the ground to watch the ball trickle agonisingly the wrong side of the post.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United	22-08-2000
<p>Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Taylor, Charles (Mitchell 89), McGregor, Brennan, Williams. Subs: Sykes, Weaver, Francis, Shoemake.</p> <p>Boston: Bastock, Woodings, Lucas, Gowshall, Howarth, Rennie, Stanhope (Livett 46), De Souza (Rawle 67), Nuttall, Cramman (Minette 46), Raynor. Subs: Fewings, Hoyle.</p>	

Boro welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro opened the scoring after only six minutes when Michael Love broke away down the left and cut the ball inside to Andy Thackeray whose first-time lay off was perfect for Charles to crash home from eight yards to give Boro a dream start. Boro kept up the pressure and were throwing men forward at every opportunity although a mistake by Young gave away a cheap corner. At the other end Bastock tipped over a shot from Charles before Williams played in McGregor, who put in a weak shot.

Borough were passing the ball well with Taylor keeping calm under pressure in Borough's penalty area and passing his way out of trouble. McGregor went on a long run and made it to the Boston penalty area, but chose to shoot when players

were free in and around the area. The half came to a close with Boston still defending

Boston started the second half in a more determined manner and won two corners before Brennan broke from the edge of the box and picked out McGregor who swapped passes with Charles before unleashing a 25-yard curler into the top corner of the net leaving Bastock helpless. De Souza created Boston's first real chance as he turned Simpson and shot towards the roof of the net, but Young pulled off the save of the match to keep his goal intact. With 51 minutes on the clock Boro made it 3-0 as Charles' excellent first touch helped him to break clear. His shot from 15 yards was well saved by Bastock but all he could do was parry the ball into the path of McGregor who joyfully tapped the ball into the net.

The introduction of former Boro target Mark Rawle paid immediate dividends as he won a penalty after being bundled over by Terry Angus in the six yard box. Minette smashed the spot kick into the top corner. Boston came more into the game after the penalty and Boro had to keep their discipline to stave off a fightback. However, the game should have been over with 15 minutes to go as Brennan broke free, latching onto a lovely ball from McGregor, but Bastock rushed out and although he looked to have handled outside the box in making the save, the referee waved play on.

Francis On Trial With Bristol Rovers

Delton Francis will spend a week training with Bristol Rovers in an attempt to win a move into the full-time game. The 22-year-old former Birmingham City trainee impressed in a reserve team game for Ian Holloway's side and scored a spectacular goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United	26-08-2000
<p>Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Crowley, Gittens, Angus, Taylor, Charles, McGregor, Brennan, Williams (Sykes 70). Subs: Simpson, Mitchell, Francis, Shoemake.</p> <p>Telford: Price, Travis, Davies, Moore, Gayle, Fowler, McGrory, Jobling, Martindale, Malkin (Murphy 42), Palmer (Preece 64). Subs: Sandwith, Albrighton, Williams.</p>	

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Telford had a lot of the early possession, but only created one real opening of note as they sprung the offside trap and found themselves in a three on one situation. Terry Angus was superb at the back all afternoon though and he averted the danger single handedly as they wasted the opportunity. Marc McGregor hit Borough's first shot on target.

The game featured a below par performance by both sides as the wet conditions made good football difficult. Boro took the lead however, on 22 minutes when Michael Love's corner was headed home by Terry Angus. Ryan Young was called into action as he took a superb high catch from Simon Travis' cross before McGregor was brought down on the edge of the



area by McGrory and Neil Moore was happy to concede a corner from Brennan's corner kick. Crowley was booked as he crashed through the back of Gary Martindale with a needless tackle before the first half ended with a brilliant save from Young as Travis' powerful long range effort looked destined for the top corner of the net.

The second half got under way with Telford keeper Price flapping at Brennan's corner before substitute Gez Murphy began to cause problems for the home side. He got the reward for his perseverance after 79 minutes as Telford drew level. Martindale's downward header was excellently saved by Young, but Boro had been caught short at the back and the loose ball was bundled into the net off the post by the grateful Murphy. Boro were stunned and tried to hit back through Sykes, but the chance was snuffed out by the packed Telford defence, who had settled for a draw.

Morecambe v Nuneaton Borough 28-08-2000

Morecambe: Smith, Fensome (McGuire 62), Hardiker, McKearney, Murphy, Walters, Thompson (Black 85), Drummond, Eastwood, Norman, Takano (Rigoloso 76). Subs: Price, Banks.

Boro: Young, Thackeray (Simpson 45), Love, Crowley, Gittens, Angus, Taylor, Charles, McGregor, Brennan (Sykes 45), Williams (King 45). Subs: Mitchell, Shoemake.

Boro made the journey to Christie Park to play Morecambe in a Nationwide Conference game.

Morecambe were quickly into their stride and Boro might have conceded in the first few minutes as Andy Thackeray blatantly handled the ball on his own goal line. Marc McGregor then had the ball in the net for Boro, but celebrations were cut short by an offside flag. The home side continued to dominate and a move involving five players ended with Phil Eastwood hitting a powerful shot straight at Young. A goal looked imminent and so it proved when after 15 minutes Stewart Drummond picked the ball up in the middle of the park and strode forward. He fed the ball through for Garry Thompson who showed lovely skill in beating two defenders before hitting the ball hard and low into the danger area where Steve Walters was on hand to turn the ball in off the underside of the bar.

Boro were short of ideas and were forced to defend for long periods. On the rare occasion that they did get the ball they were unable to feed their forwards. After 30 minutes Thompson almost forced his way through and it took a fine save from Young to deny Eastwood. Barry Williams put a free-kick over the top before Boro went 2-0 down. Andy Fensome sent in a wicked cross for John Norman to thump an unchallenged header home from six yards with the keeper helpless. John Hardiker then shot from distance at Young and then put another shot way over the bar as they tried to kill the game as a contest before half-time. Thompson had two more chances for the home side before the break but was denied by Young on both occasions.

Brendan Phillips made three substitutions at half-time,

bringing on Wayne Simpson, Ian King and Alex Sykes for Thackeray, Brennan and Williams and Boro started the second half more brightly with Sykes shooting wide and then King doing the same from a free-kick. Young produced another fine save as Thompson tried his luck before Alex Sykes shot high over the bar. Boro were in danger of getting swamped when Terry Angus brought down Eastwood but Walters spot kick was poor and Young saved with some ease. Boro cashed in on their escape and went straight up the other end and scored. McGregor laid the ball off to Sykes who mishit his shot but was delighted to see it take deflection off Murphy and roll into the net.

Boro looked to be in with a chance of fighting their way back into the game, but these hopes were dispelled as Morecambe restored their two goal advantage as Drummond side-stepped Young and fired into the net from an angle. Boro were torn apart again when they were totally outnumbered in their own penalty area and substitute Black walked the ball into the net. King scored for Boro following a goalmouth scramble, but it was too little, too late.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 02-09-2000

Boro: Young, Simpson, Love, Crowley, Gittens (Francis 53), Angus, Taylor, Charles (Mitchell 66), McGregor (Brennan 83), Sykes, Williams. Subs: Weaver, Shoemake.

Yeovil: Pennock, Piper, Tompkin, Skiverton, Steele, Way, Belgrave, Smith, Patmore, Crittendon, Bent (White 70). Subs: Peters, Poole, Lindegaard, Weale.

Boro welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

There were chances for both sides in the first two minutes, firstly when Ryan Young spilled Crittendon's shot, but recovered well and the same at the other end when Tony Pennock failed to hold Marc McGregor's shot. Boro then created a great chance when Crowley lifted the ball over the Yeovil defence into the path of McGregor, whose mis-hit volley trickled into the side netting. Yeovil broke the deadlock after 19 minutes when Barrington Belgrave forced Jon Gittens into a rash challenge in the penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot. Darren Way stepped forward and calmly slotted the ball into the net.

Boro tried to hit back and won several corners and the Yeovil defence struggled to clear the danger, giving Alex Sykes a chance, but his header from eight yards was well wide. Crittenden put in a powerful shot that cannoned off Terry Angus before Barry Williams went on a dangerous run to the edge of the area and set up Sykes, whose volley was charged down by Paul Steele. Lee Charles shot over the bar as Boro kept up the pressure and won several corners, one of which almost brought an equaliser as Michael Love's inswinging corner was headed goalwards by Gittens, but the ball was cleared off the line by Steele.

Boro dominated play for 20 minutes after the Yeovil goal but were made to pay the price for poor finishing and shoddy



passing when Yeovil extended their lead seven minutes before the interval. With Boro pushing forward Gittens and Angus exchanged passes, looking for an option in midfield but Gittens lost possession and Patmore reacted quickly to steal the ball and toe poke the ball past the stranded keeper and from there into an empty net.

The second half saw Yeovil pushing forward in an attempt to kill off the game, but it almost cost them as Lee Charles evaded his marker and burst into the penalty area only to be clattered by the outrushing Pennock, but the referee awarded a throw in as the ball ricocheted off the two players. Brendan Phillips brought on Delton Francis for Gittens and threw caution to the wind by pushing three players up front.

Patmore headed wide from a free-kick as the game reached the hour mark before Boro had a chance. McGregor received the ball inside the box but Steele kicked the ball off the striker's toe. Two minutes later it could have been game over as Yeovil found themselves in a four versus two situation, but Way let himself down with a poor touch and Boro got back to clear. Francis had chances to get Boro back in the game and hit a superb 25 yarder towards the top corner, but Pennock pulled off a tremendous save.

The same player then hit a long-range effort which just over. Yeovil played the next 20 minutes by retaining possession and their passing and movement troubled Boro's defenders. The final minutes saw Boro throwing men forward in an attempt to score and Love forced an excellent save from Pennock but time ran out and the home side resigned themselves to the fact that they had been beaten by a better side.

Kingstonian v Nuneaton Borough	05-09-2000
Kingstonian: Hurst, Beard (Bass 63), Lockett, Saunders, Stewart, Harris, Patterson, Pitcher, Allen (Boyce 63), Simba, Green (Akuamoah 11). Subs: Allan, Drewitt.	
Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Simpson, Weaver, Angus, Taylor, Crowley, McGregor (Brennan 87), Charles (Williams 56), Francis. Subs: Sykes, Kotylo, Shoemake.	

Boro made the journey to Kingsmeadow to play Kinstonian in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had the first chance of the game as Delton Francis controlled the ball on the edge of the area and forced Hurst into brilliant fingertip save. Marc McGregor almost put in a rebound from his own 20-yard shot, but the keeper recovered well to smother the danger. Kingstonian almost scored when Ryan Young flapped at Pitcher's corner, but the ball was hacked away. The home side were on top with Ronnie Green and Mark Beard posing lots of problems down the right. Green galloped away for the third time in as many minutes as Boro looked stretched, but Angus recovered well and forced the striker away from goal before conceding a corner. Colin Lockett swung the flag kick in and Stewart thumped a powerful header into the net to give the home side the lead.

Taylor and McGregor were denied by some stout defending as Boro hit back, but Kingstonian should have scored when

Amara Simba found himself in a one-on-one with Ryan Young, but the forward hit his shot too early and scuffed it. The Boro keeper then had to make a remarkable double save and keep Boro in the game as first he thwarted Simba with a one-handed save and then Green with his legs as the K's strikers found themselves in space. Delton Francis went close as he turned on the edge of the area and left the keeper rooted as his shot curled just wide. Young saved well to thwart Green before Boro poured forward and Angus attempted to head in Love's cross but handled the ball, which ran through to the keeper with the referee waving play-on. But Boro won the ball back and Love put Francis away, who with the keeper and Beard bearing down on him, made light work of the pressure and pushed the ball between the keeper's legs and into the net.

The second half started at quite a pace and Lee Charles missed his kick from ten yards before being substituted by Barry Williams. Boro then swept into the lead when Love received possession and cut inside Beard before finding McGregor on the edge of the box. He laid the ball off to Francis and spun away off his marker as Francis repaid the compliment and McGregor placed the ball past the keeper. Boro kept control for the next ten minutes and looked to boss the game, having a chance of extending their lead, but Francis made the wrong choice and the chance was lost.

Tension was high with 15 minutes to go and there was some desperate defending at both ends. Simba almost grabbed an equaliser when he chested the ball down in the area and lifted it over Young, but Angus cleared off the line. The home side grabbed the equaliser following a colossal scramble in the Boro box. Young dropped a Pitcher corner and Simba eventually nodded home from about six inches out. Boro had a final chance from a similar scramble in the Kingstonian area, but they were unable to force the ball into the net.

Dagenham & Redbridge v Nuneaton Boro'	09-09-2000
Dagenham: Roberts, Cole, Vickers, Goodwin, Matthews, Brennan, Janney, Cobb (Browne 56), Terry, McDougald, Jones (Heffer 45). Subs: Keen, Payne, Naylor	
Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Sykes 81), Love, Simpson, Weaver (Gittens 71), Angus, Taylor (Brennan 71), Charles, McGregor, Francis, Crowley. Subs: Kotylo, Young.	

Boro made the journey to Victorial Road to play Dagenham and Redbridge in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started brightly and could have had a penalty as early as the third minute when Lee Charles was brought down in the area by Lee Matthews. The crowd had to wait until the 15 minute mark before the first shot at goal as McGregor evaded the offside trap, only to shoot well wide of the target from 12 yards. Both keepers were enjoying a quiet afternoon at this point but the game was an interesting battle in the middle of the park. Dagenham's former Ipswich star Mark Brennan and his partner Paul Cobb were constantly exchanging tackles with Dave Crowley and Taylor in midfield as the teams battled for supremacy. Delton Francis looked to be in with a

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chance as he raced onto a loose ball but he clashed with the keeper and lost his chance.

Dagenham gradually started to dominate play midway through the half and a succession of corners had Boro on the back foot, but a counter attack almost caught the Daggers out as Francis latched on to a perfectly timed ball from Taylor only to miss his kick. A minute later McGregor waltzed past two challenges and made his way into the area where he created enough space for a shot but fired wide. McKenzie almost put Boro's goal in jeopardy as he missed a punch from Mark Janney's cross, but Weaver cleared. The home side ended the half on top as they won several corners, but could not threaten Mackenzie's goal.

The second half started off in the same vein as the first but Cobb had the first chance as he seized on a misunderstanding between Thackeray and Crowley 40 yards out. He stole possession as the visitors' defence hesitated, but put his shot wide of the post. Michael Love almost broke through but the move broke down and the Daggers countered with Janney putting in a 25 yard effort that just drifted wide. Two minutes later Boro's graft paid off as Francis was put through. His initial shot was blocked but he had been backed up by McGregor who took time in controlling the ball on the edge of the area and made no mistake in finding the net.

A well worked set piece saw Simon Heffer hit a powerful low shot into the area, which was blocked six yards out by Weaver. Terry Angus then got himself in a tangle and fell to the floor with the ball lodged between his legs and Dagenham players trying to kick it free. The referee blew and decided to give a dropped ball on the edge of the Boro six yard box. The following melee was nothing short of pandemonium and Mackenzie had no chance in stopping the final touch as Browne claimed the equaliser.

With 15 minutes to go Boro could have retaken the lead as Francis was sent galloping away only for play to be pulled back and a free-kick awarded to Nuneaton in their own half. Browne had a chance to snatch a win for the home side with ten minutes to go as he planted a free header wide of the post from four yards. Substitute Alex Sykes put a 20-yarder just wide before the final whistle.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 12-09-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Williams (White 85), Love, Simpson, Weaver, Angus (Kotylo 27), Brennan, Charles (Sykes 39), McGregor, Francis, Crowley. Sub: Young.

Hereford: Cooksey, Lane, Clark, Robinson, Wright, James, Rodgerson (Parry 35), Snape, Giddings (Elmes 78), Williams, McIndoe. Subs: Baker, Gardiner, Hanson.

Boro welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made a bright start to the game and won a succession of corners and put in some deep throw-ins, which kept Hereford on the back foot. The crowd thought Delton Francis had got

Borough a goal after ten minutes when Marc McGregor's excellent footwork on the edge of the area created the chance for Francis to shoot inches over from 18 yards with the keeper beaten. Then came the first body blow for Boro as Hereford scampered away and Michael McIndoe was allowed to cross low from the left. John Snape managed to get a deflection on the ball and Ian Rodgerson was on hand to score. A few minutes later everything went completely pear shaped as Hereford extended their lead.

Snape flicked the ball on into the path of Giddins' diagonal run, and he unleashed an impressive volley from the edge of the area which looped over Mackenzie and into the far corner. Boro almost pulled a goal back four minutes later. Karl Brennan swung in a right hand corner and Michael Love nodded it back across the area where Angus met it with a powerful downward header, but Rodgerson headed the ball off the line. Angus was then replaced by Krystof Kotylo who lifted a ball into the path of Charles, but the striker pulled up in obvious pain and was replaced by Alex Sykes. Despite everything Boro ended the half strongly as Brennan peppered the area with free-kicks and corners and Barry Williams forced a fine save from Scott Cooksey. Hereford could have extended their lead at the end of the first half as Gavin Williams headed wide from Parry's corner.

Three minutes into the second half Boro gave themselves a lifeline as McGregor burst over the half-way line and fed the ball out to Love who controlled the ball before whipping in a dangerous cross which was met with a flying header from McGregor and the ball flew into the net. Sykes hit a low 20 yarder which took an awkward bounce as Borough stepped up a gear in search of an equaliser before Francis made a brave challenge trying to get on the end of Love's cross. Boro worked hard to get back into the game but time was running out and Hereford began to exploit the gaps in their defence and Gavin Williams broke forward in acres of space and found Snape, who only managed a weak volley.

Parry shot over from eight yards following another effort from Snape and Weaver almost levelled the scores as his sidefooted volley off Francis' lay-off was headed clear a yard out by Matt Clarke. Hereford played keep ball for the rest of the game and held out for a fourth consecutive away win.

Nuneaton Borough v Leigh RMI 16-09-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, Simpson, Love, Crowley (Kotylo 74), Weaver, Angus, Brennan, Charles (Francis 46), McGregor, Brennan, Sykes. Subs: Weaver, Bacon, Young.

Leigh: Dootson, Scott (Durkin 49), German, Udall, Farrell, Harris (Matthews 76), Kielty, Ridings, Mason (Cumisky 59), Black, Jones. Subs: Swan, Felgate.

Boro welcomed Leigh RMI to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference match.

Boro could have scored in the first couple of minutes as McGregor laid the ball off to Lee Charles who hit a fierce shot into the six yard box, just off target, with Alex Sykes painfully close to turning the ball home. Skyes then had



Boston United v Nuneaton Borough

20-09-2000

Boston: Martin, Wooding, Lodge, Hoyle, Curtis, Wilson, Stanhope, Elding, Raynor (Hayes 83), Rawle, Minnette. Subs: Fewings, Lucas, Nuttall, Bastock.

Boro: Young, Simpson (Williams 64), Love, Taylor, Gittens, Weaver (Crowley 70), Brennan, Francis, McGregor (Charles 81), Kotylo, Sykes. Subs: Angus, Shoemaker.

another chance as he fired a volley over the bar after Leigh failed to defend a Karl Brennan corner. The ex-Leicester City youngster then set up another chance, but McGregor couldn't get enough on his header and it went well wide with Sykes in a much better position. Terry Angus headed wide from a Michael Love corner before Leigh's Rick Harris was knocked insensible by Gittens' clearance which hit the RMI man full in the face. Although Leigh showed plenty of excellent movement off the ball there was no real threat to a tight Boro defence.

Boro streamed forward after 30 minutes and McGregor found Taylor who weaved this way and that before putting in a teasing cross that Harris could only head over his own crossbar. The corner almost bore fruit as Angus latched onto the end of Brennan's outswinger, only to see his effort saved by Craig Dootson. In the final minute before the break McGregor again made a nuisance of himself going past the last defender before drawing out Dootson and pulling the ball back, but no-one was on hand to put the ball into the net.

Brendan Phillips replaced Charles with Delton Francis for the second half, but the trend of the game continued with Boro in charge. McGregor volleys over the bar from eight yards while seconds later Sykes hit a stunning volley just over the angle. Boro took the lead after 53 minutes when Wayne Simpson lifted the ball into the area and McGregor was the first to react as he calmly slotted the ball under Dootson.

Jon Gittens was put under pressure by Peter Cuminsky who twisted him this way and that to win a fruitless corner. Brennan found Francis in a good position, but he was crowded out and the clearance fell to Kotylo who burst into the space from the corner of the area and measured a pinpoint pass for McGregor to apply the finishing touch with a deft header across the goalkeeper. That should have been the signal for Boro to kill off the match, but Leigh hit back and Tony Black stole in at the near post to deceive Mackenzie with the softest of goals to give Leigh hope.

Mackenzie had to be off his line quickly to stop substitute Neil Matthews from scoring and Steve Jones then had an excellent chance to save a point, but his control let him down as he found himself unmarked at the back post with just Mackenzie to beat. Jamie Udall fouled McGregor right in front of the referee and picked up his second booking and the right to first use of the shower. Borough played out the closing minutes by retaining possession and held on to their lead.

Spurs Track Young

Tottenham Hotspur are leading the chase for Nuneaton Borough keeper Ryan Young. The 20-year-old, signed from Interlink Alliance side Chasetown has attracted a high amount of interest following a spell in the first team earlier this season.

A number of Premiership and Football League scouts have tracked the player's progress since he moved to Manor Park and clubs have also invited the keeper to go on trial.

Boro made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in a Nationwide Variety Club Trophy game.

The game exploded into life in the first minute as Boro lost possession and Wooding sent in a cross for Anthony Elding to head home. Mark Rawle broke through again just after but Ryan Young was quickly off his line to save at the striker's feet. Marc McGregor was then put clear by Krystof Kotylo, but he could only lob a tame volley into keeper Kevin Martin's arms. After 17 minutes Mark Taylor sent McGregor away down the right and the striker made his way to the corner of the six yard box, lifting the ball over the keeper, but Colin Hoyle punched the ball off the line, earning himself a red card and giving McGregor the chance to equalise from the spot.

McGregor then missed a golden opportunity after Brennan played Francis in and he found the Boro No. 9 who burst into the area and rounded Martin but somehow contrived to hit the post from in front of an empty net. Boston had their backs to the wall and some desperate defending kept out first Francis and then McGregor, but just before half-time the pressure told and McGregor latched onto Alex Sykes' crossfield ball and hit a first-time shot across the keeper. Sykes netted twice just before the break, but both were disallowed.

Straight after the break Sykes picked up Brennan's corner and let fly with a vicious drive which was touched into the net by Francis. Rawle almost pulled a goal back with a close range header following a goalmouth scramble as Boston forced Boro back. However, with 25 minutes to go McGregor had another great chance as a quick break from a corner found the striker alone with just Martin to beat, but the keeper saved with his legs. Sykes put a 30 yard shot just over the bar.

Boston's offside trap had caught Boro out at least 20 times in the second half, but as they pushed higher up the pitch it was inevitable that they would be caught out. The only surprise was that it took until the 88th minute when Young's long clearance was completely missed by Andy Lodge, presenting Francis with the simple task of sliding the ball into the net. A minute later Francis had a golden opportunity to complete his hat-trick as a good ball from substitute Lee Charles found the striker eight yards out with just the keeper to beat but he hit the shot into the stand.

In the dying seconds Dave Crowley knocked a superb ball to Charles, who sprinted away over the half-way line. He had so many options that it would have been easy to make a mistake, but he found Sykes with a short pass and he rifled the ball into the net, giving Borough a well deserved victory.



Hayes v Nuneaton Borough 23-09-2000

Hayes: Hodson, Spencer (Barnes 64), Flynn, Coppard, Sterling, Baptiste (Preston 64), McKimm, Molesley, Stevens (Telemaque 90), Moore, White.

Boro: Young, Simpson, Love, Taylor (Williams 90), Gittens, Crowley, Brennan, Charles, McGregor (Francis 46), Kotylo, Sykes. Subs: Mackenzie, Angus.

Boro made the journey to Church Road to play Hayes in a Nationwide Conference game.

The game got off to a slow start before Mark Taylor had to clear hurriedly from in front of his own keeper as both Dave Stevens and Barry Moore waited to latch onto a loose ball following Moore's blocked shot from the edge of the area. At the other end McGregor won a free-kick and Alex Sykes hit a shot which cannoned off the wall and flew high over the net. Lee Charles headed Karl Brennan's flag kick inches wide of the post. Dave Crowley rescued Boro with a perfectly timed tackle as Stevens shaped to shoot.

Young failed to claim a cross from a free-kick and White had a free shot at goal, but his shot rebounded to safety off the crossbar. Young then saved well from Moore's 30 yard free-kick which bounced awkwardly. McGregor got in a header from Lee Charles' cross. At the other end White missed the target with a free header before McGregor had the best chance of the half following good work from Mark Taylor, but the ball was tipped over the bar. Moore failed to hit the target after Baptiste had broken away and laid on the chance.

The start of the second half mirrored that of the first with neither side taking charge. Just before the hour mark Boro went close as Michael Love's free-kick was tipped round the post for a corner. The same player caused havoc with the flag kick as Gittens headed his cross back across goal, but Francis' header was cleared from underneath the bar by Mark Molesley. Boro were torn apart by a swift move from Hayes as Stevens chased down a long ball and managed to beat Crowley, unleash a powerful shot that hit Love and rebounded to Moore, who shot wildly over the top.

Crowley headed Mark Preston's shot off the line after Young had missed a left wing cross from McKimm. Gittens headed wide at the far post from Brennan's corner while Sykes was denied by the keeper's feet after latching onto Brennan's pass. Chances were coming thick and fast at both ends with less than ten minutes left as Charles lifted the ball over the keeper and onto the roof of the net, while at the other end Crowley was on hand to save Boro again with a last gasp tackle which denied Preston the chance of finding Steve Barnes, who was free on the penalty spot.

Charles then beat the home side's offside trap only to find the keeper outside his area, who headed the ball out for a throw-in. The same player then shot at the keeper from 20 yards with a weak effort as the game fizzled out for a draw. It was a good point gained for Borough as while the game could have been won, it so easily could have been lost if not for some sterling defensive work.

Chester City v Nuneaton Borough 26-09-2000

Chester: Brown, Lancaster, Doughty, Moss (Woodyatt 85), Woods, Beesley, Carden, Blackburn, Beesley (Evans 79), Whitehall, Fisher. Subs: Greygoose, Finney, Kerr.

Boro: Mackenzie, Simpson, Love, Taylor (Francis 59), Gittens, Crowley (Angus 72), Brennan (Williams 59), Charles, McGregor, Kotylo, Sykes. Subs: Young, Weaver.

Boro made the journey to the Deva Stadium to play Chester City in a Nationwide Conference game.

Marc McGregor was first to try his luck with a shot from 20 yards, but Boro had to wait until 15 minutes had gone before they forced their first corner which Karl Brennan wasted. As the home site settled they managed to retain possession at will as Boro stood off and Chester played a waiting game. Mark Beesley had a great chance to put Chester into the lead as a perfectly weighted pass from Neil Fisher found the striker, who raced towards the edge of the area, almost completely unmarked but could only hit a tame shot at the advancing Chris Mackenzie.

Sykes hit a thumping drive as Boro tried to establish themselves. A superb 45 yard pass by Kotylo found Sykes who hit the ball first time on the volley, but the keeper was in the way. There were signs of what was to come as Chester started to pull the Boro defence around. Mackenzie was in the action more and more as the half wore on and the goal on 37 minutes came as no surprise. Martyn Lancaster sent in a very ordinary cross and Dave Crowley should have cleared, but he badly sliced the ball over his own head and although Mackenzie made an attempt to save, the ball dropped between the keepers fingers and the crossbar and into the net.

Four minutes into the second half Chester should have extended their lead as Matt Woods send Chris Blackburn racing clear on the left and his cross cum shot was palmed out by Mackenzie but only into the path of Neil Fisher who shot over the bar from 12 yards out. Four minutes later the home side's lead was doubled when Mark Beesley was allowed far too much time on the left. He cut inside two challenges and was allowed to shoot from the corner of the area past the helpless dive of Mackenzie.

With 56 minutes gone Boro had a great chance to cut the deficit as Sykes' pull back across the area had the keeper beaten but there was no one to put the ball into the net. Sykes then hit a drive just past the angle with a vicious left foot shot before Boro began to look vulnerable again. An inswinging corner from Fisher was completely missed by everyone and Mark Beesley was on hand to smash the ball into the net. Love cleared off the line two minutes later and Steve Whitehall had a goal disallowed.

As the game entered the final ten minutes Boro were stretched all over the park. The inevitable goal arrived with five minutes left. Jon Gittens had chance to clear the danger but he lost out to Whitehall who fed the unmarked Andy Evans who ran in on goal and beat the totally exposed Mackenzie.



Nuneaton Borough v Southport 30-09-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, Williams, Love, Crowley, Gittens, Angus, Taylor, Charles (Francis 73), McGregor, Kotylo (Simpson 80), Brennan (Sykes 46).

Southport: Dickinson, Grayston, Stuart, Teale, Clark, Bolland, Marsh, Gouck, Arnold, Parke (Maamria 50), Whittaker (Furlong 50).

Boro welcomed Southport to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The early stages saw both sides win fruitless corners and it was 15 minutes before Michael Love's corner was flapped at by Steve Dickinson and the ball fell to Mark Taylor but Parke got in a toe. Four minutes later good work from Marc McGregor won him possession and he found Karl Brennan whose far post cross was nodded back by Gittens to Charles, but the striker's header was off the mark. The battle between Gittens and Parke was fascinating but the Southport striker started to get the better of things before, with ten minutes to go before the break, Boro passed up their best chance of the half as Charles weaved his way forward and found Brennan unmarked in the area but his first touch was awful and the ball bobbled away from him.

Boro had performed reasonably well against their higher placed rivals, but found it difficult to maintain their level of defensive play and fell behind to a goal on the stroke of half-time. Southport were awarded a free-kick 25 yards out and Phil Bolland delivered a dangerous ball into the area where Simon Parke rose unchallenged to head past Chris Mackenzie.

Within five minutes of the restart, Alex Sykes, on for the ineffective Brennan, shot just over the bar from 25 yards and then repeated the feat moments later. Lacklustre Boro huffed and puffed their way through the first 15 minutes of the second half before McGregor hit a shot just over from inside the area. Boro then had a real let-off as Neil Grayston left Dave Crowley in his wake and fired in a cross for Ian Arnold, but the striker volleyed wide.

Lee Furlong shot over the bar before Brendan Phillips replaced Charles with Delton Francis. Southport broke away following a Boro free kick and Arnold carried the ball into the home penalty area before squaring to substitute Maamria who scored. Five minutes later Boro cut the deficit when Barry Williams had two efforts at the back post cleared off the line by Martin Clark. Confusion reigned and in the pandemonium that followed the ball broke to Francis who scored from close range. Phillips pushed Williams forward in a bid to grab a draw, but Southport defended their lead.

Phillips Sacked

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has been ousted from the helm at Manor Park after months of disastrous performances on the pitch. The Board of Directors today announced that following an extraordinary meeting the 46-year-old was being relieved of his duties. After taking over from Elwyn Roberts

in May 1995, Phillips led the club up from the Midland Division and into the Nationwide Conference picking up two championships and a league cup trophy along the way.

Assistant manager Steve Burr has been put in temporary charge for the match against Forest Green Rovers and the board has revealed that the position will be advertised locally and nationally with a player-manager being considered.

Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 03-10-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Weaver, Simpson, Angus, Crowley, Taylor (Sykes 67), McGregor (Charles 46), Williams, Francis.

Forest Green: Spink, Cousins (Bennett 77), Hatswell, Norton, Clark, Hedges (Birkby 82), Daley, Drysdale, Foster (Bailey 82), Meecham, Thomas.

Boro welcomed Forest Green Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started brightly and could have snatched the lead in the third minute when McGregor's persistence led to him charging down Nigel Spink's clearance. The rebound fell to Michael Love who hit a weak effort from the edge of the area which was cleared off the line by Ian Hedges. Barry Williams headed wide from Love's corner after seven minutes as several corners were wasted and a promising start faded. Former England winger Tony Daley raced past Simon Weaver but Terry Angus headed away the dangerous cross.

Adrian Foster was booked for a vicious elbowing offence on Simon Weaver before Williams went close again. The game then developed into a midfield tussle and Crowley and Taylor worked like Trojans before the visitors took the sting out of Boro's rampant start.

Lee Charles replaced McGregor at the break and the substitute burst into the area with virtually his first touch of the game. He squared the ball to the penalty spot and the unmarked Williams swept the ball into the bottom corner to the delight of the crowd. The goal brought Forest Green to life and Daley almost converted Robin Cousins' cross from eight yards out. Rovers asked plenty of questions of the Boro defence over the next half-hour or so but the home defence stood firm in the face of concerted pressure. Mackenzie saved from Bradley Thomas, who spotted the keeper off his line and shot from 40 yards. The shot twisted and dipped in the air but the Boro keeper tipped it superbly over the bar.

Boro had a close call as Foster stole into the six yard box but could only plant a header over the bar. Mackenzie dealt with a succession of corners with less than fifteen minutes to go, collecting or punching clear with assurance. With only five minutes to go Boro extended their lead as Charles battled for possession on the half-way line and flicked the ball through for Francis, who beat the offside trap and closed in on a one-on-one with the keeper. He calmly slotted home to put Boro two goals to the good and guaranteed the points. Charles should have put the icing on the cake but he saw his last minute penalty saved by the 42-year-old Spink.



Woking v Nuneaton Borough 06-10-2000

Woking: Flahavan, Pitman (Teague 45), Hollingdale, West, Smith, Wye, Perkins, Roddis (Brown 65), Steele, Randall, Watson. Subs: Ruggles, Aligheri, Druce.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (King 67), Love, Simpson, Weaver (Gittens 60), Angus, Crowley, Taylor, McGregor, Williams, Francis (Charles 58). Subs: Young, Sykes.

Boro made the journey to the Kingfield Stadium to play Woking in a Nationwide Conference game.

The early play saw a midfield battle and the first 15 minutes passed without any real threat from either side. Shane Wye was the first to try his luck, shooting over the bar from 40 yards. Steve West then shot into the side netting, but the first time either keeper was really called into action was in the 28th minute when the impressive Scott Steele managed to get in a cross which Mackenzie managed to bundle away at the near post. Terry Angus placed a diving header over his own crossbar as Woking stepped up the pace.

Barry Williams was booked for bringing down Mark Watson and Scott Steele put in a ferocious drive from the free-kick which Mackenzie plucked out of the air. Just before the interval Boro pushed forward and Delton Francis turned well inside the area but was relieved of possession, but the ball fell to Michael Love who let fly from 25 yards with his left foot, but the ball flew inches over the bar. Steele then raced clear and went round Weaver before picking out Martin Randall, who scooped the ball over the bar from eight yards. The first-half wasn't finished yet, though, as Wayne Simpson almost turned the ball into his own net.

Mackenzie was a busy man in the second half and it took the best save of the night to deny Nick Roddis as he ran across the edge of the area and shot from 16 yards only to see the keeper pull off a one-handed save. Mackenzie also caught the resulting corner under pressure. Lee Charles came on for Delton Francis and Jon Gittens replaced Simon Weaver. Boro were now looking more composed, although Steele put in a shot, but mis-timed his volley from inside the area.

King and McGregor were booked for dissent with ten minutes, but their frustration was relieved two minutes later when Dave Crowley lifted the ball into the box to Williams who chested the ball into the path of Charles. He struck a first time shot that keeper Flahavan could only parry and McGregor tapped into the net from two yards out. The home side threw everything at Boro as they pressed for an equaliser, but the visitors hit them on the break. King's long clearance looked to be safe but Rob Hollingdale didn't read the bounce and McGregor was able to get between man and ball and calmly lifted the ball into the net as the keeper came out to narrow the angle.

It was just what the doctor ordered and means that Steve Burr has now scored a maximum six points from his two games in charge as caretaker manager.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 10-10-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, Gittens, Kotylo (Wray 70), Sykes, Taylor (Brennan 70), Charles, King, Francis. Subs: White, Angus, Shoemake.

Scarborough: Woods, Betts, Shuttleworth, Rennison, Ellender, Thompson, Williams, Stoker, Savic (Diallo 46), Tate, Gildea (Pounder 66). Subs: Russell, Keegan, Newton.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Variety Club Trophy second round tie.

Scarborough started strongly and Sinisa Savic shot from four yards but his effort flew over the bar. There was plenty of good football in the opening stages from both sides before Boro had a chance. Kotylo lifted the ball to Mark Taylor on the edge of the area who brought the ball down and passed it out wide to Ian King who crossed first time to the far post where Charles headed just over the top. Five minutes later the Seadogs missed a sitter as Gareth Stoker pulled a low cross into the box only for Chris Tate to miscue his shot.

Shaun Rennison almost beat Mackenzie to a loose ball but the two met simultaneously and the keeper came off worst, but won a free-kick for his trouble. A minute later Boro took the lead. Michael Love collected possession on the left and chipped the ball perfectly into Kotylo who guided the ball into the path of Alex Sykes, who made no mistake from 12 yards. Chris Mackenzie slipped while trying to collect Paul Ellender's header just before the break, but just managed to claw the ball off the line. King's shot from 40 yards was comfortable for Andy Woods and Tate missed an absolute sitter just before the break, heading wide when it was easier to score.

Delton Francis almost doubled Boro's lead at the start of the second half when Wood's poor clearance fell straight to him, but his shot clipped the bar with the keeper nowhere. Michael Love then cleared a ball against his own post, but Thompson blasted the rebound high over the bar. The home side deservedly extended their lead with 15 minutes to go when they won a direct free kick 23 yards out. King and Charles stood over it but it was Sykes who rifled the ball into the roof of the net past an unsighted Woods. Love cleared from off the line in the dying minutes.

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 14-10-2000

Scarborough: Woods, Russell, Shuttleworth, Ingram, Rennison, Thompson, Betts, Stoker, Tate, Diallo (Morris 76), Jones. Subs: Newton, Pounder, Gildea, Brunton.

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, Gittens, Angus, Sykes, Taylor, McGregor, Williams, Francis (Charles 63). Subs: Wray, Shoemake, King, Brennan.

Boro made the journey to the McCain Stadium to play Scarborough in a Nationwide Conference game.

Borough started quickly and McGregor put in a cross which Woods dealt with under pressure from Delton Francis and Barry Williams. The visitors forced Scarborough back into their own half, harassing and chasing and not allowing the

home side a moment on the ball. The opening ten minutes saw Boro shooting on sight as first Williams and then Alex Sykes and then Williams again tried their luck from outside the area. McGregor then wriggled free on the left after a neat one-two with Francis before putting in a wicked cross which was just half-a-yard away from Francis.

Tate got away with a harsh challenge on Williams, already having been booked as Scarborough vented their frustration. Francis burst forward onto a ball from McGregor, but stumbled on the edge of the area and Williams hit a rasping drive at the keeper. Terry Angus put a cross to the back post where Jon Gittens headed the ball back into the danger zone and McGregor headed wide. A short back-pass had Woods in trouble as Williams chased the lost cause and forced the keeper into a handling error and rolled the loose ball across the face of the net with Francis steaming in. Unfortunately for Boro Ingram got back to avert the danger. Sykes then put McGregor through one-on-one with the keeper for the best chance of the match, but Ingram bundled him over just as he was about to shoot, but the referee waved play on.

Boro started the second half strongly and McGregor forced Woods into a low save. Neil Thompson then hit a shot past the post with Mackenzie stranded before Boro won a free kick which Sykes lifted towards the penalty spot, but it was cleared and the home side broke and Stoker sent in a perfect cross for Tate who put in a poor header.

Boro were defensively strong and kept the home side at bay with Gittens winning everything in the air. When Scarborough did break through they found Mackenzie in top form. Tate went close with an eight yard header, but Mackenzie smothered the ball on the line. McGregor had a volley saved by Woods and Williams thumped a powerful header just over the bar. With ten minutes to go Scarborough won a free-kick and having wasted the first chance, the referee ruled that it should be retaken and Thompson hit the post with his second attempt with Mackenzie beaten.

Borough ended the game on top and could have snatched all three points when McGregor pulled a shot inches wide with the keeper beaten.

Nuneaton Borough v Stevenage Borough 21-10-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon (Wray 68), Love, Simpson, Gittens, Angus, Sykes (Crowley 46), Taylor, McGregor, Williams, Charles (Francis 68).
Subs: Weaver, Young.

Stevenage: Wilkerson, Miller, Trott, Smith, Bunce, Metcalfe, Martin, McMahon (Kirby 75), Clarke, Hay, Leadbetter (Armstrong 80).
Subs: Ayres, Taylor, Wraigh.

Boro welcomed Stevenage Borough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro couldn't have experienced a worst start as the visitors went ahead with their first attack. Dean Martin was allowed to run down the right and cross for the completely unmarked Darren Hay to plant a powerful close range header past Chris

Mackenzie. Borough hit back and forced a succession of corners. Lee Charles had Boro's best chance of the opening stages when Marc McGregor's flick on fell neatly into his path, but he wanted too much time and the chance was lost. Jon Gittens had an header from Taylor's corner that got past Wilkerson but Robert Miller cleared off the line. Apart from the goal Boro had been the better side, but could have fallen further behind as Adrian Clarke delivered a pin point cross to the back post and Martin rose well but his header was just over the top.



Stevenage's Robert Miller hooks the ball away from danger in the first-half.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Mackenzie had to stop Richard Leadbetter as he broke clear and was called into action again when Hay's long-range effort bounced awkwardly in front of him and he did well to hold on to it as Leadbetter bore down. With three minutes of the half remaining Boro fell further behind as a loose ball from Charles fell to Clarke who hit a shot from 25 yards which the keeper tried to catch above his head, but the ball slipped through Mackenzie's hands and trickled into the net.

The second half began with Boro on top and Williams went close twice in the first ten minutes of the half and McGregor should have cut the deficit as he tamely sidefooted the ball instead of going for power. Boro had to throw caution to the wind and a double substitution saw Taylor and Bacon replaced by Delton Francis and Shaun Wray, who although not fully match fit, soon began to weave his magic on the right hand side, something that has been missing from Boro's game since he was injured.

Wray won a free kick after he was upended by Bunce, but the set piece was wasted and with 15 minutes to go it was backs against the wall for the visitors as Boro cranked up the pressure. Stevenage were restricted to rare breakaways as Boro kept the ball for long periods. One of Stevenage's rare breakaways, however, killed the game off completely. Francis lost possession deep in opposition territory and the ball was swept forward to the substitute Paul Armstrong. He collected it on the half-way line and ran at Gittens who dived in 35 yards from goal, but missed his tackle and Armstrong took his chance to beat Mackenzie from 25 yards with a beautifully placed curler into the top corner of the net.



Burr Gets Extended Run

Nuneaton Borough have appointed Steve Burr as temporary first-team manager – until a permanent appointment is made. The 39-year-old was initially given the role until after the FA Cup tie with Stevenage Borough but after impressing, his role has been extended.

Dover Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 04-11-2000

Dover: Hyde, Munday, Norman, Browne, Shearer, Beard (Carruthers 75), Chapman, Darcy, Vansittart, Brown, McRobert. **Subs:** Strouts, Moore, Hogg, Hudson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Crowley (B. Williams 28), Gittens, Angus (Weaver 46), Wray, Charles, McGregor, King, Francis (J. Williams 67). **Subs:** Sykes, Young.

Boro made the journey to The Crabble to play Dover Athletic in a Nationwide Conference game.

The day started badly for Boro when winger Shaun Wray's car was in a collision while Mark Taylor and Delton Francis were on board. Although all were shaken up they all made the coach and Wray and Francis started the game, although Taylor's place was taken by Jamie Williams, signed from Hinckley.

Boro started well and almost took the lead after five minutes as Tony Browne's loose header fell to Marc McGregor on the edge of the area who fired in a dipping volley that Paul Hyde tipped over the bar. Ian King had a chance to shoot from a 35 yard free-kick but after the initial shot came back to him off the five man wall, he kicked the ball out of the ground. Boro got themselves into a mess as Mackenzie and Lee Charles messed up and Joff Vansittart almost slipped through the gap between them for what would have been a tap in.

Jon Gittens almost put Lee McRobert's cross past his own keeper before Crowley received a knock on the shin and left the field to be replaced by Barry Williams. Boro took the lead two minutes later when Michael Love sent in a long cross from the left which evaded everyone, but Wray managed to keep it in play, laid it back to Carl Bacon who picked out McGregor with a first-time cross and the striker helped the ball on with a header from 12 yards past the despairing dive of Hyde.

From that point on Boro were second best as Dover searched for an equaliser and went close on many occasions. Mackenzie fought to stave off the attempts of Vansittart, Steve Browne and full-back Steve Norman on many occasions. Two minutes before half-time Barry Williams pulled off a superb block at the near post to deny Lee Shearer and had to undergo a period of treatment for an injury sustained in keeping the ball out.

The second half started without Angus, who had succumbed to an injury and was replaced by Simon Weaver. Ian King almost extended Boro's lead after good work from McGregor, but was only able to get in a weak shot. McGregor's goal bound effort cannoned off Stuart Munday for a corner before Dover started to turn the screw at the other end. Midfielders Simon Beard and Danny Chapman worked hard and had

Weaver and Gittens working overtime as the Dover pair swamped midfield and the ball kept coming back when cleared. It was going to be a long final 20 minutes.

The persistence of Vansittart, coupled with the speed and crossing accuracy of McRobert were troubling Boro and Mackenzie needed to be in fine fettle to keep the home team at bay. Dover got the equaliser with 15 minutes to go after two quick corners from Chapman led to the biggest goalmouth scramble and as Vansittart's initial effort rebounded off the post Lee Shearer stabbed the ball past Mackenzie. It was a case of Boro hanging on, but they had chances to retake the lead as Dover pushed forward. McGregor had a glaring chance as Barry Williams hit a bobbling shot that squirmed past the keeper and bounced back of a post. Lee Charles was first to the ball and returned it to McGregor, who was unable to keep the ball down.

With seven minutes left Dover took the lead. Jamie Williams lost possession on the left and Steve Browne galloped away. With Vansittart in close company Gittens had no choice but to cut out the cross, but only managed to divert the ball past Mackenzie and into the top corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 11-11-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon (Sykes 46), Love, Crowley (Simpson 85), Weaver, Angus, Wray, Charles (Taylor 80), McGregor, King, Francis. **Subs:** J. Williams, Young.

Hednesford: Gayle, Robinson, Pointon (Norbury 69), Lake, Bradley, Owen, Bonsall (Carney 63), Cooper (Sedgemore 83), Davis, Bagshaw, Airdrie. **Subs:** Haran, Colkin.

Boro welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Hednesford started brightly and Mark Cooper tried a cheeky shot straight from the kick-off. Former Rushden man Cooper tried his luck again as he tested Mackenzie before Boro had their first attack. Angus tried to play Francis in but the forward was blocked by a resilient Hednesford defence. The visitors could have taken the lead after 18 minutes when Paul Bagshaw found himself clean through and with Angus chasing, Mackenzie did well to claim the ball. Four minutes later Cooper put Bagshaw through, but Angus got in a superb tackle.

Bagshaw and Pointon were looking dangerous for the visitors and the former crossed to Neil Davis who headed into the arms of Mackenzie. Davis and Bagshaw went close again before Hednesford drew first blood after 34 minutes. Mackenzie fumbled a kick out and it landed at the feet of Scott Bonsall who played the ball into Davis who scrambled it home despite the attentions of Angus. The goal fired up Boro, though, and five minutes later the scores were level. Wray looped in a corner which Gayle fumbled onto the head of McGregor and the ball ended up in the net.

Burr replaced Bacon with Sykes at half-time and reverted to a wingback system, which paid dividends. Shaun Wray caused all sorts of problems as he was given space to run at the Hednesford defence and Sykes was staking his claims to



revive his stop-start Boro career. McGregor found space early in the second half to go on a jinking run but drove the ball over the bar and Ian King lofted a well-taken free-kick high and wide after a foul on Boro's goal scorer. After a foul on Francis, Angus sent a free kick towards the Boro forward who put his shot over the bar. Val Owen then headed wide from Ian Robinson's cross before the turning point of the match. Gayle punched McGregor in the face following a corner from Wray and followed that up with a kick, after which he was invited to leave the field.



Marc McGregor lies on the ground as Terry Angus and Stuart Lake exchange words and keeper Mark Gayle looks over his opponent.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Substitute keeper Andrew Carney's first task was to pick the ball out of the net after McGregor converted the penalty. Owen missed a chance before Stewart Airdrie's corner found Micky Norbury who forced Mackenzie to pull off a superb save only for Davis to send the rebound crashing against the bar. Boro needed another goal to make the game safe and got it when Wray broke down the right and picked out McGregor in the area. The striker could have shot himself, but picked out Francis who scrambled the ball home to make it 3-1.

After 82 minutes it was 4-1 when Wray again turned provider along with substitute Mark Taylor to pick out Sykes who put away the chance after a dummy from McGregor from 15 yards. The Pitmen looked shell shocked and Ian King sent a free-kick crashing against the bar before Francis buried the ball from Wray's corner with three minutes to go.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 14-11-2000

Borough: Young, Thackeray, Gittens, Simpson (Hanney 46), Love, Taylor, B. Williams, Sykes, R. Mitchell, Francis (Stevenson 70), J. Williams (White 46).

Sutton: Higgs, Ling, Behan, Whitehouse, Jones, King (Smith 42), Judd, Hudson, L. Mitchell (Ferguson 81), Began, Beckett.

Boro welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Boro started in commanding fashion as they passed the ball neatly and had Sutton chasing shadows. The possession was comfortable for Borough although Leon Mitchell was a thorn in Boro's side as Sutton had three early chances. Young was out quickly to meet Mitchell as he broke through and

when Andy Ling was freed on the right the keeper smothered his low cross with Mitchell again in attendance. Then Grant Beckett put a free header wide from ten yards before Boro got a grip on midfield and Mark Taylor was stroking the ball around, although the home side did not carve any clear cut chances out. Young had to be on his toes as Leon Mitchell again broke clear and was relieved to see the ball go wide after the two clashed on the edge of the box.

Borough's patience paid off when Alex Sykes slammed a free-kick into the wall from 25 yards and a minute later they took the lead. Taylor swung over a left footed corner and Barry Williams rose at the far post and headed back into the danger area. Sykes returned the favour and Francis was the first to react to nod it in from all of two feet. Sykes then hit a volley over as Boro looked to be asserting themselves.

The second half was probably the most tedious 45 minutes of football this season as the two teams found it increasingly difficult to entertain the crowd. Francis headed over the top before Richard Mitchell scooped the ball over and Barry Williams forced Andy Higgs into the save of the night. Francis escaped the attention of his marker and produced a lovely floating cross to the far post. Williams had the time and the room to shape his body and hit a thumping volley from less than eight yards and looked on in amazement as the keeper dived to his right to keep it out.

With 18 minutes to go Simeon Hudson took the bull by the horns and ran at the Boro' defence who stood off and allowed him to shoot low past Young from 25 yards. Barry Williams had the ball in the net a minute later but was adjudged to have fouled the keeper. With time running out and extra-time on the horizon Sykes swung over a left wing corner and Williams headed it goalwards for Mitchell to swivel and score high into the net from close range.

Burr Gets Boro Job

Steve Burr has been appointed manager of Nuneaton Borough with just a day to go until the club face Stoke City in the First Round of the FA Cup. The 40-year-old accepted the job when it was offered to him after completing the role for six weeks on a caretaker basis.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough

02-12-2000

Kettering: Bowling, Codner, Lenagh (Cowling 55), Perkins, Norman, McNarmara, Fisher, Brown, Simba, Collins, Inman (Watkins 74). Subs: Adams, Hudson, Wilson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Sykes, Love, Crowley, Weaver (Thackeray 79), Angus, Wray, Taylor (B. Williams 90), McGregor, King, Francis (Mitchell 89). Subs: J. Williams, Young.

Boro made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

It didn't take long for Boro to break through the creaking Kettering defence, three minutes in fact. Alex Sykes escaped on the left and sent in a low hard cross which Craig Norman could only divert into his own net. It was the perfect start for



Boro and they looked as though they would kick on when Sykes and then Ian King and then Wray all got into good positions. Marc McGregor threatened first after 12 minutes as he got ahead of his marker to connect with Wray's cross but he failed to get his shot on target.

Boro continued to dictate matters, although they were almost in second gear. Despite having to wait until the half-hour before winning their first free-kick for which they received ironic cheers from the travelling support, Boro took the lead as Taylor managed to get in a cross that Francis headed powerfully toward goal. Bowling could only parry the ball and it fell onto the goal line and in came McGregor and King. The two managed to bundle the ball over the line from all of six inches out and it was King who claimed the final touch.

Two minutes later it was almost three as McGregor rose beautifully to thump a header past the upright from Sykes' inch perfect cross. Everything Kettering could muster was coming through captain Phil Brown, but his crosses were ineffective as Simba was persistently offside. Boro should have extended their lead eight minutes before the break but McGregor pushed the ball too far in front and he was thwarted by Bowling. A minute later McGregor was through again, this time with Sykes, but neither could finish off the move.

Angus had to be on his toes just after the break as Collins looked as though he was clean through, but the defender got in a saving tackle. Francis had a chance for Boro as they continued where they left off before the break. Fisher put a weak header well wide before Collins and Simba combined well, but Mackenzie did what was required. Niall Inman thumped a 25-yard free-kick into the Boro wall as Kettering came into the game, but Boro coped admirably.

The home side replaced Inman with Watkins and Boro lost Simon Weaver who had suffered a head wound. The visitors defended well as Kettering threw everything at them and Simba put in a cross shot that caused chaos forcing Mackenzie to punch clear, Thackeray to block the follow up shot and a King header before the ball finally ended up in the keeper's arms. Boro had a chance to put the game beyond doubt when three players broke clear of the Kettering offside trap. Wray bore down on goal with McGregor and Mitchell but chose to shoot instead of playing either of his team mates in.

Kettering then broke away and scored with Simba getting away on the right and squaring the ball to Watkins, who beat Mackenzie from eight yards. Boro had a worrying few minutes as Kettering desperately piled forward and the final whistle came as a relief to the visitors who had dominated.

Three Fans Die In Crash

Three football fans have been killed after the minibus they were travelling home in, from Borough's FA Cup clash with Bournemouth crashed. Two men, Sean Folan, aged 30, from Olton Place, Nuneaton, and Martin Lashley, 38, from Prescelly Close, Grove Farm, Nuneaton, died at the scene.

Cal Long, aged 24, also from Nuneaton, lost his fight for

life at the John Ratcliffe Hospital in Oxford, surrounded by members of his family.

The accident happened shortly before 9pm on Saturday evening on the M40, near Junction 11, the Banbury junction. No other vehicle is believed to have been involved in the accident and police investigation teams are still at the scene.

Three Players Transfer Listed

John Gittens, Krystof Kotylo and Karl Brennan have been placed on the transfer list by Nuneaton Borough boss Steve Burr as he bids to trim down his first team squad. The trio, who are all under contract, have had their details circulated with immediate effect and it is hoped a deal can be done as soon as possible.

Club Delegation Travels To Banbury

A delegation from Nuneaton Borough Football Club has travelled to Banbury to meet with the survivors of the weekend's horrific minibus crash. Three Boro fans were killed in the tragedy, which saw the minibus crash off a motorway and roll down an embankment into a water-filled ditch.

Borough assistant manager Ron Bradbury, manager Steve Burr, youth team manager Mick Dewis and local soccer manager and friend of the men Jimmy Ginnelly travelled to the Horton General Hospital in Banbury to meet with the survivors.

Borough Ground Meeting Off

Nuneaton Borough's footballing arena dream has been dramatically granted a stay of execution less than 48 hours before it was set to be scrapped. In an eleventh hour move the football club have asked Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to defer a decision on the multi-million pound stadium so they can make further submissions, even though the council were ready to make a judgement at a special planning and development meeting.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 16-12-2000

Boston: Bastock, Gowshall, Lodge, Hoyle, Howarth, Wilson (Costello 76), Mills, Charlery (Fewings 85), Raynor, Rawle (Nuttell 85), Dick.
Subs: Lucas, Conroy.

Boro: Mackenzie, Sykes (Bacon 69), Love, Crowley, Weaver, Angus, Wray, B. Williams, Mitchell (Charles 69), King (J. Williams 79), Francis.
Subs: Taylor, Young.

Boro made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in a Nationwide Conference game.

The game started badly for Boro as Boston took the lead from the first move of the match. Ken Charlery sprinted down the right and cut the ball inside to the completely unmarked Gary Mills who was allowed far too much room to measure a cross. The flight of the ball beat the intruding Rawle but Wray crashed into his own net off the underside of the crossbar. Boro were shocked but surged forward in search of an equaliser. They stroked the ball around with passes finding their target with increasing regularity.

Barry Williams got in a shot from the penalty spot but it lacked pace and accuracy. Ian King then tried his luck from 25 yards but missed the target. Boro finally levelled the scores after 17 minutes when Terry Angus flighted a quick free-kick over a static Boston defence as he spotted Delton Francis who rounded the keeper but was sent crashing to the floor and a penalty was awarded. Ian King coolly stepped up to send Paul Bastock the wrong way and Boro were level.

Boro looked as if they might kick on and win from this point as they had more ideas, were more threatening and were keeping the home attack quiet. Chris Mackenzie was having a quiet afternoon as Boro took the game to Boston. Barry Williams shot over the bar after being set up by Richard Mitchell before Shaun Wray had a chance to make up for his own goal, but shot into the side netting. Just before half-time Alex Sykes let fly with a tremendous shot that cannoned off Andy Lodge and out for a fruitless corner.

Boston emerged for the second half in determined mood and a long kick from Bastock found Raynor in space, who found Charlery and the striker squirmed his way into the area only to shoot into the side netting, but it was a sign of things to come. Boro were subjected to an onslaught and Angus was forced to concede a corner in clearing Raynor's cross. Mitchell was booked for diving and King blasted a free-kick high over the bar.

Simon Weaver was defending well against Mark Rawle, but the striker broke free from his shackles and got onto the end of a Raynor cross from the left, flicking the ball into the air before unleashing an unstoppable volley. Two minutes later Rawle added another when he slid in a shot at the far post after Charlery had outpaced King. Charles replaced Mitchell soon after Boston's third goal and was soon in action as his first-time shot was deflected onto the crossbar and out for a corner. Bacon who had come on a sub for Sykes in an attempt to cut out Raynor, was in the wrong place at the wrong time when he turned Jody Gowshall's cross ricocheted off his boot and into the bottom corner of the net. It was a disastrous end to the game for the visitors who had looked so promising throughout the first half.

Borough Sign Peake

Nuneaton Borough have signed Jason Peake from Plymouth Argyle on loan for a month with a view to a permanent move. The 28-year-old left footed midfielder has played almost 300 games in the Football League during spells with Leicester City, Hartlepool United, Halifax Town, Rochdale, Brighton and Hove Albion and Plymouth Argyle after beginning his career at Filbert Street as a trainee.

Peake can play in a variety of positions such as central midfield, wing-back or as a winger and is known for his quality left foot. Manager Steve Burr is delighted to have captured his man and feels he will be a quality addition to the first team. "I have had my eye on Jason for a while and it's good to be able to bring him in," said Burr.



Steve Burr watches as Jason Peake signs on the dotted line.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Moving Tribute To Lost Fans



A minutes silence is impeccably observed to remember those who tragically lost their lives on the way back from Bournemouth.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

A crowd of 2,614 paid a moving tribute to Cal Long, Shaun Foley and Martin Lashley – who lost their lives in a tragic accident on the way back from an FA Cup tie at Bournemouth on December 9. A minute's silence was impeccably observed by Nuneaton and Rushden fans alike and a wreath was laid on the centre circle in tribute.

A collection at the match raised more than £2,500, which will form part of a trust fund set up in aid of the families of those who lost their lives.



Nuneaton Borough v Rushden & Diamonds 26-12-2000

Boro: Mackenzie, J. Williams (Sykes 83), Love, Taylor, Weaver (Mitchell 86), Angus, Wray, Peake, Charles, King (B. Williams 51), Francis. **Subs:** Simpson, Young.

Rushden: Turley, Mustafa, Underwood, Carey, Rodwell, Warburton, Butterworth, Brady, Jackson, Darby (Setchell 86), Burgess. **Subs:** Sigere, Peters, Butcher, Rogers.

Boro welcomed Rushden and Diamonds to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro created the first opening of the game when Delton Francis had a shot blocked by Jim Rodwell. Andy Burgess then headed over from Jon Brady's cross before Jamie Williams thwarted Burgess and cleared the danger. The home side were pressing hard in the first quarter and Francis got in a shot from the edge of the area, while Mackenzie's throw found King in space, and the ball was laid off to Francis who played in Charles who hit a powerful drive just past the post.

Tarkan Mustafa went on a surging run for the visitors that saw him cover almost 80 yards before Michael Love stopped him in his tracks. Terry Angus came to Borough's rescue moments later as a cross from Jackson evaded the keeper and he had to head behind for a corner from almost on the goal-line. Jackson was making life difficult for the home side with a devastating turn of speed and constantly pushed up on the last man, just waiting for a slip. Jamie Williams put in a timely tackle after 30 minutes to deny Brady before Love conceded a corner after a race with Jackson.

Shaun Wray hit a volley over the top while at the other end Love's perfectly timed challenge stopped Brady as he was just about to pull the trigger. King was injured just before half-time in a clash with Warburton.

Barry Williams replaced Ian King at the start of the second half and the visitors started brightly with Mackenzie having to take several crosses. However, Boro hit back and the crowd were encouraged as Jamie Williams battled to win possession before sliding a lovely ball through to Francis who was closed down quickly. Shortly after Rushden opened the scoring as Justin Jackson received the ball with his back to goal. The Diamonds' hit man turned Weaver and unleashed an unstoppable left-foot shot into the top left hand corner.

Jackson continued to worry the Boro defence with his pace but Jamie Williams then tried his luck from 25 yards, but his effort flew over the angle. Boro continued to press as they searched for an equaliser and won a succession of corners and free-kicks. Alex Sykes replaced a tiring Jamie Williams on 87 minutes and immediately made an impression on the game. The former Forest Green man knocked a ball into the area and Barry Williams laid off a lovely ball, which fell into the path of Charles who side-stepped a challenge and curled a low shot past the despairing dive of Turley to equalise. The crowd went wild as they realised not only had Boro saved a point they had deserved but they had denied their bitter rivals a much-needed win.

King Fined For Burr Abuse

Nuneaton Borough midfielder Ian King has been fined one week's wages after hurling a volley of abuse at manager Steve Burr as he was substituted against Rushden and Diamonds. Within minutes of the second half getting under way Burr replaced King with Barry Williams and as he left the field he let the manager know what he thought of the decision as he ran into the dressing room.

Rushden & Diamonds v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Weaver, Angus, Love, Wray, Taylor (Young 26), Crowley (Francis 88), Peake, J. Williams (Simpson 35), Sykes, Charles. **Subs:** King, Mitchell.

Boro made the journey to Nene Park to play Rushden and Diamonds in a Nationwide Conference game.

The Boro goal came under early pressure when Justin Jackson raced away from Michael Love and almost got round Chris Mackenzie, who did tremendously well to get his hand to the ball and get it safely away. The first 15 minutes was played exclusively in Boro's half and they were forced to defend right from the off. The visitors' first chance came when Jamie Williams won possession and found Charles with his back to goal on the edge of the area. He conjured up a less than perfect overhead kick which caught Billy Turley by surprise, but the ball fell onto the roof of the net.

Mackenzie was back in action when he prevented Shaun Carey from scoring with a low save to his left and Simon Weaver completed the clearance. Alex Sykes hit a 25-yarder at Billy Turley, which was deflected over the bar for a corner. Jackson put Angus under pressure but the defender headed back to Mackenzie, who was taken by surprise and raised his hands to stop the ball some seven yards outside the penalty area. The referee was left with little option but to send the keeper off.

Young was brought on for Taylor and had the onerous task of picking the ball out of the net for his first touch. John Brady's free-kick was deflected off the wall and sailed into the top corner. Ten minutes later Steve Burr replaced Jamie Williams and brought on defender Wayne Simpson.

Andy Burgess was causing Boro untold problems every time he was in possession, but Rushden seemed loathe to get the ball out to him as the home side concentrated on getting Justin Jackson away. He did so to good effect just before the break, but Weaver made a last ditch tackle to deny him.

The second half started with Boro on fire, just as they had at the start of the game with Wray, Sykes and Charles all pushing forwards. This positive play brought a reward when Boro grabbed a 50th minute equaliser. Wray beat Warburton to the ball and poked it through to Sykes who burst through and lifted the ball over Turley and into the net.

The remainder of the game was virtually one way traffic as the visitors were forced to hang on for dear life with all the



defence and midfield defending desperately leaving Charles as the only outlet. Boro battled with all their might and with ten minutes to go the away side were still hanging on. But they were continually cut to pieces by the play of Brady and Burgess and the home side moved in for the kill. With only six minutes remaining Brady flashed in a cross from the right, which Brady managed to flick on and Darby popped up at the back post to stab the ball home from close range.

Even though Boro had conceded they still fought on and had a couple of half chances through Peake and Charles, but the home side easily held on.

Mitchell Joinks Northwich

Steve Burr has sold striker Richard Mitchell to league rivals Northwich Victoria for an undisclosed fee. It brings an end to the former Stafford Rangers' striker difficult stay at Manor Park. He was brought to Manor Park by former manager Brendan Phillips but suffered a succession of injuries and had to undergo surgery on his knee.

Thackeray Faces Operation

Borough skipper Andy Thackeray faces an operation on his troublesome ankle and is expected to be out of the reckoning for at least a month.

Borough Await Ground Meeting

Discussions are underway to arrange a crunch meeting between Nuneaton Borough Football Club and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's planning and development committee. The original meeting was scheduled for December 15, but it now looks likely to take place early next month. Among the topics under discussion will be the proximity of the ground to the George Eliot Hospital and the threat posed by Ellis and Everard, who store toxic chemicals at its premises which are situated nearby.

Delton Francis On Transfer List

Borough's £10,000 signing from Kingstonian, Delton Francis, has been put on the transfer list. Manager Steve Burr said: "He hasn't been performing over the last month or so and I think I have given him a fair chance, but it doesn't seem to have worked out."

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 20-01-2001

Telford: Williams, Travis, Sandwith, Moore, Gayle, Albrighton, McGorry, Jobling (Huckerby 62), Martindale, Edwards, Palmer.

Boro: Young, Bacon (Crowley 88), Love, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, King, Peake, McGregor, Charles, J. Williams (Sykes 78). **Subs:** Wray, Hanney, Harman.

Boro made the journey to the Bucks Head to play Telford United in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started brightly but did not make the best of their possession and almost fell behind when Brian Gayle headed

powerfully toward the visitor's goal. Barry Williams managed to divert the ball onto the crossbar and Edwards managed to put a shot against the post before Williams again turned the ball away for a corner. Boro then had sight of goal as a Young clearance was turned out to Jamie Williams by Lee Charles. Williams' cross was superbly controlled by McGregor, but his second touch was not good enough and the ball trickled through to the Telford keeper.

Sandwith cleared a Charles effort off the line before play moved to the other end and Young had a busy spell with Telford applying intense pressure. McGregor almost got on the end of Peake's cross but Mark Albrighton's header diverted it just wide of the waiting striker. Borough then took the lead when Gayle made a mess of Jamie Williams through ball and McGregor stole the ball and headed for the area before squaring the ball to the far post where Charles supplied the finish to put Boro one up.

The game then started to get overly physical with tackles flying in from all angles and Brian McGorry found his way into the referee's notebook for lashing out at McGregor. Just before the break Bacon found McGregor in space, but the striker wanted too much time and he was dispossessed by Neil Moore as he was about to pull the trigger.

Boro deserved their half-time lead but threw it away within 60 seconds of the restart when Steve Palmer's corner was headed home powerfully by Neil Moore. The home side could have gone ahead straight after the goal when Gayle was gifted a free header from 12 yards. Telford continued to press and Martindale took the ball round Young, but his cross shot rolled agonisingly wide. Charles had an almost identical chance, but he too was narrowly wide of the target.

The home side introduced Scott Huckerby with half-an-hour to go as Telford went for broke and piled forward but Boro almost stole a lead with six minutes to go as McGregor went past Gayle and into the area, but his cross to Charles at the far post was just diverted away by Moore and out for a corner. The home side countered and Simon Travis galloped away on the right and sent in a teasing cross but there was no one on hand to touch the ball home.

Appeals for a penalty when Angus appeared to handle in the area were turned down. With 90 minutes on the watch Borough appeared to have secured a draw, but a long throw from Huckerby picked out Jake Edwards who headed into the net. Borough were left with their heads in their hands.

Kennerdale Signs Loan Deal

Boro have signed Eastwood Town striker Nick Kennerdale on a month's loan with a view to a permanent deal. The 24-year-old hit 29 goals last season and has recently been on loan at Grimsby Town and was the subject of a cash bid by Northwich Victoria.

Kennerdale began his career with Notts County, was also with Nottingham Forest and has played in Sweden.

Nuneaton Borough v Woking 27-01-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, King, Peake, McGregor (Kennerdale), Charles, J. Williams (Sykes).
Subs: Wray, Young, Crowley.

Woking: Matassa, Pitman, Hayfield, West, Scott, Smith, Kadi (DaCosta 75), Perkins, Roddis, Steele, Randall (Griffin 65), Sharpling. **Subs:** Brown, Teague.

Boro welcomed Woking to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro couldn't have hoped for a better start with a goal inside the first five minutes. Ian King's right wing cross was mispunched by Vince Matassa straight to Jason Peake and though his low drive was blocked by the keeper, Barry Williams took full advantage with a rising 15-yarder that flew powerfully into the roof of the net. Borough almost added to their lead when Marc McGregor charged down Matassa's clearance following a back pass, but after combining with Lee Charles, McGregor's cross produced a dipping header from Williams which Matassa superbly turned over the top.



Barry Williams gives Boro' a fifth minute lead.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Mackenzie was tested on 33 minutes but Junior Kadi's 20 yarder posed little threat as play smartly returned to the opposite end when Williams' neat ball skills released Michael Love whose hanging centre was headed goalwards by McGregor for Matassa to confidently deal with. Woking's Scott Steele was narrowly off the mark with a 20 yard free-kick just prior to the break although on 54 minutes the visitors should have levelled as Martin Randall freed Nick Roddis on the left, he cut inside only to see his low drive ricochet off Mackenzie's legs and finish up in the side netting.

Steve West fired inches wide from 10 yards from the resulting corner as Woking stepped up the pressure. But close to the hour mark, McGregor collided with Matassa and was substituted by new signing Nick Kennerdale, who within minutes of coming on had a shot-cum-centre clip the crossbar and fly over the top. Fellow substitute Alex Sykes

then fired across the face of the net and Kennerdale ran offside at the crucial second as a slick Boro break caught Woking's backline in disarray. But the Cards were enjoying their best spell of the game as the final quarter arrived, Roddis having a 20 yarder dip just over the bar and Scott West dithered too long when an equaliser looked certain.

But on 81 minutes Woking grabbed an equaliser when Steve Perkins played an inch-perfect ball through to Roddis. The Cards' forward played in Sharpling, who held off Angus and rifled in a low shot from 15 yards. Boro responded as Lee Charles failed to make proper contact with a close range volley that Matassa saved on the goal-line and when Charles and Kennerdale forged an opening the latter's lazy pass pushed Peake too wide and he blazed the ball into the crowd.

Woking almost snatched a winner when Sharpling squared the ball to an unmarked Charlie Griffin, whose 12 yard shot lacked the power to beat Mackenzie.

Nuneaton Borough v Gornal Athletic 30-01-2001

Borough: Mackenzie (Young), Bacon, Love (Prindiville), Simpson, B. Williams, Crowley, King, Charles, Wray, Peake (Taylor), Sykes.

Boro welcomed Gornal Athletic to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Boro pressed from the start and won a number of corners. From one of them King played the ball short to Alex Sykes, who was chopped down by Stuart Parkes inside the area. King stepped up to take the spot kick, but his shot was well saved by the Gornal keeper Mark Vaughan. Sykes then had a volley cleared off the line and Charles saw his follow up shot charged down before Jason Peake picked up the loose ball on the edge of the area and fired a low shot out of the reach of Vaughan.

Shaun Wray put a header just wide from a King cross before Boro virtually killed the game with two goals in two minutes. Peake doubled his tally when he rounded off a lovely move involving five players, scoring with a simple tap in. A minute later Sykes had a goal disallowed, but was not to be denied and hit a dipping free kick over the keeper and into the net. Chris Mackenzie had not touched the ball all half and was replaced by Ryan Young at the break.

The second half took a while to settle into the same pattern as Peake and Michael Love were sacrificed for Mark Taylor and Steve Prindiville. It was 20 minutes into the second half before Boro added to their lead as King lifted the ball over the top of a static defence for Sykes to run on to in acres of space. He laid the ball square to Charles who had a simple tap in.

Williams rattled the bar with a 12 yarder and then Charles did exactly the same five minutes later as Boro showed no mercy. With nine minutes to go Charles and King split the defence wide open with three excellent wall passes off each other allowing King to push the ball past the exposed Vaughan. The rout was complete with just four minutes to go when Williams got his name on the scoresheet.

Nuneaton Borough v Doncaster Rovers 03-02-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, B. Williams, Weaver, King, Peake, McGregor (Kennerdale 72), Charles, J. Williams (Sykes 63).
Subs: Young, Crowley, Taylor.

Doncaster: Richardson, Marples, Shaw, Hawkins, Miller, D. Williams, Watson (Whitman 68), Penney, Turner (Patterson 68), Campbell, McIntyre. **Subs:** Kelly, Ryan, Warrington.

Boro welcomed Doncaster Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference fixture.

Boro created the first chance as Charles burst through the visitors' back line in the first minute, but they were soon back on their heels as Doncaster won a succession of corners and many high crosses from the impressive Simon Marples kept Mackenzie busy. The home keeper sliced a back pass from Weaver, but the ball spun wide of the goal and out for a fruitless corner. The Boro keeper saved a Neil Campbell shot with his legs before Jamie Williams sent Charles away. He only had Barry Richardson to beat, but the keeper was quickly off his line and the two players met the ball simultaneously. Borough's penalty appeals were waved away.

Charles found himself clear again when Jason Peake played a perfect pass into the striker's path, but the front man's cheeky lob lacked power and accuracy. Doncaster continued to pile on the pressure and Marples was a constant threat with his pace and accurate crosses while the strike partnership of Campbell and Kevin McIntyre kept Borough's back four guessing.

The second half saw a plethora of bookings with Barry Miller the first to go in following a bad foul on Charles. King put the resulting free kick well off target. Wayne Simpson was next into the book following a foul on Marples. The home side breathed a sigh of relief when Dave Penney broke away and with only Mackenzie to beat dragged his shot wide from twelve yards out.



Ian King scores the vital winner.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Borough immediately capitalised on their let-off as Mackenzie's long clearance from the goal-kick was well brought down by Charles 20 yards out. He held the ball up and shepherded it out to King with an excellent pass that

dissected the Rovers' defence and the midfield man slammed the ball home from eight yards.

Steve Burr replaced Jamie Williams with Alex Sykes and then brought on Nicky Kennerdale for a tetchy Marc McGregor, who looked likely to get himself sent off. Doncaster threw everything at Boro as the game entered the last 15 minutes, but left gaps at the back and Boro charged out of defence in an attempt to catch Doncaster on the break. The home side had to work overtime to keep Doncaster at bay, but stuck to their task and the crowd seemed to sense that it was their favourites' day.

When the final whistle was sounded Manor Park exhaled an audible sigh of relief, not just that the fight was over, but the wait for success was also at an end after failing to win a home game in the new year.

Nuneaton Borough v Dagenham & Redbridge 10-02-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, B. Williams (Crowley 51), Weaver, King (Sykes 76), Peake, McGregor, Charles, J. Williams. **Subs:** Young, Angus, Kennerdale.

Dagenham: Roberts, Terry, Broom, Ayres (Keen 45), Matthews, Brennan (Cobb 65), Hayzelden (Opara 62), Forbes, Shipp, McDougald, Jones. **Subs:** Heffer, Goddwin.

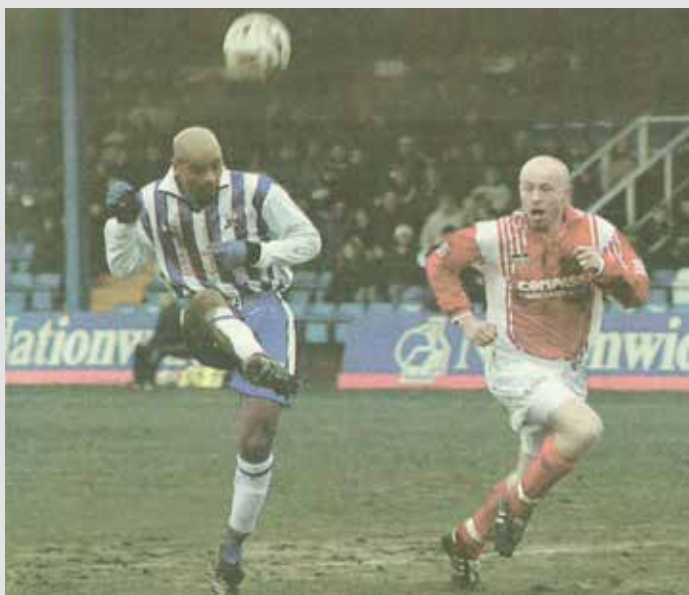
Boro welcomed Dagenham and Redbridge to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro got off to a flying start as Lee Charles put them ahead in the first five minutes of the game. Carl Bacon created the chance for the striker who lifted the ball over the stranded Roberts and into the bottom corner with a looping shot that left the keeper sitting in the net. Dagenham immediately hit back with a string of corners and free-kicks that rained into Chris Mackenzie's penalty area. Boro had loud appeals for a penalty turned down as a ball in to McGregor from Charles didn't reach the striker as he was hauled down by Ayres.

Paul Terry headed away from the lurking Charles before King volleyed over the top. Boro were in almost total control at this point and nearly doubled their lead on 20 minutes when some neat footwork from Jamie Williams set up a chance for McGregor who failed to hit the target. Boro were in battling mood and just before the half-hour mark they extended their lead. Jamie Williams and Ian King combined in the middle on the right before the latter sent a peach of a 40-yard pass onto the toe of McGregor whose first touch was immaculate. It took him around the advancing keeper and left him with the simple task of putting the ball into an empty net. From that point on there was only going to be one winner and Boro went in at half time to richly deserved applause.

The second half was a much more sedate affair as the Daggers began to earn themselves a lot more possession than in the first period, but the home side held the Daggers at arm's length. Mackenzie had hardly had a save of any description to make, but this changed as he misjudged a cross and dropped the ball in the crowded area, but Jamie Williams hacked the ball clear as Matthews was about to stab

it goalwards. That was as close as Dagenham got to a goal and Borough continued to dominate the match.



Lee Charles chips Dagenham keeper Tony Roberts for Borough's first goal. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Just before the hour mark Charles had a great chance to extend the Daggers' woes as Michael Love's ball was flicked on by Jamie Williams for McGregor to race away down the left. He looked up and saw his strike partner making room in the area and his early low cross was met perfectly by Charles, but his shot rebounded off the foot of the post with Roberts well beaten.

Boro were well worth their 2-0 win and the score flattered the visitors in some ways, but the home side recorded their second consecutive clean sheet and are well clear of any danger of relegation.

Borough Ground Plan Refused



Borough directors arrive at last night's meeting, which saw their stadium plans rejected. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough's hopes of moving to a new £4.2 million stadium were shot down on Monday night after they were refused permission to build on Eliot Park.

Club chairman Phil Clayton says the Nationwide Conference side now faces ejection from the league, as it is unlikely a new stadium will be built and registered in time to meet a 2004 deadline from the FA. Mr Clayton said that the club's board would be meeting to discuss the possibility of an appeal to the government following the council's refusal to sanction the plan.

Councillors voted ten to three in favour of council officers' recommendations to refuse the application and Mr Clayton said: "I am extremely disappointed, both for the club and for the fans, as we have now been prevented from providing better facilities for them.

"The future of the club is now in doubt, and the board of directors will have to meet to look at all the options available to us, this will of course include an appeal against the application refusal."

The reasons for refusing the ground were given as the impact of noise on nearby residents and the threat from chemicals at Ellis and Everard. The committee heard that had the club applied for permission at any time before April of last year, there would have been no problem with the chemical situation as they were only declared hazardous by a European ruling last year.

Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham City 13-02-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon (Francis 82), Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Weaver, Sykes, Charles, Kennerdale, Peake, J. Williams (Wray 75). Sub: Hanney.

Birmingham: Poole, Diamond, A. Williams, Bass, Parker, McCarthy, Grondin, Marcelo, Furlong (Johnson 46), Dyson (Jacques-Williams 46). Sub: Hutchinson.

Boro welcomed Birmingham City to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

The first openings fell to Blues and Christopher Grondin headed a weak effort at Chris Mackenzie in the first two minutes and then Marcelo Cippiano bent a wicked free-kick under the crossbar from 25 yards but Mackenzie gathered comfortably. Cippiano tried another shot from distance but once again Mackenzie was equal to it. Boro's first chance came after 15 minutes when Dave Crowley sent Kennerdale racing down the left. His early cross was met by keeper Kevin Poole as Charles harassed him.

Sykes put a shot wide after Poole had made a hash of a throw out and Peake lifted a shot just over the bar. Kennerdale showed great pace and strength and did not look out of his depth. Six minutes before half-time Peake broke the deadlock after Kennerdale had broken away on the right and pulled the ball back to Sykes whose pass found Peake and the midfielder hit the ball underneath the keeper and into the net.

Birmingham made a couple of substitutions during the break and one of them, Jacques-Williams snatched an equaliser on the hour as he connected with Ross Diamond's cross into the danger zone. The ball hung in the air and the Blues



youngster looped an header over Mackenzie and into the net. Nine minutes later the visitors took the lead through Marcelo. Crowley missed the flight of the ball in midfield and Johnson sprinted away from Wayne Simpson and hit a fierce shot at Mackenzie, which was parried out to Marcello who bundled the ball into the net. Blues looked to have sealed the game with just four minutes to go as Jacques-Williams scored his second goal, sidestepping a challenge on the edge of the area and curling in an exquisite shot over Mackenzie.

Boro weren't finished though as Francis nodded in a scrappy goal from a corner to give Boro a lifeline. However, they were finally beaten as Marcelo raced clear to thump a low shot past the stranded Mackenzie.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 17-02-2001

Hereford: Cooksey, Clarke, Sturgess, Robinson, Gardiner (James 46), Wall, Quiggin (Bull 74), Snape, Elmes, Williams, Rodgeron.
Subs: Moran, Baker, Shirley.

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, B. Williams, Weaver, King, Charles (Crowley 86), McGregor, Peake, J. Williams. **Subs:** Young, Sykes, Kennerdale, Angus.

Boro travelled to Edgar Street to play Hereford United in a Nationwide Conference game.

The first ten minutes were very quiet with both sides playing cautiously, but the first chance fell to Ian Rodgeron who guided an eight yard header straight at Chris Mackenzie and Phil Robinson made his way into the book for a high tackle on the Boro keeper. Four players were booked in the first 25 minutes as the teams jostled for position. Jamie Williams was played clear by Charles, but Cooksey was quickly out to clear the danger. Barry Williams hit a shot agonisingly wide as the Boro midfield took control.

The visitors broke the deadlock when Lee Charles held the ball up in the corner of the area and bought time for King to overlap and find a great crossing position and when the ball was fed to him he didn't disappoint. The ball flashed across the goal, evading both Cooksey and Sturgess and Barry Williams gleefully smashed the ball into an almost unguarded net. Boro had earned their lead and took it into the break.

Hereford came out for the second half with all guns blazing and had a big penalty shout against Love for a shove on Rob Elmes, which was turned down, as was another appeal for a similar offence against Robinson, as Boro looked slightly rocky for a period. Despite Hereford bossing the midfield at this point Boro held firm and played their way back into the game.

Hereford were getting desperate as the minutes ticked away and Graham Turner brought on Wolves' legend Steve Bull. The last ten minutes of the game were very tense as Boro tried to hang on to their slender lead. The fourth official indicated an extra four minutes and Boro were forced further and further back on the defensive. First Weaver, then Simpson, then Bary Williams and then Car Bacon all made

desperate clearances as the ball just kept coming back, but Boro broke away with time running out and there was a cheer from the travelling support as McGregor looked to have won a corner, but the referee indicated a goal kick and Cooksey took it quickly. Boro were caught unawares and Snape fired over a far post cross which evaded Mackenzie, but found Bull who fired home. The game kicked off again, but there was no time for either side to mount an attack, and Boro had just fallen short of a famous victory.

Boro Sign Two

Borough have completed the signing of Nick Kennerdale from Eastwood Town. Kennerdale impressed in a month long loan from the Nottinghamshire club and the Supporters' Club have raised £2,000 to make the deal permanent.

Boro For Liberty Way?

A bill for £250,000 is all that is potentially preventing Nuneaton Borough Football Club from moving onto a 'perfect' site. It is understood that experts have told Boro that land belonging to Nuneaton Rugby Football Club at Liberty Way, would be ideal for siting the new £4.2 million stadium. All the club would have to do is build defences against flooding and lay an underground cable, costing between £250,000 and £300,000.

The Nuns have 54 acres of land at their home off Eastboro Way, and say they would still welcome a feasibility study from the club, which would be discussed by members and the committee. The Nuns already have planning permission for their ground, and any proposed stadium would be well away from housing and have transport links.

However, Boro chairman Phil Clayton, has ruled out any move to the Nuns, saying: "The rugby club is no good. It needs a flood barrier and the electricity cable fitting, costing between £250,000 and £300,000. There is also a question of how the entry would be manned to the two places. Eliot Park was our favourite and it didn't get planning permission. We are still getting legal advice on what our next move will be following this refusal."

Nuneaton Borough v Hayes 24-02-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Simpson, B. Williams, Weaver, King, Charles (Kennerdale 46), McGregor (Sykes 87), Peake, J. Williams.
Subs: Crowley, Young, Angus.

Hayes: Gothard, Behzadi, Gallen (Town 72), Watts, Sterling, Goodliffe, McKimm, Preston (Stevens 90), Hodson, Nymah, Molesley.
Subs: Boyland, Coppard.

Borough welcomed Hayes to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The two sides played the long ball game with the Hayes centre-back pairing of Watts and Sterling looking comfortable with what little threat Boro posed early on. The home side defended well but offered very little going forward and the crowd were in a subdued mood as they waited for things

to happen. Lee Charles had the best chance for the home side, but his weak half-hit volley was comfortably saved by Gothard. Jamie Williams also found himself in a shooting position but he had to wait for the ball to sit up and by that time the Hayes defence had snuffed out the danger.

Boro's crosses were invariably too square and were meat and drink to Hayes' towering defenders. Charles was still rueing his half-hit volley when Hayes won a throw-in inside Boro's half and Molesley reacted quickest and carried possession towards the Cock and Bear end before releasing McKimm whose first time near post cross was met with a stooping header from Hodson which beat Chris Mackenzie and put the visitors ahead.



Simon Weaver throws himself into the fray as Boro push for a winning goal. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Burr was unhappy with his teams performance and replaced Charles with Kennerdale at half-time and the new man changed the game. Suddenly Boro had an outlet and the new man started to hold up the ball and run at defenders. The home side were now the better side and looked capable of grabbing an equaliser. The goal that had been threatened came through Carl Bacon whose excellent cross had the Missioners in all sorts of trouble as first McGregor mishit a volley and then the ball fell to Peake, who saw his shot brilliantly saved by Gothard, but the keeper could not hold the ball and Peake scored his first Conference goal.

The goal livened the game up and there was much-improved passing from both sides. There was a real game on now and Boro pushed for all three points as Peake controlled the pace and direction of the game virtually single-handed. His vision and experience were vital as the visitors began to creak at the back. Several corners came to nothing as Hayes defended stoutly and refused to give in to their hosts who were baying for blood.

The fourth official announced five extra minutes and the chance Boro had been waiting for materialised. A poor pass from Molesley went straight to Ian King who was 30 yards out and suddenly realised there was no-one within ten yards of him. He took his eye off the ball though and failed to control it and the chance was gone. There was still time for another great chance as the ball bounced around in the Hayes penalty

box before falling to Barry Williams. He flashed a shot across the goal and it bounced inches wide of the post, in what proved to be the last action of the game.

Boro Player Stabbed

Nuneaton Borough's latest signing is today recovering in hospital after being stabbed in the chest and repeatedly slashed. Nicky Kennerdale was out with family in Nottingham on Saturday night when he became involved in an incident and was taken to Nottingham City Hospital with injuries. These included a stab wound to the chest and cuts to both his hands and head which needed surgery.

The 24-year-old is still receiving treatment for his wounds on the Robert Jones Ward at the hospital, where his condition is described as comfortable.

Leigh RMI v Nuneaton Borough

03-03-2001

Leigh: Felgate, Spooner, Trees, Durkin, Farrell, Swan (Murphy 70), Monk, Ridings (Gardner 81), Kielty, Black, Jones. Subs: Morrell, Mason, Dootson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon (Thackeray 46), Love (White 74), Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, King, Sykes (Crowley 46), Francis, Peake, J. Williams. Subs: Hanney, Young.

Boro made the journey to Hilton Park to take on Leigh RMI in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro got off to the worst possible start when they conceded in the fifth minute when Ian Monk rifled a shot past the badly exposed Chris Mackenzie. The Boro keeper was left unprotected for most of the game and only four minutes later Ged Keilty dissected the visitors' defence with a brilliant through ball for Tony Black to run onto. He failed in his attempt but the warning signs were there for all to see.

Alex Sykes missed a chance when Carl Bacon picked him out at the far post from a corner, but he could only put a weak header into the arms of Dave Felgate. Black shot wide for the home team before they extended their lead when Delton Francis left a pass short of Barry Williams and Keilty stole the ball and ran on to the edge of the area before shooting past Mackenzie. The home side went further ahead when Steve Jones found Black, who nodded the ball back into the path of Dave Ridings who blasted a beauty into the top corner to give the home side a 3-0 lead.

Peake saw a shot from distance easily saved by Felgate. Seven minutes before the break a Keilty corner was well defended by Angus, but his header fell straight to Jones on the edge of the area and the striker put a magnificent volley past Mackenzie to give the Railwaymen a 4-0 lead going into the break.

Burr made a couple of changes during the break, bringing on Crowley for Sykes and Thackeray for Bacon, which seemed to stiffen up the Boro defence. Peake put a 25 yard free-kick into the empty terraces before Francis turned and volleyed from 40 yards, but the ball sailed over the top. Thackeray found



space in the area on the right and he pulled the ball back for the unmarked Jamie Williams to tap home his first goal for the club. King then found himself in the area as Boro tried to revive themselves and stage the most unlikely of comebacks, but only a corner resulted.

The game ended in a flurry of activity when Boro substitute Gary White fired a brilliant 30 yard drive which Felgate clawed out of the top corner. Jones scored his second of the game following an almighty mix-up in the visitors' defence. Terry Angus shepherded the ball back to Mackenzie who tried to take on the Leigh forwards and blasted a clearance straight at Jones who scored his second of the game. Jamie Williams scored his second of the game from King's cross, pushing the ball past Felgate. The scoring was completed when Angus brought down Ian Monk and Jones completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot.

Borough Lose Out On Centre Half

Borough have lost out on signing York City centre back Mark Sertori, who has agreed a non contract deal with Third Division Shrewsbury Town. Better news concerns the signing till the end of the season of Jason Peake, who has signed a deal which includes an option to renegotiate for next season.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough	13-03-2001
<p>Yeovil: Pennock, Betts, Tonkin, Skiverton, O'Brien, Way, Gritton (Belgrave 63), Smith (Poole 65), Patmore, Crittenden, McIndoe (Bent 63).</p> <p>Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, B. Williams, Weaver, Crowley, Charles, Francis (King 75), Peake, J. Williams.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Huish Park to take on Yeovil Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

Yeovil enjoyed the majority of the early play, but Boro defended stoutly, so much so that it was a minute before full-time when Chris Mackenzie had his first real shot to save. The visitors' first effort on goal came via Delton Francis in the tenth minute as a mix-up between Terry Skiverton and O'Brien allowed Jason Peake to thread the ball through. Francis latched onto the ball and angled a shot across goal with Lee Charles steaming in at the far post but he just failed to get a touch on it as he stuck out a leg and slid on his back into the net.

Warren Patmore proved a dangerous threat for the home side but he was continually crowded out by a resolute defence. Yeovil's other danger men, Crittenden and Michael McIndoe were also kept quiet. Darren Way came close to opening the scoring when Patmore held up the ball on the edge of the box and tapped it into his team mate's path, but Way drove his shot wide from 25 yards out. Crittenden also had half a chance but had to settle for a corner. Yeovil again stormed forward and Boro looked to be in trouble, but were rescued by the half-time whistle.

The second half opened with Mackenzie dropping a cross in a crowded area, but Simpson hacked the ball clear. Boro took

every opportunity to slow the game down and run down the clock and produced their best effort so far on 60 minutes when Francis won possession on the half-way line. He held the ball up and waited for support from Peake who then delayed his return pass to perfection for Francis to run on to. He reached the ball just outside the area just before Pennock, but Francis was unable to steer it past the keeper. Angus and Weaver pushed forward for a series of three corners, but Boro were almost undone as Yeovil broke quickly. Fortunately Crowley was there to break up the move for the umpteenth time.

Then it was the home side's turn for a fright as Thackeray found himself in space and put in a pin-point cross for Barry Williams, who met the ball perfectly with a downward header, which just crept the wrong side of the post. Yeovil became increasingly desperate as the minutes slipped away and the news that Rushden were winning 2-0 at Kettering filtered through to the home crowd. But the crowd's anxiety appeared to reach the players and Boro held on desperately. Mackenzie had to make two excellent saves and Patmore hit a shot into the side netting, but that was the last action as the final whistle sounded with players falling to their knees, some in delight, some in despair and all in exhaustion.

Southport v Nuneaton Borough	17-03-2001
<p>Southport: Dickinson, Lane, Grayston, Clark, Guyett, Bolland (Teale 36), Marsh, Gouck, Arnold, Parke (Maamria 75), Elam (Whittaker 54). Subs: Furlong, Linighan.</p> <p>Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, B. Williams (Hanney 84), Weaver, Crowley, Wray, Francis (King 25), Peake, J. Williams (Sykes 77). Subs: Young, Bacon.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Haig Avenue to play Southport in a Nationwide Conference game.

Southport asserted themselves from the off and Boro suffered a setback after 25 minutes when Francis had to leave the pitch and was substituted by Ian King. The home side were desperate to keep up the pressure at the top of the table and created all sorts of problems for the visitors. But just as at Yeovil, Borough defended well and looked to extend their unbeaten run to eight league matches.

The first real chance of the game fell to Southport as Chris Lane's glorious diagonal ball found Lee Elam on the left. He hit a low drive across the area but no one was on hand to get a touch. Boro started to creak at the back with ten minutes of the half remaining and Elam hit a shot which was deflected for a corner and the same player headed over from the flag kick. Boro were also looking for an opening and had two good chances as first Jamie Williams latched onto a Thackeray free-kick only to see his effort hit Dickinson and then Ian King was denied by the keeper following a 20 yard free-kick.

The Sandgrounders then had a period in the ascendancy and Simon Parke and Ian Arnold had chances as the Boro workload got heavier and Elam and Lane began to tease the back line with crosses to Parke, who won everything in the air, but to no avail as he lacked support inside. Former

Liverpool star Mike Marsh was pulling the strings in midfield and caused panic in the Boro box with a free-kick that fell to Lane who mishit his shot into the path of Arnold, who swivelled and volleyed just over. The same player then headed over twice in a minute as the half drew to a close.

Boro with a stiff breeze at their back came out for the second half in combative mood and got more into the game as the half wore on. Wray struck an angled drive across the face of goal and they then earned their first corner of the game as Ian King burst forward and cannoned the ball off Lane. The set piece came to nothing but it showed Mark Wright's men that they had a game on their hands.

With an hour on the clock Boro were almost gifted a lead as former Villa man Shaun Teale chested the ball back to his keeper. He hadn't checked the position of Dickinson though and had the ball had a little more pace the keeper would have been beaten. Wray almost gave Boro the lead with a fierce shot from 30 yards which beat Dickinson and cannoned back off the crossbar.

The game became more open and swung from end to end with Southport pushing men forward and Boro hitting them on the counter. However, the visitors were left with a mountain to climb after 75 minutes when Angus upended Scott Guyett in the penalty area and Marsh stroked home the penalty kick. Despite the goal Boro heads did not drop and they had chances through King, Wray and Barry Williams, although Parke, Arnold and Gouck had similar chances at the other end.

With eight minutes left, Boro grabbed an equaliser. Jason Peake sent in a left sided in-swinging corner with his right foot and Angus hung in the air to thump home a glorious equaliser. The game wasn't over yet though and two minutes later the home side were undone as Thackeray turned up in the area to notch the winner. Sykes and Peake exchanged passes before Sykes squared for Thackeray to give Boro the lead. Marsh had the last chance of the game as he smashed the ball wide from ten yards out, but the visitors held on for an unlikely victory.

Nuneaton Borough v Chester City

23-03-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Love (J. Williams 60), Weaver, Crowley, Charles, Wray (Sykes 76), Peake, B. Williams (King 76). Subs: Young, Bacon.

Chester: Brown, Moss, Doughty (Woodyatt 68), Lancaster, Ruffer, P. Beesley, Carden, Fisher, M. Beesley (Woods 59), Whitehall (Haarhoff 74), Ruscoe. Subs: Priestley, Wright.

Boro welcomed Chester City to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro took an early lead after an attack by the visitors broke down with a save from Mackenzie. The keeper cleared the ball to Peake on the edge of his own area and the midfielder spotted Wray in space and sent him racing across the half-way line. Wray dropped his shoulder as he reached the area and fired a lovely drive past England non-league keeper

Brown. Borough's hard work was undone ten minutes later as Darren Moss crossed into the area. Mackenzie got a palm to the ball as it looked to be going wide and Beesley was the first to react to stab the ball into the net.



Barry Williams is brought down in the area but penalty appeals are waved away.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro were suddenly on the back foot as the visitors had their tails up and the next goal was not long in coming. Steve Whitehall, who has a growing reputation in Conference circles was gifted a chance by the Boro defence and lifted the ball over Mackenzie in the 29th minute to give the visitors the lead. It was almost the last time that Chester were to threaten the Boro goal as they were happy with what they had. Shortly after the goal Boro earned their first corner of the game and Peake swung in a beauty for Barry Williams, who failed to connect. Ten minutes after that Boro had a chance to level the game as Peake put a right wing corner across the area and Paul Beesley inexplicably handled to give Boro a penalty. Peake side footed the kick close enough to Brown for him to make a save and Chester scrambled the ball to safety. Wray thought he had scored just before the break but Ruffer cleared off the line.

Boro dominated the second half and pressed relentlessly but wasted their possession and could not get through the Chester rearguard. The crowd urged Boro on but to no avail as a series of corners and deep throw ins came to nothing. The visitors' clearances were wild but frequent as Boro relentlessly pushed for an equaliser and though defeat was harsh the lack of some of their best strikers told at the end of the day.

Boro Sign Paul Barnes

Boro have secured the signature of prolific striker Paul Barnes until the end of the season. The 33-year-old who has scored 160 goals in almost 400 Football League games has put pen to paper on a loan deal with a view to a permanent move in the summer.

Going in the opposite direction is Alex Sykes who has returned to Forest Green Rovers and Krystof Kotylo who is expected to join Worksop Town

Nuneaton Borough v Kingstonian 31-03-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, King (B. Williams 75), Crowley, Barnes, Wray (Charles 75), Peake, J. Williams (Love 80). Subs: Young, Hanney.

Kingstonian: Blake, Boyce, Lockett (Jones 46), Allan, Stewart, Harris (Wingfield 73), Patterson, Bass, Duerden (Green 80), Holligan, Akuamoah. Sub: Saunders.

Boro welcomed Kingstonian to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference match.

Boro had an early scare when a mix-up between Terry Angus and Chris Mackenzie almost allowed Mark Boyce in. But the home side gradually got a grip in midfield and should have been in front after 17 minutes. Barnes cut the ball back to Shaun Wray who failed to get a shot in and Peake's eventual effort was comfortably saved by Afrian Blake. Boro were bossing the game at this stage and Blake was forced into action on two occasions, punching clear a Jamie Williams cross under pressure from Barnes before turning away a fierce effort from Peake.



Paul Barnes scores his first goal for Borough.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro's pressure paid off after 24 minutes when Dave Crowley's through ball caused panic in the visitors' defence and when central defender Simon Stewart collided with keeper Blake the alert Barnes was first to react to slip the ball into the empty net. Simon Weaver then brought down Gavin Holligan 25 yards out and Colin Lockett forced a smart save by Mackenzie from the free kick. The visitors were now enjoying their best spell of the game and Duerden's header from Lockett's cross sailed just wide of the post.

David Bass then saw his header from a Lockett corner beat Mackenzie only for Weaver to scramble the ball off the line. There were more problems for Boro when Mackenzie failed to gather Gary Patterson's high ball into the area and it took a brave challenge from Angus to deny Akuamoah an equaliser. But Boro struck again deep into first-half injury time when Andy Thackeray's neat turn set up Barnes who hammered a fierce shot past Blake from a narrow angle.

Kingstonian opened the second half in a more determined mood with Patterson having an early free-kick charged down, but Boro might have increased their lead when Barnes dummied a clearance to set Wray clear, but Derek Allan got back to clear. Jamie Williams had the chance to play Barnes clear in the box but Allan again got the ball away before Angus had to be on his toes to clear from Patterson. However, the visitors were back in the game after 66 minutes when Boro failed to clear Ronnie Green's cross and the ball broke to Akuamoah who drilled home from 15 yards.

Duerden twice went close to getting on the end of Patterson crosses, while Holligan was denied by Wayne Simpson before Barry Williams headed over at the far post. Barnes went close to a hat-trick when he unleashed a ferocious drive that Blake somehow managed to push away for a corner. The visitors went close to an equaliser in the last minute when Allan hooked the ball over the top from inside the six yard box.

Boro Players' Long Service Recognised



Three Nuneaton Borough players have been rewarded for their loyalty as they have all reached landmarks in their Boro careers. Wayne Simpson was honoured for reaching the 100 match mark when he took the field against Hayes at the end of last month. Barry Williams and Dave Crowley have both more than doubled that amount with Williams racking up 200 appearances and Crowley 237.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Morecambe 03-04-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Weaver, Wray, Charles, Barnes, Peake, J. Williams. Subs: Love, Young, King, Hanney, B. Williams.

Morecambe: Smith, Fensome, Brown, McKearney, Hardiker, Murphy, Lee, Drummond, Quayle (Talbot 70), Norman, Thompson (Eastwood 68).

Boro welcomed Morecambe to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Variety Club Trophy quarter-final tie.

The first incident of the match saw a booking for Terry Angus who raised his hands following a challenge with Mark Quayle. A minute later Boro could have taken the lead but Paul Barnes could not keep his shot down after he was picked out by Andy Thackeray. The home crowd then had to endure a moment of panic after Chris Mackenzie completely missed a back pass and had to scurry back to retrieve the situation



with Quayle in close attendance, but Simon Weaver got the ball away. Boro almost broke the deadlock half-way through the first half when a Jason Peake corner was dropped by Smith in the Morecambe goal. Weaver was on hand to tap the ball towards the net but Stuart Drummond cleared off the line.

Boro were rarely troubled during the first half as their midfield continually harassed, chased and won virtually every challenge. Thackeray caused problems for the visitors when he got forward and Jamie Williams worked hard, getting in several quality crosses, but the half-time whistle blew without a goal being scored.

The second half was much the same as the first but Boro showed a little more urgency. Jason Peake saw a wickedly bending corner hit the crossbar and bounce to safety and then Smith palmed away another corner. Thackeray tried his luck from 30 yards in the 56th minute, but the keeper collected with some ease. The visitors then created a chance when David Lee crossed from the right and found Garry Thompson who volleyed the ball goalwards, but it lacked power and Mackenzie collected the ball above his head.

A minute later Boro were in front when Peake lined up a free kick 25 yards out. His left footer swirled in the wind and the keeper made no attempt to cut it out as it bent towards goal. Weaver was there to stoop and head home his first ever goal for Nuneaton. The visitors hit back and David McKearney saw a deflected shot collected by Mackenzie and then David Lee hit the bar with a swerving cross. Jamie Murphy ventured forward and brought the best save of the night out of the home keeper, who tipped a 30 yarder out of the top corner.

As the conditions deteriorated Boro put the issue beyond doubt when Ged Murphy underhit a back pass to Smith. Wray was sharp and picked up the loose ball before calmly stroking the ball past the advancing keeper. Crowley and Barnes both had chances to increase the home side's lead and Lee Charles was denied by a last-ditch tackle.

Mackenzie Signs New Deal

Chris Mackenzie has signed a new two-year deal with Nuneaton Borough. The former Leyton Orient and Northampton Town keeper has been an almost ever-present in the side since joining in the summer of 1999.

Stevenage Borough v Nuneaton Borough 07-04-2001

Stevenage: Taylor, Hamsher, Miller, Smith, Bradshaw (Bridge 90), Martin, Walters, McMahon, Morgan, Armstrong, Illman.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Simpson, Wray, Charles (Love 85), Barnes, J. Williams.

Boro made the journey to Broadhill Way to play Stevenage Borough in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started slowly but soon got into their stride before Wayne Simpson found himself in the referee's notebook. Lee Charles' first touch let him down as he tried to get onto the

end of Mackenzie's long kick before Paul Barnes missed a half chance from Shaun Wray's cross which was fumbled by Chris Taylor in the home goal. Andy Thackeray had a shot charged down before Andy Peake dinked a ball into the path of Lee Charles, but again the striker's first touch let him down with Barnes waiting on the penalty spot. Barnes then played in Charles, who brought a good save out of Taylor.

Boro almost went behind on 38 minutes when Steve Walters found himself completely unmarked on the edge of the area, but the recent £25,000 signing shot over the top. Despite the miss Stevenage continued to push forward and won a succession of corners, one of which Walters swung into the area where the ball clipped Thackeray's elbow. The home crowd screamed for a penalty but McMahon scored from ten yards out to give Stevenage the lead. Wray almost equalised a minute later as he forced a flying save out of Taylor.

Four minutes after the break Charles planted a diving header over the bar after some great work from Paul Barnes. John Hamshere then showed his skills as he surged past two challenges and into the area, but Mackenzie pushed his shot into the side netting. Paul Armstrong hit a rising drive over the bar, but two minutes later Boro were level. Jamie Williams embarked on a surging run which carried him deep into the Stevenage half, laying a ball off to Barnes, who took it in his stride, stepped inside the last defender and despatched an unstoppable low drive to Taylor's right.

Charles then burst through and shot straight at the keeper as both sides pushed for a winning goal. The play was end to end and Boro were forced to defend with Angus, Williams and Weaver all being forced to head clear. The tempo remained high but chances were few, but with just 11 minutes to go Thackeray found space in the area and planted a far post cross onto Charles' head, but he put his header into the crowd behind the goal. Simpson brought Dean Martin down on the edge of the area and was given a second yellow card and first use of the showers. Barnes had the best chance of the match with the final whistle imminent. He raced clear, swerved in front of a defender, but dragged his shot wide.

Boro Fight For New Ground

Supporters of Nuneaton Borough FC are being urged to back the club – or see it fold. The stark warning came as directors announced they would be appealing against Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for a £4.2 million, 6,500 capacity stadium at Eliot Park, off the A444. At the same time, a public appeal was launched to get people to "Follow The Bear. Don't Red Card The Boro" to save the Nationwide Conference club.

The message from the club's directors was clear – if the public don't get behind the club in their bid to say goodbye to their current home at Manor Park, the club will cease to exist. Chairman Phil Clayton said: "The appeal will be the most important day in the club's 64-year history. It will either

safeguard our future or seal our demise and consign all our wonderful achievements to nothing more than history books.

The only way to meet our financial needs is through a new ground at Eliot Park. It could cost anywhere between £50,000 and £70,000 to appeal and this will be financed from within the club.”

The campaign will see a ballot form sent out to 50,000 homes across Nuneaton asking one simple question: Are you for the Boro stadium or against it?



Phil Clayton (centre) and directors Roger Stanford (left) and Gordon Chislett join PR executives Hannah Montgomery and Stewart Bint for the campaign launch.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Telegraph

Nuneaton Borough v Morecambe

12-04-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Weaver, Wray, Charles, Barnes, Peake, J. Williams. Subs: Love, Young, King, B. Williams, Hanney.

Morecambe: Banks, Fensome, Brown, McKearney, Hardiker, Murphy, Lee (Eastwood 67), Drummond, Quayle (Talbot 63) Norman (Stringfellow 60), Zico-Black. Subs: McQuire, Baldwin.

Borough welcomed Morecambe to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started strongly and took the lead after only four minutes when Wray got on the end of Barnes’ flick from a Peake corner. Barnes had two more chances within the first ten minutes as his pace and mobility clearly had the Shrimps’ defence worried. Youngster Ryan Zico-Black had the visitors’ first crack

at goal after Simon Weaver sent Mark Quayle crashing to the ground, but the winger’s effort was weak. Lee Charles found space after he was put through by Peake, but he wasted a chance from 20 yards with a tame effort that rolled into the arms of keeper Andrew Banks.



Boro take the lead after just four minutes. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro looked dangerous and went further ahead after 22 minutes when James Murphy fouled Charles and Peake sent a delightful free-kick towards Barnes who flicked the ball confidently over Banks to make it 2-0. Barnes was almost on target again seconds later and then turned provider as he laid on a ball for Jamie Williams to put in a long range effort. Morecambe then had a chance to test Mackenzie as John Hardiker got on the end of Mark Quayle’s cross. Boro were soon back on the offensive though and Williams crossed for Barnes who stepped over the ball for Peake, who made no mistake with a rocket to make the score 3-0.

Mackenzie pulled off a save from Zico-Black’s free-kick, but Boro finished the half on top and Peake forced Banks into a save from his 20 yard shot.

Boro started the second-half in subdued mood and Morecambe took advantage, cutting the home side’s lead when Drummond found Quayle who lifted the ball over the keeper and into the net. Boro sought to restore their three goal lead and Barnes had two stabs at the ball in the area following a goalmouth scramble, but Morecambe almost made further inroads into Boro’s lead as Quayle found himself on the end of a Zico-Black corner but a combination of the post and Mackenzie saved the day.

Weaver went close from a Peake free-kick before Williams set up another goal with a long ball to Barnes, who controlled it well and ran into the box before putting in a deep pass that found Thackeray who picked his spot to make it 4-1 with 73 minutes gone. Murphy had a chance for the visitors but put his shot over the bar when it was easier to score. Boro remained the side most likely to score and rounded off the night with another goal from ace marksman Paul Barnes. Peake’s free-kick found him free in the box and he fired home to equal the club’s biggest win of the season. Mackenzie tipped an effort from Zico-Black over the top before the final whistle.



Homes Deal For Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough FC have admitted that they have agreed in principle to sell their Manor Park ground, even though they still have no place to move to. The Nationwide Conference club is in detailed negotiations with Barratt Homes, which wants the prime town centre site for housing. It has been estimated that there could be more than 100 houses plus shops on the site.

Club bosses say they have spoken to several companies before making an agreement in principle with Barratt.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 14-04-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus (Love 60), Simpson, Weaver (Hanney 73), Wray, Crowley, Peake, J. Williams, Barnes, Charles (King 78). **Subs:** Young, B. Williams.

Scarborough: Woods, Atkinson, Brunton, Rennison, Ellender, Faure, Blunt, Stoker, Burt (Diallo 90). **Subs:** Newton, Thompson, Jordan, Piercewright.

Boro welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The first half was a disappointing affair with just two shots throughout the 45 minutes, both for the home side. Boro danger man Paul Barnes was well contained by Scarborough skipper Paul Ellender, although he broke away in the 25th minute following a Charles' through ball, but keeper Andy Woods saved with some ease. Barnes found himself in space again and turned creator to send Shaun Wray clear, but the ball was too quick for the winger.

Boro's first real chance of the half came after 41 minutes when Wray sent Charles clear in the area, but the forward took too much time allowing Danny Brunton to get a foot in as Ellender cleared the danger. Just before the break Jason Peake put a 25-yard rocket over the bar.

Boro had a dream start to the second half when Peake played a short corner to Andy Thackeray, who crossed to Angus whose header found the net. Two minutes later a defensive mix-up gifted Scarborough an equaliser. A long ball from Ellender saw Williams run free and after hesitation from Simon Weaver, he kept control and turned with his back to goal to slip past an ailing Chris Mackenzie. Shortly after things got even worse as Jamie Burt cut inside Wayne Simpson and Williams appeared from nowhere to hit the ball into the back of the net and give Scarborough the lead.

Angus left the field with a head wound following a clash of heads with keeper Woods before Charles and Wray tried to release Barnes, but the in-form forward was being kept on a tight rein by Ellender. Ian King and Joe Hanney were added to the ranks in a bid to salvage something, but Scarborough held on. The final action saw Jason Blunt red carded for a second bookable offence with just seconds to go.

Boro boss Steve Burr said: "I'm disappointed to lose. I think some of the players felt we'd done enough when we scored, but they got two goals out of the blue."

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-2001

Hednesford: Gayle, Evans, Griffiths (Bonsall 70), Lake, Haran, Owen, Craven, Brown (Meacham 70), Davis, Airdrie (Norbury 70), Bagshaw. **Subs:** Shakespeare, Goodwin.

Boro: Mackenzie, Weaver (Francis 90), Angus, Simpson, Williams (Love 28) Crowley, Wray, Peake, Thackeray, Charles, Barnes. **Subs:** Young, King, Hanney.

Boro made the journey to Keys Park to play Hednesford Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro almost took the lead after ten minutes when Lee Charles found himself free in the box following a Jamie Williams cross, but keeper Mark Gayle was able to tip the forward's header over the bar. But a minute later Boro had a double scare when Stewart Airdrie put Neil Davis through, but he put his effort wide and then an awful pass from Charles left Leon Brown clear, but he too was off target. Paul Bagshaw went close after 20 minutes and forced Chris Mackenzie into a moment of madness, but Mackenzie recovered to rescue the situation.

Boro were looking very dangerous in attack which was well supported by Jason Peake, but the visitors had a let-off when Wayne Simpson appeared to handle in the area, but the referee thought differently. Substitute Love, on for Jamie Williams, put Wray through and the winger hit a shot at Gayle, who tipped over the bar. A minute later Boro took the lead when a long kick from Mackenzie fell at the feet of Barnes who reacted swiftly to stroke the ball past Gayle. Wray was then put through by Love but wasted the chance.

Charles missed an absolute sitter five minutes into the second half after Angus had blasted a free-kick which Wray turned goalwards and Charles picked up the rebound with the goal at his mercy, but somehow missed the target. Mackenzie saved from Airdrie before Barnes tried his luck from 20 yards but hit the post, followed by a Crowley shot which hit the crossbar. Mackenzie saved from a Davis after the ball took a bobble and the keeper was forced to tip over.

Dean Craven was given his marching orders following a dreadful tackle on Angus, earning himself a second yellow. Haran shot over the top before Boro extended their lead after 80 minutes. Hard work from Crowley and Wray set up Barnes who rifled in a 25 yard shot right in the top corner of the goal. Three minutes before the end Charles made amends for his earlier miss when Barnes turned provider as his cross gifted his colleague with a tap in from a yard out. Barnes almost had a hat-trick with two minutes to go after Charles and Wray linked to send him clear, but he was given offside.

Boro Feel The Pinch

Nuneaton Borough FC are feeling the pinch as attendances have dropped by an average of 700 a game – losing the club an estimated £60,000 over the course of the season. The shortfall in ticket sales is another unwelcome headache for the club, which already faces an uncertain future because of wrangling over its proposed move to a new stadium.



Nuneaton Borough v Dover Athletic 21-04-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Love, Crowley (Hanney 48), Weaver, Wray, Charles (Francis 75), Barnes, Peake, Williams (King 75).
Subs: White, Young.

Dover: Hyde, Munday, Norman, Leberl, Shearer, Chapman, Carruthers, Strouts, Vansittart, McRobert (Browne 46), Lebihan (Okofar 46). **Subs:** Brown, Beard, Hockton.

Boro welcomed Dover Athletic to Manor Park for a Nationwide Conference match.

Boro got off to a flying start with one of the fastest goals ever seen at Manor Park. Straight from the kick-off Dave Crowley passed the ball to Andy Thackeray who launched it to Barnes. The striker passed to Lee Charles who returned the favour for Barnes to launch a bullet header past Dover keeper Paul Hyde. Barnes found himself in a great position soon after when Jason Peake put him through only for Stuart Munday to clear. Dover's first foray came from a Vansittart flick that allowed Carruthers to break but Terry Angus was in a position to clear as Chris Mackenzie rushed out of his area.

Dover levelled the scores following a tackle by Simon Weaver on Joff Vansittart which resulted in a free kick. Carruthers stepped up 30 yards out and blasted the ball past Mackenzie. Jimmy Strouts put a shot just over the bar as Dover controlled the play but the home side had a chance when Shaun Wray sent the ball flashing across the face of goal but Jamie Williams' outstretched foot just failed to connect. Charles then put a header into the keeper's arms.

Peake started the second period with a tremendous shot that tested Hyde. There was then a period of dull football with neither side putting together a positive move. But it was Dover who forged ahead and took the lead after 62 minutes. A corner from Carruthers reached a mass of heads in the goalmouth and Vansittart rose to head home and give Dover the lead.

Vansittart had a chance to extend Dover's lead when Steve Norman crossed, but the centre-forward failed to connect. Barnes pushed forward in search of a goal but Hyde was quick to cut out the danger. Williams had a chance following good work from Peake but his shot went wide while Vansittart was a constant danger and went close from a Carruthers' corner. Boro threw on Delton Francis and Ian King but Dover defended their lead. Barnes had the final chance two minutes from the end following another Peake ball, but Dover held on to win having scored two goals with their two shots on target.

Hopes High For Extra Promotion Place

The possibility of an extra promotion slot being in place for next season from the Nationwide Conference into the Football League has taken a step close after a meeting between the two sets of Directors. The Conference's eight man board have reviewed the offer for two promotion place which was handed to them by the League and talks are now being structured around a two up two down arrangement being in place for the start of the 2001-02 season.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 24-04-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Weaver, Wray (King 90), Charles, Barnes, Peake, Love. **Subs:** J. Williams, Young, Francis, Bacon.

Northwich: Rigby, Bailey (Challender 53), Barnard, Talbot, Robertson (Walsh 90), Walling, Norris, Mitchell (Lewis 83), Blundell, Mike, Devlin. **Subs:** Bates, Holcroft.

Boro welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro created the first opening of the game after just three minutes when Jason Peake began the move with an exquisite ball for Lee Charles, who played a one-two with Barnes which freed Shaun Wray on the right but his cross spiralled wide. Northwich had a chance from a free-kick after Simon Weaver fouled former Boro man Richard Mitchell on the edge of the area but Weaver managed to get his head on the free-kick and put it out for a corner. Mackenzie was called into action to cut out a speculative 40 yard effort from Mark Barnard before Vics took the lead. Mark Devlin swung in a near post corner and Adie Mike glanced a header into the net.

Barnes won a free-kick out wide and Peake curled the ball into the area where everyone seemed to miss the ball and it ricocheted off Angus and into the net. Peake then smashed a rising drive over the top before they took the lead. Andy Thackeray slid the ball into Charles' feet on the edge of the area and he laid the ball off to Peake who hit a dipping shot over Malcolm Rigby. Boro were lucky not to concede a minute later when Love appeared to push Mike inside the six yard box as the two challenged for a cross.

The pitch deteriorated through the rest of the game with the floodlights reflected in the puddles of water, but Boro continued to stick to their task and Love's cross was just too far in front of Wray. Mackenzie produced the save of the match to keep out the ball following a clever back heel by Greg Blundell. Ten minutes later Peake whipped in a wicked 25 yard free kick just over the bar. Devlin hit a shot just wide from ten yard before captain John Robertson was miles wide with his poor effort.

Boro had the final say with a third goal after Charles won a race for possession and the Northwich defence were split wide open and the ball fell to the feet of Barnes who scored with ease. The final act saw Crowley red carded.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 28-04-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Weaver, Wray, Charles, Barnes, Peake, Love. **Subs:** J. Williams, Young, King, Bacon, Francis.

Kettering: Bowling, Diuk, Cowling, Matthews, Vowden, McNamara (Ayres 90), Perkins (Fothergill 58), Brown, Collins, Watkins, Lenagh (Hudson 84). **Subs:** Wilson, Wilkinson.

Boro welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro were first to show as Lee Charles tried to lob Bowling from a tight angle but the keeper did well to back pedal



and turn the ball over for a corner. Kettering broke from the corner and Borough found themselves short. Dale Watkins found Collins whose well struck volley flashed wide. Barnes was played in by Weaver but shot over the top before Boro were again forced to defend as Phil Brown released Wayne Diuk but his early cross was headed away by Weaver.

Watkins worked an opening by beating Wayne Simpson in the area but the defender retrieved the situation with an excellent block and the ball rebounded off Watkins shin for a goal kick. Diuk's diving header prevented Barnes from heading goalwards from six yards as Shaun Wray peppered the Kettering penalty area with crosses and capitalised on a defensive error from Brett McNamara to cross to Barnes who was unable to get any direction on a header from six yards. Terry Angus got a toe in to stop Watkins' shot after he had beaten Wayne Simpson.

Boro made the stronger start to the second half and could have scored within the first ten minutes as Jason Peake swung in a right sided corner and Terry Angus made a late run through a crowd of players, but the only thing to end up in the net was Angus himself as he missed the flight of the ball. It was Angus again two minutes later who headed a Peake free-kick into the path of Weaver. The central defender was unmarked, but misdirected his header and it whistled past the post.

Boro were not to be denied though and took the lead in the 56th minute when McNamara dithered on the edge of the penalty area allowing Charles to nip in and head the ball to Peake who rifled in a shot, but it fell to Barnes who took the pace off the ball before firing home. Kettering were fighting for their league place and Collins skied a shot over the bar from ten yards, but with 20 minutes to go Mackenzie dithered as Thackeray underhit a back pass. The keeper waited for the ball to arrive in the area and Watkins nipped in before passing to Darren Collins who slammed the ball into the net.

Kettering chased the game and were almost rewarded as Wayne Simpson underhit another back pass to Mackenzie and Collins gave chase. He was prevented from reaching the ball though as Simpson dragged him down and received a yellow card. Charles headed just over the top as the Kettering goal led a charmed life during the final ten minutes. Collins, Watkins, Brown and Fothergill all went close and Kettering had a penalty appeal turned down as Collins' shot hit the crossbar and rebounded onto Angus' arm.

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 01-05-2001

Forest Green: Ghent, Lockwood (Hedges 46), Prince, Shaw, Clark, Burns, Middleton (M. Foster 74), Cooper, Foster (Hunt 54), Eaton, Sykes.

Boro: Young, Thackeray, Prindiville, Love, King, Weaver, Bacon, Charles (Simpson 76), Francis, Taylor (Peake 47), J. Williams.

Boro made the journey to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had a second minute scare as Ryan Young dropped a corner at the far post before his opposite number Matthew Ghent was brought into action five minutes later when Ian King

fired a shot at him from the edge of the area. The best chance of the match fell so far fell to the home side after Alex Sykes swung in a left wing free-kick which found Adam Lockwood at the back post, who climbed superbly to meet the ball with a textbook header back across goal, but it drifted wide of the far post. With just a minute to go before half-time Boro had a chance after Lockwood fouled Lee Charles in the area and the referee pointed to the spot. Ian King stepped up to take the kick and promptly put it wide of the post.

Peake replaced Taylor just after half-time and immediately made a difference as he started to spray the ball about. Steve Prindiville was having a reasonable game considering how long he has been out. Simon Weaver probably had Boro's two best chances of the game from corners as he caused the home team a fright or two when he made the foray forward.

His first attempt was a low volley which fizzed inches wide of the upright and then the second came as he slid in at the far post but only managed to hit a shot high over the bar. Delton Francis had a shot well tipped over by Ghent in the final few minutes and Thackeray almost got in behind Sykes again but he couldn't bring the ball down to get in a shot.

Chester City v Nuneaton Borough

03-05-2001

Chester: Brown, Kerr (Moss 80), Doughty, Lancaster, Gaunt, Woodyatt, Fisher, Blackburn (Priestly 90), Beesley, Whitehall, Ruscoe (Porter 90).

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Crowley, Weaver, Wray (Charles 116), Barnes, Peake (J. Williams 94), Love. Subs: Bacon, Young.

Boro travelled to the Deva Stadium to play Chester City in a Nationwide Variety Club Trophy semi-final tie.

Chester took a fourth minute lead when Mark Beesley raced away on the left and his low cross missed everybody including the intruding Terry Angus and Chris Blackburn was left with the simple task of crashing the ball high into the net. Shaun Wray found himself in the referee's note book for a foul followed by dissent.

Paul Barnes was sent off in the 42nd minute for serious foul play after elbowing Martyn Lancaster as the two tussled in the Chester area. Boro were undeterred though and took the lead just before half-time as Jason Peake's right wing corner was met by Terry Angus sliding in at the far post.

Boro started the second half in positive fashion as Wray twisted and turned into the area but found his way blocked by defenders. Wray did better five minutes later as his cross found Andy Thackeray, who had a great chance to score, but failed to get a decent connection on his header and the ball fell harmlessly wide. Mark Beesley was booked for a clattering challenge on Chris Mackenzie.

Although a man short Boro ended the 90 minutes far stronger than their full time hosts as once again a decent pitch inspired Steve Burr's men into playing some really good football throughout the game. The first-half of extra-time saw the home side take the lead for the second time as substitute



Darren Wright powered a low first-time effort past Mackenzie from Beesley's cross. Mackenzie was making his way up for corners during the second period in a desperate attempt to rescue the game. But as Chester broke away the keeper had to leave his boot behind as he raced the length of the pitch to defend his net. Boro made one final effort to equalise but time ran out and the game ended in disappointment for the away side.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 05-05-2001

Northwich: Rigby, Walling, Barnard, Talbot, Challender (Bailey 57), Burke, Norris, Lewis (Mitchell 57), Blundell, Mike, Devlin (Holcroft 72).

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Simpson, Love, Weaver, Wray, Charles (Francis 76), Barnes, Peake, J. Williams (White 85).

Boro made the journey to the Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in a Nationwide Conference game.

Northwich threatened early on and top scorer Greg Blundell was on the end of a five man move, but allowed the ball to get away from him. A minute later Boro took the lead after Andy Thackeray raced clear on the right and crossed into the box where Shaun Wray was on hand to blast the ball home. The home side could have equalised five minutes later but Blundell smashed the ball high and wide when well placed. Boro were commanding in midfield as Peake stroked the ball around while Michael Love and Dave Crowley did the spadework. Barnes saw a half chance flash past the post before Charles' overhead kick flew inches over.

As half-time approached Boro were comfortable with their 1-0 lead as Northwich were restricted to shots from outside the area. The home side still posed a threat with Blundell and Mike causing one or two problems for Simon Weaver and Terry Angus. Boro had a penalty appeal turned down in the last minute of the half when Charles was brought down, but the referee waved play on.

Angus was unlucky not to extend Boro's lead at the start of the second-half as he saw his header cleared off the line by Richard Norris. Wray slammed the rebound straight at the keeper and the ball flew to safety. Barnes was then played through by Angus, but Malcolm Rigby pulled off a superb save. Boro's passing was of a high quality and they looked a league above their hosts, but as the game reached the hour mark chances were few and far between. Mike shot into the side netting with 20 minutes to go, while at the other end Wray worked his way into the box but was outnumbered. With 15 minutes to go Boro were stunned by an unlikely equaliser as Norris played Mike in. The number ten had beaten the offside trap and then Mackenzie to level the scores. Substitute Delton Francis, on for Charles, wasted a great chance when Boro' outnumbered the home defence by four to two, but he chose to shoot when a pass to an unmarked colleague might have resulted in a goal.

Peake was tripped in the area, but again penalty appeals fell on deaf ears and Northwich almost took the lead, but

Mackenzie pulled off an excellent save to deny Blundell. A minute later Boro had seemingly sealed the points as Barnes received the ball in the area with his back to goal. He cleverly shielded the ball and waited for the arrival of Peake who slotted the perfect lay off into the far corner with little pace but deadly accuracy. With time ticking away Francis won possession but inexplicably played a dangerous 40 yard pass which offered the home side the chance to break. The ball was quickly moved to the unmarked Mitchell who made no mistake with literally seconds remaining.

Boro Announce Price Freeze

Nuneaton Borough chairman Phil Clayton has revealed there will be no increases in the cost of watching Nationwide Conference football at Manor Park next season.

Prices for tickets purchased up to May 31: Ground (Adults): £147.00; Ground (Concessions): £73. Stand (Adults): £185. Stand (Concessions): £115.50.

Tickets bought between June 1 and July 15: Ground (Adults): £153; Ground (Concessions): £76.50; Stand (Adults): £190; Stand (Concessions): £124.

Barnes Not Signing For Boro

Stiker Paul Barnes will not be signing for Nuneaton Borough. The 33-year-old former York City and Bury Town goal ace failed to agree personal terms with the club and looks set to join either Doncaster Rovers or Kidderminster Harriers. Boro boss Steve Burr has also been forced to release several players ahead of the new season. Delton Francis, Ian King, Mark Taylor, John Gittens, Steve Prindiville and Carl Bacon have all been released, while Wayne Simpson, whose contract is up may also leave although he has been offered a contract extension.

Wray On Transfer List

Shaun Wray has been transfer-listed by Nuneaton Borough. The 24-year-old was made available after talks with manager Steve Burr collapsed. The winger had demanded improved terms, but was turned down by the club.

Mackenzie Scoops Two Awards

Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Chris Mackenzie has won two awards at the end-of-season presentation evening. He was nominated Manager's Player of the Year and was jointly nominated as Players' Player of the Year with Wayne Simpson, who was also the Supporters' Club Player of the Year. Second choice keeper Ryan Young was voted Young Player of the Year.

Barnes Signs For Doncaster Rovers

Former Nuneaton Borough loan striker Paul Barnes has signed a two year contract with Doncaster Rovers. After hitting 10 goals in 11 games for Boro' during a blistering loan spell, he was unable to agree a deal to stay at Manor Park. After talks with Doncaster and Kidderminster he opted to move to Belle Vue.

Nationwide Conference 2000-2001

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden & Diamonds	42	25	11	6	78	36	86
Yeovil Town	42	24	8	10	73	50	80
Dagenham & Redbridge	42	23	8	11	71	54	77
Southport	42	20	9	13	58	46	69
Leigh RMI	42	19	11	12	63	57	68
Telford United	42	19	8	15	51	51	65
Stevenage Borough	42	15	18	9	71	61	63
Chester City	42	16	14	12	49	43	62
Doncaster Rovers	42	15	13	14	47	43	58
Scarborough	42	14	16	12	56	54	58
Hereford United	42	14	15	13	60	46	57
Boston United	42	13	17	12	74	63	56
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	15	14	60	60	54
Woking	42	13	15	14	52	57	54
Dover Athletic	42	14	11	17	54	56	53
Forest Green Rovers	42	11	15	16	43	54	48
Northwich Victoria	42	11	13	18	49	67	46
Hayes	42	12	10	20	44	71	46
Morecambe	42	11	12	19	64	66	45
Kettering Town	42	11	10	21	46	62	43
Kingstonian	42	8	10	24	47	73	34
Hednesford Town	42	5	13	24	46	86	28

Murphy Issues Come And Get Me Plea

Gez Murphy has issued a come and get me plea to Nuneaton Borough in a bid to get his footballing career back on track. The 24-year-old has been freed by Telford United after a three year spell and despite the lure of Football League clubs, he is prepared to come to Manor Park. Oxford United, Kidderminster Harriers, Stevenage Borough and Boston United have all made approaches for the Nuneaton based striker – but the lure of a move to his home town club may be the deciding factor.

Borough Could Be In For Windfall

Nuneaton Borough's finances could receive a £1.2 million boost if speculation is correct that former striker Malcolm Christie is set to sign for Middlesbrough from Derby County in a £6 million deal. With Steve McClaren expected to take over at the Riverside this week, rumours are rife that his first signing will be the 22-year-old front-runner.

Lavery For Borough?

Nuneaton Borough are on the verge of signing Hinckley United's Rich Lavery. The 24-year-old tough tackling midfielder has held talks with the Nationwide Conference side and could follow in the steps of former colleague Jamie Williams who made a similar move last season.

Borough Trail Peyton

Borough boss Steve Burr is trailing young Bury winger Warren Peyton who was recently released by the Nationwide Division Two club. Burr is hoping to sell unsettled Shaun Wray to finance a package which will entice the youngster to Manor Park. At present there have been no enquiries for Wray.

Lavery Signs For Boro

Nuneaton Boro have boosted their squad for the 2001-02 campaign by signing Hinckley United midfielder Richard Lavery. The 24-year-old has signed a one year contract and will add extra bite to the middle of the park. The former Sutton Coldfield Town, Bedworth United, Atherstone and Tamworth player had a spell at Manor Park earlier in his career but was released and is determined to make an impact second time around.



Steve Burr and Ron Bradbury welcome new signing Richard Lavery.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Burr Launches Fundraising Scheme

Nuneaton Borough manager Steve Burr has launched a unique fundraising scheme to add cash to team-building for the coming season. The Nuneaton Boro Team Building Fund is the brainchild of the Manor Park boss and is a bid to make his squad stronger for the coming season. Burr along with Ron Bradbury and Andy Thackeray are appealing to businesses around the town to put money into the club.

Stevenage Borough — 4th Qualifying Round

Boro welcomed Stevenage Borough to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Boro: Mackenzie, Crowley, Love, Simpson (Bacon 46), Gittens, Angus, Wray, Taylor (Francis 61), McGregor, King, Charles. Subs: Weaver, Sykes, Young.

Stevenage: Wilkerson, Miller, Trott, Smith, Bunce, Metcalfe (Kirby 87), Martin, McMahon, Clarke, Hay, Leadbetter (Armstrong 78). Subs: Illman, Taylor, Wraigh.

A Delton Francis equaliser 17 minutes from time earned Boro a second bite of the cherry. The game was dogged by a quagmire of a pitch, but the draw was as much as Steve Burr's men deserved after a spirited second half fight back.

Stevenage's Richard Leadbetter had put the home side in trouble with his first-half goal but after a serious talking to at half-time by Burr and his assistant Ron Bradbury they fought for their lives and could easily have snatched victory in a frantic and tense finish.

Boro started the game with three changes to the line up. Dave Crowley captained the side on his return from suspension while Shaun Wray made his first start of the season since damaging his shoulder in a pre-season friendly.

Ian King also came in after Alex Sykes had been ruled out through injury. Paul Fairclough resisted the temptation to make any changes.

Boro started much the brighter side as they forced two corners in the first couple of minutes. Both were cleared without too much trouble by the Stevenage defence.

Dean Martin whipped in a dangerous cross from the right which Chris Mackenzie caught well under pressure.

With barely ten minutes on the watch King let fly with a piledriver from 30 yards that stayed low and fizzed past Paul Wilkerson's left hand upright.

Mackenzie then pulled off the first of a

series of excellent saves as Robin Trott's ten yard header looked destined for the back of the net. Mark Taylor was on the line to clear the danger but wasn't required as Mackenzie save with a spectacular dive low to his left.

Boro then produced their best move of the match so far as Wray, Dave Crowley and Taylor contrived to set up a great chance for Lee Charles, but he placed a free header from eight yards well wide of the post.

Jon Gittens was then fortunate not to have gifted the visitors with a goal as he stepped on the ball, allowing Darren Hay to gallop away on the left.

He crossed to Sam McMahon but the ever reliable Terry Angus was on hand to block his shot from eight yards.

Stevenage were beginning to pile on the pressure as Borough were finding it increasingly difficult to get possession, so it came as no real surprise when Stevenage took the lead after 29 minutes.

Wayne Simpson conceded a corner and Boro failed to clear the resulting cross with any conviction.

A few seconds of indecision led to the ball falling kindly to the unmarked Leadbetter, who converted from six yards past Mackenzie.

The Hertfordshire side fully deserved their lead after dominating the preceding ten minutes and soon after they almost doubled their advantage as Leadbetter again had the ball in the net, but his celebrations were cut short by the linesman's flag.



Delton Francis is sandwiched by the Stevenage defence.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Following the half-time pep talk, Boro came out fighting and McGregor had a great chance to level the tie after 47 minutes with a free shot at goal from ten yards but he somehow contrived to lift the ball over the bar when he looked sure to hit the target.

Boro were going to have to work hard to get anything from the game as



Stevenage keeper Paul Wilkerson grasps for the ball as Delton Francis looks on.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Borough fans celebrate FA Cup survival.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

In the final throes of the game Wray burst forward through the middle. With the options of Francis on one side and McGregor on the other he elected to go alone and was robbed of possession by Mark Smith as he entered the area and the chance to take the glory was gone.

Stevenage Borough — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Boro journeyed to Broadhall Way to play Stevenage Borough in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round replay.

Stevenage: Wilkerson, Miller, Trott, Smith, Bunce, Metcalfe, Martin, McMahan, Clarke (Illman 85), Hay, Leadbetter (Armstrong 75). Subs: Kirby, Taylor, Wraight.

Boro: Mackenzie, Bacon, Love, Crowley, Gittens, Angus, Wray (Taylor 87), Charles, McGregor (Sykes 53), King, Francis. Subs: Weaver, B. Williams, Young.

Boro produced an incredible performance to book a place in the next round and a visit to play Stoke City.

To get past Stevenage at all would have been enough, but to do it with such style, energy and passion was the most impressive thing about what can only be described as a brilliant display.

The midfield ran the show all night with Dave Crowley and Ian King dictating play. The forwards were lively and always looked capable of scoring, never allowing a Stevenage defender any time on the ball.

The back four were solid as a rock with Angus and Gittens coming into their own when the pressure was on.

Steve Burr picked a team with attack very much in mind as he selected a 4-4-2 formation with three forwards on the pitch in Delton Francis, Lee Charles and Marc McGregor.

Boro had chances to win the match all night and none were better than the first one in the opening minute.

Lee Charles evaded his marker at the back post and was confronted with the keeper rushing out. He had time for two touches before delivering a shot but Paul Wilkerson saved well with his legs.

Stevenage were in no mood to give the game away, but when it comes to having to roll up the sleeves and digging in for a result there is no-one better than Crowley.

He led by example as captain for the day as he battled for every loose ball in the middle of what was becoming an increasingly difficult pitch.

For all their hard work and effort though Boro were not looking like a side that were about to equalise.

Indecision from Mackenzie led to a scare when Leadbetter beat the offside trap on the left. The keeper hesitated and if the goalscorer had produced a better cross Hay would surely have scored with an open goal ahead of him.

After an hour Burr made a change as Delton Francis came into the play at the expense of Taylor. The outgoing midfielder had worked tirelessly for the cause, but Boro needed a goal from somewhere. Stevenage again nearly extended their lead though as Carl Bacon, on for Wayne Simpson at half-time, hesitated and let Hay get a shooting chance.

Mackenzie spilled the shot and Leadbetter charged in on the rebound and as the two players met the ball it spooned over the bar for a corner.

Wray was beginning to tire in his first full game for many months, but he still mustered up the energy to put two

good efforts just over the bar as Boro tried to grab an equaliser.

It didn't seem as if it was going to happen at all but then, in the 73rd minute, Crowley lifted the ball into the area from the inside right channel and Francis managed to get his head to it with his back to goal as he was met by a thundering challenge from the keeper.

The ball looped into the air and took an age to fall into the net with Trott desperately trying to keep it out.

His efforts were in vain though and the fans went wild. The bench went wild, Burr and Bradbury arm in arm celebrating on the pitch, much to the disgruntlement of the fourth official.

Suddenly an air of optimism swept across Manor Park. Inspired by the noise from the Cock and Bear end Boro started to play much more positively and carved out chance after chance.

Stevenage did their bit to make the last 15 minutes a real cup tie. It was end to end stuff as the players tired and the pitch worsened. Both keepers were playing out of their skin as they both pulled off tremendous saves.

The tension was unbearable as both teams went for broke. With the clock showing less than five minutes to go McGregor thought he had won it with a superb near-post diving header but somehow Wilkerson pushed the ball round the post.

King tried his luck from 25 yard but his well struck effort flew over the bar. Boro were dictating the early part of the game and were building nicely from the back and not just trying to hurriedly get it forward.

King then thought he had grabbed the lead for Boro after a tremendous move. Angus gained possession and laid it square to Michael Love who sent a long diagonal ball towards McGregor.

He chested it down and whipped in a wicked quick cross that caught the home back four flat footed and King stretched out a leg to connect but he could only steer it wide.

Wilkerson then produced a quite brilliant finger tip save to deny McGregor as the striker tried his luck from 20 yards.

Stevenage's first sniff at Chris Mackenzie's goal came in the 13th minute and it was Boro's own doing that led to it. Gittens and Angus tried to pass their way out of trouble 30 yards from their own goal and played one too many passes.

Darren Hay managed to rob Angus of possession and sprint towards goal but he dragged his shot well wide of the far post with Mackenzie covering the angle comfortably. It was only a blip for Boro though as they started again, and they were relentless.

The waves of attacks flowed one into the other as Crowley and King won possession and fed the forwards McGregor and Francis.

Charles provided an excellent example of just how good a player he can be as his distribution was as good as anyone's on the night.

Shaun Wray marauded up and down the right wing, menacing every time he got the ball. The first-half was a completely one-sided affair and as Boro had had a glut of chances in comparison to Stevenage's pitiful attempt to get into the game.

But in true Cup fashion Boro paid the price for not taking their opportunities

as the hosts took the lead on the stroke of half-time.

Stevenage had gone close two minutes earlier when Hay was allowed a free header from six yards, but planted his effort wide. Three minutes of injury time had been played when Stevenage won a free-kick wide on the right.

Adrian Clarke lifted the ball into the crowded area and Robin Trott rose above everyone and thumped the header home. Boro were stunned after all the chances they had spurned.

The second-half started badly for Boro as McGregor was left limping following a challenge from Trott, who was booked. But McGregor was unable to continue and he was replaced by Alex Sykes with Charles pushed up front with Francis.



Shaun Wray and Lee Charles celebrate Borough's equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Four minutes later Borough were celebrating. Carl Bacon slipped the ball through for Charles to race on to. He shaped for the shot and kept it low and hard. The shot hit Wilkerson's legs as he narrowed the angle and the ball rebounded against Mark Smith and he was helpless as the ball fell into the far corner of the net for the equaliser.

From that point on there was only going to be one winner as the home support fell silent as Boro's travelling fans sensed victory and roared their side on.

Boro didn't change anything they had been doing all night, they simply played the easy ball, got it wide and hurt their opponents with pace, skill, vision and determination. Crowley stood head and shoulders above all for that reason.

If he won one tackle he must have won a thousand throughout the game and his passing was crisp and accurate.



Dave Crowley battles in midfield.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

As the game entered the final 20 minutes it was do or die and the game started to open up. A chance at one end was quickly followed by one at the other. It was a real FA Cup tie and Boro wanted to win.

They had to stay vigilant at the back though and Gittens and Angus had to be on their guard to keep Haw and Leadbetter in check.

Dean Martin was persistent if nothing

else on the right hand side and he won Stevenage a rare corner with 12 minutes to go. Boro defended it well and the ball was once again quickly moved wide to Wray.

He sloped forward over the half-way line and he showed great vision to switch the play to Alex Sykes on the left. He pushed it forward for Charles who had evaded the offside flag and made ground toward the corner flag.

Sykes supported his run and when Charles pulled it back to him he had the space to fire an angled drive low across the goal and with the help of a deflection Boro were finally ahead.

The home fans turned on their own team and having been second best all night they started to drift away .

Boro should have had their backs to the wall for the last ten minutes, but they didn't. If anything they could have extended their lead even further as Sykes and Francis both had chances.

It was all over for Stevenage and they were well aware they had been soundly beaten. The scenes of celebration were of complete pandemonium both on and off the pitch as Boro fans young and old tried to take in the magnitude of what had happened.

Stoke City — 1st Round Proper

Boro travelled to the Britannia Stadium to play Stoke City in a First Round Proper FA Cup tie.

Stoke: Muggleton, Hansson (Clarke 77), Mohan, Gunnarsson, Gudjonsson, Kavanagh, Thorne, Lightbourne (Dadason 33), Petty, Thordarson (O'Connor 77), Thomas. Subs: Risom, Kristinsson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Sykes, Love, Crowley, Weaver, Angus, Wray (Taylor 90), Charles, McGregor (B. Williams 59), King, Francis. Subs: Bacon, Young, Simpson.

Chris Mackenzie was at the peak of his form as he made a string of saves to give his side a second bite of the cherry.

However, it would be unfair to single out one individual as every player battled away to keep the Manor Park FA Cup dream alive.

The Second Division side appeared a little uneasy against non-league opposition and were in a no-win situation.

Steve Burr made a decision to stick with the same eleven that completed the emphatic win over Hednesford Town and used Shaun Wray in a wing-back role along with Alex Sykes, leaving Michael Love, Simon Weaver and Terry Angus to man a three strong defence in front of Chris Mackenzie.

Dave Crowley and Ian King worked in tandem with the wing-backs and Lee Charles had freedom to roam behind Delton Francis and Marc McGregor.

Stoke were first to press and Ben Petty fired a shot over Mackenzie before Boro hit back with a tame effort from Francis that Nicky Mohan blocked with his leg.

The first serious chance fell to the Potters after six minutes when Mikael Hansson passed to Bjanmi Gudjonsson only for Sykes to commit a foul.

The dangerous wide man picked himself up to loft a free-kick to hitman Peter Thorne who scooped his effort over the bar.

Francis broke away for Borough but this

was easily stopped by Carl Muggleton. Stefan Thordarson pushed forward but was met by Angus who cleared the ball.

Borough were on the back foot again as Thorne forced Mackenzie into a save as did Brynar Gunnarsson after 10 minutes.

Kyle Lightbourne was pushing down the flank and linking well with Thorne but the former Coventry City and Bermuda international was blocked out by Love.

Boro's defensive back line were being marshalled by Angus with ease but the former Fulham and Northampton Town man made a rare error as he tried to block out the dangerous Gudjonsson who slipped the ball early to Thorne only for Simon Weaver to produce a timely tackle to avert the danger.

Gudjonsson then linked with Graham Kavanagh and looped a cross towards the Borough goal – only for Mackenzie to snuff out any threat.

Stoke were pressing forward at every opportunity, but Boro were in no mood to surrender.

Thorne who has a prolific record and averages a goal every two games this season was the target of any forward ball but after 23 minute Gunnarsson



Substitute Barry Williams tries to break the deadlock

Photo: Heartland Evening News

tackled Crowley from behind and found his name in the book.

Stoke were put under the cosh by McGregor who by his own standards was having a quiet game. Angus launched a free-kick up to Wray who crossed the ball to the striker and his half chance landed on the roof of the net.

On 30 minutes Lightbourne picked up a Kavanagh ball and Weaver cleared for a corner that was sent in to Thorne who put it out of play.

Boro were gaining in confidence as the game progressed and though their Second Division opponents were posing a threat, the Manor Park side were not afraid to attack.

Francis and McGregor were on the alert and looking for chances as Charles worked hard in the background. Crowley in midfield has been showing that not only can he tackle well but can produce some magnificent passes across the park.

The turning point in the game came after 41 minutes when Mohan fouled Sykes 30 yards out. As the Stoke wall lined up and King and Sykes prepared to take the free-kick, midfielder Gunnarsson fell foul to football's new law and encroached on the set piece, which was a second bookable offence and resulted in an early bath.

The visitors began the second half in dramatic fashion and Charles battled away and supplied Wray with a pass that the wing-back looped towards the Stoke goal.

As Muggleton came out to punch the ball away it was done half-heartedly and Francis who was off balance flicked the ball over his head from two yards out but Kavanagh was able to get back to clear.

Gudjonssen's tackle from behind on McGregor early into the second half caused the striker to leave the field 12 minutes later with an ankle knock.

Gudjonssen gave Thorne a good chance at the other end as a free-kick was sent

towards the striker but again he failed to find the target.

The Stoke winger who also had a spell at Newcastle United but failed to make a Premiership appearance appeared to be the constant threat again as he was given the freedom to roam from the wing and into midfield where the Potters were a man down.

Kavanagh looked to cause problems for the Boro defence and supply Thorne and Dadason. With McGregor clearly struggling Charles began to cause more problems as he pushed forward. The former Hayes man went on a jinking run into the box past Stefan Thordarson and flicked the ball across goal with Francis closing in.

Charles linked well with Wray and McGregor's replacement Barry Williams as Stoke struggled to assert their superiority.

McKenzie was forced into a great save from Thordarson after 64 minutes

but this was an indication of things to come. Dadason and Gudjonsson forced the Boro keeper into two more saves as Stoke tried to battle their way into the next round.

Despite Charles linking well with Francis, Wray and King, it was defending that the Manor Park side had to focus on. Dadason received Thordarson's corner but Weaver was able to clear and then off a second flag kick, Mackenzie came out to catch the ball in mid-air.

Kavanagh also got in on the action and fired clear of the target as Borough battled away against their ten-man opposition.

Angus was magnificent alongside Weaver and Love as the trio simply used the 'if in doubt kick it out' theory to great effect.

With seven minutes remaining, Borough sensed a draw was within their reach and were determined not



Borough fans celebrate a brilliant performance.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

to let the obvious financial rewards disappear through a moment of madness.

Mackenzie produced an unbelievable double save after 88 minutes after Thorne had sprung the Borough offside trap. The keeper courageously rushed to the feet of Thorne and the ball rebounded to Dadason, but the former Leyton Orient and Hereford United man simply pushed the ball to safety.

Suddenly Williams broke at the other end and Boro sensed a miracle but the Stoke defence stood firm to block the substitute's run.

Gudjonsson spotted Mackenzie off his line and attempted to chip him from 45 yards out, but it was narrowly off target and Boro fans breathed a sigh of relief. Terry Angus made a terrific clearance with seconds remaining as he just got his boot to a goalbound effort from Thorne.

Stoke City — 1st Round Proper Replay

Boro welcomed Stoke City to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Round Proper replay.

Boro: Mackenzie, Sykes, Love, Crowley, Weaver, Angus, Wray, Charles (Taylor 60), McGregor, King, Francis. Subs: Bacon, Young, B. Williams, Mitchell.

Stoke: Muggleton, Hansson (Goodfellow 76), Clarke, Risom, Mohan, Gudjonsson, Kavanagh, Thorne, Dorigo (Collins 82), Petty, Thordarson. Subs: Lightbourne, Wooliscroft, Kristinsson.

The dire weather had turned the Manor Park pitch into a quagmire and within minutes of the start the home side were put under pressure by the creative mind of Graham Kavanagh. Terry Angus was quickly called into action to block out any danger after a long ball from Henrik Risom.

Clive Clark tested the Boro backline but Simon Weaver stepped in to halt the danger with a timely tackle. The first chance for Borough came from a long

clearance by Chris Mackenzie to Lee Charles who passed to Wray and the winger ran towards goal and fired at Muggleton.

Stoke stepped up a gear after this minor scare and Kavanagh and Dorigo linked well and got past Wray on the flank. Dorigo then put in a superb cross to danger man Peter Thorne who blazed the ball over the bar.

Stefan Thordarson was next to try his luck in an attacking move and passed to Kavanagh who struck the ball inches wide from 15 yards out.

Angus was beginning to show his class at the back with a solid header out after pressure from Bjarni Gudjonsson.

Kavanagh struck a free kick from 35 yards into the Boro box and Mackenzie caught the ball with Petty closing in. The pressure continued with Thordarson supplying Thorne but Crowley stepped in to clear to safety.

Boro were under pressure – but Stoke were missing their chances. Thorne missed the target again after being set up by Dorigo from eight yards out and the Stoke fans were beginning to show their frustration.

Crowley broke away from defence and supplied Ian King with a telling pass after 21 minutes – but he fired across the face of goal. Boro pressed again thanks to Sykes who crossed to Charles, but the forward headed wide of the mark.

Mikael Hansson's free-kick after 25 minutes went to Gudjonsson, but Mackenzie averted any danger and cleared to Angus. The central defender blasted the ball upfield to Delton Francis whose tame effort was stopped by Muggleton.

Gudjonsson again pressurised Mackenzie with Thorne pressing but Sykes was back to cover any danger along with the three man Borough defence. Stoke were putting constant pressure on the Manor Park side who appeared to be totally unflustered and

simply cleared away the danger time after time.



Dave Crowley challenges Bjarni Gudjonsson as Nicky Mahon waits to pick up the loose ball.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Angus cleared Thordarson's half chance and from the resulting corner by Risom, Mohan's flick came to nothing. After half-an-hour, Thorne was lucky to escape a booking by referee Foy after deliberately diving after an Angus challenge.

The shot of the night came soon after when Sykes picked up possession from 35 yards out and blasted at Muggleton's goal and the ball crashed against the crossbar in spectacular fashion.

As the half drew to a close following further wasted chances by Thorne, Francis sent keeper Muggleton clattering to the ground when he went for the ball following a cross from Wray.

Boro had battled away during the first 45 minutes as Stoke struggled to break them down.

Two minutes into the second half, Boro had a chance to go ahead through McGregor. The striker was put through by Crowley and rounded Muggleton but Clarke came to the rescue with a superb tackle.

McGregor was then the creator for his strike partner Francis but the attacker put the ball over the bar.

As the game hotted up into a classic cup tie atmosphere, with the rain sweeping down, Clarke forced his way into the area after a Kavanagh through ball and forced Mackenzie into a save.

Gudjonsson and Clarke both had chances around the 50 minute mark after more creativity from Kavanagh. Risom had two chances within a minute and one was saved by Mackenzie and the other went wide.

Thordarson continued the poor shooting by Stoke when he put over after another break by the dangerous Risom.

Chance after chance was missed by Stoke before Charles, Sykes and Wray combined to set up King after an hour and it was Boro's turn to shoot at goal but the midfielder's effort went just over.

Boro stepped up the pace and King's free kick went to McGregor who put the ball across goal to Francis who shot

and his effort was cleared off the line by Nicky Mohan.

Mark Taylor was introduced on the hour mark and his presence turned the game around. Gudjonsson tried his luck from 25 yards before Stoke made changes in a bid to win the game and Mark Goodfellow was brought on.

Angus did well to clear from the substitute's corner but Boro decided to push forward whenever they could.

Taylor had an effort on goal following Sykes' free kick before Mackenzie produced a great save from Goodfellow inside the area in what was to be one of Stoke's final chances of the game.

McGregor then pushed forward with Francis and put the Stoke backline under threat. Wray's resulting corner saw Love head the ball just over the bar.

Taylor put in a shot that forced the keeper into another save as Borough

pressurised. Francis then found himself in a similar position but again to no effect.

Mackenzie was at full stretch from Thorne at the other end but a minute later it was a different story.

As the game drifted into three minutes of injury time, Angus gave the ball to McGregor who in turn passed to Taylor. The midfielder thought about booting the ball up the field but decided against it and used McGregor in a neat one-two.

Taylor then got the ball back and sent it towards Francis who left it for the well positioned McGregor to calmly place the ball in the far corner past the helpless Muggleton.

It was the stuff of dreams and a fairytale ending – although Thorne had other ideas. A cross from Risom gave the Stoke striker the chance to scupper Boro's win but his pinpoint header went into the arms of Mackenzie.

AFC Bournemouth — 2nd Round Proper

Boro made the journey to Dean Court to play AFC Bournemouth in a FA Cup 2nd Round Proper tie.

Bournemouth: Stewart, Broadhurst, Howe, Purches, Elliott, Fletcher, Hughes, Jorgensen (O'Connor 37), Tindall, Hayter (Eribenne 75), Fletcher (Day 83).

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Bacon 44), Angus, Weaver, Love, Crowley, Sykes, Taylor (Williams 46), Francis (Mitchell 65), King, McGregor.

Boro's FA Cup dreams were finally sunk in the cloying mud at Dean Court as skipper Steve Fletcher and his fellow Cherries brushed aside the giant killers.

Fletcher, the only survivor from when the teams last met had a glorious first touch, despite his size and he led the line superbly throughout the game leaving havoc behind him as he threaded his way through the Nuneaton defence.

He was aided and abetted by a young and vigorous side, who were on the crest of a wave after five victories on the trot.



Borough fans cheer their favourites to a famous victory.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



And it was clear from early on that they had no intention of joining Stoke as the next league scalp for Nuneaton.

Despite Boro's tactics of crowding the midfield to stop them playing, the magnificent Wade Elliott and James Hayter always had the edge in skill and speed in that area.

And it meant that while they attempted to stifle the Cherries in that direction, there was little left for Boro to mount any serious attacks.

Marc McGregor was ploughing a lone furrow up front, alongside a restricted Delton Francis and it left many of the travelling fans wondering if they were watching the same outfit who had disposed of Stoke City in the last round.

But that would be unfair to the young talented Bournemouth side who are being assembled by new man Sean O'Driscoll. They took the sting out of Boro when it mattered most and their clinical finishing ensured they had a fairly easy passage into the hat for the Third Round.



Delton Francis challenges Eddie Howe.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough were buoyed with the return of Andy Thackeray but he limped forlornly off shortly before half-time and by then the writing seemed to be on the wall.

McGregor was clearly missing the wiles of Lee Charles to take some of the pressure and extra attention he was getting from the robust home defenders and Shaun Wray's pace and unpredictability could also have caused



Terry Angus scores a disallowed goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

the home side problems if he had not been missing through suspension.

But when Richard Hughes smashed in his 34th minute free-kick to give the home team the lead it was a case of hoping Nuneaton didn't fold.

And in fairness they hung on grimly to their task until half-time when Steve Burr and Ron Bradbury, no doubt used all of their motivational skills to their best.

But little did they know what would happen after the half-time cuppa when their charges returned to the fray.

The referee had barely blown for the resumption of play before Chris Mackenzie was once again picking the ball out of his net to signal Bournemouth's second goal and the virtual ending of Boro's FA Cup involvement as Elliott scored a goal of true quality.

In fairness Boro certainly didn't buckle under mounting pressure as they concentrated on his appeals and unfortunately they also had a goal ruled out despite their protestations.

But the sending off of skipper Dave Crowley in the 79th minute rather

summed up an afternoon where in all honesty Boro were always second best to a side who were clearly up for it and would have been a match for many teams from a higher level.

And just to compound things and to stamp their overall control of the game, Gareth O'Connor sprung the visitors' offside trap to lob the ball over a helpless Mackenzie to make it a miserable afternoon for Boro.

The game had started brightly enough with the majority of the play taking place in the middle of the park as both sides looked to gain advantage. But as the match wore on it became one of if onlys.

If only Boro had mounted any serious attacks and capitalised on home keeper Gareth Stewart's size.

If only they hadn't fallen behind to a sucker free-kick from Hughes and then had the stuffing knocked out of them within seconds of the second half starting by a killer goal from Elliott.

And if only the home side hadn't turned up in a mean mood to spoil the Boro party for the team and fans alike.

Bilston Town — 3rd Qualifying Round

Boro made the journey to Queen Street to play Bilston Town in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Trophy tie.

Bilston: Boswell, Leeding, Stone, Manton, Clifton, Wilcox, Williams, Jackson, Voice, Rollason, Smith. Subs: Rose-Laing, Sage, Read, Woodley, Benton.

Boro: Mackenzie, Sykes, Love, Crowley, Weaver, Angus, Wray (Simpson 62), Taylor (J. Williams 78), Charles, B. Williams, Francis (McGregor 67). Subs: Young, Bacon.

Boro made a strong start and took an early lead when Barry Williams turned and hit a dipping shot over the head of the stranded Matthew Boswell.

The home side, however, weren't sitting back and caught Boro on the counter as Stuart Leeding sprinted over the half-way line and from his inside right position crossed perfectly for Lee Rollason to hit a firm effort over the bar.

Bilston kept up the pressure and were rewarded after 20 minutes when Jason Smith whipped in a cross to the feet of Leon Jackson, who hit a shot against the post and Scott Voice was there to tap the ball into an empty net.



Lee Charles is crowded out by Bilston defenders. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Bilston continued to punch above their weight and made things difficult for the Boro defence. But despite the



Lee Charles wants too much time on the ball and is overwhelmed by the Bilston defence.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

home side showing no respect for their guests' higher standing, Boro looked to have enough in hand to take control and retook the lead after 27 minutes when Dave Crowley played an inch-perfect pass through to Lee Charles who evaded the offside trap and calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner of the net from 18 yards for his second goal in three games.

Despite retaking the lead Boro were unable to impose themselves on the game and Voice threatened to double his tally and Smith put a powerful shot at Mackenzie.

Just before the break Charles had the chance to extend Boro's lead as he weaved into the area but turned down two or three chances to shoot before he eventually ran out of luck as he tried to take on too many players with Francis and Williams standing in space.

Bilston started the second half in threatening mood and Voice almost levelled the scores seven minutes after the break, firing just over the top. Boro went close from a free-kick after Sykes lifted the ball into the area and the ball found its way to the feet of Charles, but his scuffed effort was cleared off the line by Leeding.

Bilston broke clear and Boro were stretched. Jackson took possession on the right and beat Wray before making his way into the area. He had time to pick out his man and although Voice was pushed in the back by Love, the ball found Rollason who tapped it into an empty net.

Wray was replaced by Wayne Simpson as Boro reorganised themselves into a 4-4-2 formation, but to no avail as they found themselves behind two minutes later. Smith was away in acres of room on the left and had plenty of time to find Voice, who controlled the ball and put a low shot past Mackenzie.

Boro were now in desperate trouble and Burr played his trump card and introduced McGregor after 72 minutes, but the striker failed to make any impression on the game.

Charles wasted the last opportunity to come Boro's way with eight minutes left as Sykes' cross eluded everyone, but the striker failed to hit the target with an empty net in front of him.

It could have been even more embarrassing for Boro as Voice again found himself in space as Angus was playing as an auxiliary forward.



Nationwide Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2000-01

Nuneaton Scores First

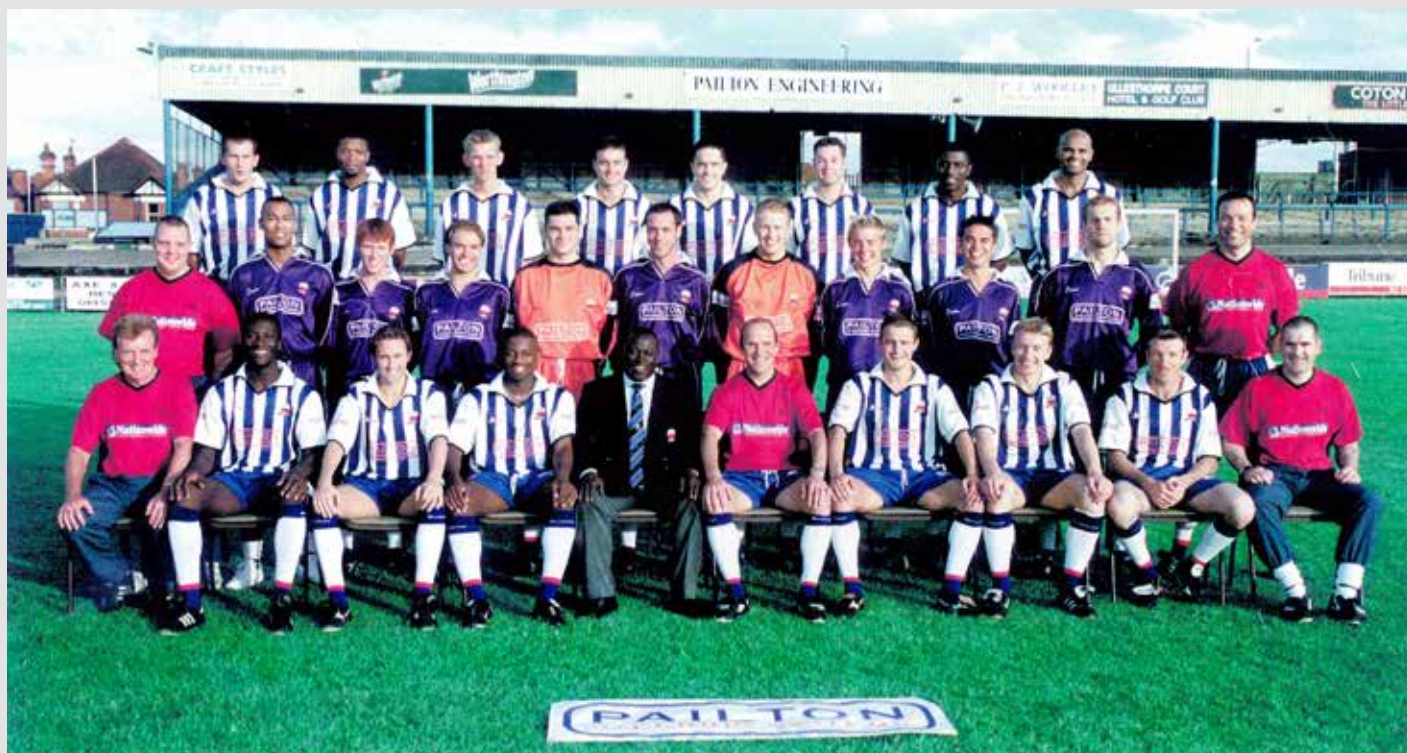
Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.15	Redditch United	A	PSF	3-1	King, McGregor, Mitchell	235
07.22	Cambridge United	H	PSF	2-0	Mitchell (2)	535
07.25	Northampton Town	H	PSF	1-0	Francis	614
07.27	Wolverhampton Wand.	H	PSF	0-3		644
07.29	Stalybridge Celtic	A	PSF	2-2	King, Thackeray	152
08.01	Chasetown	H	PSF	2-1	Tarr, Stevenson	217
08.05	Sheffield United	H	PSF	2-2	Charles, Sykes	763
08.10	Barnsley	H	PSF	1-4	Charles	669
08.12	Bedford Town	A	PSF	1-1	Thackeray	263
08.16	Nuneaton Griff	A	PSF	0-2		420
08.19	Doncaster Rovers	A	L	1-1	Warrington (o.g.)	3648
08.22	Boston United	H	L	3-1	McGregor (2), Charles	2001
08.26	Telford United	H	L	1-1	Angus	1531
08.28	Morecambe	A	L	2-4	Sykes, King	1485
09.02	Yeovil Town	H	L	0-2		1426
09.05	Kingstonian	A	L	2-2	Francis, McGregor	788
09.09	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	L	1-1	McGregor	1361
09.12	Hereford United	H	L	1-2	McGregor	1362
09.16	Leigh RMI	H	L	2-1	McGregor (2)	1145
09.20	Boston United	A	NVCT 1	5-1	McGregor (2), Sykes (2), Francis	527
09.23	Hayes	A	L	0-0		732
09.26	Chester City	A	L	0-4		1708
09.30	Southport	H	L	1-2	Francis	1275
10.03	Forest Green Rovers	H	L	2-0	B. Williams, Francis	
10.06	Woking	A	L	2-0	McGregor (2)	1696
10.10	Scarborough	H	NVCT 2	2-0	Sykes (2)	614
10.14	Scarborough	A	L	0-0		1089
10.21	Stevenage Borough	H	L	0-3		1402
10.28	Stevenage Borough	H	FAC 4Q	1-1	Francis	1554
10.31	Stevenage Borough	A	FAC 4Qr	2-1	o.g., Sykes	1219
11.04	Dover Athletic	A	L	1-2	McGregor	815
11.11	Hednesford Town	H	L	5-1	McGregor (2, 1 pen), Francis (2), Sykes	1223
11.14	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	BSC 2	2-1	Francis, Mitchell	291
11.18	Stoke City	A	FAC 1	0-0		8437
11.21	Stoke City	H	FAC 1r	1-0	McGregor	4477
12.02	Kettering Town	A	L	2-1	Norman (o.g.), King	1791
12.09	A.F.C.Bournemouth	A	FAC 2	0-3		5836
12.16	Boston United	A	L	1-4	King (pen)	1573
12.26	Rushden & Diamonds	H	L	1-1	Charles	2614
01.01	Rushden & Diamonds	A	L	1-2	Sykes	4080
01.13	Bilston Town	A	FAT 3	2-3	B. Williams, Charles	806
01.20	Telford United	A	L	1-2	Charles	1362
01.27	Woking	H	L	1-1	B. Williams	1357
01.30	Gornal Athletic	H	BSC 3	6-1	Peake (2), Sykes, Charles, King, B. Williams	230
02.03	Doncaster Rovers	H	L	1-0	King	1377
02.10	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	L	2-0	Charles, McGregor	1302
02.13	Birmingham City	H	BSC 4	2-4	Peake, Francis	468
02.17	Hereford United	A	L	1-1	B. Williams	1743
02.24	Hayes	H	L	1-1	Peake	1510
03.03	Leigh RMI	A	L	2-6	J. Williams (2)	501
03.13	Yeovil Town	A	L	0-0		2774
03.17	Southport	A	L	2-1	Angus, Thackeray	1192
03.23	Chester City	H	L	1-2	Wray	1363

Nationwide Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2000-01

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.31	Kingstonian	H	L	2-1	Barnes (2)	1423
04.03	Morecambe	H	NVCT 3	2-0	Weaver, Wray	602
04.07	Stevenage Borough	A	L	1-1	Barnes	1471
04.12	Morecambe	H	L	5-1	Barnes (2), Wray, Peake, Thackeray	1031
04.14	Scarborough	H	L	1-2	Angus	1247
04.16	Hednesford Town	A	L	3-0	Barnes (2), Charles	1105
04.21	Dover Athletic	H	L	1-2	Barnes	1414
04.24	Northwich Victoria	H	L	3-1	Angus, Peake, Barnes	802
04.28	Kettering Town	H	L	1-1	Barnes	1865
05.01	Forest Green Rovers	A	L	0-0		781
05.03	Chester City	A	NVCT SF	1-2	Angus	602
05.05	Northwich Victoria	A	L	2-2	Wray, Peake	902

KEY : L = Nationwide Conference, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, NVCT = Conference Trophy, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF = Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2000-01

Back: (left to right): Ian King, Jon Gittens, Krystof Kotylo, Andy Thackeray, Alex Sykes, Wayne Simpson, Mark Taylor, Lee Charles.

Middle (left to right): Brian Clarke (kitman), Shaun Wray, Nathan Thompson, Carl Bacon, Chris Mackenzie, Barry Williams, Ryan Young, Bobby Stevenson, Karl Brennan, Simon Weaver, Kevin Shoemake.

Front (left to right): Richie Norman (physio), Terry Angus, Richard Mitchell, Delton Francis, Brendan Phillips (manager), Steve Burr (assistant manager), Marc McGregor, Mike Love, Dave Crowley, Paul Egan (physio)

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Supporters' Trust Plans In The Pipeline

A lifelong Nuneaton Boro supporter is calling on fans to attend a meeting next month to help safeguard the future of the football club. Roger Garnham is aiming to set up the Nuneaton Borough Supporters' Trust initiative and Supporters' Direct scheme which will generate money to develop the club both on and off the field.

Similar operations are already being run at Northampton Town and Chesterfield where the groups have gone on to have representatives on the club's board of directors.

The meeting is to be held on July 19 in the Boro Social Club at Manor Park and will give fans a chance to hear what Garnham and his colleagues are proposing to take the Nationwide Conference side into the next generation. Attending the gathering will be Brian Lomax, the chairman of Supporters' Direct who became a director of Northampton Town and Lee Shailer, research officer for the national organisation.

Simpson Quits Boro

Wayne Simpson has quit Nuneaton Boro and rejoined his former club Hednesford Town. The 32-year-old decided to leave Manor Park after a three year spell in which he has become a central figure in the club's line-up. The defender has signed a three-year deal at Keys Park.

Kerry Back On Board

Former Nuneaton Borough chairman Howard Kerry has returned from overseas and is determined to help re-establish the club as a major force in the Nationwide Conference. The popular ex-chief who was asked to stand down to make way for Phil Clayton in 1998 has come back from a year in the USA to find the Manor Park club who he has been associated with for the majority of his life, in dire straits.

Kerry feels there is room for everyone to do their own bit to help the Boro and is vowing to be the link to bring the club together again.

Boro On Sky

Boro's home clash with Nationwide Conference title favourites Yeovil Town at Manor Park on September 1st is being televised live by Sky TV. Team boss Steve Burr is delighted with the news and can't wait to face last season's runners up so early in the campaign. "We could not have hoped for a better game to be televised. Yeovil are one of the high profile clubs in the Conference and I'm certain there's going to be a superb atmosphere on the day."

Boston Warned Off

Nuneaton Borough manager Steve Burr has issued a firm 'hands off' warning to Boston United who have launched an audacious bid to get record signing Marc McGregor. The 23-year-old is on the hit list of Pilgrims boss Steve Evans who failed this week to bring Stan Collymore out of retirement to lead the Boston attack next season.

Burr Signs Peyton

Nuneaton Borough have completed the signing of highly-rated winger Warren Peyton. The 21-year-old has agreed a two year deal and becomes the second signing of the summer for manager Steve Burr.

FA Calls On Boro To Pay Up

The Football Association has been called on to ensure Nuneaton Borough clears some of the £200,000 debts still outstanding ten years after it hit financial trouble. The official liquidator has sent a letter to FA chief executive Adam Crozier pointing out that a percentage of the sale value of the Manor Park ground it due to be paid to outstanding creditors.

The deal concerns a county court order made when the football club went into compulsory liquidation in 1990 owing scores of creditors who have still not been paid.

In August 1999, Boro chairman Phil Clayton offered £15,000 as a full and final settlement for the court charge to be removed. It was refused. Liquidator Headley Brunt has told the FA that he would be willing to accept a "gesture" from the club. Roger Stanford, the Boro's executive director and safety officer, said that an offer was made to the liquidator because club bosses were convinced the ground would not be sold in time. He added: "If anyone is to blame it should be the Borough Council because we have been applying for planning permission for years and have made attempts to sell Manor Park.

"Our offer was refused by the liquidator and the ten year court charge ends this month. We made a gesture but it was refused and soon we will be under no obligation to pay."

Boro Fans Vote To Set Up Trust

Nuneaton Borough fans have voted unanimously to set up a Supporters' Trust in a bid to help the Nationwide Conference club get on a better financial footing. Life-long fan Roger Garnham organised a public meeting at the Boro Social Club, which was attended by over a hundred people and included directors of the football club and representatives from Supporters Direct.

2001-02

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City

21-07-2001

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, J. Williams, Lavery, Weaver, Angus, Peyton, Kennerdale, McGregor, Peak, Sykes. **Subs:** Young, Bacon, Wray, Cooper, Dunkley, Leadbetter, Anderson.

Coventry City: Montgomery, Pead, Normann, Fowler, Spong, Davenport, Pipe, Betts, Ashby, Jephcott, McSheffrey. **Subs:** Cooney, Brush, Cudworth, Bracati, Noon, Cook.

Borough welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough were beaten by a youthful Coventry City side in their first pre-season game. The visitors made a lively start and in



the opening exchanges Jason Ashby and Avun Jephcote went close. For Boro, Kennerdale looked lively and linked well with new recruit Peyton.

McGregor had an effort from 20 yards which just missed the target after 27 minutes but as the half hour approached the striker got on the end of a Peake free-kick. A quick touch from Kennerdale followed and McGregor had given his side the lead. Lavery was substituted after an elbowing incident and made way for Shaun Wray.

Jephcote had a chance for Coventry when he got on the end of a long kick from keeper Montgomery but he failed to hit the target. As the first-half ended, Peyton tried a spectacular 20 yard shot and Peake had a goal disallowed for offside.

Both teams made changes after the break and for the Sky Blues it paid off straight away when the fresh blood set up Runar Normann and he was able to pick his spot to beat a static Ryan Young. Kennerdale was in the thick of the action alongside triallist Richard Leadbetter and just past the hour mark the giant striker jinked his way through the Coventry defence to set up Peyton – but Montgomery saved well.

Against the run of play Gary McSheffrey gave the Fist Division side the lead when he gave Terry Angus the slip and lobbed the ball past an off-guard Young. Things got worse for Boro when Normann forced Young into a reaction save from which David Pipe hit the ball back at goal only to see it crash against the crossbar but McSheffrey was waiting to pounce and make it 3-1. The home side had a let-off with ten minutes left when Normann again hit the woodwork.

Academy striker Roy Dunkley found himself in space soon after and unselfishly passed to Sykes whose shot was saved but seconds later Boro were back in it when Jamie Williams' long throw reached Leadbeater who skilfully controlled the ball and fired it into the net. But any hopes of a Boro comeback were dashed from the restart when Matthew Cook broke free and with Young again out of position, he fired home.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 24-07-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, J. Williams, T. Angus, Weaver, Peyton, Billington, Kennerdale, McGregor, Peake, Sykes. **Subs:** Young, Lavery, Crowley, Leadbeater, Dunkley, Cooper, Charles.

Cambridge: Perez, Hemming, Walling, S. Angus, Stewart, Traore, Ashby, Procass, Fitzpatrick, Clements, Allside. **Subs:** Gutteridge, Marshall, Richardson, Lee.

Boro welcomed Cambridge United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly.

Marc McGregor notched his second goal inside four days for Boro but defensive frailties condemned them to defeat against John Beck's men. As against Coventry City, Boro were punished for their shoddiness at the back as Cambridge took an early two-goal lead through Lee Fitzgerald and Colin Allside. McGregor cut the arrears but it was the visitors who clinched matters thanks to Danny Collins' header.

Steve Burr's priority will surely be to sharpen up a back

division that looked ill-at-ease throughout in front of nervy keepers Chris Mackenzie, before the break, and Ryan Young after. Midfield failed to sparkle, Jason Peake having a rare off night as did new signing Warren Peyton, but triallist Dave Billington showed enough promise wide right to suggest he's a useful acquisition.

Bulldozing Nicky Kennerdale was the pick of the attack while McGregor's goalscoring prowess was again endorsed despite the fact that he still looks short of match fitness. In fact, Marc McGregor netted inside a minute only for the effort to be disallowed before United took the lead on 14 minutes – Mackenzie heading away from outside his area straight to Fitzpatrick who hammered a 30 yarder back into an empty net.

Four minutes later, Allside rose unchallenged from a corner to find the target off the post with an eight-yard header to double the advantage but within seconds Kennerdale's good close control enabled McGregor to poach possession and strike venomously beyond keeper Lionel Perez. Cambridge sewed up the win on 74 minutes, the unmarked Collins planting a free header past the helpless Young from close range.

Eastwood Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-07-2001

Borough (from): Young, Bacon, Thackeray, Cooper, Anderson, Crowley, Wilson, Lavery, Peake, Leadbeater, Billington, Wray, Dunkley, Charles, McGregor, Kennerdale.

Boro made the journey to Coronation Park to play Eastwood Town in a pre-season friendly.

Boro came from behind to earn a 1-1 draw when they visited Eastwood Town. Newcomer Richard Leadbeater hit the equaliser after the hosts had gone 1-0 ahead early in the game. Boro coach Andy Thackeray, playing an unaccustomed central defensive role, was outstanding but Boro's Richard Lavery tweaked a hamstring and is now doubtful for the trip to Crawley.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-07-2001

Crawley: Little, Holmes, Payne, Sharman, Westgate, Ugbah, Wordsworth, Brake, Bagnall, Collins, Dack. **Subs:** Doherty, Moore, Waugh.

Boro: Mackenzie, Weaver, Angus, Love, Thackeray, Peyton, Peake, Sykes, Kennerdale, McGregor, Charles. **Subs:** Leadbeater, Billington, Lavery, Cooper, Young.

Boro made the journey to the Broadfield Stadium to play Crawley Town in a pre-season friendly.

Boro took an early lead when Lee Charles set up Warren Peyton, who used his pace and buried the ball into the net in the eighth minute. Boro were subdued for the rest of the half and conceded a 28th minute penalty after Terry Angus brought down Ian Payne, who got up to score from the spot. The home side almost took the lead from a Nigel Brake cross but Mackenzie just got to the ball ahead of Warren Bagnall.

Boro posed much more of a threat after the break as several

changes were made to both line ups. The visitors began to put the pressure on and show their superiority in the second period but could not get the decisive goal.

Alex Sykes had the best chance of the second half when he had a short range shot which was saved by central defender Keith Sharman from going into the Crawley goal after keeper Little was left exposed.

Boro Lose Out On Beasant

Boro have lost out to Birmingham City in a bid to sign former England international goalkeeper Dave Beasant. The keeper was released by Nottingham Forest and had talks with Steve Burr, but has chosen to stay in the League and opted to join the St Andrews' outfit.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 31-07-2001

Stafford: R. Williams, Boughey, Prindiville, Wilkes, Brindley, Simkin, Everitt, Lovatt, O'Connor, Ecclestone, Dundas. **Subs:** Kiely, Jones, Ludlam, Harris, Ward.

Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Cooper, Weaver, J. Williams, Peyton, Charles, McGregor, Peake, Sykes. **Subs:** Lavery, Kennerdale, Leadbeater, Billington, Hanney, Hodgson.

Boro made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro came under pressure early on and Adam Cooper was called on to block a shot from Daryl Wilkes with just four minutes gone. Ryan Young then made a good save from Scott Dundas before Joe O'Connor and Steve Prindiville combined to force the keeper into action once more. Young was again to the fore as he made a fine one-handed save from O'Connor after he had been set up by Tony Ecclestone.

Lee Charles' appalling first touch lost him the chance of a shot before Boro took control. A succession of crosses from Alex Sykes, Warren Peyton and Andy Thackeray were making life difficult for former Boro keeper Richard Williams and after 35 minutes the visitors took the lead. Boro skipper Jason Peake found the head of Warren Peyton who flicked the ball to Simon Weaver and his header found the back of the net. Just before half-time Boro made it 2-0 as Sykes ran on to Jamie Williams' through ball and ran almost half the length of the pitch before rounding Williams and putting the ball into the net.

The second half gave Steve Burr the chance to have a look at ex-Manchester City goalkeeper Steve Hodgson, who was rarely tested but showed great cross-taking and kicking skills. Boro went further ahead ten minutes into the second half when Marc McGregor's shot was blocked and rebounded to the feet of Lee Charles who chipped the ball for Jamie Williams to score. Boro were now in dominant mood and had two goals disallowed for offside when McGregor and Richard Leadbeater hit the target.

Boro rounded off the scoring when Jamie Williams found Simon Weaver, who picked out Leadbeater and the substitute walked the ball into the net.

Board Turns Down Ground Sale Bids

The board of Nuneaton Borough FC have recently turned down two offers to purchase the club's Manor Park ground. Chairman Phil Clayton revealed that the club's owners, Stadia Safe Limited, have rejected substantial bids for the ground because it would have left the Nationwide Conference side with no alternative but to cease trading and shut up shop due to having no ground to play on.

With the 2001-02 campaign just two weeks away, Mr Clayton says every effort is being made to trim losses estimated at £2,000 a week.

Nuneaton Borough v Kidderminster Harriers 04-08-2001

Boro: Hodgson (Taylor 55), Weaver, Cooper, Love, Thackeray, Peyton, Peake, J. Williams, Sykes (Lavery 67), McGregor (Dunkley 62), Leadbeater (Kennerdale 67).

Boro welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.



Simon Weaver challenges a Kidderminster forward.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

There was little excitement in the opening 30 minutes, although impressive teenager Adam Cooper scrambled the ball away after triallist keeper Steve Hodgson had kept out Sam Shilton's drive before Boro twice went close. Marc McGregor's cross shot was parried away by Brendan Murphy and from Jason Peake's corner Warren Peyton flicked on but Leadbeater's header flew over the bar.

After the break Leadbeater screwed a close range effort wide and Cooper dragged his angled drive off target. However, on 77 minutes Matt Lewis' well struck 15 yard shot rocketed under Chris Taylor to give Harriers the lead. Immediately Boro pressed and were gifted an equaliser. Ian Clarkson's clumsy challenge on McGregor looked to be outside the area, but assistant referee Colin Rouse signalled a penalty. McGregor's spot kick was a weak one but the ball escaped the grip of keeper Adie Smith and McGregor followed up to score.



Wray Leaves

Shaun Wray has been released from his contract with Nuneaton Borough in a bid to get his footballing career back on track. His wage will be used to fund a new signing. The 24-year-old was transfer listed at the end of last season after demanding more money to stay at Manor Park, despite just signing a new contract.

Borough Secure Hodgson Loan Deal

Nuneaton Borough have secured Macclesfield keeper Steve Hodgson on a month's loan as cover for the injured Chris Mackenzie. Hodgson, who impressed in the Stafford and Kidderminster friendlies, has won the vote over Stevenage's Chris Taylor to join Ryan Young as contender for the No. 1 slot in next week's league opener against Morecamble.

Nuneaton Griff v Nuneaton Borough 08-08-2001

Griff: Brady, Darren Wright, Danny Wright, Hood, Bateman, Ward, Aston, Hadley, Smith, Jackson, Jones. **Subs:** Rathbone, Upton, Moore, Whitehead, Towell, Barker, Songhu M'Briwa.

Boro: Young, Goggs, Smith, Cooper, McDade, Harris, Hanney, Lavery, Kennerdale, Dunkley, Kaye. **Subs:** Wilson, Andrews, Woodall, Pullen, Wheeler, Keeley, Manny.

Borough made the short journey to The Pingles to play Nuneaton Griff in a pre-season friendly.

Griff opened brightly and had the lion's share of the play early on but Wayne Hadley and Lee Bateman were both off target. Boro settled down and Nicky Kennerdale and Roy Dunkley started to cause problems and both had shots wide of the target. Griff had a great chance when Darren Wright crossed to Mark Whitehead, but Young was well placed to avert the danger. Joe Hanney fired a shot against the crossbar and Boro continued to press and Adam Cooper headed the ball into the Griff net, but was penalised for pushing.

Hadley had a great chance for the home side at the start of the second half but Cooper blocked the danger. Hanney hit the ball over the bar before Cooper went close following Andrews' corner. The Boro centre-half then made a tremendous double tackle to block a Griff breakthrough. Kennerdale went on a jinking run into the penalty area but hit his shot into the side netting.

Then came the main talking point of the game as Young came out for a ball and sent Rathbone crashing down and a penalty was awarded. Hadley stepped up and fired the ball to the left but Young read the kick and collected the ball to his relief. Young had another save to make in the last move of the game when Whitehead's header caused a swift reaction stop.

Leadbeater Wins Contract

Borough have handed centre forward Richard Leadbeater a one-year contract. The 23-year-old has been on trial and Shaun Wray's release has freed up funds to add him to the squad. Manager Steve Burr said: "I feel he's earned a contract and will be a very successful addition to the squad."

Borough Sign Whitehall

Boro have signed Chester City's prolific striker Steve Whitehall on a free transfer. The 34-year-old scored 16 goals last season and his previous clubs include Oldham Athletic, Rochdale, Mansfield and Southport. In an attempt to balance the books, Burr has made Lee Charles available on a free transfer.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 11-08-2001

Boro: Hodgson (Young 45), Weaver (Love 73), Love (Cooper 45), Angus, Thackeray, Peyton, Peake, J. Williams (Sykes 68), Sykes (Lavery 45), McGregor (Kennerdale 45), Whithall (Leadbeater 45).

Boro made the journey to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a pre-season friendly match.

Boro rounded off their pre-season programme with an emphatic win. Marc McGregor, fast recovering from a groin injury quickly linked up with new signing Steve Whitehall and was denied a goal by the post while Whitehall was thwarted by a fine save from Adam Rachel. Boro took the lead after 30 minutes when McGregor's back-heel from 12 yards beat the advancing Rachel to give the visitors the lead.

Moor Green should have been level a minute later after Nathan Lamey was brought down by Michael Love, but Steve Hodgson pushed the poorly hit penalty away. Four minutes after the first goal Boro moved further ahead as Whitehall had a shot blocked on the line, but he gathered up the ball and played in Warren Peyton who shot home from three yards.

Barry Williams further extended Boro's lead with a powerful header from eight yards out on 55 minutes. Peyton rounded off the scoring with another goal in the 72nd minute with a clinical finish from 12 yards.

Former Borough Chairman Mounts Challenge

Former Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly has launched a bid to clear his name and regain some of his estimated £3.6 million losses since he was ousted from the club after a bitter courtroom battle. The 64-year-old has fought his corner for over a decade with no-one wanting to take an interest in the ruined businessman's case. But with the backing of troubleshooter John Flynn – whose pioneering work as a solicitor and barristers' watchdog saw a major overhaul of the Legal Aid system – a fresh challenge has now been mounted.

The legal team are looking to recoup an initial £10,000 which was put down as a cash deposit when Nuneaton Borough were in the hands of liquidators in 1991. Mr Kelly, backed by Banks' Brewery, had put together a business plan to buy the then Beazer Homes Midland Division club for £130,000. However, after lodging his deposit, Mr Kelly's consortium were beaten by a bid from Stadia Safe Ltd (1991) led by Howard Kerry and Tony Sandy. Since the takeover, Mr Kelly has never seen a penny of his refundable deposit money which he claims should have been refunded in full...

Boro Appeal Lodged

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has lodged an appeal against a decision by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to refuse planning permission for a new stadium for the club. The Boro were refused planning permission in February of this year to build a new multi-million pound stadium at Eliot Park, near George Eliot Hospital, off the A444.

The appeal will be heard by the Secretary of State, a process which could take several months.

Morecambe v Nuneaton Borough 18-08-2001

Morecambe: Mawson, McKearney, Colkin, Lightfoot, Hardiker, Drummond, Stringfellow (Rigoglioso 71), Gouck, Talbot (Eastwood 66), Arnold, Thompson (Norman 66). Subs: McGuire, Smith.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, J. Williams, Peyton, Whitehall (Leadbeater 70), McGregor (Charles 83), Peake, Sykes (B. Williams 70). Subs: Cooper, Young.

Boro made the journey to Christie Park to play Morecambe in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made a strong start and Craig Mawson in the Morecambe goal was given a busy time. Jamie Williams found his way into the referee's notebook for an innocuous looking challenge on Ian Arnold after 19 minutes while Boro were playing with great freedom in going forward and looked like going in front when they thought they had a great chance to take the lead. McGregor was hauled to the ground five yards out but the referee waved away appeals for a free-kick.



Warren Peyton – made a fine debut for Boro. Photo: Morecambe Visitor

Boro continued to press the home side back and it was against the run of play when the Shrimps took the lead in the

43rd minute. Garry Thompson beat Angus to the ball on the left and when he gathered his composure he found Talbot in a field full of space on the right from where he had time to bring down the ball and then smash it spectacularly into the top corner of the net past Chris Mackenzie.

Seven minutes after the break Boro were in more trouble as Jamie Williams received a second yellow card and was banished to the dressing rooms. For the next 20 minutes of the match the visitors had their backs to the wall as the home side tried to press home their advantage. Boro stood firm though and refused to buckle under extreme pressure.

The home side then made a double substitution replacing Thompson and Arnold which had the effect of giving Boro new hope and they really came into the game as they made the home side panic at the back. Boro looked capable of rescuing the match and Peake, Sykes and Thackeray all went close in the closing stages with the latter's header skimming the outside of the post from a Peake corner.

It was a difficult result to swallow for the travelling support of over 300 behind the goal, but they had to leave empty handed and wonder what might have been if they had managed to finish the match with eleven men.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 21-08-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, B. Williams (Cooper 85), Peyton, Whitehall, McGregor, Peake, Sykes. Subs: Leadbeater, Kennerdale, Charles, Young.

Hereford: Baker, Clarke, M. Williams, Goodwin (Davidson 75), Wright, James, Rodgeron, Snape, Elmes, G. Williams, Parry (Evans 52). Subs: Pearce, James, Wilkes.

Boro welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started strongly and almost snatched the lead after 11 minutes when a Peake cross was nodded against his own crossbar by visiting skipper Ian Wright. Simon Weaver met the rebound but his header was cleared off the line by Matt Clarke and as the ball was returned to the danger area for a third time Barry Williams couldn't get enough on his header and the ball drifted wide. The first goal wasn't long in coming though and it arrived from the best move of the match.

McGregor released Alex Sykes down the left hand flank and his first-time ball to the far post for Thackeray was inch perfect for the full-back to volley past a stranded Baker for his and Boro's first goal of the season. The home side almost went two up after McGregor headed wide of the post with Matt Baker rooted to the spot. Rob Elmes put a weak header straight at Mackenzie but five minutes from half-time Hereford had a big shout for a penalty as Paul Parry's cross struck Thackeray on the underside of the arm, but the referee waved play on.

Six minutes into the second half Boro doubled their lead. The impressive Warren Peyton fed McGregor through the middle and as the striker dummied the keeper he was clearly brought down and Baker was sent off. McGregor dusted

himself down and took the kick himself, beating substitute goalkeeper Lee Evans to his right. Boro maintained their grip on the game and tempers began to flair as the game drifted away from the frustrated visitors as first John Snape stamped on Michael Love and then the same player entered into an argument with Peyton, earning himself a yellow card.

Local Newspaper Sponsors Boro

Nuneaton Borough FC have signed a sponsorship deal with local newspaper The Weekly Tribune. Boro chairman Phil Clayton said: "This is fantastic news. The Weekly Tribune is a great local newspaper and has always supported the club. The Weekly Tribune and its sister paper the Evening Telegraph previously sponsored the team for the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 seasons.

Nuneaton Borough v Dover Athletic 25-08-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver (Lavery 46), B. Williams, Peyton, Whitehall, McGregor, Peake, Sykes. Subs: Leadbeater, J. Williams, Kennerdale, Young.

Dover: Hyde, Dorrian, Leberl, Parsons (Frost 79), Shearer, Vowden, Inman (McRobert 72), Day, Scott, Strouts, Elliott. Subs: Norman, Beoney.

Boro welcomed Dover Athletic to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.



Marc McGregor fires in a shot despite the close attentions of a Dover defender.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The first action of the game saw Dover's Jimmy Strouts booked for a foul on Barry Williams after just 24 seconds. Boro started strongly and were clearly on top but failed to turn their possession into goals and Dover were the first to get a shot in when Nial Inman's speculative effort went just wide. Boro's forward line of Marc McGregor and Whitehall were pressing hard and the latter had a chance with 20 minutes gone from an awkward angle but soon after he

showed his skills to force keeper Paul Hyde into a superb reflex save from his excellent half volley.

McGregor was next to test the Dover keeper and had three chances to score. Boro's record signing was put clear and Hyde stopped the initial effort and the rebound but was left helpless as the final lob flew over the bar. The striker then lobbed just wide from the edge of the area and then found Jason Peake who volleyed at goal. Just before the break Thackeray almost got the breakthrough when McGregor played him in, but his shot was cleared off the line by Lee Shearer.

Simon Weaver, who had broken his nose, was replaced at the start of the second half by Richard Lavery. Dover were in determined mood and for ten minutes put the home side under severe pressure. Jamie Day put an effort wide and headed over the top for the visitors before Boro had a reshuffle and pushed Alex Sykes further forward to great effect. Boro snatched the lead after 64 minutes when McGregor flicked to his partner Whitehall and the marksman took his time to control and pick his spot. Thackeray then ran through to set up McGregor but Hyde pulled off a great save and tipped over the top.

Boro further increased their lead when Peake's quickly taken free kick reached Peyton and the midfielder launched an excellent crossfield pass to Sykes who was able to take his time and slot calmly past Hyde. Chris Mackenzie was tested by Lee McRobert's free-kick, which he pushed wide and then made a fine one-handed save when a goal looked certain. Peake put a 25-yarder just wide before Sykes fed Whitehall, who cheekily tried to lob Hyde who got a hand to it, but the ball landed at the feet of Thackeray who scored for the second consecutive game.

Chester City v Nuneaton Borough 27-08-2001

Chester: Brown, S. Rose, M. Rose, Porter, Spink, Lancaster, Hill (Wright 74), Kerr (Blackburn 85), Haarhoff, Beesley, Ruscoe. Subs: Kilgannon, Roberts, Hopwood.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, B. Williams (Lavery 68), Peyton, Whitehall (Leadbeater 73), McGregor, Peake, Sykes (J. Williams 68). Subs: Young, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to the Deva Stadium to play Chester City in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro were slow out of the blocks and by the time Mark Beesley had turned, scampered towards Chris Mackenzie and forced a good save from the Boro keeper, the home side were on top. Boro's first sight of goal came in the 15th minute when former home favourite Steve Whitehall almost managed to play Alex Sykes in but Steve Rose cut out the danger. McGregor glanced a header wide but it was Chester who came closest to scoring in the first half through Martyn Lancaster, but his downward header was cleared off the line by Warren Peyton before Peake completed the clearance.

Ten minutes before the break Boro had their best chance of the match. Peake, Sykes and McGregor combined to play



Whitehall into the penalty area. The home defence stood arms aloft, but the striker carried on regardless and met the ball before the advancing keeper. However, the touch was too strong and the ball ran wide and his shot flew into the crowd behind the goal.

Chester came out for the second half with the bit between their teeth but threw away chance after chance. Boro though were being pinned back as their poor passing gave possession away and put the defence under pressure. The visitors hung on grimly and the match looked set for a draw but the pressure finally paid off for the home side when Scott Ruscoe made his way into the right hand corner of the field and found the busy and industrious Haarhoff in the corner of the area. He laid off the ball to David Kerr who put in a first time cross to Hill who made no mistake with a firm low finish.

Boro worked hard to retrieve the situation and Peyton fired over the bar and Peake went close with a curling effort and both Terry Angus and Simon Weaver had good headers well saved by Brown. The sands of time ebbed away for Boro though and they trudged off the field a beaten side.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 01-09-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Williams (Lavery 74), Peyton, Whitehall (Kennerdale 58), McGregor, Peake, Sykes (Leadbeater 74). **Subs:** Crowley, Young.

Yeovil: Sheffield, Johnson, Tonkin, Skiverton, White, Way, Turner, Ramsey (Belgrave 68), Alford, Crittenden, McIndoe. **Subs:** O'Brien, Thomson, Giles, Collins.

Boro welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The Glovers had dominated much of the first-half but had nothing to show for their efforts going into the interval. Boro came out in the second period and played a much improved game as they began to pass the ball as confidently as the home fans know they can. They were stunned though after 70 minutes when the impressive Alford connected with a cross from Michael McIndoe to crash home a far post volley past the despairing dive of goalkeeper Chris Mackenzie.

Belgrave had climbed off the bench a minute before the opening goal of the game and he had been on the pitch a further five minutes when he extended the Glovers' lead with a fine finish. Boro were fired into life and they began to force Yeovil on to the back foot as they had in the opening ten minutes of the first half.

Their early pressure could and probably should have resulted in them taking the lead. They were unfortunate though when McGregor let fly from the edge of the area with his normally weaker foot only to see the thundering effort rebound off the inside of the far upright and away to safety. From that point Boro could have guessed it wasn't going to be their day, although they had the woodwork to thank at the other end on two separate occasions as first Alford hit the bar and then the striker found himself in acres of space at the far post

where he chested the ball down and whacked a shot against the foot of the post.

Boro were far better in the second half and when Yeovil took the lead it was against the run of play and there was little time to react before they went two down. Boro's best player, McGregor caused Yeovil problems as his first touch and desire to win the ball were there for all to see. The visitors were worthy winners though as they played the better football for longer periods of the game. They can count themselves fortunate to be travelling home with all three points though as Boro pushed hard for an equaliser in the final five minutes.

Stevenage Borough v Nuneaton Borough 03-09-2001

Stevenage: Wilkerson, Sodje, Goodliffe, Dreyer, Sturgess (Illman 87), Fitzpatrick (Clarke 58), McMahon, Walters, Morgan, Campbell (Hay 58), M. Williams. **Subs:** Greycose, Smith.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery (Crowley 78), Peyton, Whitehall, McGregor, Peake, J. Williams. **Subs:** Kennerdale, Sykes, Leadbeater, Young.

Boro made the journey to Broadhall Way to take on Stevenage Borough in a Nationwide Conference game.

There was little to commend the opening half, but it could be best described as dull, although Boro were having the better of the play as the half came to a close and Stevenage would have been the happier of the two sides to hear the half-time whistle.

All the important action came after the interval with Steve Whitehall putting Boro in front before Jason Goodliffe headed the first of his goal double. A 1-1 scoreline seemed certain until 60 seconds into time added on Jamie Williams restored the visitors' lead.

Boro took the lead four minutes after the break when Peake played in McGregor who whipped over a cross to the far post and Whitehall lay in wait to fire home from close range with the stranded keeper having no chance. However, with 15 minutes to go it looked as if the points would be shared after the ball fell to Darren Hay on the edge of the area, who swivelled and hit a shot towards the top corner, but Mackenzie pulled off a remarkable save to tip the ball over for a corner. The danger was not past as a crowd of players rose to meet the corner kick and Mackenzie missed his punch and Goodliffe had the simple task of tapping the ball into the net.

From this point on it was backs to the wall stuff from Boro as Stevenage threw everything at them. The tackles were flying in and Mackenzie was a busy man, but Boro hung on. As the clock ticked into time added on Boro made a break as Stevenage had thrown almost everyone forward. Thackeray found himself out wide on the right and his testing deep cross had Wilkerson stretching at the far post. He just managed to get a finger tip to the ball, but it fell to Jamie Williams who crashed the ball into the bottom corner.

The scene was set for a Nuneaton celebration, however, one last foray from Stevenage brought its reward as Goodliffe



was again left unchallenged from a set-piece and speared a decisive header into the net off the underside of the bar.

A beleaguered Boro were disconsolate. Thackeray, Weaver, Angus, Williams were on their knees and Peake, Peyton, Mackenzie and Love lay flat on their backs. It was a cruel end for Boro, but that's football.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 08-09-2001

Northwich: Gibson, Bailey, Barnard, Norris (Brownrigg 72), Burke, Talbot, Meaker, Garvey, Blundell (Mitchell 80), Quinn (Mike 68), Devlin.
Subs: Knowles, Dawson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver (B. Williams 46), Lavery, Peyton (Kennerdale 63), Whitehall, McGregor, Peake (Crowley 46), J. Williams. **Subs:** Sykes, Young.

Boro made the journey to the Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in a Nationwide Conference game.

The outcome could have been so different if Warren Peyton had tucked away a glorious chance to put Boro ahead after just 25 seconds. Michael Love's cross found Peyton totally unmarked in the area, but he failed to hit the target. Just a minute later Boro fell behind when Terry Angus conceded a penalty for handball. Mark Barnard stepped forward and hit the ball past Chris Mackenzie from the spot.

For the next half hour, despite having their fair share of possession, Boro were unable to trouble home keeper Paul Gibson. By contrast Northwich were effective and incisive and created chances. The closest Boro came to levelling the game was in the 13th minute and it was Peyton who missed another chance, dragging his shot well wide. After 28 minutes the game slipped further away from Boro's grasp when Richard Norris rode through two challenges in the middle of the park before laying a perfectly weighted ball into the path of Gregg Blundell, whose first time cross was missed by Angus and Quinn had the simplest of tap-ins at the far post.

Boro almost clawed a goal back when Thackeray set McGregor clear from a quickly taken free-kick. The striker hit a good shot which clipped the top of the bar and went out for a goal kick.

Boro needed a goal at the start of the second half, but unfortunately Northwich put the game further out of their reach with Quinn again finding the net. Dave Crowley, on for Jason Peake, failed to read a pass from Gary Talbot to Steve Garvey on the left and he quickly spotted Quinn just outside the area, who despatched a curling shot into the top corner of Mackenzie's net. Boro were beaten from then on and the fact that McGregor saw his weak 71st minute penalty easily saved and smothered by Gibson simply summed up Boro's day.

McGregor On Trial At Wolves

Nuneaton Borough striker Marc McGregor has joined Wolverhampton Wanderers on a week's trial. However, Wolves have agreed to release McGregor for Boro's crucial home clash with fellow strugglers Leigh RMI.

Nuneaton Borough v Leigh RMI

11-09-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery (B. Williams 62), Peyton, Charles, McGregor (Leadbeater 62), Crowley, Sykes. **Subs:** J. Williams, Whitehall, Young.

Leigh: Felgate, Spooner, German, Durkin, Farrell, Harris, Monk, Salt, Maamria (Hallows 83), Black (Twiss 72), Fisher (Hayder 56).

Boro welcomed Leigh RMI to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game. A minute's silence was observed to remember those who had lost their lives earlier in the day in the New York terrorist attack.

The game started slowly and it was not until the 13th minute that McGregor surged through, but he should have laid the ball off to Charles, but decided to keep going and dragged his shot wide. Two minutes later Charles tried to chip Dave Felgate in the Leigh goal, but the keeper tipped his effort over the top. Andy Thackeray missed Alex Sykes' near post cross as he rushed in before Dave Crowley found his way into the referee's notebook for something he said.

Chris Mackenzie saved Dino Maamria's header before Terry Angus put the ball into the net with his hand from Andy Thackeray's free-kick and joined Crowley in the book. Boro took the lead in the 40th minute when Sykes' left wing corner was headed firmly into the top corner by McGregor.

Charles cut into the box early in the second half and pulled the ball back for Lavery who was unable to get a shot away. Mackenzie came to Boro's rescue after 60 minute when Terry Angus' clearance fell to Rick Harris on the edge of the area and the Boro keeper had to make an excellent one handed save. With 13 minutes to go Boro looked to have thrown their night's work away when Mackenzie failed to collect a high, hanging cross from the left. Substitute Troy Hayder lofted the ball into the area and Mackenzie completely missed the flight of the ball and Ian Monk was on hand to score at the far post.

Barry Williams hit a low volley over the top as Boro tried to regain the lead, which they did with just eight minutes remaining. Boro earned themselves a corner on the right and Sykes hit the near post. A mix-up followed as Dave German and keeper Felgate contrived to send the ball skyward into the area. Charles was the first to react and his downward header was unstoppable from half a yard. Five minutes later it could have been 3-1 as Thackeray found himself almost on the six-yard line and tried to pass, which killed off the move.

Dunkley Turns Down Adders Move

Roy Dunkley has turned down a move from Nuneaton Borough to near neighbours Atherstone United in a bid to play football at a higher level. The 18-year-old, who has been a prolific scorer at youth and reserve team level was the subject of a bid by Adders manager Steve Mackenzie last week to solve his striker crisis.

But the Birmingham-based youngster who is in his final year at the Nuneaton Borough Football Academy has vowed to stay at Manor Park with the aim of becoming a first team regular.

Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 15-09-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Peyton, Charles, Leadbeater (Whitehall 82), Crowley, Sykes. **Subs:** J. Williams, B. Williams, A. Cooper, Young.

Forest Green: Perrin, Cousins (Daley 62), Jenkins, M. Cooper, Impey, Foster, Shaw (Futcher 82), Meechan, Small. **Subs:** Howey, Glassup.

Boro welcomed Forest Green Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro almost took the lead as early as the fifth minute when Charles almost managed to intercept a poor back pass but keeper Stephen Perrin reacted quickly to clear the ball to safety. The half was a nondescript affair in general and before the deadlock was finally broken in the 42nd minute, Boro had managed just one shot and Forest Green none at all. The game burst to life though with just three minutes to go before half-time when Alex Sykes and Warren Peyton combined on the left. Peyton lifted the ball 30 yards into the area where Charles neatly controlled and rolled the ball into the path of Leadbeater who blasted the ball in full flight into the roof of the net from 25 yards.



Warren Peyton battles away in midfield. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Sykes then set off on a mazy run which took him into the area. He beat three challenges before being felled by the fourth and referee James Tattan had no option but to point to the spot. Peyton stepped up and despatched the penalty with ease to give Boro an unlikely 2-0 lead. However there was still some action to come as Meechan sprinted towards the edge of the area and Peyton brought him down in the box. The forward dusted himself down and took the kick himself, but was stunned as Mackenzie saved to his left.

The second half was an improvement on the first as both sides began to string passes together and create openings. The goalmouth action was still on the low side though. Forest Green manager Nigel Spink attempted to change the course of the game by introducing former England international Tony Daley, but it was to no avail.

There was a nervy end to the game for Boro as Forest Green

pulled a goal back when Mark Cooper lined up a free-kick from 30 yards and after Mackenzie had assembled his wall he thumped the ball home at the near post. The keeper leapt to his left and stretched out an arm, but the ball rebounded off the woodwork, hit Mackenzie and trickled into the net. The final whistle was blown seconds later and Boro had won.

Doncaster Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 18-09-2001

Doncaster: Richardson, Marples, Squires, Kelly, Miller, Ryan, Cauldwell, Owen, Campbell, Whitman (Gill 70), Patterson. **Subs:** Carden, Warrington, Price, Barrick.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver (B. Williams 51), Lavery, Peyton, Charles, Leadbeater (Whitehall 80), Crowley, Sykes. **Subs:** Young, Cooper, J. Williams.

Boro made the journey to Belle Vue to play Doncaster Rovers in a Nationwide Conference game.

Doncaster started strongly and Tristram Whitman tried to lob Chris Mackenzie in the fourth minute, but it sailed over the bar. Jimmy Kelly also put a rasping drive over the top as Boro had barely been out of their own half by the time 23 minutes had gone, when Andy Thackeray was fouled on the edge of the Doncaster area. The ball was placed by Sykes and he curled an absolute screamer into the top corner.

Simon Marples on the left and James Squires on the right were peppering the Boro box but Angus and Co., were dealing with it. But it couldn't go on and the home side grabbed an equaliser in the 34th minute. Squires lofted the ball towards the back post and Marples collected the ball and drilled a low cross into the box. It could have gone anywhere but Campbell was the first to react as he stabbed home from four yards.

Boro almost conceded in the first minute of the second half when Mackenzie and Weaver gave away a needless throw in deep in their own territory. Kelly possesses a long throw but Boro defended ably again and the danger was gone, for the moment. Doncaster poured forward in waves, but they were starting to get too eager too soon and a sweeping move from Boro caught them out on the counter. Andy Thackeray broke down a left wing move from the home side and his huge diagonal ball found Sykes on the left. He controlled the ball well and hit an early shot which completely deceived keeper Barry Richardson and found its way into the corner.

Boro defended their lead well until a piece of magic from Gareth Owen. He received the ball with his back to goal and turned Love on the spot and thumped a quite brilliant 25 yard shot into the top corner, well out of the reach of Mackenzie. It set up a grand finale but Boro were not just hanging on, but playing some good football of their own. They had a good target man in Lee Charles who played well all night and more than once in the final frantic ten minutes Boro had the chance to break as Doncaster threw men forward in a desperate bid to get three points from the game.

Neither side managed to find the net again, however, and the end result was a fair draw.



Boro Given Hope In Stadium Appeal

Nuneaton Borough's footballing arena dream could be a step nearer after councillors revealed they are to drop one of their objections. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council said it will no longer be using health and safety issues surrounding the Ellis and Everard site as a reason for refusing a multi-million pound stadium at Eliot Park.

But planning officials have stressed that this has absolutely no effect on their other reason – the impact of the stadium on people nearby – and they will continue to defend this if an inquiry takes place...

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 22-09-2001

Scarborough: Woods, Atkinson, Fitzsimmons, Rennison, Faure, Ingram, Blunt, Wilford (Turley 46), Stamp, Brodie, Pounder. Subs: Keegan, Windross, Hogg, Newton.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, B. Williams, Lavery, Peyton, Charles (McGregor 71), Leadbeater (Whitehall 46), Crowley, Sykes. Subs: J. Williams, Young, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to the McCain Stadium to play Scarborough in a Nationwide Conference game.

The opening period was a frustrating one for Boro as time and again they found a way through the home defence, only to either miss the target, fail to shoot at all or find keeper Andy Woods in inspired form. Lee Charles was busy and creative and Richard Leadbeater created problems for the Scarborough defence. Although Boro had most of the possession Steve Brodie and Darryn Stamp were always threatening, although the Boro defence kept them at arms length throughout the first half.

Leadbeater found himself in the area but failed to get enough power behind his shot to trouble Woods. Warren Peyton lifted a superb ball into the path of Charles, who chested it down well and fired at goal only for Woods to make a fine stop with his legs. Peyton then had the best chance of the half as he robbed Peter Fitzsimmons on the edge of the penalty area. His initial shot was saved by Woods and the rebound came straight back to Peyton who was forced into a snap shot which drifted just wide.

Steve Burr decided to reshuffle his pack after the break and brought on Whitehall for Leadbeater and he had an almost immediate effect as he headed Boro in front after 56 minutes. Peyton lifted in a left wing cross and the striker was found lurking at the far post to see the ball crashing past Woods with a superb diving header. Less than a minute later the Seadogs were level as the Boro defence failed to pick up Stamp who raced through the middle and crashed an excellent finish past Chris Mackenzie.

Boro hit back and Barry Williams steamed forward from the back and linked with Sykes, whose shot was charged down. Andy Thackeray then got in on the act as Boro stormed forward again. The full-back had time to look up and place an almost perfect chip over Woods only to see it rebound

to safety off the bar. With just less than 20 minutes to go Burr made the match winning decision. He took off Charles, who to his credit had enjoyed a good game, replacing him with McGregor. What happened five minutes later was good enough to win any game of football. Boro just managed to clear a corner with the help of a back header and the cross bar and the ball fell to Thackeray who in turn knocked it long towards McGregor. He collected the ball with his back to goal and drifted across the area, before unleashing an absolute beauty into the top corner with his left foot.

Boro Defer Appeal

Nuneaton Borough has announced it is deferring its appeal against a planning decision to refuse it permission to build a new multi-million pound stadium at Eliot Park. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council refused the club permission in February of this year to build the new stadium because of the risk posed by nearby chemical company Ellis and Everard, plus concerns expressed by local residents. The Health and Safety Executive last week withdrew its objection to the stadium bid over the risk posed by Ellis and Everard.

This leaves just the concerns of residents as the reason for refusing planning permission. The football club could have persevered with its appeal, taking many months, but has instead today announced it is deferring the appeal for three months. This now leaves the way open for a fresh planning application to be submitted to the borough council. The club says it wants to hold further negotiations with the council.

Nuneaton Borough v Woking 29-09-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, B. Williams (Cooper 14), Lavery, J. Williams, Charles (Whitehall 80), McGregor, Crowley, Sykes. Subs: Leadbeater, Peake, Young.

Woking: Tucker, Piper, Hollingdale (Roddis 45), West, Reeks (Steele 56), Chandler, Moore, McFlynn, Patmore, Haughton (Griffin 72), Graham. Subs: Huckerby, Fowler.

Boro welcomed Woking to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The visitors were on top in the first quarter and threatened through Warren Haughton and Garth Graham, who both had half chances. However, Boro hit back with an excellent move after 17 minutes. Jamie Williams found Charles and his drive forced a good save from Tony Tucker at the expense of a corner before Sykes won another flag kick after he was played in by Marc McGregor. Barry Williams made a poor clearance to Warren Patmore, but the striker's weak shot from 12 yards failed to trouble Mackenzie.

Dave Crowley was booked after a series of enthusiastic tackles before Andy Thackeray dragged a poor shot wide when he might have played in Charles. A minute before the interval Sykes played in Charles who made his way into the area, drawing a defender's challenge and the keeper before laying the ball off to McGregor who hit a first-time effort into the top corner.



The second period saw Marc McGregor and Barry Moore go in the book for a skirmish before Jamie Williams almost got his name on the scoresheet after McGregor had laid the ball into his path but the left sided defender had to be content with a corner. Boro then defended a near post corner and Jamie Williams' header found McGregor. The centre-forward held off his man well to lay the ball back to where it came from and Williams returned the compliment. McGregor waited for the precise moment before lifting the ball into the path of the once again impressive Charles who raced onto the pass, reached the ball before the advancing keeper and kept his cool, putting the ball over the keeper's head and into the net.

Woking never gave up and played some good football as they tried to get back into the game, but they were stifled out of it by a resolute Boro defence. Crowley was not holding back and thundered through two tackles before substitute Steve Whitehall, on for Charles with ten minutes to go, almost made the scoreline more emphatic as he saw two brilliant 20 yard efforts well saved by Tucker.

Nuneaton Borough v Southport	02-10-2001
Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Cooper, Lavery, J. Williams, Charles, McGregor (Whitehall 17), Crowley, Sykes. Subs: Leadbeater, Peake, Peyton, Young.	
Southport: Dickinson, Lane, McCauley, Teale, B. Jones, Clarke, Elam, McGorry, Parke, S. Jones (Bauress 70), G. Williams. Subs: Robertson, Whittaker, Obong, Morgan.	

Boro welcomed Southport to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro raced into an early lead as Alex Sykes' free kick found Andy Thackeray who returned the ball into the danger area for Marc McGregor to head down to the feet of Lee Charles, who volleyed home from four yards. The early success inspired Boro to press forward and they scored again after McGregor charged down Barry Jones' clearance and the ball squirmed across the area and sat up nicely for Charles to score again from 12 yards. To their credit Southport hit back and almost scored a minute later when Parke's cross shot was just out of the reach of Garry Williams. Chris Mackenzie made a routine save at the near post. The Boro keeper then made a hash of a McGorry shot and fumbled the ball out for a corner.

Terry Angus headed against the post from Charles' cross before Boro were dealt a serious blow when McGregor pulled a hamstring and was substituted by Whitehall with just 17 minutes gone. Southport continued to probe the home defence but they were kept at arm's length. The Sandgrounders tested Boro again on the half-hour mark as McGorry fired a free-kick across the home goal, but there was no one on hand to get a touch.

Boro started the second half in a similar fashion to the first and all but put the game out of Southport's reach. Alex Sykes volleyed the ball into the path of Lee Charles who raced goalwards. His attempted cross was well wide of the mark but it went straight to Whitehall who slid in at the far post to

make it 3-0. With the game all but wrapped up the majority of the action was transferred to midfield where Crowley and Lavery subjected Southport to a selection of hefty tackles, some of which were borderline legal, but the referee took no action and did not book a single player throughout the game.

Charles did well with ten minutes to go as he scampered away on the right and his early head high cross was hit with real pace, making the defenders face their own goal, but both Jamie Williams and Whitehall just failed to connect.

Hayes v Nuneaton Borough	06-10-2001
Hayes: Sladen, Spencer, Gallen (Molesley 78), Elverson (Ashton 78), Sterling, Holsgrove, Clark, Dyer, Hodges (D. Warner 67), Slade, K. Warner.	
Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus (Weaver 62), Cooper, Lavery (Peyton 46), J. Williams (Peake 46), Charles, Whitehall, Crowley, Skyes.	
Subs: Leadbeater, Sykes.	

Boro made the journey to Church Road to play Hayes in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro could have taken the lead as early as the second minute, but Thackeray skewed his shot high and wide from in front of a gaping goal. Whitehall then saw a well hit shot on the turn blocked by Brendan Gallen as the keeper looked to be struggling to make the ground up. Just before the 15 minute mark Mackenzie had to be on his toes as he raced out to save at the feet of Kevin Warner. Five minutes later Alex Sykes struck the first of a brace of free kicks high onto the terraces as Boro imposed themselves on the home side.

However, Boro took their eye off the ball and Hayes forced their way back into the game and the game was turned on its head as Hayes started to boss the game and Mackenzie was getting busier as the half wore on. The home side almost took the lead as the board was raised to indicate two minutes added time at the end of the half and a corner on the left was headed out by Michael Love, and it fell to Matt Elverson whose rising drive flicked off Angus, beat Mackenzie and crashed against the crossbar. A minute later Hayes took the lead. Slade was allowed to get a cross in from the right and the ball came to Ken Dyer's feet at the near post. He was allowed to hold the ball up while Clark rifled the ball high into the rigging from eight yards.

Burr replaced Jamie Williams and Richard Lavery with Jason Peake and Warren Peyton at the start of the second half and the move paid off nine minutes later when a long kick from Mackenzie saw Charles start his run early as he sensed a mistake from Dyer who missed the bounce of the ball and allowed Charles to steal possession. His first touch wasn't great but he managed to get enough on it to loop it over Steve Sladen's head and into the net.

Boro almost took the lead five minutes later when Charles made a long chase for a lost cause and surprisingly made something of it and waited for support. He laid the ball off perfectly into the path of Peake whose shot was on its way in before Thackeray made a block he would have been pleased



with at the other end. Boro were pushing for the three points as they looked for a second goal. Whitehall headed wide from a Peake cross before Hayes forced a free-kick on the edge of the area but Dominic Sterling shot over the bar. It was a miss he was to regret as Boro went straight up the other end and scored. Charles was in the action again as he raced away on the left and collected a brilliant pass from Peake. He then delivered a perfect cross for Whitehall whose diving header sent the travelling support wild.

Farnborough v Nuneaton Borough 09-10-2001

Farnborough: Farrelly, Warner, Annon, O'Shea, Harper (L. Piper 70), Bunce, Watson (Jones 70), C. Piper, Vansittart, Dublin, Patterson.
Subs: Bennetts, Bonfield, Taggart.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Crowley, Cooper, Lavery, Peyton, Charles, Whitehall, Peake (Leadbeater 90), Sykes. **Subs:** Young, J. Williams, Hood, Beasley.

Boro made the journey to the Amita Stadium to take on Farnborough Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

The home side dominated the early proceedings and won two early corners but Boro hit back and Alex Sykes saw a 20 yard volley charged down his 20 yard volley. Boro then put together the best move of the match as Mackenzie's clearance only reached halfway but Peake cleverly helped the ball on with the outside of his foot to Sykes. His first touch found Charles who won the race against the keeper Steve Farrelly and as the two met the ball broke to Whitehall, but he could not lift the ball over the stranded keeper.

Farnborough then created a neat move of their own and Mackenzie took the ball out of the air to thwart Vansittart. The home side went close as Love lost possession and a chip back over his head saw Chris Piper race through. Cooper had played him onside and when he beat Mackenzie to a header outside the area which the keeper should have collected, a goal looked on the cards. However, Piper had not bargained on Cooper recovering superbly to hook the ball away to safety just as he was about to shoot.

The match drifted into a game of head tennis as the two sides gave possession away. The first period had been a forgettable affair with both sides bypassing the midfield.

The second period began with Charles dropping deep to pick up the ball and beat three players to set up Whitehall, whose rasping 25 yarder was brilliantly tipped over by Farrelly for a corner which was wasted and Farnborough broke quickly. Love miskicked a clearance, sending the ball spinning into the air, Mackenzie lost the flight of the ball and it fell to Steve Watson who made a pig's ear of chipping the keeper, who just picked up the ball.

Boro defended well and were dangerous on the counter. An Andy Thackeray cross was dealt with by Farrelly and Peyton put a dipping shot over the bar on the hour mark. Five minutes later Boro broke the deadlock when Charles took the ball down from a long clearance and as he turned he looked to have been

fouled on the edge of the box, but the ball sat up nicely for Thackeray whose low cross was turned past his own keeper by Bunce, under pressure from Whitehall. Lavery was snapping at the heels of Gary Patterson but the referee allowed play to go on, but Patterson missed and the referee dragged play back. The ball was swung in low and awkward from the free kick and Bunce bundled the ball into the net from close range.

Things went from bad to worse when Whitehall misplaced a pass to Lenny Piper, who skipped into the area and despatched a low shot past Mackenzie. Boro made a desperate attempt to equalise and Whitehall crashed a free-kick against the crossbar, but time dripped away and the home side held on to their win.

Nuneaton Borough v Stalybridge Celtic 13-10-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Cooper, Crowley (Lavery 73), Peyton, Charles, Whitehall, Peake, Williams (Sykes 77). **Subs:** Leadbeater, McGregor, Young.

Stalybridge: Fish, Murphy, Scott, Parr (Perkins 46), Woods, Futcher, Peacock (Courtenay 81), Wood, Kelly, Bushel, Pickford. **Subs:** Crookes, Williamson, McNeil.

Boro welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had their first effort on goal after just three minutes when Whitehall got on the end of an Andy Thackeray ball but David Fish was able to collect. The visitors had a let off when Matt Woods slipped in the area but Whitehall was offside. Celtic's first attempt came after ten minutes when Leon Kelly dispossessed Michael Love and shot straight at Mackenzie, when Steve Pickford was free. Kevin Parr went close with a header and former Boro man Ged Murphy has a shot from 20 yards. Charles then went on a jinking run and fed Peyton but he blazed over the top.

Paul Futcher's men were playing some good football, but Boro opened the scoring with a route one ball from Mackenzie, whose kick found the head of Whitehall who nodded it past Fish for his sixth goal of the season. Boro went close again after 30 minutes when Jason Peake's free-kick found Charles, who headed wide. Chris Mackenzie saved a rasping effort from Richard Peacock before Boro went further ahead after Steve Wood handled on the line and was red carded. Peyton stepped up and slotted the spot kick to the left of Fish, but the referee ordered a retake after Charles encroached from the kick, but the end result was the same. Stalybridge, despite being a man down continued to press but Terry Angus was in top form, as was teenager Adam Cooper.

Stalybridge opened the second half in determined fashion and Kelly forced Mackenzie into a fingertip save. Jamie Williams went close with a header from Thackeray's cross. Peake's underhit pass broke down a promising move before Charles linked well with Williams but Woods blocked Peake's effort. Stalybridge found the net after Kelly broke away but it was disallowed for offside. Richard Lavery started a good

move which resulted in a cross from Peyton, but no one was on the end of it. With 15 minutes left, Boro introduced Alex Sykes and the wide man was in the thick of things following good work from Whitehall. Peake sent Charles away, but he wanted too much time and it came to nothing.



Chris Mackenzie makes a crucial penalty save.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Celtic skipper Woods put a shot over the bar before the visitors notched a goal. Ben Futchter fed Gerard Courtenay in a packed box and the substitute slotted past Mackenzie. This set up the match for a frantic finale, during which Cooper brought down Courtenay in the box, but Mackenzie produced a top notch save to keep the visitors at bay. Boro took maximum advantage of this let off and scored after Peyton's long ball was picked up by Sykes who crossed for Charles to set him up one-on-one with Fish and he headed home. It was nearly four in the dying seconds as Sykes saw a shot drift wide.

Whitehall To Leave Shock

Steve Whitehall is to leave Nuneaton Borough in a shock move after struggling to come to terms with travelling and a full-time job. A fee has already been agreed with a northern club for the former Oldham Athletic, Rochdale and Chester City hitman – but the deal will not be finalised until a replacement is found.

Dagenham & Redbridge v Nuneaton Boro' 09-10-2001

Dagenham: Roberts, Rooney (Hill 63), Vickers, Goodwin, Smith, Broom, McGavin (Shipp 66), Terry (Brennan 54), Charlery, Stein, Hayzelden. Subs: Lock, Gothard.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Weaver 86), Love, Angus, Cooper, Lavery, Peyton (Whitehall 74), Charles, McGregor, Crowley, J. Williams (Sykes 74). Subs: Hickey, Young.

Boro made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham and Redbridge in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made a good start and Lee Charles wasted a good chance after collecting a Marc McGregor flick on from Chris Mackenzie's long clearance. His decision to try to lob Tony Roberts went awry as the keeper took the ball at chest

height. A feature of the opening 20 minutes was the offside flag as both sides were continually caught out.

It was apparent that Dagenham were aware of the danger posed by Boro and the home side fell back and defended in depth at the first sign of an attack. With only a minute to go before half time McGregor was bundled over inside the penalty area, but the referee ignored the loud penalty appeals. With half-time looming Boro had another chance when Terry Angus rose unchallenged and directed a header towards the top corner, but the ball struck the crossbar and bounced away.

Four minutes after the break Andy Thackeray tried his luck from 30 yards but the ball landed on the roof of the net. Dagenham started to get their act together and for the first time in the match were looking dangerous. The home side then replaced Paul Terry with ex-Ipswich Town man Mark Brennan, whose first touch and passing ability soon made its mark. Just after the hour mark the deadlock was broken as Charlery turned on the half-way line and played a super pass for Steve McGavin to beat the offside trap. He ran in on goal and Mackenzie saved the initial shot but Hayzelden was the first to react and he slotted the rebound in.

Boro tried to hit Dagenham on the counter-attack as tempers frayed and Thackeray was booked for a rash challenge on Hayzelden, who could have extended the home side's lead, but his header sailed wide. Boro brought on Alex Sykes for the last 15 minutes and he almost equalised three minutes later when a long cross from Charles was missed by Steve Whitehall, but Sykes' scorching left footer cannoned off the bar.

The game became stretched as both sides went for broke and Charles went close at one end while Danny Shipp's cross was just missed by Stein. However, Boro's fate was sealed in injury time when Shipp's right wing cross found the unmarked Charlery, who headed home to make the score 2-0.

Bedworth Ask £5,000 For Sanders

Nuneaton Borough have suffered a set back in the chase for Bedworth United defender Guy Sanders after the player had a £5,000 price tag slapped on his head. The 23-year-old who is out of contract at the end of the season and it keen to further his career is still in the plans of the Manor Park side and it is hopes an agreement can be reached.

Boro To Sign Danish Marksman

Danish striker Jakob Fenger, Nashville Metro's top marksman in America's United Soccer League Central Division last season, is set to sign for Nuneaton Borough. The 30-year-old has trained with the squad and the club are now waiting to hear from the Football Association if they can secure international clearance for Saturday's home game against Barnet. Fenger, who netted 14 times in 24 matches for the Metros, moved to Scottish Premier Division Livingston when the season finished in the States, but failed to secure a first team spot.



Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

03-11-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Weaver 16), Love, Angus, Cooper (B. Williams 46), Lavery, Peyton, Charles, McGregor, Sykes (Leadbeater 74). **Subs:** J. Williams, Young.

Barnet: Harrison, Gledhill, Flynn, Sawyers, Heald, Arber, Niven, Midgley (Essandoah 46), Gower, Strevens, Purser (Berkley 58).

Boro welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro almost took the lead with just 90 seconds played, but Lee Charles missed from four yards out after Lee Harrison could only parry McGregor's shot to the feet of the striker. Seconds later Ben Strevens gave Barnet the lead. Michael Love headed a long kick from the keeper and the ball sat up nicely for the striker who struck his volley well from 30 yards into the empty net, as Mackenzie stood stranded on the penalty spot.

Before Boro had chance to recover from that blow they were 2-0 down. Stuart Niven was allowed to escape on the right for the Bees and his low cross was missed by a number of players and found its way to Strevens who crashed it high into the roof of the net from four yards out. At this stage Boro were on the ropes with Wayne Purser a particular threat on the right and Strevens a real handful in the middle. Barnet were also solid in defence and the home side were struggling to make any kind of impression on the game. Their task became all the more difficult when Strevens struck again to make it 3-0. Former Ipswich Town player Neil Midgley raced away on the left and his excellent cross was met with a firm downward header by Strevens who completed his hat-trick.

Boro made an effort to get back into the game and McGregor headed wide from an Angus cross before Alex Sykes hit a well struck shot from 25 yards which struck the outside of the post. Boro gave themselves a lifeline with ten minutes to go before the break as Sykes touched a free kick to Peyton, who drove the ball hard and low under the wall and into the bottom corner of the net.

Steve Burr replaced Adam Cooper with Barry Williams at the break and went four at the back, which seemed to work as Boro took the game to Barnet, who were restricted to very few chances after the break. Although Boro threatened more they didn't seem to be making much headway as the minutes ticked away, but the breakthrough came after 77 minutes when Charles battled his way through three challenges and found Richard Leadbeater, on as sub for Sykes. The ball stuck under his feet, but he managed to get it to McGregor who made no mistake from eight yards as he cleverly chipped it over Harrison who came rushing from his goal.

The crowd sensed a memorable fightback and players were pushed forward in search of an equaliser. However, Barnet were strong in defence and despite conceding a succession of free-kicks and corners, they held out as Boro reflected on the madness of the first 15 minutes of the match.

Boro Miss Out On Danish Striker

Steve Burr is ready to accept that Danish striker Jakob Fenger will not sign a loan deal with Nuneaton Borough and looks likely to be returning to play in America. Problems over the 30-year-old's international clearance has put the proposed move in jeopardy.

Health And Safety U-Turn

A dramatic U-turn concerning chemicals stored at Ellis & Everard, sees the health and safety reasons for refusal of planning permission for Nuneaton Borough's new stadium reinstated. The Health and Safety Executive changed the chemical consultation zone around the chemical storage site in St George's Way, Bermuda Park, which meant the area earmarked for the stadium was no longer within the consultation zone but the original criteria have been imposed.

Supporters' Trust Launched

Nuneaton Borough Supporters Trust was officially launched at Manor Park. Former players Ken Plant, Bob Turpie, Trevor Peake and Mark Rosegreen were in attendance as the fundraising scheme was officially brought to life. The Trust has formed a working party which will run alongside the existing board of directors.

Supporters are invited to buy shares in the Trust who will vote on how to channel money into the football club in the best possible way. An eventual aim is to try and get a supporter on Nuneaton Borough's board of directors. Howard Kerry and Roger Stanford were in attendance.

Boro legend Trevor Peake launched the Trust and said: "This is something which will be for the good of the football club which will benefit from the backing of the supporters and we all wish it well."

Boro Sign Kelly

Nuneaton Borough have signed Cambridge United forward Leon Kelly on a months' loan. The 22-year-old former Atherstone United player was signed by Cambridge manager John Beck for £15,000 and has been on loan at Stalybridge Celtic recently, where he scored four goals in seven matches.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough

10-11-2001

Margate: Turner, Boardman, Lamb, Edwards, L. Williams, Porter, Munday, Beard, Braightwaite, Graham, Saunders (Collins 46). **Subs:** Blackford, Hilaire, Hafner, Mitten.

Boro: Mackenzie, B. Williams, J. Williams, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Peyton, Charles (Cooper 86), McGregor, Crowley, Kelly. **Subs:** Dunkley, Young, Leadbeater, Sykes.

Boro made the journey to Hartsdown Park to play Margate in a Nationwide Conference game.

The first half was a quiet and even affair, even though there were chances at both ends with Boro having a let-off after Barry Williams underhit a back pass and Mackenzie was

forced to rush out to clear, but he hit it straight at Beard and appeared to pull him back as he tried to reach the ball. However, Jamie Williams appeared from nowhere and cleared the ball. Margate then won a succession of corners and free-kicks as Boro struggled to clear their lines.

McGregor got in a weak shot from the edge of the box and then Kelly put a header wide as Boro pressed and ended the half strongly with McGregor again in action as he turned and ran at the defence, evading two challenges and shooting just over from 20 yards with the keeper well beaten.

The home side introduced Collins at the break and he and Angus were in each other's faces from the off and proceeded to wage a private war. Boro then shocked the home side as they took the lead when Angus' long clearance had Kelly and Lee Williams underneath it and the former Adders man brought down the ball and turned his marker but was fouled. Peyton placed the ball and as a six man wall was being assembled the quick thinking midfielder attempted to score. It looked to have been a poor effort but a massive deflection completely wrong footed Turner and gently nestled into the far corner of the net.



Richard Lavery and Simon Weaver pile on the pressure.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Barry Williams surged into the area with 20 minutes to go and squared the ball to McGregor who shot narrowly wide as Boro went for a killer second goal. Collins found Bill Edwards in the area, but Mackenzie was out like a flash and a minute later the visitors had Simon Weaver to thank for a superb tackle on Leon Braithwaite. Boro defended well as Margate looked to push forward, but the battle between Angus and Collins boiled over with five minutes to go as the two clashed in the middle. Collins fell to the ground and the linesman waved his flag furiously and the referee produced a red card.

Boro introduced Adam Cooper for Lee Charles as they looked to defend their slender lead as four minutes added time was announced. Margate rained crosses into the Boro box and Mackenzie was coming under increasing pressure. With the added time already expired Margate packed men into the visitors' box. Another corner from the left was swung in by Lamb and Beard thumped a header past Mackenzie to level the scores in the 97th minute. The keeper was furious as he claimed he had been held back, but it was all to no avail as the teams trooped off with an equal share of the points.

Wright Joins On Loan

Boro have secured the services of Mark Wright from Walsall, who will be joining the Manor Park outfit on a month's loan. The youngster is the product of Walsall's youth system.

Dover Athletic v Nuneaton Borough

17-11-2001

Dover: Hyde, Carruthers (Day 73), Norman, Leberl, Shearer, Vowden, Stouts, Davies (Allen 61), Scott, Tyne (Ovard 86), Lebihan. Subs: Elliott, Frost.

Boro: Mackenzie, B. Williams, Love, J. Williams, Weaver, Lavery, Peyton, Charles, McGregor (Wright 39), Crowley, Kelly. Subs: Leadbeater, Young, Sykes, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to The Crabble to play Dover Athletic in a Nationwide Conference match.

Boro made a blistering start and took the lead after ten minutes through Lee Charles. Even before that the visitors had created chances through Kelly, Charles and Dave Crowley. Kelly shot wide from eight yards after keeper Paul Hyde spilled Barry Williams' fierce cross. Charles then hit the side netting before Crowley saw his goal bound header pushed round the post for a corner, with the suspicion of a handball. The breakthrough came when Barry Williams sent in another teasing centre. Marc McGregor swung at it and missed completely but the loose ball sat up nicely for the inrushing Charles to slam home from eight yards.

Dover offered little or no threat and Boro could have extended their lead after 17 minutes when McGregor shot just over from 25 yards. The home side had their first real chance after 25 minutes when a cross from Steve Norman found Matt Carruthers who heat Jamie Williams and found Scott on the penalty spot but he narrowly missed the target. Just after the half-hour Marc McGregor was injured in a challenge with Norman and Neil Lebihan and had to be substituted by new boy Mark Wright, who had an immediate impact on the game with his pace and ability on the ball. Five minutes before the interval Kelly burst through on the right but his run was brought to a halt by a Darren Davies tackle.

Boro consolidated their lead after the break and Dover posed few threats to their lead, which was extended after 55 minutes. A long clearance by Love was flicked on in midfield by Charles and seemed to be going nowhere. However, Hyde had not banked on the pace of Kelly who chased the seemingly lost cause down and met with the ball and Hyde 30 yards from goal. With both players on the floor, the ball fell to Wright who kept a calm head to pass the ball into the empty net from 35 yards.

With 12 minutes remaining Shearer was sent off for a bad tackle on Kelly, and although he protested his innocence the referee showed him the red card. Boro were in total control but their cause was not helped when Kelly elbowed Jake Leberl in the face right in front of the referee and joined Shearer in the dressing rooms. The visitors had to endure a nailbiting conclusion to the game as Dover grabbed a goal out of the blue. A huge Leberl clearance saw Scott get on the end of it

and fire past keeper Chris Mackenzie to give the home side a lifeline. Boro were rattled and had to concentrate for the final 90 seconds, but time ran out on a poor Dover side.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 20-11-2001

Boro: Young, B. Williams, Love, Angus, Cooper (Woodhall 115), Lavery, Sykes, Leadbeater, Kelly, Weaver, J. Williams (Thackeray 76). Sub: Mackenzie.

Stourbridge: Higgs, Bunch (Beddows 75), Dale, Hamilton, Black (Jones 95), Baker, Stirk, Jones, Gray, Briscoe, Pearce. Sub: Stanley.

Boro welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Boro tried to stamp their authority on the game early on and both Jamie Williams and Simon Weaver had shots on goal. Terry Angus got on the end of a Sykes corner which was flicked on by Leadbeater but Mark Jones cleared off the line. When the visitors hit back Anthony Briscoe outpaced Michael Love and with Ryan Young exposed, he shot off target. Briscoe had another chance soon after but his header was cleared off the line by Weaver. This shook Boro back into life and Kelly went on a darting run and laid the ball back to Sykes who slotted home past Higgs. Leadbeater had an effort disallowed for a foul on the keeper before Briscoe had another chance, which he put over the bar.

The second half began quietly with neither side looking confident on the ball. Boro had a couple of chances though, once when Sykes fed Kelly in the box, but the striker swung wildly and missed the ball, and secondly when Barry Williams tried a 20 yard effort. On the hour mark, Leadbeater found Jamie Williams unmarked in the penalty area, but he mishit and the ball went wide. Seconds later, Weaver headed over from another Sykes corner. Stourbridge then put Boro under pressure for ten minutes, but it all came to nothing. Love forced Higgs into a fine save when his searching run resulted in a shot which cannoned off the Glassboys defence.

Steve Burr's side had a second goal disallowed when Weaver headed home a Sykes corner but a free kick was awarded to Stourbridge. With eight minutes remaining Andy Thackeray launched a superb crossfield pass to Sykes who volleyed narrowly wide. Soon after the visitors equalised when Brian Gray found Baker and with the goal at his mercy he headed past Young.

In the first period of extra time Boro had numerous chances to kill the game off. Leadbeater and Kelly both missed virtual open goals and the loan striker had another chance when he used his pace to leave the visitors' defence standing, but his former Atherstone colleague Higgs saved well. Love had a 30 yarder stopped and Leadbeater put the rebound wide. Thackeray found himself in a great position but hit the ball over the bar.

Finally, after 109 minutes, Leadbeater hit the winner after Simon Black nudged on Cooper's through ball and the Borough man made no mistake.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 24-11-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, B. Williams, Love, J. Williams (Leadbeater 85), Weaver, Lavery, Peyton (Thackeray 88), Charles, McGregor, Kelly, Wright (Sykes 75). Subs: Cooper, Young.

Telford: Edwards, Wooliscroft, Hanmer, N. Moore, Bently, Fowler, Fitzpatrick, Jobling, Smith, Martindale (P. Moore 75).

Boro welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started strongly and toyed with the visitors throughout the opening stages of the match. Mark Wright had the first chance as he latched on to McGregor's flick on but Lee Fowler managed to get back and put the on loan Walsall man off and he mishit his shot. Peyton was next to go close but he saw his shot from the edge of the area smothered by Paul Edwards. Boro got the breakthrough after Peyton's inswinging corner had Edwards in trouble and he just managed to palm the ball out from under the crossbar and out to Mark Wright drove a ball goalwards, but it hit Marc McGregor on the knee and fell kindly for him to score from six yards out.

This should have been the signal for Boro to push on but Telford had other ideas and went on to create the best chances of the first-half with Martindale hitting the side netting and Peter Smith shot over with the goal at his mercy.



Boro force Telford to defend.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

After the break Telford continued where they had left off and ten minutes into the half the visitors were level. A free-kick on the right was curled into the penalty area by Fitzpatrick and Martindale was there to power home an unstoppable header as he rose unchallenged ten yards out. Boro were now struggling and failed to compete in midfield where Peyton made a mess of a succession of free-kicks. The hosts were made to pay for their lack of positivity with 20 minutes remaining as Telford grabbed the lead.

A goalmouth scramble in front of Mackenzie unfolded and as Boro failed to clear the danger Fitzpatrick fired home from close range to send the travelling supporters wild. Telford's

comeback was complete and they could have ended up winning the match by a bigger margin as they continued to create the opening of note while Boro failed to have a single shot on target in the second half. The visitors could have increased their lead with ten minutes to go as Paul Moore beat the offside trap. As the substitute steadied himself and shot, Mackenzie got a vital touch to the ball with his right foot and the ball went agonisingly the wrong side of the post. Boro almost grabbed a point with just four minutes left, but Barry Williams spooned a shot over the top from 12 yards out.

Nuneaton Borough v Morecambe 01-12-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, B. Williams, Love, J. Williams, Weaver, Lavery, Peyton, Charles, McGregor, Crowley, Sykes. **Subs:** Leadbeater, Young, Thackeray, Wright, Dunkley.

Morecambe: Mawson, Fensome, McGuire (Norman 55), Murphy, Hardiker (Curtis 74), Drummond, Thompson (Black 65), McKeirney, Talbot, Arnold, Perkins. **Subs:** Overcharge, Winlock.

Boro welcomed Morecambe to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had the first chance of the game when a Warren Peyton corner was met by Simon Weaver at the near post, but John Hardiker hooked the ball off the line with Craig Mawson well beaten. Lee Charles had an excellent chance midway through the half after he was put through by Peyton and should have shot, but instead passed to Barry Williams who fired over the bar. Boro then had Mackenzie to thank as he made a reaction save to push Garry Thompson's header over the bar. The home side took the lead after a calamitous mistake from Mawson who failed to collect and routine cross and the ball fell to Charles who hit the ball home.



Boro put Morecambe's defence under pressure.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro almost conceded an equaliser a minute after the break after Fensome played Ian Arnold clear, who bore down on goal and shot past Mackenzie, but the ball hit the post and bounced away to safety. McGregor went close at the other end as he sidestepped two challenges before curling a shot inches wide. Mackenzie was again called into action as Arnold broke clear again, but the keeper closed down the angles and forced the striker to hit the ball wide.

Boro almost extended their lead when Lavery headed the ball into Charles' path and the striker turned and shot past the keeper, but Hardiker was there again to deny the home side. A quick break by Boro almost brought a goal when Williams rolled back the years and went past three players before curling a beauty towards the top corner only for his shot to cannon off the crossbar. The home side were unlucky twice in a minute as they hit the crossbar and had a shot cleared off the line, but Morecambe countered and Arnold played Thompson through, who chipped over the keeper.

Morecambe were not level for long as Mawson dropped the ball again from a Peyton corner and McGregor was there to restore Boro's advantage. The goalkeeper was having a chequered game and excelled himself by dribbling around McGregor and Charles in his own area. From this point on though Morecambe held the whip hand and Boro's offside trap was breached on several occasions and as the game entered the final ten minutes, Morecambe equalised when Talbot beat the offside trap and despatched a low shot past Mackenzie.

Boro's agony was complete with just a minute to go as Weaver conceded a corner. Mackenzie got a touch on the flag kick but could only palm the ball to Talbot who allowed the ball to bounce off his knees before thumping home the winner.

Troubleshooter Leaves Boro

Nuneaton Borough have vowed to take on board findings unearthed by a business consultant who has left the club after a five month mission. The Manor Park outfit have parted company with Tony Greenwood who was brought on board in August to help redirect the club, attract investors and build bridges over their proposed ground move.

Nuneaton Borough v Hayes 08-12-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, B. Williams (Cooper 22), Weaver, Lavery (Wright 59), Peyton, Charles, McGregor (Leadbeater 36), Crowley, Sykes. **Subs:** J. Williams, Young.

Hayes: Bossu, Spencer, Gallen, Ashton, Sterling, Paul Holsgrove, Clark, Dyer, Hodges, Molesley, Warner. **Subs:** Everett, Shipperley, Peter Holsgrove.

Boro welcomed Hayes to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made the early running but did not make that many chances, unlike earlier in the season. Andy Thackeray and Marc McGregor combined on the right for the latter to send over a far post cross for Lee Charles, but the striker saw his header saved by Bertraud Bossu. The game was low in passion and quality from both sides and it got worse for Boro as McGregor was forced out of the game with a dislocated shoulder. Boro were performing very poorly and with just a minute to go before the break the visitors took the lead. A free-kick from the half-way line was lifted into the box and Sterling reacted first to smash home a close range volley.

The early part of the second half looked promising as Boro started with belief and purpose, but it was the visitors who



were forging the chances and almost stretched their lead as Mark Molesley found the side netting as Boro were asleep from a quickly taken free-kick. Shortly afterwards the visitors extended their lead as Molesley escaped into the area and forced a save from Mackenzie, but the home keeper could only parry the ball into the path of Ian Hodges who tapped the ball into the empty net.

Boro almost conceded again with 17 minutes to go when Dyer sent a lovely ball over the top for Ian Hodges to chase. He brought the ball down with a deft first touch and stepped inside the recovering Michael Love before forcing Mackenzie into a diving save and the ball struck the upright and went behind for a corner. Boro pressed during the final ten minutes of the game, but lacked any kind of penetration. Sykes and then Leadbeater should have done better as Bossu produced a fine double save in the last few minutes but Boro were beaten by the better side.

Bradbury Axed

Assistant manager Ron Bradbury has been axed by Nuneaton Borough. A disappointed Bradbury was informed of the decision last Thursday night and is desperately disappointed. He said: "I don't know what's going on. I was called into the office by the gaffer on Thursday night and told he had been told to get rid of me. It came as a bit of a shock and I'm really hurt about it..."

Borough Appoint Booth

Nuneaton Borough have appointed former Nottingham Forest number two and ex-Aston Villa coach Dennis Booth as their new assistant manager. The Stretton based coach has been working as a scout with Premiership Middlesbrough since leaving the City Ground.

New Striker For Boro

Nuneaton Borough have signed highly-rated youngster Gary Birch from First Division Walsall on loan for a month. The 20-year-old striker has just completed a three month stint at Exeter City but manager Ray Graydon has agreed to let him gain further experience with a loan move to Manor Park.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 15-12-2001

Hereford: Baker, Clarke, Capaldi, Rodgerson, Wright, James, Goodwin, Kevan (Robinson 84), Elmes (Davidson 77), G. Williams, Parry. **Subs:** Quiggin, Evans, M. Williams.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, B. Williams, J. Williams (Wright 61), Peyton (Dunkley 77), Charles, Birch, Crowley, Skyes. **Subs:** Young, Cooper, Weaver.

Boro made the journey to Edgar Street to take on Hereford United in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro were stunned by a goal in the second minute of the game as a long kick was misjudged by Andy Thackeray and he could only head the ball to Rob Elmes' feet and the centre-forward quickly helped it on into the path of Gavin Williams who

surged into the area, holding off Thackeray and planting an unstoppable shot in off the near post. Given their recent form Boro could have folded at this point, but instead they pulled themselves together and took the game to the home side. Birch tried to slip Charles through but the striker was offside and Hereford broke with Michael Love miscontrolling the ball allowing Parry to get in a cross that was cleared by Thackeray.

Boro produced their best move so far as Jamie Williams found Love on the left in acres of space and he measured his cross well for Birch, whose first-time shot flew straight at Baker. Crowley was forced to concede a corner after Lee Charles lost possession and Birch forced Baker into a save at the other end. Boro continued to improve and Sykes tried his luck from the edge of the area but it just cleared the bar. Tony Capaldi has a chance for Hereford ten minutes before the break but he skied a volley over from six yards. Hereford then grabbed the initiative and Boro were forced back on the defensive, but Angus was dominant and Williams picked up the pieces.

The visitors stepped up the pace after the break and fought their way into the game as Birch grew in stature and he began to link with fellow Saddler Mark Wright who joined the game on the 60 minute mark. The scores could have been level before then as Charles volleyed over from eight yards before Birch moved in on the Hereford goal and cut inside before shooting for goal with the ball hitting the base of the post. Sykes then forced Baker into a save, but he was unable to hold the ball and it was cleared by a defender.

After Wright and Birch came together the dynamic of the game changed and the home side were chasing shadows at times. Boro created several chances but no one got on the end of the loose ball. At this point Dunkley was introduced and he immediately installed some vigour into Boro's play, popping up all over the pitch and with the clock showing 89 minutes Boro won a free kick which Terry Angus lofted into the mix and Charles rose to head the ball to the feet of Birch whose speed of thought gave Dunkley the chance to smash the ball home from six yards. That wasn't the end though, as Boro had another chance when Dunkley set up Sykes who shot wide. Finally, Sykes forced Baker into a great save with only seconds remaining.

Leadbeater Loaned Out

Boro striker Richard Leadbeater has been sent out on loan to Dr Martens Western Division side Evesham United. The 28-year-old has made just four full appearances for Boro and has scored two goals.

Jamie Williams Sold

Nuneaton Borough have sold Jamie Williams back to Hinckley United for a four figure fee in a shock transfer deal. The 21-year-old has put pen to paper on an 18 month contract for an undisclosed sum at Middlefield Lane and will go straight into the side against Cambridge City.



Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 26-12-2001

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Williams, Lavery, Wright, Charles, Birch, Crowley, Sykes. **Subs:** Dunkley, Young, Cooper, Weaver, Peyton.

Boston: Bastock, Clifford, Lodge, Gould (Costello 84), Monington, Ellender, Rusk, Brown (Clare 54), Elding, S. Weatherstone, Angel (R. Weatherstone 71).

Boro welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boston got off to a good start with Anthony Elding and Mick Brown looking dangerous and in the first minute Elding got on the end of a Paul Ellender through ball but his tame effort was held by Chris Mackenzie. The home keeper again came to the rescue minutes later when Brown got on the end of Ellender's cross, but Mackenzie saved. The Pilgrims threatened again when Mark Clifford's cross was headed wide by Elding.

Sykes saw a 25 yard free-kick saved by Bastock before Boro almost took the lead after 20 minutes when Sykes' corner kick saw Angus, Birch and then Sykes all have chances blocked. Straight after Elding missed a sitter after breaking clear and not long after that Birch broke away but was well marshalled by Ellender and James Gould. Boro had a good chance when Birch and Wright combined. Birch controlled well and Wright launched a 20 yard effort which Paul Bastock saved in impressive fashion. But after 29 minutes Boro found themselves in arrears as Mark Clifford broke clear and pushed the ball into the path of Elding, who buried the chance despite the attentions of Angus and Mackenzie.

Charles stumbled on the ball when well placed before Andy Lodge forced a reaction save from Mackenzie. But with five minutes to go before half-time Boro drew level. A throw-in from Michael Love fell to Sykes who in turn fed Birch. The Walsall man played it to the feet of Charles who skilfully moved forward before launching a strike past Bastock. Brown went close just before the break but Mackenzie was solid.

Boro came out in determined mood for the second half and Charles went on a jinking run early on but his shot was easily stopped by Bastock. Birch and Wright combined well to set up Charles, but he was forced wide before the home side went close from a set-piece. Sykes knocked the ball to Charles who blasted towards goal only for it to hit Birch and fly inches wide with Bastock nowhere to be seen. Elding blasted over from distance as Boston hit back while Charles and Birch combined but the chance came to nothing.

Simon Weatherstone tested Mackenzie as Boston came back into the game and Elding wasted a chance when he tried to lob Mackenzie instead of passing to Daryl Clare, who then had a chance himself but hit the side netting. Clifford made a goal-line clearance to deny Birch, who then flicked a shot just wide. Elding broke away and shot past Mackenzie, but Clare was given offside. In the final minutes Ellender, Charles and Simon Weatherstone all had their names taken as the game threatened to get out of hand.

Boro Match Abandoned

Nuneaton Borough's match at Boston United was abandoned after 44 minutes with the score at 0-0, due to a frozen pitch.

Burr Makes Signings

Nuneaton Borough have strengthened their squad with the signing of Maurice Harkin and Port Vale striker Richard Burgess. Harkin, who is a Northern Ireland under-21 international made 73 appearances for Wycombe Wanderers in a five year spell. Burgess, who joined Port Vale from Bromsgrove was previously with Aston Villa and Stoke City as a youngster.

Directors' Cash Injection Saves Boro

Following a period under the supervision of consultant Tony Greening, Nuneaton Borough's board of directors are to resume control of the club and have injected a cash sum of £100,000 into the club to enable its survival to the end of the season. Chairman Phil Clayton said: "The club is in a financial position of a negative situation and it is serious. As a result, the board took the decision three weeks ago to issue further shares in the club. They are owned by the directors who will be re-appointed within the next fortnight and we have invested a six figure sum in the football club close to £100,000 to keep it going."

Nuneaton Borough v Stevenage Borough 05-01-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, B. Williams (Weaver 86), Lavery, Wright, Charles, Birch (Burgess 90), Crowley, Sykes (Harkin 55). **Subs:** Young, Peyton.

Stevenage: Wilkinson, Hamsher, Goodliffe, Dryer, Sturgess (M. Williams 87), Wormull, Clarey, McMahon, Clarke, Sigere (Armstrong 87), Campbell (Jackson 76). **Subs:** Greyclose, Sodje.

Boro welcomed Stevenage Borough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made a dream start and swept into the lead in the third minute. Michael Love had time on the left to measure his ball into the feet of Birch who turned and struck a shot from the edge of the area past the despairing dive of Paul Wilkinson. Boro continued to force the pace and dictated the game. Mark Wright had the ball in the net again in the fifth minute, but it was disallowed because of a foul by Angus. Lee Charles put a shot wide before Jason Goodliffe was forced to head Wright's cross over his own bar. A minute later Birch almost scored as Wilkinson misjudged a through ball and the Walsall man got a shot in, but put it wide of the gaping net.

Barry Williams charged Sigere off the ball as he was just about to pull the trigger and the Frenchman again found room to shoot but it was easily saved by Mackenzie. Williams was then robbed by Sigere as he tried to shepherd the ball out, but his cross was cleared by Angus. Just before the interval Charles missed a great chance as he fired wide from ten yards after Dave Crowley had nodded the ball into his path following Wilkinson's desperate punch from



Birch's cross. Boro had a big shout for handball against John Hamsher turned down in the final minute of the half and then Sykes fired a curling free-kick straight at the keeper as Boro finished strongly.

Boro continued to dominate after the break and Charles had a good run, but when the ball fell to Angus he tried to pass the ball back to Charles when he should have had a shot. Stevenage were by no means out of the game and the pace of Sigere and DJ Campbell started to cause concern. John Dryer hit a first time shot just wide as the visitors started to assert themselves. Maurice Harkin replaced Alex Sykes and put his stamp on the game straight away.

However, Stevenage drew level when Adrian Clarke beat the offside trap and squared the ball to Sigere who was in like a flash and shot between Mackenzie's legs to score. The visitors were inspired by this and were suddenly right in the game. Boro almost regained the lead however, when Birch shot wide following a corner. Boro rode out the storm and reimposed themselves on the game and defended well against efforts from Hamsher and Campbell before regaining the lead in the 82nd minute.

Love was once again the supplier and his cross found Lavery who nodded the ball into the path of Birch, and he took one touch before crashing the ball into the net through a crowd of players. Stevenage refused to lie down and there was more than one scare in front of Boro's goal but the home side defended well and ran out worthy winners.

Nuneaton Borough v Banbury	08-01-2002
<p>Boro: Young, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Peyton, Charles, McGregor (Cooper 62), Peake, Dunkley (Sykes 68). Sub: Williams.</p> <p>Banbury: Tricker, Willbridge, Muckleberg, Sullivan, Simpson, Fuller, M. Travers (L. Travers 78), O'Neill (Redknapp 55), Milner, Gooderick, McKay (Essex 78).</p>	

Boro welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Boro never got out of second gear as Banbury battled gamely, but were simply not good enough. McGregor could have put the home side ahead after just two minutes as he weaved into the area along the byline and his pull back was finally scrambled clear after several attempts from Charles and Roy Dunkley to force the ball home. Four minutes later McGregor went close again as Simon Weaver's long ball was met by the forward, but he failed in his attempt to lob the keeper.

Jason Peake played well on his return and sprayed the ball around to good effect. Boro took the lead in the 21st minute when Terry Angus put a ball into the area and Charles rose to plant a firm header past Simon Tricker for the opening goal. The biggest surprise of the first half was that it ended with Boro only one ahead, although Tricker had played superbly well to deny the home side on several occasions.

Boro extended their lead early in the second half when Love supplied a ball from the left and McGregor waited for it to

come down before volleying across goal and the unfortunate Sullivan could do nothing about it as it ricocheted off the defender and past his own keeper.

McGregor went down injured and was replaced by Adam Cooper after 60 minutes. Alex Sykes then joined the action at the expense of Dunkley and within five minutes had made an impact on the game. Peake searched the left winger out with a great pass and he wasted no time in beating the full back before striking a left footed drive across the keeper for his 14th goal in a Boro shirt.

Banbury snatched a consolation goal with the best move of the match. Ady Fuller picked out Matty Gooderick on the edge of the area and the striker took it in his stride before smashing a firm shot past Young and high into the top corner of the net.

Boro Sign Former Sunderland Man

Former Sunderland central defender Lee Howey is set to sign for Nuneaton Borough in a deal that takes midfielder Alex Sykes to Forest Green Rovers. The 32-year-old has agreed terms with manager Steve Burr and puts pen to paper tonight before training with his new team mates. Howey, who made almost 70 Football League appearances for the Wearsiders during the early and mid 90s, leaves Forest Green Rovers in a straight swap deal with Alex Sykes going in the opposite direction.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough	19-01-2002
<p>Yeovil: Weale, Lockwood, Tonkin, Thompson, Pluck (White 53), Grant (Turner 76), Stansfield, Johnson, Alford, Crittenden, McIndoe.</p> <p>Boro: Mackenzie, Angus, Weaver, Howey, Burgess, Crowley, Lavery, Harkin, Love, Birch, Charles. Subs: Peyton, Young, Cooper, Peake, Thackeray.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Huish Park to play Yeovil Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

Yeovil started the stronger of the two sides and could have taken the lead after five minutes but Kim Grant's looping header fell into the arms of the grateful Chris Mackenzie. Boro were stretched again five minutes later as Yeovil were creating all the chances. Grant this time decided to shoot from a tight angle when a pass to the unmarked Carl Alford on the penalty spot would have been the better option.

Boro were defending well, and they were having to, as McIndoe, Stansfield and Nick Crittenden were all causing problems for Terry Angus, Simon Weaver and Lee Howey. Boro began to settle as the half wore on though and they started to come into the game. Birch went close with a free-kick and Howey had the visitors' best chance so far but as his header beat the keeper it was stopped on the line by Crittenden. The match was well balanced as the interval arrived after Boro had finished the half the stronger, forcing a succession of fruitless corners.

Yeovil started the second half on top and their precise and



patient build-up play deserved better from their forwards and the longer the game went on the more frustrated they became at not being able to turn their possession and chances into goals.

Lee Johnson was unlucky when his shot from outside the area was well blocked and Stansfield smashed the rebound over the bar. Grant then put a free header over the bar after more good work from Crittenden, but it was just not falling for the home side. Boro were under the cosh for the majority of the first 25 minutes of the second period, but then they had a chance to take the lead.

A break on the left flank saw Maurice Harkin in the penalty area and bearing down on goal. Unfortunately for the visitors though the ball took a nasty bobble on the poor pitch and the Glovers knew full well they had had a big let off as the ball flashed past the post. Grant and Alford had worked their socks off for the Yeovil cause and were replaced as the home side sought more pace in their bid to unlock the Boro defence which was still standing firm.

However, the pressure finally paid off with 11 minutes remaining. Substitute Andy Turner, McIndoe and Steve Thompson all combined well with some excellent passing, which led to Stansfield being released and he beat Mackenzie from close range for his fourth goal in three matches. It was all hands to the pump for Boro as they gamely went in search of an equaliser. However, in doing so they were leaving gaps at the back and they were ultimately to pay the price of being forced to chase the game. Again Stansfield played a vital role in the second goal, which killed Boro off.

He charged towards goal and drew Mackenzie out before squaring to the unmarked McIndoe who rammed the ball into the net. Boro weren't completely finished though as Birch completed the scoring with virtually the last kick of the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 29-01-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Howey, Cooper, Angus, Peake, Lavery, Harkin, Charles, Birch, Dunkley, Peyton. **Subs:** Young, Weaver, Crowley, Cudworth, Williams, Tullin, Jones.

Tamworth: Acton, Warner, Hayward, Gould, Hatton, Mills, Foy, Follett, Roberts, Wilson, Rickards.

Boro welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

Tamworth took the lead after just two minutes when Boro old boy Darren Roberts latched onto the end of a Scott Rickards cross and put the ball into the back of the net past an exposed Chris Mackenzie. Boro started the second half well and snatched an equaliser with just two minutes gone when a Jason Peake corner drifted in and found the head of Howey who made no mistake as he put the ball past Acton.

Despite this being a friendly, there was a competitive edge to the game and as the well-contested derby drew to a close both teams could be satisfied with the 1-1 draw.

McGregor Out For Rest Of Season?

Goal ace Marc McGregor goes into hospital next week for an operation on his knee that will almost certainly rule him out for the rest of the season.

Turner Joins Boro

Wizard of the wing Andy Turner has joined Nuneaton Borough on a month's loan and will be in the squad that travels to Southport. The 27-year-old has played with Spurs, Portsmouth and Crystal Palace.

Southport v Nuneaton Borough 02-02-2002

Southport: Dickinson, McCauley, Howell (Sullivan 65), Teale, Jones, Clarke, Elam, Jones, Parke, Eastwood (Scott 84), Grayston. **Subs:** Connolly, Baress, Morgan.

Boro: Mackenzie, Weaver, Williams (Love 6), Angus, Peake, Lavery (Thackeray 23), Harkin, Charles, Birch, Peyton, Turner. **Subs:** Young, Burgess, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to Haig Avenue to face Southport in a Nationwide Conference match.

The home side started strongly and at times threatened to run riot. Time and again Simon Parke, Phil Eastwood and Dean Howell beat the offside trap, but the ball ran through to Chris Mackenzie in the main. Boro then suffered a big blow when Barry Williams was injured with just six minutes gone and Michael Love came on as substitute. On the plus side Andy Turner brought a new dimension to Boro's play and looked threatening down the left flank.

Steve Jones blazed over the bar as Southport pushed the visitors back and Angus took a shot from Teale full in the face. While the Boro defender was recovering his wits Eastwood put a shot past Mackenzie, but it hit the post and rebounded in to the keeper's arms. Boro pressed forward and Peake had a free kick headed over the crossbar by Teale who was forced to head over his own bar again when Turner whipped in a dangerous cross from the left and Charles and Gary Birch were in wait for the loose ball.

Boro lost Lavery after 23 minutes when he was floored by a challenge and stretchered off to be replaced by Thackeray. Parke headed straight at Mackenzie and as Boro packed the midfield the odds looked favourable for a 0-0 scoreline at the break. However, with four minutes to go a left wing corner was headed out by Peake and as Angus stretched to help the clearance on he just failed to reach it and Teale unleashed a well-struck low volley through a ruck of players and past the dive of the unsuspecting Mackenzie. Unbelievably Boro snatched an equaliser before the break when Birch ran on to a through ball and as players from both team filled the box he picked out Charles eight yards out who hit the ball against the post from where it rebounded to Thackeray who stabbed home the loose ball.

Boro re-organised after the break and went four at the back which stiffened up their defence and Angus continued to keep



Parke on a short leash. Southport wasted plenty of chances but they lacked the quality of a killer pass as Boro cleared their lines time and again.

Boro had a chance to steal all the points after they broke quickly from a Southport corner with just seven minutes left. The ball broke to Peake who picked out Birch, who had a ten yard advantage on the nearest defender. However, the ball rose awkwardly from a divot and hit the striker on the knee and bounced out for the goal kick. The visitors had another gilt-edged chance three minutes later when Charles hit a fine shot at the Southport goal but Dickinson pulled off an excellent catch to deny Boro all three points.

Boro Sell Keeper

Nuneaton Borough have sold second choice keeper Ryan Young to Hucknall Town for a nominal fee. The 22-year-old has been with the Manor Park club for three years after being signed by Brendan Phillips from Chasetown, but has been restricted in his first team appearances by Chris Mackenzie

Birch To Have Surgery

Steve Burr has been thwarted in his effort to extend Gary Birch's loan period following a knee injury suffered by the striker against Stalybridge Celtic in the FA Trophy. The Walsall player's loan spell will soon be up and he is to undergo surgery to rectify the problem.

Nuneaton Borough v Wolverhampton W.	08-02-2002
Boro: Mackenzie, Howey, Love, Angus, Weaver (Cooper 59), Thackeray, Harkin, Charles, Burgess (Dunkley 74), Peake, Turner. Sub: Cudworth. Wolves: Murray, Connelly, Naylor, Robinson (Watson 39), Pollett, Clyde, Branch, Ward, Danks, McStea (Coleman 112), Sinton (Clingan 28).	

Boro welcomed Wolverhampton Wanderers to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

Boro started strongly and a move featuring Maurice Harkin, Richard Burgess and Andy Turner almost created the first goal after just six minutes but Matt Murray rushed out to snuff out the danger. That was as close as Boro came before falling behind in the 24th minute.

Former England man Andy Sinton escaped on the left and his teasing cross was dummied by Mark Danks and Ward smashed home from six yards out. Seven minutes later it was 2-0 and looked like a stroll for the visitors as Branch capitalised on some sloppy defending, scoring from close range. Wolves continued to dominate up until half time looking defensively sound and full of pace all over the pitch.

Straight after the break Howey was forced to make a superb tackle to halt Danks, but Boro surprised their illustrious visitors by pulling a goal back. Angus lifted a free-kick into the area and Murray came racing out to punch clear but collided with Ludo Pollett and the ball broke to Peake who calmly lobbed the ball into the empty net. The goal changed the nature of the game and Wolves started to panic as Boro pressed forward

and forced several corners. Two minutes into time added on Peake crossed from the left for substitute Dunkley who headed down into the path of Thackeray and the midfielder made no mistake, sending the game into extra time.

Chris Mackenzie pulled off some miraculous saves in extra time, including a firm downward header from Pollett which the keeper turned away, but the two teams could not be separated and the crowd braced themselves for penalties. The Boro keeper saved from Sean Connelly's weak effort and Thackeray smashed home for Boro. Ludo Pollett was next up and Mackenzie made a full length save to his right to deny the Wolves man. Lee Charles kept the interest going by missing his kick and Mark Clyde scored for the visitors to tie the score.

Branch and Love both scored before Ward stepped up and smashed his spot kick against the crossbar leaving Terry Angus with the chance for glory. The centre-half kept his nerve and slotted the ball into the bottom corner to give Boro the win and a passage into the semi-finals.

Burr Bolsters Squad

Steve Burr had added two new players to his squad, both with extensive Football League experience. Goalkeeper Jason Pearcey has made more than 150 appearances for Mansfield, Grimsby and Brentford and Jason Harris has enjoyed stints with Bristol Rovers, Leyton Orient and Preston. Both players are in the squad to face Stalybridge Celtic.

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough	16-02-2002
Stalybridge: Walker, Murphy, Perkins, Wood, Fitcher, Beesley, Peacock, Parr, Ayorinde, Courtney (Mike 88), Pickford. Subs: Woods, Wharton, Marivat, Fish. Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Howey, Crowley, Harkin (Peyton 83), Charles, Burgess (Harris 55), Peake, Turner. Subs: Dunkley, Hodgson, Weaver.	

Boro made the journey to the Bower Fold to play Stalybridge Celtic in a Nationwide Conference game.

Stalybridge opened strongly and had the lion's share of the early play but found themselves behind after 14 minutes when Andy Burgess' cross was nodded down by Lee Charles into the path of Andy Thackeray who slotted the ball home. Within three minutes though Ayorinde won the ball and kept his cool against Mackenzie, finishing low into the corner. Boro hit back though, and with seconds to go before half-time Burgess put in a perfect cross for Charles to nod into the net from close range.

Stalybridge exerted more pressure after the break although Boro repeatedly repelled their attacks, but former Boro man Ged Murphy and Richard Peacock were asking all sorts of questions of the visitors' defence. At this stage Boro changed their formation to 4-4-2 and immediately looked the worse for the change. Andy Turner was finding life difficult on Boro's left as Murphy and Peacock really started to run the show, while Ayorinde was a constant threat up front.

Boro looked as if they might be undone in the 66th minute

when Mackenzie brought down Ayorinde as he burst into the area, but penalty king Mackenzie denied the striker by punching his spot kick clear. Ben Futcher then missed an absolute sitter. It was at this point that Ayorinde came into his own, pulling Boro from pillar to post. However, it was Gerard Courtney who put the home side level as he pounced on a ball in the area and hooked it home from close range.

The home side took the lead for the first time when Peacock was allowed all the time he needed to pick his man out with a cross and Steve Pickford comfortably won the header down to Ayorinde who crashed the ball home. Boro were now in trouble and the Stalybridge fans were right behind their team when Ayorinde sealed the victory with a tremendous low strike past Mackenzie for the icing on the cake, as he completed a memorable hat-trick with six minutes to go.

Angus crashed a header against the crossbar in injury time, but it was all too little too late as Boro had again thrown away a winning position.

Nuneaton Borough v Chester City 19-02-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Howey, Lavery, Harkin (Dunkley 56), Charles, Burgess (Harris 46), Peake (Peyton 65), Crowley.
Subs: Hodgson, Turner.

Chester: Brown, Woodyatt, Rose, Lancaster, Holland, Williams, Carey, McGorry (Blackburn 82), McElhatton. **Subs:** Whittaker, Haarhoff.

Boro welcomed Chester City to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro were a goal down with just over a minute played when Mark Beesley raced into the area and squared the ball into the area for Terry Angus to make a hash of a clearance, playing the ball straight to Lee Woodyatt who crashed the ball home from eight yards. Boro were non-existent as an attacking force, unbalanced in midfield and all at sea at the back. It was no surprise when Chester doubled their lead on the half-hour mark. Mike Rose, a former Manchester United youngster, struck one of the best free-kicks seen at Manor Park for a long time as his 25 yarder rippled the Cock and Bear end rigging. Dean Spink almost scored a third two minutes later as Boro threatened to fall apart.

Beesley was allowed to run 40 yards down the right and cross into the box but Mackenzie was out quickly to deny Spink. The keeper was busy again seconds later as he kept out a Spink piledriver from 25 yards. Mackenzie was then called on to rush out again to intercept Beesley's dangerous cross. Boro won a couple of corners before the interval, but they came to nothing and the team and management were booed from the field at the interval.

Boro brought on Jason Harris after the break and created a couple of chances with Lee Howey's downward header from Jason Peake's corner followed by a flick on at the near post by Michael Love, which was cleared off the line. Boro then went three goals down from another Rose free-kick. If his first free-kick was good, the second was breathtaking as he made

the ball swerve like Roberto Carlos as it crashed in off the underside of the crossbar, right into the top corner. Maurice Harkin was replaced by Roy Dunkley, who immediately got involved, running his heart out for the cause.

The home fans finally had something to cheer when substitute Warren Peyton scored from a free-kick on the edge of the area after Dunkley had charged down a Wayne Brown clearance, forcing the keeper to handle outside the area. Off the keeper went and Peyton planted the ball into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Farnborough Town 23-02-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Weaver, Love (Dunkley 68), Angus, Williams, Lavery, Thackeray, Charles (Turner 77), Harris, Crowley, Peyton. **Subs:** Hodgson, Burgess, Peake.

Farnborough: Pennock, Warner, Gregory, O'Shea (Green 63), Annon, Laker, Watson, Holloway, Vansittart (L. Piper 58), D Souza (Crawshaw 68), C. Piper. **Subs:** Benstead, Taggart.

Boro welcomed Farnborough Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had a great chance in the first minute of the game when Andy Thackeray chipped Pennock, but Darren Annon cleared the danger. The Farnborough keeper then saved from Jason Harris and Lee Charles failed from the rebound. Weaver headed over from a corner before Boro forced a succession of corners, one of which saw Thackeray go close again. Pennock made another fine save after 30 minutes when he tipped over a 30-yard free-kick from Peyton. Weaver just failed to get on the end of a Harris flick on, while Farnborough's best chance so far came after Justin Gregory skinned Thackeray, walked through the Boro defence and around Mackenzie, only for Weaver to make an excellent tackle.



Simon Weaver and Barry Williams put pressure on the Farnborough goal as Jason Harris waits to pounce.
Photo: Heartland Evening News

Williams found Harris from a free kick at the start of the second half, but O'Shea cleared and soon after Charles put Harris through, but the move ended with a weak shot. The visitors forced a point-blank save from Mackenzie after

Gregory's free-kick found Barry Laker. Chris Piper tried a long-range effort soon after but it flew over. Annon cleared an Angus volley off the line before Burr threw Roy Dunkley on for the final quarter of the game and he again caused problems as the snow swept down on a cold and windy Manor Park.

Peyton's turn and shot brought a save from Pennock before substitute Andy Turner set up Harris and forced the keeper into conceding a corner, from which Dunkley headed over. However, after 80 minutes, it all went wrong when Richard Lavery gave away a needless free-kick and Williams headed Gregory's free-kick into his own net. A mistake from Weaver five minutes later let Lenny Piper in, but the wind came to the rescue of the home side and Mackenzie was able to collect.

With a minute to go and with the home side not really deserving to lose, Peyton was given another free-kick to take and he put it into the area and Harris headed it in from the far post with Pennock stranded. In the dying seconds Chris Piper tested Mackenzie from 20 yards but the Boro keeper saved well and with the last kick of the game Peyton crashed a free-kick into the Farnborough wall.

Turner Sent Back To Yeovil

On-loan winger Andy Turner has been returned to Yeovil after failing to impress at Manor Park. The player's wages had been met by David Devall and joinery boss Chris Brooke, but unfortunately the ex-Tottenham man had not lived up to expectations.

Alan Prince Appointed



Boro chairman Phil Clayton and manager Steve Burr welcome Alan Prince to the club. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough have appointed a new face to build bridges with the community as they look to resolve their cashflow and ground situation over the coming months. With the club still looking at a number of sites around the area ahead of the 2004 deadline when all Conference grounds must be granted Football League status, a new marketing manager has been appointed in the form of Alan Prince.

The former Grantham Town chairman, who is in charge of all off-the-field matters at Third Division Mansfield Town, has been handed a brief to boost income until the end of the season and help the club to be seen more favourably by the community. Prince was alerted to the void in off-the-field activities by Steve Burr who was an ex-Gingerbread man and speaks highly of his former chairman.

Nuneaton Borough v Doncaster Rovers 02-03-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Williams, Lavery (Peake 60), Harkin, Harris, Crowley (Burgess 88), Peyton. Subs: Charles, Hodgson, Howey.

Doncaster: Warrington (Butler 33), Ryan, Barrick, Kelly, Squires (Ravenhill 90), Miller, Tierney (Cauldwell 82), Owen, Gill, Barnes, Jackson.

Boro welcomed Doncaster Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Doncaster had the first chance after two minutes when Paul Barnes broke free from Michael Love and back-heeled to Jackson, but Weaver stepped in to clear. The visitors took the lead after Jimmy Kelly put Justin Jackson through and Angus was harshly adjudged to have brought him down. Barnes stepped up to take the penalty and slotted the ball past Chris Mackenzie.

Apart from the penalty kick neither side had a shot in the first 20 minutes, but all that changed a minute later when Jamie Squires brought down Jason Harris and Michael Love rifled the free kick into the net from 25 yards. Jackson put a shot wide after being found by Gill before Harris set up Love, but he failed to connect with an acrobatic volley. Warren Peyton went close before the visitors lost Andy Warrington who limped off with a knee injury and was replaced by the larger than life Lee Butler. As the first-half drew to a close Angus cleared a Squires cross with Barnes waiting to pounce.

Andy Thackeray put in a shot at the start of the second half, but Doncaster hit back and Barnes combined with Jackson who slipped the ball across the goalmouth for the unmarked Gill to simply tap the ball in despite the efforts of Mackenzie to scoop the ball away. Harris found Harkin as Boro hit back but Butler parried away the resulting shot, but Boro continued to press and their hard work was rewarded when Squires elbowed Weaver and was lucky to stay on the field, but a penalty was awarded and Peyton stepped up, and made no mistake from the spot.

Gill shot wide for the visitors while at the other end Peake jinked past Gareth Owen but Butler made a good save. Jackson squandered a great chance when he was put through by Owen but his finish was poor. Doncaster took the lead after Jackson picked up a high ball through from Butler that troubled Crowley 30 yards out and he left the Boro man grounded and raced through on goal and scored.

It was a workmanlike display from Boro, and Mackenzie could not be faulted for any of the goals. Again it is a case of too many bad defensive errors which cost them dearly.



Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 05-03-2002

Moor Green: Rachel, Peer, Brighton, Gillard, Robinson (Petty 58), Stanley, Woodley, Lamey, Gayle, Martin, Softley (Crisp 78). Sub: Scheffel.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Williams (Lavery 45), Peyton, Harkin, Harris (Charles 75), Crowley, Peake (Burgess 25).

Boro made the journey to the Moorlands to take on Moor Green in the semi-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Harris tested the Moors' defence in the first minute, putting the ball over the top from a tight angle before the home side hit back through former Birmingham City striker John Gayle and the in-form Nathan Lamey. It was Boro though who drew first-blood following some good play from Michael Love. Harkin latched on to the ball 25 yards out and launched a swerving effort past the stranded Adam Rachel. Craig Softley had a half-hearted effort, but the Moors soon found themselves two down. Love and Harris combined well to find Peake in space 12 yards out and his shot flew past the former Blackpool goalkeeper, Rachel.

Peake had another crack at goal before Boro went 3-0 up. A Peake corner found Love and he in turn slipped it to Harris and the ex-Preston player made no mistake for his second goal in three starts. Peake was elbowed in the face by John Gayle and had to leave the field to have stitches and the midfielder was replaced by Richard Burgess.

Boro began the second half in determined mood and Harkin combined with Peyton who hit the post and Jai Stanley cleared the ball off the line. Rachel made a fine save from Harkin and Burgess went close before, in a rare foray into the Boro half, Jai Martin got in a dangerous cross, but Mackenzie cut out the danger. Martin had Moor Green's best chance when he found space on the flank to cross, but Weaver intercepted Woodley's shot.

As the visitors pressed for another goal Love was freed by Harkin, but Stuart Brighton nipped in to clear. Harris then tracked back to feed Harkin who found Peyton, but his cross was headed clear by Brighton. Harris blasted high over the bar from Love's cross before breaking free again, but shot wide after being one on one with Rachel. Boro notched a fourth goal in the final minute of the game. Peyton and Harkin again combined to find Charles who lured Brighton aside and rocketed the ball past Rachel.

Boro Bid For Lamey

Nuneaton Borough have made a bid for Moor Green's Nathan Lamey who is the top scorer in the Dr Martens Premier Division. The 21-year-old former Aston Villa and Wolves trainee was signed from Hitchin Town in the summer and has scored 26 goals in all competitions this season. He impressed Boro boss Steve Burr during the 4-0 win over the Moors despite being on the comeback trail from a knee injury. Talks will be held with the striker next week to see if a deal can be brokered to bring the player to Manor Park.

Leigh RMI v Nuneaton Borough 09-03-2002

Leigh: Westhead, Fisher (Spooner 73), German, Durkin, Swan, Udall (Heald 60), Monk, Thompson, Hallows (Maamria 75), Kielty, Twiss. Subs: Farrell, Dootson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Howey, Crowley (Lavery 79), Harkin (Charles 55), Harris, Peake, Peyton. Subs: Dunkley, Burgess, Hodgson.

Boro made the journey to Hilton Park to play Leigh RMI in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro took the lead from their first attack as the lively Harkin ran into the penalty area following some impressive hold-up play from Jason Harris and Neil Durkin came in to challenge. Harkin hit the deck and the referee blew for a penalty. Peyton stepped up and put the kick past Mark Westhead to give the visitors a 1-0 lead. Harris then headed wide when well placed and just after Thackeray lofted a ball high into a crowded area and it drifted into the net, but the referee decided that the Leigh keeper had been impeded and awarded a free kick.

Michael Twiss went close from Ian Monk's cross and then got onto the end of a Marcus Hallows cross, but headed it wide as Terry Angus slipped on the wet turf. Leigh's attacking play continued and they were awarded a free-kick 20 yards out and Dave German's effort trickled wide. Harris put a shot over the top from 20 yards before Harkin forced a great save out of Westhead, while Peyton tested the keeper again soon after with a free-kick from the edge of the area. Mackenzie was called on to save from Twiss as the first-half drew to a close.

Ged Kielty tested Mackenzie from a free-kick at the start of the second half and then turned provider for Marcus Hallows but Angus made a brave headed clearance. Harkin, suffering from tonsillitis was replaced by Charles on 55 minutes. Twiss had another attempt with a high effort that drifted wide while Kielty hit a 25-yarder over the top. At the other end Harris bundled his way past Iain Swan from Peyton's through ball but failed to hit the target.

Jason Peake tried a long range effort with 20 minutes left and Harris had a header after a Peyton cross. Twiss continued to trouble the Boro defence but was well marshalled by Love. With four minutes left, Monk had Leigh's best chance of the game when he weaved his way into the area but failed to get past the visitors' rearguard. Twiss headed wide from a Heald cross before Angus and Maamria clashed and words were exchanged but as they made their way upfield the Leigh striker lashed out at Angus and was given his marching orders.

McGregor Off To QPR?

Nuneaton Borough striker Marc McGregor is on his way to Queens Park Rangers at the end of the season – if he can prove his fitness. The 25-year-old, who is currently recovering from a knee operation, couldn't have wished for a better incentive. The £35,000 signing from Forest Green Rovers has netted 23 goals in 50 appearances but numerous injury problems have marred his stay at Manor Park.



Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 20-03-2002

Boston: Bastock, Clifford, Gould, Ellender, R. Weatherstone (Costello 21), Rodwell (Elding 82), Brown, Cook (Town 84), Clare, Rusk, Angel.
Subs: Tarrant, Conroy.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Howey, Crowley (Charles 69), Harkin, Harris, Peake, Peyton (Williams 55 (Turner 69)).
Subs: Lavery, Hodgson.

Boro made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro battled hard to try and disrupt their hosts' attempts to return to pole position in the table with several creative spells almost leading to a way past United keeper Paul Bastock. Unfortunately Boston had managed to prise out a third minute lead when Ross Weatherstone dived to head in from a James Gould cross after the Boro back line had not fully cleared an initial free-kick from the right by Mark Angel.

But Nuneaton hit back, first with Harris firing a low drive straight at Bastock and then in the 24th minute when Harkin found space on the edge of the box only for the keeper to save well from his low drive. Boston struck another hammer blow in the 42nd minute, with Mickey Brown diving to net from a Jamie Cook centre from the left.

There were two notable opportunities early in the second half for Boro to cut the deficit. Firstly Andy Thackeray got forward only to see a drive flash inches wide and then in the 52nd minute Lee Howey agonisingly saw a far post header miss the target from an accurate free-kick from Jason Peak. Those misses proved costly as Boston responded again by stretching their lead when Daryl Clare rammed in a low drive on 62 minutes after Mackenzie had parried a shot from Angel.

Further misery followed for the visitors, when a second yellow for Harris' meant a sending off, ending any hope of them getting anything from the game. The final nail in Boro's coffin came in the 75th minute when the ball bobbed in off Mackenzie's outstretched boot after he had been challenged by Cook following a cross by Brown for the hosts' fourth goal of the evening. With time running out, Harkin delivered a late reply with an excellent 20-yard curling free-kick which dipped over the home wall and dropped beyond a static Bastock. It was far too little too late for Boro.

Forest Green v Nuneaton Borough 23-03-2002

Forest Green: Pearcey, Lee, Jenkins, Cooper, Impey, Foster, Tearney (Travis 68), Langan, Hopkins, Meechan, Sykes. **Subs:** Cousins, Fitcher, Allen, Glassup.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Howey, Crowley (Lavery 46), Turner, Charles, Harris, Peake, Harkin (Dunkley 67). **Subs:** Weaver, Peyton, Hodgson.

Boro made the journey to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Nationwide Conference game.

The hosts started brightly and Alex Meechan showed his intentions early on causing a few problems for the visitors.

The impressive John Turner, signed from Leicestershire Senior League side Coalville Town, created Boro's first real opening, setting up Harris, but the marksman's volley was well wide. A long kick from Pearcey then had Boro in a spot of bother as Tearney brought the ball down well and fed Meechan. The number ten turned Angus, but his shot was poor. Chris Mackenzie was called into action for the first time after Alex Sykes burst into the area and brought a magnificent save from the keeper.

Five minutes later it was despair for Boro as Lee Howey clearly tripped Martin Foster in the penalty area and Adam Cooper gave Mackenzie no chance from the spot. The rest of the half was nondescript and there were few chances created by either side. The best chance fell to Forest Green as Sykes bamboozled Thackeray and unleashed a familiar left footed powerful cross, but Hopkins headed wide.

Boro started the second half with more purpose and Rovers were caught by surprise at the amount of belief and quality Boro were adding to the game. The home side were defending deep and with over half an hour to play they looked vulnerable. Charles cut inside Lee and shot over with Harkin in open space to his right before Boro made a breakthrough in the 59th minute when Harris rammed the ball home from 12 yards after Charles had forced a save from Pearcey.

Boro had a scare or two as Impey was left totally unmarked at the far post from a free kick but fortunately for Boro he misdirected his shot. Six minutes later Harris scored again as he was the first to react when Pearcey could only parry Harkin's diving header and the striker lashed the ball into the roof of the net. From that point on Boro were in control, although Meechan teed up Sykes who shot against the post and Impey hit the rebound straight at Michael Love. Angus then got a foot in to again deny Sykes as Boro held out.

Nuneaton Boro' v Dagenham & Redbridge 30-03-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Howey, Lavery, Turner, Charles (Dunkley 74), Harris, Peake, Peyton. **Subs:** Weaver, Hodgson, Burgess, Cooper.

Dagenham: Gothard, Goodwin, Hooper, West, Smith (McDougald 60), Heffer (Shipp 64), Janney, Terry, Charlery, Stein, Jones (Hill 72). **Subs:** Broom, Southall.

Boro welcomed Dagenham and Redbridge to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Home debutant John Turner was impressive for Boro and fully deserved his goal after 19 minutes as he capitalised on a misunderstanding between defender Mark Smith and keeper Paul Gothard to lob Boro into the lead from 20 yards. Dagenham simply could not react no matter how hard they tried and when the half-time whistle was blown they had created just one half chance which flew yards over the bar.

With Mackenzie still to get his gloves dirty Boro doubled their advantage six minutes after the restart and again it was a lack of communication between Smith and Gothard that led to



the goal. Lee Charles chased a loose ball and although Smith looked favourite to get there first, he tried to let it run to the keeper. Gothard had not come off his line though and Charles nipped in and was able to square to Harris who made no mistake from six yards. From then on Dagenham enjoyed far more of the possession as they went in search of something from the game. Try as they might though, Boro were resolute and organised.

There was no way through for Gary Hill's men and as time ticked by they became more frustrated as their dreams of Football League membership became more remote. Mark Stein let his frustration get the better of him and he reacted badly to a Richard Lavery tackle and kicked out. The referee had no option but to send him off.



Jason Harris turns to celebrate Boro's decisive second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Thackeray took the credit. Before the goal Danny Brown should have fired the Bees ahead when, following good work down the right flank between Flynn and Purser, a low cross fell invitingly to Brown on the edge of the six yard box but he blasted his first-time shot over onto the cricket pitch.

That was Barnet's only real chance of the first-half apart from a speculative 30 yard drive from right back Lee Gledhill which went narrowly over the right hand upright. Boro almost doubled their lead in the second half when Lee Charles slotted the ball over keeper Harrison, only for him to turn and celebrate and spot the linesman's flag. It was a let-off that Bees should have taken advantage of, but Boro's defence was solid as a rock and superbly led by Terry Angus.

Barnet defender Greg Heald ended the game playing up front, leaving 16-year-old Ismail Yakubu to marshal the Barnet defence as the home side pushed for an elusive equaliser, but without success.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate

06-04-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Turner, Charles, Dunkley, Peake (Burgess 77), Harkin. Subs: Howey, Hodgson, Cooper, Woodhall.

Margate: Turner, Graham, Lamb, Edwards, O'Connell, Porter, McFlynn, Munday, Braithwaite, Sodje, Saunders. Subs: Roddis, Azzopardi, Hafner, Williams.

Boro welcomed Margate to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro put pressure on the visitors from the off and with two minutes gone Maurice Harkin and Roy Dunkley linked up on the wing but Margate's Bill Edwards cleared. But soon after the visitors caught Simon Weaver flat footed and Akpo Sodje shot wide. Harkin again caused problems when he turned Graham Porter but his shot was off target. Soon after, Lee Charles broke clear but with Harkin and Dunkley available, put in a shot which went wide.

With 30 minutes gone neither side had severely tested the opposition defence but Boro had a half-chance when Sodje fouled Andy Thackeray and Jason Peake picked out Love from the free-kick and he drilled the ball across the face of goal, but Margate cleared the danger. With minutes of the first half left Harkin was fouled on the edge of the box and put the 20 yard free-kick agonisingly wide. Mackenzie saved from a Mark Munday shot from 25 yards before the whistle.

Sodje headed into the hands of Mackenzie as the second half got underway before Margate keeper Lee Turner was tested after Weaver headed on Peake's free-kick, but the ball was in the keeper's hands by the time Angus arrived. Terry McFlynn put a shot over the bar and then Jay Saunders tried his luck but Mackenzie saved his shot. The referee waved away Boro appeals for a penalty after Charles was fouled by Edwards.

At the other end Munday's free-kick sailed wide after Leon Braithwaite was fouled. McFlynn then put further pressure on Boro's goal when he broke free 20 yards out, but Mackenzie

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough

01-04-2002

Barnet: Harrison, Heald, Yakubu, Midgley (Oshitola), Brown, Gledhill, Toms (Taylor), Flynn, Niven (Bell) Gower, Purser. Subs: Naisbitt, Pluck.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Peake, Peyton, Turner, Harris (Dunkley), Charles. Subs: Hodgson, Cooper, Burgess.

Boro made the journey to Underhill to face Barnet in a Nationwide Conference game.

Steve Burr's men won their sixth away game of the season against their hosts who were much fancied for promotion at the start of the season. Barnet have now gone four games without a win as the Peter Shreeves bandwagon came to a stuttering halt when they lost 1-0 to a very average side. Boro's right back Andy Thackeray grabbed the only goal of a disappointing spectacle as Barnet crashed to their sixth home defeat of the season.

Thackeray collected the ball deep into the Barnet half after 33 minutes and sent a low cross into the box which every player missed, and it ended up in the bottom right corner. There was some confusion as to who got the last touch with some saying Lee Charles got the deciding touch, but



saved well with Braithwaite closing in. Margate's top scorer was the danger man again when he broke free following an Angus error and he looked odds on to score when he was one-on-one with the keeper but Mackenzie dived low to edge the ball away and Michael Love back-tracked to aid his keeper.

John Turner had an effort from 35 yards and then set up Charles, who shot over the bar. As the game drew to a close, Margate had a great chance. Munday lobbed Mackenzie and the keeper got a hand to it but it hit the bar and then bounced back into his arms. Harkin then showed superb skill to turn the Margate team inside out when he single handedly took on four players before being sent crashing to the floor. In the last attack of the game, Dunkley slipped the ball to Thackeray as Boro pushed for a win but Margate keeper Turner stopped the shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 10-04-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Turner, Dunkley, Harris (Charles 82), Peake, Harkin. Subs: Cooper, Hodgson, Howey, Burgess.

Northwich: Gibson, Royle, Barnard, Porter, Ingram, Talbot, Norris, Sedgemore, Blundell, Grant, Devlin. Subs: Quinn, Mullock, Burke, Knowles.

Boro welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro began brightly but Roy Dunkley headed Michael Love's cross into Paul Gibson's arms. At the other end, John Grant went close for Northwich but Chris Mackenzie made a routine save. Gary Talbot headed wide from a free-kick before Weaver stopped Blundell with a last-gasp tackle and Dunkley was caught offside from John Turner's through ball.

Grant then broke through the Boro rearguard but shot over when well placed six yards out. Mark Devlin was played in by Chris Royle but hit his shot high over the bar. Boro's best effort came just before the break when Jason Harris did well to keep control and slipped the ball to Turner, who brought it down and fired just wide.

Boro began the second half well and had a great chance when Dunkley crossed for Harris to head wide. Some great footwork from Maurice Harkin found Peake, whose long range shot rattled the crossbar with Gibson beaten. Angus was caught offside from Peake's free-kick with 60 minutes on the clock. Boro had an appeal for a handball with 20 minutes to go when Denny Ingram appeared to fist the ball way but the referee was having none of it.

Soon after the game was lost for Boro when Mark Barnard lofted a cross high into the box. Mackenzie came out and was clattered by and the ball fell to Blundell who put the ball into the net off his shin. Boro tried to hit back with a Harkin shot but the time ran out and the visitors had all three points, leaving them one behind Boro with two games in hand.

This was another example of the lack of a proven goalscorer, which has been a long-standing problem.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 13-04-2002

Telford: P. Edwards, Wooliscroft, Hanmer (Davies 79), Moore, Bentley, Albrighton, Fitzpatrick, Jobling, Quayle, J. Edwards (Smith 77), King (Moore 65).

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Howey, Lavery, Turner, Harkin, Harris, Peake, Peyton. Subs: Cooper, Dunkley, Hodgson, Burgess, Charles.

Boro made the journey to the Bucks Head to play Telford United in a Nationwide Conference game.

The match started at a sedate pace as both sides seemed unlikely to create anything in the way of a goal scoring opportunity. However, a spell midway through the opening half saw several chances fall to both sides in a matter of minutes. But Boro were out of luck and Telford found Chris Mackenzie in great form. Mark Albrighton was being pulled and stretched at the back by Harris and it took a couple of timely interventions from the United central defender to keep the scoresheet blank.

Both sides battled for an opening and played some attractive football on a superb playing surface, which allowed players such as Jason Peake and Warren Peyton to have an excellent game, while the busy and industrious John Turner was at his best yet in a Boro shirt. He was handed a free role ahead of the midfield and his work rate, touch and awareness meant he was involved in virtually everything that was created. With half-time looming the game suddenly burst into life as Peake lifted a ball into the Telford penalty area and Harris beat the flag.

His first touch wasn't the best though and as the ball ran away from him, the outrushing and clumsy goalkeeper Paul Edwards crashed into the number nine and sent him sprawling. The referee had no option but to point to the spot and the keeper received a yellow card. Peyton showed no nerves as he calmly placed the ball with little power and plenty of accuracy past Edwards.

From that point on there was only one winner as Telford searched but could not find a way through in the first part of the second half. Borough's central defence of Lee Howey and Terry Angus were impregnable and the midfield not only worked hard, but also played some lovely football. With half-an-hour to go Peyton capped a superb individual display with a wonder strike from fully 35 yards, low into the bottom corner that caught everyone by surprise including Edwards.

Burr Gives Turner Contract

Nuneaton Borough boss Steve Burr has handed Loughborough University student John Turner a one year contract. After finding the 23-year-old playing for Coalville Town in the Leicestershire Senior League, Burr snapped Turner up and he has not looked back since then. A superb display at Telford United confirmed Turner's arrival in the Conference as he shone at the Bucks Head in Boro's 2-0 win. The push for a place in the LDV Trophy has been given a huge lift by the win.



Lavery Signs Two Year Deal

Richard Lavery has signed a new two-year deal to extend his stay at Manor Park. The 24-year-old was appointed skipper last month and has become a regular in his first season playing in the Nationwide Conference.

Youngsters Get New Boro Deals

Nuneaton Borough will hand new contracts to Roy Dunkley, Adam Cooper and Chris Tullin as they look to build for the future. The trio have all been handed one year deals after impressing manager Steve Burr this season.

Cooper, who is already under contract, has been with the first team squad throughout the season and also went on a two month loan at Bedworth United. Dunkley has recently broken into the first team while Tullin has impressed with his captaincy of the all conquering youth team.

Woking v Nuneaton Borough

20-04-2002

Woking: Bevan, Reeks (Sharpling 71), Boardman, Smith, Piper, Moore, Perkins, Pitman, Reece (Haughton 86), Griffin, D'Sane. Subs: Patmore, Saunders, Tucker.

Boro: Mackenzie, Tullin (Williams 45), Howey, Thackeray (Cooper 90), Love, Angus, Turner, Peake, Peyton, Harkin, Harris. Subs: Dunkley, Hodgson, Charles.

Boro made the journey to the Kingfield Stadium to face Woking in a Nationwide Conference game.

The home side were well aware of the implications of a defeat that could drag them into a relegation dogfight. It would have been reasonable to expect a gung-ho display from the home side and for them to come out with all guns blazing, but the game was a subdued affair for long periods with a lack of spirit and desire from the Cards.

Woking were constantly huffing and puffing and trying to assert some pressure on the visitors, but the experience of Tery Angus and Lee Howey were comfortably dealing with the majority of work thrown at them. It was another hard working and competent performance from Boro, and another away game where they looked capable of taking all three points. The difference in the away form this season as compared to the last two has been unrecognisable as Boro have visited places and been in a position to win games on many occasions.

The draw leaves Boro in seventh place in the league, and provided Yeovil win the FA Trophy, that will be sufficient for Boro to qualify for the LDV Trophy if the ground is deemed to be good enough. There were chances throughout the game to take the points for both sides as Stuart Reeks stole in behind debutant Tullin to create a space for himself, but his header midway through the first half sailed safely over the bar. A minute later Andy Thackeray was handed a chance to score at the other end as he headed Maurice Harkin's cross, but to call the two moments 'chances' would be stretching the imagination. Griffin then shot over the advancing Mackenzie

in the second half, but the effort fell wide of the target. Late on in the game Williams went close for the visitors as he brought out an excellent save from Bevan, before John Turner also went close from Michael Love's cross.

Boro In Talks With Rugby Club

Nuneaton Borough have earmarked a site next to Nuneaton RFC for their new stadium in a move that would give them a prime sporting location on the outskirts of town. In the past, the site has been dismissed out of hand but this appears to have changed. It is believed the sticking point was not just the money involved, but also the exact piece of land that was to be used by Nuneaton Borough.

Lengthy negotiations have been taking place and it is thought the two clubs could soon reach an agreement. A source at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has confirmed that the Liberty Way land is one of those being looked at by the club. They also said that the proposed site for the arena at Eliot Park is now dead in the water...

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough

27-04-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Cooper, Love, Angus, Howey, Williams, Turner, Harkin, Harris, Peake, Peyton. Subs: Thackeray, Hodgson, Charles, Tullin.

Scarborough: Woods, Jordan, Hotte, Salt, Rennison, Baker, Blunt, Wright (Connell 54), Stamp, Rise, Pounder. Subs: Maughan, Brunton, Henderson, Shannon.

Boro welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The visitors started strongly and Boro had trouble getting the ball out of their own half in the opening 15 minutes when Mackenzie dropped a corner and then Warren Peyton lost possession in the Boro penalty area, but recovered well. However, having weathered the storm they went on to create several openings of their own and Barry Williams headed straight at keeper Andy Woods after 20 minutes.

Harris almost got in behind Shaun Rennison as Boro continued to up the pace before the home side won their first corner which Woods collected at the second attempt. Boro defender Adam Cooper was booked for a late challenge on Marke Hotte. Boro ended the half strongly as Woods was happy to claw a Jason Peake corner away from under the crossbar, while the keeper was happy to see Peake's shot fizz over the bar.

Boro came out for the second half in far more adventurous mood and the football was a pleasure to watch at times as Peake, Peyton and Harkin pulled the strings in midfield while Harris and John Turner were constantly asking questions of the Seadogs' defence. Boro had a scare when Karl Rose galloped through, but he was closed down by Love and Mackenzie. Williams saw a goalbound header cleared off the line by Rennison who almost scored an own goal from Peyton's cross, which beat Woods, but flew over the bar.

Boro had a penalty appeal turned down and won several corners before the visitors grabbed the lead when Peake failed to deal with a ball into the box and Stamp stole in ahead of Mackenzie to loop a header over the stranded keeper. Boro hit back though, and were level five minutes later when Turner chased a long clearance and forced Woods to rush out of his area to head clear. He only succeeded in heading the ball straight to Harris, who struck the ball first time from 35 yards over the keeper's head and into the net.

The game livened up and began to simmer as Steve Baker was booked for a poor challenge on Harris and Boro started to take the initiative. It was Scarborough, however, who retook the lead when Boro were caught short at the back and Jason Blunt's shot cannoned back off the post for substitute Darrell Connell to head the ball against the crossbar, but the ball was adjudged to have crossed the line when it bounced down despite the best efforts of both Mackenzie and Angus. Although Harris forced a good save from Woods, time ran out and Boro had lost their final league game of the season.

Mackenzie Scoops Player Of The Year Awards

Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Chris Mackenzie has capped a superb season by winning the junior and senior supporters' player of the year awards. The 29-year-old former Leyton Orient and Hereford United keeper has been almost ever-present in three seasons of Nationwide Conference football and completed the league campaign at the weekend as the only player to start every league match this season.

West Bromwich Albion v Nuneaton Borough 02-05-2002

West Brom: Adamson, Midworth, Bruce (Cudworth 46), Ross Adams, Gowling, Miandawire, Richard Adams, Carey-Bartram, Perry, Brown (Crane 104), Dyer. Sub: Warner.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Cooper 106), Love, Angus, Howey, Lavery, Turner, Harkin, Harris (Charles 55), Peake (Williams 67), Peyton.

Boro made the journey to The Hawthorns to play West Bromwich Albion in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

The pattern was set in the early stages as Boro passed their hosts to death. The cutting edge seemed to be missing though as Albion stood firm. The home side threatened once or twice with their pace and their first chance came after 17 minutes when Joshua Perry lashed the ball across with Daniel Carey-Bertram desperately trying to get an important touch. Boro started to make inroads into the penalty area with Maurice Harkin dancing into the box but his shot was straight at Chris Adamson.

Turner mishit an effort from Love's cross while Harkin drove wide from Turner's clever lay-off before Boro had a real scare when Perry took the ball down on his chest and hit the ball over Mackenzie, but it clipped the top of the bar and went over. Jason Peake put a shot just wide and Terry Angus got in a weak header from Peake's corner. The pressure was relentless at this stage and Boro got the ball in the net when

Thackeray was picked out at the far post by Turner. The full-back managed to connect well and as the ball went back across the face of goal Jason Harris stole in to score but was adjudged to be offside.

Boro continued in the same vein in the second half but with a little more zip and purpose. Lee Charles replaced Harris just before Barry Williams joined the fray and made a tremendous difference, giving the visitors a new dimension. With 12 minutes of normal time to go Angus strode forward and found Charles 30 yards out. The substitute turned sharply and despatched a beauty of a right footer but the striker held his head in his hands as the shot struck the post. Harkin then bent a 25-yard free-kick just over the bar while Jack Cudworth blasted over from eight yards out. With seconds remaining Boro could have finally won the game as Charles was sent racing clear through the middle but lost the race to the ball and Adamson put the ball out for a throw-in.

Six minutes into the first period of extra time saw Boro again guilty of too many passes as Williams, Harkin, Turner and eventually Charles exchanged possession inside the penalty area and the chance was lost. Finally a goal was scored in the 102nd minute when Turner flicked on Love's cross into the area and the ball fell to Thackeray's feet eight yards out. His shot was well saved by the keeper and it fell to Turner, again the keeper managed to parry the shot, but he was helpless when Charles blasted the ball home from six yards to give Boro the lead.



Lee Charles scores Boro's first goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

With the majority of the crowd still celebrating Williams came steaming forward with the ball and laid it out left to Turner. The former Coalville man wasted no time in entering the area, cutting inside and thumping an unstoppable low drive past the diving Adamson.



Nationwide Conference 2001-2002

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boston United	42	25	9	8	84	42	84
Dagenham & Redbridge	42	24	12	6	70	47	84
Yeovil Town	42	19	13	10	66	53	70
Doncaster Rovers	42	18	13	11	68	46	67
Barnet	42	19	10	13	64	48	67
Morecambe	42	17	11	14	63	67	62
Farnborough Town	42	18	7	17	66	54	61
Margate	42	14	16	12	59	53	58
Telford United	42	14	15	13	63	58	57
Nuneaton Borough	42	16	9	17	57	57	57
Stevenage Borough	42	15	10	17	57	60	55
Scarborough	42	14	14	14	55	63	55
Northwich Victoria	42	16	7	19	57	70	55
Chester City	42	15	9	18	54	51	54
Southport	42	13	14	15	53	49	53
Leigh RMI	42	15	8	19	56	58	53
Hereford United	42	14	10	18	50	53	52
Forest Green Rovers	42	12	15	15	54	76	51
Woking	42	13	9	20	59	70	48
Hayes	42	13	5	24	53	80	44
Stalybridge Celtic	42	11	10	21	40	69	43
Dover Athletic	42	11	6	25	41	65	39

Boro Announce Retained List

Lee Charles, Simon Weaver, Richard Leadbeater, Richard Burgess and Marc McGregor have been released by Nuneaton Borough as they begin to plan ahead for the 2002/03 campaign. Manager Steve Burr is wasting no time in sorting out his first team squad for next season and hopes to tie up a deal for a new striker.

Ex-England Striker Signs For Boro

Nuneaton Borough have signed England non-league international Mark Quayle after he became available as a free agent under the Bosman Ruling. The 23-year-old who hit 15 goals for Telford United last season in 25 games has agreed a two-year deal as Nuneaton look to assemble a squad capable of pushing for honours.

Squires Signs

Nuneaton Borough have made their second signing in 48 hours after securing the services of highly-rated central defender Jamie Squires. The 26-year-old was surprisingly released by Doncaster Rovers this week and manager Steve Burr has swooped to sign the player from under the noses of a clutch of rivals on a Bosman transfer.

Preston-born Squires began his career with his home town club and spent four years at Deepdale, making 41 appearances for the club before moving to Dunfermline Athletic, where he spent two years. A short spell at Carlisle

United followed before a move to Doncaster Rovers last season where he put together some outstanding displays in defence – including one at Manor Park which Rovers won 3-2.

Woodley Joins The Ranks

Nuneaton Borough have made their third signing of a busy summer break by adding Moor Green's tough tackling midfielder Craig Woodley to the ranks. The former Burton Albion youth player who has enjoyed spells at Solihull Borough, Paget Rangers and Redditch United has been with Moor Green for two years and has been voted Supporters' Player of the Year during this time.

Nuns Say Yes To Stadium Deal

Nuneaton Borough's dreams of a £4.2 million stadium took a leap forward yesterday when the town's rugby club agreed to sell them land for the project. Members of Nuneaton Rugby Club last night voted to sell 12 acres at Liberty Way, subject to contractual detail. The land is located between the West Coast Main railway line and Attleborough Fields and Whitacre Road industrial estates.

Alan Prince, general manager at Nuneaton Borough said: "This is absolutely great news. It is the first step on the road to a new stadium."

Striker Harris Agrees Deal

Jason Harris has agreed a deal to stay on board at Nuneaton Borough next season. The 25-year-old striker who hit six goals in 12 games last season will link up with Mark Quayle and Roy Dunkley in a forward line to which there will be a new addition during the summer.

Old Boro Debt Deal

A financial bombshell which could have destroyed Nuneaton Borough Football Club's dreams of moving to a new ground looks to have been defused. For the past few weeks intense negotiations have been held between the Nationwide Conference club bosses and a liquidator.

In the last 11 years Nuneaton Borough has grown out of the ashes of the financial dire straits of the former club which ceased operating in 1991 when liquidators moved in. And until today it was believed that in July of last year – ten years after the new club was formed in 1991 – there would no longer be any debts payable to the former creditors of the old club.

However, in a shock U-turn the club was told by liquidator Hedley Brunt that the time limit was not ten years, but 15 years, meaning that if the ground was sold within the next four years, a large portion of any cash windfall would go straight to the creditors. This sum could have run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Today it has been revealed that after intense negotiations a deal has been struck with liquidator Hedley Brunt which should secure the future of the ground...

Altrincham — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Moss Lane to face Altrincham in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Altrincham: Coburn, Scott, Adams, Maddox, Sertori, Hawes, Hulme, Craney, Gallagher (Locke 70), Thornley, Murphy (Poland 79)
Subs: Edgington, Swanick, Hargreaves.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Cooper (B. Williams 53), Lavery, Peyton, Charles, McGregor, J. Williams (Weaver 46), Sykes. Subs: Leadbeater, Young, Whitehall.

Boro slipped to a 3-0 defeat, but they missed a 15th minute penalty, and should have been out of reach by the time Michael Love was dismissed.

The visitors dominated the game before the break and won four corners in the first two minutes as the Unibond Northern Premier Division side struggled to cope with the pace of their higher league opponents.

Adam Cooper saw a rasping shot charged down on the line and Sykes shot straight at the keeper after he and Charles had created an opening inside the area.

Altrincham started to come into the game and had an equal share of the possession, but the glaring difference between the sides was Boro's ability to turn possession into chances, whereas the home side seemed to run out of ideas when they reached the edge of the area.

Moments after Sykes had fired his low shot straight at the keeper Boro had their best chance so far. Andy Thackeray lifted the ball into the box and McGregor managed to hold off the attentions of Mark Sertori.

However, the referee awarded a penalty and McGregor planted the ball to the keeper's left only for Coburn to make an excellent save.

The let-off lifted Altrincham and they started to show a lot more life and put the Boro defence under pressure, but Boro were still well in it and Angus

brought a good save out of Coburn with a firm header from Sykes' corner.

Charles put a tame shot wide from 12 yards before he was played in by McGregor, but his firm downward header from five yards out brought another fine save from Coburn.

Boro again went close when Sykes raced past one defender and stepped inside another before unleashing a screaming shot which cannoned off the top of the crossbar.

Despite having the better of the chances Boro fell behind seconds before half-time when Love was dismissed and a penalty awarded following a foul on Kevin Hulme. Despite Boro's protests Rod Thornley calmly slotted the penalty home to give the home side a half-time lead.



Simon Weaver battles for the ball.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The second half started much the same as the first with Boro winning a succession of corners as they battled to get back into the game.

Coburn made another fantastic save

from Thackeray's blinding shot from 25 yards which took a deflection.

As the game wore on Boro started to lose their shape and Altrincham stretched the visitors' defence and went further ahead after 60 minutes when Warren Peyton failed to stop Hulme, who was allowed to run into the edge of the area and pick his spot out of the reach of Mackenzie to make it 2-0.

This setback triggered a mad five minutes during which Boro threatened to fall apart. Thornley and Murphy exchanged too many passes in the Boro area and missed the chance to go further in front, but they only had another minute to wait before it was 3-0, and game over.

Weaver missed an important header and Thornley was gifted the chance to round the keeper and stroke the ball into the empty net and end the match as a contest.

From then on the result was never in doubt even though Boro were still gambling as Burr reorganised his side, playing just two at the back.

McGregor hit a shot just wide of the target and Barry Williams saw a very well struck volley hit the post, but those chances merely summed Boro's day up, as ever since the penalty miss their luck seemed to have deserted them.

Coburn was unsurprisingly named as man of the match, which tells a story in itself, and Boro were out of the cup for another year no thanks to very little luck, the keeper's brilliance and the ineptitude of another shocking referee.

In a highly competitive but good spirited and hard fought game there had been few bad tackles and yet the man in the middle had seen fit to book six, send one off and award two penalties.

Assistant manager Ron Bradbury summed up by saying: "The FA Cup is now history for this season, but we can't afford to let it affect us for the future."

Stalybridge Celtic — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to the Bower Fold to play Stalybridge Celtic in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Trophy game.

Stalybridge: Fish, Murphy, Perkins, Wood, Woods, Beesley, Peacock (McNeill 69), Parr, Ayorinde, Courtney (Turley 77), Pickford (Wharton 88). Subs: Williamson, Barker.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Angus, Williams (Weaver 50), Lavery, Wright, Charles, Birch (Burgess 59), Crowley, Peyton (Harkin 80). Subs: Young, Sykes.

Stalybridge could have taken the lead as early as the second minute as Courtney saw his diving header flash across the face of goal with Mackenzie a mere spectator.

Boro now adapted and with the pitch in fine condition the visitors fancied their chances. Stalybridge, however, were up for it and Samuel Ayorinde had Boro in a tizz all afternoon and it was he who escaped on the right and squared to Steve Pickford, but he hurried his golden chance and held his head in shame.

If one scare wasn't enough then Celtic surprised Boro with another as the offside trap was sprung. This time Terry Angus was the culprit for playing Stalybridge on side, but Mackenzie cut out the cross.

Gary Birch forced a corner as Boro tried to step up a gear and as they did so the home side matched them. Birch and Charles were beginning to get an understanding going and a clear opening was almost created between the two as they combined well midway into the home side's half, but the last pass just went astray as they entered the area.

Two minutes later Stalybridge broke again and Boro were thankful for some awful refereeing as Ayorinde was clean through having beaten the offside trap, only for the game to be pulled back to the half-way line for a free-kick to the home side.

Matt Woods lifted the ball into the area and Kevin Parr was given all the time

in the world to plant a firm header toward the top corner, but as he turned to celebrate, Mackenzie's left hand appeared from nowhere to claw the ball away.

Lee Charles put Boro into the lead in the 28th minute. A long clearance from Angus saw the striker in a race to the ball with Fish. The Boro forward got there first but in winning the ball was forced wide to the touchline, but he kept his cool superbly to curl in from an acute angle 20 yards out.



Lee Charles sets himself to score.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro were threatening to take control of the game at this point as a Peyton corner was quickly followed by a shot straight at Fish from 12 yards out by Birch. The most common incident throughout the game was the raised flag as both teams were constantly caught offside.

Ten minutes before the break Stalybridge pulled level. Angus was faced with a one on one race with Ayorinde and the big central defender fell when in hot pursuit. The forward also lost his footing but managed to regain his feet and beat the challenge of the covering Barry Williams.

Ayorinde was left with the choice of going for goal or passing inside to Courtney and chose to pass. Courtney

brought the ball under control and curled a beauty into the bottom corner around Thackeray and Mackenzie.

Boro almost regained the lead three minutes before the interval as Charles put in a 20 yard shot, but Fish showed great athleticism as he reached out with his right arm to stop the powerful and accurate effort.

Mackenzie made another fine save from Richard Peacock straight after the break and then thwarted Courtney a minute later as the home side went for the kill.

Boro then suffered a blow as Barry Williams suddenly pulled up with a hamstring injury, and although he tried to carry on he was eventually replaced by Simon Weaver.

Ten minutes into the second half Boro thought they had done enough to retake the lead as Charles showed tremendous skill inside the area to set up Mark Wright, but he was holding his head as the keeper was there again to prevent another goal.

The applause was still ringing around the ground for that save when Fish pulled out another incredible stop to deny Charles as his downward header from Warren Peyton's corner looked a certainty. The keepers were now at war with each other as one tried to out do the other with consecutive saves worthy of a much higher level of football.

Dave Crowley then gave possession away and allowed the home side to stream forward, with Courtney in acres of space. He had time to bring the ball down and shoot, but Mackenzie parried his effort and then somehow recovered to leap at the feet of Pickford who slammed the ball into the shot-stopper's chest.

It was edge of the seat stuff for everyone and two minutes later came the very best of the action as Mackenzie adamantly stamped his name on the man of the match award. Ayorinde once again got away from Angus and powered a thumping drive at Mackenzie who, at full stretch,



palmed the effort away, but the shot was across the keeper and therefore the save forced the ball into the path of Courtney who struck it sweetly only for the keeper to be there once more.

Try as they may each side could find no way through the respective defences and with the clock ticking down Boro ended the match the stronger of the two sides and could have sealed victory with two glorious chances in the final five minutes, which Fish could do nothing about.

The first fell to Peyton as he attacked the near post and met Wright's low cross first only to see the ball beat the keeper and be cleared off the line, but then came the moment when Charles could and should have wrapped it up in the 88th minute. Boro broke away from defending a corner and Wright was the first to retrieve the ball as it was humped clear towards the left corner flag.

He skinned the full back and swung in a peach of a cross. The flight of the ball was perfect, just begging to be nodded in and as Charles made the late run into the area he met it with a cracking downward header – which almost went out for a throw-in.

Boro had one more close call as Crowley was called on to touch away a dangerous cross from Woods at the far post in the dying seconds.

Stalybridge Celtic – 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round game.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Peake 109), Love, Angus, Weaver, Lavery, Burgess (Sykes 72), Charles, Birch, Crowley, Harkin (Peyton 106). Subs: Young, Cooper.

Stalybridge: Fish, Murphy, Perkins, Wood, Woods (Williamson 36), Beesley, Turley (Wharton 82), Parr, McNeil, Ayorinde, Pickford. Sub: Barker.

The opening 15 minutes saw just three half chances created by both

sides between them as Birch headed a Michael Love cross into the keeper's arms from 12 yards. Love then tried his luck from the edge of the area forcing David Fish into a sprawling save and then a Steve Pickford volley had to be tipped over by Chris Mackenzie at the other end. Mackenzie was in action again five minutes later as James Turley's volley came at a nice height for him to push away to safety.

Before the break though Boro had two scares they had to deal with, the first of which failed to produce a goal because of the ineptitude of the visiting forwards.

Matthew McNeil escaped on the left and Celtic were suddenly presented with a four on two situation as only Terry Angus and Love stood between them and Mackenzie.

McNeil wanted too much time though and allowed Boro to somehow snuff out the chance as both Pickford and Ayorinde stood in space in the area.

The second scare came when Angus completely missed the flight of the ball, allowing Ayorinde the chance to run at goal on the right. His early cross was an awkward one to defend, but Maurice Harkin did it well and the danger was averted.

The second half could not be as bad the first and it wasn't – it was worse, in fact desperately bad at times. Dave Crowley had his name taken in the 58th minute and will now serve another suspension.

Just after the hour the best scoring chance of the match fell to Angus as Love swung in a right wing free-kick.

Richard Burgess had been brought down after racing away on the right, a foul which saw Chris Perkins booked and presented Boro with the set piece.

As the ball came into the area, Fish missed it and Angus was there with his back to goal.

He tried to hook the ball in but his effort struck the crossbar and eventually

found the keeper's arms after an almighty goalmouth scramble. Ten minutes later Burgess made way for Alex Sykes as Boro tried to get some width into their game.

Sykes hugged the left touchline and threatened to cause the visitors problems, but he can only try if he gets the ball.

It came as a surprise to everyone when Boro were given a great chance to end the tie with 11 minutes to go.

Harkin's cross from the right was too long for everyone in the area but Sykes retained possession on the left.

As he tried to lift the ball over former Boro man Ged Murphy it struck his arm and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Birch stepped up and calmly slotted the ball past the keeper to give Boro what looked at the time like an unassailable 1-0 lead. Stalybridge hadn't read the script though and they came roaring back.

With five minutes left they won a corner on the left which was taken quickly and short by Nathan Wharton to Perkins.

He lifted it into the area and Angus and Co. missed it allowing Parr to dive in at the far post with a stooping header to pull the game level.

Remarkably, after not looking like scoring if both sides played until next Friday, there had suddenly been two goals in six minutes.

It was enough to push the game into extra time and it took just nine of the added period for Boro's hopes to take a serious nose dive as they fell behind for the first time in the tie.

The busy, strong and impressive Ayorinde had arguably deserved a goal on Saturday, and he was presented with what turned out to be the match winner after a mistake by Angus and Weaver in their own penalty area. The two defenders failed to deal with a bouncing ball and the striker nipped in to lift the ball over the exposed Mackenzie and into the net.



Nationwide Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2001-02

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.21	Coventry City	H	PSF	2-4	McGregor, Leadbetter	703
07.24	Cambridge United	H	PSF	1-3	McGregor	443
07.26	Eastwood Town	A	PSF	1-1	Leadbetter	c100
07.28	Crawley Town	A	PSF	1-1	Peyton	380
07.31	Stafford Rangers	A	PSF	4-0	Weaver, Sykes, J. Williams, Leadbetter	220
08.04	Kidderminster Harriers	H	PSF	1-1	McGregor	617
08.08	Nuneaton Griff	A	PSF	0-0		220
08.11	Moor Green	A	PSF	4-0	Peyton (2), McGregor, B. Williams	c200
08.18	Morecambe	A	L	0-1		1629
08.21	Hereford United	H	L	2-0	Thackeray, McGregor (pen)	1544
08.25	Dover Athletic	H	L	3-0	Whitehall, Sykes, Thackeray	1269
08.27	Chester City	A	L	0-1		770
09.01	Yeovil Town	H	L	1-2	McGregor (pen)	1484
09.03	Stevenage Borough	A	L	2-2	Whitehall, J. Williams	1665
09.08	Northwich Victoria	A	L	0-3		906
09.11	Leigh RMI	H	L	2-1	McGregor, Charles	973
09.15	Forest Green Rovers	H	L	2-1	Leadbetter, Peyton (pen)	1182
09.18	Doncaster Rovers	A	L	2-2	Sykes (2)	2623
09.22	Scarborough	A	L	2-1	Whitehall, McGregor	890
09.29	Woking	H	L	2-0	McGregor, Charles	1339
10.02	Southport	H	L	3-0	Charles (2), Whitehall	1247
10.06	Hayes	A	L	2-1	Charles, Whitehall	417
10.09	Farnborough Town	A	L	1-2	Bunce (o.g.)	626
10.13	Stalybridge Celtic	H	L	3-1	Whitehall, Peyton (pen), Charles	1416
10.20	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	L	0-2		1837
10.27	Altrincham	A	FAC 4Q	0-3		1306
11.03	Barnet	H	L	2-3	Peyton, McGregor	1644
11.10	Margate	A	L	1-1	Peyton	1211
11.17	Dover Athletic	A	L	2-1	Charles, Wright	1007
11.20	Stourbridge	H	BSC 2	2-1	Sykes, Leadbetter	206
11.24	Telford United	H	L	1-2	McGregor	1410
12.01	Morecambe	H	L	2-3	Charles, McGregor	1085
12.08	Hayes	H	L	0-2		962
12.15	Hereford United	A	L	1-1	Dunkley	1347
12.26	Boston United	H	L	1-1	Charles	2203
01.05	Stevenage Borough	H	L	2-1	Birch (2)	1247
01.08	Banbury United	H	BSC 3	3-1	Charles, Sullivan (o.g.), Sykes	256
01.12	Stalybridge Celtic	A	FAT 3	1-1	Charles	828
01.15	Stalybridge Celtic	H	FAT 3r	1-2	Birch (pen)	1029
01.19	Yeovil Town	A	L	1-2	Birch	2944
01.29	Tamworth	H	F	1-1	Howey	
02.02	Southport	A	L	1-1	Thackeray	879
02.08	Wolverhampton Wanderers	H	BSC 4	2-2	Peake, Thackeray Boro won 3-2 on penalties	563
02.16	Stalybridge Celtic	A	L	2-4	Thackeray, Charles	846
02.19	Chester City	H	L	1-3	Peyton	760
02.23	Farnborough Town	H	L	1-1	Harris	728
03.02	Doncaster Rovers	H	L	2-3	Love, Peyton (pen)	1461
03.05	Moor Green	A	BSC SF	4-0	Harkin, Peake, Harris, Charles	244
03.09	Leigh RMI	A	L	1-0	Peyton (pen)	410
03.20	Boston United	A	L	1-4	Harkin	4200
03.23	Forest Green Rovers	A	L	2-1	Harris (2)	759
03.30	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	L	2-0	J. Turner, Harris	1551

Nationwide Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2001-02

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.01	Barnet	A	L	1-0	Thackeray	1419
04.06	Margate	H	L	0-0		1133
04.10	Northwich Victoria	H	L	0-1		726
04.13	Telford United	A	L	2-0	Peyton (2, 1 pen)	1016
04.20	Woking	A	L	0-0		2288
04.27	Scarborough	H	L	1-2	Harris	1473
05.02	West Bromwich Albion	A	BSC F	2-0	Charles, J. Turner	

KEY : L = Nationwide Conference, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A. Trophy, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2001-02

Back: (left to right): Simon Weaver, Dave Crowley, Steve Whitehall, Jamie Williams, Richard Leadbeater, Michael Love, Alan Cooper (kit man).

Middle (left to right): Ron Bradbury (assistant manager), Paul Egan (physio), Adam Cooper, Richard Lavery, Barry Williams, Ryan Young, Chris Mackenzie, Andy Thackeray, Richie Norman (physio), Rod Brown (kit manager).

Front (left to right): Terry Angus, Alex Sykes, Jason Peake, Steve Burr (manager), Warren Peyton, Marc McGregor, Nick Kennerdale.

Photo: Robin Bidgood



Boro Boom

Ticket sales at Nuneaton Borough have tripled from this time last year as fans back the club ahead of the 2002/03 Nationwide Conference campaign. With just a week to go until season ticket prices go up, the club are delighted with the response and are opening their doors to punters this weekend in a bid to sell more.

Before May 31 a seat in the main stand will cost £190 (Adult) and £124 (Concession). Terrace season tickets are £153 (Adult), £76 (Concession). The prices after May 31 will be £210 (Stand), £124 (Concession) and terraces £170 (Adult) or £85 (Concessions). Matchday prices will be £9 Adults and £5 Concessions.

Sky Blues Reserves At Manor Park?

Nuneaton Borough could host reserve team matches for Coventry City at Manor Park next season. The Sky Blues are keen to ease the strain on Highfield Road and Boro have offered to help their near neighbours. Gary Wills, who has taken on the role of reserve team manager after leaving Tamworth last week, has close links with Steve Burr which may well work in favour of the Nationwide Conference club.

Crowley Out, Lenton In

Nuneaton Borough club skipper Dave Crowley has signed for Hinckley United with Jamie Lenton moving in the opposite direction in a dramatic day of transfer activity at Manor Park. Crowley's seven year stay at Manor Park came to an end when he put pen to paper at Middlefield Lane last night to the delight of Knitters' chief Dean Thomas.

Meanwhile Lenton, who scored 18 times for Hinckley last term has parted company with United to join Nuneaton and he goes with Thomas' blessing. "Jamie wants to give it a try at the higher level and I have no problem with that. He's been a really good servant for us and he goes with my best wishes..."

Harkin Leaves Boro Shock

Maurice Harkin has quit Nuneaton Borough and signed for Crawley Town. The 22-year-old former Northern Ireland Under-21 international made 17 appearances for Boro last season after moving from Aldershot Town and was expected to continue his stay at Manor Park in the coming campaign but has joined Crawley to be nearer his home in London.

Shirt Sponsorship Success For Boro

Independent computer services company Pricewatch.co.uk will have their name on the front of Nuneaton Borough's first team strip this coming season after winning the sponsorship raffle draw which has netted over £18,000 for the Nationwide Conference side. The Nuneaton business which is part of Internet Data UK Ltd were the first name drawn by the Mayor of Nuneaton, Councillor Geoff Ashford at the weekend draw at Manor Park.

Booth Stays With Boro

Dennis Booth has agreed to stay on as assistant manager of Nuneaton Borough for the coming season. The former Nottingham Forest number two who has been scouting for England Under 21s this summer at the European Championships was linked with a switch away from Manor Park and back into full-time football. But after holding talks with Steve Burr and General Manager Alan Prince, the former Blackpool and Sunderland player will stay on board...

Jones Joins Boro

Nuneaton Borough have signed the vastly experienced Gary Jones, a striker who has made more than 250 Football League appearances. The Leicester-based 33-year-old has joined from Halifax Town where he has been for the past two seasons following spells at Hartlepool, Notts County, Scunthorpe, Southend and Doncaster, where he started his career in the late 1980s. However it was with Notts County where he plied his trade with the most success and it was only four seasons ago that he won the Golden Boot for being the highest scorer in Division Two.

Burr Lands New Deal

Nuneaton Borough boss Steve Burr has been given a two-year extension to his Manor Park contract. The 41-year-old has been rewarded for his efforts since taking over from Brendan Phillips in October 2000 with a revamped deal that will take him through until May 2004.

Boro Ground Deal Struck

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has clinched a deal with a housing giant for the multi-million pound sale of its Manor Park ground. Negotiations have been held between the club and several prospective buyers for many months and it has been revealed today that a deal has been struck with Bloor Homes, despite an eleventh hour bid from Barratt Homes...

...Creditors of the club are being notified of the deal with letters stating that they will receive cash after all reimbursements have been made following the sale of the club and an agreement has been made over the covenant which still exists on the Manor Park ground...

QPR Pull Out Of McGregor Move

Nuneaton Borough striker Marc McGregor has missed the fitness deadline set by Second Division Queens Park Rangers and looks set to be staying at Manor Park. Boss Steve Burr is in talks with the club's record £35,000 signing and is very hopeful of being able to keep the marksman at the club.

Charles Joins Aldershot

Former Nuneaton Borough striker Lee Charles has signed a two-year deal with Aldershot Town. The ex-Football League club have snapped up Charles after he brought a two-year stint at Manor Park to an end at the close of last season.



2002-03

Leamington Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-07-2002

Leamington: Sidhu, Burgess, Gregory, Scott, Sidwell, Timms, Mort, Wickson, Nichols, Agar, Thompson. **Subs:** Curphey, Eden, Dix, Adams, Stacey.

Boro: Mackenzie, Tullin, Lenton, Clarkson, Love, Howey, Peake, Williams, Woodley, Turner, Harris. **Subs:** Angus, Peyton, Jones, Quayle, Squires, Hodgson, Thackeray, Dunkley, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to the New Windmill Ground to play Leamington in the Leamington Invitation Trophy.

Boro started well and posed most of the attacking questions but Mackenzie was by no means a bystander as the home side launched several sorties into the visitors' territory. However, Boro took the lead after Clarkson lifted a cross into the Leamington area. Home keeper Umbi Sidhu struggled to get a hand to the ball and it fell to Jamie Lenton, who despite moving away from goal, turned and lifted the ball over the goalkeeper to give Boro a 1-0 lead.

Leamington were far from disheartened and kept Mackenzie on his toes before Craig Woodley struck a fine effort from just inside the corner of the area, but this time Sidhu was sound. Six minutes before the interval Jason Peake doubled Boro's lead with a well-placed effort from the edge of the box after Woodley's ball fell kindly for him off Jason Harris.

Within 90 seconds of the restart Gary Jones had extended Boro's lead to 3-0 after beating the offside trap he closed in on goal and calmly rolled the ball past the advancing keeper. Four minutes later a fourth was added and Jones was the supplier on this occasion. His early ball into the box was again missed by Sidhu and Woodley had the simple task of tapping the ball into the net at the far post. Five minutes later it was 5-0. John Turner played a lovely reverse ball on the edge of the box and Quayle hit a thumping drive past the despairing hands of a now beleaguered Sidhu.

Woodley blasted just wide before Quayle stabbed just over the top from close range as Peake and Williams were back on for Turner and Clarkson. With a little less than 20 minutes to go Jones notched his second of the game after an exquisite touch from Quayle set him up. Peyton smacked a shot against the crossbar with a brilliant 25-yard free-kick as the home side tired after chasing shadows for long periods.

Clarkson & McGregor Sign

Nuneaton Borough have received a double boost to their Nationwide Conference plans when they signed Kidderminster Harriers' experienced defender Ian Clarkson and also agreed terms with the luckless record signing Marc McGregor. Clarkson was a member of the Harriers team which won promotion to the Football League and previously played with Birmingham City and Northampton Town.

McGregor is seen as a Conference level striker, but he must prove his worth after a long spell of injuries with the club.

Barwell v Nuneaton Borough

23-07-2002

Barwell: Grears, Doughty, Botterill, M. Harbottle, Alcock, Tideswell, Knight, D. Harbottle, Percival, Pitt, Mackay.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Squires, Angus, Lenton, Turner, Peake, Peyton, Williams, Quayle, Jones, Hodgson, Clarkson, Howey, Tullin, Lenton, Woodley, Lavery, Harris, Dunkley.

Boro made the journey to Kirkby Road to face Barwell in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro dominated possession and everyone was hungry. Turner hit the post with a rasping drive before referee Tony Green disallowed a Williams' goal for a foul, but it was not long before the visitors took the lead. Roy Dunkley latched onto a through ball from new boy Craig Woodley and with Barwell's defence at full stretch the teenager sped through and tapped in his first goal of the new campaign. Boro continued to dominate despite making several changes with Steve Hodgson, Clarkson, Lee Howey, Chris Tullin, Rich Lavery and Jason Harris given a chance to impress.

Boro's forwards continued to tease and test Barwell and it was no surprise when Harris made it 2-0. Dunkley was the creator after some tireless running and the teenager and his strike partner proved they are both keen for further opportunities this coming season. The two games so far have seen Boro score eight goals and they have yet to concede.

Nuneaton Borough v Oxford United

25-07-2002

Boro: Mackenzie (Hodgson 46), Thackeray (Williams 46), Clarkson (Peyton 72), Squires, Howey (Tullen 80), Lavery (Woodley 46), Angus, Turner (Heath 57), Jones (Dunkley 70), Quayle (Harris 65), Peake (Lenton 46).

Oxford: McCaldon, Stockley, King, Rogut, Hanson, Guyertt, Hackett, Locke, Allen, Quailey (Louis 57), Powell (Ricketts 24).

Boro welcomed Oxford United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Boro started well and Gary Jones almost drew first blood for the home side with just three minutes on the clock when he volleyed over and in the first 20 minutes there were impressive efforts from Andy Thackeray, John Turner and Ian Clarkson. Quayle and Turner combined well but Sam Shilton was able to clear before Ian McCaldon was forced to save well from the impressive Turner. The midfielder continues to look a splendid find by Burr and exuded confidence when on the ball. As the first half drew to a close Jones and McCaldon collided and Jason Peake was left with an open goal but he hit the crossbar as Boro continued to create chance after chance. As the referee was about to whistle for half time a Peake corner looped in and fell to Squires who made no mistake in burying the ball past McCaldon.

Boro began the second half in determined fashion and increased their lead within five minutes of the restart. Turner took advantage of a wayward pass and found Jones in space who spotted McCaldon off his guard and from 30 yards out picked his spot and hit the target with some style.

Steve Hodgson did well to save from Chris Hackett and at the other end Jason Harris went close after good work from Barry Williams. Oxford snatched a late goal after a Hackett corner which Chris Hanson headed in as the game drew to a close.



Terry Angus wins control against Bradley Allen.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 27-07-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Clarkson, Peake, Howey, Angus, Williams, Turner, Jones, Quayle, Squires. **Subs:** Hodgson, Love, Woodley, Peyton, Lavery, Dunkley, Lenton, Tullin, Heath.

Northampton: Harper, Burgess, Spedding, Sampson, Hope, Harsley, McGregor, Trollope, Stamp, Gabbiadini, Carruthers. **Subs:** Lincoln, Morrison, Abbey.

Boro welcomed Northampton Town to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Boro almost conceded with just three minutes gone but Jamie Squires got in a superb tackle. The ball found its way out to Marco Gabbiadini on the right who had beaten the offside trap. He managed to square a pass to the unmarked Stamp but Chris Mackenzie got enough of a touch on his shot to deflect it onto the post and the ball rebounded straight to the striker, but he hadn't gambled on a perfectly timed tackle from Squires who took the ball off his toe a yard from goal.



John Turner battles for the ball.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Within seconds Boro had taken the lead through a rejuvenated Barry Williams. Jason Peake took a left wing corner and the midfielder was on hand to stab home at the second attempt on the near post. Just after the half-way point of the first period Boro were fortunate to escape from danger as the visitors elected for one pass too many in a neat build up involving eight players which took them into the area. A timely block from Lee Howey eventually foiled them when two shooting opportunities had gone begging.

At half-time Dennis Booth, calling the tune for Boro in Burr's absence, made seven changes to the line-up. Although the changes were sweeping throughout the side, and added to later in the second half when Gary Jones and Ian Clarkson made way for Chris Tullin and young trialist Dominic Heath formerly with West Bromwich Albion, Boro were still more than comfortable with their opponents and matched them in the majority of areas.

Terry Angus and Gabbiadini exchanged several words at different times throughout which led to the latter being asked to leave the field by the referee as the crowd were now enjoying a more competitive edge to the game following the interval. A sweeping Boro move from right to left ended with Love thumping a low drive at the keeper, while at the other end Hodgson was tested when substitute Steve Morrison saw a beautiful curling effort whistle just past the top of the upright. The equaliser came in the 76th minute when Morrison, who had caused problems since his introduction was able to latch on to Lincoln's right wing cross and coolly plant a header past the exposed Hodgson.

Booth Quits Boro

Club coach Andy Thackeray is the new assistant manager at Nuneaton Borough following the departure of Dennis Booth, who has joined the England scouting network. Boro boss Steve Burr announced that the former Aston Villa number two had agreed to link up with his close friend David Platt, the England Under-21 manager, as a scout.

Nuneaton Borough v Eastwood Town 30-07-2002

Boro: Hodgson, Thackeray, Clarkson, Cooper, Love, Lenton, Lavery, Peyton, Harris, Jones, Quayle. **Subs:** Mackenzie, Howey, Squires, Tullin, Williams, Peake, Turner, Dunkley.

Boro welcomed Eastwood Town to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

The biggest surprise of the game was that it took Boro half an hour to open the scoring. Jason Harris picked up possession wide on the right, cut inside his man and curled a shot towards the far top corner which the keeper caught well in mid-flight. A minute later the striker was not to be denied as he planted a low shot into the bottom corner after a brave and clever lay off from Gary Jones in the penalty area. Six minutes later Boro doubled their advantage as Adam Cooper made a 60-yard dash from the back to get on the end of a



Warren Peyton corner from the left and he headed home the second goal of the night.

The third goal came just seconds into the second half as Jones and Turner beat the offside trap. The latter received a pass inside the area, stepped inside his man and rifled a glorious finish into the far top corner for 3-0. The extra quality on the pitch was showing as Peake started to run the show in midfield. His passing ability had the visiting defence in disarray. With Turner, Jones and the ever-impressive Mark Quayle linking well, Peake was supplying the ammunition with deadly accuracy from midfield as Boro really started to enjoy themselves against the fading and rapidly tiring opposition.

The one-touch football was great to watch and there was an air of inevitability about the coming of the fourth goal. Peake lifted a 20 yard curler just over the bar from 20 yards, but two minutes later and with just ten minutes to go he set up the final goal of the night. His pinpoint ball down the left wing sent Lenton, who was back on the pitch in place of Michael Love, racing away towards the corner flag. He won the chase to the ball and turned inside his man with ease before standing a brilliant left-footed cross up to the far post where Turner met it with a thundering volley which rocketed past the keeper without him even seeing it.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 03-08-2002

Tamworth: Acton, Follett, Cudworth (Colley 58), Lands (Stevenson 69), Hatton, Cooper (McHugh 45), Warner, McGorry, Sale (Rowlett 85), Wilson (Hallam 58), Turner. Sub: Bates.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Lenton 17), Love, Howey, Squires, Lavery (Harris 75), Turner, Peake (Peyton 73), Jones, Quayle, Clarkson. Subs: Hodgson, Cooper, Woodley, Tullin.

Boro travelled to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a pre-season friendly game.

Tamworth's Mark Sale showed his strength early on when he dispossessed Lee Howey, but his ball failed to reach the inrushing Lee Wilson. Boro had the ball in the net after a Gary Jones header which looked a clear goal, but the referee stopped the match as John Turner lay injured. Wilson almost made amends for his earlier effort when Cooper found the striker in space but he was off target with his final ball and soon after Andy Turner had a superb effort for the home side when he turned and shot, but it went just over the bar.

The Lambs pressure finally paid off with Andy Turner again the dangerman. The former Spurs' winger lofted a dangerous ball into the path of the giant Sale who headed over the on-rushing Chris Mackenzie. Tamworth almost doubled their lead when Cooper's 25-yard free-kick clipped the post after a foul by Jamie Squires. Things threatened to boil over before half-time when Rich Lavery clearly elbowed Wilson as he went for the ball in mid-air and then Cooper was late on Boro's tough tackler in a blatant retaliation exercise.

Boro got going again and managed to get an equaliser after some excellent play by John Turner in the middle of the

park. The former Coalville Town man, who had obviously been singled out by the Lambs as the dangerman after an impressive pre-season, found time to tap the ball into the path of Mark Quayle who controlled the ball and then looked up and lobbed it past Darren Acton.

Tamworth extended their lead further in the second half with Sale again the scorer. The ball was in the penalty box and with the Dr Martens Premier Division side trying to press ahead, Jason Lands was unlucky not to score only for his shot to rebound into the path of Sale who slotted past the exposed Mackenzie. Boro's Turner had a speculative effort midway through the second half but it drifted over and a free kick by the midfielder was almost headed in by Howey. The visitors were stepping up a gear with Jason Peake unfortunate to miss with a 20-yard lob which crashed against the bar.

But Tamworth took heart from this and extended their advantage even further. Sale again was put through by McGorry and with the defence off guard the towering forward made no mistake in slotting the ball past Mackenzie for a third time. As the game drifted to a close, Warren Peyton's free-kick drifted over and it was to be the home side's day.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 05-08-2002

Boro: Mackenzie (Hodgson 63), Thackeray (Woodley 63), Clarkson, Peake (Lavery 63), Angus, Squires (Cooper 63), Williams, J. Turner (Love 63), Jones (McGregor 63), Quayle (Harris 63), Lenton (Peyton 46).

West Brom: Murphy, J. Chambers, Dyer, Jordao, Butler, Little, Mkandawire, A. Chambers, Taylor, Carey-Bertram (Scott 83), M. Turner (Collins 74).

Boro welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

The visitors were first to show as Lloyd Dyer made a swift break on the left. He pulled over a wicked cross which caught Chris Mackenzie unaware and rebounded off the face of the crossbar and away. Boro replied instantly with a slick one-two between Jason Peake and Gary Jones handing the latter the chance to burst into the area, but the striker dragged his shot wide of the mark. A minute later though Andy Thackeray's cross came out to John Turner on the edge of the box and he unleashed a powerful drive straight at the keeper, Murphy couldn't hold onto it and Barry Williams was the first to react to nod the loose ball in.

Both sides played some very attractive football which was a pleasure to watch but with defences on top it was going to take something special to get past either keeper and it almost came on 23 minutes when Matthew Turner rifled a tremendous 25 yard effort which Mackenzie did very well to catch from the top corner. Ten minutes later the Baggies were level when Bob Taylor's downward header found its way into the net.

Seven minutes after the break West Brom took the lead when a reverse pass from midfield completely carved Boro open and as Mackenzie clashed with Adam Chambers, the ball fell



to Danny Carey-Bertram who was left with the simple task of tapping into the net. Steve Burr went for an all-out change just after the hour mark and there were seven substitutions and within five minutes of being on the pitch Marc McGregor had the chance of getting his name on the scoresheet, but his shot on the volley from a high ball lacked power and failed to trouble Murphy in the visitors' goal.

Bob Taylor almost increased the Baggies' lead when he met Jordao's cross with a powerful downward header which was destined for the corner of the net until Hodgson clawed the ball away from almost on the line. Harris forced Murphy to save after beating a defender and putting in a low drive before Love struck a sweet left footer from 25 yards which Murphy pushed over the bar.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-08-2002

Crawley: Little, Judge, Payne, Pullen, Hooper, Harkin, Holmes, Le Bihan, McDonnell, Stevens, Brake. **Subs:** Ottley, Bagnall, Hemsley, Patterson, Abbey, Hockton.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Squires, Clarkson, Angus, Love, Peake, Turner, Williams, Quayle, McGregor. **Subs:** Tullin, Hodgson, Harris, Lenton, Jones, Cooper, Howey, Lavery, Peyton, Woodley.

Boro travelled to the Broadfield Stadium to play Crawley Town in a pre-season friendly game.

The heaviest downpour of rain experienced in West Sussex for many years brought about the premature end to Boro's pre-season game. Everything was pointing to a thrilling encounter between the two sides but a monsoon type deluge in the first minute of the match left the two sides struggling against impossible conditions. Crawley scored the only goal of the game after 30 minutes when Dave Stevens beat his marker and drilled home from 12 yards following a superb long ball into the left side of the penalty area from Ellis Cooper.

Boro had a good chance to equalise when John Turner forced Andy Little to make an outstanding save and Barry Williams crashed a shot against the post. Andy Thackeray also called the Crawley keeper into action before the referee decided it was no longer safe to carry on and abandoned the match.

Coalville v Nuneaton Borough 12-08-2002

Boro: Hodgson, Tullin, Cooper, Sidhu, Woodley, Lavery, Lenton, Peyton, Dunkley, McGregor (Kaye 62), Harris.

Boro made the journey to Owen Street to take on Coalville Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Reigning Leicestershire Senior League champions, Coalville, opened the scoring in the 26th minute when Tony Robinson fired in a low free kick from the edge of the area which beat Steve Hodgson at the near post. With five minutes of the first-half remaining the visitors levelled the affair when Roy Dunkley, playing behind a front two of Jason Harris and McGregor, burst through from midfield and played a firm and accurate pass to McGregor. The striker killed the ball with his first touch and rifled it into the bottom corner off the far

post for his first goal in a Boro shirt since December 2001. The game became quite fractious at one stage and the referee asked that McGregor be replaced.

With 20 minutes to go Boro fell behind after failing to clear the ball, Richard Saunders crashed in a volley from at least 40 yards over the head of Hodgson. Their lead lasted 12 minutes before Warren Peyton tapped in from close range to round off an excellent move from Boro involving Dunkley, Harris and Woodley. Just 60 seconds later Coalville scored again when Les Williams capitalised on some indecision in the penalty area and his well struck volley left Hodgson with no chance.

Within a minute Boro were level again when Woodley burst through the Coalville defence and squared the ball to Harris who cleverly side stepped a desperate lunge before stroking the ball home. The game still wasn't over and Coalville grabbed back the lead with Matt Wallace being the first to react in the Boro area and lashing home from 12 yards. Peyton missed the chance of an equaliser with four minutes to go when he pulled a free kick just wide and Harris shot wide and high when a low ball into a busy danger area would have been a better option.

Boro Will Be Ready – Clayton

Nuneaton Borough chairman Phil Clayton confirmed at a pre-season fans forum that should the chance of a Football League opportunity arise then the club would do everything in its power to secure a Third Division place. Although the turnout of around 50 was disappointing, Clayton was positive in his outlook and should Boro claim one of the two promotion places available from the Nationwide Conference this coming season his board have plans in place to ensure they'll go up...

Youngsters Out On Loan

Nuneaton Borough youngsters Chris Tullin and Roy Dunkley have been loaned out to Atherstone United for a month. The deal was struck between Boro's Steve Burr and his Adders counterpart Kenny Willis and the teenage twosome look certain to figure for the Sheepy Road side against Gloucester.

Boro Groundshare Talks

Nuneaton Borough are looking at the possibility of a temporary groundshare scheme in order to meet deadlines set by the Football Association over their proposed move to Liberty Way. With the April 2004 deadline getting ever closer, the Nationwide Conference side are considering playing away from Manor Park at the start of next season, while their new stadium is built.

Chairman Phil Clayton has revealed Boro's plans to move into their new stadium midway through the 2003-04 season and until then it would either be a case of groundsharing or gaining special permission to stay on at Manor Park. Clayton said: "As yet we haven't submitted any plans but we hope to finalise them very soon and get them in next month..."

Southport v Nuneaton Borough 17-08-2002

Southport: Welsby, Lane, Howell, Winstanley, B. Jones, Clark, Gibson, Lloyd-Williams, Thomson (Thornson 82), Scott, A. Jones. Subs: Robertson, Connolly, Blakeman.

Boro: Mackenzie, Angus, Howey, Thackeray, G. Jones (McGregor 78), Turner (Hodgson 90), Williams, Quayle, Squires, Peake, Clarkson. Subs: Lavery, Harris, Peyton.

Boro made the journey to Haig Avenue to play Southport in a Vauxhall Conference game.

Clear cut chances were at a premium but Boro just about had the best of them as after just five minutes, Gary Jones had the ball in the net but was harshly judged offside. Barry Jones put a 25 yard effort just past the post, while Marc Lloyd-Williams, the leading goalscorer in Europe last season, was a real threat to Boro, but was handled well by Angus, Squires and Howey. Gary Jones tested Welsby from 30 yards, but the keeper tipped over the bar. Neither side had really dominated in the first-half.

The second half was in stark contrast as Boro pressed the home side from the first whistle and Jason Peake and John Turner dominated the midfield battle. The first chance of the second half fell to Barry Williams as he collected an Ian Clarkson cross and managed to weave past three defenders, but his shot cannoned back off the post and into the arms of the keeper. Lee Howey also had an effort hit the post, but this time Welsby pushed his header against the woodwork from Andy Thackeray's free-kick.



McGregor goes close with a header.

Photo: Scott Renshaw

With 12 minutes to go Burr pushed Marc McGregor on in a bid to win the game and the striker worked himself some space on the edge of the area and had time to look up and pick his spot. It was a tremendous effort and the home keeper could only stand and watch as it rebounded off the crossbar. If that was not bad enough the home side launched a rare attack and Mackenzie came out to meet both the ball and Lloyd Williams, but the keeper had to make the quick decision of whether or not he was inside the area and whether he could handle the ball or not. He decided he could but the referee decided otherwise and the Boro skipper was ordered from

the field. Burr quickly substituted John Turner with Steve Hodgson but his first task was to pick Steve Whitehall's free-kick out of the net and Southport had stolen a win as the final whistle sounded seconds later.

Nuneaton Borough v Woking 20-08-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Clarkson, Peake, Angus, Squires, Williams, Turner, Jones (Harris 83), Qualye (McGregor 60), Howey. Subs: Hogson, Love, Peyton.

Woking: Farrelly, Piper (Smith 65), Allman, Boardman, Brady, Moore, Patmore (Sharpling 82), Sandford, Kember, Abbey, Banger (Payne 65). Subs: Tucker, Griffin.

Boro welcomed Woking to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference match.

There was little action in the first 15 minutes before John Turner struck a low effort from 20 yards, but it was straight at Steve Farrelly. Former Southampton player Nicky Banger flashed a free header wide from a Jon Brady free kick before Barry Williams found his way into the book for a foul on Ben Abbey. Banger then watched his shot drop just over the bar with Mackenzie beaten as Boro found themselves under the cosh and Barry Moore flashed a shot wide. Woking then took the lead when after Anthony Allman crossed the ball and Abbey rose with Angus and Ian Clarkson and managed to get the faintest of touches to divert the ball into the ground and the bounce beat Mackenzie to give Woking the lead.

Woking continued to cause Boro problems, but eventually Boro played themselves into the game as Williams and Jason Peake started to cause problems for the visitors. Farrelly saved with his legs from Turner before Boro notched an equaliser when Turner's diagonal ball beat Allman and fell to Thackeray who took it down, looked up, and let the ball bounce once before calmly lobbing the keeper.



Andy Thackeray's header is saved by the Woking keeper.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro created several good chances in the ten minutes before half-time as Turner volleyed wide from 25 yards and then Lee Howey headed just wide from Peake's corner. Just before the break Thackeray got in a header which lacked the power to beat Farrelly.

Woking's forwards were rendered almost redundant during



the second half as Boro dominated the play with Turner, Peake, Howey, Thackeray and Jones all going close. Mark Quayle made way for Marc McGregor on the hour mark, but the record signing still looks short of fitness. Williams found McGregor in space but a tremendous tackle from Jon Boardman brought his run to a halt. Thackeray and Clarkson manufactured a cross for McGregor but he headed weakly wide of the target.

Jamie Squires then put in a strong run from midfield but his powerful drive was pushed away for a corner by Farrelly. With 12 minutes left, Woking had a look in but Brady put in a wild shot which went wide. As the clock ran down Thackeray had a volley charged down and Howey got in a powerful header which was straight at the keeper. Squires headed wide in time added on and Abbey's deflected shot went into the arms of Mackenzie.

Nuneaton Borough v Stevenage Borough 24-08-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Squires, Howey, Clarkson (Love 83), Peake, Turner, Williams (Peyton 52), Jones (Harris 83), Turner.
Subs: Hodgson, McGregor.

Stevenage: Westhead, Travis, Campbell, Goodliffe, Stirling, Fisher, Wormull (Howell 57), Houghton (Tomlinson 59), Jackson, Sigere, Smith. **Subs:** Fraser, Trott, Wilson.

Boro welcomed Stevenage Borough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Stevenage began strongly and Simon Wormull and Jean-Michel Sigere forced Terry Angus and Jamie Squires into early clearances. It took Boro 16 minutes to have their first shot as John Turner set up Jason Peake, but the midfielder hit the ball wide. Boro went close shortly afterwards when Andy Thackeray went up for a header, but Mark Westhead plucked the ball out of the air.

Boro took the lead against the run of play. Hard work by Gary Jones found Turner in space and he tried a shot from the edge of the area. It took a wicked deflection from Jason Goodliffe into the path of Quayle who simply tapped the ball into the net.

Boro began the second half with a free kick after Goodliffe handled and John Turner cracked the free-kick just over. Barry Williams had a speculative shot which went close before Quayle doubled Boro's lead after 55 minutes when strike partner Jones flicked the ball through for the striker to run on and pick his spot. Matt Fisher had a good effort for the visitors from 25 yards but Chris Mackenzie was well placed.

Ian Clarkson won back possession after losing the ball and slipped it through to Jones, who forced a corner. For Stevenage, Graeme Tomlinson tried to get his side back into the game with a dipping 20 yarder, but again Mackenzie comfortably held onto the ball. Boro rounded off the scoring with ten minutes to go as Thackeray put in a superb cross to find Quayle who cracked in a left-footer past Westhead. Substitute Jason Harris almost made it 4-0 near the end.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough

26-08-2002

Yeovil: Weale, Lockwood, Skiverton, Tonkin, Crittenden, Way, Johnson (Pluck 90), McIndoe, Williams, Alford (Forinton 66), Demba (O'Brien 66). **Subs:** Sheffield, Lindegaard.

Boro: Mackenzie, Squires, Howey, Angus, Thackeray, Peake, Lavery, Turner, Clarkson, Jones, Quayle. **Subs:** Love, Peyton, Harris, Hodgson, McGregor.

Boro travelled to The Avenue, Dorchester, to play Yeovil Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made a strong start and it was no surprise that they took the lead after 32 minutes when Gary Jones scored his first goal for the club. The former Halifax man broke in from the left wing, got the better of Lockwood and Johnson and shot from outside the box. Weale was slow to get down to his right-hand post and the ball skidded in off the upright. Yeovil replied immediately through Michael McIndoe's high quality curling free-kick. The home side took the lead with another fine goal when Gavin Williams broke in from the right, weaved past three defenders before dropping his right shoulder and firing a left-footed shot past a helpless Mackenzie.

Yeovil's next attack should have yielded another goal but Demba's header was just too high. Yeovil continued to dominate up until the break and it was not until Lockwood was forced to leave the field following a head injury the Boro were able to get into the game as Howey headed a corner wide.

Boro came out after the break in determined mood and Weale had to push away Lavery's shot. Two minutes later Turner beat the Yeovil keeper from 35 yards out but the post came to the home side's rescue. Boro continued to press and Weale was again called into action when he had to tip over a Peake shot from distance. However, Yeovil weathered the storm and could have extended their lead. Williams was guilty of a miss, blasting high over the bar from the edge of the box. The home side replaced Alford and Demba with Forinton and O'Brien and Williams was pushed forward.

This proved decisive on 71 minutes as Williams battled his way through before driving in a cross which Adam Lockwood side footed home from inside the six yard box. Despite some good pressure from Boro, Yeovil still looked dangerous and Forinton set up McIndoe, and was then disappointed to head Johnson's cross well wide. Angus had to throw himself at O'Brien's cross to deflect it wide and as the game ebbed away, Williams, McIndoe and Way kept the pressure on. But Boro had the last word as Marc McGregor floated in a free-kick from 30 yards, and it was Mark Quayle who was on hand to get the final touch. Boro forced several corners before the end but the final whistle signalled defeat for the visitors.

McGregor Out On Loan

Nuneaton Borough have sent Marc McGregor out on loan to Weston-super-Mare in a bid to help him regain his full match fitness. Mangotsfield United, Ilkeston Town, Bath City and Hednesford Town were also interested in the player.



Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 31-08-2002

Boro: Hodgson, Thackeray, Clarkson, Peake, Angus, Squires, Williams (Peyton 75), Turner (Harris 64), Jones, Quayle, Howey (Love 59). Subs: Wheeler, Lavery.

Hereford: Baker, Clarke, Rose, Wright, Pitman, Grant (Purdie 72), Parry, Williams, Teesdale, James, Guinan (Voice 83). Subs: Sawyers, O'Kelly, Griffiths.

Boro welcomed Hereford United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Hereford had the first real chance when Michael Rose picked up the ball from a corner and shot from 25 yards out, but Steve Hodgson saved well. Rose tested Hodgson again but his free-kick drifted wide. Barry Williams found Ian Clarkson but the defender shot straight at Baker before a Thackeray cross reached Turner whose header was saved by the visitors' keeper. Danny Williams went close for the Bulls after Jason Peake fouled Steve Guinan, who hit the resulting free-kick against the Boro crossbar from 20 yards out.

Boro continued to press and Clarkson crossed to Thackeray whose touch let him down. Angus blocked Paul Parry's shot as the visitors hit back before they had a let-off as Guinan caught Lee Howey short and Hodgson raced out of his area and returned the ball to the defender. Jamie Squires' long punt fell to Thackeray who flicked to Williams and his touch into the path of Mark Quayle was cleared by Rose.

As the half drew to a close, Turner wasted a great chance following a good build-up involving Quayle and Gary Jones. Hereford forced a great save out of Hodgson when Matt Clarke basted a shot goalwards and just before the break John Grant danced through the Boro defence and smashed the ball against the crossbar.

The second half began with a spat between Squires and Pitman, which saw the Hereford player writhing on the floor holding his face, but the referee took no action. Soon afterwards Hereford took the lead after 52 minutes when a Rose free-kick was headed past Hodgson by Guinan. Boro almost hit straight back when Clarkson freed Jones but Baker saved well. Guinan brought another save from Hodgson before the visitors increased their lead as Pitman picked up the rebound after Hodgson had pushed out Guinan's shot and hit the ball into the net.

Hereford went 3-0 up after Michael Love lost the ball and Pitman fed Grant, who slipped it to Parry and the Hereford man fired past Hodgson. Three then almost became four when Rose took a shot from 30 yards, which curled just wide, and soon after he had another long-range effort well saved. Nuneaton created a rare chance as Warren Peyton fed Jones, but he placed his shot into the arms of Baker, who then pulled off a superb reaction save when Jason Harris crossed to Jones whose tap-in was somehow stopped. As the death substitute Rob Purdie ran through for Hereford but Hodgson raced out of his area to stop the danger.

Dagenham & Redbridge v Nuneaton Boro' 03-09-2002

Dagenham: Roberts, Vickers, Heffer, Shipp, Stein, Perkins, Hill, West (Goodwin 27), McGavin (McDougald 78), Hayzelden, Johnson (Rooney 56).

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Squires, Clarkson, Lavery, Williams (Woodey 15), Turner (Harris 67), Peake, Quayle, Turner. Subs: Love, Lenton, Hodgson.

Boro made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham and Redbridge in a Nationwide Conference fixture.

Dagenham could have taken an early lead when Ross Johnson picked out Mark Stein but Mackenzie raced out to clear. Barry Williams hit a wild 30-yarder before having to leave the field to be replaced by Craig Woodley. Terry Angus cleared from a dangerous Daggers' attack before Woodley had a shot deflected by Paul Terry, whose brother John of England U-21 fame was in the stand.

Woodley had a try from 30 yards and his shot was cleared off the line by Steve Heffer. Steve Perkins broke clear at the other end in another long ball move but headed across the goal. Boro took the lead in the dying seconds of the first-half when John Turner weaved through the home defence and found Gary Jones who made no mistake. Dagenham almost hit back before half-time when Squires cleared a Stein shot off the line.

The home side came out determined to draw level and Stein went close but Mackenzie saved with his feet. A further chance fell to Steve Perkins who headed wide of the target. Mark Quayle then had the best chance of the night after a quick break, but he fired wide after linking with Jones. Boro then resorted to a six man defence as the home side piled on the pressure and Mackenzie cleared from Goodwin and Lavery cleared acrobatically to deny Danny Shipp. Boro were then hit with a massive blow as Squires was adjudged to have handled in the box, but Mackenzie, who has a fine record of saving penalties, worked his magic again to deny Steve McGavin. The Boro keeper then saved from Stein before Dagenham finally levelled.

A shot by Shipp was half cleared by Angus and the ball fell to the feet of Stein who made no mistake. At this time Boro reverted to a three man front line in a bid to win the game, but the home side defended sternly and introduced McDonald who terrorised the visitors' defence, but they stuck to their task and Gary Jones worked a chance to claim the points when he darted through and struck the ball from 30 yards with Woodley screaming for the ball.

However, with the seconds ticking away Boro hit the winner. Harris picked up the ball on the halfway line and looked up and slipped a pass to Peake. The midfielder waited for the striker to make his run before slotting a perfect one-two through to the pacey forward. In what seemed like an eternity, Harris ran through and with Roberts rushing off his line, he slotted the ball into the back of the net.

Clayton Quits

Phil Clayton has resigned from the board of directors at Nuneaton Borough on medical grounds with immediate effect. After five years in the hotseat and being troubled by ill health in recent months, the chairman has decided to call it a day. No decision has been made on a successor with the board due to meet early next week.

Gravesend & Northfleet v Nuneaton Boro' 07-09-2002

Gravesend: Wilkerson, Skinner, Sturgess (Kwashi 36), Wilkins, Watts, Owen, Strouts, McKimm, Jackson, Booth (Sodje 57), Stadhart. Subs: Coyle, Berkley, James Turner.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Squires, Clarkson (Love 46), Peake (Lenton 15), Lavery, Woodley (John Turner 71), Harris, Quayle, Jones. Subs: Cooper, Hodgson.

Boro made the journey to Stonebridge Road to take on Gravesend and Northfleet in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started well and it wasn't until the 12th minute that Chris Mackenzie touched the ball from a back pass. However, they lost Jason Peake to injury after 15 minutes and it was a blow from which they never recovered. From that point on Gravesend took control and two minutes later Steve McKimm played the ball straight through the heart of the Boro to the deadly Che Stadhart who smashed the ball past the keeper.

Boro equalised almost immediately as Harris crossed to the far post for Gary Jones who intelligently laid the ball into the path of Craig Woodley who scrambled the ball in at the near post. Boro failed to capitalise on the situation and Mackenzie was by far the busier of the two keepers and had to race out to deny Stadhart and then got down quickly to smother Paul Booth's low drive.

Andy Thackeray headed off the line to keep Boro on level terms but the longer the half went on the more dangerous the home team became and they regained the lead five minutes before the break after Ian Clarkson misjudged the flight of the ball and Stadhart scored his sixth goal in three games.

Much of the second period was played in Boro's half as the home side continued to dominate and with 20 minutes to go substitute Akpo Sodje made it 3-1 after he turned Terry Angus before unleashing an unstoppable shot. With eight minutes to go it could have been 4-1 as Sodje let fly with a volley but Mackenzie made a superb save, pushing the shot around the post. The home side extended their lead in the final minute as Sodje broke clear and squared the ball to Stadhart who did the same for Kwashi, whose shot beat Mackenzie.

The goal merely confirmed Gravesend's superiority on the day and left the Boro supporters wondering what they can expect on Saturday at home against Margate after such a Jekyll and Hyde week from defeat against Hereford to victory against Dagenham to defeat once again.

There are plenty of opinions, reasons and counter-arguments as to what to do, but at the moment there has to be only one aim, to achieve consistency.

Nuneaton Borough v Margate

14-09-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Clarkson (Lenton 68), Cooper, Squires, Love, Woodley (Thackeray 86), Turner, Lavery (Harris 58), Peyton, Jones, Quayle. Subs: Hodgson, Howey.

Margate: Mitten, Oates, Shearer, Porter, Sodje, Lamb, Keister (McFlynn 70), Leberl, Saunders, Watts, Braithwaite. Subs: Munday, Perry, Collins, Turner.

Boro welcomed Margate to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Warren Peyton wasted an early free-kick before Leon Braithwaite had claims for a penalty waved away and the same player again tested the Boro defence, almost beating Jamie Squires for pace. Sam Sodje tested Boro, heading just over from Paul Lamb's cross. Lamb was then in action at the other end as he headed away Mark Quayle's cross with Craig Woodley in close attendance. Rich Lavery and Peyton combined to get the ball to Quayle, but the Boro striker hit it wide of the goal.

Sodje managed to scramble the ball away when Woodley, Gary Jones and Quayle put the visitors goal under threat before Boro conceded a goal ten minutes before the break. Lamb was given the space to cross to Stevie Watts who headed the ball past Chris Mackenzie. John Keister went close from distance towards the end of the half and at the other Jones tried a speculative shot, which came to nothing.



Gary Jones scrambles home a late winner. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro had a chance at the start of the second half when Woodley was fouled but Turner's free-kick was tame. Greg Oakes' shot was off target before a teasing run by Woodley caused Margate some problems as Jones and Quayle both went close to levelling the scores. Peyton put a half volley just wide before Margate extended their lead. Mackenzie dropped a Watts' cross and Keister gave it the deftest of touches and although Michael Love did his best to clear, he could only help the ball into his own net.

Jones fired over with 15 minutes left, but Boro looked dead and buried, before Jason Harris was played in by Jamie Lenton and the striker turned and put a shot across the face of the goal. Mark Quayle gave Boro a glimmer of hope when

he picked up the ball after a superb run by Jones down the right and got the slightest of touches to register his fifth goal of the campaign. The home side levelled the scores straight from the restart as Margate lost possession. Quayle crossed from the right and the hard working Woodley put in a looping header which flew just inside the far post to make it 2-2.

The comeback was completed with eight minutes to go as Jones and Quayle tore the Margate defence apart. Quayle's shot came back off the post and Jones was well-placed to force the ball home and seal a magnificent comeback by the home side. Boro had to hang on through five minutes of added time and defended well to complete the victory.

Leigh RMI v Nuneaton Boro' 07-09-2002

Leigh: Coburn, Durkin, Maden, Heald, Salt, FitzHenry (Whitehead 80), Monk, Kielty (Fisher 80), Maamria, Black (Williams 66), Whittaker.
Subs: Courtney, McGill.

Boro: Mackenzie, Cooper, Squires, Howey, Love, Peyton, Lenton, Thackeray, Woodley, Jones (Harris 77), Quayle. **Subs:** Hodgson, Clarkson, Lavery, Turner.

Boro made the journey to Hilton Park to take on Leigh RMI in a Nationwide Conference game.

With just 401 spectators in a stadium that holds over 15,000, it was difficult to get more than a training pitch feel to the atmosphere as the players' voices out-shouted those from the terraces.

The match started slowly and it was 30 minutes before either keeper was called upon. The entertainment level was almost non-existent during the first 45 minutes with Leigh defending well, keeping the Boro forwards under the cosh. Dino Maamria had the best chance of the half three minutes before the break when Whittaker broke quickly, cut inside Adam Cooper and crossed to the Leigh striker who headed the ball straight into Mackenzie's lap.

The second half was an improvement on the first although Peyton's free-kick found its way into the Asda car park after three minutes. Ten minutes later Tony Black put a shot just wide with Mackenzie beaten while at the other end Gary Jones held the ball up well before bringing in Mark Quayle, who got in a weak shot after chesting the ball down. The ex-Telford striker then missed Boro's best chance so far as Woodley did well on the right and put in a good cross. Quayle peeled off his marker but hurried a header just wide when he had time to either control the ball or let it bounce.

With five minutes left Boro took the lead. Cooper launched a long and high ball from ten yards inside his own half and Quayle gave chase, held off a defender and smacked a volley over the head of the keeper from 22 yards. The game was far from over though and Heald went on a jinking run from inside his own half and made his way to the edge of the area where Peyton brought him down. Whittaker placed the ball and cured a shot over the wall and right into the top corner in-off the post. The final whistle was blown 60 seconds later.

Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 21-09-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Cooper, Thackeray, Love, Woodley (Lavery 78), Squires, Peyton (Turner 46), Lenton, Jones, Quayle, Howey. **Subs:** Hodgson, Clarkson, Harris.

Forest Green: Perrin, Coupe (Meechan 63), Jenkins, McLoughlin (Owers 21), Langan, Foster, Grayson, Sykes, Allen (Cook 63), Odejayi, Russell. **Subs:** Futchter, Pritchard.

Boro welcomed Forest Green Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro swept in the lead after just five minutes when Mark Quayle and Gary Jones exchanged passes as Boro broke quickly and Jones teased Steve Jenkins as he made ground towards the penalty area and as the defender stood off, drove the ball low into the net from just outside the box. The visitors, though, were only behind for five minutes as Mackenzie conceded a corner from Kayode Odejayi's drive into the box. Simon Grayson got a flick on at the near post and surprised Adam Cooper who could do nothing as the ball hit him and looped up over Mackenzie's head and into the net.

Quayle put a half-volley just wide as Boro looked to regain the advantage, but Forest Green were in no mood to let the home side play football and the ball was in touch time and time again. Odejayi headed over from a Matthew Coupe free-kick before the visitors took the lead. Odejayi again had the ball on the left and cut inside Cooper and threw himself to the ground as Howey shouldered arms. The referee awarded what seemed a harsh penalty but Grayson slotted the ball home to give Rovers a 2-1 lead.

Four minutes into the second half Boro drew level when Jamie Lenton went on a mazy run down the left and cut inside before delivering a perfect cross for Woodley whose diving header was always goal bound with the keeper just looking on.



Jason Woodley heads the equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

From that point on Boro looked likely winners and sure enough, after 57 minutes Forest Green lost possession in midfield and Boro had a three on two situation as Jones sprinted toward goal and laid the ball at the feet of Quayle

who did likewise for Turner, whose first-time shot fizzed into the corner of the goal. It seemed that Boro may increase their lead, but the visitors had other ideas and began to play some attractive attacking football, but without really threatening the home goal. Boro had a couple of nervy moments, especially when Woodley conceded possession to Gary Owers 30 yards out. The substitute powered in a good shot at Mackenzie who gathered at the second attempt. Boro's biggest scare came with just six minutes left as Odejayi evaded three tackles and squared the ball to Grayson who shot from 14 yards, but his shot hit Andy Thackeray and ricocheted away.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 24-09-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Cooper, Love, Peake (Peyton 77), Lavery, Woodley, Turner (Harris 77), Jones, Quayle, Squires, Lenton. **Subs:** Hodgson, Clarkson, Thackeray.

Northwich: Parry, Walsh (Woodward 34), Ingram, Rioch, Royle, Taylor (Garvey 64), Sedgemore, Street, Devlin (Norris 84), Blundell, Allen. **Subs:** Gibson, Griggs.

Boro welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro dominated the first-half and it came as no surprise when they took the lead after 39 minutes. The only surprise, in fact, was that it took so long. Boro won a free-kick on the edge of the area after Quayle had been brought down and Jamie Squires stepped up to drill a shot through the defensive wall and into the net.



Mark Quayle gets in a superb header.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The second half brought about a remarkable change in the game, but not before Boro had a chance to make it 2-0 as Woodley glanced a header wide from Quayle's cross. Northwich then began to ask questions of Boro with Greg Blundell, Kevin Street and Mark Devlin causing all sorts of problems. A complete mix-up in the Boro back line allowed Blundell a free run at the penalty area and he calmly chipped the ball over the diving Mackenzie as he came out to narrow the angle.

Seven minutes later Street latched on to the end of a neat interchange of passes to fire the visitors into the lead. Boro

were looking vulnerable but had a chance of their own when John Turner put a close range header over the bar. This was the last that was seen of the home side as an attacking force and Northwich broke with pace and three passes later the ball was in the net with Jonny Allen hitting a rising drive into the corner. To rub salt into the wounds Boro conceded a penalty after a free-kick by Andy Woodward was lifted into the penalty area where it bounced up awkwardly and struck Adam Cooper on the forearm. Allen stepped forward and despatched the penalty to make the score 4-1.

Boro Cash Crisis

Nuneaton Borough manager Steve Burr has been asked to cut back his playing budget. The main cause of the financial squeeze is the severe drop in attendances, which leaves the club with a match by match shortfall on their break even figure. With many players on contracts it is likely the axe will fall on non-contract players such as Jamie Lenton, Craig Woodley, Jason Harris and club coach Lee Howey.

Halifax v Nuneaton Boro'

28-09-2002

Halifax: Butler, Grayston, Elliott, Barnett, Stoneman, Mallon (Farrell 53), Clarkson, Bushell, Fitzpatrick, Midgley (Haigh 89), Parke. **Subs:** Morgan, McAuley, Gedman.

Boro: Mackenzie, Squires, Cooper (Clarkson 80), Angus, Thackeray, Lavery, Peake (Harris 75), Love, Lenton, Jones, Quayle. **Subs:** Hodgson, Peyton, Tullin.

Boro made the journey to The Shay to play Halifax Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started well and made the early running and it was only 15 minutes before they took the lead when Quayle was first to react to a poor clearance by Paul Stoneman. The striker lashed home an accurate volley from an acute angle for a high quality finish. Halifax's defending at this stage left a lot to be desired and Jamie Lenton had lots of space. The former Hinckley man got plenty of balls into the box but Lee Butler was in good form.

With 30 minutes gone cracks were beginning to appear in the Boro defence and it was no surprise when the hosts equalised as Stoneman atoned for his earlier error by creeping round the back and latching on to a Stuart Elliott free kick to level the scores. The goal buoyed the home side and they began to look much the better side as Boro limped through to half-time.

Boro lasted until the 14th minute of the second half before conceding another goal when Phil Clarkson burst into the penalty area and hit a shot straight at Simon Parke, but the rebound fell nicely to substitute Andy Farrell, who had been on the pitch just five minutes, and he made no mistake from eight yards. No sooner had the cheering died down than Halifax scored again when Grayston, who was being given too much room, put in a sweet left-footed cross which was met with a thundering header from Ian Fitzpatrick who towered over Terry Angus to score. From then on there was only one winner and Halifax saw the game out to take all three points.



Harris And Howey Released

Nuneaton Borough have released striker Jason Harris and coach/centre-half Lee Howey as Boro cut their wage bill. The former Crystal Palace youngster joined Boro last February, but his appearances have been restricted to substitute appearances, although he has scored goals. Howey has followed in his footsteps after talks with Burr at training.

New Coach Appointed

Nuneaton Borough have appointed former Macclesfield and Halifax manager Peter Wragg as assistant manager. Wragg is a close friend of Burr and has managed in the Football League with Halifax and Macclesfield Town.

Boro Sign Two

Nuneaton Borough have made two new signings. Roy Hunter began his career at West Bromwich Albion before joining Northampton Town, where he has played for six years. The other new signing is Gareth Holmes, who has been released by Derby County.

Nuneaton Borough v Doncaster Rovers	05-10-2002
<p>Boro: Mackenzie, Clarkson (Thackeray 32), Love, Hunter, Angus, Woodley (Holmes 62), Turner, Jones (McGregor 74), Quayle, Squires, Lenton. Subs: Peyton, Hodgson.</p> <p>Doncaster: Warrington, Marples, Ryan, Morley, Barrick, Albrighton, Owen (Price 59), Barnes, Jackson (Gill 84), Watson, Green (Whitman 86). Subs: Nelson, Foster.</p>	

Boro welcomed Doncaster Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro were first to show and a Jamie Squires free-kick was held by Andy Warrington under the bar before Doncaster hit back when Paul Barnes got in a cross that evaded Paul Green. Jamie Lenton was close to getting on the end of Roy Hunter's cross as the game continued end to end. Warrington smothered Craig Woodley's shot as Quayle looked to pick up the pieces before Woodley played in John Turner down the line but he failed to pick out Quayle. Terry Angus and Paul Barnes were having their own private battle but the ex-Boro striker got a shot in on goal that Mackenzie pushed away.

A quick break from Gary Jones saw him bring a save from Warrington and Quayle got to the loose ball only for Simon Marples to block his shot with the keeper beaten. Boro were playing as well as they had for many weeks but Doncaster looked very dangerous and had loud appeals for a penalty turned down when Squires and Jackson clashed in the area. The visitors, however, did get a penalty just before the break when Paul Green weaved his way into the area and was fouled by Michael Love. Paul Barnes crashed the spot kick into the net, giving the visitors a half-time lead.

Boro's second-half performance was in stark contrast to the first as they failed to compete with the classy visitors. The tone was set when Barnes, Jackson and finally Andy Watson brought fine saves from Mackenzie. Doncaster pushed Boro

back with their relentless pressure and won a series of corners. The passing and movement from Boro was gone and with 20 minutes to go Rovers doubled their tally as the home side hit the self destruct button. Warrington launched a huge kick and both Angus and Squires misjudged the flight and Jackson found himself free in the area. The striker brought another save from Mackenzie but the rebound fell kindly for Barnes who tucked it away into the top corner.

Two minutes later, with Boro in disarray, Jackson rolled the ball into the path of Watson who burst into the area and was given an embarrassing amount of time to pick his spot and fire past Mackenzie. One small plus point for Boro was the return of Marc McGregor who came through the final 15 minutes with no reaction.

Boro Appoint Jones

Nuneaton Borough have appointed former Mansfield Town, Peterborough, Plymouth and Brunei manager Mick Jones as assistant manager after the move to bring in ex-Macclesfield Town, Halifax and Stalybridge boss Peter Wragg collapsed

Chester City v Nuneaton Borough	08-10-2002
<p>Chester: Brown, McIntyre, Bolland, Ruffer, Hatswell, Blackburn, Kelly, Carden (Davies 81), Sugden (Brown 81), Cameron, Brady (Twiss 81). Subs: Hodgson, Jones, Cooper.</p> <p>Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Squires, Angus, Love, Woodley (Peyton 60), Turner, Hunter, Lenton, Quayle, McGregor (Lavery 66). Subs: Hodgson, Jones, Cooper.</p>	

Boro made the journey to the Deva Stadium to play Chester City in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro pushed forward from the start and won a free-kick which was lofted into the area by Craig Woodley. As it was cleared it fell to Jamie Squires who turned his man and sent a low cross back towards goal and Terry Angus ran in to give Boro an early advantage. Chester hit back through Paul Carden who had a shot charged down by Angus before Marc McGregor had a shot on the turn saved by Wayne Brown. John Turner headed a Squires cross over the bar, while Angus talked himself into a booking following a foul on Carden.

The visitors had a penalty appeal turned down after Mark Quayle appeared to have been hauled down in the box, while at the other end the Boro defence combined to deny the opposition from Jon Brady's high cross. Terry Angus was then invited to make his way back to the dressing rooms after a late tackle on David Cameron. Ryan Sugden went close as he shot over the bar, while Michael Love saved the day as he robbed Sugden as he was poised to shoot. Phil Bolland had two shots at Mackenzie from two consecutive corners but failed to cash in on both occasions. But it was third time lucky as McIntyre's corner swung in and reached Sugden who notched the equaliser.

Mackenzie saved well from McIntyre's overhead kick from a corner as Chester threw everything at Boro who were hanging on doggedly. Lavery, who came on for McGregor bolstered the



midfield before Love again came to the rescue with a last ditch tackle as Boro continued to fight. Quayle beat Brown to the ball as he raced out of his area but the cheeky lob went over the bar. However, Quayle made amends for that miss following a massive punt upfield from Squires which found Quayle, who controlled the ball well 15 yards out and blasted the ball into the back of the net to send the travelling fans into ecstasy.

Chester threw everything at Boro and with three minutes left Andy Thackeray made a superb clearance off the line and in the final seconds Mackenzie palmed the ball over the bar as Boro held out for what seemed a very long two minutes added time.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough

12-10-2002

Barnet: Naisbitt, Pope, Yakubu, Heald, Pluck, Doolan, Gower, Purser (Midgley 62), Brown (Gledhill 86), Strevens, Agogo (Oshitola 80).
Subs: Harrison, Soloman.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Squires, Angus, Love, Woodley (Lavery 30), Peyton, Hunter, Lenton (Peake 76), Quayle, McGregor (Jones 62),
Subs: Hodgson, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro came under early pressure and Craig Pope tried to beat Chris Mackenzie from 25 yards, but the keeper was on his game and put the ball out for a corner, which was hooked away by Roy Hunter. Wayne Purser also had a shot which was easily saved by Mackenzie before Gower blazed over the bar. Boro had an attack of their own and Marc McGregor headed into the arms of Danny Naisbitt but Barnet were soon back on the offensive and John Doolan skipped past Jamie Lenton to fire in a shot which was again saved by the Boro keeper. Ben Strevens then headed wide before Junior Agogo picked up a pass from Strevens, but Squires cleared the ball.

Boro had a couple of chances as Quayle managed a shot and McGregor forced Naisbitt to push the ball away. Craig Woodley then went on a darting run but was stopped by Greg Heald, and the Boro midfielder earned himself a booking for diving. Mackenzie saved a Pluck header from Gower's cross before the home side took the lead just before half-time when Squires was adjudged to have fouled Agogo in the area and a penalty was awarded which Agogo hit home.

Barnet extended their lead two minutes into the second half when Gower's cross was only cleared to the edge of the box and when Danny Brown knocked it back in, it fell to the feet of Purser who fired past Mackenzie. Boro made a great effort to get back in the game and a long punt from Squires reached Quayle but the move broke down with Lavery on the edge of the area. Gary Jones wanted too much time when played in by Squires before the same player put a chance high and wide when well placed.

Love rescued Boro with a last ditch tackle after Agogo had beaten Angus and rounded Mackenzie before Quayle hit the crossbar from a Peyton ball, but seconds later Boro pulled

a goal back when Peyton put a great cross in to Quayle who headed his ninth goal of the season. Brown had a shot saved by Mackenzie but the final ten minutes of the match was all Boro who kept attacking the home side without reward.

Roger Stanford New Boro Chairman

Nuneaton Borough have appointed Roger Stanford as the new club chairman. The director was appointed at a special meeting, narrowly securing the position from Howard Kerry. In a shake up of the board structure the non-executive members have been re-allocated full membership. As a result the new board will compose of Stanford, Kerry, David Lee, Graham Cooper, Dave Radburn, Gordon Chislett, Paul Cleugh, Tony Sandy, John Phillips, John Moore and John Wilson.

Boro Sign Ricketts

Nuneaton Borough have signed 21-year-old midfielder Sam Ricketts from Third Division Oxford United. He is a product of Oxford's youth side and is in the squad to face Telford United.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United

19-10-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Williams (Lavery 70), Angus (Cooper 28), Ricketts, Peyton, McGregor (G. Jones 61), Quayle, Squires, Lenton. **Subs:** Hodgson, Olanipekun.

Telford: Edwards, Foran (Davies 13), G. Brown, Bloomer, Hanmer, Fitzpatrick, Barlow (Smith 70), King, Palmer (Jobling 70), Kerrigan, D. Brown. **Subs:** Moore, C. Jones.

Boro welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started well and could have taken the lead in the opening seconds when Quayle's persistence enabled him to cross low and hard for Peyton, but Paul Edwards pulled off a fine double save. After ten minutes Peyton, Williams and Thackeray produced another good chance but Matt Bloomer cleared to prevent a goal. A long clearance from Jamie Squires enabled Quayle to race through and draw the keeper, but his shot hit the crossbar and rebounded into Edwards' hands.

Boro had bossed the first 15 minutes and looked well set to win the match, but they suddenly faded and the game became somewhat of a midfield tussle. Ten minutes before the interval, Boro almost paid for missed chances as Steve Kerrigan was sent racing clear after Thackeray played him inside. It was left to Chris Mackenzie to come racing out to clear the danger.

The home side started the second half in determined mood and Peyton drove a fierce volley straight at Edwards. Ricketts then lifted the ball into the box from the inside right channel, Marc McGregor flicked it on and in the blink of an eye Quayle turned the ball into the bottom corner with a brilliant volley. It was the least Boro deserved, but as in the first-half, instead of pressing home their advantage they allowed the game to go flat as chances at either end became rare. Gary Jones replaced McGregor on the hour and put a curling shot almost caught Edwards by surprise and the striker then linked well



Farnborough Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-11-2002

Farnborough: Pennock, Gregory, Bunce, Lee, C. Piper, Carroll (Patterson 90), Butterworth (L. Piper 65), Holloway, Baptiste, Annon, Rodwell (Green 74). Subs: O'Shea, Osborn.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Squires, Angus, Love, Ricketts, Lavery, B. Williams, McGregor, Quayle (D. Williams 90), Ducros (Lenton 90). Subs: Clarkson, Hodgson, Olanipekun.

with Peyton to set up a half chance for Quayle, but it did not trouble Edwards. There was still a fear that Telford might steal a goal but Mackenzie maintained his concentration and Squires and Cooper were giving nothing away.

Boro thought they had extended their lead with 20 minutes to go as Edwards failed to catch a cross which left Quayle to head down, but Grant Brown cleared the ball from under the bar. Telford then had their best spell of the game as Kerrigan, Brown and Jordan King were all posing a threat, but Boro kept them out. Love then knocked a ball upfield looking for Quayle, who took the ball in his stride and whipped the ball across the goal and narrowly wide of the far post. Boro had a scare when Richard Lavery gifted possession to Gareth Hanmer on the edge of his own penalty area, but much to the relief of all concerned, he shot high and wide.

Boro Looking For A Saviour

Nuneaton Borough FC are urgently seeking a financial saviour to rescue them from possible extinction. The Nationwide Conference club has seen gates slip year on year since their return to the top flight of non-league football in 1999. Their average gate is 1,700.

And their 4-3 defeat at Barrow in the FA Cup has lost the club a £20,000 prize for progressing to the next round.

A planning application for the club's state-of-the-art stadium alongside Nuneaton RFC at Liberty Way, will be submitted within two weeks to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

The club directors are aware that its success and the search for someone who can plough money into the club, is crucial to the club's survival. Chairman Roger Stanford said: "We don't mind whether it is someone who puts in money or who wants to be chairman as well. We'll take either, because you only have to look at the likes of Leicester City, Derby County and Coventry City to know that this is happening all through football.

"Teams in our league, like Stevenage, Yeovil, Doncaster Rovers and Chester City have chairmen who can put in £100,000 a year, and that's the kind of level you need to survive in the Conference."

Ducros Back At Boro

Former Coventry City midfielder Andy Ducros has returned to Nuneaton Borough on a month's loan. Ducros, who left Manor Park for Kidderminster two seasons ago in a £60,000 move, has been unable to hold down a first team spot with the Division Three side and has been signed on a short-term basis to cover for injuries to John Turner and Andy Peake.

Going in the opposite direction is midfielder Craig Woodley who has been loaned out to Moor Green, where it is hoped he will be able to regain his fitness after a period of injury. Also on his way out is striker Gary Jones, who is a non-contract player and has been released in a money-saving exercise.

Boro made the journey to Cherrywood Road to play Farnborough Town in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro were strong in the first-half and almost went ahead from their first attack. Ducros and Mark Quayle played a neat one-two, but Quayle shot straight at the keeper. Mackenzie punched a dangerous cross from Danny Carroll before Ducros swung in a cross for Barry Williams to net, but the goal was disallowed, but shortly after that Boro took the lead. Marc McGregor was fouled six yards outside the box and Ducros' precise free-kick reached the head of McGregor who scored.

Terry Angus stopped a run by Christian Lee before Carroll volleyed goalward, but the ball struck Angus and flew over the bar. Ducros then picked out McGregor who played the ball in for Quayle, who was just short of cashing in. Just before the break Ducros put a shot just wide.

Farnborough came out for the second half in determined mood but the Boro defence, well marshalled by Jamie Squires, coped well. Sam Ricketts went on a great run as Farnborough pushed forward, but put his shot wide. Ducros went on a run but was fouled and from the free-kick Squires hit a pile-driver which hit Quayle. McGregor's low cross was scooped away by Darren Annon with Quayle sliding in but just after that Rich Lavery won the ball in the middle of the park and he found McGregor who raced away down the left and put in a low cross for Quayle who made no mistake to slide in and net his 12th goal of the season.

Mackenzie spilled a Chris Piper cross-cum-shot but quickly regained possession while in the final minute of the game Baptiste was inches wide from distance and Dean Green was off target from inside the box.

Boro Share Issue?

Nuneaton Borough fans are being asked to help in the club's fight for survival. The Nationwide Conference club – already in financial trouble – received another blow when the side crashed out of the FA Cup leaving directors battling against the tide. Attendances are down on what was predicted and the directors have been forced to make contingency plans. These include budget cuts both on and off the field – but they have refused to rely solely on cost-cutting as a means of survival. Instead they are looking at ways of generating cash – and that means giving supporters the chance to buy shares in the club.

In the meantime, cuts in budget will be made across the club, which is thought to be losing £2,000 a week...

Boro Budget Cut Again

Nuneaton Borough have cut their budget for the third time this season after a meeting between chairman Roger Stanford and manager Steve Burr. The pair held discussions due to the tight financial situation at the club but as yet it is not known how the cuts will be made.

England Call For Peyton

Nuneaton Borough's out of favour midfielder Warren Peyton has been called up to England's non-league squad for the international against Italy. Peyton, who was handed a place in the squad last year after some impressive displays has been in and out of the first team this season.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 09-11-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, B. Williams, Angus, Ricketts, Ducros, McGregor, Quayle, Squires, Lavery. **Subs:** Hodgson, Clarkson, D. Williams, Lenton, Olanipekun.

Scarborough: Walker, Hotte, Stoker, Campbell (Pounder 64), Omerod, Brassart (Blunt 46), Henry, Scott, Raw, Dryden, Holdsworth. **Subs:** Downey, Fatokun, Sillan.

Boro welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started strongly and Barry Williams thumped in a powerful 25-yard drive against the post after just 60 seconds. The visitors were still on the back foot when Andy Ducros turned and laid a perfect pass into Marc McGregor who burst into the box and calmly slotted the ball past Leigh Walker. McGregor found himself free in the area again just two minutes later, but Richard Dryden made a last ditch tackle to stop the striker from adding to his tally.

However, Scarborough showed they were no pushovers and were level on nine minutes. Oliver Brassart lifted a 35-yard free-kick into the penalty area and as Boro appealed for offside, Neil Campbell headed the ball down into the path of Scott who bundled the ball over the line. Ducros was having a good game and worked hard to find a killer pass for Quayle or McGregor but Scarborough kept a tight rein on the two strikers. The visitors enjoyed a fair amount of possession but the game lacked excitement and creativity after the initial excitement had died down.

However, Boro threatened to cave in on the 30 minute mark as Scarborough created two chances in the space of 90 seconds. First Terry Angus did well to keep Tom Raw at bay and then Michael Love produced a superb last ditch tackle to deny the same player. Williams tried a shot from distance that lacked power before Boro had another nervy moment when the ball struck Andy Thackeray and loud appeals for a penalty were made.

The second half opened with some poor midfield play from both sides before Boro had a penalty appeal turned down when David Holdsworth appeared to handle, but the referee was having none of it. The lineswoman was kept busy when

Boro attacked as they were repeatedly caught offside and became more and more frustrated.



Another Boro cross goes begging.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

With 15 minutes to go Ducros carved out the chance Boro had been waiting for as his free-kick found the head of Richard Lavery, but the midfielder put his free header agonisingly over the crossbar from four yards out.

Rushall Olympic v Nuneaton Borough 12-11-2002

Rushall: Price, Homer, Read, Brown, Skelding, Evans, Campbell, Long, Gennard, Booth, Jackson (Ashton 60). **Subs:** McCartan, Vassell, Brookes, Beddows.

Boro: Mackenzie (Hodgson 46), Thackeray (D. Williams 63), Love, Angus, Squires (Cooper 46), Clarkson, Lenton, Ricketts, Ducros, McGregor, Quayle. **Subs:** Olanipekun, Turner.

Boro made the journey to Dales Lane to face Rushall Olympic in the Birmingham Senior Cup second round.

The game started at a high tempo and Boro went ahead after just 11 minutes. Chris Mackenzie sent a long kick soaring into the night sky which McGregor deftly flicked into the path of the busy Andy Ducros, who drew the keeper before playing a one-two with Andy Thackeray and then finding Mark Quayle who headed past the despairing dive of Ryan Price. The goal spurred the home side into action and they got their reward on 20 minutes.

Mackenzie, Angus and Love all left the ball for each other and eventually the Boro goalkeeper rushed out and headed clear, but the ball fell straight to Lee Booth and he took a touch before lifting it over the scattered remains of the Boro defence. The home side could have taken the lead a few minutes later as Mackenzie was called into action after Jackson had beaten two players and put in a firm shot. However, that was the last that was seen of Rushall and Boro took control of the game.

Firstly, on the 30 minute mark, Thackeray picked up Quayle's perfectly weighted chance and chipped the ball over the advancing keeper to restore Boro's lead and then six minutes later Ducros fed Quayle in the inside right channel and



his superb cross was met at the far post by the unmarked McGregor who crashed the ball home with his right foot. The final stages of the half saw the game threaten to get nasty as Scott Gennard in particular was guilty of an industrial challenge or two, which eventually saw him booked.

The second half lacked the movement of the first as Boro snuffed the game out with some excellent passing and movement. Youngster Danny Williams replaced Thackeray and made an immediate impression, supplying a tremendous cross to the far post where Quayle made no mistake with a fine volley to round off an excellent move.

Williams then freed McGregor and the striker skipped past one challenge before forcing a great save from Price whose efforts throughout the evening were commendable. Boro rounded off the scoring with a fifth goal when Quayle was the first to react to a loose ball in the area to complete his hat-trick.

Williams Crooked Again

Barry Williams is injured once more after suffering a broken toe in the game against Scarborough. The midfielder missed the Birmingham Senior Cup tie against Rushall, but it is hoped he will be fit to face Doncaster in 11 days time.

Dunkley Loan Terminated

Nuneaton Borough striker Roy Dunkley has been sent back from a loan spell at Rugby Town after not turning up for training or matches. Manager Steve Burr is keen to discuss the player's position with the club, but he has yet to report back to Manor Park. Atherstone boss Kenny Willis is waiting in the wings should the player become available.

Doncaster Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 23-11-2002

Doncaster: Warrington, Marples, Ryan, Barrick, Albrighton, Barnes, Jackson, Paterson, Watson (Muirhead 75), Foster, Hudson (Green 72).
Subs: Nelson, Gill, Price.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Squires (Clarkson 31), Angus, Love, Ricketts, McGregor (D. Williams 84), Lenton, Ducros, B. Williams.
Subs: Hodgson, Peyton, Peake.

Boro made the journey to Belle Vue to play Doncaster Rovers in a Nationwide Conference game.

Doncaster attacked from the first whistle and Chris Mackenzie and his defence were working overtime. Terry Angus had a job on his hands with Paul Barnes causing plenty of problems and Jamie Squires was similarly encumbered with Justin Jackson to look after. However both performed tremendously well and Squires made one tremendous tackle as Barnes looked to hurt the visitors. The tackle was perfect, but resulted in a recurrence of Squires' hernia problem and he was replaced by Clarkson.

However, the tide began to turn a little and Ducros and Quayle began to ask some questions of the home side. With half-time approaching Sam Ricketts weaved his way into the

area but he wanted too much time and lost the chance to pick out a player even though four were waiting.

The second half started much as the first with the home side going for the throat but again Boro snuffed out the fire and after 55 minutes they took the lead as they quickly moved the ball out of defence and got it forward to Barry Williams who held up play to allow Ducros to make up ground. The pass into his path was perfect and after an initial touch he pulled it back for Quayle who did very well to drag it from behind him and tuck it in the bottom corner from 12 yards.

The goal stunned Doncaster and it took them ten minutes or so to compose themselves, by which time Ducros had Warrington at full stretch again as he managed to cling on to a low cross-shot. Danny Hudson weaved his way across the pitch on a 60 yard run before sliding a pass to Jackson, but the flag went up for offside. There was a scare for the home side when Quayle combined with McGregor who forced Warrington to concede a corner.

Boro were good value for their lead and looked capable of hanging on to it, that is until the 65th minute when Clarkson brought down Jackson and a penalty was awarded. Barnes stepped up to thrash home the spot kick. The goal inspired Doncaster who threw caution to the wind, but Boro were ready to hit them on the counter. With McGregor struggling for fitness Burr introduced Danny Williams, who rolled a ball into the path of Mark Quayle, who was subsequently brought down by Steve Foster and Boro had the chance to take the match with just five minutes remaining. The Boro striker picked himself up to take the penalty, but his kick was saved by Andy Warrington who flung himself to the left and palmed the ball away.

Squires Faces Operation

Ever-present Jamie Squires faces a hernia operation which forced Steve Burr to plead to his cash-strapped Nuneaton Borough board for a replacement. Unfortunately with the financial constraints that are in place there is no money for a replacement.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-11-2002

Kettering: Kelly, Matthews, Howarth, Piercewright, Diuk (Chong 89), Inman, Murphy (McKenzie 71), Parker (Shutt 81), Goodwin, Norman.
Subs: Bowling, Dancy.

Boro: Mackenzie, Clarkson (Cooper 56), Love, Ducros, Ricketts, Thackeray, Lenton (D. Williams 66), McGregor, Peyton (Turner 54), Quayle, B. Williams. **Subs:** Hodgson, Peake.

Boro made the journey to Rockingham Road to play a Nationwide Conference game against Kettering Town.

After making a decent start to the game Boro fell behind when Brad Piercewright rushed into the area and thumped in a low cross. Jamie Lenton stuck out a foot and deflected the ball onto the post from where it rebounded to Simon Parker whose shot ricocheted off Thackeray and back to Parker who rounded Mackenzie before slotting the ball into an empty net. From that moment on Kettering held the advantage and were



more efficient in almost every area of the field as Boro failed to deliver. Clarkson and Love struggled to get to grips with the Kettering attack.

Although Kettering bossed the game in the main, Boro did have some forays into the Kettering half and Sam Ricketts had the hosts at sixes and sevens, but there was no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch, which proved to be expensive as moments later Kettering extended their lead. Parker turned goal-maker as his pass inside Clarkson fed Scott Goodwin who found himself one-on-one with Mackenzie and the Poppies favourite made no mistake as he finished in the bottom corner with a crashing 18 yard drive.

Boro did not lose hope and continued to plug away with Quayle in particular showing promise. With half-an-hour gone it was the lively forward who almost handed Boro a lifeline as he raced clear and met the ball simultaneously with goalkeeper Gavin Kelly, but much to his annoyance the penalty shouts from the visiting fans fell on deaf ears. Andy Ducros then dragged a shot across the face of goal as Boro tried their best to up the tempo, but nothing was falling their way and when half-time came it gave the home side time to re-group and take the game to the opposition.

An early goal in the second half for Boro would have put a different complexion on the game, but unfortunately for them it came at the other end and the game was over as a contest. From a Niall Inman corner on the right Craig Norman headed against the bar, but Gez Murphy was the first to react as the ball came down in the penalty area and it was 3-0. With the match effectively lost, the only vain hope was that the weather would take its toll, but although the rain was incessant, the match was played to its conclusion.

Boro Stalwart Dies

The death has been announced at the age of 82 of Nuneaton Borough legend Stan Marshall. Mr Marshall died in George Eliot Hospital after a lengthy illness. Stan served Nuneaton Borough for many years, as a player, coach and assistant manager and was a familiar face for many decades at the ground along with his late wife Hazel.

Quayle Transfer Request

Nuneaton Borough's leading scorer Mark Quayle has rocked the club by putting in a transfer request after another week of turmoil at Manor Park. Quayle's decision comes in the wake of Ian Clarkson, Roy Dunkley and Warren Peyton being released by the club as part of further financial cutbacks.

Boro boss Steve Burr is determined to keep hold of Quayle after seeing his squad reduced to threadbare proportions after being told to get rid of the three players to ease the club's financial burden. Burr said: "There was a board meeting on Monday and I was told that we still needed to cut back so they have gone. We have lost experienced players and promising players which has prompted Mark Quayle to request a transfer."

Walling Signs To Boost Boro

Nuneaton Borough have struck a deal to bring in Dean Walling to help stabilise the defence. The 33-year-old has been playing for Gainsborough Trinity following his release from Cambridge United. Walling is a former St Kitts & Nevis international and has played for a number of clubs including Leeds United, Rochdale, Guiseley, Carlisle, Lincoln City, Doncaster Rovers, Northwich Victoria, Cambridge United and Gainsborough Trinity.

Fans May Buy Boro Shares

Nuneaton Borough are looking to make a supporters' share issue become a reality in a bid to bring some more money into the club and help it compete on a better level in the Nationwide Conference. The idea has been brushed aside in recent seasons, but the new look board of directors are prepared to sit up and take notice of the role the fans want to play in their club.

Boro are keen to know what level of involvement the supporters are prepared to go to in order to take a stake in the set up and fans will have their say in a survey. The possible option of investment into the club fall into three levels: voting share, non-voting share and individual backer...

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

07-12-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, Walling, Cooper, B. Williams, Ricketts, Turner (D. Williams 59), Lavery, Ducros, McGregor.
Subs: Hodgson, Peake, Lenton, Maye.

Barnet: Naisbitt, Yakubu, Flynn, Heald, Pluck, Doolan, Strevens, Toms (Bell 70), Gower, Purser, Agogo. **Subs:** Harrison, Midgley, Oshitola, Nixon.

Boro welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started brightly and could have taken the lead in the fifth minute when Barry Williams' cross was just missed by Sam Ricketts. Barnet hit back and Junior Agogo left Dean Walling for dead but put his shot wide before Sam Ricketts tested Naisbitt from 30 yards, but the keeper touched the ball over the bar. From the corner Andy Ducros put the ball over and Barry Williams rose unchallenged at the near post and got the slightest of touches to score with 15 minutes on the clock. The home side then had a penalty appeal turned down after John Doolan appeared to handle in the area.

John Turner fired a shot over the bar as did Fraser Toms at the other end and Mark Gower tried his luck from 20 yards, but his shot struck the referee. Barnet equalised after 27 minutes following a mazy run from Agogo. His twisting run took him down the right and his cross was met by the unmarked Toms, who netted from six yards. The visitors pressed Boro back for the remainder of the half and the home side were glad to hear the half-time whistle.

Boro competed well at the start of the second half and Richard Lavery broke up play in midfield while Ducros and Barry Williams did their best to feed McGregor and Turner.

Thackeray had a header saved after Ducros' free-kick before Barnet had a superb chance in the 58th minute. Gower swung in a left wing corner which Mackenzie misjudged and it fell to Agogo who lifted the ball over the bar from a yard out. The visitors were made to pay for that miss as Boro regained the lead after 63 minutes when the tiring Turner was replaced by Danny Williams.

Boro won a corner on the left and Lavery won a challenge and the ball broke to Danny Williams, who cracked a low drive towards the bottom corner and Naisbitt failed to hold on to the ball and Walling was first to react to put Borough into the lead. Williams then won the ball straight from the kick-off and after an interchange with Ducros, the home team had won another corner within seconds of the kick-off. A flash of brilliance from Williams then brought about Boro's third goal as he sped through and lobbed the keeper. Naisbitt back-pedalled and palmed the ball onto the crossbar, but his momentum took him into the goal and the ball fell invitingly for McGregor who was on hand to nod into the net.

Barnet were allowed back into the match five minutes from time when Ricketts brought down Agogo in the area and a penalty was awarded. Agogo picked himself up and crashed in the spot-kick. It almost ended in tears for Boro as the same player put in a terrific shot from 25 yards which was just wide.

Stan's Last Journey



Nuneaton Borough stalwart Stan Marshall's final journey took in the place he loved as much as anywhere during his lifetime. The cortege passed through Manor Park, a fitting place, with all the connections Stan had had with the soccer ground during his long sporting career. He was a player, official and voluntary worker for the club which had a very special place in his heart and officials and supporters alike turned out to bid their friend farewell.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro To Submit Plans

Detailed plans for Nuneaton Borough Football club's new 6,000 capacity stadium are to go before borough council officials. Directors of the Nationwide Conference club are hoping it's third time lucky in their so far ill-fated attempts to quit Manor Park for a new home. Having previously tried to build an arena at Greenmoor Road, then at Eliot Park alongside George Eliot

Hospital, the club eventually managed to secure a 12-acre site from Nuneaton Rugby Club, in Liberty Way.

But major infrastructure work – including the massive job of re-routeing the River Anker – will have to be completed if the Boro are to reach their target of moving in by August 2004. Roger Stanford, Boro chairman, said: "If we were doing this a few years ago we would be ahead of the pack but now we are doing it to keep up." Mr Stanford then warned: "If this falls through, there is no plan B. That is it."

New Commercial Manager

Nuneaton Borough reserve team manager Graham Wilson has been installed as the new Commercial Manager at the club as part of the club's ambitious drive forward. With the subject of finances never far from the headlines at Manor Park, Wilson is determined to lift spirits and take the club into the 21st Century with a renewed appetite for success both on and off the field.

The commercial side of football is nothing new to him as he has been involved in fund raising for other clubs in the area for many years and the child protection side of things has seen the former Newdegate Printers man complete several courses on the delicate subject. "I have taken up the new position at the club and I am really looking forward to getting my teeth into it," he said.

Ducros And Ricketts Recalled

Kidderminster Harriers and Oxford United have recalled Nuneaton Borough's on-loan pair Andy Ducros and Sam Ricketts at short notice.

Nuneaton Boro' v Gravesend & Northfleet 14-12-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, B. Williams, Angus, Cooper, John Turner, Peake (D. Williams 62), Lavery, McGregor, Quayle.
Subs: Hodgson, Olanipekun, Lenton, Maye.

Gravesend: Wilkerson, Coyle, Wilkins, Giles, Skinner, Jackson, Strouts, Bentley, Lye, Abbott (Kwashi 65), Stadhart. **Subs:** Gedling, Jamie Turner, Grace, Carter.

Boro welcomed Gravesend and Northfleet to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The game started at a frantic pace and Boro went close when Richard Lavery's shot was deflected over the top with Paul Wilkerson beaten. Terry Angus made a crucial clearance after the ball had hit the referee before Mark Bentley put a shot wide of the post. Barry Williams was booked for a foul on Che Stadhart and Michael Love cleared from the resultant free-kick. John Turner forced a superb save from Wilkerson after he had been put in by Williams with the keeper turning the ball over the bar.

Peake's passing was causing Gravesend problems as he found the lively Mark Quayle and Mark McGregor. Gary Abbott shot straight at Mackenzie but the visitors could have fallen behind shortly after when Quayle was played clear but Wilkerson was out smartly to smother the ball. Michael Love then tried

his luck from 25 yards but his shot fizzed past the post before McGregor had the ball in the net following a knock-down from a corner by Adam Cooper, but unfortunately a linesman's flag cut short the celebrations.



John Turner fires in Boro's best effort. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Mackenzie clawed Bentley's shot from under the crossbar three minutes after the break but it was Boro who were enjoying the lion's share of the play. Gravesend, however, were not in the mood for rolling over and fought hard to maintain their interest in the game. Danny Williams, who made all the difference against Barnet came on with 28 minutes to go, but Gravesend were defending in depth and there was little scope for opening the visitors' defence.

Then came the killer blow. Just three minutes after the substitution, Boro fell behind to one of the best goals seen at Manor Park this season. Lye gained possession 25 yards out after Bentley's initial shot had been charged down and he thumped it on the volley. The ball dipped viciously over Mackenzie's outstretched hand and into the top corner.

With 25 minutes left Boro set about getting an equaliser and Cooper sent a long clearance upfield for Quayle and Danny Williams to chase but the move was cut short by an offside flag. Quayle had a good chance moments later as he got his head to Love's ball into the box, but he put the ball wide. Boro kept plugging away but Gravesend defended doggedly and as time drifted away the visitors played keep-ball in the corners and they were delighted to hear the final whistle.

Margate v Nuneaton Borough 21-12-2002

Margate: Mitten, Oates, Clarke, Edwards, Shearer, Beard, Keister (Sigere 61), Sodje, McFlynn, Collins, Saunders. Subs: Lamb, Smith, Munday, Turner.

Boro: Mackenzie, Cooper, Love, Angus, Thackeray, Lavery, B. Williams, Turner (Lenton 74), Quayle, Ducros. Subs: Hodgson, Olanipekun.

Boro made the journey to The Crabble, Dover, to play Margate in a Nationwide Conference game.

Margate put Boro under pressure from the start and Phil Collins burst past the visitors' defence and put a cross in, but there was no-one on the end of it. Jay Saunders put a shot

over the bar from 30 yards before Greg Oates made a darting run and a cross towards Collins. Mackenzie and Collins collided and the Boro keeper required treatment. After seeing little of the ball, Boro then changed the face of the game with a breathtaking piece of skill from Ducros. The midfielder exchanged passes with Mark Quayle before gliding past the Margate midfield and rifling a 30 yarder past the helpless Charlie Mitten to give Boro the lead.

Boro's lead, though, was short-lived and eight minutes later Margate equalised when Adrian Clarke's ball was only half cleared and it came back to him and his second attempt found Simon Beard who headed past Mackenzie. Boro went close when Ducros found Quayle who fired against the stanchion, but their defence looked shaky and Clarke just failed in picking out Collins and Mackenzie continued his impressive display by shutting out Saunders. Beard tried a 30 yarder before the break but the Boro keeper was again on his toes to tip it round the post.

The second half opened with Marc McGregor testing Mitten with a volley that the keeper held at the second attempt before Terry McFlynn shot wide from distance. Mackenzie made another fine save on 60 minutes before Lee Shearer put a 25-yard free-kick over the bar after a foul by Angus. Margate continued to press Boro back and Jean-Michel Sigere headed a free-kick wide before Clarke shot wide from long range.

Mackenzie made another brilliant stop to deny Collins and Quayle had a shot from 20 yards that was collected by Mitten before Mackenzie was again called into action when Collins and Sigere combined and the keeper saved well with the help of the crossbar. Michael Love eventually cleared the ball after a manic goalmouth scramble. Margate hit the crossbar again through Beard and as the game drew to a close Saunders forced another memorable save from Mackenzie.

Ricketts Back With Boro

Nuneaton Borough manager Steve Burr has negotiated the recall of Sam Ricketts from Oxford United and the player will be available to face Burton Albion.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 26-12-2002

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, B. Williams, Angus, Ricketts, Ducros, McGregor (Lenton 58), Quayle (Turner 87), Cooper, Lavery (D. Williams 58). Subs: Hodgson, Olanipekun.

Burton: Duke, Henshaw, Glasser, Stride, Anderson, Webster, Kirkwood, Dudley (Moore 83), O'Halloran (Sinton 76), Burns (Clough 46), Reddington. Subs: Wassel, Robinson.

Boro welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Burton came under pressure in the first 15 minutes, but they came out of their shell as the game went on and with neither keeper having been tested Ricketts was ordered from the field after his mistimed tackle on Burns. Four minutes later Adam Cooper was fortunate not to join Ricketts in the dressing room after he brought Dale Anderson down in the

area. Aaron Webster hit the penalty kick well but Mackenzie dived to his right and made a great save. Despite the penalty Boro were having the better of the play at this stage, although they failed to capitalise on their possession and eventually Burton took advantage.

After 39 minutes O'Halloran teased Andy Thackeray and Cooper before laying the ball back into the path of Webster who whipped in an early cross towards Stride. The dangerous forward showed great skill to lean back and despatch a superb volley into the bottom right corner. The first-half ended with both teams having provided some of the most entertaining football seen at Manor Park all season.



Michael Love takes a tumble after rounding the Burton keeper.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nigel Clough came on for the second half and had an immediate impact on the game. The former Nottingham Forest and Liverpool star lifted the ball into the path of O'Halloran as he darted across the edge of the area and put in an effort that although mishit, squirmed under Mackenzie's body and into the corner of the net. Boro, two goals down and a man short did not give up and battled hard to get back into the game, and when they scored after 72 minutes, there was everything to play for. Top scorer Mark Quayle burst into the area and as Matt Duke came flying out of his goal, the pair came together, but Quayle was on his feet quickly to plant the ball into the bottom corner before a defender could get back.

Boro continued to push forward in search of an equaliser and left just Barry Williams and Terry Angus to virtually fend for themselves at the back after introducing Danny Williams. With nothing to lose Boro bombarded the Burton area, but were unable to find a way through. With Boro pressing so hard it was inevitable that Burton would have their chances but Angus, Williams and Mackenzie produced some excellent challenges to keep the opposition at bay. Despite a valiant effort from the home side the final whistle saw Burton triumph.

Fans To Pay For Alford?

Nuneaton Borough manager Steve Burr has revealed that supporters may help to fund a deal to bring striker Carl Alford to Manor Park until the end of the season. The 30-year-old is willing to move and a deal has been agreed in principle with his current club, Yeovil Town.

Woking v Nuneaton Borough

28-12-2002

Woking: Jalal (Farrelly 43), Simpemba, Austin, Boardman, Smith, Sharpling, Kember (Abbey 65), Hamilton (Banger 55), Nade, Patmore, Coates. Subs: Piper, Smith.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Turner 83), Cooper, B. Williams, Love, Ricketts, Lavery, Lenton, Ducros, D. Williams (Hodgson 49), Quayle. Subs: McGregor, Tullin, Olanipekun.

Boro made the journey to the Kingfield Stadium to play Woking in a Nationwide Conference game.

Woking made a lively start and Jon Coates found Raphael Nade in the box, who picked out Warren Patmore but Mackenzie cut out the danger. Andy Ducros got a tame shot in before Woking again pressed with Neil Smith firing over the bar. Patmore tried an overhead kick that dropped to the feet of Sharpling, but again Mackenzie cut out the danger. The dangerous Sharpling continued to pile on the pressure and whipped in a superb cross that fell to Nade, but Mackenzie tipped his shot round the post.

Boro launched a rare attack and took the lead with a superb move. Ducros forced a corner which Love fired in and it was cleared into the path of Lavery who sent a superb ball back to Love and his cross found Quayle who connected superbly and sent the ball crashing into the back of the net. Patmore went close for the Cards as Glenn Cockerill's side tried to get back into the game and Sharpling also went close as the half ticked away. The final action of the first half saw Barry Williams head wide from a corner and the Woking keeper laid out following a challenge and he was carried off on a stretcher.

The early action in the second half saw Nade race into the box as Mackenzie raced out of his area. Nade lifted the ball over the keeper and wide of the target, but Mackenzie bowled him over as the two collided. The referee decided it was a red card offence and Mackenzie was sent off. Boro had a chance to extend their lead immediately after the sending off as Ricketts sent Quayle through with the goal at his mercy, but he put his shot wide. Nade had a chance from Ben Abbey's cross and then Nade returned the favour, but Abbey was thwarted by a great save from Hodgson.

Farrelly made a great save from Quayle's header and Patmore went close for the home side but Boro suffered a further setback when Andy Thackeray was stretchered off with a dislocated shoulder. Within five minutes Woking equalised when Nade got a shot in and as it rolled towards goal Adam Cooper tried to clear, but only succeeded in putting the ball into his own net. And then, as Boro heads went down Woking snatched the winner through Warren Patmore. A cross from Coates ripped through the Boro defence and the striker was there to head past Hodgson.

Due to injuries and stoppages a total of nine minutes of time was added on, but it still wasn't enough for Boro to get something from the game and once again, some debatable refereeing decisions had played their part in the outcome.



Alford Arrives At Manor Park

Prolific goalscorer Carl Alford has joined Nuneaton Borough until the end of the season. The 30-year-old, whose wages are being paid by the Official Supporters' Club, will make his debut against Burton Albion.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-2003

Burton: Duke, Henshaw, Glasser, Anderson, Moore, Webster, Kirkwood, Dudley (Sinton 18 (Farrell 62)), O'Halloran, Burns (Clough 46), Reddington. Subs: Hoyle, Robinson.

Boro: Mackenzie, Love, Cooper, B. Williams, Angus, Turner, Lavery, Ducros (D. Williams 34), Ricketts, Alford, Quayle. Subs: Hodgson, Tullin, McGregor, Lenton.

Boro made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Nationwide Conference game.

Burton had the first chance of the game and Adam Cooper almost put the ball past Chris Mackenzie. A minute later Boro threatened for the first-time as a long accurate pass from Richard Lavery sent Quayle racing towards the area with Ducros in support, but the striker decided to go it alone and put in a shot that was comfortably saved by Duke. Neil Glasser was booked for bringing down Ricketts.

Burton took the lead after 24 minutes when substitute and former QPR winger Andy Sinton swung in a left wing free-kick and Stuart Reddington turned the ball in at the far post for his second goal of the season. Boro were forced to replace Ducros with Danny Williams in the 34th minute, but continued to work hard with Michael Love getting forward on the left at every opportunity and it was he who looked the most likely to score for Boro as he sent a rasping drive just wide of the left hand post and was then denied by a combination of a good save from Duke and an excellent last ditch tackle from Glen Kirkwood after Ricketts had fed a fine ball inside the full back for Love to latch onto.

Boro started the second half well and over the course of the 45 minutes they had the lion's share of possession. Danny Williams was busy and Alford and Quayle showed regular flashes of speed of thought to get each other or Danny Williams into promising positions. From one such exchange Williams broke clear and managed to get a shot away but Duke pushed away his shot. As the game went on Burton looked happy to protect their lead and they fell further and further back.

Burton continued to keep Boro at arm's length and defended comfortably, although they were almost caught out in injury time as Quayle found space in the box but saw his shot blocked by Duke and Alford put the rebound wide. Then with almost the last kick of the game Quayle was guilty of another miss as the ball landed at his feet, following a scramble but the striker, who has already notched 14 goals this season, produced an embarrassing air shot. It was another disappointing result for Burr's side who now go into a tough run of fixtures on the edge of the relegation zone.

Browne On Board

Nuneaton Borough have signed 27-year-old centre-half Paul Browne from Raith Rovers. He has signed a deal until the end of the season and has a strong reputation behind him in a career that started with Aston Villa.

Ground Plans Submitted

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has submitted its planning application for a new ground to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. The application for the new ground in Liberty Way, neighbouring Nuneaton Rugby Club, is to appear on the latest planning list.

Quayle Joins Chester City

Nuneaton Borough's top marksman Mark Quayle is to join Chester City. The 24-year-old who joined Boro on a free will move on for a five figure fee and Boro are set to receive two players. In a further blow to Boro manager Steve Burr, Terry Angus has handed in a written transfer request.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 14-01-2003

Boro: Wheeler, Tullin, Love, B. Williams, Angus (Cooper 60), Peake, Ducros (Turner 50), M. McGregor (D. Williams 46), Alford, Lenton, Lavery.

Bedworth: Iyayi, S. McGregor, Cudworth (Gibson 67), Everitt, Hood, Beckett, Steane (D. Williams 76), O'Toole, Drewitt, Ross, Crowley (Whitmore 46).

Boro welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Bedworth came out of the match with plenty of pride as they played well for several periods during the game, but Boro just had too much quality for their Dr Martens Western Division visitors and from the moment they conceded a penalty they were up against it. Leigh Everitt fouled Marc McGregor in the area and after a short debate the striker lashed home into the roof of the net. Seven minutes later and McGregor had the ball in the net again as he doubled Boro's lead and put the hosts in total control. Up to this point there had been little to choose between the two sides, but Boro were now in complete control of the situation. A high ball into the box found Carl Alford on the edge of the six yard box and he nodded in the third.

Danny Williams replaced Marc McGregor at the break and made an immediate impact. He raced through the Bedworth defence and skipped past Everitt before executing a fine finish past McCaulay Iyayi. Although 4-0 down Bedworth stuck to their guns and were still trying to play football. John Turner replaced Andy Ducros after 50 minutes and stretched Boro's lead on 64 minutes when he outjumped Iyayi to head home. Jason Peake completed off the scoring, rounding off another good move as he fed the ball into the edge of the area to Love's feet, received a nice pass back to him and rifled a shot into the bottom corner. There were still 15 minutes left but Bedworth managed to keep Boro at arm's length for the rest of the match.



Quayle Deal Falls Through

Mark Quayle's move to Chester City looks to be over as a deal has failed to materialise. The striker was subject to a £15,000 bid from Chester but there has been no more contact between the two clubs and any deal now looks unlikely.

Lenton Out On Loan

Nuneaton Borough have allowed Jamie Lenton to go out on loan to his former club Hinckley United. His place in the squad will be taken by new signing Daire Doyle, who joins from Kidderminster Harriers. Doyle, who is 22, previously played for Coventry City. Meanwhile, the transfer of Mark Quayle is still to be finalised.

Boro Sign Dyson

Nuneaton Borough have signed Jon Dyson, a central defender who has played more than 200 Football League games with Huddersfield Town. Dyson will sign for an initial one match period while he decides if he wants a longer stay.

Terry Angus hit the crossbar with a header from Ducros' left wing corner, but that was as close as Boro came in the remainder of the game and Stevenage controlled the remainder of the match. The visitors' misery was complete 14 minutes after Stevenage had taken the lead as Richards grabbed the goal his hard work deserved. He rounded off an excellent move, despatching a shot into the far corner from the edge of the area. The game drifted to a close as Stevenage knew they had done enough to take all three points.

The startling fact of one win since November 2 last year can only be surpassed by the fact that Boro have thrown away 23 points from games in which they have been leading.

Burr Job Safe

Nuneaton Borough have a relegation battle on their hands, but chairman Roger Stanford has insisted that manager Steve Burr's job is safe. Mr Stanford insisted: "Steve is manager and will continue as manager. He's worked tremendously hard and it's just not going for us at present."

Stevenage Borough v Nuneaton Borough 18-01-2003

Stevenage: Westhead, Travis, Fraser, Goodliffe, Trott, Wormull (Mustoe 86), McMahon, Richards, M. Williams (Gray 84), Campbell, Blackwood.
Subs: Wilson, Opara, MacDonald.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Dyson, Love, Doyle, Lavery (Turner 72), Peake, McGregor, Alford, Ducros (D. Williams 72). **Subs:** Wheeler, Tullin, Quayle.

Nuneaton Borough v Morecambe 21-01-2003

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, B. Williams, Dyson, Ricketts, Doyle, Alford (McGregor 69), Quayle, Peake (Turner 61), Lavery.
Subs: Wheeler, D. Williams, Cooper.

Morecambe: Mawson, Murphy, Bentley, Drummond, Rigoglioso (Black 86), Thompson (Elam 75), Swan, Morgan, Perkins, Stringfellow, Curtis (Carlton 69). **Subs:** McKearney, Rogan.

Boro made the journey to Broadhall Way to take on Stevenage Borough in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro struggled to get into the game in the opening minutes and the pace of Justin Richards, Martin Williams and Michael Blackwood caused problems for the first 20 minutes. However, on 22 minutes, Boro took the lead when Ducros' corner found the head of Alford who powered the ball through the arms of Westhead to put them into a surprise lead.

Buoyed by the goal Boro came more into the game and broke quickly from a Stevenage free-kick and Peake's pass found McGregor, whose run beat the offside trap. The striker steadied himself and hit a shot which struck Westhead and was deflected onto the bar. The Stevenage keeper came to the rescue again ten minutes later when he deflected an Alford shot from point blank range. A minute before the break Boro carved out another great chance as Love's ball from the left found its way to the far post, but Doyle's header was brilliantly turned away by Westhead.

After the break it was a very different Boro that took the field. Gone was the confidence of the previous 25 minutes and they reverted to type. Stuart Fraser was the first to capitalise on some poor defending, two minutes after the break, when Boro failed to clear in their own penalty area and Fraser thumped a drive high into the net from eight yards out. Ten minutes later Stevenage took the lead when Simon Wormull's corner was headed home by Robin Trott.

Boro welcomed Morecambe to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had the first chance of the game as Mark Quayle robbed Iain Swan and raced away to the by line and his low cross fell to Sam Ricketts who skied the ball over the bar under pressure from former Tranmere player Alan Morgan, who did just enough to put Ricketts off. Boro's defending left a lot to be desired with Jason Peake being the worst culprit and gifted possession to the opposition on several occasions.

Sam Ricketts was posing the greatest threat to the opposition goal and twice he cut in from the left before firing in shots from 25 yards out which tested Mawson. The best chance of the match fell to Morecambe when David Perkins was given room to cross from deep out on the left. Mackenzie decided to come for the cross but got nowhere near it and Garry Thompson held his head in his hands as he saw his header fly over.

The opening minutes of the second half saw Morecambe on top as they surged forward from midfield. Morgan had options ahead of him on both sides, but fortunately he chose the wrong one and Perkins was left frustrated after making a 50 yard run. Mackenzie was called into action as Stringfellow let fly with a drive from 25 yards which the keeper managed to get his finger tips to and was grateful to collect the ball as it rebounded from the crossbar. Ricketts was brought down as he ran at the Morecambe defence, but the free-kick came to nothing.

John Turner replaced Peake on the hour mark and

Morecambe took the lead shortly after when a long punt up the middle split Boro wide open and Curtis galloped away and Mackenzie was caught in two minds as he came out leaving the Morecambe man to score from 20 yards out. Boro redoubled their efforts as they searched for an equaliser, but many moves broke down on the edge of the visitors box or crosses were cut out by Bentley or collected by Mawson as Boro looked to be heading for another defeat.

The fourth official indicated four minutes time added on and with three of them played and the seconds ticking away Lavery kept his head and lifted the ball over Mawson, who managed to get a hand on the ball but it dropped behind him and into the net for a last gasp equaliser.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 25-01-2003

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Love, B. Williams (Cooper 25), Dyson, Ricketts, Doyle, Alford (McGregor 72), Quayle, Peake (Turner 90), Lavery. Subs: Wheeler, D. Williams.

Yeovil: Weale, Lockwood (Skiverton 81), Puck, Way, Johnson, Crittenden (Ekholts 62), McIndoe, O'Brien, Lindegaard, G. Williams, Jackson. Subs: Grant, Collis, Aggrey.

Boro welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

After an uneventful start, Yeovil took the lead with the first real move of the match as Michael McIndoe's cross floated over the Boro defence and Lindegaard headed past Mackenzie. Yeovil continued to hold the whip hand as Boro suffered a setback when Barry Williams was forced off, being replaced by Adam Cooper. The home side thought they had levelled just after when Daire Doyle crossed for Andy Thackeray to head back across the area where Mark Quayle thundered the ball into the back of the Yeovil net, but a linesman's flag cut short the celebrations.

The visitors dominated for the rest of the half and only the heroics of Chris Mackenzie kept Boro in the game. Adam Lockwood saw his goal bound effort superbly tipped over by the home keeper, who then saved from Darren Way as the ball fell to him from the corner kick. Mark Quayle was booked for diving as Boro struggled to keep Yeovil at bay and only the confident catching and punching of Mackenzie prevented Yeovil from adding to their score before the break.

Quayle almost levelled the scores straight after the break with a brilliant shot on the turn from 20 yards which clipped the top of the Yeovil bar. Boro were not to be denied though and drew level after 50 minutes when Jason Peake played a great ball in to Sam Ricketts, who side-stepped two challenges before beating Weale from 14 yards out. The Yeovil keeper then denied Lavery as he smothered the midfielder's downward header, while Boro had a penalty appeal turned down when Love was bundled over in the area.

The Yeovil keeper denied Lavery, who volleyed goalwards from the edge of the box before Quayle was narrowly offside after picking up Alford's knock on. Weale denied Quayle,

saving with his legs while at the other end Kirk Jackson put his shot over from six yards after being picked out by Lindegaard.



Mark Quayle celebrates, but the goal was disallowed.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Cooper blocked Roy O'Brien's volley and the same Yeovil player had a header saved by Mackenzie at the far post. As the game edged towards injury time Boro thought they had snatched a famous victory after a throw-in was flicked on by Quayle and Lavery crashed the ball into the net, but a lineman's flag again cut celebrations short. However, there was still time for more excitement as Yeovil thought they had snatched the game. Substitute Terry Skiverton found himself in space in the penalty area and had time to chest the ball down and thunder in a volley, but somehow Mackenzie managed to push the shot onto the crossbar and then smother the ball as several Yeovil players bore down on him.

Boro Cash Windfall

Nuneaton Borough have landed a potential £500,000 windfall after Malcolm Christie completed a move from Derby County to Middlesbrough. The 23-year-old has moved to the Riverside in an initial £3 million joint deal with England Under-21 colleague Chris Riggott – who has joined on a three month loan with a guaranteed transfer in the summer to help with Middlesbrough's cash flow. But the joint deal could rise to £5 million based on first team appearances. The cash-strapped Manor Park side have a 20 per cent sell on clause following the sale of Christie to Derby County in October 1998.

Transfer Cash Disappointment

Nuneaton Borough chairman Roger Stanford says the club have been ripped off over the transfer of Malcolm Christie from Derby County to Middlesbrough but reckons there's little they can do about it. The 23-year-old, who joined the Teesiders in a £3 million double deal along with Chris Riggott has been valued at just £1.25 million, despite a £6 million figure put on his head by the Rams during the summer.

Boro's cut is just £224,000 from their 20 per cent sell on clause installed in the contract when Christie left Manor Park. After deducting the transfer fee, Boro now receive 20 per cent



of £1,120,000. An angry Stanford said: “Middlesbrough have shafted Derby and also Nuneaton Borough. They have done a good piece of business on their part.

“Malcolm was valued at £6 million nine months ago and we were thinking about £1.2 million as our share, but it seems as though that’s dropped by more than 75 per cent...”

Phillips To Receive Transfer Cut

Nuneaton Borough have confirmed that they will have to pay Brendan Phillips a four figure fee following the sale of Malcolm Christie to Middlesbrough. The Halesowen Town manager will receive his cash as soon as Boro gain their first instalment of £112,000 in May. Chairman Roger Stanford said: “There was something in his severance package, which was agreed by people who have since departed. The contract states that we have to pay him out as soon as we get paid and it is a percentage of what we will be paid.”

Walsall Winger Joins Boro

Elliot Paschalis has joined Nuneaton Borough after impressing in two trial matches. The right winger will join the club on a work experience deal which can be extended or terminated by either party.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 08-02-2003

Hereford: Baker, Lovett, Rose, James, Wright, Pitman, Smith, Grant, Parry, Guinan (Husbands 88), Purdie. **Subs:** Griffiths, Tretton, Teesdale, Sawyers.

Boro: Mackenzie, Thackeray, B. Williams, Love, Dyson, Paschalis (McGregor 85), Turner, Peake (Cooper 71), Alford, Doyle, Quayle (D. Williams). **Subs:** Wheeler, Browne.

Boro made the journey to Edgar Street to play Hereford United in a Nationwide Conference game.

A sensational 30-yard rocket from on-loan defender Jay Lovett fired high-flying Hereford to a dramatic win. The Brentford defender struck in the third minute of stoppage time, hammering a scorching low drive past former Hereford goalkeeper Chris Mackenzie.

Lovett’s last-gasp winner earned the home side their third double of the campaign but, more importantly, lifted the club to fifth place in the table. The 25-year-old had been agonisingly close to restoring Hereford’s lead in the 76th minute when his powerful shot cannoned against a post and bounced to safety.

Hereford opened the scoring three minutes after the break when Rob Purdie collected a quick throw-out from Matt Baker and ran 65 yards before delivering an inch-perfect cross for John Grant to coolly slide home his third goal of the season. But the relegation-threatened visitors drew level from a penalty in the 73rd minute after Tony James fouled the experienced Carl Alford. The former Yeovil Town striker picked himself up and made no mistake from the spot, rifling an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

Just before their equaliser, Nuneaton’s Daire Doyle was thwarted by the quick reflexes of Baker and then, in the 81st minute, substitute Danny Williams almost gave the visitors a surprise lead when a high bounce caught out James and the substitute lobbed the ball wide with Baker stranded.

United should have gone ahead in the 81st minute when Ben Smith was clean through but shot wide of the far post and then Hereford piled on the pressure in the last five minutes, with the outstanding Paul Parry particularly threatening.

Finally, after a sustained period of Hereford pressure, Lovett broke through just when it appeared that Nuneaton would hold on for a draw. Both sides struggled in a scrappy first half. Baker made a crucial save in the fourth minute to deny Alford, while Hereford’s Smith and Steve Guinan had fierce strikes charged down by the defence.

Nuneaton Borough v Walsall

11-02-2003

Boro: A. Wheeler, Thackeray (Tullin 46), Love, Browne, Cooper, B. Williams, Peake (D. Williams 56), Lavery, Alford (McGregor 46), Quayle, Turner.

Walsall: Ward, Wright, Matias, Stanley (B. Wheeler 85), Caines, Bennett, Smith, Fryatt (Churchill 88), Birch, Zdrilic, Corica. **Subs:** Platt, Perry, Harris.

Boro welcomed Walsall to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup fourth round tie.

Walsall had the chance to take the lead after 15 minutes when Matty Fryatt was allowed to run through the heart of Boro’s midfield. Eventually Paul Browne brought him down on the edge of the box. Andy Wheeler produced a fine save to keep out Corica’s effort. Boro’s best effort came midway through the first half when Michael Love fed the ball inside to John Turner who then went on a mazy run. He laid the ball off to Carl Alford but his final pass to Andy Thackeray was just too far in front of him.

The visitors were looking dangerous and it was no surprise when they took the lead after 30 minutes. Corica won possession on the left and played a lovely weighted pass into Zdrilic’s path and the striker put an unstoppable shot into the top corner from 20 yards. Mark Quayle tried to beat Gavin Ward with a lob, but his effort landed on the roof of the net. Paul Browne then put a free header high and wide from a corner as Boro battled to get back on level terms.

The visitors went close at the start of the second half when Zdrilic got behind the Boro defence and as Wheeler came out to narrow the angle, the ball was lifted goalwards but Adam Cooper got back to clear off the line for a corner. Two minutes later a lovely reverse pass from Zdrilic set Fryatt free in the box but Wheeler made a save. Marc McGregor went down in some pain and had to be escorted from the pitch with a shoulder injury, which was a double blow for Boro as they had just used up their full allocation of substitutes.

Two minutes later Walsall doubled their lead after Turner brought Corica down in the box who got up and made no mistake from the spot. Two minutes later it was all over as



Zdrilic crashed home from eight yards as he latched on to Fryatt's pull-back. Boro pressed Walsall back for 15 minutes but without reward and as the home side tired Walsall scored twice in the last five minutes. First Fryatt got the goal his performance warranted, as Manchester United scouts looked on and then Corica grabbed his second goal of the night to round off a 5-0 win for the visitors.

Devall Joins Board

Life-long Nuneaton Borough supporter David Devall has undertaken to join the board of directors at Manor Park. The well-known local businessman has been welcomed with open arms by chairman Roger Stanford as the club look to stabilise during their fight against relegation.

Davies Signs

Nuneaton Borough have secured the loan signing of Clint Davies from Birmingham City. The 19-year-old Australian has been with the Blues for three years and on the bench several times for the first team. The keeper has been on loan at Tamworth and Halesowen this season.

Nuneaton Boro' v Dagenham & Redbridge 15-02-2003

Boro: Davies, Thackeray, Angus, Love, Dyson, B. Williams, Lavery, Paschalis, Doyle (Turner 78), Alford, Quayle. **Subs:** Wheeler, Brown, D. Williams, Peake.

Dagenham: Roberts, Vickers, Matthews, Heffer, Mustafa, McGrath (Hill 90), Shipp, Terry, Watts (West 89), Stein (Rooney 59), McDougald. **Subs:** Potts, Gothard.

Boro welcomed Dagenham and Redbridge to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Dagenham's Lee Matthews was booked after 10 seconds for a foul on Mark Quayle but Daire Doyle hit his free-kick straight at the wall. New keeper Clint Davies was given an early test as a right wing cross came in and he punched the ball out to Junior McDougald who thrashed a shot over the bar. Boro then had two chances in quick succession as first Doyle charged down an Ashley Vickers clearance but the awful surface cost him the chance of a cross to the unmarked Carl Alford. Boro had a chance after 15 minutes when Tony Roberts and Matthews left the ball for each other and Alford almost nipped in.

Dagenham were yet to have a chance, but all that changed when they had their first corner and John McGrath swung the ball into the box, which failed to bounce on the sticky surface and Watts was the first to react and put the visitors into the lead. Five minutes later Boro were in trouble again as Doyle's back pass fell short and Davies was forced to come racing out to smother but was penalised as the referee considered it to be a back pass, but Boro defended the free-kick.

Quayle was sent racing away by Love, but Roberts narrowed the angle well and the chance was lost. A poor header by Lavery put Stein in a good position but the striker failed to hit the target. Seven minutes before the break Love played

the ball in to Alford and the striker found Quayle, but Roberts again closed him down and made a good save but the ball fell to Paschalis who slammed in the rebound.

Boro survived a penalty scare as Dyson looked to have handled McGrath's goalbound shot, but the pressure on Boro was beginning to mount although Barry Williams' flick at the near post from Doyle's long throw saw the ball land at the feet of Quayle, but the Dagenham defence snuffed out the danger. Mustafa spooned a good chance high and wide and Junior McDougald's clever step over confused Dyson but the striker could only get in a weak shot.

The home side were now under intense pressure and had a miracle let-off with 15 minutes to go as the Daggers bombarded their goal and with the pitch deteriorating by the minute the visitors grabbed a second goal. A left-wing corner was headed clear but only as far as Danny Shipp who drove the ball into the rigging with Davies helpless. At this point the Boro defence fell apart and when McDougald fought for possession with Dyson and won the ball, he was able to despatch a fine finish past the exposed keeper.

Burr Receives Board Backing

Steve Burr was given the total backing of the board of directors at a crunch meeting last night and handed extra money to bring in new players and get the club out of the relegation battle. The Nuneaton Borough manager and first team coach Mick Jones attended a meeting with chairman Roger Stanford and key director Graham Cooper to discuss how the club are going to get out of their worrying situation and stay in the Conference.

Quayle Moves To Chester

Mark Quayle has joined Chester City on loan with a view to a five figure transfer move at the end of the season. The 24-year-old has been a shadow of his former self since being transfer listed before Christmas and he leaves Manor Park with immediate effect. Coming in the opposite direction until the end of the season is former Sunderland trainee Steve Brodie, who was a prolific scorer with Scarborough who sold him to Swansea City from where he joined Chester.

Boro In Ground Share Move

Nuneaton Borough are implementing an option to ground-share with Tamworth for next season. Plans for Boro's move to their new site from Manor Park, which could be sold off in the near future, are expected to get the go-ahead from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's planning applications committee meeting in early April.

However, the club has put a contingency plan in place to play elsewhere and they are looking to get permission from Tamworth FC and the Lamb Ground owners, Tamworth Borough Council, to play at the Lamb Ground. Boro chairman Roger Stanford admitted that no definite decision had been made but feelers have been put out...

Boro Sign French Defender

Boro manager Steve Burr has signed 6ft 4in French defender Abdou Sall from Kidderminster Harriers. Sall, impressed in a reserve team victory over Grantham. The 22-year-old Senegal born player was previously with Toulouse. Burr has also reached an agreement with Daire Doyle, who along with Sall has been paid off by Kidderminster.

More Signings For Boro

West Ham United's teenage striker Billy Mehmet and Doncaster Rovers' wing back Dean Barrick have joined Nuneaton Borough's growing squad. Mehmet is a powerful youngster with pace and ability, while Barrick is a vastly experienced defender whose previous clubs include Sheffield Wednesday, Rotherham and Preston North End, where he made over 100 appearances.

Burr Adds To Backroom Staff

Steve Burr has introduced former VS Rugby and Telford manager Alan Lewer to his back room staff. Lewer has left his position as chief scout for Chester City. Steve Burr said of his appointment: "Alan knows the non-league scene inside out. He has a wealth of experience at this level of the game and will be a big asset."

Mehmet Not For Boro

Teenage striker Billy Mehmet has decided against joining Nuneaton Borough on the advice of his agent.

Nuneaton Borough v Leigh RMI

25-01-2003

Boro: Davies, Barrick, Love, B. Williams, Sall, Paschalis (D. Williams 64), Doyle (Turner 79), Alford, Brodie, Angus, Lavery. Subs: Wheeler, Dyson, Cooper.

Leigh: Coburn, Scott (Whitehead 74), P. Williams, Durkin, Lancaster, Fitzhenry (Maden 37), Ford, Salt, Campbell, Monk, Heald. Subs: Courtney, Kielty, Whittaker.

Boro welcomed Leigh RMI to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Barry Williams linked up well with Eliot Paschalis in the opening minutes and created an opening for Steve Brodie but his flick on failed to find Alford. A long ball out of defence found Brodie, who brought the ball down and played in Alford, who failed to get on the end of it. Brodie then found Paschalis in space but he took too much time and Paul Williams got back to clear. Boro skipper Richard Lavery was winning plenty of ball in midfield and saw a header flash across the face of goal from Love's cross.

With 30 minutes gone Leigh mounted their first attack and Neil Fitzhenry's free-kick was half cleared and fell to Neil Durkin who put it wide from 15 yards. Leigh had a close call when keeper Stuart Coburn and Neil Fitzhenry collided and the ball fell to Brodie, but his shot was saved by Coburn.

Boro put together a nice move at the start of the second

period but Doyle wasted the chance after good work by Alford and Paschalis. Clint Davies parried a shot from Neil Davies which was cleared by Terry Angus before Coburn made a superb save from Lavery and then Alford who had the goal at his mercy. Boro continued to push on but were beginning to look ragged at the back and they eventually paid the price as Neil Campbell and Scott found Abdul Sall and Barry Williams out of position leaving Andy Heald unmarked and he hit the ball into the back of the net.



Stuart Coburn clears under pressure from Abdul Sall.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Maden hauled down Brodie but Love put the free-kick into the arms of Coburn as Boro struggled for an equaliser. Dean Barrick struck a 20 yard free-kick over the bar as the fans began to show their frustration towards manager Steve Burr and although Brodie won a corner which came to nothing, Boro, despite throwing everything at the visitors, created very little and with the game in its final stages Leigh won a free-kick which was picked up by Heald who rocketed the ball into the back of the net from 20 yards out.

Boro Sign Murphy

Nuneaton Borough have secured the signature of Kettering Town striker Gez Murphy, whose contract has been paid up by the Poppies. Murphy has been a proven goalscorer at Telford United, Atherstone and Gresley Rovers and also had trials with Nottingham Forest. The Nuneaton-born forward was also at Boston United



Nuneaton Borough v Southport

04-03-2003

Boro: Davies, Barrick, Love, Angus, B. Williams, Sall, Dyson, Lavery, Murphy (D. Williams 72), Brown (Doyle 83), Brodie. **Subs:** Taylor, Alford, Cooper.

Southport: Welsby, Nolan (Pell 53), B. Jones, Moore, Scott, McGuire, Lane, Soley (S. Jones 34), Thomson, Ashcroft, Howell (Mulvaney 34). **Subs:** Dickinson, Clark.

Boro welcomed Southport to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The new strike partnership of Gez Murphy and Steve Brodie made an immediate impact as Boro started the match in positive mood with good passing and movement, creating a fair few opportunities for the two strikers. The pair combined well throughout the opening period and with Rich Lavery and Williams behind them in midfield winning everything and using possession well, it was no surprise when Boro took the lead. Williams played an accurate pass along the ground for Murphy which split the visitors' defence and the former Kettering man pushed the ball past Kevin Welsby to give the home side the lead.

Boro continued to dominate the game and when Michael Love swung in a free-kick from the right Barry Williams was on hand to powerfully head past the keeper. Brodie had a shot well saved before Boro left the pitch at half-time to a standing ovation.

Boro's world caved in at the start of the second half, as within a minute of the kick-off Mulvaney cut out Love's attempted crossfield pass and quickly threaded a fine ball through for Peter Thomson and he promptly smashed the ball past Clint Davies to give the visitors a lifeline with their first attack of the game. Five minutes later the Sandgrounders were level as former West Brom player Lee Ashcroft played a wonderful pass into the path of substitute Steve Jones who drove the ball under Davies' body for the equaliser.

Boro came under intense pressure for the following 20 minutes and were creaking at the back as they failed to create their first-half form. Gradually though the visitors began to run out of steam and after having used all their substitutes they were forced down to ten men on 70 minutes when Ashcroft suffered a facial injury after a clash with Lavery. Boro seized their chance to take victory and the small but enthusiastic crowd were treated to a wonder goal to seal the game. Williams turned in the box and fired high into the net in off the near post to hand Boro their first win for three months.

Boro Sign Weatherstone And Brown

Nuneaton Borough have clinched the signing of former Oxford United and Boston United defender Ross Weatherstone. Another addition to the squad is 35-year-old Mickey Brown who has over 400 appearances in the Football League to his name, with Shrewsbury Town, Bolton Wanderers, Preston North End, Rochdale and Boston United among his former clubs.

Prince Job Switch

Alan Prince has been relieved of his duties as General Manager of Nuneaton Borough to concentrate his efforts purely on the club's new stadium. The former Grantham Town chairman has been looking after Boro's affairs on a day-to-day basis for the past year but has recently cut down to just three days a week.

With Graham Wilson going from strength to strength in his Commercial Manager role which is bringing extra income into the club, the board of directors decided to change Prince's role to focus purely on the proposed new stadium on which a decision will be made on April 9.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 08-03-2003

Northwich: Kelly, Royle, Rioch, Ingram, Sedgemore, Allen (A. Taylor 80), Norris, Garvey, McNiven, Blundell, Devlin. **Subs:** Connett, Came, Walsh, Teather.

Boro: Davies, Weatherstone (D. Williams 81), Sall, Angus, Love, B. Williams, Brodie, Brown (Alford 77), Murphy, Barrick, Lavery. **Subs:** C. Taylor, Doyle.

Boro made the journey to Wincham Park to play Northwich Victoria in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started the game on the front foot and won a fruitless corner but their positive start was soon in tatters as David McNiven and Greg Blundell exchanged passes and the latter shot home his 22nd goal of the season with just four minutes on the clock. Williams then shot straight at Gary Kelly as Boro tried to hit back but the home side were adapting better to the sodden conditions. Abdou Sall rescued Boro at the expense of a corner, the first of four in a five minute spell but the pressure continued as Ross Weatherstone enjoyed a less than comfortable debut.

Blundell almost lobbed Davies, but his shot was just wide as the home side continued to pull Boro apart and Devlin thundered a shot straight at the keeper. Sall took off the pressure when he got forward to head Michael Love's free kick into the area, but the ball was cleared. With a minute to go before half-time the home side almost extended their lead when Davies was only able to parry Richard Norris' shot and the ball fell to Blundell, but he was unable to dig the ball out of the water from eight yards out. Steve Garvey shot just wide as the half ended with the Vics on top.

Murphy just failed to connect straight after the break as Boro started the second half in positive mood before Gregor Rioch hit the post with a curling cross-cum-shot which Dean Barrick managed to hack to safety. Just as Boro looked to be holding their own, they fell further behind when McNiven raced away on the right and his cross was headed out by Angus, but only as far as Devlin who had time to take a touch and plant the ball under Davies' body.

The goal sparked Boro into life and five minutes later they were back in the match when Love whipped in a right wing corner at pace and Angus' header at the back post fell into

a crowded box and Brown was able to bundle the ball into the net from close range. Boro survived loud penalty appeals before Alford joined the fray. However, Northwich extended their lead just afterwards when Blundell got free on the left and his cross by-passed the poorly positioned Davies and fell to McNiven who had plenty of time to fire home at the near post. Boro tried to battle back and Brodie had the ball in the net, but a linesman's flag saw the goal disallowed. The game then petered out to its inevitable conclusion with Boro still deep in trouble.

Sall Sacked

Centre-back Abdou Sall has been kicked out of Nuneaton Borough for disciplinary reasons. The Senegalese defender has reported late for training on several occasions and manager Steve Burr has told the player he's free to find another club.

Nuneaton Borough v Halifax Town 15-03-2003

Boro: Mackenzie, Angus, Weatherstone, Barrick, Love, B. Williams, Dyson, Murphy (D. Williams 75), Brown (Alford 83), Brodie, Lavery (Doye 70). Subs: Taylor, Squires.

Halifax: Butler, Bushell, Sandwith, Clarkson (Senior 52), Midgley, Fitzpatrick, Grayson, Parke (Quailey 52), Garnet, Farrell, Monington. Subs: Asher, Morgan, Quinn.

Boro welcomed Halifax Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

The game got off to a slow start and it was a quiet first 15 minutes other than from the sound of the referee's whistle. But it was Boro who drew first blood as Lavery played the ball forward for Brodie who was first to react when he gained a fortunate ricochet off Sandwith and the striker made no mistake from 10 yards as he calmly slotted the ball into the net.



Steve Brodie scores his first Boro goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Although not dominating the game Boro were the better side throughout the first-half and it was half-an-hour before Halifax won a corner, which Mackenzie uncharacteristically spilled at the feet of Phil Clarkson who shot wide with the goal at his mercy. The keeper was back to his best three minutes later as he took a difficult free-kick from the right.

Angus was booked for a foul on Parke before the turning point in the match when Lavery and Sandwith had to be separated by the referee, who booked the Boro midfielder for leading with his elbow and sent off Sandwith for retaliation.

Boro started the second period with a bang as Gez Murphy played a perfectly weighted ball over the top for Brown who pushed the ball past Lee Butler to put Boro 2-0 up. Murphy had a chance to make it three when a brilliant reverse ball from Brodie almost played him in but Butler was out like a flash. The visitors were then denied a penalty as Andy Farrell collided with Jon Dyson in the area. Dean Barrick cleared off the goal line to keep out Mark Monington's effort before Lavery was replaced by Daire Doyle and was cheered from the pitch.

With 15 minutes to go and the visitors becoming more frustrated, Murphy and Shaun Garnet clashed, but Boro maintained their shape and discipline throughout the remainder of the game and were able to run down the clock for the remainder of the match.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 22-03-2003

Boro: Mackenzie, Barrick, Love, Angus, B. Williams, Dyson, Murphy (McGregor 81), Brown (Doyle 70), Brodie (D. Williams 90), Weatherstone, Lavery. Subs: Wheeler, Squires.

Kettering: Bowling, Matthews, Howarth (Duik 36), Norman, Murray, Inman (Asombang 46), Goodwin, Clarke (Shutt 83), Gordon, Solkhon, Revell. Subs: Boyle-Chong, Goulay.

Boro welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro put the visitors under pressure from the start and Brodie dragged his shot wide after being played in by Mickey Brown before Lavery put a shot inches over the top. Mackenzie wasn't called on until the eleventh minute when he confidently took Brett Solkhon's cross. Boro then won a free-kick after Craig Norman's poor challenge on Brown for which he was booked. Kettering were on the back foot and being terrorised by Brown on the right and Murphy and Brodie down the middle.

Murphy headed wide from Brodie's cross after 30 minutes, but still there was no sign of a goal for the home side. Murphy raced clear on the right but his shot was pushed round the post by Bowling. Just before the interval Ross Weatherstone conceded a needless free kick 25 yards from goal, but Delroy Gordon missed a free header at the far post.

Boro almost took the lead three minutes into the second half as Barry Williams connected superbly with Barrick's right wing corner, but the club's longest serving player could not keep his powerful header down as it flashed over the bar from eight yards out. The goal simply had to come and when it did it was a beauty. Barrick delivered an inviting high ball into the box and Williams nodded down for Brodie who wrapped his foot around it and volleyed under Bowling to give Boro the lead they so deserved.

Kettering did not give up and tried to put pressure on the

home side by pushing an extra man forward, but the new look Boro defence is now a different proposition to just a few week's ago.



Steve Brodie scores Boro's winner. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro's stranglehold on the game tightened as the game progressed as they maintained possession and nullified Kettering in midfield thanks to another fine performance from Lavery and Barry Williams. Daire Doyle put a rasping 25 yarder just over the bar before Kettering decided to go for broke with ten minutes left and made it a nervy end to the game, although Brodie broke clear, but his shot went wide of the post. Murphy then put a shot into the side netting as Boro fought to extend their lead.

Terry Angus conceded a corner with three minutes to go, Kettering's first of the game, and with a minute of added time Kettering won a free-kick 40 yards out. Everyone on the pitch was in the Boro half, but the ball sailed out of play, which was the signal for Kettering supporters to disappear out of the gate. At the other end Boro supporters celebrated a win.

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-2003

Forest Green: Perrin, Langan, Foster, Grayson, Meechan (Lowe 79), Sykes (Futcher 80), Owers, Richardson, Russell, Jones, Odejayi.
Subs: Jenkins, Adams, Giannangelo.

Boro: Mackenzie, B. Williams, Weatherstone, Angus, Lavery, Doyle (D. Williams 60), Love, Brown, Brodie, Murphy (McGregor 70), Barrick.
Subs: Wheeler, Peake, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro took the lead with their first attack as Mickey Brown won a corner, which was whipped in by Michael Love and cleared out only as far as Steve Brodie whose reaction was to look up and fire it into the net. But the positives soon turned to the negatives as Neil Grayson went tumbling to the ground with Lavery in close attendance. The referee had a good view of the incident and Lavery was sent off for the second time this season.

Odejaye hit the post following a goalmouth scramble and then put the ball wide when put clean through by Sykes. Barry Williams cleared a corner kick at the expense of another and Sykes lobbed the ball in to Alex Meechan at the far post and the ball was slotted under Chris Mackenzie for the equaliser. A shot from Martin Foster had Mackenzie flustered before Alex Sykes headed wide at the far post. Ross

Weatherstone cleared another dangerous ball in from Sykes with Grayson and Meechan poised to pounce. The home side edged in front on the stroke of half-time as Meechan broke free and Weatherstone slipped as he tried to catch him and the Forest Green man raced through for a one-on-one with Mackenzie and slotted the ball home.

In the opening minutes of the second half Boro pushed on and Brodie missed a chance which was created by Murphy and Brown but Boro's task became even more difficult with 53 minutes gone when Meechan completed his hat-trick when he found himself with time and space in the box after being played in by Foster. Grayson broke clear after linking with Odejaye but put his shot wide, but minutes later Boro's task became impossible when Love brought down Grayson in the box. Mackenzie saved the initial spot kick but the referee ordered a retake and Grayson scored with his second kick.

Boro became more and more ragged as the game progressed and Odejaye dispossessed Barry Williams and slipped the ball to Sykes who took his time before scoring the home side's fifth goal. And before the final whistle Boro found themselves even further behind as Steve Cowe whipped a cross in to Grayson who headed home.

Boro Sign Three

Nuneaton Borough boss Steve Burr had a frantic transfer deadline day in which he brought three new players to the club. Lee Mansell has joined on loan from Luton Town, Stuart Whittaker from Leigh RMI and Mark Clifford from Boston United. A move to bring in Wayne Gill from Oldham Athletic failed when the player decided to stay at Boundary Park. Mansell has been at Kenilworth Road since he joined as a trainee while 28-year-old Whittaker is also a midfielder who began his career with Liverpool before having spells with Bolton Wanderers, Wigan Athletic, Southport and Chester City. Mark Clifford, 25, has joined from Boston United and began his career at Mansfield Town.

Morecambe v Nuneaton Borough 29-03-2003

Morecambe: Mawson, McKearney, Bentley (Murphy 31), Stewart Drummond, Rigoglioso, Thompson (Talbot 70), Swan, Perkins, Curtis, Elam, Collins (Colkin 70). **Subs:** Carleton, Zico-Black.

Boro: Mackenzie, Love, Clifford, Mansell, Brodie, Angus, Barrick, Dyson, G. Murphy (McGregor 70), Brown (Whittaker 58), Weatherstone.
Subs: Lavery, Squires, Wheeler.

Boro made the journey to Christie Park to play Morecambe in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro made the early running and Dean Barrick slotted a ball to Gez Murphy who held it up well and slotted it to Mickey Brown, but he blasted over. Morecambe hit back when Lee Collins blazed the ball over the top after some good build-up play. A further effort for the home side saw Stuart Drummond head over from a free-kick, but Boro could have taken the lead when Steve Brodie was fouled and found Murphy from the free-kick. The striker raced through on goal only for

keeper Craig Mawson to make a superb block. Collins tried his luck from distance before Rigoglioso's free-kick found Jim Bentley, but Terry Angus cleared.

Dave McKearney put a long ball through to Wayne Curtis, whose effort was saved by Chris Mackenzie and the home side kept up the pressure as Gary Thompson whipped over a cross to Bentley, who headed over. Then, against the run of play, Boro took the lead when Mickey Brown was fouled by Craig Mawson and Gez Murphy slotted home the spot kick. The lead only lasted for a minute though, as Lee Elam raced down the wing and put over a dangerous ball that Lee Mansell put into his own net. Morecambe almost took the lead but Elam shot wide.

Boro went in front on the stroke of half-time when Dean Barrick whipped in a long ball from the left towards goal. Shrimps' defender Iain Swan missed the ball and it fell to Mansell who buried the ball into the net.

Two minutes after the break Morecambe drew level for the second time as Mansell fouled Lee Collins in the box and conceded a penalty. Stuart Drummond stepped up to score from the spot. The game became an end-to-end affair and Murphy forced a great save out of Mawson as the fast pace continued. Boro's cavalier style almost cost them dear as David Perkins slipped a ball in for Wayne Curtis, but he blasted wide. Rigoglioso continued to be the danger man as Mackenzie had to fingertip away an inswinger, and then five minutes from the end the home side executed the killer blow. A cross from Elam was hand-balled by Dyson, who was sent off, and Drummond hammered the ball home from the spot.

Peake Quits Boro

Former England schools and youth international Jason Peake has parted company with Nuneaton Borough. The 31-year-old midfielder has called it a day at Manor Park after a series of injuries kept him sidelines for the best part of his stay.

Stadium Plans Delayed Again

The date for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to discuss plans for a new stadium at Liberty Way have been put back once again. Earlier this year bosses at Nuneaton Borough predicted that it would be February when the plans were discussed by the council. But the meeting never happened in February and instead the club pledged that March would be more likely, but again it never happened.

Fans were then informed that April 9 would be the date for the debate, but planning officers now say it will be May at the earliest before the football club's ground move is considered by members of the committee. Planners at the borough council say that because of the extensive consultation exercise which has to be carried out as a result of the scale of the development the application cannot be considered at next week's meeting. J. S. Bloor Limited is also waiting on the outcome of the application, having submitted an application to build 197 dwellings on the existing club ground at Manor Park.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough

12-04-2003

Telford: Edwards, Hanmer, Davies, Wooliscroft, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Sayer, Moore, Jobling, Palmer, Barlow (King 49). Sub: Jones.

Borough: Mackenzie, Clifford, Weatherstone, Angus, Barrick, Brown, Love, Mansell, Murphy (D. Williams 87), Brodie, Whittaker (B. Williams 48). Subs: Wheeler, McGregor, Doyle.

Boro made the journey to the Bucks Head to play Telford United in a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro had an escape after six minutes when Robbie Sayer's pass freed Paul Moore and he slotted the ball past Chris Mackenzie but the goal was ruled offside. Moore continued to pose a threat but Boro tried to hit back and Steve Brodie had a shot saved by Paul Edwards. The visitors' goal came under intense pressure as Moore ran Angus ragged and Mackenzie was forced into a fingertip save to push Grant Brown's header over the bar. Moore created a chance for Sayer who missed the target as did Gary Fitzpatrick.

In the 37th minute the game swung in Boro's direction when Brodie found Gez Murphy down the left, who controlled the ball and worked it around Edwards before slotting the ball home from a narrow angle. Boro doubled their lead shortly after when Clifford fed Lee Mansell with a superb crossfield ball and the on-loan midfielder headed home from five yards. Boro could have had a third before the break as Brodie again found Murphy, but the striker was unable to repeat his earlier feat.



Gez Murphy scores Boro's first goal.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Steve Palmer was lucky to escape a booking at the start of the second half as he aimed a kick at Weatherstone and then went in hard on Clifford, who after ignoring the initial challenge sent the Telford man crashing to the floor in front of the referee, and was shown a red card. Murphy continued to work tirelessly up front with Brodie dropping deeper to cover for the sending off and Barry Williams was introduced for Stuart Whittaker as Boro went to a flat back four.

The goal that Telford had threatened eventually came with 20 minutes to go when Sayer found Palmer 20 yards out and he looked up and picked his spot before releasing the ball with tremendous accuracy into the corner of the net. The goal

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 1



gave Telford added confidence and Boro were on the back foot as Sayer had a header saved on the line by Mackenzie. Boro played the match out with some caution and held on for the three points.

Nuneaton Borough v Chester City 19-04-2003

Boro: Mackenzie, Clifford, Love, Whittaker (B. Williams 60), Weatherstone, Angus, Barrick, Brown, Mansell, Brodie (McGregor 87), Murphy. Subs: Wheeler, D. Williams, Dyson.

Chester: Worsnop, McIntyre, Bolland, Guyett, Kelly, Carden, Daviews, Joy (Blackburn 74), Brady (Twiss 66), Clare, Cameron (Sugden 56). Subs: Carey, Woodyatt.

Boro welcomed Chester City to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

An own goal after just 10 minutes from Scott Guyett was the difference between the two sides in a forgettable but ultimately crucial victory for Steve Burr's side. Boro started the game the brighter of the two sides, gaining a free kick just a yard outside the penalty area, but Steve Brodie fired high and wide. Chester were then presented with an excellent opportunity to take the lead as a neat passing move freed the prolific Daryl Clare in the penalty area, but Chris Mackenzie was out quick as a flash to narrow the angle and the ball struck his legs and bounced away to safety.



Gez Murphy battles with Jon Worsnop.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Brown and Gez Murphy exchanged passes on the right allowing Brown to whip in an excellent cross towards Brodie, and the little striker just managed to get enough of a flick on at the near post to divert the ball into the chest of Guyett who watched in horror as the ball bounced into the net past a bewildered Worsnop. Boro had the chance to double their lead but Lee Mansell's powerful header from Whittaker's cross was well saved by Worsnop.

Chester had penalty appeals turned down for handball against Terry Angus before David Cameron hit a shot inches wide of the upright. The two incidents lifted the visitors as they sensed an equaliser, but it was Boro who were carving out the better chances. A cross from Michael Love eluded everyone, and although Mansell kept the ball in play, he too crossed too deep with four players in the area.

Boro struggled to retain the ball at the start of the second half but Chester, despite having more possession, failed to trouble Mackenzie. The visitors only real chance was a 30 yard free-kick which was driven well wide. Boro held on to their slender lead and the final whistle saw them run out 1-0 winners

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 21-04-2003

Scarborough: Woods, Dempsey, Ridler, Sillah, Price, Gilroy, Stoker, Kerr, Pounder, Fatokun (Connell 69), Taylor. Subs: Hotte, Shepherd, Downey, Henry.

Boro: Mackenzie, Love (D. Williams 60), Clifford, Mansell, Brodie, Angus, B. Williams, Barrick, Murphy (McGregor 58), Brown, Weatherstone. Subs: Doyle, Dyson, Wheeler.

Boro made the journey to the McCain Stadium to play Scarborough in a Nationwide Conference game.

Scarborough put Boro under pressure from the start but they held firm and Terry Angus made a good clearance while Ross Weatherstone stopped Bimbo Fatokun in his tracks. The home side continued to press and their hard work finally paid off after Keith Gilroy picked up the ball on the right and sent a delightful curling ball in to Sillah who made no mistake.

Scarborough continued to dominate the game and it wasn't until the 25 minute mark that Lee Mansell blazed a shot wide of the target that Boro showed any attacking threat. The same player wasted a half-chance after Steve Brodie had flicked the ball on. The visitors also had a chance just seconds before the break after Mansell found Murphy with a long ball. The striker tried to lob the keeper but Woods scrambled back and palmed the ball away. Taylor just failed to bury a shot past Mackenzie as the half drew to a close.

Scarborough went further ahead straight after the break when Clifford brought down Keith Gilroy in the box and the referee pointed to the spot. Gilroy stepped up to make it 2-0. Borough, however, came to life and Marc McGregor created a chance for Brodie who made no mistake in putting Boro back in contention. The visitors looked for an equaliser but it all went pear-shaped when Scarborough hit Boro on the counter as they pushed too far forward. Tatokun intercepted

the ball and ran in on goal and sent in a speculative ball in the direction of Taylor but Weatherstone stepped in to clear and put the ball past Mackenzie and into his own net. Danny Williams had a couple of opportunities but Scarborough were in determined mood, despite an effort from Terry Angus from Mansell's free-kick. Five minutes from the end Weatherstone headed the ball up in the air and the impressive Gareth Stoker sent it towards Taylor who had all the time and space he needed to complete the scoring.

Nuneaton Borough v Farnborough Town 26-04-2003

Boro: Mackenzie, Love, Weatherstone, Angus, Barrick, Brown, Mansell, Dyson (D. Williams 74), Brodie, Murphy (Whittaker 56), McGregor.
Subs: Wheeler, Squires, Doyle.

Farnborough: Osbourne, C. Piper, Taggart, L. Piper (Butterworth 82), Vansittart, Patterson, Charlery, Annon, Harkness, Potter, Pitcher.
Sub: Baptiste.

Boro welcomed Farnborough Town to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference game.

Boro started the game well as they knew they had to force the issue and in the glorious sunshine strikers Gez Murphy and Marc McGregor combined well in the opening five minutes, but the ball ran away from the latter at the vital moment and Mark Osbourne was happy to see it run behind. Murphy then had another half-chance as the ball ricocheted into his path in the penalty area, but he could not react quickly enough and the opportunity was gone.

Farnborough settled down and began to play some attractive football that left Boro chasing shadows, but there were few clear cut chances for either side. This changed, however, as Farnborough took the lead. Chris Piper and Danny Potter exchanged passes on the right and an unfortunate bounce off Ross Weatherstone fell into the path of Potter who whipped in an excellent cross and Lenny Piper was on hand to turn the ball past Chris Mackenzie.

Boro committed more players forward at the start of the second half and the visitors' area was peppered with crosses from both flanks, but the visitors stood their ground and hit Boro on the counter. As the hour mark approached Boro continued to maintain a high tempo, but they consistently lacked the ability to be able to worry Farnborough and although they enjoyed the lion's share of possession they failed to trouble Osbourne.

Boro went close in the 73rd minute following an almighty scramble after Stuart Whittaker's cross was turned against his own post by Ken Charlery and the rebound came straight back to him and his attempted clearance struck Brodie on the knee and smacked the face of the crossbar before Mansell put the rebound over the top. News of a goal for Gravesend against Halifax darkened the mood of the supporters as Boro moved into the bottom three with 15 minutes to go. Then came the sucker punch as Boro poured forward, leaving all sorts of holes at the back Lenny Piper was allowed to turn

and make his way along the by-line and into the penalty area, from where he rolled the ball back to Pitcher who made no mistake from 12 yards, putting the visitors 2-0 up.

Although Boro tried to turn things around by throwing everyone forward, the game was already lost, and the Manor Park side were relegated from the Nationwide Conference. Supporters aired their anger and camped inside the ground for an hour after the final whistle making their feelings known after what had been a desperately disappointing season.



Protestors stage a demonstration calling for the removal of Steve Burr as Boro manager.
Photo: Heartland Evening News



Distraught Boro fans stare relegation in the face.
Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro Down And Out

Angry scenes erupted at Manor Park as Nuneaton Borough were relegated from the Nationwide Conference after a four year stay. A section of supporters vented their anger on manager Steve Burr and chairman Roger Stanford after Saturday's 2-0 defeat by Farnborough Town ended their spell in the top flight of non-league football.

Police and stewards were out in force to form a barrier of protection around the players' tunnel and the manager's office after the match as tension reached fever pitch. Almost 90 minutes after the game ended, Mr Burr was given a police escort out of the ground as he went away to consider his future. With tensions running high both on and off the field, the final whistle was met with fury from a group of fans who flooded onto the pitch from the terraces.

Mr Stanford in his first season at the helm has vowed that the club will bounce back and has given his total support to the manager. He said to the after match protest from a certain section: "Well, nobody wanted to see this happen but they vent their feelings and it is the manager or the directors who take the flack I am afraid. But Steve is still the manager of the club and has our backing."...

Nationwide Conference 2002-2003

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil Town	42	28	11	3	100	37	95
Morecambe	42	23	9	10	86	42	78
Doncaster Rovers	42	22	12	8	73	47	78
Chester City	42	21	12	9	59	31	75
Dagenham & Redbridge	42	21	9	12	71	59	72
Hereford United	42	19	7	16	64	51	64
Scarborough	42	18	10	14	63	54	64
Halifax Town	42	18	10	14	50	51	64
Forest Green Rovers	42	17	8	17	61	62	59
Margate	42	15	11	16	60	66	56
Barnet	42	13	14	15	65	68	53
Stevenage Borough	42	14	10	18	61	55	52
Farnborough Town	42	13	12	17	57	56	51
Northwich Victoria	42	13	12	17	66	72	51
Telford United	42	14	7	21	54	69	49
Burton Albion	42	13	10	19	52	77	49
Gravesend & Northfleet	42	12	12	18	62	73	48
Leigh RMI	42	14	6	22	44	71	48
Woking	42	11	14	17	52	81	47
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	7	22	51	78	46
Southport	42	11	12	19	54	69	45
Kettering Town	42	8	7	27	37	73	31

Boro Face Player Exodus

Nuneaton Borough face a player exodus following their relegation from the Nationwide Conference and it is clear the club have a lot of building to do both on and off the pitch. Just three members of the squad who ended the 2002-03 campaign with relegation on the CVs will be on board for certain next season – and realistically that will be two and it could be just one.

Terry Angus, Michael Love and Mark Quayle are the only players still under contract this week as Steve Burr and Alan Lewer sit down to plan ahead. The Boro boss is also taking time to consider his own position after Saturday's protest following the 2-0 defeat by Farnborough Town.

The board of directors will meet in a fortnight to consider the next step in terms of planning ahead to next season...

Player Of The Year



Michael Love celebrates his double success at the Player of the Year awards ceremony at the Allesley Hotel on Saturday night. The full-back walked away with the Player of the Year and Manager's Player of the Year trophies. The other award winners were Terry Angus who took the Players' Player of the Year and Danny Williams who won the Young Player of the Year award.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Bloors Withdraw Planning Application

The Housing developer expected to build almost 200 homes on Nuneaton Borough Football Club's Manor Park ground has withdrawn its planning application. Planners at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council yesterday received a letter from J. S. Bloor (Tamworth) Limited, stating that it wished to withdraw the planning application to erect 197 dwellings on the Manor Park ground. This application had been submitted by J. S. Bloor at the beginning of February and was seen as an essential piece of the jigsaw to allow the football club to build a new ground at Liberty Way.

Boro chairman Roger Stanford said he is confident the ground move will remain on track and believes the



withdrawn application is more to do with discussions between Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and J. S. Bloor, rather than any problem with the club. He said: "I know the council is not happy with the density of the proposed development at Manor Park, but at the end of the day this is a town centre site and not somewhere like Horeston Grange or Whitestone where the houses are spaced out and go for £150,000. Because of the discussions over layout and density of properties it may be that J. S. Bloor has withdrawn the application to review its plans ahead of submitting a new application."...

Burr Resigns

Steve Burr has parted company with Nuneaton Borough after a two and a half year spell as first team manager. The 43-year-old is understood to have resigned from his role yesterday afternoon at a meeting with chairman Roger Stanford and director Graham Cooper. The manager had a year remaining of his contract and a settlement is being finalised.

Relegation was the final nail in the coffin of the ex-Stafford Rangers, Macclesfield Town and Hednesford striker who is now taking a short break before deciding his next move.

Williams Quits Borough

Fans' favourite Barry Williams has quit Nuneaton Borough for Burton Albion after almost eight years with the club. The midfielder has agreed a two year contract with Nigel Clough's side and will form a central part of their squad in the Nationwide Conference next season. Williams, 30, joined Boro from Redditch in June 1995.

Lewer Gets Manager's Job

Alan Lewer has been appointed as the new manager of Nuneaton Borough. The 48-year-old former Telford United boss has stepped up after being number two to Steve Burr who departed last week. Despite a high number of applicants for the post, the ex-Doncaster Rovers, Boston United and Chester City coach was given the task of getting the club back into the Nationwide Conference. Lewer will have to do it the hard way with the budget being cut and a number of players walking away following relegation.

Lewer said: "I didn't really have any hesitation in taking over – you always want that number one position yourself. I felt Steve and I worked very well together and I spoke to Steve and he said if you get the opportunity – go and do it. I am going to go and do it and do it my way and I'll succeed the way I do it."...

Boro Prices For Next Season

Nuneaton Borough have announced their season ticket prices for the 2003-2004 campaign. Up to and including May 31 an adult ground ticket is £153, with a concession at £76. Adult main stand tickets are £190, with a concession at £124. Junior supporters ground costs are £60 and to sit is £102.

From June 1 the tickets revert to normal prices. Adult ground is £170 with concessions at £85. Adults stand is £210 with concessions at £124. Junior supporters standing are £63 with £105 to sit. A special ticket has been set aside for over 80s at £25 for the whole season.

Lewer Signs Three

Nuneaton Borough boss Alan Lewer has made three early signings as he looks to rebuild his squad for next season. Striker Brian Quailey, who Boro once sold to West Bromwich Albion, is making a return to Manor Park from Halifax, while talented young centre-half Dion Scott is joining the club from Kidderminster Harriers.

Both players have signed two-year deals and come to Nuneaton on free transfers. The third addition is right wing-back Mark Clifford, a former Nationwide Conference winner with Boston United who impressed in eight games for Boro last season.

Matt Collins Joins Boro

Alan Lewer is stepping up negotiations with two midfielders this week after adding West Bromwich Albion's Matt Collins to the ranks. The Boro boss will hold talks with two experienced players within the next seven days as he adds further pieces to the jigsaw. Collins, 22, has joined on a two year deal after leaving the Hawthorns where he skippered the reserve side.

Mickey Brown Signs

Nuneaton Borough boss Alan Lewer's team plans have taken another step forward with the news that veteran striker Mickey Brown is signing up for another year. The 35-year-old Brummie joined Boro on loan from Chester City at the end of last season and is hoping that his extended stay will lead to a coaching role at Manor Park.

The experienced forward worked with Lewer at Chester City and Boston United and has made over 400 Football League appearances with Shrewsbury Town, Bolton Wanderers, Preston North End and Rochdale. Also signed is former Northampton Town defender Bobby White.

Murphy On Board

Nuneaton Borough have signed 26-year-old Gez Murphy, who has signed a two-year contract with the club. Murphy has previously represented. The Nuneaton-based striker has previously represented Kettering Town, Telford United, Boston United and Atherstone United among others.

Mackenzie And Lavery Join Telford

Nuneaton Borough skipper Chris Mackenzie has left the club to join Telford United, where he has signed a two year deal. Mackenzie's departure is a bitter blow to the club as he has been among the best keepers to play for Nuneaton over recent years. Also moving to the Bucks Head is midfielder Richard Lavery.

Barrow — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Boro: Mackenzie (Hodgson 90), Cooper, Squires, Love, Jones, Thackeray, Peyton (McGregor 60), Ricketts, Williams, Lenton, Jones, Quayle. Subs: Lavery, Olanipekun, Clarkson.

Barrow: Bishop, Rodgers, Maxfield, Salmon, Hume, Warren, Hougham (Dawson 82), Gaughan, Bullimore (Anthony 32), Tarrant. Subs: Hall, Tierney, Liddicott.

Boro started the match with plenty of intent and controlled the pattern of the game throughout the opening 20 minutes. Several chances came and went throughout the opening exchanges, but Barrow stood firm and began to believe they could get something from the game.

Having missed chances which had fallen to Lenton, Warren Peyton and a free-kick from Jamie Squires in the first minute, Boro were punished for not taking advantage of their superiority.

For the first time in the match Barrow managed to work the ball behind the home defence, and when they did, Tarrant finished with devastating effect.

A short one-two with Wayne Bullimore set the former Aston Villa man up as the Boro defence were all caught flat-footed and ball watching.

Tarrant wasted no time in crashing his shot past the exposed Chris Mackenzie to sent the 250 or so travelling fans into delirium on the canal side.

Now in full voice their supporters really got behind their side as Boro suddenly started to lose their way.

Their grip on the match had gone as the crisp accurate passing, which had led to such a bright start to the match, had disappeared and the home side were now on the back foot.

Bullimore and Tarrant were keeping things simple and therefore creating problems for Boro and it was left to Squires and Adam Cooper to repel



Jamie Lenton tries to find a way through the Barrow defence. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

all they could as the midfield went to sleep.

It came as light relief when Bullimore was substituted after just 32 minutes due to an injury, as he had proved to be one of the liveliest players on the field.

The visitors sudden control of the match after taking the lead continued unabated though as a poorly weighted pass here and a free header there were putting Boro's defence under unnecessary pressure and it was the home side who were listening for the half-time whistle which when it came allowed them time to re-group.

The break did Steve Burr's men the power of good and they came out for the second half with renewed vigour and determination as they kicked towards the now packed Cock and Bear end, the occupants of which were now making their best effort to create a good cup tie atmosphere.

Try as they might though, Boro could simply could not get through as the final ball was either below par or nicked off a toe at the vital second.

As the corner count began to rise, Barrow were growing in the belief that they had done enough to win the match and were becoming increasingly frustrating to watch as they were trying to play keep ball in the corners with 20 minutes still on the watch.



Marc McGregor challenges a Barrow defender. Photo: Heartland Evening News

To contemplate defending for such a long time is a dangerous ploy and so it proved as Boro finally got the breakthrough they had been desperately searching for.

After replacing Warren Peyton as a second half substitute, Marc McGregor

freed Lenton on the left and the former Hinckley United cup hero worked his way to the by-line before pulling the ball back into the path of Love who levelled the scores.

From that point it was a real cup-tie as the crowd did their bit and the home side poured forward.

The visitors defended their precious replay date like Trojans and also looked dangerous on the break as Boro committed more and more men forward in their efforts to finish the contest at the first attempt.

With close saves at both ends of the field it was nail-biting stuff, but the visitors had done well to protect what they had, even if it was one of the most negative performances seen at Manor Park by an away side for many a year.

That is how to get results away from home though and in the end it worked as they will be far happier with a replay than Boro, who now face the unenviable 450 mile round trip for the replay to decide who faces Moor Green in the next round.

Barrow — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough travelled to Holker Street to play Barrow in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round replay.

Barrow: Bishop, Rogers (Tierney 70), Maxfield, Salmon, Hulme, Anthony, Housham, Gaughan, Arnold, Warren (Hall 90), Tarrant. Subs: Dawson, Hill, Liddicott.

Boro: Hodgson, Cooper, Angus, Squires, Love, Thackeray, Ricketts, Lavery, Williams, Quayle, McGregor. Subs: Olipekanun, Turner, Jones, Payton, Clarkson.

Boro threw away a great opportunity of progressing in the FA Cup after letting a two goal advantage slip and for the

second year in succession they go out of the competition with nothing.

All Boro had to do was defend a lead - but this proved impossible.

Boro were dealt a blow when Chris Mackenzie failed a fitness test and Steve Hodgson was called upon to make his Boro cup debut.

Steve Burr changed it around defensively, adding Terry Angus to the back line and adopting five across the middle.

Up front Marc McGregor returned to the line-up and Rich Lavery was made captain.

Barrow began brightly with Mark Salmon heading across the face of goal and three minutes later a similar move saw Steve Housham head off target.

After sustained Barrow pressure, Boro bizarrely took the lead.

A looping ball in from Mark Quayle was aimed in at the Boro forwards but they were beaten to the ball by Scott Maxfield, who beat his own keeper and headed the ball into his own net.

Boro doubled their lead with another soft looking goal after a Terry Angus free-kick was flicked into the path of Marc McGregor via Sam Ricketts and Boro's FA Cup hero picked his spot and slotted it past Simon Bishop.

Referee Colin Harwood then lost control after a foul on Barry Williams followed by a scuffle and Boro skipper Rich Lavery and Barrow's Steve Gaughan were sent off.

Barrow got back into the game when the Boro defence were caught flat footed and Graham Anthony broke free and hit the post only for Neil Tarrant to fire home the rebound.

After more pressure from the visitors

Barrow again found themselves trailing by two goals when a long Jamie Squires ball found Mark Quayle and the Boro striker controlled the ball, edged past his man and fired home from just inside the area. Boro simply had to prevent Barrow from scoring goals, but Barrow had other ideas and Neil Tarrant raced through and was one-on-one with Steve Hodgson only for the Boro keeper to spread himself and stop the ball.

What he didn't plan for was the appearance of Steve Housham who had an open goal at his mercy, but put it wide. Boro overcame appeals for a penalty when Adam Cooper stopped Tarrant in his tracks.

Quayle and Ricketts both fired off target for Boro before a heart-fluttering moment saw Steve Hodgson spill a Graham Anthony corner and then Mark Hume headed off target from close in.

Despite defending in numbers, Boro were looking worried and as they sat back, Barrow took advantage.

Graham Anthony grabbed a lifeline for the home side when he fired in from just inside the box.

But for a rare poor touch from Quayle, he could have restored Boro's two-goal cushion when he outpaced a static Barrow defence.

Boro hearts fluttered again when Housham headed across goal with five minutes left.

At this late stage Barrow threw men forward in numbers and Graham Anthony put in a shot from distance which beat Hodgson to give Barrow an equaliser with only two minutes left.

And it got even worse seconds later when Tarrant hit a 30-yarder past Steve Hodgson in time added on.

Tamworth — 3rd Qualifying Round

Boro travelled to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Tamworth: Acton, Warner, Follett, Walsh (Grocutt 81), M. Turner, M. Cooper, Evans, A. Turner, Hallam (Hatton 73), Jephcott, McGorry. Subs: Bate, Robinson, Marsh.

Boro: Hodgson, Love, Angus, Browne (A. Cooper 23), B. Williams, Ducros, Lavery, J. Turner (Lenton 58), D. Williams (McGregor 53), Quayle, Alford. Subs: Wheeler, Peake.

Boro were on the back foot right from the off and fell behind after just five minutes. Lavery had time to clear for Boro, but his punt upfield hit Cooper and fell into the path of Jephcott who calmly and expertly lifted the ball over the poorly placed Hodgson into the net.

Tamworth were winning every loose ball and a large portion of the 50-50s as they battled ferociously and two minutes after the opening goal they almost grabbed a second as Mark Hallam saw his low effort hit the side netting with Hodgson beaten again.

It took Boro 15 minutes to get over the half-way line and even then Quayle was pulled up for offside. Just as Boro started to make a little headway they suffered a further blow when debutant Jon Browne limped out of the game. A minute later Boro were two goals down and faced with a colossal task.

Robert Warner's run on the left went unchallenged and he latched onto the ball and whipped in an inviting cross for Hallam who directed a superb diving header past Hodgson.

Boro hit back and Alford's ball into the box caused confusion in the Tamworth defence for the first time in the game and Mark Turner was happy to boot the ball over his own crossbar to avert the danger of Quayle lurking at the far post.

From the corner Danny Williams made a nuisance of himself at the near post and the ball fell for Barry Williams who cracked an unstoppable right footer towards the top corner but it bounced

out off the post and away to safety.

Hodgson was then forced to make a magnificent save as Mark Cooper caught hold of a 30 yard volley, but the Boro keeper was this time up to the task as he acrobatically turned the effort away.

Barry Williams was presented with a chance two minutes later but could only head weakly straight at Darren Acton in the home goal. The home side ended the half on top and could have pulled further ahead following a fantastic move featuring Warner and Jephcott which set up Andy Turner who completely missed the ball with only the keeper to beat.

Turner's embarrassment did not last for long though as four minutes into the second half Boro were 3-0 down. A corner on the left for the home side was only cleared as far as Mark Cooper and the home captain drilled the ball hard and low back into the danger area where it cannoned off Alford and flew past Hodgson.

Burr brought on McGregor for Danny Williams and John Turner for Jamie Lenton but to no avail as it was too little too late and proved even more costly a few minutes later as Andy Turner raced

through and Hodgson came out of his area to meet him and when Turner shot it hit the goalkeeper's arm and he was sent off.

McGregor took over in goal and faced up for the free-kick which was hit by Turner from 30 yards but to everyone's amazement McGregor saved the shot and collected the rebound.

The game had now descended into farce and Tamworth passed the ball around accompanied by the cheers of the crowd who were relishing the defeat of the old enemy.

Boro continued to waste any possession they had and the target they hit most often was the head of Steve Walsh, the Tamworth centre-half.

The final 30 minutes seemed like an eternity to Boro, as Tamworth threatened to make the score more emphatic, but they had not banked on McGregor, who saved Jephcott's goalbound shot with his feet after the Tamworth winger had raced clear.

Hallam headed against the crossbar and Jephcott again raced clear, but that man McGregor narrowed the angle superbly and forced the on-loan striker to drag his shot wide of the post.



Tamworth keeper Darren Acton saves as Mark Quayle and Carl Alford look on.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 1



Football Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2002-03

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
7.20	Leamington Town	A	PSF	6-0	Jones (2), Lenton, Peake, Woodley, Quayle	477
7.23	Barwell	A	PSF	2-0	Dunkley, Harris	207
7.25	Oxford United	H	PSF	2-1	Squires, Jones	305
7.27	Northampton Town	H	PSF	1-1	B. Williams	516
7.30	Eastwood Town	H	PSF	4-0	Turner (2), Harris, Cooper	193
8.3	Tamworth	A	PSF	1-3	Quayle	554
08.05	West Bromwich Albion	H	PSF	1-2	B. Williams	814
08.10	Crawley Town	A	PSF	0-1		c300
08.12	Coalville Town	A	PSF	3-4	McGregor, Peyton, Harris	106
08.17	Southport	A	L	0-1		1311
08.20	Woking	H	L	1-1	Thackeray	1241
08.24	Stevenage Borough	H	L	3-0	Quayle (3)	1206
08.26	Yeovil Town	A	L	2-3	Jones, Quayle	2504
08.31	Hereford United	H	L	0-3		1354
09.03	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	L	2-1	Jones, Harris	1541
09.07	Gravesend & Northfleet	A	L	1-4	Woodley	1044
09.14	Margate	H	L	3-2	Quayle, Woodley, Jones	918
09.17	Leigh RMI	A	L	1-1	Quayle	401
09.21	Forest Green Rovers	H	L	3-2	Jones, Woodley, Turner	1136
09.24	Northwich Victoria	H	L	1-4	Squires	1012
09.28	Halifax Town	A	L	1-3	Quayle	1402
10.05	Doncaster Rovers	H	L	0-3		1759
10.08	Chester City	A	L	2-1	Angus, Quayle	2564
10.12	Barnet	A	L	1-2	Quayle	1421
10.19	Telford United	H	L	1-0	Quayle	1007
10.26	Barrow	H	FAC 4Q	1-1	Love	1623
10.29	Barrow	A	FAC 4Qr	3-4	Maxfield (o.g.), McGregor, Quayle	1919
11.02	Farnborough Town	A	L	2-0	McGregor, Quayle	644
11.09	Scarborough	H	L	1-1	McGregor	1237
11.12	Rushall Olympic	A	BSC 2	5-1	Quayle (3), Thackeray, McGregor	70
11.23	Doncaster Rovers	A	L	1-1	Quayle	2913
11.30	Kettering Town	A	L	0-3		1386
12.07	Barnet	H	L	3-2	B. Williams, Walling, McGregor	868
12.14	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	L	0-1		969
12.21	Margate	A	L	1-1	Ducros	504
12.26	Burton Albion	H	L	1-2	Quayle	2337
12.28	Woking	A	L	1-2	Quayle	1786
01.01	Burton Albion	A	L	0-1		2523
01.11	Tamworth	A	FAT 3	0-3		2045
01.14	Bedworth United	H	BSC 3	6-0	McGregor (2, 1 pen), Alford, D. Williams, Turner, Peake	456
01.18	Stevenage Borough	A	L	1-3	Alford	1651
01.21	Morecambe	H	L	1-1	Lavery	718
01.25	Yeovil Town	H	L	1-1	Ricketts	1717
02.08	Hereford United	A	L	1-2	Alford (pen)	2071
02.11	Walsall	H	BSC 4	0-5		353
02.15	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	L	1-3	Paschalis	1105
03.01	Leigh RMI	H	L	0-2		1187
03.04	Southport	H	L	3-2	B. Williams (2), Murphy	774
03.08	Northwich Victoria	A	L	1-3	Brown	582
03.15	Halifax Town	H	L	2-0	Brodie, Brown	1231
03.22	Kettering Town	H	L	1-0	Brodie	1549
03.25	Forest Green Rovers	A	L	1-6	Brodie	679

Football Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2002-03

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.29	Morecambe	A	L	2-3	Murphy (pen), Mansell	1604
04.12	Telford United	A	L	2-1	Murphy, Mansell	987
04.19	Chester City	H	L	1-0	Guyett (o.g.)	1371
04.21	Scarborough	A	L	1-4	Brodie	1451
04.26	Farnborough Town	H	L	0-2		1710

KEY: L = Nationwide Conference, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2002-03

Back: (left to right): Warren Peyton, Chris Tullin, Adam Cooper, Steve Hodgson, Chris Mackenzie, Ian Clarkson, Andy Thakeray (player/assistant-manager), Alan Cooper (kit manager).

Middle (left to right): Paul Egan (physio), Jamie Lenton, Gary Jones, Richard Lavery, Jason Peake, Michael Love, Jason Harris, Jamie Squires.

Front (left to right): Barry Williams, Terry Angus, Marc McGregor, Steve Burr (manager), Lee Howey (player-coach), Mark Quayle, John Turner.



Boro Move Still On

Leading director Graham Cooper has vowed Nuneaton Borough will be moving from Manor Park despite all the work happening off the field. With the changing rooms, terraces, main stand, pitch, club shop, bar and kitchen areas under the stand all being improved in time for the new season – it would be fair to think the club had decided to stay put.

But with tens of thousands of pounds spent on proposed ground moves in recent years, the board of directors are determined to drive ahead with a switch to Liberty Way. However, making the current facilities of an acceptable standard to both players and fans in the short term is vital to new manager Alan Lewer who has recruited help in changing the professionalism of the club...

Marsh In As No. 2

Former Coventry City and Liverpool midfielder Mike Marsh has joined Nuneaton Borough as assistant manager. The midfielder, who led Accrington Stanley to the Unibond Northern Premier Division title and promotion to the Nationwide Conference last season, has hung up his boots and chosen to go into management as Alan Lewer's No. 2 at Manor Park.

Lewer is delighted to have secured the services of the 33-year-old, saying: "This is a great signing for the club. Mike will help lift the profile of Nuneaton Borough as he has a superb pedigree as a player and a vast experience of non-league football let alone playing at the highest level of the game."...

Molby Set To Coach Boro

Former Liverpool midfield ace Jan Molby has accepted an offer from Nuneaton Borough to help coach the team next season. The 39-year-old, who took Kidderminster Harriers into the Football League three seasons ago, has told Boro chief and close friend Alan Lewer he would be delighted to link up with the Manor Park club while he seeks a return to football management.

Fitzpatrick Joins Boro

Experienced midfielder Gary Fitzpatrick is the latest addition to manager Alan Lewer's Nuneaton Borough squad. The 31-year-old former Leicester City and Republic of Ireland youth international has signed on a free transfer from Telford United. Fitzpatrick said: "I'm delighted to be coming to Nuneaton. They are among the best known non-league clubs and hopefully I can help them regain their Conference status."

Burr Takes Over At Hucknall

Former Nuneaton Borough boss Steve Burr has been installed as the new Director of Football at Unibond Northern League club Hucknall Town. After being out of work since his departure from Manor Park at the end of last season, 42-year-old Burr has been handed the reins at the club by chairman Brian Holmes in the wake of the dismissal of Phil Starbuck.

Acton Signs

Nuneaton Borough boss Alan Lewer has secured the signature of former Tamworth and Kidderminster Harriers' goalkeeper Darren Acton. The vastly experienced keeper also numbers Telford United and Burton Albion amongst his former clubs.

Angus To Carry On

Nuneaton Borough defender Terry Angus will become the club's current longest serving player after agreeing to delay his retirement from the game for another year. After lengthy talks with boss Alan Lewer the 37-year-old former Fulham and Northampton Town man has decided to remain in the game despite contemplating hanging his boots up after five seasons at Manor Park.

Fan On The Board?

The possibility of a supporter taking a seat on the Board of Directors at Nuneaton Borough has increased after the club agreed to make shares in the company available. An agreement in principle has been made between the Board of Directors and the ever-growing Supporters' Trust which will enable the latter to purchase blocks of 1,000 shares in the football club at £7 each.

The news comes as a welcome relief to those behind the structuring of the Trust which has been keen to get involved at boardroom level since it began two years ago. Trust chairman Dave Hall had requested that the possibility of a share issued be considered, and he received a positive response from the club.

Chairman Roger Stanford confirmed that although initially the scheme will not admit a member of the Trust onto the board, it is not something which is a closed shop and if it were seen to be beneficial to the club then it may well happen in the future...

Marsh Quits Boro

Mike Marsh has quit his role as assistant manager of Nuneaton Borough to take over as boss of Unibond League side and FA Trophy holders Buscough. With just days to go until the Manor Park side return to pre-season training, the former Liverpool midfielder has accepted his first managerial role. Double Conference winner Marsh is well respected in the North West after a successful spell with Accrington Stanley last season.

Boro Sign Striker

Much sought after striker Andy Corbett has joined Nuneaton Borough on a two year deal. The talented 21-year-old has turned down both Hednesford Town and Tamworth to come to Manor Park. The Worcester-based marksman netted 32 league and cup goals for Solihull Borough last season was out of contract at the Damson Lane club, who are looking for a fee under the Bosman ruling.



No Place For McGregor

Nuneaton Borough's record signing Marc McGregor has offered to take a 50 per cent pay cut in order to stay at Manor Park, such was his desire to help the club regain their Nationwide Conference status at the first attempt. The 25-year-old discussed a contract extension before the end of last season with former manager Steve Burr but then heard little from the club all summer, until he read that he had no future at Manor Park. To make matters worse, the player claims he is still owed money from last season – when the club were hit by a financial shortfall.

McGorry Signs

Boro boss Alan Lewer has renewed an old acquaintance with the signing of fitness coach and midfielder Brian McGorry, who joins the club from Tamworth where he was a major influence in helping the club win promotion from the Dr Martens Premier Division to the Nationwide Conference last season. The 33-year-old, who has League experience with Bournemouth, Torquay and Cardiff, has signed a two year deal with Boro and Lewer reckons he can make a big impact on the club. "It's a great signing for Boro, he's won titles at this level and he knows what this league is all about," he said.

Squires To Stay

Jamie Squires has returned to Nuneaton Borough for pre-season training and is available for selection. The 27-year-old was an ever-present during the first 22 league and cup matches of last season before picking up a hernia and having to wait for surgery. The former Preston North End and Doncaster Rovers defender struggled to regain his fitness and was limited to reserve team games for the remainder of the season.

Boro Sign Moore

Nuneaton Borough have signed former England non-league international captain Neil Moore from Mansfield Town on a free transfer. The 30-year-old put pen to paper at Manor Park last night and the capture has delighted Boro chief Alan Lewer. "Neil is a class defender and is probably the final piece in the jigsaw for the squad to start the season," said Lewer.

Norton Joins Boro

Nuneaton Borough have appointed Dave Norton as assistant manager. The 38-year-old left Tamworth last month to look for a managerial role, but has been tempted to Manor Park to link up with Alan Lewer's rebuilt squad. Norton began his playing career with Aston Villa where he made 42 appearances over a five year period. He then gained League experience with Notts County, Rochdale, Hull City and Northampton before he dropped into non-league with Hereford United and Cheltenham where he won a Conference championship medal. But after accepting an insurance pay-off he was unable to go back into the Football League and spent time with Forest Green Rovers and Yeovil before joining Tamworth two years ago.

Season 2003-04

West Brom Res v Nuneaton Borough 19-07-2003

Boro (from): Acton, Clifford, Angus, Moore, Love, Whittaker, Collins, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Quailey, Murphy, Corbett, Lamb, Cooper, Tullin, White, Crabtree, Brown.

Boro made the journey to Aston University to play West Bromwich Albion in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro could not have wished for a better start to their pre-season programme as they cruised to a 2-0 win. Former Baggies' striker Brian Quailey fired Boro ahead while Gez Murphy added the second late on against a mixture of reserve and youth team players.

Squires Leaves

Central defender Jamie Squires has left Nuneaton Borough. Squires had a year left on his contract, but after talks with manager Alan Lewer it was decided that he would part company with the club.

League Changes Announced

Football chiefs have unveiled their blueprint for the future of the non-league game which will begin in just over three week's time. From 2004-05 the Conference North and South will be in place and it will be based on league positions during the coming campaign. The winners of the three present feeder leagues – Dr Martens Premier, Unibond Premier and Ryman Premier will automatically be promoted to the National Conference providing they meet the financial and ground criteria.

The new look Conference North and South will be made up of 44 teams which will include the three sides relegated from the National Conference, 36 clubs who finish between second and 13th in the Dr Martens, Unibond and Ryman League and five sides who will come through a series of play-offs.

Nuneaton Borough v Doncaster Rovers 25-07-2003

Boro: Acton, Tullin (Brown 48), Love, Collins (Lamb 62), Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick (O'Connor 60), McGorry (Cooper 48/Tullin 55), Quailey (Murphy 46), Corbett (Manunebo 60), Whittaker.

Doncaster: Richardson, Price, Albrighton, Morley, Drury, Blunt, Byle, O'Brien, McGrath, Barnes, Jackson (Burton 25). Subs: Warrington, Whitman, Craig, Frazer, Gill, Dickman.

Boro welcomed Doncaster Rovers to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Young striker Andy Corbett scored two goals as Boro kicked off their home friendlies programme with a 2-0 win over the Football League side. Corbett netted a goal in each half, sandwiched by a Matt Collins strike. With seven new players in the side Boro showed plenty of cohesion and were comfortable winners. Lively front-runners Corbett and Brian Quailey gave the Doncaster defence plenty to think about, as did Gez Murphy after the break, while the industry, endeavour



and skill of midfielders Matt Collins and Gary Fitzpatrick shone through, as did the wing play of Stuart Whittaker.

Defensively the organisational talents of Neil Moore helped provide a far more composed look to the back four. On the odd occasion that keeper Darren Acton was called into action he did the job without too much anxiety while of the rest there were definite signs of promise from the likes of Chris Tullin, triallists Aaron O'Connor and Alvey Manunebo and the will-of-the-wisp Matty Lamb.

Boro took the lead on eight minutes when ex-Atherstone defender Mark Albrighton bundled Quailey over and Corbett slotted a low penalty well beyond the sprawling dive of keeper Barry Richardson. On 19 minutes Boro doubled their advantage. Brian McGorry's fierce drive was parried by Richardson straight to Matt Collins who side-footed home from 15 yards. Boro rounded off the scoring on 50 minutes when Terry Angus' cross was headed away by Dave Morley under pressure from Gez Murphy, but the ball fell to Corbett who volleyed the loose ball into the corner of the net from just inside the area.

Total Network Solutions v Nuneaton Boro' 28-07-2003

Boro made the journey to Llansantffraid to play League of Wales outfit TNS in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro went down to a Mike Wilde goal after 30 minutes on a rain soaked pitch. Terry Angus, Andy Corbett, Brian Quailey and Gary Fitzpatrick were left out of the starting line-up with Angus failing to get to the ground in time. Boro's best chance in the first-half came when Matt Collins hit the bar. The Welsh side looked lively ahead of their game against Manchester City in the UEFA Cup in two weeks' time.

Boro made several changes for the second half with Corbett and Quailey replacing Murphy and O'Connor, Fitzpatrick coming on for Brown and rookie trio Andy Crabtree, Matty Lamb and Elvy Manunebo substituting left back Michael Love, Collins and McGorry. Quailey who appeared to be still troubled by a groin strain while Lamb again impressed with a no-nonsense display for the final half-hour.

Quayle Joins Scarborough

Boro's leading scorer from last season, Mark Quayle, has joined Scarborough for what is believed to be a four-figure sum. The striker, who asked to go on the transfer list last March, had been linked with Chester City, where he spent the last few weeks of the 2002-03 season on loan and Lincoln City, but neither side made a bid.

At one time a fee of £15,000 was talked about, but since then Boro have reduced the asking price quite considerably just to get the player off the wage bill. Quayle scored 17 goals last season for Boro, including a hat-trick against Stevenage, and the 24-year-old will be looking to kick-start his career at the McCain Stadium following a traumatic last few months when his future has been very much in question.

Nuneaton Borough v Oxford United

31-07-2003

Boro: Acton (Beckford-Quailey 64), Tullin (White 3 (Crabtree 87)), Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore (Cooper 73), Angus, Brown, (Collins 61), McGorry (Mananebo 71), Murphy, Corbett, Whittaker (Lamb 71).

Oxford: Cox, Campoli (Lovegrove 58), Powell, Lomax, Patterson, Vandomelle, Alexis, Widderington, Blackstock (McCargo 63), Moyinmi, Oldfield. **Subs:** Louis, Garner, Carbon, Brandish.

Boro welcomed Oxford United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

In the opening period Stuart Whittaker again showed signs of what is to come this season by whipping in some superb balls from the left which Gez Murphy was unlucky not to connect with and then the striker turned provider by setting up Andy Corbett. Boro keeper Darren Acton was called upon after Brian McGorry's missed tackle freed Paul Powell down the left and he crossed for Tommy Widderington.

Corbett was denied by a diving header from Adam Vandomelle before Boro suffered a scare when Terry Angus failed to connect with a tackle on the lively Blackstock but Love got his cross clear. Boro looked ragged at times but stepped up the pace towards the end of the first-half with Love running down the flank and crossing to Brown who had drifted in from the right and his header went just wide in an excellent move. This was followed quickly by Corbett going clean through one-on-one with keeper Simon Cox who closed the threat down well.

Boro showed more passion at the start of the second half and Brown whipped in a cross to Whittaker before McGorry blazed a shot over the bar and Corbett went close but his shot lacked power. The introduction of Matt Collins coincided with a rush of goals and the ex-West Brom man had a hand in the opener when he found Corbett whose pass picked out Murphy who blasted the ball home from six yards. Two minutes later it was 2-0 when Murphy crossed to Collins, whose diving header left keeper Cox with no chance.

O Moyinmi had a one-on-one with substitute goalkeeper Beckford-Quailey, but the keeper thwarted the Oxford striker. Fitzpatrick struck the crossbar with a free-kick from 25 yards before Lewer introduced Adam Cooper, Matty Lamb, Elvy Mananebo and Andy Crabtree. The Boro keeper was called on again, and was forced to leave his area and Oxford striker McCargo went up for a through ball from Oldfield which found its way past a stranded Beckford-Quailey.

Godalming & Guildford v Nuneaton Boro' 02-08-2003

Boro made the journey to Wey Court to play Godalming and Guildford in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro dominated the game and Neil Moore headed them into a first-half lead from a Stuart Whittaker corner. Danny Newman equalised after the restart before Gary Fitzpatrick scored a second half hat-trick to seal the win. Micky Brown completed the scoring.



Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 04-08-2003

Boro: Acton, Tullin (White 49), Love (Crabtree 73), Collins (Lamb 55), Moore (Cooper 71), Angus, Fitzpatrick (Brown 49), McGorry (Mananebo 71), Quailey (O'Connor 71), Corbett (Murphy 46), Whittaker. Sub: Beckford-Quailey.

Coventry: Tuffey, Pead, Stanford, Briscoe, Cooney, Jephcote (Bates 88), Hall (Noon 86), Osbourne, Joachim, McSheffrey, Barrett (Yazdani 62). Subs: Mackey, Oddy, Nicell.

Boro welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

The first action saw Darren Acton tip away a dangerous cross from Andrew Hall, while Boro had an opportunity as Fitzpatrick almost nudged in a Stuart Whittaker corner. Chris Tullin smashed a 30 yarder against the crossbar before a mix-up on 15 minutes gave Coventry the lead. Angus and Moore were slow to react as Acton rushed out and Julian Joachim nipped through the static defence to give the visitors the lead. Fitzpatrick failed to convert two chances while Brian Quailey put a shot into the crowd from Corbett's flick on. McSheffrey brought a save out of Acton as the first-half came to a close.

Boro looked to get back into the game as the second half began and substitute Gez Murphy caused problems as he linked well with Gary Fitzpatrick before Boro notched an equaliser through Matt Collins who made no mistake from the edge of the area. Coventry soon regained the lead when McSheffrey tucked away a Graham Barrett free-kick but Boro weren't about to lie down and were soon back on level terms after substitute Mickey Brown went on a dazzling run down the right before whipping in a pinpoint cross to Quailey who headed the ball past Tuffey.

Joachim put a shot wide before Craig Pead forced a save out of Acton while Joachim's pinpoint cross to McSheffrey was missed completely. Coventry hit what proved to be the winner with 15 minutes to go. Andrew Hall put in a dangerous cross from the byline and Michael Briscoe headed it in past Acton. Brown tried to create chances for an equaliser but Joachim almost made it four in the final minute but Acton saved well.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-09-2003

Boro: Beckford-Quailey, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Brown, McGorry, Quailey, O'Connor, Whittaker. Subs: Mananebo, White, Cooper, Crabtree, Rees, Acton.

Boro travelled to The Grove to face Halesowen Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Boro were full of optimism after enjoying a good pre-season friendly campaign but they travelled home from the West Midlands with their tails between their legs. Boro began brightly and showed signs of promise with Mickey Brown putting a Stuart Whittaker cross wide but The Yeltz took the lead when the highly rated Simon Hollis beat keeper Damian Beckford-Quailey only for his shot to come off the post as

far as Jason Ashby who headed over the line. Hollis turned poacher when he increased the lead soon after from good build-up play involving Asa Charlton and Andy Spencer who set up the striker to score.

Boro's defence was at sixes and sevens as former Tamworth striker Mark Hallam picked up Richard Colwell's cross as Halesowen showed their class. Boro went into the break and the game was out of their reach and rather than turning it round as they have done in recent matches it went from bad to worse.

Ashby buried away a penalty after he was pushed in the area by Terry Angus and a spot kick was awarded. To complete the misery for Boro, one of their old boys Shaun Wray then added a fifth after coming on as a sub when he picked up a ball from Ashby. Manager Phillips' son Kelvin almost made it 6-0 but he failed to control a Hallam cross. In the final minute Brown was hacked down by Charlton, but picked himself up to score from the penalty spot.

Boro Sign Hoyle

Nuneaton Borough have signed much-travelled Colin Hoyle on loan from Burton Albion. The defender will join for a month and make his debut against Chippenham. The versatile Hoyle, who began his career at Arsenal, has played in the Football League with Chesterfield and Notts County as well as representing King's Lynn and Boston United

Nuneaton Borough v Chippenham Town 16-08-2003

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Brown (Lamb 74), McGorry, B. Quailey, Murphy (Corbett 63), Whittaker. Subs: Beckford-Quailey, Tullin, Cooper.

Chippenham: Hervin, Davies (Charity 79), Thorne, Towler, Gould, Badman (Edwards 75), Walker, Morgan, Paul (Rawlins 90), Griffin, Harrington. Subs: Collier, Mings.

Boro welcomed Chippenham Town to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro had the first real chance of the game but Gez Murphy blazed Stuart Whittaker's cross over the bar with ten minutes on the clock. Terry Angus almost put a Scott Walker corner into his own net but recovered well to head away a follow up shot. The visitors' robust style saw Acton charged by Martin Paul, who received a yellow card. Murphy had another chance when he was sent through by Matt Collins and soon after strike partner Brian Quailey's header from Angus' free-kick lacked the power to trouble the keeper.

With ten minutes to go before the break Murphy took a Collins' pass around keeper Hervin, but the angle was too acute and the striker was unable to guide the ball into the empty net. Brian Quailey had a header hacked off the line by Tom Gould and then Angus had a go from 25 yards, but his lob was pushed onto the bar by Hervin.

Six minutes into the second half Boro took the lead from the penalty spot after Gareth Davies upended Murphy as he ran

onto a pass from Neil Moore and he picked up the ball, placed it on the spot and slotted it low and hard to the keeper's left.



Michael Love gets in a cross despite the attentions of Wayne Thorne.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

But the visitors were soon back on level terms when Griffin's weak header evaded the Boro defence and trickled under the arms of Acton. Boro could have regained the lead when Collins found himself in a great position but put his shot over the bar. Quailey had a chance from a Whittaker corner as did Mickey Brown, but he wanted too much time. Chippenham were obviously happy with a point and infuriated the crowd with their time wasting tactics. In the closing minutes Angus got forward and went close with a half volley and in the closing seconds substitute Corbett just needed to get a touch on a Whittaker pass.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 19-08-2003

Stafford: Price, McAughtrie, Beale, Barrow, Daniel, Lovatt (Robinson 61), Downes, Heath, Szewczyk (Dunn 71), Wilding, Edwards. Subs: Dodd, Fife, Goodman.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Corbett (Lamb 86), McGorry, Quailey (Tullin 89), Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Beckford-Quailey, Manunebo, Cooper.

Boro made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro made a slow start but soon got into their stride although it was Stafford who posed the first real threat as Craig Lovett fired over after a Neil Moore error. Boro hit back through Brian Quailey who took Michael Love's pass, turned well and put an excellent dipping shot just off target. Moore's through ball then found Gez Murphy as Boro picked up the pace and a goal looked imminent and it came after 18 minutes when player-coach Brian McGorry found Corbett in space in the box and the striker turned well to drag the ball back and find Quailey with a pin-point pass and the striker rifled a powerful

shot past the helpless Price. A second goal almost arrived straight after when Murphy sent Quailey through again but he ran too wide and no-one was there to follow it up. Stafford's Wayne Daniel got into a dangerous position from a Craig McAughtrie free-kick but he put it over the bar.

Acton was forced to save from Edwards before a great Boro move saw Corbett force Price into a reaction save. The pace of Whittaker's cross took the ball away from the inrushing Collins as Boro continued to press the visitors back.

At the start of the second half Quailey tested Price as Boro looked for another goal. And, it duly arrived shortly after as Corbett raced through and had his first shot blocked by Craig Lovatt but he picked up the ball superbly off the Rangers defender and then buried it past Price to leave the home side deflated. Boro kept up the pressure and Quailey headed Hoyle's cross against the bar. Stafford worked hard to get back into the game and Acton saved well from McAughtrie, but all of the home side's work was in vain as Boro extended their lead when McGorry found Murphy out wide and he crossed the ball at pace to Quailey who volleyed it straight into the roof of the net to the delight of the travelling fans.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough

23-08-2003

Weymouth: Matthews, Tully, Browne, Barlow, Waldock, Kenway, Buckle, Gill, Claridge (Partridge 90), Lamb, Phillips. Subs: Russell, Robinson, Dennis, Gadsby.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Corbett (Fitzpatrick 54), McGorry, Quailey, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Cooper, Lamb, Tullin, Beckford-Quailey.

Boro made the journey to the Wessex Stadium to play Weymouth in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro made the best possible start, taking the lead after just 26 seconds. Gez Murphy found Matt Collins and he darted into the box before putting the ball to the inrushing Stuart Whittaker, whose shot was on target. The ball deceived Jason Matthews and Brian Quailey bundled the ball over the line. Boro almost got a second but Quailey's shot lacked power and was saved by Matthews. The Weymouth keeper spilled two Quailey shots as the big striker looked to impress.

Darren Acton had to be at his best to fingertip a John Lamb 25-yard shot onto the bar and then Claridge tried one from a similar distance which the Boro keeper again nudged to safety. Weymouth then stunned the visitors with an equaliser when Paul Buckle sent a ball across the face of goal and Claridge arrived unmarked at the far post to tap the ball home. Boro had a chance to regain the lead at the end of the first-half when Quailey was fouled on the edge of the box but Andy Corbett headed wide from Whittaker's free-kick.

Boro struggled at the start of the second half and Fitzpatrick was introduced in place of Whittaker to try to bolster the midfield. Weymouth went close when Lee Phillips whipped in a dangerous ball from the left but Buckle was unable to connect. In reply Angus, who was solid throughout alongside

Neil Moore sent Gez Murphy darting through with a route one ball but the chance was wasted. Matthews came to the Terras' rescue when he blocked Murphy's rasping drive with his legs and followed up by stopping an Angus effort. The game ended acrimoniously when Quailey reacted to a Simon Browne challenge and blows were exchanged resulting in the Boro striker's sending off.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 25-08-2003

Boro: Acton, Fitzpatrick, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Corbett (Brown 58 (Lamb 76)), McGorry, Quailey, Murphy, Whittaker (Tullin 67). Subs: Beckford-Quailey, Cooper.

Hinckley: Whittle, Cartwright, Lenton, Crowley, Penny, Bailey (Piercewright 80), Storer, Jackson, Smith (Tucker 67), Jenkins, Murray (Dyer 58). Subs: Goodwin, Lyons.

Boro welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro almost took the lead after two minutes when Terry Angus headed Gary Fitzpatrick's free-kick against the post. Murphy then made a chance for Andy Corbett but Shaun Murray stepped in to intercept as the end-to-end start continued and Corbett forced a corner but Andy Penny headed away and a second corner resulted in another Penny clearance. Terry Angus blocked a through ball from Crowley as the Knitters pressed the Boro back line and then Acton came to the rescue following a Jamie Lenton free-kick. Corbett created a chance for Collins but Whittle collected the ball to quell the danger.

Terry Angus headed clear after a Leon Jackson flick-on before a Cartwright error let in Stuart Whittaker, whose weak shot failed to trouble Whittle. Boro had a penalty appeal turned down when Murphy was felled in the box, but Hinckley had the best chance of the half just before the break when Jenkins headed on Murray's through ball but Acton superbly finger tipped the ball to safety.



Brian Quailey rifles home Boro's first goal.

Heartland Evening News

Murphy raced through on goal at the start of the second half but the Boro striker blazed wide of the target, while Jackson fired wide following Crowley's pass and Corbett was played in by Fitzpatrick but Stuart Storer stepped in to clear the danger. Mickey Love then tidied up when Dyer sent Jenkins

charging through while at the other end Moore headed over a Whittaker corner before Boro took the lead. Love found Quailey in space on the left hand side of the box and with his quick feet he controlled the ball well and swivelled around, looked up and hit the ball under the body of Whittle and into the back of the net.

Boro should have scored again almost immediately as Storer fouled Murphy in the penalty area, but Murphy hit the ball straight down the middle and it crashed against the underside of the bar and although Murphy tried to head the ball back into the goal, Whittle collected. The visitors threw caution to the wind and threw on Brad Piercewright as an extra forward but their Cavalier approach backfired when substitute Matty Lamb spotted Murphy making a run and picked out the big striker, who collected the ball and raced past Storer and slotted the ball wide of Whittle.

Nuneaton Borough v Eastbourne Borough 30-08-2003

Boro: Acton, Hoyle (White 82), Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Quailey (Corbett 59), Murphy, Whittaker (Lamb 72). Subs: Beckford-Quailey, Tullin.

Eastbourne: Book, Baker, Tuck, Smart, Playford, Yates, Wescott (Goodwin 63), Pearce, Ducille (Stevens 85), Simmonds. Crab (White 63). Subs: Ramsey, Stark.

Boro welcomed Eastbourne Borough to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro won an early corner but it was hammered clear by Lee Hook. Gez Murphy then tried to find Brian Quailey but his pass lacked pace as Boro forced the visitors onto the back foot. Murphy then had a shot tipped to safety by Hook. A series of corners from Whittaker caused the visitors problems and from the third of the sequence Boro took the lead. Whittaker whipped the ball in from the flag and captain Neil Moore rose superbly to head it in.



Neil Moore heads Boro's first goal.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

A replica move almost produced a second goal for Boro but the visitors had a rare break and Acton was called into action, saving from Matt Smart. The visitors had another effort just before the break when Steve Yates headed wide John Westcott's cross.

Within seconds of the restart Quailey had fired wide and

Whittaker's corners were again troubling Eastbourne. But the visitors at this point still had something in the tank as Westcott tried a speculative effort from wide out but Acton easily dealt with the problem. Boro extended their lead on the hour mark when Love slung in a cross from the left and Quailey headed the ball into the net. Terry Angus was denied as Stuart Playford headed clear before Boro had a scare when Collins almost put through his own goal.

Andy Ducille missed a gilt-edged chance from a Darren Pearce cross before Boro countered and Matty Lamb went close. The third Boro goal came with ten minutes left. Lamb's corner ended up in the path of Angus and he rocketed a shot into the net with his left foot. This goal stunned Eastbourne, heads started to go down and Boro snatched a fourth goal just a minute later when Corbett, on as substitute, controlled the ball in the box and fired an accurate shot past Hook. The striker had another chance before the end but blazed it wide.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-2003

Hednesford: Young, Williams, Hines, Maguire, Simkin, Ryder, C. Palmer, S. Palmer, Anthrobus, Lamey, Brown. **Subs:** Swan, Brindley, Danks, Dodd, Evans.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins (Corbett 57), Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Quailey, Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Tullin, Lamb, White, Beckford-Quailey.

Boro travelled to Keys Park to play Hednesford Town in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro were first to show and ex-Boro keeper Ryan Young saved from Brian Quailey after Michael Love had played him in. Nathan Lamey put the Boro defence under pressure and Neil Moore then had to head away from Lee Hines' cross. Quailey just failed to get on the end of a Matt Collins through ball before Carl Palmer got the better of Moore, but Terry Angus raced in to save the day and when Brown whipped the loose ball back in Love was on the line to clear away with Acton stranded. Acton saved low down from Anthrobus while at the other end Brian McGorry tried his luck but Young saved well.

Quailey had a goal ruled out ten minutes before the break and Whittaker tested Young after Quailey had turned provider. On the stroke of half-time, Hednesford had the best chance of the half as Acton lost his bearings and Steve Palmer tried to lob him but Collins was back to clear.

Hednesford started the second half on the front foot with Palmer going on a solo run and firing in a 25-yard shot which Acton tipped around the post. Boro were quick to reply with Angus almost converting a Gary Fitzpatrick free-kick. Lamey then forced Acton to save and Palmer put in a solid header. Acton had to be alert again when Anthony Maguire closed in at the far post as Hednesford began to get on top. Boro had a penalty appeal turned down as Quailey appeared to be brought down in the box before Anthrobus had a free header but Acton saved comfortably. Boro won a series of corners in the closing minutes and substitute Andy Corbett was lively as Boro strived in vain for a winner.

Nuneaton Borough v Newport County 06-09-2003

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick (Tullin 87), McGorry, Corbett, Murphy (Lamb 81), Whittaker (Clifford 70). **Subs:** Beckford-Quailey, White.

Newport: Wesson, Evans, Lloyd, Mumford, Eckhardt, Thomas (Williams 4), Rose, Rogers (Plant 65), Dickeson, Shephard, G. Phillips. **Subs:** Palmer, J. Phillips, Mountain.

Boro welcomed Newport County to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Newport were first to show but made nothing of a Andrew Mumford free-kick and then lost Andrew Thomas following a Matt Collins tackle with only four minutes gone. Andy Corbett was making himself busy and played a big part in Boro's first goal when he gained possession from keeper Wesson and forced him to concede a corner. Stuart Whittaker's flag kick was cleared, but only as far as Angus who played the ball back into the area for Fitzpatrick to head home.



Gary Fitzpatrick's header files past the Newport keeper.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Good play from Fitzpatrick saw the visitors concede another corner but Wesson punched clear before Gary Lloyd almost turned the ball into his own net. Fitzpatrick volleyed over the top from the resulting corner and Corbett failed to make the most of a chance created by Murphy. Newport pressed Boro back towards half-time but McGorry and Angus were on top of the danger. Just before the break Fitzpatrick forced a superb save out of Wesson with a free-kick from 20 yards which was tipped away and Corbett hit a spectacular effort which rattled the Newport crossbar.

Boro continued to press the visitors back at the start of the second period, but Murphy dragged the ball too wide and failed to get back into the danger zone. Substitute Steve Williams caused Boro some problems with his tricky runs down the right but Angus and Moore remained solid before Boro had two goals disallowed in quick succession. First Murphy was judged to be offside after a long throw from Clifford was flicked on by Fitzpatrick and then disallowed a Corbett goal after he was considered to have fouled Lloyd.

Murphy had a penalty appeal turned down but the home side made sure of a positive result with a goal in the final minute of normal time. Fitzpatrick found Clifford in space 25 yards out and he controlled the ball before firing into the net with pinpoint accuracy.



Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 08-09-2003

Chelmsford: Nicholls, Faulkner, Clarke, Alderton, Edwards, Wiles, Cross, Corbett (Allinson 61), Curran, Watkins, Norman. **Subs:** Street, Smith, Lay, Hopkins.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick (Clifford 89), McGorry, Corbett, Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Beckford-Quailey, Lamb, Tullin, White.

Boro travelled to the New Lodge, Billericay to face Chelmsford City in a Dr Martens Premier League game.

Boro were sent reeling by a third minute goal when Luke Corbett beat hesitant keeper Darren Acton to the ball and blasted it into the net from inside the six yard box. Boro hit back but their initial response was off target as was Terry Angus' powerful header which flew over the bar. Boro's Andy Corbett found space down the centre and attempted a shot but he was crowded out and the ball drifted wide of the post. Chelmsford almost doubled their lead when Colin Hoyle misjudged a long ball and Steve Norman cut inside and curled a shot just wide. Stuart Whittaker, who was making life difficult for the home side put a powerful volley straight at Paul Nicholls, who did well to parry the ball.

Three minutes before the break Andy Corbett hit a shot wide before conjuring up an equaliser. Norman was surrounded by defenders while in a scoring position and Boro broke quickly as Whittaker was allowed a lot of time to dribble goalwards and cross for Corbett to divert the ball into the net from a yard out.

Boro dominated the second period and were given a further boost in the 51st minute when Curran received his second booking for use of his elbow. Despite some brave resistance from the home side Boro kept plugging away and Whittaker had a shot just off target after 56 minutes before Garry Cross got in a 20-yard effort, but Acton saved comfortably.

Neil Moore had a goalbound header tipped over the top by Nicholls with 13 minutes to go as Chelmsford looked capable of holding out for a point, but the task narrowly eluded them as Boro snatched the lead as the ball was launched into the area from the right and Andy Corbett flicked the ball wide of the keeper to secure three points for the visitors.

Weston super Mare v Nuneaton Borough 13-09-2003

Weston: Jones, King, McKeever, Howell, Clark, Benton, Jackson, Slater, O'Hagan, French, Skinner (Davis 48). **Subs:** Lott, Mills, Mehew, Ganfield.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick (Clifford 52), McGorry, Corbett, Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Lamb, Tullin, White, Beckford-Quailey.

Boro made the journey to Springfield Park to play Weston-super-Mare in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro bossed the early play and Whittaker's free-kick was cleared before Andy Corbett found Gez Murphy whose first touch was poor and keeper Stuart Jones collected. Weston went close when Mark McKeever's corner reached captain Billy Clark who struck the crossbar with a powerful shot

and Brian McGorry cleared. Stuart Whittaker put a Gary Fitzpatrick free-kick over the bar and continued to test the Weston back line, but the home side were solid in defence.

McKeever raced into the Boro box but a timely Neil Moore tackle brought his run to an end. Stuart Slater shot wide from long range before the visitors took the lead on 37 minutes. A deep ball from Colin Hoyle found Murphy, who controlled the ball well and found himself one-on-one with Jones, who he beat with a shot into the corner of the net.

The second half began with McKeever having a lob tipped superbly over the bar by Darren Acton who was then called upon when Ryan King broke free from Angus and the Boro keeper tipped his shot round the post. Michael Love sent in a looping shot which Jones fumbled but no-one was on hand to cash in. Acton tipped over a Clark effort and shortly after the home side were on level terms. King was the provider from a corner kick and his cross resulted in a lapse of concentration from the Boro defence and up popped Clark to head home.

Boro looked tired but they created a chance with ten minutes left when Murphy freed Corbett, but the striker just didn't have the legs and keeper Jones got to the ball first. In the final action Weston's Danny O'Hagan went close but Angus bravely blocked his shot and just before the end Whittaker put a shot wide from 20 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 16-09-2003

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Clifford, McGorry, Quailey, Corbett (Murphy 57), Whittaker (Lamb 83). **Subs:** Tullin, White, Beckford-Quailey.

Grantham: Ziccardi, Wooding, Fox, P. Wilkin, Dakin, Gould, Wilson, Minett, K. Wilkin, Slinn (Wenlock 71), Inman (Kearns 74). **Subs:** Hallows, Clarke, Bowater.

Boro welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro started the stronger of the two teams and Mark Clifford sent Andy Corbett clear but the pass to his fellow striker, Brian Quailey, was underhit. Grantham showed they would be no pushover and Stuart Wilson skinned Michael Love and got in a dangerous ball which evaded everyone. Grantham took the lead on the 30 minute mark when a Martin Fox free kick from the edge of the box found the head of Wilson, who glanced a header past Darren Acton.

Grantham's lead didn't last long, however, and when Dakin fouled Quailey on the edge of the box Stuart Whittaker slotted the ball around the wall and past Mario Ziccardi for the equaliser. Boro then had a chance to take the lead as Quailey raced through the Gingerbread's defence and picked out Clifford, who took the ball too wide and his shot was saved by Ziccardi.

The second half started slowly but Boro were again using the flanks to good effect and Whittaker and Clifford were looping balls in towards the strikers, but the home side found the Grantham defence in determined mood and Alan Lewer

decided it was time for a change and Corbett was replaced by Murphy after 57 minutes.



Stuart Whittaker battles with Grantham defenders.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Grantham almost went ahead on the hour mark when Niall Inman shot at goal, but Terry Angus was on hand to clear and Boro had a chance after Quailey was fouled by Inman on the edge of the box but Whittaker's set piece was blocked by the Grantham wall. The visitors then suffered a set-back as Quailey was again fouled by Dakin, who was already on a yellow card, and won the right to first use of the showers. Murphy headed over the top from the resulting free-kick as Boro struggled to break down the ten men, who employed plenty of time-wasting tactics to run down the clock and in the end Boro resorted to hit and hope tactics.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-09-2003

Crawley: Little, Judge, Dean (Payne 65), Hemsley, Ready, Smith, Harkin, Richardson, Wilson-Denis, Marney, Brake (Gregory 72).
Subs: Hooper, Ford, Pullen.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Collins, Moore, Angus, Clifford, McGorry, Quailey, Murphy (Corbett 82). **Subs:** Lamb, Tullin, White, Beckford-Quailey.

Boro made the journey to the Broadfield Stadium to play Crawley Town in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Crawley took the game to Boro in the opening stages and former Queens Park Rangers defender Karl Ready gave the visitors an early scare when he headed over from a corner. Carl Wilson-Denis and Danny Marney opened up the Boro defence with ease, but Marney fluffed his shot, which went

wide of the target. After sustaining an early onslaught Boro silenced the bumper crowd by taking the lead. Mark Clifford's ball from the right was played into the path of Murphy and with the Crawley defence appealing for a free-kick the Boro striker stuck the ball into the net. Brian Quailey had penalty claims turned down just afterwards, but with Crawley reeling Stuart Whittaker sent Quailey clear on goal and his effort was parried away by keeper Andy Little straight into the path of Clifford who extended Boro's lead.

Terry Angus and Murphy missed the target with headers before Quailey failed to hit Whittaker's cross cleanly. Five minutes before the break Crawley got back into the game when Harkin's cross caused problems for the Boro rearguard and Kevin Helmsley bundled the ball over the line.

At the start of the second half Brian McGorry went close from the edge of the box but Boro were fighting fires and Wilson-Denis was becoming a handful for Angus and Neil Moore and when the striker's through ball found partner Marney, he hit the post and the ball rebounded out and Richardson was first to the ball and levelled the scores.

Crawley's confidence grew after the break and Acton spilled a free-kick from Nigel Brake, but his defence came to the rescue and at the other end Quailey volleyed over the top after a flick on from Collins. A series of Whittaker corners failed to get Boro back in the game and the visitors began to look jaded as the game entered the final 20 minutes.

Moore stopped the impressive Harkin in his tracks while at the other end the defender himself went close as the game petered out into a draw. Although Boro remain unbeaten, strength in depth looks to be a problem for manager Alan Lewer.

Boro Duo Net League Awards

Nuneaton Borough manager Alan Lewer and goalkeeper Darren Acton have benefited from the club's unbeaten start to the season by winning league awards for August. Lewer has taken the Manager of the Month honours after leading the Manor Park club to three wins and two draws. Meanwhile, Acton kept three clean sheets in the same period and conceded just two goals, performances that earned him the "Safe Gloves" award.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 04-10-2003

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Love, Corbett (Collins 59), Moore, Angus, Clifford, McGorry, Quailey (Williams 78), Murphy, Whittaker (Tullin 90).
Subs: Lamb, Beckford-Quailey.

Worcester: McDonnell, Davies, Carty, Holloway (Owen 70), Heeley (Woolley 24), Lyons (Snape 64), Foy, Middleton, Webster, Kelly, Wilde.
Subs: McDonald, Hayes.

Boro welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro went on the offensive from the start and Murphy found Stuart Whittaker, but his finish was poor. Murphy then headed wide from Colin Hoyle's cross, while the visitors' first effort

saw Adam Webster fail to get his head on a Pat Lyons' cross. An error by Neil Moore saw Adam Wilde release Leon Kelly but the winger's shot was closed down by Michael Love. Brian Quailey forced Danny McDonnell into a save as the end-to-end football continued. Andy Corbett shot wide after being played in by Brian McGorry while Worcester went close from David Foy's free-kick.



Gez Murphy notches the winner.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Webster got in a header after Acton had spilled Foy's cross but the move ended as the referee awarded a free-kick for a foul on the keeper. Acton committed another howler when he cleared the ball straight to Webster, but the Worcester striker lobbed his shot over the bar and into the crowd. Five minutes before the break Boro took the lead after Quailey's cross found Murphy at the back post and he headed the ball into the path of Mark Clifford who headed the ball into the net. Just before the break Kelly and Webster almost forced an equaliser when they broke quickly but the home defence recovered well.

The first action of the second half saw Boro almost extend their lead when Quailey sent Murphy racing clear but he took the ball too wide. Kelly then slipped past Terry Angus but Acton raced out to catch his looping cross. The visitors had a let-off when keeper McDonnell raced out for a high ball and appeared to step out of the penalty area. Whittaker's cross was just a fraction too high for the inrushing Murphy before the visitors snatched an equaliser. Darren Middleton's searching ball found Kelly and the striker raced through to slot the ball past Acton with Boro's defence trailing in the striker's wake.

Boro, looking for a quick reply, saw Quailey blaze wide after good work from Murphy in the box. Murphy then snatched what turned out to be the winner as he gained possession and raced through the Worcester back-line and with only McDonnell to beat he kept his cool and fired it home from the edge of the box. Worcester, though, refused to be beaten and Melly hit the crossbar and from the rebound Webster struck the ball wide. Boro realised a third goal may be needed and the impressive Whittaker raced down the left and closed in

towards goal before releasing a thunderous shot which just went wide in a move which deserved a goal. Before the close substitute Mark Owen struck the ball against the bar.

Lewer On The Edge

Nuneaton Borough have yet to taste defeat this season but all the signs suggest there's unrest behind the scenes at Manor Park. Manager Alan Lewer has refused to say whether he'll be with the side for tonight's FA Cup replay at Runcorn where victory would secure Boro a home tie with either Bradford Park Avenue or Vauxhall Motors. He admitted he was close to resigning after being on the sharp end of some abusive remarks made by fans immediately after the final whistle of the 1-1 draw with the Linnets on Saturday.

In his after-match press conference a despondent looking Lewer hinted other things were causing him concern at the club, one of which is almost certainly the lack of cash available to strengthen what he calls his 'small' squad as Boro strive to consolidate their place at the top of the Dr Martens Premier Division.

Nuneaton Borough v Tiverton Town

18-10-2003

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Tullin (Fitzpatrick 51), Collins, Moore, Angus, Clifford, McGorry, Quailey (Williams 46), Murphy (Corbett 68), Whittaker. **Subs:** Lamb, Beckford-Quailey.

Tiverton: Fraser, Winter, Power, Rees, Rudge, Cousins, Nancekvell (Ovens 81 (Steel 90)), Holloway, Pears, Chenoweth, Mudge (Milsom 81). **Subs:** Goff, Haines.

Boro welcomed Tiverton Town to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Tiverton were first to threaten and James Mudge fired wide after two minutes but Boro hit back and a perfect pass from Matt Collins found Brian Quailey in space but keeper Stuart Fraser parried it away and the striker missed the follow up – jarring his knee in the process. Tiverton continued to probe with Kevin Nancekvell heading wide from a Steve Winter corner after some slack defending by Boro's back line.

Mudge was a constant threat and only a neat interception by Neil Moore stopped Paul Chenoweth from going through on goal. Shortly after though the striker gave Tiverton the lead. An error by Colin Hoyle saw Mudge break free and despite the efforts of Moore to regain possession he struck a stunning shot from 25 yards into the back of the net. Boro almost equalised soon after when a Collins cross was headed into the path of Brian McGorry by Quailey but the shot went wide of the post from the edge of the box. Before the break, Terry Angus was fired up after a comment from Tivvy defender Jason Rees and he was still smarting when he left the field at half-time.

Substitute Danny Williams looked dangerous straight after the break and Stuart Whittaker was unlucky when his shot from the edge of the box went wide. Central defenders Angus and Moore paired up for a neat move just before the hour mark when Angus' looping ball was almost headed in by the

Boro skipper. Tempers boiled over when Gez Murphy and Nathan Rudge tangled, sparking a melee and then minutes later the duo tangled again in the box, with the Boro striker having solid claims for a penalty waved away.



Gez Murphy is clearly fouled in the area, but no penalty was awarded.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening News

By this stage Tiverton had resorted to time-wasting tactics as Boro lacked ideas and were looking jaded. Skipper Moore decided to take matters into his own hands and fired a wayward shot over the bar as the visitors' frustration tactics bore fruit. Keeper Fraser was called upon to tip over an Angus cross with Williams closing in and a Collins cross was also missed by the diminutive forward. Boro's final threat of the game came in injury time as Angus got his head on a Whittaker free-kick, but it lacked power.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 21-10-2003

Moor Green: Rachel, Doyle (Faulds 82), Frain, L. Collins, Sanders, Gillard, Stanley, B. Petty, Bailey (Haarhoff 71), Martin (Elmes 71), Trainer. Subs: Robinson, J. Petty.

Boro: Acton, Hoyle, Tullin, M. Collins, Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Corbett, Murphy (Quailey 70), Whittaker (Williams 60). Subs: Beckford-Quailey, Norton, Clifford.

Boro made the journey to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro suffered a scare with just three minutes gone when Dennis Bailey took out Darren Acton on the edge of the box, but the keeper recovered after treatment. The home side had a shot cleared off the by Chris Tullin after John Frain fired in from an angle. It took Boro 25 minutes to have a shot at goal, an event that was sarcastically applauded – a weak effort from Murphy after Collins chested the ball down. Bailey again caused problems when he ran on to a Jai Stanley pass and his shot from an angle beat Acton, but Terry Angus cleared off the line.

Former Birmingham City defender Frain sent Jai Martin through on goal and keeper Acton was clattered to the ground for a second time. Before the break Bailey again broke forward forcing a corner from which the Moors took the lead courtesy of a Guy Sanders half-volley.

Andy Corbett had a chance at the start of the second half, but

blazed the ball over the bar. Boro were living dangerously and in the space of two minutes, Acton appeared to shove Frain out of play and Angus bundled Bailey to the ground in the penalty area, but referee Darren Brockwell took no disciplinary measures. Lewer's side were just lacking all round and Tullin's cross cum shot almost half-an-hour into the second period was a good as it got.

Moor Green continued to probe with a dangerous cross from substitute Jimmy Haarhoff scrambled to safety by Brian McGorry and then Rob Elmes headed the follow up corner wide. And the pressure from the home side paid off as a corner whipped in by Frain was headed in by Elmes who made amends for an earlier miss. Things got worse for Boro when Fitzpatrick was handed a straight red after kicking out at Ben Petty. Moor Green nearly bagged a third after some woeful defending as substitute Paul Faulds narrowly missed a cross in front of an open goal. Boro won their first corner of the game in the 86th minute but created absolutely nothing.

Lewer Signs Three

Boro boss Alan Lewer has boosted his ailing squad with three new signing – and another one could be on the way. Right-back Leon Drysdale, defender-midfielder Stuart Lake and goalkeeper Ryan Poole will all be on duty against Merthyr Tydfil. Drysdale arrives on loan from Conference side Shrewsbury Town in place of Colin Hoyle who has returned to Burton Albion. Lake has been released by Hednesford Town where he has spent nine years after leaving Walsall and Poole, who is just 18, has been training with Boro for a month and was formerly with Halifax Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 25-10-2003

Boro: Acton, Drysdale, Love, Collins (Lake 56), Moore, Angus, Clifford (Fitzpatrick 86), McGorry, Corbett (Williams 64), Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Beckford-Quailey, Lamb.

Merthyr: Thomas, Edwards, Keddle, Needs, Price, Thorne, Aherne-Evans, Belle (Witcombe 71), John (Evans 75), Collier (Regan 75). Subs: Heal, Cropley.

Boro welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Darren Acton made a regulation save from Kevin Aherne-Evans before Gez Murphy headed over from Michael Love's cross. Stuart Whittaker's free-kick evaded everyone and forced Neil Thomas into making a save, but when the ball evaded his grasp no-one was on hand to take advantage. The visitors took the lead after 18 minutes when a beautifully flighted free-kick from the half-way line was met by Merthyr defender Gary Horne who powerfully headed past Acton to give the Welshmen the lead.

Aherne-Evans forced Acton into another save before Boro launched an attack and Corbett found Murphy in space, who turned sharply and shot just wide as keeper Thomas looked on. Corbett turned well and his cross was deflected for a corner from which Neil Moore challenged Thomas but

the ball fell kindly for the Merthyr defence and was cleared. Just before half-time a Merthyr clearance turned into a race between Acton and Lee John and when the keeper slipped John got there first and lobbed the keeper, but the ball crashed against the bar.

The first action of the second half came in the 49th minute when Love's shot was deflected and then Clifford set himself up for a shot which he hit high and wide of the goal. Boro then grabbed an equaliser when McGorry found himself in acres of space and hit a 30 yard screamer which beat Thomas and put Boro back on level terms.

The home side had the measure of the Merthyr forwards, who failed to create any clear cut chances. Matty Collins made way for Stuart Lake and Andy Corbett was replaced by Danny Williams. Within a minute of being on the pitch Williams attacked the visitors' defence, but his shot was saved by Thomas. He then had another chance but his weak header from Love's cross was easily dealt with. However, Boro continued to pile on the pressure and a minute later they took the lead. Whittaker's 68th minute corner found Lake who climbed the highest to head home from close range, giving Boro the lead.



Stuart Lake heads the winner.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Lake went close to adding a third six minutes later after he played a neat one-two with McGorry and hit the ball first time from 25 yards, but the ball flew over the top. Terry Angus met another Whittaker corner, but failed to get enough on it as Boro continued to press the visitors back. Whittaker shot wide before Merthyr's last chance came in the 90th minute when Thorne was let in by a defensive error but shot wide.

Boro Sign Keeper

Farhad Afendiyev has been called up to the Boro squad to face Dover Athletic. The Professional Footballer's Association have been called in to solve a dispute between recent recruit Ryan Poole and Halifax Town, with the back-up keeper unable to play competitively for Boro.

The situation could take a number of weeks to resolve and as a result the club's Academy goalkeeping coach has been asked to sit on the bench.

Dover Athletic v Nuneaton Borough

01-11-2003

Dover: Hyde, Davies, Dyer, Readings (Brown 90), Arnott, Chapman, Day, Spiller (Cloke 79), Wilkins, Tyne (Glover 87), Carruthers. Subs: Amadi, Postma.

Boro: Acton, Drysdale, Angus, Moore, Love, Collins (Fitzpatrick 69), McGorry, Whittaker (Lake 74), Clifford, Murphy (Quailey 57), Corbett. Subs: Afandiyev, Lamb.

Boro made the journey to The Crabble to play Dover Athletic in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

The early action saw Acton in trouble as Wilkins blocked his clearance. The keeper, who was cautioned, then tripped Wilkins from behind but referee Ian Crouch played a good advantage from which Tyne lobbed over from long range. Then it was Boro's turn to attack and Corbett's cross found Collins who smashed a rising 12 yarder against the underside of the bar when he should have scored.

The miss proved costly as on 17 minutes Dover took the lead when Acton flapped at a Jamie Day free-kick and Tyne was handily placed to head home from eight yards. Boro's response was immediate and they equalised in the 19th minute when Love drifted in a deep free kick and Moore stole in at the back post to plant a firm header over the stranded Hyde and high into the rigging from six yards.

Acton saved a low skidder from Tyne and at the other end Collins had a deflected drive held by Hyde at the base of the post. Corbett failed to make the most of a good opening with a miserable centre before the visitors again turned on the style and McGorry narrowly failed to get on the end of a Murphy cross. Murphy was then put clear following another good move but fired his shot straight at Hyde.

Boro started the second half on top and Corbett's run and cross was only inches away from Murphy with the Dover defence in disarray. However, on 53 minutes Boro suffered a crushing blow as Acton and Clifford dithered to cut out a Day centre allowing Carruthers to move between them and gratefully fire into an unguarded goal. Boro never really recovered and it took a fingertip save from Acton to turn over Lee Spiller's fierce long range effort.

Boro's day got worse when Terry Angus was sent off for a second bookable offence after protesting about an elbowing incident carried out by Tyne on Leon Drysdale. The game was restarted with a dropped ball and Tyne's kick back to the keeper beat Acton and dropped just over the bar. Matt Collins was carried off with concussion after a clash of heads with Brian McGorry before Acton inexplicably picked up a back pass from Moore. Carruthers blasted the free-kick into the Boro wall.

Boro pressed for an equaliser as the seconds ticked away but were hit by a swift break in the 87th minute when Tyne powered down the right and squared the ball for Wilkins to find the target. In injury time Corbett seized on Andy Arnott's weak header and drilled a low 15-yarder past Hyde.

Lewer Agrees New Deal

Alan Lewer last night agreed a contract to stay at Nuneaton Borough as manager for the next two years. The 48-year-old was at a board meeting and agreed to sign a two year deal which brings to an end speculation of him walking away from Manor Park to pastures new. The club have also agreed a new contract with assistant manager Dave Norton and Alan Prince who will return as General Manager while overseeing the new ground move.

Nuneaton Borough v Havant & Waterlooville 08-11-2003

Boro: Acton, Drysdale, Moore, Angus, Love, Clifford, McGorry, Collins, Lake (Brown 77), Corbett (Quailey 62), Williams (Murphy 71). **Sub:** Poole.
Havant: Tardif, Turner, Farrett, Byles, Skelton, Nasson, Town, Eribenne, Howe, Taylor, Blake (Kerridge 89). **Subs:** Ford, Paul, Knight, Davis.

Boro welcomed Havant & Waterlooville to Manor Park for a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Havant attacked from the off and a stray Leon Drysdale ball fell to David Town, whose cross was well dealt with by Darren Acton. Boro were struggling to clear their lines at this early stage and Acton had to rush out to clear a dangerous through ball. Former Coventry City youngster Chukki Eribenne put a shot into the side netting before Boro worked a chance as Drysdale released Corbett, whose shot was blocked. Havant deservedly took the lead a minute later as a free-kick from the left by Dean Burke was met by Eribenne, whose glancing header beat the outstretched hand of Acton.

The visitors could have increased their lead a minute later when a well-worked free-kick found Luke Byers, but his shot was saved magnificently by Acton, who denied Town shortly afterwards. Mark Clifford's shot from 25 yards went narrowly over the top before Williams sprung into action, but his shot was straight at Christopher Tardif. Dangerman Town was causing Boro all sorts of problems and should have done better with just Acton to beat, but Boro hit the visitors on the break and Williams played an excellent ball through to Corbett who controlled and shot, only to see the ball bounce off the post. It was a miss for which Boro were punished as Eribenne fed the magnificent Town and Acton stood no chance as his 20 yard shot beat the keeper.

Eribenne again went close and his shot was fumbled by Acton, who collected the ball at the second attempt and then saved Luke Byers free-kick as Boro struggled to stay in contention, being second to every ball. Just before the break a cross from Williams rebounded back to his feet, but he lacked the composure to take advantage.

Boro came out after the break in a more determined mood and Angus' header found Lake, whose shot was cleared off the line. Lake was booked as Boro began to vent their frustration, but he hit a fierce shot over the bar straight after before being subjected to a wild challenge from Daniel Turner which resulted in a melee in front of the home dugout. A mass brawl followed and Turner and Bobby Howe were

booked for their part. Boro had an opening on the hour mark as Michael Love wriggled through and unleashed a powerful shot which was saved by Tardif, and Williams follow-up shot was somehow kept out.



There's no way through for Danny Williams as he bursts into the area.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Corbett and Williams were replaced by Quailey and Murphy in a ten minute spell, but chances were few and far between as the visitors contained the Boro threat. Brown replaced Lake and Boro had the ball in the net straight after but Murphy was adjudged to be offside. Brown put in a tame shot before Murphy had a shot graze the post late on and managed to pull back a goal late into injury time with a stunning volley following a lovely flowing move, but it was too little too late.

Nuneaton Borough v Stratford Town 15-11-2003

Boro: Poole, Clifford (Lamb), Drysdale, Lake (Tullin), Moore, Scott, Corbett, Norton, Williams, Murphy, Brown. **Subs:** McGorry, White, Acton.
Stratford: Barnes, O'Brien, Gallagher (Mortimer), Niblett, Spacey, Darlison, Connolly, Stephenson, Darroch, Gray (Kitching), Eades. **Subs:** Ruddock, Watkins, Baker.

Boro welcomed Stratford Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Boro had a chance in the third minute as Murphy broke through but Roland Barnes raced out to collect while at the other end Brian Gray had a goalbound shot blocked by the Boro defence. Neither side made much headway early with Scott Darroch's long range shot being the highlight of the early exchanges. Stafford continued to threaten but it was Boro who had the best chance when Danny Williams found space in the Stratford box but Barnes scrambled the ball away. From the resulting corner a Stratford defender sliced the ball against his own post before Corbett volleyed wide at the back post. A rampaging run from Murphy took him through two challenges before he squared the ball to Mickey Brown, whose shot lacked pace and was saved by Barnes.

Poole cleared at the second attempt when Stratford broke and Corbett had another chance but his curling shot went just over the top. Danny Williams was caught offside on a number



of occasions while a blocked Murphy shot gave Boro a corner, which fell to Mickey Brown, whose cross was met by Stuart Lake, but went agonisingly wide. Murphy had a shot blocked and nothing came from the corner as the first half ended in deadlock.

Darroch broke through straight after the break and lobbed the ball over the bar but it was another ten minutes before either keeper was called into action, Poole just beating the onrushing Stratford striker to a loose ball. The keeper's clearance found Murphy, who turned his man and shot into the arms of Barnes. Gray went through for Stratford, beating Poole to the ball but his cross was headed out for a fruitless corner. Headers from Murphy and Moore following corners came to nothing before Williams beat the Stratford offside trap in the 67th minute when put through by Murphy. The striker beat the keeper before he appeared to be dragged down but penalty appeals were waved away.

Williams beat the offside trap again a minute later and raced down the wing to drive the ball past Barnes to give Boro the lead. Four minutes later Boro were two up. A long ball released Murphy who held off his man and fired through Barnes' despairing dive. Scott Darroch then dragged the visitors back into the game when he made it 2-1, heading past Poole from Lee Darlison's free-kick. Stratford almost equalised from a similar move a minute later but Poole saved Darroch's header and Moore tidied up. Seven minutes from time Murphy added another when he wriggled free in the box to fire Boro into a 3-1 lead, while in the last minute Stratford were awarded a penalty after Darroch was brought down in the box and full-back Paul O'Brien slotted home the spot kick.

Quailey And Corbett Out – Collins In

Nuneaton Borough have sold Andy Corbett to Nationwide Conference side Burton Albion for a small fee. And fellow striker, Brian Quailey, who is happy to stay with Boro, will move to Tamworth early next week, subject to a medical. Manager Alan Lewer said: "Both players have done a good job for me – especially as they have been carrying injuries. In Brian's case, his move will depend on a detailed examination of a hip problem." Ex-Rushden and Diamonds man Darren Collins will join Boro on a free transfer from Grantham.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 15-11-2003

Bath: Bryant, Coupe, Jenkins (Cleverly 78), Jones, Trought, Rollo, Bennett (Milton 65), Owers, Eaton, Tweddle (Shore 86), Carter. Subs: Jeffries, Bridges.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, M. Collins (Brown 24), Moore, Scott, Lake, McGorry, D. Collins, Murphy (Williams 72), Whittaker (Lamb 90). Subs: Poole, White.

Boro made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro made a nervy start and Jason Eaton was gifted a free header following an Alfie Carter cross with Steve Tweddle just failing to get a touch. In reply Boro caused problems for Bath when Love's cross was flicked on by Darren Collins into the

path of Gez Murphy, who failed to make contact. Mark Bryant then tipped Scott's header over the bar before Boro suffered a set-back after Matt Collins limped off and was replaced by Mickey Brown. Acton saved a Tweddle shot after Steve Jenkins' free-kick, but Boro opened the scoring ten minutes before half-time when Steve Jones fouled Collins on the left and Whittaker's free-kick found Collins unmarked in the box and the striker headed past Bryant. Bath hit back and Scott had to be alert to head away a Mike Trought drive and then Carter's cross forced a reaction save out of Darren Acton.

The home side pressed at the start of the second half and Frankie Bennett headed just over and Jones also went close. Love and Moore scrambled Rollo's cross away as the visitors defence came under pressure and Matt Coupe forced Brown to head clear before Bath notched an equaliser. Tweddle's cross from the right reached Eaton and he tucked the ball away with Boro's defence at sixes and sevens. Collins had dropped back at this point to help protect Boro's lead but the equaliser saw him pushed back up front, which paid dividends as the striker headed home Whittaker's corner.

Williams replaced Murphy with 15 minutes to go and the substitute's pace took him clear of the Bath defence on two occasions. Bath lost the impressive Tweddle, who was stretchered off after falling awkwardly before Acton was called on to punch clear a Carter cross. But any fears of another equaliser were quashed in the final minute when Whittaker raced down the flank after a through ball from Williams and as Bryant came out the left winger slotted the ball home from an acute angle.

McGorry Blasts Boro's Lack Of Ambition

Club coach Brian McGorry is disappointed Nuneaton Borough have lost their ambition to make a swift return to the Nationwide Conference. The midfielder came to Manor Park with the promise the club would be going full tilt to regain their status in non-league's top flight and it was that positive approach which persuaded him to sign. McGorry said: "When I came to Nuneaton I was assured by the club that they were ambitious and wanted to get straight back into the Nationwide Conference and that was the main reason I signed. But the events of the last seven days lead me to believe that this is not the case."

Prince Defends His Position

Nuneaton Borough General Manager Alan Prince has dismissed claims that he had the final say on the sales of Brian Quailey and Andy Corbett. The man who runs the club on a day to day basis has had the finger pointed at him by manager Alan Lewer in terms of accepting four figure bids for the strike duo. With cashflow problems clearly apparent, Stuart Whittaker and Matty Collins have also attracted attention on the transfer market along with Mark Clifford and Gez Murphy. But Prince is keen to stress that the final say on the price of a player is taken by Lewer and not by himself..



Statement From The Club

After a week of apparent conflict behind the scenes at Manor Park following the sales of Brian Quailey and Andy Corbett, Nuneaton Borough have issued the following statement:

It is right that the club should set the record straight following the recent speculation in the local press regarding a number of issues concerning recent events at the club.

With respect to the sale of Corbett and Quailey there is absolutely no disagreement between the manager Alan Lewer and General Manager Alan Prince as has been reported. Both managers are working closely together to assemble a squad within the limits of the money that is available and includes players that are capable of bringing success to the club.

Alan Lewer is quite rightly not happy to sell his better players but he accepts he must work within his budget. If the club had progressed further in the FA Cup, the additional revenue would have funded the overspend in the budget but as we all know that has not happened.

Alan Lewer has a number of top class contacts in the professional game and he works hard to keep his finger on the pulse of player availability. The club is confident that he will bring in good quality players to replace any that may leave whilst remaining within the budget and maintaining our push for promotion.

It is very, very difficult in any league to compete with clubs that have a benefactor pumping money into the club or have the infrastructure to generate significant income.

We have neither at Nuneaton but the latter will be addressed by the ground move when the new stadium will have additional facilities that will bring in revenue for the club. In the meantime we have to work with what we have got. Having said that, the club is confident that both managers have the experience and ability to move the club forward and lay the foundations for the future.

On the commercial side, Graham Wilson is doing a tremendous job for the club with the Goaldengate Lottery and 200 Club. He has also attracted a number of new business sponsors this season and we will be launching next season's shirt draw in January. If you can help in any aspect of the fundraising then please contact Graham.

The club is acutely aware that there are a small number of fans that seem to take pleasure at continually criticising personnel at the club and the way it is run. At best most of the criticism is based on pure speculation and at worst it is just plain untrue.

The club accepts that this sort of criticism goes with the territory but it nevertheless does not make it any easier to accept. The club also accepts its share of the responsibility for this as it has in the past not been best in communicating what is happening, to the club's supporters.

To rectify this situation, Alan Lewer and Alan Prince intend to hold regular forums with supporters and supporters' representatives in order to try to create a more open atmosphere within the club and hopefully a more positive reaction from the fans. We will be making an announcement in the near future when arrangements have been made for the first forum.

Both Alan Lewer and Alan Prince are committed to bringing success to this club and achieving the dream of playing in the Football League. Nuneaton has all the ingredients to do this and the club is very close to taking the first major step forward with the move to a new stadium. In the meantime let us all work together for the benefit of Nuneaton Borough FC.

Boro Game Off

Welling United have stressed that they every every sympathy with flu-ravaged Nuneaton Borough. The scheduled Premier Division game between the clubs in Kent was called off after Boro reported that they had only six fit players.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 06-12-2003

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Love, Collins, Scott, Angus, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, Brown, Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Moore, Poole, Williams, Lake, Lamb.

Hednesford: Young, Gibson, Hines, Evans (Lamey 59), Brindley, Simkin, C. Palmer, S. Palmer, Anthrobus, Danks, Dodds (Gray 72). **Subs:** Williams, Evans, McGuire.

Boro welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro started brightly and forced a corner in the second minute which Matt Collins blazed wildly over the bar after Hednesford had failed to clear their lines. Boro continued to pile on the pressure with the Pitmen's defence looking shaky but they were unable to translate their dominance into goals. In the tenth minute Gez Murphy made a darting run to the by-line and pulled the ball back to Stuart Whittaker, but the winger's shot failed to trouble the keeper.

Boro had a goal disallowed for a handball by Mickey Brown before a misplaced Murphy pass gave Hednesford's Mark Danks the chance to run in on goal at the other end, but his cross was cleared by Angus as Pitmen striker Steve Anthrobus lurked dangerously behind him. A Leslie Hines free-kick caused panic in the Boro defence as Hednesford began to claw their way back into the game. On the half-hour another crunching challenge went in on Drysdale and Hednesford full-back Hines became the first man into the referee's book.

Seconds later Boro took the lead when Collins picked up the ball 25 yards out and hit a beautiful shot into the top corner of the Hednesford net. The visitors almost replied immediately with a Darren Simkin shot that was charged down by a desperate Boro defence. Stuart Whittaker fired in a dangerous corner in first half stoppage time but there was no Boro player available to get a final touch.

Boro started the second-half as they began the first, putting



pressure on the Hednesford defence from the off. Murphy laid the ball off to Brown but his shot was well blocked. Then the home side scored a well deserved second goal five minutes after the break. A fantastic run and cross by Whittaker found Drysdale at the back post, and his header was blocked but fell kindly to Collins, who smashed in his second goal of the afternoon. Hednesford looked to get back into the game and a storming run from Steve Palmer was followed by a terrific shot which Acton saved well and Angus cleared the danger.

The excellent Drysdale looked to increase Boro's lead, his mazy run brought him in on goal but Young got down well to smother the ball. Boro were putting the visitors under intense pressure and a third goal was inevitable. Brown duly delivered when he volleyed home brilliantly following a Whittaker cross and a Scott flick on. Boro were looking back to their best and Murphy nearly made it four with a stunning left foot strike, which former Boro keeper Ryan Young was equal to. Hednesford made a couple of changes, introducing Chris Gray and Nathan Lamey but their only clear-cut chance came 15 minutes from time when a Chris Brindley header hit the post with Acton flat-footed in the Boro goal.

Drysdale was unfortunate not to get on the scoresheet seven minutes from time, Young doing well again to palm away the former Shrewsbury man's strike. Collins had a chance to complete his hat-trick in the 90th minute but fired the ball just wide, after a neat one-two with Clifford.

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 09-12-2003

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Adamson, Tullin (Collins 62), Love (Moore 62), Lamb, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, D. Williams, Murphy, Lamb. **Subs:** Scott, S. Williams, Poole.

Gresley: Belford, Everitt (Spacey 62), Cheetham, Smith, Haynes, Slater, Doughty, Holmes (Barrett 76), Harrad, Hebberd (Francis 65), Alexander. **Sub:** Clarke.

Boro welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Cup third round game.

The first action saw Dale Belford fail to hold Gary Fitzpatrick's shot, but he recovered and gathered at the second attempt and the keeper was in action two minutes later saving Neil Moore's header from a corner. Darren Acton was then called upon, making a reaction save from a good shot from Shaun Harrad. Both sides made some shoddy passes and one of them led to Moore being outpaced by Liam Hebberd and the Boro skipper brought him down but Leon Doughty's free-kick flashed over the bar.

Following a dour 15 minutes, the game sparked to life as a long clearance found Murphy, who blasted over as Belford raced out to meet him while at the other end, Holmes shot wide from close range when he should have done better. Murphy was looking the most dangerous player on the park, troubling Belford with a long range effort and laying on a chance for co-striker Danny Williams. Hebberd saw his effort beat Acton and crash down off the bar and into the keeper's hands, but the assistant referee had his flag raised.

Boro were creating the better opportunities and Drysdale's long-range effort was deflected wide and Belford did well to smother the ball as Williams attempted to round the keeper. A shot from Hebberd and Matty Lamb's deflected effort were the closest either side came to scoring before the break.

The temperature plummeted for the second half and the pitch was covered by frost, making it difficult for players to keep their feet throughout the second half. Fitzpatrick's shot was spilled by Belford, but there wasn't a Boro player on hand to pick up the pieces before Murphy twice went close in the opening ten minutes of the half. Adamson did well to dispossess Hebberd when he was put through before Boro eventually broke the deadlock with 15 minutes to go. Matt Collins, on as a substitute for Chris Tullin, chipped a Rovers defender and volleyed home. Although Collins almost put the ball into his own net and Gresley forced a couple of late corners, the visitors were unable to capitalise.

Lewer May Be Back

Nuneaton Borough manager Alan Lewer is considering a return to watch tomorrow's game away at Merthyr Tydfil. Although Dave Norton will continue to run things from the dugout, Lewer may make a trip to Wales to watch the team in action – providing he continues with his recovery. The Boro boss is battling a combination of chest infection, glandular virus and flu and has been on strong medication for the past fortnight.

Kerry Quits Boro Board

Howard Kerry has resigned from the board of directors at Nuneaton due to being unable to keep up with the financial obligations required. The 60-year-old who was chairman for seven years and a key member in forming the interim board which stopped the club going to the wall in 1988, before reforming in 1991, has left his post with immediate effect.

Hinckley United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-2003

Hinckley: Whittle, Cartwright, Lenton, Jackson, Penny, Stone, Goodwin (Piercewright 45), Crowley (Dyer 70), Larvin (Jenkins 58), Smith, Murray. **Subs:** Masters, Evans.

Boro: Acton, Clifford (D. Collins 89), Love, M. Collins, Scott (Moore 69), Angus, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, Brown, Murphy (Lamb 84), Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, D. Williams.

Boro made the journey to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro made the early running and Tommy Whittle was called into action when he raced from his line to smother the ball from the feet of Leon Drysdale. Hinckley replied with Neil Cartwright seeing a free kick flash across the face of the goal with nobody on hand to apply a finishing touch. But Boro should have taken the lead in the 13th minute when Hinckley lost possession and Murphy raced clear before crossing to an unmarked Michael Brown who was denied by an exceptional save from Whittle.

Darren Acton cut out a dangerous cross from Smith before

Guy Stretton had a golden chance to put Hinckley into the lead after 24 minutes, when Larvin had a clear shot at goal following a mix up between Terry Angus and Dion Scott, but the striker scuffed his shot allowing Acton to make an easy save. Play swung from end to end but there were few scoring chances, although both keepers were guilty of handling errors, mainly due to the swirling wind. Michael Love blasted the ball over the bar before Boro took the lead on 38 minutes. There seemed little danger when Stuart Whittaker landed a speculative ball in the penalty area, but Gavin Stone made a hash of a header, diverting the ball into the path of Murphy who finished with a fierce right footed drive.



Gez Murphy gives Boro the lead.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The goal gave Boro a huge boost and they almost added a second a minute later when Whittaker tested Whittle at his near post. The keeper was called into action again just after as he gathered a Brown cross at the second attempt.

Hinckley stepped up their game in the second half and were far the better side. Acton produced an acrobatic save on 52 minutes when he tipped over Jamie Lenton's curling effort and as the pressure mounted on the visitors, Dave Crowley tried his best with a well struck 25 yarder that flew just over. Smith put an overhead kick wide on the 60 minute mark before Shaun Murray was just a fraction away as his low drive beat Acton and shaved the left hand upright. Boro wasted a couple of free-kicks via Whittaker and Murphy was unlucky when he headed Brown's cross wide of the target.

Substitute Jenkins diverted Murray's cross wide from close range after 80 minutes and Neil Cartwright hoofed the ball over the club house from a short corner as Boro looked set to complete a league double over their near neighbours. But with the clock clicking round to 90 minutes, Cartwright wriggled past Neil Moore before sending in an inch-perfect cross to the feet of Smith who tapped the ball home from six yards. Smith then almost snatched all three points for Hinckley as his shot was hacked off the line.

More Cash Problems For Boro

Nuneaton Borough chairman Roger Stanford is due to make an announcement outlining the club's future. Stanford heads a board meeting on Monday from which a statement

explaining the club's policies over the coming months will be made public. It is believed that directors dipped into their pockets just before Christmas to bail the club out to the tune of around £60,000 and with gates still well below the budgeted figure this term, the possibility of more cuts on the playing front cannot be ruled out.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City

01-01-2004

Boro: Acton, Clifford (D. Collins 60), Love, M. Collins, Scott, Angus, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, Brown, Murphy (D. Williams 88), Moore.
Subs: Tullin, Poole.

Cambridge: Davies, Summerscales (Simpson 76), Baillie, Pluck, Langston, Williams, Miller, Nightingale, Martin, Bloomfield, Riddle (Chaffey 76). **Subs:** Wardley, Hughes.

Boro welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park for a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro pressed from the off and had a chance in the first minute when Matt Collins' shot looped up off the goalkeeper's body and fell to Murphy, who could not direct his header towards goal. Darren Acton dealt with a terrific cross before Mickey Brown blazed over from the edge of the box when the ball fell to him following a Gary Fitzpatrick corner and the same player forced Martin Davies into a save with a flashing header a minute later. Simon Martin had the best chance so far after 15 minutes when he found himself clean through but he put his shot wide of the post. Murphy forced Davies to save at his feet before Acton produced a phenomenal double save after an error from Michael Love allowed Louis Riddle a clear strike at goal and it was only the former Tamworth keeper's heroics that were keeping the home side in the game.

But on 35 minutes it was Boro who took the lead as Moore ran on to a Matt Collins pass and brilliantly struck the ball home from all of 30 yards. Boro were looking full of confidence following the goal and eager to double their lead, but were unable to do so before half-time as Cambridge held firm.

The second half started scrappily as Cambridge battled for an equaliser and Boro dropped players back behind the ball. However, the visitors drew level on 52 minutes when Fitzpatrick gave the ball away in midfield and City worked the ball forward to Danny Bloomfield who beat Acton at the second attempt. Boro hit back and a Dion Scott header crashed against the bar and fell to Matt Collins, whose shot was blocked and Terry Angus headed over from a corner. Boro won a couple of fruitless corners before Riddle blazed over the top and Alan Lewer replaced Mark Clifford with Darren Collins.

Boro were looking dangerous from corners and Moore was just off target with a powerful header, but just minutes later Boro finally regained the lead when a long ball found Murphy out wide and he cut into the box at pace, striking a fierce drive past Davies into the back of the Cambridge net. Buoyed by Murphy's goal, Boro went for a third and Love fired just wide with a long-range effort and a Davies clearance rebounded off Collins before looping over the bar.



Chippenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-11-2004

Chippenham: Hervin, Green, Thorne (Walker 14), Towler, Gould, Herring, Horgan, Badman, Griffin (Allison 84), Constable, Edwards (Mings 90). Subs: Robertson, Wilmott.

Boro: Acton, Clifford (D. Collins 63), Love, M. Collins, Scott, Angus, Drysdale (S. Williams 79), Fitzpatrick (D. Williams 83), Brown, Murphy, Moore. Subs: Poole, Tullin.

Boro made the journey to Hardenhuish Park to play Chippenham Town in a Dr Marten's Premier Division game.

Both sides had early chances and the home side forced a corner in the first minute before Mickey Brown had a shot tipped around the post. Boro had a scare after ten minutes when Wayne Thorne was unmarked in the box but fired straight into the arms of Darren Acton. The home side continued to put Boro under pressure with Scott again caught out but it was a slip by Angus which saw the home side snatch the lead. The lively James Constable turned the central defender inside out before setting himself up for a simple shot past the onrushing Darren Acton.

Boro created a chance to equalise almost immediately as Mark Clifford's superb 30 yard crossfield pass found Murphy in the box, but the striker was tackled and bundled over as he tried to tee up a shot. However, Chippenham almost increased their lead just before the break when Charlie Griffin was totally unmarked in the box but blazed over the top.

The second half started with the Boro defence again in turmoil as Acton and Scott dithered as Griffin closed in on goal. Boro were looking second best in most departments and Moore was constantly having to track back to help out. Matty Collins was working tirelessly but without a great deal of support his options were limited. Boro lost Clifford on the hour mark as he was suffering with a broken toe and a groin strain and was replaced by Darren Collins. Tom Gould missed a sitter for the home side when unmarked on the edge of the six yard box and just after James Constable broke free but Acton saved the day with a reaction save with his legs.

But Boro were still in the game and threatened when Darren Collins, Murphy and Brown all went close following a scramble in the goalmouth. Lewer then threw caution to the wind and introduced the Williams brothers and this led to the vital equaliser with two minutes left. Simeon slotted in a ball which fell to Collins via a deflection and the veteran striker stooped to head the ball home. The goal inspired Boro and they went for the win as Murphy was set free by a ball from Matty Collins and as he raced through one on one with Mark Hervin, he blazed it wide.

No Boro Wage Cut

Nuneaton Borough have put on hold plans to cut the wage bill at Manor Park while the club are still in the chase for the Dr Martens Premier Division title. While finances are still tight due mainly to a drop in attendances and overall cashflow, the board discussed plans to cut the playing budget, but have decided to keep it at its current level for the time being.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 06-01-2004

Moor Green: Rachel (Harris 70), Gillard, Trainer, L. Collins (Dowdall 54), Sanders, Petty, Faulds, Haarhoff, Robinson, Doyle, Martin. Subs: Davis, Elmes, Bailey.

Boro: Poole, Tullin, Malone, Crabtree, Angus, S. Williams (P. Gaunt 81), Breward, Long, D. Collins, D. Williams, Lamb (D. Gaunt 46). Subs: Woods, Chamberlain, Farmer.

Boro made the journey to The Moorlands to face Moor Green in the Birmingham Senior Cup third round.

The first chance of the game fell to Moor Green in the second minute when an unmarked Guy Sanders met a free-kick, but his header was just wide. Another Moor Green free-kick caused panic in the Boro defence on ten minutes as Jae Martin turned and shot, but Ryan Poole was equal to the shot and was again in action five minutes later, saving brilliantly at the feet of the tricky Jimmy Haarhoff. Boro were a long way second best and Andy Crabtree was twice forced into last ditch clearances and the signs were ominous.

Moor Green again went close on 20 minutes as a Martin cross was met by an outstretched Richard Robinson boot, but his effort went just wide. The home side finally got the goal they had been threatening in the 40th minute. A Peter Faulds shot was acrobatically saved by Poole but the ball fell to ex-Boro midfielder Daire Doyle, who headed home from close range. Faulds forced Poole into another save just two minutes later which the keeper grabbed at the second attempt. Then, in first half injury time the Moors went two up as Ben Petty picked up a poor Boro defensive clearance and fired home from 25 yards.

Boro attacked at the start of the second half but the move came to nothing and the home side went close again when Doyle fired just wide. The Moors threatened again on the hour mark after Faulds unselfishly fed Haarhoff, but his shot went over the bar before Rachel was forced into his only save of the game, diving to his left to smother Simeon Williams' fierce strike. A minute later Poole was called into action again, saving at the feet of Faulds, but Moor Green left back Phil Trainer found the net direct from the resulting corner to put his side 3-0 up. Substitute Sean Dowdall almost made it four but his shot went just wide.

Boro Meet With Fan Groups

Nuneaton Borough directors have met with representatives of the club's supporter groups in a bid to forge a closer relationship and discuss ways of moving forward. The meeting came at the end of a difficult week for the club which began with a lengthy board meeting on Monday evening in which a decision was made to keep the wage budget at the same level, while the club are still in with a shout of the title.

Chairman Roger Stanford and directors Dave Radburn, Gordon Chislett and Paul Cleugh were joined by representatives of the supporters' club, the Borough Independent Supporters club and the Trust.

Welling United v Nuneaton Borough 10-01-2004

Welling: Kelly, Burgess, Henry, Statham, Watts, Slatter, Riviere, Stock (Standen 55), P. Collins, Booth, Berkeley. **Subs:** Powell, O'Shea, Hunt.

Boro: Acton, D. Collins (S. Williams 68), Love (Whittaker 78), M. Collins, Scott, Angus, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, Brown, Murphy, Moore. **Subs:** McGorry, D. Williams, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Park View Road to play Welling United in a Dr Marten's Premier Division game.

Boro started well and Gary Fitzpatrick sent Matty Collins free in the box and his drag back to Murphy hit the chest of the striker and went out of play. The striker then hit a shot wide from a long punt upfield by Darren Acton and then forced two saves out of keeper Gavin Kelly, one from out wide and the other a speculative effort from the edge of the box. Welling's first threat came on the 30 minute mark as Phil Collins blazed wide after being put through by Riviere, but Boro continued to dominate with Neil Moore having a crack from distance. Acton saved well from Riviere, spreading himself to block the effort at the expense of a corner.

After the break Leon Drysdale had to be on his toes to clear off the line after some slack defending as Phil Collins headed down an Austin Berkeley corner. But Drysdale turned villain soon after as he sent Collins sprawling in the box as he chased a pass from the creative Booth and the referee pointed to the spot. Booth stepped up and hit the ball low into the corner, giving Welling a surprise lead. The home side almost extended their lead with Phil Collins wasting a golden chance when sent through by Booth again with no-one marking him and Acton was a relieved man when he blazed wide. The game had been turned on its head as the visitors' heads dropped and frustration crept in.

Simeon Williams was thrust into action in place of the largely ineffective Darren Collins and he almost made a dramatic impact when he rose high at the far post to try and get on the end of a corner. Murphy had a half-chance but couldn't get enough power before Boro fell further behind. The defence were caught ball watching and flat footed as Phil Collins freed Booth who doubled his and Welling's tally with a shot past the helpless Acton.

Boro got back in the game when Neil Moore headed Fitzpatrick's curling ball on to the feet of Brown whose initial shot was parried into the path of Williams who capped his appearance from the bench with a goal. This gave Boro a new lease of life and they were like a pack of dogs chasing down their prey – but it had come too late, although Matty Collins had a shot saved by keeper Kelly and Fitzpatrick did the same following a string of corners late on. Booth almost completed his hat-trick at the death, but blazed his shot over the top.

Angus To Stay With Boro

Terry Angus has delighted manager Alan Lewer by turning down a chance to join Hucknall Town and opting to stay with Boro and see out his contract.

Liberty Way To Be Centre Of Sporting Excellence

Nuneaton Borough Football Club and Nuneaton Rugby Club are united in trying to make Liberty Way a centre of sporting excellence for the town. After the announcement, which could see work start on the proposed site within six months, it is clear the deal will benefit both parties. For Boro, they will be playing in state-of-the-art facilities, which will enable them to compete both on and off the field financially, while the Nuns will also be able to improve their own ground with cash from the sale of the 12 acre site.

Despite erecting a stand this season and a marquee to help out on match days, the long term aim of the Nuns is to have a permanent stand, extended social facilities along with medical and gym facilities.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 17-01-2004

Boro: Acton, Drysdale, Love, M. Collins, Scott (McGorry 75), Angus, Moore, Fitzpatrick, Brown, Murphy, Whittaker (S. Williams 76). **Subs:** D. Williams, Lamb, Poole.

Stafford: Price, McAughtrie, Beale, Caines, Daniel, Lovatt, Downes, Heath, Davidson, Wilding, Gibson. **Subs:** Fife, Cumberledge, Colley, Blackhurst, Dodd.

Boro welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

The early stages were played at a fast pace and Boro keeper Darren Acton was forced into his first save after six minutes, holding on well to a Craig McAughtrie effort. That save was bettered by Stafford keeper Ryan Price in the 13th minute when he reacted brilliantly to a Neil Moore bullet header, following a Whittaker corner. Price was in action again three minutes later as he had to react smartly to a powerful header from McAughtrie. The Stafford full-back was in the thick of things and his curling free-kick was well dealt with by Acton as he attempted to keep a clean sheet for the first time since December 6.



Stafford keeper Price pushes away a Moore header.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

A goalmouth scramble ensued in the 22nd minute as Price failed to gather a cross but it proved fruitless and a Matt Collins shot was charged down just minutes later. Stafford

should have taken the lead when the Premier Division's top scorer Daniel Davidson dragged his shot wide after being put through by Craig Wilding, when it was easier to score. A rampaging run by Murphy was brought to a halt after he was tripped by Craig Wilding, but Michael Love's free-kick was hit disappointingly straight at the wall. Robert Heath blazed a shot over the bar in the last action of the first half.

Boro exerted a lot of pressure after the break, but Stafford looked dangerous on the break, which they did after five minutes when Robin Gibson shot wide with two Stafford players in space, screaming for the ball. A chance followed at either end – a terrific Gary Fitzpatrick strike went just over before Davidson once again shot wide when left in acres of space 12 yards from goal. Whittaker fired a shot across the Stafford goalmouth but the ball evaded all Boro attackers while at the other end Acton intercepted a fine cross as the game continued end-to-end.

Whittaker was causing Stafford many problems but failed to provide a telling final pass. Rangers' front man Gibson went on a remarkable run, weaving his way through the Boro defence before laying the ball off to Gavin Caines, whose shot was well-saved by Acton. In a frantic finale Fitzpatrick had a free-kick blocked, Acton cleared the ball off the toes of Davison as he bore down on goal and Murphy just failed to get on the end of substitute Brian McGorry's through ball.

Daredevils Raise Money For Boro



Boro chairman Roger Stanford (left) with Steve Green, Kevin Hall, Gaynor Brush, Mick Brush, Bev Hall and Graham Wilson who accepts the cheque from the flying Nuns. Photo: Heartland Evening News

A group of daredevil fundraisers have managed to raise over £500 as they continue to support Nuneaton Borough Football Club. The Flying Nuns club, which is based at The Cherry Tree on Haunchwood Road, took part in a sponsored parachute jump last September in order to raise some money for the club. Only a fraction of the club members were able to perform their jump after the weather conditions deteriorated so badly that the remainder were forced to reschedule the stunt for later this year. The Cherry Tree has a lot of close links with Boro and frequently sponsors matches, and they have put a lot of money into the club, raising £521.50 on this occasion.

Trust Members Puzzle Over Boro Offer

Nuneaton Borough Supporters' Trust chairman Dave Hall and his members are bemused why the club's directors are not willing to take up the cash injection the Trust is offering. He explained that despite the club's pleas for money and backing their offer of cash support has not been accepted.

In a statement they claim: "We have continued to offer the board of directors of the club, substantial amounts of money, on behalf of our members and subject to their approval in exchange for shares.

"As yet no shares have been offered by the club in exchange for capital. For the moment therefore, no money can change hands. We continue as an organisation to work on behalf of the club, promoting a positive image and raising further funds in anticipation of future partnerships. Our mission statement is 'New ground, new beginning, new deal!'..."

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 24-01-2004

Worcester: McDonnell, Davies, Carty, Holloway, Heeley, Snape, McDonald (Middleton 73), Lyons, Owen, Kelly, Wilde. Subs: Webster, Parker, Hayes.

Boro: Acton, McGorry, Love (S. Williams 72), M. Collins, Scott, Angus, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Murphy, Whittaker (Sinclair 59). Subs: D. Williams, Lamb.

Boro made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Worcester gave Boro a scare with just two minutes on the clock as Leon Kelly's cross found Liam McDonald but he failed to connect with the ball. The first clear cut chance, however, fell to Nuneaton, with Leon Drysdale threading a pass through to Gez Murphy, who fired a shot into the diving keeper Danny McDonnell. In reply John Snape found himself space after some poor defending but Darren Acton saved well. The Boro keeper had to be alert again a couple of minutes later as John Holloway headed a corner straight into his arms.

Worcester made their pressure count with 27 minutes on the clock as Paul Carty won possession 25 yards out and hit a shot which Acton got a hand to but it bobbed and the Boro keeper appeared to help it into his own net. Things went from bad to worse when Adam Wilde's corner was flicked on by Snape into the path of Mark Owen who buried it home at the far post to give Worcester a 2-0 lead with less than half-an-hour on the clock. It could have been 3-0 following some awful defending from Boro, which allowed Owen to race through, but Acton saved. Terry Angus headed a Whittaker free-kick wide and the winger then headed a Drysdale cross over the bar. Drysdale then blazed over after a good save from McDonnell after Fitzpatrick's shot bobbed into his path.

The second half proved no better for Boro and Pat Lyons blazed a shot over the bar straight after the break before Worcester went further ahead after Acton hauled down Kelly just outside the box. From the free-kick Wilde lofted the ball in and Carl Heeley's bullet header crashed into the back of

the net. Seven minutes later it was 4-0 with Boro all over the place. Liam McDonald found Wilde in space on the edge of the box and he crashed a volley straight past Acton.

Worcester continued to press Boro and Kelly raced through the disjointed defence only for a fine save by Acton to keep them out. A rare Boro attack saw Fitzpatrick's cross just miss the boot of Sinclair before both Moore and Murphy put chances over the bar and Wilde did the same for the home side. Any hopes Boro had of promotion look to be dead and buried.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 27-01-2004

Cambridge: Davies, Pope, Baillie, Pluck, Langston (Chaffey 68), Niven, Miller, Williams, Nolan, Bloomfield, Riddle (Simpson 74). Subs: Calton, Summerscales, Nightingale.

Boro: Poole, Scott, Tullin, M. Collins (McCaul 45), Moore, Crabtree, S. Williams, Fitzpatrick, Whittaker, D. Williams, Lamb. Subs: Acton, Murphy, Love.

Boro made the journey to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a Dr Martens Cup fourth round tie.

Boro started the game in superb fashion and played some terrific football, deservedly taking the lead after just 16 minutes, when Danny Williams was brought down in the box. Stuart Whittaker, one of the more experienced players on show, confidently stepped up to take the spot kick and swept the ball past a helpless Martin Davies in the Cambridge goal. The home side, who fielded a full strength team, started to make a more determined effort in the second half and their strike force looked particularly impressive.

Danny Bloomfield, who is one of the league's leading scorers and his partner Matt Nolan, on loan from Peterborough, were causing the Boro defence all sorts of problems and eventually levelled the tie after 70 minutes. A free-kick into the area caught City substitute Lee Summerscales unaware, hitting him and rolling into the net without him knowing too much about it. Ten minutes later Carl Williams popped up with the winner to give Cambridge a 2-1 victory.

Boro Lose Out On Foster

Boro have failed in their attempt to sign former Kidderminster Harriers' striker Ian Foster, who is currently out of favour at Chester City. He has decided to stay in the Conference Premier and try to win his place back.

Assistant Manager Resigns

Assistant manager Dave Norton has quit Nuneaton Borough in the wake of further cuts in the playing budget ordered by the directors, while the future of team boss Alan Lewer is also in doubt. Norton's resignation follows the release of striker Darren Collins, who he brought to Nuneaton from Grantham Town. And in another development, promising midfielder Matty Collins has been given permission to play for Notts County Reserves – with a view to signing for the Meadow Lane club, although the directors say they will only consider a substantial fee to release him from his contract.

Collins Choker

Crisis-club Nuneaton Borough suffered more misery after prize asset Matty Collins, arguably their most consistent player this season, was stretchered off when playing for Notts County Reserves. The 22-year-old midfielder suffered a torn thigh muscle and is expected to be out of action for up to six weeks.

Boro Sign Atieno

New striker Taiwo Atieno makes his bow for Nuneaton Borough at Dorchester. The debut of the Walsall front man will hopefully add a cutting edge to Boro forward line. Atieno, 19, is on a month's loan and hopes to gain some experience.

Dorchester Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-02-2004

Dorchester: Bradshaw, Hann, Walker, Rawlinson, Browne, White, Harris, Holmes, O'Hagan, Groves, Brown. Subs: Radcliffe, Jermyn, Cooper, Ormerod.

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Love, Moore, Scott, Angus, Brown (Lamb 69), Fitzpatrick, Atieno, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Tullin, D. Williams, S. Williams, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Avenue Stadium to play Dorchester Town in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

New loan signing Taiwo Atieno missed a gilt edged opportunity after six minutes when Craig Bradshaw tried to pass the ball to Mike White, but Atieno intercepted and edged away from the keeper but hit the ball wide of the goal. Dorchester striker then had an opportunity to give the home side the lead but Darren Acton stooped low to save. Boro had another good chance when Mickey Love picked up a Stuart Whittaker pass and squared it high for Brown but he put the ball over the bar. Whittaker then fired into a packed Dorchester box after good work from Murphy.



Terry Angus and Michael Love defend. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Dion Scott and Terry Angus failed to clear and home striker Matt Groves tested Acton but the keeper saved well before Murphy had a chance which he failed to tuck away. When Dorchester countered the visitors again had Acton to thank as he blocked Matt Hann's drive and O'Hagan failed to connect with the follow up. O'Hagan then failed with an open goal after a cross from Groves. Five minutes before the break Boro had a goal disallowed when White headed into his own net, but the linesman was already flagging for offside against Atieno.

Dorchester came out for the second half in lively mood with O'Hagan hitting a speculative shot from distance. It was past the hour mark when Boro had their first attempt on goal with Love racing up the pitch to have a crack from 20 yards. Murphy put a strong cross into a packed Dorchester box but Brown, who was tiring, missed the ball and minutes later Murphy turned well in the area but fired into the arms of keeper Bradshaw.

Boro had a scare when Acton had to race out of his area to close down O'Hagan and lost the ball, allowing the lively forward to race free, but Scott got his body in the way and Jamie Brown missed the follow-up. Mickey Brown was replaced by Lamb with 20 minutes left. With eight minutes to go Boro missed a sitter when Gary Fitzpatrick found Murphy but the ball bobbed and the Boro striker found the car park.

Lewer Leaves

Manager Alan Lewer has left Nuneaton Borough after just nine months at the helm. The parting followed a directors' meeting at Manor Park yesterday. Lewer took over the job following the dismissal of Steve Burr at the end of last season and his departure comes on the back of a long running feud with the club's general manager Alan Prince that left the board of directors in a situation where they had to choose between the pair.

The club has chosen to stick with Prince, who is also in charge of the new stadium move, and today the board confirmed in a statement that Lewer had parted company with the club.

The statement read: "The board of directors wish to announce that as from today by mutual agreement Alan Lewer will cease to be the manager of Nuneaton Borough Football Club. The club will make further announcements over the next 48 hours regarding a short-term replacement and thereafter the appointment of a longer-term permanent manager.

"Within the next week the club will also make a significant announcement regarding the future running of the club taking into account the current financial situation and the developing poor relationship with the supporters. The board recognises the importance of the loyal support previously enjoyed and will explore all avenues in which the supporters can contribute and be a positive influence in the day to day running of the club.

"The board are conscious that the current situation must be rectified and are unanimous in the desire to ensure that the club will be run professionally, profitably and successfully."

Lewer said: "The chairman notified me yesterday that the club were letting me go. Obviously they preferred Prince to me, lock, stock and barrel and good luck to them. I'm finished and that is it."

Lewer's overall record while in charge at Boro was played 34, won 13, drew 11 and lost ten and during his tenure Boro were never out of the top six of the Dr Martens Premier Division.

Boro Name Caretaker Team

The board of directors of Nuneaton Borough FC have decided to appoint Richie Norman and Mick Dewis as the caretaker first team managers. They will also be assisted by Brian McGorry. Norman made over 300 appearances for Leicester City and was manager at Burton Albion in the early 1970s.

Nuneaton Borough v Welling United

14-02-2004

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Love, Moore, Scott, Angus, S. Williams (Tullin 82), Fitzpatrick, Atieno (D. Williams 82), Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: McGorry, Lamb, Poole.

Welling: Kelly, Slatter, Henry, Statham, Watts, Strouts, Riviere, Dyer, Collins (Tyne 72), Booth, Berkeley. Subs: Taylor, Burgess, O'Shea.

Boro welcomed Welling United to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Welling were first to show after Mark Clifford gave away a needless foul after the defender hacked down Jimmy Strouts. On loan striker Tai Atieno put a long range shot wide before Acton had to save from Booth and Austin Berkeley missed the follow up. Stuart Whittaker blazed wide from Murphy's pass as Boro asserted their dominance, but they were hit on the counter and with Dion Scott looking lost Anthony Riviere fired past Acton to give his side the lead. Boro's best chance of the half came courtesy of Terry Angus when he darted up the right wing and fed a perfectly weighted pass to Murphy, but a superb interception by Brian Statham stopped the threat with Murphy poised to fire the ball home.

Boro's defending left a lot to be desired and they struggled to keep possession and almost invited the visitors to attack with numerous defensive errors. Five minutes from the break, though, Boro had a chance when Atieno twisted and turned in the box, but the end result was awful.



Gary Fitzpatrick comes away with the ball.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro started the second half brightly with Atieno heading into the arms of Welling keeper Gavin Kelly from a Gary Fitzpatrick free-kick. Simeon Williams fed Murphy, but the striker blazed the ball over the bar, but with 64 minutes gone, Boro were handed a lifeline as Whittaker jinked his way into the box and was hacked down by Danny Slatter. Murphy stepped up to score his 13th goal of the season. Just three minutes later Boro took the lead when Murphy laid the ball off to Neil

Moore and the skipper tucked it away to spark celebrations from the dugout. But the lead didn't last long as Welling equalised from a corner and another defensive error. Slatter whipped in a high corner that should have been cleared away but instead it headed towards Acton who tried to punch it away but it ended up in the back of the net.

Boro Ground Blow

Nuneaton Borough's new ground plans have been put on hold for at least another month. The club hoped to get the go-ahead for their move passed by the council's planning committee next week but the plans don't figure on the agenda for Monday night's meeting at Bedworth Civic Hall.

Outstanding issues involving Sport England, the Highways Agency and Network Rail need to be clarified before any application can be approved by the planning committee. The next possible date the plans can be presented is Wednesday, March 17.

Boro Player Exit Shock

Nuneaton Borough were hit by the loss of two key players last night when captain Neil Moore and winger Stuart Whittaker left the club, while veteran Terry Angus held talks with Weymouth. Moore has signed up on loan with Stafford Rangers for three months with a view to a permanent move while Whittaker agreed a switch to rivals Hednesford Town.

Boro Block Angus Move

Nuneaton Borough have blocked Terry Angus' proposed move to Weymouth. The 37-year-old defender travelled for talks with Steve Claridge on Thursday after being told he was free to leave when all the players were made available for transfer. But after agreeing terms with the league favourites, Angus has been told he cannot leave the club. Stuart Whittaker has had a change of minds about his move to Hednesford Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Dover Athletic 21-02-2004

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Love, Scott, Angus, McGorry, Fitzpatrick, Brown, D. Williams (Atieno 75), Murphy, Whittaker (Lamb 64). Subs: Poole, Crabtree, Tullin.

Dover: Wietecha, Browne, Ball, Bone, Cloke (Humphrey 63), Chapman, Day, Spiller, Wilkins (Amadi 87), Jones, Millar. Subs: Humphrey, Skelton, Rogers, Hyde.

Boro welcomed Dover Athletic to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Darren Acton saved Boro as early as the second minute when he saved a Billy Bone free-kick after a clumsy tackle by Dion Scott. The keeper then had to be alert to block a Craig Wilkins header and a pop shot from the same player as Boro looked lost in attack. Midfield was a problem with Brian McGorry and Gary Fitzpatrick not creating many attacking opportunities. Mickey Brown put in the most dangerous effort of the half but it was straight at Dover keeper Dave Wietecha.

Five minutes into the second half Boro went a goal down after a botched clearance from Dion Scott. The Dangerous Awuah Jones slotted the ball past Acton after a neat one-two with his own strike partner Wilkins. Boro had a couple of chances to equalise as Gez Murphy forced a double save out of the Dover keeper and Scott then had a header cleared off the line following a Whittaker corner. Murphy had another shot cleared away and McGorry tried his luck with a shot from the edge of the area which ended up in the back of the Cock and Bear.

Whittaker limped out of the game with a calf strain and was replaced by Matty Lamb before Dover pressed forward and Jones almost got on the end of another Wilkins ball while Jamie Day's free-kick was well saved by Acton. Then Boro conjured up a goal out of nothing when Mark Clifford crossed into a packed box and Lamb gained possession, turned and fired straight into the back of the net. The final two minutes were nervous for both sides with Murphy going close for Boro and Dover trying to regain their lead.

New Boss Ashby In Boro Pledge



Boro boss Roger Ashby and his assistant Kevin Wilkin.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Roger Ashby has been appointed the new manager of Nuneaton Borough. Following a board meeting the club announced Ashby as the man to take over at Manor Park following the departure of Alan Lewer earlier this month. Ashby's first game in charge will be against his former club Grantham Town. Ashby, who is 55 and lives in Northampton and will have former Boro striker Kevin Wilkin as his player/assistant, said: "Nuneaton is a massive club in non-league terms but it's lost its way in the past few years. My objective is to get them back where they belong. There's an excellent fan base to work on and though there have been difficulties I know the pitfalls involved and this is a challenge I'm looking forward to."

He added: "I shall meet the players before the Bath game, although Richie Norman and Mick Dewis will take charge. It's a watching brief for me."

In 1993-94 Ashby led Rushden & Diamonds to the Southern



League Midland Division title and two years later he was at the helm as they lifted the Premier Division title. Boro chairman Roger Stanford said: “Roger is well known in football circles and has an impressive record as both player and manager. He will have Kevin Wilkin as his assistant and we believe these are the right appointments to take the club forward into a new era.”

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 24-02-2004

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Tullin, Fitzpatrick, Scott, Angus, Brown, McGorry, D. Williams (Atieno 75), Murphy, Lamb (S. Williams 76). Subs: Woods, Crabtree, Poole.

Bath City: Evans, Coupe, Jenkins, Bailey, Jones, Ford, Rollo, Owers, Tweddle (Cleverley 75), Partridge, Hawkins. Subs: Shuttleworth, Jeffries, Harvey.

Boro welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Scott Partridge showed his ability when he tested Dion Scott and Terry Angus but the duo combined well to block the threat. Lamb was making his presence felt as Boro got off to a bright start and the home side took the lead after just five minutes when excellent running off the ball by Gez Murphy saw the Boro striker get free in space to collect a precision pass from Danny Williams on the edge of the box. Boro's leading scorer controlled the ball before slotting it past the on-rushing Paul Evans.

Partridge fired wide as Bath tried to get back on level terms while Lamb continued to link well with the forwards but there was a scare for the home side when Scott totally mistimed a tackle before his partner Angus recovered well with an excellent block tackle. Mark Clifford released Williams, but he fired tamely at the keeper before Bath were given another chance as Scott made a complete hash of an aerial challenge allowing Jim Rollo to run on and get in a shot, but Acton saved superbly.

After the break Williams raced clear and forced Evans into action but it was clear that Boro had a game on their hands and Bath controlled midfield. On the hour mark Boro finally paid the price as Tullin was exposed at the back as Acton raced out and Scott and Angus were nowhere to be seen. Tullin did his best but was stranded and Partridge kept control to shoot into an empty goal.

Tweddle went close, but failed to connect accurately before Williams put a shot wide after being put through by Clifford as the game degenerated. However, from out of nowhere came a Boro winner. Murphy got on the end of a long ball from Fitzpatrick and he again timed his run to perfection as keeper Evans raced out and he slotted it over the onrushing keeper and after what seemed an age, the ball trickled over the line. However, the game was still not won and Acton went on another crazy run out of his area and Partridge found himself clear and he fired against a back-tracking defence but he missed the target and the home side held on.

Norton Steps In At Grantham

Grantham Town have announced that former Nuneaton Borough assistant manager Dave Norton is to take over at the South Kesteven stadium after manager Roger Ashby left the Gingerbreads to join the Boro.

Boro Will Not Allow Best Players To Leave

Nuneaton Borough are to retain the services of key players this season despite financial cuts. General manager Alan Prince is adamant the star trio of Terry Angus, Michael Love and Gez Murphy will stay at Manor Park until the end of the season along with youngsters Simeon and Danny Williams and Matty Lamb.

Boro Board To Meet Council Team?

Nuneaton Borough have thrown out a challenge to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's ruling Cabinet team to meet them. General manager of the club Alan Prince was at this week's full meeting of the council to ask if his board of directors could meet with Cllr. Dennis Harvey and his colleagues. At the last full session of the council Cllr. Harvey, in response to a question regarding Nuneaton Borough was quoted as saying: “The Council should actively support and encourage the development of them all. The council believes in providing high quality leisure facilities for the public and to ensure they are accessible to as many people as possible.”

Mr Prince suggested that the club shares this vision and said it is about much more than just football. “The football club is committed to improving the quality of life for local people with new opportunities, facilities and projects. It is already working closely with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College for example and plans to develop links with local schools.”

Based on Cllr Harvey's former response, Mr Prince asked if he would accept a public invitation for him and his cabinet colleagues to meet with the directors of the football club to discuss how the two organisations can better work together, for the good of the citizens of Nuneaton and Bedworth.”

It was also revealed at the meeting that the club and council officers are still in talks over the new ground move to Liberty Way, which it is hopes will go before the planning committee in either March or April.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-02-2004

Grantham: Ziccardi, Wooding, Inman (P. Wilkin 67), Minett, Gould, McCaul, Nurse, Kearns (Hallows 85), Speed, Clarke, Sutton. Subs: Wilson, Wenlock, Brooksby.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry, Scott, Angus, Clifford (Lamb 67), Fitzpatrick, Atieno (D. Williams 25), Murphy, Brown. Subs: Crabtree, S. Williams, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the South Kesteven Stadium to play Grantham Town in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro took the lead from their first attack when Mark Clifford sent a pinpoint cross into the box and Gary Fitzpatrick was waiting to plant a header past Mario Ziccardi. The visitors

almost extended their lead immediately afterwards as Brian McGorry had a shot from 20 yards tipped around the post and Dion Scott looked on as his header was cleared off the line, while at the other end Jamie Clarke blazed wide.

Boro continued to press with McGorry looking a different class to that of his previous outings this season and he extended Boro's lead with another long-range effort, which rocketed past Ziccardi into the net to give Boro a 2-0 lead just before the half-hour mark. Two quickly turned into three as Williams, who replaced Atieno after 25 minutes, was fouled on the left and Fitzpatrick's free kick curled in to make the score 3-0.

Grantham came out of the blocks quickly in the second half and Dion Scott needed to be on his toes to block a shot from Clarke on the line. After a period of pressure in which Boro looked organised and defended well, they further extended their lead. A corner from Fitzpatrick was whipped in and cleared out with Williams picking the ball up and finding Angus, who headed home.

A fifth goal almost arrived when Williams and Gez Murphy played a neat one-two but Williams blazed over the bar. But the miss was a distant memory as Murphy picked up the ball 40 yards out and kept control as he raced towards goal and slotted it past a beleaguered Ziccardi. Five minutes from the end Boro almost scored again when Brown won possession and raced in from the wing but Ziccardi got a hand to it and blocked the danger with Williams then having a shot cleared off the line.

Danny Williams Quits Boro

Unpredictable Danny Williams has left Nuneaton Borough to join Evesham United, much to the disappointment of new boss Roger Ashby. The youngster told Ashby of his decision over the weekend despite a fine performance when he came on a sub in the 5-0 win over Grantham.

Boro Put Fans In The Picture

A fresh start was the message coming out of a meeting last night to discuss the future of Nuneaton Borough. A packed social club saw general manager Alan Prince outline the club's business plan and answer questions, while the board and management were also on hand to talk to the fans.

The proposed move to Liberty Way was the hot topic of discussion with the club saying that the future was bleak if planning permission was not granted later this year. Fans were urged to lobby their councillors and show their overwhelming support for the new ground.

Finances were also brought into the open for the fans as the club tried to build bridges and steer away from relationships of the past. Last month, Boro revealed losses of £150,000 for the season so far, resulting in the wage bill being cut by around £1,000 a week. A handout was distributed which revealed the expenditure up to January was £411,510 and the income since the start of the season was just £244,699...

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green

06-03-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Scott, Angus, Love, Brown, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Whittaker (Lamb 76), Wilkin, Murphy. Subs: Crabtree, S. Williams, Woods, Poole.

Moor Green: Rachel, Gillard, J. Petty (Haarhoff 78), Teasdale, Sanders, B. Petty, Trainer, Frain, Elmes (Dowdall 62), Martin (Doyle 62), Robinson. Sub: Peer.

Boro welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro had a chance in the first minute when a cross from Mickey Brown eluded Kevin Wilkin and Gez Murphy, but was met by Gary Fitzpatrick at the far post, but his header went just wide. Murphy blazed a shot over as Boro subjected the visitors to five minutes of sustained pressure before Moor Green's first chance on 19 minutes when Rob Elmes failed to beat Darren Action, firing his shot well over the top. Phil Trainer headed straight at Acton from John Frain's cross before a Michael Love cross was met by Terry Angus' header but was blocked.

A well-worked move five minutes before half-time allowed Brown to send in a cross from the right but the Moors' defence scrambled the ball away with Murphy threatening. Adam Rachel let a Whittaker cross to slip from his grasp, but when the ball fell to Dion Scott, he blazed over the top. Boro had a free-kick just outside the area when Murphy was viciously hacked down but Whittaker's effort was easily dealt with by Rachel.



Mickey Brown powers past two Moor Green defenders.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Richard Robinson wasted a chance for Moor Green soon after the break, as he wanted too much time and Angus closed him down. Whittaker whipped over a free-kick in the following minute, but it evaded everyone and drifted out. Rachel was struggling with crosses but no one was on hand to punish his mistakes. The goal that won the game came in the 60th minute following some excellent work down the left by skipper Love. The ball was squared to Wilkin, who smashed it past the helpless keeper. Moor Green tried to fight back, but it was Boro who went closest as Murphy was hauled down in the area, but penalty appeals were turned away. Angus made a couple of crucial clearances towards the end of the match, but Boro clung on.

Boro Sign Fox

Tamworth's James Fox has become the first player to join Nuneaton Borough under new manager Roger Ashby. The 21-year-old striker has come to Manor Park on trial and he looks certain to be in the squad for the trip to Tiverton Town. Fox is the leading scorer for Tamworth Reserves and has netted several first team goals this season despite his chances at Nationwide Conference level being limited.

Tiverton Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-03-2004

Tiverton: G. Williams, Winter, Goff, Steele, Rudge, Cousins, Nancekevell, Holloway, Cliff-Brown, Milsom, Mudge. Subs: Rees, Nott, Chenoweth, Edwards, Patchett.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry, Scott, Angus, Clifford, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Brown, Whittaker. Subs: Lamb, Poole, Fox, S. Williams, Crabtree.

Boro travelled to Ladysmead to play Tiverton Town in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

There were few chances for either side early on although Tiverton started the brighter when Paul Milsom freed Jamie Mudge but Acton collected well. Milsom was then knocked unconscious in a challenge with Love and had to receive lengthy treatment before he could resume. Boro's first foray into Tiverton territory came courtesy of Brown who found Gary Fitzpatrick in space but he fired wide. Acton had to be alert to block a speculative volley from Carl Cliff-Brown while at the other end Tiverton's debutant keeper and ex-Southampton man, Gareth Williams was on his toes to react smartly to Tullin's drive after he was set up by Kevin Wilkin. The home side's Kevin Nancekevell had a goal disallowed just before half-time for offside.

Ten minutes after the break Boro lost Michael Love, who was injured in a challenge with Tiverton sweeper Steve Winter and left the field in agony with a twisted knee and was replaced by James Fox. Simeon Williams tried to grab Boro a point and made a darting run, but the home keeper turned the ball round the post. Darren Acton rescued Boro with ten minutes left after Holloway freed Mudge, who deceived the Boro defence before unleashing what looked to be a match-winning strike, but Acton reacted superbly to save the day.

Nuneaton Borough v Weston-super-Mare 20-03-2004

Boro: Poole, Tullin, Clifford, McGorry, Scott, Angus, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin (Fox 83), Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Lamb, Williams, Crabtree.

Weston: Mogg, Rose, Hogg, Jarman, Clarke, Benton (Davis 72), Gilroy (Mings 62), Slater, McGregor, French, Skinner. Subs: Mehew, Hunt, Davis, Mings, McKeever.

Boro welcomed Weston-super-Mare to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro were almost undone in the opening minute when Poole, who replaced Acton after he was injured in the warm up, tried to dribble the ball back into his area and lost the ball. Fortunately Terry Angus was on hand to save the day when the cross came in. Boro continued to come under pressure

and a third minute free-kick from Stuart Slater beat Poole but clipped the outside of the post. Mark Clifford rescued the home side when Dion Scott's header fell short and set-pieces continued to be a difficult proposition for both sides.

Kevin Wilkin was unable to get a shot away after being played in by Brian McGorry before Boro won their first corner in the 17th minute, but again the wind held the ball up and the cross caused the Weston defence few problems. But just four minutes later Boro took the lead following some wonderful work by Chris Tullin and Mickey Brown. A deft back-heel allowed Tullin to get the cross in and Gez Murphy headed the ball down for Fitzpatrick to strike the ball home from 25 yards. Murphy had a chance to double the lead on 25 minutes when he latched on to a through ball but his lob beat both David Mogg and the crossbar. Weston captain William Clarke was booked after he brought down Murphy, but Stuart Whittaker's free kick was deflected wide and the corner came to nothing. Murphy shot into the side netting and Wilkin had an effort blocked as Boro looked to increase their lead.

The visitors stunned Boro by equalising straight after the break. Some good work in the middle of the park carved out a chance for former Boro favourite Marc McGregor and his clinical strike levelled the scores. Mogg gathered a Wilkin shot at the second attempt when under pressure from Murphy before a marauding run from Tullin deserved better as he exchanged passes with Wilkin and the ball fell to McGorry who blazed his shot well over. Boro began to exert some good pressure and had two penalty appeals turned down as they turned the screw. First Fitzpatrick's shot seemed to rebound off a defender's hand and then Whittaker looked to have been tripped as his mazy run took him into the area.

A last gasp reshuffle saw Fox replace Wilkin and Whittaker and Brown swapped wings, but the Boro onslaught failed to materialise and their promotion hopes look fatally damaged.



Terry Angus receives a memento after playing 250 games for Nuneaton Borough from manager Roger Ashby (left) and chairman Roger Stamford (right).

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Supporters Trust Buy Boro Shares



Trust chairman Dave Hall hands over a cheque to Boro chairman Roger Stanford as members of the Boro board and Trust look on.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Members of Nuneaton Borough Supporters' Trust are delighted after they finally received shares in the football club – following nearly two and a half years of campaigning. The Supporters' Trust, which was launched on November 7, 2001, raised £7,000 to purchase 1,000 shares and exchanged the cheque for their piece of the club ahead of Saturday's game with Weston-super-Mare.

The money was raised by the Trust in a series of fundraising ventures and the quest is now on to gather more money and ultimately try to increase the shareholding. They have now become one of over 50 established Supporters' Trusts, representing fans right through the football pyramid, to have shares in their respective clubs – and a handful of Trusts have even gone as far as to purchase the whole club.

Shares in Boro are not available on an open market and the club decide who to make them available to and when – at a price set by the board to any would-be purchaser. Negotiations are set to continue that will see a member of the Supporters' Trust become a representative on the Boro board – a matter which has already been agreed in principle. Dave Hall, Chairman of Nuneaton Borough Supporters' Trust, said: "It's a matter of dotting the i's and crossing the t's now. It has been agreed but there is still some negotiating to be done – which may take place over the next few months. There might be a representative of the Supporters' Trust on the board for next season but it's going to take time."

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth

23-03-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Clifford, McGorry, Scott, Angus, Brown (Williams 65), Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Fox, Poole, Lamb, Crabtree.

Weymouth: Glass, Tully, Power, Pethick, Impey, Clancy, Buckle, Horstead (Hutchinson 58), Claridge, Philpott, Phillips. Subs: Wilkinson, Barlow, Nightingale, Matthews.

Boro welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Weymouth started strongly and forced two corners in the opening minute of the game, but both came to nothing. However, the visitors almost took the lead when Dion Scott

headed a corner towards his own net, only for Boro to be saved by Chris Tullin, who cleared off the line. Boro took the lead against the odds after 23 minutes when Mickey Brown won possession and cut inside before crossing to Stuart Whittaker who rose high to head home. Weymouth hit back immediately and Steve Tully forced Darren Acton into an instinctive fingertip save onto the bar. Steve Claridge bundled the ball and two defenders into the net from the corner, but a free kick was awarded to the home side.

Boro's lead was increased when the impressive Tullin was sent free in space down the right wing and his cross found Whittaker at the back post, who headed down for Murphy to volley home. Just before the break Weymouth were handed a lifeline when Tully gained possession on the right and his cross was met by a desperate lunge from Scott who tried to intercept but looked on in despair as he deflected the ball into his own net.



Weymouth keeper Jimmy Glass comes under pressure.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Whittaker had a gilt-edged chance to extend Boro's lead five minutes into the second half but he ballooned the ball over with Glass grounded and the goal at his mercy. But Whittaker soon made amends when he took advantage of some hesitant defending to collect a wide ball from Brown and loop his shot over a despairing Glass. Weymouth pulled a goal back on the hour mark as substitute Ian Hutchinson met a corner kick from Lee Phillips and volleyed it goalwards where Claridge was well-placed to get a toe on the ball and prod it into the net.

Weymouth found themselves on level terms as Phillips chased a long ball from Glass and Darren Acton raced out of his area and sliced the ball into the path of the striker who kept his cool to slot home the loose ball past the despairing



Acton. But Ashby's side were far from beaten and with ten minutes left they took the lead again and this time they held onto it. Whittaker picked up a pass from Wilkin on the left hand side and whipped in a ball which was cleared only as far as Gary Fitzpatrick – who drilled the ball back into the net. Weymouth tried to battle back, but some resolute defending from Terry Angus and his back line kept the lead intact.

Newport County v Nuneaton Borough 27-03-2004

Newport: Roberts, Evans, Lloyd, Davies (O'Sullivan 46), Eckhardt, Jones, Mumford (Rogers 75), A. Williams, Moralee, Bowen (J. Phillips 62), G. Phillips. Subs: S. Williams, Delve.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Clifford, McGorry, Scott, Angus, S. Williams, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker (Lamb 89). Subs: Fox, Collins, Crabtree, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Spytty Park to play Newport County in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Newport were the first to show and Sam Bowen beat the offside trap, but Dion Scott backtracked well to recover the situation before Jamie Moralee and Bowen both went close. Boro had a let off when Acton dropped the ball from a corner but Ashley Williams blazed over the top.

However, that was about it from the home side and Boro took over and edged ahead through a penalty. Gary Fitzpatrick released Kevin Wilkin and he kept control of the ball before going on a jinking run into the box where keeper Duncan Roberts clattered him down to the ground. Gez Murphy scored his 18th goal of the season from the penalty spot.

Murphy almost extended Boro's lead when he broke free but Darren Jones nipped in with a saving tackle to stop the Boro forward. Despite this Boro did extend their lead on 30 minutes when Chris Tullin and Simeon Williams linked well on the right hand side and found Wilkin in the box, who won the ball back from Gary Lloyd and crossed to Stuart Whittaker who rushed in at the far post to score his third goal in two games. Just before the interval a great move was fully deserving of another goal as Boro continued to dominate with Brian McGorry playing a neat one-two with Williams who spotted Murphy making a run into the box but the striker's scissor kick narrowly missed the ball and Fitzpatrick's follow up went wide.

Newport tried to force their way back into the game after the break and Scott's challenge on Bowen went unpunished by the erratic referee who let another appeal go after Angus and Tullin collided in the area and Angus appeared to handle the ball. Mr Wheeler then booked three players in a short period midway through the half before Murphy went close again with a shot from distance. The home side threw caution to the wind and reorganised the side to play with five forwards, but they seldom looked like breaking down Boro's defence. However, Newport finally got a goal with a few minutes to go when a Lloyd free-kick found its way over the wall and into the net to set up a tense finish.

Boro Sign Oddy

Nuneaton Borough manager Roger Ashby has swooped to sign Coventry City youngster Rob Oddy ahead of the transfer deadline. The 18-year-old began his career at Bedworth United before being snapped up by the Sky Blues at the start of last season. But, despite playing for the reserves, Academy director Steve Ogrizovic has agreed to let Oddy join Boro on work experience until the end of the season.

Havant & Waterlooville v Nuneaton Boro' 03-04-2004

Havant: Howells (Poyser 46), Ford, Poate, Champion, Masson, Campbell, Blake, Holligan (Eribenne 67), Byles (Ferrett 67), Taylor, Town. Subs: Leworthy, Skelton.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Clifford, McGorry, Scott, Angus, Brown (Oddy 81), Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy (Fox 76), Whittaker (Crabtree 46). Subs: Williams, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Westleigh Park to play Havant and Waterlooville in a Dr Martens Premier League game.

Havant were quickly out of the blocks and when McGorry was dithering just outside his own penalty area, Gavin Holligan robbed the midfielder and raced towards goal, rounded Acton and put the home side ahead. Holligan had another chance soon after but Boro got an equaliser after a superb ball from Tullin found Mickey Brown, who headed the ball into the back of the net. Having dragged themselves back Boro then proceeded to fall apart as Holligan's pace caused problems for Terry Angus and Dion Scott and raced towards goal. Scott clumsily hacked the striker down and was red carded.

Boro players were angered by the behaviour of the Havant players and a free for all broke out with Angus at the centre of the action. Havant striker James Taylor collapsed after being caught by the elbow of Angus and the veteran defender joined Scott in the dressing room leaving Boro to play for another hour with nine men. Fitzpatrick then attempted to join his team-mates in the dressing room by hacking down David Town in the area, but escaped with a yellow card. Town stepped up to take the penalty but hammered it against the crossbar. Town, however, redeemed himself by putting Havant into the lead after he latched on to a Dean Blake pass and shot into the net. Boro were soon 3-1 in arrears when Luke Byles spotted Holligan making a run and the striker headed the ball into the net for his second goal of the game.

Boro introduced Andy Crabtree at half-time and he partnered Wilkin at the back, but the task was too great for Boro to fight their way back and with heads dropping Havant pressed home their advantage. Some more hesitant defending saw Havant move further ahead when Town scored his second and the home side's fourth ten minutes into the half, after Taylor headed the ball into his colleague's path. Boro were relieved when Holligan was substituted, but his replacement, Eribenne was also quick and he immediately brought a save out of Acton. But the substitute wasn't finished and it didn't take him long to get on the scoresheet as he collected the ball

on the edge of the box after dispossessing Crabtree and firing the ball past a despairing dive from Acton. Central defender Alec Masson even had a pot shot which almost dipped in before the final whistle put Boro out of their misery.

Moore To Be Recalled

Neil Moore is to be called back from his loan spell with Stafford Rangers for the Easter programme to help ease Nuneaton Borough's defensive crisis.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 06-04-2004

Merthyr: N. Thomas, Aherne-Evans, Keddle, Needs, Jones (Price 65), Thorne, Carter, Shephard, Belle, Steins, Clarke. Subs: John, Evans, Howells, Price, G. Thomas.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Clifford (S. Williams 65), McGorry, Scott, Angus, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Crabtree, Oddy, Fox, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Penydarren Park to play Merthyr Tydfil in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Dion Scott's lack of pace let in the speedy Cortez Belle who forced a save out of Darren Acton. But it was Boro who took the lead when Mickey Brown raced up the wing ten minutes into the game and crossed for the unmarked Gez Murphy to stroke the ball home past Neil Thomas. Scott continued his night to forget with an under hit back pass that Acton had to race out to collect. Belle took advantage of some ball watching by the Boro defence and picked out Craig Steins who then laid the ball back to Belle before Steins made a further run into space and slotted the ball past Acton.

A minute later the defence were all over the place again when Belle found Steins in space, and Acton only managed to half clear the danger, and the ball fell to Gary Shepherd who buried the ball into the visitors' net. Scott then bundled Belle over and was lucky to escape any punishment before Boro bagged an equaliser against the run of play. Gary Fitzpatrick found Stuart Whittaker free at the far post and he headed the ball back into the path of Murphy, who claimed his 20th goal of the season in all competitions. Boro then took the lead as McGorry collected the ball in midfield and went on a mazy run out wide before turning back and crossing to Kevin Wilkin who headed home. Boro ruined all their hard work by throwing away their lead before the break as Fitzpatrick headed away Dean Clarke's corner straight to Steins who grabbed his second goal of the game and the equaliser.

The winner came ten minutes into the second half which was a much tamer affair. McGorry conceded a free-kick and, with the players getting organised and Acton dithering on his line, Kevin Aherne-Evans took it quickly with the permission of the referee and the ball bounced in front of Acton who raced in vain, but watched the ball trickle into the net. Murphy had a long drive tipped round the post and also had an overhead kick saved but Merthyr shut up shop and could even have extended their lead when Belle headed against the post and the last action saw Simeon Williams force Thomas into a late save.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 10-04-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Moore, Angus, Scott, Crabtree (Williams 75), Brown, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Whittaker, Murphy, Wilkin. Subs: Lamb, Poole, Fox, Oddy.

Chelmsford: Nicholls, Faulkner, Clarke, O'Connell, Edwards, Wiles, Cross, Norman, Forde, Ansell, Lay. Subs: Hopkins, Jones.

Boro welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro looked sharp in the early stages and swept into the league after six minutes. Whittaker clipped in a curling free-kick from wide left and Wilkin timed his run to perfection to steer a forceful header into the net from six yards out with the visiting defence caught flat footed. Only the agility of Acton kept the home side's lead intact before the interval as he raced from his line to smother a Garry Cross effort, kept out a Simon Clarke header with his leg and then superbly plucked O'Connell's ten yard volley out of the air. Just before the break Wilkin and Fitzpatrick combined to set up Murphy, who could only scoop his close range effort high over the bar.



Kevin Wilkin gives Boro the lead.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro enjoyed more possession at the start of the second half but it was the visitors who looked to carry the greater attacking threat. Acton had already blocked Gary Ansell's fierce angled drive and stretched fully to tip a deep George Lay centre off the head of Ansell and after 52 minutes the



visitors drew level. A Steve Norman free-kick found its way to Edwards and he headed down to O'Connell who took advantage of some hesitancy in the home ranks to rifle a low deflected 15 yarder beyond Acton.

Wilkin had a 20 yarder skim past the post and Ian Wiles' brilliant last-ditch tackle thwarted a goal chance for Brown as Boro strived to regain the initiative. However, it was Chelmsford who continued to look the more incisive with Acton pouching Norman's low drive before City took the lead on 61 minutes. Crabtree allowed Forde to gain possession on the edge of the area and though Moore and Angus tried to retrieve the situation, the striker coolly cut inside to ram the ball beneath the advancing Acton. Murphy had a couple of efforts, but Boro were unable to get another goal.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 12-04-2004

Cambridge: Davies, Pope, Bailie, Chaffey, Langston, Pluck, Miller, C. Williams, Blackman, Simpson (Bloomfield 74), Riddle (Battersby 46).
Subs: Wilson, Summerscales, Shinn.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Oddy, McGorry, Moore, Angus, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin (Fox 81), Murphy (S. Williams 57), Whittaker. **Subs:** Crabtree, Lamb, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Milton Road to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro got off to a lively start and forced a series of corners in the first five minutes and Kevin Wilkin created a chance for Gez Murphy, who was just short of the pin-point cross. But Cambridge were also threatening and Lloyd Blackman headed wide and Rob Miller forced Darren Acton into a save before Boro had a let-off in the 20th minute when Brian McGorry lost the ball and Miller raced free and crossed, but Gary Fitzpatrick cleared with Robbie Simpson poised to tap the ball home. Boro took the lead shortly after when Stuart Whittaker's corner curled in and Murphy hooked the ball home at the far post for his 21st goal of the season.

However, Cambridge were soon back on level terms after Carl Williams crossed and Louis Riddle flicked the ball on into the path of Blackman who buried the ball into the net with Boro's defence all over the place. Neil Moore then prevented the home side from taking the lead with some alert defending. Riddle's shot was spilled by Acton and with Blackman poised to shoot, Moore cleared the danger. Boro then grabbed the lead in superb fashion when debutant Rob Oddy picked up the ball just on the halfway line and sent a sublime 30 yard pass into the area which Wilkin headed home.

Boro almost extended their lead at the start of the second half and only a wonder save from Martin Davies kept the visitors at bay, parrying away Moore's bullet header from Whittaker's corner. The home keeper repeated his heroics soon after, this time from Wilkin before Angus almost gifted Cambridge an equaliser after an error in the box, but Fitzpatrick cleared the ball. Blackman went close before Wilkin freed substitute Simeon Williams, who put his shot wide of the post.

With 15 minutes left Simpson forced a save out of Acton, who reacted well and Boro looked to be cruising to a much needed win after their recent form. The visitors made the final score more emphatic after Simeon Williams was hacked down in the box and Fitzpatrick stepped up to drill home a well-taken penalty.

Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 17-04-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Oddy, McGorry, Moore, Wilkin, Williams (Fox 75), Fitzpatrick, Brown, Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, Lamb, Crabtree.

Crawley: Little, Judge, Payne, Ready, Pullan (Harkin 34), Manuella (Kember 80), Traynor, Armstrong, Marney (Vansittart 63), Macdonald, Gregory. **Subs:** Tait, McFrederick.

Boro welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

The game was a lacklustre affair with Boro already having secured their place in the new regionalised Conference and Crawley already league champions. A Boro attack was brought to a halt as Murphy was offside before a long-range shot from Paul Armstrong looped over the crossbar. Seconds later Danny Marney had another shot from long range, which again failed to trouble Acton. Marc Pullan over hit a back pass which put Andy Little in trouble, but the keeper just managed to clear under pressure from Murphy. Rob Oddy was in impressive form and his cross to Murphy was just cut out at the expense of a fruitless corner.

Stand-in centre-half Kevin Wilkin was caught in possession by Robert Traynor but a superb tackle by Neil Moore rescued the situation. At the other end Mickey Brown put in a low cross which Gary Fitzpatrick failed to connect with but Murphy was on hand to get in a shot which Little turned round the post. Murphy had a penalty claim waved away at the end of what had been a very disappointing 45 minutes.

Boro started the second half superbly and worked the ball to Murphy but he lacked support and turned to lay the ball off to Whittaker. The tricky winger chipped in a cross-cum-shot which hit the top of the bar and the Crawley defence managed to clear their lines. The Sussex club were only creating half-chances with strikes from Marney and Charlie Macdonald both failing to trouble Acton, but it was the champions who took the lead on 56 minutes. Marney found Traynor in acres of space and he had an age to pick his spot.

Whittaker hit a fierce strike over the bar as Boro chased an equaliser and then forced Little into his first real save of the game. The keeper blocked a fierce drive from Brown before substitute Fox almost got on the end of a Whittaker cross. Joff Vansittart headed over before weak efforts from Whittaker and Murphy failed to trouble Little. Vansittart had another effort saved before a Murphy header almost restored parity but the ball rebounded back into play from the crossbar. Vansittart then played in Macdonald but Moore stepped in to rescue the situation and seconds later the referee signalled the end of the match.

Boro Plans Set Aside

Nuneaton Borough's hopes of getting the go-ahead for their new ground at Liberty Way have received a setback. It was thought that the plans would go before the Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council's planning committee next Monday, but they have not appeared on the agenda. The next possible date for the plans to be put before the planners is May 26.

Eastbourne Borough v Nuneaton Borough 12-04-2004

Eastbourne: Hook, Baker, Tuck, Myall, Rowland, Piper, Goodwin, Pearce, Ramsay, Simmonds, Crabb. Subs: Ducille, Richardson, Yates, Westcott, Stark.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Oddy, McGorry, Moore, Scott, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Fox, Poole, Williams, Crabtree, Lamb.

Boro travelled to Priory Lane to take on Eastbourne Borough in a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Eastbourne were the first to threaten after just a minute but Darren Acton's legs came to the rescue as Matt Crabb had a shot from distance but the Boro keeper reacted well. The home side forced a series of corners in the first 20 minutes before Kevin Wilkin tested Lee Hook with a weak shot that troubled the home custodian while defender Neil Moore also kept Hook busy when he headed a Stuart Whittaker free kick. Wilkin had another chance when he linked up with strike partner Gez Murphy but his shot lacked the pace that was required on the hard surface.

Murphy should have done better when he picked up a loose ball from Hook, who scrambled away a header from Mickey Brown. The strikers weren't having the best of luck at the other end either as Scott Ramsey had a crack from 15 yards but Acton collected with ease. The clearest opportunity for either side in the first half fell Boro's way as Moore had a header cleared off the line by Darren Baker and it fell into the path of Gary Fitzpatrick whose volley was palmed onto the bar by Hook.

Boro started the second half in determined mood and Wilkin went close for Boro when he caught the home defence off their guard on the left hand side before turning inwards and shooting, but with Hook beaten the ball flew wide of the post. The impressive Rob Oddy and Mickey Brown linked up well on the opposite flank soon after to again set up Wilkin but his shot lacked the pace required.

Cash Bonus For Crowley

One of Non-League football's most loyal servants was given a warm send-off this week at a fundraising game. Hinckley United's Dave Crowley, who was forced into retirement after breaking a leg a few weeks ago at Welling, was the beneficiary of a game between his current side and former team Nuneaton Borough at Manor Park.

A crowd of over 400 raised £4,400 on the night for the midfielder and watched a string of former favourites in action with the Knitters winning 3-2. Marc McGregor, Rich Lavery,

Dale Belford, Leigh Everitt, Rich Williams, Ian Drewitt, Steve Burr, Adam Cooper, Dave Bennett, Kevin Shoemake and Mark Rosegreen all lined up in a Boro shirt again while former Manchester United and England defender and current Welling boss Paul Parker guested for United along with Halesowen Town's Nathan Lamey and Tamworth defender Lee Colkin.

An emotional Crowley who is facing a six month lay-off from work as a builder said: "I can't thank everyone enough for what they have done for me since I was injured and it shows me how great the fans, directors and players of both my clubs and my old teammates are. I'm shocked about how much has been raised and it is something I will never forget.

Nuneaton Borough v Dorchester Town 01-05-2004

Boro (from): Acton, Tullin, Oddy, Scott, Moore, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Whittaker, Brown, Murphy, Wilkin, Poole, Crabtree, Lamb, Woods, Fox.

Boro welcomed Dorchester Town to Manor Park to play a Dr Martens Premier Division game.

Boro eased their way to a 2-0 win over in-form Dorchester with two goals from Gary Fitzpatrick. Meanwhile keeper Darren Acton broke a finger and faces an operation.

Player Of The Year Awards



Gez Murphy and Simeon Williams are presented with their end of season awards by Paul Proctor and Mick Breeds of the Boro' Independent Supporters' Club.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Youth and experience had parts to play in the annual Nuneaton Borough awards at Manor Park on Saturday. The event came just a couple of hours after Boro had completed their Dr Martens Premier Division campaign. Chris Tullin took the Manager's trophy from team boss Roger Ashby and Terry Angus claimed the Players' Player of the Year award. Andy Crabtree took the Clubman of the Year award.

Leading scorer Gez Murphy took the Supporters' Player of the Year and Supporters' Away Player of the Year awards while Simeon Williams was chosen as the Young Player of the Year.

Angus To Retire

Nuneaton Borough's talismanic defender Terry Angus has played his last game for the club after he announced his decision to retire from the game. The 38-year-old could not be persuaded to play on for another season by manager Roger Ashby and his last game was on April 10 against Chelmsford at Manor Park.

Boro Cut Admission Prices

Nuneaton Borough have reduced adult admission and season ticket prices for next season. Last season there were a lot of complaints when the club lost their Nationwide Conference status and fell back into the Dr Martens Premier but there was no reduction in price. Season 2004-05 will see the £9 adult admission price reduced by £1, which will result in a reduction for season ticket prices also. The prices are:

Match day: Adults £8 (stand transfer £2), concession £5 (transfer to stand £1), junior supporters £3 (transfer to stand £1).

Season tickets (purchased before the end of May): Adult (ground) £136.50, Stand £170, Concession (ground) £73.50, Stand £90. Junior supporters (ground) £60, Stand £80. Family (ground) – 1 adult 2 children £255, Stand £330. Family (ground) – 2 adults 2 children £378, Stand £465.

Season tickets (purchased from June 1): Adult Ground £147, Stand £185. Concession Ground £84, Stand £100. Junior Ground £63, Stand £84. Family Ground (1 adult 2 children) £285. Family Ground (2 adults 2 children) £415, Stand £515.

Double Tonic For Ashby

The experienced duo of Stuart Whittaker and Michael Love have provided a double bonus for Nuneaton Borough manager Roger Ashby. Winger Whittaker has signed a new contract and Love is about to undergo a cartilage operation, after which he is expected to commit to another season at Manor Park, making him the club's longest serving player.

Rob Signs For Boro

Roger Ashby made his first signing of what promises to be a hectic summer for the Boro boss when former Coventry City trainee Rob Oddy agreed terms with the club.

Stars Honour Richie

Nuneaton Borough were edged out by the odd goal in five against a Leicester City side filled with stars in Richie Norman's testimonial match. Boro lined up with a now familiar back four, featuring Rob Oddy in his first match as a Boro player, after signing before the game. He took his place alongside Neil Moore, Chris Tullin and Terry Angus, making his last appearance for the club, with Ryan Poole in goal deputising for Steve Ogrizovic.

Brian McGorry, Gary Fitzpatrick and Stuart Whittaker were joined in midfield by Gary McAllister, while Boro's attack

consisted of trialist Avun Jephcott and Howard Forinton who both made their mark, featuring prominently in the first half.

Although Leicester just edged the match, a draw would not have been an unfair result for the two clubs that Norman has served so well. However, the quality of players who came to Manor Park would prove to be the ultimate tribute for a man who is held in such high regard.



Stars pay tribute to Boro trainer Richie Norman (left to right): Keith Gillespie, Terry Angus, Paul Dickov, Gary McAllister, Richie Norman, Peter Shilton, Roger Ashby and Jon Sammels.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Southern League Premier Division 2003-2004

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crawley Town	42	25	9	8	77	43	84
Weymouth	42	20	12	10	76	47	72
Stafford Rangers	42	19	11	12	55	43	68
Nuneaton Borough	42	17	15	10	65	49	66
Worcester City	42	18	9	15	71	50	63
Hinckley United	42	15	14	13	55	46	59
Newport County	42	15	14	13	52	50	59
Cambridge City	42	14	15	13	54	53	57
Welling United	42	16	8	18	56	58	56
Weston-super-Mare	42	14	13	15	52	52	55
Eastbourne Borough	42	14	13	15	48	56	55
Havant & Waterlooville	42	15	10	17	59	70	55
Moor Green	42	14	12	16	42	54	54
Merthyr Tydfil	42	13	14	15	60	66	53
Tiverton Town	42	12	15	15	63	64	51
Bath City	42	13	12	17	49	57	51
Dorchester Town	42	14	9	19	56	69	51
Chelmsford City	42	11	16	15	46	53	49
Dover Athletic	42	12	13	17	50	59	49
Hednesford Town	42	12	12	18	56	69	48
Chippenham Town	42	10	17	15	51	63	47
Grantham Town	42	10	15	17	45	67	45

Worcester City – 2nd Qualifying Round

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

Boro: Acton, Hall, Love, Collins (McGorry 81), Moore, Angus, Clifford, Corbett (Tullin 87), Quailey, Murphy (Lamb 88), Whittaker. Subs: White, Beckford-Quailey.

Worcester: McDonnell, Davies, Carty (Owen 84), Holloway, Heeley, Lyons, Foy, Middleton, Webster, Melly Wilde. Subs: Parker, McDonald, Snape, Hayes.

Stuart Whittaker's predatory instincts brought the vital second half goal that proved to be enough to keep ambitious Boro on course for FA Cup glory.

The midfielder's 62nd minute strike was all that separated the sides following a full-blooded tie.



Whittaker heads the winning goal.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Alan Lewer's men, never at their fluent best had to dig deep to overcome a battling Worcester outfit.

Following three consecutive draws, the Manor Park side were keen to get back to winning ways and will no doubt be



Boro celebrate Stuart Whittaker's winning goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

delighted to have booked their place in the next round.

But they gave their fans some anxious moments as they made life difficult for themselves in a tie they could have won more convincingly had they taken the chances that came their way.

Brian Quailey and Whittaker (twice) should both have done better with clear-cut openings and Gez Murphy was unlucky to see his first half shot rebound off a post.

But Worcester also had their moments with Adam Webster squandering their best opportunity and the visitors were then denied a replay when Leon Kelly's late header bounced to safety off the crossbar.

Boro were without influential midfielder Brian McGorry for the first time this season following a bout of flu. He was on the bench with Andy Corbett stepping into the starting line-up.

Nuneaton were first to settle and should have been in front after only four minutes. Murphy beat John Holloway and when his cut back found Whittaker he blasted high over the top from close range.

But there was an early scare for Boro when Pat Lyons was allowed time and space inside the area only to fire yards wide.

The Manor Park side then had a let-off after 18 minutes. Webster was clean through as he beat the offside trap

but Darren Acton parried his shot and gathered at the second attempt as Kelly came surging in.

Worcester were enjoying their best spell of the game and Boro failed to deal with an Adam Wilde corner it took a tremendous tackle from Matt Collins to deny Darren Middleton.

However, Boro suddenly clicked into gear and twice in as many minutes they were within inches of taking the lead.

Firstly full back Colin Hoyle timed his run into the box perfectly to meet Whittaker's right wing corner with a glancing header but the ball sailed narrowly wide of the left hand post with Danny McDonnell merely a spectator.

Worcester were still counting their blessings when Murphy superbly turned his marker in the area only to see his fierce drive hit the foot of a post. It rebounded to Whittaker who looked odds on to score but Allan Davies cleared the midfielder's effort off the line.

There was a problem for the visitors shortly before the break when an astute through ball from Collins sent Quailey racing through the middle but McDonnell was quickly out of his area to hack the ball clear in the nick of time.

David Foy fired a free-kick straight at Acton shortly after the restart but it was soon obvious that Boro had come out in a far more determined mood.

As they began to turn the screw Quailey

had a great opportunity to break the deadlock as Hoyle's low cross found him unmarked in the penalty area but his first touch let him down and the chance was lost.



Stuart Whittaker battles for the ball.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

City were now coming under increasing pressure and Quailey looked certain to score as he burst into the area but visiting skipper Carl Heeley made a superbly time tackle to halt the striker as he was about to shoot.

However, Worcester then missed a glorious chance on the hour mark, Kelly failing by inches to make the vital contact as Wilde's low centre flashed across the face of the home goal.

Two minutes later Boro got the vital goal they had been threatening. Corbett beat two men in the area and when his cracking drive was parried by McDonnell, Whittaker was on hand to head the loose ball into an empty net.

Corbett was denied a goal by McDonnell's knees before Boro had another scare when Kelly's looping header cleared Acton only to rebound to safety off the crossbar.



Brian Quailey nets the Boro equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

But Boro were quickly back in control and McDonnell had to make excellent saves in quick succession in the dying seconds to deny substitutes Chris Tullin and Matt Lamb.

Runcorn FC Halton — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Runcorn FC Halton to Manor Park to play a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Hoyle, Collins, Moore, Angus, Corbett (Fitzpatrick 64), McGorry, Quailey, Murphy (Williams 86), Whittaker. Subs: Lamb, Tullin, Beckford-Quailey.

Runcorn: McMillan, Salt, Ness, Nolan, Spearitt, Carragher, Price, Lightfoot (Harris 76), Daly, Courtney, Leadbeater. Subs: McGinn, Brierley, Carden, Murphy.

Boro began the match at full stretch due to a knee injury picked up by Michael Love and Colin Hoyle slotted in at left back with Mark Clifford dropping back to the right back role.

Boro began brightly with Andy Corbett and Clifford both probing the Runcorn defence, but their end product resulted in nothing. Runcorn in reply showed they had travelled down from the North West to get a result and Kevin Leadbeater displayed early signs of danger when he picked up the ball

from a Darren Acton throw and then his colleague Ged Courtney was the target of pure route one football as he closed in on goal.

It took Boro six minutes to make a threat on goal and it was Clifford's long throw which was picked up by Brian Quailey but he fired into the side rigging.

Set pieces appeared to be the best bet for a Boro goal and soon after skipper Neil Moore ran in to head a Stuart Whittaker corner just wide.

Runcorn took the lead after some poor defensive play by Boro, which was a prime example of a back line not familiar with one another. Clifford had possession deep in his own half and was trying to avoid conceding a corner.

Steve Daly pressed the Boro right back and gained possession which allowed him to put a cross into the box which was only half cleared by both Terry Angus and Moore. With Hoyle nowhere to be seen, Leadbeater raced in on the edge of the box to fire a cracking shot with his right foot straight past Acton. Boro had a swift chance to get back into the game just minutes later when Murphy backed into Ged Nolan and was awarded a penalty. The impetus was on the Boro striker to add

to his tally of five goals for the season, but he struck it hard and straight against the underside of the crossbar.

Whittaker raced in to follow up but the Runcorn defence closed it down. The visitors had a chance for a second before the break but Acton closed down Daly well and cleared the ball away.

Boro came out for the second half looking determined in the early stages and Corbett had a shot cleared after a Whittaker corner but Runcorn were still in the running and Courtney's chip tested Acton. Danny Salt kept up the pressure from the visitors when he raced up the flank and his shot was parried away well by Acton and cleared by McGorry but only as far as Leadbeater but this time he blazed his shot over the bar.

After a period of sustained pressure, Boro found a way through the disciplined Runcorn defence. Matt Collins spotted the fine run of Quailey with perfection on a counter attack and the striker kept his cool and slotted the ball under keeper Tony McMillan.

This was the end of a barren patch for the ex-West Brom player, who hadn't scored since returning from a three-match ban. Leadbeater was by far the most impressive player on the pitch and oozed class whenever he gained possession. The attacking midfielder hit the post after he was allowed freedom on the edge of the box and it was clear Boro were still struggling hard to raise their game.

Salt was another causing problems whenever he gained possession and he again went on a searching run with his shot parried away by Acton with Corbett backtracking to clear and avoid

the visitors snatching a winner.

The introduction of Danny Williams in place of Murphy was a late throw of the dice by Lewer but despite a few quick runs, he failed to find the space which was needed.

Runcorn FC Halton — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough travelled to the Halton Stadium, Widnes, to play Runcorn FC Halton in a 3rd Qualifying Round FA Cup Replay.

Runcorn: McMillan, Salt, Ness, Nolan, Spearitt, Harris, Price, McGinn, Daly (Watson 85), Courtney, Leadbeater. Subs: Carden, Watson, Murphy.

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Hoyle, Collins (Tullin 117), Moore, Angus, Corbett (Williams 70), McGorry, Quailey, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Norton, Lamb, Beckford-Quailey.

Boro were cruelly ousted from the FA Cup following a penalty shoot-out against ten-man Runcorn.

Boro's 14 match unbeaten run was wrecked when Danny Salt stroked home the decisive spot-kick at the second attempt after Darren Acton had saved the initial effort only for referee Bryan Tatton to order a re-take.

Runcorn went in front through Kevin Leadbeater only for Boro skipper Neil Moore to equalise just after the interval.

Steve Daly put the hosts back in front but Gez Murphy's sixth goal of the season in the dying seconds took the tie into extra time.

Brian Quailey clattered the post early on as Boro made the running but it was the home side who swept in front when Leadbeater raced clear through a square defence to fire past Acton.

Murphy was then denied by Salt but seven minutes from the break Runcorn were down to ten men as Leadbeater swore at a linesman and was immediately sent off.

Boro took advantage of the man difference to level at the start of the second half as Moore rose well to power in Stuart Whittaker's corner.

However, Runcorn regained the advantage just before the hour thanks to woeful work at the back from their rivals that enabled Ged Courtney to race away on the right and cross to the unmarked Daly who calmly volleyed wide of Acton.

Boro pushed forward relentlessly and their efforts were finally rewarded as Murphy got on the end of another Whittaker flag kick to head in the leveller.

Quailey and Murphy both went close to giving their side the lead while substitute Chris Tullin and Murphy had efforts blocked in a goalmouth melee but in the end a tense penalty shoot-out was to decide Boro's fate.

Murphy had his penalty saved but was then allowed to retake due to McMillan moving from his line. Whittaker and Quailey both converted their spot kicks as Courtney, Matty McGinn and player-manager Liam Watson put their penalties away for the Linnets.

Tullin hit the bar with Boro's fourth and Chris Price netted for Runcorn to make it 4-3 in their favour before Terry Angus squared matters.

Salt's kick was then parried by Acton, but the Nuneaton keeper's celebrations were short-lived as the referee ordered it to be retaken and this time Salt made no mistake.

Hucknall Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Watnall Road to play Hucknall Town in a FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Hucknall: Nelson, Asher, Brown, Miller, Hunter, Gaunt, Mayman, McCarthy, Ricketts, Bacon, Burke. Subs: Harding, Adams, Gamble, Winder, Jones.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Lake, Moore, Scott, M. Collins, McGorry, D. Collins, Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Brown, Williams, Drysdale, Fitzpatrick, Poole.

Former Boro manager Steve Burr came back to haunt his former club as the Manor Park side fell at the first hurdle for the eighth successive season.

Boro started promisingly with Gez Murphy putting them ahead after just five minutes.

Hucknall forced a corner in the first minute, Brian McGorry headed clear to Danny Mayman and he struck a terrific volley which was saved by Darren Acton.

Boro immediately responded when Murphy went close with a fine strike that was tipped around the post by Hucknall keeper Stuart Nelson.

Nelson collected the ball well under pressure from Stuart Lake, when the resulting corner came over. It was a lively opening to the game as both sides looked to make the perfect start and five minutes in Boro did just that.

Darren Collins closed down a home defender following a long Boro clearance and won the ball to put Murphy through, who rounded Nelson and slotted home.

Hucknall looked to respond straight away and former Birmingham City star Jon McCarthy flighted over a cross that was well met by Gary Ricketts, but his header went just wide.

Boro had claims for a penalty waved away after nine minutes when Stuart Whittaker was brought down in the area, the referee seemed to play the advantage as Boro continued to attack but their efforts came to nothing and

the chance had gone. Danger man Ricketts, a former Hinckley United player went close again immediately after, before he found the equaliser from the corner that followed.

He jumped highest to meet McCarthy's delivery and his header beat Acton but rebounded off the bar and Ricketts was quickest to react to strike the ball past Acton to bring the scores level.

The hosts had another chance on 25 minutes when Danny Bacon met an Alistair Asher cross, but his header was misdirected. This sparked Boro back to life and Murphy flashed a shot towards the Hucknall goal, but Nelson got a hand to the ball and it was scrambled clear by a home defender.

Acton saved Ricketts' overhead kick while at the other end Collins chased a through ball and found Murphy, whose shot was blocked. Five minutes before the break the home side took the lead with a well worked goal. A McCarthy free-kick was headed on by Mayman and Ricketts was first to react once again, flicking the ball towards goal.

Acton managed to get a hand to the ball but could not keep it out. McGorry sliced his shot wide before the home side could have extended their lead but Bacon's lob cleared Acton and the bar and Hucknall went in with a 2-1 lead.

Boro put pressure on themselves at

the start of the second half when Acton spilled a cross and gave away a corner.

McCarthy's dangerous deliveries were causing the Boro defence all sorts of problems and a remarkable incident followed when Chris Tullin cleared off the line twice. A terrific strike from Ricketts, which would have given him his hat-trick was somehow cleared by the young full-back and then a Bacon piledriver forced him to repeat his feat and save the Boro from falling two goals behind. Boro were clearly lacking invention and looking unlikely to level the scores and assistant manager Dave Norton made a couple of changes.

Mickey Brown replaced Stuart Lake and Gary Fitzpatrick came on, with both given just over half-an-hour to make an impression on the game.

McCarthy, who once cost £1,850,000 when he moved from Port Vale to Birmingham, continued to impress and his mazy run was followed with a shot that forced Acton into a fine save.

Boro had failed to create a single goal-scoring opportunity in the second half and Norton decided to introduce Danny Williams three minutes from time.

But Boro could not breach the home defence in a dire second period and Hucknall held firm and the game petered out into a deserved victory for the Watnall Lane outfit.



Gez Murphy gives Boro an early lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 1



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2003-04

Nuneaton Scores First

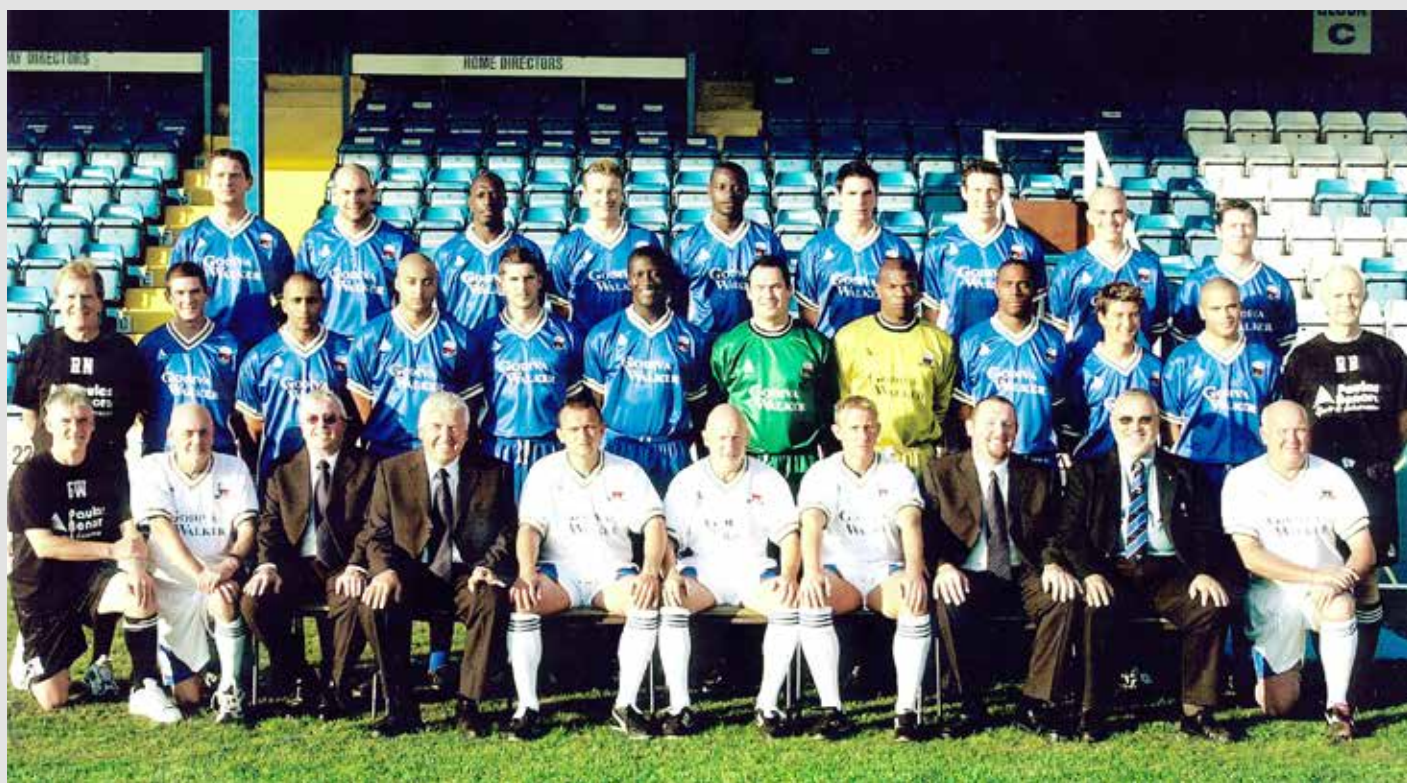
Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.19	West Bromwich Albion Res	A	PSF	2-0	Quailey, Murphy	-
07.25	Doncaster Rovers	H	PSF	3-0	Corbett(2, 1 pen), Collins	503
07.28	Total Network Solutions	A	PSF	0-1		c150
07.31	Oxford United	H	PSF	2-1	Murphy, Collins	414
08.02	Godalming & Guildford	A	PSF	5-1	Fitzpatrick (3), Moore, Brown	c100
08.04	Coventry City	H	PSF	2-3	Collins, Quailey	843
08.09	Halesowen Town	A	PSF	1-5	Brown (pen)	c300
08.16	Chippenham Town	H	L	1-1	Murphy (pen)	1114
08.19	Stafford Rangers	A	L	3-0	Quailey (2), Corbett	1265
08.23	Weymouth	A	L	1-1	Quailey	1379
08.25	Hinckley United	H	L	2-0	Quailey, Murphy	1901
08.30	Eastbourne Borough	H	L	4-0	Moore, Quailey, Angus, Corbett	1308
09.02	Hednesford Town	A	L	0-0		972
09.06	Newport County	H	L	2-0	Fitzpatrick, Clifford	1097
09.08	Chelmsford City	A	L	2-1	Corbett (2)	455
09.13	Weston super Mare	A	L	1-1	Murphy	478
09.16	Grantham Town	H	L	1-1	Whittaker	1075
09.20	Crawley Town	A	L	2-2	Murphy, Clifford	1864
09.27	Worcester City	H	FAC 2Q	1-0	Whittaker	1352
10.04	Worcester City	H	L	2-1	Clifford, Murphy	1091
10.11	Runcorn FC Halton	H	FAC 3Q	1-1	Quailey	1201
10.14	Runcorn FC Halton	A	FAC 3Qr	2-2aet	Moore, Murphy (Boro lost 5-4 on penalties)	347
10.18	Tiverton Town	H	L	0-1		902
10.21	Moor Green	A	L	0-2		497
10.25	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	2-1	McGrory, Lake	747
11.01	Dover Athletic	A	L	2-3	Moore, Corbett	826
11.08	Havant & Waterlooville	H	L	1-2	Murphy	869
11.11	Stratford Town	H	BSC 2	3-2	Murphy (2), Williams	124
11.15	Bath City	A	L	3-1	D. Collins (2), Whittaker	653
11.29	Hucknall Town	A	FAT 2	1-2	Murphy	625
12.06	Hednesford Town	H	L	3-0	M.Collins (2), Brown	761
12.09	Gresley Rovers	H	DMC 3	1-0	M.Collins	178
12.26	Hinckley United	A	L	1-1	Murphy	2013
01.01	Cambridge City	H	L	2-1	Moore, Murphy	798
01.03	Chippenham Town	A	L	1-1	D.Collins	581
01.06	Moor Green	A	BSC 3	0-3		187
01.10	Welling United	A	L	1-2	S.Williams	592
01.17	Stafford Rangers	H	L	0-0		1077
01.24	Worcester City	A	L	0-4		1073
01.27	Cambridge City	A	DMC 4	1-2	Whittaker (pen)	115
02.07	Dorchester Town	A	L	0-0		522
02.14	Welling United	H	L	2-2	Murphy (pen), Moore	647
02.21	Dover Athletic	H	L	1-1	Lamb	641
02.24	Bath City	H	L	2-1	Murphy (2)	471
02.28	Grantham Town	A	L	5-0	Fitzpatrick (2), McGrory, Angus, Murphy	444
03.06	Moor Green	H	L	1-0	Wilkin	764
03.13	Tiverton Town	A	L	0-0		547
03.20	Weston super Mare	H	L	1-1	Fitzpatrick	656
03.23	Weymouth	H	L	4-3	Whittaker (2), Murphy, Fitzpatrick	836
03.27	Newport County	A	L	2-1	Murphy (pen), Whittaker	644
04.03	Havant & Waterlooville	A	L	1-5	Brown	461
04.06	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	3-4	Murphy (2), Wilkin	341

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2003-04

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.10	Chelmsford City	H	L	1-2	Wilkin	621
04.12	Cambridge City	A	L	3-1	Murphy, Wilkin, Fitzpatrick (pen)	432
04.17	Crawley Town	H	L	0-1		837
04.24	Eastbourne Borough	A	L	0-0		893
05.01	Dorchester Town	H	L	2-0	Fitzpatrick (2)	653

KEY : L = Southern League Premier, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, DMC = Southern League Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF = Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2003-04

Back: (left to right): Neil Moore, Adam Cooper, Mickey Brown, Michael Love, Elvy Manunebo, Andy Corbett, Andy Crabtree, Chris Tullin, Stuart Whitaker.

Middle (left to right): Richie Norman (physio), Robert White, Mark Clifford, Dion Scott, Gez Murphy, Terry Angus, Darren Acton, Daimon Quailey-Beckford, Brian Quailey, Matthew Lamb, Matty Collins, Roger Bayliss (physio).

Front (left to right): Graham Wilson (commercial manager), Alan Cooper, John Phillips (director), Roger Stanford (chairman), Dave Norton (assistant manager), Alan Lewer (manager), Brian McGorry (player-coach), Dave Radburn (director), Howard Kerry (director), Pete Garnell.

Scott On Transfer List

Nuneaton Borough have transfer-listed Dion Scott. Manager Roger Ashby has decided the 23-year-old has no part to play in the club's future. The former Walsall trainee is among the highest-paid players at the club and manager Roger Ashby doesn't believe he warrants the wage he is earning.

Boro Sign Wilson

Former Leicester City and Grantham Town winger Stuart Wilson is the latest recruit for Nuneaton Borough boss Roger Ashby. The 26-year-old played under Ashby at Grantham Town and scored at Manor Park last season in the 1-1 draw. He has agreed a one-year deal and joins on a free transfer.

Terry Takes On Youth Team

Fans' favourite Terry Angus is staying on at Nuneaton Borough to help develop future stars of Manor Park. The retired defender has been appointed youth team manager with an immediate brief to attract young local talent that has previously slipped through the net.

Boro Sign Farmer

Steve Farmer will be linking up with Nuneaton Borough for pre-season training after landing a deal with manager Roger Ashby. The 24-year-old central defender began his career with Atherstone United and progressed through the ranks of their youth policy before being handed a first-team role under Ron Bradbury. Farmer then moved on to Sutton Coldfield Town where he has spent two years.

Boro Ground Move Still In Doubt

Nuneaton Borough's hopes of getting their blueprint for their new ground at Liberty Way passed by the local council are still in doubt. The main stumbling block for their plans to get the go ahead involve Railtrack who have future work in the pipeline for part of the area where Boro's all-weather pitch was due to be built.

And, although there is the possibility of the club solving the problem with Railtrack, while at the same time appealing Sport England who are providing a sizeable grant towards the new stadium plans, it is unclear if plans will go before the Nuneaton and Bedworth Council's planning meeting on June 28.

Boro Sign Noon

Nuneaton Borough have signed Mark Noon from Coventry City. The Leamington born midfielder has made two first team appearances for the Sky Blues and was on loan at Tamworth last season.

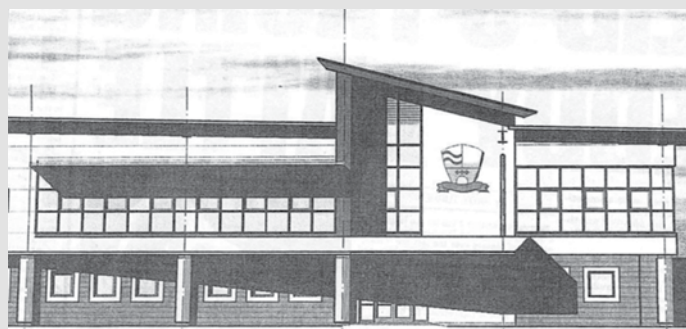
Szmid On Trial With Boro

Former England schoolboy international Marek Szmid is looking to kick start his career with Nuneaton Borough. The former Higham Lane schoolboy is training with the club after playing for Nuneaton Girff last season in the top flight of the Midland Combination.

Green Light For Boro Move

Nuneaton Borough's five year search for a new football stadium has ended in triumph. The club has finally been given planning permission to move from its ageing canalside Manor Park ground to a river-fringed site at Attleborough. During a planning meeting lasting almost four hours at the Town Hall last night, borough councillors voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new soccer stadium being built alongside the River Anker on land off Ptarmigan Place.

It means a bright new dawn for the football club's ambitions of, one day, winning a place in the Football League. The blueprints were rubber-stamped despite the concerns of some residents that the relocation would create traffic and noise problems. Councillors gave it their full backing – and a final decision now rests with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister...



An artist's impression of the new stadium. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro fans cramming the public gallery at Nuneaton Town Hall roared their approval when the football club finally won permission to build a new stadium. Councillors voted by an overwhelming 12-0 majority in favour of the ambitious project. The vote received a rapturous reception from about 70 fans who had squeezed into the chamber. They cheered and applauded what they considered was an historic victory.

Boro Host Coventry Reserves

Nuneaton Borough will again host Coventry City reserve team games this coming season with some of the country's top clubs in action at Manor Park. The likes of Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham and Charlton all figure on the Sky Blues' fixture list for games at Manor Park in the Barclays Premiership Reserve League.

Season 2004-05

Bognor Regis Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-07-2004

Boro travelled to Nyewood Lane to play a pre-season friendly game against Bognor Regis Town.

Boro youngster Steve Farmer scored twice as Boro battled their way to a 2-1 win. Both of Farmer's goals were headers from set pieces. The game was marred by the sending off of Brian McGorry and Town's Guy Rutherford in the opening quarter.



Worthing v Nuneaton Borough 17-07-2004

Boro travelled to Woodside Road to play Worthing in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro played out a goalless draw in the second game of their mini tour. It was a game of few chances, with Darren Acton making a crucial save for the visitors, stopping a shot by ex-Wimbledon and Crawley Town man Peter Fear.

Nuneaton Borough v Cogenhoe United 22-07-2004

Boro (from): Poole, Tullin, Oddy, Farmer, Crabtree, Feeley, Fox, Szmid, Williams, Noon, Harrison, Cairns, Murray.

Boro welcomed United Counties League outfit Cogenhoe Town to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly.

A youthful Boro side ground out a 2-0 win with second half goals from Steve Farmer and Simeon Williams.

Boro Sign Jephcott

Former Coventry City striker Avun Jephcott has accepted a one-year deal with Nuneaton Borough. The youngster had been on an extended trial with Luton Town, but the Hatters decided not to pursue their interest.

Brackley Town v Nuneaton Borough 24-07-2004

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Tullin, Farmer, Moore, Whittaker, Wilson, McGorry, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy. **Subs:** Noon, Jephcott, Szmid, Williams, Poole.

Boro travelled to St James Park to play Brackley Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Mark Noon was Boro's hero as they eased their way to a 2-1 win over the Northamptonshire side. Boro fell behind in the fifth minute when a goalmouth scramble allowed Lewis Craker to poke the ball past Darren Acton, but Kevin Wilkin evened things up after 30 minutes when he slotted home a Rob Oddy cross. The pressure began to tell on Brackley with Stuart Whittaker and Stuart Wilson having plenty of possession out wide, but the home side refused to lay down and Ben Milner narrowly missed out when well placed in the area.

Boro's winner came 20 minutes from the end when Craker's header out was collected by Gez Murphy, who found Noon in space, and the ex-Sky Blue player fired past keeper Matt Finlay. Boro had a let-off in the final stages when Paul Powell almost equalised after some impressive individual skills but Darren Acton dived well to collect the ball and maintained the visitors' lead.

Ibstock Welfare v Nuneaton Borough 26-07-2004

Boro made the journey to the Welfare Ground to play Ibstock Welfare in a pre-season friendly game.

James Fox scored the only goal of the game to give Boro a 1-0 victory but the high point of the evening from Boro's point of view was the return of Matty Collins after his long injury lay-off.

Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham City 29-07-2004

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Tullin, Noon, Farmer, Crabtree, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker.

Boro welcomed Birmingham City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Boro were humbled by a strong Birmingham side that included Darren Carter, whose penalty clinched promotion for the Blues to the Premier League. Andy Crabtree gifted the visitors their first goal on 20 minutes when he let in Blues number nine Barrowman, whose lob beat Darren Acton to open the scoring. Boro came close to equalising 15 minutes later with a trademark Steve Farmer header, which was powered towards goal from a corner, but which flashed wide.

Blues doubled their lead when Motteram and Barrowman combined well to feed Carter and his fierce drive had Acton well beaten. Carter added his second, and Birmingham's third five minutes after the break when his looping header left Acton flat-footed. The visitors extended their lead further in the final quarter as Peter Till's sweet half-volley from the edge of the box beat substitute goalkeeper Ryan Poole. Matty Collins made an appearance in the second half.

Manor Park Sale

Nuneaton Borough FC's five year quest for a new stadium faces another hurdle when councillors decide the fate of the club's ageing Manor Park ground. Borough councillors are due to meet to consider a plan by housing developers to demolish the existing stadium off Beaumont Road and build 131 homes on the site. Tamworth based JS Bloor Ltd is believed to be paying in the region of £4 million for the site, and it has lodged plans to include highways works including a pedestrian crossing off Beaumont Road...

Boro Bid For Danks

Nuneaton Borough have offered a cash plus player exchange to try and bring in striker Mark Danks from Hednesford Town. The 20-year-old hit 24 goals last season but is out of contract at Keys Park and is subject to a fee under the Bosman Ruling. Hednesford are understood to want £10,000 for the highly rated striker and are prepared to go to a tribunal for the player who has been training at Manor Park.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 01-08-2004

Boro welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Former Manchester United striker Ronnie Wallwork was the man on target as an experienced West Brom side edged out Boro. Wallwork netted the deciding goal for the Premiership newcomers midway through the opening period with a clinical finish from Lloyd Dyer's pin-point cross.

Boro started well and Matty Collins set up Gez Murphy who shot wide before Neil Moore freed Kevin Wilkin, but



the assistant manager's weak shot was easily saved. At the other end Lloyd Dyer fired over but on 25 minutes it was the winger's cross that found Wallwork and he made no mistake with a slick 15 yarder that gave keeper Ryan Poole no chance.

Atrim Sakiri should have done better but shot too high while a neat three-man Boro move involving Murphy, Stuart Wilson and Wilkin saw the latter's drive lack the necessary power. Bernt Haas had a crack from the edge of the box but Poole made a fine save and then Gez Murphy completely miskicked allowing the Baggies' keeper to gather in the ball when an equaliser looked on the cards. Seconds later Wilkin failed to hit the rigging from a similar position.

The second half started much the same as the first ended, although just prior to the hour Darren Moore sliced wide as Albion looked to stretch their advantage. Central defender Steve Farmer, who again impressed alongside Moore, came close to equalising with a typical header and late on Simeon Williams had a good run but his powerful strike was saved by the keeper.

Quorn v Nuneaton Borough

03-08-2004

Boro made the journey to Farley Way to play Quorn in a pre-season friendly game.

Newcomers Avun Jephcott and Marek Szmid were the men on target as youthful Nuneaton Borough inflicted a 2-0 defeat on the home side. Both goals came in the opening half with Jephcott heading home Michael Love's far post cross to ease the visitors in front while Szmid crashed home a 20-yarder following a quickly taken free-kick.

Prince Quits

Controversial Nuneaton Borough General Manager Alan Prince has quite the club following a board meeting. Prince – who also runs a pub in Grantham – has cited other business interests outside of football which are demanding more of his time and he feels he cannot devote the amount of hours necessary to fulfil his role in the proper manner. The former Mansfield Town General Manager and Grantham Town chairman will step down with immediate effect and the board are in the process of making suitable alternative arrangements to manage the day-to-day running of the club.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City

04-08-2004

Boro (from): Acton, Tullin, Farmer, Moore, Love, Wilson, Collins, Fitzpatrick, Whittaker, Murphy, Jephcott, Oddy, Williams, Noon, McGorry, Wilkin.

Coventry: Marriott, Tuffey, Bamako, Osbourne, Nicell, Giddings, Barry, Jorgensen, Thornton, Hall, Mackey, Reid, Ogarro, Lynch, O'Toole, Bains.

Boro welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Two-goal Craig Reid sparked a youthful Coventry side to a decisive victory. The striker netted a goal in each half while skipper Claus Jorgensen's late penalty completed the job as the Sky Blues made short work of their determined, but outplayed

hosts. Boro defended well early on although City's Kevin Thornton brought out a low save from keeper Darren Acton and Andy Hall's rising 20 yarder flew just wide. Boro's only real threat came via Coventry old boy Avun Jephcott whose skidding 20-yarder was clutched low down by Andy Marriott.

Coventry made the breakthrough after 23 minutes when Ben Mackey did the spadework on the right and his cross-shot evaded Acton for the in-rushing Reid to find the net off the underside of the bar from the acutest of angles. Boro endured another set-back when they lost Neil Moore with a gashed head, as City continued to dominate. It required a brilliant parry from the flying Acton to turn aside Jorgensen's 20 yard screamer.

After the break Boro tried to lift the tempo without finding the necessary quality or passion in their game and on 65 minutes City doubled their advantage as the diving Reid glanced a fine ten yard header just inside the far post from Stuart Giddings' pinpoint centre. Acton superbly save from the lively Mackey before City sewed up the game on 79 minutes. Mackey won possession and he raced into the Boro area, but was brought down by Kevin Wilkin and Jorgensen's spot kick found the net off the flailing arm of Acton. Stuart Wilson had a chance for Boro, but his weakly hit shot failed to trouble Marriot, who then backtracked to tip over Rob Oddy's dipping centre and then brilliantly pushed away Jephcott's powerful downward header from six yards.

Residents Hit Boro's Plans

Residents opposed to a planned redevelopment of Manor Park have demanded to know the finer details of a covenant placed on the ground. Last night proposals to demolish the current home stadium of Nuneaton Borough AFC and replace it with 131 homes were fiercely opposed by many people who live in the surrounding areas. Their voices didn't go unheard and members of the borough council's planning applications committee deferred any decision until a site visit was undertaken so that 'everything could be covered'.

The committee room at the Town Hall was crammed with residents keen to have their say on the plans to erect 131 properties, with more than 100 objections having been submitted...

Rugby United v Nuneaton Borough

07-08-2004

Boro (from): Poole, Acton, Tullin, Farmer, Crabtree, Love, Collins, Fitzpatrick, McGorry, Oddy, Wilson, Cairns, Williams, Lamb, Szmid, Murphy, Wilkin, Noon, Harrison, Jephcott, Freeley, Hines.

Boro made the journey to Butlin Road to face Rugby Town in a pre-season friendly match.

In sweltering conditions, Boro created the first clear cut chance when Stuart Wilson's close range header was parried round a post by keeper Jason Pearcey, who did likewise to a rising 15-yarder from the same player. Chris Tullin then defied Charley with a fine saving tackle before a flowing four-man

move at the opposite end saw lively Nuneaton triallist John Stevenson foiled by Pearcey low down.

Five minutes into the second half Boro were gifted the lead as the home back division froze from Frew's centre and though Jephcott mishit his close range shot it deceived keeper Dean Thomas and trickled over the line.



The Rugby keeper fumbles Jephcott's shot into the net.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Rugby rallied well to equalise on 56 minutes as substitute Jermaine Gordon turned smartly on the left and his fierce centre was bundled into the net by Charley as Boro's defence vainly appealed for handball.

Within 60 seconds Boro regained the initiative as deputy keeper Ryan Poole launched a long ball forward and as two Rugby defenders dithered the alert Frew, a recognised goal poacher with Portsmouth under 18s, coolly hooked the ball wide of the stranded Thomas from eight yards out.

Kevin Wilkin then hit the bar following good work by Jephcott and Simeon Williams before the visitors were handed a third present in the dying seconds thanks to Ross Irvine, whose back pass eluded the outrushing keeper and rolled gently inside the far post.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 09-08-2004

Bedworth: Hayes, Blair, Dodd (Kelsall 72), Male (Gormley 78), Stevenson, Clarke (Hadland 52), Smith, Hanney, Moore (Coppin 52), Spacey, Newland (Crowley 52).

Boro: Acton, Tullin (Oddy 58), Love, Collins (McGorry 58), Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Whittaker 58), Fitzpatrick, Frew (Stevenson 46), Murphy (Williams 58), Jephcott (Noon 58).

Boro made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro took the lead after only five minutes when a long ball over the top caught the United defence napping and the impressive Michael Frew supplied an excellent lob over the stranded Shaun Hayes for the opener. At the other end Paul Spacey teed up Lee Moore who fired straight at Boro keeper Darren Acton, while Boro's Stuart Wilson, who caused the home side problems through the first-half rifled the ball over the top from Gez Murphy's low cross. Wilson then drove across goal and Frew put an effort wide from Michael Love's

cross. Murphy headed straight at Hayes and just past the half-hour mark the lead was doubled after Darren Acton's long kick was flicked on by Frew for Murphy to run on and calmly slot home.

Murphy went clear one-on-one but saw his effort saved by Hayes with Andy Dodd clearing the rebound off the line, while the resulting corner saw Murphy again denied by the keeper before he fired over. Paul Spacey gave the home side hope with his fourth pre-season goal, coolly slotting past Acton from Tom Stevenson's pass. However, it was Nuneaton who had most of the play after that and substitute John Stevenson sealed victory three minutes into the second half, sliding home Matty Collins' cross.

Frew Signs

Borough have clinched the signing of striker Michael Frew and he will make his debut against Ashton. The 19-year-old agreed a one-year deal after manager Roger Ashby had gone to his board of directors asking them to stump up the cash. Frew was previously with Portsmouth and last season scored 44 goals for Yaxley in the United Counties League.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashton United 14-08-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Williams 90), Fitzpatrick, Wilkin (Whittaker 69), Murphy, Jephcott. Subs: Oddy, Noon, Poole.

Ashton: Conner, Thackeray, White, Cooney (Allison 77), Adams, Connor (Carty 86), Fleury (Clee 77), Garvey, Mitten, Johnson, Smith. Subs: Trueman, Miller.

Boro welcomed Ashton United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro almost made a dream start when a long Michael Love through ball fell into the path of Stuart Wilson after just 12 seconds but his lob drifted over the bar. Ashton had their first chance just 90 second later when lax Boro defending allowed Dean Johnson through but Darren Acton got down to block his drive. The Boro keeper then had to race out to smother the ball at the feet of Paul Garvey and another Ashton effort went just wide with the new defensive partnership of Neil Moore and Steve Farmer looking less than solid early on. Kevin Wilkin saw his shot saved before a Jephcott header glanced just wide as Boro started to get on top. Matty Collins flashed a shot across goal and Avun Jephcott just failed to connect.

As the half wore on Boro's defence began to look more solid and a Gez Murphy run ended with the striker in a heap inside the penalty area, but appeals were waved away. A Jephcott free-kick was deflected for a corner which came to nothing before Ashton got through but Garvey's tame shot was easily dealt with. Murphy fed Collins five minutes before the break but the midfielder's fierce drive was well blocked. Just before the break Murphy's cross was cleared with Wilson just about to pull the trigger and the winger was in the thick of things again when his header went just over the bar in the final action of the first half.



Murphy battles with Ashton defender Lincoln Adams.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

With less than five minutes of the second half gone Boro took the lead when a Jephcott shot rebounded into the path of Murphy who fired home. Ashton, who seem set to struggle this season, were creating very little but it was clear that Boro needed a second goal to kill off the game. Josh Mitten saw his shot saved by Acton as Ashton came close to scoring against a jittery Boro and Phil Cooney blasted a shot just wide. Boro introduced Whittaker and Jephcott took up a more central role and almost doubled the home side's lead, forcing a fine save out of Connor. Whittaker was next to show but still the second goal failed to materialise with ten minutes left.

Whittaker went through on his own and had a shot saved as Murphy was free in the area and screaming for the ball. At the other end, only a last ditch tackle by Love kept Ashton at bay as the tension mounted. The visitors put on some pressure towards the end and a Mitten header went close and Farmer had to block a Steve Smith shot on the line. Boro had the last chance of the match when Jephcott fed Simeon Williams but his shot was blocked and the referee blew for time.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough

17-08-2004

Moor Green: Rachel, Robinson, Follett, Collins, Sanders, Petty, Faulds, Middleton, Williams (Elmes 75), Martin (Hall 87), Trainer. Subs: Doyle, Foy, Harris.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Noon 84), Fitzpatrick, Murphy, Frew, Jephcott. Subs: Oddy, Poole, Williams, Whittaker.

Boro made the journey to the Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Conference North game.

The Moor Green keeper Adam Rachel was in action early on as he was called on to keep out a shot deflected by Murphy

from Stuart Wilson's cross after four minutes before a fruitless Moor Green corner was followed by the opening goal with just eleven minutes gone. Acton's goal kick was flicked on by Avun Jephcott and Murphy made a run down the wing before he put in a ball that found Fitzpatrick, who curled it over Rachel.

Jephcott blazed a long range effort wide minutes later as Boro continued to play some excellent stuff, particularly down the left, while Moor Green tried to catch the visitors out on the break. Jae Martin fired a strike over the bar when he had a golden opportunity to equalise midway through the first half while at the other end, a well worked short corner between Frew and Wilson gave Jephcott a chance but he headed just over the bar. Moor Green began to get back into the game towards half time and forced a string of corners without really testing Acton.

The home side started the second half on the offensive and former Boro favourite Barry Williams set up Darren Middleton, but he shot wide. Middleton again went close as the home side kept up the pressure but it was Boro who went close as an excellent run by Frew followed by a cross from Jephcott which Murphy headed goalwards, but Rachel palmed the ball over the top.

Neither side created much as the rain became heavier and the play was more confined to midfield. But Boro burst into life halfway through the second half and doubled their lead, thanks to a wonderful interception and break from Chris Tullin. His delicate through ball found Murphy who fired the ball across the goal where Frew controlled with one touch and finished well. It was almost three in the following minute when Murphy again fed Frew but this time the youngster shot wide. Martin had a chance to pull one back from a Moor Green corner but his header went over and Boro hit Moor Green again as Jephcott broke at pace down the left, squaring the ball to Frew who grabbed his second goal of the game to make the score 3-0.

Boro were rampant towards the end of the match and Jephcott was again in the thick of things, hitting the bar with a cross-cum-shot. Unfortunately the former Coventry youngster added his name to the scoresheet at the wrong end when he put through his own net to give Moor Green a consolation goal.

Bradford Park Avenue v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-2004

Bradford: Britton, Quinn, Crossley, Walsh, Jones, Naylor, Sheriffe (Oldham 85), Thompson, Colley, Oleksewycz, Glayton (Smith 77). Subs: Jones, Pearce, Helliwell.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Murphy, Frew, Jephcott. Subs: Whittaker, Noon, Crabtree, Wilkin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Horsfall Stadium to play Bradford Park Avenue in a Conference North game.

Boro made a dream start and took the lead in the first minute. Michael Love's corner swung in from the left and it reached the head of Steve Farmer whose bullet header

rocketed past keeper Andrew Britton. Bradford looked for a quick response and Steve Oleksewycz managed to outfox Neil Moore on the edge of the box but keeper Darren Acton saved easily. Midway through the first-half, Bradford had their best chance when Marc Thompson's throw-in found Dan Sheriffe at the far post and his header went just wide. Boro's Michael Frew went close from the edge of the box with a speculative shot as the visitors looked to stretch their lead. Gez Murphy ballooned a shot over the bar before Boro extended their lead when Stuart Wilson put the ball in from the right and it fell to Avun Jephcott who tucked it away at the far post.

Bradford came out for the second half in determined mood and Marc Thompson's drive brought a solid save from Acton and Neil Moore went close at the other end with a shot following a Wilson corner which was cleared off the line by Andy Quinn. Carl Shutt's side were digging deep and as the hour mark passed they pulled a goal back from a set-piece. Ryan Crossley's long throw landed in the box and found the lively Sheriffe who bundled the ball past Acton. A few minutes later Moore handled the ball in the area and Sheriffe converted the penalty to put the home side level.

Frew had a chance to restore Boro's lead but his shot lacked power while at the other end another Crossley throw rattled the Boro defence but Farmer headed the ball away. The final action saw Murphy hit a free-kick from the edge of the area straight into the arms of Britton.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 24-08-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Murphy, Frew (Whittaker 89), Jephcott. Subs: Noon, Poole, Oddy, Williams.
Stafford: Lindley, Dodd, Pearce, McAughtrie, Daniel, Lovatt (Campbell 87), Downes, Heath, Grayson (Talbot 87), Wilding, Gibson. Subs: Blackhurst, Robinson, Smith.

Boro welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro suffered a terrible start when they conceded in the first minute. The lively Dennis Pearce broke free on the left and crossed to Craig Wilding who headed home. The goal gave Stafford confidence and they were running Boro ragged with quick precise passing leaving the home side chasing shadows. Scorer Wilding put an effort wide and in reply a weak Gary Fitzpatrick effort was all Boro could muster. Stafford then caught Boro napping again when Neil Grayson fed Craig Lovatt who both Steve Farmer and Neil Moore struggled to control, but Michael Love intervened at the expense of a corner.

Stafford were defending in numbers and frustrating Boro with Wayne Daniel dictating matters at the back while up front veteran Grayson continued to impress. The visitors continued to find space and the unmarked Lee Downes was just over the bar with a long-range effort. But Boro got back into the game with an unlikely equaliser just before the half-hour mark. With Gez Murphy lying injured on the half-way line, Stuart

Wilson raced down the wing and Michael Frew got on the end of his cross with a superb diving header for his third goal in as many games. But the lead only lasted two minutes as Love failed to clear the ball on the left hand side of the box and Daniel fired in an effort which Darren Acton parried away, but only as far as Lovatt who buried the ball into the net. Frew headed over the top just before the break.

Boro again pulled level after half-time when Neil Moore won possession 20 yards out and blasted a missile into the back of the net. The goal finally gave Boro a lease of life with Avun Jephcott having a header rock the underside of the bar and Matt Collins volleying just wide. But Stafford struck again as Grayson spotted Downes on the edge of the box with the Boro defence ball watching and his long-range effort rocketed past Acton to restore the visitors' lead.



Gez Murphy celebrates his goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro, however, were soon back on level terms when Love's free-kick found last season's top scorer, Gez Murphy, in the box and he made no mistake in netting the equaliser. Boro were now in the box seat and Frew went close from the edge of the box and Murphy blazed a shot over the top. But the hard work finally paid off with 15 minutes left as Collins struck a shot from the edge of the box and in a goalmouth melee Fitzpatrick claimed the winner. The match was still in the balance though and it required a stunning save from Acton to secure all three points as he finger-tipped Downes' free kick onto the post to secure a Boro win.

Manor Park Decision Deferred

Nuneaton Borough were left reeling as their dream move to a new home was once again put on the backburner as plans to redevelop the Manor Park stadium were grounded. Boro supporters were fuming last night after councillors on Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's planning committee deferred making a decision on plans for 131 housing units on the current ground for the second time in just one month.

The decision to put the proposal on hold was made before councillors even entered a debate on the plans because after a site visit, Cllr Robin Hood decided to move a motion to defer the decision until they have spoken to a highways expert.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow

28-08-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Whittaker 12), Fitzpatrick, Murphy (Williams 52), Frew, Jephcott. **Subs:** Noon, Poole, Oddy.

Barrow: Capp, Heffernan, Maxfield (Kewley 76), Cotterill, Smith, Hill, Knight (Patterson 60), Rowland, Campbell, Flitcroft, Rankine. **Subs:** Anthony, Simpson, Bishop.

Boro welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

A stunning free kick by Avun Jephcott gave Nuneaton Borough a share of the points against Barrow. Boro were dealt a blow just eight minutes into the game when Stuart Wilson was felled by a diabolical foul which saw the forearm of the visitors' left back Scott Maxfield swing into his face. With Boro down to ten men, Barrow's Michael Rankin almost nudged his side ahead but Steve Farmer cleared the danger.

The first threat of the game for Boro came via Gez Murphy whose header from Michael Love's free-kick rocked the crossbar. And it was followed by another good effort as Michael Frew's back-heel was crossed in by Stuart Whittaker only for Jephcott to head wide. Before the break, Barrow again resorted to elbows when Rankine poleaxed Chris Tullin but again this failed to spark a reaction from the referee.



Michael Frew battles for the ball.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The visitors took the lead five minutes before half-time when Jonathan Smith got on the end of a Maxfield corner and it powered past Darren Acton.

But it took Boro just four minutes of the second half to equalise after Frew was fouled 20 yards out. Jephcott stepped up to take the free-kick and looped it superbly over the Barrow keeper Adam Capp. And Boro almost added a swift second when substitute Simeon Williams took on the opposition defence but his effort was well stopped by Capp as his side held on for a draw.

Gainsborough Trinity v Nuneaton Borough

30-08-2004

Gainsborough: Holmshaw (Bird 41), Ford, Burley, Purkiss, Dixon, Sherlock (Stanton 32), Wood, Hurst, Ellington, Smith, Grant. **Sub:** Maxwell.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins (Williams 54), Moore, Farmer, Whittaker, Fitzpatrick, Noon, Frew, Jephcott. **Subs:** Oddy, McGorry, Crabtree, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Northolme to play Gainsborough Trinity in a Conference North game.

Boro got off to a flying start and were a goal up in the first 30 seconds when Collins cut the ball back to Jephcott from the by-line and he fired into the net from 10 yards. Gainsborough had a chance to equalise in the fourth minute when they fed the ball to Gareth Grant but Darren Acton saved. Grant put a shot wide of the target a minute later. Despite taking an early lead Boro were second best and Dan Wood blasted the ball over the bar after a jinking run. Home captain Chris Hurst wasted another opening as Boro struggled to create anything.

The game swung in Boro's favour five minutes before half-time when Gainsborough keeper Jamie Holmshaw could not continue and as the home side didn't have a substitute goalkeeper defender Ben Dixon had to go in goal. Boro immediately put pressure on the stand-in keeper with Michael Love's inswinging corner that Gainsborough defended well, before Michael Frew got through on goal and beat Dixon, only to see his shot rebound agonisingly off the post.

The second half started in exciting fashion with attacks at both ends, but it was Gainsborough who snatched an equaliser after 49 minutes. A Grant cross was deflected for a corner by Noon and Acton could only get one hand to Wood's flag kick, palming the ball into the path of substitute Simon Bird, who coolly slotted home. Lee Ellington then came close to giving the home side the lead before Bird almost grabbed his second of the afternoon with a strong header. The pressure was mounting on Boro and Acton had to make two great saves, the first from a Wood drive and the second from Bird at close range.

But Boro regained their composure and Frew tested Dixon, but the stand-in keeper was equal to it. Boro started to get the upper hand and with just eight minutes left on the clock Boro went 2-1 up when a long ball over the top from Fitzpatrick found Simeon Williams in acres of space on the right. The Gainsborough defenders had retreated into their own box and by the time they were aware of the danger Williams had already sent his cross over which was met by Whittaker at the back post and he half-volleyed Boro in front. But the home side refused to yield and it took a brilliant save from Acton from Bird to protect Boro's fragile lead.

Nuneaton Borough v Southport

04-09-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins (Williams), Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Whittaker (Noon), Frew, Jephcott.

Southport: Dickinson, Pickford, Fitzgerald, Kilbane, Fitzhenry, Lynch, Baker (Williams), Price, Fearn (Mulvaney), Robinson (Daly), Leadbeater.

Boro welcomed Southport to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

The game opened in scrappy fashion but Boro won a corner and Avun Jephcott's header from Michael Love's cross failed to trouble Steve Dickinson. Southport's first chance came after eight minutes when Darren Acton did well to block a fierce Jerome Fitzgerald drive and then safely gathered the cross that followed. Acton was called on again a minute later, turning a Kevin Leadbetter strike round the post before collecting the corner. Southport were beginning to dominate and put Boro under increasing pressure with Acton cutting out a number of crosses and the home side relying on the long ball game. Terry Fearn came close to giving the visitors the lead as the Sandgrounders continued to have the better chances.

Fearn again went close, shooting wide with only Acton to beat before a well-struck Fitzpatrick free-kick struck Moore while Jephcott went close seconds later with a header. Acton saved a Karl Baker shot on the stroke of half-time.



Simeon Williams takes on a Southport defender.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Southport finally made the pressure pay three minutes after half-time when Neil Robinson beat Steve Farmer to a loose ball down the right and fed Kevin Lynch who back-heeled the ball to leading scorer Fearn in acres of space and the striker put the ball past Acton to give Southport the lead. Boro had a chance to equalise in the 56th minute when Fitzpatrick floated in a free-kick from the left but the ball just evaded the

head of Jephcott. Fearn went close but a superb save from Acton denied him a second goal. Southport went into the final half-hour comfortably on top and Boro brought on Noon for Whittaker and Simeon Williams for Collins.

Michael Frew headed just wide as Boro got back into the game before Southport made three changes to disrupt the pattern of play. Boro were to have one last chance from a free-kick but Farmer went down in the box before the free-kick could be taken, a victim of Kilbane's flying arm. Twenty players jostled around Farmer's prone body as the referee tried to restore order, but he decided to take no action when a red card and a penalty looked an option. Love's free-kick came to nothing and the referee called a halt just after.

Vauxhall Motors v Nuneaton Borough

11-09-2004

Vauxhall: Dittmer, Tamm (Flood 85), McDermott, Glendenning, Tomkinson, Brazier, Nesbitt, Lawton (Griffiths 82), Wright (Lamb 69), Olsen, O'Donnell. Subs: Molyneux, Duffy.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins, Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Noon 69), Fitzpatrick, Whittaker, Frew, Jephcott. Subs: Poole, Oddy, Williams, McGorry.

Boro made the journey to Riveacre Road to play Vauxhall Motors in a Conference North game.

Boro began brightly enough and had a goal disallowed after seven minutes after Jephcott chested Tullin's pass down and slotted home only to be denied by the linesman's flag. Gary Fitzpatrick then blasted an effort over following Michael Love's corner with Boro clearly on top in the opening 20 minutes, but Vauxhall almost broke the deadlock with Darren Wright narrowly failing to connect with a diving header before Boro fell behind on the half-hour mark. Stuart Whittaker was forced to backtrack to try to block Chris Tamm getting onto Wayne McDermott's pass. But the winger dragged the Vauxhall debutant to the turn and McDermott struck a sweet penalty past Darren Acton.

Karl O'Donnell tried his luck from distance as Boro struggled, forcing Acton into a good block. O'Donnell then raced clear with the Boro defence again exposed with two minutes to go before the break. But, just when it looked like the visitors would go in 1-0 down, Ashby's side levelled matters after a great move. Frew raced down the right and after good link play with Stuart Wilson he whipped a cross in to Jephcott and he leapt like a salmon to head home from eight yards.

At the start of the second half, Boro looked determined to build on their equaliser and Whittaker whipped in a great cross to the back post for captain Neil Moore to pounce, but he failed to find the net. Vauxhall's lively Wright headed wide while O'Donnell continued to be a menace down the flanks. Boro's Steve Farmer and Jephcott went close while Whittaker wasted a great chance as he played a neat one-two with Fitzpatrick but managed to hit the side netting after rushing his effort and then soon after Farmer's ambitious overhead kick went over the bar. As the half wore on it began to look like Vauxhall were happy with a point.

Hinckley United v Nuneaton Borough 14-09-2004

Hinckley: Whittle, Cartwright, Lenton, Lavery, Willis, Mintus, Storer (Pitham 31), McMahon, Lewis, Barnes, Dyer. Subs: Smith, Jackson, Burns, Bradshaw.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry (Collins 70), Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Whittaker 86), Fitzpatrick, Noon, Frew, Jephcott. Subs: Poole, S. Williams, Oddy.

Boro made the journey to Middlefield Lane to take on Hinckley United in a Conference North game.

Hinckley put Boro under pressure from the first whistle with Neil Cartwright putting in a wayward shot before Lewis put a shot into the side netting after being fed by Paul Barnes. Cartwright was again in action when he kept in a ball and crossed to Lewis at the back post, who blazed over the bar. Boro's first threat came from a Gary Fitzpatrick free-kick which was saved easily by Tommy Whittle. Avun Jephcott broke free but was blocked by Storer as Boro went through a good spell with Noon shining in midfield and Jephcott's pace troubling the Hinckley back line.

Hinckley were menacing and Jamie Lenton's mazy run and shot forced Acton to react quickly and punch away. Noon and Michael Frew opened up the Hinckley defence to force a corner, but a poor delivery from Wilson meant the chance was lost and soon after Hinckley took the lead. Steve Farmer was caught out too tight on Lewis and the lively striker raced to the byline before slotting the ball into the penalty area where Barnes flick the ball to Wayne Dyer who opened the scoring. And it was almost 2-0 on the stroke of half-time but Acton pulled off a fantastic save to deny Lavery.

The Knitters came out after the break determined to get a second and Cartwright forced Acton into another save after he was found in space by Dyer, but Boro kept going and ten minutes into the second half they were level. Hinckley were defending deep and captain Neil Moore's long ball found Jephcott whose pace left central defenders Danny Pitham and Adam Willis for dead and with Whittle nowhere to be seen the striker bagged his fifth goal of the season. However, Boro were level for less than a minute when Lenton outpaced Tullin before finding Lewis who had the simple task of slotting the ball under Acton.

Boro hit back immediately and Wilson fired over the top before Barnes found Lewis in acres of space in the box, but the striker put the ball wide when it looked easier to score. Noon continued to impress and his shot from the edge of the box was finger-tipped to safety by Whittle as the visitors came back into the game and after a period of sustained pressure, including a succession of corners from Michael Love, Frew gained possession after some dubious defending before controlling the ball superbly and slotting it past a helpless Whittle.

And, as the clock ticked into injury time another mix up at the back gave Boro the winner to cap a memorable night. Tyrone Mintus picked up the ball at the back and all he had to do

was clear it out for a throw-in, but he rushed his decision and knocked it out for a corner. Substitute Whittaker whipped in a corner which curled into the back post where Farmer was waiting to head the ball into the back of the net, completing a memorable come-back. Barnes blazed a shot wide in Hinckley's final attack but Boro held on for a famous victory.



Steve Farmer head in the winner.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro Sign Adams

Boro boss Roger Ashby has secured the services of Carl Adams who joins the club on loan from Leigh RMI. The midfielder has previously represented Bedford Town and Kettering Town amongst others.

Nuneaton Borough v Hucknall Town 18-09-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, Collins (Whittaker 70), Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Noon, Frew, Jephcott. Subs: Poole, Fox, Adams, McGorry.

Hucknall: Bowling, Asher, Barrick, Hunter, Heathcote, Winder, Warne (Taylor 90), McHugh, Ricketts, Bacon (Holland 87), Todd.

Boro welcomed Hucknall Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro had an early chance to take the lead when Gary Fitzpatrick looped a high ball towards Michael Frew but the striker headed straight at Ian Bowling. Darren Acton then had to make an excellent save to keep out Stephen Warne's header before Avun Jephcott and Stuart Wilson both tested Bowling with Jephcott having a header cleared and Wilson picking up on the keeper's spillage after a Michael Love corner. But Boro were being forced to defend more as the half wore on with Love being constantly tested by Warne's pace. Acton had to be on his toes to catch Danny Bacon's cross as Andy Todd closed in as the half drew to a close while Frew headed over for Boro, but was offside anyway.

Hucknall came out for the second half in determined mood and Acton was forced to race out for a loose ball and it was left to Neil Moore to clear up after the keeper was left stranded. But soon after Boro took the lead following an excellent move started by Chris Tullin. The young full-back found Avun Jephcott in space and he crossed for Stuart Wilson to head home. Tullin repeated the trick soon after but this time Jephcott headed straight into the arms of Bowling.

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 1



But Hucknall grabbed an equaliser when Mark Noon was dispossessed in midfield and the lively Danny Bacon raced down the pitch with the Boro defence exposed and notched the equaliser. Bacon and Gary Ricketts both tested Acton before the visitors took the lead. The pace of the Hucknall forwards and the lack of movement in the Nuneaton defence was there for all to see and Bacon found Ricketts who flicked the ball into the path of Andy Todd who fired into the net.



Mark Noon flies in with a diving header. Photo: Heartland Evening News

And it was game set and match to Hucknall in a move which saw Todd find Frazer McHugh who fired in the third goal to give the visitors a comfortable win.

Nuneaton Borough v Stalybridge Celtic 21-09-2004

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Love, Noon, Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Whittaker, Frew, Jephcott. **Subs:** Tullin, Poole, Collins, Adams, Fox.

Stalybridge: Dootson, German, Whealing, Smith, Keeling, Wharton, Sykes, Parr, Hayward, Moore (Monk 68), Denham. **Subs:** Bowker, Bonsall, Hindle, Jones.

Boro welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Stalybridge started strongly and it was only a timely interception from Michael Love that cleared the danger before Stuart Wilson's tame shot was easily saved. Another through ball saw David Moore drive from the edge of the box which Darren Acton gathered at the second attempt. But it was Boro who almost scored when a Love corner was well met by Neil Moore, whose header struck the outside of the post. Celtic keeper Craig Dootson was in action soon after, cutting out a Michael Frew centre after a delightful ball from Mark Noon. The keeper guided a Stuart Wilson cross-cum-shot over the bar before Frew got through again, but shot wide as Boro continued to dominate the proceedings.

Steve Farmer headed Clifford's free-kick goalward but the ball struck Wilson, while at the other end Ben Smith's fierce drive flashed just wide before Boro took the lead. After some

intricate work in midfield, Whittaker was set free down the left wing and his inch-perfect cross was met on the half-volley by the incoming Noon, wrong-footing Dootson and putting Boro 1-0 up. Smith blasted a long shot just over the bar while Wilson met a cross from out wide with a deft flick that drifted just wide of the goal.

Stalybridge started the second half brightly, although Boro had a chance after five minutes as Frew battled hard to retain possession and was awarded a free-kick but Dootson saved comfortably from Jephcott. Wilson caused the Celtic defence all sort of problems with his mazy runs but Boro still could not find an elusive second goal. Stalybridge forced a couple of corners before Wilson put Frew in on goal, but his shot was blocked by the Celtic keeper. The game grew more scrappy as time drifted away but Boro always looked in control despite their slender lead and Whittaker had a penalty appeal turned down with 14 minutes left. Boro were breaking at pace but lacking a final ball, while Acton's handling kept the visitors at bay. A misplaced pass by Jephcott caused some consternation but Smith's shot from distance went wide of the goal.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough

14-09-2004

Altrincham: Coburn, Aspinall, Adams, Maddox, Talbot, Band, Potts, Hussin, Hallows (Lugden 90), Little, Shuttleworth (Wright 78). **Subs:** Hardy, Roberts, Kielty.

Boro: Acton, Clifford, Love, Noon, Moore, Farmer (Tullin 67), Wilson (Jephcott 67), Fitzpatrick (Adams 74), Murphy, Frew, Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, McGorry.

Boro made the journey to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in a Conference North game.

Boro started brightly and forced a corner after Michael Love's free-kick was deflected over the top before Altrincham hit back as Colin Potts collected a ball out of defence and squared it to striker Marcus Hallows, but Neil Moore intercepted and the resulting corner was hacked away by Murphy. Boro had a chance after eight minutes as a Gary Fitzpatrick ball to Murphy beat the offside trap but the striker's shot was blocked by Stuart Coburn. Altrincham then stepped up the pressure and Moore acrobatically cleared a corner and Mark Maddox headed just over for the Robins.

Boro were beginning to look panicky at the back and Steve Farmer and Mark Clifford both headed clear before Maddox again went close with a glancing header. An Altrincham corner was glanced wide by Maddox, who then headed on a Potts' corner for Colin Little to drive towards goal, but the ball was palmed over by Acton as the pressure mounted. And that pressure finally told when Farmer found himself the wrong side of Hallows, leaving the striker free to loop a shot over Acton that crashed into the net off the underside of the bar. Two minutes later Little picked up a long ball and tried to lob Acton, but his effort was over the top. The best Boro move involved Murphy, Mark Noon and Fitzpatrick which ended with a ball out to Whittaker, whose cross was just a shade too long for Stuart Wilson.

Boro had another chance in the 38th minute when the ball deflected into the path of Fitzpatrick after a set-piece but his strike blazed over. Murphy had a deflected shot balloon over before Alty came back and nearly grabbed a second when a Clifford clearance struck Moore and looped over the bar as Acton looked on.

Alty could have gone further ahead at the start of the second half when Stephen Aspinall crossed for Potts, who headed wide. Acton was called into action when he had to beat away Barry Shuttleworth's long-range strike and the Alty man mis-kicked in front of goal. A rare Boro chance came in the 56th minute when Murphy sprinted to the by-line and put a cross over for Stuart Wilson, who could not divert his header towards goal. Acton saved well from Peter Bird and the keeper then positioned himself well to deal with Little's attempted lob.

Boro created a scramble in the Altrincham area, but the referee awarded the home side a free-kick before Boro introduced Jephcott and debutant Carl Adams with Stuart Whittaker and Gary Fitzpatrick making way. However, the Boro backline was at sixes and sevens for Alty's next attack as they found Potts unmarked, who hit the side netting. Boro almost grabbed an equaliser six minutes from time when Moore headed Love's corner towards goal but Altrincham hero Robbins capped a fine performance with a clearance off the line. Jephcott also had a chance to equalise but he shot over the top.

Boro Revamp Commercial Operation



Boro chairman Roger Stanford and director David Devall with Claire Finnigan.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough have revamped their commercial department as they look to increase their off the field revenue ahead of the proposed ground move to Liberty Way.

Claire Finnigan, the club's new Head of Business Development, aims to revitalise and lift commercial activities before the end of the season and offer a great lead into the following campaign. The 32-year-old only started work at Manor Park on Tuesday and has already received inquiries from some national companies keen on becoming new partners with the club as it moves forward with the prospects of a new stadium...

Nuneaton Borough v Worksop

08-10-2004

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Noon (Adams 72), Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Collins, Murphy, Frew (Whittaker 66), Jephcott (Fox 82). Subs: Tullin, Poole.

Worksop: Rogers, Nicholson, Davies, Thorpe (Whitehead 88), Jackson, Dudgeon, Browne, Dempsey, Cleary, Townsend, Norton (O'Callaghan 76). Subs: Haran, Wilson, Archer.

Boro welcomed Worksop Town to Manor Park for a Conference North game.

Gez Murphy skewed the first chance of the match wide before Stuart Wilson's shot resulted in a corner. The away side's first chance came out of nowhere as Chris Cleary dispossessed Darren Acton and fed Garry Browne, who was closed down as he tried to get a shot away. Wilson was at the heart of every Boro move and his run and shot brought a fine save out of Kris Rogers, who blocked the low drive with his feet. Collins and Murphy both had shots blocked following a 26th minute goalmouth scramble before the game lost its sparkle towards the end of the half with a snapshot from Gary Townsend being the highlight of a dismal spell.

The visitors were quick out of the blocks after the break in what would turn out to be a dire second period for the home side. Acton had to save from Browne before Wilson fed Oddy, who nearly caught Rogers out with a deep cross. Norton was in the thick of things for the Tigers as Worksop began to impose themselves on the game and he had a shot blocked by Oddy and then put a shot wide.

With an hour gone, Worksop took the lead when some poor defending allowed Cleary a free header. A scramble ensued before the ball broke to Townsend and he made no mistake in firing the ball past Acton. Wilson had a pot-shot but the Boro midfield was creating absolutely nothing and it was difficult to see where an equaliser might come from and Worksop doubled their lead after 65 minutes when the home defence failed to deal with a corner and the visitor's captain James Dudgeon doubled the Tigers' lead.

Worksop pushed for a third with Townsend heading wide before Roger Ashby pushed on three substitutes. Both Ashby and assistant-manager Kevin Wilkin seemed incensed by the attitude of Jephcott, who stormed down the tunnel instead of taking his place on the bench. A section of the crowd booed the team from the pitch at the final whistle.

Jephcott Disciplined

Nuneaton Borough's Avun Jephcott has been disciplined by the club for storming off after being substituted during Friday night's defeat by Worksop Town. Roger Ashby said: "I don't know who he thought he was in doing that but I have dealt with the player. It doesn't matter who the individual is or who they play for but in football you are a team and are in it together.

"Avun knows he has stepped out of line and it has been dealt with within the confines of the club."



McGorry On Transfer List

Club coach Brian McGorry has joined Mark Clifford on the transfer list as Nuneaton Borough look to free up some cash in a bid to strengthen their squad.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 12-10-2004

Bedworth: Evans, Blair, March, Male (Cummings 89), Richardson, Hadland, Crowley (Newland 82), Moore, Spacey, Ross (Kelsall 74), Hanney.

Boro: Poole, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Crabtree (Tullin 50), Wilson (Williams 82), Adams (Collins 76), Jephcott, Frew, Whittaker. Subs: Noon, Fox.

Boro travelled to the Oval to play Bedworth United in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Ryan Poole saved at the feet of Lee Ross in only the second minute before the visitors took control of the game with a couple of scrambles in the Bedworth area before Carl Adams had a shot well saved by Lee Evans. Boro's pressure told after 15 minutes when Michael Love chipped the ball in for Frew to lob the ball over Evans and put Boro 1-0 up. But Bedworth responded immediately and, after Ross had a shot saved by Poole, Lee Moore was on hand to strike home the equaliser.

On 25 minutes Bedworth took the lead when Phil Male leapt like a salmon at the back post to glance a header past the flat-footed Poole. And eight minutes later it was 3-1 when a slip in the Boro defence allowed new signing Ross through one on one with Poole and he slotted the ball into the back of the net. Just a minute before half-time Boro were given a lifeline when a harmless Rob Oddy cross was hacked into his own net by Jamie Richardson, who made a real hash of his clearance.

Bedworth started the second half in determined mood and Martin Crowley picked up a free-kick on the left before squaring to forward Ross, who hit his shot just wide with the goal beckoning. Ross and Joe Hanney both went close with pot-shots before Pete Spacey forced Poole into a good save as the Greenbacks looked to extend their lead. Spacey had another chance following a defensive error allowed Moore time on the ball to pick out his fellow striker's run, but Poole was equal to Spacey's strike.

Harrogate Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-10-2004

Harrogate: Pettinger, Shepherd, Barnard, Wood (Black), Harran, Dunning, Turley (Atkins), Krief, Smith (Blackstone), Donaldson, Hunter. Subs: Preston, Buxton.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Murphy, Collins, Jephcott. Subs: Whittaker, Frew, Noon, Poole, Tullin.

Boro made the journey to Wetherby Road to play Harrogate Town in a Conference North game.

Acton was called into action to keep out a Clayton Donaldson strike before Town's James Turley's long-range shot went just over. Harrogate keeper Paul Pettinger saved from Murphy in the 11th minute after Boro had created an opening for the striker, but they fell behind four minutes later. Clayton Donaldson, on loan from Hull City, scored his first of the

game after collecting a short free-kick from Turley and rifling his effort past Acton. Just four minutes later it was 2-0 as James Turley scored direct from another Town free-kick. Boro were looking second best all over the park and on the odd occasion they did breach the Harrogate defence goalkeeper and captain Pettinger was on hand to deal with the problem.

The home side had more chances to add goals before half-time with Turley's shot being saved by Acton and Marc Smith heading over when he connected with Mark Harran's cross. The 20-year-old Donaldson was causing panic in the Boro defence and his run and shot was unfortunate not to give Harrogate a third with Acton equal to his effort.

Donaldson had the first chance of the second half but then Boro got more into the game and a good strike from Avun Jephcott was well saved. Michael Frew's introduction pepped up Boro's attack but they were not able to turn their efforts into goals. Donaldson then had another attempt saved by Acton before he was put through on goal by Dominic Krief, but the striker was cynically hacked down in the box. Donaldson himself put the ball on the spot and struck the ball past Acton. Despite an improved display in the second half the damage had already been done by the time Stuart Whittaker netted a late goal.

Alfreton Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-10-2004

Alfreton: Butler, Bradshaw, Blount, Hume (Robinson 46), Brown, Knapper, Bettney, Fisher, Godber (Goddard 90), Duffield (Sale 90), Nwadike. Subs: Dolby, Holmes.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Tullin, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Jephcott, Frew (Fox 83), Whittaker. Subs: Noon, Collins, Farmer, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Impact Arena to play Alfreton Town in a Conference North fixture.

Boro started brightly and Whittaker went close before Mark Hulme had an effort disallowed for foul play. The home side put further pressure on the visitors with Knapper forcing Darren Acton into a solid save and then Mick Godber blazed wide of the post. Boro got their act together and began to create chances and Oddy freed Jephcott who darted forward only for Grant Brown to intercept. Peter Duffield sliced an effort wide while Mark Blount blazed over the bar and Chris Bettney forced Acton into another save. But, just before the break, the game turned sour as Hume got caught up in a goalmouth scramble and was stretchered off in agony, which later transpired to be a double fracture.

The second half began on a brighter note as Frew was sent free with just keeper Lee Butler to beat and he lobbed the home custodian but the ball went wide. In reply, Duffield blazed over after a cross from Emeka Nwadike before the home side broke the deadlock with a corner which was swung in by Bettney and Brown was left unmarked to head into the back of the net. Nwadike put an effort over the bar and it was clear Boro were becoming frustrated as McGorry got involved in a row over a suspected handball and picked



up a yellow card for shoving Carl Bradshaw in the chest. Michael Love put a shot over the bar while for Alfreton, Nwadike put a shot wide and Rob Oddy was forced into a goal-line clearance from the dangerous winger.

Alfreton pulled further in front following when silky skills from striker Duffield saw him jink into the box and test the Boro defence, who cleared the ball as far as Matt Fisher, whose long range shot flew over the bar off Acton. But, from the resulting corner from Bettney, midfielder Knapper was found in space and he blasted the ball home from 25 yards.

Roger Ashby tried to spice things up with the introduction of James Fox, but this did little to create any clearcut chances and Alfreton introduced Mark Sale whose first touch caused flutters in the hearts of Boro's defenders as he beat Acton to a loose ball, but was brought back down to earth following a questionable challenge from McGorry.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United	30-10-2004
<p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Tullin, Wilson, Fitzpatrick (Collins 75), Jephcote, Frew (Noon 75), Whittaker. Subs: Poole, Farmer, Fox.</p> <p>Redditch: Anstiss, Clarke, Charlton, Flynn (Woodley 79), Knight, Scheppel, Hollis (Taylor 55), King, Rickards, Sylla, Prince (Taylor 65). Subs: Softley, Penny.</p>	

Boro welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro made an encouraging start and Frew blazed just over after good work from Jephcott who in turn just missed out on getting onto the end of a dangerous cross from Rob Oddy. Boro continued to dominate play with Redditch defender Gary Knight heading over from a Gary Fitzpatrick free-kick in reply Jordan King headed over a Luke Prince corner and Prince himself went on a mazy run, but his final shot trickled into the arms of Darren Acton. Boro's most telling chance of the half came on the half-hour mark but again ended in frustration. A Michael Love corner was whipped in and keeper Richard Anstiss dropped the ball. Frew intercepted in a packed box and attempted a back heel, which was cleared away and the youngster regained possession in the goalmouth scramble, but blazed over the top.

After the break Rickards upped his game and raced towards goal, but he clipped the top of the crossbar as Acton rushed out to meeting him. In reply, Stuart Whittaker slotted a pinpoint cross into the danger zone but no-one was able to get a head on it and then Jephcott was freed in the box, but choose to pass and the ball was intercepted. Richards went close from the edge of the box and Asa Charlton blazed over in a spell when Boro were put on the back foot. Keeper Anstiss dropped another clanger when he spilled Fitzpatrick's shot but no-one was there to make the most of the chance, while Whittaker put in a free-kick after a foul on substitute Mark Noon, but again this failed to find a Boro forward.

Richards clipped the bar again as the clock ticked down,

while Boro continued to work hard without penetrating the back line. But with two minutes left it all went pear shaped and there was no way back. Richards gained possession and found strike partner Sylla who turned superbly and fired home his tenth goal of the season – an example of a striker who knows there the back of the net is. Boro almost struck back in the dying seconds when Brian McGorry had an effort cleared off the line.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United	02-11-2004
<p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Tullin, Wilson, Adams (Fitzpatrick 85), Collins (Noon 60), Frew, Whittaker (Fox 17). Subs: Wilkin, Farmer.</p> <p>Redditch: Anstiss, Clarke, Charlton, M. Taylor, Penny (Knight 58), Scheppel, R. Taylor (Hollis 58), Woodley (Flynn 58), Rickards, Sylla, Prince. Subs: King, Softley.</p>	

Boro welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Carthium Cup first round tie.

Boro had the first chance after two minutes when Michael Frew broke, but his cross was cut out with Stuart Wilson waiting in the box. This did not matter though, as Asa Charlton deflected a Wilson corner into his own net. Boro almost doubled their lead in the seventh minute when another corner, this time from Carl Adams, was glanced against the crossbar by Wilson. Boro paid the full price for this miss as Redditch broke at speed with a man over on the overlap and Luke Prince's deflected shot beat Darren Acton to put the scores level.

Boro regained the lead after 13 minutes when Frew did brilliantly on the left to keep possession and beat two men before laying the ball back to Rob Oddy, and his cross was met superbly by Wilson, firing it past Redditch keeper Richard Anstiss. Norman Sylla almost restored parity for Redditch midway through the half when he crashed a fierce left-foot shot into the side netting. Boro's next chance came in the 26th minute when Anstiss had to be at his best to turn away a left-footed drive from Brian McGorry. Sylla then bagged the equaliser, sliding the ball past Acton's outstretched arm on 37 minutes. Prince flashed a shot wide just before half-time but it was Boro who would leave the pitch with a lead as Neil Moore glanced a header past Anstiss from an Adams free-kick.

Boro extended their lead at the start of the second half when Frew sprinted through on goal but was hauled back by Andy Penny as he was about to pull the trigger. Frew himself took the penalty and beat Anstiss to make the score 4-2. Acton saved a Sylla header at the other end before Fox almost gave Boro a fifth, when he beat Anstiss to a loose ball, only to see his shot drift just wide. Collins also could have made it five but he blasted over and just minutes later Redditch were back in the game. Scott Rickards scored from a penalty after the referee had seen a push in the goalmouth. Despite Acton getting a hand to the ball he could not keep it out. Redditch pushed for an equaliser but Boro held firm and tried to catch their opponents on the break. Anstiss saved a point-blank shot from Frew before Redditch had a goal ruled out for offside.

Meningitis Hits Boro

The whole of Nuneaton Borough's first team squad is being tested for meningitis after striker Avun Jephcott was struck down with the disease. The 21-year-old has been diagnosed with viral meningitis and he is being treated at Walsgrave Hospital for the disease which can be life threatening.

Former Coventry City player Jephcott went to his doctor on Tuesday afternoon with a severe headache and was rushed into hospital for further tests.

Boro And Nuns In Ground Share

Nuneaton Borough are moving to Liberty Way in a ground-share with Nuneaton Rugby Club. The partnership was confirmed today after Boro agreed to buy part of the site and both clubs will play on the same pitch next season. Boro's head of business development Clair Finnigan said: "This relationship sees an opportunity for both parties to move forward with new and exciting ventures. The football club is excited that we have been able to secure the purchase of the site and will continue to play football for many years to come.

The plans are for the two clubs to use the existing facilities in the 2005-06 season, with new stand and supporter facilities being completed for 2006-07. The stadium will have an initial capacity of 4,000 which will be extended to 6,000.

Chance To Name New Boro Ground



The new name for Nuneaton Borough's Liberty Way stadium is up for grabs. Chairman Roger Stanford revealed this fact as part of the plans unveiled to a packed supporters' meeting at Manor Park. The club's fans had turned out in force to find out at first hand what the planned move to Liberty Way would mean as Stanford and fellow directors Graham Cooper, David Devall, Dave Lee and commercial development manager Clair Finnigan faced a packed floor.

Stanford and Finnigan emphasised the need for more commercial off-field activities which included selling the right to call the new base by any name a company wanted for the right price. Also speaking was the man who will build the new stadium, Danny Lynch. His company have recently completed the Coventry Rugby stadium and he stressed the commercial benefits of the new move along with the directors. The club hope to kick off next season in their new home and by then are confident of completing a new pitch designed to take the stress of regular first team rugby and soccer games.

Lynch said that he was confident a 500 seater stand would be in place and it might mean that seats for that would be taken from the present stand. By Easter 2005, the bulk of the new stadium would be in place for an estimated two and a half million pounds which will accommodate 4,000, the minimum requirement for both the Conference and Football League.

Many fans wanted questions answered. The night had originally been scheduled as one where various directors would sit at three tables and then discuss individually what the fans asked. But on opening with this gambit, Stanford was met with a howl of disapproval and quickly decided to go with an open meeting formula which provoked many interesting questions. Among them was the lifting of the covenant and new planning procedures.

The chairman was confident both of these would be met and explained that the present planning permission for the original plan at the back of the Nuns site should be able to be transferred. He was also confident of securing a deal on the covenant and Lynch suggested that within the next fortnight he was hoping to set up a meeting with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council chief executive Christine Kerr and senior council officials. The club will own the new ground outright and will also have the use of other pitches for reserve and youth team games and will also eventually have their own social club it was revealed. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Droylsden

20-11-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry, Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Noon, Wilkin (Frew 69), Murphy (Fitzpatrick 82), Whittaker. Subs: Poole, Oddy, Crabtree.

Droylsden: Phillips, Regan, Warner, Howson (Dogun 64), Burke, Morris (Lee 64), Murphy (Fitzpatrick 69), Brodie, Cameron, Banim, James. Subs: Robinson, Salmon.

Boro welcomed Droylsden to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Droylsden pegged Boro back for the first five minutes before Boro broke and Stuart Wilson had a tame shot stopped by Paul Phillips. Just seconds later Bloods' striker Jody Banim's shot was cleared off the line with Darren Acton beaten. Boro had another chance when Wilson fed Murphy down the right, and the striker fed partner Kevin Wilkin in front of goal, but his shot was blocked. Acton palmed over a shot from Lutel James before Stuart Whittaker's free-kick was saved. Boro took the lead after 15 minutes when Murphy squared a ball to Mark Noon, who stroked the ball past Phillips with his left foot.

Murphy almost doubled Boro's lead when he met a Michael Love cross but his glancing header was tipped round the post before Murphy's powerful header was saved. Banim had another shot blocked before Boro broke at pace and Whittaker picked out Noon, who pushed the ball around Phillips before crashing to the floor. Despite the united appeals of fans and players, the referee refused to give a penalty. Whittaker flashed a shot over the bar before Gareth Morris' free-kick drifted just wide and James had a shot blocked.

Former Boro player Ged Murphy had his shot acrobatically saved by Darren Acton, who pulled off an even more remarkable save to keep Boro's lead intact when he got down low to save another former Boro man, Steve Brodie's header. More heroics from Acton denied Ged Murphy again before Phillips kept out Gez Murphy's shot. A well-worked free-kick gave Wilson the chance to increase Boro's lead but Phillips saved his effort and both teams decided to make changes going into the last 20 minutes. Boro wasted an excellent break and were made to pay as Droylsden equalised with 15 minutes left to play. Darren Acton beat away Ian Fitzpatrick's shot but fellow replacement Andy Lee was on hand to slip the ball past the prostrate Boro keeper.

Droylsden then set about stealing all three points with first Brodie and then Lee going close. However, it was Boro who regained the lead with 80 minutes on the clock. Wilson crossed from the right and the ball evaded the Droylsden defence and fell to Whittaker, whose mis-kicked effort was fumbled into his own net by Phillips. But Boro's joy was short-lived as the Bloods levelled again when Banim popped up to score his 12th goal in ten games.

In an incredible finale to the match, Droylsden were given a dubious penalty with little over three minutes remaining after Banim went down in the box but he picked himself up to blast the spot-kick against the bar. Moore headed a corner over the top in the last minute of a thrilling match and Phillips denied Boro substitute Gary Fitzpatrick and this time it was Droylsden's turn to hold on. But just when it seemed that this game had little left to offer, up stepped hero Whittaker to seal it for Boro. His 90th minute free-kick was one of the sweetest seen at Manor Park, sending the crowd into rapture as it hit the back of the net.

Boro Sign Young Gun

Prolific young striker David Blenkinsopp is to sign Conference forms for Nuneaton Boro ahead of tomorrow's home match with Moor Green. The 17-year-old scored a fantastic equaliser as Boro Reserves held Hereford's second string to a 1-1 draw with manager Roger Ashby looking on. The ex-Coventry City academy player looks set to stay with Nuneaton, despite interest from Northampton Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green	27-11-2004
<p>Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry, Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Collins 75), Noon, Wilkin (Frew 75), Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Poole, Fitzpatrick, Oddy.</p> <p>Moor Green: Rachel, Petty (Hall 70), Follett, Collins, Sanders, Foy, Bridgewater, Middleton, Dowdall (English 86), Martin (Bradley 90), Trainer. Sub: Vaughan.</p>	

Boro welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Conference North match.

Sean Dowdall and Dave Bridgewater tested Darren Acton early on while Boro were limited to a wasted Stuart Whittaker free-kick. The Moors kept up the pressure with Darren

Middleton blazing over the bar after a good build-up, but 20 minutes into the game, Boro woke up and Murphy tested Adam Rachel with a stab shot from inside the penalty area after good work from Brian McGorry. Whittaker went on a dazzling solo run, forcing Rachel to fingertip onto the bar before Murphy gained possession out wide and found strike partner Kevin Wilkin in space but Rachel pulled a stunning save off to stop what looked like a certain goal.

McGorry had a shot from distance which Rachel saved before Moor Green almost grabbed the lead on the 30 minute mark when Middleton headed on a corner but Michael Love, at the far post, cleared the danger. Just before the break Acton was tested when he blocked a Richard Follett pile driver.

Boro upped the tempo after the break and Murphy raced in on goal, but blazed his shot over the bar before Moor Green hit back when Middleton gained the ball in the box, but he too shot over the top, as did Jae Martin. Phil Trainer blasted over the top following a Dave Foy free-kick, while at the other end Lee Collins headed over for a corner. It was pressure of sorts but Acton didn't have a save to make as he watched the ball sail wide of the posts or over the bar. But after the Moor Green pressure had eased Boro took the lead. Love's free-kick was flicked on by Whittaker into the path of Wilkin, who stabbed it home from close range for his first goal of the season.



Kevin Wilkin soars above the Moor Green defence.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Dowdall hit the post straight after the goal before Wilkin picked up an injury following a clash with Guy Sanders and left the field, to be replaced by Frew. In the final minutes, Junior English flashed a shot across the face of goal, but Acton's goal wasn't threatened.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough	30-11-2004
<p>Kettering: Hateley, French (Matthews 75), J. Gould, Solkhon, R. Gould, Diuk, Burgess, Harris, Lynch (Roberts 75), Rowan (Difante 83), Patterson. Subs: Haywood, Bridgeford.</p> <p>Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry (Fitzpatrick 98), Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Noon, Wilkin (Collins 98), Murphy (Frew 76), Whittaker. Subs: Poole, Oddy.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a National Conference Cup game.

The first chance of the game fell to Kettering's Jonathan Rowan after four minutes, but he shot over the bar. Then



Stuart Wilson had Boro's first opportunity at the other end but instead of hitting the ball first time he checked and a weak shot was turned around the post. But it would not matter as Boro took the lead from the resulting corner with just five minutes on the clock. Michael Love's cross evaded a number of players before finding the back of the net. Hateley then saved a shot from Kevin Wilkin, but after 16 minutes Stuart Whittaker's shot was parried out to Wilkin, who made no mistake to put Boro two up.

Boro were playing some lovely stuff and Brian McGorry hit a 30 yard shot just over the bar. Former Poppy Gez Murphy had a shot saved as Boro continued to dominate before the home side roused themselves and cut Boro's lead when Rowan headed past Acton after 31 minutes. The goal changed the game and the home side came pouring forward and forced a frantic goalmouth scramble.

Kettering started the second period well and an Ollie Burgess header went just wide before Boro had a penalty appeal turned down, while at the other end Lynch headed over as the pressure began to mount on Acton's goal. Steve Farmer blocked an effort from Daniel French as Boro were forced back on the defensive, although Whittaker had a shot saved by Hateley. Drew Roberts went close for the home side before disaster struck for the visitors with just a minute remaining, when Brett Solkhon pushed forward and volleyed home Martin Matthews' free-kick. The home side could have won the tie in normal time, but Chris Difante's long-range effort was saved by Acton.

Two minutes into extra-time, Kettering took the lead. Chris Tullin tried in vain to keep out a fierce strike from Burgess but could only deflect the ball into his own net. Boro put on Gary Fitzpatrick and Matty Collins and they created a great chance but Fitzpatrick blasted over the bar. However, Boro were level after 102 minutes with a wonderful flowing move as Tullin fed Frew down the right and his ball across the box found Wilson to make it 3-3. But a minute later the Poppies snatched a winner after Roberts set up Difante, who scored the home side's fourth goal

Runcorn FC Halton v Nuneaton Borough 04-12-2004

Runcorn: McMillan, Carragher (Field 60), McGinn, Spearitt, Robertson, Ness, Brown (Turner 60), Lally (Rendell 60), Young, Byrne, Courtney.
Subs: Nolan, Timms.

Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry, Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Noon, Wilkin (Frew 82), Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, Fitzpatrick, Oddy, Collins.

Boro made the journey to the Halton Stadium to play Runcorn FC Halton in a Conference North game.

Boro were first to show and Stuart Wilson broke through the Runcorn defence in the fourth minute, but there was a misunderstanding between Wilson and Noon and the chance came to nothing. Runcorn did not have a shot until the 15th minute when Danny Byrne's shot was blocked before Gez Murphy had a golden opportunity midway through the

first-half when he muscled Linnets defender John Robertson off the ball but when the striker cut inside a left-foot shot was dragged past the post. Boro responded to a sweeping Runcorn break with an attack of their own but Kevin Wilkin's cross was blocked with Murphy waiting for a cross. Wilkin played another lovely ball to Wilson but his cross to Murphy was cut out as Boro continued to dominate, without creating any clear-cut chances.

Boro looked to have taken the lead early in the second half when Neil Moore connected well with an inswinging Michael Love delivery but the referee had blown for an infringement. Byrne shot well wide after a mix-up in the Boro defence before the visitors went ahead after 55 minutes. Brian McGorry fed Love out on the left and he threaded a ball through to Murphy, who turned and beat McMillan with an unstoppable first-time shot. Five minutes later Murphy almost doubled Boro's lead when he glanced a Chris Tullin cross just over the bar. Boro were almost made to pay for the miss when Nicky Young shot over the bar when he should have done better.

But Murphy was on target again on 71 minutes when McGorry did well to retain possession on the edge of the Runcorn box and he laid the ball back to Murphy, who scored with another sweet strike, this time with his left foot. The Linnets had their first corner of the match just ten minutes from time but Darren Acton, who did not have a save to make all afternoon, was never under any pressure.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 07-12-2004

Boro: Acton, Tullin (Oddy 86), Love, McGorry, Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Collins 78), Noon, Wilkin (Frew 78), Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, Fitzpatrick.

Hinckley: Whittle, Cartwright, Lenton, Lavery, Willis, Pitham, Storer, Dyer (Jackson 77), Lewis (Smith 25), Marrison, Burns (McMahon 77). **Subs:** Bradshaw, Piercewright.

Boro welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

The first-half began at pace and Neil Cartwright forced an early corner, which Boro defended well. Boro's first corner came after 15 minutes following some good work by McGorry but Wayne Dyer cleared the initial danger, and Pitham sent the ball upfield. But minutes later an error from Pitham gave Boro their first clear chance as Gez Murphy broke free but put his effort over the bar. The Knitters forced two quick corners which came to nothing before a reckless challenge by Chris Tullin on Matt Lewis sparked a bout of pushing and shoving.

Boro threatened through Stuart Whittaker who put across the goalmouth but Hinckley were also lively and on the half hour mark only the reactions of Darren Acton blocked substitute Chris Smith and Marrison from opening the scoring. Hinckley kept up the pressure with Marrison managing to beat Boro keeper Acton to the ball but he pushed it out too wide and although he slotted it across the face of goal there was no one on hand to put the ball in the net. Kevin Wilkin forced



Tommy Whittle into action as the end to end stuff continued with John Burns heading wide from a Wayne Dyer cross as the half came to a close.

Hinckley had the first chance of the second period, but Adam Willis headed just over from a Jamie Lenton corner. Boro were playing like the away side and hoping to catch Hinckley on the break but the visiting defence held firm as the game moved into the last half-hour. The game came to life on 64 minutes when the Knitters finally found the goal they had been threatening. Acton saved brilliantly from Marrison's shot but the rebound fell to Lavery, who coolly slotted home to put Hinckley 1-0 up.

Boro were almost thrown a lifeline five minutes later when Whittle allowed a cross to slip through his grasp giving Mark Noon the chance to shoot at an open goal but Willis got back to clear from under the bar. Dyer and Lenton both missed gilt-edged chances in the same move as the game became more lively and Willis went close with another header but Acton did well to keep his effort out. Boro were lacking invention and Hinckley's defence easily coped with any threat. Despite going down to ten men for a period the visitors were able to see out the game and claim all three points.

Southport v Nuneaton Borough	11-12-2004
<p>Southport: Dickinson, Pickford, Mortimer, Kilbane, Davis, Morley (Price 86), Baker, Lynch, Fearn, Robinson (Daly 10), Leadbetter (Mulvaney 11). Subs: Lowe, Lancaster.</p> <p>Boro: Acton, Tullin, Love, McGorry (Fitzpatrick 76), Moore, Farmer, Wilson (Collins 76), Noon, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker (Frew 80). Subs: Oddy, Poole.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Haig Avenue to play Southport in a Conference North game.

Boro threatened from the opening whistle following a foul on Mark Noon. Stuart Whittaker drifted in a low free kick and after Brian McGorry had intervened, it fell to Stuart Wilson who blazed a shot over the bar. But Southport were also threatening with Kevin Lynch putting a shot wide – although Boro had another quick effort with Kevin Wilkin going close and Gez Murphy having a shot palmed out for a corner which Wilson headed onto the bar. Stockport then wasted the chance to take the lead as Neil Moore lost the ball and Kevin Leadbetter raced through with Darren Acton running out of his area, but the Southport striker lobbed the ball wide.

After their lively start, Boro were forced onto the back foot with Leadbetter putting a free-kick over the bar and Steve Pickford going close from distance while the Conference North's joint top scorer, Terry Fearn, seriously tested Acton. The pressure continued as Boro found Southport's pace difficult to deal with and Dominic Morley shot just wide before Southport took the lead. Striker Neil Robinson had one shot blocked by Acton but with the defence all over the place he then collected the rebound and buried it past the Boro keeper. And the following minute they doubled their lead, Leadbetter won possession out wide and again the

defence panicked leaving Robinson a free man and he buried the ball into the net. With Boro bewildered defender Steve Farmer almost headed into his own net as he tried to clear and Southport looked the only team in the game. And with Michael Love looking way below his best he was skinned on the wing by Carl Barker who found Robinson in space and with players queuing up Kevin Lynch buried the ball past Acton to give the home side a 3-0 lead.

Boro threatened at the start of the second half and Kevin Wilkin should have done better with a header from Stuart Whittaker's free-kick and then Gez Murphy raced through chasing a long ball but Dickinson was able to clear. Southport stepped up the tempo and Carl Baker curled a free-kick brilliantly around the defensive wall, only for Darren Acton to tip the ball onto the bar. The lively Kevin Leadbetter flashed an effort across the face of goal as the home side looked to stretch their lead and Leadbetter continued to be a menace as he took advantage of a Chris Tullin error, but Acton came to the rescue. The Boro keeper made another superb save from Lynch with ten minutes to go as Boro continued to be a long way second best.

Nuneaton Borough v Vauxhall Motors	18-12-2004
<p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Farmer, Moore, Collins (Fitzpatrick 90), Noon, Wilkin (Frew 63), Murphy, Jephcott (McGuinness 79). Subs: Poole, Tullin.</p> <p>Vauxhall: Dittmer, Woodyatt, McDermott, O'Donnell, Spellman, Brazier, Nesbitt (Wright 86), Lawton, Wright, Olsen, Cumiskey (Griffiths 65).</p>	

Boro welcomed Vauxhall Motors to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro started brightly and should have been ahead in the first five minutes but for some woeful finishing by Kevin Wilkin and Gez Murphy. They created a peach of a chance when Michael Love floated a dangerous free-kick high into the box but Avun Jephcott's header was awful and a mile off target. Vauxhall's first attack came midway through the half from a Robbie Lawton free-kick, but Darren Acton was first to the ball and cleared the danger. Boro took the lead after 28 minutes when a Mark Noon corner was whipped in towards the post before Jephcott neatly headed it back into the path of Collins who struck it sweetly into the back of the net.

Boro almost doubled their lead when Brian McGorry's free-kick was collected by Murphy, who dragged the ball wide and flashed a cross in front of goal, but Jephcott failed to collect. Vauxhall, however, equalised on 35 minutes when Boro's defence was caught pushing forward and Carl Nesbitt struck the ball at goal only for it to strike McGorry and fly into the net over a despairing Acton. Rob Oddy forced a stunning save out of Tim Dittmer before the break when he hit a dipping 20 yard screamer right on target but it was tipped around the post and on the stroke of half-time Murphy had a volley well blocked by the visitors' keeper.

The second half was a scrappy affair and for the first ten

minutes neither side created a clear-cut chance although the visitors defender Wayne McDermott tried a shot. Jephcott was again drifting out of the game and looked short of match practice and it came as no surprise when he was replaced by Mark McGuinness. Boro's first chance of the second half came courtesy of Murphy, who broke free and with substitute Michael Few screaming for the ball he passed to Rob Oddy whose shot was blocked by Dittmer. Boro upped the tempo by forcing a series of corners which eventually led to what turned out to be the winning goal.



Matty Collins puts Boro ahead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

McGuinness forced a corner five minutes from time, which Noon curled in across the face of goal, and Moore flicked it into the path of Farmer who headed the ball into the net. As he passionately kissed his badge after scoring it was clear what the goal meant to him.

Jephcott In Sunday Row

Nuneaton Borough's Avun Jephcott could face disciplinary action after playing for a Coventry Sunday League side in a Birmingham County FA competition. The 21-year-old was in the Peugeot Hills side that beat Birmingham's Edwards Sportsmans Rest in the County Vase and scored during the 4-1 victory that secured their quarter-final place.

However, Jephcott, who came to Manor Park in the summer after being released by Coventry City, is a contract player with Boro and was not given permission by manager Roger Ashby to play in the match. However, Jephcott is denying that he played in the game, even though his name appears as a goalscorer.

Boro Suspend Jephcott

Young striker Avun Jephcott has been suspended by Nuneaton Borough after he played Sunday football despite being on contract with the Manor Park club. The 21-year-old forward turned out for Peugeot Hills in the Birmingham County Sunday Vase and scored in their 4-1 win. The ex-Coventry City player could also be disciplined by the Birmingham County FA, who do not allow contracted players to appear in that competition.

Boro Sign Cowan

Nuneaton Borough have secured the signature of Canvey Island central defender Gavin Cowan on a month's loan. The 6ft 4in German born defender has previously played with Braintree Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City

01-01-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon, Wilkin, Murphy (Frew 76), Whittaker. Subs: Poole, Wilson, Farmer, Fitzpatrick.

Worcester: McDonnell, Warner, Hines, Woolley, Heeley, Webster, Carty, Stanley, Kelly, Owen (Clarke 78), Warmer. Subs: Snape, Sykes, Smith, McDonald.

Boro welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro had the first chance of the game in the sixth minute when Kevin Wilkin broke free but his shot was easily dealt with by Daniel McDonnell. Thomas Warmer had a shot blocked at the other end as the rain continued to pour down and the vociferous Cowan superbly marshalled the home defence. The next chance also fell to the visitors with captain Carl Heeley glancing a header into the arms of Darren Acton following a Les Hines' free-kick. A Wilkin goal was disallowed for offside after 22 minutes while Jai Stanley blasted wide after Leon Kelly had won the ball in a challenge with Love.



Kevin Wilkin's effort is disallowed.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro took the lead after 35 minutes when Gez Murphy scored his fifth goal of the season from the penalty spot after Barry Woolley had handled a shot from Wilkin. Only a remarkable save from O'Donnell denied Boro a second goal as Mark Noon was thwarted after a fine move down the right which began with a great ball from Rob Oddy. Worcester had a golden opportunity to equalise as Stanley's shot was blocked by Acton and Kelly's effort from the rebound was somehow kept out by the Boro defence. The visitors attacked again and when Kelly just beat Acton to the ball following Stanley's through ball, his cut-back was headed wide by Warmer.



Conditions deteriorated for the second half with strong winds and heavy rain making good football almost impossible. Worcester had the first chance of the half when Paul Carty's header from a Hines corner was hacked off the line by Rob Oddy. Adam Webster and Stanley both went close with long-range strikes but Boro were soaking up the pressure and trying to catch Worcester on the break. O'Donnell repeated his heroics of the first half when Michael Frew looked set to score as the game went into the last five minutes.

The Worcester keeper saved a header from Wilkin following a Whittaker corner before the visitors pinned Boro back with a wave of attacks. However, Frew broke clear and was brought down by McDonnell as he tried to round the keeper. Frew failed to convert the penalty but Whittaker stroked home from the ensuing scramble to give Boro a 2-0 win.

Hucknall Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-01-2005

Hucknall: Lindley, Asher, Barrick, Hunter, Winder, Timons, Smith, Palmer, Ricketts, Bacon, Todd. **Subs:** Ward, Brown, Cooke, Plummer, Harding.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon, Wilkin, Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Frew, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Farmer, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Watnall Road to play Hucknall Town in a Conference North game.

Boro began brightly with Gez Murphy blazing over the bar after good build-up play with striker partner Kevin Wilkin, while a Rob Oddy free-kick tested the Hucknall defence as Boro pushed forward. Mark Noon carved out a chance for Wilkin but he headed wide with a real wasted opportunity early on. Hucknall's first threat came from Gary Ricketts, whose goals knocked Boro out of the FA Trophy last season, but Neil Moore nipped in with a saving tackle. Boro's early promise was balanced out by two efforts from Andy Todd and Danny Bacon.

Things got physical between Roy Hunter and Murphy before Bacon blazed a shot over the bar after 30 minutes and the home side continued to look dangerous, especially when Hunter found Ricketts, who raced down the left, but his shot hit the side netting. Boro fought their way back into the game and Matty Collins gained possession out wide and sent a cross into the box which Murphy headed down for Whittaker to bury a shot into the Hucknall net. Five minutes before half-time, Hucknall's Steve Palmer sent a dipping shot at Darren Acton that cleared the crossbar and on the stroke of half-time Ricketts had a goal disallowed.

The second half began with Boro on the back foot but Mark Smith's cross failed to find Andy Todd at the back stick. Boro were forced to defend again as Hunter had another shot from distance and was then stopped in his tracks by McGorry as he looked to carve out another opportunity. Acton then tipped a Palmer shot over the bar before the visitors extended their lead when McGorry lofted in a free-kick and the impressive Gavin Cowan steamed in with a header, which beat keeper James Lindley. Boro were now in confident mood and a

darting run by Murphy led to a corner. Whittaker sent a low cross into a packed box and the ball found Wilkin in space, who swivelled before firing into the back of the net. Hucknall grabbed a lifeline after Ricketts and Bacon linked up with the striker waiting to avoid being offside and then when he received the ball, he slotted it past Acton. Noon had a rocket shot blocked by Chris Timons as Boro continued to press, but there was no further score and the visitors' unbeaten run to the new year continued.

Boro Secure Biggest Ever Sponsorship Deal

Nuneaton Borough Football Club have announced their biggest ever sponsorship deal after agreeing a six-figure contract with Bloor Homes. The national building company will sponsor the club's new ground from the start of next season at Eastboro Way for three years and will also sponsor the club's shirts for two seasons. A new kit was unveiled which will be played in from the start of the 2005-06 campaign when Boro hope to be in their new home.

The club's existing base, Manor Park, will make way for housing, which will also be built by Bloor Homes, but the two deals are separate. Boro's Head of Business Development, Clair Finnigan, made the announcement at Manor Park and revealed that two further major deals will be announced before the end of the month.

Finnigan said: "This is the biggest ever deal for the football club and one of the biggest ever in the Conference. We have agreed a six figure sum for both the shirt and new stadium sponsorship and hopefully people can see what big plans we have for the future.

"Nuneaton Borough are moving forward and we will have more announcements to make over the coming weeks which will show we really mean business..."

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 11-01-2005

Kettering: Croudson, Duik, McCafferty, Solkhon, McIlwain, Brown, Burgess, Gould (Matthews 90), Lynch, Rowan, Patterson. **Subs:** Gould, French, Cross, Difante.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon (Wilson 88), Wilkin, Murphy (Frew 54), Whittaker. **Subs:** Fitzpatrick, Farmer, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Conference North game.

It was clear that Boro would have to be on their toes from the outset as Ollie Burgess was freed on the right and blazed wide. The experienced Jamie Patterson was pulling the strings in the middle of the park for Kettering and spotting the runs of Burgess although Boro were also in the mix early on with Moore heading over after a cross by Rob Oddy. Burgess again raced free down the flank and crossed to Jonathan Rowan who headed over the bar. But it was Boro who had the most clearcut chance of the game just before the half-hour mark. Mark Noon sent a high ball towards Murphy



and the Boro striker lobbed it just over Poppies' keeper Steve Croudson but it trickled just wide. That miss proved crucial as Kettering then took the lead, with Burgess the creator. The pacey right winger drew Boro left back Michael Love into the challenge and jinked his way around his before putting in a cross which Rowan was waiting to bury into the net. Burgess was then sent crashing to the turf after a challenge from Cowan which infuriated the home side. The challenge from the Boro man went unpunished and manager Kevin Wilson and coach Lee Howey went onto the pitch to remonstrate with Boro players. The bad feeling continued as the teams left the pitch at half-time and Howey threw a punch at Darren Acton and there was further pushing and shoving before order was restored.

The second half began with Darren Lynch testing Acton before Boro suffered a setback when Murphy pulled up with his long-standing hamstring problem and was replaced by Michael Frew. Burgess hit a 30 yarder into the arms of Acton before Rowan sprung Boro's defence but shot wide. A Boro counter attack saw Love put in a pacey cross and Collins nipped in with a header, but it struck the post. Acton then made a fantastic save after Lynch headed in Patterson's dipping free-kick but somehow the Boro keeper reacted superbly to one-handedly tip it over the crossbar.

Boro continued to try to find a way back and in the final five minutes had a new lease of life as Brian McGorry tirelessly worked at engineering an equaliser. The tough tackling midfielder hit a 20 yarder over the top while Stuart Wilson came on to replace Noon and opened up some opportunities with his fresh pair of legs. The winger blazed over a great chance following a Whittaker corner, while Whittaker himself had a free-kick cleared off the line in the final seconds by Scott McCafferty.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 17-01-2005

Worcester: McDonnell, Warner, Hines (Khan 55), Hoyle, Heeley, Colley (Lyons 65), Carty (Owen 79), Stanley, Kelly, Webster, Warmer. Subs: Woolley, Skyers.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon (Fitzpatrick 90), Wilkin, Frew, Whittaker. Subs: Jephcott, Poole, Wilson, Farmer.

Boro made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Conference North game.

Michael Love and Stuart Whittaker combined well but Colin Hoyle was able to clear, while Worcester threatened early on through former Bedworth striker Adam Webster who was given too much space, but put his shot wide. Boro then took the lead after 16 minutes when Collins gained possession out on the right and began a mazy run. He outfoxed Les Hines who was beaten by a combination of pace and skill and Collins cut inside before cutting back and slotting a ball into the box where Whittaker raced through and buried the ball into the net.

Webster again tried his luck from distance with a 20 yard

dipping shot but it went just over the bar with Darren Acton back-peddalling towards his line. Worcester missed a great opportunity to draw level following an error by Neil Moore. Leon Kelly took advantage of the slip up but Moore backtracked superbly and scrambled the ball clear. Another former Greenback Jai Stanley tried his luck, but to no avail. Michael Frew headed into the arms of Danny McDonnell after a long punt forward from Acton before the visitors increased the pressure with Cowan heading over from a Whittaker corner and on the stroke of half-time Frew missed a gilt-edged chance to extend Boro's lead. Another accurate delivery from Whittaker looped in and left the Worcester defence at sixes and sevens but Frew failed to get a touch.

After the break Stanley put in another long range shot, but it was Boro who grabbed another goal when Whittaker delivered a superb ball in to Collins who headed the ball down into the ground and it went into the net under the crossbar. Whittaker then produced a superb piece of skill as he jinked his way into the box and lobbed McDonnell, but the ball rebounded off the post and Frew's follow-up was somehow parried by the Worcester keeper. Webster and Stanley both tried their luck from range but Acton dealt with the danger with some ease. Frew had a shot tipped round the post by McDonnell, while in the final minutes the home side upped the tempo, but the visitors defended calmly and saw out the match to the final whistle.

Boro Defend Kit Design

Nuneaton Borough have defended their decision to change the club's kit for next season which has led to fury from a number of supporters. The club have decided to scrap the traditional striped design in favour of a plainer one from the start of the 2005-06 season. Problems with the quality of the current kit experienced by both players and supporters were a major factor in getting kit manufacturers Errea to make a mock up which was presented to the club's sponsors when talks began.

And the design was stuck with, when the club's biggest ever backer stipulated they wanted to see the mock-up kit made permanent for next season. The club's Head of Business Development Clair Finnigan, addressing the fans on the club's website, said: "I am the first to appreciate your comments as supporters of the club and understand that when changes are made you are not always involved or consulted on such matters – the decision for a new kit was decided upon for various reasons. Firstly we have had problems in the past with manufacturers putting an overlay panel on the front in order to make the sponsor's name clearly visible.

"The club has found that over the season that the panel has become damaged, as a result we have had to replace a number of the first team kits produced and replace a number of fans shirts – looking at those reasons a plain fronted shirt was offered by Errea to us and a mock-up made for the sponsors..."

Boro Sign Goodwin

Roger Ashby has signed midfielder Scott Goodwin from Bishop's Stortford. The Hull-born player began his career at Coventry City as a trainee in 1996 where he made the first team squad before moving to Hednesford Town and Hereford United in the Conference. Spells at Kettering Town, Gravesend and Tamworth followed before a three month spell at Canvey Island at the start of this season.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham

22-01-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins (Wilson 77), Noon (Fitzpatrick 77), Wilkin, Frew (Jephcott 77), Whittaker. Subs: Poole, Goodwin.

Altrincham: Coburn, Aspinall, Adams, Maddox, Talbot, Hussin, Potts, Owen, Little, Thornley (Mitten 60), Scott. Subs: Hallows, Melling, Lugsden, Wright.

Boro welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro began on the attack and put Stuart Coburn under pressure in the first five minutes as the keeper struggled to cope with a Whittaker corner before Brian McGorry drilled a shot wide. But the keeper was soon showing his worth as he clawed a Michael Frew lob away. Acton was also on his game when Rod Thornley appeared to have found a way through and Gavin Cowan completed the clearance.



Michael Frew attacks the Alty defence. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Rob Oddy found Frew free in the box but the young striker lacked the composure necessary to bury the ball. Whittaker, in fine form on the left, then gained possession for Boro deep in the box and had the goal at his mercy but didn't calculate for one thing – Coburn, who sprung into action to parry the ball over the bar. On the stroke of half-time, Boro's Matty Collins raced down the wing and put in a teasing cross which struck the crossbar.

The visitors began the second half brightly and it was Acton's turn to show his ability, when Colin Little looked on in amazement as Acton made a wonder save. Little followed this up with a diving header but still could find no way past him. Boro were soaking up the pressure but were given a lucky break when Little again struck the woodwork after his shot from out wide took a wicked deflection. Boro then brought Coburn back to life as defender Cowan got forward

to head in a Whittaker corner, while at the other end Acton finger-tipped a Val Owen free-kick around the post.

A great team move saw Michael Love push forward from left back all the way into the box, but his shot from Whittaker's pass went wide, leaving the sides with a point apiece in their respective play-off quest.

Boro Move Still On

A super stadium for Nuneaton's football and rugby clubs will still be built as planned despite its 'preferred developer' going bust. It was widely thought that construction firm Daniel Lynch Ltd had already agreed to build the new stadium in Liberty Way, to be used from the start of next season by both Nuneaton Borough and Nuneaton Rugby club. Doubts were raised when it was confirmed that the firm had called in the receivers having gone into administration with debts in excess of £170,000.

But Dave Warden, chairman of Nuneaton Rugby Club and a key player in the new stadium bid, said that Daniel Lynch Ltd was only the 'preferred developer' and had never actually signed an agreement to build the project. This was despite the boss of the firm, Daniel Lynch, appearing at a fans forum in November where he was introduced by Boro chairman Roger Stanford as the man whose company was going to be building the stadium.

Mr Lynch even gave a commitment to the fans that the team would be playing Conference North football in a new stadium by the start of the 2005-06 season. This will still be the case according to Dave Warden, although he said a suitable construction firm must first be found...

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough

29-01-2005

Stalybridge: Dootson, Black, Whealing, Adams (Pearce 46), Sykes, Keeling, S. Smith (B. Smith 60), Bonsall, Hayward, Wilford (Hadland 90), Wharton. Subs: Calcutt, Robinson.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins (Wilson 73), Noon, Wilkin, Frew (Jephcott 79), Whittaker. Subs: Fitzpatrick, Goodwin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Bower Fold to take on Stalybridge Celtic in a Conference North fixture.

The pitch was in a deplorable state but Celtic adapted to the conditions much better than their guests and they took just eight minutes to take the lead. As they attacked in the poorer half of the pitch, Boro's defence lost their shape and debutant Aron Wilford was freed to rifle home a shot from just inside the penalty area. The goal seemed to knock the edge off Boro who were clearly going to have to roll up their sleeves and scrap for everything. Keeper Darren Acton had to be alert to keep a deflected Brian McGorry clearance out of his net and Celtic were pressing forward at every opportunity.

But ten minutes from the break, Boro were handed a lifeline. Frew, who had been restrained by the towering Lincoln Adams managed to break free from his marker as he chased a long

kick from Darren Acton. Adams did his best to drag the pacey forward back and as he tried to round keeper Craig Dootson he was hauled to the ground. A penalty was rightly given and Whittaker stepped up to score from the spot for his eighth goal of the season. And almost straight after, Gavin Cowan had a header cleared off the line as Boro finally got going.

Boro were buoyed by the goal and at the start of the second half Noon gained possession in the box but shot with his left foot and failed to get enough on the ball. Cowan had a bullet header go over the bar before Whittaker went on a superb solo run but his shot was parried over by Dootson for a corner. Acton was brought back to life on the hour mark when he had to fingertip Andy Hayward's free-kick around the post. Gavin Cowan picked up an elbow injury after taking a nasty fall, but returned to the pitch after treatment, despite being in pain.

Stalybridge carved out a further chance when Nathan Warton was found unmarked in the box but he struck thin air when he tried to shoot. The casualty list increased as Matty Collins was injured, but although he was carried off, it turned out to be a severe cramp. Frew was replaced by Avun Jephcott for the final ten minutes but the youngster failed to add anything to the proceedings. Towards the end Acton was kept on his toes with a Ben Smith piledriver and then Warton was freed after an error by Michael Love, but hit his shot into the stand.

Boro Strike Cowan Deal

Nuneaton Borough have agreed a deal to keep central defender Gavin Cowan at the club for a further two months. The 23-year-old will stay at Manor Park until April 1 after he extended his stay with the club over the weekend.

Quailey Back At Boro

Former Nuneaton Borough old boy Brian Quailey has joined the Manor Park club on loan for a month with a view to a permanent move. Leicester-based Quailey is out of favour at Stevenage Borough and has been quickly snapped up by Boro chief Roger Ashby.

Nuneaton Borough v Harrogate Town 05-02-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry (Fitzpatrick 79), Moore, Cowan, Collins (Wilson 86), Noon, Wilkin, Quailey, Whittaker. Subs: Frew, Poole, Goodwin.

Harrogate: Pettinger, Dunning, Bernard, Sturdy, Haran, Philpott, Morris, Krief (Turley 64), Smith, Holland, Wood. Subs: Buxton, Warburton, Blackstone.

Boro welcomed Harrogate Town to Manor Park for a Conference North game.

Harrogate had the first chance in the opening minutes when former Leicester City man Lee Philpott was tackled superbly in the box by Gavin Cowan as he was about to shoot. But the tables turned and it was all Nuneaton for the remainder of the half. Rob Oddy fed debutant Quailey with an inch perfect pass and he rounded his man superbly but with just the keeper to beat he hit a tame shot.



Brian Quailey's shot goes just wide.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Brian Quailey put Stuart Whittaker clear, but Paul Pettinger saved. Quailey then picked up a long ball from Matty Collins and raced clear, but with acres of time and space, he failed to hit the target and Pettinger turned the ball wide for a corner. Whittaker's corner almost went straight in before Kevin Wilkin shot just over the bar. The pressure continued from the home side with Harrogate pegged back as Wilkin and Collins both had chances to put Boro ahead. But on the hour mark all the hard work finally paid off when Collins crossed from the right into a crowded box from where Quailey's shot hit the post and Noon was first to react and cracked a shot into the net.

Boro were buoyed by the goal and added to their score shortly after when Whittaker raced down the left and was overlapped by Michael Love who slotted in a cross which was cleared straight to McGorry, who buried the ball into the net from the edge of the box. Quailey then tried his luck from wide on the right but his dipping shot went just over the crossbar. Harrogate suffered a setback when they went down to ten men after Quailey was put through by Whittaker's exquisite pass and defender Mark Bernard hauled him down as he raced towards the goal and was red carded. Whittaker's cross from the free-kick was tipped around the post and then Quailey forced a solid save out of Pettinger.

Workshop Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-02-2005

Workshop: Rogers, Nicholson, Davies, Cropper (Bambrook 71), Jackson, Dudgeon, Wilson, Dempsey, O'Callaghan, Townsend (Court 82), Norton. Subs: Hansen, Cleary, Mitchell.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry, Moore, Cowan, Collins (Fitzpatrick 84), Noon, Wilkin (Frew 80), Quailey, Whittaker (Wilson 84). Subs: Goodwin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Sandy Lane to play Workshop Town in a Conference North fixture.

Boro got off to a good start and Matty Collins' shot was blocked inside the six yard box, while at the other end Gary Townsend forced a fruitless corner before Rob Oddy's shot was saved by Rogers. Oddy then struck a ferocious free-kick which Rogers did well to keep out as Boro pegged Workshop



back as the home side battled against a gusting wind. Michael Love fired wide before, on 23 minutes, Boro took the lead as Noon's shot from wide on the right beat Rogers and was kept out from under the bar by the hand of midfielder Mark Wilson. The ball fell to Brian Quailey, who netted the rebound, but the referee called play back and awarded Boro a penalty. Wilson was red-carded but Boro nearly came unstuck when Whittaker's penalty was saved. However, Noon was quickest to react and slid the ball into the net.

Wilkin and Whittaker both had chances to increase Boro's lead and the Tigers' Dene Cropper headed wide from Blake Norton's cross in a rare Worksop attack. Boro were making the wind work in their favour and Michael Love scored direct from a corner kick after 36 minutes as the visitors continued to dominate. Boro should have had a third on the stroke of half-time when Townsend was booked for holding back Quailey and a penalty was awarded. Rogers, however, was again equal to the task and kept the ball out for a second time.

Worksop looked to turn the wind to their advantage for the second half and a long range shot by Steve Nicholson was tipped over by Acton. Boro were still having the bulk of possession and almost added a third 25 minutes from time after good work from Wilkin, who kept possession well and crossed for Quailey to walk the ball into the net. And man-of-the-match Oddy almost made it four with a 25-yard effort that Rogers managed to palm over the top.

A sweet half-volley from Noon almost made it 4-0 and Gary Fitzpatrick had two efforts saved in quick succession after coming on for Collins. The home side notched a goal on the 90 minute mark with the referee's assistant signalling three minutes of injury time. Incredibly, another six minutes had passed when Tigers' substitute Simeon Bambrook scored with another sweet free-kick to make it 3-2.

Boro Move Just Months Away

Nuneaton Borough Football Club have revealed they are just four months away from a switch to their new stadium complex at Attleborough Fields. Plans will be submitted by the end of this month to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, which are expected to be given an immediate green light according to the high-flying Conference North club.

A meeting was held last month between Boro, Nuneaton Rugby Club – who will share some of the facilities including the main pitch on the new site – planning consultant Danny Lynch and top level council members including council Chief Executive Christine Kerr. And the message is full steam ahead according to the Boro's newly-appointed Managing Director Claire Finnigan

“The plans will be submitted to the council by the end of this month and they have said they will rush it through for us and help us out,” she said. “Danny (Lynch) has spoken with the council at length about how far we can go and I know that the rugby club are keen to see it all happen for their own benefit.

“Over a month ago myself, the chairman Roger Stanford and Danny Lynch along with the Rugby Club had a meeting with the council and we couldn't have had anyone any higher in terms of who was sat in front of us from the council. They made it very clear that from their point of view, the Nuns and our own, that it had great potential for the town to make it a sporting centre and they are 100 per cent behind us.”...

Fans First For Boro

Nuneaton Borough supporters will have closer links with the decision making at the football club thanks to a major initiative by new Managing Director Claire Finnigan. The club's new supremo has put into place a non-executive board of directors who will liaise with the club's main board on decision making for the Conference North outfit. The Supporters' Trust, who last year bought shares in the club, will have a place on the non-executive board and it is a clear sign of working together for the benefit of the football club.

A vote will be carried out within the ranks of the club to find out who will sit on the board – but it will not necessarily be the current Trust chairman Dave Hall. The remainder of the Non Executive board will be made up of major backers, who put money into the club every year without actually taking on the role of director. Finnigan will chair the group and she believes this is a major step forward and a clear sign that Boro value the input from the terraces.

Nuneaton Borough v Alfreton Town

19-02-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Cowan, Love, Collins, McGorry, Noon, Whittaker, Quailey, Wilkin (Murphy 65). **Subs:** Tullin, Frew, Fitzpatrick, Wilson.

Alfreton: Butler, Bradshaw, Blount (Holmes 59), Foster, Brown, Nwadke, Robinson, Fisher, Godber, Duffield, Chapman. **Subs:** Woodley, Cooper, Sale, Teather.

Boro welcomed Alfreton Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

After a slow start, the game came alive when Kevin Wilkin was brought down in the area, but the referee waved penalty appeals away. Boro then won a free-kick on the edge of the area after Matty Collins had been fouled, but Lee Butler made a save. The Alfreton keeper was again in action as he saved Wilkin's header before the visitors had a chance as Luke Foster climbed highest to meet a free kick, but Darren Acton was equal to it. Top scorer Stuart Whittaker put in a dipping long-range drive that beat Butler, but unfortunately also beat the crossbar and Collins really should have put Boro one up but his header went wide. Gavin Cowan also went close as Boro continued to dominate, while Butler saved a Whittaker free-kick as a lacklustre first half came to an end.

Boro had the first chance of the second period five minutes in when Quailey turned and blazed over from 12 yards after good work from Rob Oddy. On 57 minutes Boro finally made the breakthrough when Mark Noon battled to regain possession in the Alfreton box and crossed low to Neil Moore.



His deft flick surprised everyone at Manor Park including visiting keeper Butler, who could only palm the ball to Matt Collins who blasted the ball high into the net.

The home side looked to double their lead immediately, but Quailey blasted over when a cross to the back post where Wilkin was waiting may have been the better option. They were made to pay for wasted opportunities on the hour mark when Alfreton equalised following an uncharacteristic mix-up in the Boro defence, allowing Peter Duffield to slot the ball past the despairing Acton.

The goal gave the visitors some impetus and Ian Robinson shot wide before Gez Murphy replaced Wilkin and almost scored with only his second touch of the game, forcing a fine save out of Butler. The Alfreton keeper then made another fine save from Murphy after Noon's quickly taken free-kick put the striker through and when McGorry crossed for Quailey in the next minute a goal looked on the cards but he headed over. Quailey wasted another chance on the left when he sliced his effort over and Murphy failed to make it third time lucky when he shot over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 26-02-2005

Redditch: Anstiss, Scheppel, Charlton, McHale, Knight, Flynn (Doyle 62), Hollis, Briggs, Rickards (Sylla 8), Softley, Stephens. Subs: Taylor, Manton.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon, Murphy (Wilkin 78), Quailey (Frew 82), Whittaker (Wilson 84). Subs: Farmer, Goodwin.

Boro made the journey to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Conference North game.

Boro attacked from the opening whistle with Rob Oddy and Mark Noon linking up well on the right but keeper Richard Anstiss read the situation. Fitzpatrick released Quailey but the striker was slow to react. However, with 16 minutes gone a Whittaker corner scattered the Redditch defence and Fitzpatrick gained possession on the left and turned Asa Charlton before crossing for Neil Moore to head home. The goal gave Boro added confidence and both Quailey and Murphy put further pressure on the home side before the second goal arrived just eight minutes later. Moore's free-kick from the half-way line was flicked on by Murphy into the path of Quailey who volleyed into the roof of the net.

Noon tried to lob keeper Anstiss who did well to hang on to the ball before Boro had appeals for a penalty waved away after Charlton appeared to handball after pressure from Quailey but then in the final five minutes of the half, the home side woke up. Substitute Norman Sylla blazed over the bar when well placed while Ross Stephens put the ball wide when it looked easier to score. But when it looked as if Boro could cruise through the remainder of the game, Neil Moore dropped a howler in the face of some fancy footwork by Norman Sylla, who dispossessed the central defender and raced through to beat Acton in a one-on-one although the first shot was parried by the Boro keeper.

Boro kept up the pressure at the start of the second half and they regained their two-goal lead after just four minutes when Quailey was fed by Noon in a packed penalty area and he turned on the spot to rifle home his second goal. A hat-trick almost arrived two minutes later when he took advantage of some poor defending and from an acute angle with the goal at his mercy he fired into the stand behind the goal. The rain lashed down onto an already waterlogged pitch but Boro continued to threaten and Moore had a shot cleared off the line while Sylla tested Acton at the other end.

Fifteen minutes from the end Boro made it 4-1 when Acton found Murphy and he controlled the ball superbly before beating a demoralised Anstiss. Ashby decided to give Frew, Wilkin and Stuart Wilson a run out in place of Murphy, Quailey and Whittaker and Boro continued to attack. Moore hit the bar with a shot from the edge of the area before with just a minute of normal time to go Wilson's corner was headed home by Moore as Boro secured the 'Old Five'.

Ashby Manager Of The Month

Nuneaton Borough boss Roger Ashby has been named the Nationwide North manager of the month after guiding the club to second in the league. In a month in which Ashby celebrates a year at Manor Park since taking over from Alan Lewer, the boss has watched his side go unbeaten.

Cowan In Demand

Nuneaton Borough are reviewing their options over Gavin Cowan as the defender enters the final month of his loan spell at Manor Park. The 23-year-old has five games left of his loan spell and is being monitored by a number of sides including Conference leaders Barnet and Aldershot Town.

Droylsden v Nuneaton Borough 05-03-2005

Droylsden: Phillips, Regan, Warner, Halford, Burke, Morris, Lee (Ged Murphy 66), Brodie, Cameron, Banim (Talbot 85), Fitzpatrick (Hall 85). Subs: Dogun, Howson.

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Wilkin 87), Moore, Cowan, Love, Collins, McGorry, Noon, Whittaker, Quailey, Gez Murphy. Subs: Poole, Goodwin, Frew.

Boro made the journey to the Butcher's Arms to play Droylsden in a Conference North game.

In a game of few clear-cut openings, Boro adapted to the heavy surface better in the opening period. At the back Boro were well served by Love, Moore and Cowan, but Rob Oddy had a rare off day as hardly anything went right for the youngster with his crossing and passing being way below his normal standard. The visitors threatened first as Stuart Whittaker crossed for Collins whose header lacked the power to give keeper Paul Phillips any problems. Jody Banim put two efforts wide as the game deteriorated into a midfield battle which lacked flair and imagination.

With 30 minutes gone Whittaker's 30 yarder brought Phillips to the deck to save low down. Meanwhile the best opportunity of the half fell to Quailey as Murphy's shot

deflected into the striker's path and his weak effort was easily held by Phillips and soon after Mark Noon burst into the box only to blast his 15 yarder out of the ground.

Just after the break Acton had to go full stretch to hold a looping Banim header before Murphy squandered another good offering as Noon released him down the inside left channel but he allowed Phillips to close the angle and block. It proved to be a vital miss as within 60 seconds the deadlock was broken at the opposite end as Boro's back line switched off to a Steve Brodie through ball and Cameron was in smartly to prod the ball past the advancing Acton from 10 yards.

From then on Boro huffed and puffed with little purpose and hardly any penetration as the Bloods strengthened their defence cordon. Boro failed to use any striking options from the bench until the dying throes when Kevin Wilkin replaced Oddy but to no avail. It was Droylsden who could have doubled their advantage in the 85th minute when Collins completely missed his kick, but Steve Halford blazed wide.

And, in the final minutes substitute Scott Goodwin though he had added a fourth and celebrated with a spectacular somersault only for the referee to blow for offside.



Michale Frew scores Boro's third goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Runcorn FC Halton 12-03-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon (Goodwin 85), Murphy (Frew 81), Quailey, Whittaker (Wilson 81). **Subs:** Poole, Wilkin.

Runcorn: Thompson, Parle, McGinn (Soley 80), Robertson, Ness, Carragher, Jones (Field 53), McDiarmid, Denney, Taylor, Willis (Lock 63). **Subs:** Garrity, Moore.

Boro welcomed Runcorn FC Halton to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro had a great chance to take the lead just two minutes into the game when Stuart Whittaker whipped a dangerous cross into the box and no-one picked up Gavin Cowan, who was just inches away from making contact. Matty Collins then hit the crossbar with a header and Cowan went close again as Boro showed their intentions. But the plan suffered a setback after Fitzpatrick became the first Boro player to be red carded this season when he lifted his arm at Phil McDiarmid as he challenged for the ball and the player made the most of it.

Undeterred by the sending off, Boro took the lead a minute later. Mark Noon fed a neat pass into the path of Rob Oddy and he drilled the ball into the back of the net from the edge of the area. Runcorn's Phil Denney had a great opportunity to bag an equaliser when he gained possession in front of goal, but he fired straight into the arms of Darren Acton when it looked easier to score.

Boro pulled further ahead early in the second half when Michael Love struck a sweet free-kick straight into the net from 30 yards. Runcorn struggled to find a way back with Denney having a rare shot at Acton and their cause was further weakened after McDiarmid picked up two yellow cards in the space of four minutes and was sent off. With both sides having equal numbers Boro stretched their lead even further after Stuart Wilson and Rob Oddy played a neat one-two with substitute Michael Frew tapping the ball home.

Boro Swoop For Reeves

Nuneaton Borough manager Roger Ashby has bolstered his midfield with the signing of Martin Reeves and the former Leicester City trainee will go into the team against Lancaster City. The 23-year-old made just two senior starts for the Foxes and spent some time out on loan to Hull City, making nine appearances there before leaving the Walker's Stadium in search of first team football. Reeves then joined Northampton but failed to secure a regular first-team spot.

Nuneaton Borough v Lancaster City 15-03-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 78), Moore, Cowan, Collins, Noon, Murphy, Quailey, Whittaker. **Subs:** Frew, Goodwin, Wilson, Wilkin.

Lancaster: Speare, Clarke, Scott, Sparrow, McMahon, Hollis, Bauress, Sullivan (Jones), Thomson, Black, Moogan. **Subs:** Urberschar, Yeoman, Prince, Elderton.

Boro welcomed Lancaster City to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

The first chance of the game fell to Martin Reeves when he connected with a Stuart Whittaker corner but Jamie Speare saved comfortably. Speare coped well with a Quailey snapshot before Gez Murphy flashed a shot wide as Boro continued to press and the Dolly Blues failed to create a single chance in the opening 15 minutes. However, they should have scored shortly after following a mix-up in the Boro defence as Darren Acton and Gavin Cowan left the ball for each other and Ryan Black nipped in and fed Tony Sullivan, but he blasted the ball over the top.

Midway through the half a first-time cross by Murphy was met at pace by Whittaker on the run, but his goalbound header was deflected over by Paul Sparrow. Lancaster's second chance of the game also fell to Sullivan but this time his shot was tame and easily dealt with by Acton.

Boro's new boy Reeves also had the first chance of the

second half when the home side were awarded a free-kick 30 yards out but his effort cleared the bar. In the 50th minute Nationwide North Player of the Month Matty Collins raced down the right wing and put over a good delivery, but it was just too high for Mark Noon, who was unable to control his header. Boro continued to dominate as Whittaker had another shot saved and the goal they were threatening looked imminent. And it came on 58 minutes when Quailey held the ball up well and created space for himself before drilling a low right foot drive past Speare.

Lancaster made matters worse for themselves straight from the kick-off when Gary Bures hit out at Noon in a moment of insanity and left the young midfielder in a heap. The incident resulted in a straight red. Once the excitement had died down Boro went straight back on the attack and pressed for a second with Speare tipping a Whittaker shot over and Rob Oddy blasting wide. The ten men were struggling to contain a rampant Boro as Noon flashed a shot wide but Lancaster nearly equalised with a rare breakaway. The Boro centre-backs left the ball for each other and Black darted through the gap, but his lob was not high enough to beat Acton, who gathered the ball at the second attempt.

The Dolly Blues forced a series of corners in the last five minutes as they gained more urgency, but were caught off-guard by a quick Boro break and after springing the offside trap substitute Fitzpatrick made it 2-0. Murphy ballooned a shot over when given a good chance to make it 3-0 a minute into injury time, but Boro were home and dry.

Jephcott On Transfer List

Nuneaton Borough have transfer listed former Coventry City striker Avun Jephcott. The 21-year-old netted five goals in the opening eight games but since then his form has tailed off. He was also suspended by the club for playing a junior cup tie.

Cowan Blow For Boro

Nuneaton Borough's promotion hopes have been hit by the news that centre-half Gavin Cowan has signed for Coca-Cola League Two Shrewsbury Town on a two-and-a-half year contract. Cowan, 23, has been a revelation since joining Boro and in 13 appearances the side has reaped 27 points.

Angus Makes Comeback

Terry Angus will make his comeback for Nuneaton Borough on Saturday when they travel to face Stafford Rangers and push on in their quest for promotion from the Conference North. The 39-year-old central defender initially hung up his boots this season and took on the role of youth team manager but the former Northampton Town and Fulham defender has kept himself fully fit.

Angus has made two appearances for Stratford Town in the Midland Alliance this season and has remained in tip-top shape and made an appearance for Boro Reserves against Kidderminster Harriers Reserves.

All Systems Go For Ground Move

Nuneaton Borough have submitted plans to the council for their move to Eastboro Way and are assuring their supporters that – providing planning permission is given – they will be in there for the start of next season. Managing Director Claire Finnigan has revealed the club have already ordered a new pitch and stand, which will be put in place and it is clearly full steam ahead both on and off the pitch.

Finnigan said: "We are making a lot of positive progress at the minute with regards to the new ground and we have instructed the pitch supplier and stand contractors to order the goods. Clearly we wouldn't do that if it wasn't going to happen! We want to be in a position where as soon as planning permission is granted we can really go for it and have everything in place to do that..."

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 26-03-2005

Stafford: W. Smith, McAughtrie, Dodd (Downes 62), C. Smith, Daniel, Lovatt, Talbot, Edwards (Burke 46), Grayson, Fife (Wilding 46), Gibson.
Subs: Heath, Gibson.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (McGorry 79), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Murphy (Wilkin 81), Quailey, Whittaker. **Subs:** Frew, Tullin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Marston Road to take on Stafford Rangers in a Conference North fixture.

Boro took the lead after just eight minutes when they put pressure on the home side and Terry Angus had a shot go close following a goalmouth scramble and this was followed up by Mark Noon who was also agonisingly close. But Moore was determined to make it third time lucky and he did just that to nudge Boro ahead. Angus showed that he had lost none of his ability when he dispossessed Neil Grayson superbly before clearing the ball upfield, while Love raced in to clear from Gary Fife. Grayson then tried an ambitious overhead kick before Boro stretched their lead.



Reeves comes away with the ball.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Murphy was hauled down by keeper Will Smith who was yellow carded for his troubles and the Boro striker picked himself up to score from the penalty spot. Tempers flared after two clashes between Stafford's Chris Smith and Boro's Stuart Whittaker in as many minutes before the game looked to be sealed a minute before half-time. Murphy latched onto a long ball from Rob Oddy and held off the Stafford defence before slotting the ball past Smith.

Martin Reeves showed just what he had been brought into the club to do in the second half as he put his foot into tackles and also distributed the ball around the park with confidence. But it was Stafford who sensed they could still salvage something out of the game and they pulled a goal back on 66 minutes. A high ball was put into the box and Robin Gibson rose high to head home with the Boro defence momentarily switched off. The goal gave the home side an extra spring in their step and Grayson began to come more into his own as a target of long balls and his endeavour paid off five minutes from time to ensure a nervy finish. Boro substitute Brian McGorry was judged to have handled as he fell over in the penalty area and Grayson tucked the resulting penalty past Acton.

Nuneaton Borough v Gainsborough Trinity 28-03-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, McGorry (Goodwin 65), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Murphy (Frew 80), Quailey, Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, Wilkin, Tullin.

Gainsborough: Holmshaw, Purkiss, Burley, Parker, Pell, Staton, O'Brien, Hurst, Ellington, Hallon, Grant. **Subs:** Allison, Hackett, Cauldwell.

Boro welcomed Gainsborough Trinity to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Terry Angus opened the game with an acrobatic clearance and Darren Acton held on to Chris Hurst's back-header from the resulting corner. Jamie Holmshaw was troubled by Michael Love's inswinging corner as Brian Quailey rose to challenge him and Boro continued to press with some decent build-up play. Neither side created another chance until midway through the first-half when some intricate work around the box allowed the visitors' Rob O'Brien to get a shot away, but Acton blocked his drive and gathered at the second attempt.

Boro were looking decidedly jaded as half-time approached and when Love beat two men to cross from the left no-one was on hand to apply a finishing touch. Full-back Rob Oddy was called into action when Gainsborough split the Boro defence wide open and further mayhem just before the interval gave Ryan Hallon a chance but the striker blasted over when he should have done better.

Boro had a glorious chance at the start of the second half when Gez Murphy broke free in the first minute, but dragged his shot wide. Trinity responded with a flowing attacking move down the right which ended in a fruitless corner, but they continued to attack as Boro's attempts to clear the ball would only come straight back into their own half. Boro

finally began to pick up some momentum ten minutes into the second period, but the poor final ball was still their downfall and when Love received the ball from a lucky deflection his cross was flat and easily cleared.



Terry Angus challenges as Boro defend a cross.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Brian Quailey wanted too much time when Mark Noon got the ball into the danger area, but Boro kept up the pressure with Stuart Whittaker also having a goalbound shot blocked before the home side's efforts were finally rewarded in the 64th minute. A wayward Noon cross was cleared but only as far as the poised Angus, whose sweet left-foot volley with the outside of his boot beat Holmshaw to make it 1-0. Gainsborough's O'Brien had two shots in quick succession as Boro displayed some vulnerability at the back once again as the visitors opened them up with some lovely one-touch stuff.

A looping header from Matt Collins was then cleared off the line at the other end before another chance came Trinity's way, courtesy of a Luke Staton free-kick. Acton saved a Lee Ellington shot as Gainsborough searched for a late equaliser but straight from the goalkeeper's kick Boro could have doubled their lead but Murphy's shot was poor. There was one last moment of panic when the ball broke to Ellington in the goalmouth following a long distance free-kick but the referee's assistant raised his flag for offside to allay Boro fears.

End Of An Era

Manor Park, the home of Nuneaton's main football team, will officially close on June 30, after 86 years as one of non-league's best known grounds. Managing director Clair Finnigan was adamant Boro will kick their last ball on the pitch, either on April 30 when Kettering Town come to town for the last Nationwide North clash or in the play-offs should Roger Ashby's men achieve a top five place.



Ashton United v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-2005

Ashton: Connor (Cooney 72), German, Dawson, Allison, White, Johnson, Lyons, Fitcher, Garvey, Eastwood, Clee. Subs: Howman, Campbell, Calvert.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Angus, Love, Collins, Reeves (McGorry 26), Noon, Whittaker, Quailey (Wilkin 86), Murphy (Frew 72). Subs: Goodwin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Hurst Cross to play Ashton United in a Conference North game.

There was no sign of the thrills and spills to come early on as the teams found life difficult on the uneven pitch and on six minutes a bad bounce almost gave Boro the lead as home defender George Dawson steered a high bouncing ball past his own keeper only to see it roll just wide. But on 12 minutes from their first attack it was United who grabbed the lead. Connor hoisted a long kick deep into Boro's half where Moore got in the way of Angus. The ball spiralled into the path of Eastwood and he crashed a splendid 20-yard drive past Darren Acton and over the line off the inside of an upright.

Boro should have equalised on 19 minutes when Noon's chip released Brian Quailey down the middle and he was tripped by Danny White, but Murphy's penalty was brilliantly turned away by Connor, who seconds later superbly foiled Collins twice in succession. Ashton were boosted by the let-off and Acton had to show his agility to keep out another Eastwood pot shot, while the departure of Reeves was a setback for Boro although within three minutes of McGorry's arrival parity was restored.

Oddy was the creator as he raced down the right and hoisted a pin-point centre to the far side and Whittaker's graceful angled 15-yard volley flashed across Connor and found the target high in the far corner. Murphy then put another good chance wide from Quailey's flick on before the hosts regained the initiative on 42 minutes as Eastwood rose unchallenged from Nick Clee's corner to head firmly home.

Just after the interval, Noon brought Connor to his knees with a scorching drive and Collins climbed high without getting the necessary accuracy on an eight yard header while substitute keeper Cooney did well to finger-tip Whittaker's effort over from point-blank range. However, on 85 minutes Boro were back on terms. There looked little danger when Whittaker gained possession just in front of the Nuneaton dug-out but he unleashed a wicked dipping 35-yarder that drifted over substitute keeper Phil Cooney and into the net.

Boro scented victory as they pressed forward although they were almost caught out when Moore and Acton hesitated in clearing a long punt forward 25 yards out to let in Paul Garvey who tamely shot across an empty net and wide. The miss proved costly as in the dying throes McGorry headed in to the home area and gave chase only to go to ground as White stuck out a leg. Referee Newell immediately pointed to the spot and Whittaker did the rest.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough 09-04-2005

Barrow: Bishop, Heffernan, Maxfield, Cotterill (Mansergh 75), Colley, Ludlam, Simpson, Warren (Anthony 61), Tarrant, Knight, Hill (Ridley 60). Subs: Swarbrick, Morsby.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 89), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Murphy (Frew 90), Quailey, Whittaker. Subs: Wilkin, Goodwin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a Conference North game.

Barrow made the first threat on goal just five minutes into the game when Guy Heffernan got on the end of a quickly taken free-kick following a handball by Terry Angus, but he scooped the ball over the bar. But in reply the ever-impressive Reeves and his midfield colleague Matty Collins both had shots charged down by the solid Barrow back line. Neil Moore then missed an absolute sitter in a scramble and with the goal at his mercy he somehow fired into the terraces. The miss proved costly as Barrow caught Boro on the break.

Gareth Simpson sent a pinpoint pass through to Gavin Knight who turned Angus inside out before firing past Darren Acton to give his side the lead. Moore then missed another opportunity with a diving header after a Reeves free-kick but close to the half-hour mark Boro drew level. Murphy sent strike partner Brian Quailey through on goal and he was hauled down by Scott Maxfield and a penalty awarded. Murphy, who missed his last spot kick, fired the penalty past Bishop to level the scores. Barrow still looked dangerous and only a superb save by Acton, which saw the keeper finger-tip a Simpson shot over the bar from close range, kept them at bay.

Neil Tarrant was stopped in his tracks by Angus with the goal at his mercy. Just before the break Murphy found Noon, but the midfielder fired into the side netting and Stuart Whittaker then had a free-kick comfortably held by Simon Bishop.

Barrow came out strong in the second half and Simpson forced Acton into a save. Tarrant raced through on goal and Michael Love clearly clipped his heels as the last man but referee Dennis Kellest decided a yellow card was enough. With 20 minutes left the tables turned in Boro's favour. Acton rolled the ball up to Whittaker who began a run up the left wing with Love overlapping. Instead of keeping on the left, the winger raced across the park and played a neat one-two with Quailey before setting himself up to shoot. Keeper Bishop got a hand to the shot but it was heading straight on target and Murphy made sure with the final touch over the goal line.

Angus almost stretched the lead with a stunning left footed shot from the edge of the area following a corner but Acton again came to his side's rescue when he acrobatically dived to stop Barrow substitute Graham Anthony's shot. Boro made certain of all three points three minutes from the end when Collins' cross from the right was hooked in by Noon.

Nuneaton Borough v Bradford Park Avenue 16-04-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins (McGorry 72), Noon, Murphy (Frew 65), Quailey, Whittaker. **Subs:** Wilkin, Fitzpatrick, Goodwin.

Bradford: Britton, Quinn, Naylor, Walsh (Curle 85), Jones, Wray, Lennon, McClare, Greaves (Shutt 85), Oleksewycz, Ryan. **Subs:** Coubrough, Clayton, Mumbly.

Boro welcomed Bradford Park Avenue to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Avenue keeper Andrew Britton was the first to be called into action when he had to rush out of goal and clear in the third minute when Noon had put Quailey through. Collins came closest to opening the scoring for Boro when he met Michael Love's cross from the left but the midfielder headed just wide. Gez Murphy raced down the right as Boro continued to press and his cross had to be cleared over his own bar by Dean Jones as Noon lurked dangerously behind him. Boro were exploiting Avenue's weakness down the right and Martin Reeves' ball into Quailey was just intercepted as Ashby's men kept the visitors pegged back in their own half.

Stuart Whittaker flashed a shot over before his wizardry down the left saw him dart past two defenders and cut inside another before picking out Collins, who stuck out a leg to guide the ball past Britton. Boro continued to dominate and Avenue were restricted to long-range efforts. Quailey went close to doubling Boro's lead, side-footing Murphy's cross just wide. The home side seemed to lose momentum as the game drifted towards half-time and Avenue were gifted a couple of chances which they duly wasted before Love relieved the pressure with a long-distance effort that was just wide. But disaster struck as Bradford grabbed an equaliser right on the stroke of half-time. Neil Moore conceded a free-kick on the edge of the area and Oleksewycz curled his shot around the wall and past the despairing dive of Acton.



Brian Quailey heads the winner.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The first chance of the second half came courtesy of Avenue full-back Peter Naylor who curled a free-kick just wide. Boro regained the lead when Collins delayed his through ball from midfield when both Murphy and Quailey strayed offside, deciding instead to power through on his own. The

Avenue defence closed in on Collins but he cut back and fed Reeves, whose inch perfect cross was headed back across goal and into the net by Quailey. Reeves and Collins then linked up again down the right but this time the cross went to Whittaker and the winger's header went high and wide.

There was a heart-stopping moment as Oleksewycz disposed the hesitant Love but Boro soon regained composure, aided by the introduction of Brian McGorry who replaced the injured Collins. However, another defensive error soon after when Rob Oddy lost the ball, gifted Avenue another chance but a perfectly-timed last-ditch tackle from Neil Moore prevented a second equaliser for Carl Shutt's men. Michael Frew blazed a shot wide before Acton made a good catch from a Bradford corner. And then, two minutes from time, fury erupted among Boro players as Quailey's shot hit the stanchion at the back of the net and bounced back out into play from where Bradford launched an attack, which was brought to a halt by Noon. Boro players then surrounded the linesman, but their appeals for a goal were waved away and the whistle sounded immediately after.

Play Off At Manor Park?

Manor Park will stage a play-off match should Roger Ashby's side fail to lift the Nationwide North championship crown. Saturday's 2-1 victory over relegated Bradford Park Avenue has guaranteed Boro a top three place and, at worst, a home tie in the first play-off games on Monday, May 2.

Lancaster City v Nuneaton Borough 23-04-2005

Lancaster: McMillan, Ubershear, Scott (Sullivan 70), Sparrow, McMahon, Hollis, Elderton (Dawes 70), Jones, Thomson, Black, Prince (Bauress 46). **Subs:** Yeomans, Clark.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Murphy (Frew 75), Quailey (Wilkin 46), Goodwin. **Subs:** Tullin, Fitzpatrick, McGorry.

Boro made the journey to The Giant Axe to play Lancaster City in a Conference North fixture.

Boro forced a corner in the second minute with Martin Reeves delivering in the absence of usual set-piece man Stuart Whittaker and the cross caused panic in the Lancaster defence before Paul Sparrow managed to hack the ball away. Reeves was back in defence when City first attacked, toe-ending the ball back to Acton, who cleared. Scott Goodwin, making his first start for Boro, took an in-swinging corner from the right which eluded everyone before Matty Collins capitalised on an Andy Scott error to race down the right but home keeper Anthony McMillan cut out his cross. Reeves had a shot deflected wide before Boro's dominance finally told on nine minutes when another Goodwin corner was easily headed home by Neil Moore.

Lancaster's tall defender Joe McMahon had a free header from their first corner of the game and he missed a glorious chance to equalise when the ball rebounded to his feet, lashing a shot wide. Goodwin was making the most of his



chance to impress and his excellent free-kick brought a good save from former Runcorn keeper McMillan down low to his left. When Lancaster striker Peter Thompson beat Michael Love to the ball at the other end he looked to be in on goal but the left back did well to recover and he provided Gez Murphy with a gilt-edged chance for Boro's second but the striker dragged his shot wide.

Both sides made changes for the second half with Wilkin replacing Brian Quailey and Lancaster's Gary Bauress on for Neil Prince. The hour mark passed with Boro still protecting their lead, although they should have finished off their lacklustre opposition by this point, a poor final ball ruining any chance of that on a number of occasions. The Dolly Blues had their own opportunities, Acton raced out to clear from the on-rushing Thompson and Ryan Elderton curled an effort wide. Wilkin shot at goal for Boro and Murphy forced a corner before Boro finally made it two. Moore played a wonderful incisive through ball to Goodwin on the right and his low cross was met by Wilkin, crashing the ball high into the net.

Michael Frew replaced Murphy for a second successive week and Boro looked to make it three. Reeves just failing to convert after taking the ball round the keeper. Boro continued to control the game for the last ten minutes with Noon hitting a long-range strike over and Oddy snatching a shot wide but it was clear the damage had been done.

Acton Gets Top Award

Darren Acton grasped the highest accolade any footballer can receive when he was installed as Players' Player of the Year at Nuneaton Borough's annual presentation dinner at Hinckley's Island Hotel last night. The goalkeeper, who also carried off the supporters' prize, has enjoyed a superb season between the posts for the Manor Park club and his efforts are a major factor why Boro are in the play-offs and still harbouring promotion to the Conference. The Manager's Player of the Year award went to Mark Noon and teenage goal ace David Blenkinsopp took the youth player honours while full-back Chris Tullin was voted reserve team player of the year and Stuart Whittaker collected the clubman trophy.

The Supporters Club presented Terry Angus with a special new award for his outstanding achievements for the club during his six-year stay at Manor Park.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 30-04-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Angus (Wilson 69), Love, Collins, Reeves, Noon (McGorry 83), Goodwin, Frew (Wilkin 79), Murphy. **Subs:** Tullin, Fitzpatrick.
Kettering: Osborn, Diuk, Matthews, Solkhon, Graham, Brown, Burgess, J. Gould, Cross (Bulley 76), Difante (R. Gould 83), Paterson (Morley 30).

Boro welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro were quick out of the blocks as Goodwin's long throw was touched on by Murphy, but Martin Matthews was ideally placed to hack clear. On nine minutes, Murphy was gifted a

glorious opportunity by Luke Graham's misdirected header only for the striker to rush his shot and fire dismally wide from 15 yards with only Mark Osborn to beat. The keeper then had to show his agility by acrobatically turning aside Frew's fierce 12 yard drive following Goodwin's defence splitting pass and seconds later Murphy hit the bar with a stunning volley from a pinpoint Oddy cross while Osborn was again at his best to block another goalbound effort from Frew after Reeves had this time bisected the visiting back division.

Midway through the half it was Goodwin's turn to be thwarted by Osborn, who was down low at his near post to deny the former Poppies midfielder after the elegant Reeves and tireless Matty Collins had done the spadework. But on 33 minutes Boro's patience and superiority paid dividends with a goal right out of the top drawer. Reeves sent Frew scampering down the right with another penetrating pass and the youngster looked up and picked out the in-rushing Noon who confidently clipped a skidding right foot drive past Osborn and just inside the far post.

Kettering then forced their way back into the game and Chris Difante had a glancing header fly narrowly off target and right on the break the same player headed against the bar, although his frustration was tempered by the upraised flag from the referee's assistant.

Early in the second period Brett Solkhon provided Darren Acton with his only testing save of the game with a 20-yard angled drive that the keeper pushed away at the foot of a post. The stop proved crucial as on 62 minutes Boro doubled their advantage as Goodwin threaded Murphy through the inside left channel and his cross shot beat Osborn only to be stopped on the line by Luke Graham, but Noon raced in to ram the loose ball into an empty net. Ollie Burgess almost got Kettering back into the game with a 20-yarder that was inches wide but Boro finished the stronger as substitute Kevin Wilkin hammered a rising 15-yard shot against the crossbar.

Nags Head Bears Brunt Of Revenge Attack

May Day mayhem swept across Nuneaton town centre as revenge-fuelled football violence caused chaos on the streets. On what is traditionally a busy time for most pubs, clubs and bars, violence and terror ruined the May Day Bank Holiday weekend in the town centre. The hardest hit place was the Nags Head pub on Queens Road, which was at the centre of the heated, booze-fuelled violence on Saturday. The recently revamped venue was stormed by alleged Boro fans, hell-bent on revenge against Kettering fans, who stoned a Boro coach at an away match earlier this season. Bar stools and chairs were smashed and used as weapons, as were balls from the snooker table which were put into socks and used by attackers to fight with.

Windows were shattered by fighting fans and damage was caused to the front door of the pub which manager Julian Harkin was forced to close because of the violence which was spiralling out of control...



Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 03-05-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Angus, Love, Collins (Wilkin 83), Reeves, Noon, Goodwin (Whittaker 59), Quailey (Frew 59), Murphy. Subs: Fitzpatrick, McGorry.

Altrincham: Coburn, Aspinall (Chalmers 54), Adams, Maddox, Melling, Hussin, Potts (Lugsey 101), Owen, Little, Thornley (Mitten 85), Scott. Subs: Norris, Hilton.

Boro welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a Conference North play-off semi-final game.

Altrincham, who had taken four points out of Boro in their league tussles this term without conceding a goal, again put their rugged and dour game plan to good use, especially in the opening half as Boro strived for the fluency and flair that had helped them notch up nine consecutive victories. But Alty's spoiling tactics aided by their impressive work ethic, especially from the strike duo of Colin Little and Thornley, posed plenty of threat to the home rearguard.

And after Darren Acton had superbly blocked what looked to be a certain goal from Little's low drive, it was Thornley who made the breakthrough on 19 minutes when he received a quickly taken corner from Colin Potts and rifled a low skidding drive that ricocheted off the foot of Martin Reeves and squirmed past the unsighted and wrong-footed Acton. It was not until just before the interval that Boro carved out a chance with Scott Goodwin volleying across the face of goal and wide of the far post from Reeves' neat chip.

Although Boro upped the tempo after the break they had a let-off when Thornley escaped the clutches of the outstanding Rob Oddy, scooted past Acton, only to see his angled drive hooked over his own bar by Mark Noon. Just before the hour mark, Murphy powered to the deadball line and fed Reeves who blasted over the bar from six yards while a mispunch from Stuart Coburn following Acton's hanging free-kick caused a frantic melee in which George Melling headed off the line.

Boro were pressing and when Reeves got free on the right his chip drifted inches wide before Neil Moore had the ball in the net, only for it to be ruled out. Time was slipping away as Alty defended deeper and deeper but four minutes into the time added on Boro levelled. Coburn could only punch a right wing cross to Angus 25 yards out and his opportunist lob-volley flew over the back-tracking keeper and into the gaping net. Manor Park erupted as the Alty heads dropped and the match went into extra time.

But despite looking the fitter and the more imaginative, Boro created few clear cut offerings in the added half-hour and the penalty drama unfolded. An early setback came when Reeves' spot kick was saved by Coburn while Little fired the visitors in front. Murphy made no mistake to square matters only for Gary Scott to convert for Alty. Leading scorer Whittaker rifled high into the Cock and Bear terraces and when Josh Mitten made it 3-1 the end was near, despite Oddy crashing his penalty high into the rigging. Acton then faced

Chris Adams and the full-back made no mistake to kick-off Altrincham celebrations and leave Boro's players in despair as their Conference dreams were left in tatters and Manor Park closed its doors on the town side for the final time.



Stuart Coburn saves Martin Reeves' penalty and Boro's promotion hopes are on the slide.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Football Conference North 2004-2005

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southport	42	25	9	8	83	45	84
Nuneaton Borough	42	25	6	11	68	45	81
Droylsden	42	24	9	11	82	52	79
Kettering Town	42	21	7	14	56	50	70
Altrincham	42	19	12	11	66	46	69
Harrogate Town	42	19	11	12	62	49	68
Worcester City	42	16	12	14	59	53	60
Stafford Rangers	42	14	17	11	52	44	59
Redditch United	42	18	8	16	65	59	59
Hucknall Town	42	15	14	13	59	57	59
Gainsborough Trinity	42	16	9	17	55	55	57
Hinckley United	42	15	11	16	55	62	56
Lancaster City	42	14	12	16	51	59	54
Alfreton Town	42	15	8	19	53	55	53
Vauxhall Motors	42	14	11	17	48	57	53
Barrow	42	14	10	18	50	64	52
Worksop Town	42	16	12	14	59	59	50
Moor Green	42	13	10	19	55	64	49
Stalybridge Celtic	42	12	12	18	52	70	48
Runcorn FC Halton	42	10	12	20	44	63	42
Ashton United	42	8	9	25	46	79	33
Bradford Park Avenue	42	5	9	28	37	70	24



Empty Promises

Dear Editor

...There is something going on that the fans don't know about. So let's tell them. There is no way the Conference Management Committee would let the team play at Liberty Way and stay in the Conference North. It is not fit to play football on; there is no terracing for the fans; only a very small stand and safety of the fans is essential.

As I remember the problems we had at Manor Park in getting that ground up to scratch for Conference football, there is no way that the club can bring Liberty Way up to the standard required in such a short time and we all know what that means – either dropping down a league or so or staying at Manor Park. In other words, turning the clock back 30 years. This club should be the richest non-league club in the country but, alas, we are just another run of the mill set-up.

I, like many of my friends are True Blue supporters. However, our belief in the directors of the club has been destroyed over the years. Always full of promises and doing nothing but looking after number one. They have been a joke for years and it is now time to put the record straight.

I put this to the board: Let us remember the promise you made when you took over this club and there was talk of the club moving, this is what you said and I quote: "We will not move from Manor Park unless it is to a BRAND NEW purpose-built stadium," besides declaring every year that they have no money, and begging for the fans to help, all we ever get from you are promises, promises, promises.

I have followed this club home and away since I was 14-years-old and they are no further forward now than they were all those years ago. I have not visited Manor Park for over three years, although I have seen the team play at away games, I do not intend to line the pockets of the no-hopers running this club. The fans of the Boro are the best in the country and deserve better than they are getting. Let us remember that without the fans, there would be no club.

Name and address supplied

Reeves Retained – But Eight Go

Roger Ashby has held off advances from several Nationwide Conference clubs to agree terms with Martin Reeves. The talented 23-year-old made a big impact for Boro following his move from Northampton Town in mid-March and has now agreed to put pen to paper. Ashby said: "Martin will sign a one-year deal later this week, it's just a matter of dotting the i's and crossing the t's."

Striker Brian Quailey, who returned to Manor Park in early February, also remains while teenage youth team goal ace David Blenkinsopp has secured a 12-month deal. The released players are: Avun Jephcott, Stuart Wilson, Brian McGorry, Scott Goodwin, Chris Tullin, Steve Farmer, Matt Lamb and Simeon Williams.

Ground Work Ban

Work on Nuneaton Borough's projected new stadium at Liberty Way will not be allowed to start until it has been heard at a full planning committee of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Cllr Tom Wilson, who represents St Nicholas Ward, has applied for a suspension of work and called for the council's planning committee to look into the full implications of the ground share after he was inundated with phone calls and concerns from residents. The earliest the application will be heard by the planning committee will be Wednesday, June 22, a matter of weeks before the new football season gets under way on August 13.

People living nearby had seen work starting at Liberty Way and quickly alerted ward councillors, including Mr Wilson. It was feared that action had begun to erect turnstiles and perimeter terraces at the Nuns' ground, work which needs planning permission before it can start. However, only resurfacing work was being carried out, something which does not need permission from council chiefs...

Evening News Editorial Comment

The news that no work can go ahead on Nuneaton Borough's projected stadium until towards the end of June at the earliest raises several questions. And without wishing to incur the club's wrath once again, why are we going down the same old road? It is history repeating itself all too familiarly.

We had the debacle of Eliot Park, the Greenmoor Road fiasco and now Liberty Way. And you cannot blame Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council for it, at least not on this occasion! There are simple planning regulations and guidelines that have to be followed, yet apparently time after time something occurs to prove otherwise.

Time scales are tight and if the Conference cannot see a new ground taking shape they have no alternative but to question where the club will be playing next season. The Evening News wants the club to succeed along with everyone else in our town. We have backed the club one hundred and ten per cent all along the way, until they took umbrage and banned us for asking the 'wrong questions'. But they have to do things the right way in order for the cards to fall into place and a new ground be there ready for the August 13 kick-off.

The soccer club shouldn't have waited for extra-time before they got their house in order and started playing. And leaving it this late in the day can only be laid at one quarter and one quarter only.

Boro Sign Staff

Versatile midfielder David Staff is Nuneaton Borough's first signing for the 2005-06 season. Northampton-born Staff has signed from League Two outfit Boston United where he's been since last August. Prior to his move to York Street he was a prolific scorer with King's Lynn.



Holmes To Get Boro Trial

Teenager James Holmes, son of former Nuneaton Boro manager and ex-Irish international, Jimmy Holmes, has joined the club. The 19-year-old, who has been released by West Brom, comes to Boro highly recommended and the youngster is hoping to earn himself a contract.

Ashby To Sign New Deal

Nuneaton Borough chief Roger Ashby has signed a three-year contract with the club. Ashby took over the reins from Alan Lewer in February 2004 and guided the Manor Park side to runners-up in Nationwide North and is determined to take the club back into the Conference.

Ashby, who has managed Rushden Town, Rushden and Diamonds, Bedford Town and Grantham Town during 25 years as a manager, is delighted with the new deal that will take him up to his 60th birthday. Assistant manager Kevin Wilkin has signed a similar contract to Ashby.

Boro Ground Unlikely To Be Ready

Nuneaton Borough Football Club are preparing to kick-off next season back at Manor Park and not at their new ground. The club had hoped to get all the necessary work needed to fulfil league requirements on their move to Liberty Way completed by the opening day of the Nationwide North season on August 13 – but it seems that deadline will not be met.

However, the club have a contingency plan in place where they can continue to use the Manor Park facilities thanks to Bloors Builders – buyers of the land for housing.

Bloors are believed to have agreed not to start demolishing the stadium until Boro's Liberty Way project is up and running and the facilities are up to the necessary standard to satisfy the Nationwide Conference ground grading committee.

Another Blow For Boro Move

Nuneaton Borough's bid to get planning permission for their new ground has received another setback. The club had hoped to receive the go-ahead for work to start on their new home at Liberty Way at tonight's Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council's planning meeting but the item is not on the agenda. And the club will now have to wait until July 12 at the earliest before their plans go before the council.

It's a massive blow to the Conference North club, who are eager to get work underway at the ground as they strive for promotion to the National Conference.

A Boro official said: "Due to the embargo involving ourselves, the council and Nuneaton Rugby Club on all issues involving the ground move I cannot comment." A council spokesperson stated that the club's application was never on the planning agenda but it's being dealt with and they are waiting for consultation reports.

Ted Stocker: We Must Support Liberty Way Plans

Ambitious ground sharing plans for Nuneaton's rugby and soccer clubs are vital for the future of sport in the town, according to one senior figure. Ted Stocker, who brokered the deal between Nuneaton Borough and Nuneaton RFC, said the importance of plans for the two clubs to share land a Liberty Way, Attleborough, could not be underestimated.

Mr Stocker, a committee member at the rugby club, said: "Just as the London Olympic bid aims to provide lasting new facilities for people to enjoy, so it is our intention to open up Liberty Way to the best possible advantage for the people of Nuneaton. It has always been an important part of our scheme to make Liberty Way a vital and accessible centre for sport, recreation and education.

"To achieve that, areas of the site that are currently nothing more than wasteland will be cultivated and maintained as grass pitches for all sports, not just football and rugby."

Mr Stocker was a high-profile director of Coventry City when they won the FA Cup in 1987. He ran his own communications company, Vanderhoff, in the Bermuda area of Nuneaton.

Yesterday it was reported that delays in the planning application process mean that the Boro's switch from Manor Park to Liberty Way may be put back until the New Year.

Concerns by the Environment Agency about the flood plain next to Liberty Way were being blamed for holding up the planning process. Borough councillors were now due to consider the planning application on August 3.

Nuneaton Rugby Club currently has three full-size rugby pitches and three junior pitches on the site, while both clubs already run well-supported schemes for local youngsters. The new plans will see more than half the site laid out as pitches for both amateur and professional sport.

A sports hall, the size of four badminton courts, will also be included under a proposal that would see it professionally managed by North Warwickshire and Hinckley College.

Acton Signs New Deal

Roger Ashby has secured the signature of Darren Acton, who has signed a new two year deal with the club. The Boro chief admitted he had broken his rule of giving no player more than a one-year deal in offering the 33-year-old a two year contract but he feels the player is worth it.

Boro Ready For Pre-Season

Boro kick-off their pre-season campaign with a training camp at Loughborough University where they will face Loughborough Dynamo in their first game before returning to Manor Park to play AFC Telford. Other games are against Halesowen, Coalville, Ibstock, Rugby away from home before they face Wolves at Manor Park on August 1. They will then travel to Raunds Town before rounding off their pre-season campaign against Burton Albion and Atherstone Town.

Leek Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Harrison Park to face Leek Town in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Leek Town: Cartwright, Yates, Wooliscroft, Brown, Hadrell, Johnson, Hawthorne, McPherson, Whittaker, Crowe, Eyre.

Subs: Clegg, Butterworth, Johnson, Buckley, McCulloch.

Boro: Acton, Tullin (Oddy 65), Love, Noon (Collins 65), Moore, Farmer, Wilson, Fitzpatrick (Adams 85), Murphy, Frew, Jephcott. Subs: Poole, Whittaker.

Unpredictable Boro had Stuart Wilson to thank as their roller coaster season continued. The winger latched on to a cross from Michael Frew to level matters after Boro had fallen behind and looked destined for an early exit.

But when determination was needed Boro rolled up their sleeves and now have home advantage in the replay.

Boro missed a great chance to take the lead six minutes into the match as they started in an attacking mode with Frew breaking free down the wing and crossing to Gez Murphy who failed to connect properly with a diving header and the ball went wide.

The visitors almost paid the price soon after when Leek's Dean Crowe headed over the bar while Alex Brown's corner



Gez Murphy battles with a Leek defender

Photo: Heartland Evening News

caused a few problems before Neil Moore headed to safety.

Set plays were frustrating for Boro in the opening exchanges with Wilson and Michael Love both wasting chances, while Leek were more threatening. After a Steve Farmer foul, Dave McPherson beat the back line to head over following an Adam Yates free kick as Leek continued to play with confidence.

Neil Moore then made a telling clearance from a Dave Whittaker shot as the home side pressed for an opener.

The problems with set pieces continued as Jephcott lined up a free-kick but

it went less than half the distance required before Leek blocked the ball.

Murphy was working hard up front and put a cross just over while Jephcott had an effort from distance tipped over as Boro upped the tempo just before the break. But Leek were still at it and Darren Acton had to be alert to collect a Dave Whittaker through ball with the dangerous Crowe closing in.

At the start of the second half Jephcott charged through to find Frew in space and the Boro striker forced a corner, which Jephcott headed in only for Leek keeper Mark Cartwright to make a superb save.

But it was Leek who drew first blood two minutes into the second half. Left winger Richard Eyre gained possession on the edge of the box and he cut inside Tullin who was wrong footed and appeared to back off, allowing Eyre to unleash a dipping curling shot into the right hand corner of the net past a helpless Acton.

And minutes later Leek's Whittaker struck the crossbar with a deflection after Tullin was again caught out of position while wandering in front of the remainder of the Boro back four.

The confidence had been rocked and Boro's defence were all over the place again as Crowe took advantage of a



Stuart Wilson hits Boro's equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Moore error but put his effort over the bar. Tullin's errors eventually forced Ashby to replace him with Rob Oddy while Mark Noon made way for Matt Collins and the duo made an impact.

Oddy created a great chance with almost his first touch as he crossed from the right with Farmer flicking a header into the path of Jephcott at the far post who failed to connect with the ball. Boro had clearly upped their game with Frew blazing just wide after being freed by Gary Fitzpatrick.

Love then finally got a set piece on target after Wilson had been fouled on the edge of the box only for Cartwright to punch the ball over the bar.

Boro continued to apply the pressure and with six minutes left it paid dividends. Frew's cross found Wilson at the far post and his header found the back of the net to the delight of the army of travelling Boro fans. In the closing stages the visitors created further chances with Jephcott and Frew going close again but in the end Leek held on for a draw.

Leek Town — 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Leek Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Farmer, Love, Wilson, Collins, Noon, Jephcott, Murphy, Frew. Subs: Tullin, Poole, Fox, S. Whittaker, Adams.

Leek Town: Cartwright, Yates, Wooliscroft, Brown, Haddrell, Hawthorne, B. Johnson (McCulloch 90), MacPherson, D. Whittaker, Crowe, Eyre (Buckley 67). Subs: Clegg, Butterworth, W. Johnson.

Boro were dumped out of the FA Cup despite dominating the match. It was arguably one of Boro's best performances of the season and it seemed only one team would progress after Steve Farmer had equalised Dean Crowe's breakaway first-half goal.

The home side were first to show after Stuart Wilson crossed after some good

work by Michael Frew but the Leek goalkeeper cut out his cross before it reached Avun Jephcott.

Five minutes later Boro had another chance when Michael Love's cross was dummied by Gez Murphy but Wilson could not control his shot and it blazed over the bar.

Collins forced Mark Cartwright into another save as Boro took control and Wilson weaved his magic down the right, although Frew's header failed to trouble the keeper.

The visitors bounced back with some good possession play, but did not test Acton, while at the other end Oddy's deep cross almost beat the Leek keeper.

Oddy put the best chance so far wide of the post before Boro had a hopeful penalty appeal turned down when Frew appeared to be dragged down.

Leek, however, were looking dangerous on the break and Acton had his first real save to make on 34 minutes from a low Crowe strike, but Boro were clearly on top and a goal looked imminent.

Unfortunately, that goal came at the wrong end and against the run of play in the 36th minute. A long clearance from Cartwright was headed on by McPherson and Crowe met the ball on the half-volley, looping it over the outstretched arms of Acton to put the visitors 1-0 up.

Boro retaliated with a Jephcott free-kick that Cartwright gathered at the second attempt before Leek had a chance to double their lead but Alex Brown's shot drifted harmlessly wide.

Frew and Murphy took the Leek defence wide, clearing a path for the pacy Wilson, but his left-footed shot was caught by Cartwright.

Some good build-up play from Jephcott and Frew followed in the next minute as the former Yaxley man's back-heel put Murphy through on goal but the referee blew for a free-kick.

The action was hotting up as the first period drew to a close and MacPherson

forced Acton into a diving save with the last shot of the half.

Boro continued to look the better side at the start of the second half with Cartwright saving from Murphy before the striker had another opportunity, but this time his shot was blocked.

Leek looked happy to sit on their lead and try to catch Boro on the break, which they did seven minutes into the second period, but the out-of-position Acton did well to save Crowe's strike.

MacPherson wasted another breakaway chance for Leek before Boro finally made their possession pay on the hour.

Love floated in a dangerous free-kick, following a sandwich on Wilson, and Farmer was on hand to glance a header past Cartwright for a deserved equaliser.

Boro now had the impetus and a mazy run from Jephcott down the left caused the Leek defence problems before more good work from the former Coventry youngster just failed to free Noon.

Jephcott was in the action once again soon after, glancing another Love free-kick just wide as Boro pushed for a second goal and with the visitors struggling to get out of their own half.

Jephcott had a shot blocked, a Murphy 'goal' was dubiously ruled out and then Wilson just failed to guide the ball home with his outstretched boot, but the goal would just not come.

Acton clawed away a free-kick in a rare chance for Leek but dominant Boro, with Wilson in dazzling form, were making all the chances without converting any.

They were made to pay for this four minutes into injury time as the dangerous Crowe fed Dave Whittaker who played a neat one-two with MacPherson and he hit home the winner.

Questions need to be asked about the Boro defence, who failed to clear the danger with extra-time looming.

Rothwell Town — 1st Round

Borough travelled to Cecil Street to play a FA Trophy First Round game.

Rothwell: Hughes, Rice, Spencer, Porter, Flanigan, Towers, Foley, Quincey (LeMeasurier 9 (Greatrex 77)), Spencer (Bryant 86), Mitchell, Thatcher. Subs: Tolton, Smith.

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Fox 86), Love, McGorry, Moore, Tullin, Wilson, Collins, Whittaker (Murphy 61), Frew, Adams (Fitzpatrick 61). Subs: Poole, Farmer.

Rothwell began on the offensive with James Thatcher heading into the side netting and Dean Foley firing wide.

Michael Frew scuffed his side's first effort on goal after linking up with Stuart Wilson, although keeper John Hughes parried the shot away but no-one was there to pick up the loose ball.

Rothwell then resorted to long-ball tactics as Martin Flannigan launched a rocket up the pitch to Danny Spencer who fired over from an angle.

Boro's Michael Love then tested keeper Hughes from distance as niggly fouls came into play from both sides. The early pressure finally paid off for the home side when they took the lead just past the half-hour mark.

Adams conceded a free-kick 30 yards out and Danny Porter whipped the ball



Tullin and Moore double up on two-goal John Mitchell.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

in to expose the Boro defence. Chris Tullin lost his man Mitchell, and he rose high to head home past Darren Acton. Before the break, Love fired wide as did Wilson as they tried to find a way back.

Boro tried to impose themselves on their opponents at the start of the second half, but Brian McGorry was lucky to stay on the pitch after he decided to take his frustration out on scorer Mitchell and threw him to the ground, but he escaped with a yellow card.

Love then followed him into the book

after a rash challenge as Ashby's side struggled to come to terms with their opponents grit and determination.

Murphy and Fitzpatrick were brought on to try and get their club back into the game but it had little effect, as Mitchell again broke free after a ball from strike partner Danny Spencer but Acton raced out to collect.

Tempers then flared from the Boro bench as Kevin Wilkin tried to snatch the ball back from the Rothwell tunnel who were keeping hold of it and referee Mark Lever had to calm things down.

But it soon went from bad to worse as Boro again failed to clear their lines at the back and Acton cleared the ball into the path of Mitchell who was able to pick his spot and score his second.

A glimmer of hope arrived ten minutes from the end as McGorry gained possession in the box out wide and slotted it past Hughes from an angle but it was too little too late.

Wilson blazed over after being freed by Frew but yet again the killer instinct was lacking and Boro paid the penalty.

At the final whistle a section of travelling supporters vented their frustration out on the board of directors, but it remains to be seen what will come of the club's most testing season for some time.



Matty Collins and Brian McGorry are forced to defend.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 1



Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2004-05

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.16	Bognor Regis Town	A	PSF	2-1	Farmer (2)	
07.17	Worthing	A	PSF	0-0		c150
07.22	Cogenhoe United	H	PSF	2-0	Farmer, Williams	c200
07.24	Brackley Town	A	PSF	2-1	Wilkin, Noon	c100
07.26	Ibstock Welfare	A	PSF	1-0	Fox	c150
07.29	Birmingham City	H	PSF	0-4		386
08.01	West Bromwich Albion	H	PSF	0-1		202
08.03	Quorn	A	PSF	2-0	Jephcott, Szmid	c100
08.04	Coventry City	H	PSF	0-3		333
08.07	Rugby United	A	PSF	3-1	Jephcott, Frew, Irvine (o.g.)	248
08.09	Bedworth United	A	PSF	3-1	Frew, Murphy, Stevenson	c150
08.14	Ashton United	H	L	1-0	Murphy	773
08.17	Moor Green	A	L	3-1	Frew (2), Fitzpatrick	481
08.21	Bradford Park Avenue	A	L	2-2	Farmer, Jephcott	343
08.24	Stafford Rangers	H	L	4-3	Frew, Moore, Murphy, Fitzpatrick	818
08.28	Barrow	H	L	1-1	Jephcott	848
08.30	Gainsborough Trinity	A	L	2-1	Jephcott, Whittaker	489
09.04	Southport	H	L	0-1		944
09.11	Vauxhall Motors	A	L	1-1	Jephcott	240
09.14	Hinckley United	A	L	3-2	Jephcott, Frew, Farmer	1442
09.18	Hucknall Town	H	L	1-3	Wilson	807
09.21	Stalybridge Celtic	H	L	1-0	Noon	615
09.25	Altrincham	A	L	0-1		625
10.02	Leek Town	A	FAC 2Q	1-1	Wilson	580
10.05	Leek Town	H	FACC 2Qr	1-2	Farmer	717
10.08	Worksop Town	H	L	0-2		636
10.12	Bedworth United	A	BSC1	2-3	Frew, Richardson (o.g.)	235
10.23	Harrogate Town	A	L	1-3	Whittaker	570
10.26	Alfreton Town	A	L	0-2		468
10.30	Redditch United	H	L	0-1		643
11.02	Redditch United	H	NCC 1	4-3	Charlton (o.g.), Wilson, Moore, Frew (pen)	181
11.06	Rothwell Town	A	FAT 1	1-2	McGorry	353
11.20	Droylsden	H	L	3-2	Whittaker (2), Noon	569
11.27	Moor Green	H	L	1-0	Wilkin	610
11.30	Kettering Town	A	NCC 2	3-4	Love, Wilkin, Wilson	286
12.04	Runcorn FC Halton	A	L	2-0	Murphy (2)	285
12.07	Hinckley United	H	L	0-1		1061
12.11	Southport	A	L	0-3		803
12.18	Vauxhall Motors	H	L	2-1	Collins, Farmer	553
01.01	Worcester City	H	L	2-0	Murphy (pen), Whittaker	1068
01.08	Hucknall Town	A	L	3-1	Whittaker, Cowan, Wilkin	533
01.11	Kettering Town	A	L	0-1		1117
01.17	Worcester City	A	L	2-0	Whittaker, Collins	712
01.22	Altrincham	H	L	0-0		822
01.29	Stalybridge Celtic	A	L	1-1	Whittaker (pen)	543
02.05	Harrogate Town	H	L	2-0	Noon, McGorry	767
02.12	Worksop Town	A	L	3-2	Noon, Love, Quailey	506
02.19	Alfreton Town	H	L	1-1	Collins	928
02.26	Redditch United	A	L	5-1	Moore (2), Quailey (2), Murphy	639
03.05	Droylsden	A	L	0-1		473
03.12	Runcorn FC Halton	H	L	3-0	Oddy, Love, Frew	774
03.15	Lancaster City	H	L	2-0	Quailey, Fitzpatrick	698
03.26	Stafford Rangers	A	L	3-2	Moore, Murphy (2, 1 pen)	925

Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2004-05

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.28	Gainsborough Trinity	H	L	1-0	Angus	1021
04.02	Ashton United	A	L	3-2	Whittaker (3, 1 pen)	307
04.09	Barrow	A	L	3-1	Murphy (2, 1 pen), Noon	814
04.16	Bradford Park Avenue	H	L	2-1	Collins, Quailey	1047
04.23	Lancaster City	A	L	2-0	Moore, Wilkin	316
04.30	Kettering Town	H	L	2-0	Noon (2)	2182
05.03	Altrincham	H	PO SF	1-1	Angus	1532

* Boro lost 4-2 on penalties

KEY: L = Conference North, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, NCC= National Conference Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PO = League Play-off, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2004-05

Back (left to right): Graham Wilson (assistant youth team manager), Mark Noon, Stuart Adamson, Robert Oddy, Ryan Poole, Darren Acton, Gez Murphy, Gary Fitzpatrick, James Fox, Alan Cooper (kitman).
 Middle (left to right): Paul Egan (physio), Mick Dewis (assistant reserve team manager), Blake Newbold, Matty Lamb, Stuart Wilson, Chris Tullin, Michael Love, Brian McGorry, Michael Frew, Simeon Williams, Richie Norman (physio), Terry Angus (youth team manager).
 Front (left to right): Stuart Whittaker, Steve Farmer, Kevin Wilkin (player/assistant-manager), Neil Moore (captain), Roger Ashby (manager), Avun Jephcott, Matty Collins.

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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.



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