



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2

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Nuneaton Borough 1985-86

Pre-Season Friendly v Ipswich Town: July 30th

Back: Paul Bancroft, Mick Thurman, Trevor Whymark, Peter Denyer, Martin New, Richard Dixey, Timmy Smithers, Terry Armstrong, Everton Carr, Andy Poole.

Front: Willie Gibson, Dominic Genovese, Eddie McGoldrick, Frank Murphy, Ian Bennyworth.

Morris New Borough Manager

Nuneaton Borough's new manager is the former Mansfield, Ipswich and Norwich City midfielder Peter Morris. The 41-year-old made over 600 appearance in the Football League and has managerial experience at Mansfield Town, Peterborough United, Crewe Alexandra and Southend United.

Borough received more than 20 applications for the post and Morris was chosen from a short-list of highly respected people. Among other applicants believed to have been considered were former Forest and Scotland midfielder Archie Gemmell and Telford boss Stan Storton.

Culpin Signs For Coventry

Nuneaton Borough's record goalscorer Paul Culpin realised an ambition when he signed for First Division Coventry City in a £50,000 deal.

Culpin has been a revelation since he was picked up for nothing by former Borough boss Graham Carr back in October 1982. His goalscoring record of 130 goals is the best ever by a Borough player and remarkably they have come at

a rate of nearly one a game. However, it is not the first time that Culpin has been on the books of a League side.



Coventry City manager Don Mackay shows his delight in bringing Nuneaton Borough's record goalscorer, Paul Culpin to Highfield Road in a £50,000 deal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Back in 1981, he had a twelve month contract with Leicester City, and despite scoring almost thirty goals in the reserve

side, he was released by the then manager, Jock Wallace. But Culpin feels he is a better and more skilful player now and is delighted to have the opportunity to show his talents in the First Division.

“Obviously, I am over the moon to be joining the Sky Blues, although I know that it will need a lot of hard work and determination to force my way into the side,” said Culpin.

“They have a set-up second to none and hopefully I will be able to repay the faith shown in me by the club by scoring a lot of goals,” he said. Culpin will be having a medical later today, but that is just a formality.

Morris Signs Genovese

Nuneaton Borough’s new manager, Peter Morris, has moved swiftly to replace record goalscorer Paul Culpin by capturing Boston United’s Dominic Genovese for a nominal fee. Twenty-three-year-old Genovese had an impressive goal tally with the Lincolnshire club last term, notching 15 goals in just 17 appearances. Previously he played a major part in Stamford’s fine run to Wembley for the FA Vase, scoring 36 times in the season. Although Morris feels it will be virtually impossible to replace a player like Culpin, he is sure Genovese will do a good job.

“He has a knack for scoring and I have every confidence in him giving us a constant supply of goals,” said Morris.

Culpin Grabs England Hat-Trick

Former Borough goal machine, Paul Culpin, was in explosive form as he helped England’s non league side through to a 3-0 win over hosts Holland in Utrecht. Culpin showed his deadly finishing with a superb hat-trick to steer his team to within one match of landing the four nations trophy. Victory over Scotland will ensure England of the crown.

Morley And Hill Join Northampton

Nuneaton Borough’s Trevor Morley and Richard Hill have joined Northampton Town in a £30,000 transfer deal. The pair signed for the Cobblers after the two clubs had agreed terms. Morley, who returned home from his trip to Holland with the England non-league squad, and Hill, will join up with their former boss Graham Carr.

Chairman Noel Kelly said: “Although we are against selling off our best players we have very little option in this case as both Morley and Hill had intimated their desire to try League football.”

Borough Sign Dougie Keast

Nuneaton Borough’s rebuilding programme continues with the club signing their third new player in as many weeks, Kettering’s midfielder Dougie Keast. Keast was snapped up this week from the troubled Rockingham Road club on a free transfer. He will rejoin Kettering team-mate Peter Denyer who Borough also picked up on a free transfer last week.

Borough Increase Admission Prices

Nuneaton Borough fans will have to pay more to watch their football at Manor Park next season. Admission to the ground will be £1.70 – and increase of 20p – with the price for children and OAPs going up from 60p to 80p. It is the first time that the club has raised their prices in two years, but the board still feels that they are good value.

“We have not had an increase over the past two seasons but we must try to keep up with inflation,” said chairman Noel Kelly today.

Ex-Borough Brothers May Meet In German League

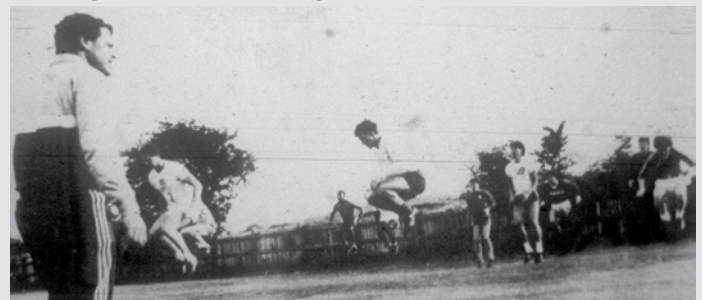
Two former Nuneaton Borough playing brothers could soon be coming face to face – in the West German First Division. Wayne Thomas, 27, and younger brother Dean, 26, started out on their footballing careers at Manor Park in 1979-80, but after twists of fortune and fate, they are now sampling European football at its best.

Wayne began his European career with German side Bayer Uerdingen and after a year of misery on the substitute’s bench he turned out as substitute in their 2-1 win over Bayern Munich in the West German Cup Final. But Wayne was unhappy at the club and he recently completed a move to Hanover 96, another first division team where he will take up a midfield role.

Dean has also seen the ups and downs of professional football, as after leaving the Borough he moved to Wimbledon and last summer was transferred to German second division side Allemania Aachen. After a year with the club, Dean is presently having talks with the well-known first division team FC Cologne, and if everything works out he will be turning out for them in the UEFA Cup next season.

The move will also mean that the brothers will come face-to-face for the first time in many years.

Borough Back In Training



Borough boss Peter Morris puts his players through their paces in the first training session of the new season, following the same routine as in previous years by making use of the St Thomas More School’s sports ground in Greenmoor Road.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Floodlit Cup Sponsorship

The Midland Floodlit Football Cup looks likely to receive a tremendous boost with a substantial sponsorship from a top Midlands Brewery. Tonight, at Nuneaton Borough’s



Manor Park, the AGM takes place and one of the items at the top of the agenda concerns the much-needed financial backing. The competition is expected to take on a new image with a knockout competition taking over from the present league set-up. Sixteen of the leading non-league sides in the Midlands have been approached to take part and favourable replies have been received from all of them.

Richardson's Career Cut Short

Paul Richardson, Borough's former midfield dynamo, has been forced to quit football on medical advice. He has been having trouble breathing due to blood clots in his lungs and he has been ordered to stop playing. Richardson, 22, moved into the Football League with Derby County following an eve-of-season £15,000 deal last August and forced his way into the first team at the Baseball Ground.

Armstrong Joins Borough

Nuneaton Borough manager Peter Morris has snapped up midfielder Terry Armstrong from Port Vale on a free transfer. Twenty-six-year-old Armstrong made over 200 Football League appearances for the Potteries side and also had a spell with Huddersfield Town.

"I feel that Terry will prove to be an excellent signing for the club," said Morris. "He is a forceful midfield player and I visualise him as an ideal replacement for Richard Hill."

Midland Floodlit Cup Sponsorship

Brewers Bass, Mitchells and Butlers have pumped over £4,000 into saving the Midland Floodlit Cup competition. The deal was completed last night at the Chestnuts Club, Hinckley Road, with both sides delighted with the end result.

Borough Looking To Sign Whymark

Trevor Whymark, the ex-England and Ipswich striker, looks certain to be a Nuneaton Borough player when the season kicks off next month. The former Portman Road star lines up against his old club at Manor Park tomorrow night and the signing appears to be a formality.

1985-86

Nuneaton Borough v Ipswich Town 30-07-1985

Borough: New, Denyer, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixie, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Whymark, Armstrong, Genovese. Subs: Thurman, Bancroft.

Ipswich: Hallworth, Yallop, Parkin, Zondervan, Gernon, Butcher, McCall, Brennan, Sunderland, D'Avray, Dozzell. Subs: Pulney, Steggle, Wilson.

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

Borough's new look side slipped to defeat in their first pre-season friendly. But despite the scoreline there was plenty of evidence to give Nuneaton fans confidence for another successful season. The superior class and fitness of the First

Division outfit was only to be expected, but Borough had their moments and were far from disgraced. With five new faces in the line-up the home side showed a commendable sense of cohesion. Peter Denyer, Terry Armstrong and Dominic Genovese all looked as though they could be more than useful acquisitions.

But the man who really took the eye was Frank Murphy. The diminutive striker looked really sharp and gave the visitors' defence plenty of problems with his close skills and darting runs.

Eddie McGoldrick was also in good form and several superb jinking moves and crosses had the Ipswich defence at full stretch. The East Anglian outfit produced some flowing early moves and debutante keeper Martin New was kept busy during the opening stages. He saved well from Mich D'Avray and then saw an Alan Sunderland drive clip the top of the bar as it flew over.

Tim Smithers had a fierce shot fly across the face of the goal with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch and then hit a shot straight at John Hallworth from the edge of the box. But Ipswich stunned the home fans with two simple goals in a three minute spell midway through the first half. With 29 minutes gone a neat interchange on the edge of the box left Jason Dozzell with an opportunity to chip the ball over the advancing New. Three minutes later Frank Yallop made an overlap down the right and although Sunderland miskicked from the cross D'Avray pounced to score with a low drive inside the left-hand post.

Borough came more into the picture at the start of the second half with Eddie McGoldrick prominent in several moves and Murphy glancing a header wide. Hallworth produced a fine save to deny Genovese and then Trevor Whymark got above Kevin Steggle, but his header flew over the top. But with only three minutes remaining Ian Bennyworth, in attempting to block a shot by Mark Brennan, only succeeded in deflecting the ball to Kevin Wilson, who scored comfortably from 12 yards out.

Rugby Price Crawley At £5,000

VS Rugby have put a price of £5,000 on their transfer-listed striker Ian Crawley. The former Borough goalscorer, unhappy at Butlin Road, was recently put on the transfer list at his own request. Several clubs, including Kettering Town, Worcester City and Nuneaton were rumoured to be interested but must have been put off by the asking price.

Jim Blyth In Borough Squad

Former Sky Blues goalkeeper Jim Blyth is in the Nuneaton Borough squad for the pre-season friendly against Coventry Sporting. Blyth, who won two caps for Scotland in 1978, also saw regular First Division service with Birmingham City.

The keeper has been in talks with Peter Morris for some weeks and the Nuneaton manager is confident of making a signing.



Coventry Sporting v Nuneaton Borough 04-05-1985

Borough (from): Blyth, New, Denyer, Carr, Bennyworth, Dixey, Gibson, McGoldrick, Armstrong, Smithers, Murphy, Genovese, Bancroft, Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Canley to play Coventry Sporting in a pre-season friendly game.

Manager Peter Morris was disappointed with the showing at Coventry Sporting. The Manor Park side failed to produce the aggression and spirit so evident against Ipswich Town, in a below par performance. "We had enough chances to have won comfortably but we didn't play well," said Morris. "The commitment and spirit was nowhere near as good as we had against Ipswich and it was a disappointing afternoon. I shall certainly be looking for a big improvement when we go to Leicester United on Wednesday," he added.

Borough led at the interval through an own goal, but the home side equalised midway through the second period. Former Sky Blues keeper Jim Blyth made his Nuneaton debut and had a satisfactory afternoon. He made a mistake for the Sporting goal but immediately made amends with a brilliant save.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 07-08-1985

Borough made the journey to Blaby to play Leicester United in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough continued their pre-season build-up with a 1-0 win. Frank Murphy was the man on target as Nuneaton produced a much-improved display against the Southern League outfit.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 10-08-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Denyer, Bennyworth, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Alexander, Phillips, Genovese. **Subs:** Thurman, Bancroft.

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

Borough's shortcomings were cruelly exposed in a dismal display. Peter Morris' new look side never really got to grips with their Southern League opponents and finished a demoralised looking outfit. Corby, only a moderate side themselves, were in the driving seat for a long period and really should have won by a wider margin. Nuneaton lacked cohesion and determination, and for much of the match seemed devoid of ideas on how to break down a solid visitors' rearguard.

Borough missed the steadying influence of skipper Richard Dixey in defence and on several occasions keeper Jim Blyth was left completely unprotected. The injured Terry Armstrong was also ruled out from the midfield, a department where Borough also looked second best for most of the game.

Morris has obviously got a lot of problems to sort out before the start of the season, now less than two weeks away, especially up front. It is true to say that Borough should have scored early on and again in the second half, but at

the moment it is difficult to see where the goals are going to come from. Big Keith Alexander had a quiet debut at centre-forward, but it would be unfair to judge him on just one performance – and such a disappointing team effort at that.

Borough made a solid start with Alexander hitting a close range shot wide and then Frank Murphy had a shot blocked on the line by Tinlan. Eddie McGoldrick saw his goalbound header cleared by Suddards before the visitors stunned Nuneaton with two goals in five minutes. With 25 minutes gone a right wing corner was flicked on by Lane and Hofbauer was completely unmarked as he scored from close range.

Five minutes later the Borough defence was again all at sea as Diver slipped a through ball into the box to give Hofbauer the simple task of slotting it past Blyth. Corby were pulling the Nuneaton rearguard all over the place and were unfortunate to have two efforts disallowed for offside before the interval. Nuneaton came more into the picture after the break and Dominic Genovese had a shot cleared off the line and then Johnstone was happy to grab another effort at the second attempt.

Genovese had another effort disallowed and saw Johnstone produce a fine save to turn a goalbound shot round the post. Alexander went close with a header from a right wing cross in the closing stages but Borough never really looked capable of pulling the game round.

Nuneaton Borough v Mansfield Town 12-08-1985

Borough: New, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman, Genovese. **Subs:** Bancroft, Phillips, Hendry.

Mansfield: Beasley, Graham, Garner, Luke, Foster, Pollard, Chamberlaine, Whatmore, Cassells, Vinter, Kearney. **Subs:** Logan, Galloway, Kent, Cunningham.

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

Borough bounced back to form with a convincing display against Mansfield at Manor Park. Only a goal nine minutes from time denied Borough the victory they so richly deserved. The disappointment of Saturday's dismal display against Corby was quickly forgotten as the home side proved more than a match for the Fourth Division outfit.

Richard Dixey's return to the side added steel to the defence and the Manor Park outfit looked more like the Gola League runners-up of the past two seasons. Mansfield were never allowed to settle into any kind of rhythm and can count themselves fortunate that they went away with a draw. Borough looked sharp in the opening stages and had the ball in the net after only five minutes when Frank Murphy forced home a cross from Eddie McGoldrick, but the effort was disallowed for handball.

Keith Cassells, Mansfield's £17,500 close-season buy from Brentford, brought a smart save from Martin New before visiting keeper Andy Beasley made a timely interception to deny Dominic Genovese. Tim Smithers then curled a 25-yard

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free-kick past the right hand post and Peter Denyer was only inches too high with a snap drive from the edge of the box. New had to react quickly to block a close range shot from Cassells and on the break Borough came close to scoring with a delightful ball from Murphy that put Smithers clear and his chip beat the advancing keeper but drifted wide of the post.

Denyer hurriedly pulled a shot wide at the start of the second half and then Mark Kearney was only a foot wide with a 20 yard drive as Mansfield hit back. Murphy set up a shooting chance for Mick Thurman but the ball was sliced wide. The little Borough striker then jinked his way into the box with a brilliant run only for Beasley to beat away the shot.

Borough had appeals for a penalty turned down when Genovese appeared to be pulled back by his shirt as he shaped to shoot from close range. But 16 minutes from the end Nuneaton took the lead with a superbly worked goal. Genovese set it up with a magnificent ball inside the full-back for McGoldrick. He raced to the by-line and cut the ball back for Murphy to sidefoot home from 12 yards. It was no more than Borough deserved for they had carried the game to the visitors for most of the match.

However, with just nine minutes left Mansfield got an equaliser out of the blue. Neville Chamberlaine drove in a low centre from the right, Cassells produced a neat little back flick, and Kearney drove the ball home from close range. Nuneaton still might have snatched victory in the dying minutes when a swift counter attack gave Denyer a bit of space on the edge of the box, but his fiercely struck shot flew inches over the top.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 17-08-1985

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough slumped to a 2-0 defeat and picked up several injuries into the bargain. Frank Murphy came off just before half-time with a back strain and three or four other players collected knocks in a physical game.

Borough were well in contention for the first-half but the Brewers got on top after the break and deserved their win. Morris was not too disappointed with his side's showing, but he received another set-back when Trevor Whymark informed him that he would not be playing for the club again. "Trevor had a nightmare journey when he travelled up from Southend with his wife for the Burton game," said Morris.

"They ran into prolonged motorway hold-ups and it took nearly six hours to get there."

Hormantschuk Signs For Borough

Former Coventry City defender Peter Hormantschuk will be one of six new faces in the Borough squad for the opening game of the season. Hormantschuk, who has fought his way back to fitness after a serious knee injury is included in a 14-

man squad for the trip. Other new players in the line-up are Jim Blyth, Peter Denyer, Terry Armstrong, Dominic Genovese and Paul Bancroft.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 24-08-1985

Boston: Blackwell, Casey, Stenson, Nuttall, Creane, Hooks, Thomson, Simpson, Lee, Cook, Gilbert. Subs: Moyses, O'Brien.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Hormantschuk, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Armstrong, Genovese. Subs: Bancroft, Bennyworth.

Borough made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in a Gola League match.

Jim Blyth did his best, but even he couldn't help Borough to salvage any reward. The experienced keeper was in fine form and was largely responsible for the goal-less first half. But Boston continued to dominate after the break, and in the end the scoreline flattered Borough. They were twice trailing by two goals and will have to be a lot sharper if they want to lift that elusive Gola League title.

Borough showed that they could develop into a good side, but on this evidence their new players are still some way from settling comfortably. Peter Denyer worked hard and caused some problems, but Dominic Genovese, making a quick return to the ground he left in the summer – showed none of the goalscoring flair which made him an instant hit with Boston fans. His most notable contribution to the game was a 35th minute scuffle with keeper Kevin Blackwell, which earned him and his former team mate a booking.

Boston attacked from the kick-off and forced two corners within a minute. The first came when Richard Dixey was pleased to head Thomson's cross over his own bar. Blyth's first important contribution came in the 11th minute when he changed direction to grab the ball after Lee's shot deflected from Dixey's foot. Five minutes before the interval Blyth dived at Lee's feet to push away the centre-forward's shot and Dixey was fortunate to escape being penalised when Thomson's follow-up effort struck his arm.

Boston went ahead after 56 minutes through a David Gilbert penalty after substitute Paul Bancroft – brought on at half-time for Everton Carr – tripped Thomson as he headed for goal. The impressive Paul Hooks, signed from Derby County last week, increased Boston's lead three minutes later with a splendid 35 yard shot which curled wickedly away from Blyth.

Home keeper Blackwell dived acrobatically to deny McGoldrick and the busy Murphy, before being beaten in the 75th minute. McGoldrick's corner went right across the goal and Denyer flashed his shot into the bottom corner. Borough's hopes of stealing a point lasted only 12 minutes. Then Cook restored Boston's two-goal lead after shrugging off two defenders.

Just before the end Genovese looked to have scored with a far post header but full back Casey cleared off the line. The ball was sent in again and this time Murphy rose to head home. But there was not time for an equaliser.

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 26-08-1985

Scarborough: D. Coleby, Dennis, Thompson, Hartley, S. Coleby, Burke, Davis, Sellers, Healey, Bowman, Wiggan. Subs: Rose, Dawson.

Borough: Blyth, Hormantschuk, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Armstrong, Bancroft, Genovese. Subs: Thurman, Phillips

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in a Gola League match.

Borough slipped to their second narrow away defeat in as many games, going down by the odd goal in three. Manager Peter Morris made two changes with Bennyworth returning to the side at the heart of the defence, in place of the injured Peter Denyer and Paul Bancroft replacing Everton Carr. The home side provided early problems for Borough and in the very first minute a deep curving free kick from Neil Thompson on the left, following a foul by Bennyworth, found Graham Hartley racing in to head over the bar.

Two minutes later a fine run by Trenton Wiggan on the right caused more trouble, until Willie Gibson recovered well to hold up the striker and when the cross came in Bennyworth headed clear. But Borough began to settle and in the fifth minute a deep high cross from Hormantschuk looked full of danger, forcing Thompson to stretch and head the ball away to the edge of the box, where it was hacked clear by a relieved Stuart Coleby.

In the 12th minute Borough had strong appeals for a penalty turned down, when McGoldrick forced Thompson to bring him down right on the edge of the box. Scarborough had a penalty turned down and Wiggan was given a talking to by the referee for his protest. Then, twice in five minutes, Borough had chances to go into the lead, the first in the 30th minute fell to Bancroft after a fine run on the left by Genovese, but the striker's shot lacked power.

Murphy missed a good chance from Bancroft's pass, but on the half-hour the home side took the lead. Wiggan was played clear by Burke and played the ball in to David Bowman who mishit his shot, which was blocked by Blyth only for Gary Hooley to hit home the rebound.

Borough started the second half in determined mood and caused early problems for the home defence, without ever looking really dangerous. In the 67th minute Scarborough increased their lead. Murphy was dispossessed in his own half by Wiggan, who raced away down the right touchline before sweeping a magnificent early ball across the back of the Borough defence, finding Bowman who took the ball into the area where he was brought down by Hormantschuk. Hooley scored his second goal from the penalty spot.

The home side were now full of confidence and Borough were unable to haul their way back into the game and it was not until the 86th minute that Armstrong had an effort from 25 yards that bounced on top of the bar and over for a goal kick. But in the last minute Borough got a consolation when a

deep free-kick from Hormantschuk on the right was dropped by Coleby in the Scarborough goal and skipper Richard Dixey slipped home the loose ball, to score against his old team.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 31-08-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Armstrong, Genovese. Subs: Hormantschuk, Thurman.

Kettering: Boyd, Thacker, McIlwain, McGowan, Watson, Jeffrey, Keast, Kabia, Crawley, Alexander, Wharton. Subs: Shrieves, Gould.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough's dismal start to the season continued when they were comprehensively beaten. The visitors were in control throughout and Borough can have no grumbles about the result – their third defeat in a row. No visiting side had won a league game at Manor Park since October 8, 1983 – a magnificent record that Nuneaton never looked like preserving. They had to play second fiddle to the buoyant Poppies for most of the match and failed to settle into any kind of pattern throughout the whole 90 minutes.

The midfielders couldn't get a grip and there was a marked uncertainty among the defence. Up front the lack of a big target man was again evident and Borough lacked the necessary firepower to trouble a Kettering defence well-marshalled by former England centre-half Dave Watson.



Borough keeper Jim Blyth is helpless as Jim Kabia scores Kettering's third goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Both sides took time to settle and Tim Thacker produced the first shot after ten minutes, a long range effort that Jim Blyth gathered comfortably. At the other end Eddie McGoldrick was twice given plenty of room wide on the right by fine balls from Frank Murphy but he failed to get in his cross on both occasions. Former Borough striker Ian Crawley then found himself some space in the box but his shot lacked the power to trouble Blyth.

Kettering swept into the lead after 25 minutes. Billy Jeffrey's corner from the left flew across the face of the goal and the unmarked Watson side-footed the ball home at the far post. Borough hit back and Poppies keeper Willie Boyd had to produce a superb save to cut out a McGoldrick cross with Murphy waiting to pounce. However, the visitors continued

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to look the more confident and determined outfit and Willie Gibson did well to cut out a dangerous through ball with Jim Kabia challenging. Three minutes before the interval Nuneaton were dealt a hammer blow when Kettering increased their lead with a simple goal. Andy McGowan knocked in a centre to the near post, Keith Alexander, who almost joined Borough during the summer flicked it across the goal and Crawley hammered it into the net.

Borough looked livelier at the start of the second half and Peter Denyer had a shot blocked after Murphy had headed down a McGoldrick cross. Boyd then had to react swiftly to cut out a ball from Everton Carr with Dominic Genovese boring in. But Borough were almost caught napping when Crawley beat Ian Bennyworth in the box, but his low cross was a poor one and the danger was cleared.

Midway through the half Borough were only inches away from reducing the arrears when Denyer won a heading duel with Watson but Tim Smithers saw his follow up header hit the bar and was scrambled to safety. Nuneaton never really threatened again and it was no surprise when Terry Shrieves set up a third goal for Kabia two minutes from the end.

Borough Sign Hutchinson

Borough have signed Mark Hutchinson on a non-contract basis. Hutchinson has Football League experience and has played with Leicester City, Carlisle and has recently had an extended trial with Lincoln City.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 03-09-1985

Bath: Mogg, Stevens, Fulbrook, Crowley, Sherwood, Brown, Chandler, Barton, Grimshaw, Bodin, Payne. Subs: Wright, Singleton.

Borough: Blyth, Thurman, Gibson, Dixey, Bennyworth, Armstrong, Genovese, Denyer, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy. Subs: Bancroft, Hutchinson.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to play Bath City in a Gola League match.

Borough picked up their first win of the season with a fine display, showing all the fight and fire previously missing. Manager Peter Morris made only one change to the line-up, Mick Thurman replacing the injured Everton Carr. But he elected to play three men at the back with the utility man lining up in midfield. It was to prove a master stroke, with Thurman battling for every ball and the entire side showing a better balance and poise than in previous games.

Borough made an encouraging start, forcing four corners in the first ten minutes and taking the lead with a fine goal in the ninth minute. Timmy Smithers wide on the left crossed deep into the Bath area, where Eddie McGoldrick beat the diminutive Gary Fulbrooke in the air to nod the ball back across goal. Makeshift striker Peter Denyer was unmarked 12 yards out and made no mistake.

In the 21st minute a fine break down the left by Phil Barton ended with a dangerous low cross, but Blyth read the situation perfectly, getting down to cut out the danger.

Borough continued to look the more composed side, yet it was Bath who had the next clear cut chance when Martin Grimshaw headed wide at the far post in the 32nd minute. A minute later Denyer fired just wide and Borough went in with a one goal lead at the break.

The second period opened brightly and in the first minute Borough forced a corner on the right. McGoldrick's inswinging kick almost found the unmarked Dixey, before running to the impressive Denyer who hit the target with a crisp left foot drive, but Mogg saved low down. Another corner quickly followed and in the 51st minute Smithers fired a long range shot that Mogg caught on his line, as Borough totally dominated the early second half exchanges.

Rick Chandler burst into the area in the 54th minute, but Willie Gibson made a last ditch tackle. This was to be a rare moment of danger for Borough and they should have increased their lead in the 65th minute when a move between Ian Bennyworth and Denyer ended with Dominic Genovese lifting the ball over the bar from the edge of the six yard box.

However, it was just three minutes later when Willie Gibson overlapped well on the left and aimed his cross perfectly into the path of Frank Murphy, giving the striker the easiest of tasks to slip the ball home under the goalkeeper from 12 yards. Borough continued to outplay the home side in every department until Bath produced a last flourish that brought the best out of Borough keeper Blyth.

Just two minutes remained when a Grimshaw header looked a certain goal until Gibson appeared from nowhere to push the ball over the bar with his hand, but no penalty was given. Then in the very last minute the goalkeeper produced an even finer effort making a superb reflex save, clawing away a close range Dave Singleton header.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 09-09-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman, Genovese. Subs: Armstrong, Hutchinson.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough slumped to their second successive home defeat in a comedy of errors. They had the luxury of a 14th minute lead, thanks to the generosity of Bath keeper Dave Mogg, but never really looked like making it a double over their West Country visitors. Bath were a yard quicker than Borough and had far more invention and penetration up front.

And to add to their woes the Manor Park side gifted City an equaliser with an own goal and then went behind following a poor back pass that failed to reach keeper Jim Blyth. The opening exchanges were played at a frantic pace with both sides guilty of a series of niggling fouls. Ian Bennyworth then underhit a back pass that almost let in Mark Wright and at the other end Mogg did well to block a shot from Frank Murphy.

Nuneaton mounted a neat move down the right and Eddie

McGoldrick's cross was deflected for a corner that led to Borough taking the lead. McGoldrick swung in the corner from the left and Mogg under no pressure whatsoever, dropped the ball at Richard Dixey's feet and he had the simple task of tapping it into an empty net. Three minutes later the home side had a narrow escape when Bennyworth again failed to find Blyth with a back pass and Wright intercepted only for the keeper to scramble back and turn his centre away for a corner.

Borough failed to clear their lines from the set piece and Blyth had to produce a tremendous save to keep out a shot from Mick Adams. But three minutes before the break, Bath got a deserved equaliser, although it came in a bizarre way. Wright knocked a ball into the Borough penalty area and Tim Smithers, attempting to clear the ball for a corner, hooked it past Blyth into the corner of the net.

Nuneaton pushed forward at the start of the second half and Mogg had to react swiftly to stop Murphy breaking through. Then, Bath took control with two goals in a seven minute spell. After 54 minutes, Nuneaton failed to clear a left wing cross, a scramble developed on the edge of the box and Dixey attempted to play the ball back to Blyth but only succeeded in setting it up for Keith Brown to nip in and slide it past the stranded keeper.

Seven minutes later Wright skipped past Bennyworth and crossed perfectly for the unmarked Paul Bodin to head home from close range. Borough looked down and out but they clawed their way back into the match with 14 minutes left. McGoldrick played in a deep cross from the right and Peter Denyer ran in to fire past Mogg. Two minutes later Nuneaton might have snatched an equaliser when Murphy got onto the end of a low centre by McGoldrick but put his effort wide of the near post.

Kelly – No Need To Panic

There is no need to panic . . . That's the message from Borough chairman Noel Kelly after last night's 3-2 home defeat by Bath added further disappointment to the season so far. After their fourth defeat in five Gola League outings, Borough are languishing in the bottom three of the table and desperately searching for the first point in front of their home fans.

"Obviously we are not getting the best of luck at the moment. But, I am sure that better times are just around the corner and it is just a matter of being patient," said Kelly.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 14-09-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, F. Murphy, Denyer, Armstrong, Hutchinson. **Subs:** Genovese, Thurman.

Northwich: Ryan, Dean, T. Murphy, Nelson, Abel, Bishop, Stephens, Craven, Smith, Redshaw, Blease. **Subs:** Jones, Horton.

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Nuneaton Borough's tale of woe continued when they

slumped to their fifth defeat in six games. Despite the boost of an early lead from Frank Murphy, Borough seldom looked like ending their dismal run and finished a well-beaten side. Their lightweight attack simply did not have the necessary firepower to worry a well-drilled Vics defence and the midfield department never got to grips throughout the whole 90 minutes.

However, the real problem lay in defence where indecision and lack of understanding threatened to turn the afternoon into an embarrassment for Nuneaton. Poor marking and a string of misdirected and ill-timed back passes must have had Jim Blyth wondering just what was going on in front of him. Borough could point to the fact that both Murphy and Eddie McGoldrick hit the woodwork and Murphy and Peter Denyer could have made more of a couple of chances.

But at the end of the day they can have no grumbles following another disappointing display. Nuneaton were struggling at the start and should have gone behind after 13 minutes but Ray Redshaw hooked the ball over the top from 10 yards with only Blyth to beat. The visitors were made to pay for that miss as Borough went in front two minutes later after a present from Graham Abel. The tall central defender mishit a back pass and Frank Murphy intercepted to flick the ball over Dave Ryan and smash it into an empty net.



Frank Murphy nips in to beat Northwich keeper Dave Ryan to Graham Abel's back pass.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

However, Borough's joy was short-lived as Northwich were level within 60 seconds of the re-start. Steve Craven got himself some space after a long through ball and drilled his low cross-shot wide of Blyth into the bottom corner of the net. The home side were struggling to make an impact and Northwich virtually made sure of the points with two goals in six minutes midway through the half.

With 25 minutes gone the visitors went ahead with a glorious goal from full back Tony Murphy. Borough only cleared a corner to the edge of the box and Murphy's right foot volley screamed into the top corner. Six minutes later Northwich increased their lead with another gift goal. Ian Bennyworth's back pass was woefully short of the keeper and gave Rory Blease the simplest of chances which he gratefully accepted.

Redshaw should have made it four when Blyth raced out

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of his area and completely missed the ball with his flykick, but the Northwich striker hit the post. Just before the break Murphy missed two golden chances to put Borough back into the match. On both occasions he was clean through with just the keeper to beat.

Borough picked up the tempo at the start of the second period and Murphy again failed to capitalise on a clear-cut opening when he allowed the ball to run away from him in the box and Ryan cleared. McGoldrick then hit the outside of the angle with a fierce drive from the edge of the box. However, they almost got themselves into a tangle following a left-wing corner and Glyn Stephens saw his goalbound shot kicked off the line by Everton Carr. Denyer then had a shot charged down and Terry Armstrong might have done better from a McGoldrick cross near the end.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 17-09-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman, Whalley. **Subs:** Armstrong, Hutchinson.

Borough made the journey to Watling Street to play Dartford in a Gola League match.

Borough picked up their second successive away win with a performance full of the determination and spirit so sadly lacking in their home games. They took a grip of the game early on in the second half and apart from a late flourish from the home side, always looked in command, running out comfortable winners.

Peter Morris brought in Mick Thurman in place of Terry Armstrong and ex-Coventry Sporting striker Dave Whalley in place of Mark Hutchinson. The early exchanges were scrappy, and although Borough looked in determined mood it was eight minutes before either side produced a decent move. It was Borough new boy Whalley who provided the spark with a fine run on the left that took him past three defenders to the goal-line before his centre was dealt with by Tony Gibson.

A minute later Borough got round the back again, this time through Eddie McGoldrick on the other flank. His cross was deeper and the intruding Tim Smithers was only inches short of getting the vital touch. The near miss stung the home side but despite their increased possession they hardly troubled Borough, who were quick and determined in the tackle.

Two minutes before the break the home side had loud appeals for a penalty turned down, when Everton Carr brought down Tony Burman, but the referee ignored the protests and Borough went in level at the break.

If the first-half was good, the second started even better and, in the very first minute Frank Murphy found McGoldrick with a delightful ball on the right and he raced on before firing just past the post. In the 52nd minute Thurman fired over from the edge of the area when well placed and two minutes later Peter Denyer combined well with McGoldrick whose shot was straight at Dave Mallett in the home goal.

Borough were well on top and Whalley, looking most impressive on his debut, had a fierce shot deflected for a corner. It came as no surprise when they took the lead in the 66th minute. A free kick was awarded on the right for handball by George Borg ten yards from the angle of the penalty area and McGoldrick touched the ball to Smithers whose left foot shot ripped into the net giving Mallett, in the home goal no chance.

It was not until six minutes from time that Dartford were able to penetrate the Borough defence and trouble Blyth in goal, who comfortably dealt with a 25 yard Cowley free kick. The home side produced a final flourish and with two minutes remaining a fierce Burman cross from the left flashed across the six yard box with no one able to get a touch and in the closing seconds Blyth was forced to tip a looping header from Burman over the bar as he back pedalled furiously.

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 21-09-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman, Whalley. **Subs:** Hutchinson, Genovese.

Wealdstone: Iles, Tapley, McCargo, Perkins, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, Holmes, Cordice, Grave, Doyle. **Subs:** Jones, Graham.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Borough's first home point of the season brought little joy to the fans, who had to endure an uninspiring stalemate against the reigning Gola League champions. Conditions were difficult, with the strong wind posing problems for both sides, and the end product was a scrappy, niggling affair.



Borough new boy Dave Whalley puts in a strong aerial challenge during the first half.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

For their part, Borough did push men forward in a positive attempt to win the game, whereas the visitors made it clear from the start that they would be happy with a point. Nuneaton striker Dave Whalley did quite well on his home debut although he was given few chances to shine against the defensive minded opposition.

Borough looked more solid at the back than they have done previously and their second successive clean sheet is a big

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improvement on the early season form when they conceded 14 goals in their first six games. At the moment there seems to be a degree of confidence seeping back into the side but they still need to start putting away their chances if they are to begin to climb the league table.

Borough made a positive start and might have opened their account in the first minute. Mick Thurman's through ball put Peter Denyer in the clear but the ball held up in the wind and Wealdstone were able to recover and clear the danger. Denyer had another opportunity shortly afterwards when Ian Bennyworth split the Stones' defence and the Borough striker cut into the box only to hit his shot into the side netting.

Nuneaton continued to press forward and Frank Murphy ought to have put them in front in the 12th minute. He quickly fastened onto a poor back pass from Steve McCargo but he delayed his shot allowing Stones' keeper Bob Iles to race from his line and block the effort.

Whalley found himself some space out on the right and did well to get his cross over which narrowly eluded the in-rushing Tim Smithers. At the other end Borough only cleared a left wing corner to the edge of the box and McCargo's dipping volley was only just over the top.

Borough skipper Richard Dixey and Alan Cordice clashed in front of the stand and were both booked for their troubles. The home side were almost caught on the break when Willie Gibson failed to intercept a through ball and Mark Graves shot tamely wide with only Jim Blyth to beat. Eddie McGoldrick wasted an opportunity before Blyth raced out to punch away from Cordice and then somehow scrambling the ball away when Paul Bowgett looked sure to score.

The first action of the second half saw Carr become the fourth player to be booked following a clumsy tackle on Cordice. Bennyworth powered a header over the bar from McGoldrick's corner and then Carr had a half chance when the ball ran loose as Denyer challenged Iles. With six minutes left Borough were within an ace of taking the lead. Bowgett got his head to a long centre and was relieved to see the ball flash past the far upright with his keeper beaten. Just before the end Brian Greenaway appeared to stop a Tim Smithers free-kick with his hand inside the penalty area but Borough's appeals for a spot kick were brushed aside.

Nuneaton Borough v Runcorn 23-09-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman, Whalley. **Subs:** Hutchinson, Genovese.

Runcorn: Eales, Kettle, Roberts, Jones, Parker, Smith, Crompton, Imrie, Carter, Holden, Carrodus. **Subs:** Skeete, Hurst.

Borough welcomed Runcorn to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

Dave Whalley's first goal since joining Nuneaton Borough was enough to give the Manor Park side victory over high-flying Runcorn in an incident-packed match. Borough were full value for the points, but they should have won by a far more

convincing margin. They had enough chances to have put the issue beyond doubt long before the end, but failed to turn pressure into goals. Runcorn were forced to play the last 71 minutes with ten men after Mark Carter was sent off.

The Borough defence is now looking more like the unit that has done so well over the past couple of years, there is more bite and aggression in midfield and the front runners are also creating chances.

Borough got off to a good start when Tim Smithers floated a free-kick to the far post where Peter Denyer knocked it back into the middle for Whalley to score from close range. Runcorn might have snatched an equaliser shortly afterwards when Ossie Smith latched onto a Frank Carrodus corner, but he failed to make clean contact and Everton Carr was able to hook the ball clear.

Then came the incident that had a big bearing on the game. Carter challenged for a right wing corner and was promptly sent off for kicking Denyer. Richard Dixey was booked for a foul on Steve Crompton and was quickly followed into the book by John Imrie after a clash with Frank Murphy.

Denyer came close to increasing Borough's lead when he took Gibson's pass on the edge of the box and fired a left footer narrowly over the top. Graham Jones became the third player to be booked before keeper Peter Eales rescued his side when he blocked Murphy's shot with his legs.

Nuneaton surged forward at the start of the second half and Jones just got a touch to deflect a Murphy shot away from Whalley. Denyer then saw his 25 yard snapshot rebound from the foot of a post before Imrie tested Jim Blyth. Mick Thurman was booked for a foul on Carrodus before coming off with an eye injury, and was replaced by Mark Hutchinson. Midway through the half Ian Bennyworth looked to have scored with a header from a Tim Smithers corner, but up popped Mick Roberts to clear off the line.

Borough missed a great chance to make the game safe with 15 minutes left. Hutchinson produced a quality cross from the right, Whalley knocked it down but Murphy hooked the ball high over the top from eight yards. Murphy then sent McGoldrick racing down the middle, but Eales saved with his feet. Whalley was led off dazed after a mid-air collision and Carr became the fifth booking of the night for dissent.

Wycombe Wanderers v Nuneaton Boro' 01-10-1985

Wycombe: Lester, Riley, Pearce, Burgess, Vircavs, Hardman, West, Read, Dell, Link, Stanley. **Subs:** Hubbick, Snow.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman (Hutchinson 62), Whalley (Genovese 45).

Borough made the journey to Loakes Park to play Wycombe Wanderers in a Gola League match.

Ex-Scotland goalkeeper Jim Blyth erred badly as Nuneaton slumped to their sixth Gola League defeat in ten matches. The former Coventry and Birmingham star failed to hold a



wicked volley from Wanderer's skipper Anton Vircavs after 39 minutes. Stranded on the ground, Blyth desperately tried to kick the ball clear but only succeeded in hacking it into his own net off the legs of shocked defender Richard Dixey.

Veteran Tim Smithers volleyed high over after being set up by Peter Denyer in 11 minutes. Nuneaton did have the ball in the net after 20 minutes only for the effort to be ruled out for offside. A lovely move involving Eddie McGoldrick and Denyer ended with Frank Murphy planting his shot past Wycombe keeper Gary Lester. But Reading referee David Keen had already blown for the infringement.

McGoldrick caused Wycombe most problems in the second half. But although the versatile young prospect gave Wanderers left back Graham Pearce a torrid time, there was no one waiting in the box to make use of his crosses. Twice in two minutes the Wycombe keeper drew the sting out of dangerous Nuneaton moves. He dived full stretch to cut out a Murphy cross in 51 minutes before holding onto a close range Denyer header.

Blyth recovered from his earlier trauma to brilliantly tip another Vircavs volley round the post. But he was powerless to prevent Mark West from heading in Wycombe's second at the far post following a well worked corner.

Nuneaton's best chance came in the final minute. A deep cross found Dixey unmarked, but the big central defender steered his header inches wide with Lester beaten.

Nuneaton Boro' v West Midlands Police 03-10-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Genovese, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Hutchinson, Denyer, Thurman, Whalley. **Subs:** Manning, Hardwick.

WM Police: Moore, Smith, Grimshaw, Pigott, Dorrian, Buttress, Nardiello, Scriven, Andrews, Shannon, McMenamin. **Subs:** Sutton, Hinman.

Borough welcomed West Midlands Police to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough booked their place in the next round with a late flourish. The Police had more than held their own and a replay looked on the cards when Borough killed them off with two goals in 60 seconds. Dominic Genovese put the home side on the victory trail, Dave Whalley quickly added a second and the tall striker wrapped things up with another, three minutes from the end.

There is no doubt that Nuneaton earned their win, but they were made to work hard for their success by the Midland Combination outfit. Despite the obvious difference in class, the visitors battled throughout and the final scoreline was poor reward for their efforts. Borough had an early chance when Everton Carr picked out Whalley with a precise cross from the right but the striker failed to connect properly with his close range header.

At the other end Dave Scriven was only a foot wide with a shot from the edge of the box after Tim Smithers had lost possession in midfield. Nuneaton were struggling to

impose themselves on the game at this stage and Willie Gibson hooked a Billy Shannon effort off the line before Mick Buttress put a header narrowly over the top. As the interval approached the Manor Park side started to exert some pressure and Whalley and Genovese both went close.

Borough were only inches away from taking the lead at the start of the second half when Steve Smith, attempting to clear a right wing cross, saw his header rebound off a post. The visitors looked as though they were beginning to run out of steam and Brian Dorrian had to make a timely tackle to thwart Peter Denyer before an Eddie McGoldrick cross caused them more problems.

But the pressure had to tell and with 73 minutes gone McGoldrick's left wing corner was flicked on by Richard Dixey at the near post and Genovese side footed the ball in from close range. The visitors never had time to get over the shock as 60 seconds later they were effectively out of the match. Smithers took a short free-kick on the left, Genovese turned quickly in the box and fired in a right foot shot that Jez Moore failed to hold and Whalley poked the ball home.

Almost immediately afterwards Genovese missed a glorious chance when he failed to control McGoldrick's pass only eight yards from goal and Moore scrambled the ball away. Carr brought the sparse crowd to their feet with a superb 50 yard run that ended when he rifled a left foot shot just over the bar from the edge of the box.

But three minutes from the end Borough got a super third goal created by substitute Alton Manning. The talented winger took a ball wide on the left, slipped round the full-back and his pin-point centre to the far post left Whalley with a simple header, which he gratefully accepted.

Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 05-10-1985

Maidstone: Richardson, Brinkman, Borg, D. Carr, Glover, Ferguson, Reynolds, Butler, Horton, Barnes, Joyce. **Subs:** Tiltman, Hill.

Borough: Blyth, E. Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Whalley. **Subs:** Genovese, Thurman.

Borough made the journey to London Road to play Maidstone United in a Gola League match.

There was more than a touch of irony about Borough's 5-1 thrashing. Peter Morris, the man who succeeded Graham Carr, was a hot favourite for the Maidstone job when Bill Williams left for South Africa last season. And the kingpin in a sound Maidstone rearguard that seldom relaxed its grip on the Borough attack was John Glover, who until his transfer for a bargain £2,000 less than a year ago, was a Nuneaton stalwart.

Not one of the 735 spectators could possibly have envisaged such a final scoreline as Borough, playing neat, composed football, held their own for the opening 30 minutes. But they suddenly went to pieces and conceded three goals in the space of 12 minutes as Maidstone, seeking their first win since August 26, cashed in on a series of defensive blunders.



The first came when keeper Jim Blyth, who had an unhappy afternoon, was slow to come off his line as Maidstone striker Mickey Joyce picked up a long clearance from his own keeper and lobbed the ball into an empty net. Five minutes later Borough found themselves two down following a poor clearance by Everton Carr. He sent the ball straight to Tony Reynolds who cut into the middle, picked his spot and shot past the helpless Blyth.

There was no let-up for back-peddalling Borough whose defence was being torn to pieces by the pace and power of Steve Butler, an on loan signing from Brentford, and Reynolds. Maidstone went three up in the 41st minute when Reynolds neatly put through by Joyce, crossed to perfection for Butler, completely unmarked in front of goal, to head home.

Nuneaton were further handicapped by the loss of Dave Whalley who went off with a cut head just before half-time and was replaced by Dominic Genovese, but pulled one back in the 61st minute when Frank Murphy surprised keeper Derek Richardson with a looping 40 yarder that dropped over his head and into the net. But within four minutes man-of-the-match Butler restored Maidstone's three-goal advantage by nodding in Dave Carr's cross from the right.

New signing George Borg from Dartford marked his debut by rifling a shot past Blyth from a super through ball by Butler 15 minutes from the end. Borough had Eddie McGoldrick booked for dissent in the first half while Blyth got away with a lecture from Essex referee David Eley after throwing a punch at striker Colin Barnes just after Maidstone's fourth goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 07-10-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Denyer, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Genovese, Hutchinson, Whalley. **Subs:** Thurman, Manning.

Cheltenham: Hards, Baverstock, Blackler, Boxall, Cornes, Brookes, Hughes, Jordan, Boyland, Abbley, Gazzard. **Subs:** Collicutt, Lockwood.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park to play a Gola League game.

More gloom descended over Manor Park as Borough turned in another dismal performance. Following two league defeats in the past week, Borough were hoping to bounce back to winning ways in front of their own supporters. But they failed to raise to the occasion and the lively Cheltenham side were full value for their narrow win. Borough did create a couple of chances in the second half but in truth they were rather flattered by the scoreline.

Mark Boyland got the visitors all-important goal seven minutes after the break, but he might well have had a hat-trick. Nuneaton's square defence was caught out time and again by the lively Cheltenham front runners who really should have made more of several clear cut openings. There is no pattern to Borough's play and they struggled throughout to develop any sort of rhythm and long before the end their heads had dropped.

Confidence is again at rock bottom and Peter Morris has a

major task to lift the team before Saturday's FA Cup tie against neighbours Hinckley. Borough were without skipper Richard Dixey, Peter Denyer moving into the back four and Dominic Genovese taking over up front. Tim Smithers got in the first real shot of the game when he fired a fierce left footer narrowly over the angle after Dave Whalley had set up the opportunity.

Ian Bennyworth was fortunate to get away with what looked like handball in the box. Cheltenham keeper Neil Hards rescued his side when he brought down Eddie McGoldrick as he broke clear on the right. From the ensuing free-kick Genovese headed wide. But the visitors should have gone ahead shortly afterwards when the home defenders failed to pick up Nick Gazzard from a right wing cross, but he put his header over the top from six yards.

Mark Hutchinson then blocked a clearance by Clive Boxall, Frank Murphy hooked the ball into the middle and it needed a timely tackle from Steve Abbley to deny Whalley.

At the start of the second half Boyland brought a good save from Jim Blyth before he grabbed the vital goal for the visitors. Brian Hughes found Steve Brooks on the edge of the box and he turned it wide for Boyland to beat Everton Carr and score with a shot that went in off the foot of the far post.

Borough might have snatched an equaliser but McGoldrick's corner flashed across the face of the goal with no one on hand. Murphy then freed McGoldrick on the right, Genovese got a touch to the ensuing cross but Murphy failed to find the necessary power to trouble Hards. Alton Manning replaced Murphy and shortly afterwards missed a golden opportunity to level the scores. Bennyworth played McGoldrick into space with a glorious long ball. The flank man pulled the ball back from the line, but Manning failed to connect properly from eight yards and the keeper gathered comfortably.

Boyland twice went close before the end, once firing just over the top from the edge of the box and then hooking a shot across the face of goal with Blyth beaten.

Sixteen Held As Fans Rampage

Two policemen were hurt and 16 people arrested as violence flared at Nuneaton Borough's FA Cup tie at Manor Park. Of those detained and later bailed, 12 were from Nuneaton. They and the other four from the Hinckley area have been bailed to Nuneaton Magistrates' Court on November 14, charged with public order offences.

Hamill Back For Borough

Stewart Hamill makes a welcome return to the Nuneaton Borough side for their Gola League clash at Dagenham. The skilful winger, who has been playing in Finland during the summer, has trained at Manor park for the past week and is named in Nuneaton's thirteen.

Hamill's inclusion will give manager Peter Morris more attacking options, but the Borough boss will have to wait until tomorrow before finalising his line-up.

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Dagenham v Nuneaton Borough 19-10-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy (Genovese), Denyer, Hamill, Whalley. **Sub:** Hutchinson.

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to play Dagenham in a Gola League match.

Borough were beaten for the fourth successive league game despite holding a half-time lead. Mick Thurman continued his partnership with Ian Bennyworth and Stewart Hamill was included for his first match of the season. The only other change saw Mick Beale take the place of the injured Jim Blyth.

In the first minute of the game, Lincoln Manderson robbed Everton Carr near the left corner flag and hoisted a cross that Beale inexplicably dropped, causing a mad scramble. But Borough settled well and almost took the lead in the fifth minute when Bennyworth lost his marker to hit the top of the bar with a powerful header.

McGoldrick's powerful run into the area was halted at the last moment by a desperate tackle from full-back Clive Day. Although Borough were looking well in control it was the home side that took the lead in the ninth minute when Steve Cox curled a right wing corner to the near post where the ball was flicked on by the head of Paul Powell and entered the net despite the desperate efforts of Carr to keep it out.

In the 14th minute, Beale made a fine save, blocking a Cox shot with his legs and then clutching a cross-cum-shot from Powell. Borough equalised in the 17th minute when McGoldrick hit a deep corner from the right and Bennyworth put in a downward header that bounced before crossing the line.

Once on level terms Borough began to blossom and pushed forward in search of a second goal. Home keeper John Jacobs was forced to race way out of his area to hack clear from McGoldrick in the 36th minute. It came as no surprise when Borough took a 37th minute lead. McGoldrick ran at the Dagenham defence, taking the ball to the edge of the area before pushing it left. Dave Whalley allowed it to run behind him and Frank Murphy came racing in to slip the ball home.

Borough almost increased their lead in the 41st minute when Jacobs dropped Hamill's shot. Murphy was injured in a collision with the keeper and had to go off in the second half.

Dagenham took control of the game after the break, scoring twice in the space of four minutes. The equaliser came in the 51st minute when Joe Dunwell fell over, but managed to push the ball to Cox on the left, whose cross shot passed under Beale and into the net. Three minutes later Dagenham took the lead when a ball from Taylor found Manderson on the left and his cross shot seemed certain to go in, but Cox arrived at the far post to make sure, lashing home from close range.

Manderson completely missed his kick from a Cox cross and Beale was forced to save at the feet of Powell and then punched a cross from Manderson away while under pressure from Powell.

Nuneaton Borough v Highgate United 21-10-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Denyer, Smithers, McGoldrick, Hutchinson, Whalley, Genovese, Manning. **Subs:** Hardwick, Kenney.

Highgate: Walker, Sargent, O'Conner, Sherlock, Smith, Dainty, Pinnock, Joy, Caughey, Blewitt, Cattacinch. **Subs:** Martin, Piggott.

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

Borough booked their passage into the fourth round with a comprehensive win. Dave Whalley and Dominic Genovese both scored twice to help Borough finally quell the fire of the battling Midland Combination outfit. The final scoreline was convincing enough but once again Nuneaton made hard work of overcoming inferior opposition.

Eddie McGoldrick gave the visitors a harrowing time in the opening stages and Borough should have been well in front. Whalley was only inches away from converting one cross and then Genovese turned well to fire narrowly wide of the right-hand post. But Borough were a bit casual in their approach and nearly paid a dear price when Perry Blewitt knocked a ball over the top of a hesitant home defence and keeper Mick Beale had to produce a brave save to deny Tom Caughey.

Genovese then went close with a hook shot from the edge of the box before McGoldrick ended a fine run with a drive that flashed a foot over the top. But the visitors were looking dangerous on the break and Caughey jinked his way past three defenders to force Beale into a diving save. Just as it appeared that a dreary first-half would end goalless, Borough broke the deadlock. Everton Carr found Genovese in the box and he turned sharply to deliver a low cross that Whalley dived to head past Dave Walker.

Nuneaton looked far sharper at the start of the second half and six minutes after the restart they increased their lead with a cracker from Genovese. McGoldrick turned his man wide out on the right and weighted his pass perfectly for the incoming striker to hammer home a right foot volley from 15 yards. However, the home side had hardly stopped celebrating when Highgate pulled a goal back with an absolute gift. There was no apparent danger when Mick Thurman picked up a loose ball on the edge of the box, but his attempted backpass was woefully short and Blewitt nipped in to slip the ball past Beale.

Walder saved a close range header from Genovese, but Borough were still living dangerously at times and they were fortunate when Caughey shot wide with only the keeper to beat. Shortly after the visitors were unlucky when Mark Sherlock picked out Blewitt, whose header came back off the bar. Any chance the visitors had of pulling the game round disappeared when Lee Sargent hit a poor backpass after 78 minutes allowing Whalley to grab his second. Six minutes later Borough had another gift, this time Pete Smith failed to find his keeper and Genovese took full advantage with Borough's fourth goal.



Borough At Home To Burnley

Nuneaton Borough have received the luck of the draw in the first round proper of the FA Cup with a home tie against Burnley. The match will take place on Saturday, November 16 and there is little doubt that Borough's biggest crowd of the season will be out to cheer Peter Morris's men.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 19-10-1985

Kidderminster: Campbell, Buckland, Richards, Mackenzie, Horne, Woodall, Powell, Casey, Gavin, Tuohy, Bradley. **Subs:** Rosegreen, Kenny.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Hutchinson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Genovese, Whalley. **Subs:** Hardwick, Kenny.

Borough made the journey to Aggborough to play Kidderminster Harriers in a Gola League match.

A costly mistake by former Scottish international goalkeeper Jim Blyth cost Nuneaton Borough a valuable point. In the important clash between two teams in the bottom six, a 20 yard shot from 19-year-old substitute Mark Rosegreen in the 86th minute, eluded the Nuneaton goalkeeper's grasp and the ball rolled into the net.

Kidderminster probably just about deserved the two points, carrying more threat in the opposing penalty area, but Nuneaton battled hard in an endeavour to gain the point they badly needed. The home side pressed strongly from the start and Kim Casey netted in the first five minutes, but the goal was ruled out for offside and then Nuneaton defender Everton Carr headed over his own bar to prevent Casey from gaining a free header.

Dave Whalley carried an early threat for Nuneaton and in interchanging with Frank Murphy, caused problems for the suspect home defence, but the Harriers were saved by the quick intervention from reserve goalkeeper Trevor Campbell. John Powell lobbed the ball over Blyth but his shot hit the bar. However the home side went ahead after 36 minutes when Mick Tuohy pounced on a rebound to shoot through from close range.

The Kidderminster striker, however, was forced to leave the field two minutes after his goal with a hamstring injury and was replaced by Rosegreen. Nuneaton equalised on the stroke of half-time when Dominic Genovese raced through the Harriers defence and slotted the ball past Campbell although there was a suspicion of offside.

Eddie McGoldrick almost set up a goal when he found the overlapping Mark Hutchinson on the right but his shot was blocked at the second attempt by the Harriers' keeper. The game was set alight in the last 10 minutes when Campbell made the save of the match from Peter Denyer and seconds later it was Blyth's turn to save from Casey.

Rosegreen had a goal disallowed, but with only four minutes remaining the same player turned quickly and his 20 yard shot gained two home points, Kidderminster's first league win since September 23.

Morris Sacked

Borough have sacked manager Peter Morris following last night's defeat at Kidderminster Harriers. Morris, who took over the Manor Park hot seat after Graham Carr had moved to Northampton in May, was relieved of his duties today when a shock announcement from Borough chairman Noel Kelly, said: "We are bottom but one in the Gola League and because of the number of poor results the board and I have decided the manager should go." His sacking comes just three days after Morris had taken Borough to the first round proper of the FA Cup with a money-spinning home tie against Fourth Division Burnley.

I Wasn't Given Enough Time – Morris

Peter Morris, sacked as manager of Nuneaton Borough, feels that he was not given enough time by the Manor Park board. Morris, who officially took over as replacement for Graham Carr on June 1, reigned for only 151 days in the Borough hot seat and was in charge for just 21 games. During that time he steered Borough to an FA Cup first round home tie against Burnley, but saw the side slump to bottom but one in the Gola League.

"Nuneaton sold three vital players during the close season and there was great difficulty in trying to replace them," he said. "Money at the club is very tight despite the income from transfer fees and there was not enough available to buy top class replacements."

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

02-11-1985

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Brown, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Whalley. **Subs:** Hamill, Hardwick.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough ended their dismal run, that has seen them slump to five successive league defeats, with a convincing win. Caretaker Richard Dixey couldn't have wished for a better start. Goals have been in short supply this season for the Manor Park outfit, but three in the first 22 minutes ensured them of a welcome victory.

There was plenty of aggression throughout the side and there were distinct signs that the confidence, so sadly missing for most of this campaign, was beginning to return. Borough went off the boil at the start of the second half allowing former Nuneaton player Roger Thompson's side to come into the picture a little more. But in general it was a vast improvement over recent weeks.

Tim Smithers took over at left back, Dave Whalley returned up front and Paul Brown, signed from Redditch in midweek, lined up in midfield. The opening exchanges were littered with niggling fouls and Ian Bennyworth was booked after only three minutes for hacking down Dave Sansom. But four minutes later Borough were in front. Eddie McGoldrick was fouled by Glyn Creaser and from the resulting free-kick Peter

Denyer rose high above the Barnet defence to plant a superb header past Steve Humphries.



Peter Denyer powers his way between two Barnet defenders and his header is on the way into the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bennyworth was then denied a goal by the Barnet keeper who reacted magnificently to turn a fierce header over the bar. But Borough's constant pressure had to tell and they increased their lead after 18 minutes through Murphy. The diminutive striker showed some excellent close control as he jinked his way into the box where he was brought down by Creaser. Murphy picked himself up to plant the penalty into the bottom corner of the net.

Four minutes later Trevor Parker got himself booked for bringing down McGoldrick and Nuneaton immediately went three up. Paul Brown swung in a centre from wide on the right and Denyer headed home from close range. Peter Brown became the second booking for the visitors for kicking Murphy before Robert Codner tested Jim Blyth with a 25 yard shot. But the visitors, with little more than their pride to play for, showed that they were not going to go down without a fight as they started the second period in determined mood.

Barry Little should have done better when he sliced his shot wide from a good position after Nicky Evans had cleverly dummied a centre from Sansom. Creaser then had a header comfortably saved by Blyth before the visitors reduced the arrears after 61 minutes. Little, in yards of space on the right, crossed deep to the back post where Creaser knocked it back into the middle. Mick Thurman and Everton Carr got themselves in a muddle and Sansom hooked a left foot shot into the roof of the net.

But Barnet's hopes of salvaging something from the match received a severe set back when main striker Evans limped off to be replaced by John Neal. Bennyworth shot over from close range when he got in on the blind side for a McGoldrick free-kick and then Whalley sliced his effort across the face of the goal after a flowing four-man move.

Andy Goodchild finally got himself booked for bringing down McGoldrick before Whalley beat two men on the edge of the box and saw his shot hit the top of the bar and fly over

the top. However, six minutes from the end Paul Brown celebrated his return to Manor Park with a delightful free-kick that he bent round the defensive wall and into the far corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 04-11-1985

Borough: Beale, E. Carr, Brown, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Whalley. Subs: Hamill, Hardwick.
Stafford: Field, Johnson, Upton, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Derbyshire, Lowe, Page, Power, P. Carr. Subs: Gill, Austin.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Bob Lord Trophy second round first leg match.

Frank Murphy's penalty midway through the second half was enough to earn Borough a draw. But Nuneaton will now face an uphill task when the sides meet in the second leg. Borough were well on top before the break and really ought to have taken a commanding lead, but their cause was not helped by some strange decisions by the referee.

However, Stafford improved after the re-start and it took another debatable decision by Paul Danson to get Nuneaton back on level terms. Murphy and Ian Bennyworth both went close but it was the visitors who had the first real chance when Don Page found Phil Derbyshire wide on the right and his low cross left Mike Power completely free in front of goal, but the Stafford striker failed to make contact.

Peter Denyer should have done better with a clear header from Eddie McGoldrick's cross and then Murphy brought Dave Field to his knees after beating three men on a mazy run. Eight minutes before the break Borough were denied the all-important first goal. Paul Brown played a left wing corner short to McGoldrick and when his cross was only cleared to the edge of the box, Bennyworth hammered a magnificent volley into the far corner. However, Nuneaton's celebrations were cut short when, after a consultation with his linesman, the referee disallowed the effort.

Borough were again on the receiving end two minutes later, when Paul Upton brought down McGoldrick as he cut in on goal but, to the frustration of home players and fans alike, the referee refused a penalty. To rub salt into the wound Stafford snatched the lead on the stroke of half-time completely against the run of play. Mick Thurman was slow coming out from defence and kept Page onside. The number nine drilled in a precise cross from the left and Power glanced his header past Mick Beale.

Nuneaton pushed forward again at the start of the second half in search of an equaliser and Murphy headed over after another good run and cross by McGoldrick. But Borough levelled the scores after 66 minutes after another staggering decision by the man in the middle. Paul Brown had a shot blocked by John Ridley and the ball fell to Dave Whalley. The big striker should have scored but allowed Field to come out and smother the ball. To the amazement of everyone the referee awarded Borough a penalty that Murphy gratefully put away. Stafford were still looking dangerous on the break

and Derbyshire was unlucky when he made a fine break from deep in his own territory only to see the fierce cross shot hit the far post and be scrambled to safety. However, Borough could have snatched a late winner when Mark Hutchinson's last minute lob beat Field and rebounded off the bar.

Borough To Spend £3,000 On Security

Nuneaton Borough expect to fork out up to £3,000 for new security fencing at their ground for the FA Cup tie with Burnley. The new fence will go up alongside existing barriers to provide extra strength and create an access channel for the police. Borough chairman Noel Kelly said: "The segregation fence will keep people apart and improve our security for the cup tie. But it is all part of our plan to improve the ground for the future in the hope of League football."

A nine feet high fence will also go up near the social club to enable a more controlled entrance to the ground.

Genovese Goes Back To Boston

Dominic Genovese has left Manor Park to return to his former club – Boston United. The diminutive striker, signed by Peter Morris during the close season, has not had a happy stay with Nuneaton. He has failed to find either the form or the goals that made him a favourite with the Lincolnshire club. Genovese has missed the last two games with a groin injury and will not be fit for the next two or three weeks.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Brown (Whalley 70), Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Hamill. Sub: Kenney.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in a Gola League match.

Borough were drowned by an incredible goal scoring tidal wave from league leaders Altrincham. In a crazy 13 minute second half spell, stand-in keeper Mick Beale was beaten no less than five times. And as Borough themselves grabbed three to salvage some pride from the rout the second half became reminiscent more of a knock about Sunday League fixture than the tight battle the first 45 minutes had promised.

Nuneaton were given a dream start after just four minutes by Frank Murphy, who stepped up to score from the spot after Eddie McGoldrick was brought down in the box by Altrincham's ex-Manchester United keeper Jeff Wealands. And with big centre-backs Ian Bennyworth and Mick Thurman throwing up a defensive wall around Beale – in for the injured Jim Blyth – Borough were in control for much of the first half.

They should have gone two up after 25 minutes, when Stewart Hamill shot just wide from just 25 yards after a sparkling four man move. But early bookings for Brown and Thurman eventually told, as Altrincham began to gnaw away at the Borough defence. A 41st minute Paul Reid equaliser was followed three minutes later by a Colin Chesters' header which sent the Robins in 2-1 at the break

Borough left Altrincham standing at the start of the second half with Peter Denyer going close before Paul Brown latched on to a superb Hamill cross to power in their equaliser after 51 minutes. But Altrincham hit back quickly. Beale was twice called upon to make last ditch saves. One punched clearance fell to Altrincham skipper John Davison, who sent a vicious 30-yard shot all along the ground past the despairing goalkeeper.

Davison's effort opened the flood gates. Reid made it 4-2 after 63 minutes and two minutes later winger Gary Anderson grabbed the pick of the bunch, jinking past two defenders to fire home. On 67 minutes Murphy netted his second for Borough, neatly tucking the ball past Wealands from the edge of the box. It seemed for a moment that the game could go either way, with a frantic free for all of end to end attacking.

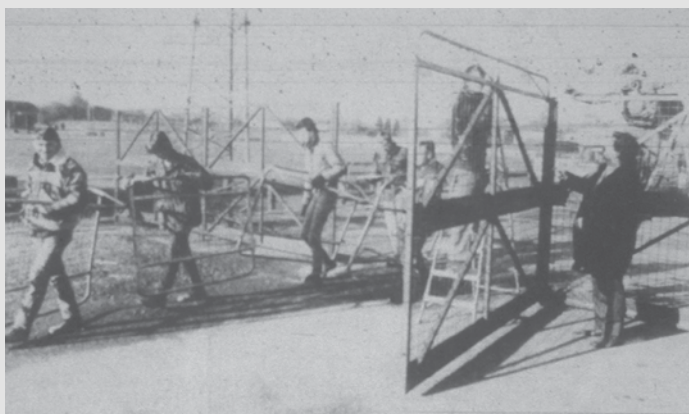
But when Peter Conning beat Borough's offside trap to slot home Altrincham's sixth after 69 minutes, and Reid completed his hat-trick three minutes later, the visitors heads dropped. Stewart Hamill's 76th minute consolation rounded off the goalscoring mayhem, and Borough were too shell shocked to mount any further challenge.

More Stewards Needed



Nuneaton Borough are still looking for more stewards at their Manor Park ground. The Gola League club needs more officials not only for their FA Cup tie on Saturday, but for the rest of the season. Programme editor Geoff Cooke and Manor Park office work Joan Ruston are pictured modelling the new bibs that all stewards will wear from now on.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly inspects some of the new safety fencing that is being installed at Manor Park for Saturday's FA Cup first round tie with Burnley.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Two Dozen Arrested At Cup Tie

Police made two dozen arrests during Nuneaton Borough's FA Cup game against Burnley, and afterwards described the hooligans as men acting like children.

There were no clashes during the game, and only minor skirmishes afterwards. Most of the arrests were from the main Borough supporters' stand, and were of people whose behaviour was likely to cause trouble if they had been allowed to continue.

Only four Burnley supporters were arrested, two for climbing a floodlight tower. A policeman was slightly injured when he was struck in the eye by a coin thrown from the canal end of the Queen's Road stand, where most of the noisier Borough fans were gathered.

Hundreds Crushed At Cup Game

Hundreds of Borough supporters were crushed against exit gates after Saturday's match, when a plea to say behind went unheard. Borough chairman Mr Noel Kelly went on the ground's public address system just before the end, telling fans that they would not be allowed to leave for ten minutes after the final whistle. But his announcement coincided with some important play on the field, and most of the crowd could not hear him.

It meant that when the match ended, in a 3-2 win for Burnley, fans rushed for the exit gates to find them locked as part of the police plan to avoid trouble. About 30 Borough supporters did get out before the end and chased the Burnley supporters into Greenmoor Road. There were some heated exchanges at the gates, though, and a senior officer admitted later that the plan went slightly wrong.

Chief Superintendent Tom Genders said: "There would still be battles going on two hours after the game, if we had simply left the gates open. As it was, it worked but caused a lot of inconvenience." He said he heard many people complaining about it, and said: "I have to agree and sympathise with them."

Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 21-11-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Hardwick, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Denyer, Whalley, Hutchinson, Kenney. Subs: Manning, Burke.

Dudley: Pomeroy, McCormack, Brown, Foote, Francis, Rich, Hazlewood, Loveridge, Stanton, Drummond, Gordon. Subs: Shelton, James.

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

Nuneaton came back to earn themselves a replay in an uninspiring quarter-final tie. Trailing by two goals after just 17 minutes, Borough looked to be heading for defeat. But they pulled back a goal before the interval and then grabbed an equaliser just 12 minutes from the end.

Mick Rich drilled in a low free kick from the left and Russell Gordon tested Mick Beale with a shot taken neatly on the turn before Dudley took the lead after 13 minutes. John Loveridge's through ball caught the Borough defence square and Mark Stanton raced clear to slip the ball past Beale.

Dudley looked the far sharper of the two teams and it came as no surprise when they scored a second four minutes after taking the lead. Gordon found Malc Hazlewood inside the box and he beat Beale from a narrow angle despite the Borough keeper getting a hand to the ball. The visitors had a penalty appeal turned down after the referee consulted his linesman.

Borough got themselves back into contention in the 25th minute when Stewart Hamill found Dave Whalley with a fine crossfield ball and when the striker was brought down in the area, Hamill scored from the spot. Borough picked up a bit after that and Tim Smithers tested Steve Pomeroy with a fierce 25 yard free-kick. But just before the break Borough had another let off. Brendan Drummond got clear and as Beale came out his chip over the keeper hit the bar.

Whalley should have scored shortly afterwards but Gary Hardwick got in his way. Loveridge shot across the face of the goal and Drummond ought to have done better with another opening after the home side's offside trap had been sprung. Hardwick and Whalley both had shots charged down before Borough equalised after 78 minutes. Hamill crossed deep to the far post and Dave Kenney forced a header past Pomeroy.

Shortly before the end Hamill brought a fingertip save from the visitors' keeper but it took a last ditch tackle from Gibson on Hazlewood to save Borough from a last minute defeat.

Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 23-11-1985

Frickley: Macted, Shirliff, Hooley (Hatto 71), Wilcox, Wright, Bishop, Noteman, Howey, Wilson, Mallender, Foley.

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Whalley, Denyer, McGoldrick.

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to play Frickley Athletic in a Gola League game.

Determined to escape from the foot of the league, Nuneaton exhibited the right type of spirit to deservedly share the

spoils. This lively encounter did not find the goals trail until the second half when Borough twice snatched the lead only to see the home side come back and get on terms. Referee J. Morley sent off a player from each side and booked two, Nuneaton defender Everton Carr getting his marching orders in the 29th minute for a foul tackle on Mallender after being booked earlier, while Frickley's Will Foley was sent off for retaliation after 68 minutes and Ian Bennyworth and Frank Murphy received cautions.

It was not a dirty game, however, with both teams concentrating on attacking football. Eddie McGoldrick was a constant threat to the home defence with Stewart Hamill, Dave Whalley and Peter Denyer also causing the Frickley cover some anxious moments. A reshuffle by the visitors following the departure of Carr led to Mick Thurman and Ian Bennyworth having to take the brunt of the home raids but they remained cool and constructive while Mick Beale produced a string of fine saves.

Denyer was unlucky in the third minute when he saw his rising 35 yard drive tipped over the bar by Maxted, while Whalley was only inches too high with a header from a McGoldrick cross a minute later. Frickley began to press and Beale saved well from Wilcox in the 15th minute and Foley nine minutes later. Most of the pressure was on the visiting goal and Willie Gibson saved them in the 34th minute when he blocked an effort by Hooley on the line.

The second half saw Borough much more direct in attack with Denyer beating the offside trap in the 51st minute and lobbing over Maxted but the ball curled wide of the target. Frank Murphy played a neat one-two with Whalley in the 57th minute before drilling in a 15 yards drive to put them ahead. This produced some persistent Frickley pressure and Paul Shirtliff equalised in the 66th minute. Beale managed to get a hand to his 35 yards shot but could not stop it going in.

Nuneaton bounced back and Tim Smithers restored their advantage with a 18 yards shot following a cross by McGoldrick in the 76th minute. Immediately on the re-start substitute Hatto pushed the ball forward and Paul Wilson stabbed it past the advancing Beale to tie the score. Hamill combined with McGoldrick in the 80th minute but his shot was well saved and Denyer also had an effort blocked as Borough fought to the end.

Jimmy Holmes New Borough Manager

Former Coventry City and Eire international Jimmy Holmes took over the vacant manager's chair at Nuneaton Borough today, looking to lift the club out of their present doldrums. Holmes, 32, who until recently has been assistant manager to John Wile at Peterborough, has had a much travelled playing career having spells at Tottenham, Vancouver Whitecaps, Leicester, Brentford and Torquay after leaving the Sky Blues.

He takes over at Manor Park following the dismissal of Peter Morris at the end of last month and also intends to play. The task facing Holmes is anything but an easy one with Borough

currently in the bottom two of the table and, despite an improvement in their form under caretaker boss Richard Dixey, there is a lot of hard work to do if they are to get away from the relegation zone.

"My main objective is to get us into a more respectable league position and to improve the playing strength at the club," said Holmes. With 31 caps for Eire behind him, Holmes has plenty of experience and he will be hoping to transmit some of that knowhow into his Borough side.



Borough's new manager Jimmy Holmes is pictured being welcomed to Manor Park by chairman Noel Kelly and director Sean Gallagher.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 26-11-1985

Stafford: Field, Johnson, Upton, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Page, Lowe, Mountain, Hanchard, Carr. Subs: Wood, Austin.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Holmes, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy (Brown 73), Whalley, Denyer. McGoldrick. Sub: Hutchinson.

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

Jimmy Holmes made his debut for Borough, both as a player and a manager in a game in which he saw his team show most of their strengths and many of their faults. Replacing the injured Mick Thurman alongside Ian Bennyworth, the former Eire international showed much composure, but Borough finished disappointingly to go out of the competition to an 87th minute goal from Don Page.

From the outset Borough showed their intentions by attacking down their right flank, where Stewart Hamill, Eddie McGoldrick and Frank Murphy combined well. When Stafford replied Bennyworth cleared a dangerous cross from Robert Mountain. Stafford continued to press and Everton Carr, who had a fine game, blocked a fierce effort from Page after Bennyworth had missed a long through ball. Borough made a break and Holmes and McGoldrick combined well before the new Borough boss drove over from 20 yards.

Stafford took the lead after 14 minutes when a left-wing cross was headed home by Mountain with Blyth looking as though



he might have expected the ball to go wide. A minute later Borough were denied a possible equaliser when Whalley was given offside with only the keeper to beat when he had made a run from inside his own half.

Borough dominated the rest of the half, being well marshalled by Bennyworth, and with Hamill in inspired form in midfield they took control of the game. McGoldrick embarked on a series of right wing runs which caused constant headaches to the Stafford defence which was often reduced to desperation measures. After 43 minutes Hamill took a crossfield pass from the left before surging past two defenders and cracking a right-footed shot past the keeper for a deserved equaliser.

Borough's game was disappointing after the break and they allowed Stafford to regain control. Passes began to go astray and the home players were presented with easy possession. Hamill was booked for taking a free kick too quickly, and when Murphy limped off to be replaced by Brown the prospects looked less than encouraging.

Upton was booked for a succession of fouls on McGoldrick, then Whalley wasted a chance to break for goal when an aggressive burst might have proved conclusive. With time running out Brown crossed well from the left only for Smithers to shoot narrowly wide with his right foot. Bennyworth headed wide from a corner, but in the next minute the game was decided. Paul Johnson played the ball deep into Borough's penalty area, Hanchard rose to head the ball downwards and Page stuck out a foot to turn it into the net.

New Signings For Telford Game

Nuneaton Borough could have two new faces in their line-up for the home game against Telford. Former Sky Blues midfielder Les Cartwright will definitely play and manager Jimmy Holmes is hoping to complete the signing of striker Trevor Parr.

Parr was at Peterborough with Holmes and then had a spell with League of Ireland club Cork City where he was a regular scorer. Cartwright, who has been playing with Coventry Sporting, trained at Manor Park last night and signed after a discussion with Holmes.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 30-11-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Holmes, Smithers, Hamill, Cartwright, Parr, Whalley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Brown, Hutchinson.

Telford: Charlton, McGinty, Turner, Barnett, Hancock, Mann, Jackson, Williams, McKenna, Hogan, Alcock. **Subs:** Eaton, Joseph.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Nuneaton, languishing at the wrong end of the table, will continue to struggle until they start to convert their chances into goals. They had enough of the play to have picked up a comfortable win, but they failed to press home their superiority.

Borough should have had the points tied up before the break when they were on top, but in the end they had to pay for a string of missed chances. Ian Bennyworth and Dave Whalley both failed to accept clear cut openings and newcomer Trevor Parr had a first-half header superbly saved by Kevin Charlton. Despite a 13th minute penalty miss by Stewart Hamill, player manager Jimmy Holmes must have felt his side was on the way to only their fifth league win of the season when Whalley put them in front 19 minutes into the second half.

However, his joy was short-lived, as Telford hit back to grab an equaliser through Ken McKenna just four minutes later. With Jim Blyth still unavailable, Mick Beale continued in goal and Holmes again lined up in defence in place of the injured Mick Thurman. Les Cartwright came in for his debut, while Parr formed a new look attacking force alongside Whalley as Frank Murphy was unfit.

Borough had a chance in the first minute when Eddie McGoldrick floated a free kick to the far post where the unmarked Bennyworth got in a header that Arthur Mann was happy to hack away. McGoldrick then made a surging run down the middle but Mark Hancock got back to block the shot on the edge of the box. With 13 minutes gone Borough missed a golden opportunity to go in front. Charlton brought down Parr as he chased a hopeful ball into the area but the Telford keeper must have thought that Christmas had come early as he watched Hamill drag a woefully weak shot wide of the left-hand post.

Shortly afterwards Beale saved the home side, turning a Colin Williams shot round the post from close range. McGoldrick, who was giving Tony Turner a torrid time, caused more problems for the visitors and set up a chance for Whalley, who shot wide with the goal at his mercy. The wingman then produced another scintillating run and found Parr at the far post, who powered a header goalwards only to see Charlton turn the ball away for a corner.

But despite the pressure Borough could have fallen behind just before the break when McKenna got free in the box but Beale produced a superb close range save.

Nuneaton resumed control on the restart and Whalley twice failed to capitalise on another good opening set up by McGoldrick. Borough then had loud appeals for a penalty turned down when Turner appeared to bring down the winger well inside the box. Whalley headed wide at the far post when placed to do better before the home side went in front after 64 minutes. Telford failed to pick up the big striker from a right wing cross and Whalley buried his header inside Charlton's left hand post.

But the home fans were still celebrating when the visitors got the equaliser. John Alcock swung in a corner from the left and McKenna was completely unmarked as he headed home from six yards out. Borough never looked as dangerous after that setback and they had a late scare when Everton Carr upended McKenna in the box, but the referee waved play on.



Nuneaton Borough v Enfield 02-12-1985

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Holmes, Smithers, Hamill, Cartwright, Parr, Whalley, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Brown, Murphy.

Enfield: Rape, Barrett, Hayzelden, Cooper, Gray, Ironton, Drummy, Duffield, Ashford, Richards, King. **Subs:** Stacey, Flint.

Borough welcomed Enfield to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough plunged deeper into relegation trouble when they were on the wrong end of a five-goal hiding. Nuneaton's performance was as dismal as the appalling weather and they were ripped apart by the visitors. Enfield were a class above the home side in every department and Borough can count themselves lucky that they got off so lightly.

Enfield missed enough chances to have virtually doubled their score, while Borough seldom threatened, were overrun in midfield and at the back they had more leaks than a colander. It was a bitterly disappointing night for the Manor Park faithful who braved the torrential rain.

Borough had a narrow escape early on when Martin Duffield hammered in a free-kick from the edge of the box that took a deflection off the wall and flew just wide. But there was only a short respite for the home side as Enfield took control with two goals in four minutes. With 20 minutes gone Hayzelden found Carl Richards on the edge of the Borough box and he slipped the ball past the advancing Beale.

Four minutes later Enfield built up a neat move on the left but when Hayzelden put in a low cross it was a poor one and there appeared to be little danger. But Jimmy Holmes miskicked and the ball ran to Noel Ashford, who gratefully rammed the ball home. Enfield were in full cry now and should have added to their tally shortly afterwards when Ashfield was unmarked for a Duffield corner, but he put his near post header over the top.

Dave Flint and Steve King were only inches away from getting onto the end of Dermot Drummy's cross and then Richards had a close range shot deflected over the bar. Just before the break Andy Pape did well to hold onto a cross under pressure from Trevor Parr and then Ian Bennyworth had a header cleared off the line by Hayzelden. Murphy replaced Whalley at half-time and Borough looked a bit sharper on the resumption with McGoldrick forcing a fine save from Pape as he broke clear in the box.

Borough fell further behind to a superb goal on the hour. Richards freed Flint who got to line before pulling the ball back to Ashfield, who drilled a shot into the right hand corner. Nuneaton gave themselves a glimmer of hope with a goal straight from the restart. Tim Smithers found Murphy who had a shot blocked, but Smithers followed up quickly to prod home the loose ball. It made little difference though as six minutes from the end Bennyworth failed to cut out a through ball and Drummy was left with the simple task of slipping the

ball past Beale. Flint then missed a simple chance to increase Enfield's lead before Ashfield completed his hat-trick in the last minute with a free-kick from the edge of the box.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 10-12-1985

Bedworth: Martin, Humphrey, Smith, Jackson, Howarth, Randle, Charnley, Thomas, Downes, Ross, Trickett. **Sub:** Shaw.

Borough: Harris, Hamill, Gibson, Fry, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Cartwright, Holmes. **Sub:** Hutchinson.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a M&B Cup match.

This was a pulsating thriller for the 400-odd fans who braved the rain-swept terraces to witness the latest clash of the old rivals. The match swung first one way, then another, before finally swinging in favour of the visitors. Borough fans can look back and marvel at the wizardry of Eddie McGoldrick as he tantalised the Bedworth defence, and also the debut of young keeper Alan Harris, who showed a command and maturity beyond his years, and although beaten three times, he denied the Greenbacks many more times.

Harris was soon in action when he cleared a dangerous cross from Humphrey and then tipped a 30-yard effort from Trickett over the bar. Borough came back strongly and Steve Jackson robbed Frank Murphy in the area as he shaped to shoot. McGoldrick was causing all sorts of problems, and the winger set up the first goal in the 14th minute when he glided past Smith and found Murphy, who headed Borough in front.

Play swung from end to end and Harris went full length to save from Ross, before United equalised in the 36th minute. Mick Thurman, under pressure from Ross, put the ball out on the right, a long throw from Humphrey went into the box and Mark Charnley turned full circle to screw his shot wide of Harris. Trevor Parr put Borough back in front after 39 minutes when he put away a McGoldrick cross that had deceived the United defence.

Four minutes after the restart Borough went further ahead when Smithers took a run down the left flank and Holmes met his inch-perfect centre and headed well out of Martin's reach. United stormed back and from a hastily cleared corner in the 54th minute Trickett seized the ball in midfield, shrugged aside the attentions of Hamill and Fry, and fired a cracking shot that went in at the far post.

Six minutes later Bedworth were back on terms. Harris palmed Trickett's shot away for a corner, and Charnley swung his flag kick high across the face of the goal, and Ross brought the ball down well to score from close range.

Borough had the ball in the net in the 66th minute when Holmes hit a 30-yarder past Martin, but Parr was marginally offside. Both sides were now desperate for the winner, but Bedworth were doing the bulk of the pressing and Trickett and Ross went close. A tremendous one-handed save by Harris kept out a fierce drive from Humphrey, before Murphy got Borough's winner in the 82nd minute. A series of short



passes set up a shooting chance for the number eight and his rifled shot looked to be covered at the near post by Martin, But the keeper in trying to scoop the ball behind, only succeeded in helping it into the net.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-12-1985

Dudley: Johnson, McCormack, Brown, Foote, Francis, Rich, Hazelwood, Loveridge, Stanton, Gordon, James. Subs: Morrall, Shelton.

Borough: Harris, Bradley, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Whalley (Kenney 105), Hutchinson, Manning (Hardwick 105).

Borough travelled to The Sports Ground to play Dudley Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final replay.

Borough made a sad exit when they lost in extra time to Graham Smith's side. In truth they had only themselves to blame after missing chances which should have seen them safely through to the semi-finals.

Borough were forced into making several changes and Jimmy Holmes saw his team make a tentative start. Their play was patchy and it was Dudley who impressed early on. Alan Harris saved bravely at the feet of lively Micky James after seven minutes. When Borough broke Smithers and Manning combined well, only for their efforts to come to nothing.

Alan Harris was called upon to make a number of good saves, including one from ex-Borough player Russell Gordon, who was at the heart of most of the home side's best work. He was well aided by left winger James, who was giving Peter Bradley a torrid time. Borough came into the game towards the end of the half and Mark Hutchinson had a 25 yarder tipped over by Steve Johnson.

At the start of the second half Borough began to look brighter. Peter Bradley got better as the game went on, Ian Bennyworth marshalled his defence well and in midfield Tim Smithers worked tirelessly. Hamill drove the ball just wide and then a Bennyworth free-kick was headed on by Murphy to Whalley, who put the ball over the top when he could have scored. Dudley were still dangerous on the break, and James went close after Stanton had turned the Borough defence.

In the last 20 minutes of normal time, Murphy twice missed good chances to score. After 83 minutes Whalley split the home defence with a clever through ball, but again Murphy steered his shot narrowly wide.

Borough still looked the more purposeful side in extra time, until Dudley broke the deadlock with a shock goal. Following a right-wing corner the ball bounced around the Borough penalty area for a few seconds before falling to Malcolm Hazelwood, who volleyed home from 12 yards.

Dudley scarcely had another attack as Borough surged forward. Substitutes Kenney and Hardwick replaced Whalley and Manning, and their fresh limbs helped keep the home side on the defensive. Both Kenney and Murphy went close as the game entered its final stages, but when the final whistle went Borough were left to reflect on their missed chances.

Corder Set For Debut

Peter Corder, Tottenham Hotspurs' highly rated young goalkeeper, will make his debut for Nuneaton Borough against Dagenham. Jimmy Holmes travelled to London and successfully concluded a deal that will see the 21-year-old make his first appearance at Manor Park tomorrow.

Nuneaton Borough v Dagenham 14-12-1985

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Holmes, Cartwright. Subs: Hamill, Kenney.

Dagenham: Jacobs, Coles, Day, Risk, Horan, Taylor, Cox, Dunwell, Baxter, Sullivan, Powell. Subs: Scott, McCombe.

Borough welcomed Dagenham to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough slipped deeper into relegation trouble when they crashed to a disappointing defeat. Nuneaton have never beaten the Essex outfit, but they had the opportunity on Saturday. They made a positive start and had a couple of chances early in the game to take control. But once more they failed to turn their superiority into goals and were made to pay as the visitors scored twice before the break.

Peter Corder had little chance to shine, but his handling looked confident. Borough should have gone in front as early as the fifth minute. Everton Carr's free kick caught the Dagenham defence flat footed, but Mick Thurman and Trevor Parr got in each other's way.

Smithers headed wide from McGoldrick's cross before Dagenham took the lead with their first attack after 15 minutes. Corder came racing out of his area to a long through ball, but when Willie Gibson played the ball back to him he handled it outside the box. From the resulting free kick Paul Baxter touched it to Steve Cox who hit a fierce drive that brought a fine diving save from the keeper. However he couldn't hold the ball and Paul Taylor forced home the rebound.

Seven minutes before the break Borough fell further behind to a debatable goal. Alan Risk found Terry Sullivan out on the right and although the Dagenham player looked well offside, he was allowed to run on and slip the ball to Cox who had the simple task of beating Corder from close range.

But Borough started the second period in determined mood and within two minutes they were right back in contention. Stewart Hamill, on as substitute for Jimmy Holmes, picked up a ball in midfield and accelerated forward before releasing a vicious swerving 20 yard drive that nestled in the corner of the net with John Jacobs helpless.

On the hour Borough missed another chance of pulling the game round. Smithers fired a low cross into the box and although Parr missed it, Murphy latched onto the ball but delayed his effort a bit too long. There was danger for Nuneaton when Sullivan made a quick break, but Corder produced an excellent save. Parr had a header hacked away by Horan but despite their territorial advantage, Borough couldn't find the elusive equaliser.



Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 16-12-1985

Borough: Harris, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Murphy, Parr, Cartwright, McGoldrick. **Subs:** Hutchinson, Kenney.
Boston: Blackwell, Casey, Stenson, Czuczman, Creane, Ladd, Thomson, Denyer, Townsend, Hooks, Gilbert. **Subs:** Ottewell, Harrison.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough crashed to their second league defeat in three days. It was a disastrous night that saw Trevor Parr sent off and three other players booked. They made a bright enough start and should have had an early penalty when Ian Ladd clearly handled in the penalty area. But they failed to maintain their impetus and long before the end seemed devoid of ideas. To win matches a side must score goals and Borough look impotent as an attacking force.

For their part the visitors were no better than Borough, although they did produce one move of clinical quality that brought the only goal of the game. Even that had a touch of irony about it for Peter Denyer, recently released by Borough because he is going to Australia at Christmas, was the man who set up the chance for Chris Townsend.

Borough started well and Mick Thurman tested Kevin Blackwell with a looping header from Hamill's free-kick. Then came the handball incident when Ladd blatantly handled, but the referee waved play on. Nuneaton were doing the bulk of the attacking but fell behind to a goal of stunning simplicity after ten minutes. Boston made a quick break from defence and Denyer hit a finely judged ball to Townsend who controlled it superbly before unleashing a shot from the edge of the box that caught Alan Harris off his line as it flew into the top corner.

Murphy appeared to be pushed in the area by Ladd but again there was no penalty and then Hamill fired a 20 yard shot across the face of the visitors goal. Borough missed a chance to equalise when Bennyworth hooked a high ball into the middle where Parr won a heading duel with Czuczman, but Murphy fired straight at Blackwell.

Hamill was booked for dissent and Parr was cautioned following a collision with Ladd before Harris and Bennyworth made a mess of a free-kick and the young keeper had to make a diving save to keep out Thompson. Disaster struck for Borough a minute before the break when Parr appeared to be fouled by Gerard Creane and was sent off after making a comment to a linesman.

Hamill had a goal disallowed for handball at the start of the second half, but Borough should have been two down after 56 minutes when Ian Hooks made a fine run, but Townsend headed the cross wide from only six yards. Murphy set up a shooting chance for Thurman in a last gasp attack, but the effort was well over the top.

To complete a miserable night Carr was also booked in the last minute for a clumsy challenge on Stenson.

Nuneaton Boro' v Wycombe Wanderers 26-12-1985

Borough: Harris, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Holmes, Hutchinson. **Subs:** Kenney, Bailey.
Wycombe: Lester, Collins, Riley, Burgess, Vircavs, McMahon, West, Read, Dell, Blochel, Stanley. **Subs:** Price, Boyle.

Borough welcomed Wycombe Wanderers to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough picked up their first win in seven league games. The side produced a battling display full of character and a touch of steel to end as deserved winners. It wasn't a game for the purists – the howling wind ruled out any possibility of that – but it was just the tonic that Borough needed.

Mark Hutchinson, recalled to midfield, hit his first goal for the club and second half efforts from Tim Smithers and Mick Thurman put the issue beyond doubt. Apart from a five minute spell midway through the second half when Wycombe might have scored three times, Borough always appeared to be in control.

Borough might have got the boost of an early goal when Trevor Parr retrieved a ball that appeared to be going out of play, Frank Murphy cut into the box and crossed to the far post but Eddie McGoldrick headed wide. Both sides were having trouble with the windy conditions, but Nuneaton were having by far the better of the opening exchanges.

But they had a let off when Ian Bennyworth and Everton Carr got in a tangle and Des McMahon got clear, but wasted the opening. There was more anxiety for Borough when Joe Blochel found space in the box, but his cross was hooked away by Smithers. Nuneaton took the lead after 29 minutes when Hutchinson found Parr in midfield, who touch the ball on to Murphy and the ball was switched out to McGoldrick. He crossed to the far post and Hutchinson was unmarked to hit a low shot across Gary Lester and into the net.

Borough might have increased their lead immediately after the re-start when Willie Gibson crossed from the left. Murphy dummied it and Hutchinson shot a foot over the bar. But a minute later Borough got the all-important second goal. McGoldrick cut into the box, the ball was switched to Carr and when Lester, under challenge from Parr, could only palm away a high cross, Smithers cracked home the loose ball.

The visitors threw away three good chances in the space of five minutes with West missing two good opportunities. But with 72 minutes gone any hope that Wycombe had of pulling the game round disappeared as Borough got a third goal.

McGoldrick floated a free-kick into the penalty area and once again the visitors only partially cleared the danger and Thurman volleyed home a left foot shot from 12 yards. The fight now had all gone out of Wycombe and Borough were showing plenty of confidence. There was almost a fourth goal when Hutchinson got free and found Murphy, but Lester did well to cut out the danger.

Borough Bid For Grant

Borough could have a new striker for the Gola League clash at Wealdstone. Jimmy Holmes has made a bid for Bilston's Robbie Grant, who joined the Southern League side from Blackpool, and has been scoring regularly.

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1986

Borough: Harris, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth (Bailey 59), Thurman, Smithers, Hamill, Hutchinson, McGoldrick, Kenney (Murphy 20), Holmes.

Borough travelled to The Lower Mead to play Wealdstone in a Gola League match.

Frank Murphy, who had put in a transfer request over Christmas was relegated to the substitute's bench. McGoldrick was switched into the middle alongside David Kenney and Stewart Hamill played on the right. In the first minute Hamill set McGoldrick clear on the right and his cross was scrambled away by Byatt. At the other end Borough keeper Alan Harris – surely an excellent prospect – did well to hang on to a back header from Wainwright.

Mick Thurman was having a tremendous battle with Robin Wainwright in midfield, but Borough were outnumbered by Wealdstone's four man midfield. Wealdstone's physical strength gave them the edge as the half wore on and Harris was in action on several occasions. Borough countered through Hamill, McGoldrick and Smithers, but their final efforts caused few problems to the home defence. However, half-time came with Borough looking fairly comfortable.

The second half, however, began disastrously for Borough. In the first minute Wealdstone had a left-wing corner from which centre-half Paul Bowgett was given the time to power a header into the net. It was virtually Borough's only defensive lapse, but it was to cost them the game.

As the rain began to pour, Borough swept down the slope in search of an equaliser. Holmes had his men well marshalled and Thurman was making an impact in midfield, but both Hutchinson and Hamill were struggling to make real progress. Ian Bennyworth was forced to leave the field with a neck strain and was replaced by debutant Tim Bailey. Thurman dropped back into the back four and McGoldrick into midfield to allow the former Hinckley player to play up front.

After 80 minutes Borough sustained another blow when Everton Carr, chasing back to cut off a through ball to Graves, pulled up quickly with a torn hamstring. With Carr limping off Borough played out the game with ten men, but nevertheless pressed hard for an equaliser. Harris set Smithers away, who found Murphy who beat Bowgett and looked certain to score, but was pulled up by the referee's whistle.

A corner from Hamill was missed by Iles, but the ball was scrambled clear. Then in the closing seconds Thurman sent in a 20 yarder which looked to have earned Borough the point they by now deserved until Iles flung himself to his left and beat the ball clear.

Borough Sign Kenny Trickett

Bedworth midfielder Kenny Trickett has signed for Borough and will make his debut against bottom club Barrow. Former Everton, Liverpool and Ipswich striker David Johnson will be in the Barrow line-up.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow 04-01-1986

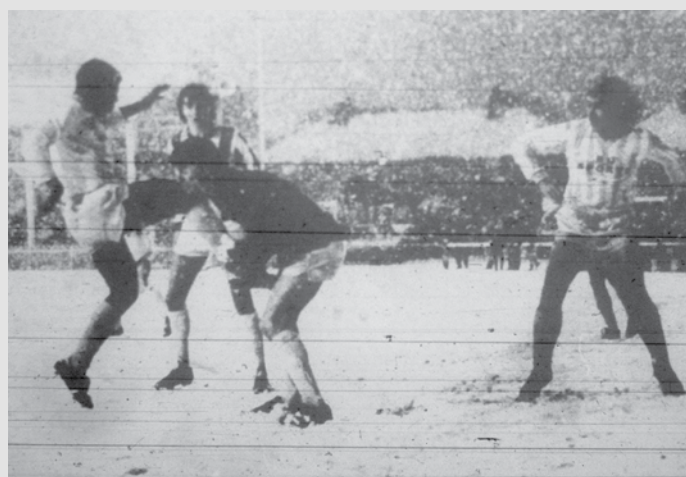
Borough: Harris, Hamill, Gibson, Holmes, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Kenney, Trickett, Hutchinson. Subs: Bailey, Bradley.
Barrow: Copeland, Kettle, Nicholson, Parker, Capstick, Proctor, Nesbitt, Lodge, Cowperthwaite, Johnson, Armes. Subs: Goodlass, Forbes.

Borough welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough moved deeper into relegation trouble when they were beaten in their bottom of the table clash at snowswept Manor Park. With just 15 points from their first 23 games, Jimmy Holmes' side were in desperate need of victory. But a single goal five minutes from the end was enough to condemn Borough to their eighth home defeat of the season.

Both sides struggled to come to terms with the conditions but with turning a virtual impossibility the match was a complete lottery. As the minutes ticked away everything was pointing towards a stalemate when Barrow snatched a goal out of the blue to register only their third win of the season. It was rough justice for Borough as they had produced enough effort and commitment to earn a share of the spoils.

Youngster Alan Harris again impressed in goal with a series of fine saves and is definitely a real find for Borough. However the youngster collected a shoulder injury and Tim Smithers had to take over in goal for the last half-hour. With Everton Carr and Ian Bennyworth out injured, Stewart Hamill moved to full-back and Mick Thurman played alongside Holmes at the heart of the defence.



Stand-in keeper Tim Smithers confidently gathers the ball despite the attention of two Barrow forwards. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Frank Murphy set Trickett free on the left in the first minute but the youngster failed to steady himself and his cross went



behind. At the other end Harris turned a Kevin Proctor shot over the top and then the keeper did well to parry a close range effort from Barrow player-manager David Johnson.

Kenney had a header blocked before Barrow missed a clear chance as Cowperthwaite shot straight at Harris from 12 yards. Players were finding it difficult to keep their feet, but Eddie McGoldrick had a couple of promising runs on the right and from one Stuart Parker appeared to handle the winger's cross. Trickett then went round Jimmy Capstick, but keeper Lee Copeland was well positioned to cut out his centre.

Ames headed Johnson's cross over the top and just before the break Johnson and Walter Nesbitt both had shots blocked in a hectic goalmouth scramble. Johnson then had a shot saved by Harris before Capstick brought a diving save from his own keeper with an overhit backpass.

Barrow should have gone in front as Holmes slipped and Armes broke clear with men to spare. He found Nesbitt, who elected to shoot and Harris saved easily. Harris picked up a nasty knock in a collision with Cowperthwaite and eventually went off injured and was replaced by Smithers.

Kenney failed to connect in front of goal and then Trickett fired a left-footer over the angle. Murphy hit the outside of a post from an acute angle and substitute Tim Bailey hit a 25 yarder a foot wide. Borough had their best spell of the match and Capstick did well to turn away a cross from McGoldrick, but the visitors stunned Borough as they conjured a goal out of the blue. With everything pointing towards a draw Johnson curled in a centre from the left and Cowperthwaite chested it down to sweep a low 20 yard shot into the corner of the net.

New Director Joins The Borough Board

Nuneaton Borough made a new signing at the weekend – but it is in the boardroom that the club will feel the benefit with the arrival of John Rowley as a new director. Mr Rowley is managing director of Coventry Autolift Limited, who are based in Pool Road, Camp Hill.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 11-01-1986

Stafford: Field, Johnson, Upton, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Derbyshire, Simpson, Mountain, Hanchard, Carr. Subs: Lowe, Page.

Borough: Corder, Hutchinson, Gibson, Bennyworth, Bailey (Murphy 51), Parr, Trickett, Fry. Sub: Hamill.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Gola League match.

Borough turned in their worst performance of the season. They hit rock bottom on the pitch – particularly in the first half – and with Barrow beating Kettering 1-0, slumped to the foot of the league. Apart from a splendid performance by keeper Peter Corder and some doughty defending by Ian Bennyworth and Willie Gibson, there was almost nothing for Borough fans to enthuse about.

An early mistake by Tim Smithers let Stafford in on the right

and keeper Corder did well to beat Hanchard to the ball just inside the box. Stafford continued to press forward with Simpson establishing a dominance in midfield which was rarely to be threatened. Up front the pace of Derbyshire, Mountain and Hanchard caused constant problems for a visiting defence which showed a sad lack of pace.

Stafford took a deserved lead after 25 minutes. Derbyshire switched to the left wing where he beat Borough for pace before being brought down by Corder just outside the penalty area. The young keeper was booked and from the resultant free-kick taken by Beech, central defender John Ridley lost his marker and headed home at the far post.

For the rest of the half Borough showed little flair or organisation as Stafford dominated but squandered opportunities to increase their lead. Mountain's pace was a constant threat and Corder had to be on his toes. In a rare Borough attack Trickett picked out McGoldrick in the heart of the Stafford penalty area with a super through ball. The young winger laid a pass square to Parr who drove high and wide.

The second half began with Borough showing slightly more purpose, and Stafford looking much less impressive. The substitution of Murphy for Bailey after 51 minutes did bring an improvement as he brought McGoldrick, Thurman and Trickett into the game. Borough began to look more lively and had a penalty appeal turned down when Smithers was brought down in the area.

The issue was settled after 72 minutes when a right-wing corner bobbed in the Borough penalty area and Beech showed good skill in playing the ball through to Mountain, who chipped it past Corder from ten yards for Stafford's second goal. For most of what remained of the game Stafford were well in control as Borough became increasingly dejected. Smithers hit a 30 yarder just wide, but most of the action was at the other end and Corder had to make another good save before the end.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough

25-01-1986

Weymouth: Bond, Steele, Rogers, Arnold, Bourne, Iannone, Barthwick, Rogers, Claridge, Doherty, Agana. Subs: Russell, Coombes.

Borough: Harris, Hutchinson, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, Hamill (Trickett 45), Murphy, Parr, McGoldrick, Holmes. Sub: Fry.

Borough made the journey to The Rec to play Weymouth in a Gola League match.

Borough put in a much-improved performance, but the final result had a depressingly familiar look about it as they went down to two second half goals. Borough playing with the wind made a bright start. Murphy, Eddie McGoldrick and Tim Smithers were all prominent early on, while Hamill also caused problems.

As Weymouth settled it soon became clear that left-winger Tony Agana was their danger man. Time and again his pace and skill had Borough in trouble, while his highly developed



understanding with fellow strikers Steve Claridge and Mick Doherty, posed further problems. Fortunately for Borough, Bennyworth and Thurman were in good form and Harris was looking confident in goal. Weymouth looked stronger and better organised in midfield where Iannone, although much slower than in former years, remains a formidable and effective opponent.

Hamill mishit a shot after a 35 yard run before Bennyworth was cautioned for a challenge on Claridge. Just before half-time Murphy left two Weymouth defenders standing when he flicked the ball over his shoulder and twisted past them into the penalty area, before hammering a shot over the top with keeper Len Bond beaten.

Borough had a lucky escape after 52 minutes. A long cross from the right was met by Claridge who headed on to the bar. As the ball dropped back into play it was held back by the wind and a goal seemed certain until Holmes managed to boot the ball away from two Weymouth forwards. Two minutes later McGoldrick's speed took him into the Weymouth area where his hard cross gave Murphy a difficult headed chance which scraped the crossbar.

After 62 minutes McGoldrick crossed fiercely from the right and Parr's dummy confused the entire Weymouth defence leaving Smithers clear. Unfortunately for Borough, he drove a first-time shot well wide. Minutes later Weymouth took the lead. The dangerous Agana was brought down in the Borough penalty area by Mark Hutchinson and Doherty drove home the resultant penalty.

After seventy-four minutes the issue was as good as settled. Borough struggled to clear their lines, and when the ball dropped to Iannone he shot from 20 yards. Harris, perhaps confused by the wind, allowed the ball to slip through his hands, over his head and into the net. It was a disaster for the young keeper – and for Borough who now knew that their chances were virtually dead.

Weymouth, looking increasingly confident, went close on several occasions towards the end, but Harris showed great character in making a series of good saves which brought much applause, even from the home fans.

Borough Turn Down Corby Offer

Nuneaton Borough have turned down a bid for leading scorer Frank Murphy from Corby Town. The Southern League outfit made an offer of £2,500 for the Nuneaton striker – about half what Borough would want should they decide to sell.

Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 25-01-1986

Borough welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park to play a friendly match.

Borough picked up their first win since Boxing Day when they beat their Southern League visitors in a friendly. Player-manager Jimmy Holmes was looking for a confidence boosting display before tomorrow's visit to Runcorn.

it came as no surprise when Borough went in front after 14 minutes. Eddie McGoldrick got a bit of space on the right and his cross allowed Dave Kenney time and space to sidefoot home from close range. Frank Murphy had a shot tipped over and Kenney missed an open goal before Borough increased their lead after 25 minutes. McGoldrick again did the damage and when Kevin Leach could only palm away his cross Murphy chipped it into the top corner from around the penalty spot.

Mick Beale pushed a John Davie shot over the top at the start of the second half before Banbury pulled a goal back when Everton Carr intercepted a Mark Williams cross in the box, and allowed Chris Cousins to nip in and fire past Beale, but Borough held on for a comfortable win.

Runcorn v Nuneaton Borough 28-01-1986

Runcorn: McBride, Lee, Roberts, Jones, Fraser, Smith (Rowlands 73), Holden, Crompton, Carter, Mather (Skeete 84), Imrie.

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Holmes, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Thurman, Hutchinson. Subs: Hamill, Trickett.

Borough made the journey to Canal Street to play Runcorn in a Gola League match.

Borough had an unhappy match picking up six bookings and a sending off and despite dominating play for most of the game, Borough's lack of power up front cost them dearly. Borough began brightly as they attacked down the Runcorn slope. Murphy and McGoldrick set the pattern for the evening as their trickery confused the home defence. In midfield Mick Thurman soon became prominent and went on to have one of his best every games in a Borough shirt, completely subduing Ossie Smith.

Runcorn had less of the ball, but when they did break former Telford striker Dave Mather showed impressive speed while Steve Holden was also in good form. On the half-hour a four man Borough move ended with Murphy clipping a McGoldrick cross over the bar from eight yards. From the result of the goal-kick the Runcorn midfield pushed the ball through to Holden, who looked to be yards offside, but was allowed to run on, dribble round Beale and put the ball into the net to give Runcorn an undeserved lead.

Jimmy Holmes and Everton Carr were both booked for complaining about a foul on Beale and for the first time Borough began to lose some of their composure and conceded several free kicks after a series of badly timed tackles and Ian Bennyworth was cautioned.

The second half began with more Borough domination with Eddie McGoldrick and Frank Murphy showing speed and skill, although McGoldrick hammered a shot wide when well placed. As frustration began to show Murphy was booked for dissent. Then, on the hour, came the decisive incident. Parr's shot was fumbled away by McBride. Murphy retrieved the ball and cut it back under the keeper's body for what appeared to be an equaliser. As Murphy wheeled away

McBride grabbed the ball and brought it back into play. After some confusion Runcorn were awarded a free-kick for a foul on the keeper.

From then on things went from bad to worse as referee Charnley appeared to penalise Nuneaton time and again. Then after 80 minutes Holden crowned a fine right wing surge by scoring a second goal which left Beale helpless. In Borough's instant reply Murphy volleyed against a post from a right wing cross but two minutes later Jimmy Holmes was sent off after receiving a second caution for something he said to one of his own players.

In the confusion Hutchinson was also cautioned. In the closing minutes there were two more goals. Holden laid on Runcorn's third for substitute Skeete and in the last minute Frank Murphy grabbed a consolation goal for Nuneaton.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 01-02-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Hutchinson, Hamill. **Subs:** Kenney, Trickett.
Weymouth: Bond, Steele, P. Rogers, Arnold, Bourne, Iannone, Hurst, M. Rogers, Claridge, Doherty, Agana. **Subs:** Borthwick, Coombes.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough gave themselves a lifeline in their battle against relegation as they produced their best display of the season, turning the form book upside down and convincingly beating high-flying Weymouth. But the performance was not only about commitment – they produced some attractive, attacking football and also found their touch in front of goal, so sadly missing for most of the season.

Borough's first league win since Boxing Day lifts them off the bottom of the league and gives them renewed hope. Weymouth had their moments, especially in the first half, but can have few grumbles about the result as they had to play second fiddle to the home side for much of the game.

Borough took the early initiative and soon had the Terras under pressure. Stewart Hamill played a neat one-two with Trevor Parr to bring a diving save from Len Bond. But the Manor Park faithful did not have to wait long for a goal – and what a goal it was after only five minutes. Weymouth cleared a right wing cross out into midfield where Tim Smithers hammered a left foot drive from fully 35 yards that flew into the top corner. But the third in the table visitors still looked dangerous and Carr had to be alert to cut out one threatening move involving Tony Agana.

Borough should have increased their lead when McGoldrick found Murphy in the box but he shot over the angle from 12 yards. Agana beat two men to set up Mick Doherty, but Corder pulled off a superb save from close range before Holmes saved a certain goal when he blocked Claridge's shot. However, ten minutes before the break Borough increased their lead. McGoldrick cut in from the right and was sent

crashing by Anniello Iannone to allow Holmes to easily beat Bond from the penalty spot.

Any hopes that the visitors might have had of pulling the game round disappeared in the last two minutes of the half. Firstly Holmes brought down Martin Hurst in the penalty area, but Doherty's spot-kick was poorly struck and Corder turned it over the top. Weymouth were made to pay dearly for that miss as on the stroke of half-time Holmes floated a free-kick to the edge of the box and Murphy produced a bit of magic to set up a chance for Parr that he gratefully accepted.

Borough continued to call the tune after the break and might have added to their lead shortly after the restart. Bond dropped a swirling cross from McGoldrick and Murphy fastened onto the loose ball but his shot struck Paul Arnold standing on the goal line. Weymouth posed few problems for the rest of the half and Nuneaton ended where they had begun, on top, with Murphy's shot being deflected for a corner as Bond struggled to cover.

Borough Sign Lance Morrison



Player-manager Jimmy Holmes got his man yesterday when striker Lance Morrison signed for Nuneaton Borough. Holmes, who has been chasing a goalscorer ever since his arrival at Manor Park, is delighted with his capture. "Lance is a big strong lad and he has been scoring regularly with Alvechurch," said the Nuneaton boss.

"He is good in the air but also has a lot of skill on the ground and I am sure that he will do a good job for us." Morrison, who is 24, has been attracting a lot of attention from League clubs, but has signed a two year contract with Borough.

Enfield v Nuneaton Borough 08-03-1986

Enfield: Pape, Barrett, Hayzelden, Docker, Howell, Ironton, Hinds, Duffield, Ashford, Richards, King. **Subs:** Flint, Drummy.

Borough: Corder, Parr, Gibson, Fry, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Hamill (Bradley 72). **Sub:** Trickett.

Borough made the journey to Southbury Road to face Enfield in a Gola League match.

Borough's enforced winter break came to an end and after an interesting encounter on a sticky pitch, Borough went down



by the odd goal in five in a game which saw Tim Smithers score twice from the penalty spot. The match proved much more even than many home fans expected, and Nuneaton left North London feeling that they should have gained at least a point for their efforts. Nevertheless, another single goal defeat – coupled with wins for Maidstone and Dagenham – leaves Borough in an increasingly perilous position.

With three players under suspension the Borough side was much changed with Lance Morrison making his debut up front. Enfield kicked off with strikers Noel Ashford and Carl Richards both looking dangerous. The Borough back four, short on pace and mobility, was soon stretched, with last ditch tackles from Thurman and Fry only just preventing Ashford and Richards from giving their side the lead.

As Enfield struggled to string passes together, Mark Hutchinson, Stewart Hamill and Smithers began to look better in midfield. They pushed their strikers forward on several occasions, one of which saw McGoldrick break clear, and with only one defender back should have squared the ball to the unmarked Morrison. Instead he held on to the ball too long, beat another defender, then mishit his intended cross. Within seconds Enfield were ahead. Peter Hinds was played clear on the right and beat the Borough defence by cutting into the penalty area before cracking an excellent drive inside Corder's right-hand post.

Corder was in action again, punching clear from the head of Hinds, while Morrison was showing plenty of skill, but obviously needs time to fit in. Pape saved from Murphy after the Borough forward had beaten two players in the penalty area. Play was end to end for the rest of the half with players struggling to come to terms with the tricky surface.

Borough drew level on 51 minutes as Mark Hutchinson took a quick free-kick and put Parr clear in the Enfield penalty area, where he was felled in a clumsy tackle by Nicky Ironton. Smithers drove the resultant penalty hard and accurately inside Pape's left hand post. Five minutes later Richards beat Corder in a race for the ball, rounded the keeper and put the ball into the net to give the home side the lead.

Borough's midfield became increasingly ineffective and John Docker was being given time to control the ball and drive killer passes to Ashford and Richards. After 64 minutes one such pass to Richards led to a melee in the Borough penalty area during which Parr was adjudged to have handled the ball. Martin Duffield gave his side a 3-1 advantage from the penalty spot.

To their credit Borough never gave up and with 18 minutes left manager Holmes made an astute substitution. Peter Bradley replaced the tiring Hamill, and moved him to right back, allowing Parr to join Morrison up front. Soon Borough were back in the game. The quick-witted Hutchinson again took the opportunity to set Parr away and for the second time the big man was brought down in the area and Smithers again beat Pape from the spot.

Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 10-03-1986

Borough: Corder, Parr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Holmes, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Thurman, Hutchinson. Subs: Hamill, Bradley.

Maidstone: Richardson, Donn, Hill, Millett, Glover, Fisher, Torrance, Borg, Butler, Barnes, Joyce. Subs: Reynolds, Horton.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough gave themselves a lifeline in their struggle against relegation as Tim Smithers' 22nd minute penalty was enough to clinch the points and move Nuneaton off the bottom of the table. There is no doubt that Borough were full value for their win, but once again their inability to turn chances into goals could well have ended badly.

They should have had the points wrapped up long before the end, but four minutes from time their hearts were in their mouths when Mick Joyce hit a post and the ball rebounded straight into Peter Corder's arms. Then in the last minute Bobby Fisher chipped the ball into the Nuneaton net from the edge of the box, but the referee had awarded an indirect free kick and the effort was ruled out.

Lance Morrison had a promising home debut but he might have made more of a couple of chances that came his way. Despite their improvement, Borough have to find a regular supply of goals as penalties from Smithers will not be enough to keep them up. Nuneaton might have gone in front after only two minutes when Morrison got up well to flick on a high ball. Eddie McGoldrick cut into the box but Mark Hill half blocked the shot and the ball hit the foot of a post.

Frank Murphy then shot wide from only six yards after Morrison had knocked down a McGoldrick cross before the visitors produced their first real threat. Steve Butler found Nigel Donn out wide on the right and when his cross came in hard and low Butler dived full length to flash a header inches wide. Two minutes later Borough were in front. Kevin Millett brought down McGoldrick and Smithers gave Richardson no chance with the resultant spot kick. Richardson pulled off a magnificent save to deny Murphy just before the break, turning his hook shot over the bar from point blank range.

There was almost disaster for Borough when Trevor Parr and Bennyworth collided on the edge of the box but Corder rescued the situation with a magnificent save from Joyce when it seemed easier for the striker to score. Mick Thurman then tested Richardson with a fierce left foot shot before the hectic finish.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 15-03-1986

Borough: Corder, Bennyworth, Gibson, Holmes, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Morrison, Hutchinson. Subs: Hamill, E. Carr.

Stafford: Field, Johnson, Upton, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Derbyshire, Simpson, Bennett, Gill, P. Carr. Subs: Wood, Lowe.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough's hopes of avoiding relegation continue to grow following their second victory of the week. Borough again showed all the required qualities to get themselves out of trouble as they produced another battling display.

Borough fielded the side that defeated Maidstone in midweek and got away to a great start with a goal after only six minutes. Paul Upton failed to find his keeper with a back pass. Eddie McGoldrick nipped in and when Dave Field blocked his shot he laid the ball off for Frank Murphy to fire into an empty net from the edge of the box.



Frank Murphy fires Borough into the lead after Dave Field had blocked a shot from Eddie McGoldrick. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Rangers might have drawn level shortly after when Gary Simpson had a tremendous shot saved by Peter Corder and then Phil Titley saw his effort blocked by the Nuneaton keeper. Borough had an opportunity to increase their lead when McGoldrick went clear on the right but when he pulled the ball back Lance Morrison completely missed his kick.

A clearance from Field eluded the home defence and Derbyshire was only inches away from an equaliser. However, Stafford were fortunate not to go two down after 29 minutes. Willie Gibson's cross from the left split the Rangers defence and McGoldrick's shot rebounded off an upright to Murphy who saw Titley clear his effort off the line. Rangers hit back and Bennetts' header from Johnson's flighted centre flashed only inches over the top. Derbyshire hit the foot of a post just before the interval, while Morrison looked to have produced his first goal for the club, but Upton cleared off the line.

Murphy should have put the issue beyond doubt on 60 minutes when McGoldrick put him through, but the striker delayed his shot and Field was able to block. Six minutes later Corder produced a magnificent save to turn Derbyshire's effort over the bar. However, Nuneaton stretched their lead with a superb goal after 69 minutes. Gibson cut in from the left and found Morrison who held it up superbly before laying it back to the full back who drilled a cracking left footer into the far corner.

Any chance Stafford had disappeared 12 minutes from time when Titley, under pressure from Murphy, handled in the box and Tim Smithers coolly cracked home the penalty. Nuneaton still pressed forward and a couple of minutes from time Morrison side-footed a McGoldrick corner inches wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Amateur Select XI 17-03-1986

Select XI: Mark Sharrott, John Broadhurst, Anthony Ward, John Kerr, Andy Haddon, Mark Ensor, Eric Ward, Gary Smith, Steve Tomkinson, David Benn, Steve Gore, Roger Bray, Robert Kenpel, David Williams, Mick McGrath, Dax Apinis, Mick Naughton.

Borough welcomed a Nuneaton Amateur Select XI to Manor Park to play a charity match.

Nuneaton Borough met a Nuneaton Amateur Select XI in a charity game for Rob Ritchie. Rob, the 26-year-old brother of former Borough full-back Gordon Ritchie, has contracted multiple sclerosis. Included in the Select XI line up were ex-Borough players Eric Ward, Gary Smith, Steve Tomkinson and David Benn.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 22-03-1986

Northwich: Ryan, Young, Heath, Nelson, Scott, Bishop, Stephens, Burke (Bennett 73), Page, Redshaw, Dunn. Sub: Ferguson.

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Parr, Morrison, Hutchinson, Holmes. Subs: Kenney, Johnson.

Borough made the journey to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in a Gola League match.

A fine headed goal by Eddie McGoldrick after 37 minutes gave Borough an interval lead. The second half belonged to Mark Hutchinson, who twice found the Vics net with excellent left footed drives in the 64th and 74th minutes to give Borough a 3-0 victory.

Northwich manager Terry Murphy, resigned after the match.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 29-03-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Parr, Morrison, Hutchinson, Holmes. Subs: Murphy, Johnson.

Scarborough: D. Coleby, Dennis, Thompson, Dunn, S. Coleby, Sellers, Dawson, Hartley, Fairless, Mitchell, Phillips. Subs: Haire, Omoni.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough player-manager Jimmy Holmes forsook his defensive duties to plunder two vital goals. The former Eire international put his side in front seconds before the interval when he headed home Eddie McGoldrick's corner from close range. And then midway through the second half he produced a cracking free-kick to restore Borough's lead after the Seasiders had grabbed an equaliser.

Borough's fourth consecutive win lifts them out of the bottom three in the table for the first time in months and gives them a realistic chance of avoiding the drop. There is still a hard fight ahead but there is a growing belief among the players and the fans that Borough can now get out of trouble.

Heavy rain before the kick-off left surface water on the pitch and both sides struggled to come to terms with the conditions in the early stages. But after 15 minutes Borough were unlucky

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not to go in front. Trevor Parr did well to find Tim Smithers free in the box and his shot beat keeper David Coley only for Ken Mitchell to clear off the line. Ian Bennyworth caused a few flutters among the home fans when his header failed to reach Peter Corder and there was a hectic goalmouth scramble before the referee blew for a foul on the keeper. Mick Thurman flashed a left foot shot inches wide of a post and then Eddie McGoldrick saw his shot rebound from the foot of the left hand post with Coleby well beaten.

Lance Morrison then headed wide from eight yards after McGoldrick had set up the chance, but Borough were not to be denied and they went in front on the stroke of half time. Scarborough failed to pick up Holmes for McGoldrick's left wing corner and the Borough boss planted his header past Coleby. The visitors were more in the picture at the start of the second half and might have had an equaliser when Graham Hartley was allowed to run on, but his shot was well off target.

Hartley had a great chance on the hour, but Corder produced another outstanding save. But five minutes later Scarborough were level. Nuneaton only cleared a left wing corner to the edge of the box and former Manor Park favourite Brendan Phillips scored with a shot through a crowd of players



Frank Murphy, on as substitute for Mark Hutchinson, beats the Scarborough defence to Eddie McGoldrick's free kick and plants his header into the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The visitors' joy was short-lived as six minutes later Borough regained the lead. McGoldrick was brought down just outside the box and Holmes cracked a magnificent left footer over the wall and into the top corner of the net. Six minutes from the end Murphy put the issue beyond doubt when he rose to head firmly past Coleby from McGoldrick's flighted free-kick.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough

31-03-1986

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Parr, Holmes. **Subs:** Hutchinson, Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a Gola League match.

Borough's recent run of good form ended with their worst performance for some months. Uncertain at the back, without inspiration in midfield, and lacking sparkle up front, Jimmy Holmes' team threw away a great opportunity to take advantage of the poor results of their main relegation rivals were putting together elsewhere across the country.

Barrow's game plan seemed to be to stop Borough playing. Borough won the toss and chose to kick into a light breeze and bright sunshine on a near-perfect playing surface. Bennyworth's first minute booking for a heavy foul on Cowperthwaite was the most noteworthy action of a scrappy opening period. Gradually Borough began to get on top and McGoldrick forced two corners, then Morrison was caught marginally offside.

Borough began to lose control of the midfield on the half-hour mark and Barrow sensed they were in with a chance. Capstick was stamping his authority over Mick Thurman and Conlin was beginning to trouble the visitors with his pace, mobility and sheer enthusiasm. After 33 minutes, McDonald launched a quick attack for Barrow and set Conlin free in Borough's penalty area. He whipped in a vicious drive which Beale did well to turn onto the bar. A minute later Barrow took the lead. A goal-kick from Beale was misheaded back into Conlin's path by Trevor Parr and the home striker ran on to score with ease as Borough looked on in disbelief.

Just before half-time Barrow went close to extending their lead as Beale held a 35-yard thunderbolt from Cowperthwaite and then made a brilliant one-handed save from Conlin.

Borough started the second half showing more resolution. McGoldrick's early pace brought a booking for home defender Edwards who brought him down in full-flight. Then a Smithers cross brought appeals for handball against McDonald, but referee Clark was unimpressed.

There was little subtlety about Borough who seemed to feel that an equaliser was bound to come as long as they kept their heads. Unfortunately, this attitude led only to an untidy stalemate. With 15 minutes to go Borough received a hammer-blow when Thurman conceded a penalty after pushing home striker Cowperthwaite. The big number nine hammered the kick beyond Beale to make it 2-0.

From the re-start Morrison burst through the home defence and shot narrowly wide. Barrow went close on several occasions during the next few minutes, but Beale kept them at bay, with a little good fortune. Borough staged a late rally during which Brockbank made a great save from Morrison.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough

05-04-1986

Barnet: Humphries, Whitworth, Smith, Codner, Little, Creaser, Stein, Wimbleton, Sansom, N. Johnson, Margerrison. **Subs:** Cox, Thomas.

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Holmes, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Parr. **Subs:** Kenney, G. Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to play Barnet in a Gola League match.

Borough took another step towards safety from relegation when they beat fellow-strugglers Barnet. Almost unrecognisable from the team which had struggled so badly at Barrow, Jimmy Holmes' men were well worth their victory. And with most of the other results going their way, Borough



go into the last four weeks of the season looking favourites to survive the drop. Jimmy Holmes made a couple of changes to his team with Peter Corder returning in goal and Mark Hutchinson replacing the injured Mick Thurman. Trevor Parr moved to full-back and Everton Carr moved into midfield. Barnet suffered a pre-match blow when striker Nicky Evans reported sick.

Eddie McGoldrick made a fine right wing dash in the first minute but Borough were forced on the defensive. Midfielders Stein and Codner drove Barnet forward, and with John Margerrison in fine form on their left wing the visitors defence found itself stretched.

Ian Bennyworth twice cleared dangerous situations, then Carr robbed Wimbledon when a goal seemed certain. Dave Sansom then beat Corder with a fine shot which struck the bar, but the keeper recovered and did well to save a follow up effort from Margerrison.

Parr and Gibson both gave away free-kicks on the edge of the penalty area, but Barnet's period of ascendancy was passing, and as Carr came to grips with his new midfield role Borough began to turn the tide. Hutchinson, McGoldrick and Lance Morrison began to press forward and it was the turn of Steve Humphries to come under pressure.

Smithers set McGoldrick away with a raking crossfield pass, and then Morrison wriggled past two defenders, but got little power into his shot. As half-time approached, Stein robbed Parr, but his cross was wasted by Wimbledon. In the dying seconds of the half Hutchinson made a late run to take a clever pass from Morrison, but then lobbed the ball just over the bar with Humphries well beaten.

The second half began in bright sunshine, but the hail and snow had left the pitch heavy in places and this led to a scrappy few minutes play. When the game did settle down, Borough took almost complete control. Hutchinson, Carr and Smithers were the masters in midfield, with McGoldrick tormenting the home defence on the right wing.

Holmes shaved the post with a free-kick after Creaser had fouled Morrison and minutes later Stein just beat Murphy to Smithers' cross as Borough pressure grew. Morrison cracked a fierce drive just wide, but his side was not to be denied for much longer. After 68 minutes McGoldrick twisted past two defenders before crossing to Murphy, who volleyed Borough into a lead they richly deserved. Two minutes later an almost identical move left Morrison clear, but the ex-Alvechurch man hesitated and the chance was lost.

In the final ten minutes Borough went close to increasing their lead. Murphy mishit a volley and then Morrison failed to hit the target when well-placed. Finally in the last minute of normal time Murphy was put clear by Hutchinson, only for Humphries to smother his attempted shot.

Injury time saw Barnet make one last, but unavailing effort to save the game, before the final whistle confirmed Borough's hold on what could turn out to be three vital points.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 07-04-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Kenney, Johnson, Morrison, Hutchinson. **Subs:** Bailey, Bradley.

Kettering: Harrison, Thacker, McIlwain, Keast, Fee, Wood, Hines, Kabia, Crawley, Jeffrey, Harrison. **Subs:** Alexander, Dawson.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup quarter-final tie.

Lance Morrison's first goal since moving to Manor Park was enough to book Borough's place in the semi-finals. The big striker was in the right spot after 30 minutes to force a close range header past Mark Harrison from Eddie McGoldrick's cross. It was no more than Morrison deserved for once more he led the line with dash, determination and more than a little ability.

Nuneaton were the first to threaten when Morrison found a bit of space on the edge of the Poppies' penalty area but his shot drifted wide of the right-hand post. At the other end Jim Kabia got up well to head down a long ball from Greg Fee to Ian Crawley who was way off target from 20 yards.

Midway through the half McGoldrick looked certain to score when he intercepted a back pass by Alan McIlwain, but as Harrison came out the winger steered his shot past the keeper, but well wide of the far upright. Ian Wood was booked for a foul on McGoldrick and Smithers brought a diving save from Harrison with the free-kick. But Borough went in front on the half hour. Hutchinson freed McGoldrick on the right and when he cut into the box and flicked across a centre Morrison was on hand to force home a header from close range.

Borough almost increased their lead just after the interval when Smithers played a through-ball for Morrison to chase. The keeper came racing out, but both of them missed the ball and Fee had to race back to hook the ball to safety.

Holmes drifted into the visitors' penalty area to fasten onto a left-wing cross and Harrison was fortunate to block the shot with his feet. McGoldrick then got clear of the Kettering back four but once again Borough were frustrated as the keeper blocked the shot with his legs.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-04-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Holmes (Johnson 29).
Sub: Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Gola League match.

Borough skipper Tim Smithers led by example, scoring twice as Borough grabbed three vital points. Sandwiched between Smithers' goals were two dramatic strikes from Frank Murphy and Ian Bennyworth, which silenced the home supporters. Victory lifted Borough two further places in the table, taking them above both Maidstone and Wycombe.

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Borough faced a strong wind and a slight slope in the first-half, and it soon became evident that weather conditions would play an important part in the game. Kettering dominated the early exchanges, although both Murphy and Eddie McGoldrick were fouled when Borough did move forward. Peter Corder was struggling with his goal-kicks into the wind, but Kettering failed to take any advantage.

Ian Crawley and Keith Alexander failed to capitalise on long throws from Tim Thacker before Borough began to show some attacking ideas. Murphy and Holmes combined well before Borough took the lead. A right wing burst by McGoldrick set up a chance which Smithers volleyed home left footed after 22 minutes. Almost immediately a bad back pass by Bennyworth gave Crawley a chance, but he hit the side netting.

Holmes had to leave the field with a back injury on 30 minutes and was replaced by Gary Johnson, making his Gola League debut. Kettering launched numerous attacks, but to little effect and half-time arrived with no further score.

The second half saw Borough use the wind to good advantage, as they sought to play on the break against a home attack which was now committed to flat-out attack. Murphy, Lance Morrison and McGoldrick all looked threatening, and Kettering midfielder Doug Keast was lectured for a late challenge on McGoldrick. Then Murphy and Fee were booked after a clash in midfield.

After 56 minutes Borough increased their lead when Smithers beat the Kettering defence with a well judged through ball and Murphy shot over the advancing keeper Harrison from 30 yards. Everton Carr was booked for a foul on Alexander and then the Kettering striker was himself booked for tripping McGoldrick. Alexander missed a good chance to reduce the arrears when a Carr back pass fell to him, but when Bennyworth made a similar error in the 70th minute, Crawley scored at the second attempt.

Ian Wood picked up a booking for bringing down Morrison and from the resultant free-kick Bennyworth restored Borough's two goal advantage. It was skipper Smithers who had the final word with the last kick of the game, when a 40 yard through ball, intended for McGoldrick, bounced in the penalty area and flew over keeper Harrison as he fell.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 12-04-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Johnson. **Subs:** Parr, Holmes.
Kidderminster: Campbell, Buckland, Barton, Gavin, Jones, Woodall, Mackenzie, Casey, Davies, Tuohy, O'Dowd. **Subs:** Richards, Rosegreen.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough's biggest league crowd of the season left Manor Park disappointed as their favourites slipped to defeat against high-riding Kidderminster. Following their superb spell that

has brought them seven wins in their last nine outings, Jimmy Holmes's side were confident of ending Harriers' record unbeaten run of 16 Gola League games.

Once again Borough failed to turn their undoubted superiority into goals and two more precious points were lost. Frank Murphy, Lance Morrison and Tim Smithers all squandered clear cut chances before the interval when the visitors looked anything but a championship chasing outfit.

Borough made a bright start and might have had a penalty as early as the third minute when Martin Woodall appeared to block McGoldrick's centre with his arm. Almost immediately afterwards Kidderminster went in front. Mick Thurman mistimed a back header and the ball fell to ace striker Kim Casey who swivelled on the spot to fire a looping right footer over the stranded Corder from the edge of the box.

Murphy missed a chance to equalise when he hooked the ball over the top before Corder did well to block Mick Tuohy's close range effort. Borough should have been on level terms after 19 minutes. Johnson found McGoldrick in space on the right and when the winger floated his cross to the far post Morrison headed wide. Smithers then fired wide as Kidderminster came under increasing pressure and just before the interval Hutchinson twice went close.

Borough could have been on level terms eight minutes into the second half when Morrison found McGoldrick on the right and the winger cut into the box before pulling the ball back to Smithers who hooked the ball tamely wide.

Campbell was fortunate when he could only palm away a deep cross from Smithers and was well beaten by McGoldrick's return lob, but the ball hit the top of the crossbar and bounced to safety. Murphy hit a shot against the post and then headed just wide from close range. Corder kept Borough in it with a great one-handed save before Morrison was twice denied by Campbell.

But any hopes Borough had of salvaging a point disappeared four minutes from the end with an own goal. Willie Gibson didn't appear under any pressure as he turned the ball back from the edge of the penalty area, but it sailed over the advancing Corder and into the net. It was a real stunner for the home side and worse was to follow as they only cleared a last minute corner to the edge of the box where Jones fired in a first time shot that hit Bennyworth and flew past Corder.

Nuneaton Borough v Frickley Athletic 14-04-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Parr, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Holmes. **Subs:** Johnson, Kenney.
Frickley: Meehan, Shirliff, Daniels, Wilcox, Wright, Semley, Noteman, Howey, Wilson, Mallender, Hooley. **Subs:** Hatto, Myles.

Borough welcomed Frickley Athletic to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough's hopes of avoiding relegation took another jolt as they tumbled to their second defeat in three days. But whereas

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they were desperately unlucky against Kidderminster, they can have few complaints about this result. They looked sharp enough before the break and they were more than a match for the visitors. However, they fell away in a disappointing second half as Frickley took control.

The Yorkshiremen were twice denied by the woodwork and although they left it until two minutes from time before they got the winner it was no more than they deserved. Ian Bennyworth was ruled out with a knee injury so Holmes returned to partner Mick Thurman and Trevor Parr was recalled at the expense of Gary Johnson.

Borough were quickly into their stride and Tim Smithers shot wildly over in the first minute after McGoldrick, Parr and Murphy had combined well. Hutchinson made a good break from inside his own half, but when he got into the opposing penalty area he finished with a weak shot when it would have been better to have passed to the unmarked Murphy.

Borough had an uncomfortable moment on the half hour when Mallender freed Howey on the right and his cross to the far post found Alan Semley who put a volley inches wide. A couple of minutes later it seemed certain that Semley would score when Paul Wilson's cross dropped to him in front of a yawning goal but somehow Parr deflected the shot for a corner.

At the other end Lance Morrison turned superbly on the edge of the box but his shot lacked the power to trouble Tommy Meehan and then Holmes brought a smart save from the Frickley keeper with a well-worked free-kick. Borough had a let-off just before the break when Wilson powered a header against the angle from Shirtliff's free-kick

Nuneaton opened the second half with a flourish but they failed to take a clear cut chance to break the deadlock. Wilson headed a right wing corner down to Thurman, but the defender completely missed his kick from six yards out. Corder was forced into a couple of smart saves and midway through the second half Borough were lucky to stay on level terms when Corder did well to beat away a Russ Wilcox header. Semley hit the post from the rebound and then Hooley flashed a header inches over the top.

Two minutes from the end Frickley snatched the vital breakthrough. Howey crossed from the right and Hooley flicked a header over the back four to substitute Gary Hatto on the far post, who gave Corder no chance with a close range volley.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-04-1986

Cheltenham: Hards, Hughes, Baddeley, Baverstock, Bayliffe, Brooks, Willetts, Townsend (Glazzard 82), Boyland, Abley, Powell (Jordan 67).

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Holmes (Parr 58). Sub: Kenney.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to play Cheltenham Town in a Gola League match.

Borough's chances of avoiding relegation took a nosedive when they paid the penalty for a first-half full of defensive

disasters which saw them concede five goals. Nineteen-year-old Chris Townsend was their tormentor-in-chief, scoring four times in a little over half-an-hour.

John Powell won a right-wing corner for Cheltenham in the opening minutes, and although it came to nothing, Townsend being adjudged to have impeded Corder, it was a warning of things to come. In the very next attack Abley put Townsend through and after rounding Bennyworth with ease the youngster sidefooted the ball past the sprawling Corder. After this dreadful start Borough hit back and for the next ten minutes began to take control. After 12 minutes Lance Morrison gave Murphy an excellent pass on the left wing and he pushed the ball between defender Hughes' legs before clipping an inch-perfect cross to the far post where McGoldrick headed against the post with the goal at his mercy.

Four minutes later Mark Boyland left the Borough defence in tatters before hitting a perfect cross for Powell to make it 2-0 with a close range header. The rest of the half was a nightmare for Borough, as they were tormented on the wings and found it difficult to defend crosses. After 21 minutes it was Abley's turn to cause havoc on the right, and his cross was headed home by Townsend who climbed well above the remnants of Borough's defence. Seven minutes later the same player was left unmarked five yards from goal from a right wing free kick. He headed home his third goal of the afternoon with relish.

Holmes switched Thurman into the back four to try to stem the tide of long crosses, but the remaining minutes of the half saw Borough under heavy pressure. Morrison was presented with one excellent chance when Hards drove a clearance straight at him, but from 20 yards the Borough striker missed the target. Townsend was presented with a gift fourth goal after 37 minutes when Corder misjudged the striker's run and left the teenager with the simple task of chipping the ball into the net.

The second period saw an amazing turn-around in fortunes, with the Robins' defence suddenly beginning to struggle against a more enthusiastic Borough attack. Mark Hutchinson found the net after 52 minutes only for Murphy to be given offside, but when Thurman was knocked over in the penalty area two minutes later Smithers scored from the spot. Then McGoldrick and Murphy combined well, and when the latter scored with a well-placed drive in the 57th minute, Borough fans began to sense the makings of a miracle.

Alas it was not to be, Borough did dominate the rest of the half but did not score again until injury time when Smithers steered home a well-placed header following a cross from the right. At times the game became quite fierce with three players being booked, Bayliffe for the home side and Hutchinson and Parr for Borough.

Thurman and Bennyworth dealt comfortably with what little Cheltenham threw at them and by the final whistle it was obvious that with more application in the first-half Borough might have left Whadden Road with a win.

Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 26-04-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Parr. **Subs:** Holmes, Kenney.
Dartford: Poultney, Jacques, Isaacs, Pamphlett, McCayna, Campbell, Adhams, Stewart, Lee, Burman, Crown. **Subs:** Blade, Gerlbondi.

Borough welcomed Dartford to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough's hopes of retaining their Gola League status look distinctly brighter after their victory over Dartford. Jimmy Holmes' men produced a tremendous second half performance as they ran out as convincing winners against their fellow strugglers. Goals from Tim Smithers, Lance Morrison and Eddie McGoldrick saw them pick up two vital points. But Borough gave their faithful supporters plenty of anxiety with a lethargic first-half display and their every move showed all the tension of the situation.

Despite having the better of the early exchanges they had a shock when Nicky Crown gave Darts a 21st minute lead completely against the run of play. However, once Smithers had equalised from the penalty spot shortly after the re-start the result never looked in doubt.

Dartford keeper Mark Poultney was in action in the first minute when he had to save bravely at Parr's feet following a good run by McGoldrick. The Nuneaton winger again caused problems for the visitors and his flighted cross to the far post brought a header from Parr that looped just over the bar. McGoldrick brought a fine diving save from Poultney as Borough continued to press forward before Thurman made a mess of a back pass and let in Tony Lee, but the visiting striker failed to take advantage



Frank Murphy tussles for possession with Dartford's Malcolm Stewart as Nuneaton press forward. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Morrison shot wide from six yards after 20 minutes and 60 seconds later they were behind. Lee found a bit of space on the right and his low centre found Crown, unmarked at the

far post and he gratefully accepted a simple chance. Mark Hutchinson forced a save from Poultney before Dartford had the ball in the net again, but the effort was disallowed. Morrison missed again just before the break.

At the start of the second half Morrison did well to set up Hutchinson, but his shot was charged down and Smithers hit the rebound straight into the keeper's arms. Smithers blocked Tony Pamphlett's header on the line and Lee's effort from the rebound was crowded out. Borough immediately raced to the other end of the field where substitute Paul Blade brought down Everton Carr and Smithers made no mistake from the spot.

Poultney had to race out of his area to thwart Morrison before McGoldrick twisted past Malcolm Stewart and fired a fierce drive a foot over the top. Borough scored a second goal when Murphy got free on the left and crossed to the far post where Parr got above the Dartford defence to head the ball back into the centre for Morrison to hook the ball past Poultney. Borough were well in control now and Murphy and Morrison combined well to give Smithers a chance, but he dragged his shot across the face of goal.

The visitors were under intense pressure and it came as no surprise when Borough increased their lead. Murphy put Parr clear on the right and he pulled the ball back for McGoldrick to leave Poultney helpless with a cracking drive. Borough continued to dominate the game and Murphy went close on two occasions late in the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 28-04-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Hutchinson, Parr. **Subs:** Holmes, Kenney.
Altrincham: Wealands, Gardner, Davison, Conning, Farrelly, Edwards, Newton, Dyke, Reid, Ellis, Anderson. **Subs:** Buxton, Cuddy.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a Gola League match.

Borough are still balanced on a knife edge after dropping a vital point. They now face the daunting prospect of having to win their last game of the season at Telford on Saturday to be certain of avoiding the drop. Borough should have had the points sewn up long before the end, however, once again it was painfully evident that they don't have the necessary firepower up front – a major factor in them being involved in the battle for survival.

In a hectic opening spell Trevor Parr directed a header wide from Eddie McGoldrick's cross and then Ian Bennyworth fired a volley narrowly over the top. Borough had appeals for a penalty turned down when John Davison appeared to handle inside the box. Nuneaton were having the better of the game territorially, but they seldom looked capable of breaking down a solid Altrincham defence.

Borough had a narrow escape at the start of the second half when an awful defensive header by Bennyworth set up Gary

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Anderson, but Peter Corder turned his shot over the top. But the home side hit back and McGoldrick almost broke the deadlock when he made a long diagonal run, cut in from the left and his shot beat Wealands only for Phil Gardner to clear off the line with Parr challenging. Bennyworth then brought a fine save from Wealands with a fiercely driven free kick before Morrison shot tamely wide.

Ten minutes from the end Borough were denied a goal by the woodwork. Frank Murphy fed Parr on the left and from his centre Morrison challenged the keeper and the ball fell to McGoldrick who saw his shot crash against the inside of the far post and bounce to safety. Almost immediately Altrincham had Borough fans biting their finger nails as they threatened to snatch a win. Everton Carr put a back pass straight to Paul Reid and it took a brave tackle by Willie Gibson to deny Steve Buxton. Bennyworth did well to block a header from Anderson.

At the other end Morrison brought a fine diving save from Wealands and then Hutchinson cut in from the left to fire a low cross that Parr flicked over the keeper, but Davison somehow headed it off the line and over the top. In one last desperate effort to force a win, Bennyworth powered in a header from a right wing corner, but Murphy and Parr both failed to force the ball home from close range.

Retained List

Borough are likely to retain all their professional players for next season with the only doubt hanging over club skipper Richard Dixey. The central defender has been out of action since October with a deep rooted pelvic strain and must prove his fitness before Borough award him a contract. Dixey will have an added incentive to pull through as Borough have announced that he is to be awarded a testimonial season for 1986-87.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 03-05-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Morrison, Holmes, Parr (Hutchinson).

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head to play Telford United in a Gola League match.

Borough earned the crucial point that was enough to keep them in the Gola League with a Lance Morrison goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Players of the Past 05-05-1986

Nuneaton Borough players from the past took on their present day counterparts at Manor Park and helped to raise over £400 towards the Mayor's charity appeal. More than 300 spectators were entertained by the players of yesteryear including Gerry Baker, Bob Stockley, Bobby Vincent and Bob Turpie while Sky Blues duo Trevor Peake and Dave Bennett added some first division class to the proceedings.

Eire international Gerry Daly, was also on view, although he will have some regrets as he missed a penalty in the 1-1 draw.

However, the event was about raising money and Mayor Albert Walker must have been delighted with the response.

A total of £402 was collected from the gate receipts and a raffle but a quick chat and a whip round by the Borough directors increased the amount to a level £500.



Borough chairman Noel Kelly is pictured signing the cheque with Ian Clarke (left), chief executive of Nuneaton Borough Council, Alf Scattergood and Jim Rowley, club directors, and the mayor, all looking on.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Gola League 1985-86

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	42	27	10	5	94	47	76
Frickley Athletic	42	25	10	7	78	50	69
Kidderminster Harriers	42	24	7	11	99	62	67
Altrincham	42	22	11	9	70	49	63
Weymouth	42	19	15	8	75	60	61
Runcorn	42	19	14	9	70	44	60
Stafford Rangers	42	19	13	10	61	54	60
Telford United	42	18	10	14	68	66	51
Kettering Town	42	15	15	12	55	53	49
Wealdstone	42	16	9	17	57	56	47
Cheltenham Town	42	16	11	15	69	69	46
Bath City	42	13	11	18	53	54	45
Boston United	42	16	7	19	66	76	44
Barnet	42	13	11	18	56	60	41
Scarborough	42	13	11	18	54	66	40
Northwich Victoria	42	10	12	20	42	54	37
Maidstone United	42	9	16	17	57	66	36
Nuneaton Borough	42	13	5	24	58	73	36
Dagenham	42	10	12	20	48	66	36
Wycombe Wanderers	42	10	13	19	55	84	36
Dartford	42	8	9	25	51	82	26
Barrow	42	7	8	27	41	86	24



Borough Skipper In England Squad

Nuneaton Borough captain Tim Smithers is the only local player to be included in the semi-professional squad to face Eire at Manor Park. Smithers, who played a significant part in leading Borough to safety in the Gola League this season, is listed among the travelling reserves but there is every chance that he will make the line-up.

Murphy And Bennyworth On List

Leading scorer Frank Murphy and central defender Ian Bennyworth have both been put on the transfer list by Nuneaton Borough. Murphy, who hit 23 goals in all competitions last season, is up for sale at his own request, while Bennyworth has problems with his work

Manor Park For Sale!

Nuneaton Borough Football Club plans to sell its ground in a million pound deal, play its home matches at Coventry City for a season – and then move to a brand new stadium in the town. The extraordinary ambitious scheme was announced today by Borough's club chairman Noel Kelly, who revealed that he had a major property developer ready to buy Manor Park.

“The news will come as a bombshell to Borough fans – but it has been under consideration for some time,” said Mr Kelly, who has been the soccer club's chairman for the past ten years. If the plans go ahead – and it is a big “if” – the Borough, facing a cash crisis, could pay off all its creditors . . . and finance a new stadium in Nuneaton.

“The facilities of the new stadium will be second to none,” said Mr Kelly. But he would not reveal the site he had in mind for the new stadium. “It is within two miles of Manor Park – that's all I will say,” he said.

He would not reveal the mystery buyer – or how much is involved in the deal, although it is thought to be in the region of £1m. Mr Kelly said: “Agreement has been reached in principle by the directors and legal documents to seek council planning approval are being drawn up.

“The whole decision hinges on the council approval for the commercial development of Manor Park.” One major hurdle that will have to be overcome in the proposed sale of Manor Park is the covenant, specifying its sporting use, for the ground.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's chief executive Mr Ian Clarke said today: “I don't think I should comment on what proposals, if any, the club may have affecting the future of the ground and club. If and after the proposals come forward the council as the planning authority will consider them openly and in public as is its policy.

“It's a matter of public record that certain considerations of future use of the land were accepted when it purchased the freehold a few years ago and these conditions still apply.”

Borough council planning chairman Tom Hargreaves is unhappy about the sell-out plan.

“I am dead set against selling the ground for commercial use, because it was given to the people of the borough for sports purposes and nothing else.”

The choice of a new site for a soccer ground and sports arena would be a major headache he added. “It will have to be well away from housing, and with plenty of parking space. Where the hell is it going to go?”

But if the council opposed new plans for the Manor Park ground the whole deal could fall through. “If Mr Kelly wants to sell that ground with our blessing, then we'll have to know a lot more first. Of course I'd like to see the team stay in the borough – but getting rid of that covenant is another ball game altogether.

“Speaking personally as a councillor – and not as planning chairman – I am dead against the principle of any development other than sports use.

“But we'll have to wait and see what Kelly has dreamed up this time.”

The Borough board's plan is to base the team at Highfield Road for the 1986-87 season while a suitable site is found and prepared to build a new home for the semi-professional club. Coventry have given the “thumbs up” to an approach to rent their pitch and no objections have been put forward by either the Vauxhall Opel Conference (former Gola League) or the Football League.

Mr Kelly said the matter had been the subject of much discussion between certain parties over the past two years.

“The decision to go ahead with it has not been taken lightly because we are well aware that not everyone will be in agreement. We see it however as a golden opportunity to provide the footballers and fans of the future with something to be proud of in Nuneaton.

“The move to Coventry's ground would only be temporary, before we move to a new showpiece stadium.”

Nuneaton Borough's present ground, hemmed in by a canal, main road and residential streets, has little room for expansion. There are serious fears that the main stand will not be given the required Home Office safety certificate. And with the club heavily in debt it is believed they require in the region of £400,000 to bring Manor Park up to scratch.

Cash Blow To Borough Plans

Nuneaton Borough Football Club may have to part with a “substantial sum in hard cash” if they wish to sell their Manor Park ground. Chief Executive of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Mr Ian Clarke has said the club may try to buy out an agreement limiting future uses of the ground to recreation.

In a report to members of the council's policy committee he says a large amount of cash would be expected – if the council is prepared to release the restriction at all.

Hemel Hempstead — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Vauxhall Road to play Hemel Hempstead in a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Hemel: Masella, Kerry, Candlish, Moriarty, Treadwell, Bartlett, Dixon, Reay, Hobbs, Wilson, Donaldson. Subs: Boycott, Brown.

Borough: Blyth, Thurman, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Armstrong, Genovese. Sub: Carr.

Borough progressed to the second qualifying round of the FA Cup, but not before giving their supporters some anxious moments, against an enthusiastic but inexperienced Hemel Hempstead, whose only win of the season so far came in the last round when they beat Rothwell after a replay.

Manager Peter Morris was able to select from his full squad and elected to name the same side that won in midweek, fit again Everton Carr filling the substitute's role.

Borough had first use of a significant end to end slope and it came as little surprise when they subjected their nervous looking opponents to intense early pressure.

In the very first minute they forced a corner with home goalkeeper Tony Masella needing lengthy treatment after falling badly. Eddie McGoldrick's kick was cleared, but moments later the winger was brought down wide on the left and he too needed treatment, before wasting the resultant free kick.

The pressure continued and in the fifth minute Dominic Genovese appeared to be brought down by Richard Moriarty well inside the area, but the referee ignored appeals for a penalty.

Within a minute Borough almost opened their account when a Smithers corner passed across the goal only for the well placed Genovese to loop a header just over the bar with the goalkeeper well beaten.

Somehow the home side survived the onslaught and in the 11th minute found

the confidence to mount their first serious attack, that ended with John Dixon shooting straight at Jim Blyth from the edge of the box, after Owen Donaldson's cross had only been half cleared.

But Borough still looked sharp and McGoldrick was only inches away from getting onto the end of a 16th minute Terry Armstrong cross. However, Hemel Hempstead were beginning to warm to their task and in the 22nd minute Borough hearts missed a beat when Ian Reay hit a fierce long range drive that passed narrowly wide of the post.

Two minutes later Borough should have broken the deadlock when Bennyworth ghosted behind the defence to get onto the end of a Smithers free kick from the left, only to slice his shot wide from the angle of the six yard box.

The home side were now having their fair share of the play and took a shock lead in the 32nd minute following a free kick wide on the right awarded against Willie Gibson for a foul on Donaldson.

Dixon swung in a deep, dangerous free kick that Blyth came for a little late, being almost on Bennyworth as the defender got a touch to the ball some 15 yards out, sending it past the goalkeeper and into the net.

Borough were clearly stung and began the second period in determined mood, changing the shape of the game with two goals in the first five minutes of the half, the first in the 46th minute.

McGoldrick produced a penetrating right wing run that took him almost to the goal line before hitting a low cross-cum-shot that struck Mark Treadwell, being deflected into the net, putting Borough back on level terms.

In the 50th minute they were in front, when yet again McGoldrick caused problems, being obstructed in full flight by the tormented Paul Candlish.

The winger took the kick himself and found Genovese running in from the far side of the box to head powerfully home, his first goal for the club.

Having stepped up a gear to take the lead Borough returned to their lacklustre ways of the later stages of the first half with Hemel Hempstead fighting hard to get back into the game, but lacking the quality to turn their effort into goal chances.

McGoldrick powered in a 63rd minute effort that forced Masella to take the ball high above his head, but it was not to be until the 82nd minute that they made the game safe with a goal of stunning quality.

Frank Murphy, 30 yards from goal, flicked the bouncing ball from his left foot to his right and despite the close attentions of Treadwell, juggled the ball before volleying a fierce dipping shot that entered the net over the stunned Masella before he could move.

The goal was one to be savoured and illuminated an afternoon best forgotten, leaving the home side to reflect on the 14 minutes when they were in the lead and on what surely must be one of the finest goals ever seen on the ground.

For their part Borough have the result they needed and a place in the second qualifying round, but can hardly be pleased with the hard work they made of disposing of opposition with little to offer other than raw enthusiasm.

Moor Green — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Thurman, Genovese. Sub: Hutchinson.

Borough progressed into the third qualifying round following a convincing victory over Southern League outfit Moor Green, despite having skipper Dixey sent off, leaving them to play the last 50 minutes with only ten men.

Dave Whalley, scorer of the game's only goal in midweek, was inelligible and was replaced by Dominic Genovese, who

had a fine game, scoring two goals and showing a glimpse of his true potential.

The home side predictably put Borough under pressure from the word go and Richard Dixey was twice called upon in the early stages to clear danger.

Borough took the lead in the 14th minute when Genovese hit a 25-yard angled half volley, after the ball had obligingly sat up for him – his drive took a deflection leaving goalkeeper Darren Carmel stranded.

Borough were now well in control and looking a class above Moor Green, although a 20th minute free-kick, awarded for a foul by Dixey on the edge of the box, looked dangerous. Mick Warom's drive, however, was blocked by the defensive wall.

In the 39th minute Dixey was booked for a foul on O'Dowd in the centre circle and within a minute incurred the wrath of the referee again, passing an opinion on his control of the game. The official wasted no time in sending the Borough skipper off.

After being in total control Borough now had to face a frantic final five minutes of the half, trying to regain their shape and composure, while the home side pushed forward in search of the equaliser.

The versatile Peter Denyer was moved back to the heart of the defence, in a re-shuffle that left them with just two men up front, but on the stroke of half-time Borough goalkeeper Jim Blyth, who had been commanding throughout, made a superb save enabling his side to go in at the break with their slender lead intact.

Full back Roy Ashman had added his weight to the attack and directed a perfect downwards header towards goal, Blyth was quickly down to get his hand under the ball and somehow push it around the post for a corner.

Borough made a perfect start to the second period and in the 53rd minute they increased their lead with a fine goal, catching Moor Green on the break.

Murphy and Genovese exchanged passes on the right and the ex-Boston man was left with the comparatively simple task of slipping the ball under the goalkeeper's body for his and Borough's second goal.

Once more Borough were in total control and in the 61st minute Smithers saw a 30-yard effort pass over the bar, followed by a Murphy snap shot that went just wide.

But in the 70th minute Borough gifted the home side a goal, that pulled them back into the game. Eddie McGoldrick tried to head the ball back to his goalkeeper under no pressure just outside the area, only to put the ball straight to O'Dowd who made ground before lashing home from 15 yards.

Borough had an anxious five minutes, but regained their two goal advantage in the 75th minute when Murphy had a brilliant run ended inside the area by a push from Rigby, Smithers making no mistake from the spot.

In the 83rd minute Moor Green had their final chance of the game when O'Dowd took advantage of slack marking to find space in the area, but he put his right foot shot wide of the post when he had time and room to have done far better.

It was then left to McGoldrick to have the final say, redeeming himself with a magnificent solo goal, weaving his way into the area before slotting the ball home and sealing Moor Green's fate.

Hinckley Athletic – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round match.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Genovese. Sub: Manning.

Hinckley: Chamberlain, Canning, Purser, Wilcox, Sales, Lambert, Fenton, Taylor, Haskins, Bailey, Hill. Sub: Lineker.

Borough must make the short trip

across the A5 for a FA Cup replay after failing to beat neighbours Hinckley at the first time of asking. But the Manor Park side have only themselves to blame as they enjoyed almost total domination.

They spent virtually the whole game camped in the visitors half but failed to turn their superiority into goals.

After a tentative opening Borough took a firm grip on the game and should have put the issue beyond doubt long before the interval.

However, Dominic Genovese and Peter Denyer both missed gilt-edged chances and Lol Chamberlain in the Robins goal made several fine saves.

The pattern was much the same after the interval with the visitors being forced to concentrate entirely on defence.

But despite their dominance Borough's finishing was woefully inadequate and clear-cut openings were missed, most of them without the Hinckley keeper being called upon to make a save.

The West Midlands League outfit were never in the game as an attacking force but they battled away until the end and they might even have snatched a shock winner in the dying minutes.

Nuneaton were without suspended skipper Richard Dixey and the Cup-tied Whalley but they got a pre-match boost when Frank Murphy passed a late fitness test.

Chamberlain was in action straight from the kick-off when he had to react swiftly to snatch the ball away from the intruding Murphy.

At the other end Mark Taylor had a half chance following a right wing corner but the home defence quickly closed down the danger.

Borough should have gone in front after nine minutes when Mark Hutchinson found Genovese in the box but the Nuneaton striker delayed his shot and Chamberlain raced off his line to smother the ball.



Hinckley centre-half Barry Wilcox beats Peter Denyer to the ball and another Borough attack comes to nothing.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The Robins keeper then did well to cut out a cross from Ian Bennyworth when he was under severe pressure from Denyer.

Nuneaton were now firmly in control and Eddie McGoldrick cut inside from the right to unleash a fierce drive from the edge of the box that flashed inches over the top.

Almost immediately the Borough winger found some space on the right and his centre was chested down by Murphy who fired a shot a foot wide of the left hand post.

In the next minute Genovese had another chance when he had a free header but his effort lacked the necessary power to trouble Chamberlaine.

Paul Purser was off target with a long range shot in a rare Robins break before Denyer shot on the turn following a Tim Smithers free kick but the keeper was well positioned to save.

Denyer then missed a golden chance to break the deadlock. Chamberlain, under pressure from Murphy could only palm Genovese's centre. McGoldrick

quickly returned it into the middle but Denyer side-footed the ball over an empty goal.

Everton Carr then beat the visitors offside trap as he kept possession and raced clear. He delivered a pinpoint centre into the box, but Genovese again failed to connect properly.

Murphy had a chance at the start of the second half but he shot weakly at Chamberlain after Denyer had set up the opening.

Hutchinson then fired a left foot volley well wide and Genovese had a shot charged down by Barry Wilcox.

Smithers made a swift break straight down the middle with spare men on both sides of him. He freed Genovese on the right in yards of space but the striker put his cross behind and the chance was wasted.

Alton Manning came on for the injured Murphy after 63 minutes and then Robins failed to take advantage of a rare opportunity.

Jim Blyth and Ian Bennyworth made a mess of clearing a ball on the edge of the box, it broke to Chris Hill but he mis-

timed his shot and Blyth was able to get back and gather comfortably.

Wayne Lineker, brother of England's Gary Lineker came on for Russ Fenton and shortly afterwards Robins had their one real chance of the game.

Paul Lambert got free on the right and produced a good cross into the penalty area. But with the home defence out of position Tim Bailey put his diving header wide of the left hand upright.

Almost immediately Borough missed another fine opening to sew up the game. Carr swung over a centre from the right but the unmarked Genovese headed well over the top from just six yards out.

Hill then fired a powerful 25 yarder straight at Blyth but by then it was obvious that neither side was capable of finding the all-important goal.

Hinckley Athletic — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough travelled to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round replay.

Hinckley: Chamberlain, Canning, Purser, Wilcox, Sales, Lambert, Allen, Lineker, Haskins, Bailey, Hill. Sub: Taylor.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Genovese. Sub: Manning.

Tim Smithers 20th minute goal was enough to sink brave Hinckley. Robins keeper Lol Chamberlain did supremely well to beat away Eddie McGoldrick's fiercely struck shot but the Borough skipper was on hand to hook the ball home.

On the balance of play Nuneaton had the edge on their West Midlands League opponents but Hinckley's biggest crowd in years were convinced that their side should have had a first-half penalty.

With half an hour gone Ian Bennyworth and Mick Thurman made a hash of a harmless looking ball on the edge of the box and allowed Barry Wilcox to steal possession.



Robins' keeper Lol Chamberlain is at full stretch as he punches this Dominic Genovese cross away from the head of Frank Murphy.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The big central defender bore down on Jim Blyth and as he went round the former Scottish international the Borough keeper sprawled to bring him crashing to the ground.

It looked a blatant penalty but to the fury of Hinckley's players and spectators alike, Northampton referee David Earl awarded a goal kick.

Nuneaton looked more composed at the start and Wilcox did well to hook away a Smithers cross and then McGoldrick wasted a good opportunity when he put his centre behind.

At the other end Paul Lambert got in a header that was comfortably gathered by Blyth before Borough hit back to come close opening the scoring.

Frank Murphy juggled the ball in the left hand side of the box before crossing to the far post where Peter Denyer got in a first time shot that hit Wilcox who was standing on the goal-line.

The vital breakthrough came when Tony Canning obstructed Denyer in the box and from a short free-kick

McGoldrick hammered in a shot that Chamberlain beat away only for Smithers to pounce and net from the rebound.

Then came the penalty controversy and Hinckley were still bemoaning their luck when they were fortunate not to go further behind.

Murphy flicked the ball past Nick Sales and lobbed over the advancing Chamberlain into the net, but the goal was disallowed for an off-side decision against McGoldrick.

Murphy beat Lambert only to shoot wide at the start of the second half, and then the tall Hinckley midfielder had a free header from Wilcox's free-kick but he put his effort straight at Blyth.

Chris Hill almost caught the Borough keeper unawares with a long range shot and Tim Bailey flashed a 30 yard drive narrowly over the angle.

Dominic Genovese hooked a shot high over the top before Borough produced a glorious flowing move that should

have brought a second goal.

Willie Gibson, deep in his own half, found Denyer who turned the ball square to Murphy. The diminutive striker played a superb pass inside the full back to free McGoldrick but the winger put his shot wide of Chamberlain and the far post.

Tony Canning then made a hash of a back pass to let in Genovese but he hesitated and Chamberlain raced out to smother the shot.

John Allen failed to control a long throw from the left that went right across the face of Borough's goal and then Chamberlain again rescued his side, saving bravely at Murphy's feet as he burst clear in the box.

Gibson put Borough in trouble when he sliced a clearance in the penalty area but Bennyworth got in a saving tackle as Wayne Lineker was in the act of shooting.

Robins had one last chance to pull the game round when Bailey crossed deep to the far post but the unmarked Wilcox headed straight at Blyth.

Dunstable — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to play Dunstable in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Dunstable: Fordham, Bates, Rowe, Morrisey, McCarthy, A. Ryan, Marshall, L. Ryan, Currie, Regis, Loddey. Sub: Johnson.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Hutchinson, Hamill, Genovese. Sub: Thurman.

Nuneaton confidently moved through to the First Round Proper. In a first half which Nuneaton dominated for long periods, their first chance came after only four minutes, when McGoldrick shot and hit a post, from where it rebounded to safety.

Two minutes later McGoldrick again waltzed past his marker only to see his pinpoint centre headed over by Genovese.

It therefore came as no surprise when

with ten minutes gone Nuneaton took the lead when they were awarded a penalty when Dunstable's Morrisey pushed Hamill in the area.

Smithers took the spot kick and struck the post, but McGoldrick was first to the rebound and his centre was slotted home by Murphy.

Dunstable's attack was seen for the first time after 21 minutes when Laurie Ryan should have equalised when shooting wide from ten yards.

A further chance came the home side's way when Regis nodded a Currie centre into the path of Bates, but his shot was high and wide.

Nuneaton should have increased their lead after 33 minutes when a corner by Hamill was knocked on by Bennyworth to Genovese standing only two yards from goal, but his weak shot went straight into keeper Fordham's arms.

Nuneaton were under pressure for the first time at the start of the second half and Blyth made his first save of the game after 50 minutes when easily holding an overhead shot from Ryan.

However, they were lucky not to concede an equaliser after 54 minutes when unmarked McCarthy headed just over from Alan Ryan's corner.

Nuneaton came back into the game when the elusive McGoldrick beat two defenders and centred to Genovese whose shot hit the crossbar and rebounded to safety.

After 67 minutes Nuneaton scored their second goal when unmarked Murphy turned on the edge of the area then calmly shot into the far corner.

Dunstable now threw caution to the wind and pressed forward in numbers, and only a brilliant reflex save by Blyth from Laurie Ryan's header stopped them from scoring.

Twelve minutes from the end Dunstable thought they had scored when McCarthy headed home, but their joy was short-lived as referee Bunce had already blown for offside.

With Dunstable now committed to all-out attack, Nuneaton's Murphy was put in the clear on half-way, but his well struck shot on the run was brilliantly parried away by the advancing Fordham.

With only two minutes left Dunstable were awarded a penalty when Bennyworth was adjudged to have fouled McCarthy in the area. However, Blyth dived to his left to somehow parry away Marshall's penalty kick.

With only seconds left Murphy had a further chance to complete his hat-trick, but was denied by Fordham.

Burnley – 1st Round Proper

Borough welcomed Burnley to Manor Park to play a FA Cup First Round Proper tie.

Borough: Blyth, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Denyer, Brown, Hamill. Sub: Hutchinson.

Burnley: Neenan, Hird, Heesom, Devine, Heggarty, Deakin, Grewcock, Malley, Taylor, Parker, Hoskin. Sub: Edwards.

Brave Borough's hopes of FA Cup glory died at rainswept Manor Park – cruelly ended by Burnley's last minute winner in a thrilling tie

Richard Dixey's men had produced a magnificent second half fight-back to cancel out a two goal interval deficit and everything looked set for a replay at Turf Moor .

However, with Nuneaton fans already making plans for the journey up the M6, Burnley called on aching limbs for one last effort.

Ashley Hoskin found himself a bit of space to fire a vicious low shot that the diving Jim Blyth could only beat away. Peter Devine picked up the loose ball on the edge of the box and his shot went in off the foot of a post.

It was tragic for Borough for they had pulverised the Fourth Division outfit for almost the entire second half, during which the visitors were reduced to desperate defence.

But even then Lady Luck still had one more dirty trick up her sleeve. With the match deep into injury time, Frank Murphy looked to have grabbed a dramatic equaliser but the ball hit the bar and flew over the top to safety.

Despite the disappointment of defeat, every Borough player can hold his head up high following a performance that



All eyes are anxiously glued on the ball as Ian Bennyworth (far left) sees his 75th minute header from Eddie McGoldrick's corner bounce and clear the Burnley defenders before finishing in the roof of the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Despair for Frank Murphy as he beats Neenan to this right wing cross in injury time only to see his header hit the bar.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

earned them a standing ovation as they left the field.

They showed tremendous character, guts and no small measure of skill to give their illustrious visitors the fright of their lives.

It was a magnificent team effort, but mention must be made of Eddie McGoldrick who stood head and shoulders above any other player on the park.

The 20-year-old wingman ran the Burnley defence ragged, especially during the second half, and in this sort of form it is difficult to see how Borough will be able to hold onto him.

Both sides made a tentative opening, but Blyth had to race out of his area after five minutes to clear a through ball by Darren Heesom as Burnley pushed forward.

Borough first threatened three minutes later when Paul Brown's free kick rebounded off the defensive wall and Ian Bennyworth volleyed a foot over the bar.

There was more danger for Nuneaton when Hoskin found Derrick Parker in

space in the box and Blyth had to save low to his left.

The visitors were beginning to take control and it came as no surprise when Borough fell behind after 15 minutes. Neil Grewcock found Kevin Hird and his first time pass allowed Phil Malley time and space to slip the ball past Blyth.

Alan Taylor should have increased Burnley's lead after 22 minutes when Hird put him clear, but the former West Ham Cup Final hero saw his shot pushed away by the Borough keeper.

Shortly afterwards Burnley missed another golden opportunity. Blyth advanced to the edge of the box and could only deflect Malley's shot straight to Grewcock who put his effort wide of an open goal.

But McGoldrick came within inches of equalising on the half hour. Stewart Hamill found the wingman wide on the right with a superb crossfield ball and as Joe Neenan came racing out, McGoldrick hooked the ball past him, but watched in anguish as it crept narrowly wide of the far post.

Willie Gibson was booked for a foul on Taylor before Grewcock wasted another

good opening, putting his centre behind with the unmarked Taylor waiting in the middle.

As the half drew to a close, Borough pushed forward more and Hamill fired wide after Neenan had failed to hold Brown's shot.

However, two minutes before the break, Nuneaton went two down. Devine was fouled on the edge of the box, but he picked himself up to curl the free-kick into the top corner.

The visitors were good value for their interval lead, but the second period brought a complete transformation with Borough now in the driving seat.

McGoldrick continued to lead Heesom a merry dance and five minutes after the re-start set up a clear chance for Hamill who fell over the ball with the goal at his mercy.

Neenan then made a hash of a goalkick and was fortunate to see Peter Denyer's effort flash wide of the target.

It was all Borough now and Murphy headed over from McGoldrick's cross and Denyer brought a sprawling save from Neenan with a firm header.

Mick Thurman became the second Nuneaton player booked following a clash with Taylor before Borough reduced the deficit in the 75th minute.

McGoldrick swung a left wing corner to the far post where Bennyworth got in a fine downward header and it bounced into the roof of the net.

With the Manor Park faithful now in full voice, Borough pushed forward in search of an equaliser and they got it with eight minutes left.

McGoldrick produced another dazzling run on the right and his low centre deceived both Neenan and Hird to leave the gleeful Murphy to tap in at the far post.

But the celebrations were brought to a premature end by Devine's last gasp winner followed by the heartbreak of Murphy's effort hitting the woodwork.



Stafford Rangers — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Stafford: Field, Wood (Page 77), Johnson, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Gill, Simpson, Hanchard, Derbyshire, Carr.

Borough: Beale, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, Murphy, Parr, Hamill, Holmes. Sub: Hutchinson.

For the second season in succession Borough's FA Trophy hopes were shattered in the first round at Stafford.

A single goal, scored just after half-time by Martin Hanchard, was enough to see the home side through in a game which – for Borough fans at least – became a depressing repetition of so many of their recent matches.

Manager Jim Holmes restored himself to midfield, replacing Les Cartwright, and brought Mick Beale back in goal. Trevor Parr, sent off against Boston, lined up for his sixth game for Borough.

Forced to play into a near gale-force wind in the first-half and with driving rain soon making conditions even more unpleasant, it quickly became clear that Borough were in for a testing opening period.

Mick Thurman twice cleared his lines in the opening minutes as his defence came under pressure, then after five minutes came an incident so typical of what has happened recently.

Confused by the swirling wind and the menacing presence of Parr, Stafford central defender John Ridley appeared to use his left hand to control the ball at shoulder height. Referee Malcolm Ibbotson, however, waved away Borough appeals for a penalty and a relieved Stafford defence booted the ball clear.

Inevitably in the conditions Borough were forced to defend in depth. Beale, after a fortnight without a game, took time to settle and twice failed to collect high crosses. In front of him, however, his back four was playing well. Everton Carr had one of his best games for

the club, whilst Ian Bennyworth and Thurman also did well and Gibson was as reliable as ever.

What mistakes they did make were brought about by the bad conditions and, fortunately for Borough, neither Martin Hanchard nor Derbyshire took advantage of good chances to put Stafford ahead.

Most of Borough's attacking ideas were centred on Eddie McGoldrick, who, as usual reduced his opponents to desperation measures. Stafford left-back Paul Johnson was booked for a heavy tackle on the Borough flyer, but an even worse challenge from Peter Carr went unpunished.

Borough's best first-half chance fell to Frank Murphy following a good bout of play involving Carr, Stewart Hamill and Tim Smithers, but the Borough striker struck his shot badly wide. Shortly afterwards Parr sent a diving header just wide of the Stafford goal with keeper Field well beaten.

For the remainder of the half Stafford continued to dominate, with Kenny Beech prominent in midfield, but when the half-time whistle blew with the score still goalless, Borough seemed to have weathered the storm in more sense than one.

The second half began in the same high wind and driving rain that had affected most of the first 45 minutes, and an early mistake settled the outcome of the game.

Hamill, busy in midfield, lost possession deep in his own half when he hesitated to clear and as the ball was shipped across the Borough area Hanchard stepped in to score from close range after 47 minutes.

Within a minute Borough almost equalised. McGoldrick crossed from the right and Smithers rifled a header a couple of feet wide of the home goal.

Borough, with the wind at their backs, dominated the rest of the second half. In midfield Hamill, Holmes and Smithers began to exert a greater

influence, but there was little drive up front. Hamill, with a series of long shots, caused Stafford as much difficulty as anyone.

Stafford, forced to defend in their turn, were content to rely on the quick break, and it almost brought them a second goal. Derbyshire twisted in the Borough box and sent in a low drive which Beale did well to turn wide.

A Hamill 40 yarder was deflected wide, then the home side survived an astonishing penalty area scramble but gave away a free-kick some 25 yards out. Holmes sent in a rasping effort which was beaten away by Field and then cleared for a corner before a Borough boot could connect. The resultant cross was hooked over by Murphy.

Then a bad back pass by Bennyworth let in Derbyshire who advanced on the Borough goal with only Beale to beat. But the keeper was now playing with confidence and it was Derbyshire's nerve which cracked and he allowed the youngster to rob him of possession.

As time began to run out for Borough Murphy twice almost earned a replay. After 74 minutes keeper Field saved well, and a minute later Ridley hooked his header off the line with the keeper beaten.

The rain finally ceased, but this proved little consolation for Borough who were being urged on by the tireless Smithers. Parr had a half-hit shot easily saved and in injury time Murphy took too long to shoot when well placed.

The last action of the game saw Bennyworth head just wide from a Smithers corner, before the referee's whistle signalled the end of the game and Borough's Wembley aspirations.

Holmes led a sad squad from the field. His first month in charge must have convinced the Borough boss that he needs more steel in his team if he is to make the best of the undoubted talent which still remains at Manor Park.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Gola League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1985-86

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First	Attendance
07.30	Ipswich Town	H	PSF	0-3			1100
08.03	Coventry Sporting	A	PSF	1-1	(o.g.)		
08.07	Leicester United	A	PSF	1-0	Murphy		
08.10	Corby Town	H	PSF	0-2			
08.12	Mansfield Town	H	PSF	1-1	Murphy		
08.17	Burton Albion	A	PSF	0-2			
08.24	Boston United	A	L	2-3	Murphy, Denyer		1304
08.26	Scarborough	A	L	1-2	Dixey		673
08.31	Kettering Town	H	L	0-3			1016
09.03	Bath City	A	L	2-0	Denyer, Murphy		547
09.07	Hemel Hempstead	A	FAC 1Q	3-1	McGoldrick, Genovese, Murphy		205
09.09	Bath City	H	L	2-3	Dixey, Denyer		926
09.14	Northwich Victoria	H	L	1-3	Murphy		702
09.17	Dartford	A	L	1-0	Smithers		463
09.21	Wealdstone	H	L	0-0			851
09.23	Runcorn	H	L	1-0	Whalley		845
09.28	Moor Green	A	FAC 2Q	4-1	Genovese (2), Smithers (p), McGoldrick		338
10.01	Wycombe Wanderers	A	L	0-2			786
10.03	West Midlands Police	H	BSC 2	3-0	Whalley (2), Genovese		308
10.05	Maidstone United	A	L	1-5	Murphy		735
10.07	Cheltenham Town	H	L	0-1			707
10.12	Hinckley Athletic	H	FAC 3Q	0-0			1526
10.15	Hinckley Athletic	A	FAC 3Qr	1-0	Smithers		1249
10.19	Dagenham	A	L	2-3	Bennyworth, Murphy		548
10.21	Highgate United	H	BSC 3	4-1	Whalley (2), Genovese (2)		308
10.26	Dunstable	A	FAC 4Q	2-0	Murphy (2)		628
10.28	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	1-2	Genovese		
11.02	Barnet	H	L	4-1	Denyer (2), Murphy, Brown		786
11.04	Stafford Rangers	H	BLT 2 1L	1-1	Murphy		578
11.09	Altrincham	A	L	4-7	Murphy (2), Hamill, Brown		
11.16	Burnley	H	FAC 1	2-3	Bennyworth, Murphy		3182
11.21	Dudley Town	H	BSC QF	2-2	Hammil, Kenney		
11.23	Frickley Athletic	A	L	2-2	Smithers, Murphy		
11.26	Stafford Rangers	A	BLT 2 2L	1-2	Hamill		777
11.30	Telford United	H	L	1-1	Whalley		741
12.02	Enfield	H	L	1-5	Smithers		753
12.10	Bedworth United	A	M&BC	4-3	Holmes, Murphy (2), Parr		400
12.12	Dudley Town	A	BSC QF	0-1			
12.14	Dagenham	H	L	1-2	Hamill		639
12.16	Boston United	H	L	0-1			573
12.21	Stafford Rangers	A	FAT 1	0-1			837
12.26	Wycombe Wanderers	H	L	3-0	Hutchinson, Smithers, Thurman		649
01.01	Wealdstone	A	L	0-1			
01.04	Barrow	H	L	0-1			590
01.11	Stafford Rangers	A	L	0-2			1079
01.18	Weymouth	A	L	0-2			734
01.25	Banbury United	H	F	2-1	Kenney, Murphy		
01.28	Runcorn	A	L	1-3	Murphy		426
02.01	Weymouth	H	L	3-0	Smithers, Holmes, Parr		369
03.08	Enfield	A	L	2-3	Smithers (2 pens)		898
03.10	Maidstone United	H	L	1-0	Smithers		541
03.15	Stafford Rangers	H	L	3-0	Murphy, Gibson, Smithers (pen)		729
03.17	Nuneaton Amateur Select XI	H	CM				

Gola League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1985-86

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Nuneaton Scores First	Attendance
03.22	Northwich Victoria	A	L	3-0	McGoldrick, Hutchinson (2)		
03.29	Scarborough	H	L	3-1	Holmes (2), Murphy		621
03.31	Barrow	A	L	0-2			396
04.05	Barnet	A	L	1-0	Murphy		678
04.07	Kettering Town	H	M&BC QF	1-0	Morrison		
04.09	Kettering Town	A	L	4-1	Smithers (2), Murphy, Bennyworth		733
04.12	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	0-3			1034
04.14	Frickley Athletic	H	L	0-1			762
04.19	Cheltenham Town	A	L	3-5	Smithers (2, 1 pen), Murphy		939
04.26	Dartford	H	L	3-1	Smithers, Morrison, McGoldrick		778
04.28	Altrincham	H	L	0-0			829
05.03	Telford United	A	L	1-1	Morrison		
05.05	Players Of Past	H	F				304

KEY : L = Gola League, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, BLT = Bob Lord Trophy, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, M&BC = M&B Cup (Competition carried over to next season), PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly, CM = Charity Match



Nuneaton Borough 1985-86

Back: Eddie McGoldrick, Paul Brown, Gary Hardwick, Dave Whalley, Peter Denyer, Stuart Hamill, Jim Blyth, Mick Thurman, Timmy Smithers, Ian Bennyworth, Sean Gallagher (director), Dominic Genovese.
 Front: Mick Green (reserves manager), Mark Hutchinson, Richard Dixey (caretaker-manager), Noel Kelly (chairman), Everton Carr, Frank Murphy, Bill Mather (trainer).



Back Me – Kelly

Nuneaton Borough soccer club chairman, Noel Kelly, today urged councillors to support his super stadium plan, which would involve the sale of Manor Park. A four page letter from Mr Kelly was given to members of Nuneaton and Bedworth policy committee, pleading for support for the million pound scheme.

Selling Manor Park and building a new multi-sports centre on the outskirts of Nuneaton will create “a golden opportunity to build something special for our fans and the community with no cost to the council or the ratepayers,” he said.

Mr Kelly would not name the chosen site for the new ground, but said he had first refusal on land at the edge of town. However, he told the Evening Tribune that there may be green belt planning problems. The future ground would need special permission to go ahead.

If the move was approved it could mean as many as 200 new jobs on a new commercial development at the Manor Park site. But it will be up to the developers to tell the council what they want to build there. “Personally, I don’t know, it could be anything from a hotel to a new store. It’s up to them to find something which is acceptable to the council,” added Mr Kelly.

His new club ground and sports centre would include: A 750 seater stand; indoor training area; parking for 1,000 cars; an all-weather training pitch; cricket nets; a large club; children’s playground; and possibly a synthetic main pitch which could be used for soccer, running, rugger, American football, cricket, tennis, hockey and a host of other sports.

And he adds: “I hope the foregoing will help to form a picture of what, at the end of the day, would be of substantial benefit to the community of Nuneaton.”

The sports centre would cover at least 12 acres and take more than three years to develop. But the biggest hurdle facing the plan is the covenant restricting the use of Manor Park as sports only. Unless it is waived, the sale is highly unlikely to go ahead and a new site cannot be bought.

Council chief executive Mr Ian Clarke says in a report to today’s policy committee that the council would expect “a substantial sum in hard cash” if the club were to buy itself out of the covenant. Both council leader Dennis Harvey and planning chairman Tom Hargreaves are on public record saying they are unhappy about lifting the sport-only rule on the Manor Park ground.

No decision will be taken at today’s policy meeting. The council’s chief executive is asking councillors to wait for planning applications for both Manor Park and the future sports centre.

But the meeting is expected to set the mood for the future debate on the controversial move. And Mr Kelly is aware that he has few allies.

“I don’t have personal friends on the council. I know I have got to do some lobbying, but I would hope people would use their common sense and look seriously at my letter,” he said.

Pre-Season Tournament And Friendlies

Nuneaton Borough have several friendly matches lined up in preparation for the forthcoming season, including a weekend jaunt to Southern Ireland. Secretary John Evans today outlined the plans for the Ireland trip which will take in two matches starting with a fixture against Bray Wanderers, who have just been promoted to the Irish first division. That game will take place on Friday, August 8 with a second game arranged for the following Sunday morning, although Borough’s opponents have still to be arranged.

The Manor Park side kick-off their friendlies with an away trip to Worcester City on July 26 and on the following Monday evening play host to Northampton Town when former Borough boss Graham Carr is expected to bring along several ex-Nuneaton stars including Trevor Morley and Richard Hill.

Saturday, August 2 sees Jimmy Holmes take his side to Coventry Sporting while Leamington provide the opposition at the Windmill ground three days later. Two more dates have been set aside for other friendlies to be arranged before the new season gets under way on Saturday, August 16.

Tories Urge New Look At Manor Park

A call for the borough council to take another look at the possible sale of Manor Park has been dismissed by Labour members. Conservative members yesterday called for the issue to be looked at in a “positive” way because they felt any future planning proposals had been pre-judged.

Mr Geoff Aggus said: “It is an idea which in principle is well worth looking at and I found it disturbing that the committee should take this attitude.

“There aren’t any concrete proposals but we shouldn’t be saying no in advance,” he added.

Abbey Ward councillor Mr Bill Deacon said: “I don’t want to see any further encroachment in Abbey Ward. I know that once we allow leisure and recreation land to be opened up to anything else we could have another Sterling Metals on there.”

Mr Bill Olnor added: “Somebody stands to make a great deal of money at ratepayers’ expense – it isn’t our money it’s the ratepayers. Football has been played at Manor Park for many, many years and hopefully it will carry on.”

Mr Colin Richards told members the covenant restricting the land to strictly leisure use had been put there to protect residents and to preserve football in Nuneaton.

Pre-Season Tour Off

Nuneaton Borough’s pre-season tour of Ireland is off . . . but club chairman Noel Kelly has unveiled ambitious plans for an annual Anglo-Irish tournament. The decision to call off the tour was made last night when a last-ditch appeal for sponsorship failed to bring the necessary backing. An initial outlay of £2,500 was needed, but despite interest from several companies, Borough decided there wasn’t enough time to iron out details.



Borough Demand Apology From Kettering

Nuneaton Borough will be insisting on an apology from Kettering Town following the Rockingham Road side's illegal approach to Tim Smithers. Borough secretary John Evans was obviously disappointed with the way Kettering went straight to the player concerned instead of through the proper channels. Several newspapers in the Northampton area carried stories that Smithers had signed for the Poppies, which is completely untrue, and this along with other misdemeanours by Kettering have upset Nuneaton officials.

1986-87

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 26-07-1986

Borough made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a pre-season friendly.

Borough opened their pre-season build-up with a highly encouraging performance. Jimmy Holmes' men, who only avoided relegation by getting a point in the final match of last season, were well in control for most of the game. They overcame a sticky opening ten minutes to dominate for long periods and could easily have finished with a convincing victory. Borough looked solid at the back, controlled the middle of the park, and with a little more steadiness in front of goal would have condemned City to an emphatic defeat.

With new signings Andy McGranaghan and Robbie Grant both making their first appearances, Nuneaton took a little time to sort things out and Worcester called the tune in the early stages. But Borough had the first chance when Grant dummied a Mark Hutchinson free kick and Lance Morrison flicked the ball on for McGranaghan to power a header narrowly wide.

Morrison then turned a corner across the face of the goal with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch before McGrath appeared to trip the big striker as he burst clear, but Borough's penalty appeals were turned down. Former Nuneaton keeper Andy Poole did well to turn a Morrison shot away for a corner and was then grateful to hear an offside whistle as Grant put the ball into the net just before half-time.

Grant headed over from six yards at the start of the second half and Hutchinson fired a low drive a foot wide of the far post. Morrison was posing plenty of problems for the home defence with his close control and pace but the centre-forward wasted two opportunities after he had created the opening for himself.

Tim Smithers brought a fine save from Poole before Holmes was fortunate not to concede a penalty for an ill-timed tackle on Wright. Grant again shot over and Morrison had a header saved but Alan Harris in the Borough goal had to make a smart save to deny Stobart as Worcester ended with a flourish.

Manor Park Needs Safety Certificate

Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park ground is one of 52 sporting venues throughout Britain needing a local authority safety

certificate to enable sport to be played there next season. The move, affecting grounds with a crowd capacity of more than 10,000, implements recommendations of the Popplewell Inquiry in to sports ground safety in the wake of last year's Bradford City fire tragedy and crowd trouble at a Birmingham City home match.

Home secretary Douglas Hurd said: "The effect will be to require the responsible persons in all cases to apply for a certificate from the appropriate authority if they wish to admit spectators to the grounds." The new requirement comes into force on the first day of the Football League programme, Saturday, August 23.

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 29-07-1986

Borough: Harris, Carr, Gibson, Dixey, Thurman, Smithers, McGoldrick, McGranaghan, Morrison, Hutchinson, Grant. **Subs:** Murphy, Donoghue, Rudkin.

Northampton: Glazier, Reed, Curtis, Donald, Chard, Wilcox, Mann, Benjamin, Sugrue, Gilbert, Hill. **Subs:** Donagle, Buchells.

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

Richard Hill returned to Manor Park and stunned his old club with two first-class goals. Hill struck twice in a four minute spell midway through the half as the Cobblers grabbed control. With Adrian Mann adding a third seven minutes before the break, Borough faced an uphill struggle against Graham Carr's side.

But to their credit they rallied to the task after the interval and deservedly pulled a goal back through Tim Smithers. In fact Borough can count themselves a little unfortunate that the Smithers effort was all they had to show for a spirited second-half performance.

Club skipper Richard Dixey returned to the side at the heart of the defence – his first game since last October. He came through the whole 90 minutes without any apparent problems and is now looking forward to getting back to full match fitness in time for the kick-off on August 16.

Borough found the pace of the Football League side too hot to handle in the early stages and it came as no surprise when Northampton went in front after 16 minutes. Hill fastened on to a loose ball 25 yards out and his fierce right-footer left Alan Harris with no chance. Four minutes later Borough failed to clear a left wing cross and Hill got free in the box to beat Harris with a low shot on his near post.

The home side were unlucky not to pull a goal back when Robbie Grant hooked in a shot that Peter Glazier pushed on to the bar and away to safety. Seven minutes later Borough went further behind when Mann raced clear and slipped the ball past the advancing Harris.

Frank Murphy came on for Grant at the start of the second half and Borough opened with a flourish. Lance Morrison and Smithers both caused anxiety in the visitors' defence before



Nuneaton pulled a goal back. Murphy flicked on a pass to Smithers who skipped past Graham Reed before rifling a shot into the far corner of the net. Morrison then won an aerial battle and Smithers was in again to bring a diving save from Glazier. At the other end Harris made a fine save to deny Hill his hat-trick and another ex-Borough man, Paul Sugrue, shot narrowly wide.

Nuneaton ended the game on top and McGoldrick had a shot saved at the second attempt by Glazier and in the last minute the keeper somehow beat away a fierce close-range effort from Morrison.

Borough To Take On YTS Lads?

Borough are enthusiastic about their chances of recruiting some of the best young footballers in the area following a successful meeting between the Manor Park club and the Professional Footballers' Association. Borough secretary John Evans and Mick Burns, who is in charge of the educational department of the PFA, discussed plans for a maximum of eight trainees to join the club on the Government's Youth Training Scheme.

Details of the venture have to be approved by the Manpower Services Commission but Evans is very hopeful of the plans getting the go-ahead.

Nuneaton Borough v Port Vale 01-08-1986

Borough: Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, McGranaghan, Morrison, Thurman, Murphy. **Subs:** Mitchell, Hutchinson, Rudkin, Donoghue.

Port Vale: Grew, Webb, Shankland, Walker, Sprosson, Williams, Smith, Jones, O'Kelly, Ebanks, McGuire. **Sub:** Banks.

Borough welcomed Port Vale to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough are still looking for their first win of their pre-season build-up campaign. Jimmy Holmes' men had their chances against the Football League outfit but Richard O'Kelly's fifth minute effort proved enough to clinch victory for the visitors. As against Northampton, Borough made a shaky start and reserved their best moments for after the break. They might have had an equaliser almost immediately after O'Kelly's strike but Frank Murphy's effort was disallowed.

After the interval both Murphy and Eddie McGoldrick went close and Tim Smithers missed the best chance of the night. But in general it was a useful workout for Nuneaton, although player-manager Holmes, must be a little anxious at his side's continued inability to turn chances into goals.

With the rain lashing down, Borough had hardly found their feet before Port Vale went in front. O'Kelly smartly turned past Richard Dixey on the edge of the box and as Alan Harris left his line the visitors' striker clipped a neat lob inside the far post. Borough could have drawn level immediately as Holmes free-kick came back off the post and Murphy bundled the ball into the net, but the goal was disallowed for handball.

Former West Brom keeper Mark Grew reacted smartly to punch away a dangerous cross from Smithers with Morrison and Murphy in close attendance. Mick Thurman fired a 25 yard effort over the top while at the other end Everton Carr was fortunate not to concede a penalty when he appeared to bring down Andy Jones.

Borough had their best spell at the start of the second half. Smithers produced a fine deep cross from the left and with Grew struggling Andrew Shankland headed clear from McGoldrick. The winger then swept in a low centre from the right, but Murphy and McGranaghan got in each other's way.

Borough missed a golden opportunity to equalise when McGoldrick made a great run on the right and when Murphy dummied his centre, Smithers was left completely unmarked, but miskicked with the goal at his mercy. Harris kept Borough in the game when he made an excellent save low to his left after an ill-timed back pass by Carr had let in O'Kelly. Borough continued to press, but were kept at bay by a resolute defence.

Borough Given More Time For Safety Certificate

Nuneaton Borough will be given time to get their ground within the necessary safety requirements but they must apply for a certificate before August 23. Borough secretary John Evans has been in contact with the Home Office and he received a favourable response to his inquiries.

"They were very understanding and helpful. It would have been virtually impossible to get our application in to the authorities and then for an inspection to take place and for any recommendations to be carried out," said Evans.

"The main thing is for us to apply before August 23 and then it will be up to the discretion of the local authorities to decide on an inspection date," he said.

AP Leamington v Nuneaton Borough 05-08-1986

Borough: Harris, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Smithers, McGoldrick, McGranaghan, Morrison, Thurman, Murphy. **Subs:** Hutchinson, Johnson and Donoghue (for Holmes, Smithers and McGoldrick 45), Mitchell (for Murphy 63), Bateman (for McGranaghan 70).

Borough made the journey to The Windmill ground to play AP Leamington in a pre-season friendly.

Borough's pre-season preparations were given a welcome boost when they scored a comfortable 4-0 victory. Manager Jimmy Holmes relied on the team which had done well against Port Vale, but it was Leamington who made the brighter start. Encouraged by a 2-1 success against Kidderminster the home team looked full of running. Borough, however, soon settled and two goals in a minute demoralised the home side. After ten minutes Lance Morrison chased a long through ball on the right, beat Doherty on the turn and hammered home from a narrow angle. A minute later the big striker went down in the home area. A penalty was awarded, and Tim Smithers gave home keeper Lol Chamberlain no chance from the spot.



As Leamington struck back, Albert Johnson was prominent in their attack, but the Borough defence, in which Dixey and Carr were outstanding, had few difficulties, while Alan Harris gave his most impressive goalkeeping display for some time. Morrison had a goal disallowed just before the break.

Holmes changed his team in the second half and Borough's midfield, to which Hutchinson and Johnson added both pace and mobility, looked better, while Thurman was clearly happier in the back four. On the hour Leamington's substitute keeper Hartnett could only half-stop an Andy McGranaghan drive, and the ball trickled over the line for Borough's third.

There was no stopping Borough now. In their next attack Hutchinson put a pin-point pass out to Donoghue on the left. He hit a good cross to the far post where Lance Morrison headed home. As the game wore on Borough took the opportunity to introduce two more teenagers to the game, Gary Mitchell replacing Murphy and Lee Bateman taking the place of McGranaghan. Both did well – indeed Mitchell hit the bar with a header

Coventry Sporting v Nuneaton Borough 08-08-1986

Borough: Harris, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Thurman, Smithers, Donoghue (Merrick 45), Hutchinson, Morrison, Murphy, Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Coventry Sporting to play a pre-season friendly.

Borough completed their pre-season friendlies with a hard-earned win. The Manor Park outfit were full value for their success but all they had to show for their efforts was an own goal from Len Darby. Borough could well have ended as far more convincing winners as they hit the woodwork twice and went close on several other occasions. But in general they were made to struggle against a home side that was more concerned with the defensive side of their game than getting on the scoresheet themselves.

For their part Jimmy Holmes' men tried to open out the play but were frustrated for most of the 90 minutes by the massed Sporting defence. Borough could have gone ahead as early as the second minute when Tim Smithers took a quick free kick and Gary Johnson burst into the box, but sliced his shot wide from 14 yards out. However, seven minutes later Borough took the lead. Smithers clipped in a free kick from the left, Frank Murphy flicked it on with his head and Darby racing back to his own goal, only succeeded in turning the ball past Garood.

Hutchinson shot narrowly over before former Atherstone winger Kirk Jennings fired a long range effort a foot wide. Five minutes from the interval the home side had their best chance of the night when the Borough defence failed to pick up Peltier from a free-kick, but the big central defender put his header high and wide.

Gibson came to Borough's rescue at the start of the second period when he hooked the ball off the line after Alan Harris had been bundled off the ball, but Borough were quickly

back in control. Hutchinson showed some neat skill to work himself an opening on the edge of the box but his volley was off target. The midfield man brought a fine save from Garood after Gibson had provided the cross. Murphy shot inches wide of the post before Sporting had another lucky escape.

Everton Carr showed great pace to get clear on the right and his cross was met by Smithers, but the ball smacked against the angle and bounced to safety. Borough continued to press forward but the home side's uncompromising defensive tactics kept the scoreline down.

McGoldrick And Harris Join Northampton

Nuneaton Borough players Eddie McGoldrick and Alan Harris will join Northampton Town. The clubs have agreed terms and everything will be tied up after the players have undergone a medical with the Fourth Division club. McGoldrick has been on the transfer list at his own request, while Harris, the first apprentice professional in Nuneaton's history, has been attracting the attention of several Football League clubs.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 13-08-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Bennyworth, Dixey, Smithers, Mitchell, McGranaghan, Hutchinson, Holmes (Johnson 90), Murphy. Subs: Thurman.
Willenhall: Whitehouse, Page, Dams, Nicholls, Carr, Bowater, King, Ash, Skidmore, Vicanti. Subs: Collett, Dulleston.

Borough welcomed Willenhall Town to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup semi-final match.

Borough's hopes of a place in the final disappeared after a below par performance. Borough had their chances, especially during a purple patch late in the second half, but in the end could have no grumbles about the result. Willenhall showed far more commitment throughout than the home side and thoroughly deserved to win this disappointing semi-final game.

The visitors showed that they meant business from the start with a series of clattering tackles that eventually led to them having four men booked. Andy McGranaghan had an early header just wide and then Tim Smithers put an effort over the top from a Jimmy Holmes corner. But Borough were almost caught napping when Archie King got free in the box and it took the combined efforts of Richard Dixey and Peter Corder to keep him out.

Murphy was chopped down by the Willenhall keeper as he raced clear of the defence and then at the start of the second period John Skidmore saw his shot beat Corder and rebound off the crossbar. Borough were shocked after 72 minutes when former Sky Blues Scottish international Willie Carr crossed from the left and Kevin Ash forced the ball home from close range.

Borough were stung into retaliation and were level within three minutes. Everton Carr hit a deep centre from the right and Smithers, playing as a striker in place of the missing



Lance Morrison, chested the ball down to fire past Fred Whitehouse. The visitors then came under a lot of pressure and were grateful to a superb save from Whitehouse as he turned a fierce drive by McGranaghan over the top. But they were fortunate when Phil Nicholls clearly handled the ball in the box.

There was no improvement during extra-time but Willenhall got the all-important break with King scoring from close range after a mistake by Richard Dixey.

Transfer Problems Resolved

Eddie McGoldrick and Alan Harris will become Northampton players next week after the £15,000 deal ran into problems this week with the clubs failing to agree how the money should be paid and there were irregularities with the players' medicals. However, everything has now been sorted out and all documents concerned with the deal will be exchanged on Monday.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough 16-08-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, McGranaghan, Morrison, Thurman, Murphy. **Subs:** Johnson, Mitchell.
Scarborough: Kaye, Podd, Thompson, Richards (Dennis 73), Hartley, Kendall, Brolly, Graham, Gallagher, Mell, Sellers. **Sub:** Olney.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Nuneaton Borough skipper Richard Dixey made a fairy-tale come-back to spearhead his side to an emphatic opening day of the season success. The big number five, playing his first league match since last October, was Borough's unlikely match-winner. He got the first goal after 21 minutes and his second midway through the second half, killed off any hopes the visitors might have had of snatching a point.

Andy McGranaghan, Jimmy Holmes' only close season signing, put the icing on the cake as he cracked home the third, ten minutes from the end. Borough, struggling for all last season and only avoiding relegation in the very last match, look as though they are capable of better this term. They still have a shortage of goal power but they are now well organised and last season's traumas have certainly moulded them into a fighting unit.

Borough wasted a promising early move when McGranaghan was caught offside as Mark Hutchinson slipped the ball through inside the box. Scarborough, with eight new men on parade, had a glimpse of a chance but left-back Neil Thompson ballooned a first-time effort way over the top. Steve Richards then found a bit of space wide on the Nuneaton left flank but Barry Gallagher failed to control his centre and the chance was lost.

However, Borough bounced into life and made the vital breakthrough after 21 minutes. Mark Hutchinson had a shot deflected for a corner and from the flag-kick, taken by Hutchinson, David Kaye only palmed the ball away and Dixey

hammered a 12-yard volley into the roof of the net. Lance Morrison went close with a looping header but Corder had to react smartly to race out of his area and hack the ball clear as Stewart Mell broke free.

Borough were fortunate not to concede an equaliser eight minutes before the break when Gallagher got clear on the right and when Mell flicked on the centre, Tom Graham hooked his shot wide from 10 yards. Right on the half-time whistle Kaye saved the visitors when Morrison put McGranaghan clear with a super ball and the keeper raced out to block the shot with his legs.

Frank Murphy missed a good chance at the start of the second half when he screwed his shot wide from six yards. Corder produced another fine save to deny Gallagher before Borough put the issue beyond doubt with a second goal after 65 minutes. Hutchinson curled in a corner from the right and Dixey was completely unmarked on the far post as he headed home from close range.

Morrison put Murphy clear but Kaye produced another good save and then the big Nuneaton striker broke clear only to fire straight at the keeper. But the pressure had to tell and ten minutes from the end Borough got a deserved third goal. A neat build-up on the left ended with Mick Thurman gently rolling a short ball into the path of McGranaghan and his 25 yard drive beat Kaye inside his left hand post. The keeper denied Murphy from a free kick in the closing seconds.

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 19-08-1986

Stafford: Field, Derbyshire, Upton, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Perry, Lowe, Bennett, Hanchard, Carr. **Subs:** Mountain, Lodge.
Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes (Mitchell 69), Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, McGranaghan, Morrison, Thurman, Murphy. **Sub:** Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Marston Road to face Stafford Rangers in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

For the fourth time in nine months Borough found a trip to Stafford unrewarding as they slipped to an undeserved 3-1 defeat. After dominating much of the game they failed to turn territorial advantage into goals, and became the victims of their own lapses in concentration.

The opening minutes of the game were undistinguished, although Richard Dixey established an early dominance at the heart of Borough's defence. When the visitors did begin to put their game together, Morrison's cross from the right just failed to reach McGranaghan and in the next attack the big striker forced a corner. Frank Murphy laid the ball off to Mick Thurman who hit a fierce drive just wide. In the 34th minute Carr broke free for Borough, but as he swept past Paul Upton towards goal he was adjudged to have fouled the former Bedworth man.

Seconds later Martin Hanchard moved on to a long through ball, evaded Dixey, and poked the ball home past the advancing Corder to give Stafford a 1-0 advantage. Borough



found themselves two down when Graham Bennett went down under Holmes' challenge inside the box and referee, Mr Hutchinson awarded a penalty. Diving to his right, Corder made a brilliant save from Phil Derbyshire, only to see the ball land back at the Stafford man's feet so that he was able to score with ease.

The second half began with Borough back on top. The break had clearly calmed them down and they were full of fight. Morrison, well supported by Murphy and Hutchinson, led an impressive revival, which led to a deserved goal after 55 minutes, Hutchinson finishing off a one-two movement with Murphy by clipping home a left-footed drive. For a few minutes a draw, or even a win, seemed on the cards for Borough, as they pressured the home side. Dixey was booked for a foul on Hanchard and Upton was spoken to for making a meal of an innocuous challenge by Murphy.

Then, after 62 minutes came the goal which crushed Borough's hopes. Phil Derbyshire broke wide on the right, the referee played an excellent advantage as he was fouled, and he recovered to drive a hard cross into the Borough box, where Graham Bennett applied the finishing touch. Borough twice went close in the closing minutes. First Hutchinson played a right-wing cross which was volleyed narrowly wide by Mitchell, then Dixey moved onto a superb cross from Carr, but headed over from eight yards.

Manor Park May Be Condemned

Nuneaton Borough FC chairman Noel Kelly has spoken of his renewed fears that his ground may be condemned by the safety inspectors. Today was the deadline for applications for a safety certificate, and a Home Office and fire inspection is due in October. "If they say we must spend £50,000 we are scuppered," he said. The main stand, which holds 500, was built in 1919 and is almost certain to get the thumbs down from inspectors. It contains an additional fire risk because it is built over the kitchens, referees' rooms and vice-presidents' room. The ground's exits are not likely to meet new regulations, because too many of Manor Park's gates are on the same side of the field.

"We might get a general safety certificate with a strict limit on the numbers the ground holds. But we aren't likely to get a special safety certificate for games to hold more than 10,000," added Mr Kelly. And the club chairman is reluctant to spend cash on major improvements to the ground, which he still wants to sell to fund a move to a new site.

A developer, he said, is still preparing a planning application for a commercial use of the ground, despite an outcry from borough councillors who condemned a major move plan earlier this year. He feels he is in a cleft stick, with councillors blocking plans for a move and forcing him to stay on a site which is likely to fail safety inspections.

"Without some co-operation from the council we are never going to get into League football and improve the standing

of the club." He also fears the GM-Vauxhall Conference might throw Nuneaton out of the league if the club fails to meet their own safety requirements. Meanwhile fund-raising consultant Keith Smith is working hard to get local support for the club.

"As many as 50 per cent of the people he's approached have said they are prepared to help us, and that's very refreshing," said Mr Kelly. "Other clubs like Weymouth, Corby, Yeovil and six or seven others are moving grounds with the blessing of developers and councils alike. It's better for the community and it's what we need too. In the end it's the only real answer to our dilemma," he said.

Bennyworth Leaves Borough

Central defender Ian Bennyworth became the third Nuneaton Borough player to be transferred in the last five days when he joined Scarborough last night for a four figure fee. Bennyworth, who joined Borough in January 1985 from Gainsborough Trinity for £3,000, makes his debut for the Seaside in the home clash with Wealdstone.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton United 16-08-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, McGranaghan, Morrison, Thurman (Mitchell 60), Murphy. **Sub:** Johnson.
Sutton: Fearon, Hemsley, Mackay, J. Rains, T. Rains, M. Golley, Stephens, Dawson, Dennis, Thornton, N. Golley. **Subs:** Robson, Cornwell.

Borough welcomed Sutton United to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Lance Morrison saved Borough's blushes when he grabbed a last minute equaliser. With time running out it looked as though Borough were heading for their second defeat in four days. But the big centre-forward outjumped the visitors defence to plant a far post header past Ron Fearon and into the corner of the net.

It was sweet relief for Borough's anxious fans but Nuneaton must be bitterly disappointed not to get back onto the winning trail against the league newcomers. Jimmy Holmes' men completely dominated the first 45 minutes and really should have had the points sewn up by the interval. However, despite all their dominance, Borough again showed their limitations up front as they failed to turn their superiority into goals.

Borough made a bright start and could have gone in front after only four minutes. Andy McGranaghan had a header deflected for a corner and from Mark Hutchinson's flag-kick Mick Thurman had a fierce drive turned over the top by Fearon. In a rare Sutton raid Paul Thornton hooked a shot wide but the visitors were coming under increasing pressure.

Holmes had a shot beaten away by the keeper and then John Rains cleared from in front of an open goal. It was all Nuneaton and Hutchinson had a shot blocked before Paul Dawson cleared off the line from Thurman's close range effort. But for all their pressure, Borough were lucky to still be



on level terms five minutes before the break. Thornton and Nigel Golley combined on the left to set up an easy chance for Lenny Dennis, but with the goal at his mercy the big striker sliced his shot wide.

Sutton looked a much better side after the break and McGranaghan cleared off the line after Peter Corder had misjudged a high bouncing ball. It was now Borough's turn to struggle and Corder had to go full length to keep out a shot by Thornton after he had got clear of the home defence. Corder again saved Borough when he blocked a close range effort from Mark Golley and then at the other end Morrison fired over the top following a 20 yard run that took him past three men. But Nuneaton's hopes took a severe jolt 13 minutes from the end. A long throw from the right was flicked on by Nigel Golley and Mark Golley headed home from close range.

Just as it seemed that Borough were heading for inevitable defeat, up popped Morrison with his last gasp face-saver.

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 25-08-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr (Johnson 45), Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson (Mitchell 77), McGranaghan, Morrison, Thurman, Murphy.

Borough made the journey to the Wessex Stadium to face Weymouth in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

A tragic own goal by Willie Gibson in the opening seconds of the second half sent Borough reeling to defeat. Despite a sound performance in dreadful conditions, Borough's lack of punch in front of goal again let them down, although a spirited effort late on almost salvaged a point for them. Weymouth, traditional big spenders, rarely looked better than their visitors, but in strikers Steve Claridge and Mick Doherty they have two men who are always likely to turn a game.

Weymouth dominated the opening minutes and left winger Mick Greeno shot narrowly wide from 12 yards after only seven minutes. Not for the first time this season, Borough's defence owed much to Richard Dixey, whilst behind him Peter Corder dealt well with anything which came his way. As Borough settled and began to make headway, McGranaghan, Carr and Holmes were all prominent. Borough played long balls forward into space for Morrison and Murphy to run on to and this tactic worked, but rarely resulted in a shot on goal.

Weymouth, playing a close-passing game were more threatening, but Claridge missed the best chance of the game when he drove wide after 28 minutes. After 42 minutes Everton Carr had to leave the field with an ankle injury and Gary Johnson was brought on at half-time.

The second half began disastrously for the visitors. In the opening seconds Claridge fired a shot across the six yard box where Willie Gibson, in trying to clear, saw the ball fly off his knee into the net. Weymouth, hugely encouraged, pressed forward and Doherty twice went close, the second time with a header which just scraped past bar and post.

A second goal might have finished Nuneaton, but it never

came, and they began to get a grip on their game. Most of their threat, however, came from midfield players and just after the hour the Terras' left back Rogers did well to clear under pressure from Hutchinson and three minutes later a fierce drive from Holmes was held with difficulty by Bond.

The Weymouth keeper made several good saves, including one at the second attempt after another hammered shot by Holmes. In the closing seconds Martin Rogers almost put through his own goal with the home defence in disarray, but the referee's whistle came before Borough could launch any further attacks. So Borough suffered another narrow – and perhaps undeserved – defeat.

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 30-08-1986

Scarborough: Kaye, Podd, Thompson, Cook, Bennyworth, Kendall, Brolly, Graham, Gallagher, Hooper, Sellers (Hartley 87). Sub: Harrison.
Borough: Corder, Bradley, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, McGranaghan, Mitchell (Reay 57), Carr, Murphy. Sub: Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Seamer Road to face Scarborough in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough's second long distance haul in six days resulted in another disappointing defeat. A solitary goal from Mitchell Cook, scored early in the second half, gave the home side an advantage they rarely looked like losing even after the dismissal of Paul Kendall left them to play out the last 15 minutes with ten men.

Borough had the advantage of the sun and a slight slope but the early minutes were uneventful. When a good bout of Scarborough interplay did threaten, Mick Thurman cleared matters up with a timely back pass to Peter Corder. As Borough improved, Sellers was booked for a late tackle on Andy McGranaghan, then a good left wing move brought the visitors a corner off Bennyworth.

Scarborough in turn had an opening when Thurman's hesitation gave Brolly a chance which he drove narrowly wide. Tim Smithers then went into the book for a late tackle on Tommy Graham. Corder distinguished himself with several timely interventions, but in truth neither side looked confident in front of goal. A long free-kick from Mark Hutchinson found McGranaghan unmarked, but his weak header was easily held by home keeper David Kaye.

Borough launched the first attack of the second half, but Murphy's low shot skidded wide of Kaye's right hand post. Then, after 49 minutes, Scarborough took the lead. McGranaghan headed the ball into the path of Scarborough midfielder Cook as Borough attempted to launch an attack. Cook set Barry Gallagher away on the left and when the striker's low cross shot beat Corder, Cook himself was on hand to steer the ball home.

Three minutes later the visitors had their best chance of the game when Murphy caught Scarborough out on the Borough's right wing. Smithers made a great run into space, but Murphy's cross field pass was played too close to him

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so that he had to check before firing in a shot which Kaye stopped at the foot of his right hand post.

New signing Reay replaced Mitchell as Murphy's striking partner, but the substitution of one teenager for another made little difference. Richard Dixey saved Borough after Gallagher had tricked Thurman on the left, but moments later the big central defender was booked for a foul on Thompson. By now Nuneaton were barely recognisable as an attacking force, although they were given encouragement after 75 minutes when Scarborough's Paul Kendall was sent off for "persistently infringing the laws of the game". Try as they might, the visitors were unable to capitalise on this advantage and the Scarborough goal was rarely threatened.

VS Reject Borough Bid

Nuneaton Borough have had a £4,500 bid for VS Rugby striker Steve Norris turned down. The Butlin Road club have put a valuation of £8,000 on the striker – a figure that Nuneaton cannot afford to match. Holmes will be having talks with another striker and a midfield player during this week and is hopeful that he can complete a deal in time for Saturday.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 01-09-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes (Johnson 15), Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, Reay, Morrison, Thurman, Mitchell (Donoghue 68).

Bath City: Mogg, Palmer, Barton, Sherwood, England, Fulbrook, Adams, O'Donnell, Grimshaw, Bodin, Payne. Subs: Crawford, Lillygreen.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Lance Morrison's 17th minute goal was enough to give Borough three points. The big centre-forward eluded his marker in the centre circle to race clear and clinch Nuneaton's second win of the campaign. But Borough were under pressure for much of the game and can count themselves fortunate to have sent Bath home pointless.

Jimmy Holmes' side showed plenty of character as they battled away and defended well, and when the visitors did look like making the breakthrough they found Peter Corder in fine form. The Nuneaton keeper made several vital saves.

Borough had an early scare when Everton Carr failed to cut out a cross from the right but David Payne pulled his shot off target. Play quickly switched to the other end and Borough should have gone in front. Tim Smithers crossed from the left, Reay flicked it on and Morrison lunged in but his shot flew high over the top. Holmes appeared to be having trouble with his hamstring and was replaced by Johnson after 15 minutes.

The visitors were looking lively and Martin Grimshaw tested Corder from the edge of the box and then Willie Gibson did well to halt Phil Bodin as he cut into the box. However, it was Borough who made the break after 17 minutes. Morrison superbly turned past Mike England in the centre circle and raced to the edge of the penalty area where he held off the challenge of Jeff Sherwood and slipped home a low shot past

the advancing Dave Mogg. Bodin sliced a shot wide after 30 minutes before Gibson again came to Borough's rescue just before the break, hooking the ball away from Micky Adams as he prepared to shoot.

Morrison had a header collected by the keeper and then Reay hooked a shot wide as Borough pushed forward at the start of the second half. But five minutes after the restart Corder had to produce a superb save when O'Donnell powered in a header from an Adams cross and the keeper went full length to turn the ball away for a corner. Corder was again in action to deny England and then Grimshaw put his header narrowly wide of the far post after Payne had provided the cross.

Gibson rescued Borough with a cracking tackle to halt Bodin, but it looked as though Bath's pressure had paid off when Borough only cleared a cross to the edge of the box and O'Donnell put a looping header back into the top corner over the stranded Corder. But Bath's celebrations were cut short as referee Watson ruled that Bodin was in an offside position.

This let-off spurred Borough and Morrison freed Hutchinson on the right and when the cross came into the box Mogg had to produce a diving save to keep out Reay. Hutchinson then broke through the middle but he got an unkind bounce and Sherwood was able to get back to block the shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Frickley Athletic 06-09-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, Murphy, Morrison, Reay (Donoghue 80), Johnson. Sub: Mitchell.

Frickley: Hill, Shirtliff, Myles, Daniels, Foley, Semley, Noteman, Howey, Hatto, Mallender, Hotte. Subs: Campbell, Wright.

Borough welcomed Frickley Athletic to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Tim Smithers hit his first goal of the season to clinch Borough's second win in six days. With the sides deadlocked at one goal each, the Nuneaton midfield ace stole in on the blind side to plant a header past Martin Hall. Borough were good value for the three points but, as against Bath they were made to battle throughout for their win. They had the benefit of a ninth minute lead through Mark Hutchinson but failed to take control against the Yorkshiremen.

Frickley produced the first threat but Thurman was on hand to head clear from Alan Semley's cross. At the other end Hill had no problems with a long range effort by Hutchinson but the Athletic keeper had to move swiftly to deny Lance Morrison after Murphy had flicked on a right wing cross. However, Borough got the initial breakthrough after only nine minutes. Steve Daniels failed to clear from wide out on the left and Smithers delivered a first time cross for Hutchinson to volley home, wide of the diving Hill.

Wayne Noteman fired a fierce drive narrowly over the angle as the visitors pressed forward in search of an equaliser. Will Foley then got clear only to be denied by a last ditch tackle from Dixey before Borough had a lucky escape. With half an hour gone Semley was not picked up from Tim Hotte's corner on the

right but, much to the relief of the Borough defence, his header smacked against the crossbar and Gary Hatto put the rebound over the top. Peter Corder then had to make a fine save from Hatto when Paul Shirtliff made a fine run on the right and his low centre left the striker with a clear shooting chance.

Three minutes after the break Frickley got the equaliser. Foley's snapshot hit a post and Corder collided with Thurman and Hatto was left with a simple tap in from the rebound. Murphy had a great chance to restore Borough's lead on the hour but Hill made a super point-blank save to deny the Nuneaton striker. Semley then brought another good save from Corder before Borough made the decisive breakthrough after 63 minutes. Everton Carr made ground on the right and his teasing cross to the far post had the Frickley defence backpedalling allowing Smithers to sneak in on the blind side and beat Hill with a diving header into the far corner.



Tim Smithers gets round the back of the Frickley defence to power a diving header into the corner of the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Willie Gibson had a shot deflected and Hill did superbly well to change direction and save at the foot of the post. But Borough had another escape after 71 minutes. Carr failed to cut out a cross from the right and Hatto was left clear but he failed to take advantage of the situation, despite having two attempts from close range. Foley went into the book for a foul on Carr and then Dixey followed for dissent. Morrison could have put the issue beyond doubt five minutes from the end but his glancing header from Smithers cross flew inches wide of the left hand upright.

Murphy Back On Transfer List

Borough striker Frank Murphy is back on the transfer list after handing in a written request to the club chairman, Noel Kelly. Jimmy Holmes is already in talks with a striker to replace Murphy and hopes for a signing by the end of the week.

Barnet v Nuneaton Borough

09-09-1986

Barnet: Blackwell, Whitworth, Little, Millett, Creaser, Brown, Stein, Margerrison, Alexander, Evans, Mahoney. Subs: Hoddle, Cox.

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, Johnson (Mitchell 45), Morrison, Reay, Murphy. Sub: Donoghue.

Borough made the journey to Underhill to face Barnet in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

League leaders Barnet gave Borough a lesson in the art of taking chances when their impressive recent form was confirmed by a comfortable 4-1 success. Executioner-in-chief

was Steve Mahoney, who was only drafted in to replace the injured Gary Roberts, but who scored three times.

Borough keeper Peter Corder was twice in action early on, as play swung from end to end, but the visitors were soon in trouble as Barnet scored after only eight minutes. Following a long cross from the left wing, Steve Mahoney found himself unmarked on the far post and headed firmly past Corder who had appeared to hesitate as the ball was in the air.

Borough hit back immediately and put in efforts from Gary Johnson and Simon Reay before central defender Glynn Creaser went close to gaining a second for the home side with a flying header. Frank Murphy went through in the 16th minute and rounded the keeper, but was pulled down just outside the area by Barry Little, who escaped with a caution. Tim Smithers' fine free-kick was brilliantly saved by Blackwell.

Two well taken goals shortly before the interval left the home side totally in command. After 39 minutes, Keith Alexander won a challenge on the right against Mick Thurman, then drove in a good cross which John Margerrison turned into the net. On the stroke of half-time Borough were caught square at the back on the half-way line as Mahoney took a well-directed through ball in his stride and raced 40 yards before beating Corder with a low shot.

Holmes sent on Gary Mitchell for the second half, but with the game as good as lost the move had little effect. Barnet were now well in control and showed some delightful touches, but a mixture of casual play on their part and dogged defending by the visitors prevented them adding to their score. Good work by Reay, Murphy and Smithers gave Hutchinson a rare chance for Borough, but his lofted shot cleared the crossbar.

Barnet had a goal disallowed for offside before a bad fumble by Blackwell left Morrison to drive the ball into an empty net. Within five minutes Barnet put the issue beyond doubt when Mahoney made ground on the left before turning to swing a right footed shot just inside Peter Corder's left hand post.

Borough To Sign Moss

Paul Moss will finally become a Nuneaton Borough player tonight. The Worcester City striker will sign prior to tonight's training session. Moss, rated in some circles as one of the best finishers in non league football, looks set for a quick debut when Borough travel to Dagenham on Saturday.

Borough £165,000 In Debt

Nuneaton Borough is £165,000 in debt, shock figures revealed today. As the club faces its first annual general meeting for two years, balance sheets show gate receipts down by £6,000 to only £21,800 for the year ending May 1986. The dire straits of the Borough were disclosed in a full set of accounts leaked to the Evening Tribune over the weekend.

Outstanding debts to trade suppliers and creditors including the bank, social security department and the taxman total £165,593. Meanwhile the club is owed almost £40,000. But if the Borough were able to sell off all its assets, and get all the

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cash it is owed, it would still leave thousands more to clear up all its debts.

In a message to shareholders, the directors say: “We have had more than our share of bad luck.” Problems with the sale of Borough striker Paul Culpin to Coventry City have not helped. He has not been picked regularly for the City’s first eleven, so the Borough has been losing out on appearance money. The directors say in their letter: “This would have improved the financial standing of the club considerably had we received the £35,000 which could still be due to us.”

Without the Culpin cash bonus the Borough remains in serious debt. Nevertheless, the 1985-86 year saw a small £7,910 profit. “With a little extra hard work, we could become financially stable in the not too distant future,” the letter adds. Accounts show the ground, buildings and equipment to be worth about £55,000. But safety regulations are almost certain to mean more cash outlay on the Borough stand to bring it up to standard.

Bank loans and overdrafts already amount to more than £30,000 of the clubs debts, and the club has taken out a mortgage on the freehold of the ground to raise a further £6,000. None of the directors – Noel Kelly, who is also chairman, nor colleagues Ted Kay, Sean Gallagher, Jim Rowley and Chris Tomlinson – have received any dividends according to the 1985-86 accounts.

Mr Kelly said today: “I am not prepared to discuss the contents of these accounts with you until after the annual meeting.” The last AGM was in October 1984, when he gave an assurance there would be another in 1985. Questions will be raised about the missing 1985 AGM at the meeting on October 14th at the Borough Social Club.

Over the past financial year the Social Club, a separate limited company, incurred a loss of more than £10,000 – about three times greater than the previous year’s loss. The total debts of the social club exceed £40,000. Earlier this year Mr Kelly proposed the sale of the Manor Park ground to a commercial developer, and the purchase of a new unnamed site with more sport and social activities to bring in much-needed income.

Borough councillors opposed the move, because of a sport-only covenant on the ground when it was sold to the club. The directors say this ambitious project is “still in abeyance”.

Dagenham v Nuneaton Borough 13-09-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman (Johnson 45), Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, Moss, Morrison, Holmes, Murphy. **Sub:** Reay.

Borough made the journey to Victoria Road to face Dagenham in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Despite a much-improved second half performance Borough crashed to their fifth successive away defeat when they lost to their bogey team. Jimmy Holmes’ men gave their opponents a two goal start, then threatened to win the match before being frustrated late in the game when two penalty kicks effectively

settled the issue. Apart from the promise of much of his team’s play during the second period, Holmes will have derived most satisfaction from the performance of new signing Paul Moss who looks to be a decidedly useful acquisition.

Tim Smithers and Everton Carr combined well before the latter’s cross was cleared for a corner by home defender Bissett. Peter Corder saved a far post header from striker David Pearce before combining with Dixey to thwart Paul Goyette. Moss was prominent in several Borough attacks and combined particularly well with Tim Smithers on the left, but as Dagenham settled to their game Borough looked less happy. Dagenham began to stretch Borough as the deep-lying Paul Taylor switched the play cleverly from wing to wing. Then, a well-worked free-kick from the left after 12 minutes caught Borough leaden footed and gave George Dalorto the chance to fire his team in front.

Borough pushed Thurman into midfield alongside Smithers and Hutchinson, but the visitors were clearly shaken and struggled to string passes together. Dagenham looked no better for 20 minutes, but then David Pearce played an excellent ball left to Goyette and was on hand to hammer home his low cross. For the remainder of the first-half Borough enjoyed plenty of possession.

At half-time manager Holmes replaced the limping Thurman with substitute Gary Johnson and also took the opportunity to rally his team. As the second period began the visitors looked a transformed outfit, sound at the back, constructive in midfield and threatening up front. Lance Morrison led the home defence a merry dance and Bissett’s booking for a foul on the big number nine was almost inevitable.

After 54 minutes Moss made an impressive wide break and when his cross came over, home keeper Williams, under pressure from Murphy, gave Morrison the chance from which he fired home to reduce the arrears. Borough pounded away at the Daggers defence. Morrison, Moss and Hutchinson all went close, but the elusive equaliser would not come.

With just 13 minutes left Dagenham survived a tremendous goalmouth scramble, but on their next attack the Essex club were awarded a penalty when Johnson was adjudged to have brought down Pearce and Goyette scored with ease from the spot. Five minutes later Borough’s cup of woe ran over. They won a penalty after Hutchinson was tripped, but Smithers’ spot kick was well stopped by the diving Williams.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 15-09-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson (Reay 73), Moss, Morrison, Johnson (Bradley 80), Murphy.

Cheltenham: Hards, Hughes, Willetts, Baverstock, Vircavs, Brooks, Brown, Townsend, Boyland, Abbley, Jordan. **Subs:** Powell, Peacock.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Off-key Borough had to be satisfied with a point from a disappointing clash. Jimmy Holmes’ men never really got

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to grips with the game and only occasionally did they show glimpses of the form that had previously brought three home wins. There was no urgency about Borough's play, they still seemed devoid of ideas, both up front and in the middle of the park, and they can have few grumbles about the result.

Nuneaton did have four good opportunities to clinch a victory but they failed to show the necessary killer punch in front of goal. Newcomer Paul Moss showed one or two nice touches in his first home game but he had few chances to show his worth in a lacklustre team performance.

Borough made a couple of early raids with Moss showing nice control to free Smithers and then Lance Morrison fed the midfielder who was unceremoniously brought down by Steve Abbley as he headed for goal. There was danger for Borough after ten minutes when a long kick from keeper Neil Hards found Nick Jordan in the box but he failed to connect properly with his close range shot.

Cheltenham enjoyed their best period of the match and Smithers did well to clear a free-kick from Kevin Willetts with Abbley boring in and then Anton Vircavs saw his header well held by the alert Corder. Nine minutes before the break Borough missed a golden chance to go in front. Frank Murphy superbly turned his marker on the left-hand edge of the penalty area and cut inside only to blaze his shot high over the top from six yards.

Just before the break Holmes trod on the ball in the area and let in Boyland, but the visiting striker wanted too much time and was crowded out.

Borough might have gone into the lead at the start of the second half when Willetts brought down Mark Hutchinson wide on the right and from the free-kick Smithers flung himself full-length to power a header inches over the top. Willie Gibson cleared a dangerous cross from Keith Brown before Borough went close again. A Holmes free-kick was flicked on by Murphy to Morrison who found Moss. He threaded a pass through to Hutchinson, but the Borough midfielder fired well over the top.

Reay, on as a substitute, played a neat ball in for Johnson, who neatly sidestepped a defender before seeing his left-footer clawed away by Hards. Borough missed their final chance of victory five minutes from the end. Smithers got Murphy clear inside the area, but the little striker appeared to get an unkind bounce as he fired his shot high and wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Wealdstone 20-09-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson (Holmes 63), Moss, Reay, Murphy, Bradley. **Sub:** Mitchell.

Borough welcomed Wealdstone to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Simon Reay chose an ideal moment to score his first goal since joining Borough. Wealdstone, in front by virtue of Lee Holmes' goal two minutes after the interval, were

continually frustrating Nuneaton's attempts to get level. The Londoners had unashamedly used the offside trap almost on the halfway line, from the beginning and at the first hint of danger had ten men back behind the ball. Jimmy Holmes' men faced a daunting task but with 67 minutes gone Reay got in a glancing header from Willie Gibson's cross and Stones' keeper Bob Iles was helpless.



Simon Reay watches his header from Willie Gibson's cross as it makes its way into the corner of the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

it was no more than Borough deserved for they had been forced to endure a totally frustrating afternoon with the visitors quite content to let Nuneaton do all the work and then hope to catch them on the break. Wealdstone's goal came as something of a surprise and made Borough's problems even more acute, but Reay's goal restored the balance in another disappointing game for home supporters.

There was an encouraging start with both sides going close in the opening couple of minutes. Borough could well have been in front after only 15 seconds when Frank Murphy flicked on a long ball by Everton Carr but Tim Smithers failed to control the volley and it flew over the top. Stones made a quick reply and Paul Bowgett glanced a header wide from Brian Greenaway's free-kick when he could have done better.

Borough missed a chance after 12 minutes when Smithers put Moss clear, but his shot lacked power. Moss had another chance on the half-hour when Murphy opened the Stones' defence with a neat through ball, but Iles narrowed the angle and grabbed the shot at the second attempt. There was a rare moment of danger for Nuneaton when a long free-kick by Greenaway eluded everyone and crept just wide of the far post. Just before the break there was a little flurry of activity with Neil Cordice having a shot saved by Corder and then Smithers shot wide from a clear opening after Reay had created a chance.

Two minutes after the interval Wealdstone shook the home side with a goal from a corner. Bowgett got a flick to Derek Doyle's flag kick on the right and Lee Holmes was on hand to head firmly into the net from close range. Almost immediately afterwards the visitors could have increased their lead. Cordice was free as he got in a header from Robin Wainwright's centre, but Corder made a superb diving save high to his right.



Jimmy Holmes came on for Hutchinson, in a move that had a dramatic effect. Holmes moved to left back with Willie Gibson pushing forward into midfield – and he immediately set up Borough's equaliser. The popular Scot clipped in a free-kick from the left and Reay got in a glancing header that left Iles stranded and it snuck in at the far post. Wealdstone came close to both points towards the end when Cordice made saves from both Wallace and Bowgett.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 24-09-1986

Kettering: Goodwin, Ward (Keast 74), Mann, Fee, Lewis, Wood, Richardson, Kellock, Genovese, Cavener, Jeffrey (Crawley 45).

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Bradley, Moss, Reay, Holmes (Hutchinson 40), Murphy. **Sub:** McGranaghan.

Borough made the journey to Rockingham Road to face Kettering Town in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough produced their brightest away form of the season when they twice led before having to settle for a point. Frank Murphy chose his return to Rockingham Road to notch his first goal of the season as Borough picked up their first away point. Tim Smithers got the second.

Peter Bradley was in impressive early action for Borough, who soon settled into a good rhythm with their makeshift midfield trio looking particularly good. A Murphy free-kick was flicked on by Reay, but Paul Moss couldn't quite make contact. Then Murphy taunted the Kettering defence on Borough's left before being stopped by Steve Ward.

Up front Murphy and Moss were covering acres of ground with their unselfish running and Kettering were fortunate to have central defender Russell Lewis in fine form. After 19 minutes Borough took a deserved lead. Holmes played a marvellous crossfield ball to Carr which beat Kettering's offside trap. Carr made ground on the right before crossing to the far post where Murphy put in a strong header which keeper Goodwin half held but then carried over his own line.

Kettering tried to hit back and almost immediately Billy Jeffrey hit a 25-yard right footer just wide of Corder's right hand post. Then Richardson was booked for a late challenge on Smithers. Borough suffered a blow just before the break when Holmes went off injured.

Borough continued to play well, but were never quite the same in the second half which opened with Kettering in determined form. Ian Crawley, on in place of Jeffrey, put pressure on the visitors' defence and played a major part in his side's 49th minute equaliser. A long cross from the left was badly fumbled by Corder, who was no doubt well aware of Crawley's presence and Genovese headed home with ease.

It took a timely tackle from Mick Thurman to thwart Phil Cavener. Borough gradually recovered their poise and soon had the encouragement of a second goal to inspire them. After 63 minutes Smithers slung a long ball towards Goodwin's left-hand post and was surprised as most supporters to see his effort creep in off the post.

Kettering brought on Doug Keast in place of Ward, and left just three in defence as they pushed forward in search of an equaliser. Borough soaked up a lot of pressure in the closing stages, but five minutes from time Kettering snatched the equaliser they were looking for. Cavener struck a long free-kick from the right wing. Corder again misjudged the flight of the ball and Greg Fee stormed in to head home. Two minutes later a near identical move saw Fee head narrowly over, but in the last minute good work by Hutchinson gave Reay a chance to win the game for Nuneaton. He shot weakly, however, and the visitors had to settle for a point.

Dulleston Helps Out Borough

Following a last-minute withdrawal by Peter Corder, due to an injury against Kettering, Nuneaton Borough manager Jimmy Holmes has been forced into a last minute chase to find a goalkeeper to face Frickley. However, Holmes has been able to secure the services of ex-Borough keeper Alan Dulleston for the visit to South Elmsall.

Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 27-09-1986

Frickley: Meeham, Shirtliff, Daniels, Myles, Bishop, Gill, Noteman, Howey, Semley, Mallender, Hatto. **Subs:** Hotte, Foley.

Borough: Dulleston, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson (Reay 45), Moss, Morrison, McGranaghan, Bradley. **Sub:** Johnson.

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to face Frickley Athletic in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough salvaged a valuable point thanks to a goal by substitute Simon Reay 16 minutes from the end. Frickley almost took the lead in the third minute. Full-back Paul Shirtliff found space on the edge of the penalty area and his right foot shot struck the inside of Alan Dulleston's left hand post. Borough's first serious attack in the 15th minute ended with Andy McGranaghan shooting high over the bar. At the other end Frickley twice went close. Wayne Noteman's snap shot from 15 yards was blocked and the same player flashed a fierce drive inches wide minutes later.

The home side's pressure was finally rewarded in the 25th minute. Mick Thurman handled the ball just inside the box, and despite the efforts of Borough's stand-in keeper Dulleston, Gary Hatto's spot kick squirmed into the net. The visitors responded well to the setback, although Paul Moss might have done better in the 33rd minute when he was found well by Everton Carr, but the Borough striker hurried his shot and blazed well over the top.

Five minutes from the break, Smithers brought Frickley keeper Tommy Meeham into action for the first time, forcing him to save low at the base of his left hand post.

It was Frickley who looked livelier at the start of the second period and Gary Mallender's effort was scrambled around the post by Dulleston early on, and then in the 54th minute Semley was put clear by Barry Gill, but he shot straight at the keeper. Three minutes later, Borough had a let-off when



Thurman's back header from a Gill throw-in cleared his own crossbar and from Mallender's corner, Hatto fired wide. Frickley were now in rampant mood, and Noteman should have put them two up after 62 minutes but he miskicked in front of goal after Hatto had set up the golden opportunity.

A minute later Borough's forward line suddenly burst into life, and Moss came within a whisker of equalising. Morrison escaped the attentions of Frickley's Steve Daniels on the right hand edge of the box, he squared the ball to Moss, whose scorching shot flashed beyond the far post. In the 69th minute Moss went close again. Receiving a pass from Peter Bradley, he sprinted half the length of the field, before whipping in a shot which forced Meeham to concede a corner.

Noteman let the Borough off the hook a minute later as he hit the ball too far in front and allowed Dulleston to race out of his area to clear. Frickley were made to pay for their lapses, when Borough snatched an equaliser. Carr went on one of his searching runs down the right and when he pulled the ball back, Reay was on hand to head home, scoring the equaliser and receiving a nasty cut requiring stitches, at the same time.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 29-09-1986

Borough: Dulleston, Bradley, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Smithers, Carr, Moss, Morrison, McGranaghan, Reay. **Subs:** Murphy, Hutchinson.

Boston: McManus, Casey, Richards, Hooks, Creane, Fee, Lissaman, Gill, Ward, Cook, Ottewell. **Subs:** Bell, Nuttall.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough's eight match unbeaten home run ended when they were ruthlessly destroyed by Boston. The visitors, fresh from their 5-1 thrashing of reigning champions Enfield, were in total control and could have doubled their score.

The opening exchanges were scrappy but suddenly Boston burst into life and might have gone in front after only eight minutes. Paul Hooks was put clear by Chris Cook, Dulleston was left stranded, but when Hooks rolled the ball back into the path of Lissaman, he sliced his shot wide from 12 yards. But Nuneaton didn't benefit for long. Four minutes later a long ball by Hooks caught Thurman in two minds and Cook nipped clear. He saw his shot well parried by Dulleston but Warren Ward was on hand to knock in the rebound.

Borough tried to hustle their way back into the game but the Boston defence was well marshalled by Gerard Creane. Dulleston made a superb point blank save from Ward's header, but with 31 minutes gone the visitors increased their lead with a bizarre goal. Paul Casey made 40 yards down the right but there seemed little danger as he swung the ball into the goalmouth, but Dulleston misjudged it and the ball went under his body and into the net.

Reay had a fierce shot blocked in a rare Nuneaton attack but three minutes before the break Boston made it 3-0 with another gift. Cook hooked in a low speculative shot from 30 yards which Dulleston had covered with ease. But the

ball seemed to take a bad bounce and the keeper ended up helping the ball into his own net.

Murphy and Hutchinson replaced Reay and McGranaghan at the interval and Borough started the second period in a more positive mood. But Boston were quickly back in control and Nuneaton were fortunate not to concede a fourth goal when Cook turned Thurman inside the box and set up Derek Nuttall who saw his shot beat Dulleston but rebound from the right hand upright. With 59 minutes gone the visitors got the goal they had been threatening. Gill flicked the ball towards the penalty area and Cook brushed aside Thurman who failed to get in a tackle as the Boston number ten fired a fierce left footer into the roof of the net.

Boston keeper Eric McManus went off injured and was replaced by Cook and eight minutes later Borough got a consolation. Murphy forced his way into the box and was pushed by Creane to give Smithers the chance to score from the penalty spot. But the visitors still had the last word with Greg Fee heading home a fifth from Lissaman's left wing corner to send Borough's biggest crowd of the season home in a glum mood.

Ward Joins Borough

Nuneaton Borough have fought off the attention of several Football League clubs to clinch the signing of local youngster Dave Ward, who has been on trial with Stoke City for the past six weeks. He was highly rated by Stoke manager Mick Mills, who could not find the money in his budget to sign him on contract. Ward will make his debut for Borough against Altrincham, along with goalkeeper Carl Whitehouse, who takes over from the injured Peter Corder.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 04-10-1986

Borough: Whitehouse, Carr, Gibson, McGranaghan, Dixey, Smithers, Hutchinson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. **Subs:** Bradley, Johnson.

Borough made the journey to Moss Lane to face Altrincham in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough were convinced they had been robbed of their first away win of the season, after Willie Gibson's goal was disallowed for offside. The visitors had done well, however, to hold the lead for much of the second half, after a first period that was dominated by Altrincham. Borough's debutant goalkeeper Carl Whitehouse, was given a testing time in the early stages, especially with crosses from the right by Paul Edwards, and the youngster had his defenders to thank on more than one occasion for averting the danger.

Altrincham's new signing, Eddie Bishop, almost marked his debut with a goal in the 11th minute, but Whitehouse produced a fine reaction save to deny him. Borough were having a far from comfortable afternoon at the back, and the home side's lively striker John Timmons was proving to be rather a handful. In the 19th minute he beat Andy McGranaghan out on the left, and when his tantalising cross came over, Borough were happy to see the ball cleared for a

corner. Three minutes later, Altrincham deservedly went in front. Timmons wriggled his way past McGranaghan, squared the ball to Hamill, his drive was blocked, and Timmons collected the rebound to shoot wide of Whitehouse.

Borough had never really looked like scoring up until now, but on the half-hour they snatched a shock equaliser. New man Dave Ward split the Altrincham defence with a delightful through ball to Simon Reay, whose pin-point centre was touched home by Paul Moss at the far post. Altrincham, stunned by that goal, came close to restoring their lead five minutes before half-time. Goalkeeper Whitehouse flapped at a cross from Reid, Timmons and Ellis both had shots charged down, and when Edwards pulled the ball back again, Whitehouse only half cleared and Bishop fired over the bar in front of an open goal. At the other end, Borough might have gone in 2-1 up at the break, but Ward's stinging shot was held by Wealands at the second attempt.

Borough began the second period in fine style, with a well executed goal just two minutes into the half. Frank Murphy collected a loose ball inside the centre circle, ran half the length of the field, steadied himself on the edge of the penalty area, and beat Wealands with a low drive into the far corner of the net. After taking the lead, the visitors started to get on top and came near to grabbing a third goal on several occasions. In the 54th minute, Murphy sent Moss racing away, and his cross was put out for a corner with Reay hovering dangerously in the middle.

Frustration was starting to creep into Altrincham's play, and Ellis was booked for a foul on Hutchinson in the 65th minute. Five minutes later Borough put together one of their best moves of the match. Everton Carr played the ball out of defence to Paul Moss, he held the ball up well for Mark Hutchinson on the overlap, but his cross lacked direction and Wealands was able to save comfortably.

The home side who had been very quiet in the second half, suddenly came to life and scored an equaliser nine minutes from time. Bobby Fraser threaded his way into a packed penalty area and with Borough keeper Whitehouse out of position, he squared it to Timmons who made no mistake from the edge of the six yard box.

Not content with a point, Borough continued to surge forward and Reay was unlucky to see his shot scrape the far post. Then, with only seconds remaining, Borough thought they had scored the winner, but to their disbelief the referee ruled out Willie Gibson's effort because the linesman had spotted another Borough player standing in an offside position.

New Director For Borough

Joe Shooter has joined the board of directors of Nuneaton Borough with one aim in mind – to help them get into the Fourth Division of the Football League. Fifty-year-old Mr Shooter, who has two businesses based in Coventry, has accepted an invitation to join the Manor Park club and takes over the post of vice-chairman.

"I am delighted to be joining Borough and I am looking forward to the challenge that is here," he said. "Nuneaton, along with all the other clubs in the GM Vauxhall Conference, now have the incentive of a place in the Football League if we are successful. That must be our goal and we only have to look at Wimbledon to see what can be achieved," he added.

Mr Shooter, who owns GP Systems International Limited and Underwood Secretarial College, will be in charge of the commercial side of the club and will show a special interest in the youth policy. For several years he was associated with Mansfield Town where he was chairman of the youth section.

His appointment brings the strength of the board up to six and chairman Noel Kelly is confident that Mr Shooter can help transform the club's fortunes.

"He is a very successful businessman in his own right and I feel he could have a big influence at the club," said the chairman. "There is no doubt that he will help to spread the workload and we are looking forward to working together," he added.



Borough Chairman Noel Kelly welcomes new director Joe Shooter to Manor Park.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1986

Borough: Whitehouse, Carr, Gibson, McGranaghan, Dixey, Smithers (Johnson 77), Hutchinson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. Sub: Bradley.

Borough made the journey to York Street to face Boston United in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

A goal by Frank Murphy early in the second half looked like it would be enough to give Borough their first away win of the season, but a sickening injury to Timmy Smithers late on in the match, proved to be a turning point and Boston snatched the three points with two goals in the space of three minutes. Up until then, the visitors had been well in control and looked poised to gain revenge for the 5-1 hammering they took at Manor Park. They certainly dominated the early exchanges, and had two opportunities to score inside the first 15 minutes. The first, in the 11th minute, was a well constructed four-



Sutton United v Nuneaton Borough 11-10-1986

Sutton: Searon, Mackay, Rains, Robson, Hemsley, M. Golley, Rogers, Dawson, Dennis, McKinnon (Barker 45), N. Golley (Massey 53).

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, McGranaghan, Dixey, Johnson, Hutchinson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. Subs: Bradley, Bateman.

man move which began back in their own penalty area. Carl Whitehouse threw the ball out to Everton Carr, he flighted a delightful pass to Frank Murphy, whose centre eluded the Boston defence and reached an unmarked Simon Reay on the edge of the six yard box, but the youngster rushed his header and the ball drifted wide of the far post.

Then four minutes later, Borough had another chance, courtesy of a mistake in the home side's defence. Frank Murphy's low cross from the right was sliced by Pedro Richards and the ball fell invitingly to Smithers inside the penalty area, but with time to pick his spot, he disappointingly shot straight at McPherson.

Full-back Paul Casey picked up a loose ball on the edge of the Borough penalty area, squared it to Martyn Gill, and his shot through a crowd of players brought a magnificent flying save from Carl Whitehouse. Borough survived another scare three minutes later, when Warren Ward's header was scrambled away after Jeff Lissaman had caught the visitors' defence flat footed with a deep cross to the far post.

Boston's defence though, looked far from solid, and in the last five minutes of the first half Borough twice threatened to break the deadlock. Willie Gibson found Mark Hutchinson in acres of space on the right hand side, and although four Borough players were making their way into the penalty area, he failed to deliver an accurate cross, and Boston's Ian Ladd was able to put the ball out for a corner.

The visitors began the second half with a flourish, and took the lead in the 51st minute. Smithers' centre from the left was only half cleared, Murphy seized on the loose ball and curled a superb shot round McPherson and into the net. Boston struggled to find a reply and the vast majority of the 1,300 crowd who had turned up were becoming increasingly frustrated at their side's inability to create openings.

In fact, it was Borough who might have gone two up, but Dave Ward's first time effort after Simon Reay had headed back a Mark Hutchinson cross, was well wide of its target. The visitors had never looked seriously troubled in the second half, but they almost grabbed an equaliser in the 72nd minute. Richard Dixey's free-kick from deep inside his own half struck Chris Cook who helped the ball on to Warren Ward, but Whitehouse dived at his feet to deny the striker.

Then with around 15 minutes left came the incident that changed the course of the match. Play was held up for a full seven or eight minutes while influential midfielder Tim Smithers was stretchered off with a broken leg, and within seconds of him leaving the field in the 77th minute, Boston were level.

Casey floated a long ball into the penalty area and Cook climbed high to head home at the far post. Borough hardly had time to regain their composure before Boston shocked them with a second goal just three minutes later. Cook got the better of Andy McGranaghan out on the left, and his low centre picked out Warren Ward who slid the ball home from inside the six yard box.

Borough made the journey to the Borough Sports Ground to face Sutton United in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough produced an outstanding performance, battling back from 2-0 down to secure their first away win of the season. It was an afternoon, however, which began in the worst possible way. The team coach got lost on the way to the ground and arrived five minutes before kick-off. Play eventually got under way eight minutes late and Borough found themselves one down after only 14 seconds. Andy McGranaghan's attempted back pass fell short of Peter Corder, Sutton striker Lenny Dennis, seized on the mistake, got to the by-line and pulled the ball back for Nigel Golley to shoot home at the far post.

Fired up by the early breakthrough, the home side continued to bombard the Borough goal and Corder did well to get down to a Nigel Golley free-kick. Ron Searon made a fingertip save to deny Mark Hutchinson before Borough almost conceded again when Corder raced out to clear, Neil Robson got goalside, but tried to find Nigel Golley and McGranaghan was able to clear for a corner. The home side always looked capable of adding to their tally and sure enough they went 2-0 up in the 11th minute. Phil Dawson's free kick out on the left flank found Paul McKinnon just inside the penalty area, and his looping header sailed into the net via the far post.

Borough were finding it hard going and almost conceded a third, but Corder pulled off an excellent save from McKinnon. The visitors responded with a vicious shot from Murphy which Searon parried away before the home keeper was forced to rush out of goal to clear from Moss after Mark Golley had sliced an attempted clearance. At last Borough were beginning to find their rhythm and Hutchinson's curling drive in the 27th minute was touched round the post by Searon. Their persistence finally paid off two minutes later, when Frank Murphy reduced the arrears with his fourth goal of the season. He dispossessed Roger Mackay on the edge of the area and sidestepped Searon before slotting the ball home.

Borough continued in the same vein after the break and Murphy was unlucky in the 51st minute, when his shot rattled the crossbar after a magnificent run had taken him past four Sutton defenders. Moss headed weakly into Searon's arms before the keeper was again called upon to deal with a dangerous ball from Murphy. In the 71st minute, the visitors fashioned a superb equaliser. Hutchinson floated the perfect free-kick into the box and Moss rose majestically to head home. Corder then pulled off a magnificent save to deny Dennis, as Sutton surged forward in search of a winner. Instead, though, it was Borough who snatched the three



points with a goal 11 minutes from time. Murphy crowned a sparkling individual performance with a jinking run into the Sutton penalty area, before unselfishly laying the ball back to Hutchinson who hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 13-10-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, McGranaghan, Dixey, Bradley, Hutchinson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. **Subs:** Thurman, Bateman.

Kidderminster: P. Jones, Buckland, Barton, Boxall, C. Jones, Mulders, Mackenzie, Gavin, Davies, Tuohy, Hazlewood. **Subs:** Rosegreen, Nicholls.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Two early goals saw Borough slip to their second successive home defeat. Manor Park's biggest crowd of the season saw their favourites go two goals down after only seven minutes – both scored by Malc Hazlewood. Borough battled back and they pulled a goal back through Frank Murphy and had the visitors' defence under pressure for long spells. But they failed to make a second breakthrough as Harriers clung on.

The opening exchanges were scrappy but the visitors took the lead with the first attack of note after only four minutes. Chris Jones knocked a long free-kick towards the edge of the penalty area where it was flicked on by Paul Davies to leave Hazlewood with the task of slipping the ball past the unprotected Corder. Paul Moss headed narrowly wide from Mark Hutchinson's free-kick before Harriers stunned Borough with a second goal out of the blue after seven minutes.

Davies again flicked a long ball on to Hazlewood and he hit a first-time volley that dipped over the top of Corder and into the far corner of the net. Borough had a chance to reduce the arrears when Chris Jones slipped on the edge of his own area but Murphy wanted too much time before getting in his shot and the ball was scrambled away for a corner. Richard Dixey headed over from a Hutchinson corner as Nuneaton continued to press but they were almost caught by another fast counter attack from the visitors and Corder did well to smother a shot from Mick Tuohy.

Borough pushed Willie Gibson forward into midfield at the start of the second half to counter Kidderminster playing five at the back and immediately looked a more positive outfit. Dave Ward headed narrowly wide in a neat attack, but it took a superb save from Corder to keep out a fiercely struck free-kick by Hazlewood.

On the hour Borough pulled a goal back when Murphy was brought down by Clive Boxall and got up to tuck away the spot kick for his fifth goal of the season. Tuohy missed a great chance to put the issue beyond doubt, failing to score from six yards, before Nuneaton again threatened to take a point.

Gibson appeared to be flattened in the box by Martin Gavin, but there was no penalty, and then Moss failed to connect properly from close range and Murphy's header from Ward's cross lacked the power to trouble the Harriers' keeper.

Nuneaton Borough AGM - October 1986

Nuneaton Borough Football Club chairman Noel Kelly made a bold pledge to shareholders last night, telling them: "We have a future". Speaking at the club's first annual meeting for two years, Mr Kelly said Borough's financial position was "not bright" but he said the club was on the mend.

Despite increased debts last financial year Mr Kelly said the club was in a far healthier position than three seasons ago. "In 1983 we had to find £44,000 but we survived and although the picture is not bright we are not in any danger," he said.

"I am optimistic about the future. I believe that very slowly things are improving and we are making the right moves." Borough's debts total £165,593, but one angry shareholder claimed half of that sum was owed to directors, dramatically reducing money actually owed to outside creditors.

And Mr Kelly himself said a "serious problem" with the social club had been put right and as a result for the first four months of this financial year it had made a profit of £7,332.

"We really need to put things right on the commercial side, a lot depends on that. With the experience of our new director Joe Shooter, who has also been made vice-chairman, I am confident we will have success there," added Mr Kelly.

The chairman also revealed that negotiations with several companies regarding a major sponsorship package worth up to £10,000 a year were taking place. But shareholder Harry Broadhurst told the meeting that Borough's future lay in keeping its players and aiming for promotion to the Fourth Division of the Football League.

"We have had to sell a lot of players, and I stress had to. But this has had a knock-on effect. The team's performances obviously suffer so less fans turn up. That again has a knock-on effect. We have to keep our players here," he said. Mr Broadhurst claimed attendances for Borough's first eight home games of the season were down 1,800 on last season's figure.

The comment brought a promise from Mr Kelly that the club was aiming to keep its playing squad together. But he said Fourth Division football could not be achieved without a new ground. He said ambitious plans to build a new super stadium had not been abandoned, despite "a complete lack of encouragement from the borough council."

Kelly Denies Ground Share With Bedworth

Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly today denied that the club were planning a ground-sharing scheme with neighbours Bedworth United. Reports that Kelly and Greenbacks chairman Harold Jones had held talks over the proposed deal were described by both men as "rubbish".

"I haven't even spoken to Mr Jones for six weeks," said Kelly. A fact confirmed by Jones, who added: "As far as I am concerned the report is a load of balderdash. There was a fleeting mention of us sharing grounds the last time our paths crossed, but that was all it was and at no time was anything concrete mentioned about it," added Jones.



Borough Sign Hughes

Nuneaton Borough player-manager Jimmy Holmes has signed Dave Hughes from Worcester City. Hughes, who can play in midfield or as a central defender, will not be in the side to face Enfield, but is eligible to play against Goole in the FA Cup next weekend.

Enfield v Nuneaton Borough 18-10-1986

Enfield: Pape, Furneaux, Hayzelden, Howell, Gray, Kinsella, Flint, Duffield, Francis, Docker, King. **Subs:** Cooper, Ironton.

Borough: Corder, Carr (Bradley 70), Gibson, McGranaghan, Dixey, Holmes, Hutchinson, Moss, Thurman, Ward, Murphy. **Sub:** Reay.

Borough made the journey to Southbury Road to face Enfield in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough returned home empty handed after two late goals destroyed much of the good work that had gone before. An impressive first half had given Borough a deserved lead, but they finally wilted in the face of a fierce onslaught by the reigning champions.

Borough began brightly enough with both Moss and Murphy prominent and Andy Pape was soon in action before the home side pressed forward. After eight minutes home midfielder Tony Kinsella struck a fierce volley which struck the Borough bar and then hit Peter Corder on the back before bouncing to safety. This was Enfield's only real threat of the half as Borough moved into their stride and played a lot of accurate football in all areas of the pitch.

After about 15 minutes David Ward put Paul Moss through, but the former Worcester man chose to shoot early when he might have been better advised to round Pape who was able to smother his effort. A minute later Borough took the lead. McGranaghan set Murphy away and the nimble Scot exchanged passes with Moss before scoring with ease Borough might have had a second when Ward picked out Murphy, but the striker's intended pass to Moss was cut out by Pape and half-time arrived with Borough the better side.

Enfield started the second half in determined mood and Borough needed to weather the early storm, but instead lost their composure and gave away a couple of early free-kicks. From the second of these, taken from the left wing, Martin Duffield headed the ball back across the goal where central defender David Howell was on hand to smash home the equaliser with the half just two minutes old.

Nigel Gray headed over from a corner in the 50th minute and four minutes later a bad back pass from Dixey gave Francis a golden opportunity which he squandered. Borough struggled to get into the game as their midfield lay too deep, giving Kinsella and Duffield all the time they wanted to set up Enfield attacks, while Murphy and Moss were being left unsupported up front.

With ten minutes left Steve King struck on Enfield's left. He rounded Dixey and Bradley and then struck a fierce cross to

the far post where Dave Flint headed in powerfully. Docker and Francis both threatened Borough's defence before the visitors launched a late effort to save the game. Bradley with fresh legs had plenty of composure, set up several promising moves, while Mark Hutchinson worked hard to give his front runners some support.

Ward, Hutchinson and Dixey all went close to scoring for Borough before King again broke out for Enfield in the dying seconds and laid an excellent pass into the path of Duffield, who struck his side's third and decisive goal.

Double Blow For FA Cup

Borough were hit with a double blow ahead of their FA Cup tie at Goole. The expected signing of Worcester City's Dave Hughes fell through at the last minute after the utility player decided to stay with the Southern League outfit and Lance Morrison was forced to give the thumbs down for the Goole trip with a deep-seated stomach strain.

Holmes Injury Blow

Nuneaton Borough manager Jimmy Holmes had his worst fears confirmed yesterday when an exploratory operation on his injured right knee showed severe cartilage damage. The cartilage was removed immediately, which means Holmes will be out of action until the New Year at the earliest.

Thomas Joins Borough

Former Bedworth United front runner Paul Thomas is included in Nuneaton Borough's 13 for their home encounter with Gateshead. Thomas, who was the Greenbacks' leading scorer the season before last, has had short stays at Atherstone and Leamington this season, but failed to settle at either club and now tries his luck at Nuneaton.

Nuneaton Borough v Gateshead 01-11-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Bradley, Thomas (Johnson 60), Thurman, Gibson, Hutchinson (Bateman 68), Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy.

Gateshead: Smith, Grewcock, Hulse, P. Johnson, O'Hagan (Doolan 53), Parnaby, Robson, Davies, Wardrobe, Henderson, Steel (Donaldson 79).

Borough welcomed Gateshead to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough's atrocious luck continued when they lost Mark Hutchinson with a broken leg. The Nuneaton midfielder was stretchered off with a double fracture of his left leg after being brought down in the penalty area by Gateshead's Peter Davies in the 68th minute. Borough had enough to cope with in losing Hutchinson, but to add to their troubles a stupid spectator came onto the pitch to demonstrate with Davies while the Nuneaton player was being treated. He swung punches at both Davies and Gateshead substitute Paul Doolan before being escorted from the ground by two policemen.

Frank Murphy had the unenviable task of taking the resulting penalty when play was eventually re-started and the diminutive

Scot showed commendable composure to calmly slip the ball past Simon Smith. But Borough's tempered joy was short-lived for Gateshead were level within two minutes when poor defensive play allowed Barry Wardrobe in for an equaliser.



Mark Hutchinson is brought crashing to the ground by Gateshead's Peter Davies in a challenge that left the Nuneaton midfielder player with a double fracture of the left leg. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

In fact, Martin Henderson almost snatched a dramatic winner for the struggling visitors but Peter Corder somehow managed to scramble the ball away.

There was an early scare for Borough when Justin Robson got clear on the right and his low cross caused concern in the penalty area before Mick Thurman hooked the ball clear. Thomas' header from Hutchinson's cross lacked power as both sides struggled with the heavy conditions. Murphy had a great chance to put Borough in front after Hutchinson played a superb ball from deep inside his own half and Murphy was clean through, but pulled his shot across the face of goal.

The visitors hit back and Corder pulled off a fine save to keep out Henderson's close range effort before a surging run from Bradley brought another chance for Murphy, but he chose to shoot from distance and Smith gathered easily. With the rain lashing down play became scrappy, but Wardrobe almost broke the deadlock when he was only inches away from Ian Steel's cross. Just before the break Thomas fired just wide.

Early in the second half Borough were fortunate to survive a terrific goalmouth scramble. Twice Wardrobe was blocked as he tried to shoot and then Corder had to produce another excellent save to turn Henderson's effort round the post for a corner. Gary Johnson replaced Thomas on the hour and eight minutes later the game exploded into life. Hutchinson worked a one-two and cut into the penalty area only to be brought down from behind by Davies.

Although it looked an innocuous tackle it had disastrous consequences for the Nuneaton player – but it gave Murphy the chance to put Borough in front from the spot. With the departure of Hutchinson, youngster Lee Bateman came on for his first team debut. However, the cheers for Murphy's goal had hardly died down when the visitors drew level. There seemed to be little danger as Wardrobe picked up a ball out on the left but he drifted past three half-hearted challenges before getting in a shot that although not hit cleanly, beat Corder inside his left hand post. Goalkeeper Smith was booked for bundling Reay off the ball and with time running out Thurman made a hash of a clearance and was grateful to Gibson who rescued the situation with a superb saving tackle on Wardrobe.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 03-11-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, McCranaghan, Thurman, Bradley, Johnson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. Subs: Mitchell, Bateman.

Atherstone: Spencer, Bennetts, Peacock, Parker, Haskins, Waters, Olnier, Brotherton, Bradder, Neale, Kennel. Subs: Rammel, Farmer.

Borough welcomed Atherstone Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round match.

Andy McGranaghan, back in the side after injury, gave Borough an equaliser seven minutes from the end. Nuneaton's central defender forsook his defensive duties to force the ball home from close range. Local rivals Atherstone had shaken off the effects of Paul Moss's opener on the hour to snatch the lead with two goals in a dramatic two minute spell. Substitute Robbie Farmer was the man on target and his double strike looked enough to book Adders a place in the second round.

But McGranaghan's late leveller ensured that the sides must meet again at Sheepy Road – a fair result to a dour local derby.

Mark Neale's early shot was well wide before Peacock drove a low centre from the left that Neale put over the top. But Atherstone missed a clear cut chance to break the deadlock after 24 minutes. Gary Bradder floated his free kick into the box where Alan Brotherton got free only to put his header well wide from ten yards.

Borough started the second half in a more determined mood and Martin Haskins did well to hook the ball clear after Peter Bradley had exposed the Atherstone left flank. Borough went ahead on the hour through Moss. Mick Thurman intercepted a ball in midfield and delivered a superb through ball that freed Moss and he raced clear to slip the ball past the advancing Spencer. Adders threw men forward in an effort to get an equaliser and the game burst into life with two goals in two minutes for the visitors.

Ade Waters won an aerial challenge in midfield and powered the ball into the Nuneaton box. The defence was caught square and Farmer, on as substitute for Neale, got past Bradley to slip in the equaliser. Two minutes later Adders were in front. Bradder floated another free kick into the box and Farmer rose to power a superb header into the far corner with Corder rooted to his line.

But Borough were not finished yet and they dragged themselves back into the game with seven minutes left. Brotherton only succeeded in heading Ward's free-kick straight up in the air and Moss hooked it into the goalmouth where McGranaghan forced it home from close range. With time running out Borough almost snatched a last gasp winner. Alan Bennetts failed to clear the ball and Ward nipped past him, cut into the box and fired over a low centre that Murphy was only a whisker away from turning in at the far post.

Borough Sign Shearer And Coffey

Peter Shearer and Mike Coffey signed for Nuneaton Borough last night and both will make their debut at Wealdstone.

Shearer is a 19-year-old midfield player from Coventry City and has cost a nominal fee from Rochdale. Coffey lives in Liverpool and played for Stockport last season. He plays wide on the left up front and has just returned from a spell in Portugal.



Peter Shearer completes the forms that make him a Nuneaton Borough player. Looking on are Joe Shooter (vice chairman), Noel Kelly (chairman) and Jimmy Holmes (player-manager).

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Wealdstone v Nuneaton Borough 08-11-1986

Wealdstone: Iles, Tapley, McClure, Byatt, Rutter (Bowgett 78), Wainwright, Greenaway, Wallace, Donnellan (Graves 67), Galloway, Doyle.

Borough: Corder (Reay 45), Bradley, Gibson, Thurman, Johnson (Thoms 54), McGranaghan, Shearer, Moss, Coffey, Ward, Murphy.

Borough made the journey to The Lower Mead to face Wealdstone in a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough's recent problems worsened considerably as they not only slumped to their heaviest defeat of the season, but also had debutant Peter Shearer sent off and lost goalkeeper Peter Corder through injury. Ironically, though Borough might have opened the scoring as early as the sixth minute, but Frank Murphy's goalbound shot was hooked away by Doug McClure.

In the 19th minute a flare up involving Borough's Peter Shearer and Wealdstone's McClure, resulted in Shearer being sent off on his debut, after he appeared to strike his opponent. Ten men Borough, to their credit, reacted well to Shearer's dismissal, and Willie Gibson's 25 yard drive was saved at the second attempt by Bob Iles. Johnson saw his effort deflected wide 14 minutes before half time before Wealdstone took control and scored three times in seven minutes. Andy Wallace got the first in the 38th minute, firing home Greenaway's deep cross from the left.

Borough were given little time to recover, as the home side grabbed a second soon afterwards. Galloway's centre was only

half-cleared by the visitors' defence and Robin Wainwright scrambled it in from close range. Borough's first half misery was complete a minute from the break when Galloway added a third. The Wealdstone striker sprinted onto Derek Doyle's through ball, rounded Corder and slotted the ball home.

Borough came out for the second half with Simon Reay wearing the goalkeeper's jersey as substitute for Corder, who was suffering from a pulled muscle. In the 57th minute, a long clearance by Iles was flicked on by Galloway, and Wallace beat stand-in keeper Reay with a left foot shot from just inside the penalty area. The home side continued to attack Borough in merciless fashion, and penetrated their flimsy defence yet again six minutes later. Galloway's speculative shot from the left hand edge of the box was seen to squirm under Reay's body and into the net.

The home side introduced Mark Graves in place of Donnellan in the 67th minute and it was he who struck the final blow with goal number six for Wealdstone nine minutes later. Two splendid saves from Reay denied first Doyle and then Greenaway to keep the score down. Borough hardly ventured into the Wealdstone half in the second half but should have grabbed a consolation goal in the dying seconds, but Paul Moss shot high and wide in front of an empty net.

Two New Faces For Borough

Former Luton Town defender Mike Saxby and goalkeeper Tom Kennedy from Ansley Common, will make their debuts against Burton Albion in the GMAC Challenge Cup.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 10-11-1986

Burton: New, Kamara, Simms, Vaughan, Land, Saunders, Hemmings, Bancroft, Gauden, Redfern, Grove. Subs: Heap, Blower.

Borough: Kennedy, Bradley, Gibson, Saxby, Dixey, McGranaghan, Shearer, Moss, Coffey, Thomas (Reay 56), Murphy. Sub: Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to face Burton Albion in a GMAC first round tie.

A rousing GMAC Cup tie ended all square after Borough had battled with great determination against a Burton outfit that has won its last five matches. Frank Murphy's penalty after 14 minutes gave Nuneaton a lead which they held for almost an hour before former Borough player Paul Bancroft equalised to commit the team to a replay at Manor Park.

Tom Kennedy played in goal with Richard Dixey returning after a four match absence to partner new signing Mike Saxby in the centre of defence. Saxby was in action in the opening seconds with a well-timed header. The match settled into the fast and furious pattern which was to last for most of the 90 minutes. Home keeper Martin New looked shaky, but Kennedy was already showing good form for the visitors. Borough were encouraged by a Murphy penalty goal after 14 minutes.

Murphy showed great skill on the right, and when he crossed towards Shearer at the far post Burton right back Kamara handled under pressure to concede a spot kick. Borough's



leading scorer netted with ease. The goal stung Burton into retaliation and big Bob Gauden was always dangerous up front, as was teenager Tony Hemmings on the left wing.

As Borough soaked up the pressure, two men showed outstanding form. In goal Kennedy made save after save and at the heart of defence Saxby was a tower of strength. As half-time approached tempers flared and Shearer was cautioned together with David Vaughan after an untidy scuffle.

Coffey shot high over the Burton goal and Gauden was booked for a foul on Coffey, but it came as no surprise when Simon Reay replaced Thomas and was pushed forward into a three man attack. Borough were beginning to look the better side and Shearer began to dominate midfield. It was Shearer, however, who let the home team back into the game with an unnecessary “off the ball” foul on Kamara at a time Borough had possession. From the free-kick Borough failed to clear their lines and at the third attempt Bancroft headed home a 72nd minute equaliser.

Not for the first time this season, Borough faded badly late in the game, and Burton might easily have won. As it was the visitors held out and Murphy even managed to squander the best chance of the evening with just five minutes left, although a draw was probably a fair result.

Holmes Quits

Jimmy Holmes has resigned as manager of Nuneaton Borough after 12 months in the hot seat. The former Eire international informed the club of his decision following last night’s defeat against Burton Albion.

“I will be sorry to be leaving Borough as my heart is in the club and despite some disappointing results I still feel it is a great club with tremendous potential,” said Holmes. “In no way was my decision anything to do with our defeat last night or on Saturday against Rochdale. I am leaving for purely personal reasons and nothing more.”

John Evans Joins Northampton

Nuneaton Borough Secretary John Evans is leaving the club to fulfil a long term ambition to join a Football League set up. Evans, who has been at Manor Park for 13 years, takes up his secretarial dues at Northampton Town on a part-time basis from next Monday, although he will be helping out Borough for the time being on the basic administration work at the club. “The move has been on the cards for quite some time with chairman Noel Kelly being informed throughout on the situation. However, the time has come for me to try my hand in the League and it is a challenge I am really looking forward to,” said Evans today.

Dixey Steps In As Caretaker

Managerless Nuneaton Borough have appointed Richard Dixey as caretaker boss for the third time in the last 18 months. The central defender last night agreed to fill the vacancy left by the shock resignation of Jimmy Holmes 24

hours earlier. Chairman Noel Kelly and his fellow directors emerged from a lengthy board meeting to announce their decision. “With such a vital game coming up this weekend at Kings Lynn, we had to get something sorted out immediately,” said Kelly.

Holmes Back As Manager

Jimmy Holmes stepped back into the Nuneaton hot seat, and straight into an injury crisis. The Borough boss finds his resources stretched to the limit as he ponders his line up for tomorrow’s FA Trophy first round clash at King’s Lynn.

Keith Allen New Secretary

Keith Allen is to be the new secretary of Nuneaton Borough Football Club. Allen, who has served in a similar capacity with both Bedworth and Atherstone, succeeds John Evans who is leaving to join Fourth Division Northampton Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 17-11-1986

Borough: Corder, Carr (Coffey 72), Gibson, Saxby, Dixey, Bradley, Shearer, Moss, Johnson, Ward, Murphy. **Sub:** Mitchell.

Burton: New, Kamara, Simms, Vaughan, Land, Saunders, Groves, Bancroft (Hall 75), Gauden, Redfern, Dorsett (Hemmings 75).

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a GMAC first round replay.

Borough crashed out of their second cup competition in three days with another disappointing display. Dave Vaughan’s fiercely struck free-kick five minutes from the end was enough to settle the tie. Jimmy Holmes’ men, looking to shake off their FA Cup defeat were way below their best. They struggled to develop any kind of pattern, seemed devoid of confidence, and only played in fits and starts.

Paul Moss, Frank Murphy and Peter Shearer all missed clear-cut openings that would have put the tie beyond the reach of Burton. Their first chance came after six minutes when Dave Ward crossed from the left, but Shearer failed to connect in front of goal and the chance was lost. Vaughan was then booked for a foul on Everton Carr before Peter Corder had to save bravely at the feet of Dave Redfern.

Murphy missed a good chance of opening the scoring midway through the half, firing over the top after Moss had put him clear with a neat chip. Ten minutes before the break Nuneaton had a let off when Redfern headed on Vaughan’s free kick and Neil Dorsett steered the ball wide. Carr went into the book after clashing with Dorsett and Borough contrived to miss three clear chances in a six minute spell early in the second half.

Moss delayed his shot allowing Alan Kamara to get in a saving tackle after a mistake by Gil Land and then the Nuneaton striker saw his close range shot beaten away by former Borough keeper Martin New. Almost immediately Murphy set up Shearer and his fierce drive brought another excellent save from New at the expense of a corner.

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With everything pointing to extra time, Burton snatched a dramatic winner. Shearer brought down Saunders on the edge of the box and Vaughan hammered the free-kick into the top right hand corner.

To rub salt into Borough's wounds Gibson became the second Nuneaton player to be cautioned when he went into the book for a foul on Tony Hemmings shortly before the end.

Nuneaton Borough v Maidstone United 29-11-1986

Borough: Corder, Bradley, Gibson, Sturridge, Dixey, Thurman, Shearer, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. **Subs:** Johnson, Holmes.

Maidstone: Richardson, Donn, Hill, Munday, Glover, Hanford, Lynch, Stewart, Galloway, Bartley, Torrance. **Subs:** Joyce, Pamphlett.

Borough welcomed Maidstone United to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Injury-ravaged Nuneaton Borough turned the formbook upside down as they toppled high-flying Maidstone. Jimmy Holmes' men produced arguably their best performance of the season, despite still having five regulars missing, and thoroughly deserved their first home league win for three months.

Borough always had more heart for the fight and Frank Murphy put them in front after 22 minutes and Simon Reay's effort nine minutes from the end finally killed off any lingering hopes that Maidstone might have had. Stones could point to the fact that they failed to accept two good first-half chances, but they faded badly after the break and can have no grumbles about the result.

Peter Shearer returned to the midfield following his two-match ban, and new signing Mike Sturridge wore the number four shirt, with Holmes joining Gary Johnson on the bench. It was Maidstone who made the early running with Phil Handford having a shot blocked on the line by Mick Thurman and then Tony Lynch fired over the top.

Nuneaton pressed forward and Maidstone keeper Derek Richardson was fortunate to collect Dave Ward's corner at the second attempt under pressure from Richard Dixey. Borough then missed a clear-cut chance to open the scoring when a ball from Shearer broke to Reay but he sliced his shot yards wide from inside the box with just the keeper to beat.



Frank Murphy meets Willie Gibson's 22nd minute cross to volley past Derek Richardson.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

At the other end George Torrance screwed a shot wide from the edge of the box before Nuneaton took the lead through Frank Murphy after 22 minutes. Willie Gibson got clear on the left and his cross found the unmarked Murphy who clinically volleyed past Richardson for his ninth goal of the season.

The visitors should have equalised on the half-hour when Steve Galloway seized on a poor backpass by Thurman but he mis-hit his shot and Peter Corder managed to turn the ball away for a corner. Former Borough favourite John Glover had a long range effort comfortably held by Corder as Maidstone pushed forward in search of an equaliser. But it was Nuneaton who came nearest to scoring when seconds before the interval they got Murphy clear in the box but Richardson produced a superb diving save low to his left.

Borough started the second half as they had ended the first and Stones were fortunate not to fall further behind four minutes after the re-start when Reay's header hit the bar and flew over the top. Nuneaton continued to press forward and, following a hectic goalmouth scramble, the visitors were happy to see Sturridge's shot pass harmlessly wide of the far post. The Manor Park side were now well in control and Reay had a shot deflected for a corner after Paul Moss had set up the opportunity with a superb pass from deep in defence.

Maidstone dangerman John Bartley had not been in evidence throughout the match, but midway through the half he got through, but his shot lacked the power to trouble Corder. Peter Bradley then showed excellent pace to get in a tackle to halt the flying Galloway as he cut in from the left before Borough put the issue beyond doubt with the all-important second goal.

Ward hammered in a fierce 25 yarder that forced a superb save from Richardson, but the Stones keeper could only parry the ball out and Reay wasted no time in planting it into the net. Nuneaton continued to dominate and shortly before the end they might have had a penalty. Shearer played a neat one-two with Reay, and as he moved into the area he was scythed down by Nigel Donn, but Borough appeals fell on deaf ears.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 02-12-1986

Atherstone: Spencer, Peacock, Haskins, Waters, Montgomery, Olnier, Bradder, Parker, Kennell, Neale, Farmer. **Subs:** Bennetts, Rammell.

Borough: Corder, Bradley, Dixey, Thurman, Gibson, Johnson, Ward, Peebles, Moss, Murphy, Reay. **Subs:** Holmes, L. Bateman.

Borough made the journey to Sheepy Road to face Atherstone United in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round replay.

Lacklustre Borough had their limitations totally exposed by rampant Atherstone in a one-sided game. A three-goal surge in a six minute spell midway through the opening half virtually ended Borough's hopes as their neighbours produced a high quality performance.

Borough lacked sparkle and imagination and can have few complaints about the result. Adders dominated, especially in midfield where Gary Bradder, Bobby Park and Paul Olnier won

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almost every 50-50 ball. Both sides were forced into changes through ineligibility, Borough bringing in Garry Johnson and Neil Peebles for Peter Shearer and Mike Sturridge, while Adders replaced Bob Stockley at full-back with the experienced John Peacock.

It was Borough who created the first clear-cut opening in the 19th minute when Peter Bradley sent Frank Murphy to the edge of the United area but the striker's first-time effort drifted inches too high with the home keeper Lee Spencer beaten. The let-off boosted the Banks' Brewery League side and inside 60 seconds, they were in front with a brilliantly taken goal from former Nuneaton striker Mark Neale.

Borough were penalised out on the right and from Bradder's precise free-kick Neale rose elegantly to steer a perfect header high and wide of keeper Peter Corder and into the roof of the net from 15 yards for his eighth goal of the season. Things went from bad to worse for Nuneaton from then on, as Adders took advantage of their out-of-sort visitors and scored twice within a minute.

Robbie Farmer showed supreme confidence as he opened his account in the 25th minute when he latched on to a cunning Olnier through ball before jinking effortlessly wide of Corder to gleefully slot a slow drive into a vacant net. Straight from the re-start United gained possession and following some neat build-up play down the right involving Rob Kennell and Peacock, Bradder found himself with time and space to loft a piercing cross to the far post where Parker turned up unmarked to volley wide of Corder from six yards.

Classy Adders came out at the start of the second half with the same positive attitude and within eight minutes had powered into a 4-0 lead, thanks to a goal of real quality.

A brilliant solo run by full-back Paul Montgomery down the left ripped apart Borough's defence and when his pinpoint cross came into the area, Farmer was ideally placed to thunder an unstoppable header beyond a stranded Corder for his 12th goal in ten games.

Borough Signings

Nuneaton Borough manager Jimmy Holmes has been busy over the last 24 hours in an attempt to patch up his heavily depleted squad. The Manor Park boss has managed to get 28-year-old goalkeeper John McKenna, who has recently returned from playing in South Africa. Another player in the squad is Paul Williams, who has also been playing in South Africa, was previously on the books at Leeds United and joins Borough on loan from Rochdale.

The Borough squad has been decimated by injuries and Jimmy Holmes had already lost the services of Everton Carr, Lance Morrison, Tim Smithers and Mark Hutchinson and has now lost Andy McGranaghan, Peter Corder and Frank Murphy. On top of that Mick Thurman is struggling with a knee injury and Holmes himself is not fit following a knee operation. Goalkeeper Peter Corder is ruled out with an achilles injury.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-12-1986

Cheltenham: Hards, Hughes, Willetts, Collicutt, Vircavs, Brooks, Brown, Townsend, Boyland, Baverstock, Jordan. **Subs:** Bayliss, Howells.

Borough: McKenna, Bradley, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Williams, Shearer, Moss, Reay (Johnson 23), Ward, Sturridge. **Sub:** Bateman.

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to face Cheltenham Town in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough's makeshift side picked up a useful, if fortunate point, thanks mainly to several outstanding saves by on-loan goalkeeper John McKenna. He proved to be a stiff obstacle for the home side to overcome, as they launched wave after wave of attacks on the Borough goal.

But despite being pinned back in their own half for much of the match, the visitors went one up with just five minutes left, only to see it cancelled out by a somewhat dubious effort.

Borough started well and Peter Shearer put Simon Reay through, and his 15 yard shot was only a couple of feet wide. Cheltenham went close in the 11th minute when Anton Vircavs had a fierce drive blocked by Richard Dixey, and then Chris Townsend's effort on the rebound was beaten out by McKenna. An encouraging 40 yard run by Borough winger Mike Sturridge four minutes later ended when his centre from the left was taken at full stretch by Neil Hards.

The clearest chance of the half fell to Cheltenham after 27 minutes. First Townsend had a shot hooked away from an empty net by debut-maker Paul Williams, who then gave the ball straight to Mark Boyland, who couldn't capitalise.

A minute after the interval Sturridge chased a long ball to the by-line before putting in a deep cross which was headed out to Mick Thurman, but his shot didn't trouble Hards. In the 47th minute Townsend was cautioned for a rather physical challenge on McKenna, who then came to Borough's rescue saving Nick Jordan's 20 yard free-kick at the second attempt.

Cheltenham continued to pile on the pressure, and McKenna did well to deny Vircavs with a fine fingertip save in the 72nd minute. The Borough keeper did even better ten minutes from time, when a sweeping four man move by the home side found Brooks in space on the edge of the box – his drive was parried only as far as Jordan, whose cracking first-time effort was brilliantly stopped by McKenna once more.

With only five minutes to go, Borough took a shock lead – Williams slotting the ball home following a deep centre from Dave Ward. The visitors then began to enjoy the better of the attacking play and Paul Moss might have added to Borough's tally, but delayed his shot and was crowded out. Shearer had a diving header ruled out for offside before Cheltenham grabbed a controversial equaliser. Brooks' long ball over the top of the Borough defence appeared to catch Townsend offside, and then the Cheltenham striker looked to have controlled the ball with his arm before stabbing home, but despite protests the goal was allowed to stand.



Borough Set To Sign Fearn

Borough are hoping to sign Graham Fearn from neighbours Bedworth United. Manager Jimmy Holmes said: "I have watched him on several occasions and I feel that he is a quality player with plenty of experience."

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 13-12-1986

Borough: McKenna, Bradley, Gibson, Williams, Dixey, Fearn, Shearer, Moss, Murphy, D. Ward, Sturridge (Thurman 63). **Sub:** Johnson.

Kettering: Goodwin, S. Ward, Mann, Cavener, Lewis, Wood, Wharton, Kellock, Keast (Crawley 70), Kabia, Jeffrey. **Sub:** Smith.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough were again called on to show all their battling qualities as they were held to a draw. They made a bright start and in the early stages they looked as though they were set to pick up only their sixth league win of the season. During this period Nick Goodwin in the Poppies' goal was in the thick of the action and Nuneaton appeared to be in charge. But the Manor Park outfit faded as the game wore on and in the end they had goalkeeper John McKenna to thank for their point.

Borough had midweek signing Graham Fearn making his debut in midfield, while the home fans had their first opportunity to run the rule over central defender Paul Williams as well as McKenna. Fearn was quickly into the action with a neat ball to Mike Sturridge but the Borough winger was crowded out by Arthur Mann. Peter Shearer sent Paul Moss sprinting through the middle and Goodwin had to race out of his area to boot clear.

Midway through the half Kettering were unlucky not to take the lead as Kellock was unmarked as he powered in a close range header from Phil Cavener's free-kick and he was already celebrating a goal when McKenna flew to his right to turn the ball to safety. Nuneaton were stung into action and Moss was only inches wide of the far post with a fierce drive from the edge of the area with Goodwin scrambling across his line. Just before the break Dave Wharton saw his header from Cavener's cross clip the top of the bar.

Borough made a positive start to the second period and Shearer could have put them ahead. He made a surging run from midfield, played a neat one-two with Moss before shooting past Goodwin, but unfortunately inches wide of the far post. There was danger for Nuneaton when Steve Ward found yards of space on the right but his poor centre was easily cut out.

Kettering twice went close in the space of three minutes. Keast was not picked up and McKenna had to make a cracking save low to his left to turn the shot away for a corner. Wharton then looked certain to score, but was denied by another superb save by McKenna. Keast then planted a header inches wide. However, Nuneaton had the last and possibly best chance. Willie Gibson crossed from the left, Goodwin failed to hold the ball, but Shearer, with the goal gaping in front of him, completely missed the ball.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 26-12-1986

Borough: McKenna, Bradley, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Fearn, Shearer, Moss, Murphy, Ward, Sturridge.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough slipped to a disappointing 2-0 defeat, ending 1986 on an unhappy note.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1987

Telford: Charlton, McGinty, Wiggins, Sankey (Joseph 62), Hancock, Storton, Crompton, Morgan, K. McKenna, Hogan, Alcock. **Sub:** Nelson.

Borough: J. McKenna, Bradley, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Fearn, Shearer (Gregory 19), Moss, Mitchell, Ward, Sturridge. **Sub:** Bateman.

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head to face Telford United in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough secured a point with a battling draw as Telford found it difficult to come to terms with Borough's solid defending. And on the few occasions they did penetrate Borough's back line, Telford squandered their opportunities with Ken McKenna the chief culprit. Under-strength Borough posed the greater threat in the opening few minutes – Mick Sturridge's dangerous centre forcing Kevin Charlton to punch to safety. Gibson then had an effort blocked following a corner.

Telford almost went ahead in the 16th minute when Wiggins released Morgan on the edge of the penalty area, he reached the by-line, backheeled it to Alcock, and his centre was only just too strong for the onrushing McKenna. Tom Morgan then went close for the home side four minutes before he finally broke the deadlock in the 37th minute. McKenna and Storton both went up for Hogan's corner, the ball fell to Alan Crompton, and his shot was deflected by Morgan wide of John McKenna and into the net.

Right on the stroke of half-time, Borough hauled themselves back into the match by snatching a deserved equaliser through Paul Moss. He netted with a spectacular scissors kick from the edge of the six yard box, after Ward's corner had been flicked on by Dixey at the near post. A slip by Gibson barely a minute into the second half saw McKenna race into the Borough penalty area, but his namesake between the posts was out quickly to thwart the danger.

In the 54th minute, a Dave Ward drive was only just wide, while at the other end Ian Sankey hooked a shot just over the bar. Gibson then surprised Charlton with a 25 yard shot shortly after, which the keeper did well to punch over the bar. Morgan, who had looked lively all afternoon, sprinted clear of Borough's offside trap, but his centre was disappointing.

As the game entered its closing stages, both sides seemed content to play out the draw, with Borough's stern defensive work restricting the home side to hopeful long range efforts. Ken McKenna had two chances late in the game, but put both of them well wide of the target.

Holmes Forced To Bring In Amateurs

Nuneaton Borough manager Jimmy Holmes has signed three local junior league players to help patch up his team following yet another bout of injury problems. Striker Mark Lewis, midfielder Eddie Martin and utility man Paul Daniel were all expected to make their debut for Borough against Weymouth.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 03-01-1987

Borough: McKenna, Bradley, Gibson, Holmes, Thurman, Fearn, Lewis (Anderson 45), Fletcher, Daniel, Ward, Martin. **Sub:** Gregory.

Weymouth: Bond, Steele, P. Rogers, Arnold, Carroll, Iannone, Doidge, M. Rogers, Claridge, Doherty, Agana. **Subs:** Green, Clarke.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough hit rock bottom as they crashed to a comprehensive defeat against Weymouth. Jimmy Holmes' side, ravaged by injuries, struggled throughout and were made to look second rate. Borough, with four players making their debuts and another on the substitute's bench, were only a shadow of the side that got a point at Telford. They seldom looked capable of cracking a composed visitors rearguard and Weymouth strolled to a victory as easy as the scoreline might suggest.



Borough's Mark Fletcher appears to be fouled by Weymouth defender John Carroll, but there was no penalty. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough found themselves a goal down after only seven minutes. Tony Agana cut in from the left, got two fortunate rebounds and his low cross left Mike Doherty with a simple chance that he slammed past John McKenna from close range. It came as no surprise when Borough fell further behind after 15 minutes. Anniello Iannone found Ashley Doidge with a crossfield ball and his fierce shot flew into the roof of the net.

Weymouth were denied a penalty when Steve Claridge put Doherty clean through and as he went round McKenna he was brought down by the Nuneaton keeper, but to everyone's amazement the referee ignored the visitors' heated appeals.

Borough started to put on some pressure at the start of the second half, but it didn't last long and Weymouth were soon back in complete control. Agana got clear but wanted too much time and Borough cleared their lines. Agana hit a

shot against the bar from six yards before McKenna palmed Claridge's centre away from the inrushing Doherty and then got down to block Iannone's shot.

Any hopes Borough had of salvaging something from the game ended when Peter Rogers hit a through ball that appeared to carry little threat to the home side. However, Mick Thurman slipped and Agana raced away to sidestep McKenna and slip the ball into the empty net.

McKenna produced an excellent save to fingertip away a Doherty header before Weymouth completed a miserable afternoon for Borough with a fourth goal. Steele hit a super ball from deep in his own half and Doherty timed his run to perfection to leave the Nuneaton defence for dead and drill the ball past the outcoming McKenna.

Winger Sturridge Released

Winger Mike Sturridge has played his last game for Nuneaton Borough. The former Birmingham City player, who joined the Manor Park set-up in November has been released by manager Jimmy Holmes.

Kelly Calls EGM To Remove Shooter

Nuneaton Borough vice-chairman Joe Shooter will be attending the extra-ordinary general meeting on Monday week which is aimed at removing him from the club's board of directors, but has decided against travelling with the team to Gateshead tomorrow.

In view of the publicity that the meeting, called by chairman Noel Kelly, has caused among the rank and file at Manor Park, Shooter has reluctantly decided to miss the trip.

"It is the first match I have missed, that I could have attended since joining the board but after considering it carefully I thought it would be in the best interests of the team," said Shooter. "The atmosphere on the long coach journey to Gateshead could be strained between the various factions involved and obviously it would not be to the advantage of the players and manager," he added.

All the shareholder of the club have received letters asking them to attend the meeting at the Presidents' Lounge on January 19, when Kelly will be putting forward a resolution that Shooter be removed from the board of directors.

However, at the moment no reasons have been given as to why the chairman wants his deputy off the board.

Shooter Flies Home

Nuneaton Borough Football Club's vice-chairman Joe Shooter has cut short his holiday and flown 9,000 miles from the Philippines – after learning that chairman Noel Kelly wants him sacked from the board. After receiving a trans-Pacific telephone call "from a Borough fan" he immediately made plans for the 21-hour flight home, curtailing a Christmas and New Year visit to his wife's family.

And the behind-the-scenes in-fighting in the club boardroom

is likely to erupt into the open on Monday night when an extraordinary general meeting has been called.

Mr Kelly, who has been in charge at Manor Park for the past ten years has just one item on the agenda. The firing of Mr Shooter. Wealthy businessman Mr Shooter, 50, from Coventry, joined the board last October and was given the task of developing the club's commercial side.

But whether the meeting goes ahead as planned and Mr Kelly gets his way was open to considerable doubt today.

The first notice of the EGM sent out by Mr Kelly to shareholders carried the wrong date – January 19, 1986 instead of January 19, 1987. He sought to amend the notice, but there is a question mark over whether the letter of amendment gave the statutory 14 days' notice that is required under section 269 Companies Act, 1985.

Mr Shooter, who has 20,000 Borough shares against Mr Kelly's 33,606 confirmed that when he learned of the EGM following a telephone call to him in the Philippines, he cut short his holiday.

"I have no idea why Mr Kelly wants me off the board. But we shall have to wait and see what happens on Monday," he said. Since joining the board, he has pumped nearly £20,000 into the club, which included the buying of his share allocation.

Chairman Kelly refused to make any comment when approached today. "It's strictly boardroom business," he said.

Boardroom Supremacy Not Resolved

The battle for supremacy in the Manor Park boardroom was not resolved at last night's extraordinary general meeting. Nuneaton Borough shareholders rejected a call from chairman Noel Kelly to remove fellow director Joe Shooter from the board.

At the meeting, held in the club's vice-president's lounge, Mr Kelly failed to get his resolution put to a vote despite several attempts to do so. Instead, the 21 shareholders present decided that the directors must sort out the problem themselves – in the boardroom.

The bitter wrangling could come to an end tonight when the directors meet at Coventry Industrial Pipework offices for a hastily convened board meeting.

The members heard Mr Kelly say that there was a split in the board and that for the benefit of the club the situation must be resolved – and quickly.

He said that vice chairman Mr Shooter, who only joined the Manor Park board in October, was after his job as chairman. "Mr Shooter asked a couple of months ago whether or not I would like to stand down and since then he has been amassing shares," claimed the chairman.

"He bought 10,000 from Sean Gallagher to match the amount he purchased when he became a director and he was obviously planning a coup. After 12 years at the club I was not

going to hand over to a virtual stranger and there is no way that we can operate together with that sort of thing going on," he added.

Mr Shooter, a wealthy businessman based in Coventry, claimed that the chairman had attempted to hold the meeting to get rid of him while he was out of the country.

"It was common knowledge that I would be in the Philippines for five weeks and that I would not be returning to this country until January 20," he said.

"Yet he called the meeting just the same and it was left to a supporter of the club to get a message to me so that I could get an earlier flight back and attempt to fight off the move."

The vice-chairman confirmed that in seven weeks since joining the board he has paid out £17,500 for shares and that he had contributed another £1,000 towards paying a tax distraint.

Shareholder Mr Norman Peckett, managing director of Watling Publications, said that he had been hoping to hear something constructive from the board of directors but all that had been forthcoming was a load of trivial nonsense.

"The board of Nuneaton Borough Football Club has always made appointments – as it should do – without seeking any approval from us," he said. "This business has nothing to do with the shareholders – it is a boardroom matter. There should be a vote among the directors and action should then be taken on that vote," he added.

Shareholders Asked To Vote Again

The boardroom power battle at Nuneaton Borough took an amazing new turn last night when directors voted to ask shareholders to decide on the future of vice-chairman Joe Shooter for the second time in a month. Only 24 hours after shareholders had ordered the directors to sort out the problems between Mr Shooter and chairman Noel Kelly in the boardroom the decision on whether the vice-chairman should remain with the club has been thrown back at them.

Today Mr Kelly refused to comment on the outcome of last night's hour-long emergency board meeting in Coventry which was expected to end the row which has split the club. All he would say is that a letter is being sent out to shareholders today updating them on the situation.

It is believed that the letter contains one month's notice of another extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at 10am on February 18.

It is expected that the same resolution rejected at Monday's EGM – to have Mr Shooter removed from the board – will be put before next month's meeting.

"The shareholders will be notified of what happened at the meeting. The directors had a very sensible chat about the situation," said Mr Kelly. "The thing will be resolved one way or the other but I am not going to let it interfere with the running of the club," he added.

The move to call an action replay of Monday night's EGM has angered Mr Shooter, who was present at last night's board meeting. "It is an incredible situation," he said today. "I am taking legal advice as the meeting is being proposed in exactly the same way as before. I disputed it then and I will continue to dispute it.

"I have only been with the club a short time and things seem to be happening very fast. It is incredible," he added. The bitter wrangling between the two businessmen began last month when Mr Kelly accused his vice-chairman of trying to take his job. He based his accusation on a deal which saw Mr Shooter buy 10,000 shares from fellow director Sean Gallagher.

Mr Shooter hit back by denying he had been planning a takeover and claimed that Mr Kelly had tried to arrange an EGM to force him off the board when he knew he would be out of the country. "I would not like to speculate on what the outcome of next month's meeting will be," said Mr Shooter.

"But I would like to thank the shareholders and the fans for the support they have given me in this matter. It has been quite overwhelming and a great help."

"I was asked to resign and refused and to be frank I feel I now owe it to the supporters to stay on," he added.



Before the split . . . chairman Noel Kelly welcomes vice-chairman Joe Shooter to Manor Park last October. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

An Open Letter To Noel Kelly

As a Borough supporter of many years standing, I find it inconceivable that now we have a director with more than a little business acumen, the first thing, you, our erstwhile chairman attempts to do is to remove him from the board.

Surely the problems facing the Borough require the undoubted talents of people like Mr Shooter, who have the interests of the club at heart, and are willing to devote time and money to restore our side to a position consistent with its proud history.

Mr Kelly, you would do well to remember that it needs a team to run a team, and one man does not make a team. As a supporter I feel that you should welcome all the help you can get in the difficult times facing our club.

You are quoted as saying Mr Shooter wants your job, then perhaps he, like many of us, have read your many statements in the press, that if anyone should show interest in taking over the club, you would be willing to stand down.

C. MORGAN, Ansley Common

Dear Editor

Could Mr Noel Kelly tell us what is happening at Nuneaton Borough Football Club. He now wants to get Mr Joe Shooter off the board of directors.

This man has put £10,000 into the club in the short time he has been there as well as buying another director out. Mr Kelly and his directors must have agreed to this, yet he accuses Mr Shooter of amassing shares to gain control. Why didn't he and his so called board object to this?

I have heard there was a crisis again at the club in November as regards VAT of which Mr Shooter paid £1,000 out of his own pocket. I did not see Mr Kelly object to him doing that.

We have had some good directors at this club over the years and many seem to disappear in a short time. And now Mr Kelly wants to get rid of another good one.

There is another thing I would like to know and that is why can rules be made which cannot be broken by shareholders, namely the voting by proxy. There was nothing on the letter I saw which stated 48 hours notice must be given.

The director who sold out was allowed to stay on the board against the rules of the club. Come on Mr Kelly lets have rules for both sides and lets have some fair play.

The board has had two meetings to get Mr Shooter out and they have failed. Mr Kelly has called a meeting of shareholders to pass the buck to them and they have quite rightly passed the buck back.

I see Mr Kelly has admitted it was wrong to call in the shareholders and he also stated it was board room business and must be thrashed out in the board room. Then he calls another meeting of shareholders for February, to be held at 10am of all times. Of course he knows most of the shareholders are working men and will not be able to get to this meeting.

Come on Mr Kelly, fix a reasonable time for this meeting to allow all your members to get there and make it fair.

The last thing I want to say to you Mr Kelly is: only you and two of your so called board of directors want to get rid of Mr Shooter, no one else wants him off and the buck is passed to you three.

I appeal to the board for the sake of Nuneaton Borough Football Club to realise this club is bigger than any one man.

Get your heads together and in particular the two instigators of the move to get Mr Shooter out, to do some work for the club. If they only do half as much as Mr Shooter has done during his short stay, I will be happy.

A SUPPORTER OF 57 YEARS (name and address supplied)

Borough Social Club Robbed Again

Cash and property worth thousands of pounds was stolen during the night from Nuneaton Borough FC Social Club. But the burglars left behind tell-tale clues – footprints. It is the latest blow for hard-up Borough and chairman Noel Kelly said it could not have come at a worse time. The raiders cut telephone wires before smashing a large plate glass window at the front of the building to gain entry. They then went on the rampage.

Takings of at least £2,500 were stolen from a safe, along with £120 in wages for club steward John Richmond. Cigarette and gaming machines came under attack and a sickened Mr Richmond – steward for ten months – was this afternoon still trying to assess the total amount of cash and cigarettes stolen.

Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 31-01-1987

Kidderminster: Arnold, Pearson, Collins, Boxall, Brazier, Hazelwood, Mackenzie, Casey, Davies, Tuohy (Canning 72), O'Dowd. **Sub:** Woodall.

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Fearn, Bradley, Moss, Murphy, Hendry (Reay 45), Johnson (Gregory 79).

Borough made the journey to Aggborough to face Kidderminster Harriers in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough slumped into the relegation zone after a particularly poor display, failing to get a shot on target in the entire 90 minutes. In contrast Kidderminster's forward trio of Kim Casey, Paul Davies and Mick Tuohy tormented the Borough defence on numerous occasions.

The visitors made a shaky start, and with only three minutes gone, Thurman was hurried into a mistake by Casey – the Borough defender only just cleared his own crossbar with an attempted pass back. In the 12th minute Thurman almost put Borough in trouble again when he headed Hazelwood's pass into the path of Casey, who fortunately shot over. Mackenzie then shot over the top.

Kidderminster continued to pressurise the Borough defence and Dixey was guilty of obstructing Casey inside the area, but Casey's shot was deflected over. The same player shot over from the corner kick. Corder denied Casey with a tremendous save before the quicksilver Kidderminster forward finally broke the deadlock after 29 minutes. Davies and Tuohy created the opening with a smart interchange and Casey skipped around a defender before firing past Corder for his 38th goal of the season.

Hendry was replaced at the interval by Simon Reay, and Borough at last began to venture into the Kidderminster half. Peter Bradley sent a deep cross to the far post, but Moss' header lacked power and direction and drifted

wide. Adrian O'Dowd then made space for himself on the edge of the Borough area and put in a shot that flashed wide. Kidderminster began to exert more pressure on their opponents' defence, and their dominance finally paid off with a second goal in the 72nd minute.

A minute earlier, Hazelwood's shot had been blocked by Corder and from the resulting flag kick, Tuohy headed against the underside of the bar. As the ball came back out, full-back Collins drove in a low cross which Gibson put out for a corner. In their next attack, Tuohy made it 2-0 – climbing unchallenged to head in Hazelwood's cross at the far post.

Borough's wafer-thin back line was split wide open again in the 73rd minute, and Casey curled a powerful drive past Corder's left hand upright. Ade Gregory was introduced with 11 minutes left at the expense of Gary Johnson, but his arrival failed to spark a dramatic comeback and instead Kidderminster made absolutely sure of the points by snatching a third goal. Hazelwood was involved again – touching it back for O'Dowd, whose shot bobbled past Corder and in off the far post.

Borough Sign Alan Ricketts

Striker Alan Ricketts will lead the Nuneaton Borough attack against Barnet. The Wellingborough centre-forward has agreed terms with manager Jimmy Holmes. Ricketts, a six-footer, was on trial with Peterborough United when Holmes was assistant manager and made a big impression.



Alan Ricketts, Borough's latest signing puts pen to paper watched by chairman Noel Kelly, manager Jimmy Holmes and secretary Keith Allen.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Barnet

07-02-1987

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Fearn, Bradley, Moss (Gregory 60), Morrison (Reay 60), Ricketts, Murphy.

Barnet: Humphries, Brown, Cox, Millett, Beattie, Codner, Stein, Margerrison, Roberts, Evans, Alexander (Angre 78). **Sub:** Hoddle.

Borough welcomed Barnet to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough were ruthlessly exposed by title-chasing Barnet, crashing to another comprehensive defeat. Borough are now firmly entrenched in the bottom three and on this showing will find themselves hard pushed to hang onto their place in the top flight. Barnet showed just why they are favourites to land the championship as they swept into an unassailable 3-0 lead inside the first half an hour.

Gary Roberts and Nicky Evans (2) underlined Borough's defensive frailties with goals of clinical simplicity that literally ended the match as a contest. Nuneaton did show a big improvement after the break and leading scorer Frank Murphy reduced the deficit with the best goal of the game midway through the half.

Borough had new signing Alan Ricketts partnering Lance Morrison up front and made a bright start as the visitors took time to settle, but Graham Fearn wasted a promising situation with a wild free-kick high over the bar. Paul Moss cut into the box and fired high over the angle before Barnet took the lead after 12 minutes. They forced two corners in quick succession, and from the second, taken by Robert Codner, Keith Alexander flicked on at the near post and Roberts was unmarked as he hooked the ball home from close range.

Five minutes later it was 2-0 as Margerrison found Evans and the striker made no mistake as he cut into the box and drilled a low shot past Corder and into the far corner. Nuneaton retaliated and Fearn was inches wide of the far post with a left-footer after Murphy had created the opening. But Borough had a fortunate escape when Roberts had a header blocked and Peter Bradley hooked the ball away from Alexander as the Barnet man looked certain to score.



Frank Murphy slips past Edwin Stein, but Kevin Millett is waiting and another attack comes to nothing.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But Barnet put the issue beyond doubt after 29 minutes when they got a third goal. Margerrison swung a right-wing corner into the near post, Alexander again flicked it on, and Evans was left with a simple task of heading past Corder. Mick Thurman was booked for bringing down Roberts as he burst through and Borough ended the half looking a bedraggled outfit.

Borough made a bright start to the second half and came more into the picture, but that was probably because Barnet were content to sit back on their lead. On the hour Holmes made a double substitution bringing on Simon Reay and Ade Gregory for Moss and Morrison and five minutes later Borough reduced the arrears. Murphy was brought down by Andy Beattie and Fearn touched the free-kick to the little Scot who had Humphries clawing at thin air with a cracking 20 yard drive into the top corner.

Alexander turned well in the box to lose Everton Carr and Corder had to be alert to cut out a fierce drive from the big striker. Carr became the second player to be booked for a foul on Roberts and then Edwin Stein set up a chance that Roberts wasted with a weak shot wide of the target.

Shareholders Protest At Meeting Time

Another major row is breaking out at Nuneaton Borough as the boardroom power struggle heads towards a showdown meeting next week. Many shareholders are up in arms about the timing of Wednesday's extraordinary general meeting called by chairman Noel Kelly which is set to go ahead at 10.00 am and is aimed at removing vice-chairman Joe Shooter from the board of directors.

Mr Kelly called the EGM, the second in the past month, despite the fact that the shareholders decided at the first meeting that the affair should be sorted out at boardroom level. More than 60 per cent have signed a petition calling for the timing of the meeting to be changed to something more convenient, either in the early evening or a Sunday morning.

A spokesman for the shareholders said today: "The bulk of the minor shareholders will find it difficult to attend the meeting mainly through work commitments. However, should they take time off to attend obviously it is going to cost them financially.

"Surely it would be in the best interests of all concerned to start at 7.00 pm, as at the first meeting, rather than 10.00 am, which to my mind is ridiculous," he added.

"The shareholders had the chance to air their views at the first meeting so there is no reason why they cannot send in a proxy vote this time if they have other commitments," he said.

"Every attempt was made to stop the last meeting when a decision should have been made and in the end certain people, who are trying to disrupt the club, turned things into chaos. Hopefully things will go a lot smoother this time and we will be able to sort things out and get back to the main aim of making Nuneaton Borough a successful club again," added Kelly.

Shooter Takes Control Of Club

A shock new move in the boardroom power struggle at Nuneaton Borough has seen vice-chairman Joe Shooter take control of the club. In the High Court in London yesterday Mr Shooter successfully gained injunctions ordering the suspension of chairman Noel Kelly and directors Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley.

The court's ruling also meant that Mr Shooter took over as acting chairman of the club from 5pm yesterday. Tomorrow's extraordinary general meeting – the second in a month at Manor Park – will still go ahead but the High Court has ruled that the three suspended men can only vote on a resolution to adjourn the meeting.

The three men were being served with their injunctions this morning and they have been told they will be able to contest the decision in the High Court next Monday. "This is the last thing I wanted to do especially with an important FA Trophy game facing the side tonight, but I was left with no alternative," Mr Shooter said today.

Mr Kelly had no knowledge of the injunction this morning, but he was clearly disturbed by this new turn. "I don't know what Mr Shooter has got in mind but he is obviously desperate. This row is dragging the club to its knees. Mr Shooter should have gone after the last EGM but he has been allowed to carry on and cause more problems," Mr Kelly added.

The suspended chairman said that he intended to consult his solicitor as soon as he received a copy of the injunction.

"I am not concerned about Mr Shooter, I am concerned about Nuneaton Borough FC. One day people will wake up to find the club gone but they will not be able to blame me. I can see the club getting into serious trouble," said Mr Kelly.

The suspensions are the latest twist in a saga which has dogged the club since December. The row began when Mr Kelly accused Mr Shooter of trying to take over as chairman of the club. He based his accusation on a deal which saw Mr Shooter obtain 10,000 shares from fellow director Sean Gallagher.

Mr Shooter hit back by denying he was planning a takeover and claiming that Mr Kelly had tried to arrange an EGM to force him off the board when he knew he would be out of the country. The first EGM, on January 19, ended with the club's shareholders ordering the board to settle the wrangle.

But just 24 hours later the board threw the question back at shareholders by calling a second EGM – to be held at 10 am tomorrow. Both Mr Kelly and Mr Shooter have expressed considerable regret about the effect the affair has had on the club. Mr Shooter said: "I deeply regret the effects of the past couple of months on the staff, particularly Keith Allen who has done an excellent job for the club in very trying circumstances.

"He has only been connected with Nuneaton Borough for a short time but he has conducted himself with considerable dignity."

Rivals Square Up



Now look here . . . suspended Borough chairman Noel Kelly squares up to vice-chairman Joe Shooter at Manor Park yesterday before the team coach left for the trip to Blyth. The two men confronted each other again this morning at the second extraordinary general meeting at the club but again the outcome was inconclusive. The meeting was adjourned sine die after a vote by shareholders.

It had been called by Mr Kelly with the intention of removing Mr Shooter from the board of directors.

Mr Kelly told the meeting that despite that High Court action that had seen himself and two other directors – Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley, suspended, he still considered himself chairman of Nuneaton Borough, albeit with his hands tied. His statement was backed up by the company solicitor Mr Mike Holbrooks, he said.

But Mr Shooter said his interpretation of the injunction gained from the High Court was different and he would be seeking further legal advice.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Dagenham

21-02-1987

Borough: Corder, Carr (Fearn 73), Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Ricketts, Murphy, Morrison, Ward, Gregory. Sub: Moss.

Dagenham: Williams, Holmes (Crumpton 77), Reeves, Risk, Bissett, Coles, Taylor, Goyette (Thrift 66), Lansdowne, Pearce, Scott.

Borough welcomed Dagenham to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Struggling Borough failed to ease their relegation worries as they had to settle for a point after tossing away a two-goal lead in the dying stages of the game. With just two minutes of



normal time remaining Nuneaton were 3-1 ahead and looked certain to collect their first league victory since November 29. But the visitors snatched two goals at the death, the second one coming deep into injury time, to poach a point that never really looked possible.

Holmes made two changes from midweek with Corder returning in goal, and Ricketts being preferred to Paul Moss. There was an early moment of anxiety for Nuneaton when a snap-shot from Frank Coles had Corder hurrying across his line to scramble the ball away for a corner. Corder was in action again shortly after when he had to twist in mid-air to turn a deflection by Richard Dixey over the top.

The Dagenham pressure had to tell and it paid off after six minutes when, from yet another corner, Ricketts only cleared to the edge of the penalty area and Goyette's left foot volley flew into the top corner of the net. But three minutes later Borough were level with a superb goal from Morrison. A neat move down the right found Everton Carr in a bit of space and the big centre-forward was perfectly positioned to sweep the centre past Darren Williams. Corder then did well to cut out a cross from Nicky Bissett with Pearce boring in, while at the other end, Ade Gregory fired a volley a foot over the top after Morrison and Carr had again combined well.

Borough had another let-off at the start of the second half when they failed to clear a left-wing corner and a hectic goalmouth scramble followed, but the ball ended up safely in Corder's arms. However, five minutes after the restart Borough went in front. Dave Ward floated a free-kick into the penalty area, Ricketts headed it across goal and Murphy scored from close range.

Nuneaton had a scare when the ball was deflected onto a post, but Bradley hooked the ball clear. Then midway through the half Borough increased their lead with a goal superbly set up by Bradley. The little midfielder beat three men in a mazy dribble before slipping the ball to Ricketts who picked his spot to beat Williams with a low shot into the far corner.

Borough looked well set for a win, but with two minutes remaining Dagenham cut the arrears when Borough's defence got into a tangle from Billy Lansdowne's cross from out on the left and Pearce headed home from close range. Then with the game entering injury time Nuneaton had another escape when Lansdowne's shot beat Corder and smacked again the crossbar. However, Borough's luck didn't hold as with the game now in the third minute of stoppage time a terrific goalmouth scramble developed following a Steve Scott free-kick and Pearce was on hand to force the ball home from inside the six yard box.

Directors At High Court

Nuneaton Borough soccer players left Manor Park for one of their most important matches of the season . . . while the club chairman and vice-chairman, involved in a boardroom power struggle, were at the High Court in London.

Suspended chairman Noel Kelly and vice-chairman Joe Shooter enmeshed in a bitter controversy over the control of the soccer club, were appearing before a judge in the Chancery Division of the Companies Court.

It follows last week's move in which Mr Shooter successfully obtained an injunction against Mr Kelly, who was temporarily suspended as chairman.

On Saturday Mr Kelly and fellow suspended director Sean Gallagher stood on the terraces during Nuneaton Borough's 3-3 draw with Dagenham. Mr Shooter took his place in the directors' box. After the game there were heated words exchanged between Mr Kelly and a number of club officials.

Mr Kelly has accused Mr Shooter of staging a takeover bid. But this has been denied by Mr Shooter, who joined the board in November. Meanwhile, as the bitter wrangle continued today the Borough players were on their way to Blyth where they play a FA Trophy third round, second replay. If Borough win they are just three matches away from an appearance at Wembley.

Kelly Waits On High Court Verdict

Suspended Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly will have to wait another three weeks before a High Court judge decides whether he can remain in charge at Manor Park. His bitter row with vice-chairman Joe Shooter was taken to the High Court in London yesterday where Mr Justice Vinelott adjourned the hearing until March 16, after accepting undertakings from Mr Kelly relating to the club's ground and social club.

It is understood that Mr Kelly has agreed to share the responsibility for paying creditors and players wages with Mr Shooter while club director Mr Ted Kay has agreed to supervise the banking of all monies from the ground and social club. Mr Shooter has already pledged to make sure that the players are paid over the next three weeks.

"As far as I am concerned the situation remains unchanged although I have had to make some concessions for the benefit of the club," Mr Kelly said today. "The club must now come first. There will be no more silly board meetings. The directors will now get on with the job of preparing for some very attractive home games over the next few weeks."

Immediately after yesterday's High Court hearing Mr Kelly and Mr Shooter made their way to Blyth for the FA Trophy replay – Mr Kelly travelling up by train and Mr Shooter by plane. It is believed that Mr Shooter last night contacted shareholder Mr Hughie Todner, chief executive of East Mercia Co-op asking him to take over as the club's company secretary – a position from which Mr Kelly is also currently suspended.

It is understood Mr Kelly objected to his appointment. "I was prepared to take on the job. I would have been totally independent in the dispute between Mr Kelly and Mr Shooter. The problem at the moment is that the club doesn't have a company secretary which is obviously needed for the day to day running of things.



“I would help the club in any way I can but I am not getting involved in arguments or personalities,” Mr Todner added.

Mr Shooter said today that he would do everything in his power to make sure the club functioned as normal over the next three weeks. “The players will be paid. I will not have them used as pawns,” he said. Mr Kelly said he was looking forward to the next High Court hearing when he will be given a chance to present a full defence.

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 28-02-1987

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Fearn, Moss, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. **Subs:** Bateman, Gregory.

Altrincham: Wealands, Lee, Edwards, Cuddy, Fraser, Farrelly (Bishop 81), Ellis, Timmons (Reid 80), Stewart, Jones, Anderson.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Lance Morrison’s goal midway through the second half was enough to earn Borough a vital point. With 20 minutes to go Borough were trailing 2-1 and it looked odds on them being well on their way to yet another disappointing defeat.

Both teams made a lively start and Robins’ keeper Wealands had to react swiftly in the first minute to snatch the ball away from Ricketts after a piercing through pass from Fearn. But Nuneaton, desperate for points, got just the start they were looking for with a goal after only four minutes. Richard Dixey’s free kick found Moss in space on the left and his centre was bundled in at the far post by Ricketts for his second goal in three games.

Six minutes later Gary Stewart headed home Mike Farrelly’s free-kick, but Fraser was adjudged to have fouled Starkey and the effort was disallowed. Altrincham were coming more into the picture and Starkey had to produce a smart save to keep out a shot from Ronnie Ellis after Timmons had created the opening. Borough were in trouble when Starkey failed to hold Andy Lee’s shot, but Timmons played the ball behind Anderson and the ball was hooked clear.

Ricketts was causing problems for the visitors and headed a couple of feet wide at the far post before Wealands collected Everton Carr’s low centre, with Ricketts boring in on him.

Three minutes into the second half Altrincham drew level. Starkey made a magnificent double save, first from Timmons and then Fraser, but from the resulting corner, Stewart flicked the ball on at the near post and Fraser headed home from close range.

Four minutes later Borough were 2-1 down following the best goal seen at Manor Park for a long time. Stewart headed a long clearance by Wealands and Timmons, out in the right hand corner of the penalty area, rifled a stunning volley into the far top corner of the net. Ricketts then went into the book for a foul on Cuddy before Starkey was again in action, blocking a Stewart shot and denying Timmons from the rebound.

Timmons, doubtful before the game with a damaged hamstring, had a recurrence of the problem and promptly came off to be replaced by Paul Reid. Dixey became the second Nuneaton player to go into the book after bringing down Stewart before Borough snatched a late draw.

Paul Moss got in a long, looping header from Graham Fearn’s free-kick, visiting goalkeeper Jeff Wealands misjudged it and as the ball came back off the crossbar Morrison volleyed the ball into the roof of the net.

Kelly Faces Contempt Action

Fresh legal moves are to be made next week against Nuneaton Borough Football Club’s suspended chairman Noel Kelly, who is locked in a bitter power struggle at Manor Park. Acting chairman Joe Shooter said this afternoon that contempt of court proceedings were being considered by his solicitor following a High Court judge’s ruling that Mr Kelly should be suspended until March 16 – the date fixed for the next hearing – of taking an active role as a director.

In a newspaper article this week Mr Kelly said that he had no intention of standing down and “that in the meantime it is status quo,” at Manor Park.

But Mr Shooter said: “That is certainly not how we see the position. There was no ‘status quo’ agreement with Mr Kelly.

“In fact I gave the High Court judge an undertaking that the club would be run smoothly over the next three weeks.”

Under the injunction taken out by Mr Shooter, Mr Kelly has been ordered to hand over all statutory books and books of accounts to solicitors.

Along with fellow directors Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley he is also restrained from exercising or purporting to exercise any power as a director.

The bitter feud between board members blew up at the end of last year when Mr Kelly attempted to oust Mr Shooter as vice-chairman. Shareholders failed to back Mr Kelly at two extraordinary general meetings and then Mr Shooter took out a High Court injunction

Shepshed Charterhouse v Nuneaton Boro’ 31-01-1987

Borough: Chamberlain, Reay, Johnson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Shearer, Fearn, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. **Sub:** Stewart.

Borough made the journey to The Dovecote to face Shepshed Charterhouse in a M&B Cup match.

Borough were beaten by a Southern League Premier club for the second time in three days, losing 4-3 after twice taking the lead. Nuneaton took the lead in the tenth minute. Paul Bradley played a short pass inside for Lance Morrison to shoot under the diving home keeper, Gary Ingham. Within a minute the scores were level as Schofield beat Chamberlain at his near post from an opening created by Chapman.

David Bard restored the lead for Nuneaton in the 15th minute

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



with a superbly struck shot from fully 35 yards with Ingham powerless to save. During end to end play Paul Bradley, Morrison and Alan Ricketts combined cleverly with Shepshed defender Wayne Oxley forced to concede a corner. Ricketts' header from the kick looked a certain goal but Alan Lukasik cleared off the line.

Morrison burst through in the 38th minute but fired wide with only Ingham to beat. Shepshed equalised for the second time in the 43rd minute. Following a Doug Newton corner, Simon Woodhead's well struck shot left Chamberlain well beaten.

Ten minutes into the second half Ricketts broke through from Peter Shearer's pass but his close in shot was bravely blocked by Ingham. Play swept to the other end and Devon White converted a low cross from Woodhead to give Shepshed the lead for the first time in the cup tie. Almost straight from the restart Graham Fearn equalised. The former Shepshed player's well struck shot flew into the far corner of the net from 10 yards outside the penalty area past a bemused Ingham.

Midway through the second half Dave Ward shot wide from a good position, Shearer's header from Fearn's free-kick lacked sufficient power to trouble the keeper and in further Borough pressure a fierce shot by Bradley was deflected for a corner. Woodhead scored the winner with an overhead kick from close in with 12 minutes remaining.



Amid the confusion Paul Williams signs on a month's loan. He is watched by Joe Shooter (left), Keith Allen and manager Jimmy Holmes.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Shooter Pays Off Debt

Nuneaton Borough's vice-chairman Joe Shooter has paid £920 out of his own pocket to Kettering Town to ensure that the club can sign new players in a bid to avoid relegation. Kettering notified the GM Conference League that they

were owed the three figure sum following the transfer of their former winger Eddie McGoldrick from Borough to Northampton last August.

A letter was received by Borough secretary Keith Allen from the Conference which stated the club had ten days from March 2 to pay the debt otherwise Nuneaton would not be allowed to register any more players this season.

Nuneaton Borough v Runcorn

14-03-1987

Borough: Starkey, Williams, Gibson, Shearer (Johnson 44), Dixey, Bradley, Fearn, Ward, Reay (Morrison 21), Ricketts, Murphy.

Runcorn: Thornton, Byrne, McCarrick, Miller, Bishop, Smith, Davison, Imrie, Carter, Page, Hawkins. Subs: Mather, Barnett.

Borough welcomed Runcorn to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Paul Williams, signed on a month's loan from Preston North End, made a dramatic return to Manor Park. The big central defender got the all-important fifth minute goal to give Borough's relegation fight a shot in the arm.

Runcorn, who face a league fine for a late kick-off after being held up by a motorway accident, appeared to be still sorting themselves out when Borough went in front. The home side were awarded a free-kick wide on the right. Fearn floated it to the far post and Williams rose high to plant a superb header past Geoff Thornton. But the visitors roused themselves and they could have been level after 15 minutes. Mark Carter was clear inside the penalty area but he wanted too much time and Richard Dixey was able to recover and block the shot.



Geoff Thornton does superbly well to block Lance Morrison's close range effort, as the big striker looked certain to score.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough had to weather a spell of pressure before they hit back with Ricketts forcing a diving save from Thornton with a far post header after Bradley had whipped across a centre from the right. Murphy missed a glorious chance to increase Borough's lead when he was clean through with just the keeper to beat, but he lobbed the crossbar as well as the keeper from just six yards. Wayne Starkey turned over a shot from point blank range.

Ricketts flashed a header inches over the top from Dave Ward's corner as Borough made a bright start to the second period. But the home side were fortunate to hang on to their lead after 52 minutes when Kevin Hawkins beat Starkey with a shot from a narrow angle but to the relief of the Manor Park faithful the ball struck the base of a post and rebounded to safety. Four minutes later it was Nuneaton who were cursing their luck as Thornton produced a superb double save to keep Runcorn in the game.

Borough were denied a penalty when Murphy was pushed in the back by Tom Miller, using both hands, but unbelievably the appeal was turned down. Ossie Smith put a header a foot over the Nuneaton bar before Borough missed another chance to make the game safe. Ricketts flicked on a high ball to put Morrison free in the area. But as the big striker bore in on goal he seemed to be caught in two minds and played the ball square to Murphy, but the ball drifted out for a goal kick. Borough could well have been made to regret those misses as they were reduced to desperate defence in the closing stages as the visitors gambled on everything in an effort to salvage a point. The last ten minutes must have seemed like an eternity to Nuneaton fans and Starkey had to make two brave saves to deny both Carter and John Imrie as Borough hung on for a vital victory.

Kirk Back With Borough



Kirk Stephens has re-signed for Nuneaton Borough and will be in the side for tomorrow's GM Vauxhall Conference trip to Welling. The former Luton Town and Sky Blues defender, who was forced to quit the full-time game with a leg injury, signed the necessary forms at Manor Park last night.

Accountant To Run Manor Park?

Legal moves are being made to call in an accountant to administer the affairs of trouble-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club. An application to empower an administrator

to take control at Manor Park is likely to be heard in the High Court before Easter. Mr Justice Vinelott, sitting in London yesterday, ordered that the proceedings brought by vice-chairman Mr Joe Shooter, should be listed as soon as the evidence is ready.

This is the latest move in the boardroom power struggle at Nuneaton Borough where suspended chairman Noel Kelly and Mr Shooter are locked in a bitter battle for control of the GM Vauxhall Conference League club.

Mr Shooter is seeking an order for the appointment of Mr Frank Sims "to control and manage the affairs and property" of the club, pending the hearing of his petition to investigate the conduct and dealings of the directors.

His petition names Mr Kelly and his company Coventry Industrial Pipework Ltd., along with fellow directors Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley.

Welling United v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-1987

Borough: Starkey, Carr (Johnson 22), Gibson, Williams, Dixey, Fearn, Bradley, Stephens, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. Sub: Thurman.

Borough made the journey to Park View Road to face Welling United in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough edged themselves a step nearer safety with three precious points against their relegation rivals. Kirk Stephens, making his return to the Borough side, played an important part in their triumph, adding some much needed strength to the defence.

Welling were first to attack and Dixey was forced to concede a corner. Reynolds curled it in dangerously, but Abbott's header was straight at Starkey. Within seconds, however, at the other end, Borough surged into the lead. A good move involving Ward, Carr and Bradley panicked the Welling defence into giving away a corner, from which Borough took full advantage. Ward's ball in was helped on by Ricketts and Dixey powered a header into the roof of the net.

Welling pushed hard after the goal and Borough's defenders were called upon to make a number of timely interceptions. Roberts might have done better when presented with a chance by Robbins in the 20th minute, but his header lacked power and Starkey was able to gather easily. Three minutes later, Welling did find the net. Ransom's free kick was headed on by Abbott and Roberts fired home. Fortunately for Borough it was disallowed for offside.

Eight minutes from half-time Welling got the goal they had been threatening and it came as a result of a well-executed corner. Reynolds floated the ball in, Burgess climbed well at the near post and his flick found Robbins, who bundled it over the line. A neat one-two between Roberts and Reynolds two minutes later caused more anxiety in the visitors' defence, but from the return ball, Reynolds saw his effort flash the wrong side of the post

Borough went close at the start of the second-half when Fearn



played Gibson in on the left, and his driven centre across the face of goal was almost touched home by Ricketts. Fearn's free-kick after 60 minutes forced Smelt to save from Ricketts before Morrison won a free kick and Fearn again put in a good cross which was headed back across goal by Ricketts, but Morrison fired over the bar from in front of an empty net.

Borough made up for missed chances in the 71st minute, when Ricketts put them in front again. Ward headed the ball forward to Morrison, who in turn played it into the path of Ricketts, and he weathered the challenge of two Welling defenders before slipping it wide of Smelt. Morrison missed another gilt edged chance three minutes later. Ransom lost possession ten yards outside his own penalty area – Morrison tried to make the most of it, but Smelt saved his first effort and then was relieved to see the rebound fly high into the crowd.

Williams cleared a Ransom cross for a corner before Borough thought they had increased their lead, but Ricketts was adjudged to have impeded Ransom and the effort was ruled out. In a final flourish, Ward curled a free-kick just wide of the upright following a foul on Morrison on the edge of the box, and then right on the whistle, Bradley's low drive was saved by Smelt after an accurate crossfield pass by the hard-working Morrison.

Williams Recalled By Preston

Borough's hopes of avoiding relegation – boosted by two wins in the past week – took another jolt with the news that Paul Williams has been recalled by Preston North End. Sam Allardyce, the Fourth Division club's regular centre-half broke his jaw against Stockport in midweek and Williams has gone back to Deepdale.

Borough Settle VAT Bill

VAT bailiffs have been stopped from moving into trouble-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club after an 11th-hour settlement of an outstanding bill for nearly £3,500. The account was paid by vice-chairman Joe Shooter shortly before the bailiffs were set to strip the club of its floodlights, social club furnishings, and other property.

The VAT crisis is another chapter in the bitter feud at Manor Park where suspended chairman Noel Kelly and Mr Shooter are locked in a struggle for boardroom control.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 21-03-1987

Northwich: Ryan, Young, Thomson, Parker, Teale, Smith, Glendon, Gardner (Holden 72), Powell, Bennett, Blackhurst. **Sub:** Whitbread.

Borough: Starkey, Moss, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Fearn, Bradley, Stephens, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. **Sub:** Daniel.

Borough made the journey to The Drill Field to face Northwich Victoria in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough rounded off a splendid week by grabbing their third win in the space of eight days. And from the seemingly desperate position of second from bottom in the table, the nine points that have come from Borough's last three

matches have managed to stave off the immediate threat of relegation. Striker Lance Morrison was prominent throughout – scoring the first goal and doing much to set up Alan Ricketts for the winner near the end.

Northwich went close from the first attack when Jimmy Blackhurst's hanging cross to the far side found the head of Graham Bennett and his effort struck the outside of the post and bounced to safety. Borough soon warmed to their task, however, and Morrison shot them in front four minutes later. Graham Fearn took off on a surging run into the Northwich half before delivering the perfect centre for Ricketts, who headed it down into the path of Morrison and he hooked the ball past Ryan to give Borough the start they'd been hoping for.

Moss fired wide with only Ryan to beat as Borough proved themselves a tough proposition. Young almost put past his own keeper when he diverted a Willie Gibson cross towards the top corner of his own net, but Ryan managed to scramble the ball around the post.

Northwich began the second half in a much more positive mood and Blackhurst's jinking run ended with a shot which Starkey saved at the foot of the post. Starkey was called upon again in the 51st minute, saving one-handed from Thomson's fierce volley. The visitors stretched the home defence to the full in the 62nd minute as Bradley picked out Fearn with a well-weighted ball and the midfielder cut inside and curled a shot wide of the far post.

Rickett's header to the feet of Morrison was well shielded by the centre-forward enabling Fearn to get in a shot which Ryan could only parry. But the keeper blocked Morrison's follow-up effort. Borough had a fortunate escape in the 71st minute as Dixey misjudged a cross by Young allowing Bennett a clear sight of the goal. His first shot came back off Starkey, and the rebound was hacked off the line by Thurman.

Steve Holden, on as a substitute had an immediate effect, when seven minutes from time he grabbed the equaliser. Holden headed home a tantalising cross by Blackhurst at the far post. However, within seconds Borough were back in front. Morrison fought his way into the penalty area only to be denied a deserved second goal by the diving Ryan. Fortunately, Ricketts was following up and he collected the rebound to fire into the unguarded net.

Borough Set To Net £30,000

Delighted officials at Nuneaton Borough are set to receive a £30,000 cash windfall at the end of the season following the transfer of Richard Hill from Northampton to Watford for £235,000. When Borough sold Hill to the Cobblers in 1985 the deal included a clause which stated that the Manor Park club would receive 15 per cent of any future sale fee in excess of his original transfer fee of £17,000.

Borough officials were today waiting for copies of the transfer contract to come from the Football Association to see exactly how much they will gain from the deal.



Gateshead v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-1987

Gateshead: Smith, Doolan, Parnaby, Bell (Donaldson 71), Robson, Higgins, Hampson, Wardrobe, McNall, Lowe, Henderson. **Sub:** Steel.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Stephens, Cunningham, Gorman, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. **Subs:** Johnson, Bateman.

Borough made the journey to The International Stadium to face Gateshead in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough tossed away valuable points as their recent winning run was brought to an abrupt end. Substitute Ian Donaldson's goal in the dying minutes sent Borough crashing to their first league defeat in six games. The visitors paraded new signings Tommy Gorman and Mark Cunningham, but were without the influential Graham Fearn through injury.

Dixey had the ball in the net after five minutes, but it was ruled out for a foul on keeper Smith. Cunningham latched onto a ball by Bradley before shooting over, but two minutes later Borough were behind. Gorman was dispossessed by McNall on the edge of his own penalty area, and Starkey had little chance of stopping his crisp, powerful shot. Dixey's suicidal back pass let in Henderson and Starkey made a fine double save to thwart the front-runner. The keeper had to save again from McNall to prevent the home side extending their lead.

Borough drew level after 25 minutes when Dave Ward's corner saw the towering figure of Dixey climb highest to send a header past Smith and into the roof of the net.

The second half took a long while to warm up and it wasn't until 14 minutes that either side forced any pressure. Gateshead were the first to create an opportunity as Henderson delivered a cross that Starkey took at full stretch.

Gateshead introduced Donaldson in the 71st minute in place of midfielder Bell to give themselves extra fire power up front, and it wasn't long before the home side edged back into the lead. Lowe's effort from the edge of the box struck Starkey's right hand post – Henderson was quickest to react as it rebounded back into play, just managing to squeeze a shot between goalkeeper and post.

Borough rallied, however, and with ten minutes to go they carved out an equaliser. Ward's corner was helped on at the near post by Ricketts and Morrison dived in to head home from only a couple of yards out. Four minutes from time the visitors had a chance to snatch it. Good work by Cunningham released Ward just outside the penalty area and his crisp drive flew inches wide of the upright.

Instead, it was Gateshead who wrapped up all three points with a well constructed winner inside the last three minutes. Lowe released Henderson down the left, he crossed it into the danger zone and Donaldson got there first ahead of Dixey to fire past the stranded Starkey. Even then Borough had a chance to save the game when Cunningham played Ricketts clear, but no one was on the end of his cross, which was palmed away by Smith.

High Court Contempt Hearing

Noel Kelly, Nuneaton Borough Football Club's suspended chairman, is facing the possibility of a jail sentence, for alleged contempt of court. He has been summoned to appear before a High Court judge on Monday following allegations that he has broken an order which suspended him from his duties. This move is the latest chapter in the power struggle within the club after vice-chairman Joe Shooter took out an injunction against Mr Kelly.

Last month in the High Court Mr Kelly gave certain undertakings to Mr Justice Vinelott relating to the smooth running of the affairs at Manor Park. Legal moves are being made for an administrator to take over the club affairs. An application for accountant Mr Frank Sims to run the club is likely to be heard before Easter.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 28-03-1987

Borough: Starkey, Stephens, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Johnson, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. **Subs:** Gorman, Orton.

Northwich: Ryan, Young, Thomson, Parker, Teale, Smith, Glendon, Gardner, Reid, Bennett, Blackhurst. **Subs:** Holden, Emmerson.

Borough welcomed Northwich Victoria to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough's second defeat in four days has seen them plunge back into the relegation dog fight. Nuneaton had by far the greater share of possession and really they should have been able to sew up the points long before the end.

Both sides struggled to come to terms with the wind although Peter Bradley did give Vics' keeper Dave Ryan an early test with a shot from the edge of the box. Mick Thurman then had to react smartly to cut out a through ball intended for Kevin Glendon, while at the other end Lance Morrison's shot clipped the top of the Northwich bar.

The visitors then missed a chance to go in front when Thurman failed to cut out Phil Gardner's cross and Bennett headed wide from six yards. However, Northwich were fortunate to still be level after 15 minutes when Young cleared a header from Alan Ricketts off the line and Thurman fired the rebound high over the bar.

Borough were denied what appeared to be a perfectly good goal after 20 minutes. Ricketts glanced home a near post header from Dave Ward's right wing corner but referee John Godfrey indicated that there had been a foul on the goalkeeper. Cunningham fired past Ryan but his effort was ruled out for a handball offence. A flurry of activity from the visitors saw Reid have a first-time effort deflected wide and three corners in a row put pressure on Nuneaton before they finally cleared the danger.

Nuneaton were still having the lion's share of possession but they had a scare after 77 minutes when a 35 yard free-kick from Shaun Teale caught Starkey unawares. The ball hit a post and rebounded to Bennett who put it wide of a gaping

net from close range. Borough again had the ball in the net ten minutes from the end. Morrison and Cunningham both challenged for a Bradley centre, the ball ran to Ricketts who hooked it home but again it was ruled out.



Borough striker Alan Ricketts gets his head to Dave Ward's corner and the ball is on its way into the net, only for it to be disallowed by the referee for a foul on keeper Dave Ryan. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Five minutes later Borough were to regret not being able to turn all their possession into goals as Northwich stunned them by snatching the winner. Young got free on the right and his cross found Bennett completely unmarked in front of goal and he made no mistake with a simple close range header.

Borough pressed forward in a frantic effort to salvage a point but the damage had been done and the visitors comfortably held out for a vital victory.

Nuneaton Borough v Welling United 30-03-1987

Borough: W. Starkey, Johnson, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Gorman, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. Subs: Bateman, Orton.

Welling: Smelt, Sawyer, Lindsay, I. Starkey, Ransom, Burgess, White, Handford, Abbott, Roberts, Reynolds. Subs: Lemoine, Robbins.

Borough welcomed Welling United to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.

Borough's hopes of avoiding relegation took a nosedive with another dismal performance. Three defeats in a row have plunged them deep into trouble and they now have a mountain to climb.

Welling, looking for revenge following Borough's 2-1 success at Park View Road 12 days earlier, made a positive start and Wayne Starkey had to produce an excellent save to turn a close range shot from Tony Reynolds over the top. But Nuneaton hit back and Dave Ward fired a low centre across the face of the visitors' goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch and then Lee Smelt did well to punch clear under pressure from Alan Ricketts and Lance Morrison.

Starkey was again Borough's saviour as he blocked Gary

Abbott's drive after the striker had slipped the home defence. Mark Cunningham then brought a superb save from Smelt with a cracking cross-shot before Borough took the lead they were looking for.

Cunningham forced his way into the box where he was brought down by Ray Burgess and Ricketts made no mistake as he buried the spotkick into the roof of the net. Reynolds was then booked for a foul on Peter Bradley and four minutes later Welling were level. Mick Thurman needlessly gave away a corner and when Borough failed to clear the flag kick, Stuart White got possession on the left to curl in a centre that fell for Gary Roberts to force past Starkey.

Cunningham went close with an overhead kick just before the break and in the first minute of the second period he forced another good save from Smelt. Richard Dixey was booked following a challenge on Abbott and 13 minutes into the second half Borough fell behind to another goal of their own making. Ward lost possession in the centre circle and the ball was quickly knocked forward to Reynolds. He found White out on the right and his pinpoint centre left Abbott with the simple task of heading past Starkey from six yards.

With Borough desperate to get an equaliser they were leaving gaps at the back and Roberts missed a chance to put the issue beyond doubt, firing high over the top from close range after White had again set up the opening. Reynolds was sent off for his second bookable offence with just nine minutes remaining, but despite a late flourish from Borough, the visitors comfortably held on to take three vital points.

Borough Ordered To Close Stand

Trouble-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club has been ordered to close the ground's main stand after it was branded a "fire risk". Safety experts have ruled that the Manor Park stand must be shut down for the team's remaining two home games unless major repair work is carried out.

And today, after fire officers revealed the stand failed "structural, electrical and fire safety tests", anxious club officials have been appealing for help from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Borough Could Be Kicked Out Of Conference

A question mark hangs over the future of Nuneaton Borough today after shock news revealed the trouble-torn football club could be kicked out of the GM Vauxhall Conference. And if the ground's unsafe main stand is not renovated Borough could become football outcasts with only lower leagues accepting them.

Anxious club secretary Keith Allen today described Borough's unpredictable future as "extremely doubtful." He said: "If we cannot give the GM Vauxhall league positive plans or details of a new stand our future should we stay up, is obviously in serious jeopardy."

League rules say that every club "must have a stand seating

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



a minimum amount of people.” The ruling also extends to the Southern and West Midlands leagues. On Wednesday safety experts ordered Nuneaton Borough to close the ground’s main stand after it failed lengthy “structural, electrical and fire safety tests.”

The GM Vauxhall league is concerned with the crisis situation at Manor Park and has asked for more information. League secretary Peter Hunter spoke to Mr Allen on the telephone and issued four main requests:

- that the club contacts officials from Enfield and Stafford – Borough’s two remaining home fixtures – and apologise for the stand closure
- on April 11 two league officials will visit the ground for “re-grading”
- that the club provides the league with written information concerning the current power struggle between Mr Joe Shooter and Mr Noel Kelly
- that Mr Allen and the Borough chairman report to the league on May 7 for a crucial meeting with its management committee

It was also revealed that the league has received complaints over the Manor Park pitch and changing facilities by visiting clubs. “When we meet with the league in May we will be quizzed on the current situation. If we have no positive plans we could be out,” said Mr Allen.

Nuneaton Borough v Enfield

04-04-1987

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Gibson (Moss 89), Thurman, Dixey, Stephens, Bradley, Cunningham (Johnson 61), Morrison, Ward, Ricketts.

Enfield: Pape, Ironton (Furneaux 75), Hayzelden, Howell, Gray, Francis, Stacey (Flint 78), Duffield, Harding, Edmunds, King.

Borough welcomed Enfield to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference League match.



Striker Alan Ricketts slips the ball past Enfield keeper Andy Pape and into the empty net to put Borough 1-0 up. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough, just one place above the bottom three, desperately needed a victory to keep alive their hopes of avoiding the drop. And the five hundred Manor Park faithful, who braved the atrocious conditions, were fully rewarded as their favourites turned in a tremendous performance.

Nuneaton belied their lowly league position as they matched the Londoners in every department with a display full of aggression and commitment. They were full value for their win and if they can reproduce this form in their remaining four games there is every reason to believe that they can retain their place in the top flight.

Incessant rain throughout the day quickly turned the pitch into a quagmire with both sides struggling to master the conditions. The visitors missed a good chance to go in front after 11 minutes. Ricketts mis-kicked on the edge of his own penalty area, but Steve King fired high and wide with only Wayne Starkey to beat.

Hayzelden tested Starkey with a fierce shot from the edge of the area, and Starkey came to Borough’s rescue when he punched clear from Andy Edmunds. At this stage the visitors were looking the sharper side and Borough were finding it difficult to get going in attack. But five minutes before the interval Bradley hooked a shot wide of the left hand post as the home side began to step up the pace.



Following the closure of the stand, the weather could not have been worse and Nuneaton and Enfield officials and directors are forced to take shelter at the front of the stand as the rain lashes down.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough made a bright start to the second period with Ward freeing Gibson on the left, but Nicky Thornton got back to cut out the full back’s low centre. Then Borough swept ahead with a superb goal after 52 minutes. Stephens intercepted a Francis pass on the halfway line and made a strong run deep into Enfield territory, before picking out Ricketts with a fine crossfield ball. The big Nuneaton striker showed excellent control to chest the ball down and coolly flick past the advancing Andy Pape.

Nuneaton were bubbling now and Bradley freed Ricketts again, but this time he fired wide of the near post. Borough had a let-off when the visitors had a goal disallowed for offside. Ricketts then got up well to head down Carr’s cross for Bradley, but the midfielder failed to get any power in his shot and Pape gathered easily.

Enfield made a double substitution with Andy Flint and Mark Furneaux replacing Phil Stacey and Ironton, but with eight minutes to go Borough put the issue beyond doubt. Gray failed to find Pape with a back pass and Bradley intercepted to round the stranded keeper and slip the ball into an empty net.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Maidstone United v Nuneaton Borough 08-04-1987

Maidstone: Richardson, Donn, Hill, Pamphlett, Glover, White, Torrance, Sullivan, Galloway, Butler, Horston. Subs: Higginbottom, May.

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Johnson, Thurman, Dixey, Stephens, Bradley, Gorman (Gregory 56), Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. Sub: Holmes.

Borough made the journey to London Road to face Maidstone United in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough suffered their fourth defeat in five matches – a statistic that seems to have relegation written all over it. Butler threatened the Borough goal early on and had the ball in the net in the seventh minute, but it was disallowed. Good football was difficult on the heavy pitch and chances were few and far between. Borough offered little in attack, but Maidstone defender Pamphlett almost presented them with the lead in the 25th minute. Peter Bradley knocked the ball forward in the direction of Lance Morrison, but Pamphlett got there first and it needed a leap by Richardson to prevent the ball sailing over his head and into the net.

Nine minutes before half-time Maidstone managed to break the deadlock, and it was the skill and pace of Butler that destroyed Borough's defence. Thurman misjudged the flight of a long ball by Donn, Butler collected it, rode a tackle from Dixey and then accelerated forward before driving a low shot into the corner of the net to notch his 32nd goal of the season. Right on half-time Borough had the opportunity to snatch an equaliser as Alan Ricketts won a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area. Stephens' effort, however, whistled inches past the post.

The first action of the second half involved the introduction of Ade Gregory as a substitute for Tommy Gorman. Two minutes later Maidstone thought they'd increased their lead but Galloway's joy was short-lived as his effort was ruled out for a foul on Starkey. In the 61st minute Butler tormented the Borough defence again – leaving both Dixey and Thurman for dead – but Galloway failed to take full advantage with a shot that flashed harmlessly wide.

With 20 minutes to go Starkey was Borough's hero, making the save of the match. Gregory felled Sullivan inside the box and the referee awarded a penalty. Butler stepped up and fired the ball low and hard to Starkey's left, but the keeper got down superbly to pull off a magnificent stop.

Borough at last began to find some form up front in the final 15 minutes and Ricketts hit a 25-yard free-kick that was deflected only inches wide of Richardson's far post. With ten minutes remaining, Galloway's header flew a yard over, but then Borough were delivered the cruellest blow of all when Ward picked out Stephens, whose shot bobbed past Richardson and hit the base of the post.

Maidstone broke away immediately and killed the game off by snatching a second goal. Butler delivered the perfect cross for Galloway, whose header was tipped onto the post by Starkey and the ball rolled along the goal line for Dean White to provide the finishing touch.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 11-04-1987

Borough: Starkey, E. Carr, Gregory, G. Johnson, Dixey, Bradley, Fearn, Stephens, Morrison (Reay 64), Ward, Ricketts. Sub: Moss.

Stafford: Bowling, Wood, Upton, Beech, Titley, Ridley, Perry, Evans, Gordon, Simpson, Wharton. Subs: P. Carr, Johnson.

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough, desperately needing a win to give themselves a realistic chance of avoiding the drop, failed to rise to the occasion in their last home game of the campaign. They never really pressurised the visitors, who are not having the best of seasons themselves, and in the end they had to be satisfied with a point.

Borough faced the near gale-force wind in the first half and during the early exchanges they found it difficult to get out of their own half. But Nuneaton carved out the first glimmer of a chance when Alan Ricketts turned neatly past Phil Titley into the penalty area. However, Fraser Wood produced a saving tackle before the striker could get in a shot.

Borough missed a great chance to go in front after 18 minutes. Peter Bradley freed Carr on the right and from the full-back's centre Lance Morrison had a free header but he put his effort over the top from inside the six yards box. Both sides were struggling to come to terms with the conditions and chances were few and far between.

Nuneaton started the second half in a more determined mood and with the wind now at their backs pressed Stafford back. Fearn had a shot from the edge of the box that Ian Bowling failed to hold and was eventually scrambled away by Titley, and then Dave Ward shot over from 20 yards.



Peter Bradley is at full-stretch, but he is crowded out by Paul Upton and keeper Ian Bowling.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The home side were enjoying a greater share of the play than before the break but they were unable to create much in the



way of openings. Carr curled an effort just wide of the angle but with 13 minutes left Borough had a let-off. Perry crossed from the left to the unmarked Tony Evans, who headed wide with on the keeper to beat.

Ricketts got up well to Fearn's 82nd minute free-kick, but his header flew a couple of feet wide of the far post – and that was to be Nuneaton's last chance.

High Court Proceedings Adjourned

High Court proceedings to jail Nuneaton Borough Football Club's suspended chairman Noel Kelly for allegedly breaking his undertaking not to hold himself out as a director of the club have again been adjourned.

Yesterday Mr Justice Vinelott adjourned the hearing until the week beginning May 18 after counsel said the case would last "in excess of two hours."

Applications to commit Mr Kelly have been brought by Mr Joe Shooter, the club's vice-chairman. Mr Shooter is seeking the appointment of a financial controller for the club, pending a hearing of his petition to investigate the conduct and dealings of the directors.

Let Us Know The State Of The Borough

Dear Editor

I would like to know what is going on at Nuneaton Borough Football Club and I would like Mr Joe Shooter to call a meeting at the Borough Social Club of all Nuneaton Borough supporters and all shareholders and the remaining directors. Please, Mr Shooter, let us hear the true state of the football club and what future plans you have for Nuneaton Borough – it has been a long time since we heard the true facts and up until you came on the board all I could see was doom at the end of this season. In fact I very much doubt if we should have seen the season out.

I would like to thank you for saving our football club and giving me the pleasure of seeing my team play football at Manor Park. You saved it by getting the floodlights repaired, then by paying the VAT and stopping the bailiffs from taking our few possessions.

The main stand has been a disgrace for the last five years, everyone knew about it, but nothing was done. It was only allowed to decay and become a fire hazard. I have heard a rumour that a new stand will be built shortly – if this is true I must thank you again, but I don't see how you can be expected to keep forking all this money out, so I am calling to Nuneaton people and all true supporters to help out.

This is one reason I am asking you to call a meeting, we could help you out in many ways. One proposal I have in mind is for sponsorship of seats in the new stand at £50 a seat, this can be paid in instalments of say £2 per week for those who cannot afford £50 down.

My wife and I will be the first two to sponsor a seat each and I know of quite a few more who would do the same. I would

like to sponsor a few more seats, but I am only a working man. But here's to meeting you at a future meeting at the Borough Social Club where I will make myself known. Once again thank you and wishing you all the success in the future.

TRUE AND DEDICATED SUPPORTER
Name and address supplied

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough

20-04-1987

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Holmes (Gregory 62), Thurman, Johnson, Stephens, Bradley, Cunningham, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. Sub: Moss.

Borough made the journey to Twerton Park to face Bath City in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough's relegation fears have all but disappeared following an excellent victory. After leading 3-0 for most of the match, Borough came close to slipping up – allowing Bath to pull two goals back in the closing minutes – making the final scoreline far closer than it should have been. The only side who can prevent Borough from staying up is Welling and they must win both of their remaining matches.

Both sides took time to settle, and it was 12 minutes before either goalkeeper got a taste of the action. Bath's full-back Palmer tested Wayne Starkey with a shot from inside the box and a shot on the turn from Bodin was saved by the Borough keeper who got down quickly. In the 24th minute Borough surged ahead with virtually their first shot on target. A throw-in by Everton Carr was flicked on at the near post by Ricketts and Morrison hammered it home from close range.

Borough came under fire as Bath tried to find an equaliser. Stephens picked up a booking in the 29th minute before Bath were dealt a blow on the stroke of half-time when Fulbrook had to be helped off after falling awkwardly.

The second half began in lively fashion with Bath doing most of the attacking. They came close to grabbing an equaliser when a high lob from Player was fumbled by Starkey and Adams seemed certain to score, but Stephens got back to make a last ditch clearance. After 54 minute, the visitors increased their lead. Bradley swung in a dangerous corner from the left which the Bath defence could only clear as far as Dave Ward and the Borough midfielder unleashed a powerful shot that screamed into the top corner of the net.

In their very next move there was more joy, as Borough went further ahead. A thunderbolt of a shot from Ricketts rattled the Bath crossbar and bounced back invitingly for Cunningham, who gleefully fired home his first goal for the club. Bath hit back and Player might have done better in the 66th minute – hooking over from close in following good approach work by Shaw.

A long goal-kick a couple of minutes later set Cunningham free and he raced towards goal, but Mogg came out well to narrow the angle and his final shot drifted aimlessly wide of the target. Borough seemed to be cruising to one of their



easiest victories of the season, especially when a Thurman header hit the post from Bradley's corner in the 84th minute, but few could have forecast what was about to follow as Bath dramatically recovered to pull back two goals in the final two minutes. Bodin grabbed the first, capitalising on slack marking and complacency in the Borough ranks, and within seconds Payne reduced the deficit even further, heading home unchallenged from a Shaw centre.

Borough Safe From Relegation

Nuneaton Borough's place in the GM Vauxhall Conference was secured on Saturday as Cheltenham beat Welling 2-0 at Whaddon Road. And manager Jimmy Holmes, who was at the match, immediately began making plans for next season. Holmes has already pencilled in two players that he would like to bring to Manor Park and later this week he will be having talks with acting chairman Joe Shooter, to see what cash is available to be spent on the team.

Runcorn v Nuneaton Borough 02-05-1987

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Gibson, Gregory, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Stephens, Morrison, Ward, Ricketts. Subs: Gorman, Moss.

Borough made the journey to London Road to face Maidstone United in a GM Vauxhall Conference match.

Borough ended their season in impressive style, picking up a fine point against a Runcorn side looking for the victory that would have given them a fifth place finish. Borough started the game in confident mood and Peter Bradley played Mark Cunningham free on the right, but the striker raced into the area only to put his shot disappointingly wide.

The home side weathered Borough's early storm and it took two super saves in a minute from Wayne Starkey to keep Borough on level terms. Runcorn were using the slope to full advantage, causing Borough all sorts of problems by simply hitting long balls for their front runners to chase. At the other end a 26th minute Ricketts cross was mis-punched by the home keeper Armfield, but just as it seemed that the ball would run for Cunningham, Dave Mather stepped in with a timely clearance.

In the 30th minute Ricketts had a snap shot well saved by Armfield, after Lance Morrison had headed down and seven minutes later another massive kick from the Runcorn keeper eluded everyone, putting Carter through, only for the striker to slip at the vital moment and pull his shot wide. But in the 43rd minute Borough took the lead when a Bradley corner was met with a firm header at the near post by the unmarked Mark Cunningham.

Borough began the second half in attacking mood and they almost increased their lead in the 49th minute, when Ricketts battled well for the ball before helping it on to Cunningham who raced clear. Armfield ran out but the striker pushed the ball past him only for Paul Rowlands to recover well to kick the ball off the line.

But Runcorn were not to be denied and a Barnett corner from the left was only partially cleared and the ball fell for Rowlands on the edge of the box to lob home, appearing to have all the time in the world. The game now swung from end to end and passions rose with Tommy Miller and Everton Carr receiving bookings for clumsy tackles.

In the 73rd minute it looked as though Morrison would run clear, but Armfield was quickly out to hack clear. Two minutes later the impressive Cunningham cut inside Smith and hit a fierce low shot that Armfield saw late, getting down to make a fine save. Dave Ward put a 77th minute effort over the top and Cunningham saw Armfield produce another fine save from his snap shot. However, in the 88th minute it took brave goalkeeping from Starkey to keep Borough in the game as Carter ran clear, pursued by Stephens who resisted the temptation to trip the striker allowing him to race into the area where Starkey did well to save at his feet. Stephens following up, cleared the ball to safety.

Fittingly it was Cunningham who almost had the final word when the ball fell for him some 25 yards from goal, only for his lob to be cleared by Smith on the edge of the six yard box.

GM Vauxhall Conference 1986-87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scarborough	42	27	10	5	64	33	91
Barnet	42	25	10	7	86	39	85
Maidstone United	42	21	10	11	71	48	73
Enfield	42	21	7	14	66	47	70
Altrincham	42	18	15	9	66	53	69
Boston United	42	21	6	15	82	74	69
Sutton United	42	19	11	12	81	51	68
Runcorn	42	18	13	11	71	58	67
Telford United	42	18	10	14	69	59	64
Bath City	42	17	12	13	63	62	63
Cheltenham Town	42	16	13	13	64	50	61
Kidderminster Harriers	42	17	4	21	77	81	55
Stafford Rangers	42	14	11	17	58	60	53
Weymouth	42	13	12	17	68	77	51
Dagenham	42	14	7	21	56	72	49
Kettering Town	42	12	11	19	54	66	47
Northwich Victoria	42	10	14	18	53	69	44
Nuneaton Borough	42	10	14	18	48	73	44
Wealdstone	42	11	10	21	50	70	43
Welling United	42	10	10	22	61	84	40
Frickley Athletic	42	7	11	24	47	82	32
Gateshead	42	6	13	23	48	95	31

Borough's Hopes Hang By A Slender Thread

Nuneaton Borough's GM Vauxhall Conference future is once again hanging by a slender thread. They have been given just seven days to find another ground for next season while major improvements are made to Manor Park.

The shock news came at the Cafe Royal in London when club officials met the Conference management committee.

Within the last six weeks Nuneaton have had their main stand closed by fire and safety officers and have also been ordered to do a lot of work to the rest of the ground before a safety certificate is issued.

Acting chairman Joe Shooter, fellow director Ted Kay and secretary Keith Allen were hoping to be able to buy Borough more time at yesterday's meeting. However, although the party was given a hearing, it was all to no avail as the club was handed a three-point ultimatum to maintain their membership of the league.

In addition to finding an alternative ground, which they must confirm by letter within the next week, they must also produce a balance sheet within seven days of the injunction hearing in the High Court on May 18 and also provide a projected budget to ensure their financial stability.

"The committee was aware of the stand closure but the problems with the other parts of the ground did not help our cause," said Shooter today.

"Although they listened to what we had to say they were not prepared for us to stay in the Conference with what amounted to virtually half a ground.

"Everything has happened so quickly in the last few weeks and we were hoping to be given more time to get things sorted out.

"But our hastily prepared proposals were not acceptable and we are now paying the price for years of neglect on the ground," he added.

Borough, who only avoided relegation from the Conference during the last couple of weeks of the season are faced with a massive bill to bring Manor Park up to the required standard. Still heavily in debt, they will need the assistance of some major backers if they are to get out of this latest crisis.

However, Mr Shooter is still confident that he can complete arrangements for another ground and get a financial package worked out in the near future.

"In spite of the fact that we are very disappointed with the outcome of yesterday's meeting we are still hopefully searching for a remedy for the situation," he said.

"I am planning to enter into negotiations today and I am looking to get something sorted out quickly. Obviously I did not want to move away from Nuneaton and would only do so on the proviso that work was started on Manor Park at the same time."

Court Hears Of Irregularities

A High Court judge in London was today hearing of alleged irregularities in the financial control and running of troubled Nuneaton Borough Football Club. Mr Joe Shooter, the acting chairman, who has made the allegations, is asking the court for orders restraining suspended chairman Noel Kelly, Sean Gallagher and James Rowley for purporting to act as directors of the club or to exercise voting rights.

The dispute concerns their various shareholdings. Coventry businessman Mr Shooter, who joined the Borough board in October, is seeking the appointment of a manager to control the "affairs and property" of the club.

The appointment is intended to cover the period until the hearing of a petition alleging that the affairs of the club are being run in a manner unfairly prejudicial to some members, including himself.

Yesterday, the whole question of the validity of certain allotment of shares was put in issue. Since both sides would be equally affected, it was suggested that a petitioner might take over. Both sides agreed over the midday adjournment to consider whether the petition should be amended substituting Mr Harry Broadhurst, a shareholder. This move was made because if Mr Shooter's and Mr Kelly's shares were proved invalid, Mr Shooter could not be a petitioner.

Mr Broadhurst holds a small number of the Borough's original 2,000 shares.

After a brief afternoon exchange the hearing was adjourned to allow leading counsel time to prepare arguments on points of law as a preliminary hearing.

The points are whether the court can order a petitioner to be substituted on a contributories' petition, as opposed to an ordinary winding up petition and whether certain shares were validly allotted and issued.

Deputy Judge Michael Wheeler, QC, studied the evidence over night in readiness for the continuation of the case.

Willie Gibson Player Of The Year



Long serving defender Willie Gibson is the tops according to Nuneaton Borough supporters as the talented Scot picked up



the club's Player of the Year trophy. Gibson missed just a couple of games throughout the season and is without doubt a worthy winner of the trophy, although he was hard pressed by his fellow full-back Everton Carr, who took the runners-up award.

Utility man Peter Bradley has certainly made his mark in the side, especially on opponents' ground and his performances have not gone unnoticed by the fans with the Away Player of the Year prize going his way. A special clubman statuette was presented to Harry Buckler for his efforts behind the scenes towards the Manor Park club while long service awards went to central defender Richard Dixey and Stan Marshall.

There was a surprise in store for acting chairman Joe Shooter as he picked up the Borough's Clubman of the Year trophy.

Court Hears Of Kelly Loans

Suspended Nuneaton Borough FC chairman Noel Kelly has loaned the club £125,000 since 1980, the High Court in London was told. The claim was made by Mr Kelly's counsel Mr Edward Evans-Lombe QC, who said that his client had more right to run the club than anybody else because of the loan and the fact he had been controlling shareholder for the past seven years.

Any criticism of his accounting, book-keeping or preservation of records arose from inexperience, Mr Evans-Lombe added. Whatever Mr Kelly had done it was not done dishonestly.

Counsel told Deputy High Court Judge Mr Michael Wheeler, QC, that Mr Joe Shooter, the club's vice-chairman, was not entitled to sue for control of the club because, on his own evidence, his shares were not validly issued to him.

Mr Shooter, who alleges that the club is being run in a manner "unfairly prejudicial" to him claims to have acquired 24,000 £1 shares in the club since he became a director last year.

But none of the shares on which Mr Shooter relied for bringing his petition was validly issued, Mr Evans-Lombe, said Mr Kelly is seeking to have Mr Shooter's petition struck out. He alleges that Mr Shooter has no legal standing to bring proceedings.

Counsel said Mr Shooter claimed to be the registered holder of 10,000 shares, which he bought from Mr Kelly last September, when he was invited to join the board.

But, on Mr Shooter's own evidence, Mr Kelly was not a director at the time and had no authority to make such an offer. Mr Shooter also claimed he had acquired 10,000 shares from Mr Sean Gallagher in November, 1986, and a further 4,000 from a Mr Chris Tomlinson, in February, 1987.

But he also now admitted that the shares were part of a purported increase of capital in 1982 which was not validly created.

If Mr Kelly's application to strike out the petition succeeds, Mr Shooter's other legal proceedings are likely to fail.

He is seeking injunctions to stop Mr Kelly, Mr Gallagher and Mr James Rowley acting as directors or exercising voting powers.

He also seeks the appointment of a Receiver and Manager over the club and its finances, and he also has a pending application to commit Mr Kelly to prison for alleged breach of his undertaking to the court.

The case continues.

Borough Must Find New Ground

Nuneaton Borough have until next Tuesday to find themselves a ground to secure their place in the GM Vauxhall Conference. However, negotiations cannot take place because of the power struggle between suspended chairman Noel Kelly and acting chairman Joe Shooter, which is currently being heard at the High Court in London. Until the case is concluded no negotiations can take place.

Hands Off Kelly

Dear Editor

As a past director of Nuneaton Borough FC I feel that I must record my views as to the happenings at Manor Park.

I am most surprised that so many fans have turned against Noel Kelly. They seem to have very short memories. Football would not have been possible at Nuneaton if it were not for him. I know what time and money this man has put into the club and the very worrying times he has had and the anguish to his family.

I really do not know what the fans are expecting from Joe Shooter. He has showed up to now that he is out for power – he could not get it at Mansfield!

Will Mr Shooter pay off all the debts including money that is still owed to me? I don't think so. I feel that he will put the club into liquidation if he gets the power he is looking for and then take the club for himself.

I say to Mr Shooter, if you have the money you are supposed to, then don't waste it attacking Mr Kelly. Match what he has put into the club and turn Nuneaton into another Scarborough.

I would ask all genuine Borough fans to back Mr Kelly. He loves Nuneaton Borough Football Club and in my opinion has proved it. Good luck Mr Kelly and Nuneaton Borough.

ALAN J. EVANS
Stoke Road, Upton, Nr. Nuneaton

Nuneaton Borough In A Hopeless Mess

Nuneaton Borough Football Club's "hopeless mess" is mainly the fault of suspended chairman Noel Kelly, a High Court judge has ruled. But Mr Kelly, Borough chairman for ten years, and the major shareholder has won a preliminary round in his bid to retain control at Manor Park.

Deputy High Court Judge Michael Wheeler, QC, ruled in favour of Mr Kelly's application to strike out a petition by acting chairman Joe Shooter that the company was being run in a manner unfairly prejudicial to him. In his decision – which



is almost certainly going to go to appeal, the judge said: “I cannot leave this case without saying a word about the state of the company.

“The way it has been run with minimal compliance with company law is quite pathetic. Many, if not most of the problems which have arisen, stem from the failure of those in charge of the company to pay even the most modest lip service to the requirement of company law, especially to the calling of meetings.”

In a reference to Mr Kelly, he added: “It behoves everyone connected with this company and has its interests at heart to get together to obtain much needed legal guidance to run the company.”

The judge said he had reached his conclusion with “very considerable reluctance” because Mr Kelly had been largely responsible “for the hopeless mess this company got into.”

The judge said Mr Shooter – the Coventry businessman who joined the board last October – was not entitled to launch his petition because, although he had acquired 24,000 £1 shares, they had not been validly allotted to him and could not be registered in his name.

But he declined to make any orders implementing his decision until he had time to prepare a reasoned judgement, which he will give some time next month. And until that full judgement is delivered, Mr Kelly and two other purported directors, Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley, remain bound by an injunction not to act as directors of the club or exercise voting rights.

After the hearing Mr Shooter, involved in a bitter boardroom struggle at Manor Park, said: “I am still in charge – it is vital that we keep our football club.”

Mr Kelly said today: “As I understand the position, the club is now in the hands of the holders of the original 2,000 shares.”

Borough Lose Their Conference Status

Nuneaton Borough have lost their battle to stay in the GM Vauxhall Conference despite strenuous attempts to save the club’s status yesterday. Throughout the day efforts were made to try and secure a ground sharing agreement with another club that would comply with league stipulations but they were in vain and Borough now face up to Southern League football next term.

Several bids to find a ground for the 1987-88 campaign failed although offers came from both Northampton Town and Stafford Rangers for Borough to use their facilities.

Letters were facsimiled to the GM Conference headquarters and a courier delivered other communications to the Vauxhall Conference Liaison Committee who were meeting at Fisher Athletic FC last night. However, at 10.45 pm Borough secretary Keith Allen received a call from league secretary Peter Hunter with the news that the two ground offers were unsuitable and had not been accepted.

Borough Appeal Rejected

Nuneaton Borough’s latest appeal against relegation from the GM Vauxhall Conference failed at the weekend when they were voted out at the league’s annual congress at Blackpool. But the Manor Park club could still take the matter to the Football Association once they have received the official letter confirming their demotion.

A delegation from Nuneaton attended the congress where it was verified that Borough had lost the appeal and with it their Conference status.

Clubs within the set up voted 21-1 that the three clubs, Gateshead, Frickley and Nuneaton be relegated with Northwich the only one to give Borough their support. However, moves are in the pipeline to try and save the club from dropping down to the Southern League Premier Division next term and they include involving the FA.

Before any definite decision is made regarding taking their case to a higher level, Borough must wait to get an official confirmation from the Conference which is expected soon.

Sort Out This Mess

Dear Editor

I am 28-years-old and have supported Nuneaton Borough for over 20 years, at first being taken by my father, who also never misses a home game. We have both had season tickets and often go to away matches.

On several occasions I have wanted to write to complain but have not had the heart to call my club. I have defended the club to all outsiders, including until very recently critics of Noel Kelly.

But now it must be sorted out, we have had class players who have departed to league clubs with our blessing but even though cash was received no adequate replacements were found. Let’s get this mess sorted out and brought out into the open, let us all know what the real situation is, let us have a meeting where everybody can come along and ask questions so therefore quashing all the rumours.

Now we are back in the Southern League with at best gates of 400-500 to each game. What can we look forward to? If we do win the league what then? We all know that everybody wants League football and now there is an opening – and this is what happens.

Lets all get together, board, players and supporters, and let’s sort this mess out. There are still people like me who care about the club.

R. HARVEY, Fair Isle Drive, Nuneaton

Borough Still In Chaos

Moves to pull crisis-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club out of its perilous slide towards possible extinction were thrown into further chaos today. It follows yesterday’s hearing in the High Court when Deputy Judge Michael Wheeler, QC, gave the



go-ahead for a special meeting of shareholders on Monday – called to appoint new directors.

Lawyers acting for both suspended chairman Noel Kelly and acting chairman Joe Shooter announced that they had reached a temporary agreement in a bid to find a way out of what the judge described as “this mess” at Manor Park.

Under the agreement Monday’s meeting would go ahead which would draft in East Mercia chief executive Hughie Todner as company secretary, and fixture secretary Keith Allen and Norman Peckett former managing director of Watling Publications as directors. But Mr Peckett, today was obviously angry at the move by the lawyers. “No one has approached me – it is a total nonsense.

“I am a shareholder and will be attending Monday’s meeting and will be giving a few choice words,” he said.

This further complicates efforts to bring peace to Manor Park where during the current boardroom split Nuneaton Borough has been thrown out of the GM Vauxhall Conference League because its ground has been declared unsafe.

Yesterday Judge Wheeler heard that the shareholders meeting next Monday had been convened by Mr Kelly the former club secretary, who claims to be the club’s major shareholder.

The judge was hearing arguments following his formal judgment confirming his decision last month to strike out a petition by Mr Shooter, club vice-chairman.

Mr Shooter had asked the court to appoint a manager to control and manage the affairs of the club on the grounds that it was being run in a manner unfairly prejudicial to him.

He is seeking a “stay” of the striking out order pending an appeal. He also seeks the continuation, pending appeal, of an injunction banning Mr Kelly, Mr Sean Gallagher and Mr James Rowley from acting as directors of the club or exercising voting rights.

Counsel for Mr Rowley, Mr Edward Evans-Lombe QC, asked the judge to lift the injunction against Mr Kelly who, as “predominant shareholder,” had a substantial interest in the future of the club. The club needed his football expertise.

But Mr Hywel Moseley, QC, for Mr Shooter, asked for the original injunction to be continued as well as a new injunction to prevent a shareholders’ meeting on Monday. He is disputing Mr Kelly’s claim to be majority shareholder. Mr Kelly had got the club into a muddle, and it was “entirely inappropriate” that he should be allowed to run the company pending the appeal, he said.

It would be wrong to allow the shareholders’ meeting to take place when there were so many doubts, particularly as to who were the shareholders. He claimed that, since the injunction against Mr Kelly was granted, Mr Shooter had been running the company “with due regard to company law and to good book-keeping.”

Also under the agreement reached between the two sides the injunction against Mr Kelly and other former directors will continue. But the new board will have the right to employ Mr Kelly as their agent to negotiate readmittance of the club to the GM Vauxhall Conference League.

Mr Shooter and Mr Ted Kay, who have looked after the affairs of the club since the injunction was granted last March, will cease to act as the effective board.

These terms will remain in force pending an appeal against the judge’s decision or alternatively until the hearing of a new petition by properly enfranchised shareholders. The judge said he thought the agreement was “on the right lines.”

New Board Appointed

New chairman John Harris took over the reigns at crisis club Nuneaton Borough today with a pledge that from now on the action at Manor Park will take place on the field. “The club has got to make progress and the aim of the new board is to make sure that it does,” he said.

“I would appeal to the supporters to appreciate the terms we are working under and remember that we have been appointed for the benefit of the club.”

Mr Harris, who has resigned as a vice-president of Kettering Town FC, to take on the temporary post of chairman at Manor Park was appointed along with four other new directors after a three-hour board meeting last night.

The other four, Phil Clayton, a director of Mitchells and Butlers, Alan Evans and John Moore, past Borough directors and Stan Marshall, a former Borough player and manager, have along with Mr Harris been given the job of running the affairs at Manor Park until the legal wrangle between Mr Noel Kelly and Mr Joe Shooter decides who has control of the club.

Mr Harris admitted today that the new board were not entirely happy with the new arrangement. “We are all very apprehensive about the terms of reference we are to operate under bearing in mind the current situation at the club.

“Our immediate objective is to ensure there is football at Manor Park in the short time we have available,” Mr Harris said. “We are also aiming to establish a professional foundation from which the club can progress. But above all we want to be firm but fair in our decision and ensure that the situation at the club improves.”

The new board hopes to appoint a new member shortly. Mr Sean Patterson, landlord of Nuneaton’s George Eliot Hotel is to be approached after he returns from holiday in the hope that he will join the rescue team.

Last night’s board meeting also saw Mr Hughie Todner, Mr Keith Allen and Mr John Evans resign as temporary directors after fulfilling their duty to appoint a new board. However, Mr Allen has agreed to remain with the club as fixture secretary and Mr Todner as company secretary.

Mr Shooter said today: “I think I have made the right decision in standing down and I am very happy with the board that has been appointed. Mr Harris has been a great help to me during the past few weeks and I wish him and the rest of the board the best of luck.”

Mr Kelly said: “I am pleased that there is a board of directors at the club to keep it going and I appreciate the efforts they are making on behalf of Nuneaton Borough FC.”

New Chairman Lifelong Supporter

The mystery surrounding Nuneaton Borough’s new chairman was lifted today when John Harris revealed himself to be a lifelong supporter of the club. The 38-year-old took over his role on Monday and has the difficult task of spearheading Borough’s survival and ensure football at the club next season.

Educated along with team assistant manager Dave Lewis at Hartshill High School, John is manager of the Nationwide Building Society in Kettering, where he was, until recently, vice-president of the town’s progressive soccer team.

Harris and his fellow directors have a long, hard road in front of them as the facilities and amenities at the ground are in a downtrodden state and far from satisfactory.

Back in the early fifties, Harris’ father Tom played for the Borough at full-back and that began a long allegiance with the club for both of them with Tom virtually an ever present supporter at all home games over the past thirty years, while John regularly visits Manor Park when in the area.



New chairman of Nuneaton Borough, John Harris, surveys the Manor Park ground, with the major goal over the coming weeks being to ensure football at the club next season
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bedworth Turn Down Ground Share

Crisis club Nuneaton Borough were reeling today after neighbours Bedworth United rejected a plan to share their Oval ground with them next season. Relegated Borough, who will be playing alongside the Greenbacks in the Southern League Premier Division, had hoped to share United’s facilities on a temporary basis following the closure of their Manor Park ground for safety reasons.

But after a board meeting last night, United turned down Borough’s plea saying that it was impracticable and would not be in the best interests of Bedworth or Nuneaton in the long run.

Chairman Harold Jones said: “To be honest Borough’s request has come very late in the day. They knew they had a possible ground problem back in the spring and I suggested then that they might use the Oval in the short term.

“However, they failed to come back to me on it and when you consider there are a lot of negotiations and discussions to be made on something as important as ground sharing, it is now much too late to get things sorted out...”

Borough Can Stay At Manor Park

Crisis-torn Nuneaton Borough will kick-off the new season in the Southern League Premier Division – at Manor Park. That was the good news announced last night by chairman John Harris and his board of directors, just six days after their appointment.

The new Borough chairman said that following lengthy discussions with the fire service and structural engineers, the club would be granted a safety certificate subject to them fulfilling certain conditions. But there is still a lot of improvement work to be completed in the coming weeks if the ground is to be ready for the middle of August.

Borough’s main stand will remain closed for the time being but the club will be allowed to use the ground floor of the structure which incorporates the dressing rooms, boardroom, offices and the vice-presidents’ lounge.

Work on the rest of the ground, involving terracing, fencing and entrances and exits will begin immediately.

“The new board, despite certain reservations about our terms of reference, had to move very quickly if we were to secure football at Manor Park for next season,” said Harris.

“Following discussions between the board and the safety people, we have been told that we will be granted a safety certificate to play on our own ground, subject to certain conditions.

“There is still a lot of work that must be done before the start of the season and the number of spectators allowed into the ground will depend on the progress that we make.

“We are confident that we can get the improvements done but it is imperative that we get the backing of the town – the fans and the business people,” he added.

The next safety inspection at Manor Park is planned for July 28, although the club will still have time to carry out additional work after that. Secretary Keith Allen said that Borough have now officially accepted the invitation to join the Southern League and the Reserves will continue to play in the Banks’ West Midlands League Division One with the youth side in the Midland Floodlit League.



Goole Town — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Victoria Pleasure Grounds to play Goole Town in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Goole: Hunt, Warton, Margetts, Overton, Heeney, Shutt, Tomlinson, Gray (Mulhall 63), K. Hutchinson, Thompson, Showler. Sub: Worsfold.

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, McGranaghan (Bradley 45), Thurman, Holmes, M. Hutchinson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. Sub: Johnson.

Borough overcame both the elements and determined opponents and booked their seventeenth appearance in the First Round Proper of the FA Cup.

After conceding an early goal they gradually took control and ran out worthy winners through goals from Andy McGranaghan and Simon Reay. Jimmy Holmes switched McGranaghan into the back four to replace the suspended Richard Dixey and restored Reay to the front line alongside Paul Moss and Frank Murphy.

Goole had the advantage of both wind and sun in the first half and made most of the early running, with tall centre-forward Keith Hutchinson looking particularly dangerous.

Playing with two men wide, Town kept the Borough defence at full stretch, and took a ninth minute lead following a long free-kick from the right by full-back Warton. With Nuneaton concentrating on Keith Hutchinson, Warton's cross was headed home by centre-half Peter Heeney who had stolen into space near the far post.

As Borough struggled to get into the game the strong wind blew Goole into repeated attacks. Mick Thurman showed bravery by heading away from Keith Hutchinson's boot, while player-manager Holmes was much in evidence in his defensive role.

Goole, however, failed to press home their advantage, and as the visitors began to play with some composure the Multipart League side seemed to lose conviction in their own abilities.

In the 20th minute a brilliant five-man move involving Holmes, Willie Gibson, Frank Murphy and Mark Hutchinson ended with Reay shooting narrowly wide of the Goole goal. Then Murphy brought a scrambling save from jittery goalkeeper Hunt after 23 minutes before clipping a shot just over the bar two minutes later.

Goole's defence was shaky under pressure and had a real let-off after 35 minutes when a Mark Hutchinson effort was disallowed for offside.

An apparent setback for Borough led directly to the equaliser they by now deserved. McGranaghan twisted an ankle and was pushed forward into attack. It was he who was on hand to score from close range after 40 minutes when Hunt fumbled a hard cross.

The scales of fortune had now swung towards Nuneaton, who re-shuffled their side again at half-time. McGranaghan was withdrawn and Holmes moved alongside Thurman in the centre of defence. Gibson reverted to his normal left-back position with Bradley coming on in midfield.

In the opening seconds of the second half Moss shot into the side netting after the home keeper had failed to hold a Murphy shot. A minute later the same player shot against the keeper when well placed.

The pattern for the second period was already set. Goole rarely threatened a Borough defence well-marshalled by Holmes, in which goalkeeper Corder had recovered from a shaky start.

In midfield Mark Hutchinson and Ward began to make their presence felt, as did Bradley who again showed himself to be a more than competent performer.

Moss and Murphy both went close before Borough scored a splendid second goal after 59 minutes. Murphy set Gibson away on the left and he cut an accurate pass back from the by-line to Reay who turned carefully before firing home a fierce left footer past the helpless Hunt.

Goole brought on George Mulhall for Terry Gray up front, but he was unable to break Borough's grip on the game.

Indeed, it was the visitors who looked the more likely to score as Goole quite literally threw caution to the wind. Murphy was a constant danger and was unlucky not to get on the scoresheet.

Borough had one or two odd moments of uncertainty in the closing stages, during when Goole's Heeney was booked for a wild tackle on Reay, but when the referee blew the final whistle – there were few onlookers prepared to doubt that the better side had won.

Rochdale — 1st Round Proper

Borough welcomed Rochdale to Manor Park to play a FA Cup First Round tie.

Borough: Corder, Carr, W. Gibson, McGranaghan, Dixey, Bradley, Shearer, Moss, Coffey (Johnson 53), Ward, Murphy. Sub: Reay

Rochdale: Redfearn, I. Johnson, Grant, Smart, Bramshall, Hudson, Reid, McHale, Mills, Conning, Wakenshaw. Sub: S. Gibson.

The magic of the FA Cup brought the missing fans flocking back to Manor Park – only to be sent home disappointed.

Borough, despite a bright start to this first round clash, ended a well beaten side and can have no complaints about the result.

However, Jimmy Holmes' men can look back on the first 25 minutes as the time when this tie was both won and lost.

Nuneaton had almost total control during this period and looked to be more than a match for their Football League visitors.

Frank Murphy twice went close and Dave Ward put his shot into the side netting when perhaps he should have done better.

Little was seen of Rochdale's attack and it seemed that the 3,500 fans were in for an afternoon to celebrate.

But once Rob Wakenshaw put the Fourth Division side in front on the half-hour mark, against the run of play, it

became a completely different game as the visitors took control.



Borough striker Frank Murphy wins this challenge, but the ball sailed high over the bar.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough were unlucky when Everton Carr was denied an equaliser by the woodwork with Rochdale keeper Dave Redfearn well beaten, but that was to be their last real chance.

Six minutes before the break the game as a contest was virtually over as Neil Mills joyfully thumped in a second goal.

From then on the result was never in doubt and Ian Johnson's strike seven minutes after the re-start merely put the icing on the cake for Rochdale.

Borough were quickly into their stride and Murphy found a bit of space in the penalty area from a Willie Gibson cross but Rochdale quickly recovered to clear the danger.

Shortly afterwards the little Scot was again involved, shooting across the face of the goal but play was called back for an infringement on the edge of the box.

It was all Nuneaton and Ward jinked his way into the area but fired into the side netting when he might have been better to pull the ball across goal.

Little had been seen of the visitors as an attacking force but with 15 minutes gone a quick break saw Peter Conning

fire in a dangerous cross from the left with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Murphy had the ball in the net after 17 minutes following a left wing corner but it was ruled out for pushing by Shearer.

Shaun Reid shot high over the bar as the visitors at last pushed forward and almost immediately Carl Hudson was booked for scything down Paul Moss.

Rochdale missed a golden opportunity to break the deadlock after 27 minutes when Reid failed to connect with the goal at his mercy and Peter Bradley somehow managed to scramble clear.

But three minutes later there was no such let-off for Borough. Mills swung a centre to the far post from wide on the right. Conning knocked it back into the middle and Wakenshaw forced it home.

Nuneaton hit back immediately and were desperately unlucky not to grab an equaliser. Shearer produced a superb defence splitting pass to put Carr clear and his fierce shot from the edge of the box left Redfearn helpless but smacked against the foot of a post and bounced to safety.

That was to prove Borough's last real chance, as Rochdale, now playing with much more confidence, grabbed a

second killer goal six minutes before the break.

Ray McHale found Wakenshaw wide on the right and he cut inside before setting up a chance that Mills gratefully hammered past Corder from the edge of the box.

The second period began as the first had ended with Rochdale well on top and Dixey did well to crowd out Conning as he was shaping to shoot.

Borough were struggling to get a grip on the game and it came as no surprise when the visitors increased their lead after 52 minutes. Jason Smart floated in a ball from the left, Mills headed it on and Ian Johnson was left clear to beat Corder with a low shot.

Borough continued to ride their luck and were fortunate not to fall further behind when Dixey was first to Grant's free-kick and planted a header against his own crossbar.

With time running out Borough produced a delightful move that deserved a better ending. Murphy and Bradley combined well on the right and when Murphy dummied the defender's low centre, Shearer was left with a clear shooting chance but he failed to control his effort and it flew high over the top.



Frank Murphy gets in a first-half shot, despite the attentions of Rochdale defender John Bramhall.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Kings Lynn — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to The Walks to play Kings Lynn in a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Kings Lynn: Claxton, Mercer, Massingham, Watts, Warner, Bunting, Hatch, Rider, Money, Easthall, Howard. Subs: Fryatt, Sainty.

Borough: Corder, Bradley, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Thurman, Johnson, Ward, Moss, Reay, Murphy. Subs: Bateman, Mitchell.

Nuneaton Borough hung on for a draw against a tough and uncompromising Kings Lynn side, and now look to have the better chance of going through to the first round.

But Borough, again severely depleted by injury, had to come back from a goal down, and Kings Lynn, despite having a player sent off, almost snatched it when they hit the post near the end.

The Linnets created the first real opportunity in the 12th minute. Mark Howard's cross from the left reached player-manager Freddie Easthall just outside the six yard box, but his first time shot didn't trouble Peter Corder.

Five minutes later, Frank Murphy released Paul Moss down the Kings Lynn left, but with three players waiting in the penalty area, he failed to deliver an accurate centre and keeper Andy Claxton collected easily.

Then, Peter Corder, was forced into action for the first time on the half hour, saving Mick Money's fierce 20 yard free kick at the second attempt, and two minutes later the same man headed over the bar following a teasing cross by full-back Steve Mercer.

Borough were unlucky not to go into the lead in the 35th minute when Gary Johnson hammered a fierce shot against the crossbar after Willie Gibson had carved the opening with an intelligent ball across the penalty area.

Shortly afterwards, though, a disastrous mix up in the visitors' defence presented Kings Lynn with the simplest of chances to edge in front, which they gratefully accepted.

Goalkeeper Corder raced out of his area to clear a long ball, but miskicked on the edge of the box and Easthall pounced to send Borough in at half-time a goal behind.

They emerged after the break in a far more purposeful mood, and four minutes into the second half, Jimmy Holmes saw his 25 yard drive held well by Claxton and then within seconds of that, a sweeping move by Borough almost brought them an equaliser.

Corder's long clearance was flicked on by Murphy and Simon Reay's snap shot was beaten away at the near post.

However, Borough did draw level in the 58th minute with a goal by Dave Ward – his first for the club. Johnson's cross from the right was palmed out by Claxton into the path of Ward, who squeezed it past a ruck of players and into the net.

Kings Lynn came straight back, and might have gone two-one up seconds later, but from Richard Hatch's low centre. Easthall shot high and wide at the far post.

In the 62nd minute, Murphy looked as though he might put Borough in front, as he sprinted clear of the home side's defence – however, after taking the ball round Claxton, he saw his shot trickle the wrong side of the post.

At the other end Chris Watts made room for himself on the right and his driven cross was only marginally too strong for Hatch at the far post.

Then, Kings Lynn suffered a major set back when central defender Steve Bunting was sent off in the 69th minute for scuffling with Frank Murphy, after he had been booked three minutes earlier for a clumsy challenge on Moss.

Murphy picked up a caution for his part in the incident, and that signalled the start of several minutes of frenetic, and sometimes rather headed exchanges.

Gary Rider fell spectacularly following a late challenge by Moss, but the Borough man escaped with just a stern lecture from the referee.

Despite having an extra man, Borough couldn't press home the advantage in the closing stages and instead it was Kings Lynn who came closest to pinching it with 10 minutes left.

Mark Howard was given too much time and space by the visitors' defence and his crisp shot rocketed past Corder and looked destined for the back of the net. Fortunately for Borough though it came back off the post, and was eventually scrambled away to safety.

Kings Lynn — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Kings Lynn to Manor Park to play a 3rd Qualifying Round Replay.

Borough: Corder, Bradley, Gibson, Holmes, Dixey, Thurman, Johnson, Moss, Reay, Ward, Murphy. Subs: Bateman, Mitchell.

Kings Lynn: Flowerdew, Mercer, Massingham, Watts, Warner, Bunting, Rider, Hatch, Money, Easthall, Howard. Subs: Fryatt, Sainty.

Paul Moss' fourth goal since joining Nuneaton Borough was enough to settle the game. His close range header, 14 minutes from the end, finally killed off a brave challenge from the visitors.

The match was never a classic and both sides struggled for long periods to impose any authority on the proceedings.

Jimmy Holmes named the side that drew at Kings Lynn, while the visitors had one change with John Flowerdew taking over in goal from Andy Claxton.

Nuneaton had an early scare when Mark Howard crossed from the left and Dave Massingham knocked the ball down for Freddie Easthall, but Holmes got in a timely tackle.

A minute later Mick Money curled a superb ball through the middle, catching Dave Ward on the wrong side of his man, but the young midfielder got back quickly to rob Richard Hatch.

Borough were finding it difficult to get into the game at this stage as the sharp looking visitors front line posed them plenty of problems.



But Nuneaton suddenly burst into life with Tim Warner forced to head Willie Gibson's corner while under threat from Simon Reay and then Frank Murphy had a shot deflected wide.

Murphy made a fine break on the left as Borough continued to press forward but he delayed his cross, with Reay and Moss waiting in the middle, and the chance was lost.

Skipper Richard Dixey was booked for a crunching foul on Howard before Nuneaton missed a clear opening. Murphy dummied a Gibson centre to leave Reay clear but he shot straight at Flowerdew from inside the area.

Borough missed another good chance at the start of the second half with Murphy shooting high and wide after beating Steve Bunting and cutting into the box.

Nuneaton were now in control and Reay, Holmes and Ward all went close as the visitors were forced onto the defensive.

Ward saw his corner scrape the bar before Moss brought a fine save from the Linnets keeper with a header from Murphy's chip.

But with 76 minutes gone Nuneaton made the all-important breakthrough. Massingham brought down Peter Bradley on the right and when Ward floated in the free-kick Moss powered home a close range header.

Reay then had a shot deflected wide with Flowerdew struggling and Bradley's cross flew across the face of the Kings Lynn goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Borough appeared to be coasting home but the visitors produced a lively finish to cause a few flutters among the home supporters.

With three minutes left Gary Rider forced a diving save from Peter Corder and then in injury time substitute Neil Fryatt fired inches over the top from just inside the area.

Telford United — 1st Round

Borough made the journey to The Buck's Head to play Telford United in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Telford: Charlton, Hancock, Wiggins, Griffiths, Nelson, Storton, Joesph, Williams, K. McKenna, Hogan, Alcock. Subs: Morgan, McGinty.

Borough: J. McKenna, Carr (Johnson 13), Gibson, Bradley, Dixey, Thurman, Shearer, Moss, Reay (Sturridge 32), Ward, Murphy.

An amazing four goal blitz by top scorer Frank Murphy gave Borough a shock FA Trophy victory over their illustrious rivals. The home side had no answer to Murphy's devastating finishing – and instead were left to rue missed chances of their own.

Borough got off to a perfect start, by taking the lead in the very first minute. Murphy raced onto a loose ball, ventured into the penalty area and was brought down by Trevor Storton. The Borough striker took the spot kick himself and sent goalkeeper Kevin Charlton the wrong way to put his side firmly in the driving seat.

Their early lead was almost cancelled out in the fifth minute when Ken McKenna's header struck the base of the post, and as the ball came back out to Colin Williams, he blazed high over the bar from only a couple of yards out.

Telford were caught cold again though, as Borough extended their lead in the tenth minute. Richard Dixey's long ball out of defence found Paul Moss in a lot of space on the left hand side – his cross reached Reay, who failed to connect properly, but it fell invitingly to Murphy, who made no mistake from close range.

The frantic action of the opening few minutes continued when in their next attack Telford pulled a goal back.

John Alcock's left wing centre was touched by McKenna into the path of Tony Griffiths, whose shot from ten yards comfortably beat John McKenna in the Borough goal.

Telford's renewed optimism increased when Borough full back Everton

Carr limped off in the 13th minute to be replaced by Gary Johnson. The substitution caused a reshuffle in the visitors ranks, with Peter Bradley moving to right back and Johnson slotted into midfield.

Williams squandered a glorious chance of an equaliser for Telford in the nineteenth minute, when he intercepted Willie Gibson's backpass and beat McKenna, but watched his shot run across the face of the goal before Borough scrambled it away.

The home side were beginning to create a few problems for the Borough defenders and Dixey had his name taken for a clumsy challenge on McKenna in the 22nd minute which left the Telford striker requiring attention.

The dangerous Williams wasted an opportunity to level the scores on the half hour, when he rounded McKenna but then allowed Bradley to get back and make a last ditch clearance.

A second goal for Telford seemed certain a minute later, as they were awarded a penalty following Mick Thurman's foul on Williams, but Anton Joseph's kick struck the crossbar.

Borough made a second substitution shortly afterwards, with Mick Sturridge taking over from Reay.

The visitors were in trouble in the 36th minute as a lob by Harry Wiggins found Hogan in space but his tame effort was just too wide.

After absorbing tremendous amount of pressure, Borough stunned the home side by grabbing a third a minute before half-time – and Murphy completed a sensational first 45 minutes by notching his hat-trick.

Thurman's perfectly weighted through ball put him in the clear, and as both Nelson and Charlton closed in, Murphy slotted the ball coolly into the net.

Borough began the second half on rather a sour note when Gibson became the second player to be booked after a foul on Griffiths.

Then Dixey found himself with a rare shooting chance five minutes after the break and Charlton was forced to save the Borough skipper's fierce shot at the second attempt.

At the other end, Griffiths' low drive from a free-kick was only just wide of the far post, and then McKenna fired his shot straight at his namesake in the borough goal, when well placed in the 65th minute.

Telford made a double substitution seconds later – Morgan and McGinty were introduced at the expense of Joseph and Nelson.

Full-back Hancock was cautioned for a late tackle on Murphy in the 66th minute and Morgan joined him in the book within seconds of taking the field for encroaching at a free-kick.

But the set piece came to nothing – Moss blasted his shot into the Telford wall. Murphy crowned a memorable day for both him and the Borough team by pinching a fourth goal sixteen minutes from time.

Moss' cross shot from the left was helped on by Sturridge at the near post and Murphy, standing unmarked at the far post, buried his header to put the result beyond doubt.

Gateshead – 2nd Round

Borough welcomed Gateshead to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 2nd Round tie.

Borough: McKenna, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Shearer, Johnson, Bradley, Murphy, Fletcher (Reay 76), Ward (Gregory 88), Moss.

Gateshead: Smith, Grewcock, Hulse, Bell, Parnaby, Higgins (Steel 82), Robson, Wardrobe (Donaldson 56), McNall, Lowe, Henderson.

Paul Moss' sixth goal of the season clinched Borough a place in the last 16 of this year's FA Trophy following a thrilling second round battle at Manor Park on Saturday.

With only nine minutes remaining, and Gateshead having just snatched a surprise equaliser, everything was



Leading scorer Frank Murphy times his chip to perfection. Gateshead defender Bob Hulse is too late to intercept and the ball is on its way into the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

pointing to a replay at the International Stadium on Wednesday.

But Borough mounted yet another attack and visiting keeper Simon Smith had to produce a superb save to keep out Gary Johnson's effort and the ball ran free to Moss who made no mistake from close range.

There is no doubt that Borough earned their success, but they gave their fans plenty of anxious moments in a game they should have won at a canter.

They dominated the proceedings for long spells, especially during the first half, but failed to turn their superiority into goals against their fellow GM Vauxhall Conference strugglers.

Despite being well in control, Borough had a shock shortly after the interval when Gateshead went in front against the run of play through Keith McNall.

Leading scorer Frank Murphy put Borough on level terms and then three goals in three minutes from Murphy, Ian Donaldson and Moss set up an exciting finale for the home supporters.

Nuneaton had Everton Carr, Peter Shearer and Murphy all back after injury but were without suspended

skipper Richard Dixey and the cup-tied Graham Fearn.

Borough were first to threaten when Mick Thurman played Peter Bradley clear on the right but Smith was well positioned to cut out the cross.

There was more danger for Gateshead when they failed to cut out Carr's low centre and Smith had to save bravely from both Moss and Murphy.

The visitors were struggling to get into the match and Bradley had a chance after Willie Gibson had pulled the ball back from the by-line but his shot lacked the power to trouble Smith.

Nuneaton missed another good opportunity after ten minutes when Moss went round the keeper but the striker over-ran the ball and in the end could only turn it into the side netting.

Gateshead eventually sparked into life and Barry Wardrobe had the ball in the net following a neat clip from McNall but the effort was disallowed for offside.

The home side were quickly back on the attack only to be denied by Smith yet again as he showed excellent handling to cut out Moss' centre.



Goalkeeper Smith spreads himself at Murphy's feet but the diminutive striker calmly slips the ball past him to put Borough two goals ahead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

post where Donaldson outjumped the home defenders to beat McKenna with a header.

The groans of disappointment from the home fans could still be heard when Borough hit back to grab the winner.

Murphy again did superbly on the left and from his low centre Johnson saw his shot blocked by Smith only for Moss to hammer the rebound into the roof of the net.

Blyth Spartans —3rd Round

Borough welcomed Blyth Spartans to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Round tie.

Borough: Corder, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Holmes, Moss, Morrison (Murphy 74), Reay, Ward. Sub: Gregory.

Blyth: Guthrie, Harrison, A. Walker, Leaver, Cartwright, Scott, P. Walker, Baxter, McFadden, Berry, Dawson. Subs: Blackhall, Liddane.

Top scorer Frank Murphy stepped off the substitute's bench to keep alive Borough's Wembley dreams with a late equaliser.

The little Scot, who had been troubled all week by a back injury, had been on the pitch for only nine minutes as a replacement for the struggling Lance Morrison when he struck.

Murphy cut into the penalty area where he was felled by Phil Leaver and he picked himself up to coolly drill the spot kick wide of Peter Guthrie to take this FA Trophy third round tie to a replay.

Sixty seconds earlier it had looked odds on Blyth going through to the quarter finals when Tony McFadden took full advantage of a disastrous mix-up between Peter Corder and Everton Carr to put the visitors in front.

But Murphy's late leveller means that the teams must try again at Croft Park tomorrow night. Both sides had struggled to stamp any authority on the proceedings during a scrappy first 45 minutes with play being mostly confined to a congested midfield.

It was then the turn of Borough keeper John McKenna to show his value with a superb save from Kenny Lowe's free-kick. At the other end Gibson set up Bradley but, with clear sight of goal, Borough's midfielder pulled his shot wide of the left-hand post.

Carr then gave away an unnecessary free-kick on the edge of the penalty area and Lowe's effort had McKenna scrambling across his line as the ball flew a foot wide.

Borough started the second period with a fine flowing move involving Moss, Gibson and Shearer, but the final pass found Murphy narrowly offside.

But Nuneaton were stunned eight minutes after the re-start when Gateshead went in front. Martin Henderson got free on the left and his low centre found McNall unmarked in front of goal and he made no mistake from six yards.

Wardrobe was stretchered off with what appeared to be a knee injury and was replaced by Donaldson – and two minutes later Borough were level with a superb effort by Murphy.

Johnson won the ball in midfield, Bradley touched it on and Murphy cut into the box and coolly chipped it over the advancing Smith and into the top corner of the net.

Nuneaton were in total command now and Moss brought another excellent save from the visitors' keeper before wasting a clear chance as he shot over with only Smith to beat.

David Parnaby was booked for a foul on Murphy before Simon Reay replaced Mark Fletcher.

Borough should have gone in front after 77 minutes when Murphy got free on the left and centred into the six yard box but Johnson failed to force the ball past the alert Smith.

However 60 seconds later Nuneaton took the lead. Johnson won a decisive tackle in midfield and the quicksilver Murphy was away to slip the ball past Smith as he came out.

But Nuneaton were still congratulating themselves when the visitors snatched a dramatic equaliser. Gibson was penalised for a tackle on McNall and Lowe floated the free-kick to the far

However, McFadden put the visitors in front seven minutes before the interval with a close range header only for Borough skipper Richard Dixey to level matters four minutes after the restart.

There were chances for both sides to clinch the game during a hectic finish but at the end of the day a draw was a fair reflection on a disappointing tie.

Borough player-manager Jimmy Holmes returned to the heart of the defence with Mick Thurman moving into midfield and Simon Reay partnered Morrison up front.

It was almost a disastrous start for Borough when Thurman was booked in the first minute for a foul on Paul Walker, and from the ensuing free-kick Chris Scott had an opening but failed to get hold of his close range shot and Corder gathered easily.

There was little for the fans to enthuse about in the early stages but with ten minutes gone Nuneaton missed a clear-cut chance. Holmes floated in a free-kick from the left but the unmarked Reay glanced his header wide from eight yards out.

Willie Gibson then found Paul Moss in a bit of space on the left but he wanted too much time to get in his cross and

Jim Harrison was able to cut out the danger.

Tony Dawson produced a moment of danger for Borough when he chipped in a short centre to Kevin Berry but Willie Gibson was on hand to hook the ball clear.

Blyth had a let off shortly afterwards. Dave Ward's shot felled Moss on the edge of the box but the ball ran kindly for Morrison only for the big centre forward to mistime his effort and Guthrie collected untroubled.

But it was Spartans who took the lead after 38 minutes. Dawson's centre from the right picked out Paul Walker at the far post, he knocked it back into the middle where Berry headed it on and McFadden looking to be well offside, applied the finishing touch.

Corder led the Nuneaton protests to referee John Kirby from Sheffield, but the official was not impressed and the goal stood.

Borough were fortunate not to go two down at the start of the second period when they only cleared a corner to the edge of the box and Berry's low shot beat the diving Corder but, luckily for the home fans, went inches outside the left hand post.

However, four minutes later Borough were level. Willie Gibson floated in a free-kick from the left, Mick Thurman knocked it into the penalty area and Richard Dixey hammered it past the diving Guthrie.

Moss then smashed a shot over the top before Dixey came to Borough's rescue with a timely tackle on McFadden who threatened the Borough goal after getting free from the attentions of Jimmy Holmes.

Scott was booked for a foul on Reay and as Borough pushed forward Guthrie did well to turn a Moss effort over the top for a corner.

Everton Carr then went into the book for bringing down Paul Walker and almost immediately Moss missed a great chance to put Nuneaton in front.

Morrison turned superbly to lose his marker and put Moss clear in the box but he over-ran the ball and the chance was gone.

But Borough were almost caught napping when McFadden beat Jimmy Holmes and Peter Corder to Steve Baxter's through ball and his shot shaved the far post.

Murphy then replaced the tiring Morrison and Moss thundered a shot against the crossbar.

Berry became the fourth booking of the afternoon and the visitors then took the lead with as soft a goal seen at Manor Park this season.

There seemed to be no danger as Carr was shepherding a long ball back to Corder with McFadden in close attendance.

But the Nuneaton players hesitated, all three finished in a heap and McFadden was first to his feet to slip the ball into the empty net.

Within 60 seconds Murphy produced his rescue act and in the dying minutes Peter Bradley saw his shot beat Guthrie but thud against the post and bounce to safety.



Frank Murphy is brought down from behind by Blyth defender Phil Leaver and Borough are awarded a penalty, from which Murphy scores.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Blyth Spartans — 3rd Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Croft Park to play Blyth Spartans in a FA Trophy Third Round replay.

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Moss, Murphy, Morrison, Ward, Gregory (Reay 58). Sub: Holmes.

A scintillating, all action FA Trophy replay on a cold bleak night in the North East finished unresolved yet again making a second replay necessary next Monday.

But the luck wasn't with Borough as the toss of a coin at the end of the match determined that the third meeting between the two sides will be at Croft Park.

Battling Borough deserved more than a draw – they turned in one of their best performances of the season to keep Blyth at bay, and for a time it seemed they had done enough, but a superb equaliser in injury time from the home side kept their hopes alive.

Blyth began the tie in more determined mood, and forced debut maker Wayne Starkey to make a good save inside the first three minutes.

Full back Blackhall broke quickly down the right, drove a shot into a crowded penalty area, the ball fell invitingly to Dawson, whose effort was beaten away by the young keeper.

The home side had another chance in the 15th minute as Blackhall found McFadden in space on the edge of the box, but his turn and shot was just the wrong side of the post.

Then it was Borough's turn to push forward and they should really have taken the lead. Murphy picked up a loose ball in midfield, and had a clear run on goal, but Guthrie came out to narrow the angle and blocked the striker's shot with his body.

Within a minute though, Borough did edge in front – and it was a special moment for Peter Bradley as he notched his first goal for the club.

Murphy turned the ball into the box, Bradley collected it and kept his feet well on the treacherous snowy surface before drilling the shot wide of Guthrie and in off the far post.

Blyth's frustration at falling behind resulted in Blackhall being booked for a clumsy foul on Moss in the 23rd minute, but the free-kick came to nothing as Murphy fired well over from 25 yards.

A minute later, Blyth put together a swift, incisive move which could have brought them an equaliser. McFadden turned his way past Thurman, slipped it to Blackhall out on the touchline, his cross was helped on by Berry, but Thurman had recovered well to clear the ball for a corner. Paul Walker's flag kick was deep to the far post, and Berry might have done better with a header which flew a yard or two over the crossbar.

Borough defender Everton Carr picked up his second caution in four days a minute later for a foul on Baxter and then Starkey needed to be alert as McFadden ran on to a good flick by Berry – the Borough keeper dived bravely at McFadden's feet to prevent the Blyth striker getting a clear sight of goal.

In the 31st minute, Thurman joined Carr in the book – also for a bad foul on Baxter, and that too was his second booking of the tie.

Three minutes from half time, Starkey was in action again, this time saving a speculative long range effort from McFadden.

Carr got the second half off to a physical start, and was lectured long and hard by the referee after another crunching tackle on Baxter soon after the resumption.

Starkey earned himself more praise for saving Paul Walker's free kick at the second attempt, and then diving bravely among the flying boots as Borough's goal came under considerable pressure from the Blyth attack.

In the 57th minute, the home side were close to equalising as Berry whipped the ball into Cartwright whose header was only just wide of the left hand upright.

Simon Reay replaced Ade Gregory shortly afterwards – and seconds later, Blyth finally made the breakthrough to level matters at one all.

Dawson's ball into the box was misjudged by Carr, he allowed it to run on to Berry, who turned past Dixey and fired a low shot into the far corner.

A good build up by Borough in the 67th minute saw Dave Ward's shot blocked, but the rebound fell to Murphy, whose 18 yard drive was deflected inches past the post.

That close call proved to be a taste of things to come, as Borough regained the lead in the 72nd minute. Reay floated a high ball into the box for Moss to chase and his centre found Morrison, and he despatched a first time shot into the roof of the net.

It looked as if Borough had done enough to secure their place in the quarter finals especially when Dawson dragged a shot wide from a seemingly good position with only five minutes left, but as the tie entered injury time, Blyth snatched a dramatic equaliser.

Dawson's cross was only half cleared by the Borough defence, it dropped to Berry, who saw Starkey pull off a magnificent save to deny him, but as it came back out, Paul Walker drove in a tremendous 30 yarder which flew into the top corner, sending the 1,900 crowd wild – and forcing an additional 30 minutes of extra time.

The effects of a tough, competitive struggle began to take their toll in extra time, with only two real scoring chances being created – and both of them went Blyth's way.

The first, in the 95th minute, a Paul Walker free kick which was scooped round the post by Starkey, and a second two minutes later was a similar effort by Walker – bringing a marvellous



save out of Starkey to keep Borough in with a chance of making it to the last eight.

Blyth Spartans – 3rd Round Second Replay

Borough made the journey to Croft Park to play Blyth Spartans in a FA Trophy Third Round second replay.

Blyth: Guthrie, Harmison, A. Walker (Brownlie 90), Leaver, Cartwright, Scorr, P. Walker, Baxter, McFadden (Liddane 16), Berry, Dawson.

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Gibson, Thurman (Shearer 67), Dixey, Bradley, Murphy, Moss (Reay 67), Morrison, Ward, Gregory.

Another chapter in this epic FA Trophy tie was written last night, as a further 120 minutes of football failed to separate the two sides, making a third replay necessary – this time at Manor Park.

Borough's brave run in the competition looked destined to come to an end as Blyth led 2-1 going into the last ten minutes, but a well worked equaliser by Simon Reay in the closing stages saved them from defeat and they will now probably start as favourites.

The visitors began well against a strangely out of touch Blyth outfit and created the first real scoring opportunity in the seventh minute.

Paul Moss' ball into the box from Richard Dixey's free kick was met on the volley by Frank Murphy, but the ball sailed over the crossbar.

Blyth were dealt a cruel blow five minutes later when 21 goal striker Tony McFadden went down following a goalmouth skirmish, and had to be replaced by Ronan Liddane after a lengthy spell of treatment.

Liddane's first touch almost gave Blyth the lead, as he climbed to head Paul Walker's corner towards the net, but Peter Bradley was there to scramble it away.

A minute later, Borough found themselves in front. Ade Gregory chipped the ball into the box, Phil

Leaver tried to let it go for a goal kick, but Willie Gibson got there first to hook the ball into the goalmouth and Paul Moss was unmarked seven or eight yards out and he made no mistake.

Blyth came back at them straight away, and Kevin Berry nearly snatched an equaliser in the 19th minute. Tony Dawson's cross reached Berry – whose falling right foot volley was brilliantly saved by Wayne Starkey. The young Borough keeper dived to his right to make a memorable stop.

The home side continued to pile on the pressure and Starkey needed to stretch in the 23rd minute to tip Scott's header over the bar.

A rare error by Gibson two minutes later allowed Berry to get in a shot, but the ball was deflected wide. The pace of the match was starting to hot up, and a rather over eager challenge by Radley on Walker in the 36th minute earned him a caution.

Gregory joined Bradley in the book shortly before half-time for a clumsy tackle on Cartwright, and as the first period moved into injury time, Paul Walker's 30 yard free-kick flew just over the top to create a moment of anxiety in the visitor's ranks.

There was more cause for concern in the Borough defence as Starkey raced out of his area to clear from Liddane following a short back pass by Carr early in the second half.

Blyth looked far more likely to score, and should have done so in the 55th minute, but Liddane's efforts in front of an open net screamed yards over.

The home side did get the breakthrough they were looking for in the 58th minute as another Walker corner was volleyed past a crowd of Borough defenders by Baxter and somehow found its way into the bottom corner of the net.

Blyth suddenly found new inspiration and roared on by a massive crowd of over 3,000, they took the lead two minutes later.

Liddane got the better of Dixey on the Borough right and crossed it in for Berry to head firmly past Starkey.

Borough replied five minutes later with a well weighted through ball by Bradley, and goalkeeper Guthrie needed to dive at Murphy's feet to deny him the chance of grabbing an equaliser.

At the other end, Liddane shot inches wide from Dawson's centre, and a minute later, Borough made what proved to be an inspired double substitution.

Peter Shearer and Simon Reay joined the action replacing Thurman and goalscorer Moss. Both were involved in an 80th minute equaliser, but three minutes prior to that, Blyth could have made it 3-1 as Liddane burst clear and had a fierce drive tipped round the post by Starkey.

Borough's next attack, though, brought them level. Shearer battled his way into the Blyth penalty area, received a return ball from Murphy, but then the midfielder completely miskicked. Fortunately, Reay was following up and placed his shot wide of Guthrie and into the corner.

With four minutes left, Blyth had a chance to steal it – Cartwright put Liddane through and Borough had Starkey to thank for making a tremendous block with his legs to keep his side in contention.

Once again, the tie moved into extra time, with Blyth introducing Brownlie in place of Alan Walker, but Borough were first to show in the 93rd minute and Murphy curled in a cross from the right which Reay headed into the arms of Guthrie.

Shearer became the third Borough player to have his name taken for a foul on Baxter in the 102nd minute, and four minutes after that, Blyth almost snatched it. Walker's corner came in from the left and Scott's header was tipped over by Starkey.



Blyth goalkeeper Guthrie is flat out and central defender Peter Leaver can only follow the ball into the net as Simon Reay's goal sees Borough through. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Morrison while at the other end Wayne Starkey was happy to grab Dawson's shot at the second attempt.

Borough should have been in front after eight minutes when, following a left wing corner by Ward, Morrison had a shot cleared off the line by Phil Leaver and Gregory fired the rebound high over the top from 12 yards.

Ward then beat Leaver on the corner of the penalty area and his thundering 25 yard cross shot brought a superb save from Guthrie.

Nuneaton were beginning to get on top now and Morrison was unlucky when his header from Bradley's cross appeared to go through Guthrie's hands who had to react swiftly to snatch the ball off the line.

Baxter was then booked for a foul on Ward before Richard Dixey fired a long range effort well wide of the Blyth goal.

Dawson found himself a bit of space wide on the right and his long cross caught the Borough defence flat footed allowing Berry to sneak in at the far post but he could only glance his header wide.

Craig Mordue came on to replace the limping Ronan Liddane for the visitors and just before the break Chris Scott flashed a powerful header a foot wide of Starkey's right hand upright.

Blyth Spartans – 3rd Round Third Replay

Borough welcomed Blyth Spartans to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Round Third Replay tie.

Borough: Starkey, Carr, Gibson, Thurman, Dixey, Bradley, Murphy, Moss, Morrison, Ward, Gregory (Reay 87). Sub: Stewart.

Blyth: Guthrie, Harrison, A. Walker, Leaver, Cartwright (Brownlie 79), Scott, P. Walker, Baxter, Liddane (Mordue 39), Berry, Dawson.

Super sub Simon Reay was the Nuneaton hero last night as Borough took another step towards a Wembley date in May. The young striker, who got Borough's late equaliser in Monday's match at Blyth, came up with the goal that gives Borough a home clash with Dartford in the quarter-finals.

Reay replaced the tiring Ade Gregory shortly before the end of normal time and finally ended this third round marathon with a goal of real class.

Following three 2-2 draws the sides were still locked in stalemate after another slogging 90 minutes on a sticky pitch. But nine minutes into the first period of extra time came the moment that Nuneaton fans had been waiting for.

Dave Ward picked up the ball in the centre circle and made a superb run at the Blyth defence. The visitors valiantly tried to cut out the danger but the Borough midfielder timed his pass to perfection as he slipped the ball to the unmarked Reay who calmly picked his spot to beat Peter Guthrie.

It was a goal worthy of settling this tremendous tussle between two evenly matched sides and sent Nuneaton's biggest crowd of the season, almost 1,700 of them, home happy.

Borough manager Jimmy Holmes was forced to make one late change, Peter Shearer reported unfit and Paul Stewart took his place on the substitute's bench.

The game opened at a cracking pace and Borough had a let off in the first minute. Tony Dawson got clear on the right and from his early cross Steve Baxter got in a low shot that flew across the face of goal with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Peter Bradley then made a good break on the right and Jim Harrison did well to hook his centre clear from Lance



Guthrie is struggling as substitute Simon Reay dives in with a header from Dave Ward's free-kick in the closing minutes. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough made a bright start to the second half and a neat build up involving Frank Murphy, Paul Moss and Willie Gibson created a chance for Bradley but his effort flew well over.

Morrison then threatened to get on to the end of Moss' ball into the penalty area but the big striker couldn't shake off Leaver and Guthrie gathered comfortably.

Moss cut into the area but wanted too much time to get his centre in and Alan Walker was able to cut out the danger.

Midway through the half, Nuneaton missed an opportunity to go in front. Moss delivered an inch perfect cross from the right but Morrison headed straight at Guthrie from six yards.

Blyth were still looking dangerous on the break and Dixey had to risk life and limb to get his head in the way of a dangerous cross from Paul Walker and then Mordue fired high and wide after a neat ball from Baxter.

John Brownlie came on for Peter Cartwright but almost immediately Bradley had Guthrie going full length to make another fine save.

As normal time was drawing to a close Blyth seemed to be running out of steam as the effects of the three previous games began to show.

Nuneaton looked decidedly the stronger side as extra time got under way and it came as no real surprise when Reay put them in front.

However the striker hung his head, as he blasted high over the top from 12 yards with only the keeper to beat early in the second period of extra time after Murphy had set up a clear cut chance.

Blyth central defender Scott was helped off with a suspected broken arm leaving the visitors to play out the final 11 minutes with ten men.

Bradley and Reay both went close to increasing Nuneaton's advantage during the closing stages, but that golden goal in the 99th minute was enough.

Dartford —Quarter-Final

Borough welcomed Dartford to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy Quarter-Final.

Borough: Starkey, Reay, Gibson, Thurman (Johnson 78), Dixey, Bradley, Murphy, Moss (Gregory, 55) Morrison, Ward, Shearer.

Dartford: Delf, Jacques, Keen, Wallis, McCayna, Conner, Hessenthaler, Robinson, Davidson, Burman, Taylor. Subs: Britnall, Wells.

Nuneaton's Wembley dreams lie in tatters following a disastrous second half performance.

Jimmy Holmes' men, full of confidence and running before the break, looked to be well on their way to booking a place in the semi-finals of the FA Trophy for the first time in their history.

They had made a dream start with Frank Murphy putting them ahead after only four minutes.

Borough missed two glorious chances to increase their lead before the break, but even then they were favourites to move a step nearer to the Twin Towers.

However, a penalty by Peter Taylor four minutes after the restart, put the visitors back in the game.

Kurt Davidson scored to give Darts the lead 11 minutes from the end and Taylor completed a night of misery for Nuneaton fans with a simple third goal six minutes later.

Borough could not have wished for a better start. Barry Delf made a fine save from Paul Moss following Dave Ward's corner, but the ball was only partially cleared and when Willie Gibson pumped it back into the penalty area, Murphy brought it down and swept it into the net all in one movement.



Leading scorer Frank Murphy gives Borough the perfect start as he coolly beats Dartford keeper Barry Delf, giving Borough a fourth minute lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Lance Morrison then failed to get any power into a close range shot after Moss had headed back Reay's deep cross and Delf smothered the effort.

But there were danger signals for Borough when Tony Burman had a shot deflected narrowly wide and Taylor hit a left footer uncomfortably close to Wayne Starkey's right hand post.

Nuneaton however, were well in control and they ought to have increased their lead on the half hour. Shearer played Morrison clear but the centre forward shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

Two minutes later Peter Bradley fired in a low cross from the right. Moss missed it and Morrison was unmarked inside the six yard box but he failed to connect properly and the danger was cleared.

Borough were to regret those misses as four minutes after the restart Dartford were level.

Mick Thurman was adjudged to have brought down Burman in the penalty area, and Taylor scored easily from the spot kick.

The visitors were now in control and Davidson fired a looping shot narrowly over the top with Starkey well beaten.

Dartford continued to press forward and it came as no surprise when they took the lead 11 minutes from the end.

Burman found space on the left hand side of the penalty area but he mis-hit his shot only to see Davidson force it into the net off Starkey at the far post.

Six minutes from the end Taylor put the issue beyond doubt when a terrible mistake by Shearer let him in for a simple third goal.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



GM Vauxhall Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1986-87

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.26	Worcester City	A	PSF	0-0		
07.29	Northampton Town	H	PSF	1-2	Smithers	
08.01	Port Vale	H	PSF	0-1		
08.05	A.P.Leamington	A	PSF	4-0	Morrison (2), Smithers, McGranaghan	
08.08	Coventry Sporting	A	PSF	1-0	Darby (o.g.)	
08.13	Willenhall Town	H	M&B SF	1-2	Smithers	
08.16	Scarborough	H	L	3-0	Dixey (2), McGranghan	614
08.19	Stafford Rangers	A	L	1-3	Hutchinson	1043
08.23	Sutton United	H	L	1-1	Morrison	724
08.25	Weymouth	A	L	0-1		643
08.30	Scarborough	A	L	0-1		925
09.01	Bath City	H	L	1-0	Morrison	648
09.06	Frickley Athletic	H	L	2-1	Hutchinson, Smithers	667
09.09	Barnet	A	L	1-4	Morrison	1332
09.13	Dagenham	A	L	1-3	Morrison	486
09.15	Cheltenham Town	H	L	0-0		699
09.20	Wealdstone	H	L	1-1	Reay	735
09.24	Kettering Town	A	L	2-2	Murphy, Smithers	980
09.27	Frickley Athletic	A	H	1-1	Reay	735
09.29	Boston United	H	L	1-5	Smithers (pen)	769
10.04	Altrincham	A	L	2-2	Moss, Murphy	1404
10.08	Boston United	A	L	1-2	Murphy	1285
10.11	Sutton United	A	L	3-2	Murphy, Moss, Hutchinson	550
10.13	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	1-2	Murphy (pen)	924
10.18	Enfield	A	L	1-3	Murphy	703
10.25	Goole Town	A	FAC 4Q	2-1	McGranaghan, Reay	800
11.01	Gateshead	H	L	1-1	Murphy (pen)	690
11.03	Atherstone United	H	BSC 2	2-2	Moss, McGranaghan	638
11.08	Wealdstone	A	L	0-6		554
11.10	Burton Albion	A	GMAC 1	1-1	Murphy (pen)	948
11.15	Rochdale	H	FAC 1	0-3		3586
11.17	Burton Albion	H	GMAC 1r	0-1		474
11.22	Kings Lynn	A	FAT 3Q	1-1	Ward	397
11.24	Kings Lynn	H	FAT 3Qr	1-0	Moss	452
11.29	Maidstone United	H	L	2-0	Murphy, Reay	514
12.02	Atherstone United	A	BSC 2r	0-4		628
12.06	Cheltenham Town	A	L	1-1	Williams	1130
12.13	Kettering Town	H	L	0-0		716
12.20	Telford United	A	FAT 1	4-1	Murphy (4)	1426
12.26	Telford United	H	L	0-2		1068
01.01	Telford United	A	L	1-1	Moss	1703
01.03	Weymouth	H	L	0-4		658
01.24	Gateshead	H	FAT 2	3-2	Murphy (2), Moss	619
01.31	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	0-3		1133
02.07	Barnet	H	L	1-3	Murphy	797
02.14	Blyth Spartans	H	FAT 3	2-2	Moss, Reay	3235
02.17	Blyth Spartans	A	FAT 3r	2-2	Bradley, Morrison	1899
02.21	Dagenham	H	L	3-3	Ricketts, Murphy, Morrison	512
02.23	Blyth Spartans	A	LFAT 3 r2	2-2	Moss, Reay	3235
02.26	Blyth Spartans	H	FAT 3 r3	1-0	Reay	1677
02.28	Altrincham	H	L	2-2	Ricketts, Morrison	672
03.09	Dartford	H	FAT QF	1-3	Murphy	1893
03.12	Shepshed Charterhouse	A	M&B	3-4	Morrison, Ward, Fearn	

GM Vauxhall Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1986-87

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.14	Runcorn	H	L	1-0	Williams	613
03.18	Welling United	A	L	2-1	Dixey, Ricketts	763
03.21	Northwich Victoria	A	L	2-1	Morrison, Ricketts	871
03.25	Gateshead	A	L	2-3	Dixey, Morrison	241
03.28	Northwich Victoria	H	L	0-1		662
03.30	Welling United	H	L	1-2	Ricketts (pen)	631
04.04	Enfield	H	L	2-0	Ricketts, Bradley	510
04.08	Maidstone United	A	L	0-2		616
04.11	Stafford Rangers	H	L	0-0		672
04.20	Bath City	A	L	3-2	Morrison, Ward, Cunningham	501
05.02	Runcorn	A	L	1-1	Cunningham	538

KEY : L = GM Vauxhall Conference, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, GMAC = League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, M&B = M & B Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1986-87

Back: Jimmy Holmes (player-manager), Robbie Grant, Mick Thurman, Willie Gibson, Alan Harris, Frank Murphy, Richard Dixie, Lance Morrison, John Rudkin.

Front row: Everton Carr, Mark Hutchinson, Timmy Smithers, Eddie McGoldrick, Andy McCranighan, Lawrie Donoghue.

Photograph taken v Northampton Town - July 29th, 1986

1987-88



Work to get Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park ground ready for the new season has already started. Since the end of the last campaign the terracing at the Cock and Bear end of the ground has developed a fine crop of weeds which have to be removed. Mick Beards, of Beards Landscape Contractors, is seen treating the problem today, assisted by volunteers Geoff Cooke (centre) and Albert White.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Holmes To Continue

Jimmy Holmes will still be in charge of Nuneaton Borough when the Manor Park club kick off their Beazer Homes League season in August. The former Eire international accepted the new board's invitation to carry on as full-time boss at a meeting at the ground last night.

Smithers Hoping To Be Fit For New Season

Broken leg victim Tim Smithers is hoping to be fit for Nuneaton Borough's first match of the season in August. The midfielder, out of action since being carried off at Boston United on October 8 last year, has now started training.

Fans To Quiz Borough Board

Anxious Nuneaton Borough fans will get their chance to quiz the club's new board on the current situation at Manor Park at a special open meeting on Sunday. Chairman John Harris has called the meeting, to be held in the social club at 11am, to explain the new set up and playing arrangements for next season. "The new board wants to keep the fans informed of what is going on and anybody who has any questions about the running of Nuneaton Borough can put them to the board and we will do our best to answer them," he said.

Admission Prices Reduced

Admission prices for Nuneaton Borough's Southern League campaign have been reduced following the club's demotion from the GM Vauxhall Conference. A 30p drop from £1.80 to £1.50 has been levied for adults, while children and old age pensioners will have to pay 75p to watch their favourites.

Savings are on offer to season ticket holders if they buy before August 1. Tickets normally cost £22 but only £20 if bought in the next fortnight.

Stephens Set To Join Barnet

Kirk Stephens looks set to leave Nuneaton Borough and join last season's GM Conference runners-up Barnet. The move looks certain to go through later this week and is a big blow to Borough manager Jimmy Holmes, who was hoping he could get the former Coventry City defender to stay on at Manor Park.

Players Agree To Stay

Nuneaton Borough's players have given a massive vote of confidence to the club's new look board by agreeing to stay on and join the fight to get the side out of the Southern League. All but two of the present playing staff have pledged their future to the Borough and have agreed to take a pay cut to help ease the club's chronic financial position. The two exceptions are Kirk Stephens and full-back Willie Gibson, who look set to leave for Barnet and Weymouth respectively.

First Training Session



Nuneaton Borough manager Jimmy Holmes leads his players through a gentle running routine during a pre-season training stint.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Contag Win Tender

Nuneaton Borough have given the contract on phase one of the safety development at their Manor Park ground to Coventry construction firm Contag. Three tenders were examined by Borough chairman John Harris and his board earlier this week and they decided that the bid from Contag was the most acceptable

Cost for the work is expected to be in the region of £16,000 and will hopefully be finished by the start of the season. Doug Miller, director of Contag, was delighted that their tender had been accepted and said that work would start immediately.

"Our main task is to upgrade the crush barriers and construct new access stairways and entrances at the rear of the Cock and Bear stand," said Miller. "New fencing must also be erected in various parts of the ground, although no work will be done on the terracing immediately behind the goal at the Queen's Road end of the ground. Off site things are already beginning to move while work on the ground is expected to get underway on Monday..."

Rushall Olympic v Nuneaton Borough 29-07-1987

Borough: Starkey, Bates, Gregory, Bradley, Thomas, Shearer, Cunningham, Fearn, Morrison, Ward, Reay (Daniel 60). **Subs:** Bateman, Dutton.

Borough made the journey to Dales End to face Rushall Olympic in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough slipped to a 2-0 defeat as they opened their pre-season build-up. The Manor Park outfit were in control for most of the match but were beaten by two goals in the last 15 minutes from Olympic substitute Paul Simmons. Dave Ward hit a Rushall post with a superb shot after only eight minutes and shortly afterwards Mark Cunningham was only inches wide with the keeper beaten.

Borough continued to dominate the proceedings but they failed to turn their superiority into goals as a number of clear-cut chances went begging. Jimmy Holmes' men were made to pay dearly for those misses when Simmons put the home side ahead following a corner 15 minutes from the end. Nuneaton pressed forward in search of an equaliser but shortly before the final whistle Simmons got a second goal for Rushall to put the issue beyond doubt.



Work required to bring Manor Park up to the required safety standards in time for Nuneaton Borough to kick-off the new season at their own ground is now well under way. Contag Construction of Coventry were awarded the contract for the first phase of the improvements at the Cock and Bear end and they are confident the job will be completed on schedule.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Paget Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 01-08-1987

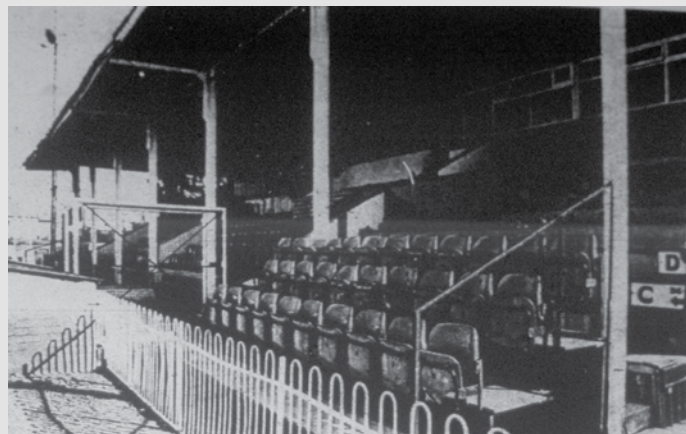
Borough made the journey to Hollyfields to face Paget Rangers in a pre-season friendly game.

Nuneaton Borough produced a much-improved performance as they won 3-1 at Paget Rangers. Jimmy Holmes' men, beaten at Rushall in midweek were always in control and thoroughly deserved their success. Graham Fearn put Borough in front two minutes before the interval from a free-kick on the edge of the box following some consistent pressure from the visitors.

Nuneaton continued to dominate in the second half and it

came as no surprise when Mark Cunningham added a second after 75 minutes. Five minutes later, Tim Smithers, on as substitute for the last half an hour, made it 3-0 to Borough.

Paget gave the scoreline a look of respectability when they pulled a goal back in the final minute.



The section of seating that has been reserved for Nuneaton Borough vice presidents and season ticket holders who find it essential to sit can be clearly seen in front of the main stand nearest to the Cock and Bear end. A total of 62 temporary seats have now been installed in readiness for the kick-off on August 22.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 10-08-1987

Borough made the journey to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a pre-season friendly game.

Local rivals Nuneaton Borough and Atherstone United both showed they are in good shape for the forthcoming season when they fought out a competitive friendly match. A solitary goal from Bobby Parker gave Adders a narrow 1-0 win but the scoreline was of little importance as the two outfits look to get their houses in order for their league kick-off on Saturday week. Borough boss Jimmy Holmes was very pleased with his side's showing and their general fitness, although he still has a few problems to sort out in the goalscoring department.

Peter Shearer, Alan Ricketts and Simon Reay all missed clear cut openings, although some credit should go to United keeper Martin Bradford, who had a fine match, desputising for Lee Spencer. A plus point for Holmes was the performance of Tim Smithers, who is beginning to get back to full fitness after breaking a leg early last season.

Coventry Sporting v Nuneaton Borough 14-08-1987

Borough made the journey to Kirby Corner Road to face Coventry Sporting in a pre-season friendly game.

Nuneaton Borough completed their pre-season friendlies on an impressive note with a fine 3-1 victory. The Manor Park side showed they are in excellent fettle for their opening league game with Fareham Town, with a stylish all-round display. A sterling first-half showing was the major factor in their easy win over Sporting, who battled hard but were unable to match Borough's confident approach. It was in the

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



striking department where the Manor Park outfit had showed a lack of penetration in their previous build-up games but manager Jimmy Holmes was delighted to see his men finally find their shooting boots.

Dave Ward inched the visitors ahead inside five minutes as Borough made a solid start while Mark Cunningham extended their lead midway through the half with another piece of neat finishing. The result was virtually sealed on the half-hour mark when Simon Reay pounced to notch the third to leave a shell-shocked Sporting relieved to hear the half-time whistle.

Holmes made several changes to his line-up for the second half and although the home side took advantage to pull a goal back, Borough looked in no danger of losing their grip as they held on to their earlier gains to complete an encouraging night's work.

M&B Sponsor Borough



Mitchells and Butlers are banking on the future of Nuneaton Borough and the giant brewers are to give cash backing to the Manor Park club. Under an agreement just worked out Borough are to receive a substantial loan and the money will be used specifically for work on the social club.

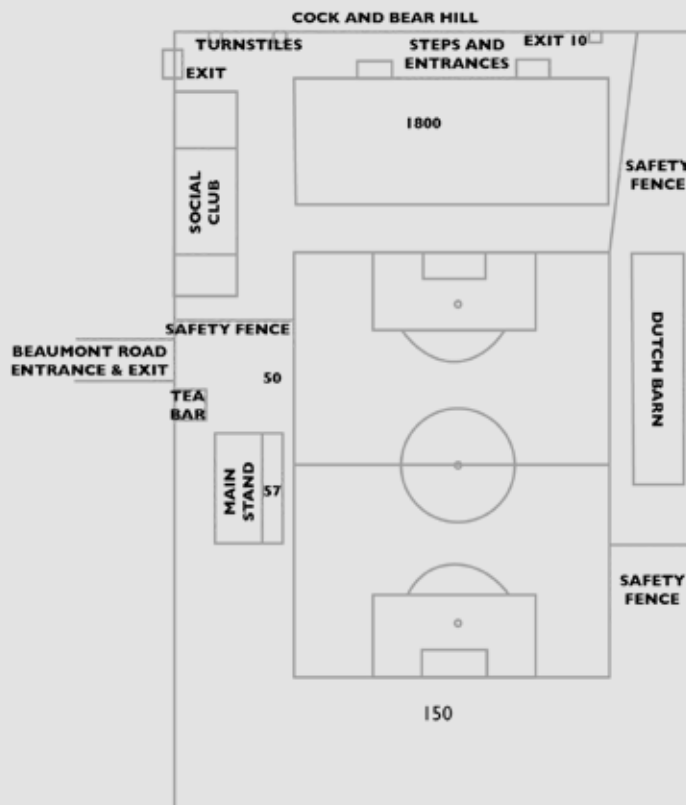
Announcing the deal last night, Borough chairman John Harris said that improvements and developments and essential safety work on the club required under phase one of the grounds improvement scheme could now be completed. In return for the loan M&B are to be allowed advertising on the first team shirts for the next two years and first option to review the arrangement at the end of that period. They are also to have the use of three advertising boards around the Manor Park ground...

Fans' Co-operation Essential

Nuneaton Borough will be looking for total co-operation from their supporters when they open their Beazer Homes League campaign against Fareham Town. Under the terms of the club's safety certificate the crowd will be limited to 2,057 and Borough will be able to use only certain parts of their Manor Park ground. In order to keep things moving as smoothly as possible Borough will have a team of 14 stewards on duty to guide supporters to their proper places.

"Things will probably seem a bit strange for our fans on Saturday," said Nuneaton secretary Keith Allen today. "But we ask them to bear with us. The club is not responsible for the policies that are being enforced – they are conditions laid down by the safety authorities.

"Obviously we are going to be under very close scrutiny and it is vital that we carry out all their requirements to the letter. We are relying entirely on the co-operation of our supporters. If they just follow the instructions of the stewards then everything will be fine," he added.



Nuneaton Borough v Fareham Town 22-08-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Holmes, Shearer, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Reay, Ricketts, Ward, Upton. **Sub:** Johnson.

Fareham: Bailey, Newman, Huxford, Brick, Bye, O'Brien, Cowans, Long, Moody, Paskins, Baird. **Sub:** Fear.

Borough welcomed Fareham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Nuneaton Borough, hoping to bounce straight back into the GM Vauxhall Conference, opened with a disappointing performance. If Jimmy Holmes' men or their fans, had any ideas about an easy return to the top flight, they now know differently. Borough started brightly enough but fell away during the second half and at the end of the day they were happy to settle for a point.

To add to Borough's woes they lost Simon Reay with a hip injury after seven minutes and Mark Cunningham was sent off with Fareham skipper Andy Bye shortly before the interval,

leaving Alan Ricketts as the sole striker. Nuneaton were first to threaten when Cunningham got away from Clive Huxford on the edge of the box but Bye recovered well to cut out the centre. Reay, who took a heavy knock in the opening couple of minutes, limped off to be replaced by Gary Johnson before Nuneaton missed a clear opening. Peter Bradley's free-kick from wide on the right found Mark Upton on his own in the area but he failed to control the ball and Kevin Brick hooked it to safety.

Alan Ricketts brought a diving save from Steve Bailey with a close range header. The visitors were beginning to come into the picture and Steve Thomas did well to head clear from Sandy Baird's cross. On the half-hour Cunningham was unlucky not to break the deadlock when Newman cleared off the line only for the Borough striker to slice the rebound well wide. Brick collected a booking for a foul on Cunningham before Paskins put a shot just wide with Starkey struggling.

Seven minutes before the break the game exploded when Bye fouled Cunningham and held his legs to stop him getting up. The referee did not intervene and as the players got to their feet a scuffle ensued during which fists were raised and both players were sent off.

Peter Shearer headed narrowly wide from a Holmes' free-kick at the start of the second half as Borough looked for the breakthrough. Nuneaton were putting the visitors under constant pressure and Bailey was glad to claim another free-kick by Holmes at the second attempt. But the goal Borough had been threatening came after 62 minutes. Bradley's corner from the right was flicked on at the near post by Ricketts and Holmes headed in from close range.



Borough take the lead after 62 minutes. Alan Ricketts' flicks on Peter Bradley's corner and Jimmy Holmes heads home.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Moody's overhead kick was just wide as Fareham hit back before Ricketts broke clear and forced Bailey to save with his legs. It was a miss they were made to regret two minutes later as Nigel Long got clear on the right, his deep cross picked out Paskins who powered in a header that Starkey could only parry and Simon Cowans tapped in from close range.

Borough were now coming under increasing pressure and

they had Starkey to thank for their point as Fareham ended the far stronger outfit. The home defence was all at sea as Paskins got onto the end of another right wing cross, but Starkey somehow turned his point blank header over the top and then the young keeper produced another superb save, plucking a fierce drive out of the top left hand corner.

Borough Receive Legal Notice

Nuneaton Borough chairman was remaining tight-lipped today over the latest move in the boardroom battle. It is understood that letters from former chairman Noel Kelly's solicitors have been received by the club directors and Mitchells and Butlers – the brewery which has promised financial backing to the Borough.

The letter claims that the present board was set up only as an interim body, pending the outcome of the High Court case involving Mr Kelly and former vice-chairman Joe Shooter, and questions the validity of the sponsorship deal...

...It is understood that if the letters from Mr Kelly's solicitors are not withdrawn, the board will resign en bloc.

Alvechurch v Nuneaton Borough 29-08-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Holmes, Shearer, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Fearn, Ricketts, Ward, Smithers. Sub: Morrison.

Borough made the journey to Lye Meadow to play Alvechurch in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's inability to put the ball in the net again cost them dear. Jimmy Holmes' men made more than enough chances to have sewn up the points long before the end, but failed to capitalise on several clear-cut openings. For the first 20 minutes it was one-way traffic with Alvechurch hardly able to break out of their own half. But Holmes had to come off after 30 minutes and Borough lost their shape.

Royston Richardson started to run things in midfield, the home side began to believe in themselves and during the second period they posed the greater threat. Substitute Tony Malanaphie missed a couple of easy openings but 17 minutes from the end Steve Cotterill got the all-important goal.

There was a dramatic start as Mark Cunningham forced a corner in the first attack of the game. The home defence only partially cleared Dave Ward's flag kick and when it came back into the middle Alan Ricketts and Mike Hart tangled in a heading duel and the Alvechurch central defender landed awkwardly and was stretched off.

Holmes made a dummy run down the line and Smithers switched the ball inside to Ricketts, who swiftly made ground to the edge of the box before unleashing a fierce drive that Tim Harris was happy to grab at the second attempt. Ricketts fired wide from a free-kick as Borough continued to press forward and Ward was off-target with a first-timer. Starkey then had to react swiftly to deny Mark Crisp.

Starkey pushed a Malanaphie header over the top before



Borough missed a golden opportunity just four minutes before the break. Ward curled in a corner from the right and Peter Shearer was completely unmarked as he stole into the six yards box, but he sliced his header wide from almost point blank range. Morrison then missed with the last chance of the half after Harris had failed to hold Smithers' cross.

Borough had an early fright at the start of the second half when Ward was caught in possession by Mark Crisp, but Cotterill failed to control the through ball. Two minutes later there was an almighty scramble after Morrison had nicked the ball away from Harris, but again Borough failed to press home their advantage. Crisp got away from Ward and Steve Thomas on the left and his low cross found the unmarked Malanaphie, but he hooked the ball high over the top.

Ward had another chance, but once again Harris did well. Borough's hopes slumped after 73 minutes when the home side got the breakthrough. Richardson forced his way forward from midfield and slipped the ball through to Cotterill who, despite appeals for offside, ran on to slip the ball past the unprotected Starkey.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 31-08-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Fearn, Morrison, Ward, Smithers. **Sub:** Johnson.

Cambridge: Murray, Lindsey, Cullum, Hubbard, Ladds, Lockhart, Low, Finney, French, Grogan, Daniels. **Sub:** Browse.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

The gloom deepened as Borough suffered their second defeat in three days. Nuneaton led by a Mark Cunningham goal at the interval but two second half efforts by Gary French completed a miserable holiday period for Borough. They again made a bright start but long before the end they seemed to run out of steam and out of ideas, and are still looking for their first win of the season. An injury to Alan Ricketts in the Alvechurch game ruled out the Borough striker and his place was taken by Lance Morrison and Ade Gregory came in for Jimmy Holmes.

Tim Smithers found Peter Bradley with a deep cross, but the youngster's pass was cut out. A flick on by Cunningham put Dave Ward on his way but his shot lacked the necessary power to trouble Kevin Murray. Borough were calling the tune and Graham Fearn found Gregory wide on the left and his cross caused problems for the Cambridge defence, but Morrison's header flew harmlessly over the top.

Dixey also put a header over the bar and Cunningham tested Murray with a low drive. Lockhart had a couple of long range efforts comfortably held by Starkey before Borough went ahead five minutes before the interval. Smithers drove in a hard, low cross from the left and Cunningham made himself a bit of space before beating Murray with a low left foot shot. Just before the break Starkey gathered a Lockhart drive low down to his left at the second attempt.

Borough could have increased their lead early in the second half. Morrison found Bradley on the right and Murray was at full stretch to fingertip the ball away from the inrushing Morrison and Cunningham. But nine minutes after the break the visitors drew level with a simple goal. Daniels crossed from the left and the unmarked Tom Finney knocked it back into the area for French to force the ball past Starkey from close range.

Dixey headed just wide from a Bradley cross and then Morrison fired a foot over the angle following Dixey's through ball. Ward hit a fierce left-footer straight at Murray from 25 yards and the Cambridge keeper was relieved to see a back header by Cunningham from Dixey's free-kick pass narrowly wide of the right hand post. Borough had a let-off when Gregory failed to cut out a long ball from Finney and French got clear on the right only for Garry Grogan to head over when well placed.

But three minutes from the end Borough were behind to a most bizarre goal. Daniels took a long throw in on the left, Dixey appeared to be fouled as he went for the ball which took an unusually high bounce and went over Peter Shearer's head for French to head inside the far post.

Dartford v Nuneaton Borough 05-09-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Smithers, Bradley, Reay, Morrison, Ward, Stewart. **Sub:** Stringer

Borough made the journey to Watling Street to play Dartford in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough lacking four key players slipped to yet another defeat. They can take heart from their first-half performance, having gone behind to Keen's 17th minute goal, Borough fought back and Bradley notched an equaliser in the 42nd minute. The number seven won a corner with a battling run to the edge of the area, and then looked slightly surprised when the ball landed at his feet following the flag kick. But he was composed enough to thump it home past the Dartford goalkeeper's left hand.

However, Borough failed to capitalise in the second half as Dartford coped easily with Borough's lofted through balls down the middle, and began to play nice touches which ought, on the slippery surface, to have been unthinkable. Dartford's second goal came from a dogged run down the right by defender Willis. Even though seemingly still facing the stand, Willis teed up a high looping cross to the far post that found Davidson who headed past Starkey.

Dartford sealed it in the 87th minute when a mix-up in defence left Keen with so much space he had plenty of time to strand Starkey and stroke it into the bottom right-hand corner. The final whistle must have come as a relief to Nuneaton.

"We're going to have problems until the injury situation gets better," commented manager Jimmy Holmes afterwards, himself unable to play through injury. "At the moment I'm having to play too many youngsters at once – and some

senior players let us down badly,” he added. “They were allowed to play and they took us to pieces. It could have been six or seven.”

Dartford’s player-manager Peter Taylor didn’t think it had been so easy: “They were a difficult team to beat,” he said. “And they are sure to do well once they get used to the league.”

Borough Loan Boston Duo

Injury-hit Borough have called upon the services of Boston United duo Derek Nuttall and Jim Kabia for their tough encounter against high-flying Aylesbury. Both players are part of Boston’s GM Vauxhall Conference squad, but the Lincolnshire club have kindly agreed for the pair to help Borough out in the short term. Nuttall lines up in midfield, where he will be looking to instil some fire, while Kabia is an experienced striker who has a fine goalscoring record.

Nuneaton Borough v Aylesbury 07-09-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Bradley, Carr, Smithers, Kabia, Ward, Nuttall. **Sub:** Stringer.

Aylesbury: Garner, Robinson, James, Saunders, Hutter, Campbell, Duggan, Hercules, Phillips, McBean. **Sub:** Harthill.

Borough welcomed Aylesbury Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Uninspired Nuneaton put paid to Aylesbury’s 100 per cent league record in a match that lacked both conviction and imagination. Neither side looked capable of breaking the deadlock in a dour goalless draw as defences dominated virtually throughout. Borough could claim they were denied what seemed to be a certain goal midway through the second-half when Peter Shearer’s firm downward header bounced beyond Tim Garner and towards the net before Dave Botterill hastily hacked the effort to safety.



Was it or wasn’t it? Aylesbury’s Dave Botterill clears Peter Shearer’s header, but the referee adjudged it not to have crossed the line.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough’s claims for a goal were brushed aside by referee Mr Singh, to the relief of the visitors and the anger of the home side. But Aylesbury were well worth a share of the spoils without finding the form that had previously brought them four consecutive Beazer Homes League wins and top spot in the table. In a grim, tedious clash that failed to rise above

the mediocre, it was obvious that Borough’s patched up side have a lot of work to do if they are to make an impact this term and get among the title chasers.

Neither side made much impression in the opening stages with play scrappy and uneventful. It was not until the 23rd minute that the first goal threat arrived. Former Bedworth United front runner Peter McBean volleyed wide of the target from 12 yards following fine work from the outstanding Botterill wide on the Aylesbury right. Borough had to wait until ten minutes from the break before threatening the visitors’ goal. Dave Ward’s short square pass found Shearer and his low, searing 20 yarder slipped inches wide of the mark as Garner scrambled across his line. As the interval approached Holmes’ men upped the tempo. Shearer again caused the Aylesbury back division concern with a far post header that squirmed harmlessly wide, while Ward’s neat turn and angled drive had Garner gratefully fumbling the effort behind for a corner.

Aylesbury had the better of things immediately after the break with Botterill’s aggression and enthusiasm their main source of danger. A dipping long range volley by the midfielder almost brought him reward as the effort sailed fractionally too high. However, 20 minutes from time the visitors were fortunate to stay on terms as the hard-working Peter Bradley sped down the right and delivered the perfect centre on to the head of Shearer, who looked on agonisingly as Botterill performed his match saving goal-line clearance.

Minutes later it was the visitors who could count themselves unlucky when Derek Duggan floated in a right wing corner to the far post where Peter Hutter rose unmarked to head firmly goalwards only for Bradley to save the situation for Borough with a last gasp clearance from beneath the crossbar

Council Cash Help Shelved

Cash help for Nuneaton Borough Football Club has been shelved by borough councillors until Manor Park boardroom wrangles are settled. Nuneaton and Bedworth council had planned to lend the club an advance on money due from the transfer fee of a player. The move was designed to ease the club’s cash flow problems, and the council would have charged interest on the loan, as well as receiving the transfer deal payments month by month. It was agreed to shelve the cash loan until the club was legally sound.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 12-09-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Bradley, Cunningham, Fearn, Ricketts, Ward, Smithers. **Subs:** Ray, Wardle.

Hednesford: Sharrard, Austin, Page, Lane, Glover, Turner, Storey, Evans, Foster, Branch, Janes. **Sub:** Walsh.

Borough welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park to play a Westgate Insurance Cup tie.

Borough slipped to another defeat as they missed a penalty and a hatful of chances in the second half. Borough’s lowest crowd for many years saw their favourites show plenty of

promise, but had neither the ability or the luck to put the ball into the back of the net. Substitute Simon Reay hit the crossbar, Peter Shearer was denied by a fine point-blank save by Hednesford keeper Vic Sharrard and Mark Cunningham was only inches away from adding the final touch to a goal on several agonising occasions.

The signs that this was not to be Borough's day were clear from the start as the visitors took control early on. Their midfield seemed that little bit sharper than Nuneaton and more able to trouble the home side's defence with some neat long balls up the middle. The Hednesford forwards were keen to try their luck early on. The result was a series of shots from outside the box which seldom troubled Wayne Starkey.

Mark Cunningham was denied by the keeper's feet in the 17th minute. The only other moment of excitement for the home fans was a Graham Fearn shot following a corner. For the rest of the opening half it was the visitors who did the pressing. After 27 minutes they were almost given a goal. Starkey hesitated in coming off his line for a loose ball and almost allowed James to slip the ball past him before he eventually dived on it. Three minutes before half-time Hednesford went into a deserved lead after Steve Thomas fouled Branch on the left side. Storey floated the free-kick into the penalty area where Foster nodded the ball home off a post.

Before Borough had a chance to strike back Hednesford could have added to their lead as a stray ball crossed the face of goal, which was wasted because there was no-one there to tap it in. What followed was a Borough onslaught as players pushed forward in search of an equaliser. A combination of poor finishing, over-anxiety and bad luck began to reduce Borough's efforts to farcical proportions. Bradley side-footed the ball over an empty net from the edge of the box, Ward shaved the bar from distance and Cunningham just failed to connect with an attempted diving header. In the 63rd minute came Borough's lifeline when Cunningham was pushed over inside the penalty area. Smithers' spot kick was too high and too close to the keeper who saved well.

From then on it was downhill all the way as frustrated Borough's attempts to score became more wayward. Shearer almost equalised from a 77th minute corner but his shot was tipped over brilliantly by Sharrard from point blank range. Reay, on for Fearn, went close too and he had the final say on a dismal day for Borough when his 88th minute header from the edge of the box struck the bar.

Holmes Quits

Jimmy Holmes has resigned as manager of Nuneaton Borough after a boardroom disagreement over cash. The 33-year-old former Eire international ended his stormy two-year reign as manager after the Hednesford defeat, although his mind was made up before the game. During his spell at the club, Holmes has had a desperate time with boardroom wrangles and demotion from the GM Conference just a part of the problems that have surfaced during his reign. The ex-

Tottenham and Coventry City player has also had his share of injury worries with Timmy Smithers and Mark Hutchinson both suffering broken legs along with many other upsets.

"It is a relief to have finally finished," he said today. "Obviously it is disappointing but at the end of the day various things had happened that disappointed me," said Holmes. Due to the financial situation at the Borough, striker Lance Morrison looks likely to be sold to Bromsgrove Rovers for a fee in the region of £2,000 after negotiations between the two clubs had taken place over the weekend.

Front Runners For Borough Job

Former England B international Steve Daley and ex-Alvechurch boss Chris Wright have emerged as front runners for the vacant manager's post at Nuneaton Borough. It is believed the two men are among a list of candidates being interviewed for the position by the club's board. Two of the local favourites, Bedworth United's John Brady and Atherstone United's Ron Bradbury dropped out of the running after their clubs refused to allow Borough to approach them, leaving the way clear for either Daley or Wright.

Wright New Borough Boss

Former Alvechurch boss Chris Wright has replaced Jimmy Holmes as manager of Nuneaton Borough. Wright was one of the strong contenders for the vacant post after Holmes quit the club following a boardroom row over cash. Wright's appointment was announced early today by Borough chairman John Harris. His assistant has been named as Keith Leonard, the former Aston Villa player.

Wright's first senior management job was with Solihull Borough when he took them to the top of the league before moving on to Moor Green. While at Moor Green he saw them promoted to the Southern League Midland Division and within two years the club has risen through the ranks to finish fourth. After his move to Alvechurch he established the club as a major force in Midlands non-league football.



New manager Chris Wright is given a welcoming handshake from Borough skipper Richard Dixey before the former Alvechurch and Moor Green boss got his first training session under way.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Willenhall Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-09-1987

Willenhall: Watson, Dams, Perrins, Birch, Skidmore, Hadland, Wootton, King, Muir, Hadley, O'Hara. Sub: Ash.

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Wilcox, Bradley, Cunningham, Reay (Fearn 52), Smithers, Ward.

Borough made the journey to Noose Lane to play Willenhall Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Two goal Peter Shearer was the inspiration behind Borough's first victory of the season. The former Birmingham City youngster, pushed forward into a central midfield role, was in outstanding form as Borough threatened to overwhelm Willenhall. He added the necessary aggression and his ability and willingness to run at defenders caused problems for the home side all afternoon.

Borough produced their best display of the season. Barry Wilcox, signed from Tamworth, had an impressive debut at the heart of defence where he formed a solid partnership with Richard Dixey. The visitors continued to dominate and there was more danger for Willenhall when Watson was over casual in moving for Peter Bradley's cross, allowing Dave Ward to sneak in a header that passed uncomfortably close to the home goal.

Borough had a narrow escape as Wilcox appeared to handle the ball in the area before Borough had a scare as Archie King dragged his shot wide of the post. The home side had another escape four minutes before the interval when Bradley whipped in a centre after beating Clive Perrins and Watson, under pressure from Shearer, failed to gather the ball but recovered to block Ward's close range shot. Almost immediately Borough made the vital breakthrough. Ward and Smithers were involved in a build-up down the left, the Willenhall defence failed to clear the danger and Shearer pounced to score with a low shot from the edge of the penalty area. Right on half-time Starkey missed a cross and was grateful to see Steve Thomas hook the ball clear

Shearer shot wide at the start of the second half and then Mark Cunningham got in a near post header from Bradley's left wing corner, only to see Richie Dams clear off the line. Fearn came on for the injured Simon Reay and beautifully twisted past two men before crossing for Shearer to head home, but the referee had spotted an infringement. Watson made a fingertip save from Shearer's cross before Fearn made himself some space inside the area, but his low, driven centre was superbly cut out by Watson. But the pressure finally told with six minutes remaining. A long clearance by Starkey was flicked on by Cunningham to Fearn, who calmly looked up and picked his spot from 20 yards.

Two minutes later Borough scored again. There appeared to be little danger as Jim Skidmore collected a long through ball. But Shearer put him under pressure and raced onto the centre-half's poorly hit back pass to round the keeper and slip the ball into the empty net.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 21-09-1987

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Gregory, Wilcox, Shearer, Dixey, Fearn, Cunningham, Ricketts, Smithers, Ward. Sub: Watts.

Bedworth: Stephenson, Mumford, Trickett, Jackson, Whetton, Randle, George, Sockett, Draper, Setchell, Thomas. Sub: Gorman.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Westgate Insurance Cup tie.

Borough were given another harsh lesson, having by far the better of the game, but finishing with nothing to show for it. Peter Shearer gave them an early lead, however, goals from Philmore George and Dave Draper ensured that Bedworth took the spoils. Mark Cunningham, Tim Smithers, Richard Dixey and Shearer all went close as Borough looked to capitalise on their weekend victory. However, they failed to cash in and were made to pay a dear price with a question mark hanging over the defence concerning both Bedworth goals.

Borough were first to show and Smithers was just too high with a fierce left foot effort from the edge of the box. The Greenbacks retaliated but Martin Sockett was crowded out. Ricketts hooked a wild volley over the top before Dixey was happy to handle to halt a Bedworth attack. The visitors then had a real let-off when Shearer's header hit the post then keeper Neil Stephenson before dropping to Ricketts who fired high over the top from point blank range.

However, five minutes later Borough took the lead. A long ball out of defence found Ricketts and he knocked the ball square to Shearer who advanced a couple of paces and hit a scorching 25 yarder that went in off the right hand post. Borough's joy was short-lived with United snatching an equaliser after 21 minutes. Dixey was penalised for a foul on Draper and while Nuneaton were still trying to organise themselves Anton Thomas played a quick free-kick through to George who had the simple task of slipping the ball past Starkey.

Starkey made a fine save from Dave Whetton and shortly afterwards Dixey missed a good chance to restore Nuneaton's lead when he was given a free header from Ward's corner. Draper was booked for a foul on Starkey and then Smithers.

Borough were again unfortunate at the start of the second half when the woodwork again saved the visitors. Steve Jackson fouled Ricketts on the edge of the box and Fearn dipped the free-kick over the wall but it smacked against the crossbar and bounced out. Fearn was injured in a scramble and was replaced by Kevin Watts and shortly afterwards Cunningham was booked after clashing with Jackson.

Bedworth snatched the lead after 77 minutes, completely against the run of play. Sockett's crossfield ball found Malc Randle in space on the right. He whipped over a low centre that Starkey failed to cut out and Draper bundled the ball home from close range. Nuneaton pressed forward in search of an equaliser and Stephenson did well to divert a Cunningham drive for a corner when a goal seemed certain.



Donnelly Joins Borough

Sutton Coldfield winger Tony Donnelly has signed for Borough and will make his debut against Redditch. He is very quick and can play on either flank and was with new Borough boss Chris Wright at Alvechurch.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 26-09-1987

Borough: Starkey, P. Bradley, Gregory, Wilcox, Shearer, Watts (Mitchell 68), Dixey, Donnelly, Morrison, Smithers, Ricketts

Redditch: Hayward, Tongue, Billingham, Knox, R. Bradley, Caddick, McLaren, Whittington, Kalewski, Rosegreen. **Sub:** George.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough are still looking for their first home win of the season after throwing away a two-goal lead. Before the break the Manor Park outfit were in total control and appeared to be heading for a most emphatic victory. Goals from Peter Shearer and Lance Morrison left the visitors with a mountain to climb and if it had not have been for goalkeeper Paul Hayward, Redditch would have been even further adrift.

The early pressure came from Nuneaton and Donnelly, showing a lively turn of pace, figured prominently in most Borough attacks. He was unfortunate not to open his account after five minutes when a mazy run took him past three defenders, but Hayward finger-tipped the shot to safety. Shearer glanced a head just wide before Rosegreen missed a great chance to put the visitors ahead, shooting wide from ten yards. However, Borough were quickly back on the attack and they took a vice-like grip on the match with two goals in two minutes.

With 19 minutes gone Shearer outjumped the Redditch defence to head firmly into the bottom corner from Donnelly's left wing corner. Two minutes later Donnelly raced clear into the penalty area, drew the goalkeeper and set up a simple tap-in which Morrison gratefully accepted. It was all Nuneaton and Hayward had to go full stretch to keep out Morrison's shot. Shearer shot narrowly over, while Hayward made a tremendous save from Morrison.

Borough opened the second half in the same vein and Hayward was quickly into action to punch a Smithers' cross away from the inrushing Alan Ricketts. Then a long clearance from Starkey was flicked on by Ricketts, but Smithers failed to get enough power on his header. But 19 minutes after the restart Borough were stunned as Redditch cut the arrears. Alan McLaren knocked in a centre from the right, Rosegreen flicked it on and Whittington hooked it over the advancing Starkey and into the net.

Shearer headed over the top from Morrison's cross. Ian Mitchell, signed from Highgate just before the match, came on to replace Watts and immediately had chance to make his mark but shot into the side netting when well placed. However, with 15 minutes to go Borough had another shock. Rosegreen cut across the front of the box and Caddick stepped in with a snap shot into the left hand corner of the net.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 29-09-1987

Moor Green: Allen, Abell, Clegg, Rigby, Aldridge, McGarry, Pinnock, Mullen, Hadley, Fearon, Davis. **Sub:** Downes.

Borough: Beale, Bradley, Gregory, Wilcox, Shearer, Dixey, Mitchell, Watts, Morrison, Smithers, Ricketts. **Sub:** Wardle.

Borough made the journey to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Westgate Insurance Cup match.

Alan Ricketts' first goal of the season was enough to earn Borough a draw. Moor Green had gone ahead with a Dave Fearon effort after 79 minutes and Nuneaton appeared destined for their third defeat in the competition. But three minutes later Ricketts fired past Derek Allen from close in following a well worked right wing corner to give Borough a thoroughly deserved share of the spoils. Mitchell twice came within a foot of putting Borough in front as the visitors ended the half on top.

There was far more commitment from Borough and with a bit more luck with their finishing they would have sent the Moors tumbling to their first defeat. Nuneaton hit the woodwork, and had a couple of shots cleared off the line with the keeper beaten and went close on several other occasions. The visitors made an encouraging start with Peter Shearer working a neat one-two with Ricketts and forced Allen full-length to keep out his low shot from the edge of the box.

Mitchell shot just wide of the post before Kevin Watts had a shot blocked, while at the other end Phil Davies found a bit of space in the penalty area but his shot was deflected wide. On the half hour Borough were unfortunate not to go in front. Watts powered in a header from Mitchell's cross and Paul Aldridge headed off the line as Borough finished the half on top.

Five minutes after the restart Nuneaton were lucky not to fall behind when a tremendous 25 yarder from Alvin Pinnock hit the angle and bounced to safety. Borough hit back immediately and Morrison made a good shooting opportunity for himself but he failed to get over the ball and the effort flew over the top. Beale tipped Graham Glegg's fierce drive over the bar before Shearer found Ricketts with a delightful pass into the box but the big striker's shot hit the foot of a post and then Morrison beat Allen with a header from a Mitchell corner, but Clegg cleared off the line.

Moor Green finally broke the deadlock when Gregory failed to clear an innocuous looking through ball and Fearon fastened on to it, side stepped two challengers and scored with a low shot into the corner. But Borough were quickly back on level terms with a superb goal. Smithers played a one-two with Mitchell from a right wing corner and then whipped a centre into the area where Watts flicked it on and Ricketts powered it home from ten yards.

Shortly before the end another fine move involving Morrison, Watts and Mitchell ended with Ricketts firing inches wide of the left-hand post with Allen beaten.



Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 03-10-1987

Bromsgrove: Maclaren, Skelding, Brighton, O'Connell, O'Meara, Shilcock, Webb, Stott, Hanks, Woodall, Allbutt. Sub: Cooper.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Gregory, Wilcox, Dixey, Byrne, Shearer, Donnelly, Morrison (Smithers 23), Mitchell, Ricketts.

Borough travelled to The Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Disappointing Borough failed to live up to expectations with another below par performance. Borough had a frustrating afternoon as Chris Hanks' 19th minute goal proved enough to clinch the game for the home side. Bromsgrove were forced to defend early on as Borough threatened an early breakthrough. They missed four good chances with Alan Ricketts, who is struggling to find last year's form, the main culprit.

Borough were first to threaten as Peter Shearer found Morrison and his centre was only half cleared and Byrne had a shot deflected wide. The visitors missed a golden opportunity after six minutes when Ian Mitchell freed Donnelly on the right and when he whipped in a centre Morrison took it on his chest and turned past his marker. He drove the ball low across the face of the goal and Ricketts scooped it high over the top from inside the six yard box.

The home side made the vital breakthrough when a right wing corner by Webb found Hanks, and although Starkey blocked his header the Bromsgrove number nine drove home the rebound. Morrison limped off to be replaced by Smithers after 23 minutes. Gregory blocked a good shot from Woodall.

At the start of the second half Shearer pushed up front and Smithers moved into midfield. Nuneaton had a let-off when Gregory appeared to push Hanks, but the referee played on and the ball was scrambled away. Nuneaton missed another good chance on the hour mark when Byrne won the ball in midfield and played a superb ball out to Donnelly. He produced a fine deep cross that fell to Ricketts six yards out, but his effort went straight up in the air and was cleared.

Cooper was booked for a foul on Mitchell and then a poor defensive header from Wilcox fell straight to Stott who brought a fine save from Starkey with a fierce low shot. Borough hit back and had another chance to get back on terms, but Smithers pulled his shot wide from inside the penalty area. Shearer had a shot bobble wide with Bruce Maclaren struggling, while at the other end O'Connell should have done better than head over the top from a free-kick by Hanks.

Borough were pushing men forward now as they looked for an equaliser and they nearly paid for it five minutes from the end. Richard Dixey failed to clear a long through ball, Hanks got a foot to it, Starkey only half saved and Bradley scrambled the ball clear.

Nuneaton's last chance came in the dying moments when Shearer got on the end of a deep cross by Gregory but his header flew narrowly wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 05-10-1987

Borough: Starkey, D. Stringer (Tammejoe 50), Gregory, Wilcox, Dixey, Watts, Bradley, Donnelly, Ricketts, Smithers, Mitchell. Sub: Wardle.

Telford: Charlton, McGinty, Lee, Griffiths, Nelson, Storton, Joseph, Biggins, Norris, Sankey, Wiggins. Sub: Littlejohn, T. Stringer.

Borough welcomed Telford United to Manor Park to play a GMAC first round match.

Telford carried far too much pace and class for Borough. Nuneaton battled gamely to the end but were always second best against the slick moving Vauxhall Conference outfit.

The visitors were quickly into their stride with Tony Griffiths shooting a couple of feet wide of the far post following a neat interchange of passes with Norris. With eight minutes gone Borough had an amazing escape when Tom Biggins played a quick one-two with Norris and cut into the area only to see Wayne Starkey block his shot. The ball hit Stringer and flew towards the net. It looked a certain goal but Barry Wilcox hooked it off the line.

Kevin Charlton showed excellent anticipation to cut out a Tony Donnelly cross with Alan Ricketts and Kevin Watts boring in. Ricketts smacked a header against the bar from a Stringer free-kick, but it was Telford who drew first blood. Smithers lost possession in midfield to Antone Joseph and he found Norris in a bit of space on the left. The striker cut inside and his shot was half blocked, but it skidded past Wilcox and into the far corner of the net.

Two minutes later Borough suffered a body blow as the visitors added a second. A neat build up down the left ended with Griffiths playing an early ball into Norris who produced a clinical finish as he coolly slipped the ball into the right hand corner of the net.

The second half was only four minutes old when Telford went 3-0 up. Bradley was penalised for a handling offence and McGinty made no mistake with the resulting penalty. But within 60 seconds Borough cut the deficit when Watts was brought down in the area by Steve Nelson and Smithers drilled the spot kick past Charlton.

Borough produced one of their best moments of the game when Bradley and Ian Mitchell combined to free Donnelly on the right. His cross was flicked on by Tammejoe to Ricketts who turned and hammered in a fierce rising drive only to see Charlton produce a superb save to turn the ball over the top. The visiting keeper again saved his side with superb judgment to cut out Donnelly's cross after the winger's pace had taken him clear of the Telford defence.

Borough continued to press forward and Watts and Ricketts were only inches away from getting on the end of another Donnelly centre with the visitors rearguard dragged out of position. However, Telford had the final word and it took a brave save by Starkey to deny Biggins who was clear in the area and looked certain to score.



Borough Sign Dougherty

Norman Dougherty, recently released by Bristol Rovers, has joined Borough and will make his debut against Ashford. The 20-year-old, who can play in midfield or the back four, was an apprentice at Wolves and has Football League experience with Mansfield.

Ashford Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1987

Borough: Starkey, Thomas, Gregory, Pollard, Dixey, Wilcox, Dougherty, Watts, Shearer, Donnelly, Smithers. **Sub:** Mitchell.

Borough travelled to Kent to play Ashford Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough slumped to a second successive away league defeat in a game spoiled by the monsoon that hit Kent over the early part of the weekend. The conditions, that deteriorated as the game progressed, were directly responsible for two goals, robbed Borough when a Barry Wilcox effort stopped in a puddle on the goal line and prevented good football.

Moving Peter Shearer into attack looked to be an inspired move when after six minutes brilliant work by Tony Donnelly saw the makeshift striker get on the end of a fine deep cross to head powerfully home, giving keeper Peter Carman no chance. However, Borough's advantage was short-lived and two minutes later Paul Giles crossed for Darren Hare to tap into the net from two yards. A repeat of the move in the 16th minute saw Alfie Barrett just fail to force the ball home.

But within a minute the home side took the lead after Watts fouled Chris Hamshare 35 yards out. The midfielder's free kick saw Hare drift free of a static Borough defence and head powerfully home, unmarked 10 yards from goal. Borough drew level in the 25th minute with a goal that owed a lot to the conditions. A Paul Hobbs pass back stuck in a puddle just inside the area and new man Dougherty dragged it from the water, rounded the keeper and hammered the ball home.

Starkey came to Borough's rescue, tipping a Hare header over the bar, while at the other end Shearer almost forced home at the back post, but Barratt cleared.

Borough started the second half well and only the conditions robbed them of a goal when a Wilcox effort stopped in a puddle on the goal line. But Ashford took the lead in the 55th minute when Dixey's back pass stopped in a puddle and Hamshare was able to scoop the ball out and slip it past Starkey. The game reached farcical proportions as the rain continued to hammer down and Shearer was denied by the conditions on two occasions.

Shearer headed wide in the 85th minute, after good work by the impressive Pollard, with a chance that he should have made more of. That miss proved to be costly and a minute later the game was put beyond doubt when a Giles free-kick on the right saw the Borough defence once more just stand and watch as Hare stole free and steered a header into the net to complete his hat-trick.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 12-10-1987

Borough: Beale, Dougherty, Gregory, Thomas, Dixey, Pollard, Bradley, Shearer, Watts, Mitchell, Tammejoe. **Sub:** Wilcox.

Halesowen: Adams, Penn, Sherwood, Hancox, Lacey, Heath, Saunders, Cunningham, Woodhouse, Moss, Joinson. **Sub:** Ford.

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park to play a Westgate Insurance Cup tie.

Borough recorded their first home win of the season as they edged out Halesowen in a thoroughly entertaining clash. Borough might have gone ahead as early as the fourth minute when Shearer got free on the right side of the penalty area and his low cross was deflected to Mitchell who saw his first-time shot strike Mark Penn and bounce clear. The visitors hit back and Cunningham headed over. But it was Borough who drew first blood after seven minutes. Tammejoe won the ball with a crunching tackle and laid it square for Shearer, and his fierce left footer flew into the bottom right hand corner with Nick Adams still on his way down.

Watts headed over before Nuneaton went two up after 14 minutes. Halesowen failed to clear a cross from the right and the ball fell to Pollard who hit it first time from 25 yards and although Adams got his hands to it, he couldn't keep it out. Ade Gregory then floated a free kick from the left that caught the visitors' defence flat footed but Watts was up a bit too early at the far post and his header flew high over the top.

However, six minutes before the interval, Halesowen reduced the arrears when John Ford dummied Joinson's low centre from the right and Cunningham drilled a low shot into the corner. Borough then had two let-offs as Beale made a good save from Cunningham's header and the same player dragged his shot wide. Just before the break a long ball by Thomas put Tammejoe through, but his first touch let him down.

Dougherty did well to head clear from John Woodhouse at the start of the second half and then Mitchell had a 25-yarder touched for a corner by Adams. Shearer was only inches away from a Watts cross before Mitchell side-footed over the top when he should have done better.

Ten minutes from the end, Borough restored their two goal advantage. Tammejoe battled well inside the penalty area and his low cross found Mitchell who had no problem scoring from close range. Moss saw a header clip the top of the bar and five minutes from time Borough failed to clear a right wing centre and the ball fell to Joinson who fired a superb drive into the top right hand corner. Cunningham headed over from a good position in the dying seconds, but Borough held on for the three points.

Pollard Signs

Eighteen-year-old Mark Pollard, recently released by Coventry City, has joined Borough on a permanent basis. The young midfield player has impressed in his first two matches and has signed a 12 months contract.



Nuneaton Borough v Dorchester Town 17-10-1987

Borough: Beale, Dougherty, Gregory (Mitchell 18), Thomas, Dixey, Donnelly, Bradley, Pollard, Watts, Smithers, Shearer.

Dorchester: Jones, Morrell, White, Townsend, Loveridge, Baber, Borthwick, Crabb, Greeno, Morrison, Chambers (Joyce 76).

Borough welcomed Dorchester Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough turned the form book upside down as they collected their first home league win. High-riding Dorchester came to Nuneaton boasting the best defensive record in the league, having conceded just one goal in their previous seven outings.

But the visitors never looked like improving on that statistic as Borough's youngsters gave another impressive performance full of enthusiasm and no mean ability. Borough had to weather a cracking start by the visitors, but once they had quelled Dorchester's early fire they were always in control. Former Sky Blues youth team player Mark Pollard again took the eye in midfield where his vision and pace gave Borough a welcome lift.

Borough had an early escape when Beale failed to gather a left-wing corner but Peter Loveridge seemed surprised and directed his header wide. The visitors were the much sharper side and Craig Morrison shot just over the top. Nuneaton gradually got a grip and Martin Jones had to produce a brave save at the feet of Kevin Watts. Peter Morrell tested Beale with a fierce drive before Borough took the lead after 17 minutes. There seemed little danger when Donnelly won possession wide on the right, but he cut inside to curl a beautiful 25 yard left footer into the far top corner.

Borough could have had a penalty when Watts went down in the area, but they increased their lead after 27 minutes when Donnelly was brought down by Tony White and Norman Dougherty floated the free-kick into the box and Dixey glanced a header past Jones. Morrison put a close-range header over the top before Borough scored their third goal. Mitchell swung a left wing corner to the far post and when Dixey headed it back into the six-yard box Donnelly swept the ball home. Just before the break Crabb's shot beat Beale, but rebounded to safety from the foot of a post.

Dixey cleared a dangerous situation at the start of the second half and Thomas produced a fine clearing header under pressure from Morrison as the visitors made a determined effort to get back into the game. But Borough contained the threat and completed their biggest win for more than 12 months with a goal from leading scorer Peter Shearer after 68 minutes. Donnelly whipped in a corner from the right and Shearer powered in a header that went in off the bar with Watts smashing the ball home just to make certain.

Dorchester were looking a bit ragged round the edges at this stage and Shearer twice went close to increasing the Borough lead, having a header well held by Jones and then firing a cross-shot a foot wide of the far post.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-10-1987

Hednesford: Sharrard, Page, McLeod, Walsh, Richardson, Foster, Storey, Brown, Wainwright, Evans, Winwood. Sub: James.

Borough: Beale, Thomas, Burke, Tammejoie, Dixey, Wilcox, Bradley, Mitchell, Watts, Smithers (Dougherty 45), Pollard.

Borough made the journey to The Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a Westgate Insurance Cup match.

Borough's hopes of qualifying for the next round received a setback. The Manor Park side had to settle for a point after another battling performance on a pudding of a pitch and now seem unlikely to reach the knockout stages. However, there was a lot to be encouraged about as Nuneaton's crop of talented youngsters came through another lesson in their football education. They were up against a hard, physical side, not too bothered about the niceties of the game – and they passed the test with flying colours.

Both sides took time to settle in trying conditions and there was little for the spectators to enthuse about in the opening ten minutes. However, Borough had an escape after 15 minutes. A long through ball failed to bounce, deceiving Barry Wilcox and John Wainwright raced clear, but Beale rescued Nuneaton as he cut down the angle and blocked the shot with his legs.

Rob Page had a shot deflected wide of Beale's right hand post before Mitchell cracked a first-time 25 yarder uncomfortably close to Sharrard's goal. Beale did well to cut out a dangerous cross from Storey at the start of the second period and then Wilcox made a timely interception after Brown had been allowed to race clear.

Borough were unfortunate not to break the deadlock ten minutes after the restart when a neat build-up on the right found Dougherty in a bit of space and his shot beat Sharrard but hit the bar and bounced to safety. There was danger for the visitors when Page produced a fine deep cross for Frank McLeod to drive a shot a foot wide of the right hand post.

Wilcox then blocked a Winwood shot and when play was switched to the other end Sharrard was fortunate to keep out an effort from Mitchell at the expense of a corner. Winwood found himself a bit of space on the left and his low, swerving centre caused panic in the Borough defence. Wilcox sliced an intended clearance inside the six yard box and Richard Dixey somehow got it over the top from almost on the goal line.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 31-10-1987

Bedworth: Stephenson, Willis, Trickett (A. Thomas 68), Jackson, Sockett, Randle, George, Setchell, Draper, Smith, P. Thomas.

Borough: Beale, Bradley, Gregory, S. Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Pollard, Hanna, Watts (Mitchell 79), Smithers, Morrison.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Westgate Insurance Cup match.

A Mick Beale penalty save kept alive Borough's hopes of remaining in the cup, as the visitors need to win all of their



Nuneaton Borough v Witney Town 07-11-1987

Borough: Beale, Reay (Hanna 77), Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Pollard, Bradley, Morrison, Osborne, Smithers, Donnelly.

Witney: Leach, Cullis, Cuddy, Burn, Austin, McIntosh, Wood, Cullen, Clarke (Townsend), Panter, Groves.

matches to progress. Ade Gregory was adjudged to have deliberately handled and Steve Jackson stepped up to take the kick, but Beale guessed correctly and pulled off a superb save, diving away to his right.

Borough missed a great chance after only two minutes when Jackson made a poor clearing header straight to debutant Fadi Hanna, but he failed to control his shot and the ball flew high and wide. Sixty seconds later Richard Dixey headed wide from a good position. Borough opened the scoring after nine minutes when Dixey began a move with a square ball to Gregory who pumped a high cross into the Greenbacks' area. Hanna made a good aerial challenge and the ball fell to Watts, who had no problem slipping the ball past Neil Stephenson for his first senior goal.

Beale turned a 25-yarder over the top from John Setchell and then had to react sharply to take a cross by Kenny Trickett while under pressure from Dave Draper. But the home side were back on level terms after 17 minutes. The Borough defence was caught flat by a quick thrust and Philmore George got clear on the right to pull the ball back for Draper, who made no mistake from close range.

Beale was in action again to turn Paul Thomas' shot around the post after it had taken a nasty deflection off Dixey. Borough were fortunate to still be on level terms after 30 minutes with Beale again the hero. Dixey completely missed an innocuous through ball allowing George to race clear but Beale was able to block the shot with his legs. Bedworth were made to pay a dear price for that miss as three minutes later the visitors went in front again. Shearer released Smithers on the left, he made ground to the by-line and when his cross came over Morrison rose to plant a header into the corner.

Jackson headed away Mark Pollard's cross at the start of the second half. The Greenbacks sent on Anton Thomas in place of Trickett as they looked for another equaliser, but it was Nuneaton who threatened, with Morrison breaking well on the right, but Watts and Hanna were both offside.

Sockett saw his goalbound drive deflected for a corner by Peter Bradley but within 60 seconds Bedworth had a golden opportunity to equalise from the penalty spot. Draper got free and cut into the box. He rounded Beale as he came out but Gregory dived full length to make a save that any keeper would have been proud of. However, Beale defied the Greenbacks as he clung onto Jackson's fiercely-struck spot kick. That was to prove Bedworth's last real chance as Nuneaton tightened things up at the back and comfortably held on to their lead.

One sour note in a battling Borough performance was the fact that Watts had to be helped from the field eleven minutes from the end with a leg injury.

Mickey Osborne Signs

Former Willenhall striker Mickey Osborne will make his debut against Witney Town. He made an impressive start to his Nuneaton career, scoring a hat-trick for the Reserves.

Borough welcomed Witney Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Lance Morrison's equaliser five minutes from the end saved Borough's blushes against fellow strugglers Witney Town. The big striker drilled a left footer beyond the reach of Kevin Leach and into the far corner of the net.

Mickey Osborne, the former Willenhall striker, almost made a dramatic start when Peter Bradley freed him down the middle in the first minute, but Leach raced out of his goal to hack the ball clear. Nuneaton looked the sharper side early on and should have gone ahead after six minutes. Osborne's pace took him clear and his low centre found Morrison, but Leach made a brilliant save to beat out the shot and Tony Donnelly fired the rebound into the side netting.

Nuneaton were to regret that miss as the visitors took a shock lead after 13 minutes. Groves swung in a corner from the left and when Borough failed to clear Peter Cullen played the ball square for Panter to score from close range. Jimmy Austin timed his tackle to perfection to halt Morrison and Donnelly dragged his shot wide from 18 yards. Borough were doing most of the pressing but were almost caught out by a quick break and Beale had move smartly to save Ken Clarke's shot. Borough missed another chance seven minutes before the interval when Morrison saw his shot turned away by the impressive Witney keeper.

The visitors continued to pose problems and it came as no surprise when they increased their advantage eight minutes after the re-start. Martin Wood hit a superb crossfield ball inside Reay and Groves raced into the area to slip a shot past Mick Beale. However, two minutes later the home side were back in contention with a goal from Osborne. Dixey flicked on a Donnelly left wing corner and Osborne forced the ball home at the far post.

From then on it was a different game with Witney coming under increasing pressure. Leach made another fine save from Osborne, who might have done better when he cut in from the right and fired straight at the keeper. Osborne was left shaking his head with 15 minutes left as Leach made another stunning save. It was all Borough as Donnelly saw his effort hit the top of the bar.

But the pressure had to tell and the equaliser came with five minutes remaining. Witney, again troubled by Donnelly, failed to clear a high ball and it fell to Morrison and his low shot flew straight and true into the corner of the net. Even then Nuneaton could have won it with Morrison having a low shot scrambled around the post by Leach and Osborne seeing his fierce left footer well held by the overworked keeper.



Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 09-11-1987

Borough: Beale, Reay, Gregory, Thomas, Dixey, Pollard, Bradley, Shearer, Morrison, Smithers, Hanna (Tammejoe 62).

Moor Green: Allen, Abell, McGarry, Hughes, Goodman, Martin, Pinnock, Evans, Downes, Fearon, Hadley. Sub: Corrance.

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Westgate Insurance Cup tie.

Borough have no further interest in this season's competition following a dismal performance. Needing to win to keep alive their hopes of reaching the knockout stages, Borough hardly ever got to grips with a lively Moor Green outfit.

Borough made a lively start and created the first real chance of the game. Mark Pollard set Lance Morrison free on the right and when he cut the ball back into the middle Fadi Hanna failed to connect and Tim Smithers sliced his shot wide. The visitors then took a grip and went ahead after 14 minutes. David Hadley was brought down by a rash tackle by Ade Gregory and Dave Hughes scored from the penalty spot. Hadley whipped a fierce centre across the Borough goal as the home defence, backed off and then Mick Beale made a good save low to his left from a first-time effort by John Martin.

Dave Fearon missed a good chance for the visitors before Peter Shearer only just failed to get onto the end of Gregory's deep cross. Moor Green were fortunate on the half hour mark when both Alvin Pinnock and Shane Abell miskicked in the visitors' penalty area before the ball was finally hacked clear.

But the Moors increased their lead two minutes before the break with a cracking goal from Hadley. The Nuneaton defence failed to clear a right wing centre and the visitors number eleven hammered a tremendous cross shot into the far corner of the net. Borough missed a good chance to cut the deficit when Smithers' free kick from the right found Richard Dixey unmarked but the defender's close range header went straight to keeper Derek Allen.

However, with ten minutes left Nuneaton gave themselves hope as they reduced the arrears. Morrison got clear on the left and he found Shearer with a superb centre and Borough's midfielder bulleted home a header off the bar. Allen had to produce a brave save at Peter Bradley's feet, while at the other end Richard Evans fired high over the top after arriving a little late in the penalty area to meet Abell's cross.

Borough ended the game pushing forward in search of an equaliser but the visitors had little difficulty holding out for a thoroughly deserved success.

Borough Sign Pinner

Highly-rated full-back Ian Pinner has joined Borough from Alvechurch. Manager Chris Wright said: "I have been trying to sign Ian for the past couple of weeks and I am delighted that he has agreed to join Nuneaton. He is a quality defender and I am sure he will help us to tighten things up at the back."

Fareham Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1987

Borough: Beale, Pinner, Gregory, Thomas, Shearer, Bradley, Byrne, Osborne, Donnelly, Morrison. Sub: Pollard.

Borough travelled to Hampshire to play Fareham Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Another disappointing performance from Borough saw them return home pointless from their trip to the south coast. They again failed to come up to expectations and at the end of the day they can have no complaints about the result.

Borough made a slow start and were nearly behind after two minutes. Richard Dixey's headed clearance found Sandy Baird. He quickly knocked the ball back into the penalty area to Bob Brady who brought a fine save from Mick Beale and Paskins screwed the ball wide from inside the six yard box.

Tony Donnelly curled a free-kick a foot wide of the left-hand post, but the goal that Fareham had been threatening arrived after 32 minutes. Peter Bradley was penalised for an innocuous looking tackle on Baird and when Nick O'Brian swung the free-kick into the penalty area, Paskins was completely unmarked as he glanced a header past the helpless Beale. A minute later Borough could have gone two down as Steve Johnson thumped a tremendous drive against the crossbar and Beale made a tremendous save to deny Paskins.

The half-time pep talk by the Borough manager brought more determination in the visitors' play at the start of the second period and Fareham were being forced to defend for the first time in the game. Donnelly began to pose problems on the right and one fine run and centre saw Lance Morrison go close to putting Borough back on level terms.

But 11 minutes after the restart the visitors got the equaliser. Gregory had the benefit of a fortunate rebound and when he swept in a first-time centre, Shearer timed his run perfectly to volley past Bailey from eight yards. Borough could have been in front almost immediately as Donnelly, Morrison and Shearer all had efforts blocked in a terrific scramble in the Fareham goalmouth.

However, two minutes later Borough's hopes received a setback as Fareham regained the lead. Baird found Brady with a free-kick from deep inside his own half and the ball was quickly switched through the middle for Paskins to race clear and slip the ball past the advancing Beale.

Borough were still in with a chance but had a narrow escape with eight minutes left when Pinner cleared off the line from Martin Dowding after Beale had failed to hold a left-wing corner. But a minute later there was no reprieve when Andy Bye was unchallenged as he headed home Baird's corner from inside the six yards box.

Borough had a late chance to give the scoreboard a look of respectability when Gregory, Shearer and Donnelly set up a gilt-edged chance for Morrison but he somehow managed to get the ball over the bar from point blank range.



Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 21-11-1987

Borough: Beale, Pinner, Gregory, Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Bradley, Byrne, Osborne (Pollard 78), Morrison, Donnelly.

Leicester: Hewitt, Potter, Randell, Staples, Robinson, Griffin, Dakin, Griffith, Puttnam, Taylor, Mason. Sub: Hallam.

Borough welcomed Leicester United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough hit back to grab a point after they had twice been in arrears. Chris Wright's men were under heavy pressure before the interval when they were forced to defend in depth by a lively Leicester outfit. Borough went behind to a 15th minute goal by David Puttnam and they can count themselves fortunate not to be further adrift at the break.

From the kick off the visitors were quickly into their stride and Borough's defence was at full stretch. The home side almost fell behind after eight minutes when, following a half-cleared corner, the ball was put back into the penalty area and Leith Dakin saw his close range shot beaten away by the diving Beale. Puttnam's centre was hooked away before he surprised everyone with an overhead kick which hit the post with Beale beaten.

Leicester's pressure had to tell and the inevitable goal came after 15 minutes when Dakin freed Puttnam on the left and the striker raced to the corner of the Nuneaton penalty area before unleashing a tremendous left foot shot that went into the net off the far post. Mickey Osborne got in a weak header from Donnelly's cross, while Pinner ducked under Puttnam's corner kick and the ball struck the foot of the post. There was a glimpse of an opportunity for Nuneaton with half-time approaching as Gregory made a powerful run and centre from the left, but Peter Shearer's fierce shot flew wide.

Donnelly started to cause some problems at the start of the second half and when he turned inside Mark Randell, his centre was glanced into the net by Morrison. Borough came under immediate pressure and Puttnam's pace took him clear on the left and it looked a certain goal as he flicked the ball past the advancing Beale, but Gregory got back to clear off the line. But two minutes later there was no reprieve as United regained the lead. Robinson was completely unmarked from Puttnam's corner and his powerful downward header gave Beale no chance.

Osborne had a shot fly a couple of feet wide and then Shearer hooked the ball over the top from close in. Pollard came on a substitute to replace Osborne after 78 minutes and three minutes later he was on hand to grab Borough's point-saver. Donnelly was brought down wide on the right and Pinner drove the free-kick hard and low across the face of the Leicester goal for Pollard to force home from close range.

Harris Plans To Leave

Borough chairman John Harris plans to leave Manor Park at the end of the year. Harris, who took over in June following

a High Court order in the power battle between chairman Noel Kelly and vice-chairman Joe Shooter, has offered his resignation to his fellow directors.

Two emergency board meetings have been held over the weekend and the chairman has agreed to stay on until the end of December.

Nuneaton Borough v Northampton Town 23-11-1987

Borough from: Beale, Smithers, Glover, Dixey, Stephens, Phillips, Hill, Sammels, Hamill, Bennyworth, Bradley, Gregory, Morrison, Osborne, Thomas, Murphy, Richardson, Poole, Holmes.

Northampton: Harris, Reed, Chard, Donald, Wilcox, McPherson, McGoldrick, Culpin, Gilbert, Morley, Singleton. Subs: Bunce, Donegal.

Borough welcomed Northampton Town to Manor Park to play in Richard Dixey's Testimonial match.

Northampton gave Borough fans a brief look at the style that took them to the Fourth Division championship. Graham Carr's side showed plenty of pace, ability and commitment as they completed a comfortable win. Northampton went ahead five minutes before the interval when Culpin mis-hit a shot from close range. Poole blocked the effort but Morley was on hand to bundle home the rebound.

The Cobblers went further ahead after 64 minutes when the home defence was all at sea to leave Dave Gilbert with a simple tap in. Shearer fired a fierce drive a foot wide of the right hand post as Nuneaton pushed forward, but eleven minutes from the end Northampton got a third goal. Again the slick moving Football League outfit pulled the Nuneaton defence way out of position and former Borough goal ace Culpin made no mistake from ten yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashtree Highfield 25-11-1987

Borough: Beale, Pinner, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Thomas (Pollard 6), Bradley, Byrne, Osborne, Morrison, Donnelly. Sub: Watts.

Ashtree: Bolton, Wells, Henley, Horne, Day, Barrows, Bowerman, Hickman, Morris, Foster, Nicholls. Subs: Clarke, Porter.

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

Borough booked their place in the third round, but again struggled. They had a monopoly of the play against the Midland Combination outfit, but they had to come from behind to book their passage.

Borough got off to a bad start when Steve Thomas was injured after five minutes. He tried to carry on, but had to be carried off with an ankle injury. Ashtree, who had won their previous eight games, made a spirited start and went in front after 12 minutes. Mick Beale failed to hold Alf Bowerman's cross and it looked as though Nuneaton had escaped when Peter Shearer cleared off the line from Gary Morris. But Nicholls pounced on the rebound for an easy goal.

Tony Donnelly sent Lance Morrison racing clear into the visitors penalty area but Alan Bolton was well positioned



to cut out the centre. There was more danger for Borough when Mick Henley floated in a free-kick from the left and both Morris and Gary Foster were only inches away from extending the visitors' lead. Bolton did well to take Ian Pinner's cross while under pressure from Morrison and then Mark Pollard saw his left-footer drift wide of the far post.

Morrison sliced his shot well wide from a good position early in the second half but 13 minutes after the restart Borough got the equaliser. Kevin Byrne started the move with a lovely ball to free Osborne who cut into the area and drilled a crisp left-foot shot past Bolton and into the far corner. Four minutes later Nuneaton were in front with a goal from skipper Richard Dixey – only his second of the season.

Byrne was again involved, putting Morrison clear into the area where Paul Wells did well to cut out the low cross at the expense of a corner. Donnelly floated in the flag kick from the left and Dixey got above the Ashtree defence to head home.

Osborne then flashed an effort over the angle while at the other end Nicholls hit a fierce drive from the edge of the box but it went straight at Beale. Nicholls again got clear on the edge of the Nuneaton area but Shearer got in a timely tackle as the big striker was preparing to shoot.

Shortly before the end Osborne missed a sitter after being set up by Morrison but a linesman's flag saved his blushes and then Donnelly floated a shot just wide of the far post after beating two men inside the area.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 30-11-1987

Borough: Beale, Pinner, Gregory, Shearer, Dixey, Byrne, Pollard, Watts, Osborne, Morrison, Donnelly. **Sub:** Bradley.

Worcester: Moore, Gavin, Ridding, Shail, Tudor, Ledbury, Powell, Whitehouse, Knight, Ferguson, Cavanagh. **Sub:** Price.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough hit rock bottom as they slumped to another depressing defeat. Borough, badly needing a victory to lift them clear of the relegation zone, never got to grips with a lively Worcester team. Chris Wright's men were distinctly second best and they can be thankful that the final scoreline remained so close.

Worcester were unlucky when they hit the woodwork, had two efforts kicked off the line and missed a first-half penalty. But Mark Whitehouse's 26th minute penalty was enough to clinch the visitors' third successive win. However, Borough had the best chance of the match when Gregory shot high over the top from three yards out. Gregory caused problems for Borough when he gave away the ball on the edge of the area, but Terry Knight failed to control the pass from John Powell and Borough escaped.

Powell had a shot kicked off the line by Pinner before Kevin Byrne won the ball on the left and Mickey Osborne swung in a centre that glanced off the top of Mark Shail's head straight

into the path of Kevin Watts, but the striker lost control and Paul Moore smothered the shot at close range.

Richard Dixey was booked for a foul on Knight and almost immediately Worcester took the lead. Knight got free on the left, got a lucky rebound and fired in a centre that Whitehouse flicked into the far corner with his head. Borough went close when Donnelly wriggled clear, but failed to make contact on the edge of the six yard box and Gregory fired over from almost point blank range. Three minutes before the break Borough could have gone two goals down. Shearer was harshly adjudged to have fouled Whitehouse who took the resulting penalty, but put the spot kick into the gardens at the Beaumont Road end.

Worcester continued to dominate and could have gone further in front when Knight beat Dixey to a long through ball and flicked it over Beale only to see it hit the woodwork and Gregory hooked it to safety. Beale had to produce a smart save low to his left after Powell had got clear. Nuneaton had the ball in the net 15 minutes from the end, but it was ruled out for a foul on the keeper. Borough had a penalty appeal turned down when Osborne appeared to be pushed by Tudor.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-12-1987

Borough: Beale, Bradley, Gregory, Shearer, Pollard, Bateman, Hanna, Reay, Morrison, Fearn, Watts. **Sub:** Dewis.

Borough made the journey to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Westgate Insurance Cup match.

Borough were again understrength due to players being cup-tied, and were forced to bring in some of their promising youngsters for their last group match. It was a daunting task for them at the Grove but they rose to the challenge superbly. Lee Bateman looked at ease alongside Ade Gregory at the heart of defence and Fadi Hanna's pace posed problems for the home rearguard.

The home side opened at a brisk pace and Mick Beale had to show some secure handling to pluck a left wing corner out of the air with Paul Joinson and Geoff Moss both challenging. Lee Joinson was only a foot too high with a snap shot from the edge of the box before Borough pushed forward with Gregory scraping the bar with a 30 yarder. But Halesowen missed a clear-cut chance to open the scoring after 17 minutes when a long crossfield ball from Richard Hancox found Lee Joinson unmarked at the far post, but he headed over the top from close range.

Mark Pollard had a shot deflected wide as Borough began to take control and then Hanna forced a good save from Neil Adams at the expense of a corner. Borough pushed the home side back and might have gone ahead when Ian Sherwood kicked Hanna's header off the line with the keeper beaten. Two minutes before the break the visitors were again unlucky when Pollard's chip looked a certain goal but it hit the bar and bounced to safety.

The home side had a couple of narrow escapes but the goal

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that Nuneaton had been threatening came after 62 minutes. Mick Guest pressurised by Shearer, made a hash of his clearance, and Lance Morrison collected the ball to race away and slip it past the advancing Adams. Borough twice went close to increasing their lead as both Shearer and Hanna got clear of the tiring Halesowen defence.

But six minutes from time any hopes that the home side might have had of pulling the game round disappeared as Borough snatched a second goal. Adams could only parry Hanna's fierce shot after Gregory had played a long free-kick into the box and Shearer fired home his tenth goal of the season.

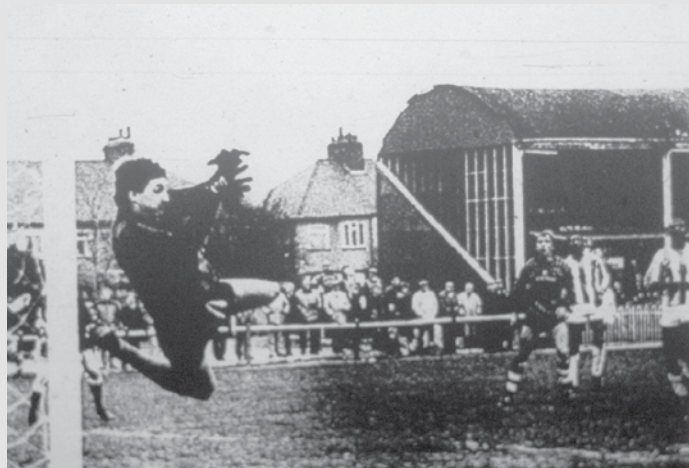
Nuneaton Borough v Dartford 05-12-1987

Borough: Beale, Bradley, Gregory, Pollard, Pinner, Watts, Shearer, Fearn, Osborne, Morrison, Donnelly. **Sub:** Reay.

Dartford: Banks, Cowell, Johnson, Keen, Robinson, Conner, Britnell, Foley, May, Sowerby, Taylor. **Sub:** Game.

Borough welcomed Dartford to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's rehabilitation continued as they picked up a welcome point against high-flying Dartford. Borough produced a battling display full of character and determination and could well have ended the day by taking all three points. Dartford, with former Spurs and England winger Peter Taylor pulling the strings, dominated the early exchanges and Nuneaton were forced to defend in depth.



Dartford keeper Kingsley Banks is at full stretch as he clings onto Graham Fearn's 30th minute free-kick. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough were fortunate not to find themselves a goal down after only three minutes when Gregory's back header failed to reach Mick Beale and was intercepted by Warren May, who looked certain to score but Beale made a superb save and Watts hooked the ball to safety. Taylor then instigated another incisive move that presented Gary Britnell with a chance, but he blazed over from 12 yards. At this stage it was all Dartford and Taylor's shot took a nasty bounce, but Beale gathered safely.

Borough began to look a bit more adventurous and on the

half hour mark Graham Fearn brought a superb save from Kingsley Banks with a curling 25-yard free-kick. Dartford were fortunate to escape when Peter Shearer cut into the box and went wide of the advancing Banks only to see his centre headed to safety by Ian Cowell with the keeper stranded. Banks then had to produce a smart save at the foot of his near post from Lance Morrison after the Nuneaton striker had robbed Colin Johnson. However, the visitors ended the first-half on top with Beale forced to make good saves from both Taylor and Colin Sowerby.

Borough had a let off at the start of the second half when Mark Pollard made a hash of an intended back pass and Taylor intercepted only to shoot straight at Beale. Borough were unfortunate not to go in front after 60 minutes. Ian Pinner hit in a cross from the left and Osborne's flicked header looked a winner all the way until Banks twisted in mid-air to make a fine save.

Borough forced three corners in quick succession and from the last one Pollard turned the ball back into the middle from wide of the far post but Osborne's snap shot only succeeded in finding the side netting. With time running out, Donnelly beat two men as he cut into the box but Banks gathered the winger's shot at the second attempt.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 09-12-1987

Borough: Beale, Bradley, Gregory, Pollard (Millard), Pinner, Watts, Shearer, Fearn, Osborne, Morrison, Donnelly.

Borough travelled to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough touched rock bottom as they slithered to a disastrous defeat on a frostbound pitch. The Manor Park outfit never settled on the treacherous pitch and struggled throughout to contain a lively Cambridge side. Sure-footed City had no such problems and they looked completely at ease and Borough can be thankful that the final scoreline was only six. It was a night when nothing went right as they gave away an own goal and virtually gift-wrapped three others.

Cambridge got just the start they were looking for with a goal after only eight minutes. Former Nuneaton striker Dominic Genovese scored with a lob from the edge of the box with Mick Beale caught off his line. Borough could not get into the game and their hopes crumbled completely as the home side scored twice in less than 60 seconds midway through the first-half. With 27 minutes gone Genovese headed in from close range after Keith Lockhart had mishit his shot from a Graham Daniels corner and then Terry Milbourne scored with a speculative shot from wide on the left that Beale should have stopped. Peter Shearer thundered a shot inches over the City bar in a rare Borough raid.

Things did not improve after the break and it was only a matter of time before Cambridge increased their advantage. Graham Fearn played a poor pass in the centre circle after 64 minutes and Daniels was able to race clear and slip the ball

past the exposed Beale. Then three minutes later Milbourne made it five when another long range effort crept in at the far post with Beale again at fault.

Shearer grabbed a consolation goal for Borough, heading in Tony Donnelly's cross at the far post, but Nuneaton conceded another goal due to the conditions with just six minutes remaining. Millard, on as substitute for Mark Pollard, was off balance as he policed a through ball under challenge from Gary Grogan. He attempted to lob the ball back to Beale, who also struggled to keep his footing, and the ball sailed over the keeper, bounced twice and rolled into the empty net.

Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 12-12-1987

Borough: Martin, Thomas, Gregory, Dixey, Watts, Shearer, Pinner, Fearn, Morrison, Cotton, Donnelly. **Sub:** Osborne.

Bromsgrove: Attwood, Skelding, Brighton, O'Connell, Kurila, Shilvock, Stott, Gale, Hanks, O'Meara, Allbutt. **Sub:** Sorrell.

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough crashed to another stunning defeat and were no match for a rampant Rovers side who were superior in every department and strolled to a victory every bit as emphatic as the scoreline suggests. Borough made a disastrous start, conceding two goals in the first 12 minutes, and they never even remotely looked capable of recovering against a Rovers side that is among the title favourites. Defenders Richard Dixey and Steve Thomas returned to the Nuneaton side, former Bedworth striker Chris Cotton replaced Micky Osborne and keeper Mick Martin made his debut.



Striker Lance Morrison is halted by a brave challenge from Sean O'Meara.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Mick Martin was picking the ball out of the net after just three minutes as Jean O'Meara pumped a free-kick into the penalty area where John Gale rose unchallenged and his header crept in at the far post with Martin appearing to think that the ball was going wide. Borough had a glimpse of a chance when Lance Morrison created himself a bit of space on the right but Cotton failed to control the low centre.

However, the visitors were quickly back in control with Steve Stott firing over after a fine run and centre by Stewart Brighton. But the incessant pressure paid off as Rovers increased

their lead after 12 minutes. Maurice O'Connell got up well to challenge Martin for a right wing corner and when the loose ball ran towards goal Dixey, attempting to clear, only succeeded in hooking the ball into the roof of his own net. Worse was to follow for Borough as Bromsgrove made it 3-0 after 24 minutes, but this time it was a goal of genuine quality.

Peter Allbutt played a quick one-two with Chris Hanks on the edge of the box and Martin could only help Allbutt's stunning drive into the top of the net. Less than 60 seconds later the visitors were celebrating again when Hanks headed home from an O'Meara cross but it was ruled out for pushing.

Allbutt put a shot narrowly over the bar at the start of the second half as Bromsgrove started the second period as they had ended the first. But Borough should have reduced the arrears nine minutes after the restart as they produced their best move of the match. Shearer freed Tony Donnelly on the right and he picked out Morrison with a pin-point cross but the big number nine put his header straight at the keeper from eight yards.

Bromsgrove got a fourth goal after 66 minutes as Stott made a surging run down the left and his cross to the far post was headed back into the middle by Gale to leave Allbutt with a simple tap-in. Attwood did well to take out Graham Fearn's cross in a rare Borough attack, but nine minutes from the end Bromsgrove completed a nap hand when Gale's crossfield ball found Robert Shilvock completely unmarked in the box and he had no trouble in slotting the ball past the exposed Martin.

However, Nuneaton were to have the last word as Fearn scored a consolation goal from a free-kick awarded for a foul by O'Connell on Shearer three minutes from the end.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 15-12-1987

Borough: Beale, Pinner, Gregory, Thomas, Millard, Shearer, Pollard (Bradley), Fearn, Morrison (Osborne), Donnelly, Watts.

Borough travelled to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Birmingham Senior Cup third round match.

Borough failed to halt their depressing run as they slipped to yet another defeat. Looking much sharper than Stourbridge, Borough took a sixth minute lead and looked to be on their way to a welcome win. But the home side hit back to level matters before the break and then snatched the winner midway through the second half. For the second time in a week, Borough found themselves on a tricky surface with mud and water covering a bone hard ground.

However, the Manor Park side did not seem unduly bothered by the conditions as they made a positive start. Borough had the home defence at full stretch during the early stages and got the boost of a sixth minute goal. Lance Morrison flicked on a ball down the middle and when Clive Perrins failed to clear Tony Donnelly pounced to fire Borough in front.

Andy Pearce was happy to hack a Kevin Watts cross away for a corner as Borough continued to press and then



Lance Morrison shot wide from the edge of the box after Mark Pollard had put him clear. Nuneaton continued to live dangerously and they gave away an equaliser after 32 minutes when they failed to clear a left wing cross and Hackett beat Beale from 12 yards. Both sides were finding it difficult to produce anything constructive in the trying conditions but midway through the half Borough missed a chance to regain the lead.

The Stourbridge defence panicked under a spell of Nuneaton pressure, a scramble developed in the penalty area and the ball fell to Lance Morrison who shot wide from ten yards. A minute later Nuneaton were behind. The home side produced a rare neat build up and Chris Noakes chipped the ball into the box for Dave Morrison to fire past Beale from close range. Noakes then had a shot deflected for a corner and in the dying minutes Graham Fearn had the ball in the Stourbridge net but the whistle had already gone for offside against Kevin Watts.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1987

Bedworth: Stephenson, Mumford, Smith, Jackson, Whetton, Randle, George, Sockett, Draper, A. Thomas (Willis 78), P. Thomas.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, S. Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Bradley (Pinner 35), Watts, Morrison, Fearn, Donnelly.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Southern League Premier Division match.

A last minute goal rescued a point for Borough. With time running out John Brady's side were 2-1 ahead, having come from a goal down, and looked to be heading for three points. But Borough pushed themselves forward for one last effort and substitute Pinner glanced Graham Fearn's left wing corner past Stephenson and into the net.

Bedworth produced the first serious attack with Anton Thomas firing high over the top. Play quickly switched to the other end where Fearn drifted in a shot from wide on the left and Stephenson made a superb save to turn the ball over the angle. Peter Shearer shot high and wide after bursting into the penalty area before Borough forced four corners. Anton Thomas found space in the Borough area but Mick Martin parried his shot and Ade Gregory completed the clearance.

Lee Bateman wasted a chance with a poor cross while Anton Thomas volleyed well wide following a free kick. Borough might have gone in front after 29 minutes. Shearer got in a strong challenge against Jackson for Donnelly's corner and the ball fell to Lance Morrison who hooked his effort wide.

Bradley was carried off following a late tackle by Paul Thomas. Shortly before the break Borough might have broken the deadlock twice in 60 seconds with Morrison being the unlucky player on both occasions. Five minutes from half-time Bateman got free on the right and his cross picked out Morrison who powered in a header only to see Stephenson save low to his left. The Bedworth keeper produced another good stop almost immediately, clutching the Borough striker's shot after Shearer had set up the opening.

Two minutes after the break Sockett fouled Shearer and when the free-kick was taken the referee spotted an infringement on the edge of the box. This time Fearn curled a right-footer over the wall and into the top corner. Bedworth were stung into action and two minutes later thought they had equalised when George had the ball in the net, but it was disallowed.

Martin needed two attempts to keep out a fierce Anton Thomas strike before Nuneaton had another let-off when Randle had a free header from George's corner but he put his close range effort straight at Martin. On 70 minutes Bedworth got a deserved equaliser. Fearn was booked for a foul on Draper, and from the ensuing free-kick, Smith floated the ball outside the far post and the unmarked Randle headed past Martin.

Martin had to produce another fine save to keep out Draper's header before Donnelly wasted another chance after he had rounded Jackson. Whetton was then happy to hack away a low cross by Kevin Watts. Paul Thomas played a neat one-two with Sockett and broke down the middle only to drag his shot wide of the right-hand post. But the goal Bedworth had been threatening came six minutes from the end. George made a quick break and when his shot was blocked it fell straight to Sockett, who shot home from the edge of the box.

Steve Thomas collected a booking for a foul on Mumford before Borough stunned the Oval faithful with a last gasp equaliser as Pinner was first to meet Fearn's flag kick and his glancing header tucked itself into the corner of the net.

Nuneaton Boro' v Shepshed Charterhouse 28-12-1987

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Pinner, Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Pollard (Hanna 45), Watts, Morrison, Byrne, Donnelly.

Borough welcomed Shepshed Charterhouse to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's outlook for the New Year appears distinctly bleak following their latest setback. Just one place off the bottom, they desperately needed a win to boost their sagging confidence. But Chris Wright's men again slipped to defeat.

Shepshed looked the sharper outfit in the opening exchanges and went ahead after only 12 minutes. Steve Thompson lost control of the ball as he cut across field but he recovered to find Paul Acklam on the right and his cross was headed home from close range by the unmarked Glover. But Borough came bouncing back and Shepshed found themselves under increasing pressure as the Manor Park outfit took control. Shepshed keeper Tim Dalton had to make a brave save at Lance Morrison's feet when Tony Donnelly flicked on a free-kick while at the other end Mick Martin superbly took out a deep cross from Paul Acklam in a rare visitors' raid.

Borough were quickly back on the attack and Kevin Watts pulled a low ball across the six yard box with Morrison inches away from forcing it home. However, nine minutes before the interval Borough got the equaliser they had been threatening. Lee Bateman found Donnelly inside the penalty

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area and the winger cut inside only to be pulled down by Gary Lloyd and Pollard made no mistake from the spot kick. Watts then pulled a shot wide as Borough continued to press, but they were shattered by two goals either side of the interval. Two minutes from the break Eddie Briscoe picked up a clearance in midfield and he raced through a static Borough defence to set up a simple chance that Robinson put away.

Almost immediately after the break the Nuneaton rearguard was caught flat footed when Wayne Oxley freed Robinson in the area and he laid it off first time for Briscoe to drill a low shot past Martin. Two minutes later Dixey was involved in a clash with Robinson in the centre circle and he was sent off for elbowing the Shepshed striker. Ten man Borough continued to fight but it was now a lost cause and Bateman earned himself a caution for bringing down John Tatum.

Steve Powell and Mick Williams both collected bookings for dissent as Borough produced a bit of late pressure, but despite a couple of chances for Fadi Hanna they never looked like cutting the deficit.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 01-01-1988

Borough: Martin, Watts, Burke, Thomas, Bateman, Caddick, Pinner, Tammejoe, Morrison (Dixey 77), Byrne, Donnelly.

Corby: Elliott, Fletcher, Rayment, Gale, Hamill, Richards, Hofbauer, Walker, Twigger, Roberts, Hyndes. Sub: McDonald.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Derek Walker's header, two minutes after the interval was enough to guarantee Borough a dismal start to the New Year. The former Nuneaton player was completely unmarked as he stole into the box to power a cross from Elwyn Roberts past Mick Martin and into the far corner of the net.

Borough made all the running in the early stages and at times it seemed as though Des Elliott in the Corby goal had a charmed life. The keeper did well to race out of his area and hack clear from the inrushing Morrison after Colin Caddick, who had a satisfactory debut in midfield, had split the visitors' defence. Nuneaton forced a string of corners with Dave Tammejoe and Kevin Watts both going close with headers and then Pat Rayment headed off the line from a cross by Burke with Elliott beaten.

Morrison then saw his shot scrape the bar before Corby missed a glorious chance to go in front after 20 minutes. Walker's cross from the left was flicked on by Roberts, the ball hit Burke and fell straight to Martyn Twigger who shot wide from six yards. However, Borough were quickly back in control and Corby were again fortunate when Elliott missed another Donnelly centre and Jim Hamill headed out from under the bar. Donnelly shot straight at the keeper from the edge of the box and Lee Bateman looked to be clear but Elliott produced a brave save to smother the shot.

But Nuneaton were in for a shock at the start of the second half when Roberts got free on the right and Walker headed

home the cross. Ian Pinner tried a long range shot that failed to trouble Elliott and Morrison then fired a left-footer well wide after he had turned his marker on the edge of the area. Twenty minutes into the second half Borough missed a gilt-edged chance of an equaliser. Pinner drove a centre across the face of the goal but Donnelly failed to make contact in front of a gaping goal.

Tammejoe then hooked a shot wide from inside the area after Burke had found him with a cleverly flighted free-kick. Borough were now desperate for an equaliser and the Corby defence had one or two anxious moments as the home side pressed forward. But with Pedro Richards bringing all his Football League experience to bear as he calmed down his fellow defenders, Nuneaton were finding it difficult to find a way through. Hamill turned away a Donnelly cross for a fruitless corner and then Corby were in more trouble from Pinner's centre to the far post, but they hung on to deny Borough.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 09-01-1988

Burton: New, Patterson, Blower, Clegg, Essex, Land, Groves, Straw, Edwards, Cotterill, Dorsett. Sub: Hutchinson.

Borough: Martin, Bateman (Hanna 79), Pinner, Thomas, Dixey, Caddick, Pollard, Byrne, Morrison, Watts, Shearer.

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Lance Morrison's last gasp equaliser brought Borough a precious point. With time running out it looked as though Borough were destined for another defeat when the big striker popped up on the far post to squeeze home a low cross to the delight of the travelling faithful.

Burton, obviously eager to impress new manager Vic Halom, made a positive start and went ahead after 25 minutes through Neil Dorsett. But after the goal Borough took control and they would have been level before the interval had they not failed to take advantage of some clear-cut chances.

There was a liberal covering of sand in the centre of the pitch as the teams kicked-off and Burton made all the early running as Borough had a couple of early let-offs. With only eight minutes gone, Lee Bateman played a backpass straight to Steve Cotterill who saw his shot beaten away by Mick Martin. Borough might have snatched a surprise lead when Martin New completely missed Ian Pinner's free-kick, but Essex was on hand to hook the ball to safety.

Borough found themselves a goal down after 25 minutes when Grantley Edwards had a shot blocked by Martin and the Nuneaton keeper then produced a superb save to keep out Ian Straw's follow up effort, but the ball fell for Dorsett to head home from close range for his first goal of the season.

Straight from the restart Borough might have been level when Colin Caddick got clear on the right and picked out Watts with his cross but the striker's header flew a foot wide of New's left-hand post. The best chance of all fell to Caddick

on the half-hour when Morrison found him in space inside the penalty area but the midfielder shot over from only eight yards. Burton were coming under increasing pressure as Byrne had a fierce volley blocked and then Watts was only inches away from getting on to the end of another Caddick cross. Clive Patterson gave the home supporters a lift with a surging 40-yard run early in the second half but his shot lacked the power to trouble Martin.

At the other end Caddick's shot from the edge of the box had New scrambling across his line as the ball flew narrowly wide. Morrison caused Burton problems as he turned well on the right but Byrne failed to get hold of his shot from the cross and Caddick also failed to connect before the home side scrambled the ball away. But Borough had a close call with 15 minutes left when Dorsett got clear on the left and found Groves with a pin-point centre but he put a weak header straight at Martin.

Borough were quickly back on the attack and New did well to punch a Bateman cross off the head of Morrison and then with eight minutes left Nuneaton missed another sitter. Burton failed to clear their lines following a right wing cross and the ball fell to Caddick who sliced his shot wide from in front of a gaping goal. Byrne had a 20 yarder well held by New as Borough staged a grandstand finish and then the Burton keeper took a high cross under pressure from Morrison.

But with the final seconds ticking away Nuneaton got the equaliser they deserved. Fadi Hanna, on as substitute for Bateman, flicked a low ball across the face of the goal and Morrison slammed it home from almost on the goal-line.

Borough Sign Peltier And Palgrave



With Nuneaton Borough struggling near the bottom of the Beazer Homes League Premier Division manager Chris Wright is busy trying to strengthen his squad. Last night Floyd Peltier, a central defender formerly with Bedworth United, joined the club along with striker Brian Palgrave from Port Vale. Wright (left) watches as Peltier (second left) and Palgrave sign the forms that make them Nuneaton players with Borough secretary Keith Allen on the right.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Paget Rangers 11-01-1988

Borough: Martin, Pinner, Burke, Thomas, Watts, Caddick, Pollard (Chadwick 77), Byrne, Morrison, Hanna, Shearer. **Sub:** Horton.

Paget: Bamford, Belcher, Washbourne, Matthews, Williams, Montgomery, Chambers (O'Hare 72), Richards, Blewitt, Bourton (Hunter 80), Biddle.

Borough welcomed Paget Rangers to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup first round match.

Borough booked their place in the second round of the competition, but made hard work of beating lowly Paget. Lance Morrison's second half goal was enough to end a brave fight by the visitors in a dismal encounter in front of a sparse crowd.

Borough had an early scare when Perry Blewitt beat the home side's offside trap but he hurried his shot and it was wide of Martin's left hand post. At the other end Colin Caddick had a shot deflected wide and then Morrison and Peter Shearer were crowded out following Mark Pollard's cross. The visitors had an escape midway through the half when keeper Scott Bamford failed to hold a left wing cross and Kevin Byrne had a shot blocked before the ball was scrambled clear.

Thomas was beaten by a bad bounce and Martin did well to gather Blewitt's fierce shot at the second attempt. Shortly before the break the visitors had another let-off when Bamford missed Byrne's cross and Keith Matthews cleared off the line.

Borough began to exert a bit more pressure at the start of the second half and a Thomas cross had the visitors' keeper at full stretch with Morrison closing in. Paget then had two more escapes with Byrne being the unlucky player on both occasions. First the Borough midfielder saw his 57th minute effort bounce out off the bar and then he lobbed the ball over the advancing keeper from the edge of the box but Gary Montgomery got back to clear off the line.

With 18 minutes remaining Borough broke the deadlock. Bamford did well to punch out a Fadi Hanna cross under pressure from Shearer but the ball went straight to Morrison who volleyed home from 15 yards. The visitors were now under increasing pressure and Shearer outjumped the Paget defence to another Hanna cross but put his header over the top. Tony Belcher cleared off the line after Bamford had dropped Ian Pinner's centre but the keeper redeemed himself with a brave save at Hanna's feet after Shearer had set up the chance.

Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch 16-01-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Caddick, Pinner, Byrne, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. **Sub:** Pollard.

Alvechurch: Burke, Conniff, Brown, Angoy, Hart, Satchwell, Richardson, Chapple, Volrath, Crisp, East. **Sub:** Wood.

Borough welcomed Alvechurch to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Ian Pinner hit the winner for Borough as they finally ended their barren spell with a hard-earned victory. The former Alvechurch player saw his shot deflected past keeper Mick



Burke shortly before the break, to send his old club crashing to defeat. Borough included midweek signings Floyd Peltier and Brian Palgrave in their line-up and Tony Donnelly returned to the wing after missing the last two matches.

The home side could have been behind in the first minute when Peltier's header only found Royston Richardson and his shot from the edge of the box flew a foot wide. When play switched to the other end Nuneaton forced two corners in quick succession and from the second Palgrave headed wide. Martin had to make a smart save when Crisp flashed in a header from a free-kick. The visitors were looking the sharper and went in front after 12 minutes. Peltier earned himself a booking for bringing down Richardson on the edge of the box and Conniff hammered the free-kick into the top corner.

Burke looked vulnerable in the visitors' goal and made a meal of a Lee Bateman cross before turning it over the top. Nuneaton began to put Alvechurch under pressure and it came as no real surprise when they grabbed an equaliser after 33 minutes. The visitors were forced to concede their eighth corner and when Donnelly swung in the flag kick Watts climbed among a cluster of defenders to power a header downwards and past Burke. Three minutes before the interval Borough took the lead when Alvechurch failed to clear a left wing centre from Palgrave and the ball fell to Pinner who hit a first-time shot that took a wicked deflection that left Burke flat-footed as it flew into the corner of the net.

There was an anxious moment shortly after the break when Peltier appeared to bring down Simon Volrath, but penalty appeals were waved away. Colin Caddick then released Donnelly, but his cross was scrambled clear before Borough had a let-off after 55 minutes when Steve Thomas and Bateman got themselves into a mess allowing Volrath to race clear, but he over-ran the ball and it went out for a goalkick.

Martin put Borough in trouble with a poor goal-kick that went straight to Satchwell. He quickly put Volrath away but Martin made amends for his earlier mistake with a brave save at the big striker's feet. Borough could have put the issue beyond doubt with 12 minutes left. Donnelly went past Ian Brown and picked out Palgrave with his centre and it looked odds on a goal, but Burke produced a superb save to keep out the header. The visitors, sensing that they could snatch a point out of the fire, put in a spirited finish but Borough held out.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 18-01-1988

Borough: Martin, Pinner, Gregory, Thomas, Bateman, Caddick (Shearer 68), Pollard, Byrne, Palgrave, Hanna, Donnelly.

Willenhall: Pomeroy, Bowater, Trend, Birch, I. Mitchell, Jones, Ash, King, Malcolm, Stirland, J. Mitchell. **Sub:** Davis.

Borough welcomed Willenhall Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's hopes of climbing away from the relegation area received a severe jolt as they crashed to a dismal defeat. John Mitchell's goal midway through the second half was enough

to put the skids under Borough and wreck their hopes of completing their first double of the season.

Borough made a bright start and Willenhall keeper Steve Pomeroy did well to take Pinner's cross under pressure from Brian Palgrave and then Tony Donnelly only just failed to get onto the end of Kevin Byrne's through ball. The home side should have gone in front after 11 minutes when Donnelly's cross found Pollard unmarked at the far post, but he put his header wide from inside the six yard box. The visitors had another let off when Kevin Ash turned Ade Gregory's low centre against the foot of his own post.

Pomeroy had to produce a smart save to keep out Bateman's header and then Donnelly shot straight at the keeper. But Borough missed another golden opportunity ten minutes before the interval when Gregory's cross rebounded off the bar and Palgrave shot wide from close range.

Nuneaton continued to dominate at the start of the second period and four minutes after the break they missed another clear-cut chance with Palgrave again the guilty party. Donnelly set up the striker with a clear sight of goal but he sliced his shot hopelessly wide from only twelve yards. Pinner did well to block a shot from Malcolm before Thomas had a glimpse of an opening from a left wing corner, but Borough fell behind shortly afterwards. Thomas seemed to be in charge of a long through ball, but John Mitchell blocked his intended clearance and raced clear to slip the ball past the advancing Martin.

Borough pushed forward in desperation in search of an equaliser and Pollard headed a foot wide after a neat move involving Gregory and Mick Shearer, on for the injured Colin Caddick. Palgrave then saw his low shot well held by Pomeroy, but Borough's luck was summed up in the last minute when they had a blatant penalty turned down. Pollard got onto the end of a right wing cross and the ball seemed destined for the net until Steve Birch stopped it on the line with his hand. Incredibly the referee turned down Borough's heated penalty appeals.

Borough To Receive Cash Windfall

Nuneaton Borough are set for another cash windfall following the transfer of their former midfield player Trevor Morley, who signed for Manchester City from Northampton Town. Morley joined the Maine Road club in part-exchange for City's Tony Adcock, who was valued at £85,000, plus an additional £150,000 payment. The £235,000 deal is certain to boost Borough's bank balance by a substantial five figure sum thanks to a clause put into the contract when Morley left Manor Park for the Cobblers back in 1985.

Borough secretary Keith Allen said: "The deal has been completed and Nuneaton will get a substantial five figure fee."

Dixey Joins Adders

Nuneaton Borough skipper Richard Dixey ended his seven and a half year association with the Manor Park club when he joined local rivals Atherstone United. Dixey, who has been attracting



attention from several clubs in recent weeks had talks with Adders manager Ron Bradbury after the seven days notice of approach had elapsed and put pen to paper last night.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashford Town 30-01-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Shearer, Caddick, Pinner, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. **Sub:** Byrne.

Ashford: Carman, Brenchley, Sillett, MacDonald, Barrow, Allon, Lee, Brignal, Hare, Giles, Wynter. **Sub:** Barton.

Borough welcomed Ashford Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's hopes of avoiding relegation look considerably brighter following a battling performance. With just three wins to their credit prior to the game, this latest victory was just the shot in the arm that Borough needed.

Borough swept into the lead within four minutes. Paul Brenchley failed to steer a long through ball back to his keeper, Peter Carman, and Watts reacted quickly to nip in and prod the ball home from ten yards. There was danger for Nuneaton when Steve Thomas brought down Darren Hare on the edge of the penalty area and Mick Martin turned Carlton Wynter's free-kick around the post for a corner before Nuneaton had a narrow escape when Wynter's close range shot hit Thomas on the knee and flew over the bar. Ashford came more into the game and after 25 minutes Brignal flicked on a right wing corner and Hare headed home at the far post.

Donnelly was unfortunate to see his shot rebound from the foot of a post as Borough regained the initiative five minutes before the break. Ian Pinner freed Donnelly on the right and the winger's deep cross found Watts and he headed firmly past Carman from inside the six yard box.

Dave Lee shot into the side netting at the start of the second half. Palgrave then stretched the visitors defence with a searching crossfield ball, but Pinner was slow to get his centre and the ball was cleared. But Borough had Martin to thank that they were still in front after 63 minutes. Paul Giles was clean through and seemed certain to score but the Nuneaton keeper produced a stunning save to turn the point blank shot wide of the right hand post.

This save was to prove vital as two minutes later Borough stretched their lead to 3-1. Palgrave found Shearer just inside the penalty area and Borough's leading scorer sidestepped his marker and fired a low right foot drive inside the far post. However, Ashford were still looking dangerous and Martin had to make another important save to touch Wynter's fierce drive over the top for a corner.

With the benefit of a two goal cushion Borough were prepared to take the game to the visitors and Shearer fired wide of Carman's right hand post after a good build-up involving Donnelly and Palgrave. But it was the visitors who almost had the last word with Hare flashing a header narrowly wide from Lee's right wing cross.

Shepshed Charterhouse v Nuneaton Boro' 03-02-1988

Shepshed: Robbins, Williamson, Tatham, Powell, Geelan, Glover, Hammond, Acklam, Turner, McFarlane, Thompson. **Subs:** Walsh, Hessian.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Byrne, Pinner, Caddick, Palgrave, Shearer, Donnelly. **Subs:** Hanna, Pollard.

Borough made the journey to The Dovecote to play Shepshed Charterhouse in a M&B Cup second round tie.

Two goal Tony Donnelly was the Nuneaton Borough hero as they booked a place in the semi-final. The striker hit both goals as Borough brushed aside their league rivals.

Borough made a bright start with Colin Caddick being caught fractionally offside after a neat interchange of passes with Brian Palgrave and then Donnelly streaked down the left, but the Shepshed defence crowded out Palgrave as he moved onto the winger's low cross. But Borough had a narrow escape after nine minutes when Steve Thomas brought down Ian Turner on the edge of the box and former Manor Park favourite Mike McFarlane hit the bar with the free-kick.

Donnelly raced onto a through ball by Byrne only to see the keeper save his close range effort at the second attempt. But a minute later Donnelly made amends as he put Borough in front. Shepshed failed to clear a Byrne free-kick and the Nuneaton striker pounced to force the ball home. Borough continued to dominate and missed another good chance with Palgrave failing to get hold of a low cross inside the box after a superb run by Donnelly.

The Nuneaton centre-forward failed to hit the target after a fine turn took him past his marker at the start of the second half. Mick Martin made a good save from Turner, but the home side's revival was short-lived as Borough once more seized the initiative with Shearer, Byrne and Palgrave all going close.

Borough wrapped up the game with ten minutes to go. Byrne timed his through ball to perfection and Donnelly raced clear down the middle to slip the ball past the advancing Paul Robbins. Lee Bateman headed off the line from a corner in a late flourish from Shepshed while at the other end Shearer forced Robbins to save at full stretch to keep out a 20 yard drive, while Floyd Peltier was unlucky when his header hit the bar with the keeper beaten.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 06-02-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Shearer (Pollard 85), Pinner, Caddick, Palgrave, Byrne, Donnelly.

Chelmsford: Casey, K. Lee, Spittle, Hadley, Game, N. Lee (Turner), May, Springett, Wilkins, Thrift, Wells.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's revival continued as Peter Shearer's hat-trick set up a comprehensive win. Shearer put Borough ahead after only seven minutes, added a second before the interval and

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completed his three-timer midway through the second half to take his season's total to sixteen. Brian Palgrave put the icing on the cake for Nuneaton with the fourth goal towards the end, his first goal for the club.

Both sides took time to settle down but Borough got just the start they were hoping for as they surged forward to take the lead after seven minutes. Colin Caddick found Ian Pinner in acres of space wide on the right and his cross to the far post was hammered in by Shearer from almost on the goal-line. Chelmsford were struggling to get into the game and keeper Paul Casey did well to cut out Pinner's cross under pressure from Palgrave.

Mid-way through the first half the visitors had a clear cut chance of an equaliser but Phil Thrift sliced his shot wide from inside the penalty area. Donnelly then put a shot straight at the Chelmsford keeper before Thrift again had a glimpse of goal after 32 minutes but Mick Martin saved low to his right.

Borough had the ball in the net six minutes before half-time but Donnelly's effort was ruled out for a foul on the keeper by Kevin Byrne. But 60 seconds later the groans turned to cheers as Shearer powerfully headed home Donnelly's right wing corner from ten yards.

Chelmsford stepped up the tempo at the start of the second half and within five minutes they were back in the match with a soft goal. Bateman failed to find Martin with a backpass and Thrift nipped in gently to lob the ball over the keeper and into an empty net. Caddick had a chance to restore Borough's lead but he shot straight at the keeper from just inside the area. But the visitors were looking more dangerous now and Martin did well to block Mitchell Springett's shot with his legs.

At the other end Palgrave ran the ball out of play after a fine break from the centre circle and then Pinner saw his effort drift wide of the far post. However the visitors' hopes of salvaging a point disappeared completely after 62 minutes as Borough restored their two-goal cushion. Donnelly was felled by Tony Hadley wide on the right and when Pinner floated the free-kick into the box Shearer launched himself to head past Casey.

Martin was caught out when he failed to gather Warren May's centre but the stranded keeper redeemed himself by blocking Paul Wilkin's effort and gathering the ball at the second attempt. But Palgrave put the final nail in Chelmsford's coffin 15 minutes from time when he hammered home a superb left foot volley after Donnelly had set up the opening.

Dorchester Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-02-1988

Dorchester: Jones, Morrell, Chambers, Townsend, Loveridge, Baber (Greeno 78), Borthwick, Joyce, Morrison, Crabb, Bridle.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Shearer (Pollard 45), Fearn, Donnelly.

Borough made the journey to The Avenue to play Dorchester Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough produced a magnificent performance to record

their first double of the season. Chris Wright's men, visibly improving with each match, battled superbly to beat the elements and their high-riding opponents.

Dorchester were the first to threaten and when Mark Baber floated a fourth minute free kick into the Borough penalty area, keeper Mick Martin was happy to hold Craig Morrison's header at the second attempt. But it was Borough who got the breakthrough when they opened the scoring after only eight minutes through Tony Donnelly. Dorchester goalkeeper Martyn Jones made a hash of an attempted clearance and only succeeded in finding Donnelly, who made the Dorchester man pay the ultimate price for his mistake as he coolly lobbed the ball into the net from 25 yards.

Borough deservedly increased their lead after 15 minutes. Brian Palgrave was brought down on the edge of the area by Peter Loveridge and Fearn's free kick seemed to take a deflection off the wall as it deceived Jones on its way into the net. Borough were stretching the home defence down both flanks and Jones did well to take Kevin Byrne's cross at the far post after a flowing move down the left flank had opened up the home sides defences.

However, Dorchester his back to cut the arrears after 21 minutes. A left wing cross found Joyce unmarked at the far post and he headed the ball back across the face of the goal to Steve Crabb, whose shot hit the foot of the left hand post and Morrison forced home the rebound from close range. Dorchester had three shots blocked before Martin kept Borough in front with a super save at Nick Bridle's feet.

Borough gradually regained their grip and Palgrave hit a drive a foot over the angle following a good breakaway. Six minutes before the interval Donnelly made a quick break on the left and his hanging cross was headed in at the far post by Shearer for his seventeenth goal of the season.

With the wind and rain in their faces for the second half Borough faced an uphill battle to protect their lead and their hopes were dented eight minutes after the restart when Dorchester cut the lead to a single goal. Martin did well to turn Baber's free-kick away for a corner and when the Borough defence failed to clear the flag-kick Crabb forced the ball home from close range.

Baber drilled a low shot across the face of the Nuneaton goal after getting clear on the right, but despite their possession the home side were finding it difficult to break down Borough's resolute defence. Any hopes Town had of salvaging a point disappeared two minutes from the end as Nuneaton grabbed a fourth goal. Pollard got away on the right and when Jones could only beat away the Borough man's cross Palgrave was on hand to hammer a right footer into the top corner.

Borough continued to surge forward and with the referee looking at his watch the home side failed to clear a right wing cross and Donnelly pounced to score with a low shot inside Jones' left hand post.



Everton Carr Back With Borough

Former favourite Everton Carr is back in a Borough shirt for the trip to Aylesbury, as Borough face a growing injury crisis. Carr has had several clubs this season, including present GM Vauxhall Conference leaders Barnet, who have given him permission to play for Nuneaton.

Aylesbury United v Nuneaton Borough 16-02-1988

Aylesbury: Garner, Robinson, James, Saunders, Hutter, Campbell, Botterill, Coy, Hercules, Phillips, Harthill. **Sub:** Duggan.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Pollard, Pinner, Carr, Palgrave, Fearn (Hanna 86), Donnelly.

Borough travelled to Buckingham Road to play Aylesbury United in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Championship chasing Aylesbury snatched a draw with a dramatic last minute penalty. Borough were leading by Tony Donnelly's fifth minute goal as the match moved into injury time and Chris Wright's men looked set for their second away win in four days. However, Aylesbury mounted a desperate late attack that broke down with Borough's defensive strong man Floyd Peltier clearing the ball out of the area with the home players appealing for handball.

The referee waved play on but then noticed a linesman flagging and after a quick word with the official he awarded a penalty that Dave Botterill gleefully hammered past Mick Martin. Although it was a sickener for Borough, once again they showed that they are too good a side to be in the relegation area and they are fast emerging as a formidable unit. Donnelly twice had United goalkeeper Tim Garner struggling before Borough got another dream start with an early goal.

Ian Pinner won a heading duel in midfield, Brian Palgrave put Donnelly away and his left footed effort flew into the top corner with Garner helpless. Brendan Phillips shot high and wide as United hit back and then Botterill had a shot easily gathered by Martin. Cliff Hercules fired over the top and then was clean through, but Bateman made a fine saving tackle. Everton Carr was only a couple of feet wide before Hercules hit a fierce drive inches over the bar.

But a minute later Donnelly should have increased Borough's lead when Carr put him through but Garner blocked the close range shot with his legs. Martin did well to snatch a Gary Harthill cross off Cliff Campbell's head before Peter Hutter clipped the Nuneaton bar just before the interval.

Peltier and Bateman lined up to get Donnelly away at the start of the second half but the winger wasted the opportunity. However, the home side were beginning to increase the pressure and Bateman made a timely interception from Harthill's long centre to head the ball back to Martin. On the hour mark Martin saved from Bob Coy's close range shot and was well positioned to keep out Campbell's header.

There was danger for Aylesbury as Donnelly raced away from

Kevin James, but Paul Saunders recovered to dispossess the winger on the edge of the area. Mark Pollard failed to connect with Palgrave's cross while at the other end Martin had to react quickly to cut out Harthill's low centre.

Borough again went close to a second goal five minutes before the end when Donnelly got in a superb cross from the left and Pollard's header was cleared at the second attempt by Garner. It looked as though Aylesbury's last chance had gone when Campbell hit the bar and headed over the rebound in front of a gaping net.

The late penalty gave the home side the point they needed to go to the top of the Beazer Homes League Premier Division table on goal difference from Dartford.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 20-02-1988

Leicester: Marsden, Mason, Randell, Staples, Warner, Brown, Rue, Dakin, Puttnam, Taylor, Dowsing. **Sub:** Potter.

Borough: Martin, Carr (Bateman 9), Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Shearer, Pinner, Watts, Palgrave, Fearn, Donnelly.

Borough travelled to Winchester Road to play Leicester United in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough were brought back to earth with a bump as they tumbled to a disappointing defeat. Borough failed to take advantage of an early lead as they were beaten for the first time in six games.

Nuneaton had an early chance when Brian Palgrave robbed Gary Staples and crossed to Donnelly, but the Borough winger hooked his shot high over the bar under pressure from Tony Brown. Puttnam then flashed a centre across the face of the Nuneaton goal as Leicester hit back and shortly after Carr limped off to be replaced by Lee Bateman. However, Borough's spirits were quickly lifted as they swept ahead after 11 minutes. Steve Thomas intercepted an attempted through ball inside his own half and quickly played it forward to Donnelly who outpaced Brown and superbly lobbed it over the advancing Ian Marsden and into the empty net for his fourth game in eight days.

Brown headed a foot over the Nuneaton crossbar as the home side pressed forward and then Mick Martin had to be alert to turn the ball over the top after Bateman's header had hit Floyd Peltier and rebounded towards goal. Palgrave glanced a header wide from Donnelly's cross while at the other end Peltier did well to cut out Dakin's low centre.

Four minutes from the interval the home side missed a clear cut opportunity of an equaliser when Puttnam was clean through in the penalty area, but Martin did superbly well to parry the close range shot for a corner. However, two minutes later Thomas brought down Puttnam from behind as he wriggled into the area and Colin Taylor made no mistake from the resulting penalty.

Borough's hopes slumped even further two minutes after the restart as Leicester took the lead. Puttnam got free on the



left and when he pulled the ball back it appeared that Dakin flicked the ball on with his hand and Taylor had a simple tap in. After protests the goal was allowed to stand.

Donnelly had a shot blocked as Borough gradually got back into the game and snatched a deserved equaliser after 61 minutes. Palgrave was quickly onto a back pass by Mark Randell and went wide of Marsden. He clipped ball across the face of the goal for Kevin Watts to head home. But Borough's joy was short lived as Puttnam raced clear and Dakin was completely unmarked to head in from the winger's cross.

Borough made it 3-3 after Palgrave's persistence paid off as he won the ball on the left and his cross found Fearn who swept it past Marsden. However, Borough fell for the sucker punch again and Puttnam swung the ball into the middle for Dakin to head in from close range. Ian Pinner had a low shot well saved by Marsden before Mitchell Warner found Taylor wide on the right, and when the ball was knocked into the middle Dakin was not picked up and headed past Martin from inside the six yard box.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 27-02-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Caddick, Pinner, Byrne (Watts 59), Palgrave, Fearn, Donnelly.

Burton: New, Beeston, Blower, Straw (Ede 41), Essex, Weston, Groves, Harrison, Hutchinson, Cotterill, Downing.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough are back in the relegation dogfight following an abysmal performance. Chris Wright's men never showed anything of the form that had seen them shoot up the table in recent weeks and they struggled throughout the 90 minutes.

Burton made all the early running and Caddick did well to head clear from Ross Downing's right wing cross while under pressure from Steve Essex. Mick Martin reacted smartly to cut out another Downing centre as Nuneaton settled down and Byrne got in a header from Ade Gregory's cross before Graham Fearn put a volley well wide. Thomas was booked for bringing down Steve Cotterill and it came as no surprise when Burton took the lead. Borough failed to clear their lines from a corner and Keith Hutchinson reacted quickly to force the ball home from close range.

Martin made a fine save at the feet of Downing, while at the other end New was happy to grab Palgrave's left footer at the second attempt and then punched clear a goalbound effort from Fearn from outside the penalty area.

Shortly after the restart Borough might have got an equaliser when Donnelly's low centre left New stranded but Steve Beeston scrambled the ball away from the inrushing Palgrave. Borough were beginning to exert a bit more pressure and Gregory was brought down on the edge of the area, but Floyd Peltier headed the free-kick over the top. But with 20 minutes left Borough fell further behind with a soft goal. Peltier started it with a poor back pass well wide

of Martin, the keeper dribbled it round Downing but hit a poor clearance that only found Cotterill and he whipped the ball into the middle to leave Paul Groves with a simple close range header.

Borough pushed forward in an effort to save the game and it looked as if they might get back into it when Caddick hit a fierce 20 yarder that beat New, but the ball cracked against the left-hand upright and bounced away to safety. The visitors were then fortunate to survive a goalmouth scramble with Caddick only a fraction away from forcing the ball home. However, Borough gave themselves a slender lifeline after 82 minutes when Thomas intercepted in midfield, beat two men as he moved forward before cracking a right footer past New from outside the box.

Martin kept alive Borough's faint hopes as he saved bravely at Downing's feet and then Peltier blocked Hutchinson's shot as he burst into the box. Borough had one last chance, but New dealt with Watts' header in the dying seconds.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-03-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Pollard, Pinner, Byrne, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly (Fearn).

Borough travelled to Town Mead to play Crawley Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough regained some lost pride as they took a vital point with a superb performance in Sussex. Chris Wright's men showed none of the lethargy so evident in their two recent defeats and were more than a match for second in the table Crawley. In fact Borough could have been celebrating a victory on the long journey home, but Mark Pollard fired a 68th minute penalty high over the bar.

Borough were first to threaten when Donnelly made a superb break and his rising drive was touched over the bar by Gary Moseley. However, Nuneaton had a let-off after eight minutes when Frank Ovard found space inside the penalty area and his shot clipped the bar. Moseley smothered the ball at Watts' feet before Gregory misjudged a high swirling cross from the left but Jeff Hamlett hooked a first-time shot well wide of the target before Martin had to react smartly to gather a through ball as Ovard threatened.

Nuneaton might have gone ahead after 32 minutes when Kevin Byrne came in at the far post for Donnelly's flighted cross but the ball bounced awkwardly and his header flew over the top.

Borough made a bright start to the second period with Lee Bateman playing an early ball for Watts, but it ran away from the striker. Pollard did well to turn away Ovard's low cross and then Borough were unfortunate not to go in front. Watts pulled the ball back for Palgrave on the edge of the box and his shot was deflected for a corner. Crawley failed to clear the flag-kick and the ball was smacked against an upright.

But midway through the half Borough should have broken



the deadlock. Pollard curled in a corner from the left and Donnelly's header appeared to cross the goal-line before being handled by Sean Edwards, however, the referee awarded a penalty and Pollard hit the spot kick high and wide.

Despite the setback Borough were still looking the better side and Watts had a header tipped round a post by Moseley and from the resulting corner Pinner headed a foot wide. Six minutes from the end Nuneaton had Martin to thank for still being on level terms when a mix-up between Bateman and Steve Thomas let in Ovard only for the Nuneaton keeper to produce a superb close range save. Crawley pressed forward in an effort to snatch a late winner and Pollard was handily placed to clear a Gallagher shot off the line.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 05-03-1988

Redditch: Penner, Stobart, Whittingham, Mortimer, Billingham, Hickey, MacLaren, Morgan, Rosegreen, Kalewski, Richard. **Sub:** Manning.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Pinner, Carr (Fearn 68), Shearer, Palgrave, Watts, Caddick.

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough got their relegation battle back on course with a gutsy performance that brought them three vital points. But they had to dig deep into their resources of character and determination before overcoming their fellow strugglers.

There was an early scare for Borough when Floyd Peltier failed to clear Alan MacLaren's cross but Randolph Richards put his header well wide. Gregory's long free kick caused panic before the home side scrambled the ball clear and moved straight to the other end to take the lead. Steve Thomas headed a Morgan free-kick onto his own post and out for a corner and when the flag-kick was only half cleared Morgan swept the ball back into the middle for Kalewski to score with a back header at the near post.

Palgrave beat Dennis Mortimer and Tony Billingham in a good break down the left and when Tony Hickey only cleared the centre-forward's cross to the edge of the box, Pinner hit a first-time volley well wide. Borough continued to press and Shearer put in a powerful header before Nuneaton got back on level terms after 26 minutes. Carr fired in a good early ball from wide on the right and Palgrave was unmarked as he planted a header past Dan Penner from close range.

Borough enjoyed a bit of good fortune before the break as Martin touched Morgan's left wing corner onto the bar before Gregory completed the clearance.

Two minutes after the restart Borough's hopes were severely dented as Redditch regained the lead. Slack marking in the Nuneaton defence allowed Richards time to slip a pass to Morgan who rifled a fierce shot into the roof of the Nuneaton net. Redditch were now putting on the pressure and Borough had Martin to thank that they did not fall further behind when he made a super save after Bateman mistimed a clearance.

But Borough weathered the storm and they made the home

side pay dearly for failing to take advantage of their best spell in the match. The first signs of danger for Redditch came when Watts curled in a cross from the left that Penner did well to turn over the top. Graham Fearn replaced Carr after 68 minutes and a minute later Borough were level with a stunning goal from Shearer. Billingham only cleared a long through ball a couple of yards outside the penalty area and Shearer hit a spectacular left foot volley into the roof of the net.

Martin made another full-length save from Morgan before Borough went in front after 74 minutes. Redditch were caught stretched when Martin kicked a long clearance down the left and Palgrave beat Sean Stobart and delivered a perfect centre for Watts to glance a header past Penner and into the corner of the net. Borough went close to increasing their lead just before the end when Palgrave flashed a shot across the face of the home goal with the Redditch defence nowhere.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 07-03-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Pinner, Thomas, Peltier, Fearn, Caddick, Shearer (Hanna 109), Palgrave, Watts, Chapman (Pollard 90).

Kettering: Reece, Ward, Brown, Tillson, Lewis, Daley, Keast, Richardson, Murphy, Smith, Edwards (Ricketts 64). **Sub:** Haywood.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup semi-final tie.

Mark Smith's extra-time goal finally ended Borough's hopes. The Kettering striker pounced a minute before the end of extra time, giving the visitors a place in the final.

Borough got just the start they were hoping for when they swept ahead with a fine goal after only six minutes' play. Caddick found Palgrave with a telling ball inside the full-back and the centre-forward swept in a low cross to the far post for Watts to turn past Paul Reece from close range.

Steve Ward saw his cross clip the bar as Kettering pressed forward in search of an equaliser and then Richardson headed high over the top from Doug Keast's cross. There was more danger for Borough when they failed to cut out a free-kick by Richard Brown and Smith got clear in the box but he put his shot well wide of the target. Mick Martin then saved well twice in the space of five minutes, first going down bravely at Smith's feet and then turning away a low shot from Richardson that took a late nasty bounce. Palgrave found Chapman in space on the left in a neat Borough counter attack but the ensuing centre was too near Reece who gathered easily.

Borough picked up the tempo a bit at the start of the second half with Peter Shearer engineering himself a couple of good shooting positions only to be way off target on both occasions. Nuneaton were a little fortunate after 68 minutes when Murphy beat Martin to a through ball and his shot clipped the outside of a post. But a minute later Kettering were level. Keast pumped in a free-kick from wide on the right and Thomas was first to the ball but his glancing header flew past Martin and into the top corner of the net.

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Ricketts had a goal disallowed at the start of extra time for a blatant push on Martin, but a minute before the end of the first period the visitors went in front with a bizarre goal. Borough were caught pushing up to the half-way line as Russell Lewis pumped a clearance out of defence, Thomas slipped and Smith was allowed to run half the length of the field completely unopposed before slipping the ball past Martin.

Byrne Leaves

Kevin Byrne, who joined Borough from Alvechurch last autumn has left the Manor Park club. The talented midfielder never really settled in at Nuneaton and has left Borough by mutual consent.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 12-03-1988

VS Rugby: Belford, Riley, Shepherd, Lane, Halton, Webb, Geddes (Kitson 48), Butterworth, Ebrey, Conway, Ross.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Caddick, Pinner, Shearer, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. Sub: Pollard.

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Peter Shearer's last minute goal swept relegation threatened Borough to three more vital points. With the game entering its final throes, Shearer was perfectly positioned to turn in a Kevin Watts centre to earn Borough their second away victory in succession. It was a sickening finale for fellow strugglers VS Rugby who had produced a spirited second-half revival.

VS were the first to threaten when Steve Ross was brought down on the edge of the box by Gregory but the free-kick was easily cleared. Borough were quickly on the attack and Donnelly forced a corner before Brian Palgrave skipped past two defenders, but was off balance and his shot flew well off target. Dale Belford did well to punch away Gregory's free-kick under pressure from Watts and Palgrave. Shearer headed a Ross centre behind for a corner with Ebrey boring in. But with 12 minutes gone Borough had Martin to thank when Danny Conway intercepted a clearance and with the Nuneaton defence racing out he knocked the ball down the right and Martin had to spread himself to make a superb stop as Conway was through on his own.

However, three minutes later Nuneaton went in front, Donnelly skipped past Wayne Shepherd on the right and his pinpoint centre picked out Watts who headed home firmly from six yards, his third goal in successive games. Donnelly was causing the VS defence a lot of problems and they were fortunate to scramble another cross away. Martin grabbed a Lane header at the second attempt as VS came more into the game.

Bateman wasted a good opportunity after Palgrave had put him clear and then with half-time approaching Donnelly appeared to be flattened by Robin Webb, but Borough's heated penalty appeals were turned down. Nuneaton could have increased their lead seconds before the break but Belford made a fine save from Watts.

Bateman hooked a Ross free-kick clear at the start of the second half and then Webb had to produce a timely tackle to halt Gregory. But three minutes after the restart VS were back on level terms. Ross chipped a free-kick into the Borough penalty area and Steve Thomas climbed all over Paul Kitson and Lane drilled the penalty past Martin.

Rugby were obviously lifted by the goal and Webb made a determined break down the right and crossed to the far post but Ross arrived too late to take advantage. Martin tipped Lane's header over the top following a corner before Borough missed a glorious chance to go back in front. Donnelly cut into the box and pulled the ball back to Shearer who screwed his shot wide from ten yards. Ebrey had a volley well held by Martin, but Borough hit back with the killer punch. With the game in the last minute Donnelly freed Watts on the right. He cut into the penalty area and centred low for Palgrave to dummy at the near post and leave Shearer to sweep the ball past Belford from close range.

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 19-03-1988

Chelmsford: Casey, Marlow, Jacobs, May, Devine, K. Lee, N. Lee, Springett, Thrift (Edkins 88), Douglas, Wells.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Neale (Fearn), Pinner, Caddick, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly.

Borough travelled to New Writtle Street to play Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough put in their worst performance for some weeks, which plunged the Manor Park side back into the relegation dogfight. After collecting seven points from their last three away games, Borough were confident of extending their run. Mark Neale, signed in midweek after being released by Atherstone, came in at centre-half.

Nuneaton made a nervous start and could have been behind as early as the second minute. Colin Caddick's back pass only found Springett in the penalty area, but Mick Martin was out quickly to block the shot. Ian Pinner did well to get in a deep centre from the right, but when Paul Casey failed to gather the ball, Ade Gregory turned the ball back into the goalmouth, but over the bar. Martin punched away a dangerous cross from Springett and then Douglas put a weak shot well wide from inside the area.

John Devine put an effort into the side netting before Caddick freed Donnelly on the right as Borough struggled. Chelmsford were quickly back onto the attack and it came as no surprise when they swept in front after 27 minutes. Neale won a good tackle against Phil Thrift but the Nuneaton defence failed to clear the loose ball and Wells took possession to side-step Lee Bateman and drill a low right-footer past Martin.

A Palgrave cross flew across the goalmouth before Neale was booked for obstructing Wells and Douglas headed wide from the free-kick. Borough could have fallen further behind before the break, with Springett hooking a shot wide and Douglas' close range shot clipped the bar.

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Springett hit a fierce 25 yarder over the top at the start of the second half, but Nuneaton gave their travelling faithful some hope with Neale causing some anxiety to the home defence. Borough might have done better when Pinner pulled a neat ball into the six yard box that Chelmsford eventually hooked clear. However, 11 minutes after the restart, Nuneaton's hopes were dealt a bodyblow as Chelmsford went two up. Springett played a neat one-two with Douglas on the edge of the penalty area and his cracking right foot volley flew into the bottom corner.

Graham Fearn replaced Neale after 60 minutes and Borough reduced the arrears with a goal of real quality. Donnelly turned his marker in the area and knocked in a low ball that Kevin Watts laid off to Palgrave who volleyed home from ten yards. Casey produced a fine catch under pressure from Floyd Peltier and Watts, but four minutes from the end Chelmsford removed any doubt with a third goal. Borough only cleared a corner to the edge of the box and when Bateman and Pinner hesitated Wells nipped in to score with a low shot inside the near post.

Nuneaton Borough v VS Rugby 26-03-1988

Borough: Martin, Carr, Chadwick, Thomas, Neale, Caddick, Pinner, Shearer, Palgrave, Watts (Fearn 83), Donnelly.

Borough welcomed VS Rugby to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

A penalty goal from Brian Palgrave was enough to ensure Borough a share of the spoils in their relegation battle. The Nuneaton striker coolly drilled his spot kick wide of Dale Belford after John Lane had handled on the line to save a certain goal from Colin Caddick.

Nuneaton produced the first threat when Shearer freed Tony Donnelly on the right but VS scrambled away the winger's centre and swept to the other end to take a seventh minute lead. Borough failed to clear Danny Conway's free-kick deep into the penalty area and when Nigel Niblett knocked it into the six yard box Kitson stooped low to score with a header inside Martin's left hand post.

This setback produced a quick response from the home side and Belford did well to punch away Donnelly's inswinging corner under pressure from Kevin Watts and Mark Neale. But the visiting keeper was fortunate after 11 minutes when Caddick's scorching drive from outside the box flew past him only to cannon to safety off the crossbar. Midway through the half Watts forced Belford into a diving save low to his left with a firm header from Caddick's free-kick. Borough were denied a penalty just before the break as Watts cut into the area and was brought down by Lane.

There was a moment of danger for Borough at the start of the second period when Ebrey found Kitson in space on the right but Steve Thomas recovered quickly to cut out the centre at the expense of a corner. Caddick hit a rising drive straight at the keeper and Watts put a header into the side netting from a Donnelly corner. But 20 minutes after the interval Nuneaton

got their just reward as they got an equaliser. Watts clashed with Belford as he went up for a through ball and Caddick lobbed the ball towards an empty net, only for Lane to pluck the ball from under the bar and save a certain goal. There was a long delay while Watts received treatment but Palgrave kept his nerve and struck the penalty into the corner of the net.



Dale Belford collides heavily with Kevin Watts, a clash that left the Borough striker needing lengthy treatment.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough came within a whisker of the winner with only 15 minutes remaining. The Nuneaton defence cleared a Rugby corner and Palgrave hit a glorious crossfield ball to release Watts down the right. The Borough striker raced to the bye-line and pulled the ball back to Caddick who hit a fierce right footer that had goal written all over it, but Belford twisted in mid-air to produce a superb save.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-1988

Corby: Lamond, Timlin, Roberts, Hamill, Flower, Richards, Hofbauer, Gale, Twigger, Fletcher, Walker. Sub: Johnson.

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Carr, Thomas, Neale, Pollard (Hanna 85), Pinner, Shearer, Palgrave, Fearn, Donnelly.

Borough travelled to the Rockingham Triangle to play Corby Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's Easter holiday got off to a dismal start as they tumbled to a disastrous defeat. But Chris Wright's men have only themselves to blame that they returned home empty handed from a game they should never have lost.

Borough had the better of the opening exchanges and should have gone ahead after only six minutes. Tony Donnelly turned

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past his marker on the left and his cross found Ian Pinner completely unmarked but the Borough midfielder put his close range header over the top. Corby hit back to force a succession of corners and from the last Elwyn Roberts blazed a shot over the top.

Tim Gale shot straight at Mick Martin after Derek Walker had set him up as the home side put Borough under increasing pressure. Martin had to save bravely at Gale's feet as he burst clear into the box. Borough were caught out by a long ball from which Martyn Twigger looked certain to score, but Mark Neale hooked the ball clear. Borough could have snatched the lead just before the interval when Donnelly made space on the right and his cross picked out Brian Palgrave who could not quite get up high enough with the goal gaping in front of him.

Shearer put a shot a foot wide at the start of the second half before Borough took the lead 11 minutes after the break. Neale did supremely well to turn Fearn's corner back into the middle from outside the far post and although Palgrave missed his chance Shearer pounced to ram the ball home from eight yards. Steve Thomas blocked Dave Hofbauer's shot after Neale had slipped, but the home side drew level after 70 minutes when Thomas took a free-kick which was headed clear by Corby defender Flower and straight to Twigger, who held off Neale's challenge and shot past Martin from just inside the box.

Three minutes later Shearer got in a fierce volley from Fearn's free-kick, but Lamond made a brilliant save to beat the ball away. With 76 minutes gone Corby snatched the lead when Walker beat Lee Bateman wide on the left and his swinging centre found Gale who scored with a header that Martin touched but could not keep out. But Borough's hopes were lifted again a minute later when Roberts handled to halt Pinner as he cut into the area and Palgrave tucked away the penalty.

Nuneaton failed to learn from their earlier mistakes and four minutes later they failed to clear a right wing cross and the ball fell to Roberts who saw his fierce left footer take a deflection as it flew inside the near post. Borough could have salvaged a point in the last minute when Fearn's free-kick caused a scramble in the Corby goalmouth that ended with Fadi Hanna hooking wide from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 04-04-1988

Borough: Martin, Carr, Gregory, Thomas, Neale, Fearn, Pinner, Shearer, Watts (Peltier 85), Palgrave, Donnelly.

Bedworth: Hewitt, Timms, Smith, Jackson, Whetton, Randle, George, Sockett, Charnley, Draper, Farmer. Sub: Willis.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's defensive frailties were again in evidence as they dropped two more vital points. Borough were twice in front but the Greenbacks hit back quickly on both occasions to level the score.

Borough were the first to threaten when Tony Donnelly's

third minute corner was only cleared to the edge of the box but Graham Fearn's shot lacked the power to trouble Dennis Hewitt. There was trouble for Nuneaton when Mark Charnley got in a centre from the right but Robbie Farmer's push on Mick Martin ended the danger. Carr did well to block a fierce shot from Philmore George and the same player had the ball in the net after 23 minutes but the referee had already blown for a foul. With half-time approaching Borough produced a flowing move involving Palgrave, Fearn and Donnelly but Whetton did well to clear the centre at the expense of a corner while under pressure from Peter Shearer and Watts.

Borough were caught cold at the start of the second half but Carr showed a turn of speed to get across and clear from Farmer. But on the hour Nuneaton got the breakthrough as Shearer put Watts away on the left and his low cross went straight to Whetton who failed to clear and Palgrave nipped in to tuck a low left foot shot past Hewitt.

However, the Manor Park faithful were still celebrating when the Greenbacks equalised. Borough failed to get away a free-kick and the ball fell kindly to Whetton who hit a close range shot into the roof of the net. Borough were denied a blatant penalty as Whetton brought Watts down in the area but the home side were in a more determined mood and Whetton had to react quickly to cut out Donnelly's low cross.

Then after 72 minutes Nuneaton were back in front. Fearn played a great through ball to put Donnelly away down the middle and when he was brought down in the box by Robbie Timms, Palgrave scored from the resulting penalty despite Hewitt getting his hand to the ball. But once again Borough's joy was short-lived as four minutes later Bedworth were again on level terms. A free-kick from wide on the left found its way to George on the opposite flank and he hit a low cross into the box for Malc Randle to sweep home.

Floyd Peltier, back from a two weeks suspension, came on to replace Watts with five minutes left and a neat Fearn free-kick gave Donnelly half a chance but Hewitt safely gathered the winger's shot at the near post. Bedworth had the last word in a disappointing game when Carr had to clear off the line from George with Martin still out of his goal having punched away a free-kick.

Witney Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-04-1988

Witney: K. Leach, Mitchell, Cuddy, Carroll, Austin, A. Leach, Wood, Cullen, Panter, Seacole, Burn. Sub: Hunt.

Borough: Martin, Carr, Gregory, Thomas, Neale, Caddick, Pinner, Shearer, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. Sub: Fearn.

Borough travelled to Marriott's Close to play Witney Town in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's alarming end of season slump continued when they went down to a controversial last minute penalty having totally dominated the game against a poor Witney outfit.

Borough made a bright start and in the fifth minute a superb

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crossfield ball from Peter Shearer set Tony Donnelly free on the right and his cross forced Jimmy Austin to head clear. Two minutes later it was Shearer back defending, who nipped in to tidy up when Peter Cullen got free inside the area. It continued to be one-way traffic, but the home side could have taken the lead in the 14th minute, when Mick Martin looked to have been impeded and Everton Carr cleared to prevent John Burn from capitalising.

Borough then took total control of the game with Palgrave twice going close, first in the 18th minute when he saw a fierce left foot volley just pass over the bar from 20 yards and then when he was unable to scramble the ball home from close range after Kevin Watts had headed on a Donnelly cross. Shearer was next to go close when his angled half volley from the left shaved the bar with the keeper beaten. But in the 37th minute the home side could hardly believe their good fortune when they took the lead, Panter hammering home from close range after a good run and cross from Seacole on the left.

Trailing at the break, Borough started the second period as if they meant business and they should have levelled the scoring in the very first minute when Palgrave broke clear down the middle leaving Andy Leach trailing in his wake, only for the central defender to cynically trip him from behind on the very edge of the box, earning a booking for his pains. The free-kick was wasted and two minutes later Ade Gregory suffered a similar fate, being booked for a late tackle on Mitchell, who was causing the young full-back some problems.

In the 57th minute Ian Pinner weaved his way into the box and unleashed a terrific drive which Leach held at the second attempt. Borough forced a succession of corners and it came as no surprise when they grabbed the equaliser in the 73rd minute. Donnelly's cross was only partially cleared and the impressive Shearer lashed home a fierce drive. It was all Borough now and they missed a number of chances to increase their lead and the winner looked imminent. But in the very last minute Carr tried to play the ball down the line and miscued the ball to Thomas who under hit his back pass and Martin fouled Panter on the edge of the area and earned himself a booking as well as conceding a penalty. Burn slotted home from the spot, giving Witney a win they hardly deserved.

Nuneaton Borough v Gosport Borough 16-04-1988

Borough: Martin, Carr, Pinner, Thomas, Neale (Peltier 88), Caddick, Shearer, Fearn, Watts, Palgrave, Donnelly.

Borough welcomed Gosport Borough to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Relegation now looks a racing certainty for Borough following a disastrous defeat. Borough, firmly entrenched in the bottom four, desperately needed a win to keep alive their hopes of avoiding the drop.

Borough, who were at full strength for this vital relegation

battle, had an early shock and they could have been behind as soon as the third minute. Kevin Dawtry's left wing corner was only cleared to the edge of the box and when Mark Foster drove the ball back into the goalmouth hard and low, Greening stuck out a foot to divert it onto Mick Martin's right hand post with the keeper well beaten.



Tony Stares manages to punch the ball away from Palgrave and the leaping Kevin Watts.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Both sides were struggling to get a grip on the game as the tension clearly showed but Colin Caddick made himself a bit of space on the edge of the box only to put a poorly hit shot straight at Stares. Nuneaton might have broken the deadlock on the half hour mark when Stares failed to reach Donnelly's teasing corner and Shearer got a head to the ball only to see Foster clear off the line.

Shortly before the break Borough almost broke the deadlock when Donnelly curled in a cross from the right and Stares did well to snatch the ball away from the intruding Watts. Nuneaton stepped up the pace at the start of the second half although Shearer completely miscued a shot from the edge of the box.

Five minutes after the break Kevin Watts had a goalbound drive superbly turned round the post by Stares and from the resulting corner Pinner hit a thundering right footer against the angle of post and bar. But Borough's hopes were dealt a double blow as Gosport scored twice in three minutes completely against the run of play. With 55 minutes gone Richie Moran got free down the left and cut into the penalty area. The Nuneaton defence failed to clear his low cross and when Tony Callaghan's shot was blocked it fell kindly for Greening to force the ball home from close range.

Three minutes later Gosport were awarded a free-kick wide on the left and Greg Llewellyn floated it into the box where Greening was completely alone as he glanced a header past Martin and into the corner of the net. Borough missed a chance to get back into the game with 15 minutes to go as Caddick headed Donnelly's cross over the top from six yards.

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Four minutes later Borough were fortunate not to fall further behind when Moran again got clear and as he cut into the box he appeared to be brought down from behind by Everton Carr, but the referee turned down Gosport's penalty appeals.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 23-04-1988

Worcester: Moore, Ridding, Conniff, Shail, Tudor, Ferguson, Powell (Gocan 72), Whitehouse, Knight, Ledbury, McGrath.

Borough: Martin, Carr, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Caddick, Pinner, Shearer, Watts, Palgrave, Donnelly. Sub: Fearn.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's hopes of holding onto their Premier Division status died on Saturday. Needing to take at least ten points from their last four games, Borough slipped to another disappointing defeat. Theoretically the Manor Park side could still avoid the drop but all they can do now is to win their last three matches – and pray.

Looking to halt a run of six games without a win, Borough made a positive start and took the game to Worcester. Tony Donnelly had a fierce drive pushed away for a corner by the diving Paul Moore and then Palgrave tested the home keeper again with a crisp low shot. But tragedy hit Borough after only four minutes. Steve Ferguson turned the ball inside to Powell, who mishit his intended cross to the far post and Mick Martin was deceived as the ball dropped into the far corner.

Pinner had a header well held by Moore as the visitors hit back and then Colin Caddick was unlucky to see his fierce 20 yard free-kick fingertipped round the post by Moore. Palgrave sliced a shot well wide and then Peter Shearer headed over the top from Borough's fifth corner in the first 15 minutes. Moore had to react smartly to snatch a Pinner cross away from the inrushing Palgrave but Nuneaton got a deserved equaliser after 25 minutes. Donnelly's corner was only cleared to the edge of the box and when Everton Carr curled the ball back into the middle Peltier forced it home from close range.

Borough were certainly well on top at this stage but they had a let-off after 32 minutes when Powell was unmarked for a Nigel Conniff cross and his far post header smacked against the angle with Martin beaten. But six minutes before the interval Borough were in front. Peltier floated a free-kick into the Worcester penalty area and Palgrave's back header caught Moore off his line and the keeper could only get a hand to the ball and it went into the net. However, Nuneaton's joy was short lived as two minutes later Worcester were level. John McGrath floated in a free-kick from the left and Whitehouse was unchallenged as he headed in from eight yards out.

Borough came under increasing pressure at the start of the second half and Peltier was happy to concede a corner with Terry Knight challenging. Martin then did well to pluck a Whitehouse cross away from Powell before Nuneaton came within a whisker of regaining the lead. Palgrave flicked the

ball into the area and Donnelly beat Moore to the ball and flicked it over him but Conniff was able to get back and clear.

But 13 minutes from the end Borough's hopes nosedived as Worcester clinched the points with Whitehouse's 41st goal of the season. Shearer failed to clear the ball and when it broke into the box Carr was deceived by a bad bounce allowing Ferguson to get in a centre that Steve Thomas almost turned into his own net. From the ensuing corner, Knight rose above the Borough defence at the near post to flick the ball on and Whitehouse was alone on the far post to force it home from close range. Donnelly's effort clipped the top of the bar in the closing seconds of the game.

Gosport Borough v Nuneaton Borough 26-04-1988

Gosport: Stares, Juryeff, Davies, Ingman, Mahoney, Foster, Finlay, Greening, Moran, Lappage, Dawtry. Sub: Llewellyn.

Borough: Martin, Carr (Dewis 75), Gregory, Thomas, Neale, Caddick, Pinner, Shearer, Fearn, Palgrave, Watts.

Borough travelled to Privett Park to play Gosport Borough in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Any slim hopes that Borough had of staying up disappeared last night. Borough needing to win their last three games to have any chance of staying up, did not go down without a fight and they dominated the second half.

Gosport made a bright start without really threatening Mick Martin in the Borough goal as the visitors took time to settle on the hard, bumpy pitch. Ian Pinner fired a 20 yard shot straight at the keeper as Nuneaton began to push forward and then Peter Shearer had a shot blocked by Dave Lappage. Borough were beginning to step up the tempo and Brian Palgrave fired across the face of the home goal after jinking his way past two defenders inside the area.

Shearer then found Everton Carr in space with a lovely ball inside the full back but the Borough defender failed to control the ball and the opening was lost. Gosport keeper Tony Stares punched well under pressure from Kevin Watts when Pinner got in a good cross from the right and then Greening wasted a promising move for the home side, shooting weakly at Martin from the edge of the box.

Early in the second period Watts fired wide after Shearer had seen a shot blocked and Palgrave was a foot too high with a crisp left foot volley. At the other end Gary Juryeff did well to get in a centre from the right but Kevin Dawtry's weak shot failed to trouble Martin. Mahoney headed high over the top from a Dawtry corner before Palgrave made an opening for Graham Fearn but he failed to get hold of the volley properly.

Shearer came within an ace of breaking the deadlock with a superb 20 yard shot on the turn but Stares managed to fingertip the ball away for a corner at full stretch. Fearn fired a shot straight at the keeper as Borough increased the pressure and then 11 minutes from the end the visitors were denied a blatant penalty. Shearer slipped his marker and burst clear



into the area only to be pushed by Mahoney as he was about to shoot, but Borough's heated appeals were ignored.

Borough were caught short at the back as they pushed forward and Martin came to their rescue by saving a close range effort from Greening and the follow up shot by Dawtry. But Nuneaton were quickly back on the attack and Shearer fired a last minute shot well wide as Borough continued to look for that elusive winner.

Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 30-04-1988

Borough: Martin, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Peltier, Caddick, Bradley, Shearer, Watts (Neale 70), Palgrave, Pinner.

Crawley: Moseley, Friar, O'Connor, Warrilow, Vessey, Cant, Mitchell, Edwards, Julians, Smith, West. Sub: Blunt.

Borough welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division match.

Any remote chance that Borough had of avoiding relegation has disappeared. Tommy Warrilow's 25th minute goal was enough to give visitors Crawley the points and end Borough's outside hopes of avoiding relegation.

Borough came under early threat but Andy West hooked a shot high over the bar from the edge of the box. Ian Pinner's corner from the left had Crawley keeper Gary Moseley at full stretch to turn it over the top as Borough hit back, and then it took a timely tackle from Tony Vessey to halt Brian Palgrave. Nuneaton's luck was again out after 19 minutes when Colin Caddick burst forward from midfield and his thundering 25 yard drive smacked against the crossbar and away to safety. Palgrave then jinked his way through three tackles but his close range shot was blocked and his follow up effort was cleared off the line by Vessey.

Borough had a let-off after 25 minutes when West, looking yards offside, was allowed to run on and it took a fine sprawling save from Mick Martin to keep Nuneaton on level terms. However, ten minutes before the break Crawley took the lead. Gary Julians got round the back of the Borough defence but Caddick dived to turn his goal-bound shot round the post with both hands. Incredibly the referee awarded a corner and not a penalty, but justice was done when Vessey met the flagkick at the near post and flicked it on for Warrilow to force home from close range.

Palgrave broke down the right at the start of the second half but his centre flew across the face of the Crawley goal with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch. There was trouble for Borough when Floyd Peltier and Steve Thomas both missed a long ball down the middle and West raced clear only to loft his effort way over the top as Martin came out. Caddick put a shot way too high from the edge of the box and then Thomas burst through from the back but his effort was also off target.

Ade Gregory then produced a telling run down the left but his cross beat the Crawley defence and also the intruding Nuneaton forwards. Peter Shearer and Mark Neale both

had shots blocked as Borough stepped up the pressure and Palgrave then shot into the side netting. But despite their late pressure, Borough could not breach the Crawley defence, superbly marshalled by Warrilow.

Shepshed Charterhouse v Nuneaton Boro' 02-05-1988

Shepshed: Robbins, Scoular, Tatham, Williamson, Gellan, Glover, Beckford, Acklam, Young (Lloyd 45), Oxley, Shipston.

Borough: Martin, Thomas, Gregory, Bateman, Peltier, Caddick, Pinner, Shearer, Watts, Palgrave, Donnelly. Sub: Bradley.

Borough travelled to The Dovecote to play Shepshed Charterhouse in a Southern League Premier Division match.

Borough's disastrous season ended with another poor performance. The Manor Park side started brightly enough and for an hour they were the better of the two sides. But once again their inability to defend was all too evident as they gave away three sloppy goals to finish well beaten.

Borough might have gone in front as early as the first minute when Colin Caddick freed Tony Donnelly down the right with a fine ball. He forced a corner and from the flag kick Floyd Peltier failed to make contact as the ball flashed across the face of the goal. Shortly afterwards Nuneaton should have had a penalty when Kevin Watts cut into the box and was brought down by Gilbert Scoular but the referee waved play on. Caddick then played a superb ball inside the full-back for Ade Gregory but his cross was too near the keeper and Paul Robbins was able to cut out the danger.

It was all Borough at this stage and Watts put a header a yard wide of the right hand post after Ian Pinner had provided the cross. John Tatham flashed a free-kick across the face of the Nuneaton goal but Borough were quickly back on the attack and Brian Palgrave turned superbly on the edge of the box and Robbins had to make a smart save low to his right. The first hint of danger for Borough came when Steve Thomas played Shepshed onside and Andy Beckford's centre was glanced wide by Allan Young. Two minutes before the interval the home side took the lead completely against the run of play. Beckford crossed from the right and there seemed little danger as Thomas went low to head clear. But his header flew goalwards, straight to Paul Acklam who saw his first effort saved by Mick Martin but made no mistake with the rebound.

Martin had to make a brave save at Acklam's feet at the start of the second half after a mistake by Gregory and then at the other end Donnelly wasted a good opportunity by putting his cross behind with men waiting in the middle. Seven minutes after the interval Borough should have been level. Palgrave turned and put Gregory clear down the left with a superb ball and when the full-back crossed to the far post, Donnelly fired in a close range volley that Robbins somehow turned away for a corner.

But midway through the half Borough's hopes were buried as Shepshed increased their lead with another soft goal. A free kick from just inside the Nuneaton half was played into the



penalty area and Beckford was completely unmarked as he chested the ball down turned and fired past Martin. Then 17 minutes from the end Borough put the seal on a forgettable season as Beckford raced clear and put in a centre from the left that Gregory under no pressure whatsoever, headed into his own net.

Stephens To Rejoin Borough

Former Coventry City and Luton Town defender Kirk Stephens last night rejoined Nuneaton Borough. Thirty-three year old Stephens agreed terms with manager Chris Wright and will be looking to help the club bounce straight back into the Beazer Homes League Premier Division.

Nuneaton Boro' v Bedworth United XI 15-05-1988

Borough welcomed a Bedworth United XI to Manor Park to play a testimonial match for Joe Taylor.

Nuneaton Borough players from the 70s and 80s were out in force to support the Joe Taylor testimonial match against a Bedworth United XI. Goal twins Bobby Vincent and Bob Turpie showed they have lost none of their finishing attributes as they grabbed a goal apiece to see Borough Select on course for a 4-0 success.

Former boss Malcolm Allen was among the watching personalities who turned up to show their appreciation to Joe for his behind the scenes efforts at both Manor Park and the Oval during the past thirty-plus years.

Southern League Premier Division 1987-88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury United	42	27	8	7	79	35	89
Dartford	42	27	8	7	79	39	89
Cambridge City	42	24	8	10	84	43	80
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	22	11	9	65	39	77
Worcester City	42	22	6	14	58	48	72
Crawley Town	42	17	14	11	73	63	65
Alvechurch	42	17	13	12	54	52	64
Leicester United	42	15	14	13	68	59	59
Fareham Town	43	16	11	16	51	59	59
Corby Town	42	16	8	18	61	64	56
Dorchester Town	42	14	14	14	51	57	56
Ashford Town	42	12	16	14	45	54	52
Shephed Charterhouse	42	13	11	18	53	62	50
Bedworth United	42	12	14	16	49	64	50
Gosport Borough	42	10	17	15	39	49	47
Burton Albion	42	11	14	17	62	74	47
VS Rugby	42	10	16	16	52	57	46
Redditch United	42	10	13	19	55	63	43
Chelmsford City	42	11	10	21	60	75	43
Willenhall Town	42	9	12	21	39	76	39
Nuneaton Borough	42	8	13	21	58	77	37
Witney Town	42	8	11	23	45	71	35

Kerry Outlines Borough Problems

Trouble-torn Nuneaton Borough face a long, hard battle if they are to regain their place among the elite of non-league football. But everyone at Manor Park is convinced that they are capable of doing so if they get the right assistance.

Chairman Howard Kerry made an impassioned plea for help from the town at an open meeting held at the Borough Social Club. "The interim board was appointed last June and now almost 12 months later we are still here," he said. "The High Court case involving Joe Shooter and Noel Kelly is nowhere near being concluded and we have to plan for the coming season. Many members of the local business community have indicated that they would only be too willing to help the Borough – but only when the court case is resolved.

"No one can say when that will be and the club needs help now. I am asking the public at large, the council and local businessmen to put their prejudices aside and come and help us. We need cash, sponsorships, increased attendances and assistance in every way to help to bring the club back to the heights it deserves," he added.

Last season it cost £90,000 to run the club, but that included paying off several old debts that had been incurred over a number of years. Income tax, VAT, various other creditors and improvements to get the ground opened cost the club more than £35,000 during the past year.

"We have had bills come in from as far back as 1980 and we still have several outstanding debts to settle," said the chairman. "Without doubt, if it had not have been for the debts that we inherited the club would have finished the year with a surplus," he added.

Expenses during the past year were reduced substantially with no overnight stays at hotels and no expensive meals. And the board is looking to make further cuts this year and have set a budget for a ten per cent reduction across the board.

"We have set a budget that will cut the expenditure by ten per cent during the next year," said Mr Kerry. "Even then we estimate that we will have a shortfall of about £10,000. I am donating a cheque for £1,000 and I would like us to be able to get another nine people to do the same," he added.

Caddick Released

Nuneaton Borough skipper Colin Caddick has been released by manager Chris Wright and has joined Burton Albion. Caddick, who came to Manor Park from Redditch and made his debut on New Year's Day, was unable to make much impression during his short stay.

Borough Prices Unaltered

Borough fans will be paying the same admission prices to watch their favourites next season. The scale of charges for league matches will be £1.00 (adults) and 80p (OAPs and children) with 50p transfer to the stand. Terrace tickets will be £22, but £20 if bought before August 1, while OAPs and childrens prices are £11 (£10 before the end of July).

VS Rugby — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to face VS Rugby in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

VS Rugby: Marsden, Potter, Kane, Lane, Halton, Gethfield, Riley, Geddes, Ebrey, Conway, Ross. Subs: Ingram, Shepherd.

Borough: Beale, Dougherty, Gregory, Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Bradley, Pollard, Morrison, Smithers, Watts. Subs: Mitchell, Wilcox.

Borough's FA Cup hopes disappeared in a bitterly disappointing tie. Borough's youngsters never did themselves justice and can have few complaints that they failed to make it to the First Round.

Lacking in experience, Borough seldom looked capable of causing an upset against renowned cup fighters VS, who themselves were nothing special.

However, Nuneaton did have chances which they failed to take and they were severely punished as defensive mistakes cost them the first two goals.

The afternoon eventually turned into a nightmare for Borough, for in addition to having to accept defeat, they had four players booked, one sent off, and there was crowd trouble as well.

Both sides looked tense at the start with few passes finding their intended targets but Rugby came close to scoring after five minutes.

VS were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box after Ade Gregory was penalised. Paul Thomas was booked for encroaching and when the kick was finally taken Mick Beale had to produce a fine save low to his left to keep out John Lane's drive.

Borough were struggling to get into the game at this stage and after ten minutes there was a brief stoppage as crowd trouble spilled onto the pitch.

Norman Dougherty was booked on the resumption following a harmless looking challenge on Steve Ross and VS went in front after 16 minutes.

Peter Bradley's poorly directed pass was intercepted by Tony Riley. He found Les Ebrey in the penalty area and the striker's low cross was coolly headed

home by the unmarked Danny Conway.

Beale then did well to take Ross's low cross while under pressure from Ebrey before Borough at last began to take the game to the home side.

Dougherty and Peter Shearer built up a neat move on the right, the ball was played in to Lance Morrison in the box, and although he turned well, his shot lacked power.

Borough enjoyed a better spell and could have had an equaliser after 28 minutes. Shearer found Tim Smithers just inside the area with a great crossfield ball but the midfielder hurried his shot and dragged it wide.

Shearer wasted a promising opening when he sliced a volley well wide of goal after Richard Dixey had flicked on Dougherty's free-kick and then Smithers hesitated instead of shooting when a fine ball by Thomas had found him with time and space.

Nuneaton ended the half with a flourish as Dougherty had a shot blocked by Halton and the full-back fired over.

A bad bounce left Dixey in trouble at the start of the second period but Dougherty read the situation well to deny Conway and turn the ball back to Beale.

Ross was booked for time wasting before Nuneaton came within a whisker of snatching an equaliser. A fine move down the left ended with Smithers driving in a fierce low cross that split the Rugby defence but Kevin Watts was

a couple of inches away from turning it into the net. It was eventually turned out for a corner and from the flag kick Morrison headed a foot over the top.

At the other end Lane fired over the top and then Mark Pollard went into the book for bringing down Ross.

There was danger for Borough when Steve Potter drove a hard centre across the face of the goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Marsden again did well to take Bradley's cross while under pressure from Shearer and the Rugby keeper then denied Nuneaton an equaliser as he got his fingertips to Gregory's low cross to turn the ball away from the incoming Watts.

Within 60 seconds Borough's hopes were dead and buried. Ross got free on the left and crossed into the box. There seemed little danger to Nuneaton but Dixey completely missed his clearance and Ebrey steered the ball past Beale from close range.

Bradley and Dixey then joined the growing list of cautions before Beale made a brave save at the feet of Ebrey to keep the deficit to just two.

But substitute Dave Ingram added a third for VS after Beale had blocked his first effort from close range.

As the game drew to a close Smithers shot wide from a good position and to cap a miserable afternoon for the visitors Thomas was sent off in the dying seconds for his second bookable offence.



Danny Conway (right) is completely unmarked as he goes low to head in VS Rugby's opening goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Marine — 1st Round

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

Borough: Starkey, Millard, Gregory, Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Bradley, Watts, Fearn, Morrison, Donnelly. Subs: Hanna, Pollard.

Marine: O'Brien, Dawson, Gautrey, P. Smith, Finlay, King, J. Smith, Livens (Edwards 70), McClatchey, Meachin, Haw (Williams 79)

Borough were within nine minutes of a place in the second round when disaster struck. Chris Wright's men were a goal up through Peter Shearer's 37th minute strike and seemed set to collect their first win in five games.

Tony Millard then gave away a free-kick wide on the left and Paul Dawson scrambled an equaliser for Marine.

It was a sickener for Borough who now face a difficult replay against the Northern Premier League side on Merseyside tomorrow night.

But the home side can take heart from the fact that their team showed a big improvement on the form that had seen them suffer three defeats in a row.

They had to overcome a sticky opening patch, but once they had settled down Borough always appeared capable of going through to today's draw.

Nuneaton boss Wright had demanded prior to the game that the players must show that they really wanted to play for Borough. He got a good response and a repeat of that commitment and character should be enough to see them through.

Marine made most of the running in the early stages and Millard had to go low to head away a Peter King free-kick in the fourth minute. Steve Thomas halted another promising visitors' move by shepherding the ball back to Wayne Starkey.

There was more anxiety for Borough when John Gautrey fired in a low centre from the left and Paul Meachin stepped over the ball but Ade Gregory did well to block John Smith's shot.

At this stage Borough were struggling to get a foothold in the game but Starkey, playing his first senior game since early October was not really tested.

Lance Morrison needed attention after a hefty challenge by Peter Smith but he was quickly back in the action as Borough began to put Marine under pressure.

Graham Fearn found Kevin Watts in space on the left but the Nuneaton midfield man produced a poor cross and Kevin O'Brien gathered easily.

Borough then produced a flowing four-man move that had the Marine defence at full stretch but O'Brien rescued the visitors by cutting out Donnelly's centre.

Shearer was booked for a challenge on Peter Smith and then Marine had a chance midway through the half.

Dawson floated a long free-kick into the area, Nuneaton failed to pick up Stewart Haw but he only got a glancing contact with his close range header and the danger was cleared.

But Borough were beginning to control the midfield and they broke the deadlock eight minutes before the interval with a goal of real quality.

Fearn again freed Watts on the left and

this time he cut into the area before pulling back a low centre for Shearer to sweep home left-footed from 12 yards.

Nuneaton were quickly back on the attack at the start of the second half and Gautrey had to react swiftly to crowd out Peter Bradley after a Donnelly centre had caused the visitors more problems.

Donnelly then had a shot-cum-cross land on the roof of the net, while at the other end Tony Livens glanced a header wide of Starkey's left hand post following a centre from King.

Fearn sliced a shot well wide of the target and then Borough missed a clear-cut chance to increase their lead after an hour.

Morrison did well to keep the ball in play on the left and he beat Peter Smith and cut to the bye-line before whipping over a fierce cross that left the Marine defence spreadeagled. But Donnelly failed to make contact with his head with the goal gaping in front of him.

The visitors pushed forward as they celebrated their let-off and Livens had a glimpse of a chance but he wanted too much time and the opening was lost. John Smith then became the second player to be booked.



Borough fail to clear John Gautrey's free-kick and full-back Paul Dawson just beats Kevin Watts to the loose ball for Marine's equaliser.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Donnelly showed a fine turn of speed to outpace Alby Finlay but he lifted his shot high and wide as O'Brien came out. The Borough winger then wriggled free in the penalty area to fire a rising drive a foot over the top.

Millard collected a caution for bringing down Gautrey and shortly afterwards Meachin headed wide when positioned to do better.

Nine minutes from the end Marine got themselves an equaliser. Gautrey was again fouled out on the left, he took the free-kick himself and when Borough failed to clear Dawson forced the ball home from close range.

Nuneaton pressed forward in search of another goal and they nearly paid the price when they got caught on the break, but Peter Smith put a tame shot well wide.

Marine — 1st Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Rossett Park to play Marine in a FA Trophy First Round replay.

Marine: O'Brien, Dawson, Gautrey, P. Smith, Finlay, King, Williams, J. Smith, Edwards, Meachin, Haw. Subs: Livens, McClatchey,

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Gregory, Thomas, Dixey, Shearer, Bradley, Watts, Fearn, Morrison, Donnelly. Subs: Millard, Pollard.

Borough's dreams of Wembley were ended for another season as they were beaten on Merseyside.

Chris Wright's men looking for their first win in six games had their hopes dashed as they conceded two goals in the first sixteen minutes to the Northern Premier League side.

But Borough will look back on this first round replay as a match they should have won.

Despite being two goals down so early on, they showed tremendous spirit and character to take the game to Marine – especially after the interval.

Nuneaton certainly had their chances to have pulled the match round with

Tony Donnelly, Lance Morrison and Peter Bradley all missing sitters.

However, the main stumbling block to Borough was Marine keeper Kevin O'Brien who made three superb saves to keep the visitors at bay.

Borough's troubles began before the kick-off with the start being delayed for half an hour due to Borough arriving with the wrong strip and they had to borrow one from nearby Southport.

When play did eventually get underway Nuneaton hardly had a chance to settle down before they were a goal in arrears.

Ade Gregory put them in trouble with a poor back pass and Lee Bateman, in at full-back in place of Tony Millard, had to produce a timely tackle to halt Paul Meachin. However, from the ensuing corner the ball was only cleared a few yards outside the penalty area and Alan Finley hit a speculative shot that flew past Wayne Starkey.

Tony Edwards hooked the ball away from inside the six yards box after Kevin Watts had got up well to a Donnelly cross and then at the other end Starkey had to produce a fine one-handed save after the referee had got in the way of Thomas' clearance and the ball had rebounded to put John Smith clear.

But Borough went further behind after 16 minutes when Marine forced two corners in quick succession and from the second the ball was switched back into the middle from the left and Steve Haw headed it past Starkey.

The home side had their tails up now and Borough were being pushed back. But midway through the half they should have cut the arrears. Donnelly was clean through, but hesitated with only the keeper to beat, and had his close range shot blocked. The ball rebounded to the winger and he went round the keeper and pulled it across the six yards box only for the unmarked Morrison to slice his shot wide from in front of a gaping goal.

Donnelly then saw his cross-cum-centre brilliantly turned over the top by O'Brien while at the other end Borough were fortunate when Starkey fingertipped a Haw effort against a post and away to safety.

Shortly before the break Borough were frustrated again when O'Brien produced a carbon copy of his earlier save from Donnelly to keep the home side's two goal lead intact.

Marine continued to look dangerous after the restart but eleven minutes into the second half Borough missed another gilt-edged chance. Donnelly whipped past Peter Smith and when Fearn mishit his low centre the ball found Bradley only two yards out but he somehow managed to hook the ball over the top.

Bradley was then booked for dissent before Starkey had to react swiftly to turn a low shot from Meachin round the post.

But midway through the second period O'Brien produced another stunning save to thwart Borough. Donnelly again flew past the full-back and his pinpoint cross picked out Morrison who got up well to power his header low and just inside the left hand post only for the Marine keeper to save at full stretch.

Borough were now enjoying their best spell of the match and Watts had a header narrowly over the top and then Nuneaton's loud appeals for a penalty were turned down after Peter King handled inside the area.

Paul Dawson hooked the ball off the line after O'Brien and Finlay had collided going for another Donnelly centre and then five minutes from the end Borough at last found the net.

Richard Dixey was fouled by Finlay as he went to meet a free-kick from the right and Fearn made no mistake from the resulting penalty, but it came too late to rescue Borough.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1987-88

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.29	Rushall Olympic	A	PSF	0-2		
08.01	Paget Rangers	A	PSF	3-1	Fearn, Cunningham, Smithers	
08.10	Atherstone United	H	PSF	0-1		
08.14	Coventry Sporting	A	PSF	3-1	Ward, Cunningham, Reay	
08.22	Fareham Town	H	L	1-1	Holmes	617
08.29	Alvechurch	A	L	0-1		
08.31	Cambridge City	H	L	1-2	Cunningham	540
09.05	Dartford	A	L	1-3	Bradley	
09.07	Aylesbury Town	H	L	0-0		547
09.12	Hednesford Town	H	WIC	0-1		404
09.19	Willenhall Town	A	L	3-0	Shearer (2), Fearn	
09.21	Bedworth United	H	WIC	1-2	Shearer	710
09.26	Redditch United	H	L	2-2	Shearer, Morrison	510
09.29	Moor Green	A	WIC	1-1	Ricketts	449
10.03	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	L	0-1		551
10.05	Telford United	H	GMAC 1	1-3	Smithers (pen)	454
10.08	Ashford Town	A	L	2-4	Shearer, Doherty	
10.12	Halesowen Town	H	WIC	3-2	Shearer, Pollard, Mitchell	446
10.17	Dorchester Town	H	L	4-0	Donnelly (2), Shearer, Dixey	468
10.19	Hednesford Town	A	WIC	0-0		447
10.24	V.S.Rugby	A	FAC 4Q	0-3		1160
10.31	Bedworth United	A	WIC	2-1	Watts, Morrison	345
11.07	Witney Town	H	L	2-2	Osborne, Morrison	468
11.09	Moor Green	H	WIC	1-2	Shearer	368
11.14	Fareham Town	A	L	1-3	Shearer	
11.21	Leicester United	H	L	2-2	Morrison, Pollard	505
11.23	Northampton Town	H	T	0-3		750
11.25	Ashtree Highfield	H	BSC 2	2-1	Osborne, Dixey	84
11.30	Worcester City	H	L	0-1		380
12.02	Halesowen Town	A	WIC	2-0	Morrison, Shearer	279
12.05	Dartford	H	L	0-0		432
12.09	Cambridge City	A	L	1-6	Shearer	259
12.12	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	L	1-5	Fearn	404
12.15	Stourbridge	A	BSC 3	1-2	Donnelly	
12.19	Marine	H	FAT 1	1-1	Shearer	461
12.22	Marine	A	FAT 1r	1-2	Fearn (pen)	
12.26	Bedworth United	A	L	2-2	Fearn, Pinner	1169
12.28	Shepshed Charterhouse	H	L	1-3	Pollard (pen)	502
01.01	Corby Town	H	L	0-1		436
01.09	Burton Albion	A	L	1-1	Morrison	972
01.11	Paget Rangers	H	M&B 1	1-0	Morrison	198
01.16	Alvechurch	H	L	2-1	Watts, Pinner	430
01.18	Willenhall Town	H	L	0-1		438
01.30	Ashford Town	H	L	3-1	Watts (2), Shearer	383
02.03	Shepshed Charterhouse	A	M&B 2	2-0	Donnelly (2)	192
02.06	Chelmsford City	H	L	4-1	Shearer (3), Palgrave	442
02.13	Dorchester Town	A	L	5-2	Donnelly (2), Fearn, Shearer, Palgrave	279
02.16	Aylesbury United	A	L	1-1	Donnelly	712
02.20	Leicester United	A	L	3-5	Donnelly, Watts, Fearn	437
02.27	Burton Albion	H	L	1-2	Thomas	711
03.01	Crawley Town	A	L	0-0		345
03.05	Redditch United	A	L	3-2	Shearer, Watts, Palgrave	317
03.07	Kettering Town	H	M&B SF	1-2	Watts	412

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1987-88

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.12	V.S.Rugby	A	L	2-1	Watts, Shearer	557
03.19	Chelmsford City	A	L	1-3	Palgrave	432
03.26	V.S.Rugby	H	L	1-1	Palgrave (pen)	656
04.02	Corby Town	A	L	2-3	Shearer, Palgrave	
04.04	Bedworth United	H	L	2-2	Palgrave (2)	548
04.09	Witney Town	A	L	1-2	Shearer	217
04.16	Gosport Borough	H	L	0-2		477
04.23	Worcester City	A	L	2-3	Peltier, Palgrave	487
04.26	Gosport Borough	A	L	0-0		287
04.30	Crawley Town	H	L	0-1		329
05.02	Shepshed Charterhouse	A	L	0-3		
05.15	Bedworth United XI	H	T	4-0	Vincent, Turpie, Two Unknown	

KEY : L = Southern League Premier, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, WIC= Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, M&B= M&B Cup, TML = Testimonial, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly T= Testimonial



Nuneaton Borough Reserves 1987-88

Back: Mick Beale, Ade Gregory, Gary Johnson, Paul Daniel, Andy Cossey, Kerry Dewis, Andy Armstrong.
Nicky Wardle, Paul Stewart, Dave Stringer, Tim Smithers, Jimmy Holmes, Jeff Watson (manager).



Nuneaton Borough 1987-88

Back: Mark Cunningham, Wayne Starkey, Mark Upton, Richard Dixey, Jimmy Holmes, Alan Ricketts.
Front: Simon Reay, Dave Ward, Peter Bradley, Peter Shearer, Steve Thomas.

Shearer Sold To Cheltenham

Nuneaton Borough's prolific scorer Peter Shearer has been sold to Cheltenham in a £7,000 deal which will see him move into a higher level of football. Shearer, who joined the Manor Park outfit under Jimmy Holmes about two years ago, will be missed by the side which is trying to claw its way out of the doldrums this season.

Borough manager Chris Wright said: "Peter did very well while he was at the club and he was one of the leading scorers.

"We wanted to keep him but he had made up his mind to move on to a better standard."

As part of the deal with Cheltenham, who play in the GM Vauxhall Conference, Nuneaton will

receive a percentage of any future transfer deals involving Shearer.

Wright, who was sorry to see one of his star players go, said: "We could not stand in his way and the club could have done nothing to keep him here.

"I think he is aiming to get back into the Football League in the future."

Shearer formerly played League football for Birmingham and Borough signed him from Rochdale.

Wright meanwhile is still scouting for possible replacements for Shearer. "I am looking around at the moment, but I am confident we have some up and coming players to take his place."





1988-89

Work To Start On New Stand

Nuneaton Borough's dreams of a new stand are to become a reality in the next three months. The outdated main structure at their Manor Park headquarters is to be completely gutted and rebuilt at a cost of £25,000. All the seating and the roof are to be removed and most of the facilities underneath the stand are also being rebuilt to incorporate all the required safety measures.

When all the work is completed there will be 600 new polypropylene tip-up seats in three blocks of 200. The new stand will provide 30 seats for directors and visitors, the vice-presidents are to have their own section and there will be a new press box.

The entrance to the stand is being improved and there will be bigger facilities for the match officials and a new kitchen. Announcing the plans yesterday, chairman Howard Kerry said that work had already been started and that the job would be completed by the end of October. "Contracts will be signed today and we have already begun to strip out the seating and the woodwork underneath the old stand..."

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Borough 30-07-1988

Borough travelled to Hampton Road to play Racing Club Warwick in a pre-season friendly match.

Borough began their build-up to the new season with a 1-1 draw. A superbly taken goal from Brian Palgrave midway through the opening half gave them the lead with Warwick leaving it until the final minute before snatching the equaliser with a Paul Coleman drive from the edge of the area.

Skipper Kirk Stephens and front-runner Kevin Watts turned in splendid performances for Borough, although the highlight from the side's point of view was Palgrave's flashing 25 yard drive that put the Manor Park outfit ahead.

Manager Chris Wright said: "We played quite well in patches. Defensively we were a lot more solid than at the end of last season with Kirk organising things effectively."

Nuneaton Borough v Rushall Olympic 01-08-1988

Borough welcomed Rushall Olympic to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough were given a stiff work out by the visitors, and were held to a goalless draw in a competitive encounter. Following the 1-1 draw at Racing Club Warwick on Saturday Borough were again given a testing work out on their opening home appearance. However, at this stage of the season the emphasis is not on results but getting the players match fit for the start of the league campaign on August 20.

"We played very well at times and had enough of the play to have won easily. Obviously a few goals would have been nice but I was pleased with what I saw," said Wright.

Manor Park Gets Safety Certificate

Nuneaton Borough's ground has been given the green light for the forthcoming season by safety inspectors. And Borough bosses believe the all clear decision marks the rebirth of the club. Howard Kerry, club chairman, said: "We are very pleased with the outcome of the inspection, which was held yesterday. We have many things earmarked for improvement."

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 06-08-1988

Borough travelled to Blaby to play Leicester United in a pre-season friendly match.

Borough will want to put this untidy 4-2 defeat out of their mind. Despite taking the lead, Borough were far from fluent and in the end had to accept second best against their Beazer Homes League premier division opponents. Manager Chris Wright was disappointed overall and will be looking for an improvement in upcoming games. Borough's goals came from Tony Donnelly and Steve Thomas.

Nuneaton Borough v Buckingham Town 08-08-1988

Borough welcomed Buckingham Town to Manor Park for a pre-season friendly match.

Borough continued their pre-season build-up with a convincing 4-1 win. Following Saturday's disappointment at Leicester United, Borough manager Chris Wright was looking for a big improvement from his side – and he got it.

"I was pleased with the overall performance and I feel that our preparations are moving along the right lines," he said. "We were far better organised than we were in the 4-2 defeat at the weekend and we played some fine football. Other than a 20 minute spell early in the second half, we were in control throughout and the final scoreline could have been even more emphatic, but for their keeper who made several superb saves," he added.

Martin Howles put Borough ahead with a shot from the edge of the box after 16 minutes and on the stroke of half-time Ian Pinner headed a second from Tony Donnelly's cross. Tony McGuinness pulled one back for the visitors on the hour mark but further goals from Mark Pollard and Kirk Stephens underlined Nuneaton's superiority.

Borough Sign Howells

Borough have beaten off strong competition from Worcester City and Redditch to the signature of midfielder Martin Howles. The 22-year-old former Birmingham City player has signed a contract after scoring twice for the reserves on Saturday and again in the 4-1 win against Buckingham Town.

Martin Released

Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Mick Martin has been released from the club after a row over his fee. Martin, who joined the Manor Park outfit just one year ago, was released by Borough manager Chris Wright after he announced he would not play for the money the club offered.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Athletic 13-08-1988

Borough welcomed Hinckley Athletic to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Nuneaton Borough v Stoke City 15-08-1988

Borough welcomed Stoke City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Chris Wright was quietly content as his Borough side wound up their pre-season preparations with a 1-1 draw. The youthful Potteries line-up was quite impressive, especially before the break when Borough found the pace of the opposition difficult to match.

Stoke went ahead on the half-hour mark when centre-forward Chris Morris had a simple close range tap-in when Wayne Starkey had dropped a right wing centre. Borough pushed forward in search of an equaliser but were denied by a string of fine saves from City keeper Danny Noble. But he was helpless shortly after the restart when Ian Pinner headed home a Steve Thomas free-kick.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-08-1988

Dudley: Dulleston, Arnot, Rich, Birch, Prescott, White, Hackett, Coyne, Muir, Ledgister (Duckett 74), Langford. **Sub:** Turpin.

Borough: Belford, Thomas, Ward, Pinner, Taylor, Stephens, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly, Howarth (Gregory 61), Howles. **Sub:** Bateman.

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

Borough's hopes of a bright start to the season were buried within the first hour of the game. By then Dudley, playing their first league game at their new home, were already three goals ahead and there was no doubt about the final outcome.

Borough came under early pressure with White shooting high over the top after Dudley had forced two quick corners. Muir had a close range header turned over the top by Belford with Brendan Hackett providing the opening. Taylor headed well wide as Borough began to get into the game before Alan Dulleston produced a brave save at Ian Pinner's feet.

Taylor and Stephens combined to thwart Ledgister, but Borough found themselves behind after 19 minutes. Belford made a poor clearance and when the ball was quickly knocked back down the middle Taylor completely missed his attempted clearance allowing Muir a free run at goal which he gratefully accepted. Taylor's fierce left-footer hit Arnot on the head and flew over the top with Dulleston beaten before Ledgister had a shot blocked as Dudley pressed forward, while Donnelly shot wide from 12 yards. Six minutes before the break the visitors were in deeper trouble as Langford beat Stephens in midfield and raced half the length of the pitch before slipping the ball past the advancing Belford.

Borough's tale of woe continued after the interval with both Pinner and Steve Thomas collecting bookings following

cynical fouls. Then just seven minutes into the second half Nuneaton failed to clear a right wing corner and Ledgister drilled a low shot past Belford to put the home side three ahead. However, almost immediately Chris Birch brought down Donnelly as he twisted his way into the box and Palgrave scored from the penalty spot.

But more slack marking in the Borough defence cost them dearly after 63 minutes. Belford made a superb save from Muir but from the resulting corner White was unchallenged as he powered home a ten yard header. Again Borough were quick to respond as just three minutes later Watts beat Dulleston with a header from Pinner's deep centre from the right.

With the system now changed to 4-3-3 and Ade Gregory on at left back and Dave Ward pushed into midfield in place of Howarth with Watts up front, Borough looked a different proposition. Dudley were coming under increasing pressure and Martin Howles shot over the top after Mark Prescott had failed to clear a low centre. Ward then curled in a superb cross from the left that just eluded both Watts and Donnelly before Howles shot into the side netting. Dulleston made a superb point-blank save to deny Watts a goal from Thomas' low cross at the far post.

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 22-08-1988

Borough: Belford, Thomas, Gregory, Pinner, Taylor, Stephens, Palgrave, Howles, Watts, Howarth, Donnelly. **Subs:** Ward, Bateman.

Bridgnorth: Ball, Cowdell, Mallender (Brown 55), Larkin, Goodall, Bennett, Pike, Humphreys (Edwards 67), Allen, Balshaw, Brown.

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

Borough, looking for a quick return to the premier division, got their home league programme under way on a winning note. Chris Wright's men wrapped up the points with two goals in three minutes during the first half as Brian Palgrave and Kevin Watts both hit the target.

It was the visitors who looked the sharper in the early stages with some neat interpassing that had the Borough defence at full stretch. There was an anxious moment for Borough after 15 minutes when Andy Allen beat both Joe Taylor and Kirk Stephens to a through ball and his lob passed close to Dale Belford's left hand post. Belford punched clear under pressure before Martin Goodall headed away under pressure from Watts. Midway through the half Donnelly got away on the right and Palgrave scooped his cross over the bar from in front of a gaping net.

Borough took control with two goals in a three minute period when Donnelly played a through ball into the penalty area after 35 minutes and as Watts moved in pursuit he was brought down by Ball and Palgrave made no mistake from the spot. Three minutes later a left wing corner was flicked on by Taylor and when Donnelly drove the ball hard and low back across the goalmouth, Watts was on hand to turn it in from close range.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Borough had a close call at the start of the second half when Allen got to the by-line and got in a low centre that eluded both Stephens and Gregory and Pike fired high over the top. At the other end Martin Howles freed Donnelly down the right and the winger got in a curling cross to the far post that Ball just managed to get a hand to and diverted the ball away from Watts' head. Stephens lost possession wide on the right and Billy Balshaw curled in a centre that Gregory did well to turn away for a corner.

Borough failed to cut out a through ball and Balshaw got away but Belford came out to force him wide and the Bridgnorth front runner put his shot well behind the goal. Palgrave headed over from a Donnelly cross as Borough pressed forward again and then Watts had an effort scrambled away for a corner by Ball after Donnelly had again provided the opening.

Bridgnorth were coming more into the picture now and Paul Bennett got Balshaw clear and Borough fans were relieved to see Thomas cut out the ball into the penalty area. Howarth forced a diving save from Ball in the closing stages but Bridgnorth had the last word with a goal in the dying seconds. Howles lost possession in midfield and the ball was quickly switched forward to Pike who scored with a delightful chip as Belford came out.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 27-08-1988

Borough: Belford, Thomas, Gregory, Stephens, Howarth, Howles, Pinner, Bradley, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. **Subs:** Ward, Bateman.

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

Borough sent their fans home happy for the second time in a week as they produced another convincing performance against Stourbridge. Two goals from Kevin Watts and a Brian Palgrave penalty were enough to sink the visitors.

But Nuneaton did not have things all their own way and for an hour Stourbridge were well in contention and missed two or three clear-cut chances. The turning point came early in the second half when Borough keeper Dale Belford made a superb save from Tony Malanaphy's penalty and from then on it was one-way traffic.

Stourbridge had the first glimpse of a chance when Kirk Stephens only succeeded in finding Andy Hodgetts on the edge of the Borough penalty area but the visitors' striker played the ball wide instead of shooting and the chance was lost. Borough hit back immediately and it took a timely tackle by Chris Whiston to halt Palgrave and then Watts put a diving header a foot wide after Palgrave provided the centre.

Belford did well to punch clear under pressure from Andy Hill and then produced a save following a quick break by Mark Smith. But the visitors should have taken the lead after 15 minutes when Hodgetts headed wide from a Colin Chapman cross with the Borough defence in a tangle.

However, it was Borough who broke the deadlock after 23 minutes through Watts. Tony Donnelly found space on the right and his low centre was turned in by the unmarked Watts at the far post.



Kevin Watts goes tumbling over during the first-half, but his 23rd minute effort is in the back of the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ten minutes before the interval Steve Thomas headed off the line with Belford beaten and then the keeper made a fine save from a deflected shot by John Snape. But Borough's luck changed for the better after an hour as the visitors missed their last real chance. John Chambers coolly lobbed the ball goalwards with Belford stranded and Stephens had no option but to keep the ball out with his hands. Malanaphy fired the spot kick to Belford's right but the keeper dived to divert the ball to safety.

Five minutes later Nuneaton were well in control as Whiston reciprocated by clawing Donnelly's chip out from under the bar and Palgrave made no mistake from the resulting penalty. It was all Borough now and it came as no surprise when they stretched their advantage even further when Pinner curled a superb shot against the crossbar and Watts followed up to head in the rebound.

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Boro' 29-08-1988

Sutton: Murcott, Snape, Richards, Whittingham, Matthews, Hickman (Price 79), Rosborough, Whitehouse, Hunt, Chawner, Biddle (Sutor 85).

Borough: Belford, Thomas, Gregory, Stephens, Howarth, Howles, Pinner, Bradley, Palgrave (Ward 69), Watts, Donnelly. **Sub:** Taylor.

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

Borough were brought crashing back to earth as they disappointed their travelling fans with a dismal performance. With two successive victories behind them, Borough were in buoyant mood. Sutton, without a point, turned the form book upside down with a battling performance. Borough had Belford to thank for keeping the score down as he made several fine saves.

John Hunt cut into the Borough penalty area and found Chawner who shot straight at Belford from a narrow angle and then Peter Bradley had to react smartly to cut out a low centre from Andy Biddle after he had twisted his way past



Steve Thomas. Brian Palgrave found space down the left as Borough hit back, but his cross was too strong for Tony Donnelly, racing in at the far post. Martin Howles then fired a free-kick straight at Sutton keeper Steve Murcott before Hunt brought a fine save from Belford, who went full length in the 20th minute to turn a fierce shot away to safety.

But Borough went behind a minute later, Belford made another fine save from Hunt but from the corner Biddle swung the ball into the near post and Chawner was unmarked as he flicked a header into the net from close range. Kevin Watts and Donnelly were crowded out following a deep centre by Palgrave and then Ian Pinner fired a free kick a couple of feet over the angle as Borough looked for an equaliser. Borough piled on the pressure and forced five corners in succession as half-time approached, but it took another excellent stop by Belford from Hunt to send Borough in at the break just the one goal down.

Belford was in action again straight after the break with brave diving saves at the feet of Frank Hickman and Hunt. Donnelly found some space on the right on the hour mark and he whipped over a centre from the by-line that left Murcott stranded, but Bob Wittingham headed out from under the bar with Watts rushing in. There was more trouble for Borough when a Thomas back pass failed to reach Belford but the defence finally scrambled the ball clear and 12 minutes from the end Borough went close.

A neat build up down the left flank ended with the overlapping Ade Gregory curling a cross to the far post and Peter Bradley timed his run into the box perfectly but his header clipped the bar and flew over the top. Donnelly failed to get a touch to a flick on by Dave Ward as Borough made a last gasp effort to salvage a point and in the dying seconds Watts headed over the top from a Pinner corner.

Ashtree Highfield v Nuneaton Borough 03-09-1988

Ashtree: Nash, Wells, Hamilton, Kickman, Nokes, Barrows, Lippitt, Civil, Day, Foster, R. Nicholls. Subs: D. Nicholls, Piggott.

Borough: Belford, Thomas, Gregory, Stephens, Taylor, Howarth, Pollard (Watts 72), Howles, Watts, Palgrave, Pinner. Sub: Bradley.

Borough travelled to Oldbury Sports Centre to play Ashtree Highfield in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough were in absolute control in the early stages with Ashtree penned deep in their own half. Kevin Watts gave Nuneaton the boost of an eighth minute lead and it appeared that Borough were on course for their first away win of the season. However, Chris Wright's side, from looking like world beaters, collapsed against an ordinary Ashtree outfit who had little to offer other than commitment. Nuneaton were never able to match the physical presence of the home side and they rolled over without a fight.

In general the defence did well, but far too many of the players were found wanting when Ashtree got a grip on the game midway through the first half. Borough kept their

noses in front until late in the match, but once Neil Civil had grabbed the equaliser 16 minutes from the end the writing was on the wall.

Borough could not have wished for a better start. They forced a string of corners in the opening minutes and might have gone in front, but Pollard failed to control a left wing corner by Martin Howles. However, the visitors were not to be denied and it was only eight minutes into the match when Watts put them into a deserved lead. Ade Gregory got free on the left and swept a superb centre to the far post where Watts scored with a downward header – his fifth goal of the season.

As the half wore on, Ashtree began to get a grip and Day headed wide of Belford's right hand post before Foster drilled a free-kick straight at the Borough keeper. Borough had a let-off seven minutes before the interval when Civil headed over the top from close range. With half-time approaching, Belford was in action again, this time going down low to his left to hold a fierce shot from Paul Lippitt.

Nuneaton made a bright start to the second period with Howles finding space on the edge of the penalty area and forcing Nash into a fine fingertip save with a dipping shot. But at the other end it took another smart save from Belford to stop Civil snatching the equaliser that Ashtree had been threatening for so long. Civil then shot high over the top with just the keeper to beat and Lippitt saw his shot beat Belford, but fly to safety off the foot of a post.

However, after 74 minutes, the inevitable happened when Foster got in a cross from a narrow angle on the right and Civil forced home a close range header. Six minutes later any hopes Borough had of hanging on to a point were over as Foster played Day clear down the middle and he made no mistake from just inside the box. Then with the match entering its final throes Foster was unmarked in the area as he headed home number three.

Wright Sacked

Nuneaton Borough manager Chris Wright has been sacked just five games into the season. He was fired following a hastily convened board meeting on Saturday night when the players returned home after their disastrous 3-1 defeat at Ashtree Highfield. Club skipper Kirk Stephens has agreed to take over as caretaker manager and the club will advertise the position later in the week.

“It was not a very pleasant thing for me to have to do,” said Borough chairman Howard Kerry. “I have nothing but admiration for Chris as a man, but the board felt that a change was necessary in the best interests of the club. We had high hopes when he was appointed but the overall results over the past 12 months have not seen us make the progress that we envisaged.

“Kirk Stephens will take over the reins for the time being and we will be advertising the post this week. We will be looking for an experienced man to motivate the team...”

Stephens Makes First Signing

Caretaker manager Kirk Stephens has made his first signing, just 24 hours after taking over in the Manor Park hotseat. Stephens has persuaded former Nuneaton goal ace Bobby Vincent to join him as assistant manager. "I'm delighted that Bobby has agreed to act as my number two," Stephens said today. "He always had a lot of style as a player and is still extremely popular with Borough fans."

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 10-09-1988

Borough: Belford, Bradley (Howles 78), Gregory, Stephens, Thomas, Ward, Pinner, Howarth, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly (Pollard 82).

Halesowen: Adams, Penn, Cash, Smith, Guest, Sturgess, Hazlewood, Flynn (Rhodes 59), Jones, P. Joinson, L. Joinson. **Sub:** Anslow.

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

Borough powered their way to victory in front of their biggest crowd of the season. Tony Donnelly, Ian Pinner and Brian Palgrave were on target as Borough gave stand-in manager Kirk Stephens a perfect start.

For the second week in succession Borough got the start they were hoping for as they swept into an early lead. With just six minutes gone Peter Bradley got in a cross from the right, Kevin Watts outjumped the defence to flick it on and Donnelly swept the ball home at the far post. But Halesowen were unlucky not to be back on level terms three minutes later when Lee Joinson saw his 20 yard shot beat Dale Belford, but the ball rebounded off the crossbar and Stephens hooked it clear. Belford then had to make a point blank save from Sean Flynn's shot.

Stan Jones sliced a Flynn cross wildly wide before Paul Joinson fired across the face of the Nuneaton goal. Halesowen had taken charge at this stage and Malcolm Hazlewood caused a few flutters for the home fans with a fierce 25-yarder that dipped inches over the top. But three minutes before the break Borough dealt the visitors a body blow as they went further ahead through new skipper Ian Pinner who scored with a free-kick from the edge of the penalty area.

Mark Penn headed out from under his own bar as Borough made a positive start to the second half. Any hopes that Halesowen might have had of pulling the game round disappeared after 48 minutes as Nuneaton put the issue beyond doubt with a third goal. Town only partially cleared a centre from the left, Dave Ward battled well and got the ball back into the box and the unmarked Palgrave wasted no time in hooking the ball past Nick Adams. Borough were well in control now but they had another narrow escape midway through the half when Jones cut in from the left and hit the foot of a post and then fired the rebound wide as Belford closed him down. However, Halesowen could only mount spasmodic attacks now and they were fortunate not to go further behind 16 minutes from the end when Watts rose

to meet a Ward free-kick and powered a header narrowly wide of the far post. Palgrave was then only a couple of feet wide with a cracking volley and in a rousing finish substitute Martin Howles appeared to be pushed as he was moving on to a neat cross by Ade Gregory.



Brian Palgrave falls to the ground, but his hook shot is already on its way past Nicky Adams for Borough's third. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Forced To Have Police Presence

Borough have been dealt another crippling financial body-blow as they battle to regain their former status in the top flight of non-league football. The club has been slapped with a bill in excess of £300 after being forced to have eight police officers on duty for Saturday's game against Halesowen Town at Manor Park. As Borough play at a "designated" stadium they are controlled by the "Safety of Sports Grounds Act" which is the main reason that most of the ground is closed and that other areas are restricted...

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Boro' 13-09-1988

Forest Green: Roberts, Rymell, Howell, Wilton, O'Leary (Ackland 70), Rogers, Collicutt, Parselle, Lewis, McGaughey (Bayliss 52), Smith.

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens, Thomas, Ward, Pinner, Howarth, Palgrave, Watts (Pollard 12), Donnelly. **Sub:** Taylor.

Borough travelled to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Cock-a-hoop Borough picked up their second win in four days as they produced a sparkling performance in Gloucestershire. Caretaker manager Kirk Stephens was a happy man as he side inflicted a first defeat of the season on the home side.

Borough could not have wished for a better start with Watts heading them in front from Donnelly's cross after just three minutes. But Borough suffered a setback shortly afterwards when Watts had to leave the action to have five stitches in a cut cheekbone. However, it was 2-0 to Nuneaton after 12 minutes as Palgrave got a touch to Dave Ward's near post corner with the Rovers defence in a tangle. Mark Pollard, on for the injured Watts, headed wide before Forest Green finally got into the match, but Brian Lewis was off-target from an O'Leary centre.

Donnelly put a shot just over the bar before Borough put the issue beyond doubt with two goals in two minutes spanning



the half-time break. Rymell, under pressure from Donnelly, turned a back pass wide of his keeper during first-half injury time and within 60 seconds of the restart Donnelly raced through a hesitant home defence onto a Peter Bradley pass to make it four.

To their credit Forest Green never gave up the fight and it took a superb tackle by Stephens to deny substitute Carl Bayliss a goal 20 minutes from the end. Almost immediately Pollard missed a glorious chance to make it 5-0. He was put clean through by Palgrave but with only the keeper to beat he blazed high over the top. Ade Gregory did well to head a left wing centre from Richard Smith out from under the bar but with seven minutes left Forest Green pulled back a goal.

Bayliss won the ball in midfield, found Rymell wide on the right and raced 30 yards to get into the box and beat Dale Belford with a header from the full back's cross. Stephens deflected a fierce Bayliss shot over the top for a corner and then with the game entering its final throes the home side grabbed a second goal that their late pressure deserved. A long throw in from the left caused trouble in the Borough defence and Stephens beat Lewis in the air only for the ball to glance off his head and lob over Belford into the far corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Spalding United 24-09-1988

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens, Thomas, D. Ward, Pinner, Howarth, Palgrave, Watts (Howels 67), Donnelly (Pollard 76)

Spalding: Wilson, Worthington (Smith 63), Boyers, S. Ward, Horwood, Gale, Langford, Rippon, Mitchell, McNally, Topliss. Sub: Ladd.

Borough welcomed Spalding United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough were quickly into their stride with Tony Donnelly bursting through the middle to fire a rising drive a couple of feet over the bar from the edge of the box. Wilson did well to grab a low cross from Ian Pinner at the second attempt as Borough continued to sweep forward. However, the visitors began to get a grip in midfield and Mark Mitchell put a header wide of Dale Belford's right hand post after Kevin Topliss had provided the centre.

Spalding continued to call the tune and with 15 minutes gone Borough had a let-off when Topliss swung in a corner from the left and Rippon was unmarked as he powered in a header, but Stephens headed off the line. Borough were struggling to get into the match and they were again fortunate not to fall behind when Ade Gregory easily intercepted a through ball but carelessly gave away possession and it took a brave save from Belford to deny Mitchell.

Brian Palgrave raised the hopes of the Manor Park faithful with a neat chip as he cut in from the left, but the ball landed on top of the net. But seven minutes before the break Borough's hopes nose-dived as Spalding at last broke the deadlock. Mitchell got free in the box and went round Belford leaving the Borough keeper with no option but to pull down the striker and Paul Langford scored from the penalty spot.

Worse was to come as any hopes that Nuneaton might have had of pulling the game round disappeared within four minutes of the restart as the visitors scored twice. Almost from the kick-off Borough failed to clear a right wing cross and despite strong appeals for handball Gavin McNally knocked the ball back into the middle for Rippon to stab home from close range. Borough hardly had time to get their breath back from that setback before they were deeper in trouble as Spalding made it 3-0.

There seemed little danger as Mitchell got free on the left and his tame shot straight at Belford carried no threat but the Nuneaton keeper allowed the ball to squirm through his legs and over the line. Midway through the half Palgrave should have reduced the arrears from a Ward centre but his downward header lacked the power to trouble Wilson. Shortly afterwards the Lincolnshire side came within a whisker of another goal as Martyn Boyers drilled in a fierce cross from the left and Rippon put a superb header a foot wide with Belford nowhere.

Wilson did well to pluck a Ward cross away from Pollard as Borough looked for a late strike to bring a bit of respectability to the scoreline. Thomas then got in a deep cross to the far post and Stephens knocked it back into the middle but Wilson was again ideally positioned to deny the inrushing Palgrave.

Borough Release Taylor

Central defender Joe Taylor has been released. Caretaker manager Kirk Stephens told the 18-year-old, who has been unable to command a place in the side, of his decision on Saturday.

Borough Landed With £24,000 Tax Bill

Directors of cash-starved Nuneaton Borough Football Club made a desperate appeal for help today after the Inland Revenue demanded payment of a massive tax bill. The crisis-hit club has 14 days to find nearly £24,000, or put forward a plan that will settle the bill within a year. Otherwise the Inland Revenue could start court action that will close the club down. Chairman Howard Kerry said: "This is another hammer blow but we must find a solution.

"The board is bitterly disappointed and angry that our offer to the Inland Revenue to settle the bill over four years was turned down flat. I would appeal to anyone who has the money or the interest to help with any cash donations. Now is the time for them to come forward."

Tax officials are demanding payment of a £23,642 bill plus interest, covering the period 1984/85 until February 1987. The debts were run up during Noel Kelly's time as chairman, before a bitter boardroom battle rocked the club and led to action in the High Court.

Mr Kelly and directors Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley were suspended by the High Court in February last year – and since last June – an interim board has been running the club's affairs.



Borough Receive Fourteen Applications

Nuneaton Borough have received 14 applications for the vacant manager's post with interviews getting underway shortly. There are several former Football League players among the list while one or two names on the local scene are also staking a claim for the job.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1988

Grantham: Parslow, Ryder, Cook, Humphreys, Anderson, Burns, Radford, Simpson, Whitehurst, Burrell (Robertson 84), Farrow. **Sub:** Cooper.

Borough: Belford, Bateman, Pinner, Stephens, Howarth, Bradley, Watts, Ward, Pollard (Thomas 67), Palgrave (Gregory 45), Donnelly.

Borough travelled to London Road to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough's depression deepened as they crashed to a comprehensive defeat. The Manor Park side never got into the match and were made to look very much second best against Martin O'Neill's outfit.

Borough came under pressure from the kick-off as high-flying Grantham surged forward. Larry Burrell gave Nuneaton an early warning with a jinking run down the left leaving several defenders in his wake but Belford was well-positioned to cut out the cross. However, Borough found themselves trailing after just six minutes. The visitors failed to clear a long kick by Grantham keeper Linden Parslow and John Humphreys quickly found Peter Whitehurst who scored with a low shot inside Belford's left hand post.

There was more trouble for Borough when Burrell picked out Humphreys with a left wing cross but Belford made a fine save to turn the ensuing shot away for a corner. Watts made a neat break down the right as Borough at last got into the action. He found Dave Ward at the far post but Andy Ryder blocked the Nuneaton midfielder's shot at the expense of a corner. But midway through the half Nuneaton missed a gilt edged chance to level matters. Brian Palgrave and Ward combined well on the left and Ward's centre found Watts in front of goal but Borough's leading scorer failed to connect with his head and the chance was lost.

Borough could have been made to regret that miss almost immediately as Whitehurst again found himself in acres of space but Belford blocked the shot with his legs. However, the visitors found themselves two down on the half hour mark. Burrell, who was leading the Borough a merry dance on the left flank, cut inside the area and his fierce shot hit the unlucky Stephens on the head and looped over Belford into the net.

Mark Pollard got up above Grantham's former Forest and Blues defender Kenny Burns to a Ward cross as Borough pressed forward but Parslow gathered safely from the inrushing Palgrave. Borough might have pulled a goal back after an hour when Stephens and Peter Bradley combined well to free Tony Donnelly but his fierce cross shot flew narrowly wide of the far post.

The home side surged forward again with Simpson bursting into the Nuneaton penalty area and it took a timely saving tackle from Ade Gregory to clear the danger. But with 67 minutes gone any remote hopes that Borough might have had of pulling the game round disappeared as Grantham snatched a third goal. Borough failed to get the ball away as Town forced three corners in succession and from the last Belford made an excellent save to block a close range effort from Whitehurst but the ball fell to Robert Farrow and he quickly switched it back into the middle for Andersen to score from close range.

Nuneaton were beginning to press forward a bit more as the game wore on but they seldom posed much threat to the Grantham goal. Donnelly forced a fine save from Parslow in the latter stages but the home defence, superbly marshalled by Burns, had few problems in protecting their three goal lead.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 10-10-1988

Stourbridge: Pomroy, Nicklin, Edwards, Thorns, Nicholls, Gavin, Snape, Hodgetts, Matthews (Malanaphy 38), Smith, Hathaway. **Sub:** Higgins.

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Everitt, Thomas, Howarth, Ward, Pinner, Howles, Shackleton, Watts, Pollard (Randle 63). **Sub:** Stephens.

Borough travelled to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Westgate Insurance Cup first round first leg match.

Borough could hardly have made a worse start to the game with Stourbridge taking the lead after just nine minutes. Smith freed Ian Hathaway on the left and Hodgetts was perfectly positioned to sweep home the winger's low cross. However, Borough replied almost immediately with Shackleton heading home Ian Pinner's free kick just two minutes later.

Dave Ward had a shot cleared off the line by Carl Nicklin after Stourbridge keeper Steve Pomroy had failed to hold an awkward cross from Pinner but ten minutes before the break Borough again fell behind. Dale Belford made a fine save from Smith after Hodgetts had set up the chance but shortly afterwards Smith made amends when he picked up the ball in midfield, ran at the Nuneaton defence and scored with a low shot into the far corner.

Shackleton failed to get the necessary power into a header from Ward's free kick at the start of the second period and then Kevin Watts went into the referee's notebook following his third foul in quick succession.

Midway through the half Randle came on to replace Mark Pollard and almost immediately he had a chance to snatch an equaliser when a Steve Thomas through ball played him clear, but he snatched at the shot with only the keeper to beat and the chance was lost.

During the closing stages it was all Borough and Shackleton fired wide from a good position and shortly before the end Watts got up well to a left wing cross only to see Pomroy produce a fine save at the foot of the left hand post.



Borough Given Time To Pay Tax Bill

Trouble-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club has been given 12 months to pay back a massive £23,000 tax bill, but supporters and members have been told: “Don’t panic.” Directors at Manor Park have reached a verbal agreement, now to be confirmed in writing, with the Inland Revenue, which will see the full amount paid back.

The club had hoped for three years in which to repay the tax bill, which was outstanding from 1984 to February 1987, but the taxman insisted on the one year limit. However, club vice-chairman Mr John Harris said he was confident the cash could be raised in time...

Stephens Appointed Manager

Delighted Kirk Stephens is celebrating being appointed manager of Nuneaton Borough. The former Football League defender has been given the job on a permanent basis after acting as caretaker for the last six weeks. Last night he attended the second session of interviews held by the board and has been given a vote of confidence to carry on in the post.

“It is great news. Bob Vincent and I are both delighted to be given the opportunity to do the job on a permanent basis,” he said. “But we know that we face a difficult task and the hard work begins now,” he added...

Nuneaton Borough v Rushden Town 15-10-1988

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens (Bateman 86), Thomas, Ward, Pollard, Pinner, Palgrave (Shackleton 74), Watts, Donnelly.

Rushden: Hopps, Wall, McGuire, Timlin, Garrett, Ashenden (O’Connell 65), Botterill, Robinson, Shrieves, Beards, York. **Sub:** Kirkup.

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

Battling Borough halted a run of three defeats as Mark Pollard snatched a late equaliser. Pollard’s 78th minute strike cancelled out a Terry Shrieves effort for Rushden a minute after the interval.

Borough posed the first threat with Tony Donnelly making a swift break down the left but Mick Garrett headed clear. Rushden replied as Paul York found himself in space, but Peter Robinson’s tame header failed to trouble Dale Belford. Trevor Hopps touched a Palgrave centre onto the bar and over the top. From the ensuing corner Ian Pinner headed the ball back across the face of the goal and Hopps made a superb point-blank save to keep out Stephens’ shot.

Borough missed a golden opportunity to go in front when Pollard played a neat one-two with Peter Bradley and found Kevin Watts who could only direct his header straight at Hopps from six yards. Borough were well on top at this stage and midway through the half another chance went begging as Donnelly again got clear on the left and picked out Palgrave with his centre, but the striker put in a tame header that Hopps parried and Pollard hit the post from the rebound. Rushden at last began to show a bit of urgency and

Stuart Beards should have done better than drag the ball across the goalmouth after York had created the opening. Garrett, under pressure from Palgrave, almost put a back pass over his own keeper, but it took a fine save from Belford to keep Borough on level terms at the break.

Shrieves broke quickly on the left and his low centre was met first time by Beards but Belford was down quickly to smother the shot. In spite of their superiority, Borough’s hopes were dealt a severe setback just a minute after the break, when they were caught pushing forward and Rushden got Beards free down the left. He made ground quickly and his low centre was swept home by Shrieves.

Pollard shot just wide as Borough hit back before Steve Thomas brought down Dave Botterill on the edge of the box as Rushden made a swift counter attack and York fired a fierce free-kick over the top of the angle. But Borough still looked likely to grab an equaliser and when a Donnelly cross had the visitors defence in a tangle Ward had a chance but dragged his shot wide of the far post.

A minute later Borough were denied by the woodwork. Pinner rose above the Rushden defence to meet Pollard’s corner but his header smacked against a post and away to safety. Paul Shackleton replaced Palgrave after 74 minutes and four minutes later Borough were back on level terms. Donnelly’s right wing cross caused more panic in the Rushden goalmouth and Pollard pounced to score from eight yards.

Rushden were hanging onto the point they had in their grasp but Borough could have made it three in the closing stages when Pollard got clear but Hopps was ideally positioned to cut out the shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 17-10-1988

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens, Thomas, Pollard (Howarth 90), Pinner, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. **Sub:** Shackleton.

Stourbridge: Pomroy, Nicklin, Edwards, Horne, Nicholls, Gavin, Snape, Hodgetts, Julian (Higgins 72), Douglas, Smith. **Sub:** Chambers.

Borough welcomed Spalding United to Manor Park to play a Westgate Insurance Cup first round second leg match.

Borough crashed out of the competition in a dramatic finale. With the aggregate scores level and the game in the last minute of extra time it looked as though the game would be decided on penalties. But with the referee looking at his watch Borough got themselves in a mess at the back. Mick Howarth failed to find Dale Belford with an attempted back pass and Stourbridge substitute Tony Higgins nipped in for a simple goal.

Borough, a goal down from the first leg, could not have made a worse start as Stourbridge increased their lead after just seven minutes. The Nuneaton defence failed to clear a left-wing cross and the ball came to Andy Hodgetts on the edge of the box and he thundered a 20 yard drive past Dale Belford. But Borough did not drop their heads and Dave



Ward had a free-kick turned over the angle by Steve Pomroy before Borough cut the deficit on 18 minutes. Kevin Watts showed persistence to win the ball in midfield and he freed Palgrave who held off John Horne to crack a low left footer past the advancing keeper. Then six minutes later Borough were level when Ward was brought down in the penalty area and Palgrave made no mistake from the spot kick. Belford did well to turn away John Snape's long range shot for a corner just before the break.

Pomroy cut out Watts' cross at the start of the second half before Stephens had a shot blocked by Pomroy and then headed the rebound wide. Borough had a let off midway through the half when Belford came out and was beaten by Hodgetts, whose cross shot was headed clear by Steve Thomas. Borough had an escape in the last minute of normal time when Mark Smith's shot hit a post. Pomroy made another good save from a Ward free-kick, but was fortunate when he midjudged a corner and the ball landed on the goal line before being cleared. Belford made a timely interception to thwart Hodgetts, but with the game moving into injury time Higgins pounced to give the visitors a shock victory.

Palgrave Up For Transfer

Nuneaton Borough striker Brian Palgrave has been placed on the transfer list at his own request. The former Walsall and Port Vale player has not really settled in since he moved to Manor Park and feels that he is not doing himself justice.

"Brian has been struggling to find his best form and is not happy with the situation," said manager Kirk Stephens. "He had a fine scoring record before coming to Nuneaton but he has not been able to find the net regularly since. I think that he is not really suited to the type of football we are in at the moment and that he would probably do better at a higher level."

Starkey Back In Goal

Wayne Starkey, who has been with Derby County all season, returns to the Borough side for tomorrow's game against Spalding and will replace Dale Belford. The move has been forced on Borough, as Tamworth manager Graham Smith has recalled Belford.

Spalding United v Nuneaton Borough 22-10-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Stephens, Thomas, Howarth, Pollard, Pinner, Ward, Donnelly, Howles, Watts. Subs: Palgrave, Gregory.

Borough travelled to Sir Halley Stewart Field to play Spalding United in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough were in impressive form against a side they had lost to at Manor Park. The early exchanges were scrappy, but in the eighth minute Starkey was called upon to make a fine save, diving low to his left to grasp a header from Mark Mitchell on the line. Another free-kick from the same spot again had Starkey scrambling as the ball flashed narrowly wide. At this stage Borough were struggling to get their game

together and Stephens needed all his experience to tidy up dangerous situations twice within a minute, robbing Kabia and Langford in turn.

Borough first threatened the home goal in the 23rd minute when a free-kick was played wide for Tony Donnelly on the left and his fine deep cross was taken at full stretch by Foxcroft, who needed an adjustment as he fell with Howles waiting to pick up the pieces. Starkey again produced a piece of fine goalkeeping in the 37th minute when Langford was played clear by Rippen. Starkey forced the winger wide and then took the ball of his toes. But three minutes later Borough should have taken the lead when Howles, who was causing Horwood all sorts of problems, despite being almost a foot smaller, took advantage of an awkward bounce to squirm free, but only to hit the goalkeeper with his tame shot.

However, Spalding took the lead in the 42nd minute when a poor crossfield pass from Donnelly was intercepted by Tony Gale who advanced before hitting a 35-yard drive that scorched into the top left hand corner of the net. The home side were still celebrating when Borough snatch an equaliser on the stroke of half-time, David Ward curling a left foot free-kick from the edge of the area over the wall and into the corner of the net.

Borough started the second period brightly and in the 47th minute Watts found himself on the end of a Pinner cross from the right in space, but he could only screw his shot wide. It came as little surprise when Borough took the lead in the 55th minute, when a fierce low drive from Ward on the edge of the area proved too hot for Foxcroft to handle, the goalkeeper fumbling the ball into the path of Howles, who had the simplest of tasks to tap the ball into the empty net.

The goal stung the home side into action and they should have equalised in the 67th minute when Kabia was unable to hit the target after finding himself clear in the area and then Langford screwed his shot wide when well placed after good work by Rippen. Starkey made another fine save in the 78th minute, tipping a long range effort from Boyes over the bar. Borough increased their lead and put the game out of the home side's reach with a fine goal in the 82nd minute. Pollard twisted and turned his marker before slipping a precise ball into the path of Watts, who was able to sweep the ball home from ten yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Paget Rangers 24-10-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Howarth, Stephens, Thomas, Ward, Pinner, Pollard, Howles, Watts, Donnelly. Subs: Palgrave, Orton.

Borough welcomed Paget Rangers to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup first round first leg match.

Borough's hopes received a set-back in a dramatic finish. There were only four minutes remaining in a disappointing match and Borough looked as though they would hold on to their 1-0 lead. However, Steve Thomas brought down Eric Sandiford as he turned into the box and Derek Christopher fired home an equaliser from the penalty spot.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



There was an early shock for Borough when David Okorhi made a searing break down the right and Wayne Starkey did well to save Sandiford's header at the second attempt following a fine centre by the full-back. But Borough were looking confident and swept ahead with a fine goal after just 15 minutes. Stephens put Martin Howles clear on the right with a neat ball and he picked out Watts with an accurate cross and Borough's leading scorer planted a firm header past Mark Hart.

Borough were fortunate to retain their lead when 12 minutes before the break a neat build-up by the visitors put Wayne Scally free in the box, but his chip went over the top with Starkey stranded. Nuneaton missed a great chance to increase their lead shortly after the restart. Howles was clean through and he should have shot, but he tried to dribble round the keeper and Hart bravely smothered the ball.

Borough were now enjoying their best spell with Tony Donnelly coming into the picture and Mark Pollard was only inches away from turning in a cross by the winger with the Paget defence struggling. There were loud appeals for a penalty when Watts appeared to be pushed by Neil Hughes, but the referee waved play on. Paget might have snatched an equaliser with 13 minutes left when Christopher found himself space in the penalty area, but his finish was way off target. Sandiford then had a shot saved by Starkey before Thomas brought down the Paget centre-forward to give Christopher the opportunity to level from the spot.

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston Town 29-10-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Howarth, Stephens, Thomas, Everitt (Palgrave 45), Pinner, Pollard, Howles, Watts, Donnelly. Sub: Bateman.

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

Borough stretched their unbeaten run to five games as they got themselves out of jail. The visitors were superior throughout and were comfortably 2-0 ahead midway through the second half. It looked as though outclassed Borough were destined for another depressing defeat when they suddenly conjured up two goals in a three minute spell.

Borough came under pressure right from the start with Bilston making all the running and looking a yard sharper. The visitors penned Nuneaton back in their own half and they were desperately unlucky not to go in front after only three minutes. Wayne Starkey came out for a ball wide on the right of the Borough penalty area but Bartholomew beat him to it and squared the ball to John Branch, but somehow Stephens managed to block the shot with the keeper stranded. Bartholomew then wriggled his way into the penalty area but he shot straight at Starkey when positioned to do better.

At this stage Borough were struggling to make any impression on the game and they were again fortunate midway through the half when Larry Chambers and Richards both had shots

charged down with the home defence in a terrible tangle. Tony Donnelly found space wide on the left as Borough at last got men forward but his deep cross was a couple of inches too high for Mark Pollard.

However, Bilston quickly regained their grip on the match as Bartholomew led the Nuneaton defence a merry dance. Starkey came to Borough's rescue with a fine save from Richards. As half-time approached Paul Kuldip in the visitors goal had to react smartly to turn an Ian Pinner cross over the top in a rare Borough raid.



Kevin Watts comes in at the far post to hammer home the equaliser – his tenth goal of the season. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

There was no doubt Nuneaton were very fortunate to be on level terms at the break, but seven minutes into the second period they looked to be dead and buried as Bilston surged into a two-goal lead. Mick Howarth brought a good save from Kuldip soon after the restart but after 50 minutes Howles stepped over a pass in midfield. Chambers intercepted and freed Bartholomew who cut into the area and beat Starkey with a low shot inside his near post. Two minutes later Borough were in deeper trouble when a left wing corner by Chambers was headed back into the middle by Bartholomew and Richards hooked the ball home from close range.

Borough turned the match upside down with just over an hour gone. Brian Carmichael hit a poor back pass that let in Martin Howles who was brought down by the keeper and Brian Palgrave, on as substitute for the injured Leigh Everitt, scored from the resulting spot kick. Two minutes later Borough were level with a superb goal. Howarth found Stephens in midfield and he quickly switched the ball to Donnelly wide on the right. The Nuneaton winger accelerated past Graham Kemp and his cross was flicked on by Howles for Watts to hammer home at the far post.

Bilston had now lost a lot of their composure and it was Borough who looked the more likely to snatch the winner. Nuneaton were gradually putting the visitors under pressure and Howles had a half chance but he curled his shot over the top from inside the area.

Paget Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 01-11-1988

Paget: Hart, Okorhi, Link, Hughes, Paul, Jones, Scally, Whipps, Sandiford, Christopher, Ford. **Subs:** Dugmore, Dwane.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Howarth, Stephens, Thomas, Palgrave, Pinner, Pollard, Howles, Watts, Donnelly. **Subs:** Everitt, Shackleton.

Borough travelled to Springfield Road to play Paget Rangers in a M&B Cup first round second leg match.

Borough crashed out of the M&B Cup with another dismal performance. Borough's first real opening saw Mark Pollard test Paget keeper Mark Hart from the edge of the box, but Paget looked the more dangerous side and Rhucha Ford wasted a good opening with a tame shot straight at Starkey. But on the half hour Paget got the all-important breakthrough when Jones outjumped the Borough defence on the near post to a Neil Hughes' corner and his back header crept into the net.

Stephens fired a long range effort straight at Hart as Borough looked for an equaliser but as the interval approached Nuneaton had Peter Bradley to thank that they did not fall further behind as he cleared off the line from Derek Christopher. Brian Palgrave made a neat break down the left flank at the start of the second period but Hart confidently cut out the centre and then Pollard fired a fierce shot across the face of the goal after Watts had set up the chance.

There was more trouble for Borough when Pollard lost possession in midfield and Christopher got clear but Starkey produced a superb fingertip save to turn the shot over the top. But Borough's hopes were ended after 76 minutes as Paget grabbed a second goal. Nuneaton were caught on the break and Sandiford side stepped a couple of challenges on the edge of the box to slip the ball past the advancing Starkey.

Mick Howarth had a header fly narrowly wide from Pollard's left wing corner and then with five minutes remaining Borough reduced the deficit. Tony Donnelly was pulled down by Hughes as he burst into the box and although Brian Palgrave's penalty was parried by Hart, Stephens was on hand to slam home the rebound.

Loyal Fan Dies



Mrs Flo Pagett

One of Nuneaton Borough's most loyal fans, Mrs Flo Pagett, died on Monday. Mrs Pagett, who has been following the exploits of the Borough for almost 70 years, will be sorely missed at Manor Park. Her favourite spot on the ground was on the terraces at the Cock and Bear end where she was virtually a fixture during the Borough games since 1919.

In March she celebrated her 85th birthday with a special party at

the Borough Social Club where many players from the old days went along to help her enjoy the occasion. She leaves a daughter Monica and three grandchildren David, Sue and Emma, who like many at Nuneaton Borough, will miss the grand old lady.

Ironically Borough played Paget Rangers on Tuesday night when the Nuneaton team wore black armbands and the sides observed a minute's silence before the kick-off.

Three New Faces For Banbury Game

Injury-hit Nuneaton Borough will have three new faces in their squad for the league game against Banbury. Kettering striker Alan Ricketts has rejoined the club, Ade Waters has been signed from Bedworth and Tamworth's Keith Redguard has also moved to Manor Park

Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 05-11-1988

Banbury: Baker, Darvell, Murphy, Woodland, Bowyer, Fowler, Stratford, Lever (Pearson 45), McDowell, Magnacavello, Pratley. **Sub:** Dixon.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Howarth, Stephens, Thomas, Ward, Waters, Palgrave, Ricketts, Watts, Donnelly. **Subs:** Pollard, Redguard.

Borough travelled to the Spencer Stadium to play Banbury United in a Southern League Midland Division match.

New look Borough stretched their unbeaten league run to four matches as they picked up a point from their trip to Banbury. Borough were slow into their stride and could have found themselves a goal down after only two minutes as Banbury made a lively start. Brian Palgrave fouled Frankie Magnacavello on the edge of the penalty area and Bob Pratley's free-kick took a deflection forcing a superb save from Wayne Starkey to turn the ball over the top.

Borough hit back and were unfortunate not to go ahead after 13 minutes. Tony Donnelly got free on the right and his deep cross found Ricketts who glanced a header wide of Keith Baker's right hand post. Borough were looking the brighter of the two sides but after 22 minutes they found themselves a goal down. Pratley floated a free-kick to the far post and when Ian Bowyer headed the ball back across the goalmouth Wayne McDowell headed home from close range.

Waters had a shot saved by Baker's legs as Borough looked for an equaliser, but were fortunate not to go two down before the break when Stephens lost possession on the edge of the box and Colin Darwell's low centre flew across the face of the Borough goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Borough started the second period with much more purpose and Kevin Watts flashed a header narrowly wide. Donnelly caused trouble with a fine run and cross but Waters failed to get hold of his shot when Watts turned the ball back and Baker saved low to his left. It was all Nuneaton now but another opportunity went begging when Donnelly burst into the area but he wanted too much time and Gary Murphy was able to get back and clear the danger.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Nuneaton's pressure was bound to tell and it finally did when they snatched an equaliser in the 68th minute. Watts was pushed in the back by Darvell inside the penalty area and Palgrave scored from the penalty spot, despite Baker getting both his hands on the ball.

Borough were denied a winning goal 15 minutes from the end when Donnelly was blatantly brought down from behind in the penalty area by Murphy, but the referee ignored Borough's penalty claims. Waters was unfortunate when he siezed on a loose ball on the edge of the box and his fierce, low drive flew a couple of feet wide with the keeper struggling. Nuneaton continued to hold virtually total control but shortly before the end they had an anxious moment when Banbury might have snatched a shock winner but Borough's rearguard recovered their composure to clear the danger.

Howarth Released

Mick Howarth has been released by Nuneaton Borough after failing to regain his central defensive position. Howarth, who has been playing at full-back in recent matches, played his last game for the club in the 1-1 draw at Banbury.

Nuneaton Borough v Oldswinford 09-11-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Everitt, Stephens, Watts, Bateman, Palgrave, Randle, Pollard, Watts, Donnelly. **Subs:** Dewis, Shackleton.

Oldswinford: Carmichael, Day, Corbett, Brookes, Lyness, M. D. Taylor, N. Taylor, M. S. Taylor, Millerchip, Bryan, Lowe. **Subs:** Foley, Adams.

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

Borough produced an undistinguished performance against the Banks' Brewery West Midlands League side. Borough swept into the lead in the third minute. Steve Thomas was fouled wide on the right and when Peter Bradley swept the free-kick into the penalty area the Oldswinford defence only cleared the ball to the edge of the box and Bateman hit it first time into the bottom left hand corner. Mark S. Taylor found himself some space as the visitors pressed forward and his fiercely hit right foot shot brought a fine save from Wayne Starkey.

Oldswinford keeper John Carmichael had to make a brave save to deny George Randle after a neat through ball by Brian Palgrave and then the keeper also did well to block an effort from Kevin Watts. But ten minutes into the second half Borough stretched their lead when Tony Donnelly cut in from the right and beat Carmichael with a left footer into the far corner. Nuneaton were now well on top and should have put the match beyond any doubt but Mark Pollard failed to cash in on three clear cut chances.

First he headed over from close in after Donnelly had provided the cross and then he failed to hit the target after twice bursting clear of the visitors defence. Borough were made to regret those misses as Oldswinford cut the deficit to a single goal after 74 minutes. The Nuneaton defence was caught square and Mark Millerchip raced clear to slip the ball

past the advancing Starkey. Immediately afterwards Borough tossed away another golden opportunity with Watts hitting the bar from inside the six yards box after Carmichael had parried a Donnelly shot and left him with an open goal.

There was a late scare for Borough when Steve Bryan threatened to break clear but Kirk Stephens cleared up the danger and Nuneaton had little trouble in holding on for a win.

Kings Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 12-11-1988

Kings Lynn: Carr, Bunking, Carter, Mahoney, Blake, Dublin, Eves (Fisher 60), Gregory, Johnson, Rider, Cozens. **Sub:** Crowell.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Everitt, Stephens, Bateman, Randle, Waters, Pollard, Ricketts, Watts, Donnelly (Redguard 75). **Sub:** Palgrave.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play Kings Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough put in another abysmal performance and hopes of a quick return to the Premier Division look remote. Borough had an early scare when Mark Cozens got in behind the defence but Wayne Starkey was able to back-pedal and comfortably gather the winger's attempted lob. Mark Pollard made himself some space wide on the right to drill in a low centre as Borough hit back but Mark Randle's shot was way off target. David Johnson put a shot inches wide of Starkey's right-hand post with the keeper scrambling across his line.

Johnson continued to cause problems for Borough and it took a last-ditch tackle by Stephens to deny the home striker after he had got away from Bateman and cut into the penalty area. But midway through the half Nuneaton were desperately unlucky not to go ahead. Donnelly got free on the right and picked out Alan Ricketts with his centre. The big number nine rose above the Lynn defence and his downward header looked certain for the net, but home keeper Andy Carr somehow got his fingertips to the ball to turn it away to safety.

As half-time approached Mark Mahoney played a neat one-two with Johnson on the edge of the Nuneaton area, but Starkey was quickly off the line to smother the danger.

Lynn continued to press at the start of the second half and Mahoney was bundled over in the box but the referee wanted nothing to do with the home side's appeals for a penalty. Johnson then made another excellent turn to lose his marker and hit a fierce left footer that flew straight at Starkey. Borough began to make an impression and Donnelly laid a neat ball inside to Peter Bradley and his shot from the edge of the box had Carr at full stretch to his left. Stephens then came within a whisker of giving Borough the lead. Pollard swung in a corner from the right and the Nuneaton manager powered in a header that Carr brilliantly turned over the top.

But with 15 minutes remaining Borough were fortunate not to go a goal behind. Johnson robbed Stephens on the edge of the area and cut in towards goal. But he wanted too much time and Bateman was able to get across to block the shot. Lynn were now putting Borough under growing pressure and it took the combined efforts of Pollard and Starkey to keep



out an effort from Gregory after he had wriggled clear into the penalty area. In the final minute Cozens threatened to snatch a dramatic winner but his 20 yard shot was gratefully grabbed by Starkey at the second attempt.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-11-1988

Hednesford: P. Bradley, Westwood, Page, Bradford (Spruce 77), Tittley (Turner 55), Foster, Austin, King, Kelly, Unitt, Stringer.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Everitt, Stephens, Bateman, Waters, Pollard, Randle (Ward 74), Watts, Palgrave, Redguard (Donnelly 45).

Borough travelled to the The Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough crashed out of the competition after two defensive errors gifted the Pitmen a 2-0 lead. There was danger for Borough in the very first minute when Paul Stringer whipped in a low cross from the left but Leigh Everitt did well to clear under pressure from Kevin Bradford. Peter Bradley got up to head away a dangerous cross from Steve Austin before Borough mounted their first serious attack. A quick break had the Hednesford defence backpedalling and Kevin Watts headed down for Mark Pollard to fire a rising drive a couple of feet over the top from the edge of the box.

There was anxiety for Borough's travelling faithful when a Brian Palgrave back-pass took a deflection and Wayne Starkey had to go full stretch to save at the second attempt. But after 21 minutes Hednesford took the lead. A long clearance by keeper Phil Bradley eluded Mark Randle and Everitt and Bradford took full advantage to beat Starkey from close range. Shortly afterwards Borough could have been two down when Stephens headed a centre straight to Stringer and his first time shot was only a foot off target with Starkey struggling.

Keith Redguard freed Ade Waters down the middle as Nuneaton hit back but his shot was crowded out and Borough's appeals for a penalty for handball fell on deaf ears. Pollard fired a 25 yarder straight at the keeper and just before the break Redguard got in a low cross from the left that Phil Tittley was happy to hack away for a corner.

Borough brought on Tony Donnelly for Redguard at the start of the second period and opened in a much more positive mood. Hednesford were now being pushed back and Phil Bradley had to make a fine save from Palgrave at the expense of a corner. But eight minutes after half-time Borough's hopes nose-dived as they conceded another soft goal. Waters only found Archie King with an intended back pass and Starkey did extremely well to block the striker's shot. But Borough still failed to clear the danger and King seized on the rebound to score with a low shot from the edge of the box.

However, three minutes later Borough were back in the match with Waters making amends for his earlier error. Palgrave was fouled on the edge of the Hednesford penalty area and when the free-kick was touched short Waters thundered an unstoppable shot into the top right-hand corner. Borough were now enjoying a good spell and Waters

forced another fine save from the home keeper with a first-time shot from the edge of the box. But Hednesford were dangerous on the break and Lee Bateman had to produce a good header to cut out a left-wing cross with King challenging. Borough had a couple of chances near the end of the game but Hednesford held on to their narrow lead.

Pinner And Donnelly Sign For Burton

Nuneaton Borough have sold winger Tony Donnelly and midfielder Ian Pinner to Burton Albion. The Birmingham based pair have joined up again with former Borough boss Chris Wright who took over at Eton Park this week.

Stephens Signs Hormantschuk

Borough manager Kirk Stephens has signed Peter Hormantschuk from Coventry Sporting, but the full-back will miss the next game because of suspension.

Nuneaton Boro v Wellingborough Town 19-11-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Everitt, Stephens, Bateman, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Ricketts, Watts, Ward (Randle 75 (Orton 85)).

Wellingborough: Fox, Beasley, Till, Waite, Suddards, Moulds, Geary, McIlroy, Martin, Downing, Robson. Subs: Henry, Shopland.

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

Borough secured all three points with a last gasp winner after they had missed a string of chances. Borough were quickly into their stride with both Stephens and Ricketts having shots charged down in the first five minutes. Shane Geary wasted a free kick before Leigh Everitt almost gave Borough the lead with a 30 yard drive that had Fox at full-stretch. Ricketts was unlucky after 19 minutes when he outjumped the visitors' defence to flick on Pollard's right wing corner only for Fox to make a superb save.

Borough missed a glorious opportunity two minutes later when Stephens was brought down in the box, only for Palgrave to see his spot kick well saved by Fox. Ricketts and Kevin Watts got in each other's way to ruin a Pollard centre which left the Wellingborough defence in disarray. Ricketts then put a shot a foot wide just before the break.

Nuneaton picked up the tempo at the start of the second half and Ade Waters forced Fox into another fine save and then curled in a neat cross from the left. When Pollard headed the ball back across the face of the visitors' goal Watts was only a foot away from forcing the ball home. Waters dragged a shot wide after Ricketts had laid the ball back and then Watts beat Fox to a through ball into the penalty area and found Pollard who wasted the opportunity with a shot into the side netting.

Fox made a fingertip save from Dave Ward after an hour with the ball flying agonisingly wide of the post. It was all Borough, but they had a let off midway through the half. Geary crossed from the right and Joey Martin crept in unnoticed at the far post but shot straight across the face of the Nuneaton goal.

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Mark Randle replaced the limping Ward before Watts saw his first-time shot beat Fox but smack against the bar and bounce to safety. There was a booking for Downing as he brought down Waters from behind and then Martin shot wide in a rare attack by the visitors. Nuneaton's last chance appeared to have gone when Pollard's right wing cross was firmly met by the head of Ricketts but somehow Fox smothered the ball on the line.

But with the game in injury time Borough at last got the break they had been striving for. Peter Brindley got in a cross from the right, Pollard flicked it on and Ricketts was on the spot to calmly steer the ball past Fox from ten yards.



Alan Ricketts, arms raised in delight, turns away as his last minute shot tucks itself inside the Wellingborough net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Mile Oak Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 23-11-1988

Mile Oak: Sullivan, Corrance, Washbourne, Edrop, Langston, Judd, Warom, Woolley, Francis, Fallon, Sweeney. Subs: Mortiboys, Sharp.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Everitt, Stephens, Bateman, Palgrave, Pollard, Ward, Scott, Watts, Ricketts. Subs: Randle, Orton.

Borough travelled to Price Avenue to play Mile Oak Rovers in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough gave a performance full of character to record their second win in five days and stretch their unbeaten run to seven matches. Borough's youngsters again emerged with credit and had to withstand some strong arm tactics from Mile Oak. Alan Ricketts had a shot deflected for a corner as Borough made a positive start and then Steve Scott, making his debut, got free on the left and Roy Sullivan did well to cut out his centre with Ricketts boring in.

Borough were well on top during the early stages but there was an anxious moment when Ward slipped on the tricky surface and Tom Fallon got away, but his shot was way off target. Brian Palgrave was then crowded out as he surged into the box before Nuneaton missed the best chance of the night so far. Scott made space on the right hand side of the penalty area and turned a neat ball straight into the path of Mark Pollard who pulled his shot wide of the near post from 12 yards.

Pollard forced a corner on the right and from the flag kick, taken by Ward, Dave Langston miskicked and Sullivan was fortunate to grab the ball on the line. With half-time

approaching, Tom Woolley made a neat break down the Nuneaton left flank and picked out Kevin Francis with his cross but the big striker put a tame header straight at Wayne Starkey.

Borough might have broken the deadlock at the start of the second period when Ricketts was fouled on the edge of the area and when Ward's free-kick bounced off the wall Palgrave fired the rebound over the top. Stephens found Ricketts with a long through ball and the striker hit a 25-yarder a foot wide of the right hand post. Francis had a glimpse of a chance when Lee Bateman only got a glancing header onto a long ball and the big striker failed to make the most of a mix-up between Leigh Everitt and Starkey and shot well wide.

Scott played a neat ball into the box to free Pollard but, with only the keeper to beat, he blazed his shot high over the top. But nine minutes later Nuneaton snatched the winner. Langston only headed a right wing cross as far as Ward on the edge of the box and he burst past Garry Edrop to beat Sullivan with a low shot that went in off the foot of the post.

Mile Oak continued to battle away and there was a problem for Borough when Stephens was penalised on the edge of the box, but when it was played short Fallon wanted too much time and was crowded out. But Nuneaton got back on top and a neat one-two between Ward and Ricketts almost set up another opening and in the final minute Palgrave broke into the area but he screwed his shot right across the face of the goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 26-11-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Hormantschuk (Muir 71), Stephens, Bateman, Ward, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Randle (Ricketts 53).

Willenhall: Wilkinson, Naughton, Edwards, Bowater, Skidmore, Farmer, Hutchinson, Mitchell, Canning, Green, Wynter. Subs: James, Collier.

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

Borough, looking for their third win in eight days were the architects of their own downfall. They were guilty of some sloppy defensive play as they gave away three bad goals and also failed to make the most of their chances.

There was a sensational start to the match with two goals coming inside the first two minutes. From the first attack of the game, Willenhall went in front when John Mitchell swung in a corner and Jim Skidmore flicked it on at the near post for Mark Bowater to score with a close range header. But the visitors were still celebrating when Borough equalised. Lee Bateman put Randle clear with a superb through ball but the youngster snatched at his shot, dragging it across goal where the fast retreating Bob Naughton ran it into his own net.

Andy Canning brought a fine save from Wayne Starkey with a fierce 20 yarder and there was danger for Borough when Starkey could only parry a Mitchell shot, but the keeper recovered well to block Bob Green's follow-up. A long clearance by Starkey was superbly flicked on by Steve Scott and Ian Edwards did well to crowd out Pollard at the expense

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of a corner. Just before the interval, Stephens rose above the visitors defence to head on a Ward cross and Randle beat Martin Wilkinson to the ball but hooked it over the bar.

Pollard and Hormantschuk worked a neat move from a short corner at the start of the second half and from Pollard's cross Scott glanced a header narrowly wide. Ricketts came on to replace Randle, but nine minutes after the restart, Borough found themselves behind. There seemed little danger when Mitchell tried his luck from 25 yards, but Startkey failed to hold the bobbling shot and Canning reacted quicker than the Nuneaton defenders to stab the rebound home. Borough pressed forward in search of an equaliser and midway through the half were denied a blatant penalty when Scott turned smartly on the edge of the area and was brought down from behind by Skidmore, but penalty appeals fell on deaf ears.

But with 20 minutes remaining, Borough got the goal they deserved. Pollard swung in a corner from the left and Ward's header seemed to strike John Farmer, but this time the referee awarded a penalty. Brian Palgrave saw his penalty parried by Wilkinson, but Stephens followed up to score from the rebound. However, Borough's joy was short-lived as the visitors hit back immediately to snatch the winner. The home defence was caught napping as Naughton made a fine break down the right and cross deep to the far post. When the ball was knocked back in the middle, Starkey blocked a close range effort, but Canning slid home the rebound.

Borough were desperately unlucky eight minutes from time when Stephens picked his spot and beat Wilkinson, but Edwards somehow got his head to the ball to clear off the line. Ricketts then fired a 20 yard effort a couple of feet wide before Stephens appeared to be brought down in the area, but again the referee was not interested.

Webster Set For Debut

Les Webster looks set to make his Nuneaton Borough debut against Bridgnorth Town. Northampton Town defender Webster, on loan to Nuneaton, is included in a Borough squad of 14 for the trip.

Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-12-1988

Bridgnorth: Riches, Clarke, Larkin, Cowdell, Eccleston, Wilmot, Bennett, Balshaw, Allen, Edwards, Pike. Subs: Rich, Middlemarch.

Borough: Starkey, Bradley, Hormantschuk, Stephens, Webster, Waters, Ward, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Ricketts. Subs: Pollard, Bateman.

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

Steve Scott opened his Borough account as the Manor Park side jumped to fourth place in the table. The former Hinckley Athletic and Atherstone striker converted a second half penalty to steer Borough to their fourth away success of the season. There was a scrappy and at times frantic opening to the match during which time Ricketts took a smack in the mouth that left the big striker with a lot of blood on his shirt.

Borough had the first glimpse of a chance when the home side only cleared a Ward corner to the edge of the penalty area and Scott hooked a shot over the top. Andy Allen broke down the right and when he pulled the ball back from the byline Sean Edwards forced Starkey into a save low to his left. But Nuneaton were beginning to put the home side under pressure and Brian Palgrave dragged a shot wide after a break from midfield when he would have been better off playing the pass to the unmarked Ricketts.

Borough were unfortunate not to break the deadlock after 31 minutes when a neat move involving Palgrave and Hormantschuk ended with Waters hitting a screamer from the edge of the area. It looked a goal all the way but Riches flew to his left to turn the ball over the top.

Waters hammered another 20 yarder a couple of feet wide as Borough kept up the pressure and then Hormantschuk was booked for a very late tackle on Allen. Just before the break Scott outjumped the Bridgnorth defence for a Ward corner but Riches was well positioned to gather the flicked header under the bar.

However, the goal Borough had been threatening came ten minutes after the break. Ward floated a free-kick into the area and when Ricketts headed it back into the middle Trevor Clarke handled and Scott thumped the resulting penalty past Riches. Ricketts then turned well on the edge of the box to fire a rising drive over the top. With 20 minutes left Ricketts collected a booking for a foul on Clarke and almost immediately afterwards the Nuneaton striker headed over the top from inside the six yards box after Palgrave had picked him out with a centre from the left.

There was a moment of danger for Borough when Starkey came racing out of his goal but was beaten to a through ball by Bennett. However, the winger was forced to go wide and his centre was comfortably cleared by the Nuneaton defence. Clarke became the third booking of the night for bringing down Waters who then fired a free-kick straight at Riches.

Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 10-12-1988

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Muir (Bradley), Stephens, Webster, Waters, Ward, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Ricketts. Sub: Pollard.

Dudley: Whitehouse, Fox, Rich, Prescott, White, Hill (Langton 74), Coyne, Davies, J. Muir, Ledgister, Hackett. Sub: Duckett.

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

Borough completely dominated this match, but were made to pay the full price for two tragic errors midway through the second half. There was an anxious moment for the home side when Wayne Starkey failed to hold a free-kick from Mark Davies, but the Nuneaton defence managed to scramble the ball away. After five minutes, Alan Ricketts missed another chance, blazing high over the bar from just six yards after a Watts' free kick had been flicked on at the near post. Brian Coyne chopped Waters down on the edge of the box, but

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the visitors managed to block the free-kick. Borough were unlucky not to break the deadlock midway through the half when Ward broke from midfield and his shot beat Fred Whitehouse but flew a foot wide of the far post.

It was all Borough, and Scott fired over from the edge of the box and then saw his header held under the bar by Whitehouse after Ricketts had touched on a Peter Hormantschuk free-kick from wide on the right. Borough were again desperately unfortunate not to go ahead on the half hour. Waters had a fierce 20 yard drive deflected narrowly over the top and from the resulting corner Scott saw his header hit a post. Ward curled a free-kick over the top and then Les Webster outjumped the visitors' defence but again his effort was too high. Shortly before the break, Borough had a scare when John Muir found some space in the Nuneaton penalty area, but he put his shot into the side netting.

Webster did a fine covering job to head away Hackett's left wing cross, while Whitehouse could only parry a free-kick as Borough hit back and when Waters pumped the ball back into the goalmouth, Dudley were fortunate to clear the danger.

But, Nuneaton got the breakthrough after 59 minutes when Waters beat Whitehouse with a low 20 yard drive into the bottom left hand corner. Borough were still well in command and Watts hit a rising drive over the top. But, with 68 minutes gone, tragedy struck for Borough. Webster, in possession on the right hand edge of his own penalty area could easily have cleared the ball, but decided to pass back to Starkey and could only watch in horror as the ball trickled inside the far post chased by the keeper and John Muir.

Borough mounted a raid down the left as they looked to restore their lead, but Waters pulled his shot off target from the edge of the box. Langton came on to replace Keith Hill with 16 minutes left and two minutes later he was celebrating after he had put Dudley in front. Maurice Muir moved across the Nuneaton penalty area and attempted to cut out a harmless looking through ball that was going to Starkey, but he only succeeded in setting up Langton who gratefully shot home.

Borough's fate was sealed when Steve Scott hit the bar with a penalty shortly before the end, the second time the Nuneaton striker had been denied by the woodwork, and then in the last minute Peter Hormantschuk allowed John Muir to get in a centre that rebounded off the crossbar and presented Hugh Ledgister with Dudley's third goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry Sporting 26-12-1988

Borough: Starkey, Bradley (Ricketts 15 (Dewis 45)), Hormantschuk, Stephens, Bateman, Ward, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Howles.

Coventry: Stephenson, Willis, London, Derby, Williams, Sockett, Thomas, Setchell, McBean, Green, Bodkin. Subs: Charnley, Alexander.

Borough welcomed Coventry Sporting to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Martin Howles made a triumphant return for Nuneaton as they opened their holiday programme on a winning note. The

diminutive striker was on hand to snatch Borough's winner seven minutes from the end of a tough local derby.

Borough made a blistering start and could have gone ahead in the very first minute. Howles got clear on the right and his cross found Scott just inside the box. The big striker got in a good volley that appeared to be destined for the top corner until Stephenson flew to his left to make an excellent save. Borough again went close when Scott flicked on a through ball to send Mark Pollard racing into the penalty area and his shot beat Stephenson but smacked against the angle of bar and post and away to safety.

Sporting had more good fortune when Hormantschuk's free-kick from the left picked out Scott and he helped the ball on to Watts who saw his effort rebound off Stephenson's leg. There was a clash between Scott and Coventry's full-back Kenny Willis after 15 minutes as both players exchanged kicks and blows, but escaped the referee's notebook. Bradley was stretchered off after a clash with Paul London and Ricketts came on as substitute and went to centre-half.

Sporting appeared to be content to sit back and soak up pressure and then catch the home side on the break. Brian Palgrave sliced an effort well wide as Borough continued to press forward and with half-time approaching Stephenson did well to cut out a Ward cross under pressure from Scott.

Five minutes into the second half Howles had a header cleared off the line following a right wing corner and from a second flag kick Stephens had a shot charged down. Willis was next in the book for a crude challenge on Palgrave before Borough had a lucky escape when Simon Williams saw his shot hit Stephens and loop over the bar.

Sporting could have snatched a goal midway through the half when a through ball put Kim Green clear and he flicked the ball past Wayne Starkey as he came out but Stephens cleared the danger. Scott forced Stephenson into a fine save and Watts had a fierce shot hit a defender and bounce clear. Seven minutes from the end Borough got the goal they deserved. Scott cut into the box and hit a tremendous shot that rebounded from the crossbar. Pollard drove the ball back in and Howles turned the ball home from close range. Borough could have made it two just before the end when Scott flicked on a Howles cross but Stephenson made a magnificent save to turn Pollard's header over the top.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 31-12-1988

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Muir, Stephens, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Ward, Scott, Watts, Howles. Subs: Palgrave, Bateman.

Gloucester: Shaw, Steel, Williams, Lander, Malpass, Green, Chandler, Hughes, Penny, Townsend, Noble. Subs: Hodges, Talboys.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough ended 1988 on a disappointing note as a goal from Chris Townsend seven minutes from the end gave the visitors

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three points that furthered the promotion prospects of the league leaders.

The game opened with three bookings in four minutes as Martin Lander, Peter Hormantschuk and Ade Waters all incurred the referee's displeasure before Scott headed over in Borough's first attack. Scott again threatened the City goal as he got up well to a Hormantschuk free-kick, but Martyn Williams hooked clear. The league leaders were struggling to get into the game and it came as no surprise when Borough went ahead through a superb goal from Scott after 20 minutes. Waters knocked a high ball into the box and Scott brought it down and turned sharply to volley a fierce right footer into the corner of the net.

Five minutes later Borough had a let off when Webster appeared to bring Penny down as he cut into the penalty area, but Gloucester's penalty claims fell on deaf ears. Scott again outjumped the visitors' defence but his header lacked power. Noble blasted the ball high and wide from Ricky Chandler's cross before, seven minutes from the interval, Townsend made a break and set up Penny who saw his first shot blocked by Starkey but managed to hook home the rebound.

Gloucester stepped up the pace at the start of the second period and for the first time showed something of the form that has taken them to the top of the table. Chandler had a glimpse of an opening but he pulled his shot well wide before Noble saw his low effort skid across the face of the goal. Borough surged forward after weathering the storm and Martin Howles beat three men to set up a shooting chance for Waters, who saw his effort slide a foot wide of the post with Shaw scrambling across his line.

Nuneaton were now putting the visitors under pressure and Williams almost turned a fierce shot from Scott into his own net before Shaw plucked a high Mark Pollard cross out of the air with the big Borough striker breathing down his neck. Waters was only a couple of feet off target after Maurice Muir and Howles had been involved in the build-up.

But with just seven minutes remaining Borough were stunned as City grabbed the winner. Muir failed to clear and a low centre from Noble found Townsend and he turned to poke the ball past Starkey from close range. Borough pressed forward in search of an equaliser and could well have snatched a point when Shaw failed to hold a Dave Ward shot and Kevin Watts was inches away from applying the finishing touch.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 02-01-1989

Atherstone: Kendall, Olnier, Daniel, Jackson, Kane, Brain, Bradder, Smithers, Kennell, Rammell, Eastoe. **Subs:** Maddocks, Scoffham.

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Stephens, Webster, Hormantschuk, Pollard, Palgrave, Ward, Howles, Scott, Watts. **Subs:** Orton, Dewis.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough failed to halt the title charge of their neighbours, but

could easily have landed at least a share of the spoils in a full blooded local derby.

Atherstone had the edge in the early exchanges with Brain twice forcing his way through, first being halted by Webster and then putting a diving header over the top. After 15 minutes United created another glorious opportunity when Gary Bradder found Eastoe on the edge of the area and he flicked the ball on to Andy Rammell whose header lacked power and bounced into Wayne Starkey's arms. Peter Hormantschuk's heavy challenge on Rammell earned him a deserved booking while Dave Ward's indecisive challenge on Brain paved the way for Adders to steal a 22nd minute lead.

Bradder flighted the free-kick to the back post where Daniel ghosted between the flat footed Bateman and Webster to thump a firm header high in the roof of the net from the six yard box. Adders continued to dominate with Kennell having an effort hacked off the line by Bateman after a flowing four man move that had Borough in complete disarray but there was no let off in the 25th minute as the home team extended their advantage.

Eastoe's left wing corner was only half cleared by Stephens straight to Kennell, he switched the ball inside to Brain and though he made a hash of his first shot the midfielder still had time to toe end a low shot past Starkey's left hand and into the net.

The double blow stunned Borough but to their credit they lifted themselves with acting skipper Scott failing to make the most of a far post header from a Watts centre, the front-runner's effort being easily plucked out of the air by keeper Mark Kendall. Eastoe volleyed straight at Starkey just before the break and Smithers saw his looping header hooked clear by Bateman.



Kevin Watts climbs above Atherstone's Steve Jackson to cut Borough's deficit to 2-1.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough looked far more committed and disciplined in the second period as they finally came to grips with a United midfield that had dictated nearly all the play so far. Scott produced a neat pass that sent Martin Howles speeding towards the home area but after slipping past his marker the number eleven sliced his final shot well wide. In the 70th minute Borough clawed their way back into contention with a



delightfully taken goal from Watts that began a cut and thrust final quarter for the 1,300 crowd. Palgrave did the spadework out on the right flank and when his searching centre came into the area Watts outjumped Steve Jackson to put a firm ten yard header past Kendall's left hand and into the corner of the net.

Brain brought out a fine stop from Starkey as Adders battled to regain their two goal advantage although it was Borough who were unlucky as Scott deflected a Howles' cross against the post and into Kendall's grateful hands. With the game into injury time there was another escape for United as Palgrave crashed a powerful rising 20 yard drive that seemed destined for the roof of the net before Kane popped up to head to safety from beneath the crossbar.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-01-1989

Halesowen: Williams, Penn, Price (Pearce 60), Cash, Hermans, Hazlewood, Flynn, Spinks, P. Joinson, L. Joinson. **Sub:** Hancox.

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Muir, Bateman, Webster, Ward (Dewis 66), Pollard, Palgrave (Roberts 23), Scott, Watts, Howles.

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Paul Joinson grabbed a second half hat trick to virtually remove any lingering hopes that Borough might have had about promotion. Their third defeat in eight days means that it is now almost impossible to get back into the picture.

Halesowen made a bright start with Lee Joinson having a glimpse of goal after only a couple of minutes but he wanted too much time and Lee Bateman was able to block the shot. Malcolm Hazlewood fired high over the top from the edge of the area following a short free-kick before Borough put the home defence under pressure with some flowing football. Les Webster put a looping header over the top while Kevin Williams did well to collect a Hormantschuk free kick under pressure from Steve Scott.

Nuneaton were visibly growing in confidence and Kevin Watts got in a fine header from Maurice Muir's free-kick, but the ball flashed a foot wide. However, Borough made their superiority tell as they stunned the home supporters by scoring twice in three minutes. With 15 minutes gone Webster found Martin Howles who played a superb diagonal ball inside the full-back for Pollard to beat Williams from close range.

Borough fans were celebrating again when Scott won possession in the centre circle and found Pollard who freed Palgrave down the middle and he stepped inside Mark Penn before drilling home a low shot. Palgrave was then hacked down by Stuart Cash and carried off with a badly injured groin to give new signing Darren Roberts his first taste of action. Starkey reacted quickly when Bateman miskicked while Sean Flynn headed narrowly wide as Halesowen hit back.

Ten minutes before the interval the homes side cut the deficit. Borough failed to clear a cross from the left and Spinks hit a shot that took a deflection off Webster as it flew inside the near post. Shortly after Spinks scooped

the ball over the bar from just six yards out from Paul Joinson's centre.

Halesowen stepped up the pace at the start of the second period and Borough were pressed back. It came as no surprise when the home side got an equaliser ten minutes after the break with Paul Joinson taking advantage of some hesitancy at the heart of the Borough defence to fire past Starkey. Worse was to follow as three minutes later Town took the lead for the first time. Webster missed a long through ball, Bateman failed to get it back to Starkey and Paul Joinson again nipped in to lob the ball over Starkey and into the net.

Darren Roberts had a shot blocked and then Howles saw his rising drive superbly tipped over the top by Williams. Borough fought their way back but their hopes were destroyed seven minutes from time when Paul Joinson completed his hat-trick. The Halesowen ace marksman got the ball wide on the right and his cross-cum-centre completely deceived Starkey as it sailed into an empty net.

Borough Windfall

Nuneaton Borough will pick up £19,500 from Northampton Town following yesterday's £200,000 transfer deal which sent Eddie McGoldrick from the Cobblers to Crystal Palace. Borough had a sell on agreement which guaranteed them ten per cent of any future transfer over £5,000. The cash will be a big boost to the club's financial position.

Nuneaton Borough v Mile Oak Rovers 14-01-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Muir (Wilson 48), Stephens, Bateman, Ward, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Howles. **Sub:** Ricketts.

Mile Oak: Taylor, Bennets, Washbourne, Lippitt, Langston, French, Aulert, Fallon, Sherrin-Jones (Busby 57), Bourton, Jones (Aubery 78).

Borough welcomed Mile Oak Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough ended their barren spell with their first league victory since Boxing Day. Mark Pollard's 46th minute goal was enough to sink the visitors in a scrappy clash that offered little entertainment for the spectators.

Borough should have taken the lead as early as the second minute. Steve Scott found Martin Howles just inside the area and the little striker turned the ball square for Pollard but his shot lacked the necessary power and Garry Taylor saved low to his left. Kevin Watts put a cross wide before Borough had a let off when Alan Sherrin-Jones raced clear, but his poor shot was blocked by Starkey, who let the ball get away. The keeper recovered to save the follow up and Stephens completed the clearance. At the other end Taylor made a smart save from Pollard while Maurice Muir was booked for a foul on Aulert.

Hormantschuk made a clearance to deny Alan Bourton before Gavin Jones found his way into the referee's notebook for a foul on Brian Palgrave. Borough finished the half with a flourish as Dave Ward curled a free-kick inches over the top from the edge of the box and Stephens saw a header fly over the top.



But Borough got the break they were looking for just sixty seconds after the break. A low cross from the right found Howles and he turned smartly past his marker and teed up the ball for Pollard to toe end wide of Taylor's right hand from just inside the area. Ali Wilson came on for his Borough debut in place of Muir and shortly afterwards Bourton became the third booking of the afternoon following a foul on Hormantschuk. Borough missed a clear-cut chance to put the issue beyond doubt.

Ward played a fine diagonal ball into the penalty area, Howles dummied it and Pollard went past full-back Darren Washbourne but put his shot high over the top as the keeper came out. The visitors had little to offer but heart, although they might have snatched an equaliser 15 minutes from time when Jones fired in a low cross from the left and Starkey had to produce a brave save at Bourton's feet. But Taylor was the busier of the two goalkeepers and kept his side in the hunt with a fine save from Ward after the Borough midfielder had worked a neat one-two with Howles.

Scott then hooked a shot well wide after two Mile Oak defenders had got in each other's way from a Hormantschuk free-kick and shortly before the end Ward and Scott both went close to increasing Borough's lead.

Borough Boss Announces Shake-Up

Nuneaton Borough boss Kirk Stephens has announced a shake-up in a bid to make a final push for promotion. Stephens has released Alan Ricketts and Maurice Muir and is planning to bring new blood into the side. Ricketts and Muir's release means that newcomers Darren Roberts, Lee Scriggins and Ali Wilson will be given a chance to make their mark.

Rushden Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-01-1989

Rushden: Taylor, Timlin (Wall 76), Clipston (O'Connell 74), McGuire, Garrett, McIlwain, Robinson, Kirkup, Shrieves, Beards, York.

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Wilson, Ward, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts (Howles 75). **Sub:** Stephens.

Borough travelled to Heyden Road to play Rushden Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Despite leading 2-0 with only three minutes left to play, Borough conceded two late goals, allowing high-flying Rushden to draw level in a game they must have thought was beyond recall. Even then, Borough tossed away the points by missing an injury time penalty.

Rushden were the first to show and forced a corner from their first attack, but Wayne Starkey comfortably cut out Paul York's flag-kick. There was danger for Borough when Stuart Beards got free in the box, however, Starkey saved low to his left at the expense of a corner. Terry Shrieves clipped a shot wide after 13 minutes before Starkey did well to parry a long range shot from McGuire, which had taken a deflection.

Borough stunned the home fans by taking the lead with their first serious attack. Steve Scott put Roberts away and

he stepped round keeper Mark Taylor to slot the ball home from a narrow angle. Waters was booked for bringing down Shrieves as he threatened to break clear and at the other end Mark Pollard failed to get in a shot after Scott had flicked on a left wing corner.

Starkey again had to be alert to keep out a goal-bound drive from Andy Kirkup but Borough hit back to end the half with a flourish. Man of the match Brian Palgrave freed Scott with a delightful ball and the big striker fired in a fierce rising shot that beat Taylor but flashed inches over the bar. Pollard showed exquisite skill in the mud to slip past Gary Clipston but put his shot straight at the keeper and then Palgrave was crowded out after a superb break from midfield.

Kirkup was only inches away from a York centre as it flashed across the Nuneaton goalmouth. On the hour mark Borough grabbed a second goal. Kevin Watts cut in from the right and then Taylor failed to hold the Nuneaton midfielder's shot, Roberts was ideally positioned to steer the rebound into the corner of the net.

Borough were dealt a body-blow when Waters was sent off for a second bookable offence. Despite being down to ten men, Borough looked the better of the two teams and were unlucky not to increase their lead. Scott was crowded out and failed to get in a shot and then Howles raced clear and his chip from the edge of the box seemed goalbound as it soared over Taylor but the ball struck the angle and went over.

Shrieves beat Starkey with a low shot which hit the foot of the post, but three minutes from the end Shrieves found himself clear on the edge of the box and his left foot shot beat Starkey low to his right. Two minutes later Town snatched an equaliser when the Borough defence failed to clear a through ball and Beards fired a shot into the top right hand corner.

In spite of those body blows, Borough still had a golden chance to snatch victory when they were awarded a penalty with the game already deep in injury time. A free-kick on the right was needlessly handled by Garrett, but Scott's spot kick was not struck with sufficient power and Taylor saved.

Former Borough Player Dies

Former Nuneaton Borough striker Mark Cunningham collapsed and died while playing in a Sunday league match at Coseley last weekend. Cunningham, whose brother Tony is leading scorer for Blackpool, was having only his third game for Bannons FC. He had just had a shot saved but as he ran back he slumped to the ground, swallowing his tongue in the process. Although officials desperately tried to revive him, Cunningham died on the way to hospital.

Kelly Not To Face Prosecution

Suspended Nuneaton Borough Football Club chairman Noel Kelly will not face criminal proceedings in connection with his running of the club, it was revealed today. Police, who were called in to investigate the club's affairs in November 1987, said that they were taking no further action against Mr Kelly.

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The 52-year-old Irishman, who was chairman of the club for ten years, has been locked in a bitter boardroom battle for control of the town's soccer club with Mr Joe Shooter, the vice-chairman.

Mr Kelly said: "I knew they wouldn't find anything as there was nothing to hide. It is a pity that they had to spend so much time and effort on finding this out for themselves. I am getting advice from my lawyers now on the possibility of suing for damages."...

Nuneaton Borough v Kings Lynn 28-01-1989

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Wilson, Ward (Stephens 70), L. Webster, Waters, Pollard (Scriggins 62), Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts.

Kings Lynn: Carr, Carter, Stewart, M. Cozens, Adams, Benning, Eves, Blake (Crotwell 18), Hooton, T. Webster, Anderson. Sub: J. Cozens.

Borough welcomed Kings Lynn to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough returned to winning ways with a hard-earned but unimpressive success. First-half goals from Darren Roberts and Steve Scott put them in control but Borough failed to press home their advantage.

King's Lynn, looking for their first away win of the season, made a positive start with Mark Cozens firing an early free-kick narrowly over the bar. There was more danger for Borough when Wayne Starkey failed to hold Andy Stewart's high ball but Lee Bateman was on hand to clear. Nuneaton were struggling to get into their stride and it took a timely tackle from Les Webster to halt Paul Hooton as he looked like breaking clear. Mark Pollard found space on the right as Borough at last pressed forward, but Stewart recovered well to cut out the winger's centre.



Borough striker Steve Scott eludes his marker to fire in a shot that flew across the face of the goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But the Manor Park side were now beginning to put the visitors under pressure and 11 minutes before the interval Borough got the vital breakthrough. Stewart, attempting a back pass to Andy Carr, only succeeded in finding Roberts and he side-stepped the keeper before firing into an empty

net. Pollard then sliced a shot well wide, but seconds before the break Borough increased their lead when Kevin Watts got in a fine cross from the right and Scott swept the ball wide of Carr and into the corner of the net.

Borough continued to press forward at the start of the second period and Clive Adams rescued the Linnets with a fine tackle on Roberts as he was in the act of shooting. Ade Waters then fired high over the top following an indirect free kick just inside the box before Nuneaton missed a clear cut chance to stretch their lead. Brian Palgrave found Scott in front of goal with a superb ball from the left, but the big striker put the ball high and wide from six yards with just the keeper to beat.

Webster fired a free-kick wide of the far post after Scriggins had been fouled on the edge of the area. But with 17 minutes left Borough had a shock as King's Lynn cut the deficit with a goal out of the blue. A ball down the middle caught the home defence appealing for offside and Paul Benning scored with comparative ease. Roberts wasted a good chance as Borough hit back after Watts and Scriggins had combined well. However, the visitors were now believing that they could get a share of the spoils and Borough had a let-off when they failed to pick up Willie Anderson for Chris Crotwell's cross, but he put his close range header straight at Starkey

Nuneaton Borough v Ashtree Highfield 04-02-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Wilson, Stephens, Webster, Howles, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts. Subs: Scriggins, Dewis.

Ashtree: Carmichael, Wells, Lippitt, Astley, Day (Nicholls 74), Edwards (Hamilton 74), East, Jones, Civil, Foster, Barrows.

Borough welcomed Ashtree Highfield to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Steve Scott and Mark Pollard were the heroes as Borough produced a devastating goal burst. Between them they scored three times in a six minute blitz midway through the second half.



Borough striker Steve Scott gleefully puts the ball into the net to give his side a 66th minutes lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough had an early chance when Darren Roberts caught Paul Lippitt in possession in the penalty area but then the ball ran loose John Carmichael was perfectly positioned to gather Kevin Watts' shot. Scott then got free down the left and drilled

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over a dipping centre that the Ashtree keeper confidently cut out at the near post. But with 15 minutes gone the visitors missed a glorious chance to go ahead. Borough only partially cleared a left wing corner and when Stan Jones knocked the ball back into the goalmouth Gary Foster failed to force the ball past Wayne Starkey from close range.

There was more danger for Nuneaton when Hormantschuk played a careless ball across the edge of the penalty area but Ali Wilson recovered to clear. Both sides were struggling to come to terms with the conditions but Borough produced a neat four-man move that ended with Roberts hitting a shot on the volley that Carmichael held under the bar. However, Nuneaton had a narrow escape after 30 minutes with Hormantschuk putting them in trouble. The full-back failed to get a long through ball back to Starkey, leaving Neil Civil clear, but Starkey was out quickly to turn the shot away for a corner. Borough finished the half strongly and Watts made himself space but chipped his effort well wide, while Carmichael saved from Scott.

Pollard had an opening at the start of the second period but his shot lacked power and Carmichael gathered comfortably. Then ten minutes after the break Ashtree thought they had gone ahead. Lippitt's free-kick beat Starkey but the referee had clearly indicated that it was indirect and the result was a Borough goal kick. Borough were now taking a firmer grip on the game and Webster planted a header narrowly over.

The visitors were being pushed back and Watts was unlucky not to break the deadlock when his shot beat Carmichael but bounced to safety off the foot of the post. But Ashtree were not to benefit from their good fortune as Borough tore them apart with three goals in a six minute spell. The initial breakthrough came after 66 minutes with central defender Anton Day and Carmichael being involved in a mix-up allowing Scott to take advantage and slip the ball home from a narrow angle.

Two minutes later Borough stretched their lead as Pollard was unmarked for a left-wing corner by Howles and scored with a downward header. Any hopes Ashtree might have had of being able to salvage a point disappeared after 72 minutes when Scott cheekily back-heeled the third goal from a Watts' cross after Brian Palgrave had set the midfielder clear. The visitors were lucky not to concede more as Scott had a header saved by Carmichael and then with time running out Roberts had an effort cleared off the line by Steve Astley.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 14-02-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Wilson, Stephens, Webster, Ward, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts. **Subs:** Bateman, Dewis.

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

Borough had Peter Hormantschuk sent off as they slipped to a narrow defeat against the championship hopefuls. The former Coventry City full-back got his marching orders eight minutes from the end for his second bookable offence.

Borough made a bright start despite the windy conditions and Hormantschuk floated a first minute free-kick across the Tamworth area with both Scott and Les Webster only inches away from turning it in. Myers fired high over the top after Borough had only partially cleared a Martin Devaney free-kick while at the other end Darren Roberts caused some consternation in the home defence and Danny McCormack and keeper Dale Belford almost made a mess of a back pass.

Brian Palgrave made two fine breaks through the middle but failed to get in a shot on either occasion, then Carl Rathbone planted a header wide of the post from a Myers corner. Borough might have snatched the lead midway through the half when Kevin Watts drilled in a low cross from the right but the ball flicked off the heel of Bobby Atkins and away from the inrushing Scott.

Tamworth missed a chance to break the deadlock when Paul Heaton was clean through after Ali Wilson failed to cut out a long clearance by Andy Foote, but the striker shot tamely at Wayne Starkey. However, with 40 minutes gone the home side went in front. Devaney was allowed to get in a centre from the left, Rathbone flicked it on at the near post and Myers scored from close range.

Borough's defence was in a tangle at the start of the second period and they only managed to scramble away a free-kick by Steve Cartwright at the second attempt before Hormantschuk and McCormack were booked following a clash on the half-way line. Borough should have been level seven minutes into the second half when Hormantschuk hit a fine ball that caught the Tamworth defence square putting Scott clear but he hammered his shot wide as Belford came out to meet him.

Scott glanced a header wide before Tamworth had another let-off. Belford safely gathered a through ball and attempted to throw it out to full-back Corrigan Lockett. The ball hit Roberts on the back but the home defence recovered to scramble the ball clear. With just eight minutes left Hormantschuk was adjudged to have fouled Devaney and was sent off. Even then Borough might have snatched a point when Kirk Stephens freed Darren Roberts with a superb ball. When the winger pulled it across the middle, the Tamworth defence failed to clear the danger but Dave Ward's fierce left foot volley beat Belford but was inches over the bar.

Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-1989

Bilston: Hughes, Kemp, Wynn, Freeman, Chapman, Bradley, O'Hara, Richards, Grant, Branch (Russon 82), Alsop. **Sub:** Wood.

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Wilson, Stephens, Webster, Ward, Pollard (Field 45), Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts. **Sub:** Dewis.

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

Borough returned to winning ways with a thoroughly professional performance. Steve Scott's second half header was all that separated the sides but it was enough to steer his side to a well-deserved victory.



Borough pressed forward from the start and when Kevin Watts intercepted a poor clearance by Steve Wynn he found Mark Pollard but his weak effort was easily cleared by the home defence. Brian Palgrave then neatly beat Mark Freeman but he dragged his shot well wide before Bilston pressed forward to test the Borough defence. Ali Wilson cleared Nick Alsop's deep centre with Robbie Grant waiting to pounce and Les Webster cut out a dangerous looking ball from Mick Richards at full stretch.

Watts freed Darren Roberts wide on the right and his low centre had the home defence in a tangle before Stuart Bradley made a timely clearance to rob Palgrave. Bilston hit back for Bradley to shoot high and wide from the edge of the box before Borough had the ball in the net, but it was given offside. With half-time approaching Bilston might have taken the lead but Alsop, unmarked at the far post for a Richards cross, chose to head the ball back across the area instead of going for goal and the chance was lost.

Ruben Field replaced Pollard at the start of the second period and Borough, now with the wind at their backs, stepped up the pace. Scott appeared to be pushed by Jon Chapman as he burst into the box but the referee dashed Borough's hopes by awarding the home side a free kick. However, Borough did not have to wait for long before they made the vital breakthrough with Scott putting them in front just eight minutes after the restart.

Wilson took a long throw-in from the left and Scott got up above Chapman to get in a back header that sailed on the wind over Hughes and crept in at the far post. Borough now had their tails up and Palgrave put Watts away down the right but his centre drifted behind on the wind and then Wilson fired a 25 yarder narrowly wide. Borough had a close call midway through the half as Gerry O'Hara broke clear, but Dave Ward recovered to get in a saving tackle on the edge of the box. However, the ball broke to Richards and when Wayne Starkey failed to hold his shot, O'Hara stabbed the rebound over the top from eight yards.

However, Borough were quickly back on the attack with Palgrave freeing Roberts, only for the Nuneaton striker to delay his shot and Freeman got back to clear the danger. Roberts then hooked in a cross from the right that Hughes could only palm up in the air but Freeman completed the clearance at the expense of a corner with Scott moving in for the kill. Freeman went close for the home side with just two minutes left, but Hormantschuk blocked his header on the line and Starkey completed the clearance. Borough went close right at the death when Scott flicked on a Ward cross at the near post and Watts beat Hughes to the ball but his effort was agonisingly wide of the upright.

Howles Leaves Borough

Martin Howles and Nuneaton Borough have parted company by mutual consent. The diminutive midfielder left Manor Park at the weekend and is now looking for another club.

Ben Wannacott Dies

Ben Wannacott, one of the first professional footballers to play at Nuneaton Borough, has died at the age of 79. Mr Wannacott, who lived in Templar Court, Princes Street, joined Nuneaton Town in the 1933-34 season, having played at Northampton Town and Mansfield, in what was the beginning of an illustrious career in which he won the reputation as one of the most versatile players in the country.

John Moore, long time programme editor at Manor Park, said: "Ben was a brilliant player. He left Nuneaton Town to go to the Racing Club de Calais in France, where he made 49 appearances and scored seven goals.

"He eventually returned to join Nuneaton Borough and was a major part of providing entertaining football during the war years."

Mr Wannacott went on to become a long serving trainer/coach at Manor Park right through until the late 1950s. Friend and club colleague Stan Marshall said of him: "He was a marvellous character and a great trainer. He could remember every match in detail including every kick of the ball."

Mr Wannacott had been suffering from cancer for some time before his death. He leaves behind his wife Ethel, sons Graham and Michael and their families.

Borough Must Replay Wellingborough Game

Nuneaton Borough have been ordered to replay their league game against Wellingborough Town. The game originally took place at Manor Park in November when a late Alan Ricketts goal gave them victory. However, Ade Waters was in the side that day while under suspension having reached 21 points including four bookings when he was at Bedworth.

Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 25-02-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Wilson, Ward (Woodiwiss 82), Webster, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts (Field 68), Roberts.

Banbury: Baker, Mitchell, Cousins, Woodland, Bowyer, Sullivan, Forbes, Stratford, Rayson, Pearson, Lever. Subs: Murphy, Fowler.

Borough welcomed Banbury United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Steve Scott scored his first hat-trick for Borough to steer the club to their biggest win of the season. The big striker has now been on target seven times in the last five matches.

Borough took a firm grip from the start and the visitors' defence was under early pressure as Brian Palgrave made two fine breaks from midfield. Karlton Stratford had a shot blocked by Les Webster as Banbury pushed forward, but Nuneaton were quickly back on the attack with Dave Ward seeing his diving header fly narrowly over the top.

With just 13 minutes gone Borough got the breakthrough they were looking for. Keiran Sullivan hit a careless backpass and Watts showed excellent anticipation to intercept and tuck the ball past Keith Baker. Scott then headed across the

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face of the Banbury goal after Darren Roberts had provided the opening and Webster put a header straight at the keeper as Borough continued to dominate. But the pressure paid off as Nuneaton increased their lead after 25 minutes. Roberts showed excellent control to bring down a long clearance by Webster and he put Scott clear to tuck the ball into the corner despite Baker getting a hand to the shot.

It was all Borough and the visitors were fortunate not to fall further behind when Sullivan cleared off the line from Scott with Baker well beaten. Palgrave worked a delightful one-two with Scott on the edge of the Banbury area but his fiercely struck volley flew a foot over the bar. Borough should have extended their lead at the start of the second period when Scott flicked on a free-kick but Mark Pollard hooked it over from six yards.

However, ten minutes after half-time Borough put the game beyond recall for the visitors. Palgrave and Ward combined to put Ali Wilson clear down the left and the full-back's measured cross was headed in at the far post by Scott. Banbury were struggling to put together a worthwhile move and they were dealt a double blow midway through the half as Borough scored twice in a minute. A long ball put Scott in possession down the middle after 66 minutes and the Borough striker held off Dave Woodland before drilling a low left-footer into the right hand corner.

The visitors did not have time to recover before they were even further behind. Wilson was again the provider when he got clear on the left and his deep cross left Watts with a simple header at the far post. Shortly afterwards Ruben Field replaced Watts and the youngster was immediately involved in a fine move that could have brought Borough another goal. Field battled well to win the ball in the right hand corner and found Peter Hormantschuk. The Borough full-back swept a first time cross into the box for Roberts to flash in a header that beat Baker but hit the bar and flew over the top.

Jason Woodiwiss came on for his first senior outing and showing no signs of apprehension, he quickly made his mark with a crunching challenge on Sullivan that left the Banbury midfielder prostrate. Borough had a couple of chances towards the end of the game, but the score remained 5-0.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 04-03-1989

Stourbridge: Pomroy, Duncombe, Claxton, Horne, Snape, Nicklin, Bowater, Powell, Higgins, Anslow, Smith. **Subs:** Fitzpatrick, Chambers.

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Wilson, Ward, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts (Mitchell 77). **Sub:** Woodiwiss.

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

Sloppy Borough turned back the clock to reveal all their old bad habits as they threw away two points. Both sides struggled to find any rhythm during a very scrappy opening with neither goal coming under any sort of threat during the early stages.

Lewis Claxton got in a timely tackle to thwart a Borough attack before Ray Anslow made space as the home side produced a quick counter attack, but the ball drifted out for a goal kick. Pomroy rushed off his line to deny Scott before Borough got a grip and Pomroy was forced to save, diving to his left to hold a Dave Ward free-kick. Scott outjumped John Horne to flick on a long throw in by Ali Wilson with Watts just unable to apply the finishing touch.

With half-time approaching Borough came within inches of breaking the deadlock. An Ade Waters' free-kick caused some anxiety in the home defence and with Darren Roberts closing in Carl Nicklin headed the ball over his keeper and was relieved to see it pass narrowly wide of the goal.

Borough had a scare at the start of the second half when they were caught pushing forward but when Bowater freed John Powell on the right he wasted the opportunity by planting his centre straight in Wayne Starkey's arms. Roberts then had a glimpse of an opening as he ran at the home defence but he wanted too much time to get in his shot and Horne recovered to clear the danger. However, ten minutes after the restart Borough took the lead. Watts got Bateman clear on the right and when Pomroy failed to hold the full-back's sharp cross, Scott pounced to prod the ball home from close range.

Borough might have increased their lead half way through the half when Mark Pollard completely miscued a Wilson centre, but almost made amends moments later with a rising shot that flew a foot over the bar. Bowater hooked a shot high over the top in a rare Stourbridge raid. Webster hooked a shot into the roof of the visitors net, but Scott was given offside. With five minutes left Gary Mitchell was pulled back by Pomroy, but no penalty was awarded.

With time running out the Borough defence got in a tangle, but Waters recovered to guide the ball safely back to Starkey. But they failed to learn their lesson and as the match moved into injury time they were caught square as Smith raced through the middle to snatch a shock equaliser.

Willenhall Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-03-1989

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Wilson, Ward, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts. **Subs:** Field, Everitt.

Borough travelled to Noose Lane to play Willenhall Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough were full value for their win as their conviction and confidence returned in abundance. However, they did not have it all their own way and they had to come from behind before securing the three points.

Willenhall were the first to threaten when Jonathan Turner hit a dipping drive just a foot over the bar from the edge of the box. The home side was fortunate to survive when Ward headed a Kevin Watts centre back across the face of the goal and the ball was scrambled clear with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

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Hector Wynter got the ball through to Adam Nicholls but he dragged his shot across the face of the goal. But the best chance so far fell to Nicholls when a Wynter centre from the right found him all alone in front of goal, but he volleyed high over the top from eight yards. Borough hit back and Watts forced a fine diving save from Nick Griffiths after Dave Ward had set up the chance with a superb ball inside the full-back.

Mark Pollard missed a clear cut chance, heading wide from close range at the start of the second period before Borough went behind ten minutes after the interval. The Nuneaton defence failed to clear a long free-kick by Sean Hayward and Robert Greene superbly volleyed past Wayne Starkey from the edge of the penalty area. But the Willenhall celebrations were cut short as Borough dealt them a double body blow by scoring twice in a two minute spell.

Just three minutes after the home side had broken the deadlock Les Webster put Borough back on level terms as he firmly headed home Pollard's left wing corner. Then a flowing five man move saw Nuneaton go in front. Watts found Brian Palgrave with a throw in, he freed Pollard down the right and his low centre picked out Steve Scott in the penalty area. The big striker then produced a superb turn to lose his marker and he turned the ball across the face of the goal for Darren Roberts to score from close range.

Watts then had an effort turned over the top by Nicholls before Starkey had to produce a fine save to keep out a fierce shot from Wynter. But seven minutes from the end Borough put the issue beyond doubt when Wilson found Pollard in the area and he calmly rounded the keeper to slip the ball into an empty net.

Shearer Joins Bournemouth

Former Nuneaton Borough midfielder Peter Shearer has signed for Second Division Bournemouth in an £18,000 deal. The 22-year-old, who moved from Manor Park to Cheltenham during the close season for £7,000, signed for the South Coast outfit earlier this week and Borough will receive £5,000 from the move as part of their agreement with Cheltenham.

Nuneaton Boro' v Forest Green Rovers 11-03-1989

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Wilson, Ward, Webster, Waters, Pollard (Probert 74), Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts. **Sub:** Everitt.

Forest Green: Roberts, Rymell, Parselle, Rogers, O'Leary, Relish, Wilton, Webb, Horwat, Doughty, McNeill. **Subs:** Smith, Howells.

Borough welcomed Forest Green Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Below par Borough were made to pay a dear price for defensive lapses. Skipper Ade Waters was at fault for Forest Green's first goal by Steve Doughty, but made amends by grabbing the equaliser shortly before the break.

Borough were the first to threaten when Brian Palgrave released Darren Roberts down the left but he pulled his shot into the side netting after cutting into the penalty area.

Forest Green keeper Kevin Roberts did well to punch away a cross from Mark Pollard under pressure from Steve Scott before Waters fired an effort wide from the edge of the box. Nuneaton continued to press forward and forced three corners in quick succession but the determined visitors' defence held firm.

Lee Bateman then hit a shot straight at the keeper but Borough had a shock on the half-hour mark as Forest Green snatched the lead with virtually their first attack of the game. Waters allowed Peter Horwat to get clear into the area, Wayne Starkey was slow to react, and his low centre to the far post left Doughty with a simple tap in. Borough hit back and ten minutes before the interval they were denied a blatant penalty when the referee turned down their heated appeals after Scott had been pushed in the back by Graham Rogers.



Darren Roberts glides away from a tackle during Borough's 2-1 defeat to Forest Green Rovers.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But seven minutes later Borough were back on level terms. The visitors only cleared a Dave Ward right wing corner to the edge of the box and Waters drilled a low drive into the bottom left hand corner. Darren Roberts then had a shot comfortably held by the keeper but almost on the half-time whistle there was another setback for Borough as they conceded a second gift goal. John Relish floated a free-kick into the box from the left hand side, Starkey came out, but failed to get there and Doughty got a flick with his head and the ball looped into an empty net.

Darren Roberts had a shot charged down at the start of the second half and Kevin Watts was crowded out on the edge of the area. Doughty shot over the bar from close in on the hour mark as Borough found it difficult to break down the visitors' packed defence, but a free-kick from Waters caused problems and Mark Rymell was happy to hook the ball away with Scott closing in. Bateman saw his 25 yard effort tipped over the bar by the keeper, while Webster had an effort blocked from

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Ward's cross. Steve Probert replaced Pollard and shortly afterwards a long throw in was flicked on by Darren Roberts but his namesake in the visitors' goal punched well to clear the danger. Scott had a shot deflected for a corner and with time running out Palgrave cut into the box but his effort was blocked as the visitors grimly hung onto their lead.

Peter McBean To Sign

Striker Peter McBean will sign for Nuneaton Borough tonight and will be eligible to make his debut at league leaders Gloucester City on Saturday. The Coventry Sporting player has agreed to join the Manor Park club after talks with Borough boss Kirk Stephens over the weekend.

Nuneaton Boro' v Wellingborough Town 13-03-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk (Bateman 56), Wilson, Probert, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Roberts (Field 86).

Wellingborough: Roach, Bendon, Till (Payne 70), Waite, Suddards, Jenkins, Geary, Clipston, Massey, Green, Kingston. **Sub:** Shopland

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

Borough quickly bounced back to winning ways with a convincing victory. Two goals from Steve Scott and further efforts from Steve Probert and Ruban Field emphasised their superiority. But Borough made hard work of beating the bottom of the league outfit.

Neil Roach in the visitors goal was quickly in action, safely clutching a Scott header from close range. With 20 minutes gone Borough were denied a blatant penalty after Mark Pollard sent Hormantschuk racing into the penalty area where he was brought down by Steve Till, but the referee ignored appeals.

Midway through the half Geary got away down the middle with the Borough defence looking for an offside flag, but Hormantschuk brought him down on the edge of the area and the free kick came to nothing. Borough were in trouble again as Geary intercepted a back pass by Ali Wilson and went round Wayne Starkey but he pulled his shot across the face of the goal from a narrow angle.

It took a fine save from Roach to keep Borough at bay and the keeper then acrobatically turned a Scott effort over the top. Peter Green beat Starkey to a through ball and flicked the ball over the keeper but Kevin Watts raced back to head the ball off the line. But Borough got the breakthrough just three minutes after the break. Wilson floated in a free-kick and the ball fell nicely for Scott to prod home from close range. Five minutes later Nuneaton tightened their grip with a goal from Probert. Wellingborough failed to clear a ball wide on the left hand edge of the area and Hormantschuk whipped in a far post centre that Probert firmly headed into the top corner.

Starkey made a save from Andy Kingston, while Kevin Payne replaced Till and scored with virtually his first touch. Richard Massey put Payne away down the left and he cut into the area

before unleashing a blistering left-foot drive past Starkey into the roof of the net. There were a couple of anxious moments for Borough as the visitors sensed they might snatch an equaliser in the dying stages. But Nuneaton put the game beyond the reach of the visitors seven minutes from the end when Scott turned in a low Wilson centre. Then, right on the final whistle, Field, who had just come on for Darren Roberts, put the icing on the cake with a cracking left-foot drive into the far corner of the net.

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Wilson, Probert, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, McBean. **Subs:** Bateman, Roberts.

Borough travelled to Meadow Park to play Gloucester City in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough turned in a superb all round performance, inflicting the first home defeat of the season on the league leaders. Borough started the game playing into the teeth of a strong wind and were forced to concede four corners in a hectic third minute. They defended well and soon settled into a rhythm that was abruptly shattered in the sixth minute when Kevin Watts was felled by a crude challenge from Gary Fulbrooke.

The home side should have opened the scoring in the 16th minute when a superb through ball from Wayne Noble put Chris Townsend clear of a square Borough defence, but the striker pushed the ball too far in front of him enabling Wayne Starkey to advance and force him to push his shot wide. The game was scrappy mainly due to the conditions and Borough's cause was not helped in the 21st minute when Watts, who had clearly not fully recovered from his earlier problems, limped off to be replaced by Roberts.

But Borough almost opened the scoring in the 32nd minute when a crossfield ball from Mark Pollard was spectacularly if hopefully volleyed towards goal by Steve Scott on the far edge of the box, an effort that appeared to be sailing over the bar, but which was held up in the strong wind, forcing home keeper John Shaw into a desperate scrambled save at the far post.

Townsend once more shot wide in the 39th minute, but just three minutes later as Borough looked like safely reaching the haven of half-time, Gloucester opened the scoring with a rare goal from competitive midfield man Martin Lander. The ball was only half cleared on the right and when it was played back to the edge of the box it sat up invitingly for Lander to help the ball goalwards with his left foot, floating it in at the far post.

If the first half ended badly for Borough the second could hardly have started better with McBean scoring a superb equaliser after only 23 seconds. The ball was played back to keeper Starkey from the kick off and his long kick upfield saw Scott and Fulbrooke both jump but miss the ball that ran to McBean on the edge of the area. The ex-Bedworth man turning and hitting a precise right foot shot across Shaw and into the corner of the net.

Borough continued to press and were not to be denied and took the lead in the 72nd minute. Mark Pollard held the ball up well on the right before playing it back to Hormantschuk who played a probing early ball into the box, Scott got up well to direct his header goalwards and it sailed over Shaw and into the net for the striker's 13th goal in 22 games since his arrival.

Gloucester Want Webster

Nuneaton Borough find themselves facing a tough battle to hold on to their on-loan central defender Les Webster. The big Geordie, who moved to Manor Park last December from Northampton Town, is wanted by Gloucester City. The Beazer Homes Midland Division league leaders have had a cash offer for the player accepted by the Cobblers. But Borough are determined that they will do all in their power to keep the popular Webster and have matched City's bid.

Borough's Walking Wounded



Nuneaton Borough's sponsored walk was reaching its climax at Manor Park this afternoon with more than £3,000 expected to be raised from the event. The 100-mile trek began on Tuesday at Wembley Stadium with the weary walkers expected to arrive at the ground before the kick-off for the Borough versus Atherstone local derby. Borough vice-chairman John Harris, marketing executive Les Green and director Tony Sandy have faced wind, rain, sleet and snow during their long journey – weather conditions that have unfortunately taken their toll. Both Green and Sandy were struggling to be fit and ready for the closing stages of the walk today, although Harris is still going strong.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 25-03-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk (Bateman 53), Everitt, Probert, Webster, Waters, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, McBean. **Sub:** Roberts.
Atherstone: Spencer, Olnier, Sherwood, Brain (Daniel 73), Dixey, Jackson, Lewis, Parker, Bradder, Rammell, Kennell. **Sub:** Haynes.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Determined Borough emphasised their growing potential with a convincing win. Kirk Stephens' side, now with just two defeats in their last 13 matches, were full value for their win, which seriously damaged Atherstone's promotion push.

Adders were the first to threaten and Ian Sherwood floated a third minute free-kick narrowly wide of the far post with Wayne Starkey struggling across his line. But Borough stunned the visitors as they hit back to snatch the lead after only seven minutes with a fine goal. Palgrave found himself space wide on the left and when he crossed to the edge of the area, Webster touched the ball on and Scott turned sharply to drill a left footer wide of Spencer and into the far corner.



Peter McBean raises his arms in glee as Mark Pollard (out of picture), beats Lee Spencer to put Borough in front.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Atherstone immediately pushed forward in search of an equaliser and a teasing cross from Mark Lewis caused hesitancy in the Borough defence before Leigh Everitt cleared at the expense of a corner. Nuneaton were fortunate to hang on to their lead after 15 minutes when the woodwork saved them twice in the space of a few seconds. Lewis saw his header strike a post after the home defence had failed to cut out a right wing cross and then Waters headed against his own bar as he attempted to clear.

Hormantschuk was booked for a foul on Lewis before Waters fired a free-kick over the top. But after 31 minutes Adders were level with a gift goal. Webster easily cut out a long ball down the middle but when challenged by Andy Rammell he gently lobbed the ball over Starkey and into an empty net. Rob Kennell then had an opening as he raced clear, but he delayed his shot and Starkey did well to block the effort.

As the half drew to a close, Waters fired a free-kick straight at Spencer before Bobby Parker found his way into the referee's notebook for dissent. Palgrave was hacked down on the edge of the Atherstone penalty area as he burst through at the start of the second period, and then Lee Bateman replaced the limping Hormantschuk. Scott fired across the face of the goal after cutting inside Richard Dixey.

Dixey almost turned the ball over his own keeper from a Scott left wing centre but Borough were not to be denied and regained the lead after 65 minutes. McBean got possession in the centre circle and played a neat ball into the path of the fast breaking Bateman. The Borough full-back beat Sherwood and cut into the box before drilling in a hard low ball that Pollard hammered home from close range.

McBean then turned well on the edge of the area but his shot lacked power. Borough then put the game beyond Atherstone's reach after Probert got free on the left and whipped over a fine cross that Spencer punched well under pressure. But Atherstone failed to clear the danger and the ball was quickly knocked back into the box where McBean headed home at the far post. Before the final whistle Pollard clipped an effort over the top after beating Dixey wide on the left and then the visitors' defence was virtually without cover as Watts broke down the middle, but Jackson cut out the pass with both McBean and Pollard waiting to pounce.

Coventry Sporting v Nuneaton Borough 27-03-1989

Sporting: Stephenson, Willis, London, Shaw, Williams, Hall, Bodkin, Crichton (Curtis 64), Johnson, Evatt, Kane. **Sub:** McStay.

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Everitt, Probert (Roberts 68), Webster, Neale, Pollard, Palgrave, Scott, Watts, McBean. **Sub:** Woodiwiss.

Borough travelled to Canley to play Coventry Sporting in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough had to be satisfied with a point from a scrappy encounter. Borough were full of confidence but failed to come to terms with the appalling playing surface.

Borough produced the first threat after five minutes. Sporting failed to clear a corner from the right and when Brian Palgrave knocked the ball back into the box Steve Scott just got his toe to it but Neil Stephenson gathered easily. The home side hit back and Albert Johnson almost got it when a Neale header failed to reach Wayne Starkey but the keeper deflected the ball for a corner. Scott got up well to head down a long clearance by Starkey but Pollard's shot was blocked by Paul London.

Nuneaton had an anxious moment when they were caught square at the back and Johnson burst into the box but Starkey forced him wide and Lee Bateman completed the clearance. Seven minutes before the break it took a tremendous save from Stephenson to stop Borough taking the lead. Mark Pollard got in a deep cross from the right and Scott hit a fine volley that looked a goal all the way until the

Sporting keeper flung himself to his right to beat the ball away. With half-time approaching Les Webster produced a timely tackle to halt Ian Evatt and then Starkey denied the Sporting striker at the expense of a corner.

Borough came close to breaking the deadlock early in the second period when Webster turned a low ball across the goalmouth and Kevin Watts saw his close range effort beaten out by Stephenson and Watts fired the rebound high over the top. But midway through the half Nuneaton had a let off. Johnson was not picked up for a Kevin Kane cross but the big striker put a free header well wide of the post.

Bateman then recovered well to rob Kevin Curtis after he had been put clear by Johnson while at the other end Stephenson again came to Sporting's rescue when he turned away Scott's header under pressure from Peter McBean. Substitute Darren Roberts, on for Steve Probert, looked to have a chance to snatch a late winner, but as he burst into the penalty area yet another terrible bounce took the ball away from him at the crucial moment.

New Stand Taking Shape



Borough's new stand is beginning to take shape with all the steelwork expected to be completed within the next week. The supports have been put into place while the roof will be fitted within the next few days as the £25,000 stand starts to develop. Toilets and seats have still to be installed, but officials are delighted with the progress made, although no definite completion date has been decided.

Borough vice-chairman John Harris (right) is joined by director Bill George (left) and marketing executive Les Green to assess the work taking place. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-1989

Hednesford: Pemberton, McLeod, Page, Austin, Turner, Foster, Bradford, King, Mullings (Kelly 72), Unitt (Heath 72), Hancox.

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Everitt, Probert (Woodiwiss 61), Webster, Dewis, Pollard (Roberts 61), Palgrave, Scott, Watts, McBean.

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

Borough, who were never at their best, let two points slip, as they lacked the fluency that has been a hallmark of their recent run.

Borough were quickly into their stride and twice in the early minutes Hednesford were happy to keep their goal intact. In only the second minute McBean got in a centre from the left, Steve Scott got a touch and Richard Hancox was happy to hack the ball out for a corner to deny Kevin Watts. McBean headed wide from Bateman's cross, but Borough were fortunate not to fall behind after seven minutes. Steve Mullings tested Starkey from King's cross, but Starkey spread himself and blocked the shot with his legs.

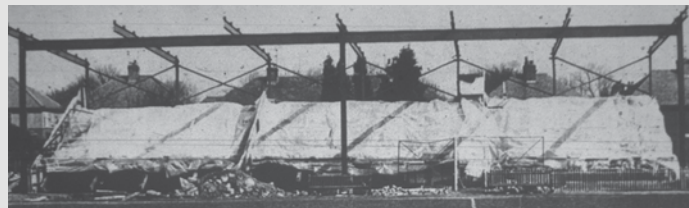
McBean put a header over the top and then keeper Alan Pemberton almost let a looping McBean header slip through his hands. The keeper saved from McBean again when he raced off his line to smother the ball at the striker's feet. With half-time approaching, Borough failed to clear a centre from the right, presenting Mullins with a chance, but the striker's first shot was blocked and then he put the rebound straight at Starkey. Page fired a shot straight at Starkey and King had an effort deflected wide by the Borough keeper.

Borough opened the second half in determined fashion and should have gone ahead when McBean headed a long clearance by Starkey into the penalty area but Pollard's first touch let him down and the chance was lost. Hednesford did not benefit for long as Borough swept ahead in their very next attack. Scott was the architect, freeing Probert down the left with a superb ball. The midfielder cut into the box and fired in a low cross that McBean turned in at the near post.

Borough looked anything but comfortable as the home side grew in confidence, pressed men forward and snatched an equaliser after 68 minutes. Mullings switched the ball right to Bradford and although the Hednesford player had his back to goal he was allowed to turn, drift past three players and fire past Starkey from close range.

Hednesford almost snatched a second goal. Everitt should have cleared but he was dispossessed by Austin who slipped a through ball into the penalty area, but fortunately for Borough King put his shot straight at Starkey. Goalscorer Bradford was helped off with a dislocated elbow and Borough spent the last 13 minutes looking for a winner against ten men. However, despite their numerical advantage Borough seldom looked like snatching a second goal until the 89th minute when Watts outjumped the home defence for Bateman's corner but Page cleared off the line.

Ambitious Borough Build For Future



Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park ground will be fit and ready for GM Conference football inside the next 12 months. That is the aim of the club's new marketing executive Les Green. The former Borough keeper has been given the task of putting Borough back among the elite of non league soccer off the field with an extensive one year plan that involves new stands, terracing and other ground improvement plans.

Green is determined to succeed but he points out that he desperately need the support of the local public to see his ambitions meet fruition.

"Borough fans have had lots of unfulfilled promises over the years about what is going to be done but they can be sure I will do my utmost to see my ideas become reality," said Green.

"Once the main stand is completed my attention will turn to the Dutch Barn on the canal side of the ground where a new family enclosure is to be built with seating for around 1,000. The terracing behind both goals needs replacing and the perimeter fence around the pitch also has to be renewed to bring the ground up to GM Conference level," he said...

Nuneaton Boro' v Sutton Coldfield Town 08-04-1989

Borough: Starkey, Hormantschuk, Everitt, Bateman (Stephens 59), Webster, Probert, Pollard, Palgrave, Roberts, Watts, McBean. Sub: Orton.

Sutton: Dudley, Matthews, Richards, Whittingham, Tucker, Rosborough, Biddle (McCarthy 86), Whitehouse, Smith, Hickman. Sub: Caulfield.

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

Borough turned in an abysmal performance as they tumbled to a surprise defeat. Despite taking a first-half lead, Borough can have few complaints about the result.

Borough were first to threaten and Peter McBean was upended on the edge of the box in the first minute but Steve Probert's free-kick was easily cleared by the visitors. A long clearance by Derek Dudley caused problems for the Nuneaton defence and Gary Smith almost got free but Lee Bateman recovered to clear. Sutton were fortunate to still be on level terms after ten minutes when Probert flicked in a free-kick from the left but Watts put a free header inches wide of the post.

Whittingham did well to cut out a through ball intended for McBean as Borough pressed forward and the Sutton central defender halted Probert at the expense of a corner. But Nuneaton got the break they were looking for 11 minutes before the break when Hormantschuk found Roberts with a free-kick from wide on the right and he wasted no time

in planting a header past Dudley. However Borough's celebrations were short-lived as Sutton hit back to snatch two goals in a three minute spell before the interval. With 38 minutes gone former Borough player Mark Hutchinson fastened on to a long clearance and despite being confronted by three Nuneaton defenders, he wriggled his way into the penalty area where he was brought down by Bateman and Adam Whitehouse gratefully thumped home the spot kick. Shortly afterwards Probert attempted a back-pass from 30 yards and only succeeded in finding Smith who had the simple task of slipping the ball past Starkey from close range.



Borough striker Darren Roberts flies between two defender to head Nuneaton ahead. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Roberts made a fine break early in the second period but the move petered out through lack of support. Borough were then happy to see a Whitehouse volley fly a couple of feet wide before Borough at last pushed men forward and were unfortunate not to snatch an equaliser when Roberts got onto the end of a Probert left wing cross but Dudley made a superb close range save.

Sutton came under pressure and Les Webster was only inches away from turning in a Hormantschuk free-kick. Roberts took down a cross from McBean and turned well, but his shot lacked power and at the other end Whitehouse shot straight at Starkey from the edge of the box. However, 15 minutes from the end Borough's hopes were over as they conceded another soft goal. Probert gave the ball away and when Smith's shot rebounded to Hutchinson the little midfielder put a delicate chip over Starkey and into the far corner.

Harris To Step Down From Borough Board

Nuneaton Borough vice-chairman John Harris is to step down from his position on the Manor Park club's board. Harris, who was the original chairman when the interim board was appointed two years ago, will relinquish his duties from tomorrow. "I am obviously very sad to leave but I genuinely consider I can stand down in the full knowledge that I have done my best, and that the club has a firm foundation for the future as long as firm discipline is maintained," said Harris.

"The two years of pain the club has had to endure to secure a confident future is now over and significant progress can be achieved. The appointment of Les Green as Marketing Executive will ensure that things will continue to move in the right direction without the burden of overwhelming debts which have inevitably caused delay and a stranglehold in the past," he said.

Two Local Fans Escape Hillsborough

Two North Warwickshire football fans escaped with their lives from the hell of Hillsborough. Neil Godderidge, 21, of Orchard Close, Hartshill, and his friend Simon Essex scrambled over the wire safety fencing which had become a death trap for so many Liverpool fans when Saturday's FA Cup semi-final turned to nightmare.

Their desperate families endured an agonising two-hour wait before they received word that the two men were safe. Despite his ordeal, last night Neil was back playing the game he loves when he turned out for Hartshill Sports.

Mrs Betty Godderidge, Neil's mother, said: "We kept trying the emergency number but we could not get through. I just cried with relief when I heard that he was okay. Everyone is devastated about what happened. My heart goes out to those parents who have lost their children. They were all so young. How Neil got out alive I shall never know."

Wellingborough Town v Nuneaton Boro' 15-04-1989

Wellingborough: Roche, Bendon, Paine, Beazeley, Suddards, Jenkins, Geary, Hornsby, Till, Green, Atkinson. Subs: Clipston, Shopland.

Borough: Starkey, Everitt, Wilson, Probert (Stephens 45), Webster, Waters, Pollard (Roberts), Palgrave, Scott, Watts, McBean.

Borough travelled to The Dog and Duck to play Wellingborough Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough's alarming end of season slump continued. Kirk Stephens' men were again woefully below their best and for much of the game were made to struggle by the league's bottom markers.

Borough could not have made a worse start as they gifted the home side a soft goal after just two minutes play. Les Webster completely missed an innocuous high ball and Derek Atkinson wasted no time in hitting a low drive past Wayne Starkey from 15 yards. Nuneaton gradually got a grip on the game and should have been back on level terms after ten minutes when Brian Palgrave missed a clear-cut opportunity. Former Arsenal and Luton midfielder Brian Hornsby was caught in possession and Palgrave raced clear but with only Noel Roche to beat he failed and the ball was scrambled clear.

Borough almost got caught again but Shane Geary failed to take advantage of some slack marking and the chance was lost. But with 29 minutes gone Nuneaton missed another chance when Ade Waters failed to score from the penalty spot after Steve Bendon had handled on the line. Waters' spot-kick was superbly saved by Roche. Immediately after the home side could have increased their lead with Atkinson firing inches wide of the far post. As the half wore on Borough began to step up the pressure and Roche had to produce a brave save to deny Kevin Watts.

However, the goal that Nuneaton had been threatening finally arrived four minutes before the interval and it was well worth waiting for. Steve Scott outjumped Sean Suddards to

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



flick on a high ball down the middle and Pollard fired a fine volley into the roof of the net from the edge of the area.

Stephens came on at the start of the second period and went into the centre of the defence with Waters pushing up into midfield in place of Steve Probert. Borough mounted a neat move down the right and Kevin Paine did well to get the ball back to his keeper after Scott had sent Watts clear. Webster was booked for a clumsy challenge on Atkinson before Nuneaton had a let-off when Steve Till missed from the penalty spot. But Nuneaton's reprieve was short-lived as four minutes later Wellingborough were back in front. A long free-kick found Atkinson on the right of the penalty area and he held off Webster before beating Starkey with a cross-shot into the far corner.

Palgrave hooked a shot wide as Borough hit back and then Darren Roberts was introduced in place of Pollard. Borough might have snatched an equaliser when Roberts had a shot blocked following a centre from Watts and Waters fired the rebound a couple of feet wide. Stephens was cautioned for a foul on Beazeley as Borough completed a miserable afternoon.

Keith Allen Resigns

Nuneaton Borough secretary Keith Allen has resigned following a boardroom row. Allen, who has held the Manor Park post for more than two years, decided to step down yesterday. "Following a boardroom dispute as to the terms of reference of my position as secretary of Nuneaton Borough Football Club, I was left with little alternative but to tender my resignation from the post," he said...

... "As a Nuneaton man, I wish the board of directors and the club all the best for the future. The town and supporters deserve a club to be proud of. I sincerely hope that someone will be able to exorcise the ghosts from Manor Park to enable solid progress to be maintained.

"For my part the past two and a half years have been a nightmare that is now over and I can once more devote the time to my long suffering family that they deserve," he said.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 22-04-1989

Borough: Starkey, Everitt, Wilson (Bateman 78), Stephens, Palgrave, Waters, Pollard, McBean, Scott, Watts, Roberts. **Sub:** Orton.

Tamworth: Belford, McCormack, Finn, Atkins, Cartwright, Devaney, Myers, Ecclestone, Stanton, Gordon, Moores. **Subs:** George, Ward.

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

Borough produced a magnificent fight back as they toppled Wembley bound Tamworth. Kirk Stephens' side looked to be destined for a heavy defeat as they trailed the FA Vase finalists by three goals after just 14 minutes.

Borough were first to threaten when Waters freed Roberts down the left, but there was no one on hand when the striker pulled the ball back. But Tamworth hit back with a vengeance

to tear the Nuneaton defence apart as they stormed into a three goal lead inside the first 15 minutes. There were only six minutes on the watch when Russell Gordon floated a free-kick into the Borough box and Stanton was completely unmarked to pick his spot and head past Wayne Starkey. The Borough goalkeeper then made a brave save to deny Steve Ecclestone, but the visitors were not to be denied and deservedly increased their lead with a super 12th minute strike. Moores found Martin Devaney down the left and when he curled in a centre Stanton launched himself to plant a header into the corner, well out of Starkey's reach.

Tamworth were cock-a-hoop, with the home defence chasing shadows and it came as no real surprise when the visitors made it 3-0 just two minutes later. Gordon floated in another free-kick to the far post where Bobby Atkins headed the ball back across the goalmouth for Moores to tap in from a couple of feet. Nuneaton should have cut the deficit almost immediately when McBean flicked on an Ali Wilson centre, but Roberts volleyed high over the top from eight yards.



Peter McBean beats Steve Carwright's despairing lunge and his volley is already on its way into the net for the first goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

However, midway through the half Borough gave themselves a glimmer of hope as McBean cracked a rising drive past Dale Belford following a free-kick by Waters. The visitors were now not showing the same fluency that had been a hallmark of their earlier play and Nuneaton were visibly growing in their belief that they could yet pull the game round. That belief exploded into life after 29 minutes when Waters beat Belford with a low cross shot after Brian Palgrave had touched on a free-kick to put Borough right back in the match.

At the start of the second period Atkins was slow to clear a ball from inside the visitors penalty area and it took a timely interception by Danny McCormack to stop McBean from bursting through. Palgrave then produced a bit of magic to jink his way into the penalty area but Steve Cartwright managed to deflect the centre over the top.

With 20 minutes remaining Borough were back on level terms

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with McBean's second goal of the game. Pollard swung in a corner from the left, Stephens failed to connect, but McBean's downward header went through Belford and over the line. The visitors were clearly rattled and they were fortunate to scramble the ball away for a corner when Roberts battled his way into the penalty area.

Roberts sent Palgrave racing clear, but the Borough midfielder pushed his shot wide as Belford came out to meet him. But Tamworth's relief was short lived as Nuneaton finally got their noses in front eight minutes before the end. McBean found space on the left and he centred for Roberts to power home a header from eight yards.



Darren Roberts eludes Martin Finn to power home a header for Borough's 82nd minute winner. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Roberts shot wide from the edge of the box as Borough stepped up the pressure. Tamworth still might have snatched an equaliser as the game moved into injury time with Starkey blocking a point blank effort and Waters clearing off the line.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 29-04-1989

Borough: Starkey, Everitt, Wilson, Stephens, Palgrave, Waters, Pollard, McBean, Scott, Watts, Roberts. Subs: Bateman, Orton.

Hednesford: Pemberton, McLeod, Page, Austin, Turner, Foster, Mullings, King, Kelly, Unitt, Heath. Subs: Spruce, Downing.

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

Borough had to come from behind before they finally killed off a brave challenge by the visitors. Borough made a positive start and twice during the early exchanges they could have made the initial breakthrough. Roberts got away from his marker in the second minute and cut into the penalty area on the right, but he put his centre behind the goal with both Scott and Peter McBean unmarked in the middle.

Then a neat build-up on the left ended with Scott flashing a centre across the face of the visitors goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. There was a scare for Borough when King broke away after Brian Palgrave had been caught in possession in midfield but the Hednesford striker hung on too long and the chance was lost. Nuneaton continued to hold the upper hand without ever looking really convincing and Scott outjumped the Town defence to test Alan Pemberton with a header from Ali Wilson's free-kick.

A mix-up between Kevin Watts and Leigh Everitt allowed Richard Heath to break clear but Ade Waters recovered quickly to clear the danger.

But the visitors stunned the home fans on the half hour mark when they broke away to snatch the lead. Austin was not picked up following a low cross from Steve Mullings and he beat Wayne Starkey with a rising drive from just inside the area. Borough should have been back on level terms shortly afterwards but Roberts slice his shot badly after he had been put clear by Scott. Waters then had Pemberton scrambling across his line with a 25 yarder before McBean flashed another shot narrowly wide from the edge of the box.

Nuneaton stepped up the pace at the start of the second half and Waters had a close-range effort scrambled away for a corner. Roberts cleverly chested down a Wilson cross for Scott to hammer a fierce drive a foot over. Starkey blocked a shot from King to keep Borough in the game and they quickly switched play to the other end where Pemberton saved from Roberts before the keeper save again from Scott's header.

Borough got the equaliser after 73 minutes when Mark Pollard swung in a corner from the left and Pemberton, under pressure from Scott, missed it, leaving Roberts to touch it home from virtually on the line. The visitors hit back immediately with Kelly missing an open goal. The Pitmen were to regret that miss as Borough stormed back with two goals in four minutes. With ten minutes remaining Wilson did well to come through two tackles and force the ball into the penalty area where Scott turned superbly past his marker to fire past Pemberton. Then a neat interchange down the right ended with Pollard whipping over a centre that Scott met to power a header past the helpless keeper. Just before the final whistle, Roberts beat three men as he cut into the area, but Pemberton pulled off a fine save from a fierce shot.

Borough Hope To Raise £10,000



Nuneaton Borough Football Club will be pandering to the good nature of the local townsfolk as they look to raise £10,000 from their Grand Car Raffle. Top prize in the raffle will be a new Fiat Panda 1000 CL car which has been donated by



Nuneaton Research Garage of Haunchwood Road, who will also be the main backers for Borough's Fun Walk on July 1. All the proceeds from the two events will go towards the club's ground development fund. Marketing executive Les Green said: "By the beginning of next season I am confident the ground will be in tip-top shape with the terracing, perimeter fence and the two stands all being completed.

"Make no mistake the club is on the way up and everyone involved it determined to see the club back at the top of non league football. But we cannot do it without the help of the people of Nuneaton.

"Their backing for our fund raising events is vital as is the support given by sponsors, both large and small..."

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 06-05-1989

Borough: Starkey, Bateman, Everitt, Palgrave, Dewis, Waters (Orton 52), Pollard, McBean, Scott, Watts, Roberts (Field 75).

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

Borough failed to turn their first-half chances into goals and had to settle for a 1-1 draw. They were given a boost when they went ahead in the 24th minute but despite going close on several occasions, they failed to breach the Grantham defence for a second time.

There was an early scare for Borough as Tony Simpson got clear on the left and drilled in a low centre that was only cleared as far as Neil Cooper, but he fired over the top. Kevin Watts was brought down by Danny Anderson as Borough pushed forward and then Darren Roberts volleyed narrowly wide from 25 yards. There was a moment of anxiety for the home fans when Waters ducked under a free-kick from David Swainston and the ball floated past the far post with both Peter Whitehurst and Steve Johnson only inches away from getting the finishing touch.

Johnson then showed a fine turn of pace to fly past Leigh Everitt but Simpson failed to take advantage of the winger's low centre. But Borough surged forward to snatch the lead with a stunning goal from Waters after 25 minutes. Brian Palgrave was brought down by Farrow, which earned him a booking and Waters thundered a tremendous 25 yard shot into the top left hand corner. Nuneaton were now in full flow and they were twice desperately unfortunate not to increase their lead as they pulled the Grantham defence apart.

First Watts got in a cross from the right that Roberts flicked on to Mark Pollard who hammered in a fierce drive that Linden Parslow superbly saved at the second attempt. Then Pollard found Peter McBean with a deep cross to the far post. McBean knocked the ball back into the middle and Steve Scott headed past Parslow only to see the ball strike a post and bounce to safety.

However, Borough gifted the visitors an equaliser after 33 minutes. There appeared little danger when Simpson

pumped in a left wing cross but keeper Wayne Starkey got into a tangle with Waters, dropped the ball and Farrow tapped it into an empty net. Seconds before the interval Anderson headed a Pollard cross out from under the bar with Scott lurking for any slip-up.

Borough's hopes suffered a setback shortly after the restart when Waters limped off to be replaced by Mo Orton. Then, eight minutes into the second period Nuneaton missed a clear-cut chance to go back in front. McBean intercepted an intended back pass by John Humphreys but his shot lacked the necessary power and Parslow saved comfortably. But Borough themselves had a let-off immediately afterwards with Whitehurst firing high over the top from 12 yards when the home defence failed to clear a Johnson cross.

Grantham were now beginning to look more like the side that had been among the title favourites for most of the season and Borough were forced to defend in depth. However, Grantham's hopes nose-dived midway through the half when they were reduced to ten men when Farrow hacked down Palgrave and was sent off for his second bookable offence.

Palgrave was crowded out at the expense of a corner after a neat build-up on the right and McBean had a glimpse of an opening but his first shot was charged down by the Grantham defence and he fired the rebound wide.

Southern League Midland Division 1988-89

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucester City	42	28	8	6	95	37	92
Atherstone United	42	26	9	7	85	38	87
Tamworth	42	26	9	7	85	45	87
Halesowen Town	42	25	10	7	85	42	85
Grantham Town	42	23	11	8	66	37	80
Nuneaton Borough	42	19	9	14	71	58	66
Rushden Town	42	19	8	15	71	50	65
Spalding United	42	17	13	12	72	64	64
Dudley Town	42	16	13	13	73	62	61
Sutton Coldfield Town	42	18	7	17	56	56	61
Willenhall Town	42	16	12	14	65	71	60
Forest Green Rovers	42	12	16	14	64	67	52
Bilston Town	42	15	7	20	63	71	52
Ashtree Highfield	42	12	15	15	57	62	51
Hednesford Town	42	12	15	15	49	57	51
Banbury United	42	10	14	18	53	74	44
Bridgnorth Town	42	12	7	23	59	77	43
Stourbridge	42	11	10	21	37	65	43
King's Lynn	42	7	13	22	31	67	34
Coventry Sporting	42	6	13	23	39	91	31
Wellingborough Town	42	5	15	22	39	72	30
Mile Oak Rovers	42	5	10	27	46	98	25

Face Lift For Manor Park Pitch



As soon as the final game had been played at Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park ground last weekend work immediately began on preparing for next season. The re-seeding process on the pitch got underway with the local council's scarifier being put through its paces.

"We will be giving the playing surface a complete facelift. It is important the pitch is in tip-top condition, while along with the other improvements, it is hoped to put Manor Park back among the elite of non-league grounds," said marketing executive Les Green.

Money raised from the grand car raffle and the fun walk will go towards the development although agents and walkers are still needed to help make the fund raising activities successful. Green (right) is pictured watching the seeds being sown at Manor Park.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Land Manchester United Friendly

Nuneaton Borough have landed a plum match with Manchester United as part of their build-up to the new campaign. The Manor Park side will meet Alex Ferguson's men on Saturday, August 12 in a friendly to mark the opening of Borough's new stand.

Stephens Drops Interest In Parker

Nuneaton Borough manager Kirk Stephens has dropped his interest in Atherstone United's midfield ace Bobby Parker. Stephens, looking to strengthen his squad for a promotion push next term, has been put off by Atherstone's asking price of £8,000.

"Adders manager Ron Bradbury told me that Parker was available and that was the fee they wanted for him," said Stephens. "I respect Ron's judgement and value of a player and he obviously didn't want to lose him hence the price. But there is no way that Nuneaton Borough could meet that kind of fee, we just do not have the money.

"Even if we had, there is no way that I would pay out that kind of cash for any player at this level of football," he added.

Borough Hoping For More Than £600



Nuneaton Borough's fun walk went off on Saturday without any hiccups with more than £600 hopefully being raised from the event. Walkers of all ages took part with the dry weather proving to be a bonus as the participants put their best foot forward over the five mile course.

All the proceeds from the walk will go towards the ground development fund.

On Friday there is a get together at the Borough Social Club of all the people who took part, when all the sponsorship money and forms will be collected.

Borough's Marketing Executive Les Green, and Ian Rawson-Mackenzie, director of the Research Garage in Nuneaton, main backers of the event, are pictured with a group of the walkers before Saturday's walk kicked off.

Borough Prices To Stay The Same

Nuneaton Borough Supporters will be paying the same admission prices as last year to watch their favourites during the 1989-90 campaign. Adult charges stay at £1.50, which is the Beazer Homes League minimum, while the cost to children and old age pensioners remains 75p, although transfer to the stand is £1.50 extra.

Season ticket prices on the terrace are £22 for adults if bought before August 1 or £25 after that date with stand tickets £50 if secured this month and £55 from then on.

Director Bill George said: "We have kept the prices down as low as possible. It is the club's way of saying thank you to the fans for their support over the troublesome couple of years we have just gone through."

Webster To Stay With Borough

Central defender Les Webster will kick off the new season in a Nuneaton Borough shirt. The big Geordie, released by Northampton Town at the end of last season, has now signed for the Manor Park club. Webster was a target for Beazer Homes Midland Division champions Gloucester City, but has decided that his future lies with Borough.

Outstanding keeper Derek Dudley, who had agreed to join Borough from Sutton Coldfield has since changed his mind.

Stamford — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Stamford to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens, Thomas, Ward, Pinner, Howarth, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. Subs: Howles, Pollard.

Stamford: Thurbon, Amps, Blades, Gale, Wright, Foster, Hardy, Phillips, Leeton, Taylor, Harris. Subs: Vaughan, Bertie.

Borough had to show a lot of patience before they eventually ended the stubborn resistance of Stamford, who held out for more than an hour before finally bowing out to a vastly superior Nuneaton side.

Les Thurbon had an outstanding game in the visitors goal with a string of saves that kept Stamford in the tie.

However, goals from Tony Donnelly and Kevin Watts ensured Borough of a home match in the next round against the winner of the replay between Banbury United and Leighton Town.

Stamford produced the first threat when Stan Hardy got in a low cross from the right and Steve Thomas

miskicked but Peter Bradley was on hand to clear the danger.

Borough quickly seized the initiative with Palgrave only just failing to get his head to Donnelly's cross after the winger had made his way past Mark Amps.

Steve Blades was then happy to concede a corner as Borough kept up the pressure and Donnelly and Palgrave were both crowded out in a goalmouth scramble.

Dave Ward freed Donnelly on the right with a fine crossfield ball but his low cutback was cut out by Colin Foster.

It was all Borough at this stage and midway through the half they came within a whisker of breaking the deadlock. Ade Gregory made the overlap down the left flank and his low centre was met by Palgrave with a diving header that looked a goal all the way but Thurbon produced a full length save to turn the ball away to safety.

Watts then tested Thurbon with a low drive that the keeper grabbed at the second attempt before the visitors almost snatched a shock lead completely against the run of play.

Richard Taylor outjumped the Nuneaton defence for a right wing corner, his header hit the foot of a post and Foster put the rebound straight at Belford.

The visitors had another narrow escape shortly before the break when Bradley picked out Watts with a cross from the right but the Borough striker's header flew a foot wide of the far post.

Borough continued to dominate after the interval and Watts put a glancing header wide from Donnelly's curling centre and then Bradley was off target from the edge of the box.



Borough's leading scorer Kevin Watts climbs above Stamford defender John Wright to head home Nuneaton's second goal from Tony Donnelly's cross.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Steve Phillips (left) points angrily at Borough manager Kirk Stephens, after the Stamford player was sent off for a foul tackle.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

A Ward free-kick from wide on the left broke to Donnelly who curled a delightful left-footer towards the angle but the ball drifted a foot over the top.

Ian Pinner saw his corner clip the Stamford bar and then Stephens blazed high over the top after Thurbon had made two excellent close range saves.

Mick Howarth was inches away from a Ward free-kick and then Thurbon made another first class save to keep out Palgrave's drive as Borough still looked for the breakthrough.

But the pressure had to tell and

Nuneaton finally went ahead after 69 minutes. Bradley pumped in a deep cross from the right, Thurbon failed to cut it out and Donnelly headed home from wide of the far post.

Pinner was put through by Watts as Borough continued to press, but the Nuneaton skipper saw his effort beat the advancing keeper but fly a foot wide of the yawning goal.

Watts then had a header clawed away for a corner by the keeper before Stamford were reduced to ten men five minutes from the end. Steve Phillips already booked for a first-half foul on Pinner, got his marching orders after chopping down Stephens.

Sixty seconds later Nuneaton gave the scoreline a more realistic look as they grabbed a second goal. Donnelly beat Blades in the corner and his cross to the far post was headed home from close range by Watts – his seventh goal of the season.

Banbury United – 2nd Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens, Thomas, Ward, Pinner, Howarth, Palgrave (Howles 74), Watts, Donnelly. Sub: Bateman.

Borough face a tricky replay in



Brian Palgrave gets his head to a Steve Thomas cross early in the second half, but there was no joy as the ball was cleared off the line by Ian Bowyer.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Oxfordshire following a disappointing draw with Banbury. Bob Pratley gave the visitors a 30th minute lead, but Tony Donnelly's leveller just five minutes later means the sides have to meet again for the right to meet Redditch in the next round.

But Borough have only themselves to blame that they did not wrap up the tie at the first attempt.

They had enough chances to have won with something to spare, despite not being at their best, but Kevin Watts, Kirk Stephens and Dave Ward all missed clear-cut openings.

Borough were the first to threaten with Ward drifting a shot wide of the far post as Banbury keeper Keith Baker struggled to get across his line.

The visitors replied with a neat break down the left, but Cliff Cousins wanted too much time to get in his cross and Thomas stepped in to clear the danger.

But Borough gradually began to take control of midfield and Banbury were pushed back into their own half.

There was danger for the visitors when Donnelly fired in a low cross from the right and Pratley made a fine saving tackle to block Ward's shot and was injured in the process – needing lengthy treatment before being able to carry on.

Borough should have gone in front after 28 minutes. Palgrave beat Phil Houghton wide on the left and Watts was perfectly positioned for the centre, but he put his header well wide from six yards.

The Manor Park outfit were to regret that miss as two minutes later United took the lead with their first real shot of the match.

There appeared little danger as Pratley picked up the ball 30 yards out but his first time shot went in off the angle of post and crossbar with Belford helpless.

However, Banbury's celebrations were short-lived as five minutes later



Banbury keeper Keith Baker flies through the air, but to no avail as Tony Donnelly's 35th minute strike is on its way into the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough grabbed a deserved equaliser through winger Donnelly.

Skipper Ian Pinner put Donnelly away on the right and he cut inside Cousins before curling a delightful left-footer inside the far post.

Pratley was booked for retaliation against Pinner at the start of the second period before Borough came within inches of snatching the lead.

Donnelly and Thomas linked up on the right and when the full back whipped in a cross to the near post Palgrave got in a header that Bowyer headed out from under the bar with Baker beaten.

But on the hour mark, Borough almost went behind as Banbury produced only their second effort of note throughout the match.

The visitors were awarded a free-kick on the left hand edge of the area and Carlton Stratford drilled in a low shot that Belford couldn't hold and the Nuneaton keeper had to make a superb save to block Bowyer's follow-up effort.

Five minutes later Borough missed another golden opportunity. Ward's free-kick was only cleared as far as Donnelly on the right and he curled in a delightful left foot cross that found Watts all alone in front of goal, but he put a weak header straight at Baker.

Stephens had a chance after a neat one-two with Watts, but he put his shot into the side netting from well inside the area.

It was all Borough and with six minutes left they were desperately unlucky not to put the issue beyond doubt.

Pinner played Ward clear into the penalty area with a superb ball, but the Nuneaton midfielder's left foot volley stuck between the keeper's legs as he spread himself.

Two minutes later Borough were again out of luck when Donnelly produced another teasing centre and Watts outjumped the Banbury defence only to see his header clip the top of the bar and bounce to safety.

Banbury United — 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to the Spencer Stadium to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Belford, Bradley, Gregory, Stephens, Thomas (Pollard 84), Ward, Pinner, Howarth, Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly. Sub: Bateman.

Crisis-torn Nuneaton Borough suffered another body-blow to their troubled season as they crashed out of the Cup.

Bob Pratley's 50th minute goal was enough to end Borough's hopes. Borough were again woefully below their best as they struggled to find anything of the form that saw them pick up three wins in a row last month.

They had enough of the play to have beaten a mediocre Banbury side who had little to offer but endeavour.

However, once Nuneaton were behind it was difficult to see how they were going to conjure an equaliser, although Kevin Watts forced a superb late save from Keith Baker and Ade Gregory had a shot cleared off the line.

Caretaker boss Kirk Stephens was bitterly disappointed after the game and felt that his side should have booked their place in the next round.

Borough produced the first threat after just two minutes when, following a long throw near the left hand corner flag, Tony Donnelly was crowded out by the home defence and the ball broke to Brian Palgrave who fired a shot high over the top.

Peter Bradley then found Donnelly in space wide on the right and when the winger's cross was deflected by Tim Fowler it fell for Dave Ward and he put a header straight at Keith Baker.

Banbury at last began to come into the picture and Dave Woodland hooked a 25 yard volley over the top after a Cliff Cousins free kick had only been partially cleared. Kevin Watts turned smartly on the edge of the box and was unfortunate to see his shot strike Ian Bowyer and then Ade Gregory

headed clear a Fowler cross with Mick Tomlinson charging in at the far post as United hit back.

On the half-hour mark Borough were a little unfortunate not to get a penalty. Gregory made a good break on the left, Ward played a low ball across the face of the goal and Palgrave appeared to be upended by Fowler as he went for the ball. However, after taking a long hard look, referee N. Giddings awarded a goal kick.

But Borough's hopes plunged five minutes after the restart as United took the lead. Bradley brought down Dixon and Pratley curled a 25 yard free kick over the Nuneaton defensive wall and into the corner of the net.

Palgrave beat Bowyer as Borough hit back, but Pratley did well to cut out the centre and at the other end Dale Belford did well to gather an awkward ball by Karlton Stratford.

Watts was only inches away from getting onto the end of a curling ball from Donnelly but Banbury could have increased their lead when Bowyer put a close range header over the top.

Borough were pressing forward in search of an equaliser and Watts was crowded out as he moved onto a Kirk Stephens through ball and then Bowyer got his head to another Donnelly cross with Watts lurking at the far post.

Ten minutes from the end it looked as though Nuneaton had levelled the scores as Watts got in a fine header from a Thomas centre, but Baker produced a magnificent save as he flung himself to his right to turn the ball over the top.

But shortly afterwards Borough were caught short at the back and when Thomas brought down Tomlinson, Pratley almost repeated his earlier free-kick success. Borough's hopes of forcing the tie into extra time disappeared in the final minutes when Gregory's shot beat Baker, but Cousins cleared off the line.

Witton Albion — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to the Central Ground to play Witton Albion in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Witton: Simpson, McGuire, Hurst, Boyle, Higginbotham (Mourne 84), Worthington, Davison, Lodge, Edwards, Jarvis, Brown. Sub: Deeley.

Borough: Starkey, Orton, Everitt, Stephens, Bateman, Ward, Pollard, (Randle 84) Palgrave, Scott, Watts, Ricketts. Sub: Richings.

Borough's FA Trophy hopes ended at the first hurdle as they went down to a narrow defeat. Without four of their first-team squad, Borough gave a brave display before going out at a rain-lashed Central Ground.

The Nuneaton back four contained three youngsters under the age of 20 and they all gave good accounts against the HFS Loans Premier Division side.

But Borough's ambitions of a place in the first round proper really floundered on the fact that they conceded two sloppy goals, although some baffling decisions by referee John Hilditch certainly did not help their cause.

Manager Kirk Stephens was obviously disappointed after the match but he was already looking ahead to the league trip to Bridgnorth.

There was danger for Borough in the first minute when Paul Lodge found John Brown wide on the left but his centre was scrambled clear.

Witton continued to look the sharper in the early stages and a strong run from midfield by Gary Boyle ended with Paul Higginbotham in a bit of space, but he failed to control the ball and the chance was lost.

Steve Scott flicked on a long clearance by Wayne Starkey as Borough pushed forward but the pace of the ball off the wet surface beat Alan Ricketts and Robin Simpson gathered to clear the danger.

Brian Palgrave then tested Simpson with a firm drive from the edge of the box before Lodge picked out Brown with a fine centre and his diving header was bound for the corner of the Nuneaton net before Starkey produced a superb diving save to turn the ball away for a corner.

Jarvis got free on the left as the home side continued to press and his low centre caused problems for the Borough defence until Lee Bateman put the ball out for a corner with John Davison waiting to pounce.

But a minute later Witton broke the deadlock. A fine crossfield ball by Lodge caught Borough's back four flat footed and found Jarvis who cut into the box and scored with a low cross-shot into the far corner.

Boyle was booked for a foul on Stephens and then Scott broke clear on the left and picked out Mark Pollard with a deep cross but the Borough midfielder's header lacked the power necessary to trouble Simpson.

Nuneaton had more problems when a Higginbotham cross found Brown clear in the box but Kevin Watts recovered to get in a fine saving tackle.

With half-time approaching, Scott was hacked down by Paul Worthington as he broke down the middle but Witton managed to scramble away Dave Ward's free-kick.

Borough made a bright start to the second half with Ward's corner

producing panic in the home penalty area before Albion got the ball clear and then a fine run by Palgrave ended with Watts hooking a shot over the top.

At the other end Brown posed a threat when he cut into the area from the left but Mo Orton got back to cut out the winger's cross at the expense of a fruitless corner.

Nuneaton were coming into the game much more now and Watts had a shot blocked before Borough missed a clear-cut chance of an equaliser. Palgrave and Scott combined well on the left and Scott's centre found Pollard in front of goal but he failed to get in a shot from just six yards out.

Stephens was booked for a foul on Brown before the winger fired straight at Starkey when placed to do better.

But with 72 minutes gone Borough found themselves two goals down. Starkey failed to gather a corner from the left resulting in a second flag-kick for Witton and this time Borough were guilty of slack marking as Mark Edwards forced the ball home at the near post.

It was a sickener for Borough but three minutes later they were back in with a chance as they cut the deficit to a single goal. Nuneaton were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box and Ward touched it to Ricketts and his shot took a deflection off Palgrave to send Simpson the wrong way.

In spite of this Borough never really looked like snatching the equaliser and six minutes from the end they were fortunate not to fall further behind when Jarvis broke clear and his shot beat Starkey but the ball thundered against the crossbar and bounced to safety.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Southern League Midland: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1988-89

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.30	Racing Club Warwick	A	PSF	1-1	Palgrave	
08.01	Rushall Olympic	H	PSF	0-0		
08.06	Leicester United	A	PSF	2-4	Donnelly, Thomas	
08.08	Buckingham Town	H	PSF	4-1	Howells, Pinner, Pollard, Stephens	
08.13	Hinckley Athletic	H	PSF	?-?		
08.15	Stoke City	H	PSF	1-1	Pinner	
08.20	Dudley Town	A	L	2-4	Palgrave, Watts	380
08.22	Bridgnorth Town	H	L	2-1	Palgrave, Watts	498
08.27	Stourbridge	H	L	3-0	Watts (2), Palgrave	
08.29	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	L	0-1		390
09.03	Ashtree Highfield	A	L	1-3	Watts	134
09.10	Halesowen Town	H	L	3-0	Pinner, Palgrave, Donnelly	646
09.13	Forest Green Rovers	A	L	4-2	Palgrave, Watts, Donnelly, Rymell (o.g.)	212
09.17	Stamford	H	FAC 1Q	2-0	Watts, Donnelly	533
09.24	Spalding United	H	L	0-3		503
10.01	Banbury United	H	FAC 2Q	1-1	Donnelly	509
10.05	Banbury United	A	FAC 2Qr	0-1		394
10.08	Grantham Town	A	L	0-3		379
10.10	Stourbridge	A	WIC 1 1L	1-2	Shackleton	179
10.15	Rushden Town	H	L	1-1	Pollard	417
10.17	Stourbridge	H	WIC 1 2L	2-2	Palgrave (2)	379
10.22	Spalding United	A	L	3-1	Ward, Howles, Watts	219
10.24	Paget Rangers	H	M&B 1 1L	1-1	Watts	202
10.29	Bilston Town	H	L	2-2	Watts, Palgrave	437
11.01	Paget Rangers	A	M&B 1 2L	1-2	Stephens	121
11.05	Banbury United	A	L	1-1	Palgrave	190
11.09	Oldswinford	H	BSC 1	2-1	Bateman, Donnelly	151
11.12	Kings Lynn	A	L	0-0		234
11.16	Hednesford Town	A	BSC 2	1-2	Watts	238
11.19*	Wellingborough Town	H	L	1-0	Ricketts	389
11.23	Mile Oak Rovers	A	L	1-0	Ward	137
11.26	Willenhall Town	H	L	2-3	Stephens, Naughton (o.g.)	439
12.03	Witton Albion	A	FAT 3Q	1-2	Ricketts	498
12.06	Bridgnorth Town	A	L	1-0	Scott	198
12.10	Dudley Town	H	L	1-3	Waters	439
12.26	Coventry Sporting	H	L	1-0	Howles	569
12.31	Gloucester City	H	L	1-2	Scott	648
01.02	Atherstone United	A	L	1-2	Watts	1368
01.07	Halesowen Town	A	L	2-4	Pollard, Palgrave	978
01.14	Mile Oak	H	L	1-0	Pollard	1279
01.21	Rushden Town	A	L	2-2	Roberts (2)	297
01.28	Kings Lynn	H	L	2-1	Scott, Roberts	479
02.04	Ashtree Highfield	H	L	3-0	Scott (2), Pollard	419
02.14	Tamworth	A	L	0-1		1279
02.18	Bilston Town	A	L	1-0	Scott	220
02.25	Banbury United	H	L	5-0	Scott (3), Watts (2)	462
03.04	Stourbridge	A	L	1-1	Scott	231
03.07	Willenhall Town	A	L	3-1	Webster, Pollard, Roberts	210
03.11	Forest Green Rovers	H	L	1-2	Waters	540
03.13	Wellingborough Town	H	L	4-1	Scott (2), Probert, Field	405
03.18	Gloucester City	A	L	2-1	Scott, McBean	610
03.25	Atherstone United	H	L	3-1	Pollard, Scott, McBean	
03.27	Coventry Sporting	A	L	0-0		375

Southern League Midland: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1988-89

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.01	Hednesford Town	A	L	1-1	McBean	390
04.08	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	L	1-3	Stephens	486
04.15	Wellingborough Town	A	L	1-2	Pollard	155
04.22	Tamworth	H	L	4-3	McBean (2), Waters, Roberts	1313
04.29	Hednesford Town	H	L	3-1	Scott (2), Roberts	544
05.06	Grantham Town	H	L	1-1	Waters	528

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC = F.A. Cup, FAT = F.A. Trophy, WIC = Southern League Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, M+B = M&B Cup, PSF = Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1988-89

Back: David Lewis, Lee Dutton, Joe Taylor, Mark Pollard, Mick Howarth, Wayne Starkey, Steve Thomas, Steve Ayres, Lee Bateman, Ian Pointer, Reg Brassington, Chris Wright (manager).

Front: Tony Donnelly, Faddi Hannah, Peter Bradley, Kirk Stephens, David Ward, Brian Palgrave, Martin Howles.

Nuneaton Borough September 1988



Back row (left to right):
Bobby Vincent (assistant manager),
Dave Looms (physio),
Steve Thomas, Mick Howarth,
Ade Gregory, Dale Belford,
Dave Ward, Kevin Watts,
Joe Taylor (kit manager),
Jeff Watson (chief scout).

Front row (left to right):
Martin Howles, Peter Bradley,
Ian Pinner (captain),
Kirk Stephens (manager),
Brian Palgrave, Mark Pollard,
Tony Donnelly.

Kelly-Shooter Court Case Continues

Noel Kelly and Joe Shooter – the two men involved in a bitter battle for control of Nuneaton Borough Football Club – were locked in conflict again today at the High Court in London.

The highly complex case, which has taken nearly two-and-a-half years to come before the court, could take up to ten days to complete. Mr Kelly – who was chairman for ten years and wealthy Coventry businessman Mr Shooter, former vice-chairman, clashed a few months after Mr Shooter joined the Manor Park board.

The High Court hearing was being told of how the club had been run over the past few years and being asked to sort out many complexities including the validity of shares.

The End Of Borough's Longest Game

For two and a half years Noel Kelly has battled to keep control of Nuneaton Borough Football Club, the biggest non-league club in the country.

It was a battle he lost in the High Court on Friday when a judge ordered that he should be stripped of his shares in favour of his adversary Joe Shooter.

Mr Kelly, said the judge, paid no regard to legal obligations or the formalities of company law – although he had no intent of harm. The High Court ruling comes after tens of thousands of pounds have been spent on legal costs and ends a wrangle in which Mr Kelly has not been the only loser.

So too has been the very thing that both Mr Kelly and Mr Shooter fought for – the club itself. When the club kicks off a new season next month – in the Midlands Division of the Beazer Homes League – it will be time to reflect.

To reflect on the sort of team that, not many years ago, used to dread coming to Manor Park, which attracted the biggest crowds outside league soccer. Teams like Wimbledon – who joined the Football League, rose to the first division and went on to win the FA Cup; and Maidstone, who last season won their spurs to division four.

They went one way. The Borough went the other. With all the off-field problems the Borough slid down the slippery slope – a slope which it now has to climb.

Difficult times are ahead, but let us hope they can be overcome and once again Nuneaton attracts the fans back on to the terraces as the Borough becomes the best non-league club in the land.

Bobby Charlton To Open Borough's New Stand

Former Manchester United and England superstar Bobby Charlton has accepted an invitation to open Nuneaton Borough's new stand. Charlton, now a director of the Old Trafford club, will perform the honours when United visit Manor Park for a friendly on August 12. It is a real scoop for the Borough as Charlton, holder of the OBE, is one of the best loved and most respected personalities in the game.

Triton Backing Borough As Main Sponsors



Keith Dixon (third right) is pictured handing over the cheque to Howard Kelly (third left) with club officials Les Green (left), Bill George (Borough Vice-Chairman), Tony Sandy (director, second right) looking on with Triton marketing manager Andrew Nicoll (right) adding his support.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough have clinched the biggest sponsorship in the club's history with a leading Nuneaton firm, Triton, backing the Beazer Homes League outfit to the tune of £12,500. The deal was struck this week and is a massive boost to the Manor Park club, who have their sights set on getting back among the elite of non-league football.

Chairman Howard Kerry said: "We are delighted that our major backer will be a Nuneaton company. Triton's support is just the tonic needed and gives myself and other directors the encouragement to help guide Nuneaton Borough into the 1989-90 season."

The Weddington-based firm, which employs more than 250, will have their name emblazoned on the Borough shirts for the whole of next season with an option to extend their backing the following year.

Another part of the deal involves the new stand which is to be opened officially next month with the name of Triton appearing on the front facade for the next ten years...

1989-90

St Andrews v Nuneaton Borough

29-07-1989

Borough made the journey to Canal Street to play St Andrews in a pre-season friendly match.

Nuneaton Borough opened their pre-season build-up with a convincing performance. Goals from newcomers Robbie Farmer and Robbie Timms, with further strikes from Paul Shackleton, Kevin Watts and Ade Waters gave the Manor Park side an emphatic 5-0 win.

Kirk Stephens was without six of his first team squad for Saturday's trip, but will have everyone available from now on. Former Atherstone United striker Farmer has been training with Borough and looked quite sharp. Timms, with Bedworth United last term, has also looked impressive since reporting for training earlier this month. He can play at full-back or in midfield, as he did on Saturday.

Delight At Latest Sponsorship



Nuneaton Borough's off the field exploits continue to blossom with another substantial sponsorship deal being completed. Locally based MBK Motor Rewinds will be providing the backing for a new perimeter fence around the playing area of the Manor Park ground. The deal is another boost for Borough, who have already clinched a major five-figure sponsorship with Triton for the coming season.

MBK Motor Rewinds are no strangers in giving their support to Borough as they provided new tracksuits for the first team during the 1988-89 campaign as well as sponsoring half-a-dozen matches.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Judge Turns Down Shooter Bid

Businessman Joe Shooter's attempts to gain control of Nuneaton Borough Football Club were dramatically blocked in the High Court. Mr Justice Harman refused to appoint Mr Shooter as a non-voting chairman of the club, despite pleas that he could make it successful again. The judge had earlier stripped Mr Noel Kelly of the club's chairmanship and ordered him to surrender his shares to Mr Shooter during the long-running legal wrangle over the Borough's future.

Mr Victor Joffe QC acting on behalf of Mr Shooter, said: "It is essential that Nuneaton Borough Football Club is not just managed as a business but influenced to be taken back to footballing success.

"On its past record we feel the current interim board needs pointing in the right direction and Mr Shooter is the man to do that job. It would be the right course for Mr Shooter to become a non-voting chairman of the club while the case is being settled."

But Mr Kelly's counsel, Mr John Briggs QC, said there was "no need" for Mr Shooter to be appointed on to the interim board.

"There is always the option to the board that it can invite whosoever it wishes to assist them at any meetings, and therefore they could ask Mr Shooter and Mr Kelly to attend meetings."

Mr Justice Harman agreed with Mr Briggs and said although Mr Shooter would not be appointed, both he and Mr Kelly should be kept informed by the board of all business matters.

Because both Mr Shooter and Mr Kelly had failed to find an agreement on the value of Mr Kelly's 54 per cent stake of the club's shares, the hearing was adjourned once more so Mr Justice Harman could hold inquiries.

He will decide the value of Mr Kelly's 1,007 shares, how much money was put into the club by Mr Kelly and his company, and how much money Mr Kelly and his company are owed by loans. The earliest the hearing is likely to be resumed will be in October, but it could be as late as Christmas.

After the hearing in London yesterday, Mr Alan Lodge, the solicitor acting for Mr Kelly, said: "Mr Shooter was trying to enjoy the fruits of his success without paying for it and we are extremely pleased that he failed."

Asked if he was disappointed about the judge's decision, Mr Shooter said: "Of course I am, but there is a long way to go yet and I have not fought long and hard for this long to not win outright in the end."

Kerry – Business As Normal

Mr Howard Kerry, chairman of the Borough's interim board has pledged to fans that the High Court battle will not affect the team's rise to success. He said it was going to be "business as normal" at Manor Park as preparations are made for the new season.

"As I've set out from day one on this issue, I put the interests of the club before anything and the future of football at Manor Park is the first priority," he said.

Aylesbury United v Nuneaton Borough 01-08-1989

Borough made the journey to Buckingham Road to play Aylesbury United in a pre-season friendly match.

Nuneaton Borough slipped to a 4-2 defeat as they continued their pre-season build-up at Aylesbury. Steve Scott, just back from holiday, and Ade Waters, were on target for Borough in a competitive encounter. However, the home side, relegated from the Vauxhall Conference at the end of last term, looked the sharper of the two teams and were value for their win.

Borough Race To Finish Stand

Nuneaton Borough officials are facing a race against time to get their new stand completed for the official opening and a glamour game against Manchester United. The club have been forced to bring in extra workmen in a bid to beat the

deadline for the opening a week tomorrow which is being performed by former England star Bobby Charlton. Steelwork and the seating still has to be finished but Borough chairman Howard Kerry is hopeful the £45,000 stand will be ready for the big day.

“A definite decision will be made on Sunday night. Work is going on throughout the weekend,” said Kerry.



Workmen add the finishing touches to the steel supports in Borough's new stand.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Bristol City 03-08-1989

Borough welcomed Bristol City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Despite going down 3-0, manager Kirk Stephens was more than satisfied with his side's performance. “It was an excellent workout and the lads really enjoyed playing against good quality opposition,” said Stephens. “They learned a lot from the game and I was pleased with the way we performed and hopefully we can show the same level of play against Birmingham.”

Nuneaton Borough v Birmingham City 05-08-1989

Borough welcomed Birmingham City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough wilted in the heat as Birmingham turned in a five star display in the second half. Dennis Bailey was the Blues hero, hitting four of the goals, with Colin Gordon supplying the other one. Nuneaton held the Football League side during a goalless first period but Borough were forced to defend in depth for much of the time.

They seldom troubled Martin Thomas in the Blues' goal, although Rob Farmer did spring the Birmingham offside trap only to drag his shot across the face of the goal. Wayne Starkey dropped an early centre under challenge from Gordon and shortly afterwards limped off to be replaced in the Borough goal by Mark Ullah.

The newcomer produced an excellent save low to his right to deny Bailey and then did well to turn a Gordon effort over the top. But seven minutes after the restart Kevin Watts brought down Kevin Ashley in the penalty area and when Bailey converted the spot kick the writing was on the wall.

Gordon thumped home a 25-yard left-footer midway through the half and then Bailey made it 3-0 with a simple tap-in after Simon Sturridge had created the opening. Borough pulled a goal back with 12 minutes left when Farmer turned smartly on the edge of the box and beat Thomas with a low shot inside his right hand post.

However, any hopes Borough might have had of closing the gap disappeared as Birmingham ended on a high note. Bailey beat Ullah to a long through pass in the 87th minute, rounded the keeper and calmly slipped the ball into an empty net, and a minute later he added Blues' fifth from close range after Sturridge had again been involved in the build up.

Borough Remove Canal Side Roof

Work is underway to take off the roof of the Dutch barn on the canal side of Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park ground to make it safe for Saturday prestigious friendly against Manchester United. Since the fire and safety officer deemed the stand to be unsafe in the ground crackdown two and a half years ago, fans have not been allowed to use that side of the ground.

However, once the roof is removed then supporters can watch matches from that highly popular vantage point on the canal side. Exhall firm Alex Stone Reclamation has the task of dismantling the roof with propane cutters as Borough prepare for Saturday's visit of United.

Manchester United Friendly Off

Nuneaton Borough have called off a glamour home game against Manchester United in the wake of violence at a pre-season friendly. Disappointed Borough officials decided last night to postpone the game, after learning that their new 600 seater stand would not be ready in time. Without it, it would have been impossible to segregate the large crowd expected for Saturday's prestige match.

Borough will now travel to The Cliff, Manchester United's training ground. A return fixture will hopefully be arranged.

Nuneaton Borough v Oxford United 09-08-1989

Borough welcomed Oxford United to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough were outfought and outplayed by a strong Oxford United side and went down 3-0.

Manchester United v Nuneaton Borough 12-08-1989

Borough made the journey to Manchester United's training ground to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough slipped to a narrow 1-0 defeat at The Cliff.

Nuneaton Borough v Nuneaton Griff 15-08-1989

Borough welcomed Nuneaton Griff to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly match.

Borough cruised to a 4-2 win with goals from Brian Palgrave, Robbie Farmer, Peter McBean and Simon Clarke.

Borough Lose Webster

Nuneaton Borough's hopes for the coming season have been dealt a body-blow with the kick-off just two days away. Central defender Les Webster, a cornerstone of manager Kirk Stephens' plans, has decided to join last season's Beazer Homes League Midland Division champions Gloucester City.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 19-08-1989

Borough: Harris, Everitt, Wilson, Stephens, Clarke, Waters, Palgrave, Farmer, Scott (McBean 76), Watts, Shearer. **Sub:** Bateman.

Stourbridge: Churchill, Brown, Nicklin, Massey, Horne, Lowe, Ingram, Harrison, Anslow, Whiston, Carty. **Subs:** Julians, Hodgetts.

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

Borough's promotion dreams lasted for just 60 seconds before exploding in their faces with an almighty bang. The Manor Park side went a goal down in the first minute and then crashed to an embarrassing defeat.

Many of the home fans were still settling into their favourite spots when Stourbridge took the lead from the very first attack of the game. The visitors forced a corner on the right and when Paul Carty swung in the flag-kick to the far post, Alan Harris failed to gather and Ray Anslow fired home a low shot through a crowded goalmouth. Borough could have been two down five minutes later as Steve Ingram drifted a shot inches wide following a free kick on the edge of the Nuneaton penalty area.



Kevin Watts (grounded right) watches his shot beat keeper Lance Churchill, but fly wide of the post. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Lance Churchill turned a rising drive from Steve Scott over the top but Stourbridge were quickly back in control and Borough had an amazing let-off. Carty got past Leigh Everitt and cut into the area. He took the ball round Harris, who pulled him down, but amazingly the referee waved play on. Scott had a glimpse of a chance before Borough's hopes sank even further after 31 minutes when Ingram pulled the whole Nuneaton defence wide to right and floated a centre to the far post for the unmarked Kevin Harrison to plant a firm header past Harris. Borough might have cut the deficit just before the break when Simon Clarke beat Churchill to a through ball and found Robbie Farmer, but his shot was cleared off the line by Richard Massey.

Kevin Watts found space on the right and saw his centre scrape the bar at the start of the second half. Everitt then worked a neat one-two with Michael Shearer before forcing a low save from Churchill. Borough should have scored half way through the second half when Watts shot wide from six yards. That was to be Borough's last shot and in the 72nd minute Keith Brown robbed Shearer and raced 30 yards down Borough's left flank, drew what little cover there was and played the ball inside to Anslow who strode clear and planted the ball past Harris. Ade Waters then had a rush of blood as he blatantly kicked Carty in the area and Massey made no mistake from the penalty spot. Five minutes later Massey completed a disastrous day for Borough when he jumped alone for Carty's right wing corner and his header flew into the roof of the net.

Stephens Resigns

Nuneaton Borough manager Kirk Stephens resigned on Saturday evening with the season just 90 minutes old. The former Coventry City and Luton defender walked off the Manor Park pitch following Borough's disastrous opening day defeat and handed in his resignation. But Stephens, who says that his playing days are now over, stressed that the crushing 5-0 setback against Stourbridge was not the sole reason for him leaving the Nuneaton hotseat.

He quit for personal reasons, with his wife and family and his business commitments high on the list. "When I took over the job during last season I was not certain that football management was what I really wanted to do," he said. "I even told Bobby Vincent when he was appointed as assistant manager that I might not continue after the end of last season. I took the job in the first place because of my feelings for Nuneaton Borough, but it hasn't worked out as I would have wished and Saturday's result was merely the last straw."

Scott Storms Off

Last season's leading scorer Steve Scott has been released by Nuneaton Borough after storming off the pitch during Saturday's 5-0 thrashing. Scott, who netted 17 goals after joining Borough from Atherstone last December, was obviously disappointed to be substituted and his anger was aimed at player-manager Kirk Stephens and officials on the bench. The tall striker quickly changed and left the ground before the game had ended.

Bobby Vincent Caretaker Manager

Caretaker boss Bobby Vincent today roared out a battle cry in a bid to lift crisis-torn Borough out of the doldrums. Vincent, who has made no secret of his hope to take over the Nuneaton hot seat, urged his troops to do their talking on the pitch in their crucial league clash at Spalding United. "To lose 5-0 at home on the opening day of the season is a disaster but the lads must get off their backsides and stop feeling sorry for themselves," said Vincent.



Spalding United v Nuneaton Borough 22-08-1989

Borough: Harris, Everitt, Wilson, Waters, House, Palgrave, Pollard, Farmer, McBean, Watts (Dewis), Shearer. **Sub:** Clarke.

Borough made the journey to the Sir Halley Stewart Field to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough went a long way towards wiping out the memory of the 5-0 defeat to Stourbridge with a battling show. But in spite of a marked improvement in both skill and commitment, Borough went down to a second successive defeat.

Spalding were first to show with Alan Harris safely gathering Clive Worthington's free-kick, but Borough should have gone in front in the second minute. Mick Shearer found McBean on the edge of the penalty area and he turned superbly past his marker only to shoot over the top as the keeper came out. Robbie Farmer had a close range effort superbly turned over the top by Jim McDonagh and then Worthington did well to turn an Ali Wilson free kick away from inrushing Kevin Watts.

House rescued Borough as he cleared off the line after Kevin Topliss had beaten Harris but the visitors again hit back to stretch the Spalding defence. McBean worked a good opportunity when he broke clear on the right, but he produced a poor cross with both Farmer and Pollard unmarked in the middle. Shearer then shot wide of the right hand post from inside the penalty area after Farmer's shot had been blocked. Shortly before the break Harris failed to reach a free kick, Ian Ladd headed it over him and House again got back in time to hook the ball clear.

Clarke came on for the limping Watts before Nuneaton's pressure finally paid off after 77 minutes when Farmer dummied a free-kick by Ade Waters and McBean stole in at the far post to slide the ball home.

But with just five minutes left Spalding snatched an equaliser. Harris could only palm out a left wing corner and Rippin turned it back into the goalmouth for Andy Rider to head home from close range. Worse was to follow for Borough with the game entering the final minutes, when they failed to pick up Davidson from a free-kick and the big central defender headed home the winner.

Les Green Borough's New Manager

Nuneaton Borough today sensationally named the club's marketing executive Les Green as their new manager – leaving caretaker boss Bobby Vincent seething. Vincent, who has been sacked after just one game, stormed: "I will never set foot on the ground again." Former Borough goal-scoring hero Vincent reacted angrily to the board's decision saying: "I am absolutely gutted. I just do not believe what has happened. After Kirk Stephens had resigned on Saturday I offered to go as well but chairman Howard Kerry implored me to continue.

"To beg me to stay on then to give me the sack just six days later is an insult to me and an embarrassment to the club," he added.

Chairman Howard Kerry said: "It is sad that Bob feels the way he does but the public demand results and we must get them in the best way we think possible. Hopefully Les will provide us with a team that will put us back among the best.

"Les is direct and straightforward with plenty of experience of the game having played at the highest level and under top managers and coaches such as Brian Clough and Peter Taylor," said Kerry...

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston United 26-08-1989

Borough: Harris, Everitt, Wilson, Watts, House, Waters, Palgrave, Pollard (Shearer 35), Scott, McBean, Farmer. **Sub:** Dewis.

Bilston: Corbett, Horton, Trend, Birch, Minton, Smitheringale, Wainwright, Richards (Ansell 80), Russon, McKenzie (Cooper 25), Chapman.

Borough welcomed Bilston United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough are still looking for their first win, but they were in command for long periods, especially in the first-half, but failed to turn their superiority into goals.

It was all Borough in the opening exchanges and the Manor Park outfit could have been two goals ahead in the first six minutes. Rob Farmer saw his close range header superbly turned away for a corner by Corbett and before the visitors had chance to regain their composure their keeper was again in the thick of the action, going full length to deny Ade Waters. Mark Pollard had a shooting chance but failed to connect properly and Corbett gathered comfortably.

Little had been seen of the Bilston attack and it was Borough who continued to call the tune with Scott heading wide from six yards from Farmer's cross. There was a moment of anxiety when Waters handled on the edge of the penalty area but Darren Ansell shot high over the top. However, there was a shock in store for Borough a minute before the interval when Ali Wilson fouled Mick Richards just outside the area and Ian Smitheringale curled the free kick into the top corner.

Scott flashed a header over the top at the start of the second half and McBean headed well wide from Farmer's cross before Farmer got clear of the Bilston defence only to drag his shot narrowly wide of the far post. Borough were enjoying a lot of possession but they wasted another good opportunity to get level when Scott broke away down the right only to put his centre straight at the keeper with men free in the middle. But Nuneaton found the elusive equaliser with 17 minutes left – McBean grabbing his second goal in five days. Wilson hit a fine diagonal ball inside Bilston's left back David Trend and McBean was onto it like a flash to steer the ball wide of the advancing Corbett and into the corner of the net.

Steve Cooper shot well wide in a rare Bilston attack but it was Borough who came nearest to finding the winner. Shearer made space on the left in the last minute and put in a fine cross, which was only partially cleared and Waters hit a fierce drive that was deflected wide for a corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 28-08-1989

Borough: Harris, Everitt, Wilson, Dewis, Orton, Waters, Watts, Palgrave, Scott, McBean, Farmer. **Subs:** Bateman, House.

Grantham: Parslow, Vince, Swainston, Weston, Hall, Ward, Simpson, Watson, Marsden, Banks, Gee. **Subs:** Charlesworth, Corden.

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

Borough finally got their campaign off the ground with a convincing win. Steve Scott helped himself to both goals as improving Borough picked up their first win in four outings.

Grantham were first to threaten with Craig Weston breaking clear down the right flank and producing a dangerous cross but Alan Harris gathered confidently under pressure. Rob Farmer freed Ali Wilson wide on the left and Paul Ward was fortunate when he got a boot to the full-back's centre and saw the ball fly out for a corner.

Borough continued to press and Brian Palgrave played a superb ball inside the full-back for Farmer but he failed to control the pass and the visitors' defence recovered to clear the danger. There was an anxious moment for the Manor Park fans when Gary Watson picked up a clearance some 30 yards out from Borough's goal and hit a fierce drive that flew narrowly over the angle.

Borough missed a clear opportunity to open the scoring when Farmer got up well to flick a free-kick to McBean but the Nuneaton striker hesitated and finally hooked the ball over the top from close in. Scott then brought a fine save from Linden Parslow with a fierce volley before Gary Banks cut inside from the Borough left to flash a drive across the face of the home goal. But Borough were quickly back on the attack with Scott getting up highest to an Ade Waters free-kick but Parslow snatched the ball away from the intruding McBean.

However, three minutes before the break Nuneaton finally broke the deadlock. Farmer showed tenacity to win the ball out on the right, he waited for Scott to make his run into the area and picked out the big striker with a far post cross that he headed past Parslow from six yards. Farmer should have made it 2-0 in the final seconds of the half but he put his shot straight at the visiting keeper from only eight yards.

Borough began the second period in tremendous style and could have stretched their lead twice in the first couple of minutes. Within seconds of the restart Farmer got McBean clear into the penalty area only for him to put his shot into the side netting. Wilson sliced a Farmer cross wide with just the keeper to beat before Farmer had a shot charged down after Scott had knocked on a free-kick.

Grantham went close when Weston's first-time ball split the Borough back four and Banks raced clear, only to be denied by Harris, who made a superb point-blank save at his feet. Banks headed over before Orton fired an effort high over the bar as Borough hit back and the midfielder also brought Parslow to

his knees with a first-timer from 25 yards. Any hopes Grantham had of snatching a point disappeared six minutes from the end as Borough snatched a second goal. Farmer outjumped the visitors' defence for a Waters' free-kick and nodded the ball straight to Scott who missed his kick before ramming home a close range effort at the second attempt.

Borough Sign Carty



Nuneaton Borough manager Les Green has moved into the transfer market, signing Stourbridge winger Paul Carty. The left-winger had an outstanding match against Borough on the opening day of the season and Green rates him as an exciting prospect for the future.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Sandwell Borough v Nuneaton Borough 09-09-1989

Sandwell: Carmichael, Wells, Lippitt, Clarke, Day, Burrows, Bowerman, Brain, Civil (Morton 84), Jones, Foster. **Sub:** Nicholls.

Borough: Harris, J. Dewis, Timms, Bateman, K. Dewis, Waters, Palgrave (Farmer 67), Watts, McBean, Scott, Carty. **Sub:** Everitt.

Borough travelled to Oldbury Sports Centre to play Sandwell Borough in a Southern League Midland Division match.

The enormity of the task facing Les Green was painfully evident as Borough were found sadly lacking in virtually every department as they deservedly crashed to their second defeat in the past week.

With a swirling wind blowing the ball all over the place, Nuneaton were slow to settle and Sandwell made all the early running. Stan Jones made space wide on the right and his low centre found Gary Foster who neatly set up a shooting chance for Neil Civil, but Ade Waters recovered quickly to clear the danger. At the other end, Steve Scott outjumped Anton Day to flick on a high ball but home keeper John Carmichael was quickly off his line to deny the in-rushing Peter McBean.

Borough were struggling to get a grip on the game and it came as no surprise when Sandwell went ahead in the 13th minute. Waters made a mess of a short free-kick just outside the Nuneaton penalty area and Nigel Barrows quickly



switched the ball forward to Jones who held off Timms and rifled a left foot volley past Alan Harris and into the net. Sandwell continued to dominate the proceedings and Harris was happy to grab Civil's shot at the second attempt after Foster had set up the opening.

Jones fired narrowly wide from the edge of the box before Scott broke clear down the right as Nuneaton looked a bit livelier at the start of the second period but his centre drifted wide of the far post and out. Waters then had a glimpse of an opening when a Carty corner was only cleared to the edge of the area, but the Borough skipper wanted too much time and the danger was cleared. But despite their spell of pressure Borough found themselves two goals down in the 62nd minute. Brian Palgrave was caught in possession just outside the Sandwell area, the ball was switched forward to Civil and his low centre left Jones with a simple tap-in from close range.

Robbie Farmer came on to replace the ineffective Palgrave after 67 minutes, but shortly afterwards Borough were fortunate not to fall further behind. They were caught pushing forward and a quick break put Steve Brain clear but he dragged his shot across the face of the goal. Kevin Watts fired a shot high and wide following a Carty free-kick, but 12 minutes from the end Borough pulled a goal back.

Timms floated a free-kick to the far post where McBean outjumped the Sandwell defence and Carmichael could only parry the Nuneaton striker's header for Farmer to score from the rebound. It took a tackle by Day to halt Carty after a neat build-up involving Timms and Farmer and then in the closing seconds the Borough winger sliced a shot wide after a Timms' cross had caused confusion in the Sandwell defence.

Seven Players Released

Borough manager Les Green has had a sensational clear-out of the playing staff at Manor Park. The former Derby County goalkeeper has released seven members of the first team squad. Brian Palgrave has moved to Bromsgrove Rovers for a small fee and Kevin Watts has joined neighbours Bedworth United. Ali Wilson, Lee Bateman, Mick Shearer, Robbie Farmer and skipper Ade Waters are the other five players on the move.

Grantham Keeper Joins Nuneaton

Borough manager Les Green has captured Grantham keeper Linden Parslow. The 25-year-old, who agreed terms earlier this week, will make his debut in the Reserves' home fixture with Darlaston. Green, who is delighted with the signing, said today: "He is a good keeper, just what the club has needed for a long time."

Mulcahy Joins Borough

Dave Mulcahy has agreed to join Nuneaton Borough. The 19-year-old central defender is the third new face at the club since manager Les Green took over the hot seat. Mulcahy, who was a YTS player with Birmingham City, spent two years with Shrewsbury Town, where he captained the reserve team.

Five New Signings Make Debuts

Nuneaton Borough manager Les Green introduces five new signings to the club as the Reserves play host to high fliers Darlaston at Manor Park. After his recent clear out, Green has moved swiftly to bring new blood to Borough with keeper Linden Parslow, John Laws, Dave Mulcahy, Stuart Hall and Paul Masefield all set to make their debuts.

Borough Sign McDonald

Nuneaton Borough manager Les Green has pulled off a major scoop by capturing experienced midfielder Bobby McDonald from Burton Albion. The former Villa, Manchester City and Sky Blues player will make his debut against Stourbridge.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough

23-09-1989

Stourbridge: Dudgeon, Brown, Richards, Massey, Jones, Horne, Ingram (Anslow 69), Harrison, Gonzales, Snape, Kirwan. Sub: Whiston.

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Timms, Mulcahy, McDonald, Laws (Hall 76), Bone, Carty, Scott (Straw 61), McBean, Symonds.

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

Substitute Robert Straw pounced ten minutes from the end to salvage a point on a frustrating afternoon. Les Green's rebuilt Borough side appeared to be on their way to a disappointing defeat after failing to capitalise on clear opportunities.

Borough were first to threaten and Stourbridge keeper Martin Dudgeon did well to pluck Paul Masefield's free-kick out of the air under pressure from Steve Scott. At the other end Linden Parslow reacted quickly to block an effort by Andy Gonzales and then the Borough keeper produced a fine save to turn a Gonzales shot onto a post and away to safety.

Midway through the half Borough twice came within an ace of breaking the deadlock. Symonds flashed a low drive across the face of the home goal and McBean then failed to control a close range header from Masefield's fine cross. Paul Carty put Symonds clear and he raced into the penalty area but his fierce shot was straight at Dudgeon who was happy to gather at the second attempt. But ten minutes before the break the visitors found themselves a goal down. Chris Jones flicked on a long free-kick by Keith Brown and when Parslow blocked a close range effort from Gonzales, Harrison popped home the rebound from close range.

Borough pushed forward looking for an equaliser and Bone was inches away from turning in a right wing cross and then Symonds was denied by a cruel bounce when a goal looked certain. Dudgeon made a fine save to keep out a shot from McBean and seconds before the interval the Nuneaton striker missed a sitter after a poor backpass by Jones had left him with just the keeper to beat. There was danger for Borough at the start of the second period when Harrison flicked on a Richard Massey free-kick but Dave Mulcahy got up well to clear the danger. John Snape was booked for a foul on McBean and shortly afterwards the Borough front-runner almost beat

Dudgeon to an Archie Richards' back-pass. Straw came on to replace Scott and he immediately set Symonds racing away down the left but John Horne got across to cut out the danger. Massey put a free-kick high and wide from the edge of the penalty area as Stourbridge put the visitors under pressure.

A fine move down the left should have brought Nuneaton an equaliser. Straw and Carty combined well and when the former Stourbridge player crossed to the far post, Bone saw his shot superbly saved by Dudgeon. But ten minutes from time Bone made full amends. He superbly slipped past Richards, drew Jones and played a fine early cross into the box for Straw to volley into the roof of the net. Borough had a late scare when Gonzales got free in the box but he put a weak shot straight at Parslow.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 30-09-1989

Borough: Parslow, Watson, Everitt, Mulcahy (Dewis 65), Tarry, Carty, McDonald, Bone, S. Scott, Symonds, Straw (McBean 57).

Leicester: Marsden, Wilson, Randell, North, Geddes, Lane, Payne (K. Scott 77), Akerdolu, Hallam, Tonge, Howarth. Sub: Jeffrey.

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

Borough again had to pay a dear price for missed chances as they slipped to defeat against their fellow strugglers.

Borough quickly seized the initiative with John Symonds cutting across the face of the visitors' penalty area before releasing Straw, but his shot was blocked. Nuneaton continued to push forward and they had the ball in the net after only four minutes, Straw forcing the ball home after Ian Marsden had failed to hold Chad Bone's low cross, but the goal was disallowed for offside.



Keeper Ian Marsden gets up well to punch clear from Steve Scott.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

There was danger for Borough when Akerdolu was not picked up for Wayne North's cross but Linden Parslow gathered safely under the crossbar. Play quickly switched to the other end where Paul Carty put a shot into the side netting after robbing Robert Wilson wide on the left and then Straw trod on the ball as he burst into the penalty area to

end another promising move by Borough. David Tonge put a tame header straight at Parslow in a rare Leicester move before North was booked for hacking down Symonds as the Nuneaton striker threatened to break clear.

Straw had a goal-bound drive turned away for a corner by Marsden and then Borough missed a golden opportunity to break the deadlock after 32 minutes. Scott made space wide on the right and his centre found McDonald who knocked the ball down for Straw who wanted too much time and Marsden saved a point blank range. Four minutes before the interval Borough were again out of luck when McDonald rose above the Leicester defence to power in a header from Bone's cross but the ball rebounded to safety off the foot of a post.

Nuneaton were made to regret that miss two minutes later when the visitors snatched the lead totally against the run of play. Tonge held off Leigh Everitt and cut into the penalty area. When he pulled a low centre into the goalmouth Mark Hallam swept in a low shot that took a deflection and Akerdolu forced the ball in from almost on the line.

Borough went looking for an equaliser at the start of the second period and Scott was only inches away from getting the vital touch as Straw's drive flashed across the face of goal. Everitt headed Wilson's cross out for a corner and there was more anxiety for Borough when Hallam wriggled clear, but his shot on the turn was wide of Parslow's right-hand post. Peter McBean came on for the tiring Straw and was immediately involved in a neat Borough build-up that ended with Marsden punching clear from the inrushing Scott. But Nuneaton were fortunate not to fall further behind after 68 minutes. Tonge was allowed a free header from Andy Howarth's corner and Parslow made a fine block but the ball ran straight to Jevon Payne who looked certain to score until the Borough keeper bravely smothered the ball at the striker's feet.

Kerry Dewis came on for Mulcahy as Nuneaton looked to get them back into the match. They almost grabbed an equaliser when, with 15 minutes to go, Bone made a tremendous run down the right but Andy Geddes managed to get a touch to the youngster's centre to deflect the ball away from Scott and McBean. Borough again went close ten minutes from the end when McDonald freed Carty down the left and his deep cross to the far post caught the Leicester defence out of position, but McBean failed to make contact from close range.

Webster Back With Borough

Central defender Les Webster has returned to Nuneaton Borough and is included in the line-up to meet Dudley. The former Northampton Town player, who chose to join Gloucester ahead of Borough during the close season, is back on a month's loan. "We have struggled at the back during our recent matches and I am sure that Les will help us to plug the gaps," said manager Les Green. The Borough boss has also signed Craig Corrance from Sutton Coldfield and he goes straight into the team to meet Dudley.



Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 07-10-1989

Borough: Parslow, Corrance, Tarry, Wilson, Webster, Bone, Laws, McDonald, Carty, Symonds, Scott. **Subs:** Watson, Cain.

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

High flying Dudley Town carried far too many big guns for Borough's fragile defence. Borough's second home defeat on successive Saturday's merely emphasised the need to strengthen the back four.

Dudley posed the first threat when Tim Langford and Brendan Hackett combined well to force a corner on the left but Matt Tarry headed clear. Steve Scott flicked on a Bobby McDonald free-kick as Borough pushed forward but John Chapman scrambled the ball away with John Symonds closing in. In spite of playing against a strong wind, the visitors continued to force the pace and Langford and John Muir made a mess of a good opportunity, getting in each other's way when the Nuneaton defence failed to clear Brian Coyne's free-kick.

But Borough gradually began to get a grip and might have taken the lead when Kieron Mountford dropped a John Laws shot but Mark Prescott hooked the ball away and then Laws saw his effort deflected narrowly wide of the post. However, Nuneaton's hopes dropped after 23 minutes when Dudley snatched the lead. Linden Parslow made a good low save from Cope but Langford was on hand to force home the rebound.

Borough were unfortunate not to be back on level terms eight minutes before the break when Mountford failed to hold Laws' shot and Scott looked certain to score but Phil Wood seemed to block the ball on the line with his hands and penalty appeals fell on deaf ears. Worse was to come for the home fans as five minutes later the visitors mounted a swift counter attack and Paul Probert drilled a fine shot past Parslow.

McDonald had a header cleared by Chapman at the start of the second period but Borough looked more purposeful as they looked to get back into the match. Alfie Cain, a half-time substitute for the limping Bone, showed his pace as he raced away from Prescott but Wood got across to cut out the centre. But 12 minutes after the restart Borough raised the home fans' hopes as they cut the deficit. Mountford again failed to hold on to a left wing cross and Laws swept home the loose ball.

Borough were now dictating the game and five minutes later they were back on level terms. Cain made some space on the right and whipped over a cross for Symonds to plant a header past Mountford. Nuneaton's celebrations did not last long however, for Dudley were in front again after 70 minutes when Parslow turned away a long low cross from the right and Chris Arnot hooked the ball back into the goalmouth for Muir to head a simple goal. Chapman headed inches over the top from Rich's deep centre, but ten minutes from the

end Borough failed to clear a ball deep into the right hand side of their penalty area and Coyne's cross found Langford all alone in front of goal and he made no mistake from close range. Dudley were well in control now and with time running out Muir brought a good save from Parslow before Langford hooked a shot well wide from just inside the area.

Stratford Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-10-1989

Stratford: Whitehouse, Byrne, Payne, Young, Williams, Heslop, O'Brien, Usher (Hathaway 80), Mitchell, Holt (Morgan 88), Pryor.

Borough: Parslow, Corrance, Wilson, Bone, Webster, Tarry, McDonald, Symonds (Scott 69), McBean, Carty, Watson (Laws 61).

Borough travelled to Masons Road to play Stratford Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round match.

Borough made an early exit from the Birmingham Senior Cup with a disgraceful performance. The Manor Park side finished a poor second best and could have finished up losing by a greater score had it not been for some fine saves from Linden Parslow.

Borough found themselves a goal down after 20 minutes, with the home side gleefully accepting a gift. O'Brien swung in a corner from the left and Richard Holt swept the ball home from inside the six yard box. Borough stormed back immediately and were desperately unlucky not to be back on level terms within a minute. Paul Carty neatly sidestepped his marker on the edge of the box, but his fierce shot smacked against the crossbar and bounced out to safety. Carty should have scored shortly after when Bobby McDonald sent him racing clear through the middle, but his drive was blocked by Whitehouse's legs.

Nuneaton were soon to regret those misses, as Stratford increased their lead after 25 minutes. Pryor found space on the left and his low centre was prodded home from close range by the unmarked Ray Usher. Borough hit back and John Symonds fired a 20 yard shot wide of the far post as the home defence backed off.

With a mountain to climb, Borough needed an early goal in the second period to lift them, and a fine run by Carty saw him beat Alan Byrne and swing in a deep cross, but Bone was crowded out. Bone and McBean then linked well, but McDonald was unable to apply the finishing touch as McBean's centre flew across the face of the Stratford goal. Parslow showed his worth when he went full length to turn away Byrne's fierce drive.

Whitehouse made a superb save to keep out McBean's header, but Borough got themselves a lifeline after 72 minutes when Carty was fouled by Holt and McDonald scored from the resulting spot kick. However, any hopes the visitors might have had of forcing a replay disappeared two minutes later as Usher restored Stratford's two goal advantage, heading home Pryor's cross completely unchallenged. Parslow made a fine save to deny John Mitchell before Webster was booked for a foul on Mitchell.



Borough Sign Strikers

Nuneaton Borough manager Les Green has signed twin strikers Kim Green and Martyn Twigger as he bids to end the Manor Park club's goal drought. The VS Rugby pair will be included in the squad for tomorrow's trip to Grantham. Green was a prolific scorer when he was with Coventry Sporting, while Twigger topped the goal charts in his spell with Corby Town. The pair have cost Borough £2,000 – the money being donated by former club chairman John Harris.

Simpson Moves To Manor Park

Borough boss Les Green pulled off a major scoop last night when he signed Tony Simpson from Grantham Town. The little winger is highly rated in non-league circles and has been closely watched by several clubs from the Football League. "I am delighted to have signed Tony," said Green. "He is only 19 and is certainly one of the best wingers in the league."

Borough's Future Still Undecided

The future of Nuneaton Borough Football Club will not be decided until at least January – three years after a major boardroom row between ex-chairman Noel Kelly and Joe Shooter. The row – based on the allocation and validity of shares – erupted in January 1987 when Mr Kelly was chairman and Mr Shooter was vice-chairman.

Yesterday the High Court in London was told that a decision on the value of Mr Kelly's stake in the football club was not likely to take place until early next year. At a brief hearing, Mr Justice Harman approved a timetable under which both Mr Kelly and rival director Mr Shooter must have their evidence ready by December 11.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-10-1989

Borough: Harris, Corrance, Wilson, Taylor, Webster, Andersen, Cain, McDonald, Masefield, Green, Twigger. **Subs:** Carty, Symonds.

Borough travelled to London Road to play Grantham Town in a Westgate Insurance Cup first round first leg match.

Borough could not have wished for a better start as the visitors were ahead after only three minutes. Grantham only partially cleared a Borough free-kick and when Nicky Andersen won a 50-50 ball Craig Corrance knocked it back into the area for Green to beat Dale Foxcroft from close range. Tony Marsden had a shot charged down as the home side looked for an equaliser but Borough again split the Grantham defence with Martyn Twigger forcing a fine save from the keeper.

But Borough were fortunate after 13 minutes when their defence got in a tangle following a long throw in from the left and a Gary Banks shot was deflected onto a post. Foxcroft failed to hold a fierce Paul Masefield drive and Tony Jones was happy to hack the ball out for a fruitless corner. However, Grantham grabbed an equaliser after 17 minutes when a Paul Neville free-kick was knocked back across the face of the goal by Banks for Marsden to score from close range. Masefield had

half a chance when he screwed a shot wide from Green's flick on. Two minutes before the interval Borough went behind. Harris brought down Peter Whitehurst on the edge of the penalty area as he burst through and from the ensuing free-kick Whitehurst headed home at the far post.

Masefield fired a shot over the bar after Grantham only cleared a left wing corner to the edge of the box and then Borough were desperately unlucky not to equalise during a hectic scramble in the home goalmouth. Borough continued to dominate and Masefield made a superb break through the middle only for Foxcroft to bravely snatch the ball off his toes.

But Borough deservedly equalised after 62 minutes. Andersen cleverly knocked a ball over the top of the home defence and Alfie Cain hammered his shot home from 15 yards. Harris confidently gathered a long range effort from John Chamberlain in a rare Grantham raid while at the other end Bobby McDonald fired over from close range. It was all Borough and Grantham had an amazing let-off 15 minutes from the end when Les Webster's header from a McDonald free-kick hit the bar and the ball landed on the bar again before the home side eventually scrambled it to safety.

Foxcroft kept Grantham on level terms with a superb save to turn Andersen's shot away for a corner after the midfielder broke through and looked certain to score. Shortly before the end Borough should have grabbed the winner when McDonald picked out Twigger with a super far post cross but the Borough striker put his header straight at the keeper.

Two New Faces In Borough Side

Tomorrow's game against Sutton Coldfield will see the introduction of two more new faces to Borough fans. Winger Tony Simpson and central defender Mark Place will make their debuts. Simpson has been described by manager Les Green as an exciting old fashioned winger, who will be a big hit with the fans. Central defender Place has already made 37 League appearances for Mansfield, including four this season.

Nuneaton Boro' v Sutton Coldfield Town 28-10-1989

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Taylor, Place, McDonald, Andersen, Masefield, Carty, Simpson, Green, Twigger. **Subs:** Symonds, Webster.

Sutton: Clayton, Ward (Tucker 73), Richards, Whittingham, Pigott, Caulfield, Bullock, Smith, Biddle (Ram 82), Whitehouse, Hutchinson.

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

Tony Simpson made himself the new hero of the Manor Park terraces with a magical debut in Borough's superb win. The former Grantham winger had the Nuneaton crowd in raptures as he turned on his full repertoire of skills to totally demoralise the visitors' defence.

Borough, looking full of confidence, were quickly into their stride and the visitors were very fortunate not to go behind twice in the first couple of minutes. Almost straight from the kick-off Nuneaton forced a corner and when Sutton only

partially cleared the flag kick the ball was switched wide to the right to Simpson who skated past two defenders and picked out Mark Place with his cross, but the central defender headed wide from six yards. Then a long clearance by Linden Parslow bounced over the visitors' back four and Nicky Andersen reacted quickly but his goal-bound header was superbly turned away by Darren Clayton.

Borough were caught napping after seven minutes when some indecisive defending allowed Darren Bullock a clear sight of goal and his blistering 20 yard shot rebounded to safety off the left hand post. Simpson again jinked his way past full-back Nigel Richards but Mark Pigott got across to block the centre with both Twigger and Kim Green waiting in the middle. Borough were calling the tune at this stage but they had a scare when Andy Biddle broke clear on the left and found Bullock with a low centre but the Sutton striker drilled his shot wide.

Borough made the breakthrough after 25 minutes as Masefield grabbed his first goal for the club. Clayton failed to hold Paul Carty's chip and Masefield swept home the loose ball.

Seven minutes later Borough went two up. Bobby McDonald started the move as he found Carty wide on the left. His centre was only cleared to the edge of the box and when Andersen knocked the ball back in, Green flicked it on for Twigger to find the target despite mishitting his shot. Shortly before the interval Twigger burst clear down the middle but he wanted too much time and Pigott got back to hack the ball to safety.

Borough had a let-off early in the second period when Ken Taylor miskicked but Gary Smith failed to take advantage, screwing his shot wide from close range. The visitors came more into the game and McDonald halted Pigott's run. But 19 minutes into the second period Borough killed off any hopes Sutton had of getting back into the match. The visitors managed to clear off the line twice but eventually the ball fell to Simpson, who prodded home from close range.



Tony Simpson is about to start the celebrations after forcing home the third goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening News

Green glanced a header wide before Simpson provided the

moment of the match with a special bit of magic. From 30 yards out he set off on a tantalising run that took him past four defenders and he slipped the ball past Clayton as he came out only to see Richards clear off the line. Borough were now stepping up the pace and Green hooked an effort over the top before Andersen failed to get hold of his shot after Carty had set up a clear chance.

Simpson continued to run riot with the Sutton defence having no answer to his superb skills and Andersen was unfortunate to get a bad bobble just as he shot after the winger had again carved out an opening. But four minutes from the end Borough were guilty of losing concentration. Sutton won the ball in midfield, the ball was switched left to the unmarked Hutchinson and the former Nuneaton player cut inside to score with a low shot. However, Borough quickly regained control and should have had a penalty in the dying seconds when Simpson broke clean through and was hacked down by Richards as he cut into the area.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 30-10-1989

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Taylor, Place, McDonald, Andersen, Masefield, Carty, Simpson, Green, Twigger. Subs: Symonds, Webster.

Grantham: Foxcroft, Hall, Hoskins, Chamberlain, Ward, Swaiston, Neville, Weston, Whitehurst, Banks, Farrow. Subs: Gee, Corden.

Borough welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Westgate Insurance Cup first round second leg match.

Borough slipped to a disappointing exit from the Westgate Insurance Cup in a tale of two penalties. Peter Whitehurst confidently stroked home Grantham's winner, while a minute later Borough were refused a penalty after Kim Green was brought down in the area.

Borough were first to show but Twigger's cross carried too much weight and was dealt with comfortably. Paul Neville beat two men in a storming run from inside his own half and shot just wide of the left hand post. There was more trouble for Borough when they failed to clear Robert Farron's cross, but Masefield stepped in to tidy up. Green headed against a post from McDonald's free kick and Twigger's follow-up effort was blocked. At the other end Mark Hall flicked on a Craig Weston corner and Paul Ward headed over.

The game was being played at quite a pace and was crying out for someone to slow it down. Green had a shot blocked before Borough finished the half by hitting the woodwork. Paul Carty was fouled on the edge of the box and McDonald's free-kick curled over the wall and smacked against the angle.

Mark Place got up well to head clear at the start of the second half while at the other end Ward hooked the ball clear as Green moved in on a Twigger cross. Andersen had a goal-bound shot blocked and then Borough were again denied by the woodwork. McDonald's deep cross was misjudged by Foxcroft and Green got in at the far post but his effort came out off the upright and Tony Simpson then fired across the face of the goal from the rebound.



Midway through the half Parslow had to make his first serious save when Weston got free on the left and pulled the ball back for Neville who hit a rising drive that the keeper superbly turned over. Carty hooked an effort over the bar and Andersen fired a shot wide as Borough continued to look for the vital breakthrough. But 12 minutes from the end Borough's hopes were dealt a body blow. Banks got free of Ken Taylor wide on the right and cut into the box, where he was halted by Leigh Everitt, who handled the ball while he was on the ground and Peter Whitehurst tucked home the penalty.

Borough were refused a blatant penalty when Green was brought down in the box, the referee waving away heated appeals. Green then turned superbly to fire a shot across the face of the goal and Twigger hooked an effort high over the top as time ran out on Borough.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 04-11-1989

Leicester: Marsden, Fine, Potter, North, Geddes (Hamilton 63), Lane, Flanagan, Bond, Hallam, Scott, Howarth. **Sub:** Knight.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, McDonald, Taylor, Pace, Carty, Andersen, Jones, Green (Symonds 80), Twigger (Hurlock 88), Simpson.

Borough travelled to Winchester Road to play Leicester United in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough's emerging youngsters underlined their growing potential with an impressive performance. Martyn Twigger's second goal since joining the club and an own goal from Robert Fine were enough to give Borough their first away success in the league this season.

Borough were quickly into their stride with Tony Simpson slicing through the Leicester defence but his shot flew across goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. At the other end Linden Parslow produced a superb save to deny Andy Geddes and followed up by denying Mark Hallam from the ensuing corner. But from the second flag kick Leicester went in front when the Nuneaton defence failed to clear and Hallam volleyed home from close range.

Wayne North almost sliced the ball into his own net as Borough continued to press for an equaliser while at the other end Nuneaton failed to pick up Geddes from a free-kick and he headed narrowly over. Andersen and Simpson carved open the Leicester flank and Green was only inches away from getting onto the end of Andersen's low cross.

But the goal Borough needed came eight minutes before the interval. Twigger knocked on Bobby McDonald's left wing corner at the near post and when Kim Green's header came back off the bar Twigger forced home the rebound. Andersen forced a fine save from Ian Marsden as Nuneaton continued to dominate, but Parslow had to be alert to cut out a first-time effort from Andy Howarth. With the final seconds of the half ticking away Simpson again broke through the home defence only to see Marsden make a fine diving save.

Simpson again threatened at the start of the second half as he jinked clear on the right but he played a poor ball

inside to Green, who needed lengthy treatment after a clash with Marsden. Paul Carty failed to cut out a long cross from Howarth but McDonald tidied up with a solid tackle to halt Geddes. Borough went close when Marsden saved McDonald's shot following a free-kick and Simpson forced an effort just wide after Twigger had got clear in the area.

Borough missed a great chance ten minutes from the end when McDonald knocked a superb ball inside the full-back for Simpson, who cut into the area and shot wide of the far post with McDonald screaming for the ball to be played square. Four minutes from the end Borough snatched the winner they richly deserved. Symonds put Andersen through with a superb ball and when the midfielder knocked in a low ball to the far post Robert Fine, trying to keep out Twigger, could only help the ball into his own net. Deep into injury time Andy Potter fired a fierce cross shot which brought out a tremendous save from Linden Parslow.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 11-11-1989

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, McDonald, Taylor, Place, Carty, Andersen, Jones, Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Subs:** Symonds, Hurlock.

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

Borough again showed they could be a force in this year's promotion race with a commanding performance. Hednesford posed the first threat as early as the third minute when Kevin Bradford found Phil Titley on the edge of the penalty area but Linden Parslow safely gathered the shot low to his left. Tony Simpson produced a jinking run as Borough hit back and Twigger had a shot deflected wide. Mark Jones then sent Nicky Andersen bursting through but he was crowded out on the edge of the box. It took a fine diving save from Steve Carter to keep out Kim Green's goalbound shot before McDonald found himself space on the left to whip over a centre that flashed across the face of the Hednesford goal.

But midway through the half Borough had a let-off when Titley put Bradford clear on the right and his cross found Steve Austin unmarked, but the Hednesford front runner put his header high and wide. Borough should have gone ahead after 25 minutes when Jones worked a neat one-two with Green but he shot straight at Carter. However, Nuneaton broke the deadlock 60 seconds later with Jones creating the opening. The midfielder hit a glorious long ball from inside his own half to send Twigger racing clear and the Borough striker cut inside the area to drill a low left-footer past Carter. Paul Carty cracked a 20-yarder straight at Carter as Borough continued to dominate. Twigger then had a clear cut chance when Barry Edrop made a hash of an attempted clearance, but the striker dragged his shot wide of the near post.

Borough opened the second period in blistering form and they should have put the game well out of reach of the home side as they tore the Hednesford defence to pieces. Five minutes into the second half Carty broke clear from midfield



but Carter produced another superb save to keep his side in the match. Then Twigger had a glorious chance when Andersen put him clean through down the middle, however, with just the keeper to beat he shot wide. Sixty seconds later Green missed another chance, slicing the ball wide from close range from McDonald's free-kick.

Titley was happy to concede a corner from Simpson's cross before Hanson put a tame shot well wide from the edge of the area in a rare Hednesford attack. McDonald went full length to head away a dangerous centre by Rob Page. Borough then produced a superb break with Simpson getting Twigger clear on the left and his header found the unmarked Green who put a poor header wide of the target.

Hednesford threw everything forward in an attempt to salvage a point and an Austin shot almost caught Parslow unawares, the Borough keeper saving at the second attempt. Nuneaton then had a lucky escape. A Hednesford free-kick was flicked on putting both Page and Jimmy Brown completely clear. Parslow showed tremendous courage to fling himself at the ball, but it still squeezed through and looked destined for the net until Place appeared from nowhere to hook the ball off the line.

Banbury Match Abandoned

Borough forged a 2-0 lead with two goals from Nicky Andersen before a thick fog enveloped Manor Park and the referee was left with little alternative but to abandon the game after 27 minutes.

Simpson On Trial At Birmingham

Tony Simpson, Borough's mercurial winger, could be on the threshold of a career in the Football League. The tiny winger had a highly impressive game for Birmingham Reserves and has been invited for a fortnight of full training with the Blues.

Nuneaton Borough v Sandwell Borough 18-11-1989

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, McDonald (Bromley 61), Taylor, Place, Carty, Andersen, M. Jones, Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Sub:** Symonds.

Sandwell: Carmichael, Clarke (Nicholls 42 (Wells 72)), Lippitt, Hill, Day, Barrows, East, Hamilton, Civil, S. Jones, Lampitt.

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

Twin strikers Martyn Twigger and Kim Green were again on target as Borough made it four wins in a row. Borough fans now have hopes that after an abysmal start to the season, they can still figure in the promotion battle.

Borough, who were unchanged for the fourth successive match, made a sluggish start and it was Sandwell who posed the first threat. A free-kick by Ross Hill was only partially cleared and when Anton Day knocked the ball back into the Nuneaton penalty area, Linden Parslow had to react swiftly to snatch the ball away from the intruding Stan Jones. But Borough quickly counter-attacked and a neat build-up

involving Bobby McDonald and Mark Jones gave Twigger a shooting chance, but his effort was deflected for a corner.

Borough made the breakthrough after 14 minutes. A long through ball found Green with Twigger looking well offside, but play was allowed to go on and Green sent Twigger racing clear down the middle to slip the ball past the advancing John Carmichael. Paul Carty then slipped round Calvin Hamilton in the left hand corner and his centre flashed across the face of the Sandwell goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Green sent Nicky Andersen clear into the penalty area but the keeper cut out the danger before the pace of McDonald and Carty cut open the Sandwell right flank but Day recovered to get in a saving tackle as Twigger was preparing to shoot. Green put a close range header wide of the post from McDonald's free-kick. Then, with half-time approaching Carmichael kept the visitors in the game when he superbly turned away a Mark Jones shot at the expense of a corner.

Substitute Phil Wells had a shot charged down as Sandwell looked for an equaliser. Simpson showed a glimpse of his true form as he danced his way into the penalty area and whipped over a low centre but Hill hooked the ball away from inside the six yard box. However, Borough had a let-off 12 minutes after the re-start when Day outjumped the home defence to Stuart Lampitt's free-kick and his header rebounded off the Nuneaton crossbar. But any hopes the visitors had of snatching a point disappeared after 69 minutes as Borough put the game out of their reach with a superb second goal. Andersen put Twigger into the penalty area wide on the right and his hard low cross was volleyed home at the near post by Green.

Hamilton had a shot blocked, while at the other end Twigger saw his centre scrambled away. Carty cut inside to hit a low drive straight at the keeper and then shot across the face of goal after a one-two with Twigger. Borough were refused a blatant penalty when Twigger was hacked down from behind after he had cut deep into the Sandwell penalty area. Borough ended the game on a high as Andersen shot just wide and Simpson had a shot blocked following a dazzling run past three defenders.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-11-1989

Barry Town: Roberts, Blackie, Griffiths, Williams, Pontin, John, Withers, McNeil, Love, Evans, Matthews. **Sub:** Diamond, Dowd.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, McDonald, Taylor, Place, Carty, Andersen, Jones (Symonds 77), Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Sub:** J. Dewis.

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

Borough were nowhere near top form and despite taking the lead through Martyn Twigger, the visitors were second best. Barry looked slightly the sharper in the opening exchanges and Paul Evans hooked a shot way off target after Ian Love had flicked on an Ashley Griffiths free-kick. Phil McNeil then got free and fired in a low centre that Ken Taylor was happy



to turn behind. But Borough stunned the Welshmen as they snatched an eighth minute lead after a superb run by Tony Simpson, who left four defenders trailing in his wake before cutting into the penalty area. His low shot from a narrow angle beat John Roberts and when it rebounded off the far post, Twigger bundled it over the line.

The goal sparked Borough into life and a super build-up down the Barry right involving Twigger and Paul Carty ended with Twigger breaking into the box and Roberts did well to cut out the striker's centre. Linden Parslow cut out a McNeil centre before Evans glanced a header wide. Borough were desperately unlucky to concede a penalty in the 28th minute. Love thumped a shot at Taylor from three feet and the referee adjudged the defender to have handled and Griffiths scored from the spot, in-off the left hand post.

Borough missed a great chance to regain the lead when Twigger wriggled himself clear on the left and his fierce low cross flew across the face of the home goal with Kim Green unable to turn the ball in at the far post. It took a fine save from Parslow to keep out an Evans header towards half-time.

Borough were fortunate not to go behind immediately after the break when Withers broke clear on the right and crossed to the far post where Wayne Matthews was completely unmarked, but Parslow made a superb save. Seven minutes after the interval Barry took the lead when a long ball by Jimmy Blackie put Evans in behind the Borough defence and when Parslow slipped as he came out, Evans cracked the ball home. Since the interval Borough had been struggling to get back into the match, but they could have equalised when Simpson played Twigger in, but he wanted too much time.

Green headed over before Griffiths wasted a good opportunity for Barry, side-footing the ball over the top after Matthews had created the opening. Eleven minutes from the end the home side put the result beyond doubt when Borough were caught pushing forward and McNeil sent Love racing into the area and the Barry striker drilled a rising drive past Parslow as he came off his line. Borough had a penalty appeal turned down when Carty looked to have been felled in the box, but Barry finished on top with Parslow being forced to make a fine close range save.

Nuneaton Borough v Spalding United 27-11-1989

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Bromley, Taylor, Place, McDonald, Andersen, Carty, Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Subs:** Jones, Symonds.

Spalding: McDonagh, Ryder, Worthington, Humphries, Ladd, Gale, Topliss, Hornsby (Rushe), Henderson, Rippin, Langford. **Sub:** McNally.

Borough welcomed Spalding United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough bounced back from their defeat in Wales with a superb victory over high-flyers Spalding in a full-blooded encounter. Borough were quickly into their stride with both Paul Masefield and Tony Simpson stretching the visitors defence. Nicky Andersen beat two men in midfield before

finding Green, who fired over the top. Parslow did well to cut out a Kevin Topliss centre before Martin Henderson put a free header tamely wide. Andersen had a chance after 17 minutes but Andy Ryder recovered to block his shot.

But a minute later Borough were in front when Paul Carty and Twigger were involved in a neat build-up on the left and when Carty cut the ball back Bobby McDonald hammered a low ball into the goalmouth and Clive Worthington, under pressure from Green, turned the ball into his own net. Jim McDonagh clutched a Twigger cross with Green in close attendance before McDonald missed a chance, sidefooting the ball over the top after Simpson and Twigger had set up the opening.

McDonald looked as though he had made amends just before the half-hour, but McDonagh made a super save. But the Manor Park fans had a shock in the 31st minute when Spalding snatched an equaliser. Henderson got in a firm header from Topliss' cross, Parslow saved well but could only parry the ball and Paul Langford scored from the rebound. Twigger went close just before half-time with an overhead kick.

Borough opened the second half at a storming pace with Green dragging a shot wide. Masefield made a break down the right and his low ball into the box caused confusion in the Spalding defence and Twigger got a foot to the ball but it flew over the top. However, the pressure paid off and eight minutes after the re-start Borough were back in front. Andersen sent Twigger racing into the area where he was brought down by Lee Rippen. Twigger took the penalty himself and drilled it wide of McDonald's left hand.

The goal acted as a spur to the visitors and Nuneaton found themselves under pressure as Spalding looked for a second equaliser, which duly arrived after 62 minutes when the Borough defence was caught static for a right wing corner and Henderson poked the ball home from close range. It took a fine save from Parslow to prevent Spalding from taking the lead.

But midway through the half Green had a shot deflected wide by John Humphries and from the resulting corner Borough snatched the winner. McDonald curled the flag-kick in towards the near post and when the visitors failed to clear, Green buried a left-footer in the top corner. There was a late scare for Borough when Worthington turned a free-kick across the Borough goalmouth and substitute Fergus Rushe put a header wide.

Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 06-12-1989

Borough: Parslow, Masefield (Symonds 73), Bromley, Taylor, Place, Carty, Andersen, Jones, Twigger, Green, Simpson (Randle 73).

Borough travelled to the Spencer Stadium to play Banbury United in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough inflicted a crushing defeat on Banbury, collecting their sixth league win in the last seven outings. Borough were in dominant mood and it took only six minutes before they took the lead when Mark Bromley knocked a long ball for Twigger to

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race onto and when he cut into the box Banbury failed to clear a low ball, Kim Green won it back allowing Twigger to knock the ball back into the area for Andersen to sweep home from close range. Wayne McDowell got free for the home side, but no one was on hand to take advantage of his cross.

Borough were quickly back in control to extend their lead after 11 minutes. Twigger was brought down on the edge of the box and Andersen hammered the free-kick into the roof of the net. Seven minutes later it was 3-0 when Twigger robbed Barry Canning wide on the right and his cross to the far post found Carty who half-volleyed past Michael Torres. The Banbury keeper did well to turn over Twigger's close range shot following a Simpson free-kick but Borough moved further ahead in the 23rd minute. Simpson cut into the area from the right and his low shot beat Torres on his near post. But ten minutes before the interval Borough made it five. Mark Jones knocked the ball over the top to put Twigger clear and he easily held off Paul Dunn to score with a close range effort. However, within a minute Banbury opened their account with a penalty. Mark Place was harshly adjudged to have brought down McDowell and Dunn scored from the spot-kick.

Carty put a header high over the top at the start of the second half and then Twigger wriggled clear in the box, but his low cross was hacked away by Gethfield. Borough had visibly stepped off the gas pedal and the home side were now enjoying far more of the play. Wayne McDowell should have reduced the arrears further after 55 minutes when he got clean through the middle, but his shot was superbly saved by Linden Parslow. Midway through the half Borough stretched their lead when Carty and Green linked in midfield and Andersen sent Simpson racing through the middle to score with a shot that went in off the left-hand post.

Gethfield denied Green with the home defence in disarray before Borough made a double substitution with John Symonds and George Randle replacing Paul Masefield and Tony Simpson. But ten minutes before the end Nuneaton grabbed a seventh goal to complete the biggest defeat of the season for the home side. Gethfield lost possession wide on the right, Green knocked the ball to Andersen, who swept a long pass down the middle. Canning and Torres made a mess of tidying up and Randle was left with the simple job of tapping the ball into an empty net. With time running out, Green fired wide from inside the area and then glanced a header across the face of the goal from Twigger's left wing cross.

Willenhall Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-12-1989

Willenhall: Kendall, Harrison, Stokes, Hayward, Freeman, Smitheringale, Wainwright, Johnson, Higgins, Byrne, Wootton. **Subs:** Hutton, J. Simpson.
Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Bromley, Taylor, Place, Carty, Andersen, Symonds, Twigger, Green, A. Simpson. **Subs:** Randle, Woodiwiss.

Borough travelled to Noose Lane to play Willenhall Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough's dramatic surge up the league table almost came

to a halt as they stuttered their way through a below par performance. Borough looked all at sea at the start, although Twigger was unlucky not to keep his shot on target when a mishit effort by Kim Green flew to him in front of goal. Willenhall were far more positive than Borough and Stuart Stokes fired a 20 yard effort high over the top after Borough had failed to clear a right wing corner.

Borough were fortunate not to fall behind on two occasions when Johnson broke clean through, but put his cross too close to Parslow. There was more confusion and Higgins was all alone inside the penalty area, but Parslow saved superbly. However, Borough might have snatched the lead from their first attack of note in the ninth minute. Twigger flicked on a long ball and Nicky Andersen burst into the area, but cleared both the keeper and the crossbar.

Borough found themselves a goal down after 15 minutes when John Wainwright centred to Higgins, who was brought down by Mark Place. The centre-forward picked himself up to score from the spot. Twigger had a shot blocked and then Carty brought a diving save from Kendall with a low 20-yarder. It took a timely tackle by Masefield to deny Higgins a second goal. Three minutes before the break, Borough went two down when Johnson got away from Bromley and cut into the area to drill a low right footer into the far corner.

In spite of their woeful first-half performance, Borough came out for the second period in a much more determined frame of mind and within 60 seconds of the restart they pulled a goal back. Masefield got free on the right and his deep cross to the far post found Carty, climbing high above Neil Harrison to plant a looping header into the far corner of the net. Borough were still celebrating when they failed to clear an aimless ball down their left flank and Wainwright whipped in a dangerous centre but, fortunately for Nuneaton, Johnson failed to make contact with his head.

But eight minutes into the second half Nuneaton were back level terms. A long ball into the area found Green, who was fouled by Sean Hayward, and Twigger sent Kendall the wrong way with the penalty. Higgins put a weak effort straight at Parslow from inside the area before Wainwright wasted an opening by slicing his cross behind. However, Borough might have snatched it in the dying seconds when Simpson got close to a Masefield free-kick, but Kendall bravely cut out the full-back's low cross into the six yard box.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town

11-12-1989

Borough: Parslow (Taylor 52), Masefield, Bromley (Jones 45), Place, Wilson, Woodiwiss, Andersen, Carty, Twigger, Green, Simpspon.
Corby: Lamond, Hamill, Rayment, Torrance, Blake, Curtis, Hofbauer, McBean, Beazley (Roberts 68), Duggan, Walker. **Sub:** Brown.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a M&B Midland Floodlit Cup first round first leg match.

Both sides struggled to find any sort of pattern early on with passes continually going astray and the game being played



at a whirlwind pace. Nuneaton came close to opening the scoring when Twigger got free in the area, but his shot was deflected by keeper Jim Lamond's feet. Borough had a let-off after 25 minutes when Stuart Blake got up well to Derek Duggan's free-kick to head the ball back across the box and Hofbauer shot wide.

Paul Carty fired a 25 yard effort across the face of the Corby goal before Derek Walker got free on the left and Parslow did well to block the cross. Hofbauer hit an effort straight at Parslow before Twigger snatched a shot wide after Green had flicked on a Simpson free-kick seconds before the interval.

Mark Jones came into the Nuneaton midfield at the start of the second period with Woodiwiss moving to left back in place of Bromley. Borough started the half on a bright note with Twigger's fierce shot forcing a smart save from Lamond but seven minutes after the restart Nuneaton's hopes slumped as Parslow was carried off with a recurrence of his thigh injury. Masefield took over in goal and almost immediately he was in trouble when a Woodiwiss back pass left him stranded, but Mark Place cleared the danger.

Paul Curtis had to react swiftly to prevent Twigger fastening onto Nicky Andersen's through ball and then Twigger headed inches wide from another good early ball by Andersen. Green then missed two good chances of breaking the deadlock, heading over from Twigger's cross and shooting too high after Jones had set up the opening. But Borough finally broke through after 70 minutes. A poor goal kick by Lamond was seized by Jones who sent Twigger racing through the middle and he slipped the ball inside the keeper's left hand post.

However, Borough's celebrations were cut short as Corby were level just two minutes later. Substitute Elwyn Roberts flicked on a right wing corner and Hamill was left with a simple tap in at the far post. However, Borough regained the lead in the 74th minute when Carty shuffled his way into the area where he was brought down by Duggan and although Lamond blocked Twigger's penalty, the Borough striker slammed home the rebound. Corby threw men forward as they looked for a second equaliser and Place twice made timely tackles before Roberts put a free header high over the bar.

Twigger and Carty were both off target as Borough looked to extend their advantage but three minutes from the end of normal time Corby were level again. Roberts completely miskicked in midfield but the ball fell kindly for him and he slipped a ball through for McBean to force past stand-in keeper Masefield. Five minutes into injury time Pat Rayment had a shot come back off the foot of a post.

Waters Rejoins Borough

Atherstone United have hit out at defender Ade Waters, claiming he has deserted them when they need him most. Waters, who was set to be offered a permanent contract at Sheepy Road, has done a U-turn and rejoined neighbouring Nuneaton Borough from where he was released when Les Green took over the helm.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 20-12-1989

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Carty, Taylor, Waters, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Subs:** A. Wilson, Randle.

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough registered a magnificent victory with goals from Nicky Andersen and Martyn Twigger in what was arguably their best win of the season. Redditch forced two corners in the opening minutes but Borough quickly took control and Green was only inches away from getting onto the end of Twigger's cross. Twigger sliced a shot wide after McDonald had hit a low centre across the area before Borough had a let-off after ten minutes. Waters failed to get a header back to Linden Parslow and Steve Campbell nipped in but he pulled his shot wide from a narrow angle.

Twigger wasted a good opening with a poor centre after being put clear by a superb ball from Carty and Green glanced a header inches wide from Andersen's free-kick. But Borough broke the deadlock after 26 minutes when Andersen robbed Graham Kemp just inside the Redditch half and raced clear to score a superb solo goal. Twigger had a shot deflected for a corner as Borough ended the first half on a high note.

It could have been two at the start of the second half when Simpson danced his way into the penalty area but his low shot thumped against the foot of the left hand post and bounced out to safety. There was danger for Nuneaton when Campbell was allowed to race clear after appearing to foul Everitt but his shot was way off target. Twigger almost got onto the end of a flick-on by Green and then Andersen missed a clear chance when he fired wide from just inside the box. Burke did well to cling on to a close range effort from Simpson before Nuneaton went two up with ten minutes left. Everitt knocked a ball to the edge of the box and Green steered a super header in between two defenders for Twigger to crack a cross shot past Burke.

Borough had to show their battling qualities as Redditch pushed forward in an effort to save the game and four minutes before the end substitute Paul Brown gave the home side hope when he fired a volley into the far corner. It looked to be too late for United, but with the game deep into injury time Linden Parslow had to produce a magnificent save to turn Brown's header over the top.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1989

Bedworth: Greenway, Wikins (Mullings 71), Kane, Emslie, Daniel, Sullivan, Donnelly (Probert 69), Brain, Watts, Harwick, Sockett.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Carty, Taylor, Waters, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Twigger, Green (Randle 80), Simpson. **Sub:** Wilson.

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

Twin strikers Martyn Twigger and Kim Green were both on

target as Borough completed a December double over their near neighbours. Borough took a grip in midfield from the start and the home side had to take a back seat for virtually the whole game. Green looped a header over the top from Nicky Andersen's free-kick after Paul Daniel had brought down Simpson. Twigger fired a shot into the side netting and then Paul Greenway kept Bedworth on level terms, blocking Andersen's shot with his legs.

There was danger for Borough when former Borough man Tony Donnelly made a good break and it took a fine covering tackle by Ade Waters to deny Kevin Watts. However, Borough were quickly back in control and a ball over the top from Andersen worried Bedworth but Twigger was marginally offside. Andersen knocked a superb ball inside right back Peter Wilkins to put Green clear, but Greenway again came to United's rescue. The Bedworth keeper then made two fine stops in less than a minute to stop the home side from falling behind. But a minute from the interval Borough got the goal they had been threatening. A first-time ball from Waters caught the Bedworth defence pushing out and Twigger was allowed to race clear to coolly lob the ball over the keeper.



Martyn Twigger gets away from Dave Emslie and his lob is on its way into the net to give Borough the lead. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ian Brain fired narrowly wide at the start of the second half, but Borough hit back and Andersen glanced a header wide from Carty's cross. The Greenbacks showed more determination and Kane got in a good centre following a Sullivan free-kick but Ken Taylor produced a clearing header. Wilkins found some space and Waters was happy to clear at the expense of a corner. But Borough came close to increasing their lead when a superb crossfield ball from McDonald freed Simpson, whose shot was deflected wide.

McDonald was caught in possession by Martin Sockett and Watts caused a moment of anxiety for the travelling

Nuneaton fans as he put a diving header narrowly wide. However Borough extended their lead when McDonald played a long ball to find Simpson bursting through. The winger cut in before turning the ball square to Green who fired a 16 yard shot into the roof of the net. Borough further extended their lead two minutes later when Carty made a magical run down the left and cut into the area, beating two men in the process, before drilling a low centre into the goalmouth for Green to force home from close range.

Former Borough boss Jimmy Holmes threw in Steve Probert and Steve Mullings in place of Donnelly and Wilkins and with 14 minutes left Bedworth cut the deficit. There seemed little danger when Andersen won possession on the edge of his own penalty area, but his attempted lobbed back pass failed to reach Linden Parslow and Hardwick nipped in to score.

Rushden Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-12-1989

Rushden: Fox, Peaks (P. Green 75), Ashby, Timlin, Agutter, Forbes, Kirkup (Pittam 84), Jeffrey, Shrieves, Belfon, York.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Carty, Kasziba, Waters, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Twigger, K. Green, Simpson. Subs: Taylor, Field.

Borough travelled to Hayden Road to play Rushden Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough brought down the curtain on the 1980s with a magnificent performance. Les Green's ever-improving young side underlined their growing claims as promotion candidates as Borough became the first side to win a league match at Hayden Road all season.

Rushden came under pressure straight from the kick-off and Borough were unfortunate not to snatch the lead after only two minutes. Twigger was fouled by Tim Agutter and when Tony Simpson floated the free-kick to the far post it took a superb save from Kevin Fox to keep out Twigger's close range header. Waters cut out a dangerous cross from Belfon, but Nuneaton hit back and Leigh Everitt's free-kick was only cleared to the edge of the area, McDonald volleyed just wide. Carty halted Belfon with a tremendous tackle as the game was played at a terrific pace. Play was quickly switched to the other end where Kim Green drilled a shot straight at the keeper.

Borough should have gone ahead on the half-hour when Twigger blasted a shot high over the top with just Fox to beat. But two minutes later Nuneaton made the vital breakthrough. Simpson swung in a right wing corner to the near post, Twigger stooped low to glance a header across the six yards box and McDonald swept the ball home. Virtually straight from the kick-off Borough had a let-off when Andy Kirkup's cross found Jeffrey unmarked in the area but he put his header straight at Parslow from eight yards.

Five minutes later Rushden were back on terms. A mix-up in the centre circle between Mark Jones and McDonald saw Steve Forbes break clear on the right and when Carty failed to cut out his angled through ball, Belfon raced clear to thump a low shot past Parslow into the far corner. Rushden's Paul York was

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then cautioned for a late challenge on Nicky Andersen and he was quickly followed into the referee's notebook by Carty and Belfon following a flare-up on the touchline.

Borough took a firm grip early in the second period and eight minutes after the restart the visitors were back in front. Twigger wriggled his way past John Timlin in the area and the Rushden defender upended the Borough striker. Twigger took the spot-kick himself and gave Fox no chance as the ball flashed into the top corner. Everitt did well to hook the ball clear as Belfon burst into the penalty area, but there was more danger for the home side when Andy Peaks and Agutter made a hash of an innocuous cross into the area and Simpson almost beat Fox to the loose ball.

Everitt again came to Borough's rescue with a timely tackle on York before McDonald put a header over the bar from a right wing corner and Timlin just got in a foot to deny Andersen. Shortly before time Belfon worked himself some space on the right but Waters made a super interception to cut out the square pass intended for Shrieves. Borough were denied a third goal when Green was put clean through the home defence only for Timlin to hack him down.

Nuneaton Borough v Kings Lynn 01-01-1990

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Carty, Kasziba, Waters, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Subs:** Taylor, Field.

Kings Lynn: Millar, Cunnington, Bunting, Nuttall, Creane, Carter, Easthall (Moyes 55), Appleby, Ward, Wells (Kabia 45), Massingham.

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

Borough began the new year with a comprehensive 3-0 victory, giving Les Green's side nine points from three games over the festive season. Borough made a bright start with Green being crowded out before Dave Creane hooked the ball clear when Twigger fired in a low cross. With the visitors placing so much emphasis on defence the midfield area became congested and play, became very scrappy with Borough becoming a little frustrated by the Linnetts' negative tactics.

Borough went close to taking the lead after 32 minutes. Green flicked on a Waters free-kick and when Twigger headed it into the area Bobby McDonald looked to be in with a chance, but he went down under a hefty challenge and Borough's penalty appeals fell on deaf ears. But a minute later Nuneaton got the vital breakthrough. Leigh Everitt was fouled wide on the right and when Nicky Andersen knocked the free-kick into the box Waters rose above the Lynn defence to power a superb header into the top right hand corner.

Steve Appleby tested Parslow from Easthall's cross, but a minute later Borough were unlucky not to extend their lead when Waters hit the bar with a header from another free-kick and Twigger pushed the rebound wide from inside the six yards box. Two minutes before the break Borough might have got the elusive second goal as Linnetts failed to clear a centre from the left but McDonald took the ball off the foot of Mark

Jones as he was preparing to shoot. However, Borough did stretch their lead before the interval with a superb goal from Green. Andersen made a tremendous break from midfield onto a ball from Jones, freed Twigger on the left and he cut into the area and drew the keeper before squaring the ball to Green, who had the task of shooting into the empty net.

Lynn showed a little more urgency after the break and Easthall's swirling cross was gathered by Parslow under pressure from Warren Ward and substitute Jim Kabia.



Martyn Twigger sees his header make it 3-0 – his 12th goal in as many games.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But seven minutes into the second half Borough went 3-0 up. Jones made a fine break and Andersen and Green carried on the move to set up an opportunity for Twigger who saw his shot deflected for a corner when he probably should have scored. But from Tony Simpson's right wing corner, Green flicked the ball on at the near post and Twigger glanced home a close range header to extend his incredible scoring record to a goal in each of the last 12 league games.

Billy Millar made a fine save to deny Twigger after Simpson had set up the chance and then Waters blasted a shot high and wide from a free-kick. Twigger and Green combined well on the left hand edge of the box and McDonald drilled a low ball across the face of the goal with Simpson just unable to apply the finishing touch. Parslow had to produce a brave save at the feet of Ward and the Borough keeper also made an excellent save to cut out Massingham's low centre with Kabia boring in as the visitors made a rare show of aggression. Twigger appeared to be brought down as he wriggled his way into the area but there was no penalty and then Dave Cunnington made a super saving tackle to deny McDonald.

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Boro' 06-01-1990

Sutton: Clayton, Earl, Richards, Whittingham, Tucker, Biddle (Hartshorne 89), Caulfield, Dunne, Hunt, Whitehouse, Hutchinson. **Sub:** Ward.

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Everitt, Kasziba, Waters, Jones, Andersen (Simpson 63), McDonald, Twigger, Green, Carty. **Sub:** Taylor.

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

Borough's promotion hopes were severely dented as they



crashed to a heavy defeat. The visitors were on top in the early stages with Sutton being pressed back into their own half. Nuneaton should have been ahead as early as the second minute when Twigger broke clear on the right and picked out Green, but the striker headed over. The first danger for Borough came when Mark Caulfield's free-kick was flicked on by Hunt, but Everitt got back to deny Dunne. Twigger forced Hutchinson to concede a corner as Borough continued to force the pace, forcing five corners in quick succession.

Masefield cleared off the line following Hunt's header as Sutton hit back as the home side came more into the picture after weathering the opening storm and it needed a timely tackle from Mark Jones to block an Adam Whitehouse effort after Hunt had knocked down a Caulfield free-kick.

Sutton surged forward at the start of the second half and Whitehouse lost his marker to plant a header wide. Borough hit back immediately with Masefield working a neat one-two with Andersen, before hitting a fierce low drive that Clayton superbly turned away for a corner. Nine minutes into the second half Borough found themselves a goal down when they failed to clear a right wing corner from Hutchinson and Dunne scored with a right foot volley from ten yards.

Sutton were now sharper on the ball and it came as no surprise when they increased their lead. Hutchinson's corner broke to the edge of the box and Nigel Richards cracked in a low shot and Hunt got a touch to deflect the ball past Parslow. Green put a header wide from McDonald's free-kick and then the Nuneaton striker produced a good turn on the edge of the box before firing a shot narrowly wide. McDonald found Green free in the box, but the striker's control let him down.

That miss ended Nuneaton's hopes as two minutes later Hutchinson twice beat Everitt before firing in a low cross that found the unmarked Dunne. He saw his close range header superbly blocked by Parslow but Hunt had a simple tap-in from the rebound. Borough got a consolation with 13 minutes left when a neat build-up on the left ended with Twigger cracking a low left-footer just inside the right hand post.

But still Sutton stormed forward and they should have had a fourth but Dunne shot straight at Parslow after Hunt had set up the opening. However, the home side had the last word as Hunt strolled into the Borough penalty area virtually unchallenged and scored with a low shot inside Parslow's near post to complete his hat-trick.

Nuneaton Borough v Stroud

08-01-1990

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Carty, Kasziba, Waters, Jones, Andersen (Masefield 87), McDonald, Twigger, Green, Simpson. **Sub:** Field.

Stroud: O'Hagan, Collicutt, Sherlock, Wilton, Kilgour, Ford, Gillard, Mills, Bayliss (M. Grimshaw 45), Doughty (C. Grimshaw 81), Smith.

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

Borough got their show back on the road as they collected a hard-earned victory over high-flying Stroud. One aspect

of the game was the fact that Martyn Twitter failed to score for the first time in 14 matches, but equals the record of Bill Hanney who also netted in 13 successive league matches.

Borough were quickly into their stride and Pat O'Hagan had to react quickly to gather Simpson's cross under pressure from Green. Mike Kilgour hooked another Simpson cross away from the inrushing Twigger and with 11 minutes gone Borough's loud appeals for a penalty were ignored by the referee after Simpson had danced his way past two defenders and appeared to be brought down by Kilgour. Paul Collicutt put a tame header straight at Parslow while at the other end Russ Wilton did well to keep out Green as he burst into the box.

But Borough got the breakthrough they were looking for after 25 minutes when Simpson's right wing corner was headed on at the near post by McDonald and Green buried a ten-yard volley into the roof of the net. Twigger twisted his way into the area but the keeper cut out his low centre intended for the lurking Green and a neat one-two between Twigger and Andersen ended with Borough's leading scorer having a goalbound effort charged down. Seconds before the break Carty came to the rescue, clearing a dangerous left wing centre from Rupert Smith.

Stroud began the second period showing a bit more adventure and just two minutes after the interval they might have snatched an equaliser. Mark Kasziba gave away a free-kick on the edge of the area and Linden Parslow had to make a smart save to block Smith's shot and Waters tidied up with substitute Martin Grimshaw looking to get onto the rebound. Borough had a chance when Simpson was put clear in the box, but he went wide of the keeper and when he hit the ball back across the face of goal, Twigger failed to force the ball home.

Borough suddenly burst into life with O'Hagan having to show commendable bravery to save at the feet of both Simpson and Green in quick succession. Twigger put a shot narrowly wide with ten minutes to go before Simpson was bundled off the ball by Steve Sherlock as he looked set to score. Three minutes before the final whistle Borough were denied a blatant penalty. Twigger was brought down by Kilgour with the linesman awarding a penalty, but after a consultation the referee awarded a corner kick. Twigger could have snatched the elusive 14th goal in 14 league games, but his shot was cleared off the line. Seconds before the end he clipped the outside of the post.

Les Green Manager Of The Month

Buoyant Nuneaton Borough boss Les Green is celebrating being named as Beazer Homes League Midland League manager of the month with a vow to take his side to promotion. Green, who won the coveted award for December, is confident Borough will go all the way to the top after their amazing turn around in fortunes since he took over at Manor Park. "I still firmly believe we can get promotion," said a delighted Green.



Kelly In Loans Claim

Businessmen Noel Kelly and Joe Shooter took to the field in the High Court for the second half of their bitter row over Nuneaton Borough Football Club. It is the second day of a court case to determine how much Mr Kelly's controlling shares in the Manor Park club are worth.

Mr Kelly's counsel, Mr Edward Evans-Lombe, QC, also outlined how much money Mr Kelly is said to have loaned to the club during his time on the board. But Mr Robin Potts, QC, reading from a sworn affidavit from Mr Shooter, disputed Mr Kelly's claims on the loan question.

In his affidavit, Mr Shooter said records of loans Mr Kelly claims to have made to the club were "not formally recorded in any of the club's records."

"I do not accept that there is any evidence of these loans being made," said Mr Shooter.

Mr Potts told the court that 33 payments representing some £45,000 were not listed in the club's cash book. Of those about £19,000 were also not recorded in the company's minutes and another £25,000 were recorded in the minutes at a later date than in the cash book.

"I submit that any doubts arising from his failure to record payments properly should be found against Mr Kelly.

"He should have strict proof that he paid this money (to the club)," Mr Shooter said in his affidavit.

The case continues.

Shooter Accepts Kelly Cash Claims

The High Court wrangle over Nuneaton Borough went into a third day today with Joe Shooter accepting some claims made by former chairman Noel Kelly about loans he made to the club.

Mr Robin Potts, QC, counsel for Mr Shooter conceded that there was proof of some of the payments being made after re-examining evidence introduced by Mr Kelly's counsel.

But he is still expected to argue that there is no real proof of the money ever being received by the club in respect of money of the alleged loans.

In a trial, which was originally scheduled for just a day and a half, the judge, Mr Justice Harman, has been asked to sit for a further day, and possibly two.

Mr Kelly's counsel, Mr Edward Evans-Lombe, QC, continued to outline the many individual loan payments the former chairman claims to have made to the Manor Park club.

Mr Kelly, ousted from the board in another hearing last July, is seeking more than £275,000 in his battle with Mr Shooter. He believes he is entitled to recoup some £127,000 in loans he paid into the club and about £150,000 for his controlling shares.

Mr Evans-Lombe has been going through the complex

process of identifying each of the payments using bank statements from Mr Kelly's personal account and that of his company, Coventry Industrial Pipework, as well as the club's cash book.

Mr Shooter has already stated to the court, in a sworn affidavit that he does not believe many of the payments were ever actually made.

The case continues.

Kelly's Borough Cash Donations – QC

Businessman Noel Kelly has failed to provide concrete proof that money he alleges to have given to Nuneaton Borough Football Club was actual loans rather than donations, the High Court heard today.

For this reason he should not be able to reclaim some £127,000 he says he put into the club, according to Mr Victor Joffe, QC, junior counsel for Mr Joe Shooter, who has opposed Mr Kelly's bid to get his money back.

Today, Mr Joffe, who took over from Mr Robin Potts, QC, to argue against Mr Kelly's case continued to outline why some 80 payments should be treated as gifts or donations and are therefore not recoverable by Mr Kelly.

"It is not sufficient for Mr Kelly just to say he made the payments," said Mr Joffe.

"It would be unjust for the court to saddle Mr Shooter or the company (Nuneaton Borough FC) with the repayment of this money when it had not been proved they were actually loans."

The case continues.

Borough Case: Kelly Must Wait

Former chairman Noel Kelly will have to wait to see how much his stake in Nuneaton Borough Football Club is worth.

Yesterday, in the High Court, Mr Justice Harman reserved his judgment on a long and complicated case in which Mr Kelly has tried to recoup at least £277,000 from the club.

After hearing lengthy arguments from both sides the judge said: "I will have to take time to consider the case and therefore must reserve judgment.

"I will deliver my judgment as soon as I am able to." That could take up to three weeks.

Mr Kelly was ordered by Mr Justice Harman in the High Court last year to transfer his 54 percent shareholding to rival director Joseph Shooter, who successfully challenged his running of the club.

The court had heard that Mr Kelly hopes to recover £127,000 for loans he claims to have made to the club and another £150,000 for his controlling shares which he was ordered to sell.

But Coventry businessman Mr Shooter, claimed that there was no proof that Mr Kelly ever actually made the loans.

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Where there was proof of money going into the club, Mr Shooter maintained that it was by way of donations rather than loans.

But Mr Edward Evans-Lombe, QC, counsel for Mr Kelly, countered with claims that Mr Shooter had offered no evidence to prove the money was not paid as loans.

Mr Justice Harman ruled at last year's hearing that the transfer should be made on terms that were fair to Mr Kelly and that enabled him to recover the substantial sums he and his company, Coventry Industrial Pipework, lent to the club during his chairmanship.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-01-1990

Halesowen: Clarke, Mansell (Bradley 31), Edwards, Smith, Pearce, Penn, Hazlewood, Flynn, L. Joinson, P. Joinson, Farmer. Sub: Hunter.
Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Kasziba, Waters, Jones, Keogh, McDonald, Twigger, Green, Simpson. Subs: Everitt, Hurlock.

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

In spite of their best performance for some weeks Borough finished empty handed with a harsh reminder that it is goals that win matches. Borough quickly settled into their rhythm and they could have been ahead as early as the second minute when Paul Carty found Paul Masefield in the Halesowen penalty area and when the Nuneaton full-back's shot was charged down Mark Jones hooked an effort inches wide of the left hand post with Tim Clarke struggling to get across his line. Lee Joinson flashed a centre across the Borough goalmouth. Ade Waters hit a 20 yard free-kick over the top and then Keogh hit a superb first-time ball out of defence to set Twigger racing clear. Nuneaton's leading scorer cut past Eric Smith into the box but with just the keeper to beat shot wide of the far post.

It was all Borough at this stage and Tony Simpson made a deep run into his own half to rob Lee Joinson and then broke forward to send Green racing into the area but the big striker allowed the ball to slide out for a goalkick. Borough missed another great chance when, after 28 minutes, Green flicked on Carty's through ball to put Twigger into the area but he delayed his shot and Clarke blocked the ball with his body. Waters headed over, while at the other end Lee Joinson set up a shooting opportunity for Stuart Edwards in a rare home raid.

The home side pushed forward at the start of the second period and from an early corner Andy Pearce got in a powerful header but Parslow was ideally positioned to save. However, ten minutes after the restart Nuneaton found themselves trailing after a highly controversial penalty decision by the referee Kevin Hawkes. Paul Joinson cut into the box and as he tried to get to the dead-ball line, Masefield slid the ball out of play, but the referee saw it differently and awarded a penalty. He was immediately surrounded by protesting Borough players but it made no difference to the

decision and when order was restored Hazlewood put the home side ahead from the spot.

Green headed powerfully over Clarke's bar from McDonald's cross as Borough looked for an equaliser, but nine minutes later Borough were further behind. Waters was pulled up for an aerial challenge on Jon Farmer and Hazlewood curled the 25 yard free-kick into the top corner. Borough had a chance to get back into the game when they were awarded a penalty with 20 minutes remaining as Hazlewood was harshly adjudged to have fouled Simpson. But to the dismay of the Borough contingent, Twigger's spot-kick hit the bar and the home defence scrambled the ball clear. Carty was only a foot wide of the post with a diving header following a Waters cross.

Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-01-1990

Bridgnorth: Gibbs, Frisby, Clarke, Harris, Rich, Taylor, Bennett (Wilcox 55), Humphreys, Allen, Pike, Eastoe (Evason 55).
Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Keogh, Waters, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Twigger, Green, Simpson. Subs: Donnelly, Cain.

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

Borough bounced back into form with a tremendous four goal show. Badly needing a win to boost their promotion challenge, they always carried too many big guns for Bridgnorth. Borough should have been ahead in the first minute. Andy Rich sliced an attempted clearance to leave Twigger clear but Gary Gibbs managed to block the Nuneaton striker's shot with his legs.

Andy Allen put a header over the top before Borough failed to clear Allen's ball into the box and Linden Parslow did well to block a close range shot from Delwyn Humphreys. McDonald beat two men on the edge of the box before shooting narrowly wide of the left hand post. Simpson then got clear and crossed towards Twigger at the far post, but Frisby managed to get back and hook the ball clear at the last moment.

Borough were well in the driving seat and 12 minutes before the interval, they made the vital breakthrough. Mark Jones was brought down on the edge of the box and McDonald clipped the free-kick to the far post for Andersen to arrive late and plant a header into the opposite corner of the net. Chris Keogh hooked a shot wide before having to make tracks to the other end where he made a superb tackle to halt Allen.

Any hope that Bridgnorth had of pulling the game round disappeared as Borough hit them with two goals in a two-minute spell immediately after the interval. Four minutes into the second half Kevin Harris attempted to steer Andersen's through ball back to his keeper, but Simpson intercepted to round the stranded Gibbs and slip the ball into an empty net.

Bridgnorth were still in disarray when, two minutes later, McDonald chipped in a peach of a ball to the near post from the left and Andersen guided the ball home from close range. In general there was little threat to Borough's goal and



Simpson was now creating havoc. It came as no real surprise when he set up Nuneaton's fourth goal after 67 minutes. The winger waltzed past a couple of tackles on his way into the box and when Gibbs could only parry Simpson's shot at full stretch, Twigger had a simple tap in.

Green should have completed a nap hand for Borough when Andersen's superb ball inside the full-back again got Twigger away and his near post centre found Green who chested the ball down and then lost his footing with the goal at his mercy. Shortly before the end Andersen had a glorious opportunity to complete his hat-trick but he fired wide from inside the area after Keogh and Simpson had created the opening.

Borough Sign Blaik

Borough have signed 6ft 4in central defender Stuart Blaik from Corby Town. Blaik is hoping to move into a higher class of football and is convinced that he can do that with Nuneaton.

Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-02-1990

Bilston: Hayward, Bowater, G. Jones, Birch, Minton, Taylor, Alsop, Richards, Day (O'Neill 78), Chappell, Ansell (Grant 83).

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Keogh, Waters, Carty, M. Jones (Mulholland 45), Andersen, McDonald, Simpson, Twigger, Donnelly. Sub: Green.

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

Nicky Andersen's second half goal was enough to get Nuneaton's promotion dream back on the rails.

An early long ball by Paul Masefield was flicked on by Twigger and with Bilston defender Chris Birch slow to react, Donnelly almost crept in at the far post. When the home side failed to clear McDonald's free-kick, Simpson hit in a low cross that Paul Hayward cut out. Twigger got up well after 15 minutes to knock a ball down to McDonald, but the Nuneaton skipper wanted too much time and Andy Chappell got back to hook the ball away for a corner. Bilston had keeper Hayward to thank that they were still on level terms three minutes later when he made a superb save to turn a fierce Waters shot over the top.

Twigger fired a shot over the angle after the Bilston defence had failed to pick up Nuneaton's leading scorer and was again off target when Andersen put him through. Waters then twice went close to giving Borough the lead. The first came when Twigger and Donnelly combined to set up a shooting chance that Waters saw deflected wide and then the Borough defender was fractionally too high with a volley. It was all Borough and they forced three corners in succession as they looked for that elusive breakthrough with Bilston forced to merely hang on. Then shortly before the interval Simpson made space on the right and his centre flashed across the face of the home goal with no-one on hand.

Borough were soon back on the attack after the break and Donnelly found Twigger with a cross, but the striker's header lacked power. Borough had a let off nine minutes after the break when Darren Ansell's centre found Mick Richards

unmarked in front of goal but he put his close range header over the top. Borough were not enjoying the same dominance as in the first-half and Linden Parslow had to react swiftly as Richards was moving onto a through ball by Taylor.

Jason Minton almost put through his own goal as Carty found Twigger free in the box. Hayward produced a brave save at Simpson's feet before Nuneaton finally made the breakthrough after 73 minutes. Bilston only partially cleared a right wing cross and Waters quickly chipped a delightful ball back into the area where McDonald touched it on and Andersen scored with a low shot inside the keeper's near post.

Borough were close to stretching their lead when Twigger's low cross-shot was fingertipped round the post by Hayward. The visitors had a close call when Richards found himself clear with only Parslow to beat, but the chance went begging. Bilston pushed men forward in the closing stages as they looked for an equaliser but Borough remained well in control and comfortably closed the game down.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 12-02-1990

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Keogh, Waters, Carty, Mulholland, Andersen, McDonald, Simpson, Green, Twigger. Subs: Wilson, Dewis.

Barry: Roberts, Blackie, A. Griffiths, McNeil, Pontin, John, Thomas, Burrows, Withers, Evans, Love. Subs: Dimond, M. Griffiths.

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

Borough made hard work of beating the Welshmen, who played the last hour with ten men. Borough might have been ahead as early as the fourth minute when the visitors failed to clear a corner and Twigger hooked in a shot that Pontin cleared off the line with his keeper beaten. But the Manor Park fans had only to wait a further two minutes for a goal. Bobby McDonald swung a corner from the left into the area where Simpson miskicked but the ball rebounded to him off a defender and the little winger made no mistake at the second time of asking.

Carty fired a shot a couple of feet wide and then Pontin produced a superb tackle to halt Andersen. Phil McNeil went into the referee's book for a foul on Dennis Mulholland before Roberts made fine save to deny Green. Borough should have increased their lead after 20 minutes when Simpson robbed Ashley Griffiths to send Twigger clear, but the Nuneaton striker dragged his low shot across the face of the goal and wide. Then a clash in midfield between Pontin and Green, ended with Pontin punching the Nuneaton forward and he was immediately given his marching orders.

A minute before the interval Andersen missed another clear chance to stretch Borough's lead, pushing his shot wide of the far post with just the keeper to beat.

But the second half was only two minutes old when Borough grabbed the vital second goal. Barry only partially cleared a left wing cross and Waters knocked the ball back into the

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area for Twigger to go wide of Roberts and steer the ball home from a narrow angle. Twigger put a header wide after Paul Masefield's cross found him unmarked at the far post and then he saw his shot from Simpson's low cross hit fellow striker Green and bounce to safety.

Simpson had a rising drive turned round for a corner by Roberts as Borough continued to press but after 63 minutes Barry snatched a goal out of the blue. McDonald's ball to Mulholland was intercepted by Anthony Thomas and when he knocked it into the area, Paul Burrows wriggled clear to hook the ball past Linden Parslow.

Roberts saved from Twigger, but 16 minutes from the end Borough were fortunate not to concede a penalty when some sloppy defensive work allowed Dave Withers into the area where he appeared to be brought down by Waters but Barry's appeals fell on deaf ears. McDonald shot wildly off target as Borough struggled to regain their grip and then it was Nuneaton's turn to be disappointed when Simpson was brought down by Griffiths, but again the referee said no to a penalty. Shortly before the end Twigger drilled in a low centre from the left and Andersen squandered another chance with a weak shot that Roberts gathered comfortably.

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Boro' 17-02-1990

Racing Club: Russell, Abell, Hannam, Derby, Whetton (Dandridge 73), Webb, Bettles, Kelly, Sinnott (Deeley 48), Downes, Smith.

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Keogh, Mulholland, Waters, Andersen, McDonald, Simpson, Green, Twigger. Subs: Donnelly, Wilson.

Borough travelled to Townsend Meadow to play Racing Club Warwick in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough limped home with their promotion hopes severely damaged. But Borough do not deserve any sympathy as their wounds were self-inflicted.

There was little action early on until Tony Simpson made a fine run wide on the right and his low cross was laid off by Kim Green for Nicky Andersen to power in a 20-yard drive that Andy Russell turned round the post. After 23 minutes Russell again kept Warwick on level terms after McDonald had put him clear in the box and then Andersen saw his drive fly to safety off Robin Webb's head with the keeper beaten. Ade Waters curled a 25-yard free kick just wide before Martin Smith finally got Racing on the move, and it took a timely tackle by Keogh to halt his progress.

But Borough were quickly back on the attack and nine minutes before the interval they got the breakthrough they were looking for. Simpson got clear in the area and was brought down by Dave Whetton and Twigger scored from the penalty. With the game deep into first-half injury time McDonald headed on to Twigger inside the box and the striker put a shot just wide of the post.

Borough again pushed forward at the start of the second half and Twigger whipped in a cross from the left and when the

Racing defence failed to clear, Simpson seized on the loose ball to fire in a rising drive that was superbly turned away by Russell. Borough's constant pressure finally paid dividends 16 minutes into the second half when they stretched their lead. A patient build-up on the right ended with Dennis Mulholland swinging in a delightful cross and McDonald's right foot volley found the net.

Andersen had a lob pushed over the top after Green had set up the opening and then Green jabbed an effort wide. Borough were in total control and Mulholland sent Andersen racing clear, but he was halted by Hannam. But with 14 minutes left Borough had a tremendous shock. Hannam's free-kick was only cleared to the edge of the box and Abby Kelly's fierce volley flew through a crowd of players. Linden Parslow made a superb stop, but substitute Craig Dandridge followed up to prod the rebound into an empty net. Four minutes later Nuneaton had a let-off when Abell put Dandridge through, but his chip floated well wide.

Racing snatched a shock equaliser with just seven minutes left. Nuneaton were caught pushing forward from the back and when Abell hit a long clearance down the middle Darren Deeley reacted quickly to outpace Keogh and poke the ball past Parslow. Within 60 seconds Borough almost committed suicide when Paul Carty made a terrible mess of a back pass and gave the ball straight to Dandridge who went round Parslow but pulled his shot wide. A superb save by Russell from Simpson's driven cross saved Racing late in the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Banbury United 19-02-1990

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Blaik, Keogh, Carty, McDonald, Andersen, Simpson, Twigger, Green, Donnelly (Waters 63). Sub: Mulholland.

Banbury: Torres, Ridding, Dark, Dewis, Jarvis (P. Smith 76), Gethfield, G. Smith, Mitchell (Nangle 72), Alleyne, Brade, McDowell.

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

Borough got back to winning ways and although not at their best, always held the upper hand against the bottom club.

Paul Carty tidied up a Banbury attack with a ball back to Linden Parslow before Bobby McDonald worked some space on the left, but his cross was cleared by Julian Dark with Green rushing in. Carty then sent Nicky Andersen racing down the middle but Torres was quickly off his line. Rich Brade pulled a shot wide of Borough's right hand post after a neat build-up, while at the other end Dark cut out Twigger's dangerous low centre before Borough took the lead after 20 minutes. Carty broke from the back and found Twigger. He turned the ball to McDonald and the skipper's low cross was swept home at the far post by Green.

Two minutes later Green should have scored again, his close range shot being scrambled clear by the visitors' defence. Green then had a shot superbly turned away for a corner by Torres. Carty hooked the ball away as Banbury threatened. However, Borough fashioned another fine goal to extend their

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lead seven minutes after the interval. Parslow started the move with a quick throw out to Masefield. The full-back made a lot of ground before slipping the ball to Andersen who put Simpson clear and the winger cut into the box and scored with a shot that went in off the right hand post.

Andersen had a shot deflected into the keeper's arms before Banbury broke forward for Brade to hook over. McDonald found Andersen with a superb ball and the midfielder linked with Green to send Twigger racing into the area, but Torres was out quickly. Banbury pushed forward again and had the Borough defence in a tangle following a free-kick before Borough finally got the ball away. Green got up well to Simpson's right wing corner but his firm header flew straight at the keeper before Gethfield hooked the ball over his own bar as Twigger looked to get on the end of Green's flick-on.

Four minutes from the end Borough grabbed a third goal. Andersen broke into the box and Torres made a fine save low to his left but he let the ball slip from his grasp and Green was quickly in to turn the loose ball back to Twigger who drilled a low shot into the bottom corner. With the game moving into injury time Green missed a chance to add to Borough's lead when he held off Kerry Dewis and went round Torres, but dragged his shot wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 24-02-1990

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Blaik, Waters, McDonald (Costley 81), Andersen, Mulholland, Simpson, Green (Donnelly 60), Twigger.

Hednesford: Carter, Boot, Page, Walsh, Foster, Edrop, Brown, Stevens, Taylor, Austin, Sparrock (King 85). Sub: Tolley.

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

Martyn Twigger's 22nd goal of the season gave Borough's promotion hopes a shot in the arm. The Borough striker struck midway through the first-half to ensure Borough of three more points.

The early action saw Bobby McDonald clear Bob Page's cross as the visitors made full use of the strong wind and Borough were forced to defend three corners in quick succession before Borough mounted their first attack. Tony Simpson jinked his way inside from the right and McDonald knocked down the winger's cross for Twigger who volleyed over the top. Borough were unlucky when, after nine minutes, Nicky Andersen's swerving 25 yarder completely beat Steve Carter but smacked against a post.

Carter cleared when Twigger looked dangerous before Stuart Blaik felled Taylor on the edge of the area, but Jimmy Brown produced a poor free-kick and Masefield cleared. Mulholland got Twigger free on the left and when the striker pulled a low centre across the area Simpson saw his goal-bound shot blocked by Andy Walsh. However, Nuneaton broke the deadlock after 25 minutes when Andersen played a glorious ball over the top of the visitors' defence for Twigger, who drilled a low left-footer past Carter. It could have been 2-0

as Simpson danced his way into the penalty area, but Page managed to get a boot to his shot and divert it wide.



Martyn Twigger drills a low left foot shot into the Hednesford net for Borough's winner.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Mark Sparrock found Brown with a fine crossfield ball as the visitors pushed forward at the start of the second half, but the winger blazed high over the top. A poor clearance by Page allowed Simpson to break on the right but after cutting into the area he produced a weak centre that was hooked away. Some slack marking from Borough gave Brown a sight of goal, but he was off target.

Midway through the half the visitors might have snatched an equaliser when Blaik failed to cut out a through ball and Walsh broke clear, but Parslow was out quickly. It looked as if Borough might have got a crucial second goal four minutes from time when Blaik got in a glancing header but Carter made a superb one-handed save and Donnelly hit the rebound over the top.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-02-1990

Corby: Lamond, Hamill, Rayment, Torrance, Webster, Waite, Beazley, McBean (Curtis 55), Diver, Hofbauer (Roberts 66), Walker.

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Simpson, Twigger, Randle. Subs: Donnelly, Mulholland.

Borough travelled to The Rockingham Triangle to play Corby Town in a M&B Cup first round second leg match.

Borough showed their attacking intentions from the start with keeper Jim Lamond saving bravely at Twigger's feet before Mark Jones fired over from the edge of the box. Corby hit back to force a string of corners, but the Borough defence coped comfortably. Sean Diver fired a 20 yard effort narrowly wide after Paul Masefield had only partially cleared. Ten minutes before the interval Borough made the breakthrough. Andersen again surged forward from midfield and a superb ball inside the full-back sent Twigger racing through to slip a low shot past the advancing Lamond. However, with half-time approaching, Nuneaton had an escape when they failed to clear a right wing corner and Jones blocked Diver's close range shot on the line.

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Hofbauer put a weak effort over the top as Corby looked for an equaliser at the start of the second half and then the home striker saw a close range shot comfortably saved by Linden Parslow. Borough were unfortunate not to increase their lead seven minutes after the re-start when Twigger put Mark Randle clear but the young front runner was fouled on the edge of the area when he looked certain to score. Former Borough striker Peter McBean limped off after a mid-air collision with Paul Carty.

There was a moment of anxiety for Borough when Carty's throw-in failed to reach Parslow and the defence was fortunate to scramble the ball away. But seven minutes from the end Twigger ended all hopes Corby had of snatching a shock equaliser as he grabbed Borough's second goal.

Corby failed to get away a long ball from Masefield, Andersen won possession in midfield and quickly put Twigger through to beat Lamond from close range. Shortly before the end Andersen could have added a third as Lamond needed two attempts to stop the midfielder's shot after Simpson had provided the opening.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough

03-03-1990

Tamworth: Belford, Lockett, Smith, Foote (Atkins 67), Whetton (Devaney 85), Kirnon, Myers, Eccleston, Knight, Stanton, Gordon.

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Waters, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Randle, Mulholland.

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

Borough's 17th win in their last 22 games swept them above their hosts and into second place in the league.

Borough facing a stiff breeze, came under fire from the start as Tamworth surged forward. Terry Knight hooked a close range effort over the top before Steve Eccleston had a header glance off the angle of the woodwork from a right wing corner by Martin Myers before Linden Parslow had to react swiftly to clutch a Knight shot from under the bar. The Borough keeper did well to cut out a low cross from Kirnon as Tamworth continued to set the pace. Stanton wasted a free-kick after Damjanovic had brought down Knight on the edge of the box.

But as Tamworth's early fire began to fade Nuneaton were able to start to get men forward and Simpson got Twigger free inside the penalty area, but the striker put his centre behind Dale Belford's goal. Mark Jones then sent Paul Masefield racing clear on the right but Foote recovered to cut out the full-back's low cross before Borough made the crucial breakthrough after 19 minutes. Simpson beat Mark Smith and jinked his way into the penalty area. The winger drew Belford and Dave Whetton before slipping the ball across the face of the goal for McDonald to sweep home from close range. But Nuneaton had hardly finished celebrating when Tamworth snatched an equaliser. Borough failed to clear the ball on the edge of the area, it was quickly switched left to the unmarked

Kirnon and when he crossed deep into the box, Stanton timed his run perfectly to score with a header that went in off the post.

Twigger pulled a shot wide with Belford struggling before Andersen looked like breaking clear after Waters had beaten Foote in the air but Whetton got in a foot to deny the midfielder. With half-time approaching, there was a moment of anxiety for Borough when Jones fouled Eccleston on the edge of the area but Parslow was down quickly to gather Russell Gordon's low cross.

Borough made a bright start to the second half and Andersen hooked a shot across the face of the goal after Simpson had stretched the Tamworth defence. Chris Keogh stepped in smartly to steer the ball back to Parslow as Stanton briefly looked like breaking through before Borough stunned the Lambs by settling the issue with two goals in a three minute spell. A huge clearance by Parslow in the 58th minute had the Tamworth defence in a tangle and after a single bounce Twigger beat Foote and his backheader sailed over the stranded Belford and into the net.

Tamworth hardly had time to regain their composure before Nuneaton hit them with another body blow to put the game beyond their reach. The home side failed to clear a low cross from the left and a hectic scramble in the Tamworth goalmouth ended with Simpson firing past Belford from close range.



Tony Simpson's 61st minute shot is already on its way into the net for Borough's third goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening News

Tamworth threw caution to the wind as they pressed forward in an effort to get back into the game. However, Borough were composed and solid at the back and Tamworth were becoming frustrated as their attacks continually broke down on the edge of the Nuneaton penalty area. But it took a superb save by Parslow to deny the home side a goal in the 72nd minute. A centre from the right by Corrigan Lockett found Knight, but he completely miskicked and the ball ran to Gordon who fired in a low left footer that Parslow saved at the foot of the post. Andersen pulled a shot wide from the edge of the box after Twigger had laid back Simpson's cross and Borough again had the ball in the net in the final minute when Belford failed to hold a long range shot and Twigger was quickly on to the loose ball to slip it into an empty net.

Nuneaton Boro' v Racing Club Warwick 05-03-1990

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Waters (Donnelly 73), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Randle.

Racing Club: Russell, Sockett, London, Darby, Passey, Broad (Sinnott 73), Bettles, Webb (Hannam 32), Dandridge, Deeley, Smith.

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

Tony Simpson fired Borough to the top of the league, grabbing the only goal of the game to sink Warwick.

Borough forced the early pace, forcing two corners in quick succession as the visitors were forced to backpedal. Simpson beat two men wide on the right to get in a cross that Racing scrambled away and then Lenny Darby made a timely tackle to halt another run by the Borough winger. Deeley missed a chance to put the visitors in front when Dave Broad's first-time ball out of defence caught Borough pushing forward and Deeley raced clear and looked certain to score but Parslow made a superb stop from the striker's close range shot.

Borough hit back and it took a fine save from Andy Russell to keep out Bobby McDonald's effort when Paul Masefield's long cross had the Racing defence all over the place. Russell again came to his side's rescue, going down low to beat away a fierce low drive from Masefield after the full-back had worked a superb one-two with Simpson. Ade Waters glanced a header a foot wide of the post from Simpson's cross before Racing brought on Gary Hannam for the injured Robin Webb and five minutes before the interval they missed another golden opportunity to break the deadlock.

Dandridge flicked a ball through the middle of the Borough defence and Deeley, looking suspiciously offside, raced clear but put his shot wide of the right hand post with just Parslow to beat.

Borough stepped up the pace at the start of the second period and twice in the first three minutes they might have scored. First McDonald glanced a header wide from Simpson's corner straight from the kick-off and then when Racing only partially cleared another Simpson cross Masefield brought a super diving save from Russell. Hannam put a centre across the face of the home goal, but on the hour Borough got the goal they had been looking for. Nicky Andersen got Masefield clear on the right and when McDonald knocked on the full-back's cross, Simpson pounced to fire a left-footer past Russell. Paul London, attempting to keep out Simpson, almost sliced the ball into his own net and then Twigger had a shot saved by the keeper.

Russell kept his side in the hunt with a superb save from a Waters' volley before Dandridge fired a volley high and wide from Martin Smith's corner in a late Racing attack, but Borough had the last word with Russell again saving well from Tony Donnelly after he fired in a fierce rising drive from the edge of the penalty area.

Borough Cut Off

Electricity supplies and a telephone at Nuneaton Borough Football Club have been cut off in a row over outstanding bills. Engineers arrived yesterday to turn off the power after the club failed to pay a £1,370 electricity bill on one of its three separate accounts. Club officials have spoken with East Midlands Electricity about restoring the supply.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 10-03-1990

Borough: Parslow, Waters, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Donnelly, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Everitt, Randle.

Willenhall: Dulleston, Hayward, Dean, Foote, Skidmore, Smitheringale, O'Hara, Rolfe (Higgins 79), Skidmore, Mullins, Russon. **Sub:** Campbell.

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

Borough made a sluggish start with lowly Willenhall looking the more lively outfit. The first threat to Nuneaton came when Paul Carty brought down Gerry O'Hara on the edge of the penalty area but Linden Parslow plucked Dave Rolfe's free-kick out of the air while under pressure from John Skidmore. McDonald made a smart interception to set Twigger free down the left but Andy Foote cleared the danger.



Alan Dulleston moves to his right, but Twiggers spot kick is already on its way into the opposite corner. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Willenhall were still showing plenty of attacking intentions and O'Hara and Skidmore linked neatly to create space for Rolfe but his low cross was easily cut out by Chris Keogh. McDonald had a header blocked but Borough were finding it difficult to break down a well-organised Willenhall defence and they were almost caught out by a quick ball from deep in defence by Sean Hayward. With men pushed forward, Nuneaton were exposed without defensive cover but Mullins lost control of the ball as he burst through and the opportunity was lost.

The visitors were coming under increasing pressure and twice before the break had Alan Dulleston to thank that they were level. Twigger saw his shot rebound off Dulleston's legs before Simpson fired in a close range shot that looked destined for the net until Dulleston thrust out a hand to



divert the danger. Borough pressed forward at the start of the second period but again they seldom looked like finding that elusive goal.

Eight minutes after the break Willenhall could have snatched the lead when Skidmore held the ball up for Russon who hammered just over the top. Mullins then made a mess of a free- header. The visitors were made to regret those misses as almost immediately Nuneaton went ahead in the 66th minute through leading scorer Twigger. Simpson wriggled his way into the penalty area where he was brought down by Russon and Twigger smashed home the resulting spot-kick.

Twigger lobbed the ball wide with just Dulleston to beat before Donnelly rolled a ball across goal with no one on hand to finish. At the other end it took a smart save from Parslow to keep out a Tony Higgins' effort, while seven minutes from time Donnelly turned past Freeman, but Dulleston got a fingertip to his shot to turn it onto the post, from where it was cleared. McDonald hooked a Donnelly cross wide and Simpson had a shot well held above his head by Dulleston.

Stroud v Nuneaton Borough 17-03-1990

Stroud: Thomas, Giles, Wilton, Richards, Kilgour, D. Webb (Sherlock 67), Gillard, Grimshaw, Penny (Brown 67), Doughty, R. Webb.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Waters, Andersen, McDonald (Jones 53), Randle (Donnelly 61), Twigger, Simpson.

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

There was early danger for Borough when Nicky Andersen brought down Richard Webb wide on the left, but Gary Richards' free-kick was headed clear by Paul Carty. Borough could have made an early breakthrough when Tony Simpson intercepted a pass across the edge of the area by Richards, but as Glen Thomas left his line the winger jabbed his hurried shot wide. Stroud took the lead when Russ Wilton pumped the ball forward into the Nuneaton half and the linesman flagged two Stroud forwards offside, but the flag went unnoticed by the referee and Dave Webb cut into the box and his low centre was turned in from close range by Martin Grimshaw.

Borough hit back and in the 21st minute when Bobby McDonald found Anderson in space in the centre circle and the midfielder split the Stroud defence with a superb ball to send Twigger racing down the middle and Borough's leading scorer tucked the ball past Thomas. There was an anxious moment for Borough fans when Carty had to step in to hook away a low centre from Richard Webb. Just before the break Borough again threatened. McDonald floated a free-kick to the far post and when Anderson headed the ball back across goal, Richards got a toe in to divert it away from the inrushing Randle.

The second half was only three minutes old when the game exploded. Several players were pushing and jostling after a foul on Simpson, but order was restored and Randle hooked a shot wide after Twigger had flicked back McDonald's

throw-in from near the left corner flag. But 12 minutes into the half Borough got the vital second goal. Simpson twisted his way into the area where he was brought down by Wilton and Twigger made no mistake from the spot kick. Borough were now in control and Stroud seldom showed any sign that they might pull anything out of the match. Another piece of Simpson magic wide on the right almost brought Borough a third goal. When Stroud failed to clear Simpson's cross, Tony Donnelly had an effort blocked on the line by David Giles and when Twigger headed in the rebound the full-back again cleared off the line with the keeper beaten.

Carty found Twigger down the left and he pulled the ball back to Simpson, but the winger pushed his shot wide of the far post. Borough were made to rue that miss as with just nine minutes remaining Stroud hit back to snatch an equaliser out of the blue. A long throw in from near the right hand corner flag by Gillard was flicked on at the near post by Grimshaw and Kilgour dived to head home from close range. Borough could have won the game late on when Simpson again cut inside Wilton only to be floored by Richards, but the referee ignored Borough's penalty appeals.

Green Blasts Board

Desperate Borough manager Les Green has blasted the Manor Park directors. Green has accused the board of starving him of cash with which to build up a squad which will challenge for the title. "I have a squad of 13 players at the moment and if there are a couple of injuries we will be in desperate trouble," said Green. The manager said he had agreed terms to bring Mike Tuohy to Manor Park, but could not get the £2,500 Kidderminster wanted for him.

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 24-03-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Waters, Andersen, McDonald, Donnelly (Jones 75), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Wilson.

Bridgnorth: Riches, Clarke, Cowdell, Harris, Rich, Mackreath, Bennett, Humphreys, Allen (Pike), Wilcox, Eastoe. **Sub:** Riddings.

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

Promotion chasing Borough were again way below par as they struggled to break down a mediocre Bridgnorth outfit.

Bridgnorth produced the first threat with Peter Eastoe hooking a shot a yard wide of the post following a free-kick by Kevin Harris. Borough quickly hit back and when the visitors only cleared Donnelly's corner to the edge of the penalty area Nicky Andersen fired a volley well over the top. With ten minutes gone Nuneaton came close to breaking the deadlock when Ade Waters hammered in a fierce 25-yarder but Alan Riches saved superbly. Twigger then knocked down a long through ball to Andersen who hit a rising drive a foot over the bar.

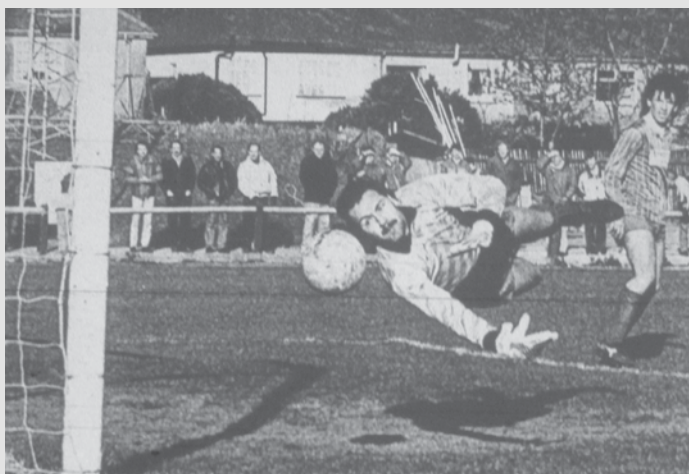
Leading scorer Twigger missed a clear-cut opportunity to put Borough in front when he intercepted a poor back pass

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by Andy Cowdell and went round the keeper before losing control at the vital moment. Waters put a header over the bar from Andersen's free-kick while in a rare Bridgnorth raid Eastoe found Del Humphreys in space, but the striker put his centre well behind with men waiting in the middle. With half-time approaching there was more danger for Bridgnorth when Simpson skipped round Cowdell but Bret Wilcox recovered to hook the winger's low centre away to safety.

Borough started the second half in the same vein, possession without a goal threat, until Andersen's free-kick to the far post had the Bridgnorth defence in a tangle, but Twigger was unable to get his header on target. Eastoe had a shot charged down and it took a timely challenge to stop Humphreys. However, Borough made the vital breakthrough after 59 minutes. Bridgnorth failed to get the ball away following a free-kick and when Paul Carty swung it back into the box from the left, Damjanovic planted a header into the bottom left-hand corner.



Bridgnorth keeper Alan Riches goes full length, but cannot stop Andy Damjanovic's header.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

But Nuneaton's joy was short-lived as the visitors snatched an equaliser just five minutes later. Humphreys found Bennett with a long crossfield ball and the midfielder slipped past Mulholland and cut into the area to beat Linden Parslow with a low shot from a narrow angle. Andersen had an effort headed clear by Andy Rich after Simpson's left wing cross had created problems for the visitors and then Carty was crowded out as he attempted to burst through. Carty had a 20 yard left-footer fly over the bar but Borough were almost caught with a sucker punch. Frustration was showing as Nuneaton pushed forward and a quick Bridgnorth break saw Humphreys send Eastoe racing in to the Borough box, but the former Football League striker wanted too much time and Mulholland raced across to block the shot.

Borough Sign Joe Kelly

Nuneaton Borough manager Les Green is poised to take a gamble on new striker Joe Kelly, signed from a junior side in Birmingham. Kelly is included in a squad of 15 for the vital top of the table clash with Halesowen Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 26-03-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Carty, Andersen, McDonald, Kelly (Waters 53), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Jones.
Halesowen: Clarke, Penn, Edwards, Smith, Pearce, Rhodes, Hazlewood, Flynn, L. Joinson, P. Joinson, Hunter. **Subs:** Bradley, Price.

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

Ace marksman Martyn Twigger shot Borough to a vital victory in their top of the table clash. The striker grabbed his 29th goal of the season, sending Borough's biggest gate of the season home in a happy mood.

Both sides opened at a tremendous pace with some sharp flowing football but there were few early threats to either goal. In one neat Borough move Kelly flicked on a long clearance to Twigger who found Tony Simpson wide on the right. The winger went past Stuart Edwards but his low cross was cut out by Andy Pearce at the expense of a corner. At the other end Andy Damjanovic conceded a corner and Sean Flynn put a header well wide of the near post from the flag kick. Keogh put Borough in trouble when he sliced his clearance and only succeeded in finding Flynn but the danger was snuffed out.

A long clearance by Linden Parslow caused panic in the Halesowen defence but Twigger failed to control the awkwardly bouncing ball and the visitors breathed again. John Rhodes was booked for bringing down Simpson and just before the interval, Parslow rescued Borough with a brave save at Paul Joinson's feet.

Twigger wasted a promising Borough move with a poor centre from the right hand side of the penalty area early in the second half but Halesowen looked dangerous as they stepped up the pressure and should have gone ahead three minutes into the half when Paul Joinson got free on the right and his early ball into the area found Hunter unmarked in front of goal but the striker hesitated and the ball bounced away from him and out of the danger area. Parslow ended a dangerous move which ended in a thumping collision with Paul Joinson and then Edwards got past Damjanovic on the left and crossed to the far post but Flynn's header was way off target.

But Borough weathered the storm and they had appeals for a penalty turned down when Twigger appeared to be brought down by Pearce, and the Borough striker had a close range effort blocked after Kelly had flicked on a McDonald cross before Carty was booked for a foul on Lee Joinson.

Borough were looking the sharper of the two sides and came close to breaking the deadlock after 77 minutes when Damjanovic headed on Dennis Mulholland's free-kick and Andersen got in a header at the far post, but Tim Clarke made a superb one-handed save. Clarke did well to turn Andersen's drive away for a corner when it seemed certain to find the top right hand corner of the net.

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With seven minutes left, Borough brought on Waters for Kelly and four minutes later they got the vital breakthrough. Mulholland took a long throw in from near the right hand corner flag, Damjanovic flicked it on and Waters got up above the Halesowen defence at the near post to back head the ball into the six yard box for Twigger to sweep home. Halesowen put Borough under some late pressure as they looked for an equaliser but the home defence held firm.

Nuneaton Borough v Arsenal Reserves 30-03-1990

Borough welcomed Arsenal Reserves to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

Cock-a-hoop Borough beat a strong Arsenal Reserves line-up in their presitge friendly. More than a thousand fans were delighted as two goals from Martyn Twigger and another from Tony Simpson gave Borough a 3-1 victory. The Gunners, who included three players with first-team experience, the England youth team centre-forward and a full back who cost them £250,000 can have no complaints. Borough had the measure of their visitors, especially during the first hour and it was only late in the game when Arsenal's superior fitness told, that the Londoners really troubled the Borough defence.

Neil Smith and Nicky Andersen both had efforts saved by Jim Wall and Andy Damjanovic had an effort blocked by the keeper's legs before Twigger put Borough in front after just 16 minutes. Wall failed to hold Smith's low shot following a right wing corner and Twigger scored from the rebound. Nine minutes later it was 2-0 when Andersen made a superb break from midfield and put Simpson clear for the winger to cut into the area and beat Wall with a low shot.

Immediately after the restart any hopes that Arsenal had of getting back into the game disappeared when Wall made a tremendous save from Paul Carty's 20-yard shot but he could not hold onto the ball and Twigger again took full advantage from the rebound.

Arsenal did pull a goal back on the hour mark when Andy Cole lost his marker on the edge of the area to drill a low shot into the bottom left hand corner. The Gunners did increase the pressure late in the match but Borough comfortably held on to win.

Nuneaton Borough v Rushden Town 07-04-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Keogh, Damjanovic, Williams, Andersen, McDonald, Kelly (Waters 45), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Jones.
Rushden: Fox, Peakes, Ashby, Agguter, Garratt, Pittam, Forbes (Kirkup 71), Jeffrey, Shrieves, Belfon, York. **Sub:** Green.

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

Bobby McDonald's last gasp winner has put Borough in touching distance of a place in the Premier Division.

Rushden were the first to threaten, forcing two early corners, but Borough looked solid at the back. Nuneaton responded

immediately with Martyn Twigger being crowded out after Kelly had flicked on McDonald's free-kick and then Tony Simpson caused the visitors some anxiety with a low cross into the area. Steve Forbes hit a shot well wide before Dennis Mulholland broke through, making a thrilling run down the middle. A casual back pass by Damjanovic almost let in Terry Shrieves but Parslow was quickly off his line.

Parslow picked a corner off the head of Frankie Belfon, while at the other end, Twigger failed to make the most of Mulholland's through ball. But with 31 minutes gone Borough had Parslow to thank that they were still on level terms. Belfon got free on the right and when Shrieves missed the low cross, the Nuneaton defence was wide open as Forbes hammered in a fierce ten-yard shot that looked a goal all the way but Parslow flew low to his right to magnificently turn the ball round for a corner. A powerful run by Belfon threatened the Borough defence, and it took a timely tackle by Mulholland to halt Shrieves. Shortly before the interval Borough came within a whisker of snatching a goal. Mulholland's long throw-in from the right was headed on by Damjanovic for McDonald, who miscued in the six yard box, but the ball bounced up for Twigger whose header from point blank range went over the top.



Keeper Kevin Fox is on his way out, but Bobby McDonald lobs the ball over his head for Borough's winner. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ade Waters replaced the limping Kelly and Borough stepped up the tempo at the start of the second period and suddenly Kevin Fox was in the thick of the action. Williams had a shot blocked by Andy Peakes following Andersen's centre and then Fox did well to take a right wing corner high above his head under pressure from both Waters and Keogh.

Borough's loud appeals for a penalty fell on deaf ears after Simpson appeared to be brought down by Mick Garratt and then the Borough winger hooked an effort inches wide of the far post with the keeper struggling to get across his line. Andersen sent Twigger racing into the box, but Tim Aggutter got across to cut out the danger at the expense of a corner. Rushden sent on Andy Kirkup in place of Forbes and he quickly produced a neat link up with Belfon wide on the right but the combined efforts of Carty and Keogh halted the threat.

Simpson was chopped down by Nick Ashby six minutes from time but appeals fell on deaf ears before Kirkup put a header straight at Parslow. Carty floated a free-kick from the left and when Damjanovic knocked it back across goal, Twigger

smashed the ball against the crossbar and out to safety. But the groans of despair were still in the fans' throats when Borough grabbed a priceless 88th minute winner. Mulholland broke up a Rushden counter-attack and his long through ball sent McDonald clear down the middle and as the keeper left his line the Borough skipper chipped a delightful left footer over him and into the far corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 09-04-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Williams, Jones (Donnelly 78), Damjanovic, Waters, Andersen, McDonald, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Blaik.

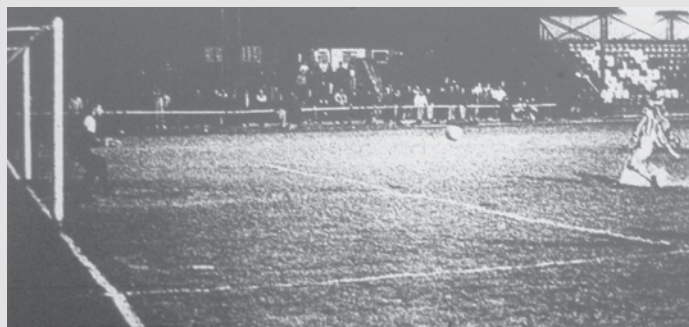
Redditch: Burke, Hodman, Whittingham, Kemp, Maclain, Chapman, Buchanan, Blewitt, George (Bates 22), Andrews, Bartholomew (Billingham 89).

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

Martyn Twigger was the hat-trick hero as Borough produced their great escape act. Borough hardly had time to settle down before they were a goal behind. Steve Buchanan got past Damjanovic on the right to force a corner and when Nuneaton failed to clear, Steve George forced the ball home from close range. Bobby McDonald put Twigger away down the left as Borough looked to hit back, but the striker's cross was easily cut out by keeper Dennis Burke.

However, the Manor Park fans were celebrating an equaliser after 14 minutes. McDonald found Nicky Andersen, he touched the ball to Carty who threaded a super pass into the area for Twigger to tuck past the keeper. A McDonald corner was only cleared to the edge of the box and Carty drove in a fierce left footer that forced Burke into a diving save. Burke tipped Williams dipping centre over the bar before Mulholland got Simpson away and when he pulled the ball back to Carty, his shot was blocked by the keeper's legs and Jones hooked the rebound over the top.

Waters recovered well to get in a saving tackle on Bartholomew after a Parslow goal kick had been knocked straight back. But Borough hit back with Andersen getting Carty free for a shot that Burke saved confidently. Ten minutes before the break Simpson was hacked down in the box but the referee ignored penalty appeals. Burke saved a low cross from Dennis Mulholland under pressure from Twigger and the keeper turned a Damjanovic header over.



Dennis Burke has hardly moved as Martyn Twigger sends his 85th minute spot kick on its way into the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough were caught with a quick break but Bates overran the ball. Twigger put a snapshot straight at Burke and when Andersen found Jones on the left, the midfielder was beaten by an unkind bounce. But 16 minutes from the end Borough again found themselves in arrears. Trevor Whittington floated a free-kick from wide on the left to the far post when Campbell Chapman arrived late and unmarked to sidefoot the ball into the far corner. Straight from the kick-off Borough missed a clear chance when Andersen carved out an opening for Twigger but the striker failed to get his shot on target from close range.

With five minutes to go Borough got back on level terms when Whittington brought down Simpson as he jinked his way into the area and Twigger sent Burke the wrong way with the resulting spotkick. Despite stepping up the pressure in search of the winner it looked as if Borough would have to settle for just one point. However, with the game two minutes into injury time Simpson again worked his way into the box where he was fouled by Wayne Maclain and Twigger again made no mistake from the spot.

Kings Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 14-04-1990

Kings Lynn: Benefer, Cunnington, Webster, Ireland (Hunt 65), Adams, Creane, Howard, Shelton, Ward, Gallagher, Massingham. **Sub:** Carter.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Carty, Twigger, Simpson (Waters 61). **Sub:** Donnelly.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play Kings Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough's emergency striker, Paul Carty, secured a hat-trick as impressive Borough stayed on course for promotion. Borough could not have wished for a better start as they stunned the home side by storming into the lead after just 47 seconds. King's Lynn attacked straight from the kick-off but the ball was quickly switched to the opposite end where Ged Creane and Brian Benefer appeared to hamper each other as Tony Simpson challenged for a loose ball. Creane only managed to get the ball away to the edge of the box where Carty pounced and his instant chip cleared the stranded keeper and nestled in the far corner of the net. Borough should have been two up shortly after when Andersen put Simpson clear but the winger's shot was blocked by the keeper's legs and Dave Cunnington cleared off the line.

Selwyn Shelton fired a rising drive a foot over the top and Dave Massingham put another effort off target before Damjanovic cleared a Howard cross for a corner. Borough quickly resumed control and Simpson wasted another clear-cut chance, dragging his shot wide of the far post after neat link up with Carty. The visitors had a lucky break when Jackie Gallagher hit a 20-yard free-kick against the crossbar and Jamie Ireland put the rebound wide. At the other end McDonald put a header straight at Benefer and on the stroke of half-time Cunnington almost scored an own goal, putting an Andersen cross narrowly wide.



Andersen got Twigger clear at the start of the second half, but Clive Adams cleared the danger. But seven minutes after the restart, Borough got the all-important second goal with another superb effort from Carty. Parslow's long clearance was touched to McDonald who produced a delightful ball to send Carty racing into the box and he looked up before planting a superb lob over the keeper and into the far corner.

Massingham wasted a good opportunity, firing wide of the far post before Waters came on for Simpson as Borough looked to close the game down. Keogh headed narrowly over his own bar and Parslow was forced to save when Waters' headed back pass fell short. Six minutes from the end Borough made it 3-0. Another long Parslow clearance found Carty and he turned it on for Andersen, who timed his run superbly to lose the home defence and the midfielder coolly slotted the ball home from the edge of the area.

Then in the final minute Borough put the icing on the cake as Carty completed his hat-trick. Keogh broke up a King's Lynn move on half-way and after a neat interchange with Twigger, he put Carty clear to beat the keeper at the second attempt.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 16-04-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Carty, Twigger, Simpson (Waters 75). **Sub:** Donnelly.

Bedworth: Greenway, Daniel, Stringer, Emslie, Towers, Thomas, Pollard, Brain (Smith 76), Hardwick, Phillips, Elliott. **Sub:** Duggan.

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

Martyn Twigger shot Borough to a narrow victory, scoring the winner from the penalty spot midway through the second half of a low-key derby.

Both sides struggled to get a grip in the early stages and it was 14 minutes before the game came to life when Tony Simpson raced past Dave Stringer only to be pulled down. Borough then forced three corners without threatening Bedworth's goal. Midway through the half Paul Carty and Twigger combined on the left to get Simpson into the box, but the winger wanted too much time. Borough began to impose themselves and a four man move freed Simpson, who laid the ball square instead of shooting and the chance was lost.

Carty turned neatly past his marker on the edge of the box to send a swerving shot wide of the near post and then Mark Jones hit a low drive narrowly wide. But three minutes before the break Borough's mounting pressure paid off as they snatched the vital breakthrough. Andersen touched Carty's deep cross back to Mulholland and he stormed past Stringer to whip in a centre that McDonald headed home from eight yards. In the dying seconds of the half Carty again got free on the left and crossed to the far post but United keeper Greenway took the ball under pressure from Andersen.

Simpson flashed in a low centre at the start of the second half, but eight minutes later Borough failed to clear a right wing corner and Mulholland sliced his attempted clearance over

his own bar and the resulting flag-kick flashed across the goal with no one on hand. Paul Thomas put in a tame effort before Bedworth grabbed an equaliser on the hour mark. Hardwick got in behind the Borough defence and went down under a challenge from Mulholland. The referee immediately pointed to the spot and Hardwick made no mistake with the penalty.

Carty's left-footer flashed a couple of feet wide of the far post with Greenway struggling to get across his line. But Borough were back in front after 66 minutes after a piece of quick thinking by McDonald. Twigger was fouled on the edge of the box and while the Greenbacks were still organising their wall, McDonald took the kick and Greenway had to produce a fine save. As the ball ran loose Twigger was the first to react and crashed to the turf under the challenge of two Bedworth defenders, but picked himself up to score from the spot.

Andy Elliott's swerving 20-yarder beat Parslow and crashed against the crossbar, while at the other end McDonald got Simpson free into the area and he slipped round Daniel before bringing a low save from Greenway. Waters replaced Simpson with 15 minutes left and Greenway had to be out quickly to save bravely at McDonald's feet before play switched to the other end and Hardwick drove a shot across the face of goal.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-04-1990

Grantham: Plant, Hall, Swainston, Marsden, Gaffney (Vince 31), Ward, Farrow, Weston (Banks 63), Whitehurst, Sumner, Grocock.

Borough: Parslow, Waters, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Carty, Twigger, Simpson (Donnelly 65). **Sub:** Blaik.

Borough travelled to London Road to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

There was a shock in store for Borough fans when the home side snatched a shock lead in the eighth minute. Nuneaton conceded a corner on the right and when the defence twice failed to get the ball away, Tony Marsden stepped in to hit a close range shot into the roof of the net. Borough should have equalised but Carty shot wide with just the keeper to beat. Carty then caused more problems for the home defence as he went round the keeper as he raced from his line but Ward recovered to head the striker's cross out for a corner.

But Carty was not to be denied and he fired home Borough's equaliser after 24 minutes. Andersen's fine through ball found Carty on the edge of the area and he held off Ward before turning inside the big central defender to curl a superb left footer past Plant and into the far corner. Just four minutes later Simpson failed to connect with a cross from ten yards out after Carty had again pulled the Grantham defence apart. Ward dragged Carty back by his shirt as he shaped to score and was lucky to get just a lecture. Borough were unlucky not to score from the free-kick when Bobby McDonald touched the ball short to Andersen who saw his drive rebound off the keeper's knees.

Borough were well on top at this stage, but on the half-hour they were caught pushing forward and it needed a brave

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save at Whitehurst's feet to snuff out the danger. Andersen found Carty in the area and he went round his marker before cutting the ball back to Simpson who was pulled down by Marsden. The referee immediately pointed to the spot, but Plant guessed correctly and saved Twigger's penalty. However, Plant failed to keep his grasp on the ball and Simpson following up clashed with the keeper, which was the signal for a general melee with punches being thrown and when order was restored Twigger and Marsden were booked. Seconds before the break Andersen lobbed a cross-shot wide.

Borough opened the second half by forcing three corners but Borough had a scare ten minutes into the half when Marsden flicked on a right wing corner and the unmarked Rob Farrow scraped the bar with his close range volley. Parslow made a superb one-handed save to keep out Whitehurst's header and Andersen hooked the ball off the line. Carty pulled a shot a yard wide after Grantham had failed to clear an Andersen free-kick. It looked as if Borough had grabbed the vital second goal in the 71st minute when Carty curled in a tremendous free-kick from the edge of the box, but Plant touched the shot onto the bar.

Borough were caught from a quick Grantham break and Whitehurst almost got in before Keogh produced a timely tackle. Carty then produced a superb break from midfield to find Andersen on the edge of the box. He turned it wide to Twigger on the left and when he cut into the area and pulled the ball back, Andersen hammered in a left-footer from only six yards that Plant somehow kept out without knowing much about it. With the game in injury time Williams found Waters in the area, but his first touch let him down and Swainston almost pulled the shirt off his back as he stopped him from getting to the ball eight yards from goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 23-04-1990

Borough: Healey, Waters, A. Williams, Keogh, Blaik, Carty, Andersen, Jones, Donnelly (Wilson 116), Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Jackson.

Hinckley: Hewitt, Potter, Hopewell, G. Williams (Taylor 57), Tedds (Massey 62), Brown, Ratcliffe, Hardy, Potts, Robinson, Hedgecock.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup second round tie.

Borough made a bright start and should have been ahead as early as the third minute. Donnelly got free on the left and his cross found Andersen who tamely side-footed the ball straight at Dennis Hewitt from a couple of yards. Borough then forced a series of corners without troubling the Hinckley defence. Hewitt saved well from Twigger and then did well to race out of his goal and punch clear from Carty. There were roars for a penalty when Donnelly went sprawling in the box in the 36th minute but the referee waved play on.

Sixty seconds later Borough found themselves a goal down. Healey failed to punch clear a right wing corner, the ball fell to Andy Potts, who mishit his shot but Keogh, standing on the goal-line miskicked as he attempted to clear and the ball

finished in the corner of the net. But the visitors' celebrations were short-lived as four minutes later Nuneaton were back on level terms. Carty's free-kick was flicked on by Twigger and Donnelly got in behind the Town defence to fire a low shot wide of the keeper's right hand.

Gareth Williams' back-pass almost let in Tony Simpson and shortly before the interval, Carty cut into the box but was crowded out when he should have laid the ball off to Twigger. Simpson appeared to be brought down as he burst through at the start of the second half, but again there was no penalty. Hewitt needed two attempts to hold onto Andersen's left wing corner and then Twigger beat the keeper with a neat chip but the ball drifted wide. It took a timely tackle from Blaik to halt Andy Hedgecock as he looked to break.

Borough hit back with Andersen putting a diving header over the top from close range after Donnelly had provided the opening. Nuneaton were very unlucky not to snatch the winner on 90 minutes when Twigger got clean through and saw his shot smack against the Hinckley woodwork and bounce to safety. Simpson and Twigger both had shots charged down at the start of extra-time and ten minutes into the first period Twigger should have put Nuneaton in front.

Healey did well to smother Taylor's shot while at the other end Hewitt kept Hinckley in the hunt with a fine save from Andersen. But five minutes from the end Borough finally made the breakthrough. Twigger was fouled on the edge of the area and when Andersen floated in the free-kick to the near post and Twigger glanced a header past Hewitt. Three minutes later Borough missed another sitter with Wilson failing to control Simpson's cross when he had only Hewitt to beat.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-04-1990

Dudley: Turner, White, Lambert (S. Hancox 79), Potter, Chapman, Probert, Moran, R. Hancox, Green, Ledgister, Ford. Sub: Turpin.

Borough: Parslow, Waters, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Carty, Twigger (Kelly 69), Simpson (Donnelly 89).

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

Borough made a nervous start and Jon Ford took full advantage with a swift break, but his low cross was gathered by Linden Parslow. Marty Twigger got Nicky Andersen away as Nuneaton hit back but Richard Hancox was on hand to guide the ball back to Turner. Dudley had a let-off after eight minutes when Williams hoisted a high ball into the penalty area from the left and Turner misjudged the flight of the ball and it sailed over him and thudded against the crossbar.

But Borough were struggling to impose themselves and were fortunate not to go behind after 18 minutes. White's free-kick flew across the face of the Nuneaton goal with no-one on hand to get a touch. However, Nuneaton gradually got a grip and they twice came close to breaking the deadlock within the space of five minutes. Twigger found McDonald following a long clearance by Parslow and when the Borough skipper

floated a neat lob into the penalty area. Andersen beat Turner to the ball but the midfielder failed to get his header over the top of the keeper who was fortunate to save.

Dudley were in more trouble when Twigger found Paul Carty wide on the left and the Borough striker stepped inside his marker before putting a shot wide of the post. Borough continued to press and a snapshot by Carty almost caught the keeper unawares, but Turner recovered in time to fling himself to his left and turn the ball away for a corner. Paul Probert looked like breaking clear but Chris Keogh was quickly across to flatten the midfielder and earn himself a booking.

Andersen was only inches away from getting onto the end of Carty's through ball and then Alan Potter went into the book for a foul on Simpson. With half-time approaching Borough again went close when Twigger burst into the area and when the ball broke to Carty he pulled a low centre to the near post but Andersen hooked the ball wide from close range.

Hugh Ledgister had a glimpse of a chance at the start of the second half, but his hurried shot flew over. Ade Waters sliced an attempted clearance but Keogh stepped in to hook the ball clear. Then came a crucial 60 second spell when Borough should have been in front but found themselves a goal down. A neat build up by Nuneaton gave Andersen a shooting chance but Turner made a tremendous save, turning the ball out for a corner. From the flag kick the ball found its way through to Andersen on the far post but he put his header over the top from point blank range. Play immediately switched to the other end and Ford pumped in a long harmless cross which Williams tried to guide the ball back to Parslow and the full-back could only watch in horror as the ball rolled gently inside the far post. Midway through the half Borough made a double substitution with Tony Donnelly and Joe Kelly replacing Simpson and Twigger.

Turner made an excellent save to turn a fiercely struck volley from Waters round the post before the visitors had another scare when Parslow failed to gather a left wing cross and then Ford and Probert made a mess of a clear opening after breaking clear. Turner again denied Borough, grabbing Andersen's low shot at the second attempt and then McDonald headed over from Carty's cross as Borough looked for the elusive equaliser.

Directors Wembley Walk

It will be a case of best foot forward for Nuneaton Borough trio John Harris, Tony Sandy and Richard Weeks. They set out from Wembley Stadium today to walk the 109 miles to Manor Park in a determined bid to raise cash. If everything goes according to plan they should drag their sore feet and aching limbs through the Manor Park gates in time for Saturday's last league match against Tamworth.

All monies raised will be divided equally between the club and the Nuneaton Social Education Centre for the mentally handicapped. Borough director John Harris is pictured trying

on his walking shoes before setting out for London last night. He is flanked by Richard Weeks, left, of the Education Centre, Borough secretary Keith Parker, who will drive the back-up van and director Tony Sandy. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth

05-05-1990

Borough: Parslow, Waters, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Blaik (Jones 72), Andersen (Donnelly 72), McDonald, Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Tamworth: Belford, Lockett, Finn, Eccleston, Whetton (Cartwright 76), Smith, Myers, Atkins, Knight, Gordon, Heaton (Foote 76).

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

Tamworth produced the first threat when Andersen lost possession in midfield but Bobby Atkins put a 25 yard drive off target. But Borough stunned the visitors as they surged ahead after just three minutes from their first attack. McDonald's left wing corner was flicked on by Andy Damjanovic and Andersen pounced to ram the ball past Dale Belford from six yards. Martin Myers brought a fine save from Linden Parslow as Tamworth looked for a quick equaliser but Nuneaton stretched their lead after 11 minutes with a bit of magic from Simpson.

The winger turned full-back Martin Finn inside out before pulling the ball back to Andersen who drilled a low right footer wide of Belford's left hand. Ade Waters then picked out Paul Carty with a superb long ball and the Borough striker

beat Dave Whetton in the air but his header flew straight at the keeper. However, Tamworth found themselves in deeper trouble after 20 minutes. Simpson again beat Finn and his floated cross to the far post was bundled home by Twigger.

Belford did well to grab Andersen's low cross at the second attempt with McDonald closing in and the Borough skipper needed attention after the two had clashed. Parslow denied Tamworth a goal, flying high to his left to turn a goalbound drive from Atkins over the top. But seven minutes before the interval Borough extended their lead when McDonald put Andersen clear down the middle and the Nuneaton midfielder calmly lobbed the ball over Belford as he came out.

With only their pride to play for, Tamworth opened the second period in a more determined mood and it took another fine save from Parslow to keep out an Atkins header with Andy Williams completing the clearance. Borough hit back with a tremendous break down the left from Carty but McDonald was flagged offside. But the visitors disastrous afternoon continued as Borough hit them with two more goals in two minutes. With 19 minutes left, Twigger headed on a long ball down the middle, Simpson was being fouled by Finn but the referee allowed play to go on and the Borough winger rounded the keeper to slip the ball into an empty net.

Nuneaton scored again after 74 minutes when McDonald found Simpson on the edge of the box and he turned sharply before firing a rising drive just inside the left hand post. In a rare Tamworth raid Borough almost conceded when Chris Keogh's back pass was wide of Parslow, but the keeper got a hand to it and turned it onto a post. Donnelly hit a shot wide before Simpson created another opening with a quick break on the left and then Tamworth's keeper beat out a cracking shot from Donnelly and Twigger put the rebound wide. But three minutes from the end Borough put the icing on the cake for the fans with a seventh goal. A neat build-up on the left involving Carty, Donnelly and Williams got Simpson into the box and his low cross was cheekily back-heeled home by McDonald from close range.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 07-05-1990

VS Rugby: Martin, Bullions, Niblett, Angus, Halton (Donnelly 18), Conway (Fearn 44), Butterworth, Ross, Rosegreen, Greene, Shearer.

Borough: Healey, Mulholland, Williams, Keogh, Damjanovic, Jones (Donnelly 63), Andersen, McDonald, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Blaik.

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in Midland Floodlit Cup semi-final.

VS were first to show and Steve Butterworth headed over the top. Then with 18 minutes gone Andersen caught Halton with a late challenge as the defender cleared the ball and Halton was taken to hospital with a broken leg and the Borough man's name went into the referee's notebook. Simpson was brought down on the edge of the box by Terry Angus as Nuneaton began to come more into the picture, but Martin's handling was sure and he plucked Andersen's free-kick out of the air.

Healey showed admirable composure as he pulled down Nigel Niblett's header under pressure from Greene, but the young keeper was picking the ball out of the net after 37 minutes. Mick Shearer wriggled his way out of two tackles just outside the box and sent Rosegreen racing into the area. His low shot was turned away by Healey but Ross fired the rebound into an empty net from eight yards. Three minutes later Borough's hopes plunged even further when Rugby added a second goal. Rosegreen flicked on a free-kick from wide on the right and when Nuneaton failed to clear their lines Ross lashed another close range shot into the roof of the net.

Borough looked a little sharper at the start of the second half and should have reduced the arrears after 11 minutes. McDonald floated in a long ball and Niblett hesitated. Simpson nipped in between them to lob the ball over the keeper but it drifted a couple of feet wide of the left hand post. Andy Williams found McDonald in space wide on the left and the Nuneaton skipper turned inside Ian Bullions and crossed to the far post where Angus managed to get a touch to divert the ball away from Twigger.

Twigger fired a shot wide following a McDonald free-kick but midway through the half Borough were caught short at the back as Angus made a long run from defence and it took a fine save from Healey to keep out the full-back's shot. Tony Donnelly then showed a fine turn of pace to go round Bullions and VS were fortunate to scramble his cross out for a corner.

With ten minutes to go Borough clawed their way back into the match. McDonald played a free-kick short to Simpson and when the winger cut into the box he was unceremoniously brought down by Angus and Twigger hammered the spot kick into the roof of the net for his 36th goal of the season. Andersen was crowded out on the edge of the area as Borough looked for an equaliser but VS held on to book their place in the final against Redditch United.

Twigger Player Of The Year



Nuneaton Borough's leading scorer Martyn Twigger has been voted as the club's Player of the Year by the Manor Park fans. Twigger, who scored 36 league and cup goals after joining

Nuneaton last October from VS Rugby, received his award at the presentation evening organised by the True Blues at the Borough Social.

Utility man Paul Carty picked up the Away Player of the Year prize while the Clubman of the Year honour went to goalkeeper Linden Parslow. Ali Wilson was the choice of Reserve Player of the Year with John Brindley picking up the award for the Youth Player of the Year.

Manager Les Green, who guided the club from bottom but one in the league table last October to the top spot before narrowly missing out on promotion, received a special award from the True Blues.

Pictured with their awards are, from left to right: Martyn Twigger, Paul Carty, Gordon Lee (first team trainer), John Brindley, Linden Parslow, Les Green, Joe Taylor (kit manager).

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough Face Closure

Troubled Nuneaton Borough Football Club could face closure if it cannot find £11,500 by June 2. Solicitors acting for Nuneaton firm DMP Construction have served a notice on the club giving it 21 days to pay the cash. They could go to the county court to seek a winding up order if the cash is not paid or agreement reached. Mr Michael Denny, partner in DMP said the statutory demand was served on Saturday.

“We have put it into the hands of our solicitors to recover the money,” he said. “We carried out work on the club’s new stand early last year and we have been paid for the first part of that. But the second part has not been paid so far.”

Kerry Quits Shock

Businessman Howard Kerry has quit as chairman of troubled Nuneaton Borough Football Club after reportedly receiving an ultimatum from manager Les Green. Shocked directors on the club’s interim board were today trying to arrange an emergency meeting to discuss the latest crisis.

Walkers Hand Over £2,000



Big-hearted Nuneaton Borough officials raised £2,000 to help people with learning difficulties, with a marathon trek from Wembley Stadium to Manor Park. John Harris, Richard Weeks and Tony Sandy walked the 109 miles from London to Nuneaton earlier this month.

Mrs Marie Lewis, wife of Borough’s assistant manager Dave Lewis, welcomed the £2,000 saying. “The money will go towards buying computer equipment and other equipment for the centre.

Kerry And Green Make Peace

Businessman Howard Kerry announced today that he would not be stepping down as chairman of Nuneaton Borough Football Club. The shock U-turn follows a special board meeting at the Manor Park club, where Kerry outlined his reasons for resigning as chairman of the beleaguered club. And reports that manager Les Green had threatened to resign and take the team with him were quickly dispelled by the board.

Southern League Midland Division 1989-90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halesowen Town	42	28	8	6	100	49	92
Rushden Town	42	28	5	9	82	39	89
Nuneaton Borough	42	26	7	9	81	47	85
Tamworth	42	22	8	12	82	70	74
Barry Town	42	21	8	13	67	53	71
Spalding United	42	20	7	15	73	63	67
Sutton Coldfield Town	42	18	10	14	72	69	64
Stourbridge	42	17	12	13	73	61	63
Dudley Town	42	18	9	15	69	64	63
Stroud	42	16	13	13	75	62	61
Leicester United	42	17	5	20	66	77	56
Bridgnorth Town	42	13	14	15	68	73	53
King’s Lynn	42	16	5	21	57	69	53
Grantham Town	42	14	10	18	57	63	52
Bedworth United	42	14	9	19	50	60	51
Hednesford Town	42	11	14	17	50	62	47
Bilston Town	42	11	14	17	40	54	47
Redditch United	42	11	13	18	57	64	46
Racing Club Warwick	42	11	11	20	45	66	44
Willenhall Town	42	9	9	24	37	66	36
Banbury United	42	9	9	24	46	83	34
Sandwell Borough	42	6	12	24	46	79	30



In a statement, vice-chairman Bill George said: “Mr Kerry has agreed to remain as chairman after full discussions with the board about his reasons for wanting to stand down. “He explained the pressures he was under from the problems of being chairman at Nuneaton Borough at the same time as running his business affairs.

“The board has agreed a management plan that would assist the chairman with his workload. The dispute between the chairman and manager Les Green has been resolved amicably after further talks between them and the board.”

Borough Survive Crisis

Delighted directors of Nuneaton Borough Football Club claim they have survived a cash crisis which threatened to close the company. They announced that a mortgage has been secured which will pay off all the club’s outstanding debts. But Nuneaton firm DMP Construction, which was owed £11,500, has reacted with scepticism and warned it could still go to court to recover the cash unless Borough pay off the debt in the next week or two.

Mr Tony Sandy, a director of the Manor Park club, said it had paid £2,000 off the DMP debt after receiving £6,900 in outstanding transfer fees from Cheltenham Town.

“We are now finalising details of a mortgage and expect the cheque to come through early next week, which will mean everyone will be paid in full,” he said.

Kerry Urges Bailiffs Not To Seize Goods

The anxious chairman of Nuneaton Borough Football Club today made an eleventh hour bid to stop bailiffs from seizing goods from its Manor Park ground. Mr Howard Kerry made a desperate dash to Birmingham for talks with bailiffs after persuading them not to enter the ground until he had a chance to clarify the situation.

Mr John Ainscow, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire ordered the seizure of goods after the club failed to comply with a court order to pay Nuneaton firm Mercia Joinery outstanding debts believed to be as high as £7,000.

Borough Court Case Reaches Its Climax

A bitter three-year High Court battle for control of troubled Nuneaton Borough Football Club will reach its climax next week. Businessmen Noel Kelly and Joe Shooter will hear a judge wind up the complicated case at the Law Courts in London on Monday.

Last year Mr Justice Harman stripped Mr Kelly of the club’s chairmanship and ordered him to sell the 1,077 shares he holds to Mr Shooter. The court had heard that Mr Kelly hopes to recover £127,000 for loans he claims have been made to the club and another £150,000 for his controlling shares.

But Coventry businessman Mr Shooter claimed that there was no proof that Mr Kelly ever actually made the loans, and that where there was proof of money going into the club, it was by way of donations rather than loans.

Mr Justice Harman had ruled that the transfer should be made on terms which were fair to Mr Kelly and enabled him to recover substantial sums he and his company, Coventry Industrial Pipework loaned to the club during his chairmanship.

Judge Hopes Borough Will Get House In Order

The High Court judge who handed businessman Joe Shooter control of Nuneaton Borough Football Club said he hoped the club would now get its house in order.

Mr Justice Harman, who stripped Noel Kelly of control at the Manor Park club and ordered that he have nothing to do with it ever again, said: “I very much hope that the company’s affairs hereafter can be regularised and proper general meetings held, with accounts laid before them.”

The judge ordered Mr Shooter to pay Mr Kelly and his firm Coventry Industrial Pipework, £117,000 to take over his 54 per cent stake in the club.

He also ordered Mr Kelly and CIP to pay the costs of the lengthy legal battle which could be between £150,000 and £180,000. In his judgment, delivered yesterday, Mr Justice Harman made provisions so that Nuneaton Borough FC could not be held liable for any of the payments to Mr Kelly.

“As it seems to me it would be a grave injustice to force Mr Kelly to give up his interest in the company (Nuneaton Borough FC), but allow the company to keep money paid to it by Mr Kelly because of that interest.

“My powers are sufficiently wide to enable me to order that Mr Shooter must either repay Mr Kelly and CIP himself or find the money from somewhere else to repay them.

“It will thus be seen that I have not ordered the company to repay any of the loans it received. The repayment of loans is a condition of the transfer of shares and that is a transaction between shareholders not with the company.”

The judge said he was surprised that there had been no formal accounts kept as proof of the many thousands of pounds in loans Mr Kelly had claimed to have made to the club during his term as chairman.

Instead, the court was occupied for five days last January, going through individual bank statements and cash book entries to establish the date, amount and nature of each payment.

The judge eventually found that 52 of the 80 individual payments claimed to have been made by Mr Kelly and CIP were proved. This meant £33,842 was due to Mr Kelly and £63,600 to CIP.

On the question of the value of the 1,007 shares held by Mr Kelly – representing a 54 per cent stake in the club – the judge said the former chairman’s evidence was “somewhat flimsy”.

Mr Kelly had claimed in January’s hearing that the shares were worth £150,000 due to the prestige they gave him as the majority shareholder and the chairman.

But the judge said: “Mr Kelly himself has no special experience, let alone expertise in valuing shares in private companies.”

He also discounted claims by Mr Kelly that there was a possibility of re-developing Manor Park in the future which increased the value of the shares.

The judge preferred to accept the evidence of a financial expert, Michael Andrews, recruited by Mr Shooter, who valued the shares at £20,000.

“I find the evidence of Mr Andrews, who is plainly qualified as an expert in share valuation, to be impressive and I accept his conclusion and value the shares at £20,000,” said the judge.

Kelly Ordered To Sell Shares

A High Court judge today ordered ousted Nuneaton Borough Football Club chairman Noel Kelly to sell his controlling shares in the club to rival businessman Joe Shooter. Mr Justice Harman said in his judgment Mr Kelly should sell Mr Shooter his 1,007 shares for £20,000 on the condition that he arranges to repay some £97,000 in loans made to the club by the former chairman.

After reading lengthy evidence from Mr Kelly regarding the money he or his company Coventry Industrial Pipework paid in the club account the judge found that £97,000 worth of loans were received by the club.

Mr Kelly had been seeking £150,000 for his controlling shares, which represented a 54 per cent stake in the club and a further £127,000 in loans he claimed to have made. Now both sides are debating who should pay the considerable costs of the court battle which it is believed exceeds six figures.

The bitter fight for control of the Manor Park club began three years ago, which has seen claim and counter claim made at a number of court hearings. Meanwhile, with both Mr Shooter and Mr Kelly sidelined from running Nuneaton Borough, an interim board of directors had been taking care of affairs. (Proceeding).

Borough's Future In Balance

The future of Nuneaton Borough Football Club today hangs delicately in the balance. Twenty-four hours after Mr Joe Shooter won a three-year court battle with rival Noel Kelly for boardroom control, serious doubts were cast on whether or not he would step in as chairman of the beleaguered Manor Park club.

After hearing that he would have to pay Mr Kelly £117,000 for his 54 per cent stake in the club he said today: “I need to find out exactly what the financial state of the club is before I decide to buy Mr Kelly's 1,007 shares.

“We know the club is in debt but not how much. It could be as high as £150,000. I do not want to walk in and find the bailiffs

knocking on my door the next day. I must have assurances before I decide to take on those shares.”

Mr Shooter criticised the interim board which has been running the club since June 1987 while the court battle raged. “They have not kept me informed of any of the club's debts and I can only rely on the rumours and what I read in the papers. I know all the telephones have been disconnected, the electricity is off in the club and many people have not been paid, but I have no figures.”

He said he had big plans for the Borough once the problems were resolved and was enthusiastic about the club's future.

“Les Green will have my total support. We work as a team and there area a lot of exciting things to be done to take the club into the future.”

Howard Kerry, chairman of the interim board, refused to comment on the result of yesterday's hearing.

“I have seen nothing in writing from the court and until I do I am not prepared to comment on the judgment or the finances of the club. Once we receive the court instructions we will follow them precisely,” he said.

Kelly Hits Out At Court Ruling

Noel Kelly has hit out at the “harsh” decision by Mr Justice Harman to make him pay for the lengthy legal battle which has stripped him of control of Nuneaton Borough. Mr Kelly, who was ordered by Mr Justice Harman to sell his 1,007 shares in the club to Joe Shooter for £20,000, said: “I thought the order that I should pay all the costs of the court case was very harsh.

“During earlier hearings there were many allegations made about me which were in the end never presented in court. Much of my costs have been in preparing to answer these allegations. It just does not seem fair.”

It is thought the costs of the case could reach between £150,000 and £180,000. Mr Kelly's solicitor, Mr Alan Lodge, said: “We are considering an appeal.”

Mr Shooter was ordered to pay more than £97,000 back to Mr Kelly for loans he made to the Manor Park club during his time as chairman. The £20,000 for the shares, £33,842 for loans made by Mr Kelly and £63,600 for loans from his company Coventry Industrial Pipework are to be held frozen while the question of costs is sorted out.

Mr Shooter is then to be allowed to set off his payments to Mr Kelly against the costs.

Borough Boss Predicts Bright Future

Nuneaton Borough manager Les Green today promised the faithful Manor Park fans: “We are going for promotion and I think we can be playing League football in eight years.”

Green said he was relieved that the traumatic court battle was over so that the club could now look towards the future.



Court Case Timeline

October, 1986: Coventry businessman Joe Shooter joins Nuneaton Borough board to develop the commercial side. He puts in £20,000 into the club including a share allocation which is later invalidated.

January, 1987: After behind-the-scenes in-fighting, Noel Kelly calls an extraordinary general meeting in a bid to sack Shooter, who is on holiday in the Philippines. A “Borough fan” telephones Shooter who cuts short his holiday and flies 9,000 miles to attend meeting. Shareholders refuse to back Kelly.

February, 1987: In a shock move Shooter goes to High Court and gains injunction ordering Mr Kelly’s suspension along with other directors Sean Gallagher and Jim Rowley. Shooter takes over as acting chairman.

March 1987: Legal moves made to call in accountant to administer affairs of the club. Shooter pays £3,500 to stop bailiffs entering the club over unpaid VAT bill.

April, 1987: New blow for Borough when it is revealed they could be kicked out of the GM Vauxhall Conference League because the main stand at Manor Park was found to be unsafe. Another High Court hearing ends in an adjournment.

May, 1987: High Court judge told of alleged irregularities in the financial control of the club and a judge said that Kelly had been largely responsible for “the hopeless mess.” Meanwhile the club fears that they will be thrown out of Conference League became a reality.

June, 1987: Interim board of directors takes over as the court battle continues.

August, 1987: Borough kick off season in Beazer Homes League premier division only to be relegated a season later to Midland section.

June, 1988: John Harris takes over as chairman, to be followed by Howard Kerry.

November, 1988: Inland Revenue demands payment for £24,000 for outstanding tax bill.

July, 1989: High Court battle resumes as Kelly rejects claims that he hi-jacked the club by juggling shares and directorships. Judge orders that Kelly should transfer his shares to Shooter, but on “fair terms”.

October, 1989: High Court instructs a timetable for both sides to have their evidence ready by December.

January, 1990: Judge defers decision.

July, 1990: After more than three years and legal costs which could amount to £180,000, the case is finally settled in High Court.

The Real Losers

The ramifications of the High Court judgment, in which the battle between former Nuneaton Borough chairman Noel Kelly and vice-chairman, Joe Shooter was finally settled, are as complex as the three-year wrangle that has gone before.

In football, by the very nature of the game, there are always winners and losers.

But as was said in this column many moons ago, in this bitter court dispute, there would be no winners and only one loser – Nuneaton Borough Football Club.

Joe Shooter is claiming to be the victor. He has obtained 54 per cent of the controlling interest.

But at what cost? Twenty thousand pounds for the shares plus picking up a tab for £97,000 for outstanding loans.

And his “prize?” A football club, in the not-so-prestigious Midland Division of the Beazer Homes League, which has debts totalling way over £100,000.

Meanwhile, Mr Noel Kelly, must be licking his wounds, having been ordered by the judge to pay up to £180,000 costs for a case which involved some of the top legal brains in the land.

It was a cost he could have avoided, if he had bowed out three years ago. But the man who, since 1976, had been deeply involved with the Borough – and let it be said put a lot of time and energy into the club he loved – would not let go.

Yesterday, the High Court made that decision for him.

There are those who say there have been winners, the legal eagles whose costs have steadily mounted after numerous court hearings.

But the real losers are the Borough football club. The club that took Nuneaton to the brink of Football League status; the club who have seen glory days; the club who plummeted from the Vauxhall Conference League to their present lowly status.

They are the fall guys, along with the hundreds of True Blue fans who now pray that with the court fight over, the club can now concentrate on getting back to where it belongs, as one of the leading non-league teams in the land.

Joe Shooter – The Club Is Safe

Businessman Joe Shooter returned to Nuneaton Borough Football Club promising a safe future for the town’s premier team. Mr Shooter, who last month won control of the beleaguered Manor Park club in the climax of a long and bitter High Court battle with former chairman Noel Kelly, now plans to take the Borough forward. His first job was to pay the outstanding British Telecom bill to get the club’s telephone re-connected.

Mr Shooter is still in the dark about the state of its finances, but is not hesitating to step in as the new chairman.

In the High Court last month, Mr Justice Harman, ordered that the interim board which has been running the Borough’s affairs during the court battle should be disbanded and Mr Shooter could move in.

He said today that Mr Howard Kerry, chairman of the interim board, had received a copy of the order and following amicable discussions was set to step aside...

In a brief statement Mr Kerry confirmed that the interim board would stand down...

Willenhall Town – Preliminary Round

Borough welcomed Willenhall Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup Preliminary Round tie.

Borough: Harris, Everitt, Wilson, Dewis, Orton, Waters, Watts, Palgrave, Scott, McBean, Farmer. Subs: Bateman, Woodiwiss.

Willenhall: Griffith, Harrison, Edwards, Chapman, Skidmore, Bowater, Jones (Stokes 70), Parker, J. Hanson, Higgins, Plaxton. Sub: K. Hanson.

Borough are tottering on the edge of an early FA Cup exit after a disastrous performance. But Borough have only themselves to blame that they must travel to Noose Lane for what is certain to be a tough replay.

Les Green's side were in total control early on with the visitors forced to defend desperately.

Nuneaton had a goal disallowed, a shot cleared off the line and missed a sitter before Peter McBean put them in front.



Peter McBean shows his delight as Kevin Watts' shot beats the Willenhall defence, but the ball smacked against the post before being cleared.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Peter McBean rounds Willenhall keeper Nick Griffiths and seconds later the Nuneaton striker slipped the ball into an empty net to put Borough ahead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

However, instead of pressing home their advantage, Borough sat back and allowed Willenhall to claw their way back into the match.

The visitors, showing much more stomach for the fight than Borough, visibly grew in confidence especially after the break when Nuneaton faded.

Although the equaliser didn't come until the 81st minute it was thoroughly deserved and at the end Borough must be thankful that they have another chance to put matters right.

Borough opened at a tremendous pace and the visitors were penned back deep in their own half right from the off.

Brian Palgrave's second minute cross from wide on the right caused panic in the Willenhall defence and keeper Nick Griffith did well to punch clear under pressure from Steve Scott and Mo Orton.

Scott then missed a clear-cut opportunity when Rob Farmer dummied Ali Wilson's centre, the big

striker putting a tame header straight at the keeper from six yards.

It was one-way traffic at this stage and Kevin Watts had a shot hit a post before being cleared off the line and Farmer had the ball in the net but the effort was ruled out for offside.

However, Borough got the breakthrough they were looking for after just ten minutes, Neil Harrison made a mess of an attempted clearance and McBean nipped in to round Griffith and slip the ball into an empty net.

Tony Higgins found himself space in a rare Willenhall attack but he wanted too much time and Wilson recovered to cut out the danger.

Ade Waters fired a shot narrowly wide as Borough quickly resumed control and then Watts put his effort straight at the keeper after a neat build-up down the Nuneaton left.

Willenhall might have snatched an equaliser when Ian Painter beat Alan



Harris to a through ball but Leigh Everitt raced back to clear off the line.

There was another moment of anxiety for the home fans when John Hanson got clear in the box seconds before the interval but he dragged his shot across the face of the goal.

The visitors stepped up the pace at the start of the second half as they looked for an equaliser but Campbell Chapman fired a free-kick well over the top from the edge of the area.

Harris then did well to cut out a left wing cross from Hanson before the Borough keeper kept his side in front, going full length to his right to turn away Mark Bowater's close range header.

Borough hit back immediately and were unfortunate not to increase their lead when Orton's 20-yard drive was fingertipped onto a post by Griffith.

Scott then glanced a header inches wide of the far post from Everitt's cross with the keeper struggling.

But Willenhall were looking a far more dangerous side and Borough were forced to hang on to their slender lead.

Harris again did well, plucking a Jim Skidmore header from under the bar when the big central defender was not picked up from a right wing corner.

However, the equaliser the visitors had been threatening finally arrived nine minutes from the end. Painter got clear on the right hand side of the area and his centre to the far post found Higgins who forced a header home from close range.

Willenhall Town — Preliminary Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Noose Lane to play a Preliminary Round replay.

Willenhall: Griffiths, Harrison, Edwards, Chapman, Skidmore, Bowater, Jones, Stokes, J. Hanlon, Hayward, Claxton. Subs: Yates, K. Hanson.

Borough: Harris, Bateman, Wilson, K. Dewis, Everitt, Waters, Watts, Orton, Palgrave, McBean, Farmer. Subs: House, J. Dewis.

Nuneaton Borough's hopes of a money spinning FA Cup run ended last night as they slumped to defeat in their preliminary round replay at Noose Lane.

A mistake by goalkeeper Alan Harris early in the second half presented Willenhall's Stuart Stokes with the all-important goal.

But the young keeper should not shoulder the blame entirely for Borough's early exit. He made a couple of fine saves early on and generally had a tidy match.

The plain truth is that Nuneaton did not possess enough experience in their ranks and they were sadly lacking power and ideas in attack.

Nuneaton battled bravely enough without really troubling the Willenhall defence and the injured striker Steve Scott was badly missed.

Brian Palgrave and Peter McBean failed to accept Borough's best chances and the Manor Park outfit was left to rue the string of missed opportunities last weekend.

Willenhall produced the first threat when left back Stuart Edwards cut inside the Nuneaton defence to fire in a fierce drive that Harris finger-tipped away for a corner.

The Borough keeper was soon in action again, cutting out Lewis Claxton's low centre after the winger had jinked his way to the by-line.

Ade Waters was penalised for a foul on Mark Bowater as the home side continued to force the pace and Edwards curled the free-kick just wide.

Borough at last got going in attack and when Brian Palgrave made a neat break on the right his low cross found Peter McBean who toe-poked a close range effort wide of the near post.

Jim Skidmore cleared from the in-rushing Rob Farmer when Kevin Watts and Leigh Everitt combined neatly to carve out a half-opening as Borough suddenly began to look more dangerous.

Palgrave again caused problems for the home defence with a sharp turn to lose his marker on the right hand side of the penalty area and his driven centre was only inches away from the diving McBean.

Borough were calling the tune at this stage and Palgrave sliced an effort wide from close range after working a one-two with Mo Orton.

There was more trouble for Willenhall when Nick Griffiths failed to hold onto Palgrave's left wing cross but the home keeper recovered to grab the ball at the second attempt.

Waters got in a header from Farmer's corner at the start of the second period but Willenhall cleared the danger to take a 51st minute lead.

Nuneaton conceded three corners in succession and from the third Harris, not under pressure, dropped Mark Jones' flag-kick and Stuart Stokes forced the ball home from close range.

Borough hit back and a back header by Palgrave almost beat Griffith but the keeper, although reacting late, saved low to his left.

However, Willenhall swept back onto the attack and Waters was happy to concede a corner after Neil Harrison had broken clear down the Nuneaton left flank.

Orton hooked a shot wide after Wilson had knocked on a right wing cross but John Hanson wasted a chance for the home side, firing over the top from the edge of the box after Borough had only partially cleared Harrison's centre.

McBean had a shot deflected for a corner as Borough looked for an equaliser and from the flag kick Palgrave appeared to be pushed by Bowater.

But Nuneaton never really looked like saving the tie and Willenhall had the last word with Edwards firing a fierce drive straight at Harris as the game moved into injury time.

Alvechurch — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Alvechurch to Manor Park to play a 2nd Qualifying Round FA Trophy tie.

Borough: Parslow, Corrance, Wilson, Andersen (Everitt 45), Webster, Taylor, Masefield, McDonald, Symonds, Green, Twigger. Sub: McBean.

Alvechurch: Nigel Watson, Conniff, Shepherd, Owen, Angoy, Pinnock (Nick Watson 48), Richardson, Rosegreen, Satchwell (Gocan 77), Williams, Pinner.

Skipper Bobby McDonald kept Borough's Trophy hopes hanging by the slenderest of threads. The former Sky Blues and Aston Villa player's dramatic last minute leveller was enough to salvage a second chance for disappointing Borough.

But Nuneaton can think themselves fortunate that they have the opportunity to put things right at Lye Meadow on Wednesday night.

They were under pressure for most of the match and they have goalkeeper



Nigel Watson can only watch as Bobby McDonald slips home Borough's last minute leveller.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Linden Parslow to thank that they are still involved in the competition.

He produced a string of fine saves, especially early in the second half, when Alvechurch seemed set for a convincing victory.

Borough looked tentative from the

start and had to defend in depth as the visitors took the early initiative despite playing against a stiff breeze.

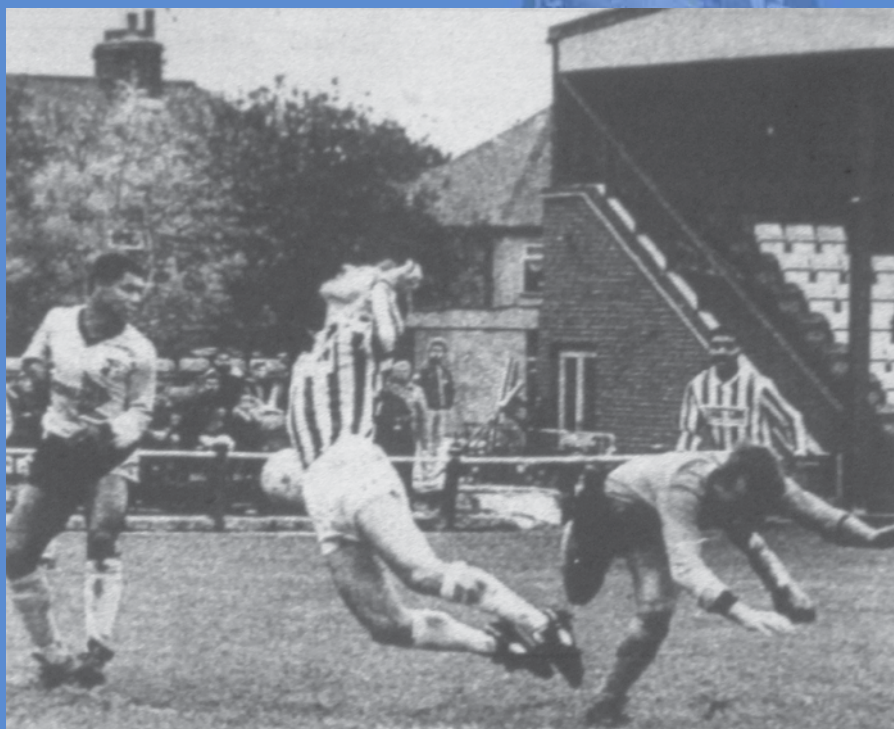
The first moment of anxiety for the home fans came when Borough failed to clear a long throw-in from the left, Les Webster miskicked and Mark Rosegreen had a clear shooting opportunity but Ali Wilson blocked the Alvechurch striker's effort.

Paul Masefield hammered a shot wide from the edge of the box after a neat build-up involving Wilson and Bobby McDonald as Borough looked to get a grip on the match.

But Alvechurch were quickly back in command as Rosegreen turned past Webster in the penalty area and whipped in a cross to the far post where Craig Corrance did well to get his head to the ball and Nicky Andersen completed the clearance.

Nuneaton were struggling to contain a lively visitors' attack and were fortunate not to be behind after 19 minutes when Mark Satchwell pulled a ball back from the by-line to the unmarked Rosegreen who scooped his shot high over the top from close range.

Masefield was crowded out on the edge of the penalty area after a fine break from midfield before Borough



Martyn Twigger is brought down by Mark Owen, but no penalty was given.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



keeper Linden Parslow superbly cut out Royston Richardson's cross under pressure from Keith Williams.

However, Borough's hopes nose-dived 12 minutes before the interval as Alvechurch got the goal they had been threatening. Rosegreen's cross from the right found Williams who appeared to lose possession but Masefield failed to clear the danger and Richardson beat Parslow from ten yards.

Straight from the kick-off another Masefield mistake saw Williams race clear on the left but Parslow turned away the lanky striker's shot.

Masefield almost made amends with a deep, swirling cross from the left that looked like finishing in the top corner until Nigel Wilson, reacting late, finger-tipped the ball over the top.

Borough could have been dead and buried within 60 seconds of the start of the second half when a mix-up between Parslow and Webster from a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area saw Rosegreen steal the ball but he shot wide of an empty net.

Colin Angoy was happy to concede a corner as John Symonds moved in on a Masefield cross but play switched to the other end where Parslow made a tremendous double save from Williams and Rosegreen from point-blank range.

Seven minutes after the restart it looked as though Borough were back on level terms when McDonald met Kim Green's cross perfectly with his head but Watson flew to his left to turn the ball away for a fruitless corner.

But a minute later Borough again had Parslow to thank that they were still in the match as he made another excellent save to deny Rosegreen who had broken clear down the middle.

Williams mis-hit a shot from the edge of the area in another threatening raid before Borough were denied a penalty when Martyn Twigger appeared to be brought down by Mark Owen after a move involving Green, Masefield and McDonald.

Twigger hooked a shot high over the top before Watson cut out Leigh Everitt's cross with Symonds waiting to pounce.

With four minutes left McDonald got up superbly to Watson's deep cross but Watson again denied Borough with an excellent save to his right.

But as the seconds ticked away Borough at last clawed themselves level. Symonds broke clear on the right, his low centre was turned across the face of the goal by Green and McDonald turned the ball home at the far post.

Alvechurch — 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Lye Meadow to play Alvechurch in a FA Trophy Second Qualifying Round tie.

Alvechurch: Nigel Watson, Conniff, Shepherd, Owen, Angoy, Pinnock, Richardson (Gocan 63), Rosegreen, Satchwell, Williams (Nick Watson 63), Pinner.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Taylor, Webster, McDonald, Andersen, Masefield, Carty, Cain, Green, Twigger. Subs: Wilson, Symonds.

Two goal Kim Green spearheaded Borough to a fine win at Alvechurch. The former VS Rugby striker set up Borough's second victory of the campaign and earned them a money-spinning tie at neighbours Bedworth in the final qualifying round.

Alvechurch, who should have wrapped up the tie in the first meeting, never looked capable of completing the job against a much-improved Borough.

Nuneaton dominated the proceedings from the start and with Bobby McDonald having his best game since joining the club they looked a class above the home side.

Alvechurch were a poor second best, especially before the break, and they can have no grumbles about the result.

They did snatch a consolation goal in the dying seconds but by then Borough were home and dry. Manager Les Green made three changes from the side that was disappointing last weekend. Alphonse Cain resumed at right wing for

John Symonds, Leigh Everitt replaced Craig Corrance at right back and Paul Carty was in midfield with McDonald switching to left back at the expense of Ali Wilson.

Borough produced the first threat when Carty and Martyn Twigger combined to send Cain racing into the penalty area but the winger failed to get hold of his shot and the ball flew wide.

Mark Rosegreen worked himself space on the edge of the area as Alvechurch hit back but his shot lacked the power to trouble Linden Parslow in the Borough goal but the visitors' keeper had to be more alert to keep out a snap shot by Mark Satchwell.

But Borough were looking much sharper than the home side and Carty jinked his way past three men to crack a shot narrowly wide from the edge of the penalty area.

Then Carty brought a fine save from Nigel Watson with a fierce left-foot volley from a narrow angle after Twigger had headed on a long clearance by Parslow.

Nuneaton continued to dictate the pace and McDonald freed Twigger down the left from a free-kick and he turned superbly past Nigel Conniff to drive across a low centre that Nicky Andersen turned over the top from close range.

Paul Masefield then had a 20-yarder comfortably held by Watson before Borough snatched the goal they had been threatening after 20 minutes.

McDonald cut out a through ball and found Masefield who put Twigger clear in the box and his low cross picked out Green who scored from close range.

Carty volleyed straight at the keeper after the home defence had only part cleared a right wing cross while at the other end Alvin Pinnock curled a free-kick into the area for Mark Rosegreen to test Parslow with a rising drive.

Borough should have increased their lead on the half hour when Green put Twigger clean through but he

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



hooked his shot wide with only the keeper to beat.

But Nuneaton got the vital second goal eight minutes before the interval with Green again the man on target. McDonald was again the instigator as he found Twigger who cut into the area and whipped over a far post cross. Colin Angoy only cleared the ball as far as Andersen and when he knocked the ball back into the area Green headed past Wilson.

Keith Williams headed tamely wide from a Warren Shepherd free-kick as Alvechurch looked to get back into the game at the start of the second half.

But a poor crossfield ball put Twigger in possession and he slipped it through into the penalty area for Green, however, Mark Owen recovered to get the ball back to his keeper.

Twelve minutes into the second half the Nuneaton defence got themselves in a tangle following a low cross from the right but Everitt got in a timely tackle to clear the danger.

A misplaced header by Webster then almost put Parslow in trouble before Twigger made a fine break on the left and Green was only inches away from adding to Borough's lead.

But Alvechurch pulled a goal back in the last minute. Pinnock knocked on a right wing corner at the near post and substitute Peter Gocan forced the ball home from close range.

Bedworth United – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Third Qualifying Round FA Trophy tie.

Bedworth: Beale, Sockett (Wilkins 86), Kane, Emslie, Daniel, Sullivan, Donnelly, Brain, Mullings, Watts, Probert. Sub: Atkin.

Borough: Parslow, Masefield, Bromley, Taylor, Carty, Andersen (Symonds 85), McDonald, Twigger, Green, Jones. Sub: Cain.

Borough had to come from behind at the Oval to claim their place in the first round proper.

Nuneaton were in command for much of the match but it took a four-goal burst in the last 15 minutes for them to win this local derby.

Les Green's men always had the edge over their neighbours but they were stunned when Lee Sullivan put the Greenbacks into a 72nd minute lead.

However, Kim Green equalised within three minutes and further goals from Martin Twigger (2) and Nicky Andersen gave Borough a convincing victory.

Borough manager Les Green was delighted with the win, although he feels that his side did not produce the football of which they are capable.

Bedworth produced the first threat when Kevin Watts knocked down a ball for Ian Brain on the edge of the penalty area following a Martin Sockett free-kick but the midfielder was way off target with his shot.

However, it was Borough who came closest to snatching the vital breakthrough in the eighth minute. A good build-up down the left saw Twigger find Mark Jones on the edge of the area and when he turned the ball square, Paul Masefield hit a tremendous drive that Beale turned over the top with a superb save.

Nuneaton continued to force the pace and when Andersen sent Masefield racing clear down the right his low cross was only half cleared by the

United defence and Jones had a shot blocked by Sullivan.

Twigger then hit a fierce 15 yarder straight at Beale before Sockett became the first booking of the afternoon after a foul on Paul Carty as he was threatening to break clear on the left.

Beale had to react quickly to beat Twigger to a ball inside the area after a flick on by Green and then Paul Daniel hooked away a low, dangerous cross with Green poised to strike.

At this stage Borough were well in control and Daniel again came to Bedworth's rescue, heading away Carty's cross at the expense of a corner after the Borough midfielder had broken clear on the left.

Steve Mullings made himself space as the Greenbacks looked to get into the match but his shot from the edge of the area was weak and straight at Parslow.

Sockett got in a deep cross from the right as Bedworth at last pressed forward, but Watts failed to get over the ball and his header lobbed harmlessly over the top.

But eight minutes before the break, Borough had a scare with Mullings coming close to giving United a shock lead. A cross from the right ricocheted off two Nuneaton defenders and fell straight to Mullings only six yards out but Parslow made a fine save to turn the ball out for a corner.



The moment when Borough fans feared the worst as Bedworth take a 72nd minute lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Bobby McDonald had a shot deflected for a corner and then as half-time approached, Masfield went into the referee's notebook for bringing down Steve Probert.

Borough could have snatched the lead right from the restart when they caught the Greenbacks defence stone cold. Twigger broke clean through the middle chased by Daniel but as he cut into the penalty area Beale managed to block the striker's close range shot.

Daniel was happy to concede a corner to keep out Twigger after a neat build-up involving Andersen and Green and then Beale twice made fine close range saves as Borough looked for the vital breakthrough.

But eight minutes into the second half Mullings got away from Andersen and raced clear but with the defence closing in on him he dragged his shot well wide from the edge of the area.

Beale then did well to grab a McDonald shot at the second attempt before Sockett, already having been booked, was lucky to stay on the field after a crude foul on the Borough skipper.

But with 72 minutes gone Borough found themselves a goal down

completely against the run of play, with Andersen the villain of the piece.

There was no danger at all as Bedworth forced the ball into the area on the left but Andersen changed his mind about clearing the ball, waited for it to roll out for a goal kick, trod on it, and when Watts hooked the ball across the goalmouth Lee Sullivan forced a low shot past Parslow.

However, three minute later the large contingent of Borough supporters were celebrating an equaliser. Mark Bromley found Andersen wide on the right with a fine crossfield pass and Andersen chipped a magnificent ball over the Bedworth defence for Green to chest down and fire past Beale.

Green then appeared to be brought down by Daniel as he burst through but the referee ignored Borough's appeals and then Jones hit a volley straight at the United keeper.

But seven minutes from the end Borough at last went in front with another fine goal. Twigger knocked a ball down to Green in midfield and the big striker lost his marker to find Andersen with a superb ball for the midfielder to run on and beat Beale

with a low shot into the far corner.

Both side made late substitutions with John Symonds coming on for Andersen in the Borough line-up and Bedworth sending on Peter Wikins in place of Sockett.

However, Borough ended any hopes that Bedworth might have had of nicking a replay when they grabbed two goals in the last minute to give the scoreline a more realistic look.

Green started a move with a square ball to McDonald and he sent Twigger racing clear into the penalty area where he was brought down by Kevin Kane. Twigger picked himself up and sent Beale the wrong way with the spotkick to put Borough 3-1 up.

Then straight from the kick-off a long ball over the top caught the home defence square and Twigger again broke clear to slip the ball past the totally exposed Beale as he left his line.

Shepshed Charterhouse – 1st Round

Borough made the journey to The Dovecote to play Shedshed Charterhouse in a FA Trophy First Round tie.

Shepshed: Heyes, Barry, Littlejohn, Powell (Rue 45), Williamson, Hodkinson, George (McCarthy 83), Oxley, Watts, Liquorish, Beckford.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt (Masfield 57), Carty, Taylor, Waters, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Twigger, Green, Field (Pollard 54).

Mark Pollard's first goal of the season was enough to keep Borough's Trophy hopes alive. The young midfielder stepped off the substitute's bench to grab Borough's equaliser ten minutes from the end.

Nuneaton had dominated most of the match, especially the first half an hour, without being able to turn their pressure into goals.

Then they found themselves behind shortly before the interval when Tim Watts grabbed a fine opportunist goal.



The icing on the cake for Borough as Martyn Twigger slips the ball past the keeper for the fourth goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



In spite of losing the influential Steve Powell with an ankle injury late in the first half, Shepshed defended well in depth and looked like hanging onto their advantage as Borough became frustrated.

But as Nuneaton's huge following began to have doubts about getting an equaliser, up popped Pollard to take the tie to a replay.

Nuneaton had two changes from the side that beat Stroud, Kenny Taylor and Ruban Field replacing Mark Kasziba and Tony Simpson, who were both cup-tied.

Borough looked to have made the perfect start when Martyn Twigger had the ball in the net in the very first minute after Kim Green had flicked on Linden Parslow's long clearance.

But Borough's celebrations were cut short when play was called back for a handball offence against Nuneaton's leading scorer.

Nuneaton continued to dictate the pace and Green fired a shot into the side netting after Nicky Andersen's chip had put him clear in the area.

John Hodkinson and Wayne Oxley linked up to free Philmore George down the right as Shepshed looked to get into the match but the winger's cross was cut out by Ken Taylor.

Then a bad bounce put Leigh Everitt in trouble as he went to head clear and Ade Waters had to bring down Andy Beckford as he threatened to break away but John Barry hammered the free-kick narrowly over the top.

Hodkinson was booked for a late challenge on Everitt and Steve Powell made a timely tackle to halt Twigger following a good build-up involving Green and Bobby McDonald as Borough resumed control.

McDonald's dipping cross was then touched over the top by Darren Heyes before Mick Williamson glanced a tame header well wide of the target from a left wing corner.

However, that was a rare excursion into Borough's penalty area by the home side and they were soon being penned back in their own half as Nuneaton held the upper hand.

Midway through the half Borough should have been in front. Andersen floated a free-kick into the area. Green's powerful header was superbly parried by Heyes and McDonald headed the rebound wide from six yards.

Heyes then punched away a dangerous cross from Everitt under pressure from Green but Borough were in trouble when a quick ball out of defence put Watts away on the left but he failed to get in his centre.

Shepshed then had Heyes to thank that they were still on level terms after 32 minutes as he blocked Green's goalbound effort with his outstretched leg after Twigger had opened up the home defence.

Beckford's low centre was well cut out by Taylor and Parslow took an awkward centre off the head of Alan Liquorish as Shepshed came more into the match.

But Borough could have got that elusive first goal when Twigger jinked his way into the area and pulled the ball back across the face of the goal from the bye-line but there was no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

The hopes of the home fans dipped four minutes before the interval when Powell was helped off with an ankle injury but two minutes later they were celebrating as Shepshed snatched a shock lead.

Matt Littlejohn's free-kick was headed on by Liquorish and Watts hit a low right foot volley that found the corner of the net despite Parslow getting a hand to the ball.

Borough opened the second half full of purpose as they pushed forward looking for an equaliser and Mark Jones fired an early volley wide of the right hand post after Twigger had chested down McDonald's free-kick.

Mark Pollard came on for Ruban Field nine minutes after the restart and shortly afterwards Green glanced a header wide of the far post from Andersen's cross.

Everitt was left limping after a clash with Beckford and Paul Masefield came on to fill the right back spot.

McDonald then had to react sharply to cut out a low centre after Liquorish had wriggled his way into the left hand side of the penalty area but in general it was a repeat of the first half with Borough dictating the play and Shepshed forced to rely on the occasional breakthrough.

It looked as though Nuneaton might snatch an equaliser when Masefield burst into the area but Heyes made a superb save and then denied Green from the rebound.

Twigger's cross was hooked away from the intruding McDonald by Williamson as Borough continued to press and then Waters was off target with a first-time shot from 20 yards.

Green and Twigger both went up for a Pollard cross to the far post and the ball flew over the top and McDonald had a shot deflected straight through to the keeper.

But with 13 minutes left Borough had a let-off when Taylor's intended back pass put in Liquorish. He pulled the ball back into the area and it broke to Watts who hammered in a low drive from the edge of the area that looked destined for the net, but Parslow made a superb save low to his left.

The importance of that save was underlined three minutes later as Borough at last drew level. Paul Carty found Twigger on the left hand edge of the penalty area, he turned the ball inside to Green and when he touched it off to McDonald, the Borough skipper drilled in a low shot that Pollard turned in from close range.

However, Borough had a let off with just two minutes remaining. Waters went into the book for pulling back Liquorish as he was breaking clear and



Colin Rue's free-kick squeezed through the defensive wall and fell to the feet of substitute John McCarthy alone in front of goal, but his weak effort was easily saved by Parslow.

Then in the dying seconds Nuneaton might have snatched a dramatic winner with Pollard's effort being deflected wide of the far post after Andersen and Green had set up the opening.

Shepshed Charterhouse — 1st Round Replay

Borough welcomed Shepshed Charterhouse to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy First Round replay.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Carty, Taylor, Waters, Jones, Masefield, McDonald, Twigger, Green, Pollard (Randle 85). Sub: Field.

Shepshed: Heyes, Barry, Littlejohn, Oxley, Williamson, Watts, McCarthy, Hodkinson, Rue, Liquorish, Beckford. Subs: McFarlane, Collier.

Bobby McDonald's first-half goal was enough to send Manor Park's biggest crowd of the season home in a happy mood.

The Nuneaton skipper made the all-important breakthrough nine minutes before the interval to take Borough through to the second round.

But that was one of very few highlights as both sides struggled. There was very little skill in evidence with the teams reduced to hitting a succession of long hopeful balls and the play was littered with a string of misplaced passes.

The tie never approached the quality of Saturday's match and a bumpy surface did not help matters.

To add to their problems the players ran into an over fussy referee who had a nightmare as he booked seven and sent off another.

Paul Masefield filled the vacancy on the right hand side of midfield in place of the suspended Nicky Andersen while Mark Pollard, who grabbed the equaliser in the first tie, started the game on the right wing.

Borough came close to getting the start they were hoping for with Masefield putting a shot into the side netting after a mix up between Andy Beckford and Mick Williamson put goalkeeper Darren Heyes in trouble.

Wayne Oxley was fortunate when he sliced his attempted clearance and the ball only just eluded Martyn Twigger and then McDonald got up well to Masefield's free-kick but his header lacked the power to trouble Heyes.

The Shepshed keeper then did well to keep out Twigger's header before an offside whistle brought relief for Borough after Colin Rue's header had hit the foot of a post.

Mark Jones brought a fine diving save from Heyes when the visitors only cleared a McDonald free-kick to the edge of the box before Matt Littlejohn became the first booking of the night for a trip on Pollard.

But with 36 minutes gone Nuneaton got the break they were looking for. Kim Green got a head to Masefield's free-kick and the ball lobbed over the advancing keeper. Williamson got a toe to the ball and when it rebounded off the crossbar McDonald calmly slipped the ball into the corner of the net.

There was a moment of anxiety for the home fans at the start of the second half when Paul Carty gave away a free-kick on the edge of the box and it took three attempts to get the ball clear.

Green glanced a header straight at the keeper as Borough hit back before Alan Liquorish lost his marker to turn the ball across the Nuneaton box but John Hodkinson sliced his shot well wide of the target.

Beckford was booked along with Borough's Leigh Everitt and then Shepshed's chances nose-dived as they were reduced to ten men when McCarthy was sent off for scything down Carty, who also went into the book for throwing mud at the visitors' player as he was walking off.

Heyes reacted well to race out of goal

and hack the ball clear from the in-rushing Twigger but Liquorish again showed his potential as he broke clear down the right but the move petered out through lack of support.

Rue and Masefield joined the ever-growing list of bookings and Ade Waters quickly followed them as the match official seemed to lose all control.

When play did resume something like normality, George Randle came off the substitutes' bench to replace Pollard on the flank as Borough looked to hang on to their lead.

Then shortly before the end Nuneaton came within an ace of snatching a second goal when Twigger and McDonald set up a shooting chance for Jones who forced a superb save from Heyes with a cracking drive from the edge of the box.

In the dying seconds Twigger put the ball in the net despite a whistle for offside and his booking completed virtually a full set for referee Smith.

Leek Town—2nd Round

Borough made the journey to Harrison Park to play Leek Town in a FA Trophy Second Round tie.

Leek: Simpson, Elsby, Pearce, McMullen, Clowes, Coleman (Lodge 79), Mellor, Somerville, Sutton, Millington, Goldstraw. Sub: Mallaburn.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Wilson, McDonald, Masefield, Holmes, Jones, Andersen (Mulholland 79), Twigger, Green, Cain. Sub: Dewis.

Borough produced a brave rearguard action to grab themselves a hard-earned Trophy replay.

Vastly under-strength Borough came under heavy pressure from the HFS Loans League outfit, especially during a one-sided first-half.

But they held on, took the lead through an own goal and could have won it late on when they missed two glorious chances with just the keeper to beat.

However, Borough owe a huge debt to the two elder statesmen in the side,

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Bobby McDonald and Jimmy Holmes, who were both outstanding.

The two veterans of countless Football League battles dug deep into their wealth of experience as they rolled back the years to guide their younger team-mates through a very testing encounter and put Borough into the third round draw.

Borough, who were already without the cup-tied Tony Simpson, Chris Keogh and Tony Donnelly, were also forced to go into the tie minus Ade Waters and Paul Carty, who are now serving two-match suspensions.

As expected, Alphie Cain came in on the wing, Holmes played at the centre of the defence and Ali Wilson had the left back role.

Leigh Everitt got a recall to the right back spot and Paul Masefield switched from full-back to partner Holmes with McDonald doing a sweeping job.

Leek made their intentions clear from the start as right back Ian Elsby burst forward to fire in a low cross that Borough keeper Linden Parslow gathered low down at the near post.

Dave Sutton then made a neat turn on the edge of the box to create himself a bit of space but Parslow was ideally positioned to save comfortably.

But Borough might have drawn first blood immediately afterwards when Kim Green flicked on McDonald's free-kick for Cain to go racing into the area only to fire wildly over the top of Robin Simpson's goal.

Sutton drilled a low ball into the Borough area after breaking clear on the left but Masefield cleared at the expense of a corner and then Sutton fired over the top under pressure from Holmes after Masefield had failed to cut out a through ball.

Nuneaton were having to withstand heavy pressure but they did break out when Mark Jones won a fierce challenge in midfield to free Cain but Elsby got back to hook the ball clear

as Martyn Twigger moved in on the winger's far post cross.

There was more trouble for Borough when Sutton played a neat one-two with Graham Millington before firing in a low drive that Parslow did well to turn away for a corner which Paul Clowes glanced wide of the far post.

But Borough stunned the home side as they snatched the lead completely against the run of play after 25 minutes with a bizarre own goal by Leek's Chris McMullen.

Holmes won the ball wide on the left and found Green in the centre circle and he turned the ball back to Nicky Andersen. The midfielder knocked a high ball towards the area for Twigger to chase but there appeared to be no danger for the home defence as McMullen got possession, but he could only watch in horror as his lobbed backpass sailed over his keeper and nestled gently in the empty net.

McMullen came close to making amends for his mistake as he powered in a header from a left wing corner but Wilson headed clear from inside the six yards box.

Green freed Cain with a fine ball inside the full-back as Borough ended the half on a bright note but the winger failed to get in his cross with Twigger free at the far post.

But Borough's hopes nose-dived just two minutes after the restart as Leek were gifted a soft equaliser.

The Nuneaton defence failed to clear, the ball was quickly switched to the left to Sutton, who, despite looking offside, was allowed to turn past two tackles into the box and his low cross-shot somehow squirmed past Parslow and into the far corner of the net.

Gary Pearce fired a shot narrowly over the bar as Leek looked to press home their advantage and then a dipping 20 yard drive by Elsby was superbly turned over the top by the Borough keeper.

It took a fine tackle by McDonald to halt

Brian Mellor as he cut into the penalty area and play was quickly switched to the other end where the Borough skipper came within an inch of putting his side back in front.

A low ball into the area had the home defence in a tangle and McDonald seized on the loose ball to lob over the stranded keeper but with Borough fans already acclaiming a goal, Elsby recovered to head the ball off the line.

Green was then unlucky with a diving header after a Twigger cross had caused more anxiety in the home defence but Leek hit back for Alan Somerville to pick up a half clearance on the edge of the Borough penalty area and he floated a cross to the far post where Clowes made a late run into the box but he failed to get any power into his header.

But with Holmes and McDonald superbly marshalling the defence, Borough were starting to look the more likely side to snatch the goal that would settle the tie.

With just 14 minutes left Green should have put Borough in front. Twigger put his fellow striker clean through into the penalty area with just the keeper to beat but his first touch let him down and Simpson was able to race from his line and block the striker's shot.

Andersen had a header comfortably held by Sutton from Twigger's cross before being replaced by Dennis Mulholland with Leek bringing on Ivan Lodge for Dave Coleman at the same time.

Parslow had to react smartly to gather a curling effort from Millington low to his left and then Borough missed another glorious chance to book their place in round three.

Mulholland broke clear in midfield and put Twigger through with just Sutton to beat but he unluckily trod on the ball as he moved into the box and McMullen was able to scramble the ball away.

Then in the dying seconds Mulholland found Twigger at the far post and he

hooked the ball across the face of the goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Leek Town — 2nd Round Replay

Borough welcomed Leek Town to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy Second Round replay.

Borough: Parslow, Everitt, Wilson, Holmes (Dewis 20), Masefield, Jones, Andersen, McDonald, Mulholland, Green, Twigger. Sub: Cain.

Leek: Simpson, Elsby, Pearce, Norris, Clowes, Goldstraw, Mellor, Somerville, Sutton, Lodge, Mallburn. Subs: Coleman, Cutler.

Borough's biggest crowd of the season saw a goal from Leek's Paul Clowes, 15 minutes into the first half, end their Wembley hopes.

With five first team players unavailable Nuneaton struggled throughout to find their normal fluency. They had plenty of possession, especially during the second half, but they created very few real openings.

Borough produced the first real threat when Leigh Everitt found Martyn Twigger down the right and his low cross into the area was hacked away by Steve Norris with Kim Green rushing in.

When Leek only partially cleared a right wing centre, Andersen hit a 30 yard drive that had Robin Simpson at full stretch to his right. The keeper could not hold the shot and he was relieved to see Ian Elsby complete the clearance.

Jimmy Holmes was on hand to hook the ball clear after Linden Parslow had missed a left wing corner before Leek grabbed the vital breakthrough.

Brian Mellor floated in a free-kick to the far post where Parslow made a fine stop from a close range header by Clowes but the Leek central defender was allowed to hook the rebound into the roof of the net unchallenged.

Borough hit back immediately as they looked for an equaliser and when Simpson missed a high cross into the penalty area Elsby again rescued the visitors as he hooked the ball out.

Nuneaton had to reorganise their defence after 20 minutes when Holmes was forced to come off with a hamstring injury. Jamie Dewis came on at right back with Everitt switching to the other flank and Ali Wilson joined Paul Masefield as a central defender.

Andersen squandered a good opening when Twigger flicked on Masefield's through ball to put the midfielder clear, but Andersen failed to control the ball and Norris recovered.

Leek suddenly stepped up the pace and twice in as many minutes they went close to extending their lead. Wilson conceded a free-kick 30 yards out and Norris hammered in a terrific drive that Parslow tipped over the top and then another free-kick was played short to Somerville and his drive skidded wide.

A flowing Borough build-up ended with Green flicking on Dewis' ball into the box and Bobby McDonald hooked it over the top. When Borough again stretched the visitors' defence, Jones was off target with a snapshot from the edge of the area.

Andersen floated a free-kick into the Leek penalty area early in the second half and when the visitors only cleared the ball to the edge of the box Jones put a chip narrowly wide of the post.

With the stiff breeze now in their favour Borough were pressing forward and Dennis Mulholland hit a volley straight at Simpson from 20 yards.

Twigger then saw his cross dip onto the roof of the net and Masefield snatched at a shot that flew well wide of the mark.

Borough continued to enjoy a huge territorial advantage without really looking like pulling back the goal, although Mulholland did hit a dipping 25 yarder that bounced awkwardly in front of Simpson but the Leek keeper did well to hold on to the ball.

With 15 minutes left Borough came close to snatching an equaliser when a link-up between Twigger and Green put Twigger into space and his chip to the far post beat Simpson's despairing dive but flew inches wide.

At this stage Leek were content to hold onto their lead, pulling virtually everyone back into their own half.

Twigger flicked on McDonald's left wing corner for Andersen to power in a header that beat Simpson only for Clowes to head off the line.

Twigger rounded the Leek keeper to net after Green and Andersen had set up the opening but a linesman's flag brought relief to the Leek followers.



Borough striker Martyn Twigger is challenged by Leek central defender Steve Norris as he goes up for a high cross.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1989-90

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.29	St.Andrews	A	PSF	5-0	Farmer, Timms, Shackleton, Watts, Waters	
08.01	Aylesbury United	A	PSF	2-4	Scott, Waters	
08.03	Bristol City	H	PSF	0-3		
08.05	Birmingham City	H	PSF	1-5	Farmer	
08.09	Oxford United	H	PSF	0-3		
08.12	Manchester United	A	PSF	0-1		
08.15	Nuneaton Griff	H	PSF	4-2	Palgrave, Farmer, McBean, Clarke	
08.19	Stourbridge	H	L	0-5		503
08.22	Spalding United	A	L	1-2	McBean	304
08.26	Bilston United	H	L	1-1	McBean	410
08.28	Grantham Town	H	L	2-0	Scott (2)	
09.02	Willenhall Town	H	FAC P	1-1	McBean	481
09.04	Willenhall Town	A	FAC P r	0-1		201
09.09	Sandwell Borough	A	L	1-2	Farmer	125
09.23	Stourbridge	A	L	1-1	Straw	125
09.30	Leicester United	H	L	0-1		523
10.07	Dudley Town	H	L	2-4	Symonds (2)	450
10.14	Stratford Town	A	BSC 1	1-3	McDonald (pen)	152
10.17	Grantham Town	A	WIC 1 1L	2-2	Green, Cain	361
10.21	Alvechurch	H	FAT 2Q	1-1	McDonald	462
10.25	Alvechurch	A	FAT 2Qr	2-1	Green (2)	249
10.28	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	L	3-1	Masefield, Twigger, Simpson	419
10.30	Grantham Town	H	WIC 1 2L	0-1		491
11.04	Leicester United	A	L	2-1	Twigger, Fine (o.g.)	241
11.11	Hednesford Town	A	L	1-0	Twigger	364
11.18	Sandwell Borough	H	L	2-0	Twigger, Green	518
11.25	Barry Town	A	L	1-3	Twigger	286
11.27	Spalding United	H	L	3-2	(o.g.), Twigger (pen), Green	468
12.02	Bedworth United	A	FAT 3Q	4-1	Twigger (2,1 pen),Green, Andersen	1012
12.06	Banbury United	A	L	7-1	Andersen (2), Simpson (2), Carty, Twigger, Randle	198
12.09	Willenhall Town	A	L	2-2	Carty, Twigger (pen)	202
12.11	Corby Town	H	M&B Cup 1 1L	2-2	Twigger (2)	255
12.20	Redditch United	A	L	2-1	Andersen, Twigger	152
12.26	Bedworth United	A	L	3-1	Green (2), Twigger	1178
12.30	Rushden Town	A	L	2-1	McDonald, Twigger (pen)	632
01.01	Kings Lynn	H	L	3-0	Waters, Green, Twigger	891
01.06	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	L	1-4	Twigger	421
01.08	Stroud	H	L	1-0	Green	730
01.13	Shepshed Charterhouse	A	FAT 1	1-1	Pollard	721
01.17	Shepshed Charterhouse	H	FAT 1r	1-0	McDonald	1282
01.20	Halesowen Town	A	L	0-2		1237
01.27	Bridgnorth Town	A	L	4-0	Andersen (2), Simpson, Twigger	310
02.03	Leek Town	A	FAT 2	1-1	McMullen (o.g.)	940
02.05	Leek Town	H	FAT 2r	0-1		1350
02.10	Bilston Town	A	L	1-0	Andersen	315
02.12	Barry Town	H	L	2-1	Simpson, Twigger	700
02.17	Racing Club Warwick	A	L	2-2	Twigger (pen), McDonald	334
02.19	Banbury United	H	L	3-0	Green, Simpson, Twigger	701
02.24	Hednesford Town	H	L	1-0	Twigger	802
02.28	Corby Town	A	M&B Cup 1 2L	2-0	Twigger (2)	79
03.03	Tamworth	A	L	3-1	McDonald, Twigger, Simpson	1583
03.05	Racing Club Warwick	H	L	1-0	Simpson	1026

Southern League Midland Division Gola League: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1989-90

Nuneaton Scores

First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.10	Willenhall Town	H	L	1-0	Twigger (pen)	841
03.17	Stroud	A	L	2-2	Twigger (2, 1 pen)	248
03.24	Bridgnorth Town	H	L	1-1	Damjanovic	668
03.26	Halesowen Town	H	L	1-0	Twigger	1751
03.30	Arsenal Reserves	H	F	3-1	Twigger (2), Simpson	1061
04.07	Rushden Town	H	L	1-0	McDonald	917
04.09	Redditch United	H	L	3-2	Twigger (3, 2 pen)	991
04.14	Kings Lynn	A	L	4-0	Carty (3), Andersen	445
04.16	Bedworth United	H	L	2-1	McDonald, Twigger (pen)	1620
04.21	Grantham Town	A	L	1-1	Carty	569
04.23	Hinckley Town	H	M&B Cup 2	2-1	Donnelly, Twigger	623
04.28	Dudley Town	A	L	0-1		461
05.05	Tamworth	H	L	7-0	Andersen (3), Simpson (2), Twigger, McDonald	1068
05.07	V.S.Rugby	A	M&B Cup SF	1-2	Twigger (pen)	839

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, WIC = Southern League Cup,
BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, M&B = M&B Floodlit Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly

Nuneaton Borough August 1989-90



Back: Gordon Lee (reserves trainer),
Bobby Vincent (Assistant Manager),
Mark Ullah, Paul Shackleton,
Lee Bateman, Wayne Starkey,
Simon Clarke, Alistair Wilson,
Steve Scott, Robbie Farmer,
Steve Probert, Les Webster,
Joe Taylor (Trainer).
Front: Kevin Watts, Brian Palgrave,
Adrian Waters,
Kirk Stephens (Player-Manager),
Mick Shearer.

Nuneaton Borough November 1989-90

Back: Dave Lewis (Assistant
Manager), Joe Taylor,
John Symonds, Ken Taylor,
Kim Green, Linden Parslow,
Paul Carty, Les Webster,
Paul Masefield,
Gordon Lee (Trainer),
Les Green (Manager).
Front: Martyn Twigger,
Nicky Andersen,
Bobby McDonald,
Tony Simpson, Mark Place,
Leigh Everitt.





Shooter Confident Of Avoiding Disaster

Nuneaton Borough chairman Joe Shooter is confident he can avoid a disaster on the eve of the new season which could see the club banned from playing home games. Mr Shooter, who has been plagued with problems since taking over at Manor Park on Monday, has arranged an emergency safety inspection of the ground to try to get the all-clear for next Monday's opening home match against King's Lynn.

Following reports that football could be barred at the troubled club, Mr Shooter promised supporters that, so far, no matches have been called off. "We have not taken any steps to cancel fixtures because there will be a safety inspection at the ground tomorrow," said a confident Shooter.

"I have given John Harris full authority from the board to carry out any requirements made by the safety inspectors."

But it was not known whether Mr Harris, who gave up his role as club safety officer when the interim board stood down on Tuesday, will take up Mr Shooter's offer to get the ground ready in time. Mr Harris said: "I do not think I am allowed to be a temporary safety officer and I am taking instructions from my own solicitor about the legality of it."

"Mr Shooter is asking me to be responsible for a position that I have no control over. I do not see how I can hold the certificate when someone else is in power – it is an impossible situation."

The new chairman this week appointed Mr Colin Morgan, safety and training officer at Daw Mill Colliery, to the post of club safety officer. But the certificate transfer could take three weeks while police, fire and local authority officers approve the appointment.

"Mr Shooter is banking on my goodwill, but I have to be very careful that I do not leave myself open to prosecution should something go wrong," said Mr Harris...

Williams To Join Borough

Former Sheffield United goal ace Paul Williams is on the verge of joining Nuneaton Borough – and could line up for the first home game against King's Lynn. Negotiations between central defender Williams and Stockport have failed to produce a definite signing and he has promised Borough boss Les Green that Nuneaton will have first refusal.

Borough Game Definitely On – Shooter

Nuneaton Borough's game against King's Lynn is on. That is the promise of Borough chairman Joe Shooter, who met with county safety officers at the ground yesterday to try and rush through a safety certificate in time for the home season curtain raiser. "There is no doubt that the match with King's Lynn is going ahead," said Mr Shooter. "Alex McIntosh, the Warwickshire fire-safety officer, inspected Manor Park yesterday and was satisfied that the ground was fit for use, provided one or two minor bits of work are gone."

"The True Blues and other club members have been

marvellous this week in helping to clear up the ground and I am certain we can carry out Mr McIntosh's requirements in time for Monday."

1990-91

Redditch v Nuneaton Borough

18-08-1990

Redditch: Burke, Ridding, Whittington, Harrison, Peltier, Judd, Carmichael, McGarry, Perry, Campbell, O'Hare. **Subs:** Ridlington, Roche.
Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Waters, Keogh, McDonald, Spence (Seivwright 53), Hadland, Donnelly, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Merry.

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

Martyn Twigger's second half goal was enough to give Borough a share of the spoils. Nuneaton's goal ace drilled home a 49th minute penalty after a foul on Tony Simpson.

Borough overcame a lethargic start that saw them go a goal behind after just five minutes to a Mick Perry goal. But the visitors took control and dominated the game for long periods. However, Ade Waters, Patrick Spence, Dennis Mulholland, Simpson and Twigger all went close in a game that Borough should have won – but could easily have lost.

Borough found themselves a goal down before they had time to settle down. Former West Brom striker Perry played a neat one-two with Robin Judd and his low shot from close range gave Parslow no chance. Shortly afterwards, Steve Campbell threatened more danger as he jinked his way into the box but Chris Keogh wrested the ball away to clear the situation.

However, Nuneaton got a grip in midfield and Chris Harrison did well to cut out a cross by Mulholland before Ade Waters saw his header deflected wide of the right hand upright. Borough were now in the driving seat and it took another timely clearance by Harrison to halt Twigger and Spence volleyed wide after Waters had knocked down a Bobby McDonald free-kick. Simpson went close to snatching an equaliser when he flashed a shot across the face of goal after Redditch had only partially cleared a McDonald corner. Twigger had a free header when he was not picked up from Simpson's right wing corner but his close range effort flew well wide. Peltier went into the book for hacking down Twigger just before half-time.

Borough resumed control at the start of the second half and after four minutes they were level. Simpson cut into the box from the right and was chopped down by Trevor Whittington to give Twigger the opportunity to send Dennis Burke the wrong way with the resulting spot-kick. But Borough came under immediate pressure and Judd made a fine break from midfield and fed Perry on the left for him to turn inside and fire a low drive narrowly wide of the far post.

Mulholland superbly robbed Whittington and raced clear to set up a chance for Simpson but the winger snatched at his shot and scooped a weak effort high and wide from the edge of the area. Half-way through the half Borough were denied a



golden opportunity when Kevin Seivwright was challenged by Harrison just outside the area and the ball broke to Simpson who had only the keeper to beat, but the referee stopped play and awarded Borough a free-kick. Sixty seconds later Parslow saved Borough from going behind after Mulholland was adjudged to have fouled Campbell and a penalty was awarded but to the relief of the Nuneaton contingent Parslow went low to his left to safely gather O’Kane’s spot kick.

McDonald came to Borough’s rescue with a last ditch tackle on Campbell as he looked to get in a shot and at the other end Harrison went into the referee’s book for bringing down Seivwright. Burke saved Twigger’s header late on before Mulholland went close with a 20-yard drive. Peltier was sent off in the last minute for a second bookable offence.

Nuneaton Borough v Kings Lynn 20-08-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Seivwright, Waters, Keogh, McDonald, Carty, Hadland, Donnelly (Smith 85), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Spence.
Kings Lynn: Saunders, Shelton, Massingham, Nightingale, Sharman, Clark, Mewell (Lund 64), Rippen (McLaughlin 52), Gallagher, Keir, Langford.

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

The Linnets looked sharp in the opening stages and the Borough defence had to be alert as the visitors produced some slick interpassing moves. King’s Lynn had the first sniff of an opening when Seivwright failed to cut out a cross field ball. Selwin Shelton found Jackie Gallagher in the area and he laid the ball back to Marcus Mewell but he snatched at his shot and sliced the ball well wide.

Borough replied immediately with a fine run from midfield by Carty that took him to the edge of the King’s Lynn area only for him to lift his effort high over the top. Trevor Saunders had to make a fine save from Twigger after Hadland had put him clear and then Ade Waters fired a long range effort wide of the far post. Borough now had a firm grip in midfield and the visitors defence was coming under increasing pressure.

Twigger pulled a shot across the face of goal after Seivwright had created the opening and Tony Donnelly got onto the end of a Dennis Mulholland cross, but his header lacked power. However, the goal had been threatening came after 28 minutes. King’s Lynn only cleared a Waters free-kick to the edge of the penalty area and Hadland fired a first-time left footer into the bottom corner. Two minutes later the visitors were fortunate not to be further behind when Tony Simpson robbed Mewell in midfield and sent Twigger racing through, but the striker’s fierce shot bounced to safety off the bar.

Borough had a good chance at the start of the second half when Carty intercepted a square pass on the edge of the opposition’s box, but he hurried his shot and the opening was lost. King’s Lynn went close shortly after when Gallagher stepped over a low cross and Paul Langford forced the ball past Linden Parslow but Chris Keogh recovered to clear.

Twigger might have done better shooting into the side netting after Hadland had split the visitors defence. However, 13 minutes after the restart the Borough striker made no mistake as he grabbed a second goal. Waters put Simpson clear on the right and his low cross found Twigger who beat Saunders from close range.

Twigger dragged a shot across the Lynn goal, while at the other end Gallagher got a head to Shelton’s cross, but Parslow gathered safely. Three minutes from the end Borough were again unlucky when Simpson crossed from the right and the ball broke to Hadland who saw his 20 yard drive smack against the left hand post and fly to safety. King’s Lynn had the final chance of the match when Langford snuck in to play a header against a post and then it took a superb one-handed save by Parslow to keep out Keogh’s attempted clearance.

Green Snaps Up Doig

Borough boss Les Green has snapped up former Leeds United ace Russell Doig in time for the clash with Sutton Coldfield. Doig, who is due to sign papers on Saturday morning, will come as some consolation to Green, who has missed out on signing Paul Williams, who has agreed to stop at Stockport.

Nuneaton Boro’ v Sutton Coldfield Town 25-08-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Seivwright (Scrimshire 45), Waters, Keogh, McDonald, Andersen (Donnelly 80), Carty, Doig, Twigger, Simpson.
Sutton: Belford, Matthews, Richards, Sturgeon, Tucker, Whittingham, Caulfield, Dunne (Edmonds 75), Hunt, Hutchinson (Jones 65), Biddle.

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

Borough were quickly into their stride with Ade Waters glancing a header wide of the far post from Bobby McDonald’s free-kick. Paul Carty was fouled on the edge of the box and McDonald floated a free-kick to the far post and the ball was cleared to Doig who put a first-time volley well wide. It was all Nuneaton at this stage with Parslow virtually a spectator. When the visitors did break out, Mark Hutchinson failed to get in a centre and Borough responded immediately with Carty putting Twigger away down the left and when the striker hammered in a low centre, Andersen was only inches away from turning it in.

Parslow gathered a long range effort from Whittingham before Andersen picked out Waters but his header flew over the bar. Borough were stunned after 29 minutes when Sutton snatched the lead against the run of play. Borough were slow to mark up for a free-kick and when the ball was swept across the box from the left, John Hunt made no mistake from close range. Parslow had to go full length to keep out Hunt’s 20 yard snapshot. Andersen beat the visitors defence to head over the top from Simpson’s cross and then Twigger failed to hit the target after finding space in the penalty area.

Borough brought John Scrimshire into midfield at the start of the second period with Paul Carty dropping into the left back



position in place of Kevin Seivwright. But it was the visitors who were the first to threaten after the break. Hunt was allowed to get clear in yards of space on the right and he cut into the area to bear down on goal but Waters got back to cut out the danger. Doig gave Borough some hope with a volley on the turn that was only a couple of feet wide, but the home side were in trouble again when Waters failed to cut out a low centre from the right and the ball ran to the unmarked Sean Dunne, but he put a tame shot straight at Parslow from 12 yards.

Sutton were made to regret that miss as Borough swept to the other end to snatch the equaliser. Twigger got clear in the box and when he attempted to go round Belford the former Borough keeper pulled him down. Twigger picked himself up and drilled the resulting penalty high into the net wide of Belford's left hand. The visitors were now coming under increasing pressure as Borough looked for the winner and McDonald glanced a downward header wide of the far post from Andersen's right wing cross. Tony Donnelly came on to replace Andersen as Green made a last throw of the dice and he almost provided the breakthrough when he cut in from the left and his cross to the far post left the Sutton defence stranded but Simpson failed to control his shot and the ball flew back across the face of the visitors' goal.

Waters got forward to plant a header over the top from Simpson's right wing corner and then Chris Keogh had a close range effort blocked by the sprawling Belford. In the final minute Belford again denied Borough, cutting out Simpson's low cross as Sutton held on for a point.

Spalding United v Nuneaton Borough 27-08-1990

Spalding: Derby, Wick (Elkington 30), Friar, Ryder, Worthington, Kowlaski, Mann, Rushe, Ward, Williams, Blackburn. **Sub:** Henderson.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Keogh, Waters, McDonald, Andersen, Spence (Donnelly 77), Doig, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Scrimshire.

Borough travelled to the Sir Halley Stewart Field to play Spalding United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

There was early danger for Borough when the defence was caught flat by a long clearance and Ian Williams got free on the left but he produced a poor cross with two men waiting in the middle and Parslow gathered easily.

Twigger had a shot blocked before Williams was allowed space on the left and Paul Carty had to concede a corner under pressure from Warren Ward. But Borough suddenly clicked into gear and a move started by Carty ended with Russell Doig firing in a low centre, but Derby cut out the danger. A long throw from Andersen was flicked on at the near post by Twigger and Doig flashed a header narrowly wide. Twigger knocked a long ball from Waters wide to Andersen but Derby again did well to snatch the resulting cross from Simpson's toe. Spalding eventually scrambled away a McDonald free-kick at the third attempt.

Borough were well on top and should have gone ahead after 20 minutes. Spence won the ball in midfield and found

Andersen who superbly turned his marker to send Twigger racing down the middle but Derby blocked the striker's shot with his legs. Waters was booked for handball before Simpson and Andersen got in each other's way to halt a fine four man move. In a rare Spalding attack Andy Ryder had a shot comfortably saved by Parslow and at the other end Derby did well to grab the ball away from Doig after Carty had headed on a Waters free-kick.

McDonald, Andersen and Carty combined to free Doig on the left at the start of the second period but Derby easily cut out the striker's cross. Neil Mann had a glimpse of an opening when Borough only partially cleared a Williams cross but his first-time shot from outside the box was high and wide. Mulholland put a header over the top from Doig's cross before Derby punched the ball off Twigger's head, getting clattered in the process.

Borough played their last card by bringing on Tony Donnelly in place of Spence as they looked for a winner. And nine minutes from time they had a chance to snatch the points. Doig picked up the ball in midfield and beat three men in a mazy run before putting Twigger clear in the box but he snatched at the shot and was well off target. In the dying minutes Simpson found space on the right and flashed a centre across the face of the Spalding goal but there was no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Sugrue Rejoins Borough

Paul Sugrue has rejoined Borough and will play in tomorrow's league game against Willenhall Town. Midfielder Sugrue left in the 1979-80 season at just 19 years of age when Malcolm Allison took him to First Division Manchester City. Since then he has had a chequered career with several Football League clubs and last season played for Kidderminster Harriers in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 08-09-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Waters, Keogh, McDonald, Andersen (Spence 75), Sugrue, Doig (Donnelly 68), Twigger, Simpson.

Willenhall: Ashton, Dearn, Harrison, Skidmore, Freeman, Smitheringale, Chapman, Love, Foster, Rhodes, Russon (Delorenzo 70). **Sub:** Nicholls.

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

Sugrue quickly got into the game when he drifted past his marker wide on the left and produced a deep cross that Jim Skidmore was happy to hook away. Borough went close but Skidmore blocked McDonald's close range shot. Sugrue shot high over the top and then Twigger was thwarted by an awkward bounce after Nicky Andersen had split the visitors' defence with a through ball. Chapman put a weak effort straight at Parslow.

However, Nuneaton suddenly upped the pace and Ashton had to make three smart saves to keep Willenhall on level terms. The keeper blocked Russell Doig's shot after Andersen had put

him clear and made an outstanding reflex save to keep out McDonald's close range effort and finally went full length to his left to turn away Waters' fierce 20 yarder. Thirteen minutes before the break the game exploded when Twigger and Freeman clashed and the Willenhall defender got his marching orders after appearing to strike the Borough player.

Two minutes later Borough got the goal they had been threatening. Once more a beautifully weighted ball from Andersen opened up the visitors' defence and Twigger sped through and calmly side-stepped the keeper before sliding the ball into an unguarded net. Andersen drove a shot inches wide from the edge of the area and then Ashton made another fine save to deny Simpson as Borough finished the first half on top.



Smitheringale makes a vain effort but Martyn Twigger's 32nd minute effort is already on its way into the net. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Doig put an effort high over the top at the start of the second period, but there was a scare for Borough when Russon whipped in a low centre from the right that Gary Foster almost got to on the far post. Borough should have put the issue beyond doubt on the hour mark when Doig got away from his marker only to see his shot beat the keeper but hit the bar and Twigger then headed the rebound against the bar and over the top.

Willenhall were defending in depth and were fortunate when Waters outjumped the defence for a free-kick and the woodwork again saved the visitors. Simpson had a shot deflected for a corner and then Twigger missed another clear-cut chance, hooking the ball over the bar from six yards out after Ashton had failed to hold Sugrue's shot.

Carty fired a rising drive over the angle and Tony Donnelly, on as substitute for Doig, was only a foot wide of the right hand post with an overhead kick. Borough's frustration continued and shortly before the end another chance went begging as Twigger sliced his attempt from Carty's low centre and Donnelly was unable to apply the finishing touch.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough

11-09-1990

Tamworth: Whitehead, Llewellyn, Wells, Gethfield, Cartwright, Smith, Pollard, Finn, Green, Gordon, Morris (Knight 65). **Sub:** Snaith.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Waters, Keogh, Spence (Donnelly 70), Andersen, Sugrue, Doig (Scrimshire 88), Twigger, Simpson.

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

Both sides made a rousing start and there were several fierce tackles going in but it was Borough who produced the first threat. Following a short free-kick on the left Tony Simpson jinked inside and drifted a centre to the far post which sailed a foot wide. At the other end Russell Gordon made a penetrating run at the heart of the Nuneaton defence and his low shot forced Linden Parslow into a diving save to his right. Sugrue had a rising drive tipped over while Spence fired a 20 yarder straight at Whitehead.

The Lambs went ahead with a very fortunate goal. Borough failed to clear a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area and Smith mishit a shot that Parslow had covered to his right but the ball took a deflection off Ade Waters and finished up in the opposite corner. A minute later the game exploded as Tamworth were reduced to ten men when defender Gethfield was sent off for butting Twigger.

Green shot wide from inside the box before Twigger had a chance when Nicky Andersen put him clear but Paul Llewellyn recovered to get the ball back to Whitehead. Five minutes before the break Borough found themselves two goals down. A right wing corner picked out Green and when Borough failed to close him down he hit a volley on the turn that flew inside the far post through a crowded goal mouth.

However, three minutes into the second half Borough were back in the match. Sugrue sent Simpson racing clear with an astute ball inside the full-back and when the winger was brought down by Wells, Twigger stepped up to hammer the penalty wide of Whitehead's left hand. Russell Doig hit a first-time 20-yarder straight at the keeper while at the other end Smith did well to turn Sugrue's centre away.

Parslow got down well to hold Pollard's snap shot and as Borough hit back Twigger miskicked after Simpson had set him up. Waters then put Andersen through and his fierce low centre flew across the home goal. But midway through the half Borough had a let-off when Green got clear down the middle and looked certain to score, but Parslow blocked the shot and Gordon put the rebound wide. Spence narrowly failed to make contact with a ball inside the penalty area before Twigger got on the end of a long ball but put his shot wide.

Eleven minutes from the end Nuneaton got the equaliser they were looking for. Wells rashly hacked Doig in the area and Twigger was again on target from the penalty spot. Andersen got Twigger clear as Borough produced a rousing finish. With the game deep into injury time Simpson was denied a winner by a fine save from Whitehead.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 22-09-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Waters, Keogh, Sugrue, Andersen, Spence (Donnelly), Banks (Scrimshire 78), Twigger, Simpson.

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

Borough opened brightly and Sugrue freed Banks down the left but Barry Young got across to cut out the danger at the expense of a corner. Twigger was then only a foot away from a casual back pass by Paul Clarke as Borough looked to press home their advantage. But Dudley gradually clawed their way back into the match and Shane Ward had a shot charged down following a short free-kick on the left. A long first-time ball put the Borough defence in trouble, but Carty got back to steer the ball back to Parslow.

Dudley began to look more dangerous and Hugh Ledgister's deep cross caused anxiety for the home fans as it drifted outside the far post and then Young put a free header wide from the edge of the six yards box. But Borough missed a golden chance to break the deadlock after 34 minutes.

Twigger got clean through down the middle with just goalkeeper Kevan Williams to beat but he put a tame effort straight into the keeper's arms. Borough twice went close before the break, once when Waters outjumped the visitors defence, but his header bounced back off the crossbar. Twigger then seemed to have done the trick with a neat lob but Williams again saved the visitors as he fingertipped the ball over the top.

Two minutes into the second half the crossbar again came to Dudley's rescue when Sugrue's cross-shot beat Williams and smacked against the crossbar. Five minutes later Simpson had another chance following a neat build up on the left but the winger dragged his shot wide from inside the box. Haddock hit a rising drive at Parslow from the edge of the box as Dudley hit back. But Nuneaton did not learn their lesson and 17 minutes into the second half they found themselves a goal down.

Another swift break by the visitors found Borough desperately short at the back and when Piggott cut in from the right Dudley had men over in the area. Parslow did well to turn away Piggott's shot but Borough failed to get the ball away and Gonzales forced it home from close range. Five minutes later Gonzales almost grabbed a second when he worked his way deep into the Borough area and the home side again failed to clear their lines, but Waters managed to scramble the ball away for a corner.

Nicky Andersen's spectacular overhead kick almost set Simpson clear, but Williams was quickly out. Williams then beat away Twigger's shot from 12 yards before, with just eight minutes left, Dudley put the issue beyond doubt. Gonzales beat Keogh and when he turned the ball into the area it looked as though Haddock pushed Waters, but he was allowed to go on and slip the ball past the completely unprotected Parslow.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 24-09-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Scrimshire, Waters, Sugrue, Carty, Andersen, Jones, Banks (Simpson 71), Twigger, Donnelly. Sub: Doig.
Bedworth: Chamberlaine, Moore, Williams, Hamilton, Daniel, Glover, Hardwick, Fearn (Payne 52), P. McBean, Thomas, G. McBean (Charnley 52).

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Mitchells & Butlers' Cup first round first leg game.

Borough made the early running with Paul Sugrue planting a header wide from a corner and Donnelly just failing to get onto the end of Martyn Twigger's low cross. Bedworth were struggling to get a grip on the match and they had keeper Lol Chamberlaine to thank that they were on level terms. Donnelly got away from John Williams and his early cross found Twigger at the far post who seemed certain to score but Chamberlaine made a superb save to beat away Twigger's close range volley.

But Borough's pressure told after 13 minutes when a left wing corner was headed on by Nicky Andersen and Banks headed in from close range. Straight from the restart Chamberlaine was in action again, superbly turning over a fierce cross shot by Sugrue. Following a neat build-up on the right, Andersen fired in a low centre but Twigger miskicked from inside the six yards box and two minutes later Banks went round Chamberlaine but Paul Daniel recovered to clear the striker's shot off the line.

Peter McBean had a chance when he got clear after Carty slipped but he rushed his shot and pulled well wide of the target. Just before the interval the visitors had another let-off when they failed to clear a right wing cross and Lee Moore cleared off the line from Twigger.

Banks has the ball in the net just five minutes after the interval but offside was given against Twigger. Peter McBean put a header over the top and then Linden Parslow let a low ball into the area slip through his hands and Scrimshire had to hurriedly hook the ball clear. The Borough keeper redeemed himself when he turned Hardwick's drive away for a corner.

Donnelly put a header straight at Chamberlaine in a Borough counter attack but Peter McBean missed a clear-cut chance of an equaliser ten minutes from the end, screwing the ball wide. Parslow then turned Hardwick's shot over the bar before the Greenbacks almost snatched an equaliser from a goalmouth scramble in injury time.

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 06-10-1990

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, McDonald, Waters, Carty, Gray (Scrimshire 60), Andersen, Sugrue, Banks, Twigger (Donnelly 68), Simpson.

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

Borough picked up where they left off against Blakenall and could have been ahead from their very first attack. Tony Simpson put Twigger away on the right and from his low



cross Gary Banks had a close range shot blocked before Barry eventually scrambled the ball clear. Ashley Griffiths fired a fierce 30-yarder straight at Linden Parslow after Borough had only partially cleared a corner. Carty blocked a shot from Evans and Parslow completed the clearance.

Despite playing against a strong, swirling wind, Borough were controlling the game and they got the breakthrough after 25 minutes. Paul Sugrue worked his way into the box where he was brought down by Keith Pontin and Twigger made no mistake from the resulting penalty. Six minutes before the break Borough took a stranglehold on the game as they grabbed a second goal. Simpson's right wing corner was flicked on at the near post by Twigger and Waters hooked the ball home from close range.

Two minutes after the break Twigger was brought down by John Roberts following a poor goalkick, but the Barry keeper went low to his left to beat away Twigger's spot kick. The Welshmen were in trouble again as Sugrue skipped past Curtis but Pontin stepped in to clear. Barry were finding it difficult to contain Borough now that it was their turn to battle against the elements and Roberts had to be alert to take Andersen's cross under pressure from Twigger and Banks. Borough continued to pile on the pressure and Simpson was hacked down by Ray John well inside the area, but a free-kick was awarded just outside the box.

Roberts again denied Borough by keeping out Andersen's header from Simpson's corner while Colin Williams failed to make contact in front of Borough's goal. However Borough were immediately back in control and should have increased their lead four minutes from the end. Andersen made a superb run into the box and squared the ball to Banks who saw his low shot brilliantly saved by Roberts. A minute later Borough squandered another chance when Griffiths was adjudged to have fouled Simpson in the area, but justice was done when Roberts made another tremendous save to stop the penalty from Sugrue.

Sugrue Stays – McDonald Leaves

Borough midfielder Paul Sugrue will be staying with the club for the next two years. Sugrue, wanted by GM Vauxhall Conference promotion favourites Barnet, put pen to paper before Saturday's game against Barry. But as Sugrue pledged to stay with Borough, Bobby McDonald left the club.

Green Snaps Up Full-Back

Les Green has snapped up former Mansfield full-back Tony Clarke. The right back, who has been playing in Swindon Reserves, signed a two-year contract at the ground yesterday. The 21-year-old, who lives in Stratford, began his career at Mansfield then had a short spell at Eastwood Town before joining Swindon.

"He is a full-back who likes to get forward, he is quick and likes to play the ball about," said Green. Cheltenham, VS Rugby and Halesowen were all keen to sign him.

Bolehall Swifts v Nuneaton Borough 09-10-1990

Borough: Parslow, Grey (Doig 57), Scrimshire, Waters, Carty, Mulholland, Andersen, Sugrue, Donnelly, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Jackson.

Borough travelled to Rene Road to play Bolehall Swifts in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Twigger had a shot blocked and then fired high over the top from the edge of the box after a foul on Donnelly as Borough made a bright start. Bolehall went close after nine minutes when a shot from Lewis beat Parslow, but rebounded off a post. Donnelly brought Kendall to his knees with a cracking 20 yarder as Borough hit back. But just when it looked as if Borough were taking control they found themselves behind. Parslow was slow coming off his line and Carty stuck out a foot and turned the ball past his own keeper and into the net.

Borough pushed Bolehall back and Mulholland's deep cross was scrambled away before Waters had a shot blocked from a free-kick. But the pressure paid off as Borough swept ahead with two goals in three minutes just before the interval. Simpson set up the equaliser in the 41st minute when he beat Mellors and turned the ball inside to Andersen, who cracked in a tremendous left foot shot that Kendall did superbly well to beat out at full stretch but Donnelly volleyed the rebound into the roof of the net. One minute before the break Twigger worked a neat move with Simpson and the winger cut inside before drilling a right footer into the far corner.

Donnelly almost forced the ball home from Twigger's low cross at the start of the second half but the Swifts replied with Wassall forcing a smart save from Parslow. Carty then had to react quickly to prevent Thurman from getting Lewis clear but on the hour Bolehall were level with another gift. There was no danger as Carty took possession in his own area, but he turned the ball back to Parslow without looking and Wassall gratefully slammed the ball past Parslow.

With 15 minutes left Borough found themselves behind for the second time in the match following another mistake from Carty, who tried to let the ball run out for a goal kick but Tunnicliffe got a foot to it to hook it into the middle and Wassall again scored. Borough threw caution to the wind in an attempt to save the game and Waters hammered a fierce shot a foot wide. But nine minutes from the end Borough grabbed an equaliser when Simpson's shot beat Kendall and came out off the post for Waters to volley in from 10 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Bolehall Swifts 15-10-1990

Borough: Healey, Edwards (Scrimshire 29), Andersen, Waters, Banks, Jones, Carty, Sugrue, Mulholland, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Donnelly.

Borough welcomed Bolehall Swifts to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup first round replay.

Twigger pulled a shot wide from the edge of the box and then Sugrue fired an effort a foot over as Borough made a bright start. Kendall was happy to grab a Mark Jones shot at the

second attempt while at the other end Healey had to react sharply to snatch the ball away from Nicky Lewis. A mistake by Paul Carty almost let in Dave Wassall. However, Nuneaton made the initial breakthrough with a superb goal from Andersen. Mulholland knocked in a deep cross from the right and when the visitors only cleared the ball to the edge of the area Andersen hammered a tremendous right foot volley into the top corner.

Kendall blocked a shot from Sugrue as Bolehall struggled to stay in the game, but four minutes after the break they were on level terms when Robbie Timms curled a corner in from the right and Lewis planted a header into the far corner. It was all Borough and unsurprisingly they went ahead on the hour mark when Andy Owen crudely hacked down Sugrue in the area and Twigger hammered in the spot kick. Four minutes later it looked certain that Sugrue would stretch Borough's lead but Kendall made a superb reflex save.

With 14 minutes left Bolehall stunned Borough with an equaliser. A quick break caught Borough completely stretched and when Wassall centred from the right Dave Tunnicliffe was all alone to head past Healey. Simpson produced a magical run as Borough immediately hit back but Kendall somehow kept out the winger's shot and the ball was eventually scrambled off the line. However, eight minutes from the end Borough finally killed off Bolehall's challenge. Andersen did well on the right hand side of the box and his low cross allowed Sugrue a simple tap in from close range.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-10-1990

Hinckley: Hewitt, Williams, Purser, Jones, Tedds, Wilcox, Hopewell, Massey, (Akeredolu 60) Worthington, C. Taylor, Robinson. Sub: M. Taylor.

Borough: Parslow, Clarke, Andersen, Waters, Banks, Jones, Carty, Sugrue, Scrimshire, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Edwards, Jackson.

Borough travelled to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Larchimage Windows Cup first round first leg tie.

Hinckley had the better of a scrappy first-half, forcing a string of corners but they seldom threatened to penetrate the Nuneaton defence. However, Town did create a clear-cut chance after 32 minutes. A neat build-up ended with Tony Robinson laying the ball off to Paul Purser but the full-back sliced his shot hopelessly wide. Borough sparked into action and should have taken the lead a minute before half-time. Tony Simpson won possession on the right hand edge of the box and quickly transferred the ball into the middle to Paul Sugrue but the Borough skipper dragged his shot wide with just keeper Dennis Hewitt to beat.

The second half followed much the same pattern with both sides struggling to find any kind of rhythm, although Town certainly held the territorial advantage. The most likely outcome appeared to be a goalless draw, but Town snatched the lead 14 minutes from the end. Paul Carty slipped allowing Tony Hopewell to get clear. His first centre was blocked but when he knocked the rebound back into the box

Akeredolu scored with a glancing header. However, Hinckley's celebrations were cut short as five minutes later Simpson swept past two defenders and got to the bye-line before crossing for Twigger to head home from close range.

But Hinckley were to have the last word as they hit back to grab the winner. Mark Jones needlessly gave away a free-kick on the edge of the box and when Borough only cleared the ball as far as the edge of the area, Tedds completely mishit his shot but the ball bobbed into the goalmouth where Akeredolu got a touch to turn the ball into the corner.

Borough Get Helping Hand



Brendan Dodds has once more stepped in to give Nuneaton Borough a helping hand as they continue to make the necessary improvements to bring Manor Park up to the required safety standards. The managing director of MBK Rewinds, of Lythalls Lane, has been one of Borough's major sponsors for the past two and a half years. And this week Mr Dodds and his partner David Lee came up with £600 to pay for a new underground electric cable at the Cock and Bear end of the ground.

The cable will provide the emergency lighting in the Cock and Bear end stand and also for the canal side of the ground. "We have been involved with Borough for nearly three years now and during that time we have been able to help them on several occasions," said Mr Dodds. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune.

Steve Helps Ease The Away Day Blues



Sponsorship has been an integral part of sport for many years now – and especially football. Clubs have sponsors for shirts, matchballs, games, more or less anything and everything.

But Nuneaton Borough came up with a novel idea at the weekend for the trip to Frickley in the FA Cup, thanks to lifelong supporter Steve Gray who helped to ease their away day blues. Steve, who is a director of Nuneaton Autocar Centre in Pool Road, suggested the idea of sponsoring an away match.

He said: “Transport is very expensive and throughout a season clubs face a huge bill for their away trips so I thought that this would be an important way of backing the Borough. I have been a keen supporter for many, many years and I am delighted that now they look as though they are getting things right both on and off the field. Hopefully this will continue and I am prepared to give them all the backing that I can in the future.”

Steve is pictured wishing Borough manager Les Green and the players the best of luck before he travelled with them on the team coach for last weekend’s FA Cup game.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Boro’ v Racing Club Warwick 20-10-1990

Borough: Parslow, Clarke, Carty, Waters, Jones, Banks, Andersen (Scrimshire 69), Sugrue, Mulholland (Donnelly 59), Twigger, Simpson.

Racing Club: Russell, Johnson, Passey, Derby, Aldridge, Cooper, Hannam (Wilson 45), Kelly, Wootton, Hathaway, Dalton (Deeley 45).

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

Racing were first to press and Linden Parslow appeared to be fouled by Adrian Passey, but the keeper recovered to gather the ball. Borough’s response was immediate as Paul Sugrue was fouled on the edge of the box and when the Nuneaton skipper quickly took the free-kick, Paul Carty was clear to drill a low left-footer past Russell. Sugrue then had a shot cleared off the line before Lennie Derby was fortunate not to concede an own goal, slicing a Simpson cross inches over his own bar.

Borough could have stretched their lead after 14 minutes. Twigger was quickly onto a mistake by Derby, only for Russell

to block his shot and the ball rebounded to Simpson who saw his effort bounce to safety off the crossbar.

But Borough were stunned after 28 minutes when Racing snatched an equaliser. Neither Gary Banks nor Parslow dealt with a long cross and it glanced off the head of Jamie Wootton into an empty net from 12 yards. Simpson had a great chance to restore Borough’s lead when he was clean through after 34 minutes but the keeper parried the winger’s shot. Sixty seconds later Nuneaton found themselves behind. A low cross into the six yard box brought chaos with four men ending up in a heap on the floor and Tommy Hathaway was first to his feet to tap the ball into an empty net.

Borough were shaken and nearly went further behind at the start of the second half. Hathaway had a golden opportunity after the home defence had failed to clear a free-kick but his final touch let him down and Parslow saved bravely at the striker’s feet. But five minutes after the restart Nuneaton were in deep trouble as Racing scored again, Darren Deeley seizing on a rebound in the box and firing a low shot inside the near post. Ade Waters tested Russell with a thundering 25-yarder as Borough looked to get back in the match and a long run by Carty ended with Andersen firing high over the top.

With 65 minutes gone Twigger missed a golden opportunity to cut the deficit, firing over the top from the penalty spot after Lennie Derby had clattered into Sugrue. But six minutes later Borough got a lifeline when Abby Kelly hacked down Carty and Twigger made no mistake from the spot. Twigger had a shot deflected to the keeper after another fine break involving Carty and Sugrue. Russell fingertipped a Sugrue cross away from the lurking Donnelly and then Carty planted a header a couple of feet wide of the left hand post. But it seemed as though their efforts were doomed to failure with the game two minutes into injury time when Donnelly made a fine break on the right and his cross to the far post was headed home by Twigger from close range.

Andersen On Transfer List

Nicky Andersen has been put on the transfer list at his own request. The midfielder asked for a move after the game against Racing Club Warwick. Andersen, who was substituted during the game, had his request granted by manager Les Green but is included in the side for the trip to Bridgnorth.

Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-10-1990

Bridgnorth: Nock, Brown, Mackreath, Minikin, Tudor, Taylor, Meredith, Humphreys, Allen (Eastoe 82), Wilcox, Pike. Sub: Jarvis.

Borough: Parslow, Banks, Clarke, Waters, Thurman, Jones, Andersen (Mulholland 71), Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Scrimshire.

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

Borough put in their best performance for some time and moved up to third in the table. A poor header from Mark Minikin almost let in Twigger in the first minute before Waters

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hammered a 25 yarder over the top. Dave Nock saved well from Sugrue after Nicky Andersen had sent him into the box and then a mix-up between the keeper and Paul Brown caused more problems for the home defence.

Borough were furious as they conceded a penalty after 20 minutes when the ball appeared to strike Tony Clarke's arm as he went to clear a cross from the right, but Humphreys hit the bar with the spot kick. Parslow had to move smartly to save Humphrey's shot before Carty put an effort over the top following a neat three man move. Taylor hit a weak shot at Parslow before Borough had to scramble the ball away following a throw-in.

Parslow did well to punch away an awkward cross at the start of the second half but Borough quickly switched play to the other end where Simpson was halted on the edge of the area by a blatant push from Richard Mackreath. Sugrue hit a shot against the outside of a post, but two minutes later Borough's travelling fans were stunned as Town took the lead with a gift goal. Clarke made a poor back-pass allowing Humphreys to nip in and steal the ball and when he turned it across goal Richard Pike tapped it into an empty net.

Clarke cleared when Macreath found himself in a dangerous position before Twigger had a header blocked at the far post after a fine cross from Sugrue. Borough grabbed the equaliser after 70 minutes when Sugrue put in a free-kick from the left, Jones won it in the air and Thurman outjumped the home defence to send a header sailing over Nock and into the net. Borough were now well in control and Simpson put a shot over the angle after turning two defenders.

But Borough were not to be denied and they went ahead with 13 minutes left. Waters knocked forward a good early ball and Sugrue raced clear into the box and drew Nock before slipping the ball square for Carty to score. There was no way back for Bridgnorth and in injury time Simpson's battling qualities paid handsome dividends when he won possession from Minikin and his low cross was pushed in by Twigger for his 50th competitive goal for the club.

Foster Comes In

Nigel Foster steps in for his first-team debut as Borough look to continue their improved form when they play at Stroud. The 22-year-old full-back, who played in the reserves in midweek, comes in at left back in place of the unavailable Gary Banks.

Stroud v Nuneaton Borough

27-10-1990

Borough: Parslow, Clarke, Mulholland, Waters, Thurman, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue (Edwards 45), Carty, Twigger, Simpson (Jackson 50).

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

Borough took an iron grip from the start and Stroud, who were enjoying a highly successful run themselves, were reduced to mere spectators. Nuneaton commanded every

area of the park. They were tight at the back, dominated the midfield and always carried enough threat up front to have the home defence at full stretch for most of the afternoon.

Borough quickly assumed control and Nicky Andersen put a header over the top and then hooked another effort wide of the target following a long throw. It was all Borough and Stroud's keeper Thomas had to scramble Sugrue's dipping shot round the post. Thomas again came to the home side's rescue as Sugrue and Carty combined in the box, making a brave save amongst the flying feet. Simpson then fired a cross-shot over the angle before Borough's pressure paid off after 25 minutes. Russell Wilton was adjudged to have brought down Sugrue from behind and Twigger made no mistake from the spot kick.

Sugrue put a rising drive just over the top but with seven minutes to go before half-time Borough had Linden Parslow to thank that they were still in front when the keeper superbly saved Rod Brown's close range shot. The home side were made to regret that miss as Borough went two up just two minutes later. Sugrue cut into the box and slipped the ball past Wilton only to be cynically hacked down by the home defender, a tackle which led to the Borough skipper being carried off and taking no part in the rest of the match. Twigger again obliged from the penalty spot.

Borough opened the second period with Edwards on in place of Sugrue and five minutes later Jackson came on for hamstring victim Tony Simpson. But the loss of two of their most influential players did not seem to deter Borough as they killed off any hopes that Stroud might have had of getting back into the game with a superb third goal after 52 minutes. Andersen's long header from midfield put Twigger clear and the striker coolly picked his spot to slip the ball past the advancing Thomas.

Mike Kilgour put a header over the Nuneaton bar as Stroud looked for a way back before Tony Clarke was booked for obstructing Rich Brown. He was quickly followed into the book by Kilgour, who scythed down Andersen, before Borough came within inches of a fourth goal. Jackson found space on the left and his cross found Mark Jones, who could only slide the ball inches wide of the far post.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town

29-10-1990

Borough: Parslow, Clarke (Mulholland 68), Carty, Waters, Morrall, M. Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Thurman, Twigger, Donnelly. Sub: Edwards.

Hinckley: Hewitt, Williams, Purser, P. Jones, Tedds, Wilcox, Hopewell, Massey, Worthington (Akeredolu 67), C. Taylor, Robinson. Sub: M. Taylor.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Larchimage Windows Cup first round second leg tie.

There was a scrappy start with both sides struggling to find any sort of pattern, but the game burst into life in the 14th minute as Borough swept in front to level the aggregate score. Nicky Andersen floated a free-kick into the box, Martyn Twigger and Paul Jones challenged and the ball broke to

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Sugrue who hammered a first-time shot into the bottom left hand corner. Thurman then fired a shot across the face of the visitors' goal before Frank Worthington almost got on the end of a cross that was flicked on at the near post. Dennis Hewitt had to race out of his goal to rescue Hinckley after Twigger had got away from Paul Jones before the Borough's ace goalscorer failed to turn the ball in with the goal at his mercy. Andersen fired wide before Donnelly's touch let him down after he had beaten Paul Purser.

Twigger had the ball in the net one minute into the second half, but it was ruled offside. Parslow had to make a smart save from Purser's cross before the Hinckley full-back made another break but snatched at his shot and sliced it wide. Borough hit back to grab a second goal after 58 minutes. Carty seized on a poor clearance by Barry Wilcox to put Thurman free. His cross was headed on by Twigger and although Hewitt blocked the first effort from Sugrue, he followed up to score from the rebound.

Parslow saved a Paul Jones header before Tony Robinson missed a clear-cut chance for Hinckley. Borough were caught square and Ku Akeredolu put the winger clear, but he produced a tame finish. That miss proved costly as Borough stretched their lead with 17 minutes left when Carty made a tremendous break from midfield to send Donnelly racing free and he drilled a low left-footer past Hewitt.

But Nuneaton's celebrations were cut short as Town scored 60 seconds later. Purser got space on the left to produce a superb cross and Tedds timed his run to perfection to volley past Parslow from ten yards. Hewitt denied Twigger before Andersen had a shot superbly blocked by the Hinckley keeper after a surging run from Mulholland. However, the pressure paid off eight minutes from the end when Twigger linked with Sugrue and he twisted Paul Jones one way and then the other as he cut into the box and beat Hewitt to complete his hat-trick. Then in the last minute Mark Jones put the icing on the cake with his first goal of the season, heading in Donnelly's left wing cross from close range.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-11-1990

Borough: Parslow, Clarke (Keogh 70), Banks, Waters, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Thurman (Donnelly 83).

Borough travelled to The Rockingham Triangle to play Corby Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough hardly had time to settle down before they were in trouble. Dave Hofbauer robbed Banks and sent Gary Torrance racing through the middle but he dragged his shot wide. Borough responded immediately and were unfortunate not to go ahead after seven minutes. Mick Thurman was fouled on the edge of the area and Waters hammered in a 25 yarder that was deflected onto the bar and over.

Carty had a close range shot blocked after working a neat one-two with Nicky Andersen. At the other end, Paul Curtis found space wide on the right but Andersen was on hand

to turn the low cross back to Parslow. Carty came within a whisker of breaking the deadlock as Borough continued to take the game to the home side. He beat keeper Richard King to an awkwardly bouncing ball in the area to head goalwards but Pat Rayment raced back to head the ball clear.

Borough had Corby panned back in their own half and should have gone ahead after 30 minutes. Andersen split the home defence with a superb through ball to put Twigger clean through, but the striker hooked his shot well off target. There were loud appeals for a penalty when Sugrue was brought down by Les Webster, but the referee waved play on.

Corby opened the second period with a neat build-up but Morrall halted the danger as he turned Hunter's low centre out for a corner. But five minutes after the restart Borough grabbed the lead. Tony Clarke swung a corner to the far side of the penalty area. Jones hit a shot that was deflected onto the woodwork and Twigger volleyed home the rebound. Shortly after Borough again opened the home defence when Clarke found Carty with a ball to the edge of the area, he laid it off to Andersen, who topped his shot and King saved.

Parslow made a tremendous save from Hunter. Nuneaton responded with a swift counter attack as Jones linked with Sugrue before the Borough skipper sent Carty away and his cross was only inches away from the inrushing Twigger. Then 19 minutes from the end Borough had a great chance to put the issue beyond doubt when Carty was sent sprawling in the box by Walker, but Twigger his the bar from the spot and Carty headed the rebound over the top.

Borough had a narrow escape when Hines knocked a clearance straight back into the Nuneaton half, catching the defence square. Diver was clean through but he trod on the ball just outside the area and Waters cleared. Carty won possession in the centre circle and with Corby trying to catch Borough offside, he broke clean through the middle. It looked a certain goal but King raced out and as the Borough player went round him the keeper hacked him down. That signalled a skirmish on the edge of the area and when the dust had settled King was sent off for a professional foul and Hunter got his marching orders for punching Sugrue.

Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 07-11-1990

Banbury: Taylor, Smith, Swann, Houghton (Jarvis 63), Dewis, Badhams, Cain (Smith 73), Hill, Alleyne, Bristow, Donovan.

Borough: Gawman, Clarke, Banks, Waters, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue (Keogh 62), Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Borough travelled to the Spencer Stadium to play Banbury United in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough made a bright start and Mark Jones fired a shot into the side netting before Martyn Twigger had an effort blocked on the edge of the area by keeper Mark Taylor. Borough panned Banbury back, but were caught on the break and Neil Donovan got in behind the back four and Gawman had to save bravely at the winger's feet. Sugrue headed over from

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a Twigger centre and then Taylor made a superb save from a Jones cross-shot as Borough continued to look for the breakthrough. Ten minutes before the break Nuneaton had a chance to break the deadlock when Sugrue found space wide on the right and his centre picked out Twigger at the far post. Taylor did well to beat away the striker's header but the ball fell to Simpson who volleyed well wide of the target.

Alphie Cain almost got through the middle in another swift counter-attack by the home side and then Borough had a let-off when Donovan's lob beat Gawman but bounced over off the crossbar. However, Borough got the breakthrough three minutes into the second half when Taylor went full length to keep out a 20-yarder from Ade Waters but he couldn't hold the ball and Sugrue scored from the rebound. Paul Carty hooked a shot yards wide after Twigger had set up the opening and then Nicky Andersen sent Twigger racing through but the keeper forced him wide.

Banbury came more into the game and threw more men forward. Dave Bristow fired an effort wide from the edge of the box after Steve Morrall had failed to clear and then Gawman did well to turn a long, dipping shot from Andy Swann over the top. Borough then had another escape when a right wing cross put them in trouble, but Tony Clarke came to the rescue as he cleared off the line. Banbury forced a series of corners without being able to make the breakthrough and then Borough regained control in the closing minutes to put the issue beyond doubt.

Twigger had a shot blocked by Taylor and then the keeper made a tremendous save to turn a point blank effort from Andersen away for a corner. But with the game in its dying throes, Simpson got possession on the left hand edge of the box and linked with Twigger before hammering a superb cross-shot into the far top corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Newport AFC 10-11-1990

Borough: Parslow, Clarke, Banks, Waters, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Carty (Thurman 67), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Keogh.

Newport: Bird, Parselle, Prew, Collicutt, Pratt, Stanton, Price, Richards, Doughty, Jarvis, Lilygreen. **Subs:** Smith, Painter.

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

Borough made the early running with Tony Bird having to move swiftly to take a low cross from Simpson and then Sugrue tested the Newport keeper with a low drive. But the Welshmen showed their attacking intentions and Dean Richards had a shot charged down after Borough had only partially cleared a corner and Mark Price fired a low, skidding drive straight at Parslow. Bird did well to punch clear under pressure from Waters before Nuneaton twice went close.

With 22 minutes gone Paul Carty sent Simpson racing through the middle and Jason Prew got a foot to the ball to turn it past his keeper and narrowly wide of the post.

A minute later Simpson beat two men on the right before pulling the ball back to Andersen but the midfielder sliced his shot wide. However, Borough had a let-off when they failed to clear a right wing corner and Steve Doughty saw his shot cleared off the line. Andersen then curled a shot inches wide and Twigger hooked another effort high over the top before Borough went a goal down. Prew floated in a free-kick from the left, Doughty headed it down and Lilygreen volleyed it home from close range.

There was more trouble for Borough shortly afterwards when some slack marking allowed David Jarvis to get clear but his control let him down and Nuneaton cleared the danger. But Borough grabbed an equaliser almost on the half-time whistle. Sugrue floated a right wing corner deep into the Newport goalmouth and Steve Morrall rose to force a header past Bird.

Borough opened the second period at a cracking pace with Sugrue bringing a fine diving save from Bird after a tremendous run by Simpson had set up the opening. At the other end, a poor clearance by Gary Banks put Borough in trouble down their left flank, but Waters quickly stepped in to halt the danger.



Paul Sugrue has his leg pulled from under him by Newport keeper Tony Bird, but the ball ran free to Twigger who hit Borough's winner.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

However, 12 minutes after the restart Borough went into the lead. Price's back pass was intercepted by Sugrue, who was brought down by the keeper. It was clearly a penalty but as the ball broke to Twigger the referee allowed play to go on and Nuneaton's leading scorer cracked the ball home.

Price hit a 25-yarder as Newport hit back, but Borough were well in control and the visitors came under increasing pressure. Simpson was running the Newport defence ragged and he set up Twigger, whose shot was cleared off the line. Thurman shot wide and an Andersen effort was deflected and it was all Borough. Andersen glanced a header across the face of goal and Simpson fired over the top. It looked as if the pressure had paid off seven minutes from time when Bird failed to hold a fierce drive from Waters and Sugrue pounced to score, but Simpson was given offside.



Borough Points Deduction

Nuneaton Borough's promotion hopes have been dealt a body blow with the shock announcement that they are to lose four points. That was the news awaiting the players after they had beaten Newport to jump to second place in the table. The Beazer Homes League management committee arrived at the decision to deduct the points after meeting to discuss the fact that Borough fielded an ineligible player in the first two games of the season. Tony Hadland, who played in the opening games against Redditch and King's Lynn, had signed a form for Midland Division rivals Alvechurch as well as for Borough.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-11-1990

Grantham: Foxcroft, Vince, Daws, Speed, Gaffney, P. Ward, Swainston, Taylor, Whitehurst, Grocock, Burrell. **Subs:** A. Ward, Durham.

Borough: Parslow, Clarke, Mulholland, Waters, Keogh, Jones, Thurman, Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Andersen, Bryden.

Borough travelled to play Grantham Town in a Larchimage Windows Cup second round first leg tie.

Grantham looked the sharper side early on as Borough struggled to get into the match. The visitors gave away a series of free-kicks on the edge of the area and in the eighth minute Parslow had to go full length to make a fine save after Paul Taylor's shot had taken a deflection. There was more danger for Borough when Larry Burrell put Peter Whitehurst in space down the left, but the striker's fierce centre flew across the face of the goal.

Chris Gaffney brought another fine save from Parslow when he climbed to get in a header from Nigel Vince's free kick. Foxcroft had to be out quickly as Martyn Twigger threatened and then Sugrue shot over on the turn as Grantham at last had some defending to do. Mark Jones shot straight at the keeper two minutes before the break.

Two minutes after the break Borough went behind. Tony Clarke, 40 yards from goal on the touch line attempted a back pass but only succeeded in finding Whitehurst all alone in the penalty area and he coolly slotted the ball past Parslow. Adrian Speed got up well to head over from Taylor's corner and Ade Waters did well to turn a Vince centre away from the intruding Grocock. Thirteen minutes into the second half Borough found themselves two goals down. Waters was adjudged to have fouled Grocock and Dave Swainston curled the free-kick into the top corner.

Carty had a shot well saved before, with 18 minutes left, they got the goal that could prove vital for the second leg. Sugrue won a challenge for a high ball as the keeper came out to the edge of the area and the Nuneaton skipper calmly hooked the ball home despite the attentions of three defenders. But shortly afterwards it took a fine save by Parslow, flinging himself to his right to prevent Swainston from restoring Grantham's two goal lead.

Parslow took a high free-kick under pressure from Burrell and Taylor flashed a dangerous centre across the Borough

goalmouth. However, Nuneaton might have snatched a late equaliser when Waters and Carty produced a glimpse of a chance for Twigger, but Foxcroft was quickly out to snuff out the danger.

Alvechurch v Nuneaton Borough 17-11-1990

Borough: Gawman, Keogh, Mulholland, Waters, Morrall (Banks 45), Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Thurman.

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

Borough were well in control early on as Waters had a free-kick charged down and Simpson missed a glorious chance. Two minutes later Sugrue was denied a goal by a diving save from Ian McLaren. But Borough found themselves a goal down 13 minutes before the interval. Robinson found space wide on the right and his cross to the far post was met by Martin, who planted a firm header past Gawman.

Borough were fortunate not to go further behind when Martin was left unmarked for a left wing cross from Keith Williams, but his header flew wide. Alvechurch were lucky to survive a scramble just before the interval when Waters knocked a corner back across the face of the home goal and Mark Jones fired wide from the edge of the box.

Borough took the game by the scruff of the neck with two goals in the first six minutes of the second half. Three minutes after the break, Sugrue twisted his way into the box where he was brought down by Greg Wood only for the referee to wave play on. However, a couple of seconds later the Alvechurch defender repeated the offence and this time there was no reprieve with Twigger confidently drilling the spot kick past McLaren. The home side were still reeling from that when Twigger turned provider. He cut into the box from the right and laid the ball off to Carty who made no mistake from close in.

Borough stepped up the pressure and Wood almost turned a cross into his own net and then Simpson fired over after linking up with Andersen. Simpson flashed a centre across the face of the Alvechurch goal and Sugrue headed narrowly wide at the near post after more good work by the Borough winger. The home side scrambled away another Sugrue cross but in the dying seconds Borough almost had to pay a dear price for not turning their superiority into goals when Martin Hallam got his head to a right wing cross by Robinson to glance the ball inches wide of the far post.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 19-11-1990

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Waters, Keogh, Thurman, Anderson, Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Clarke, Bryden.

Borough welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Larchimage Windows Cup second round second leg tie.

Borough were caught cold at the start and it was only the woodwork that stopped them from going behind after five minutes. The Manor Park side only cleared a corner to the edge

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



of the box and when Chris Grocock knocked it back into the area O'Connor failed to gather and Peter Whitehurst's header hit a post before Keogh finally knocked the ball clear. Paul Carty was brought down by Nigel Vince as Borough hit back and from the free-kick Andersen got in a header that caused problems for Dale Foxcroft as it skidded through off the wet pitch. Paul Taylor hit a rising drive over the angle before Tony Simpson fastened onto a long ball from Carty, but the Grantham keeper was out quickly to smother the danger. Adrian Speed headed clear Carty's dangerous cross before Simpson caused more problems as he raced through a flat defence.

Three minutes before the break Carty and Gary Banks got in each others way and Grocock burst into the area but Keogh made a fine tackle. In the dying seconds of the first half Borough went a goal down when Grocock got in a deep centre from the right for Whitehurst to head goalwards. It lacked power but as it bounced awkwardly in front of O'Connor, Burrell got a toe to the ball to force it over the line.

Borough stepped up the pace at the start of the second half and appeared to have grabbed a goal after an hour of the match when Paul Sugrue drilled a low centre across the face of the Grantham goal where both Martyn Twigger and Carty lunged in but the ball hit Speed on the line and somehow found its way into the keeper's hands. Nuneaton were having a lot of possession but seldom threatened. Then with just 12 minutes left Borough were denied a penalty. Twigger was brought down by Vince as he cut into the area and referee Harold Thompson pointed to the spot. But the Tamworth official changed his mind and awarded Borough a corner.

Andersen headed straight at the keeper from Carty's cross. But Grantham still looked dangerous on the break and when Whitehurst got away from Keogh, O'Connor had to react smartly to cut out the striker's low ball into the area. A long through ball by Thurman gave Twigger a glimpse of a chance in the last minute but Foxcroft was bravely down at the striker's feet to snuff out the danger.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 24-11-1990

Borough: P. O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Waters, Thurman (Keogh 73), Jones, Andersen (Blewitt 73), Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Hednesford: Carter, Beattie, Hill, Walsh, Green, Austin, Brown, King, George, Smith, J. O'Connor. Subs: Malcolm, Aston.

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

The visitors were first to show, but Borough quickly took command and could have been ahead as early as the fifth minute. Twigger got free in the box and his cross to the far post found Carty who outjumped Dave Beattie but his goal-bound header was kept out by Carter. Borough were in trouble when Gary Banks and Thurman made a hash of things in midfield allowing Joe O'Connor to race clear but Paul O'Connor was quickly off his line to save at the striker's feet.

Archie King fired a rising drive over the angle before Borough

took the lead. Nicky Andersen found Paul Sugrue just outside the penalty area and the Borough skipper superbly turned his man before slipping the ball square to Simpson, who moved into the box and beat Carter with a low drive.



Tony Simpson coolly puts Borough ahead in the 20th minute.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Waters was only a yard off target from 25 yards before Borough had a penalty appeal turned down when Beattie brought down Twigger. But 11 minutes before the interval Hednesford were level. Steve George knocked a harmless looking ball into the area but as Paul O'Connor came out Waters got a toe to the ball to turn it past the keeper and into an empty net. Nuneaton came within a whisker of regaining the lead shortly before half-time when Sugrue was only inches away from turning Simpson's cross past Carter.

The second half was only two minutes old when Borough had a real let off. King was unmarked for George's cross from the left and when his header hit a post Joe O'Connor somehow got the ball over the top from almost on the goal-line. Twigger flashed a shot wide of the post before slack marking almost cost Borough dear when Nigel Green rose unchallenged to Richard Smith's right wing corner and powered a header against the crossbar. Sugrue had an effort saved by Carter and then the Hednesford keeper superbly parried a fierce drive from the Nuneaton skipper.

A neat turn and pass by Blewitt sent Twigger racing through the middle but Green got back to guide the ball safely back to his keeper. Borough had a superb chance to win the game when Twigger was brought down by Austin, but his penalty was superbly saved by Carter. Paul O'Connor made a brilliant last minute save to keep out a cracking drive from George.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 05-12-1990

Borough: P. O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Keogh, Morrall, Jones (Edwards 73), Andersen, Sugrue, Blewitt, Twigger, Simpson (Jackson 73).

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

Nuneaton quickly seized the initiative with Mark Jones flicking on a Twigger cross but there was no-one on hand to cash in. Hednesford keeper Steve Carter plucked down a Twigger centre under pressure from Blewitt before the visitors mounted their first attack of note. Dennis Mulholland gave away a free-kick on the right and when Richard Smith



curled a ball into the box Andy Walsh arrived late to glance a header wide of the far post. But with 25 minutes gone Borough got the goal they had been threatening. Andersen found Twigger on the edge of the area and Nuneaton's leading scorer superbly turned his marker to drill a low left-footer past Carter into the bottom right hand corner.

Three minutes later Borough were two up with another cracking goal. Andersen beat two men on the left hand side of the box and from the narrowest of angles the midfielder hammered a tremendous left-footer in off the bar. On the stroke of half-time Carter made a superb save to deny Banks.

Borough started the second half brightly and Paul Sugrue fired a 25-yarder narrowly wide but had a scare when Joe O'Connor beat Steve Morrall to a ball down the middle and his lob was just a foot wide. There were problems for Borough when they failed to clear a free-kick and it took a fine save from Paul O'Connor to keep out Steve George's shot. However, Nuneaton regained control and put the issue beyond doubt with a third goal after 62 minutes. Twigger was bundled over by Darren Bradburn and referee Ken Dunn awarded a penalty amid heated protests.

Archie King carried the argument too far and was sent off before Twigger coolly scored from the spot. Borough could have added a fourth when Twigger pulled the ball across and empty goal while Andersen dragged a shot wide from a Mulholland cross. Paul O'Connor produced a good save to keep out Walsh's 20-yard effort before the visitors were reduced to nine men. Steve Austin, who had been booked in the first-half, was involved in an off the ball incident and got his marching orders for a second bookable offence.

Borough Face Winding Up Order

Crisis club Nuneaton Borough are desperately looking for help from the business fraternity of the town. The Manor Park outfit, currently lying second in the Beazer Homes League Midland Division, face a winding up order to be heard in Coventry next Tuesday.

Borough need an immediate £9,000 to pay off a long-standing bill from Mercia Joinery in order to be certain of keeping the club afloat. Club chairman Joe Shooter and manager Les Green are manning the phones at Manor Park all this week and are hoping that they will get offers of assistance from local businesses.

"We are desperate for some immediate help to fight off this winding up order," said the chairman today. "Any assistance would be welcome, no matter how large or small."

New Signings

Borough could have two new faces in the line-up to face Grantham at Manor Park. Former Notts County and Lincoln striker Michael Waitt signed last night and manager Les Green was today hoping to complete negotiations to take Leicester City midfielder Richard Smith on a month's loan.

Social Club Attacked

Vandals have rocked Nuneaton Borough's plans for survival on the eve of their crucial court hearing. The social club has been attacked for the third time in ten days, along with the dressing rooms and offices at the Manor Park ground. And chairman Joe Shooter admits that it has caused a bitter blow to the club, which faces a winding-up order tomorrow for debts of £8,000.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 15-12-1990

Borough: O'Connor, Clarke, Banks, Keogh, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Blewitt (Simpson 61), Twigger, Smith (Thurman 32).

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

Grantham took a firm grip early on and in the first minute Peter Whitehurst found space on the left and when he rolled the ball into the path of Chris Grocock, the visitors' number ten saw his fierce drive deflected to safety. A goal by Burrell was given offside as The Gingerbreads continued to dominate and Paul O'Connor was forced to save from Swainston and Paul Taylor. But Borough might have snatched a shock lead after 21 minutes. Smith found Perry Blewitt in the area and the striker hit a tremendous shot on the turn only to see Dale Foxcroft go full length to save.

Smith limped off with a hip injury after 32 minutes, being replaced by Mick Thurman and three minutes later Nuneaton again went close. Tony Clarke started the move with a ball wide to Sugrue. The Borough skipper found Nicky Andersen in the area but the midfielder failed to get over the ball and his shot whistled a foot over the top. However, five minutes before the break Borough got their noses in front. Twigger got clear down the middle and as he cut into the area he was brought down by Ward and Borough's leading scorer made no mistake from the penalty spot. Blewitt headed wide from Sugrue's cross just before the half-time whistle.

O'Connor was forced to save from Burrell as Grantham started the second half strongly and seven minutes after the restart Ward found his name in the book for again bringing down Twigger. However, six minutes later the visitors were back on level terms. Taylor broke into the area on the left and took the ball to the bye-line before pulling it back to the unmarked Burrell, who forced it home from close range. Simpson came on for Blewitt on the hour mark and was immediately in the thick of the action with a twisting run and cross to the far post that the visitors were happy to scramble away. But with 69 minutes gone Borough found themselves a goal behind.

A quick ball down the middle from Taylor caught Borough square at the back and although O'Connor made a fine save to stop the first effort from Burrell, the Grantham striker was quickest to react to smash home the rebound. Foxcroft made a brave stop as both Twigger and Sugrue moved in on Simpson's cross before Gary Banks put in a fine deep cross to the far post, but the ball was scrambled away for a fruitless



corner. With time running out Borough looked destined for defeat but they hauled themselves level with their second spot kick of the match. Twigger got free in the area but Foxcroft knocked his shot up in the air. As Sugrue moved onto the rebound Swainston pushed him over and Twigger again tucked the resulting penalty into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 17-12-1990

Borough: O'Connor, Waters, Banks (Blewitt 79), Keogh, Morrall, Seivwright, Andersen, Sugrue (Jones 76), Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

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

Borough were first to threaten when Sugrue fed Seivwright on the left but he produced a poor cross. Stourbridge then had a let-off when they were caught pushing out of their area and Carty got through only to drag his shot wide of the far post. Carty's shot was blocked by Kevin Collins before the Glassboys responded with a swift break down the right by Peter Gocan and from his cross Henry Wright glanced a header wide. There was a shock for Borough after 29 minutes when they failed to clear a cross from the right and Hodgetts beat Paul O'Connor to the ball to hook it high into the net.

But the visitors' joy was short-lived as three minutes later Nuneaton were back on level terms. Simpson was brought down by Collins as he cut in on goal and a penalty was awarded. Before it could be taken, however, Sugrue was elbowed in the face by John Horne, who was sent off. When play resumed Twigger calmly scored from the spot. Shortly before the break Borough should have taken the lead when Sugrue jinked his way into the area and his low centre flew across the face of the visitors' goal with both Carty and Seivwright unable to apply the finishing touch.

There was a scare for home fans at the start of the second half when Nigel Barrows was allowed to turn in the box and his close range shot was deflected for a corner. Nuneaton's immediate response almost brought them a second goal. Nicky Andersen freed Twigger down the middle but the striker allowed the ball to get away and Derek Dudley rushed out to smother the ball. But just eight minutes after the break Borough took the lead. Sugrue got possession on the left hand edge of the area and skipped past two tackles before drilling the ball low into the area where Dudley failed to get behind it as he went down and the ball ended up in the net.

Shortly after Dudley made amends with a brave save at Twigger's feet. But Stourbridge hit back with Barrows having a shot saved by O'Connor before the Nuneaton keeper had to go down at the feet of Hodgetts after he had cut in along the bye-line. But with 69 minutes gone, Borough put the issue beyond any doubt as they scored a third goal. Andersen found Twigger inside the area and his low shot beat Dudley but came out off the foot of the post and Simpson was on hand to tap in the rebound. Three minutes later it was

four. Richard Massey's back pass was intercepted by Carty and he superbly lobbed the stranded Dudley as he came out to meet him. The visitors then had an amazing escape. Sugrue cut into the area from the right and his fiercely driven cross hit Snape on the knee and flew over the bar. O'Connor again had to show his courage as he went down at Morbey's feet but play quickly switched to the other end with Simpson a foot too short to convert a superb cross from Carty.

Receiver Called In

Nuneaton Borough's future now rests in the hands of financial experts after the winding up order was granted. The order takes control of the club away from its directors and puts it in the hands of the official receivers – agents of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Normally they will run the business until a creditors' meeting is held, but they decided to act immediately in the hope of saving the Borough and appointed a Birmingham accountant to act for them. He must decide if the Borough can continue as a going concern, or if it must close and sell its assets to pay its debts.

The order against the Borough was granted yesterday at Coventry County Court because Registrar Stephen Kendrick said it was unfair to keep small firms waiting any longer for debts totalling £71,000. Many, like Mercia Joinery who brought the petition for the order over an £8,000 debt, have been waiting for up to 14 months.

Borough On The Brink

The official receiver was at crisis-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club this afternoon, as it stood on the brink of financial disaster. The club faces the prospect of having to sell its assets and being officially dissolved unless it can find the money to pay its debts. But experts said it could still be saved because they had already found people willing to fund it – although they would not reveal who they are.

The news follows yesterday's winding up order granted at Coventry County Court which plunged the club into compulsory liquidation and put its affairs under the control of the official receiver. He has appointed Birmingham accountancy firm Kidsons Impey to try and save the club.

Mr Hedley Brunt, the firm's insolvency practitioner, said: "I have already been talking to people who told me they are in a position to fund ongoing matches and I am very optimistic it will be possible for the club to survive."

Mr Brunt was due to be at Manor Park this afternoon to talk to chairman Joe Shooter and others involved in the club. He was expected to reach a decision tonight. If a package is put together it will then be put to the club's creditors, who are owed a total of £71,000, for approval.

Mr Shooter said today that Saturday's game with Sutton Coldfield would go ahead, after he spoke to the Football Association last night.



“They have their directions and until a receiver is appointed no one can move. We are now dealing with them and the match will be on on Saturday,” he said. He said he was waiting to talk to Mr Brunt this afternoon, but had no knowledge of any deals to save the club.

Editorial – Borough’s Knock Out

The writing has been on the wall for three years. Now it looks like it is happening.

Nuneaton Borough Football Club – once acknowledged as one of the finest non-league sides in the country – is going to the wall. Why?

At whose doorstep should the blame be laid?

Over the past 20-odd years crises have come and crises have gone. The club has scored a number of own goals with off-the-field squabbles, but football has carried on.

Now it seems that the final nail has been put in the Borough coffin with yesterday’s order at Coventry County Court that the club should be wound up.

The enormously complex situation which arose after the then chairman Noel Kelly and vice-chairman Joe Shooter fell out in the boardroom snowballed into several High Court hearings.

It appears the only winners were the legal eagles whose costs run into thousands and thousands of pounds. And of course, there are losers.

The fans who stand on the terraces, week after week, supporting the Borough. As Registrar Stephen Kendrick said: “It is a sad day for Nuneaton.”

Those are words that we all echo.

Reactions From Those Involved

News of Nuneaton Borough’s fall brought a shocked reaction from many of those involved in the story of its stormy decade. Manager Les Green said: “I am just gutted. This club doesn’t deserve what is happening to it.

“I came here 14 months ago and since then we have tripled the gates and gone from the bottom of the table to the top. We’ve put a lot of time and effort in. Obviously it gets through to the team. It has been doing for the last six weeks. I just cannot believe Nuneaton Borough could go down.”

Mr Bill George, vice-chairman, said: “I am totally shocked. When we went into court we expected to withstand the petition from Mercia Joinery and the tax man for about £21,000. Then the solicitor stood and said he was representing Howard Kerry and Tony Sandy, it really took the skids from under us.

“We would like to thank companies like DMP, Monarch Builders and anyone else we owe money who did not support the petition. We are doing our best.”

Mr Howard Kerry, a member of the interim board ordered to stand down this summer said it was an “absolute tragedy.”

He said: “Why this has been allowed to happen I do not know. For three years while I was in the interim board we kept the wolf at bay. Why can’t somebody else?

“I myself am a substantial creditor. It has affected my business and my family considerably. I have loved football and the Borough ever since I met my wife there. I think Nuneaton will always have a football team, now it is up to someone to rescue it.”

Mr Noel Kelly, former club chairman who fought a four year legal battle with Joe Shooter, said he was still prepared to bail the club out.

“I have spoken to the receivers in depth. As far as I am concerned my offer still stands,” he said. “I have tremendous support and have made one or two calls to people who would be willing to join in.

“At the end of the day my thoughts are for the club. I have said that all along. I was chairman for ten years, and I have spent the last four defending myself.”

Mr Stephen Percival, owner of Mercia Joinery who brought the winding up petition said he would be sad to see the club go under but he had no choice.

He said: “I have been owed £7,000 plus interest for 14 months. My company cannot absorb that. It has put my expansion plans back 12 months and I have lost money because I was forced to turn down other work because I could not afford to finance it.”

Mr Joe Shooter, club chairman, called on fans and players to take heart and not to give up hope. He said: “It is a question of making sure we do not get lost in deep despair and we remain positive and look to the future.

“I maintained that policy all yesterday and by the end of the day we knew Saturday’s game was on.”

Kelly Offer Turned Down

An offer by former chairman Noel Kelly to put funds into cash-stricken Nuneaton Borough has been rejected by the Official Receiver. Mr Hedley Brunt, the man appointed to try and save the club, said it was Mr Kelly who had offered funding.

But after meeting with current chairman Joe Shooter last night Mr Brunt said he did not feel he could take up the offer. However, he said he was still optimistic a deal could be made to stop the club being dissolved.

Mr Brunt said: “Mr Kelly appears to be persona non grata at the club. I don’t think he is able to help.”

He said the club would now have to work out the full extent of its liabilities, which ran into six figures, and put an offer to creditors. If this offer was accepted the winding up order would be stayed and the club would return to normal.

“I would not want to underestimate the severity of the position, but there are ways around it. I am very optimistic,” he said.



The club is now appealing for donations to meet the cost of upcoming matches. Mr Brunt has spoken to the Beazer League to say arrangement will be made to fulfil future fixtures. Mr Shooter said: “Survival and promotion will still be our goal but it will not be possible without donations, finance and sponsorship.

“All donations are for the running of the club and will not be used to pay existing creditors.”

Letter: Torn Apart By Personalities

Dear Editor

I find it incredibly sad to see how Nuneaton Borough Football Club is being torn apart. Having lived all my life in the area, it was only natural that I would find myself attracted to Manor Park.

I will not bore readers with a history of the club, as it has been well documented, but fans of a certain generation, will never forget the names of Crawley, Richards, Allen, etc.

In those days we were regularly tipped for Football League status and indeed, it was a toss up between Wimbledon and ourselves to see who would gain entry.

How sad then, to see the club now being torn apart by personalities. We still view with admiration many former players of the club who are now performing at League level.

Les Green has done a magnificent job in producing an attractive side and things seemed to be coming together on the field. Then this body blow appears!

The club was and always should be bigger than one individual and even at this late stage let us hope that everyone can unite to save a club with a great tradition and standing in non league circles.

PROUD MEMBER OF THE OLD FIVE

Letter: Club Cannot Be Allowed To Go Under

Dear Editor

I am a regular supporter of Nuneaton Borough FC, and am alarmed and distressed at the recent events. Surely the club cannot be allowed to go under for the relatively small sum of £71,000? The silence from our Council has been deafening.

Cannot an interest free loan be granted to the club to help it through these difficult times? I can imagine Dennis Harvey's outraged protestations at this suggestion, that the Council would be irresponsible to spend poll tax payers' money on such a venture.

But as a poll tax payer I don't remember being consulted about the many thousands spend on the "Britain in Bloom" contest.

If, as I suspect, the Council refuses to loan cash, how about releasing the Manor Park ground from the covenant that restricts its use to sporting purposes only?

The ground could then be sold, in a prime development location.

The club could build a new purpose-built stadium on the outskirts of town, and probably have enough money left over to settle most debts. Nuneaton's football club has brought glory to the town in the past, and is on its way up once more.

It has survived traumas that would have seen off many a lesser club. Everyone in non-league football knows and respects the name of Nuneaton thanks to "The Borough."

I think it's about time that the Council acknowledged that fact and came to the rescue before it's too late.

A. J. COX (Canal Side Regular)

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Boro' 22-12-1990

Sutton: Belford, Ling, McDonald, Keogh, Tucker, Whitehouse, Caulfield, Smith, Miller (Biddle 50), Dunne, S. Jones (McKenzie 6)
Borough: O'Connor, Clarke, Banks, Waters, Seivwright, Andersen, M. Jones, Carty, Twigger, Sugrue (Thurman 74), Simpson. Sub: Parslow.

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

The first action saw Dale Belford punch clear under pressure and he was again in action soon after, going low to his left to grab Nicky Andersen's header at the second attempt. Borough were then fortunate not to go behind after 14 minutes. Gary Smith saw his cross-shot fingertipped for a corner by Paul O'Connor and when Nuneaton failed to clear the flagkick both Smith and Adam Whitehouse had efforts blocked on the line.

McDonald was happy to head a Twigger cross out for a corner as Borough hit back and then Belford did well to spread himself to block Twigger's close range shot after Tony Simpson had sent him racing into the box. However, the pacy Sutton front runners looked dangerous on the break and it took a fine tackle by Banks to halt Dunne as he looked like breaking clear. But Borough grabbed the vital first goal after 25 minutes. Simpson teased McDonald as he moved into the area and when the full-back brought him down Twigger made no mistake from the penalty.

Dunne had a glimmer of a chance when Whitehouse put him through but he dragged his shot wide. Borough were well in control and a delicate ball into the six yard box by Seivwright caused panic in the home defence before McDonald hooked clear. But seconds before the interval Borough's pressure paid off when Andersen flicked on a Tony Clarke free-kick and Twigger swept the ball past Belford.

Sutton stepped up the pace at the start of the second half and after four minutes Dunne hooked the ball over from close range. Borough responded with a fine break by Twigger who cut into the area and pulled the ball back to Sugrue but Stuart Tucker made a fine tackle to block the Nuneaton skipper's shot. There was another escape for Borough when Whitehouse knocked on a right wing corner and Smith scooped the ball over the top from virtually on the goal-line.

Sutton were now on top and the goal that they had been threatening came after 63 minutes. A ball into the area by

Whitehouse split the Borough defence and put Dunne clear and he calmly stepped round O'Connor before slipping the ball into an empty net. Borough were coming under increasing pressure and it came as no real surprise when Sutton grabbed the equaliser with minutes left. Clarke and Banks converged on Biddle as he moved into the area and when he went down the referee awarded a penalty. Biddle picked himself up to stroke the spot kick into the left-hand corner.

Borough hit back but Seivwright wasted a good opportunity and Paul Carty was crowded out. Mark Jones played a superb early ball into the box and Twigger looked to be free, but Tucker managed to get in a boot. Borough were being constantly exposed at the back and when Biddle hit in a low cross from the left Smith was unmarked at the far post and it took a superb stop by the diving O'Connor to keep the ball out. But three minutes from the end Borough finally paid the ultimate price for rank bad defending. They only cleared a left wing corner to the edge of the area and when Caulfield knocked the ball back into the box Dunne was given a free header to power home the winner from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 26-12-1990

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Waters (Jones), Seivwright (Donnelly 23), Smith, Andersen, Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Bedworth: Whitehouse, Daniel (Cain 45), Smithers, Hamilton, Piggon, Brain, Chapman, Hardwick (Fearn), McBean, Thomas, George.

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

Borough were first to threaten when Sugrue played a neat one-two with Andersen, but the Borough skipper's shot was straight at Whitehouse. Then with six minutes gone Nuneaton went close when Andersen's deep cross was fingertipped away from Carty by Whitehouse. Borough continued to dictate the pace and Carty robbed Calvin Hamilton and found Tony Simpson who fired over the top with Andersen screaming for the ball. Carty posed more problems for the visitors when he got away from Piggon, but his cross was cleared by Tim Smithers.

But the game suddenly exploded in the space of two minutes, midway through the half. Piggon was booked for bringing down Twigger and then when the pair clashed again shortly afterwards the Borough man got his marching orders for elbowing the Bedworth skipper. Two minutes later Borough's troubles increased. Ade Waters caught Paul Thomas with a late tackle and was booked, but then carried off with a broken leg. Even with ten men Borough continued to take the game to the visitors and Carty found Seivwright, who drilled in a centre that Simpson hit goalwards, but Whitehouse saved. With half-time approaching, the Greenbacks produced their first real threat of the half. A corner on the right was caught by the swirling wind and O'Connor had to dive back towards his own goal to take the catch.

Carty left Piggon sprawled on the floor and cut into the area

at the start of the second half, but his shot clipped the top of the Bedworth bar. It took a timely tackle from Richard Smith to halt Peter McBean as he threatened to break clear, but Borough made the vital breakthrough on the hour mark. Simpson swung in a corner from the right and Piggon, under pressure from Smith, sliced the ball into his own net.

Nuneaton were still enjoying the lion's share of the possession and one tremendous run from defence by Gary Banks ended with a cross from substitute Tony Donnelly that Smithers was happy to head out for a corner. There was danger for Borough when Smith fouled McBean on the edge of the area but Chapman wasted a promising position with a poor free-kick. Nuneaton missed two chances to make the game safe in as many minutes. With ten minutes left, Simpson robbed Smithers to break clear but after cutting into the area he trickled a weak shot wide of the far post.

Donnelly put another tame effort over the angle before Bedworth almost snatched a dramatic equaliser in injury time but O'Connor superbly plucked a right wing cross out of the air with two men waiting to pounce.

Ade Has To Settle For Settee



Nuneaton Borough defensive kingpin Ade Waters had to settle for an afternoon on the settee today while his team-mates were chasing points against Redditch United. Waters, who broke his right leg in the Boxing Day local derby against Bedworth, will almost certainly be out for the rest of the season.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 29-12-1990

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Smith, Morrall, Seivwright (Donnelly 76), Andersen (Jones 45), Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

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

There was a brisk start with both keeper's being called into action, but it was Borough who produced the first threat after eight minutes when Smith put a header straight at Dennis Burke from a Paul Sugrue free-kick. A minute later Borough



were in front with a fine goal by Twigger. Seivwright found Andersen on the edge of the area and he quickly turned the ball on for Twigger to lose his man and drill a fierce left-footer into the far corner. Redditch hit back immediately and when Borough only cleared a long throw-in from the left, Steve Evans thumped a low cross shot narrowly wide. However, Borough had a firm grip and Burke had to go full length to his right in the 23rd minute to beat away Carty's free-kick after the Borough midfielder had bent a 20-yard effort round the Redditch defensive wall.

Two minutes later Borough should have increased their advantage. Tony Simpson broke clear down the middle and slipped the ball to Andersen who failed to connect properly and his close range effort was blocked. Redditch stunned Borough when they snatched a 33rd minute equaliser. Mick Perry turned his marker and knocked a diagonal ball into the area where Christopher got in behind Gary Banks to take the ball down on his chest before firing wide of Paul O'Connor into the far corner. Perry curled a shot just over as Redditch grew in confidence but three minutes before the break, Borough were back in front.

Carty made space wide on the left and when he crossed to the near post, Andersen stole in unmarked to head firmly past Burke for his first league goal of the season. That was to be Andersen's last contribution as he had been struggling with his breathing and was replaced by Mark Jones at half-time.

Simpson had a shot blocked at the start of the second half following some good work by Twigger wide on the left. Redditch were then fortunate to escape when Carty curled in a free-kick to the far post and the ball hit Graham Kemp on the knee and flew straight into the keeper's hands. But the visitors were taking control of midfield and there were some ominous signs for Borough. Mulholland cut out a dangerous low cross by Christopher after the visitors had stretched the Nuneaton defence.

Carty put a header wide from a Mulholland cross but Nuneaton's attacks were becoming rarer. However, the Manor Park side might have increased their lead ten minutes from the end when Smith had an effort blocked in the goalmouth and Twigger's shot on the turn was deflected for a corner.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1991

Hinckley: Hewitt, Williams, Purser, P. Jones, Tedds, Wilcox, Worthington (Ebrey 87), Childs, Scott, Taylor, Robinson (Hopewell 45).

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Smith, Morrall, M. Jones, Andersen, Sugrue (Donnelly 83), Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Parslow.

Borough made the journey to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

There was an anxious moment for the home team in the first minute when Gareth Williams failed to find his keeper and Paul Carty nipped in, but Town scrambled the ball away. Hinckley produced an opening when Williams hit a deep cross from wide on the right but Tony Robinson glanced a

tame header well wide. Both sides were struggling to find any sort of rhythm on a pudding of a pitch that was quickly resembling a paddy field down the centre. When Town failed to clear a Dennis Mulholland cross on the edge of their area, Tony Simpson got in a shot, but it was blocked.

Borough were well on top with Hinckley limited to spasmodic breakaways. Smith failed to connect with a Simpson shot across the face of the goal before Twigger needed attention after being brought down by Paul Jones. Nuneaton forced a string of corners as half-time approached but they seldom looked like finding the elusive first goal.

Town again found themselves under pressure in the opening seconds of the second half when Gary Banks broke down the left and slipped the ball to Carty, but Williams raced across to get in a fine covering tackle. Hinckley came more into the picture and took a shock lead with a soft goal ten minutes after the break. Steve Morrall was under no pressure from a long ball down the middle but he failed to head clear, the ball sliding off his head towards goal when Steve Scott knocked it down and Tedds drilled a low shot past Paul O'Connor.

Mulholland was crowded out after a 60-yard run before Tedds cynically scythed down Carty and was fortunate to escape with just a talking to from the referee. Fortune favoured Hinckley midway through the half when Barry Wilcox sliced a left wing corner towards his own goal, but the ball flew into the arms of Hewitt. A poor clearance by O'Connor put Borough in danger and Smith had to go full length to turn the ball back to the keeper with Taylor waiting to pounce.

Taylor saw his shot blocked after a neat three man move before Town grabbed the clinching goal seven minutes from time. Mulholland gave away a free-kick on the edge of the box and when the ball came into the area Wilcox had a header saved by O'Connor at full stretch. Taylor then appeared certain to score but Jones somehow got the ball out from under the bar only for Tedds to hit it first time and it flew through a crowded goalmouth into the left hand corner.

Liquidator: Support The Club Or I Shut It

Nuneaton Borough liquidator Hedley Brunt has told fans: "Support the club or I'll shut it." Mr Brunt said unless Nuneaton people came out in droves to watch their club it could not survive. He said the club was still spending £1,500 a week more than it earned and he would not continue to run it at a loss.

"If the people of Nuneaton want a football club they had better support it instead of going shopping, playing squash, or whatever the latest sport is," he said. "Whatever they are doing they are not watching Nuneaton football club. If the people of Nuneaton do not support the club I will shut it and put a "For Sale" sign on the gate."

Mr Brunt, who was given charge of the club's affairs after it was wound up in Coventry County Court last month, said it cost a total of £3,000 to carry on playing games. He said: "I do



not propose to carry on running the club indefinitely. It costs £2,000 a week in wages and another £1,000 for things like electricity and rates. The current gate money is maybe £1,000 to £1,500.”

Mr Brunt said the friendly with Vauxhall Conference champions Kettering would go ahead. He hoped to see an increase in support which would enable the club’s next home match with Tamworth on January 15 to take place. Mr Brunt said there were still options open to save the club including selling the Manor Park ground or accepting an injection of funds from former chairman Noel Kelly.

“One possibility is to sell the current ground for development, pay off the creditors, and set up a new stadium on the periphery of Nuneaton with proceeds from that sale,” he said.

“This could only be done with the help of the Borough Council. We shall be holding a meeting with them soon.

“Also I have not rejected any offers made by Noel Kelly. Even Mr Shooter has said to me that if Mr Kelly has the money he will win the day.” Nuneaton Borough, who play in the Midland Division of the Beazer Homes League, have an average home gate of nearly 800.

Sean Patterson To Save Borough

An eleventh hour bid to rescue crisis torn Nuneaton Borough was being made by hotelier Sean Patterson, who owns a number of hotels and restaurants. Mr Patterson is seeking an urgent meeting with liquidator Mr Hedley Brunt, in a bid to prevent the Manor Park side from folding.

A shareholder and former director of the Borough, Mr Patterson said today: “There is no way that I want to be chairman of the club. I am far too involved with my own business interest. But I love my football and I love Nuneaton Borough and the people of Nuneaton deserve a club.

“There is no way that the club should be closed down,” he said. But he would not go into detail about the rescue package. “At the moment I am waiting to meet Mr Brunt and I will be putting certain proposals to him. After that I may be making a statement,” he added.

Editorial: New Year, New Blues

Blunt Hedley Brunt’s New Year message to Nuneaton football fans is anything but happy. From the morass of figures that has been bandied about over the past three years in statements and High Court actions, his plain and simple words do not need any interpretation.

Nuneaton Borough Football Club is spending £3,000 a week. It is “earning” £1,500. And you don’t have to be an Albert Einstein or a Mr Wilkins Micawber to work out what that means. Whether you run a big company, a small company or a soccer club, you cannot lose twice as much as you make for very long. At the end of the day there is only one way to go – to the wall.

Joe Shooter’s Christmas plea to Borough’s 800 or so regular

fans to give £40 each to save the club had a snowball in hell’s chance of success. Liquidator Mr Brunt has warned that he does not propose to run the club indefinitely. But realistically we cannot see either, that his call for greater support in the numbers that are needed, will be forthcoming.

Crises have come and crises have gone at Manor Park. But even the most True Blue supporter must now realise that this crisis is the most serious ever to face the town club. And he doesn’t believe in fairies – only a Fairy Godmother can now save the Borough.

Sean Patterson Withdraws Bid

North Warwickshire businessman Sean Patterson has withdrawn his offer of help for Nuneaton Borough – to allow a mystery rescue deal to go ahead. Mr Patterson said he was standing down in favour of another bid, but would not reveal who was making it. The identity of the new backers remained shrouded in mystery, with neither liquidator Hedley Brunt nor current chairman Joe Shooter aware of any new deals.

Mr Patterson said: “I want to withdraw my offer of help to allow a more advanced plan from other people to go forward. On speaking to past members I believe they have a better formula for saving the club and I understand they will be meeting the receiver.

“I do not want to say who they are because I do not want to become involved in the club’s politics.”...

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 05-01-1991

Borough: O’Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Smith, Morrall (Seivwright 75), Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Carty, Twigger, Donnelly. **Sub:** Jackson.

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

Bridgnorth had the assistance of a fierce wind from the kick-off and they immediately put Borough under pressure. Paul O’Connor had to move swiftly to gather an Andy Taylor free-kick before Borough went behind after only five minutes. Balshaw broke clear on the left and put in a low centre into the area and Eastoe stabbed the ball home from close range. Two minutes later Borough could have conceded again after Dennis Mulholland gave the ball away in midfield, but Balshaw’s rising drive was a foot over.

Borough had a look-in through Carty, but Kevin Tudor whipped the ball away before he could get a shot in. Andersen then came close with a low ball across the face of the goal, but no-one was on hand to finish. Borough were finding it tough but still got men forward and Donnelly dragged a shot wide of the post. However, shortly before the interval Borough snatched an equaliser. Donnelly found space wide on the left and his cross found Smith who headed powerfully goalwards and the ball took a deflection off Sugrue on its way into the net.

Borough capitalised on that breakthrough as they surged into



the lead just 60 seconds after the restart. Mulholland made a break on the right and found Donnelly. He got to the bye-line and his centre was headed in on the near post by Andersen. But the joy of the Borough fans was short-lived as Bridgnorth hit back with a fine equaliser just eight minutes later. John Preece floated a free-kick to the edge of the area. Taylor knocked it on and Balshaw hit a superb first-time volley on the turn into the roof of the net from ten yards.

Borough threw men forward and Andersen thumped a fierce drive inches over the bar as Bridgnorth found themselves coming under increasing pressure. Donnelly had a shot charged down and Borough were unlucky to be denied by the woodwork after 70 minutes. Andersen was brought down by Kevin Harris and Carty's free-kick left Gibbs clutching thin air but the ball smacked against the bar.

But five minutes later Borough took the lead. Harris mis-headed a ball back to his keeper, Carty picked it up and jinked past three men before Harris blatantly kicked his legs from under him and Twigger smashed the spot-kick way out of the reach of Gibbs. Mark Jones put a header over the top and in the closing seconds Andersen glanced a header wide of the far post after Donnelly had made the opening.

Letter: Fans Are Backing The Club

Dear Editor

I write in response to the front page headline, January 3, which stated "Support your club or we will fold." I must say that when reading this article I was absolutely livid because if it was not for the support of the fans, Nuneaton Borough would have died years ago. So come on you businessmen out there, don't just sit there, support the Borough in their hour of need.

For the sake of Nuneaton and those 800-plus supporters who watch them week in week out whatever the weather. I would also like to praise the players for their loyalty to the club. Well done lads, we're proud of you.

On a final note I would end with a comparison of two separate issues with a question and answer. What is the difference between Nuneaton Borough and Nuneaton In Bloom? The answer is flowers only last so long, but Nuneaton Borough could be with us forever with someone's help.

So have some pride and help. The players deserve it.

A LOYAL SUPPORTER

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 07-01-1991

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Seivwright, Smith, Sugrue, M. Jones, Andersen, Jackson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Andrews, Bryden, Bartlett, Wright (all used for Mulholland, Jones, Carty and Seivwright), Edwards, O'Connor.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a friendly match to raise funds for the home side.

Kettering were under pressure from the start as Borough cut

the early pace. Simpson intercepted a back pass but was unable to turn the ball in from a narrow angle and Dennis Mulholland saw his fierce 25 yarder turned round the post by the flying Chris Neville. But the home fans were stunned when Gary Jones was allowed too much room and his cross was swept home by Graham. However, Borough quickly resumed their control and Dougie Keast almost turned a Jackson header into his own net.

Andersen hooked a shot just wide before Borough's pressure paid off on the half hour mark when Paul Carty found Andersen on the edge of the area and he knocked the ball on for Simpson to slip past Neville for the equaliser.

Borough continued to dictate the pace in the second half and they notched two goals in a three minute spell midway through the half. With 65 minutes gone Twigger knocked on a through ball and Jackson beat Neville with a low left footer and then Twigger and Carty combined to set up a chance for Simpson that the winger took with consummate ease. Eleven minutes from the end Simpson completed a miserable night for the visitors when he intercepted Trevor Slack's back pass to skip round the stranded goalkeeper and slip the ball home.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-01-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, R. Smith, Sugrue, Banks, Jones, Andersen, Carty, Simpson, Waitt, Donnelly (Jackson 58).

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

Borough took control from the start and went ahead after just eight minutes. Dudley keeper Mark Ashton did well to keep out a Nicky Andersen effort after the midfielder had turned sharply onto a Paul Carty free-kick. But the home side failed to clear and when Tony Donnelly knocked the ball back into the middle Smith glanced home a near post header. Borough were still congratulating themselves when Dudley came within a whisker of snatching an equaliser straight from the kick-off. Barry Young surged into the area but pulled his shot inches wide of the far post.

Borough were in almost total command and when Bobby Peck lost possession in midfield Waitt was only a couple of feet wide with a low shot from the edge of the box. Ashton had to be alert to cut out a Donnelly cross but the luck went his way when Mulholland's centre rebounded into his arms. Six minutes before half-time Borough missed a chance to increase their lead. Donnelly's lob beat the keeper but Young fisted the ball out from under the bar. However, Banks drove his penalty straight at the keeper and the ball rebounded to safety.

Two minutes after half time Borough were stunned as Dudley grabbed an equaliser. Nuneaton were caught pushing forward and Peck knocked a long ball wide down the right for Gary Piggott. He cut in before drilling a low cross into the goalmouth where Paul O'Connor failed to hold the ball and Robert Smith was left with the simple job of tapping it into an empty net. But Borough were back in front after 52 minutes



with a goal fashioned by Andersen. He made a superb break from deep inside his own half and found Donnelly inside the area. His shot was well blocked by Ashton but Waitt volleyed home the rebound from eight yards.

O'Connor had to show his bravery by going down at Carlo Rossi's feet after Peck had flicked on a free-kick, but Dudley were level for the second time on the hour mark. Borough failed to clear a ball down the middle and Piggott bundled his way past two tackles before hitting a rising drive past the advancing keeper. Nuneaton were still pushing forward in search of the winner and it seemed that it had arrived when Simpson cut into the area and was bundled over by Paul Clarke to give Borough another penalty.

But, to the groans of the large Borough following, Richard Smith casually pushed the spot kick over the top. Jackson glanced a header wide before Banks made a surging run into the area where he appeared to be hacked down by Young but the referee waved away appeals for a penalty.

Les Green Sacked

Les Green has lost his job as manager of Beazer Homes League outfit Nuneaton Borough after he was sacked. He was the first man to come under the financial axe being wielded by liquidator Hedley Brunt. Green, who has been tremendously successful since taking over the manager's job in August 1989, was very upset that he had to leave Manor Park.

"It was purely a financial decision," said Green today. "The liquidator said that the outgoings had to be slashed and as I was the top money earner at the club I had to go." The former Derby County goalkeeper had a superb record with Borough, transforming them from a struggling side to one pushing for promotion in the last two seasons.

Parslow Signs For Atherstone

Linden Parslow, the hero of the Manor Park terraces – has signed for Atherstone United. The Borough keeper, who has now fully recovered from a groin injury and is expected to make his debut for the Sheepy Road club at Bromsgrove. He is another victim of the stringent financial cuts being made by the liquidator.

Sugrue Takes Over

Paul Sugrue has taken over the Nuneaton Borough hot seat after the shock sacking of Les Green, who was dismissed as part of an economy drive by liquidator Hedley Brunt. The Borough skipper had no idea that anything was amiss as he was preparing for last night's postponed match against Tamworth. But he was summoned to a meeting of the board and the liquidator in the Social Club where the position was explained to him and he accepted the job.

"I was told that the club could not afford to bring in anyone else due to the financial position – and that is the reason that Les had to go," he said. "There was no problem about me taking over but it was a shame the way that it came about."

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Boro' 17-01-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Carty, Banks, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Seivwright, Jackson, Donnelly, Simpson. **Subs:** Sugrue, Edwards.

Borough made the journey to Coles Lane to play Sutton Coldfield Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup fourth round tie.

A miskick by Paul Carty put Borough in early trouble but Mark Jones was in quick to cut out the danger as Andy Gonzales threatened down the right. But Borough were soon surging forward and a Jackson cross was deflected straight into the arms of a grateful Dale Belford. Borough made the vital breakthrough after 24 minutes. Nicky Andersen broke clear on the right and as Belford came out the midfielder lobbed him. With Andy Ling looking as though he might clear Donnelly bravely headed the ball home, taking a kick in the eye for his trouble.

Borough had a let-off when a Carty back pass hardly reached Paul O'Connor who slipped and allowed the ball to bobble out of his grasp but Sean Dunne failed to take advantage and Banks scrambled the ball away. Borough then took a stranglehold on the game with a second goal after 32 minutes. Andersen found Donnelly in the area and his cross to the far post was met by Jackson who glanced a header into the right hand corner. Donnelly made a good break before turning the ball inside to Simpson, but the winger's shot flew high over the top.

Sutton threw men forward at the start of the second half and Carlton Miller completely missed his kick after good work by Mark Hutchinson had given him a clear sight of goal. But Borough came close to extending their lead on the hour mark when Simpson worked his way into the box and his low shot appeared destined for the far corner until Belford's fingertips turned it away for a corner. Seivwright was booked following a thundering clash with Ling and was followed into the book by Andersen, who was lucky to stay on the pitch after a wild challenge on Mark Caulfield.

Substitute John Hunt had a chance but dragged it wide and Borough had to withstand more pressure as the Royals looked for a way back but it was Nuneaton who came closest to a goal when Belford did well to deflect a Seivwright shot for a corner after Andersen had sent him clear.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 19-01-1991

Leicester: Marsden, Potter, Waner, Wilson, Tonge, A. Potter, Liquorish (Pick 45), Dalton, Hallam, Green, Conway (Hogg 71).

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Carty, Banks, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue (Jackson 60), Seivwright, Waitt, Simpson. **Sub:** Edwards.

Borough made the journey to Blaby to play Leicester United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride with the home side being pushed back from the start, and when Tony Simpson was fouled on the edge of the box in the opening minute

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Mulholland swung in the free-kick and Chris Tonge just got a touch to deflect the ball away from Waitt. Borough had a let-off when Peter Green sent Mark Hallam clear of a square Nuneaton defence but he put a tame shot at Paul O'Connor.

Midway through the half Nuneaton were within a foot of taking the lead when Andersen broke from midfield and found Waitt but his left-footer flashed narrowly wide. Leicester were now under incessant pressure and Marsden produced a series of excellent saves to keep them on level terms. With 27 minutes gone, Waitt turned superbly in the area and his instant shot looked a certain goal until Marsden somehow got down to deny the big striker. Within seconds the keeper tipped Simpson's goalbound drive away for a corner.

Waitt pushed an effort wide while at the other end O'Connor punched well under pressure to clear a dangerous left wing cross in a rare Leicester raid. Andersen wriggled clear but Marsden again made a fine point-blank save. Seivwright fired a rising drive a foot over the top before Borough got the goal they had been threatening. Sugrue found space in the area and when Marsden could only parry the fiercely struck shot Andersen hammered the loose ball into the back of the net.

Following the restart, Steve Potter went into the book for a foul on Seivwright and from the free-kick by Carty, Marsden again had to show his agility to claw the ball away from Waitt. Mitch Waner went into the book for a crunching foul on Andersen and Mulholland hit a swerving drive wide of the far post after the home side had only partially cleared another Carty free-kick. O'Connor smothered a shot from Gary Pick and the same player put a free header over the top.

United were made to regret that miss as four minutes later Borough went two goals up. Mulholland found Simpson, who beat two men before laying the ball off to Andersen and he calmly guided it past Marsden. Another flowing Borough move ended with Mulholland's low cross being turned out for a corner. O'Connor then showed his bravery with a fine save at the feet of Green before Borough wrapped everything up with a third goal nine minutes before the final whistle.

Mulholland intercepted Andy Potter's crossfield pass and raced 50 yards before finding Russell Jackson. The young striker quickly turned the ball across the face of the goal and Waitt gave Marsden no chance from close range. Shortly before the end Andy Potter had a chance but O'Connor made a comfortable save. Borough had the last word with Simpson firing a left-footer straight at the keeper and in the dying seconds Marsden again rescued Leicester as he somehow kept out both Andersen and Waitt after Mulholland's low cross had created more panic in the home defence.

Borough Players In Car Crash

Borough player-manager Paul Sugrue will be out of action for at least three weeks after being involved in a car crash at the weekend. Sugrue and Paul Carty were both injured in a collision as they returned from the win at Leicester United.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 22-01-1991

Bedworth: Whitehouse, Wilkins, Kane, Hamilton (Daniel 45), Piggon, Brain, Hamill, Moller, McBean, Chapman, Thomas (Harthill 45).

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Carty, Edwards, Morrall (Jackson 68), Jones, Andersen, Seivwright, Waitt, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Bartlett.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a M&B Cup first round second leg tie.

Bedworth had the first opportunity in the ninth minute when Paul Carty got a terrible bounce as he went to clear and Stuart Hamill whipped the ball back into the middle for Chapman to hit a close range effort which was well saved by Paul O'Connor. Both sides struggled to settle into a rhythm, but it was Borough who made the vital breakthrough after 23 minutes. Carty made a break on the left and pumped the ball forward. Wilkins should have cleared but Twigger robbed him and, spotting Lee Whitehouse off his line, coolly lobbed the ball over the keeper and into an empty net. Seconds before the half-time whistle, Carty fired a dangerous low cross into the home penalty area after a neat Borough build-up on the left but Calvin Hamilton diverted the ball away for a corner.

United opened the second period on a bright note with McBean having a header saved by O'Connor and Chapman flicking a volley narrowly over the top from a free-kick. But Borough were close to extending their advantage on the hour mark with Twigger's header from Tony Simpson's centre going a foot wide with Whitehouse left flat footed. McBean put a tame effort straight at O'Connor before going into the book for bringing down Morrall who had to be carried off.

Twigger was again close to a second goal for Borough when another header went narrowly wide of the target after Russ Jackson had provided the opening. But seven minutes from the end Bedworth grabbed an equaliser. Borough only cleared a right wing cross to the edge of the area and Chapman drilled a low right footer into the far corner.

With just three minutes left the game erupted as Carty was cautioned for a rash challenge and was immediately followed into the book by Wilkins. While this was going on Adrian Piggon appeared to strike Twigger and when order was restored the United defender was sent off. There was an anxious moment for Borough right at the death when McBean went tumbling in the box, but the referee waved penalty appeals away.

Nuneaton Borough v Spalding United 28-01-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Fitzpatrick, Carty, Banks, Morrall, Jones, Donnelly (Edwards 85), Seivwright, Waitt, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Andrews.

Spalding: Griffiths, Ireland, Boyers, Ryder, Worthington, Newell, Mann, Topliss, Morris (Ward 30), Hornby, Langford. Sub: Elkington.

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

Martyn Twigger spearheaded Borough's late assault as Borough took over as league leaders. The home side were



Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-02-1991

Bilston: Pemberton, Frisby, G. Jones, Grant, Bowater, Walker, Chappell, Richards (Knox 81), Branch (Moore 81), Street, Chawner.

Borough: O'Connor, Fitzpatrick, Carty, Banks, Morrall, M. Jones, Donnelly (Edwards 71), Seivwright, Waitt (Jackson 56), Twigger, Simpson.

made to work hard for their win and seldom looked like title contenders. But it was the visitors who produced the first threat after only two minutes when Les Hornby wriggled his way into the area but Donnelly got in a tackle and Paul O'Connor completed the clearance. Mark Jones headed narrowly over as Borough hit back and Tony Simpson hit a left footer inches wide. Mick Waitt glanced a left wing corner by Donnelly across the face of the visitors goal, but Spalding scrambled the ball clear.

The Tulips twice went close to breaking the deadlock. First O'Connor had to save bravely at Paul Langford's feet after Hornby had set up the opening and then Warren Ward had a header turned away for a corner by the Borough keeper.

However, Borough suddenly clicked into gear as Twigger forced Barry Griffiths into a fine diving save with a shot on the turn and Griffiths was happy to push Donnelly's deep cross away for a corner. Mark Jones had a shot cleared off the line by Jamie Ireland and seconds before the interval Waitt sent a looping header narrowly over the angle.

The big Borough striker was off target with another header early in the second period after Seivwright had headed on a Gary Banks free-kick. But Borough were increasing the pressure and the visitors were fortunate when Griffiths could only parry Morrall's header from Paul Carty's free-kick and Andy Ryder just managed to toe end the loose ball away from the lurking Twigger. Jones then hit a dipping 20 yarder a foot over the top but Worthington got Ward away and Morrall got in a saving tackle.

Borough were denied a blatant penalty when Simpson beat three men as he cut into the box and was hacked down by Marcus Newell but the referee waved play on. But two minutes later Borough finally got the goal they had been threatening. Twigger got in behind the Spalding defence but he appeared to have lost possession. However, he stuck out a toe and Worthington could only turn the ball past his own keeper and into the net.

The league's leading goalscorer almost added to Borough's lead when his 20-yarder took a deflection off Ireland and smacked against the crossbar before bouncing to safety. But four minutes from the end Twigger put the issue beyond doubt. Jones won the ball in midfield and found Simpson who made a good run into the box where Twigger stepped in to hammer a close range shot past Griffiths.

Borough Appeal Fails

Borough have failed in their appeal against the Beazer Homes League's decision to strip them of four points for playing an ineligible player. The points were deducted from Borough's playing record after it was discovered that Tony Hadland, who appeared in Nuneaton's first two games of the season had also signed for Alvechurch.

Borough's appeal was turned down by the FA in London on Wednesday and the punishment, including a fine of £150, is to stand.

Borough made the journey to Queen Street to play Bilston Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were first to attack when Mick Waitt rose above the home defence to head Paul Carty's free-kick but Martyn Twigger was crowded out as he closed in. Borough could have been in front after 15 minutes. Alan Pemberton only punched a left wing corner by Tony Donnelly straight to Kevin Seivwright but the Nuneaton midfielder failed to get his shot on target from 12 yards. Tony Simpson beat two men wide on the right as Borough suddenly came to life and Waitt was only inches away from turning in the winger's cross. Carty was booked for a foul on Branch before Simpson's centre was hooked off the line by Rob Grant and headed over by Twigger.

Bilston were soon back in control and O'Connor turned away Richards' shot. But seven minutes before the interval Borough went behind. Richards got clear and his inch-perfect cross found the unmarked Branch who headed home. Shortly before the break Richards almost made it 2-0, but O'Connor kept out his fierce shot at the near post.

Borough's hopes of salvaging something virtually disappeared six minutes into the second half when Richards set up another goal for Branch. The Bilston front runner was allowed to turn and run at the Nuneaton defence, he forced his way through two tackles and laid the ball off to Branch who made no mistake with just the keeper to beat. Almost immediately Borough missed a glorious chance when Twigger broke clear on the right and drilled the ball across the area to Simpson, but Russ Jackson got a toe to Simpson's mishit shot and the ball hit Grant on the line before the keeper saved.

That was to be Borough's last chance and on the hour they found themselves further adrift. Richards brushed aside two defenders before slipping the ball to Chappell who had no problem in slotting the ball past O'Connor. Six minutes later the home side were celebrating again. Borough were guilty of some more poor marking for Chappell's right wing corner and Richards was able to pick his spot before heading into the roof of the net.

Borough were in complete disarray and O'Connor had to show his bravery to keep out Richards after he had strolled through the Borough defence. Then ten minutes from the end Borough were fortunate not to concede another goal. O'Connor did well to keep out a glancing header by Bowater from a left wing corner but Borough did not clear their lines and Bowater seized on the loose ball to strike a shot against the post. Simpson curled a 20 yard shot over the top from the edge of the area in a rare Borough raid before the whistle.



Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 18-02-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Carty, Banks, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Seivwright, Donnelly (Jackson 89), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Thompson.

Atherstone: Spencer, Everitt, Redgate, Randle, Olner, Jackson, Landon, Green, Gradder, Lewis, Whetton. **Subs:** Wilson, Kennell.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

The first action saw Richard Landon head Redgate's cross wide before Twigger drilled a low shot across the face of goal and Lee Spencer had to produce a fine save. Andersen was laid out in an aerial challenge with Redgate and Whetton, while Spencer was happy to grab Twigger's shot at the second attempt after Adders failed to clear Dennis Mulholland's free-kick. But midway through the half, United were forced to reorganise their defence when Everitt was stretchered off after damaging a knee in a tackle with Paul Carty.

There was a let-off for Borough after 29 minutes when their defence was all over the place from a Gary Bradder free-kick, but Landon failed to get in a shot and the ball was scrambled clear. Tony Donnelly got in a deep cross but Malc Randle headed over his own bar under pressure from Seivwright. Mark Jones and Twigger put Tony Simpson through but Spencer saved with his feet. O'Connor made a fine save from Kim Green's header which looked destined for the net.

A Mark Lewis cross had Borough in a tangle at the start of the second half but Carty stepped in to clear, while at the other end Andersen dragged a shot well wide. Twigger superbly dummied a low cross from Mulholland but Andersen's fierce shot was deflected for a corner by Whetton. With 63 minutes gone, Redgate, booked in the first half, foolishly booted the ball away following a free-kick decision and was sent off. Three minutes later Borough grabbed the goal that was to take them through to the final Andersen delivered a fine through ball, Steve Jackson failed to cut it out and Twigger pounced to slip a low, bobbling shot past Spencer and into the far corner.

Spencer distinguished himself with a fingertip save to keep out Simpson's cross shot and there was a late scare for Borough when Twigger wildly sliced a Lewis free-kick and O'Connor had to save with Green waiting for a slip.

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Boro' 23-02-1991

Racing Club: Russell, Chambers, Brotherton, Darby, Cooper, Hannam, Crawford, Lander, Sinnott (Wright 80), Deeley, O'Hare. **Sub:** Kelly.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Carty, Stevens, Morrall, Jones, Carty, Andersen, Seivwright, Twigger, Simpson (Donnelly 68). **Sub:** Jackson.

Borough travelled to Townsend Meadow to play Racing Club Warwick in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough introduced former Cardiff City defender Gary Stevens at the heart of defence. A bad mistake from Stevens put Borough in early trouble. The big defender sliced an

attempted clearance putting Darren Deeley through but he lifted his shot over the bar. Paul Sinnott looked to break clear but Stevens stopped him with a superb tackle. Borough came close to breaking the deadlock when Steve Morrall found Carty wide on the left and his deep cross was met by Tony Simpson but the winger put his header straight at Andy Russell.

Borough were in trouble when Mulholland was caught in possession on the edge of the area by Brendan O'Hare but Morrall stepped in to clear the danger. With half-time approaching, Deeley made space for Sinnott, who bore down on the Borough goal but he ballooned his effort high and wide as O'Connor came out to meet him. Borough hit back with Simpson losing his marker before cutting into the area and forcing a diving save from Russell.

The meagre crowd had hardly had time to settle down following half-time when Alec Brotherton put a back pass straight to Martyn Twigger in the penalty area, but he was slow to react and the chance was lost. A Simpson cross shot was half intercepted by Lennie Darby and Russell had to go down bravely at the feet of Carty. Twigger missed a golden opportunity when he was clean through with just the keeper to beat, but his tame shot was blocked by Russell. Borough were caught by a swift Racing counter attack on the hour mark that ended with Sinnott having a clear sight of goal but his effort lacked the power to trouble O'Connor.

Tony Donnelly came on to replace Simpson midway through the half and then Stevens got up well to a Nicky Andersen free-kick but his header looped over the bar. Borough had a let-off with 13 minutes left when Deeley got away on the left and crossed low into the area but Sinnott failed to make contact with the goal at his mercy. That sparked Borough into action and Mulholland hit a 25-yarder a foot wide of the post.

Borough continued to press and were unfortunate when both Morrall and Andersen had headers cleared off the line with Russell beaten. But two minutes from the end Borough's travelling support was stunned as Racing snatched the winner. Paul Crawford got away from the defenders on the right and his cross found Gary Wright, who stepped inside Banks to plant a low left-footer into the far corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 26-02-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Carty, Stevens, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Banks, Seivwright, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Jackson, Thompson.

Tamworth: Whitehead, Finn (Green 57), Wells, Hayward, Cartwright, Smith, Eccleston, Parker, Knight, Gordon, Morris. **Sub:** Gethfield.

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

Nuneaton were first to attack and Twigger hooked a shot wide after a neat build-up involving Andersen and Simpson. But Tamworth hit back and Bobby Parker got free on the right to pull back a cross that Mulholland put behind for a corner. The home side had a let-off in the tenth minute



after Mulholland foolishly played a free-kick across his own penalty area to put Carty in trouble. Russell Gordon won possession and sent Terry Knight clear, but the striker hammered his shot well over the top with only O'Connor to beat. Borough had a chance when Matt Whitehead only punched a Carty corner some five yards outside the box and Seivwright's first time volley dropped a foot over the top of a yawning goal.

Carty wasted a free-kick after Seivwright had been brought down just outside the area and then Andersen headed straight at the keeper from Simpson's free-kick. The Borough winger had a shot charged down after wriggling his way past two tackles and from the rebound Twigger's effort was deflected for a corner. It took a fine covering tackle from Mulholland to halt Knight just before the break.

Mulholland put a long range shot narrowly wide at the start of the second half, but five minutes after the break Gordon broke through and got away from Carty but O'Connor was quickly down to save the Tamworth striker's shot. Borough were fortunate not to go behind on the hour mark. They failed to clear Gordon's left wing corner and when Darren Morris knocked the ball back into the area, Steve Eccleston got in a header that rebounded off the Nuneaton crossbar.

Banks had a shot blocked by Sean Hayward after working a one-two with Twigger as Borough hit back before Parker was booked for a foul on Andersen. With 12 minutes to go, it took another fine save by O'Connor to keep out the visitors. David Wells curled in a free-kick from the left and the Borough defence allowed the ball to run across the area forcing O'Connor to fling himself at the feet of Gordon.

Shortly before the end a back-header by Banks from a left wing corner had keeper Whitehead at full stretch. Then in the closing seconds Carty had a glimpse of a chance following a neat build-up on the left but the Nuneaton full-back pulled his shot wide from the edge of the area.

Kelly Set To Take Control

Deposed chairman Noel Kelly was tonight poised to re-take control of trouble-torn Nuneaton Borough Football Club. The 54-year-old businessman, stripped of his chairmanship by a High Court order, has made an undisclosed offer to save the club which has been accepted by liquidator Mr Hedley Brunt. Mr Kelly said: "My offer has been accepted by the liquidators subject to contract. I have made a substantial deposit to ensure the liquidators have enough money to pay the players and keep the club going."

Today's news opens another chapter in the long-running saga of Nuneaton Borough FC which has seen boardroom battles and High Court hearings over the past three years which culminated in the liquidators being called in on December 18 last year.

There was a bitter confrontation between Mr Kelly and Mr Shooter, who was in Lincoln today and unavailable for

comment. But Mr Kelly, who despite court setbacks, made it clear he would never give up his fight to regain control at Manor Park, was obviously delighted that his offer had been accepted by Mr Brunt.

It is believed that Mr Brunt had considered four different bids for the Borough and he emphasised today that Mr Kelly's bid was subject to contract and if a higher offer were to be made that could be accepted. Mr Kelly said that if he had not deposited a substantial sum it could have meant the end for the Borough.

Players wanted to know where they stood and they would have had to have been released before the March 16 transfer deadline date. "We have the basis of a good team and of course the fans have been marvellous despite the happenings of the past four years. It proved that they hadn't deserted the club when 1,600 turned up for the Borough game against Tamworth," he said.

Mr Kelly, who said that he had the financial backing of 20 businessmen, revealed that he would be launching a Borough fighting fund next week. "An account will be opened at the NatWest Bank and the money will be used to save the club and ensure that essential safety work is carried out at the ground. The Borough must go for promotion. It would be tragic if this did not happen and promotion was denied because of lack of safety requirements," he said.

Borough Not Yet Saved

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has not yet been saved, liquidator Hedley Brunt has warned. Mr Brunt said the club's future was still uncertain after an offer by former chairman Noel Kelly was accepted, but it was "a step in the right direction." Mr Kelly's offer to buy the club has been accepted subject to contract but Mr Brunt said it would be weeks before it was finalised.

In the meantime he has told the players to carry on as normal, and play to win. Mr Brunt said: "The situation is simple, it's the same as selling a house subject to contract. All I can say is this is a step in the right direction. We are setting a deadline a few weeks ahead, but at this point I certainly cannot say the club is safe..."

Newport AFC v Nuneaton Borough

02-03-1991

Newport: Bird, Prew, Painter, Parselle, Rogers, Collicutt, Griffiths, Price (Jarvis), Foley, Ellis, Lillygreen. **Sub:** Harrison.

Borough: Gawman, Mulholland, Carty, Stevens, Morrall, Jones, Andersen, Banks, Seivwright (Donnelly 72), Twigger, Simpson (Jackson).

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

Borough were first to show when Mulholland slid a cross wide of the far post before Tony Simpson jinked his way inside two defenders but a Collicutt tackle snuffed out the danger. Martyn Twigger got up well to knock on a ball inside the area and Mark Jones was about to pounce when Andy Elliott got in a boot

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



to hook the ball out for a corner. Twigger put a shot into the side netting from Simpson's pass and then, after 24 minutes Tony Bird made a tremendous save to keep the Exiles on level terms. Gary Banks found some space on the left and his fierce cross-shot seemed destined for the net until Bird made a one-handed save. The keeper had another nervous moment when a Gary Stevens' shot bounced awkwardly and hit Bird on the shoulder but Collicutt was on hand to tidy up.

Chris Lilygreen was only inches away from turning the ball into the net from Parselle's centre before Borough went behind against the run of play. Paul Carty lost possession wide on the left, the ball was switched inside to Jason Prew, who tried his luck from 35 yards. Dave Gawman seemed to have the shot comfortably covered but somehow he allowed the ball in over his head. Stevens planted a header a foot wide from an Andersen cross.

Borough's hopes plunged even further three minutes after half-time as Newport extended their lead. A neat little through ball from Lilygreen opened up the Nuneaton defence and Will Foley easily slipped the ball past the unprotected Gawman. However, Borough were back in the hunt within 60 seconds with a goal by Andersen. Twigger broke clear through the middle and Bird did well to block the striker's shot but Andersen picked up the loose ball on the edge of the box and hammered a tremendous right-footer into the roof of the net.

Two minutes later Borough missed a fine opportunity as Banks was not picked up in the area as Mulholland swung in a centre, but he failed to connect with a free header from just six yards out. Borough still put the home defence under a lot of pressure and seemed quite capable of snatching an equaliser. But their hopes disintegrated after 68 minutes when the home side scored again. Mulholland needlessly gave away a free-kick wide on the left and when Painter floated it to the near post, Lilygreen got the merest of touches with his head to turn the ball into the net.

Mark Jones hooked a volley wide following a corner, but as Borough threw caution to the wind in their efforts to get back into the match they were being caught short at the back by Newport's fast-breaking forwards. Lilygreen put a shot wide as Gawman came out and then Ellis glanced a header wide of a gaping net. However, with two minutes left Newport put the final nail in Borough's coffin. A long ball out of defence found Foley free on the left and he squared the ball for substitute Dave Jarvis to score a simple fourth goal.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 09-03-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Banks, Carty, Stevens, Sugrue, Jones, Andersen, Seivwright (Morrall 71), Donnelly, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Thompson.
Leicester: Marsden, S. Potter (Heggs 45), Randell, Henderson, C. Tonge, A. Potter, Kee, Liquorish, Hallam, Robinson, D. Tonge. **Sub:** Conway.

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

Paul Carty put Borough in trouble early on when he lost

possession in midfield, but recovered to crowd out Alan Liquorish at the expense of a corner. Leicester continued to call the tune and it took a fine save by O'Connor, low to his left, to deny Mark Hallam when he had time and space behind the Borough defence. But Borough suddenly clicked into gear with two goals in a five minute spell. Leicester failed to clear a right wing corner in the 25th minute and Gary Stevens swivelled smartly to hit a left-footer into the bottom corner.



Gary Stevens fires in a low left-footer to put Borough into a 25th minute lead.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough should have been two up when a Twigger cross presented Donnelly with a gilt-edged opportunity but he slid his shot wide from six yards out. However, the groans quickly turned to cheers on the half-hour mark when Mark Jones won possession in midfield, quickly made ground and unleashed a tremendous 25 yard drive that dipped viciously over Ian Marsden and into the roof of the net. It took a fine covering tackle from Gary Banks to protect Borough's two goal lead nine minutes before the break.

Leicester were unlucky not to cut the deficit at the start of the second half when Mark Randell's cross was hit first time by Dave Tonge and rebounded off the crossbar. Simpson was only a foot wide of putting Borough three up with a cross-shot after dancing past two defenders but Nuneaton were unable to impose themselves. Leicester continually caused problems for the Borough back four and it came as no real surprise when United reduced the arrears after 65 minutes. Steve Kee swung in a deep cross from the right and Hallam rose to send a looping header into the far corner of the net.

That setback seemed to jolt Borough out of their lethargy and they hit back with Stevens slicing a shot wide. Donnelly failed to force the ball home from point blank range following a free-kick after Henderson had brought down Twigger on the edge of the box. But with twelve minutes left Nuneaton finally killed off Leicester when Simpson cut inside from the wing and his low left-foot shot beat Marsden on the near post.

Andersen then pulled a shot wide from the edge of the area and Twigger hooked an effort over the top as Borough ended the game in control.



Nuneaton Boro' v Sutton Coldfield Town 11-03-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Edwards (Twigger 63), Wilson, Thompson, Morrall, Sugrue, Andersen, Carty, Stevens, Andrews (Bartlett 77), Jackson.

Sutton: Belford, McKenzie, Richards, Keogh, Sturgeon, Hadland, Caulfield (Ling 75), Smith, Dale, Whitehouse (Sutor 65), Biddle.

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a M&B Cup second round tie.

Borough were first to threaten when Paul Carty stepped inside two defenders and his low right footer had Dale Belford sprawling low to his right to turn the ball away for a corner. A neat three-man move opened up the visitors' defence but Sugrue's shot from the edge of the box flew a couple of feet over the top. However, Nuneaton got the break they were looking for after 15 minutes, Thompson won possession and played a neat ball inside to Andersen, who curled a superb 20 yard effort wide of Belford's left hand and into the corner.

There was more trouble for Sutton as Carty sent Mick Andrews racing through but he snatched at his shot and the ball flew well off target from just inside the area. The visitors at last began to push forward but all their attacks were breaking down on the edge of the Borough box with O'Connor virtually a spectator.

Jackson wasted a promising opening early in the second half with a poor cross but the Royals hit back with Steve Morrall having to stretch to head away a deep centre from Gary Smith. But ten minutes after the restart Borough grabbed the vital second goal. Again it was Thompson who created the opening with a superb long through ball that put Andersen in behind the Sutton defence and he made no mistake.

Tony Hadland forced the first save of the evening from O'Connor with a long range effort. Substitute Simon Sutor made an immediate impact as he pulled back a neat ball for Mark Caulfield but his shot was way off target. However, 60 seconds later Sutton cut the deficit when Smith turned sharply inside the box, O'Connor seemed to have his shot covered but it took an awkward bounce and when the keeper failed to hold the ball, Sutor reacted quickly to slam the ball home from close range.

Belford had to go down bravely at Andersen's feet when Twigger back heeled the ball into the six yard box before there was some anxiety for the home side when Tony Dale found space on the edge of the box, but hooked his shot way over the top. Steve Bartlett crashed a shot against the Sutton bar before Thompson forced Belford into a diving save with a tremendous 30-yard cross-shot.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-03-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Banks, Wilson, Sugrue, Morrall (Andrews 22), Jones, Andersen, Thompson (Sievwright 76), Donnelly, Twigger, Simpson.

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

There was early danger for Borough when Chris Grocock broke into the left hand side of the area but he hit his shot way over the top. Dave Swainston then worked a neat one-two with Larry Burrell before pulling his shot into the side netting. In another Grantham raid Grocock's shot took a deflection, almost wrong footing Paul O'Connor and the keeper then nearly set up Paul Ward with a poor throw out.

Morrall was then helped off the field following a clash with Peter Whitehurst and after 32 minutes Borough stunned the home side as they took the lead with their first attack of real note. Ali Wilson and Sugrue combined to find Winston Thompson wide on the left just inside his own half. Despite being hemmed in by several Grantham players, Thompson hit a magnificent defence-splitting through ball for Andersen to race clear and coolly slip past Dale Foxcroft.

Borough were now bubbling and Simpson fired a cross-shot over the angle after Twigger had put him away. Simpson's free-kick straight from the restart almost crept in at the near post but Borough did not have to wait long for their second goal.

Just three minutes after the break Tony Donnelly put Simpson clear on the right and when Foxcroft could only parry the winger's low shot, Twigger pounced to slip the ball into an empty net. Borough were now in total control and it took a superb save by Foxcroft from Twigger's volley to prevent the home side from going further behind.

Nuneaton then produced a tremendous break with Simpson being brought down on the edge of the box after linking up with Twigger and from the ensuing free-kick Foxcroft again saved Grantham, superbly turning Andersen's fierce shot over the top. Any faint hopes that Grantham had of getting back into the game disappeared 13 minutes from the end when Jones timed his run to perfection onto Andersen's pass and he had no problem in beating Foxcroft for Borough's third.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 16-03-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Sugrue (Donnelly 70), Stevens, M. Jones, Andersen, Thompson, Andrews, Twigger, Simpson (Wilson 82).

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

With the rain lashing down Borough made a positive start with Gary Banks driving a first minute effort narrowly wide. Sugrue then cut out a John Snape through ball intended for Henry Wright before Borough pressed forward again and could have gone ahead after seven minutes when a neat move involving Winston Thompson, Stevens and Simpson got Nicky Andersen away down the middle but the midfielder dragged his shot wide from the edge of the box. There was more danger for the Glassboys when Mulholland intercepted a poor clearance from Derek Dudley, but the keeper made up for his mistake with a fine save to beat the full-back's shot away for a corner.

At this stage the league leaders had shown very little up front



but midway through the half Borough were in a tangle when Wright found some space on the left and his cross looked destined for the head of Simon Russon until Banks stepped in to clear the danger. But Borough went behind after 29 minutes. Stourbridge mounted a quick counter attack and Wright got clear on the left. His deep cross appeared to carry little threat but John Powell got the merest of deflections with his head and the ball crept in at the far corner.

Almost immediately Borough had a chance to get back on terms. Andersen freed Martyn Twigger in the box but his control let him down and John Horne recovered to clear. Then eight minutes before the interval Sugrue missed a golden opportunity. The Borough boss was clean through the middle but he put his effort wide as Dudley came out. Still Borough should have gone in on level terms as Twigger got round Dudley as he came out and pulled the ball back to Simpson, who somehow managed to screw the ball wide of a gaping net from eight yards.

Simpson looked to have the chance to make immediate amends after the restart when he seemed to be through, but Stourbridge skipper Horne managed to get in a foot to divert the shot for a corner. At the other end O'Connor gathered easily when Nigel Barrows put in a weak shot. Dudley flapped at a cross under pressure from Twigger and Andersen and Stourbridge were fortunate to scramble the ball to safety.

Borough had Stourbridge penned in their own half and with 15 minutes to go they again failed to accept a chance to square the game. Andersen again freed Simpson and the winger was clear in the box, but instead of shooting as Dudley came out he tried to go round the keeper, who got a hand to the eventual shot to deflect it over the bar. It was all Nuneaton and Stourbridge were extremely fortunate to hack the ball clear after a hectic scramble in their goalmouth.

Borough were caught out by a quick break and Wright's fierce shot seemed certain to find the top corner when O'Connor flew to his left to make a tremendous save. Borough were quickly back in control and six minutes from the end they must have finally realised that it was not going to be their day. Andersen perfectly met a right wing corner and his header had Dudley well beaten, but with the travelling fans celebrating a goal the ball hit a defender squarely on the head on the goal line and bounced out to safety. With the match moving into injury time Twigger was brought down by Dudley, but the referee waved away penalty appeals.

Borough Not Guaranteed Southern League Place

Nuneaton Borough have not been guaranteed a place in the Beazer Homes League premier division for next season – even if they complete essential ground improvement work in the next few weeks. That is the official word from the League in response to recent press reports that if the ground was brought up to the required standard promotion to the top flight would be a mere formality.

Former chairman Noel Kelly, who seems set to take over

again at Manor Park, claimed last week that if the work at the ground was done in time Borough had been guaranteed a place in the premier division by the Beazer Homes League.

Dennis Strudwick, secretary of the League, said: "The reports are totally incorrect. Neither Nuneaton Borough, nor any other club, have been guaranteed a place in the premier division for next season and I have spoken to no-one at the club concerning the matter," he added...

Kings Lynn v Nuneaton Borough

19-03-1991

Kings Lynn: Saunders, Shelton, Webster, Howard, Creane, Horwood, O'Keefe, Rippin, Gallagher, Reilly, McLaughlin (Fryatt). Sub: Saddleton. Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland (Bartlett 45), Wilson, Sugrue, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Donnelly, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Banks.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play Kings Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough could not have made a worse start and found themselves a goal down after only two minutes. Nicky Andersen's pass, intended for Dennis Mulholland, was intercepted by Steve McLaughlin, who raced forward before hitting a fierce drive into the roof of the net from 25 yards. Nuneaton surged forward looking for an equaliser and a fine build up on the right ended with Twigger finding Jones with his centre but the midfielder got underneath the ball and it flew over the top.

The Linnets then only cleared Tony Simpson's cross to the edge of the area but Carty's first-time shot did not bother Trevor Saunders as it flew over the top. But Borough's hopes nose-dived after ten minutes when the home side extended their lead with another soft goal. A long clearance caught the Nuneaton defence flat and when Lee Rippin flicked it on Paul O'Connor blocked Jackie Gallagher's close range effort but the King's Lynn striker forced the ball home.

At this stage the home side were a yard sharper than Borough but shortly before the interval Nuneaton began to find their feet and it took a solid tackle from Jed Creane to keep out Andersen after he had been released by Carty.

Borough badly needed a goal to get them back in the game and four minutes after the restart they almost got it. Simpson beat his man wide on the right, his centre was flicked on by Donnelly but Twigger saw his diving header superbly saved by Saunders. There was danger for Borough when Selwyn Shelton broke on the right but Mick Andrews recovered to head out the full-back's centre at the near post.

Midway through the half King's Lynn should have made it three-nil. Gallagher's free-kick found McLaughlin completely unmarked in the area but he wanted too much time and Carty robbed him. Sugrue made a superb break but his cross was cut out at the expense of corner and then Donnelly failed to get any power into his shot after Andersen and Twigger had combined to set him up. Borough had a penalty appeal turned down as Creane appeared to bring down Donnelly but the referee ignored the appeals and King's Lynn held on.



Nuneaton Borough v Bilston Town 23-03-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Thompson (Seivwright 65), Andrews, M. Jones, Andersen, Stevens, Sugrue (Twigger 53), Carty, Donnelly.

Bilston: Dulleston, Ward, G. Jones, Grant, Bowater, Walker (Taylor 71), Chappell, Richards, Branch, Evans, Chawner (Rhodes 59).

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

Borough were quickly into their stride with Thompson having an early shot charged down and then a flowing four man move was halted when Sugrue was brought down on the edge of the area. Andrews was in swiftly to cut out the danger as Mick Richards was moving onto a through ball by John Branch, but Nuneaton were in the driving seat and it came as no surprise when they took the lead after ten minutes. Carty beat the offside trap and raced clear but as he went round Dulleston he was pulled down by the keeper. Carty calmly stroked the ball into the bottom right hand corner.

There was a scramble in the Bilston goalmouth and when the ball fell to Andersen he seemed set to score but Grant threw himself in front of the shot to turn the ball away for a corner. However, Nuneaton were not to be denied and after 22 minutes they got the second goal. Carty was the architect, finding space on the right and cutting the ball back for Andersen to score with a low shot that took a deflection on its way into the net.

Andrews produced a superb tackle to deny Richards and shortly before the interval Bilston's leading scorer had a free header, but failed to get any power, allowing Stevens to clear, while at the other end Carty blasted a shot high over the top.

The Steelmen pushed forward at the start of the second half as they looked for a way back into the game and Evans sliced a shot well off target from just outside the area after Richards had created a glimpse of an opening. But Borough were soon back in control and Dulleston had to go full length to keep out Donnelly's shot.

Borough continued to dominate the play with Seivwright firing a shot straight at Dulleston and Carty having another effort deflected for a corner. Two minutes before the end Borough made it 3-0. Andersen freed Mulholland and when he whipped a centre in from the right the whole Bilston defence was taken by surprise as it crept in at the near post.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 26-03-1991

Atherstone: Spencer, Redgate, Upton, Whetton (P. Wilson 78), Olnier, Randle, Parker, Green, Bradder, Bodkin (Abell 60), Gorrie.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Anderseen, Thompson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Jackson, A. Wilson.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a M&B Cup semi-final tie.

There was an early problem for Borough when Paul O'Connor dropped the ball after a mid-air collision with Gary Banks.

But the keeper quickly gathered the loose ball. Borough's response was immediate with Paul Carty getting in behind the home defence onto Tony Simpson's crossfield pass but he hooked his shot well off target. Gary Bradder brought a diving save from O'Connor but Borough almost snatched the lead after 15 minutes. Winston Thompson intercepted Bradder's pass and found Carty who jinked inside two defenders before curling a right footer that Spencer fingertipped away.

But five minutes later Borough were in front. Redgate gave away a free-kick on the edge of the area and when Nicky Andersen knocked the ball into the box Twigger scored with a header at the near post. Adders almost snatched an immediate equaliser when Bobby Parker found space, but O'Connor saved his 20-yard shot at the second attempt. Bradder had a free-kick deflected over the top as Adders continued to look for an equaliser, but shortly before the break Borough should have had a penalty when Twigger moved onto a pass by Andersen and was brought down from behind by Randle, but the referee waved play on.

Simpson was crowded out as he broke into the penalty area at the start of the second half and Carty fired a cross shot wide. But Borough had a scare when they got themselves in trouble. They failed to clear and Parker pounced to flash a shot across the face of goal. But Adders hopes of getting back into the match disappeared after 64 minutes when Borough stretched their lead. Randle, under pressure from Carty handled in the area and Twigger gave Spencer no chance as he hammered the spot kick into the roof of the net.

Carty had a shot blocked by Randle before Spencer made a tremendous save to stop the home side from falling further behind. The Adders' defence was in a mess and when the ball came into the box Twigger hit a fierce volley that was destined for the net but Spencer blocked the effort and then gathered at the second attempt. Then in the dying seconds Borough had a glorious chance of a third goal. Simpson burst through the middle but with only one Atherstone defender in sight he chose to go it alone instead of laying the ball off to the unmarked Twigger and the chance was gone.

Borough Creditors Fear Losing Money

Creditors owed more than £265,000 by Nuneaton Borough FC have been told they will be lucky if they receive 20p in the pound and even that could take another 12 months.

Borough liquidator, Hedley Brunt, told a creditors' meeting that more than £27,000 had to be paid to National Westminster Bank and £20,000 to preferential creditors before they would get a penny. Meanwhile, Noel Kelly, former club chairman, has until the end of April to put forward a financial package to Mr Brunt who will then decide the fate of the club.

Mr Graham Wilson, of Newdegate Printers, who are owed money from the club, said: "The meeting was a bit of a non-event really. Creditors were told they might get a fifth of what they are owed."...

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 30-03-1991

Bedworth: McArthur, Wilkins (Osborne 67), Kane, Brain, Piggon (Hamilton 67), Smithers, Hamill, Chapman, McBean, Moller, Thomas.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks (Wilson 82), Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thompson (Sievwright), Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

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

Bedworth were first to threaten and Paul Thomas put Ian Brain through, but Gary Stevens harried him into a hurried shot that Paul O'Connor easily gathered. Stuart Hamill then freed Peter Wilkins on the right but his cross was headed wide by Thomas. Borough might have snatched the lead from their first attack. Winston Thompson and Gary Banks combined to get Nicky Andersen into space, but his cross was hit straight at Gavin McArthur by Mark Jones. Carty put a shot wide before Borough had a let off when Mulholland's hurried back pass sailed over O'Connor and clipped the outside of the post.

Adrian Piggon blocked Carty's goalbound shot after Thompson and Simpson had created the chance, but a minute later Borough were ahead. Thompson's through ball sent Twigger clear and he calmly stroked the ball past the advancing keeper. Peter McBean had a glorious chance to snatch an equaliser, but O'Connor was out quickly to deny the Bedworth striker. The Greenbacks were to regret that miss as Borough extended their lead just two minutes later. Andersen's long, raking free-kick was neatly headed down by Twigger and Carty unleashed a fierce right footer that flew inside the near post.



Paul Carty forces the ball home for Borough's third goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

O'Connor was quickly off his line to prevent McBean reaching Hamill's long ball early in the second half and Campbell Chapman drilled a left-footer inches wide from the edge of the box. But any hopes that Bedworth had of salvaging anything from the game disappeared after 61 minutes as Nuneaton grabbed a third goal. Carty started the move with a great crossfield ball inside the full-back for Simpson. The winger quickly made ground and Bedworth failed to get away his centre and Carty forced the ball home from close

range. Bedworth's attacks were consistently thwarted by Borough's solid defensive pairing of Gary Stevens and Mick Andrews, however, midway through the half McBean had a chance, but O'Connor was quickly off his line to block the shot and Stevens completed the clearance. Borough hit back and Twigger turned over Simpson's cross at the near post. Borough should have been further ahead with 15 minutes to go but McArthur smothered Carty's shot.

But five minutes later it was 4-0. Simpson had a shot blocked and when the Greenbacks failed to get the ball clear, Banks headed in from close range. The home side were looking very ragged but could have grabbed a consolation with seven minutes to go, but O'Connor made a brilliant save. To rub salt into Bedworth's wounds, Borough grabbed their fifth goal two minutes later. Wilson swung a free-kick to the far post, Andersen knocked the ball in and when Jones had a shot blocked, Simpson pounced to score from six yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 01-04-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks (Wilson 77), Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thompson (Sievwright 45), Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Hinckley: Hewitt, P. Jones (Robinson 14), Purser, Williams, Tedds, Wilcox, Akeredolu, Massey, Childs (Worthington 87), Taylor, Whitmore.

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

Borough began brightly enough with Paul Carty producing two penetrating runs down the left. But the visitors took a shock lead with their first attack. Nuneaton should have had a free-kick, but the referee awarded a corner and when it was flicked on at the near post Ku Akeredolu was unmarked to plant a firm header past O'Connor. Borough then had a let-off when they were caught pushing forward and Jim Childs' through ball sent Whitmore racing in on goal but he put a poor lob over the top. But Borough went two down after ten minutes with another gift. Colin Taylor floated a free-kick to the far post and Akeredolu again rose unchallenged to head back across the keeper and into the top corner.

Borough were out of luck after 18 minutes as Andrews got in a header from Simpson's cross. Dennis Hewitt tipped the ball onto the post and it rebounded and hit the keeper on the back before Akeredolu cleared off the line. Two minutes later Twigger went clean through on the keeper but put his shot over the bar. However there was no respite for Borough as Mick Andrews brought down Akeredolu as he turned in the area and Taylor had no trouble in converting the spot-kick.

Borough were living dangerously as they pushed forward and it took a fine save from O'Connor to block Andy Massey's shot after he had got clean through the middle. Dave Tedds was unlucky with an overhead shot that hit the crossbar but seconds before the interval Town got a fourth goal with Taylor firing in a free-kick from wide on the left that went straight into the net on the near post.

Carty missed a clear-cut chance to cut the deficit three

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



minutes after the restart, hooking the ball high over the top from the edge of the six yards box after Twigger had set up the opportunity. Borough had now come to life and Carty dragged a shot across the face of the Hinckley goal as they had to do some serious defending. Eleven minutes into the second period Borough pulled a goal back. Gary Stevens headed on a free-kick by Gary Banks and Twigger raced in to head past Hewitt. The visitors were fortunate to scramble the ball away when Twigger headed a Simpson centre back across goal and then Carty was only inches away from turning in Andersen's cross.

Kevin Seivwright was crowded out in the area after a neat one-two with Carty and then Andersen saw his close range shot turned away for a corner by the sprawling Hewitt. Akeredolu hit a long distance shot way over the top in a rare Hinckley raid but Borough were soon back in control with Carty's fierce strike being deflected for a corner. In the closing moments, Seivwright saw his lob curl inches over the top with Hewitt beaten and Stevens flashed a header into the side netting with virtually the last touch of the match.

Willenhall Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-04-1991

Willenhall: Webb, Harrison, Love, Rich, Freeman, Kirkham (Beattie 45), Walker, Edwards, Allen, Blake, Smith. **Sub:** Tolley.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Wilson, Stevens, Andrews, Seivwright, Thompson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Jackson, Donnelly.

Borough travelled to Noose Lane to play Willenhall Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride with the howling wind and rain at their backs and could have been ahead as early as the fifth minute with Simpson missing a clear-cut opportunity. Mick Andrews sent the winger racing clear but he dragged his shot a foot wide of the far post with just Webb to beat. Two minutes later Borough were denied a penalty for a foul on Paul Carty. Gary Stevens freed Martyn Twigger on the right and his deep cross had the home defence in all kinds of trouble but Webb rescued the situation by jumping all over Carty with the ball three yards away.

Twigger failed to control Simpson's low cross into the penalty area before Andy Rich's back-pass almost let in Simpson. It was all Borough but Stevens had to be alert when a long ball caught them pushing forward. Webb punched out a left wing corner under pressure from Stevens and then another dreadful back pass put Twigger clear but he sliced his shot wide. Shortly before the break Paul O'Connor was happy to grab Blake's shot at the second attempt after it had taken a nasty bounce following Willenhall's first shot of the game.

O'Connor had to get down quickly to an Adrian Edwards shot at the start of the second half but Willenhall were again in trouble from yet another poorly-directed back-pass, this time from Mark Freeman. However, Rich managed to get a touch, diverting the ball away from Carty. Borough had a let-off mid-way through the half. Ali Wilson played a back pass straight

into the path of Blake in the area but he wanted too much time and O'Connor smothered the ball at his feet. Borough replied with a run from Simpson that took him into the area but Neil Harrison half blocked his shot and Webb gathered comfortably. Willenhall wasted a fine opening after Stevens was caught in possession. Blake broke clear and the home side had a four on two situation but the striker tamely rolled a weak shot straight at O'Connor.

Clive Walker put a header across the face of the Nuneaton goal after Edwards had flicked on Love's free-kick but four minutes from the end Borough made the vital breakthrough. Love felled Thompson with a lunging tackle on the edge of the area. Mulholland hammered in a fierce shot from the free-kick that Webb could only parry and Simpson made no mistake from the rebound.

Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch

08-04-1991

Borough: O'Connor (Jackson 61), Mulholland, Wilson, Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Seivwright (Donnelly 44), Thompson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Alvechurch: McLaren, Humphrys, Morgan, Williams, Hart, Copeland, Richardson, Fullerton, Volrath, Hylton (Austin 83), Heeley. **Sub:** Condley.

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

Borough could not have wished for a better start as they swept ahead after just three minutes. Alvechurch still seemed to be trying to organise their defensive wall when Carty calmly stroked a free-kick from the edge of the area into the bottom right hand corner of the net. Carty then flashed a centre across the face of the visitors' goal, but Borough did not have to wait long to increase their advantage. Gary Stevens crossed from the left, Mick Hart sliced his attempted clearance, Brian Williams' back pass left Ian McLaren stranded and Twigger hammered the ball into the empty net.

Alan Hylton put a header straight at O'Connor as Alvechurch pushed forward but Borough missed a gilt-edged opportunity of making it 3-0 with Twigger stabbing his shot wide from close range. McLaren did well to punch out Wilson's left wing cross under pressure from Twigger and Mick Andrews put a header straight into the keeper's arms when Carty swung a free-kick deep into the area. Royston Richardson crowded out Mark Jones as he burst into the box before Kevin Seivwright broke clear just before the interval, but pushed the ball too far ahead, collided with the keeper and had to be replaced by Donnelly.

Alvechurch perked up a bit at the start of the second half with Lee Humphrys firing a 25-yard effort just wide, while Andrews had to show his defensive qualities to hold off Hylton. Borough were fortunate not to concede after 57 minutes when Stevens appeared to tread on the ball and lost possession, leaving Simon Volrath to race clear, although he put a weak shot straight at O'Connor.

Twigger caused problems for the visitors with a deep centre to the far post as Borough hit back and then Thompson

hooked a shot wide after Simpson had set up an opportunity. But Nuneaton put the game out of reach of Alvechurch as they grabbed a third goal after 71 minutes. McLaren did well to cut out Simpson's corner but he lost possession and Donnelly quickly knocked the ball back into the box and Twigger scored with a close range header.

Simpson should have made it four, shooting at the keeper after Donnelly had put him clear and then the winger was denied a blatant penalty with the referee choosing to ignore his flagging linesman when Simpson was pulled back by Ian Morgan as he cut in from the right. However, Borough got their just reward in the dying seconds with the best goal of the night. Thompson burst forward from midfield, played a delightful one-two with Simpson and calmly went round the keeper before sweeping the ball into an empty net.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-04-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Banks, Wilson, Stevens, Richards, Jones, Andersen, Thompson (Mulholland), Donnelly, Twigger, Simpson (Jackson).

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

Borough faced an early threat when Archie King fastened on a half-clearance and his 25-yard shot whistled a foot wide of Paul O'Connor's left hand post. Donnelly just failed to get on the end of Mick Andrews' cross before Gary Stevens put a header well wide of the target from a Banks' cross. Darren Riley was happy to put Tony Simpson's centre behind for a corner after Kevin Foster had failed to get the ball away. But Borough got the breakthrough they were hoping for after 22 minutes. Simpson found Donnelly in space on the right and when the centre came in Mark Jones rose to send a glancing header past Paul Hayward.

Malcolm completely missed with a volley when unmarked in the Borough penalty area as Hednesford looked for an equaliser, while at the other end Stevens guided a header inches wide with Hayward beaten. But the home side snatched a surprise leveller seconds before half-time. Borough only cleared a Richard White cross to the edge of the penalty area and King scored with a low shot through a crowd of players.

Hednesford, boosted by their equaliser, stepped up a gear at the start of the second half with Borough being pressed back for the first time in the match. Jimmy Brown wasted a promising opportunity after a neat Hednesford build-up on the left and then Paul O'Connor scrambled a shot around a post for a corner. Borough's hopes rose as Donnelly found space in the area but his shot took a deflection and flew a foot wide of the target.

But Borough were caught stretched on their right flank as Brown drilled a low shot across the face of their goal before the home side took the lead after 72 minutes. Borough were in trouble from a corner, Malcolm got in a header and when Andrews blocked it on the goal line Foster forced the rebound

into the net. However, battling Borough were back on level terms within five minutes. Twigger had an effort cleared off the line after Stevens had knocked down an Ali Wilson free-kick and when the home side failed to get the ball away, Andersen knocked it back into the area and Donnelly took it down superbly before thumping a rising drive way beyond the reach of Hayward.

Then, with the game already in injury time and everything pointing towards a draw, Dennis Mulholland played a shocking back pass straight to Joe O'Connor and Hednesford's leading scorer gratefully accepted the gift. It was a bitter end to a game that Borough could easily have won.

West Bromwich Albion v Nuneaton Boro' 16-04-1991

West Brom: Naylor, Dobbins, Ehiogu, Strodder, Rogers (Price 69), Harbey (Colcombe 69), Pritchard, McNally, Foster, West, Palmer.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Wilson (Donnelly 59), Banks, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thompson, Carty (Jackson 80), Twigger, Simpson.

Borough travelled to The Hawthorns to play West Bromwich Albion in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

There was an early problem for Borough when Colin West fed Wayne Dobbins wide on the right and he picked out Adrian Foster with a low cross but the centre-forward steered his shot a foot wide of the post. Andrews made a good interception to halt McNally before Dobbins stepped inside Ali Wilson and curled a shot inches over the top. But Borough gradually began to get a grip and Ugo Ehiogu had to step in smartly to turn a Nicky Andersen through ball back to his keeper. Andersen freed Carty and he cut inside from the left to hit a fierce right footer that Naylor could not hold but the keeper blocked Tony Simpson's follow-up effort and was happy to grab the ball at the second attempt.



Mark Jones gets above the Albion defence but his header was inches off target.
Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

O'Connor turned over Foster's left-footer and McNally failed to trouble the keeper with a low free-kick from the edge of the area and then West fired a weak shot over the top. Palmer sliced a wild shot well wide after getting clear of Banks but three minutes before the interval Albion took the lead. Borough were slow to get the ball away and Palmer found

space to hammer in a low shot that O'Connor did well to beat away but West was on hand to push in the rebound. Seconds before half-time Carty swung in a corner and Jones outjumped the Albion defence but his header was a foot wide.



Martyn Twigger lays the ball off as he is challenged by Ugo Ehiogu.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Twigger was almost through with Gary Strodder doing just enough to take the sting out of the shot and Borough were unfortunate in not getting an equaliser as Carty played a superb one-two with Andersen and burst into the area only to see Naylor block the shot with his feet. Twigger was fouled on the edge of the area and Winston Thompson curled the free-kick a foot over the top. Carty freed Donnelly wide on the left and when he whipped over the centre Jones again beat the Albion defence but his header was off target.

Mulholland freed Simpson and the winger twisted his way inside to feed Andersen, whose shot was charged down, and then Carty burst into the area and Strodder was content to halt the danger by hooking the ball out. O'Connor kept Borough in the game with a fine save at the feet of Dobbins and Foster put the rebound wide. But with just four minutes remaining, Albion put the game out of Borough's reach. McNally got possession in midfield and from fully 30 yards hit a cracking drive into the top right hand corner.

Twigger almost pulled a goal back when he got into the area and went through the joint efforts of Naylor and Strodder but Lyndon Price kicked off the line. Then in the closing seconds Andersen freed Russell Jackson with a superb ball inside the full-back. His shot was brilliantly saved by the diving Naylor.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town

20-04-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thompson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Wilson, Donnelly.

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

Borough were first to show but Mick Andrews' back-heel from Tony Simpson's corner was wide of the post. Shaun Diver found himself in space on the left but his shot-cum-cross went out for a goal kick. Borough suddenly clicked into gear and surged ahead after just 12 minutes with Twigger's 40th goal of the season. Carty whipped in a centre from wide on the left, Jones dived to send a tremendous header crashing against Richard King's right hand post and Twigger reacted quickly to head in the rebound.

Borough then produced a great build-up down the left and Carty's centre to the far post had the Corby defence at full stretch until Steve Hines stepped in to turn the ball away for a corner. The visitors were fortunate when Andersen headed on Simpson's free-kick to give Twigger a glimpse of goal, but the ball bounced a bit high and Corby scrambled it clear. There was danger for Borough when Lawrenson freed Graham Archer and when the former Liverpool ace flicked on the low centre, Diver put a looping header well over the top.

Nuneaton hit back and Hines just cut out Andersen's through ball with Twigger lurking and then seven minutes before the break Borough missed a chance to increase their lead. Corby were again stretched by a quick break down the left and Andersen found Simpson in space just inside the area but the winger dragged his shot wide of the post.

But Nuneaton did not have to wait long for their reward as they got a second goal two minutes after the break with a superb strike from Carty. Twigger and Simpson worked a neat one-two and the winger raced clear before slipping the ball square to Carty who scored with a low shot just inside the far post. However, Borough's joy was short-lived as Corby were back in the hunt as they cut the deficit just three minutes later with a goal that left the Borough players both bemused and fuming as the referee inexplicably gave the visitors a free kick when Stevens cleared the ball and Pat Rayment scored with a low shot just inside Paul O'Connor's right hand post.

Borough stormed back to produce the perfect response as just six minutes later they restored their two-goal advantage. Simpson got clear on the right and Jones went full-length to head in the winger's low centre at the near post. However, Corby cut the deficit with a goal on the hour, superbly fashioned by Lawrenson. The years were rolled back as the former Anfield favourite left three men trailing in his wake, pulled the Borough defence out of position before rolling the ball square to Matt Murphy, who had the simple task of beating O'Connor from close range. O'Connor then beat out Archer's close range header and Keeble put the rebound over the top.

But Borough quickly regained control and they should have



made the game safe with Twigger failing to hit the target twice in the space of 60 seconds with just the keeper to beat. Andersen put the striker clear in the 73rd minute with a deft header but Twigger pushed his shot wide and then the Borough striker saw an effort bounce off King's knees after Andersen again had provided the opening. Lawrenson might have put the Corby back on level terms when he headed over the top before Borough again hit back with Winston Thompson putting Simpson in on goal with a fine ball inside the full-back, but the Borough man's shot was deflected a foot wide.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1991

Barry: Roberts, Lindo, Blackie, Thomas, Pontin, John, Curtis, Williams, Love (Evans 86), Burrows (Withers 76), Matthews.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Wilson, Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thomson, Carty, Twigger (Donnelly 74), Simpson. Sub: Morrall.

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

Barry tested Borough's back four with a series of high balls in the early stages but with Mick Andrews in dominant form the Welshmen posed little threat. Nuneaton sprang to life with Nicky Andersen splitting the home defence with a super through ball to put Paul Carty clear with just the keeper to beat but the Borough man put a tame effort straight into the arms of John Roberts. However, Barry did not benefit from that let-off as Borough were ahead just 60 seconds later thanks to an own goal from home centre half Keith Pontin.

Carty's cross from the left was not cleared. Tony Simpson quickly knocked the ball back into the six yards box where Pontin planted a close range header into his own net. Barry pressed forward as they looked for an equaliser and Tony Williams had a shot deflected for a corner off Gary Stevens after Ian Love had set up the chance. Andersen fired a 20 yarder a foot wide following a fine three-man build-up. Nuneaton had an opportunity when Simpson robbed Ray John and found Andersen. The midfielder flicked it on to give Twigger a clear sight of goal but he shot high and wide.

Three minutes after the break Barry could have been back on level terms. The visitors' defence failed to clear a free-kick from Curtis and when the ball broke to Wayne Matthews he hit a fierce right footer that Mark Jones did well to block. But Borough quickly switched play to the other end and when Andersen freed Carty on the left, he drilled a low centre across the face of the home goal with no one able to get a touch. Twigger was denied by Roberts following Andersen's flick-on.

On the hour Borough had Paul O'Connor to thank for still being in front when he did superbly well to fingertip an acrobatic overhead effort from Love onto the bar. But four minutes later Barry got the goal they had been threatening. Borough gave the ball away deep in their opponents half and when the Welshmen broke quickly, Curtis produced a superb deep cross and the unmarked Love headed home at the far post. Ten minutes from the end Simpson missed a chance

of snatching a winner, pulling his shot wide of the left-hand post after Andersen had opened up the home defence. However, Andrews had to produce a fine covering tackle to halt Matthews as he threatened to break through before Borough failed to accept another chance with the game into injury time. Andersen sent Carty into the area, but instead of shooting as Roberts came out to try to plug the gap the Borough front man veered wide and eventually ran out of space before putting the ball out for a goal kick.

Hopes High Of Saving Club

Hopes were high today that an 11th hour deal will be clinched to save crisis-torn Nuneaton Borough from the axe. Liquidator Mr Hedley Brunt said he was hoping to make an announcement "very shortly" which would safeguard soccer at Manor Park for next season. He said that he was more optimistic than he had been for a long while that it is possible to sell the club.

"The deal will not go through immediately of course, because as with other contracts involving the sale of property, the legal work will take about a month or so. But I went to see people last night and I am hopeful I can sell the club to either Mr Noel Kelly or this group of anonymous people..."

Nuneaton Borough v Stroud 29-04-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Wilson, Stevens, Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thomson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Morrall, Donnelly.

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

Nuneaton took a grip in the early stages without really threatening Steve Weaver in the visitors' goal, in fact it was Stroud who had the first goal attempt with David Wiffill slicing a shot well wide. But Borough were penning Stroud back in their own half and Jones hooked a shot a foot wide before Nuneaton broke the deadlock after 18 minutes. Weaver failed to hold an Andersen shot after a neat Borough build-up and when Tony Simpson knocked the ball back into the goalmouth Jones arrived late at the far post to head home.

Borough continued to call the tune and Martyn Twigger steered a close range effort wide after Winston Thompson had mishit a shot from the edge of the area. But Borough were caught square at the back after 27 minutes and when Richard Brown broke into the box and went round Paul O'Connor, the young keeper brought him down. But he made amends by going full length to his left to save Rich Dunn's spot kick. However, three minutes later Nuneaton were not so fortunate. Ali Wilson was harshly adjudged to have brought down Simon Darlaston and this time Mark Williams made no mistake from the spot.

Four minutes later the home fans were stunned as Phil Shrimpton headed Stroud in front after Martin Grimshaw had flicked on a right wing corner. Simpson had a shot deflected narrowly wide for a corner as Borough hit back and Jones fired a rising drive a foot over the top from 20 yards.

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Nuneaton pressed forward at the start of the second half as they looked for an equaliser and Simpson dragged a shot a yard wide of the far post after cutting inside from the right. But five minutes after the restart, Borough were level. Simpson swung a right wing corner in to the near post and Stevens forced home a close range header.

The big central defender was then in action at the other end with a fine saving tackle on Darlaston who looked like breaking into the area. Midway through the half Borough were out of luck when they were denied by the woodwork. Simpson's cross found Twigger who saw his header hit the bar and fly over the top. Borough's top scorer then had a header saved low down by Weaver before Dennis Mulholland had the visiting keeper at full stretch to turn his first-time shot away for a corner. In the dying seconds both Carty and Twigger went close to scoring the winner but were denied by some brave keeping from Weaver as Stroud held out for a draw.

Borough May Be Saved

The future of troubled club Nuneaton Borough took another turn today when a group of businessmen revealed they had first refusal on the Manor Park ground. The new consortium, which does not include either former chairman Noel Kelly or Joe Shooter, said it now hoped to complete a deal in three to four weeks.

The group would not reveal how much it was bidding for the club nor disclose a full list of the consortium's members. Mr Gordon Chislett, one of the new group, said: "At this stage we have been asked by the liquidator to keep a low profile. He has had so many promises and nobody has come up with the money. We have bought an option to purchase the ground, but we have been asked not to disclose the amount of that cheque. It is now up to us to complete the legal matters and come up with the pounds, shillings and pence."

Mr Chislett, who runs Godiva Bar Supplies in Coventry, said their offer had been prompted by his partner, Nuneaton man Roger Stanford. "He has been a lifelong supporter and he just turned round to me and said he wouldn't mind being a director. So I said we should put a bid in," Mr Chislett said. He said if their deal went ahead the club would re-open as Nuneaton Borough AFC 1991...

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 09-05-1991

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland (Donnelly 90), Banks, Stevens (Morrall 20), Andrews, Jones, Andersen, Thompson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson.

Moor Green: Allen, Rowley, Clegg, Coy, Busst, Morris, Davies, Taylor, Russell (Angoy 119), Fearon (Evans 116), Allbutt.

Borough travelled to The Hawthorns to play Moor Green in the final of the Midland Floodlit Cup.

Borough were unlucky not to go ahead after only two minutes when Mick Andrews soared above the Moors defence for a Mulholland free-kick but his header rebounded off the crossbar. Mulholland fired a rising drive wide after a deep

cross from Paul Carty. Andrews had to be alert to halt Guy Russell with a timely interception and then O'Connor plucked a Russell header out of the top left hand corner. Borough hit back with a superb move as Nicky Andersen won possession in the centre circle and found Carty. He beat Wayne Rowley for pace and from the centre Twigger powered a header wide of the near post. Carty then made a break on the opposite flank and turned inside to Tony Simpson who saw his shot cannon to safety off the keeper.

Morris pulled a shot off target before Simpson produced a bit of magic on the left, beating two men as he cut into the area before pulling the ball back to Andersen but his shot was deflected for a corner.

Twigger shot into the side netting early in the second period and then David Busst did well to head clear from Simpson's inswinging corner. Gary Banks hooked an Allbutt cross away from the lurking Taylor. Borough had O'Connor to thank that they were still on level terms on the hour mark when he went full length to his left to fingertip a fierce 20 yarder from Taylor onto the left hand post. Borough replied in positive fashion with Twigger drilling a centre across the face of the goal. But with 67 minutes gone Borough broke through. Andersen knocked a diagonal ball into the area. Busst and the keeper made a hash of things and Twigger quickly stepped in to hammer the ball into an empty net.

Moors pushed forward but Borough hit them with a magnificent break as Andersen found Simpson, whose cross was headed over by Carty. O'Connor made a superb save from Dave Fearon before Moor Green got the equaliser. Taylor found space on the edge of the area and he seemed to mishit his shot but the ball found its way into the net. But Moors celebrations were cut short as Borough went back into the lead after Simpson sent Andersen away and he was brought down in the area. Twigger made no mistake from the spot.

However, with just four minutes remaining Moor Green found a second equaliser. Winston Thompson lost possession in midfield, Davies broke clear and squared the ball for Fearon to score from close in. With the seconds ticking away O'Connor denied Fearon with a magnificent save.

Borough's hopes nose-dived four minutes into the first period of extra-time when Davies got free and Russell forced the ball home on the near post. Jones glanced a header a foot wide from Carty's free-kick as Borough looked for a way back but they were fortunate when Davies shot high over the top after a mess-up in the Nuneaton back four. Banks forced Allen into a full-length save early in the second period but Nuneaton's limping wounded were now finding it difficult and shortly before the end Moors scored twice in less than 60 seconds. With four minutes left, Taylor turned the ball into the area for Wayne Rowley to score. Straight from the restart, Borough were caught pushing forward by a long through ball and Davies was all alone to calmly chip the ball over the advancing O'Connor to complete a happy night for Moors.

Southern League Midland Division 1990-91

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stourbridge	42	28	6	8	80	48	90
Corby Town	42	27	4	11	99	48	85
Hednesford Town	42	25	7	10	79	47	82
Tamworth	42	25	5	12	84	45	80
*Nuneaton Borough	42	21	11	10	74	51	70
Barry Town	42	20	7	15	61	48	67
Newport	42	19	6	17	54	46	63
King's Lynn	42	17	9	16	53	62	60
Grantham Town	42	17	7	18	62	56	58
Redditch United	42	16	10	16	66	75	58
Hinckley Town	42	16	9	17	72	68	57
Sutton Coldfield Town	42	15	11	16	56	65	56
Bedworth United	42	15	9	18	57	73	54
Bilston Town	42	14	9	19	69	79	51
Leicester United	42	14	10	18	65	77	51
Racing Club Warwick	42	12	13	17	56	65	49
Bridgnorth Town	42	13	9	20	62	74	48
Stroud	42	11	14	17	51	64	47
Dudley Town	42	11	13	18	48	73	46
Alvechurch	42	10	8	24	54	92	38
Willenhall Town	42	10	10	22	58	69	37
Spalding United	42	8	9	25	35	70	33

* 4 Points Deduction

Mulholland Player Of The Year



Dennis Mulholland has capped an outstanding season by lifting the Nuneaton Borough “Player of the Year” award. The popular full-back received the reward for his efforts at the True Blues annual presentation evening held recently at the Co-op Sports Club in Dugdale Street.

Skipper Nicky Andersen won the vote for the “Away Player of the Year” while the top Reserves honour went to Sean

Bateman. On the Youth Team front, David Hart was the “Player of the Year”, with the “Players’ Player of the Year” award going to John Brindley.

Pictured with their trophies are, back row, from left to right: David Hart, John Brindley. Front row, from left: Nicky Andersen, Dennis Mulholland, Sean Bateman.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Optimism Over Borough Future

The future of troubled club Nuneaton Borough could be secured within a few weeks if a new deal is agreed involving a consortium of businessmen. A decision is due any time now by liquidator Hedley Brunt and the consortium of businessmen are in optimistic spirits as they await a finalised contract.

Mr Gordon Chislett, one of the new consortium members, said: “Things are progressing and we are optimistic that the deal will come off in the near future. It is like buying a house in that until a contract is signed we have not got it.

“Our solicitors are working on it at the moment and when it is signed and sealed we promise the club will have a completely new start.”

Race Against Time To Save Borough

Worried businessmen face a desperate race against time to safeguard soccer at Nuneaton Borough next season. Fixtures at the Manor Park ground are hanging in the balance after police and fire chiefs warned that if repair work isn’t carried out, they will refuse to give the club a safety certificate. And the club has just three weeks to make sure the ground comes up to stringent safety standards.

But businessmen heading a consortium aiming to buy the crisis-hit Borough out of liquidation claim they are in a cruel Catch 22 situation.

They say they can’t start any repair work at Manor Park until they sign contracts and technically buy the club.

Minor hitches have delayed the buy-out and now they are urging solicitors involved in the purchase to speed up the deal so they can try and have the work completed before an inspection in three weeks’ time.

Mr Gordon Chislett, one of the businessmen involved in the buy-out bid, today asked for a meeting with safety chiefs in a bid to win them a stay of execution.”

He said: “I am very optimistic the deal will be completed very shortly and we are at a very advanced stage of purchase, but we can do absolutely nothing at the moment to implement ground repair work.

“I am hoping to meet up with the fire safety team and ask them to tell us exactly what is wrong and tell us what the problems are so we can sort it out. We’re not stupid, we know work needs to be carried out and quick. For example the pitch is in a diabolical state...”

Hinckley Town — Preliminary Round

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup Preliminary Round tie.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Waters, Keogh, McDonald, Anderson, Spence, Doig (Donnelly 78), Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Scrimshire.

Hinckley: Hewitt, Tedds, Purser, Williams, C. Taylor, Wilcox, Robinson (Ebrey 64), Massey, Scott, Lee, M. Taylor (Hopewell 83).

Borough rediscovered their goal scoring touch as they booked their place in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup. Skipper Bobby McDonald scored twice with Tony Simpson providing the other two as Borough eventually won with something to spare.

But Nuneaton had to work much harder than the scoreline might suggest before they were able to subdue a battling Hinckley side.

The visitors were always prepared to take the game to Borough but in the end the Manor Park outfit's superior knowhow and greater experience proved too much of a hurdle.

However, things might have worked out differently if Andy Massey had made the most of an early chance when he had time and space in the Nuneaton penalty area.

Hinckley hopes nose-dived shortly before the break when Borough tightened their grip with two goals in a five minute spell to go in at the interval well in control.

Colin Taylor gave the visitors hope as he cut the arrears soon after the restart but another two goals in five minutes late in the match killed off Town's hopes of forcing a replay.

Borough, fielding the same side that drew at Spalding on Bank Holiday Monday, were the first to threaten as Patrick Spence and Paul Carty produced a neat link-up but the Town defence snuffed out the danger on the edge of the box.

But Nuneaton had a let-off after only six minutes when a long ball from the right found Massey unmarked but he ballooned his shot high and wide with just Linden Parslow to beat.

There was an immediate response from Borough and they could have taken the lead three times in as many minutes as they got a grip in midfield.

Firstly, Andersen weakly side-footed the ball straight at goalkeeper Dennis Hewitt from 12 yards after Bobby McDonald had set up a clear opening and then Hewitt did well to turn Martyn Twigger's point blank effort away for a fruitless corner.

A minute later the visiting keeper was again in action, going full length to his right to fingertip away a fierce 25-yarder from Ade Waters.

The home defence was in a tangle when Colin Taylor knocked a high ball into the box but Chris Keogh made a great recovery to hook the ball away from Steve Scott.

But six minutes before half-time Borough made the vital breakthrough. Simpson knocked in a low cross from the right and Keogh blocked Tedds' intended clearance to turn the ball across the face of goal for McDonald to sweep home.

Seconds from the break McDonald put Twigger clear down the middle and when his shot rebounded off the crossbar Simpson pounced to smash the ball high into the net after his first attempt had been blocked.

Waters planted a header narrowly wide of the left-hand upright at the start of the second period but six minutes after the re-start Hinckley stunned Borough as they scored to give themselves a lifeline.

Tony Robinson curled in a corner to the near post from the right and Colin Taylor was completely unmarked as he buried a free header in the net from six yards.

Nuneaton then appeared desperately

unlucky not to be awarded a penalty. Simpson was brought down by Gareth Williams as he broke clear into the box, the linesman immediately signalled a penalty, but the referee waved play on.

But fifteen minutes from the end Borough restored their two-goal advantage. Mulholland's low cross from wide on the right found McDonald all alone in front of goal and despite looking to be offside, he was allowed to ram the ball past Hewitt from close range.

Russell Doig then sidefooted another good chance wide after McDonald had set him up before Borough put the icing on the cake with a fourth goal.

Borough were a shade fortunate when the referee got in the way on the edge of the Nuneaton area but Andersen quickly made ground before releasing Simpson with a fine ball and the winger burst forward to cut into the area and fired a cross shot into the far corner.

Goole Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Goole Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup First Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, McDonald, Waters, Keogh, Carty, Andersen, Spence, Doig (Donnelly 73), Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Scrimshire.

Goole: Neenan, Lockwood, Lee, Dawson, Sampson, Pickering, Shutt (Hamnett 45), Burr, Hurlstone, Collier, Travis. Sub: Lindsay.

A penalty from Martyn Twigger saved Borough a long midweek trip to Humberside. Everything was pointing to a replay when Joe Neenan pulled down Paul Carty 18 minutes before the end and Twigger rammed home the resulting spot-kick.

Borough, who were nowhere near their best, just about deserved to edge out the no-nonsense visitors but they can draw little satisfaction from their performance.

They showed virtually nothing of the



Goole keeper Joe Neenan moves to his left but Martyn Twigger coolly steers his penalty into the other side of the goal for Borough's winner.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

form that has seen them take a point at Tamworth in midweek and struggled throughout an eminently forgettable first qualifying round clash.

Paul Sugrue cried off shortly before the game with food poisoning but skipper Bobby McDonald reported fit and came in at left back with Carty moving into midfield.

The visitors showed that they had come to play with Gary Lee posing an early threat down the left after neatly linking with Gary Hurlstone.

But Borough quickly responded to force three successive corners although they failed to offer much of a problem to a solid Goole defence.

There was a let-off for Borough after only six minutes when Peter Collier's left wing corner was flicked on at the near post and Hurlstone put a free header over the top.

Nuneaton then produced a neat three man build-up on the left to create a shooting chance for Chris Keogh but the big central defender was way off target with his shot from the edge of the box.

Steve Shutt put a tame 20-yarder

straight at Linden Parslow while at the other end Neenan had to be alert when Carty's free-kick took a deflection of Russell Doig.

Borough's defence was caught square on the half-hour mark and it took a fine save by Parslow to keep them on level terms.

Hurlstone got clear down the middle and surged into the Borough area but Parslow was down superbly to his right to turn the striker's effort out for a corner.

However, shortly before the interval Tony Simpson's fine run from midfield took him into the Goole area and his rising drive beat Neenan but whistled inches over the bar.

Borough started the second period on a positive note and the visitors found themselves coming under a bit more pressure.

But Nuneaton were again stretched at the back when Lee broke on the left and his long crossfield ball looked as if it would get Hurlstone free into the area but McDonald quickly stepped in to turn the ball back to Parslow and clear the danger.

As Borough hit back, Mulholland was brought down on the edge of the box and when Andersen whipped the free-kick into the six yards area Gary Lockwood was happy to concede a corner under pressure.

Although they were now enjoying more freedom than in the first period Borough were still unable to get a grip on the game but they should have gone ahead midway through the half.

Twigger got some space on the left hand side of the area and drilled a low ball across the face of the goal where Nicky Andersen's shot was blocked by Doig and the Borough midfielder then dragged his second attempt wide.

Andersen missed another clear-cut opportunity to break the deadlock after 70 minutes, failing to make contact with Twigger's cross in front of an inviting goal and then McDonald put a header over the top from a corner.

But the pressure paid off 18 minutes from the end as Borough grabbed the goal that they had been threatening.

There seemed little danger as Carty chased a diagonal ball into the box. The midfielder was moving wide to the left but Neenan needlessly brought him down and Twigger made no mistake from the resulting penalty.

But the visitors were not finished yet and twice in quick succession came close to snatching an equaliser.

Lockwood was booked for deliberate handball as he stopped Simpson from breaking clean through and in the dying seconds Neenan made a fine save to keep out Tony Donnelly's shot after a fine build-up.

Blakenhall Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to The Old Red Lion ground to play Blakenhall Town in a FA Cup Second Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Scrimshire, Waters, Carty, McDonald, Andersen (Gray 89), Jones, Sugrue, Twigger, Banks (Simpson 60).

Borough maintain their interest in this season's FA Cup despite another highly disappointing performance. Martyn Twigger's 76th minute penalty was all that saved their embarrassment in a poor contest. Borough never looked comfortable on a tight ground and Blakenall's physical approach found Borough sadly lacking for much of the match.

They showed character to twice come from behind but once again Nuneaton were only a shadow of the side that came within a whisker of getting promotion last term.

The Manor Park outfit are not sound in defence, they lack bite and inspiration in midfield and the absence of a cutting edge up front has been evident since the first day of the season.

At the moment too many key players are off form together and manager Les Green faces a tremendous task to get them back on course in time to keep their hopes of a place in the Beazer Homes League premier division a reality.

Skipper Bobby McDonald was fit and returned to the side in place of Tony Donnelly. Borough produced the first threat with a neat build up and Twigger turned smartly in the box but his shot was well off target.

Blakenall were quick to retaliate and when Ade Waters gave away a free-kick Darren Wilkinson fired an effort over the top from the edge of the box.

The Banks' Brewery League side continued to show scant respect for the more illustrious visitors and Linden Parslow had to be alert to take a deep cross from Steve Cant at the far post.

Waters came close to breaking the deadlock with a volley that whistled a foot over the bar when the home side had failed to clear a left wing corner.

But midway through the half a misplaced header by Paul Carty put Borough in trouble but Mark Sparrock

snatched at his shot and Parslow gathered easily.

Andy Keeling was then booked for a foul on Carty before Sugrue twice came close to giving Nuneaton the lead.

Sugrue jinked his way clear in the box but Steve Pomroy saved Blakenall as he beat away the Borough man's close range shot and John Newell recovered to block the follow up effort.

However, ten minutes before the break Borough found themselves a goal down. A right wing corner was only partially cleared and when the ball was knocked back into the area Carty handled and Tommy Crook made no mistake from the resulting penalty kick.

Borough surged forward in search of an equaliser and Sugrue headed narrowly over the top from close in after Nicky Andersen had picked him out with a free-kick.

But Nuneaton's travelling fans were celebrating after 40 minutes when Andersen flicked on Mulholland's corner and Sugrue forced the ball home from close range, his first goal since rejoining the club.

That was the tonic Borough needed and nine minutes after the restart they took the lead with another goal from Sugrue.

Twigger knocked a free-kick back across the face of the home goal and Sugrue lashed the ball past Pomroy.

But Borough failed to consolidate their advantage and their celebrations were cut short when Blakenall grabbed an equaliser just three minutes later.

Again Borough were in trouble from a free-kick high into the box and when the ball broke to Carl Dwyer he cracked a fierce drive into the far corner of the net.

Worse was to follow for Borough as the home side snatched the lead for the second time in the match after 66 minutes. A low corner caused problems in the Borough defence, they failed to

clear their lines and Cant knocked the ball into the area where Steward Davies was completely unmarked to drill a close range shot past the unprotected Parslow.

Borough were finding it difficult to contain the no-nonsense and fiercely competitive home outfit and their frustration showed when Andersen was booked for a foul on Keeling.

However, 14 minutes from the end Borough were again back on level terms. Sugrue was brought down in the area and Twigger easily converted the spot kick.

Simpson then produced a magical diagonal run that took him past four defenders and it was only the fingertips of the diving Pomroy that denied the winger a goal.

Twigger clipped the top of the bar with a header from a Mark Jones cross in the closing minutes and Pomroy was superbly down to gather Mulholland's low centre with Twigger moving in.

Blakenhall Town – 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Blakenhall Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup Second Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, McDonald, Waters, Carty, Jones (Gray 67), Andersen, Sugrue, Banks (Donnelly 85), Twigger, Simpson.

Blakenhall: Pomroy, Wilkinson, Edwards (Slide 75), Newell, Crook, Davies, Keeling, Sparrock, Grisdale (Cant 55), Dwyer, Simpkin.

Tony Simpson returned to the Borough side to spearhead them to a much needed FA Cup victory. The diminutive winger, left out for the past two games, was back on song as he tormented the visitors' defence for virtually all of the game.

He grabbed two goals with Gary Banks getting the other as Borough earned themselves a tough trip to Frickley in the next round.

However it was far from a one-man show as Borough at last produced



something for the fans to enthuse about.

They are still not back to their best but they were eager for the action from the start and there was much more purpose and bite about their play than there has been for much of the season.

Blakenall, who posed Borough a load of problems in the first game, were not allowed to raise their game and were never a threat.

Manager Les Green had asked for an improvement in the workrate and the commitment – and he got it.

But the Borough boss will still be highly concerned about the goal-scoring department as once again a string of chances went begging.

Borough were quickly into their stride and in the first minute Simpson got clear on the right and his low cross caused problems in the Blakenhall defence.

Mark Jones then hit a first-time effort well wide of the left hand post before Gary Grisdale was booked for bringing down Nicky Andersen.

But Borough had an anxious moment in the sixth minute when a long throw in from the right was flicked on and Stewart Davies was unmarked as he put a header straight at Linden Parslow.

However, Nuneaton were quickly back in control and Banks curled a left footer narrowly wide of the far post after a through ball from Twigger.

Borough should have gone ahead in the 11th minute when Twigger was all alone in front of goal but he shot wide from ten yards.

Nuneaton were in almost total control and twice within 60 seconds Ade Waters came within a whisker of breaking the deadlock.

First the central defender had a volley cleared off the line and then his glancing header from Andersen's free-kick came out off the left hand post.

There was danger for Borough when

the referee ignored a linesman's offside flag to allow Andy Keeling to break on the right and Parslow had to react smartly to snatch the cross away from the lurking Carl Dwyer.

Despite all their possession, Borough were failing to turn their pressure into goals and there was more frustration when Mark Sparrock deflected a Paul Sugrue centre away from the inrushing Andersen.

But Borough stunned the visitors as they effectively put the game out of their reach with two goals inside 60 seconds at the start of the second half.

Two minutes after the restart Blakenall failed to clear a right wing cross and when Waters drove it back into the box Banks turned smartly to fire past Steve Pomroy.

Sixty seconds later Banks chased a through ball down the middle and Pomroy raced out of his area to head clear but only succeeded in finding Simpson. The winger danced round Kevin Edwards and wide of the keeper to crack a shot into the far corner from the narrowest of angles.

Jones then planted a header a foot wide from Simpson's cross before Twigger missed another golden opportunity.

Twigger got Andersen away on the right and his centre found the Borough striker completely unmarked but he made a total mess of a simple header from six yards.

Blakenall produced a momentary threat to Parslow's goal in a rare counter attack but it petered out as Dwyer strayed offside.

Andy Keeling became the second visiting player to go into the referee's book for a foul on Jones, who was led off with a hand injury.

It was now one-way traffic and Twigger had a shot blocked before Banks was wide of the target from an Andersen free-kick.

Blakenall were virtually penned in their

own penalty area and were fortunate not to go further behind as Waters, Andersen, twice, and Sugrue all went close. But three minutes from the end, the pressure paid off when, following a fine run by Sugrue, Darren Simpkin tried to pass back to his keeper and when Pomroy failed to hold the ball at full stretch Simpson nipped in for the third goal.

Frickley Athletic – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to South Elmsall to play Frickley Athletic in a FA Cup Third Qualifying Round tie.

Frickley: Booth, Kitchen, Myles, Heaney, Wright, Thompson, Hishop, Howey (Rolf 86), Lowe, Woodhead, Barnsley. Sub: Bond.

Borough: Parslow, Mulholland, Carty, Waters, Banks, Jones, Andersen, Sugrue, Donnelly (Doig 78), Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Scrimshire.

Borough's FA Cup campaign died in South Yorkshire as they went out to a first half penalty. Frickley full-back Steve Myles tucked away the 43rd minute spot kick after Ade Waters had brought down Simon Woodhead.

The goal came from a rare first-half attack by the HFS Loans League premier division side who showed nothing to justify their high placing in the league table.

It was rough justice on both Borough and Waters, who again was in commanding form at the heart of the defence.

Waters went agonisingly close to making amends for his rash tackle, having a second half goal ruled out and also hitting the woodwork late in the game.

Nuneaton are still not firing on all cylinders, although they took the game to Frickley for long spells, especially in the first 45 minutes.

Late on they were caught throwing men forward as they chased the equaliser and the home side had chances on the break to have given the scoreline a totally lopsided look.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



But Linden Parslow showed some outstanding form between the sticks and produced several vital saves to keep Borough in with a chance of snatching the replay they deserved right up until the final whistle.

Les Green made a surprise choice by naming Gary Banks to partner Waters in the centre of the defence with Paul Carty moving to left back and Tony Donnelly coming in up front.

Borough showed plenty of confidence in the opening stages and Frickley only managed to hook clear a Paul Sugrue free-kick at the third attempt as early as the second minute.

Waters then had a 25-yard effort blocked following a short free-kick as Nuneaton continued to dictate the pace.

When Frickley eventually did break out, Ian Thompson got up well to a Sam Kitchen cross but Waters was on hand to clear the danger.

Nuneaton quickly switched play to the other end and twice within the space of 60 seconds they might have gone ahead.

Martyn Twigger put a header a foot over the top after Tony Simpson had flicked on a Dennis Mulholland cross and then Simpson had a fierce rising drive saved by Jamie Booth when Donnelly set him free.

Booth then did well to take another Mulholland cross under pressure from Twigger before Borough had a fright.

The Nuneaton defence was slow to react to a ball into the left hand side of

the penalty area and Thompson had a shooting opportunity but he hooked his effort well wide.

There was danger for Nuneaton when Mulholland brought down Simon Lowe on the edge of the box but Woodhead's free-kick carried no threat and Lowe wasted another promising situation with a dreadful pass as he turned into the area.

But two minutes' before the interval, Borough found themselves behind, Nuneaton were caught pushing out on the right hand side and when the ball was knocked back into the box Carty failed to head the ball clear after getting a poor bounce and Waters dived in to bring down Woodhead giving Myles the opportunity to send Parslow the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Frickley opened the second period on a bright note and Myles was only inches too high with a cracking drive from the edge of the area after Borough had only partially cleared a right wing corner.

Nuneaton's travelling fans suddenly had hope when Nicky Andersen found Carty in a bit of space but the full-back's shot was flew narrowly wide of the target.

Carty was booked for bringing down Colin Bishop on the edge of the area but Thompson was way off the mark with the free-kick.

Borough were then fortunate not to go further behind. The Nuneaton defence was all over the place from a free-kick and it took a fine save by Parslow to

keep out Woodhead's close range header.

But the danger was still not over and when the ball was swept back into the box Thompson's shot hit the bar.

Borough were then denied the goal that should have put them level as the referee made an appalling decision. Simpson hooked the ball over his shoulder to send Waters clear with just the keeper to beat but as the defender hammered the ball past Booth the referee called back play to award Nuneaton a free-kick for a foul on Twigger.

Russell Doig came on to replace Donnelly 12 minutes from the end as Borough continued to look for the elusive goal and they had the Frickley defence grimly hanging on as they forced a series of corners.

Loud appeals for a penalty then fell on deaf ears as Sugrue jinked his way into the area and appeared to be brought down by Heaney, who was booked shortly afterwards for a foul on the Nuneaton skipper.

But Borough, who were throwing everyone forward, almost paid a dear price when they were caught by a quick break from Bishop who put Lowe into the area but Parslow made a superb save and then again the home striker with a full length stop low to his left.

Nuneaton were again out of luck seven minutes before the end when Sugrue floated a free-kick to the far post and Waters came in late to plant a header against the woodwork.

Burton Albion — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Third Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: O'Connor, Mulholland, Banks, Keogh, Morrall, Jones (Blewitt 78), Andersen, Sugrue, Clarke, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Thurman.

Burton: Goodwin, Stavrou, Owen, Straw, Geelan, Simms, Harbottle, Redfern, Elliott, R. Jones, Canning. Subs: Carr, Barks.

Understrength Borough saw their FA Trophy hopes die on a day of disappointment and high drama. Nuneaton without three key players, went out in a bruising tie.

Borough narrowly failed to pull back a two goal deficit in a red-blooded clash that saw five players booked, two more sent off and a penalty to each side.

Although never a classic, a typical cup tie provided plenty of incident for biggest home crowd of the season with Borough unlucky not to earn a replay.

They had much the better of the first half with the Brewers fortunate to see two efforts cleared off the line before Mark Harbottle put Burton ahead.

A cracking volley six minutes into the second half left Nuneaton with a mountain to climb and although Sugrue's 75th minute penalty gave them hope, the visitors survived.

Borough posed the first real threat on goal after six minutes. Sugrue slipped the ball to Twigger, who held off his marker before firing a rising drive a foot over the top from the edge of the box.

But Burton quickly showed that they had not come to defend with Simon Redfern touching on a free-kick to Andy Canning who knocked it back across goal for Dave Elliott to hook a close range volley straight at Paul O'Connor.

Mark Jones was crowded out on the edge of the visitors penalty area as Borough began to apply the pressure and then the Brewers had a fortunate escape after 17 minutes.

Ian Straw got his head to a Simpson

cross and the ball fell to Morrall who saw his shot bounce to safety off the knee of Burton keeper Nick Goodwin.

There was more trouble for Albion when they failed to clear a right wing cross by Mulholland and Goodwin did well to get a hand to Twigger's header and divert the ball wide of the far post.

But Borough found themselves a goal down after 20 minutes. There was a scramble on the edge of the area and Morrall brought down Redfern allowing Harbottle to hammer the resulting penalty into the net.

Sugrue and Mark Owen then became the first bookings of the game for an incident off the ball before Borough almost snatched an equaliser.

The visitors defence was all over the place as Sugrue got clear on the right hand edge of the area and his floated cross beat Goodwin but Nigel Simms raced back to head clear off the line.



Goodwin takes a high cross under pressure from Mark Jones with Chris Keogh waiting for a slip. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough were caught pushing forward by a superb ball from Harbottle but Robert Jones wasted a promising opening with a tame effort that drifted well wide of the far post.

But seconds before the interval Borough were again out of luck when Nicky Andersen's goalbound drive took a deflection off Geelan allowing Goodwin to complete the save.

Harbottle was booked for a foul on Sugrue at the start of the second half but Borough's hopes took a stunning blow just six minutes after the restart as Burton snatched a second goal.

Mulholland lost possession and Harbottle knocked the ball to the edge of the area where Robert Jones played a neat one-two with Redfern before firing a cracking volley past O'Connor into the roof of the net.

Two minutes later the game exploded after Mulholland had made a challenge on the Burton keeper. Suddenly several players were involved in a skirmish and when peace was restored Mulholland and Redfern were both sent off.

However, Nuneaton were not out of it yet and in the 63rd minute they were denied the goal that would have put them right back in the tie.

Chris Keogh's early ball out of defence caught the visitors square and Twigger raced clear into the area to smash in a tremendous left foot shot. It looked a goal all the way but Goodwin produced a magnificent save.

Sugrue flashed a shot wide of the left hand post following a foul on Simpson and then Stavros Stavrou became the third Burton booking of the afternoon.

Shortly afterwards Sugrue, cautioned in the first half, was fortunate to escape punishment after bringing down Owen, but sixty seconds later Nuneaton got themselves a lifeline.

Simpson was tumbled down by Owen as he cut into the box and Sugrue took the responsibility himself to thump the penalty high into the net.

Twigger found his way into the book for handball before Les Green made his last gamble by introducing Perry Blewitt. The substitute almost made an immediate impact getting on to the end of a Twigger cross at the far post to glance a header wide. Urged on by the highly vocal crowd, Borough piled on the pressure in the closing stages but the visitors hung on.

Nuneaton Borough 1979-1991 – Part 2



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1990-91

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
08.18	Redditch United	A	L	1-1	Twigger (pen)	392
08.20	Kings Lynn	H	L	2-0	Hadland, Twigger (pen)	852
08.25	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	L	1-1	Twigger (pen)	782
08.27	Spalding United	A	L	0-0		407
09.01	Hinckley Town	H	FAC P	4-1	McDonald (2), Simpson (2)	849
09.08	Willenhall Town	H	L	1-0	Twigger	702
09.11	Tamworth	A	L	2-2	Twigger (2 pens)	2011
09.15	Goole Town	H	FAC 1Q	1-0	Twigger (pen)	872
09.22	Dudley Town	H	L	0-2		735
09.24	Bedworth United	H	M&B 1 1L	1-0	Banks	507
09.29	Blakenall	A	FAC 2Q	3-3	Sugrue (2), Twigger (pen)	
10.01	Blakenall	H	FAC 2Qr	3-0	Simpson (2), Banks	1024
10.06	Barry Town	H	L	2-0	Twigger (pen), Waters	728
10.09	Bolehall Swifts	A	BSC 1	3-3	Donnelly, Simpson, Waters	438
10.13	Frickley Athletic	A	FAC 3Q	0-1		685
10.15	Bolehall Swifts	H	BSC 1r	3-2	Andersen, Twigger (pen), Sugrue	477
10.17	Hinckley Town	A	LWLC 1 1L	1-2	Twigger	356
10.20	Racing Club Warwick	H	L	3-3	Twigger (2,1 pen), Carty	674
10.23	Bridgnorth Town	A	L	3-1	Thurman, Carty, Twigger	302
10.27	Stroud	A	L	3-0	Twigger (3, 2 pens)	289
10.29	Hinckley Town	H	LWLC 1 2L	5-1	Sugrue (3), Donnelly, Jones	883
11.03	Corby Town	A	L	1-0	Twigger	502
11.07	Banbury United	A	BSC 2		Sugrue, Simpson	153
11.10	Newport AFC	H	L	2-1	Morrell, Twigger	958
11.13	Grantham Town	A	LWLC 2 1L	1-2	Sugrue	156
11.17	Alvechurch	A	L	2-1	Twigger (pen), Carty	327
11.19	Grantham Town	H	WLC 2 2L	0-1		662
11.24	Hednesford Town	H	L	1-1	Simpson	741
12.01	Burton Albion	H	FAT 3Q	1-2	Sugrue	1261
12.05	Hednesford Town	H	BSC 3	3-0	Twigger (2, 1 pen), Andersen	375
12.15	Grantham Town	H	L	2-2	Twigger (2 pens)	544
12.17	Stourbridge	H	L	4-1	Twigger (pen), Sugrue, Simpson, Carty	631
12.22	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	L	2-3	Twigger (2, 1 pen)	
12.26	Bedworth United	H	L	1-0	Piggon (o.g.)	796
12.29	Redditch United	H	L	2-1	Twigger, Andersen	777
01.01	Hinckley Town	A	L	0-2		1022
01.05	Bridgnorth Town	H	L	3-2	Sugrue, Andersen, Twigger (pen)	708
01.07	Kettering Town	H	F	4-1	Simpson (3), Jackson	
01.12	Dudley Town	A	L	2-2	Smith, Waitt	403
01.17	Sutton Coldfield Town	A	BSC 4	2-0	Donnelly, Jackson	199
01.19	Leicester United	A	L	3-0	Andersen (2), Waitt	415
01.22	Bedworth United	A	M&B 1 2L	1-1	Twigger	450
01.28	Spalding United	H	L	2-0	Worthington (o.g.), Twigger	761
02.02	Bilston Town	A	L	0-4		304
02.20	Atherstone United	H	BSC SF	1-0	Twigger	808
02.23	Racing Club Warwick	A	L	0-1		319
02.26	Tamworth	H	L	0-0		1604
03.02	Newport AFC	A	L	1-4	Andersen	619
03.09	Leicester United	H	L	3-1	Stevens, Jones, Simpson	559
03.11	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	M&B 2	2-1	Andersen (2)	417
03.12	Grantham Town	A	L	3-0	Andersen, Twigger, Jones	173
03.16	Stourbridge	A	L	0-1		476
03.19	Kings Lynn	A	L	0-2		219

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1990-91

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.23	Bilston Town	H	L	3-0	Carty (pen), Andersen, Mulholland	527
03.26	Atherstone United	A	MFC SF	2-0	Twigger (2, 1 pen)	688
03.30	Bedworth United	A	L	5-0	Carty (2), Twigger, Banks, Simpson	906
04.01	Hinckley Town	H	L	1-4	Twigger	699
04.06	Willenhall Town	A	L	1-0	Simpson	194
04.08	Alvechurch	H	L	4-0	Twigger (2), Carty, Thompson	595
04.13	Hednesford Town	A	L	2-3	Jones, Donnelly	624
04.16	West Bromwich Albion	A	BSC F	0-2		2047
04.20	Corby Town	H	L	3-2	Twigger, Carty, Jones	648
04.27	Barry Town	A	L	1-1	Pontin (o.g.)	330
04.29	Stroud	H	L	2-2	Jones, Stevens	435
05.09	Moor Green	At WBA	M&B F	2-5aet	Twigger (2, 1 pen)	663

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, LWLC= Larchimage Windows Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, M&B= Mitchells & Butlers Floodlit Cup, F = Friendly.



Nuneaton Borough 1990-91

Back: Les Green (manager), Paul Carty, Gordon Lee (trainer), Adrian Waters, Joe Taylor (kitman), Mick Thurman, Mark Jones, Chris Keogh, Linden Parslow, Paul O'Connor, Steve Morrell, Perry Blewitt, Keith Parker (secretary).

Front: Dennis Mulholland, Tony Simpson, Nicky Andersen, Martyn Twigger, Paul Sugrue (captain), Gary Banks, Tony Clarke.

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