



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1

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Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1

Introduction

Peake Has Played Last Game For Borough

Trevor Peake, Borough's talented centre-half, has almost certainly played his last game for the Manor Park club. Borough expect a bid before the end of the week for the 22-year-old defender, who has twice played for the England non-league team. West Brom, Crystal Palace, Northampton and Lincoln City head a parade of clubs interested in the player.

Borough Sign Pugh And Houlst

Borough have signed utility player Eammon Pugh from Sutton Town for a new club record fee. They splashed out £4,000 for Pugh who can operate at centre-half or as a striker. Manager Roy Barry completed the deal last night – at the same time as he signed ex-Leicester City striker Alan Houlst.

Pugh scored 43 goals in the Midland Combination last season. Initially, Pugh will operate in the defence to fill the gap which will be left by Trevor Peake. Barry will be looking for goals from Houlst, who has an impressive record in the Central League and Football Combination. Also 22, Houlst was given a free transfer by Frank McLintock and has been with Hull and Bristol Rovers.



Eammon Pugh (left), Borough's record £4,000 signing, completes the deal, along with ex-Leicester forward Alan Houlst who signed at the same time. With them are club secretary John Evans and manager Roy Barry, who made his first move for Pugh last September.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Peake Joins Lincoln City

Trevor Peake has joined Lincoln City for a £15,000 fee. Northampton Town looked favourites to sign the Nuneaton Borough defender, but Peake has chosen Lincoln. Said Borough chairman Noel Kelly today: "The decision was always Trevor's. We were just involved in discussing the fee. He thoroughly deserves to be in League football. We cannot stand in his way," added Mr Kelly.

The Fourth Division club have agreed to pay Nuneaton 15 per cent of any future transfer fee.

Phillips Joins Kettering Town

Brendan Phillips, Nuneaton Borough's unsettled midfield player, has been sold to Kettering Town. The deal went through only hours after defender Trevor Peake joined Lincoln City. Phillips, on the list at his own request, was rated in the £5,000 price range by the Manor Park club. And Borough chairman Noel Kelly said: "We have picked up around £20,000 for the two moves.

A sell-on clause has been included in the transfer deal and Borough will receive 25% of the difference in any fee paid in any future transfer deal.

Borough Closer To Buying Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough have moved one step nearer their plan to buy back their council owned ground. The Borough Council have been recommended by their policy committee to offer Manor Park to the club for a "reasonable fee."

Certain conditions have still to be discussed but Borough are hopeful the proposal will be accepted at next Wednesday's meeting of the full council. Chairman Noel Kelly said: "I am absolutely delighted with the recommendation. It is just the boost we need. We could get much better financial backing if we owned the ground," he added.

Mr Kelly sees the move as a reward for the money spent on the ground.

Lewis Moves To Bedford Town

Bedworth United have failed in their bid to sign former Nuneaton Borough skipper Dave Lewis, who was sold to Cheltenham Town last January. Lewis has decided to join Bedford Town. Bedford were keen to attract him to the Oval and manager Len Harris had talks with his former Manor Park team-mate. But cash conscious Bedford were reluctant to pay the fee Cheltenham wanted and dropped their interest.

Council Delay Sale Decision

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly today attacked a Council decision to delay the sale of Manor Park. He said: "I am very disappointed. We really expected an answer so we could plan. Now we can't do anything and whoever is responsible has set us back at least a year."

The price of the ground had been fixed at £25,000 – which Borough were prepared to pay. But at last night's full Council meeting Councillor Jim Diskin condemned the sale and it was referred back to the policy and resources committee.

Urging the Council to think again Mr Diskin said: "If this goes ahead it will be the sale of the century. I want to see the covenant on the ground and study it before I agree to do anything. We don't know what sort of things they will have up there in the future. There has been talk of speedway and dog racing. Can you imagine the problems that would cause?"

Until last night the sale price had not been confirmed and Diskin was criticised by Councillor Len Cooper for revealing the amount. Councillor Cooper supported the move to sell the ground to the club: "They are hoping to bring League football to the town and we should help them," he said.

"The directors have already raised money to buy floodlights up to League standard."

Negotiations have been going on for months but the decision to think again will mean a further delay for what would be the biggest step in the club's history. It has also wiped out Borough's hopes of buying a "bargain" price stand from Bristol Rovers. Borough had estimated it would cost £28,000 to dismantle transport and re-assemble the stand at Manor Park. Borough have been interested in the stand – which was once at Romford – for at least two years.

"A stand like that now would cost £¼ million," said chairman Kelly. "But I have got to tell Bristol we don't want it. There are two other clubs interested and they were waiting for an answer from us..."

Borough To Get £6,000 For Thomas

Nuneaton Borough are poised to pick up a substantial fee for a player who left the club more than a year ago. They have agreed terms with West German second division club Baunatal for full-back Wayne Thomas. And chairman Noel Kelly is making plans to fly out to Dusseldorf this weekend to complete the deal.

Council Face Protest From Borough Fans

Nuneaton Borough Council faces a massive protest from the town's soccer fans over the decision to hold up the sale of Manor Park. The council has decided to think again about selling the ground to Nuneaton Borough Football Club for £25,000. But supporters are already organising petitions calling for the sale to go ahead.

And today, former Borough manager Fred Badham added

his weight to the growing discontent. Badham, who took the club into the premier division of the Southern League in the early 1960s and then headed their fund raising operations, condemned the delay. He accused the Council of being "spoilsports" and claimed that a similar decision 15 years ago held up the club's progress. "We have had all this before," he said. "At that time the directors and myself fought the Council in an attempt to buy the ground. The Council put a covenant on the ground that it would be used solely for soccer and athletic purposes, but it fell through..."

Trevor Peake Receives Silver Platter



To mark his departure, Trevor Peake was presented with a silver platter, handed over by the Mayor, Councillor Terry Short. Alongside Peake in the picture is Wayne Thomas, who returned at the weekend to Germany, and could be Borough's next major transfer. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Atherstone Announce Shock Measures

Atherstone Town Football Club are facing another massive financial crisis. Debts have piled up and the directors today announced drastic measures in a bid to keep soccer alive at Sheepy Road. They have pulled out of the Northern Premier League, scrapped their first team pool – and will operate in Division One of the West Midlands League next season.

The position now means that several first team players will be available for transfer...

Atherstone Town Fold

Atherstone Town Football Club, burdened by crippling financial problems, has folded. Debts are believed to be in the region of £90,000 and a statement issued today by the directors sounded the death knell for the club. The Sheepy Road Supporters' Club will also close down.

Adders' board held a three hour crisis meeting with financial advisors and afterwards announced: "We have ceased trading." The statement that ended 92 years of football at Sheepy Road spelled out the stark facts. It said: "A full board meeting was held yesterday afternoon involving accountants from both the Football Club and the Supporters' Club and

based on the figures and accounts obtainable prior to February 1979, which were only made available last week. It was felt that the club could no longer trade and, therefore, has ceased operation forthwith.”

Timmy Smithers Players Player Of The Year



Timmy Smithers has been voted Nuneaton Borough’s “Player’s Player of the Year” for 1978-79. The club decided to allow the players themselves to decide who made the biggest contribution on the field last season.

And tireless Smithers, who packs an astonishing amount of energy into every game he plays, came out well on top. Signed from Coventry junior club Sphinx, he has emerged as one of the leading players in non-league football.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Gareth Dale On Transfer List

Striker Gareth Dale has been placed on the transfer list by Nuneaton Borough – at his own request. He has told the Manor Park club: “I don’t want to play in the Football Alliance.” And Borough are prepared to listen to offers for the player who was their leading scorer in the Southern League last year.

Barry To Go Part-Time

Nuneaton Borough will start their first season in the new Football Alliance with a part-time manager. Roy Barry has told the board he can no longer afford to do the job on a full-time basis and a new contract is being drawn up. The Borough manager was reluctant to discuss the situation today, but he did confirm that he is going part-time.

Dale Walks Out On Borough

Gareth Dale, Nuneaton Borough’s unsettled striker, has walked out on the Manor Park club. Dale, Borough’s top scorer in the Southern League last season, has not been seen at the ground and misses the friendly against Moor Green tomorrow. Said manager Roy Barry: “We will just go through the normal channels, inform him he is in breach of contract and leave it at that for the time being.”

1979-80

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 00-08-1979

Moor Green: Walker, Sargeant, Knight, Tattam, Hughes, Clamp, Stanton, Hawkins, Wright, Rossie, McDermott.

Borough: Wilding, Stockley, Thomas, Cross, Pugh, Tomkinson, Brewster, Cooper, Campbell, Hoult, Smithers.

Borough made the journey to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough included all three of their close season signings – goalkeeper Paul Wilding, Eammon Pugh at centre-half and Alan Hoult up front. Teenager Dean Thomas was at left-back with Selwyn Brewster at outside right. The game was barely three minutes old when Borough went into the lead with a goal from Cliff Campbell, last season’s leading goalscorer.

Moor Green keeper Walker, punched out a cross from the left and Campbell nodded the ball back into the net as the defenders hesitated. Thomas then shot wide before Tomkinson went close with a left foot shot on the turn. Moor Green replied with an effort from Sargent which hit Smithers and was saved by Wilding.

Thomas impressed at left-back for Borough and Pugh was steady as he built up his understanding with Cross. Moor Green began to look the better side in the closing stages of the first-half and equalised with a goal from centre-forward Wright two minutes from the break. He moved on to a pass across the box from Tattam and hammered a hard, low shot into the net.

Borough made half-time changes. Tom Fallon went on alongside Pugh, Cross moved out to left back in place of Thomas and Crawley replaced Campbell up front. The changes paid off as Borough regained the lead minutes after the restart when Crawley did the spade work before Hoult scored. Moor Green quickly hit back when a pass from Howells exposed the Nuneaton defence and Wright snapped up the chance.

But Borough were again in front in the 61st minute when Hoult did well to set up a chance for Crawley to score with an impressive glancing header.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 04-08-1979

Bedworth: Robinson, Brookes, Harrison, Moore, Ashley, Preston (McCranor), Conway (Scoular), Harris (Chinn), Halton, Evans, McCaffrey.

Borough: Wilding, Stockley, Thomas, Cross, Pugh (Fallon), Tomkinson, Sugrue, Cooper, Campbell (Crawley), Hoult, Smithers.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to take on Bedworth United in the President’s Cup.

Borough’s Paul Cooper grabbed a late equaliser to level a competitive, if scrappy, friendly at the Oval last night. Cooper’s superb angled shot from 20 yards cancelled out an unfortunate own goal from unlucky Steve Tomkinson that gave Bedworth a first-half lead.

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Bedworth played the more controlled football with Borough always looking dangerous in front of goal. Winger Steve McCaffrey, on trial at Bedworth, was drafted in for his first game but manager Len Harris kept his faith in most of the side that beat Mile Oak last weekend.

Borough manager Roy Barry again included his three new signings. Wilding and Pugh took a long time to settle but Hoult again showed a glimpse of his potential. Hoult received poor service but managed to carve out a few openings for himself. And he was involved in the first dangerous move of the match when he knocked the ball on to Paul Sugrue whose shot was blocked.

But it was Bedworth who struck the first blow after 28 minutes. Danny Conway flicked on a Len Harris corner and a misunderstanding between Wilding and Tomkinson ended with the blond midfield player slicing the ball past his own keeper. Both managers made changes at the interval but the match fizzled out midway through the half. The teams found themselves bogged down in the middle of the park and there was little fluent football.

Four minutes from the end, however, Cooper struck to deny Bedworth victory. He slammed the ball past Brian Robinson after collecting a lovely pass from Sugrue.

Borough's Amazing Financial Recovery

Nuneaton Borough today presented their shareholders with the best balance sheet in the club's history. Once beset by cash problems, the club has made a remarkable recovery from the brink of financial ruin. In the year ended May 31, 1978, Borough turned a £9,000 deficit into a profit of £15,014 – a staggering transformation.

And although last season proved expensive – falling gates and the seven-week “freeze” bit into their resources – they still have cash in hand. Said chairman Noel Kelly: “The present state of the club is that it is solvent and stable and it's been a long time since anyone could say that.”

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 00-08-1979

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a pre-season friendly match.

Nuneaton Borough needed another second-half improvement to beat Hinckley. At half-time, the Robins should have been in front – they had three clear-cut chances to Borough's one. But an Ian Crawley header and an Eammon Pugh penalty settled the match and kept Nuneaton on an unbeaten course towards the opening day of the Football Alliance.

With better finishing Hinckley could have set themselves up for a shock result. Ken Rayner, their new signing from Friar Lane, missed with a free header early on and had two more clear cut chances. Pugh headed over for Borough following a free kick, but the Manor Park side struggled to impress as Hinckley worked hard.

After the break, it was a different story and Crawley broke the deadlock with the second half just four minutes old. He ran in on a free kick at the far post and planted a powerful header well clear of Martin. Steve Tomkinson then had a goal disallowed for offside as Hinckley began to fall away. But Borough had to wait until the 70th minute for their second goal – from the penalty spot.

Hoult was brought down by Alan Wykes and Pugh scored with a spot kick. Crawley then missed a sitter and had a goal disallowed as Borough went on to win in comfortable, but far from impressive style.

Wycombe Wanderers v Nuneaton Boro' 11-08-1979

Wycombe: Maskell, Birdseye, Eaton, Barr, Fowles, Priestley, Oliver, Miles, McCarthy, Scott, Long. **Subs:** Price, Way, Dexter.

Borough: Wilding, Stockley, Thomas, Fallon, Pugh, Head, Sugrue, Cooper, Crawley, Hoult, Smithers. **Subs:** Cross, Campbell, Farndon.

Borough made the journey to Loakes Park to play Wycombe Wanderers in a pre-season friendly match.

Steve Tomkinson scored two goals in the first 12 minutes that he was on the field to give Nuneaton Borough a convincing victory over Isthmian League side Wycombe Wanderers. Tomkinson only emerged from the substitute's bench 12 minutes after half-time when Paul Cooper had to leave the field following a slight knock. Before the substitute received his first touch of the ball, Wycombe equalised to make the scoreline 2-2.

But then, with his first kick in anger, Tomkinson scored with a low, hard drive from 30 yards into the corner of the net. He hit that first shot with such power that it came as no surprise when he was asked to take the penalty after Timmy Smithers had been brought down inside the area in the 69th minute. Tomkinson blasted the ball for a second time past goalkeeper John Maskell to give Nuneaton an unassailable 4-2 lead.

Borough's first goal came in the 13th minute following a foul 15 yards outside the penalty area. Bob Stockley floated in a free-kick which eluded the defence and Alan Hoult sent a well-placed header wide of Maskell. But in the 25th minute the Nuneaton defence slipped up and allowed Gary Fowles to score with a near post header following a corner.

Five minutes later the visitors were back in front when Ian Crawley nipped in to intercept Fowles' weak back pass and score a gift goal. Spurred on by a strong midfield performance by Maurice Head, Nuneaton continued to push forward. They were set back on their heels when Terry Scott scored an equaliser but then Tomkinson took control.

New Players In Side To Face Derby County

Nuneaton Borough are all set to complete their pre-season programme against Derby County with half a new team. Manager Roy Barry has agreed terms with five players from ill-fated Atherstone Town. And all of them are expected

to sign before tonight's match at Manor Park. The five are strikers Mark Neale and Stewart Gallagher, midfield player Steve Gray, full-back Paul Montgomery and goalkeeper Ken Hall. Said Borough secretary John Evans: "Roy Barry has had preliminary talks with all of them and expects them all to sign and be in the squad tonight."

Derby County v Nuneaton Borough 13-08-1979

Borough welcomed Derby County to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Nuneaton Borough manager Roy Barry used the game as an opportunity to give his first-team squad a run-out. And although the Manor Park side went down 3-0, Borough officials were well pleased with the players' showing – particularly the new signings.

Borough Sponsored By Biddles

Nuneaton Borough have set up a sponsorship deal with a major local firm which chairman Noel Kelly today described as "our biggest breakthrough." F. H. Biddle, the Nuneaton heating engineers have agreed to sponsor the club for around £7,000 over three years. They will pay for all the kit and equipment and also hand over £2,000 a year.

Said Mr Kelly: "Obviously we are delighted that a local company is doing this. It's a marvellous gesture and we hope it will encourage others to do the same." Borough have been seeking major sponsorship for some time. "This is our biggest breakthrough," said the chairman.

The players will carry F. H. Biddle's name on their kit in the Football Alliance. Borough intend to go into sponsorship in a big way in an attempt to attract much-needed revenue. Several matches are already being sponsored in one way or another. "There are many ways firms can do this," said Mr Kelly. "They can sponsor matches, buy match balls, sponsor the coach – in fact there's no limit. All they have to do is pick up the phone."

Borough's Ground Bid Looks Brighter

Nuneaton Borough Football Club is almost certain to get another chance of buying Manor Park. For the council's powerful policy committee is sticking to its guns over the sale of the soccer ground. And the £25,000 deal is now expected to get the go-ahead from the full council next month. The committee has again recommended that the sale should go through – after being asked to think again.

Bryan Walters, the council's Chief Executive said: "The committee has recommended that the council go ahead with the sale, based on the District Valuer's valuation and the previously announced restrictions which limit the use to football and its associate uses."

The decision is the latest development in a long running saga over the sale of the ground. When the proposed sale was put to the July council meeting it was referred back to committee.

Councillor Jim Diskin from Stockingford described it as the "sale of the century" and urged the committee to look more closely at the covenant. Now the soccer club face another anxious wait for the September 12 council meeting. Chairman Noel Kelly said today: "Obviously we would be well pleased if it went through. It would be a very important step for us and our Football League ambitions.

"There are four important things they look for in a club that wants to get into the League. You need a decent bank balance, directors who own the major shareholding, an A grading – and your own ground. If the council allows us to buy the ground we will have three out of four and can work on getting an A grading."

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 18-08-1979

Borough: Wilding, Stockley, Thomas, Cross, Fallon, Head, Gray, Gallagher, Crawley, Hoult, Smithers. **Sub:** Campbell.

Barnet: Brackwell, Hulett, Pearce, Millett, Oliver, Townsend, Turner, Robinson, Sperrin, McCormack, Siani. **Sub:** French.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough turned the first page in an exciting new chapter for non-league football with an impressive win over Barnet. Always too good for the North Londoners they were clear cut winners, despite the narrowness of the scoreline. Barnet scored in the last two minutes to make the match appear far closer than it was. Two spectacular goals from newcomer Steve Gray highlighted an historic afternoon.



Barnet goalkeeper Kevin Blackwell can only stand and watch as Steve Gray's shot flashes into the net in the the 25th minute for an historic goal – Borough's first in the Alliance Premier League.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

He eased the first stage of Borough's journey towards new horizons when he shot them into the lead after 25 minutes.

And he made sure of their first win in the new Football Alliance with another stunning effort eleven minutes after the break. The goals removed much of the doubt for Roy Barry's new-look Borough side.

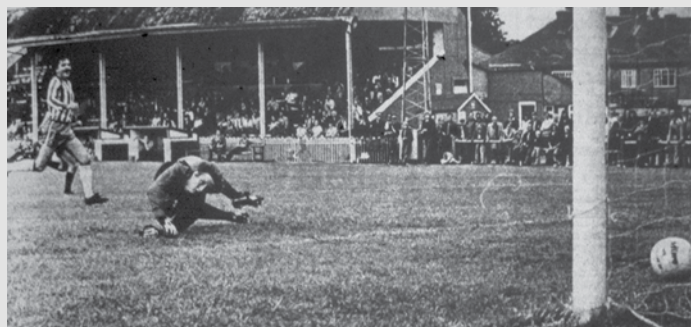
Barry included other new signings Paul Wilding, Maurice Head, Stewart Gallagher and Alan Houlton and gave teenager Dean Thomas his debut at left back. Eammon Pugh, Borough's record £4,000 buy from Sutton Town was left out. Despite the changes, Borough quickly settled into their stride and soon had a shaky Barnet defence at full stretch. A travel mix-up had forced the North Londoners manager Barry Fry to re-shuffle his line-up – and they were clearly unsettled.

Instead of journeying to the Midlands by team coach, the players made their way to Manor Park in cars. Most arrived late and key forward Gary French was named as substitute and turned up after the kick-off. French managed to get into the match in the second half and scored Barnet's 88th minute goal. Lack of concentration by a Nuneaton side that had begun to coast presented him with his chance.

But they were so much in control that a 4-0 result would have been a far better reflection of the play. Ian Crawley had two goals disallowed, one for offside and the other for handball against Gallagher. He also missed a sitter and saw one thunderous shot flash over the top.

In comparison, Barnet were poor up front. Even when they attacked they lacked penetration. Borough were a far better organised side. Wilding spread confidence in goal, Gallagher showed some sophisticated touches up front and Maurice Head brought vital balance in midfield. Thomas filled the left-back berth with confidence and maturity and the 1,300-plus crowd warmed to the match in the bright sunshine.

The attendance was the biggest at Manor Park for some time, in spite of the increased admission prices. That in itself was significant as Borough trod cautiously into a new era – and turned up trumps.



Gray turns away in triumph as Blackwell dives in vain – with the ball safely on its way into the net to make it 2-0 for Borough in the 56th minute.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

John Mason Out In Reshuffle

Former England amateur international John Mason is no longer with Nuneaton Borough. Mason, who played in the Football League with Peterborough, has left in a backroom

reshuffle. Assistant manager Stan Marshall has stepped down to take charge of the youngsters in the West Midlands League. And Graham Smith has been drafted in as number two to manager Roy Barry

Pugh Suspended For 21 Days

Eammon Pugh, Nuneaton Borough's record signing, has been suspended for three weeks. He starts a 21-day ban next Monday and will miss a series of important games. Pugh, bought from Sutton Town for £4,000 was booked three times in the Midland Combination towards the end of last season.

AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1979

Leamington: Dulleston, Dight, Montgomery, Kilkelly, Jones, Taylor, Morton, Gorman, Vincent, Gardner, Briscoe. Sub: Bain.

Borough: Wilding, Stockley, Thomas, Cross, Fallon, Head, Gray, Gallagher, Crawley, Houlton, Smithers. Sub: Campbell.

Borough made the journey to the Windmill to face AP Leamington in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough had to be content with a point from a hard-fought clash. Both sides missed chances in a typical local derby and at the end neither could complain at the result. Borough's arch-enemy during the game was their one-time hero, Bobby Vincent. He had a fine match, putting Nuneaton's defence under pressure on many occasions.

Both teams made a bright start, and Ian Crawley came close to scoring early on with a powerful drive which was cleared off the line. Newcomer Dean Thomas, showing considerable experience for his 17 years, made a fine cross to former Atherstone player Stewart Gallagher, but he let the ball run out of play. Crawley then forced a corner which was punched clear by keeper Alan Dulleston.

Former Nuneaton player Steve Briscoe had two good attempts stopped by Borough keeper Paul Wilding. The first, a header, was stopped easily; the second was a powerful shot which was going marginally wide anyway. Paul Montgomery followed this with a clear shot at Borough's goal, but he stumbled at the last moment. Timmy Smithers broke clear of the Brakes' defence, but there was no-one to back him up and the chance was lost. Alan Jones went charging into the Borough goalmouth with only Wilding to beat. Bravely, Wilding went in and parried his powerful shot.

Smithers intercepted a crossfield pass by the Brakes' Roy Morton, and found Alan Houlton who sent the ball to Bob Stockley. But Stockley's cross was too deep and the advantage was lost. At this stage little was going right for Borough as they struggled to get their game going. Briscoe was cautioned by referee Robinson for a foul on Smithers in the 36th minute, and in the next minute Dennis Taylor was carried off with a gashed leg.

Ex-Bedworth player Chris Dight fired in a shot which was cleared off the line by Steve Gray. Duncan Gardner sent in a strong volley soon after, blocked by Wilding. The Borough



keeper made his best save of the match just after the re-start. Montgomery crossed to Vincent, whose rocket shot just caught his fingers and went over the bar. Then Tom Gorman had a glorious chance. He raced on to the ball, slipped – and it trickled into Wilding's hands. In the 56th minute, Alan Hoult blasted a shot towards the top left corner of the Leamington net, but Dulleston tipped it away.

Maurice Head was booked in the 64th minute after an incident involving Morton and Briscoe was booked for dissent. And after Stockley had brought down Briscoe, the free-kick was narrowly deflected away. A minute before the end, Borough had the best chance of the night. Following a free-kick, Gallagher headed wide of a gaping goalmouth.

No goals, but an entertaining second half which made up for a more leisurely first-half. And it gave an indication of the new talent which manager Roy Barry hopes will carry Borough through their first season in the Alliance.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 25-08-1979

Wealdstone: Cranstone, S. Pearce, Fursden, Watson, Horgan, Barwick, Wainwright, Moss, Cordice, Johnson, Boyle. **Sub:** D. Pearce.

Borough: Wilding, Stockley, Shotton, Cross, Fallon, Head, Gray, Gallagher, Crawley, Hoult, Smithers. **Sub:** Neale.

Borough made the journey to the Lower Mead ground to face Wealdstone in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough, who had defender Roy Cross sent off in a controversial second half, saw a two goal lead wiped out. They were forced to make a late change – Malcolm Shotton in for Dean Thomas – and roared into a comfortable half-time lead with goals from Maurice Head and Alan Hoult. However, the second half saw a complete turnaround.

Wealdstone's Bobby Moss scored a controversial early goal when he dispossessed goalkeeper Paul Wilding and with the keeper waiting for the referee's whistle, the Wealdstone player followed the ball home. Despite strong protests by half the Nuneaton team, the goal stood. Shortly afterwards Alton referee John Martin sent off Roy Cross for an apparent comment made off the ball.

Wealdstone took advantage of the extra man and almost non-stop pressure was rewarded when defender Seamus Horgan scored from close range. Mr Martin, who also booked Nuneaton's Bob Stockley and Shotton as well as Wealdstone's John Watson, sent off the Wealdstone skipper for a late tackle on Steve Gray.

The first-half saw Nuneaton at their powerful best. After a gentle opening during which Wealdstone forced a couple of early corners, Nuneaton gradually eased into the driving seat and they remained there until the break. The inevitable goal arrived after 21 minutes. A Borough move through the centre was brought to a swift halt when Stuart Pearce, who otherwise had a fine game, felled Ian Crawley just outside the area. Head's powerfully driven free-kick, which picked up the slightest of deflections off Moss, gave Cranstone no chance.

After the hat-trick of bookings Borough made it 2-0 a minute before half-time when a rapid counter attack caught the Stones' defence square and Hoult rifled past Cranstone.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 27-08-1979

Stafford: Edwards, F. Wood, Loska, Sargeant, Seddon, Thomson, Harris, Chapman, A. Wood, Cullerton, Proudlove. **Sub:** Chadwick.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Shotton, Fallon, Head, Gray, Gallagher, Crawley, Hoult, Smithers. **Sub:** Neale.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Bob Lord Trophy first round tie.

Tim Smithers scored a dramatic late winner to book Borough's passage into the second round. The Nuneaton striker notched a superbly-worked 83rd minute goal to give his side a hard-earned victory in a real cup tie of a match. His winner came after Stewart Gallagher had put Borough in the lead early on, only to see his effort cancelled out 25 minutes later.

Borough must be particularly pleased with this victory – they overcame their stiffest task of the season to date. In the end, the Non-League Cup holders were beaten by a well balanced combination of skill and down-to-earth graft. Manager Roy Barry blooded Ken Hall to give the former Atherstone keeper first-team experience. He also switched Malcolm Shotton to the middle of the back four alongside Tom Fallon to make up for the loss of the suspended Roy Cross, sent off at Wealdstone on Saturday.

Nuneaton were on top from the kick-off and asserted their superiority in the best way possible with a goal after just nine minutes. Shotton sprayed a 40-yard pinpoint ball to Alan Hoult lurking in space on the right wing. The Borough striker advanced deep into the Stafford penalty area before unleashing a fierce cross shot which former Nuneaton keeper Reg Edwards did well to parry. The ball ran loose to Crawley whose first time shot hit a defender on the line, but Stewart Gallagher made no mistake from the second rebound hammering the ball home from six yards.

Borough held their own until the final 20 minutes of the first-half when Stafford suddenly took the game by the scruff of the neck. The home team put Nuneaton under a prolonged spell of pressure – and it came good in the 33rd minute when ex-Millwall star Alf Wood hit an equaliser. Nuneaton failed to clear a corner properly and Wood headed goalwards from the clearance. His first effort was blocked on the line, but the ball rebounded straight to his feet and this time he hit a low shot which Hall could only help into the corner of the net.

The sides were back to square one as they came out after the break and their enthusiasm to take the upper hand occasionally boiled over. Stuart Chapman was booked for taking a wild swing at Ian Crawley and the Borough striker was also shown the yellow card for retaliating. And young Dean Thomas, outstanding throughout, was also booked even though referee George Nolan overlooked Chapman's crunching tackle and awarded a free-kick to Nuneaton.

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But Stafford came off worst and the writing was on the wall when Mark Neale, who came on in Crawley's place, forced Edwards into a fingertip save at the foot of an upright with a header from full 15 yards. Borough finally got their well deserved winner in classic style after 83 minutes.

Hoult again made a run down the right leaving three Stafford defenders in his wake, then somehow, turned to send in a low cross. Neale stepped over the ball which ran through to the unmarked Smithers at the far post – the winger shot home with time to spare. Stafford pressed hard but never looked like making any real impression on a solid Borough back four in which Fallon and Thomas belied their youth with fine displays.

Nuneaton now meet Yeovil at Manor Park in the second round of the trophy.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 01-09-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Fallon, Shotton, Gray, Head (Crawley), Hoult, Gallagher, Neale, Smithers.

Kettering: Lane, Ashby, Hughes, Easthall, Suddards, Clarke, Felton, Evans, Phipps, Clayton, Jones. **Sub:** Newman.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League match.

Mark Neale realised a childhood dream when he sparked off an exciting Borough revival, crowning his debut with two goals. It was a fairytale end to a day to remember for the ex-Bedworth United and Atherstone Town striker, whose home is not far from Manor Park.

For a long time it looked as though Borough were heading for their first defeat of the season. It took Nuneaton almost an hour to start playing – and by then they were two goals down. Kettering's attacking pair, Roy Clayton and Peter Phipps along with Graham Felton, exposed flaws in the defence and the Manor Park side were struggling. After 14 minutes the Rockingham Road side went ahead with a goal that was stunning in its simplicity.

Felton, one of the best crossers of the ball in the Alliance, sent over another pinpoint centre and ex-QPR man Nicky Evans rose to head over Ken Hall. Seven minutes later Kettering were two-nil up when Peter Phipps scored with a super effort. He picked up a loose ball and ran 25 yards before slamming a well-placed shot past Hall. For the first time this season Borough were in real trouble and their unbeaten record hung by the slenderest of threads.

But inexplicably Kettering sat back on their lead and went off the boil. Borough, showing a lot of fight and determination, clawed their way back into a match that at one stage looked out of their reach. Alan Hoult, who looks like a fine investment, found more width and started swinging over crosses. From one of them Steve Gray cracked a 52nd minute shot that Frank Lane in the Kettering goal did well to hold. Two minutes later Borough were back in contention.

Neale met a high cross and pushed the ball home and out

of the reach of team-mate Maurice Head who made a late dive. Kettering stormed back and could have easily killed off Borough but for the woodwork – and Ken Hall. Clayton broke through and crashed a shot against the underside of the bar and then a couple of minutes later Hall tipped a Phipps header over the top.



It's that man Neale again. He followed up a Maurice Head shot that had hit the bar and swooped to put Borough on level terms.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The action was intense as Borough searched for an equaliser in front of their biggest crowd for many months. And Neale's dream was complete when he snatched his second goal. Maurice Head's free-kick deflected off the wall, hitting the underside of the bar, but quick as a flash Neale followed up to score. Arms held high, Neale acknowledged the crowd on the terraces – the same terraces he stood on as a boy.

The crowd's disappointment turned to delight as Borough kept their unbeaten record. And it's just the sort of challenge they needed in preparation for two Alliance matches this week – against AP Leamington and Altrincham.

Nuneaton Borough v AP Leamington 03-09-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Fallon, Shotton, Gray (Crawley), Head, Smithers, Hoult, Gallagher, Neale.

Leamington: Dulleston, Dight, Brown, Kilkelly, Montgomery, Taylor, Morton, Rainbow, Bain, Gardner, Briscoe. **Sub:** Starkey.

Borough welcomed AP Leamington to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Leamington keeper Alan Dulleston defied Borough with a series of superb saves. Dulleston dived and stretched to keep out Borough – with the exception of a sparkling first-half goal from Maurice Head. Borough can count themselves very unlucky to have come across Dulleston when he was in such good form as they did enough to deserve both points. They threw everything at the ex-Bilston goalkeeper, including a second half penalty which he saved.

Nine former Atherstone Town players lined up for the match – seven for Borough and two for AP. Four other players who used to be a Sheepy Road – Dave Lewis, Steve Tomkinson, Nigel Drew and Bobby Vincent – were at the match. Ex-Borough favourite Vincent is currently serving a three week suspension at AP. One of the most interesting confrontations in the game was between Borough's Mark Neale and Gary Brown, who had Neale on his playing staff at Atherstone just eight weeks ago.



Neale just had the edge over his former manager and it held the key to Borough's bright performance. He was at the centre of all their best moves and followed up a two-goal debut on Saturday with another impressive performance. Borough and AP played some adventurous end to end football in front of another big crowd. It was a fine match – especially in the first-half – with both teams committed to attack. Borough always looked the more dangerous and the side looks to be growing in confidence as each match passes.

Alan Hoult gave a glimpse of things to come when he shot narrowly wide after a couple of minutes. Neale, always looking to latch on to any defensive mistake, read Tom Kilkelly's clumsy back-pass and crossed but Dulleston saved. Borough were well in command and went ahead after just eight minutes. Skipper Bob Stockley sent over a pinpoint cross. Neale brilliantly flicked the ball on and Maurice Head steered the ball past Dulleston with a glancing header.

But AP hit back and equalised just four minutes later. Duncan Gardner chased a fine through ball from Steve Briscoe and raced past Roy Cross. The AP striker, hunted by many Football League clubs, powered on and swept the ball past Hall. Borough rallied again in an exciting spell – and Dulleston came into his own. Hoult unleashed a shot that the keeper pushed away and as Tim Smithers followed up Dulleston dived bravely to deny him. Borough tried everything to beat the keeper and Hoult hit another 30 yarder that Dulleston pushed over the top.

Towards the end of the first-half, Stewart Gallagher hit an opportunist shot that looked goalbound, but Dulleston reacted quickly. The second half started with a penalty incident after just eight minutes. Ian Crawley, on for the injured Steve Gray, broke through in the penalty area and was bundled over by Brown. The ex-Adders boss was a shade unfortunate, but there was little doubt in the referee's mind.

Gallagher aimed for the bottom right hand corner but Dulleston read his weak shot and gathered the ball easily. Gallagher, who never missed a penalty at Atherstone last season turned away in disgust.

Wilding Fined And Suspended

Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Paul Wilding has been suspended and heavily fined for what manager Roy Barry described as "unprofessional conduct."

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 08-09-1979

Altrincham: Stepney, Allan, Davison, Bailey, Owens, King, Wilson, Heathcote, Johnson, Rogers, Howard. **Sub:** Brookes.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon (Cross), Shotton, Thomas, Gallagher, Head, Hoult, Neale, Crawley.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough were kicked out of this match with Altrincham dishing out some rough treatment. Borough centre-half Tom

Fallon was floored by a punch and needed stitches in a lip wound and most of the Borough players were counting their bruises at the end of the match. But there was only a solitary booking for Altrincham's Jeff Johnson.

Both sides tested each other out early on and Borough keeper Ken Hall almost upstaged Altrincham's crowd pulling capture, Alex Stepney. Hall reacted brilliantly to push a John Rogers shot round the post. The first real indication of Altrincham's tactics came when Johnson took a wild swing at Hall as he came out. The Borough keeper needed treatment, but got up to punch away from two Altrincham players

Altrincham looked the more dangerous side, especially from set pieces and went ahead from a corner on 37 minutes. Graham Heathcote's centre was knocked on by Johnson and Phil Wilson shot home. Borough hit back and Stepney made the one save that made him the toast of Altrincham despite the rest of his game being rather shaky. Mark Neale lunged at the ball in the six yard box but his shot was brilliantly smothered by the former Manchester United keeper.

Borough fought back at the start of the second half and equalised with a goal from Alan Hoult, who has so much to offer. Hoult cracked home a goal that was the highlight of the match. He chased on to a lovely through ball from Neale and before John Owens could challenge him Hoult hooked the ball over the helpless Stepney from 25 yards.

Borough were well on top and had another chance when Stepney fumbled a 30 yard drive from Bob Stockley, but scrambled to recover it as Hoult moved in. Fifteen minutes after Hoult's goal, Altrincham equalised when Heathcote ran on from deep on the left and lifted a through ball over Hall. Then came the incident involving Fallon that incensed the Borough players – and unsettled them.

Altrincham dealt Borough another blow when they went 3-1 up with Rogers flicking home a Davison cross. On reflection the scoreline flattered Altrincham although overall they deserved a victory.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 10-09-1979

Bath City: Bennett, Ryan, Tavener, Brown, Ricketts, Harrison, Wheeler, Bryant, Jenkins, Hayes, Summers. **Sub:** Johns.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Fallon, Shotton, Gallagher, Head, Crawley, Hoult, Neale, Smithers. **Sub:** Cross.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Nuneaton Borough striker Mark Neale shrugged off an ankle injury to head the point saver in last night's match. Neale, who consistently had the beating of Bath's inexperienced centre-half Ricketts, was off the field for several minutes having the ankle strapped early in the game. He returned to the fray after 18 minutes, and a minute before half-time he jumped high to Tim Smithers' cross and back headed the ball into the net.

Bath had gone in front superbly in the 21st minute when

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a move between Wheeler and Summers split the Borough right flank and Jimmy Jenkins had no trouble nodding in Summers' cross. The surprise was that no more goals were scored. For a while Bath had the better chances during a blistering second half, Borough had more than enough opportunities of their own to feel they merited a win.

Alan Hoult could even have made the final 85 minutes academic, because he received and missed two wonderful openings in the first five minutes when the home defence were all at sea. But he fired poorly into the side netting on the first occasion and then had the ball whipped off his toe by goalkeeper Bennett as he sought to make amends. Bennett dropped a clanger, however, when he punched a cross against Maurice Head and he was a lucky man to see the rebound bounce off the top of the crossbar.

But, as an illustration of the speed with which the match ebbed and flowed, Borough could themselves have been left for dead before Neale's equaliser. Ken Hall made magnificent saves from Wheeler's close range header and a strong 25 yard drive from the same player. He made it a glorious treble by blocking a Jenkins pile drive late in the second half.

In a tingling second 45 minutes it was hard to keep count of the "might have beens." Although Bath looked more likely to snatch the winner, their defensive uncertainty led to any number of scares, particularly from set pieces. Borough had Head cautioned following a flare up with Bryant and Stewart Gallagher for time wasting, but their punishments were harsh in a cleanly fought match.

Barry Trims Squad

Roy Barry, with a professional squad of 22, has started to cut his playing staff. Barry has given midfield man Steve Tomkinson a free transfer and utility player Paul Cooper is open to offers.

Manor Park Sale To Go Ahead

Nuneaton Borough Football Club was last night given the go-ahead to buy Manor Park from the council – for £25,000. The ground will be sold to Borough with a covenant that it must remain a sports ground.

Talks have been going on for some time between Nuneaton and the council, who have reconsidered the sale twice. But last night the authority gave permission for the deal to go ahead, on terms agreed by the district valuer.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 15-09-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Head, Gallagher, Smithers, Crawley (Sugrue), Neale, Hoult, Thomas.

Scarborough: Livsey, Wood, Murphy, H. Dunn, Marshall, Donoghue, Abbey, Barratt, Gauden, Sellers, H. A. Dunn. Sub: Harris.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Patience paid off for Borough as they eventually outclassed

Scarborough. They played the waiting game with their Northern rivals and then struck with two goals in seven minutes. And Borough answered manager Roy Barry's half-time call to raise their game. Borough's first goal came just three minutes into the second half and virtually killed off the visitors. Barry and assistant Graham Smith had planned the kill to perfection and two more goals wrapped up the points – and their first win in six weeks.

The first half was a big disappointment. Mistakes littered the opening 45 minutes and neither side could find any real rhythm. Mark Neale made a couple of menacing runs and Scarborough striker Bob Gauden also posed a few problems. The opposing strikers received little support from the teammates and the game dragged, leaving the 1500-plus crowd feeling restless.



Mark Neale races to the crowd after heading Borough into the lead with a powerful header. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Scarborough must have felt they had done enough to contain Nuneaton but after the break Borough sprang into life, and clicked into gear almost immediately – with a brilliant goal from Neale, three minutes into the second half. Ian Crawley laid the ball back to Alan Hoult and from his cross Neale moved between two defenders to head past ex-Nuneaton keeper Gordon Livsey.

Scarborough hit back and the ever-dangerous Gauden, a £1,000 buy from Buxton, saw Ken Hall push his inch perfect header onto the crossbar. It was one of a series of superb saves from Hall who had a fine match. Scarborough, who like Nuneaton had taken a point a game before the match, had temporarily taken control – it lasted just three minutes. After 55 minutes Maurice Head pushed a lovely ball through to quicksilver Tim Smithers, who raced past two defenders to slam the ball home.

Dean Thomas, one of Borough's brightest prospects, made a rare mistake when he handled in the penalty area and Harry A. Dunn scored from the spot kick. But it never looked as though the goal would spark off a revival in Scarborough, who looked a well-beaten side.

Nuneaton were totally in command when Neale scored his second goal of the game – and his fifth in five matches. He ran the ball home after Hoult had flicked on a corner from substitute Paul Sugrue.

Neale was again the hero of the terraces and young fans flocked to congratulate him. But after the match Neale was more content to praise his team mates.

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Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 18-09-1979

Redditch: Walker, Grice, Clark, Casley, Taylor, Arnold, Lolly, Tidmarsh, Wooldridge, Bastable, Dyer. **Sub:** Finglas.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Fallon, Shotton, Head, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale (Campbell), Houlton (Pugh), Smithers.

Borough made the journey to Redditch United to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Eammon Pugh, Borough's most expensive signing, stepped out of the shadows to score the winner against Redditch. Pugh came on as substitute for the injured Mark Neale in the second half and in the 79th minute he was on hand to score his first goal for the club. And it was a face saver for Borough who struggled to impose their superiority on a below strength Redditch side who fought all the way.

Despite a hard pitch which made ball control difficult, both sides showed some lively skills. But Nuneaton, in particular, lacked power up front despite using a total of five strikers. In the opening 15 minutes Redditch showed how much they were missing defender Dave Clements. First Timmy Smithers split the defence with a perfect through ball, but there was no one to cash in on it.

Then keeper Dave Walker was forced to fly kick for safety just outside the area when a long clearance caught the defence square with Alan Houlton in hot pursuit. Having failed to take advantage of their early supremacy, Nuneaton had a narrow escape when a snap shot from Gary Bastable was inches wide with keeper Ken Hall unsighted. Nuneaton should have taken the lead in the 24th minute when a downward header from Mark Neale was brilliantly parried by Walker and Houlton blasted the rebound wide from close range.

Redditch took the lead on the half hour with a splendid goal from Roger Grice. Martin Wooldridge pulled a right wing corner back to the front corner of the penalty area for defender Grice to hit a perfect volley which gave Hall no chance. Malcolm Shotton and Smithers both went close before Borough equalised a minute from half-time. A long through ball from Maurice Head gave Houlton the chance to catch Redditch square again and drive past Walker from just inside the penalty area.

The second half was a more scrappy affair. In the 54th minute Redditch midfielder John Tidmarsh was booked for a tackle on Neale, who was injured in the process. Houlton and Neale were replaced by Pugh and Campbell, which did little to improve matters, even though Pugh grabbed a winner in the 79th minute when Walker failed to gather a shot from Smithers and Pugh was on hand to snap up an easy chance from close range.

Sugrue and Pugh both went close, but in the closing minutes Redditch staged a storming attempt to snatch a draw with Arnold and Tidmarsh both firing in good efforts. Although Borough looked good in defence and midfield, their efforts largely petered out in the penalty area.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 22-09-1979

Boston: Stewart, Simmonite, Leigh, Poplar, Phelan, Thompson, Mallender, Moyes, Brown, Kabia, Callery. **Sub:** Froggatt.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Thomas, Sugrue (Fallon), Head, Smithers, Gallagher, Neale, Houlton.

Borough made the journey to York Street to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Malcolm Shotton whooped with joy as his last gasp penalty earned Borough a just reward. And the popular Geordie defender could hardly conceal his delight. Spot-on Shotton's 90th minute kick levelled the scores to give Borough a point they justly deserved from an all-action match. Trailing 2-1 at half-time they hit back to put relentless pressure on Boston – and then had to wait until the last minute.

Another goalmouth scramble ended with Boston defender Denis Leigh knocking the ball down with his elbow. The referee did well to spot the offence in a crowded goalmouth. It was a storming end to a match with both teams geared to attack. Boston punished two defensive lapses in a first-half that was controlled by the four times Northern Premier League winners.

They went ahead in the eleventh minute when Dave Poplar was allowed to head a Neil Callery centre across the goal and Bob Brown headed past Ken Hall. Nine minutes later Borough rallied and were on level terms when Tim Smithers' cross sailed over the defence and fell to Mark Neale, who hammered his sixth goal in six matches.

But Nuneaton were caught flat footed and fell behind again after 29 minutes. Poplar and Brown combined in the air again and Brown headed home his second goal. After the interval Borough tightened up at the back and fought their way back into the match, inspired by some brilliant wing play from Paul Sugrue. Borough dominated virtually throughout, launching attack after attack to delight a 2,000-plus crowd who appreciated their commitment to attack away from home.

But it looked as though they would have to return in defeat, despite their all action display. Then Shotton stepped up to coolly slot the penalty home to earn Borough a point.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 24-09-1979

Tamworth: Taylor, Barnes, Slack, Lane, Wilson, Atthey, Smith, Langan, Mellor, Franklin, Fallon. **Subs:** Britton and Spinner.

Borough: Wilding, Cooper, Farndon, Collins, Thomas, Watts, Ward, Brewster, Gallagher, Campbell, Sugrue. **Subs:** Pugh and Knowles.

Borough made the journey to Kettlebrook to play Tamworth in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough's youngsters fell foul of a combination once feared by clubs up and down the country. Bobby Mellor and Barry Franklin helped to plot Borough's downfall, who linked up to stun Borough with a goal right on half-time. And it proved to be enough to win a disappointing and often scrappy match.

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Borough, with nine changes from the weekend draw at Boston, lost Eamonn Pugh just before the kick-off when he pulled out with a knee injury. So Paul Farndon was moved into the middle of the back four, where he had one of his best games for the club alongside debut boy Garry Collins.

But Tamworth could never totally dominate Borough despite fielding a virtually full-strength side. And new manager Alan Fogarty, once with Nuneaton, clearly has his work cut out to bring them into shape. But on the night Tamworth's experience just proved to be the telling factor. They created more chances and Paul Wilding had to make a couple of excellent saves from Mellor. Then Barry Franklin, enjoying a new midfield role at Tamworth, found space on the left just before half-time. He knocked the ball across the goal and Mellor, Tamworth's leading scorer this season, stroked the ball under Wilding, who was a bit late getting down.

The stylish Eric Ward and good wing play from Paul Sugrue gave Borough hope in the second half but they created few chances. And the match dragged in the later stages for a small crowd as both sides struggled to make any headway. Ian Crawley chased hard all night but received little support and Tamworth were quite content to kick clear any danger. Tamworth's keeper Garry Taylor was rarely troubled but when he was called in to act he made few errors.

In the last minute of the match Cliff Campbell unleashed a 25 yard shot that Taylor managed to push round the post. But generally it was a night of frustration for the Borough players, especially the younger ones, as Tamworth just had the edge.

a shot that Brian Parker got a hand to, but the shot trickled into the net. After 25 minutes Tim Smithers broke through on the left and was tumbled down by Brian Thompson. Malcolm Shotton slotted home his second successive penalty.

Four minutes later Borough gave Yeovil another lesson in finishing with their third goal in a hectic first-half. And Paul Sugrue could not have dreamed of a better way to score his first goal for Nuneaton. He cut inside two defenders and instead of crossing, slammed a brilliant shot past Parker – a moment to remember for the young winger.



Paul Sugrue crowns a superb performance for Borough with his first goal for the club – a brilliant left foot shot. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 29-09-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Thomas, Sugrue, Head, Smithers, Gallagher, Neale, Houl. **Sub:** Crawley.

Yeovil: Parker, Thompson, Payne, Cottle, Harrison, Broom, Morrell, Cotton, Green, Finnigan, Clancy. **Sub:** Housey.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play a Bob Lord Trophy second round match.

Borough outclassed old rivals Yeovil to reach the quarter-finals of the Alliance Cup. Despite the emphatic scoreline and the side's total dominance, Borough were far from convincing in some aspects of their game and Borough's win had a lot to do with an appalling performance from the Yeovil defence.

The Somerset side looked jaded and disorganised as Borough tore through the defence as though it was soft tissue paper. And it posed questions as to how Yeovil had found themselves in third place in the table. Borough fired a devastating three goal salvo in the first 40 minutes of the match to crush their rivals. Yet the first direct attack saw Ken Hall pull off a great save from Terry Cotton's left-foot drive. But after that Borough were totally in command and piled on the pressure.

Borough went ahead after 16 minutes when Alan Houlst scored his fourth Alliance goal. He cashed in on Jim Harmison's indecision in clearing the ball and moved in to hit

The second half was a big disappointment after the opening 45 minutes. But Yeovil had a rocketing from manager Barry Lloyd and were still smarting. It certainly changed the picture of the match, although Borough kept creating good chances and Mark Neale could have easily had a hat-trick.

But Yeovil kept plugging away and pulled a goal back after 76 minutes. Shotton and Hall collided as they both went for a Jess Payne cross and the ball ran through to Steve Morrell, who poked the ball home. After Borough's first half display the fans can have little cause to complain and their brilliant three goal blast gave another indication of Borough's strength.

Nuneaton Borough v AP Leamington 01-10-1979

Borough: Hall, Cooper, Cross, Shotton, Thomas, Sugrue (Gray), Head (Ward), Smithers, Gallagher, Crawley, Houlst.

Leamington: Dulleston, Houston, Brown, Jones, Montgomery, Kilkelly, Rainbow, Gorman, Starkey (Vincent), Gardner, Briscoe (Bain).

Borough welcomed AP Leamington to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup tie.

Paul Sugrue, Borough's "mighty atom" reaffirmed himself as the new crowd favourite. The tiny 19-year-old enthralled the home fans with his exceptional skills and creativity.

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When he was substituted 12 minutes from time to give Steve Gray vital match practice he earned the biggest cheer of the night. Sugrue, settling into a new midfield role, followed up a super weekend display against Yeovil with another fine performance. And his emergence has certainly hotted up the competition for places in the Borough side.

Nuneaton raced into a two-goal lead inside 25 minutes, then lost their grip on the match as the second-half became a virtual carbon copy of the Yeovil game. But despite Borough going off the boil there was still the performance of Sugrue to enthuse about. Roy Barry was forced to reshuffle his side when skipper Bob Stockley (hamstring) and striker Mark Neale (back) had to miss the game. Paul Cooper, probably making his last appearance for Nuneaton came in at full-back with Ian Crawley up front.

Borough won a succession of free-kicks early on – most of them for fouls on Sugrue. And not surprisingly it was from a set-piece that Borough forced a 12th minute breakthrough. Stewart Gallagher flicked the ball back to Maurice Head whose right foot shot cannoned off the wall back to him and Head fired a left-foot drive past Alan Dulleston. Borough edged forward again and dominated the third meeting between the clubs this season – the previous two ending in draws.

They went further ahead 12 minutes later with a breakaway goal after AP were in possession. A Steve Briscoe corner was knocked out by Head to Alan Hoult who sent a brilliant through ball into the path of Tim Smithers, who found Crawley in space and the striker was pulled down by Mick Rainbow in the penalty area. Malcolm Shotton scored from the spot for the third consecutive match, placing the kick to the left of the keeper.

But after that Borough again lost their rhythm in a lifeless second half. AP came back into the game but created few chances and Ken Hall was rarely troubled. Substitutes Gray and Eric Ward for Borough and Bobby Vincent and Roger Bain for Leamington did not have enough time to leave any impression on the match and it dragged on to a disappointing end. But at least Borough had kept to their winning ways and young Sugrue had strengthened his claim for a regular first-team place.

Barry Trims Squad

Roy Barry has started the careful process of trimming down his large squad. Paul Cooper and Paul Wilding are set to join new clubs, Cliff Campbell has been put on the transfer list at his own request and Gavin Lang could also be on the move.

The first deal expected to go through involves Cooper, who should sign for AP Leamington later this week. Borough and AP agreed terms for the utility player after they met in the Midland Floodlit Cup at Manor Park. Cooper was put on the list when Barry brought five Atherstone Town players to Nuneaton. He has been unable to win a regular place in the side and has made just a couple of appearances in the Floodlit Cup.

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone

06-10-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Thomas, Sugrue, Head, Smithers, Gallagher, Neale (Crawley), Hoult.

Wealdstone: Cranstone, Brannigan, Pearce, Watson, Horgan, Wainwright, Boyle, Moss, Cordid, N. Johnson, C. Johnson. **Sub:** Fursden.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Below par Borough paid a heavy price for complacency and were deservedly beaten. They sat back on a series of promising moves and allowed the visitors back into the match. And it cost them dearly when Wealdstone shattered their unbeaten home record with an own goal from Roy Cross.



Mark Neale makes a desperate attempt to reach the ball, but a Wealdstone defender cleared the danger. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

It was the first really disappointing performance all season from Nuneaton. And the disappointment was further clouded when Saturday's Alliance results showed that Borough would have gone joint top of the league had they won.

Nuneaton's game never flowed and they always struggled to make any impression. One of the faults was that a lot of the players were looking to attempt the difficult in front of goal. Instead of passing they tended to try and beat just one more man and invariably lost possession. Slowly frustration crept in as Borough got bogged down and made little progress. The only real action in the first-half came after a rare Wealdstone attack. Ken Hall made a brilliant one handed save from full-back Dave Pearce, pushing his shot around the post.

Borough went from bad to worse after the break. There was little to enthuse about and slowly Wealdstone took control. They looked more committed and were obviously determined to please reserve team boss Ken Payne, who has taken over in a caretaker role. Borough were sent crashing with a goal out of the blue. Nigel Johnson sent over a high left-wing ball and both Roy Cross and striker Neil Cordice challenged for the ball, but Cross knocked the ball past his own keeper.

Mark Neale, who passed a late fitness test, but never looked fully fit, came off soon after and Ian Crawley left the bench. But he had little time to make any impression and Borough stumbled to an inevitable defeat.



Crowd favourite Paul Sugrue makes another break for Borough as they look for goals against Wealdstone. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

were slowly dragged down to Oldswinford’s level. Their assaults on goal were too calculated and there was a general lack of aggression. Apart from the one goal, the nearest they came to scoring was substitute Ian Crawley’s 70th minute effort that was disallowed.

The biggest disappointment was their inability to break down Oldswinford’s offside trap. The only time Borough looked dangerous came when Malcolm Shotton took the matter into his own hands by hitting a long ball at the defence and running on to it. Borough, with Cliff Campbell replacing the injured Mark Neale in an otherwise full strength side, were soon pinned back by the offside trap and struggled to make any ground. Then goalkeeper Ken Hall needed a heavy strapping on his right ankle after falling awkwardly.

But after 26 minutes Borough got a lucky break when a right wing cross-cum-shot from Paul Sugrue cannoned off full back Tom Byrne and past his own keeper. The goal never lifted Borough and they were short of ideas in breaking down the trap. In fact the only player who really caught the eye in a forgettable match was Oldswinford winger Andy Hutton, who had a tremendous game.

Frustration crept in after the break as Borough were again thwarted in their bid for more goals. But it looked as though they would hang on for an unconvincing victory until a magnificent goal from Oldswinford five minutes from time. Steve Kettle, who is just 16, unleashed a superb left foot shot from 35 yards that swerved around the defence and in off the post to give the visitors a just reward.

The result was further proof that Borough have recently gone off the boil. Second half displays against Yeovil and AP Leamington, and defeat against Wealdstone and last night’s display show a noticeable slip.

Telford v Nuneaton Borough 13-10-1979

Telford: Caswell, Harris, Richards, Clarke, Malcolm, Gavin, Buttress, Hogan, Aulert, Jones, Allcock. **Sub:** Williams.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas (Fallon), Shotton, Cross, Head, Sugrue, Gallagher, Gray, Hoult, Smithers.

Borough made the journey to The Buck’s Head to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough’s Jekyll and Hyde run continued with another 45 minute display. They outplayed struggling Telford after the break, but could not make up for an atrocious first-half. Two early goals – one from former Borough striker Roger Jones – proved too great an obstacle for Nuneaton to overcome, despite a spirited second-half rally.

To be fair, a draw would have been the right result, but Borough were made to pay for their first-half complacency. For the first 15 minutes though, they roared forward with the sort of style that could have had the game wrapped up at half-time. Paul Sugrue hit an upright, Malcolm Shotton headed just over the bar, and Tim Smithers brought a superb

Nuneaton Borough v Oldswinford 09-10-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Thomas, Sugrue, Head, Smithers, Gallagher, Campbell (Crawley), Hoult. **Sub:** Fallon.

Oldswinford: Barnsley, Byrne, Aston, Allcock, Brown, Dale, Hutton, Gibson, Drummond, Pearson, Kettle. **Subs:** Wesson and Pearson.

Borough welcomed Oldswinford to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

No-hopers Oldswinford turned the form book upside down. And now Borough face an unexpected replay after their second below-par performance within three days. They were matched ball for ball by the Brierley Hill side, who lost to Borough’s reserve side a month ago. Borough failed for long periods to break down the resistance of the West Midlands League side in an unimpressive display. And the only time they forced a breakthrough was from an own goal after 26 minutes.

The trouble was that Borough never showed any class and

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one-handed save out of Peter Caswell. But the rest of the half belonged to the Salop outfit. They suddenly took the initiative and Borough failed to respond to the challenge. It paid immediate dividends – and ironically it was the ex-Nuneaton striker Jones who made the first breakthrough.

Borough had only themselves to blame. They were caught unawares by a quickly taken free-kick by left back Archie Richards. The ball found Eddie Hogan lurking on the right flank. Hogan took it to the byline and sent over a teasing cross which caught Ken Hall at the near post and Jones leapt to head his side into the lead. The goal did not spark any sort of comeback from Nuneaton. Instead they looked totally demoralised and Telford's second goal in the 26th minute always looked on the cards.

It came when Dean Thomas was booked for a foul. From Alan Harris' lofted free-kick, skipper Ken Malcolm rose to head home. Telford were still sweeping forward and Borough had no answer to their attacks. Only heroic work from Malcolm Shotton at the heart of Nuneaton's back four stopped their opponents from going further ahead. But even he was powerless when Chris Aulert swept the ball into the net from close range. Luckily, it was disallowed – it would have been the final nail in the coffin.

Borough moved an extra man into attack to play a 4-2-4 formation in the second half, and it almost paid off. But it wasn't just the tactical switch which made them look such a different side – they played with an applied determination which was nowhere to be seen during the first 45 minutes. Alan Hoult fired inches wide, and Stewart Gallagher scooped the ball over when it seemed easier to score. It finally came right in the 68th minute when Hoult was clearly pushed inside the box. Shotton sent Caswell the wrong way to notch his fourth goal of the season, all of them from penalties.

But, try as they might, Nuneaton couldn't get the elusive equaliser although skipper Bob Stockley came agonisingly close twice in the closing seconds. Borough deserved a point from this exciting tussle, but only on their second half display.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow

20-10-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Smithers, Shotton, Cross, Head, Sugrue (Pugh), Gray, Neale, Crawley, Hoult.

Barrow: K. Thomas, Richmond, Whittle, R. Thomas, McDonald, Gerrard, Taylor, Eatough, Cowperthwaite, Busby, Worswick. Sub: Skivington.

Borough welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Debut boy Eamonn Pugh spared Borough's blushes to spark a brilliant second-half display. Then, to cap it all, he scored a late goal to make his Alliance League debut even more memorable. But the picture looked much bleaker before the break as struggling Barrow embarrassed Nuneaton with a spirited performance which belied their league position.

The Northerners, without a goal in their last four Alliance

games, dominated a jaded Borough side and should have been two goals up at half-time. Only poor finishing prevented them from taking the lead, but their approach work far outstripped Nuneaton's kick and run build-ups.

That was until Roy Barry sent out his players for the second half – and then brought on Pugh in the 61st minute. Admittedly, Nuneaton were already a goal up through Ian Crawley, but they still looked vulnerable and the visitors were threatening to end their goal drought. Then Pugh came on and took the game by the scruff of the neck, wreaking havoc in the Barrow defence.



A Barrow defender makes a vain attempt to clear but Malcolm Shotton (not in picture) is already celebrating. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Once again Nuneaton were atrocious for the first 45 minutes, frequently being subjected to long spells of pressure from their mediocre opponents. Borough's midfield trio lacked imagination and only Sugrue looked remotely capable of creating an opening. Their front runners got no change out of Barrow's back four and Nuneaton's own defence were all too often exposed. Even Ken Hall was uncharacteristically shaky.

They picked up slightly after the break and were rewarded with a streaky goal from Ian Crawley in the 52nd minute. Crawley sent in a close-range header from a Sugrue cross and the ball went straight through Barrow keeper Kevin Thomas' legs. Nine minutes later, Pugh took the field to boos from the crowd, surprised that Sugrue was being replaced. But their jeers soon turned to cheers when Pugh came within inches of a sensational goal with only his second touch of the ball.

He rose a foot above the Barrow defence to power in a header which Thomas leapt backwards to tip over the bar. From the corner, Neale's effort was blocked on the line by Maurice Whittle, but Shotton ran in to nod Borough's second goal and take his personal Alliance League tally to five. Pugh's debut came to a fairytale finale a minute from time when he fired home a 20-yard angled drive which deceived Thomas at the near post. It crowned a fine second half display from Borough who, in the end, deserved their three goal victory.

Sammels Rejoins Borough

Jon Sammels, the former Arsenal and Leicester City midfielder man, has rejoined Borough. Sammels, who has just completed a highly successful season in America where his side Vancouver White Caps have lifted the North American

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championship, has been having talks with the Manor Park club in the past week. And terms have been agreed with the player, who should make his debut for the first team at Bangor next Saturday.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 23-10-1979

Borough: Hall (Dale), Stockley, Shotton, Farndon, Smithers, Head (Campbell), Sugrue, Gray, Neale, Pugh, Crawley.

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Unpredictable Borough finally wore down battling Hinckley with another 45 minute display. Second half goals from Mark Neale, Eamonn Pugh and Tim Smithers gave them their second away win in the competition. But Hinckley fought hard and were never totally overshadowed by their opponents.

Borough were forced into a late change, bringing in Paul Farndon for Roy Cross, who has a virus infection. Roger Balac, once at Nuneaton, along with team-mate Chris Chinn, made his Hinckley debut. Yet again, Borough slipped into the habit of playing below par in the first-half and created little. Only Pugh seemed to realise the situation and his 24th minute shot that clipped the post was the highlight of the half. Although Borough were yet to click it was far from being a drab match.

The home fans held their breath when Robin Rogers hooked a Steve Gray shot off the line after a superb run from Pugh. The two moves from Pugh and a good run from Malcolm Shotton were the only outstanding pieces of action in the half. But the crowd did see an early casualty, referee Brian Hill pulled a muscle and was replaced by a linesman.

After the break Borough's Ken Hall gave way to teenage keeper Steve Dale and Cliff Campbell came on for the injured Maurice Head. Nuneaton opened up and were in front within three minutes of the re-start. Bob Stockley sent over a free kick from the right and both Neale and Mick Martin challenged for the ball but Neale rose well to head over the keeper. Dale made an important save minutes later, which must have given him confidence. He did well to hold a low effort from Warren Lewis.

After 61 minutes, Pugh struck again. He had the relatively simple task of firing home from five yards after a superb run from Campbell ended with the substitute unleashing a shot that Martin could only push as far as Pugh. Four minutes later Nuneaton were 3-0 up and well in command. Neale controlled a Stockley long throw, turned inside and his shot shaved the post and was cleared. But it fell into the path of Smithers, who scored with a blockbuster shot from 30 yards.

Hinckley never gave up and two minutes later pulled a goal back. Lewis turned and crossed from the tightest of angles and Ken Raynor swept the ball home – and immediately headed for the bench as Robins sent on Barrie Hughes. Hinckley were reduced to 10 men when Jeff Dodsworth was stretchered off with suspected ligament trouble.

Sammels Contract Problems

Jon Sammels will have to wait another two weeks to make his Nuneaton Borough return. Contract problems with his American club have ruled Sammels out of tomorrow's Alliance trip to Bangor City. And he needed to play in the match to be eligible for next weekend's crucial FA Cup tie at Boston United.

Bangor v Nuneaton Borough 27-10-1979

Bangor: Charlton, Murphy, Lunn, King, Walker, Smith, Barnett, Jones, Owen, Broadhead, Olney. Sub: Barnes.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Shotton, Fallon, Smithers, Sugrue, Gray, Hoult, Gallagher, Pugh (Crawley), Neale.

Borough made the journey to Bangor to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough returned home from North Wales empty handed after putting in one of their worst performances of the season. Manager Roy Barry was furious and threatened changes, saying that the team was not good enough and needed strengthening. The defeat, Borough's fourth in the Alliance League means Borough have lost ground in the tight race for honours.

Borough lost the match in midfield where they never got a grip. With two recognised strikers, Paul Sugrue and Alan Hoult playing there, Borough had little chance of making an impression as they are both inexperienced in that department. Yet it was Borough who carved out a couple of early chances and both fell to Eamonn Pugh. From the first effort he fired over from point blank range after a corner dropped almost on the goal line.

And then, Borough's most expensive signing just failed to get his foot to a clumsy back pass from Clive Jones. But these were two rare breakaways as Bangor dominated most of the match. Pugh was taken off in the second half. Bangor slipped into a higher gear after the break and bombarded the Borough goal in the second half. After 55 minutes Malcolm Shotton had to hook away a shot from Tony Broadhead after a goalmouth scramble when Steve Gray knocked the ball back into his own area. But two minutes later Bangor went ahead through top scorer Jim Smith.

The former Welsh youth international was given too much room and pushed the ball to the edge of the box before scoring with a low, left foot drive. Chances were few and far between up until then, but Bangor were now looking for more goals. Borough's defence was superb in keeping them out and emerged with credit from an otherwise out of sorts display.

Malcolm Shotton was particularly outstanding at the heart of defence. And Tim Smithers, the only survivor from the Borough side who lost in an FA Trophy replay at Bangor two years ago, was also superb at left back. Smithers again proved what a valuable asset to the Borough side he is, wherever he plays.

Nuneaton Borough v Luton Town 29-10-1979

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Shotton, Fallon, Smithers, Stockley, Gray, Sugrue, Pugh (Campbell), Gallagher, Hoult. **Sub:** S. Dale.

Luton: Findlay (Walker), Stephens, Donaghy, Madden, Saxby, Price, Hill, Pearson, Stein, Bunn (Marriott), Moss.

Borough welcomed Luton Town to Manor Park to play a testimonial game in recognition of Stan Marshall's service to the club.

Borough did Stan Marshall proud on his testimonial night with a sparkling performance against the Second Division leaders. It was Kirk Stephens, helped by Marshall to a Football League career, who denied his old club a late equaliser. A cross from Stewart Gallagher two minutes from time split the Luton defence and Alan Hoult's fierce drive looked goalbound. But somehow Stephens managed to hook the ball off the line with goalkeeper Walker beaten.

Luton were at full strength with the exception of the injured Bob Hatton, yet Nuneaton matched them ball for ball. It was a fast flowing game, packed with action and just the sort of match to highlight Marshall's big night. Borough strung together a series of early moves and went ahead on the half-hour. Paul Sugrue beat four defenders with a breathtaking run and slipped the ball through to Gallagher who kept his head and planted a superb shot past former Aston Villa goalkeeper Jake Findlay.

Borough were well on top throughout the first half and showed the sort of form they never looked like producing at Bangor. Crosses from both wings caused Luton problems and it was anything but a formality for the First Division candidates. They only threatened once in the first half and Ken Hall made a fine fingertip save from Andy Pearson.

After the break Borough again showed plenty of confidence and kept the pressure on. Steve Gray had one of his best games for Borough in midfield and carved out a great chance for Gallagher. He anticipated well to intercept a Luton through ball and push it forward to Gallagher whose shot was well saved by Findlay. Hoult blazed over after a poor back pass as Borough looked for more goals.

On the hour Luton finally started to get into the game and their extra fitness began to tell. They produced a couple of threatening moves and equalised after 68 minutes. Brian Stein rose almost unchallenged to knock a powerful header past Ken Hall.

Luton manager David Pleat sent on Walker for Findlay and the substitute keeper immediately saved from Gallagher, who had a fine game. But the Kenilworth Road side rallied again and went ahead with a classic piece of finishing. Pearson chased on to a through ball and quick as a flash, sent it past Hall. Borough never gave up and but for Stephens would have earned a worthy draw. Both teams were applauded off the field.



Players from Nuneaton Borough and Luton Town salute Stan Marshall. More than a thousand people came through the turnstiles to pay tribute to him.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Crawley Joins Bedworth

Nuneaton Borough striker Ian Crawley has joined Bedworth United for a small fee. And his new manager, Len Harris, said today: "He could be the player to start getting us goals." Bedworth have had a lean time in front of goal and are still to score in a league match at home.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 10-11-1979

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Fallon, Cross, Smithers, Stockley, Gray, Sugrue, Gallagher, Campbell (Pugh), Hoult.

Yeovil: Parker, Cottle, Payne, Jones, Harmison, Broom, Morrell, Turner, Green, Finnigan, Housley. **Sub:** Williams.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Tiny terror Paul Sugrue wrecked Yeovil with his first goals in the Alliance. Sugrue netted two superb efforts as Borough clinically took Yeovil apart in half an hour. Borough looked a class above Yeovil from the kick-off. And the visitors' leaden footed defence was soon in trouble. Alan Hoult's narrow miss after two minutes was an indication of what was to follow. Five minutes later Nuneaton went ahead as Yeovil started to crack.



Stewart Gallagher raises his arm to celebrate his first league goal for Borough and the perfect platform for their emphatic win over Yeovil.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Skipper Bob Stockley split the Yeovil defence with a fine through ball and Stewart Gallagher fired in a right-foot shot which bobbled past keeper Brian Parker. It was Gallagher's first goal in the league – and he really deserved it. In the past few

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weeks he had had to play in different roles to the out and out front-runner he was at Coventry Sporting and Atherstone.

Then Sugrue started to turn on the style with some tricky runs – but not before he rescued his side at the other end. He was in the right position to hook an effort from Jimmy Harmison off the line in a rare attack from the visitors. Sugrue chased forward again and his skills in a confined space had Yeovil all at sea.

After 16 minutes he raced past a couple of defenders and thumped the ball past Parker from all of 25 yards. Yeovil managed another attack to ease the pressure slightly and Ken Hall made a fine save from Turner's close range shot. Borough continued their hunt for goals and back in favour Cliff Campbell broke through on the right but his shot was blocked.

Sugrue exposed Yeovil again on the half-hour with a carbon copy goal – another crisp right footer, this time from 20 yards. Three up in half an hour, Borough threatened to run riot and chalk up a hatful of goals. They launched more attacks as snow and sleet started to fall but they were never as decisive.

After the break Borough created fewer chances although they were still playing some very attractive football. Sugrue was still causing problems and that was emphasised when Trevor Finnigan was booked for bundling him off the ball. Yeovil lost defender Glynn Broom for a time when he needed treatment for a nasty head wound. But he returned to help Yeovil hold out as the half unfortunately dragged to an anti-climax after such a good first 45 minutes.

Sugrue's contribution was outstanding but there were other fine performances. Paul Farndon had another good game at right back, and Stockley was involved in a lot of the midfield action. Cliff Campbell was brought off by manager Roy Barry who sent on Eamonn Pugh, who looked to make another quick impression, but it was not to be.

Although Borough could not quite repeat their form in the second half the way they took Yeovil apart in the first half was an indication of things to come.

Nuneaton Borough v Oldswinford 14-11-1979

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Shotton, Fallon, Smithers, Stockley, Gray, Sugrue, Gallagher (Campbell), Pugh (Neale), Hoult.

Oldswinford: Barnsley, Aston, Pearson, Bradley, Brown, Gibson, Morris, Drummond, Hutton, McDermott, Dale. Subs: Kettle and Wesson.

Borough welcomed Oldswinford to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round replay.

Few people could have imagined seeing twelve goals after a 1-1 stalemate in the first meeting of the two sides. But Borough finally outlined their superiority with a hat-trick from Stewart Gallagher, his first for the club, two goals from Eamonn Pugh and efforts from Paul Sugrue and substitutes Mark Neale and Cliff Campbell.

But after it all, Oldswinford, despite the scoreline, earned the respect of the crowd and did the West Midlands League

proud. All of the goals were superbly taken and as both defences had off days it was entertainment all the way. As early as the third minute Borough had a scare when Brendan Drummond forced Ken Hall into a superb save after a poor back pass by Tom Fallon.

Minutes later the visitors went ahead. Andy Morris ran on to a superb through ball by Drummond and slipped the ball home. Gallagher shot wide after a strong challenge by Pugh on keeper Barnsley and then Alan Hoult fired over from Sugrue's great run and pass. It took until the 36th minute for Borough to level the scores – and it was a beautifully worked move.

Gallagher found Bob Stockley who fed the ball to Hoult and from his cross Pugh slid the ball into the net. After 40 minutes Pugh flicked the ball on to the bar after Gallagher had knocked on a Hoult corner. Oldswinford lost centre-half Keith Brown through injury and Borough cashed in immediately to take a 2-1 lead. A poor back pass from Andy Hutton fell just right for Gallagher, who easily struck the ball home.

Oldswinford hit back and equalised right on half-time with a tremendous goal. Drummond ran with the ball and again found Morris with a magnificent pass and he slotted in his second goal. Two-two at half-time and what a second half it turned out to be with eight more goals.

After 55 minutes Pugh notched his second, heading in Stockley's inch-perfect chip to the far post. Five minutes later another goal for Borough – Gallagher diving bravely to steer home Hoult's corner. Pugh, still looking for his hat-trick, was replaced by Mark Neale.

At 4-2 down with 20 minutes to go, Oldswinford still managed to stun Borough with another goal when Drummond swung round on the edge of the area to beat Hall with a fine shot. Straight from the re-start Neale knocked down a Farndon cross and Sugrue rammed the ball home. The goal rush went on and Borough made it six when Jim Dale mistimed a back header and substitute Neale slipped it past the keeper.

It was an amazing four goals in three minutes when Gallagher completed his hat-trick, tapping home Hoult's shot to give Borough a 7-3 lead. Borough's substitutes combined well for goal number eight. Campbell converting a fine cross from Neale. Oldswinford launched another attack and scored their fourth when substitute Steve Kettle beat Hall from close in.

Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 17-11-1979

Maidstone: Guy, Kinnear, Edwards, Hill, Hutton, Knight, Fusco, Wiltshire, Woon, Aitken, Daubney. Sub: Mitchell.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Fallon, Cross, Smithers, Sammels, Stockley, Gallagher, Pugh, Hoult, Sugrue (Neale).

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Stylish Jon Sammels made a memorable return to the Borough side with a superb equaliser just three minutes from the end of a fine Alliance match. Sammels made a major

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contribution in Borough gaining a deserved draw. He was at the centre of Borough's attacking build-ups and crowned his debut with a superb goal.

Borough started cautiously, forcing just a couple of early breaks. But slowly a bold move to play four strikers paid off as Borough started to take control. And they were involved in a highly controversial incident that cost them an early lead. Eamonn Pugh challenged Dickie Guy to a high cross which the keeper dropped and Pugh knocked the ball into the net. But Harrow referee Colin White penalised Pugh for a foul on the former Wimbledon keeper.

Guy dropped a lot of crosses throughout the match, but his side covered him well. Maidstone were playing some good football, especially midfield men Graham Knight and John Daubney, and the home side took the lead four minutes into the second half with a shock goal. Borough skipper Bob Stockley fouled one of his former Wimbledon team mates, Glenn Aitken, after he broke through. Aitken got up to swerve a wicked shot past the Borough defensive wall and inside the near post.

Goalkeeper Ken Hall made a vain attempt to stop the effort, but could only help it into the net. The goal was a big setback to Nuneaton, but they rallied well and Pugh was controversially penalised again after another challenge on Guy that saw the ball run loose to Stockley, who tapped the ball into the net. Borough, despite their dominance, were having no luck, and it looked as if they were going to return home pointless.

Then Sammels, who along with Stockley did really well against Maidstone's midfield three, stepped up to follow up his own attacking move. He floated a superb ball down the right hand side for Paul Farndon to send over and the ball was headed away by Kenny Hill. But Sammels stayed forward and unleashed a superb drive from at least 20 yards past Guy.

It was a sweet moment for Farndon, who has yet to appear on a losing side since coming into the Borough side at Boston United at the start of the month. Borough have now stretched an unbeaten record in any competition to five matches, yet dropped down the table to tenth place.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 20-11-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Smithers, Gray, Sammels (Gallagher), Sugrue, Houlte, Neale, Campbell, Lang (Pugh).

Grantham: Gardiner, Collins, Jarvis, Chamberlain, Jackson, Taylor, Lumb, Hodson, Shore, Jentas, Wood. **Subs:** Shaw and Hailwood.

Borough welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough cruised to their sixth successive win in all competitions last night – but at a cost. Striker Mark Neale left the field with a nasty leg injury that reduced Borough to ten men and Gavin Lang's surprise return was cut short at half-time. Another victim was Jon Sammels, whose home debut lasted a disappointing 31 minutes before he pulled a muscle.

But, of course, it is Neale's injury that is causing the most concern as Lang and Sammels are not in the reckoning for the weekend FA Cup tie with Northwich Victoria.

Borough collected more Midland Floodlit Cup points in an easy stroll again Northern Premier League Grantham, who were never in contention as Borough took command against little resistance. Cliff Campbell proved to be the surprise package in the first-half and looked determined to impress manager Roy Barry as he ponders on his forward line for the cup tie. Campbell had a fine match before being forced back into midfield and crowned it with Borough's opener.

After ten minutes he rose magnificently to Alan Houlte's corner and sent a rocket of a header past Chris Gardiner. Thirteen minutes later Mark Neale made it 2-0 with a close range shot from Houlte's cross. It was a just reward for Neale who a minute earlier had watched his looping shot pushed over by Gardiner, who despite the scoreline made a handful of fine saves. But he had no chance with Borough's third – a great shot from Paul Sugrue after some fine work by Steve Gray.

After Stewart Gallagher had hit the bar with a cracking shot, Borough lost their impetus in the second half and scored just once more. Gray slotted home an 80th minute drive from a half clearance. It was just a pity the fine performance was overshadowed by the injuries, especially to Neale, with the FA Cup match just five days away.

Players Disciplined

Two Nuneaton Borough players have been disciplined by the club for a "breach of contract". Defenders Malcolm Shotton and Dean Thomas are now suspended for two weeks from yesterday and have been heavily fined. But manager Roy Barry would not give any explanation of the action and did not make any other comment.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 01-12-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Gray, Sammels, Sugrue, Gallagher, Campbell, Crawley. **Sub:** Cross.

Altrincham: Stepney, Allen, Crossley, Bailey, Owens, Barrow, Heathcote, Whitbread, Johnson, Rogers, Howard. **Sub:** Brook.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough surprised league leaders Altrincham with a vastly improved display. Steve Gray sparked off the Nuneaton revival with an early goal and Stewart Gallagher put the issue beyond doubt seven minutes from the end.

Back to form Borough brushed aside the disastrous FA Cup defeat at Northwich and hit back to the delight of their fans. And it is hard to believe it was virtually the same side which had gone off the rails in the First Round replay. Confidence surged back as Borough deservedly collected both points – an important step in their bid for honours. They now move into seventh place and a win against Weymouth would put them among the title challengers.

Borough were never unsettled by Altrincham's roughneck tactics – a feature of their 3-1 win against Nuneaton earlier in the season. The Manor Park side would not be intimidated and charged to an impressive victory. Frustrated Altrincham had five players booked and full-back Ivan Crossley was lucky not to be sent off.



Steve Gray (partly concealed by the post) cracks home Borough's opening goal against league leaders Altrincham.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The match brought together two former First Division stars and their performances proved to be telling factors in the Borough win. Jon Sammels, on his home Alliance debut, masterminded the majority of Nuneaton's attacks, especially in the second half while Altrincham keeper Alex Stepney had a shaky match and must share part of the blame for both goals. Sammels carved out a couple of early chances for his team mates with long through balls.

He found Gray with a searching ball and his pass reached Alan Hoult whose low cross was fumbled away by Stepney. But from the corner Borough went ahead. Stepney never ventured off his line for the kick taken by Paul Sugrue and after a shot by Hoult was cleared off the line Gray followed up to score.

Altrincham defender Malcolm Bailey was the first player to go into Leicester referee Jeff Sewell's book and straight afterwards Borough almost went 2-0 up. Skipper Bob Stockley sent over a super cross and Cliff Campbell headed just wide. The big striker had another chance towards the end when he edged a shot just wide of the post with only Stepney to beat.

But these two opportunities apart, Campbell did well in his first full league game for some time. He won a lot of possession, taking the pressure off Gallagher, who continually tested the Altrincham defence.

After Borough's first goal Altrincham rallied for a short while and Ken Hall made a fine save from John Rogers. But Rogers, with eleven goals in the Alliance this season, rarely got a look in as Borough's back four dominated with Malcolm Shotton magnificent and easily the man of the match. A fierce free-

kick from Graham Heathcote heralded the start of the second half and Hall made another fine save.

The visitors kept up the pressure and Borough managed to hook away a couple of efforts, one from off the line by Gallagher. But Borough held firm frustrating Altrincham who then had Crossley, Rogers, Heathcote and Whitbread cautioned. Tom Fallon was also booked.

Nuneaton stormed back and Gallagher settled the match with a fine piece of finishing. He evaded a couple of tackles and reached Hoult's cross to prod the ball home. Borough were mobbed by young fans at the end of the game to crown their deserved win. And overall they could have scored even more after virtually dominating all of the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 03-12-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Smithers, Gray, Head, Ward, Gallagher, Campbell (Thomas), Hoult.

Bedworth: Robinson, Halton (O'Neill), Moore, Ashley, Upton, Evans, Harris, Sullivan, Conway, Crawley, Scoular. Sub: McCarthy.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Tim Smithers spared Borough's blushes with a late equaliser. Smithers, who performs consistently wherever he plays, struck six minutes from time. And the decision to push him forward after Maurice Head limped off, paid dividends. Smithers has played in defence, midfield and up front this season and always featured. Often overshadowed by his team mates, he has made a new left-back role his own. But last night he remembered his attacking skills to grab Borough's point saver.

The goal itself was controversial and Bedworth complained bitterly. They claimed that Stewart Gallagher knocked the ball into the path of Smithers with his hand, but although the ball came into contact with Gallagher's hand, it did not look intentional. As it stood the referee did not see the incident and waved away the protests. It was a sad blow to Bedworth who had done enough to win the match.

They battled hard throughout with non-stop running and bags of determination. As Borough struggled to find their form Bedworth kept the pressure on inspired by a fine performance from player-manager Len Harris. The Oval side stunned Borough with a goal after just two minutes.

Goalkeeper Ken Hall dropped Harris' deep cross. Ian Crawley knocked it back in and tiny midfielder man Lee Sullivan hit the ball home. Bedworth kept up the pressure on shell-shocked Borough and Alan Ashley fired narrowly over from a Liam Halton cross after a Harris free-kick had been blocked.

Bedworth were by far the more inventive side in the early stages but suffered a setback when Halton was forced off through injury and they had to re-shuffle. Immediately Borough carved out their only real chance of the first-half and a glancing header from Steve Gray went just wide.

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Bedworth regained their composure and Crawley, back at the club he left just a few weeks ago, saw a shot cleared off the line by Malcolm Shotton. Nuneaton had just one more chance before half-time when Brian Robinson made a magnificent save from Gray's dipping effort. But the half belonged to Bedworth as Borough never recovered from the early shock.

The second half never got going with neither side showing much idea up front. And a bit of needle crept in as tempers bubbled and boiled. Referee John Kyte let a lot of bad tackles go by, which frustrated the players and it developed into a niggling affair. But no-one was booked as the referee tried to keep the match flowing – a surprise considering some of the fouls that were committed.

Bedworth kept Borough out and even the arrival of Paul Sugrue could do little to lift the depression. And Bedworth looked to be heading for victory when Smithers struck. Skipper Bob Stockley sent in a free-kick and it was knocked on by Gallagher and Smithers turned to score Borough's 84th minute equaliser.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 08-12-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Gray, Sammels, Sugrue (Campbell), Gallagher, Pugh, Hoult.

Weymouth: Chalk, Lawrence, Byrne, Arnold, Iannone, Dyer, McCafferty, Paterson, Robers, Dove, Johnson. Sub: Courtney.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough suffered their fifth league defeat of the season – their second at Manor Park – which saw them lose further ground on the leading pack and they are now eleven points behind leaders Altrincham at the half-way stage. But the most disappointing thing about this latest defeat, was that Borough should have won, but having drawn level, they let Weymouth off the hook and paid the ultimate price.

The match started evenly and both goalkeepers made good saves early on. A good chance fell to Weymouth striker Graham Roberts, who met a well-flighted free-kick from Kevin Dove but he put his shot over the bar. Peter Johnson's cross put Borough in deep trouble and Weymouth opened their account. Borough could not get the ball away and after Iannone swung and missed, Tom Paterson, the leading scorer in the Alliance with 14 goals, prodded the ball home.

Borough started to make ground after the setback, inspired by Paul Sugrue and Jon Sammels. Sugrue had a tremendous match running at the defence from midfield and tangling Weymouth up with his clever skills, but was eventually hacked down time after time and no-one could take advantage of the winger's good work.

Sammels, the most controlled and stylish player on the field, commanded the Borough midfield with thoughtful passing and running off the ball. After 31 minutes he sent a magnificent ball through to Alan Hoult, who put the ball past

keeper Steve Chalk as he came out. Borough were back in the match and should have buried Weymouth, who suddenly looked a tired side.

Despite the performances of Sammels and Sugrue they could not press home their advantage. They had some cruel luck when Eamonn Pugh was harshly penalised for a foul after rising superbly to a Sammels cross and heading home.

After the break Sugrue and Steve Gray both fired over the crossbar after good moves, but Weymouth, fully aware that they had been let off the hook, brought players back in numbers to keep Borough out. They gave up any thought of attacking and were treated to a bout of slow handclapping from the crowd. Borough could find no way through and after a bright start, the match faded away. Few chances were created apart from when Sugrue ran at the defence.

On one run Graham Roberts was booked as Sugrue again took an excessive amount of stick from the opposition. Two other players were cautioned – Weymouth's Jim McCafferty and Borough skipper Bob Stockley. Borough then attacked with more vigour, but just when they looked likely to score, Iannone struck.

He picked up a short pass and unleashed a fierce shot past Ken Hall from at least 30 yards. It was a real stunner and Borough sent on Cliff Campbell for Sugrue, who had run himself into the ground. But Weymouth hung on and now boast the best away record in the Alliance with 14 points from 10 away matches.

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 10-12-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Gray, Sammels, Sugrue, Gallagher, Pugh (Campbell 84), Hoult.

Barnet: Blackwell, Hullett, Oliver, Millett, Pearce, Robinson, O'Hare (Fry), Smith, Brinkman, Turner, French.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Bob Lord Trophy quarter-final tie.

Borough squandered a two goal lead and now face a tricky replay in North London. It could have been worse and Borough can count themselves lucky to still be in the competition for once Barnet had equalised they created some excellent chances and Borough came close to defeat.

Torrential rain an hour before kick-off transformed the pitch into a swamp. Jets of water spurted up as the ball travelled across the surface and both sides struggled to come to terms with the conditions. But Borough had Barnet in trouble after just ten minutes. Alan Hoult met a Jon Sammels through ball and his shot was pushed on to the post and scrambled away by Barnet keeper Kevin Blackwell.

Two minutes later Borough went ahead as their pressure paid off. Stewart Gallagher controlled the ball well in a crowded penalty area and found Hoult on the right, who crossed and Eamonn Pugh knocked in his eleventh goal of the season.

After 30 minutes, Paul Sugrue charged through the mud and

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Blackwell made a brave save at the expense of a corner. From Hoult's near post corner, Gallagher beat Blackwell to the ball and flicked a header into the net. But Borough went off the boil and allowed Barnet to hit back. The North Londoners started to knock the ball around far more positively than Borough and were stretching the home defence. They pulled a goal back after 36 minutes through star player Steve Turner, who was watched by a handful of Football League managers, including Birmingham City boss Jim Smith.

Barnet won a free-kick and Turner's direct shot took a deflection off Steve Gray and flew into the corner of the net. Three minutes later Turner created another chance for Barnet, who were now well on top. He knocked the ball through to Steve Robinson but he delayed and Ken Hall dived at his feet to block. Barnet manager Barry Fry came on for the injured Tony O'Hare.

Borough completely lost their grip in the second half and Barnet continued to push forward. They had a great chance to draw level, but were again denied by Ken Hall. Gary French crossed to Steve Brinkman who chested the ball down and his shot was finger tipped away for a corner by the Borough keeper. Borough recovered for a short while and both Sugrue and skipper Bob Stockley had strong penalty appeals refused.

Borough should have gone ahead when Blackwell push a goal kick straight to Hoult, but the Borough striker delayed and Blackwell saved. Two Barnet players – Chris Hullett and Brinkman – were booked for fouls on Sugrue as Borough enjoyed a brief spell of pressure. But they never came anywhere near their early first half form and Barnet were soon in charge again, inspired by the superb Turner.

The inevitable happened after 75 minutes when Brinkman crossed and Robinson knocked the ball down to Turner who struck home his second goal. Cliff Campbell was again sent on towards the end of the match, but Borough had been completely snuffed out by the Barnet defence.

Dale Set To Sign Contract

Striker Garety Dale has settled his differences with Nuneaton Borough, and he is on the verge of signing a new contract with the club. It could be cleared in time for Dale to play for Borough Reserves on Saturday.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough 18-12-1979

Barnet: Blackwell, Hullett, Pearce, Foody, Oliver, Sperrin, Brinkman, Smith (Siani), Robinson, Turner, French.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Sugrue (Pugh), Gray, Sammels, Gallagher, Neale, Dale.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Bob Lord Trophy quarter final replay.

A disputed extra time penalty was enough to put Borough out of the Bob Lord Trophy. The match was heading towards another replay when Steve Brinkman turned into the penalty area and as Stewart Gallagher challenged, he stumbled to

the ground. Borough protested when referee John Martin pointed to the spot, but their appeals were waved away and Steve Turner planted the ball to the right of Ken Hall.

It was certainly an undistinguished end to Borough's hopes, but Borough should have buried Barnet. It was a more evenly balanced tie than the first game, but Borough always had the edge. They created some excellent chances and should have booked their place in the semi-finals.

The game was played in appalling conditions after heavy rain fell all day transforming the pitch into a quagmire. Borough made a bold gamble in bringing in Gareth Dale for his first match of the season in place of Alan Hoult, Mark Neale returned after injury with Eamonn Pugh as substitute. Dale emerged with a lot of credit as he could not have had a more demanding return than playing in a 120 minute grueller.

Borough made a superb start and took the lead after just six minutes. A Paul Sugrue corner was knocked away, Gallagher found Mark Neale and his through ball left Malcolm Shotton clear. The defender took his time before firing past Kevin Blackwell. A Gallagher free-kick hit the wall and rebounded to him, but he sidefooted his shot wide as Borough dominated the opening 15 minutes. But Barnet were on level terms after 18 minutes with a goal from defender Steve Oliver

Stockley was penalised for obstructing Gary French in the penalty area and Brinkman laid the free-kick to Oliver, who unleashed a terrific shot that went in off the post. After the goal Borough were still the better side and Steve Gray, who had an outstanding match, keeping the dangerous Turner at bay, moved on to a through ball and hit a shot which Blackwell just got a hand to and pushed the ball away for a corner.

There were fewer chances in the second half, but Borough always looked the better side. Dale found space, but the ball stuck in the mud after a scramble. Ken Hall had to make a couple of brave saves in the second half – but they were from his team mates when backpasses stuck in the mud.

Both sides moved wearily into extra time in the clinging mud and substitute Eamonn Pugh missed a chance in the first period. He chased a Jon Sammels through ball, but with only Blackwell to beat he put his shot wide. Then six minutes into the second period of extra time Barnet struck the sickener that sent Borough tumbling

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 26-12-1979

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Sugrue, Sammels, Head, Gallagher, Neale (Pugh), Dale.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Slick Borough cruised to an impressive Alliance win over lethargic Stafford. Nuneaton quickly swung into action and were 2-0 up in the first 15 minutes. And a third goal twelve minutes into the second half saw Borough to one of their easiest wins of the season.



Borough played some very attractive football as fluent move followed fluent move and Stafford had no answer to the home side's power. Borough scored three times and Gareth Dale, who made a fine return, hit the crossbar. Eamonn Pugh was left on the subs' bench to make way for Dale and Maurice Head returned to midfield.

Borough made a great start to their delayed Christmas programme and went ahead in the first minute. They split Stafford with a move down the left. The ball was crossed and Malcolm Shotton slipped the ball past a defender before shooting home. It was his second goal in two matches and very similar to the one he notched at Barnet last week. And it again proved what a tremendous contribution he makes to the side.

He was again outstanding in the back four and yesterday's goal was his seventh of the season – a fine achievement for a defender. Shotton is now the club's second leading scorer. Borough adapted quicker to the blustery conditions and went further ahead from their second attack after 15 minutes. Mark Neale scored his seventh goal in the Alliance and deserved it for perseverance. He chased a through ball and Stafford keeper Dave Field came out and looked to smother the ball. But Neale challenged strongly, the ball ran out and the Borough striker tapped it into the net.

Ben Seddon headed wide for Stafford, but then Borough surged back and Dale almost put them further ahead. He broke through on the right and his fierce drive hit the bar with keeper Field beaten. At the start of the second half Dale again showed the sort of form Borough fans know he can produce when he forced a good save out of Field with a fine shot.

After 57 minutes Borough went 3-0 up with a goal made by Paul Sugrue. He beat two defenders on the left side of the field and crossed for Stewart Gallagher to score with a deadly piece of finishing. Stafford pulled a goal back after 80 minutes when Fraser Wood headed home a Colin Chadwick cross.

Wayne Thomas Transfer Wrangle

Nuneaton Borough may call in the German FA to resolve a cash wrangle over one of their former players. Seventeen months ago midfielder Wayne Thomas left Borough to join Baunatal, who play in the second division of the Bundesliga.

A fee, believed to be around £6,000 was agreed between the clubs, but Borough have not seen a penny of it. Now the Manor Park club may be forced to impose some of the conditions in the player's international clearance. Said Borough secretary John Evans: "We are in a moral dilemma because whatever we do it will affect Wayne. But really we have waited long enough and something has to be done quickly," he said.

The Borough secretary went on to say that the German FA could well be informed of the situation at the end of January, if it is not resolved. "We would not enjoy stopping Wayne playing football, but it could be the only alternative," he said.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 29-12-1979

Worcester: Cumbes, Selby, Bowater, Lawrance, Phelps, Lowe, O'Hara, Williams, Crompton, Green, Dudley. **Sub:** Pemberton.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Head, Sammels, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale, Dale **Sub:** Pugh.

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough put in a superb display and featured in one of the best matches of the season, coming close to shattering Worcester's unbeaten home record. The match was played at a furious pace and it was a delight to watch – a perfect advert for Alliance football at its best. After Worcester drew level to cancel out Gareth Dale's effort, the match could have gone either way.

Borough more than matched the title contenders, who dropped only their third home point of the season. Nuneaton had conceded seven goals in their last two visits to Worcester, but there was little danger of a repeat. The back four was rock solid and the combination of Malcolm Shotton and Tom Fallon is improving game by game.

The Borough midfield has struggled to stamp its authority on some matches but their performance on Saturday held the key to this excellent result. Jon Sammels gave an inspired display, playing a part in the Borough goal and causing Worcester a major headache whenever he came forward. Worcester made an impressive start and created a number of chances. From one such chance Ken Hall made a super one-handed save from a Ken Lawrence header.

Paul Sugrue swung into action on the half-hour as he left two defenders in his wake and unleashed a fierce shot which Cumbes pushed away and then pounced on the rebound. But two minutes from the interval Dale scored his first goal of the season. Sammels and Stewart Gallagher worked a lovely one-two before Sammels knocked the ball through to Dale, who tapped the ball into the net.

Hall bent over backwards to push a Barry Williams effort over the top as Worcester threatened an equaliser. And it came 17 minutes into the second half with an elegant goal involving former Coventry City striker Alan Green, who found Gerry O'Hara with a neat pass and the Worcester midfielder fired home. After that it was end to end stuff of the highest quality as both sides pressed for a winner.

Nuneaton Boro' v Gravesend & Northfleet 05-01-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Sammels, Head, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale (Pugh), Dale.

Gravesend: Smelt, Idle, Williams, Keirs, Streeter, Barrett, Brown, Stonebridge, Osborne, Hart, Dudman. **Sub:** Gregory.

Borough welcomed Gravesend & Northfleet to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough recovered from an early set-back to register a comfortable victory in which they turned on the style

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to totally outclass their opponents. The one thing that prevented Borough from registering more goals was the performance of Gravesend goalkeeper Lee Smelt, who kept Nuneaton at bay with a series of fine saves.

Borough showed a lot of attacking flair from the kick-off and Paul Sugrue and Gareth Dale had early chances. But totally against the run of play – and from their first attack, Gravesend took the lead. Borough were victims of a harsh penalty decision which Steve Brown shakily converted, although Ken Hall got a hand to it. The penalty was given against the Borough goalkeeper for a foul on Osborne, but it looked as though they became tangled up as he came out to smother a shot from the visiting striker.

Nuneaton soon regained their grip on the match and drew level after 24 minutes. Tom Fallon sent over a free-kick, Dale flicked it on and the ever alert Tim Smithers ran in behind the Gravesend defence to score from a narrow angle. Borough were again far more positive in midfield and Jon Sammels produced another inspired performance.



It just wasn't a day for goalkeepers. Ken Hall dives the right way to Steve Brown's penalty, gets a hand to the ball, but just fails to keep it out.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

It was Sammels who put Borough in control with their second goal on the stroke of half-time. He unleashed an opportunist 30 yard shot which went under Smelt, who could only claw it back from over the line. After an indifferent start to the second half when they eased off, Borough wrapped up the points after 75 minutes. Substitute Eamonn Pugh sent in a first-time right wing cross which Dale headed powerfully past Lee Smelt.

Borough had more chances after netting their third goal and Smelt made a couple of saves – the best from Sugrue. So another pleasing performance from Borough who can still set their sights on a place in the top three. And it is the perfect tonic for a difficult FA Trophy match at Hyde United next weekend.

One of Borough's major aims will be to retain the consistency that had brought them such a good start to the 1980s.

Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch

07-01-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Shotton, Smithers (Neale), Head, Sugrue, Ward, Dale, Campbell, Gallagher, Hoults.

Borough welcomed Alvechurch to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Ken Hall, an injury doubt before the game, put in a brave display and held off a last minute onslaught from the visitors to see Borough through to the quarter-finals. The keeper made a brave stop from John Chester in the dying seconds of a fast-flowing match. Borough started with just three players at the back after Roy Cross pulled out with an injury. But it backfired when Alvechurch, who gave Borough a tough fight throughout, grabbed a 19th minute lead.

Midfield man Kevin Palmer broke down a Nuneaton attack and knocked a long ball through the middle. Tim Smithers mistimed his attempted clearance and Chester ran on to fire a low shot past Hall. Immediately Borough tightened up and Maurice Head dropped back alongside Malcolm Shotton. Six minutes later Borough were level when Paul Sugrue was brought down in the penalty area after a superb run. Shotton stepped up to score his eighth goal of the season.

Hall was called into action as Alvechurch kept coming forward and the keeper made a fine save from Roger Cope. The scores were level at half-time, but Borough took the lead straight from the re-start. Eric Ward picked up a clearance and unleashed a tremendous shot from 25 yards past Tony Sawyer in the Alvechurch goal. It was Ward's first senior goal for the club and he could not have wished for a better one.

But Alvechurch showed a lot of character and were level just four minutes later. Borough failed to clear a cross from the left and Alan Gear fired home. Just three and a half minutes later Borough scored what proved to be the winner. Cliff Campbell crossed from the left and Alan Hoults, who last played for the first team on December 10, drilled the ball home.

Stewart Gallagher came on for Campbell a few minutes later and Mark Neale replaced Maurice Head with Eamonn Pugh moving into the back four. But the Borough striking pair had to join their team mates in keeping out Southern League Alvechurch as they fought for another leveller.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough

19-01-1980

Weymouth: Chalk, Lawrence, Byrne, Arnold, Dyer, Roberts, McCafferty, Courtney, Iannone, Dove, Johnson. Sub: Merrick.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Ward (Hoults), Lewis, Sammels, Sugrue, Gallagher, Dale.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to play Weymouth in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough keeper Ken Hall saved Borough from a real hiding with a string of memorable saves. Weymouth, spurred on by a two goal blast in three minutes, threatened to run riot after the break, but Hall defied them.

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It was some indication of Borough's lethargic display that their man of the match was the goalkeeper. Nuneaton were badly out of form and few players emerged with any credit. They adopted a 4-4-2 formation in a bid to soak up the pressure they knew Weymouth would exert at the start of the match. And just as it seemed they had weathered the early bombardment, bang in form Weymouth struck with a 23rd minute goal.

Anniello Iannone rounded Malcolm Shotton and crossed. Tom Fallon's clearance hit Peter Johnson who recovered to poke the ball home. Borough had barely caught their breath before Weymouth went further ahead. Graham Roberts moved forward and unleashed an unbelievably fierce drive that rocketed past Hall from 35 yards. Weymouth kept pushing forward and exposed huge gaps in the Borough defence.

But then Hall came into his own and produced a bit of magic after 40 minutes. Danger man Johnson found space in the goalmouth and his shot was saved at point blank range by the keeper. Manager Barry tried to put things right at the interval by introducing a third striker, Alan Hoult, in place of Eric Ward. Hoult had a chance but keeper Steve Chalk came out bravely to smother his shot.

But Borough faded again and Weymouth surged forward and Jimmy McCafferty flashed a shot wide of the post and minutes later fired over. Weymouth then had four chances in a devastating five minute spell. Hall pushed away a drive from Iannone, tipped a Kevin Dove header over the top, saved from Johnson and then full-back Lawrence ended a move down the right with a shot that Hall saved.

Borough held out for the final quarter of the match and were relieved when the whistle blew on their 90 minute disaster. On the day Weymouth, top of the league because Altrincham's game was called off, were far ahead of Borough in every department. They were yards quicker throughout, dominated the midfield and looked sharper up front.

One fault in Borough's approach work was that they did not send in enough crosses to test a relatively small Weymouth back four. Dave Lewis battled hard on his return, but is short of full fitness and Jon Sammels had a rare off day.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 23-01-1980

Borough: Hall, Farndon (Neale), Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Stockley, Ward, Sugrue, Pugh, Gallagher, Dale (Hoult).

Borough welcomed Willenhall Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

Stewart Gallagher and Eamonn Pugh featured in a Borough double act to sink Willenhall. The striking pair struck 29th and 85th minute goals to book Nuneaton's place in the semi-finals. Willenhall, champions of the West Midlands League last season, competed well but fell down because of inaccurate shooting and their inability to take risks and push players forward.

Once Gallagher had put Borough in front Willenhall never looked capable of causing a shock. Paul Farndon returned to the Borough side at right back with skipper Bob Stockley brought into midfield. Willenhall included striker Gary Matthews, a £3,000 rated player who Nuneaton tried to sign last season.

There was little action in the opening stages with both sides testing each other out. But just before the half hour quick thinking by Gallagher gave him his tenth goal of the season and Borough's opener. He won a bounce up against John Newell and ran between two defenders before planting a low drive past Vic Sharrard. Willenhall staged a plucky comeback and it was Gallagher who rescued his side from the last move before half-time. Borough failed to clear a cross and Bobby Peck squeezed in a shot through a ruck of players and Gallagher cleared off the line.

There were few clear cut chances after the break, but Borough had the edge and Pugh might have scored after 62 minutes, but screwed a shot wide. Alan Hoult came on for Gareth Dale after 66 minutes and the Borough striker was quickly into his stride. Hoult, who has not made a full appearance in the Alliance since early December, turned superbly on the edge of the box and his shot went narrowly over the top.

And just four minutes later he shot wide with a fierce drive as Borough tried to increase their lead. Paul Sugrue, who had a quiet game after his dynamic display against Hyde, was unfortunate not to win a penalty when he was brought down by Peter Willetts. But five minutes from time Borough put the issue beyond doubt – and Pugh scored his first goal since early last month.

Hoult found Borough's record buy with a measured pass and he rifled a shot past Sharrard. Right on full-time Willenhall were awarded a penalty for a foul on Matthews, but former Borough player Brian Beresford hammered his shot against the crossbar.

New Commercial Manager

Borough have appointed a full-time commercial manager. He is 44-year-old Ken Herbert, a former electrical contract manager from Birmingham. Mr Herbert takes up his duties this week and will be responsible for a wide range of activities at Manor Park, including advertising, publicity, promotions and social events.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 26-01-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Cross, Smithers, Sugrue, Lewis, Sammels, Gallagher (Pugh), Neale, Dale.

Worcester: Cumbes, Selby, Bowater, Phelps, Tudor, Pemberton, Stevens, Jones, Williams, Crompton, Dainty. Sub: Wright.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

A moment of inspired brilliance from Paul Sugrue separated the two sides at the end of a dour struggle. And it took the

richly-talented midfielder's goal tally to seven this season. Nuneaton deserved this hard-fought win because they were more committed to the task than their below par opponents, who included former Borough striker Roger Jones, who was kept well in check by Tom Fallon.

Borough, third highest scorers in the Alliance, put the emphasis on attack from the start and Gareth Dale fired over the bar with a shot on the run after four minutes. Eleven minutes later Borough went ahead with a superb individual effort from Sugrue, who again impressed the handful of Football League scouts at the ground.



Paul Sugrue pounces to grab the only goal of the game in Borough's hard-fought win.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

He raced into the penalty area after another of the runs which are a trademark of his, shot past two defenders and unleashed an unstoppable drive past Cumbe. Dale ended a 35-yard run with a shot just wide of the post two minutes later and Borough were in command. Worcester looked only a shadow of the side that were held by Borough back in December, but that had a lot to do with Borough's workrate.

They never allowed Worcester to settle, competed for every ball and stuck to their task throughout. Ken Hall was forced into just one exceptional save during the match when he superbly held a shot from Gary Stevens. Besides the goal, the first-half was a disappointment with both sides bogged down in the middle of the park and producing little action.

Things improved after the break and striker Mark Neale was very unlucky not to put Nuneaton further ahead. He leapt brilliantly to head a Tim Smithers cross goalwards, but Cumbe pulled off a fine save. A minute earlier Neale had appeals for a penalty turned down when Malcolm Phelps looked to have handled his cross from the left. Neale had a fine game and constantly forced Worcester into mistakes with his bustling style. He has been the target for some of the Borough boo-boys in recent matches, but silenced his critics.

Overall it was a competent performance from Borough who offered the same commitment as their conquerors Weymouth last weekend. The midfield three played a lot better than at Weymouth and former club skipper Dave Lewis turned in another hard-working display. Along with Jon Sammels and

Sugrue, they got on top early on and Worcester offered little resistance after that. With the exception of Sugrue's goal, there was little for the 1,700-plus crowd to enthuse about.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 26-01-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Sammels, Lewis, Sugrue (Hoult), Pugh, Neale, Dale.

Northwich: Ryan, Marsh, Collier, Mayman, Nieman, Jones, Dulson (O'Neill), Sromek, Smith, Bailey, Williams.

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Mark Neale recaptured his scoring touch as Borough collected their fourth win in seven days. Neale struck a 69th minute winner to give his side another deserved victory. Neale scored six goals in seven matches back in September but has had a lean spell ever since with just five goals in nearly four months.

Manager Roy Barry re-shuffled the front line with Eamonn Pugh replacing Stewart Gallagher and Bob Stockley, doubtful for most of the day, passing a late fitness test. Borough made a bright start and after 15 minutes Neale knocked down a Tim Smithers free-kick, but Albie Nieman kicked off the toes of Gareth Dale. Four minutes later it looked as though the hoodoo had struck again as Northwich took the lead from their very first attack.

Terry Bailey knocked a lovely ball through to Paul Mayman who fired home. After 34 minutes Malcolm Shotton was very unlucky not to take his goal tally into double figures. Shotton, who had an outstanding game on his return from suspension, had what looked a perfectly good goal disallowed for a foul on the goalkeeper.

But five minutes later Borough were on level terms and Eamonn Pugh scored his fourth goal in two matches against the Cheshire side. The goal came about after Neale laid the ball back to him when under pressure after shielding a Dale cross. That was Pugh's 13th goal in just a handful of full appearances.

Northwich were put under ferocious pressure after Borough levelled and resorted to some roughneck tactics and centre-back Nieman was lucky not to be sent off. Alan Hoult, battling hard to regain his first team place, replaced Paul Sugrue, who looked shattered as he left the field. And Hoult was involved in the move that gave Borough the revenge win they dearly wanted.

Dale ended a superb run with a shot that was cleared for a corner and from Hoult's cross Neale rose virtually unchallenged to steer a header past Ryan. Northwich sent on David O'Neill, who tore Borough apart in the cup replay, but he could make little impression. It was another performance full of commitment and took Borough up another place in the table and they now lie sixth. They could not have wished for any better preparation for their FA Trophy tie with Gainsborough Trinity.



Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 05-02-1980

Stafford: Field, F. Wood, Nixon, Coffey, Seddon, Ritchie, Secker, Chapman, A. Wood, Bastable, Proudlove (Chadwick).

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Dale, Sammels, Sugrue, Neale, Pugh (Gallagher), Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough recorded their first away league win of the season when back in favour Alan Hoult grabbed a winner seven minutes from time. It was his first full game in the Alliance since December 8 and he could not have wished for a better come back. The victory stretched Borough's winning run to six games, moved them into fifth place in the league and also gave them a treble over Stafford with previous victories in the league and the Bob Lord Trophy.

Borough again produced a totally committed performance to wear down Stafford in a dour struggle on a rain-soaked pitch. There were few clear cut chances in the match, but Nuneaton always had the edge, looking far more dangerous in attack. Hoult, looking to prove himself after two months on the sidelines, was involved early on and after three minutes shot narrowly wide from a Tim Smithers flick.

Mike Coffey, a recent signing from Bangor City and Stafford's best player on the night, carved out a good chance after 15 minutes, but shot wide. The Borough back four were comfortably soaking up any pressure with Malcolm Shotton again outstanding and he is emerging as one of the most consistent centre-backs in the whole of the league. Tom Fallon has certainly benefited by following Shotton's example and the young centre-half pumped a ball through the middle after 18 minutes but Mark Neale delayed for just a moment and the chance was gone.

Borough were really buzzing in midfield and soon stamped their authority on the department. Jon Sammels ploughed through the mud to be at the centre of the best Nuneaton attacks. Paul Sugrue was also posing problems with his tricky runs and after 40 minutes Stuart Chapman was booked for a foul on him.

At the start of the second half Hoult should have opened his account. He chased on to a through ball from Sugrue but shot well wide with only goalkeeper Dave Field to beat. Full-back Fraser Wood tried to inspire his lethargic team mates with an attacking run and was brought down by Shotton – who was booked. Borough keeper Ken Hall had little to do with the exception of a reflex save from a Ben Seddon header.

But it still looked as though Borough would have to be content with a draw as the minutes ticked away. Then Gareth Dale, who worked tirelessly in midfield, escaped his marker and knocked a superb ball through to Hoult, whose shot was saved by the feet of Field. But Hoult followed up to jink past a defender and rifle a shot into the net, giving Borough a win.

Cliff Campbell To Leave?

Cliff Campbell could soon be on the move from Nuneaton Borough. Campbell, the club's leading scorer last season has been unable to command a regular first-team place this term. And Borough have received a number of inquiries about him.

AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 12-02-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Sammels, Dale, Sugrue (Lewis), Neale (Farndon), Gallagher, Hoult.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill to play AP Leamington in a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

Gareth Dale struck a dramatic winner three minutes from time to put Borough into the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup. Nine minutes earlier Alan Hoult brought Nuneaton back from the brink of defeat with a cool goal.

Dale cashed in on an error by Sean McNulty to see Borough through and extend their unbeaten run. The Manor Park side strolled into a 24th minute lead through Mark Neale, but allowed their ex-winger Steve Briscoe to score twice. Borough made a confident start and after 13 minutes Alan Dulleston made a fine save from Malcolm Shotton who met a Bob Stockley free kick with a powerful header.

After 24 minutes Borough went ahead with a brilliantly worked move involving four players. Jon Sammels passed to Paul Sugrue who picked up Stewart Gallagher whose cross was met by Neale, who directed a header into the top corner. Leamington came back into the game and gradually got the upper hand. Two goals in a minute made a mockery of their league position and sent Borough rocking back on their heels.

After 39 minutes Bobby Vincent knocked on a Tom Kilkelly free-kick and speedy Briscoe fired home. A minute later AP were 2-1 up with Briscoe getting his second. Another free kick from Kilkelly saw Ken Hall tip Duncan Gardener's diving header onto the post but Briscoe followed up to score.

AP thoroughly deserved their first half lead and they never allowed Borough the chance to cash in on their early goal. Dennis Taylor epitomised the character in the AP side with his tough tackling performance that silenced the threat of Sugrue, who came off with a pulled hamstring after an hour.

Just before half-time Dulleston made a superb save from Shotton. The defender's header looked to be going in, but Dulleston pushed it away. It proved to be an indication of things to come and Nuneaton regained their grip on the match after the break.

Dale shot wide from a Smithers cross. But it still looked as though stubborn AP would hold on to their lead until Hoult struck, slipping the ball home after Gallagher had done exceptionally well to cross. Then three minutes from time Dale punished an error to send Nuneaton into the final. McNulty attempted to pass back to keeper Dulleston, but Dale set off and steered the ball between Dulleston and Kilkelly to give Borough victory.



Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 16-02-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Lewis, Sammels, Dale, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult. **Sub:** Farndon.

Maidstone: Guy, Kinnear, Wiltshire, Hill, Aitken, Knight, Fusco, Ovard, Woon, Newson, Daubney. **Sub:** Budden.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

High-flying Borough toppled Maidstone with a brilliant attacking display. And their biggest win in the Alliance this season is the perfect platform for next weekend's FA Trophy clash with Barnet. Few could have predicted such an emphatic scoreline against a side who were, before Saturday, a place above Borough in the league.

But Nuneaton flattened Maidstone, took over fourth spot in the league and they are now hard on the heels of Weymouth, Bangor and Altrincham. Borough were in complete control and could have scored more as they cruised to their eighth successive win. Their determination to win was evident throughout as they pounded their Kent rivals to defeat.

Maidstone's shaky defence soon crumbled and Nuneaton were ahead in 17 minutes. After Alan Hoult's corner was charged down, Bob Stockley's cross was met at the far post by Tom Fallon, who prodded the ball home. It was the teenage defender's first goal for Nuneaton since he was plucked out of junior football three and a half years ago.

Winger Hoult had a couple of chances after the first goal and Borough already had the match firmly in their grip. His second chance – a header just wide of the post – was set up by Dave Lewis, who made an immaculate return after injury. His determination and strong running in midfield held the key to the victory and Maidstone were never allowed to settle.

The Kent side only had one chance in the whole 90 minutes and then Borough keeper Ken Hall moved swiftly to narrow the angle on a Chris Kinnear shot which went wide. Borough were soon back on the rampage with bold attacking football that stretched the Maidstone defence to the limit. Right on half-time Stewart Gallagher, who had a fine match, notched his eleventh goal of the season.

It was an example of the sort of pressure Borough were exerting when Maidstone defender Graham Knight headed a back pass on to his own post. Mark Neale picked up the rebound to cross from the left and Gallagher fired home.

Maidstone enjoyed a brief spell in the Nuneaton half after the interval but then foolish Andy Woon set them back even more. He was sent off by Sheffield referee Keith Hackett for saying something about a decision that was given against him and he was shown a red card.

Seven minutes later Gareth Dale scored the first of his two goals. Tim Smithers made a superb run down the left, jinked past Kinnear to get to the bye-line and then crossed for Dale to click the ball home. Dale put the icing on the cake with

a magnificent goal 14 minutes later. Maidstone won a rare corner, but Gallagher took possession and knocked a superb ball through to Dale on the half-way line. The Borough striker ran about 50 yards with the ball, shrugged off a foul from Dave Wiltshire and slipped the ball past Guy.

Sugrue Signs For Manchester City

Paul Sugrue today signed for First Division Manchester City in a sensational £30,000 deal. The sale was completed after the Nuneaton Borough teenager had a medical in Manchester this morning. And Sugrue, 19, becomes the most expensive player to leave non-league football. Defender John Barton joined Everton from Worcester for £28,000.

City had been following Sugrue for a couple of months, but negotiations with Borough reached a climax yesterday when manager Roy Barry met City boss Malcolm Allison and the deal was set.

"We have agreed terms and Sugrue will put pen to paper this afternoon," said Barry. "I am delighted for the lad. He has worked very hard and it is what he has always wanted," he added. The initial deal is for £20,000 but Borough will receive an extra £10,000 if Sugrue makes ten first team appearances.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough

01-03-1980

Barnet: Steele, Hullett, O'Hare, Millett, Oliver, Hardman, Brinkman, Sperrin, Robinson, Roberts, French. **Sub:** Siani.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Dale, Ward, Sammels, Neale, Pugh (Farndon), Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in an Alliance Premier League fixture.

The Barnet hoodoo struck Borough again as their hopes of reaching the top three in the Alliance took a nosedive. They looked to be returning home with a point from a scrappy game when Steve Oliver scored seconds from the end.

The goal which ended Nuneaton's run of nine successive wins was a controversial effort – just like Barnet's winner in the Bob Lord Trophy back in December. But in truth, Borough were simply not good enough to beat the struggling North Londoners, who are desperate for points.

For the second week running, this time against Barnet, Nuneaton were unimpressive and faltered badly for long periods of the match. Last week they hit back to win – but on Saturday Borough paid the penalty for not asserting themselves. They had selection problems with Dave Lewis and Stewart Gallagher injured.

Barnet's bout of pressure in the opening 20 minutes was a rare highlight of a poor match and they were rewarded with a seventh minute goal. Tony O'Hare, who had a fine match for the home side, glanced a header past Ken Hall from Gary French's cross. Then Gareth Dale was hacked down by Oliver as he sprinted towards goal resulting in a booking for the Barnet centre-half.

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Both sides then struggled to put their game together for almost all of the first-half until Borough levelled five minutes from the interval. It was a superb move with Hoult crossing after Bob Stockley made a dummy run, Pugh flicking it on with his head and Mark Neale slotting home a cool equaliser.

The second half was a poor advert for Alliance football with both sides unable to raise their game. Only Pugh raised Borough's hopes with a good performance capped by one magical through ball that put Jon Sammels clear and his shot was smothered by keeper Gary Steele.

The game was dragging to its inevitable conclusion – a drab draw – when Barnet struck in the dying seconds. Malcolm Shotton was penalised by Cambridge referee David Hutchinson for having his foot too high in a challenge on substitute Brian Siani on the edge of the area.

The referee awarded a free-kick and immediately winger Steve Brinkman fired home. The kick was re-taken and Brinkman's antics clearly unsettled Borough as he pretended to take the kick and then pointed when the Nuneaton defence started to move forward. Brinkman's clowning went on for two minutes and then suddenly he knocked a short pass to Oliver who rocketed a shot past Hall.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 04-03-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Head, Ward, Sammels, Neale, Pugh, Hoult. **Sub:** Farndon.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Another precious Alliance point slipped out of Borough's grasp in a disappointing performance. And it means Nuneaton have dropped three points in two matches after winning nine games in a row.

Borough started the match with great style and their football in the opening 15 minutes was of the highest quality. Inch perfect passes and intelligent running off the ball forced Bath back and Alan Hoult fired over after just nine minutes.

Borough continued to pile on the pressure and were rewarded after 24 minutes with a goal scored by Hoult, but made by Eamonn Pugh, who sent in a superb low cross to the near post and Hoult swooped to score from close range. But Bath hit back straight from the kick-off and were level within a minute.

Brian Dubbin knocked a magnificent through ball to Martin Wheeler who rounded keeper Ken Hall before sliding the ball home. Until then Borough, with Maurice Head returning in midfield, were well in command and looked confident. But Bath's lightning reply obviously unsettled them – and they never really recovered.

Borough lost their grip in midfield and Bath, stringing five players across the back, cleared any danger. Hoult and 14-goal strikers Pugh and Mark Neale worked hard but to little

avail as Bath stayed tight at the back. Nuneaton missed Gareth Dale, whose runs from midfield had caused endless problems in previous matches.

The second half proved to be a major disappointment after the sparkling start and Borough had really lost their way. Jon Sammels tried to inspire Borough with some magical through balls but Hoult was guilty of missing three good chances. And Nuneaton always had to be wary of Bath's midfield player Dubbin who had a superb match, although he was allowed too much room.

Chances were few and far between as the match dragged to its inevitable end. No-one could criticise Nuneaton's work rate but they just seemed to lack the necessary sparkle which would bring them victory. Four players were booked – Malcolm Shotton and Hoult for Nuneaton and Wheeler and Graham Day for Bath.

Manchester City Watch Shotton

Manchester City manager Malcolm Allison watched Borough's Alliance match with Bath City last night – barely three weeks after signing Paul Sugrue. And it is believed Allison came to watch Borough central defender Malcolm Shotton, who is attracting the interest of a host of League clubs.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 10-03-1980

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Shotton, Fallon, Stockley, Head, Lewis (Pugh), Dale, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult.

Redditch: Walker, Grice, Taylor, Skinner, Sharp, Smart, Deehan, Brennan, Norwood, Williams, Barnes. **Sub:** Skidmore.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League fixture.

Borough cruised to their biggest win in the Alliance with a five goal blast. They rattled in three second-half goals in six minutes to race to victory against the league's bottom club. The writing was on the wall 15 minutes from half-time when Mark Neale cancelled out a shock goal from Redditch's Ray Taylor. Once Borough were level they turned on the style and took Redditch apart with two goals from substitute Eamonn Pugh, a header from Stewart Gallagher and another one from Neale.

It was quite a transformation as Redditch's first-half performance surprised everyone. They were a tricky side who dominated the opening stages and lacked only confidence – not surprising with just two wins in the Alliance this season. And the Worcestershire strugglers took the lead after 29 minutes when left back Ray Taylor rifled a fierce shot past Ken Hall from a Keith Barnes cross.

Three minutes later Neale put Borough on level terms when he scooped the ball into the net after keeper Dave Walker knocked down an Alan Hoult cross. Gallagher, who made a fine return after injury, almost put Borough further ahead after a great move with Gareth Dale.

Re-shuffled Borough, with Maurice Head replacing flu victim Jon Sammels in midfield, were slow finding their feet, but



in the second half they romped to victory with the ideal confidence booster for Saturday's FA Trophy tie at Dagenham. Pugh replaced Dave Lewis just 11 minutes into the half – and three minutes later Borough were ahead.

Neale latched on to a superb through ball from Houl, rounded keeper Walker and coolly slotted home his second goal. After 61 minutes Borough were three up when Gallagher steered a header between two defenders from Neale's cross. Borough made it three goals in six minutes when Pugh followed up to score after a header from Dale cannoned off the keeper.

Redditch were now on the rack and their troubles worsened when centre-half Ron Skinner was stretchered off. Borough surged forward again and a darting run by Bob Stockley, playing at left back for the first time in his career, ended with Jim Skidmore hooking his cross away. After 79 minutes Borough scored goal number five with a cheeky effort from Pugh. He raced between two defenders after picking up a through ball, ran to the goal-line before stopping the ball and then blasting it into the net.

Redditch somehow managed to hold off another onslaught in the final minutes with Gallagher, Pugh and Houl all going close. Five players were booked – Walker, Grice and Deehan and Williams for Redditch and Shotton for Nuneaton – but it was mainly due to Maurice Robinson's fussy refereeing.

Barry To Join Oxford United

Roy Barry is leaving Nuneaton Borough to join Third Division Oxford United as assistant manager. Barry will take up his new position as soon as he is released from his contract at Nuneaton. It is understood that Barry has two months of his contract to run, but the Manor Park board are unlikely to stand in his way.

Graham Smith New Borough Manager

Graham Smith has been appointed manager of Nuneaton Borough. He took over team affairs for today's game at Gravesend. And meanwhile former manager Roy Barry took up his new post as assistant manager at Oxford United

Gravesend & Northfleet v Nuneaton Boro' 26-01-1980

Gravesend: Smelt, Idle, Williams, Burrett, Streeter, Hart, Brown, Bryant, Busby, Stonebridge, Dudman. **Sub:** Jacks.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Cross, Smithers, Head, Sammels, Lang, Gallagher, Neale, Pugh. **Sub:** Ward.

Borough made the journey to Stonebridge Road to play Gravesend in an Alliance Premier Division game.

What a difference a point makes. The visitors' dressing room overflowed with joy as Borough celebrated the spirited comeback that earned them a precious Alliance point. And it was just the start new Borough manager Graham Smith must have wished for in his first match in charge. Two-nil down with 15 minutes to go, Nuneaton stormed back with

goals from Eamonn Pugh and Mark Neale. And they could have snatched both points but for a magnificent save by Gravesend keeper Lee Smelt from an effort by Stewart Gallagher, who turned in another full-of-life performance.

Hall pulled off a spectacular full-length save from Steve Brown's penalty kick, awarded after Roy Cross had brought down Dave Busby. But his joy was shortlived as Great Yarmouth referee Alf Grey ruled Hall had moved and Brown scored at the second attempt. The twice-taken penalty was all that divided the sides at half-time although Borough had the better of the opening 45 minutes.

But a few Borough hearts must have fluttered when the Manor Park side conceded a second goal at a bad time – three minutes into the second half. Busby headed down a cross from Brown and leading scorer Phil Stonebridge, looking suspiciously offside, slipped the ball home.

Then it was Borough's turn to pile on the pressure and the front three of Gallagher, Neale and Pugh started to evade their markers. Gavin Lang, in his first game in the Alliance and only his second appearance of the season, was brought in to the side to supply crosses. And although he looked unfamiliar in a midfield role, he also did exactly what was asked of him, supplying the centres for both Borough goals.

His 75th minute cross found Gallagher, whose shot was blocked and ran to Pugh who made no mistake. Meanwhile Neale, who makes a habit of scoring against Gravesend, modestly predicted he would score to follow up a goal on his Atherstone Town debut against the Kent club and one last season. Sure enough eight minutes from time he rose superbly to head home a Lang corner and give Borough the point they deserved.

AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-1980

Leamington: Dulleston, Cooper, D. Taylor, Jones, Brown, Kilkelly, Gorman, M. Taylor, Derby, Gardner, Bain. **Subs:** McNulty and Briscoe.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Cross, Smithers, Head, Gray, Lang, Neale, Gallagher, Houl. **Subs:** Farndon and Parker.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill to play AP Leamington in the Midland Floodlit Cup Final first leg.

A scrambled last minute goal cost Borough a first-leg lead. The Brakes equalised just a minute from time with a goal that was always on the cards – and a carbon copy of the two that sunk Borough in the FA Trophy eleven days ago.

Tom Kilkelly floated in an 89th minute free-kick and in a fierce goalmouth scramble Tom Gorman managed to slip the ball past Ken Hall. Borough are still confident they can lift the trophy in the second leg, but know they will have to play a lot better. For long periods of the match they were under pressure from the Alliance strugglers, who played better than their Alliance league position would suggest.

Only the brilliance of Ken Hall in the Borough goal kept the Brakes out. Hall, who had a fine game, made three

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breath-taking saves to deny the home side. A 76th minute shot from ex-Borough player Paul Cooper looked goalbound, but Hall stretched to knock it away, he pushed a Duncan Gardner header from point blank range over the top and then lifted a shot from Gorman over the crossbar.

Borough, depleted by injuries and illness, faced more problems when teenage centre-half Tom Fallon had to leave the field with a head wound. But after having the wound heavily bandaged, Fallon returned to the back four. Nuneaton, with Steve Gray making his first full appearance since December 18, turned in a confident first-half display where they created a number of chances.

Stewart Gallagher again posed problems up front with his close control and strong running. But it was a goal made and scored by Mark Neale that gave Borough the advantage two minutes from half-time. He started the move with a fine 40-yard crossfield pass to Bob Stockley. The Borough skipper crossed, Gallagher knocked it down and Neale, who kept on running, planted the ball home.

Borough soaked up a lot of pressure but just when they looked set to win AP struck with Gorman's last minute scramble.

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 29-03-1980

Scarborough: Livsey, Marshall, Dennis, Magee, Dixey, Donoghue, Harris, H. Hall, Gauden, Sellers, Olney. **Sub:** H. Dunn.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Smithers, Cross, Stockley, Gray, Sammels, Dale, Neale, Hoult, Lang. **Sub:** Head

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in an Alliance Premier League game.

The game was won and lost in midfield. Jon Sammels showed all his First Division craft and experience, hitting a variety of clever balls with either foot that were a delight to spectators and team-mates alike. But Scarborough's Sellers, younger by a dozen years, was finally the more effective due in the main to his experience of what is required for success in the Alliance Premier League.

Nuneaton benefited first from Sammels immaculate, curling indirect free kick given for obstruction. He found Mark Neale's head with deadly accuracy to give Nuneaton a well earned lead after 19 minutes. They should have been two up after goalkeeper Livsey made a terrible hash of trying to clear a Dale corner. The ball fell to Gavin Lang, but his well placed header was scrambled off the line.

The lead lasted 13 minutes but then the defence which had been so effective dithered and allowed Olney the chance to dribble where he wanted in the penalty area. His short cross from the right found Sellers who unleashed a tremendous 18 yard drive which hit Ken Hall, bounced onto the bar and out, but Martin Harris was quick and forced the rebound home.

The little winger's pace was a constant source of embarrassment to Nuneaton's hard worked defence and it was he who got the second. A punted clearance by Livsey was

flicked to Sellers by Gauden and when Sellers played the ball forward the Nuneaton defence was caught square and Harris used his speed to home in on Hall and finally beat him.

Nuneaton's last chance came when Alan Hoult hit a fierce right footed drive which skidded inches past Livsey's left hand post. Scarborough will claim credit for keeping up their work rate and fighting back, but Nuneaton, missing Gallagher, Shotton, Fallon and Pugh, must be applauded for their wholehearted efforts to play attacking football.

Farndon and Gray were both booked for tackles from behind, but they will feel they were harshly dealt with in a game that was never overly aggressive. Nuneaton's man of the match was Timmy Smithers for his work in defence.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Farndon (Head), Smithers, Cross, Stockley, Gray, Sammels, Dale, Neale, Pugh, Hoult.

Borough made the journey to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in an Alliance Premier League game.

Two penalties in four minutes robbed Nuneaton of a deserved point. Both borderline decisions went against the luckless centre-back Bob Stockley. In the 19th minute, he was judged to have pushed Williams and in the 23rd minute a difficult bobbling cross from Denham struck his forearm and Wirral referee David Owen – well positioned for both decisions – again pointed to the spot.

To further frustrate the Nuneaton players, Smith's first penalty sent goalkeeper Ken Hall the wrong way but the ball hit the bar. Referee Owen ordered the kick to be re-taken because Hall had moved early and Smith sent the ball the same way, with the keeper missing it, this time by a finger tip. Smith, the league's leading marksman, sent the second penalty in the same direction and again Hall was a fraction late.

Borough were given a 27th minute boost when Alan Hoult scored a fine individual goal from 25 yards that completely deceived Vic's goalkeeper Ryan as it flew perfectly under the angle. If Vic's had the better of the first half then Nuneaton, led by the faultless Sammels, dominated the second. They strung together some attractive moves and created several half-chances against the league's best defence.

Pugh might have finished off a Hoult-Sammels move better in the 65th minute; Neale had the ball whisked away from his foot virtually on the goal-line in the 78th minute and the same player was a whisker away from an 89th minute pass beautifully flighted by Sammels.

Hard luck tales are often difficult to believe when a team travels away. But here was a match when some fine individual skills were on display and although they lacked a little competitive edge, Borough might well have left with a point that would have gone some way towards their aim for a prestigious place in the table and at the same time avenging their FA Cup defeat on the same ground four months ago.



Borough Bid For Steve Oliver

Nuneaton Borough are believed to have made three bids for Barnet defender Steve Oliver. But on each occasion the North London club have turned them down and a deal now seems out of the question with the Alliance transfer deadline reached.

Sammels Appointed Player-Coach

Jon Sammels has been appointed player-coach at Borough. Sammels will take up his new position at a training session tonight in preparation for Borough's Easter programme.

Acting manager Graham Smith announcing the news, said: "Jon is the ideal man to help me with the task at hand. His playing record speaks for itself and he has a lot of experience which will prove invaluable," he added.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 05-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Smithers, Dale, Sammels, Lang, Neale, Gallagher, Houlton (Pugh).

Telford: Charlton, Walton, Walker, Malcolm, Buttress, Gavin, Maney, Wilkey, Mather, Hogan, Alcock. **Sub:** Branch.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Atherstone born keeper Kevin Charlton denied Borough a late win with a miracle save. There were barely seconds left of a disappointing match when he pushed away a point blank range shot from Mark Neale and then palmed Neale's follow-up header off the goal-line. And Charlton's overall performance must have been a pleasing sight for Telford manager Gordon Banks, whose own goalkeeping made him a soccer legend.

Charlton, who joined Telford from Bangor City after spells with Wolverhampton and Hereford, pulled off a number of crucial saves which were admired by everyone. In contrast, there was despair for his opposite number Ken Hall, who virtually gifted Telford their equaliser.

Tricky winger John Alcock sent over a 39th minute cross and the ball ran through to Peter Wilkey whose shot went under the body of the Borough keeper. It cancelled out a goal from Stewart Gallagher, on his return to the Borough side after a two match suspension. A burst of speed from Gareth Dale split the visitors' defence and Gallagher arrived at the far post to slam home Dale's cross-cum-shot.

But a draw was all Nuneaton really deserved in a match that failed to live up to its pre-match billing – and the perfect conditions it was played in. Borough started brightly with Jon Sammels spraying the ball from one side of the pitch to the other and Alan Houlton, who was later replaced by Eamonn Pugh, had two shots blocked. But Telford showed why they are one of the most improved sides in the Alliance with a series of lightning breaks from defence.

Centre back Alan Walker hit the bar with a fierce header and then Ken Malcolm had a shot scrambled off the line – and

Telford could easily have snatched it. It seemed inevitable the game would end in a draw with only Sammels and Gallagher showing the necessary sparkle likely to inspire Borough. But at least the result went some way to repairing the damage after two away defeats.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 07-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Shotton, Smithers, Head, Sammels, Lang (Pugh), Gallagher, Neale, Dale.

Boston: Stewart, Phelan, Markham, Poplar, Adamson, Thompson, Mallinder, Froggatt, Brown, Hubbard, Moyes. **Sub:** Cook.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Deadly finishing from Stewart Gallagher and Gareth Dale earned Borough a morale boosting win. And it gave acting manager Graham Smith his first victory since taking over at Manor Park six matches ago.

Nuneaton staged a remarkable second half transformation to score twice after Boston threatened to run riot in the opening 45 minutes. The speedy Lincolnshire side who have been involved in three epic battles with Borough this season tore the home defence apart and could have been 2-0 up in 15 minutes.

A shot from striker Bobby Brown was blocked on the line by Roy Cross and then John Froggatt fired over from close range. And Boston continued to launch raids on the Borough goal with the home side lucky to survive. But in the second half, and with the strong wind in their favour, Nuneaton came good with a fine recovery.

Eamonn Pugh replaced Gavin Lang at half-time and Borough immediately swung into action. After 55 minutes a looping through ball was missed by Boston defender Dave Adamson and Gallagher knocked the loose ball past Gerry Stewart in clinical fashion. It was his second goal of the Easter programme and his return to the side after suspension has been very impressive.

Jon Sammels started to dominate the midfield and Boston found it almost impossible to control the flowing skills of the ex-league star. Dave Poplar went into the book for a foul on Borough's player-coach. Borough wrapped up the points after 66 minutes when Neale beat Albert Phelan on the bye line and crossed for Dale to burst past two defenders and slam the ball home.

Towards the end of the game Malcolm Shotton was booked again and picks up more penalty points – just three days after finishing a suspension.

Borough Want Wayne Back

Nuneaton Borough are stepping up their attempts to re-sign Wayne Thomas. And Borough secretary John Evans said today: "We are very hopeful the matter will be cleared up shortly. We want Wayne to be back at Nuneaton and playing for us next season."

Nuneaton Borough v Lye Town 12-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Cross, Smithers, Head, Sammels, Dale, Gallagher, Pugh, Neale. **Subs:** Hoult and Lewis.

Lye: Lawrence, Plant, Cooper, Jackson, Parry, Morton, Woodhouse, Guise, Smith, Green, Ward. **Subs:** Moore and Penn.



Nuneaton Borough with the Birmingham Senior Cup after defeating Lye Town. Back row (left to right): Jon Sammels, Dave Lewis, Malcolm Shotton, Mark Neale, Bob Stockley, Alan Hoult, Stewart Gallagher, Tim Smithers. Centre (left to right): Tom Fallon, Ken Hall, Eamonn Pugh. Front: Maurice Head and Gareth Dale. Photo Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough travelled to Highfield Road, Coventry, to play Lye Town in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Eamonn Pugh took Borough to victory with a two goal display. The centre-forward scored in the 44th and 70th minutes to shatter Lye's 17 match unbeaten record – and give Borough the Senior Cup for the sixth time. But in front of only 970 fans, the final proved to be something of an anti-climax.

It was clear from the opening minutes that Borough would never be under any serious threat from their poor opponents and they cruised to one of their easiest wins of the season. Borough were in a different class and lifted the cup with consummate ease. Few players took pride in their performance despite the victory, but it must have been difficult for them to raise their game against such lowly opponents.

Borough strutted around Highfield Road and tore gaping holes in the Lye defence within minutes of the start. The only surprise was that Nuneaton did not score more. Leading the way was Jon Sammels, who made an immaculate return to a First Division arena. If Borough were a class above Lye, Sammels was a class above any other player on the field with his deft touches and superb vision.

Sammels and Maurice Head had shots saved and then Lye keeper Mick Lawrence pulled off a fine one handed save from

a Malcolm Shotton drive. Borough were caught out just once by Lye when Tom Fallon mis-timed a back pass and striker Don Smith edged a shot wide of the post. Mark Neale and Pugh were both guilty of missing chances.

Pugh was rewarded a minute from half-time when he stroked the ball home after Gareth Dale flicked on a Stewart Gallagher cross. The second-half is best forgotten as Borough eased off and struggled to find their rhythm. Pugh struck his second goal when he fired high into the roof of the net after Lye defender Steve Parry fluffed an attempted clearance.

It was the best move of the match with Gallagher finding Dale with a magnificent pass and then Parry making the error which let in Pugh. Borough were just going through the motions at the end and looked embarrassed to parade the cup in front of their fans after such a non-event.

Nuneaton Borough v AP Leamington 15-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Shotton, Cross, Smithers, Sammels, Lewis, Dale, Smithers, Pugh, Hoult. **Subs:** Fallon and Neale.

Leamington: Dulleston, Cooper, Jones, Brown, Montgomery, Kilkelly, Gorman, M. Taylor, McNulty, Gardner, D. Taylor. **Sub:** Briscoe.

Borough welcomed AP Leamington to Manor Park to play the Midland Floodlit Cup final second leg.

Borough collected their second trophy in four days after a hard-fought match. But unfortunately the match was too similar to their Birmingham Senior Cup win. It was a dull affair with little entertainment for the home fans and the decisive goal came from the penalty spot after 11 minutes. The only redeeming factor was that AP were at least on terms with Borough for some parts of the match, much more than Borough's Saturday opponents Lye Town.

The Brakes dug their heels in to try and halt Borough's push for the Floodlit Cup. And their tactics ruined any chance of an entertaining game, although Borough to their credit, tried to play attractive football. Roy Cross returned in place of Tom Fallon, with Dave Lewis and Alan Hoult both getting a game.

Borough started brightly and keeper Dulleston dropped an early shot from Gallagher but the ball was hurried away. Nuneaton took the lead after 11 minutes when Tommy Gorman was judged to have impeded Gareth Dale as they challenged for a cross. AP protested furiously and former Borough defender Alan Jones was booked by referee Ray Toseland from Market Harborough.

Their protests were in vain and Malcolm Shotton stepped up to hit his ninth goal of the season. The controversial penalty clearly unsettled AP and they allowed Dale to make a speedy run after 21 minutes before he shot narrowly wide. Gary Brown made a vital clearance before half-time when he hooked away a cross from Jon Sammels after Gallagher had robbed Dulleston.

The second half produced very little action with Borough holding on solidly to their lead. Tim Smithers was booked for

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a foul on Sean McNulty minutes into the half. AP had little to offer with an ineffectual forward line and they never looked capable of closing the gap.

At the end, skipper Bob Stockley, selected for the England non-league squad yesterday, completed a perfect day by lifting the Floodlit Cup to the cheers of the home fans.



It's ours – Nuneaton Borough skipper Bob Stockley and club president Alf Scattergood, pictured with the Midland Floodlit Cup after last night's second leg final at Manor Park.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Buy Manor Park Appeal

Nuneaton Borough's £25,000 appeal to purchase their council-owned Manor Park ground has raised just £120 since its launch in February. Club chairman Noel Kelly opened the appeal in a blaze of publicity on February 27 and started the ball rolling with a cheque for £2,500. But now after six weeks the appeal stands at just £2,620 – only £120 more than the original figure and a long way short of the target.

That figure includes a £100 donation from a supporter after the Midland Floodlit Cup triumph over AP Leamington this week. Mr Kelly said: "The £100 was from a chap I last saw 20 years ago when I was in the services in Cyprus. He came up to me after the match and handed me the money in cash which gave the appeal a boost.

"But so far we have had a slow start with just a few fivers coming in, although we have been very busy with matches and different things. Now we should start to see some action and we have rummage sales and other fund-raising activities planned. There is also the Manchester City fixture later in the year, which is in aid of the ground appeal."

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough

19-04-1980

Barrow: Thomas, Richmond, Gordon, Skivington, Jackson, Taylor, McDonald, Eatough, Cowperthwaite, Worswick, Pearson. **Sub:** Hubbard.
Borough: Hall, Stockley, Shotton, Cross, Smithers, Sammels, Lewis, Lang, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult (Pugh).

Borough made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough never really got to grips with this game and deservedly slumped to defeat. But it took a brilliant individual goal by left back Neil McDonald after 35 minutes to eventually decide the match. McDonald moved swiftly into the area and hit a low shot past Ken Hall. The goalkeeper had plenty to do throughout and kept his side in contention with first half saves from the game's outstanding players, winger Micky Worswick and top scorer Colin Cowperthwaite.

Nuneaton made little headway against the strong first-half wind and their best chance came on the stroke of half-time. Barrow full-back Richmond made a hash of a clearance on the edge of his area, letting in Mark Neale, whose shot came back off the underside of the bar to Stewart Gallagher who shot badly wide from only ten yards with the Barrow keeper nowhere to be seen.

Borough started the second half well with Malcolm Shotton and Bob Stockley heading set pieces narrowly wide, but could not match the dominance Barrow had shown playing with the wind. Their frustration was shown on the hour when manager Graham Smith substituted Alan Hoult to bring on Eamonn Pugh. Jon Sammels was largely ineffective in midfield and Barrow should have put the game beyond doubt when Worswick volleyed against the post from only two yards.

This followed a slip by Shotton and the central defender was lucky to escape a booking when he deliberately handled ten minutes later. Hall made another excellent save from Cowperthwaite right on time. Borough having played two Cup games, looked sluggish and played an uninspired end of season game.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough

22-04-1980

Redditch: Latchford, Grice, Taylor, Smart, Sharp, Clarke, Deehan, Neal, Skidmore, Shaw, Woolridge. **Sub:** Haynes.
Borough: Hall, Stockley, Shotton, Fallon, Smithers, Sammels, Lewis, Head (Pugh), Dale, Gallagher, Hoult.

Borough made the journey to The Valley to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Malcolm Shotton missed a 71st minute penalty as Borough slumped to a surprise defeat. Nuneaton controlled the second half against the league's bottom club, but never seriously tested Redditch's former Birmingham City keeper Dave Latchford after Shotton's penalty miss. The incident occurred only minutes after Eamonn Pugh came on for Steve Gray as Borough were having their best spell of the game.

Brian Smart tackled Pugh on the edge of the area and referee Mr John Ashley immediately pointed to the spot. It seemed a harsh decision but Shotton placed his shot firmly to the keeper's right, only to see Latchford turn the ball for a corner with a brilliant two handed save. It was only Shotton's second penalty miss in more than a year.

Although Latchford had to clutch a couple of crosses and came off his line to cut out a through ball, he was never exposed again and although Nuneaton finished on the attack, the heart seemed to have gone out of their play.

They opened the game with a flourish when Alan Hoult forced Latchford into a full-length first minute save. The resulting corner was followed by two more before Redditch had crossed the half-way line. But the home side settled and although Ken Hall was rarely hard pressed they had most of the first-half possession.

Only Gareth Dale posed problems for a tight home defence which was without three regulars. But in the final four minutes of the half Borough should have scored at least once. Hoult had the ball in the net, but it was ruled out for a foul on Smart. Then Dale flashed a cross only inches in front of Hoult and Gray. And in an explosive end to the half Hoult hit the crossbar and Jon Sammels drove the rebound off a defender and against the post.

Two minutes into the second half Borough had cause to regret their earlier misses when home striker Roger Shaw won a chase for a long clearance with Tom Fallon and Tim Smithers before placing a 16 yard shot past the advancing Hall. In the final minutes Redditch broke away again and Shaw had an even easier chance from the same spot, but fluffed it.

Borough Get £8,000 For Thomas

Nuneaton Borough are £8,000 richer this week – all because of a player they released two years ago. Midfield man Wayne Thomas joined FC Bauntau in the German Bundesliga, but problems arose when his new club failed to pay the original fee of £6,000. Since then Borough have been locked in a legal battle, until it was agreed this week that Bauntau must pay.

Shotton And Smithers Go For £40,000

Nuneaton Borough defenders Malcolm Shotton and Tim Smithers will sign for Third Division Oxford United in a £40,000 deal. Oxford manager Bill Asprey is travelling to Manor Park tonight to complete the signings after having talks with the two players over the past few days. And both he and Borough boss Graham Smith are confident that the transfers will go through smoothly.

"Although there are still a couple of details to be ironed out, I am expecting no problems whatsoever," Smith said today.

Shotton joined Borough from Atherstone Town and soon became a firm favourite at Manor Park with his consistent displays. Smithers has been at the club for six years after joining from local side Triumph.



Oxford manager Bill Asprey shakes hands with Malcolm Shotton after he had signed the forms to make him an Oxford United player. Looking on, from left to right, are Borough manager Graham Smith, Oxford secretary Jim Hunt, manager Bill Asprey, Tim Smithers, Malcolm Shotton and Borough secretary John Evans. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Three Players Released

Three players have been released by Borough. Gavin Lang, Maurice Head and Steve Gray have all been given free transfers by acting manager Graham Smith. Steve Gray had the distinction of scoring Borough's first two Alliance goals, but has suffered injury problems all season, as has Head. All other professionals have been retained.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Shotton, Fallon, Sammels, Dale, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult, Lewis, Smithers. Sub: Cross.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough, who have won just once away from home in the league, restored some of their battered pride when they gained a 1-1 draw. Alan Hoult was the goalscorer.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-04-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Smithers, Shotton, Fallon, Sammels, Dale, Lewis, Pugh, Hoult, Lang.

Borough made the journey to The Huish to play Yeovil Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough's 240 mile round trip to Somerset saw them return empty handed after they went down to a narrow 2-1 defeat. Alan Hoult was again the goalscorer.

Nuneaton Borough v Bangor City 03-05-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Smithers, Shotton, Fallon, Sammels, Head, Dale, Pugh, Hoult, Parker. Sub: Cross.

Borough welcomed Bangor City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough secured a tenth place finish with a 2-2 draw against Bangor City. Eamonn Pugh got both of Borough's goals.

Borough Sign Tony Turner

Nuneaton Borough have signed Tony Turner from West Midlands League side Hednesford Town. The deal was completed today and Turner joins Borough for a “considerable four figure fee.” Said Borough manager Graham Smith: “I have admired the player for a long time and I am very pleased to have signed him. A lot of clubs have been after him, but he always wanted to join us after being very impressed with the set up at Manor Park,” he added.

Graham Smith Appointed Full-Time Manager

Graham Smith, Nuneaton Borough’s acting manager for the last two months, has been named as new team boss at Manor Park. Smith took charge of team affairs in March when Roy Barry was released to join Oxford United. And after a series of board meetings, the club has decided to offer Smith the job on a permanent basis.

Borough To Play Manchester United

Mighty Manchester United could be the star attraction in Nuneaton Borough’s pre-season programme. Borough confirmed today that the Old Trafford club have agreed to send a team to Manor Park. A date is yet to be fixed for the match, but Borough will be contacting United again within the next few days. Manchester City have already agreed to send a team as part of the Paul Sugrue deal.

Alliance Trophy Blessed



Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly has had the Alliance Premier League championship trophy officially “blessed”. Roman Catholic priest Father Luxom carried out the blessing at Nuneaton Council House last night. And the Borough chairman said today: “We hope it will bring everyone – including Nuneaton – a lot of luck. I am sure this blessing will make the trophy something more than just a piece of gold and silver,” he added.

Businessman Kelly designed the new trophy with the help of

artist Graham Parker and also met the cost. “The tradition of blessing a cup goes back many years and I thought it was time to revive it,” said Kelly. “My real wish would be to see the trophy back at Nuneaton next season when we win the league,” he added.

Smithers Again Voted Player Of The Year

Tim Smithers, Nuneaton Borough’s “Mr Consistency,” retained his player of the year title at the weekend. It was the final honour bestowed on him before he left for Oxford United and a new life in the Football League. Smithers played his early football in the Coventry Alliance before being snapped up by Borough. He has been a regular in the side for a number of seasons and last year collected the players’ award.

Smithers took an important step this season when he was converted to left back from his original position as a winger. The move paid dividends and he quickly emerged as a stylish defender.

Stockley In Line For England Cap

Nuneaton Borough skipper Bob Stockley is in Holland today – hoping to get a place in the England semi-professional side. Stockley is one of 16 players in the reckoning for a four nation tournament which starts today. And it will cap a fine season for the former Wimbledon and Atherstone Town right back if he gets a place. The other teams involved are Italy and Scotland, as well as the host nation.

Alliance Premier League 1979-80

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	38	24	8	6	79	35	56
Weymouth	38	22	10	6	73	37	54
Worcester City	38	19	11	8	53	36	49
Boston United	38	16	13	9	52	43	45
Gravesend & Northfleet	38	17	10	11	49	44	44
Maidstone United	38	16	11	11	54	37	43
Kettering Town	38	15	13	10	55	50	43
Northwich Victoria	38	16	10	12	50	38	42
Bangor City	38	14	14	10	41	46	42
Nuneaton Borough	38	13	13	12	58	44	39
Scarborough	38	12	15	11	47	38	39
Yeovil Town	38	13	10	15	46	49	36
Telford United	38	13	8	17	52	60	34
Barrow	38	14	6	18	47	55	34
Wealdstone	38	9	15	14	42	54	33
Bath City	38	10	12	16	43	69	32
Barnet	38	10	10	18	32	48	30
AP Leamington	38	7	11	20	32	63	25
Stafford Rangers	38	6	10	22	41	57	22
Redditch United	38	5	8	25	26	69	18

Boston United — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Boston: Stewart, Simmonite, Leigh, Poplar, Adamson, Thompson, Mallender, Froggatt, Brown, Kabia, Callery. Sub: Meyes.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Shotton, Fallon, Smithers, Stockley, Gray, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult. Sub: Pugh.

Alan Hoult, playing in his very first FA Cup match, brought Boston back to Manor Park. After going a goal down, Borough survived relentless pressure from the Lincolnshire side and then Hoult equalised in the second half.

It was a particularly sweet moment for Hoult, who with his team mates, were characters in a classic drama that had a 2,000-plus crowd on its feet. And after several heart stopping moments it was a happy ending for Nuneaton.

They soaked up a continual barrage of attacks from a goal hungry Boston side, who had surely reached their peak at home. At one stage in an exhilarating 90 minutes Borough somehow bundled away seven successive corners.

Then as Boston tired like a weary fighter who could throw no more punches, Borough broke away and equalised. A crowd of Nuneaton players challenged for a cross and it was stabbed home. Paul Sugrue was announced as the goalscorer, but eventually the figure of Hoult emerged from under a section of Borough fans who had surrounded him at the edge of the pitch.

As the crowd were still celebrating substitute Eamonn Pugh, on as substitute for Mark Neale, fired home what looked to be a perfectly good goal, but it was later revealed that another Borough player was offside.

Borough were now well on top and in the last 15 minutes had a couple of chances to settle the tie, but Boston held out. Borough skipper Bob Stockley said after the match: "The crowd was absolutely magnificent. Although they

were heavily outnumbered you could feel their presence and they never stopped shouting.

"We are just pleased we gave them something to go back with and hope we can finish Boston off on Tuesday night," he added.

The first 20 minutes of the match belonged to Borough and the best of a series of moves saw Sugrue fire in a shot that keeper Gerry Stewart did well to save. They were in command after half an hour but Boston broke away.

John Froggatt rose almost unchallenged to head a cross just out of reach of Ken Hall, who did manage to get a hand to it. Up to the interval and again after it, Boston laid siege on the Borough goal.

Man of the match Neil Callery sent over endless crosses but Nuneaton held out superbly. The young back four, Tim Smithers was the oldest at 23, was superb.

Paul Farndon, making his first appearance apart from Midland Floodlit Cup games, had a savage baptism at right back but responded well. And all in all, Nuneaton must have won the respect of the home crowd with their defensive heroics.

Then came Hoult's goal to keep Borough's FA dreams intact. Skipper Bob Stockley went on after the match: "We have the makings of a great side."

"We have got dedication, application, team spirit and all that is needed now is more experience," added Stockley. Stockley, playing in a midfield role,

used his defensive knowledge to marshall Borough when they were under pressure.

Borough rose to the challenge and now have a great chance to reach the First Round Proper and hopefully draw a Third or Fourth Division side.

And if the replay is anything like the weekend encounter, no one at Manor Park should be disappointed.

Boston United — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Shotton, Fallon, Smithers, Stockley, Gray, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale (Pugh 61), Hoult.

Boston: Stewart, Simmonite, Leigh, Poplar, Adamson, Thompson, Mallender, Froggatt, Brown, Kabia, Callery. Sub: O'Brien.

Super sub Eamonn Pugh made another "Roy of the Rovers" entrance to the Borough side in an explosive cup tie. Pugh rescued Borough from the brink of defeat with two goals to sink Boston in a match that will be remembered for a long time by the 2,500 Manor Park crowd.

And his fairytale arrival fortunately overshadowed an ugly incident that saw Malcolm Shotton and Boston's Bobby Brown sent off for fighting.

With his second touch, a brave header to level the scores, Borough's most expensive signing was mobbed by hundreds of young fans. And five



Eamonn Pugh swoops to head Borough back into the FA Cup. He cashed in on a defensive mistake by George Simmonite.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Eamonn Pugh (out of picture) heads home a corner from Alan Hoult to book Borough's place in the First Round Proper.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Then Pugh came on to almost single-handedly change the course of the game. Three minutes after stepping on to the field he netted an equaliser.

Fallon took the ball to the half-way line and sent over a high ball into the area. Boston full-back George Simmonite tried to pass the ball back to his keeper, but sliced his kick and Pugh dashed in bravely to beat keeper Stewart, who froze on his line, and headed the ball into the net.

Probably the real turning point of the match was a breathtaking save from Ken Hall at the other end. Jim Kabia headed powerfully from Gary Mallerder's cross and Hall scrambled across his line to stop Kabia's goalbound effort with his feet.

Most people agreed that would have killed off Borough, but they stormed back and five minutes from the end Pugh rose superbly to head home an Alan Hoult corner.

Northwich Victoria — 1st Round Proper

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Round Proper tie.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Smithers, Cross, Fallon, Gray, Stockley, Sugrue, Pugh, Gallagher, Hoult. Sub: Campbell.

Northwich: Ryan, Ritchie, Nieman, O'Neill, Forshaw, Jones, Collier, Sromek, Smith, Bailey, Braithwaite. Sub: Wilshaw.

Hat-trick hero Eamonn Pugh rescued Borough from the brink of FA Cup defeat – and then talked about the one that got away. As most people were still celebrating his remarkable feat, he scraped the bar with a header just seconds from the end.

“It is a fantastic feeling to get a hat-trick in the Cup but I was annoyed at missing that one,” said Pugh after the game. “The way I see it, I was in the right place at the right time and quite fortunate to get all three.”

Pugh assessed Borough's chances in tonight's replay and added: “We have

minutes from the end Pugh notched his second goal to put Borough into the First Round Proper against Northwich Victoria at home.

He has already made an impact as substitute this season scoring on his Alliance debut against Barrow. Pugh, still shaking off the effects of a heavy cold, received praise from all corners of the ground after the match.

Borough finally pummelled Boston into submission, although for a long time it looked as though their Cup dreams were over.

The Manor Park side made a fine start though and Boston keeper Gerry Stewart made a superb save, pushing away Alan Hoult's shot from a free-kick after a foul on Paul Sugrue.

The match never reached the skilful heights of the first two meetings between the clubs and Borough were below par for a long time. They struggled to put their game together, especially in midfield, and went behind after 24 minutes.

John Froggatt, who scored in Saturday's 1-1 draw, was heavily involved in the move that put Boston ahead for the third time against Borough in their encounters this season. He brilliantly chipped the ball

over keeper Ken Hall but Tom Fallon managed to hook the ball off the line.

It reached Froggatt again who sent over a high cross and Bobby Brown rose well to head home. That was Brown's third goal against Borough, but eleven minutes later he was involved in a sensational incident with Shotton.

What followed was a sickening free-for-all with both players throwing punches after Brown had retaliated to one of Shotton's tackles.

Boston manager Albert Phelan dashed on to the pitch and grabbed Shotton by the neck before being pulled away.

Eventually the players were pulled apart and Loughborough referee Gilbert Naphine, who had a fine match, wasted no time and ordered them both off.

The game bubbled and boiled until half-time with a succession of fouls and a booking for Boston's Dave Adamson for a foul on Stewart Gallagher.

Ten-man Borough had to reshuffle and for most of the match, just three defenders at the back worked tirelessly to keep Boston out. Paul Farndon and Tom Fallon both came of age and Tim Smithers was magnificent at left back.

But Boston still looked odds-on to win the tie as Borough stumbled up front.



Pugh gets up superbly to a cross and sets Manor Park alight with the equalising goal just two minutes from time.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

got to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves down and start all over again.”

That chorus was echoed by the rest of the Borough team who travelled to Northwich earlier today for the first round replay. In Saturday’s six goal tie Borough never really hit the right key and they know they can play a lot better. But confidence is still at a high.

The general opinion at Manor Park – and endorsed by Borough skipper Bob Stockley – was that it was a poor match, but a great cup tie. He said later: “We have nothing to fear. They were not a good side and we gave them two of the goals. One thing is for sure,” Stockley added, “that will not happen again.”

But despite the scares, the day belonged to Pugh, who carved out another piece of cup magic in front of a near 4,000 crowd.

Few people though he could better his two-goal smash and grab act as

substitute against Boston United in the last round. But he did – and once and for all silenced the critics at Manor Park.

Borough’s record buy has now scored seven goals in seven matches and is slowly lifting the £4,000 price tag that is often a burden around his neck.

“It was a lot of money,” said Pugh, “and it took me a long time to settle partly because of bronchial trouble, but I am now fit.”

Borough shrugged off a number of body blows to stay in contention, especially a highly controversial penalty. Pugh put Nuneaton ahead after 20 minutes – just seconds after he had wasted a good chance. Borough had two players on to one in their favour but Pugh stumbled as he tried to find Alan Hault.

But then Stewart Gallagher beat full-back Bob Ritchie and crossed. Stockley caught the ball with the outside of his foot as he attempted to shoot and it ran

through to Pugh who knocked the ball home. But 17 minutes later Borough presented Northwich with an equaliser.

Ritchie sent over a high cross and as Ken Hall went for it he was knocked off the ball, apparently by one of his team mates, and it landed in the path of Frank Sromek who put Northwich level.

Seven minutes into the second-half referee George Flint penalised Borough with an astonishing decision. Dave O’Neill was challenged by Roy Cross, who looked to get in a perfectly good tackle in the penalty area but referee Flint pointed to the spot and Graham Smith slotted the kick past Hall.

The incident sparked off a number of ugly incidents as the match threatened to get out of hand. Five players were booked – Albie Nieman, Geoff Forshaw, Ken Jones and Ritchie for Northwich and Borough’s Paul Sugrue.

But Borough settled down again and equalised after 64 minutes. A Smithers long ball was knocked on by Gallagher and Pugh turned the ball home.

Three minutes later Paul Farndon made a rare mistake in failing to control the ball and Smith swooped to fire past Hall and put Northwich ahead. Borough were now behind for the second time in the match and for 21 heart stopping minutes they tried to hit back as their cup hopes hung by a slender thread.

And then two minutes from the end Pugh powered a header past Ryan from a Smithers free-kick. His effort sent the crowd into a frenzy and amid all the excitement he headed just over.

Northwich Victoria — 1st Round Proper Replay

Borough travelled to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in a FA Cup 1st Round Proper Replay.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Fallon, Shotton, Thomas, Stockley, Gray, Smithers, Sugrue, Gallagher, Hault (Campbell).

Borough’s FA Cup dreams turned into a nightmare. For the second year running they are out of the competition in the

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first round and this was a sorry tale of woe from start to finish.

Nuneaton were nothing short of appalling and were lucky to escape with just three goals against them as Northwich tore them apart. They were outmatched in every department and had no answer at all.

A cloud of depression hung over everyone involved after the match and it will take a tremendous effort to lift the players. Borough were dealt a severe blow before they had even kicked a ball.

Weekend hat-trick hero Eamonn Pugh failed a late fitness test and missed the match. He bruised ligaments in his knee after colliding with the goalkeeper when he headed over in the last seconds of Saturday's match.

Borough had to re-shuffle with Roy Cross moving to left back, Tim Smithers coming into midfield and Paul Sugrue pushed forward. After just two minutes Borough's Cup blues started when Northwich took the lead.

Terry Bailey floated over a free-kick and left back Albie Nieman was not picked up and stole in to head down past Ken Hall. A 25-yard shot from Steve Gray saved on the goal line by Dave Ryan eased the pressure momentarily, but Borough were soon in trouble again.

The defence failed to clear another

cross from the industrious Bailey and Jim Collier's shot cannoned off the legs of Hall and a minute later the same player fired inches wide.

But Borough found themselves 2-0 down in 14 minutes after a terrible blunder by Cross. Ken Jones knocked a harmless looking clearance upfield. Cross completely missed his kick and it ran through to Collier who fired past Hall.

Cross had an unhappy match throughout at left back and was clearly out of position. After 35 minutes Hall made a magnificent save, pushing a dipping shot from Keith Braithwaite over the top.

At the other end Borough were offering just token gestures and produced nothing in front of goal. They just pumped high balls towards Stewart Gallagher who worked tirelessly but received no support.

Borough were in a state of panic and could not find one ounce of confidence as the misery went on. There was just no-one in the Borough side with the industry of Bailey or the hard-running of David O'Neill, who both had superb matches for the Cheshire side.

Alan Hault was substituted at half-time and Cliff Campbell came on to add weight up front. But Borough

were killed off by a scrappy goal from Northwich after 59 minutes.



Borough skipper Bob Stockley wins this challenge with Northwich's Terry Bailey, but there was little joy for Nuneaton in a depressing FA Cup defeat.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

A long corner from the right was knocked back and centre-half Geoff Forshaw bundled the ball home. The final half-hour seemed to last an eternity as Northwich powered forward and Borough had numerous let-offs.

Referee George Flint then prolonged the agony by playing just over seven minutes injury time. He had a slightly better match than Saturday and again proved to be a showman by giving a red card to a dog who came on the pitch. But even that incident turned sour when the dog made three more appearances on the pitch to further hold up Borough.

After it was all over Borough filed dejectedly on to the team coach without even stopping for a drink.



The picture that sums up Borough's woeful performance at Northwich. A through ball goes across the goal and yet only winger Paul Sugrue is in sight.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Hyde United — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to Ewen Fields to play Hyde United in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Hyde: Elver, Evans, Hare, Johnson, Darlington, Steenson, Holder, Holt, Garside, Golder, Oghani. Sub: Grabner.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Smithers, Ward, Sammels, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale, Dale. Sub: Pugh.

Eric Ward inspired Borough with a performance to cherish – and then missed a golden chance to put his side into the second round. With just three minutes left of a pulsating cup tie, Ward found himself with only goalkeeper Dave Elder to beat after working a one-two with Paul Sugrue.

But five yards out he stumbled in the mud, miskicked and Elder saved to earn his side a replay. Ironically the chance he missed was far easier than the one he tucked away for Nuneaton's equaliser.

Despite the miss Ward responded to the challenge magnificently and proved to be one of Borough's trump cards against battling Hyde. He came of age in the match and looked cool and stylish, helped no doubt by the calming influence of Jon Sammels.

Borough struggled to contend with a pitch the size of a postage stamp coupled with heavy mud and fell behind to a 13th minute goal. Skipper Bob Stockley failed to clear the ball from the menacing George Oghani and the left winger ran on to swing over a low cross which Dave Holt rifled to the right of Ken Hall.

Borough bounced back almost immediately and were on level terms three minutes later. Sammels chipped the ball over from the left side. Mark Neale knocked it down and Ward shot home from 15 yards.

Borough had to force away a couple of Hyde attacks, both involving Oghani, but took command with a goal on the half-hour. Yet again Sammels was at the centre of the move with a brilliant

through ball to Gareth Dale who shot on the run and although Elder dived full length, the ball went under him.

In the second half Borough knew from the opening minutes they would have to soak up a lot of pressure from Hyde, who kept pushing forward time and time again.

Players were brought back in numbers and Borough defended stubbornly with the back four again impressive. And it gave an indication that this cup tie is far from over if Hyde recapture some of the promise they showed on Saturday.

As the half wore on it looked as though Borough would go through to the second round at the first attempt when Hyde struck eleven minutes from time. Holt and Jim Golder combined before Golder crossed for Steve Johnson to hit a low shot past Hall.

Then came Ward's missed chance and now Borough are hoping to put matters right in the replay.

Hyde United — 1st Round Replay

Borough welcomed Hyde United to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy First Round. Replay.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Ward, Sammels, Sugrue, Gallagher, Neale (Pugh), Dale.

Hyde: Elder, Evans, Garside, Johnson, Darlington, Steenson, Holder, Holt, Graham, Golder, Oghani (Hare).

Borough swept aside a gritty challenge from Hyde to move into the last 32. In an all-action first round replay, Borough raced into a two-goal lead, survived a sticky patch and stormed back with two more goals in a late burst.

And one player more than any earned Borough a home tie with Gainsborough Trinity in the second round – exciting teenager Paul Sugrue. The tricky teenager scored Borough's opener, set up two more goals and generally wreaked havoc on the Hyde defence.

Hyde were powerless to stop him and that was emphasised when frustrated Ralph Darlington, booked earlier in the match, hacked down the 19-year-old, and was sent off.

Sugrue was a constant menace and enthralled the crowd with his close control. Borough reverted to the side that drew at Hyde in the first Trophy match, with Mark Neale returning up front and Eamonn Pugh coming in as substitute. Dave Lewis was ineligible for the tie.

The pitch, although heavy, looked in good condition, which was a tribute to the ground staff. Borough had to scramble away an early attack by Hyde but after 15 minutes moved into the lead.

Neale challenged for a Bob Stockley free-kick but defender Darlington knocked it away, but only as far as



Paul Sugrue chases for the ball with Hyde's Graham Holder. Sugrue had a brilliant game and inspired Borough to a 4-1 win.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Sugrue, who chested the ball down before sending a dipping shot into the top corner of the net.

Five minutes later Jon Sammels scored a terrific goal to put Nuneaton in command. Tom Fallon pushed a short free-kick to Sammels who moved forward and then bent the ball into the bottom corner from 25 yards and out of the reach of keeper Dave Elder.

After that Borough were unsettled by Hyde's often roughneck tactics and they were bogged down in the middle. Tony Steenson floored Eric Ward with a punch and was promptly booked and after 27 minutes Darlington joined him in the book for a foul on Stewart Gallagher.

Nuneaton were clearly upset by a lot of the Cheshire League side's challenges and were hustled out of the match for a time. And a minute before half-time Hyde pulled one back through their best player over the two matches, Dave Holt.

Full-back John Evans crossed from the right, Malcolm Shotton made a rare error in failing to clear and Holt turned superbly to fire past Ken Hall.

It was a good time to get a goal and Hyde were looking to start the second half in the same way. But Borough took command again and dampened down the fiery Holt and with it Hyde's comeback.

Holt was booked for a foul on Sugrue and a minute later the Borough player sent over a cross that Dale headed into the net, only to see it ruled out after the referee consulted his linesman.

Play was being halted every other minute for a foul by a Hyde player and it again upset Nuneaton's rhythm. Stockley was also cautioned for a foul on George Oghani, who found it tough going against the Borough skipper.

So Borough sent on Pugh for Neale after 65 minutes – and nine minutes later Borough were 3-1 up. Sugrue was chopped down by Steenson, but the referee waved play on and Gallagher

waited for Sugrue to pick himself up before giving him a short pass.

Sugrue ran on and crossed, Pugh challenged and knocked it down and Dale scrambled the ball home. After 81 minutes Darlington was shown the red card for bringing Sugrue down and Hyde were a beaten side.

Four minutes later Borough wrapped up the tie when Sugrue was pulled down by Steenson in the penalty area and Shotton slotted home his ninth goal of the season.

So, triumph for Borough and they now have an outstanding chance of reaching the last 16 with a home tie against Gainsborough.

The night belonged to Sugrue, ironically the smallest player on the pitch, but the one that made the biggest contribution.

Gainsborough Trinity – 2nd Round

Borough welcomed Gainsborough Trinity to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy Second Round tie.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Ward, Sammels, Sugrue, Pugh, Neale, Dale. Sub: Hoult.

Gainsborough: Copley, Jones, Williams, Reed, Myers, Johnson, Murray, Wignall, Owen, Walker. Harris. Sub: Harvey.

Borough fought their way through a field of mud to keep on the Wembley

trail. They overcame appalling conditions and the rugged challenge of Gainsborough to earn a place in the last 16 of the FA Trophy with a late goal from Gareth Dale.

It was a typical blood and thunder cup-tie with both sides playing remarkably well considering the conditions. Gainsborough, as expected, proved to be no pushover and it took a totally committed effort on an energy sapping pitch to give Borough victory.

It may be that Nuneaton would have won comfortably on a dry pitch, but conditions proved to be a great leveller and probably gave the less skilful visitors a slight advantage.

Borough, with Eric Ward stepping in as a late replacement for the injured Dave Lewis, spent the opening minutes on the defensive and Trinity's leading scorer Les Harris fired wide with a useful shot.

But after eight minutes Jon Sammels carved out Borough's first opening, with Mark Neale scoring in his second successive match. Sammels, who said later it was one of the heaviest pitches he had ever played on, chipped a superb ball into the area, Tim Smithers knocked it down and Neale brushed off a challenge to slip the ball home.

Already the pitch was causing players to make errors and Gainsborough skipper



Mark Neale beats Copley to the ball to give Borough an eighth minute lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Gareth Dale swoops to put Borough into the last 16 of the FA Trophy with a shot out of the mud, after Gary Copley failed to hold a shot from Alan Hoult. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Rod Johnson stumbled in the mud allowing Dale to cross for Eamonn Pugh to edge a shot just wide of the post.

The visitors launched a couple of attacks and after 33 minutes brave Ken Hill dived at the feet of Harris before the striker could get a shot in. Three minutes from the interval Trinity equalised with a goal from former Manchester City striker Bobby Owen.

Owen showed some of the skills that took him to the First Division with a superb first time shot past Hall from a Dave Wignall cross. The scoreline was a true reflection on a tight first half with both sides battling against the elements.

More rain lashed down at the interval and Lichfield referee Colin Spruce must have had some serious doubts about starting the second half. But he brought the teams out for the second half and the rain eased just slightly. However, the farcical conditions probably cost Borough the lead four minutes into the second half.

Smithers made a fine run down the left and was chopped down in the penalty area by Alan Myers. No one could have envied Malcolm Shotton as he stepped up to take the spot kick. He had to dig into the mud to scoop the ball out and held his head in despair as his left foot shot went past the post.

Borough kept on pushing forward in search of a winner and spent most of the second period in the visitors' half. They knew possession football was out of the question so it needed a concerted effort to wear down Gainsborough.

Pugh glanced a header just wide of the post in a good attack, but the players grew frustrated. Gainsborough's Graham Jones was booked for a foul on Smithers and then Johnson and Borough substitute Alan Hoult joined him in the book.

But then as most people were asking when the replay date was, Borough struck. They won a free-kick on the edge of the area and substitute Hoult unleashed a fierce drive which keeper Gary Copley could only push into the path of Dale, who shot home.

Five minutes later it was all over and the Borough players were mobbed as they left the field. It was their fifth successive win at Manor Park and with only one defeat in 11 matches Borough should continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the competition.

Barnet — 3rd Round

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy Third Round tie.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Sammels, Ward, Dale, Gallagher (Pugh 55), Neale, Hoult.

Barnet: Blackwell, Hullett, O'Hare, Millett, Oliver, Hardman, Brinkman, Sperrin, Roberts, Fry, French. Sub: Robotham.

Eric Ward stepped into the Borough side as a last minute replacement for the injured Dave Lewis – and scored the winning goal that put Borough into the quarter-finals.

Overall Borough deserved their victory but made hard work of it against a depleted Barnet side. Their display in the first 45 minutes was appalling.

Borough started brightly enough and Gareth Dale carved out a couple of chances, volleying into the side netting on one occasion. But Barnet, whose selection problems had reached crisis point, could not believe their luck as Borough faded out of the picture.

The North London club had six first teamers on the sidelines, including Steve Turner, and overweight manager Barry Fry, now 35, had to pull on a shirt.

But Borough struggled to make any impression on the makeshift visitors in a stop-start 45 minutes that was disappointing to watch.

Then a goal was scored to give the match the sparkle it needed but it came at the wrong end for most of the 2,600 crowd. Barnet, from their first real attack, stunned Borough with a 37th minute goal from Steve Robinson. He looked to have wasted the chance when he mis-kicked a Colin Hardman centre, but Robinson recovered to stab the ball home at the second attempt.

Borough were now in deep trouble and knew they would have to call on all their resistance and commitment to get them through. Stewart Gallagher was injured in a challenge with Steve Oliver at the start of the match and had to come off ten minutes into the second half. And Borough sent on Eamonn Pugh, already a firm favourite with the crowd, despite his limited appearances.

Pugh again set the crowd alight in



scenes reminiscent of his performances against Boston and Northwich in the FA Cup. He proved to be a constant menace in the penalty area and in a furious goalmouth scramble after 69 minutes Pugh eventually jinked his way through the Barnet defence to put Nuneaton level.

Ward knocked the ball into the area that caused the scramble and eight minutes later he struck the winning goal to put Borough in the last eight of the Trophy.

He collected a short pass from Dale and then unleashed a stunning drive into the bottom corner of the net – a goal from about the same distance as the one scored at Hyde.

And that was enough to kill off Barnet and keep Borough bang on course for more honours. In between the goals Malcolm Shotton had to leave the field with a face injury after a clash of heads

Dagenham – Quarter-Final

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham in a FA Trophy Quarter-Final tie.

Dagenham: Huttley, Wellman, Scales, Dunwell, Moore, Maycock, Holder, Horan, Duck, Kidd, Jones. Sub: Wright.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Shotton, Smithers, Hoult, Head, Dale, Gallagher, Pugh, Neale Sub: Farndon.

Alan Hoult summed up Borough's sadness after their disastrous quarter-final game against Dagenham.

The former England schoolboy international said after the game: "I have played at Wembley before –

it's nothing new to me, but this was the saddest blow.

"I don't think I have ever felt so disappointed after a match and I cried," he admitted.

Hoult was not the only one. Several players broke down in the hushed dressing room after the match. Borough gave everything, but they had set themselves too much of a task after gifting Dagenham with two goals.

Eamonn Pugh scored after 15 minutes, but two soft goals, both from George Duck, put the Berger Isthmian League side in command.

The Essex side, Trophy finalists in 1977, scored a stunning third goal and although Mark Neale grabbed Borough's second they just could not force a deserved replay.

Said manager Roy Barry: "We never deserved to win, but we should not have been beaten. We did more than enough to earn ourselves a replay and everyone is sick.

"Our back four – which is usually so consistent – gave them two goals and then we always had an uphill task," he added.

At 2-1 down Borough should have had a penalty which would have probably changed the course of the game.

Dagenham left-back Terry Scales clearly handled a Hoult cross on the goal-line but Cambridge referee Colin Maskell waved away Nuneaton's appeals.

"Even the Dagenham players agreed afterwards it was a penalty, it was astonishing," said Barry.

It proved to be the real turning point of the game as Dagenham hit a glorious third after 63 minutes when Ricky Kidd steered a magnificent diving header past Ken Hall from a Tommy Horan chip.

Borough badly missed Jon Sammels, whose calming influence was needed in a pulsating 90 minutes often played at 100 mph pace. The makeshift Borough midfield of Hoult, Gareth Dale and Maurice Head made little impression – but Nuneaton still managed to take the lead.

Pugh rose superbly to head home a Dale cross past Ian Huttley to give Nuneaton a dream start.

But two almost identical errors were punished by experienced George Duck, who cashed in after 35 and 44 minutes when Nuneaton failed to get the ball clear after a goalmouth scramble.

Borough could do nothing about Dagenham's third but Mark Neale gave them new hope when he met a run and cross from Dale.

Borough spent the rest of the match in the Dagenham half in an all-out attempt to force a draw – but in the end they ran out of time.

The players were magnificent after the initial tears and put on a brave face for their so sad supporters. Everyone looked to the future and the close knit squad of players reflected on the happy memories of their Trophy run.

And Roy Barry insisted as his side made the painful journey home: "We will be back and next season we will win the Alliance."



Nuneaton Borough 1979-80

Back: Noel Kelly (chairman), Tom Fallon, Mark Neale, Alan Hoult, Eamon Pugh, Stewart Gallagher, Ken Hall, Paul Wilding, Steve Tomkinson, Maurice Head, Malcolm Shotton, Cliff Campbell, David Looms (trainer), Alf Scattergood (president).

Front Row: Roy Barry (manager), Timmy Smithers, Paul Cooper, Dean Thomas, Paul Farndon, Steve Gray, Bob Stockley (captain), Paul Sugrue, Ian Crawley, Gavin Lang, Dr. J. J. Evans (Secretary).

Alliance Premier League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1979-80

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
00.00	Moor Green	A	PSF	3-2	Campbell, Hoult, Crawley	
00.00	Bedworth United	A	PC	1-1	Cooper	
00.00	Hinckley Athletic	A	PSF	2-0	Crawley, Pugh (pen)	
00.00	Wycombe Wanderers	A	PSF	4-2	Hoult, Crawley, Tomkinson (2, 1 pen)	
00.00	Derby County	H	PSF	0-3		
08.18	Barnet	H	L	2-1	Gray (2)	1351
08.21	A.P.Leamington	A	L	0-0		700
08.25	Wealdstone	A	L	2-2	Head, Hoult	976
08.27	Stafford Rangers	A	BLT 1	2-1	Gallagher, Smithers	
09.01	Kettering Town	H	L	2-2	Neale (2)	1970
09.03	A.P.Leamington	H	L	1-1	Head	1528
09.08	Altrincham	A	L	1-3	Hoult	1875
09.10	Bath City	A	L	1-1	Neale	970
09.15	Scarborough	H	L	3-1	Neale (2), Smithers	
09.18	Redditch United	A	MFC	2-1	Hoult, Pugh	?
09.22	Boston United	A	L	2-2	Neale, Shotton (pen)	2005
09.24	Tamworth	A	MFC	0-1		233
09.29	Yeovil Town	H	BLT 2	3-1	Hoult, Shotton (pen), Sugrue	1581
10.01	A.P.Leamington	H	MFC	2-0	Head, Shotton (pen)	773
10.06	Wealdstone	H	L	0-1		1417
10.09	Oldswinford	H	BSC 2	1-1	Byrne (o.g.)	417

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Alliance Premier League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1979-80

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
10.13	Telford United	A	L	1-2	Shotton (pen)	941
10.20	Barrow	H	L	3-0	Crawley, Shotton, Pugh	1255
10.23	Hinckley Athletic	A	MFC	3-1	Neale, Pugh, Smithers	415
10.27	Bangor	A	L	0-1		793
10.29	Luton Town	H	T	1-2	Gallagher	
11.03	Boston United	A	FAC4Q	1-1	Hoult	2460
11.06	Boston United	H	FAC4Qr	2-1	Pugh (2)	2683
11.10	Yeovil Town	H	L	3-0	Sugrue (2), Gallagher	1348
11.14	Oldswinford	H	BSC 2r	8-4	Gallagher (3), Pugh (2), Sugrue, Neale, Campbell	409
11.17	Maidstone United	A	L	1-1	Sammels	903
11.20	Grantham Town	H	MFC	4-0	Campbell (2), Neale, Sugrue	619
11.24	Northwich Victoria	H	FAC 1	3-3	Pugh (3)	3817
11.26	Northwich Victoria	A	FAC 1r	0-3		4106
12.01	Altrincham	H	L	2-0	Gray, Gallagher	1524
12.03	Bedworth United	H	MFC	1-1	Smithers	528
12.08	Weymouth	H	L	1-2	Hoult	1287
12.10	Barnet	H	BLT QF	2-2	Pugh, Gallagher	968
12.18	Barnet	A	BLT QFr	1-2 aet	Shotton	301
12.26	Stafford Rangers	H	L	3-1	Shotton, Neale, Gallagher	1089
12.29	Worcester City	A	L	1-1	Dale	2253
01.05	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	L	3-1	Smithers, Sammels, Dale	1104
01.07	Alvechurch	H	BSC 3	3-2	Shotton (p), Ward, Hoult	
01.12	Hyde United	A	FAT 1	2-2	Ward, Dale	517
01.19	Weymouth	A	L	0-2		1308
01.21	Hyde United	H	FAT 1r	4-1	Sugrue, Sammels, Dale, Shotton (pen)	1095
01.23	Willenhall Town	H	BSC QF	2-0	Gallagher, Pugh	425
01.26	Worcester City	H	L	1-0	Sugrue	1703
01.28	Northwich Victoria	H	L	2-1	Pugh, Neale	1345
02.02	Gainsborough Trinity	H	FAT 2	2-1	Neale, Dale	1650
02.05	Stafford Rangers	A	L	1-0	Hoult	
02.12	A.P.Leamington	A	BSC SF	3-2	Neale, Hoult, Dale	
02.16	Maidstone United	H	L	4-0	Dale (2), Fallon, Gallagher	1223
02.23	Barnet	H	FAT 3	2-1	Pugh, Ward	1345
03.01	Barnet	A	L	1-2	Neale	583
03.04	Bath City	H	L	1-1	Hoult	
03.10	Redditch United	H	L	5-1	Neale (2), Pugh (2), Gallagher	939
03.15	Dagenham	A	FAT QF	2-3	Pugh, Neale	
03.22	Gravesend & Northfleet	A	L	2-2	Pugh, Neale	
03.25	A.P.Leamington	A	MFC F1L	1-1	Neale	298
03.29	Scarborough	A	L	1-2	Neale	1540
04.01	Northwich Victoria	A	L	1-2	Hoult	
04.05	Telford United	H	L	1-1	Gallagher	1235
04.07	Boston United	H	L	2-0	Gallagher, Dale	939
04.12	Lye Town	Highfield Rd	BSC F	2-0	Pugh (2)	970
04.15	A.P.Leamington	H	MFC F2L	1-0	Shotton (pen)	942
04.19	Barrow	A	L	0-1		710
04.22	Redditch United	A	L	0-1		264
04.26	Kettering Town	A	L	1-1	Hoult	
04.30	Yeovil Town	A	L	1-2	Hoult	846
05.03	Bangor City	H	L	2-2	Pugh (2)	

KEY: L = Alliance Premier League, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, BLT = Bob Lord Trophy, T = Stan Marshall Testimonial
BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC = Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF = Pre season friendly, F = Friendly

Borough Sign Mike McFarlane

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Smith has snapped up another player in the close season. He has signed midfielder man Mike McFarlane from Southern League Witney Town. And because of an error in McFarlane's contract with Witney, Borough have picked him up for nothing.

McFarlane, who is 23, was a regular in the Witney side last season and also gained a place in the Southern League representative side. McFarlane, who lives in Coalville, will report for training with the rest of the players on July 1.

Hogan To Join Borough

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Smith has agreed terms with the other midfielder player he wants. And it is believed that experienced Eddie Hogan could be the next player to come to Manor Park. The player is currently with Telford United and has met with Graham Smith on several occasions and a deal appears to be in the offing.

Borough Pay £3,000 For Glover

Nuneaton Borough have paid £3,000 for Bedford Town central defender John Glover. The deal was completed last night and he is the third new face at Manor Park this month.

Glover, who is 25, is looked upon as a replacement for centre back Malcolm Shotton. He has been with Bedford for two years and picked up their player of the year award last season. Glover turned his back on League football as a teenager to continue his studies. He is now an economics graduate working for a large firm in Bedford. After completing his education Glover joined Dulwich Hamlet before moving to Bedford.



John Glover signs the dotted line to become Nuneaton Borough's third new signing. Borough have been chasing the 25-year-old for some time and the deal was completed with Bedford for £3,000.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Noel Asks For Help

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly has sent out an urgent appeal for volunteers to help with the pre-season clean-up at Manor Park. Mr Kelly is looking for bricklayers, carpenters and other helpers to get the ground ready for the first big match – the July 25th friendly with Manchester City.

Borough To Get Cut Of Transfer Fees

Nuneaton Borough are set to collect another £1,000 after the transfers of two former players. The two men involved in the moves are midfielder players Wayne Thomas and Brendan Phillips. Thomas, who now plays in Germany, has left FC Baunatal to join Bundesliga Second Division side Alania Aachen. Phillips has joined Boston United from Kettering Town and Borough expect to receive £500 from each deal.

Borough To Buy Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough Football Club is going ahead with its plan to buy Manor Park. The club has already paid a deposit to Nuneaton Borough Council and the sale should be completed next month. Borough will pay £25,000 for the ground, but none of the money is coming from the recent transfer deals which netted more than £70,000.

Chairman Noel Kelly today declined to elaborate on where the cash was coming from. He said: "Fifty per cent is coming from 'somewhere' and the rest from the appeal fund and other things. But I can assure the fans that the money from transfers will not be touched for this present plan."

Borough Looking At 4,000 Seater Stand

Nuneaton Borough are looking into the possibility of buying Bedford Town's 4,000 seater stand. The lease has run out on Bedford's council-owned ground and they are moving to a new home. It means the stand could be up for sale and Borough would be keen to buy it. Said chairman Noel Kelly: "We will be travelling to have a look at the stand in the next few days. If we can afford it and negotiations are successful, it could set us up for life."

Bedford Ask For £50,000

Nuneaton Borough will need to find £50,000 if they intend to buy Bedford Town's 3,500 seater stand, club chairman Noel Kelly said today. For that is the figure that he was quoted when he went to see the stand recently. But Kelly is reluctant to pay that sort of money for a stand which is about 50 years old and in need of repair.

"I'm not 100 per cent convinced that this stand would be a good buy for the club," Mr Kelly said today. "It is 50 years old and there are signs of metal fatigue in certain areas.

"With the cost of buying the stand and transporting it here, we may be better off finding some sort of alternative. I will be reporting back to the board and we will take it from there. We will probably make them an offer, but nowhere near the £50,000 mark.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Kelly Blasts Out Of Touch Fans

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly today blasted out-of-touch fans who think the club has money to burn after their recent transfer successes. “It is not true – these people don’t know how much it costs to run a football club,” Mr Kelly said.

“Nuneaton Borough is a large concern even though it is run mostly by volunteers. We have lots of bills to pay all through the year – it is an expensive business.

“Our payroll for staff, cleaners, washing the kit, etc., comes to over £40,000 a year. Then we have to pay 15 per cent VAT on all our gate receipts so we have a very tight budget.

“Obviously these transfers have put us in a better position to operate from, but there’s no question of us having large amounts of cash at our disposal.”

1980-81

Mile Oak Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 19-07-1980

Borough travelled to play Mile Oak Rovers in a pre-season friendly match.

Nuneaton Borough cruised to a 4-1 win over Midland Combination outfit Mile Oak Rovers in a friendly at Warwick University at the weekend. Strikers Gareth Dale and Alan Hoult scored two goals apiece as Borough got off to a good start to their build-up for the new season.

New signings Mike McFarlane, John Glover and Tony Turner were included in the side along with triallists Steve Convey and Mark Ratcliffe.

Nuneaton Borough v Manchester City 25-07-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Convey, Pugh, Dale, Hoult. **Subs:** Neale, Fallon, Lewis, Ratcliffe.

Man City: MacCrae, Ranson, Stepanovic, Bennett, Booth, Futcher, Bergstand, Daley, Wiffil, Denya, Sugrue. **Subs:** Reeves, Tuert, McKenzie, Power, Caton.

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

Goals from Polish international Kazimeriz Denya and Tommy Caton lifted City to victory after Eamonn Pugh had cancelled out a 44th minute penalty from Tommy Booth. Borough, fielding their three new signings plus triallist Steve Convey, certainly had their fair share of the opening exchanges with Gareth Dale and Alan Hoult going close. In fact, Dale should have scored after 25 minutes but mis-timed his free header from Hoult’s cross and the ball sailed wide.

After 33 minutes Borough, with Sammels controlling the midfield, ought to have opened their account but Pugh missed an easy chance. A long through ball caught the City defence square and Dale raced on to draw City keeper Keith MacCrae before passing to Pugh who blazed over from point blank range. Those two missed chances proved costly as Malcolm Allison’s men took a 44th minute lead.

Denya, a clinical finisher in front of goal, looked certain to score with only Ken Hall to beat when he was pushed in the back by Tony Turner. Centre-half Booth converted the spot-kick. Straight from the re-start City increased their lead when Denya showed a glimpse of the magic that made him a World Cup favourite. He beat Hall with a cool drive from 30 yards as the Borough defence could only look on.



Borough striker Alan Hoult tries to shrug off the challenge of Manchester City star Paul Futcher.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Paul Sugrue, keen to impress on his return to Manor Park, set the crowd alight with a dazzling run but his final shot cannoned off a post. But Borough regained the initiative and Pugh made up for his earlier miss when he chased another good through ball and slammed the ball home. After 73 minutes City made it 3-1 when Caton rose above a number of heads to nod home a cross from Steve Daley, one of two £1 million players on the field.

Borough looked tired near the end – probably the result of just three weeks’ training before this match – and Sugrue was denied again when his shot was cleared off the line by Turner. But the match proved to be an entertaining foretaste to the season ahead and there was enough action to please the shirt-sleeved crowd of more than 1,700.



Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-07-1980

Borough made the journey to The Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Goals from Mark Neale and Alan Hoult steered Nuneaton Borough to victory over Hednesford Town. The Manor Park side overcame some early problems to fight back from 1-0 down to eventually win 2-1. Manager Graham Smith was pleased with the team's performance and he gave all the available players a run-out.

Midfielder Dave Lewis was Borough's only casualty – he had a stitch in a cut lip but it was nothing serious.

Phillips Joins Mansfield

Brendan Phillips has joined Fourth Division Mansfield Town in a £20,000 deal. And it takes the number of former Nuneaton Borough players now enjoying a Football League career to six. Phillips has been signed by Mick Jones, who was his boss at Kettering Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Allied Irish Bank 31-07-1980

Borough welcomed the Allied Irish Bank to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Goals from Steve Convey and Alan Hoult lifted Borough to a 2-1 win over Allied Irish Bank at Manor Park last night. Convey headed Borough into the lead before the Irish side equalised with just five minutes left and then Hoult snatched the winner after 88 minutes.

Nuneaton Borough v Manchester United 08-02-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Ratcliffe, Turner, Sammels, Lewis (McFarlane), Convey, Pugh (Neale), Dale, Hoult.

Man United: Roche, Roberts, Lane, Duxbury, Connell, Sloan, McGrath, Knox, Lynam, McGarvey, Wold. Subs: Pears, Davies, Wynne, Reynolds.

Borough welcomed Manchester United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough gave their fans an exciting glimpse of things to come with an emphatic win. Their partially rebuilt team overpowered the Old Trafford youngsters in an all-action friendly which was only marred by some ugly crowd trouble. Borough's second half performance, which brought them three goals, was enthralling to watch and it was good to see the new players making their mark so quickly.

However the encounter was only a friendly and it would be wrong to draw too many strong conclusions about the Borough side. The real test will come in the first weeks of the season. But there are signs that Graham Smith and Jon Sammels are moulding together a strong side to launch their bid for honours.

It was United, with Irish internationals Paddy Roche and Chris McGrath plus Tom Sloan, who made the better start before Borough started to wear them down. Alan Hoult saw a 33rd

minute effort pushed around a post by Roche and then he slid another shot wide from an Eamonn Pugh centre.

The breakthrough came with two goals in two minutes of the second half. After 69 minutes Gareth Dale lifted a shot over Roche in a crowded penalty area after Hoult had crossed. Borough increased their lead after 71 minutes when skipper Bob Stockley ended a fine run with a low cross from the right which Hoult pushed past Roche. It took the Borough striker's tally to five goals in five matches.

Substitute Mike McFarlane set up the third Borough goal after 73 minutes to put the issue beyond doubt. He split the United defence with a magnificent through ball from just over the halfway line and the quicksilver Dale ran on to fire home his second goal.

Borough's defence looked cool and collected with the new centre back pair of John Glover and Mark Ratcliffe impressive.

Mark Ratcliffe To Sign Pro

Graham Smith is set to offer Mark Ratcliffe a contract with Nuneaton Borough. And midfield player Steve Convey could also be joining the professional ranks at Manor Park. Ratcliffe, a 19-year-old centre back, has been very impressive for Nuneaton in their pre-season friendlies. He had his best game to date against Manchester United and manager Smith will be having further talks with him this week.

Ratcliffe has spent the last three seasons with Leicester City and made a number of appearances for their reserve and youth sides. Convey has also caught the eye of the Borough manager and further talks will take place later this week.

Aylesbury United v Nuneaton Borough 09-08-1980

Borough: Spencer, Stockley, Glover, Ratcliffe, Turner, Sammels, McFarlane, Convey (Knowles), Ward, Hoult, Neale.

Borough made the journey to Turnfurlong Lane to play Aylesbury United in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough's seventh pre-season friendly ended in defeat. They were beaten by an early first-half goal, but manager Graham Smith insisted: "I am not too concerned about the result. We lost the match because of some basic mistakes and these will be ironed out for the start of the season."

Borough adopted a 4-4-2 formation with Alan Hoult and Mark Neale teaming up as the strike force. But their plans were upset after just 20 minutes when Steve Convey was carried off with ligament trouble. Convey, who signed professional forms earlier this week, injured his knee after falling awkwardly. Convey's injury clearly upset the Borough rhythm and they were forced to revert to a 4-3-3 with teenager Steve Knowles coming on.

Hoult and Neale both had chances but it was Aylesbury who grabbed the all-important goal. Lee Spencer in the Borough goal because of an injury to Ken Hall, was kept busy handling a series of crosses and came through well.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 11-08-1980

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough put out a weakened side against Hinckley Athletic and gave some of their youngsters a run out. Graham Smith did not wish to incur more injuries before the big kick-off and chose not to risk some of his first team squad. The game ended in a 0-0 draw.

New Commercial Manager

Former policewoman Mary Smith has taken over as Nuneaton Borough's full-time commercial manager. She succeeds Mr Ken Herbert, who has given up the post after seven months.

Mrs Smith, of Abingdon Way, Nuneaton, is the wife of former Bedworth Lions president Pat Smith. She said today: "It is a very different challenge for me, but I am looking forward to it." Borough chairman Noel Kelly said Mrs Smith was "keen to do well" and would try and promote the club in many different ways.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 16-08-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, Lewis, Sammels, McFarlane, Dale, Neale, Hoults.

Northwich: Ryan, T. Jones, Murphy, Mayman, Eaton, K. Jones, Denham, Hall, Owen, C. Williams, Braithwaite. Sub: M. Williams.

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.



A line of defenders are helpless as Jon Sammels (not in picture) fires a high free kick over the wall. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Jon Sammels rang in the new Alliance season with a bizarre goal that set Borough on the path to victory. Alan Hoults wrapped up the points after 68 minutes to put the wheels in motion for another long campaign. Overall it was a clinical and thoroughly professional display which gave Nuneaton the edge.

The first half hour was not unlike the start of a boxing match with both sides testing each other out with sporadic bouts of attacking. But an incredible chain of events three minutes from half-time led to Borough's first goal. Northwich keeper Dave Ryan was penalised for obstructing Mark Neale as they both challenged for a cross in the six yard box.

Stoke-on-Trent referee Malcolm Heath awarded an indirect free kick to Borough barely three yards from the goal line. Nine Northwich players stood on the goal line to face the kick. Hoults knocked the ball short to Sammels who fired it high into the roof of the net over all the players in the wall. It was a cool piece of finishing in a highly charged and controversial spell of the game.



Borough striker Alan Hoults flicks the ball past Northwich goalkeeper Dave Ryan to extend Borough's lead. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ryan should have been beaten again after 50 minutes when centre back Ken Jones mis-read Ken Hall's long goal kick and it left Gareth Dale completely clear, but he fired over with only the keeper to beat. But Nuneaton extended their lead eight minutes after that incident when Hoults struck. Two of Borough's new signings were involved in the move and it put the issue beyond doubt. Mike McFarlane crossed from the right, John Glover knocked the ball into the box and Hoults steered the ball past Ryan. Northwich never looked capable of staging a fightback and whenever they got close Borough keeper Hall was there to thwart them.

He made a series of good saves – the best late in the second half when he pushed a shot from Colin Williams around the post. All the new faces in the Borough team gave good accounts of themselves with the centre back partnership of Glover and Mark Ratcliffe looking solid after a shaky start. It was the best possible start Borough could have made to the season and gives them an extra boost for the trip to champions Altrincham next weekend.



Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly waves aloft the deeds that end an era at Manor Park. For the first time ever Borough own their own ground after buying it off the council for around £25,000.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 23-08-1980

Altrincham: Connaughton, Allan, Davison, Owens, Tobin, Barrow, Whitbread, Heathcote, Johnson, Crossley, Howard. **Sub:** Bailey.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Ratcliffe, Turner, McFarlane, Lewis, Sammels, Hoult, Neale (Pugh), Dale.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to face Altrincham in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough's sensational win will be remembered by everyone connected with the club for a very long time. Club president Alf Scattergood described the victory as "the most satisfying result in 20 years of watching Nuneaton." Borough shattered Altrincham's proud home record in the Alliance with one of the best ever displays by a Nuneaton side and today they sit at the top of the Premier League table ahead of Worcester on goal difference. Borough destroyed the league champions in a devastating eleven minute spell.

Not only were Borough the first side to win at Moss Lane in the Alliance, but they also became the first side to score more than two goals against Altrincham in the league. Perhaps Altrincham manager Tony Sanders paid Borough the highest compliment when he said after the match: "That was the best performance by an away side here for many, many years. Nuneaton were brilliant at times."

Borough's new look team came of age as they routed Altrincham in an all action first-half display. And they have come through two of the toughest tests they will face this season – with flying colours. They defeated Northwich and have now scored this thoroughly deserved, but totally unexpected victory over Altrincham. Graham Smith's new signings again caught the eye but it was three players from last season who grabbed the goals.

Gareth Dale, who admitted later that he is enjoying his football more than ever, set the ball rolling with a typical piece of finishing. Altrincham defenders John Owens and Graham Barrow could not decide between them who was going to clear the ball and Dale picked up the loose ball to run unchallenged into the area and fire past John Connaughton. It was a dream

start for Borough after just 26 minutes and they had scored two more by the 37th minute. Goal number two was an absolute gem with Jon Sammels starting the move with a crossfield ball to Bob Stockley, who sent in a first-time cross which Mark Neale headed down and Alan Hoult brought the ball down with his chest before volleying home.

Two minutes later Borough were 3-0 up when Neale and Sammels worked a one-two with Neale eventually knocking the ball back into the area for Sammels to shoot past Connaughton. Altrincham threw everything at Borough in the second half in a determined bid to restore their damaged pride. And the Borough back four were again a revelation as they kept the Cheshire side out.

The ball was rarely out of the penalty area, but time and time again Borough managed to clear it away. Borough could not have wished for a better start and this famous victory was the icing on the cake. And there were some forward looking people on Saturday who were already tipping Borough as major championship contenders.

AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 26-08-1980

Leamington: Jayes, Cooper, Montgomery, Johnson, Brown, Gorman, Barrington, Ashenden, Hickton, Gardner, Taylor. **Subs:** Jones and Kelly.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Thomas, Ratcliffe, Glover, Parker, McFarlane, Ward, Dale, Hoult, Pugh. **Sub:** Fallon.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill ground to play AP Leamington in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Although there were no goals this was a fast, physical and frequently exciting game. Injuries forced Borough to make no fewer than eight changes to the side that beat Altrincham. But last night's team looked anything but makeshift and though there were few real goalscoring opportunities for Dale, Hoult and Pugh, the Borough defence ensured the AP attack had a lean time of it and Hall was hardly troubled in the Borough goal.

What chances there were fell to Dale and Pugh in the 22nd and 75th minutes. In the first incident Pugh did manage to bundle the ball into the net after some good work by Parker on the wing, but was judged to have handled the ball. The second real chance fell to Dale and Carl Jayes was forced to make a brave save.

In the second half Borough were pinned back in their own half for long periods, relying on counter attacks against a stretched AP defence. Most of Borough's best attacks came down the left flank with Thomas, McFarlane and Parker combining well to create a lot of confusion in the home defence. By the end, however, Borough seemed happy to hang on for a draw.

Borough boss, Graham Smith, said afterwards that he was pleased with the team's performance. "We had them on the rack for long periods but we were never really in danger of conceding a goal," he said.

Borough To Sign Kevin Hector?

Nuneaton Borough will be among the favourites to sign Kevin Hector when he returns from the North American Soccer League. The former Derby County and England striker has been recalled to Vancouver Whitecaps to strengthen their squad. Manager Graham Smith has admitted today that he would be very interested in having talks with Hector on his return from the States.

Borough To Break Transfer Record

Nuneaton Borough have virtually completed the signing of Telford's Eddie Hogan for a club record fee. Terms have been agreed between the clubs and Hogan is all set to become a Borough player. It is unlikely the deal will be completed in time for Hogan to make his debut against Bangor City.

Nuneaton Borough v Bangor City 30-08-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarland, Lewis, Parker (Pugh), Neale, Dale, Houlton.

Bangor: Banner, Wright, Lunn, Sargeant, Hart, King, I. Roberts, M. Roberts, Owen, Peris-Jones, Hughes. Sub: Atherton.

Borough welcomed Bangor City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough chalked up win number three, but it turned out to be quite a tussle against the plucky Welshmen. Nuneaton made a storming start and were 2-0 up within 20 minutes but by half-time Bangor were back on level terms. However the Manor Park side showed tremendous spirit to regain the initiative and John Glover scored his first goal for the club to give them victory.

The fortunes on the pitch changed almost as many times as the direction of the swirling wind which often threatened to ruin the game. Borough made a magnificent start and were two goals ahead before Bangor had time to catch their breath. The league leaders went in front after four minutes through Mark Neale, who passed a fitness test before the match as he was suffering with a groin strain.

Gareth Dale picked him out with a fine cross and Neale powered a header past Bangor keeper Nick Banner. Phil Lunn's attempted clearance was in vain as he only managed to help the ball further into the net. Borough extended their lead 14 minutes later and it was Dale, who has made a scorching start to the season, who grabbed the goal. Glover found Alan Houlton with a long through ball, he knocked it inside to Dale who left a defender for dead and bent a right foot shot past Banner off the inside of the post.

That looked to be it as at that stage of the match Bangor had rarely threatened the Borough defence. However, the complete opposite happened and Bangor were back in contention. Ken Hall misjudged a swirling left wing centre from former Stafford Rangers midfielder Jim Sargeant and he only succeeded in palming the ball into the net. The crowd was still buzzing after that 36th minute shock when the

Welshmen drew level within a minute. Mike Roberts struck with a speculative 25 yard drive which flew into the net and Borough had conceded their first goals in the Alliance.

Borough regained control of the game after the break and after a cautious start they began to expose the Bangor defence in the same ruthless style that had brought them two early goals. Right on the hour Stockley sent over a right wing cross and Glover extended himself to drive a forceful header past Banner. Borough sent on Eamonn Pugh seven minutes later to try and add to their tally, but it was not to be.



John Glover (not in picture) puts the seal on Borough's victory with a superb header.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Pugh replaced Bobby Parker, who had a quiet but confident match in only his second appearance in the Alliance. Dale, Houlton and McFarlane again caught the eye and hero Glover is getting better every match.

Hogan Signs



Midfielder Eddie Hogan became Nuneaton Borough's most expensive signing as his transfer from Telford was finally completed last night. The exact fee was not announced by the club, but it is known that Telford had asked for £10,000 for Hogan.

In the picture Hogan (right), puts pen to paper watched by Borough secretary John Evans, Manager Graham Smith, and coach Jon Sammels.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-09-1980

Kettering: Walters, Curtis, Easthall, Clarke, Suddards, Pownall, Phipps, Evans, Guy, Martin, Flannagan. **Sub:** Haverson.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Lewis, Dale, Neale, Hoult. **Sub:** Pugh.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough were knocked off the top of the league by new leaders Kettering after a disastrous display. But manager Graham Smith firmly believes Saturday's upset is merely a temporary setback to the club's aspirations. He insisted afterwards: "We were terrible on the day but we can bounce back."

Borough's unbeaten record came to an end after a three game purple patch. And it would have come as little surprise if Borough had conceded more goals against lively Kettering.

However, Borough's display in the previous Alliance matches indicate that this could be an off day. Kettering attacked with venom from the start and their task was made a lot easier by Borough's nervousness. Ken Hall denied the Poppies a sixth minute breakthrough with a superb double save. He lifted a lob from Nicky Evans on to the crossbar and then as Clint Guy powered in a header, Hall recovered his footing to push the effort back on to the woodwork and away.

But the home side took the lead seven minutes later. Mark Ratcliffe mis-timed a tackle to let Guy in and then he clumsily brought down the striker in the penalty area as he raced towards goal. Full-back Bob Curtis scored from the spot. Just three minutes later Kettering went 2-0 up as danger men Peter Phipps and John Flannagan again exposed more gaps in a brittle defence.

Bob Stockley, under little pressure, only succeeded in giving the ball to Guy as he tried to clear and he laid a measured pass to Evans who fired home. In the second half Kettering showed they were too professional to let a two goal lead slip and easily snuffed out any Borough attacks.

Borough's responses were just token gestures and when they should have tried to play football they were restricted to panicky long clearances out of defence which left the midfield out of the action. Right on full-time Phipps blasted a free-kick past Hall to complete Borough's misery.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 13-09-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Neale, Dale, Hoult. **Sub:** Pugh.

Yeovil: Parker, Ryan, Ritchie, Borthwick, Payne, Gold, Levy, Green, Ashton, Durbin, Brown. **Sub:** Leitch.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough re-affirmed their championship potential with a welcome return to winning ways. They overcame a shaky start to record an easy win and retain second place behind

Kettering. Borough never played particularly well, despite the result, but after scoring their first goal the confidence they lacked last week came flooding back.

Borough made a slow start, but were woken from their slumbers by a 34th minute scare when Yeovil would have scored but for a fine save by Ken Hall, who dived full length to push away Brian Ashton's goalbound shot and Brian Durbin's follow up effort was blocked. Almost immediately Borough hit back and both Mark Neale and Gareth Dale were inches away from getting a touch to Alan Hoult's cross.

Borough's progress struck a hitch when Neale had to leave the field in the 23rd minute following a clash of heads with Malcolm Gold. But substitute Eamonn Pugh quickly settled in and then right on half-time Borough took the lead. Yeovil paid a heavy price for failing to clear their lines and Jon Sammels headed the ball to Dale who turned in the penalty area and crossed for Hoult to sweep the ball home.



Alan Hoult (not in picture) sweeps Borough into the lead with a powerful drive right on half-time.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Yeovil lost centre-back Gold at half-time through injury and brought on striker Andy Leitch. But he could add little to a lifeless attack and it was Borough who took control in the second half. They put aside their early nerves and at last started to stretch the visitors with a series of well organised raids. One prolonged attack eventually led to a penalty which Sammels converted after 63 minutes.

In a goalmouth scramble, Hoult's shot was cleared off the line by Steve Ritchie and Mike McFarlane's follow up effort was handled on the line by the same player. Fifteen minutes later Borough wrapped up the points with a superbly worked goal. Hoult found McFarlane on the right wing with an excellent pass. He crossed and after Pugh missed out, Dale knocked the ball home. The final score flattered Borough because they never played that well

But to their credit they never stopped working at their game – and it eventually paid off. Eddie Hogan made a useful debut for Borough and showed his willingness to get involved in the attacking play. But Hogan's debut was overshadowed by Hoult, who led Borough to victory with a combination of hard work and flair which made him man of the match.

Dale And Sammels Picked For FA Match

Jon Sammels and Gareth Dale have been picked for an FA squad to play in Jersey next month. The FA XI will play a Jersey XI on Tuesday, October 28.

Nuneaton Borough v AP Leamington 20-09-1980

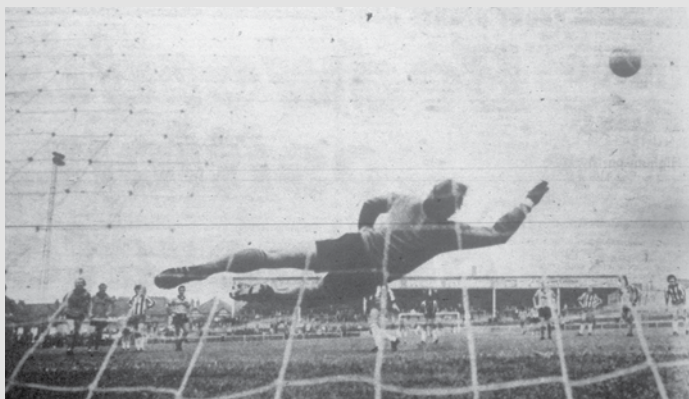
Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Dale, Neale, Hoult. **Sub:** Lewis.

Leamington: Jayes, D. Taylor, Montgomery, Jones, Evans, Ashenden, Farrington, Gorman, Hickton, Gardner, M. Taylor. **Sub:** Kilkelly.

Borough welcomed AP Leamington to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough are making a bold attempt to win back the fans who have deserted them. Only 1,316 people watched Borough coast to victory over AP – a win that puts them a point clear at the top of the league. But manager Graham Smith believes the stay-away supporters will soon sit up and take notice of Borough's remarkable start to the season. He said: "My one aim as a manager has been to bring together a side that entertains. At the moment we are winning well and also at times, playing some very attractive football."

Borough have scored 14 goals in the Alliance and the only surprise in this match was that they did not score more. AP were very lucky to get away with a 3-0 defeat and as manager Jimmy Knox admitted afterwards: "Borough were in a different class."



Jon Sammels scores goal number two with a well-placed penalty kick, which gave Carl Jayes no chance. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough were boosted by a superb sixth minute goal from record buy Eddie Hogan, who collected a loose ball on the left side of the penalty area and after a quick wiggle of the hips which unsettled keeper Carl Jayes, he fired a sweet left foot drive into the net. Borough threatened to run riot after taking the early lead and AP had to call on all their resources to keep them out. Somehow the visitors survived the rest of the half, but it took its toll with several players looking shattered as they walked off at the interval.

Borough carried on the onslaught after the break and an early chance fell to Alan Hoult, who drove a shot over the top, after good work by Jon Sammels. Then Borough made their pressure tell with two goals in four minutes to kill off their local rivals. The pressure finally proved too much for centre back Gary Brown as he climbed all over Mark Neale's back in the penalty area. It was an unnecessary foul, but illustrated what a hard time Neale have given him.

Lincoln referee Peter Richardson had no hesitation in awarding a penalty and Sammels stepped up to score his fourth goal of the season. Borough wrapped up the game with a 66th minute effort from Neale, who steered a well placed header past Jayes after a cross from Gareth Dale.

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 22-09-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Lewis, Hogan, Dale, Neale (Pugh), Hoult.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play a Bob Lord Trophy second round first leg tie.

Below par Borough tumbled to their first home defeat of the season in a disastrous cup tie. And they will have to be at their best in the away leg next week to stay in the competition. Last night they were beaten by one of the best sides Wealdstone have fielded in recent seasons. But the home side squandered several clear cut chances.

Borough were unable to recreate the form that has taken them to the top of the league. Instead of patiently building up their moves, they rushed at their game and became far too stereotyped. Time and time again the forwards were having to chase long hopeful balls with little chance of getting them. Borough clearly missed the steadying influence of Jon Sammels, who was ruled out with a muscle injury.

And it was left to John Watson, capped in successive seasons by the England non-league team, to dictate the game. The North Londoners will have won a lot of friends with their bold attacking policy. The Stones threw caution to the wind and came at Borough from the start. Menacing striker Alan Cordice was causing all sorts of problems with his non-stop running and his partner, Nigel Johnson, was denied a goal in the 14th minute when Ken Hall booted away his close range shot.

But Wealdstone took the lead after 18 minutes with a goal that had looked on the cards from the opening whistle. Borough failed to cut out Tom Murphy's cross and Paul Brannigan steered a low header past Hall. Borough tried to force a quick reply and a shot from Alan Hoult was cleared off the line by Wealdstone defender Tony Bennett.

However it was Wealdstone who were still commanding the match and came close to scoring a second when John Glover mis-timed a back pass and Johnson fired into the side netting. After the break Borough enjoyed most of the play and had several chances to get back into the match. They started to create more but lacked the finishing touches in front of goal. A catalogue of chances built up and one of the best fell to Hoult, whose shot was blocked by keeper Ian Cranstone after an effort from Glover had bounced off Gareth Dale's foot.

Eamonn Pugh was sent on in place of Mark Neale to try and add some extra fire power. In a couple of minutes of fierce action Borough had appeals for a penalty waved away after Stuart Pearce looked to have handled a cross and then Pugh had one shot blocked and fired the rebound into the side netting. Borough forced four corners in the dying minutes.



Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 27-09-1980

Frickley: Meehan, Thompson, Reed, Brown, Whiteley, Hall, M. Gill, Smith, Long, Wadsworth, B. Gill. **Sub:** Burgin.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Dale, Neale, Hoult. **Sub:** Lewis.

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to face Frickley Athletic in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough and Frickley served up a feast of entertainment in the most unlikely of settings. On a pitch overshadowed by 500 feet high slagheaps in a small area of the bleak industrial north, the two sides were involved in a real thriller which was a perfect advert for Alliance football. Both sides committed themselves to all-out attack and it resulted in a memorable 90 minutes which had a grandstand finale.

Three times Borough clawed their way back into the match – but still allowed Frickley to score again. Borough deserved a point from this thriller, but paid the penalty for failing to stop the home side playing football. Frickley's injury time winner was as much a result of Borough's inability to hang on as it was to the home side's never say die attitude. With the seconds ticking away and the ball apparently out of danger, Jon Sammels was penalised for a foul throw and Frickley managed to boot the ball up the field.

Then defender John Glover mistimed a back pass and Ken Hall had to hoist the ball into the slagheaps. From the throw-in Martin Gill cut inside and was brought down on the edge of the box. Newcastle referee Alan Saunders had already received the signal from his linesman when from the free-kick, Gill laid the ball out to Dave Smith, who scored with a fierce drive.

Frickley took the lead after just four minutes when Barry Gill crossed from the left and Nigel Long climbed above Borough's smallest player, Eddie Hogan, to head home. But within two minutes Borough were level when Hogan crossed from the left and five goal Gareth Dale ran in to glance a header past Tom Meehan. Frickley charged back and went 2-1 up after winning a 16th minute free-kick. Barry Gill chipped the ball into the box and Ken Hall reacted quickly to push the ball on to the crossbar, but it came out and Ken Brown was allowed to sneak in and push the ball home.

That was the score at half-time with three goals scored inside 20 minutes – and more to come. Seven minutes into the second half Dale chested the ball down before firing in a shot which Meehan failed to hold in the air and Alan Hoult headed home. For the next twenty minutes Borough played like league leaders and should have taken the lead, but Mark Neale looped the ball over the crossbar from Mike McFarlane's low cross.

However, the home side went in front again when full-back Dave Thompson cut inside Tony Turner and Hogan with a fine run and unleashed a 40 yard drive past Hall. Just three minutes from time Borough incredibly put themselves back

on level terms. Dave Hall handled substitute Dave Lewis' testing through ball in the area and Jon Sammels slotted home his third penalty in four matches and his fifth goal of the season. That looked like it until Smith came up to score with another firece drive to give Frickley victory.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 29-09-1980

Wealdstone: Pemberton, Fursdon, Pearce, Barwick, Bennett, Wainwright, Brannigan, Adams, Cordice, Johnson, Ford. **Sub:** Robinson.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Convey, Ratcliffe, Lewis, Sammels, McFarlane, Hoult, Ward, Dale (Glover), Hogan.

Borough made the journey to The Lower Mead ground to face Wealdstone in a Bob Lord Trophy second round second leg tie.

Borough produced a performance of great character and resilience to go through to the third round of the Bob Lord Challenge Trophy. Trailing 1-0 after last week's first leg, without defender Tony Turner due to work commitments, and injured striker Mark Neale, Borough's task was made harder even before the game, when centre-half John Glover failed to arrive in time, having missed the team coach.

But Graham Smith's hastily re-shuffled side hit Wealdstone with two early goals, refused to buckle under incessant second half pressure – and sealed the tie with a classic breakaway goal seconds before the end. Steve Convey replaced Turner at left-back and Glover's delayed arrival mean that Dave Lewis, who had been picked to play up front, had to slot into the back four alongside Mark Ratcliffe, with original substitute Eric Ward coming into midfield.

Yet Borough soon put any worries behind them with an eighth minute opener. Jon Sammels split the Wealdstone defence with a fine through ball to Mike McFarlane who nodded the ball home after his first attempt had hit the post. In the 15th minute, Borough got a second, thanks to stop-gap central defender Lewis who fired in a low shot after the Londoners' defence had failed to clear a McFarlane corner.

The rest of the first-half saw jubilant Borough go close on a number of other occasions, as they carved open the Wealdstone defence at will. A speculative long shot from Ward bounced through Pemberton's hands onto the post, Alan Hoult saw a vicious volley clawed to safety by the Wealdstone keeper and Pemberton managed to hang on to a swirling cross from Eddie Hogan.

Borough keeper Ken Hall's only harrowing moment before the break was when he blocked a Mark Adams effort from point-blank range. Meanwhile Glover had arrived at the ground – and how Borough needed him, as striker Gareth Dale was led off in the 32nd minute with a nasty eye wound that required two stitches. The second-half saw Wealdstone picking themselves up off the floor in a desperate attempt to haul themselves back into the match. With Glover in defence, and Lewis moving up front, Borough found themselves beating off a wave of attacks from the home side.

Adams hit the side-netting after intercepting a poor Ratcliffe



back-pass, Alan Cordice fired wide when well-placed, and Nigel Johnson sent an acrobatic overhead kick just over the bar, as Borough found themselves pinned back on the defensive. But with the back four refusing to yield an inch, McFarlane and Sammels steadying things down in midfield, and Lewis proving an admirable target man up front, Borough weathered the storm with increasing assurance.

And as Wealdstone's fire died down, Borough sealed a thoroughly professional display with a magnificent third goal in the last minute. Ward, who had an impressive game, spread the ball wide to Hogan, who laid an astute pass into the path of Sammels and the Borough player-coach lashed an unstoppable shot into the net from 20 yards.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 07-10-1980

Stafford: Deville, Wood, Secker, Charlesworth, Rylands, Barnett, Brindle, Brownhill, Fenoughty, Kersley, Cullerton. **Sub:** Nieman.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Turner, Ratcliffe, Glover, Sammels, McFarlane, Hogan, Hoult, Gallagher, Jennings. **Sub:** Ward.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two well executed goals from experienced campaigner Jon Sammels looked good enough to earn Nuneaton a share of the spoils, but it wasn't to be. In a clash that produced flowing football throughout, holders Nuneaton contributed their share in an entertaining encounter. Borough were at their most dangerous in the opening period and Sammels' 23rd minute equaliser was a picture goal.

It cancelled out an effort from Rangers which had set Nuneaton back in only three minutes, when Derek Brownbill turned in a Dave Barnett cross after John Glover had failed to intercept. Sammels, always organising and finding space for himself, collected a pass from Bob Stockley and let fly with a rising shot which left home keeper Mark Deville helpless. Prior to the goal, Mike McFarlane had twice gone close with two drives. Rangers also had their moments and the wet conditions led to errors in defence at both ends.

Nuneaton's defence was caught flat-footed in the 34th minute and Rangers took full advantage. The visitors' central defenders Mark Ratcliffe and Glover failed to cut out a Mick Cullerton through-ball and Nick Fenoughty drilled home from just inside the area. With the pace slackening in the second period so did the number of chances. And after 61 minutes the Stockley-Sammels partnership struck again. The latter headed home Stockley's right wing cross at the far post.

It was a goal that should have earned Nuneaton a draw, but a fine opportunist effort from Fenoughty denied them that point. Glover failed to contain Fenoughty who latched on to another Cullerton through ball and then, with a deft lob, beat Ken Hall.

It proved the killer blow for Nuneaton, who are left seeking their opening win in this season's competition.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 11-10-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Turner, Ratcliffe, Glover, Sammels, McFarlane, Hoult, Gallagher, Dale, Hogan.

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head to face Telford United in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough can thank striker Alan Hoult for earning them a point after this pulsating match. For it was two goals from the nimble front runner that helped them twice come from behind to draw a match they could easily have lost.

The match turned out to be a lively, competitive encounter, with chances in abundance at both ends. Borough began confidently and Eddie Hogan almost crowned his return to the Buck's Head with an early goal, hitting the side netting from a Jon Sammels free-kick. But Telford are in desperate need of points, and it was the home side who took a shock 13th minute lead in virtually their first attack.

Dave Mather went down during a tremendous goalmouth melee and the referee pointed to the spot. Mick Brennan converted the penalty to leave Borough facing another uphill task away from home. Mather almost added another in the next minute and for a while the Borough defence looked uncomfortable against Telford's quick breaks. But they came close to equalising in the 20th minute when Hoult crashed a shot against Kevin Charlton's legs, and in the resulting scramble John Jones cleared off the line.

Then striker Gareth Dale, who had looked sharp in the game's early stages, was forced to leave the field in the 34th minute after a kick on the thigh, and substitute Dave Lewis moved into the front line. Yet Borough are nothing if not a fighting side these days – and they snatched an equaliser immediately after. Sammels knocked the ball back to Hoult, and his well-struck shot from the edge of the box sped low past Charlton.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first, with both sides looking likely to edge themselves in front. John Alcock hammered an effort inches past the post and at the other end Sammels flashed a 20-yarder just over the top. Then Stewart Gallagher almost put Borough in front when Charlton blocked his close-range shot. A goal looked inevitable, and it was Telford who moved back in front on the hour. Ken Hall could only push a Mather header onto the post and as the ball rolled along the line the same player was at hand to poke it into the net.

It was then that Borough had to show the character that has pushed them into early contention for the title, and they hauled themselves level for a second time in the 69th minute. Charlton, under pressure from Gallagher, failed to hold a Tony Turner free-kick and Hoult squeezed the loose ball just inside the post for his second goal. The game reached a rousing climax, with Alan Walker having a headed goal disallowed for pushing and ex-Brighton player John Ruggiero heading just wide as Telford fought to snatch two points.



Borough Turn Down Glover Bid

Nuneaton Borough have turned down a £30,000 bid from Colchester United for defender John Glover. The Third Division club stepped in with the firm written offer which would have also given Borough an extra £10,000 if he made a certain number of first team appearances.

Borough manager Graham Smith recommended that the move should be turned down – and the board have given him their full support. Chairman Noel Kelly said today: “The offer came in writing and Colchester gave us seven days to make up our minds. We gave it careful consideration, but the thing to do was to back the manager.”

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 13-10-1980

Borough: Conway, Stockley, Glover, Cross, Turner, Ward, Lewis, Hogan, Gallagher, Newitt (Lawlor), Houl. **Sub:** Thomas.

Kettering: Walters, Curtis (Wright), Haverson, Suddards, Easthall, Duggan, Flannagan, Evans (McIlroy), Phipps, Hofbauer, Middleton.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Holders Borough are still searching for their first win in the competition. Defender Sean Suddards scored the only goal of the game after 70 minutes to leave Nuneaton with two defeats and a draw from three matches. Frankly Borough never looked likely to get on the winning trail. Manager Graham Smith made changes from the side that played at Telford on Saturday – and it showed.

The match itself was a major disappointment and at one stage of a dull 90 minutes the sound of slow handclapping echoed around the players' ears. However, there were some things to cheer, notably the performances of newcomers Glenn Conway and Tony Newitt. Keeper Conway showed that David Eades knew what he was talking about when he recommended his Morris Sports youngster to Smith.

Striker Newitt, rewarded with a first team place after a run of good performances in the reserves, showed up well. But overall Borough failed to produce the goods. Tony Turner had to head the ball away from Ian Middleton's 17th minute drive and then David Hofbauer had a overhead goal disallowed for a foul on Conway as Kettering dominated the early stages.

The nearest Borough came to breaking the first-half deadlock arose after 39 minutes when Stewart Gallagher saw a fierce shot pushed over the bar by Peter Walters. Conway pulled off a similar save eight minutes into the second half when he tipped over a shot from Middleton.

John Glover went up for a Eddie Hogan corner and steered his header just wide of the post. But play quickly switched to the other end and Kettering were awarded a free-kick after 70 minutes. John Flannagan floated in the centre and Suddards headed home. That one breakthrough proved to be enough as Borough suffered their second defeat of the season against Kettering.

Nuneaton Borough v Staines Town 18-10-1980

Borough welcomed Staines Town to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

A goal from Dave Lewis gave Borough a 1-0 win against the Isthmian League side.

Nuneaton Borough v Darlaston 20-10-1980

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Cross, Fallon, Thomas, Parker, Stockley, Clarke, Neale, Lewis, Newitt. **Subs:** Ratcliffe, Lawlor

Darlaston: Hall, Cox, Peakman, Hill, Totney, Briggs, Timmins, Foster, Stanley, Bunn (Rowe), Dams. **Sub:** Seymour.

Borough welcomed Darlaston to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Tony Newitt scored his first goal for the senior side to give Borough a late win. The teenager could afford a smile after his 85th minute match winner – but there was little else to cheer in a poor cup tie. Borough made heavy weather of beating the West Midlands League strugglers.

The match was heading for a drab draw when Newitt, only in the side because of injuries to four strikers, snatched the winner to spare Borough's blushes. Borough had only four first team regulars in the side – and two of them, Bob Stockley and Dave Lewis, played out of position. Andy Clarke, released by Leicester City at the end of last season, came into the side and Paul Farndon, Tom Fallon, Roy Cross and Dean Thomas made up a completely reshuffled back four.

Borough's created few chances in a dull match which did little to enhance the reputation of the competition. The Manor Park fans were starved of entertainment as both sides decided to take few risks and try and force the occasional breakthrough. What was basically a Borough reserve side offered few ideas and this match has not helped the club's attempt to win back the fans – but on last night's showing who could blame them for staying away?

Bob Stockley, playing in midfield, went close with a long header in the opening minutes, from Clark's corner. In a rare moment of excitement, Mark Neale hit the post with a 26th minute header from Stockley's cross after the Borough skipper linked well with Newitt. After 32 minutes the ever-improving Bobby Parker rounded a defender before forcing Darlaston keeper Pete Hall into a full-length save.

Hall, who had a good match, despite the one mistake that gave Borough their goal, made a fine save from Dean Thomas' swerving free-kick. Borough ran out of steam after the break as the match seemed to last forever. Thomas fired a free-kick just wide and Lewis chipped a lob over the bar – but that was about it.

Then five minutes from time Newitt turned the ball in after keeper Hall fumbled a cross from Neale, who picked up a fine pass from Stockley. Darlaston almost snatched an equaliser in the dying seconds when Gary Foster shot wide.



Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 25-10-1980

Scarborough: Springett, Donoghue, Dennis, T. Smith, Dixey, Magee, Lewis, Dunn, I. Smith, Sellers, Olney. Sub: Bowman.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Gallagher, Neale, Lewis. Sub: Ward.

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough threw away a golden chance to prove beyond doubt that they are worthy title contenders. Full-backs Bob Stockley and Tony Turner gifted Scarborough with two goals and although Mark Neale's 69th minute effort gave them fresh hope, Nuneaton could not force the equaliser they genuinely deserved. This was a real blood and thunder match with both sides contributing to an action-packed game on a heavy pitch.

The two teams gave a 2,000-plus crowd plenty to get excited about as they fought like tigers to gain the advantage. Scarborough, one place where football is in a very healthy state, charged at Borough from the start and the ball was rarely out of the Nuneaton half in the opening five minutes. Borough looked to have weathered the storm but then a blunder from skipper Bob Stockley set back their hopes.

After nine minutes he mistimed a back pass to Ken Hall which was intercepted by Jack Lewis. His first shot was blocked but the Scarborough striker followed up to drive the ball past Hall. Borough had to soak up fierce pressure after conceding the early goal and the centre-back partnership of John Glover and Mark Ratcliffe came into its own. They thwarted most of the home side's raids with Glover in particularly dominant form. Glover cleared Trevor Smith's header off the line and made a vital stop from a shot by goalscorer Lewis.

Borough's Dave Lewis needed two stitches in a face wound after a clash of heads but was able to continue. Seven minutes into the second half Borough went further behind after Turner conceded a needless penalty in a goalmouth scramble. Turner was penalised for foul on full-back Jerry Donoghue, who picked himself up and slotted home the penalty past Ken Hall. Nuneaton's two lapses of concentration left them with an uphill task and in the end it proved too much.

But new life surged through the side when Neale cashed in on a defensive error by Bryan Magee to slide the ball home – his third goal in the Alliance. Nuneaton spurred on by the non-stop running of Eddie Hogan threw everything at the home side in their search for an equaliser, but the Yorkshire title chasers held on. The front three did an admirable job but perhaps the pace of Gareth Dale and Alan Hoult's finishing power may have taken them close.

Although Borough played well enough to deserve a point they learned on Saturday that there is no room for elementary errors at this level of football.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 28-10-1980

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Harrison, Moore, Graham, Halton, Haskins, Hearne, Downes, Smith, Charnley. Subs: Manning and McCarthy.

Borough: Spencer, Farndon, Thomas, Ratcliffe, Fallon, Parker, Ward, Newitt, Gallagher, Thompson, Clarke. Sub: Lawlor.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Bedworth fully deserved this victory over a very weak Borough side. Graham Smith fielded a mixture of reserves and youngsters for this local derby – and they were never in with a shout after the Greenbacks had taken control with two quickfire first half goals. Strikers Chris Downes and Martin Haskins both scored in the space of two minutes before half-time, and a Tom Fallon own goal midway through the second half sent Borough to defeat.

United immediately made their intentions clear as they took the game to Borough from the kick-off, and Haskins had an early effort blocked by Paul Farndon after keeper Lee Spencer had made a hash of a Bob Brookes cross. Then Downes, who was making his first appearance for Bedworth after signing from Coventry Sporting, glanced a Martin Smith cross inches wide as Borough struggled to put their game together.

With Haskins and Downes posing a constant threat to the Borough defence and Smith looking dangerous on the left, it was no more than justice when United moved in front in the 41st minute. Downes chested the ball down in the area to turn and fire a low shot past Spencer into the corner. Two minutes later the Greenbacks had a second when Haskins rifled in a half-volley from Peter Hearne's corner to complete a first-half which the home side dominated from start to finish.

Borough flickered briefly at the start of the second half, with their midfield finally providing some service for strikers Stewart Gallagher and Tony Newitt, and Dean Thomas flashed a long-range free-kick just wide. But United had obviously been boosted by those two goals just before the break, and they killed the game stone dead with a somewhat fortunate third goal after 65 minutes. The hard working Smith hammered over a dangerous low cross and defender Tom Fallon stuck out a foot, only for the ball to fly into the net past the helpless Spencer.

With the game sealed, Bedworth coasted through the rest of the game, and caretaker-manager John Brady replaced Haskins and Brookes with youngsters Jackie Manning and Mick McCarthy to give them much-needed practice. As for Borough, Gallagher worked hard throughout the match and Mark Ratcliffe stood out in a hard-pressed defence.

United's victory may have been slightly hollow, considering the strength of the Borough side on the night – but with newcomer Downes making such an impression up front, they must have been heartened to finally find the goal touch that has deserted them in the opening weeks of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 08-11-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, Lewis, Sammels, Hogan, Gallagher, Pugh, Dale. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Weymouth: Roberts, Lawrence, Byrne, Dyer, Merrick, Joseph, McCafferty, Courtney, Iannone, Dove, Johnson. **Sub:** Arnold.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough put in a disastrous performance as Weymouth ruthlessly exposed their weaknesses. Manager Graham Smith would be the first to admit that his re-built side was finding its feet – and that was made abundantly clear on Saturday.

Both sides were in a tense frame of mind and two players – Borough's Dave Lewis and Peter Johnson from Weymouth – were booked within 15 minutes of the start. After eight minutes Borough were behind when Anniello Iannone moved onto an Antone Joseph through ball and punished the back four's indecision by planting a low shot past Ken Hall. Borough now found themselves on the rack before they had time to settle and had to ward off attack after attack from the rampaging visitors.



Striker Eamonn Pugh slips home Borough's consolation goal in his first full Alliance match of the season. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But they were rocked by two goals in three minutes towards the end of a nightmare first half. After 38 minutes Derek Courtney netted his 100th goal for Weymouth with a clinical piece of finishing when he chased an Iannone through ball, left two Borough defenders and slipped the ball past the advancing Hall. Two minutes later Borough skipper Bob Stockley was booked for a foul on Johnson and just a minute later Weymouth went 3-0 up. Jimmy McCafferty scored with a superb diving header from Brian Lawrence's low cross.

Borough lost Sammels at half-time when he was taken to hospital with a nasty gash on his leg. With Sammels gone, Borough faced another backs to the wall task at the start of the second half. And with the half just 12 minutes old Courtney scored his second when he shrugged off a weak challenge from Tony Turner and slotted the ball home. Three minutes later Eamonn Pugh struck a consolation goal for Borough. He moved on to a low cross by Gareth Dale to fire home. But it was the one moment of joy for Borough, who could do nothing to halt Weymouth's impressive victory run.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 10-11-1980

Altrincham: Connaughton, Allan, Bailey, Davison, Owens (Rogers 23), King, Barrow, Whitbread, Johnson, Heathcote, Howard.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Ratcliffe, Glover, Lewis (Ward 45), McFarlane, Gallagher, Pugh, Dale, Hogan.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to face Altrincham in a Bob Lord Trophy third round tie.

Striker Barry Whitbread stabbed the ball home at the third attempt for Altrincham's opener and then Graham Heathcote scored a goal fit for "Match of the Day" – but there was dignity in defeat for Borough. They turned in a vastly improved performance and deserved to take the match into a replay.

There were enough signs to indicate that Nuneaton are coming out of their lean spell. At times it was Borough who seemed more likely to break through as they put together some fluent moves which suggested a return to their old form. Borough might have been ahead in less than a minute when Eamonn Pugh steered a powerful header narrowly wide from Mike McFarlane's cross. Gareth Dale had a snapshot well saved by John Connaughton before the Alliance leaders started to make their contribution to a highly charged match.

Borough put up a fierce rearguard action with Bob Stockley chesting a close range shot from Heathcote off the line and earlier Ken Hall made a fine stop from Graham Barrow's effort. The Nuneaton back four did exceptionally well to stifle Altrincham and John Glover had a brilliant game at the heart of the defence. After 22 minutes Mark Ratcliffe was booked for a foul on Heathcote – one of seven cautions handed out by Harrogate referee David Hutchinson. Stockley, Dean Thomas and Stewart Gallagher also went in the book.

Borough looked to have survived the pressure from the home side until five minutes from the interval when Altrincham took the lead. Whitbread ran on to a through ball from Howard. His first shot was blocked by Ratcliffe and he then tried to lob keeper Hall without success, but the ball rebounded to the striker who planted a low shot inside the post. Borough lost midfield man Dave Lewis at half-time with a leg injury after he was clumsily tackled by John King, who was booked. Eric Ward came on at the start of the second half.

Borough wasted a golden chance of an equaliser when Dale fluffed an opportunity. Gallagher picked out Dale with a superb through ball but with only Connaughton to beat, the Borough striker pushed the ball too far forward and the keeper was able to save.

That proved a costly miss as Altrincham dug in hard to stop Borough's progress – and then extended their lead with a sensational goal four minutes from time. Gallagher was penalised for a foul on Rogers and Heathcote stepped up to bend a 40 yard shot past the Borough wall and into the net to end Borough's hopes.

Gravesend & Northfleet v Nuneaton Boro' 15-11-1980

Gravesend: Lewington, Idle, Jacks, Burrett, Galvin, Stonebridge, Dyer, Gregory, Bryant, Busby, Dudman. **Sub:** Smith.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Ratcliffe, Glover, Lewis, McFarlane, Gallagher, Pugh, Dale, Hogan. **Sub:** Ward

Borough made the journey to Stonebridge Road to face Gravesend & Northfleet in an Alliance Premier League game.

A goal up after just three minutes, Borough looked to be priming their lowly opponents for a thrashing. But it was not to be – and the Kent side showed their mettle by scoring two goals to gain their first away win of the season. In doing so, they highlighted the major difference between the two sides – plain, old fashioned guts.

Determination and application counted for everything on a rain-soaked pitch that turned skill into a lottery. Borough's fourth defeat in the past five league games leaves them planted firmly in the lower half of the Alliance for the first time this season and Graham Smith's prime worry now must be how to coax his team back into some sort of form.

During the first 20 minutes Borough threatened to run riot, posing all sorts of problems in midfield and up front for a shaky Gravesend side. They were rewarded early with a third minute penalty from record signing Eddie Hogan, who played a big part in the build-up leading to the spot kick. He collected a cross from Mike McFarlane and looked certain to score when he was pulled down by keeper Colin Lewington inside the box. Referee Neville Ashley pointed to the spot and Hogan drove the ball into the bottom left-hand corner of the net.

Borough looked certain to capitalise on such a fine start, especially with the midfield trio of Hogan, McFarlane and Dave Lewis knitting effectively. Gareth Dale came within inches of increasing his team's lead with a 25-yard drive which flew just wide and Lewington reacted superbly to palm away an Eamonn Pugh header. But Nuneaton began to lose their vice-like grip on the game and a sudden taster of what was to come came when Dave Busby headed wide from a good position.

Gravesend drew level in the 27th minute with a simple goal that highlighted Borough's inability to deal with the unexpected. Paul Dyer sent over one of those all-too-rare crosses that bisected the Borough defence and Jeff Bryant, exploiting the gap, was on hand at the far post to head home a fine goal. A quarter of an hour later, the visitors were deservedly ahead, from an almost identical situation. Bryant swung in a high cross and Phil Stonebridge rose well to plant a header into the top corner of the net.

The second half petered out into a poor imitation of the first and neither team really threatened, although Borough threw everything forward in a vain search for an equaliser. Perhaps the depressingly low attendance of 630 was due to the appalling weather conditions.



Borough defender John Glover finds himself in a familiar situation as he lunges for the ball, surrounded by Gravesend players.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 22-11-1980

Worcester: Cumbes, Selby, Bevan, Phelps, Tudor, Lowe, Oakey, Williams, Telford, Crompton, Morris. **Sub:** Wright.

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Glover, Cross, Thomas, Lewis, McFarlane, Hogan, Convey, Dale, Pugh (Neale 49).

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in an Alliance Premier League game.

A momentary lapse of concentration sent struggling Borough into deep trouble. They held firm for most of this dour Alliance Premier League match, but gift wrapped Worcester the only goal of the game after 70 minutes. The defiant Manor Park side, operating a 4-4-2 formation keyed to defence, worked like Trojans to try and keep the home side out – but only had themselves to blame after conceding another soft goal. It now means Borough have lost their last seven matches and plummeted from the top of the league to the bottom half in just three trouble-torn months.

Borough's policy was to allow Worcester no room for manoeuvre by crowding the midfield and relying on the occasional breakaway. The plan worked exceptionally well and Borough looked to have earned the reward of a point until disaster struck. Mike McFarlane chased with Barry Williams for a loose ball and clumsily felled the Worcester man from behind. Borough – with McFarlane still on the ground – were guilty of ball watching as Williams picked himself up and knocked a short ball to new signing Paul Morris, who had time and room to fire home as Borough watched helplessly.



Clear-cut chances were rare with Borough skipper for the match, Dave Lewis, clearing off the line from a Malcolm Phelps flick and then Borough went close when Gareth Dale headed narrowly wide from an Eddie Hogan cross. McFarlane sliced the ball over the top and Jimmy Cumbes fumbled a cross from Dale as Borough tried to break through.

Just four minutes into the second half Borough lost Eamonn Pugh with a head injury and he was replaced by Mark Neale. Borough defended solidly and then switched play to the other end quite effectively with Dale firing straight at Cumbes with a fierce drive. Then Borough conceded the give-away goal which was to cost them dear.

Manager Graham Smith has hinted that he may be forced into the transfer market again, which would obviously mean a clear out among his large playing squad.

Smith Receives Board Backing

Nuneaton Borough's board of directors have re-affirmed their faith in manager Graham Smith. The club's disastrous run of seven successive defeats was discussed at a board meeting last night and Smith was given a chance to talk about the situation. At the end of a lengthy meeting, chairman Noel Kelly said: "We still have every confidence in the manager."

Colchester Again Bid For Glover

Colchester United have made a renewed bid to sign Nuneaton Borough defender John Glover. But for the second time this season the Manor Park club have turned down the bid, which involves more than £30,000. Said Borough chairman Noel Kelly: "Colchester have been in regular contact with us since their initial offer and they asked this week if there was any change in the situation. The matter was discussed by the board of directors who feel they are not prepared to lose him at this stage."

Carr Back With Borough

Steve Carr is included in the Nuneaton Borough squad as they attempt to end a disastrous run at Wealdstone tomorrow. Carr rejoined the Manor Park club this week after two seasons in Australia. He first played for Nuneaton in January 1978.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 29-11-1980

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Cross, Glover, Thomas, McFarlane (Neale), Lewis, Hogan, Convey, Gallagher, Dale.

Borough made the journey to The Lower Mead ground to play Wealdstone in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough took their first tentative steps towards recovery as they battled through the clinging mud to collect a valuable Alliance Premier League point – their first since October 11. Borough ended a run of seven successive defeats with the hard earned draw.

On a gluepot of a pitch Borough were full value for their point

and had three outstanding chances to clinch both points. Stewart Gallagher, who deserved a goal to complete a fine return to the side, slammed in an angled drive against the post in the first minute of the second half and Gareth Dale's follow-up effort was smothered by two Wealdstone players. Then 17 minutes from the end Dale broke clear but hesitated as Ian Cranstone came off his line to save.

Borough, desperately needing a confidence booster, and Wealdstone, with just two wins in 14 matches, were involved in a dogged battle which matched their current situation. But Borough enjoyed more than 60 per cent of the play and always looked more likely to score with Ken Hall rarely tested. What Wealdstone lacked in skill they more than made up for in commitment and they proved to be a tough nut to crack.

Every time Borough created an opening the Wealdstone team were back in numbers, with six or seven players crowding the penalty area. But it was the appalling conditions which caused the problems, with an overnight thaw leaving the pitch like a quagmire. It made football out of the question, but Borough grittily dug in their heels and they finally earned the result they deserved.

The match did throw up some outstanding individual performances in the Borough side. Record buy Eddie Hogan was a constant inspiration in midfield with his non-stop running and the Irishman was always looking to build up attacks. After an indifferent start, Hogan is beginning to find his feet and he had an excellent match on Saturday, when his workrate was exceptional as he revelled in the mud.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 01-12-1980

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Glover, Cross, Thomas, McFarlane, Hogan, Convey, Gallagher (Neale 60), Dale, Hoults.

Boston: Blackwell, Leigh, Peacock, Lancaster, Annable, Adamson, Callery, Mallender, Brown, Kabia, Simpson. Sub: Alexander.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough hit a new low with a depressing defeat – their eighth in nine games. Borough handed Boston victory on a plate by conceding two sloppy goals – one in each half of a dreadful match. The most alarming sight was the almost total evacuation of the main stand after Boston scored their second goal. But who could blame the fans after they endured a nightmare of a performance from the home team. The supporters had paid a pound to watch and the entertainment provided was barely worth a few coppers.

Ground staff at Manor Park worked like Trojans to get the match on and after several inspections the game was given the go-ahead just half-an-hour before kick-off. But they must have wished the weather had beaten them as Borough slumped to defeat in front of their second lowest gate in five years – just 483.

Borough reverted to a 4-3-3 formation with Dave Lewis out

through injury and Alan Hoult lining up in attack after a nine match absence. Borough were in trouble from the start and Ken Hall was forced into a reflex stop with his feet from a fierce drive by Kevin Lancaster. Hall made another good save, when he pushed away a shot from Gary Mallender – but after 29 minutes the Borough keeper gifted Boston the lead.

Bobby Brown sent in a right wing cross which had Hall diving to his right but the ball went straight through his hands and into the path of Gary Simpson who knocked the ball home. Three minutes later Hall made another error when he missed a Mallender shot but this time Dean Thomas cleared the ball off the line. Borough should have been shaken up by the goal, but instead they plodded along in a lethargic manner that was destined to get them nowhere. Only Eddie Hogan tried to add any sparkle to the side but he received precious little help from his colleagues.

In the second half it was Boston again who had the better of a dismal 45 minutes and Neil Callery shot narrowly wide with Borough ball-watching. Mark Neale replaced Stewart Gallagher up front but there was no bite to Borough's attacks. Three minutes from time Boston added more salt to Borough's wounds with their second goal of the game. Dave Adamson's header from Callery's cross rebounded off the bar and Bobby Brown, whose classy performance was the only bright note in the match, followed up to head home.

Throughout the match Borough only mustered one worthwhile effort when Steve Convey fired straight at keeper Kevin Blackwell with a low drive – and that came in the final minutes.

Directors Give Smith Vote Of Confidence

Nuneaton Borough's board of directors are continuing to support manager Graham Smith despite the club's recent slide. Another board meeting was held at Manor Park last night but chairman Noel Kelly said today: "We still have every confidence in Graham Smith and coach Jon Sammels.

"Obviously everyone is concerned about the recent run of results but I still feel it will not be too long before we are moving up the table. The manager has had to contend with a lot of injury problems in the past few weeks and it has not made his job easy."

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

06-12-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Cross, Turner, Dale, Hogan, Lewis, Convey (Hoult), Carr, Neale.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Graham Smith may be forced into the transfer market to solve the club's current crisis. After yet another defeat – Borough's ninth in ten games – manager Graham Smith said: "It may be the only solution and I have already made inquiries about a couple of players."

Lethargic Borough showed little improvement on their

recent form and allowed a mediocre Barnet side to collect two welcome points. There was a total lack of creativity from Nuneaton as they attempted to draw level after handing out their customary gift goal. Chants of "What a load of rubbish" echoed around the ground and there were calls for the manager to resign.

It was little wonder the crowd of just 659 voiced their opinions so strongly as Borough, a team who have lost their confidence, slumped to another defeat. They only have themselves to blame as they should have been 2-0 up within ten minutes but their finishing let them down – and it proved fatal. Both chances fell to striker Steve Carr, who was making his first appearance since rejoining the club after three seasons in Australia.

After nine minutes Mark Neale knocked down a Bob Stockley cross into the path of Carr but his weak shot trickled into keeper Gary Steel's arms. Five minutes later Carr wasted another chance with a tame header after a good centre by Dave Lewis. The next attack showed what happens when things are going against a side as Barnet scored what proved to be the decisive goal. Elwyn Roberts found space on the left after a free kick and aimed a fierce right foot drive into the far corner of the net. Borough full back Tony Turner ran across the goal line in an attempt to clear but could only help the ball into the net.

Eddie Hogan missed a glaring chance and there were other opportunities for Carr, Lewis and Gareth Dale in the first half and Borough keeper Ken Hall made a fine save from a Steve Brinkman header.



Another attack from Borough, but this time a Barnet defender gets in front of Mark Neale to clear the danger. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

After the break Borough gave little indication they were going to break through with just two strikers so Alan Hoult was sent on in place of Steve Convey and the strike force was now four with Dale pushed up. The game only led to an onslaught from Barnet and they could have scored at least three more times but for the brilliance of Ken Hall. The Borough keeper, who came under fire from Graham Smith last week made four outstanding saves including a double save after 74 minutes.

Hall pushed away a volley from substitute Roy Clayton and



then recovered superbly to claw away Roberts' follow up effort. Neale hit the post with a late effort but frankly Borough never looked capable of rescuing the game as the slump goes on. Borough are now without an APL win since September 20 and they have lost their last four league matches.

Smith Hits Back At Critics

Graham Smith, who has come under fire from even the die-hard fans of Nuneaton Borough has hit back at his critics. Amid chants of "What a load of rubbish" during Saturday's home defeat there were calls for Smith's resignation. But he hit back at his critics and said: "It is easy for them to shout from the terraces – they do not understand the problems.

"They can call for my head if they wish, but that is the easy way out. I still believe the team has the passion and character to get out of this and we can do without the knockers," he added. Borough's 1-0 defeat by Barnet was their ninth in 10 matches – and they have only scored twice in the last nine.

Borough To Collect £5,000

Nuneaton Borough are poised to collect another £5,000 to boost the club's finances. They will receive the cash from Third Division Oxford United as Malcolm Shotton has now made 20 full first team appearances.

Neale And Gallagher On Transfer List

Nuneaton Borough strikers Mark Neale and Stewart Gallagher have been put on the transfer list. Manager Graham Smith, announcing the shock news said: "I feel it is in the best interests of the players – and the club. "It was never an easy decision to take but at the moment we have to consider another rebuilding programme at the club," he added.

Smith Resigns

Graham Smith has today resigned as manager of Nuneaton Borough. He announced his decision to the Borough board this morning to end an eventful nine-month reign in the Manor Park hot seat. Smith said: "It was never an easy decision to make as I have never been out of the game since I was 16 years old. There is no way I am leaving a sinking ship but I feel a change at the helm is needed."

Neale And Gallagher Off Transfer List

Strikers Mark Neale and Stewart Gallagher have been taken off the Nuneaton Borough transfer list. Both players were listed by former manager Graham Smith last week.

Nuneaton Boro' v Racing Club Warwick 20-12-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Convey, Dale, Neale. **Subs:** Carr and Lewis.

Racing Club: Hodson, Irwin, Stacey, Boulton, Cooper, Hitchman, Slade, Coleman, Bryan, Fisher, Heal (Elstone). **Sub:** Cleaver.

Borough welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Borough needed just 20 seconds to put their troubles behind

them and sow the seeds of a crushing win. Mike McFarlane rifled home the first goal as many people were still settling into their seats. It was Borough's first win for more than two months. Caretaker boss Jon Sammels returned to the side after a long absence and almost single-handedly he led the Borough revival.

Although the opposition was poor, Borough really did look a different side with Sammels out there dictating the play. They could not have wished for a better start when McFarlane cashed in on keeper Ian Hodson's hesitancy to fire home from Gareth Dale's cross. After 17 minutes Borough went 2-0 up when McFarlane scored again with a sweet left foot drive into the bottom corner of the net after Hodson had only half cleared a corner from Eddie Hogan.

John Glover scored a cracking third goal for Nuneaton after 33 minutes when he rose magnificently to a pinpoint Bob Stockley cross and powered a fierce header past Hodson. Six minutes later Borough added to their tally as the confidence rushed back into the side. Steve Convey made it 4-0 when he beat Hodson with a 25-yard drive after meeting a superb through ball from Sammels after good work by Mark Neale.

It was such a one-sided affair that Racing Club, from the Midland Combination, never managed one shot on goal throughout – although they did have a golden opportunity to score after an hour. Striker Stewart Fisher did the difficult part when he rounded goalkeeper Ken Hall, but he delayed so long that Convey was able to race back and tackle him before he got his shot in. Borough reached the "old five" after 72 minutes when Stockley sent McFarlane down the bye-line with a superb pass and he crossed for Dale to coolly flick the ball over Hodson.

The five goals certainly gave a very low crowd something to cheer after the recent gloom, but Borough must prove it was no fluke when they take on Barrow in the Alliance Premier League on Saturday.

Glover In Talks With Colchester

Nuneaton Borough defender John Glover, who has been the subject of a record £30,000 bid from Colchester United, is to have talks with the Third Division side tomorrow. Glover, who joined Borough from Southern League Bedford Town during the summer will be discussing the possibilities of a move with Colchester manager Bobby Roberts.

Borough Announce New Manager

Nuneaton Borough's new manager is 35-year-old Graham Carr, who comes to Manor Park from Southern League Dartford. He is expected to sign a three year contract later today and the appointment will be on a full-time basis.

Carr, who moved to the Midlands three months ago after making it clear he was looking for a job in the area, said today: "I feel this club has great potential and I am pleased to become a part of it. My first priority is to get the team in a

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safe position in the Alliance Premier League. Obviously there will have to be changes made but at the moment I will be assessing the playing staff,” said Carr.

Chairman Noel Kelly said: “Graham has a proven record in non-league football and we feel he is the right man for the job.” Caretaker manager Jon Sammels did not apply for the job but it is known that former Coventry City and Arsenal defender Jeff Blockley and former Liverpool and England international Alan A’Court were among the contenders for the post.

Carr joined non-league Telford as a player after spells with Northampton, York and Bradford. In 1971 he skippered Telford at Wembley when they beat Hillingdon 3-2 in the FA Trophy final. After a short spell with Poole Town he was back at Wembley in 1974 with Dartford, but the Kent side lost to Morecamble. However Carr went on to lead Dartford to the Southern League championship.

He took over as manager of Weymouth from former Nuneaton Borough player Dietmar Bruck and again tasted success as the Dorset side finished runners-up in the Southern League. He left Weymouth to join Dartford in October 1978 as full-time manager. Carr was manager of the Southern League representative side last season which included two players now at Nuneaton, John Glover and Mike McFarlane.



Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly welcomes new manager Graham Carr to Manor Park. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow

20-12-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Glover, Turner, Hogan, Sammels, Lewis, Gallagher, Neale, Dale. Sub: S. Carr.

Barrow: Thomas, Musgrove, Whittle, McDonald, Brooks, Eatough, Pearson, Moore, Cowperthwaite. Sub: Gerrard.

Borough welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Graham Carr celebrated victory in his first match in charge, but Borough still have plenty to prove. Borough ended their

lean spell with their first win since September 20 – and it was thoroughly deserved against a side who proved themselves to be no mugs. But Carr will be aware that Borough need to build on this and the Christmas programme will be vital.

Borough’s showing was very impressive, and manager Carr’s decision to play Gareth Dale wide on the right was an inspired move as it gave his fellow strikers a lot more room to operate – none more so than Stewart Gallagher, who made a tremendous contribution to the result.



Dave Lewis scores Borough’s second goal despite a despairing lunge from a Barrow defender. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

After Mark Neale headed wide of the post, it was Barrow, who included ex-Everton striker Jim Pearson, who created a couple of good chances. Pearson opted to pass instead of running at John Glover in a one-on-one and then shot tamely wide after a good move.

Borough hit back almost immediately and took the lead after 27 minutes. Gallagher shielded a long through ball and with supreme ease knocked the ball into the path of Dale who side-stepped a defender and fired a left foot shot into the corner of the net.

Five minutes from half-time Barrow, who always looked threatening on the break, had appeals for a penalty turned down after Ken Hall appeared to have pulled down Mick Moore after he intercepted a poor back pass from Cross.

Barrow started the second half in determined mood but they were soon forced back and Borough scored a second goal eight minutes into the half. It was a brilliantly worked goal with Bob Stockley finding Dale down the right with a long through ball. Dale crossed and Lewis scored his second goal of the season with a fierce drive from the edge of the box.

After 69 minutes Borough went 3-0 up with another fine goal when Jon Sammels collected a short throw-in from Stockley and floated in a high cross for Mark Neale to head the ball home. After 83 minutes Stewart Gallagher almost rewarded more pressure from the Manor Park side but his shot was cleared off the line after a through ball from Steve Carr, who replaced Sammels.

Two minutes from time Barrow pulled a goal back when Cowperthwaite ran clear of the defence in pursuit of a long ball, collected it and placed a low shot past Hall.



Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1980

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Turner, Cross, Glover, Sammels, Dale, Lewis, Gallagher, Neale, Hogan.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough's revival continued, but the game should have reaped greater reward. Two well executed goals from striker Stewart Gallagher put Borough in the driving seat in the opening half, but after the break they allowed a struggling Rangers outfit off the hook.

Highlight of the first half was undoubtedly the lethal shooting of Gallagher, who took full advantage of the handful of chances Nuneaton created. He struck in the 29th minute when he collected a Tony Turner pass and drilled the ball home from an acute angle. Gareth Dale twice went close with headers before Gallagher made the home fans suffer again right on the break. A free-kick struck deep into the Rangers area by Turner saw home keeper Trevor Dance fumble, and Gallagher wasted no time in rifling home from close range.

It proved quite an eventful half for the Borough forward, who received a yellow card for a foul on Fraser Wood, within seconds of scoring his second goal. In the opening period Nuneaton always looked sharper in attack, and could well have been further in command had Dale taken one of those two opportunities that came his way. At the back central defenders John Glover, making one of his last appearances before his move to Colchester, and co-defender Roy Cross were sound throughout.

The visitors had one lucky let-off when a chance fell to Derek Brownbill, but his header struck the face of a post. The second half was a complete contrast, however, the threat of Gallagher was no longer evident and continual Rangers pressure had Borough defending in numbers.

Keith Brindle forced his way through to reduce the arrears in 51 minutes and then a penalty conceded by player-coach Jon Sammels brought matters level. Chasing back to cover, Sammels tripped Brownbill and substitute of just one minute, Mick Cullerton, converted from the spot.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 27-12-1980

Bath: Ogden, Thomson, Mackay, Ricketts, Taylor, Shaw, Wheeler, Hayes, Withey, Griffin, Jenkins. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Turner, Cross, Glover, Sammels, McFarlane, Ratcliffe, Neale, Gallagher, Hogan. **Sub:** Thomas.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough put in one of their most resilient performances of recent weeks and earned a deserved point. After a tough 2-2 draw at Stafford the previous day, Borough were involved in another gruelling 90 minutes on an energy sapping pitch. But they held firm under enormous pressure from the home side

to collect their fourth point out of a possible six since Graham Carr took charge.

There now appears to be an all round willingness to do well for the new manager and that was emphasised with this result. A side with less character might have cracked under the onslaught but battling Borough managed to hold on. There were anxious moments for Nuneaton throughout the match – and none more so than in the 76th minute. A right wing cross ran through to 14-goal Bath striker Graham Withey but somehow Jon Sammels got back to clear his shot off the goal line.

Bath were encamped in the Borough half for most of the second period but keeper Ken Hall and his defence held firm. Hall had a fine game for Borough. He was never scared to dive at the feet of advancing forwards to claim the ball and pulled off a string of fine saves from long range efforts. Left back Tony Turner was also well to the fore and John Glover's game does not look affected after all the off the field wranglings.

Every player looked shattered as they came off the field at the end of the grueller and Nuneaton had fought like Trojans for their point. Manager Carr faced a selection problem before the match with Gareth Dale and Dave Lewis joining Eamonn Pugh and Alan Hoult on the injury list. He brought centre-back Mark Ratcliffe into midfield and it proved to be an intelligent move as Ratcliffe used all his defensive know-how to help reduce Bath's options.

Borough had a set-back after just two minutes when Neale incurred a head injury after a clash with Tony Ricketts and had to have three stitches in a head wound, but he returned to the field after 12 minutes. While Neale was off, Borough had a lucky escape when Roy Cross made his one mistake of the match with a poor back pass which Kevin Griffin picked up but he blazed over with only Hall to beat.

Stewart Gallagher had a couple of chances to break the deadlock – and almost set up a goal. Gallagher knocked a short pass to Mike McFarlane, whose shot was tipped on to the crossbar by keeper Chris Ogden. But all the pressure came from Bath and it was to Nuneaton's credit that they kept the scoresheet blank with their heroic defensive work.

Carr Willing To Listen To Offers

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is willing to listen to offers for any player who is out of the first-team squad. His first move has seen the release of striker Steve Carr, who has joined Southern League Enderby Town.

Glover Deal Off

The protracted transfer deal between Colchester United and Nuneaton Borough is off. The deal, which would have taken Glover to Essex for a fee of £30,000, has fallen through after a phone call from Borough chairman Noel Kelly to the player last night, during which Glover apparently stated that he did not want to leave Manor Park.



Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 01-01-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Cross, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult.

Stafford: Dance, Wood, Dulson, Brindle, Hamlett, Nieman, Secker, Bailey, Brownbill, Kersley, Smith. **Sub:** Cullerton.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough hit back from behind in front of their biggest crowd of the season. They wiped out a two goal deficit to force a draw and stay unbeaten since Graham Carr took charge. Stafford took advantage of a couple of breakaway moves to forge ahead. In a poor first-half which was spoiled by a strong wind, Borough were well on top for the opening half-hour with Mark Neale heading just wide in the first minute.

Borough then forced four corners in a row as they piled on the pressure. But after 31 minutes Borough were knocked back when Stafford swept into the lead. Wayne Secker pushed the ball out to Gary Dulson on the left wing and he crossed for Jimmy Smith to power a header past Ken Hall. Six minutes later Neale missed a good chance for Borough when he failed to connect with an Alan Hoult cross.

Borough went further behind ten minutes into the second half when John Glover only half-cleared a cross from Keith Brindle and Stafford's hard-working midfield player Terry Bailey slammed the ball home. But Borough stormed back and scored twice in three minutes to get back on level terms. A minute after Stafford struck, Borough had reduced the deficit when Neale controlled the ball in the area from a Mike McFarlane cross and fired a low shot past keeper Trevor Dance from close range.

After 59 minutes Borough levelled the match when McFarlane fired home with a fierce shot from outside the box after Stewart Gallagher had laid the ball back into his path following a right wing corner. The goal rush breathed new life into the match and both sides had chances to go ahead again. After 69 minutes Stafford piled on the pressure but Borough defender Roy Cross kept his head to make a clearance.

Then in the 78th minute Borough carved out an opening when Eddie Hogan robbed Stafford full-back Fraser Wood and chipped the ball in for Gallagher to head wide. Borough's fightback again outlined the new found commitment since Graham Carr took over.

Glover Watched By Spurs

John Glover, who turned down a move to Colchester United two days ago, is now being chased by Tottenham Hotspur. Scouts from White Hart Lane have trailed the Nuneaton Borough centre-half for some weeks.

And the strongest indication so far of their interest came with the appearance of manager Keith Burkinshaw at yesterday's 2-2 draw with Stafford Rangers.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-01-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Ratcliffe, Turner, Thomas (Hoult), Hogan, Sammels, Dale, Gallagher, Neale.

Borough made the journey to The Huish to play Yeovil Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough crashed to their heaviest defeat in the Alliance as Yeovil ripped them apart with a breathtaking attacking show. Borough were run ragged by the rampant home side and can have no complaints about the score – it could have been even more. After trailing 2-0 at half-time Borough crumbled under more pressure and Yeovil rammed home three more goals.

Borough, who were unbeaten in four matches before Saturday's disaster, were forced into changes with Mark Ratcliffe, who was feeling the effects of a weary coach journey, replacing the injured Roy Cross and Dean Thomas moved into a midfield role. There was no place for Dave Lewis and Alan Hoult was substitute.

Stewart Gallagher was booked after just nine minutes, before Yeovil, with a strong wind at their backs, raced into a 2-0 lead, but Borough had their chances to stay in contention. Mark Neale, who has never been on a winning side at Yeovil, missed two good chances – one before the home side scored and another just before they netted their second. However, it was Yeovil who snapped up the chances and after 31 minutes Borough failed to clear a Tony Cottle through ball and Steve Morrell raced in to chip the ball over the advancing Ken Hall.

Borough found themselves two goals down two minutes from half-time when Andy Bell lashed home a close range effort despite a desperate attempt at a clearance by John Glover, who was only able to hook the ball into the roof of the net.

Six minutes into the second half Neale missed his third chance when he fired wide with a shot from six yards out. The striking duo of Neale and Gallagher were trying hard to help Borough's cause but they received little support from an ineffective midfield. Yeovil tore gaping holes in the Borough defence. Winger Morrell and former Grantham player Dave Platt led the charge with Morrell in particular wreaking havoc down the right wing and giving Tony Turner a troubled time.

Goal number three came in the 61st minute when Clive Green flicked on a Mark Williams corner for Bell to rifle home his second goal. Borough conceded two more goals in the space of a minute. After 71 minutes Green had a shot blocked on the line by Bob Stockley, but the defence stood like statues as Platt fired home the rebound. Morrell's second goal – and Yeovil's fifth – emphasised the huge gap between the two sides. He beat three defenders with a skilful run and then dribbled past Hall before rolling the ball into the net.

Yeovil looked capable of scoring each time they attacked but ten minutes from the end substitute Alan Hoult scored his seventh goal in the Alliance with a fierce drive which Kim Book could only push into the top of the net.

Carr And Kelly On Collision Course

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly and manager Graham Carr are on a collision course over the club's desperate situation – just four weeks after Carr took charge.

Borough's last chance of real success this season ended with the shock 2-1 FA Trophy defeat against Ashington at the weekend and Carr conceded: "We are not good enough."

He has asked the board for money to buy new players, but has been told by chairman Kelly: "There is none available." Said Carr today: "I am facing a difficult situation. It is clear to everyone that we need new players, but I cannot get the cash to tempt them to Manor Park."

Hogan Transfer Listed

Nuneaton Borough's record buy Eddie Hogan is up for sale. And Borough are now looking for a £4,000 fee for the Irish midfielder player. It seems likely that Hogan may be rejoining his former club Telford United. Hogan asked to be put on the transfer list at the weekend and manager Graham Carr said: "He is on the list for personal reasons which I don't want to go into. Telford are interested in resigning him and there could be more talks this week."

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 12-01-1981

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Deakin, Fallon, Convey, Ratcliffe, Lawlor, Thomas, Pugh, Newitt, Thompson. Subs: Brown and Crowley.

Redditch: M. Brookes, Bissell, Lang, Bull, Seal, B. Brookes, Nardiello, Northern, Algar, Pace, Imms. Subs: Bastable and Skinner.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Tony Newitt cracked a superb 75th minute winner to earn his side their first win in this season's Floodlit Cup campaign. Newitt settled the match with a brilliant solo effort. The youngster carried the ball down the left, cut inside two defenders and unleashed a 22 yard rocket into the top corner of the net. It was the highlight of a hard fought game which had plenty of action and some well taken goals.

Goalkeeper Ken Hall and striker Eamonn Pugh lined up in a Borough side mostly composed of reserves. Former Nuneaton players Gavin Lang and Phil Nardiello appeared for Redditch. There were a couple of near misses from both sides in a goalless first-half with Pugh hitting the post with a diving header and Nardiello seeing his firece drive well saved by Hall.

It was Borough who opened the scoring with a goal eleven minutes into the second half. The impressive Aidan Lawlor, made a fine run down the right touchline and crossed for Pugh to cash in on Keith Ball's hesitancy and fired the ball home. Two minutes later Dean Thomas, normally a left back but playing in midfield, made it 2-0 with a fine effort from outside the box which gave keeper Mike Brookes no chance.

But the Southern League side battled their way back into contention and levelled with two goals in ten minutes. After

61 minutes Nardiello broke down the left and crossed for substitute Gary Bastable to steer a fine diving header past Hall. After 71 minutes tricky winger Micky Imms stunned the Borough defence with an ambitious drive from way out on the left which cannoned off a post and into the net.

However, Newitt grabbed the winner four minutes later to put Borough back in front – and that is how it stayed. Borough had a late scare five minutes from time when Bastable forced his way through, but Thomas was on hand to clear off the line.

Hogan Fee To Buy Walker

Nuneaton Borough record buy Eddie Hogan has today rejoined Telford United for £4,000. And that should open the way for manager Graham Carr to complete his first signing since taking over at Manor Park. His target is 21-year-old Corby Town midfield player Derek Walker.

The Southern League club want a £4,000 fee and the money received for Hogan will pay for him.



Corby midfielder man Derek Walker signs on the dotted line to become Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr's first signing since he took charge at Manor Park last month.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Turner Listed And Fined

Nuneaton Borough defender Tony Turner has been put on the transfer list and fined two weeks' wages after a breach of club discipline. And he has been left out of the Borough squad for their match at Weymouth.

The ex-Hednesford left back – signed by former manager Graham Smith, failed to turn up for two training sessions this week and is believed to be working in Manchester.



Borough Make £58,000 – But Spend It

Chairman Noel Kelly today outlined the reasons why there is no money available for players at Manor Park. The club has today announced profits of nearly £58,000 to the end of May last year. But Mr Kelly told shareholders: “There is no money left, we have spent it all.”

He said that since the account had been prepared they had bought the ground back off Nuneaton Borough Council for around £25,000 and are also carrying out improvements on the ground.

Mr Kelly added: “The buying of players and signing on fees has cost us around £20,000. Our main aim is to develop the ground and all the money has gone towards improvements. We haven’t got the money to buy players.”

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 17-01-1981

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Cross, Glover, Thomas, McFarlane, Sammels, Stockley, Walker, Gallagher, Neale.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to play Weymouth in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough were again toppled by their bogey side in the wind and rain of the Recreation Ground. And the match will become another statistic in Nuneaton’s depressing record against the Terras. The two sides have been playing each other for 18 seasons and Borough have only ever won once at Weymouth – a 4-1 success in the 1975-76 season.

Borough defended bravely to try and keep the home side out but never looked capable of scoring for only the fifth time in 19 meetings with the Terras. Borough, who have taken only seven points from the last 14 league games, were forced back from the start and keeper Ken Hall made a number of outstanding saves. After 11 minutes he pushed a Paul Arnold shot around the post and four minutes later Hall blocked a drive from Peter Johnson.

It took Borough 30 minutes to gain their first corner – and six minutes later they wasted their one real chance in a scrappy encounter. Mike McFarlane worked a neat one-two with Mark Neale, but the midfield player’s shot flew straight at Weymouth keeper Kevin Roberts. Three minutes later Weymouth made their half-chance count when Thomas was dragged out of position and Dave Singleton raced in to meet Tommy Paterson’s through ball and slot the ball home.

After the break Neale had the ball in the net but was penalised for handball and Borough were forced to soak up more pressure. The defence responded magnificently as Weymouth tried to add to their tally, but were unable to break through. John Glover in particular, held the defence together, with his aerial dominance and he was undoubtedly Borough’s best player on the day.

Glover displayed an impressive return to form and looked a lot happier and was able to concentrate on his game without any worries about off field activities. Cross and Farndon

were solid at the back and Thomas, despite the one costly error, showed up well. It was a hard tussle in midfield with Weymouth just getting the edge, but Borough’s new signing Derek Walker made a confident debut.

Walker settled down quickly and was at the heart of a couple of well-worked Borough moves. Towards the end of the match the 21-year-old was pushed further out on to the wing – and it almost paid off. Sammels found Walker with a long through ball and his first time knock in to the penalty area picked out Neale, who was only beaten to the ball by brave goalkeeping from Roberts.

Gravesend & Northfleet v Nuneaton Boro’ 24-01-1981

Gravesend: Lewington, Idle, Jacks, Burrett, Bryant, Hart, Dudman, Dyer, Pooley, Stonebridge, Smith. Sub: Aldous.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Glover, Thomas, McFarlane, Sammels, Ratcliffe, Walker, Gallagher (Newitt), Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Stonebridge Road to play Gravesend & Northfleet in an Alliance Premier League game.

Gravesend were never four goals better than Borough, but they clinically took their chances as the Manor Park side squandered theirs. And disjointed Borough have now conceded ten goals in their last three trips away from home.

This match soon took on a familiar pattern with Borough soaking up an enormous amount of pressure from the start. After a couple of threatening moves from the Kent side, Stewart Gallagher fired narrowly wide of the far post with a good effort after nine minutes. A minute later he had a shot smothered by keeper Colin Lewington – and after 16 minutes the home side went ahead.

Mike McFarlane gave away a free-kick and Trevor Smith headed a cross from George Jacks goalwards. Borough keeper Ken Hall stopped the ball on the line but inexplicably let it slip through his fingers. Five minutes later Hall failed to reach a cross from Geoff Idle and Phil Stonebridge headed home his seventh goal in eight games.

After the break Borough looked capable of making a fightback. They started the second half in great style and launched raid after raid on the Gravesend goal. Borough played some of their best football for weeks but did not get the breaks they deserved. Alan Hoult missed a great chance to cut the deficit when his first effort from Derek Walker’s cross flew straight at Lewington and he failed to connect properly with the follow up shot.

Borough then had a spell on top and Gallagher might have had a penalty when he looked to have been pushed by Lewington. At that stage Borough were well on top with Sammels returning to something like his old form and Mark Ratcliffe doing a fine job in midfield. And the more Walker got involved, the more capable Borough looked of hitting back.

But time was running out and they could not break through in the vital few minutes at the start of the second half. Then,

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as often happens, they were caught pushing too far forward and Gravesend rapped in two more goals in the last ten minutes of the game. After 80 minutes Dean Thomas punched away a shot from Smith and Bob Dudman scored from the penalty spot. And three minutes from time substitute Gary Aldous fired home from a cross by Smith to make it 4-0.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 26-01-1981

Borough: Hall, Farndon, Cross, Fallon, Thomas, Sammels (Gallagher (Newitt)), Stockley, Parker, McFarlane, Pugh, Houlton.

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Jackson, Preston, Upton, Halton, Hearne, Smith, Crawley, Downes, Conway. **Subs:** Haskins, Charnley.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

The champagne corks were popped in the visitors' dressing room as Bedworth toasted a night of glory. But for Borough it was a night of shame as they were dumped out of the Senior Cup by their local rivals. Goals from Chris Downes and Danny Conway in the last eight minutes of the match sent the Bedworth fans into a frenzy – and there seems to be no stopping the revitalised Oval side.

Holders Borough can have no complaints about their shock exit. They never made any impression on the Bedworth defence and only managed one shot on goal throughout the match. But every player in the Bedworth team deserved their pat on the back from manager John Brady. Bedworth striker Ian Crawley, a former Nuneaton player punched the air in joy as the final whistle blew – and it summed up the whole team's feelings.

Brady's battlers were determined to take an early grip on the match and after only four minutes Downes was just wide with a headed flick from a Bobby Brookes cross. After nine minutes Borough were forced to reorganise when Jon Sammels had to leave the field with a knee injury sustained in the first minute of the match. Mike McFarlane, who started the match as a right winger, was pushed back into his normal midfield role and Stewart Gallagher came on.

But Gallagher had only been on five minutes when fellow striker Eamonn Pugh accidentally elbowed him in the face as they challenged for the ball. It was all Bedworth as they marched on towards more cup glory and Borough did not muster a solitary attack until the 36th minute when Roy Cross and Pugh both fired wide.

If manager Carr needed any more evidence that he must find a consistent goalscorer, it came last night as Bedworth, with Paul Upton and Preston outstanding, easily soaked up the sporadic bouts of pressure from the home side.

Bedworth were far more creative and looked capable of scoring every time they launched an attack. But as minutes ticked away it looked as though Borough would hang on for a replay. Then an error by Cross let in Bedworth to take the lead. His mis-timed back pass forced keeper Ken Hall to run to the edge of the area in a bid to retrieve the ball, which let

in Bedworth to take the lead. He was robbed by Crawley who got on the end of Downes' cross to run the ball into an empty net. Bedworth put the icing on the cake with their second goal in the last minute of the match. Conway scored with a superb solo effort after dribbling around Hall and placing a low shot into the corner.

Carr To Cut Playing Staff

Graham Carr is planning to meet chairman Noel Kelly today to discuss Nuneaton Borough's current problems on the field. Their dramatic loss of form in recent weeks was further highlighted by the 2-0 defeat to local rivals Bedworth in the quarter-finals of the Birmingham Senior Cup. The Borough manager wants to drastically cut the playing staff at Manor Park – and is looking for support from the board.

He said today: "Before I can even consider signing on any more players I must reduce the present squad. You cannot get a quality player with Alliance Premier League experience for under £5,000. I have found this out with all the inquiries I have made."

Morley Joins Borough

Striker Trevor Morley has joined Nuneaton Borough for a club record fee of £7,700. And he makes his debut for Borough in their match with Frickley Athletic. Morley, who has scored 19 goals for Southern League Corby Town this season, signed late last night, and Borough manager Graham Carr said: "I am delighted that we have been able to sign him."

Last week a bid by Borough of £7,000 for the 19-year-old former Derby County apprentice was turned down, but the increased offer has now been accepted by the Corby board. Morley has been watched by several League clubs including Cardiff, Leicester City and Luton.

Borough are hoping to clinch fees for Eamonn Pugh, Tony Turner and Tom Fallon. Steve Convey has been released on a free transfer.

Nuneaton Borough v Frickley Athletic 31-01-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Fallon, Thomas, Dale, Ratcliffe, Walker, Gallagher, Morley, Neale. **Sub:** Houlton.

Frickley: Meehan, Woodall, Harris, Burgin, B. Gill, Whiteley, M. Gill, Smith, Reed, Wadsworth, Howey. **Sub:** Long.

Borough welcomed Frickley Athletic to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough are today sharing bottom spot in the Alliance Premier League – five months after leading the title race. They plummeted into further trouble with their fifth league defeat at Manor Park this season and are left chasing their first win in the APL since late December. It was also their fifth successive defeat and manager Graham Carr said: "It was the same old story. We missed chances and they took theirs. It is as simple as that."

It really was the same sorry tale as Borough squandered



chances in a lively start to the match and were then caught out from Frickley's second attack. Mark Neale headed over the top from Mike McFarlane's seventh minute cross, Stewart Gallagher delayed too long in a crowded penalty area and then Derek Walker put McFarlane through, but his shot was pushed away by Tommy Meehan.

Then after 21 minutes Borough were caught out as Frickley took the lead. Skipper Bob Stockley mistimed a back pass and the ball was pushed through to Micky Wadsworth, who ran on to fire a sweet low drive past Ken Hall. Borough attempted to make an immediate response and Meehan had to race across his line to grab a shot from Neale after a powerful run and cross by new boy Trevor Morley. It was Morley's first real contribution to the match and he went on to lift some of the gloom with an impressive display.

It was a difficult match for the £7,700 signing from Corby Town to come into – but he did well. Morley was involved when Peter Howey made a desperate clearance for a corner and from the cross Gallagher reached well, but headed just over.

In the second half Frickley, who beat Borough in a seven goal epic back in September, looked better equipped to hold off the home side's challenge. Despite conceding more goals than they have scored this season the former colliery side held firm at the back. But, of course, a lot of that was due to Borough's inability to test the visiting defence to the full.

The second half lacked the excitement of the first 45 minutes with nearly all the play confined to midfield. The ball was knocked about in the middle of the park for what seemed like an eternity and the match dragged towards a lifeless end. Only in the last few minutes did Borough start to open the game up and make a strong effort to force a late equaliser.

Neale mistimed a shot from Morley's cross and then, four minutes from time Mark Ratcliffe fired just inches past the far post and Walker had a shot kicked off the line. But Borough could not break through and they now face four vital matches as they attempt to move out of trouble.

Nuneaton Borough v Luton Town	04-02-1981
Borough: Hall, Stockley, Fallon, Cross (Lewis), Pugh, McFarlane, Ratcliffe, Walker, Neale (Pugh), Morley, Hoult. Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Turner, Price, Donaghy, Hill, Grealish, Fuccillo, Stein, Ingram, Moss. Sub: West.	

Borough welcomed Luton Town to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

Super-sub Eamonn Pugh found his scoring touch once again. The transfer-listed centre-forward, who may be on the move to Alvechurch, struck an equaliser four minutes from time to earn Borough a draw with the division two promotion hopefuls. And new signing Trevor Morley could have sealed victory for Nuneaton in the last minute, but he missed the best chance of the game.

These were the highlights of a no-frills friendly which ended

in a fair result for both sides. David Pleat's full strength side, which included former Borough defender Kirk Stephens, started strongly but it was Borough who were in control in the closing stages. And they fought back to score their first goal in five matches and end a run of four defeats in a row.

Luton strolled through the early stages and Brian Stein missed a good chance to put his side ahead after 15 minutes when he fired wide after turning inside Roy Cross. Three minutes later, Morley flicked a header past Jake Findlay from Mike McFarlane's cross but the effort was disallowed.

After 29 minutes the Kenilworth Road side took the lead when Godfrey Ingram beat Ken Hall with a delightful lob from outside the penalty area. Luton themselves had an effort disallowed just before half time when Stein headed home a David Moss flick, but he was penalised for pushing.

At half-time Dave Lewis replaced Cross in the back four and hardly put a foot wrong. Stein shot across the face of the goal in the early part of the second half but the Borough defence, with Tom Fallon outstanding, held firm. And Borough ended with a flourish as substitute Eamonn Pugh chased on to a Morley through ball, evaded a tackle and fired a low shot past Findlay. A minute from the end Morley blazed wide with only Findlay to beat.

New Director

Irishman Sean Patterson has joined the Nuneaton Borough board of directors. Mr Patterson, proprietor of the George Eliot Hotel in Bridge Street, Nuneaton, took up his duties today. Chairman Noel Kelly said: "He should be a very valuable member of our team."

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone	07-02-1981
Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Fallon, Thomas, McFarlane, Sammels, Walker, Hoult, Neale, Morley. Sub: Pugh. Wealdstone: Cranstone, Hardman, Pearce, Forde, Bowgett, Perkiss, Brannigan, Wainwright, Eyres, N. Cordice, A. Cordice. Sub: Adams.	

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Derek Walker scored Borough's first goal in 432 minutes of competitive football. And in a late burst Mark Neale settled this fierce struggle with a goal three minutes from time. Their efforts secured Borough's second win in 18 league outings, ended a run of four defeats in a row and pushed them away from joint bottom spot in the league.

Record buy Trevor Morley, a player with real confidence in his ability, took matters into his own hands and played a major part in both goals. Until the last 18 minutes of the match Borough had wandered with little method and direction to their play and it was Wealdstone who always looked more likely to score.

Brothers Neil and Alan Cordice posed endless problems for the hard-worked Borough defence. The match was barely five



minutes old when Ken Hall moved stealthily to push an effort from Dylan Evans around the post from a Neil Cordice cross. Four minutes later Hall dived bravely at the feet of Evans as he lined up to shoot. Borough dug in their heels to counter Wealdstone's early burst and the match developed into a sloppy affair which any outsider would have recognised as a match between the two bottom sides.

Wealdstone won a free kick after 26 minutes and a shot from Forde crashed against an upright and was cleared by Roy Cross. Neil Cordice fired into the side netting and then brother Alan shot just wide within the space of three minutes.

Borough did not force their first corner until two minutes into the second half – a clear indication of the back seat they were forced to take as Wealdstone charged forward. As the half wore on Borough at last started to test the Wealdstone defence with a series of high crosses pumped into the penalty area. One centre from Bob Stockley was dropped by Ian Cranstone, but no one could take advantage of it.

However, striker Morley, making only his second league appearance was determined to rescue what appeared to be a lost cause. After 72 minutes he beat two defenders with a perfectly timed run, knocked the ball into the penalty area finding Alan Houlst and he laid the ball back into the path of Walker, who struck a sweet right foot drive past Cranstone. It was Walker's first goal for the club.

Three minutes from time it was Morley who made a strong challenge on keeper Cranstone from a Dean Thomas cross and the ball ran through to Neale, who fired high into the net for his sixth league goal of the season. Hall was forced into one more excellent stop from Neil Cordice before the final whistle blew and a huge sigh of relief echoed around Manor Park, as Borough had at last chalked up a win.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough 14-02-1981

Barnet: Steel, Hendrick, Pearce, Millett, Robinson, Foody, Brinkman, Townsend, Roberts, Barnes, French. **Sub:** Clayton.

Borough: Hall, Ratcliffe, Glover, Cross, Thomas, McFarlane, Sammels, Walker, Neale, Morley, Dale. **Sub:** Pugh.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough manager Graham Carr was given another bleak reminder of the uphill task he faces. But at least he knows his players are prepared to fight every inch of the way to get the club out of trouble. They deserved a share of the spoils after a fine second-half rally. But Borough are still left to reflect on their depressing away form this season. They only won once away from Manor Park last season – and that is all they have done so far this term. In 13 matches they have lost eight, drawn four and their only win came at champions Altrincham in the second week of the season. As in previous away trips Borough started well only to be caught out by a goal from the home side's first attack.

Derek Walker had a deflected shot cleared off the line by

Kevin Millett after the Barnet defender had fluffed a fourth minute clearance. But eight minutes later Barnet took the lead when Colin Barnes, the smallest player on the field was allowed to run unchallenged to meet a Jimmy Hendrick corner and flick a near-post header over Ken Hall with Mark Ratcliffe making a vain attempt to clear off the line.

Arguments raged among the Borough players at half-time as Carr tried to find out where the blame lay. Really Borough should never have allowed Barnes to make his run – it was a costly mistake as his goal proved to be the winner. Borough stormed back in search of an equaliser and Mark Neale chased a left wing cross on the half-hour, got a foot to it, but Barnet keeper Garry Steel, who had a fine match, dived bravely at this feet.

Borough kept pushing forward, but they almost ruined the chances of recovery when Mike McFarlane's back pass left Hall stranded and Gary French rounded the keeper, but fired wide. Right on half-time Barnet were lucky to escape in an astonishing goalmouth scramble when Gareth Dale, Jon Sammels, Walker and Neale all had shots blocked.

In the second half Trevor Morley, making his third league appearance for Borough, went on a tremendous run but was brought down on the edge of the penalty area. A few minutes later the former Derby County apprentice shrugged off some shirt pulling to fire across the face of the goal. Morley had a shaky Barnet defence under pressure with his strong running as Borough totally dominated the second half.

But Borough could not force their way through and Carr might have sent on Eamonn Pugh for a midfield man or defender in an "all or nothing" gamble, but decided against it. Borough kept plugging away but the North London outfit hung on grimly to complete a league double over Borough.

Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 16-02-1981

Borough: Hall, Ratcliffe, Cross, Glover, Thomas, McFarlane, Sammels, Walker, Neale, Morley, Dale.

Maidstone: Guy, Thompson, Shield, Hill, Hutton, Hamberger, Daubney, Ovard, Sansom, Newson. **Sub:** Holmes.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Trevor Morley grabbed his first Borough goal, but it was wiped out by a last-gasp Maidstone equaliser just 20 seconds from the end of normal time. It was a real sickener for Borough who looked assured of victory until Maidstone's late, late goal. Many of the crowd had already left the ground when Borough keeper Ken Hall could only palm away a right wing cross and the ball ran to defender Steve Hamberger who drilled a low shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Borough had victory snatched from their grasp, but the game consisted of an exciting 90 minutes for the fans who must have been expecting a dour battle between two struggling sides. From the start the emphasis was on attack with



Maidstone taking a commendable forward approach. After just two minutes Hall was in action, pushing a shot from Mark Newson over the crossbar. Three minutes later Derek Walker ended a surging run with a low shot, after a speedy break by John Glover.

Maidstone threatened and had two near misses in the space of three minutes. Newson saw his shot punched clear by Hall and then Frank Ovard shot inches wide. On the half-hour Borough produced a fine attack and Mike McFarlane's cross was met by Mark Neale who rocketed a header at Dickie Guy, who saved well. The Maidstone keeper made another excellent save five minutes later from Walker's drive. Three minutes from half-time Morley shot just wide after Mark Ratcliffe had charged in to knock forward a Jon Sammels free-kick.

After the break it was Borough all the way as they hammered the visiting defence with attack after attack. And only a miracle save from the irrepressible Guy denied Borough the lead after 55 minutes. Gareth Dale headed on a McFarlane cross and Morley's goalbound header was somehow pushed away by the Maidstone keeper.

Brian Thompson hooked a Mark Neale effort off the line, the same player blazed over the top and then Morley shot wide after chesting the ball down as Borough piled on the pressure. Finally after 76 minutes Morley and Walker combined to give Nuneaton the lead. In a deadly move Dale crossed from the right, Walker knocked the ball back into the penalty area and the exciting Morley beat Guy with a well-timed header.

Above all it was the combination of Neale and Morley that took Borough to the brink of victory. They are building up a fine understanding and they were at the heart of most of the good things in the Borough performance.

Jones Set To Sign

Nuneaton Borough are set to sign Telford United midfielder John Jones in an exchange deal. And Borough defender Tony Turner is the other player involved in the swap. Jones, 29, should sign for Nuneaton tonight and at the same time Turner will join the Buck's Head club.

Jones is the current Telford captain and has previously represented Redditch United and Kettering Town. Jones has also been selected to play for the Southern League representative side in the past.

Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 21-02-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Cross, Thomas, Jones, Sammels, Walker, Neale, Morley, Dale (McFarlane).

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in an Alliance Premier League game.

A stroke of good fortune prompted a late burst of lethal finishing. Thirty seconds after falling behind to a goal from

Maidstone's Mark Newson, a piece of luck put Borough back on level terms. Skipper Bob Stockley charged down the right and made a surging run into the penalty area. However, with only his former Wimbledon team-mate Dickie Guy to beat, his close range shot looked to be going well wide until Stockley's opposite number Brian Thompson turned the ball into his own net.

There was no luck about the way Borough clinically took Maidstone apart after drawing level. Derek Walker and Trevor Morley again provided the sparkling finishing touches in front of goal and new signing John Jones made one of them. In fact, Jones, a quiet man off the field, but an inspiration on it made a great difference in midfield, giving Borough extra bite. The 29-year-old former Telford captain was delighted to be on the winning side in his first match – and it was only Borough's second away win of the season.

Seven minutes after the own goal Walker cracked home his second goal of the season with a low shot after chasing on to a through ball from Morley. After 74 minutes Morley wrapped up the points for Borough with his second goal in two matches – both against Maidstone. It was a superb effort with the striker beating Guy with a scorching drive after he met a long through ball from Jones.

The former Corby Town pair are proving to be outstanding captures – and they were at the centre of the revival. Earlier on in the match Borough had almost snatched a ninth minute lead. Gareth Dale hit the inside of a post with a low drive and the ball rebounded into the grateful arms of Guy. After that escape, Maidstone, who had only lost once at home this season, attempted to force a lead. Brian Gregory headed wide from their best effort and other chances fell to Chris Kinnear and Frank Ovard.

Maidstone took the lead after 62 minutes through Newson. With Borough appealing for offside, he ran on to meet a John Hutton through ball and chased into the penalty area before shooting past Ken Hall. The one unhappy note was the booking of Morley after 77 minutes for a foul on Thompson.

Relegation From Alliance Premier League

It now seems certain there will be relegation from the Alliance Premier League at the end of the season. Although no official announcement has been made, it appears the Alliance, Southern League and Northern Premier League have reached agreement over a number of issues.

A joint liaison committee of the three leagues issued this statement: "The committee had a most cordial meeting and unanimously agreed to a number of proposals which will be put before their respective management committees as quickly as possible."

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly said: "I think there will definitely be relegation in the Alliance. It is now imperative that we get out of the lower reaches of the table as quickly as possible."



Thomas Attracts Attention

At the start of the season Nuneaton Borough defender Dean Thomas was in the shadows at Manor Park. Former manager Graham Smith had captured Hednesford left back Tony Turner and he was immediately drafted into the side which started Borough's campaign. But now, seven months later, it is Thomas who is in the spotlight – and attracting the attention of a handful of league clubs.

Thomas was given his chance when Turner was suspended, transfer listed and fined after failing to report for two training sessions. Thomas was watched by a scout from Wimbledon at a recent match at Maidstone.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 01-03-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover Cross, Thomas, Sammels, Jones, Walker, Neale, Morley, Dale. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Bath: Ogden, McKay, Morrell, Ricketts, Taylor, Shaw, Wheeler, Hayes, Withey, Dean, Brown. **Sub:** Webber.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough and Bath were a credit to the Alliance Premier League as they battled through appalling conditions. Rain, hail and even thunder and lightning failed to deter the two teams as they ploughed their way through clinging mud – and provided a host of incidents for the 1200-plus crowd.

But at one stage the dreadful weather threatened the match and Nottingham referee Mark Scott had to take the players off for six minutes of the first half because of a torrential downpour. When the teams returned they produced some stirring entertainment, despite the weather in a mud-stained battle. Manor Park had been turned into a virtual quagmire by the heavy rain.

Gareth Dale passed a late fitness test and Borough were able to name an unchanged side against a revitalised Bath side who have climbed into second place in the league with just one defeat in 14 games. Midfield player Jon Sammels and John Jones both went close with useful efforts early in the match. A shot from Sammels was well saved by Bath keeper Chris Ogden and then Jones, who made a fine home debut for Borough, shot narrowly wide.

Then, after 26 minutes the rain lashed down in torrents forcing the fans under cover and that was followed by hailstones and then the thunder and lightning. Eventually referee Scott led the players off. The teams returned six minutes later and Borough immediately launched an onslaught with Dale charging through the mud, but his final through ball was bogged down in a puddle on the edge of the penalty area.

Bath forced their way into attack and Ken Hall made a fine full length save from Martin Wheeler's shot and then Borough skipper Bob Stockley cleared a Graham Withey shot off the line. The rain eased off towards half-time, but it was still virtually impossible to string moves together.

Thirteen minutes into the second half Borough had appeals for a penalty turned down – and then came inches away from scoring. Trevor Morley forced his way through the mud and looked to be brought down just inside the penalty area by Bath player-manager Stuart Taylor. But Borough's appeals were waved away and a free-kick was awarded on the edge of the area.

Sammels quickly knocked the ball to Jones, whose shot was deflected into the net, but the referee ordered the kick to be retaken. An identical move almost paid off as Sammels passed to Jones, whose shot clipped the bottom of the post and was bundled away. Borough kept pushing forward but the Bath defence, superbly marshalled by Taylor, held firm.

Alf To Leave Borough Board

Alf Scattergood, who has been involved with Nuneaton Borough for 25 years as vice-president, director, chairman and now president, has stepped down from the club's board of directors. The decision was announced yesterday, and in return for his services, Mr Scattergood has been given the life presidency of the club.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 07-03-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Glover, Cross, Thomas, McFarlane, Sammels, Jones, Walker, Neale, Hoults. **Sub:** Ratcliffe.

Scarborough: Springett, Marshall, Dennis, Donoghue, Wright, McGee, Dunn, I. Smith, T. Smith, Sellers, Olney. **Sub:** Gauden.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Not even straight talking manager Graham Carr could fathom out why Borough crashed to their heaviest home defeat. But it did not stop him giving his players, so full of promise last week, a verbal lashing after this poor performance, describing their display as "dreadful." It is little wonder that some supporters fear a fight against relegation after this showing. However, Borough do have the habit of bouncing back in the most adverse circumstances, as they demonstrated at Maidstone two weeks ago and to some extent against Bath last Sunday.

But this latest display ranks as one of the worst since Carr took charge – and it was the fourth time this season that they have conceded four goals. Alan Hoults and Mike McFarlane returned to the side in the place of the suspended Trevor Morley and injured Gareth Dale. But they failed to make any real impression on the match and did little to enhance their chances of winning back regular first team places.

But it would be unfair to single out two players as the whole side failed to operate as a tight unit. The defence looked shaky and they were not helped by another attack of the "jitters" from keeper Ken Hall, who must shoulder the blame for two of the goals. The Borough midfield could not take a firm grip and they were also ineffective up front.

In the opening stages Scarborough also had their problems

as former League goalkeeper Peter Springett rescued his ball watching team-mates with a low save from Bob Stockley's difficult cross. But then Pat Olney struck two goals out of the blue to put the visitors in the driving seat. After 25 minutes he took full advantage of a lucky deflection off a Borough defender from Ian Smith's shot to slam the rebound past Hall.



Borough striker Mark Neale beats a Scarborough defender to the ball but his header went well wide and by then the home side were 4-0 down.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Three minutes later Olney scored his second goal with a deadly drive into the top corner of the net from 25 yards. After 59 minutes Mark Neale only half-cleared a shot from midfield veteran Jerry Donoghue and the ball ran to Neil Sellers whose shot bobbed out of the reach of Hall, who on reflection might have saved the effort. Hall was badly at fault for Scarborough's fourth goal three minutes later when he completely misjudged a right wing centre from Brian Magee and the ball dropped over his head and into the net.

Gallagher Signs For Stafford Rangers

Nuneaton Borough striker Stewart Gallagher has joined Stafford Rangers in a £2,000 move. Gallagher has spent the past month at Marston Road on loan and agreed to join the club on a permanent basis at the weekend. The move went through after Gallagher agreed personal terms following more talks with Stafford manager Paul Ogden.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 09-03-1981

Northwich: Ryan, Eaton, Murphy, Mayman, Forshaw, K. Jones, Anderson (Reid 84), B. Hall, Williams, Wilson, Connor.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Glover, Thomas, Sammels, Jones, Ratcliffe, Neale, Smith, Walker. **Sub:** Hoults.

Borough made the journey to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in an Alliance Premier League game.

A second disappointing defeat in three days leaves Borough anxiously looking over their shoulders at the threat of relegation. But for 78 minutes it looked as though Graham Carr's men would bounce back from Saturday's humiliating home defeat to snatch a valuable point.

Title chasing Northwich looked incapable of penetrating Borough's resolute defence until they suddenly produced a burst of two goals in four minutes to gain revenge for defeat by the same scoreline at Manor Park on the opening day of the season. With the Drill Field an expanse of mud it was a night for defenders with both sets of attackers finding it difficult to create chances.

The one man who looked capable of rising above the conditions was Borough's ex-Arsenal star Jon Sammels. He renewed his acquaintance with Brian Hall by decisively winning his duel against the former Liverpool player. But sadly Sammels marred an impressive game by squandering Borough's best opportunity. He was given a free header by Bob Stockley's 57th minute cross, but tamely knocked the ball down to Vics' keeper Dave Ryan with the goal at his mercy.

In the first-half neither side created much. Northwich's most dangerous player was striker Phil Wilson and it was a challenge on him that earned John Glover a 26th minute booking. Six minutes later Borough came closest to breaking the first-half deadlock when defender Roy Cross met a free-kick from Sammels, but Ryan saved the header.

In the second half Northwich frantically put the pressure on, but suffered because the Alliance's leading scorer, Colin Williams, could make no progress against Cross. Sadly Ken Hall appeared to make a fatal error of judgment which allowed Vics to open the scoring 12 minutes from time. He reacted much too late to a 25-year free kick from full-back Steve Eaton which skidded just inside the post.

Borough pushed forward to try and grab an equaliser, but were caught on the break four minutes later when Wilson added the second. To add to Borough's misfortunes they looked certain to have earned a consolation penalty two

minutes later when Vics' giant centre-half Jeff Forshaw upended Mark Neale. But Anglesey referee Gwyn Owen surprisingly waved play on. Northwich always had trouble containing Derek Walker, but he looked to be missing his former team-mate Trevor Morley.

Borough's Record Signing

Scarborough centre-half Richard Dixey has signed for Nuneaton Borough in a £9,500 deal. Dixey became Borough's record signing, beating the previous figure paid for striker Trevor Morley by nearly £2,000 and it is a record for a defender between two Alliance Premier League clubs.

Nuneaton held an emergency financial meeting and agreed to support manager Graham Carr in his bid to sign the 24-year-old defender. Said chairman Noel Kelly: "We have had to dig deep into our resources to sign the player."



Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1981

Boston: Blackwell, Peacock, Enderby, Poplar, Annable, Adamson, Collier, Mallender, Brown, Hubbard, Callery. **Sub:** Kabia.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Dixey, Glover, Sammels, Jones, Morley, Smith, Ratcliffe, Walker. **Sub:** Neale.

Borough made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough slipped to yet another defeat, despite taking a seventh minute lead. And this latest setback leaves the threat of relegation still hanging over the club. Trevor Morley made a dream return to the Borough side after suspension but Boston hit back to complete the double with goals from Bobby Brown (2) and Phil Hubbard.

Rugby referee Ken Baker thought long and hard before declaring the pitch fit. His decision must have been touch and go as there was water on the pitch and from the opening

minutes it was turned into a morass of mud. But Borough were boosted with their first goal for four matches and Morley's third of the season. Boston teenager Bill Enderby committed himself on the half-way line and Derek Walker beat him to the ball and fed Dean Smith, who made a lot of progress before finding the unmarked Morley who fired home from close range.

Boston drew level after 18 minutes when a left wing corner was back headed by Hubbard for Brown to stab the ball home from close range. Walker, Mark Ratcliffe and Jon Sammels, who came off injured after the interval, all went close for Borough as they continued a pleasing and much improved first half display. But after the interval Boston charged forward and struck two goals in three minutes to sink the Manor Park side.

On the hour a cross from Brown was headed down by Neil Callery and Hubbard poked the ball into the corner of the net from six yards. Three minutes later Mallender split the Borough defence with a through ball which saw Brown run through and shoot under the advancing Ken Hall.

Borough new boy Richard Dixey was unhappy in defeat after his first match since his record move from Scarborough, but manager Carr said: "He did well for us and it was simply a stronger side who beat us." Striker Dean Smith, the former Leicester and Brentford player who has joined Borough until the end of the season, faded after a bright start and Carr added: "He is still short of match practice."

AP Leamington's 4-1 win over Gravesend slipped Borough into further trouble and they now face an awesome task against champions Altrincham next week.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 16-03-1981

Borough: Spencer, Farndon, Green, Brown, Cross, Lawlor, McFarlane (Thompson), Barnett (Woodcock), Neale, Pugh, Cole.

Hinckley: Clarke, Turner, Bullions, Hughes (Hill), Rogers, Lewis, Hardy, Shore, Hair, T. Starkey (Taylor), Clarke.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Super-sub Richard Hill struck a late winner as Hinckley pulled off a shock win. The young winger continued his happy knack of coming off the subs' bench to score with a well-taken goal seven minutes from time. And it is the third time in the last four games that Hill has scored important goals after coming on as a replacement. Hill's goal earned Robins their first win since mid-October last year – and a morale boosting victory over their more illustrious local rivals.

The Middlefield Lane side survived a number of close calls but thoroughly deserved their first win since manager Graham Cross took charge. Both sides were packed with youngsters and Luton Town apprentice professional John Cole made his debut for Borough. Robins introduced young right back Darren Turner.



Robins posed the early threat but Hair, in his enthusiasm, charged into Nuneaton goalkeeper Spencer after 18 minutes and he needed treatment. Borough defender Roy Cross hit the bar with a header from Mike McFarlane's 36th minute corner and two minutes later Robins' keeper Duncan Clarke made a fine parry from an Alan Hoult shot.

Robins, with Andy Clarke again in fine form, posed Nuneaton a lot of problems, and showed again their improved play in recent matches. Hardy fired across the goal from one of their best efforts. Cross hit the bar for the second time with a 79th minute header but Robins countered when Clark forced Spencer into a low save after the winger flicked on a cross from Tom Hardy.

But then Hill made his mark with a well-taken goal as he chased on to a Hardy through ball and slipped the ball under Spencer. His goal brought the small band of Hinckley supporters to their feet – and really it was all they deserved. The young Borough side created a handful of chances but Hinckley's commitment and new found confidence in their own ability saw them through.

Borough Sign Sandercock

Nuneaton Borough have signed full-back Phil Sandercock from Fourth Division Northampton Town on a free transfer and he is set to make his debut against Altrincham tomorrow.

Sandercock, 27, has been with the Cobblers since joining them from Huddersfield in a £25,000 deal last year, and he was a regular in Northampton's team, making his last appearance against Scunthorpe last week.

"Phil has been rated one of the best full-backs in the Fourth Division, and although it's hard on young Dean Thomas, I feel that experience is needed to pull us out of our present plight," said Carr.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 21-03-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Sammels, Jones, Morley, Smith, Ratcliffe, Walker. **Sub:** Neale.

Altrincham: Connaughton, Allan, Davison, Bailey, Barrow, King, Heathcote, Whitbread, Johnson, Rogers, Howard. **Sub:** Owens.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Conditions were the only winner as Borough took a useful point off the league leaders. Gale-force winds rattled the stands, driving rain turned the surface into a quagmire, and in the end both sides were quite happy to settle for a share of the spoils. Although Borough never really got going in the mud, they held Altrincham for most of the match, and came the closest to breaking the deadlock with their only clear-cut chance in the second half.

Trevor Morley, otherwise beaten by the mud like the rest of the Borough front-runners found substitute Mark Neale with a through ball and he set off for goal, chased by the Altrincham

defence. The substitute, who had replaced Richard Dixey in the first half, saw his first effort blocked by keeper John Connaughton, who slid out of the area beyond the ball. Neale rapped in a second shot, but defender Malcolm Bailey was at hand to clear off the line. It was the closest that either side came to breaking the deadlock – conditions dictated what was going to happen for much of the game, with any advantages enjoyed by Altrincham neutralised as they also struggled to cope with the morass.

Borough began brightly enough, with Connaughton flapping forlornly at Derek Walker's first minute corner, and striker Dean Smith combined with Dixey to lob over when put through by a long ball. But the longer the first-half went on the more unlikely it seemed that the home side were going to create any problems, with many of their movements thwarted either by a pass carried too far by the wind, or swamped in the mud.

Altrincham looked sharp when they broke, thanks to the efforts of John King in midfield and the overlapping full back John Davison, and they almost took the lead after 25 minutes when striker Barry Whitbread turned and fired in a shot that keeper Ken Hall grabbed at the second attempt. The rest of the first half contained only one moment of note as both sides suffered in the mud – Dixey pulled a hamstring during a visiting attack and was eventually forced to limp off.

The league leaders looked to be wresting control during the early stages of the second half – striker John Rogers headed a Jeff Johnson cross past the post and Hall held a dipping cross-shot from winger Barry Howard. Both sides struggled manfully to keep the ball moving through the paddyfield and a screaming 25 yard shot from Walker past the angle was Borough's last real effort at goal.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1981

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a friendly game.

Borough came away with a 3-2 win after midfielder John Jones converted a 40th minute penalty after Burton had gone ahead early on, and striker Trevor Morley gave Borough the lead 30 seconds after the interval. Dean Smith put Borough further ahead with a long-range effort on the hour, and although the visitors created an abundance of chances, a mistake by keeper Ken Hall gave Burton the opportunity to pull one back in the closing stages.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 05-04-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Sandercock, Ratcliffe, Glover, Jones, McFarlane, Morley, Neale, Smith, Walker.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Relegation looms even closer for Borough after they somehow contrived to throw away a two goal lead. They



only have themselves to blame for their plight, because striker Trevor Morley had given them a comfortable half-time advantage with two goals in six minutes, only for Borough to toss it away in an appalling second half collapse.

It had all gone to plan early on – Borough attacked constantly and positively against the visitors, who had lost 4-1 at home to Boston the day before, and after midfielder John Jones had fired across the face of goal, Morley gave them a deserved 27th minute lead. The former Corby striker latched on to a through-ball to slot it past former Villa and Albion keeper Jimmy Cumbes and when the same player lashed home a cross-shot after 33 minutes with a little help from the fumbling Cumbes, the home side were strolling to victory.

Defender John Glover was injured just before the break. He reappeared ten minutes into the second half, by which time Borough's re-shuffled cover had been in awful difficulties, and visiting striker Gary Wright had hammered a knock down from Barry Lowe past Ken Hall to reduce the deficit after 51 minutes. Borough were a shambles at the back in the second half, and had not created a single threat up front when Worcester, who had streamed forward after the interval, finally equalised – midfield man Barry Williams raced through on the right to tuck a cross-shot into the net.

Hall had earlier performed wonders to keep the visitors at bay, saving from Wright, who eventually limped off with a leg injury, and defender Malcolm Phelps. But he was left cruelly exposed again by his defenders when Worcester completed an afternoon of disaster for Graham Carr's side with an 80th minute winner. Striker Steve Crompton shrugged off skipper Bob Stockley's challenge to shoot home, condemning Borough to a target of at least eight points from their remaining five games if they are to stay in the APL. On the second half showing yesterday they face a very tall order.

New Commercial Manager

Borough announced today that they have appointed a new commercial manager – with a well-known name locally. He is Richard Kernick (37), son of Dudley Kernick, the former Borough team manager, who guided the club to FA Cup glory in the 1960s. Kernick, who takes up his post on April 20, has had wide experience in the commercial side of soccer, having worked for Exeter, Birmingham and Plymouth, and he was assistant commercial manager at Leeds United during the mid-1970s, before joining Scottish clubs St Mirren and Hearts.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough 11-04-1981

Barrow: Thomas, Richmond, Whittle, Large, McDonald, Taylor, Gordon, Cowperthwaite, Moore, Jackson, Worswick. **Sub:** Eatough.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Sandercock, Cross, Dixey, Thomas, McFarlane, Morley, Neale, Jones, Walker. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in an Alliance Premier League game.

Trevor Morley's sending off late in the game only added

to Nuneaton's misery as they slumped to a 1-0 defeat that makes them an odds on bet for a relegation place at the end of the season. Morley, in fact, was Nuneaton's only player of menace and he almost grabbed a precious point when his shot from the edge of the area beat home keeper Thomas but smashed against the face of the bar.

Barrow scored after six minutes when a half-hit back pass from Richard Dixey allowed Worswick to dart in and place the ball past helpless keeper Ken Hall.

Referee Colin Seel from Carlisle was the busiest man on the park. He booked Nuneaton's McFarlane (dissent), Stockley (late tackle), Cross (deliberate handball), Dixey (late tackle) and sent Morley off for dissent after he had earlier been cautioned for a trip.

Barrow's Moore and Worswick were booked for dissent and Large for a bad tackle on Morley. Nuneaton, Morley apart, were unimpressive though keeper Hall did well to save twice in the closing stages.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 18-04-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Cross, McFarlane, Hoult, Neale, Jones, Walker.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough crashed to a catastrophic 5-1 defeat and look doomed to Southern League football next season. The league leaders ripped Borough apart, with a hat-trick from Nicky Evans, who scored after 22, 32 and 36 minutes. The only positive from an embarrassing home reversal was a goal from Alan Hoult after 52 minutes, who scored after blazing wide from the penalty spot earlier in the game.

Clarke added a fourth for Kettering before Evans added to his first-half hat-trick with the visitors' fifth goal.

Bangor City v Nuneaton Borough 20-04-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Ratcliffe, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Morley, Neale, Hoult, Walker.

Borough made the journey to North Wales to play Bangor City in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough's slim chances of avoiding the drop improved in amazing circumstances. Borough, who needed to win their remaining three games to stand any hope of staying in the APL, pulled off an astounding 5-2 success with a tremendous display. Heroes for Graham Carr's side were striker Mark Neale and Trevor Morley, who slammed two goals apiece with Alan Hoult adding the fifth.

Morley began the rout with a sixth-minute shot from the edge of the box, only for Jim Sargeant to equalise for the Welshmen after 20 minutes. But Neale restored Borough's lead after 31 minutes, and in a devastating second half spell, Morley (50), Neale (55) and Hoult (58) sealed a fine display.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Phil Lunn scored Bangor's second from the penalty spot after defender Mark Ratcliffe had pushed Graham Bennett.

Bangor are doomed to relegation and the other places will go to either Borough, Wealdstone, Barnet or AP Leamington.

New Contract For Carr

Borough manager Graham Carr, has been given a three-year contract with the club. Carr, who came to Nuneaton at the end of last year from Dartford, has seen his side plummet to the relegation zone of the Alliance Premier League.

Chairman Noel Kelly said: "Even if the worst happens and we are relegated, Graham's the man we will be backing to return us to the premier league."

AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 25-04-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Ratcliffe, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Morley, Neale, Hoult, Walker. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill to play AP Leamington in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough kept alive their hopes of escaping relegation with a narrow 1-0 win with only seconds left to play. If Roy of the Rovers had been credited with such a goal, even his most gullible fans would have questioned it. Referee Toseland had already checked his watch twice, and Borough's relegation fate was one large breath away from being sealed. They had failed to get the goal they needed to beat AP, and keep their last match survival option open.

Trevor Morley, 20 yards out, had no option himself when the ball landed at his feet with only seconds left to play. He had to shoot. He was on target, the trajectory was low, AP goalkeeper Alan Dulleston got behind it, but in the vicious conditions the treacherous ball skidded under his body into the net. Thirty seconds after the game restarted, Mr Toseland blew for time.

Borough had won, though no-one could believe it – the entire story of a ragged match, played in the most bitterly cold, wet and windy conditions imaginable was encapsulated into that one dramatic incident. Overall, Borough probably just shaded it as the least nervous of two sides whose Alliance Premier League future is on a tightrope.

Five minutes before Morley affected the Nuneaton reprieve, AP full-back Paul Cooper was sent off after clashing with Borough's Alan Hoult who was booked. The incident was redolent of the pressure the teams were under. The January-in-April weather increased the strain for no-one more so than home keeper Dulleston, whose wretched misfortune set up the comic book finale which made only Borough laugh – with relief.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 02-05-1981

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Thomas, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Morley, Neale, Hoult, Walker.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough gave their supporters a cliff-hanging thriller of a game with a goal bonanza – and now have a slim chance of staying in the Alliance Premier League. But it's a chance which was almost thrown away as Telford clawed their way back from being 3-1 behind with just 30 minutes to go.

And Borough must know that it was the small crowd of 867 which saved them, by shouting support to the players as they saw Telford take an easy equalising goal seven minutes from time. Borough's survival in the APL now depends on the politics of football rather than the playing. Saturday's thriller started with Borough leading the way, until David Mather put the visitors ahead after nine minutes.

Three minutes later Alan Hoult fired in from close range. John Glover headed in a cross from the right wing in the 18th minute and Telford were under pressure from then until the interval. As the loudspeakers announced that Wealdstone and Leamington were drawing 0-0 at half-time, Borough ran out fired with confidence.

It was boosted when Mark Neale gave Borough their third goal in the 52nd minute. But then Borough went to pieces and in a 65th minute goalmouth scramble, Ken Hall tried and failed to punch out a shot from Alan Walker. Three minutes later Gary Morey scored after a fine solo run with a shot from 35 yards out, after skipping through Nuneaton's defence and without having to face a single tackle.

It was a goal which needn't have been conceded, if Borough's defenders had realised what was happening in time. And it left Borough's future hanging in the balance once more. Eventually the news came through that Leamington had won 2-1 at Wealdstone, and Barnet had beaten Northwich – so Graham Carr's men finish in a relegation spot, and will only be saved by constitutional means.

Relegation In The Balance

Some complicated questions must be answered before Borough know if they have definitely been demoted to the Southern League next season. APL rules state that the bottom three are relegated, i.e. Borough, Wealdstone and Bangor, to be replaced by three clubs from the two sections of the Southern League or the Northern Premier League.

Runcorn will join the Alliance next season from the NPL, and Dartford are favourites for promotion from the Southern League South. But there is no definite picture as to who will come up from the Southern League Midland section, because of ground gradings – Bedford are fancied, but hold only a limited lease on their ground, which may go against them.

If Bedford fail, Trowbridge come into consideration, but they may also find that their ground is not of the required standard. Halifax, applying for re-election to Division Four, do not wish to play in the APL if they are thrown out of the Football League, and if an Alliance team moves into the League, there may be no replacement from the Southern League Midland section – thus saving Borough.



Alliance Premier League 1980-81

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	38	23	8	7	72	41	54
Kettering Town	38	21	9	8	66	37	51
Scarborough	38	17	13	8	49	29	47
Northwich Victoria	38	17	11	10	53	40	45
Weymouth	38	19	6	13	54	40	44
Bath City	38	16	10	12	51	32	42
Maidstone United	38	16	9	13	64	53	41
Boston United	38	16	9	13	63	58	41
Barrow	38	15	8	15	50	49	38
Frickley Athletic	38	15	8	15	61	62	38
Stafford Rangers	38	11	15	12	56	56	37
Worcester City	38	14	7	17	47	54	35
Telford United	38	13	9	16	47	59	35
Yeovil Town	38	14	6	18	60	64	34
Gravesend & Northfleet	38	13	8	17	48	55	34
AP Leamington	38	10	11	17	47	66	31
Barnet	38	12	7	19	39	64	31
Nuneaton Borough	38	10	9	19	49	65	29
Wealdstone	38	9	11	18	37	56	29
Bangor City	38	6	12	20	35	68	24

Borough Release Five

Goalkeeper Ken Hall, a regular in Nuneaton Borough's Alliance Premier League side during the 1980-81 season, is one of five players given a free transfer by manager Graham Carr. Those joining Hall are defenders Roy Cross, Tom Fallon and Paul Farndon and midfielder Dave Lewis, as Carr begins to prune his squad in preparation for what may be Southern League football next season.

Although Hall has been the regular between the sticks with Borough since joining them from Atherstone Town, this season has been disappointing from his point of view and Carr obviously felt that Hall's performances during the past season were not up to the required standard, and the Borough manager's first task during the summer will be to search for a replacement, as the club attempts to pick up the pieces after what appears to be certain relegation from the APL.

Lewis, a popular figure at Manor Park during his several spells there, began the season in the first team, before being dogged by injury, and Carr said: "Nobody admires Dave Lewis more than myself, and there is the possibility that we may find him a job in some other capacity."

Cross has spent six seasons with Borough after League service with Walsall and Port Vale, but work commitments have hampered his training, and the signing of Richard Dixey from Scarborough meant that Carr could afford to let the central defender go. Fallon and Farndon made first team appearances during the season but were not regulars.

Borough Down

Nuneaton Borough Football Club, which set its sights on bringing League soccer to the town, have been relegated. The news was confirmed today by Alliance Premier League secretary Peter Hunter – it means that next year, Nuneaton Borough will be playing minor clubs in the Southern League Midland Division.

Borough, who in the past season sold strikers Stewart Gallagher, Eamonn Pugh, midfielder Eddie Hogan and full-back Tony Turner, as well as giving five players free transfers, were one of the founder members of the Alliance Premier League, formed as a feeder division into League soccer.

But their hopes of bringing big-time soccer to the town are in shreds. They are being replaced in the APL by Wiltshire side Trowbridge, who yesterday were told that their ground had come up to the grading required to allow them promotion.

Said Borough chairman Noel Kelly: "We're obviously disappointed, we had a lot of plans, but we have been relegated and must get used to the idea – I hope that the fans will stand by us next season."

Added secretary John Evans: "To be honest, I had expected it – all credit to Trowbridge, and we will still be doing a lot of hard work next season." Borough's relegation means that they will resume local rivalries with Bedworth United who are also members of the Southern League Midland Division.

Neale Rejects Move To Telford

Nuneaton Borough striker Mark Neale has turned down a move to Borough's former Alliance Premier League colleagues Telford United. Borough secretary John Evans said today that the two clubs had agreed a substantial fee, but Neale rejected the possibility of leaving Manor Park after talking to Telford officials last week.

Carr Poised To Make Signings

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr hopes to pull off his first close-season signing over the weekend. Borough, rebuilding for the Southern League Midland Division after their relegation from the Alliance Premier League, have agreed terms with a Midland APL club for an experienced midfield player, and Carr will be holding talks with the player during the weekend.

"We have agreed terms with the club, and it is now up to the player whether he wants to come," said Carr. The Borough boss is also involved in negotiations for a goalkeeper to replace Ken Hall, who was given a free transfer last month.

The other important news from Manor Park is that Dave Lewis, himself given a free at the end of the season, is taking over as reserve team manager from Bob Turpie. Lewis began last season as a regular in the side before losing his place through injury, and it was intimated that he may stay at Manor Park in some capacity.



Kidderminster Harriers — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Aggborough to play Kidderminster Harriers in the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Kidderminster: Parry, Travis, Kerby, James, Nicholls, Chambers, Powell, Williams, Wright, Fleet, Gavin. Sub: Mullen.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Ratcliffe, Glover, Turner, McFarlane, Sammels, Hogan, Gallagher, Neale, Dale. Sub: Lewis.

Borough's FA Cup dreams lie in ruins after a shock defeat. A 43rd minute goal from Micky Williams put Nuneaton out in a sad day for the Manor Park club. Two hours before the kick-off the players watched a video recording of the 1977 triumph over Oxford United.

But there will be no FA Cup glory this year and any record of their 1980 campaign will only serve as a reminder to the nightmare of Saturday's match.

For only the second time in ten years Nuneaton have failed to reach the First Round Proper. Back in 1973 they were beaten 3-0 by Highgate United in a third qualifying round tie.

A cloud of depression hung over the visiting dressing room as the result started to sink in.

Player-coach Jon Sammels, who was playing in the qualifying rounds of the FA Cup for the first time, was bitterly upset with the outcome, but said: "We just did not play, but full credit to Kidderminster. They did just what was asked of them."

Borough were hoping to make their seventh successive appearance in the First Round, but they failed to find their form when it mattered. They can have no excuses about going out as they rarely looked capable of breaking through once Kidderminster had snatched the lead.

The Southern League battlers stifled Borough from the kick-off – and the Manor Park side had no answer to it.

Harriers, with the experience of Steve James, Bernie Wright and John Chambers holding the key to victory, looked far better equipped for Cup football and deserved their shock win.

It was clear from the opening minutes that this was going to be a dour struggle with the occasion clearly unnerving both sides.

There were only three incidents worth talking about which indicated the lack of free flowing football.

The one clear cut chance was snapped up and that was all that divided the sides at the end.

Two minutes from the interval linesman Eddie Crompton – not referee Gilbert Napthine – adjudged that John Glover had fouled Wright.

The referee acknowledged the offence and Chambers put the ball down and floated it into the penalty area as Borough were still organising a wall.

Chambers perfectly picked out an opening in the Borough defence, Ken Hall was clattered by Wright and Glover as he came out and the ball ran loose to Williams, who mistimed his volley, but the ball bobbed into the net.

Borough dominated the second half in their search for an equaliser but they were ineffective in attack for most of the half.

The Borough back four was solid but the midfield and front three lacked sparkle and the flair that might have put them on level terms.

Stewart Gallagher fired wide with a good effort but as the minutes ticked away the crowd must have anticipated a shock.

Four minutes from time Brian Parry

pulled off a brilliant save to deny Eddie Hogan. Mark Neale chipped the ball into the area, Dave Lewis knocked it on but Parry superbly pushed Hogan's header over the top.

That was the last slice of action and the final whistle blew to shatter Borough's hopes.

But they can have few complaints about the result and realise now that you cannot afford to have an off day in the FA Cup.

FA Cup Inquest

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Smith has called an urgent meeting with his players tomorrow night to discuss the shock FA Cup exit at Kidderminster.

Said Smith today: "I still cannot pinpoint where we went wrong and we are going to thrash this one out. We will have a long talk as it is vitally important that we get this result out of our system.

"It was a heartbreaking defeat and I feel sorry for the fans who were so disappointed. However there is little point in crying over spilt milk

"We have got to pick up the pieces and put the match to the back of our minds. We have an important league game this weekend and we must start planning for it," he added.

Chairman Noel Kelly's biggest regret was that the Manor Park side did not go out in a "blaze of glory".

"No-one underestimated Kidderminster, but the fans expected us to beat them – and we should have done.

"We just did not get off the ground, but I still feel there is a lot going for us and we must bounce back."

Ashington — 1st Round

Borough welcomed Ashington to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy first round tie.

Borough: Hall, Stockley, Cross, Glover, Turner, Sammels, Lewis, Hogan, Gallagher, Neale, Hoult. Sub: Pugh.

Ashington: Rigg, Pilkington, Peart, McCaffrey, Parkinson, Grant, Lowery, Scott, Mutrie, Brown, Lumsdon. Sub: Pringle.

Borough manager Graham Carr has today conceded that he needs to build a new team after another major setback at Manor Park.

Carr said after the club's shock FA Trophy exit on Saturday: "It is clear that in our present state we are not good enough to offer a serious challenge in non-league football.

"We are not even good enough to beat a side from a lower league at home and in a competition which we knew carried our last chance of success," he added.

Carr is right. A dramatic shake up looks on the cards after this latest disaster.

Three months after losing in the FA Cup to Southern League Kidderminster Harriers, it was the Dryborough's Northern League battlers who made it another day of misery for Nuneaton.

Ashington thoroughly deserved their victory and Carr said: "I think they wanted to win more than we did and it is as simple as that."

Ashington, coached by former

Sunderland defender Cec Irwin, operated a no frills 4-4-2 formation but they created all sorts of problems for the home side in the opening stages of the first half.

The impressive Ian Mutrie, brother of Blyth Spartans cup hero Les, almost cashed in on a poor headed back pass from Jon Sammels after 10 minutes, but goalkeeper Ken Hall saved at his feet.

Then in the next minute Hall had to make another stop from Tony Dowery's shot from Dave Brown's cross.

But it was Borough who broke through against the run of play with a clinically taken goal from Stewart Gallagher, his first for Borough in the Trophy.

He prodded the ball home from close range after Borough's best player of the day, Mark Neale, flicked the ball through from a Sammels free-kick.

It was a lead which Borough should have preserved but instead they wasted a chance with Alan Hoult's shot, which was kicked away by Ashington keeper Mickey Rigg, and Ashington scored in the next minute when Mutrie, along with Neale, the most outstanding player in the match, weaved his way through three defenders and crossed for Jamie Scott to stab the ball home.

Three minutes from half-time Borough missed a golden chance that would have surely put them back on course

for a place in the next round of the competition.

The full of running Gallagher forced his way into the penalty area and was barged down by goalscorer Scott. Sammels sent the goalkeeper the wrong way with his spot kick, but the ball hit the bottom of the post and was scrambled away.

The former Arsenal and Leicester midfield star said after the match: "I was so disappointed as I can't remember the last time I missed a penalty."

After the break both sides fought fiercely through a snowstorm to try and gain the advantage.

And it was always Ashington who looked more capable of breaking through, inspired by the strong running and industry of Mutrie, who must have impressed a lot of people.

It was Mutrie who notched his 27th goal of the season – and probably his most treasured – after 63 minutes of this cup thriller.

Nuneaton left-back Tony Turner committed himself with a mis-timed tackle on the half-way line and the ball was fed by Lowery to Arthur Lumsdon.

Lumsdon picked out Mutrie with a long through ball and he fired the ball home.

Borough sent on Eamonn Pugh, their FA Cup hero last season, for Gallagher, to try and inject new life into the Manor Park side.

Two minutes from the end Neale forced his way through into the penalty area but was sandwiched out by two Ashington defenders and seriously appealed for a penalty, but protests were ignored by Nantwich referee Neville Ashley.

"I have never ever cheated but that was definitely a penalty and it just about summed up our day," said Neale.



Stewart Gallagher scores a clinically taken goal, giving Borough the lead against Ashington in the FA Trophy first round.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Nuneaton Borough 1980-81

Back: Dave Lewis, John Glover, L. Spencer, Ken Hall, Tom Fallon, Paul Farndon.

Centre: Jon Sammels (player-coach), S. Convey, Stuart Gallagher, Mark Ratcliffe, Roy Cross, Gareth Dale, Alan Hoult, Graham Smith (manager).

Front: Dean Thomas, Mark Neale, Bob Stockley (captain), Eric Ward, Mike McFarlane, Tony Turner.

Alliance Premier League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1980-81

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.19	Mile Oak Rovers	Warwick	University PSF	4-1	Dale (2), Hoult (2)	
07.25	Manchester City	H	PSF	1-3	Pugh	1736
07.29	Hednesford Town	A	PSF	2-1	Neale, Hoult	
07.31	Allied Irish Bank	H	PSF	2-1	Convey, Hoult	
08.02	Manchester United	H	PSF	3-0	Dale (2), Hoult	1175
08.09	Aylesbury United	A	PSF	0-1		
08.11	Hinckley Athletic	A	PSF	0-0		
08.16	Northwich Victoria	H	L	2-0	Sammels, Hoult	1268
08.23	Altrincham	A	L	3-0	Dale, Hoult, Sammels	
08.26	A.P.Leamington	A	MFC	0-0		
08.30	Bangor City	H	L	3-2	Neale, Dale, Glover	1498
09.06	Kettering Town	A	L	0-3		1585
09.13	Yeovil Town	H	L	3-0	Hoult, Sammels (p), Dale	
09.20	A.P.Leamington	H	L	3-0	Hogan, Sammels (p), Neale	
09.22	Wealdstone	H	BLT 2-1L	0-1		1215
09.27	Frickley Athletic	A	L	3-4	Dale, Hoult, Sammels (p)	
09.29	Wealdstone	A	BLT 2-2L	3-0	McFarlane, Lewis, Sammels	
10.07	Stafford Rangers	A	MFC	2-3	Sammels (2)	

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Alliance Premier League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1980-81

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
10.11	Telford United	A	L	2-2	Hoult (2)	676
10.13	Kettering Town	H	MFC	0-1		633
10.18	Staines Town	H	F	1-0	Lewis	
10.20	Darlaston	H	BSC 2	1-0	Newitt	
10.25	Scarborough	A	L	1-2	Neale	2263
10.28	Bedworth United	A	MFC	0-3		140
11.01	Kidderminster Harriers	A	FAC4Q	0-1		1245
11.08	Weymouth	H	L	1-4	Pugh	963
11.10	Altrincham	A	BLT 3	0-2		1057
11.15	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	L	1-2	Hogan (p)	630
11.22	Worcester City	A	L	0-1		1359
11.29	Wealdstone	A	L	0-0		533
12.01	Boston United	H	L	0-2		483
12.06	Barnet	H	L	0-1		659
12.16	Racing Club Warwick	H	BSC 3	5-0	McFarlane (2), Glover, Convey, Dale	252
12.20	Barrow	H	L	3-1	Dale, Lewis, Neale	643
12.26	Stafford Rangers	A	L	2-2	Gallagher (2)	
12.27	Bath City	A	L	0-0		1039
01.01	Stafford Rangers	H	L	2-2	Neale, McFarlane	
01.03	Yeovil Town	A	L	1-5	Hoult	1193
01.10	Ashington	H	FAT 1	1-2	Gallagher	1162
01.12	Redditch United	H	MFC	3-2	Pugh, Thomas, Newitt	
01.17	Weymouth	A	L	0-1		
01.24	Gravesend & Northfleet	A	L	0-4		1030
01.26	Bedworth United	H	BSC QF	0-2		737
01.31	Frickley Athletic	H	L	0-1		785
02.04	Luton Town	H	F	1-1	Pugh	505
02.07	Wealdstone	H	L	2-0	Walker, Neale	771
02.14	Barnet	A	L	0-1		759
02.16	Maidstone United	H	L	1-1	Morley	744
02.21	Maidstone United	A	L	3-1	Thompson (o.g.), Walker, Morley	
03.01	Bath City	H	L	0-0		1224
03.07	Scarborough	H	L	0-4		915
03.09	Northwich Victoria	A	L	0-2		728
03.14	Boston United	A	L	1-3	Morley	885
03.16	Hinckley United	H	MFC	0-1		
03.21	Altrincham	H	L	0-0		
03.28	Burton Albion	A	F	3-2	Jones, Morley, Smith	
04.05	Worcester City	H	L	2-3	Morley (2)	854
04.11	Barrow	A	L	0-1		470
04.18	Kettering Town	H	L	1-5	Hoult	
04.20	Bangor City	A	L	5-2	Neale (2), Morley (2), Hoult	
04.25	A.P.Leamington	A	L	1-0	Morley	441
05.02	Telford United	H	L	3-3	Hoult, Neale, Glover	867

KEY : L = Alliance Premier League, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, BLT= Bob Lord Trophy, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly

Kernick: I Wasn't Given A Chance

Richard Kernick, sacked by Borough after just six weeks as commercial manager, complained yesterday: "They never gave me a chance." And he hit out at the club's "short-sightedness" in expecting an overnight boost in sales of lottery tickets.

"Nothing can be done with their sort of attitude," he said. "I wanted the commercial side run on a proper basis, but nobody can re-organise things in just six weeks."

John Glover Player Of The Year



John Glover is the fans' choice as Nuneaton Borough's "Player of the Year". He polled the highest number of votes in his first season at Manor Park. The supporters plumped for the centre half ahead of strikers Trevor Morley and Mark Neale, who tied for second place. Neale had already won the "Away Player of the Year" prize.

Glover joined Borough from Bedford Town and immediately established himself as a firm favourite with some solid performances in the Alliance Premier League.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Kelly Defends Admission Prices

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly has today defended the club's decision to keep admission prices at a £1 next season. Despite their drop into the Southern League, Kelly insists Borough cannot afford to reduce prices at the gate. Near neighbours Bedworth United look set to freeze admission at 60p.

"We are planning to recruit two or three more players in the close season and cannot afford to drop our prices. People tend to forget all the work that has gone on at the ground such as new terracing. We want to keep improving and must have the revenue to do the work," he added.

Fallon Joins Corby

Centre-half Tom Fallon, given a free transfer by Nuneaton Borough at the end of last season, has found a new club. He has joined Corby Town, who are managed by former Borough goalkeeper Gordon Livesey.

Carr Chases Keeper

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is having talks with Aylesbury goalkeeper Keith Baker. And Borough are poised to make a bid for Baker, rated by Carr as "one of the best keepers in the Southern League."

Carr Hopes Sandercock Will Stay

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is trying to persuade Phil Sandercock to stay with the club. The former Northampton Town defender became a free agent at the end of last season and is thinking about his next move.

Borough Offer Cut Price Season Tickets

Nuneaton Borough Football Club is offering cut-price concessions for season ticket holders at Manor Park. And if they are taken up, chairman Noel Kelly believes that it will be cheaper to watch Borough on a regular basis than near neighbours Bedworth United. Kelly is offering season tickets for the main stand at £20 if they are purchased before the end of the month. He said today: "Last season we charged £24 with a £2 concession if they were bought before a certain date. We are bringing the price down to £20."

Thomas Joins Wimbledon

Dean Thomas has joined Wimbledon in a deal which could be worth more than £10,000 to Nuneaton Borough. Thomas has signed for the Plough Lane club in a £4,000 move — with a guarantee of more cash if he establishes himself as a first-team regular.

Lowe To Join Borough

Barry Lowe will join Nuneaton Borough tonight in a £6,000 deal. Borough have received the completed transfer forms from Worcester City secretary Peter Fulbrook and it just remains for the midfielder to sign at Manor Park tonight.



Barry Lowe puts pen to paper to end manager Graham Carr's long wait to sign the Worcester City midfielder. Lowe, who is 25, joined Borough last night in a £6,000 move. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Keeper Not Joining Borough

Aylesbury goalkeeper Keith Baker is not joining Borough. And manager Graham Carr is now faced with a major headache – finding another keeper with the new season just three weeks away. Baker has decided to stay with Aylesbury and will sign a new three-year contract in the next few days.

1981-82

Oldbury United v Nuneaton Borough 27-07-1981

Borough made the journey to Oldbury United to play a pre-season friendly game.

Former Chelsea, Newcastle and Peterborough striker Tommy Robson turned out for Borough in their 3-2 friendly win at Oldbury last night. Tim Garner, a young goalkeeper from the Leicestershire Senior League also turned out as goals from Derek Walker (2) and a John Jones penalty saw Borough sneak a narrow win.

Hitchin Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-08-1981

Borough: Garner (Spencer), Brown (Thompson), Dixey, Glover, Burke, Walker, Jones, Walle (Hoult), Clayton, Morley, Robson.

Borough made the journey to Hitchin Town to play a pre-season friendly game.

Berger Isthmian League side Hitchin surprised Borough with an all-action display at the Top Field on Saturday. At the end of an entertaining friendly Borough could have few complaints about the result. Centre-forward Steve Mahoney struck both goals after 60 and 82 minutes. He fired home a low cross from Micky Every after Borough were caught pushing forward and then increased Hitchin's lead with a shot on the turn. Work commitments and injuries forced Graham Carr to field a side mixed with youth and experience. Borough were boosted by the inclusion of strikers Tommy

Robson and Roy Clayton but they also had to rely on a number of young players from the second team ranks. Centre back Richard Dixey had a solid game alongside John Glover and looks to have fully recovered from a cartilage operation.

It was a strange blend – some of the players were experienced and others had only played a handful of games. One teenager left his mark on the game with an impressive debut – 16-year-old Micky Burke, who had a fine match at left back.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 03-08-1981

Borough made the journey to VS Rugby to play a pre-season friendly game.

A goal from striker Roy Clayton was enough to give Borough a 1-1 draw at Butlin Road.

Borough To Sign Clayton

Nuneaton Borough have agreed a fee with Barnet for striker Roy Clayton. And Clayton is now expected to sign for Borough before the friendly game with Clayton's old club Kettering Town, at Manor Park.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 05-08-1981

Borough: Garner, Stockley, Brown, Dixey, Glover, Walker, Jones, Walle, Hoult (Newitt), Clayton, Robson.

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

Borough played out a 1-1 draw with the Northamptonshire side. Roy Clayton scored against his old club when Tommy Robson got clear down the left, chipped in an inch-perfect cross to Clayton on the far post, and the unmarked striker headed home from close range.

Kettering's equaliser came in the 76th minute when Nicky Evans nipped in to score from six yards after Phipps had crossed from the left.

Vincent Back At Manor Park

Bobby Vincent, the hero of the Manor Park terraces, is back with Nuneaton Borough. He has taken up an appointment as assistant manager to Dave Lewis, who will run the Borough reserve team. Vincent turned down the assistant manager's job at Enderby to return to Manor Park.

Nuneaton Boro' v Peterborough United 08-08-1981

Borough: Garner, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Walker, Lowe, Jones, Walle, Clayton, Morley. Subs: Thompson and Brown.

Peterborough: Waugh, Winter, Collins, Glynn, Slack, Rodaway, Quow, Kellock, Cooke, Hodgson, Clarke. Subs: Quinnett, Smith, Cliss, Massey and Phillips.

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

Goal-grabbing Peterborough hammered Nuneaton in a pre-season stroll. And the real threat to Nuneaton was Billy Kellock, who notched a hat-trick at a ground he played on



many times when he was with Kettering Town. Borough were no match for the Fourth Division side, who narrowly missed out on promotion to the Third Division last season.

There were a couple of eye-catching performances in the Borough side, notably from teenager Paddy Walle and skipper Bob Stockley. But Barry Lowe, looked well short of his best in his first match for Borough.

Peterborough stretched the Borough defence with every telling pass and took the lead after 13 minutes. Trevor Quow sped down the wing and fell following a challenge by Stockley. It looked an innocent enough tackle, but a penalty was awarded and Kellock stepped up to give Posh the lead. Kellock scored his second goal seven minutes later when he shot home from close range after Borough failed to clear a right wing cross. Kellock completed his hat-trick with a second penalty after John Glover fouled Posh defender Glynn.

Tony Slack joined in the goal rush when he fired home after Robbie Cooke had knocked back a Kellock cross. Borough, 4-0 down at half-time, managed to stem the tide until the 59th minute when Peterborough made it five – after a stroke of good fortune. Tim Garner, Borough's young goalkeeper from Leicestershire Senior League side Oadby, pulled off a fine save from Glynn's fierce drive, but the ball ran out to Quow who shot home.

A minute later Borough pulled one back through Roy Clayton who bundled the ball into the net after Glover had turned back a Phil Sandercock cross. It was Clayton's third goal in successive friendlies for Borough.

After 67 minutes Kellock set up the visitors' sixth goal, knocking in a right wing cross for Cooke to coolly sidestep his marker and slide the ball home. Peterborough looked a quality side on this showing with some devastating finishing power. But Borough boss Carr is still facing problems with the Southern League season just a week away.

Borough Bid £2,000 For Dulleston

Nuneaton Borough have made a £2,000 bid for AP Leamington goalkeeper Alan Dulleston. AP Leamington manager John Farrington had put a £8,000 price tag on Dulleston when he first requested a move – but the figure has dropped during the close season. The fee has been agreed and Carr has only to agree personal terms with the keeper, who is expected to make his debut in the friendly match against Northampton Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 11-08-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Lowe, Walker (McFarlane 46), Clayton, Morley, Robson.

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

Borough fell to their second successive defeat against League opposition. But there was consolation for them in the fact that they were desperately unlucky to emerge from an

entertaining friendly with no tangible reward. Graham Carr's side dominated the Fourth Division outfit for long spells, and looked a far more cohesive unit than the one dismantled by Peterborough on Saturday – but they were caught cold by two sucker punches either side of the interval.

Recent £6,000 signing Barry Lowe began justifying his fee in those first 45 minutes – the former Worcester midfielder was at the heart of the majority of Borough's attacks, as the home side put the Cobblers under considerable pressure.

Lowe, Trevor Morley and Tommy Robson all saw efforts whistle past the post, and Roy Clayton was within inches of scoring for the fourth successive game when he prodded a through pass from Derek Walker under Northampton keeper Andy Poole, only for the ball to roll wide. Northampton's opener came totally out of the blue with their first worthwhile attack after 28 minutes – Keith Bowen threaded a pass into the area and skipper Steve Phillips struck a first-time shot past debut keeper Alan Dulleston.

If the Cobbler's lead had been totally unjustified at the interval, their second goal was even more of a surprise in the 56th minute. Poole had previously scooped clear a Lowe drive, when John Alexander took possession 25 yards out on the left, cut inside and rifled a low shot past Dulleston.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-08-1981

Cheltenham: Latchford, Buckland, Bayliffe, Boxall, Dyer, McKenzie, Woodall, Ollis, Green, Pemberton, Tester. **Sub:** Shatford.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Jones, Lowe, Walker, Morley, Clayton, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to take on Cheltenham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

What a start to Borough's Southern League campaign as they hit back from behind to snatch a dramatic win. Trevor Morley was the hero with a well-taken winner just seven minutes from the end. Borough were trailing to a lively Cheltenham side until a stroke of good fortune and a masterly positional change altered the face of the game.

Striker Charlie Green had fired Robins into a 2-0 lead after 52 minutes with two identical goals before Tommy Robson cut the deficit. And then Borough ended the challenge of the home side with a seven minute spell. First of all skipper Bob Stockley was pushed into midfield to stamp out the threat of talented Alan Ollis, the man at the centre of Cheltenham's flying start. Then midfielder man John Jones squared the match with a long range drive which cannoned off defender Tim Bayliffe and looped over keeper Dave Latchford.

Morley wrapped up the points when he ran on to a brilliant flick from Barry Lowe and charged through three defenders to slip the ball home. Before the Borough revival Cheltenham had given the Manor Park side a testing time with their confident attacking football. It proved a point that many of their Southern League rivals this term see Borough as the team they want to beat – and Cheltenham were no exception.



After a couple of narrow escapes – Stockley and Sandercock both clearing off the line – Green put Cheltenham ahead after 25 minutes. He turned superbly in the penalty area to rifle a low shot past Alan Dulleston at the end of a move which involved several players and started deep in the Cheltenham half.

In the final ten minutes of the half Borough hit back with Roy Clayton and Morley going close before Latchford palmed away a goal line header from Robson. But with the second half just four minutes old Borough fell further behind with a carbon copy goal from Green as he again turned in the box to shoot home.

Borough responded three minutes later. Robson reduced the arrears when Norman Pemberton lost possession to Morley and his deflected pass reached the former Peterborough striker who shot high into the roof of the net. Then Jones levelled the score and Morley popped up to earn Borough victory. Overall Borough improved the longer the match went on as they found their feet on a hot and sticky day.

Dulleston made a sound start in goal for Borough with Stockley and Richard Dixey outstanding in defence. Lowe had a good second half after a slow start and Morley was the pick of the strikers.

Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 17-08-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Jones, Lowe, Walker, Morley, Clayton, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

Deadly Roy Clayton ended Bromsgrove's brave challenge with two goals. He scored the winner eleven minutes from time after battling Rovers had drawn level. Borough made a rip-roaring start to the match in front of a noisy crowd of more than 700. They were a goal up after six minutes and Bromsgrove could have had few complaints if they had found themselves three or four goals down in the early stages.

After four minutes Derek Walker rapped the ball against a post with a long-range drive after a Tommy Robson corner was only half cleared. Clayton, a bargain capture from Barnet, scored with a flying header two minutes later after meeting a pinpoint cross from Walker. Bromsgrove never got a look in during the opening minutes with Robson shooting just wide after a great run by Trevor Morley.

Another sweeping move brought the crowd to its feet with Bromsgrove keeper Mike Lawrence clawing away Robson's diving header after good work by Walker and Bob Stockley. Stockley joined the siege on goal and fired just over with a 35 yard effort. But for all their dominance Borough were only a goal ahead and slowly Bromsgrove closed the door.

Centre-backs Ron Skinner and Maurice O'Connell started to get to grips with Clayton and Morley and up front big strikers Kevin Truswell and Martin Lolley began to find room. And the Rovers striking pair teamed up to put their side on level terms

after 38 minutes. Borough goalkeeper Alan Dulleston must shoulder some of the blame for failing to reach Lolley's deep cross from the right and Truswell leapt high in the air to score with a header. Bromsgrove almost went ahead on the stroke of half-time but Borough had a lucky break when Trevor Smith's shot cannoned off the bottom of a post and back into the arms of Dulleston.

The second half was a big disappointment with Rovers maintaining their tight grip on the Borough strike force. Borough did not manage another shot at goal until the 68th minute when Morley fired wide with a left foot effort from Robson's cross. A draw now looked on the cards but Borough surged ahead to set up a first leg lead with a goal eleven minutes from time. It was a brilliant move started by skipper Stockley and finished by Clayton.

The Borough skipper found Robson with a long pass and the winger lifted the ball for Clayton to loop over Lawrence on the volley. Clayton's wonderful goal brought a sigh of relief and gave Borough a handy lead. Two players were booked, John Jones for Borough after fouling Smith and Bromsgrove's O'Connell who tripped Robson.

Borough Sign Waters

Nuneaton Borough have signed teenage midfield player Adrian Waters on professional forms. And club secretary John Evans, who closely follows the progress of young players at Manor Park, sees Waters as an exciting prospect for the future, saying: "Without exaggeration I think Adrian could be as good a player as someone like Wayne Thomas. He is a very skilful player who likes to run the midfield and I think he will do well for us."

Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch 22-08-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Jones, Lowe, Walker, Morley, Clayton, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Alvechurch: Edwards, Bowater, Fry, Birch, Punscheon, Harper, Price, Stevens, A. Smith, P. Smith, Hope. **Sub:** Rigby.

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

Out-of-touch Borough had only themselves to blame for allowing Alvechurch to escape defeat. Weak finishing and a generally uninspired performance let the visitors off the hook during a disappointing clash between two of the sections most fancied teams.

Neither side really took control of the game but sharper finishing by Borough would have brought them their third consecutive win of the season. Central defender Richard Dixey failed to convert two reasonable chances while veteran Tommy Robson and midfield man Derek Walker both had opportunities to clinch the points for Nuneaton.

Alvechurch made their intentions clear from the start of the game with some tough tackling and well organised defensive play. Borough's midfield were given little time or room to

work in as the visitors employed tactics which are sure to be a familiar sight during the season at Manor Park. The best scoring chances fell to the home team. Dixey headed a Robson corner over the bar and Walker screwed a centre harmlessly wide with the Alvechurch defence in disarray.



Borough defender John Glover climbs above the Alvechurch defence to plant a header inches wide. Roy Clayton lurks in the background, surrounded by visiting defenders. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Former Nuneaton keeper Reg Edwards' sprawling save at Dixey's feet foiled the big defender after a Robson corner had dropped as Borough searched for the lead. But some carefully mounted offensives by the visitors caused problems for the home defence towards half-time. Paul Smith and Bobby Hope created problems down both flanks but Borough keeper Alan Dulleston dealt with several difficult swirling crosses.

With Borough's three-man midfield struggling to establish a grip, Alvechurch were beginning to look the more impressive side but they should have gone behind soon after the interval. Barry Lowe's free-kick found Robson in space and the ex-Peterborough forward sent a looping header past Edwards only to see it bounce off the bar. Walker, following up, had a clear view of a virtually unguarded net, but sliced his shot high into the crowd. John Glover headed just wide in another raid and Robson spoiled an impressive display with a disappointing miss.

He was put clear by an excellent Lowe pass but shot against Edwards' legs when he seemed certain to give the home side the lead. Alvechurch made sure that there was no repetition of the slack defensive work which had given Robson a clear run at goal as they looked to preserve their hard-earned point. But their decision to pack players into the danger area almost came unstuck when Lowe's shot was deflected agonisingly close to the target during a last-gasp raid.

Carr Hits Out At Fans

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr today hit out at fans' criticism of Saturday's performance against Alvechurch. Borough had to be satisfied with a dour goalless draw against the Southern League champions – a result that brought

jeering from the stand. Carr is unhappy at the attitude of Borough supporters towards certain players, with midfielder Derek Walker a particular target of abuse.

"The fans only cheer us when we are winning and the more they get on to players like Derek Walker the more his confidence is going to suffer," said Carr.

"It was always an advantage to be a visitor to Nuneaton during my playing days – if clubs can play defensively for the first 25 minutes, the crowd does the rest for them. I would rather they criticised me than the players," he added.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 25-08-1981

Bromsgrove: Lawrence, McGarry, O'Meara, Skinner, O'Connell, Warom, Griffin, Lloyd, Truswell, Lolley, Smith. **Sub:** Crutchley.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Jones, Lowe, Walker, Morley, Clayton, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

Rovers looked threatening for the first 10 minutes, with good work between O'Meara and Griffin, but the danger soon passed away under pressure from Borough. Lolley shot wide and Nuneaton were soon having all their own way at the other end. Dixey narrowly missed scoring, then Tommy Robson put the ball in the net after a free kick by Bob Stockley with little opposition from the home defenders.

Bromsgrove surged forward in an aggressive counter attack but the move came to nothing when Lloyd shot wide. Rovers were looking increasingly ragged and harassed, although still capable of a good cross into Borough's goal area. These moves were instantly snuffed out by defenders Stockley and Phil Sandercock, who clearly had Bromsgrove's measure.

Alan Dulleston was only called on to make two serious saves. One was a hard accurate shot from Lloyd, following a precise cross by O'Meara, and the other was a wild and lucky shot from the wing. At the other end Rovers' keeper Mike Lawrence had much more serious problems to contend with. Only an inspired dive halted a cannonball shot by man-of-the-match Robson. Borough again went close when Lawrence dropped the ball following an indirect free-kick and almost allowed it to bounce in before regaining control.

Nuneaton moved forward in strength and Trevor Morley managed a brilliant shot from among a pack of defenders, skimming the bar and delighting Borough fans. Inspired by this Robson seared another shot through Bromsgrove's demoralised defence to make the score 2-0.

With nothing to lose Rovers counter-attacked desperately and in the 84th minute O'Meara scored for the home side. Alan Dulleston received attention after colliding with the post in an attempt to save but soon recovered. Throughout the match Borough were a convincing, coordinated team. For a new line up to play together so well early in the season promises well for the rest of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 29-08-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Lowe, Jones, Walker (McFarlane), Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Barry: Macey, Donovan, Leach, R. Jones, R. Walker, Sullivan, Reeves, Lewis, Green, Rogers, G. Jones. **Sub:** Love.

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

Barry poached a point against the odds, leaving the home supporters grumbling at yet another disappointing home display. Borough should have won the match – Trevor Morley had cancelled out a shock Barry opener from Phil Green after 71 minutes, and referee Ward gave an 80th minute penalty when Tommy Robson was pulled down by keeper John Macey.

Up stepped John Jones to deliver Graham Carr the points, but his penalty was far too near to Macey and the keeper beat the shot clear to leave Borough still searching for their first home league win of the season. Borough never really deserved victory. They produced a sterile predictable performance against a Barry outfit who defended dourly when the need arose, and always threatened on the break.

The fans made their views known in noisy fashion, and they will need to show some patience this season, with visiting sides considering any point at 'mighty' Nuneaton as pure gold dust. Borough opened by conceding two corners, before the active Morley saw a low cross held by Macey, but Barry's defence coped ably with much of what was thrown at it – not that much on reflection.



The moment Manor Park had waited for, with grounded striker Trevor Morley stabbing home the equaliser under pressure from the Barry defence. Roy Clayton (right) looks on. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Even so utility man Graham Rogers nodded a deft Robson chip inches past his own post, and it looked that Borough might grab the lead, only for Barry to stun the crowd with the opening goal in 25 minutes. Strikers Phil Green and Paul Lewis played a swift one-two with the home defence funnelling back and Green ran on to rap the ball past Dulleston amid general consternation.

Barry fell back on defence after that, inviting Borough to break them down, and although Roy Clayton prodded a far post attempt just wide from another Robson cross, the task looked beyond the stuttering, barren home side. The second half continued in similar vein with Barry soaking it up and breaking in numbers, and the Borough midfield putting nothing of note together.

The pressure was there in patches – Robson hooked wide

when Macey was put under pressure from a Derek Walker cross and Walker himself was unlucky with a far post header when Robson broke free on the left. Even skipper Bob Stockley found himself in an advanced position to head into Macey's arms, but the equaliser came just when it seemed that Barry's clinical rearguard was weathering the storm.

Richard Dixey hoisted a long ball from the back. Morley was jostled by centre-backs Rod Jones and Ronnie Walker, but the young striker poked the ball home as he fell. Then came Jones penalty miss – and if that had been too much for the fans, they suffered a fright of near cardiac proportions in the closing minute. Barry launched the last of a series of late sorties, Green went down, and the referee pointed to the spot, only to change his decision to offside after discussions with his linesman.

Nuneaton Boro v Wellingborough Town 31-08-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Jones, Lowe, Walker (McFarlane 31), Clayton, Morley, Robson.

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

John Jones, villain of the piece for his penalty miss against Barry, was Borough's hero with a successful spot kick. The midfielder man's 66th minute penalty gave Borough their first home Southern League win of the season in a bruising, often ill-tempered encounter with dogged Wellingborough. The relief after Saturday's disappointment was evident – but Borough again frustrated the small crowd for long spells through their inability to break down a tough rearguard, who competed with admirable bravery under constant pressure.

It appeared during the first-half that little had changed from the draw with Barry and the word appears to have got around that Manor Park is the place for visiting teams to excel themselves this season. Borough again failed to flow in midfield as Wellingborough strove to belie their image as perennial chopping blocks with some meaty defensive resistance.

Tommy Robson, closely watched throughout the night, had one effort blocked, Trevor Morley twisted to test keeper Bob Thurbon from close range, and the industrious Barry Lowe hammered a drive wide from Morley's precise feed. But Borough were too disjointed in the middle, well held up front and slack in their passing, so that Wellingborough, without creating danger themselves, turned around on level terms.

Borough began the second half with a flurry of activity around the visiting box – but it appeared that luck had deserted them as shots whistled wide, just over or were repelled by falling yellow shirts. Robson and Jones both had shots deflected wide with Thurbon scrambling, and somehow Wellingborough survived although Thurbon flapped at a Bob Stockley cross for centre-half Nigel Roberts to hammer clear.

Wellingborough almost stole a shock lead after 54 minutes when striker Derek Atkinson galloped away to fire across the



face of Borough's goal. Here we go again, everyone thought – but that saviour of the lost cause, the penalty, gave Borough the lead in hotly disputed circumstances. Morley was tripped by Roberts just inside the area and the visiting defenders protested, but Jones, showing no nerves after Saturday's miss, belted the spot kick past Thurbon. Jones' reaction to the Cock and Bear end may well have had the suggestion of a raised finger or two in it, such was his relief.

The game degenerated after that point into a succession of crunching tackles, arguments and the occasional scuffle – visiting No. 8 Dave Liddle was booked after an unsavoury goalmouth scramble which saw Wellingborough defenders queuing up to remonstrate with Jones. A small but vital win for Borough, but it is up to them to begin working out why so-called lesser teams are hanging on for so long.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 05-09-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Lowe, Jones, McFarlane, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Kidderminster: Parry, Travis, Richards, James, Nicholls, Chambers, Gavin, Secker, Mullen, Powell, Foxwell. **Sub:** Clements.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park for a Southern League Midland Division match.

Stylish Borough continued their climb up the table with an emphatic, thoroughly convincing win over Kidderminster. A superb display by winger Tommy Robson was the inspiration behind an entertaining, attacking display, which could easily have produced several more goals as Nuneaton neared top form for the first time this season.

Robson in particular tormented the visitors' defence throughout the game, had a hand in each of the goals and was desperately unlucky not to get his own name on the score sheet. But there didn't look to be a weak link in the Borough team as they got off to a marvellous start in sweltering conditions. A swirling cross from Robson prompted the initial breakthrough as Kidderminster full-back Archie Edwards in attempting to clear, only succeeded in heading firmly past his own goalkeeper.

The bemused Bryan Parry found himself picking the ball out of the net again after just eight minutes play. Robson was again the architect with a viciously swerving corner kick which Roy Clayton met perfectly to send a header past Parry. The Harriers mounted a brief fight back but Borough prompted by the industrious Barry Lowe, hit back strongly and could have doubled their lead before the break.

Mike McFarlane, recalled to the side because of Derek Walker's injury, picked out Robson with a fine pass, and the Borough winger's well-placed shot was brilliantly saved at full-stretch by Parry. Clever individual work by Trevor Morley provided Robson with another chance on the stroke of half-time but he smashed a close-range volley against the bar with the Kidderminster defence in complete disarray. It was a different story for a spell after the break as Borough's

superiority evaporated and the visitors, sensing their chance, gradually got back into the game. After a couple of near things, their best chance fell to Martin Gavin who was put through with only keeper Alan Dulleston to beat.

Dulleston managed to force him wide of the target and he sent an angled cross shot across the face of the goal when he should have put his side back in with a chance. The ball dropped to John Powell, whose cross looked dangerous until Richard Dixey managed to knock it behind for a corner.

Morley went close with a header and a shot which Richards managed to intercept just in front of the goal. The third goal eventually arrived in the dying moments of the game when Robson sprinted away on the left, beat his full-back and picked out Lowe on the edge of the box. He failed to control the ball but it dropped kindly for Morley, who reacted instantly to lash it past Parry.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-08-1981

Corby: Livesey, Walker, Ferns, Saunders, Fallon, McIlwain, Rogers, Johnson, Dryhurst, Beresford, Guy. **Sub:** Roberts.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Jones, Lowe, McFarlane, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Occupation Road to face Corby Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough moved confidently to the top of the table by clinching the points from a six goal thriller. Two goals in three minutes just before the break put Borough in control after an early scare and they went on to comfortably register their third consecutive away win. Before those goals went in though, it was a different story as the home team gained the upper hand and put Nuneaton's defence under early pressure.

Keeper Alan Dulleston was forced to push a fierce Guy shot round the post and then made a brave save at the Corby front-runner's feet. But Dulleston had little chance of preventing the home team from snatching the lead after 27 minutes when John Glover pushed Dryhurst in the penalty box. Brian Beresford stepped up to take the spot kick and crashed it high into the net.

Boosted by the goal, Corby continued to press forward and were unlucky not to put Nuneaton deeper into trouble when Beresford raced through before smacking a rising drive against the crossbar. At that stage the visitors were looking decidedly shaky but a timely stroke of luck put them right back in the game after 41 minutes. Barry Lowe won a battle for possession inside the Corby box and crossed to Mike McFarlane whose shot cannoned off a defender and was bundled over the line by central defender Richard Dixey.

But there was nothing fortunate about Borough's second goal just a couple of minutes later. Lowe was again involved, pushing a perfect pass to Tommy Robson, who drilled a powerful shot past Gordon Livesey from 10 yards. It was a dramatic comeback by the visitors and they could have gone



in at the break with a bigger lead but ex-Corby striker Trevor Morley saw his shot blocked after going through on his own.

Morley's miss was only a temporary respite for the home team as Borough grabbed their third goal straight after the interval. Morley broke away on the left and squared for McFarlane. The midfield player's shot was pushed against the post by Livesey but when the ball was returned to the danger area Roy Clayton made no mistake from close range. Corby went close with Alan McIlwain heading just over and Beresford bringing out another brave save from Dulleston, who required treatment, but was able to continue.

Before Dulleston could fully recover he was again called into action when he went down to block Guy's shot, but the rebound fell to Beresford whose goal-bound drive was blocked by Phil Sandercock's arm. Beresford made no mistake from the penalty spot. Fortunately for Nuneaton they were able to quickly end the Corby recovery and restored their two goal lead just two minutes later. Lowe's corner was delicately flicked on by Morley and Glover raced in at the far post to head home from a few yards out.

That goal spelled the end of the Steelmen's resistance and they rarely looked like getting back into the game in the closing stages. In fact, Nuneaton had the better chances late in the game with Sandercock, Robson and substitute Alan Hoult all going close to adding a fifth goal.

Walker Goes Back To Corby

Nuneaton Borough midfielder Derek Walker re-signed for Corby last night in a shock £2,500 deal. Walker had joined Borough from Corby for £4,000 last January. The youngster is believed to have been unsettled at Nuneaton for some time, as he was unable to produce consistent form and was the target of barracking from the Manor Park crowd.

Bridgend Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-09-1981

Bridgend: Wager, Derrett, Harris, Evans, Morris, Hooper, McInch, Daniels, Bekker, Williams, Preece. **Sub:** John.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Lowe, Jones, McFarlane, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Bridgend Town to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bridgend keeper Gary Wager obligingly stepped in when Borough looked in grave danger of surrendering their unbeaten league record. His side seemed to be heading for both points against a below-par Nuneaton team when a through-ball from Bob Stockley put Roy Clayton in the clear. The normally deadly Borough striker shot weakly at Wager, but he allowed the ball to slip from his grasp to Tommy Robson, who was left with the simplest of close range chances.

Robson's goal, his sixth of the season, came after 68 minutes of undistinguished play from both sides – and from his team's first real chance of the game. Borough then went on to have the better of the closing stages and almost clinched both

points just before the end when Trevor Morley shot against the bar from an acute angle.

Before the goal it had been a different story with the home team successfully smothering Nuneaton's attack. The flair and invention shown in wins over Kidderminster and Corby were rarely in evidence as they spent much of the game backpedalling against an enthusiastic Bridgend outfit. Another factor must have been the Coychurch Road playing surface which resembled a poorly-tended allotment patch and repeatedly bemused players through eccentric bounces.

The pitch coupled with a continual downpour, made life difficult for both sets of players but Bridgend made an impressive start. Alan Dulleston pulled off the first of a series of brave saves inside the first minute when he plunged at Chris Williams' feet to collect a mistimed Richard Dixey back-pass. Williams again went close with a good shot on the turn as Bridgend got on top and it came as no surprise when they took the lead after 20 minutes.

An attack seemed to be petering out when Jimmy McInch was forced wide by Mike McFarlane but he pushed the ball into the path of Phil Evans, whose 39 yard drive was bulging the net before Dulleston could move. Borough, who had Phil Sandercock and John Jones booked for fouls, were hardly seen as an attacking force, but they could count themselves unlucky not to be awarded a 40th minute penalty. Robson's cross looked to be heading straight for John Glover, but the centre-half was bundled to the ground by Steve Morris. Borough's penalty appeals fell on deaf ears and Bridgend finished the first-half on top with the ever-dangerous Williams heading across the face of the goal from a Daniels cross.

Morley was booked straight after the break for a foul on Wayne Harris, who was also cautioned a minute later for a foul on Morley. After losing their lead Bridgend adopted a more cautious approach but came close to grabbing a second goal when a Morris header looped over Dulleston but landed on top of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Enderby Town 14-09-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Lowe, Jones, McFarlane, Clayton, Morley, Robson.

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

Borough recovered from a controversial penalty decision to earn a point and stay top of the league. They should have won this top of the table clash but had to be content with a share of the spoils thanks to a sparkling goal from Trevor Morley. Borough squandered numerous chances as Tommy Robson's first class service went unrewarded. Winger Robson pumped in cross after cross but no-one could take full advantage of his sterling work.

Borough, to their credit, battled to keep their unbeaten tag, after falling behind to a harsh goal. John Glover passed a



late fitness test on a thigh injury to line up in an unchanged Borough side with striker Alan Hoult again filling the substitute spot. Enderby, a point adrift of Borough before the match, could hardly believe their luck when they took a 21st minute lead against the run of play.

Former Hinckley Athletic striker Steve Smith pounced on a through ball from Richard Pell and turned sharply to fire in a low shot. The ball flew wide of the post but to the astonishment of the 1,000-plus crowd Northampton referee Victor Wood penalised Richard Dixey for handball and awarded a penalty. Borough goalkeeper Alan Dulleston was beaten by John Lane from the spot.

The referee's decision to award a penalty angered the crowd and his fussy refereeing caused many unnecessary stoppages during the game. Borough searched for a quick reply and Enderby keeper Steve Short did well to smother a shot from Roy Clayton. Morley should have put Borough on level terms after 56 minutes. He blazed over from close range after his first effort was fingertipped away by Smart.

But the young striker made amends with a classic piece of finishing after 68 minutes. Phil Sandercock crossed from the left, Clayton knocked the ball down and Morley swung round to drill a crisp right foot drive past Smart. The last fifteen minutes was packed with incident at both ends. Goalkeeper Smart grabbed a Robson centre at the third attempt and Enderby's Smith lifted a shot on to the crossbar. Three minutes from time Borough skipper Bob Stockley was booked for a foul on the dangerous Smith.

Glover Signs New Contract

John Glover, who turned down a £30,000 move to Colchester United, has signed a two year contract with Borough. He is the third player to commit himself in the last few days with Eamonn Pugh and Tim Garner signing new contracts.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 26-09-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Lowe, Jones, McFarlane, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Pugh.

Cambridge: Hasley, Lyndsay, Greenhalgh, Tuddenham, Smye, Murray, Pointer, Fordham, Lill, Relizani, Simmons. **Sub:** O'Donnell.

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

Borough continued their assault on the Midland Division title with a dominant display. And weekend leaders Stourbridge's 3-1 defeat at Alvechurch allowed Nuneaton to carry on their challenge for honours this season. The scoreline was not a true reflection of the game – the Manor Park side should have scored more than the six they notched against Rushden Town.

In the first-half Borough were in a truly different class as they raced into a three goal lead by the interval. But after the break they slipped down a gear and only added once more to their tally with Cambridge scoring a soft consolation goal a minute from time. Borough, who need fear no-one in the

league with this present side, stormed into the lead after just three minutes.

A cross from Mike McFarlane was knocked back to Richard Dixey whose second goal for the club could not have been more spectacular as he scored with a bicycle kick inside the penalty area. Borough continued to dominate their struggling opponents and stretched their lead after 32 minutes. John Jones robbed Nacer Relizani in his own half and raced through to find Trevor Morley who worked a one two with Roy Clayton and scored with a sweet drive from a narrow angle.

Borough keeper Alan Dulleston was virtually redundant and only had one effort to deal with in the first-half when he raced off his line to kick the ball away from Dave Simmons. A minute before half-time Borough made it 3-0 when Morley flicked on another McFarlane cross and the ball rebounded off the head of Tony Tuddenham to Clayton who tapped the ball into the net.

At the start of the second half Borough were denied two more goals by some brave saves from City keeper Mark Halsey. After 53 minutes he slid into Morley as the Borough striker lined up to shoot and a minute later he dived superbly to push away a shot from Clayton. Borough never really recaptured their first-half form, but there was a moment of personal triumph for Tommy Robson. After 69 minutes defender Duncan Smye made a hash of a McFarlane cross and Robson nipped in to head home.

It was his first goal in front of the Manor Park fans and he found it difficult to conceal his delight as he leapt in the air as the home crowd rose in acknowledgement of his effort. Dulleston had an anxious moment a minute later when he palmed a shot from Relizani on to the crossbar and saved at the second attempt. A minute from time Cambridge scored a consolation effort when substitute Jon O'Donnell back heeled the ball into the net after Borough failed to clear a cross.

Wellingborough Town v Nuneaton Boro' 30-09-1981

Wellingborough: Pell, Heap, Folds, Lawson, Roberts, Pittam, Pearson, Frost, Atkinson, Williams, Holmes. **Sub:** Lynn.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Lowe, Jones, McFarlane, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Dale.

Borough made the journey to play Wellingborough Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough consolidated their position at the top of the league with a 3-0 win at the Dog and Duck ground in a match they dominated from start to finish. But faced by a resolute home defence Borough failed to score in the first-half despite almost continuous attacking led by striker Trevor Morley.

Borough had signalled their intentions as early as the ninth minute when Barry Lowe saw his 25-yard drive tipped around the post by the Wellingborough keeper. Nuneaton were always quicker to the ball in midfield and this provided Lowe and John Jones with ample opportunity to set up a series of dangerous attacks.



After 38 minutes Lowe again narrowly failed when after a brilliant turn in the penalty area his goal-bound shot was blocked. Such was Nuneaton's command that Wellingborough were restricted to only one shot on target in the first half. Finally it was winger Tommy Robson who found the key to the Wellingborough goal, leaping unmarked to head a Jones centre beyond the despairing keeper Pell in the 61st minute to give Borough the lead they deserved.

Robson who was generally well played by full-back Heap, was again involved in the two goals which finally sealed the home side's fate. After 69 minutes, Robson ran on to a chipped pass and as he took the ball past Pell, fell over the keeper's outstretched arm. Referee Bunce awarded the penalty to the anguish of the Wellingborough defence and Jones calmly drove the ball into the far corner of the net.

Four minutes later, a floated Robson free-kick was unluckily turned past his own keeper by centre-half Roberts, as Wellingborough appealed for offside against Morley. Wellingborough strove for a consolation goal but never looked like succeeding and five minutes from time Clayton almost grabbed a fourth when his right foot shot cannoned off the post.

New Commercial Manager

Nuneaton Borough have appointed a new full-time commercial manager. He is 36-year-old Victor Kinson, who has a vast amount of experience with lotteries. And he is hoping to play a major role in boosting sales of the football club's lottery. Mr Kinson, who lives in Burntwood, Staffordshire, was a full-time official with "Helping Hands," a national charity, until taking up his new appointment.

Graham Carr Manager Of The Month

Graham Carr is the manager of the month for September in the Midland section of the Southern League. And the Nuneaton Borough boss will receive a gallon of Mackenzies Real Whisky before the match with Minehead at Manor Park on Saturday, October 24.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 10-10-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Jones, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Dale.

Gloucester: Cornwell, Ryan, Burford, Bruton, Adams, Brown, Mockridge, Paterson, Lewis, Evans, Doyle. **Sub:** Feigherty.

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

Graham Carr's record-breaking side continued their relentless assault on the Southern League title with another impressive win. Three first-half goals put Borough firmly in the driving seat – and there was more to celebrate after the match.

For it has been discovered that this present side has made the best start to any season since the club was originally formed in 1889. Back in 1945-46 Borough stayed unbeaten for

13 matches – and Carr's title-chasing side has now gone 15 games without defeat. There is just no stopping Borough at the moment. They cruised to their seventh league win in 11 outings and chalked up their 18th goal in five games.

Borough's fifth successive win was built on another strong start. The opening exchanges were even but eventually Borough started to wear down the opposition. After 20 minutes John Jones converted his fourth penalty of the season after Gary Mockridge ended Trevor Morley's fine run by tripping the Borough striker.

Gloucester's Mick Burford, wearing number three, but at the heart of the attack, was the only visiting player to cause any problems and Alan Dulleston could only push away his fierce drive but Bobby Brown fired the rebound well wide. Morley, hungry to add to his goal tally of eight this season, lifted a right wing cross on to the top of the bar – but was rewarded after 33 minutes.

His finishing was again immaculate as he worked a one-two with Roy Clayton and coolly shot past the advancing keeper. Gloucester knew they were now in deep trouble and their tackling left a lot to be desired with several Borough players nursing bruises at the end of the match. Mike Bruton was booked for a late challenge on Clayton who got up to turn the ball home from a 41st minute Jones' cross.

In the second half Gloucester keeper Nick Cornwell came to his side's rescue on a number of occasions. He twice denied Morley with a fine one-handed saves and then made a brave dive at the player's feet. But the visitors somehow managed to stem the tide with some heroic defensive work. Borough themselves never looked the same side in the second half – but the three goal cushion had put them well in command.

Richard Dixey was booked for a late tackle on John Evans and in the last ten minutes of the match Cornwell pushed a drive from Morley on to the post and saved the rebound. Morley was the best Borough player on show, richly deserving his goal and was unlucky not to score with the late effort. The ex-Corby player was outstanding but above all, it was another well-drilled performance from the side everyone will be looking to beat.

Robson Turns Down League Return

Tommy Robson has turned down the chance to return to the Football League – and is staying with Nuneaton Borough. The winger was approached by a League club last week, but told them: "I am happy where I am."

And he added: "I am really enjoying myself at the moment. I am working with a great set of lads and we have one aim – to get out of the Southern League."

Said Borough manager Graham Carr: "It just shows that Tommy has still got what it takes and he is doing a fine job."

Robson and Carr have been good friends since they first left Newcastle to join Northampton as teenagers.



Borough Sign John Flannagan

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr has today brought John Flannagan back to Manor Park. The experienced Scot has rejoined Borough from Worcester City on a month's contract. Carr is hoping that Flannagan's clearance to play for Borough will come through in time for Wednesday night's Birmingham Senior Cup tie at Willenhall.

Willenhall Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-10-1981

Willenhall: Sharrard, Newell, Glover, Dams, Heath, Fox, Forrester, T. Price, Matthews, K. Price, Stringer. **Subs:** Kenning and White.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey (Crowley), Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Noose Lane to play Willenhall Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Goal hungry strikers Trevor Morley and Tommy Robson scored the goals that ended the challenge of West Midlands League Willenhall Town. Robson shot Borough into a 31st minute lead and then Morley grabbed a second half winner after last season's FA Vase finalists had drawn level. Morley has now been on target 11 times already this season and Robson scored his 10th goal as Borough chalked up their seventh win in a row.

Gareth Dale lined up for his first match of the season and featured prominently in a number of early attacks for the visitors. But the home side created two outstanding chances before the half hour with Borough keeper Alan Dulleston doing well on both occasions. A shot from Alan Forrester looked to have deceived Dulleston but he reacted brilliantly to tip the effort over the top.

After 31 minutes Robson put Borough ahead with a gift goal as his weak shot went under the body of Willenhall keeper Vic Sharrard. A fortunate goal it may have been but Borough deserved to be in front after some quick breaks out of defence. However, Willenhall stormed back into the attack and drew level just two minutes later. Ken Price chipped the ball into the penalty area and Forrester scored with a well placed far post header.

In the second half Borough's extra experience began to tell as they started to wear the home side down. They created nearly all the chances after the interval and just after the hour Morley scored what proved to be the winner with a fine run and shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Minehead 24-10-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Brown, Glover, Lowe, Flannagan, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Minehead: Lee, Twitchin, Impey, Boulton, Darke, Durbin, Guscott, Richardson, Powell, W. Brown, Hodgson. **Sub:** Summers.

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

For the first time in many weeks the Southern League leaders failed to score an early goal and they had to battle hard for

their reward. Minehead may not have been the best side to play at Manor Park this season, but they certainly made life difficult for Borough with their uncompromising and sometimes over physical tactics.

It was clear that Minehead had come for a point as they packed the midfield with four and sometimes five players. Borough manager Graham Carr was forced to change his side for the first time in eight league outings with Derek Brown replacing the injured Richard Dixey at the heart of the back four. There was also a new look to the midfield with John Flannagan coming in for his first match since rejoining Borough from Worcester City. Gareth Dale was preferred to Mike McFarlane.

The new formation struggled to find its form in the early stages although Brown settled down well alongside the dominant John Glover. After Dale and Trevor Morley had both failed to connect with a Tommy Robson cross, Minehead offered their first threat with Borough keeper Alan Dulleston reacting quickly to stop a header from Clint Boulton after Brian Durbin had crossed.

Minehead stuck to their guns as Borough stormed back into the attack and the out of touch Morley twisted and turned in the penalty area but his weak shot was easily gathered by Minehead goalkeeper Terry Lee. But Borough finally broke through with the goal that proved to be enough to give them their eighth successive win. It was an unhappy moment for keeper Lee, who turned from hero to villain in a matter of seconds.

After 53 minutes Roy Clayton charged through to turn and shoot with a goalbound effort which Lee brilliantly turned round the post with one hand. But from the resulting corner by Flannagan, Lee called for the cross, but the keeper failed to grasp the ball and it ran clear to Robson who rifled the ball into the back of the net.

In an ill-tempered finish to the match Minehead were prepared to do anything to stop Borough. They conceded fouls in quick succession and Geoff Richardson should have been booked for squaring up to Phil Sandercock after a tussle on the half-way line. Ray Guscott was spoken to by referee Ken Ryman after charging Phil Sandercock.

It was a pity Minehead had to resort to such tactics as in the early stages they showed a lot of promise up front with player-manager Willie Brown having a fine game. But their path was blocked by Glover, who had a superb match for the Borough side. Despite the handicap of a nose injury he battled on to marshal the defence.

Robson's goal – his eleventh of the season – pushed Borough further ahead in the race for the title and they now hold a three point lead over Enderby, who were involved in the FA Trophy at the weekend.

And manager Carr could not have picked a better time to collect his manager of the month award for September as Borough stretched their unbeaten run to 18 games.



Well done Graham – the Nuneaton Borough boss in congratulated by Mackenzies Whisky regional manager Bill Dowler (centre) and Borough chairman Noel Kelly after collecting the September Manager of the Month award.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 27-10-1981

Bromsgrove: Lawrence, McGarry, G. Smith, Skinner, O'Connell, Grazier, Lloyd, I. Smith, Warom, Lolley, T. Smith. Sub: O'Meara.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Brown, Glover, Lowe, Flannagan, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. Sub: McFarlane.

Borough made the journey to Bromsgrove Rovers to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Stalemate was a predictable result when these two Southern League teams, both anxious to preserve their unbeaten runs, met at the Victoria Ground last night. It was a game full of thrills and spills in both goalmouths but Nuneaton will be more satisfied than Bromsgrove with their away point.

They are still unbeaten in both league and cup this season, while Bromsgrove extended their own unbeaten run to 11 games. After a first-half dominated by the home side, Nuneaton came back strongly and almost snatched both points. Martyn Lolley hit the post for Bromsgrove after eight minutes and Maurice O'Connell headed straight to Borough keeper Alan Dulleston's arms when he should have scored.

Nuneaton rode this first-half flurry and almost scored themselves on the stroke of half-time when a fine shot by Trevor Morley was tipped round the post by Bromsgrove keeper, Mike Lawrence.

Top of the table Nuneaton found their composure in the second half and were unlucky not to score when they won an indirect free-kick inside the penalty area after 55 minutes. Morley was obstructed by Lolley and the free-kick was laid back for Tommy Robson who looked certain to score from close-range, but his shot was blocked by Bromsgrove defender Graham Smith on the goal-line.

Bromsgrove came back strongly in the final ten minutes as Borough settled for a well-earned draw. If both sides perform as well on Saturday, we are in for an exhilarating FA Cup fourth qualifying round tie at Manor Park and the result could go either way.

Borough To Run Special Train

Nuneaton Borough supporters have the chance of travelling in style to the club's First Round FA Cup tie at Bishop Auckland later this month. British Rail are running an "All Borough Special" train to make the long journey north for the club's most important game of the season so far.

Chairman Noel Kelly who made the arrangements with BR said that the special train will take 750 supporters to the match with return tickets priced at £6.50.

"The price is greatly reduced from the normal rate for such a trip and we hope it will encourage plenty of fans to travel to the game," said Mr Kelly.

Taunton v Nuneaton Borough

07-11-1981

Taunton: Stevens, R. Lowe, Smith, Aherne, Bawcock, Adams, Hains, Ashton, T. Edwards, Legg, Cook. Sub: A. Edwards.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Brown, Glover, Lowe, Flannagan, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. Sub: McFarlane.

Borough made the journey to play Taunton in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Phil Sandercock scored his first goals for the club – both from the penalty spot – as Borough moved back to the top of the league. And the former Northampton full-back should have completed a hat-trick of spot kicks but Borough's most furious appeal for a penalty was turned down by the referee.

Trevor Morley had already been hauled down for Nuneaton's first penalty when he broke through after 70 minutes and was lining up to shoot from five yards when he was bundled over by Robert Lowe. Referee Frampton waved away the Borough protests but eight minutes later Sandercock had to step up to take his second penalty of the match.

Sandercock's two goals rewarded Borough's non-stop pressure and extended their unbeaten run to 21 games. It was almost an exhibition display from the Manor Park side who totally dominated the match. Taunton had only one effort in the game and even if Richard Legg had been on target with his diving header he would have been ruled offside.

Borough, boosted by the return in midfield of Barry Lowe and with Derek Brown doing an excellent stand-in job for suspended Richard Dixey, took an early grip on the game. They exerted continual pressure on an overworked Taunton defence and after only eight minutes, the lively Trevor Morley had a fierce drive turned round a post by keeper Norman Stevens.

On two occasions the ball flew across the face of the goal with Roy Clayton and then Tommy Robson just failing to connect. A couple of minutes from half-time Morley and Taunton's Graham Smith were booked after a flare-up. There was one more booking after 86 minutes when Dave Bawcock lunged at Gareth Dale.

It must have been a frustrating time for Borough as they dominated so much of the play but went in at the interval



with nothing to show for all their efforts. They put that right two minutes into the second half when Morley broke through into the penalty area and was bundled over by Paul Adams.

Although keeper Stevens dived the right way Sandercock placed his spot kick perfectly inside the post. Adams, who gave away the first penalty, was given a torrid time and almost put his side in further trouble with an overhit back pass that forced Stevens into the best save of the match.

After 58 minutes the bumpy and very grassy pitch which caused so many problems to both sides denied Morley. He raced through to meet a Robson pass but the ball took a wicked bounce and he shot straight at Stevens. Borough kept up the pressure and after 66 minutes Dale hit the post and the ball rebounded to Robson who blasted over.

Four minutes later Morley was clearly bundled over by Lowe but there was no penalty given. After 78 minutes, Lowe, a 16-year-old making his debut and up against Robson of all people, clumsily felled the winger and Sandercock made no mistake with the second spot kick.

It was nice to see Sandercock in the spotlight. He has probably been Borough's most consistent player this term and one of manager Graham Carr's best signings.

Enderby Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1981

Enderby: Hewitt, S. Potter, M. Potter, Bradshaw, Lane, Matthams, Scoular, Massey, S. Smith, D. Smith, Pell. **Sub:** Goode.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, McFarlane, Glover, Lowe, Flannagan, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough made the journey to George Street to play Enderby Town in a Southern League Cup third round tie.

Undefeated Nuneaton failed to dent Enderby's unbeaten home record – but they did enough to force a replay. And on this showing, they should be reasonably confident about progressing to the last eight of the competition.

Borough held sway in terms of possession and their more cultured build-up created the better chances. Yet for all their superiority in those departments, they had to thank an own goal for the draw after the home side had hit back from early arrears. In an always exciting affair, Borough settling quicker to the task, got their noses in front in the 12th minute. Home defender Steve Potter headed out a right wing cross only as far as Flannagan, and when Phil Sandercock made a rapid overlap, he was allowed to cut through unchallenged to rifle in a superb goal.

Within seconds, Clayton went within inches of taking the tie beyond Enderby's recall, heading wide after excellent work by Morley – but then Enderby, regaining some composure, began to threaten. Scoular and Steve Smith posed danger before Town levelled in the 22nd minute. Smith sent Richard Pell racing away and although Stockley intercepted, his attempted clearance rebounded off Pell for the home winger to continue his run and beat Dulleston from 20 yards.

Robson, Morley and McFarlane all squandered chances to restore Borough's lead but then Steve Smith forced Dulleston to go full stretch at the other end. The second half had barely begun when Matthams, forever prompting Town attacks, hoisted a pinpoint cross for John Lane to rise and put Enderby ahead. But five minutes later, Lane turned villain when he looped an attempted clearance into his own net as Clayton tried to fasten onto Robson's header.

Much of the second period proved stalemate though Robson, bursting onto a Stockley header from defence and outstripping the home side's square back line, spurned the best opportunity to seal victory in the last minute, shooting narrowly wide.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 11-11-1981

Borough: Garner, Hart, Burke, Brown, Crowley, Waters, Lowe, Parker, Hoult, Dale, Walle.

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough, with eight reserve team players in their line-up, lost their opening Midland Floodlit Cup game. They went down 2-1 against a full-strength home side. So Dave Lewis, who took charge of the side with manager Graham Carr watching FA Cup opponents Bishop Auckland, was far from despondent.

He said: "You have to realise it was virtually our reserve side against their first team. The Redditch team showed only one change from the side that won at Minehead in the Southern League recently.

"They were certainly more experienced but we played well and I feel we were unlucky not to win," he added.

Redditch opened the scoring early in the first-half but striker Gareth Dale levelled the scores before the interval running on to a pass from Alan Hoult to score. Redditch scored what proved to be the winner in the second half to defeat the young Borough side.

Borough use the Floodlit Cup competition, along with other clubs, as an opportunity to experiment with young players. It has paid dividends for the Manor Park club with a number of youngsters learning from their experience in the Floodlit Cup and establishing themselves as regular first teamers.

Nuneaton Borough v Witney Town 14-11-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Brown, Glover, Lowe, Flannagan, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Witney: Turner, Light, Clark, Goodwin, Hutter, Appleton, Brooks, Thorne, Drackett, Page, Merry. **Sub:** Pethick.

Borough welcomed Witney Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland division.

Phil Sandercock without a goal for Borough until last week, has now struck five times in eight days. He was called upon again

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at crucial stages of the match. He gave Borough an early boost with a 12th minute spot kick and then after Witney had drawn level the full-back struck again after 65 minutes and Tommy Robson wrapped up the points two minutes later.

Witney goalkeeper Ian Turner, who kept goal for Southampton when they beat Manchester United in the 1976 FA Cup final, found himself under pressure early on. Borough launched a fierce siege on the Witney goal in the first 20 minutes. Robson delighted the home crowd with a neat back heel flick which set up an attack and then the winger crossed from the left with Gareth Dale just failing to connect.

After only 12 minutes Borough took the lead when Witney's John Thorne mis-timed a header from Robson's cross and Trevor Morley cashed in on the blunder but was tripped by Turner. Sandercock stepped up to fire a high shot to the left of the keeper. After the goal Borough continued to charge forward but were unsettled by some clumsy tackling from Witney, who were really struggling at that stage to stay in contention.

John Glover headed just over the top from Robson's free kick which was awarded for one of a succession of fouls on Morley. Turner made a fine one-handed save from a Barry Lowe cross and then John Flannagan stumbled over the ball from Morley's square pass. But after all the pressure Borough could not force another breakthrough and suddenly they found their lead cancelled out.



Penalty ace Phil Sandercock converts Borough's first spot kick.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Steve Brooks forced his way into the area two minutes from the interval and his shot was parried by Alan Dulleston, but from six yards out centre-half Peter Hutter rifled home the Witney equaliser. At the start of the second half Borough were finding it difficult to break down Witney while at the other end the Borough defence, with Derek Brown impressive on his return to the line-up, had little to do.

But after 65 minutes Borough regained the lead when Morley pushed the ball out to Robson and his cross was handled by Brooks. The referee had little option but to award a penalty and Sandercock again hit the ball to the left of the keeper. Two minutes later Roy Clayton, despite being on the floor in the penalty area still managed to wriggle the ball through to Robson, who slammed in his 12th goal of the season.

The match ended in great style with Borough sweeping forward. Morley raced through to crash a shot against the post and then Lowe ran from the half way line and forced Turner to make a save.

Nuneaton Borough v Enderby Town 16-11-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Dale, Jones, Lowe, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Hoult.

Enderby: Webb, Maisey, M. Potter, S. Potter, Goode, D. Smith, Scoular, Massey, S. Smith, Cooper, Pell. Sub: Hammond.

Borough welcomed Enderby Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Cup third round replay.

Gareth Dale struck two glorious goals – the second being his 50th for the club – as Borough romped to victory. Trevor Morley and Roy Clayton also netted as the Manor Park side dominated a one-sided third round replay. And this comfortable win should put Borough in buoyant mood for their FA Cup trip to Bishop Auckland.

Borough welcomed back Richard Dixey and John Jones while Enderby were severely depleted with regular centre backs Glyn Bradshaw and John Lane, as well as midfield man Neil Matthams, all out through injury. But there was no denying Borough's firepower as they swept to their first win in three meetings with the Leicestershire side. After 15 minutes Nuneaton were ahead with Phil Sandercock crossing from the left and Trevor Morley rising unchallenged to steer a perfectly placed header past stand-in keeper Bob Webb.

Morley almost grabbed a second six minutes later in a blistering start by the home side. The striker headed just wide of a post from skipper Bob Stockley's cross. A minute later Enderby produced a rare threat. Former Hinckley Athletic striker Steve Smith, who has looked Enderby's best player in recent meetings, turned in the penalty area and hooked the ball just over the bar.

A crowd of more than 1,400 tried to push Borough to greater heights but they had to wait until a minute before half-time for a second goal. Barry Lowe took a short free-kick to Clayton who pushed the ball out to Stockley and the skipper's cross cannoned off John Massey into the path of Clayton who cracked home his tenth goal of the season.

Borough held a comfortable advantage at half-time but manager Graham Carr demanded more from his side at the interval. They were jolted back into action when Dean Smith brought out the best in Alan Dulleston, who was forced into a reflex save from Smith's header. After 51 minutes Enderby keeper Webb saved well from Lowe's long range effort as he ran on to a pass from Robson.

After 70 minutes Dale struck the first of his two goals. He had a busy game but exploded on to the scene with his efforts. He hit the ball straight to the feet of Morley who flicked it back and Dale scored with a left foot drive that gave Webb no chance. He notched his second and Borough's fourth three minutes from time and he could not have scored a better one

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to bring up his 50th goal. Lowe played the ball to Sandercock whose left wing cross was knocked back by Clayton to Dale who unleashed a 25 yard drive past Webb.

A minute later Dulleston made a fine save from Gilbert Scoular's shot and right on full time Enderby scored a consolation goal through Roger Cooper who knocked home a Steve Smith cross.

McFarlane Asks For Transfer

Nuneaton Borough midfielder Mike McFarlane has been put on the transfer list at his own request. McFarlane slapped in the request after being left out of the Borough side for their match with his old club, Witney Town. He said: "I was very disappointed not to play against Witney as I thought I did well against Enderby the week before."

Ten Arrested At FA Cup Match

Ten people were arrested during drunken clashes between Nuneaton Borough and Bishop Auckland soccer rowdies on Saturday. A mini-bus and a railway carriage were damaged during the shameful Saturday, and the football match was halted twice as fans spilled onto the pitch.

Hundreds of cans of beer had been taken on to a specially chartered Borough train – but many supporters brought bottles of liquor with them. And today Borough chairman Mr Noel Kelly slammed the lack of security arrangements at the Durham ground for much of the trouble, together with the train delays which left the fans frustrated.

"One 17-year-old lad was seen on the platform at Nuneaton with a full bottle of whisky to his mouth," said Mr Kelly. "It's that kind of behaviour which can lead to trouble."

Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 23-11-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Dale, Lowe, Jones, Morley, Clayton, Robson. **Subs:** Flannagan and Hoults.

Banbury: Pullen, Waldock, Clarke, Ratcliffe, Pratley, Woodlands, Pearson, Evans, Boyland, Leonard, O'Dowd. **Sub:** Hammond.

Borough welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough suffered a king-size FA Cup hangover as their unbeaten home record bit the dust. A first-half goal from ex-Oxford striker Adrian O'Dowd earned lowly Banbury a shock win – and added to Borough's gloom after their sad cup exit. And frankly after conceding that goal Borough never looked capable of maintaining this season's home run, which has included nine wins.

The last time Borough were beaten on home soil was on April 18 this year when they crashed to a 5-1 defeat against Kettering in the Alliance Premier League. Borough hardly created a worthwhile chance all night and were easily contained by a Banbury defence which included former Nuneaton centre-back Mark Ratcliffe.

Apart from a booking, Ratcliffe made a happy return to Manor Park and watched his side make an impressive start to the cup tie. After 13 minutes Gary Leonard chipped a well placed free-kick into the area and Derek Evans bundled the ball just wide. Three minutes later Borough midfielder man Barry Lowe suffered more problems with a nagging knee injury.

After 24 minutes Trevor Morley was booked after an off-the-ball incident and two minutes later Banbury cashed in on the one error in a match dominated by the defences. John Glover mis-hit a back pass and as Alan Dulleston scrambled out of his goal the ball bounced off the keeper's body to O'Dowd who struck the ball home with Dulleston stranded.

Ten minutes later Borough appealed for a penalty after Roy Clayton was tripped from behind by Dick Pratley. But Solihull referee John Biddle, who added to Borough's problems with some inconsistent decisions, waved away furious appeals. Before half-time two Banbury players – Leonard and Des Waldock – were booked for fouls on Lowe and Tommy Robson.

Lowe and Clayton both went close in the opening minutes of the second half but they were rare flashes of skill in a lacklustre display from the Manor Park side. After 68 minutes skipper Bob Stockley came closest to scoring with a cross from the right which drifted on to the top of the bar. The Banbury keeper, Callum Pullen did well to stop a John Jones drive before Tom Pearson hit a shot which struck the post three minutes from time.

Time ran out for Nuneaton, who will be looking for revenge when the teams meet again on Saturday in the Southern League Midland Division.

Borough Demand Compensation

Nuneaton Borough football club is demanding compensation from British Rail following their fans' nightmare trip to Bishop Auckland. Club chairman Noel Kelly has sent a stiffly worded three page report to BR's football liaison officer seeking reimbursement for the loss of revenue and inconvenience caused when a special charter train carrying 600 supporters failed to arrive on time.

Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 28-11-1981

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Dale, Jones, Flannagan, Morley, Clayton, Robson. **Sub:** Parker.

Banbury: Pullen, Waldock, Clarke, Ratcliffe, Pratley, Woodland, Pearson, Evans, Boyland, Leonard, O'Dowd. **Sub:** Hammond

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

Transfer listed striker Adrian O'Dowd added insult to injury as Borough surrendered their unbeaten record in the Southern League. And Banbury's second win in six days at Manor Park brought an end to a nightmare week for Borough. They have crashed out of the FA Cup, lost their unbeaten home record – and now slipped to their first reverse in 16 league games.

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O'Dowd, a former Aston Villa starlet, rated at £5,000 by Banbury manager Nigel Cassidy, struck a controversial winner from the penalty spot 11 minutes into the second half. Borough skipper Bob Stockley was judged by Gloucester referee Colin Peake to have fouled O'Dowd who scored from the spot kick.

Borough manager Graham Carr was fuming about the decision and slammed: "It is referees like the one we had on Saturday who can cost a manager his job. I was disgusted with the decision but then again we gave away some bad goals." The penalty decision decided an exciting clash between two teams who were determined to attack from the start. And the result reflected Banbury's recent revival. They have taken nine points from a possible ten in a fine run.

O'Dowd struck two goals for Banbury but it was the performance of striker Mark Boyland which held the key to Banbury's win. The Oxfordshire side had to take a back seat at the start of the match as Borough stormed into an early lead. Phil Sandercock scored his fifth penalty in three league matches when he scored with a shot off the post after Banbury right back Des Waldock brought down Robson.

But after 18 minutes Banbury were level when O'Dowd slid the ball home after Boyland had raced past two defenders and crossed. Fifteen minutes later Banbury took the lead with another clinical piece of finishing. This time Boyland ran through the middle to meet a through ball and beat Alan Dulleston with a well placed shot from the edge of the box.

Gareth Dale was close to putting Borough back on level terms four minutes from the interval. In a crowded goalmouth he produced a neat back heel which cannoned off the post. Two minutes later Borough were level again when referee Peake played the advantage after Morley was fouled and the ball was pushed through to Roy Clayton who worked a one-two with Robson and fired home his 12th goal of the season.

After Robson had edged a shot just wide of the post at the start of the second half, Banbury were awarded the penalty which proved to be the winner. Numerous chances fell Borough's way with centre-half Richard Dixey having an effort hacked off the line by keeper Callum Pullen on the hour. Morley and Clayton both went close, but Banbury held out for their win.

Bedford Town v Nuneaton Borough 05-12-1981

Bedford: Luff, Platnauer, James, Gould, Goodeve, Best, Kurila, McGowan, Robinson, Campbell, Felton. **Sub:** Kirkup.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Brown, Glover, Sammels, Parker, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Jones.

Borough made the journey to The Eyrie to play Bedford Town in a Southern League Midland Division fixture.

The emergence of Bobby Parker and the calming influence of Jon Sammels held the key to Borough's return to championship form. The two midfield players played a major part in a win which erased the memory of three successive defeats. There were whoops of delight among the travelling

Borough fans when Sammels ran out for his first match since March. The Borough player-coach, taking his first tentative steps towards recovery after slipping a disc, did well on his return, bolstering the midfield.

And he was well supported by young Parker, who was drafted into the side for his first Southern League appearance of the season. Parker showed he could be a real find for the future, although he has been on the verge of a first team place for a couple of seasons. The teenager showed some nice touches of skill, but above all he ran himself into the ground with a battling display.

Borough were more positive than over-cautious Bedford, in midfield and attack, while the back four again looked solid with another teenager, Derek Brown, slotting comfortably back into the side in place of suspended Richard Dixey. Sammels was given the ball straight from the kick-off and a long ball in search of Tommy Robson signalled his return. The start of the match was pretty uninspiring with Bedford unwilling to push forward and Borough gradually finding their feet again.

Bedford keeper Tony Luff made a fine save from Trevor Morley's shot after 24 minutes and Borough went ahead after 39 minutes with Roy Clayton claiming his 13th goal of the season. Gareth Dale opened up the play with a brilliant run and Morley's cross was turned back by Robson into a crowded penalty area. Parker and Clayton battled to win possession and the Nuneaton striker poked the ball into the net despite attempts to clear from full-back Kevin James.

Alan Dulleston made a magnificent save 17 minutes into the second half when defender Ken Goodeve headed onto the bar from a corner and substitute Neil Kirkup's fierce drive from the rebound was picked out of the air by the Borough keeper. Eight minutes later Dale wrapped up the points with a brilliant piece of individual skill. He ran fully 40 yards with the ball and ended his solo run with an accurate shot into the far corner of the net.

Two players were booked in the match – Borough's Morley and Goodeve for the home side.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 02-01-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Brown, Glover, Sandercock, Parker, Sammels, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Jones.

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

Borough emerged from their enforced hibernation to secure two points. Two goals from Roy Clayton added to an early opener from Gareth Dale keeps them two points clear of the pack. Corby battled away earnestly to snatch an equaliser through Borough old boy Derek Walker, but were forced to concede defeat.

Graham Carr's side never reached any great heights – they didn't need to – but a second successive win looks to have

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erased the memories of the pre-freeze poor spell which saw Borough slip to three consecutive defeats.

Borough's first fixture since December 5 was given the green light and in surprisingly good conditions they opened 1982 with a goal as people were still arriving. Two minutes had gone when the industrious Phil Sandercock slung over a pinpoint cross and Dale planted a header past the rooted ex-Coventry City keeper Dighton.

Borough continued to sweep forward with Tommy Robson flashing a cross past the nervous keeper and Trevor Morley heading wide against his former team-mates. The signs looked good as Robson and Sandercock kept up the left wing assaults, but Corby suddenly emerged to score a 13th minute leveller which must have given great pleasure to the scorer. Walker, hustled out of Manor Park by the boo-boys struck a crisp low effort past Alan Dulleston after Elwyn Roberts had brought down an Alan McIlwain free-kick.



Corby's rearguard was always struggling when Borough lofted centres into the box. Here they survive another nasty moment in front of their own goal with Roy Clayton ready to pounce.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough had been caught cold and it was some time before Bob Stockley flashed a shot high and wide, although vehement penalty claims were refused when Robson and Clayton were felled during raids on the Corby goal. The home side continued to dominate possession and Clayton edged them back ahead in the 36th minute. Jon Sammels' pass was deflected, leaving the centre-forward a clear run on goal, and he prodded the ball past the approaching keeper.

Corby came under the cosh after the interval with Morley firing a cross shot wide and visiting defender Callum Morrison heading past his own goal. The third goal eventually came with tragic consequences for the away keeper, after 57 minutes. Dighton and Morley challenged for a high ball and Clayton gratefully picked up the scraps to net from close range. Dighton stayed down and after lengthy

treatment was stretchered off and midfielder Jim Rogers took over in goal.

Everyone expected a goal flood but it didn't arrive because the visitors threw a blanket of protection in front of Rogers and Borough seemed content to stroll through the closing stages. This was two points gained in comfortable fashion with Sandercock and Sammels joining two-goal Clayton as those who made the greatest contribution to Borough's twelfth league success.



Nuneaton Borough's pick and shovel brigade take well-earned rest after saving Saturday's fixture with Corby. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Aylesbury Town 04-01-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Sammels, Parker, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. Sub: McFarlane.

Borough welcomed Aylesbury Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Cup quarter-final tie.

Steve Brinkman scored a brilliant injury-time winner to decide an exhilarating cup tie. The former Wealdstone and Barnet midfielder scored with a delicate chip over three Borough defenders and goalkeeper Alan Dulleston to continue the home side's jinx in cup competitions this season. But a catalogue of missed chances sealed the fate of the home side.

Three astonishing misses from each of the Nuneaton strikers gave Aylesbury a reprieve and they took full advantage to book their place in the semi-finals of the competition with a smash and grab raid in the dying seconds. The game was played at a frantic pace, packed with action from start to finish and provided the home fans with one of the best matches they have seen for a long time.

Aylesbury stunned Borough by taking the lead from their first attack with the game just seven minutes old. Striker Billy Holmes raced down the left wing and hit a first time shot which Dulleston palmed away, but only as far as Gary Harthill, who slotted the ball home at the far post. After 16 minutes Borough wasted their first golden chance when Gareth Dale sent in a right wing cross which bobbled along

the goal-line, but Roy Clayton missed the tap in that was needed to put Borough on level terms.

Just after the half-hour Borough let another chance go begging as visiting goalkeeper Keith Baker was left stranded after Tommy Robson had shot but Trevor Morley could only fire straight at the legs of the only Aylesbury defender who was guarding the goal. Finally, a minute from half-time Borough were rewarded for their pressure after an uncharacteristic mistake by keeper Baker.

He fumbled a back pass from Kevin Tilley and in a race for the loose ball with Clayton the goalkeeper bundled over the Borough striker. Phil Sandercock stepped up to convert his sixth penalty of the season. Aylesbury lost striker Kevin Davis through injury shortly afterwards and after 65 minutes Borough took the lead as the battle continued to rage.

Dale struck the ball past Baker with a fierce left foot drive from the edge of the box to put Nuneaton back in the driving seat. However, the visitors grabbed an equaliser just four minutes from time when Borough defender John Glover headed a cross past his own keeper under pressure from Holmes. As the minutes ticked away a replay looked on the cards until Brinkman struck.

Holmes found him with a long ball and Brinkman stumbled at first but recovered to lift the ball into the net with a perfect chip that would have done Jack Nicklaus proud. The goal provided a sensational finish to a match in which a piece of individual brilliance separated two fine sides.

Borough Welcome Ted On Board



Travel agent Ted Kay is hoping Nuneaton Borough will go places – with his help. For he took up a new appointment as a director of the Manor Park club. And after being welcomed to

the board by chairman Noel Kelly, Mr Kay said: “It should be an interesting diversion.

“I was delighted to be invited on to the board by Mr Kelly and will endeavour to do the best I can,” he added. Mr Kay, the head of Kay Travel, Kay Tours and Kay Air in Nuneaton, takes the number of directors at the Southern League club to six.

Said chairman Kelly: “I am very pleased that a local businessman is taking an interest in the club and Ted Kay is one of the best known figures in the town.”

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

New Borough Lottery

Nuneaton Borough, who have estimated £5,000 losses because of postponements, are launching a new lottery on Monday. Tickets are being distributed to agents this week and commercial manager Vic Kinson said today: “It is a simpler ticket with a better chance of winning.”

The £5,000 two chance lottery is the latest attempt by the Manor Park club to raise much needed cash. All instant winners on the lottery will be put into a £500 super draw.

Said Mr Kinson: “It is the first time we have done a draw but it guarantees that someone will win a big prize.”

Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 23-01-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Parker, Jones, Dale, Clayton (Pugh), Robson.

Borough made the journey to Banbury United to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Richard Dixey, so often in the headlines for the wrong reason, scored a dramatic equaliser, as Borough grabbed a late point. The big central defender, who has already served two suspensions this season, brushed aside the bad times and toe poked the ball home just two minutes from time in a grandstand finish to the match.

Dixey’s goal, only his third for the club, earned a late reward for Borough. Up until then they had done everything but score in a storming second half display and then seemed destined to lose after a dream goal eight minutes from time by Banbury debut boy John Davie. The only thing that soured Dixey’s day was another booking – for a foul on Derek Evans after 31 minutes.

Although Dixey’s goal rescued Borough, they should have had the match sewn up long before that. This was not one of Borough’s better performances. The side was already missing Barry Lowe and Jon Sammels when Trevor Morley went down with flu and Gareth Dale was pushed into an attacking role with Bobby Parker coming into midfield. The absence of three key players gave Borough a disjointed look and they struggled to find their form early on.

Tommy Robson wasted a couple of good opportunities – one in the opening minutes of the match when he shot wide after a great through ball from Parker. Then in the last five minutes

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of the half the match burst into life. Dale raced into the heart of the Banbury defence and was pulled down on the edge of the box by former Borough player Mark Ratcliffe. From the free-kick Robson knocked a short ball to Jones, who scored with a sweet left foot drive through the defensive wall.

Banbury, who relied on breakaway attacks for most of the match were far from beaten and levelled with a controversial goal right on half-time. Graham Clark knocked in a left wing cross and Borough keeper Alan Dulleston, under pressure from three Banbury players, was unable to hold the ball and it fell to Nick Hunt who rifled the ball into an empty net.

Borough started the second half with Roy Clayton putting the ball into the net but he was pulled up for a foul on Banbury keeper Callum Pullen. Banbury full-back Des Waldock joined team-mate Richard Pratley in the book for a 50th minute foul on Robson – and five minutes later the home side had a series of narrow escapes. Young midfield man Parker had two shots cleared off the line. His low drive from Robson's pass was stopped on the line by Pratley and then he was denied a second time by Hunt.

Dale also saw an effort bundled away as Borough piled on the pressure as they spent virtually all of the second half encamped in the Banbury half. Eamonn Pugh had only been on a few minutes when he inadvertently prevented what looked to be a certain goal. McFarlane unleashed a tremendous drive, which hit Pugh on the chest as he tried to take evasive action.

The squandered chances looked set to deny Borough and they were stunned by a goal just eight minutes from time by Davie. Mark Boyland crossed from the left and Davie beat Dulleston with a first-time, left foot volley which almost broke the net.

It looked like Banbury had done it again to prove they really are Borough's bogey side this season. But then Dixey stabbed home Dale's high lob to level the scores and keep Borough ahead of their rivals in the Southern League

Nuneaton Borough v AP Leamington 25-01-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Dale (Walle), Parker, Jones, Morley, Pugh, Robson. **Sub:** Houlton.

AP: Hemmings, Cooper, Jones, Rigby, Rankin, S. Montgomery, Ollis, Gorman, Casey, Ashenden, Griffin. **Subs:** Taylor and Jennings.

Borough welcomed AP Leamington to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Trevor Morley ended his goal famine as Borough edged out AP Leamington. Morley broke the deadlock with an 80th minute winner to decide a closely fought game. And his goal – a 22 yard gem from Phil Sandercock's perfect through ball – finally wore down the resistance of the Alliance Premier League strugglers.

Morley must have breathed a sigh of relief as the ball hit the net. It was only his second goal in 16 matches after hitting 11 in 17 games earlier in the season.

Borough certainly needed the goal as AP made them fight all the way and at times looked the better side. They certainly belied their position at the foot of the table. AP's young goalkeeper Sean Hemmings defied Borough in the opening minutes with his safe handling, particularly from one Tommy Robson cross.

Eamonn Pugh needed treatment early on after challenging Hemmings – but there was worse to come for Gareth Dale. He was stretchered off after colliding with the keeper and needed hospital treatment for a neck injury and concussion. Paddy Walle replaced Dale and with Pugh still suffering the effects of his knock Borough were counting the cost of a goalless first half.

After the break AP full-back Brian Rankin, a real joker in the pack, was booked for a foul on Borough skipper Bob Stockley and then trainer David Looms was called into action again to treat Bobby Parker. Borough were still finding it difficult to break down the AP defence. Alan Jones, who has spent 18 seasons with just two clubs, Borough and AP, set a shining example to his team mates as the visitors held firm.

The Brakes also looked dangerous on the break with Russell Ashenden and Kim Casey very sharp. After 72 minutes Morley swivelled around to test Hemmings with a shot – and eight minutes later he found the target. Bobby Parker chased back to break down an AP move and found Sandercock with an intelligent pass. The Borough full-back picked out Morley who beat Hemmings with a fierce 22 yard shot which gave the AP keeper no chance.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 26-01-1982

Hinckley: Beech, Lewis, Butcher, Moore, Rogers, Barraclough, Clark, Hardy, Hair, Allen, Johnson. **Subs:** D. Taylor and Wilcox.

Borough: Garner, Hart, Burke, Brown, Crowley, Waters, Barnett, Thompson, Pugh, Houlton, Walle. **Subs:** Woodlock and Green.

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two goal Eamonn Pugh led a youthful Borough team to an impressive win. Pugh's goals and a second half header by the impressive Adrian Waters, settled a game which the Nuneaton youngsters often dominated against an almost full-strength Hinckley line-up. The result was a severe blow for the Robins, who were hoping to build on some encouraging recent performances.

Manager Graham Cross was unable to attend the match, but his assistant Keith Mann's report must surely have a few harsh things to say about the Hinckley performance. The Robins looked to have made an ideal start when they grabbed the lead mid-way through the first-half. Andy Clark floated a free-kick into the danger area and Johnny Allen's astute header diverted the ball past Tim Garner.

Hinckley's lead was soon in danger when Borough came back strongly and it was no surprise when the visitors levelled



after 33 minutes. Paddy Walle, who proved a handful for the Robins' defence throughout the game, ended a superb run with a cross-shot which Eamonn Pugh deflected high into the net from close range. A Dave Thompson snap-shot was then pushed aside by Stuart Beech and Robin Rogers made a vital interception to block a pass which would have put Pugh in the clear.

Borough's pressure paid off three minutes after the interval when Pugh won a challenge with Bill Moore and gave Beech no chance with a firm drive. Robins, looking well below their best, wasted two chances to level through Allen and Kenny Hair, but Tom Hardy almost did the trick with a 20-yarder that Garner tipped round the post. Despite a handful of promising raids by Hinckley, Borough always looked the sharper, more inventive team and they put the game beyond Hinckley's reach in the 74th minute.

Walle played a short corner to Mickey Burke whose cross was back headed past Beech by Adrian Waters. Burke was near to adding a fourth goal after being put through by an Alan Hoult pass moments later but Beech saved at the foot of the post. When the Robins replied they had a penalty appeal turned down and Hardy miskicked in front of the Borough goal.

But they managed to pull a goal back three minutes from time to make the score-line a fraction more respectable. Hair headed a Clark cross against the post and when Borough failed to clear the loose ball the big Hinckley striker was there to fire past Garner.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 30-01-1982

Kidderminster: Parry, Travis, Richards, James, Nichols, Chambers, Gavin, Secker, Mullen, Bastable, Brennan. Sub: Maffei.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Jones, Sammels, Dale, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Parker.

Borough travelled to Kidderminster Harriers to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Out of sorts Borough surrendered their unbeaten Southern League away record on a day to forget. And it should have paved the way for Bedworth United to climb above their rivals in the race for league supremacy. But the Greenbacks' 3-3 draw with Merthyr means Borough stay ahead of their neighbours on goal difference – with two games in hand.

Kidderminster were handed victory on a plate by disappointing Borough and the home side erased the memory of a 3-0 defeat at Manor Park. After Tommy Robson had squandered Borough's only clear cut chance, the league leaders were forced to play second fiddle to Kidderminster, who stretched their current unbeaten run to 11 matches.

Lack of endeavour in the Borough side allowed Kidderminster to dominate for long periods. Carr's gamble to risk the fitness of Jon Sammels did not pay off as he did not look fully fit after a bout of flu. Gareth Dale managed to shake off the effects of a neck injury and was one of Borough's better players on the day.

After an early bout of pressure from Borough, Harriers stormed into the attack and Alan Dulleston made a fine stop from John Chambers but the writing was on the wall. From the next corner, after 14 minutes, Kidderminster took the lead. Borough failed to clear in a scramble and when the ball was knocked back in, Phil Mullen had plenty of time and room to turn and shoot past Dulleston.

John Jones made a despairing lunge to stop Gary Bastable's cross reaching Mullen as Borough found themselves often pinned back. In the second half Nuneaton pushed forward with a lot more conviction and Robson was let in by a poor back pass but his shot was blocked by Brian Parry. Nuneaton were having no luck up front against a Kidderminster defence superbly marshalled by centre-back Phil Nichols and former Manchester United defender Steve James.

A combined move from Sammels and Phil Sandercock set Trevor Morley clear but he screwed his shot wide. That was a rare attack from Borough, who manager Carr admitted were lucky to keep the deficit down to one goal. The Manor Park side have lost their edge since the long lay off, but always returned with a favourable result such as the 2-2 draw at Banbury. However, they deserved nothing better than defeat at the weekend and next Saturday's match at Barry has taken on new importance.

Borough striker Roy Clayton had an unhappy day and was substituted on the hour. He was also booked along with team mate Morley and Kidderminster's Bastable.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 01-02-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Waters, Jones, Parker, McFarlane, Hoult, Morley. Subs: Thompson and Brown.

Stafford: Ingram, Wood, Peacock, Chapman, Harris, Richardson, Sommerville, Burr, Hanchard, Kelly, Morris. Subs: Skelton and Lockett.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Alan Hoult, who has yet to make a full Southern League appearance this season, scored the goals that gave Borough a 2-1 win. He opened his account after four minutes with a goal of the calibre that made him the club's leading scorer last term. Adrian Waters split the Stafford defence with a measured through ball and the striker rolled a well-placed shot past Peter Ingram from the edge of the box.

Waters was booked after 23 minutes and four minutes later Rangers' winger Billy Morris poked a shot just wide of the post in a rare counter attack from the visitors. But in the 32nd minute Borough increased their lead with Hoult putting the finishing touch to a great move. Skipper Bob Stockley knocked the ball down the right hand side to Mike McFarlane who picked out the striker and he sped past his marker to shoot past Ingram.

In the second half Borough eased off with the younger players feeling the effects of a fast flowing but tiring game. On the hour

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Waters looped a shot just over the bar and eight minutes later Borough were stunned by a Stafford reply. A whistle in the crowd cost Borough dearly. They were convinced the referee had blown and stood as former Atherstone United striker Steve Burr raced from the half-way line and past a static Nuneaton defence to beat Alan Dulleston with a fierce drive.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-02-1982

Barry Town: Macey, Donovan, Redwood, Rogers, Walker, Richardson, G. Jones, Sullivan, Green, Reeves, Smith. Sub: R. Jones.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Dale, Sammels, Parker, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Pugh.

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

Tommy Robson shattered Barry's 15 match unbeaten record at Jenner Park. Two goals in two minutes rocked the Welsh club, but the Borough winger should have had a hat-trick when a last minute Gareth Dale cross landed at his feet, but he shot wide from just a couple of yards out.

Robson's double put Borough back on course in their quest for the Southern League Midland Division crown. The Manor Park side looked championship material as they mastered a tacky surface and an uncompromising home side to chalk up their sixth away win in the league. And they became the first side to win at Jenner Park since April last year.

Borough with Bobby Parker preferred to the more experienced John Jones and Mike McFarlane, won a couple of corners in the opening minutes but they had a narrow escape as Barry were denied by the woodwork. Midfield man Jeff Richardson latched on to a through ball after six minutes and his fierce shot struck a post and was cleared.

Then, in just two minutes the match was transformed by Robson with two goals masterminded by skipper Bob Stockley. After 23 minutes Stockley picked out Robson with a precise through ball and the Borough winger did the rest. First of all he dribbled past a defender and although keeper John Macey pushed him wide and made a despairing lunge at the ball, Robson managed to score from a tight angle.

From the next attack Borough were 2-0 ahead when Stockley overlapped on the right and was fouled. The Borough skipper took the free-kick and Barry's Peter Reeves sliced the cross right into the path of Robson, who controlled the spinning ball and scored with a simple tap-in. Only a superb tackle from Bobby Smith prevented Trevor Morley adding a third after 38 minutes.

In the second half Morley was again denied by a strong tackle as he prepared to shoot. After 71 minutes Barry full-back Mel Donovan was booked for a foul on Phil Sandercock, who himself went into the book seven minutes later, apparently for time-wasting. Barry goalkeeper Macey joined them in referee Tony Bailey's book for dissent.

Borough never found the openings that gave them a two goal

lead at half-time, but Robson ought to have completed his hat-trick in the last minute. However, the league leaders were far more positive and better organised in this fine display. They really looked as though they wanted to win and every 50-50 ball was greedily snapped up by a Borough player.

Borough goalkeeper Alan Dulleston deserves special praise for a dominant display and Jon Sammels added class in midfield. With Robson in deadly form up front there was plenty to cheer in this committed display.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 08-02-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, Dale, Sammels, Parker, Clayton (Pugh 61), Morley, Robson.

Cheltenham: Harris, Berry, Dyer, Boxall, Tucker, Bayliffe, McKenzie, Reed, Gough, Pemberton, Tester. Sub: Scarrott.

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

Struggling Cheltenham gave Borough a real fright as the league leaders dropped a valuable home point. The Robins played well above their second from bottom placing and deserved their point.

But the visitors were let off the hook in the final stages as Borough were denied by three remarkable off the line clearances in the last six minutes of the match. Escape number one came in the 84th minute when John Dyer back headed a Gareth Dale effort off the goal-line. Two minutes later Tommy Robson's free-kick was headed on to the bar by Trevor Morley and the ball rebounded to Bobby Parker whose shot was hooked away. Substitute Eamonn Pugh turned away thinking he had scored after 89 minutes but his shot was also bundled away by the Cheltenham defence.

Morley wasted another good chance in the second half when he shot over from six yards out. Borough dominated the second half after drawing level after 46 minutes through Gareth Dale. Roy Clayton mis-cued a cross but the luck was with Borough as the ball drifted out to Dale who headed in at the far post. Borough needed that break after being outplayed by Cheltenham in the first-half.

The alarm bells were sounded in the opening quarter of an hour with three defence splitting balls leaving Borough scrambling to clear. And in the 21st minute the visitors took the lead as centre-forward Jimmy Gough cashed in on a defensive lapse. Steve Reed sent him clear with a long through ball and the chasing Richard Dixey collided into advancing keeper Alan Dulleston leaving Gough with the simple task of running the ball into the net.

The goal inspired new found confidence into the Southern League strugglers and it was Borough who were forced to take a back seat. Fortunately Borough's defence tightened up and John Glover and Dixey snuffed out the dangerous long balls.

After the break Cheltenham lost all their spark and inventiveness and Borough took command in the second half.



But in the end it was Dale's effort which gave them a point against the surprise package who could have so easily sent Borough to defeat if they had kept up their challenge after the break.

Hoult Asks For Transfer

Unhappy Nuneaton Borough striker Alan Hoult has asked for a move. And manager Graham Carr said today: "As far as I am concerned he can go." Hoult said: "I don't want to leave Nuneaton, but at the moment I am not helping anyone. I think I have done enough in recent matches to get a chance in the first team again, but obviously I don't feature in the manager's plans."

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 13-02-1982

Cambridge: Halsey, Gribble, Tuddenham, Rule, Wilson, Murray, Pointer, O'Donnell, Ashworth, Grogan, Lill. **Sub:** Lindsey.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Parker, Sammels, McFarlane, Dale, Clayton, Morley. **Sub:** Pugh.

Borough travelled to Cambridge City to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Cambridge defender Mike Wilson was sent off six minutes from the end of an explosive match at Milton Road. And four men, including home trainer Eric Simper, were booked in a game that was littered with fouls and off the ball incidents.

Manager Graham Carr's option to push Gareth Dale into attack in place of flu stricken Tommy Robson really paid dividends. Dale struck two second half goals and Trevor Morley added a third to give Borough their seventh away win of the season. Borough piled on the pressure from the start and the nearest they came to scoring in the early stages was after 13 minutes when Bobby Parker drilled a shot just past the post.

After 18 minutes Cambridge took the lead with a superb goal from centre-forward Phil Ashworth. He evaded four tackles in the penalty area and found Lill whose shot rebounded back to Ashworth who beat Alan Dulleston with a fierce drive into the far corner of the net. However, Borough were on level terms after 25 minutes through Trevor Morley. Gareth Dale flicked on a Mike McFarlane centre and Morley pounced to beat Mark Halsey in the Cambridge goal with a high volley.

Towards the end of the half play was held up by two lengthy incidents. A tackle from Dale on Keith Pointer angered Cambridge manager Bill Leivers so much that he came out of the dug-out and threw the ball in his direction. And then eight minutes from the interval Cambridge trainer Simper was booked for coming on to the field without permission.

At the start of the second half the referee attempted to stamp out the niggling and booked Borough skipper Bob Stockley and Cambridge full-back Tony Tuddenham in the opening minute. After 53 minutes Borough took the lead for the first time with Dale's opening goal. Morley rose majestically to head down a Stockley free-kick and Dale used his head to put the ball past Halsey.

However, on the hour Cambridge found themselves back in the match as Borough gave away a sloppy goal. Gary Grogan chased a long punt out of defence and Borough were wrong footed as he ran on to slip a shot past Dulleston. Two minutes later Eamonn Pugh replaced Roy Clayton and immediately forced his way into the thick of the action. He was booked for a foul on Tony Rule and then after 70 minutes played a big part in the Borough winner.

He rose to Phil Sandercock's cross and Halsey managed to push the effort away one-handed but only as far as Dale who followed up to score. Six minutes from time Morley looked almost certain to score as he chased towards the penalty area on a great run. But as he prepared to shoot he was hacked down from behind by Wilson and referee Adamson banished the Cambridge defender to the dressing rooms.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-02-1982

Borough: Garner, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Waters, Parker, Jones (Robson), Pugh, Morley (Clayton), McFarlane.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Nuneaton Borough were reminded of the difference in class between the Southern League and the Alliance Premier League. Kettering are heading for the Alliance relegation zone after going three months without a league success. But they won this match with plenty to spare against Southern League title chasing Borough, who have reserve keeper Tim Garner to thank for the fact that their margin of defeat was not doubled.

Garner made four superb saves and was in no way to blame for any of the three goals. Borough were behind after just 12 minutes to a spectacular goal from Kettering skipper Peter Phipps, who at 33, can give ten years to the next oldest player in his side. Bursting through from deep on to a nicely laid off ball from David Hofbauer he jinked his way past former team mate Richard Dixey on the edge of the box before blasting a rising shot into the top left corner of the net.

Midway through the half John Jones shaved the Kettering bar from long range and Eamonn Pugh snatched at a chance when put through by Bob Stockley. But Kettering should have turned round more than one goal in front and would have done so but for a full length near post save by Garner from a well-struck volley by Derek Duggin.

Although Tommy Robson came on in the second half to cause Kettering considerably more concern than they had suffered before, it took another string of Garner heroics to keep the 515 crowd waiting until the 70th minute for their next goal. Duggin, who scrambled a Dixey header off the line on the hour, set it up by dummying Phil Sandercock and placing his shot against the inside of the upright. Stewart Atkins added the finishing touch. Duggin's persistence was rewarded just five minutes later when the attacking full-back took a return pass before bursting through to give Garner no chance.

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Nuneaton Borough v Bridgend Town 20-02-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Sammels, Parker, Dale, Pugh, Robson. **Sub:** Clayton.

Bridgend: Wager, Miller, Gillard, Humphries, Evans, Hooper, McInch, Vassalo, Williams, Colwill, Horsey. **Sub:** James.

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

Speedy Gareth Dale struck a hat-trick as impressive Borough stormed back to the top of the Southern League table. And he almost made it a one man show setting up two goals for winger Tommy Robson. Poor Bridgend, 5-1 victors over Bedford last weekend, could not believe what hit them as rampant Borough stormed to their biggest win since March 1980. Dale, who has netted six times in the last three league games, had a field day, grabbing goals after 33, 47 and 56 minutes and he was presented with the match ball after the game.

Borough made a rip-roaring start with Eamonn Pugh fading out after an aggressive beginning, playing up front in his first full league game of the season. Bobby Parker and Mike McFarlane immediately took control in midfield and after a couple of early chances went begging everything started to click. After 26 minutes Dale beat the offside trap and controlled the ball to run on and his first time cross was met by Robson who scored.



Tommy Robson pounces to open the scoring for Borough.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Dale opened his account seven minutes later. Fine interplay between Sammels and McFarlane opened the way for Dale, who cleverly rounded goalkeeper Gary Wager and triumphantly slammed the ball home. Robson had a goal disallowed straight from the re-start but there was no way Borough were going to let the Welshmen off the hook.

Two minutes into the second half Robson headed down a looping free-kick from Bob Stockley and Dale swooped to score his second goal. Bridgend pulled a goal back after 48 minutes from the penalty spot. No-one in the Borough side was sure what the infringement was for, but the referee confirmed afterwards that it was for shirt pulling. Striker Chris Williams, who scored all five goals against Bedford last week, beat Dulleston from the spot.

However, after 56 minutes Borough made it 4-1 with the goal that gave Dale his hat-trick. Parker, who gets better with

every game, won possession and set Dale clear with a great through ball. The Borough striker did the rest by beating Wager with a well-placed strike.

After 67 minutes Bridgend striker Colwell hit the post after a goalmouth scramble. Hero Dale set up Borough's fifth after 72 minutes with a great run and cross, with Robson applying the final touch.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 23-02-1982

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Upton, Kilkelly, Halton, Jackson, Farmer, Hearne, Downes, Smith, Gallagher. **Sub:** Farrington.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Parker, Sammels, McFarlane, Dale, Pugh, Robson. **Sub:** Clayton.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Stewart Gallagher who joined Stafford Rangers from Borough for £2,000 last March, lifted the Greenbacks to a famous victory in front of more than 5,000 fans. Gallagher, picked up by John Brady for nothing, scored a priceless goal to settle the clash of the local rivals. The front runner popped up to put Bedworth ahead in a see-saw battle for the leadership of the Midland Division of the Southern League.

Bedworth played with all the pride and passion that befitted such an occasion and Borough can have no complaints about the result – in fact, the scoreline flattered them. Only Nuneaton keeper Alan Dulleston stopped the rampaging Greenbacks sweeping to a bigger win. He pulled off three outstanding saves as Borough were run ragged by Bedworth.

Fans were still streaming into the ground as play started and it was soon clear that the match had captured the imagination of the local soccer community. The banking at the Oval was eight or nine deep and the 700 programmes printed had been snapped up long before kick-off time.

After just nine minutes Tom Kilkelly pushed himself into a forward role to meet Gallagher's knockdown from a Peter Hearne cross and fired across the face of the goal. Gareth Dale, with six goals in his last three games, went on a run after 23 minutes and shot just wide with Mick Martin in the Bedworth goal at full stretch. But Dale's effort was one of only two opportunities created by unimaginative Borough throughout the match.

Bedworth, spurred on by the outstanding Martin Smith, went on to bigger and better things and Dulleston came to Borough's rescue in the 26th minute. Smith unleashed a fierce drive from the edge of the box which Dulleston saved with an arm and then dived on the ball in a double save. On the half-hour, Borough were forced to reshuffle when skipper Bob Stockley limped off with a recurrence of a groin injury.

Roy Clayton came on up front and Mike McFarlane took over the right back spot. Dale was pushed back into a deeper midfield role and it reduced Borough's attacking options even more. But then again Tommy Robson, Eamonn

Pugh and Clayton never looked capable of worrying a dominant Bedworth defence in which Paul Upton was again outstanding. The tigerish Smith raced past McFarlane after 33 minutes and crossed but as Chris Downes raced in the Bedworth striker was pulled up for a foul. After 38 minutes Dulleston defied Bedworth again with another superb save.



Stewart Gallagher heads past Alan Dulleston to give Bedworth a famous victory over their local rivals. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Gallagher romped past the struggling McFarlane and found Robbie Farmer. He crossed and Downes directed a header which Dulleston palmed away one handed and Upton blazed a follow-up shot wide. Bedworth never let up once in the second half as they opened up gaping holes in the Borough defence. With three minutes of the half gone Bobby Brookes crossed and Dulleston made a brave save to halt Gallagher.

However, Gallagher was not to be denied and he struck after 63 minutes to send the Oval into a frenzy. Peter Hearne headed on a Tom Kilkelly corner and unchallenged Gallagher used his head to beat Dulleston. Bedworth keeper Martin was virtually a spectator as his side charged forward and he even had time to send away a supporter who had decided to lean on one of the goalposts.

In the last ten minutes of the match Borough pushed players forward in a last ditch attempt to draw level and Dale headed over the top after Richard Dixey had sent on a McFarlane free-kick. But it was too late by then and Bedworth were able to celebrate a win over their rivals which was much deserved.

Carr Wields Axe

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr has wielded the axe. Two players have been given free transfers and Carr has made changes for the game against Gloucester City. Midfield man Mike McFarlane has been fined a week's wages for disciplinary reasons. McFarlane told Carr last night he was unable to travel with the team to a pre-match meal at

Gloucester. It is believed his wife is flying to Italy tomorrow morning and McFarlane planned to take her to the airport. Said Carr: "The player said he could not make it for the arranged time and as far as I am concerned he is finished with the club."

John Jones, who was set to join Bromsgrove on a month's loan last night, makes a shock return to the first team in place of McFarlane. The other player released is striker Eamonn Pugh. Said Carr: "He admits he has been unable to make an impression in the last two matches and he has been told he can go."

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 27-02-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Brown, Glover, Dixey, Sandercock, Parker, Sammels, Jones, Dale, Morley, Robson. Sub: Hoult.

Borough travelled to Gloucester City to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Impressive Borough triumphed over Gloucester to regain the leadership of the Southern League. Tommy Robson opened the way to victory with a first-half strike. Robson's effort and a second half penalty from Phil Sandercock put Nuneaton back to the top after being dislodged for just four days by neighbours Bedworth United.

Manager Graham Carr's hardline approach – he dropped and suspended two players on Thursday night – had the desired effect as his players battled their way to win number eight away from Manor Park. John Jones, who was going to join Bromsgrove on loan this week, made the most of his unexpected return to the side after a five match spell with the reserves. He added steel to the middle of the park and with Jon Sammels and Bobby Parker both giving much improved performances.

Gareth Dale had two chances in a minute to give Borough the lead. He tested keeper Nick Cornwell after 11 minutes and should have done better with a close range effort from the next attack after good work by Morley. But Borough grabbed the lead eight minutes later. Sandercock raced down the left and crossed. Dale headed the ball across goal and Robson came sliding in to score.

Graham Day, making his debut for Gloucester after joining the Horton Road club from Portland Timbers, was booked for a foul on Sammels after 25 minutes. Parker carved out a good chance for himself after 32 minutes, taking a return pass from Dale and edging a shot just wide. Two minutes later, in a rare break from the home side, Alan Dulleston made a great save, fingertipping away a low header from Gary Mockridge. Right on half-time Borough had two great chances to increase their lead. Robson fired over the top from Dale's cross and then Dale made a magnificent run but shot wide of an open goal.

In the second half Borough were again in command, playing some fluent football. They increased their lead after 54 minutes from the penalty spot. Robson blocked a clearance

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and the ball ran loose to Morley who rounded Cornwell and was fetched down by the keeper. Sandercock stepped up to convert the spot kick – his seventh success this season. Both sides hit the bar in the latter stages of the match.

Sammels rapped the woodwork with a well-placed effort and then Doug Foxwell did the same for Gloucester late on. The effort from Foxwell was the closest Gloucester came to scoring – an indication of how much the Borough defence was on top. Each member of the back four did well, none more so than Derek Brown, who never put a foot wrong at right-back.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 01-03-1982

Borough: Garner, Brown, Dixey (Crowley), Glover, Sandercock, Waters, Parker, Jones, Hoult, Newitt (Thompson), Clayton.

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Jackson, Harrison, Upton, Hearne, Smith (Carmichael), Sullivan, Farmer (McCranor), Downes, Farrington.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Alan Hoult settled a drab derby. Transfer-listed Hoult, grabbed two of the goals to give Borough a platform for victory. It was his second double in the Floodlit Cup. Borough's 18-year-old midfielder player, Adrian Waters, added a third as Borough outgunned their neighbours on a sticky pitch saturated by heavy rain.

There was little to choose between the two sides for most of the match, but Hoult's finishing gave the home side the edge. Both sides were below strength with Alan Dulleston, Bob Stockley, Jon Sammels, Gareth Dale and Trevor Morley missing from the Borough line-up and Tom Kilkelly, Liam Halton and Stewart Gallagher out of the Greenbacks' side.

In cloying conditions, an early move from Borough showed promise with John Jones and Waters combining before Jones shot over after 12 minutes. John Farrington just failed to connect with a Bobby Brookes cross after good work by Robbie Farmer. The state of the pitch almost cost Borough after 29 minutes when a John Glover back pass stuck in the mud, but Chris Downes was unable to lift the ball out of the mud and Tim Garner came to the rescue.

Hoult, who had looked the player most likely to score in the opening stages, broke the deadlock with a 37th minute goal. He raced on to a through ball from midfield and beat Mick Martin in the Bedworth goal with a well-placed shot. Borough almost increased their lead right on half-time when Glover powered a header towards goal from Jones cross and Martin was forced into a brilliant save.

Bedworth's leading scorer, Downes, threatened in the opening minutes of the second half with a header which Garner saved well. After a shot from Bobby Parker was grabbed at the second attempt by Martin, Borough went two nil up with a magnificent goal from Hoult. Full-back Derek Brown crossed from the right and Hoult beat Martin with a spectacular overhead flick. Eleven minutes later Borough

were three up when Waters shot into the top corner of the net off the woodwork.

Pugh Signs For Bedworth

Striker Eamonn Pugh has signed for Bedworth United. He was snapped up by Greenbacks' boss John Brady after being given a free transfer by Borough.

Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 06-02-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Brown, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Clayton, Parker, Dale, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Bromsgrove: Lawrence, Ormerod, O'Meara, Skinner, O'Connell, Warom, Lloyd, Maynard, Smith, McColin, Jennings. **Sub:** Konteh.

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

Substitute Lamin Konteh KO'd Borough with a simple header five minutes from time as Borough suffered only their second home league defeat – and lost the leadership of the Southern League. Conditions were appalling and after an hour's play, with rain sheeting down, it was impossible to pass the ball more than a couple of yards without it sticking in the mud.

The conditions allowed Rovers to drag Borough down to their level. They snatched a surprise winner when Konteh, who had only been on the field six minutes, scored the only goal of the game. Until he struck it had been virtually one-way traffic with Borough pushing forward from the kick-off.



Bromsgrove keeper Mike Lawrence sprawls in the mud to deny Borough.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bromsgrove keeper Mike Lawrence made a couple of important saves in the early stages – one from a Trevor Morley effort. Kirk Jennings was the liveliest Bromsgrove player on show and he tested Alan Dulleston with a left foot shot after 11 minutes. Borough's next move would have brought them a goal in normal conditions. Mike McFarlane, a late replacement for John Jones, lifted the ball out of the mud to find Gareth Dale with a superb through ball.

Dale ran on to lob the ball past the advancing keeper, but it stuck in the mud, just inches from the goal-line. Dale and defender Ron Skinner ran to get the ball and Skinner shoulder charged the Borough player out of the way and cleared. Dale managed to do better than most in the mud but his striking partners, Morley and Tommy Robson had no luck.

In the second half Bromsgrove wasted two corners early on



but the match soon slipped back into a familiar pattern. After 56 minutes play was halted when Bromsgrove midfield man Aubrey Maynard had to have mud cleared out of his nose after sliding 15 yards on his face. Borough were doing all they could to try and force a result and Carr sent on Alan Hoult for Roy Clayton, which in effect gave Borough four front runners – Morley, Dale, Robson and the substitute.

Hoult brought the crowd to its feet after 70 minutes with a first-time drive from Dale's cross which Lawrence did well to save. The match was drifting towards a goalless draw when Konteh delivered the killer blow. Micky Warom crossed from the left and Konteh beat Dulleston with a simple header. Bromsgrove celebrated a win they hardly deserved while Borough's ambitions were left in the Manor Park mud.

Enderby Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-03-1982

Enderby: Short, S. Potter, M. Potter, Bradshaw, Lane, Matthams, Scoular (Mason), M. Smith, S. Smith, D. Smith, Cooper.

Borough: Dulleston, Brown, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Parker, Jones (Hoult), McFarlane, Dale, Morley, Robson.

Borough made the journey to George Street to face Enderby Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Gareth Dale scored a sensational injury time leveller in a six goal thriller. His late effort capped an absolute cracker of a game which produced five goals in the final 23 minutes. Borough came from behind three times in a game of rapidly changing fortunes. The clash exploded into action in the second half as Borough and Enderby provided a marvellous advert for non-league soccer.

Trevor Morley, Mike McFarlane and Dale netted for Borough with Steve Smith (2) and John Lane hitting the goals for the home side. Borough stormed into action from the kick-off and won six corners in the opening 15 minutes. Enderby were on the rack and Steve Short saved well from Bobby Parker's shot. However, the Manor Park side were badly set back after 19 minutes when Enderby scored from their very first attack.

Neil Matthams sent in a cross and former Hinckley striker Steve Smith beat Alan Dulleston with an angled header from 10 yards. Borough created two chances in a three minute burst as Tommy Robson fired over after good work by Parker and Dale and then Short deflected a Morley shot for a corner. Morley was booked for dissent – throwing the ball at referee Peter Lancaster after having a penalty turned down.

The second half had the fans gasping for breath in a grandstand finish. After 57 minutes Steve Smith, the Southern League's top scorer, rounded Dulleston, but his shot hit the post and ran across the goal-line. Borough substitute Alan Hoult almost made an instant impact as the match really started to warm up. With his first touch Hoult sent in a rocket of a shot which Short brilliantly tipped over the crossbar.

That was a sign of what was to come and from the 67th minute the two sides enthralled the crowd, most of them from Nuneaton. Borough levelled the scores when McFarlane

knocked a short free-kick to Morley who scored with a left foot shot along the ground. Dean Smith, who flopped with Borough last season was in outstanding form for Enderby and scraped the bar with a shot and then Short made an acrobatic save from Robson's header.

Play switched to the other end and Enderby regained their lead when Steve Smith scored his second goal with a shot which rolled under the body of Dulleston. However nine minutes later Borough were level again with an opportunist effort from McFarlane. Robson's corner was punched out by Short and after his right foot shot was blocked, McFarlane netted with a dipping left foot effort.

Borough looked to have won a point, but four minutes from time Enderby struck. Dean Smith crossed from the left and skipper Lane scored with a powerful header. That looked to be it but Borough called on all their resources and snatched an injury time goal. John Glover knocked on a Robson corner and there was Dale to challenge and head the ball over Short.

Minehead v Nuneaton Borough 13-03-1982

Minehead: Lee, Giblett, Impey, Carter, Darke, Durbin, Purvis, Twitchin, Tooze, Boulton, Summers. Sub: Powell.

Borough: Dulleston, Brown, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Sammels, Parker, Dale, McFarlane, Morley, Robson. Sub: Hoult.

Borough travelled to Minehead to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough are back on top of the league after a deserved 3-1 win. However, they were made to fight all the way and it was not until 12 minutes from the end that Nuneaton finally broke the deadlock. A superb free-kick by Phil Sandercock from the edge of the Minehead penalty area beat the defensive wall to find the top left hand corner of the home net.

And within two minutes Nuneaton made sure of their win with Trevor Morley, in outstanding form, flighting a cross from the left which Alan Impey could only turn away into the path of Tommy Robson, whose first-time effort found the unguarded net. It was Robson's second goal of the afternoon as he scored Nuneaton's first goal in the 21st minute when he was well placed to convert the rebound off a shot by Morley which Minehead defender Impey had flicked against the bar.

Minehead, whose weak attack caused very little problem for the Borough defence, gained a surprise equaliser seven minutes later when Martin Tooze was adjudged to have been fouled in the penalty area. From the spot kick Clint Boulton gave Alan Dulleston no chance.

Just before half-time Gareth Dale squandered two chances of giving Borough the lead. Once when he dribbled past two defenders and then jinked around the Minehead keeper Terry Lee, only to shoot wide. Before the late Borough goal-rush Morley was twice denied when the Minehead skipper Peter Darke headed goalbound shot away from the target.

Graham Carr, the Borough manager, was booked on the

touchline in the first-half for something he shouted at the referee following the Minehead penalty.

Borough Cash Crisis

Nuneaton Borough are in dire need of financial help to see them through the closing weeks of the season. Chairman Noel Kelly has issued an urgent “help us” plea, with the warning that the club will face problems staying alive if more money is not found within the next two months.

Mr Kelly said that the club was in serious danger of folding and would require at least £20,000 to survive for the next three months. “We have got to put our heads together to try and find ways of raising this cash, otherwise we will go under,” he said. Kelly and the rest of his board of directors have already begun the long struggle to keep non-league soccer in Nuneaton.

“It was decided at an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on Friday to increase the share capital by £60,000 with £1 shares already available.”...

Redundancy Cash Loan Kicks Off Borough Appeal



Hard-up Nuneaton Borough have been thrown a £3,000 lifeline by a supporter who was made redundant last week. That sum is to be loaned to the club by 29-year-old Ray Oughton, who, until Friday, was a supervisor at British Leyland’s Coventry engine plant. The short-term interest-free loan will help Borough through their immediate crisis as they search for at least £20,000 by May to avoid going out of business.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 20-03-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Brown, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Sammels, Parker, Dale, Lowe, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Redditch: Brookes, Round, Harris, Adams, Richards, Mannion, Millward, Ingram, Wade, Walsh, Hanks. **Sub:** Gray.

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

The entire table divides Graham Carr’s leaders from Redditch – but it took Borough an hour to consolidate their title push. They struggled for a long time to emphasise the difference in league positions. It was left to Tommy Robson to nod Borough in front after 50 frustrating minutes, and Trevor Morley celebrated his 21st birthday with the clincher.

Before then, bottom-placed Redditch had put up strong resistance with a dogged effort on a swamp of a pitch. Tonight Stourbridge visit Manor Park, giving Carr’s side the chance of breathing space at the top if they win – leaving the other top sides to do the chasing.

Noel Kelly’s appeal for increased support, plus the attraction of a prize draw for a flight on Concorde, brought a response from the public. Many of them probably regretted their decision by the interval. Borough ploughed forwards without putting the visitors under any prolonged pressure, and were unable to make the most of the chances they created.

Barry Lowe, making a welcome return to midfield after four months’ absence, saw Redditch keeper Mick Brookes flap at a cross which shaved the crossbar, and Brookes dived to grasp a Gareth Dale header in the opening stages. Dale was foraging well on the right, but too many of Borough’s efforts floundered on a combination of thick mud and sterling defensive work from the visitors. Redditch continued to plod away, and they almost caught Borough cold on two occasions which unnerved the Manor Park faithful.

John Glover foiled Chris Hanks with a last ditch tackle after the winger found himself clear in the area, and keeper Alan Dulleston beat out a fierce drive from Kevin Walsh when the Redditch striker lost his markers. Morley almost capped his big day with a crisp effort brilliantly turned over by Brookes, but the interval arrived with Borough surprisingly still searching to unlock the Redditch defence.

They finally managed to find the key after 50 minutes, with leading scorer Robson bringing relief to the terraces. Morley’s cross found Jon Sammels who took an eternity to shoot and Brookes blocked his effort, but Robson was at hand to head home from a packed goalmouth. The goal revived the home side and after Bobby Parker had fired wide the birthday boy struck with the vital second goal after 62 minutes.

Morley will not receive a better present. The admirable Dale broke through on the left, fired across the goal and Morley could have blown home Borough’s 100th goal of the season. Borough could coast from that moment, and Morley, Robson and Dale might have increased the margin by the end.

Car Donated To Borough

Nuneaton Borough's precarious fight to end their current cash crisis has been given another lift today with the donation of a car. Bulkington garage owner Mr Tony King has donated a Hillman Imp to the cash starved club, which will be raffled off. Mr King, who owns Bulkington Service Station, has also placed a £400 advertising board at the Manor Park ground.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 22-03-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Parker, Sammels, Lowe, Dale, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** McFarlane.

Stourbridge: Allard, Bache, Lippitt, C. Jones, Lander, McCanley, Ball, Evans, C. Jones, Truswell, Drummond. **Sub:** Dowler.

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

Shooting stars Tommy Robson and Gareth Dale struck again to maintain Borough's charge towards the title. The striking pair, who have notched 26 league goals between them, hit first-half goals to highlight an impressive display. Borough's first-half performance was slick and stylish as they ran the visitors ragged. They went off the boil after the break and Stourbridge scored a late consolation goal.

But Borough's display in the first half set up their 19th win of the campaign. Stourbridge never had a shot until the 78th minute as they were pinned in their own half by the rampaging home side. Borough broke through after 15 minutes when Bobby Parker had a shot deflected for a corner. Skipper Bob Stockley knocked a short corner kick to Robson, who cut inside and drilled a lethal 30-yard drive past Allard.

It was a cracker of a goal and Robson has now grabbed 21 goals this term – 16 of them in the league. Borough were lifted further by the goal and Barry Lowe's shot cannoned off Bob Bache – and Richard Dixey knocked in a cross, but was penalised for a foul. A bout of sustained pressure was rewarded with a second goal for Borough, set up by the outstanding Parker, who lobbed the ball into the area for Dale, who swooped to head the ball over the advancing Allard.

Stourbridge's defence was under non-stop pressure and it was a real surprise that Borough did not add to their first-half tally. Allard had to race out of his area after 31 minutes to head away a long punt from John Glover as Trevor Morley challenged. Stourbridge did not win a corner until the 35th minute and midfielder Carl Ball was lucky to escape a booking after he brought down Dale, as the pressure began to tell on the Glassboys.

Parker was at the centre of another Borough move in the first-half when he picked out Dale along the bye-line and the striker cut inside to unleash a left foot shot which was deflected away by Colin Jones.

In the second half, Morley headed just over from Dale's cross, but Stourbridge battled to stem the tide. Borough's passing, so accurate in the first-half, became erratic after the break

and they lost momentum. The one outstanding chance in the half saw Robson flick on a Phil Sandercock through ball to Morley, who fired into the side netting.

Stourbridge mustered a useful attack eight minutes from time with Alan Dulleston saving an effort from Brendan Drummond. And five minutes from the end the visitors struck a consolation goal when Bob Evans brought the ball down and swivelled to beat Dulleston with a half-volley.

Borough Fans Win Concorde Flight



Schoolboy Mark Randle and pensioner Tommy Davies were on Cloud Nine after their trip on Concorde at the weekend. They travelled from Heathrow to Birmingham after winning a draw sponsored by Nuneaton Borough directors Noel Kelly, Sean Patterson and Ted Kay.

Mr Kay, who took them to Heathrow and is pictured with the lucky pair, said: "I am sure it was a trip to remember for both of them." Soccer mad Mark, of Stroma Way, received an extra bonus when he arrived at Heathrow as his soccer idol, Kevin Keegan, was at the airport preparing to leave with the England team for Spain.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Chairman Renews Plea

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly has renewed his appeal for more people to come forward and help the cash crisis club. Borough announced last week that £25,000 was needed to see out the season. Since then, the club has been loaned £3,000 by jobless vice-president Ray Oughton, gates have improved at the last two home games, and supporters have been responding to various fund-raising schemes.

"A 73-year-old pensioner came forward with 73p for the club – these things matter," said Kelly. "The fans are helping by coming along, and it appears that people's consciences have been jogged by our crisis," he added.

But Kelly, fighting to keep non-league soccer in the town, realises that the long battle has only just begun. "We still need help from local businesses, who could do much to save us," he said.

Clayton To Join Corby

Nuneaton Borough striker Roy Clayton is set to join Corby Town, whose manager Colin Clarke has agreed to sign his former Kettering Town team mate. Borough manager Graham Carr admitted: "It is probably the best thing for Roy as I can't see him getting many more games this season."

Borough Set To Sign Nardiello

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is poised to sign former Coventry City striker Don Nardiello. And if terms are agreed, Nardiello will be in the Borough squad for the League match against Taunton. Nardiello has been playing for Alliance Premier League Telford, but is interested in a move closer to his Coventry home.

Don Hammond Joins Borough Board

Electrical contractor Don Hammond is planning to become a real livewire at Nuneaton Borough Football Club. He is the second businessman to join the board of directors in the space of a few weeks. Travel agent Ted Kay was enlisted earlier this month. Mr Hammond, who lives in Rugby, took up his new role this weekend as Borough plan to make it a seven man board at Manor Park.

Nuneaton Borough v Taunton Town 27-03-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Sammels, Parker, Dale, Lowe, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Nardiello.

Taunton: Stevens, Westlake, Smith, Hodge, Awcock, Adams, Prince, Hains, Ashton, Aherne, Salt. **Sub:** Edwards.

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

Tommy Robson emphasised Borough's confidence up front with two goals in three minutes of the first-half. After a painfully slow start in good conditions Borough roared into action with two quick goals. They took the lead in the 20th minute when Barry Lowe, who passed a late fitness test on a rib injury, won a corner for the home side.



Tommy Robson notches Borough's second goal as the league leaders march to victory over Taunton.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

He floated in a cross which Taunton keeper Norman Stevens failed to gather and Gareth Dale turned the ball back into the path of Robson who headed home. Three minutes later Robson scored his second, knocking in the rebound after Richard Dixey had hit an upright with a left foot drive.

Borough's charge for more goals faded in the rest of a disappointing first-half – with the exception of an incident three minutes from the interval. Keeper Stevens stopped Robson completing a hat-trick with a fine stop from the winger's fierce drive. In the second-half Taunton keeper Stevens prevented Borough from romping to victory with a superb display. He pulled off a string of fine saves to deny the goal hungry home side.

After Dixey has an effort disallowed and Morley had a header cleared off the line, Stevens came into his own. With 63 minutes gone he made a full length save to deny Dale, who tested him with a sweet right foot drive. And just seven minutes later Stevens denied the same player with a point blank save from Dale's close range effort.

Stevens was in action two minutes after that save when he brilliantly tipped over a header from Morley. The keeper did really well for the visitors but Borough should have improved their goal difference with more goals.

Milton Keynes City v Nuneaton Borough 30-03-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Sammels, Nardiello, Dale, Lowe, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough travelled to Milton Keynes City to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough picked up two important away points – but at the expense of a serious injury to second top scorer Trevor Morley, who was stretchered off and taken to Northampton hospital after dislocating his knee in the first minute. It is an injury that will keep Morley out for the rest of the season.

The accident happened as Morley jumped for a high ball near the centre spot and fell heavily on the rock-hard pitch. It clearly unsettled Nuneaton, who did not really show their true colours until the last 25 minutes when they finally wore down the home side with a devastating three-goal burst.

It was Jon Sammels who broke the deadlock after 65 minutes when he pounced on a loose clearance to drive the ball home from just inside the area. Five minutes from time a long throw by Bob Stockley created panic in the Milton Keynes defence and sub Bobby Parker nipped in to score during a hectic scramble on the goal-line. Sammels cracked another shot against the post before Phil Sandercock completed the scoring with a penalty in the dying seconds, awarded for handball.

Don Nardiello made his debut but was only seen in flashes as Nuneaton struggled to find their best form against a side only one place off the bottom of the table. In fact, Milton Keynes had the better chances early on and but for two



scrambled saves from goalkeeper Dulleston, Nuneaton would have found themselves trailing at half-time. Dulleston needed two attempts to smother a blistering ground shot from Milton Keynes manager Dave Howitt in the 12th minute. And then Alex Cunningham used the blustery wind to good effect with a long range effort that Dulleston pushed out from under the bar.

BR Turn Down Borough Compensation Appeal

Cash-conscious Nuneaton Borough have suffered a blow in their bid to boost the club's finances. British Rail have turned down their demand for compensation after the FA Cup fiasco at Bishop Auckland in November. The club's directors will meet next week to decide whether they will appeal against the decision.

Witney Town v Nuneaton Borough	03-04-1982
Witney: Turner, Townsend, Hare, Goodwin, Hutter, Light, Brooks, Thorne, Drackett, Lee, Lythgoe. Sub: Kane.	
Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Nardiello, Sammels, Parker, Dale, Lowe, Robson. Sub: Hoult.	

Borough made the journey to Marriott's Close to play Witney Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Title chasing Borough have set themselves such a high standard this season that anything short of victory is a failure to some. But on Saturday Borough can rightly feel they earned a point after a defensive tussle with Witney.

It was hard to believe at times that Witney were the home side as Borough dominated the attacking play. But in the end a draw was probably a fair result – although both sides had good chances to settle the match. Few clear cut chances were created as both sides struggled to find openings in an uneventful first-half. When Borough did push forward Witney came back in numbers to halt the visitors' attacks. Bobby Parker and Tommy Robson tested Ian Turner in the Witney goal, but the best chance of the half fell to home striker Kent Drackett. He shrugged off his marker and fired into the side netting with a fierce drive.

Four minutes into the second half Borough's Gareth Dale wasted a good opportunity to put the title chasers ahead. Lowe carved out a chance with an accurate left wing cross, but Dale mis-hit his shot just six yards out. Borough forged into the lead on the hour. Bobby Parker struck a brilliant goal – his second in two games. Dale flicked on an overhead cross from Robson and Parker netted with a volley. But six minutes later the home side levelled through Paul Lee. Donald Hare mis-hit a shot but Lee was left in too much space and caught Borough napping with a shot from 15 yards which Alan Dulleston was slow to react to. In the space of a minute Drackett intercepted a Richard Dixey back pass and his shot cannoned off Dulleston while at the other end Dale blasted over after a shot from Jon Sammels had been blocked.

After 72 minutes Witney's goalscorer Lee missed the best

chance of the match. The ball ran kindly for him in the penalty area but four yards out and with only Dulleston to beat he lifted the ball over the bar. Lowe broke through for Borough and his lob was pushed into the air by Turner as the visitors searched for a winner. Six minutes from time Hoult replaced Nardiello in a late bid by Borough for victory.

Nardiello has been unable to get to grips with small pitches at Milton Keynes and Witney in his first two matches. He showed flashes of skill at Witney but the narrowness of the pitch and his lack of match fitness stopped him making any real impression on the game.

In a hectic final minute Borough won three successive corners and from one of them Glover's header was hacked away off the line by Peter Hutter.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil	05-04-1982
Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Nardiello, Lowe, Parker, Dale, Hoult, Robson. Sub: McFarlane.	
Merthyr: Meacham, M. Williams, Jones, Holvey, Cosslett, Docherty, J. Williams, McNeil, Allchurch, Elliott, Ball (James).	

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

Former Welsh international Don Nardiello crowned his home debut with two goals. Striker Alan Hoult marked his return to the first-team with the goal that set Borough on their way. And Phil Sandercock completed the scoring with an 89th minute penalty conceded by the under-pressure Welshmen.

Hoult led the Borough attack as expected, but manager Graham Carr dropped a pre-match bombshell by leaving out Jon Sammels to allow Barry Lowe to revert to his normal midfield role. Hoult, making his first Southern League appearance after being named substitute on 12 occasions, was in the thick of the action from the kick-off. He had four shots in the first 20 minutes and from the best effort he spun round to shoot and Merthyr keeper Alan Meacham fingertipped the ball away.

But Hoult earned his reward after 23 minutes. Richard Dixey headed on a Tommy Robson corner and Hoult scored with a spectacular shot over his left shoulder. Nardiello missed a golden chance to increase Borough's lead after 27 minutes. Merthyr were appealing for offside as Nardiello ran on to a Lowe through ball but the flag stayed down and the player lobbed the ball tamely into the arms of Meacham.

Visiting full-back Peter Jones was booked for dissent after his side's let-off. Dave Elliott missed a good chance for Merthyr and then Nardiello struck Borough's second with 34 minutes gone. He rose at the far post to meet a cross from Robson and opened his account. Borough allowed the visitors a chance to get back into the game with a sloppy 15 minute spell.

Alan Dulleston needed treatment after he saved a downward header, but was hurt by another Merthyr player following through. The referee had blown seconds earlier for a foul on



Dulleston. Merthyr pulled a goal back after 39 minutes when Dick Batt pulled a low free kick back along the face of the penalty area for the unmarked Phil McNeil to drill the ball past Dulleston from 25 yards out.

Borough started the second half with Sandercock firing across the face of the goal and then Robson dropped a cross on to the bar. After 72 minutes Nardiello grabbed his second when he made a brilliant run and the luck was with him as his mis-hit shot bobbed through the keeper's arms. With a minute to go Dale judged a through ball perfectly and ran round the back of a defender and into the area, but was taken down from behind by Mike Coslett. Sandercock stepped up to convert his ninth penalty of the season.

Kelly Expects 8,000 For Bedworth Game

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly has made a bold forecast about the gate for the club's Easter Monday derby with Bedworth United. He has predicted that more than 8,000 people could watch the match between the championship rivals. He said: "I am sure we can pass the 8,000 mark providing both sides win their matches leading up to it."

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 06-02-1982

Stourbridge: Drummond, Ash, Lippitt, C. Jones, Lander, MacAuley, Ball, Evans, G. Jones, Truswell, Wilson. Sub: Marsh.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Nardiello, Lowe, Parker, Dale, Hoult, Robson. Sub: McFarlane.

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

Stand-in keeper Brendan Drummond and referee George Carr combined to halt Borough's victory hopes. Drummond, normally a centre-forward was playing in goal because of an injury to Stourbridge's only keeper Jeff Allard and thwarted Borough with an impressive display. And the Redditch match official disallowed what looked to be two perfectly good goals from Gareth Dale.

But Borough were also guilty of failing to make their chances count in one of the toughest games they have been involved in this season. Stourbridge were determined to upset the appercart, although their negative tactics angered a large group of travelling Borough fans. Borough dominated the play for long periods, especially in the first-half, but could find no way through.

The ineffectiveness of their midfield three did little to help their cause and the match drifted to its inevitable conclusion. Unchanged Borough launched a fierce onslaught on the home defence from the kick-off and found Drummond in tremendous form. The stand-in, who kept a clean sheet in his first match, against Banbury last week, kept the home side in the game with a superb save after seven minutes. Alan Hoult laid the ball back to Dale who crossed and Bobby Parker waited for it to drop before shooting and his effort was brilliantly tipped over the top by Drummond.

Don Nardiello, disappointing after his two goal midweek salvo, almost cashed in on a poor back pass but Drummond dived at his feet to grab the ball. Borough, always on top in the opening stages, had the ball in the net after 12 minutes when Dale ran on to Hoult's through ball and lobbed it over the advancing keeper. But referee Carr disallowed the effort, penalising Dale for pushing defender Martin Lander. Drummond saved a close range effort from Hoult and then just before half-time Alan Dulleston came under the spotlight with good stops from Carl Ball and Graham Jones.

In the second-half Drummond again played his part in denying Borough with a superb save from Hoult's header. But Borough's recalled striker ought to have scored, mis-hitting another clear chance for the visitors. Hoult was substituted after 72 minutes by Mike McFarlane and within a couple of minutes Borough had another effort disallowed. Dale was the unlucky player again as he swooped to beat Drummond with an angled right foot drive, but the referee again disallowed the goal for pushing, this time on Chris Jones.

So in the end Borough had to be content with a point from their tussle. But with Bedworth losing and Alvechurch dropping a home point not too much damage was done.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 12-04-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sammels, Glover, Sandercock, Nardiello, Lowe, Parker, Dale, Hoult, Robson. Sub: McFarlane.

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Halton, Jackson, Upton, Taylor, Hearne (Downes 83), Smith, Farmer, Gallagher, Conway.

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

Borough settled their score with neighbours Bedworth in a revenge win. A crowd of 3,014 watched John Glover and Bobby Parker grab the goals and although the Greenbacks staged a spirited fightback in the dying seconds with Danny Conway netting and Liam Halton heading on to the bar their charge came too late as John Brady's men slipped to their third successive defeat.

Centre-half Richard Dixey missed the derby after injuring his leg in an accident at home. Player-coach Jon Sammels took up an unfamiliar role in the middle of the back four. Bedworth boss Brady also made a noticable change, leaving out leading scorer Chris Downes and playing Stewart Gallagher, who scored the winner in the first meeting.

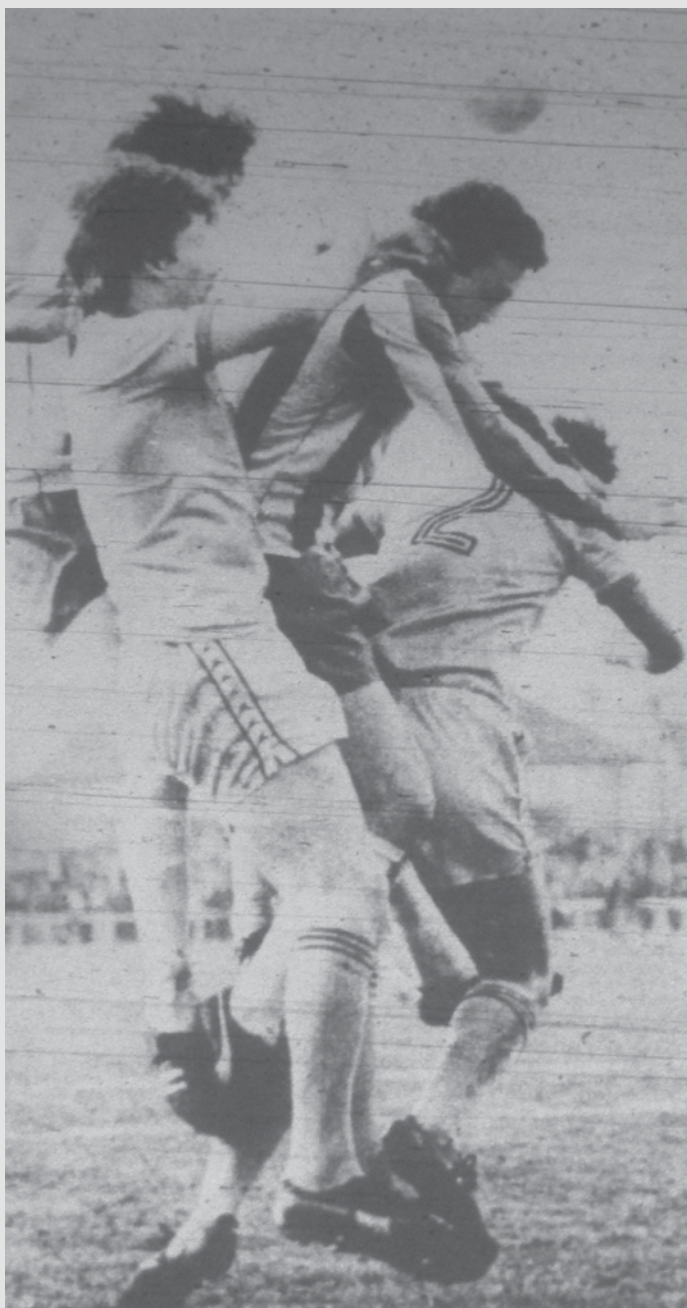
But Gallagher never had a chance to repeat his feat as Borough dominated the early play with Parker having a shot charged down and Don Nardiello firing over after Paul Upton chested the ball straight to him. Bedworth, lacking the fire in midfield that brought them victory in the first match, were forced back as Parker and in particular, Barry Lowe took a hold on the middle of the park.

Greenbacks' full-back Bobby Brookes was booked for a 24th minute foul on John Glover and two minutes later he

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conceded the free-kick that brought Borough their first goal. He fouled Lowe and Tommy Robson floated in a left wing cross for Glover to power in and beat Mick Martin with a firm header. Robbie Farmer almost lifted Bedworth to an immediate response. He knocked a superb ball through to Gallagher but Alan Dulleston came out to grab the ball – and receive a kick in the head in the process.



John Glover rises above team mate Barry Lowe and Bedworth players Stewart Gallagher and Bobby Brookes to head Borough's first goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

It was a frustrating night for the Greenbacks as they made little headway against Borough. Sammels was outstanding in his temporary role alongside the impressive Glover. But after the break neither side were able to produce the sparkle up

front in a disappointing second half. The Greenbacks had a chance early on, but Dennis Taylor could not control Farmer's cross – and the battle for dominance was confined to the midfield for long periods.

After 74 minutes Halton was booked for deliberately handling the ball as Parker chipped it through. Then Borough struck the killer blow with an 82nd minute goal which ruined their neighbours' hopes of getting a point. Phil Sandercock sent in an inch perfect cross from the left wing and Parker roared in to beat Martin with a deadly accurate header.

Upton was booked for a foul on Lowe and then Downes was sent on in place of Peter Hearn. Downes had only been on the pitch for three minutes when he became the third player to go into the book. Bedworth cut the deficit a minute from time when Conway struck a direct free-kick past Dulleston after Gallagher had been fouled on the edge of the box.

Bedworth surged forward again in search of another goal, and a result that seemed out of the question just a few minutes earlier. And they came so close to causing a sensation when Halton headed on to the bar after Brookes had knocked the ball on. But Borough survived those last anxious moments to stay on course for the title – and virtually end Bedworth's championship dreams.

Alvechurch v Nuneaton Borough 14-04-1982

Alvechurch: Edwards, Grice, Fry, Birch, Punscheon, Bowater, Devlin, Stevens, A. Smith, P. Smith, Hope. Sub: Harper.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Parker, Lowe, McFarlane, Nardiello, Dale, Robson. Sub: Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Lye Meadow to play Alvechurch in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Brilliant Borough trounced Alvechurch in a devastating first-half spell. Alvechurch, who had only conceded two goals in their last ten matches, crumbled as Borough hit the target three times in a 27 minute blitz at the start of the match. And barring a disaster in their last four games Borough will carry off the Midland Division crown.

Graham Carr's plan to play two wingers in the match proved to be a master stroke as Borough swept to victory. He played Don Nardiello on the right and Tommy Robson on his usual left wing role and both of them scored with Bobby Parker netting the third. Mike McFarlane was brought into midfield and Borough were also boosted by the return of Richard Dixey, who missed the win over Bedworth. The Alvechurch ground has a slope from wing to wing and players were ankle deep in dirt on a dustbowl of a pitch.

But Borough recovered from an ominous start to master the conditions and race into action. Dixey was booked after eight minutes for deliberate handball and five minutes later home striker Paul Smith hit the post with a fine shot. However, two minutes later Borough were ahead thanks to a superb goal by Robson. Bob Stockley took a throw-in and found Robson who let the ball bounce and then beat Reg Edwards with a superb

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



25-yard left foot drive. Skipper Stockley could not conceal his delight and raced to the dug out to hug Carr.

It was a fantastic start for Borough and within a minute they increased their lead. A shot from Gareth Dale was tipped away by Edwards and Nardiello ran in to score. Parker screwed a shot wide of the post from Robson's pass but the youngster was not to be denied. After 27 minutes McFarlane crossed, the ball finally reached Nardiello who shot. Edwards could not hold the effort and Parker roared in to score. Borough had four shots on goal in the early blast and netted three times in one of their best attacking spells of the season.

Alvechurch were stunned by Borough's fire and had to call on all their resources to prevent a landslide. They held firm until half-time and after the break made a concerted effort to reduce the deficit. The second half saw Borough shine in defence as they snuffed out the threat of the deposed league leaders. Two minutes into the half Alan Dulleston made a superb save from Alan Smith's well placed free-kick.

Smith was the only threat in the Alvechurch attack but Borough's back four made sure he had no support from his fellow strikers. John Glover had a superb game for Borough, commanding in the air and always looking to make an attacking break. But all the back four played well as Borough kept a clean sheet in the second half.

Alvechurch pinned a lot of their hopes on former Worcester City player Gary Stevens, but he never got a look-in against the tenacious Parker, who was a revelation in midfield. McFarlane and Barry Lowe also kept a stranglehold on the middle of the park. And in the second half Borough could have made it 4-0 when Robson put Lowe through and he looked to be pushed by Chris Birch. Edwards kept out a shot from Robson and in the dying minutes the cry of "champions" from the Borough fans echoed around the ground.

Nuneaton Borough v Milton Keynes City 17-04-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Parker, Nardiello, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Milton Keynes: Fordham, Jackson, Dare, Simons, Howitt, Marshall, Brady, D. Drewe, Reynolds, Burnett, S. Drewe. **Sub:** Hewitt.

Borough welcomed Milton Keynes City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Founder members Nuneaton have virtually regained their place in the Alliance Premier League. This comfortable win leaves Kidderminster, the only club with a ground grading comparable to Borough with a near impossible task. To finish higher than Borough they will have to win their last five games, Borough would have to lose their final three – and even then goal difference would come into it.

But of course Nuneaton's aim is to get back into the Alliance as champions and this win over the bottom club moved them one step nearer. They eased to victory against the bottom club with a clinical display. Borough stuck to their task and

scored three times to make it 80 goals in 39 league games – a goalscoring record to be proud of. Milton Keynes were under pressure from the kick-off with Graham Jackson heading off the line from Tommy Robson and Bobby Parker and Richard Dixey having efforts blocked.

Visiting defender Kevin Dare was booked after 25 minutes for a foul on Don Nardiello, who had netted two minutes earlier but his effort was ruled out by referee Pittaway. Borough took the lead on the half-hour through penalty ace Phil Sandercock, converting his tenth spot kick of the season. The penalty was awarded when Barry Lowe pushed a great ball to Mike McFarlane who crossed and as Gareth Dale tried to turn he was brought down by Jackson.

Borough went close with long range efforts from Lowe and McFarlane and five minutes from the interval defender John Glover stormed in to meet a Robson corner and headed on to the bar. The visitors had nothing to offer up front and that was emphasised when Dave Drewe broke clear, but his finishing was woeful as he hit a tame shot.



Barry Lowe caps a fine display for Borough with the second goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

It was left to Borough to provide all the action and at times they found it difficult to keep the momentum going after a tiring Easter programme. But Lowe came to the rescue when he capped a superb display by netting Borough's second. After McFarlane had cleared out of defence Lowe took a return pass from Dale and ran on to push the ball wide of keeper Mark Fordham and score a superb goal. It was the midfielder's first goal of the season, but he deserved it after a terrific display. Seven minutes from time Parker cracked home his fifth goal in seven matches when he ran on to meet a Robson through ball and score.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 20-04-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Brown, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Parker, Nardiello, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough are celebrating a triumphant return to the Alliance Premier League. Borough, who were relegated last season, are back in the top flight of non-league soccer after an emphatic 5-0 win over lowly Redditch. Kidderminster, their

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only rivals for an Alliance place, cannot catch Borough – and now the Manor Park side march on towards the Southern League title. The target is three points from two games which will give Borough the Midland Division crown. If Borough can achieve this, their aim will be to lift the overall Southern League championship for the first time since they entered the competition back in 1958. The overall championship is decided when the winners of the Midland Division and Southern Division meet in a play-off.

Borough blasted a four goal salvo in the first 42 minutes of the match and made it five a minute into the second half. Derek Brown was a late replacement for a flu stricken John Glover in an otherwise unchanged Borough side. Redditch had their problems with Ian Donaghan, normally a midfield player, taking over in goal from the suspended Mick Brookes.

Borough took the lead after just 17 minutes as they started to get to grips with the appalling playing surface. From their fourth corner in two minutes Barry Lowe floated in a cross, Richard Dixey headed the ball back at the far post and Tommy Robson used his head to put Borough in front. Borough then buried the home side with a three goal blast in a blistering nine minute spell.

After 25 minutes Gareth Dale turned and ran between two players before his shot was parried by Donaghan and Mike McFarlane was there to knock the ball in. Six minutes later skipper Bob Stockley set up Borough's third with a free kick in his own half which he floated over the head of Paul Harris and Dale let the ball bounce before firing home.

Don Wade was booked after 33 minutes for a foul on Borough keeper Alan Dulleston – and it cost Redditch dear. The free kick was knocked back to Dulleston whose long kick caught out Harris again and Don Nardiello fired into the far corner of the net. Bobby Parker turned and shot just over the top just before half-time.

Borough made it 5-0 after 46 minutes when Robson scored with a simple header from Barry Lowe's corner. Dale, a former Redditch player, volleyed over after 50 minutes but after that the match was a disappointment with Redditch tightening up in defence to prevent a scoreline which could well have reached double figures. Robson might have claimed his hat-trick in the final minutes when he headed over from McFarlane's cross.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 24-04-1982

Merthyr: Meacham, John, Jones, Holvey, Crosslett, Docherty, McNeil, Morris, Elliott, Allchurch, Batt. **Sub:** James.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Parker, Nardiello, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Borough made the journey to Pennydarren Park to play Merthyr Tydfil in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough keeper Alan Dulleston showed the courage of a lion to make the save of the match and halt Merthyr's comeback.

The Welshmen had cut back Borough's two goal lead to draw level and Nuneaton knew that defeat could wreck their title hopes. With eight minutes left John Allchurch, son of former Welsh international Ivor, charged into the area and only a brilliant stop by Dulleston prevented the striker scoring. The final minutes were a heart stopping finale to a cracking match.

Merthyr, needing three points from three games to get into next season's Southern League Premier Division, looked a different side to the one that was beaten 4-1 at Manor Park at the start of the month. And Borough had to show all their defensive qualities to keep them out. They had one scare 12 minutes from time – when Paul Morris got round the back and fired across goal.

But it could have been a different story if Borough had been given a penalty when they led 2-1. Gareth Dale skated past Mike Cosslett in the penalty area and was clearly tripped by the Merthyr defender. However, Worcester referee Kevin Clewer waved away angry protests from Borough and Merthyr were level four minutes later.

No one was more disappointed with the outcome than Borough's Mike McFarlane. He scored two superb goals – his first league double of the season – to put Borough in the driving seat.

Borough started well with Merthyr conceding a succession of free-kicks in the opening minutes. And the Manor Park side broke through with a vital goal after 21 minutes. Barry Lowe picked out McFarlane with a superb pass and the midfield man beat Merthyr keeper Alan Meacham with a fierce drive. Merthyr were determined to kick Borough out of their stride with some rough tackling.

Player-manager Ian Dochery punched Lowe on the nose after a flare up and was lucky to escape a booking. Borough did well to remain composed and scored again eight minutes into the second half. Don Nardiello beat full-back Peter Jones on the right wing and crossed. Tommy Robson missed his kick but McFarlane latched on to the ball and beat Meacham with another well struck shot.

But Borough were caught napping by an immediate reply from Merthyr within 30 seconds of the restart. The ball was played to Phil McNeil from the kick off and both John Glover and Phil Sandercock went for the same player leaving Derek Elliott on his own to pick up a pass and beat Dulleston with a shot from the right wing.

And after Borough's penalty appeal was turned down, Merthyr struck in the 73rd minute to level the scores. Dulleston did not connect with the ball properly from a punch and substitute Anthony James lobbed the ball in and Morris scored with a header. In the dressing room at the end of the match Borough manager Graham Carr slammed his defence for conceding two sloppy goals, but admitted later: "We would have been happy with a point before we left and that is what we achieved."

Manor Park Passed For Alliance

Nuneaton Borough have cleared the final hurdle in their bid to get back into the Alliance Premier League. After gaining promotion in midweek, their Manor Park ground was inspected and given the necessary grading for Alliance football.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedford Town 01-05-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Brown, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Parker, Nardiello, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Bedford: Luff, Platnauer, James, Baker, Goodeve, Best, Kurila, Grant, Robinson, McGowan, Felton. **Sub:** Bastin.

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

Bob Stockley lifted the Southern League Midland Division crown high above his head in a triumphant end to a memorable campaign. And as the champagne flowed the Borough skipper offered a measure of hope for the future.

He said: "We want to make ourselves the Liverpool of non-league football and make winning a habit. It is a great feeling to be back in the Alliance, especially as champions, but we see this as the start. The players have really enjoyed the celebrations. It has been a long season and we have not had many chances to relax."



Bobby Parker notches the goal that assured Borough of the Southern League Midland Division title.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

After a neck and neck battle for most of the season Borough ended the campaign three points ahead of near rivals Alvechurch. Bobby Parker's 37th minute goal set the seal on the champagne celebrations. His goal was the only highlight of an undistinguished match which was spoiled by a near gale force wind.

Parker's entrance into the first team spotlight has coincided with Borough's brilliant end of season charge to the title. So it was fitting that he netted his sixth goal in 10 games to give Borough their 11th victory from the last 16 matches. Mike McFarlane had spearheaded the early attacks from Borough with two shots on target in the opening four minutes. Bedford goalkeeper Tony Luff made a spectacular save after 11 minutes to keep Borough at bay. Gareth Dale unleashed a fierce drive which Luff superbly tipped over the bar.

Tommy Robson, whose 21 league goals have been so crucial this season, fired wide with a 23rd minute effort after Dale had turned a Barry Lowe free kick into Robson's path. Borough finally broke through to the delight of the 1,425 crowd eight minutes from the interval. Kevin James cleared a Don Nardiello

centre, but from the next corner Luff pushed Robson's cross into the air and Parker headed Borough into the lead.

There was little action in the second half. From the one chance created by Borough, Dale raced on to a Lowe through ball, but was bundled out of his stride by former Northampton player Billy Best. Borough played out the final minutes of the match knowing the title was theirs.

Referee Colin Peake's final whistle prompted the customary pitch invasion and the players disappeared under a mass of young fans. Skipper Stockley collected the trophy, there was a lap of honour from Borough and then Stockley was chaired to the dressing room by his team mates.

The fans called for Graham Carr and the Borough manager, who has brilliantly masterminded his side's rise to glory, came out to receive the cheers of the crowd. All the players offered one final gesture to the fans from high in the main stand and last season's disappointment had been replaced by elation.

Borough now set their sights on carrying off the overall Southern League championship – the magnificent shield the club has been trying to win since 1958. And success in a two leg play-off with Wealdstone could be a personal triumph for Stockley. He would be one of the few men to win championship medals with two clubs, after spending several seasons at Wimbledon.



Borough skipper Bob Stockley receives the Southern League Midland Division trophy from league official Don Pedley, who is also chairman of rivals Alvechurch.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Work Has Just Started – Kelly

Chairman Noel Kelly joined in Nuneaton Borough's champagne celebrations but then admitted: "The work has just started." He said: "We cannot afford to sit back on our success. We do not want to go back into the Alliance Premier League as a lame duck.

"We must continue to raise money during the close season. It is easy to forget about our appeal fund when the club enjoys success, but we must keep working. Winning the championship has given us the footings which we must build on in the next few months," he added.

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Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 08-05-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Brown, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Parker, Nardiello, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Hoult.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Perkins, Pearce, Byatt, Bowgett, Barwick, Waites, Wainwright, Cordice, Knowles, Davies. **Sub:** Churchhouse

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play the Southern League Championship Match first leg.



Gareth Dale sidefoots the ball past Ray Goddard to give Borough the lead after Alan Hoult's shot had spun off a defender.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough take a narrow 1-0 lead into the second leg of the Southern League Championship final thanks to Gareth Dale's 62nd minute effort. His goal decided an entertaining tussle between the two sides with success stories to tell this season.

Borough are back in the Alliance Premier League as champions of the Midland Division after being relegated last season. And Wealdstone, who went down with Borough are also back in the top flight as Southern Division champions, and also carried off the Southern League Cup and County Cup.



Barry Lowe is flattened by two Wealdstone defenders as the visitors attempt to clear a cross.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Play swung from end to end in the opening stages with Borough busy in midfield and always looking to create chances for their forwards. Wealdstone looked a typical Allan Batsford side. The man who took Wimbledon into the Football League has brought together another well drilled side with Alan Cordice the man they play up front.

Dale made a brilliant solo run after 12 minutes and cut into the penalty area but his shot was blocked by Stuart Pearce.

Then the same player forced ex-Orient and Wimbledon keeper Roy Goddard to tip his 25 yard lob over the crossbar. Paul Bowgett headed just over for Wealdstone, but then he lost his defensive partner, Dennis Byatt, with six minutes of the first-half remaining.

Robin Wainwright lashed a shot just wide at the start of the second half and then skipper Bob Stockley, a member of Batsford's championship winning team at Wimbledon, came to Borough's rescue. He hooked the ball off the line after the speedy Cordice had rounded Alan Dulleston and turned to shoot.

After 58 minutes Cordice came even closer to scoring when he rapped a fierce drive against a post. That was a real escape for Borough, but they quickly picked up the pace and Barry Lowe tested Goddard with a ferocious drive. Borough broke through in the 62nd minute with a goal that could prove so vital in their bid to complete a treble this term.

Alan Hoult, who replaced Don Nardiello on the hour, played a part in the goal with only his second touch. Tommy Robson flicked on a Mike McFarlane cross and Hoult's shot spun off a defender to Dale who blasted the ball home. Wealdstone pushed forward again but Dulleston managed to keep a clean sheet against a side with 100 league goals under their belt.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 17-04-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Parker, Hoult (Jones), Dale, Robson.

Borough made the journey to Wealdstone to play the Southern League Championship Match second leg.

Wealdstone beat Borough in a dramatic penalty showdown. The overall Southern League championship was finally decided at just after 10pm when striker Alan Cordice scored from the 12th penalty of the night. Cordice's winner, after Dale's spot kick had been saved came in a sudden death shoot out after both teams were still level after one series of penalties.

But it was a real shame that there had to be a loser in this epic. It would have been much better to have seen the shield shared. The second leg proved to be a thriller from start to finish with enough incidents to keep the crowd talking about for most of the close season.

The catalogue of exciting incidents including a great save and the best goal of the season during a match which ended in controversy when Borough had a goal disallowed in the dying seconds of extra time.

Borough, defending a one-goal lead from the first-leg, were under constant pressure in an ill-tempered first half. Wealdstone came at Borough firing on all cylinders and the Manor Park side did well to soak up almost non-stop pressure. Borough did not have a goal attempt until two minutes before the interval when Alan Hoult headed over from Dale's cross.

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In the second half Wealdstone thought they had scored with just four minutes gone. Robin Wainwright headed in after Cordice had flicked on a Roy Davies' cross, but Wainwright was adjudged to have fouled Alan Dulleston. But Wealdstone levelled the aggregate score after 54 minutes when former Charlton player Gary Churchhouse scored with a superb overhead kick from Colin Hardman's free-kick.

Wealdstone charged forward again and ten minutes from the end of normal time Dulleston made the save of the season, diving full length to grab and hold a rocket of a shot from Wainwright that was destined for the top corner of the net. Three minutes from full-time Borough had penalty appeals turned down when Paul Bowgett looked to have handled a shot from Hoult. A minute later Wealdstone skipper Bowgett was booked for dissent.

But Borough showed real character as they stormed back into the attack and were rewarded with their goal of the season just a minute from the end of the first period of extra time. Dale found McFarlane on the right and the midfielder sent in a beautiful cross and there was Dale to score with a full length diving header from 10 yards out.

However, Borough's joy turned to sadness when poor Richard Dixey conceded an own goal in the dying seconds of the first period. Cordice crossed from the right and with Dulleston staying his ground, Dixey headed past his own keeper. In the second period of extra time Sandercock was booked for a foul on Cordice but then Dale hit the woodwork with a far post header. Dale was again denied when Borough were robbed of a winner in the dying seconds of extra time. The striker beat Goddard with a brave header but it was ruled out for offside.

So the match went to penalties and it was the goalkeepers who shone with only five of the 12 penalties converted. Phil Sandercock scored from the first of Borough's five spot kicks and then Wealdstone skipper Bowgett's effort was saved by Dulleston. Tommy Robson hit his penalty high, but it crashed off the top of the bar and down away from the goal line.



Alan Dulleston dives to block Wealdstone skipper Paul Bowgett's penalty kick during the penalty shoot out. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Pearce scored for Wealdstone to make it 1-1 and then McFarlane's effort was saved by Goddard. Davies scored for Wealdstone to make it 2-1 and Lowe levelled it at 2-2. Wainwright's penalty was saved by Dulleston but then substitute Jones missed and Hardman's shot was saved by Dulleston to keep it at 2-2.

Then in the sudden death Dale, who was reluctant to take a spot kick, saw his shot saved by Goddard and Cordice scored to give Wealdstone the championship shield.



Borough skipper Bob Stockley picks up the runners-up cup from retiring Southern League secretary Bill Dellow. And for the third time in their history Borough missed out on picking up the magnificent shield they have been trying to win since the late 1950s.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Southern League Midland 1981-82

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Borough	42	27	11	4	88	32	65
Alvechurch	42	26	10	6	79	34	62
Kidderminster Harriers	42	22	12	8	71	40	56
Stourbridge	42	21	10	11	69	47	52
Gloucester City	42	21	9	12	64	48	51
Bedworth United	42	20	10	12	59	40	50
Enderby Town	42	20	10	12	79	66	50
Witney Town	42	19	8	15	71	49	46
Barry Town	42	16	14	12	59	46	46
Corby Town	42	19	8	15	70	59	46
Merthyr Tydfil	42	16	12	14	63	54	44
Wellingborough Town	42	15	12	15	50	45	42
Bridgend Town	42	13	13	16	50	62	39
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	15	8	19	57	63	38
Bedford Town	42	12	13	17	45	54	37
Cheltenham Town	42	11	14	17	65	68	36
Taunton Town	42	12	8	22	46	76	32
Banbury United	42	11	8	23	63	91	30
Minehead	42	12	6	24	38	69	30
Cambridge City	42	10	8	24	38	80	28
Milton Keynes City	42	6	11	25	34	70	23
Redditch United	42	8	5	29	37	103	21

Rushden Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Rushden Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Jones, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Pugh.

Rushden: Payne, Timlin, Sinclair, Rutter, Pearson, Rodger, Gill, Burwood, Buckby, Spick, Higgins. Sub: McCowatt.

Tommy Robson, making his first-ever appearance in the FA Cup qualifying rounds, inspired Borough to a crushing win. And he did everything but score an elusive first home goal as Borough romped to victory – and a meeting with Lye Town in the next round.

He looked certain to score in the second half when he raced into the penalty area only to be felled by keeper Simon Payne as he lined up to shoot. Robson set up four of the six goals and was at the centre of every move as Borough outclassed their United Counties League opponents.

Everyone admired the courage of the visitors who kept battling away – but they were totally outplayed. They were unlucky to come up against a Borough side which was full of confidence and in devastating form in front of goal.

The onslaught started as early as the fourth minute. Roy Clayton ran on to a through ball from Richard Dixey and neatly flicked the ball past two defenders before firing a low shot into the net. Fourteen minutes later Borough increased their lead with a fine goal from Trevor Morley.

He worked a one-two with Phil Sandercock and the full back's cross was knocked down by Clayton for Morley to beat goalkeeper Payne with a crisp drive.

After 32 minutes Robson was involved in the move which brought up the third Borough goal. Mike McFarlane's cross seemed to be drifting away from Robson but the winger robbed full back John Timlin and wriggled his way past

two defenders to knock a short pass into the path of Jones who scored from close range.

Robson was the architect behind Borough's fourth goal, picking out Morley with a superb through ball and the fleet footed striker fired home from a narrow angle. Goal number five came after 63 minutes with Robson being hauled down by keeper Payne as he tried to push the ball past him and Jones stepped up to score from the penalty spot.

Borough made it six when Clayton became another two goal scorer with a well taken effort after he met a cross from Robson.

Borough sent on Eamonn Pugh in place of the injured Barry Lowe to loud cheers from the crowd.

The score equalled Borough's second best goal flourish in the first qualifying round. In 1962-63 they defeated Halesowen 6-1 at Manor Park, but in 1949-50 they demolished Moira 7-1.

Lye Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to The Sports Ground to play Lye Town in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Lye Town: Crannage, Plant, Cooper, V. Jones, Parry, Morton, K. Jones, Taylor, Walker, Geer, Gordon. Sub: Smith.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Jones, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Dale.

Lye Town is the sort of place where FA Cup shocks happen. And in their dour Black Country setting the home side came so close to upsetting Borough after bringing Graham Carr's Southern League table toppers down to their own level.

A replay, something that was not even mentioned before the match, seemed on the cards until winger Tommy Robson scored a glorious winner 16 minutes from time.

The second qualifying round tie was ample proof that anything can happen in the Cup as Borough struggled to find

their way through against the defiant West Midlands League minnows.

When Roy Clayton finally broke through after 48 minutes, Lye astonished everyone by immediately cashing in on hesitancy in the Borough defence to level the scores.

Robson emerged as the hero with the winner – but the Manor Park side looked very relieved after the match.

More than 400 Borough fans made the trip to Lye virtually doubling the home side's gate. But it was clear from the start that Borough were never going to have it all their own way.

They failed to score the early goal that has been coming in recent matches, with Robson heading against the bar and Mike McFarlane twice shooting over the top.

It was clear that Lye had been inspired by the prospect of playing Nuneaton and raised their game accordingly. In a frustrating first-half for the Manor Park side Barry Lowe was booked for a foul on Ray Taylor. But if anyone was going to lift Borough, it was Lowe, who was the only player to get to grips with a small and bumpy pitch.

He produced his best performance yet for Borough and played a big part in both of the goals. Three minutes into the second half Lowe chipped the ball through to Clayton who controlled the ball with his chest and brought it down to fire in a low shot which rolled over the line off the keeper's arms.

But just a minute after the Borough goal Lye equalised with Richard Dixey only half clearing a left wing cross and Vernon Jones stabbing the ball home.

Lye full-back Tony Plant was continually teased by Robson and was eventually booked after a series of fouls on the winger. From one of Robson's crosses after 62 minutes, Morley missed the best chance of the match. He shot wide of an open goal after McFarlane had brilliantly headed back Robson's cross straight to the feet of the striker.

But then Robson settled the match with a superb goal. He flicked up a Lowe through ball and turned to place the ball over keeper Andy Crannage's head from inside the box.

Tividale — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Tividale to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Lowe, Jones, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Dale.

Tividale: Hicklin, W. A. Totney, Wilding, Seymour, Bolton, W. R. Totney, Ball, Jackson, Norwood, Wood, David. Sub: Clarke.

Borough's biggest crowd of the season – just two short of 1,300 – proved that the Manor Park side are well and truly back in business. They braved the cold to watch Nuneaton march into the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup with a no-nonsense display against the West Midlands League side.

The Black Country outfit managed to net twice but Borough were always in command as they slammed in five

goals to stretch their unbeaten record this season to 16 games.

Borough made the first breakthrough after 17 minutes with Mike McFarlane heading back a Phil Sandercock cross and Trevor Morley's overhead kick bounced into the path of Roy Clayton who fired in his tenth goal of the season. But just two minutes later Tividale drew level with an unlucky own goal by Borough's McFarlane.

Bob Wood swung a hopeful ball into the area and it hit McFarlane on the back of the head and flew past Dulleston.

Barry Lowe, controlling the Borough midfield with another outstanding performance, pushed his side forward again and Nuneaton moved into the lead. Tommy Robson lost possession to Tividale full back Warren Totney, but he made a mess of the clearance and John Jones latched on to the loose ball and fired home with a crisp drive.

It was the bearded midfielder's seventh goal of the season and his best yet in his last Borough appearance

before jetting off on a three week business trip to Japan.



Trevor Morley scores his second goal of the game after evading the challenge of a Tividale defender. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

On 30 minutes Borough increased their lead with the second lucky goal of the match. Wood, whose cross at the other end was deflected in by McFarlane, hooked away a clearance which bounced off Morley and into the net.

In the second half Borough kept up the onslaught against the outplayed visitors and made it 4-1 after 68 minutes. Jones crossed and Clayton's volley was clawed away by keeper Dudley Hicklin but Robson tapped the ball into the net.

Ten minutes later Hicklin could not hold a shot from Morley after Clayton had turned back a McFarlane cross. A minute later Jones hit the post with a looping drive. Borough will want to forget the last five minutes of the cup-tie with Richard Dixey being booked for a foul on Darrel Norwood – and Tividale reducing the arrears.

A minute before the end Nicky David was left unmarked at the near post and flicked in a Norwood cross.

Borough are definitely on the cup trail but now it gets tougher and it will be interesting to see who their next opponents are – especially if they come from the Alliance.



Roy Clayton raises his arms in delight after firing Borough into the lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Tommy Robson watches the ball go in with the Bromsgrove keeper stranded as Gareth Dale (out of picture) scores his first goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bromsgrove Rovers — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Dale, McFarlane, Flannagan, Clayton, Morley, Robson. Sub: Hoult.

Bromsgrove: Lawrence, McGarry, O'Meara, Skinner, O'Connell, Warom, I. Smith, Lloyd, Truswell, Lolley, T. Smith. Sub: Clamp.

Gareth Dale struck two golden FA Cup goals for Borough – after a rocket from manager Graham Carr. Dale, back in the Borough spotlight after an eight month absence through injury, scored twice in ten minutes of the second half after Borough had trailed 1-0 at half-time.

Borough manager Carr admitted after the game: “I had a go at Gareth at half-time because he was not getting wide enough on the right.

“Although he was playing in midfield I wanted him to push further forward. He did just what I asked of him after the break and ended up scoring two goals.”

Borough battled back into this pulsating cup tie with a gritty second half display. They looked a different side to the one who struggled through a frustrating first half. John Glover rapped the bar with a well-directed header from Tommy Robson's corner. But after that Borough lost their way and Bromsgrove looked the more positive side.

The Manor Park side certainly missed injured Barry Lowe. The midfield lost possession far too frequently as Bromsgrove started to get on top. And the visitors produced a fine scoring chance on the half-hour with Alan Dulleston touching a shot from Kevin Truswell around the post.

However Truswell earned a reward after 32 minutes – cashing in on hesitancy in the Borough defence. Dale, later to be the Borough hero, lost possession in his own half and Rovers won a throw-in. Trevor Smith won the ball from the

throw and crossed for Truswell to nip in and fire a right foot shot past Dulleston.

A minute later Borough had their second penalty appeal turned down when Roy Clayton was challenged in the area. Borough had protested earlier in the match when Trevor Morley was tripped by Micky Warom.

In a sloppy end to the first-half by Borough, Richard Dixey, back after injury, was booked for the seventh time this season after an over-zealous challenge on Ian Smith and then Dulleston made a fine save from a Martin Lolley effort.

Carr's half-time pep talk must have lifted Borough and they were spurred on by a tremendous ovation from the crowd of just 2,000 – the biggest at Manor Park for two seasons.

Borough were level four minutes into the second half. Bob Stockley, overlapping on the right wing, met a short free kick from Mike McFarlane. The Borough skipper knocked the ball back to Dale who scored his first goal of the season with a low shot which took a slight deflection off Clayton.

Ten minutes later Borough went into



Gareth Dale charges in to head Borough's second goal as they hit back from behind to defeat Bromsgrove.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



the lead with Dale's second goal – an outstanding individual effort which brought the crowd to its feet.

Stockley, involved in the action again, headed down a Robson cross and Dale kicked the ball into the air rugby style and ran on to steer a header past Mike Lawrence in the Bromsgrove goal.

After 65 minutes Borough keeper Dulleston pulled off a brilliant save to deny fighting Bromsgrove an equaliser. He dived bravely at the feet of Truswell as he lined up to shoot. Dulleston needed treatment after his brave effort.

Borough almost scored a third when Morley, who had an inconsistent match, bolted down the left and centred across the face of the goal with Clayton just missing out.

Borough grew from strength to strength after taking the lead and Glover gave another towering performance at the heart of the defence.

Bishop Auckland — 1st Round Proper

Borough made the journey to Kingsway to play Bishop Auckland in a FA Cup 1st Round Proper tie.

Bishop Auckland: Owers, M. Newton, Rutherford, Hissett, Hills, Natrass, Richardson, Parnaby, Foster, D. Newton, Cross. Sub: Milford.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Sandercock, Dixey, Glover, Lowe, Jones, Dale, Clayton, Morley, Robson. Sub: Flannagan.

Graham Carr made a sad return to his native North East as Borough lost their unbeaten record and crashed out of the FA Cup.

And as inquests were held into the crowd trouble which marred the cup tie, one other burning question remained: "What went wrong on the pitch?"

The result was a disaster both on and off the pitch – on a day when the club's reputation was tarnished by the

mindless antics of a drunken minority at the match.

Fans spilled onto the pitch when hundreds of travelling supporters surged into the ground on the arrival of the delayed Borough special. Play was halted and it clearly upset the Borough team. But manager Graham Carr insisted: "That is not an excuse. On the day we were beaten by a better side.

"But I doubt whether Bishop Auckland will play as well again this season and I don't think we could play worse – it was one of those matches," he added.

Borough failed to reproduce the sparkling form that has taken them to the top of the Southern League as they were bundled out of the competition by a big, highly competitive home side.

An early goal from Bishops was always going to threaten Borough's hopes – and that is exactly what happened. With just three minutes gone Dennis Foster raced down the left in the home side's first attack and his cross was turned in by Kevin Cross.

Tommy Robson, also back in his homeland, beat one Bishops' defender, but found his path blocked by another as he tried to build up an attack. And that was the pattern of the game for most of the match as far as poor Robson was concerned.

Bishops had obviously done their homework on the former Newcastle player and Robson, who had really been looking forward to the match, hardly had a kick.

The Northern Leaguers were superbly marshalled at the back by Kevin Hills and Borough found no way through in the first half. Lynn Rutherford and Richard Dixey were booked in separate incidents in the first-half which ended in pandemonium as the supporters from the train piled into the ground.

Bishops had clearly underestimated the number of travelling supporters and

Burnley referee Derek Scott had little choice but to temporarily halt the game when the fans spilled on to the pitch.

During the interval police herded the late arrivals to another corner of the ground, including the minority who seemed hell bent on ruining Borough's day. At the start of the second half – and with both sides clearly shaken by the off the field events – Bishops' Tony Richardson unleashed a fierce drive which Dixey managed to block with a brave stop.

Then with five minutes of the half gone Barry Lowe struck his first goal for the club to put Nuneaton on level terms. Robson put him clear and the midfielder raced towards the penalty area and clipped a shot past keeper Phil Owers and into the top corner.

The equaliser really lifted Borough but indecisiveness just eight minutes later allowed Bishops to regain the lead. Borough lost possession in the middle of the park and Rutherford charged through to find John Parnaby, who crossed and the ball bobbed through to Foster who shot past Dulleston.

A minute later Morley tested Owers with a fierce shot and even though they were 2-1 down Borough still looked capable of making another strike.

But then after 70 minutes came the killer goal scored by Cross. Foster raced through to find the Bishop's striker and he evaded a tackle from John Jones to squeeze a shot into the corner of the net.

Ten minutes later Bishops made it 4-1 when Cross latched on to the ball and was allowed to shoot from the edge of the box and completed his hat-trick.

The fourth goal prompted an invasion from the Borough followers in a futile attempt to get the match abandoned.

They were quickly dispersed by the police and Borough played out the last five minutes of a cup tie which turned sour for the whole club.

Altrincham — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in a FA Trophy 1st Round Proper tie.

Altrincham: Connaughton, Allan, Davison, Goulding, Gardner, King, Heathcote, Whitbread, Johnson, Crossley, Howard. Sub: Owens.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, Jones, McFarlane, Dale, Morley, Clayton, Robson. Sub: Parker

Borough failed to lift a cup hoodoo despite dominating most of this FA Trophy match. Altrincham scored a narrow victory and now Graham Carr's team is left with one major objective – to lift the Southern League Midland Division crown – and make a swift return to the Alliance Premier League football.

Borough's dreams of a Wembley appearance were shattered with a goal in the second minute of a closely fought cup tie.

Pools of water covered a snow-free pitch which was rock-hard underneath – but the Cheshire side were able to take advantage when the playing surface was at its best.

Borough won a corner, but when the ball was crossed Mike McFarlane made a hash of a forward flick and the FA Cup giant-killers scampered away.

Graham Heathcote picked up the loose ball and ran a long way before finding Barry Howard with a precise through ball which left the Borough defence flat-footed.

Howard made the most of a perfect

through ball and ran on to beat Alan Dulleston with a well-placed drive.

Altrincham, boosted by the early goal, pushed forward in search of more goals and both Barry Whitbread and Ivan Crossley went close.

Borough skipper Bob Stockley was booked for tripping John King, but after 16 minutes he came to his side's rescue with a timely interception from Howard's lob.

After the Cheshire side's early burst Borough fought to get on top and dominated the next hour of the match with some enterprising football.

Altrincham virtually admitted they made every effort to get the game played so they could practice their shooting in preparation for the FA Cup tie at Burnley.

But they were in for a shock as Borough, despite the absence of Barry Lowe and Jon Sammels, took the match to the home side.

Said Altrincham manager Tony Sanders: "I always knew it was going to be tough against Nuneaton – they beat us 3-0 in the Alliance at our place last season – and it turned out that way.

"We were lucky to get an early goal, but after that they dominated the match and realised they had a chance of getting a result," he added.

Borough, given little chance of beating the home side, should have forced a replay but their FA Trophy ambitions fell down up front.

Roy Clayton, Trevor Morley and

Tommy Robson never got to grips with an Altrincham defence which was superbly marshalled by former Everton starlet Derek Goulding.

It was a great pity that the front three failed to click with the midfield and defence providing an excellent back up job.

McFarlane replaced the flu stricken Jon Sammels and John Jones was preferred to the less experienced Bobby Parker.

Jones, who appeared to be out of manager Carr's plans after a number of indifferent displays, gave an energetic performance and was well supported by McFarlane and the hard-working Gareth Dale.

But up front Borough lacked fire-power. Morley worked hard but with just one goal in 15 games, he is desperate to find the target again.

The conditions did not suit Robson and Clayton encountered similar problems with the pitch.

In fact the best Borough chance was created by a defender – John Glover after 72 minutes.

Jones sent in a pinpoint cross which Glover reached for and flashed a header goalwards which Altrincham keeper John Connaughton did well to save.

Borough were never really overawed by the FA Cup giant killers and battled to the final whistle to get a result.

But in the end the away trail brought more cup disappointment.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Southern League Midland: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1981-82

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.27	Oldbury United	A	PSF	3-2	Walker (2), Jones	
08.01	Hitchin Town	A	PSF	0-2		
08.03	V.S.Rugby	A	PSF	1-1	Clayton	
08.05	Kettering Town	H	PSF	1-1	Clayton	
08.08	Peterborough United	H	PSF	1-6	Clayton	
08.11	Northampton Town	H	PSF	0-2		
08.15	Cheltenham Town	A	L	3-2	Robson, Jones, Morley	458
08.17	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	SLC1-1L	2-1	Clayton (2)	725
08.22	Alvechurch	H	L	0-0		978
08.25	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	SLC1-2L	2-1	Robson (2)	312
08.29	Barry Town	H	L	1-1	Morley	754
08.31	Wellingborough Town	H	L	1-0	Jones (pen)	682
09.05	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	3-0	Richards (o.g.), Clayton, Morley	
09.08	Corby Town	A	L	4-2	Dixey, Robson, Clayton, Glover	
09.12	Bridgend Town	A	L	1-1	Robson	
09.14	Enderby Town	H	L	1-1	Morley	1081
09.19	Rushden Town	H	FAC 1Q	6-0	Clayton (2), Morley (2), Jones (2, 1 pen)	961
09.26	Cambridge City	H	L	4-1	Dixey, Morley, Clayton, Robson	846
09.30	Wellingborough Town	A	L	3-0	Robson, Jones (pen), Roberts (o.g.)	
10.03	Lye Town	A	FAC 2Q	2-1	Clayton, Robson	
10.10	Gloucester City	H	L	3-0	Jones (pen), Morley, Clayton	1065
10.17	Tividale	H	FAC 3Q	5-2	Morley (2), Clayton, Jones, Robson	1298
10.21	Willenhall Town	A	BSC 1	2-1	Robson, Morley	492
10.24	Minehead	H	L	1-0	Robson	1147
10.27	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	L	0-0		
10.31	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	FAC 4Q	2-1	Dale (2)	2003
11.07	Taunton Town	A	L	2-0	Sandercock (2 pens)	245
11.09	Enderby Town	A	SLC3*	2-2	Sandercock, Lane (o.g.)	835
11.11	Redditch United	A	MFC	1-2	Dale	
11.14	Witney Town	H	L	3-1	Sandercock (2 pens), Robson	1306
11.16	Enderby Town	H	SLC 3r	4-1	Dale (2), Morley, Clayton	1407
11.21	Bishop Auckland	A	FAC 1	1-4	Lowe	1425
11.23	Banbury United	H	BSC 2	0-1		431
11.28	Banbury United	H	L	2-3	Sandercock (pen), Clayton	
12.05	Bedford Town	A	L	2-0	Clayton, Dale	
01.02	Corby Town	H	L	3-1	Dale (2), Clayton (2)	831
01.04	Aylesbury Town	H	SLC QF	2-3	Sandercock (pen), Clayton	904
01.16	Altrincham	A	FAT 1	0-1		937
01.23	Banbury United	A	L	2-2	Jones, Dixey	
01.25	A.P.Leamington	H	MFC	1-0	Morley	402
01.26	Hinckley Athletic	A	MFC	3-2	Pugh (2), Waters	
01.30	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	0-1		579
02.01	Stafford Rangers	H	MFC	2-1	Hoult (2)	378
02.06	Barry Town	A	L	2-0	Robson (2)	
02.08	Cheltenham Town	H	L	1-1	Dale	835
02.13	Cambridge City	A	L	3-2	Dale (2), Morley	
02.17	Kettering Town	A	MFC	0-3		515
02.20	Bridgend Town	H	L	5-1	Dale (3), Robson (2)	837
02.23	Bedworth United	A	L	0-1		5157
02.27	Gloucester City	A	L	2-0	Robson, Sandercock (pen)	
03.01	Bedworth United	H	MFC	3-0	Hoult (2), Waters	637
03.06	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	L	0-1		768
03.08	Enderby Town	A	L	3-3	Morley, McFarlane, Dale	495

Southern League Midland: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1981-82

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.13	Minehead	A	L	3-1	Robson (2), Sandercock	
03.20	Redditch United	H	L	2-0	Robson, Morley	2009
03.22	Stourbridge	H	L	2-1	Robson, Dale	912
03.27	Taunton Town	H	L	2-0	Robson (2)	971
03.30	Milton Keynes City	A	L	3-0	Sammels, Parker, Sandercock (pen)	
04.03	Witney Town	A	L	1-1	Parker	
04.05	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	4-1	Nardiello (2), Hoult, Sandercock (pen)	928
04.10	Stourbridge	A	L	0-0		
04.12	Bedworth United	H	L	2-1	Glover, Parker	3014
04.14	Alvechurch	A	L	3-0	Robson, Parker, Nardiello	
04.17	Milton Keynes City	H	L	3-0	Sandercock (pen), Lowe, Parker	1108
04.20	Redditch United	A	L	5-0	Robson (2), McFarlane, Dale, Nardiello	
04.24	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	2-2	McFarlane (2)	
05.1	Bedford Town	H	L	1-0	Parker	1425
05.08	Wealdstone	H	SLCM 1L	1-0	Dale	1204
05.10	Wealdstone	A	SLCM 2L	1-2aet	Dale	

KEY : L = Southern League (Midland), SLCM = Southern League Championship Match, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, SLC= Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1981-82

Back: Dave Looms (trainer), Graham Carr (manager), Derek Walker, Alan Hoult, John Glover, Alan Dulleston, Richard Dixey, John Jones, Barry Lowe, John Sammels (player-coach).

Front: Trevor Morley, Roy Clayton, Bob Stockley (captain), Tommy Robson, Phil Sandercock.



Borough To Peg Admission Prices

Nuneaton Borough are to keep the admission price at £1 for their return to the Alliance Premier League. The board have also offered reductions to those fans who purchase season tickets before the end of the month. Announcing the club's decision, chairman Noel Kelly said: "We've had a look at the present economic situation and decided it would be the best thing to do."

Supporters who wish to buy grandstand season tickets will earn a £6.30 reduction if they purchase them by the end of this month.

Hughie Todner Joins Borough Board

Hughie Todner, chief executive of the East Mercia Co-op, is the latest recruit to the Nuneaton Borough board of directors. Mr Todner took up his new role and announced that he will be responsible for administration and financial matters. He said: "My main aim is to help the club overcome its present financial problems. I will devote my time to the administration."

Borough Video Show

Nuneaton Borough are to show a video film of the Easter derby with Bedworth United at Manor Park Social Club on Thursday at 7.30pm. The film will comprise full highlights of the match, which Borough won 2-1 before a 3,000 crowd. Entrance admission will be by £1 raffle ticket.

Borough Plan Economy Cuts

Nuneaton Borough are planning a major cost-cutting exercise to boost their sagging finances. Chairman Noel Kelly said today that the board were to look at ways of reducing the club's outlay – and that cuts would take place "across the board" at Manor Park. The policy is the latest move in Borough's bid to put themselves back on a firm financial footing.

No FA Cup Exemption

Nuneaton Borough have again failed to gain exemption in the FA Cup. They have reached the First Round Proper eight times in the past ten seasons but will still have to start from scratch this term. Borough who regained their Alliance Premier League status, begin their programme in the first qualifying round.

Sammels To Leave

Nuneaton Borough player-coach Jon Sammels is leaving the club. The former Leicester City and Arsenal midfield star has failed to agree terms for next season, but the parting is an amicable one.

Financial Crisis Board Meeting

Nuneaton Borough's board face another crucial meeting next week to discuss the perilous state of the club's finances. Borough have been fighting to overcome a series of money

problems since last spring. It was announced then that Borough were in danger of folding – and although that immediate headache was avoided, it is obvious that the club is still not out of the financial mire.

Kelly Warns On State Of Club

Chairman Noel Kelly has warned that the next three months are crucial to hard-up Nuneaton Borough if they are to maintain their status as a top-flight non-league club.

Kelly said that the club's supporters could be watching West Midlands League soccer in a few years time unless more people come forward to help the stricken Alliance Premier League side. Borough are fighting for their financial lives at present and Kelly admits: "It may mean having to climb to the top of Nuneaton clock tower to shout at people to come along and help."

"I'm not sure if the town realises the position we are in and how hard we are fighting to overcome our poor financial position," said Kelly. "We can only do so much – we need more people to present themselves to us and say that they want to become involved," he added.

"The manager has brought some good players to the club and he has not let us down as we are now back in the Alliance Premier League. But we can't afford to keep good players in our present state and we will eventually end up in the West Midlands League with a weakened team if people don't help out," he added.

"I recently wrote 150 letters to people inviting them to our Meet The Directors evening, but the attendance was disappointing considering we had free food and drink," said the Borough chairman...

Morley On The Way Back

Borough striker Trevor Morley is taking the first painful steps towards recovery. The 21-year-old dislocated his knee last season and missed the final weeks of Borough's surge toward the Southern League Midland Division title. His performances during the season – he scored 16 goals in all competitions – were instrumental in Borough's success, but he collected the injury in March with the championship still wide open.

Nardiello Leaves Borough

Former Coventry City winger Don Nardiello has left Nuneaton Borough. Nardiello, a Welsh international during his spell at Highfield Road, made 11 appearances for Borough at the tail end of the season and scored four goals. Said manager Graham Carr: "I am afraid Don no longer figures in my plans."

Two Borough Directors Resign

Two Nuneaton Borough FC directors have resigned – heightening speculation about the future of the cash-strapped town's soccer club. Mr Hugh Todner has quit – after just six weeks on the board – and Mr John Moore, a director for the past four years, has also resigned it has been revealed. Both said they were leaving Manor Park for "personal reasons".

Players Accept Wage Cut

Nuneaton Borough's players have accepted a wages cut to ease the club's financial burden. The thirteen professionals agreed to a reduction in their overall salary after the board of directors highlighted the cash problems at Manor Park. It is understood from a reliable source that the players' basic wage will not be affected by the cutbacks but there will be a considerable reduction in bonus payments.

John Evans Shocked By Resignations

Nuneaton Borough secretary John Evans returned from holiday at the weekend "shocked and bewildered" at the resignation of two directors. Evans said today that he was "very disappointed" over the decision by Hughie Todner and John Moore to step down from the board. The Borough secretary was away on a canal trip when speculation grew about his own future as a director with the club.

He said today: "I am trying to piece together what has been going on in my absence and, until I have done this, I will not make any comment on my own position."

Borough Back In Training



Trevor Morley, who dislocated his knee at the end of March, shows his touch on the ball during a training session at Manor Park. Borough are preparing for their return to the Alliance Premier League amid a backcloth of speculation about the future of the club. And while chairman Noel Kelly and the board bid to solve the club's financial problems the playing staff is concentrating on their fitness.

Pictured (left to right): Graham Carr (manager), Mike McFarlane, Tim Garner, Paddy Walle, Micky Burke, Trevor Morley and Adrian Waters.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bedworth Chase Hout

Bedworth United are hoping to sign Nuneaton striker Alan Hout before the start of the new season. Bedworth manager John Brady confirmed today that he had approached Borough with the view to signing Hout, and had already had initial talks with the player.

Borough Appeal Fund Auction



Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly sets out to hammer home the club's bid to gain a firm financial footing. And, in an attempt to boost funds, a grand auction is being held at Manor Park on Monday night in aid of the club's appeal fund. Midlands television presenter Alan Towers will be helping to bring some of the items under the hammer.

A second-hand Ford Escort car, golf clubs, electric fire and divan bed have already been donated to the club. Kelly holds up the shirt that Coventry athlete Dave Moorcroft wore when he won a gold medal in the 1500 metres at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Tommy Robson Player Of The Year

Terrific Tommy Robson celebrated his 38th birthday with a new title – Nuneaton Borough Player of the Year. The former Peterborough winger, who is now a firm favourite at Manor Park, was the supporters choice ahead of last season's winner John Glover.

Robson, who joined Borough on a free transfer from Peterborough, said after last night's presentation: "I was pleased to be able to repay the faith manager Graham Carr had in me. I still love the game of football and this award really means a lot to me."



Tommy Robson is pictured receiving the Player of the Year award from director Don Hammond. Also pictured are secretary John Evans and chairman Noel Kelly.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Short Of Players

Nuneaton Borough open their pre-season friendlies at Wellingborough with no new faces in their expected line-up. Manager Graham Carr has had such a struggle to name a team that former Coventry City winger Don Nardiello, who left the club three weeks ago, will probably play.

1982-83

Wellingborough Town v Nuneaton Boro' 03-08-1982

Borough (from): Dulleston, Stockley, Burke, Dixey, Glover, McFarlane, Parker, Morley, Robson, Dale, Nardiello, Walle, Johnson, Waters.

Borough made the journey to Wellingborough Town to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough began their warm-up matches with a 2-0 defeat at the Dog and Duck. Wellingborough took the lead during the opening half and sealed their victory with another goal in the dying seconds.

Highgate United v Nuneaton Borough 05-08-1982

Borough made the journey to Highgate United to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough secured a 2-1 win over Midland Combination Highgate in their second pre-season friendly. Victory was achieved in a thunderstorm, but it should leave Borough in a confident frame of mind. Highgate took the lead courtesy of a John Glover own goal before newcomer Steve Johnson levelled for the Manor Park side.

Striker Trevor Morley grabbed the winner for Borough as he continued his return to fitness after dislocating his knee last season. An experienced Scotsman, Ian Hendry, who played for Hibernian last term, was given a run out by Carr – at left back. “He did very well, but is committed to playing for Gloucester City tomorrow,” said Carr.

Alvechurch v Nuneaton Borough

09-08-1982

Borough made the journey to Alvechurch to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough welcomed back Phil Sandercock and included ex-Hibernian player Ian Hendry, but slipped to a 2-1 defeat against the Worcestershire outfit. Winger Tommy Robson scored the Borough goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Oxford United

10-08-1982

Borough (from): Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Sandercock, McFarlane, Parker, Lowe, Hendry, Dale, Morley, Robson, Nardiello, Brown, Burke.

Borough welcomed Oxford United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough posed few problems for their Third Division guests. Oxford showed why they narrowly missed promotion last term with a dominant display that Graham Carr's part-timers could never hope to match. The game was completely controlled by the league side, with their measured build-ups always threatening danger.

Menacing striker Trevor Hebbard twice forced Borough keeper Alan Dulleston into fine saves, and then headed narrowly wide before Oxford finally broke through after 30 minutes. Hebbard fired in a teasing cross and centre-forward Steve Higgins, newly-recruited from Shrewsbury, netted with an easy header.

Borough's only chance before the interval saw former Manor Park favourite Tim Smithers block a Gareth Dale shot from a promising position. Much of the home side's approach work lacked cohesion and most raids were cut out well before the penalty area, and it was no surprise when Oxford grabbed a second two minutes after the re-start.

Higgins released Gary Barnett and the former Coventry City midfielder hammered home a fine dipping 30-yard drive. Bobby Parker replaced Mike McFarlane after 57 minutes and almost pulled one back with a header into the side-netting, but Oxford sealed victory with a third ten minutes from time.

Striker Mick Winter, recently signed from Wrexham for £20,000 took a pass from Bedworth-born schemer Ray Train, went forward and drilled a 25-yard special past the helpless Dulleston. The scoreline reflected the visitors' domination.

Hendry Signs For Borough

Versatile Ian Hendry lines up in the Borough side for their league opener against Yeovil Town tomorrow. The former Aston Villa, Hereford and Hibernian man has joined Borough on a non-contract basis.

Sandercock Forced To Quit Borough

Full-back Phil Sandercock has been forced to quit Borough because of his job. Sandercock, who only missed one league game last season, has been promoted in his work as a car salesman and is not available on Saturdays.



Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 14-08-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, Hendry, Lowe, McFarlane, Morley, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Parker.

Yeovil: Langley, Gold, Ritchie, Giles, Andrews, Beck, Woodward, James, Platt (Bell), Hawkins, Brown.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough goalkeeper Alan Dulleston was a sensational first day victim of the FA's new get tough approach to the game. Dulleston was sent off under the new regulations regarding the "professional foul" in a dramatic start to the season.

But ten man Borough, with left winger Tommy Robson taking over between the sticks, were still able to clinch a confidence boosting win over the Westcountrymen. Dulleston received his marching orders in a moment of high drama 17 minutes into the second half.

Centre-half Richard Dixey gave the ball away 20 yards out to Yeovil substitute Andy Bell, on for the injured Dave Platt. Bell rounded the advancing goalkeeper who dived out of his area and on to the ground to grab the ball.

Wolverhampton referee Terry Holbrook wasted few seconds in banishing Dulleston to the dressing rooms. It may have been seen by Borough as a harsh interpretation of the rules but the fact remains that Dulleston handled the ball to prevent another player scoring a goal – that is a deemed under the new interpretation as a "professional foul" and punishable by dismissal.

Borough were leading 2-1 at the time of Dulleston's sending off but did not get rattled and rallied again to add a third and clinch the points. The incident regarding Dulleston cannot take the shine off an impressive opening day performance from Graham Carr's men.

Their play in the first few minutes was full of vigour and they were rewarded with a goal in the tenth minute. Midfield man Mike McFarlane charged down an attempted clearance 25 yards out and ran on to beat the advancing Steve Langley with a delightful chip.

However Yeovil managed a quick reply, levelling the scores after 27 minutes of play. Dulleston stepped out of his area taking a goal kick and referee Holbrook awarded a free kick on the edge of the box. Peter Hawkins knocked a short pass to Jeremy Brown, who beat the Borough wall – and Dulleston – with a well-placed drive.

Defender Dixey rose majestically above two Yeovil defenders to direct a free header past Langley and restored Borough's lead. After 62 minutes Dulleston was involved in the incident that led to his sending off with Robson taking over. And the Manor Park side snatched a third ten minutes from time when Morley brilliantly turned inside Malcolm Gold and beat Langley with a well-placed shot.

Dulleston Banned For Two Matches

Nuneaton Borough keeper Alan Dulleston, is banned for two matches after his sending off for committing a "professional foul" on Saturday. The suspension does not start for 14 days, but he misses the home league game with champions Runcorn on August 28 and an Alliance Cup tie against Stafford Rangers two days later.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough 17-08-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, Hendry, Lowe, McFarlane, Morley, Dale, Robson. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in an Alliance Premier League game.

Ten minutes of madness sent Borough tumbling to defeat. They had comfortably contained the home side for more than an hour but suddenly lost their way. After looking more than capable Borough carelessly tossed away the chance with some sloppy play.

The "jitters" started in the 64th minute when Alan Dulleston almost fumbled the ball over his own goal line and nine minutes later Bob Stockley made an error which led to the Barnet goal. But the defeat was rough justice on Borough, particularly John Glover, who had a magnificent game at the heart of the back four and still finished on the losing side.

Stockley, skipping an unchanged Borough side, shot narrowly wide with an angled left foot drive as the Manor Park team made their challenge. Mike McFarlane's fierce shot which Gary Lewin failed to hold almost put Borough ahead and two minutes before half-time Trevor Morley shot wide from Tommy Robson's through ball.

Barnet made a bright start to the second half with Gary Sargent, who scored a spectacular goal against Brighton in the FA Cup last season, almost matching the effort with a dipping drive that went wide. The North Londoners did all the attacking but Borough contended comfortably with their challenge – until the rot set in. Ironically Borough fell apart after they had created their best chance of the match.

Barry Lowe weaved his way through the Barnet defence and lofted the ball over to Robson who snatched at his shot and the ball blazed over the bar. Robson's chance came after 57 minutes and then minutes later Borough were all at sea. Dulleston almost fumbled a low drive from Colin Barnes over the line but managed to retrieve the ball just in time.

Borough were really unsettled at that stage and a frustrated Morley was booked for an off the ball challenge on Garner. After 75 minutes Barnet punished Borough for their lapse with a goal. Instead of hacking the ball to safety Stockley tried to play the ball back to Dulleston, but was blocked by Atkins and Borough eventually had to concede a corner.

From Ronnie Howells' cross, Barnes ghosted in to arrive on the goal line and beat Dulleston with a downward header. It was a disappointing finale for Borough.



Holmes Says No To Borough

Barnet striker Billy Holmes has turned down the chance to join Nuneaton Borough. Borough manager Graham Carr asked Holmes to play for him at Trowbridge Town, but was told by the player “I am not interested.”

Trowbridge v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1982

Trowbridge: Smeulders, Collicutt, Tanner, Harris, Harding, Secker (Maynard), Birchenall, Tainton, Wright, Davies, Armstrong.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, McFarlane (Parker), Lowe, Hendry, Johnson, Morley, Robson.

Borough made the journey to Trowbridge to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Trevor Morley scored two cracking goals at Frome Road as Borough won another three points. Morley struck two lethal blows in the ninth and 43rd minutes but the match also introduced an exciting new discovery in the muscular shape of Steve Johnson. Gareth Dale (flu), Alan Hoults (groin strain) and Don Nardiello (ankle injury) were all ruled out so black striker Johnson, a close season signing from Coventry Alliance champions Triumph, came in for his first team debut. Johnson, nicknamed Cyrille because of his resemblance to the WBA striker Cyrille Regis, made the most of his opportunity with an impressive performance.

Borough made a confident start on the sloping pitch and Johnson knocked the ball down to Mike McFarlane who drove the ball wide in the second minute. Johnson dispossessed Armstrong and then played the ball to Hendry on the left wing. Hendry knocked the ball to Robson and he picked out Morley with a delightful flick for the striker to evade the diving challenge of keeper John Smeulders and score with a shot from a tight angle.

Borough keeper Alan Dulleston made a remarkable save to keep Trowbridge out after 22 minutes. The keeper could not hold Tainton's shot but despite being on the floor he still managed to get a hand to Wayne Secker's follow up shot and tip it over the crossbar. Dulleston made another lunge to deny Tainton before Borough increased their lead two minutes from half-time.

The same three players – Hendry, Robson and Morley – were involved in the move that brought the second goal. Morley's finishing was deadly as he beat Smeulders with a scorching shot after a move down the left wing. Trowbridge tried to repair the damage in the second half but were constantly bundled out of their stride by the highly competitive visitors.

Johnson's blistering pace brought gasps from the crowd. Bobby Parker was introduced into his first Alliance match of the season when McFarlane limped off with a pulled hamstring. After 75 minutes the explosive Johnson almost scored when he raced into the penalty area but his shot was blocked by Smeulders and Hendry fired the rebound over the bar. Burke cleared off the line in the final minutes.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 24-08-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Burke, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Dale, Johnson, Morley, Robson. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Bob Lord Trophy first round first leg tie.

A well executed drive from veteran Tommy Robson put Borough firmly in the driving seat for the second leg. The tie was always controlled by the visitors, who quickly gained confidence after Robson's early break in just two minutes. Although still without the services of Mike McFarlane and Barry Lowe, striker Gareth Dale did return after a bout of flu. He and fellow forwards Trevor Morley and Steve Johnson posed a continual threat to a struggling Rangers side still seeking their first win of the season.

The vital goal that separated the teams resulted from an Ian Hendry corner, which was only half cleared, and Robson took full advantage to find the net with a rising shot from 20 yards. With Richard Dixey and John Glover containing the home firing line, Borough went in at the break fully deserving their interval advantage.

The second half was more evenly contested, but Borough had an early scare when Rangers were awarded a penalty. Keeper Alan Dulleston, who misses the return leg through suspension, brought down Steve Burr as he was about to add the finishing touches to a fine solo effort. This time Dulleston remained on the field and emerged a hero, diving to his right to get behind Paul Lippitt's 54th minute spot kick.

Dulleston again came to his side's rescue midway through the second-half, blocking a goalbound close-range effort from Brendan Drummond. That was the end of Rangers' brief challenge, however, and Borough finished the first leg in charge again, and could well have secured a bigger victory.

Nuneaton Borough v Runcorn 28-08-1982

Borough: Garner, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, Parker, Hendry, Robson, Morley, Johnson, Dale. **Sub:** Brown.

Runcorn: Parker, Kettle, Roberts, Edwards, Fraser, Smith, Imrie, Crompton, Skeete, Ellis, Joel. **Sub:** Jones.

Borough welcomed Runcorn to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

For all their hard work, Borough never had the ammunition to become only the ninth team in Alliance matches to beat champions Runcorn. Borough earned a poor reward for their efforts, but no-one could deny the Cheshire side their well-deserved win. It was plain for all to see how Runcorn managed to lift the Alliance title at the first attempt last season.

Two second half goals ended the Borough challenge and Carr said: “we battled hard for more than an hour, but we never looked like breaking through.” Carr's team, ravaged by injury and unavailability problems, found themselves up against a green and yellow wall – and they eventually wilted in the heat.

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Runcorn dealt comfortably with Borough's strikes on goal and then notched two goals in the last 22 minutes of the match. Stand-in goalkeeper Tim Garner could not be faulted for either goal as Runcorn stormed forward in a late burst. Garner had a fine game in place of the suspended Alan Dulleston and if there was one bright spot in the defeat it came from the Leicestershire youngster.

Two other youngsters, Micky Burke and Steve Johnson, are finding out what the Alliance League is about. Both players found the going tough and striker Johnson will want to forget this game. After his impressive arrival at Trowbridge last week he was out of his depth against the champions and in his frustration picked up a 39th minute booking.

Trevor Morley was again the pick of the strikers and he was involved in Borough's best move which should have brought a goal. Richard Dixey's long punt out of defence caught Runcorn pushing forward and Morley found himself clear but from 20 yards out could not test the keeper with his fierce drive.

In the second half it was Morley again who tried to inspire Borough and he set the crowd alight with some superb play. He beat defenders Brian Kettle and Bobby Fraser and ran on to fire a low shot which Brian Parker in the Runcorn goal scrambled away. Then in the 68th minute it was Runcorn who forced the breakthrough and after that they delighted the crowd with some great play.

The opening goal came when Mike Roberts split the Borough defence with a long pass out to Steve Joel who crossed and skipper Ossie Smith knocked the ball home. And then four minutes from time Runcorn wrapped up the points when John Imrie crossed from the right wing and Ron Ellis chested the ball down and struck a powerful shot past Garner.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 30-08-1982

Borough: Garner, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, Walle, Brown (Waters), Parker, Phipps, Morley, Robson.

Stafford: Dance, Williams, Lippitt, Mallaburn, Harris, Richardson, Burr, Kabia, Hanchard, Rich, Westwood. **Sub:** Drummond.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Bob Lord Trophy first round second leg tie.

The handicap of losing eight players proved too great as Borough were dumped out of the Alliance Cup. Former Atherstone United striker Steve Burr scored the goals that cancelled out Borough's one goal advantage from the first leg. And only stand-in keeper Tim Garner's superb display prevented Stafford scoring more goals against makeshift Borough. Former Kettering striker Peter Phipps lined up for Borough. Defender Derek Brown and winger Paddy Walle joined Bobby Parker in a hastily assembled midfield.

Borough spent most of the first half finding their feet while Stafford had plenty of possession but were let down by inaccurate passing. Rangers created two good chances in the first half hour with Martin Hanchard diving full length but

unable to reach Burr's cross and then Paul Lippitt shot just wide of the far post. Garner rescued Borough after some poor marking in the 28th minute when he blocked Hanchard's header and then dived on the ball as Burr moved in.

There was a brief respite in Stafford's dominance when John Glover shot just over after 13 minutes and three minutes later Trevor Morley went close with a fierce drive. Garner continued to impress in the Borough goal and just before half-time made a fine save from Lippitt's well struck free-kick. Borough were the better side in the opening minutes of the second half and Phipps, who had a quiet debut, shoulder charged his marker out of action and defender Dave Harris did well under pressure to clear his cross.

In a hectic three minute spell Stafford came storming back and were rewarded with a goal that levelled the aggregate scores. Garner saved well from Jim Kabia but Stafford scored after Harris hit the bar with a header and the ball was turned back by Hanchard who found Rich and Burr ran on to his back heel and rifled a shot past Garner. After 64 minutes Borough's frantic appeals for offside were ignored as Hanchard raced clear and rounded Garner, but put his shot wide.

Stafford pushed forward in search of more goals and Garner excelled again with a great stop from Burr's shot. But Burr was on target 12 minutes from time with the goal that put Borough out of the competition. Man of the match Kevin Westwood crossed from the right and Burr charged in to give Stafford the lead.

Morley fought a one-man battle up front and almost pulled Borough out of the fire two minutes from time, but Trevor Dance blocked two efforts from the striker.

Carr In Talks With Smithers

Tim Smithers, a firm favourite at Manor Park before his transfer to Oxford United, could be a target for Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr. Smithers watched Borough's Alliance game with Runcorn on Saturday after not being considered for Oxford's League opener at Gillingham. Carr was involved in talks with the player after the match, and said: "I would be very interested if he became available."

Lye Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-09-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Brown, Dixey, Glover, Burke, Parker, Walle, Waters, Morley, Robson, Phipps. **Sub:** Stockley.

Borough made the journey to Lye Town to play a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Weakened Nuneaton staged a magnificent second half recovery to book their place in the next round at Stourbridge Road. Trailing at half-time, Borough battled back to secure their passage in a Trevor Morley inspired revival.

Borough, still smarting from successive home defeats, had looked set for an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the West Midland League outfit at the break. They were a goal



down after 27 minutes when Colin Walker broke clear down the left and crossed for Vernon Jones to shoot past Alan Dulleston at the far post. And just four minutes later their defence was in further trouble when Derek Brown handled inside the box and Jones stepped up to score his second goal from the spot.

Morley had provided Borough's few attacking glimpses in the first half – driving just wide and then seeing Andy Crannage save well from a shot on the turn – and in the 63rd minute he was finally rewarded for his efforts. Jones made a terrible mess of a back pass and Morley nipped in to shoot home a superb opportunist goal.

Ray Smith missed a golden chance to snatch a third for Lye when he shot straight at Dulleston in the 73rd minute, but Borough shook off the scare to throw everything into attack for the final assault. And two goals in the last ten minutes brought them a dramatic victory. Morley's shot was deflected past Crannage for the equaliser and in the 80th minute and four minutes later Robson took advantage of a defensive error to score the winner.

Carr Signs Russell Gordon

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr may introduce another new face into his line-up for the match against Bangor. He is utility player Russell Gordon who played more than 20 times for Coventry City's Central League side last season. Gordon joined Borough last night and is included in the squad for the trip to North Wales.

Bangor City v Nuneaton Borough 04-09-1982

Bangor: Kilner, Gray, Roberts, Jones, Whelan, Lunn, Urquhart, Fear, Carter, Howat, Ratcliff. **Sub:** Murphy.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Glover, Dixey, Burke, Gordon, Hendry, Robson, Morley, Dale, Phipps. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough made the journey to Bangor City to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough tossed away a two goal lead and suffered their heaviest defeat since April 1981. And the most striking aspect of a truly remarkable game was Bangor's five goal salvo with ten men after goalkeeper John Kilner was sent off. But this was no ordinary Alliance match with four penalty awards, the Kilner dismissal, three bookings and seven goals.

Borough's demise came swiftly and unexpectedly as they gave a Jekyll and Hyde performance at Farrar Park. Manager Graham Carr labelled the display as a disgrace and was dismayed that his side lost heavily after such a good start.

Borough's smooth rail journey to North Wales prompted the Manor Park side to start like an express train and they should have been one up in four minutes. Keeper Kilner tripped Morley after the Borough striker had run on to Gareth Dale's pass and rounded the Bangor goalkeeper. Tommy Robson set the scene on a match of high drama when his weakly struck penalty was saved by Kilner.

Despite the save Kilner still had to argue with referee Arnold Robinson and collected a booking for dissent. Kilner's arguing proved to be his downfall in the 20th minute when he was given his marching orders by the referee after tripping Peter Phipps in a carbon copy of Borough's first spot kick. This time the end result was right for Borough as Ian Hendry converted the penalty past stand-in keeper Mark Gray for his first goal since joining the club.

Richard Dixey collected a 27th minute booking but a minute later Borough made it 2-0. With the home side appealing for offside, Morley latched on to Dale's through ball and slotted home his fourth league goal in five matches. Instead of deflating Bangor the second goal seemed to rouse them into action and they came storming back into the match.

Bangor's star man Paul Whelan half volleyed just over and Alan Dulleston made fine stops from Ian Howat and Mark Carter before the home side pulled a goal back. Dixey fouled Whelan in the penalty area and ex-Bristol City man Keith Fear made no mistake from the third spot kick awarded by the referee. Morley was unlucky not to make it 3-1 to Borough three minutes into the second half when he unleashed a shot which rebounded off the crossbar.

But then two goals in as many minutes put Bangor in the lead as they staged a dramatic fightback which enthralled the home fans and came as a sorry sight to the travelling Borough supporters. After 56 minutes Fear scored his second goal from the penalty spot after John Glover had fouled Carter. Two minutes later Bangor were ahead when Whelan pushed the ball through to Carter who resisted Micky Burke's challenge to score.

In the 75th minute Carter again got the better of the tiring Burke and jockeyed inside the young left back before shooting under the body of Dulleston. Borough decline was complete when Howat scored with a header from Fear's free-kick in the last minute of the match.

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet 06-09-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Brown, Hendry, McFarlane, Lowe, Gordon, Dale, Morley, Phipps. **Sub:** Robson.

Barnet: Levin, Pittaway, Martin, Rowell (Barratt), Kruse, Garner, Stein, Ragan, Atkins, Barnes, Sargeant.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Much-improved Borough shook off the disaster at Bangor to collect another three Alliance points. The all-important goal was scored by Gareth Dale as Borough avenged a 1-0 defeat at Underhill three weeks ago. It was generally a scrappy game, but Borough manager Graham Carr must have been pleased with the way the players answered his demands for greater commitment.

Midfield men Barry Lowe and Mike McFarlane both returned after five match absences. But Carr left out left-back Micky

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Burke with midfield man Ian Hendry taking over. Tommy Robson was named as substitute. Carr's tactical plan in dropping Hendry back from midfield paid dividends and he had a hand in the only goal. Peter Phipps was well to the fore in the early Borough attacks and from his seventh minute cross Barnet keeper Gary Lewin did well to scramble the ball away. More good work by Phipps in the 34th minute resulted in Trevor Morley being brought down amid appeals for a penalty and McFarlane flashing a shot just wide.

Lewin almost made a fatal error in the 36th minute when he missed a bobbling shot from McFarlane and was content to somehow claw the ball away for a corner. Borough's all action start earned the right reward when they took the lead in the 40th minute with a fine goal. The impressive Hendry played a defence splitting ball from one side of the field to the other for Phipps to cross for Gareth Dale to head home his first goal of the season.

Barnet caused Borough a couple of anxious moments just before half-time with Colin Barnes going close on both occasions. Five minutes into the second half Borough were just a whisker away from taking a 2-0 lead. Phipps ran well and found Dale who fired across the face of the goal and his shot clipped the inside of the far post. For the next 30 minutes Borough were pinned back on the defensive as Barnet pressed for an equaliser.

Ronnie Howell cut inside Lowe and shot just wide and then Eddie Stein fired across the goal with an effort similar to the one created by Dale. But Borough looked solid in defence as they dealt with the Barnet attack and Derek Brown did another excellent stint, replacing the unavailable John Glover. Borough's star on the night along with Hendry was again Morley and he was involved in three moves in the last ten minutes which could have provided more goals.

In the 80th minute he broke clear on his own, but waited for support before eventually finding Hendry, who shot wide. Three minutes later a delightful flick from the striker set Dale clear, who crossed and Phipps missed his kick. A minute after that Morley hit the post with a great effort after some excellent support work by Phipps.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 11-09-1982

Weymouth: Roberts, Lawrence, Paul Morrell, Elliott, Merrick, Finnigan, Baber, Arnold, Iannone, Borthwick, Johnson. **Sub:** Peter Morrell.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Hendry, McFarlane, Lowe, Gordon, Morley, Dale, Phipps. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to play Weymouth in an Alliance Premier League game.

Ian Hendry was cursing his luck after Borough crashed to their 17th defeat in 20 matches played at the Recreation Ground. The 22-year-old ex-Villa and Hibs player missed a penalty three minutes into the second half, when Borough were trailing 2-0, which ruined their chances of getting back into the match during their best spell of the game.

In the end Borough paid a heavy price for missing a good chance in the early minutes of the game. The match had only been going three minutes when Trevor Finnigan made a hash of a clearance to let Trevor Morley in, who rounded keeper Kevin Roberts but shot inches wide of an open goal. It was a good chance wasted but it is difficult to fault Morley's performance as he was again the best player in the Borough side on Saturday. It is little wonder on his recent showings that a number of league clubs are casting their eyes over him.

After Mike McFarlane went close with a spectacular effort Weymouth reacted to the early scare by taking a 15th minute lead. Morley headed away a Finnigan corner but Gary Borthwick turned the ball back into the area and after a scramble Anniello Iannone fired home.

Borough survived penalty appeals when Richard Dixey appeared to trip Mark Baber from behind. However, it was only a short reprieve for Borough as the home side increased their lead after 29 minutes when left-back Paul Morrell powerfully headed home from a Peter Johnson cross. If Hendry had scored from the spot it would have been a fair reward for Borough, but for whatever reason, he fired over the top after Morley was fouled by Billy Elliott.

Alan Dulleston, who had little to do despite the scoreline, made a superb 65th minute save from Finnigan but Weymouth made it three eleven minutes from time when left-back Morrell scored his second goal with a fierce drive from the left wing.

Borough Bingo

Borough's efforts to boost funds at Manor Park include a new bingo competition. "Super Boro Bingo" with £600 in weekly prizes, begins with the start of ticket sales next week. The competition will be run in conjunction with the local press, who will publish the numbers as they are drawn.

Borough Sign Bell

Borough new boy Colin Bell is all set to make his debut in the FA Cup first qualifying round tie at Stamford. The 21-year-old utility player was a regular member of Leicester City's reserve team last season and has spent the early part of the present campaign with Hull City.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 25-09-1982

Tamworth: Hewitt, Messant, Smith, Konteh, Hughes, Dainty, Hadland, Keeley, Pugh, Taylor, Wilkinson. **Subs:** Rossi, Dryhurst.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Burke, McFarlane, Parker, Hendry, Dale, Johnson, Morley. **Subs:** Nardiello, Brown.

Borough made the journey to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough suffered another attack of the away day blues with a dismal showing. They slipped to their third defeat in the last four away matches in a single goal triumph for Tamworth. Paul Wilkinson's winner two minutes from time sealed Borough's fate.

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Wilkinson struck when a replay looked odds on after both sides threw away chances in a poor match. Youngsters Micky Burke and Bobby Parker returned to the Borough side but the spotlight centred on Steve Johnson after an incredible miss with 17 minutes gone. Tamworth had an amazing let-off when Johnson missed one of the easiest chances you are likely to see on the football field.

Johnson was left completely in the clear when goalkeeper Dennis Hewitt slipped in his attempt to retrieve a bad back pass from Malcolm Messent. The Borough striker had the simple task of recovering the ball and tapping in. The almost comical end result saw Johnson slip and fall flat on his face with the ball running away for a goal kick.

A subdued Johnson, who was replaced ten minutes later by Don Nardiello said: "I don't know how I missed it. I just lost my footing as I prepared to tap the ball in." Nardiello's appearance injected a bit more life into the Borough attack but this also happened to Tamworth when Carlo Rossi replaced the injured Messent.

Alan Dulleston made a fine stop in the Borough goal when he pushed a well-directed header from Rossi around the post. Graham Smith lunged to block a shot from Gareth Dale and at the other end Burke cleared off the line from a Malcolm Hughes header.

Then Wilkinson wasted a golden opportunity to put Tamworth ahead – but had the last laugh in the dying minutes. After 78 minutes Tony Hadland made the break and Wilkinson rounded Dulleston, but shot wide with the unmarked Rossi screaming for the ball in the penalty area.

However, Wilkinson struck with a carbon copy effort two minutes from time. Rossi put him through and he again rounded Dulleston but this time scored with a fierce drive from a narrow angle. In the last minute of the game Trevor Morley shot over from 12 yards out.

Carr Signs Steve Smith

Enderby Town striker Steve Smith – leading scorer in the Midland Division of the Southern League last season – has joined Nuneaton Borough. The former Hinckley Athletic front runner signed on a non-contract basis and plays at Frickley Athletic tomorrow night.

Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 29-09-1982

Frickley: Meehan, Reed, Daniels, Wright, Faulkner, B. Gill, Overton, I. Smith, Hooley, Wadsworth, M. Gill. Sub: Bennett.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Bell, Dixey, Glover, Lowe, Hendry, Dale, S. Smith (Nardiello 62), Morley, Parker

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to play Frickley Athletic in an Alliance Premier League game.

Nuneaton surrendered to a stirring second half performance by Frickley and from being in control, slumped to a mere shadow of the side they were before the interval.

There was no apparent reason for the change, although Athletic showed much more determination after the break and pulled up the yard in pace which they appeared to have lost. Borough controlled the opening exchanges with some fast and accurate passing and quick interceptions.

Frickley goalkeeper Tommy Meehan was one of the main reasons they were only a goal adrift at half-time, making some magnificent saves from new boy Steve Smith, Gareth Dale and Trevor Morley. A well operated offside trap helped snuff out the few home attacks and fine work by Richard Dixey and John Glover ensured that Nuneaton were in control.

Up front Dale and Morley were constant thorns in the side of the home cover while Bobby Parker caused problems on the right hand side. Meehan made a fine save from a Dale free-kick in the fifth minute, but was well beaten by a John Glover header from a Hendry corner in the 13th minute as the visitors deservedly went in front.

Smith was denied ten minutes later when his snap-shot struck the home keeper at close range and the only threat to the Borough goal came in the 38th minute when Micky Wadsworth beat Dulleston to a through ball but his shot was blocked and the keeper recovered to hold Ian Smith's effort from the rebound.

Hendry shaved the bar with a 30-yard drive in the 50th minute but midfield control began to be taken by the home side who equalised in the 64th minute when Wadsworth volleyed in from close range after a long throw by Barry Gill was knocked on by Faulkner.

This inspired Athletic and they grabbed an 84th minute winner with new signing Ian Smith from Scarborough crowning his debut with a fine header on the near post following a cross by Wadsworth.

Phillips Rejoins Borough

Brendan Phillips re-joined Nuneaton Borough last night and plays at Enfield in the Alliance Premier League tomorrow. Manager Graham Carr has also signed former Leicester City defender Willie Gibson, who will play at left-back in tomorrow's encounter. Phillips' signing follows the release of Mike McFarlane, who has joined Banbury United.

Enfield v Nuneaton Borough 09-10-1982

Enfield: Kemplin, Savage, Tone, Barrett, Oliver, Ironton, Ashford, Taylor, Holmes, Turner, King. Sub: Flint.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixie, Glover, Gibson, Phillips, Lowe, Hendry, Morley, Smith, Dale. Sub: Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Enfield to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough produced their best display since the opening day of the season to hold title chasing Enfield at Southbury Road. Midfield man Ian Hendry scored a 67th minute leveller and

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Trevor Morley almost grabbed an injury time winner, but was denied by a tip over save by Chris Kemplin from his shot on the turn.

Borough manager Graham Carr said after this fine result: “I really believe we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.” If Carr can keep this side together there is no reason why Borough cannot enjoy a successful Alliance and FA Trophy run. He will certainly be making every effort to retain Willie Gibson, the fifth player to fill the problem left-back position this season.

Gibson, who made the last of his 28 League appearances for Leicester City 12 months ago, did exceptionally well on his debut along with the other recent signing Brendan Phillips. Carr said after congratulating Phillips on his assured return to the side: “He gave us an added dimension in midfield.” But the Borough manager quickly added that every player had played their part in this gritty display from the Manor Park side.

The one close shave for Borough in an even first-half came when Noel Ashford hit a post with a swerving right foot shot struck with the outside of his boot. But apart from that scare Borough were in confident mood against Enfield and resisted the home challenge with some fine defending and also looked dangerous on the break. Around the half-hour Borough enjoyed one of their best spells and Steve Smith, making his second appearance up front, had a shot pushed around a post by Kemplin after good work from Barry Lowe.

But two minutes from the interval Borough were powerless to stop Enfield taking a lead they hardly deserved. Defender Steve Oliver’s shot was well covered by Alan Dulleston but the ball took a hefty deflection off Gibson and looped over the head of the Borough keeper. Deep down Borough must have been disappointed to go in a goal down but their spirits never dropped as they started the second half with the confident play that has been missing in recent weeks.

Both John Glover and Smith went close and as Borough piled on the pressure Trevor Savage was booked for pushing Smith down. After 67 minutes Borough earned their reward when Hendry netted his fourth goal of the season with a cross shot from the left which completely eluded the Enfield defence.

In a full-blooded finish to the match Dulleston made a fine save from Steve Turner and then Morley went so close to snatching victory for the Manor Park men.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth

11-10-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Phillips, Lowe, Hendry, Morley, Smith, Dale. **Sub:** Johnson.

Weymouth: Baker, Lawrence, Morrell, Elliott, Merrick, Finnigan (Oearson), Johnson, Arnold, Iannone, Borthwick, Benjafield.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough broke a five-year jinx to score an excellent win over the Terras. It was their first win since March 26 1977 – and

was a one-sided affair. After five successive defeats against Weymouth in the Alliance, the Manor Park side emerged as victors thanks to an impressive all-round performance.

Barry Lowe and Richard Dixey were on target for Borough but it could have been a four or even five goal margin as the home side created a hatful of chances. Weymouth felt the full force of a Borough revival which started at Enfield.

Trevor Morley passed a late test on a groin injury and Derek Brown replaced the absent Willie Gibson. The Borough midfield took an early grip on the proceedings with the outstanding Ian Hendry featuring in all the good things about their play in the opening stages.

The side’s confidence in their own ability is starting to come back and they took a deserved lead after 15 minutes. A superb Gareth Dale cross was knocked out by Neil Merrick but straight to Barry Lowe who directed a well placed header past Kieron Baker in the Weymouth goal.

With Weymouth under pressure only a fine tackle from Paul Morrell prevented Dale from scoring after referee Alan Civil had played a good advantage when Borough broke quickly. After 26 minutes the visitors offered a rare threat when Alan Dulleston failed to hold a shot from Brian Benjafield but he was able to push Trevor Finnigan’s follow up shot on to a post.

Finnigan was booked 11 minutes later and three minutes after that Lowe saw his looping corner brilliantly palmed away by Baker and then as Weymouth failed to clear, Lowe hit a fierce drive which Baker did well to hold. There was little respite for the under-pressure visitors as Borough pushed on in search of more goals. Steve Smith, making his home debut for Borough, was booked for retaliation after 48 minutes when he was sandwiched by two players.

Borough increased their lead when Dixey headed on a Lowe corner and after Brendan Phillips had mis-timed his volley the ball was eventually half cleared, but only as far as Dixey who rifled a shot past Baker. Hendry, whose performance along with Lowe’s overshadowed that of Phillips, pushed Borough forward again with Lowe shooting just wide.

Lowe missed a sitter after 75 minutes when keeper Baker did well to save Dale’s shot from Morley’s centre but the ball rebounded clear to Lowe whose shot was deflected off a defender instead of crossing the goal-line. Then Morley hit the bar and Dale headed over with a full length dive.

Gibson Back With Borough

Willie Gibson is back with Nuneaton Borough and seems certain to play against Kettering Town in the Alliance Premier League match at Manor Park tomorrow.

The former Leicester City defender took part in a trial game with Hibernian last week which forced him to miss the 2-0 league win over Weymouth. But Gibson will not be joining Hibs – although he is attracting the attention of another Scottish club.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 16-10-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Lowe, Phillips, Hendry, Morley, Dale, Smith. **Sub:** Johnson.

Kettering: Tingay, McGoldrick, Forster, Chamberlain, Palmer, Banton, Hamill, Hofbauer, Duggan, Murphy, Pownall. **Sub:** Diver.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough, who have now taken five points from their last three games, had enough chances to win this Alliance clash. But in the end, wasted opportunities, Kettering's stubbornness in defence and the appalling conditions all combined to thwart the home side's victory bid.

Driving wind and rain ruined the match as a spectacle but despite the weather the gate of 1,037 was the second biggest of the season. It proved that Kettering, despite their recent financial problems, are still a draw. Borough always held the upper hand but had to build their moves patiently as there was little chance of fluency in the gale-force conditions.

Borough keeper Alan Dulleston made two early saves to keep Kettering out, grabbing a downward header from Geoff Banton and tipping over Stuart Hamill's fierce shot. Hamill, Kettering's best player, found himself in direct opposition with Borough left back Willie Gibson – after being team mates until a month ago before they were both released at the same time from Leicester City.



Kettering keeper Phil Tingay denies Gareth Dale for the second time in a minute.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

After 20 minutes it was Borough who came so close to scoring. Barry Lowe sent a superb crossfield ball into the path of Bob Stockley and the skipper's first time cross was met by John Glover whose header was scrambled away. The resulting corner, taken by Ian Hendry, was flicked on at the near post with Steve Smith turning to shoot and his effort was fingertipped away by Kettering keeper Phil Tingay.

Borough striker Gareth Dale was in the thick of the action after 33 minutes when his scrambled shot was saved by Tingay and seconds later he burst through only to be denied again by the keeper.

Both keepers had plenty to do and in the space of a minute Dulleston saved well from Hamill's fierce drive and Tingay came out to foil Morley after he had been put through by Hendry. Two Borough players were booked in the first five minutes of the second half – Morley for dissent and Richard Dixey for tugging the shirt of Frank Murphy. Kettering's Banton joined them in the book after 70 minutes for a foul on Hendry.

Borough kept pushing forward in search of goals but there was little invention to their play – hardly surprising with Phillips, Hendry and Lowe bogged down in the middle of the park. Hendry was unfortunate when he pulled a hamstring after just two minutes and played in pain for the rest of the match. However the result did give Borough another valuable league point.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 18-10-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Phillips, Lowe, Hendry, Dale, Morley, Smith. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Two near misses from Altrincham spurred Borough into action and they scored a fine win over the former champions. After surviving scares Borough took the lead and from then on they went from strength to strength to run out comfortable winners. Goals from Gareth Dale, Ian Hendry (penalty) and Steve Smith, his first for the club, made it eight points from the last four games as the Borough revival rolls on. Once Borough scored there was never any doubt about the outcome as they played more enterprising football in front of the second 1,000-plus gate in three days.

After 20 minutes Altrincham were denied by the acrobatics of Alan Dulleston as the Borough keeper pushed a Graham Bennett header onto the bar and John Glover cleared. Altrincham gave Borough two almighty scares in the 39th and 41st minutes of the match. In the first incident Graham Heathcote picked out Barry Howard who got past Bob Stockley and shot just wide.

A tremendous drive from full-back John Davison hit the underside of the bar as Borough again scrambled the ball away. Borough could have been trailing but a minute later they grabbed the lead when Trevor Morley back-heeled the ball into the path of Dale, who scored with a low shot struck with the outside of his right boot.

Four minutes into the second half Borough increased their lead and Morley was again involved. His persistence paid off as he blocked a clearance in the penalty area and was brought down by Phil Gardiner. Ian Hendry stepped up to convert his third spot kick of the season – and his fifth goal in all. In the 63rd minute Barry Lowe almost earned a fitting reward for his stirring display.

Nine minutes from time Altrincham scored a consolation

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



effort when Howard cashed in on a misunderstanding in defence to shoot into an empty net. Two minutes from time Smith grabbed his first goal for Borough after some unselfish work by Morley.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 23-10-1982

Northwich: Ryan, Fretwell, Murphy, Jones, Forshaw, Ward, Anderson, Bradley, Reid, Chesters, Wilson. **Sub:** Davies.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Gibson, Glover, Brown, Lowe, Phillips, Hendry, Dale, Smith, Morley. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in an Alliance Premier League game.

Trevor Morley made the Northwich boo-boys eat their words on Saturday. The Borough striker became the target of abuse from home fans after he stood up to the strong-arm tactics of local hero Jeff Forshaw. But he ignored the jeers to turn in a brilliant performance which inspired Borough to twice come from behind.

Borough skipper Bob Stockley said after the match: "Trevor's display out there is one of the best I have ever seen in non-league football." Goals from Morley and Ian Hendry gave Nuneaton their first point at Northwich after losing in all their previous visits. And, in holding the home side, Borough stretched their unbeaten run to five games, which sees them in sight of a top eight place.

Borough were full value for their point and had enough chances to win this full blooded action packed game. Northwich are unbeaten at home in the league this season but Borough came so close to ending this record as they dominated play for long periods. The home side's hard man Forshaw made a forlorn attempt to unsettle Morley and was booked after 11 minutes when he trampled on the striker.

Forshaw was lucky to stay on the pitch minutes later when he clobbered both Morley and skipper Stockley. However, after 17 minutes the home side took the lead when Chesters met a Fretwell cross with a goalbound header and Alan Dulleston brilliantly pushed the ball away but the luck was against the Borough goalkeeper as Anderson followed up to score.

Borough hit back to level when Morley was fouled by Fretwell and when Hendry rolled the ball to him he beat Ryan with a blistering right foot drive. Morley tore into the Northwich defence and created a chance for Barry Lowe, but he shot wide. John Glover was unlucky to get booked after a tangle with Forshaw five minutes before half-time.

Four minutes into the second half Northwich, despite being outplayed for most of the game took the lead again when Bradley met a Ward cross with a headed flick and the ball crept into the net. However, it only took Borough three minutes to get on level terms again when Lowe found Stockley, who cut inside Reid and from his left foot cross Hendry rose unchallenged to head home.

Once Borough were back on level terms they charged at

Northwich, led by the cavalier style of Morley who almost beat the Cheshire club on his own. In one attack after 61 minutes Morley's trickery on the ball left Forshaw for dead and he crossed from the left and Steve Smith should have buried the chance, but the ball bobbed away from him.

And in one final assault on the Northwich goal Gareth Dale went close with a header from Hendry's cross. Morley was the star of the show, but the rest of the team made fine supporting players. Brendan Phillips, whose off the field character has made such a difference to the spirit of the camp, summed up the recent revival when he said: "We have found new confidence in our own ability."

Nuneaton Boro' v Irthlingborough Diamonds 25-10-1982

Borough: Garner, Green, Burke, Brown, Dixey, Burton, Waite, Parker, Culpin, Johnson, Hoult. **Subs:** Sullivan and Thomas.

Borough welcomed Irthlingborough Diamonds to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two controversial goals saved a weak Borough side from disaster in their clash with Irthlingborough. Both goals, one from a penalty, were bitterly disputed by the away side. The first came in the 20th minute when Borough, who had only one regular first teamer in the shape of powerful defender Richard Dixey, were in full command. Striker Paul Culpin, making his debut for Nuneaton after signing from Leicester shortly before the kick-off, hit the ball home superbly. But most of the 219 supporters at the game were amazed when the goal was given after Culpin had looked clearly offside.

Although the visitors replied nine minutes later with a good solo goal by Terry Mortimer the Irthlingborough players were seething with anger later in the second half. Away defender Trevor Hamilton felled Bobby Parker in the area, although there was no apparent danger, and referee Howard Taylor rightly awarded a penalty.

The referee then warned goalkeeper George Smith about moving before the kick was taken and Alan Hoult stepped up to take it. Hoult shot and Smith made a marvellous save only to be rewarded with a booking for moving before the kick was taken. The away side were furious and Hoult made sure the second time.

But the controversy seemed to inspire Irthlingborough and after constant pressure they eventually equalised. Winger Shay O'Riordan drilled the ball home after a mix-up in the Borough defence provided him with the opportunity. The game could have been a different story if Borough had been able to stay composed after they took the lead in the first-half.

It was after this that they lost it when they seemed to sit back and allow Irthlingborough, who looked thoroughly outclassed, to come into it. But Borough's latest signing Culpin, looked a useful striker to have around. He was prepared to run at the defence and was only inches away on several occasions from putting Borough on the right track again.



Stockley Leaving Borough

Skipper Bob Stockley has played his last game for Nuneaton Borough. The 29-year-old defender, who led Borough to the Southern League title last season, is leaving the club after “a difference of opinion” over a clause in his contract.

In a statement issued today Stockley said: “I believe this difference of opinion could have been resolved between the two sides and to my satisfaction. However, I have been left with no faith or loyalty towards the club.”

Borough Show Massive Losses

Nuneaton Borough Football Club made losses totalling £126,000 over the last two years. And the news comes just two years after the club announced a trading profit of £50,000. The shock figures were disclosed today as shareholders of the club met at Manor Park for the annual meeting.

In the first balance sheet produced since May 1980, the club revealed that in the 12 months to May 1981 it lost £55,629. Relegation from the Alliance Premier League and a 50 per cent drop in lottery sales were listed as significant factors. And in the past 12 months the figure has risen to £70,520 at May 31, 1982. When the auditors drew up the account for May 1982 Borough’s liabilities stood at £147,280 against its assets of £13,667.

Borough chairman Noel Kelly, who could not attend the meeting because of a family bereavement, said the liabilities had since been reduced. “Our assets have now increased due to the re-valuation of the ground which approaches the £75,000 mark,” he said.

Kelly told shareholders in a statement: “We did not foresee losing £10,000 due to us from Manchester City when Paul Sugrue was released nor could we forecast the big “freeze up” which cost the club between £10-£12,000. “Also, as a result of an audit a further £25,000 has to be paid to the Inland Revenue,” he said.

However, the chairman offered a more optimistic outlook to the future and said: “We are not running away from the problems. Good fund raising has now been set up and I am sure the picture will be brighter in the next few months.

“We are working very hard on several projects including the super bingo in conjunction with the Tribune which has just started,” he added.

Players’ wages were not minuted in the accounts but as previously announced the players have taken a one third cut.

Borough Sign Andy Kingston

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr has signed an immediate replacement for skipper Bob Stockley. He is 23-year-old Andy Kingston, who will make his debut at right back against Frickley tomorrow. Kingston has joined Borough from Third Division Oxford United.

Borough Face Crucial Time

Nuneaton Borough is facing the most crucial time of its turbulent history. The club, which has lost £126,000 in the last two years is again fighting to stay in business. And secretary John Evans admitted today: “In the summer we were one or two steps away from closure.” But Borough were able to start the season – mainly due to more financial backing from the directors and a drastic wage cut among the players.

Nuneaton Borough v Frickley Athletic 30-10-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Dale, Parker, Phillips, Smith, Morley, Lowe. **Sub:** Johnson.

Frickley: Meeham, Worsfold, Daniels, Wright, Faulkner, Ferguson, Campbell, Reed, Hooley, Whiteley, Gill. **Sub:** Bennett.

Borough welcomed Frickley Athletic to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough romped to victory with a dominant display of attacking football. And the performance delighted new club skipper Richard Dixey, appointed after the departure of Bob Stockley.

Left-back Willie Gibson made the break which provided Borough with their first goal. The former Leicester City man sped down the left wing and sent in a cross which was met by the head of Gareth Dale. After 36 minutes Bobby Parker, recalled in place of the injured Ian Hendry, celebrated his return to the side with a goal.

Steve Smith set up the chance, bursting into the area to fire in a low shot which Frickley keeper Tim Meehan could not hold and Parker knocked the ball in. On the half-hour Seamus Ferguson pulled a goal back with a close range header after Alan Dulleston had missed a cross.

It was Frickley’s one success against the Borough defence. In the 34th minute the cheers echoed around the ground as popular Brandan Phillips scored his first goal for the club. Trevor Morley burst through and his fierce shot struck Meehan on the shoulder and rebounded to Phillips who made no mistake with the follow up shot.

At the start of the second half Borough could have been six or seven goals to the good in the first few minutes. Gareth Dale missed an easy chance from Trevor Morley’s flick on and then Smith blazed over the bar after Phillips had let a Dale cross run past him.

Then Dale, who should have scored a hat-trick, burst through after 54 minutes, leaving two defenders for dead, but shot against a post. And it looked as though Frickley were going to escape a real thrashing as the half wore on.

But then two goals for the home side in the last ten minutes of the match gave Borough their biggest win of the league campaign so far this season. After 80 minutes Barry Lowe converted a penalty after Phillips was tripped by Steve Daniels and two minutes later Smith touched the ball home after good work by Dale.



AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 02-11-1982

Borough: Garner, Klinston, Gibson, Brown, Hall, Parker, Walle, Johnson, Culpin, Sullivan, Thompson. Sub: Wilcox and Barnett.

Borough made the journey to The Windmill to play AP Leamington in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Two goals in the last six minutes earned Borough a deserved victory. Trailing to a 50th minute goal from Alan Ollis, they hit back to turn the tables in a devastating finale. The ever-dangerous Steve Johnson enjoyed the luck of a deflection to level in the 84th minute with a low shot that went in off ex-Borough defender Alan Jones.

And Paul Culpin then won the race for a long through ball to steer home the winner past stranded AP keeper Sean Hemmings with just three minutes left. The goals came as just reward for Borough's earlier endeavour, but it was a late flourish that did little to lift an error-riddled game above the mediocre.

A general lack of ideas provided the sparse crowd with few thrills although it was a Borough side containing a large proportion of reserve team players who had always looked the more impressive in attacking situations. Lee Sullivan came closest to breaking the first half deadlock with a shot against the post in the 39th minute after both Johnson and former Manor Park marksman Cliff Campbell had each squandered simple scoring chances at the other end.

Ollis fired Leamington in front from 30 yards five minutes into the second half as the home side enjoyed their best spell of the game. But Borough served well by Bobby Parker in midfield, came back strongly in the final 20 minutes. Johnson was inches away from converting a cross from new full back Andy Kingston in the 71st minute and Culpin then slid a shot past the same post in the next minute as the Borough pressure mounted.

AP were far from outplayed though and Tim Garner needed to pull off a superb save from Nick Hartland in a counter raid to keep Borough in with the chance to clinch a dramatic victory in those last six minutes.

Borough Consider Increased Admission

Nuneaton Borough are considering an increase in admission prices by 50p to £1.50. But before a decision is taken the club's supporters will be balloted to gain their opinion. Every adult who comes through the gate to watch the Alliance match with Bangor on Saturday will be handed a form and they will be asked to mark yes or no to the proposed increase.

Culpin To Make League Debut

Striker Paul Culpin is all set to make his debut for Nuneaton Borough against Bangor City tomorrow. The former Leicester City front runner has gained international clearance from the Finnish FA and is set to replace Steve Smith in the Borough attack.

Nuneaton Borough v Bangor City 06-11-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Phillips, Lowe, Hendry, Dale, Culpin, Morley. Sub: Smith.

Bangor: Hughes, Lee. C. Roberts, Owen, Gray, Jones, Urquart, Whelan, Carter, Howat, Sutcliffe. Sub: A. Roberts.

Borough welcomed Bangor City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

New Borough striker Paul Culpin needed just four minutes to confirm his goalscoring potential. Culpin, who scored in successive Midland Floodlit Cup appearances, crowned his Alliance debut with the goal that set Borough on the way to a hard fought victory in a thrilling battle between two evenly matched sides. And the 2-1 win made it point number 15 from a best-ever seven match Alliance unbeaten run.

The breakthrough came when Ian Hendry floated in a free kick which Richard Dixey headed on. Culpin was too quick for the hesitant keeper Gareth Hughes as he nipped in smartly to prod the ball home. Straight from the re-start Culpin tore into the visiting defence with his explosive pace and it was such a pity that the cross did not match the approach work.

With Bangor in trouble at the back, Borough had the ball in the net after ten minutes when Dale knocked in a Culpin cross, but the linesman indicated to referee Brian Hall that Culpin's centre had gone out. Bangor never had a look in during the first 25 minutes but they battled their way back into the match growing in confidence as the game wore on. Mark Carter, who scored a hat-trick in Bangor's 5-2 win over Borough in September, got a toe to John Glover's short back pass but Alan Dulleston dived at the striker's feet to deny him.

Controversy raged over a 32nd minute incident which should have seen Bangor defender Frank Jones banished to the dressing rooms. The quicksilver Culpin sped past Jones who deliberately tripped him from behind as he raced clear. It was a clear cut example of the professional foul football officials are trying to stop but referee Hill let Jones off with a booking.

Play was evenly matched until seconds before half-time when Gareth Dale crossed from the left and as Bangor only half cleared the danger Trevor Morley swooped in to turn and score. At the start of the second half it was Brendan Phillips who provided Borough with two flashes of inspiration. A minute into the half he crashed a fierce drive against the crossbar with Hughes beaten and Culpin's follow up shot flew straight at the recovering keeper.

Then Phillips turned on the style after 64 minutes when he rounded three players and the keeper and sent in a cross shot from the right which ran across the face of the goal. Bangor took advantage of their let-off three minutes later when Carter knocked the ball home after Andy Kingston had made a forlorn attempt to clear a Mark Gray shot. For the final 20 minutes it was a real backs to the wall job for Borough as they defended solidly to keep out the visitors.



Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 08-11-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Lowe, Phillips, Hendry, Dale, Morley, Culpin. **Sub:** Smith.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Pearce, Perkins, Byatt, Bowgett, Barwick, Davies, Wainwright, A. Cordice, Graves, N. Cordice. **Sub:** Knowles.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Brendan Phillips and Wealdstone's Fred Barwick were sent off in an explosive end to a muddy battle. The two men were dismissed five minutes from time after an ugly melee involving several players. But Coventry referee Keiron Barrett left it 85 minutes too late in taking a grip on a match that was on a short fuse from the kick-off. There is immense rivalry between the two sides and there was plenty at stake last night with Wealdstone undefeated and Borough on a seven-match unbeaten run.

Honours were even in a first half highlighted by the excellent goalkeeping of Wealdstone's Ray Goddard who dived bravely at the feet of Trevor Morley to stop the Borough striker scoring after 11 minutes. The heavy condition of the Manor Park playing surface suited the visitors more than Borough. The home side's patient attacks which have been so effective in recent matches were bogged down in the mud.

Wealdstone's attacking play involves a big boot out of defence for striker Neil and Alan Cordice to chase – and this policy was more effective in the conditions. The breakthrough came after 51 minutes when ex-Plymouth man Mark Graves shot the Stones into the lead. He picked up the ball 15 yards past the half-way line and pushed on to beat a slow off the mark Alan Dulleston with a low left foot shot just inside the far post.

Borough found it difficult to break down a packed Stones defence with their midfield players quickly doubling up as defenders. But Borough drew level from the penalty spot after 72 minutes of play. Paul Bowgett handled the ball as he dived full length to clear a Morley cross and Ian Hendry converted the spot kick – his fourth of the season.

Dennis Byatt was booked for protesting too strongly about the decision. Full back Andy Kingsley went into the book during his third appearance for Borough after fouling Neil Cordice after 77 minutes. After 85 minutes trouble flared again with a more serious outcome this time around. Both Barwick and Phillips were dismissed as a result, but Borough feel aggrieved about the sending off of their midfielder.

He committed the initial foul on Barwick, but the Wealdstone player reacted violently, punching the Borough man to the ground and diving on top of him. There were separate flare-ups involving other players from both sides. Dixey and Bowgett scuffled amid unpleasant scenes. When sanity finally returned, referee Barrett booked and sent off Barwick and then did the same to Phillips.

Directors To Have Re-think On Price Increase

Nuneaton Borough directors will have a re-think after 192 people voted against a 50p increase in admission prices, compared to 120 people in favour of the rise. But the figures show only 30 per cent of supporters bothered to vote. There were 25 spoiled papers.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-11-1982

Kettering: Tingay, McGoldrick, Forster, Chamberlain, Palmer, Banton, Hamill, Goode, Duggan, Murphy, Pownall. **Sub:** Hofbauer.

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Phillips, Hendry, Lowe, Dale, Culpin, Morley. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

There may have been no goals, but it was a fine advert for Alliance football. Both teams threw everything into a game which produced fast flowing, end to end football and some thrilling goalmouth action. Perhaps the three highlights were two superb saves from Alan Dulleston and a spectacular effort from Paul Culpin which almost broke the deadlock.

Richard Dixey and Brendan Phillips, two former Kettering players, were involved early on with Phillips shooting over and Dixey snuffing out an attack. After 12 minutes of play the first high spot of the match came with Dulleston's opening save. Derek Duggan hit a fierce shot from close range and Dulleston reacted brilliantly diving to his left to push the ball away. Leading scorer Frank Murphy was the pick of the Kettering strikers and he weaved his way through after 20 minutes, but his final pass to Geoff Banton was just too long.

Three minutes later Kettering keeper Phil Tingay was scrambling to his far post as Culpin's shot on the turn went just wide. Borough's best chances to break the deadlock came five minutes from the interval. A slip up in the home defence let Culpin in, who played the ball square to Trevor Morley, but he lifted the ball over the top.

Kettering really came at Borough at the start of the second half and the Manor Park side had a narrow escape after 49 minutes when Martyn Forster shot through a crowd of players and the ball hit the bottom of a post. But Borough were also denied by the woodwork after 56 minutes. Richard Dixey headed on an Ian Hendry corner and Culpin tried a spectacular overhead kick which crashed on to the crossbar.

He attempted to do the same thing a couple of minutes later but this time he did not connect properly and the danger was cleared. As play swung to the other end Dulleston made another superb save, leaping to push away a goalbound header from Murphy. And as both defenders combined to deny each other, Tingay scrambled away an effort from the impressive Culpin. Two minutes from time Kettering had a penalty appeal turned down by Nottingham referee Scott. Murphy fell in the area when challenged by Glover, but the referee waved away the home team's furious appeals.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow 20-11-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Phillips, Lowe, Hendry, Morley, Dale, Culpin. **Sub:** Parker.

Barrow: Thomas, Richmons, Large, Bell, Gordon, Taylor, Jackson, Gamble, Cowperthwaite, Wright, Mahon. **Sub:** Moore.

Borough welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

It has taken four months and 26 players but Graham Carr has now gathered together a side that can threaten the best in the Alliance. Saturday's draw was not enough to put them third, but it did stretch their unbeaten run to ten games. Although this was not one of Borough's better displays, it was still a further indication of the side's vast improvement.

After a disappointing start to the season, including exits from three cup competitions, the Borough boss moved quickly to sign Andy Kingston, Willie Gibson, Brendan Phillips and Paul Culpin. And it was Culpin who grabbed the equaliser which put Borough back in contention. Barrow took a shock lead after 40 minutes but Borough, who would have been dead and buried weeks ago, hit back to level through Culpin's second league goal in four appearances.

In the end Borough could have won 3-1 after squandering a couple of gilt edged chances, one falling to Culpin and the other to Ian Hendry. Borough did very little wrong in the first 45 minutes but still found themselves trailing at half-time. Only Frank Gamble, the £200 a week striker who walked out on Derby to "get out of the rat race," offered any threat to Borough and he hit the bottom of the post after just nine minutes.



Foiled again – the desperate lunge of a Barrow defender and the bravery of the goalkeeper combine to deny Trevor Morley.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Culpin could have had a hat-trick and his first opportunity came after 18 minutes. The Barrow keeper was kept on his toes in the opening stages and made good saves to keep his side in the game. He stopped a deflected free-kick from

Trevor Morley, dived bravely at the feet of Gareth Dale and then saved from a long range effort by Culpin.

Alan Dulleston was only called into action once during the first-half when he tipped a shot over from Kevin Mahon and from the resulting corner Barrow took a 40th minute lead. Phil Jackson's corner was headed on at the near post and Colin Cowperthwaite scored after a goalmouth scramble – his 16th goal of the season. Borough should have been level after just two minutes of the second half.

Culpin did well to find space down the right and cross but Hendry directed his header straight at the relieved keeper. Unhappy Hendry limped off after 66 minutes and was replaced by Bobby Parker. Culpin had missed another chance when he shot wide from a good opportunity – but made up for it after 68 minutes. He evaded the challenge of two defenders and beat Thomas with a dipping half volley which went in off the underside of the bar.

In a frantic final spell, Dulleston made a great save, stopping Mahon in his tracks after good work by Gamble. Then Borough had penalty appeals turned down when Ken Gordon appeared to trip Trevor Morley. Right on full-time Borough survived when Jeff Wright hit the post with a well-placed shot.

Manor Park Arson Probe

Vandals are believed to have carried out an arson attack at Nuneaton's Manor Park football ground, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. The early morning blaze gutted a new £200 refreshments bar and flames ripped through the nearby Cock and Bear stand.

As police and fire experts investigated the charred wreckage of the refreshments bar, Nuneaton Borough club officials counted the cost of the damage. "It couldn't have happened at a worse time," said Borough chairman Noel Kelly. "We have spent a lot of money on the ground for our supporters and the refreshment bar is one of our recently built buildings," he said. "We don't want this kind of thing on our backs when we are already facing a cash crisis," he added.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 23-11-1982

Borough: Garner, Kingston, Gibson, Brown, Crawley, Parker, Wilcox, Johnson, Culpin, Morley, Lowe. **Subs:** Thompson and Taylor.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough, unbeaten in their opening three Midland Floodlit Cup matches, slid to a 2-0 defeat away to Stafford Rangers. Two second half goals from Rangers' new striker Sylvester Cunningham dashed Borough's hopes after they had enjoyed as much of the play as the home side. Nuneaton, again fielding a weakened side, had their opportunities in a clash that never really moved out of second gear.

But it was chiefly Rangers last line of defence, Trevor Dance, who denied the likes of Trevor Morley and in particular, Paul

Culpin, who could have claimed a hat-trick. On two occasions in the second period the latter went clear with only Dance to beat, but each time the keeper came out on top. It was Dance who also thwarted Morley, Nuneaton's most impressive player, saving his 30-yard drive after only seven minutes.

Turning out against his old club, midfielder Barry Lowe showed some good skills but like most players, operated at a leisurely pace. The nearest Stafford came to a goal in the first half was when Brendan Drummond beat Garner in the visitors goal on 34 minutes, but saw his effort cleared off the line by Kingston. A more competitive approach after the break resulted in further goal chances, two of which were taken by Rangers and a booking for Borough's Bobby Parker for a foul on Chris Arnott.

The second half was only a minute old when Nuneaton fell behind, with Cunningham heading home from close range. Five minutes later Rangers secured the victory when Cunningham was again on target with a cross cum shot. That put Rangers, who had failed to win in their previous 13 matches in the driving seat but with the likes of Morley always imposing, there was always a threat Nuneaton might reduce the deficit, and they may have done had it not been for Dance.

Sugrue Re-joins Nuneaton

Crowd pleaser Paul Sugrue will rejoin Nuneaton Borough tonight – almost three years after hitting the big time. Sugrue, who joined First Division Manchester City in a sensational £30,000 deal in February 1980, makes his return appearance against Bath at Manor Park on Saturday.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City

27-11-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Sugrue, Lowe, Parker, Dale, Morley, Culpin. **Sub:** Johnson.

Bath City: Mogg, England, Palmer, Ricketts, Thomson, Hughes, Byrne, Brown, Jenkins, Hayes, Singleton. **Sub:** Penny.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough hit top form with a five-star performance which put them in a different class to their opponents. The game was a personal triumph for striker Paul Culpin, who grabbed a hat-trick. Culpin's three goal blast upstaged the return of Paul Sugrue, who played his part in the win, but it was Culpin who led the way as Bath suffered their heaviest defeat of the season. Each one of his goals emphasised his attributes – clinical finishing, a fierce drive and bravery.

After the match Culpin received a tremendous ovation in the social club as he was presented with the match ball. When the noise died down, Culpin said: "It is always a great feeling to get a hat-trick and the last time it happened was when I was playing in Finland.

"At the moment I am enjoying every match and fortunately I keep knocking the goals in." Culpin has now scored five goals in as many Alliance matches and has also struck two in the Midland Floodlit Cup. The whole team performance was exhilarating as they ruthlessly exposed the visitors' flaws.

Superbly led by the brilliant Barry Lowe, Borough left Bath in disarray after their attacking burst. Culpin shot Borough into a seventh minute lead when he volleyed home at the near post after two Bath defenders had missed a Lowe corner. Bobby Parker, giving a hard working display in place of the injured Ian Hendry, came close to increasing the lead when he rifled a shot just wide seven minutes later.



Paul Culpin raises his arms in delight after opening the scoring.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

As Borough took the visitors apart Culpin's quickness off the mark almost brought him another goal as he intercepted a back pass and then Trevor Morley, later booked for a foul, hit the woodwork with a 33rd minute effort. After 41 minutes Borough made it 2-0 with Sugrue playing a part in the goal. He burst through and his shot struck Mike England. Crewe referee John Lovatt awarded a penalty and despite Lowe stubbing his toe as he took the spot kick, the ball rolled past Dave Mogg in the Bath goal.

There was no respite at all for the overworked Bath defence in the second half. Borough went 3-0 up just three minutes into the second half with another piece of magic from Culpin. He took a pass from Morley and beat Mogg with a fearsome left foot drive from outside the penalty area. After 58 minutes Culpin got his hat-trick and it was all down to his bravery.

Lowe played a classic through ball into the area and Culpin was able to evade the heavy challenge of Mike England to slip the ball past the advancing Mogg. The match was long over as a contest when Gareth Dale got his name on the score sheet. Good work by Sugrue ended in a cross which the sharp Culpin flicked on and Dale hit the ball home.

In the last 20 minutes, with Borough coasting, Sugrue started to show some of the trickery which made him a firm favourite with the Manor Park fans first time around. He said after the game: "It was my first match since January and I was well pleased with the way things went."

Lowe Set To Quit Borough

Midfield star Barry Lowe is set to quit Nuneaton Borough unless a £700 hospital bill is paid by the club. Lowe needs an operation to correct a nagging knee injury but has been told that Borough cannot afford to foot the bill. Now Graham Carr has launched a cash appeal to try to find the money for



Lowe's treatment. "The problem is simple. If we cannot raise the money Barry will go, so I am hoping someone in the town will help us out," said Carr. "He has been playing in pain for a long time and a specialist has recommended an operation. After every match Barry is in agony and is unable to train in midweek because of the pain."

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 04-12-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Sugrue, Parker, Lowe, Dale, Morley, Culpin (Hendry 73).

Borough made the journey to the Buck's Head to play Telford United in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough had the wind taken out of their sails by an Eddie Hogan inspired home side. Dave Mather's direct free kick and a penalty from Tony Turner ended Borough's superb 11 match unbeaten run. Telford, a few days away from an FA Cup tie with Tranmere, became the first side to defeat the Manor Park men since October 5.

Apart from a promising opening 20 minute spell Borough posed few problems for the home side. Borough started well with Kevin Charlton making a fine save from Gareth Dale's accurate header. Dale went close again after 17 minutes and then defender Willie Gibson shot wide after a goalmouth scramble. But gradually Telford took a firm hold on the game with Hogan, who never showed his full potential at Borough, leading his side on in a number of penetrating attacks.

Dixey was booked after 28 minutes for a foul on Mather. Telford struck the killer blow at the end of the first-half. Right back Andy Kingston was judged to have bundled Mather off the ball and the burly striker responded by firing a fierce free kick past the wall and into the net.

Kingston claimed he never made contact with Mather while Dulleston took the blame for the goal. "The wall was lined up alright but Dully was out of position and he blamed himself at half-time," said Carr.

As Telford celebrated their goal there was not enough time for referee Owen to restart the game. Dulleston may have erred for the first goal but he was in brilliant form at the start of the second half. After Neale had headed just over from a John Alcock cross the Borough man made two fine saves.

After 58 minutes he punched away a fierce drive from Alcock, who had cut inside Kingston to unleash a powerful shot. Then Dulleston came to his side's rescue again when he clawed away a goalbound shot from Mather. Carr took off Paul Culpin, who was never in the game. He was replaced by Ian Hendry with Paul Sugrue pushing into a forward position.

But within a minute Borough were 2-0 down when Kingston fouled the tigerish Hogan in the area. Turner, who limped off a few minutes later, hammered the spot kick home to put his former team mates further adrift. Borough went close to a goal in the 87th minute when Charlton tipped over a shot from substitute Ian Hendry.

Borough's Match Abandoned

Nuneaton Borough's Midland Floodlit Cup match with Kettering Town at Manor Park was abandoned after just five minutes of play, due to fog. The referee decided to start the match following two inspections, but conditions worsened in the opening minutes as a blanket of fog engulfed the ground.

Storm Damages Borough Stand

Nuneaton Borough's financial recovery has been affected by another piece of ill luck. Gale force winds blew off a large section of the main stand at Manor Park, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. And this latest blow comes just two weeks after a fire, believed to have been started deliberately, destroyed a new refreshment bar.

Noel Kelly, chairman of the hard-up Alliance club, said: "This could not have happened at a worse time for us. Money is hard enough to find without these extra problems."

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 11-12-1982

Wealdstone: Goddard, Barwick, Perkins, Byatt, Bowgett, Wainwright, Davies, Johnson, A. Cordice, Graves, N. Cordice. Sub: Waites.

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Gibson, Glover, Dixey, Lowe, Hendry, Sugrue, Culpin, Phillips, Dale. Sub: Hill.

Borough made the journey to The Lower Mead to play Wealdstone in an Alliance Premier League game.

Paul Culpin spearheaded a sparkling second-half revival as Borough returned to winning ways. Culpin, the speedy young front runner who has averaged almost a goal-a-game since arriving at Manor Park, helped himself to two more as Nuneaton clinched a dramatic win.

Before Culpin found his scoring touch Borough, trailing to a messy early goal, looked set for a second successive Alliance defeat. Mark Graves gave Wealdstone an advantage they retained throughout most of the first-half when he squeezed home a fifth minute goal after a mix-up involving Alan Dulleston and Willie Gibson.

Dulleston's throw never reached his team-mate thanks to Nigel Johnson's interception and he crossed for Graves to score from the narrowest of angles after his first shot had been blocked. Nuneaton were lucky to escape further disasters before the break as both Cordice brothers, Robin Wainwright and Roy Davies all went close to adding the second goal.

Things looked bleak for the visitors, but a switch in tactics turned the tide in their favour. Wealdstone were put under concerted pressure for the first time as Borough by-passed the midfield in favour of a more positive, direct approach. Paul Sugrue blasted a free-kick just wide after Brendan Phillips, making a busy return to the side after suspension, had been brought down right on the edge of the box.

Culpin almost found a way through on the left and Gareth Dale had a shot blocked as Wealdstone were forced to back-



pedal. Their resistance clearly couldn't last and if finally broke after an hour. Full-back Andy Kingston hoisted a free-kick from the right high into the danger area. Sugrue knocked it on and Culpin turned to flip the ball almost casually past Ray Goddard.

Literally seconds later Culpin lifted an excellent opening high over the bar. Goddard then acrobatically blocked Dale's shot and plunged to his left to keep out a Richard Dixey flick as Borough dominated.

Wealdstone came back into the game with a vengeance in the closing 20 minutes. Graves sent a flying header just wide, Dulleston saved Johnson's long-range shot and Neil Cordice finished weakly after a great run. Sugrue saw a shot roll agonisingly past the post with Goddard beaten when the visitors replied, but Borough had an amazing let-off with just minutes left. Alan Cordice cut in from the left and unleashed a 20-yard shot that squirmed out of Dulleston's grasp, but the keeper recovered to grab the ball right on the line.

It was virtually one-way traffic towards the Borough goal in the closing stages, but Wealdstone's desperate bid to grab the winner rebounded on them in the dying seconds. A move broke down on the right of the Nuneaton penalty area and a hefty clearance left Culpin one-on-one with a defender and half the length of the pitch between him and goal. Culpin's pace sent him scorching past Steve Perkins and he danced round Goddard before slotting home a memorable winner.

There was still time for Wealdstone to mount one final attack, but Borough held out comfortably to clinch only their second away win in the Alliance Premier League this season.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 20-12-1982

Borough: Garner, Kingston, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Dale, Hendry, Parker, Culpin, Hill, Lowe. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Paul Culpin hammered a devastating six goal salvo as Borough ran riot in a one-sided Midland Floodlit Cup clash. The razor-sharp ex-Leicester City centre-forward, also saw two efforts disallowed on a record-breaking night for Graham Carr's side. Carr fielded virtually his strongest side to give his established players match practice.

But the game had been turned into a training session long before the final whistle as Borough ripped apart the hopelessly outgunned Southern League Midland side. Borough's statisticians were at work after the game looking up their records – they believe that the scoreline and Culpin's tally is a new Midland Floodlit Cup record, and the first club nine goal haul since the 1950s.

Ironically, Redditch carved out the first chance in front of a sadly small crowd, when Bill Paice brought a fine diving save from home stand-in keeper Tim Garner – but the Borough machine sprung into action after only eight minutes.

Richard Dixey headed a long ball forward, Gareth Dale won a challenge on the edge of the area and Culpin poked the ball past Redditch keeper Mick Bookes. The second arrived three minutes later. Richard Hill – playing despite an ankle injury – saw a fierce drive parried by Brookes, only for Culpin to net the rebound. Borough were in total control, with Dale hitting a post, and Culpin completed a hat-trick on the half-hour.

More goals were inevitable as Redditch persisted with an inept offside trap – Dale made it four on the stroke of half-time, picking his spot from Hill's cross. Redditch introduced both substitutes, Perry Adams and France Flumefredda at the break, but it made little difference to the rampant Culpin. He sprung the visiting offside trap to latch onto an Andy Kingston through ball and score after 57 minutes.

Culpin could do nothing wrong in front of goal, and he notched his fifth on the hour, finding acres of space in the six yard box to divert Dale's centre past Brookes. Number seven arrived in the 69th minute. John Glover strolled forward to drive home an effort via the underside of the bar from a Barry Lowe corner.

The wafer-thin visiting rearguard was pierced again by Dale on 81 minutes, when he rammed in a far-post header after Culpin and Hendry had done the spadework. The hapless Brookes picked the ball out of his net for the final time with four minutes left. He allowed a none-too-powerful Culpin shot to slip through his arms and bobble over the line.

Culpin Signs Contract

Borough striker Paul Culpin, scorer of six goals in last night's Floodlit Cup romp against Redditch, has now signed a contract for the Manor Park club. Culpin, just 20, has been rattling in the goals with great regularity since joining Borough seven weeks ago.

"I had to sign him on a contract," said Borough boss Graham Carr. "I couldn't sleep thinking about a club taking him without us being able to do anything about it."

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 27-12-1982

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Dale, Hendry, Phillips, Culpin, Hill, Lowe. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

An extraordinary catalogue of missed chances ruined Borough's Christmas celebrations. Unlucky Nuneaton seemed destined not to score a winner as Stafford incredibly held on despite a late barrage of pressure. With the scores level and time rapidly running out, Borough made a last gasp effort to please the 1,640 crowd – the highest of the season.

First, powerful defender Richard Dixey thundered the ball against the crossbar with an acrobatic scissor kick and amazingly Borough's new goalscoring sensation Paul Culpin did exactly the same seconds later. Gareth Dale, making his

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



150th league appearance for the club, was inches away with a fiercely struck low drive which skimmed the post. Culpin and John Glover had their joint efforts scrambled clear off the line. But the game was by no means all Borough and Stafford, who are struggling in the depths of the league, gave as good as they received.



Prolific striker Paul Culpin hits the bar with Stafford keeper Trevor Dance groping at thin air.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough received a blow after only six minutes when striker Richard Hill needed treatment for a cut to his face. Although he returned to the field shortly after, he was substituted at half-time by Bobby Parker. And in the 20th minute the away side took a shock lead when former Atherstone player Steve Burr struck the ball home beautifully.

Former Borough star Don Nardiello looked particularly impressive in the early stages. It was the former Welsh international's last game before joining the police force. With only minutes to go before half-time Culpin, on one of his familiar daring speedy runs at goal, was fouled in the area by Mark Owen. Ian Hendry stepped up and comfortably slotted the ball home to give Borough a share of the points.

Noel Kelly Confident About Future

Chairman Noel Kelly has issued a confident New Year message to Nuneaton Borough supporters. And he urged more fans to jump on the bandwagon as the Manor Park club strives for success. He said: "I firmly believe that 1983 could be a very good year for us and the fans can help to put us on the map."

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1983

Scarborough: Letheren, Dennis, Burns, Dunn, Cottam, Sellers, Steeples, Jones, Hanson, Dawson, Smith. **Sub:** Cooke.

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Dale, Hendry, Phillips, Culpin, Hill, Lowe. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in an Alliance Premier League game.

Three second half goals demolished Borough's hopes after they had dominated almost all the first-half in a game peppered with scoring chances for both sides. Brendan

Phillips and Paul Culpin engineered some dangerous moves in the early stages, but once they settled down, Scarborough produced a catalogue of chances and should have been ahead at the interval.

Richard Dawson failed narrowly three times, and John Steeples was also unlucky not to find the net in two promising attacks. The first-half saw both sides working hard to break the deadlock. Culpin had a certain goal fingertipped clear by keeper Glam Letheren on the half-time whistle, and Culpin earlier earned applause for weaving his way through the Scarborough defence only to shoot inches wide.

Scarborough had a new look after the re-start and Dawson broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute when he finally found the net after some neat work, but Ian Hendry almost scored for Nuneaton when he forced keeper Letheren to make a superb diving save to his on-target 15-yard shot. Culpin continued to dominate the Nuneaton attack, when he headed a beautiful centre across the goalmouth, but John Glover just failed to connect.

Then two minutes later, Culpin had a shot blocked on the goal line. Phillips had to leave the field injured following a clash with Scarborough centre-forward John Hanson, who three minutes later was booked with Richard Dixey following a series of incidents. Nuneaton had a lucky escape when keeper Alan Dulleston pushed a shot by Kenny Dennis onto the post.

Borough's hopes of getting back into the game were dealt a stunning blow when ex-Scarborough player Dixey put into his own goal in the 74th minute, as Lawson was poised to net. Hanson put the outcome beyond doubt when he nipped in to score from a pass by Neil Sellers six minutes from the end. Richard Hill almost got a consolation goal for Borough just before the final whistle.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 03-01-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Lowe, Phillips, Dale, Culpin, Morley. **Sub:** Hill.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Boston gave Borough a lesson in finishing with striker Jim Lumby sealing the home side's fate with two clinically taken goals. Lumby showed the Borough forwards how to finish by pouncing on half chances to give his side victory. Just like the Stafford Rangers game, Borough squandered several chances. But Boston are a far better side than Stafford and they made Borough pay for their misses.

Trevor Morley returned to the side after suspension and was one of the few players to emerge with any credit. Boston stunned the home side by taking the lead from their very first attack. It came after just six minutes with full-back Mick Lyon crossing from the right and Lumby raced in to beat Alan Dulleston with a first-time shot.



Five minutes later Paul Culpin's shot on the turn was deflected away by Phil Jones and then in the 20th minute Morley drove a free-kick just over. Borough had the ball in the net after 31 minutes but Culpin was judged to have bundled the ball in with his hand after meeting an Ian Hendry cross.

However, a penalty decision after 37 minutes paved the way for Borough to draw level. Leicester referee Howard Taylor awarded the spot kick after penalising Lyon for climbing on the back of a Borough player in the area. Ian Hendry struck the spot kick wide of Kevin Blackwell and into the far corner of the net.

Borough attempted to get ahead after the break, but were caught out ten minutes into the half. Lumby was again too quick for the Borough defenders, nipping in smartly to meet a left wing cross from Arthur Mann and fire home. For the rest of the half Borough had all the play, but for all their dominance they were unable to convert the chances into goals. They staged a final onslaught in the last ten minutes and John Glover was denied a goal in his 150th league appearance when his goalbound header was knocked away by Dave Gilbert.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-01-1983

Yeovil: Langley, Giles, Smith, Roberts, Andrews, Gold, Platt, James, Bell, Ritchie, Brown. **Sub:** Benjafield.

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Lowe, Phillips, Culpin, Morley, Dale. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to The Huish to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough suffered their heaviest-ever drubbing in the Alliance Premier League. They now need to pick themselves up off the floor before they tackle Bishop Auckland in a crucial FA Trophy tie next weekend. It is going to be difficult – the players were in very low spirits after this disastrous result.

Yeovil were 2-0 up against unchanged Borough within 25 minutes of the start. The Somerset side opened their account after 19 minutes when player-manager Jimmy Giles headed on a Jeremy Brown cross at the near post and Steve Ritchie ran in to head past Alan Dulleston. With 25 minutes gone Yeovil increased their lead when the skilful Brown created an opportunity to cross and Dave Platt rose to head home his centre. At 2-0 down Borough then produced enough scoring chances to at least have drawn level.

In a catalogue of missed chances Phillips volleyed wide, Barry Lowe shot past a post from a good chance and Paul Culpin and John Glover also tested Steve Langley in the home goal. But the chances were not taken and in the second half Borough crumbled under the pressure. The midfield was still gaining plenty of possession but Borough were terrible in defence and up front.

A minute before the hour Platt grabbed his second goal when he won a tackle in midfield and ran on to the edge of the

penalty area before beating Dulleston with a fierce drive into the far corner of the net.

Five minutes later Borough were in even deeper trouble when Andy Bell's shot slipped out of the grasp of Dulleston in the muddy conditions and Ritchie tapped the ball over the line. After 71 minutes Lowe scored from the penalty spot after Bobby Parker, on for Ian Hendry, was fouled by Bobby Andrews. But Yeovil ruthlessly exposed the Borough defence once again after 79 minutes when James broke clear and his first shot was blocked by Dulleston, but he was able to gather the rebound and shoot home.

That made the score 5-1 – the same scoreline as the last time Borough played a league game at Yeovil in 1980. One minute later Trevor Morley reduced the arrears with a spectacular long range effort which crept inside the post. But another minute later, Ritchie completed his hat-trick with a header from Brown's cross.

Hoult To Sign For Bedworth

Nuneaton Borough striker Alan Hoult is set to sign for Bedworth United. Manager John Brady will be meeting with the player to complete the move. Hoult has been out of action for the last three months with a pelvic injury, but is now almost back to full fitness.

Blackburn Signs For Borough

Former Middlesbrough striker Colin Blackburn signed for Nuneaton Borough last night. He joins the Manor Park club from Bishop Auckland, the team Nuneaton knocked out of the FA Trophy on Saturday. And Blackburn is expected to line up in the Borough side for their weekend trip to Worcester City. Manager Graham Carr travelled to Loughborough College last night – where Blackburn is studying – to complete the deal.

Borough Under Threat Of Closure

Nuneaton Borough Football Club is under the threat of closure unless a massive £40,000 tax bill is paid. Chairman Noel Kelly spelt out the stark facts of the latest crisis to hit the Manor Park club and admitted: "There is no way we can pay this money. We need a miracle."

The Inland Revenue this week demanded a £44,000 payment after a clerical error delayed the settlement of a weekly instalment aimed at clearing off the debt.

"We are now in the hands of the Inland Revenue and it depends how fast they move," said Kelly. "The process of closing down the club has already started. They are not prepared to wait any longer and we just don't know how long it will take."

Mr Kelly is taking Borough's case to 10 Downing Street, and travelled to London earlier today to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister, who is in Yorkshire. He is also contacting Sports Minister Neil MacFarlane. In the letter to Mrs Thatcher,



Kelly calls on the PM to: “Delay the proceedings carried out by the Inland Revenue and give us a little more time to sort things out. We are purely a voluntary organisation with directors putting in their spare cash, and a good deal of their time, into the club for the sake of the community, plus the fact that we help to keep four full-time and 18 part-time employees in a job.”

Kelly has also spoken to Les Huckfield and the Nuneaton MP could have a meeting with the club’s directors this weekend. The problem stems from a £22,000 bill and a further demand for £25,000 for non payment of tax on players’ expenses over the past seven years.

It was a tax which the club was unaware it had to pay and after one recent payment was late the club defaulted and now have to find the full amount. A total of £3,000 has been paid. Borough now hope the Inland Revenue will allow them to continue the payments on the £25,000 expenses demand and give them time to come up with a scheme to meet the other amount...

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 22-01-1983

Worcester: Parkes, Selby, McGrath, Phelps, Nicholls, Hughes, Williams, Brown, Tuohy, Crompton, Moss. Sub: Hunt.

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Hill, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Lowe, Culpin, Blackburn, Dale. Sub: Parker.

Borough made the journey to St George’s Lane to play Worcester City in an Alliance Premier League game.

A dark cloud may be looming over the future of Nuneaton Borough, but their players managed to brush aside their off the field problems and produced a pleasing display. It almost brought them their first Alliance win of 1983, but they were denied 17 minutes from time by an out of the blue strike from Worcester skipper Dave Hughes.

Richard Hill came into defence in place of the suspended Richard Dixey and new signing Colin Blackburn replaced Trevor Morley. The ex-Middlesbrough player had a quiet debut but is very quick and only the bravery of ex-Wolves keeper Phil Parkes prevented him marking his debut with a goal. However, it was stand-in defender Hill who caught the eye with a solid performance.

After a shaky start Hill, with plenty of encouragement from John Glover, settled down well to the task. He was dominant in the air and aggressive when he had to be. There was a fairly even start to the match with Hill driving a shot against a defender and Worcester striker Paul Moss shooting over with a long range effort. Borough started to look more likely to score and forced their way into the lead after some slick work by Gareth Dale, who is in his testimonial season with the club.

Ian Hendry was fouled by Hughes and Barry Lowe floated in a delightful free kick. Dale ran round the back of the defence and met the ball, rolling it past Parkes. Blackburn’s chance came eight minutes later when he ran clear of his marker after being put through by Brendan Phillips, but Parkes dived

at his feet to prevent him scoring. Hill, in his second spell at Manor Park, came to his side’s rescue after 27 minutes when he tackled strongly to dispossess Moss as he lined up to shoot.

In the second half Worcester started to take charge with a succession of attacks on the visiting defence. But Borough also offered a challenge with Culpin missing a good chance after 51 minutes and then he volleyed wide a few minutes later. Worcester pushed forward again and were denied on two occasions by Borough keeper Alan Dulleston. After 55 minutes he made a good save at his near post pushing away a shot from Moss. Then Dulleston was responsible for one of the highlights of the game after 63 minutes.

Steve Crompton powered a header towards goal and Dulleston leapt upwards to push the effort on to the crossbar and over. Dulleston, however, was powerless to stop a 73rd minute equaliser from the home side. Moss chested down a Jimmy Brown cross and skipper Hughes scored with a sweet right foot drive into the corner of the net.

Manor Park Crisis: Editorial

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has weathered more than its fair share of storms over the past decade or so...

Crises have come and crises have gone. But there has been none so serious as the present one facing the Manor Park outfit. Whatever gimmick chairman Mr Noel Kelly thinks up, this is one that will not go away easily.

The Inland Revenue is claiming £44,000 – money owed to it over a period of years. (And it must be remembered that Nuneaton is not the only football club that’s been faced with an unexpected tax bill on players’ expenses).

Nevertheless it is a fact that in this harsh economic world Nuneaton Borough has not been cutting its coat according to the cloth. Dreams of League football may be fine – but you cannot run a business, and that’s what Nuneaton Borough Football Club is – on a grand scale when you are not getting the wherewithal in the kitty each week.

Every big soccer club was a little club once – they became big because they looked after the pennies and the pounds looked after themselves. This is certainly something that has not been done at Manor Park.

In October last year we reported that the club incurred losses of £126,000 over a period of two years. Today the situation seems to have worsened. The Inland Revenue has said: “Pay up or else...”

So what does the future hold? Mr Kelly has been a past-master at appealing to the public to “Back the Boro” especially when it comes to digging into their pockets. We know that he has devoted a lot of his time, and we believe a lot of his own money, into the club.

But he must be joking if he thinks he can find enough fairy godmothers to get the Borough out of this mess.



Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 29-01-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Hill, Glover, Gibson, Phillips, Lowe, Hendry, Blackburn, Dale, Morley. **Sub:** Parker.

Telford: Charlton, Joseph, Turner, Gardner, Walker, Eaton, Barnett, Williams, Mather, Hogan, Alcock. **Sub:** Neale.

We cannot see that writing to Maggie, asking Les to bring it up in the House, or even scatterbrain ideas like leading a march of Borough supporters down the motorway to London, will do much good.

Great for publicity, yes! But it is time that Nuneaton Borough got back to basics and forgot their illusions of grandeur. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. In terms of hard cash that is all the club is getting each week – a sow's ear.

No-one wants to see the club fold. And Mr Kelly has an uphill task if that stark reality is not to become a reality very shortly.

Borough To Inform Shareholders Of Desperate Plight

Nuneaton Borough's shareholders will be informed of the club's desperate plight at a meeting tonight. The meeting has been called to tell them about the current financial troubles which threaten Borough's existence.

"The usual practice is to tell shareholders first, but we had no chance of doing that," said chairman Noel Kelly. "We had to attack the problem first and then notify them," he added.

Meanwhile, Kelly has planned a second meeting for volunteer fund-raisers at Manor Park next Monday.

Borough To Increase Prices

Nuneaton Borough have announced an increase in admission prices which will come into effect this weekend. Adults will now pay an extra 25p to watch Borough with the price now £1.25p with children and OAPs paying 60p – an increase of 10p. The increase was called for at a shareholders meeting and then endorsed by club directors at their own meeting.

Chairman Noel Kelly said: "It was the wishes of the shareholders that we increase the admission prices and we have done so. We have been charging the lowest prices in the Alliance but felt that a pound was enough in the present economic climate.

"However, we must bring in some more money and by paying the extra 25p the fans are playing their part," he added.

Borough Given One Month's Grace

Nuneaton Borough have been given a month's stay of execution by the taxmen. And in that time the Manor Park club must prepare a case against closure to present to the Inland Revenue. Nuneaton MP Leslie Huckfield successfully gained a month's grace for the club and has advised Borough to seek professional help.

"I am very pleased that we have gained a brief respite but we must use this period to assemble a professionally advised case," said Mr Huckfield today. "We must show the Inland Revenue and all concerned that we are determined to sort out the club's finances and ensure survival," he added.

Borough chairman Noel Kelly, whose club faces a £44,000 tax demand said: "This is the last chance for people to help. There will never be another appeal after this. If we fail this time, that will be it."

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough made a determined start to the match following an early scare when Alan Dulleston dived full length of save from John Alcock's fourth minute shot, after John Glover had mis-directed a back header. The opening goal came eight minutes later after Gareth Dale sent in a pinpoint left wing cross. The ball flew past Kevin Charlton and both Telford centre-half Alan Walker and Borough striker Trevor Morley claimed the goal as their own.

Morley was a constant threat to the Telford defence on his return to the side. Dale also did well and home debutant Colin Blackburn showed up promisingly but only in flashes. Morley's strong and intelligent running brought him two chances in a three minute spell. He broke clear to crack a shot wide after 27 minutes and then on the half-hour he lifted the ball over the crossbar after running on to a Brendan Phillips through ball.

Borough were forced into a reshuffle after Andy Kingston limped off after 38 minutes, to be replaced by Bobby Parker. Right on half-time Telford midfielder Dave Barnett was booked for a foul on Morley.

Nuneaton had an incredible let off a minute into the second half when Dave Mather rapped a free kick against the base of a post and Colin Williams' follow up shot flew straight at Dulleston. Strong tackling Richard Hill, replacing suspended skipper Richard Dixey, stopped Mather in his tracks after a fine run but in the 54th minute the Borough defence was powerless to stop the Telford equaliser.

Midfield dynamo Eddie Hogan, who never really showed his full potential at Nuneaton, cut inside and hit a left foot shot which bounced out of the grasp of Dulleston. The Borough keeper stopped Hogan getting a second a few minutes later when he scrambled a shot away. On the hour Hill was booked for a foul on Alcock and then shot wide with only Charlton to beat after racing clear.

But Borough regained the lead after 68 minutes with another far from clear cut goal. Barry Lowe crossed and Brendan Phillips' first header was saved by Charlton, but the ball spun out of the keeper's reach after taking a deflection off a Telford defender. Eight minutes from time ex-Borough man Mark Neale was sent on in place of Mather but for all his efforts he was unable to retrieve the situation for his side.

Right on time Brendan Phillips marred an otherwise happy afternoon when he was booked for dissent by Worcester referee Derek Lloyd.



Save The Borough Committee Formed

A “Save The Borough” appeal fund committee was set up during the latest meeting to discuss the club’s financial crisis last night. More than 30 people attended the meeting and chairman Noel Kelly said: “The response was not as good as I had hoped but we were able to establish the committee.”

The committee will be looking at different ways of raising £1,000 a week as the club prepares its case to the Inland Revenue. Bingo ticket salesmen and alphabet tote collectors will all be given “zones” to collect money in the Nuneaton area. The committee is also writing to sports clubs and organisations calling on them to hold charity nights to raise cash for the club

“We still need more help and I can only urge people to offer their help to the committee,” said Kelly.

George Best To Play For Borough

George Best is to play in a friendly at Manor Park on March 7 – thanks to a sensational deal involving Nuneaton Borough director Sean Patterson. Weeks of negotiation between Patterson and Best paid off last night, when the former Manchester United star confirmed he would line up for the cash-stricken club.

Patterson, who is staying with the Borough party at Gosforth in preparation for today’s FA Trophy tie at Blyth, said: “George Best will be wearing the No. 7 shirt for Borough – and that’s the best possible news.”

“If he does not draw 12,000 people, there’s something wrong,” he added. Borough were hoping to take on European champions Aston Villa, but they have other commitments, so the match is now likely to be against Coventry City or Leicester City.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 07-02-1983

Borough: Garner, Parker, Dixey, Hill (Glover), Gibson, Hendry, Dale, Morley, Stirland, Culpin (Wilcox), Walle.

Kettering: Naylor, McGoldrick, Forster, Suddards, Rutter, Chamberlain, Hammil, Goode (Pawluk), Duggan, Hofbauer, Pownall.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough virtually booked their place in the final after an emphatic win. Goals from Gareth Dale (2), Paddy Walle and Gary Stirland sent Kettering crashing to only their second defeat in three seasons in the competition. The Poppies, who have lifted the cup in the past two seasons, wilted under second half pressure from Borough after a goalless first-half.

New boy Stirland made his first-team debut and that meant a switch to midfield for Trevor Morley, whose forward runs caused the problems for Kettering, and one of his efforts was almost deflected into the net by Paul Culpin after 32 minutes. Culpin, celebrating his 21st birthday, had a couple of chances himself before coming off at the interval.

Right on half-time Morley almost scored a fine goal when he ran on to a Dale through ball and skated wide of keeper Stewart Naylor, but the ball ran away from him in the slippery conditions. Borough keeper Tim Garner snuffed out a rare Kettering strike at the start of the second half when he pushed a Dave Hofbauer header around the post.

But after 61 minutes Borough were ahead when Stirland ended a fine run with a deep cross and Walle netted with a good header at the far post. Seven minutes later Borough increased their lead when a good move down the middle involving Ian Hendry and Morley ended with Dale slipping the ball past the keeper.

Dale fired over 30 seconds later after meeting a great ball from substitute Chris Wilcox and then play switched to the other end with Kettering pulling a goal back. Steve Rutter picked out Hofbauer, who controlled the ball and swept a right foot shot past Garner. Borough rallied again in an exciting spell, scoring their third goal after 73 minutes when Dale shrugged off a challenge from Rutter to beat Naylor with a low drive.

Dale was denied a hat-trick a couple of minutes later when he was put clear by Hendry and his shot was fingertipped away by Naylor. But two minutes from time Borough scored their fourth goal of the night when Walle picked out Morley who crossed and Stirland turned to shoot past Naylor.

Three Borough Players In FA Squad

Three Nuneaton Borough players are named in an FA XI for a representative match against the Universities Athletic Union at Manor Park on Tuesday, March 1. They are defender John Glover, striker Trevor Morley and Gareth Dale, who has been selected several times at this level.

Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 19-02-1983

Maidstone: Richardson, Thompson, Moore, Crowe, Watson, Penfold, Hughes, Kinnear, Green, Bentley, Ovard. Sub: Lemoine.

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Morley, Stirland, Culpin, Blackburn, Dale. Sub: Hill.

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in an Alliance Premier League game.

For the second time in 14 days a poor refereeing decision had an adverse effect on Borough’s chances. After being beaten at Blyth by a controversial penalty, Trevor Morley was cruelly dismissed for a tackle on home full-back Jon Moore. Morley’s dismissal reduced Borough to ten men but more than that it completely upset the rhythm of an already reshuffled side.

Before Morley’s dismissal Borough battled hard to contain the Kent title chasers. Goalkeeper Alan Dulleston made a brave save at the feet of Nick Crowe, who was booked for his challenge. Following Morley’s dismissal Gareth Dale dropped back into midfield, leaving just Paul Culpin and Colin Blackburn to fight a vain battle against the home defence.



To their credit ten man Borough put up a gritty rearguard action in the muddy conditions. And they almost snatched the lead right on half-time when the impressive Gary Stirland set Culpin clear but his angled drive was scrambled away by Maidstone keeper Derek Richardson. Stirland's involvement in the move was typical of the confident display the ex-Aston Villa apprentice produced on his Alliance debut.

Stirland, who joined Borough after spells with Gloucester City and Sutton Town, looks set to do an admirable job as a midfield replacement for the injured Barry Lowe and suspended Brendan Phillips. John Bartley, the league's leading scorer who has gone through a lean spell since Christmas, gained a lucky break 11 minutes after the interval to give his side the lead.

There was a scramble in the goalmouth with the ball taking ricochets off Richard Dixey and Bobby Parker before Bartley's shot hit the underside of the bar and dropped in. A minute later Parker headed off the line from Crowe's header after a Frank Ovard centre. On the hour the injured Culpin limped off and Richard Hill was sent on to liven things up front with his aggressive style of play.

Ian Hendry was booked after 70 minutes for a foul on Clive Green and three minutes later Richard Dixey and Bill Hughes joined Hendry in the book. Bartley's first goal was a fluke, but there was no mistake about his second seven minutes from time which took his league and cup tally up to 24.

He ran on to an Adrian Lemoine through ball and his pace took him past defender John Glover and keeper Dulleston before he scored from a tight angle.

Kingston Leaving Borough

Nuneaton Borough defender Andy Kingston is leaving the Manor Park club. The former Oxford United right back is expected to join either Witney or Trowbridge in the next few days. Kingston lost his place to Bobby Parker after picking up an injury, which kept him out of the Blyth game.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 26-02-1983

Bath City: Mogg, England, Ricketts, Hughes, Palmer, Hirst, Aitken, Barton, Penny, Brown, Singleton. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Stirland, Morley, Dale, Culpin, Blackburn. **Sub:** Hill.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough were denied a penalty minutes before half-time after the referee changed his mind about a handball decision and gave an offside instead. Bath then added salt to the wounds by opening the scoring in the very next minute when Shaun Penny rose to head home a Keith Brown cross.

Nuneaton withstood ferocious pressure from the home side in the opening stages of the game. Bath had suffered their heaviest Alliance defeat of the season, losing 5-0 at Manor

Park back in November – and they were determined to take their revenge. The penalty incident came two minutes from half-time and Penny scored a minute later.

John Glover failed to appear at the start of the second half because of a hamstring strain and was replaced by Richard Hill. Borough contributed little to a disappointing second half as Bath finally made their superiority tell. They were spurred on by the impressive Bristol University pair, Martin Hirst and Phil Barton, and Alan Dulleston had to be at his best to keep the home side out after 51 minutes.

Brown was set clear by Pete Aitken and Dulleston made a reflex save from Brown's effort. After 77 minutes Bath increased their lead and it came as little surprise. Dulleston made a good stop from a Wayne Hughes effort, but the ball rebounded to Brown who scored with a looping centre which went in off the crossbar.

A minute later Borough skipper Richard Dixey collected another booking for a foul on Dave Palmer. Nine minutes from time, Bath wrapped up the points when Penny stabbed the ball home after Dulleston failed to hold a Brown centre.

Best Confirms Appearance

Soccer legend George Best yesterday made Nuneaton Borough director Sean Patterson the happiest man in the town. Hotel owner Patterson met Best in a London hotel and the star confirmed his appearance in a friendly at Manor Park on Monday. Patterson said: "George told me that he was looking forward to the match and there is no doubt that he will be there. That is all I wanted to hear and it made the whole trip worthwhile," the hotel owner said.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 05-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Hill, Culpin, Blackburn, Dale. **Sub:** Stirland.

Worcester: Parkes, Selby, McGrath, Nicholls, Tudor, Hughes, Phelps, Moss, Busby, Wright, Crompton.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Paul Culpin and Richard Hill renewed a striking partnership with devastating effect. The Borough pair linked up in attack for the first time since their days in Leicester City's Central League side. And Culpin set up the impressive win with a goal after 56 minutes with Hill clinching victory 12 minutes from time. The goalscoring efforts of the Borough pair broke the deadlock after a goalless first half.

On the number of chances created, Borough could have ran out more comfortable winners. Hill himself put the ball into the side netting on two occasions. Hill was pushed into attack alongside Culpin to compensate for the loss of Trevor Morley through suspension. Brendan Phillips returned after a ban and Gareth Dale was pushed back into midfield at the expense of Gary Stirland.

There was little to choose between the two sides in the first-

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



half. But it was the visitors who came so near to opening the scoring after 28 minutes. Paul Moss seemed unlikely to cause any danger in the box but swivelled round to unleash a fierce drive which crashed against the bar and was cleared.

Hill's aggression posed problems for Worcester, who were defending a seven match unbeaten record. Hill was roared on by the crowd when he made a surging 45 yard run from the edge of his penalty area and was only halted by a desperate lunge from ex-Borough man Malcolm Phelps. Alan Dulleston fingertipped away a Gary Wright reply from Worcester before play switched to the other end.

Culpin was racing towards goal when he was tugged back by Phil Nicholls, who was lucky to escape with a booking from the referee. The second half was even better than the first in terms of value for money – and it also brought Nuneaton their first win after three successive defeats. John McGrath just beat Colin Blackburn to the ball after Hill had fired across the face of the goal.

Borough forced the breakthrough they deserved with a goal from Culpin. He lashed the ball into the net from a near impossible angle and keeper Phil Parkes had no chance. Hill was delighting the Borough fans with his adventurous play and their hearts went out to him after 76 minutes. He was on course for a goal after scampering past a defender and keeper Parkes, but then fired into the side netting.

But Hill was rewarded two minutes later when he ran on to a precise through ball from Dale and raced past Kevin Tudor to rifle the ball into the net. The one disappointing aspect of the match was the crowd of 767 – the lowest league gate at Manor Park this season.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 07-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Gibson, Glover, Dixey, Hill, Best, Stirland, Culpin, Dale, Hendry. Sub: Walle.

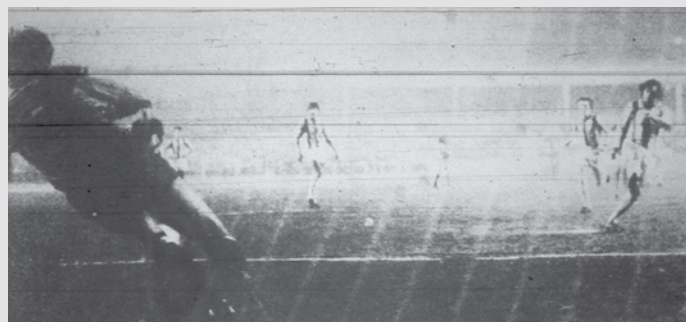
Borough welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park for a friendly match in aid of Borough's appeal fund.

Three magical moments from George Best set the seal on a fabulous night in Nuneaton Borough's history. The former Manchester United soccer star plucked out a trio of magnificent passes as Borough beat Coventry City 2-1.

After shaking off the effects of a heavy challenge from Paul Dyson, Best electrified the crowd with the ball that set up Borough's first goal. It came after 23 minutes with Best hitting a measured right foot through ball which split the City defence and left Ian Hendry in the clear who had his shot blocked and Paul Culpin followed up to score.

Borough manager Graham Carr said: "It was worth paying money just to see that." Eight minutes later Best did it again, this time with a through ball struck with the outside of his right boot and Coventry were ripped apart forcing Richard Hill to be brought down. To the delight of the fans, Best stepped up to take the spot kick and coolly slotted the ball to the left of Les

Sealey. Two minutes before half-time Coventry pulled a goal back when Gary Gillespie broke through and knocked the ball along the penalty area for Paul Dyson to score.



A memorable moment for Nuneaton Borough Football Club as George Best scores from the penalty spot to give them a 2-0 lead against Coventry City.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

After 57 minutes Best weaved his way through the defence with consummate ease and played a lovely ball past two players for Culpin to cross and Gary Stirland put the ball home. But Rugby referee Ken Baker denied the great effort because of an offside decision. Best ran up and down the touchline near the tunnel for the last five minutes of the match and raced into the dressing room at the final whistle.

After the game he said: "I enjoyed it tonight. I am playing regularly now and it is certainly helping. As long as I feel good I will play. I have started to train hard and I will play as long as the legs keep going."

Best revealed that he had received several offers to return to the full-time game, but said: "I will be waiting until the end of the season before making any decision. I have come back to England with the purpose of living here. It is nice to be home," he added.

Best's £7,000 Borough Boost



Hard-up Nuneaton Borough are set to receive a £7,000 boost after George Best's appearance in a friendly at Manor Park. More than 4,000 people watched the former Manchester United soccer star help Borough to a 2-1 win over Coventry City. And chairman Noel Kelly declared today: "I think we will be £7,000 better off when all the money is counted."

Once the exact figure is known Kelly is planning to contact

the Inland Revenue and suggest a method of payment on an outstanding £44,000 tax bill. “The battle still goes on but after last night’s match we should be able to make the taxman a good offer,” said the Borough chairman.

Youngsters Night To Remember



George Best stands side by side with two of his youngest fans. Schoolboys Matthew Clark (left) and Simon Clayton were the official mascots for last night’s friendly against Coventry City. Simon, son of M&B East area manager Phil Clayton, is a regular Borough fan and attends most of the home games. His father said: “Simon was so excited to be leading out the team and to meet George Best as well put the icing on the cake.”

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Fans Storm Ground

Soccer superstar George Best’s appearance in a Nuneaton Borough shirt attracted 4,317 paying customers to Manor Park, but club officials revealed that between 500-900 people forced their way into the ground at the Beaumont Road end. Hundreds of fans ran across gardens, broke down a fence and pushed a gateman to the floor.

Commercial manager Ray Oughton said: “There was a long queue at the main gates when nearly all of them raced round the back to force their way in.”

Chairman Noel Kelly was “pleased” with the official attendance, but said: “We would have had a 5,000 plus gate but for the actions of the people who broke in.”

Borough Team Photo With George Best



Sean Patterson Meets Former Miss World



Former Miss World Mary Stavin meets Borough director Sean Patterson. The Swedish beauty, regular girlfriend of George Best, said she was delighted to have accompanied him on the trip.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Patterson Resigns From Borough Board

Hotel owner Sean Patterson has resigned as a director of Nuneaton Borough – just three days after his greatest triumph. Mr Patterson, who pulled off the deal which brought George Best to Manor Park on Monday night, is standing down because of heavy business commitments.

Nuneaton Borough v Enfield

12-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Stirland, Culpin, Dale, Hill. **Sub:** Sullivan.

Enfield: Jacobs, Savage, Oliver, Barrett, Waite, Tone, Turnber, Taylor, Ashford, Holmes, Flint. **Sub:** King.

Borough welcomed Enfield to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough skipper Richard Dixey faces yet another two match ban after a second-half punch up. The defensive strongman was sent off along with Enfield's Keith Barrett for the second time this season and it takes Borough's number of dismissals during the present campaign to six.

The entertainment was of a high value and Borough had plenty of chances to gain an advantage over the Alliance title chasers. But the home side can have little complaint about the result. The start of the game was littered with fouls and Enfield bit hard in the tackle from the kick-off. Brendan Phillips was floored by a tackle from Paul Taylor and then Enfield's Lee Holmes appeared to hit Bobby Parker on the head after a tussle.



Richard Hill drives the ball goalwards, but his shot is cleared off the line.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Two players were booked before the half-hour – Enfield's Dave Flint for a foul and Borough's Richard Hill for dissent. Borough, with two players suspended, had opted to keep Gareth Dale in midfield and play Gary Stirland up front.

Borough went close when Richard Hill drove the ball across goal and Paul Culpin lashed the ball wide. Each player was in a good scoring position but it came to nothing – and proved to be so costly for the Manor Park men. Two minutes later Enfield took the lead when a well directed header from Dave Waite went in off the post after Alan Dulleston had got a hand to it.

In the second half Dale reverted to a striking role as Borough took up a more orthodox formation. But unfortunately they lost their way and looked less likely to score in the second half than they did in the first. Enfield continued to look dangerous on the break and Willie Gibson made an important clearance from Flint's cross as Noel Ashford waited at the far post. The visitors had a lucky escape after 57 minutes when Hill's shot was cleared off the line by keeper John Jacobs and right back Trevor Savage.

It was exciting fare but the entertainment was marred by the sendings off. A Borough attack broke down and as Dixey ran back he clashed with Barrett. Solihull referee Vic Callow pulled the players to one side and pointed to the tunnel. As the game threatened to get out of hand, Borough's Ian Hendry was booked for not moving back 10 yards at a free-kick. The game deteriorated in the closing minutes and right on full-time Waite looped the ball into the net after a misunderstanding between Dulleston and John Glover.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough

14-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Glover, Dixey, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Dale, Morley, Culpin, Hill. **Sub:** Stirland.

Scarborough: Robinson, D. Dawson, Dennis, Magee, Cottam, Cook, Steeples, Fear, Hanson, R. Dawson, Sellers. **Sub:** Jones.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Graham Carr's men walked off the field with the jeers ringing in their ears after another disappointing performance. For the second time in three days they suffered a 2-0 defeat in front of their own fans – and the crowd's displeasure was clearly heard in boos and catcalls.

Borough managed only two shots on target throughout the match – a forgettable affair which provided sparse entertainment for the lowest league gate of the season. Striker Trevor Morley's return after suspension gave Borough a pre-match boost but they were put under enormous pressure straight from the kick-off.

Scarborough made a flying start to the match and threatened to over-run the home side. The Yorkshiremen took the lead after just nine minutes play. John Steeples crossed from the right and the unmarked Mitch Cook rifled a crisp left foot volley into the corner of the net.

John Hanson headed wide from a Neil Sellers cross two minutes later as Scarborough kept up the charge. And they were rewarded after 21 minutes when they increased their lead – hardly surprising on the amount of play they were enjoying. Richard Dawson was allowed to pull the ball back from the bye-line and Sellers drove the ball along the ground and in-off the far post.

The Borough men were chasing shadows and for a full 15 minutes they were unable to clear the ball out of their own penalty area. Only the aggression and sheer determination of skipper Richard Dixey kept them out of further trouble. Borough were determined to forget the nightmare 45 minutes and were slightly improved in the second half.

Morley shot wide early on and then Ian Hendry had the first Borough effort on target with a long range shot which Scarborough keeper Len Robinson held at the second attempt. On the hour an off-balance Paul Culpin put the ball wide after Gareth Dale sent him clear with a fine headed flick. In fact Dale's run from midfield offered Borough their only hope, but they never really looked capable of scoring.



Borough's second on target shot was also from Hendry but Robinson saved it under the crossbar. A minute from time Borough striker Richard Hill picked up his second booking in three days for dissent.

Hill Faces Disciplinary Action

Nuneaton Borough player Richard Hill may face disciplinary action after a boardroom outburst. And in another bombshell midfield man Barry Lowe has been released. Chairman Noel Kelly will recommend a suspension on Hill after a row in the boardroom last night.

"The club is facing enough problems without one player causing trouble," said Kelly. "He stormed into the boardroom unannounced while I was entertaining the Scarborough directors and he demanded some money. His actions were a disgrace and I shall recommend to the manager – and the board – that he is suspended," added Kelly.

Hill, who is due to leave to play in New Zealand next week, claims he is owed £80 by the club. He said last night: "If I'm not paid the full amount this week I shall refuse to play at Altrincham."

Borough May Have To Offload Players

Debt-ridden Nuneaton Borough may have to offload their most valuable players if they are to survive their latest cash crisis. Chairman Noel Kelly said today that the Manor Park club must raise £10,000 in less than a fortnight to pay off pressing debts. Half the money will have to be found by the board and Kelly is looking to manager Graham Carr to raise the remainder by trimming his playing staff.

Hill – 'I'm Finished'

Nuneaton Borough player Richard Hill said today he was "finished" with the club after being disciplined for an alleged boardroom incident. Hill has been suspended by chairman Noel Kelly after an argument over a wages payment. Kelly described Hill's outburst in front of visiting Scarborough directors as "a disgrace" and recommended suspension to manager Graham Carr. But Hill reacted angrily when he said: "If that's the case then I am finished with the club. I am flying out to New Zealand next week, and I will be glad to get away. The club owes me £80 for four games and I will not rest until I get it. I have been a member of the PFA for some time and they will sort it out for me in my absence," he added

Phillips Leaving At End Of Season

Brendan Phillips is leaving Nuneaton Borough at the end of the season. Phillips, who is in his second spell with the club is moving to Hull. The non-league international broke the news to manager Graham Carr last night.

"I cannot say I am surprised because I know how committed Brendan is to his new job," said Carr. "He is working away in the Humberside area all week and we only see him on matchdays," he added.

Blackburn Released

Striker Colin Blackburn has been released by Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr. The former Middlesbrough and Bishop Auckland player was not on a contract at Manor Park and Carr said today: "It is another man off the wage bill."

Carr Meets With Players

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr will meet his players tonight to spell out the latest developments. Carr had been told by chairman Noel Kelly to raise more than £5,000 by selling players and also trimming his staff.

Carr Staying With Borough

Graham Carr is staying with Nuneaton Borough to try and help the club through the latest crisis. Carr has reluctantly agreed to sell off players in a bid to raise £5,000.

"I want to see it through and help to get the club out of the mess," he said. Carr told his players about the latest developments at a training session last night.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 19-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Glover, Dixey, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Dale, Morley, Culpin, Hill (Stirland 89).

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Richard Hill celebrated his matchwinner and then offered the hand of friendship to chairman Noel Kelly. The Borough striker said: "I am pleased to say I have settled my differences with the chairman." And Hill, who flies out to New Zealand on Wednesday added: "I would very much like to play for the Borough when I return."

Borough completed a double over the former champions, and started well, only to be thwarted by Altrincham's offside trap on two occasions in the opening minute. After Borough's early flourish, Altrincham started to find their feet and Alan Dulleston saved well from Phil Gardner's snap shot and dived bravely to punch the ball away from John Davison.

But in the 26th minute Altrincham made their pressure tell when Barry Howard weaved his way through to the edge of the penalty area and his looping shot went over the head of Dulleston and into the net. Borough really had to dig in their heels to keep the home side out and Bobby Parker collected a 40th minute booking. Former Everton player Roger Kenyon joined him in the book right on half-time.

The Manor Park men made a dramatic breakthrough a minute after the re-start. Altrincham's risky offside ploy backfired and Culpin put Borough level. Hendry knocked a long ball up the field as Culpin raced past the flat-footed defence and hit a well-placed shot past the advancing keeper. The goal revitalised Borough and they should have been ahead three minutes later but Morley fired over after Gareth Dale knocked in a right wing cross.

Borough's reply knocked the stuffing out of the home side and they offered little threat to the visitors' defence in which Willie Gibson was again outstanding. Then after 72 minutes Borough took the lead with a remarkable goal. Brendan Phillips flighted the ball in from the right, Morley hit the bar with a header and then Culpin also cracked an effort against the bar before Hill knocked the ball home.

Altrincham staged one last assault and Dulleston made a last minute point blank save from Gardner. Manager Graham Carr is pleased that Hill, who came off in the final minute, has parted with the club on good terms.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough 22-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Waters, Gibson, Hall, Burke, Sullivan, Hendry, Botterill, Morley, Culpin, Stirland. **Sub:** Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in an Alliance Premier League game.

Depleted Borough came within 60 seconds of victory, but they were denied by an 89th minute leveller from Barrow substitute Colin Cowperthwaite. To rub salt into the wound the ball took a deflection off the referee, which wrong-footed the Borough defence.

Carr had to take desperate measures, when five of his regulars could not make the trip. He gave Alliance debuts to Stuart Hall, Lee Sullivan and Rushden Town midfield man Dave Botterill, and he recalled former Borough men Adrian Waters and Steve Johnson, who was named as substitute. Carr's side played with pride and determination against the best side Barrow manager Mick Taylor could field.

Relegation-haunted Barrow, desperately searching for a win, mounted a continuous wave of attacks but Borough held out well with Willie Gibson and Waters particularly impressive. Eventually the pressure relented and from a quick break in the 24th minute Borough took the lead. Keeper Kevin Thomas failed to hold a cross and Paul Culpin cashed in on a defensive mix-up to notch his tenth league goal.

Barrow swept back into the attack and ex-Derby man Frank Gamble was put clear by John Rogers but Alan Dulleston raced off his line to kick the ball off the striker's toes. Ian Hendry, who collected a booking for time wasting, led a Borough rally and tested Thomas with a 30-yard effort which the Barrow keeper had to push away at full stretch.

Borough increased their lead in the 72nd minute when former Bedworth United midfield man Lee Sullivan crowned his debut with a wicked curling ball from the edge of the box which left Thomas grasping thin air. However Barrow stormed back and reduced the deficit when John Rogers netted at the second attempt. Borough still seemed capable of hanging on but Barrow completed their recovery when Gamble picked up a lucky deflection off the referee and beat three men on the right before hitting a fine cross to Cowperthwaite, who made no mistake with a well struck header.

Culpin Off To Finland

Goal ace Paul Culpin leaves Nuneaton Borough next month – for a second spell of summer football in Finland. But he will be back at Manor Park for the start of the new season as he is signed to a two-year contract.

Time To Quit Noel

Dear Editor

How good it would be to see a headline in the Tribune, saying "Kelly Resigns". Surely the time has come for Mr Noel Kelly to quit the club he has steered to the brink of extinction over the past five years.

Look at the facts. The club is in serious financial trouble at present, more serious than just owing the taxman £44,000. Graham Carr has seen his team relegated, rebuilt the side to win the Southern League Midland Championship, had to rebuild the team again after cutbacks in wages, and now has to sell off his best players again. Is Richard Hill the only player to have been behind with his wages, or the only one to have so far spoken out?

The supporters and shareholders must act quickly now to save the Borough by demanding Mr Kelly's resignation.

A. N. Davis - Angry Supporter
419 Kingswood Road, Stockingford

Nuneaton Borough v Trowbridge 26-03-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Gibson, Hall, Glover, Dale, Hendry, Phillips, Culpin, Morley, Sullivan. **Sub:** Walle.

Trowbridge: Smeulders, Collicutt, Kane, Merrick, Layton, Feeley, Tainton, Dean, Wright, Evans, Harris. **Sub:** Cunningham.

Borough welcomed Trowbridge to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough moved out of second gear after the interval to deepen Trowbridge's relegation worries. They totally dominated the struggling visitors without ever reaching any great heights in front of their smallest Alliance Premier League gate of the campaign.



Keeper John Smeulders stood between Borough and more goals. He made several brave saves before being beaten twice in the second-half.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Strikers Trevor Morley and Paul Culpin grabbed the goals in the second half of a poor match – marked only by the referee’s decision to order Graham Carr into the stand for touchline coaching. Borough spent 45 minutes of frustration trying to break down Trowbridge’s limited but spirited rearguard, and only seemed to step up a gear once the breakthrough had arrived after the break.

Borough were denied mainly by John Smeulders and their own wayward finishing – as well as the odd stroke of bad luck. Smeulders cut out several dangerous crosses, and came out to the edge of his area to save at Gareth Dale’s feet when the midfielder raced clear onto Morley’s through ball. Brendan Phillips, sluggish at first but slowly improving, came closest in the 40th minute when he rapped a header against the post, and Smeulders blocked the rebound attempt from Culpin.

The Trowbridge defence was finally unlocked in 47 minutes. Smeulders managed to parry a fierce drive from Culpin, and Morley was at hand to slide home the rebound. That was the signal for Borough to relax, gallop forward in waves and search for more goals. Smeulders excelled himself with one marvellous reflex stop from a point-blank Culpin header. But even he could do nothing about a piece of razor sharp finishing from Culpin which killed Trowbridge 17 minutes from time.

Dale, Morley and Ian Hendry were involved in the build-up and when the ball arrived in the six-yard box the centre-forward slammed in a first-time drive before anyone could blink. Trowbridge could have been in further trouble by the end. They left Alan Dulleston virtually unemployed in the home goal apart from one speculative long range effort from John Evans.

Borough’s stand-outs were Culpin, central defenders John Glover and teenager Stuart Hall, making a capable home debut in place of suspended Richard Dixey. It was all a little too easy after Morley had broken the deadlock.

Dagenham v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1983

Dagenham: Moore, Arber, Scales, Maycock, Campbell, Wade, Stewart, Jennings, Lazarus, Dunwell, Francis. **Sub:** Makin.

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Gibson, Hall, Glover, Dale, Hendry, Burke, Culpin, Morley, Stirland. **Sub:** Sullivan.

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough will remember their first-ever visit to Dagenham for an Alliance Premier League game because of events off the field rather than on it. First Nuneaton arrived just 20 minutes before the scheduled kick-off – then the start was delayed even further as the floodlights were operating on a time switch and no allowance had been made for British Summer Time. The lights slowly flickered on five minutes after the proposed kick-off time – and that set the pattern for the rest of the night.

The game itself only spluttered into life now and again when

it eventually started, but it was the visitors who created the better of the few chances that were carved out.

Gareth Dale, Nuneaton’s best player on view, just edged out Alan Dulleston for the man of the match tag – went close three times in the last 16 minutes as the visitors seemed the more likely side to steal a late winner. Certainly the closing flurry warmed up the handful of visiting fans as they had little to cheer in the first half, apart from Gary Stirland’s third minute drive that Dagenham keeper Terry Moore saved at the foot of the post.

Nuneaton’s leading scorer Trevor Morley frittered away their other first-half chance just before the break and produced a performance he will rapidly want to forget. He suffered an ankle injury in the second half that needed attention off the pitch and wasted another golden opportunity 16 minutes from time. He also failed to convert a cross from Paul Culpin after he had carved a gaping hole in the Dagenham defence.

One man who was little luckier, was visiting full back Bobby Parker. He struck Dagenham’s forward Paul Lazarus under the nose of referee Dave Axcell but escaped with a booking and a stiff lecture when a sending off seemed the only punishment.

Borough Appeal

Borough chairman Noel Kelly has launched another desperate appeal for clubs and pubs to come to the rescue of the cash starved club. Kelly is confident Nuneaton could receive “a huge cash injection” if organisations became involved in the Borough’s current plight. “Although a lot of fund raising is going ahead at the moment we could do with more help from pubs and clubs in the town,” he said.

“Hill Top and Caldwell and Kingswood Social have already held several money-raising events and we are very grateful. This is the kind of thing we want more of. It not only benefits us, but it will also do the pubs and clubs a lot of good as well,” he added.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-1983

Boston: Blackwell, Parr, Mann, Wood, Jones, Tiler, Laverick, Garwood, Lumby, Mallender, Gilbert. **Sub:** Simpson.

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Phillips, Culpin, Morley, Stirland. **Sub:** Burke.

Borough made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough’s new-found confidence on their travels earned them an excellent away point. They turned in a convincing performance against a Boston side noted for a near-invincible home record, and were more than unlucky not to pick up three points.

Skilful Scot Ian Hendry gave Borough their draw with a fine 41st minute equaliser after new signing Mick Laverick had fired Boston ahead five minutes earlier. Borough began the match with purpose and confidence and Paul Culpin saw a



13th minute volley from a goalmouth scramble cleared off the line by home defender Ian Wood.

Trevor Morley, who with Culpin kept the Boston defence at full stretch in the first 45 minutes, then hammered a superb effort on the turn into the side-netting before Boston took a slightly undeserved lead after 36 minutes. Alan Dulleston had been called into action to save from full-back Dave Parr before Colin Garwood shielded the ball in the area, rolled a square pass to Laverick, and the midfielder celebrated his transfer from York City by drilling a low shot past Dulleston.

Borough came straight back with a quality equaliser. Morley reached the bye-line before crossing. Home keeper Kevin Blackwell failed to cut out the centre and Hendry crashed in a fierce left foot drive from an acute angle. Boston produced spells of pressure in the second half, but never really got close enough to Dulleston to cause any danger. John Glover and Richard Dixey kept an iron grip on the home attack, and Borough almost crowned a solid effort when Morley broke away to curl a shot just wide with five minutes left.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 04-04-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Phillips, Culpin, Morley, Stirland. **Sub:** Burke.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in an Alliance Premier League game.

Hot-shot striker Paul Culpin made it a happy Easter for Borough with an injury-time winner to sink Stafford. Four minutes of stoppage time had elapsed when Culpin latched on to a pass from Ian Hendry, beat ex-Bedworth defender Paul Upton and hammered a drive past Stafford keeper Trevor Dance from the edge of the area.

It was no more than Borough deserved – they had overcome the shock of conceding a 39th minute opener to dominate the second half and extend their unbeaten run to six matches. Stafford had the better of the first-half without seriously troubling Alan Dulleston in the Borough goal, although new front runner Steve Ford went close on two occasions.

Gary Stirland had a snap shot saved at the other end by Dance before Stafford took the lead. Upton sent in a cross, Steve Burr got in a header and Wayne Secker was on hand to add the finishing touch, nodding the ball past Dulleston. Borough defender Willie Gibson spoiled an otherwise impressive display by being booked for a foul on Jos Williams, but the visitors took control in midfield to create a 62nd minute equaliser.

Hendry crossed, Culpin saw his effort well saved by Dance, but Stirland pounced to snap up the rebound. The leveller boosted Borough and they always looked the more likely to score in the closing stages, although they were almost caught out on time when Burr missed from close range.

A draw seemed inevitable when Culpin struck – and Borough are ending the season with quite a flourish.

Kelly's Message To Boo-Boys

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly delivered an angry response to the boo-boys calling for his head. "You're upsetting the players and embarrassing everyone else – and you won't drive me out," said Kelly.

A faction of Borough supporters have been chanting for Kelly's departure over the past few games after the announcement of Borough's latest financial crisis. Several supporters began a chorus of "Kelly Out" during and after the match at Boston on Saturday. It is believed that the same group were responsible for similar scenes at Stafford last night, when they gathered near the boardroom to make known their feelings.

Gallagher Joins Borough Board

Coventry businessman Sean Gallagher has joined Nuneaton Borough's board of directors. Mr Gallagher has also agreed to purchase some of the club's shares – enabling them to pay off some of their crippling debts to the Inland Revenue. Mr Gallagher is confident that the cash-starved club will pull through its current crisis. And the new director believes the club will soon be "on the up and up".

"There are too many people in the town who will fight very hard to stop Nuneaton Borough from folding," said Mr Gallagher today. "The enthusiasm at the club is very high indeed and I'm certain once we are out of this difficult period things will be on the way up."

Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 09-04-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Phillips, Culpin, Morley, Stirland. **Sub:** Sullivan.

Maidstone: Richardson, Thompson, Moore, Crowe, Newson, Watson, Anderson, Kinnear, Green, Bartley, Taylor. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Ian Hendry grabbed a dramatic late equaliser from the penalty spot after the skilful Trevor Morley was sent crashing to the ground in the box. His penalty goal certainly motivated Borough as they hunted for a winner and Maidstone defended in numbers

The game started superbly for Nuneaton and especially popular striker Paul Culpin, playing his last game before leaving for a summer spell in Finland. Culpin, who has played so well since joining Borough, scored after 13 minutes when he dashed in to collect a Morley pass and squeezed the ball home past the diving goalkeeper.

From then on Borough had the visitors worried and Culpin again came close to extending their lead on more than one occasion. But Maidstone, although not looking the side their position in the Alliance suggests, hung on until the half-time whistle. And after the interval it was a completely different story as Maidstone tore huge gaps in a shellshocked Nuneaton defence.



A tense moment in the Maidstone goalmouth. Visiting keeper Derek Richardson punches away a cross from midfielder Bobby Parker. Defender John Glover awaits any developments.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

And they were soon rewarded for their remarkable comeback when striker John Bartley equalised after meeting a free-kick from Taylor. Nuneaton were stunned and struggled to recover. But Maidstone revelled in their newly found abilities and forced Borough to sustain heavy pressure. And it was no surprise when they took the lead in the 56th minute with a Mark Newson header. The big centre-half jumped clear of his markers in a tightly packed penalty area and crashed the ball home from a John Watson corner.

The game looked all over as Maidstone, inspired by the two quick goals, searched for a third while Borough tried to put their game together. However, Nuneaton were reluctant to give in and their determination must be applauded after a spirited fight back. Their return of form was obviously prompted by the Hendry penalty goal which gave Nuneaton a new lease of life. Immediately after their equalising goal the Borough strikers put together a string of useful moves.

They raced at the backpeddling Maidstone back four in the hope of finding a way through and toppling the championship chasers. But it wasn't to be and the visitors held off the late challenge of Borough.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-1983

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Peacock, Bryan, Halton, Jackson, Carmichael, Taylor, Downes, Smith, Ebrey. Subs: Gorman, Whittingham.

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Phillips, Dale, Morley, Stirland. Subs: Burke, Sullivan.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in the Midland Floodlit Cup final.

Borough gifted Bedworth a narrow lead to take into the second leg. Leading thanks to Gareth Dale's 47th minute strike, they allowed battling Bedworth to take the derby honours in a disappointing encounter. The rot set in after 63 minutes. Alan Dulleston and Ian Hendry were involved in a

mix-up, the Scottish midfielder gave a none too convincing back pass, and Chris Downes nipped in to accept the present and steer the ball into an empty net. Further tragedy struck Borough with nine minutes left. A long ball was pumped into the visiting area, and captain Richard Dixey – under no pressure – nodded the ball over the stranded Dulleston for a slapstick own goal.



A mix-up between Dulleston and Hendry presents Chris Downes with an equaliser.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The derby never lived up to expectations – it was scrappy and untidy from start to finish thanks to a bone-hard pitch and deceptive wind. Bedworth deserved their win because they showed more inclination to go for goal. The Greenbacks had much the better of the first-half, and caused several headaches for the Borough defence when they settled to their task after a quiet opening 15 minutes.

Dixey saved the visitors after 24 minutes, heading off the line from Liam Halton after the home defender had connected with a long cross from Stewart Carmichael. Borough might have gone in front on the stroke of half-time. Mick Martin made a stunning reflex save from a Dale far-post header when Hendry found space to cross from the left.

Borough came out for the second half with a little more purpose and it was Dale who celebrated his return in place of Paul Culpin by breaking the deadlock. The United rearguard was caught napping when the striker seized a loose ball ten yards out to control well and beat Martin with ease. Dulleston made great saves from Les Ebrey, and then came the two errors which gave United the advantage.

Carr Retains All Contracted Players

As expected Nuneaton Borough's contract players have all been retained by the Manor Park club. Team manager Graham Carr has announced his retained list which contains no details of plans to off-load players. So the signs are that Carr will be working with the same nucleus of players when the 1983-84 season gets under way in the Autumn.

Players currently under contract are: Paul Culpin, Gareth Dale, Richard Dixey, Alan Dulleston, Willie Gibson, John Glover, Trevor Morley, Bobby Parker and Brendan Phillips.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 21-04-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Phillips, Dale (Sullivan 46), Morley, Stirland. .

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough gave the faithful few a stylish win over the FA Trophy finalists. But the Thursday fixture was not a success at the gate – only 432 people bothered to turn up to watch Graham Carr's men extend their unbeaten run to eight League games.

Those who made the journey saw Brendan Phillips and sub Lee Sullivan grab the goals which ensured the points against sluggish Northwich. Borough began slowly, clicked into gear on the half-hour, and ought to have won easily after producing some neat and inventive soccer in the second half.

Northwich began with more drive and purpose, and monopolised possession in the first 20 minutes as Borough struggled to find their rhythm. Mick Ward was involved in all of the visitors' attacks, and busy winger John Anderson forced a diving save at the foot of the post from Alan Dulleston after 20 minutes. Borough were looking lethargic, but they finally settled down with Ian Hendry spraying the ball about in midfield and it took a good reflex stop by Dave Ryan to foil Gary Stirland.

Trevor Morley then wasted a golden opportunity, firing across goal after Stirland had flicked on Stuart Hall's cross, but the improvement finally brought its reward after 36 minutes. Morley hammered a free-kick at the Northwich wall and then shot from the rebound, but the ball fell to Phillips who whipped in a cracking 20 yard bullet past the static Ryan.

Dale was replaced by Sullivan at half-time and Borough took total control. Morley missed his second good chance, dragging a shot wide when Stirland broke through to fire against Ryan and Sullivan soon got in the action to shoot straight at the visiting keeper. It was virtually Ryan versus the Borough attack in the second half – Phillips, Hendry and Bobby Parker ruled the roost in midfield, and a 30-yard special from Hendry was well held by Ryan.

Borough's increasingly strong pressure finally brought an overdue second goal in 77 minutes. Hendry crossed from the right for Sullivan to clip the ball over Ryan, and referee Derek Civil gave a goal despite efforts to hack clear by the visiting defence. Northwich only created one real moment of danger before that when the impressive Ward found time and space to shoot across the face of the Borough goal.

Northwich grabbed a consolation with only two minutes to go. Steven Craven lashed a long-range drive against the woodwork, the ball was not properly cleared and ex-Derby striker Colin Chesters reacted quickest to slide home from close range. There was just time for Stirland to go close, and at least the diehards had seen Borough make a great improvement on the disappointing display at Bedworth.

Runcorn v Nuneaton Borough 23-04-1983

Runcorn: Parker, Fielding, Roberts, Edwards, Fraser, Smith, Kettle, Imrie, Skeete, Crompton, Haw. Sub: Birch.

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Phillips, Sullivan, Morley, Stirland. Sub: Burke.

Borough made the journey to Canal Street to play Runcorn in an Alliance Premier League game.

Referee Ashley infuriated Borough by ignoring two loud and justified claims for penalties before half-time. The first, after just two minutes, saw Trevor Morley clash with keeper Brian Parker when he broke through onto Ian Hendry's long ball.

Borough were 2-0 down after 40 minutes when Gary Stirland was clattered to the ground in the box – again by Brian Parker and the referee again turned down a penalty appeal. He did, however award Runcorn a 20th minute spot kick, which put them 2-0 up. Borough were eventually awarded a penalty when Parker fouled Phillips as he raced clear after 55 minutes. Hendry netted from the spot.

Borough lost their unbeaten record as they were taken to the cleaners in a fierce opening spell of pressure. They were swamped in midfield, split apart at the back, and Alan Dulleston worked overtime as home attackers bore down on him. The first goal arrived after ten minutes. Bob Fraser headed Steve Haw's cross against the post, and John Imrie reacted quickly to blast the rebound past Dulleston.

Alan Crompton threaded his way into the area to be clearly tripped by Richard Dixey, and got up to beat Dulleston with the resulting penalty. Borough looked set for a hammering, and could have folded completely. But Graham Carr's men showed resilience to fight back. Hendry's goal started a spell during which they put the home defence on the rack by taking over in midfield.

Bobby Parker, pushed forward to good effect, had a drive clawed away from the line by the home keeper and Borough looked set to pinch an equaliser. Hopes were dashed by a thunderstorm which broke overhead and turned the pitch into a swamp. Borough were unable to continue their rousing comeback and Runcorn killed them off on the break when Ossie Smith headed past Dulleston with 14 minutes left.

Nuneaton Borough v Dagenham 25-04-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Walle, Sullivan, Parker, Morley, Stirland. Sub: Burke.

Borough welcomed Dagenham to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Willie Gibson's first goal for the club spared Borough's blushes. Gibson pushed forward to blast a 75th minute equaliser, giving Graham Carr's side a hard-earned point.

FA Trophy semi-finalists Dagenham went ahead just after the interval, and had snuffed out the home side's ineffective attempts to pull level. But Gibson helped out the forwards –



and Borough end the APL season in the comfort of mid-table, having suffered just one defeat in the final ten games.

The match burst into life after 20 minutes, when visiting full-back Phil Boyce cleared off the line from Lee Sullivan when the young midfielder's 20 yard drive pierced the Dagenham defence. Trevor Morley had earlier appeals for a penalty turned down after a clash with Dagenham centre-back Tony Gibson. Dagenham had moments of their own despite the absence of several key players, and dangerous striker Chris Maycock forced Alan Dulleston to beat away a fierce 20-yard effort.

Dulleston again reacted quickly to push away another long-distance strike from Maycock, and too much of Borough's approach work was being ruined by the final pass – as well as the downpour which arrived late in the first-half.

The Essex side made a great start to the second half by going a goal up in 47 minutes. Substitute Steve Edkins reached the bye-line before crossing, the Borough defence failed to get the ball away and Bobby Arber advanced to drill low past Dulleston from 20 yards. Referee Robinson cautioned Dagenham's Bobby Makin to join first half dissenters Morley and Gary Stirland. Dagenham were gradually snuffing out Borough's ineffective front line.

Morley lashed a shot across the face of the goal, but the visiting rearguard kept Borough at arm's length for so long that the season looked set to end with an inauspicious defeat. It was left to Gibson to crown a solid performance with the point saver just when Borough were running out of time and ideas. Richard Dixey pumped a long ball forward and the Scot found himself in the inside left channel and shrugged off a tackle to hammer a fierce shot into the corner.

Carr Satisfied With League Showing

Nuneaton Borough boss Graham Carr is satisfied with the club's showing in their first season back in the Alliance Premier League. Borough ended their programme with a 1-1 home draw against Dagenham, and Carr said afterwards: "We've done well considering the troubles we've had.

"I don't go into any league to make up the numbers – but everyone's worked hard in difficult circumstances," he added.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 02-05-1983

Borough: Dulleston, Hall, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Parker, Phillips, Morley, Dale, Lowe. **Subs:** Stirland, Walle.

Bedworth: Martin, Brookes, Peacock, Taylor, Halton, Jackson, Carmichael, Gorman, Downes, Smith, Ebrey. **Subs:** Bryan, Whittingham.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to the second leg of the Midland Floodlit Cup final.

Bedworth's goal machine Les Ebrey struck again to give Bedworth the Midland Floodlit Cup. Ebrey's 82nd minute winner, his 36th goal in competitive matches this season – sank Borough in a hard-fought second leg. The thin line between success and failure was aptly summed up in the

minute leading to Ebrey's precious late goal. Borough were pressing forward constantly and Barry Lowe, making a one-off return to Manor Park, almost took the tie into extra-time when his dipping centre deceived Mick Martin and hit the underside of the crossbar.

Bedworth cleared, swept downfield, and Dennis Taylor pushed the ball through for Ebrey to prod past the onrushing Alan Dulleston. The visitors were leading 2-1 from the first leg at the Oval and could have won last night's derby even more convincingly than they did. Both Stewart Carmichael and Tom Gorman hit the woodwork in the second half, and Ebrey broke clear only to blaze wide when the Borough defence was caught square in the dying minutes.

The better start came from United, with Ebrey lashing a first time volley well over and then seeing a snap shot saved by Dulleston as Stewart Carmichael caused early problems on the wing. Borough finally began exerting pressure midway through the first half in a bid to pull back the aggregate deficit, with Martin in constant action for a spell to save efforts from Lowe and Trevor Morley, while the latter broke through on half-time only to shoot just wide.

But Carmichael missed a great chance to kill the tie after 47 minutes, when he was put clear by Chris Downes, only to ram a fierce cross shot against the post. The Borough woodwork rattled again on the hour – Gorman saw a precise chip cannon to safety after Dulleston and John Glover got in an awful tangle inside their own area.

Graham Carr's men pressed forward increasingly with Lowe and Ian Hendry prominent, but were held at bay by the uncompromising Bedworth rearguard, which stood up well to a barrage of corners. Lowe almost did the trick, but Ebrey's late strike took the silverware to the Oval.

Badham To Help With Borough Survival

Nuneaton Borough have been offered another cash lifeline – thanks to former manager Fred Badham. The cash-starved Manor Park club have joined Mr Badham's Association of Sports Clubs lottery, which comprises some 100 clubs.

Borough's membership of the lottery will ensure them welcome cash in their efforts to stay afloat. Clubs who subscribe to the lottery automatically earn 10p of the profit from each 25p ticket sold.

"Borough chairman Noel Kelly approached me three weeks ago to see if my lottery would benefit their finances," said Badham, manager at Manor Park from 1960-68.

"We decided that it would – and I'm only too pleased to help my old club," he added. Mr Badham will organise the delivery and collection of tickets and agents will be gathered to sell them. "Borough will benefit because they do not lose any money from subscribing to the lottery – they will make nothing but profit, and the more tickets they sell, the more they make," said Mr Badham, who was Borough's longest serving manager.



Alliance Premier League 1982-83

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	42	25	9	8	95	48	84
Maidstone United	42	25	8	9	83	34	83
Wealdstone	42	22	13	7	80	41	79
Runcorn	42	22	8	12	73	53	74
Boston United	42	20	12	10	77	57	72
Telford United	42	20	11	11	69	48	71
Weymouth	42	20	10	12	63	48	70
Northwich Victoria	42	18	10	14	68	63	64
Scarborough	42	17	12	13	71	58	63
Bath City	42	17	9	16	58	55	60
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	13	14	57	60	58
Altrincham	42	15	10	17	62	56	55
Bangor City	42	14	13	15	71	77	55
Dagenham	42	12	15	15	60	65	51
Barnet	42	16	3	23	55	78	51
Frickley Athletic	42	12	13	17	66	77	49
Worcester City	42	12	10	20	58	87	46
Trowbridge Town	42	12	7	23	56	88	43
Kettering Town	42	11	7	24	69	99	40
Yeovil Town	42	11	7	24	63	99	40
Barrow	42	8	12	22	46	74	36
Stafford Rangers	42	5	14	23	40	75	29

Admission Prices Likely To Rise

Nuneaton Borough are likely to be increasing admission prices next season. “We don’t want to, but we have to try and survive our current problems,” said Chairman Noel Kelly.

Kelly confirmed that a rise in admission and season ticket prices was on the cards when the club meets to discuss financial matters next week. “We have been behind the other Alliance Premier League clubs with our £1.25 admission and it cost £2 to sit in the stand at places like Barnet,” said Kelly.

No Money For New Players

No money will be available for Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr to buy new players next season. That’s the likely outcome of tonight’s board meeting, when the club directors get together to plan Borough’s financial course in the coming months. The meeting is likely to conclude with Borough looking for further ways of tightening their purse strings after last season’s crippling cash troubles.

Borough chairman Noel Kelly said that the club had to look at ways of making further cuts until the current financial crisis had been overcome. “There’s no way that we are going to spend any cash recklessly – and that will have to start on the playing side,” said Kelly.

“We stopped splashing out on new players two years ago, and we will not be able to do so next season.”

Encouraging Response To Season Ticket Offers

Nuneaton Borough have reported an encouraging response by fans to buy season tickets for 1983-84. Chairman Noel Kelly said today that supporters had already been making enquiries about tickets, which will go on sale in the near future. Last week Borough announced special cut-price offers for fans who buy their tickets before the end of this month.

“We’re pleased with the initial reaction from supporters, who have already made advance bookings and enquiries,” said Kelly. “We feel that our special season ticket offers cannot be bettered throughout the Alliance Premier League, and is a better deal for the fans than last season,” he added.

Hendry And Gibson To Stay

Nuneaton Borough’s talented Scotsmen Ian Hendry and Willie Gibson, who have both been considering their futures at Manor Park, have decided to stay with the club. Midfielder Hendry and left-back Gibson were two prime captures for manager Graham Carr last season, but both could have left Borough in recent weeks.

Chairman Hits Out At Scaremongers

Borough chairman Noel Kelly has launched an attack on “scaremongers” who are spreading rumours that the club would not be able to start the new season.

“It’s all totally untrue, and I can’t understand why people would want to make these comments,” said Kelly

“We’ll just keep working hard to try and rectify the money situation – that will stop the rumours in the best possible way. Although we still have problems, we are optimistic of pulling out of trouble, and this idle talk does no good at all,” he added.

Season tickets were still selling steadily, and Kelly urged supporters to take advantage of the cut-price offers which are available until the end of this month. Fans can make savings of up to £10 if they buy their season tickets now, and there are special cut-price offers for people out of work.

New Points System For Alliance

The Alliance Premier League have changed their points system for next season. Teams will earn three points for an away win, two points for a home win and one for a draw, replacing the previous system of three points for any win. The APL feel that the new points scheme will encourage away teams to commit themselves to attack – but Nuneaton Borough secretary John Evans is sceptical as to its chances of success.

“You could have the situation where the score is 1-1 with 15 minutes left, and the home supporters are encouraging their team to go forward,” said Evans. “But if the away team sneaks out and grabs a goal, they will pick up three points. It seems to create an unfavourable situation whereby the away team will have more advantages than the home team in each match – but it might encourage positive football from both sides,” he added.



Stamford — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Hanson's Field to play Stamford in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup.

Stamford: Johnson, Grys, Chapman, Mackin, Hand, Hamill, Genovese, Bluszczak, Czarnecki, Blades, Whitby. Sub: Headland.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Bell, McFarlane, Lowe, Hendry, Morley, Dale, Phipps (Robson 52).

Ian Hendry converted a 31st minute spot kick to give Borough the lead. But in the best FA Cup tradition the underdogs hit back to level the scores.

Borough failed to get to grips with a bumpy pitch and saved their worst performance for arguably their most important game. However, it could have been a different story if they had been awarded a first minute penalty.

Steve Grys fouled Trevor Morley and from Hendry's free-kick Stamford defender Barry Hand clearly knocked the ball down with his hand but Borough's appeals were waved away.

After the scare Stamford pushed forward with plenty of vigour with winger Dominic Genovese their best player on show.

However, it took a point-blank save from Kevin Johnson in the 17th minute to keep Stamford in the game. Gareth Dale met Barry Lowe's corner with a powerful header and Johnson made a superb reflex save.

The cup luck was with Nuneaton as they took the lead from the penalty spot. The challenge of Grys on Morley looked an inoffensive one but as the Borough striker tumbled to the ground referee Hodgett pointed to the spot. Hendry slotted home the kick to erase the memory of his miss at Weymouth.

Both sides struggled in a dull start to the second half, but then Stamford somehow found themselves back in the game. Rob Chapman sent in a cross from the left and whatever Barry Lowe was planning to do it backfired and he hit the ball past the stunned Dulleston.

Borough manager Graham Carr sent on Tommy Robson for Peter Phipps and he received a good ovation from the home fans who used to watch him down the road at Peterborough.

Robson and Hendry both went close for Borough but it was centre-half John Glover who had the best chance to settle the match. He ran on to meet a Hendry corner and flicked his header just wide of the post and one of the best chances of the match was gone.

Borough new boy Colin Bell did a fair job at left back, but it was an unimpressive display from the Alliance side, who will surely show some improvement on their own pitch.

Stamford — 1st Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Stamford to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Bell, McFarlane, Lowe, Hendry, Morley, Johnson, Dale. Sub: Robson.

Stamford: Johnson, Grys, Chapman, Mackin, Hand (Headland), Hamill, Genovese, Bluszczak, Czarnecki, Blades, Whitby.

Borough blasted their way into the second qualifying round of the FA Cup with a five goal salvo in a one-sided replay. Trevor Morley set Borough on the way to victory with two goals in a minute and there were later strikes from Gareth Dale, Barry Lowe and a brilliant effort from Ian Hendry.

Borough were held by Stamford on Saturday, but there was no danger of a cup shock last night as the home side stormed into action.

And Graham Carr's men produced more goalmouth incident in the opening half-hour than they did throughout the whole of the first meeting.

A second minute shot from Hendry was pushed away by Stamford keeper Kevin Johnson. Dale fired over from 20 yards out and then Steve Johnson, replacing the departed Peter Phipps, had a fierce shot punched away by the keeper.

Borough broke through in the 34th minute when Stamford defender Barry Hand completely missed a clearance to let Morley in who coolly finished to give his side the lead.

A minute later Johnson collected a loose ball on the edge of the box and his powerful shot was palmed out by the Stamford keeper and straight to Morley who applied the finishing touch.

It was 2-0 at half-time and Borough quickly increased their lead four minutes into the second half. John Glover flicked on a Hendry corner and keeper Johnson got a hand to Dale's header but could not keep it out.

Stamford offered only one notable attack throughout the match and that came in the 63rd minute when the save of Alan Dulleston matched the quality shot of Dominic Genovese.

Borough were four up in the 72nd minute when Hendry back-flicked a Dale cross and Lowe, making amends for his own goal which earned Stamford a replay, struck the ball past Johnson.

Borough's Johnson almost found the net three minutes later when he fired across the face of the goal after home debutant Colin Bell had crossed following a great pass from McFarlane.

The fifth goal came five minutes from time – and it was a beauty scored by man of the match Hendry.

It was a precision move involving Bob Stockley and McFarlane and ending with Morley heading down for Hendry to cut inside and beat the keeper with a scorching left foot shot.

Gainsborough Trinity — 2nd Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Bell, Parker, Lowe (McFarlane), Hendry, Dale, Morley, Nardiello.

Gainsborough: Knight, Simpson, Daly, Lodge, Bennyworth, Carr, Snee, Wignall, Wiggan, Seal, Todd. Sub: Jones.



The hidden figure of Gareth Dale gets in between two Gainsborough defenders to head Borough into an early lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough escaped with a draw when they grabbed a late equaliser, trailing 3-2 with only six minutes to go. McFarlane grabbed a dramatic leveller in a thrilling FA Cup tie.

Even at 3-3 there was more drama when Trinity man Jimmy Snee clipped the inside of a post with a cross just seconds from the end.

Borough were lucky to escape defeat in the end – but started the match by treating the crowd to a brilliant early burst of attacking play.

Former Coventry City winger Don Nardiello replaced the ineligible Steve Smith up front and his performance was one of the reasons for Borough's early success.

He made several probing runs down the right hand side and played a part in Borough's first goal after seven minutes.

Trevor Morley played the ball to Nardiello who crossed from the right

and Gareth Dale rose superbly above two defenders to head home.

Borough, with the Gainsborough defence easily panicked, roller coasted into a 2-0 lead after 24 minutes.

Yet again Nardiello provided the cross with Bobby Parker touching the ball on



Substitute Mike McFarlane (out of picture), charges down a clearance and shoots home to save Borough from defeat at Manor Park

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

and Morley netting his ninth goal of the season.

Gainsborough keeper Dave Knight made fine stops from Dale and Ian Hendry as Borough piled on the pressure.

However, Trinity gradually clawed their way back into the match and pulled a goal back after 29 minutes when Peter Carr found Trenton Wiggan, whose cross was turned in by ex-Wolves man Jimmy Seal.

At this stage Borough forgot about the patient build-ups and there was little invention to the play as they pushed for more goals.

And as Borough fell away Trinity missed a great chance after 48 minutes when Snee failed to score from close range, but the Northern Premier League side were back on level terms three minutes later.

Borough paid the price for slack marking as Snee's shot in the penalty area reached Wiggan, who turned and scored.

Then Wiggan, who made a number of first team appearances for Sheffield United last season, struck a second goal to give Trinity the lead.

Nardiello, the star of the early Borough show, turned villain as he lost possession in midfield and Wiggan was

strong enough to shake off Richard Dixey's challenge and his shot bobbed in off a post.

McFarlane, brought on with the score at 2-2, produced his rescue act after 84 minutes, charging down a clearance and scoring with a well-placed shot.

Gainsborough Trinity – 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Northolme to play Gainsborough Trinity in a 2nd Qualifying Round FA Cup replay.

Gainsborough: Knight, Simpson, Daley, Lodge, Bennyworth, Carr, Snee, Wignall, Wiggan, Seal, Todd. Sub: Jones.

Borough: Dulleston, Stockley, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Parker, Hendry, Lowe, Bell (Nardiello 45), Morley, Dale.

Borough's hopes of a money-spinning FA Cup run lay in tatters after a nightmare trip to Northolme to play Gainsborough Trinity.

And to add to this tale of woe, Borough strongman Richard Dixey was sent off after an hour.

Trinity, who almost snatched victory in the first match on Saturday, treated their home fans to a vintage display.

And, although Borough competed for every ball, they were made to pay for missed opportunities in both meetings between the two sides.

Manager Graham Carr said: "We had our real chance when we led 2-0 on Saturday, but last night Gainsborough played really well."

"However we must keep our heads up and try to consolidate our position in the league. We are also involved in the FA Trophy," he added.

Carr introduced a new playing system

with skipper Bob Stockley operating as a sweeper behind three defenders.

There were four men in midfield including Colin Bell, but there was no place for Mike McFarlane, who scored the late goal which earned Borough a 3-3 draw on Saturday.

Borough started well on a pitch that was slippery but otherwise in good shape.

Midfield man Bobby Parker cracked a right foot drive just wide after a short free kick taken by Ian Hendry after five minutes.

Gainsborough conceded a string of free kicks in the early stages – there were five in a two minute spell – and from a 15th minute set piece, Barry Lowe had a shot deflected wide and from the corner John Glover had a shot charged down.

Then, as the half-hour approached, Trinity started to find their feet and took the lead after exerting a lot of pressure in the 28th minute.

Borough keeper Alan Dulleston saved from both Graham Jones and Trenton Wiggan before Bell eventually cleared the ball away for a corner.

From Dave Wignall's near-post corner Jimmy Seal flicked the ball on with his head but it was actually Barry Lowe who got the final touch diverting the ball past Dulleston.

Seven minutes later, Borough missed a golden chance to level the scores – and the miss proved so costly.

Ian Hendry crossed from the left and Gareth Dale, who was completely in the clear in the penalty area, chested the ball down but shot badly wide.

At the start of the second half, Carr

changed the formation slightly by taking off Bell to introduce another striker, Don Nardiello.

But after Dale had shot wide in the 55th minute, there was more drama when Dixey received his marching orders.

He was booked for a retaliatory tackle after 57 minutes although Sheffield referee Terry Curtis failed to notice that Dixey had been pushed by Wiggan seconds earlier.

Dixey was a shade unfortunate to be booked, but there was not excuse when he was involved in another clash just three minutes later.

He hacked down Jimmy Snee on the far touchline and referee Curtis had no option but to banish Dixey to the dressing rooms.

After the sending off, Gainsborough's confidence just grew and grew as they tormented ten-man Borough.

Their black striker Wiggan caused all sorts of problems and scored a dream goal after 75 minutes.

Seal, in full flight down the right, sent in a superb cross and Wiggan dived full length to score with a scorching header.

Even at 2-0 down, Borough still had their chances with Nardiello crossing from the right and Dave Knight saving well from Dale's header and the Borough striker could not net the rebound.

Then, John Glover crashed a header against the crossbar from the resulting corner.

In one last assault by Borough, Lowe knocked a free-kick to Morley who was tumbled down by Ian Bennyworth and Borough's appeal for a penalty were turned down.



Bishop Auckland — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to Klngsway to play Bishop Auckland in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Bishop Auckland: Burleigh, M. Newton, Blair, Ball, Hills, Nattrass, Cross, Hawker McKinnell, D. Newton, Lumsden. Sub: Mason.

Borough: Dulleston, Kingston, Dixie, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Lowe, Morley, Dale, Cuplin. Sub: Parker.

Paul Culpin struck two brilliant goals to put Borough into the last 32 and then admitted: "I played terrible."

"Nothing was going right for me until the two chances came my way and fortunately I took them," said the Borough hero.

Culpin had an off day in the opposition penalty area, but on the two occasions he was involved in one on one confrontations with home keeper Martin Burleigh, his finishing was superb.

The former Leicester City front runner netted after 76 and 87 minutes to clinch victory for Nuneaton in a pulsating first round tie. Culpin's late goals were the final chapter in a tremendous display by Borough, who came from behind to win after conceding a 21st minute goal.

Revenge was sweet for them after the defeat at Bishops 14 months ago. It was also more than made up for the disastrous 6-2 defeat at Yeovil last weekend.

And the win also silenced the critics who had written Borough off only hours after the draw was made. There was only one way Borough could go after last week and that was up. A fine all round performance put the pride back into the club.

Kendal referee Mike Peck booked five players in the first 35 minutes of the game as he took a firm grip on a potentially explosive match – there was certainly plenty of tension in the air.

Tony McKinnell and Dave and Malcolm Newton were booked for Bishops with Trevor Morley and Barry Lowe

cautioned for Borough. In between the spate of name taking Bishops took the lead and the goal had more than a touch of the fortunate to it. Dave Newton jumped to meet a Kevin Cross centre and his header took a wicked deflection off Gareth Dale, completely deceiving Alan Dulleston.

Dulleston's decision to go through an early morning training session paid off as he pulled off a string of fine saves.

A free-kick was played short to Arthur Lumsden and he drove the ball cleanly but Dulleston reacted well, tipping the ball over the bar.

After 34 minutes Borough drew level when the outstanding Morley picked up a loose ball and evaded a challenge before hitting a firm left foot shot which Burleigh got a hand to but could not hold.

Bishops had all the elements in their favour in the first-half – a swirling wind behind them and also playing down the slope. But the 1-1 half-time score was a credit to the organised Borough defence which stifled the home challenge.

In the second half Borough took control in the most rewarding 45 minutes of the season. They piled the pressure on right from the re-start almost scoring from their first attack. Lowe picked out Dale whose cross was palmed off the bar by Burleigh to Phillips who found Culpin but he stumbled over the ball.

The same player squandered another chance after 50 minutes when Morley crossed, but Culpin hooked his effort wide. Dale had a shot blocked after Culpin had crossed but despite the misses Borough always looked likely to score.

And the breakthrough came in the 76th minute – ten minutes after Culpin had lobbed over the bar from close range.

Culpin made the most of a long clearance by Dulleston and ran onto the ball, racing into the area and taking the ball round Burleigh to give Nuneaton the lead.

Three minutes from time Culpin's second goal was a marvellous repeat of the first. This time he covered more than 50 yards to pick up Lowe's clearance and again took the ball wide of the keeper before slotting the ball home.

Blyth Spartans— 2nd Round

Borough made the journey to Croft Park to play Blyth Spartans in a FA Trophy Second Round tie.

Blyth: Clarke, Robinson, Walker, Scaife, Mitchinson, Dixon, Dunn, Hart, Mutrie, Baxter, Robson. Sub: Johnson.

Borough: Dulleston, Parker, Dixey, Glover, Gibson, Hendry, Phillips, Lowe, Culpin, Dale, Morley. Sub: Hill.

Borough made a sad departure from Croft Park after losing out to a late Blyth winner from a controversial penalty.

Blyth substitute Terry Johnson "conned" Rotherham referee John Key into awarding a penalty by taking a dive in the area following a perfectly fair tackle from John Glover.

It was a cruel punch below the belt just five minutes from the end of the match and a replay at Manor Park.

Borough 2-0 down after 34 minutes, staged a courageous fightback to draw level and then lost in the dying minutes. It was all too much for midfielder man Brendan Phillips who was sent off for using "foul and abusive language" as he led the protests against the scandalous penalty decision.

"I make no apologies for what happened," said an angry Phillips. "That referee cheated us. We did not play well in the first-half but then broke our necks to get back into the match.

"We would have put four or five goals past them in a replay and I am absolutely sick about the whole thing," he added.

Blyth took the lead after just seven minutes and Sunderland linesman Dave Kerry must have been the only person on the ground who reckoned he was sure about the validity of the goal.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Bob Scaife thundered a ferocious right foot shot against the crossbar and the ball bounced away.

Blyth did not know whether to celebrate and Borough were already protesting when referee Key glanced across at Kerry, who gave a short nod, and then the goal was awarded.

There was no doubt about the second goal scored by Blyth 27 minutes later.

Phil Robson, always a threat to Borough, made another penetrating run before sending in a left-wing cross with the ball reaching Harry Dunn who drilled the ball along the ground past Dulleston.

It left Borough with a daunting task. They had been punished twice for a below-par performance and could have been further behind at the interval.

But they hit back with a venom in the second half and made a tremendous

assault on the home defence right from the re-start.

It could have been suicidal and Borough might have played right into Blyth's hands but the North East side never got a look in.

Non-league international goalkeeper Dave Clarke proved his ability with a number of fine saves but right on the hour Borough were back in the game.

Gareth Dale went on a run and sent in a right-wing cross which Phillips bravely ended with a well positioned header past the helpless Clarke.

Blyth were just supporting players to Borough's revival and the Manor Park side drew level ten minutes from time.

A sweeping move split the home defence with Trevor Morley's backheaded flick setting Paul Culpin clear.

Culpin, back in the side after injury,

produced another calculating finish, pushing keeper Clarke wide and scoring from an acute angle.

There were just five minutes left when Blyth substitute Johnson made a hopeful chase for the ball with Glover.

He never looked capable of scoring from where he was positioned but the Nuneaton centre-back opted to tackle and slid into Johnson clearing the ball for a corner.

It looked to be a perfectly good challenge, but Johnson made a meal of it, diving in the area.

Referee Key was too far away to really decide, but made the terrible decision which left Borough fuming and Johnson with a wide grin on his face.

Mutrie scored and it was all over with Borough travelling home 230 miles, knowing they had been robbed. It was a long journey home.



An image to treasure from a troubled season, as one of the world's greatest ever footballers, George Best, makes his way out onto the Manor Park pitch to represent Nuneaton Borough against Coventry City. The great man scored from the penalty spot in a 2-1 win.

Photo: Mike Turner

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Alliance Premier League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1982-83

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.03	Wellingborough Town	A	PSF	0-2		
08.05	Highgate United	A	PSF	2-1	Johnson, Morley	
08.09	Alvechurch	A	PSF	1-2	Robson	
08.10	Oxford United	H	PSF	0-3		441 ?
08.14	Yeovil Town	H	L	3-1	Dixey, Morley, McFarlane	891
08.17	Barnet	A	L	0-1		528
08.21	Trowbridge Town	A	L	2-0	Morley (2)	
08.24	Stafford Rangers	A	BLT1 1L	1-0	Robson	
08.28	Runcorn	H	L	0-2		1172
08.30	Stafford Rangers	H	BLT1 2L	0-2		549
09.01	Lye Town	A	BSC 1	3-2	Morley (2), Robson	
09.04	Bangor City	A	L	2-5	Hendry (p), Morley	722
09.06	Barnet	H	L	1-0	Dale	801
09.11	Weymouth	A	L	0-3		522
09.18	Stamford	A	FAC 1Q	1-1	Hendry	360
09.20	Stamford	H	FAC 1Qr	5-0	Morley (2), Dale, Lowe, Hendry	
09.25	Tamworth	A	BSC 2	0-1		
09.29	Frickley Athletic	A	L	1-2	Glover	522
10.02	Gainsborough Trinity	H	FAC 2Q	3-3	Dale, Morley, McFarlane	893
10.05	Gainsborough Trinity	A	FAC 2Qr	0-2		
10.09	Enfield	A	L	1-1	Hendry	786
10.11	Weymouth	H	L	2-0	Lowe, Dixey	852
10.16	Kettering Town	H	L	0-0		1087
10.18	Altrincham	H	L	3-1	Dale, Hendry, Smith	1011
10.23	Northwich Victoria	A	L	2-2	Hendry, Morley	1102
10.25	Irthlingborough Diamonds	H	MFC	2-2	Culpin, Hoult	219
10.30	Frickley Athletic	H	L	5-1	Dale, Parker, Phillips, Lowe, Smith	903
11.02	A.P.Leamington	A	MFC	2-1	Johnson, Culpin	
11.06	Bangor City	H	L	2-1	Culpin, Morley	1013
11.08	Wealdstone	H	L	1-1	Hendry	1156
11.13	Kettering Town	A	L	0-0		1164
11.20	Barrow	H	L	1-1	Culpin	974
11.23	Stafford Rangers	A	MFC	0-2		
11.27	Bath City	H	L	5-0	Culpin (3), Dale, Lowe (p)	1020
12.04	Telford United	A	L	0-2		1075
12.11	Wealdstone	A	L	2-1	Culpin (2)	
12.20	Redditch United	H	MFC	9-0	Culpin (6), Dale (2), Glover	
12.27	Stafford Rangers	H	L	1-1	Hendry (p)	1640
01.01	Scarborough	A	L	0-3		1050
01.03	Boston United	H	L	1-2	Hendry (p)	1058
01.08	Yeovil Town	A	L	2-6	Morley, Lowe	1197
01.15	Bishop Auckland	A	FAT 1	3-1	Culpin (2), Morley	
01.22	Worcester City	A	L	1-1	Dale	1358
01.29	Telford United	H	L	2-1	Phillips, Morley	1060
02.05	Blyth Spartans	A	FAT 2	2-3	Phillips, Culpin	1342
02.07	Kettering Town	H	MFC	4-1	Dale (2), Walle, Strickland	101
02.19	Maidstone United	A	L	0-2		1201
02.26	Bath City	A	L	0-3		664
03.05	Worcester City	H	L	2-0	Culpin, Hill	767
03.07	Coventry City	H	F	2-1	Culpin, Best (p)	4317
03.12	Enfield	H	L	0-2		970
03.14	Scarborough	H	L	0-2		874
03.19	Altrincham	A	L	2-1	Culpin, Hill	904

Alliance Premier League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1982-83

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.22	Barrow	A	L	2-2	Sullivan, Culpin	551
03.26	Trowbridge Town	H	L	2-0	Culpin, Morley	647
03.28	Dagenham	A	L	0-0		679
04.02	Boston United	A	L	1-1	Hendry	1312
04.04	Stafford Rangers	A	L	2-1	Stirland, Culpin	
04.09	Maidstone United	H	L	2-2	Culpin, Hendry	714
04.16	Bedworth United	A	MFC F 1L	1-2	Dale	633
04.21	Northwich Victoria	H	L	2-1	Sullivan, Phillips	432
04.23	Runcorn	A	L	1-3	Hendry (p)	675
04.25	Dagenham	H	L	1-1	Gibson	548
05.02	Bedworth United	H	MFC F 2L	0-1		636

KEY: L = Alliance Premier League, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, BLT = Bob Lord Trophy, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1982-83

Back: John Glover, Richard Dixie, Alan Dulleston, Trevor Morley, Barry Lowe, Bobby Parker.
 Front: Ian Hendry, Gareth Dale, Bob Stockley, Micky Burke, Mike McFarlane, Tommy Robson.



Peake Set To Join Coventry

Lincoln City's Nuneaton born defender Trevor Peake is on the point of joining Coventry City – and is delighted at the prospect of playing in the First Division. Peake, 26, had talks with Coventry manager Bobby Gould yesterday, and seems likely to move to Highfield Road if terms can be agreed.

Roy Tromans Dies

Former Nuneaton Borough secretary and treasurer Roy Tromans has died suddenly. Mr Tromans, who was in his late 60s, was one of the club's most popular officials in post-war years. He played for the club as a youngster before serving in the Second World War.

Mr Tromans became club treasurer after the war when he was noted for his quiet efficiency in running Borough's books. His long stint as treasurer was then followed by a spell as secretary at Manor Park in the 1960s, and he was a keen follower of the club's progress until his death.

Borough Stand To Gain Cash Windfall

Cash-starved Nuneaton Borough stand to gain a £13,000 windfall from the Trevor Peake transfer. Terms were agreed in the £15,000 deal which took Peake from Manor Park to Lincoln whereby Borough would earn a cut of any further transfer in which the player was involved.

"I calculate that we are due something in the region of £13,000, and that is marvellous news," said Borough secretary John Evans. The Nuneaton-based player's move gives a great deal of satisfaction to the Borough secretary, as he was instrumental in bringing Peake to the club in the early 1970s.

Chairman Noel Kelly said: "This transfer has given us a lease of life – although all the money is spoken for. The cash bonus has come at exactly the right time for us, because the close season is always a difficult time for any club," he added.

"We can now pay more of our creditors, and others will be able to see that the situation is easing," said Kelly.

Dulleston Joins Kidderminster

Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Alan Dulleston has joined Kidderminster Harriers for an estimated fee of £1,500. Dulleston signed for the Alliance Premier League newcomers, who have been looking for a replacement for Bryan Parry, who has emigrated to South Africa.

Garner May Not Return

Tim Garner, who was loaned out to AP Leamington at the end of last season, may not be returning to Borough, who sold Alan Dulleston this week. Borough were under the impression that the player was still registered, but it turns out that the player believes that he is a free agent and will be staying with Leamington. Borough secretary John Evans feels that Garner will be letting the Manor Park club down if he does not return.

Borough Turn Down Culpin Extension

Borough manager Graham Carr has turned down a request from striker Paul Culpin to extend his summer stint in Finland. Carr said: "Paul rang me yesterday and told me he's feeling very sharp. He asked me if he could stay a little longer in Finland, but we must have him back for the opening Alliance Premier League game at Barnet."

Borough Offer Unemployed Work

Nuneaton Borough want to offer the unemployed the chance of work by helping the club with close-season ground improvements. Chairman Noel Kelly said today that Borough could give odd jobs to people out of work, and reward them by giving them a free season ticket.

"We would reward them by giving them a season ticket – and perhaps it would help relieve the boredom of being out of work," said Mr Kelly. "The club's facilities have to be spick and span by the start of the Alliance Premier League season, and it would give people the opportunity of using up what free time they may have," he added.

Carr Hopes To Sign Grewcock

Nuneaton manager Graham Carr is hoping to sign former Leicester City forward Neil Grewcock. Said Carr: "Neil's a Leicester lad who lives in Coalville – he played with Willie Gibson, Paul Culpin and Richard Hill." Carr's other targets are Northampton pair Andy Poole and Peter Denyer.

Phillips Signs For Scarborough

Borough midfielder man Brendan Phillips has signed for Alliance rivals Scarborough. The move has been in the pipeline for some time, and it is understood that no fee is involved. Also, it seems that goalkeeper Tim Garner will not be returning to Manor Park, and has signed for AP Leamington.

Manager Graham Carr has also failed in his bid to sign Peter Denyer, who has decided to join Kettering Town but is still hopeful of signing Neil Grewcock.

Borough Sign Poole And Hamill

Graham Carr has completed the signings of Andy Poole, who joins Borough from Northampton Town and Stewart Hamill, who joins from Kettering Town. Secretary John Evans said: "These two are quality players, and we feel that Hamill is going to be a very big asset."

Borough may also be on the verge of signing Neil Grewcock, who has agreed terms with the club, but has yet to sign. He is expected to play in the friendly match against Warwick.

Everton Carr Given Trial

Borough are to give a trial to Antiguan-born defender Everton Carr, who has been released by Rochdale. Manager Graham Carr said: "Everton made a good number of appearances for Leicester, including some in the First Division and he's a right-back – one of the positions I want to strengthen."



1983-84

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Boro' 03-08-1983

Borough made the journey to play Racing Club Warwick in a pre-season friendly.

Borough went down 1-0 at Racing Warwick – and look to have lost out in their efforts to sign Neil Grewcock. Borough paraded new signings Andy Poole and Stewart Hamill in what was a good work-out for Carr's men. Keeper Poole had a quiet debut, and stood no chance with the 89th minute header from Paul Sinnett, which gave Racing victory.

Hamill may wish to forget his first match in Borough colours – the former Leicester winger missed a 70th minute penalty, given when his shot struck a Warwick defender on the arm. Borough were without Paul Culpin, Gareth Dale, Trevor Morley and Ian Hendry, and played an assortment of young players including Micky Burke, Frank Shields and Ken Taylor.

Taylor was unlucky to see a first-half header cleared off the line, but twice missed badly when well-placed.

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Boro' 06-08-1983

Borough made the journey to play Sutton Coldfield Town in a pre-season friendly.

Former Leicester City full-back Everton Carr impressed on his Borough debut. Another newcomer to catch the eye was Stewart Hamill who got Borough's second goal after half-time. He laid a ball wide to Sullivan, moved into the box for the return and sidefooted the ball past the keeper.

Borough had gone in front before the interval through youngster Paddy Walle who turned in a cross from Trevor Morley. Manager Graham Carr was well pleased with the workout, but is still on the lookout for players to strengthen his squad.

Stamford v Nuneaton Borough 09-08-1983

Borough made the journey to play Stamford in a pre-season friendly.

Borough were beaten 2-1 by Stamford, although they went in front with a first-half goal from Trevor Morley, but the lead was short lived. Stamford grabbed an equaliser within minutes and then after the interval scored the winner.

Manager Graham Carr said that he wasn't too despondent about the result although he is concerned about the amount of players still out of the side. "We had to field too many youngsters and their lack of experience showed against Stamford, who were a workmanlike side."

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 10-08-1983

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

Ian Hendry returned to the Nuneaton Borough side and celebrated with two goals as the Manor Park men held

Northampton to a draw. Hendry, making his first appearance in the pre-season build-up, struck twice after the visitors had taken a 2-0 lead.

Wakeley Gage put the Cobblers in front before the interval and after the break Terry Austin, a close season signing from Doncaster, added a second. Hendry, who only came on in the second half reduced the arrears from the penalty spot then grabbed the equaliser as Borough finished strongly.

Borough boss Graham Carr was pleased with the performance as Northampton used their full first-team squad for the game. "They fielded a strong side and considering that we had half-a-dozen of the first team still out we did very well, especially when we came back from two down," he said.

Gainsborough Trinity v Nuneaton Boro' 13-08-1983

Borough made the journey to play Gainsborough in a pre-season friendly.

Borough's inability to field a strong side due to holidays and unavailability continued at Gainsborough and they slipped to a single goal defeat. Everton Carr's vehicle broke down and Ian Hendrie couldn't get time off work. More positive news is that John Glover has recovered from illness and Paul Culpin flies back from Finland and will join his team-mates for the final two training sessions before the season's opening game at Barnet.

Nuneaton Borough v Wolves 15-08-1983

Borough welcomed Wolverhampton Wanderers to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly.

Borough rounded off their pre-season preparations with an outstanding performance. Graham Carr's men were in superb form and gave the young Wolves' side a real drubbing. They showed the togetherness that Carr was looking for and the visitors were left chasing shadows for much of the game. The goal rush started as early as the ninth minute when slack marking in the Wolves defence allowed Ian Hendry to chip over Tim Flowers.

Three minutes before the break Borough went further in front through Bobby Parker. Everton Carr made a good run down the right and his fine cross was met by Parker with a bullet header that flew into the net. At this stage Borough were well in command and Wolves had to thank Hugh Atkinson, a player with plenty of first team experience, for keeping them together. But Wolves took Atkinson off at half-time and while they were still trying to re-organise their midfield Borough scored twice in two minutes.

Three minutes after the re-start Trevor Morley eluded two players to flick the ball home. Then two minutes later Stewart Hamill, who had a fine match, fired in a cross from the right. Bob Coy, another player with first-team experience, missed it and John Glover headed home.

For a while the visitors began to dish out some harsh



treatment to the Borough players and full-back Mark Bromley was lucky to get away with it. Paul Brown hit the bar with a left footer from 20 yards then Morley did the same from even further out as Borough pressed home their advantage.

Paul Richardson and Micky Burke came on to replace Parker and Brown in midfield and the fresh legs were evident as Borough pushed the visitors back again. And five minutes from the end Richardson was involved in the move for the fifth goal. He sent Hamill clear on the right and his perfect cross was headed home by Morley. Outstanding for Borough was Hamill who was a revelation in this match. He showed plenty of skill and pace and could cause Alliance defences a lot of problems during the coming campaign.

Culpin Out Of Opener

Paul Culpin, Borough's leading scorer last season is almost certainly out of the first game at Barnet. The shock news came following several phone calls between Borough secretary John Evans and the Football Association. The problem is that Borough need an international clearance certificate from Gran Kulla, the Finnish club where Culpin has spent the summer. Lancaster Gate insist that Culpin will not be eligible to play until they have received the certificate.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough 09-08-1983

Barnet: Phillips, Kinnear, Baldrey, Millett, Craig, Brown, Docker, Stein, Ragan, Atkins, Mahoney. **Subs:** Bennett, Margerrison.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey (Burke 83), Glover, Parker, Hamill, Brown, Penn (Dale 45), Morley, Richardson.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in an Alliance Premier League game.

Determined Borough pulled off a fine opening day win, despite all of the problems that had beset manager Graham Carr, who had been robbed of the services of Paul Culpin, whose international clearance had not come through, and Ian Hendry, who took part in a trial game for Birmingham City. Their absence and the manager's recruitment of new players meant six players made their debut for the club, including ex-Walsall and Everton player Don Penn.

Borough settled quickly and almost opened the scoring as early as the second minute. Trevor Morley picked up the ball on the left, just inside the Barnet half, before cutting inside, making ground and chipping a delightful through ball past a retreating home defence, only for Penn to be just beaten to the ball by the advancing Barnet goalkeeper Gary Phillips.

This seemed to serve as encouragement for Borough and only two minutes later, Morley came within an ace of scoring, when he turned his marker and hit a fierce shot narrowly wide. However, Borough's bright opening lost a little of its momentum as the home side found their feet and in the 16th minute Stuart Atkins got away from Richard Dixey, but put his shot wide when well placed. Then five minutes later it took a brave save from Nuneaton goalkeeper Andy Poole, who was

forced to punch clear from the boot of the ever-dangerous Atkins as the striker looked all set to score.

Atkins again caused problems in the 24th minute when he headed a John Docker cross narrowly over the bar. But then in the 42nd minute Borough set their supporters alight by taking the lead with a superb goal. Stewart Hamill took a free kick from wide on the right, he curled a perfectly flighted free kick into the box and it was new signing Penn who soared to plant a jack-knife header into the net, a magnificent piece of quality finishing that stunned the home side.

This gave Borough a morale boosting interval lead, but it was to be the last contribution from Penn, as he was replaced during the break by Dale. Nuneaton started the second half in fine style and they added to their lead, with another stunning goal. Fine work by impressive newcomer Paul Brown on the left ended with an interchange of passes between the youngster and Morley, and Morley lashed the ball home.

Borough were now in full flight and playing some delightful football. It was nearly three in the 59th minute when good work by Hamill on the right saw the ball fall to Dale in space, but he was slow to react and the chance was lost. But then in the 73rd minute, Barnet pulled a goal back. Willie Gibson and Steve Mahoney were involved in a chase for an overhit through ball and although Gibson seemed in complete control of the situation he was unusually hesitant and Mahoney nipped in to knock the ball past the advancing Poole.

Barnet were now back in the game and they pushed forward in search of an equaliser, but Borough remained steady and soaked up any pressure the home side were able to exert. They even overcame the loss of skipper and iron man Dixey with seven minutes remaining, following a clash with Atkins that left the Barnet man with a broken nose and Dixey with stitches. Micky Burke substituted. Borough went closest to scoring when Hamill forced two fine saves from Phillips.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 22-08-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hamill, Brown, Penn (Dale 65), Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Burke.

Northwich: Ryan, Fretwell, Murphy, Jones, Abel, Bennett, Anderson (Reid), Craven, Wallings, Chesters, Wilson. **Sub:** Denn.

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Trevor Morley produced a goal of stunning quality to send Northwich tumbling to defeat. With just eleven minutes remaining there seemed little danger to the visitors as he picked up a ball in midfield from Bobby Parker. But he cut inside, skated past Kenny Jones, and hammered a magnificent 25 yarder into the top corner of the net. It was a goal good enough to win any game and was just reward for Graham Carr's side.

They had weathered a tricky opening 20 minutes when the visitors looked the sharper of the two sides to get well on top and make it two wins in a row.



Northwich goalkeeper Dave Ryan gropes in vain as Trevor Morley's blockbuster is already on the way out off the stanchion.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Northwich began brightly and with new boy Barry Wellings showing up well in the early attacks. The visitors looked quicker to the ball, showed more ideas and looked as if they were going to give Borough a hard night. But the Nuneaton defence gradually tightened their grip and the visitors front runners faded out of the picture.

Wellings posed no threat after the early exchanges and Colin Chesters, 34 goals last term, was hardly ever in it. As the first-half wore on Borough began to impose themselves on the game and Don Penn was unlucky to see a header cleared off the line. Then Paul Richardson sent Paul Brown away down the left with a ball inside the full-back and Graham Abel headed behind for a corner with Morley and Penn closing in.

But a minute into the second half Northwich had a golden opportunity to go in front. Steve Craven got up well to knock down a cross to the unmarked John Anderson but he topped his shot from ten yards out and it rolled gently to Andy Poole. However, that was the last real threat from Northwich as Borough began to pile on the pressure. David Ryan was by far the busier of the two keepers and was thankful to see John Glover head into the side netting from a Hamill cross.

Ryan was lucky when Gareth Dale, on for Penn, hit the bar with a fierce header from Hamill's cross. Dale should have put Borough in front 12 minutes from the end when Morley freed him with a glorious through ball down the middle. But the Borough striker delayed his shot as Ryan came racing from his line and the keeper was able to get down to smother the attempt. Eighteen-year-old Brown caught the eye and was always involved in the thick of the action, and Hamill produced some exciting runs on the right flank. Parker was booked for dissent and Northwich's Tony Murphy for a foul on Paul Richardson.

Nuneaton Borough v Trowbridge Town 27-08-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hamill, Brown, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Dale, Burke.

Trowbridge: Shrubsole, Chalkin (Neate 64), Ritchie, Ross, Bartley (Bray 88), Feeley, Tainton, Harris, Wright, Evens, Round;

Borough welcomed Trowbridge Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough continued their excellent start to the season when they made it three wins in a row at a sweltering Manor Park. Graham Carr's new look side produced their best show to date but they should have won by a much greater margin. They were in total control for almost the entire game but failed to turn their superiority into goals. Paul Culpin, playing his first game of the season, was the main culprit. He should have had a hat-trick and also saw one goalbound shot turned onto a post by visiting keeper Ian Shrubsole.

Borough's leading scorer from last season looked sharp enough but at times he appeared to be trying too hard to open his account. In every other respect it was a commanding performance from Borough as they tore the Trowbridge defence to shreds. But they had to overcome the shock of going a goal down after 15 minutes despite being on top in the opening exchanges.

Ian Ritchie made a diagonal run behind the Nuneaton defence from a free-kick and his low cross was volleyed home by Danny Bartley. Borough stormed forward in search of an equaliser only for Culpin and Trevor Morley to fail with clear cut openings. But Morley made no mistake two minutes before the interval when he hammered home a right footer from just inside the box.

The second half was one-way traffic with Borough having an embarrassing amount of possession. Culpin forced a fine save from the visiting keeper and then John Glover failed to connect with the goal gaping in front of him. Then the Trowbridge defenders got into a tangle and Culpin raced through only for Shrubsole to push his fierce shot onto a post and away for a corner. It was all Borough and the inevitable goal came midway through the second half.



John Glover sees his shot squeeze inside the post for Borough's winner.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

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Morley flicked on a corner at the near post and Glover slid the ball home from close range. Paul Richardson and Stewart Hamill then combined neatly on the right but Culpin somehow scooped the cross over the top from eight yards. Bartley was booked for a trip on Hamill and shortly afterwards Willie Gibson suffered a similar fate following a clash with John Evans.

With only nine minutes remaining Paul Neate, on as substitute for Chalkin, caused a flutter among the home fans when he forced a smart save from Andy Poole in a rare Trowbridge attack. But the game ended in the now familiar pattern with Bobby Parker having a shot blocked on the line as Borough ended on a high note.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 31-08-1983

Yeovil: Baker, Gold, Horton, Elliott, Charles, Borthwick, Linney, Prosser, Bell, Finnigan, Brown. Subs: White and Jones.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Penn (Parker 62), Hamill, Brown (Sullivan 83), Culpin, Morley, Richardson.

Borough made the journey to The Huish to play Yeovil Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough tasted defeat for the first time this season when they went down to a single goal defeat. But Borough had enough of the play to have made the long journey home with at least a point and can only have themselves to blame for spurning a string of chances.

Paul Culpin, a prolific goalscorer last season, must go down as the chief culprit, squandering at least four good chances and clearly looks in need of a goal to boost his confidence. Graham Carr was forced to make a change after Bobby Parker arrived late. Don Penn came into the side and Trevor Morley dropped into midfield in Parker's place.

Yeovil opened quietly and apart from a scare for Borough as early as the first minute, when an under-hit pack pass from Paul Brown was only just gathered by Andy Poole from the feet of the inrushing home striker Andy Bell. The home side scarcely troubled the Nuneaton rearguard for the remainder of the half. The first real chance was created after 15 minutes when Everton Carr played a long ball for Culpin to chase, the striker getting to the ball first, just outside the angle of the box, only to hook over the advancing home keeper, but well wide.

Penn made a brave run in the 19th minute, followed by a hard head high cross that was missed by all the Yeovil defenders, but when it arrived at the far post Culpin and Brown got in each other's way and the chance was lost. Only a minute later Culpin almost opened the scoring when he brilliantly turned his marker eight yards from goal to present himself with a chance on the angle of the six yard box, only to put his shot into the side netting when he seemed certain to score.

Then, in the 44th minute, disaster struck, Morley tracked back with Bell and as the striker went past him brought him down with a clumsy looking challenge, just inside the box. Referee Mr W. Phillips from Paignton, had no hesitation in pointing to

the spot, a decision no Borough player had any disagreement with, and Bell picked himself up to score from the spot kick.

In the 49th minute Culpin nipped in to intercept a Dave Linney back pass, only to lift his volley over the bar, when he had more time than he realised. Then in the 64th minute Culpin missed another glorious opening after being put clear by Morley, putting the ball straight at the advancing home goalkeeper Baker, the rebound found Stewart Hamill on the edge of the box and the winger's shot was blocked in turn and the danger cleared. Try as they may Borough were unable to create little else by the way of chances.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 03-09-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hamill, Brown, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Burke, Sullivan.

Kettering: Humphries, McGoldrick, Mann, Chamberlain, Needham, Masson, Bartlett, Denyer, Bradd, Murphy, Beavon. Subs: Pownell, Hofbauer.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Paul Culpin calmly slotted home a first-half penalty to end his goal famine and put Nuneaton Borough on the way to their fourth win in five games at windswept Manor Park. Borough's leading scorer from last season ended his desperate search for a goal midway through the first-half. With 22 minutes gone John Glover powered in a header from a Stewart Hamill corner and Glyn Chamberlain was forced to use his hands to keep the ball out.



Paul Culpin calmly puts his 22nd minute penalty wide of the Kettering keeper and Borough are on their way to their fourth win of the season.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But Culpin once again failed to show the razor sharp finishing that was a hallmark of his play last season. He missed out with chances either side of the interval – openings that last season he would have buried at will. But he wasn't alone in this respect as Borough had the major share of possession but failed to turn their superiority into goals.

Trevor Morley had a clear cut opening shortly after the break when a long clearance from Andy Poole caught the Kettering defence napping but he dragged his shot wide from inside the box. And Paul Brown might have done better after being played clear by Paul Richardson.



But the misses weren't all on one side as the Poppies had a couple of early openings that could have changed the pattern of the game. They had a golden chance after only eight minutes when Don Masson floated in a right wing cross to the unmarked Tony Murphy but he headed over from eight yards out. Then Dave Needham could only put his shot into the side netting after going round Andy Poole.

The Borough keeper is proving more than an adequate replacement for Alan Dulleston and produced two excellent saves just before the interval. First he parried a header from Murphy then he turned a Les Bradd effort over the top. Hamill again looked an exciting winger with the pace and ability to trouble the best of defences. He posed loads of problems for his former team-mates and gave Arthur Mann a rough time during the second half. Another player to catch the eye was Richardson who grows in stature with every game. He had no experience of Alliance football prior to this season but the midfielder, signed from Eastwood Town, could prove a real find for Graham Carr.

There were four bookings with Gibson, Carr and Dixey from Borough, and Needham from the visitors finding their way into the referee's notebook.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-09-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Sub: Brown.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play a Bob Lord Trophy first round first leg tie.

Borough turned in their worst performance of the season so far, being beaten by two clear goals. They started brightly, but after conceding a goal midway through the first-half they completely lost their way, with their normally well organised and tight defence looking particularly frail. Ian Hendry came back into the side after trials with Coventry City and Birmingham City, in place of Paul Brown.

A delightful ball from Hendry in the ninth minute sent Willie Gibson overlapping on the left and his astute pass inside to Trevor Morley set the striker up with a chance, that he put narrowly wide of the far post. This effort was followed by two good attempts from Paul Culpin who twice came close within a minute, when he put an overhead kick wide and then saw a dipping shot from the edge of the box go over the bar.

But in the 19th minute the Poppies took the lead when Everton Carr managed to get the wrong side of Dave Hofbauer and was then forced to foul him to rectify the error. Arthur Mann pumped the resultant free kick to the far post, where Dave Needham climbed high to knock the ball back across his goal, for the unmarked Les Bradd to nod home.

Borough pulled level in the 37th minute when Morley brilliantly turned Needham inside the area, only for the big defender to bring him heavily down. Hendry made no mistake from the spot. The next twist to the game saw two

goals for the home side in a three minute spell either side of the break that effectively won Kettering the game. First, on the stroke of half-time Frank Murphy took advantage of a Bradd dummy to coolly slot the ball past the helpless Andy Poole and then only two minutes after the break Murphy scored again, this time from the penalty spot.

Hendry had tracked Eddie McGoldrick back into the box and as the full back made a decisive run past the defence and along the goal-line, brought him down heavily at the expense of a penalty. Ten minutes later it was Borough's turn for a penalty when Needham was penalised for leaning on Culpin inside the area and once more it was Hendry who stepped up to convert the spot kick.

But still the scoring was not over and with only ten minutes remaining Kettering increased their advantage to two goals once more, with Hofbauer taking advantage of slack marking to slot the ball home from close range, his last contribution before limping off the field.

Enfield v Nuneaton Borough

10-09-1983

Enfield: Mallett, Flint, Hazeldon, Barrett, Ironton, Haverson, Tone, Taylor, Ashford, Holmes, King. Subs: Boulter, Warburton.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Brown, Dale.

Borough made the journey to Enfield to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough picked up one of the most prized scalps in the league and at the same time firmly cemented their place among the early season pacemakers, with a magnificent performance at champions Enfield. Resisting the temptation to make changes following the midweek debacle at Kettering, manager Graham Carr named the same line-up and they rewarded his faith with a non-stop performance full of character and determination.

The first-half was an entertaining affair with both sides prepared to push forward in search of goals and although the score remained goalless at the break, both sides had gone close. In the 13th minute Enfield made ground down the left and Steve King's precise cross was met by Nick Ironton, who saw a crisp header pass narrowly over the bar and only a minute later Lee Holmes struck a fierce drive from fully 35 yards that Andy Poole was relieved to see suffer a similar fate.

Then in the 17th minute Borough had their first real moment of danger, when Stewart Hamill cut in from the right before striking a hard low shot that skidded dangerously off the sodden turf and forced a fine save from Dave Mallett, the keeper clutching the ball at full stretch. Despite having their share of possession Borough could well have gone a goal down on the half-hour, when the home side had a purple patch.

Poole picked a five yard effort from Ironton from the air as the ball was struck straight at him, then was relieved as King shot narrowly wide and an Ironton effort dropped just over the bar.

The second half saw the home side start in even more



positive mood and they could have opened their account twice in quick succession. In the very first minute of the second period full-back Everton Carr found himself inexplicably stranded the wrong side of the man he was supposed to be marking, Ashford, who had drifted wide, leaving a simple task for Holmes to set him free down the left.

Despite Carr's attempts to get back Ashford made swift ground before crossing to the far post where Flint at full stretch somehow put the ball wide of the post, when he seemed certain to score. Then in the 69th minute a Haverson cross was misjudged by Carr, leaving Holmes to chest the ball down and run at goal. Borough keeper Poole narrowed the angle well and the home striker pulled his shot well wide.

After this scare Borough settled down and the game became a midfield battle that was being won by the visitors, who were prepared to work harder. Then in the 75th minute came the all-important goal. A Hamill inswinging corner from the left was touched on by Morley at the near post and Paul Culpin was on hand to side foot the ball home from close range. Once in front Borough were in no mood to let the points slip and at the end of the day they emerged worthy winners. There were bookings for Borough's Parker, Morley and Dixey together with Holmes, Hazeldon and manager McClusky for the home side.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 12-09-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Sullivan, Brown.

Kettering: Humphries, McGoldrick, Mann, Chamberlain, Needham, Pownall, Bartlett, Denyer, Bradd (Banton 60), Murphy, Hofbauer. **Sub:** Jenkins.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Bob Lord Trophy first round second leg tie.

Borough bowed out of the competition after they failed to claw back a two goal deficit from the first leg. Borough trailed to a 64th minute goal by Dave Hofbauer before Bobby Parker levelled matters with just three minutes remaining. Borough had their chances to pull the tie round, but Paul Culpin missed a couple of clear cut opportunities, Trevor Morley was denied by a superb save from Steve Humphries and John Glover went close with two headers.

But Borough were left to reflect on the near misses and that disastrous performance in the first leg. Both sides played some entertaining football in the first half but failed to break the deadlock. Peter Denyer fired wide of Andy Poole's right hand post and then hit another drive straight into the Borough keeper's arms. At the other end Humphries missed a Stewart Hamill free-kick but it skidded to safety and then Culpin was just too high with a hook shot on the turn.

Midway through the half Borough were denied the goal they desperately needed by a superb save from Humphries. Ian Hendry floated a long ball in from the left and with the keeper well off his line Morley headed what looked like a certain goal. But the Poppies' keeper dived backwards to make a superb save. Dixey went into the referee's book for a foul on Frank

Murphy and he was quickly followed by Glyn Chamberlain for a late tackle on Culpin.

Les Bradd knocked down a cross for Denyer to shoot narrowly wide across a post then Hofbauer became the third man to be booked for elbowing Everton Carr in the face. Borough had a great chance to reduce the deficit when Dave Needham played a back pass straight to Culpin in the penalty area but the Borough striker shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

Glover glanced a header wide from a right wing corner then Parker failed to connect with the visitors' defence in disarray. But Kettering broke away to stun Borough with a killer goal. Murphy was given room on the left and he chipped a lovely ball through for Hofbauer to volley past Poole.

Hendry was booked for bringing down Eddie McGoldrick as Borough pressed for an equaliser. Culpin was again wide of the far post from a good position then Glover headed narrowly wide from a Carr cross. But three minutes from the end Parker squared the game when he headed home from close range after Kettering failed to clear a Hamill cross.

Borough Sign Duggan

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr has completed the signing of former Birmingham City and Kettering Town player Derek Duggan, who was recently released by Kettering and has been training at Manor Park.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 19-09-1983

Weymouth: Smeulders, Morrell, Sandercock, Arnold, Bourne, Alford, Crabb, Pearson, Platt, Iannone, Benjafield. **Subs:** Thynnes, Poole.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Hendry (Duggan 34), Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Hall.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to play Weymouth in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough put behind them their exits from two major cup competitions in the space of five days, to emerge victorious from their top of the table clash. Graham Carr's men turned in a performance of character and determination, both qualities that had been lacking recently.

Carr made one change, with Bobby Parker being unavailable due to work commitments, the Borough manager brought in Paul Brown. Borough started uncertainly and the home side caused plenty of early problems, but once the first ten minutes had been overcome they settled down to have the better of the remainder of the first-half.

In the 13th minute Ian Hendry lifted a delightful through ball over the Weymouth defence to set Paul Culpin free in the right hand corner of the box. He pulled the ball back across the goal to present Brown with a half-chance, but the youngster stumbled and the chance was lost.

Two minutes later they went even closer when Trevor Morley put Culpin clear in the box, but the striker mis-controlled the ball and was robbed by ex-Borough defender Phil

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Sandercock. The full back then passed loosely back to his goalkeeper John Smeulders only for Culpin to intercept and force the keeper to rescue his side, spreading himself to parry the ball at the expense of a corner. In the 23rd minute Smeulders saved his side again, with a fine save from Morley, after a through ball by Paul Richardson, as Borough continued to have the better of the play.

Then in the second minute of the second period Borough scored the goal they had threatened for so long. Debutant Derek Duggan, a 34th minute substitute for the injured Hendry, played a ball deep into the Weymouth box and Culpin powered forward before hammering the bouncing ball over the advancing keeper and into the net. A superb finish from a man struggling for form and yet a typical Culpin goal.

Borough looked well on top until the 61st minute when the game exploded. Stewart Hamill lost the ball some ten yards inside the Weymouth half and tried to make amends with an ugly looking lunge at Gerry Pearson, that was well over the top and dangerous. The challenge so incensed the Weymouth man that he reacted violently, grabbing Hamill, appearing to strike and push him. A scuffle then broke out with several players involved. The referee stepped in to send off Hamill, with Pearson escaping any form of punishment.

Once down to ten men Borough were called upon to show their character and John Glover and Richard Dixey marshalled the defence superbly and Andy Poole in goal produced a string of magnificent saves. Only once did Weymouth breach the Borough rearguard and then Chris Thynnes 35 yard shot that sneaked through the packed area, struck the inside of the post and bounced to safety.

Borough To Sign Duncan Gardner

Duncan Gardner will complete the formalities of signing for Nuneaton Borough tonight and could come into the reckoning for a place against Kidderminster Harriers. The former AP Leamington and Telford striker has agreed terms with Borough boss Graham Carr and may make his debut against the bottom of the table club.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 24-09-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Duggan, Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker, Gardner.

Kidderminster: Dulleston, Wood, Richards, Horne, C. Jones, Gavin, Macauley, Bowater, Mullen, Roberts, Brennan. **Subs:** G. Jones, Maffei.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Willie Gibson emerged as Nuneaton Borough's unlikely hero as they made it eight wins from nine games in the Alliance Premier League. With four minutes injury time already added by the referee Borough were awarded a free-kick out on the left-hand touchline near the half-way line. Gibson floated the ball into the Kidderminster penalty area and keeper Alan Dulleston, under pressure from Paul Culpin, decided to let the

ball go then watched in horror as it dropped gently into the back of the net.

It was rough justice for Harriers and Dulleston in particular. The former Borough favourite had made a string of fine saves after the break to keep Nuneaton out when they were on top. He denied Culpin and Morley and then reacted smartly to clutch a goalbound effort from Derek Duggan. Dulleston's best effort came midway through the second half when he raced out to parry a shot from Culpin and then quickly recovered to deny Morley with a superb save from the rebound.

The visitors can count themselves more than a little unfortunate to leave Manor Park empty handed. For they never looked like a bottom of the table outfit and before the break were by far the sharper of the two sides. With Borough nowhere near their best Harriers dominated the early stages and it came as no surprise when they went in front after 17 minutes.



Kidderminster goalkeeper Alan Dulleston looks back in dismay as Willie Gibson's free kick provides Borough with a last gasp winner.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Fraser Wood slipped a ball through to Phil Mullen inside the box and the striker laid it off first time for Elwyn Roberts to beat Andy Poole with a crisp drive. It was Roberts' third goal in three games since he joined Harriers in a £2,000 move from Corby Town. Mullen missed a chance to increase the visitors' lead when he failed to connect properly with only Poole to beat. At this stage Borough were struggling to make an impression on the Kidderminster defence which was well-marshalled by the towering Stan Jones.

But Jones earned himself a booking for kicking the ball away after the referee had given a free-kick for a foul on Culpin. Then a minute before the break Borough grabbed an equaliser through Culpin. Everton Carr's through ball caught the Harriers' defence square and Culpin, looking to be well offside, was allowed to run on and round Dulleston before slipping the ball into an empty net.

It was a different story after the interval as the Manor Park side took a firm grip on the game. Stewart Hamill was in superb form and gave left back Archie Richards a terrible afternoon. He was the main instigator behind the Nuneaton attack and sent in a string of crosses that caused all sorts of problems for the Harriers. But despite all the pressure Borough seldom looked like getting the winner. Culpin, Morley and Duggan all went close but Dulleston looked capable of dealing with everything the Borough attack could throw at him. However, just when it seemed that Borough were destined to drop a point, up came Gibson with his last gasp winner.



Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 26-09-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, P. Brown, Duggan, Hamill, Culpin, Dale, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker, Hendry.

Bath: Mogg, England, Aitken, Ricketts, Sherwood, Day, Barton, K. Brown, Chandler, Hayes, Singleton. **Subs:** Penny, Palmer.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Paul Culpin helped himself to a superb hat-trick to power Borough to the top of the league. Culpin recaptured his golden touch as they produced their best performance of the season.

Gone was the uncertainty and lack of confidence that has been all too evident in recent weeks. He was back at his razor sharp best and turned in a performance that should serve as a warning to the rest of the Alliance. But this was by no means a one-man show as Graham Carr's men at last turned their superiority into goals. They were without the services of Trevor Morley and Duncan Gardner, who was injured in training. Yet they brushed aside the opposition with the kind of authoritative display that bore the hallmark of champions.

Bath made a confident start with Mike England hitting the bar early on but long before the end they were a well-beaten side. Stewart Hamill started the rot when he opened the scoring from a free-kick on the edge of the box after 25 minutes. The visitors put up a defensive wall but the diminutive Borough winger hammered a right footer into the roof of the net. Eleven minutes later Culpin made it 2-0 with a carbon copy of his goal against Kidderminster at the weekend.

Everton Carr freed the Borough striker with a superb through ball from deep inside his own half and Culpin raced clear to slip the ball past Dave Mogg. There was a setback for Borough's hopes just before the interval when Tony Ricketts reduced the arrears from close range after a right wing corner had not been cleared.

However, within two minutes of the re-start Borough were again two goals in front thanks to John Glover. He met a Hamill corner with a glancing header and despite the efforts of Dave Palmer it went in at the far post. The visitors showed a lot of character to again cut the deficit to a single goal. Borough's defence was slow to react to a low cross from the right and Phil Barton beat Andy Poole with a surprise shot from outside the box.

Culpin cut short any celebrations in the City camp when he coolly slotted home a penalty awarded when Keith Brown brought down Derek Duggan. At this stage it was all Borough and as the confidence grew they turned on a bit of style to the delight of the fans. They could have increased their lead on several occasions as they ripped the visitors' defence apart.

But to cap the evening Culpin completed his hat-trick with 17 minutes left – and what a goal. Willie Gibson threaded the ball through into the box and Culpin slipped his marker to hammer a left foot shot past Mogg from the narrowest of angles.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 01-10-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Duggan, Hamill, Culpin, Morley, P. Richardson. **Subs:** Dale, Parker.

Boston: Holland, Parr, Simpson, Laverick, Jones, Wood, Casey, Cook, Lumby, Mallinder, Gilbert. **Subs:** Hibberd, M. Richardson.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough produced a Jekyll and Hyde performance as they continued their magnificent start to the season with their ninth win in ten games. Before the break they looked anything but league leaders.

But the second half was a complete transformation with Graham Carr's side in scintillating form as they hammered home four goals. Boston must have wondered just what had hit them. They had just one half-chance shortly after the re-start but at the end the margin could have been greater.

Boston's problems began before the kick-off when keeper Kevin Blackwell failed to report, thinking it was a home game. This brought in reserve Wayne Holland, but he can be no way held responsible for his side's defeat. In fact, he made a fine save to deny Paul Culpin in the opening minutes after the striker had been freed by a superb ball from Willie Gibson.

The visitors had their best spell midway through the first half when Mick Laverick had a shot well saved by Andy Poole and dangerman Jim Lumby was close with a header. The first-half was generally as dull as the weather, although Richard Dixey's header just before half-time scraped the bar.

Things livened up after the interval and within four minutes Borough were in front through Culpin. The visitors' defence failed to clear a free-kick and Borough's ace marksman was left with a clear cut chance. Holland did well to block the first attempt but Culpin hammered home the rebound. Borough had a stroke of luck shortly afterwards when Lumby headed wide from close in. He appeared to be pushed by John Glover but the referee waved away the penalty appeals.

The Manor Park side then put the issue beyond doubt with a burst of two goals in six minutes. With 55 minutes gone Trevor Morley picked up a loose ball in midfield, slipped past Phil Jones, and laid a perfectly weighted ball into the box for Stewart Hamill to sidefoot into the far corner of the net.

It was all Nuneaton now and it came as no surprise when they went further in front. Culpin got possession on the edge of the box and with Hamill screaming for the ball he calmly beat Holland with a low shot from 25 yards out. With 19 minutes left Boston manager John Froggatt caused a stir among the small band of Boston fans when he brought off Lumby. Mark Richardson, brother of Borough's Paul came on but had little chance to shine as Nuneaton continued to dominate. And just five minutes from the end Paul Brown capped an amazing afternoon for the Manor Park side by hammering home the final goal with a first-time 20 yarder that flew into the net.

Kelly Plans Clear The Air Talks With Carr

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly plans clear the air talks with Graham Carr after the manager threatened to quit the club. Carr claims that he is being kept in the dark over some issues involving the players, including certain aspects of Trevor Morley's proposed £15,000 transfer to Southend United. But Kelly says he doesn't know what the trouble is all about.

"The first I knew of it was when I heard it on the car radio last night – and I was flabbergasted," he said. "He is the one who has been keeping in touch with Southend manager Peter Morris so he should know everything that is going on about that. But nevertheless, whatever grievances he has I feel that the whole issue should not have even got outside the boardroom," he added.

"We invited Graham to the board meeting on Tuesday night when Ian Hendry's contract, Gareth Dale's future with the club and the Morley transfer were all down for discussion," said Kelly.

"But he declined the invitation as he was going to watch a game on the same night," he added. However, Kelly does not foresee a showdown with Carr, one of the most respected managers in non-league football.

"At the moment Nuneaton Borough are top of the League and we should all be working to take advantage of that situation. Graham has had the full backing of the board and every help it is possible for them to give him. He is doing a fine job with the team and I just see this as a storm in a teacup," he said.

Mel Takes Up Challenge



This is the face that Nuneaton Borough fans will be seeing a lot of in the coming weeks. For it is Mel Martin, who has just taken over the job as stadium manager at the Manor Park club. Mel, who lives in Coventry, has worked at the Rolls-Royce for the past 20 years and has been manager of the two Sphinx clubs in the city for the last seven years.

"The directors of the club have appointed me to promote the image of Nuneaton Borough in general and the lottery in particular," he said

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham

08-10-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Duggan, Hendry, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Parker, Sullivan.

Altrincham: Senior, Constantine, Davison, Johnson, Kenyon (Cuddy), Cruickshank, Derbyshire, Gardner, Allis, Bennett, Esser. Sub: Page.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough lost their one hundred per cent home league record and also had full-back Everton Carr sent off. Borough, never at their best, produced an undistinguished display. Borough could point to the fact that they missed a couple of good chances, but in reality they seldom looked like scoring.

They had Ian Hendry back but missed the wing skills of Stewart Hamill, just starting a two match ban. Paul Brown, playing in a forward role wide on the left, did well and provided a handful for the visitors. Far too many times did Borough threaten only for the final ball to lack the accuracy required to turn the pressure into goals.

Paul Culpin had already tested Ian Senior with a low drive when he reacted sharply to get on the end of a Carr free-kick and his first time flick flew narrowly over the top. Derek Duggan then got himself booked for dissent before Altrincham missed a glorious opportunity to go in front. Andy Poole hit a weak goal-kick straight to Ron Allis on the edge of the box, but he shot wide of a gaping goal.

Borough hit back and Brown had a clear-cut chance at the other end. Hendry played a fine ball into the box but Brown put his shot into the side netting. Paul Cruickshank fired in a dipping 30 yarder that Poole was happy to turn over the top before Borough produced their best spell of the match. Senior in the Altrincham goal did well to block a Morley header and then Duggan saw his volley deflected over the top.

Just before the break there was a terrific scramble in the visitors goalmouth that ended with John Davison heading the ball off the line with Senior beaten. But three minutes after the restart Borough were caught napping as Altrincham swept into the lead. Davison made ground on the left before crossing to the far post where Graham Bennett outjumped the defence to head the ball back across the face of the goal for Allis to hammer the ball home from close range.

Immediately afterwards came the flashpoint that led to the double sending off. Davison appeared to kick Carr who retaliated and referee Jeff Shaw had no option but to send them both off. Borough hit back looking for an equaliser and John Glover got in a header from a Brown free-kick, only to see Paul Johnson clear off the line. Altrincham's other full-back Dave Constantine got himself booked before Borough missed a clear chance to pull the game round. Duggan found himself some space on the right to fire in a cross but Brown completely failed to make contact with his head from six yards out.



Hendry Fails To Agree Terms

Ian Hendry, Nuneaton Borough's talented midfield player, is all set to leave Manor Park after turning down a contract. The little Scot, who had close season trials with Birmingham City and the Sky Blues, has failed to agree terms after long drawn-out talks with the club.

"Certain promises made to me at the start of the season have not been fulfilled," he said. "I have rejected the contract that I have been offered and I am now looking for another club," he said. Kidderminster Harriers and Worcester City are two clubs to have shown an interest and he could be on his way in the near future.

Nuneaton Borough v Gateshead 15-10-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Brown, Hendry, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker, Hill.

Gateshead: Dodds, Higgins, McLeod, Robinson, Jobling, Dixon, Pugh, Davies, Donaldson, Langley, Henderson. **Subs:** Tweedy, Grady.

Borough welcomed Gateshead to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough, with a 3-0 lead, conceded two late goals to give the final score a more flattering look for the visitors. Borough opened the scoring after just six minutes and had built up a comfortable lead before a Gateshead revival in the final 20 minutes of the game.

The opening goal came as a direct result of the weather conditions. Lance Jobling was deceived by the bounce of the ball and Culpin ran clear. But the visiting centre half got back to block Culpin's shot only to see the ball drop perfectly for Hendry to score with a shot that went in off the far post. Dixey was the next victim of the conditions but Glover did well to get in a saving tackle as Henderson threatened. Hendry then found Culpin with a glorious crossfield ball but the Alliance's leading scorer pulled his shot wide.

There was a terrific scramble in the Gateshead goalmouth before Colin Dixon stepped in to calm things down. But ten minutes before the interval Culpin missed a great chance to increase Borough's lead. Trevor Morley freed Hendry on the left with a superb ball and Culpin, with only the keeper to beat, flicked the cross over the top from close range.

However, Culpin made amends seconds before the half-time whistle, slotting the ball past Kenny Dodds after a fine through ball from Morley. Immediately after the restart Peter Davies had a chance when the ball skidded past Dixey but he shot weakly. Derek Duggan then saw a cross clip the top of the bar and Hendry had a shot well saved by Dodds before Borough went further in front.

Dodds inexplicably threw the ball straight out to Duggan and could only half stop the resulting shot which allowed Culpin to race in and hammer the ball into an empty net. At this stage it looked all over for the visitors who were posing few threats to the Borough rearguard.

But Gateshead pulled a goal back after 73 minutes when Henderson stooped low to head home a John Grady cross after the home side had failed to clear a corner. Then with just two minutes left Kevin Pugh cut the deficit to a single goal with a scorching cross-shot. However, the game had already been won and Borough were never in danger of dropping a point.

Irthlingboro' Diamonds v Nuneaton Boro' 18-10-1983

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Parker, Brown, Hendry, Culpin, Hamill, Morley, Gardner. **Subs:** Richardson, Walle.

Borough made the journey to Irthlingborough Diamonds to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Paul Culpin's 13th goal of the season gave Borough an eleven point haul at a windswept Nene Park. But it did little to appease manager Graham Carr who was furious that Richard Dixey and Trevor Morley collected first-half bookings which may cost him their services in Alliance action. The match itself wasn't much compensation as Borough, without Everton Carr, John Glover and Derek Duggan, looked set for the dullest of draws until Ian Hendry sent Culpin through six minutes from time. Alliance top scorer Culpin looked the only man capable of breaking the deadlock.

Andy Poole was never troubled by the United Counties League champions despite a strange looking Borough defence with Richard Hill returning, very competently at right back with midfield man Bobby Parker playing sweeper. Duncan Gardner, getting his first senior 90 minutes since signing from Telford United, had an anonymous run out in midfield.

And Culpin's striking partner Morley did little of note, his booking for a foul apart, before being replaced by Paul Richardson early in the second half. Culpin, however, made up for his team mates. Although nobody else went remotely close to a goal he might have had a hat full, forcing two saves from keeper Nick Verity and hitting the bar with a last kick of the match volley.

The only other effort of any note in the match was a long range drive from Parker which the goalkeeper held comfortably. Nuneaton are now 27 points behind table topping Bedworth with two games in hand.

Carr Ready To Quit?

Speculation mounted today over the future of Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr whose name has been linked with Kettering Town. Carr, who has taken Borough to the top of the Alliance League, is the man tipped to take over the Poppies. They recently sacked their manager Don Masson.

The Borough boss was not available for comment today – and club chairman Noel Kelly was keeping tight-lipped over the rumours that Carr is ready to quit the club. It is known that Kettering chairman John Murphy – who watched Borough play at Irthlingborough – is anxious to secure the services of a man like Carr.



Dagenham v Nuneaton Borough 24-10-1983

Dagenham: Moore, Wade, Scales, Oliver, Campbell, Dunwell, Sille, Page, McCombe, Rhoden, Manderson.

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Duggan, Hendry, Brown, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Hamill, Gardner.

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough frittered away a two goal interval lead, to be sunk by a Dagenham side that looked poor in the first-half, but who recovered to outplay their visitors. Borough were without suspended Everton Carr and his place was taken by Richard Hill, who recently returned from New Zealand.

Manager Graham Carr resisted the temptation to bring back Stewart Hamill, keeping the same midfield line-up with Ian Hendry filling a wide berth. Certainly they started the game at a cracking pace and forced three corners in quick succession.

Dagenham were scarcely able to match their visitors in the early stages and their only moments of danger were from several free-kicks in dangerous positions. From one such kick Andy Poole in the Borough goal did particularly well to claim a high ball under pressure from John McCombe.

Borough looked the more inventive side and it came as little surprise when they took a 28th minute lead. Following good work by Hill on the right, Hendry gained possession and hit a long ball to Paul Culpin, the striker taking the ball on his chest, turning inside his marker, dragging the ball onto his left foot in the process and making ground before hitting a fierce drive from 25 yards that entered the net close to the post.

Borough increased their lead in the 41st minute. Willie Gibson hit a free kick from the left across the area and after a defender had appeared to duck out of the way of the well struck ball, Culpin nipped in to slot home from close range for his second goal of the match and his 14th of the season.

Poole made a fine reflex save from an effort by Rhoden, only for the striker to follow up and square the ball across goal where McCombe was on hand to blast home. Borough, under severe pressure, should have reclaimed their two goal advantage in the 59th minute when they broke clear with a three to one advantage. Paul Brown brought the ball away and raced deep into the Dagenham half, jockeyed by Alan Campbell, with both Trevor Morley and Culpin in support.

However the ball bobbed at a vital moment, causing the pass to be delayed and when it arrived Morley had strayed offside and the chance was lost. The turning point of the game came with the introduction of substitute Peter Smith. The striker, making his debut, had only been on the field for three minutes when he scored an equaliser, turning John Glover on the right before racing into the box and hammering the ball home with a fierce cross shot.

Borough really had their backs to the wall now, as the home side looked for a winning goal and in the 80th minute

Dagenham took the lead for the first time in the game. Lincoln Manderson hit the post with a fine drive and the ball was half cleared to the edge of the box where skipper Joe Dunwell was able to let it bounce before hammering home through a crowded penalty area.

Once behind Borough never looked like getting back on terms and it came as little surprise when Dagenham increased their lead in the 88th minute, substitute Smith making it a dream debut, scoring his second with a looping header.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 24-10-1983

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry (Brown 45), Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Gardner. **Sub:** Duggan.

Bedworth: Martin, Halton, Taylor, Jackson, Brown, Gorman, Flannaghan, Bryan, Neale, Metcalfe, Wigmore. **Sub:** Whittingham.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough had a comfortable win and Paul Culpin was again on target with two goals. Paul Brown also got his name on the score sheet. Borough were already home and dry when Liam Halton pulled a goal back for United shortly before the end. There was little to cheer for the sparse crowd before the interval as the two sides appeared to merely be going through the motions.

Borough went close on a couple of occasions and goalkeeper Mick Martin did well to save from Duncan Gardner at the second attempt after Trevor Morley had found him clear inside the box. The keeper then raced from his line to deny Culpin after a through ball from Bobby Parker had split the defence. At the other end Dennis Taylor found his full-back partner Liam Halton in space on the right but Willie Gibson got across to block the shot.

Vince Wigmore put his side in trouble with a poor back pass at the start of the second half and Martin again did well to block Gardner's effort. Almost immediately afterwards Borough should have had a penalty when Steve Jackson scythed down Gardner but the referee waved away the penalty appeals.

Culpin then missed a good chance before he put Borough ahead after 65 minutes, flicking the ball past Martin after good work by Gardner. The Manor Park side increased their lead two minutes later when Gardner again split the Bedworth defence for Brown to race clear and hammer a shot past Martin.

Bedworth surged forward in an effort to pull the game round, but seventeen minutes from the end Borough put the issue beyond doubt with a third goal, again set up by Gardner. Brown played a neat ball down the left and Gardner cut in to draw Martin to the near post before slipping the ball inside for Culpin to score the simplest of goals.

Two minutes from the end Halton got a consolation goal for United with a snap shot from the edge of the box.



Borough Protest Against Dagenham

Nuneaton Borough have made a formal protest to the Alliance Premier League that Dagenham fielded an ineligible player against them last Saturday. The Manor Park men went down 4-2 after leading 2-0 at the interval. Borough's protest concerns Dagenham substitute Peter Smith, who came on as a second half substitute and scored two goals that changed the course of the game. Smith, formerly with Orient in the Football League, has been playing with Barking on a non contract basis.

Reports from Dagenham indicate that the Alliance Premier League outfit wanted Barking to waive their right of seven days notice for the player, which Barking refused.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 29-10-1983

Moor Green: Wooton, Ridding, Pinner, Edrop, Brosnan, Skinner, Richardson, Yrne, Taylor, Trindle, Cooper. **Subs:** Tinckler, McDermott.

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover (Hendry 60), Brown, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson (Gardner 74).

Borough made the journey to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Disappointing Borough retain their interest in the cup by virtue of a superb late equalising goal from full back Richard Hill, but yet again were unable to make their talent and class tell against a lesser side. Graham Carr made one change, bringing in Stewart Hamill at the expense of Ian Hendry.

Borough started brightly enough and as early as the second minute gave notice of their intentions when Trevor Morley picked up the ball on the right, ran across the edge of the penalty area, before hitting a fierce left foot shot that rattled the crossbar, with keeper Colin Wooton left floundering.

However, the bright start soon evaporated and the game became a midfield battle with neither side able to create much and it was not until the 38th minute, when full back Willie Gibson popped up in the left hand corner of the box to fire just wide, that Borough seriously threatened again. Three minutes later Borough should have opened their account, when Paul Culpin, unmarked at the far post put a header against the outside of the post, as they ended the half in style.

After the break the home side took the game to the visitors and the second half was only three minutes old when Bob Trindle got round the back of the Borough defence, before beating Poole with a shot on the run that they were relieved to see hit the bar and rebound into play.

This was closely followed by a fine shot from Mickey Taylor that passed narrowly over the bar and a magnificent double save from Poole, saving Paul Cooper's first shot with his body and the rebound with his legs. On the hour John Glover left the field, to be replaced by Hendry, who filled a midfield role with Paul Brown moving to right back and Hill to the centre of the defence, but two minutes later it came as no surprise when Moor Green took the lead.

Trindle burst through the Borough defence on the left before hitting a hard low cross, Poole dived and appeared to have made a good save cutting the ball out low down, only for it to squirm from his grasp and run for Royston Richardson to blast home from close range.

This reversal shook Borough and they showed more urgency as they looked for the equaliser, but despite their territorial superiority they looked far from convincing and had to wait until eleven minutes from the end for their lifeline. The ball was cleared and fell to Hill, centrally placed, some 40 yards from goal. The defender allowed the ball to bounce before unleashing a drive of awesome power that literally screamed into the net, giving the goalkeeper no chance.

Smithers May Face Bath

Timmy Smithers, who has reached agreement with Borough, still has to conclude discussions about the settlement of his contract with Oxford manager Jim Smith. If this can be agreed amicably Smithers will be included in the line-up to face Bath City.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 01-11-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Brown, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Gardner, Burke.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in an Alliance Premier League game.

Another touch of pure goal scoring magic by Paul Culpin put Borough back on top of the Alliance League. Bath had not been beaten in the four games since their five-goal drubbing at Manor Park, but last night Borough again put them on the receiving end. John Glover's absence with a shin injury paved the way for the return of Everton Carr with Richard Hill again moving to centre-half.

The game started scappily, but after only four minutes Borough all but took the lead, when Paul Culpin got up well to head the ball on, putting Stuart Hamill clear on the left. The winger took the ball on and his delicate chip from the corner of the area beat home keeper Dave Mogg, only to bounce to safety off the crossbar. The rest of the half was uninspiring with neither side able to assert their authority.

The second period started with a bang when in the very first minute Ricky Chandler was presented with a golden opportunity, only to place his header from six yards on to the crossbar when he should have done better. Then in the 51st minute a Hamill corner was missed by everyone and fell for Culpin wide of the far post and his crisp volley forced Peter Hayes to make a desperate goal-line clearance.

This was followed a minute later by a fine effort from Willie Gibson, following a half-cleared Hamill corner, that Mogg did well to save low down. But Borough were not to be denied for long and they took the lead in the 58th minute, with yet another piece of superb finishing by Culpin, who created the goal from nothing.

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Hamill took a throw in on the right, midway in the Bath half, Culpin received the ball turned it on his chest and set off across the field with two defenders in attendance, before suddenly unleashing a superb left foot drive from 25 yards that flew into the corner of the net.

The goal stung the home side, but also had the effect of lifting Borough who showed great determination not to let their advantage slip. In fact, it was Borough who came closest to adding to the score, when in the very last minute Morley did well to lay the ball into the path of Culpin just inside the penalty area and although the striker struck his shot well, Graham Day did magnificently well to get across and somehow keep the ball out with a despairing dive.

Borough had three players booked, Carr, Brown and Morley, by an over fussy, erratic referee, who lost control of the game completely for a spell. Yet it was never a dirty game and Borough were well worth their win. The midfield worked tirelessly and behind them the defence were magnificent, so much so that John Glover's absence was hardly noticed.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 05-11-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Brown, Gardner.

Weymouth: Smeulders, Morrell, Sandercock, Arnold, Bourne (Joy 26), Dawkins, Crabb, Pearson, Alford, Thynne, Falcus. Sub: Platt.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Goal machine Paul Culpin set the Manor Park terraces alight with two more goals as Borough cruised to an emphatic win. Culpin, the Alliance's leading scorer, struck midway through the first-half and then again shortly before the end to take his tally for the season to 20. Paul Richardson was Borough's other scorer as they made it twelve wins from 15 outings.

Nuneaton included new signing Tim Smithers for his first game since his return and they drew more than a thousand fans for only the second time this season. Smithers took a time to settle in but before the end he looked as though he could play an important part in the club's quest for honours. Weymouth, boasting the best away record in the league, were seldom in the game and finished as a well beaten side.

They posed few problems for Borough's defence and on the occasions that they did threaten Andy Poole was in fine form. The opening exchanges were very scrappy with both sides committing a string of petty fouls. But Borough suddenly burst into life and virtually wrapped up the points with two goals in a three minute spell midway through the first-half.

With 22 minutes gone Trevor Morley unleashed a tremendous shot from outside the box and Weymouth keeper John Smeulders couldn't hold onto the ball and Culpin was left with an easy tap in. Three minutes later Nuneaton went two up when Richardson got his first goal since joining the club.

Stewart Hamill curled in a right wing corner and Richardson got in a header that went in at the near post with Smeulders and

Sandercock appearing to get in each other's way. There was more trouble for the visitors almost immediately afterwards when they lost defender Richard Bourne. Richardson went in for a loose ball with the number five who was left lying on the turf with an ankle injury and had to be stretchered off.



Goalkeeper John Smeulders fails to prevent Paul Richardson's header from going into the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Smeulders rescued the Terras with a superb save to turn an effort from Duggan onto the bar and away to safety. At the other end there was a rare moment of danger for Borough as Chris Thynne was allowed to get onto the end of a Paul Arnold cross and his header scraped the post. Morley shot into the side netting at the start of the second-half and then forced the visitors keeper into a diving save.

It was all Borough now and Morley slipped his marker to meet a right wing corner but his close range header flew over. But just when it looked as though Nuneaton would have to settle for 2-0 they produced a goal of stunning quality.

Richard Dixey won possession with a fine tackle on the edge of his own penalty area and found Hamill in midfield. The Borough winger immediately hit a magnificent through ball for Culpin to run onto and score with a shot past Smeulders' left hand, just inside the post.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 07-11-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Brown, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Gardner, Parker.

Moor Green: Walker, Ridding, Pinner, Edrop, Brosnan, Tinkler, Mitchell, Skinner, Taylor, Richardson, Byrne. Subs: Warom, McDermott

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup first round replay.

Paul Culpin again emerged as the hero as Borough booked their place in the next round of the competition. Nuneaton's

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ace marksman headed the winner after 76 minutes of a scrappy and at times bruising battle.

Moor Green were never overawed by their more illustrious opponents and made their intentions clear early on that they were not going down without a fight. The Southern League outfit contested every ball from the word go and showed more than a fair amount of ability. Indeed, if they had made more of a couple of good first-half chances they might have produced a shock result.

As it was they made Borough battle every inch of the way before finally going out. Borough made a bright start and Everton Carr got in behind the visitors defence only to see Roy Tinkler cut out his low cross. Then Stewart Hamill jinked his way past two defenders before crossing for Paul Brown to test Dave Walker with a fiercely struck drive from the edge of the box. But midway through the first-half the visitors had two good chances to go into the lead.

Royston Richardson cut in from the left and slipped the ball through Richard Hill's legs to set up a chance for Micky Taylor but he shot straight at Andy Poole. Then five minutes later John Mitchell broke on the left and crossed to the unmarked Taylor who again wasted the opportunity by firing wide. At the other end Brown had a shot well saved by Walker and Hill saw his shot deflected for a corner.

Brown was booked for a foul on Tinkler early in the second-half as things began to hot up and then Willie Gibson cleared off the line from Ron Skinner. However, Borough hit back to snatch the all important goal with just 14 minutes left. Morley hit a fine crossfield ball to Derek Duggan who did extremely well to get his centre in from wide on the right and Culpin scored with a looping header into the far corner of the net.

Carr Furious Over Culpin Rumours

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is furious over reports in some local newspapers that he is anxious to sell his goalscoring sensation Paul Culpin. Reports have been circulating that Carr wants to sell Culpin as soon as possible to help balance the books. But the outspoken Geordie completely denies the allegations and says that the rumours are entirely without foundation.

Trowbridge Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-11-1983

Trowbridge: Smith, Tainton, Ritchie, Ross, Harris, Feeley, Sankey, Bartley, Pullis, Wright. **Subs:** Bray and Thomas.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Gardner and Brown

Borough made the journey to Frome Road to play Trowbridge Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough extended their lead at the top of the league to three points, with a comfortable win over bottom club Trowbridge, who have only picked up one point from eight home games this season. Timmy Smithers returned to midfield after missing the midweek game. Trowbridge fielded three new

signings Steve Smith from Crewe, Martin Sankey from Chester and Ray Pullis from Newport County.

Andy Poole was in action in the first minute, coming out quickly to take the ball off the toe of Bernie Wright, following a slack back-pass from Everton Carr. This was followed by a fifth minute free-kick from the edge of the area, that the Borough defence were glad to charge down and an Andy Feeley header moments later that was easily dealt with by Poole.

But after seven minutes Borough took the lead with a typical piece of Paul Culpin opportunism, the ball falling to him after defensive hesitancy and the striker shot home under the diving body of debutant keeper Smith, for his 18th goal of the season. Trowbridge were not dispirited by their early reversal and in the 12th minute Hill misjudged a high ball, letting in Wright who should have done better.

A minute later Wright rose to head a cross from full-back Steve Ritchie narrowly over the bar, as the Borough defence looked anxiously on. However, in the 19th minute it was Borough who could have added to the score when Trevor Morley turned Ritchie on the right before crossing perfectly to Culpin, who raced in and headed over the bar. Borough increased their lead in the 26th minute when Smithers hit a long well flighted ball to the edge of the box and Culpin rose to head the ball into the path of Morley, who hit a fierce shot that entered the net with the aid of a deflection.

Borough started the second half in commanding mood and had two good chances to seal the game. In the 46th minute a long ball from defence by Smithers cleared the home rearguard, putting Culpin clear, but he was unable to control the awkward bouncing ball and the Trowbridge defence were able to recover. This was followed by a similar move in the 51st minute, that produced the miss of the game when Morley put Culpin clear with a superb through ball. Culpin controlled the ball and raced away with the home defence trailing in his wake, before rounding the keeper, only to scoop a right foot shot into the side netting with the goal at his mercy.

Borough did find the net again in the 73rd minute when a fine move on the left ended with a Smithers cross being headed back by Culpin into the path of Morley, who hammered the ball into the net first time only for the referee to disallow the goal on the advice of a linesman.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 19-11-1983

Borough: Poole, Duggan, Gibson, Parker, Hill, Smithers, Brown, Gardner, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Dixey, Sullivan.

Stafford: Allcock, Lee, Upton, Bell, Goulding, Mooney, Fear, King, Richardson, Hanchard, Carr. **Sub:** Brissett.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup tie.

Borough kept their one hundred per cent record in the Midland Floodlit Cup with two late goals. With just three minutes left leading scorer Paul Culpin broke the deadlock

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and seconds before the end Trevor Morley put the issue beyond doubt with a second. But they were the only two bright moments for the sparse crowd on a bitterly cold night.

The teams seemed more intent on kicking lumps out of each other than playing football and referee John Kyte from Wolverhampton did little to stop them. Both sides were virtually at full strength and the tackles were full-blooded right from the off. Borough had the first opening when Paul Richardson wriggled clear in the Rangers box but John King did well to block the shot. At the other end the visitors had a chance to go in front when a corner was only half-cleared and Dave Goulding fired straight at Poole from 12 yards.

Goulding was unlucky with a header which rebounded to safety off Poole's right hand post. But seconds before the interval Borough should have been in front when Culpin volleyed high over the top from inside the six yard box. Stafford right back Lee became the first man to be booked following a disgraceful tackle on Richardson that should have got him sent to the dressing rooms without question.

Centre-half Goulding was the next man in the book for bringing down Morley as the tackles flew in thick and fast from both sides. Stafford lost midfield man Bell, who was carried off following a vicious tackle by Brown. But just when it looked as though the match was destined to end in stalemate Borough clinched it with two goals in three minutes.

Morley flicked on a long clearance by Poole and Culpin raced clear to hammer the ball past Allcock. Then two minutes later Morley coolly breasted down a cross from Richardson to thump the ball into the net from ten yards.

Tividale v Nuneaton Borough 19-11-1983

Tividale: Lowde, Hogg, Clark, Cross, Goodhead, Pearson, Jackson, Rose, Bastable, Seymour, Whitehouse. **Subs:** Brown and Price.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker and Gardner.

Borough welcomed Tividale to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough limped into the next round thanks to a late winner from back to form Trevor Morley against a Tividale side who are bottom of the West Midlands League and without a win this season.

Borough started brightly and should have taken the lead after 13 minutes when Morley found Culpin on the penalty spot, but the striker sidefooted the ball wide. Borough enjoyed a period of dominance, especially in midfield, but the next chance fell to Tividale. Terry Pearson hit a long ball which put Dean Seymour clear, but Poole pushed his shot round the post for a corner.

Culpin hit a powerful long range shot straight at Lowde and then shot wide following a scramble. The home side then went close on two occasions. In the 34th minute Culpin cut in from the left before hitting a cross shot that rebounded

off a post and then, following an Everton Carr cross, Morley powered a fine header onto the crossbar and the ball was scrambled away. Then as the half drew to its close Richard Hill saw a fine header brilliantly headed off the line by Tividale defender Pearson.

The second half started well for Borough, with Smithers having a well struck drive deflected for a corner, from which Culpin headed narrowly wide. Lowde was forced to punch clear under considerable pressure from Culpin, after Smithers had headed a Carr centre back across the goal. But their bright spell deteriorated as Tividale dug their heels in, having four players booked in their determination not to yield an inch.

Borough were guilty of spurning another chance in the 67th minute, when an overhit backpass from Hogg forced Lowde to save, only for the ball to fall to Culpin, who put his first-time effort over an empty goal from 12 yards. The game degenerated into a hard, often ill-tempered slog and as the light was fading fast both sides were looking for a replay.

But in the 84th minute Morley produced a moment of match-winning magic when he picked up a ball on the left, jinked inside and hit a fine 20 yard right foot cross shot into the net for a superb winner. Even then Tividale had a late chance to rescue the game, but substitute Tony Price ballooned the ball over the bar from eight yards out.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 21-11-1983

Kidderminster: Dulleston, Bowater, Richards, Horne, C. Jones, Gavin, Powell, Dale, Davies, Roberts, Macauley. **Subs:** Maffei, G. Jones.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill (Glover 68), Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Gardner.

Borough made the journey to Aggborough to play Kidderminster Harriers in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough picked up a point from a pulsating game after twice taking the lead, but then needing a Trevor Morley goal to avoid defeat. Appalling refereeing by an official way out of his depth, encouraged the game to become over-physical and at times ill-tempered, culminating in the sending off of Borough's Paul Richardson and Kidderminster's John Horne for fighting.

Borough could hardly have had a more encouraging start, when in the very first minute home defender Horne lifted a long back pass over the head of startled keeper Alan Dulleston and onto the top of his own crossbar. The ball rebounded all the way to the edge of the box, falling to Trevor Morley who fired his first-time effort high over the bar. But Borough took the lead in the 11th minute with an amazing goal that came out of the blue and took everyone on the ground by surprise, including the goalscorer.

Paul Culpin tried his luck from 25 yards, but only half hit the ball, which although on target, seemed unlikely to trouble Dulleston. However, the former Borough keeper dived late, right over the ball and to everyone's astonishment it found its way into the back of the net.



Kidderminster took the game to Borough, who were coping with very little difficulty, until referee Mr Vanes from Tividale made the first of what was to be a catalogue of appalling decisions. Harriers striker Elwyn Roberts gained possession in the corner of the penalty area, policed by Richard Hill. The striker did well to turn and flicked the ball at Hill, striking the defender's arm. The penalty appeals were predictably loud, but to everyone's amazement the official pointed to the spot. John Powell stepped up to slot home the equaliser.

The game then developed into an ill-tempered, scrappy affair, with a fair amount of ill feeling. But in the 36th minute Borough took the lead for the second time with another superb piece of finishing by Culpin, volleying home with his right foot from an oblique angle whilst at full stretch, following a Timmy Smithers' cross.

Kidderminster started the second half in determined mood and drew level in the 52nd minute when a fine cross from the left from Macauley, after good work by Roberts, was headed home low down by Powell. This goal heralded an all-out assault on the Borough goal and they were forced to soak up pressure. Then in the 70th minute the game exploded once more, when the referee allowed the game to run after a series of ugly looking challenges that ended with Borough's Richardson and Harriers' Horne being involved in a full scale fight that threatened to involve several other players. The referee had no option but to dismiss both players.

Then five minutes later, the home side took the lead for the first time when ex-Borough man Gareth Dale had a fine effort brilliantly saved by Poole, only for the ball to run for Powell and with the goalkeeper trying to regain ground, but slipping on the frosty pitch, the striker slammed the ball home from five yards before joyfully celebrating his hat-trick.

All seemed lost for Borough, but just when the home side looked to have secured the points the referee stepped in again, this time awarding Borough a mystery free-kick. Smithers took the kick and found Glover on the far side of the box. The defender headed the ball back across goal where Morley was on hand to save the game, sidefooting home from close range.

Bedworth Ask About Culpin

Bedworth United have made a surprise inquiry about Nuneaton Borough's ace marksman Paul Culpin. But the Oval club have been put off by the Borough's asking price of £35,000 for their leading scorer.

United chairman Harold Jones met his counterpart Noel Kelly this week when he asked about the availability of the Alliance Premier League's top scorer. "We are still very interested in signing Culpin but not at the price that has been quoted," said Jones.

Borough manager Graham Carr, whose side are two points clear at the top of the table is in the dark about any negotiations. "If discussions about the future of Paul Culpin have taken place – I know nothing about them," he said.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough

26-11-1983

Wealdstone: Iles, Barwick, Perkins, Byatt, Bowgett, Price, Greenaway, Donellan, Alan Cordice, Graves, Neil Cordice. **Subs:** Wainwright, McCargo.
Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Hill, Gardner.

Borough made the journey to The Lower Mead to play Wealdstone in an Alliance Premier League game.

Battling Borough produced a performance full of character and determination to take a point from the powerful home side. Borough soaked up considerable pressure to blunt the home attack and then came within an ace of snatching victory.

The home side started brightly and in the first minute top scorer Mark Graves went close with a shot on the turn that sailed over the bar. This was followed by a Dennis Byatt free kick which saw Neil Cordice just fail to get a touch at the far post. Then in the 11th minute a dreadful back-pass by Richard Dixey was intercepted by Neil Cordice, who shot wide.

Alan Cordice then turned Duggan inside out before crossing hard and low into the box, where Dixey was happy to hack the ball away for a corner. Mid-way through the half Borough began to put their game together, without looking like breaking the deadlock, but Hamill caused some problems for a bemused Steve Perkins.

The Cordice brothers were causing Borough untold problems and in the 27th minute Neil fired into the side netting, followed closely by Alan who had a fine shot on the turn chested away for a corner by Everton Carr. The closest Borough were to come in the first-half was in the 36th minutes when Duggan had a 20-yard drive deflected by Byatt, causing the home goalkeeper Iles all sorts of problems.

Borough put the Wealdstone goal under real pressure in the 51st minute when a goalmouth scramble saw Smithers, Morley and Culpin all have shots charged down before the ball was finally put out for a corner. On the hour Poole made a superb save to keep his side on level terms, when he bravely dived at the feet of Neil Cordice. But in the 65th minute Poole failed to cut out a high centre under pressure and the ball ran to Neil Cordice who squeezed his shot through a packed area, only for Duggan and Gibson to be waiting on the goal line, with Gibson making the clearance.

The tireless Paul Richardson was everywhere and up front Culpin and Morley were beginning to pose problems of their own. Culpin tested Iles with a hard low shot after he had raced clear. The last five minutes saw Borough really take the game to their hosts and they could have snatched the winner when Culpin made a powerful run down the left and chipped to the far post where Hamill controlled the ball, but tried to chip the massive frame of home keeper Iles, who saved easily. Then Iles made a magnificent save when Culpin superbly struck a 20-yard drive that forced the goalkeeper to tip the ball over the bar at full stretch.



Nuneaton Borough v Dagenham 28-11-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Hill and Gardner.

Dagenham: Moore, Napman, Scales (Hallibone 53), Oliver, Campbell, Dunwell, Wade, Scott, Smith, Rhoden, Maycock. **Sub:** McCoombe.

Borough welcomed Dagenham to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough were made to pay a high price for a first-half defensive mix-up between Everton Carr and Willie Gibson. The Nuneaton defenders failed to clear an innocuous looking situation and Roger Wade nipped in to slip the ball past Andy Poole and earn Dagenham a point they barely deserved.

Borough got away to a superb start with Trevor Morley putting them in front after only six minutes play. And for the first 20 minutes they were well on top and created enough chances to have avenged their defeat at Dagenham.

Dagenham were first to threaten and Terry Scales curled a free-kick in from the left and Delroy Rhoden put a diving header just wide. Borough hit back and Duggan made a fine run on the right before crossing for Paul Culpin to flash a header inches over. Nuneaton were not to be denied and went in front four minutes later with a superb goal.

Paul Richardson headed clear from the edge of the Borough box and there seemed little danger as Scales moved on to the loose ball just inside his own half, but Culpin was in like a flash to dispossess him and race clear down the left before crossing for Morley to score from close range.

Borough were now in control and Culpin hit the post from an oblique angle and Derek Duggan fired the rebound over. But Borough were stunned after 20 minutes. There seemed little danger as Carr and Gibson both converged on a ball just inside the box, but they both hesitated and Wade nipped in between them to score with a low shot into the right hand corner of the net.

Culpin almost put Borough back in front when he beat keeper Terry Moore to a long ball down the left and waltzed round the Dagenham man and shot from way out on the touchline. Steve Oliver just managed to scramble the ball off the line.

Borough almost regained the lead at the start of the second half when Culpin pulled the ball back for Morley but John Napman made a despairing lunge to flick the ball from Morley's head. Then Moore made a super diving save to keep out a Culpin drive before Richard Dixey flicked on a right wing corner for Borough's leading scorer to head into the side netting.

Ten minutes from time Borough knew it wasn't to be their night when a cruel piece of luck denied them the winner. Morley found Culpin with a magnificent crossfield ball. The striker took it to the by-line and crossed to the far post for Hamill to hammer in a first-time shot that looked a goal all the way until it hit Joe Dunwell on the foot as he stood on the line.

Richardson Signs New Contract

Paul Richardson, a vital member of Borough's midfield, has signed a contract and will be staying at Manor Park. The 21-year-old has caught the eye with some outstanding performances and this week Alliance rivals Kettering put in seven days notice of approach. But Richardson, who came straight out of junior football into Borough's first team has decided that his future lies with Nuneaton.

"We are delighted that Paul has signed a contract and will be staying with us," said Borough manager Graham Carr. "He has been outstanding for us in recent matches and we didn't want to lose him."

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-12-1983

Halesowen: Coldicott, Penn, Sherwood, Lacy, Randle, R. Shilvock, Hazlewood, Heath, Woodhouse, Joinson, Smith. **Subs:** Moss, S. Shilvock.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Gardner, Parker. **Subs:** Hill, Brown.

Borough made the journey to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Borough bowed out of the competition, beaten by a late penalty against a side that are unbeaten in the West Midlands League this season and have now won their last sixteen games in all competitions.

Halesowen could hardly have wished for a better start, opening the scoring in the very first minute when Malcolm Hazlewood was put clear on the right and his fierce cross shot was only parried by Andy Poole, with the ball running to Robert Heath who slotted the ball into the empty net.

The goal, however, failed to inspire the home side and Borough had the better of the exchanges, but it was not until the 23rd minute that either side created another clear cut chance. Halesowen's Paul Joinson having a shot deflected for a corner. Borough did finish the half in style with Paul Culpin setting up a good 37th minute chance for Timmy Smithers, whose well struck shot hit the goalkeeper before the ball was somehow deflected for a goal-kick.

Borough equalised in the 39th minute when Duncan Gardner latched onto a half clearance to rifle home first time – a just reward for a spell of intense Borough pressure.

The second half started with the home side attacking their visitors, looking to regain their lead, which they did in the 57th minute. A deep corner from the left by Hazelwood found Don Smith unmarked and he picked his spot to plant a super header into the Borough net. However, Borough were not to be behind for long and two minutes later they levelled the score with a similar goal, Smithers taking a right wing corner and with the goalkeeper in no-mans-land John Glover headed the ball over him into the unguarded goal.

The equalising goal was to herald a spell of Borough dominance that was to see them almost settle the issue. With four minutes remaining Everton Carr contrived to hit the top

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of his own crossbar and a minute later Halesowen scored what was to prove the winner. Joinson turned Glover inside the box and as the striker shaped to shoot the defender could only recover enough to bring him down. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Bob Shilvock stepped up to confidently convert the resultant spot kick and clinch the tie for the home side.

Nuneaton Borough v Frickley Athletic 10-12-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Parker. **Subs:** Hill, Gardner.

Frickley: Hinchcliffe, M. Smith, Daniels, Dunn, Wright, Gill, I. Smith, Howey, Hooley, Wilson, Reid. **Subs:** Campbell, Miles.

Borough welcomed Frickley Athletic to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough strengthened their position at the top of the league with a narrow win in an undistinguished game. Graham Carr's men were never at their best and seldom showed the form that has put them among the favourites to lift the championship. They struggled for most of the game against a workmanlike Frickley side and they will be glad to have got this one out of their system.

Borough could have taken an early lead and they could have had a couple more goals late in the match, but as it was they had to be content with an own goal by Frickley centre-half Mally Wright midway through the first-half. There appeared to be little danger as Stewart Hamill fired a low cross into the visitors penalty area with 20 minutes gone. But as Stuart Hinchcliffe left his line Wright stepped in to turn the ball past the keeper and into the net.

Before the goal, leading scorer Paul Culpin missed a chance in the sixth minute when Trevor Morley played a ball down to his striking partner, but Culpin dragged his shot well wide from close in. Frickley hit back and were unfortunate not to open the scoring when Barry Gill floated a free-kick into the box from the right for Paul Wilson to head against the post and from the rebound Ian Smith fired straight at Andy Poole.



Frickley centre-half Mally Wright turns Stuart Hamill's cross past his own goalkeeper to give Borough a 20th minute lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Hamill had a shot turned away by the keeper and Glover flashed a header over the bar from the corner. Tim Smithers was booked for dissent and was followed into the book by Derek Duggan. The game was becoming scrappy and ill tempered, fuelled by some inconsistent refereeing. Harry Dunn headed narrowly over in a rare Frickley raid before Culpin missed a chance to put the issue beyond doubt. He was allowed to go on despite looking offside, but pulled his shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

Steve Daniels went into the book for a foul on Hamill and Morley followed for a trip on Malcolm Smith. But Borough ended the game well in control and only two superb saves from Hinchcliffe stopped them from clinching a more emphatic win. The visitors' keeper made a super save to deny John Glover and then turned Morley's close range shot onto the bar and over the top.

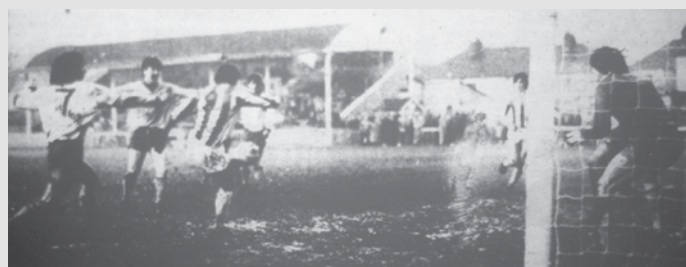
Nuneaton Borough v Runcorn 17-12-1983

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers (Hill 35), Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Gardner.

Runcorn: Parker, Kettle, Roberts, Edwards, Fraser, Smith, Imrie (Kilshaw 75), Crompton, Rogers, Butler (Jones 80), Joel.

Borough welcomed Runcorn to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough allowed a two goal lead and a vital point, to slip away in their top of the table clash. With an hour gone they were two goals ahead and appeared set to increase their lead at the top of the table. Paul Culpin, leading scorer in the Alliance, had grabbed both goals to take his tally for the season to 21.



Borough's ace striker Paul Culpin pulls back his left foot and a second later Borough are 2-0 up.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But an amazing double penalty incident in the 62nd minute put Runcorn back in the match. However, Borough had enough chances to have put the issue beyond doubt well before the end and were made to pay a dear price when the visitors snatched a shock equaliser shortly before the final whistle. Both sides failed to produce their best on a pitch made heavy by overnight rain but there was no lack of incident for Borough's best crowd of the season.

Borough were gifted an early goal as Culpin latched onto a free kick into the area and promptly hit it into the net in the usual fashion. Borough had the ball in the net again after 25 minutes but their joy was short lived as Richardson was

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given offside. Edwards and Fraser found their way into the referee's notebook before Alan Crompton sliced a shot wide as Runcorn pressed forward before John Butler became the fifth player to be booked. Smithers was replaced by Hill before half-time.

Morley hit the bar at the start of the second half and Nuneaton went two goals in front almost immediately afterwards. Hill got up well to a left wing corner and headed the ball down for Culpin to hook the ball past Brian Parker from close range. Borough looked set for a comfortable win until an amazing double penalty incident in the 62nd minute. Everton Carr needlessly pulled down Steve Joel as he cut inside the box but the little winger saw his spotkick turned away by Andy Poole. But Derek Duggan then fouled Ossie Smith in the scramble to get the ball clear and this time Joel made no mistake with the penalty.

Hill was booked for a foul on Roberts before Culpin missed two good chances to put the result beyond doubt. First he timed his run superbly to get onto the end of a cross from the left but the ball seemed to bounce awkwardly and hit his knee before flying over the bar from six yards out. Then he cut through the Runcorn defence and rounded keeper Parker only to lose his footing at the vital moment and the ball finished up in the side netting.

But Borough were made to regret those missed chances two minutes from the end when a mix-up in their defence gave Crompton the opportunity to fire an equaliser from the edge of the box with Andy Poole stranded.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1983

Telford: Charlton, Rutter, Turner, Joseph, Martin, Eaton, Barnett, Williams, Edwards, Hogan, Alcock. Subs: Mayman, Mather.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Hill, Richardson. Subs: Gardner, Parker.

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough slipped to a single goal defeat after having enough chances to have picked up at least a point. Borough showed one change with Richard Hill coming in for Morley, started well and could have opened the scoring in the second minute when Derek Duggan put Culpin clear with a superb through ball. The striker took the ball in his stride and rounded the keeper, but the striker was forced too wide and crossed to the far post, but the ball was too high for Hill.

Then in the ninth minute Willie Gibson tried his luck from long range, and although his shot lacked power, the ball found its way to Culpin who was surprised and failed to cash in. Two minutes later Culpin had another chance, but stumbled at the vital moment. The striker managed to retain possession and got a shot away bringing a fine save from Charlton.

Telford began to show and Williams went close on three occasions without really creating the quality of chance that Borough had carved out. In the 19th minute Everton Carr was

booked for an ugly challenge on Alcock and five minutes later Richard Dixey followed him into the book. In the 35th minute Culpin missed another good opportunity when he could only half-hit his shot and scoop the ball into the keeper's hands.

As half-time approached Hill joined his colleagues in the book, being cautioned with Telford's Barnett after a scuffle on the touchline as the half ended in bad tempered style.

Telford made a blistering start to the second half and forced Andy Poole to make three superb saves in as many minutes. First Alcock outpaced the defence on the left before crossing to the far post where Edwards hit a fierce cross shot come centre which Poole dived low to cut out and hold. This was followed a minute later by a magnificent point blank save after Alcock had popped up on the right and squeezed the ball into the six yard box. Edwards latched onto the ball and shot in the same movement only to hold his head in disbelief as Poole appeared from nowhere to claw the ball away.

Then Poole saw a long range shot from Eaton all the way, but decided to push the well struck swinging ball away for a corner. Borough overcame their shaky start and in the 50th minute Culpin was set free on the right and placed his shot well past the advancing Charlton only to see the ball hit the inside of the post and bounce back into play. In the 63rd minute Culpin held the ball up before slipping it into the path of the onrushing Hill just inside the area. Hill delayed his shot just enough to enable Charlton to advance quickly and smother the ball.

This miss was to prove expensive as three minutes later Edwards went by Carr and powered into the box, only for the full back to bring him down in his attempt to retrieve the situation. Referee Bill Flood had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and ex-Borough full-back Tony Turner hammered the ball home for what proved to be the winner.

Still Borough came forward and in the 76th minute John Glover had a powerful header headed off the line by Tim Rutter, proving that in front of goal, it was just not their day.

Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 31-12-1983

Maidstone: Lewington, Thompson, Moore, Yates, Newson, Donn, Hughes, Maddocks, Dingwall, Bartley, Taylor. Subs: Watson, Lazarus.

Borough: Poole, Carr (Burke 74), Gibson, Hill, Glover, Smithers (Sullivan 12), Parker, Duggan, Culpin, Gardner, Richardson.

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough slipped to another single goal defeat, although they turned in a battling defensive performance, in which Andy Poole was magnificent, soaked up a great deal of Maidstone pressure and created a couple of clear-cut chances themselves. Borough were forced to make changes due to the suspensions of Dixey and Morley and also had Stewart Hamill on the injured list. Hill came in at centre-half and Bobby Parker was drafted into midfield. Duncan Gardner partnered Culpin up front in a 4-4-2 formation.

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The home side took command from the start and put Borough under early pressure. Dingwall got clear on a couple of occasions, but wasted the opportunities. Full-back Moore put in a high cross that Poole could not quite reach, but Willie Gibson was alert and cleared the ball. Timmy Smithers took a blow to the ribs and had to be substituted after 12 minutes, being replaced by Lee Sullivan.

Stones continued to press and Poole made a brilliant reflex save from Dingwall's header, blocking from point blank range. Moore joined the attack once again and put a fierce drive narrowly wide and in the 17th minute Everton Carr headed down a Dingwall cross in his own box. The ball fell perfectly for Taylor who was taken by surprise and the chance was gone.

In the 27th minute it was Borough who created the clearest chance of the game, when a clearing header from Glover, caught the home defence pushing forward and put Culpin clear, but as the striker rounded Lewington, the keeper dived at his feet and rescued the ball. Despite pressure from the home side, Borough again had a good effort when Duggan's free kick from 25 yards had Lewington back-peddalling before tipping over the bar.

But in the 50th minute Stones' ex-Spurs and England winger Peter Taylor showed all his class, twisting and turning Gibson on the right before getting to the line and chipping to the far post where Dingwall should have done better than hit the bar with his header. But within a minute Maidstone took the lead when a Taylor corner produced a goalmouth scramble that saw Sullivan block the ball on the line, only for it to be half cleared to Dingwall who made no mistake from 15 yards.

In the 65th minute Borough had another golden opportunity. Parker won the ball in midfield with a brilliant tackle and put Culpin clear with an early ball. The striker took the ball in his stride and advanced on goal, only to strike his left foot shot past the post when he seemed all set to score. Borough's defence continued to lead a charmed life and Willie Gibson headed the ball off the line twice in a matter of seconds, first brilliantly from Bartley and then from Maddocks.

Borough's injury problems mounted when Everton Carr was taken off the field on a stretcher with a shin injury and Mickey Burke substituted. Even then deep into injury time Borough could have rescued a point when Brian Thompson helped the ball back to his goalkeeper, only to hit his own crossbar, and the ball bounced back into play just out of reach of Gardner.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 02-01-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Hill, Glover, Parker, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Burke, Sullivan.

Telford: Charlton, Lewis, Turner, Joseph, Bailey, Eaton, Mayman, Williams, Edwards, Hogan, Alcock. **Subs:** Barnett, Mather.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough saw another vital point slip away as they ended a miserable holiday programme, having picked up just one

point from their three games. Borough produced a battling performance in appalling conditions and could once more point to the fact that they had better chances.

Following an even first-half they dominated most of the second period without being able to produce the all-important goal. However, at the end of the day the winner was predictable – a howling wind, driving rain and a pitch that quickly became a quagmire – although both sides were not lacking in effort.

Borough went a goal down in just seven minutes. John Glover brought down Dean Edwards after the Telford centre-forward had turned smartly in the box and for the second time in a week former Borough full-back Tony Turner beat Andy Poole. Borough were then awarded a penalty after Steve Eaton was adjudged to have handled, following good work by Trevor Morley. Paul Culpin made no mistake with the spot kick.

Borough were a shade fortunate when Colin Williams shot straight at Poole from ten yards and then Edwards turned two defenders before crossing to the far post for Malcolm Bailey to head against the post. At the other end Morley slipped his marker on the edge of the box only for Kevin Lewis to block the shot. Bobby Parker was the first to the rebound but he sliced his shot well wide. Morley headed over after Kevin Charlton had shown some hesitancy in coming to collect a Stewart Hamill free-kick and then Culpin fired wide after producing some neat control to slip past Bailey.

Nuneaton started the second half with Mick Burke on for the injured Everton Carr and might have taken the lead in the first minute. Culpin latched onto a ball from Morley, cut inside Bailey and curled a shot narrowly over the top with Charlton beaten. Edwards might have done better with an opening at the other end but he put his shot well wide from inside the box.

Culpin then raced clear only to see Charlton make a brave save to block his shot and minutes later Culpin was only inches away from a Morley free-kick. Four minutes from the end John Glover got in a header from a right-wing cross only to see Charlton make another superb save. Parker somehow squeezed the rebound the wrong side of the post. Glover almost settled the issue with a 35-yard drive that scraped over the bar with Charlton struggling.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 07-01-1984

Altrincham: Dance, Constantine, Davison, Gardner, Cuddy, Cruickshank, Hooley, J. Johnson, Skeete, Bennett (Derbyshire 67), Craven. **Sub:** P. Johnson.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Gardner, Hill.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in an Alliance Premier League game.

Battling Borough produced a second half defensive performance of character to pick up three vital points that rekindled their championship hopes. Captain Richard Dixey returned to the side following his suspension, at the expense of Richard Hill.



The game started in a strong biting wind, that was to prove an influential factor in the shape of the game. Borough produced some delightful early football, especially down the right where Trevor Morley and Stewart Hamill were combining well, and in the sixth minute they broke well when a deft back heel from Morley set Hamill free but the winger was shepherded to safety by full back Davison.

A minute later Culpin put Hamill clear on the right and as the winger cut inside he was obstructed by Davison. Everton Carr floated the free-kick into the box and when it was only half-cleared Morley saw his fierce shot deflected for a corner. Derek Duggan took the corner, floating it deep to the far post where Dixey rose high to head into the net.

Another superb move involving Morley and Hamill brought a corner on the right, when Hamill's cross was blocked by Davison. The corner, however, was short of Glover who was forced to push Cuddy in his attempt to reach the ball. In the 16th minute the home side came close to a goal when full-back David Constantine tried his luck with a long range shot that somehow got through a crowded area and Leo Skeete forced the ball onto the post. The ball rebounded onto Andy Poole and went out of play, but the referee gave a goal kick.

This was an isolated chance for the home side and in the 25th minute Culpin looked all set to add to Borough's lead, when he latched onto a fine long ball from Duggan and raced into the box before checking inside Cuddy and putting a left foot shot disappointingly wide. Borough almost ended the half in style when John Glover hit the post with a header.

The tricky nature of the wind was underlined when full-back Davison took a free-kick just inside the Borough half. The ball was carried by the wind and Poole was forced to back peddle and brilliantly tip over the bar. Then in the 57th minute, with Borough under constant pressure, the home side struck the woodwork twice within seconds. First Hooley headed onto the bar and then Bennett bundled the ball against the post.

In the 65th minute Altrincham hit the woodwork for the fourth time in the game when the massive frame of Skeete got up well to power in a header that hit the post and rebounded to Poole. Borough continued to soak up constant pressure and concede a string of corners, but somehow the home side were unable to create clear cut chances and with the Borough defence in superb form, errors were rare.

It did take brave goalkeeping to retain Borough's advantage in the 77th minute. Poole, racing from his goal to brilliantly block an effort from substitute Derbyshire after the wind had carried the ball over the defence.

Trophy Hooliganism

Crowd violence flared at Worcester on Saturday when rival gangs went on the rampage. Clashes between rival supporters broke out before and during the crucial FA Trophy clash. About 30 Nuneaton followers left a trail of havoc from Worcester train station to the football ground. Ten people were arrested.

Winters To Make Debut

Full-back John Winters is set to make his debut for Nuneaton Borough at Kettering. The former Peterborough United player will wear the number two shirt in place of the suspended Everton Carr. Borough have also signed Dennis Jenas from Shepshed Charterhouse. Jenas is a striker with a proven goalscoring record.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-01-1984

Kettering: Humphries, Jenkins, Sandcock, Chamberlain, Hodgson, Denyer, McGoldrick, Keast, Hofbauer, O'Keefe, Beavon. **Subs:** Brown, Kelly.

Borough: Poole, Winters (Jenas 45), Gibson, Hill, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Parker.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in an Alliance Premier League game.

In a pulsating game, played on a greasy surface that made turning almost impossible, Borough built up a three goal lead and then almost let it slip as Kettering produced a barnstorming finish. Richard Dixey and Everton Carr were both suspended and Richard Hill came in for Dixey and ex-Peterborough full-back John Winters for Carr.

The first minutes of the game showed just how tricky conditions were and players were having difficulty in keeping their feet. The home side showed they were going to prove a handful with Eddie McGoldrick giving Borough's defence a torrid time. But it was Borough who almost took the lead in the 17th minute when a poor clearance from Jenkins was played back across goal by Trevor Morley and collected on the edge of the box by Stuart Hamill who turned and chipped a shot in one move, forcing Humphries to brilliantly tip the ball over the bar.

However, it was the home side who broke the deadlock in the 20th minute when Keast set Hofbauer free inside the box, and although pursued by Hill the striker had little difficulty in slipping the ball past Andy Poole in the Borough goal. But the lead was short-lived and Borough equalised three minutes later. Morley rose to rattle the crossbar with a superb header and as the ball rebounded into play was the first to react, heading the ball goalward. Although Denyer stopped the ball, the referee was right on the spot to award a goal.

Once on level terms Borough tore into the home side and two minutes later were in front when Willie Gibson was brought down in the corner of the area by Denyer and Paul Culpin stepped up to convert the penalty. At the break Borough brought on new signing Dennis Jenas up front, taking off the other debutant, Winters. It came as no surprise when Borough increased their lead in the 59th minute. Duggan played the ball to Culpin and the striker turned his marker, moving into acres of space on the left before hammering home a brilliant goal from the edge of the area.

Borough were now rampant and scored again just two minutes later with Culpin completing his hat-trick. Jenas did

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well on the left and created a shooting chance, but the ball was going across the face of the box, however, it hit Culpin on the chest and dropped to his feet, leaving him with the kind of chance that he rarely misses.

Borough continued to look dangerous up front with Morley and Jenas looking useful, but in the 57th minute Kettering pulled a goal back when Smithers brought down the ever-dangerous McGoldrick in the area and David Beavon crashed home the penalty. Then with ten minutes remaining the game was plunged right back into the melting pot as Kettering made it 4-3 when Hofbauer headed home a Beavon centre. This set up a grandstand finish, but it was Borough who went closest. Culpin should have done better than hit the goalkeeper from a couple of yards and the same player had an effort cleared off the line by Denyer after more good work from Jenas.

Bangor City v Nuneaton Borough 30-01-1984

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan (Jenas 87), Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Sub: Burke.

Borough made the journey to Bangor City to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Two more goals from ace striker Paul Culpin were enough to give Borough the victory they needed to put them back on top of the league. Borough welcomed back Richard Dixey and Richard Hill moved to right back to cover for Everton Carr.

The first half was scrappy and neither side seemed to be able to settle and play controlled football, taking seven minutes before either goalkeeper was given cause for concern, when Bangor's Ian Howatt failed to make contact with a touch on by Alan Morris following a Bruce Urquhart corner. It was the 21st minute before Borough seriously tested the home rearguard, Stewart Hamill touching a short corner to Timmy Smithers and the ex-Oxford man was given time to fire in a fierce left foot cross shot that caused home keeper Letheran all sorts of problems.

Dixey was booked in the 24th minute for a foul on Carter and four minutes later the home side should have broken the deadlock when a fine left wing cross from Westwood was badly mis-headed by Carter when he seemed all set to score.

The second half saw the home side continue to press and it took a fine save in the 47th minute from Andy Poole to keep his side on level terms, racing from his line to block a Carter effort and the striker put the rebound over the bar. Borough hit back and should have taken the lead themselves in the 51st minute when Trevor Morley put Culpin clear with a magnificent through ball that the striker collected but put too far in front of him, allowing Letheran to come off his line and collect the ball.

But Borough were not to be denied and they took the lead in the 57th minute with a gift goal, that was however, superbly finished. Letheran in the home goal threw the ball out to

full back Gray, who tried to pass it back to his keeper, only succeeding in giving it straight to Culpin on the edge of the area. The striker took the ball on before slipping it under the diving Letheran. Borough's joy was short lived however and within a minute the home side were level with Mark Carter heading home a near post cross from Urquhart.

But it was only three minutes before the game took a further twist, when Culpin powered into the box on the end of a Morley through ball, only to be hauled down by Cavanagh. Culpin picked himself up to take the penalty, only to see Letheran appear at the right hand post to not only stop the ball, but catch it.

In the 66th minute Culpin made amends with a magnificent goal that was to prove the match winner. Morley set him free on the left and he raced into the box before whipping a superb left foot shot into the corner of the net. Bangor tried vainly to get back into the game with little success, and in the 88th minute Culpin raced past Lunn, and was crudely hacked down, which earned Lunn a booking. In the dying seconds Bangor almost earned themselves a point when Carter was put clear by Howatt and slipped the ball past Poole, only to see the ball hit the post and bounce to safety.

Three Borough Players For England

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is delighted that the club has had three players named in the England non-league squad. John Glover, Trevor Morley and Paul Culpin have been selected in an intermediary squad of 40 players.

Borough Ask Council About Markets

Nuneaton Borough FC chairman Mr Noel Kelly has again asked the borough council for permission to hold weekly markets at the Manor Park ground. Mr Kelly says it is vital that the club has a regular source of weekly income on top of the entrance money at home games. He has asked the council's policy committee to grant permission for markets to be held on Thursdays.

His earlier request, in October 1982, was turned down because of a covenant on the Manor Park site. The covenant prohibits any markets or sales at Manor Park, except for rummage sales 12 times a year. Mr Kelly, in a letter to the committee, says: "When we purchased the football club we agreed to the covenant – but the situation has changed somewhat."

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 11-02-1984

Scarborough: Crawford, Dawson, Thompson, McGee, Hartley, Cook, Jameson (Wiggan 82), Sellars, Hanson, Phillips, Bowman. Sub: Dennis.
Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Hill, Jenas.

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough were beaten for the first time in 1984, by a freak late own goal, after taking everything the home side could throw

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at them in the second half and appearing to have secured a point. Manager Graham Carr named an unchanged side.

Borough started brightly and could have opened the scoring in the very first minute, when Richard Dixey hit a long ball from defence that found Stuart Hamill on the right. The winger cut inside and aided by a slip from full-back Thompson raced deep into the Scarborough box before hitting a shot from an oblique angle into the side netting.

The bright start continued and they looked full of confidence, but the home side had a golden opportunity of their own in the 10th minute, when a deep corner from Mitch Cook on the right found John Hanson at the far post, whose header went just over the bar. Play then switched to the other end and Borough went perilously close after Timmy Smithers had set up Paul Culpin, just inside the box, but the striker's well struck cross shot missed by inches.

In the 18th minute Hanson had another good chance for the home side, with a free header after a deep Magee cross, but could only put his effort wide. The game was really flowing from end to end and two minutes later Borough could have scored twice within a minute. First Culpin saw a close range header brilliantly saved by Crawford following Duggan's cross. The same player then spurned the best chance of the game when a magnificent run by Willie Gibson on the left saw him penetrate deep into the Scarborough box, before putting a perfect cross onto the head of Paul Richardson, but the midfield man could only head weakly over the bar.

As the half drew to a close it took a superb save from Andy Poole to keep his side on level terms, when Tim Jameson curved a subtle right foot shot from the left that the goalkeeper tipped round the post at full stretch.

Borough almost broke the deadlock in the first minute of the second half when Richardson won the ball before setting Culpin free. The striker took the ball to the corner of the box before firing his 20 yard cross shot narrowly wide of the far post. But as the half wore on the home side began to take the initiative. Glover misjudged a high up and under, letting in Jameson, who rounded Poole only for the goalkeeper to dive and claim the ball at the feet of the striker.

It was Glover's turn to rescue his side in the 64th minute when a Jameson cross appeared to be falling for Phillips, but the Borough central defender nipped in to put the ball away for a corner. Trevor Morley was booked in the 71st minute for a foul on Hartley, as the battle for the point grew more intense, but just as they seemed to have taken all that Scarborough could throw at them Borough were shocked by a freak winner.

A catalogue of errors at the back saw Dixey unusually hesitant and they were forced to give away a corner on the left, when there appeared little danger. The corner was taken by Cook and with Hanson standing in front of him on the line, Poole misjudged the flight of the ball, getting a touch but not able to prevent it going past him and hitting Dixey on the line before going into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 13-02-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Hill, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan (Jenas 33), Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Parker.

Worcester: Hayward, Selby, McGrath, Phelps, Tudor, Shinton, Caddick, Crompton, Tuohy, Wright, Moss. **Subs:** Gardner, Brennan.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough are now three points clear at the top of the league following a hard-earned win. Paul Culpin's goal 17 minutes from the end was enough to clinch the 18th win of the season for Graham Carr's men.

But they were made to fight all the way by a Worcester side keen to take revenge for their Trophy defeat on the same ground a month ago.

The visitors were quickly into their stride and it was soon evident that despite their recent run of poor results they were going to give Borough another hard battle.

Andy Poole did well to turn a Paul Moss free-kick over the top and then Willie Gibson was happy to see his header go narrowly wide of Poole's left hand post for a corner. Worcester continued to force the pace and Steve Crompton, looking yards offside, shot well wide with only the Borough keeper to beat.

Paul Richardson set up a shooting chance for Stewart Hamill as Nuneaton hit back, but his effort lacked power and Paul Hayward gathered comfortably. Dennis Jenas came on for Derek Duggan, who was injured in a clash with Kevin Tudor as Borough ended the half on top. Just before the interval Trevor Morley played a great through pass but as Paul Culpin was racing clear Malcolm Phelps pulled the ball down with his hands and was booked.

Early in the second half Culpin shot across the face of goal as Borough began to apply pressure and John McGrath had to produce a timely tackle to stop Hamill. But Moss was always a danger and he brought a diving save from Poole after finding himself a bit of space on the left. Borough should have gone in front after 70 minutes when Morley hammered the ball low across the goal and Culpin, at full stretch, somehow managed to get it over the bar from a couple of yards out.

However, three minutes later the visitors failed to clear a right wing corner and Hamill eventually played the ball into the goalmouth for Jenas to power in a header that Hayward could only parry and Culpin was on hand to score his 29th league goal of the season.

Worcester had one last chance to pull the game round when Moss was clear in the box but he seemed to hesitate and Poole was quickly out to block the shot. In the last minute Jenas forced a spectacular save from Hayward with a dipping shot from outside the box.

There were further bookings for Borough's Gibson and Tudor of Worcester.



Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-1984

Frickley: Hinchcliffe, Smith, Daniels, Dunn, Wright, Gill, Wilcox, Howey, Reed, Wilson, Campbell (Hooley). Sub: Marshall.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Hill, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Jenas, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Burke, Parker.

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to play Frickley Athletic in an Alliance Premier League game.

Yet another Paul Culpin hat-trick set Borough up for a memorable victory, inflicting the first defeat on the Yorkshiremen since they were beaten at Manor Park. Richard Hill deputised for the suspended Richard Dixey while Dennis Jenas was given his first full outing in place of Derek Duggan.

Borough made a bright start and earned a second minute chance when Morley was fouled some 25 yards from goal. The free-kick beat the wall, but was narrowly wide from Hamill. It took the home side 12 minutes to mount their first attack and when a Malcolm Smith free kick on the right was only half cleared by the Borough defence, Russ Wilcox hit a fierce first time shot narrowly wide.

Two minutes later it took a fine save from Stuart Hinchcliffe to prevent Jenas opening his account for the club, as he hit a dipping shot from the edge of the box that forced the keeper to tip over the bar. The game then developed into a midfield battle, but Borough almost presented the home side with the lead in the 36th minute when Glover completely missed his kick on the edge of the box leaving Graham Reed clear, but the striker's well struck shot was blocked by the body of Andy Poole. A minute later the keeper rescued Borough again as a cross from Gill was back-headed by Wilson and Poole saved at full stretch.

Borough took the lead in the 39th minute with a simple goal. Good work on the left by Jenas being followed by a perfect cross into the six yard box where Culpin was on hand and made no mistake. The lead was increased in the 43rd minute when following a defensive blunder Jenas and Culpin were queueing up on the edge of the box to put the ball into the net, with Culpin being more positive, scoring with some ease.

Frickley started the second half in determined mood and Borough's defence came under early pressure, needing desperate clearances from Hill and Glover. Borough had a 49th minute free kick from 20 yards from goal that Morley put out of the ground, but generally it was Frickley calling the tune. Campbell shot wide after 59 minutes and was substituted, but his replacement Gary Hooley fared little better when he put the ball straight at Poole. However, in the 69th minute Hooley made amends, lashing the ball home.

With the game deep into injury time, Hamill made a good run down the right and crossed into the box, where Jenas tried manfully to control the ball, but while he was thinking about it and the defenders were trying to clear, in nipped Culpin to lash the ball home to complete his third hat-trick of the season, his 30th goal in only 26 games.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 20-02-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Jenas, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Hill, Parker.

Yeovil: Plumley, Jarvis, Linney, Horton, Charles, Borthwick, Finnigan, Gold, Ward, Docherty, Brown. Subs: James, McLaughlin.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Goal machine Paul Culpin added two more to his tally as Borough stretched their lead at the top of the table to six points. Culpin was on target after 15 minutes to cancel out Yeovil's opener from Paul Charles and then grabbed the winner with only 13 minutes left, to take his tally to 40 goals in all competitions this season.

Yeovil, who inflicted Nuneaton's first defeat of the season back in August, quickly showed that they had not come to Manor Park just to make up the numbers. Driving rain and a howling wind were far from ideal conditions for good football, but both sides played their part in a match that was never lacking in incident. Culpin and Dennis Jenas both tested Yeovil keeper Garry Plumley before the visitors stunned the Manor Park faithful by taking the lead after only ten minutes.

The defence failed to clear a corner from the left and Charles drilled in a shot that beat the diving Andy Poole, hit the post and rebounded against the Borough keeper before ending up in the back of the net. But Yeovil's joy was shortlived as Borough were level within five minutes following a typical piece of opportunism from Culpin. Nigel Jarvis played a weak backpass towards his own keeper and Culpin was in like a flash to intercept, round Plumley and shot the ball home from the acutest of angles.

Before the break Jenas flashed a shot narrowly over the top and then Culpin had a shot scrambled away after Plumley had failed to hold a Smithers effort. However, with the elements in their favour, Yeovil must have fancied their chances of producing a shock win. But they failed to take advantage and it was Borough who took the initiative and Everton Carr rattled the visitors crossbar shortly after the restart.

Borough had appeals for a penalty turned down when Jenas appeared to be tripped and then Culpin saw his shot beaten away by Plumley. But with 13 minutes left Willie Gibson knocked a neat through ball for Culpin to flick over Richie Horton and race away to hammer it past the keeper.

Mel Martin Leaves

Nuneaton Borough's commercial manager Mel Martin will be leaving his post today to take over as manager of the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled at Tile Hill, Coventry. Martin, who has been with the club since early October will be starting his new position next week, although the centre does not open until April.

Culpin And Morley Selected For England

Nuneaton Borough strikers Paul Culpin and Trevor Morley have both been selected for the England semi-professional side. The Manor Park pair are included in a squad of 17 players from which the team to face Wales at Newtown later this month will be finalised.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-02-1984

Kettering: Humphries, Chamberlain, Sandercock, Denyer, Jenkins, Kelly, McGoldrick, Keast, Murphy, Hofbauer, Bevon. **Sub:** Palmer.

Borough: Poole, Ward, Burke, Sullivan, Hall, Hurrell, Anderson, Duggan, Parker, Quinn, Kelly. **Subs:** Vaughan, Massey.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough fielded a side mainly from the reserves with only three first teamers – and it showed. But for Kettering's anxious and scrappy finishing Borough could well have conceded more than four goals. There is no substitute for experience and this showed after Borough made only one real threat in the 22nd minute when Bobby Parker tested Kettering goalkeeper Humphries with a low volley.

From the kick-off it seemed as though both teams were using the opportunity for some excellent match practice and there was little encouragement from a meagre crowd. The home club star striker, Frankie Murphy, returned to the squad following injury, but it was Eddie McGoldrick who opened the scoring after a splendid solo run from the half-way line after only five minutes.

Murphy bagged the second in the 25th minute after Nuneaton lost the ball in a goalmouth scramble. Kettering, struggling near the foot of the Alliance Premier League table, were on top, but were made to work hard by a gritty Nuneaton defence.

But in the second half the Northamptonshire club really took the game to Borough and Keast shot past Poole after a run from inside his own half.

Parker was carried off in agony from a leg injury in the 85th minute after Nuneaton had used both Vaughan and Massey as substitutes. In the closing minutes Kettering added to Nuneaton's embarrassment after Murphy set Hofbauer up for an easy shot past the overworked Poole.

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 10-03-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill (Jenas 69), Hill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Parker.

Wealdstone: Iles, Perkins, McCargo, Byatt, Bowgett, Price, Donellan, Johnson, A. Cordice, Graves, Dibble. **Subs:** Greenway, N. Cordice.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Midfield man Paul Richardson does not score many goals, but the one he got at Manor Park on Saturday could prove to be priceless to Borough's hopes of lifting the championship.

With just eight minutes left Nuneaton were trailing to a 56th minute goal by Wealdstone's Mark Graves. They were struggling to break down a well-organised defence and looked to be heading for only their second home league defeat of the season.

Borough were then awarded a corner on the left. Tim Smithers put the flag kick into the six yard box where Stones keeper Bob Iles could only fist the ball away to the edge of the penalty area. Richardson reacted quicker than anyone else and his fiercely struck half-volley flew into the top corner.

But this top of the table clash was never a classic with Wealdstone making their intentions clear from the kick-off that they had not come to attack or entertain. There was a lot of niggling between the two sides and the ill-tempered clash finally erupted into an ugly brawl three minutes from the end.



Chris Dibble is flat out as the fists begin to fly in a late brawl.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Trevor Morley was involved in a clash with Stones' Chris Dibble and almost immediately all hell broke loose. There was a free for all that involved most of the players with managers, trainers and match officials trying their best to part the fighting factions. When order was finally restored Nuneaton's Richard Hill was sent off for punching an opponent as were Wealdstone's Dennis Byatt and Paul Bowgett.

The Londoners almost got the boost of an early lead when Dibble's first-time shot beat Andy Poole but rebounded to safety from the crossbar. At the other end Richardson got up well to a Hamill cross before Dibble had a great chance to put the visitors ahead when Richard Dixey's attempted clearance left him clear in the penalty area, but his shot was weak.

Hill went close from Hamill's cross as Nuneaton had the better of the exchanges, but Wealdstone's defensive blanket frustrated players and spectators alike. However, the visitors were dangerous on the break and Graves should have done better but Poole parried the ball away. Morley then put Hamill clear, but the winger allowed Iles to smother his shot.

Borough started the second half in fine style and Morley brought a superb save from Iles following a move between Hamill and Everton Carr. But eleven minutes after the break Borough's hopes were dealt a severe blow when Wealdstone took the lead. Gary Donellan found some space on the right and his smart low cross was turned in by Graves.

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Borough now faced an uphill battle and Hill was only a foot too high with a 35 yard drive as the Manor Park side piled on the pressure. But just when it looked as though Borough were heading for defeat up popped Richardson with his life-saver.



Borough full-back Everton Carr receives his man of the match award from Vanderhoff International managing director Ted Stocker after Saturday's game at Manor Park. Vanderhoff were sponsors for the game against Wealdstone and tonight's match against Bangor and will have been sponsors for a total of six games before the season ends. Also in the picture is Vanderhoff marketing manager Graham Powell.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Hamill, Richard Hill and Trevor Morley all failed in front of goal when it looked easier to score. Despite the disappointing finishing there were a couple of pleasing aspects. Derek Duggan, out of the side since limping off against Worcester last month, made a fine return to midfield and Smithers had his best game since returning to Manor Park.

Borough could have been ahead as early as the first minute when Culpin completely miskicked from Hamill's cross and Hill shot wide from ten yards. Morley then had a shot well saved by Glan Letheran before Culpin glanced a header wide of the far post after Hamill had again done the spadework. Hamill missed a clear cut chance when he allowed Letheran to come out and smother the ball after a fine move involving Hill and Culpin that left him free in front of goal.

There was trouble for Nuneaton when the visitors made a quick break and Alan Morris found himself with some space, but Andy Poole made a fine save. Morley then flicked a lovely ball over the top for Culpin to run onto, but Borough's leading scorer wasted the opportunity with a wild finish. Two minutes later he made amends when he put Borough in front with a typical goal out of nothing. Paul Richardson pressurised Dave Jones on the edge of his own area and the defender lost control for a split second and that was enough for Culpin to swivel and fire a left footer into the bottom corner of the net.

John Glover made a superb break at the start of the second half only for Culpin to snatch the ball away from the defender's toes and fire over the top. But six minutes after the restart it was 2-0 when Culpin scored from the penalty spot after Hamill had been brought down by Mark Gray.

Borough then missed a hatful of chances as the visitors goal was under siege for a long spell. Culpin was the main culprit, going close on several occasions, but just when it looked as though Borough would have to settle for two goals they got a third through Tim Smithers. With nine minutes left Smithers moved onto a pass from Morley on the left, cut into the box and his low shot crept inside Letheran at the near post.

Nuneaton Borough v Bangor City 12-03-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Smithers, Dixey, Glover, Duggan, Hamill, Hill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Jenas, Parker.

Bangor: Letheran, Cavanagh, Gray, Craven, Hart, Jones, Howatt, Morris, Carter, Murphy, Westwood. Subs: Puddle, Gunn.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 24-03-1984

Boston: Blackwell, Casey, Mann, Bell, Laverick, Nuttall, Cook, Simpson, Lee, Mallender, Gilbert. Subs: Worthington, Bird.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Parker, Sullivan.

Borough welcomed Bangor City to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Paul Culpin returned to the goal trail as Borough cruised to an easy victory, stretching their lead at the top of the table to six points. Borough's ace marksman was on target before the interval and again in the second half to take his tally for the season to 43. Tim Smithers wrapped up the scoring when he added a third nine minutes from the end, his first goal since returning to Manor Park from Oxford United.

But Graham Carr's men were never extended as they completed the double over the Welsh side. They were always on top, especially after the interval, but wasted a stack of gilt-edged chances. Culpin could have had five and Stewart

Borough made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough turned in their worst league performance of the season, being well beaten by a Boston side languishing in the lower reaches of the league. The departure of Dennis Jenas and the suspension of Richard Hill made team selection easy as Borough only had twelve front line players available. Willie Gibson returned at full-back after suspension and Timmy Smithers switched back to his midfield role.

Borough started the game in fine style and the home side looked to be completely in awe of the league leaders. A

second minute corner from Stewart Hamill on the left, flew across the face of the goal with John Glover just unable to get a touch, and only two minutes later Derek Duggan hit a stunning free-kick from all of 40 yards, that whistled narrowly over the bar, with the goalkeeper well beaten.

It was eight minutes before Boston got into Borough territory, but in the first menacing attack, the home side took the lead. A cross from the right by full-back Paul Casey was headed down by Chris Cook to Laverick on the edge of the area and his well-struck shot skidded off the wet surface to beat Poole's dive and enter the net near the far post. This blow failed to shake Borough's confidence and they pressed for the equaliser with Paul Culpin making a fine 12th minute run across the edge of the area, but Simpson nipped in to rescue his side with a timely tackle.

In the 15th minute Culpin should have levelled the scores when he spurned a golden opportunity, a long clearance from Poole clearing the hesitant home defence and leaving the striker free just inside the box, but he snatched at his shot and put his right foot effort disappointingly wide. Borough continued to dominate the exchanges and a 25th minute Glover header from a Hamill free-kick went wide, only to be followed two minutes later by a piece of Trevor Morley brilliance that could have put Borough back on terms.

The tricky striker received the ball on the edge of the box, controlling it and turning past Arthur Mann in one movement, before getting to the bye line and pulling back a hard, low cross to the near post where Paul Richardson, sliding in, touched the ball narrowly wide. But just when it seemed Borough must score, Boston increased their lead. Again it came from a Casey cross, but this time Mallender brought the ball down and fired in a fierce shot that Poole saved well, only for the ball to run for Cook to tap home from close range.

Borough went close just before the break when Hamill chipped the ball into the box and it was touched on by Smithers to Culpin who hammered a half-volley that seemed a certain goal, but from nowhere home keeper Kevin Blackwell appeared to block the ball.

Borough started the second half in determined style, having plenty of possession, but creating little. The home side almost made it three in the 62nd minute when Mallender lashed in a drive which hit Gibson on the arm and was deflected wide. Boston's penalty appeals were turned down. Borough's last chance saw Hamill's cross fingertipped away from Culpin, who was in a perfect position to score.

But in the 69th minute it was all over bar the shouting when Poole punched the ball as far as Charlie Bell on the edge of the box and he fired home through a packed penalty area, giving his side a three goal advantage.

The rest of the game saw Borough unable to make much impression and the home side grew in confidence and with Maidstone winning at Bangor the league title is wide open.

Nuneaton Borough v AP Leamington 26-03-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Sullivan, Hamill, Duggan, Parker, Smithers, Richardson. Subs: Thurman, Hurrell.

Borough welcomed AP Leamington to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough booked themselves a place in the final when they easily beat a weak Leamington side. The Brakes fielded most of their youth side and were never in contention in a completely one-sided match. Borough will now meet neighbours Bedworth United in a repeat of last year's final when Bedworth won over two legs. With the hectic end of season programme just beginning it looks as though the games will have to be arranged for the end of the season.

Paul Richardson gave Borough a flying start with a goal after only three minutes and Tim Smithers made it 2-0 when he headed home Stewart Hamill's cross halfway through the half. The second half was a bit of an embarrassment with the young visitors being over-run and it came as no surprise when Borough added further goals through Derek Duggan, Richardson (2) and Bobby Parker.

Borough Sign Murphy



Borough have completed the signing of Frank Murphy from Kettering Town and he is included in the line-up for the game with Barnet. Murphy, rated as one of the most talented front runners in the Alliance, cost Borough a substantial fee. But manager Graham Carr is delighted with the deal and thinks that it is money well spent by the Manor Park board.

"I think he is a top class player and I am delighted that we have been able to bring him to Nuneaton," Carr said.

"He got 22 goals in the Alliance for Kettering last season, but missed the early part of this campaign due to cartilage trouble. However, he has fully recovered now and since he got back into action he has hit eleven goals in the last seven matches."

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

31-03-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Duggan (Hamill), Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Parker.

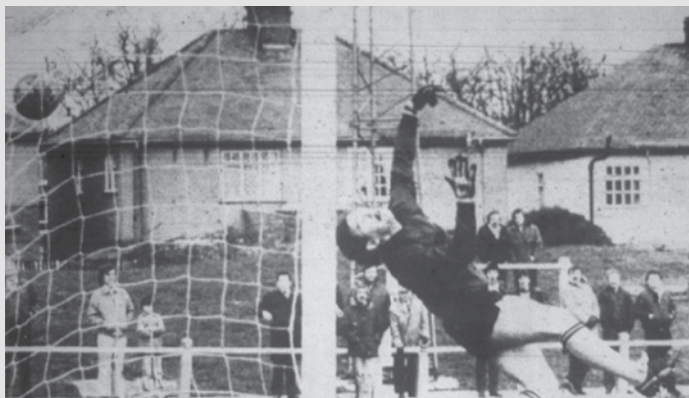
Barnet: Phillips, Brown, Kinnear, Millett, Baldry, Margerison (Pittaway), Docker, Ferguson, Atkins, Stein, Mahoney. **Sub:** Reagan.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough's hopes of lifting the title took another blow when they dropped another valuable point. Twice the Londoners went in front and although Borough had the majority of the possession the visitors always looked lively on the break. There must be questions asked of the Borough defence concerning both goals, but they again showed a lot of character to battle their way back into the match.

Frank Murphy, signed shortly before the transfer deadline showed one or two nice touches on his debut but it wasn't a day when he was allowed to show the abilities that have tempted Nuneaton to part with a substantial fee.

Borough got away to a bright start and forced three corners in the opening five minutes. They might have gone in front after ten minutes when Richard Dixey eluded the Barnet defence, but his header went wide. The first warning sign for Nuneaton came when Stuart Atkins found some space in the box and it took a fine save from Andy Poole to rescue the situation.



Barnet keeper Gary Phillips is left grasping at thin air as Morley's 26th minute volley hurtles towards the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

However, Borough didn't benefit from their let-off for long, as Barnet went in front after 16 minutes. John Docker made ground down the left and went past Everton Carr before crossing low into the box. The ball seemed to go through Dixey's legs and Steve Mahoney prodded the ball through Poole's legs from close range.

Borough were struggling and Edwin Stein almost scored with a cross shot that was only inches wide. But Nuneaton drew level after 26 minutes through Morley – and it was a goal of stunning quality. Carr played a long ball forward to the edge of the box where Morley, with his back to the goal, brought it down with his head before swivelling to volley a superb left footer past Gary Phillips. Smithers shot just wide before

Murphy superbly set up Duggan for a shot that was just wide.

Almost immediately after the break Nuneaton's hopes got another jolt when they went behind to a give-away goal. Poole came out for a right wing corner but failed to make proper contact and Stein lobbed the ball into the empty net.

Borough stormed forward in search of an equaliser and the visiting defenders found themselves under increasing pressure. Phillips did well to turn a Smithers free-kick over the top and then Duggan went close following a corner. But with 61 minutes gone Nuneaton were level – and again when the goal came it was a superb effort. Smithers found space on the left and turned inside to play a short ball to Richardson just outside the box, who hit a tremendous right footer into the top corner of the net.

At the other end Mahoney almost caught Borough napping before Culpin hooked a shot high over the Barnet bar. Borough had a chance in the final minute when Stewart Hamill set up a chance for Morley, but Phillips produced a superb save to turn the ball over the top.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough

03-04-1984

Borough: Baxter, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Sullivan, Gray.

Borough made the journey to The Valley to play Redditch United in Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Goal ace Paul Culpin destroyed poor Redditch with a five-goal burst. The Nuneaton striker moved to within a handful of goals of the club's scoring record with another spectacular display of finishing. He rocked Redditch with the only score of the first-half and then rapped in four more in a remarkable final 15 minutes as Borough coasted to victory.

Redditch suffered an early set-back when midfielder Steve Ferguson was sent off for dissent after only 12 minutes. Surprisingly it was Redditch who should have taken the lead only minutes later when Mark Whitehouse missed an easy chance from close range.

But after 27 minutes Culpin netted his first goal from only a few yards out. On the stroke of half-time, Redditch should have equalised when Mark Crisp shot wide with the Nuneaton defence in all sorts of trouble. At this stage Redditch were battling away and Nuneaton were never given the opportunity to make their numerical superiority count. But as the second half wore on they began to stretch the home side more.

Redditch keeper Colin Wootton had to pull off a couple of good saves to keep the visitors out and it wasn't until the last 15 minutes or so that Nuneaton, or rather Culpin, got into the goal-scoring habit. His second goal came with a well-placed shot just inside the near post and five minutes later he raced clear to score with a low drive. In the closing minutes the striker added the fourth with a shot that went in off a post and he rounded off the spree by again racing clear to beat the helpless Wootton.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 07-04-1984

Worcester: Hayward, Phelps, McGrath, Hughes, Stokes, Shinton, Crompton, Caddick, Evans (Gardner), Wright, Moss. Sub: Lowe.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Murphy, Duggan (Hill 70), Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Sub: Hamill.

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in an Alliance Premier League game.

Central defender John Glover was both saint and sinner as Borough turned in a much improved performance, to earn a vital championship point. With steadier finishing later in the game it would have been three. It was Glover's error in the second minute that enabled the home side to take the lead, but he made amends in the second half when he levelled the scores following a Tim Smithers' corner.

John Glover needed lengthy treatment after a first minute clash with Paul Moss during which the centre-half received a kick in the face. He had clearly not recovered when the home side took the lead. A loose ball on the left flank appeared to be causing few problems, but Glover failed to steer his header back to Andy Poole, allowing Moss to nip in and get in a shot which Poole parried, only for Bobby Evans to keep cool and slot the ball into the open net.

Borough almost drew level in the 12th minute when Hayward's punch fell to Timmy Smithers, who lobbed the ball from 40 yards towards the Worcester net. The home defenders were back pedalling furiously but the ball dropped just over the bar. This was followed in the 16th minute by another narrow escape for the home side when Glover rose unmarked at the far post to head a Derek Duggan corner against the bar.

Hayward saved Morley's header at full stretch after a Smithers' cross and in the 39th minute Borough hit the woodwork for a second time. A fine ball across the area from Frank Murphy was brilliantly controlled by Culpin on his chest before he hammered a volley against the bar from 15 yards.

But despite a first half of disappointment and bad luck Borough drew level in the 58th minute when Glover turned a Smithers corner home from close range. Borough were looking the better side but in the 69th minute, Glover, who was otherwise having a fine match, almost presented the home side with another goal. He half-hit his clearance straight to Wright, who set Evans free, but Willie Gibson saved the day, coming across to snuff out the danger.

A minute later Hill came on for Duggan and was to play a big part in the storming final fifteen minutes that should have seen Borough clinch the points with three good chances being created. Culpin struck a 77th minute shot that was blocked by Hayward and three minutes later Murphy had a golden opportunity, but delayed his shot and Hayward saved.

Then, with four minutes remaining, Hill had the clearest chance of all, being clear with just the keeper to beat, but yet again Hayward spread himself well and the ball struck him and rebounded to safety.

Gateshead v Nuneaton Borough 14-04-1984

Gateshead: Dodds, Higgins, Pearson, Tweedy, Mitchinson, Parnaby, Pugh, Davies, Donaldson (Howey 78), McNall, Robson. Sub: Hibbitt.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Murphy, Hill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Subs: Hamill, Duggan.

Borough made the journey to Gateshead to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough lost further ground at the top of the table when they were only able to secure a point against a side in need of points at the other end of the table. Once again more chances were spurned with Borough unable to recapture their sparkling early-season form.

Borough made a bright start and in the second minute Paul Culpin turned well on the edge of the box to create enough space to hit a left foot shot that went just over the bar. This was followed by three penalty appeals in the space of five minutes. Murphy went down under a Robson challenge, Culpin's shot appeared to have been blocked by the hand of Higgins and Culpin was brought down by Pearson after a chase into the area. The referee ignored all appeals.

The home side then posed a few problems when McNall turned quickly 10 yards out, but lost control at the vital moment. Parnaby then forced Poole to save at full stretch and in the 25th minute they produced a delightful move that all but broke the deadlock. The move was started by Kevin Pugh and after McNall's cross had been headed back by Donaldson, it was Pugh who stormed in to hammer a first time shot narrowly wide. A minute later came the miss of the match – Murphy taking the ball past Dodds only to scoop the ball over an empty goal from inside the six yard box.

Borough almost started the second half in style when in the 48th minute Culpin made a good run on the left and his cross was allowed to run by Murphy to Morley, who shot high over the bar. But in the 51st minute Poole saved brilliantly from Mitchinson to keep Borough level. However the goalkeeper was powerless to stop a stunning right foot drive from Peter Davies, which scorched into the net from 35 yards.

The goal seemed to instil some urgency into the Borough attack and they began to cause the home defence some problems. Morley and Richardson were having great games and the pressure on the home defence increased and it came as little surprise when Borough levelled the scores after 75 minutes.

The goal was a typical piece of clinical Culpin finishing with the striker lashing the ball into the net with his left foot from the corner of the six yard box – a half chance lethally executed by the league's leading scorer.

Borough then pressed in search of the vital winning goal, but in spite of two good runs by Murphy and shots from Morley and Culpin that were blocked, the game ended with Borough dropping two more priceless points.



Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-1984

Northwich: Ryan, Fretwell, Murphy, Jones, Wilson, Bennett, Anderson (Duncalf 80), Clynych, Reid, Dean, Power. **Sub:** Goosetree.

Borough: Poole, Carr (Hamill 80), Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Duggan.

Borough made the journey to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in an Alliance Premier League game.

Borough were denied both points after conceding a controversial penalty with just five minutes to go, when John Glover was adjudged to have pushed Peter Duncalf. It was rough justice for Borough who had taken an early lead and come close to increasing it on several occasions.

Culpin only half hit a shot from Everton Carr's cross in the sixth minute and the ball looped to the far post only just short of Frank Murphy. But they were not to be deprived for long and in the tenth minute they took the lead through Murphy. Culpin headed the ball in the area and it broke to Murphy who controlled it, turned and shot and the ball hit the roof of the net before Ryan could move.

Murphy followed up his first goal for the club with his first booking, but he was having a field day and two minutes later put Culpin clear with a superb through ball, but the striker's shot lacked power. The home side began to come into the game and in the 20th minute a long ball from defence by Wilson caught the Borough defence coming out, setting Reid clear. The striker looked set to equalise but Glover covered brilliantly to cut out the danger. The home side went close again in the 38th minute when a cross from full-back Murphy reached Anderson on the far side of the box, but his shot was not struck cleanly and Dixey was able to hack clear.

Borough almost increased their lead in the 53rd minute when Hill hit the post with a fine header and in the 70th minute the midfield man missed a golden opportunity of settling the issue. He knifed through the home defence with a brilliant run, but screwed his shot disappointingly wide. Carr limped off to be replaced by Hamill, but there seemed little danger of Borough letting the points slip.

However, with just five minutes to go Glover appeared to get in a solid header from behind substitute Duncalf and the referee astounded everyone by pointing to the spot and was immediately surrounded by irate Borough players. Dixey was booked for his part in the protest. Full back Murphy remained cool and slotted the ball home from the penalty spot, to earn his side a point they hardly deserved and to deprive Borough of the full points they so badly needed.

The remaining five minutes were ill tempered and things were made more unpalatable for Borough because they were aware that league leaders Maidstone were heading for defeat at Worcester. Borough officials shepherded their players to the dressing rooms at the final whistle to avoid any further problems, having already received four bookings.

Borough To Apply For League Status

If Nuneaton Borough win the Alliance Premier League championship they will be looking to get the nomination to apply for acceptance into the Football League. But in order to do this they need to get their ground upgraded by the League during the close season. At present Manor Park only has a Grade B certificate and to be accepted by the Football League they must have a Grade A.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 21-04-1984

Borough: Poole, Parker (Duggan 80), Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy (Sullivan 83), Culpin, Morley, Richardson.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Paul Culpin grabbed his fourth hat-trick of the season to keep alive Borough's hopes of taking the championship. Nuneaton's ace marksman broke the Alliance Premier League individual goalscoring record when he put Borough in front after just seven minutes. He added the second five minutes later and wrapped up an easy win with a penalty late in the second half.

Nuneaton haven't had many easier victories this season as the Yorkshiremen offered only token resistance. They were never in the game as an attacking force and for most of the 90 minutes Andy Poole was a virtual spectator. Despite a good win over Runcorn in midweek, the visitors never looked capable of becoming the first side to complete a double over Borough this season.

Frank Murphy showed that he is a player of undoubted class and will be a tremendous asset next season. He produced some delightful passes – especially in the first half – and appears to be settling in well with his new team mates. Bobby Parker replaced the injured Everton Carr and Stewart Hamill was brought back to give the attack more width.

After a tentative opening by both sides, Nuneaton stunned the visitors by going ahead with their first attack after seven minutes. Murphy played Hamill clear and the winger raced to the edge of the box before crossing to the unmarked Culpin, who fired a superb volley past Crawford. The goal acted as a spur to Borough and five minutes later they went further in front after a mix-up in the Scarborough defence. Trevor Morley lobbed the ball into the box and Culpin outpaced a hesitant defence to slip the ball past the keeper.

Crawford had to rescue his defence, who failed to pick up Culpin and Murphy, leaving the keeper to race out and hack the ball clear. The Scarborough defence was having a terrible time and they were fortunate not to go further behind when Murphy put Hamill away on the right and Paul Richardson's header was blocked on the line.

In a rare visitors' attack the Nuneaton defence got in a tangle and former Manor Park favourite Brendan Phillips got in an overhead shot, but the ball flew well wide of the goal.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Scarborough made a double substitution at the interval in a bid to pull the game round. But despite a much more attack-minded formation the Yorkshire outfit posed few problems for a solid Borough defence.

Only Trevor Wiggan appeared to have the ability and pace to put the visitors back in the match, but he received little support. Hanson was booked for kicking Morley before Culpin missed a simple chance to put Nuneaton three up after Murphy had dummied a right-wing cross. Bryan Magee brought a diving save from Poole with a 30-yarder and then the big defender hit another fierce right-footer that flew narrowly over the top.

Any slim hopes that Scarborough had of salvaging something from the game disappeared eleven minutes from the end when Borough got their third goal. Cottam brought down Culpin in the box and the Nuneaton striker got up to stroke the penalty wide of Crawford. Borough had another couple of chances when Richardson put Hamill clear, but he pulled his shot wide and when Hamill put Culpin in the striker poked it wide from close range.

Tommy Robson Makes Wembley Debut

Former Borough favourite Tommy Robson is set for a Wembley debut, just three months before his 40th birthday. The Gateshead born winger lines up for United Counties League Stamford in the FA Vase final against Essex side Stanstead. Stamford expect a 5,000 following with many supporters travelling from Peterborough – Robson's former club.

Nuneaton Borough v Enfield 28-04-1984

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker, Duggan.

Enfield: Cotter, Cooper, Hatchet, Barrett, Savage, Mount, Cox, Haverson (Buglione 80), Cope, Flint, King. **Sub:** H. Hill.

Borough welcomed Enfield to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Frank Murphy scored his first hat-trick for Borough as they kept themselves right in contention for the championship. Murphy paid back a big slice of the substantial fee. He scored twice in a five minute spell before the interval and added his third seventeen minutes from the end. Paul Culpin took his tally for the season to 53 with Borough's other goal two minutes after the interval as Nuneaton completed an emphatic victory.

Borough were always in control and Enfield must be thankful that the final scoreline was not more of an embarrassment. For the visitors were hardly in the game. Borough could have gone ahead as early as the third minute when the visitors' defence failed to clear a Smithers cross and Richard Hill fired wide from six yards. Smithers then tested Cotter with a fierce left footer after Trevor Morley had set up the chance.

Midway through the half Morley played Culpin clear with a great through ball, but Borough's leading scorer fired over the

top with only the keeper to beat. But five minutes later it took a fine save from Cotter to deny Culpin after the Nuneaton number nine had hammered in a left foot shot on the turn.

Enfield had two good chances to go in front when Andy Cope outpaced John Glover but Andy Poole was able to smother the ball. Then full-back Dave Hatchett got forward but pulled his shot across the face of the goal from ten yards. At the other end Culpin screwed his shot wide from close range after Keith Barrett had put the Londoners in trouble with a poor back pass. However, five minutes before the break Nuneaton went in front.

Morley picked up a loose ball on the edge of the box and fired in a low shot that Murphy flicked past Cotter from close range. Then with the referee looking at his watch Murphy got a second when he fastened onto a long ball from Willie Gibson to slip it past the advancing keeper.

Two minutes after the re-start any slim hopes that the visitors might have had of pulling the game round disappeared when Borough got a third goal. Culpin went round Trevor Savage and cut into the box to fire in a left foot shot that Cotter allowed to sneak in at the far post.



Paul Culpin is grounded, but his shot eludes Cotter to sneak in at the far post for his 53rd goal of the season. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Savage then cleared off the line from Culpin before Enfield failed to take advantage of their last opportunity of the game. Dave Flint shot from close range, but Glover got a foot to the ball to turn it onto a post and Gibson completed the clearance. From then on it was one-way traffic with Enfield's goal coming under siege. The pressure had to pay off and when it did it brought a superb goal to complete Murphy's hat-trick. Paul Richardson sent Stewart Hamill away on the right and the winger played a perfect cross into the box for Murphy to coolly slot the ball home from 15 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 30-04-1984

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker, Duggan.

Maidstone: Richardson, Thompson, Moore, Rollings, Newson, Higes, Ironton (Green 65), Stewart, Dingwall, Bartley, Taylor. **Sub:** Maddocks.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play an Alliance Premier League game.

Nuneaton Borough's hopes of taking the championship almost certainly ended in a drama-filled game last night.

Graham Carr's men needed to win this top of the table clash to keep their title hopes alive and for most of the 90 minutes they looked like doing just that. They completely dominated the first-half and led through John Glover's 36th minute goal. Maidstone improved after the break but even then they seldom looked like troubling a solid Borough rearguard.

However, they got an equaliser out of the blue after 73 minutes through Malcolm Stewart with the first real threat to Andy Poole's goal. Stones then went in front one minute from the end through John Bartley and it looked as though Nuneaton's magnificent crowd of more than three and a half thousand were destined to go home bitterly disappointed. But in a pulsating finish Culpin grabbed an equaliser in the last minute and then Morley missed a sitter at the death.

Borough were the first to threaten in the third minute when Paul Richardson won the ball in midfield and found Culpin for the striker to feed Hamill, who shot across the face of the visitors' goal. Paul Richardson put Murphy clear with a smart interception, but Stones keeper Derek Richardson held the Borough man's attempted chip high over his head.

Smithers floated the ball into the box towards Murphy and the Maidstone defence scrambled the ball away. Morley caused problems with some good close control inside the box before Culpin forced Derek Richardson into a diving save. Borough were well in command and Andy Rollings had to trip Morley to halt another attack. Morley played a great ball out to Hamill on the right, Culpin glanced on the cross and Morley was on hand to hammer a shot over the top.

Maidstone were under constant pressure and were finding it difficult to break out of their own half. They were lucky to still be on terms after 29 minutes when a Morley shot was deflected and Culpin got in a header that trickled past the far post with the keeper struggling. But their relief didn't last long as Nuneaton went in front after 36 minutes through centre-half John Glover. Hamill had a shot blocked following a short corner and from the second flag-kick Glover stormed into the box to ram a header into the roof of the net.

Culpin then created more problems for the visitors with a fine run on the left and Derek Richardson had to make a brave save at Murphy's feet. At the start of the second half Morley had to hook away a dangerous cross from the right and then Richard Hill was happy to give away a corner after the defence had been in a tangle from the free-kick.

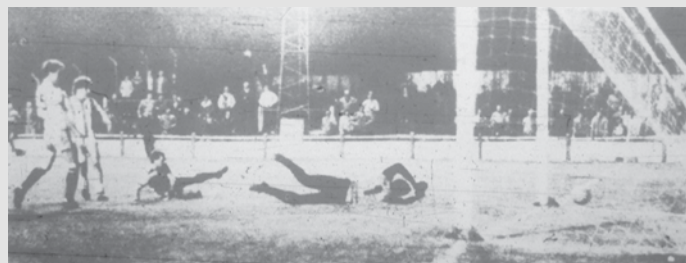
Paul Richardson then broke on the right and fed Culpin who flicked it on for Murphy, but luckily for Stones, Stewart was back to get in a saving tackle as the striker prepared to shoot. Midway through the second period Maidstone pulled off Nicky Ironton and sent on Clive Green in what turned out to be a shrewd move. Green gave the visitors more width to their game and suddenly Maidstone began to look more dangerous. Paul Richardson did well to get in a telling tackle on Bartley, but a minute later the Kent outfit equalised. Willie Gibson got in a tackle out on the flank and as the ball bobbed

clear Stewart swung a speculative boot and the ball flew into the far top corner of the Nuneaton net.

The goal, completely against the run of play, obviously rocked Borough back on their heels and Taylor forced Poole into a fine save after finding some room on the edge of the box. But Borough hit back and Murphy had a great chance to restore the home side's lead when he was clear of the Stones' defence and went round Derek Richardson, but the keeper had forced him wide and Brian Thompson was able to get back and block the shot on the line.

Poole then made a hash of a goal kick and Micky Dingwall headed on to give Green a clear run at goal, but the substitute shot across the face of the Borough net. But Borough were dealt a sickening blow a minute from the end when they failed to pick up Bartley after a right wing throw, and the Stones' striker swivelled on the penalty spot to send a left footer past Poole.

It looked as though it was the end for Borough, but they stormed back into the attack and snatched a dramatic equaliser through Culpin. The visitors' defence was in a tangle following a break down the right and Culpin was on hand to slide the ball past Derek Richardson to the delight of the home fans. Then, with the game deep into injury time, Morley had a golden chance to clinch victory. He was clear with just the keeper to beat but he put his shot wide of the post from just six yards out.



Trevor Morley can only watch in despair as his shot goes inches the wrong side of the post.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Muhammad Ali At Manor Park

Muhammad Ali, three times world heavyweight boxing champion will be the guest of honour at the Midland Floodlit Cup Final between Nuneaton Borough and Bedworth United at Manor Park on Monday morning. Ali, over here as part of the celebrations for Henry Cooper's 50th birthday party, today accepted an invitation to attend the game.

Nuneaton chairman Noel Kelly was today over the moon that the great man had said yes to the invitation. "It is a tremendous coup for us," he said. "The man is a legend in his own lifetime and attracts massive crowds wherever he goes."

But Borough owe a vote of gratitude to neighbours Bedworth for agreeing to stage the game on the Bank Holiday. The final of the competition is always a two-legged affair with the winners being decided on aggregate score.

Runcorn v Nuneaton Borough

04-05-1984

Runcorn: McBride, Kettle, Roberts, Edwards, Hardman, Smith, Fagan, Crompton, Imrie, Butler, Stringer (Rogers). **Sub:** Simpson.

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Subs:** Parker, Duggan.

Borough made the journey to Canal Street to play Runcorn in an Alliance Premier League game.

Brave Borough gained the victory they needed to keep their title hopes alive until the very last day of the season, with a magnificent performance. Nothing short of victory was enough to give them hope and it came by virtue of a late goal by Frank Murphy.

The game started in scrappy fashion with both sides having problems with the hard pitch, that produced clouds of dust every time the ball bounced. However, Paul Culpin had a chance as early as the seventh minute, after good work by Smithers and Murphy, but the striker fired high over the bar. But in the 15th minute Borough almost paid the penalty for slack defensive play and Richard Hill was called on to head off the line after John Imrie looked set to open the scoring.

Just after it was Trevor Morley's turn to make a mistake, missing his clearance with the result that the ball ran to Ossie Smith who could only hit his shot straight at Andy Poole. But a minute later Morley almost made amends with a fine turn and shot at the other end that forced Ray McBride to save low down to his right. Borough then took complete control with Murphy failing to connect with a clean header after a brilliant Smithers run and then Culpin just failed to reach a Hamill cross from the right when a touch would have brought a goal, and finally when Murphy delightfully controlled Smithers cross, creating a chance, but only half hitting his shot.

The second half saw Borough fare little better in front of goal once more wasting several chances that could have sewn up the game. In the 56th minute a super ball from Murphy set Smithers free inside the box on the left, but the midfield man could only screw his shot across goal when he seemed certain to score.

It then seemed as if Borough were destined not to find the net when in the 58th minute Morley hit a magnificent half volley from 30 yards that hit the face of the bar, before rebounding to safety. But as the half wore on the home side, who were giving nothing away, began to come more into the game and Poole was forced to save well at his near post in the 61st minute, after Imrie had received a chance created by the bad bounce of the ball on the hard surface. In the 65th minute McBride in the home goal was called upon to make a superb save, flinging himself to the left to parry a well struck Culpin shot as Borough still looked for the all-important goal.

But just when it seemed that Borough's title hopes were dead and buried, Murphy struck to take the race into the very last day of the season. With just three minutes remaining Smithers had a shot blocked on the left and although the ball

rebounded to him his second effort suffered a similar fate, however, this time the ball ran to Murphy who lashed it home first time from ten yards out.



With time running out, Frank Murphy pounces on a rebound to fire the ball past Runcorn keeper McBride.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

So Borough's fine victory which makes them only the second side to win at Runcorn this season, puts them back on top of the league after the completion of their programme. However, Maidstone need only one point from their remaining fixture at home to Telford, to clinch the title. Borough are assured of at least runners-up spot and victory at Runcorn has set the seal on a magnificent season in which they were never out of the top three and in which they led the table for most of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United

07-05-1984

Borough: Poole, Hill (Carr 75), Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. **Sub:** Duggan.

Bedworth: Martin, Williams, Taylor, Jackson, Neale, Bradder, Thomas (Shiple 70), Gorman, Rossi, Smith, Ebrey. **Sub:** Tricket.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play the Midland Floodlit Cup final.

The local rivals produced what was almost certainly the worst game of football seen at Manor Park this season. It is true that conditions were far from ideal for good football with a hard dusty pitch and a swirling wind making life difficult for the players. The fact that the kick-off was put back for half-an-hour to accommodate the Muhammad Ali show didn't help them get into the right frame of mind either. But when all the excuses have been trotted out, the plain fact of the matter is that it was an appalling game to watch.

Neither side strung together more than a couple of decent passes throughout the entire two hours and long before the end even the faithful among the crowd were praying for the final whistle. Borough got away to a great start with a goal after just four minutes through Paul Richardson. Stewart Hamill flicked the ball over the top of Dennis Taylor and Richardson raced onto the ball to fire a first timer past Mick Martin from the edge of the box.

Bedworth quickly switched the attack to the other end and

produced one or two moments of hesitancy in the home defence before they got an equaliser after 21 minutes. Les Ebrey crossed from the right to the far post and the unmarked Martin Smith had the simplest of jobs to tap the ball home.

After the interval Borough had the lion's share of possession but seldom looked like making it count. Paul Culpin missed from close in just five minutes after the restart and then the Manor Park club's leading striker hooked the ball into Martin's arms from around the penalty spot. As the game went into extra-time it appeared that neither side had either the energy or the ability to conjure up the winning goal.

Frank Murphy shot wide from inside the box and then Stewart Hamill was a yard too wide after a knockdown by Trevor Morley. But despite their territorial advantage Borough were almost caught out when Ebrey had a shot blocked and Andy Poole did well to save Smith's effort from the rebound.



Former heavyweight champion of the world Muhammad Ali prepares to present the trophy.
Photo: John Mason

Ali Magic Bewilders Kids

Muhammad Ali breezed into Manor Park yesterday and brought with him his very own very special brand of magic. The three-times world heavyweight champion was at the ground as guest of honour for the Nuneaton Borough and Bedworth United Midland Floodlit Cup final. But the football was merely incidental as Ali predictably stole the show. He was driven around the ground in an open topped Rolls-Royce throwing tennis balls to the crowd pursued by crowds of excited youngsters.

The old master, undoubtedly sports greatest ever attraction, was in his element as he received a tremendous reception from the Bank Holiday crowd.

Never more at ease than when dealing with children, Ali spent three hours at the ground and for a large part of the time he was entertaining the kids with his magic. He signed autographs, posed for pictures and in general treated the Nuneaton fans to a day that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Alliance Premier League 1983-84

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maidstone United	42	23	13	6	71	34	70
Nuneaton Borough	42	24	11	7	70	40	69
Altrincham	42	23	9	10	64	39	65
Wealdstone	42	21	14	7	75	36	62
Runcorn	42	20	13	9	61	45	62
Bath City	42	17	12	13	60	48	53
Northwich Victoria	42	16	14	12	54	47	51
Worcester City	42	15	13	14	64	55	49
Barnet	42	16	10	16	55	58	49
Kidderminster Harriers	42	14	14	14	54	61	49
Telford United	42	17	11	14	50	58	49
Frickley Athletic	42	17	10	15	68	56	48
Scarborough	42	14	16	12	52	55	48
Enfield	42	14	9	19	61	58	43
Weymouth	42	13	8	21	54	65	42
Gateshead	42	12	13	17	59	73	42
Boston United	42	13	12	17	66	80	41
Dagenham	42	14	8	20	57	69	40
Kettering Town	42	12	9	21	53	67	37
Yeovil Town	42	12	8	22	55	77	35
Bangor City	42	10	6	26	54	82	29
Trowbridge Town	42	5	7	30	33	87	19



Borough skipper Richard Dixey is presented with the Alliance Premier League runners-up trophy before the game against at Manor Park. Making the presentation is Alliance vice-president Gordon Swinton from Stafford.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Oldbury United — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Oldbury United to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Parker, Hendry, Hamill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson (Dale 73)

Oldbury: Maclaren, Burgess, McGuigan, Cooper, Pararijit, Sabin, Bowerman, Green, S. Jones, A. Jones (Barrows 86), Civil.

Borough crashed out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle following a disastrous display. They fell behind to two breakaway goals in the first half-hour and from that point on were always struggling to get back into contention against the Southern League Midland Division outfit.

Paul Culpin pulled a goal back just before the interval but it was not enough to save them and the Manor Park side can have few grumbles about the result.

Graham Carr's men could point to the fact that they hit the woodwork twice and missed enough chances to have pulled the game out of the fire. But the plain truth is that on the day they were nowhere near good enough against a team from two rungs further down the pyramid ladder.

Borough, riding high in the Alliance Premier League, failed to show even glimpses of the form that has taken them to a position among the early pace-setters.

And to make matters worse, when things were going wrong many of the players showed a distinct lack of appetite for a fight.

Whereas Oldbury, showing no respect for their more illustrious opponents fought for everything and were full value for their shock win.

They had the boost of an early goal, finding the net after 16 minutes when Borough had appeared to be well in control. Phil Sabin played Stan Jones clear on the left and his low centre found Neil Civil, who was

completely unmarked and was able to sidefoot past Andy Poole.

Ian Hendry was only just wide from a Stewart Hamill cross as Borough pressed forward looking for an equaliser. Then the Manor Park outfit had appeals for a penalty turned down after Paul Cooper appeared to trip Trevor Morley in the box.

But despite the pressure, Borough found themselves in even deeper trouble after 33 minutes when the visitors snatched a second goal.

A long clearance from goalkeeper Bruce Maclaren found Civil who knocked the ball inside for Stan Jones to score from the edge of the box.

Culpin saw a close range header rebound from the crossbar before he reduced the arrears two minutes from the break when he volleyed home from ten yards to boost Borough's hopes.

Morley headed narrowly wide and then Culpin forced Maclaren into a diving save as the home side opened the second half with a burst of action.

Hendry looked to have done the trick for Nuneaton following a neat build-up with Paul Richardson on the right.

The little Scot took a return pass, slipped past his marker on the edge of the box and hammered in a left footer

only for Maclaren to produce a superb diving save to turn the ball away for a corner.

However, pushing so many men forward left Borough vulnerable at the back and Stan Jones missed a great chance to restore Oldbury's two goal advantage, shooting well wide from close in.

Morley missed an opportunity when he beat Maclaren to Dale's through pass but he lifted the ball over the keeper and wide of the goal.

There was more danger at the other end when Borough captain Richard Dixey got involved in a mix-up that let in Green but the Oldbury front runner let the chance slip away.

With just three minutes left Culpin hit the bar from close range and Morley headed the rebound wide of the left hand post.

But the drama wasn't over yet as the referee inexplicably added on five minutes playing time.

In one last desperate bid to save the match, Morley chipped in a delightful ball to Culpin who went past Maclaren but with virtually the last kick of the match the Borough striker somehow managed to screw his shot wide from five yards out.



The final moment of agony for Borough. With just seconds remaining Paul Culpin moves onto a pass from Trevor Morley and leaves the Oldbury keeper Bruce McLaren stranded. But with virtually the last kick of the match the striker drags his shot wide of an open goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Worcester City — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Worcester City: Hayward, Selby, McGrath, Hughes, Phelps, Shinton, Williams, Lowe, Tuohy, Moss, Brennan. Sub: Caddick.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Sub: Hill.

Borough remain in the Trophy, thanks to another superb rearguard action, this time with ten men after the dismissal of Dixey, when they were forced to soak up intense pressure.

Manager Graham Carr was able to select from his full squad and brought back Timmy Smithers, the ex-Oxford man replacing Bobby Parker.

It was clear that weather conditions would play a major part in the proceedings and Worcester elected to have first use of the wind that was blowing from end to end. But it was Borough who came close to an early goal, when in the third minute Paul Culpin latched on to a Dixey through ball and after pulling the ball on to his left foot lashed a 25-yard shot just wide.

Worcester then caused problems when a fifth minute move involving Brennan and Tuohy ended with a chance for Tuohy, but his shot was weak and caused Andy Poole no anxiety.

A minute later Paul Richardson, who had earlier been lectured by the referee, was booked for a foul on ex-Borough man Barry Lowe as the battle for midfield supremacy began to hot up.

Worcester continued to pile on pressure but the Borough defence coped adequately with their efforts. In fact, Borough were at times looking the more dangerous side, breaking well with Trevor Morley prominent. In the 20th minute Morley showed his alert brain by trying to drift the ball in from long range, only for it to pass wide.

In the 22nd minute, Everton Carr followed Richardson into the referee's notebook after a foul on Worcester's

top scorer Moss, who was the most dangerous of the home forwards. In the 41st minute Worcester built up well on the left and Brennan's cross was knocked on by Tuohy, for Shinton to put the ball wide when well placed.

As the half came to an end it was Borough who looked most likely to open the scoring. Morley and Hamill created an opening for Richardson but his shot could only find the side netting.

Duggan forced Hayward to save at full stretch with a 20-yard drive and Culpin went close with a brave effort, being forced to shoot from long range when surrounded by defenders.

Despite playing into the wind the home side started the second period well, going close in the 51st minute when Tuohy put the ball wide after a fine cross from the right by Brennan.

A minute later Lowe played Moss clear in the box, forcing the ever dependable Willie Gibson to move smartly across and clear, then Tuohy headed a cross from full-back Selby narrowly wide as the home side poured on the pressure.

In the 54th minute a heavy tackle by Dixey on Tuohy caused the striker to receive lengthy treatment and earned the Borough skipper a booking, that was to prove vital only minutes later.

A bad 55th minute back pass from Richardson was intercepted by Moss and the striker brought Poole to his knees to save, when he had time and room to have done better.

A Brennan cross was then headed clear at the far post by Dixey, as the game began to develop into a real cup tie.

But on the hour Moss broke clear of the Borough defenders in midfield. The crowd and Worcester players showed their displeasure at having a promising move stopped by the referee and the official appeared to relieve the pressure on himself by booking Dixey.

The referee then realised he had already cautioned Dixey and had little option but to send him from the

field of play, a tremendous blow to Borough's hopes as Dixey was having a magnificent match.

Borough were forced to reshuffle their line-up, moving Gibson to the heart of the defence and Smithers to full-back, moves that were to prove most effective with both players outstanding.

The rest of the game saw Borough soak up constant pressure, relying on the quick break, but for all their possession, Worcester rarely looked capable of breaking the deadlock.

In the 65th minute Tuohy chipped Poole from the edge of the box, only for the ball to float over and in the 75th minute the same player headed over when well placed, after Smithers had been dispossessed on the right and Williams had crossed to the far post.

Worcester did find the net on two occasions, in the 62nd minute Shinton headed home from close range and in the 84th minute Moss showed all his finishing ability when he fired home from inside the area, but both efforts were disallowed for offside.

Worcester City — 1st Round Replay

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a 1st Round Replay.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, Richardson. Sub: Hill.

Worcester: Hayward, Selby, McGrath, Hughes, Phelps, Shinton, Williams, Caddick, Tuohy, Crompton, Moss. Sub: Wright.

Borough earned themselves a trip to Maidstone with a battling display. Graham Carr's men again showed tremendous character as they overcame a talented Worcester outfit in a hard-fought replay.

Two goals in the second half from Stewart Hamill and Trevor Morley were enough to end the visitors' challenge.

It was never a classic, the strong wind made sure of that, but there was plenty of red-blooded action to warm the fans on a bitterly cold night.



Stewart Hamill hammers home Borough's first goal, eleven minutes into the second half.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Both sides gave total commitment and there were times when things threatened to get out of hand as the tackles flew in thick and fast.

There were bookings for Worcester's John McGrath and David Hughes before the break and Hamill joined them shortly after the restart.

The visitors were without former Borough midfielder man Barry Lowe, who was injured in Saturday's clash, but they might have gone ahead after only two minutes.

Graham Selby made a good run on the right, Paul Moss had a header blocked by Everton Carr from the resulting centre and Andy Poole had to make a superb save as Bobby Shinton hammered in the rebound.

At the other end Hamill set up an opening for Morley but the striker's shot from the edge of the box lacked power and Paul Hayward saved easily.

Then Malcolm Phelps headed a Tim Smithers cross behind for a corner as Borough pressed confidently forward.

But with the wind in their favour, Worcester were looking dangerous and John Glover had to react sharply to cut out a Caddick cross at the near post.

Morley beat two men and fired over the top, then Hughes almost turned a

Hamill cross past his own keeper before Nuneaton had a let-off.

Poole made a point blank save from Mick Tuohy, Glover failed to clear and Richard Dixey had to clear off the line as Moss hammered in the rebound.

It was eleven minutes after the restart when Borough took the lead with a goal of stunning quality and simplicity.

Poole hoisted a long clearance high into the Worcester half for Paul Culpin to find Hamill with a neat header. The little winger then took advantage of a kind bounce to race to the edge of the area and hammer a fierce cross shot into the far corner past the diving Hayward.

Shortly afterwards the keeper had to produce an excellent save to keep out a Derek Duggan shot after the visitors defence had failed to clear a corner.

Then Hamill fired narrowly wide before Crompton caused some concern for Borough fans with a shot that was only inches away from the far post.

But the visitors missed a fine chance to grab an equaliser six minutes from the end. A Hughes free-kick evaded everyone in the penalty area but Shinton scooped the ball over the top from inside the six yard box.

Worcester were made to pay dearly for that miss as two minutes from time

Morley wrapped up Borough's win with a 20 yard drive that gave Hayward no chance.

Maidstone United — 2nd Round

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in a FA Trophy Second Round tie.

Maidstone: D. Richardson, Thompson, Moore, Crowe, Newson, Donn, Maddocks, Stewart, Dingwall, Bartley, Taylor. Sub: Lazarus.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, P. Richardson. Sub: Jenas.

Borough retain their interest in the FA Trophy, thanks to a magnificent second half display that saw them pull back a two goal deficit and totally outplay their hosts, showing an abundance of spirit and character.

Manager Graham Carr was able to select from his full squad and elected to bring back Everton Carr after suspension, Richard Hill being the man to stand down. Dennis Jenas was named as substitute.

Borough were first to show, forcing a corner in the first minute, but home goalkeeper Richardson had little problem in fielding the ball whilst under no pressure.

However, Maidstone soon settled and shocked Borough by taking the lead in the seventh minute, forcing three corners in quick succession and from the third, taken by Peter Taylor on the left, Dingwall flicked the ball on at the near post, leaving top scorer John Bartley to nod home from close range.

The goal did little to inspire either side and the flow of the game was not assisted by the appalling state of the pitch, which made football impossible.

It took Borough until the 12th minute before they showed their first real danger, when Smithers hit a long ball for Culpin that went past the home defence but struck the back of the Borough striker's leg as he seemed about to race clear.

But the home side were having the



Trevor Morley seals it for Borough with a 20-yard strike, two minutes before the end.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



better of the exchanges and it was almost two in the 20th minute, when central defender Mark Newson headed a Taylor corner narrowly wide, under pressure from his team-mate Dingwall.

In the 32nd minute Carr was booked for a foul on Bartley. Three minutes later Borough should have equalised when Hamill put Culpin clear in the area. The striker delayed his shot and when it came, Newson had recovered well to block the ball with a last ditch tackle at the expense of a corner.

This was to herald a good spell for Borough, but with the game deep into injury time at the end of the half Stones increased their lead, with a carbon copy of the first goal.

A Taylor corner on the left found Dingwall at the near post and his flick on found Bartley, who was able to head home, with the Borough defence unable to believe that they had fallen for the same ploy twice.

But Borough made a storming start to the second period and in the 47th minute Smithers battled well to win the ball before slipping it to Morley who fired a shot from 25 yards that narrowly cleared the bar.

They continued to press forward and were fighting for every ball, showing so much determination that in the 52nd minute Willie Gibson was booked for an over-enthusiastic challenge on Bartley.

Newson was then forced to rescue his side, stretching to head a Hamill cross clear with Culpin lurking at the far post. But Borough were not to be denied for long and in the 59th minute reduced the deficit with a magnificent goal.

Richardson battled well to emerge from a ruck of players with the ball but overhit his pass to Hamill on the right, however the winger kept the ball in play before racing to the bye-line and whipping over a superb cross that found John Glover at the far post, the defender scoring with a well-directed downward header.

Culpin had a half chance in the 64th

minute but his cross shot from long range went wide. Within a minute Bartley should have restored the home side's two goal advantage, as his side made a rare excursion into Borough territory.

Ex-England man Taylor switched play brilliantly to set Bartley free on the right and he raced into the area to be confronted by a well positioned Poole, and Bartley was only able to scoop the ball over the bar.

Smithers combined well with Morley before putting the ball into the side netting and as the game entered its final stages it was clear that Borough were far from finished.

It came as little surprise when Borough got the equaliser they so richly deserved in the 84th minute and it was fitting that it should come from Richardson who had worked tirelessly in the midfield morass.

Glover back headed the ball inside the box and Richardson nipped in to touch the ball goalwards. The ball entered the net via a post, although Culpin watched every revolution of the ball in case it came off the post and he needed to supply the final touch.

Maidstone United — 2nd Round Replay

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play a 2nd Round Replay.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Duggan, Culpin, Morley, P. Richardson. Sub: Jenas.

Maidstone: D. Richardson, Thompson, Moore, Crowe, Newson, Donn, Maddocks, Stewart, Dingwall, Bartley, Taylor. Sub: Lazarus.

Paul Culpin was again the hero as he scored the goal that took Borough into the last sixteen. He pounced a minute before the interval to give himself a 22nd birthday present in front of Borough's biggest crowd of the season.

There appeared to be little danger as Willie Gibson hit a long ball up the

middle, but Maidstone centre-half Mark Newson, who had the ball covered slipped at the vital moment and left Culpin with a clear run to goal.

He didn't need any second invitation as he raced into the penalty area and slotted the ball home past the advancing Derek Richardson.

Borough again produced a performance that was full of determination and character as they held off the spirited challenge of the southerners.

Conditions had improved tremendously since Monday when the torrential rain had caused the game to be postponed, but a strong wind made things difficult for the players.

But despite this the teams produced a red-blooded cup tie with the tackles flying in thick and fast. Stones had four men booked – Newson, John Bartley, Brian Thompson and Malcolm Stewart, but it was never a vicious game.

Borough had the better of the opening exchanges with Hamill producing some probing runs on the right.

But then Peter Taylor began to find a bit of space and he set up a shooting chance for Micky Dingwall, who put his shot well wide from the edge of the box.

John Glover made a fine break from midfield at the start of the second half and Trevor Morley was only just too high with a shot from Smithers' cross.

Then at the other end Bartley caused problems for the Borough defence with a jinking run on the left and Gibson was happy to concede a corner.

Borough should have put the issue beyond doubt 20 minutes from the end when Culpin intercepted a pass in midfield and played Morley clear but the striker delayed his shot and Richardson was able to parry the ball for a corner.

The visitors' last chance came when Taylor weaved his way into the box only to be obstructed by Duggan and Borough scrambled the free-kick to safety.



Borough goal ace Paul Culpin, second from right, beats Maidstone goalkeeper Derek Richardson to put Nuneaton into the last 16 of the FA Trophy. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The visitors couldn't have any grumbles about the result although they may well reflect on the fact that they appeared to have the tie won when they were two goals ahead during last Saturday's game.

Dagenham — 3rd Round

Borough welcomed Dagenham to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Round tie.

Borough: Poole, Carr (Jenas 80), Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Hill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson.

Dagenham: L. Scott, Kaupman, Wade, Wells, Campbell, Dunwell, Sille, S. Scott, McCombe, Whitton, Maycock. Sub: Oliver.

Trevor Morley produced a magnificent late equaliser to keep alive Borough's dreams of Wembley. With just four minutes remaining, Graham Carr's men were trailing 2-1 and looked to be on their way out of the competition.

But then, following a dropped ball in midfield, Paul Richardson made another powerful surge forward that took him to the edge of the Dagenham penalty area.

Faced by three defenders, Richardson slipped a short pass to Morley who hit a 25 yard left footer that had visitors' keeper Lloyd Scott grasping thin air as it flew into the top corner.

That goal alone was worthy of earning Nuneaton a second chance and send Manor Park's biggest crowd of the season home happy.

However, despite having the better of the exchanges, especially during the second half, Borough needed a huge slice of luck to keep them in the hunt.

And they got it with 61 minutes gone when they were awarded a penalty by referee Ken Salmon from London.

Borough were already trailing to a John McCombe goal when Tim Smithers made a run deep into the Dagenham penalty area.



Morley and Jon Sille get to grips in midfield, as the action hots up.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Central defender Alan Campbell looked to have halted the danger with a superbly timed tackle but the referee, aided by a linesman staggered the southerners by awarding a penalty.

Despite vigorous protests from the Dagenham players the decision stood and Paul Culpin coolly slotted home his 41st goal of the season from the spot.

Both sides made a bright opening and

Steve Scott headed narrowly over after a Chris Maycock centre from the right.

Then the visitors were caught by a quick break from Borough and Richard Hill made a 30 yard run before firing a shot past Scott's left hand post from the edge of the box.

There was danger for Nuneaton when Glover gave away an indirect free kick inside the penalty area and Andy Poole grabbed the ball at the second attempt.

However, Borough might have gone ahead twice within a minute midway through the first half.

First Scott had to produce a flying save to keep out a fierce shot from Hill and then from the resulting corner Glover fired over from 10 yards after the keeper had failed to gather the ball cleanly.

Culpin and Smithers both had shots charged down as Nuneaton pressed forward and Roger Wade was happy to scramble the ball clear from inside the six yards box.

Everton Carr became the first player to be booked shortly before the interval after he brought down Maycock and Les Whitton in quick succession.

McCombe then shot high over the bar before Glover raced forward to send a header inches wide at the other end.

Borough surged forward at the start of the second half and Morley cut in from the left to fire a hard drive over the top. But Nuneaton's hopes were dealt a body blow when the visitors went ahead just four minutes later.

Maycock found himself some space on the left and crossed to the far post where McCombe, completely unmarked, chested the ball down and drilled a superb volley just inside Poole's right hand post.

Glover twice went close to grabbing an equaliser. First a long range shot had Scott scurrying across his goal and then he was only inches away from forcing the ball home after Culpin had pulled it back from the bye-line.

Then came the disputed penalty for

Culpin to level the scores. It looked as though Nuneaton were taking control.

Stewart Hamill made a good run on the right and crossed for Hill to hammer a superb shot from the edge of the box that screamed inches over the bar.

Culpin threatened again only to be denied by a timely tackle from Joe Dunwell and then McCombe was booked for dissent.

However, with only twelve minutes left McCombe looked to have put Borough out of the Trophy for another season when he restored the visitors' lead.

Dagenham were awarded a free-kick 30 yards out. Jon Sille played forward to the left hand side of the box and Campbell turned it back into the middle where McCombe got his head to the ball to flick it past Poole.

It looked all over for Borough until Morley came up with his last gasp effort to hand the Manor Park outfit a lifeline.

Dagenham — 3rd Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham in a FA Trophy Third Round replay.

Dagenham: L. Scott, Knapman, Wade (Oliver 33), Wells, Campbell, Dunwell, Sille, S. Scott, McCombe, Whitton, Maycock.

Borough: Poole, Carr (Jenas 77), Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Hill, Culpin, Morley, Richardson.

It was nine minutes before either side had a worthwhile effort on goal and when it came Dagenham's Les Whitton saw his well struck shot go just wide.

Borough's response was immediate and following a good move on the right Stewart Hamill had a half chance, but his first time effort sailed wide.

The pace of the game continued to be frantic and both sides seemed too intent on trying hard, rather than trying to play constructive football.

A 21st minute cross from full-back Knapman on the right almost caught Poole off his line but he recovered to tip it over the bar.



Paul Culpin is left to fight a lone battle up front as Borough crashed out of the FA Trophy.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough's biggest scare came in the 29th minute, when Paul Culpin went down after a fierce challenge from Campbell and the striker needed lengthy treatment before continuing.

Borough's effort was epitomised in the 33rd minute by an amazing incident that left two Dagenham players requiring treatment.

Paul Richardson won a ball he had no right to, with a superb tackle that left full-back Roger Wade stretched out on the turf and as the ball ran free Hill powered in to scythe down John McCombe, leaving him writhing on the touchline, earning Hill a booking.

Wade who was the more seriously injured, was eventually taken off with suspected cracked ribs.

But in the 41st minute just as it seemed that neither side were capable of creating a clear cut chance the home side took the lead, with a fine goal.

The ball broke to Chris Maycock on the left, Richard Dixey was covering across to provide the challenge, but unlike the usual style of the rugged defender, Dixey tried to jockey the winger, who twice showed him enough of the ball to have encouraged a tackle.

Maycock slipped before getting up, but took the ball past the defender and crossed into the box, Steve Scott flicked the ball on and McCombe was at the far post to hammer home first time for what proved to be the winning goal.

As the half wore on Borough began to

get a grip and put the home side under intense pressure. Culpin had a shot pushed wide at the near post, Hamill put a free kick wide and then on the hour Borough had a loud appeal for a penalty turned down.

A dreadful error by the otherwise excellent Campbell, put Culpin free goal side of the defender inside the area. Campbell attempted to rectify the error by a desperate lunge that brought Culpin down from behind, but all appeals were turned down.

Borough continued to pile on the pressure, bringing off Everton Carr in the 77th minute and replacing him with Jenas. A minute later it could have been all over when a bad Smithers back pass was intercepted by Whitton, who appeared clear, but the immaculate John Glover saved the day, being too quick for the striker, winning the ball with a superbly timed tackle.

Still Borough piled forward without really creating chances, while the home side were soaking up pressure and in turn looking dangerous on the break and Maycock had a clear run at goal only for Gibson to earn himself a booking by bringing him down.

In a frenzied finale Borough produced a string of corners and right at the death Jenas had a half-chance, the ball falling kindly after a goalmouth scramble, but he could only get a toe to the ball and caused no problems for Scott in the Dagenham goal.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1983-84

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.03	Racing Club Warwick	A	PSF	0-1		
08.06	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	PSF	2-0	Walle, Hamill	
08.09	Stamford	A	PSF	1-2	Morley	
08.10	Northampton Town	H	PSF	2-2	Hendry (2)	
08.13	Gainsborough Trinity	A	PSF	0-1		
08.15	Wolverhampton Wanderers	H	PSF	5-0	Morley (2), Hendry, Parker, Richardson	
08.20	Barnet	A	L	2-1	Penn, Morley	674
08.22	Northwich Victoria	H	L	1-0	Morley	925
08.27	Trowbridge Town	H	L	2-1	Morley, Glover	820
08.31	Yeovil Town	A	L	0-1		1129
09.03	Kettering Town	H	L	1-0	Culpin (pen)	921
09.07	Kettering Town	A	BLT 1 1L	2-4	Hendry (2, 2 pens)	1068
09.10	Enfield	A	L	1-0	Culpin	727
09.12	Kettering Town	H	BLT 1 2L	1-1	Parker	833
09.17	Oldbury United	H	FAC 1Q	1-2	Culpin	716
09.19	Weymouth	A	L	1-0	Culpin	789
09.24	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	2-1	Culpin, Gibson	764
09.26	Bath City	H	L	5-2	Culpin (3), Hamill, Glover	813
10.01	Boston United	H	L	4-0	Culpin (2), Hamill, Brown	885
10.08	Altrincham	H	L	0-1		1175
10.15	Gateshead	H	L	3-2	Culpin (2), Hendry	552
10.18	Irthlingborough Diamonds	A	MFC	1-0	Culpin	
10.22	Dagenham	A	L	2-4	Culpin (2)	588
10.24	Bedworth United	H	MFC	3-1	Culpin (2), Brown	
10.29	Moor Green	A	BSC 1	1-1	Hill	349
11.01	Bath City	A	L	1-0	Culpin	595
11.05	Weymouth	H	L	3-0	Culpin (2), Richardson	1075
11.07	Moor Green	H	BSC 1r	1-0	Culpin	
11.12	Trowbridge Town	A	L	2-0	Culpin, Morley	507
11.14	Stafford Rangers	H	MFC	2-0	Culpin, Morley	
11.19	Tividale	A	BSC 2	1-0	Morley	134
11.21	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	3-3	Culpin (2), Morley	564
11.26	Wealdstone	A	L	0-0		827
11.28	Dagenham	H	L	1-1	Morley	896
12.07	Halesowen Town	A	BSC 3	2-3	Gardner, Glover	752
12.10	Frickley Athletic	H	L	1-0	Wright (o.g.)	720
12.17	Runcorn	H	L	2-2	Culpin (2)	1202
12.26	Telford United	A	L	0-1		1804
12.31	Maidstone United	A	L	0-1		1504
01.02	Telford United	H	L	1-1	Culpin (pen)	838
01.07	Altrincham	A	L	1-0	Dixey	
01.14	Worcester City	A	FAT 1	0-0		1572
01.17	Worcester City	H	FAT 1r	2-0	Morley, Hamill	964
01.28	Kettering Town	A	L	4-3	Culpin (3), Morley	1257
01.30	Bangor City	A	L	2-1	Culpin (2)	552
02.04	Maidstone United	A	FAT 2	2-2	Glover, Richardson	1292
02.08	Maidstone United	H	FAT 2r	1-0	Culpin	1230
02.11	Scarborough	A	L	0-1		1012
02.13	Worcester City	H	L	1-0	Culpin	822
02.18	Frickley Athletic	A	L	3-1	Culpin (3)	682
02.20	Yeovil Town	H	L	2-1	Culpin (2)	1050
02.25	Dagenham	H	FAT 3	2-2	Culpin (pen), Morley	1822
02.27	Dagenham	A	FAT 3r	0-1		779

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1983-84

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First	Attendance
02.29	Kettering Town	A	MFC	0-4			
03.10	Wealdstone	H	L	1-1	Richardson		1076
03.12	Bangor City	H	L	3-0	Culpin (2, 1 pen), Smithers		1005
03.24	Boston United	A	L	0-3			957
03.26	A.P.Leamington	H	MFC	6-0	Richardson (3), Smithers, Duggan, Parker		
03.31	Barnet	H	L	2-2	Morley, Richardson		767
04.03	Redditch United	A	MFC	5-0	Culpin (5)		
04.07	Worcester City	A	L	1-1	Glover		1240
04.14	Gateshead	A	L	1-1	Culpin		357
04.16	Northwich Victoria	A	L	1-1	Murphy		914
04.21	Scarborough	H	L	3-0	Culpin (3, 1 pen)		1060
04.28	Enfield	H	L	4-0	Murphy (3), Culpin		1126
04.30	Maidstone United	H	L	2-2	Glover, Culpin		3597
05.04	Runcorn	A	L	1-0	Murphy		
05.07	Bedworth United	H	MFC F	1-1	Richardson		

KEY : L = Alliance Premier League, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, BLT = Bob Lord Trophy,
BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1983-84

Back: Graham Carr (manager), John Glover, Gareth Dale, Andy Poole, Stuart Hamill, Trevor Morley, Don Penn, Micky Burke, Paul Culpin, Dave Looms (trainer).

Front: Paul Brown, Paul Richardson, Bobby Parker, Richard Dixey (captain), Willie Gibson, Everton Carr.

Alliance Sponsorship Deal

Alliance Premier League officials have clinched the biggest-ever sponsorship deal for semi-professional football in this country. The sponsorship, worth more than £250,000 over a three year period, is with Gola Sports Limited and from today the league will be known as the Gola League.

League officials signed the contract in London yesterday and have decided to use the cash to develop their ideas for more attacking football. Already the league give three points for an away win as against two for winning at home and from next season there will be a monthly award of £2,500 to encourage teams to go for goals.

The monthly sum will be shared between clubs who score three goals in away matches or three goals in a home game.

Paul Culpin Player Of The Year



Borough players, officials and fans show off the Alliance Premier League runners-up trophy at last night's Player of the Year evening at the Manor Park Social Club. Leading scorer Paul Culpin, away in Finland for the summer season, was the fans' choice as top player, with Paul Richardson already voted the away match player of the season, as runner-up.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Sponsorship Deal

Nuneaton Borough today confirmed that they have pulled off a major sponsorship deal for next season. The Manor Park club announced that they are to get substantial backing from the local telecommunications firm, Vanderhoff Communications Limited.

Borough chairman Noel Kelly said that the deal was worth in the region of £15,000, a lot of money for any club, particularly a non-league outfit like Nuneaton. "The club is delighted to confirm that after lengthy negotiations Vanderhoff will be sponsoring us next season," he said.

Carr Accepts New Contract

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr is to stay with the Alliance Premier League runners-up. The Nuneaton team boss confirmed today that he has accepted a new three year contract with the Manor Park club. Carr, who had been approached by Yeovil to take over at The Huish, has been under pressure all week from the Somerset club.

But the shrewd Geordie has sorted out his problems at Manor Park and is delighted to be staying at Nuneaton.

"I met chairman Noel Kelly last night and it only took five minutes to sort out the one or two minor details that had been bothering me," he said. "Despite some things that have been said I never really wanted to leave Borough in the first place. I am glad that things have been sorted out and I am now looking forward to next season."

Graham Carr Disrepute Charge

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr will be over £50 the poorer when he returns from holiday. Carr has been found guilty by a Football Association Disciplinary Commission of bringing the game into disrepute and has been ordered to pay adjusted costs of over £50. At the hearing held at the Piccadilly Hotel in Manchester, the Borough boss was accused by Bolton referee Maurice Kerfoot of making insulting remarks after Nuneaton's match at Northwich in April.

Maidstone Fail In Football League Bid

Maidstone United failed in their bid for Football League status but there was good news for Alliance League clubs from the Football League AGM. Representatives of Third and Fourth Division clubs now plan to meet with Alliance Premier League officials regarding an automatic promotion and relegation link-up. The Alliance champions had been confident of being voted into the the league at the expense of Hartlepool.

Borough Get £1,000 Bonus



Cash-starved Nuneaton Borough have picked up a £1,000 pre-season bonus as part of the sponsorship deal between Gola Sports and the Alliance Premier League. Club chairman Noel Kelly is seen being presented with the cheque by Peter Smith of Gola Sports.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Season Ticket Prices Unchanged

There was good news for Nuneaton Borough supporters today when the club released details of their prices for next season. Club chairman Noel Kelly was pleased to announce that the cost of season tickets will remain the same as last year. As in previous years tickets will be cheaper if they are

bought early, instead of leaving it until the season kicks off. Stand season tickets will cost £28 if bought before June 30, £30 before July 31 and £32 from then on. Ground season tickets will be £24 before June 30, £25.50 before July 31 and £27 when purchased after July.

Ground Improvements At Manor Park



Borough fans will be in for a pleasant surprise at the start of the new season with the introduction of new terracing at the Beaumont Road end of the ground. The Manor Park club has made use of the Youth Training Scheme and work is now well underway. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Keeper Signs Contract



Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Andy Poole signed a one year contract with the Manor Park club last night. Twenty-three-year-old Poole, who was an ever-present last term, was one of the main reasons for Borough's fine season.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Players Face Fines

Nuneaton Borough players who get into trouble with referees next season could also come up against heavy fines from the club. Borough are to introduce a new code of practice concerning players conduct during matches. Those who persistently step out of line will be fined, with the accent being placed on bookings and sendings off for dissent.

The move by the Manor Park club comes after another season when their disciplinary record left a lot to be desired. Yesterday manager Graham Carr and directors Noel Kelly and Sean Gallagher had to attend a hearing in London to give the club's point of view on their recent record.

Bobby Parker Signs For Atherstone

The Bobby Parker transfer saga has ended with the midfielder finally signing for Atherstone United for a fee of £400. After six weeks of negotiations with Nuneaton Borough, Adders manager Ron Bradbury got the all clear earlier this week with Parker becoming an Atherstone player on Tuesday night.

1984-85

Derby County v Nuneaton Borough 31-07-1984

Borough made the journey to face Derby County in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough lost their first pre-season friendly last night but the team impressed Manor Park manager Graham Carr with its character. "It was a full first-team squad which Derby put out against us, including former Scottish internationals Kenny Burns and John Robertson.

"The lads knew they had to work hard or be swamped and they rose to the challenge. I was quite impressed," said Carr.

Nuneaton, in fact, had only 12 players to call on for the game which was played at Derby's training ground.

"That meant that our lads had to play the full game, whereas Derby made changes for the second half," added the Borough manager. Nuneaton in fact, found themselves trailing 3-0 at one stage of the match to goals from Palmer, Hooks and Wilson. The Manor Park side pulled back a goal with a Trevor Morley header and five minutes from time Stewart Hamill missed a penalty.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 02-08-1984

Borough made the journey to face Leicester United in a pre-season friendly game.

Richard Hill made a successful return to action with Nuneaton Borough last night when he grabbed two goals in the 3-0 win at Leicester United. Hill, who only arrived back from Finland along with Paul Cuplin on Monday, looked sharp as he put Borough into a 2-0 half-time lead.

The Manor Park side wrapped up a comfortable victory when Trevor Morley added a third during the second half.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Kingstonian v Nuneaton Borough 04-08-1984

Borough made the journey to face Kingstonian in a pre-season friendly game.

Paul Culpin grabbed a goal as Nuneaton Borough continued their impressive pre-season build-up against Kingstonian. Borough made it two wins in three days as they overcame the useful Isthmian League outfit by 2-0.

Graham Carr's men went two up in the first 13 minutes with Culpin getting the first from a low cross and winger Stewart Hamill adding a second.

It was another good work out for Borough as they prepare for their Alliance Premier League opener against Bath City on August 18.

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Boro' 31-07-1984

Borough made the journey to face Sutton Coldfield Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Paul Culpin helped himself to four goals as Nuneaton Borough continued their pre-season build-up with a 6-2 win over Sutton Town. Last season's Alliance Premier League's leading scorer was in sparkling form despite missing a penalty in the first minute of the game.

Nuneaton's other goals came from midfielders Timmy Smithers and Richard Hill. Manager Graham Carr, although not reading too much into the result, was again impressed with his side's performance.

"It was another good workout for us and again we showed plenty of understanding," he said. "The cohesion and experience that the team gained from playing together last season is now beginning to show and we are all looking forward to the kick-off," he added.

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 10-08-1984

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

Ace goalscorer Paul Culpin was on target twice during the second half to give Borough a comfortable win over Northampton. Culpin struck half-an-hour after the interval to put Borough back in front and then put the issue beyond doubt with another in the final minute.

It was another good solid performance by Graham Carr's men as they prepare for next Saturday's Gola League kick-off. They have now picked up four wins in their pre-season friendlies with only Derby County getting the better of them.

Borough got off to a dream start with a goal after only three minutes through Northampton defender Wakeley Gage. Derek Duggan freed Stewart Hamill with a neat ball down the right, the winger made his way to the bye-line and fired over a hard, low cross that Gage turned past his own keeper.

Culpin was narrowly wide on a couple of occasions but the

Cobblers drew level shortly before the break when Tim Smithers failed to clear a cross from the left and Ian Benjamin poked the ball past Andy Poole from close range.

Borough began to assert their authority in the second half and the visitors were caught flat-footed at the back and had to be thankful to their keeper on more than one occasion. But he could do little 30 minutes into the half when Morley caught the Northampton defence square with a glorious through ball and Culpin raced clear to slip the ball past the keeper.

Any hopes Northampton might have had of snatching a late equaliser disappeared in the final minute when Culpin ran half the length of the park for his second goal. Carr will be pleased with his side's show, but former Villa boss Tony Barton looks to have inherited a load of problems at Northampton and they seem set for a season of struggle.

McGoldrick Joins Borough

Eddie McGoldrick, Kettering Town's highly-rated defender, has joined Nuneaton Borough. The clubs had agreed to a deal earlier in the week and McGoldrick signed during last night's game. Only 19-years of age, McGoldrick has been in the Kettering side for the past three years and 12 months ago was interesting Spurs.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 11-08-1984

Borough: Poole, Duggan, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, McGoldrick, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Lowe, Hendry, Thurman.
Hereford: Rose, Price, Bray, Hicks, Pejic, Maddy, Harvey, Delve, Phillips, Kearns, Carter. **Subs:** Larking, Leonard, Emery.

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

Two goals in the last fifteen minutes gave Hereford a hard-earned win at sun-drenched Manor Park. The Fourth Division outfit went ahead five minutes before the break through full-back Chris Price only for Paul Culpin to grab an equaliser midway through the second half.

But United's superior fitness told in the end as the heat drained the players and they added further goals through Paul Maddy and Chris Emery. Borough, fresh from their decisive 3-1 win over Northampton 24 hours earlier, were soon into their stride and made most of the early running.

They were unlucky not to go in front when Richard Hill got in a powerful header and with keeper Kevin Rose beaten, Keith Hicks got a knee in the way and the ball flew over the bar. Trevor Morley and John Glover both went close and Borough continued to put the visitors under pressure. But as the first-half was drawing to a close Hereford came more into the picture and Andy Poole was forced into several fine saves.

He made two superb efforts to deny Stewart Phillips and then turned a fierce drive from Mel Pejic over the bar. However, five minutes before the interval Hereford went in front when Price fired home from the edge of the box after Borough had failed to clear a left-wing cross.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Nuneaton again took command at the start of the second half and Rose had to make a fine save to cut out McGoldrick's cross with Culpin lurking in the six yard box.



John Glover get in a header, but his effort flew narrowly wide.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The visiting keeper was then forced into a diving stop as John Delve sliced a clearance that almost flew into his own net. Midway through the half Borough got their just rewards when Culpin raced clear after the Hereford defence had been caught square and slipped the ball past the advancing keeper. But 15 minutes from the end Maddy was left with a simple tap in after a Mike Carter shot had been blocked. Then seven minutes later Emery put the issue beyond doubt with a fierce drive from the edge of the box.

Borough Sign Ippolito

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr has snapped up utility player Mario Ippolito from Fourth Division Peterborough United. Ippolito, who was released by Peterborough at the end of last season, made thirty appearances for the first team and could prove a valuable signing for Borough.

Richardson Signs For Derby

Nuneaton Borough's aggressive midfielder Paul Richardson has signed for Derby County in a deal which could net the Manor Park club £15,000 over the next eighteen months. Twenty-one-year-old Richardson will start his career at the Baseball Ground on Monday, having passed a medical.

He joined Nuneaton at the beginning of last term from Eastwood Town and after impressing the Borough boss in pre-season friendlies became a regular member of the team that finished runners-up in the Alliance Premier League.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City

18-08-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Hill, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Ippolito, Lowe. **Subs:** Carr, Duggan.

Bath: Mogg, Palmer, Aitken, Ricketts, Crowley, Brown, Miles, Hayes, Smith, Adams, Payne. **Subs:** Wright, Taylor.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough opened their campaign on a disappointing note when they dropped a point in the sweltering heat. Graham Carr's men were well in control for almost the entire match, but seldom looked like turning their superiority into goals. Nuneaton were without three of last season's regulars – and it showed in their play. Skipper Richard Dixey and Trevor Morley are both suspended and Paul Richardson has joined Derby.

Borough opened brightly enough and should have wrapped up the points inside the first 25 minutes, but they lacked a bit of the cohesion that they had developed during last term. Bath were hardly ever in the game as an attacking force, but their defence was superbly marshalled by Tony Ricketts, who kept a firm grip on goal ace Paul Culpin.

However, Borough should have been in front after only two minutes when Ippolito made a complete hash of a golden opportunity. He was put clean through by Stewart Hamill, but with only keeper Dave Mogg to beat he inexplicably rolled the ball across the box instead of shooting.



Borough striker Frank Murphy looks well positioned to open his account, but much to his dismay he failed to latch on to the through ball and Bath keeper Dave Mogg cleared the danger.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough continued to dominate and should have had a penalty after 16 minutes. Culpin got clear of his marker only to be brought down by Ricketts as he cut into the box, but Nuneaton's heated appeals were ignored by referee Gordon Roderick. Keith Brown caused some anxiety for Borough with a looping header that brought a fine save from Andy Poole, but general it was all Nuneaton and they ended the half with a flourish as a Smithers' cross beat Mogg and landed on top of the net and then a terrific goalmouth scramble ended with Lowe shooting straight at the keeper.

The second half followed much the same pattern with the visitors limited to the odd breakaway. But for all their pressure Borough failed to create any real problems for the

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



tough tackling Bath back four. Mogg had to punch clear a Smithers cross under pressure from Frank Murphy, but Nuneaton couldn't find a way through. They started to hit long hopeful balls that were easy meat for Ricketts and his fellow defenders. Borough's last chance of grabbing a winner came five minutes from the end when Mogg did well to block Murphy's effort at close range and then raced back to his line to hold Hamill's shot from the rebound.

Enfield v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1984

Enfield: Waller, Howell, Hazeldene, Barrett, Cooper, Flint, Drummy, Taylor, Ashford, Richards, King. **Subs:** Savage, Ironton.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Hill, McGoldrick, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Ippolito (Duggan 45), Lowe. **Sub:** Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Southbury Road to play Enfield in a Gola League match.

Below strength Borough, under pressure for most of the game, had the three clearest chances, but were beaten by a late goal. The away side were again without the services of Richard Dixey and Trevor Morley, serving suspensions, and the injured John Glover. Manager Graham Carr was forced to switch Willie Gibson to a central defensive role alongside Richard Hill and Everton Carr came into the side. Timmy Smithers took over at left back.

Borough started hesitantly and in the fourth minute Hill tried to shepherd the ball back to Andy Poole, but let in Noel Ashford, who could scarcely believe his luck, but Poole was able to claim the ball. Borough could have taken the lead in the eighth minute when McGoldrick made a surging run from midfield that took him clear of the home defence. He powered to the edge of the box, but his attempt to sidefoot the ball past Steve Waller saw the keeper dive to his left and brilliantly deprive the midfield man of a remarkable goal.

Five minutes later it was the turn of Barry Lowe to go close, picking up a half clearance before hitting a fierce 25 yard drive what whistled narrowly wide. But Enfield were having plenty of possession and on the half-hour Borough had an amazing escape when Paul Taylor's hard low cross ran to Carl Richards on the far side of the box, only for the striker to hit the post from eight yards. This was followed by Dave Flint heading wide of the far post when well placed. Enfield's claims for a penalty were turned down, after Richard Hill appeared to push Richards in the back.

The second half saw a complete reshuffle with the anonymous Mario Ippolito being replaced by Derek Duggan, and McGoldrick moving back to heart of defence and Gibson back to left back. The changes did little to stem the pressure, but it was Borough who came closest to scoring, when Carr played Culpin clear, only for the striker to prod the ball past the advancing keeper and wide of the goal. In the 61st minute a fierce spell of Enfield pressure ended in a vicious swirling shot from Flint being brilliantly saved by Andy Poole, who arched backwards to tip the ball over the bar.

In the 72nd minute Borough, for the third time, had a golden opportunity to break the deadlock. Hill won the ball well on the right touchline, carried it forward before hitting a long ball over the defence setting Culpin free. The striker, however, failed to control the ball and Waller was smartly out of his box to hack the ball to safety.

Just when Borough appeared to have done enough to secure a point, Enfield scored a strange winner, when Steve King, way out on the left, hit a high swirling cross to the far post. Poole in the Borough goal had moved to cover his near post and was forced to back pedal furiously. However, under severe pressure from Ashford he failed to make contact with the ball, which sailed over his head into the net. So after a brave performance in which they soaked up considerable pressure Borough had to return home pointless.

Runcorn v Nuneaton Borough 25-08-1984

Runcorn: McBride, Kettle, Roberts, Hardman, G. Jones, Smith, Imrie, Crompton, Carter, S. Jones, Stringer. **Sub:** Joel, Bleaze.

Borough: Poole, Duggan, Gibson, Hill, McGoldrick, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Lowe. **Sub:** Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Canal Street to play Runcorn in a Gola League match.

Borough continued their dismal start to the season, being beaten by a very average Runcorn side and are now without a goal and have just a single point from three games. Borough were again without Richard Dixey and John Glover and Everton Carr was a late withdrawal with a throat infection. Trevor Morley made a welcome return after suspension.

Borough started well and Culpin was quick to cause problems for the home defence, all but intercepting a bad back pass from Graham Jones, but goalkeeper Ray McBride was alive to the danger, moving smartly from his line to collect the ball. The home side should have taken the lead when Ossie Smith blazed over the bar from the edge of the six yard box.

In the 14th minute a superb cross field pass from Frank Murphy found Barry Lowe wide on the right, who pulled the ball back into the path of Duggan who raced into the box only to be thwarted by a fine tackle from Jones. Runcorn then took a real grip on the game and John Imrie had a golden chance to break the deadlock in the 20th minute, only half hitting his shot when well-placed.

The home side took the lead with a fine goal. A flag kick was cleared only as far as the edge of the area where it dropped perfectly for full-back Brian Kettle, who had time to steady himself before hitting a perfectly timed crisp volley into the net. Borough continued to struggle up until the break.

The second period started little better for Borough, who gave away a dangerous free-kick in the very first minute of the half, centrally placed and only 25 yards from goal. It was taken by Mark Carter, who hammered the ball wide of the wall forcing Poole to save smartly away to his left.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Borough hit back and Culpin forced McBride to tip the ball away, as it appeared destined for the net. Then on the hour a magnificent long ball from Smithers appeared destined for Culpin, but Hardman climbed high to cut out the danger. The home side continued to have more of the play, but in the 65th minute Borough produced their best piece of football by far, Culpin playing the ball into the box from the left, Morley controlling brilliantly, only to appear to be hauled back by Jones. Borough's furious penalty appeals were turned down.

Lowe set Murphy free on the right of the box, only for the striker to hesitate and the chance only produced a corner. Then, with time running out Hill climbed high at the far post, but his header lacked direction and the chance was gone.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 27-08-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Lowe. **Subs:** Duggan, Carr.

Telford: Charlton, Rutter, Turner, Barnett, Halton, Hancock, Bennett, Mather, Edwards, Hogan, Anderson. **Subs:** McKenna, Mayman.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Frank Murphy hammered home a magnificent volley six minutes from the end to earn Borough their first win of the season. With the sides locked at 1-1, time appeared to be running out for Graham Carr's men – but then Murphy struck with a vengeance. Skipper Richard Dixey, back from suspension, floated a free-kick to the left edge of a packed Telford penalty area. There didn't seem to be any danger, but Trevor Morley climbed high to head the ball back across the box for Murphy to lash a first-time shot past Kevin Charlton.

It was no more than Nuneaton deserved for they had completely dominated the second half when the visitors were under intense pressure. Before the break Telford had been well in the picture with some neatly constructed moves, but after the changeover it was virtually one-way traffic.

Dixey provided the backbone of the defence and along with Richard Hill, bottled up the United front runners. Morley, having only his second outing of the season, had a big say in the middle of the park and was a constant threat to the visitors. While Murphy, who missed all the pre-season build-up is still in the process of playing himself into match fitness. He looked sharp at times but still needs a couple more games before he is back to his best.

Eddie McGoldrick again looked an outstanding capture for the Manor Park club with a fine game in the number two shirt and Barry Lowe is another who has made an excellent start to the season. Borough who had gone three games without scoring a goal, started strongly and put Telford under severe early pressure.

Stewart Hamill had a shot saved at the near post by Charlton and then Murphy delayed his shot after being put clear by Paul Culpin. Hamill, who was giving former Nuneaton

full-back Tony Turner a roasting, floated in a beautiful cross for Tim Smithers to test the keeper with a firm header. Hill headed narrowly wide from a Hamill free-kick before Nuneaton had their first scare.

John Anderson freed Paul Bennett with a superbly weighted pass and Andy Poole was happy to scramble the shot away to safety. Despite being on top Borough found themselves a goal down after 24 minutes. Dave Mather turned inside McGoldrick and went past Dixey, who had no option other than to bring him down. Mather calmly slotted the penalty past Poole.

Morley went close with a long range effort and then Hamill fired straight at Charlton as Borough fought for an equaliser. But they had to wait until time added on by the referee at the end of the first half before drawing level from the penalty spot. Willie Gibson pulled the ball back from the left and although Culpin missed it, Murphy fired in a shot that Bennett blocked with his hand and Culpin made no mistake.



Paul Culpin opens Borough's account for the season when he slots home a first-half penalty.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Culpin almost got another at the start of the second half when he got round the back of Mark Hancock but he toe-ended the ball over the bar. Turner was booked for a foul on Morley before McGoldrick burst through on the right and Charlton did well to cut out the cross. There was one moment of danger midway through the half for Borough when Dean Edwards pulled the ball back across the face of the goal from the right but with Dixey challenging Mather could only put the ball into the side netting.

Hill had an overhead shot saved and then Hamill fired over the top after Liam Halton had misplaced a header back to the keeper. But Murphy produced just the right tonic to send the big Bank Holiday crowd home in a happy mood.



Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1984

Altrincham: Dance, Fagan, Davison, Edwards, Cuddy, Gardner, Ellis (Constantine 28), Heathcote, Chesters, Bennett, Johnson. **Sub:** Page.
Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Hill (Carr 57), Smithers, Hamill, Murphy (Duggan 55), Culpin, Morley, Lowe.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in a Gola League match.

Borough were beaten by the only goal of the game for the third successive away match. Yet again they had more than their fair share of the play, but were able to create little in the way of clear cut chances, until later in the game when they were woefully weak in front of goal. Borough started brightly and in the second minute Stewart Hamill got round the back of the home defence and crossed dangerously into the box, but Trevor Dance did well to catch the ball at full stretch.

Trevor Morley headed wide from Hamill's corner, but in their first attack in the eighth minute, Altrincham went close as Jeff Johnson scooped the ball over Poole, but the Borough keeper did well to save a shot destined for the net. Borough were awarded an indirect free kick in the area in the 14th minute and Smithers touched the ball to Hamill, whose shot was deflected for a fruitless corner.

Altrincham went close again in the 18th minute when Johnson hit a swinging cross deep into the area that eluded everyone and passed across the face of goal, with Chesters just failing to get a touch. Bennett put a weak header straight at Poole before Bennett opened the scoring in the 39th minute, when Mick Fagan made ground on the right before crossing to the near post, where the striker headed past Poole from close range.

The early stages of the second half followed a similar pattern to the first with Borough having a great deal of the play, but without having a clear chance. In the 55th minute Murphy limped off to be replaced by Duggan and two minutes later Hill hobbled off, being replaced by Everton Carr.

Borough began to create chances and in the 63rd minute Hamill played Morley clear on the right. The striker raced into the box, but tried to cut inside for a left foot shot, only for Elfyn Edwards to recover and rescue his side with a fine tackle. A minute later Paul Culpin was robbed by a lunging tackle from Phil Gardner and then made a complete hash of a golden chance, being unable to connect with a volley when unmarked 12 yards from goal. Morley hit the base of the post with a 20 yard shot in the 79th minute and three minutes later Culpin also hit the woodwork with a crashing angled volley.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough 04-09-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Lowe. **Subs:** Carr, Duggan.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Gola League match.

Borough turned in their best performance so far to come from

behind and take their first away point of the season, scoring their first away goal in the process. The game kicked off 23 minutes late due to Borough's late arrival. After surviving a first-minute scare when Steve Mahoney forced Andy Poole to save, Borough earned two early corners and Paul Culpin had a half chance that he put just wide. But Barnet found their feet and a 12th minute cross from Docker on the right eluded everyone and almost crept in at the far post. A Mahoney shot then forced Poole to fumble before making the save.

Gary Phillips blocked a Smithers shot from eight yards following McGoldrick's deep cross from the right, as the pace of the game became fast and furious with play switching from end to end. Poole saved a fierce shot from Docker, while at the other end Murphy's blistering drive whistled past the post. In the 40th minute Barnet had the ball in the net, when Mahoney touched home from close range, only for the referee to disallow the goal for offside.

Two minutes later Borough were unfortunate to fall behind, when a right wing Mahoney cross bobbled over the outstretched leg of Richard Dixey, presenting Stewart Atkins with a near post chance that he just could not miss. Barry Lowe had a fine run from midfield, but his final pass just failed to put Murphy clear, the ball gathering pace and running away from the striker. Trevor Morley had a long range effort that nearly slipped in. But it was the home side who came closest to scoring, forcing two fine saves from Poole, in the space of two minutes.

The save was to prove even more crucial, for within a minute Borough were level, with a glorious goal. Smithers got around the back of the defence on the left, before hitting a brilliant cross that was met by Culpin in full flight who powered an unstoppable header into the net, for Borough's first away goal of the season.

Then Murphy missed a golden chance to clinch the points when Morley, who was having a magnificent night, put him clear just inside the box, only for the striker to put his shot wide of the far post. Borough almost had the final say in the 87th minute when first Culpin saw a shot blocked on the line by Docker and from the rebound Lowe saw his shot suffer a similar fate, Baldry being well placed to clear the ball.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 08-09-1984

Borough: Clay, McGoldrick, W. Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Lowe. **Subs:** Duggan, Glover.
Yeovil: Smith, Linney, Bartlett, Green, S. Gibson, Horton, Ward, Platt, James, Doherty, Brown. **Subs:** Gold, Stone.

Borough welcomed Yeovil Town to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough were back to their brilliant best as they tore apart a poor Yeovil outfit. Graham Carr's men have been struggling for goals this term, but all that was forgotten as the West Countrymen were totally outclassed. Nuneaton, despite their stuttering start to the season, oozed confidence in every department and were in total control throughout.

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Yeovil keeper Steve Smith put in a superb display for the visitors and kept the score down. He produced two magnificent saves from Paul Culpin, one in each half, and he alone stood between Borough and an avalanche of goals.

Tim Smithers was the Nuneaton goalscoring hero, grabbing his first ever hat-trick for the club. Yeovil never offered anything as an attacking force and long before the end they looked in complete disarray as Borough produced their best 90 minutes so far this term. They competed well in midfield, where they also showed plenty of craft, were rock solid at the back, and with Stewart Hamill providing quality crosses up front the strikers always looked capable of getting goals. Richard Hill was again outstanding alongside Richard Dixey.

Andy Poole was forced to pull out and was replaced by Bilston's Steve Clay. The young keeper, while not having a lot to do, looked more than competent and his handling of crosses was clean and sure throughout. Nuneaton should have been in front after only eight minutes when Trevor Morley and Hamill worked a neat free-kick on the edge of the box but Culpin sliced his shot wide from close range.

However, Yeovil didn't benefit from the let-off as Borough took the lead only sixty seconds later. Stuart Gibson brought down Culpin, which earned him a booking, and from Hamill's free-kick Smithers dived between two defenders to send a glancing header into the bottom corner.



Frank Murphy, having taken the ball on his chest and swivelled to put in a strike on the Yeovil goal, watches the ball arc into the top corner of the net for a superb goal.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The visitors were already under heavy pressure and Smith produced a superb one-handed save to turn a goalbound shot from Culpin away for a corner. Despite their superiority Borough had to be content with the single goal advantage at the interval but what a transformation after the break.

Culpin could have increased the lead almost straight from the restart, but he failed to control a cross from Murphy and the chance was lost. Hamill then picked up a ball on the edge of his own penalty area and raced virtually the length of the field to fire a cross shot inches wide of the left hand post.

The pressure had to tell and two minutes later Culpin got up well to flick on a right wing cross and Smithers was on hand to bundle the ball in from close range. It was now all Borough

and Smith was constantly in the thick of the action as his defence fell apart in front of him.

Morley worked himself a bit of room in the penalty area and was brought down by David Platt and Adrian Green to give Culpin the opportunity to make it three from the penalty spot. Hamill found Culpin with a superb crossfield ball and the Borough striker beat Smith with a cracking left foot volley only to see the ball rebound from the foot of the post.

Yeovil didn't help their own cause when Stuart Gibson brought down Murphy to concede another penalty and Smithers gratefully accepted the gift to complete his hat-trick. Smith then turned acrobatically in mid-air to turn another Culpin effort over the top but could do nothing about the best goal of the match from Murphy in the last minute. The former Kettering striker took a pass on his chest with his back to goal and, although hemmed in by players, turned on the proverbial sixpence to send a perfectly executed lob into the top corner of the net.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough

11-09-1984

Wealdstone: McGuiness, Davis, McCargo, Byatt, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, Holmes, A. Cordice, Graves, Donnelan (N. Cordice 77).
Sub: Wedderburn.

Borough: Clay, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Hill (Glover 42), Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Lowe. **Sub:** Duggan.

Borough made the journey to the Lower Mead to play Wealdstone in a Gola League match.

Borough were well beaten by league leaders Wealdstone, leaving them with a single point to show from five away games. Borough shook Wealdstone with the quality of their early football and in the ninth minute came close to a dream start. Paul Culpin showed great skill on the edge of the area, turning Byatt before running across the eighteen yard box looking for a shooting chance, only to be scythed down by the rugged Bowgett. The free-kick was touched to Hamill, who hit a tremendous shot that surprised McGuiness, hitting the underside of the bar before rebounding into play and being scrambled clear.

A minute later Culpin saw a fine cross shot pass just wide and in the 13th minute Frank Murphy set up a shooting chance for Timmy Smithers some 25 yards from goal and the midfielder's shot was saved by the keeper at the second attempt. Borough had certainly played the more enterprising football in the early stages, which made it more of a blow when the home side took a 20th minute lead. Willie Gibson broke down the left and as he crossed the half-way line tried to slip the ball inside, only for Greenway to intercept and force Hill to concede a corner.

Greenway took the flag kick and found Bowgett completely unmarked on the far side of the box. The big defender headed the ball back into the six yard box and Steve McCargo nipped in to slip the ball home from close range. The home side then increased their lead in the 29th minute when Hill was



adjudged to have brought down Alan Cordice in the area. Hill was booked for protesting, but Mark Graves stepped up to coolly convert the spot kick. Clay followed Hill into the book for kicking the ball at the linesman in his frustration.

Borough lost all composure and the game deteriorated. Bowgett was cautioned for a foul on Culpin, Murphy suffering a similar fate for an offence committed on Byatt and then Hill was carried off after a clash of heads with Cordice, Glover coming on in his place.

Culpin missed a good chance from eight yards after 55 minutes and Glover went close with a head from Hamill's cross, but in the 65th minute Wealdstone went further in front with a bizarre goal. Morley gave away a free-kick on the half-way line and Byatt pumped the ball goalwards where Bowgett with his back to goal flicked on and the ball looped high over Clay and into the net, surprising everyone.

In the 78th minute Lowe became the fifth player to be booked. Bowgett forced Clay to save at full stretch, but Borough got a consolation when Morley forced a fine save from McGuinness in the 81st minute and then scoring the goal of the game just five minutes from time, brilliantly turning Byatt before creating space and stroking the ball home from 25 yards for a goal of pure class.

Borough Release Lowe

Midfielder Barry Lowe has been released by Borough. Lowe, who returned to Manor Park in the close season after a spell with Worcester City, has played in all of Borough's games this term. He proved a useful acquisition when Borough had a crop of injuries and suspensions at the start of the campaign, but was always a stop-gap signing.

Borough v Boston United 11-09-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Sub:** Carr.

Borough made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in a Gola League match.

Borough picked up their first away league win of the season with a fine performance at Boston, who were second in the table and previously unbeaten at home in league games. Borough raced into a two goal lead, only for the home side to equalise early in the second half, leaving Paul Culpin to settle the issue with a 65th minute winner.

Borough started shakily and Boston striker Bob Lee had a golden opportunity after only 25 seconds when he latched onto a defensive error and seemed set to test Andy Poole, but he overran the ball and it ran harmlessly wide. Two corners followed in quick succession and Borough found themselves having to withstand early pressure from the lively looking home front runners.

However, in virtually their first serious attack of the game they took the lead with an amazing goal right out of the

blue, following a piece of quick thinking by Culpin. The striker received the ball down the centre and spotted Kevin Blackwell well off his line. Culpin sized up the situation perfectly and as the ball sat up for him, he lobbed the goalkeeper brilliantly from 30 yards.

Borough were still under pressure from the home side and in the 14th minute Frank Murphy received a caution for dissent, only to be followed into the book by Stewart Hamill for his second clumsy tackle of the game. But just as Borough seemed to be losing their grip they extended their lead to two goals. Timmy Smithers hit a superb first-time shot from fully 35 yards that flew into the corner of the net.

Borough were clearly shaken by the sudden turn of events and it was their turn to incur the wrath of the referee, having Paul Cassey and Ian Ladd both cautioned for bad tackles. Borough were defending well and for all their possession the Pilgrims were creating very little. But with just five minutes of the half remaining Boston pulled a goal back. Chris Cook, wide on the left, shook off John Glover and powered into the area before hitting a cross shot that went in just inside the far post.

In the first minute of the second period Morley forced a fine save from Blackwell, but two minutes later a fierce Thompson cross shot forced Poole to save at full stretch. Then in the 50th minute Glover was cautioned and Thompson, who had caused Borough problems throughout, limped off to be replaced by Jim Lumby.

Poole dived full length for a cross from the left and under pressure from Lee appeared to lose the ball, which ran to Lumby who coolly slotted home from an acute angle. The equaliser met with furious protests from the Borough players, several of whom chased the referee back into the opposing half of the field with Morley being cautioned.

Borough were now well on top and they were not to be denied, taking the lead in the 65th minute with a well worked goal, started by Murphy who drifted across to the edge of the box before setting Smithers up. The midfielder's cross shot was met by Culpin who netted from ten yards out, driving the ball first time into the net. Borough could have extended their lead with Culpin putting a 78th minute shot just over the bar and then saw his shot headed off the line.

Nuneaton Borough v Frickley Athletic 22-09-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Howells, Carr.

Frickley: Meehan, Marshall, Daniels, Dunn, Wright, Gill, Bishop, Harvey, Reed, Wilson, Hooley. **Subs:** Rose, Elliott.

Borough welcomed Frickley Athletic to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough, riding on the crest of a wave following two outstanding away victories, were brought crashing back to earth. They struggled throughout the whole 90 minutes as they produced a rock-bottom performance against a mediocre

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Frickley side. Nuneaton did dominate the proceedings in the early stages and they were also well on top late in the game as they pressed forward in search of a winner.

Early chances went begging and they could point to several near misses at the end – but really the game was a non-event. For the long-suffering fans it was a day they will want to forget as quickly as possible. They had to endure several soakings as the rain lashed down, sub-standard displays from the officials and football that was a shocking advert for the “Fifth Division” of the Football League.

With 15 goals in their last four matches Nuneaton opened in confident mood against the struggling Yorkshire outfit. Trevor Morley had a free-kick deflected for a corner and then brought keeper Tommy Meehan to his knees with a shot from the edge of the box. The Frickley keeper had to react swiftly to cut out the danger with Richard Hill boring in and then he was in action again to gather a cross from Culpin. At this stage it was all Borough, although they seldom looked like cracking a well-organised visitors defence.

But there was a shock in store for the home side when Frickley almost took the lead with their first real attack of the game. Borough failed to clear a left wing cross and Mally Wright pounced to lash a shot against Andy Poole’s right hand upright. Graham Reed then wriggled his way past Richard Dixey but Garry Hooley failed to control the low centre and a promising position was lost.

Eight minutes before the break Paul Culpin had a gilt-edged chance to put Nuneaton in front. Frank Murphy found him in space with an overhead kick but Borough’s leading scorer sliced his shot wide from ten yards. Stewart Hamill shot over when he would have been better passing to Morley early in the second half. Then Poole did well, diving at the feet of Hooley in a rare Frickley raid.

Tim Smithers was close to breaking the deadlock with a diving header, then Culpin set up Morley for a shooting chance he dragged wide of the near post. John Glover appeared to have pierced the visitors rearguard eight minutes from the end when he powered in a header from a right wing cross. But Meehan got a hand to the ball and Steve Daniels cleared off the line.

Culpin then brought a diving save from Meehan before Smithers headed wide from ten yards with only the keeper to beat. In the dying seconds Hamill had a shot blocked and Morley’s effort from the rebound was deflected over the top.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 24-09-1984

Northwich: Wilkinson, Fretwell (Power 79), Dean, Jones, Forshaw, Young, Westwood, Abel, Reid, Orr, Craven. Sub: Gummerson.

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Subs: Carr, Duggan.

Borough made the journey to the The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in a Gola League match.

Borough were beaten by the only goal of the game, for the

fourth time away from home this season, ending the game with only nine men. Eddie McGoldrick and Richard Hill were sent off, and one further Borough and three Northwich players also found their way into the referee’s note book. The game exploded in a scrappy, petulant second period, when the referee lost control.

Borough were given a taste of what was to come when Trevor Morley was left on the ground in the penalty area following an off the ball incident. Then in the 12th minute Northwich took the lead with a pin-ball goal. A Mark Dean corner from the right was headed away by John Glover, only to strike Jeff Forshaw on the back of the head and loop gently over the stranded Andy Poole and into the net.

Within three minutes Borough should have been level when a speculative long range effort from Willie Gibson brought home keeper Colin Wilkinson to his knees to save, but he fumbled the ball and it ran to Frank Murphy, who hit it straight back at the keeper. The game began to turn sour on the half-hour when Peter Orr was cautioned for a foul on Morley and predictably the next action saw Morley go into the book for a clumsy challenge on the edge of the Borough area. Hill was booked after 34 minutes for dissent.

The second half was only a minute old when Borough were awarded a penalty after Ken Jones brought down Morley in the area, a decision that appeared harsh. As if embarrassed by the decision Paul Culpin put the spot kick against the outside of the post and out for a goal kick. Then on the hour complete disaster struck when McGoldrick was involved in a tussle for the ball with Graham Abel, only to be penalised for pulling the player. His frank comment to the referee was completely pointless and he was given his marching orders.

The rugged Dave Young was booked for an ugly tackle on Murphy, but in the 70th minute Borough were in deeper trouble when Hill fouled Read right under the nose of the referee, who having booked the midfielder man, had little alternative than to send him off, leaving Borough with nine men for the last 20 minutes.

A long range shot from Smithers after 75 minutes struck Murphy on the head, from where it hit the post and bounced out for a goal kick. As the game entered its final stages the lack of numbers told on Borough and it was the home side that should have added to the score with Reid twice and Abel both missing good chances.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth

06-10-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Subs: Thurman, Bradley.

Weymouth: Bond, Arnold, Holtham, Borthwick, Bourne, Iannone, Pearson, Rogers, Penny, Townsend, Agana. Subs: Williams, McManus.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Paul Culpin and Frank Murphy were again on the goal trail, as Borough picked up the points in an explosive encounter.

They grabbed two goals each as Nuneaton came from behind to register their first Gola League win in three outings. Borough's twin strike force has now shared nine goals in the last two matches – the kind of return that manager Graham Carr has been looking for. But the scoreline goes nowhere near to telling the full story of an incredible clash that had the fans enthralled until the final whistle.

There were six goals – three in a four minute spell midway through the second half – two bookings, three penalties and a warning for both managers from the referee. Nuneaton should have been in front after only six minutes when Culpin flicked on a Tim Smithers pass but Murphy lost control after rounding the keeper and the chance was lost.

With £13,000 close season signing Andy Townsend prominent in the early stages Weymouth began to put the home side under some pressure. Andy Poole had to be alert to cut out a centre from Tony Agana and then John Glover did well to block a close range effort from Shaun Penny before Townsend was booked for a foul on Trevor Morley.



Weymouth keeper Len Bond races from his line but he is too late to stop Paul Culpin from lashing in Borough's third goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Richard Hill was carried off after a clash with centre-half Richard Bourne and was eventually replaced by Mick Thurman. Shortly afterwards the visitors almost took the lead when Gerry Pearson was only inches away from getting on the end of a cross by Penny. But two minutes before the break Weymouth did open the scoring with the Borough defence guilty of slack marking in the penalty area.

Anniello Iannone was not picked up at the near post as he back-headed a long throw in across the goal and Pearson was all alone as he hammered the ball past Poole. The Terras' joy was short-lived, however, for in time added on Culpin was brought down in the box by Peter Rogers and Murphy equalised from the spot.

Culpin just failed to latch on to a Murphy cross at the start of the second half before a superbly worked free-kick on the edge of the box ended with Smithers firing the ball across the face of the goal with Murphy diving full length in an effort to turn the ball in from close range. The game then exploded into life with three goals in four minutes.

With 62 minutes gone Smithers floated a free kick to the far post where Morley outjumped the defence to head it back into the middle and Murphy volleyed home. Three minutes later it was 3-1 when Culpin raced on to a Murphy through ball and hammered it past the advancing keeper. Within 60 seconds Weymouth were back in with a chance when Thurman brought down Agana and Pearson easily scored from the penalty spot.

A Culpin cross just eluded Murphy before Poole had to make a smart save from Pearson. Morley was booked for a foul on Pearson before Murphy failed with a half chance following a break by McGoldrick. With time running out Borough looked to have won a penalty when Culpin was blatantly pushed off the ball by Bourne, but the referee gave an indirect free-kick. But Culpin was not to be denied and he made the game safe two minutes from the end with a superb swerving free kick into the top corner from the edge of the box. The drama was not over yet, however, as with the game now in injury time Thurman conceded his second penalty for a handball. Pearson stepped up to take the spot kick, but was denied a hat-trick as Poole made a superb diving save.

Two New Signings For Borough

Borough will have two new signings on show for the game against Kidderminster Harriers. Manager Graham Carr is finalising details that will see Peter Welsh and Peter Coffill join the club. Welsh had 14 games in Leicester City's first team under Jock Wallace and last season he played for Hibernian. Coffill, a former Northampton player, has been turning out with Aylesbury and had one game as a stop gap replacement for Borough last season.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 08-10-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Coffill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Welsh. **Subs:** Howells, Thurman.

Kidderminster: Garner, Martin, Cavanagh, McGowan, Jones, Woodall, Powell, Mackenzie, Davies, Tuohy, Gavin. **Subs:** Rosegreen, Hall.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Former Nuneaton keeper Tim Garner saved a penalty eleven minutes from the end to earn Kidderminster a point. Trevor Morley was brought down by Malcolm Cavanagh, but the keeper guessed correctly from Frank Murphy's spot kick and saved low to his left. But despite Nuneaton's frustration they can have no grumbles about the result as Harriers were full value for their point.

For long periods of the game they looked a much sharper outfit than Borough and posed plenty of problems for Richard Dixey and his fellow defenders. Nuneaton can point to the fact that they were denied by the woodwork on three occasions and they missed several reasonable chances.

However, the truth of the matter is that Graham Carr's patched up side never really got their act together and in

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the end the result was just about right. The game opened at a furious pace with the tackles flying in thick and fast from both sides. Borough were unlucky not to go in front after only seven minutes when Peter Coffill won a brave header on the edge of the box and Dixey's fiercely struck shot rebounded from the foot of a post to Culpin who fired over the top.

Harriers came storming back and Paul Davies failed to produce the necessary finish after beating both Dixey and Everton Carr and then Andy McGowan's snap shot hit Andy Poole's left hand post, following a poor clearance by Dixey. Then Garner denied Borough the all-important opening goal when he kept out a close range volley from Culpin. Tim Smithers found Coffill way out on the right with a great ball and the ex-Northampton man produced a fine cross that Culpin should have put away.

At the other end Mick Tuohy took advantage of a mix-up in Borough's defence to slip a neat pass to John Powell but he hurried his shot and sliced it badly. Borough were again unlucky on the half hour when John Glover's shot took a deflection and Garner was saved once more by the woodwork and Morley ballooned the rebound into the crowd.

Shortly before the interval Culpin missed another chance when he failed to connect with a Coffill cross in front of goal and Nuneaton were made to pay for that miss. Graham Mackenzie split the Borough defence with a superb ball into the box and Powell fired a crisp drive into the far corner of the net.

Coffill was causing the visitors defence plenty of trouble as the second half got under way and he produced another good cross from the left but Morley's header lacked power and Garner gathered easily. Morley had another chance when Cavanagh played an attempted clearance straight to him on the edge of the box, but he pulled his shot wide of the target.

Just when it seemed that Borough's unbeaten home record, which has lasted exactly 12 months to the day, was about to be ended they grabbed an equaliser. Smithers swung in a deep corner from the left and Glover came racing in to power a header past Garner. Two minutes later came Garner's dramatic penalty save that ended Borough's hopes of a second win in three days. There was action right up until the end as Coffill's swerving centre from the right deceived Garner and bounced to safety off the top of the bar.

Vanderhoff Sponsorship Falls Through

Cash starved Nuneaton Borough have received another major setback with the news that a proposed sponsorship deal with Vanderhoff Communications has fallen through.

Negotiations have been going on for weeks between Borough chairman Noel Kelly and Ted Stocker, managing director of the Bermuda Road firm. But the two sides have failed to agree on the details of the package and the proposed deal is now off. This means that Borough are the only club in the Gola League without a sponsor's name on their shirts – a position that has existed for the last three seasons.

"We are still interested in putting money into the club, but we would like to see where our money is being spent," said Ted Stocker. "We believe in the club and would like to be involved with them. With that in mind we have written to Noel Kelly putting a new deal to them, but as yet we have received no reply. If our sponsorship means paying for kit, coaches and other team expenses all well and good. But I draw the line at paying off the Inland Revenue," he added.

Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 20-10-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Carr, Thurman.

Maidstone: Lewington, Dunn, M. Hill, Crowe, Newson, Sille, Hughes, Stewart, Dingwall, Bartley, Stock. **Subs:** Lazarus, Thompson.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough stretched their unbeaten run to five games, their best of the season, as they toppled the reigning champions. But Nuneaton, runners-up to Stones last season, were given a fright as the visitors fought back from 3-0 down. Maidstone went down to ten men after centre-half Mark Newson was sent off, but Borough failed to take advantage.

Eddie McGoldrick returned to the right back spot following his two match suspension with Everton Carr reverting to the substitute's role. Facing a gale force wind, Nuneaton struggled to get out of their own half in the first ten minutes as the visitors made full use of the conditions.



Borough central defender John Glover gets behind the back of the visitors' defence to make it 3-0 to Borough, nine minutes into the second half.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough finally got going and Trevor Morley flashed a drive across the face of goal after good work from Stewart Hamill and Frank Murphy. But there was danger for the home side when Micky Dingwall broke free on the left, forcing Andy Poole to make a smart save. Murphy set up a good shooting chance for Richard Hill but Billy Hughes got back to block the Nuneaton midfielder's shot.

Then there was a terrific scramble in the Maidstone

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goalmouth with Paul Culpin and Murphy both failing to force the ball home before Mark Hill cleared off the line.

However, Borough took control with two goals in two minutes. First Smithers scored from the spot after Nigel Donn was adjudged to have brought down Murphy. And Two minutes later Nuneaton increased their lead as Murphy and Culpin broke clear on the right and Culpin looked up before picking out Smithers with a superb cross and the midfield man slotted the ball past Colin Lewington.

Dingwall was booked before Murphy was only inches away from making it three after a smart move between Hamill, Culpin and Morley. Just before the interval Newson was booked for handball after he misjudged a high lob.

Borough started the second half with Richard Hill firing narrowly over the top from 35 yards with Lewington stranded. McGoldrick then played a neat one-two with Hamill but he failed to pull the ball back enough from the bye-line and Lewington scrambled the ball clear. Then Morley had a vicious cross shot superbly held by the Maidstone keeper before Borough increased their lead.

McGoldrick forced a corner on the right and from Hamill's flag-kick John Glover was completely unmarked as he headed home from close range. Three minutes later Stones were reduced to ten men when Newson fouled Hamill and was sent off for his second bookable offence.

Culpin shot over after he had knocked the ball past Jon Sille on the edge of the box – then Morley was booked for bringing down Paul Lazarus. Maidstone then stunned Borough with two quick goals from Micky Crowe. John Bartley turned past Richard Dixey with 66 minutes gone and Poole did well to block the shot with his legs. But the visitors scored from the resulting corner. Poole was under no pressure from Stock's centre, but inexplicably decided to punch. He only managed to find Crowe ten yards out, who put in into the net.

Stones were back in with a chance five minutes later when slack marking cost Borough another goal. Nuneaton failed to mark for a short corner on the right – the ball was played to Sille who curled a centre into the middle where Crowe, completely unmarked headed home from six yards.

Birmingham City v Nuneaton Borough 23-10-1984

Birmingham: Prudhoe, Devesey, Dicks, Weir, Shearer, Kuhl, Storer (Clarke 50), Brown, Rees, Gorman, Halsall (Russell 88).

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers (Bradley 24), Hamill, McGoldrick, Culpin, Morley, Thurman.

Borough made the journey to face Birmingham City in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough totally outplayed a City side of full reserve team strength, containing a sprinkling of players with first team experience and were only denied a more convincing victory by the goalkeeping of Mark Prudhoe.

Borough began to dictate the game from the outset and as

early as the third minute created problems, when a fine run and cross from Hamill was just too high for Morley, running for Culpin on the far side of the box, only for his shot to be deflected for a corner. Then in the seventh minute came the first of a string of magnificent saves from Prudhoe, when he tipped a fierce free-kick from Hamill over the bar, after Morley had been fouled on the edge of the box.

But in the 19th minute Borough only had themselves to blame for not opening the scoring when a long ball from Dixey was misjudged by Dicks, running for Hamill who played a delightful ball into the path of Culpin, only for the striker to hit his shot high over the bar. In the 24th minute Timmy Smithers limped from the field, suffering from a groin strain, to be replaced by Peter Bradley, but it did little to hamper Borough's progress and two minutes later Culpin forced Prudhoe to save low down, after turning his marker and hitting a fine shot from 10 yards.

Borough continued to dominate, John Glover heading a Hamill corner just over the bar and McGoldrick not really testing Prudhoe with a weak header when he should have done better. But on the stroke of half-time it was the turn of Andy Poole to produce a fine save, diving low to the near post to prevent Ian Brown from giving his side the lead.

The second period followed the same pattern as the first, with Borough playing all the football and the home side relying on their goalkeeper. In the 64th minute Hamill found Culpin unmarked on the far side of the area and his well struck first-time effort forced Prudhoe to make a superb save. The keeper made another fine save in the 67th minute, tipping a long range drive from Gibson over the bar.

Six minutes later Poole came to Borough's rescue when Clarke found himself with just Poole to beat, but his well struck shot was brilliantly saved. Yet just as it appeared that Borough were going to be forced to settle for a replay they scored a magnificent winner. A cross from the right was headed across the edge of his own box by Mick Halsall, only as far as Morley who lashed it first time into the net with such power that it rebounded into play

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 05-10-1984

Kidderminster: Garner, Horne, Martin, McGowan, Jones, Woodall, Powell, McKenzie, Davies, Rosegreen, Gavin. Subs: Lowell, Ollis.

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy (Carr 61), Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Saxby.

Borough made the journey to Aggborough to play Kidderminster Harriers in a Bob Lord Trophy first round tie.

Disappointing Borough crashed out of the Bob Lord Trophy at the first hurdle, being beaten for the first time in eight matches. Borough were able to welcome back Stewart Hamill and Frank Murphy, who were both recalled to the side that won at Hednesford in the FA Cup, Everton Carr and Mick Thurman being left out.

Hamill had the first chance of the game when a superb

crossfield ball from the left by Tim Smithers left the winger with a clear run and shot at goal, but he overran the ball and it bobbed out for a goal kick. Harriers hit back quickly and in the sixth minute a corner from Graham Mackenzie was headed against the bar by giant central defender Chris Jones. After 15 minutes it took a professional foul from Richard Dixey to halt Paul Davies when he was put clear by Mackenzie, which earned the Borough captain a booking.

Somewhat against the run of play Borough took the lead in the 17th minute. A magnificent run on the right by Eddie McGoldrick brought a fine cross that reared up at John Horne, who was forced to use his hand to control it inside the area. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot, from where Smithers put his side into the lead, sending Tim Garner the wrong way.

Two minutes later it could have been two when Hamill's cross ran well for Paul Culpin only for the striker to prod the ball wide, from a position he would normally have scored from. Harriers went close when Andy Poole was forced to tip a 23rd minute Woodall cross over the bar, but generally Borough were in control of the game. Two minutes from half-time Borough should have increased their lead, with the third golden chance of the half that they had spurned, when a fine piece of work by Smithers on the left gave Trevor Morley a chance from close range, but he could only find the side netting. This miss was to prove costly as right on the stroke of half-time the home side drew level. A cross from wide on the left by Davies was met by John Powell, who scored with a close range header.

Harriers took the lead in the 59th minute when Powell did well on the right and his cross saw a close range McGowan shot blocked by Poole, but the ball ricocheted off McGowan and into the net. Two minutes later Murphy received a knock on his foot and limped off to be replaced by Carr. McGoldrick was pushed forward and almost equalised when his shot was deflected off Horne, almost looping over Garner and into the net. But as the game entered its final phase it took three magnificent saves by Poole to keep Borough in contention.

In the 76th minute he made a fine point blank reflex save from a McGowan header after another penetrating cross from the ever-dangerous Davies and five minutes later he was forced to save from Carr, who scooped the ball towards his own goal. The final act of normal time saw Poole make a third superb save, somehow getting a hand to a fierce close range Powell header, deflecting the ball onto the bar.

FA Cup Admission Prices Up

Nuneaton Borough have decided to increase admission prices for the FA Cup game against Scunthorpe United. The decision was taken at a board meeting following discussions with officials of the Football League club. Prices for the game will now be £2.00 for the terraces (OAPs and children £1.00) and £2.50 in the stand.

"We feel that for a game of this stature, an increase of 50p is quite reasonable," said chairman Noel Kelly.

Borough Clinch Advertising Contract

Nuneaton Borough have successfully completed negotiations for a major advertising contract that will earn the club £50,000. The deal, with R. G. Reading Consultants of Coventry, means that Borough will receive £7,000 a year for the next seven years. Chairman Noel Kelly was delighted to have clinched the deal that will give the cash starved Manor Park club a much needed boost.

"It is certainly the biggest cash deal we have ever had at Nuneaton and we are all delighted," he said. "Obviously, we will have to use the money carefully but it will give us some breathing space and also allow us to start paying some of our creditors and back debts.

"The commercial side of the club has been improving greatly in recent weeks and this deal will give us the boost that we have been looking for," he added.

The cash comes for the siting of the large advertising boards on the perimeter of the ground up the Cock and Bear hill.



Borough chairman Noel Kelly and Ray Reading, managing director of R. G. Reading, put the seal of approval to the contract that will bring the club £50,000 over the next seven years. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough

11-10-1984

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. Subs: Saxby, Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Watling Street to play Dartford in a Gola League match.

Borough had to settle for a share of the spoils in a game that they dominated for over an hour, building up a two goal lead, but following a spirited Dartford fight back they could have returned home pointless.

McGoldrick had the first real effort at goal in the seventh minute, when he hit a powerful long range shot narrowly wide. Dartford had little to offer and after 14 minutes



Borough had loud appeals for a penalty turned down. The ball was played in from the right and a deft flick by McGoldrick appeared to have given Culpin a chance at the near post, but the striker was beaten to the ball by McCayna whose scrambled clearance went straight to Stewart Hamill, whose shot struck Pamphlett on the arm, but penalty appeals were ignored.

Three corners then followed in quick succession and from the third in the 20th minute, Borough took the lead. The ball was half cleared but only as far as Morley, whose shot was blocked and deflected to the unmarked Frank Murphy who fired in a powerful shot from 10 yards, that George Borg on the line could only help into the net. The home side should have been level a minute later, when Tony Burman had a glorious chance, but he put his volley from the angle of the six yard box over the bar.

Borough continued to dominate and it took a despairing tackle from Terry Sullivan to save the day when a Murphy cross set up a shooting chance for Timmy Smithers. Then on the stroke of half-time Borough increased their lead when Culpin hit a fierce shot that Mallett did well to save low down, but the goalkeeper let the ball slip from his grasp, enabling the quicksilver Murphy to nip in and score from close range.

After the break Borough continued to control the game, but completely against the run of play in the 62nd minute the home side pulled a goal back, when Willie Gibson appeared to win the ball with a good tackle on the edge of the box, but the referee awarded the Darts a free-kick. Martin McCayna stepped up to take the kick and his well-struck shot flew into the net, leaving Poole with no chance. Four minutes later Dartford were level, when the ball was only half cleared as far as Tony Gibson, some 30 yards from goal and his powerful drive found the target, despite a brave attempt by Poole to keep it out, getting a hand to the shot that was just too powerful to stop.

Borough were really up against it now and the home side, roared on by the crowd, looked for the winning goal. However, it was Borough who almost regained the lead when, in the 72nd minute, Culpin hit a fine dipping shot onto the bar, with the ball rebounding over the top. Dartford produced a grandstand finish and Poole brilliantly palmed a long range shot from Robinson around the post. Dartford again went close when Robinson raced clear of the Borough defence and looked set to score, but John Glover made a decisive tackle at the expense of a corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 12-11-1984

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Thurman, Saxby.

Atherstone: Spencer, Bennetts, Montgomery, Preston, Brown, Olnier, Parker, Newitt, Neale, Farmer, Fallon. **Subs:** Charnley, Usher.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough threw away a two goal lead for the second time in three days. Tim Smithers scored twice in the first 20 minutes and everything looked like plain sailing for the home side. But Adders, looking completely outclassed for an hour, finally rolled up their sleeves and forced their way back into the game. They gave themselves hope when Bobby Parker pulled a goal back ten minutes after the break and they were back on level terms 20 minutes from the end through Tony Newitt.

Both goals came from some sloppy defensive work by the Borough defence on a night when the atrocious conditions brought a catalogue of mistakes from both sides. It turned into a nightmare for Borough, who had Dixey and Hamill booked and both Eddie McGoldrick and Paul Culpin injured.

Borough were well in control in the early stages and it came as no surprise when they went in front after only eleven minutes. Hamill played a right wing corner short to Smithers and when his left foot cross curled into the area, Adders' keeper Lee Spencer was caught off his line and the ball sailed over his head into the far corner. Culpin then had a shot well saved by Spencer before Borough increased their lead.

A superb move between Hamill and Richard Hill ended with McGoldrick cutting into the box where he was brought down and Smithers scored from the penalty spot. Frank Murphy then beat Spencer with a delightful chip but the ball flew inches over the top. The Adders keeper then produced two tremendous saves in quick succession, blocking a close range volley from Murphy and turning Morley's cross shot away for a corner.

At the start of the second period Spencer was again in action, turning a McGoldrick shot over the top. But ten minutes after the restart Poole dropped an innocuous looking cross from Bennetts and Parker scored from close range.

Morley was only inches wide with a 25-yarder and then Borough lost both Culpin and McGoldrick with injuries. But with 20 minutes left the Borough defence got into another terrible tangle and Hewitt grabbed the equaliser. The visitors might well have gone in front when Parker had a shot blocked and then forced Poole into a fine save from the rebound. John Glover just failed to connect with Hamill's cross as Borough pushed forward for the winner. But Spencer was again the Atherstone hero with a terrific save to turn Hill's scorching shot over the top.

Goals Bring Borough £500 Cheque

Nuneaton Borough's upsurge in form over the past fifteen months was rewarded this week. Leading scorer Paul Culpin and the club itself had their efforts recognised in a presentation before Monday night's Birmingham Senior Cup tie against Atherstone United.

Culpin, who scored 41 league goals last season, was presented with a special FA merit award for his achievements and also a table lighter. Borough chairman Noel Kelly received a cheque on behalf of the club as part of the

monthly share out from the league sponsors Gola, for goalscoring performances during September and October. In September they picked up two shares out of a total of 25 which brought them almost £300 and the following month gained one share from 11 to win them another £200.



Richard Wightman, managing director of Wightmans Sports in Newdigate Street, Nuneaton's stockist of Gola equipment, is pictured presenting the cheque to Mr Kelly with club president Alf Scattergood (left), John Ward, branch manager of Wightmans Nuneaton and Sean Gallagher, Borough director (right). Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Big Match Admission Price

Dear Editor

I feel I must write and ask Mr Noel Kelly why he feels it justified to increase admission prices for tomorrow's Cup match against Scunthorpe.

Like Mr Hazelwood, I think the board are being greedy, and feel the increase will have a detrimental effect on the attendance of the game.

I know we are playing a League team, but why the increase? Am I to believe that it is club policy to fix the prices to suit the stature of the opposition? If this is so then will we now have reduced admission prices for the somewhat less attractive teams we meet in the Birmingham Senior and Midland Floodlit Cups?

The last time we had increased prices was for the Floodlit Cup Final last season. Who were the opposition? Birmingham, West Brom, Coventry? Oh no . . . Bedworth! No disrespect, but hardly the most attractive opposition.

You may, Mr Kelly, counter that a certain Mr Ali was in attendance, yet football supporters pay to see football, not sporting has beens, however great they have been. You were wrong then as you are wrong now.

So, think again Mr Kelly. Loyal supporters like myself, may not be deterred by the increase, but this is a golden opportunity to attract, and hopefully retain, many more supporters.

B. TURVEY (Name and address supplied)

Applying The Same Principle

Dear Editor

Last month I attended Nuneaton Borough's second round Birmingham Senior Cup match away at Birmingham City.

One thing that surprised me was that the admission was only 50p and that was for the main stand at the St Andrews

ground. I also saw the game against Atherstone at Manor Park in the next round of the same competition. For this game the Borough charged the full league price of £1.50.

I feel this point is worth making in view of the club's decision to increase admission charges for their FA Cup first round match against Scunthorpe.

I do agree with chairman Noel Kelly that an FA Cup fixture against Football League opposition warrants a £2.00 admission. However, on the same principle why not reduce the cost for the cup matches of lesser significance like the County Cup and Midland Floodlit Cup competitions?

In recent seasons the Borough have not always selected their full strength side for these competitions, particularly in the Floodlit Cup which now has only one other Gola League club.

Just as it is right to increase admission for FA Cup fixtures against Football League clubs it must also be right to reduce admission for minor cup fixtures against clubs from lower leagues.

ROBERT LOWTHER, David Road, Exhall

Four Borough Players In FA Squad

Nuneaton Borough have four players in the Football Association squad to meet the Northern Premier League at Stafford next month. Central defender John Glover and midfielders Richard Hill, Trevor Morley and Tim Smithers are named in the 15-man squad.

Nuneaton Borough v Runcorn

24-11-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Thurman, Saxby.

Runcorn: McBride, Roberts, Kettle, Parker, Fraser, Smith, Jones, Crompton, Carter, Allen, Hardman. **Subs:** Wood, Wilkinson.

Borough welcomed Runcorn to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Frank Murphy's winner ten minutes from the end was enough to give Borough a precious victory. Before that point Nuneaton looked in danger of dropping a point in a game they had totally dominated. In fact it was the most one-sided game seen at Manor Park for a long time with Runcorn hardly posing a threat throughout the whole 90 minutes.

Borough should have had the points sewn up in the first ten minutes with Murphy (twice), Paul Culpin and Trevor Morley all missing clear openings. As it was they had to wait until the 62nd minute to break the deadlock with Richard Hill firing past Ray McBride. But even then Nuneaton failed to capitalise on a string of chances and got a shock 13 minutes from the end when the visitors snatched an equaliser through Mark Carter.

Runcorn had hardly stopped celebrating however, when Murphy popped up with his face-saving goal. Borough could have gone in front from their first attack when Everton Carr's cross found Murphy unmarked six yards out, but he directed his header wide. Carr then forced a fine save from McBride before Murphy incredibly screwed the ball over the top from



only three yards after Culpin had miscued in front of goal. McBride then made a brave save to deny Culpin and Morley headed over the top when well placed.

Graham Jones was booked for a foul on Morley and Culpin finally got the ball in the net only for the effort to be ruled out for offside. Just before the interval Borough's leading scorer missed another golden opportunity when he was clean through, but he blazed his shot over the top.

The second half began as the first had ended with Culpin failing to get any pace into his shot and McBride saved easily. Runcorn's keeper was soon in action once more, saving well from Smithers after a flowing right wing move involving Hamill, Carr and Morley. Six minute later Culpin's finishing was again woeful when he had a free header from a Smithers' cross but he put his effort wide from eight yards.

Murphy looked to have made the breakthrough after 58 minutes when he flicked the ball over the keeper, but Alan Crompton raced back to clear off the line. However, with the home fans beginning to despair of ever seeing a goal, Borough broke the deadlock. Murphy found some space on the right and when Runcorn failed to clear the ensuing cross Hill drilled a left footer into the corner of the net from the edge of the box.

Smithers was booked for tripping Graham Jones before Culpin latched on to a backpass and went round the keeper only to fire over an empty net. McBride made a good save to deny Morley and then Runcorn stunned Borough with an equaliser out of nothing. Ray Wood made a swift break down the right and when his cross came to the far post Andy Poole was slow to react and Carter bundled the ball home.

Three minutes later Nuneaton were back in front when Hill headed a Hamill free kick back across goal and Murphy simply tapped the ball in. Brian Kettle was booked for a foul on Hamill and then Culpin ended a miserable day with a shot that was deflected narrowly wide of the post.

Glover Set To Leave Borough

John Glover, Nuneaton Borough's cultured defender, is set to leave the Manor Park club. Glover has been transferred to Sevenoaks in Kent with his job, a post he took up today. It means that he will not be available for Borough's midweek games and misses the trip to Telford United tomorrow night.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 27-11-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Thurman, Saxby.

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head to play Telford United in a Gola League match.

FA Cup giant-killers Telford took the honours, beating Borough, who were unfortunate to return home pointless. It could have been a dream start for Borough when in the third minute a bad back pass by Steve Eaton was intercepted by Paul Culpin, who found the angle too great and he was only able to put his effort

across the face of goal. The game began to boil a little and after 15 minutes Hill blasted the ball into the stomach of Ken McKenna, causing considerable discomfort to the striker and as if in retribution Trevor Morley was immediately scythed down by Mark Hancock, who earned a booking for his pains.

In the very next minute it was the turn of Hill to incur the wrath of the referee, being booked for an out of place comment, but just as the game appeared to be getting out of hand Telford took the lead. A John Alcock corner from the right curled into the six yard box, where ex-Borough man Tony Turner headed home, despite Andy Poole getting a hand to the ball and Carr's desperate attempt to clear from on the line.

In the 28th minute Telford increased their lead. McKenna made ground on the right before pulling the ball back into the box where Anton Joseph scored with a mis-hit shot, that wrong footed Poole, the ball creeping in at the near post. Borough got back into the game in the 35th minute when Richard Dixey headed the ball powerfully from defence down the middle of the field. Eaton allowed it to pass under his foot leaving Culpin a clear run at goal, that was clinically finished by the striker.

Joseph became the second Telford player to be booked for a foul on Morley as Borough ended the half looking in far better form. Steve Saxby replaced the injured Willie Gibson at the break and Borough began to control the game as the second period wore on. Saxby volleyed wide at the far post after Hamill's cross in the 64th minute and then a brilliant flick on by Morley, from another Hamill cross, found no one on hand. Borough were now in full cry as they searched for the equaliser and in the 78th minute a fine cross from McGoldrick on the right reached the far post where Culpin, Saxby and Hancock challenged for the ball, that appeared to cannon off the defender goalwards, only for Eaton to clear his lines.

Borough's effort then rather petered out and at the end of the day they found that a two goal start was too much to give a side of Telford's ability.

Borough Injury Crisis

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr faces more selection headaches ahead of the game against Scarborough. He has lost the services of central defender John Glover, who signed for reigning champions Maidstone last night, and winger Stewart Hamill is out with a hamstring injury. Full back Willie Gibson faces a late fitness test.

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 01-12-1984

Scarborough: Crawford, Dawson, Thompson, Dunn, Hartley, Dennis, Burke, Sellers, Bowman, Phillips, Wiggan. **Subs:** Pollard, Olney.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill (Saxby 45), Smithers, Thurman, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Sub:** Thomas.

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in a Gola League match.

Borough's abysmal away form, that has seen them pick up just one league win away from Manor Park, continued when they

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Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 03-12-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Thurman, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Saxby, Thomas.

Worcester: Hayward, Caddick, McGrath, Hughes, Phelps, Moverley, Mogford, Evans, Crompton, Wright, Moss. **Subs:** Prescott, Wade.

were beaten by an average Scarborough side who had little to offer but effort. Given the incentive of an early goal, Borough then proceeded to gift their hosts two goals and lose their grip on a game they should have controlled, ending up pointless, but with three bookings and another injury to worry about.

The departure of John Glover meant the continuation of Richard Hill's partnership with Richard Dixey at the heart of the defence and Mick Thurman being brought into the side, in place of the injured Stewart Hamill, lining up in a four man midfield. Borough started well and took the lead in the eighth minute when Eddie McGoldrick made a superb run down the right from the half-way line that took him into the area, where he was brought down by player-manager Harry Dunn and the referee having little hesitation in awarding a penalty.

Timmy Smithers stepped up and coolly placed the spot kick high to the goalkeeper's left, to give his side the start they needed as they looked to settle into their new formation. However, Borough only led for six minutes when a dreadful error by Hill, let in Trenton Wiggan, who raced goalwards and slipped the ball into the net past the advancing Andy Poole.

Borough then lost all rhythm and it took a super save from Poole in the 26th minute to keep his side on level terms, when he back-pedalled to the far post to tip an effort from Graham Hartley over the bar. But in the 34th minute the home side took the lead, a fine move saw the ball swept out to full back Richard Dawson on the right and he did well to turn it back to Kenny Dennis, who hit a first time cross to the near post.

To everyone's surprise, Hill completely mis-kicked, the ball running on for David Bowman, who could hardly believe his good fortune, lashing home from close range. However, five minutes later Borough were level, Paul Culpin slipping the ball out to Frank Murphy on the right and he jinked and dummied his way past two defenders and the goalkeeper, before slotting the ball home, despite the desperate efforts of Dennis.

Just before the break Hill, who will wish to forget his afternoon, was injured by a bad tackle from Sellers that earned him a booking and Borough played the half out with only ten men, starting the second period with Saxby on for Hill and Thurman at the centre of defence. The home side scored what was to be the winner in the 56th minute, when Wiggan took the ball to the bye-line and crossed to the far post where it found Marshall Burke who squeezed it home.

On the hour Poole again came to Borough's rescue with a fine double save, first blocking a Hartley effort and then producing a flying save to keep out Bowman's fierce follow up shot. Borough came more into the game and McGoldrick missed a chance in the 65th minute after Murphy and Culpin had set up a good opening, but he screwed the shot wide. In the 74th minute a Murphy shot was deflected by Hartley and fell for the unmarked Everton Carr, but the full back could only volley his golden chance over the bar. Despite being off colour Borough were clearly a better side than Scarborough and continued to push forward in search of the equaliser.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough bounced back to form with a convincing victory. Graham Carr's men looked more like their old selves as they completely overwhelmed the visitors. Apart from a couple of chances Worcester were never in the game as an attacking force and were lucky to get off as lightly as they did. Richard Hill switched back to a midfield role with Mick Thurman partnering Richard Dixey at the heart of the defence.

Borough were quickly into their stride and with Eddie McGoldrick causing problems on the right flank, Worcester were under early pressure. Paul Culpin shot high over the bar when well placed and then Trevor Morley brought a fine save from Paul Hayward after Frank Murphy had set up the chance. The pressure had to tell and Nuneaton opened the scoring midway through the first half through Murphy.

Following a free-kick on the left Dixey got in a shot that Hayward appeared to have covered but he let the ball slip from his grasp and Murphy flicked it home from close range.

Two minutes later Worcester were fortunate not to fall further behind after a bizarre incident involving goalkeeper Hayward. The visitors keeper had to race out of his box to head clear from Culpin but the ball went straight to Tim Smithers who headed the ball straight back and the keeper had to stand and watch as the ball went inches wide of the left hand post.

Despite being under constant pressure Worcester had a great chance to equalise just before the break when Paul Moss slipped Thurman, but pushed his shot wide. City were made to pay for that miss when Nuneaton increased their lead. McGoldrick made another good run on the right and pulled the ball back to Murphy who hit the bar and Smithers scored from the rebound.

Malcolm Phelps put a header into the side netting before Hayward made a superb save from a Morley header following Smithers' cross, while Murphy shot wide in another raid. McGoldrick thrilled the Manor Park faithful with a magnificent run from halfway but with only the keeper to beat he shot over from 12 yards. But there was no respite for the visitors and Borough wrapped up the points with another goal 13 minutes from the end.

Hill made a break on the left and his cross to the near-post was volleyed by Culpin. Hayward parried the ball but was helpless as Culpin thumped the rebound into the roof of the net. Murphy and Morley could both have added to the score in the dying seconds, but it was a satisfying night for Borough.



Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 08-12-1984

Bath City: Mogg, Palmer, Sherwood, Ricketts, Crowley, Smith, Barton, Adams (Wright 85), Meacham, Brown, Payne. **Sub:** Taylor.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Thurman, Saxby.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in a Gola League match.

Borough's dismal away form continued when they were beaten by the only goal of the game after dominating the game but failing to create any clear cut openings despite all their possession. For the second successive week they were clearly better than opponents struggling for form, but yet again they failed to show the same positive confidence that they display in front of their own supporters.

Stewart Hamill recovered from his hamstring injury and was recalled with Thurman being the man to lose his place. Hill rescued Borough with a timely first minute tackle on Adams, while at the other end a fine run from Hamill won a corner that when cleared resulted in a 35 yard Morley shot that sailed over. In the 11th minute Hill was once more called into action, relieving the pressure by being too quick for Meacham.

Paul Culpin went close with a snap shot following good work from Timmy Smithers while at the other end Everton Carr was called on to use his speed to sweep tidily away as Payne threatened to burst through. Bath were battling hard and in the 18th minute a mis-directed Hill header gave Adams a clear shot at goal, but his well struck effort was straight at Poole. But after 31 minutes the home side took the lead, when Crowley was able to spring the offside trap with a fine through ball that Keith Brown took in his stride and raced on before slotting home past the advancing Poole.

Borough responded by forcing a string of corners, but the nearest they came to hitting the target was a good long range effort from Hamill in the 37th minute. The second period was to prove almost totally one sided, with Borough completely in control and the home side just defending and hoping to catch their visitors on the break. In the 57th minute Borough all but broke through, when Murphy put Smithers clear in the box. Murphy beat his man and pulled the ball back to Morley, who hit the ball cleanly, only for Mogg to deflect it for a corner.

Good runs by McGoldrick and Hamill troubled the retreating Bath defence as Borough piled on the pressure, but Bath were dangerous on the break and in the 65th minute goalscorer Brown went close with a 20 yard shot that dipped, passing just over the bar. Borough continued to dictate the game but were unable to create any clear cut chances and it took until three minutes from time for them to look like getting back on terms, with what was to be their last chance.

Poole started the move on the left by coming well out of goal and feeding Murphy with a fine pass, the striker then combined brilliantly with Smithers who ended with a wicked cross that Ricketts almost put into his own net.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 11-12-1984

Atherstone: Spencer, Bennetts, Montgomery, Preston, Brown, Olnier, Parker, Farmer, Neale, Charnley, Fallon. **Subs:** Llewellyn, Rammell.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Hill, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Thurman, Saxby.

Borough made the journey to Sheepy Road to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round replay.

Gary Brown's 12th minute goal gave Atherstone a well deserved victory. The Adders seldom looked like losing and Graham Carr's men can have few complaints. Borough hardly strung two passes together all night and Lee Spencer in the Adders goal was never put under any real pressure. And to make matters worse, Borough had to play the last half-hour with ten men after Frank Murphy had been sent off.

Borough opened brightly enough with Paul Culpin testing Spencer with a low shot and then Trevor Morley had a header saved at the second attempt. But Adders stunned the visitors by taking the lead with their first real attack of the game. Nuneaton failed to mark up for a free-kick wide on the right and when the ball was flicked on Brown was all alone at the far post to fire past Andy Poole.

Atherstone almost increased their lead when Tom Fallon drove in a low cross from the left and Robbie Farmer was only inches away from scoring. Eddie McGoldrick made a good run on the right but Smithers sliced his shot wide. At the other end Mark Charnley turned well to fire a 25 yarder narrowly over the top. Mick Preston rescued Adders when he got back to cut out Stewart Hamill's cross with Murphy poised to strike but although Borough were having a lot of possession they seldom looked like cracking the home defence.

Culpin worked himself some space at the start of the second half, but Spencer narrowed the angle to block the shot. But Borough's hopes of getting back into the game suffered a severe set back on the hour when Murphy was sent off. Despite being down to ten men Nuneaton were pushing forward in search of an equaliser but they seemed devoid of ideas.

Borough's last chance of forcing the tie into extra time came ten minutes from the end following a left wing corner. Spencer made a superb save from Morley and then Paul Montgomery cleared off the line. Atherstone almost increased their lead when Parker made a fine break, but shot over.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough 15-12-1984

Barrow: McDonnell, Butler, Bradford, Brooks, Gordon (Skivington 66), Harrison, Elliott, Gorman, Cowperthwaite, Kennedy, Nutall (Taylor 45)

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, McGoldrick, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill (Saxby 82), Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Sub:** Bradley.

Borough made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a Gola League match.

Borough halted their losing run away from Manor Park, gaining a point from their long trip. Yet again they were

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superior to their hosts and should really have picked up full reward, especially in the latter stages which they completely dominated. The home side were first to threaten, but Wayne Harrison put in two poor crosses. A Keith Kennedy free-kick was cleared as far as Bradford and his dangerous cross was kicked away by Smithers. This was followed almost immediately by a Colin Cowperthwaite back header, which Martin Nutall just failed to make contact with.

But after the bright start Barrow faded and Borough began to dictate play and in the 15th minute a fine run by Smithers on the left took him to the goal-line, his deep cross seeing Trevor Morley have a crisp header blocked and from the rebound Paul Culpin forced a corner. Stewart Hamill then crossed from the right after beating Harrison with ease, but Culpin missed his kick as he tried to shoot first time.

In the 25th minute Culpin beat the offside trap wide on the right, after an early through ball from Carr, but with McGoldrick waiting in the middle the striker saw his angled drive blocked by Brooks at the expense of a corner. Hill and Thurman were dominant at the back for Borough and full-back Everton Carr was outstanding, but in the 35th minute Willie Gibson was forced to pull back Elliott and earned a booking for his trouble.

Barrow started the second half brightly and in the 46th minute a cross into the box from Harrison produced a scramble that eventually saw the ball cleared. But Borough soon took charge once more and in the 49th minute a good run by Hamill on the right produced a cross that was miscontrolled by Gordon, but Frank Murphy could only shoot over the bar.

On the hour, home skipper Brooks went close, picking the ball up on the edge of the box, delaying his shot twice, creating space for his final effort that looped narrowly wide. Then in the 67th minute Borough came close to breaking the deadlock when Hamill fed McGoldrick with a through ball, which he took wide before squeezing a shot past McDonnell, but two defenders combined to scramble the ball off the line.

Three minutes later, Andy Poole, who had been a virtual spectator, flapped at a cross under pressure and the ball fell for Brooks, who seemed set to run the ball home until he was crowded out. As the game entered its final quarter Borough took complete control and it seemed only a matter of time before they clinched the game. But again they were unable to convert their superiority into clear cut chances.

Nuneaton Borough v Gateshead

22-12-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Hill, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Saxby, Bradley.

Gateshead: Dodds, Higgins, Campbell, Reach, Mitchinson, Doolan, Robson, Hurst, McNall, Tweedy, Henderson. **Subs:** Pegg, Davie.

Borough welcomed Gateshead to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough bounced back to form on a gluepot of a pitch. Despite the conditions Borough were well in control against the league's bottom club and could have won by a much

bigger margin. Following a close first-half the visitors came under heavy pressure and they had keeper Kenny Dodds to thank that the final score was not even greater. He produced several brave saves to keep the rampant Borough forwards at bay and received little cover from his overworked defenders.

Goals from Paul Culpin, Frank Murphy and Eddie McGoldrick got Borough's Christmas programme off to a happy start in front of the lowest gate of the season. Under the conditions, it was never going to be a classic, but those who did brave the weather got their moneys worth from a full-blooded encounter. Borough had an early chance when the visitors failed to clear a right wing cross and Trevor Morley forced Dodds into a diving save with a shot from the edge of the box.



Frank Murphy looks on as his shot beats Kenny Dodds to put Borough two up early in the second half.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Gateshead, without an away win all season, showed scant respect for Borough's unbeaten 14 month home record as they seized the early initiative, forcing a couple of early corners, but the Borough defence held firm. The visitors had a let-off when Culpin intercepted a poor back pass, went round the keeper and crossed into the box, but Paul Doolan hooked clear. Culpin had a shot deflected as Borough stepped up the pace and McGoldrick set up a chance for Murphy, who delayed his shot and the ball was cleared.

However, the pressure had to tell and Borough broke the deadlock just before half-time. A right wing move split the visitors' defence and when Dodds could only parry Hamill's shot Culpin netted easily from close range.

Borough scored again immediately after the break when Reach hit a poor clearance straight to Hamill and the winger returned it into the middle for Murphy to add the finishing touch. It was all Borough now and it took a brave save from Dodds to deny the home side a third goal after Murphy had got clear in the box.

Higgins was booked for bringing down McGoldrick, who then produced a superb run down the right, but there was no-one

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to finish. But Gateshead almost clawed their way back when Everton Carr failed to clear and Poole was forced to make a superb save to deny Henderson. However, any hopes the visitors might have had of salvaging something from the match disappeared in the 66th minute when Borough scored again. McGoldrick picked up a loose ball, beat two defenders and hit a low shot into the far corner of the net giving Dodds no chance. Murphy and McGoldrick both went close before Culpin picked up a booking for a foul on Higgins.

Culpin almost had the last word when he got up well to a Hamill cross only to see his glancing header flash inches wide of the far post with Dodds beaten.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 26-12-1984

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, McGoldrick, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Thurman, Saxby.

Kettering: Goodwin, Thacker, Thrower, Fee, Wharton, Jeffrey, Denyer, Shrieves, Dawson, Smith, Bolton. **Subs:** Jenas, Turner.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough maintained their 14-month unbeaten home record against a much improved Kettering, but they only hung on by the skin of their teeth. With the game already into injury time, Graham Carr's side were trailing to a first-half goal from Greg Fee and looked to be down and out. However, they launched one last desperate attack and The Poppies' defence failed to clear a right wing cross and Tim Smithers fastened onto the loose ball only to be brought down by Tim Thacker.

Smithers picked himself up to score from the spot to the relief of the large holiday crowd. But Borough must count themselves a little fortunate as they were far from convincing in what has been an up and down season to date. The Manor Park side are playing without confidence or conviction and if they are to reap the benefits of a good run in the FA Trophy they have little time in which to get their act together. Richard Dixey returned after a two match suspension.

Paul Culpin hit a shot on the turn narrowly wide of the far post as Borough opened in enterprising style and then Dixey under hit a back pass and Andy Poole had to react quickly to beat Mark Smith to the ball. Eddie McGoldrick sliced his shot wide from Trevor Morley's cross but the ball fell kindly for Culpin who was again narrowly wide. There was danger for Nuneaton when Thacker crossed from the right and Smith got in a first-time shot that McGoldrick did well to block.

Frank Murphy raised the hopes of the home fans with a jinking run on the left that took him past two men, but his shot from a narrow angle went into the side netting. Fee had a header saved by Poole, while at the other end Culpin tested Goodwin after a poor clearance by Billy Jeffrey. But a minute later Borough were behind. Dixey got his body in the way of a shot by Richard Dawson but the ball fell invitingly for Fee who hammered a close range shot into the roof of the net. Borough ended the half with a flourish as Culpin shot over.

Borough started the second half in a more determined mood and McGoldrick brought a diving save from Goodwin immediately after the restart. McGoldrick then set up a chance that Smithers volleyed over the top before Ian Bolton was cautioned for a foul on Everton Carr. Kettering looked dangerous from a quick break but Carr showed a good turn of speed to cut out the danger. Morley again failed to get a shot on target after Hamill had opened up the Kettering defence.

Borough were now well on top and forced five corners in three minutes, but they all came to nothing. Culpin had a shot turned away for another corner by Goodwin before Smithers was a foot too high with a shot from the edge of the box. Dixey had a header stopped on the line and Borough had to thank Poole when Smith's shot took a deflection off Hill. But with time running out Borough dragged themselves up by the bootlaces with Smithers last gasp penalty saver.

Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 29-12-1984

Frickley: Maxted, Marshall, Myles, Bishop, Wright, Gill, Wilcox, Howey, Hooley, Wilson, Smith (Campbell 32). **Sub:** Wakefield.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Hill, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Saxby, Bradley.

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to play Frickley Athletic in a Gola League match.

A Paul Culpin goal just three minutes from time enabled Borough to salvage a point from their trip to Yorkshire. Frank Murphy was suspended and his place was taken by Thurman who lined up at the heart of the defence, with Richard Hill and Trevor Morley given more forward roles.

The first-half was as uninspiring as the weather and surroundings, the ground being dominated by a huge slagheap and being kept free of the surrounding fog only by a constant heavy drizzle. Frickley should have opened the scoring when Paul Wilson slipped the ball inside to Gary Hooley who inexplicably scooped over from the edge of the six yard box.

The home side had the majority of the early play but Borough fought their way back into the game and in the 13th minute Culpin almost intercepted a bad back pass from Wilcox and keeper Maxted was forced to block the ball with his legs in far from convincing fashion. Morley then tested Maxted with two long range efforts, but in the 38th minute Frickley took the lead with a goal that owed much to the tricky top surface. Phil Campbell cut in from the left and hit a hard low right foot shot, which skidded off the greasy surface and over the arms of the diving Andy Poole.

The home side should have scored early in the second half when a good move on the right ended in a chipped cross from Wilcox that Dixey headed straight to Campbell. He had what appeared to be a clear view of goal, just 15 yards out, but delayed his shot and the effort was blocked, running to Gill who shot wide. Hamill, McGoldrick and Carr made a complete hash of a short free-kick, to the amusement of the crowd.



As the game entered the final quarter, Borough began to take command and in the 65th minute home defender Marshall headed the ball onto his own bar only for the referee to give Morley offside. Morley, Hamill and Culpin all went close and in the 79th minute Thurman appeared to have equalised with a well struck shot, but Wright blocked the ball on the line.

Borough were almost caught on the break in the 81st minute as Wilson set Campbell free on the left, but he took too long with his shot, which was saved by Poole. Then with just three minutes remaining Borough scored the goal that gave them their well deserved point. Morley received a Hamill throw-in on the right, twisting and turning before creating space for a shot that struck a post before falling for Culpin who slipped the ball into the net.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1985

Kettering: Goodwin, Thacker, Thrower, Fee, Wharton, Jeffrey, Denyer, Shrieves, Dawson, Smith, Bolton. **Subs:** Keast, Turner.

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, McGoldrick, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Saxby, Bradley.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Gola League match.

Borough turned in one of their best away performances of the season, being desperately unlucky not to get a full reward for their performance. They were given a pre-match shock when Andy Poole reported ill and second string goalkeeper Mick Beale had to step in. The young keeper was not given the best start when Willie Gibson made a first minute error that forced the keeper to advance from his goal and hack clear. The youngster was clearly nervous and flapped alarmingly at a second minute high cross from the left, but Gibson was on hand to clear.

Hill hit a shot wide after Goodwin punched clear before Culpin hit a good shot that forced Goodwin to save on his knees. Morley was booked for dissent and Hill followed him into the book in the 28th minute before Borough went close twice in a minute, first Culpin again brought Goodwin to his knees after he had been set free on the left by Morley and then Morley himself had a shot kicked of the line by Fee. But against the run of play in the 30th minute the home side took the lead through a hotly disputed penalty after the ball hit Gibson on the upper arm. Bill Jeffrey scored from the spot.

Two minutes before the break Hill hit a real pile-driver from just outside the area, that Goodwin did well to save. In the first minute of the second period Culpin used his speed to get to the goal line, but his short pull back lacked pace, forcing the well placed Morley to scramble for the ball, that Goodwin eventually claimed by diving bravely on it, two yards out.

A clever 50th minute free-kick saw Hamill set free on the right by Morley and his fierce cross shot from an oblique angle hit the side netting. But again against the run of play the Poppies were awarded a controversial penalty, Richard Dixey pulling Terry Shrieves back outside the box, but the player fell inside

the area. Jeffrey stepped up to take the kick, but Beale made full amends for his earlier nervous errors, diving to his left to make a fine save.

In the 69th minute Borough drew level with a piece of vintage Culpin finishing, Hamill playing the ball into the area where it was touched on to the striker on the far side, where he controlled it before lashing home from 15 yards, with his marker looking on in amazement. Borough then took complete control with Morley and Culpin a constant threat, while McGoldrick and Hamill were having a field day, ripping the Poppies apart down the right flank.

Culpin had a brilliant turn and shot saved at full stretch by Goodwin and Culpin then set up Morley with an intelligent ball inside the full back. Thurman hit a vicious shot from 20 yards, but Goodwin again saved at full stretch. For all their pressure Borough had to settle for their third successive away draw, despite having looked as well balanced and competitive than in any away game this season.

Three Borough Players In England Squad

Nuneaton Borough's disappointing season was given a boost when three of their side were selected for the England semi-professional squad. New team boss Kevin Verity has named Trevor Morley, Timmy Smithers and Paul Culpin in his 46-strong party for a four-nations soccer tournament in Holland in June.

Borough Would Like More Directors

Nuneaton Borough are hoping to attract another two or three local businessmen to join the Manor Park board. At present they have only four directors, the smallest board of any club in the Gola League and chairman Noel Kelly believes that the time is now right to invite others to join the set-up.

"Over the past couple of years it has been a hard struggle with an enormous amount of work just to keep the club alive," he said.

"But we are now in a much better position than we were and by the start of next season our financial base could be the strongest it has been for years," he added.

Borough Sign Bennyworth

Nuneaton Borough last night completed the signing of Ian Bennyworth from Gainsborough Trinity for a four-figure fee. The deal was finalised at a hotel just outside Mansfield and the 23-year-old defender will make his debut against Dagenham at Manor Park tomorrow.

Manager Graham Carr has been chasing the talented centre-half for some weeks as a replacement for John Glover and was delighted to clinch the deal. "He is a big, strong lad, is very aggressive and I rate him very highly," said Carr. "Losing John Glover was a big blow but I feel that this lad could prove to be just as valuable to the club."



Ian Bennyworth puts his name to the form that makes him a Nuneaton Borough player. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Dagenham 26-01-1985

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Thurman, McGoldrick. Subs: Saxby, Bradley.

Dagenham: L. Scott, Wade, Kinnear, Sutton, Fampbell, Codner, Little, Whitton, Lansdowne, Dunwell, S. Scott. Subs: Warren, Tidman.

Borough welcomed Dagenham to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough's ace striker, Paul Culpin, scored his 100th goal for the club with a 25-yard left-foot volley seven minutes before the break. It was a goal worthy of the occasion, but unfortunately for Nuneaton fans it was an afternoon when they had more frustrations than celebrations.

Borough were in command for much of the game, but failed to make the most of several chances to put the issue beyond doubt. Frank Murphy, Stewart Hamill and Culpin all missed glorious opportunities and the home side were made to pay when the visitors snatched a late equaliser. Ian Bennyworth made his debut alongside Richard Dixey at the heart of the defence, with Mick Thurman moving to a midfield role. Bennyworth had a quiet debut and will need time to adjust.

Conditions were heavy and both sides struggled to get their act together in the clinging mud. But the match suddenly sprang to life after 11 minutes when Hamill cut in from the left and brought a superb save from Daggers' keeper Lloyd Scott, who saved again six minutes later, going full length to turn a Murphy shot round the post.

However, Dagenham shook Borough by snatching the lead after 22 minutes with their first real attack of the match. Barry Little floated in a free-kick from wide on the right, Thurman allowed Joe Dunwell to get free and he planted a header past Andy Poole. Culpin shot wide from the edge of the box, then Hamill had his effort blocked by the keeper as Borough hit back. But the pressure paid off seven minutes before half-time when Culpin cracked in a tremendous equaliser.

Thurman knocked the ball forward from midfield and Culpin raced onto it to hit a left-foot volley that flew into the top corner like a bullet. Then just before the break Culpin was

close to adding his second following a scramble in the Dagenham goalmouth.

Borough started the second half in determined mood and Eddie McGoldrick made a fine run into the box where he appeared to be brought down by Chris Kinnear, but referee Howard Hampshire awarded a corner to the obvious annoyance of the home side. Dagenham looked dangerous on the break and Poole had to produce a fine save to turn a Billy Lansdowne shot over the bar.

Borough scored the goal they had been threatening after 65 minutes. Culpin crossed from the right and although Scott produced another fine save from Murphy's header, Tim Smithers rammed home the rebound.



Timmy Smithers picks up the rebound from Murphy's header to give Borough a 2-1 lead. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Dixey did well to cut out a cross from Little at the near post before Borough missed another good chance. Hamill broke clear down the middle and should have laid the ball to the unmarked McGoldrick, but he shot and Scott was able to turn the ball away for a corner. Borough could have scored from the flag-kick when Murphy hit a post during a goalmouth scramble. Borough were to regret those misses seven minutes from time when Dagenham snatched an equaliser.

The home defence was in a tangle from a right wing cross and Bennyworth did well to head the ball over his own bar. Kinnear swung the corner into the goalmouth where Dunwell flicked it on and Les Whitton scored with a glancing header at the far post. Borough still had a chance to register their first league win since mid December. A long clearance by Thurman set Culpin racing clear but with only the keeper to beat he pulled his shot wide from 12 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Lincoln City 28-01-1985

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Thurman, McGoldrick. Subs: Saxby, Bradley.

Lincoln: Naylor, McGarrick, Turner, Redfearn, Simonite, Strodden, Jack, Shipley, White, Thomas, McGinley.

Borough welcomed Lincoln City to Manor Park to play a friendly match.

Borough gave themselves a confidence booster with a thoroughly deserved win. Graham Carr's men showed a self belief that has been missing for many weeks as they made

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the Third Division outfit play second fiddle for much of the game. There were times when Borough looked a class above their Football League opponents and for long periods Lincoln were struggling to hang on.

Nuneaton produced some delightful moves that had the visitors defence at full stretch and some clinical finishing that Lincoln never looked like matching. Following an entertaining first half Borough hit a purple patch shortly after the re-start with three goals in as many minutes to put the issue beyond doubt. Lincoln got a consolation goal late in the game and hit the woodwork on a couple of occasions.

It's true that this was only a friendly but in no way should that detract from Nuneaton's excellent performance as the visitors certainly didn't take the field with the intention of getting beaten. Borough opened the scoring four minutes into the second period when Stewart Hamill's cross was only half cleared and Tim Smithers slid home the rebound.

Lincoln hardly had time to regain their composure, for they were two goals down sixty seconds later following a superb Nuneaton move. Mick Thurman played a long through ball for Frank Murphy to run onto and flick inside for Paul Culpin to hammer past the advancing keeper despite being under intense pressure from Simonite.

Andy Poole then did well to block a shot from Lincoln striker White before Borough stunned the visitors with a third goal. Eddie McGoldrick chipped a ball into the box when Strodden could only head it upwards and as it dropped Culpin hit a fierce volley past Naylor from 16 yards.

Redfearn cut the arrears with a cracking free kick 12 minutes from time but by then it was only academic.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 01-02-1985

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Thurman, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Saxby, Bradley.

Northwich: Ryan, Fretwell, Dean, Jones, Forshaw, Bishop, Stephens, Craven, Abel, Essex, Young. **Subs:** Redshaw, Emerson.

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough fans were forced to endure another afternoon of frustration as their side tossed away a valuable point. For the second time in seven days Borough had almost overwhelmed the opposition only to fail to make their superiority count. They had more than enough chances to have won in a canter – and having missed most of them gave away two soft goals at the other end.

However, before the season is over Nuneaton could well have cause to regret their failings of recent weeks. Borough are still dangerously close to the relegation zone and are in dire need of points to draw clear of an end of season dogfight.

Graham Carr's men took charge from the start and should have had the points wrapped up in the first 15 minutes. With only seven minutes gone Frank Murphy cut in from the

left and his low shot beat Northwich keeper Dave Ryan but rebounded from the foot of the post. Within sixty seconds Borough missed a golden opportunity to go in front when Tim Smithers shot wide from the penalty spot after he had been brought down by Steve Craven.

At this stage it was all Nuneaton and Paul Culpin had a shot deflected narrowly wide on the left hand post with Ryan struggling. The visitors made a rare break into Borough territory before the home side missed another glorious chance. Eddie McGoldrick made a superb break on the right and his inch perfect cross found Culpin unmarked but his header flew harmlessly wide. After dominating virtually all the play Nuneaton found themselves a goal down after 25 minutes when Craven was allowed time to control and turn inside the box and his half-hit shot crept in at the far post.

Encouraged by this success Northwich pressed forward and Ian Bennyworth was happy to concede a corner under pressure from Dave Essex.

Borough quickly regained the initiative and fully deserved to be on level terms ten minutes later through Murphy. The Nuneaton striker found himself in space on the edge of the box and picked his spot before hammering a superb drive into the roof of the net. Stewart Hamill had a chance to put Borough ahead within seconds of the restart but he sliced his shot wide from 12 yards after Murphy had set up the chance.

But a minute later Nuneaton were in front with a second goal from Murphy. Everton Carr made a good overlap on the right and his cross found Murphy unmarked and he had little difficulty heading home from five yards out.



Frank Murphy, who hadn't scored since before Christmas, heads home Everton Carr's cross.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

However, despite looking set for a convincing victory Borough went off the boil and the visitors snatched an equaliser against the run of play. A free-kick from out on the right was only half cleared and Davey Young turned the ball back into the middle where Graham Abel knocked in a simple goal. Following that setback Nuneaton took territorial control but seldom looked like snatching the winner.



Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 05-02-1985

Bedworth: Martin, Taylor, Bromley (Loftus 75), Jackson, Howarth, Randle, George, P. Carr, Boneham (Thomas 70), Ross, Smith.

Borough: Poole, E. Carr (Matthews 40), Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, McGoldrick, Culpin, Morley, Saxby. **Sub:** Chislett.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough recorded a win in their first Midland Floodlit Cup game of the season when ace goalscorer Paul Culpin put away two superbly-executed solo efforts and a Tim Smithers penalty gave Borough the edge.

An early Bedworth break brought a goal in the fifth minute. In attempting to head clear Richard Dixey succeeded only in nodding to the feet of Martin Smith who slotted the ball home. Tim Smithers put Borough on level terms with a 12th minute penalty. Gibson had been put clear by Saxby but the defender was brought down by Smith as he cut into the area. Smithers sent Martin the wrong way from the spot kick.

Borough should have gone further ahead in the 24th minute when Smithers failed to connect with a right-wing cross. The ball ran on to Culpin, who completely miskicked in front of goal. Bedworth's Bromley was lucky to escape with only a booking after he brought down Everton Carr with a lunging tackle which forced Carr to limp off later on.

Culpin showed his goalscoring class when he put Borough ahead with a glorious solo effort. Steve Jackson miskicked on the half-way line and the striker seized his chance by outstripping the Bedworth defence and bending his shot past the advancing Martin. Twice before half-time Culpin had chances to put Borough further ahead. First he shot high over the bar after Saxby put him clear, and then he rattled the side netting after rounding Taylor.

An early second half attack by Bedworth saw Steve Ross set up Boneham, but his shot went astray. The same combination, however, brought the equaliser in the 55th minute. After neat work by George, Ross centred and Boneham was perfectly placed to ram home Bedworth's second goal.

Culpin silenced Greenbacks' jubilation less than a minute later by staging a repeat performance of his earlier goal. He broke through the Bedworth defence giving Martin no chance. Both sides went close in the final stages – but it was Borough's night and they picked up 13 points.

Carr Not Leaving

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr has scotched rumours that he is set to leave the club. There has been speculation for some weeks that Carr would be joining Worcester City. "I will be staying with Nuneaton and that is final," said Carr today. "Worcester approached me about the job but I told them that I am happy with my position at Nuneaton," he added.

Alan Waddle Signs

Six foot three inch striker Alan Waddle has signed for Nuneaton Borough. Waddle has a vast amount of Football League experience, having previously played with Halifax, Liverpool, Leicester, Swansea, Newport, Peterborough and Hartlepool. He has just turned down a full-time contract with Hartlepool after playing regularly in their first team over the past six weeks.

Dagenham v Nuneaton Borough 16-02-1985

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Bennyworth, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Waddle. **Subs:** Thurman, Bradley.

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham in a Gola League match.

Borough's nightmare away form that has haunted them all season continued at struggling Dagenham, where they were beaten by a side fielding five new faces and clearly desperately trying to find a winning combination. Borough have never beaten Dagenham in any competition and despite the lowly league position of the Essex side it was never going to be an easy task to change that situation.

New signing Alan Waddle made his debut up front, partnering Paul Culpin and Frank Murphy. Eddie McGoldrick deputised for the injured Everton Carr. Borough started confidently enough and forced two free kicks in dangerous positions on the right, in quick succession, but wasted both aiming for the considerable frame of Waddle.

In the home side's first real attack in the seventh minute, Horan worked the ball into the area to Tydeman, but the big striker put the ball out for a goal kick. Two minutes later Borough went close when a Trevor Morley header was kicked off the line by Steve Scott. Good work by Culpin in the eleventh minute saw him evade several tackles as he made his way across the edge of the area where he was obstructed by Horan. Hamill took the free-kick and flighted it perfectly to the far post where Murphy stole in on the blind side, but put his header weakly wide.

Play switched to the other end and a goalmouth scramble following a near post corner from the left, saw Borough's goal somehow remain intact. Murphy put a well struck 20 yard shot straight at keeper Knock, who held the ball confidently. Three minutes later a volley from the edge of the area by Lansdowne passed perilously close to the post. Borough continued to have the better of the exchanges after the break.

Waddle and Culpin were both caught offside in consecutive attacks, but in the 50th minute Dagenham took the lead against the run of play. Scott broke from midfield and sped past Gibson wide on the right, crossing deep into the Borough box where Neil Ayrton fired home on the turn from 15 yards for a goal on his debut.

The home side took charge for a lengthy period following the goal, but Borough produced a spell of intense pressure

that seemed certain to bring the equalising goal. A 75th minute corner started the surge, although it was dismally wasted with an ill conceived short flag kick, but a minute later Stewart Hamill unleashed a 25 yard pile driver that hit the top of the bar and went over. A string of Borough corners followed but in the 83rd minute Daggers looked to have put the game beyond doubt when a free-kick from Tydeman on the right was headed home by substitute Joe Dunwell, completely unmarked and able to pick his spot.

Borough did gain some consolation in the 88th minute when a Timmy Smithers cross from the left saw Waddle flick home a header, giving the big striker a goal on his debut. The remaining two minutes were frantic with Dagenham losing their composure, but Borough were unable to gain any reward.

Nuneaton Boro v Irthlingboro' Diamonds 25-02-1985

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Dixey, Bennyworth, Smithers, Thurman, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Hamill, Saxby.

Irthlingborough: Verity, Hamilton, Reid, Ashby, Adiker, Clarke, Harris, Pownall, Sergeant, Kurilla, Yorke. **Subs:** Phipps, McGuire.

Borough welcomed Irthlingborough Diamonds to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough forgot their league problems with a comprehensive victory. Irthlingborough, one of Nuneaton's victims in this season's FA Cup run, were no match for Borough and they were lucky the final score was not more embarrassing. Although the quality of the opposition was not from the top drawer, Borough were highly impressive before the break when they rammed in five goals. The visitors could not contain the rampant home forwards and their defence was torn apart time and again by some excellent attacking football.

Nuneaton got away to a superb start with a goal after only seven minutes. Paul Culpin beat two men in the box and pulled the ball back from the dead ball line to give Frank Murphy the simplest of chances. Yorke then shot wide when placed to do better in Diamonds' first raid before Murphy dummied a Tim Smithers cross to allow Eddie McGoldrick the chance to ram in the second. Two minutes later the visitors failed to clear a centre from the left and Culpin made it 3-0.

Trevor Morley made it four with a looping header and before the break Murphy headed in from close range following a precision cross by McGoldrick. With the game already won Borough understandably eased off and this allowed Diamonds to come more into the game.

Seventeen minutes after the restart Kurilla pulled a goal back for the visitors when a harmless looking ball took a deflection off Richard Dixey to leave him completely clear. Shortly afterwards Mick Thurman hit a post before Irthlingborough got a second. Ian Bennyworth attempted to play the ball back to Andy Poole and only succeeded in finding Pownall who made no mistake from close range.

This seemed to shake Borough out of their complacency and they ended the game with flourish. Nuneaton made it six nine

minutes from time when Ashby under pressure from Culpin, only succeeded in lobbing the ball over his own keeper and into the net. Two minutes later Borough scored again with a magnificent goal. Stewart Hamill picked the ball up on the edge of his own box and found Steve Saxby. He played it down the line for Culpin who made ground before crossing a perfect ball to the far post where Morley headed home.

Almost immediately Culpin burst clean through and rounded the stranded keeper to slip the ball into an empty net and complete the scoring.

Borough To Float More Shares

Nuneaton Borough are to float another 38,000 shares – in a bid to bring a new injection of cash into the soccer club. An extraordinary meeting is being called, when directors will be asked to agree to the floatation, bringing the capital share allocation up to 100,000. Three years ago a total of 2,000 shares were floated, followed by a further 60,000.

Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 02-03-1985

Borough: Poole, Thurman, Gibson, Dixey, Bennyworth, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Hamill, Morley.

Dartford: Mallett, Makin, Borg, Pamphlett, T. Gibson, Cowley, Jacques, Crown, Sullivan, Dingwall, Robinson. **Subs:** Burman, Hallybone.

Borough welcomed Dartford to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough produced an incredible second half goal blitz to record their first Gola League win since before Christmas. Trailing at the interval to Steve Robinson's third minute goal, Borough looked disjointed and their 17 months unbeaten home record seemed to be in danger. But the second period brought about a complete transformation with Dartford under constant pressure as Nuneaton ran riot.

Frank Murphy levelled matters ten minutes after the break and that was the signal for a tremendous attacking burst that brought the Manor Park outfit five goals in 22 minutes. Murphy scored again to put Nuneaton in front and then goals from Paul Culpin (2) and Richard Hill, completed the amazing turnaround.



Frank Murphy finds himself completely unmarked in the Dartford area to head home as Borough stage a second-half revival to sweep to their first league win of 1985.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough made a bright opening with Culpin and Eddie McGoldrick both looking dangerous, but there was a shock for the home fans when Dartford went ahead after only three



minutes. Terry Sullivan got behind Mick Thurman on the left and from his low cross Nicky Crown sliced his shot but the ball fell to Robinson who scored easily from close range. Borough could have gone further behind shortly afterwards when Sullivan again crossed from the left but Tony Pamphlett headed wide from six yards out.

Dartford looked to have increased their lead after 16 minutes when Micky Dingwall broke clear and took the ball up to Andy Poole before passing to Crown who slipped it into an empty net. But to Borough's relief, referee Geoff Banwell ruled out the effort for offside. However, Borough gradually got back into the game and Hill shot narrowly wide then McGoldrick saw his close range volley headed off the line by Pamphlett.

At the start of the second half Trevor Morley had a shot blocked and Hill's effort from the ensuing scramble was also charged down. Dartford almost caught Borough napping with a quick break and Poole had to produce a good save to deny Robinson, then Dingwall shot into the side netting from a narrow angle. Willie Gibson headed over from a left wing corner before Borough levelled the match with a superb goal.

Morley flicked on a long clearance by Poole, Culpin laid it into the path of Murphy, and the little striker sped away to beat Dave Mallett with a 25 yard cross shot into the bottom corner. Six minutes later Culpin beat Bob Makin out on the left and curled in a beautiful cross for Murphy to head home. Morley then had a shot deflected for a corner after Murphy had dummied a McGoldrick centre.

But Dartford's reprieve was short lived as two minutes later Borough increased their lead. Culpin, looking suspiciously offside, ran on to a through ball and hammered a magnificent left footer into the top corner from the edge of the box. The visitors were now in complete disarray and when Pamphlett intercepted a long through ball he attempted to turn it back to his keeper only for Culpin to pounce, round the stranded keeper and slip the ball home. Dartford's misery was complete four minutes later when Hill was completely unmarked as he powerfully headed home McGoldrick's corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 04-03-1985

Borough: Poole, Hamill, Gibson, Saxby, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Bradley, Kelly.

Kettering: Goodwin, Thacker, Thrower, Fee, Turner, Shrieves, Denyer, Dawson, Alexander, Smith, Bolton. **Subs:** Mair, Jenas.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Borough were again in superb form as they swept away Kettering. Borough, with three successive wins in the competition, now look odds-on favourites to go through to the final. Graham Carr's side, struggling for goals for most of the season have suddenly struck a rich vein with sixteen in the last eight days. That total could have been even greater for they hit the woodwork twice and missed several clear cut openings as they completely outplayed the Poppies.

Both sides were virtually at full strength with only Ian Bennyworth and Mick Thurman missing for Borough. But Kettering, at present lying fifth in the Gola League, were no match for the rejuvenated Manor Park outfit.

Peter Denyer shot narrowly over in an early raid and Culpin went close following a cross by Eddie McGoldrick before Nuneaton took the lead after 19 minutes. McGoldrick played in a low cross from the right, Richard Hill knocked it on to Morley and his shot from the edge of the box flew into the top corner. Four minutes later McGoldrick again got free on the right and Murphy turned the winger's low cross into the path of Culpin who scored with a volley inside the far post.

Borough were now well in control and a Murphy cross came out off the bar before Hill burst through the middle only to slice his shot wide. Hill then saw a tremendous 20 yard drive smack against the bar and Culpin shot across the face of the goal after getting clear of the visitors' defence. Mark Smith had a back header strike the foot of a post in a rare Kettering attack at the start of the second half, but five minutes later Nuneaton increased their lead.

Hill pounced on a poor clearance by Greg Fee and found McGoldrick who switched the ball to Hamill overlapping on the right. His cross to the far post was headed back into the goalmouth by Saxby for Murphy to head in from close range. It was all Borough now and Hamill shot high over the top from inside the box, then McGoldrick produced a weak finish after being played clear by Murphy.

Midway through the half Culpin missed a sitter, shooting wide from 10 yards with only Goodwin to beat after McGoldrick had again split the Poppies' defence. Andy Poole had little to do, but did make one fine save 12 minutes from time, going low down to his left to deny Tony Shrieves. Shortly before the end McGoldrick had a gilt edged chance when an overhead kick by Culpin saw him race clear into the penalty area but he dragged his shot wide of the left hand post.

Nuneaton Borough v Enfield 11-03-1985

Borough: Poole, Thurman, Gibson, Dixey, Bennyworth, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Hamill, Saxby.

Enfield: Jacobs, Savage, Hazeldene, Cooper, Howell, Docker, Flint, Taylor, Ashford, Richards, Atkins. **Subs:** Ironton, Drummie.

Borough welcomed Enfield to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Nicky Ironton's equaliser six minutes from the end denied Borough victory in a thrilling clash. Substitute Ironton hammered home a left footer from 12 yards to earn the title chasing visitors a vital point. Trevor Morley missed a golden opportunity to snatch the winner in the last minute. Both sides were committed to attack and the outcome was a game full of incident that had the crowd on their toes until the final whistle. Borough made the early running forcing a couple of corners before Frank Murphy shot over the bar from inside the box after Eddie McGoldrick had created the opening.

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But Enfield soon made their intentions clear with a couple of lightning fast breaks that had the danger signals flashing for the home defenders. With 21 minutes gone Noel Ashford sent David Flint racing clear on the right but he elected to shoot from long range and Andy Poole gathered easily. Five minutes later Borough took the lead thanks to visiting keeper John Jacobs. Trevor Morley got in a left foot shot after making a bit of space on the edge of the box. Jacobs failed to hold the ball and Tim Smithers scored easily from the rebound.

Enfield were on level terms after 32 minutes following another goalkeeping error. There seemed little danger from Flint's shot but Poole allowed the ball to escape his clutches and Stuart Atkins bundled it in from close range. Borough were fortunate to end the half all square for Flint's centre just before the break bounced out off the bar and 60 seconds later Ashford's shot beat Poole but skidded to safety off the foot of a post.

At the start of the second half Carl Richards brought Poole to his knees with a fierce drive then Smithers saw Jacobs claw away his cross when it appeared destined for the top corner. Richards then produced a superb run on the left, beating three men, but Poole confidently cut out the cross. Borough then shook the Londoners by taking the lead through Paul Culpin after 61 minutes. Willie Gibson freed the Nuneaton striker with a long through ball and Culpin cut into the box and beat Steve Hazeldene before slipping a left foot shot past Jacobs.

It was Nuneaton's turn to bemoan their luck after 79 minutes when McGoldrick's free kick found Murphy unmarked and his header crashed down off the crossbar for Dave Howell to hook the ball away for a corner.

But Enfield were still dangerous on the break and Poole was happy to turn away a vicious swirling shot from Flint. Almost immediately Morley had a chance at the other end but he dragged his shot wide of the far post. Borough were to pay a dear price for that miss as Enfield snatched an equaliser sixty seconds later. Richard Hill completely mis-directed a header in midfield to put Trevor Savage clear and he slipped the ball to Ironton who made no mistake.

Nuneaton had a golden opportunity to snatch a dramatic winner just before the end when Culpin broke clear on the right and curled over a superb cross to Morley all alone in the penalty area. But the Borough man delayed his shot and Jacobs was able to race out and parry the effort to safety.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 16-03-1985

Borough: Poole, Thurman, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Saxby, Chislett.

Scarborough: Crawford, Dawson, Thompson, Hartley, Dennis, Sellers, Phillips, Burke, Hannah, Bowman, Rose. **Subs:** Wiggan, Sutcliffe.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough gave their fans another taste of their rediscovered goalscoring touch as they crushed title hopefuls Scarborough. Graham Carr's men, struggling for goals for

most of the season, again showed the sort of form that took them into the runners-up spot last term.

Conditions were greasy and both sides took time to settle but Borough adapted far better and were quicky in control. With Richard Hill out through suspension, Stewart Hamill came back into the side but he played at right back with Mick Thurman pushed forward into a midfield role.

The visitors defence looked uneasy and it came as no surprise when Nuneaton went in front after only nine minutes. Neil Thompson obstructed Paul Culpin in the penalty area and when Tim Smithers' free kick was only cleared to the edge of the box Hamill hammered a fierce drive into the top corner of the net. Borough were well on top and Frank Murphy curled a shot inches over the top after Smithers had set up the chance.

However, the visitors shook the home fans with two goals in a minute midway through the half. With 26 minutes gone Brendan Phillips cracked home a shot from just outside the area and despite the fact a linesman was flagging for offside referee John Godfrey gave the goal. A minute later, with Nuneaton still complaining about the decision, John Hannah got free on the left, cut into the box and rounded Andy Poole to slip the ball into an empty net.



Frank Murphy hammers a right foot shot past Scarborough defender Neil Sellers and Borough's third goal is on its way into the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Trevor Morley then put a header narrowly over before Borough drew level six minutes before the break through Paul Culpin. Dave Bowman intercepted a pass inside his own penalty area but he delayed his clearance and the ball fell to Culpin who hooked it home from close range.

Murphy shot wide from ten yards and Nuneaton then missed a golden opportunity to go ahead right on the stroke of half-time. Trevor Wiggan brought down Smithers but the Borough midfielder man saw his spot kick superbly saved by Graeme Crawford. Nuneaton resumed the second period where they had ended the first and the Scarborough defence was again under heavy pressure.

Morley failed to get enough power into a couple of early efforts but Borough didn't have to wait long before they were back in front. Eddie McGoldrick, a constant threat to the visitors defence, got free on the right after 54 minutes and his low cross

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was swept home from just inside the box by Murphy. Crawford made a fine save to deny Culpin but two minutes later Borough should have scored after another superb run by McGoldrick had split the defence. At the other end Phillips flashed a left-foot volley over the top in a rare raid by the visitors before Borough put the issue beyond doubt. Thurman's through ball caught the Scarborough defence square and Culpin raced clear to slip the ball past the advancing keeper. Bowman should have reduced the arrears four minutes from the end when he shot straight at Poole but Morley had the last word with the fifth goal in the final seconds.

Saxby Leaves Borough

Midfieldman Steve Saxby has left Nuneaton Borough after failing to win a place in the first team. Saxby, who has been on the substitute's bench for most of the season, made only two full appearances – both in the Midland Floodlit Cup.

Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 20-03-1985

Maidstone: Richardson, Thompson, Hill, Glover, Newson, Sille, Crowe, Stewart, Ovard, Pearson, Driver. Subs: Lazarus, Wheeler.

Borough: Poole, Hamill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Thurman. Subs: Chislett, Anderton.

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in a Gola League match.

Borough picked up a well deserved point with a fine second half performance that saw them take complete control and almost snatch their first away win since September.

Maidstone took the lead in the eighth minute when Poole, under pressure from Ovard, could only punch the ball as far as Driver on the edge of the area and although he only half hit his shot the ball entered the net at the far post. Borough were only trailing for two minutes before they equalised, again it was McGoldrick on the right who caused problems and his cross was well struck by Mick Thurman, only for the ball to strike Glover and take a wicked deflection, being chased into the net by Culpin and Newson.

The goal burst was not over and in the 14th minute Stones regained their advantage with a fine goal direct from a free-kick after Hamill brought down Ovard on the edge of the box. From the resultant free kick two players dummied over the ball leaving Mark Newson to curl his shot round the wall and into the left hand corner of the net.

Murphy went close after 18 minutes and four minutes later Gibson headed narrowly wide following a Hamill free-kick. In the 27th minute Bennyworth incurred the wrath of the referee for a challenge on Ovard and was booked, and right on the stroke of half-time Crowe missed a close range header from a Newson free kick.

Borough started the second half in determined mood and took charge of the game, but for all their dominance, it was not until the 58th minute that they had their first real chance of the half when a McGoldrick cross found Murphy at

the near post, but Glover nipped in and cleared the danger. In the 62nd minute Poole was forced to dive to his left to brilliantly push a powerful header from Driver around the post, but this was a rare attack by the home side and it came as little surprise when Borough drew level in the 73rd minute. Thurman unleashed a vicious 25 yard drive that beat the goalkeeper only to rebound off the bar as far as Culpin some 12 yards out on the right hand side of the box. The striker did well to keep down his first time shot from the rebound, putting the ball straight into the net.

Borough then pressed for the winner and in the 78th minute Glover had to kick a Culpin shot off the line, followed by a superb move on the right that involved Murphy, Hamill and McGoldrick that only brought a corner. Five minutes from time Borough almost snatched the points when Morley ran across the edge of the area before hitting a fierce left foot shot that went just wide of the post with Richardson beaten.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 23-03-1985

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. Subs: Thurman, Anderton.

Boston: Blackwell, Lyon, O'Brien, Czuczman, Ladd, Gilbert, Nuttall, Simpson, Lee, Cook, Thomson. Subs: Genovese, Mallender.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough were again in sparkling form as they swept to another convincing victory. Graham Carr's men completely outplayed their visitors, who were never a match for the Manor Park side who have now scored 29 goals in their last seven outings. There was an early scare for Borough when Andy Poole dropped Gary Simpson's fifth minute corner but he was able to grab the ball at the second attempt. In the next minute Nuneaton thought they had gone ahead when Frank Murphy turned in Eddie McGoldrick's cross at the far post, but referee Chris Smith disallowed the effort for offside.

Following a bout of Borough pressure the visitors shook the home fans by taking a surprise tenth minute lead. There seemed little danger as Brian Thomson swung in a cross from the left but Poole was way out of position as Chris Cook's looping header went in off the foot of the post. Trevor Morley then had a fierce volley blocked on the line before Boston keeper Kevin Blackwell produced a superb save to turn Richard Hill's header over the bar.

Borough were well on top now and Hill fired a 20-yard drive narrowly wide of the left hand post and then Ian Ladd did well to block a Paul Culpin shot. There was more danger for the visitors as Culpin got clear on the edge of the box but Ray O'Brien's tackle denied him. Borough equalised six minutes before the break when Morley calmly chested the ball down before volleying home from 15 yards.

Five minutes after the break Borough went in front and again Morley was the scorer. McGoldrick made a fine break on the right and cut the ball back from the deadball line. Tim

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Smithers sliced his shot but the ball fell kindly to Morley who scored easily. The visitors were now under intense pressure and it came as no surprise when Nuneaton increased their lead just five minutes later. Murphy got free on the right and floated a fine cross into the box for Culpin to launch himself into the air and smash home a magnificent volley past Blackwell's left hand.



Trevor Morley hammers home Borough's first goal to put the Manor Park side level six minutes before the break. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Boston were finding it increasingly difficult to contain rampant Borough and their troubles worsened after 64 minutes when Culpin got his 34th goal of the season. Central defender Ladd attempted to play a backpass to his keeper but failed to spot the lurking Culpin who nipped in to slip the ball past the advancing keeper.

Poole had to be alert to turn a Derek Nuttall header over the top as Boston made a belated effort to salvage a bit of pride. The visitors did pull a goal back eleven minutes from the end with Bob Lee scoring from a close range effort, after Willie Gibson had sliced an attempted clearance.

Phillips Rejoins Borough

Nuneaton Borough completed the signing of Brendan Phillips last night and he looks certain to play in the Gola League clash at Kidderminster tomorrow. With Willie Gibson serving a one match ban, Tim Smithers seems the likely candidate for the left back spot with Phillips filling the midfield vacancy.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 30-03-1985

Kidderminster: Garner, Barton, Martin, McGowan, Horne, Woodall, Powell, Mackenzie, Davies, Tuohy, Ollis. Subs: Rosegreen, Jones.

Borough: Poole, Hamill, Smithers, Bennyworth, Dixey, Phillips, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Subs: Thurman, Anderton.

Borough made the journey to Aggborough to play Kidderminster Harriers in a Gola League match.

Borough picked up their first Gola League away win since September in an amazing game full of incident containing seven goals, four bookings, a catalogue of near misses and the sight of manager Graham Carr being sent to watch the final 28 minutes from the stand.

Play started at a fast and furious pace, with Paul Culpin just

failing to get onto the end of an Ian Bennyworth through ball and at the other end John Powell put a shot just wide. But Borough took the lead in the sixth minute with a fine piece of finishing from Frank Murphy, a long ball into the box catching Tim Garner in two minds, enabling the striker to nip in and lob the ball over him and into the net. Kidderminster hit back and in the tenth minute Powell hit the post with a fine drive, but he was not to be denied and within a minute had taken advantage of hesitancy in the Borough defence to round Andy Poole and slot the ball into the empty net.

Worse was to follow and in the 16th minute when a harmless looking cross took a bad bounce, causing Smithers to handle the ball in the area, John Barton stepped up to put his side into the lead from the penalty spot. But Borough were not behind for long, equalising within a minute in bizarre fashion. The ball was running harmlessly towards the corner flag on the right and Eddie McGoldrick allowed John Martin to retrieve it, electing to cut off the back pass, but to the amazement of everyone the full back hoisted the ball back goalwards and it sailed over the stranded Garner and into the net.

Murphy just failed to latch onto an 18th minute Culpin ball and then a fine deep cross from Paul Davies in the 25th minute found Powell, whose header was saved by Poole. Borough regained the lead in the 29th minute when Trevor Morley played the ball into the box and as the Kidderminster defence hesitated Culpin struck home his first time shot in superb style. Culpin should have increased Borough's lead in the 40th minute, but he hit his shot over the bar.

In the 62nd minute a good move on the left involving Murphy and Phillips ended with Morley firing a fierce shot from the edge of the area, which was straight at Garner. The linesman signalled the referee, who came over the touchline and sent Graham Carr to the stand. Harriers equalised two minutes later when Richard Dixey was penalised for obstruction. The free-kick, just wide of the penalty spot was touched by Alan Ollis to Martin Woodall, who struck the ball past the Borough wall and into the corner of the net.

Andy McGowan had a chance to put Kidderminster ahead in the 77th minute, but he swept the shot wide. But just as the game appeared to be drifting towards a draw Culpin proved what a superb finisher he is by racing in to score an 85th minute opportunist goal while everyone else was wondering what to do next.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town

01-04-1985

Borough: Shardlow, Hill, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. Subs: Phillips, Anderton.

Corby: Parkin, Leach, Burne, Palmer, Suddards, Flannagan, Ferns, Roberts, Clayton, Diver, Walker. Subs: Atkins, Langley.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Nuneaton Borough dropped their first points in this season's competition when they failed to beat a mediocre Corby outfit.

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Despite being on top for much of the game Borough twice had to come from behind to secure a share of the spoils. But really it was a tale of two goalkeepers. A debutant having a nightmare for Nuneaton while his opposite number in the Corby goal had an inspired night. Paul Shardlow, playing in place of Andy Poole, never looked the part and the Manor Park faithful held their breath every time the ball went into the Borough penalty area.

Corby shocked Borough when they went ahead after just five minutes through former Nuneaton player John Flannagan. The visitors were awarded a free kick just outside the penalty area and Flannagan's chip over the wall caught the keeper unawares. This goal shook Nuneaton out of their lethargy and Culpin might have scored twice. Keeper Steve Parkin turned the Borough striker's shot against a post and then made another smart save after Culpin had turned sharply on the edge of the box.

The pressure had to tell and after 15 minutes, Tim Smithers swung in a free-kick from the left and Trevor Morley stooped to head past Parkin. Richard Hill then shot over when well placed and Culpin had another shot saved by Parkin before Corby took a shock lead. Shardlow failed to gather two innocuous efforts by the visitors attack and the ball eventually fell to Sean Suddards whose shot took a deflection on its way into the net.

Just before the break Morley beat Parkin but Graham Leach managed to get back to clear off the line. Borough got a second equaliser 12 minutes after the restart when Hill flicked the ball into the penalty area and Culpin swivelled to steer a left-foot shot inside the far post. Morley and Brendan Phillips both went close to snatching a winner but the visitors held out without too much difficulty.

Carr Wins Manager Of The Month

Borough manager Graham Carr has been named as the Gola League's "Manager of the Month" for March. Carr takes the award after watching his side pick up four wins and two draws in the last month and scoring 22 goals in the process.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 03-04-1985

VS Rugby: Marsden, McGinty, Hughes, Webb, Harrison, Knox, Ingram, McKay, Downes, Conway, Crawley (Gardner 70).

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Thurman (Bradley 62), Dixey, Smithers, Anderton, Phillips, Culpin, Chislett, McGoldrick.

Borough made the journey to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Former Bedworth United star Danny Conway was the architect behind Borough's first Floodlit Cup defeat of the season. Conway twisted and tormented the Borough defence through a testing 90 minutes before crowning an impressive VS display with a dramatic last ditch winner.

Conway made an early impact on the proceedings when he was pulled down by Richard Dixey in the fourth minute and

John McGinty stepped up to fire past Andy Poole from the penalty spot.

VS dominated the opening half an hour as Borough were never allowed to settle and it was against the run of play when Graham Carr's men levelled with a second spot kick in the 29th minute. Robin Webb was ruled to have handled a shot from Mick Thurman on the line and Timmy Smithers sent Marsden the wrong way from the spot. Six minutes into the second half VS restored their lead when Conway delivered an inch perfect cross for ex-Borough striker Ian Crawley to plant a firm header past Poole.

But in the 84th minute Borough looked to have salvaged a share of the points when Richard Hill outjumped Marsden to give Paul Chislett the chance to add the finishing header from close range. Their joy was short-lived though and Rob McKay broke down the left in the dying seconds and Conway lunged to head home the winner and record Rugby's first-ever win in the competition.

Gateshead v Nuneaton Borough

06-04-1985

Gateshead: Dodds, Doolan, Parnaby, Fagan, Mitchinson, Tweedy, Robson, O'Donnell, Donaldson, McNall, Henderson. Subs: Hurst, Penfold.

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Phillips. Subs: Chislett, Anderton.

Borough made the journey to the International Stadium to play Gateshead in a Gola League match.

Borough picked up their second successive away win, without ever being at their fluent best, against a Gateshead side whose early spirit and play belied their hopeless position at the bottom of the league. The early stages were scrappy and the best either side were able to offer was a fine move on the right from Borough in the eighth minute, that saw Eddie McGoldrick slip the ball through to Frank Murphy, but his shot was blocked by Paul Doolan at the expense of a corner.

However the home side were having the better of the early exchanges and it took a brilliant save from Andy Poole in the 12th minute to keep Borough on level terms. A long throw from the left by full-back Parnaby caused all sorts of problems for the Borough defence and Dixey was happy to head away for a corner, which was headed back across the box to Keith McNall, whose crisp header was kept out by an amazing reflex save from Poole.

Brendan Phillips had a fierce left foot shot blocked after 18 minutes, but two minutes later it was the home team who posed the threat with Doolan forcing Poole to his knees to collect the ball. Borough almost took the lead after 31 minutes when Culpin slipped a delightful ball inside the full-back, just 10 yards inside the Gateshead half, setting Timmy Smithers free in an unaccustomed position. The midfield man set off on a 40-yard race for goal pursued by Parnaby. Smithers shot as he got into the area and keeper Kenny Dodds spread himself to block the ball.

Borough started the second half better and in the 47th minute

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a Smithers free-kick on the right found Morley on the left, his cross was blocked but fell for Culpin, who took the ball to the bye line before pulling it back, presenting a golden opportunity for McGoldrick, but Smithers got in his way and the chance was gone. Borough took the lead on the hour when Morley played the ball into the box on the right, where Culpin controlled it, turned his marker and dragged it onto his lethal left foot all in move movement, pausing only to set his sights before rifling the ball into the net for yet another quality goal.

Gateshead should have been level two minutes later, when a cross shot from Tweedy was going wide, but Henderson came racing in at the far post to slide the ball wide from close range. But in the 71st minute Borough increased their lead from a free-kick that was awarded some 25 yards from goal, for a wicked tackle by Fagan on Murphy that earned the defender a booking. Four players were involved in a free kick ploy that saw three of them dummy over the ball and Morley stopped at the last moment as the home defenders had encroached. When the kick was finally taken the Gateshead defence were still in total confusion enabling Smithers to lift his left foot shot over the wall and into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 08-04-1985

Borough: Poole, Hamill, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. **Subs:** Phillips, Anderton.
Altrincham: Dance, Constantine, Davison, Johnson, Hardman, Gardner, Anderson, Conning, Ellis, Chesters, Fagan. **Subs:** Cuddy, Smith.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Paul Culpin hit another hat-trick as Borough crushed league leaders Altrincham. Ace marksman Culpin was on target in the 40th, 55th and 68th minutes as the visitors were swept aside by another Nuneaton goal rush. Eddie McGoldrick put the show on the road with a goal after only 14 minutes, and although Altrincham pulled one back shortly after the interval they never posed a real threat to Borough's superiority.

Graham Carr's men are now unbeaten in their last eight games, including six wins and at the moment they are producing their best football of the season. All the top sides have come to Nuneaton in the last few weeks and have all been convincingly beaten as Borough have struck a rich goalscoring vein. There is no better team in the Gola League at the moment, and if Nuneaton could only have found something of their true form away from home earlier in the season they would surely have been challenging for the title.

Although the visitors started brightly, Borough had the first chance when Culpin got clear on the left and pulled the ball back into the penalty area where Frank Murphy's shot was blocked at the expense of a corner. Colin Chesters then swept a fine pass out to Phil Gardner in a lot of space on the right, but Dixey managed to scramble his cross away to safety.

Almost immediately Borough took the lead with a fine goal. Trevor Morley found McGoldrick with a superb ball from

the left and McGoldrick took it down to beat John Davison before scoring with a low drive from a right angle. Mick Thurman headed Hardman's header out from under the bar before Murphy had a close range shot blocked. Borough then increased their lead five minutes before the break. Richard Hill got up well to click on a right-wing corner and Culpin was completely unmarked on the far post to score an easy goal.

Eight minutes into the second half there was a shock for the home fans when Altrincham were gifted a goal. There seemed little danger as Gary Anderson put in a long range shot straight at Poole, but the Borough keeper allowed the ball to slip from his grasp, through his legs and over the line. However, two minutes later Nuneaton regained their two-goal lead thanks to a keeping error at the other end. McGoldrick played a fine ball beyond the Altrincham defence for Culpin to chase. Keeper Trevor Dance won the race for the ball outside the area but he miskicked and Culpin stabbed the ball into the empty net from just inside the area.

Morley then shot over from eight yards after McGoldrick had set up the chance, before Jeff Johnson saw a looping header bounce off the Nuneaton crossbar following a long free kick by Mick Fagan. But midway through the half Borough put the issue beyond doubt when a Smithers pass took a deflection to put Culpin clear and despite looking suspiciously offside he was allowed to go on and beat Dance with a cross-shot from the edge of the box.

Willenhall Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-04-1985

Borough made the journey to Noose Lane to play Willenhall in a Midland Floodlit Cup match.

Borough completed their Midland Floodlit fixtures, coming back from a two goal half-time deficit to snatch a late winner, clinching their place in the two-legged final of the competition. They should have taken the lead in the seventh minute, when Eddie McGoldrick was barged over in the area by Chris Birch, but Timmy Smithers put the resultant penalty high over the bar.

Borough continued to dominate the game, with McGoldrick creating havoc with his pace and skill on the right, but the home side took a shock two goal lead with goals in quick succession against the run of play. A free kick on the right was taken by Peyton in the 22nd minute and headed home by Birch, after Mick Thurman had slipped, and two minutes later another free-kick from a similar position taken by the same player was once more headed home, this time by Allen.

At the break, Stewart Hamill was replaced by Richard Dixey and Borough once more took control. In the 58th minute they pulled a goal back, Paul Culpin hooking a bouncing ball over his shoulder from 15 yards into the net.

The equaliser came in the 75th minute when McGoldrick set Morley free on the right with a fine ball and when Murphy dummied the cross, Culpin was on hand to hammer home the ball, taking his season's tally to 44. There were chances

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at both ends, although Borough always looked the side most likely to get the winner, which they did in the last minute, when McGoldrick took the ball past the full-back and to the goal line before crossing for Murphy to slot home from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

13-04-1985

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Phillips, Thurman.

Barnet: Humphries, Pittaway, Goodchild, Brown, Baldry, Creaser, Stein, Margerrison, Pearce, Hardy, Parker. **Subs:** Mahoney, Ferguson.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Despite the difficult, windy conditions Nuneaton dominated almost the entire match but failed to turn their superiority into goals. The visitors were hardly in the game as an attacking force but to their credit they battled away until the final whistle. Borough got the boost of a first-half goal by Frank Murphy, but despite having the wind at their backs in the second half they failed to press home their advantage.

Borough were shaken when David Pearce grabbed an equaliser for Barnet and could have been in more trouble if Duncan Hardy had capitalised on a clear-cut opening. Nuneaton had an early chance when the visitors defence was in trouble from a right wing corner but Stewart Hamill's fierce shot was blocked on the line. Paul Culpin then missed a great chance when Glyn Creaser failed to cut out a through ball and the Nuneaton striker shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

Morley had a shot deflected over the top before Bill Baldry produced a timely tackle to halt Murphy as he broke into the penalty area. The pressure finally told after 31 minutes when Tim Smithers headed down an Eddie McGoldrick cross and Murphy scored with a shot that went in off the left hand post. Barnet replied with a looping header from Stein.

At the start of the second half the visitors were under intense pressure and most of the action was in and around their penalty area. McGoldrick was causing the Barnet defence a lot of problems and from one of his crosses Richard Dixey got in a header but it was off target.



Stewart Hamill cracks in a fierce drive during the opening minutes of the game, but the effort was blocked on the line.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

With nine minutes of the second period gone there was a shock for Borough as Barnet grabbed an equaliser. There seemed little danger as Peter Brown got possession 30 yards out but he produced a tremendous shot that beat the leaping Poole and rebounded off the bar to leave Pearce the simple job of putting the ball into an empty net.

Four minutes later Hardy headed wide of a gaping goal, which stung Borough into action and Morley headed narrowly over from a Smithers cross. Culpin then raced clear to put the ball into the net, but it was disallowed. McGoldrick produced another great run on the right and his deep cross found the unmarked Murphy who put his header into the side netting. Smithers curled a shot just wide and with time running out the same player swung in a corner from the left and Richard Hill got above the Barnet defence to power in a header, but Baldry cleared off the line.



Borough manager Graham Carr is seen receiving his "Manager of the Month" award from Real Mackenzie Whisky sales executive Bill Dowler.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Carr Joins Northampton Town

Nuneaton Borough manager Graham Carr was today appointed as manager of Northampton Town after the Fourth Division club had parted company with Tony Barton. Carr, subject to agreeing terms with the Cobblers, will take over for the home game against Tranmere Rovers on Saturday.

The move will cause Borough a few problems between now and the end of the season as they still have four league games and a two-legged Midland Floodlit Cup final to play. There will be a board meeting tonight when a caretaker manager will be appointed for the remaining matches.

Borough, who are unbeaten in their last ten games, will get compensation from the Football League club.

"It is sad to see Graham go after all the hard work he has put in here," said chairman Noel Kelly.



Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 17-04-1985

Borough: Beale, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hamill.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to play Weymouth in a Gola League match.

Borough won their third successive away game, making it ten games without defeat, with another fine second half performance. The game turned on the 47th minute sending off of Weymouth full-back Bryan Lawrence, for his second bookable offence.

Goalkeeper Andy Poole was unavailable and his place was taken by young reserve Mick Beale. A first minute move by the home side soon had Borough in trouble and Mick Doherty latched onto a long ball into the box by Hedley Steele, firing narrowly wide. Beale touched Peter Rogers' shot onto the bar in the 10th minute and Richard Dixey completed the clearance. Rogers then had a super 45 yard diagonal run that took him into the box, but Beale had judged the angle well and blocked the resulting shot at the expense of a corner.

Borough should have scored in the 19th minute when a Timmy Smithers cross from the left cleared everyone, presenting Ian Bennyworth with a free header on the far side of the box, but he put his effort disappointingly over the bar. Two minutes later Weymouth full-back Lawrence jumped up and caught the ball to prevent Paul Culpin racing clear and picked up a booking.

But in the 32nd minute Borough took the lead. A Smithers' cross from the left was bundled away from Culpin by two defenders, but the ball fell for Frank Murphy who scored from 15 yards. In the 43rd minute the home side hit the woodwork again, when Iannone crossed deep for Doherty to head powerfully goalwards, but the ball hit the post. Borough were somewhat fortunate to be leading at the break but in the 47th minute the pattern of the game was totally changed when Lawrence scythed down McGoldrick and was sent off.

A 63rd minute move saw Hill clear Agana's dangerous cross and a minute later Beale produced a brilliant save, catching the ball at full stretch after Brown looked certain to equalise with a fierce cross shot. At the other end Judd made a similar save from Hill's effort. Smithers raced onto Culpin's pass, but screwed his shot wide with only the keeper to beat. However, in the 72nd minute Borough extended their lead. Murphy found Culpin unmarked in the centre of the goal and he took his time before lashing home with his lethal left foot for his 45th goal of the season.

It was now all over bar the shouting and in the 84th minute Culpin played a ball into the box for Morley, who battled well and burst past two defenders before putting the ball into the net. Weymouth pulled a goal back in the last minute when Dixey made a terrible hash of a back pass, leaving Brown to push the ball home past Beale.

Dixey Made Caretaker Manager

Skipper Richard Dixey has been appointed as caretaker manager of Nuneaton Borough. Dixey will do the job until the end of the season with the assistance of Tim Smithers and Dave Lewis. Announcing the decision, chairman Noel Kelly said that the big defender would do the job until the end of the season when the post would be advertised.

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 20-04-1985

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Phillips, Thurman.

Wealdstone: Iles, Perkins, Davies, Byatt, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, Holmes, A. Cordice, Graves Donellan. **Subs:** Johnson, N. Cordice.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Paul Culpin's magnificent goal five minutes from the end was enough to give Borough a thoroughly deserved win over the league leaders. With time running out it looked odds on a stalemate as the defensive minded visitors continued to pack their goalmouth. But Culpin took a flick by Trevor Morley on his shoulder on the edge of the box, turned his marker, and drilled a superb left-foot shot into the far bottom corner.

It was no more than Borough deserved for they and their fans had been forced to endure a frustrating afternoon as Wealdstone employed out-and-out spoiling tactics. The Londoners, chasing a league and FA Trophy double, never even offered to make a game of it and in the end they got what they deserved – nothing.

Borough might have taken an early lead when the Stones defence failed to clear an Eddie McGoldrick cross and Stuart Hamill's fiercely struck shot from the edge of the box flew only inches over. Andy Poole then had to react quickly as Alan Cordice threatened to get on the end of a long through ball from Lee Holmes. Mark Graves forced a low diving save from Poole and the Borough keeper was happy to smother the ball at the second attempt.

But that was virtually the last direct threat from the visitors as they retreated behind a massed defence. Morley did manage to work himself a bit of space on the right, but Ian Bennyworth failed to reach the cross by inches and the Stones cleared the danger. Borough again had nearly all the possession after the break but continued to meet problems as Wealdstone had all eleven players back in the penalty area on several occasions.

Culpin looked to have solved the riddle ten minutes after the restart when he brilliantly turned past Paul Bowgett but keeper Bob Iles punched the shot away for a corner. Two minutes later the Borough striker picked up a rare caution after he had collided with Iles on the edge of the area. Wainwright then sliced an intended clearance into his own penalty area and Frank Murphy volleyed wide of the left-hand post. Murphy then flicked on a long clearance, Morley shrugged off two defenders on the edge of the area

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and turned to hit a right footer narrowly over the top. The action was still all in the visitors penalty area and Richard Hill brought Iles to his knees with a long range effort and then had a goalbound shot blocked by Byatt. Just as it seemed that Wealdstone's tactics would get them an undeserved point up popped Culpin with his 46th goal of the season to send the fans home happy.



The Wealdstone defence comes under pressure and Roy Davies is happy to hook the ball clear with Trevor Morley and Richard Hill in close attendance.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow

22-04-1985

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. Subs: Phillips, Thurman.

Borough welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Paul Culpin carved himself a piece of Gola League history when he scored all five goals as Borough destroyed Barrow. His incredible goalscoring burst equalled the best ever in the league's six-year lifespan, set by Barrow's Colin Cowperthwaite. Borough's ace marksman was at his brilliant best as he took his season's tally to 51 and the Manor Park outfit stretched their unbeaten run to 12 games.

Despite going behind to a shock 25th minute goal by Wayne Aspinall, Nuneaton were always in control as Culpin hammered in a first-half hat-trick. He added two more penalties after the interval to take Borough's total for the season to 79 – the highest scorers in the league. Nuneaton's win gave them another Gola League record – the first club to complete a home programme unbeaten.

But there was one disappointment for Borough as they were denied top spot in the table. For although Altrincham lost at Frickley, Wealdstone beat Kettering 1-0 in a match brought forward by 24 hours.

It was all Nuneaton in the opening stages with Culpin having a goalbound shot blocked and then Trevor Morley saw his rising drive bounce clear off the underside of the bar. Willie Gibson hammered a volley a foot wide of the left-hand post from an Eddie McGoldrick centre before Frank Murphy had a

goal disallowed for offside. But five minutes later there was a shock for Borough when Gibson's back pass was intercepted by Steve Smith who back-heeled the ball into the box for Aspinall to beat Andy Poole with a shot inside the near post. As Borough hit back Culpin had a volley blocked on the line but Barrow's reprieve was short-lived as Nuneaton equalised on the half-hour.

Gibson's through ball split the visitors' defence and Culpin raced clear to volley a left footer past Kevin Brockbank from just inside the box. Andy Wharton then cleared off the line from Richard Hill and Morley flashed a drive inches over the top. However, five minutes before the break another long through ball saw Culpin hold off two men to fire another cross-shot into the bottom corner. Almost on the stroke of half-time Culpin completed his hat-trick with a carbon copy of his first two, again giving Brockbank no chance.

There was more trouble for the visitors 11 minutes after the restart when Geoff Armes brought Morley down in the box and Culpin sent the keeper the wrong way with his spot kick. Borough got another penalty when Culpin played a superb ball into the box for Morley who was hacked down by Andy Wharton. Culpin again scored from the spot.

But the visitors had the last word when Ronnie Goodlass got free on the left and Andy Kale was unmarked as he turned in the cross from close range.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough

27-04-1985

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick (Phillips 28). Sub: Thurman.

Borough made the journey to The Huish to play Yeovil Town in a Gola League match.

For a full 90 minutes Borough and relegated Yeovil struggled to come to terms with a high wind, hard pitch and the notorious Huish slope, but just as the game appeared to be drifting into an uninspired draw, almost inevitably, up popped Paul Culpin to settle the issue with another superb match winning goal. It was the striker's 52nd goal of the season, taking him to within three goals of breaking the club goalscoring record he equalled last term and extended Borough's unbeaten run to 13 games, lifting them into top spot in the process.

Caretaker manager Richard Dixey named the same side that had faced Barrow. Borough could have fallen behind in the fourth minute when a high ball bounced on the hard pitch over everyone except ex-Bristol City striker Tom Ritchie, who looped a header wide of Poole, only for the high wind to drift the ball onto the post, from where it was scrambled clear.

Borough's reply was immediate and a fine cross from Eddie McGoldrick on the right was headed powerfully wide by Frank Murphy. Borough took the lead in the 13th minute with Trevor Morley's 13th goal of the season. The striker tried his luck with a speculative shot from fully 30 yards, that although well

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struck seemed to have been covered by Grant Northover in the Yeovil goal. However, the goalkeeper seemed to dive over the ball that entered the net at the far post.

Poole in the Borough goal was called on to deal with dangerous crosses twice in quick succession, the first he caught well under pressure and the second he elected to punch, as far as Richard Hill on the edge of the area, who completed the clearance. In the 26th minute a swirling cross from McGoldrick forced Northover to tip away for a corner, but that was the winger's last contribution as he limped off to be replaced by Phillips. The substitute came on as full-back with Stewart Hamill pushing forward to fill a role wide on the right.

The home side equalised in the 49th minute when the ball bounced over Richard Dixey and as Willie Gibson got above John McGinley to head clear the referee awarded a penalty for pushing. McGinley himself overcame his surprise and stepped up to equalise. In the 58th minute good control by Culpin in midfield gained him a yard and he pushed a fine through ball for Murphy, but Northover was quickly off his line to claim the ball. Two minutes later Yeovil should have taken the lead when a deep cross up the slope from James on the right found Martin Tooze racing in at the far post to put his free header over the bar.

In the 67th minute it was the home side's turn for a let-off, a fine run and cross by Hamill on the right ending with Murphy shooting goalwards on the turn, only for his goalbound effort to strike Culpin on the edge of the six yard box before being scrambled clear. But as the game entered injury time, looking a certain draw, the ball was played into Culpin with his back to goal, he brought it under control, turned to his right, gained a yard and taking his time lashed it home with his right foot from ten yards.

Northampton Target Borough Players

Already, Graham Carr's departure to manage Northampton Town is beginning to look ominous for Borough. Some felt that Carr might be limited by lack of money, but yesterday's announcement that new Northampton chairman Derek Banks will make cash available changed that and today Carr confirmed that Northampton might be interested in signing at least two Nuneaton players – and it is no secret that Trevor Morley and scoring sensation Paul Culpin are high on his list.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 04-05-1985

Worcester: Hayward, Selby, McGrath, Hughes, Knox, Webster, Richardson, Mogford, Wright, Dale (Gunnell 55), Dey. **Sub:** Lane.

Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Phillips, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGodrick. **Subs:** Carr, Thurman.

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Gola League match.

Borough finished their league campaign on a high note, clinching runners-up spot and extending their unbeaten run to 14 games with their fifth successive away win, relegating

hapless Worcester City in the process. They had struggled for nearly an hour to overcome the stiff challenge of a Worcester side, who knew they had to win to stand an outside chance of avoiding the drop, but when the home side began to push forward in search of the winning goal, Borough exposed the gaps left at the back mercilessly.

Striker Frank Murphy, who has spent the season in the shadow of Paul Culpin, underlined his own goalscoring ability, helping himself to a second-half hat-trick, taking his tally for the season to 28 and with Culpin himself notching the other goal, the partnership has yielded 81 goals this term.

Stewart Hamill was missing from the line up, spending the summer playing in Finland, his place being taken by Brendan Phillips with Everton Carr back after a long injury taking a place on the substitute's bench. The game started slowly but in the fourth minute Borough had quite a scare when Bryan Mogford got round the back of the defence on the left, his low hard cross cum shot, forcing Andy Poole in the Borough goal to his knees to make a fine save. Two minutes later Borough had their first chance and looked certain to open the scoring when Culpin was put clear by Smithers. The striker took the ball round Paul Hayward, but was forced wide and when his shot eventually came in the goalkeeper had recovered to make a fine save at the expense of a corner.

Worcester were posing all sorts of problems, getting round the back on both flanks with alarming regularity and in the 21st minute almost opened their account. Mogford was again the supplier, getting to the goal line on the right, his cross being met first-time by ex-Borough man Gareth Dale and the ball crashing against the face of the bar before being scrambled behind for a corner. Borough won a free-kick after McGoldrick was hauled down by Richardson, but McGoldrick put the ball wide.

Borough looked sharper after the break and a delightful 49th minute move almost brought the first goal. McGoldrick broke quickly on the right and his cross was dummied by Morley and Murphy running to Hill who came storming in from the far side of the area to connect with a fierce left foot shot that whistled just past the post. Seconds later Hayward produced a brilliant save from Culpin at point blank range as Borough began to take control and it came as no surprise when they took the lead in the 53rd minute.

The goal was fortunately conceived when a clearance from McGrath struck Hughes and rebounded into the path of Murphy who raced on to slip the ball under the body of the advancing Hayward. Three minutes later the home side were level when Knox turned Ian Bennyworth in the box, tempting the defender into a rash tackle. The referee awarded a penalty and Hughes stepped up to blast the ball home. Once level Worcester pushed forward in search of the winning goal they had to get, but left alarming gaps at the back, that Borough were destined to punish.

In the 69th minute a long clearance from Poole looked



to present no problem for Webster and Hughes, poised unchallenged mid-way in the Worcester half to head clear, however, they both left it to each other and both missed the ball, which bounced over them to Murphy, who raced through, rounded Hayward and slipped the ball into the empty net. Two minutes later it was three when Culpin was played clear on the right of the threadbare Worcester defence and he ran on to hammer past Hayward for his 53rd goal of the season. Borough scored a fourth in the 78th minute with the Worcester defence in total disarray. Morley pushed the ball to the left where Murphy had to fight off a challenge from team mate Culpin for the right of administering the coup de grace, which he did, completing a superb hat-trick.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 06-05-1985

VS Rugby: Marsden, McGinty, Hughes, Knox, Harrison, Gorman, Ingram, Carmichael, Downes, Conway, Crawley. **Subs:** Gardner, McKay.
Borough: Poole, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Phillips, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Carr, Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Butlin Road to play the first leg of the Midland Floodlit Cup final.

Borough go into the second leg on level terms, after coming from behind to draw level with a magnificent goal by Eddie McGoldrick. VS Rugby had the better of the first period and should have increased their lead early in the second half, but Borough found their feet after an hour and poured on the pressure that brought the goal that sets up an intriguing second leg.

The home side started in determined mood and in the second minute Andy Poole was forced to make a brave save at the feet of Chris Downes, after a fine through ball by Tommy Gorman. In the tenth minute Frank Murphy saw a dipping 25-yard shot pass just over the bar, but VS Rugby were proving very competitive opponents and took the lead in the 14th minute with a fine goal. Dave Ingram wide on the right hit a superbly flighted cross and ex-Bedworth striker Chris Downes moved in to plant a powerful header wide of Poole, giving the goalkeeper no chance.

The home side continued to fight for every ball and Borough were beginning to realise they had a game on their hands, a fine move involving Conway and Ingram nearly providing Downes with a far post chance, but the ball was just a fraction too deep. In the 25th minute Borough nearly drew level with an outstanding piece of Culpin enterprise, picking the ball up midway in the VS Rugby half and jinking inside two lunging tackles before hitting the post with a fierce 30 yard drive.

The home side started the second half brightly and should have increased their lead in the 48th minute when Ian Crawley was left with just Poole to beat, only to put the ball past the goalkeeper and the post. But as the half wore on Borough began to take command and Ian Marsden made three first class saves and in the 70th minute dived low to his left to save a Culpin penalty after McGoldrick had been

brought down. But he was powerless to stop Borough's equaliser in the 75th minute, a deep swinging cross by Timmy Smithers being met by McGoldrick on the far side of the area, who powered home a magnificent header.

Borough continued to control the game, but it was VS Rugby who came closest to snatching victory when with just six minutes remaining a fine run and cross by Stuart Carmichael was headed over the bar by the unmarked Ian Crawley on the far side of the box just eight yards out.

Dixey Wins Manager Of The Month

Nuneaton Borough caretaker manager Richard Dixey is believed to have made history by becoming the fastest winner of any "Manager of the Month" award. Dixey, the Gola League April award winner, earned the honour after just three games in charge following the departure of Graham Carr to Northampton in the middle of that month.

Nuneaton Borough v VS Rugby 08-05-1985

Borough: Beale, Hill, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Phillips, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Carr, Thurman.

VS Rugby: Marsden, McGinty, Hughes, Knox, Harrison, Gorman, Ingram, Carmichael, Downes, Conway (Gardener 23), Crawley. **Sub:** McKay.

Borough welcomed VS Rugby to Manor Park to play the second leg of the Midland Floodlit Cup final.

Borough failed to put the icing on their season when they slipped to a shock defeat. Former Borough striker Ian Crawley was the man who dampened the celebrations as he grabbed both goals for the visitors. But the real hero for VS was another ex-Borough man, goalkeeper Ian Marsden. He produced several first-class saves to deny the home forwards and when he was beaten the woodwork rescued him on three occasions. It was never a game for the purists and a scrappy encounter ended with two players being sent off, one from each side, and two others being booked.

VS harried and chased and in general made life difficult for the home side as caretaker manager Richard Dixey had predicted before the game. Borough made an encouraging start with a surging run by Richard Hill only ending when Steve Knox managed to block the shot. But there was a shock for the home fans when Rugby went in front after only four minutes. Crawley went past Ian Bennyworth on the right and Mick Beale, standing in for the unavailable Andy Poole, got both hands to the low cross, but only succeeded in helping the ball into the net.

Tom Gorman was then booked for a crude foul on Hill before Borough equalised after 17 minutes. Willie Gibson and Trevor Morley were involved in a neat build-up on the left and Tim Smithers' centre was firmly headed home by Eddie McGoldrick via a post. Marsden then did well to turn a McGoldrick shot over the top before Brendan Phillips was booked for bringing down Stuart Carmichael. Borough missed a great chance to go in front at the start of the second

half when Morley played Paul Culpin clear in the box, but Marsden raced out to block the shot with his feet.

The game suddenly exploded with two players sent off in the space of seven minutes. Phillips got his marching orders for his second bookable offence against Mark Hughes and he was quickly followed by Gorman after he had brought down Hill. Sixteen minutes from the end lady luck smiled on VS when Hill's header from McGoldrick's centre smacked against the crossbar and Murphy also hit the woodwork from the rebound. John McGinty became the fourth player to be cautioned at the start of extra-time and then Hill was again denied by the woodwork with a cracking drive from the edge of the box.

Culpin missed a clear chance, shooting wide from ten yards after Murphy had set up the opening and Borough were to regret that miss. The second period of extra-time was only a minute old when Beale mis-punched a centre from the left and Chris Downes' shot looked to be going wide when it was turned in at the far post by Crawley, who looked to be well offside.

Nuneaton pressed forward in search of an equaliser, but Marsden was equal to anything they had to offer and was largely instrumental in Borough's first home defeat in 50 competitive games.

Culpin Again Player Of The Year



Nuneaton Borough goal ace Paul Culpin has again been voted the Manor Park club's "Player of the Year." Culpin scored 53 goals during the past season, to add to his record-equalling 54 goals the previous year, as Borough took the runners-up spot in the Gola League for the second year in succession.

Tim Smithers, another player who had an outstanding season, picked up the "Away Player of the Year" award.

They are pictured with their trophies at last night's presentation evening held at the Borough Social Club along with caretaker manager Richard Dixey who was voted Gola League Manager of the Month for April.



Borough received their Gola League runners-up trophy after the second leg game against VS Rugby, following their magnificent run-in to the season that saw them unbeaten in the last fourteen league games. But the celebrations were slightly dampened by VS Rugby, who pulled off a shock 2-1 win in the second leg of the Midland Floodlit Cup final at Manor Park.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Morley Requests Free Transfer

Trevor Morley has made a written request to the directors that he be granted a free transfer after spending five years at Manor Park. He handed in his letter following Wednesday's Midland Floodlit Cup final against VS Rugby. But Morley, who cost Borough £7,700 when he moved from Corby Town, is almost certain to have his request turned down.

Gola League 1984-85

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wealdstone	42	20	10	12	64	54	62
Nuneaton Borough	42	19	14	9	85	53	58
Dartford	42	17	13	12	57	48	57
Bath City	42	21	9	12	52	49	57
Altrincham	42	21	6	15	63	47	56
Scarborough	42	17	13	12	69	62	54
Enfield	42	17	13	12	84	61	53
Kidderminster Harriers	42	17	8	17	79	77	51
Northwich Victoria	42	16	11	15	50	46	50
Telford United	42	15	14	13	59	54	49
Frickley Athletic	42	18	7	17	65	71	49
Kettering Town	42	15	12	15	68	59	48
Maidstone United	42	15	13	14	58	51	48
Runcorn	42	13	15	14	48	47	48
Barnet	42	15	11	16	59	52	47
Weymouth	42	15	13	14	70	66	45
Boston United	42	15	10	17	69	69	45
Barrow	42	11	16	15	47	57	43
Dagenham	42	13	10	19	47	67	41
Worcester City	42	12	9	21	55	84	38
Gateshead	42	9	12	21	51	82	33
Yeovil Town	42	6	11	25	44	87	25

Richardson's League Career In Doubt

Former Nuneaton Borough midfielder Paul Richardson faces an anxious two week wait before knowing if his Football League career will come to an end. The twenty-two-year-old Richardson, who left Nuneaton last August to join Derby County in a £15,000 deal, has been suffering from an attack of thrombosis which threatens to bring a premature halt to his playing days.

He has had a series of blood tests to try and diagnose the seriousness of the illness but the results of the tests will not be known for at least a fortnight.

Borough Turn Down Culpin Offers

The future of Nuneaton Borough scoring sensation Paul Culpin is again hanging in the balance following two verbal transfer bids from Northampton Town. Borough chairman Noel Kelly confirmed that Northampton, managed by former Manor Park boss Graham Carr, had offered £15,000 for the Gola League's top scorer.

Kelly also said that a £25,000 bid for Culpin and Trevor

Morley had been made, but that both valuations fell far short of Borough's expectations. Now the two clubs are at loggerheads, with Northampton adamant that the joint bid of £25,000 is the final offer. Noel Kelly said today though that the two stars will not leave Nuneaton at that price.

"I was very upset when the original offer of £15,000 was made for Culpin. There is no way Graham Carr would have allowed him to leave at that price when he was in charge here."

Kelly said the £25,000 bid was also way short of the mark, especially as it consisted of a down payment of around £10,000 with the balance spread over a length of time.

But with Trevor Morley having handed in a transfer request and Paul Culpin also setting his sights on League football, Kelly admits that the players' departure looks to be just a matter of time.

"I am as keen as the man in the street to see trophies at the Borough, but you cannot stand in the way of players aiming to better themselves. I have seen it all before with players such as Trevor Peake and Kirk Stephens, all we want is a fair price," added Kelly.



Paul Culpin's left foot volley is on its way into the top corner of the net for the Borough striker's one hundredth goal for the club against Dagenham at Manor Park.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Wisbech Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Fenland Park to play Wisbech Town in a First Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Wisbech: Hudson, Jones, Ward, Taylor, Mattless, Rider, Wiles, Brighty, McManus (Scase 28), Gallagher, Tyler.

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Duggan.

For the first time this season Graham Carr was able to choose from his full squad with John Glover and Andy Poole back after injury. Richard Hill moved into midfield to replace the departed Barry Lowe.

The opening exchanges gave no clue as to the goal glut to follow, although Borough did have a first minute free-kick on the left from which Smithers set Morley free and the striker took the ball to the bye-line before pulling a cross back to the edge of the box from where Stewart Hamill's shot was blocked.

Wisbech then gave hope to their own fans in the healthy crowd, first when Poole dropped a corner, being forced to reclaim the ball with a rather undignified scramble, and then Brighty failed to control the ball in front of goal following a free-kick.

But Borough settled their nerves, taking the lead in the 19th minute. Frank Murphy put Hamill clear on the left and his cross was met by Morley whose well directed header gave home goalkeeper Hudson no chance.

The home side should have equalised a minute later when a Glover slip let in Wiles, who had so much time he was able to steady himself and pick his spot, but Poole did well to block the shot, McGoldrick scrambling the ball clear.

The miss was to prove costly and in the 24th minute Borough went further into the lead when Hamill lashed home the ball from wide on the right after it had fallen invitingly for him with time and space available.

Wisbech pulled a goal back in the 28th

minute when Jackie Gallagher slotted home from close range, after a Rider shot had been blocked, but they were only briefly in contention as Borough restored their two goal advantage just six minutes later.

Hill latched onto a loose ball in midfield before powering forward and unleashing a fine drive that struck the foot of the post before rebounding to Murphy, who took his time, waited for the goalkeeper to commit himself, before scoring with a delightful chip.

After the break Borough really ran riot and increased their lead with a magnificent 61st minute goal. Murphy played the ball wide for Hamill and his superb pass behind the defence across the face of the goal was met by Culpin who drove home first time.

It was five in the 75th minute when Hill, revelling in his midfield role, surged forward, robbed McManus and hammered home from 20 yards with his left foot.

The home side were given some respite with Borough being unable to find the target for ten minutes, but in the 85th minute they scored their sixth when Murphy's drive was brilliantly saved by Hudson, only for the ball to fall for the deadly Culpin, who lashed it home with some aplomb.

It was looking at this stage as if Borough were going to score every time they received the ball, but it was the home side who had the final word, scoring a magnificent goal with just two minutes remaining.

Dixey gave away an unnecessary free-kick that was touched to Wiles who steadied himself before hitting a left foot shot that screamed into the top left hand corner of the net, for a memorable if academic goal.

All that remained was for Wisbech keeper Hugson to rob Culpin of a hat-trick with a last minute save from a header, leaping backwards to tip the ball over the bar as the striker prepared to celebrate.

So Borough through with few problems and they seemed to enjoy their respite from Gola League action, but they will not get carried away as they will be the first to realise that Wisbech were simply not in the same class and will be glad to return to the gentler climes of the Eastern Counties League in which they remain unbeaten.

Irthlingborough Diamonds — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to play Irthlingborough Diamonds in a Second Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Irthlingborough: Smith, Hamilton, Head, Ashby, Garratt, Dunn, Phipps, Pownall, Clayton, McGuire, Atkinson. Sub: Kurila.

Borough: Poole, McGoldrick, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Carr.

Borough overcame the potentially tricky tie with the utmost ease, dominating the game from start to finish and with a little steadier finishing could well have made the rout a complete humiliation.

Borough took control from the very beginning and forced two corners within a minute followed two minutes later by Timmy Smithers setting Culpin free on the left, but as the striker raced into the box he trod on the ball and the chance was gone.

Stuart Hamill then had a sharp chance on the right, but his cross shot was blocked by player-manager Roger Ashby and the ball was hacked clear by Tim Head.

Borough ripped apart the square home rearguard at will and it came as no surprise when they took a 12th minute lead.

Irthlingborough had pushed out from defence and when Ashby's clearance was blocked, the ball fell for Frank Murphy almost on the edge of the centre-circle.

The striker then set off for goal with defenders trailing in his wake and as the home goalkeeper George Smith

stood frozen to his line the ex-Kettering man slipped the ball past him from some 12 yards out.

Culpin then missed two good chances and in the 16th minute forced Smith into a brilliant save with Richard Hill providing the chance with a pass of slide rule precision and the striker took full advantage hitting the ball first time from the edge of the box, Smith tipping the ball over the bar.

But the goal hungry Culpin was not to be denied and in the 20th minute increased Borough's lead. A Garratt clearance hit Hill in the chest on the edge of the box and with McGuire and Smith hesitant, Culpin nipped in to slip the ball home from close range.

If the first two goals were somewhat fortuitous in their build up the third, in the 29th minute, was indeed a classic. Timmy Smithers getting to the bye line, pulling the ball back into the path of Culpin, who lashed the ball into the roof of the net with his trusty left foot from an oblique angle 12 yards from goal.

Borough were now running riot, creating chances at will and in the 40th minute stretched the advantage to four with another superb goal, a long ball into the box from Willie Gibson being delightfully controlled by Murphy, who proceeded to turn and score in the same movement.

The second period continued in the same vein as the first and in the 48th minute a well worked free-kick on the left saw Smithers get round the back of the defence yet again, pulling the ball back to the edge of the area where John Glover prodded the ball over the bar.

Culpin then snatched at a half chance on the edge of the box, completely missing the ball and in the 57th minute it seemed certain that Murphy would be first to his hat-trick.

Smithers hit a superb ball across the face of the Irthingborough defence, from deep in his own half, putting Murphy clear and he raced into the

area, but as he rounded the goalkeeper, Head, who had tracked him back, got a foot to the ball, being relieved to only conceded a corner.

Then in the 29th minute Diamonds should have scored a consolation goal, when Atkinson headed a Phipps cross wide when he seemed certain to score.

Not surprisingly after the four goal first half the second period had become much of an anti-climax, with the game dead and buried and Borough finding it hard to maintain their momentum.

But in the 85th minute they completed their nap hand, when Culpin rounded the goalkeeper before slipping the ball into the empty net to finalise the home side's misery.

Gainsborough Trinity — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Gainsborough Trinity to Manor Park to play a Third Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Thurman.

Gainsborough: Ingham, Jones, Taylor, Lodge, Bennyworth, Clayton, Snee, Seneschal, Gauden, Szabo, Brolly. Sub: Dunderdale.

Paul Culpin maintained his incredible

scoring record in this season's FA Cup as he hit both goals to book Nuneaton's place in the final qualifying round. Borough's ace marksman struck twice in the second half to condemn the battling Northern Premier League outfit to defeat and take his tally to seven in just three games.

The first came after Stewart Hamill latched on to a long high ball from Tim Smithers in the 53rd minute and turned it across the area to leave Culpin with the easiest of chances.

His second arrived just four minutes from the end when Gary Ingham could only parry Willie Gibson's shot and Culpin picked up the rebound to fire home from close range.

It was sweet revenge for the Manor Park outfit who still have memories of going out against Trinity two seasons ago after a replay.

But Borough didn't have things all their own way and they were made to work hard for their victory in a typically bruising cup tie.

In fact the visitors had the better of the opening exchanges and if they had made more of a couple of early chances they may well have caused an upset.



Trinity keeper Gary Ingham has just parried Willie Gibson's shot and can only watch as Paul Culpin lashes in Borough's second goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Tim Smithers is sent sprawling by Ian Bennyworth, but Borough's penalty appeals were turned down.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton had Hamill and Richard Hill back from injury but were still without suspended Eddie McGoldrick with Everton Carr continuing at right back.

The visitors made a brisk start with Andy Poole being forced to punch away a centre by Andy Brolly while under pressure and then Gary Clayton wasted a free-kick from the edge of the box.

Borough were stung into action and Ingham had to react swiftly to snatch the ball from Culpin's toes as he burst through on goal.

At the other end there was more anxiety for the home supporters when Andy Lodge's swinging corner bounced off the top of the crossbar and away to safety.

Nuneaton might have gone in front on the quarter hour mark when Ashley Taylor only cleared a cross to the edge of the box but Ingham produced a fine diving save to deny Hill.

Hill went close again a couple of minutes later with a header that flew inches over the top after Frank Murphy had flicked on a Hamill cross.

Nuneaton were on top at this stage and

they had heated appeals for a penalty turned down when Ian Bennyworth appeared to bring down Smithers in the box.

But Borough had a let-off when Poole dropped a high ball and Clayton scooped it over the top from just eight yards out.

Trinity had keeper Ingham to thank for being on level terms at the interval when he turned a Culpin shot onto the bar and then safely gathered in the rebound.

Culpin's goal, eight minutes into the second half took a lot of fire out of the visitors and from then on it was an uphill struggle for Gainsborough.

The game had developed into a series of niggling fouls and referee Danson finally took some action, booking Nuneaton's Hill for a foul on Snee.

To their credit Trinity kept pushing forward in search of an equaliser and Carr did well to shut out Bob Gauden at the expense of a corner.

The Gainsborough striker then got completely free when Dixey misjudged a high through ball, but the home

defender hacked him down from behind to become the second booking of the afternoon.

Culpin beat three men in a tight situation in the box to hammer in a fine shot that brought another fine save from Ingham and the ball was finally scrambled away for a corner.

Morley was halted in full flight by a crude lunge from Clayton who was also booked.

Hill then saw his header from Hamill's corner bounce off the bar with Ingham beaten and Murphy flashed a header narrowly over the top.

But any hopes that Gainsborough had of forcing a replay disappeared with Culpin's second goal shortly before the end.

Hednesford Town — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to The Cross Keys to play a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Hednesford: Sharrard, McCloud, Page, Massey, Foster (Fox), G. Glover, Youll, Unitt, King, Branch, Winwood.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, J. Glover, Smithers, McGoldrick, Thurman, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Bradley.

Borough cruised through to the First Round Proper with a thoroughly professional performance, brushing aside the challenge of a Hednesford side still bubbling after beating Northern Premier League outfit Witton Albion in a second replay.

Frank Murphy was ruled out with a foot injury and Stewart Hamill was missing for personal reasons. Eddie McGoldrick was pushed forward to fill Hamill's role, with Everton Carr playing right-back and Mick Thurman in for Murphy.

The home side showed significant early respect for their visitors and it was Borough who took control of the match from the beginning. Trevor Morley having the first shot at goal in the fifth minute, when he was given the ball from a short free-kick on the right taken



Eddie McGoldrick gives Borough the lead, brilliantly chipping Sharrard in the Hednesford goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

by Carr, the striker forcing Sharrard to save low down.

Morley was again prominent in the eleventh minute putting Culpin clear on the right with a fine through ball, however, the striker took the ball wide before showing a distinct lack of confidence, pulling the ball across goal instead of having a shot, no one being in a position to apply a finishing touch.

The Pitmen forced a couple of corners and from the second in the 14th minute Les Youll headed narrowly wide, although Carr was well placed on the line to watch the ball go past the post.

Borough hit straight back in the 16th minute. Frank McCleod was forced to sweep across to rob McGoldrick as he burst through and then less than a minute later Sharrard was forced to slide out and fly hack clear from Smithers as he seemed set to slip the ball home from the edge of the box.

Then good work on the right by McGoldrick ended in a fine cross that Culpin met at the near post, but he could not get a clean strike at goal, the ball bobbling wide for a goal kick.

But Borough were not to be denied and in the 20th minute they took the lead with a magnificent goal, when Thurman found McGoldrick on the edge of the area and he checked inside, pulling the ball onto his right foot before brilliantly chipping Sharrard.

Borough were now in full cry and in the 29th minute Morley put McGoldrick in a good position on the right, but his shot was wide and high, however, within a minute he had helped to make amends by playing his part in the second goal.

Carr made a good overlap on the right, that the home defenders were painfully slow in spotting. McGoldrick slipping the ball into his path and the full-back hit a well flighted cross to the far side of the area, Culpin ducking under the ball, allowing Morley to pick his spot with a fine header.

Borough were in complete command but on the stroke of half-time the Pitmen could have pulled a goal back when Mark Unitt hit the face of the bar with a snap shot, the ball being cleared by the relieved Borough defence.

The second half was a complete anticlimax with Borough so much in control as to make it all look so easy, with John Glover marshalling his defence in fine style whenever Hednesford looked like causing problems.

The only real surprise was that it took until the 87th minute for Borough to increase their lead, Carr slipping the ball to Culpin who took it round the keeper before slotting home from an oblique angle for his eighth FA Cup goal of the season.

Hednesford were visibly deflated and a minute later the rout was complete

when Morley converted a McGoldrick cross at the near post, for Borough's 17th goal in just four FA Cup ties this season.

Scunthorpe United — 1st Round Proper

Borough welcomed Scunthorpe United to Manor Park to play a First Round Proper FA Cup tie.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Thurman.

Scunthorpe: Neenan, Lees, Pointon, Matthews, Whitehead, Green, Broddie, Cammack, Stanley, Lester, Cowling. Sub: Brolly.

Battling Borough came within an ace of booking their place in the second round of the FA Cup in a rugged tie. The Fourth Division side were under heavy pressure late in the game but just hung on to earn a replay.



Richard Hill hammers in a shot and a split second later Manor Park erupted as the ball flew into the net to level the scores.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But Nuneaton's biggest crowd of the season must believe that their side can still do it after a tremendously gutsy performance on a heavy pitch.

Borough had to overcome the disappointment of conceding an own goal after 14 minutes and showed tremendous character to force their way back into the contest.

In fact, apart from a 15 minute spell midway through the first half, Nuneaton were more than a match for their Football League opponents.

And if they had shown a little more composure in front of goal they might well have gone through without the need of a replay.

As it was the Scunthorpe party was delighted to make the journey home with a draw and a second chance with home advantage.

Midfield man Eddie McGoldrick failed to recover from his hamstring injury and Everton Carr came in at right back with Richard Hill filling the midfield vacancy.

Borough were the first to threaten and Frank Murphy had an early opening but his shot lacked the power to trouble Joe Neenan in the visitors' goal.

Neil Pointon then picked out Chris Cowling with a superb cross field ball as Scunthorpe hit back, but John Glover cut out the cross at the expense of a corner.

Mick Matthews had a shot saved by Poole before play was switched to the other end where Hill dragged his shot wide from the edge of the box.

But the visitors silenced the home fans by taking a shock lead after only 14 minutes.

Steve Cammack found some space wide on the right and when he drilled in a hard, low cross Borough skipper Richard Dixey, under pressure from Cowling, turned the ball into his own net.

Scunthorpe came close to adding a second when Alan Whitehead got up well to a right wing cross and his flick-on was turned narrowly past the post by Cowling.

There was danger for the visitors when Glover got in a header from a Carr

centre, but John Green scrambled the ball clear with Neenan struggling.

Borough were now beginning to call the tune and their pressure finally paid off with a deserved equaliser after 32 minutes.

Stewart Hamill got in a deep cross from the right and found the unmarked Hill, who had time to chest the ball down before firing past Neenan from 12 yards.

Paul Culpin beat the visitors offside trap just before the interval but Matthews got back to cut out the cross.

At the start of the second half Matthews had a shot blocked and Paul Stanley, making his first team debut, fired a drive inches wide of Poole's right hand post.

Nuneaton came storming back and Willie Gibson made a fine run before hitting a 25 yard shot that dipped just over the bar.

Hill and Stanley then clashed heads going for a high ball in the centre circle and the Borough man needed a lengthy spell of treatment before being able to carry on.

Both sides were pushing men forward in an effort to force a winner and tempers started to become a little frayed.

Painton brought down Carr and was booked, quickly to be followed by Terry Lees for a foul on Tim Smithers.

Trevor Morley worked himself into a shooting position on the edge of the box and was unlucky to see his effort deflect off Whitehead and fly straight into the keeper's hands.

The visitors then had a chance when Mike Lester latched onto a poor clearance by Dixey but he hammered his shot over the top.

Morley became the third player to be booked for a foul on Lester before Matthews clipped the top of the bar after Cowling had flicked on a high cross.

The tempo was now hotting up and Green's name went in the book for bringing down Morley as Nuneaton started to apply the pressure.

Hill made a superb break and his fierce drive flashed narrowly the wrong side of Neenan's left-hand post.

But Borough's best chance came with the game deep into injury time and everything looking odds on a replay.

Culpin got clear in the box, went wide of Neenan, but his shot flew across the face of the goal and past the far post.

With the visitors grimly hanging on, Lester became the fifth and final booking of a typical no holds barred cup tie.

Scunthorpe United — 1st Round Proper Replay

Borough made the journey to The Old Show Ground to play Scunthorpe United in a FA Cup 1st Round Proper replay.

Scunthorpe: Neenan, Lees, Pointon, Matthews, Whitehead, Green, Broddie, Cammack, Stanley (Brolly 65), Lester, Cowling.

Borough: Poole, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Glover, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Thurman.

Brave Borough bowed out of the FA Cup on a wet and miserable night in South Humberside, after making a dream start and leading their Canon League Fourth Division hosts for 66 minutes.

Scunthorpe forced the game into extra time with a goal out of the blue, midway through the second half and finally disposed of the Borough challenge with a winner in the first period of extra time.

Both sides announced unchanged sides from Saturday's clash, which meant no place for Eddie McGoldrick, whose hamstring injury had not fully cleared up.

Scunthorpe for their part elected to give a second outing to Paul Stanley, leaving the experienced Mike Brolly on

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



the substitutes bench, playing once more with a four man midfield.

Borough could hardly have had a better start and could have gone ahead in the very first minute, when Richard Hill won the ball in the air in midfield feeding Stewart Hamill on the right.

The winger played the ball inside to Frank Murphy who shielded the ball before setting up Trevor Morley with a glorious, if unexpected, early chance that he could only put wide.

But Scunthorpe's relief was short lived for in their very next attack Borough took a third minute lead, when Hill made ground on the right before drilling the ball low into the six yard box where Paul Culpin was on hand to lash home his ninth FA Cup goal of the season.

Borough continued to cause problems and a Timmy Smithers corner from the left in the eleventh minute was played to Murphy just outside the area and his well struck shot passed just wide of the post.

Midway through the half the home side began to settle and in the 21st minute had their first real moment of danger when Steve Cammack shot on the turn, the ball taking a deflection off Willie Gibson before passing just wide of the post for a corner.

Borough were still playing some good football and looking dangerous on the break, but in the 28th minute Scunthorpe came closest yet to getting the equaliser when Mick Matthews hit the outside of the post from a wide angle on the right, although Poole seemed to have the angle to goal well covered.

But as the half drew to a close it was Borough who almost increased their lead when an effort from Murphy, well out, took a wicked deflection off John Green before going just wide of the post with the goalkeeper stranded.

Borough were worth their half-time lead, despite soaking up pressure, with the back four in fine form, Everton Carr

having an inspired first period, but Scunthorpe soon took control after the break.

But Scunthorpe's early fire subsided and Borough began to compose themselves and get back into the game, to such an extent that the home side made what was to be a telling substitution in the 65th minute, bringing off young Stanley and introducing Brolly.

The move paid dividends and within four minutes Scunthorpe were level when Brolly with his first touch of the ball fed Lester who scored with a fine shot from some 25 yards.

The goal came out of the blue, just as Borough seemed to have weathered the storm, but in the 79th minute they could have regained their advantage when John Glover climbed high to head wide after a Hamill cross had been knocked on by Culpin.

Both sides seemed to have one eye on extra-time, but it was Scunthorpe who

almost snatched the game in the 90th minute, when Neenan read the situation perfectly, coming from his goal to feed Broddie with a fine pass to his left, the winger's cross being met by Cammack, who forced Poole to save.

As the game moved into extra time Scunthorpe began to become a little more adventurous and in the 95th minute Brolly fed Cammack again, the strikers shot being well held by Poole.

But within a minute Scunthorpe snatched the match-winning goal, when a cross from Brolly on the left seemed to float over Poole, who had committed himself, to be headed home by Cammack from close range.

Borough's last chance came seven minutes from time when Murphy gained possession on the left and cut into the box, but his effort was well held low down by Neenan, with Culpin waiting to pick up the pieces.



Paul Culpin wheels away in celebration after putting Borough in front against Scunthorpe.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Stafford Rangers — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Stafford: Pritchard, Wood, Austin, Gill, Tittley, Mooney, Derbyshire, Lowe, Page, Hanchard, P. Carr. Sub: Johnson.

Borough: Poole, E. Carr, Gibson, McGoldrick, Dixey, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Culpin, Morley, Hill. Sub: Thurman.

Borough's dismal season reached a new depressing low at Stafford, where they crashed out of their final cup competition with scarcely a whimper, against a home side who mastered the conditions better and looked more committed throughout.



Paul Culpin finds a lot of space to get in a shot on goal. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The task was never going to be easy against a side well placed in the race for the Northern Premier League title and desperate for a place back in the top flight of non-league football, and after Rangers had scored an early goal in the appalling conditions, Borough were left with a slippery mountain to climb.

Manager Graham Carr elected to disrupt the side that had impressed at Kettering on New Year's Day, opting

for the experience of Frank Murphy, available again after suspension, at the expense of the potential of young Mick Thurman, who was replaced at the heart of the defence by Richard Hill, with Trevor Morley moving back into midfield and Murphy taking his place up front, in what was arguably a full strength line up.

Stafford started the game in rampant mood and Borough made a shaky start on a rock hard surface covered with a sprinkling of snow, skipper Richard Dixey being forced to anxiously clear his lines twice in the first four minutes, first from a Derbyshire cross and then from a Carr through ball.

It came as little surprise when Rangers took the lead with a fine fifth minute goal, full-back Fraser Wood fed Derbyshire with a superb defence splitting through ball, the winger advanced and shot hard and low, but the advancing Poole was able to half stop the ball, that rolled goalwards where it was bundled home by Martyn Gill, despite the desperate attentions of two Borough defenders.

The home side should have increased their lead in the 15th minute when they broke quickly, catching Borough pushing forward. Derbyshire received the ball wide on the right with four of his own players waiting in the middle, with Dixey, Borough's only defender, but the winger made a dreadful hash of his cross, chipping the ball gently into the hands of well-positioned goalkeeper Poole.

Eleven minutes later Hanchard had a carbon copy chance, Borough again having been caught pushing forward, but once more the final cross was poor and was easily cut out by goalkeeper Andy Poole.

Stafford continued their almost total domination, when a Derbyshire cross from the right swung away from Poole, only for Everton Carr to save the day by hacking clear and then Page fired over the bar when well placed on the edge of the area, after a mis-kick by Hill, as he tried to cut out a cross, presented him with the chance.

Almost immediately Hill received a



Skipper Richard Dixey lends his weight to a Borough attack but it came to nothing in the disastrous defeat. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



booking for a clumsy challenge on ex-team mate Barry Lowe, a caution that was to prove even more costly in the closing stages of the game.



Frank Murphy tries to find a way through the home defence. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But right on the stroke of half-time Borough had their best chance of pulling back the deficit when Morley put Culpin clear in the box with the ball on the striker's favourite left foot, but he hesitated and a desperate last ditch tackle by Titley saved his side at the expense of a corner.

Borough were a little fortunate to go in just one down at the break, but in the very first minute of the second period they should have equalised, when a ball into the box from Hamill on the right fell for Murphy in front of an open goal, but he missed his kick and when he recovered the chance was gone with defenders crowding out the eventual shot.

But the home side soon regained their superiority and on the hour Poole was forced to make a brave save at the feet of Hanchard, followed three minutes later by Derbyshire screwing his shot wide of an almost open goal after Carr and Hanchard had both had good chances spoiled by the conditions.

Borough then had another chance of their own when Culpin missed his kick at the near post after a Hamill cross and in the 70th minute, as Borough began to get on top, they were foiled by a brilliant save from Pitchard after Culpin had shot crisply from just inside the box.

But as the game entered its final phase it was the home side that once more took control and in the 79th minute Gibson was booked for a foul on Derbyshire, Hanchard forcing Poole to save at full length with a header from the resultant free kick.

Then eight minutes from time Gibson handled the ball in the area, spotted

by an alert linesman and most of the crowd, if not the referee, the linesman flagged long and hard until the referee saw him and awarded a penalty.

Borough made a token protest, but all to no avail as Peter Carr stepped up to clinch the tie, blasting the ball high into the net, giving Poole no chance.

But the final act was to cause more problems for Borough, Hill fouling Hanchard just outside the box, it was a tackle not helped by the tricky conditions, but the referee who had been lenient on several occasions earlier and taken the conditions into account, felt justified in booking the defender and as he had been cautioned in the first half sent him off to complete Borough's day of despair.

So having now gone out of all the cup competitions, lying on the fringe of the relegation zone and with their already small squad about to be stretched by suspension, it is now a case of where do we go from here?



Borough's best chance came shortly after the interval when Frank Murphy was clear in the box. But he failed to make contact in the tricky conditions. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 1



Gola League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1984-85

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First	Attendance
07.31	Derby County	A	PSF	1-3	Morley		
08.02	Leicester United	A	PSF	3-0	Hill (2), Morley		
08.04	Kingstonian	A	PSF	2-0	Culpin, Hamill		
08.08	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	PSF	6-2	Culpin (4), Smithers, Hill		
08.10	Northampton Town	H	PSF	3-1	Culpin (2), o.g.(Gage)		
08.11	Hereford United	H	PSF	1-3	Culpin		
08.18	Bath City	H	L	0-0			867
08.21	Enfield	A	L	0-1			725
08.25	Runcorn	A	L	0-1			452
08.27	Telford United	H	L	2-1	Culpin (p), Murphy		1087
09.01	Altrincham	A	L	0-1			1070
09.04	Barnet	A	L	1-1	Culpin		751
09.08	Yeovil Town	H	L	5-0	Smithers (3), Culpin, Murphy		953
09.11	Wealdstone	A	L	1-3	Morley		811
09.15	Wisbech Town	A	FAC 1Q	6-2	Culpin (2), Hamill, Morley, Murphy, Hill		650
09.19	Boston United	A	L	3-2	Culpin (2), Smithers		938
09.22	Frickley Athletic	H	L	0-0			1007
09.24	Northwich Victoria	A	L	0-1			833
09.29	Irthlingborough Diamonds	A	FAC 2Q	5-0	Culpin (3), Murphy (2)		468
10.06	Weymouth	H	L	4-2	Culpin (2), Murphy (2)		1058
10.08	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	1-1	Glover		1113
10.13	Gainsborough Trinity	H	FAC 3Q	2-0	Culpin (2)		1196
10.20	Maidstone United	H	L	3-2	Smithers (2), Glover		1097
10.23	Birmingham City	A	BSC 2	1-0	Morley		230
10.27	Hednesford Town	A	FAC 4Q	4-0	Morley (2), McGoldrick, Culpin		1721
11.05	Kidderminster Harriers	A	BLT 1	1-2	Smithers		670
11.10	Dartford	A	L	2-2	Murphy (2)		500
11.12	Atherstone United	H	BSC 2		Smithers (2)		876
11.17	Scunthorpe United	H	FAC 1	1-1	Hill		4287
11.20	Scunthorpe United	A	FAC 1r	1-2aet	Culpin		3384
11.24	Runcorn	H	L	2-1	Hill, Murphy		1010
11.27	Telford United	A	L	1-2	Culpin		1320
12.01	Scarborough	A	L	2-3	Smithers, Murphy		801
12.03	Worcester City	H	L	3-0	Murphy, Smithers, Culpin		837
12.08	Bath City	A	L	0-1			545
12.11	Atherstone United	A	BSC 3r	0-1			421
12.15	Barrow	A	L	0-0			606
12.22	Gateshead	H	L	3-0	Culpin, Murphy, McGoldrick		626
12.26	Kettering Town	H	L	1-1	Smithers (p)		1330
12.29	Frickley Athletic	A	L	1-1	Culpin		379
01.01	Kettering Town	A	L	1-1	Culpin		2175
01.12	Stafford Rangers	A	FAT 1	0-2			1566
01.26	Dagenham	H	L	2-2	Culpin, Smithers		786
01.28	Lincoln City	H	F	3-1	Culpin, Smithers		256
02.01	Northwich Victoria	H	L	2-2	Murphy (2)		704
02.05	Bedworth United	A	MFC	3-2	Culpin (2), Smithers (p)		150
02.23	Dagenham	A	L	1-2	Waddle		573
02.25	Irthlingborough Diamonds	H	MFC	8-2	Murphy (2), Culpin (2), Morley (2), McGoldrick, o.g.		250
03.02	Dartford	H	L	5-1	Murphy (2), Culpin (2), Hill		
03.04	Kettering Town	H	MFC	3-0	Morley, Culpin, Murphy		277
03.11	Enfield	H	L	2-2	Smithers, Culpin		953
03.16	Scarborough	H	L	5-2	Culpin (2), Hamill, Murphy, Morley		623

Gola League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1984-85

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First	Attendance
03.20	Maidstone United	A	L	2-2	Glover, Culpin		605
03.23	Boston United	H	L	4-2	Morley (2), Culpin (2)		734
03.30	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	4-3	Culpin (2), Murphy, o.g.		541
04.01	Corby Town	H	MFC	2-2	Morley, Culpin		331
04.03	V.S.Rugby	A	MFC	2-3	Smithers, Chislett		336
04.06	Gateshead	A	L	2-0	Culpin, Smithers		198
04.08	Altrincham	H	L	4-1	Culpin (3), McGoldrick		1072
04.10	Willenhall Town	A	MFC	3-2	Culpin (2), Murphy		
04.13	Barnet	H	L	1-1	Murphy		980
04.17	Weymouth	A	L	3-1	Murphy, Culpin, Morley		
04.20	Wealdstone	H	L	1-0	Culpin		1059
04.22	Barrow	H	L	5-2	Culpin (5)		
04.27	Yeovil Town	A	L	2-1	Morley, Culpin		
05.04	Worcester City	A	L	4-1	Murphy (3), Culpin		
05.06	V.S.Rugby	A	MFC F 1L	1-1	McGoldrick		
05.08	V.S.Rugby	H	MFC F 2L	1-2	McGoldrick		

KEY : L = Alliance(Gola) Premier League, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, BLT = Bob Lord Trophy,
BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC = Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF = Pre season friendly, F = Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1984-85

Back: Frank Murphy, Willie Gibson, John Glover, Richard Dixey (captain), Andy Poole, Timmy Smithers, Everton Carr, Richard Hill, Bobby Parker.

Middle: ??????, Sean Gallagher, Alf Scattergood (president), Noel Kelly (chairman), Graham Carr (manager), John Evans (secretary), Dave Looms (trainer).

Front: Stuart Hamill, Trevor Morley, Paul Richardson, Paul Culpin, Derek Duggan.

Acknowledgments

A great debt is owed to the dedicated people who spent many long hours researching library records, archives and county records to provide the information for this website and its e-books.

Credit is due to the late John T. Moore, who dedicated many long hours of research, as well as to Roderick Grubb, Robert Forryan, Scott Renshaw, Andy Pace, Brian Anderson, Rob Everitt, Paul Sawyer, Kevin Brown, Geoff Cooke, John Hobson, Dave Hall, and the man behind the inspiration for this project Mike Turner.

Others, too numerous to mention, have also contributed - their names may not be mentioned but their services and knowledge of both the football club and the town have been invaluable.



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