



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 2

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2005-06

Loughborough Dynamo v Nuneaton Boro' 19-07-2005

Boro: Acton (Poole 45), Oddy (Noon 45), Holmes (Blenkinsopp 75), Breward (Collins 45), Moore, Love, Staff (Reeves 45), Fitzpatrick (Spencer 45), McSweeney (Frew 45), Quailey (Murphy 45), Whittaker (Saunders 75).

Boro travelled to the Nanpantan Sports Ground to play Loughborough Dynamo in a pre-season friendly game.

Brian Quailey had Boro's first chance, a long-range snapshot that cleared the bar on five minutes. McSweeney then had a shot palmed away before Quailey again went close, this time dragging a shot wide when he really should have done better. The pacy Staff was creating havoc in the home defence and he set up Rob Oddy for another shot at goal, but he blasted over with the weaker left foot. Five minutes before half-time Boro eventually got the goal they had been threatening when Quailey opened his account for the season. Right on half-time Staff made it 2-0 when he got a just reward for his first-half performance.

Second-half substitute Gez Murphy made it 3-0 as the game moved into the last half-hour, triallist Spencer laying the goal on. Saunders, who came on for Whittaker mid-way through the second half, then curled a shot over after turning back inside and Martin Reeves smashed a shot into the home defence as Boro searched for a fourth. Lamb cleared off the line as former team-mate Murphy nearly added his second with a firm header following a Boro corner. Young striker David Blenkinsopp appeared at the end and was unlucky not to get his name on the score sheet when he blocked a goalkeeper's clearance. Saunders wasted another good chance late on when he seemed to have too much time on the ball but Dynamo created little all evening and Boro ran out easy winners.

Nuneaton Borough v AFC Telford 20-07-2005

Boro: Acton (Poole 55), Oddy (Fitzpatrick 63), Holmes, Noon, Moore, Love, Spencer (Whittaker 45), Reeves (Breward 63) Frew (McSweeney 45), Murphy (Blenkinsopp 45), Staff (Saunders 45).

Telford: Gilmartin, Andrewartha, Craven, Cudworth, Howarth, Courtney, Parrish, McNally (Charlie 55), Alexander (Ryan 55), Tolley, Carter. **Subs:** Wheeler, Drysdale, Griffin.

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

After a slow start to proceedings Telford began to apply some pressure to the Boro defence with the nippy Alfie Carter in particular causing problems. His trickery led to a Telford corner and with Boro unable to clear, striker Darren Alexander capitalised, lashing a shot past Boro keeper Darren Acton. However, their lead lasted only two minutes, as Boro attacked down the left and Reeves' cross was met by a precision header from Frew to make it 1-1. In the next minute, Boro had the ideal opportunity to take the lead as Murphy

raced on to a through ball. His first attempt was blocked by the keeper Remi Gilmartin and defender Neil Howarth just beat Murphy to the rebound. Reeves tried a long-range shot as Boro continued to search for a second and Frew went close after some good work from Murphy before Glenn Tolley tired his luck at the other end.

Reeves then linked up with Murphy for a well-worked free-kick but Telford's triallist goalkeeper Gilmartin was equal to his effort. The visitors would have the last chance of a lacklustre first-half when Carter displayed his skills down the left once again and pulled the ball back to Sean Parrish but his shot went wide.

Ashby made four changes at half-time, introducing McSweeney, Whittaker, Richard Saunders and Blenkinsopp for Murphy, Frew, Spencer and Staff. Ryan Poole then replaced Acton ten minutes into the second half but it was Telford's Gilmartin who was the busier keeper. Blenkinsopp created a chance for Saunders before going close with an opportunity of his own as the score remained deadlocked. Telford threatened only sporadically with Carter again causing trouble in the Boro defence before the home side finally found a winner 11 minutes from time when Blenkinsopp struck a penalty past Gilmartin. There was a late scare for Boro as Carter outjumped replacement goalkeeper Poole to head goalwards but his effort drifted wide and with it any hopes of a Telford comeback.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-07-2005

Boro made the journey to The Grove to take on Halesowen Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Boro started the first-half in expansive fashion, with the midfield quartet of Michael Love, Matty Collins, Mark Noon and Martin Reeves looking sharp and they soon stamped their authority on the game. New signing David Staff went close after a neat exchange after seven minutes, and just afterward Staff was back in action, this time curling a free-kick just wide.

Boro looked threatening from set pieces, typified by another free-kick from former Leicester City man Reeves fizzing wide. Halesowen's Dave Haywood created controversy when his challenge on Rob Oddy left the Boro man requiring treatment, and the full-back was ultimately replaced by Gary Fitzpatrick after 40 minutes. Brian Quailey almost got on the end of a Frew cross just before the interval.

The Yeltz came out firing on all cylinders and soon imposed themselves on the game. Former Halesowen player Andy Spencer came on for Boro with an hour gone, replacing the lively David Staff. The home side began to turn the screw as Boro rang the substitutions with David Blenkinsopp, Gez Murphy, Ryan Poole and Rich Saunders entering the fray. The only goal of the game was scored by Halesowen after 72 minutes when a deep cross from Lamey found Farmer in space to head home. The last chance of the match fell to Boro when Blenkinsopp headed wide in the final minutes.



Coalville Town v Nuneaton Borough 26-07-2005

Boro made the journey to Owen Street to play Coalville Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro had chances to score in the first 45 minutes when David Staff and Gez Murphy failed to find the target.

There were even fewer chances after the break when striker Kevin Wilkin was used as a makeshift defender, replacing James Holmes. Other second half changes saw Richard Saunders replace Murphy and Michael Frew came on for Brian Quailey as Boro pushed for a winner. The goal that won the game for the visitors was scored by Neil Moore, who headed home the 89th minute winner.

Boro Go Down At Ibstock

A team consisting mainly of triallists, with the exception of Michael Frew, went down 3-1 to Ibstock Welfare. Boro's goal was scored by Frew.

Rea Signs

Nuneaton Borough have secured the signature of 28-year-old Simon Rea, who has made more than 150 Football League appearances with Peterborough United and Cambridge United. Coventry-born Rea began his footballing career with Birmingham City in 1995 before spending a short time on loan at Kettering Town after which he joined The Posh.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-07-2005

Boro: Poole, Staff (Oddy 45), Love, Wilkin, Moore, Collins, Reeves, Noon (Breward 70), Whittaker, Murphy (Blenkinsopp 45), Quailey (McSweeney 45).

Boro made the journey to Butlin Road to play Rugby Town in a pre-season friendly match.

After early efforts from Quailey and Moore, Staff had the ideal opportunity to put Boro one up but he misdirected his long range shot. Boro dominated play with Rugby struggling to get out of their own half and Matty Collins looked as if he was brought down in the box but his penalty appeal was waved away. Most of Boro's attacks were coming down the left as Stuart Whittaker linked up well with the strikers and the impressive Mark Noon supported him in excellent fashion. Boro took the lead around the half-hour mark. Murphy and Quailey displayed an almost telepathic link that Boro fans will hope to put to use time and again this season as the former Rugby man back-heeled and Quailey finished with aplomb.

Four minutes later it was 2-0, Whittaker's inch-perfect corner kick was met at the front post by Wilkin who glanced the ball past Steve Wilson. On the odd occasion Boro keeper Poole was called into action at the other end he dealt competently with everything that came his way. Just before the break Boro made it 3-0 with an exquisite move that saw Noon feed Collins and his clever ball into the box was swept home by Quailey.

Ashby made three changes at half-time with Leon McSweeney and David Blenkinsopp replacing strike duo Murphy and

Quailey, and Oddy came on for Staff. Oddy was the busier of the three as Boro took their foot off the gas in the second period and Poole was the first keeper to be tested, saving at the feet of Rugby's David Stone as he chased a hopeful long ball. Blenkinsopp had Boro's first chance after the restart, firing just wide ten minutes into the half before McSweeney looped a header over. The young strikers linked up well a minute later with Blenkinsopp's close-range shot deflected wide and Wilson had to punch the resulting corner away from under his bar.

Stone missed two golden opportunities in quick succession for Rugby as Boro absorbed the pressure with the clock running down. Further Rugby chances went begging before Breward's shot from distance flashed wide of the upright.

Nuneaton Borough v Wolverhampton W. 01-08-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Wilkin, Collins, Noon, Murphy, Quailey, Whittaker. Subs: McSweeney, Poole, Holmes, Blenkinsopp, Breward, Fitzpatrick.

Wolves: Ikeme, Little, Rafferty, Flynn, Riley, Lowe, Gubern, O'Connor, Ganea, Cornes, Ndah. Subs: Higgins, Hennessey, Taylor, Fitzpatrick, Jones, Hughes.

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

Boro were quick out of the blocks as Wolves keeper Carl Ikeme collected a hopeful Stuart Whittaker cross and Lowe made a timely interception to prevent Brian Quailey reaching a delightful Matty Collins through ball. At the other end Lewis Gubern was causing problems in the Boro defence and Oddy had to turn the youngster's cross over his own bar to clear the danger. Kevin O'Connor carved through the Boro defence and crashed a shot against the Boro bar, via the fingertips of Acton.

Acton made a tremendous double save from Lowe following the resulting corner but Boro responded in the perfect manner to go 1-0 up in the 15th minute. Oddy won the ball from a Wolves defender and after a series of mis-hits from first Collins and then Martin Reeves the ball found its way to Murphy who had the easiest of tap-ins. Reeves had a chance to make it 2-0 immediately from the restart but his header from Whittaker's cross looped over the bar. Ndah swapped wings and tried his luck down the right, with his persistence resulting in a snapshot from Ganea. Collins was poleaxed by a fierce Reeves shot in the face and Quailey was twice denied a one-on-one with the keeper.

Ndah again looked dangerous after the break and he threatened right from the kick-off but his left foot shot was deflected wide. But the Wolves side were not getting things their own way as Boro harried their defence with Reeves in particular closing players down and forcing the visitors into a number of stray passes. Boro had a sense of urgency about them and the belief they could find a second was there, Collins raced down the right but lacked the final ball to penetrate the Wolves defence.

Quailey hit the upright with a right foot shot after a corner



and he looked the player on the pitch most likely to score, forcing another save out of Ikeme just before the last half-hour began. Ikeme then pulled off a wonderful save to deny Rob Oddy's rasping free-kick and the keeper was again called into action as the ball squirmed free following a melee in the Wolves goalmouth.

Boro Stadium Go-Ahead

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has been given the go-ahead for its new stadium despite residents' objections. Members of the borough council's planning committee met last night and sanctioned the much-mooted move. More than 70 people attended the meeting at Nuneaton Town Hall to hear councillors approve the scheme which will see the football club groundshare with Nuneaton Rugby Club at Liberty Way.

Conditions of approval include a new bus service and restrictions on the use of the pitch, floodlights and offices. Nuneaton Borough managing director Clair Finnigan said: "The football club is pleased with the outcome and feels we are now heading in the right direction. It is a major step for the future of the football club. We understand and respect the plight of the Horeston Grange residents, but feel that we can all work together for the benefit of the community."...

Raunds Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-08-2005

Boro made the journey to Kiln Park to take on Raunds Town in a pre-season friendly match.

A much-changed Boro side containing only four players from the game against Wolverhampton Wanderers, battled to a 2-1 win against their United Counties League opponents. David Blenkinsopp notched both Boro goals.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 06-08-2005

Burton: Crane, Henshaw, Corbett, Tinson, Stride, Anderson, Shaw, Ducros, Gilroy, Harrod, Heald. **Subs:** Webster, Austin, Hall, Taylor, Miller, Dudley, Todd, Clough.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick), Moore, Rea (Wilkin), Staff (Blenkinsopp), Noon, Murphy (Frew), Quailey (Holmes), Whittaker. **Sub:** Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Pirelli Stadium to play Burton Albion in a pre-season friendly game.

Burton pressed from the kick-off and Shaun Harrod's header from the Brewers' first corner had to be cleared over his own bar by Michael Love. Boro's defence was in disarray as Albion attacked for the third time in the opening minutes, Harrod wasting the opportunity this time with a poor cross. Boro were fortunate not to be punished when Darren Acton made an error, completely missing another Brewers' corner, and their fortune continued as they grabbed the lead against the run of play. A lovely move started with a ball out of defence and Gez Murphy picked it up, driving through the middle of the park at pace before passing to strike partner Brian Quailey out left. Quailey turned inside and fed Whittaker whose first time cross was met on the volley by Martin Reeves

to make it 1-0. Burton immediately went for an equaliser and Acton made a stunning point-blank save from Andy Ducros. New defender Rea was having a steady game with some good distribution and a timely interception to prevent Darren Stride from a clear shot at goal. After a period of settled play Albion hit back to equalise with a goal out of nowhere on 38 minutes. Ducros picked up a loose ball and fired a dipping 25 yard volley over the outstretched hand of Acton. Quailey then had a shot drift over just before the break.

After Acton had flapped at another cross Boro retook the lead straight after the break. Staff's pass to Quailey was short but the big forward managed to fend off his marker and lay the ball through to Murphy, whose first-time shot beat keeper Dan Crane. A mix-up in the Boro defence left Burton's Jon Shaw with a golden chance to level the scores but Acton pulled off another wonder save at the striker's feet. However, Burton grabbed an equaliser in the following minute when Dale Anderson raced down the left and placed the ball past Acton at his near post to make the score 2-2.

Acton fended off another cross before disaster struck for Boro when new defender Simon Rea was injured in an innocuous challenge and had to be stretchered off the field. The evergreen Kevin Wilkin came on for Rea before Quailey flashed a shot over the bar. Murphy's cross was cut out by Andy Corbett while at the other end Oddy's wayward header fell to Corbett, who shot over. And, just minutes from time Boro captain Neil Moore was unmarked from Whittaker's corner and his header was met at the back post by Wilkin with another free-header to make the score 3-2.

Burton substitute Chris Hall had a long-range piledriver saved by Acton and Anderson's header from the rebound was just over the bar. Whittaker had the chance to make it 4-2 but Crane tipped his shot over and in a frantic finish Anderson could have equalised but Acton again came to the rescue.

Droylsden v Nuneaton Borough 13-08-2005

Droylsden: Phillips, Williams, Warner (Talbot 78), Sturdy, Burke, Halford, G. Morris, Brodie (Fitzpatrick 68), L. Morris (Dogum 68), Banim, Rapley. **Subs:** Robinson, Murphy.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Wilkin, Collins (Staff 47), Noon, Murphy (Frew 82), Quailey, Whittaker. **Subs:** Blenkinsopp, Holmes, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Butchers' Arms to play Droylsden in a Conference North game.

With their first corner Droylsden caused panic as shots pinballed around the 18 yard box. Bloods striker Lee Morris finally brought the ball under control and shot at goal but his strike cannoned off Rob Oddy's head on to the underside of the crossbar before being cleared. Three minutes later a Neil Moore error let Droylsden's Kevin Rapley through but Darren Acton dived at his feet to smother the ball. With 15 minutes gone Boro had their first chance after some intricate work on the edge of the box from Matty Collins and Oddy put Martin Reeves in but his shot went wide.

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Home keeper Paul Phillips had to save an Oddy free-kick as Boro began to take charge, although some Droylsden players were still finding acres of space as the home side looked for the breakaway. The Bloods' Jody Banim curled a shot just wide and Rapley blasted over. Boro's Murphy lobbed the keeper at the other end but could not reach the ball before it crossed the by-line and Quailey had a shot saved.

Whittaker took charge of the next free-kick and though it never looked like beating Phillips, Boro were getting close and sure enough they stunned the Bloods with a goal out of nothing on 39 minutes. Whittaker picked the ball up some 35 yards out and struck a looping volley that beat Phillips but bounced back off the bar. However, Gez Murphy was lying in wait with the simple task of heading the ball past Phillips. Mark Noon tested Phillips with a similar looping long-range strike but this time the keeper tipped the shot over the bar.

Less than two minutes after the break Murphy was put in for his second by a delightful Reeves through ball but Phillips beat his shot away and Quailey then made space for a strike with a wonderful turn, but Phillips saved again. David Staff replaced Collins as Boro were buzzing and it came as no surprise when they doubled their lead. Whittaker picked the ball up on the half-way line and carried the ball forward. Staff dragged players wide and the Boro winger exploited the gap by firing a shot over Phillips' head and into the back of the net.

There was no let-up for Droylsden as wave after wave of Boro attack tore the home side apart. But the wind was taken out of Boro's sails on the hour as an over-confident Whittaker gave the ball away and it reached Banim, who rode Wilkin's tackle and fired across goal where Oddy was unable to get out of the way as the ball ricocheted off his boot and into the net. Gareth Morris went close to an equaliser as his left foot shot was palmed away by Acton. Whittaker headed an Oddy cross over the bar before the Bloods went close again, Peter Dogum driving a shot at Acton as Boro held on with ten minutes to go.

Gareth Morris blasted a free-kick just wide before Droylsden got the equaliser they had been threatening when Banim beat Love down the right and fed substitute Robbie Talbot – his shot was saved by Acton but Morris hammered in the rebound. Acton was again called into action as Droylsden pushed for a late winner.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 16-08-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Wilkin, Moore, Love, Reeves, Noon, Staff (Fitzpatrick 71), Whittaker (Holmes 85), Murphy, Quailey (Frew 71).
Subs: Poole, Blenkinsopp.

Redditch: Young, Clarke, Pearce, Flynn, Knight, Murphy (Sheppell 63), Jenkins, Palmer, Rickards (Paul Moore 38), Wilding, Charlton. **Subs:** Creighton, Taylor, Moore.

Boro welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

It was a dull opening 45 minutes with a lacklustre Boro side lined up against a dreadful Redditch outfit. The visitors caused

Boro a few nervy moments, especially when Darren Acton spilled a Craig Wilding cross and Neil Moore cleared to safety. Moore and Kevin Wilkin looked comfortable at the back, and provided the platform for Boro to play higher up the pitch, and on 11 minutes they got their reward. Backing into Matthew Clarke, Murphy smartly dropped to the deck, presenting Stuart Whittaker with the chance to whip a free-kick in from the left hand corner of the box where captain Moore directed a header into the corner of the net from six yards. Boro's celebrations were short lived however, as less than 90 seconds later Redditch scored. Asa Charlton squeezed a pass down the right hand channel to Chris Murphy, who drilled the ball home.

Whittaker whipped a free-kick just wide after Oddy had been fouled 25 yards out, while Gez Murphy plugged away with his back to goal and turned neatly on 23 minutes but was upended by Gary Knight, who earned a booking. Reeves joined Knight in the book just before the break.

Boro upped the tempo after the break as Whittaker found some joy against Dennis Pearce, finding Murphy in acres of space, but his shot was well blocked by former Boro keeper Ryan Young and Whittaker blazed the rebound wide. Martin Reeves began to stamp his authority on the game, flicking the ball on to Murphy who played the ball short to Staff, who put a weak shot in at Young. Quailey went close when he met Wilkin's flick on at the far post, but Young saved. Redditch were on the back foot and Boro pressed hard, especially through Michael Frew, who came on for Quailey and with 15 minutes to go Frew accelerated down the left and crossed early to Murphy, who hung in the air and put a bullet header past Young from close range.

Boro created a few half-chances towards the end and substitute Daire Doyle powered a shot off Moore for a corner and the Boro captain was called into action again to prevent Wilding from bundling in a late equaliser.

Nuneaton Borough v Harrogate

20-08-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Fitzpatrick, Noon, Quailey (Wilkin 82), Frew (Blenkinsopp 82), Staff (Holmes 88). **Sub:** Poole.

Harrogate: Price, Dunning, Mason, Wood, Stoneman, Hunter, Lennon (Preston 67), Philpott, Smith (Nogan 73), Holland, Grant (Ryan 46). **Subs:** Sutcliffe, Wray.

Boro welcomed Harrogate to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro forced an early corner before Frew went marauding into the area after six minutes but his dangerous square ball was cut out. Quailey then broke down the right before squaring to Frew, who dragged his shot wide as Boro looked likely to score, with Mark Noon playing Rob Oddy through one-on-one, but Oddy cut back and was crowded out, and his short pass to Reeves was blasted over. Harrogate offered little in attack and Boro duly took the lead after 25 minutes. Frew picked up a loose ball in midfield and after two touches he unleashed a powerful low drive from 20 yards out that flew

past Price. Boro's goal was quickly followed by a chance for Quailey, whose control let him down and a golden opportunity was missed. Harrogate, who looked like a side that will struggle this season, only had one chance in the entire half when Danny Holland shot over from 12 yards out.



Michael Frew scores Boro's first goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Harrogate started the second half more brightly and Holland again shot over the bar when well placed. Boro's first attack of the second half saw Frew play Noon clear, but the midfielder was unable to control the ball. Oddy's free-kick failed to trouble Price but a flat 15 minute period of play would come to an end when Quailey outpaced Leigh Wood and was hauled down in the box. Quailey stepped up to take the spot-kick and finished with aplomb to put Boro 2-0 up. Harrogate had a chance to pull one back mid-way through the half, but Holland wasted another chance with a terrible lob.

Angus saw his towering header just clear the bar before he soared to meet Reeves' free-kick and powered a header past Price to give Boro an unassailable 3-0 lead. Man of the match Michael Frew raced down the right before pulling the ball back to Fitzpatrick, who appeared to be dragged down in the area, but penalty appeals were waved away before Boro scored their fourth goal of the afternoon. Blenkinsopp won the ball on the half-way line, outpaced Town full-back Chris Mason and delivered a sublime cross in to Wilkin, who slid in to complete a fantastic afternoon for Boro.

Council Under Investigation

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is under investigation for allegedly 'railroading' planning permission for Nuneaton Borough Football Club's new ground. The Horeston Grange Residents' Association has filed a complaint of maladministration against the borough council in regards to the planning meeting where Nuneaton Borough Football Club and Nuneaton Rugby Club were given planning permission to create a new football stadium on land at Liberty Way.

The association believes that members of the planning committee were not given a vital report from the Environment Agency, which objected to the stadium and associated facilities, and feel that this swayed the members' decision to pass the application...

Stafford Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 27-08-2005

Stafford: Anyon, Groves, Talbot, McAughtrie, Daniel, Lovatt, Downes, Street, Thompson, Grayson, Gibson (Powell 69). Subs: Dodd, Murray, Reid, Smith.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins (Fitzpatrick 66), Noon, Quailey, Murphy, Staff (Wilkin 79). Subs: Blenkinsopp, Holmes, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Marston Road to play Stafford Rangers in a Conference North game.

Boro's Martin Reeves was guilty of some poor set-pieces in the opening quarter when the big men from defence, Terry Angus and Neil Moore, had their forward forays wasted by his decidedly ordinary deliveries. Angus, making his second appearance after coming out of retirement to play once again, had another excellent game and his last-ditch tackle prevented Thompson from shooting on 18 minutes, after he had raced away from Moore.

More chances for Stafford strike duo Thompson and Grayson followed as they continued to turn the screw and penned Boro back in their own half. Acton pulled off his first incredible save of the afternoon by tipping Grayson's left-foot curler over and Groves headed against the bar as the first-half drew to a close, with Boro looking second best on a football pitch for the first time this season.



Boro are forced to defend in depth.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The visitors started the second half brighter but it was Rangers who had the best chance to take the lead, Craig Lovatt's shot from six yards was kept out by another great Acton save to keep the scores locked at 0-0. Then, with 20 minutes to go, came the talking point of the match when Brian Quailey nipped in behind the Rangers back line when goalkeeper Joe Anyon collided with defender Craig McAughtrie, but the referee called play back for a foul on the Stafford keeper.

Stafford rubbed salt into the Boro wound by taking a 1-0 lead just two minutes later when Rangers' assistant manager Paul Groves headed in at the back post from a Neil Grayson cross. Powerhouse centre forward Peter Thompson sealed Boro's fate inside the last ten minutes when the hitman got the goal he had been threatening all afternoon to make it 2-0 and kill off the game. Amazing scenes followed the goal as

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Boro kicked off with some Stafford players still celebrating their second goal, but Kevin Wilkin's 40 yard shot at an open goal trickled wide as the keeper raced back. Boro battled on in vain, but Stafford with man-mountain Wayne Daniel impressing at the heart of defence, held firm.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 29-08-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins (Quailey 78), Noon (Fitzpatrick 86), Frew, Murphy, Staff. Subs: Blenkinsopp, Wilkin, Poole.

Kettering: Osborn, Diuk, Gould, Solkhon, Mcllwain, Brown, Burgess, Robinson, Essandoh, Midgley (Difante 67), Hall. Subs: Nicell, Peacock, Thompson, Morley.

Boro welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

The first chance of the game fell to Rob Oddy with just 35 seconds on the clock, but his close-range shot was blocked by Craig Mcllwain. A Matty Collins through ball sent Gez Murphy through but Mcllwain was there again. Following some cultured play by both midfields, Boro fell behind after 13 minutes when Michael Love was dispossessed by Ollie Burgess and he fed the ball through to Neil Midgley, who beat Darren Acton with a cool finish. Murphy's control let him down as Boro looked to hit straight back and Mark Noon just failed to get on the end of a David Staff cross.

Noon had a snapshot before Boro drew level on 21 minutes with a goal out of nowhere. Frew charged down Mark Osborn's clearance and the Boro fans looked on with hearts in mouths as no-one was sure if the ball had the legs to make it into the net, but Murphy raced in with two Poppies' defenders in pursuit and got a touch on the ball to make sure. Noon volleyed wide before Gould's free-kick took a wicked bounce, but the alert Acton was able to collect.

Boro began the second half with a chance in the opening minute but Love's shot was blocked on the line after his strike from the edge of the box. Acton saved well from Andy Hall as the teams continued to trade blows and Boro's next chance came from an Angus free-kick which Osborn managed to tip over. Essandoh hit the post for Kettering on 59 minutes after Ian Robinson had gone past Love and drilled in a low cross. The left back went forward and had another powerful drive deflected over with Angus heading over from the corner.

Midway through the second half Chris Difante replaced Midgley and he made an immediate impact, putting Kettering ahead with his first touch after Neil Moore had misjudged a long Robinson through ball. The visitors nearly made it 3-1 two minutes later when Acton spilled a looping cross and Burgess fired against the post with the goal at his mercy. Murphy headed over as Boro chased an equaliser, but Kettering had a superb chance as Burgess fired wide when unmarked on the edge of the box. Boro probed the Poppies' defence as the game entered its final ten minutes. Quailey replaced Collins and Gary Fitzpatrick came on for Noon as Boro looked to salvage a draw. Having forced their second

corner inside the last three minutes, it was from a Martin Reeves delivery that Boro made it 2-2. Frew ghosted in at the back post to had past Osborn from an acute angle to send the Cock and Bear stand wild with delight.

Workington v Nuneaton Borough 03-09-2005

Workington: Collin, Hooper, Green, May, Green, Dillon, Gordon, Birks, Hamilton, Arnold, Hoolickin. Subs: Hamilton, Goulding, Arnison, Summersgill.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Wilkin, Collins, Noon, Frew, Murphy, Staff. Subs: Blenkinsopp, Quailey, Fitzpatrick, Holmes, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Borough Park to play Workington in a Conference North game.

Two late goals gave Boro a deserved three points following a solid performance that gave the Manor Park side their first away win of the season. Neither team really looked like scoring until Boro's Michael Frew gave the visitors a 1-0 lead with 20 minutes remaining. There did not seem to be any way back for Working and this was confirmed three minutes later when Gez Murphy added the second from a penalty.

It was Murphy who should have given Boro a first-half lead when he raced through on goal but Adam Collin saved at his feet. David Staff took the resulting corner and it needed the Reds' Adam Gray to clear off the line. Darren Acton was only troubled once in the first-half when a wicked bounce from a long free-kick had to be turned over his own bar.

Boro upped the pace in the second period and always looked the team most likely to score as the defensive duo of Neil Moore and Kevin Wilkin held firm at the back. Their distribution was far superior to the limited passing technique of Workington's players, who struggled to string more than three passes together all afternoon.

Three-quarters of the game had gone when Mark Noon's through ball found Frew and he confidently beat keeper Collin with a cool slotted finish. Nuneaton made it 2-0 three minutes later when Staff was brought down in the box by Kyle May. Murphy, who had put the initial pass through to Staff, stepped up to take the spot kick and blasted the ball past Collin to give Boro an unassailable lead. Workington had a chance in the final minute but Acton was equal to Ian Arnold's clever free-kick.

Nuneaton Borough v Lancaster City 10-09-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Beward 83), Moore, Wilkin, Collins, Noon, Frew, Murphy (Quailey 74), Staff. Subs: Poole, Holmes, Rose.

Lancaster: McMillan, Uberschar, McMahan, Swan, Howsen (Morris 46), Eckersley, Taylor, Jones, Rogan (Sullivan 59), Elderton (Skinner 46). Subs: Bauress.

Boro welcomed Lancaster City to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Michael Love wasted a second minute free-kick before good work from Michael Frew led to a Matty Collins' header, which Tony McMillan tipped over his bar. But from the corner Boro took the lead as Wilkin jumped with McMillan and won the

header which the visitors defence failed to clear, only helping the ball into the net. On six minutes it was 2-0 before Lancaster, who were playing in an old Boro away strip on the referee's orders, even had the chance of getting out of their own half.



Kevin Wilkin gives Boro the lead.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro won a free-kick from the restart, which Love flighted on to the head of Neil Moore, who had the simple task of planting a firm header past McMillan. The Dolly Blues had their first chance on goal after 13 minutes when Acton had to punch clear after an effort by Alex Taylor was partially blocked by Moore. Acton had to make another save, this time from Elderton, when a number of errors in the Boro defence allowed the visitors to carve out a chance. Michael Frew tried an audacious volley and Murphy had a shot saved by McMillan as Boro hit back, with Frew going close again as the home side dominated possession.

Frew's next attempt at goal was parried and Murphy's follow-up deflected wide with the corner headed wide by Moore. Boro increased their lead on 35 minutes after Murphy ran clear down the left and squared to Staff in front of goal. His shot was saved by McMillan but Reeves picked up the rebound and finished with precision. Frew ended the first period with another long-range shot that went just wide.

Boro pressed at the start of the second half and Wilkin again outjumped the keeper but his effort was cleared. Frew's follow-up was blocked and Reeves was unable to score from the loose ball. There was a poor passage of play before Boro again picked up the pace and McMillan saved Reeves' fierce volley and Love forced the keeper into another good stop before Murphy headed wide with the goal at his mercy. Dolly Blues' substitute Tony Sullivan hit the bar with a rocket as Boro looked for an offside decision and fellow replacement Stephen Skinner flashed a shot over as Lancaster searched for a lifeline.

Lancaster thought they had a chance when Acton brought down Taylor, but although the referee awarded a penalty the linesman's flag was already raised for offside. Boro wasted a number of chances and didn't look like adding to their tally until Brian Quailey replaced Murphy and caused the Lancaster defence a few problems. Tom Breward came on for his Boro debut and Noon had a late chance to make it 4-0 but he miscontrolled in front of goal.

Hucknall Town v Nuneaton Borough

17-09-2005

Hucknall: Lindley, Asher, Beech, Rowland, Timons, Cooke, Smith (Ward 78), Palmer (Nangle 66), Ricketts, Gill, McSweeney. Subs: Groves, Carter, Robinson.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 81), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Frew, Murphy (Quailey 85), Staff. Subs: Whittaker, Wilkin, Mellings.

Boro made the journey to Watnall Road to play Hucknall Town in a Conference North game.

Both teams had early chances with Gez Murphy shooting wide from close range for Boro on three minutes after David Staff had latched on to Frew's through ball and put in a low cross. The frantic opening continued with Frew having a shot saved by James Lindley and Darren Acton blocking a Ricketts effort at the other end before the home side went close again, Angus clearing another Ricketts shot with Acton beaten. Hucknall could have taken the lead after 15 minutes when Ricketts flicked on to Phil Rowland who fired just wide. Lindley gathered at the second attempt after spilling Oddy's cross as both teams continued to play some attractive football.

Former Boro triallist Leon McSweeney was playing some lovely balls to Ricketts and Gill as Oddy was exposed time and again, but Town lacked the killer punch. A rare error at the back from Hucknall allowed Murphy a shot at goal five minutes before half-time, but his left foot stab drifted wide and the half ended deadlocked at 0-0.

The second-half began in a subdued manner with both sides adopting a more sedate pace compared to the first-half and both sides defending well. But on 62 minutes Boro stunned the home side with an opener after Hucknall had failed to clear a Staff corner, the ball was headed back into the box by Palmer and the unmarked Frew sprung the offside trap to head past Lindley. Five minutes later it could have been two as Boro's goal seemed to take the wind out of Hucknall's sails and Murphy found himself free in the box but his left foot strike was saved by Lindley. Acton saved an acrobatic overhead kick from Ricketts as Hucknall looked for an equaliser before Murphy found the net for Boro, only for play to be pulled back for an offence by Collins.

Murphy headed on to the roof of the net as Hucknall struggled to get into the game, while Noon fired just wide after nutmegging Hucknall skipper Chris Timons. Manager Dean Barrick's answer was to bring on a third striker in Mark Nangle to join Ricketts and Gill in attack but the substitute did not see much of the ball. Gary Fitzpatrick replaced Reeves inside the last ten minutes and Boro continued to attack, Lindley saved from Oddy's free-kick and then he kept Murphy's shot out when Hucknall defender Russell Cooke had put the Nuneaton forward in on goal with a perfectly placed header. Then with just 90 seconds remaining the home side were given a lifeline when Fitzpatrick was adjudged to have fouled Ricketts and the referee gave a penalty, but justice was done as Gill shot wide.



Boro fans cheer on their team at Watnall Road.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro Cup Star Dies

A man who once turned down West Brom to stay with Nuneaton Borough will be remembered with a minute's silence at Manor Park. Bill Thompson, a legendary centre-half from Boro's great FA Cup fighting past, has died at the age of 83. William Morpeth Thompson came from the north-east and joined Boro from Stockton in 1948. He was an integral part of Colin Lyman's famous cup fighters who battled through to the Third Round Proper before losing to Exeter City at St James' Park.

Nuneaton Borough v Hyde United 01-10-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon (Fitzpatrick 86), Frew, Murphy (Quailey 74), Staff (Whittaker 80). **Subs:** Poole, Wilkin.

Hyde: Westhead, Adams, Caldecott, Jones, Milligan, Hill, Brackenbridge, Salt, Clee, Johnson (Dudley 80), McNeil. **Subs:** Dean, Njdebayi, Lynch, Armstrong.

Boro welcomed Hyde United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro started brightly and Gez Murphy volleyed wide in the opening seconds before they threatened again through Staff and Frew. Murphy had a glorious chance after four minutes when he put a close range shot over the bar before Boro thought they had taken the lead after 11 minutes when Noon ghosted into the box after a clever dummy by Frew and a square ball allowed Murphy to slide in and Matty Collins helped the ball over the line, but was adjudged to be offside. Mark Westhead palmed a Reeves centre away as Hyde struggled to get out of their own half and Boro attacked through Staff, who forced Westhead into a fine save.

A rare Hyde attack in the 26th minute saw Johnson race down the right but Darren Acton cut out his cross before Boro's next attempt, a tame Reeves shot, was comfortably saved. Murphy's long range effort went wide and Phil Salt blasted wide at the other end before a great opportunity fell to Tigers' Nicky Clee five minutes before the break, which he put over the bar. Terry Angus had a shot from the edge of the box saved and then put a header wide before the half-time whistle.

Noon put a shot into the side netting at the start of the second half as Boro continued to dominate the game. Frew's drive flashed across the face of goal after Murphy had put him through and Staff tried a shot, which went too high. However, it was Hyde that had the best chance of the second period when Johnson sprung the offside trap and had time to pick his spot as a silence fell over Manor Park, but he somehow managed to hit the post from just six yards out. Johnson found himself in exactly the same position four minutes later, but this time it was Acton that came to Boro's rescue.

A heavy challenge on Rob Oddy gave the home side a free-kick on the edge of the box but Angus' left foot curler was tipped over the bar and Salt curled a shot into Acton's arms before Boro's best chance of the second half saw Frew intercept a stray Hyde pass and he struck a sweet left-foot drive that beat Westhead and hit the post and although Murphy was first to the rebound Westhead managed to save. Collins went on a rampaging run down the right and shot, but Westhead gathered at the second attempt before Angus headed over the top.

Finally, with just six minutes remaining, came the goal that won the match for the home side. Quailey collected the ball wide on the left and beat Westhead from an acute angle to give Boro the lead. Clee had an opportunity for the Tigers immediately after but he put his shot over the bar.

Tipton Town v Nuneaton Borough 05-10-2005

Boro: Poole, Oddy, Love (Holmes 69), Hatton, Wilkin, Rae, Staff, Fitzpatrick, Quailey (Blenkinsopp 69), Murphy (Noon 77), Whittaker. **Subs:** Frew, Reeves.

Boro made the journey to the Wednesbury Oak Ground to play Tipton Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

It was a fifth successive victory for Boro, who beat Midland Alliance outfit Tipton Town with goals from Brian Quailey, Paul Hatton and Gez Murphy. A poor throw out by Tipton keeper Dan Watson on six minutes handed Boro their first chance, David Staff collected the loose ball and crossed for Quailey but the striker completely missed his kick. Watson redeemed himself in the following move when Murphy beat the offside trap and crossed for Staff, whose close-range shot was kept out by a terrific point-blank save from the keeper.

Tipton pressurised and went close on a couple of occasions before Boro opened the scoring, an unmarked Quailey striking home from inside the box on ten minutes. Stuart Whittaker blazed over following some good work from Staff, who was allowed acres of space on the right and Murphy rifled a shot wide after twisting and turning in the opposition box. Quailey wasted a great chance to double his tally when his shot skewed wide and Murphy headed a corner over the bar. Murphy had another chance before half-time although the home side had some opportunities of their own following some dangerous crosses, but it remained 1-0 until the break.

After a tepid opening ten minutes to the second half, Murphy



had another great chance after Whittaker's quick free-kick but once again the chance was wasted as he cut inside and blasted over. Tipton were getting closer to an equaliser before Boro's first team debutant Hatton double the visitors' lead with a 35 yard screamer on 60 minutes. Tipton pulled one back five minutes later when Ash Langford crossed for Morgan Murley to beat Poole but Boro went straight up the other end and made it 3-1, Murphy eventually getting the goal he had been threatening all evening. David Blenkinsopp came on as a 69th minute substitute for Quailey and went close a couple of times, but Tipton never threatened again.

Boro Stadium Delay

Nuneaton Borough's plans for a new stadium on the outskirts of town are in danger of being derailed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The office has been examining the proposals for the 4,850-capacity arena, which would be shared with Nuneaton Rugby Club. They were referred to the office after Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council granted planning permission for the plans.

That was in August, and the West Midlands office of the department has told the council it needs more time to study the stadium proposals. Officials are deciding whether to "call in" the scheme – a decision they will make if they feel there are issues still to be resolved before final permission can be given. That would mean further delays for Nuneaton Borough, who at the moment have permission for a temporary stand at the Liberty Way ground.

The ground sharing scheme is already a major departure from the Borough's original plan for a new home. In 1998 the club unveiled details of a £4.2 million purpose-built arena, the second phase of which would see it become a 9,999 all-seater stadium, but this has now been downgraded. The new scheme will have a smaller capacity than Manor Park, which can hold 6,500, albeit with seating for just 520.

Club chairman Roger Stanford said: "The longer it goes on, the more worrying it becomes. But there's nothing we can do – the application is with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and all we can do it wait. We don't believe it is to do with the ground, we think it is just the enabling development..."

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 15-10-2005

Moor Green: Coates, English, Scott, Penny, Sanders (Collins 31), Snape (Nurse 54), Morrison, Middleton, Dowdall, Bridgwater (Faulds 65), Trainer. Subs: Davis, Midworth.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Wilkin (Rea 70), Collins, Noon (Blenkinsopp), Frew (Staff 70), Murphy, Whittaker. Subs: Quailey, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Damson Lane to play Moor Green in a Conference North game.

Boro made a nervous start and were caught out after four minutes when Darren Acton raced out of his area and was beaten to the ball by Moor's leading scorer Darren Middleton. He took it round the keeper and was brought down by last

man Michael Love. When the ball broke to David Bridgwater, he had an open goal to shoot at, but the referee pulled play back, to the anger of the home bench. They were further enraged when Love received only a yellow card and Richard Scott's free-kick was pushed over the bar. Acton put his side in more danger with another error but Boro got away with it as the keeper's erratic start continued.

Junior English cleared a Boro corner from under his bar before Boro took the lead with their first real attack of the game. Gez Murphy sprung the offside trap and ran on to collect Mark Noon's through ball before cleverly back heeling to Frew just inside the box, who placed his shot past keeper James Coates to give the visitors a 1-0 lead on 13 minutes. Moors captain Guy Sanders was booked for a terrible foul on Frew, which could have caused the youngster an injury, but it was Sanders who had to leave the pitch with a shoulder injury and was replaced by Lee Collins.

The substitute had an immediate impact, blocking a goal-bound shot from Murphy after a delightful Matty Collins header had put him through, then his Moors namesake was in action again, heading against the post with Acton stranded. Middleton caused problems for the Boro defence and after one half-chance he went close again after Wilkin's poor defensive error let him in, but Acton came to the rescue with a magnificent save. Boro had a penalty turned down before they scored again as Murphy picked up a loose ball and fed Noon, who waltzed through the Moors defence and fired a shot past Coates a minute before half-time. Boro turned on the style with a lovely flowing move that involved Murphy, Fitzpatrick, Stuart Whittaker and Collins which ended with a shot from Rob Oddy that Coates did well to block.

Boro started the second half in lively fashion with a great run down the right by Frew and Murphy missed a glorious chance when he was put through one on one with the keeper. However, he atoned for that miss by scoring Boro's third in the 52nd minute. Moors' Collins hauled down Frew in the box, for which he received a yellow card and Murphy slammed in Boro's third from the penalty spot. With that the Moors threw in the towel and Murphy scored again four minutes later to make it 4-0 when he latched on to a long ball and placed his shot past Coates. The Moors were having no luck in front of goal and the closest they got was when Moore headed against his own crossbar before Acton saved a Middleton header and the game drifted to its inevitable conclusion.

Stocker To Take Over?

Speculation is rife that former Coventry City director Ted Stocker is poised to buy a controlling stake in Nuneaton Borough. Stocker, former owner of Vanderhoff Communications, is believed to be in the process of buying more than 50 per cent of the shares in the Nationwide North club and was present at a board meeting at Manor Park yesterday. Boro chairman Roger Stanford refused to discuss the nature of Mr Stocker's involvement...



Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 17-10-2005

Worcester: McDonnell, Warner, Khan (Hodnett 38), Smith, Thompson, Lyttle (Jones 67), Wedgbury, Hyde, Kelly (Preece 75), Webster, McDonald. Subs: Watkins, Wood.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love (Whittaker 14), Fitzpatrick, Rea, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Murphy (Frew 85), Staff. Subs: Poole, Blenkinsopp, Wilkin.

Boro made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Conference North game.

Boro started strongly and mounted an attack in the second minute that saw Mark Noon release Murphy down the right and his pinpoint cross was volleyed just over. Five minutes later Matty Collins skinned Shabir Khan to get in a good cross, but Worcester cleared the danger. Boro were dealt a blow after 14 minutes when Michael Love limped off to be replaced by Stuart Whittaker, who took up the left wing position while David Staff took over at left back. Worcester created their first chance after a long ball split Boro wide open and Adam Webster raced through on goal with just Acton to beat but the former Bedworth United man shot wide.

Leon Kelly twice went close before Boro took the lead in the 32nd minute when Rob Oddy played the ball to Quailey inside the box with his back to goal. The Boro captain fed Collins on the right and the midfielder raced to the by-line before crossing low to Murphy, who allowed the ball to roll through his legs before a deft back heel left Danny McDonnell flummoxed and put Boro one up. Quailey was on hand to clear with a defensive header as Worcester won a corner with half-time approaching but the visitors were able to hold firm until the interval.

Worcester started the second half well and Acton pulled off a tremendous save to prevent Fitzpatrick heading an own goal. Angus and Rea were forging a solid partnership and Staff looked comfortable while Noon was having a tremendous game and just after the hour he played a ball out to Whittaker and his looping shot was pushed over by McDonnell before Angus headed the corner wide. Whittaker had a shot cleared off the line before Justin Thompson headed over at the other end as the game went into its final quarter.

McDonnell saved from Collins before substitute Jimmi-Lee Jones wasted a golden opportunity for City, when his weak shot was easily saved by Acton. Quailey fired wide and Sam Wedgbury had a header saved by Acton who then made a brave save at the feet of Preece. There was time for one more extraordinary save by Acton as he denied Preece who shot on the turn and Boro broke with a two on one, but when Noon released Frew he raced clear only to shoot wide.

Kelly Exonerated

Noel Kelly's fight for justice is over after the Nationwide Conference exonerated the former Nuneaton Borough chairman and cleared him of any blame in the club's 1987 demotion. Kelly's eighteen and a half year campaign to clear his name ended in victory when he received a statement

from the Nationwide Conference following his meeting with the committee last month. The official statement read: "The Conference confirms that the demotion of Nuneaton Borough Football Club in 1987 was on the evidence available, wrong and that had an appeal to the FA been made on the club's behalf the appeal would have probably succeeded. The Conference recognises the validity of the 18 year campaign that Noel Kelly has undertaken on behalf of himself and Nuneaton Borough Football Club.

"The Conference confirms that on the evidence available Noel Kelly was personally not responsible in any way for the situation which led to the decision to demote Nuneaton Borough..."

Finnigan Denies Resignation

Nuneaton Borough's managing director Clair Finnigan has emphatically denied resigning – despite an official statement announcing that she had left her post. The football club issued a press release and posted on their website concerning her departure, but Ms Finnigan immediately refuted these allegations and claimed she had not offered her resignation. Finnigan who came to Manor Park in October 2004, has been under pressure in the last month following speculation of a takeover bid from local businessman Ted Stocker.

But the 33-year-old was defiant that she is still the managing director and has an important part to play with the club, who booked their place in the FA Cup first round proper on Tuesday night. "I spoke with the chairman Roger Stanford yesterday morning and I have not resigned," said Finnigan. "I can confirm that they have not received a letter of resignation from me."

But in an official statement, Dave Riche, media and sales manager, said: "The football club wish to announce the resignation of managing director Clair Finnigan. Miss Finnigan resigned earlier this week and the board have accepted her resignation."

The official press release also announced the departure of vice-chairman, David Devall who has resigned due to work commitments but will continue as an associate director with the club. Stanford said: "David has had a major input into the club and we thank him for his efforts over the years – and look forward to him still being involved with us in the future. His input over the years has been gratefully appreciated and he has worked extremely hard for Nuneaton Borough."

Nuneaton Borough v Stalybridge Celtic 29-10-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Rea, Collins (Murphy 50), Noon, Frew (Whittaker 86), Quailey, Staff. Subs: Poole, Blenkinsopp, Holmes.

Stalybridge: Pettinger, Black (Baker 69), Barnard, Keeling, Haran, Price, Warton, Sykes, Ellington, Banim, Prince. Subs: Turley, Buxton, Garvey, Parr.

Boro welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Stalybridge thought they had scored in the third minute as a

Jody Banim shot was saved by Acton and the ex-Droylsden forward found the net from the rebound, but was pulled up for offside. The home side responded with a quick break but Celtic keeper Paul Pettinger just beat Quailey to the ball before Boro's fortunes looked to have taken a turn for the worse as Darren Acton slumped to the floor after taking a free-kick. He carried on but looked uncomfortable.

Boro were not offering much in attack but Mark Noon and Rob Oddy continued to pop balls over the top for Michael Frew to chase, but they continued to press and Love's in-swinging free-kicks into the area were causing problems for Celtic. Chris Price had to head over his own bar before Kevin Wilkin's perfectly timed tackle denied Banim a shot and with half-time approaching, Quailey capitalised on a defensive error in the Celtic box and headed for goal but he was crowded out. Rea shot over following a corner and then dragged Banim down on the edge of the area two minutes before the break and was shown a red card. Banim went close with the free-kick and Paul Sykes headed over as ten-man Boro held out until half-time.



Brian Quailey puts Paul Pettinger under pressure.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro were reduced to nine men at the start of the second half following a tackle on Fitzpatrick by Price, who was booked. Lee Ellington bundled the ball past Acton but a handball was given against him as the visitors started to dominate the game, forcing a string of corners to keep Boro penned in before Oddy cleared. Boro needed a goal-line clearance to stay level with Acton struggling. Celtic's strongarm tactics were causing uproar among Boro fans and they expressed their fury with a chorus of boos. Oddy deflected Sykes goal-bound header wide before Boro attacked again and Quailey wasted a great chance when he over-hit a cross.

Boro had another chance to steal all three points with seven minutes remaining but Fitzpatrick failed to connect with Murphy's cross and then Oddy curled a shot wide after a rampaging run through the centre of the park. Stuart Whittaker and Oddy both went close with late free-kicks before an incredible tackle by Mark Noon inside his own box deep into stoppage time, ensured Boro a draw.

Nuneaton Borough v Walsall

01-11-2005

Boro: Poole, Oddy (Foster 46), Holmes, Reeves (Beward 43), Wilkin, Love, Staff, Fitzpatrick, Blenkinsopp (Frew 74), Murphy, Whittaker.
Subs: Browett, Mellings.

Walsall: Tilt, Leaver, Taunday (Harris 73), Smith, Clayton, Bradley, Szybel, Davies, Nicholls, McDermott, Bowen (Quarless 63).

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

Walsall, who fielded a mix of youth team players and a sprinkling of reserve teamers, were the first to threaten and Jay Szybel found space on the right only to curl a shot tamely wide. Despite being off the pace, Martin Reeves had Boro's first chance on goal after David Staff made an incisive midfield run, nudging the ball to Reeves who blasted the ball into Lee Clayton's outstretched leg. Captain for the evening Gary Fitzpatrick ran the midfield, spraying passes to both flanks where Stuart Whittaker and Staff often found space, but with little support.

Walsall rattled Ryan Poole's crossbar on the half hour when Mark Bradley thundered a header in which was followed up by David McDermott finding space in the box, but he put a weak shot straight at Poole. It was another mazy midfield dribble from Staff which unlocked the Walsall defence for the first goal of the match on 36 minutes. Cutting in from the right flank, Staff laid off to Murphy, who with his back to goal threaded a pass into the box to Oddy whose shot was blocked but rebounded to Murphy who planted the ball in the net.

Reeves went off injured after 42 minutes and was replaced by Tom Beward before former Kidderminster striker Ian Foster came on to replace Oddy. Foster showed promising signs, using possession efficiently to bring Murphy into the game.

Ten minutes into the second half, Foster, inside his own half, lofted a ball to the head of Murphy, who showed excellent control before releasing David Blenkinsopp to speed into the box and poke a left footed shot into Luke Tilt's left hand corner. Blenkinsopp was celebrating a second goal ten minutes later, latching on to a Wilkin long ball to lob Tilt on the edge of his box with a deft left footed finish which drifted in off the post.

Walsall hit back with 15 minutes left and Szybel whipped a ball in from the right and found centre-half Maney Smith who drilled home from close range. Any bid for a late comeback was quashed seconds later when Beward engineered a chance down the right flank, linking with Foster before placing the ball coolly into the left hand corner. Boro had a let-off following a scramble, but Poole deflected Clayton's shot and Love completed the clearance. Boro rounded off the scoring when Staff scuffed a shot at Tilt and the keeper misjudged the bounce and the ball spun from his grasp and into the roof of the net. Frew almost rounded events off beautifully with a chip from outside the box, but his effort bounced wide, and with that miss came the final chance of the match.



Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 08-11-2005

Northwich: Rogers, McCarthy, Chapman, Handyside, Carr, Charnock, Mayman, Elliott, Allan, Brayson, Roca (Battersby 55). Subs: Payne, Connett, Byrne, Devlin.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Wilkin (Blenkinsopp 84 (Whittaker 90)), Angus, Love, Staff, Collins, Noon, Fitzpatrick, Quailey (Rea 35). Subs: Holmes, Breward.

Boro made the journey to the Victoria Stadium to play Northwich Victoria in a Conference North game.

David Staff embarked on a mazy dribble before playing in Quailey, who lost his footing at the critical moment. Pressing forward, Boro were caught defending high up the pitch on ten minutes when a through ball from John Allan wrong-footed Wilkin, allowing the league's leading marksman Paul Brayson a clear run on goal before rounding the advancing Darren Acton and tapping home from the edge of the box.

Straight from the kick-off Quailey flicked a Rob Oddy cross into the path of Frew whose neat twist and chip saw the ball loop just wide. With 23 minutes on the clock Boro levelled the scores after Frew knocked a sublime ball to Staff on the left flank and he arched a run into the box, going past John McCarthy to cut the ball back to Mark Noon, who controlled the ball before coolly slotting home from eight yards.

Quailey picked up an injury ten minutes before the break and was replaced by Simon Rea, allowing Wilkin to move forward and Mark Noon took over as captain. Minutes after the reshuffle Brayson was put through one-on-one with Acton after good work from Allan, as he aligned his feet to stroke the ball home Michael Love lunged from the side to toe-poke the ball to safety with a heroic tackle. With half-time looming Acton made two terrific saves to first deny Carlos Roca's low drive and moments later made a remarkable near post save to keep out Allan's close range thunderbolt. Just before the break Angus denied Brayson as he latched on to Roca's pass.

Seven minutes after half-time Fitzpatrick and Frew both played clumsy balls which allowed Northwich to burst forward. Allan's pass found Brayson, who had plenty to do on the edge of the box, but his low drive was too good for Acton. Frew was next to pick up a knock, before Acton was again in brilliant form to deny Brayson, diving low to his left to parry a shot which Angus cleared to safety. Mark Noon volleyed over from Staff's pass before, with 12 minutes to go, Boro pressed forward and Rea played a delightful curling ball over the top which skidded nicely on the wet surface for Frew to latch onto. The forward evaded the attentions of Ben Chapman to cut the ball back from the by-line to find Wilkin, who slammed home from close range.

Frew was dragged off with six minutes to play and replaced by David Blenkinsopp, who himself picked up an injury five minutes later and was replaced by Whittaker. Rea played a great game as Northwich loaded balls into the Boro goalmouth and with little time left Angus almost snapped up a late winner from a Frew cross but his header drifted over the top.

Blenkinsopp Breaks Ankle

Boro's young striker, David Blenkinsopp, suffered a broken ankle in the game at Northwich after coming on as a second half substitute. The youngster joined the game in the 85th minute but had to be replaced by Stuart Whittaker.

Boro Sign Davidson

Boro have signed ex-Stafford Rangers striker Danny Davidson from Crawley Town. The striker bagged six goals in 39 games for the Sussex club after joining them for a £10,000 fee from Stafford Rangers in the summer of 2004.

Nuneaton Borough v Vauxhall Motors 12-11-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Wilkin, Collins, Noon, Frew (Murphy 67), Davidson (Whittaker 67), Staff. Subs: Reeves, Poole, Foster.

Vauxhall: Dittmer, Moogan, McDermott, Spellman, McNulty, Willis (Garrity 77), Lawton, Rooney (O'Donnell 77), Olsen, Cuminsky. Subs: McNutt, Noone.

Boro welcomed Vauxhall Motors to Manor Park to play a Conference North match.

The home side started brightly with Danny Davidson and Michael Frew showing up well. But it was two midfield men who combined for the game's opening goal. Mark Noon beat Brian Moogan for pace down the left flank, before arching his run into the box and squaring the ball to David Staff, who toe-poked the ball home from eight yards out. The goal did little to galvanise a lacklustre Boro and 13 minutes later Kevin Wilkin slipped on the half-way line allowing Thomas Rooney to race through and round Darren Acton before tapping the ball into an empty net.

Noon had a couple of chances to restore Boro's lead but dragged his first shot wide and the second, a one-on-one with Timothy Dittmer, saw the keeper save with his feet.

Ten minutes after the interval, Boro clumsily let in Rooney on the half-way line when attempting to play the offside trap and he advanced towards goal where Acton was helpless to prevent the shot into the bottom corner. Boro lacked inspiration and could have fallen further behind when Rooney's mazy dribble was let down by his final touch, and the ball rolled harmlessly to the feet of Acton. Davidson had a golden opportunity to open his account when he capitalised on an error from Carl Spellman on the half-way line, turned and was one-on-one with Dittmer, but the keeper parried the shot away, although the referee gave a goal kick.

Ashby withdrew both centre-forwards with 20 minutes to go, and Gez Murphy entered the fray along with Stuart Whittaker. Murphy looked sharp and found himself in an excellent position in the box from a poorly cleared corner, but he miscued his volley and the ball was scuffed to safety. Skipper Neil Moore had three chances to equalise, blazing two volleys over and a header which dropped agonisingly wide from a Michael Love corner.

The equaliser arrived on 83 minutes when Murphy turned



beautifully to speed into the box, before cutting back to Staff who again showed excellent composure to score his second of the afternoon. Desperately chasing a winning goal, the impressive Matty Collins drove into the box before being hauled to the ground by Moogan, and the referee pointed to the spot. Murphy made no mistake from 12 yards out, blasting the ball straight down the middle.

Boro Stadium Plan Gets Go Ahead

Nuneaton Borough's dreams of moving to a new home have finally been realised in the week they shoot for FA Cup glory. The club have been informed that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has decided not to call in their planning application. The government office has been examining proposals for the 4,850-capacity arena at Liberty Way since August, after Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had granted their planning application...

Nuneaton Borough v Worksop Town	06-12-2005
<p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Frew (Foster 46), Staff. Subs: Fitzpatrick, Rea, Whittaker, Wilkin.</p> <p>Worksop: Sollitt, Nicholson, Davies, Thorpe, Miller, Simpkins, Norton (Carrington 56), Dempsey, Wilson, Robinson (Owens 80), Traore (Flanagan 63). Subs: Oldham, Kirkwood.</p>	

Boro welcomed Worksop Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro attacked from the off but the Tigers had the first shot of the game when Achille Traore fired wide in the third minute. Five minutes later the visitors won the first corner and started to gain the upper hand as Boro sat back. Worksop had a strong penalty appeal turned down in the first 15 minutes before Darren Acton raced from his line to clear a short back-pass but kicked the ball straight at Rob Oddy and it rebounded off the defender into Traore's path. It looked as though the striker had been impeded but the referee waved penalty appeals away.

Adam Sollitt palmed Frew's shot away before the youngster had two more efforts as Boro started to dominate. Worksop's Michael Simpkins was booked and David Staff blazed wide from the resulting free-kick. Worksop were now offering little or no threat and Boro took the lead after Noon dribbled through the Worksop defence at pace and was hacked down by Kevin Davies with Quailey stepping up to score his third penalty in as many games. Quailey raced away and forced another corner two minutes from the break while Angus made a vital clearance from Steve Robinson's cross in first-half stoppage time.

Foster replaced Frew for the second half and was immediately in the action, latching on to a pass from Collins and firing in a shot which Sollitt gathered at the second attempt. The outstanding Quailey again went close and Reeves had a shot from the edge of the box before Quailey scored his second goal. Foster darted down the right wing and delivered a delightful cross which Quailey met on the volley and smashed the ball into the roof of the net. Foster chanced his arm with a long-

range volley five minutes later after Reeves had lobbed the ball into his path but his strike went just over.

Robinson hit the outside of the post on a rare Worksop attack before the visitors got one back on 67 minutes, Davies crossing for Mark Wilson to score. Boro responded with a Foster shot that struck the bar and Wilson hit the side netting at the other end as the home side began to falter with 15 minutes remaining. Davies headed a Robinson corner just wide as the Tigers searched for an equaliser and Simpkins blazed over when he really should have done better following a Worksop corner. But it was Boro who made the game safe when Quailey turned provider as he put in a low driven cross for Foster to sweep into the net. It should have been four when Reeves played Quailey in for his hat-trick but the striker shot wide. Another chance for Quailey came in injury time, but he shot over the bar.

Hinckley United v Nuneaton Borough	10-12-2005
<p>Hinckley: Haystead, Cartwright, Wade, Lavery, Heeley, Piercewright, Storer, Chilaka (Manship), McGregor (Brown 74), Palmer, Shilton. Subs: Colkin, Platnauer.</p> <p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins (Fitzpatrick 86), Noon, Quailey, Foster (Murphy 59), Staff. Subs: Rea, Wilkin, Whittaker.</p>	

Boro made the journey to the Marston's Stadium to play Hinckley United in a Conference North game.

The first corner of the match was won by Boro and Martin Reeves had the game's first chance on seven minutes after the midfield man controlled Oddy's ball, but Danny Haystead was able to save his weak strike from distance. Boro bossed the first 15 minutes and even when Hinckley won a free-kick on the edge of the box they were unable to trouble the Boro back line or Darren Acton. Haystead took a Collins' cross before keeping Staff's strike at bay following the winger's jinking run down the left.

Hinckley's first chance, after 27 minutes, saw Chibuzor Chilaka pick up a loose ball from a corner and fire goalwards but the shot was blocked which took the pace off the ball and Acton made an easy save. Three minutes later Dougie Wade blasted over from 20 yards as Hinckley started to impose themselves on the game. Neil Moore was causing the Hinckley defence problems from set pieces but it was difficult to see where a goal was coming from. Boro went close when a low Staff drive was pushed around the post by Haystead, with Terry Angus nodding the rebound over the top. A Carl Heeley tackle on Quailey prevented a goalscoring opportunity.

Hinckley forced a corner in the opening minute of the second half and though the ball was partially cleared, McGregor's shot was blocked. Oddy had a poor shot when he should have passed and Reeves shot well over following Foster's run. Angus was booked for wrestling McGregor to the ground but Cartwright curled the free-kick wide. Cartwright shot over the bar and Lavery chipped a shot straight at Acton before being called on to tidy up in the area at the other end.



Acton saved from Palmer before Quailey forced a corner and Moore headed over again as the game entered its final 15 minutes. It was frantic end-to-end stuff at this stage as both teams searched for a winner and Quailey headed a fantastic Love cross just wide. But ten minutes from time it was Boro who finally found the breakthrough. Staff crossed from the right, Noon and Heeley jumped together and the loose ball fell to Quailey who smashed a half-volley past Haystead and into the roof of the net.

A Hinckley onslaught failed to materialise in the closing stages as a number of stoppages disrupted play and ensured that three minutes of injury time were to be played. Boro could have made it two right on 90 minutes when a Haystead clearance hit Quailey and bounced towards goal but Piercewright got back to clear for a corner. Reeves was able to maintain possession for Boro but when he seemed to be hauled down in the box a penalty appeal was turned down. For the remainder of the game Boro turned on the style with Staff in particular displaying some silky skills as the visitors ran down the clock and kept the ball in the corner of the pitch. Quailey missed one final chance but it did not matter as Boro easily held on.

Gainsborough Trinity v Nuneaton Borough 17-12-2005

Gainsborough: Holmshaw, Wood, Burley (Cauldwell 89), Ellis, Pell, Higgins, Trout, Sherlock, Smith, Mallon, Baker. **Subs:** Reeves, Rowan, L. Parker, W. Parker.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Whittaker (Foster 75), Moore, Wilkin, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Frew (Murphy 90). **Subs:** Rea, Holmes.

Boro made the journey to Northolme to play Gainsborough Trinity in a Conference North fixture.

It was a largely uneventful opening ten minutes with neither keeper being called into action. But in the eleventh minute there was a chance at each end as first Darren Acton cut out Ryan Mallon's cross and then Jamie Holmshaw saved a long-range Stuart Whittaker shot, with Trinity forcing the game's first corner shortly after. Quailey flashed a shot wide on 17 minutes after a sharp turn in the box and Richard Pell went close at the other end as he headed a cross from Alex Higgins just over. Boro responded with the best chance of the game when a delightful slide-rule pass from Mark Noon found Michael Frew in the box but Holmshaw was able to block the striker's shot with his legs.

Collins then volleyed over before Gainsborough raced down the other end and took the lead, Jamie Smith twisting and turning the Boro defence before curling a shot past Acton's outstretched hand. They should have increased their lead two minutes later when Mallon beat Oddy on the left and crossed to Smith but he somehow managed to shoot straight at Acton from inside the six yard box, the rebound struck Smith and bounced out for a goal-kick. Despite looking like the better passing side Boro's attacks were breaking down in the final third and it was Trinity that were creating the better chances and Charlie Trout shot over from the edge of the

box on 37 minutes. Staff's free-kick then forced a save out of Holmshaw three minutes before the break but it was the home side that held the upper hand at the interval.

Neil Moore had a volley blocked at the start of the second half while Staff proved to be Boro's best offensive outlet but the strikers were not getting onto the end of his balls into the box. Noon shot just wide after Boro's next attack, but Gainsborough should have scored again with their next break, but Acton dived to his left and saved from Tom Baker.

Boro's pressure finally told when they drew level on the hour as Quailey battled through the defence and laid off to Noon who shot across goal for David Staff to run in and prod home. The visitors continued to press, Whittaker went close and Wilkin headed over but Trinity still looked dangerous on the break and Smith latched on to a loose ball and ran clear but he stumbled and fell at the crucial moment. Trinity's Baker then shot wide before Frew lobbed Holmshaw, but his shot was just over the bar. Ian Foster replaced Whittaker with 15 minutes left and Boro went all out for a winner. Holmshaw fumbled Quailey's cross-shot and it went out for a corner. Man-of-the-match Staff floated a cross over, Wilkin won the flick on ahead of Holmshaw and the loose ball fell to Quailey who spun and volleyed Boro into the lead. It was almost 3-1 when Oddy's free kick went through the Trinity wall but Holmshaw was able to smother the ball.

Boro Land Virgin Sponsorship

Nuneaton Borough Football Club have landed a major sponsorship deal with national giants Virgin Finance which will see a new name emblazoned across the club's shirts for the biggest game in their history. Virgin Money have agreed a one-off deal to become the club's shirt sponsors when Premiership Middlesbrough visit Manor Park on Saturday, January 7.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 26-12-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Staff, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 81), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey (Frew 60), Murphy (Wilkin 67), Whittaker. **Subs:** Poole, Rea.

Hednesford: Jenkins, Adams, Hunter, Briggs (McMahon 62), Wright, Marshall, Platt, Williams (Brannan 62), McSweeney, Bell, Beckett. **Subs:** Dyer, Whittle, Branch.

Boro welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park for a Conference North game.

Hednesford had the better of the opening exchanges, twice threading balls behind the Boro defence only for Terry Angus and Darren Acton to clear the danger. Good movement from Brian Quailey brought a moment of controversy as a clumsy challenge from Tom Marshall saw the referee award a free-kick right on the edge of the box, as players appealed for a penalty and Marshall was booked. The visitors best chance of the half arrived after 20 minutes when Andy Bell beat the offside trap and sprinted down the right but his square ball to Leon McSweeney was just behind the forward and his shot fizzed wide of Acton's near post.



Good work from Quailey almost broke the deadlock when his ball inside to Martin Reeves saw the midfielder tenaciously fend off two tackles before deftly dinking his shot just wide. Stuart Whittaker remained on the wide right position after swinging in a corner, from this position his trickery bedazzled Colin Hunter, finding space to cross to the far post where Murphy glanced the ball home. The goal seemed to settle Boro as they kept the ball on the ground, Murphy and Quailey both had pot shots which kept Adan Jenkins on his toes. A ball down the field by Martin Reeves found the head of Quailey who flicked the ball into the path of Murphy, who shifted the ball onto his right foot before slamming home his second of the afternoon.

The three points were as good as sealed when Whittaker's corner from the left was flicked on by Murphy at the Cock and Bear end. Jenkins managed to get a hand to the ball but could not prevent Boro's centre-forward scoring his hat-trick. Murphy was forced to leave the field after a collision with Marshall and was replaced by Kevin Wilkin with 67 minutes gone. With 12 minutes to go Colin Hunter probed down the left and into the box where Rob Oddy made slight contact with the ball before upending his opponent. After consulting with his linesman, the referee pointed to the spot and McSweeney made no mistake from 12 yards.

Without Murphy on the pitch Boro seemed to lack cohesion in the final third with substitutes Michael Frew and Wilkin failing to hold up the ball. Whittaker whipped in another searching corner to the far post with ten minutes left to play, but Neil Moore could only find the side-netting. The final action of the match saw a spectacular 18 yard overhead kick from Reeves which floated over the bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow

30-12-2005

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Wilkin, Love, Collins (Whittaker 80), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff, Murphy, Foster, Quailey. **Subs:** Frew, Poole, Rea, Holmes.

Barrow: Bishop, Edmonson, Ridley (Rushton 42), Heffernan, Smith, Dawson (Cowan 61), Flitcroft, Hill, Wilson, Knight, Cotterill. **Subs:** Thomsson, Howarth, Swarbrick.

Boro welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Neither side made much impact in the opening quarter before Boro should have taken the lead in the 27th minute. Mark Noon's determination and strength took him through two challenges before releasing Quailey down the inside right channel but the striker cut inside Kevin Dawson only to drag his 12 yarder dismally wide. Fitzpatrick had a 25-yarder graze the bar before the deadlock was broken in the 34th minute. A spell of pressure saw Matt Collins' neat footwork deceive Andy Hill, whose trip sent the midfielder crashing to the soaked turf and the referee immediately pointed to the spot from where Murphy sent Bishop the wrong way.

Ninety seconds later the lead should have doubled as Noon hoisted in a hanging centre that put Quailey clear, but he

sliced his shot wide. Bishop held Murphy's angled drive at full stretch as Boro continued to dominate.

Barrow went close two minutes after the break when some hesitant defending allowed Gavin Knight to break clear but Wilkin produced a tremendous saving tackle to divert the shot just past the post. Murphy forced a splendid save out of Bishop, who was also down smartly to hold Staff's slithering 15 yarder after Collins' square pass before Barrow hit back. Kyle Wilson's shot lacked power and accuracy and Darren Acton saved low to his right while Quailey squandered another gilt edged chance with a downward header from inside the six yard box that bounced wide.

Within 60 seconds Barrow drew level as substitute Michael Rushton got the better of Michael Love and from his low cross, Wilkin's attempted interception ended with the ball spinning off his leg and past Acton. However, never-say-die Boro bounced back brilliantly and on 85 minutes they regained the lead. Murphy squared to Staff who ducked to his right and delivered a peach of a 25 yard curler beyond the helpless Bishop and high into the rigging.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough

02-01-2006

Hednesford: Whittle, Adams, Hunter, Platt, Teesdale, Marshall, Brannan, Briggs, Dyer, Bell, Beckett. **Subs:** McMahon, McSweeney, Branch, Harvey, Jenkins.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Murphy, Staff. **Subs:** Whittaker, Reeves, Frew, Rea, Wilkin.

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

Darren Acton made his first save with less than five minutes on the clock, comfortably collecting a speculative strike from Colin Hunter. Terry Angus made an interception to deny Ross Dyer a shooting opportunity before Michael Love curled Boro's first corner into the arms of Tommy Whittle. Steve Brannan fired just wide before Boro's first shot came from Murphy but Whittle saved. Rob Oddy almost directed a Dyer header into his own net but the ball drifted wide as Acton looked on and ex-Hednesford man Gary Fitzpatrick snatched at a shot as both sides maintained their quest for a goal.

Hednesford were looking the side most likely to score and it was Grant Beckett who went close with a driven right-foot shot before Stuart Whittaker replaced the injured David Staff. But Boro came battling back with some fantastic football in and around the area, albeit with no end product. Boro dominated the final 15 minutes of the half and Moore headed Whittaker's corner over with the Pitmen playing on the break, which saw Dyer waste the game's best chance when he was one-on-one with Acton but he shot wide.

Fitzpatrick had a shot flash just wide seconds after the break while Acton made a good save from Beckett, who met Brannan's cross with a well-timed volley. Bell then shot wide as Hednesford picked up the pace and on the hour mark Boro needed another terrific save from Acton to deny the same

player after he got in behind Angus. Moore came to Boro's rescue when he headed a Beckett shot off the line while Murphy shot wide from a rare Boro attack and Michael Frew joined him, replacing Quailey with just over 20 minutes left. The pair combined immediately with Frew running on to a Murphy through ball but Whittle reached it first. Acton's long clearances looked to be Boro's best chance of an opening at this stage before Whittaker's corner appeared to go straight into the net, but the referee's assistant ruled it out as the ball had not crossed the line. Collins then shot wide as Boro woke up again following the Pitmen's escape and they continued to pile on the pressure but there was no way through.



Mark Noon - another impressive display. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Janet - A Boro Fan For 60 Years



Grandmother Janet Hammersley has been following Nuneaton Borough's fortunes since she was a little girl. Now aged 68, Janet, from Sudeley Road in Hill Top, Nuneaton, used to be taken to games by her father, Fred Buckler, when the family lived in Merevale Avenue. Now she goes along to Manor Park with partner Dennis Hogben, a retired miner, as often as she can.

She said: As a child I used to go with my father and I started again about four or five years ago and both myself and Dennis are avid fans.”...

Roger Ashby: Manager Of The Month

Nuneaton Borough boss Roger Ashby has been nominated Manager of the Month for the Nationwide Conference North, ahead of the club's FA Cup tie with Middlesbrough. Borough went through December without a single defeat with their only failure being a home draw in the FA Cup against Histon.

FA Cup: Boro Could Face Coventry

Only the small matter of an FA Cup win at the Riverside Stadium against Premiership side Middlesbrough separates Nuneaton Borough from a massive local derby against neighbours Coventry City at the Ricoh Arena. The two Boro sides meet next week for the right to face Coventry.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 14-01-2006

Redditch: Anstiss, King, Whitcombe, Charlton, Creighton, Field, Hollis, Taylor, Wilding (McGrath 88), Clarke (Scheppel 62), Palmer (Doyle 71).
Subs: Cornelius, Feeley.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick (Foster 77), Moore, Wilkin, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Murphy, Frew (Taylor 73). **Subs:** Reeves, Poole, Rea.

Boro made the journey to The Valley to face Redditch United in a Conference North game.

Boro started brightly and forced a corner in the first minute and a Michael Love free-kick soon after caused the home defence problems before Redditch broke and Simon Hollis had the game's first shot which Acton saved. Former Boro man Ian King put a Reds' free-kick well wide and Quailey just failed to beat Anstiss to a loose ball, while the home keeper was called into action again to save a long range strike from Frew. Anstiss saved from Quailey twice in quick succession while at the other end Acton had to be at his best when Craig Wilding had Reds next chance.

Redditch continued to force the pace with another couple of corners which were dealt with by Acton but Boro had no-one in attack when they broke as the forwards came back to defend. Jermaine Clarke got away from Wilkin in the next Redditch attack and Boro's assistant-manager put in a clumsy challenge, but the striker stayed on his feet which probably denied Redditch a penalty.

Murphy went down in the penalty area when he turned Asa Charlton, who took his legs, but what looked to be a penalty was turned down. Boro continued to pile forward in search of an opener but the battling Reds defence flung themselves in front of every ball. Matty Collins had a fierce strike blocked by Whitcombe. But two minutes before half-time Boro went behind when Clarke headed a throw inside to Redditch skipper Mark Taylor and he side-footed a shot past Acton with the keeper unable to prevent the ball entering the net.

Love launched Boro's first attack of the second half when he played the ball down the left to Frew who fed Matty Collins, who was unable to get his shot on target due to pressure from Charlton. Reds' Carl Palmer was booked for a nasty foul on Frew as the hour mark approached but the home side



continued to hold the upper hand with Hollis going close with a dipping volley that just cleared the bar.

It was no surprise when Redditch made it 2-0 on 66 minutes as Wilding beat a hesitant Acton to a 50-50 ball and when the keeper went to ground the Redditch striker rolled the ball into an empty net. Boro were in disarray and lost the ball straight from the restart as Redditch attacked again and a shot from Wilding took a wicked deflection to beat Acton but it cannoned back off the crossbar and substitute Danny Scheppel fired the rebound towards goal, but Acton saved.

From the corner Redditch had more chances to make the score 3-0 as Boro's defence failed to clear and their next opportunity came from a lovely flowing move that involved Taylor, Hollis and Scheppel again, but his half-volley went just wide. But they finally found a third goal on 82 minutes as an innocuous forward ball slipped under Wilkin's boot and Wilding raced through to slide a shot past Acton.

Harrogate Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-01-2006

Harrogate: Price, Heard, Clark, Wood, Stoneman, Ellerker, Grant, Hunter, Jones (Smith 82), Holland, Philpott. **Subs:** Mason, Lennon, Ryan, Sutcliffe.
Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Murphy (Frew 72), Whittaker (Foster 46). **Subs:** Wilkin, Rea, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Wetherby Road to play Harrogate Town in a Conference North game.

Harrogate's first attack ended with a wayward bicycle kick from their top scorer Danny Holland and the same player hit the outside of the post from a free-kick 13 minutes in after Mark Noon's foul on the edge of the box. Fifteen minutes had passed before Boro's first chance, a deflected Brian Quailey shot that Michael Price saved, Gez Murphy then beat Chris Ellerker to the ball and raced down the right but his cross was poor and the home side cleared. Town's Ian Clark was finding plenty of room on the left as Matty Collins continued to drift inside to the centre of midfield but his passes lacked any end product.

The visitors' best move of the game took place 25 minutes in with a delightful Rob Oddy through ball to Collins and his cross needed to be headed over his own bar by Paul Stoneman with Murphy lurking behind the defender. Gary Fitzpatrick's free header from the resulting corner was cleared off the line and Price blocked Quailey's rebound, Holland then wasted Harrogate's next attack by spending too long on the ball following their break from a Boro corner. Terry Angus rescued Darren Acton after he spilled Clark's cross, but then almost put through his own net, but the ball drifted just wide. Acton saved from Ben Jones as Harrogate continued to turn the screw before Boro came back with Quailey heading at Price and Fitzpatrick firing a shot just wide. Harrogate should have taken the lead when Jones ran clear but dragged his shot wide.

Boro added some weight to their attack when Ian Foster replaced Whittaker at the start of the second half but it was Harrogate who attacked first, with Acton saving from Jones.

But it was Jones who finally found the net after 51 minutes when he latched on to a kick from Price, outpaced Moore and Angus and dinked the ball over the onrushing Acton to make the score 1-0. Collins failed to get on to Foster's cross before Holland almost doubled the home side's lead when he skipped past three players but Acton smothered the ball at his feet. Noon headed just over from Murphy cross but Harrogate still proved far more of a threat and Acton did well to save Holland's venomous strike, but the striker made it 2-0 on 73 minutes after he ducked in behind Love to volley Gareth Grant's cross past Acton and in off the post

Boro's defence was in disarray and Jones should have made it three when he got in behind Angus once again but he shot wide. Stoneman also had a good chance but Acton saved his header following a Hunter corner. Even when Oddy provided Quailey with a gilt-edged chance in front of goal the unmarked striker headed the pinpoint cross against the bar and Harrogate cleared to safety.

Leigh RMI v Nuneaton Borough 24-01-2006

Leigh: Lamb, Harris, Roscoe, Stoker, Coyne, McGrath, Settle, Willis, Simm, Hay, Williams. **Subs:** Dunne, McDowall, Wilkinson, Hazeldine, Mann.
Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Rea, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Frew, Foster. **Subs:** Taylor, Wilkin, Holmes, Reeves.

Boro made the journey to Hilton Park to play Leigh RMI in a Conference North game.

The opening 15 minutes saw two chances fall to Brian Quailey who first blazed wide and then put in a twisting volley which thudded off the vacant terraces behind John Lamb's goal. Simon Rea, given a chance to shine in the absence of Terry Angus, suffered a torrid evening as Chris Simm and Alex Hay dictated the pace in the final third, producing movement which allowed Leigh's midfield to gain vital respite. Gary Williams and Rob Oddy were locked in an interesting duel down the right flank.

Michael Love almost presented Hay with a golden opportunity to open the scoring on 23 minutes, but thankfully the forward failed to control the poor back pass which squirmed wide for a goal kick. Minutes later a hopeful ball over the top by Mark Noon was pushed forwards by Quailey who ran one-on-one with Lamb before failing to compose himself, and crashed the ball high over the bar. Darren Acton saved with his knees when a Neil Moore mistake allowed Hay to break through. The home side counter-attacked with disturbing frequency as Ian Foster struggled to hold his left wing position, and Oddy was exposed time and again.

Five minutes into the second half, a moment of magic on a forgettable night saw Leigh take a deserved lead. Williams squared the ball to the industrious Scott Willis, who was allowed the time and space to fire a 30 yard shot into Acton's top left hand corner, despite the keeper getting a hand on the fierce drive. Acton was injured in trying to save but had to stay on the field in the absence of Ryan Poole, and made an



important stop after 63 minutes after Hay again got the better of a rapidly tiring Rea. Hay had an effort ruled out for offside before Love failed to deal with a routine ball and allowed Steve Settle to dribble infield, shrugging off Rea's tackle, before squaring to Simm who looked destined to score his 11th goal of the season – but Acton was Boro's saviour again, saving with his legs.

It was the 78th minute before Boro had a shot on target when a Moore free-kick was met by substitute Jason Taylor with a diving header, but Lamb was equal to the top corner effort. Acton saved from Mike Hazeldine who shot from a Williams cross before the final whistle, which came as a blessed relief to Boro, who had not performed and had put in a dreadful show.

Boro Sign Brush

Nuneaton Borough manager Roger Ashby has secured the signing on a short-term contract of goalkeeper Richard Brush, who looks likely to take over from Darren Acton for the game against Stafford Rangers. Brush was released by Shrewsbury Town earlier in the week.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 28-01-2006

Boro: Brush, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Angus, Foster, Noon, Quailey, Murphy, Taylor. **Subs:** Frew, Holmes, Wilkin, Rea.
Stafford: Williams, Groves, Talbott, McAughtrie, Daniel, Lovatt, Reid (Thomson 58), Street, Grayson, Smith (Walker 88), Gibson. **Subs:** Downes, Murray, Clarke.

Boro welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro took the lead after only five minutes when Michael Love whipped in a corner which was flicked on by Neil Moore at the near post and Taylor, making his first league start, tapped home from close range. Murphy, who collected his FA Cup Player of the Round award before the game, found the back of the net soon after, but his deft chip was ruled out for offside as Boro pressed forward, dictating the pace of play. Terry Angus side-footed Taylor's flick on just wide. Brush made a tremendous save to tip a Grayson header wide after excellent work by Nathan Talbott and Grayson gained another chance to notch an equaliser soon after, but smashed his close range effort against the bar. With 37 minutes gone Stafford were awarded a penalty after Neil Moore upended Robin Gibson in the box. Grayson firmly placed his spot kick into the top right hand corner, from where Brush got a finger tip to it to keep it out. Grayson earned himself a yellow card for a late challenge on Angus before the break.

The second-half was a more cagy affair and Stafford plumped for a route one approach boosted by the arrival of Peter Thompson from the bench. Rob Oddy's back heel to Taylor just failed to create a chance while Stafford cashed in on the miss when Groves drilled a 20-yard strike into the bottom corner after 71 minutes.

Foster made a good break down the flank and crossed for

Murphy who was beaten in the air by McAughtrie. Foster and Talbot both put in long range efforts but both failed to trouble the respective keepers as the match descended into a heated affair and Murphy, Moore and Foster all received yellow cards. Street attempted a long range shot as the match fizzled out into a draw.

Nuneaton Borough v Alfreton Town 30-01-2006

Boro: Brush, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Angus, Foster (Frew 71), Noon, Quailey, Murphy, Taylor (Wilkin 83). **Subs:** Breward, Rea, Holmes.
Alfreton: Rayner, Clarke, Featherstone, Robinson, Hulme, Turner, Bettney, Fisher, Godber (Stevenson 83), Rankin (Duffield 79), Mills. **Subs:** Powell, Blunt, Nwadike.

Boro welcomed Alfreton Town to Manor Park to play a Conference Premier game.

After 12 minutes Christopher Bettney launched the first of a series of probing crosses, whipping a ball to Ryan Clark who headed narrowly wide. Boro were reduced to half-chances with Mark Noon and Rob Oddy both shooting from 25 yards as Alfreton held a high defensive line. Bettney's superb accuracy from the right forced Noon to head over his own bar and the resulting corner was half cleared and squirmed its way to David Robinson who hit the side netting.

With 27 minutes on the clock, the half's biggest talking point arose when 44-year-old veteran Gary Mills ran the ball a yard out of play but the game continued and Michael Godber cut inside Terry Angus ten yards out, with the goal at his mercy the striker screwed his effort wide – prompting an irate Neil Moore to run fully 30 yards to inform the linesman of his mistake. Makeshift left winger Quailey tracked back to concede a corner and Bettney's delivery found Mark Turner whose head went just over. Ian Foster had three attempts to pick out a Boro player, but each time found a defender or touch instead of Jason Taylor or Murphy. With five minutes of the half remaining Bettney found an unmarked Michael Rankin who missed a glaring chance from seven yards.

The second half saw Boro press forward but Simon Taylor made a comfortable save from Brian Quailey. Noon flashed a header across goal before Taylor headed just wide from Love's corner. With 25 minutes to go Bettney broke from midfield, patiently waited for Rankin and released a perfectly timed pass. With only Brush to beat Rankin side-footed two yards wide of the target. Industrious work from Fisher gave Rankin a golden opportunity to atone for his error shortly after, playing the forward in once more, but a heavy first touch forced the 21-year-old wide and the angled shot was easy pickings for Brush.

Hume was just short of a Godber flick-on before Kevin Wilkin replaced Taylor with seven minutes remaining. Murphy crashed in two 25 yard free-kicks before Boro won a late penalty when Murphy was punched by Mark Hume which resulted in a 35 man brawl. Murphy, however kept his composure and scored from the spot with almost the last kick of the game.



Gez Murphy gets involved in an extraordinary brawl which resulted in a penalty for Boro. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Kettering Skipper Signs For Boro

Nuneaton Borough have landed the major signing of Kettering Town skipper Derek Brown who has made 27 appearances for the Poppies this season, but has had his contract cancelled by mutual consent after the club's manager Kevin Wilson left and the club's most recent defeat against Hyde United.

Hyde United v Nuneaton Borough 04-02-2006

Hyde: Ndjebayi, German, Lynch (Caldecott 80), Jones, Flynn, Armstrong, Brackenbridge, Harrison, Clee, Johnson (Tolson 90), McNeil. Subs: Hill, Hooper, Harris.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Murphy, Taylor (Frew 86). Subs: Wilkin, Foster, Reeves, Holmes.

Boro made the journey to Ewan Fields to play Hyde United in a Conference North game.

Derek Brown announced his arrival at Nuneaton with a nasty foul on Matty McNeil after two minutes. In the following minute the Tigers thought they had the lead when Dale Johnson had too much time but his shot hit the post and McNeil put the rebound past Acton but the goal was disallowed for offside. Boro's first chance came after six minutes but Gary Fitzpatrick's strike was blocked after good work from Rob Oddy and Mark Noon had conspired to play him in. Hyde forced the first corner of the match and then McNeil skinned Oddy soon after before laying the ball back to Steve Brackenbridge, but his shot was blocked and David German lashed the rebound over.

Boro regained some composure in midfield but their attacks were falling down in the final third and the Tigers punished the visitors by opening the scoring on 22 minutes. Brown headed a free-kick clear but the ball came straight back into the box where a deft back-heel from Johnson put the unmarked Gerry Harrison through and he slid the ball past Acton. Boro responded with a long ball from Acton that Murphy flicked on into the path of Taylor, but Ndjebayi

blocked his shot and it looped into the path of Quailey whose header was cleared off the line by a remarkable header from the goalkeeper. Johnson shot wide for Hyde before Boro's next chance, Oddy's free-kick was blocked and Taylor fired in the rebound but Ndjebayi gathered at the second attempt. McNeil wasted another chance as he continued to find space and the half ended with Johnson putting a shot wide.

Boro started the second half brighter and scored immediately from Collins' volley, but the referee had blown for an infringement. Boro pressed again with Michael Love's through ball which was flicked on by Taylor to Collins, whose first time shot struck the bar while a Neil Moore interception prevented a second Hyde goal. The Tigers were pinned back as Boro showed glimpses of the kind of play that had taken them to second in the league and Fitzpatrick had a volley blocked following a Love corner on 55 minutes. Quailey was in the right place at the right time when he did just enough to deflect a cross away from Johnson while Taylor had a penalty appeal waved away as he went down following a free-kick.

Acton made a terrific save from Johnson to keep Boro in the game before Murphy had a snapshot arrow just over, but there was no way through. Quailey tried a clever flick from Taylor's cross before Michael Frew was introduced for Taylor and Brown put a header over the Hyde bar. Ndjebayi saved from Brown in a frantic finale but despite an added six minutes Boro were unable to score.

Nuneaton Borough v Wolverhampton W. 07-02-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins (Taylor 74), Noon, Murphy (Foster 74), Frew, Quailey. Subs: Wilkin, Holmes, Poole.

Wolves: Murray, Little, Rafferty, Gleeson, Riley, Clyde, Gobem, O'Connor, Ferron, Cornes, Jones. Subs: France, Spalding, Collins.

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

Wolves got off to a lively start and Darren Acton had to make his first save inside two minutes as Daniel Jones crossed for Lewis Gobem to shoot from close range. Boro's first corner came after ten minutes but Murray dealt with Michael Love's delivery comfortably and the keeper was untroubled by a Matty Collins header as the home side continued to attack. When Murray was finally beaten by Gary Fitzpatrick's free-kick, Martin Riley cleared off the line but the stopper had regained his composure in time to catch Fitzpatrick's next set piece.

Boro survived when Acton sliced a clearance midway through the first half and Mark Clyde rocked the bar with a header after the visitors next free-kick, Moore then headed wide at the other end as the first-half drew to a close.

Boro started the second half well and were rewarded just seven minutes in with a penalty. Michael Frew was felled in the box and Murphy stepped up to score his third spot-kick in front of the Cock and Bear end in the last month. Five minutes later it was 2-0 as man of the match Mark Noon ended Boro's next attack with a sweet right foot strike past

the outstretched arm of Murray. Wolves tried to get back in the game but it was Boro that had the next chance with Quailey having a shot deflected wide, however they made it 3-0 from the resulting corner as Neil Moore powered a header past Murray on 67 minutes. Acton saved a Chris Cornes shot following a double substitution for Boro that saw Ian Foster and Jason Taylor replace Collins and Murphy. Rob Oddy blazed a free-kick over and Frew's lob went just wide before the last chance of the game went Wolves' way but Acton saved from Cornes after the visitors' striker had weaved his way through the Boro defence.

Darby Joins Boro

Experienced striker Duane Darby has joined Nuneaton Borough. The former Rushden & Diamonds and Shrewsbury Town man has played a major role in promotion campaigns at previous clubs and has been brought in to help Boro get their title bid back on track.

Boro defender Simon Rea has joined Redditch United on a one-month loan deal.

to reach Oddy's cross. However, six minutes into the second half they got a goal back as Neil Moore scored his second goal in the space of a week, heading a Michael Love corner past Timms to halve the deficit. Michael Frew replaced Murphy on 56 minutes and Brown left the field for attention to a head wound. The game continued in a lacklustre fashion but the dying game was resuscitated on 69 minutes when Darby opened his account, volleying home at the back post from Fitzpatrick's free-kick in front of the Cock and Bear end.



Duane Darby nets Boro's equaliser. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 11-02-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Darby (Wilkin 82), Murphy (Frew 56), Quailey. Subs: Poole, Taylor, Foster.

Moor Green: Timms, Scott, Midworth, Collins, Penny, Petty (Nurse 51), Morrison, English, Bridgewater (Dowdall 76), McPhee (Middleton 81), Trainer. Subs: Faulds, Middleton, Nurse, Dowdall.

Boro welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Duane Darby's first touch was a foul on Philip Midworth, while Junior English had the first shot at goal, but his tame effort went wide. Boro won their first corner after five minutes and Gez Murphy won a header, but failed to trouble Ashley Timms in the Moors goal and then Darby and Murphy linked well but Lee Collins cleared. Acton pushed a shot from Phil Trainer round the post before Derek Brown made a great challenge following the resulting corner as the loose ball broke to David Morrison and Acton was the busier of the two keepers in the next attack. But on 17 minutes the visitors found a goal when McPhee headed a Morrison cross past the outstretched arm of Acton to give the visitors the lead.

The first glimpse of Darby's class came midway through the first-half when he turned Midworth and fired in a cross that evaded everyone. Mark Noon headed against the bar as Boro searched for an equaliser. The outstanding Noon embarked on a mazy run but there was no end product. Darby did well in the box, shrugging off his man to get a shot away that Timms saved before the visitors extended their lead. Brown's poor control allowed Trainer to run clear and fire past Acton. Trainer continued to cause problems while Darby had a header and a shot saved by Timms before half-time.

Boro were unchanged for the second half and created a chance in the opening minute, but Matty Collins was unable

Buoyed by the equaliser, Boro took control of the game and even when the Moors had a rare break Fitzpatrick was able to nip ahead of Trainer and stroke the ball back to Acton. Trainer shaved the post with his next effort after twisting and turning inside the box while Acton had to make another save from Trainer with ten minutes to go. Substitute Darren Middleton blazed over from close range with his first kick but the Moors' defence was bombarded in the closing stages and with two minutes left only the heroics of Timms kept the scores level, making a point-blank save from Oddy's volley. There were more chances for Boro to snatch all three points from a late set-piece but Fitzpatrick's delivery was poor and Frew showed a lack of confidence when he crossed instead of going for goal.

Worksop Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-2006

Worksop: Edge, Robinson (Nicholson 90), Davies, Wilson, Miller, Simpkins, Carrington (Archer 84), Dempsey, Jackson (Owens 69), Crane, Norton. Sub: Ratcliffe.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Darby, Quailey (Murphy 49), Whittaker (Reeves 80). Subs: Frew, Taylor.

Boro made the journey to Babbage Way to play Worksop Town in a Conference North game.

Boro took the lead after just 36 seconds as Duane Darby raced into the box and was brought down by Kevin Davies and Stuart Whittaker calmly slotted past Lewis Edge. Buoyed by the goal Boro attacked again, but a stray pass allowed Worksop to break and Neil Moore blocked Richard Carrington's shot after he jinked his way into the box before Acton easily saved a weak Michael Simpkins free-kick. Boro were dangerous on the break with Matty Collins and Whittaker finding space down the flanks



but they did not create a decent opportunity until 35 minutes in, when Quailey had room in the box but seemed to be fouled. Worksop's big, bustling striker Tony Crane volleyed just over and Carrington wasted a good run down the left by delivering a woeful cross. Carrington was guilty of squandering another opportunity five minutes before half-time when he delayed his shot and allowed Love to block but the home side ended the half on top.

Boro very nearly got an early goal in the second half as Darby went through but he was unable to bring the ball under control and a chance was gone. Quailey was struggling with a hip problem but still managed to get a decent cross over for Collins but Barry Miller blocked his effort and Murphy replaced the injured forward on 49 minutes. Murphy had Boro's next chance after a flick-on from Darby but Edge saved and Worksop had a penalty appeal turned down after Ian Robinson went down under a Love challenge. Acton remained untroubled and Boro forged further ahead with 19 minutes to go as Darby capitalised on an error by the hesitant Edge and his tackle on the keeper resulted in the ball finding its way into the net. Two minutes later it was 3-0 as Murphy picked up a loose ball on the right and unleashed a 25 yard piledrive that gave Edge no chance.

Murphy had a header go just over before, with ten minutes left, Martin Reeves made his long-awaited return in place of Whittaker and headed the ball through to Noon, whose first shot was blocked, but he picked up the rebound and steamrolled through the Tigers defence before lashing past Edge as the Worksop fans streamed to the exits. Boro should have had five when Derek Brown headed Reeves' cross goalwards where Murphy was standing, but the striker failed to get a touch. Worksop had a chance when Steve Nicholson headed wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 21-02-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick (Reeves 81), Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Darby (Taylor 88), Murphy, Whittaker. **Subs:** Frew, Foster, Wilkin.

Worcester: McDonnell, Warner, Khan, Smith, Thompson, Little, Clegg, Colley, Kelly, Webster, Warmer. **Subs:** Preece, Watking, Stanley, Wood, Walker.

Boro welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Neither side produced a chance in an eminently forgettable first 45 minutes, but Boro should have wrapped up the points after the break. There was an early wake-up call for Boro when Adam Webster was allowed space in the box but skipper Neil Moore reacted quickly to block the shot and clear the danger. Boro were struggling to find any sort of cohesion but Noon's neat through ball gave Collins a sniff of a chance only for Danny McDonnell to race quickly off his line and halt the threat. Although there was little to warm the crowd before the interval on a bitterly cold night the temperature certainly rose as Boro found a higher tempo in the second half.

Shortly after the restart Collins whipped in an inviting cross

which no-one was able to finish off, before leading scorer Gez Murphy wasted a great chance to break the deadlock. A neat link up with Darby ended with Murphy clear in the box and only the keeper to beat but McDonnell excelled himself to close down the striker and beat away the shot. In a rare Worcester raid Nick Colley found some space on the edge of the box and his dipping 20 yarder was too close to Darren Acton's crossbar for comfort.

But Borough quickly regained control with Stuart Whittaker volleying narrowly wide after the visitors had only cleared a Michael Love corner to the edge of the box and then Collins headed over the top from Murphy's deep cross. City continued to live dangerously and were fortunate to survive when Warner blatantly handled on the line to keep out Noon's goal bound shot following a goalmouth scramble. Boro probably realised it was not to be their night when Gary Fitzpatrick had a shot deflected wide and from the resulting corner Derek Brown's header beat McDonnell but Chris Smith hooked the ball off the line.

Lancaster City v Nuneaton Borough 25-02-2006

Lancaster: McMillan, Dodd, Scott, Brown, McMahon, Elderton, Bond, Stringfellow, Taylor, Paterson, Eckersley. **Subs:** Sullivan, Smith, Uberschar, Greenwood, Feeney.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Darby (Murphy 70), Quailey (Frew 82), Whittaker (Reeves 46).

Boro made the journey to The Giant Axe to face Lancaster City in a Conference North encounter.

Boro attacked from the kick-off and Michael Love curled a free-kick into Tony McMillan's arms in the first minute of play after Andrew Scott had brought Darby down on the touch line. The Dolly Blues then thought they had a lead from the first attack with just 66 seconds on the clock when Alex Taylor capitalised on a defensive error to square across goal for Sean Paterson to slide in but he was given offside. Boro had the game's first corner after an error by Joe McMahon and the first goal followed on six minutes as Darby raced on to a wind-assisted through-ball and lobbed McMillan, and although the keeper got his hand to the ball but could not prevent a goal.

McMillan saved a Derek Brown header after 15 minutes and then palmed away Quailey's fierce strike. Quailey had another chance midway through the first-half when Mark Noon intercepted a poor throw-in to put him through but he hesitated to pull the trigger and his shot was poor. The bustling Noon created another effort for Boro but this time Quailey decided to move the ball on to Whittaker who ballooned his shot over the bar. Boro continued to dominate with Derek Brown and Neil Moore winning everything at the back but still the visitors were unable to increase their lead although Darby had a shot saved by McMillan. Boro continued to press and were still on top at the half-time whistle.

Lancaster began the second half in livelier fashion but Acton remained untroubled and the home side's first effort of the

half came eleven minutes in when Paterson collected Acton's goal kick and fired it straight back at the keeper. Reeves shot over from 12 yard out before Lancaster had a goal ruled out for offside. However, with a quarter of the game remaining City equalised from another set-piece as Taylor headed Andrew Bond's free-kick back across goal and past Acton to level the scores.

Murphy replaced Darby before Lancaster had a golden chance to take the lead with a quick break and two attackers raced on goal with Moore and Brown some 30 yards behind but Bond's stray pass saw the move break down. Boro had the chance to go ahead 14 minutes from time when Murphy got away from Scott and crossed to Reeves but his left-foot strike was brilliantly saved by McMillan. The home keeper saved from Michael Frew and Mike Eckersley hit the post with a header while Acton made a wonderful save from an Eckersley shot on the stroke of full-time.

Rickards On Trial

Former Tamworth striker Scott Richards will line up for Boro Reserves against Worcester City Reserves. The 24-year-old, who started his career with Derby County, originally joined the Lambs in July 2001 and was with the club when they won the Southern League championship in 2001, but left to join Kidderminster Harriers in a £5,000 deal but fell out of favour and joined Redditch United before rejoining Tamworth.

Nuneaton Borough v Hucknall Town 04-03-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Darby (Quailey 62), Murphy (Frew 78), Reeves. Subs: Poole, Wilkin, Taylor.

Hucknall: Lindley, Asher, Winder, Sucharwych, Harding, Cooke, Ward (Mangle 65), Rowland, Pearson (Francis 74), Morris, Colkin (Groves 81). Subs: Robinson, Kearney.

Boro welcomed Hucknall Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Darby was soon in the thick of the action as he was tripped by Gary Sucharwych inside the first minute, but Boro failed to capitalise on the free-kick. Murphy broke through but was muscled off the ball by Russell Cooke and Alister Asher cleared. A stagnant opening ten minutes came to life after a horrific challenge from Phil Rowland left Mark Noon in a heap on the floor, for which he was booked. Boro began to impose themselves on the game and took the lead when a long ball from defence was flicked on by Darby into the path of Matty Collins and he steered his shot past James Lindley to give Ashby's men the lead. Collins very nearly returned the favour in the next attack but Nathan Winder got across to cover.

The visitors went in search of an equaliser and Mark Ward curled a free-kick just wide before Hucknall levelled on 31 minutes. A wonderful first touch from Gregory Pearson took him clear and his ball inside found Lee Morris with another good touch taking him away from Acton, who mistimed a dive at his feet and the referee awarded a penalty which Morris despatched with some ease. Gary Fitzpatrick forced

Lindley into a fantastic save as Boro panned Hucknall back with a couple of corners, and regained the lead six minutes before the break after Noon crossed from the right and Darby jumped together with Lindley and the ball dropped invitingly for Reeves who volleyed home in style. Darby suffered a shoulder injury in the build-up but played on as Hucknall finished the half in a flourish with Lee Colkin's wayward shot landing at the feet of Morris and Acton was forced to save at point-blank range.



Murphy battles his way through the Hucknall defence.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The first chance of the second half fell to Neil Moore but he volleyed just wide before Pearson went close for the visitors. Acton saved his shot and another effort shortly after from Lee Colkin. Murphy should have made it 3-1 when he latched on to a long through ball but Lindley stood tall to block his shot. Oddy and Murphy combined to launch an attack only to be crowded out before Murphy beat Lindley to a loose ball, cut back inside and fed Reeves, who should have scored but dragged his shot wide and it fell to Collins just two yards out with an open goal but the ball slipped under his foot and a gilt-edged chance was gone.

Lindley saved at the feet of Collins as Hucknall looked unlikely to score a second and it seemed only a matter of time before Boro increased their lead. Frew came on for Murphy with ten minutes remaining and his first touch was a shot that he blasted wide, but the young forward then crossed for Oddy at the back post but his diving header missed the target from only inches out. A rare Hucknall chance followed from a Sucharwych free-kick but Fitzpatrick headed clear and Noon should have scored a third from a break, but after carrying the ball over 60 yards he shot wide and yet another chance went begging.

Boro paid a heavy price for their profligacy as with just over a minute of injury time played, Reeves needlessly gave away a free-kick which was floated over for Morris to head back across goal and Eugene Francis bundled the ball past Acton. Boro's unbeaten run at Manor Park stands at 34 games but this set-back raises some important questions.

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough 11-03-2006

Stalybridge: Pettinger, Black, Maxfield, Barnard, Haran, Price, Banim (Keeling 74), Sykes, Ellington (Eastwood 82), Kharas, Prince (Garvey 65). Subs: Atkins, Buxton.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Brown, Collins (Fitzpatrick 84), Noon, Darby (Wilkin 26), Murphy (Taylor 76), Rickards. Subs: Frew, Poole.

Boro made the journey to the Bower Fold to play Stalybridge Celtic in a Conference North fixture.

Rickards looked very busy in the opening stages while Darby just failed to bring a ball under control before Matty Collins shot wide when well placed in front of an open goal. Darby's lob crept inches wide as Boro controlled the opening stages with Rickards and Martin Reeves linking up well in midfield. But totally against the run of play Celtic found the lead on ten minutes. Derek Brown got the first header away but a second cross was back headed by Neil Moore into the path of Neil Prince who clipped the ball over Acton to give the home side the lead. Lee Ellington wasted a chance to double the home side's lead two minutes later following some midfield wizardry by Jody Banim.

However, Stalybridge did double their lead on 14 minutes when Mark Noon lost the ball just outside the box and Prince took advantage, chipping Acton with a delightful lob to extend Stalybridge's lead. Rickards forced Pettinger into a wonderful save as Boro hit back and the keeper and his defence conspired to keep Darby out. Boro struggled to find their fluidity of the opening ten minutes but Darby volleyed just wide while at the other end Acton denied Prince a hat-trick. Things went from bad to worse for Boro when Darby was substituted for a fourth straight game and Kevin Wilkin came on to replace him. A lovely move five minutes before the break saw Murphy pass inside to Reeves and the midfielder fed Collins who put a slide-rule pass through to Wilkin, whose shot was blocked. Wilkin was denied again by another fantastic Pettinger save.

Reeves played Collins through early in the second half but Pettinger beat him to the ball and Prince had another chance to score his third, but Acton saved his long-range strike. Boro went close after eight minutes of the half when Reeves played Murphy in and his cross was punched off the head of Wilkin into Moore's path, but the defender's volley was blocked on the line by Paul Sykes. Pettinger saved from Rickards just after the hour mark and Celtic had already resorted to time wasting and were happy to sit back and let Boro come at them.

Jason Taylor replaced Murphy as Boro camped in Celtic's defensive third but a goal just would not come. Love blasted over and Wilkin curled a shot into Pettinger's arms while Mark Barnard prevented Wilkin from gaining a shooting chance with a last-ditch challenge as full-time approached and when Reeves dummied for Rickards to shoot wide deep into injury time the game was over and Boro were out of the Conference North's top two for the first time since December.

Nuneaton Borough v Droylsden 14-03-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins (Taylor 88), Noon, Quailey (Wilkin 77), Murphy, Rickards. Subs: Rea, Foster, Frew.

Droylsden: Phillips, Williams, Sturdy (Warher 77), Halford, Ruffer, Morris, Tandy (Brodie 71), Lynch, Fearn (Cameron 90), Rapley, Denham. Subs: Robinson, Talbott.

Boro welcomed Droylsden to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Rickards just failed to wriggle through after a great Boro attack two minutes in, then Michael Love curled an inviting free-kick into the arms of Paul Phillips before Droylsden stunned the hosts with a goal against the run of play. A long kick by Phillips on five minutes was touched on by Chris Denham into the path of Terry Fearn, who had the simple task of sliding the ball past Darren Acton. He almost added a second on 11 minutes but Acton just managed to palm the ball off his head and a minute later Boro were level after a looping header from Matty Collins came back off the bar and into the path of Gez Murphy who rifled in the rebound.

Droylsden threatened again and had a couple of half chances to regain the lead but it was Boro that had the ball in the net next, however, Brian Quailey had handballed in the build-up. It was Droylsden's turn for a spell on top as half-time approached with Chris Denham volleying over and Kevin Rapley shooting wide after Fearn had dispossessed Rickards.



Darren Acton: Rescued a point with a headed goal.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The two sides continued to trade blows in the second period with clear-cut chances at a premium for both and Derek Brown was solid as a rock for Boro. Rickards showed signs of the damage his pace could cause with his next chance, but he shot wide after finding space. The game grew more heated after an innocuous challenge by Quailey left Phillips writhing, but the game calmed down and a Rapley curler had Acton scurrying across his goal. Brown headed Rickards' free-kick over before Quailey went close, shooting wide from the edge of the box. Kevin Wilkin replaced Quailey before Denham shot straight at Acton from an acute angle and Brown made an important

tackle to keep Fearn's at bay. But the Bloods pressure finally told eight minutes from time as Boro pushed forward they were caught out by a long ball over the top that Gareth Morris flicked on for Fearn's to lob Acton, giving the visitors the lead.

It seemed as if Boro's chance of salvaging a point had gone when Jason Taylor redirected Gary Fitzpatrick's shot just wide on 90 minutes, but Michael Love's corner followed shortly after and Acton was there to earn the home side a valuable point that keeps them six points ahead of their opponents.

Nuneaton Borough v Gainsborough Trinity 18-03-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 90), Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Quailey (Taylor 14), Foster, Rickards (Whittaker 74).
Subs: Rea, Wilkin.

Gainsborough: Holmshaw, Parker, Caudwell, Willis, Pell, Sherlock, Graves (Trout 87), Lancaster, Smith, Mallon, Wood (Burbearly 46).
Subs: Bird, Lill, Steadman.

Boro welcomed Gainsborough Trinity to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro forced the game's first corner on two minutes when Richard Pell intercepted a through ball intended for Brian Quailey, a second set-piece followed and when Derek Brown had a shot blocked inside the box half-hearted penalty appeals were waved away. It was Trinity that had the best chance of the early stages as Jamie Smith forced a save out of Darren Acton and a third Boro corner followed and a goalmouth scramble saw headers from Quailey and Noon both pushed away. Foster then burst down the left and a cross was deflected into the path of Noon, but his shot was blocked, before Quailey limped off to be replaced by Taylor.



Ian Foster celebrates his equalising goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Eric Graves had a shot saved by Acton and Noon had an effort blocked before Taylor miscued in front of goal and the inevitable happened on 19 minutes when Boro fell behind. Smith carried the ball for 40 yards, twisting and turning the Boro defence before cutting back inside Rob Oddy and firing past Acton to give the visitors a lead. Boro battled back and Moore headed a Love free-kick just wide and then he met a

Rickards corner on the volley, but again the big defender's effort was off target. But Boro grabbed an equaliser eight minutes before half-time when Rickards raced in on goal but a heavy touch took him too wide and the only option was a hopeful cut-back which paid off as Foster arrived to sweep the ball past a despairing dive from Holmshaw.

After the break Collins had a delightful lob cleared off the line on 51 minutes by Trinity full-back Wes Parker while Acton denied Ryan Mallon at the other end before Boro attacked again and Taylor's skill bought him room for a beautiful cross that no-one could get a touch on. After some lacklustre play the tireless Noon embarked on a run from inside his own half that was ended by a heavy challenge from Nick Ellis and a penalty was the only outcome. Foster finished with aplomb, despite Holmshaw guessing the right way. As the final whistle approached Noon shot agonisingly wide after another clever run from Foster had created the space for a strike and from the resulting corner Boro wrapped things up. Whittaker's delivery struck Moore on the knee and beat Holmshaw to make the score 3-1.

Nuneaton Borough v Willenhall Town 21-03-2006

Boro: Acton, Noon, Rea, Brown, Holmes (Collins 74), Staff, Reeves (Oddy 61), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Taylor, Foster (Wilkin 46), Whittaker.
Subs: Moore, Poole.

Willenhall: Young, Holland, Mason, Swann, Woodvine, Male, Campbell, Shielis, Fife, Danks, Givans. **Subs:** Makris, Harward, Hubball.

Boro welcomed Willenhall Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

Willenhall of the Southern League Western Division, stunned their Nationwide North hosts with Nick Campbell's early strike earning them a thoroughly deserved success and a place in the County FA's showpiece final for only the second time. Roger Ashby's men huffed and puffed through 90 tedious minutes without bringing a save from their former keeper Ryan Young while Town battled tirelessly and could have won more handsomely but for several smart saves from Darren Acton. The all important goal came after 12 minutes when Campbell crashed an unstoppable 15-yard angled drive past Acton and into the far corner of the net following a short free-kick.

And the visitors came close to stretching their advantage midway through the half as Phil Male's glancing header was hooked off the line by Mark Noon. For the rest of the half Boro enjoyed the majority of possession without forcing Young into a save of any description and there was little to excite the home fans in the second period with Willenhall creating the most clear cut opening.

Just past the hour George Shielis' 12 yarder forced Acton to save low to his right while the keeper again showed his agility by turning away Mason's curling cross shot. Paul Danks then seized onto a poor clearance from Acton, who redeemed himself with a sprawling stop on the goal-line and it was not until the 85th minute that Boro created a chance as Kevin



Wilkin headed weakly over the top from Rob Oddy's cross. Despite dominating the final quarter toothless Boro were well held by a tenacious Town defence which hardly broke sweat.

Vauxhall Motors v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-2006

Vauxhall: Dittmer, Brazier, McNulty, Lawless, Furlong, McDermott, Garrity, Lawton, Field, Mogan, O'Donnell. Subs: Cuminskey, Rooney, Martindale, Duffy, Thomas.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Moore, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Collins, Noon, Rickards, Staff, Murphy. Subs: Wilkin, Taylor, Whittaker, Reeves, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Riveacre Road to play Vauxhall Motors in a Conference North match.

The Motormen began much the brighter of the two sides and could well have been a couple of goals to the good inside the opening ten minutes as home debutant Lee Furlong showed a great turn of speed before curling a cross in to the near post where Karl O'Donnell turned his instinctive shot over the bar. Shortly after O'Donnell turned his marker and fired goalwards only to see his shot rebound off the base of the post. Nuneaton struggled to get any foothold in the game early on, but it wasn't until Scott Rickards put in a shot which Tim Dittmer did well to smother than Boro threatened. But on 44 minutes, the visitors took the lead as Rickards slid in a great pass to Gez Muphy who finished with ease.

Vauxhall began the second half brightly but it took a palmed save from Dittmer to keep out a Gary Fitzpatrick piledriver direct from a free kick. The Motormen got back on level terms on the hour as Wayne McDermott's right sided corner went loose in the area and Furlong blasted home through a crowd of players. Nuneaton regained the lead ten minutes later as Mark Noon did well near the by-line to assist Gary Fitzpatrick to sweep home. Motors raised their game again for the final part of the game but apart from one shot by substitute Thomas Rooney which was straight at Darren Acton they barely threatened the Boro defence.

Holmes Leaves

Nuneaton Borough defender Jamie Holmes has left the club. He started just two games for Boro following his release from West Brom – both in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Nuneaton Borough v Leigh RMI 01-04-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins (Reeves 84), Noon, Rickards, Murphy (Darby 78), Staff (Whittaker 79). Subs: Wilkin, Taylor.

Leigh RMI: Coates, Harris, Roscoe (Wilkinson 74), Carrington, Coyne, Melling, Williams (Smith 84), Willis, Hay (Drew 84), Simm, Brockley. Subs: Mann, Kay.

Boro welcomed Leigh RMI to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro forced two corners in the opening minutes, with Derek Brown heading the second just wide, but the wind was taking its toll on the quality of the football. Gez Murphy's touch let him down on a couple of occasions and a scrappy period of

play followed before Murphy fed Gary Fitzpatrick inside the box, but his fierce drive was turned round the post by James Coates and Michael Love's corner curled out of play. Boro engineered another chance ten minutes before the break but Matty Collins failed to connect and Murphy squared the ball for Rickards but Coates was able to smother the ball.

Leigh should have opened the scoring when Steve Brockley beat Darren Acton to a Scott Willis cross but he diverted the ball just wide of the post. The action continued as Rickards broke free but was tripped by last man Liam Coyne, who was booked before Staff fired the free-kick into the wall.

Boro started the second half brightly but were stunned by a goal on 52 minutes as a left foot strike from the edge of the box by Gary Williams gave Leigh the lead. However, just five minutes later Boro were on level terms with a goal out of nothing. The Leigh defence had given up on a long ball as it slowly trickled out of play but Rob Oddy darted forward and hammered over a cross that squirmed out of Coates' grasp into the path of Rickards who walked the ball into an empty net.

Williams had a great chance to restore Leigh's lead straight from the restart but Love got back to clear. Another mistake in the Boro defence on the hour mark gifted Alex Hay a chance to give the visitors the lead. Oddy was caught the wrong side of Hay, who got a powerful shot away, but it cannoned off the bar and bounced down in front of goal before looping back up and over the bar on the wind. Rickards had a shot blocked as Boro pressed again but scored his second goal shortly after when he gave Boro the lead on 67 minutes. Oddy and Murphy exchanged a neat one-two in the box before the young full-back crossed for Rickards to sweep the ball home.

And it was 3-1 on 70 minutes when a fortuitous deflection carried the ball into Mark Noon's path and the midfielder raced clear on goal before drawing the keeper and squaring unselfishly for Staff to score. Hay had another chance to get Leigh back into the game after a poor back-header from Neil Moore let the former Tranmere man in but Boro were able to clear the danger. Noon shot over with seven minutes remaining and Rickards had an opportunity to complete his hat-trick while Chris Simm's effort at the other end went over the bar. Acton then made a great save two minutes from time as Boro endured a nervy end to the game.

Alfreton Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-04-2006

Alfreton: Rayner, Clarke, Featherstone, Friars, Turner, Fisher, Mills (Howard 73), Nwadike, Rankine, Stevenson, Litchfield. Subs: Robinson, Powell, Godber, Brooks.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick (Reeves 83), Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, Rickards (Murphy 73), Darby, Staff (Whittaker 83). Subs: Foster, Wilkin.

Boro made the journey to the Impact Arena to take on Alfreton Town in a Conference North game.

Boro kicked down the slope in the first half and Darby was bowled over at the end of their first attack, after Michael Love

had crossed for Mark Noon to flick a ball into the striker's path. Jon Stevenson had a chance at the other end after he pounced on Darren Acton's clearance, but he put his hurried long-range shot well wide. Scott Rickards' control let him down when in a good position before Noon had a shot from the edge of the box blocked and the home side broke away, but the move ended with a foul on Stevenson.

David Staff, out wide on Boro's left, capitalised on an error by Ryan Clark, when the Reds full-back misjudged the bounce of the ball and the winger crossed first time for Rickards to head over the bar after ten minutes. Acton went close when his free-kick from 60 yards caught the wind and went just wide. Sam Litchfield shot wide after finding space in the Boro box as the weather continued to make good football difficult. Darby's pass fell to Rickards after 30 minutes, but Rayner blocked his shot before Boro streamed forward again but Oddy's cross evaded everyone. A mix-up between Love and Derek Brown almost let in Rankine, but Acton cleared while at the other end Rayner held Noon's shot.

Clarke had a shot blocked before Litchfield had a close-range shot saved by Acton five minutes before the break. Boro tempers became frayed as they grew more frustrated and that was exacerbated by the referee's decision to reject a penalty appeal when Noon appeared to be hauled down in the box by Gary Mills.



Mark Noon – denied a penalty.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Bright sunshine greeted the players for the second-half and Boro players were fired up from the off and Darby got a lengthy

lecture following an off-the-ball incident. Rayner saved a Brown effort before Rickards lashed a shot wide when Darby was free in space. Darby got Rickards in again but he failed to connect properly as Boro continued to press. Stevenson was unfortunate not to open the scoring after some superb control and a brilliant shot cannoned off the bar.

Acton saved from Litchfield before the Boro stopper made a remarkable save ten minutes from time, denying Chris Howard's fierce shot. Two late Boro corners created panic in the Alfreton defence, but they were able to clear their lines and Darby was unable to force the ball home from an acute angle. Both sides had two late chances as Stevenson fired wide and Acton saved from Rankine on 90 minutes, then Darby's first touch let him down and Emmet Friars cleared Murphy's strike off the line before disaster struck. With Alfreton assistant manager Darron Gee screaming at the referee to blow his whistle the Reds worked the ball forward and a Stevenson cross was met by Rankine, who put a well-placed header past the wrong-footed Acton to stun Boro's players and fans alike.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 11-04-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Moore, Brown, Collins (Murphy 71), Noon, Rickards, Darby, Staff (Whittaker 71). **Subs:** Wilkin, Reeves, Foster.

Northwich: Connett, Battersby, Garner, Handyside, Carr, Charnock, McCarthy, Elliott, Byrne (Sale 56), Brayson, Williams (Payne 85). **Subs:** Devlin, Roca, Chapman.

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

Rickards screwed a shot wide of the post following Noon's through ball before Northwich instantly punished the home side for their early miss when, with just two minutes gone, Oddy was caught woefully out of position, allowing Chris Williams to probe down the left flank, before a neat one-two exchange with Paul Elliott allowed Williams the space to fire a shot which looped off Noon's boot and agonisingly over Darren Acton's outstretched finger tips to open the scoring.

Boro pressed forward in search of an equaliser with Noon and Fitzpatrick industrious in midfield and Darby and Rickards linked up well, to allow Oddy and Michael Love to take up advanced positions. A clever looping ball from Love found Staff inside the Vics' box, but his pull back was just out of reach of the vibrant Rickards. With 23 minutes on the clock Boro drew level when Darby turned and accelerated into the area before being upended by keeper Ben Connett. Rickards sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot.

With half-time looming Boro created a flurry of goalscoring opportunities beginning with Rickards' flick and run which found him one-on-one, but his scuffed shot was saved by Connett at the second attempt. Fitzpatrick then found Rickards free but the Northwich defence got back to cover.

Boro started strongly after the break and a looping cross from Staff dissected the Northwich back line but was inches



too high to meet Fitzpatrick's well-timed run into the area. For the next 15 minutes Boro threatened and Rickards and Darby continued to impress. Brown went close after he glanced Love's outswinging cross just wide of the post. Every worthwhile Boro attack involved Rickards, and it was his turn which allowed Staff to angle a run down the left before crossing low and hard to Darby, who powered his eight yard first time shot narrowly over the bar. With the momentum firmly with the home side, disaster struck as Northwich counter-attacked to score against the run of play. Realising Oddy had left his right back spot vacant for the umpteenth time, Paul Elliott coolly fed Williams, who progressed unchallenged to the edge of the box before curling a superb effort into the net for his second goal of the game.

With 27 minutes still remaining, Boro began the quest for a second equaliser by bringing on Murphy and Stuart Whittaker in place of Collins and Staff as Northwich sat back. After awarding a penalty to the home side earlier in the game referee Burton denied Boro a clear second spot kick with seven minutes to go when Kieran Charnock handled a partially cleared Love corner. Northwich showed resolve as they consolidated their one goal advantage, pumping the ball long and hard as Boro's proud home record finally came to an end.

Boro At Manor Park Until End Of Year

Nuneaton Borough will play at Manor Park until the end of the year. The club are due to sign legal documents that will give vacant possession of the ground to Bloor Homes on December 31, this year with an agreement to continue for a short period after that date if necessary. Major shareholder Ted Stocker expects to conclude the deal by early next month with building work set to start at the new site at Liberty Way almost immediately...

Nuneaton Borough v Workington 15-04-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Foster 73), Moore, Brown, Love, Reeves, Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff (Whittaker 84), Murphy (Taylor 78), Rickards. **Subs:** Poole, Wilkin.

Workington: Summergill, Edmondson (Gordon 66), Green, May, Gray, Henny, Hewson, Birks (Dillon 71), Johnston (Arnison 89), Hopper. **Subs:** Hoolickin, Collin.

Boro welcomed Workington to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro took the lead after 11 minutes play when Michael Love's deep inswinging corner was met at the far post by man-of-the-match Neil Moore and his downward header found the target. The Cumbrians should have levelled as Rob Oddy's suicidal headed back pass fell to Steve Birks, who stabbed the ball wide of Darren Acton and also the far post.

Meanwhile at the other end, Murphy's stretching header flew wide of the back upright but on 36 minutes top marksman Murphy raced on to a Gary Fitzpatrick through pass to coolly poke beyond the helpless keeper Craig Summergill to double Boro's advantage. But the celebrations had hardly died down

before the visitors reduced the deficit, Craig Johnston heading a long throw into the path of Dave Hewson and he crashed a fierce ten yarder through a mass of bodies and into the net.

Workington came out after the break in determined fashion and looked capable of getting back on terms only for some desperate defending by Moore, Brown and Love to keep them at bay. On 56 minutes Workington's hopes were dashed when, against the run of play, Boro regained their two goal cushion. From Staff's left wing corner, Brown rose high at the far post to give Summergill no chance with a power-packed eight yard header.

In a scrappy final quarter, Rickards superbly freed Jason Taylor whose tame shot was easily clutched by the diving Summergill but by then the win was Boro's as was their play-off place.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-04-2006

Kettering: Osborn, Zico-Black (Peter 85), Okai, Theobald, McIlwain, Koo-Boothe, Burgess, Solkhon, Elding, Makoko (Lynch 58), Hall (Olaleye 75). **Subs:** McDougald, Nicell.

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Whittaker 77), Love, Reeves, Moore, Brown, Fitzpatrick (Taylor 77), Noon, Rickards (Foster 61), Murphy, Staff. **Subs:** Wilkin, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Rockingham Road to face Kettering Town in a Conference North fixture.

Kettering's Anthony Elding, a £40,000 signing from Stevenage Borough, had the game's first shot, a 20 yard drive inside the first two minutes that Acton held comfortably. Boro defender Brown then jumped in with keeper Mark Osborn as Boro attacked and David Staff delivered a free-kick following a push on Martin Reeves. Noon chipped for Staff to volley and Reeves had a shot blocked as the visitors continued to take the game to their hosts in the early stages.

Elding lashed over on 16 minutes and Staff was on hand with a vital interception as the home side came back and Acton made a brilliant save from Ollie Burgess when the resulting corner came over, pushing his goalbound header out at full stretch. But Kettering went ahead from their next attack and this time Burgess was on target, heading home Hall's free-kick from close range to make it 1-0. Michael Love blasted well wide and Gez Murphy had a tame shot saved by Osborn but it was Kettering that scored next to increase their lead as Parys Okai met a Hall corner on the volley and his unstoppable shot put the Poppies 2-0 up.

Osborn punched a Staff corner clear as the visitors searched for a way back into the game but that never really looked likely as Boro attacks broke down far too easily, with a misplaced pass by Noon to Murphy when Boro were two on one being an example of the problem. After Ryan Zico-Black had squandered a good opportunity to add a third for Kettering, Fitzpatrick wasted Boro's best chance of the first-half when he failed to make a proper connection. Right on half-time a deflected Poppies free-kick shaved Acton's post.

Acton was quick to react at the start of the second half, cutting out a smart cross from Serge Makofu while Reeves lobbed a shot well over Osborn's goal before the keeper made a stunning save to keep out Staff's deflected free-kick. Murphy then latched on to a free-kick but rifled over when well placed and although Boro were carving out more chances than during the first period they were unable to find a way through and Love fired over the bar from long range on the hour mark.

It was game over after 67 minutes as once again Hall's free-kick caused problems in the Boro defence and substitute Darren Lynch rose unchallenged to head past Acton. Boro made three substitutions in the closing stages but none made any difference and Boro must win at Barrow to ensure that they hold on to third place and a home tie in the play-offs.

Noon Signs For Another Season

Midfield man Mark Noon has pledged his future of Nuneaton Borough by signing a 12 month contract ahead of their last away game of the season. The former Coventry City youngster is favourite to win this year's Player of the Season award after a number of exceptional performances.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough 22-04-2006

Barrow: Bishop, Flitcroft, Olsen, Howson, Rushton, Ridley, Cotterill, Smith, Anthony, Heining, Knight. **Subs:** Forde, Heffernan, Morsby, Kewley, Burgess.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Fitzpatrick, Noon, Rickards, Staff, Wilkin, Foster, Murphy. **Subs:** Taylor, Whittaker, Reeves, Love, Poole.

Boro made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a Conference North game.

Barrow started brightly and Darren Acton had to be on his mettle to save a Graham Anthony shot from the edge of the box but Boro had the lead on eleven minutes. A good move down the right saw strike pair Murphy and Foster combine before Murphy crossed for Rickards to drill the ball home from 12 yards. After Steve Flitcroft and Steve Ridley both shot over for Barrow, Boro doubled the lead with 29 minutes on the clock. Foster and Murphy were again involved in the build-up on Boro's right, this time Foster shot and although Bluebirds' keeper Simon Bishop was able to parry, Staff scored from the rebound from close range.

Boro were well on top and Bishop denied Murphy twice before Wilkin rounded off the scoring, leaping to head Staff's corner home to make the score 3-0. Boro should have perhaps gone on to score more but it would not matter as three points were the main focus of this encounter.

Boro Memories Up In Smoke

Firebugs have destroyed more than five decades of treasured footballing nostalgia at Nuneaton Borough. Match programmes dating back 50 years went up in smoke after a fire at a shed at the club's Manor Park ground. Firefighters were called to the ground in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Reserves Win League Title

Nuneaton Borough received the Central Conference title at Manor Park after beating Stafford Rangers 4-0. Tom Breward, David Blenkinsopp, Jason Taylor and Martin Reeves were all on target for Mick Dewis and Kevin Wilkin's side.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 29-04-2006

Boro: Acton, Moore, Wilkin, D. Brown (Whittaker 65), Oddy, Noon (Reeves 78), Fitzpatrick, Staff, Rickards, Darby (Foster 62), Murphy. **Subs:** Poole, Taylor.

Hinckley: Haystead, Cartwright, Platnauer, Lavery, Heeley, Lenton, Lewis, Jackson (Wade 62), Kelly, A. Brown (Story 73), Shilton. **Subs:** Storer, McGregor, Manship.

Boro welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro made hard work of beating a goal shy Hinckley to notch their 13th home win of the campaign and take their points tally to 77. Murphy, who missed a couple of half chances early on, set up an opportunity for Darby, whose near post flick was just off target and at the opposite end Leon Kelly snatched a 15 yarder well wide. Acton then fumbled an Andy Brown effort but did well to deflect Neil Cartwright's follow-up away for a corner while Boro came close as Noon fired into the side netting from a tight angle.

Boro took the lead on 40 minutes when Murphy latched on to David Staff's through ball to thread a low drive wide of keeper Danny Haystead and into the net off the far post. Murphy should have doubled the lead as he lobbed into the hands of the grateful Haystead with the goal beckoning.



Foster strikes from close range.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Hinckley were quickly out of the blocks after the interval, Sam Shilton forcing Acton into a sprawling stop inside 30 seconds but Boro were denied on 52 minutes by Carl Heeley's goal line clearance to thwart Neil Moore's hooked shot. Acton was the busier keeper with fine stops from Kelly and Andy Brown before ex-Nuneaton skipper Richard Lavery headed inches over from a corner.

Uncertain defending by Boro gave Kelly a clear offering

but his tentative prod lacked the power to beat Acton, who reacted smartly to save to his left. It was against the run of play that Boro put the result beyond doubt on 80 minutes. Stuart Whittaker's corner found Moore and though his powerful downward header was blocked on the line, Foster reacted quickest to crash a close range half-volley into the roof of the net.

Football Conference North 2005-2006

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northwich Victoria	42	29	5	8	97	49	92
Stafford Rangers	42	25	10	7	68	34	85
Nuneaton Borough	42	22	11	9	68	43	77
Droylsden	42	20	12	10	80	56	72
Harrogate Town	42	22	5	15	66	56	71
Kettering Town	42	19	10	13	63	49	67
Stalybridge Celtic	42	19	9	14	74	54	66
Worcester City	42	16	14	12	58	46	62
Moor Green	42	15	16	11	67	64	61
Hinckley United	42	14	16	12	60	55	58
Hyde United	42	15	11	16	68	61	56
Hucknall Town	42	14	13	15	56	55	55
Workington	42	14	13	15	60	62	55
Barrow	42	12	11	19	62	67	47
Lancaster City	42	12	11	19	52	66	47
Gainsborough Trinity	42	11	13	18	45	65	46
Alfreton Town	42	10	15	17	46	58	45
Vauxhall Motors	42	12	7	23	50	71	43
Worksop Town	42	10	11	21	46	71	41
Redditch United	42	9	12	21	53	78	39
Leigh RMI	42	9	13	20	45	79	39
Hednesford Town	42	7	14	21	42	87	35

Nuneaton Borough v Droylsden

01-05-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Whittaker 81), Moore, Brown, Love (Foster 72), Staff, Noon, Fitzpatrick, Rickards, Murphy, Darby. Subs: Angus, Poole, Wilkin.

Droylsden: Phillips, Halford, Warner, Ruffer, Burke, Morris, Williams, Lynch, Fearn (Rapley 79), Cameron, Denham (I. Fitzpatrick 74). Subs: Worsnop, Sturdy, Talbot.

Boro welcomed Droylsden to Manor Park to play a Conference North play off semi-final game.

The odds were stacked against Boro after only two minutes when Derek Brown carelessly handled the ball on the edge of the area and Jimmy Williams lifted the 20-yard free-kick over the defensive wall and wide of the static Darren Acton and into the net off the inside of the post. It was a stunning blow to Boro, one they never overcame, and it needed good judgement by the home keeper soon after to grasp a Garry Burke header from beneath the bar. Williams' set pieces were a constant source of concern to Boro, especially in the

opening period, with the heading skills of Neil Moore and central defensive partner Derek Brown needed to relieve the pressure on numerous occasions.



Jimmy Williams plants a 20-yard free-kick in the Boro net after only 90 seconds.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

On a tricky playing surface, neither side looked comfortable in possession, particularly Boro, who huffed and puffed but lacked creativity and when a glimmer of a chance surfaced, no-nonsense tackling kept them at bay. On 53 minutes Boro's task became a mammoth one when the petulant Darby was sent off. The striker seemed to be fouled by Burke going for a high ball and when referee Stretton gave the free-kick to the opposition, Darby's temper got the better of him and after being cautioned for dissent he was then red carded for sarcastically clapping the decision.

Ten man Boro stuttered into mediocrity in the final third and hardly brought a save out of visiting keeper Paul Phillips, with Scott Rickards coming closest as he latched on to an error by Carl Ruffer only to see his goalbound effort fly off the keeper's body and over the bar. In the dying seconds Ruffer then produced a superb last gasp challenge on Brown to thwart the defender as he was about to pull the trigger on Ian Foster's skidding centre, while Acton, who scored an injury time leveller in the league tussle between the clubs six weeks ago, was unable to repeat the dose when he again challenged for a corner, but this time there was no glory as he collided with Phillips and needed lengthy treatment.

New Secretary

Nuneaton Borough have appointed Graham Wilson as their new secretary following Paul Lewis' recent departure. Wilson will retain his role as youth team manager while operating in the secretary role.

Darby To Stay With Boro

Nuneaton Borough manager Roger Ashby has confirmed that Duane Darby will definitely be with the club next season after he held talks with the striker this week. Some Boro supporters were calling for his exit after the sending off incident in the play-off semi-final.

Retained List

Nuneaton Borough's longest serving player Michael Love has not been retained for next season. Manager Roger Ashby has released the 32-year-old left wing back, who signed from Stevenage Borough in July 2000. Ashby has also decided to let go Stuart Whittaker, Michael Frew, Simon Rea, Ian Foster, Jason Taylor and keeper Ryan Poole. Meanwhile Brian Quailey, Martin Reeves, Gary Fitzpatrick and David Blenkinsopp have been offered non-contract terms.

Burgess Joins Boro

Roger Ashby has made his first signing of the post season with Ollie Burgess agreeing to join the club from Conference North rivals Kettering Town. Burgess started with Queens Park Rangers where a serious injury curtailed his time there. After recovering from injury he moved on to Northampton Town on a free transfer and then moved to Basingstoke Town from where he joined Kettering.

Noon And Acton Top Polls



Mark Noon show off his awards with Roger Ashby and Darren Acton.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Midfielder Mark Noon has scooped two of the end of season awards at a ceremony at The Ricoh at the weekend. He won both the Manager and Player awards, while the fans' vote saw Darren Acton receive their Player of the Year award. Tom Breward took the Young Player of the Year award while kitman Alan Cooper was Clubman of the Year.

Ashby Welcomes Ellis

Nuneaton Borough manager Roger Ashby feels that getting things right both on and off the pitch could be the key ingredient to title success next season. That is why he has moved to bring in former Loughborough Dynamo manager James Ellis as coach. The astute 27-year-old, who is involved with the Loughborough Universities side that features Boro star Mark Noon, agreed to join the club in midweek.

And Ashby is looking forward to working with Ellis, who is also Community Sports Officer at Loughborough's Sports Development Centre.

Boro Duo Get Testimonial

Nuneaton Borough have awarded testimonials to long serving players Terry Angus and Michael Love. The pair, who have racked up more than 600 appearances between them, will share the proceeds from a joint match to be staged at the end of the season. Opponents have yet to be found but Boro boss Roger Ashby is hopeful of doing the players proud.

Boro Announce New Shirt Sponsor



Mark Gullick, Hayley Whitmore and Stuart Elliott (far right).

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough will kick off the 2006-2007 season with new shirt sponsors. Cotton-based Stuart Plumbing and Heating Supplies have linked up with the club in a £10,000 plus deal and will have their name emblazoned on Boro's home and away shirts for the forthcoming campaign.

Boro Sign Chapman

Nuneaton Borough have signed former Grimsby Town left back Ben Chapman from Northwich Victoria as a direct replacement for Michael Love. The 27-year-old has been Roger Ashby's long term target to replace Love. Chapman began his career with Grimsby before moving to Boston United from where he moved to Alfreton Town. He was then snapped up by Steve Burr at Northwich Victoria and was part of their championship side last season.

Boro Lose Out On Jackson

Nuneaton Borough have lost out in the race to sign Weymouth goal ace Kirk Jackson to Harrogate Town. Ashby said: "I spoke to Kirk immediately he was released by Weymouth at the end of last season."

McPhee Signs

Gary McPhee has put pen to paper and signed for Nuneaton Borough. The Glasgow-born player began his footballing career at Coventry City as a trainee and became a transfer target for Queens Park Rangers before he broke both legs. In an attempt to rebuild his career, McPhee moved to Ireland and played for St Patrick's Athletic, Newry Town and Portadown before moving to Scotland to play for Stranraer. He also had trials with Shrewsbury Town and Kidderminster Harriers before joining Moor Green for the 2005-06 season.

AFC Telford — 2nd Qualifying Round

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

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 58), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Frew, Murphy (Quailey 68), Staff (Whittaker 83). Subs: Poole, Wilkin.

Telford: Young, Andrewartha, Craven (Wheeler 90), Friars, Howarth, Cudworth, Parrish, McNally, Perry (Alexander 70), Charie, Beale (Hamilton 75). Subs: Brock, Ryan.

The best chances of a scrappy opening five minutes were David Andrewartha's wayward effort from distance for the visitors and Frew's close-range volley, which was saved by Telford debutant Young following Collins' corner.

In-form Frew went close again in the sixth minute, cutting inside and firing a left-foot curler just over Young's bar but Telford were posing more of a threat and after some incisive passing through the Boro defence Jack Cudworth headed over.

Boro retaliated in the 16th minute when Gez Murphy jumped with Young and the keeper could only manage a feeble punch into the path of Frew, whose clever lob from the edge of the box was perfectly placed and Young chased back to no avail.

Darren Acton made a similar error at the other end when he came out to punch under pressure but Richard Beale lacked Frew's finesse and blasted well over.

Play was held up for some time when Dean Craven went down after a heavy challenge by Rob Oddy and it was Boro who attacked following the restart, Murphy having his shot saved by Young after Michael Love had put him through.

A couple of chances went Telford's way as they searched for an equaliser, Beale and Luke McNally forcing saves out of Acton, and with ten minutes to go before half-time Telford tempers started to fray with fouls on Terry Angus and Mark Noon.

There was a moment to cherish just before half-time when former Telford keeper Acton pulled off what must surely be one of the greatest saves ever seen at Manor Park to prevent a Love own goal and Boro were rocking when the half-time whistle blew.

The home side forced a corner inside the third minute of the second half and Neil Moore headed wide before Frew had an opportunity to score his second of the game but the ball clipped Cudworth's heels and the chance was gone.

Telford responded by drawing level on 53 minutes, a beautiful free-kick from Sean Parrish floated into the danger-zone and Love could only back head past Acton and into his own net.

Love attempted to make amends for his error by racing down the left to cross but his dangerous delivery was well dealt with by Young and Telford were unlucky when their next attack was called back by the referee with a man down for each club in the middle of the park.

Boro were dealt a further blow when Martin Reeves was withdrawn from the game just before the hour mark with a troubling groin injury and Gary Fitzpatrick came on to replace him.

Murphy, desperate to score against one of his former clubs, had an effort saved by Young in the 68th minute and that was his last taste of the action as he was replaced by Brian Quailey.

He gave the team added impetus and Boro hit back to take the lead on 70 minutes, Love crossed and Collins connected with a sweet left-foot half-volley that Young failed to hold and Emmet Friars' attempt to clear the ball of the line was in vain.

From the restart, Telford player of the day, Craven, hit the bar and Friars followed that with a speculative long-range strike that needed to be tipped over his own bar by Acton.

But with 13 minutes remaining Boro killed the game off when they made it 3-1, Collins collected the ball wide on the right and raced to the by-line before crossing for Staff to open his account with a powerful header.

And it was nearly four in the next minute, Oddy crossed for Frew but his header was saved and Quailey's follow-up was smothered by Young. The substitute striker tried again ten minutes from time but once again Young was equal to his effort.



Terry Angus challenges Telford keeper Ryan Young.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

With a two-goal cushion, Boro were able to show the kind of form that has taken them to third in Conference North this season and they ran Telford ragged. Frew was unlucky not to add to his tally of six for the season when his shot hit the side-netting and a mix-up in the Bucks' defence nearly gifted Boro another goal before Howarth cleared.

Quailey headed over and Fitzpatrick missed a sitter late on, while Stuart Whittaker's return to first-team action after missing the last six games capped by a tremendous cup win for Boro, who overcame a disjointed performance in the opening three quarters of the game.

Chelmsford City – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 63), Wilkin, Angus, Collins, Noon, Frew (Murphy 77), Quailey, Staff (Whittaker 61). Subs: Poole, Rea.

Chelmsford: King, Hopkins, Haswell, Mangodza, Edwards, Lincoln, Smith, Edwards, Renner (Allen 86), Jordan (Valdez 90), Sobers. Subs: Nightinghill, Waite, Benjamin.

Boro were first to show with a fourth minute shot from Mark Noon that curled gently into Gavin King's arms. King saved again when Quailey flicked on a long free-kick before Darren Acton passed his first test of the game, kicking clear a City through ball as Portuguese striker Jordao raced in on goal.

It was a poor opening quarter to the match with both sides struggling to retain possession and the closest anyone came to scoring was a Clarets corner from Jordao that no-one could quite connect with.

The dangerous Jordao again went close after he was played on-side by Wilkin but the striker's shot was blocked by Terry Angus. However, from the resulting corner Chelmsford took the lead when Angus headed into his own net.

The visitors continued to cause problems as they won a free-kick that ricocheted around the Boro box while a Love set-piece at the other end was headed wide by Quailey.

But Boro were getting closer and Noon's header was tipped over following a cross by Rob Oddy and from the corner they were level as Quailey jumped the highest to head Love's

delivery past King to make it 1-1 in the 32nd minute.

Jordao flashed a free-kick over Acton's bar and only a magnificent tackle from last man Wilkin prevented the same player from another goalscoring opportunity as the Clarets hit back.

The makeshift Boro defender was booked in the 39th minute and Jordao had a free-kick saved by Acton before Boro had a strong penalty appeal for a handball by Shayne Mangodza turned down. Quailey shot wide and Angus headed over in the last minute of the first-half but as the teams went in level at half-time.

There was panic in the Boro defence two minutes into the second half when they failed to clear a long ball into the box and the increasingly damp pitch was causing problems for both teams.

Noon tried to dink a lob over King five minutes later but he couldn't quite get enough lift on the ball and the keeper was able to deny Boro's impressive youngster. Craig Edwards headed into Acton's arms as Chelmsford hit back.

Just after the hour Stuart Whittaker replaced David Staff and Gary Fitzpatrick came on for the injured Martin Reeves, who limped out of the action after a below-part performance from the former Leicester City man.

It was a rather drab passage of play for the 915 spectators that followed but they were roused once again midway through the second half when Boro got out of jail.

Acton made a real hash of his clearance and allowed the on-rushing Jordao to collect the ball, he shot at goal from an acute angle as the Boro keeper raced back but it was captain for the day, Love, who saved his side with a goal-line clearance to maintain parity.

Boro responded and Noon wasted a great chance from the edge of the box when he shot wide before Jordao entertained the spectators with some wizardry on the wing that left Oddy bamboozled.



Brian Quailey scores the goal that wins Boro a replay.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



With time running out, Ashby had one last throw of the dice and introduced Murphy for Frew but the striker did not see much of the ball.

Chelmsford forced a corner with five minutes left and Terry Angus headed clear but the Boro defence came under pressure again and another corner dropped fortuitously to Acton after bouncing around inside the Boro box.

Boro had a corner of their own with two minutes left but Whittaker's cross was too flat and Chelmsford broke and had three players attacking two until a fine Noon tackle halted their progress.

Chelmsford City — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to New Lodge, Billericay, to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round replay.

Chelmsford: King, Hopkins, Haswell, Mangodza (Allen 67), Edwards, Lincoln, Smith, Edwards, Renner (Halle 100), Jordao (Veldez 46). Subs: Lawler, Anstead.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 73), Wilkin, Rea, Collins (Murphy 86), Noon, Frew, Quailey, Whittaker (Staff 81). Subs: Poole, Angus.

Simon Rea was booked with less than three minutes on the clock after he scythed down Jordao before the home side had the first chance, Craig Edwards shooting wide following Jordao's cross.

Boro responded immediately with Brian Quailey flashing a shot wide and Martin Reeves went close with an angled drive that was deflected wide.

Victor Renner tried to beat Acton at his near post and Boro scrambled the ball clear but it fell to Jordao who hit the ball wide with the goal at his mercy.

Boro were struggling to retain the ball as Chelmsford continued to attack but the visitors caught City on the break and only a fine save by King at the feet of Michael Frew kept the scores level.

Whittaker wasted a free-kick on the half-hour when he struck the wall and City's Greg Lincoln fired a shot well over the bar five minutes later.

Acton was put under pressure by a number of back passes as Boro's moves broke down time and again, but he dealt with them all comfortably.

Inside the first minute of the second half Lincoln went in on goal for the Clarets but a sliding tackle from Love deprived him of a shooting chance. Reeves then somehow missed the target at the other end after a mix-up in the home defence and he looked on with head in hands as the ball rebounded off the post to safety.

Whittaker shot wide as Boro began to get on top but City came back again and Renner fired a shot across goal that was turned behind by Rob Oddy.

Acton saved on his line after a free-kick came through a crowd of players in the box and the end to end action continued with Boro causing City concern with a series of corners.

Amazing scenes followed in the Boro goalmouth as Acton (twice), the crossbar and a Mark Noon goal-line clearance all conspired to keep Chelmsford at bay in a frantic spell on 70 minutes.

But just 60 seconds later the home side had the lead after the referee awarded a free-kick for a foul by Reeves and from Lincoln's cross, substitute Adrian Allen rose highest to head past Acton's outstretched arm and make it 1-0.

The visitors failed to muster anything in response as the game entered the last ten minutes and it seemed the goal had sucked the life out of Boro who failed to create anything of note.

In fact, the Clarets looked like the team most likely to score next and Rea made a perfectly timed tackle to halt their next attack when he was left exposed at the back and two forwards raced in.

It felt like Boro's last chance had gone when the referee's assistant flagged for a handball after the visitors' twice-taken free-kick in the 90th minute.

And the referee himself, who had made a string of bizarre decisions, decided against giving an injury time penalty when Quailey went to ground in the box.

But there would be one final act. Boro won a corner in the 95th minute and Acton raced up field into the box, his presence caused problems in the home defence but they got the ball clear to the edge of the area.

It came only as far as man-of-the-match Noon who lay in wait and his low drive went through a crowd of players in the box and past King to make it 1-1, after an incredible two additional minutes it was stalemate again and extra time.

There was no let up in extra time as Staff fired straight at King and Quailey went close while City goalscorer Allen shot wide for the tiring Clarets.

Noon had another shot saved by King as Boro's fitness began to tell and they dominated the first period but just couldn't find that final touch to kill the home side off, with a Staff free-kick being the closest they came.

Boro continued to penetrate and they started the second period of extra time as they ended the first, being well on top, and that pressure paid off after 111 minutes.

Substitute Fitzpatrick's shot from the edge of the box was parried by King and this time it was fellow replacement Murphy on hand to mop up as he headed over the prostrate keeper into the empty net to make it 2-1.

Murphy even had time to miss a sitter before the final whistle after Staff had played him in but Boro held out.

Tiverton Town — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Tiverton Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 63), Wilkin, Angus, Collins, Noon, Frew (Quailey 63), Murphy, Whittaker (Staff 63). Subs: Poole, Blenkinsopp.

Tiverton: Ovendale, Booth, Davies, Hutchinson, Croft, Milsom (Hambly 45), Ampadu, Bale, Yetton, Daley, Mudge (Nogan 85). Subs: Wills, Conning.

Boro's first attack came in the third

minute and Gez Murphy crossed for Frew but Sam Croft cleared the ball to safety. Michael Love then crossed towards Murphy but Mark Ovendale collected under pressure before Tiverton responded with a long clearance that James Mudge was able to run on to but play was called back for a foul by the striker. Full-back Booth then fired over the top.

Ovendale spilled a Whittaker free-kick as Boro pressed again but Collins couldn't quite gather his fumble and another set piece caused problems for Tivvy, this time Angus was unable to punish the Southern League club.

Desperate defending from Mark Noon brought a Tiverton attack to a halt and then it was Angus' turn to clear the danger as Tivvy continued to employ the long ball tactic.

Ovendale had to punch another Boro free-kick clear after Wilkin had connected with Noon's delivery and Murphy headed over before Tivvy broke through Mudge and Acton had to be at his best to save the striker's shot.

The game continued to swing from end to end with Stewart Yetton hitting the post for Tiverton before a lull in proceedings just after the half-hour mark when the game became scrappy.

Chances were few and far between as

half-time approached and the teams left the pitch with the score tied at 0-0.

Acton made another great save early in the second half as the dangerous Mudge once again found space in the Boro defence before Murphy wasted Boro's first chance of the half.

Booth headed Reeves' cross over the bar and a Noon Exocet flew over the bar and into the Cock and Bear end.

Booth headed over with Boro's defence static and they were caught out once again when Mudge found space and played in Yetton, but his shot was wide.

The game passed the hour mark and Ashby made a triple substitution, introducing Quailey, Staff and Fitzpatrick for Frew, Whittaker and Reeves.

With three new men on Boro laid siege to the Tivvy goal but Ovendale was equal to everything that came his way and he saved well from a Matty Collins shot. But the visitors were causing panic in the Boro defence as they broke at pace and Noon had to be alert to clear the danger.

It was one-way traffic as the game entered its last ten minutes and Booth had to clear off the line following a Love corner, while Acton saved from Mudge in one of Tivvy's rare forays into the Boro half.

Murphy glanced a header just wide of Ovendale's post before the visitors escaped unscathed from a goalmouth scramble and when Oddy collected a clearance and fired over the prospects of a long trip to Devon looked likely.

Five minutes into injury time Boro had one last chance with a corner but Ovendale collected once again.

Tiverton Town — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Ladysmead to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round replay.

Tiverton: Ovendale, Booth, Davies, Hutchinson, Croft, Milsom, Ampadu, Bale, Yetton, Daly (Nogan 89), Mudge. Subs: Wills, Hambly, Skeggs, Nott.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin, Angus (Whittaker 46), Collins, Noon, Frew, Murphy (Quailey 84), Staff. Subs: Blenkinsopp, Holmes, Poole.

Rob Oddy flashed a drive across the face of the Tiverton goal in the third minute as Boro dominated the early stages. Tivvy were looking to catch Boro on the break but when Stewart Yetton raced away Kevin Wilkin got back to direct the ball clear for a corner before Boro responded with two set pieces that caused panic in the home defence but which were eventually cleared.

Frew broke at pace before the first real chance of the game fell to James Mudge who latched on to a long through ball but with Angus and Wilkin trailing in his wake the striker slipped his shot just wide.

Mudge again went close with a quarter of the game gone as he collected the ball wide on the right and sent in a dipping volley that just beat the bar and landed in the home crowd.

The closest Boro went to scoring in the first-half was when Oddy flighted in a cross which Mark Ovendale caught under the bar. The home side continued to press and Chris Bale's dangerous cross was cut out by Wilkin with Yetton lurking behind him. Bale had a shot saved by Acton following the corner.



Darren Acton makes another important save.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Ovendale was booked after he barged Angus into the advertising hoardings which left the central defender with a serious head wound. With Staff dropping to left back and Michael Love filling in alongside Wilkin, Boro were vulnerable at the back but they kept the pressure on Tivvy with a series of corners.

But the home side threatened again as Boro tried to hold on through the five minutes of added time to see them through to the break with ten men. A Kwame Ampadu free-kick went wide and Mudge blazed just past the post but it remained 0-0 at the break.

Angus failed to reappear after the break and Whittaker took over on the left, leaving Staff to move back to the left full back position and Love moving over to take Angus' place.

Matty Collins found space on the right two minutes in but Owendale cut out his delivery and Wilkin was on hand once again at the other end to block a goalbound Yetton strike.

Boro's attack was anything but potent and it seemed that if a goal was going to come it would have to be from a set-piece, but Love headed wide from Boro's first corner of the half.

Boro were almost in when Steve Daly dithered on the edge of the box and allowed Murphy to dispossess him but the chance was wasted as Frew picked up the ball on the edge of the box and blasted over.

As the game moved into its final quarter Boro began to take control and Tivvy were under the cosh, although the visitors' final ball still left a lot to be desired as Owendale collected crosses comfortably time and again.

Even when Boro got through one-on-one with the keeper, just as Frew did after Boro's best move of the match, with a little over ten minutes left, they were still unable to find the target as yet another chance went begging when the striker shot over.

The experience of Boro's centre-back pairing made up for their lack of pace and they prevented the pacy Tiverton strikers from breaking with some timely interceptions, even when Yetton finally got away from Boro's back line his shot went wide with home manager Martyn Rogers slumping to his knees in disbelief.

Quailey came on for Murphy and had an immediate impact with a header from Whittaker's corner saved on his goal-line by Owendale.

But with the clock running down Boro finally made their possession pay as Frew raced down the left, his shot was parried by Owendale and Quailey touched the ball on into an open goal to seal Boro's place in the first round proper after a five year wait.

Ramsgate — 1st Round Proper

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

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin (Rea 72), Angus, Collins, Noon, Frew, Quailey, Staff. Subs: Blenkinsopp, Poole, Whittaker, Holmes.

Ramsgate: Twyman, E. Vahid, Cassar, Morris (Pettit 46), O. Schulz, Laslett, Munday (Yianni 71), W. Schulz, Welford, Ball, S. Vahid (Suter 64). Subs: Cory, Gregory.

Boro's first attack came in the third minute with Michael Frew latching on to a long clearance and shaking his man off before the ball ran free for Brian Quailey and his lay-off was struck wide by Staff.

The home side's positive start continued with a run down the right by Matty Collins and his low shot needed a save on the line from Danny Twyman and the Rams' keeper again did well to hold Boro's next delivery from the right with the visitors looking out of their depth.

However, Jim Ward's side had a chance to open the scoring on 12 minutes but Warren Schulz had his shot blocked before Quailey headed wide from Love's free-kick.

Gary Fitzpatrick blazed just wide after he pushed the referee out of the way to get his shot in but Boro were 1-0 up on 15 minutes when a defensive error from Steffan Ball allowed Oddy through on goal and his sweet right foot strike beat Twyman – while the youngster was booked for overdoing the celebrations.

Oddy almost added a second four minutes later when after Collins had delayed a shot to set him up, but this time Twyman was able to save.

Mark Munday put a shot over the bar



Boro players and management celebrate their FA Cup win.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

before Ramsgate found the net on the half-hour mark but the referee had blown for offside and the same infringement scuppered Boro's next chance when Collins had found Quailey inside the box.

But they would increase their lead on 34 minutes as Oddy turned creator, the full-back was played in by Collins on the right and his pinpoint cross to Staff made it simple for the utility man to head past Twyman and make it 2-0.

Quailey went close and Frew had a penalty appeal turned down as the game approached half-time before Ramsgate almost pulled one back but a tremendous save by Acton from Stuart Vahid kept Boro 2-0 up at the break.

Boro started the second period in sluggish fashion as the Rams searched for the early goal that would give them



David Staff (out of picture) heads Boro's second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

a fighting chance of getting something from this game but when Ball was clear through on goal he shot well wide and Acton would remain untroubled throughout the half.

Ashby's men remained quiet for the first

15 minutes of the second period but they eventually started to get on top and forced Twyman into action on a couple of occasions.

The Rams then had a man sent off but it was still 11-a-side on the pitch as manager Ward was dismissed from the dug-out for repeated outbursts at the referee and had to watch the rest of the game from the stand.

The excitement of the first half had now dissipated and the second 45 minutes was a scrappy affair as Boro took their foot off the gas. Ramsgate had a second goal ruled out for offside and Schulz headed just over from a corner.

Ball wasted another Rams chance when he shot for goal from a free-kick with eight of his team-mates in the box awaiting a cross and they trudged back disconsolately after the forward's effort went well wide.

Michael Frew was sent off ten minutes from time when he received his second yellow card of the game and there was another long stoppage when a clash of heads left Mark Noon grounded.

The midfielder picked himself up and carried on and could have scored a third goal, but he blazed over the top after picking up a poor Twyman clearance but the damage had been done and after four minutes of injury time Boro were through to the Second Round Proper of the FA Cup for the eighth time in their history.



Terry Angus – magnificent in defence for Boro.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Histon — 2nd Round Proper

Borough welcomed Histon to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Round Proper tie.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves, Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Frew (Murphy 76), Staff. Subs: Fitzpatrick, Poole, Wilkin, Whittaker, Murphy.

Histon: Key, Hanover (Nightingale 85), Okay, Jackman, Vowden, A. Cambridge, Farrington (Hipperson 74), Andrew, Barker, Gutmore (I. Cambridge 85), Knight-Percival. Subs: Goddard, Hulyer.

Midfielder Mark Noon had the first chance of the game as his 25 yard volley went just wide of Histon keeper Lance Key's post. Histon then forced the first corner in the third minute but Boro managed to clear the ball after a frantic goalmouth scramble.

Reeves wasted a chance to cross on the right as Boro won their first corner of the game in the 18th minute, Key tipped Michael Love's inswinging delivery over the bar.

The second delivery from Love was cleared but Boro continued to attack and Frew had their next chance but a tame header was collected by Key.

Histon's Adrian Cambridge was booked in the 18th minute, but was causing problems for Boro with his free-kicks and long throw into the box that resulted in some desperate clearances.

Reeves had a deflected shot saved by Key and Quailey had a chance after turning inside the Histon box but he screwed his shot well wide.

At the other end a clearance from

goalkeeper Darren Acton struck Jamie Barker and nearly rebounded into Boro's net but the ball ran just wide as the home crowd held their breath.

There was more excitement when a long ball forward broke to Quailey and Frew in attack but they seemed to get in each other's way, allowing Colin Vowden to head back to Key.

Erkan Okay followed team-mate Cambridge into the referee's book on 27 minutes before Histon broke but 18-year-old Nathaniel Knight-Percival's shot was easily dealt with by Acton, saving low to his left.

Frew then lost possession in attack, gifting the visitors a chance to break but the young forward soon made amends when he collected a Reeves' ball and crossed from the left for Collins to rise high and head Boro in front.

However, they were stunned as Histon equalised from the restart. An Adrian Cambridge free-kick from the left was volleyed home from six yards by the unmarked Barker, capitalising on Boro's lapse in concentration.

Barker ran clear down the left as Histon got behind Boro's back line once again but the scorer's wayward cross was cleared before Histon took the lead two minutes before half-time.

Yet again a long throw from Adrian Cambridge caused problems for Boro and they could only half-clear to Knight-Percival who picked up the rebound and blasted his shot past Acton from the edge of the box.

Boro responded with a deflected David

Staff shot and when the resulting corner was cleared that signalled the end of the first-half.

Staff had the first shot of the second half, but Key saved and Quailey headed just wide in Boro's next move. But the big striker was on target after 52 minutes when Moore's goalbound effort was blocked on the line by defender Okay with his hand. Quailey stepped up to calmly stroke the spot kick past Key and make the score 2-2.



Boro celebrate Quailey's equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Histon went in search of the lead again and kept Boro pressed in their own half but Acton was rarely troubled until a Barker header needed his attention on the hour.

Frew attacked for Boro and his cross seemed too long but Staff was able to stretch for a header, however Histon were able to clear off the line.

Boro then cleared off their own goal-line at the other end as Knight-Percival headed a corner goalwards and the frantic end to end football continued



Brian Quailey sends Robert Key the wrong way to rescue a draw for Boro.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

with Staff forcing a corner following a good run from Reeves.

And Frew was the next player to come close to finding the game's fifth goal but he dragged a left foot shot wide with five Histon players in pursuit of the Boro striker.

Quailey then fired over before Histon made the first substitution of the game 16 minutes from time, Roscoe Hipperson replacing Louie Farrington.

Moore's header from a staff corner was then cleared before Boro made a substitution of their own, Gez Murphy replacing Frew.

With his first touch of the game Murphy lobbed Key but the Histon defence were able to get back and clear and when Angus headed in from a corner it was ruled out for a push.

Murphy headed over and Acton saved from Barker as the game entered its final five minutes but after Key held Collins' cross and Vowden headed two long balls clear it was all over.

Histon — 2nd Round Proper Replay

Borough made the journey to the Glassworld Stadium to play Histon in a FA Cup 2nd Round Proper replay.

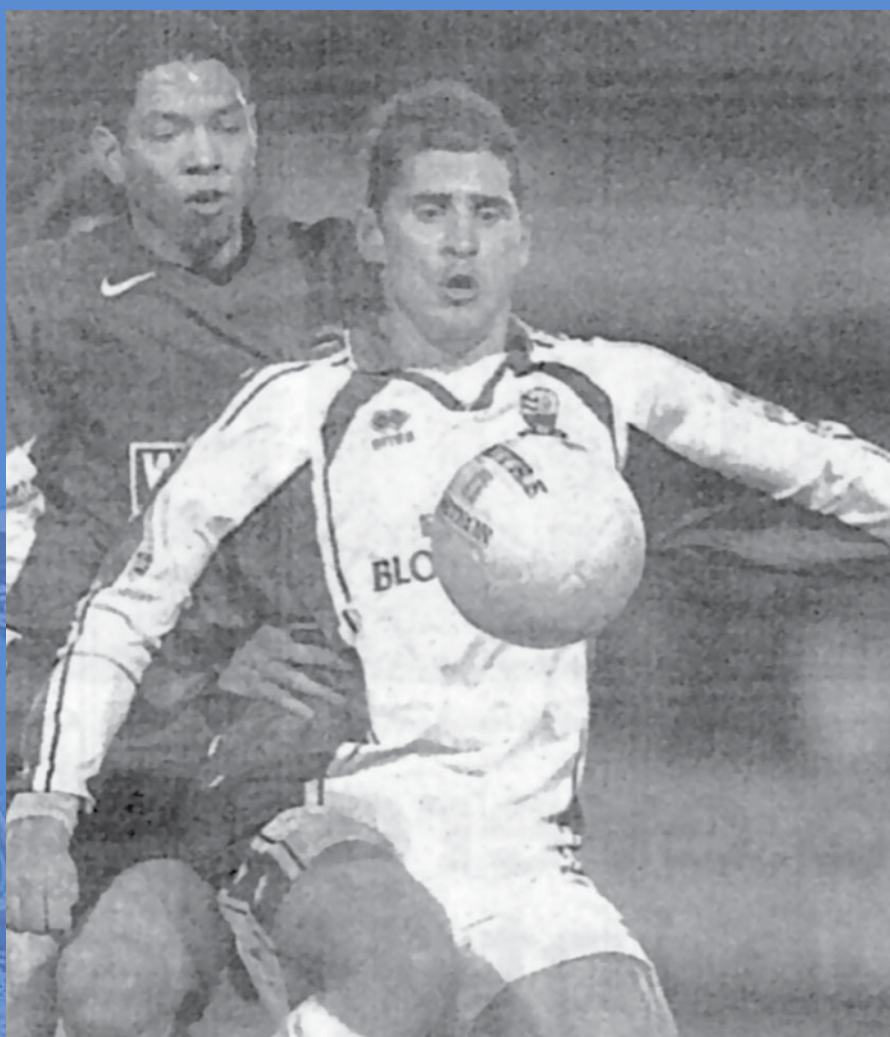
Histon: Key, Jackman, Okay, Hipperson, Vowden, A. Cambridge, Haniver (I. Cambridge 90), Andrews, Barker, Gutzmore (Nightingale 83), Knight-Percival. Subs: Farrington, Hulyer, Goddard.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 21), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Murphy (Frew 82), Staff. Subs: Poole, Foster, Wilkin.

Terry Angus deflected an Adrian Cambridge shot over the top after just 30 seconds before Steve Jackman curled a shot into Darren Acton's arms from Histon's next move.

Boro's first corner came on five minutes and Lance Key only punched clear as far as Mark Noon, whose shot was blocked on the edge of the area.

The first real chance of the game fell to



Gez Murphy holds up the ball under pressure from a Histon defender.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Histon in the tenth minute and it was a long throw from Adrian Cambridge that created the opportunity as Jamie Barker flicked on and Leon Gutzmore headed goalwards but Acton saved.

Histon attacked again with four men going forward but the move broke down and when the referee played an advantage Boro's Matty Collins was able to put Murphy through on goal but Key beat him to the ball and gathered.

Rob Oddy cleared up in Boro's defence before David Staff went close with a free-kick, curling his shot just wide as Key stood flat-footed in the centre of his goal.

Gary Fitzpatrick replaced the injured

Martin Reeves on 21 minutes and a briefly unsettled Boro had to defend two Histon corners in quick succession.

And the home side would come closest to taking the lead on the half-hour mark, Ade Cambridge floated in a free-kick for Colin Vowden to volley but his effort hit the bar and bounced over.

Boro then made them pay for that miss with a goal on 34 minutes. Quailey headed on a long clearance for Collins to barge his way through and when Vowden partially cleared, the ball ran into the path of Oddy, who drilled a right foot shot past Key to make it 1-0.

Histon pressed for an equaliser and after a goalmouth scramble Matthew

Haniver had a long-range strike drift wide and Boro took their goal advantage into the break.



Mark Noon pushes forward.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Histon had another gilt-edged chance inside 30 seconds of the second period, this time Barker blazed over following Knight-Percival's ball when he really should have done better.

Boro were at sixes and sevens, allowing Gutzmore acres of space inside the box but his shot cannoned back off the inside of the post and was cleared for a corner.

Lady Luck smiled on Boro again when Ade Cambridge's resulting corner came in and was headed by Vowden against team mate Gutzmore on the line, allowing Boro to clear once again.

The visitors continued to soak up the pressure and they won a corner, which saw Noon shoot over from the edge of the box as Histon tried to clear and the home team's immediate response was a Haniver effort that went just wide.

The goal the home side had been threatening eventually came on 61 minutes when Noon was booked for a foul on Erkan Okay and from the resulting free-kick Vowden headed past Acton to level the scores.

Histon continued to put pressure on the Boro defence and the visiting side offered little in attack with Staff on the left wing looking like their only real outlet for the second period.

A full-stretch Acton saved from Gutzmore before Boro battled their way back into the game and started to cause Histon one or two problems but the home team had the advantage of pace in attack and Gutzmore was able to break down the left, this time his cross was cut out.

Michael Frew was introduced for Gez Murphy with eight minutes remaining but he had not touched the ball when Histon threatened next from a corner, Acton was able to collect under pressure to Boro's relief.

With 90 minutes on the clock and everyone gearing up for another 30 minutes of action Boro continued their good run of FA Cup replays on away soil with a third victory this season.

Staff floated in a corner and the last touch seemed to come off Angus, who jumped above Key and headed into the net, despite frantic attempts to clear.

Histon responded with a corner and Key came forward but when his opposite number Acton claimed a magnificent catch it was victory for Boro and a third round match with Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough — 3rd Round Proper

Borough welcomed Middlesbrough to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Round Proper tie.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick (Reeves 82), Moore, Angus, Collins, Noon, Quailey (Frew 77), Murphy, Staff (Whittaker 22). Subs: Wilkin, Poole.

Middlesbrough: Jones, Parnaby, Southgate, Bates, Doriga, Mendieta, Morrison, Viduka, Yakubu, Cattermole, Pogatetz. Subs: Schwartz, Taylor, Johnson, Wheeler, Maccarone.

Awesome Nuneaton Borough caused millionaires Middlesbrough a shock

when they outplayed the Premiership giants and probably should have won the tie.

Household names like Yakubu and Mark Viduka were kept quiet by Boro's ageing defensive partnership of Terry Angus and Neil Moore while England international defender Gareth Southgate struggled to cope with the on-fire Gez Murphy, who had three fantastic first half efforts saved by Brad Jones.

But Murphy would eventually find the net with a 90th minute penalty that earned Boro a replay at the Riverside after his equaliser cancelled out a 15th minute free-kick from former Barcelona man Gaizka Mendieta.

Boro manager Roger Ashby stuck with the same team that gained a Conference North point at Hednesford Town last week and they repaid the boss by saving their best performance of the season for the biggest match in the club's history.

Boro attacked first through Matty Collins down the right and they kept the visitors on the back foot. Quailey went through into the area on two minutes and fed Murphy but Brad Jones was equal to his shot and prevented a dream start for the home side.

Boro continued to hold the upper hand and Murphy had another shot saved by Jones before Viduka placed a header wide at the other end following Stuart Parnaby's cross.

Murphy attacked once again but without an end product and Boro were made to rue their missed opportunities when Gaizka Mendieta put Middlesbrough ahead with a free-kick on 15 minutes following a foul on Yakubu by Terry Angus.

Middlesbrough began to settle after their shaky start and Boro were dealt a further blow when David Staff left the pitch midway through the first-half after a heavy challenge from Stuart Parnaby and the utility man was replaced by Stuart Whittaker.

Darren Acton then made a tremendous save from Lee Cattermole after the youngster had beat Michael Love too easily but Boro came back again and Murphy had another good attempt thwarted by Jones, who tipped the striker's fierce drive over the bar.

Acton held a Pogatetz cross in the visitors' next attack while Boro's hopes rested with Murphy, who was still able to control the ball and pick out his man despite the attentions of five Middlesbrough players.

Jones saved a lovely Whittaker volley following Boro's second corner of the match and the keeper was able to collect the winger's next delivery.

Noon shot just wide on 37 minutes as Boro had the better of their opponents who struggled to put together any sort of cohesive passing movement.

Mendieta curled a clever lob over the bar five minutes before half-time and Acton made another terrific save after a poor Rob Oddy header allowed Yakubu through one-on-one with the keeper. Acton saved from Parnaby in stoppage time but at the interval Boro

were still within reach, trailing by a single goal.

The ball ricocheted around the Middlesbrough box as Boro attacked in the opening minute of the second period and Whittaker had another well-struck shot saved by Jones before Moore headed the corner just wide.



Boro's Mark Noon is blatantly brought down in the area, but referee Mike Dean waved away penalty appeals.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro had what looked like a clear penalty turned down eight minutes into

the second half when Gareth Southgate upended Mark Noon in the box but referee Mike Dean waved the home side's appeals away.

Boro were camped in the Middlesbrough half for the majority of the second half's opening 15 minutes before the visitors had a rare opportunity, but Acton pushed Viduka's header around the post.

Love fired a shot over the bar at the other end and Murphy had another strike blocked in the area as the game entered its final ten minutes.

James Morrison put an effort over Acton's bar and a Viduka strike also landed in the Beaumont Road end before the moment that will go down in Manor Park folklore.

With less than two minutes remaining the Cock and Bear end erupted as Boro were given a penalty with Southgate again the culprit but this time his handball gave Dean no option but to point to the spot.

Murphy stepped up and sent Jones the wrong way with his spot-kick to give Boro a second bite at the cherry.



Gez Murphy slots in the penalty that secured Boro a replay at The Riverside.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Middlesbrough — 3rd Round Proper Replay

Boro made the journey to the Riverside Stadium to play Middlesbrough in a FA Cup 3rd Round Proper replay.

Middlesbrough: Jones, Taylor, Bates, Riggott, Pogatetz, Mendieta, Cattermole, Johnson, Parnaby (Parlour 63), Viduka (Maccarone 64), Yakubu. Subs: Schwartz, Wheater, Rochemback.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Angus, Love, Collins (Reeves 81), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Whittaker (Wilkin 77), Murphy, Quailey (Frew 59). Subs: Poole, Rea.

For over half-an-hour Boro more than matched their rivals, but once skipper Chris Riggott fired the home side in front and Yakubu put a penalty past Acton to make it 2-0, Boro's ambitions of a local derby with Coventry City were long dead.

A three goal spurt straight after the interval put the home side out of sight as Parnaby, Yakubu and Viduka added to the lead.

For a while it looked as though Boro might suffer an embarrassing defeat but they bounced back and Murphy added to his penalty at Manor Park with another two goals.

The home side were clearly edgy and nervous during the opening exchanges and although Yakubu was first to threaten as he raced down the left,



Rob Oddy challenges Chris Riggott at The Riverside.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

his cross was sliced wide by Stuart Parnaby.

But it was Boro who looked the more assertive and they created a great

chance in the fourth minute when Murphy hustled on to a Matt Collins header and held off Riggott only for his low drive to be saved by goalkeeper Brad Jones.

Brian Quailey shot wide from Collins header before Yakubu fed Mark Viduka inside the area but Acton saved his shot on the goal line.

The home side grabbed the lead when Matt Bates' stab forward found Riggott and he burst through the middle and held off Neil Moore to lob over Acton and high into the net.

The goal boosted the home side and they doubled their lead after 42 minute as Terry Angus lost possession on the half-way line and the ball was funnelled to Yakubu who raced clear before releasing Gaizka Mendieta on the right.



Brian Quailey is crowded out by Middlesbrough defender.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The Spaniard was barged over by Whittaker and Mike Riley had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Yakubu sent Acton the wrong way.

The Teesiders upped the tempo at the start of the second half with Mendieta rifling into the side netting before Boro's hopes of a fightback were ruined by a spell of three goals in 13 minutes.

The surge began in the 50th minute when Mendieta's pass put Adam Johnson away on the left. His cross-shot was pushed away by Acton but Neil Moore's clearance fell straight to Parneby whose powerful 25 yarder flew just inside Acton's left-hand post.

Viduka then grazed the bar from the edge of the area while Noon's hanging shot from wide right had Jones back-tracking to tip the ball over the bar with Moore heading off target from Whittaker's corner.

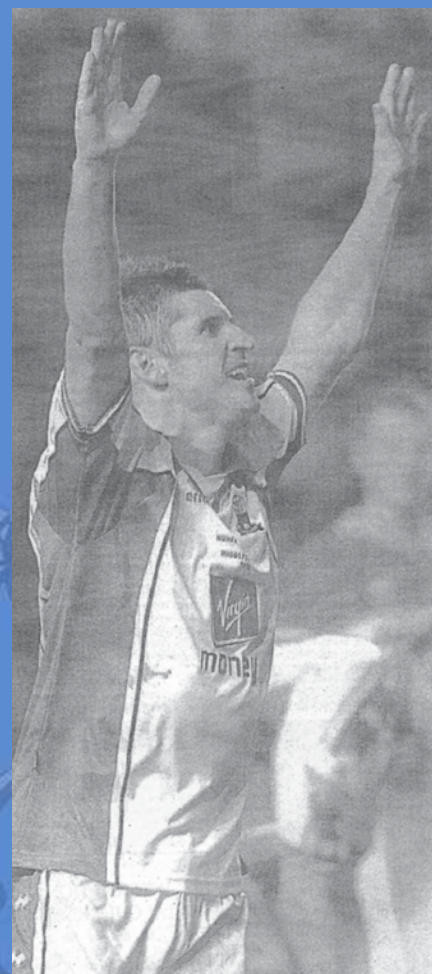
But within 30 seconds it was 4-0; Viduka's flicked header set the impressive Yakubu away down the inside left channel and, though he miscued his shot, it had enough power to beat Acton and trickle over the line.

There was more disappointment for the visitors on 63 minutes when Johnson's optimistic chip into the box struck Yakubu on the back and when Moore trod on the ball, Viduka pounced to whip a ten-yarder past the helpless Acton.

Urged on by their fans, Nuneaton kept plugging away and on 71 minutes they had the first of two moments of glory as Acton's long clearance deceived Riggott and keeper Jones for Murphy to steal in and head into an empty net from just inside the area.

Acton then acrobatically denied Yakubu with an expert finger-tip deflection but on 86 minutes the Riverside erupted again as Noon's elegant back-heel put Murphy into the danger zone where he was tripped from behind by substitute Ray Parlour.

The striker was quickly to his feet, grabbed the ball and promptly crashed the penalty off the foot of the prostrate Jones and into the corner of the net. And it could have been three for the Boro boys in the dying seconds when Murphy's flick on just escaped the sliding boot of Martin Reeves and went narrowly wide of the upright.



Farsley Celtic – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to the Throstle Nest to play Farsley Celtic in a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Farsley: Cuss, Stabb, Pemberton, Shields, Crossley, Serrant, Knowles (Bett 88), Iqbal, Bambrook, Sanasy (Rowe 90), Watson. Subs: Duxbury, Rickers, McQuarrie.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Love, Fitzpatrick (Reeves 78), Moore, Rea, Collins, Noon, Quailey, Foster (Whittaker 66), Staff. Subs: Poole, Wilkin, Holmes.

Boro fell at the first hurdle in the FA Trophy for the tenth consecutive season as the hosts adapted better to a quagmire of a pitch.

Boro dominated the opening period of play but the Farsley sucker punch came with a breakaway goal on 15 minutes.

Brian Quailey was involved from the off and left Celtic keeper Paul Cuss floored inside the first three minutes following a collision as the Boro striker went in for a challenge.

The visitors continued to attack with Matty Collins unlucky not to get on the end of a David Staff cross and still they poured forward with Quailey as the main threat but his first touch would let him down on two occasions.

But against the run of play Celtic stunned the Boro and took the lead on 15 minutes as Amjad Iqbal struck from

the edge of the box and Darren Acton allowed the ball to squirm from his grasp and find the back of the net.

Collins had a header saved and Mark Noon's shot was stopped by Cuss as Boro responded but on 27 minutes they were 2-0 down.

Rob Oddy allowed Andy Watson to run clear down the left and his deep cross to the back post reached the unmarked James Knowles, who smashed the ball high into the net.

On 35 minutes it was 3-0 as Simeon Bambrook's long-range strike was parried by Acton but only as far as Kevin Sanasy and he rushed in to score his fourth goal in five matches.

Sanasy had a golden chance to make it four just two minutes before half-time but he slipped inside the box before Cuss recovered from dropping a cross at the other end to keep Boro at bay.

Sanasy wasted another chance in stoppage time when Acton sliced a clearance into his path.

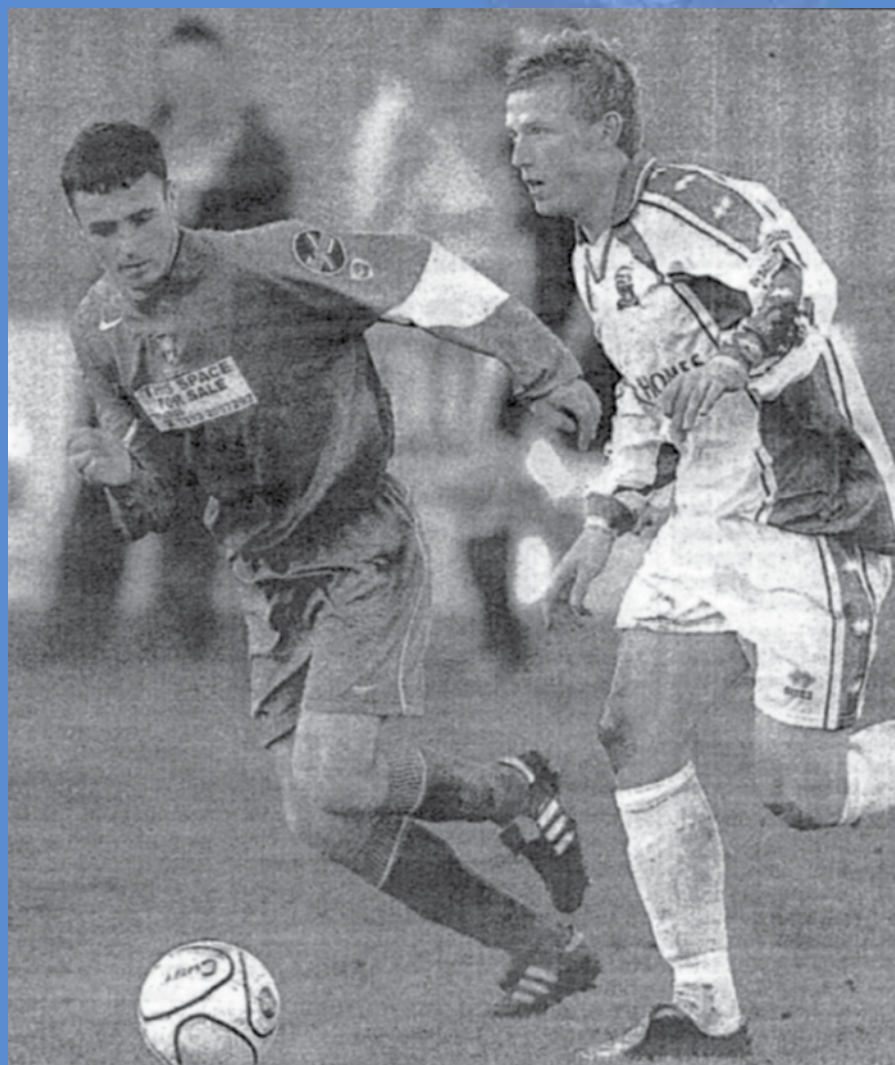
Noon had a shot saved by Cuss in the first minute of the second half before Boro hit back with a penalty from Quailey on 49 minutes after he had been brought down by the keeper. The big striker had no problems from the penalty spot.

Acton needed a second bite at Sanasy's next shot when he failed to hold on to a long-distance strike once again but he gathered at the second attempt.

Farsley had the ball in Acton's net again but it was ruled out for offside and Bambrooke could have made it 4-1 but he spooned his shot wide.

Bambrook had the next chance midway through the second half but this time shot wide as Boro continued to create very little, with a free-kick from Stuart Whittaker that drifted just over the closest they came.

Celtic's Iqbal was sent off for a second bookable offence inside the last ten minutes before Collins headed over and it was clear there was no way back.



Rob Oddy races past Farsley winger Andy Watson.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 2



Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2005-06

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.19	Loughborough Dynamo	A	PSF	3-0	Quailey, Staff, Murphy	c100
07.20	A.F.C.Telford	H	PSF	2-1	Frew, Blenkinsopp (pen)	236
07.23	Halesowen Town	A	PSF	0-1		220
07.26	Coalville Town	A	PSF	1-0	Moore	c150
07.30	Rugby Town	A	PSF	3-0	Quailey (2), Wilkin	c300
08.01	Wolverhampton Wanderers	H	PSF	1-0	Murphy	804
08.03	Raunds Town	A	PSF	2-1	Blenkinsopp (2)	c100
08.06	Burton Albion	A	PSF	3-2	Reeves, Murphy, Wilkin	541
08.13	Droylsden	A	L	2-2	Murphy, Whittaker	398
08.16	Redditch United	H	L	2-1	Moore, Murphy	920
08.20	Harrogate Town	H	L	4-0	Frew, Quailey (pen), Angus, Wilkin	724
08.27	Stafford Rangers	A	L	0-2		1053
08.29	Kettering Town	H	L	2-2	Frew (2)	1049
09.03	Workington	A	L	2-0	Frew, Murphy (pen)	611
09.10	Lancaster City	H	L	3-0	Wilkin, Moore, Reeves	716
09.17	Hucknall Town	A	L	1-0	Frew	625
09.24	AFC Telford	H	FAC 2Q	3-1	Frew, Collins, Staff	1174
10.01	Hyde United	H	L	1-0	Quailey	1119
10.05	Tipton Town	A	BSC 2	3-1	Quailey, Hatton, Murphy	c100
10.08	Chelmsford City	H	FAC 3Q	1-1	Quailey	915
10.12	Chelmsford City	A	FAC 3Qr	2-1	Noon, Murphy	379
10.15	Moor Green	A	L	4-0	Murphy (2, 1 pen), Frew, Noon	530
10.17	Worcester City	A	L	1-0	Murphy	922
10.22	Tiverton Town	H	FAC 4Q	0-0		1237
10.25	Tiverton Town	A	FAC 4Qr	1-0	Quailey	885
10.29	Stalybridge Celtic	H	L	0-0		818
11.01	Walsall	H	BSC 3	5-1	Blenkinsopp (2), Murphy, Breward, Staff	211
11.05	Ramsgate	H	FAC 1	2-0	Oddy, Staff	2153
11.08	Northwich Victoria	A	L	2-2	Noon, Wilkin	1119
11.12	Vauxhall Motors	H	L	3-2	Staff (2), Murphy (pen)	810
11.26	Farsley Celtic	A	FAT 3Q	1-3	Quailey (pen)	271
12.03	Histon	H	FAC 2	2-2	Collins, Quailey (pen)	3366
12.06	Worksop Town	H	L	3-1	Quailey (2, 1 pen), Foster	675
12.10	Hinckley United	A	L	1-0	Quailey	2278
12.14	Histon	A	FAC 2r	2-1	Oddy, Angus	3250
12.17	Gainsborough Trinity	A	L	2-1	Staff, Quailey	373
12.26	Hednesford Town	H	L	3-2	Murphy (3)	1254
12.30	Barrow	H	L	2-1	Murphy (pen), Staff	902
01.02	Hednesford Town	A	L	0-0		1011
01.07	Middlesbrough	H	FAC 3	1-1	Murphy (pen)	6000
01.14	Redditch United	A	L	0-3		644
01.17	Middlesbrough	A	FAC 3r	2-5	Murphy (2, 1 pen)	26255
01.21	Harrogate Town	A	L	0-2		602
01.24	Leigh RMI	A	L	0-1		201
01.28	Stafford Rangers	H	L	1-1	Taylor	2183
01.31	Alfreton Town	H	L	1-0	Murphy (pen)	1108
02.04	Hyde United	A	L	0-1		507
02.07	Wolverhampton Wanderers	H	BSC QF	3-0	Murphy (pen), Noon, Moore	426
02.11	Moor Green	H	L	2-2	Moore, Darby	1118
02.18	Worksop Town	A	L	4-0	Whittaker (pen), Darby, Murphy, Noon	522
02.21	Worcester City	H	L	0-0		801
02.25	Lancaster City	A	L	1-1	Darby	400
03.04	Hucknall Town	H	L	2-2	Collins, Reeves	1012

Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2005-06

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.11	Stalybridge Celtic	A	L	0-2		572
03.14	Droylsden	H	L	2-2	Murphy, Acton	629
03.18	Gainsborough Trinity	H	L	3-1	Foster (2, 1 pen), Moore	879
03.21	Willenhall Town	H	BSC SF	0-1		328
03.25	Vauxhall Motors	A	L	2-1	Murphy, Fitzpatrick	234
04.01	Leigh RMI	H	L	3-1	Rickards (2), Staff	1082
04.08	Alfreton Town	A	L	0-1		438
04.11	Northwich Victoria	H	L	1-2	Rickards (pen)	1296
04.15	Workington	H	L	3-1	Moore, Murphy, Brown	1003
04.17	Kettering Town	A	L	0-3		1205
04.22	Barrow	A	L	3-0	Rickards, Staff, Wilkin	752
04.29	Hinckley United	H	L	2-0	Murphy, Foster	1301
05.01	Droylsden	H	PO SF	0-1		2005

KEY : L = Conference North, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A. Trophy, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, PO = League Play-off, PSF = Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2005-06

Back: (left to right): Stuart Whittaker, Leon McSweeney, Rob Oddy, Ryan Poole, Darren Acton, Gary Fitzpatrick, Matty Collins, Mark Noon.

Middle (left to right): Paul Egan (physio), Alan Cooper (kitman), Brian Quailey, Gez Murphy, David Staff, Simon Reay, Michael Love, Richie Norman (physio), Mick Dewis (reserve team assistant manager).

Front (left to right): Tom Breward, David Blenkinsopp, Kevin Wilkin, Neil Moore, Roger Ashby, Martin Reeves, James Holmes, Brewno the Bear (mascot).

Photo: Jim Jarvis

2006-07

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 15-07-2006

Boro made the journey to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a pre-season friendly game.

The two sides played out a 2-2 draw with Gez Murphy and David Staff getting the goals. Boro enjoyed the majority of possession in the first-half and although the sweltering conditions made football difficult, the visitors acquitted themselves well.

Wellingborough Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-07-2006

Boro made the journey to The Dog and Duck to play Wellingborough Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro played out another 2-2 draw against the Doughboys with goals from David Blenkinsopp and Duane Darby. Boro put out a team that included several trialists.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 20-07-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Collins (Rickards 72), Moore, Brown, Burgess (Reeves 46), Noon (Fitzpatrick 72), Darby (McPhee 46), Murphy (Blenkinsopp 85), Staff. **Subs:** Clarke, Wilkin.

Coventry: Drobny, Whing, Hall, Bischoff, Ward, Hughes, Tabb (Thornton 87), Doyle, Adebola (McNamee 72), Hutchinson, Scowcroft. **Subs:** Belford, Lynch, Gooding.

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



Gez Murphy is harried by Stephen Hughes.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Boro started the brighter of the two teams with Duane Darby posing a threat but the Sky Blues rattled their hosts on 18 minutes when Adebola headed down for Hutchison to drive fiercely past the helpless Darren Acton from eight yards. The lead was doubled on 29 minutes as Hutchison returned the favour to Adebola with a low cross from Stephen Hughes' long corner and the tall frontman deflected the ball into

the net from close in. City were on cruise control and were unfortunate not to stretch their advantage with Adebola heading against the base of a post and Jay Tabb's rising 25-yarder clattering the bar with Elliott Ward's follow-up header forcing Acton to save desperately.

But the visitors' concentration lapsed twice in the space of six minutes just before the interval. On 35 minutes, Darby and Ben Chapman played a neat one-two and when the latter was felled by Michael Doyle's clumsy tackle, Murphy made no mistake from the resulting penalty. Against the odds Boro levelled soon after as Murphy chased a lost cause beyond a static City back line to round hesitant keeper Jaroslav Drobny and turn the ball into an empty net from point blank range.

Soon after the break, Acton turned a Hutchison glancing header around the post before on 66 minutes Boro completed their fight back with David Staff's inswinging corner somehow weaving its way through a mass of bodies to the lurking Moore and he rifled high into the rigging.

Nuneaton Borough v Shrewsbury Town 24-07-2006

Boro: Acton (Clarke 63), Noon, Chapman, Reeves (Fitzpatrick 63), Moore, Brown, Burgess (Rickards 63), Collins (Beward 84), Darby (Murphy 63), MCPhee (Quailey 63), Staff (Blenkinsopp 84). **Sub:** Wilkin.

Shrewsbury: Essen, Hall, Ashton, Drummond, Hope, Sorvell, Edwards, Langmead, Burton, McMenamin, Davies.

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

David Staff made early inroads into the Shrews' defence, before cleverly releasing McPhee, but his shot across goal was comfortably saved by Ryan Essen. Gary Peters' side battled down the right flank, but found the brick wall of Ben Chapman in uncompromising mood as he crunched Dave Edwards into the advertising hoardings and punished Colin McMenamin with another tenacious tackle. Neil Moore was a driving force in the heart of Boro's defence and it was his arrowed ball which almost unleashed Collins, but the effort spiralled into touch.

After a placid opening half hour the visitors began to up the tempo with Drummond and Neil Sorvell both making tireless contributions in the midfield battle. Left-back Neil Ashton collected the ball with 31 minutes on the clock from a partially cleared attack, before looping a cross to Welsh Under 21 international Dave Edwards, who managed to fend off the aerial challenge from Moore and find Drummond with a header and the midfielder duly obliged to convert from six yards. Moore then found McPhee who was under pressure from Sagi Burton and could only toe poke a shot wide of the post. Edwards should have done better but he headed wide after Chapman had misjudged a cross.

Seven minutes after the break Boro found themselves two goals down after Ollie Burgess allowed Ben Davies too much room to drift infield and present Drummond with an easy chance to blast past Acton for a second time. Darby showed



plenty of endeavour, tracking back into midfield, as balls to the front men became saturated as the visitors continued to pass the ball with fluency around the lush Manor Park turf. Following a routine clearance, Acton collapsed to the ground feeling his lower back, but fought on valiantly to intercept a through ball before signalling to the bench that he could not continue. Dave Clarke replaced Acton along with other wholesale changes, that did not bring anything new to the game. Youngsters Tom Breward and David Blenkinsopp were introduced late in the game.

Boro Sign Daryl Burgess

Nuneaton Borough have signed West Bromwich Albion legend Daryl Burgess. The 35-year-old has made more than 500 Football League appearances with the Baggies, Northampton, Rochdale and Kidderminster and will make his debut in the friendly game against Wycombe Wanderers.

Quailey Goes To Stafford

Brian Quailey has left Nuneaton Borough for the third time in his career to join Conference National outfit Stafford Rangers. He was offered a trial at Marston Road and impressed enough to be offered a contract.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-07-2006

Rugby: Afandiyev, Tullin, Harris, Feely, Herbert, Hall, Gearing, Francis, Stone, Taylor, Kelly. Subs: Orford, Byrne, Wells, Crockett, Lynn, Storer.

Boro: Clarke, Oddy, Chapman, Collins, Moore, Brown, Burgess, Noon, Murphy, McPhee, Staff. Subs: Wilkin, Reeves, Rickards, Fitzpatrick, Blenkinsopp, Darby, Kelly.

Boro made the journey to Butlin Road to play Rugby Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Boro were in control from the moment Ollie Burgess netted his first goal for the club with a close-range drive on ten minutes after his initial effort had been blocked. The former Kettering man added a second just past the half-hour with another decisive finish, this time after Gary McPhee's drive had bounced to the midfielder off a defender.

Rugby came under more pressure early in the second period and on 48 minutes Gez Murphy found McPhee and his return header fell perfectly for last season's top marksman to unleash a stunning 20-yarder over keeper Farhad Afandiyev and high into the net. Three minutes later, Murphy returned the favour by squaring to the unmarked McPhee and he coolly slid a low 10-yarder past the helpless Afandiyev.

Town then had their best period of the friendly as keeper David Clarke's legs denied David Stone, while Tim Orford's curling free-kick clattered the bar and Stone's rising 15 yarder was superbly tipped over by Clarke. Matt Gearing then struck the inside of the far post with an angled drive before Boro again took control in the latter stages with Duane Darby being denied by a goal-line clearance.

But two goals in six minutes late on ended a miserable afternoon for Town with Martin Reeves bagging a brilliant

solo effort on 80 minutes that ended with a stunning cross-shot past a bemused Afandiyev and inside the far upright. It was then left to teenager David Blenkinsopp to complete the business when scoring from point-blank range after Ben Chapman had turned the ball into his path.

Nuneaton Borough v Wycombe Wanderers 01-08-2006

Boro: Acton (Clarke 60), Oddy (D. Burgess 60), Moore, Brown, Chapman (Rickards 56), O. Burgess (Breward 75), Noon, Reeves (Collins 60), Staff, McPhee (Blenkinsopp 75), Murphy (Darby 60). Sub: Wilkin.

Wycombe: Young, Christon, Ramond, Gregory, Twisiganne (Boateng 46), Cadmore, Furlan (Giambrone 46), Mendy (Mulvaney 46), Sanko (Cattell 46), Bright (William 46), Guppy. Subs: Massey, Rice.

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

It took Boro just 11 minutes to make the breakthrough as David Staff's ideally placed inswinging free-kick was superbly headed home by the flying Neil Moore from six yards. Boro doubled their advantage on 18 minutes when Gez Murphy's physical presence competing for Ollie Burgess' long ball forward forced hesitancy in the Chairboys defence allowing McPhee to latch on to the loose ball and coolly fire past helpless keeper Jamie Young.

Wanderers reduced the deficit right on half-time as Sanko latched on to a woeful Reeves back pass to shoot past keeper Darren Acton from 15 yards.

But the Boro midfielder made amends just before the hour mark to restore the two-goal advantage as he glided down the inside right channel and from the acutest of angles lifted the ball over keeper Young and into the net off the inside of the far post.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 05-08-2006

Tamworth: Bowles, Law, Kemp, Smith (Neilson 69), Smith, Friars, Ward, Bampton (Ridgeway 75), Storer (Cooper 86), McGrath, Moore, Stevenson.

Boro: Acton, Gier, Bonner, Reeves, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon, McPhee, Murphy. Subs: O. Burgess, D. Burgess, Rickards, Darby, Blenkinsopp.

Boro made the journey to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a pre-season friendly game.

Jon Stevenson linked well with Lee Moore to create space but the latter curled his strike over the bar. The rapid tempo of the game resembled a cup tie rather than a friendly as Mark Noon set about stamping his authority on proceedings. More relentless work from the diminutive Stevenson presented Kyle Storer with time to strike but his effort was blocked and Graeme Ward's response was to curl the ball wide. Boro's midfield began to work in unison soon after the home side's mini-flurry of half chances, with David Staff providing width and the vision to locate Gez Murphy. The in-form centre-forward unselfishly cut the ball back to Noon whose side-footed strike lacked conviction and bobbled into the advertising boards.

A rowdy home crowd were silenced after 26 minutes when



Reeves lofted ball allowed Murphy the time and space to judge a 30 yard half volley lob over Sean Bowles to perfection, registering his fifth strike of a productive pre-season. The visitors should have made it 2-0 when Staff once again produced an excellent left-footed cross which landed perfectly for Matty Collins to head across goal, only for Bowles to make a picture book one-handed save. Against the run of play Dave Bampton wriggled free of the attentions of Noon before releasing a gorgeous through-ball to Stevenson, who drew former Tamworth keeper Darren Acton off his line before drilling the ball into the bottom left hand corner to level the scores.

A second crushing blow was served up when Storer's 20 yard drive took a wicked deflection off Collins and span agonisingly into the net, wrong footing a desperately unfortunate Acton. A defensive lapse allowed Murphy to pounce, nudge the ball past the advancing Bowles and finish coolly on the angles. Good work between Staff and Rob Oddy allowed Gary McPhee to bear down on goal, with Murphy pleading for a squared pass, McPhee opted to blast a near post strike which Bowles saved acrobatically, and was equal to the rebound also. Minutes later Boro took the lead when triallist Tom Bonner dribbled with purpose inside the Tamworth penalty area, before he located substitute Duane Darby who had the simplest of tap ins.

Victory was in Boro's sights but with four minutes remaining Daryl Burgess accidentally handled a bobbling ball in the penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot and Storer drilled the spot kick home. There was still time for Boro to win the match when excellent work by David Blenkinsopp presented Darby with a close range chance, but Graeme Law threw his body into the firing line twice to prevent a winner.

Boro Sign Bonner

Nuneaton Borough have made the signing of versatile defender Tom Bonner on loan from Northampton Town.

Liberty Way Deal Is Done

Nuneaton Borough will kick off their final season at Manor Park tomorrow after a deal was finally struck to move to a new home stadium. Chairman Roger Stanford has gone on record to 'categorically say that this will be the final season at Manor Park,' revealing that contracts had been signed to move to Liberty Way.

From the start of next season, the Boro will share the Liberty Way ground with Nuneaton Rugby Football Club after an agreement was signed for the purchase of land, allowing both teams to use the existing first team pitch as part of a 'major stadium development'.

A statement released by both clubs reads: "Nuneaton Rugby Football Club and Nuneaton Borough Football Club are pleased to announce that an agreement has now been signed for the purchase of land at Liberty Way to enable both clubs to participate in a ground share on the existing first team pitch as part of a major stadium development..."

Nuneaton Borough v Workington

12-08-2006

Boro: Acton, Bonner, Chapman, Reeves, Moore, Brown, O. Burgess (Collins 66), Noon, McPhee (Rickards 82), Murphy, Staff (Blenkinsopp 82). **Subs:** Clarke, Oddy.

Workington: Collin, Hopper, Cowan, May, Edmonson, Henney, Anthony, Birks, Gordon (Arnison 13), Wright (Inglis 74). **Subs:** Gray, Summerskill, Nicholson.

Boro welcomed Workington to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

It took Boro 20 minutes to create a chance on goal, albeit from a overhit David Staff cross which landed harmlessly over the bar. A crunching studs up challenge from Derek Brown forced Wayne Gordon's early withdrawal, the first of a series of stoppages which sucked all the pace and fluidity out of the game. Reeves played Gez Murphy through down the right flank, creating a three on one situation with McPhee and Staff in support, but the striker's poorly selected curled pass was intercepted by a backtracking Darren Edmonson.

Tommy Cassidy's men left three defenders patrolling on the halfway line for set pieces to block any further counter attacks, and it was from a free-kick when Neil Tarrant should have capitalised on Staff's decision to leave an aerial ball. The final chance of the half fell to Murphy after Bonner linked well with Burgess to whip a ball from the right, only for the resulting header to loop tamely over.

Ten minutes after the interval Workington made a rare excursion into Nuneaton territory, with Gareth Arnison and Tony Hopper both denied by the bravery of Chapman's sliding blocks. The chance of the match fell to Noon after he leapt with conviction to head Staff's cross, only for the impressive Collin to pluck the ball from the air. David Blenkinsopp and Scott Rickards arrived on the scene with eight minutes to play, but by this point Workington had strangled the life from Boro's eagerly anticipated opener. Workington's defensive mindset and time-wasting gamesmanship was executed to perfection, while Boro toiled and flattered to deceive.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough

14-08-2006

Worcester: McDanney, Wedgebury, Burley, Smith, Pearce, Hoonett (Thompson 79), Colley, Stanley, Wilding, Wood, Cleck. **Subs:** Khan, Preece, Walker, Watkins.

Boro: Acton, Bonner, Chapman, Reeves, Moore, O. Burgess, Collins, Noon, McPhee (Darby 89), Murphy, Staff (Oddy 89). **Subs:** Rickards, O. Burgess, Wilkin.

Boro made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Conference North game.

Boro started strongly and took the lead after just five minutes when Ben Chapman's overlapping run resulted in a cross from the left to the far post where Gary McPhee leapt the highest and knocked the ball down to Gez Murphy. His pivot and half-volley was saved by Danny McDanney, but the ball squirmed loose and Reeves was on hand to stab the ball home. City set about clawing their way back from this early



shock and Troy Wood should have levelled matters on ten minutes, but his volley on the turn fizzed over the bar. Moore then found Murphy with a delicate angled ball, allowing the forward to probe into the left back channel. With one swift turn, Murphy found space inside the Worcester penalty area before shooting first time with his left foot and squeezed the ball between the post and the home keeper. Boro maintained their grip on the game for an exciting first 20 minutes, but then disaster struck after Worcester were awarded a free-kick after Reeves had fouled Wood. George Cleck whipped his 25-yard free kick past Acton to halve the deficit.

Buoyed by the goal, Craig Wilding almost levelled matters but he narrowly headed over from Wood's cross – but soon after the strike partners would combine to net the equaliser. A long ball upfield by Sam Wedgebury saw Wilding tower above Burgess and knock the ball down to Wood, who made no mistake with a close range finish. For the remainder of the half, Worcester had Nuneaton on the back foot, playing clever crossfield balls which helped establish possession in enemy territory, but Moore and Burgess stood firm to hold out till half-time.

Soon after the break, Wedgebury fired a 35-yard piledriver that fizzed through a crowd of players and into the hands of Acton, who lofted a long clearance upfield which Danny Hoonett seemed to have under control, but his backward header allowed Murphy to pounce and volley left-footed from 20 yards over the bar. A mis-hit Staff clearance span into the path of Wood whose ball into the area was cleared by Moore.

As the game flowed from end to end, Boro began to establish the upper hand with Mark Noon and Collins cutting off any Worcester attacks at source. Chapman's cross to Reeves was deflected into the path of Murphy, who was impeded by McDanney and despite protests, a penalty was awarded which Murphy sidefooted home. Worcester were outraged by the penalty decision and their frustration was reflected in the amount of free-kicks awarded in the final ten minutes. From one decision against Collins, George Cleck repeated his earlier feat by curling an outswinging free-kick around the wall and into the bottom corner of the net despite Acton's full stretch dive. With minutes left on the clock Cleck had the chance of an unlikely hat-trick, but a re-inforced Boro wall managed to repel his strike. Noon and Collins both received yellow cards in a fractious final few minutes.

Droylsden v Nuneaton Borough 19-08-2006

Droylsden: Phillips, Williams, Warner, Halford, Ruffer, Morris, Banim (Fitzpatrick 61), Lynch (Jagiela 70), Fearn (Talbot 78), Daly, Denham.
Subs: Robinson, Rapley.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Bonner (O. Burgess 78), Reeves, Moore, Brown, Collins, Noon (Rickards 78), McPhee (Darby 60), Murphy, Chapman.
Subs: D. Burgess, Staff.

Boro made the journey to the Butcher's Arms to play Droylsden in a Conference North match.

Boro came under pressure from the start and the home side opened the scoring after just five minutes. The Bloods probed

Tom Bonner's left hand channel via Chris Denham's side rule pass, allowing Terry Fearn to draw Darren Acton from his line, but an unfortunate slip from Boro's out-of-sorts keeper allowed the Bloods in-form forward to tap the ball into the net. Jody Banim floated infield but scuffed his 25-yarder wide of the post while Murphy failed to pick-up on Noon's clever leave and the striker was beaten to the ball by Steve Halford.

Ben Chapman was driving Boro forward at every opportunity and it was his incisive pass which fed Tom Bonner's overlapping left wing run. The on-loan Northampton defender crossed first time and after Noon's attempt at controlling the ball, Murphy pounced to pivot and blast a half-volley past Paul Phillips. Before the break Matty Collins headed Oddy's cross over the top and Murphy tried his luck with a dipping drive from 25 yards, but the ball flew just over.

Just after the break Gareth Morris struck a firm 35 yard free kick through a crowd of bodies, but Acton was able to save before five minutes later Denham turned well in the Boro 18 yard box and crossed to Fearn, who made no mistake with a close range header. With less than half-an-hour to play, substitute Ian Fitzpatrick failed to convert Morris' square ball and Moore half-cleared to Denham, whose firm strike crept inside Acton's near post.

Tom Bonner's nightmarish display plunged to new depths when he fouled Denham from behind inside the penalty area and Fearn sealed his hat-trick, sending Acton the wrong way from the spot. Boro earned a late consolation goal in stunning fashion when substitute Scott Rickards curled a 20 yard free-kick around a two man wall and past the rooted Phillips and into the roof of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Leigh RMI 22-08-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman (Bonner 90), Brown, Moore, Reeves (O. Burgess 70), Noon, Collins, Rickards, Darby (McPhee 64), Murphy.
Subs: D. Burgess, Clarke.

Leigh RMI: Lamb, Ellison, Roscoe, Stoker, Maddox, Brockley, Settle (Taylor 61), Willis (Drew 83), McDonough (Owen 64), Simm, Shillito.
Subs: Mann, McGrath.

Boro welcomed Leigh RMI to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

The first action saw Scott Rickards break through but his off balance shot was parried by John Lamb and scrambled off the line. Neil Moore got in a cross which looped tamely to the keeper before Murphy made ground down the left and fed Ben Chapman who crossed for Duane Darby, but Lamb was again up to the task. Darby was causing problems for the Leigh rearguard and Murphy picked him out but his powerful shot hit Andy Roscoe before being cleared to safety. Boro upped the tempo of their attacking play and looked likely to score until disaster struck when Chris Simm chased down a long ball and drove a shot at Acton which the keeper parried but the ball back to Simm and as his shot trickled towards the goal line Brown made a valliant effort to stop the ball entering the net, but was penalised for handball and red

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carded before Simm blasted the penalty into the net despite Acton getting a touch. Mark Noon was fouled on the edge of the area by Steve Brockley but Rickards could only blast his free-kick into the wall.

Mark Noon pushed Boro forward at the start of the second half and after charging down Simm's strike he then crossed for Murphy who was unable to bring about a chance. Oddy managed to find the head of Darby but the ball squirmed to Noon whose clean strike crashed against the crossbar, was half cleared back to Noon, but his shot was saved by Lamb. With the impetus firmly with Ashby's men, Gary McPhee was introduced after 64 minutes, replacing Darby to add pace to the guile of Boro's attack.

Leigh used a mixture of long balls and hopeful punts forward to stretch Boro's ten men, as the game began to drift away from the home side as Gareth Stoker forced Acton to save a 30-yard effort. In a desperate attempt to rescue something Noon danced round two defenders before putting McPhee through one-on-one, but Stoker closed him down quickly and the ball was deflected for a corner. Boro's final chance saw Burgess curl a cross towards the far post where Collins rose to nod across goal, but even with Acton in the six yard box Boro couldn't find the killer touch.

Boro stalwarts die

"True gentleman" Graham Birch – the lifelong Nuneaton Borough fan who has been battling against blood cancer – has lost his fight for life. The dedicated dad died on Tuesday at Nuneaton's George Eliot Hospital where he was admitted three weeks ago with a serious infection. His death was part of a double blow for the Conference North club as 75-year-old director Gordon Chislett died on the same day.

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough	26-08-2006
<p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, Staff (O. Burgess 79), Reeves, Noon, Staff, Murphy, Darby (McPhee 77). Subs: Fitzpatrick, Bonner, D. Burgess.</p> <p>Scarborough: Aspden, Lyth, Davies, Briscoe, Hotte, Beadle, Cartwright, Vermiglio, Whittington (Hackworth 25), Thompson, Cook. Subs: Thornton, Blott, Perry, Dalton.</p>	

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

Boro were soon on the offensive and it needed a finger-tip deflection by Curtis Aspden to turn Gez Murphy's 18-yarder on to a post with no-one on hand to convert the rebound. Darby then outjumped the visiting defence but Aspden was again at full stretch to claw the striker's header to safety. Moore twice connected with corners without finding the necessary accuracy while Mark Noon only succeeded in clearing the Cock and Bear stand from 20 yards. The Seadogs struggled to keep at bay wave after wave of Boro attacks and on 36 minutes they were finally breached. David Staff's cross was flicked on by Reeves and the half-clearance by Neil Briscoe flew to Moore, whose 12 yard volley scythed through a mass of bodies and into the net.



Gez Murphy challenges Scarborough keeper Aspden.

Photo: Nuneaton Weekly Tribune

Within 90 seconds, Reeves grazed the post and just before the interval Derek Brown, Staff and Murphy all had goal-bound efforts blocked. Then on 53 minutes Darby headed on to Murphy who released Reeves, who fired tentatively at the grateful Aspden. The miss proved costly as Scarborough levelled on 68 minutes. Jamie Vermiglio fed Hackworth who was allowed to turn and drill a low skidding shot past the otherwise redundant Acton from 20 yards.

Stunned by the setback, Boro went off the boil until the closing stages when they lifted the tempo again. Scott Rickards fired into the Beaumont Road terraces when well placed and Moore's bullet header was acrobatically parried away by Aspden, a save that salvaged the Seadogs a fourth draw of the season and left Nuneaton pondering on another day of disappointment.

Hucknall Town v Nuneaton Borough	29-08-2006
<p>Hucknall: Smith, Powell, Hanson, Cooke, Handyside, Dempsey, Fox, Wilson, Ricketts, Hearn (Moore 83), Williams (Olanipekun 81). Subs: Winder, Colkin, Brown.</p> <p>Boro: Acton, Oddy (Bonner 19), Chapman, Reeves, Moore, Brown, Rickards, Noon (Collins 46), Darby (McPhee 63), Murphy, Staff. Subs: Blenkinsopp, O. Burgess.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Watnall Road to face Hucknall Town in a Conference North game.

With both sides settling into the match and with 16 minutes gone the industrious Michael Fox looped a right footed cross into the area where the giant frame of Gary Ricketts ghosted behind Boro's defence before leaping above the advancing punch of Darren Acton to head home the opening goal. Rob Oddy's afternoon came to an abrupt end following an aerial collision with Daniel Williams in which the Boro full-back incurred a head injury and he was replaced by Tom Bonner.

Mark Noon's long range shot went wide while Fox almost lobbed a frantically back tracking Acton, who was relieved to see the ball drop over the bar. Fox was in action again on 36 minutes as Hucknall doubled their lead. With space to manoeuvre, Fox curled a delightful ball with the outside of



his boot along the left hand channel, allowing the sprightly Daniel Williams to cut inside the penalty area before squaring to Liam Hearn who tapped the ball into an empty net.

Collins replaced the injured Noon after the break and almost got on the end of Rickards free-kick and another opportunity was spurned when Staff cleverly played in Murphy, but his attempted square ball to Darby lacked any conviction and was cleared to safety by Russell Cooke. The impressive Fox tried to lob Acton from fully 50 yards, but overhit his lob. Substitute Gary McPhee was unfortunate not to open his Boro goal scoring account but Hucknall captain Paul Dempsey made a brave block. McPhee, however, did earn Boro some consolation in injury time, planting a similar close range strike under Smith, capitalising on indecision in the home penalty area.

Gainsborough Trinity v Nuneaton Borough 03-09-2006

Gainsborough: Sollitt, Purkiss, Wood, Pell, Anson, Trout, Lancaster, Barlow, Mallon, Graves (Caudwell 85).

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, D. Burgess, Moore, Collins, Noon, McPhee, Murphy (Blenkinsopp 67), O. Burgess (Rickards 67).

Boro made the journey to Northolme to play Gainsborough Trinity in a Conference North match.

The opening stages of the game offered little of note apart from a lively battle between Mark Noon and Sam Lancaster in the centre of the park. But with 19 minutes gone excellent work from Ryan Mallon allowed Eric Graves to romp along the left flank, cross inside Boro's box to the unmarked Lancaster, who nodded home from six yards. The home side should have doubled their tally soon after but Mallon's sidefooted effort drifted wide of Darren Acton's fingertips, and fortunately for Boro, trickled past the post for a goal kick.

Boro trooped off at half-time following another dismal showing, but they did emerge with renewed vigour after the break and Ollie Burgess went close with a whipped free-kick, which was Boro's first attempt on goal. Gary McPhee ran tirelessly all afternoon and it was his searching run which secured Boro's equaliser on 56 minutes. After cleverly turning Benjamin Purkiss, McPhee crossed from the right and found Ollie Burgess, whose close range strike was saved by Adam Sollitt, but Rob Oddy was on hand to drill home the rebound. The ever-dangerous Mallon spurned a chance to restore his side's lead when his overhead kick drifted over the bar.

Youthful centre-half Nicky Ellis thought his header would snatch three points, but Daryl Burgess was well positioned on the post to clear to safety. Substitute David Blenkinsopp latched onto a through ball with ten minutes to play, before Ellis clumsily fell and upended Boro's young striker, but the referee ignored penalty appeals. Rob Oddy capped his man of the match performance off with a stunning tackle on Graves, after Gainsborough's winger had broken through one-on-one.

Local Player Dies

Fans of Hinckley United FC were still struggling to come to terms today with the shock death of one of their players. Supporters have been visiting the club website in their hundreds to leave tributes to Matthew Gadsby who collapsed and died on the pitch during the game against Harrogate Town.

Sutton Coldfield born Gadsby began his career at Walsall where he made 23 first team appearances. He then moved to Mansfield Town and Kidderminster Harriers before dropping into non league football with Forest Green Rovers.

Nuneaton Borough v Lancaster City

09-09-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D. Burgess, Chapman, Collins, Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff, McPhee (Blenkinsopp 65), Murphy (Darby 76). Subs: Wilkin, Reeves, O. Burgess.

Lancaster: Kennedy, Winnie, Elderton, Mellon (Black 73), Bayliss, Taylor, Dodgson (Jones 78), Uberschar, Beesley, Spike, Tandy (Ryan 70). Subs: Greenwood, Wiggins.

Boro welcomed Lancaster City to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro finally savoured that elusive first victory and few would disagree it was well deserved with David Staff's peach of a far post header landing the points. A succession of near misses littered an otherwise bright Boro performance before Staff's strike eased their fears. Though this was not vintage Boro it's a positive result and one Ashby hopes kick starts what's been a torrid start for his title hopefuls. The return of man-of-the-match Staff paid dividends. He not only fired the match winning goal and hit the bar, but posed a constant threat.

Also Gary Fitzpatrick's seasonal debut provided the necessary backbone on which eager-to-please Mark Noon was able to lean as the pair orchestrated Boro's engine-room. Up front Gez Murphy could have bagged a hat-trick but he led the line well along with a grafting Gary McPhee, ingredients that applied to their strike colleagues, Duane Darby and teenager David Blenkinsopp, who came on as substitutes for the pair and showed plenty of quality.

Defensively, Daryl Burgess looked a class act on his full home debut in a back division that's conceded just one goal in four home outings. Only occasionally did Boro look under pressure as they dominated most of the game while Lancaster could have few excuses, their misery was compounded when manager Gary Finlay was sent from the dug-out late on for comments aimed at Leicester referee Phil Caswell.

Eager Boro settled quickly, Rob Oddy's superb cross found Murphy whose tentative header flew over while City's Lee Spike lob beat keeper Darren Acton and drifted just over. City defended stubbornly and keeper Jon Kennedy pushed aside a slithering 20-yard volley from Murphy, who then squeezed a low shot past Kennedy but Mike Taylor back-tracked to hook off the line. Kennedy bravely parried Murphy's drive while Noon's deft chip from the rebound was headed from beneath the bar by Taylor as Boro ran the show.



Two minutes into the second half Fitzpatrick released McPhee whose cross was crashed against the under-side of the bar by the luckless Matty Collins. But Boro's luck turned on 61 minutes. Oddy's hanging centre found Staff, who climbed high to power an unstoppable header high into the rigging from eight yards. Boro had a goal disallowed when Moore's stunning header bulged the net but referee Caswell rightly cautioned an unnecessary dive by Noon seconds earlier.

Blenkinsopp had a fierce rising 20-yarder graze the bar and then he combined with Darby for Staff to shoot against the woodwork with Darby volleying the rebound over the top. The miss could have proved costly as substitute Ryan Black's free-kick found Spike whose header rolled agonisingly inches wide of the upright but then Blenkinsopp burst clear only to snatch his shot off target. In the dying seconds City's Mark Beesley almost equalised but his effort missed the target.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 12-09-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown (D. Burgess 84), Chapman, Collins (O. Burgess 90), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff, McPhee, Darby. **Subs:** Blenkinsopp, Reeves, Wilkin.

Kettering: Osborn, Graham, Nicell, Koo-Boothe (Marna 68), McIlwain, Solkhon, Makofu, Boucaud, Abbey, Howe (Okai 68), Hall (Westcarr 68). **Subs:** Olaleye, Midgeley.

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

Boro came from behind to pull off a superb success over Kettering at Manor Park last night with the strike duo of Duane Darby and Gary McPhee the goal heroes. Following Saturday's first win of the season, Roger Ashby's men faced a tough assignment and when Nzema Abbey headed Poppies in front on 19 minutes it looked grim for Boro. But Darby's clinical finish on 41 minutes took Boro into the break fortunate to be on terms after being second best to their full-time opponents.

However that was to change after the interval, Boro producing their best 45 minutes of the season so far with a high tempo display of guts, grit and tigerish aggression. Suddenly Boro won midfield supremacy through the efficient and effective Gary Fitzpatrick and all-action Mark Noon, while defensively the power of ex-Kettering centre-back Derek Brown and Neil Moore blunted the aerial threat of the lofty Town spearhead of Abbey and Rene Howe.

And the high-octane action took on another twist just before the hour when McPhee sent the Cock & Bear Enders into ecstasy with a slick finish to give Boro the initiative. In the build up to the goal, Town central defender Nathan Koo-Boothe suffered a neck injury and was stretchered off to hospital with play being held up for almost ten minutes.

Both sides attacked from the first whistle with Town's Howe half-volleying wide from Andre Boucard's quick free-kick while Boro's Darby freed the impressive Ben Chapman on the left and from the full-back's pacy, low cross the ball flashed past Matty Collins' outstretched boot with the net gaping.

However, on 19 minutes the visitors swept in front. Serge Makofu's right wing corner was met at the near post by Abbey whose downward header bounced high into the roof of the net despite Darren Acton's valiant efforts.

Gary Fitzpatrick's late challenge on Howe then kicked off a centre-field melee in which Brown and Town's Abbey were cautioned to add to yellow cards for Boro's Chapman and later Town's Luke Graham. The scuffling upset Kettering's rhythm and they were punished soon after, Noon's superb defence splitting through ball released Darby and he made no mistake with a low 15-yard shot. Chapman then hooked clear as Howe threatened to latch on to Moore's misplaced back-header, ensuring Boro went in at the break level.

Three minutes after the break Abbey's angled drive was turned over by Acton but it was Boro in the ascendancy forcing Town into errors and on 58 minutes they took the lead. A neat right wing build-up enabled Rob Oddy space in the area and when his lob over Osborn bounced wide, Darby chased the lost cause to feed David Staff and the visiting defence's inability to clear enabled McPhee to crash a low 10-yarder wide of a stranded Mark Osborn. Kettering's Abbey clipped the top of the bar with an angled lob but Boro's non-stop hustling, hounding and competitive spirit began to tell on the Poppies, who could have conceded a third deep into the 14 minutes of time added on as McPhee's cross shot grazed the far post.

Nuneaton Borough v Farsley Celtic 23-09-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, Collins, Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff (O. Burgess 76), Darby, McPhee (Blenkinsopp 76). **Subs:** Wilkin, Reeves, D. Burgess.

Farsley: Morgan, Stabb, Pemberton, Bambrook, Crossley, Serrant, Knowles (Iqbal 46), Krief, Midgley (Grant 62), D Reeves, Stamer. **Subs:** Coss, Thackeray.

Boro welcomed Farsley Celtic to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Derek Brown was adamant the penalty that cost Boro a third successive league victory was wrong. The centre-back was adjudged to have purposely committed the offence by referee Tony Horton, enabling Simeon Bambrook to cancel out Duane Darby's strike that had given Boro a deserved advantage. Brown insisted the ball struck him on the lower chest and barely touched his forearm after being flicked on by Damian Reeves and that there was no way he could have avoided contact.

Boro were heading towards another three points as they led through the outstanding Duane Darby's goal on nine minutes but the handball saga pierced Boro's bid to stretch their winning run. The fully committed Brown twice came close to putting his name on the scoresheet at the opposite end, only to be denied by the woodwork and visiting keeper Tom Morgan as Boro again lacked the quality to overcome mediocre opposition. They had the lion's share of possession and territorial advantage for much of the game, but the need for more precision, especially with the final ball into the area, is needed urgently if promotion ambitions are to be realised.



Boro opened smartly and took the lead on nine minutes. Splendid work by Gary Fitzpatrick enabled the wide-running Ben Chapman to clip in the perfect first-time cross for Darby to plant a superb 10-yard downward header past helpless keeper Morgan. Celtic responded and it needed a fine reaction save from Darren Acton to push away Craig Midgley's close-range header but Boro held the upper hand and when Darby beautifully released Matty Collins it needed Morgan's brave stop to deny the midfielder doubling their advantage. Right on the interval Darby swivelled on to a deep Rob Oddy centre but Morgan was down smartly to pouch the ball low to his right.

Boro held the aces and on 51 minutes had a goal disallowed when Darby's shot fell invitingly for McPhee who stylishly beat Morgan only to be ruled offside. Almost immediately McPhee broke clear down the inside right channel and woefully rifled into the side-netting with strike partner Darby a despairing figure as he awaited a cross that never came.

Farsley were under the cosh and only the woodwork saved them from falling further in arrears as Neil Moore's square header found Brown who headed against the bar. McPhee then tamely fired straight at Morgan, but just past the hour Celtic should have levelled. Bambrook's long ball deceived the home defence and Damian Reeves raced through, only to drag his shot wide. But on 67 minutes Farsley levelled in controversial fashion as Brown was harshly adjudged to have handled and Bambrook made no mistake from the spot. Bambrook then headed over when well placed while the closest Boro came was a Brown effort clutched low down by Morgan.

Boro Legend Passes Away

John Glover, a centre-half regarded as one of the best players ever to pull on the blue and white stripes of Nuneaton, has sadly passed away following a long illness, aged 51. He leaves behind his wife Debbie and son Simon.

Manor Park was Glover's footballing home during the 1980s, where he developed a fine reputation for his commanding defensive qualities and strength in the air.

Ashby Manager Of The Month

Roger Ashby has received a double bonus after he was awarded joint Conference North manager of the month, and saw his team given a home draw in the FA Cup.

Vauxhall Motors v Nuneaton Borough 06-10-2006

Vauxhall: Lake, Moogan, Dames, Williams, McNulty, Field, Griffiths, Woodyatt (Addo 79), Wright (Martindale 65), Furlong, Lawless. Subs: McAuley, Spellman, Dittmer.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, Collins (O. Burgess 79), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff (Murphy 81), Derby (Blenkinsopp 84), McPhee. Subs: Wilkin, Jackson.

Boro travelled to Riveacre Road to play Vauxhall Motors in a Conference North game.

An early strike from Gary McPhee proved to be a pivotal point in this contest, which was spoilt as a spectacle by a strong wind, played on a greasy surface after a downpour just before

kick-off. Created by Rob Oddy, his perfect through ball found the well-timed run of McPhee released through the inside right channel and the striker drove home in style beyond the stranded Sean Lake in the Motors goal. It gave Nuneaton the perfect confidence boost at the start of the game and left the depleted Motormen facing a difficult night.

Boro's Matty Collins wasted a good opportunity soon after, before the hosts did likewise, when Darren Acton was harshly judged to have picked up a back pass. From the resulting chaos, Brian Moogan dragged his shot wide of the target with eleven Boro players on the goal-line. Motors captain Stephen McNulty then headed just over from a corner, before John Lawless tried his luck from distance. But the game turned quickly in Boro's favour just beyond the hour mark and just seconds after Lake had made a fine save to deny Mark Noon, as Collins fiercely struck effort from way out right seemed to catch Lake off guard and ended up nestling in the net.

Two minutes later, it became 3-0 and effectively game over, when another well-struck driven cross from the right was sent beyond Lake at the far post by Duane Darby with a diving header. Vauxhall grabbed a crumb of consolation in injury time, when Boro's attempted clearance off the line, merely struck Lee Furlong and bounced over the line, following good work by Moogan on the right which had caused danger in the first place.

Nuneaton Borough v Racing Club Warwick 10-10-2006

Boro: Acton (Jackson 46), Oddy, Moore, Wilkin, Chapman, Denny, O. Burgess, Noon (Fitzpatrick 62), Staff, Murphy, Blenkinsopp (McPhee 62). Subs: Darby, Collins.

Racing Club: Farmer, Millerchip, Hunt, Graham, S. Hanney, Beale, Hayden (Newland 74), Vale (MacVarish 74), Hammersley (Umotong 46), J. Hanney, Brown. Subs: Allen, Malone.

Boro welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Boro battered their Midland Alliance opponents who were totally outclassed, despite a battling performance. The home side opened the scoring with just five minutes on the clock when Matt Graham lost possession to Noon and although the midfielder's shot was blocked by Tom Farmer, Noon made no mistake with his follow up shot. David Blenkinsopp extended Boro's lead on 18 minutes with a superb overhead volley after Ollie Burgess had headed the ball on.

Racing were penned in and were hanging on for dear life when they conceded a third. Burgess worked an opening and his angled drive was deflected into the net off the foot of a Racing defender. Boro's domination continued and on 42 minutes they made it 4-0 when David Staff's angled drive was parried by Farmer straight to Gez Murphy, who headed home.

Within five minutes of the second half Boro stretched their advantage as skipper Neil Moore thundered in a terrific far post header from Staff's flicked on corner kick. Warwick scored a consolation goal in the 77th minute when Stefan Beale's inswinging free-kick found its way into the net.

Boro Forum

Nuneaton Borough fans are being given an exclusive opportunity to be told the most exciting news in the history of the club. Immediately after all is revealed to members of the media, supporters can attend a special meeting where they will be given the same announcement via a Powerpoint presentation and be able to take part in a questions and answer session. No prior details are being given about what will be announced but it is guaranteed to delight and impress Boro fans. The meeting takes place on Wednesday, October 18 at 7.30 in the Boro Stripes Bar.

There are 150 places available for supporters and to ensure that all the seats are taken, the football club has devised a 'pay and refund' scheme. Anyone wanting to attend has to pay £5 to book their place, but when they walk through the door on the night they will be given the £5 back.

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough 17-10-2006

Stalybridge: Pettinger, Black, Maxfield (Sykes 46), Keeling, Hollingsworth, Parr, S. Smith, Brodie (Winn 75), Ellington, Hume, Prince. Subs: Parton, B. Smith, Kay.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Brown, Moore, Staff (Burgess 87), Collins (Murphy 87), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Darby, McPhee. Subs: Blenkinsopp, Reeves, Wilkin.

Boro made the journey to The Bower Fold to play Stalybridge Celtic in a Conference North game.

David Staff and Matty Collins both troubled the home goalkeeper, Paul Pettinger, in the opening minutes but it was seven minutes before the break before the match sprung to life. Mark Noon chased a lost cause and managed to whip in a right footed cross into the penalty area where McPhee side-footed home in clinical fashion. Four minutes later it was Staff on the left crossing for Darby to force home a close range strike and Boro were very much in the ascendancy.

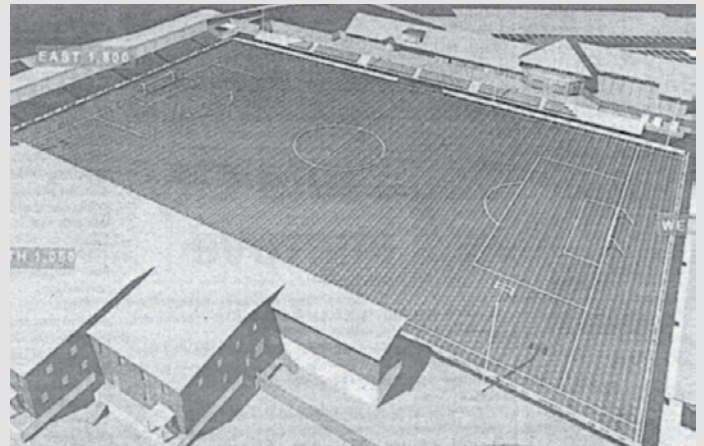
Despite the comfort of their half-time lead, Boro came out for the second half a different team and substitute Paul Sykes got the home side back in the game on 52 minutes when he appeared to get a decisive touch from a Barrie Keeling header – and a goal was given on the say so of the assistant referee. Sykes caused more misery for the visitors when he was involved in a move which saw Steve Brodie cross for Mark Hume to loop a deft header over the stranded Darren Acton.

Order appeared to have been restored on the hour when Darby followed up Gary Fitzpatrick's half cleared free-kick to give Boro a 3-2 lead and soon after McPhee slammed a shot against the crossbar. The end-to-end encounter took yet another twist when dangerman Sykes rose high to head home a Neil Prince left wing corner. Noon hit the woodwork again when his piledriver grazed the post, before disaster struck for the visitors. A hopeful punt into the penalty area was flicked on by Hume, and in attempting to clear, Ben Chapman flicked the ball over his own goalkeeper and into the net.

Brown had a real chance five minutes from the end, but he

ballooned the ball over a gaping goal and substitute Ollie Burgess flashed a header wide late on as Boro's hopes of rescuing the game came to an end.

Boro's Dreams Come True



This is the first glimpse of Nuneaton Borough's new £2.5 million stadium due to be built in the Attleborough area of the town. Artist's impressions were revealed during a fanfare unveiling of visionary plans last night, aimed at taking the football club a step closer to Football League status. Contracts have been signed with builders, who will move on site at Liberty Way within the next four weeks.

It signals a certain swansong for Manor Park, the ageing canalside home of Nuneaton Borough since 1919 – and it ends an eight-year search for a new home. The first phase of the new development will be completed by next June – in time for Boro to kick off next season at its new home at Liberty Way, in a ground sharing scheme with Nuneaton Rugby Club.

The South Terrace, in front of the existing rugby clubhouse, will hold 1,000 supporters, and the East Stand will have a 1,800 capacity. The second phase of the development will see the construction of a 1,050 seater North Stand, ready in December next year, together with a new sports bar, training rooms, medical room and directors' and sponsors' lounges. The final phase, the West Stand, housing 1,000 standing supporters under cover, is due for completion in 2009.

Unveiling the plans, Ted Stocker, the club's major shareholder who brokered the ground-sharing deal between the town's soccer and rugby clubs, also revealed that the new stadium would be placed into a trust and fall into public ownership...

Boro Sign Denny

USA international Jay Denny has signed Conference North forms for Nuneaton Borough and is in contention for the game against Barrow. Denny, 20, impressed manager Roger Ashby while on a months' trial at Manor Park and will be part of the 17 man squad looking to erase the memory of the game against Stalybridge Celtic. The Los Angeles born midfielder skippered the USA Under-20s side on many occasions and lists Stoke and Shrewsbury as his former clubs.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow 21-10-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Fitzpatrick (Staff 67), Moore, Brown, Collins (Reeves 90), Noon, McGhee (Murphy 67), Darby, O. Burgess.
Subs: Blenkinsopp, Wilkin.

Barrow: Speare, Eckersley, Ridley, Cotterill, Smith (Flitcroft 86), Howson, Brown (Brisco 60), Bond, Taylor, Rogan (Wilson 70), Stringfellow. **Subs:** Heffernan, Butler.

Boro welcomed Barrow to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Boro made the running from the word go and after a couple of half chances went begging they were denied the lead by visiting keeper James Speare who fingertipped over Derek Brown's looping ten-yard header.

The Bluebirds did carve out an opening midway through the period – Paul Brown's pinpoint centre was met by Nick Rogan's glancing header that was expertly plucked out of the air by an otherwise redundant Darren Acton. Play soon switched to the opposite end where Darby charged down Jon Smith's clearance and from wide out drifted his cross shot over Speare and inches wide of the far post.



Duane Darby goes close for Boro.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

A neat turn by Darby gave him a shooting opportunity but his angled drive skidded wide and then Rob Oddy's tempting centre flew across the face of the net with no-one on hand to add a finishing touch. Just before the interval Alex Taylor threaded a fine ball down the inside right channel for Paul Brown who sliced woefully into the Beaumont Road terraces as the half ended goalless.

Boro upped the tempo after the interval and top scorer Gary McPhee, who endured one of his least effective displays, should have added to his tally only to fire his close-range shot out of the ground. On 59 minutes the pendulum swung firmly Boro's way as Eckersley, who was yellow carded right on the interval for kicking the ball away, incurred his second caution for a reckless knee-high challenge on Ben Chapman – and from then it was backs-to-the-wall for the visitors.

A double substitution on 68 minutes saw Murphy and Staff enter the fray and they surely made an impact. Murphy made the vital breakthrough on 79 minutes with a strike of the highest quality as Darby swivelled superbly to float the most tempting of passes into the path of Murphy who unleashed a brilliant 15-yard dipping volley over Speare to bulge the Barrow rigging.

Three minutes later Murphy flicked on and when Smith hooked his clearance high into his own area, the alert Darby watched Speare leave his line before caressing a 12-yard header beyond the helpless keeper. Darby then had an angled drive blocked by Speare before Boro sewed up the points in injury time. Martin Reeves manoeuvred possession wide to Staff on the left and the winger skillfully scythed past two defenders before unleashing a fierce low near post drive past Speare.

Nuneaton Borough v Worksop Town 28-10-2006

Boro: Acton, Collins, Chapman, Brown, Moore, Staff, O. Burgess (Murphy 77), Noon, Fitzpatrick (Reeves 55), Darby (Blenkinsopp 81), McPhee. **Subs:** Denny, Wilkin.

Worksop: Duffy, Thompson, Davies, Owens (Alder-Heaver 60), Dawson, Jackson, Frogatt, Robinson, Saunders (Harwood 20), Crane, Norton (Everett 81). **Subs:** Nicholson, Rowland

Boro welcomed Worksop Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Worksop mustered the first shot on goal as Ben Saunders engineered space outside the penalty area before firing an ominous looking shot, but Derek Brown's back ensured no early goal would be registered. Burgess twice had Worksop worrying, firstly from a low shot which narrowly missed McPhee's outstretched boot, and secondly from a free-kick that glanced off the wall for a corner. Boro should have taken the lead inside ten minutes when Ben Chapman's searching cross was headed skywards by Duane Darby, allowing McPhee a split second to smash a volley from six yards but he blasted wildly over the bar.

Burgess' run into the penalty area presented Mark Noon with a chance but his piledriver effort was well parried by Ayden Duffy in the Worksop goal. A clumsy tackle on Noon and a push on McPhee resulted in passionate appeals for penalty kicks but the referee was having nothing to do with it, although he took Noon's name for upending Blake Norton on the half-way line.

Boro pressed after the break and could have gone ahead on 51 minutes when good wing play from Staff presented McPhee with another opportunity, but his chest, swivel and volley failed to trouble Duffy. Martin Reeves replaced Gary Fitzpatrick on 55 minutes before Darby headed Staff's fine cross inches wide. Worksop were incensed when Acton appeared to handle very close to the edge of the penalty area and again when Brown bowled over an opponent as a series of stoppages strangled the final 15 minutes of play.

Gez Murphy came on as Boro chased a winning goal and



he was joined by David Blenkinsopp, who was afforded ten minutes to make a hero of himself. Noon mustered two more half chances but failed to find the net before Collins ballooned a half-volley into Croft Road. The final whistle sparked angry scenes on the field, as Brown vented his frustrations with a powerful shoulder into the diminutive frame of Alder-Heaver, as the match-day security earned their corn by defusing the incident.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 04-11-2006

Moor Green: Lewis, Midworth, Follett, Sanders, Penny, Fleming, Morrison, Middleton (Anderson 83), Davidson, English, Trainer. Subs: Faulds, Collins, Scott, Moore.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, Collins (Denny 66), O. Burgess, Noon, Staff, McPhee (Murphy 66), Darby. Subs: Fitzpatrick, Blenkinsopp, D. Burgess.

Boro made the journey to the Moorlands to take on Moor Green in a Conference North encounter.

Moor Green almost opened the scoring after five minutes when former Boro man Danny Davidson glanced a deep cross off Darren Acton's crossbar but Derek Brown made sure a Moors' player could not tap in the rebound. Davidson again went close after ten minutes when he flicked a David Morrison cross over his own shoulder, but Acton tipped his effort over the bar. Boro's had two chances in quick succession, firstly when Ollie Burgess' curling 20 yard strike was comfortably saved by Daniel Lewis, and soon after David Staff blazed over the bar from a similar position.

Moore headed over from Staff's corner before Terry Fleming's clever flick on presented Davidson with another chance, but Moore recovered with a do or die sliding tackle. Davidson was a thorn in Boro's side and found Middleton with a drilled pass into the penalty area, calling on Acton to save well at his near post. Typically tenacious work from Mark Noon allowed Staff to whip a telling cross from the left, which Burgess and Darby both threw their bodies at but neither could find the killer touch. Middleton then fired over from close range before, with just a minute to go to the break Fleming pounced and played a slide rule pass in to Middleton, who shrugged off Brown before drilling a shot under Acton.

Staff's bright turn on the half way line kick started the second half and the tricky wide man performed a one-two with Darby whose instinctive strike was saved incredibly at point blank range by Daniel Lewis. Excellent link up play by Duane Darby and Ben Chapman on the left released the latter inside the penalty area but Andrew Penny's lunging block looped the ball into the air for Burgess to head home, only for an offside flag to end his celebrations.

McPhee held the ball up for Noon to fire wide from 30 yards before Murphy came on at the expense of McPhee and Jay Denny earned a first start in place of Collins. Murphy squandered a glorious chance from close in, side footing over the bar from Staff's pass, but on 80 minutes Murphy levelled the scores when Ollie Burgess pounced on a loose pass on

the half-way line, surging forward before releasing Murphy, who finished coolly via a fortunate bounce off the post. With the impetuous firmly with the visitors and Denny pulling the creative strings in midfield, Boro pressed for a winner and almost managed it with minutes to spare. Sensing no pass available in the area, Darby chose to back-heel, only for Lewis to make another inspired save.

Angus Returns

Nuneaton Borough legend Terry Angus has re-signed for the club to bolster their defensive options ahead of the visit of Blyth Spartans. The 40-year-old amassed 287 games for Boro before retiring for a second time at the end of 2005-06.

Nuneaton Borough v Blyth Spartans 11-11-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Moore, Brown, O. Burgess, Noon, Denny (Reeves 79), Staff, Darby, Murphy (McPhee 75). Subs: D. Burgess, Blenkinsopp, Fitzpatrick.

Blyth: Bartlett, Christensen, Williams, Leeson, Snowdon, Hedley, McCabe, A. Gildea, Dale, Bell (Forrester 77), L. Gildea (Appleby 70).

Boro welcomed Blyth Spartans to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro mustered a shot in the first 20 seconds but Noon's scuffed shot failed to trouble Adam Bartlett and then there were heated penalty appeals after Andrew Leeson appeared to handle the ball. Boro continued to press Spartans and a crossfield ball from Darby found the advance run of Rob Oddy who had passing and shooting options available, but squared to Murphy who miskicked. Noon put a shot inches wide of the upright while Ben Chapman put a looping cross into the six yard box but it was headed wide by Burgess.

Boro had another chance ten minutes before the break when Denny's cross found Darby via a Neil Moore flick on, but the centre-forward could not divert the ball home. Murphy attempted a 25-yard speculative strike which had fans diving for cover in the Cock and Bear end before the half ended with Boro having threatened but not produced.

Blyth had the ball in the net at the start of the second half but Scott Bell's chip was disallowed for offside. Williams curled a free-kick just over the bar as Blyth improved on their first-half showing. Murphy then blazed over the top after Williams had hit a woefully short back pass before Boro broke the deadlock on 60 minutes when Oddy produced an outstanding cross from the right into the path of Burgess who drifted into the penalty area to head home with conviction. The lead was almost doubled seven minutes later when Darby held the ball up for Noon to get a shot away, but it went just wide.

Blyth hit Boro with an equaliser with six minutes to go as Williams curled a 35-yard free-kick into the path of Michael Hedley and Acton sprinted to the penalty spot to punch clear, but somehow the ball evaded his despairing fist and dropped agonisingly into the net. Clearly unfazed by his howler, Acton produced a top draw save to prevent Chris McCabe finding



the net with his half-volley from the edge of the box. Staff had a late chance when one-on-one with Bartlett, but the game fizzled out into another disappointing draw for Boro.

Blenkinsopp Joins Gresley

Nuneaton Borough striker David Blenkinsopp has joined Gresley Rovers on a month's loan. The 19-year-old has been limited to only a handful of substitute opportunities this season and manager Roger Ashby was quick to react to an offer from Gresley to take the youngster on loan.

Hyde United v Nuneaton Borough 18-11-2006

Hyde: Dootson, German, Lynch, Davis, Taylor, Wharton, Hogarth, Pickford, Johnson, Armageddon, Tedman. Subs: Rick, Breckeridge, Armstrong, Calderons, Harrison.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, O. Burgess, Noon, Denny, Staff, Murphy, Darby. Subs: McPhee, Reeves, Fitzpatrick, D. Burgess, Franklin.

Boro made the journey to Ewan Fields to play Hyde United in a Conference North game.

Boro started brightly with Brown's close-range header splendidly tipped over by Craig Dootson, but it was the Cheshire cats who took the lead with their first attack of any note on 17 minutes. Johnson got between the hesitating Neil Moore and Rob Oddy to glance Paul Tedman's centre past the helpless Darren Acton.

Jay Denny had a goalbound drive slice off Mike Taylor's boot and clip the bar before Boro restored parity on 28 minutes, Murphy cutting inside past two defenders and firing a low 20-yarder past the flailing fingers of Dootson for an excellent equaliser.

Brown again came close with another brave header before United regained the advantage on 35 minutes. Nathan Wharton's through ball beat the offside ploy for ex-Adder Gareth Armageddon to square to Wharton whose snap shot was turned in from three yards by Tedman. More woe for Boro came five minutes later. Brown was for once deceived by Johnson whose delicate cross was headed firmly into the net by Armageddon from point-blank range. Paul Hogarth's rising 20-yarder clattered the bar seconds from the interval while early in the second half Tedman's superb pass sent Johnson clear but Acton blocked the striker's effort.

Against the run of play Boro closed the gap from their best move of the match – a flowing six-man build-up ending with Murphy's deep centre being headed back by Darby for Staff to volley past Dootson. Hyde immediately burst forward with Johnson heading just over, before Johnson deflected an Earl Davis header that Acton grabbed on the line.

Acton then denied Armageddon while Brown somehow thwarted Johnson before Tedman waltzed past Ben Chapman and Acton only for Brown to again cut out the danger. In the dying throes Boro could have salvaged a draw as Dotson acrobatically turned over Moore's looping header but it would have been a miscarriage of justice.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 21-11-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, O. Burgess (Reeves 92), Noon, Denny, Franklin (Staff 60), Murphy, Darby (McPherson 29).

Coventry: Gonzalez, Jones, Bischoff (Francis 96), Turner, Lynch, Burtoff (Ashram 71), Gooding, Hughes, Hildreth, Loroughnan, Kyle (Robinson).

Boro welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Both sides lacked bite and a competitive edge for much of the time and the tie badly needed a goal to ignite the players – and the sparse crowd in the cold stands and terraces. Boro manager Roger Ashby made several changes and gave a debut to ex-Leicester City youngster Connor Franklin, who almost set up a goal. His cross found Duane Darby whose shot was pushed away by Rafael Gonzalez in the Coventry goal. Gez Murphy forced the keeper into a reflex save before he fluffed the miss of the match. He made a hash of a chance set up by substitute Gary McPhee when he had only the goalkeeper to beat, an opportunity he would have made one hundred per cent sure of in better times.

But Boro played like a side going through a bad patch and badly in need of an injection of confidence. Players like Murphy, who have done so well for the club over the past two seasons are struggling to make an impression and need an injection of confidence. Having said that the Manor Park side did dominate a lot of the play against their full-time opponents as the Sky Blues had their own problems up front.

Kevin Kyle had one chance for City, but their best one came when an attempted clearance from Darren Acton hit one of their players and rebounded wide of a gaping goal. The Manor Park side had chances in time added on for stoppages before the tie dragged on into extra time and Hildreth headed the winner with a near-post glancing header.

Collins Out Until New Year

Matty Collins has been ruled out until the New Year after specialists decided the Boro midfielder requires surgery on his injured stomach.

Nuneaton Borough v Harrogate 02-12-2006

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D Burgess, Chapman, O Burgess, Fitzpatrick, Denny, Staff, Murphy, McPhee (Reeves 65). Subs: Brown, Franklin, Wilkins, Jackson.

Harrogate: Findley, Price, Merit, Ellery, Timons, Dunning, Britney, Hunter, Wood, Holland, Hunter. Subs: Gary Wood, Thomas.

Boro welcomed Harrogate Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Saturday's ineffective performance was their last in the league at Manor Park this season and the hope is 2007 will reap far better dividends on the goal-grabbing front. Chances came and went at both ends with Harrogate, mercifully, showing similar frailties up front.

The visitors should have taken the lead when Danny Holland raced through a square home defence only to fire into the body of keeper Darren Acton, the rebound hitting the back-tracking Ben Chapman and looping wide of a post.

It was then Boro's turn to squander a good offering when Jay Denny released Gary McPhee down the inside left channel but his tentative low effort was smothered by James Findley. McPhee had another glimmer of an opportunity from Neil Moore's head down only this time the ex-Moor Green man dismally miscued into the keeper's grateful hands. And when Gez Murphy squared to Jay Denny 20 yards out the American's low drive was easy fielded by Findley.

The keeper then held a similar long-range shot from Ollie Burgess while McPhee raced down the left to cut back for Murphy who got only minimal contact for the shot-stopper to scramble across his line and save. Right on the break, Denny found Burgess with a near post cross but the header flew tamely into the Cock & Bear terraces.



Ollie Burgess fires in a cross.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Soon after the interval, Murphy's flick found Denny and he disappointingly shot straight at Findley's legs although Town's Chris Timon's saw his close range volley chested off the line by Denny. That began a spell of Harrogate superiority in which Acton blocked out Holland and Ben Chapman produced a magnificent overhead kick from his own goal-line to deny Darren Runnings' spiralling header finding the net.

McPhee then dragged a half chance off target before Harrogate's Colin Hunter arrived late at the far post to meet Jamie Price's curling centre only to head across the net and wide of the other upright. Boro served up a late rush of chances with Ollie Burgess getting on the end of the team's best move of the game involving Murphy and Denny but Findley's legs again came to Town's rescue. Murphy then sliced off target from Fitzpatrick's flick on while in the dying seconds Rob Oddy's cross gathered pace through a crowded area and slithered inches wide of Findley's unguarded right-hand post.

Reeves Is Released

Midfielder Martin Reeves has been released by Nuneaton Borough boss Roger Ashby, helping to ease strains on the club's playing budget. The 25-year-old former Leicester City youth team player must now seek pastures new following a disappointing 22 month spell at Manor Park.

"When he first arrived at the club Martin was fresh and very, very fit," said Ashby. "He played a massive part in the end of season run we had, but I think the problem with Martin was, he never made the transition from full-time football to part-time football."

Alfreton Town v Nuneaton Borough

09-12-2006

Alfreton: Roberts, Clarke, Brown, Hannigan, Winder, Nwadike, Glass, Mills (Turner 64), Tiday, Rawle (Whitman 90), Burberry (Reeves 70).
Subs: Flanagan, Harcourt.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Franklin (Collins 78), Fitzpatrick, Moore, D. Burgess (Staff 44), Denny, Noon, McPhee, Murphy, Wilkin. **Subs:** Pritchard, O. Burgess.

Boro made the journey to the Impact Arena to play Alfreton Town in a Conference North fixture.

Three minutes into the encounter, Ashley Burberry dug out a piercing crossfield pass which Andrew Tiday volleyed wide before cohesive link-up play between Noon and Denny allowed the latter to release McPhee, who fired straight at Dale Roberts. A glut of Boro chances were to follow, as soon after Franklin engineered space brilliantly on the left, crossing onto the head of Burgess who could only tamely guide the ball wide. Vintage hold-up play by Murphy allowed Denny time to spot McPhee inside the penalty area, and at the second swing, Boro's goal shy striker fired over the bar. McPhee did find the net on 18 minutes but he was marginally offside.

Roberts had to be alert to save Rob Oddy's thunderbolt volley, and Alfreton's keeper should have been forced into action when Burgess headed over when well placed. The goal that Boro deserved arrived eight minutes before the break when Noon play in Rob Oddy who was 45 yards out. The full-back cut inside Nathan Winder, shifted the ball onto his left foot and hit the ball into the net from 15 yards out. Another neat touch from Franklin found Murphy with his back to goal and the centre-forward found Denny who threaded a pass to McPhee whose shot was inches wide.

Boro resumed the offensive after the break and Murphy put a half-volley over the bar before the game lost its edge and there was little action apart from Ryan Clarke's header which went over the bar. Neil Moore was booked for a professional foul and Connor Franklin made way for Matty Collins. Tiday curled a shot over the bar before Murphy extended the visitors' lead after Denny fed a fine pass into the box and under severe pressure Murphy unleashed a blistering left-footed strike into the roof of the net from an acute angle. Boro added to their tally deep into injury time when McPhee's reverse pass to Denny was squared to Murphy, who at the second attempt bundled the ball home.

Work Begins At Liberty Way

Building work has commenced at Liberty Way laying the foundations for a ground share between Nuneaton's two premier sporting teams. After decades of discussions and proposals, the first signs that Nuneaton Borough will soon have a new home are finally being seen. The ground share between Nuneaton Rugby Club and Boro was officially announced at a press conference in October and now, two months later, JCBs have moved onto the site commencing the first phase of building work.

Ashby Resigns

Roger Ashby has resigned as Nuneaton Borough manager and his parting shot was to tell the players to win their next three games and put acting boss Kevin Wilkin in a strong position to become his successor in the New Year. The 59-year-old Ashby spoke with chairman Roger Stanford on Sunday following the club's emphatic 3-0 defeat at Manor Park against Redditch United and felt it was in the best interests of Boro and himself to part company.

Ashby, who has been in charge almost three years, endured a roller-coaster ride which reached its height last season with a superb FA Cup run, losing in a replay at Middlesbrough in the third round, while the lows include successive play-off defeats and a home FA Cup reversal to Hucknall Town...

Quailey Back For A Fourth Time

Brian Quailey has signed for Nuneaton Borough for the fourth time in his career, as caretaker manager Kev Wilkin moulds his squad for the Christmas period. The 28-year-old striker returns to Manor Park until the end of the season, ending his brief spell with Conference National outfit Stafford Rangers.

Hinckley United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-2006

Hinckley: Bowles, Wykes, Lenton, Lavery, Love, Birch, S. Storer, Jackson (Nurse 73), Heggs, Kelly (Story 73), Fry. **Subs:** Shilton, Gundelach, Woodall.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Angus, Moore, Brown (Staff 71), Denny, Noon, Wilkin (Murphy 63), Quailey, O. Burgess (Darby 81). **Subs:** Fitzpatrick, Franklin.

Boro made the journey to the Marstons' Stadium to play Hinckley United in a Conference North game.

The first action saw Jay Denny blaze a free-kick over the bar before Quailey turned and hit a half-volley inches over the bar as Boro made the early running. On a rare foray upfield, good hold-up play from Carl Heggs drew a clumsy challenge from Neil Moore, but the referee waved away penalty appeals. The referee also kept his cards in his pocket when Leon Jackson's cynical tackle brought Brian Quailey's run to a halt. Burgess curled the free-kick over the top from 25 yards out. With Wilkin and Quailey in vibrant mood, Boro forced four corners in the first 20 minutes and were firmly on top.

As the half moved towards the half-way stage, Hinckley finally settled into the game as Kelly became the target man for

their almost incessant pressure before sublime close control from Burgess exposed Michael Love and Quailey's turn and strike was well held by Bowles. Hinckley took the lead against the run of play after 34 minutes when Adam Wyke's right wing corner bounced ominously inside the penalty area allowing Tom Birch to pounce and head firmly past the stranded Acton. Almost immediately Boro laid siege on the Hinckley goal but the bravery of Lavery ensured a goalmouth scramble was hoofed to safety. But failure to clear their lines cost the home side dear on 39 minutes when a half clearance to Burgess allowed the midfielder to control on his chest and half volley from the edge of the penalty area into the top corner for the equaliser.



Derek Brown heads clear from Carl Heggs. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The first chance of an otherwise dull second half arrived on 62 minutes when Lavery scuffed Wyke's cross into the air, Jackson extended his toe to divert towards goal, forcing a back pedalling Acton to tip over his own bar. Gez Murphy replaced Kevin Wilkin after 64 minutes and Noon found Quailey whose right foot effort forced Bowles into a tidy save. Hinckley restored their lead with 20 minutes to go as Moore's careless pass allowed them to break and Kelly sped inside the area before cutting the ball back to Lavery who diverted the ball goalwards where Jamie Lenton tapped home from close range.

Murphy missed two half-chances in five minutes, volleying high over the bar from a Quailey flick-on and then heading Oddy's cross over the bar. The Knitters' substitute Chris Nurse saw his league debut descend into a nightmare as he headed Staff's inswinging corner into his own net to level the scores.



The home side went close from Wykes cross before Quailey embarked on a 50 yard dribble into Hinckley's territory before forcing Wykes into a save. The last action saw the home side almost steal the points when Owen Story raced into the penalty area and scuffed a shot towards Acton, whose weak parry was cleared to safety by Chapman.

Curtis Signs Loan Deal

Nuneaton Borough caretaker manager Kevin Wilkin has bolstered his squad for the trip to Kettering by loaning experienced midfielder Tom Curtis. The 33-year-old Notts County man has joined the Manor Park club on a month's loan, and is likely to feature in the squad that travels to Rockingham Road.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-12-2006

Kettering: Osborn, Graham, McIlwain, McKie, Westcarr (Olaleye 70), Hall, Boucaud, Solkhon, Makofu (Nicell 80), Howe, Marna (Midgley 55).
Subs: Okai, Bussey.

Boro: Acton, Moore, D. Burgess (Staff 76), Brown, Oddy, Curtis, Denny, Chapman, O. Burgess, Wilkin (Darby 60), Quailey. **Subs:** Fitzpatrick, McPhee, Franklin.

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

Indecision between Rob Oddy and Neil Moore allowed Andy Hall time to pull the trigger from 30 yards after five minutes, rifling into the top right hand corner past a stranded Darren Acton. Captain Moore and Acton exchanged angry words as they contemplated another uphill struggle. For the second time in two games Boro were gifted an equaliser through an own goal, the unfortunate Luke Graham heading firmly past his own keeper from Jay Denny's free-kick.

The game was finely poised entering the second half, as the two teams did their best to overcome atrocious playing conditions. Chances were exchanged before disaster struck on 74 minutes. An otherwise quiet Rene Howe engineered space on the left to fire across goal, Acton parried well, but straight into the path of Brown who could only divert the ball into his own goal – to the delight of the Kettering faithful.

With nine minutes to play the destination of the points was confirmed when Howe headed home from Hall's corner. Boro pressed forward searching for a late consolation goal and achieved it, with arguably the goal of the season. From a cleared corner, Oddy drilled a 30-yard volley past the despairing dive of Osborn and into the bottom right hand corner. Darby spurned a late opportunity, leaving all in yellow holding their heads in their hands, as another three points slipped from their grasp

Curtis impressed on his debut and Daryl Burgess was formidable at the heart of the defence, but for the fifth time this season Boro conceded three or more goals away from home, joining rock bottom Lancaster City and Hyde United as having the joint worst defensive record in the league.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 01-01-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Denny, Moore, Brown, Staff, Curtis, Darby, Quailey, O. Burgess. **Subs:** McPhee, Franklin, Fitzpatrick, D. Burgess, Blenkinsopp.

Hinckley: Bowles, Friars (Wykes 59), Lenton, Lavery, Love, Birch, Storer, Nurse (Fry 78), Heggs (Palmer 66), Kelly, Shilton.

Boro welcomed Hinckley United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

A long range strike from Jay Denny on ten minutes deflected off Stuart Storer for a corner as Boro held the upper hand in the early exchanges. Hinckley were handed a golden opportunity to open the scoring on 18 minutes when Kelly wriggled free from the attentions of Derek Brown, before cutting inside the penalty area. Carl Heggs lay in wait for a squared pass, but Ben Chapman was on hand to end the attack with an heroic sliding tackle. Diagonal rain lashed across Manor Park, making for treacherous playing conditions.

Ollie Burgess set about defying adversity by dribbling through the heart of Hinckley's defence, dancing inside Friars, drawing a clumsy foul from Shilton on the edge of the penalty area. Curtis' set piece provided little threat to the visitors. Industrious work from Brian Quailey engineered space on the left, his blind slide rule pass was read too late by Burgess, and Tom Birch slid the ball to safety.

After the break Heggs and Storer both headed wide for Hinckley, and Quailey lost his footing at the other end when well positioned. On the hour mark, Dean Thomas' Knitters sunk deeper and deeper into their own territory, seemingly content to hold on for a point. A quickfire cross from Quailey located Brown inside the box, but the defenders' stabbed shot squirmed wide. Hinckley survived two penalty shouts in quick succession after Storer bundled over Denny and for a handball which prevented Darby inside the six yard area.

Rob Oddy fired a 30-yard free-kick wide and with 13 minutes to play, Darby saw his close range goal ruled out for offside. Boro huffed and puffed in the final ten minutes as the game rumbled to a predictable goalless end, until disaster struck. For the second time in a week against Hinckley, Neil Moore misplaced a pass straight to substitute Jermaine Palmer. The on-loan forward tormented Boro's skipper before squaring to Kelly who made no mistake from six yards out.

Lancaster City v Nuneaton Borough 06-01-2007

Lancaster City: Roberts, Rigby, Marshall, Greenwood (Barnes 30), Cudworth, Uberschar, Holmes (Mulholland 62), Love, Gierke, Connerton (Helliwell 75), Williams. **Subs:** Hibbert, Havey.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D Burgess, Chapman, O Burgess, Curtis, Noon, Denny, Darby, Quailey (Staff 70). **Subs:** Fitzpatrick, Franklin, Wilkin, McPhee.

Boro made the journey to The Giant Axe to play Lancaster City in a Conference North game.

Belligerent Boro produced a professional performance to crush languishing Lancaster and give caretaker manager



Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 20-01-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D Burgess, Chapman, Denny (Murphy 62), Noon, Curtis, Staff, O Burgess (Brown 87), Darby (Quailey 85). Subs: Franklin, Fitzpatrick.

Redditch: Anstiss, Petty, Whitcombe, Rea, Geohagbon, Softley (Alsop 17), Taylor (Adams 75), Clarke (Francis 80), Rickards, Hollis, Palmer. Subs: C Murphy, Walker.

Kevin Wilkin his first victory since taking over. From the opening whistle Boro dominated and took the lead inside three minutes. Darby's flick-on and persistence forced a poor clearance from Paul Rigby, which Denny hoisted somewhat fortuitously over stranded keeper Guy Roberts, and high into the net from the corner of the area.

Boosted by their early breakthrough, Boro continued to dominate with Roberts pushing Brian Quailey's acute angled shot along the bar for Ollie Burgess to head into the side-netting. Denny and workaholic Tom Curtis were both off target from the edge of the box as the Dolly Blues were forced to sit deep and take the pressure.

The tricky conditions time and again halted Boro's progress but their persistence continued as Darby volleyed over and Quailey burst away, only to collide with the keeper 30 yards out and for the ball to run to safety. As half-time approached City finally produced a positive reaction, skipper James Love unleashing a 25-yarder that skimmed the bar. But Boro soon assumed command with Paul Rigby chesting a Curtis corner off the line before Ollie Burgess powered in a rising 30-yarder that was superbly turned over by Roberts.

Early in the second period, Jordan Holmes should have squared matters but his downward header bounced straight at Darren Acton before Darby's looping header drifted wide and a Moore effort grazed the bar. City should have equalised midway through the period as Acton produced two vital stops.

Twice Jordan Connerton breached the visiting defence but on the first occasion Acton saved low down on the edge of the area and almost immediately he was down smartly to smother the young striker's goalbound cross shot. Those misses were crucial as Boro thrived on some long-awaited good luck by doubling their advantage on 77 minutes when Ben Chapman got beyond the Lancaster defence and his low centre was confidently steered past Roberts from two yards by Darby.

The striker netted an equally simple opportunity on 83 minutes with the Burgess boys, Ollie and Daryl, the architects with the former's right-wing corner being deftly headed on and down by the latter and the deadly Darby pouncing from point-blank range. City were on the ropes and deep into time their woes were complete with Moore having his confidence boosted by powering a 10-yard drive into the net following a goal-mouth melee caused by another Ollie Burgess set piece.

Wilkin Gets Boro Job

Kevin Wilkin has been handed the manager's job at Nuneaton Borough. He steps into the position left vacant by Roger Ashby's resignation in mid-December – after taking on the caretaker's role for four matches. Boro chairman Roger Stanford said: "The directors have been very impressed with the way Kevin has handled things since Roger left. His attitude and manner with the players, in the dressing room and on the pitch, has been first class and we are more than happy to offer Kevin the job for the rest of the season."

Boro welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro netted their first home win since October 21 with a gutsy win over gritty Redditch. Duane Darby's 10th goal of the season and third in two games was enough for Boro to avenge their 3-0 FA Trophy beating a month ago. Kevin Wilkin, certainly savoured this success as his men followed up their 4-0 away drubbing of Lancaster City to ease further away from the relegation zone and inch nearer the play-off places.

It was the spine of the Boro line-up that held the key to the vital win as keeper Darren Acton was back to his best with crucial first half saves and solid handling. At the heart of the defence skipper Neil Moore and the unflappable Daryl Burgess put their experience to good use while in midfield man-of-the-match Mark Noon and classy Tom Curtis were the workhorses. Up front the highly competitive Darby showed what all good goalscorers are about as he popped up six yards out to bury the all important goal.

Early on David Staff saw his rising effort from the edge of the area fly tamely into the Beaumont Place terraces as Boro began brightly despite the strong breeze in their faces. But United came close when Richard Softley fed Jermaine Clarke, who with only Acton to beat grazed a post.

On 19 minutes Darby headed down to Ollie Burgess and he unleashed a fierce 20 yarder that keeper Richard Anstiss brilliantly parried straight to Jay Denny who disappointingly headed over from eight yards. At the opposite end Clarke eluded Daryl Burgess but his shot was blocked by Acton, while the Redditch frontman then latched on to a rare mistake by the same home defender but Acton parried away.

With the wind at their backs, Boro totally dominated the second period and were unlucky when Darby saw his chip beat Anstiss and clip the bar following one of Noon's tenacious midfield spurts. But Boro's incessant pressure paid dividends on 73 minutes, Staff sending substitute Gez Murphy sprinting away down the left and as Anstiss advanced, the striker squared unselfishly for Darby to ram the ball home from close range.

There was a nervy finale for Boro as Acton raced from his line to the edge of his area and collided with Simon Hollis but fortunately referee Craig Grundy saw no malice and waved played on as the home faithful breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Fitzpatrick Joins Solihull

Gary Fitzpatrick has joined Southern League outfit Solihull Borough on a two-match short term deal.



Shaw Joins On Loan

Kevin Wilkin has secured the loan of 20-year-old midfielder Tom Shaw from Rushden and Diamonds. He is expected to be in the squad for the game against Farsley Celtic which will be the last game of Tom Curtis' loan, although the Boro manager is hoping to negotiate an extension.

Farsley Celtic v Nuneaton Borough 27-01-2007

Farsley: Morgan, Thackray, Serrant, Knowles, Crossley, Iqbal, Midgley (Starmer 63), Dunne (Bambrook 72), Reeves, Sugden, Grant (Watson 63). **Subs:** Tuck, Sansay.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Chapman, Curtis, Moore, D. Burgess, O. Burgess, Noon, Darby (Quailey 53), Murphy (Staff 86), Shaw (Brown 90). **Subs:** Pritchard, Denny.

Boro made the journey to the Throstle's Nest to play Farsley Celtic in a Conference North game.

Boro attacked from the first whistle and Murphy put pressure on Amjad Iqbal, allowing Ollie Burgess to fire a shot into Tom Morgan's hands. Penalty appeals were waved away when Tom Shaw's run was brought to halt by Chris Thackray's clumsy tackle before Murphy picked up on an error to collect the ball and bear down on Morgan, but the keeper drove him wide and then parried his shot for a corner. Farsley's first chance arrived after ten minutes when Ryan Sugden volleyed Damian Dunn's centre over, and Gareth Grant's heavy first touch allowed Rob Oddy to intervene and clear the danger.

Foraging forward play from Darby allowed Shaw to drill a shot across goal which narrowly escaped Morgan's far post. Boro's central defensive partnership of Daryl Burgess and Neil Moore endured a busy period soon after and their cause was not helped when Acton fumbled a shot from Thackray. Clever play from Ollie Burgess drew a foul 30 yards out and Tom Curtis curled a telling free-kick towards the top right hand corner, but Morgan saved. Carl Serrant's free-kick caused panic in the Boro box and Grant drilled a shot wide from distance.

Daryl Burgess was booked for pulling down Damien Reeves before Chapman's miscued header allowed Serrant the chance to cross a corner from the right which was met with a firm header from Iqbal, but Acton took the ball superbly. Six minutes before the break Acton was left stranded as Reeves' header brushed the top of the crossbar.

A minute into the second half, Ollie Burgess tried a long range strike which Morgan weakly dealt with, parrying to Murphy, but he was pulled back for an infringement. Before the hour mark Boro upped their tempo and should have taken the lead when good hold up play by Murphy inside the penalty area allowed Ollie Burgess to shoot from close range but Morgan saved bravely. Soon after a clever turn from Shaw created space for Noon, who shot over the bar from 25 yards. But Noon wasn't to be denied and a minute later he cut inside two men before drilling a shot high into the net from close range. Boro's victory should have been secured with 20 minutes to play when Quailey cleverly let the ball travel across his body before firing under Morgan, but the ball

cannoned off the bar and fell to Shaw who could only head wide of the target at full-stretch.

Farsley upped the pressure in the final ten minutes, and slack work from Oddy allowed Roy Stammer to advance infield where James Knowles lay in wait to fire a shot in from 25 yards which Acton saved. Knowles and Stammer combined down the left and the latter opted to shoot over from a tight angle with half-a-dozen players waiting for a cut back. Acton made a good save from Serrant to guarantee Boro the points.

Boro Sign Curtis On Permanent Deal

Nuneaton Borough have obtained the signature of previous loan signing Tom Curtis, who has been released from his contract by Notts County. Curtis has made more than 400 Football League appearances and made his name at Chesterfield from where he signed for Portsmouth for a £50,000 fee. He has also played for Tranmere, Mansfield and Chester before he joined Notts County.

Blyth Spartans v Nuneaton Borough 03-02-2007

Blyth: Bartlett, Christensen, Williams, Leeson, Snowden, Forster, Graham, McCabe (Hedley 80), Dale, Bell. **Subs:** Hanlon, Gildea, Lowther, Fenton.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D. Burgess, Chapman, Shaw, Noon (Brown 90), Curtis, O. Burgess, Darby, Murphy (Quailey 13). **Subs:** Franklin, Denny, Staff.

Boro made the journey to Croft Park to play Blyth Spartans in a Conference North game.

Despite going a goal adrift early on through Scott Bell, Kevin Wilkin's outfit turned things around with the inspirational Mark Noon netting an equaliser and then bamboozling the home defence to set up Brian Quailey with a tap-in winner just past the hour. And had substitute Quailey put away any of the other three gilt-edged opportunities that came his way and referee Andy Madley chose not to turn down three obvious penalty appeals, Boro would have been out of sight.

Boro were sluggish early on and were punished on 16 minutes as lanky striker Rob Dale deceived Rob Oddy, and though his initial drive was blocked by Darren Acton, he regained possession to square for Bell to net from six yards. However, Boro's recent grit came to the fore and on 23 minutes forced a fine equaliser. A flowing four-man build-up saw Oddy escape down the right and from his near post centre Noon's superb back-heel left keeper Adam Bartlett helpless.

Spartans rocked and should have conceded at least one penalty, if not three, but referee Andy Madley disagreed despite Noon being blatantly fouled by Ben Christensen inside the area and a free-kick given outside. Then Tom Ward's cross was clearly handled by Andy Leeson while Duane Darby was tripped by Peter Snowden – but again appeals went unheeded.

Acton's outstretched leg deprived Matt Moffat after a rare Daryl Burgess error before Quailey, replacing injured Gez Murphy, missed the target when one-on-one with the keeper. Snowden

had a close-range shot blocked on the line by Acton who was alert to save Chris McCabe's follow-up effort just after the interval, but on 61 minutes Boro grabbed the winner. And it was down to the tenacity of Noon who defiantly held off three defenders to get to the dead-ball line and square across the net for Quailey to side-foot home from point-blank range.

Quailey then hesitated and saw a deflected 10-yard drive fly over the bar and then tentatively head straight at Bartlett following fine play from Ollie Burgess and Oddy respectively. The misses put pressure on Boro, but they held firm to deservedly take the points and continue their superb recent run of success.

Boro Re-Sign Danny Williams

Nuneaton Borough have re-signed former winger Danny Williams to bolster their attacking options. The talented wideman started his career with Nuneaton before trying his luck with Evesham and Hucknall Town.

Liberty Way Takes Shape



The stand at the Eastboro Way end of the ground.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



The rear of the Eastboro Way stand which will be turned into an access point for coaches, with a link road to be built to provide another entrance to Liberty Way.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Stalybridge Celtic 13-02-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D. Burgess, Chapman (Franklin 83), Shaw, Collins (Denny 21), Curtis, O. Burgess, Darby, Quailey (Brown 75).
Subs: Murphy, Williams.

Stalybridge: Pettinger, Black (Smith 72), Maxfield, Keeling (Brody 46), Flynn, Foster, Winn (Prince 62), Olsen, Barlow, Hume, Sykes.
Subs: Kay, Warmsley.

Boro welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro should have been ahead after four minutes as Rob Oddy fired in a near post cross only for Brian Quailey's diving

header to fly wide. However, the early pressure paid off as, on 10 minutes, Boro swept in front. Celtic defender Mike Flynn hesitated, forcing Paul Pettinger to rush his clearance straight to Chapman who hoisted a perfect 40 yarder into an empty net. Stalybridge's response was an Ashley Winn snap shot which Darren Acton pushed to safety while Oddy's long-range strike grazed the upright. Winn again had Acton sprawling to clutch a skidding cross shot and Luke Foster's powerful drive was narrowly off target. But Boro doubled their advantage on 45 minutes, Denny unleashing a stunning 20-yard angled drive which left Pettinger helpless as the ball rippled the rigging in the top corner.



Duane Darby puts the Stalybridge defence under pressure.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

At the start of the second half Barlow's header flew straight at Acton from the best of several goalmouth scrambles, although at the opposite end, Duane Darby was clearly fouled by Foster inside the box, but referee Jamie Adcock ruled otherwise. But when Ollie Burgess fed the free-kick to Curtis his slithering 20 yarder flew through Pettinger's grasp and over the line. On 62 minutes the visitors reduced the deficit after Acton fumbled a cross and Barlow netted from close in. Stalybridge made it 3-2 90 seconds into time added on through Brodie's close range effort but defiant Boro held on.

Harrogate Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-02-2007

Harrogate: Lindley, Price, Merris, Ellerker (L. Wood 46), Timons, Dunning, Webster, R. Hunter, Jackson, Holland, C. Hunter (Philpott 69). **Subs:** McGarry, Thomas, M Wood.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Franklin, Shaw (Williams 63), Denny, Curtis, O. Burgess, Darby, Quailey (Murphy 63). **Subs:** Collins, Fitzpatrick, Wilkin.

Boro made the journey to Wetherby Road to play Harrogate Town in a Conference North game.

Substitute Danny Williams netted a crucial equaliser as Boro produced another gut churning away performance to grasp themselves a precious point at high-flying Harrogate. And



it was no more than they deserved against second placed opposition and though they now slip five points off the play offs there's a confidence and belief within the side suggesting a top five place is within their capabilities. On a tricky sloping pitch, the Manor Park side played second fiddle before the interval and could not complain when Danny Holland brilliantly fired Town ahead. But character and resilience earned the visitors a worthy leveller when Williams swooped six minutes after coming on as a substitute.

But it was the Tykes who opened the brighter, although Boro keeper Darren Acton was hardly tested. Acton went low to hold a stretching Webster header as Town pressed and were unlucky not to take the lead from a snappy break as Holland released Colin Hunter whose bobbling effort beat Acton and rebounded off the far post. Boro showed grit with Tom Curtis, Duane Darby and Ollie Burgess proving handfuls but Harrogate's back line had few concerns. But right on the interval Harrogate broke through. Dave Merris hoisted a deep cross over Franklin to Holland and his first touch and neat side step inside the full-back were exquisite as was the 12-yard low drive past Acton.

Darren Dunning grazed a post before Quailey squandered another gilt-edged offering just before the hour when Curtis' free-kick left him unchallenged eight yards out and he headed dismally over. But on 69 minutes parity was restored. Curtis clipped in a corner from which the tenacious Brown headed into a crowded six-yard box for the alert Williams to scramble over the line. Harrogate's response was a Jackson overhead kick that whistled wide.

Darby then showed the spirit in the side as he chased back 60 yards to challenge Dunning and see the ball out for a goal kick with the Nuneaton faithful roaring their approval at the striker's attitude and the team's full-blooded commitment.

Nuneaton Borough v Gainsborough Trinity 27-02-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, Shaw (Collins 78), Curtis, Denny (Williams 62), O. Burgess, Darby, Murphy (Quailey 78).
Subs: D. Burgess, Franklin.

Gainsborough: Sollitt, Purkiss, Wood, Ellis, Lowe, Needham, Trout, Anson, Bird (Hannah 74), Mallon, Caudwell (Graves 74). **Subs:** Parker, Charles.

Boro welcomed Gainsborough Trinity to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Kevin Wilkin's men could not be faulted for effort but they lacked the craft and cohesion required to breakdown a side so resolute and determined as Trinity. Boro recalled Gez Murphy in place of Brian Quailey up front while Ben Chapman returned at left-back.

In heavy conditions and facing a stiff breeze, Boro found it difficult to create much in the way of clear cut chances although when Murphy released Ollie Burgess his cut-back rolled behind Duane Darby and the chance was lost. Trinity proved troublesome on the break with Matty Caudwell going

close with a 20-yard half volley while an error by Tom Curtis allowed Mallon to break clear and rifle into the Cock & Bear terraces. Boro carved out their best opening of the half on 35 minutes as Derek Brown's clearance was latched upon by Burgess, who skipped inside two opponents and fed a delightful ball wide to Chapman only for the full-back's drive to hit Nicky Ellis and bounce to safety.

Immediately the visitors broke forward to take the lead. Caudwell's close range shot was parried by Darren Acton straight back to the winger and he slid a square pass into the path of Mallon who made no mistake from seven yards out. It could have been worse for Boro 90 seconds later as Brown bravely flung his body in the way of Ellis' goalbound drive with the home defence in disarray.

It was one-way traffic after the interval as Boro pressed forward relentlessly with Murphy putting Burgess away but keeper Adam Sollitt was off his line to avert the danger. Murphy shot over from 15 yards as Trinity defended desperately to keep their slender lead. Skipper Neil Moore' header glided over the bar and Darby's lob beat Sollitt and the far upright. A rare Gainsborough attack ended with Danny Anson steering a near post header just over before Boro substitute Danny Williams put Burgess clear down the inside right channel only for the ex-Kettering man's first touch to let him down badly. Deep into injury time Matty Collins looked set to equalize only for Ellis to produce a brilliant tackle to deny the substitute and Boro a share of the spoils.

Nuneaton Borough v Worksop Town

03-03-2007

Worksop: Pettinger, Nicholson, Davies, Staton, Pritchard, Dawson, Thompson, Froggatt, Saunders, Crane, Jarman. **Subs:** Owens, Robinson, Rowland, Fores-Chambers, Ratcliffe

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman (Denny 18), Shaw, Curtis, Collins, Williams (T. Moore 79), O. Burgess, Darby (Quailey 79).
Subs: D. Burgess, McPhee.

Boro made the journey to Babbage Way to play Worksop Town in a Conference North encounter.

Goalless draws don't come much more dismal than this as both sides displayed a lack of imagination, ideas and impact. While Boro stuttered and stammered through the 90 minutes, the Tigers hardly produced a roar, let alone a killer instinct. Yet again Boro's inability to break down Town's dour, workmanlike back division was disappointing as two more points went begging.

Boro started well and came close to taking the lead when Ollie Burgess's goal-bound half-volley was deflected over by Luke Pritchard, while on 11 minutes a flowing build-up ended with Tom Shaw's low angled drive being superbly touched around the post by keeper Paul Pettinger. Duane Darby headed over from eight yards following Shaw's right-wing centre before Ben Chapman limped off with a recurrence of a hamstring pull, to be replaced by Jay Denny, and the disruption knocked Boro out of their stride.

Workshop showed little going forward with Ben Saunders their main torment, although just past the half hour Luke Staton's free-kick was met by Jon Froggatt who sliced off target. The interval came and went without much to awaken the 400-plus crowd from its slumbers although Town improved at the start of the second period.

Nathan Jarman was left unmarked inside the area and his downward header forced a low parry from Acton, with Matty Collins, arguably Boro's best player, hooking the loose ball off the line. A poor Neil Moore clearance spiralled to Ben Saunders, whose looping header sailed over Acton, struck the bar and fell invitingly for Lee Thompson to rifle high over from 10 yards as the Tigers finally bared their teeth. At the opposite end clever control by an otherwise ineffective Darby gave him a glimpse of the target but his intended lob sailed over keeper Pettinger and also the woodwork. Hesitation by Rob Oddy ended with a reckless challenge on Thompson and a caution before Boro had clear penalty claims turned down as Kevin Dawson blatantly pushed Darby to the floor from a Tom Curtis free-kick, but referee Steve Cook waved aside appeals.

It then needed hasty work by Moore and Derek Brown to deny Jarman's cross finding Ben Crane, and then on 78 minutes Boro almost snatched full points as Moore's bouncing header from Curtis' corner was splendidly turned over by the alert Pettinger. Youngster Tom Moore and Brian Quailey came on as late substitutes with the former providing a deep cross that Burgess steered just too high before the 17-year-old's 20-yarder had Pettinger scrambling across his six-yard area to save. Normally a point away from home at Workshop would be claimed as one won but maybe on this occasion not beating the Tigers was two lost for Boro.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 06-03-2007

Redditch: Anstiss, Petty (A. Walker 54), Whitcombe, Rea, Geohagbon, Taylor (Deakin 66), Hollis, Murphy, Ball (D. Walker 81), Heggs, Palmer.
Subs: Rickards, Clarke.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, D. Burgess, Brown, Franklin, Shaw, Curtis, Collins (Quailey 77), O. Burgess (McPhee 64), Darby, Murphy (Williams 64).
Subs: Denny, D. Burgess.

Boro made the journey to The Valley to take on Redditch United in a Conference North game.

Boro's ineffectiveness up front was again emphasised as Redditch kept their first clean-sheet at home this season. Boro were first to threaten with Neil Moore's across goal header being deflected off target by Duane Darby and when the latter fed Matty Collins the ball bobbed at the crucial second and the chance was lost. However, it was United who then took control and only a superb double block by Darren Acton denied Richard Ball in a one-on-one situation but on 22 minutes Redditch were ahead. Hollis' deep corner fell invitingly for the unmarked Chris Murphy and his fierce volley struck the arm of namesake Gez Murphy for referee Neil Hobbs to award a harsh penalty from which Hollis confidently beat Acton.

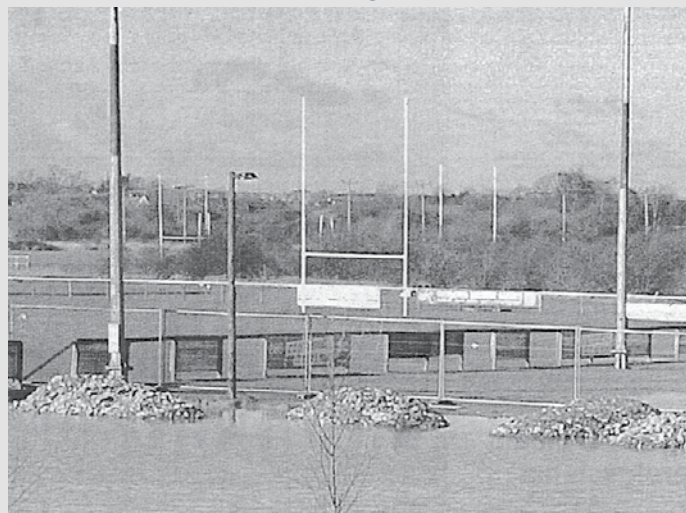
Rob Taylor then brought Acton into action with a skidding drive from distance before the hosts doubled their lead through ex-Hinckley frontman Heggs, making his United debut. There looked no danger when he gained possession midway inside the Nuneaton half but with Acton off his line, Heggs unleashed a superb dipping 35-yarder that beat the keeper to ripple the roof of the rigging. Stunned by the double setback, Boro, with Tom Curtis a tireless grafter in midfield, had a glimmer of an opportunity but Tom Shaw's drive ricocheted off Simon Rea and skidded to safety.

Acton then brilliantly turned aside Chris Murphy's goalbound shot while the pressure continued with Damien Whitcombe's 30-yard free-kick grazing the angle of bar and post. Derek Brown's header hardly troubled keeper Richard Anstiss at the opposite end and Gez Murphy narrowly failed to turn in Ollie Burgess' right wing centre. But Redditch were in the driving seat and seconds from the break a superb run by Taylor took him past three visiting defenders only for his cross-cum-shot to fly beyond the far post.

After the interval, United were content to sit on their earlier gains although Hollis was just inches wide from just inside the area. Boro had more of the possession without posing too much of a threat with substitute Gary McPhee having the best of their chances but his mishit drive was easily grasped by Anstiss and then after Danny Williams' burst past two defenders his weak cross shot was hooked clear by Rea.

Kevin Wilkin's men, for whom Curtis and Franklin were the pick of the bunch, were not short on effort or determination but in terms of quality and composure they were very much second best on the night to their second bottom rivals.

Flood Slows Liberty Way Progress



Work continues despite atrocious conditions.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Progress in building Nuneaton Borough's new stadium has been hampered by the persistent rainfall which has struck the region. Since commencing the project to turn the home of Nuneaton Rugby Club into a venue suitable to house

Nuneaton Borough the builders have battled against the elements. The construction of the South Terrace is underway, although a delay in grant-aid for the north stand will mean that temporary changing rooms will have to be put up, as well as 2,000 sq. ft. of portable accommodation to create club offices, a directors' lounge and a fans' bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 10-03-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown (D. Burgess 87), Franklin, M. Collins (Shaw 80), Curtis, Denny, Darby, O. Burgess (Murphy 68). **Subs:** McPhee, Quailey.

Moor Green: Lewis, Follett, Midworth, L. Collins, Ayres, English, Morrison, Middleton (Motteram 90), Davidson, Bridgwater (Faulds 76), Trainer. **Subs:** Sanders, Penny, Anderson.

Boro welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro were hesitant early on but should have taken the lead when Duane Darby shot tamely from 12 yards. The Moors pressed and Junior English's angled drive flew just over while Davidson beat the offside play to set up Trainer whose effort was blocked with English firing across the face of the net.

The visitors continued to have the better chances and when David Morrison's inswinging corner drifted deep it needed a goalline clearance by Derek Brown to keep Boro on terms at the break.



Neil Moore just fails with a late chance. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

With the strong breeze at their backs the hosts looked more positive after the interval, Darby rippling the side-netting following good work by Williams. A superb challenge by Moore deprived David Bridgwater a shooting opportunity before a slick home build-up ended with Darby's 30-yarder being pushed aside by Lewis.

Boro's luck ran out late on when Gez Murphy spurned possession enabling Trainer to release Carl Mottram down the left and his pinpoint cross found Davidson whose 10-yard glancing header left Acton helpless.

Liberty Way Problems Rumoured

The announcement that there will be a delay in the construction of the main stand at Liberty Way along with a lack of communication by the club has left fans confused as to what is happening at their new ground. Rumours abound regarding the eventual quality of the new stadium and problems with grants to enable the construction of the main stand. There is also talk of the football club having to share facilities with the Nuns. Majority shareholder Mr Ted Stocker has promised a public meeting, to be held soon, to inform fans of what is going on.

Cowan Back With Boro

Two years after his original loan period with Nuneaton Borough, Gavin Cowan is back, this time on a month's loan from Grays Athletic. The centre-half played for the Manor Park side before joining Shrewsbury two years ago.

Nuneaton Borough v Droylsden 17-03-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D. Burgess, Cowan, Franklin, Shaw, Curtis, Pritchard, Darby (Murphy 90), Quailey. **Subs:** O. Burgess, Denny, Williams, Collins.

Droylsden: Phillips, J Williams, Halford, Ruffer, Robinson, Lynch, Jagielka (Fowler 74), Kelly, Fearn, Banim (Daley 22), Denham (Tandy 33). **Subs:** Warner, Morris.

Boro welcomed Droylsden to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

Boro welcomed back former crowd favourite Gavin Cowan, and he slipped efficiently into a defence that hardly gave Terry Fearn a sniff of the net. It was the raw talent and commitment of debutant Bradley Pritchard that took top billing as he brought a welcome breath of fresh air to a Boro line-up that had stagnated.



Skipper Neil Moore celebrates his goal. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The tireless Pritchard, still far from being a finished article and with plenty to learn, typified a home show offering hope for the future, especially with Tom Shaw and Tom Curtis complementing their new colleague. Boro began well, Duane



Darby heading disappointingly wide when well placed while Shaw blasted wildly into the terraces from 12 yards. Home defender Rob Oddy then clattered Droylsden dangerman Jody Banim, who limped out of the action, at the expense of a booking, while soon after Chris Denham was stretchered off following Curtis' thrusting challenge.

But on 26 minutes Boro drew first blood. Pritchard was mugged wide on the right by Kevin Lynch's reckless challenge and from Curtis' deep cross the intruding Moore rose highest to send a spiralling header over keeper Paul Phillips and into the far corner of the net. The Bloods responded, Steve Jagielka's corner was diverted to Fearn's whose angled header sailed past the far upright. Lynch's 15-yarder then flew straight at confident keeper Darren Acton, back to his solid and dependable self.

Droylsden enjoyed early second-half pressure. Lynch escaped down the left and his deep centre found unmarked substitute Steve Daley but he carelessly headed over from six yards. Boro had penalty appeals rightly turned down when Quailey theatrically went to floor under Carl Ruffer's challenge before Curtis' inswinging corner clipped the near post and bounced back into play.

It needed a sprawling Acton save to keep out a Joe Fowler mis-hit 20-yarder as the Mancunians strived for an equaliser but Boro's defence, superbly marshalled by Moore, Cowan and the experienced Burgess, stood firm. Quailey's dummy then put Shaw away but Philips forced the youngster wide and though he cut the ball back to Curtis, his lob drifted harmlessly over as Boro coolly kept their lead intact

Nuneaton Borough v Hyde United 20-03-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Franklin, D. Burgess, Moore, Cowan, Curtis (Denny 21), Shaw, Pritchard (O. Burgess 79), Quailey, Darby (Murphy 30).
Subs: Williams, Collins.

Hyde: Dootson, Gorman, Quigley, Adams, Taylor, Wharton, Gedman, Pickford, Johnson, Seddon (Caldecott 37), Clee.

Boro welcomed Hyde United to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Six minutes into the encounter battling play from Curtis presented Pritchard with a split second to pounce on a loose ball, but Craig Dootson bravely dived at his feet. Brian Quailey then crashed a shot against the crossbar before Boro suffered a double injury blow as Tom Curtis was replaced by Jay Denny and Darby was replaced by Gez Murphy. Hyde's negative tactics and Boro's lack of firepower ensured a goalless first session which brought some relief to the hardy fans who had bothered to turn up.

Good hold up play by Murphy just after the break allowed Oddy a rare foray upfield and his deep cross allowed Pritchard to battle for possession and Franklin pounced on a half clearance to crash a shot over the bar as Boro made an encouraging start to the second period. With 30 minutes left Franklin hit the post with a 25-yard angled drive, while

Quailey was just short of being able to poke home the rebound. A rampaging run from Murphy saw two defenders left for dead but his strike fizzed wide under pressure from Adams. Tom Shaw continued to channel balls forward and more determined play from Murphy allowed him a sniff of goal but Dootson smothered his off-balance toe-poke.

Cowan and Moore both headed into Dootson's hands as Boro forced a number of corners and free-kicks in promising positions before Ollie Burgess engineered some space 20 yards out, curling a promising left foot strike which forced Dootson into a scrambled save with five minutes left. The keeper's long punt upfield was misjudged by Cowan allowing Dale Johnson to probe inside the penalty area but his tame cross was comfortably caught by Acton. Deep into stoppage time Oddy crashed a 25-yard free-kick straight into the Hyde wall.

Workington v Nuneaton Borough 23-03-2007

Workington: Collin, Gray, Kendrick, May, Edmondson, Hewson, Anthony, Birks, Johnston, Townley, Wright. **Subs:** Henney, Goulding, Nicholson, Gordon, Summersgill.

Boro: Acton, D. Burgess (O. Burgess 46), Oddy, N. Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Shaw, Curtis, Pritchard (Williams 46), Quailey, Murphy (McPhee 65). **Subs:** Chapman, Collins.

Boro made the journey to Borough Park to play Workington in a Conference North game.

Boro soaked up early pressure with the main threat coming from the long throws of Craig Johnston and the height of Derek Townsley. But it was at the opposite end where the first effort on goal took place as Curtis' corner found Gavin Cowan, whose downward header lacked the power to trouble keeper Adam Collin. Johnstone was a constant source of concern, not only with throw-ins, but with his industry and twice in quick succession he tested Acton. However, on 23 minutes it was The Reds who took the lead in contentious fashion. Alan Gray's through ball caught Boro square and when Johnstone turned inside Daryl Burgess he tripped over the defender's outstretched foot, and to the surprise of the visitors the referee pointed to the spot and Johnstone's penalty bounced over the sprawling Acton.

Graham Anthony then released Dave Hewson and Acton had to be alert to scramble the ball clear while in a rare Boro break Gez Murphy fired well wide from distance. But it was The Reds who looked the more incisive with Anthony Wright heading over from the lively Johnstone's right-wing cross.

Wilkin made a double substitution for the second half with Ollie Burgess replacing Daryl Burgess and Danny Williams taking over from Bradley Pritchard and Boro enjoyed a good spell at the start of the half and when Ollie Burgess' deep cross found Tom Shaw his acrobatic volley laid out team-mate Danny Williams. However, on 53 minutes Boro were dealt a stunning blow. There seemed no danger when Kendrick gained possession wide out on the left but spotting Acton off his line, the left back hoisted a stunning 40-yarder over the poorly positioned keeper and into an empty net.

From then on Boro battled hard to get back into contention without troubling the home defence too much as Workington deservedly took the points to strengthen their place as play-off contenders.

Wilkin Gets Permanent Role

Nuneaton Borough have appointed caretaker manager Kevin Wilkin on a permanent basis. Wilkin, who took charge of Boro following the resignation of Roger Ashby back in mid-December, was handed the post last night. Wilkin, who has named Ron Bradbury as his number two, has been in charge of 12 games in which he's steered Boro out of the bottom six and on target for a mid-table spot.

Nuneaton Borough v Alfreton Town 27-03-2007

Boro: Acton, Collins (Denny 90), Moore, Cowans, Chapman (O. Burgess 66), Oddy, Shaw, Curtis, Franklin, Quailey, McPhee (Murphy 72). Subs: Williams, D. Burgess.

Alfreton: Roberts, Clarke, Brown, Hannigan, Laight, Nwadike, Tiday, Burbeary, Scoffham, Reeves (Glass 68), Whitman. Subs: Ebdon, Harcourt, Flanagan, Large.

Boro welcomed Alfreton Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North fixture.

Brian Quailey's first half strike was enough to net Boro their second home league win in three outings and celebrate Kevin Wilkin's appointment as permanent first team manager.

Neither side created much in the way of clear cut openings in a tentative and uninspired first quarter although the visitors did pose the most serious questions with Ashley Burbeary heading wide at the far post and Emeka Nwadike doing likewise soon after. But Boro slowly came to the boil and on the half hour made the breakthrough. Connor Franklin escaped down the left and his bouncing centre caused hesitancy in the Town defence allowing Quailey to stretch forward and with a mixture of arm and head divert the ball over the stranded Dale Roberts from eight yards.

The goal boosted Quailey's confidence as he twice tried his luck from distance but neither troubled keeper Roberts. With Tom Curtis foraging away tenaciously in midfield, Boro had the most influential player on the pitch but certainly the dearth of opportunities created continues to be a major headache for Wilkin.

After the interval, Alfreton hardly troubled a resolute home defence with their best move ending with Steve Scoffham's angled shot looping onto the roof of the rigging. But Quailey had a great chance to double Boro's advantage just prior to the hour as Matty Collin's flick forward spiralled perfectly into his path only for the frontman's 12-yard volley to fly dismally off the side of his boot and into the hoardings.

A Collins cross then just evaded substitute Gez Murphy before Ollie Burgess came off the bench and it was his free-kick that deflected to Murphy eight yards out but his shot on the turn grazed the bar and flew into the Cock & Bear terraces.



Tom Shaw tries a shot.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Rob Oddy was cautioned, as was Darren Acton, after a melee involving Tristram Whitman and Emeka Nwadike, both of whom were also booked as tempers became frayed in the closing minutes.

But Boro kept their composure and defended well to see out the game and complete the double over Alfreton.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 31-03-2007

Boro: Acton, Moore, D. Burgess, Cowan, Oddy, Collins (Denny 77), Shaw, O. Burgess, Franklin, Quailey (Pritchard 77), Darby (Murphy 77). Subs: Williams, Pritchard.

Worcester: McDonnell, Ward, Burley, Smith, Thompson, Lyttle (Wood 77), Warmer, Colley, Danks, Wilding, Findlay (Webster 63). Subs: Priest, Hodnett, Morrison.

Boro welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

City created the first of precious few chances on three minutes when Craig Wilding latched on to a long free-kick but with just keeper Acton to beat, he snatched his close-range shot outside of the far post. At the opposite end Rob Oddy's optimistic 25-yarder flew harmlessly into the Beaumont Place terraces before Duane Darby's step-over left Quailey in the clear only for the striker to rifle over the top from 15 yards.

However, Quailey made amends soon after as he fastened smartly on to Matty Collins's deft through pass and as Danny McDonnell advanced the Nuneaton frontman coolly slotted under the keeper's body into the empty net. Oddy again popped up unmarked on the edge of the visiting area but this time his snap shot flew a yard wide of McDonnell's left-hand post while City's Shaun Findley saw his 15-yarder fly past the far upright with Acton scrambling uneasily across his line.

The second half was a dull affair with neither strike force posing much of a contest for the respective defences. A plethora of misplaced passes aided by woeful control by players of both teams contrived to present possibly the worst period of play seen at the ground this season. At least the penalty provided some entertainment, mostly for the visiting faithful, and once Danks dispatched the spot kick to level matters suddenly there was goal-mouth action.

Adam Webster brought out a splendid diving deflection from Acton as City strived for the win although Boro substitute Bradley Pritchard had the chance to be the hero but from Acton's long clearance beyond the Worcester back-line he sliced dismally wide with only McDonnell to beat. Referee Hobday then turned aside Boro penalty claims when Justin Thompson seemed to handle the ball to safety in the dying throes of the game

Fans To Get Liberty Way Update

Work on Nuneaton Borough's new Liberty Way Stadium is making steady progress but fans will have the chance of an update when major shareholder Ted Stocker will be speaking in public. It is planned for Thursday, April 12, in Stripes Bar at Manor Park. No doubt there will be a chance for supporters to be updated on the work and have the chance to ask any questions as Boro are set to leave their home at the end of this season after they have played their final game on April 28.



The standing terrace takes shape in front of the Nuns clubhouse.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough

07-04-2007

Scarborough: Wilberforce, Lyth (Amos 72), Hotte, Cartwright, Beadle, Ingram, Blott, Vermiglio, Hackworth, Thompson, Cook (Thornton 50). S. Dalton, Davis.

Boro: Acton, Moore, D. Burgess, Cowan, Oddy, Curtis, Collins (Denny 35), O. Burgess (Pritchard 79), Franklin, Darby (Murphy 7), Quailey.
Subs: Chapman, Brown.

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

It was the Tykes who forced the early pace and when Gavin Cowan erred, Tony Hackworth's low shot was expertly parried by Acton, who then stretched backwards to push clear Ashley

Lyth's hanging cross and produced another terrific reaction stop from Denny Ingram's point-blank follow-up. Jamie Vermiglio blasted high over from six yards and Hackworth twice rifled straight at the well positioned Acton before Boro had obvious penalty claims turned when Mark Hotte blatantly punched away Tom Curtis' free-kick.

However, justice was served four minutes later as Boro raced ahead with their first effort on target. Curtis's corner drifted to Cowan who rose unchallenged to steer a powerful downward header home from eight yards. Acton kept the advantage intact by spreading himself to turn aside Ryan Blott's fierce drive before Brian Quailey set up substitute Jay Denny but his 15-yarder was splendidly tipped around a post by the flying Wilberforce while seconds later Connor Franklin's speculative 25-yarder grazed a post.

Franklin began the second period with another blistering cross shot that was superbly palmed away by Wilberforce, who was then beaten by Quailey's flick only for Jimmy Beadle to hook clear over his own bar. A mistake by Franklin gifted Lyth easy possession but he snatched his shot off target while Craig Thompson fired into the net after Acton's fine reaction save to deny Hackworth but an offside decision rescued Boro.

Just to prove it was Nuneaton's day they doubled their lead within a minute, Curtis and Gez Murphy working an opening for the former to scoot clear and coolly fire past Wilberforce. The Seadogs rallied, Lyth's 25-yarder rattled the bar with Acton beaten although the custodian then foiled Hackworth twice while Dominic Amos headed wide from eight yards.

But on 89 minutes Boro sewed up the win. Bradley Pritchard latched on to a poor Wilberforce clearance, fed Murphy, who in turn found Quailey at the near post. He pivoted and smacked a close range shot against the bar for Denny to head in from the rebound. In the dying throes, Blott exploded a stunning 20-yarder to cut the arrears but by then the points were on their way back down the M1 to Manor Park.

Boro Plan Special Farewell To Manor Park

All good things must come to an end but Nuneaton Borough's departure from Manor Park will be going with a bang, not a whimper. The Conference North club is determined to bid farewell to the old ground in style on what will be an emotional day. Boro play their last competitive match at Manor Park on April 28 – 88 years after the first match was played there. It will be against Vauxhall Motors in the last game of the season, themed The Final Whistle.

A host of events have been organised to give the ground the send off. Commemorative T-shirts and mugs based around the theme will be available from the club shop in the next few days. Bunting and flags will decorate the ground, and supporters are being asked to wear as much blue and white as possible on the day. Josie Moore, from the Boro, said: "We know it's been a miserable season but we want to finish this one as we want to start the next – on a high."



Nuneaton Borough v Hucknall Town 09-04-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Pritchard, Denny, Quailey, O. Burgess (Blenkinsopp 60), D. Burgess (Williams 70). **Subs:** McPhee, Brown, Chapman.

Hucknall: Smith, Powell, Cooke, Wilson, Reeves, L. Wilson, Hollis (Hearn 57), Dempsey, Ricketts, Johnson, Fox. **Subs:** Akers, Beatie, Burns, Gallimore.

Boro welcomed Hucknall Town to Manor Park to play a Conference North game.

The mood was depressingly familiar when old boy Martin Reeves inevitably found the net with just five minutes gone. Released by Roger Ashby, he shrugged off the attentions of Daryl Burgess to neatly lob the advancing Darren Acton with a deft strike. Reeves then spurned a glorious opportunity to extend Hucknall's lead when ex-Nottingham Forest centre-forward David Johnson engineered space on the left and found Reeves, who had plenty of time to pick his spot, but Acton won the individual battle, diving to his left in stunning fashion to prevent a goal.

The home side's first foray upfield was on 13 minutes when Ollie Burgess glanced a header across goal which had Greg Smith scrambling to retrieve from a fine Brian Quailey cross. After failing to recreate his form at Kettering, Burgess' flashes of brilliance have been overwhelmed by a series of forgettable performances, but it was his instinctive flick which allowed Quailey to speed along the left and force a corner. At the second attempt Tom Curtis produced a sublime cross to the far post where Gavin Cowan arrived head and shoulders above the defence to bullet into the net.

Hucknall appeared to lose their shape and attacking impetus as rangy striker Gary Ricketts, who tormented Boro in the first meeting between the two sides dropped deep in search of possession. Midfield maestro Curtis linked cleverly with the ever-improving Connor Franklin and the youngster got a cross in to Quailey, whose hooked volley forced Smith to tip acrobatically over the bar before Cowan headed over from the corner. Curtis fired a promising 30 yard strike inches wide before the half ended with a booking for Laurie Wilson for an agricultural challenge on Franklin.

Seven minutes after the break Ollie Burgess toe-poked Acton's long clearance against the post before Reeves was presented with another glorious chance to score when a scrambled clearance fell at the midfielder's feet six yards from goal but fortunately Curtis got back to clear. David Blenkinsopp replaced Ollie Burgess with 30 minutes to go before Ricketts closed Acton down and got in a shot, but it was straight into the keeper's arms. Franklin blocked a shot by Liam Hearn just before Boro notched the winning goal with eleven minutes to go. Good work between Curtis and Jay Denny afforded Williams a split second to calmly side foot home from just inside the penalty area. Boro could have notched a third goal, near the end when Moore's header flew over the bar from Curtis' corner.

Manor Park Hosts American Football

Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park home will host its first-ever American football match. And they couldn't have chosen a better game because the clash is a European Cup fixture involving Coventry Jets. The grid iron team – ranked second in the UK – were due to play their crucial first round match against Madrid Bears at the Ricoh Arena, but for a last minute change of mind by the stadium managers.

Leigh RMI v Nuneaton Borough 14-04-2007

Leigh RMI: Lamb, Filpep (Ellison 46), Roberts, Porter, Maddox, Brockley, Settle (Lugsden 16), McAuley, Rapley, Owen (Simm 81), Heald. **Subs:** Jackson, Ellison.

Boro: Acton, D. Burgess (Blenkinsopp 70), Moore, Cowan, Oddy, Curtis, Pritchard (O. Burgess 63), Denny, Franklin, Quailey (Brown 83), Williams. **Subs:** Collins, Chapman.

Boro made the journey to Hilton Park to play Leigh RMI in a Conference North game.

Though Boro dominated the encounter for long periods, they again showed a distinct lack of creativity and when the odd chance did arrive they were unable to finish. Leigh defended superbly as they scrapped for the points that would take them out of the relegation places but were helped in that cause by a Boro side lacking ambition and, all the more worrying, ability. The visitors went into the clash knowing nothing more than a win would keep their top five play-off aspirations alive, but this performance emphasised they would be vastly out of their depth should Conference football have arrived in August.

Yet again only a handful of players were worthy of mention on a positive front with youngster Connor Franklin again impressing while grafting Tom Curtis was the pick of midfield. At the back keeper Darren Acton was hardly called upon to make a save until the last few minutes when Boro threw caution to the wind. And Leigh, who were completing a Nationwide North double over their lacklustre opponents, twice broke only to be thwarted by Acton's agility.

Unbeaten in their previous four outings, Boro dictated possession but failed to get a solitary effort from open play on target as they lacked ideas in the final third. Half chances were also few and far between with arguably their best opportunity of the first period for Nuneaton coming on five minutes when skipper Neil Moore volleyed wide from eight yards. Boro's Gavin Cowan failed to hit the target with two headers when well placed before Leigh made the breakthrough against the run of play and in debatable fashion.

Neil Moore's misplaced header fell into the area where experienced Darryl Burgess easily eased diminutive Steve Porter aside, but referee Dean Mohareb spotted an infringement that few others did, and pointed to the spot from where Rapley drilled fiercely past the helpless Acton.

Little changed after the interval with Boro doing most of the pressing without forcing keeper Lamb into any save of note,



although he had to be alert to clutch a Curtis free-kick. In the latter stages Boro pushed more bodies forward in a bid to find a chink in the Leigh armour but they were left exposed at the back and were fortunate not to fall further adrift. Hugh McAuley rounded Acton 35 yards out and his weak shot to an empty net was turned away by the backtracking Moore, while in time added on the keeper spread himself superbly and force Chris Simm, who netted the winner for RMI at Manor Park back in August, to fire into his body with the ball flying over the bar.

Boro Battle ‘Fabrication’

The leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Dennis Harvey, has described an impending High Court case with Nuneaton Borough FC as a ‘completely fabricated battle’ on behalf of major shareholder Ted Stoker. Mr Stoker announced at a public meeting last night that the football club would be taking the borough council to the High Court this Friday in a bid to resolve the covenant issue that is hanging over the switch from Manor Park to Liberty Way.

He claimed that the council had refused to speak with him for three months. He also claimed that council leader Dennis Harvey was making decisions regarding the covenant, along with chief executive Christine Kerr and lawyer Phillip Richardson, without consulting other councillors.

In response, Cllr Harvey said the claims were ‘complete rubbish’, adding that it was his understanding that any covenant negotiations would only be carried out between the council and new ground owners J S Bloor. Cllr Harvey said: “When Ted Stoker first got involved with the club an exploratory meeting was held with three cabinet members and Ted Stoker. He was asked to go away and come back with a business plan. No plan has ever come back.”...

Sharing Facilities Remains A Sticking Point

The sticking point which lies between Nuneaton Borough FC and Nuneaton RFC regarding use of facilities was discussed in depth during last night’s meeting. Chairman of the meeting, Ted Stoker expressed his disappointment regarding the breakdown in communication between the clubs as progress struggles to be made. Stoker said: “The problem we have is we are a 21st century football club dealing with a 19th century rugby club. In my opinion I think it is absolutely silly to duplicate all the facilities, it is much better to have a commercial agreement by which if we have conferencing facilities we share them.”...

New Ground Will Help Attract Players – Wilkin

Optimistic Nuneaton Borough manager Kevin Wilkin is hoping that facilities at Liberty Way will help him attract fresh talent to the club. During Monday night’s public meeting plans were announced that a third-generation pitch, two five-a-side courts and a separate reserve team pitch were to be included in the completed Liberty Way Stadium model...

Ball Back In Boro’s Court

The ball is in Nuneaton Borough FC’s court as to whether it decides to launch a high court battle against the borough council. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has responded to a legal letter send by Stadia Safe Ltd, prior to its threat to seek permission to launch a judicial review over the Manor Park covenant issue.

The deadline for a response to the letter is today and the borough council has made a response. Phillip Richardson, head of legal services at the Borough council, has said that while the council would like to avoid court action, they have responded, suggesting that because no decision has been made about the covenant, the council believes there are no grounds to take the case to the High Court.

“We are, irrespoective of the merits of the legal argument, saying that they (Stadia Safe Ltd) are trying to launch a judicial review against a decision we haven’t made, we have not had time to consider a request made by a third party and therefore have not made any decision,” he said...

Franklin First To Sign

Teenager Connor Franklin is the first player to signs a contract, which will keep him at Nuneaton Borough next season. Prior to travelling to Barrow, he is expected to sign a 12 month deal.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough

21-04-2007

Barrow: Speare, Bond, Cutler, Stringfellow, Bayliss, Doughty, Potts, Sheridan (Ridley 63), Taylor, Rogan, Flitcroft. **Subs:** Zico-Black, Eckersley, Bauress, Timms.

Boro: Acton, D. Burgess, Moore, Brown, Oddy, Curtis, Denny, Collins, Franklin, Blenkinsopp (Pritchard 82), Murphy (Williams 86). **Subs:** O. Burgess, Wilkin, McPhee.

Boro made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a Conference North game.

Boro had the first chance but Tom Curtis’ 20-yard free-kick was blocked by the defensive wall and though it was the hosts who enjoyed most possession early on it was the visitors who looked the more dangerous. And that was emphasised midway through the half as Curtis’ deep free-kick found Brown whose looping header beat keeper Jamie Speare only to clatter the underside of the bar and rebound back into play. Soon after Neil Moore headed over from another Curtis set piece before Blenkinsopp’s mishit shot was deflected inches wide by home defender Dave Bayliss.

But three minutes from the break Boro should have broken the deadlock. Gez Murphy fed fellow front-man David Blenkinsopp down the inside left channel but the youngster’s rising 12-yard shot flew past Speare and rattled the inside of the keeper’s left-hand upright and across the face of the net to safety.

After the interval, Barrow enjoyed a short spell of pressure but it was Boro offering more urgency and tenacity which was epitomised by Brown as he threw himself among a flurry of feet to get in a brave diving header that was hooked off



the line by Colin Potts. Nick Rogan squandered a close range chance for The Bluebirds when slicing Andy Bond's low near post centre while the same player headed over when well placed. But Boro kept persevering with Murphy's downward header being grasped by Speare at the base of a post before the tireless Curtis volleyed straight into the keeper's arms.

Rogan then stretched to toe-poke just wide from a Potts cut-back as Boro survived a let-off and it proved crucial as on 89 minutes then snatched the glory. Acton's twice-taken free-kick from inside his own half spiralled deep into the Barrow box and yet again Brown heroically launched himself into a sea of bodies to plant a firm 10-yard header past Speare, off the inside of the post, and into the net.

Farewell To An Old Friend

Saturday, April 28 has been lingering silently in the minds of Nuneaton Borough fans – the date when the club will finally say goodbye to Manor park. The ground move to Liberty Way has been a long and at times despondent process, but whatever pitfalls lie in wait one thing remains certain, tomorrow will be the final league match at the ground. Vauxhall Motors is hardly the most fitting fixture, and with nothing at stake other than end of season pride and a boost for the summer, the script writers have hardly written a classic.

All the memories, contrasting between the highs of cup runs and promotions, and the depths of despair with relegation and financial ruin, the final season at Manor Park has been perhaps the most disappointing. But nevertheless, emotions will be stirred even in the hardest of souls.

Founded as Nuneaton St Nicholas, then becoming Nuneaton Town and finally Nuneaton Borough in 1937, the club has provided a wealth of memories for the town to savour – and many more will be created across the town at Liberty Way in years to come. The most recent special memory saw Boro hold Premiership giants Middlesbrough to a 1-1 draw in the FA Cup Third Round, the pandemonium in the stands and an outpouring of emotion onto the pitch when Gez Murphy side-footed home from 12 yards.

Terry Angus' piledriver against Altrincham, the late George Best's cameo appearance in the blue and white stripes, the visit of boxing legend Muhammad Ali to spectate at a Midland Floodlit Cup final, or even being one of the 22,114 who were shoe horned into the ground for the visit of Rotherham United. Whatever the era, whatever the memory, everybody who lines the terraces or takes a seat in the stands for one final league game will have their minds on former glories, a player, a person, a game, a goal.

Unfortunately for purists of the sport money has become an increasingly prominent issue, and with land at a premium for redevelopment, sites such as Manor Park are potential goldmines and Boro are not alone in this pursuit.

Residents of Stockingford, who have formed the bulk of Boro's support through the years is losing the jewel in its

crown, and some may decide against trekking to the other side of town. A brand new purpose built stadium was the dream, which became a battered and ultimately fruitless vision with each veto or failed plan. But, tomorrow will not be about the future, tomorrow is a day for savouring one last league game at Manor Park, turning to the man who has shouted behind you for years and shaking his hand. Singing all of the songs, thanking those who deserve praise, and of course, cheering Boro to victory.

For many of those who are in attendance, it will be the second time they've bid farewell to the ground – but even the most positive of thinkers must surely have known two years ago the club wasn't destined to leave that summer. The clock is now ticking, only 90 minutes remain before the gates are locked on competitive football at Manor Park – let's hope the old place is sent off in style.

Nuneaton Borough v Vauxhall Motors 28-04-2007

Boro: Acton, Moore, D Burgess (Pritchard 59), Brown, Oddy, Curtis, Collins, Denny (Williams 59), Franklin, Quailey (Blenkinsopp 70), Murphy.
Vauxhall Motors: Lake, Moogan, Woodyatt, McMahon, McNulty, Griffiths, Nesbitt, Garrity, Wright, O'Hare (Whittaker 46), Field.

Boro welcomed Vauxhall Motors to Manor Park to play the final game at the stadium, a Conference North fixture.

Both sides gave their all but poignantly it was the bone-hard Manor Park playing surface that was the winner. Boro yet again showed a lack of creation or finish as they huffed and puffed without delivering answers to questions asked by a gritty visiting side. Defensively Boro were solid and dependable but in midfield no one pulled the strings to offer the lacklustre dual spearhead of Gez Murphy or Brian Quailey much in the way of quality service. Murphy managed to claim the season's top marksman honours and pip injured Duane Darby by netting from the spot soon after kick-off.

Earlier in the day, The Motormen endured a coach breakdown on the M6 toll road, delaying the kick-off for almost an hour and within a few minutes of the town's big day being blighted as anxious referee Mark Jones continually checked his watch. But Vauxhall belatedly drove into Manor Park and not surprisingly choked early on with Boro fast out of the blocks to take the lead inside four minutes.

Youngster Connor Franklin jostled and cajoled his way past two defenders before being manhandled to the turf by Alan Griffiths, and from only Boro's second penalty this term, Murphy converted as he did with the previous one last August at Worcester. Boro almost doubled their advantage as Derek Brown's fierce header powered into keeper Sean Lake's midriff, but a sluggish Quailey was unable to convert the loose ball. Quailey's cross-shot then flew past Lake and also the far post while at the opposite end a superb last-ditch Daryl Burgess challenge denied Brian Garrity. But Vauxhall gathered their composure and on 29 minutes restored parity. Field worked space on the right of the area and his angled



drive took a wicked deflection off Franklin to find the far corner of the net past a wrong-footed Darren Acton.

After the break, there was little to suggest a breakthrough at either end despite the magnificent vocal encouragement from the 2,000-plus gathering. Nuneaton's best opportunity came when substitute Danny Williams drifted past a glut of opponents, only to square the ball across the six-yard box with no one on hand to add the finishing touch.

Vauxhall could have sealed a win and completely spoiled home celebrations as Carl Nesbitt crossed from the right, only for ex-Boro winger Stuart Whittaker to blast into the Beaumont Place gardens from eight yards. The small issue of a streaker in the closing stages brought some light relief but the crowd had bigger and better things to celebrate as the final whistle blew and the crescendo of applause and noise rang around Manor Park for the last time. A thousand balloons were released and the Last Post was trumpeted from the back of the main stand. Nuneaton's 88-year association with their beloved town ground was over but certainly not forgotten.

Terry Angus & Michael Love Testimonial

Nuneaton Borough stalwarts Terry Angus and Michael Love were honoured in a wet but action-packed joint testimonial at Manor Park. Veteran centre-back Angus rounded off his exceptional Boro playing career with a neatly taken penalty to help the home side to a 4-4 draw with a Coventry City XI as the Conference North side came from behind four times to finish all square in front of 568 supporters.

And left-back Love, keen to save his legs for Hinckley United's play-off match against Farsley Celtic, started the opening ten minutes and then went back on for the last five of the game played in pouring rain. Andrew Gooding opened the scoring for the Sky Blues before Kevin Wilkin pulled Boro level and then Lee Hildreth restored City's advantage before the break.

But a Callum Burgess own goal put the home side back on terms two minutes into the re-start before new 18-year-old Coventry recruit Donovan Simmons grabbed the first of two goals – Angus slotting home from the spot after a Hildreth hand ball in between the brace – before Ian Blyth grabbed a late equaliser with a near-post scramble over the line.

Angus, who scored 18 goals in 288 games for the club, said: "I'd like to thank everyone very much. I have been at Boro a few years and some people have helped me along the way. I would like to thank Tim (Flowers) for bringing a side along and everyone involved with Nuneaton Borough Football Club. I have been through some successful and some down times, but there have been more positive times than sad.

Love, who notched five goals in 267 games for the club, added: "I have had a fantastic time during my time at Boro where I have met and played with some great lads. I thank everyone for their support, particularly given the bad weather."

Three More Commit To Boro

Nuneaton Borough boss Kevin Wilkin's retained list is beginning to take shape after three more players signed on for next season. Following left-winger Connor Franklin's decision to stay a fortnight ago, Darren Acton, Rob Oddy and Mark Noon have all followed suit.

Duane Darby Released

Duane Darby has been released by Nuneaton Borough, bringing to an end his disappointing spell at the club. The 33-year-old forward signed in February 2005 as former boss Roger Ashby attempted to bolster his squad for a promotion push. Injuries dogged his early months and his popularity plunged to zero following his play-off dismissal against Droylsden for sarcastically applauding a questionable refereeing decision.

McPhee Released

Gary McPhee will rub shoulders with football's finest on Saturday when he is a special guest at the FA Cup final. But after watching Manchester United and Chelsea, the Nuneaton Borough striker must start looking for a new club. McPhee has been released by Boro boss Kevin Wilkin after a disappointing season that yielded seven goals from 19 appearances.

Football Conference North 2006-2007

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Droylsden	42	23	9	10	85	55	78
Kettering Town	42	20	13	9	75	58	73
Workington	42	20	10	12	61	46	70
Hinckley United	42	19	12	11	68	54	69
Farsley Celtic	42	19	11	12	58	51	68
Harrogate Town	42	18	13	11	58	41	67
Blyth Spartans	42	19	9	14	57	49	66
Hyde United	42	18	11	13	79	62	65
Worcester City	42	16	14	12	67	54	62
Nuneaton Borough	42	15	15	12	54	45	60
Moor Green	42	16	11	15	53	51	59
Gainsborough Trinity	42	15	11	16	51	57	56
Hucknall Town	42	15	9	18	69	69	54
Alfreton Town	42	14	12	16	44	50	54
Vauxhall Motors	42	12	15	15	62	64	51
Barrow	42	12	14	16	47	48	50
Leigh RMI	42	13	10	19	47	61	49
Stalybridge Celtic	42	13	10	19	64	81	49
Redditch United	42	11	15	16	61	68	48
Scarborough	42	13	16	13	50	45	45
Worksop Town	42	12	9	21	44	62	45
Lancaster City	42	2	5	35	27	110	1

Oadby Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Topps Park to face Oadby Town in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Oadby: Pearson, Hodgkinson (Cooper 64), Edwards, Mintus, Latham, Fenton, Almond (Brown 64), Miveld, Miller, Fisher, Poultney (Neckles 70). Subs: McCathie, Tilley.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman, Collins (Reeves 77), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff (Blenkinsopp 77), McPhee, Darby (Wilkin 77). Subs: D. Burgess, Murphy.

Boro romped to one of their biggest ever FA Cup wins with a second-half goal bonanza.

In front early on through Duane Darby's strike, Boro failed to add to their tally before the interval – but the second period brought a goal avalanche.

Gary McPhee was the main beneficiary as he netted an 18-minute hat-trick while the central defenders Neil Moore and the outstanding Derek Brown – completed the resounding success.

Oadby battled hard and never let their heads drop but the gulf between the sides was always apparent as the Poachers were well beaten by a Boro side aiming to repeat the fame and fortune of last season's lucrative run.

One negative from the victory was goalkeeper Darren Acton missing a penalty 10 minutes from time in

an incident that many felt showed scant respect for their opponents and one that angered Ashby plus many Nuneaton fans in the crowd.

Boro started brightly forcing keeper Laurie Pearson into two fine saves inside the opening 20 seconds. Mark Noon burst through to unleash a fierce 20-yarder that was parried away by Pearson, who then superbly turned over Darby's goal-bound follow-up.

But further pressure brought its reward on 12 minutes with Darby's third goal of the season. David Staff flighted in a deep left-wing corner for Brown to climb high and head back across the net where Darby pivoted sweetly to flick past Pearson from close in.

Oadby were continually penned in their own half although Andy Almond dragged a timid effort wide from 18 yards. At the opposite end Staff's long range drive grazed a post but Boro's early impetus deserted them as the interval approached with Oadby growing in confidence.

It was the 40th minute before Boro posed another serious threat with Noon again racing into the area only to be denied by Danny Poultney.

But after the interval it was all systems go for Boro as they steam-rolled their Midland Alliance rivals in an explosive goal surge.

Inside the opening 90 seconds, Darby's miscued shot was finger-tipped away by Pearson, who again did well to turn over Brown's powerful header from Chapman's flag kick.

However, Oadby were breached for a second time on 48 minutes when another exquisite Brown header set up McPhee and his 12-yard deflected drive found the net despite Pearson's heroic attempt to save.



Darren Acton blasts a penalty kick high over the bar. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Just before the hour McPhee turned creator with a looping centre to Moore and his square knock-back found Brown, whose diving eight-yard header stretched the visitors' advantage.

Town had hardly recovered when they conceded a fourth, Pearson spilling Gary Fitzpatrick's 20-yarder and McPhee rifling in the loose ball.

Oadby were on the rack and McPhee completed his treble on 66 minutes, finding the bottom corner of the net



Derek Brown powers in to head Boro's third goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

from Staff's low pull back and on 70 minutes the mauling was complete.

Staff's left-wing corner was met by Moore whose stooping header made it 18 Boro goals from the Liverpoolian.

Oadby captain Tyrone Mintus then brought down substitute Kevin Wilkin and keeper Acton, surprisingly, raced forward to take the spot-kick and blast it high and wide.

Substitute David Blenkinsopp had two good chances to add to the Poachers' misery but clubbed his first opportunity high and wide and then shot against Pearson's legs after the keeper had clawed away Noon's rasping 25-yarder.

Hucknall Town – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Hucknall Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Brown, Chapman (Blenkinsopp 84), Collins (O. Burgess 67), Noon, Fitzpatrick, Staff (Murphy 67), McPhee, Darby. Subs: Wilkin, Reeves.

Hucknall: Smith, Hanson, Legg, Cook, Handyside, Dempsey, Fox, Wilson, Ricketts, C. Moore (Sims 89), Williams (Burns 90). Subs: Briscoe, Beattie, Olanipekan.



Duane Darby in an aerial battle with two Hucknall defenders.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro's FA Cup dream is over before it had hardly got going.

There will be no repeat of their historic exploits of last season as Roger Ashby's men fell foul of fellow Nationwide North rivals Hucknall, for whom the lanky Gary Ricketts was the match winner in a game that Boro dominated but somehow failed to draw, let alone win.

Ricketts has been a thorn in Nuneaton's side over recent seasons and although Neil Moore and the outstanding Derek Brown curbed the threat of the 6ft 5in hot-shot and his attacking partner, Christian Moore, one glimmer of a chance and Boro's hopes were dashed.

Boro stormed forward from the start and on eight minutes came close to taking the lead when Duane Darby's header fell invitingly for the below-par David Staff, who failed to find the target with only keeper Gregg Smith to beat.

At the other end Darren Acton was down smartly to grasp Lawrie Wilson's curling 20-yard free-kick but that was rare slice of Town potency in a half dictated by Boro, and especially the centre midfield pair of Gary Fitzpatrick and Mark Noon.

Wilson squandered a great opportunity

for the visitors when he carelessly volleyed high into the Cock & Bear terraces, but Boro came equally close as Matty Collins hooked over as keeper Smith dashed from his line.

Early in the second period, Moore met Ben Chapman's right wing corner with a powerful downward header that was blocked on the line by Wilson with Noon hoisting the rebound off target.

Boro scented the breakthrough and it almost came as Brown unleashed a speculative 15-yard volley which was brilliantly parried away by Smith, a save that proved the turning point.



Gary McPhee attempts a shot on goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

With Boro pushing forward and Town beginning to creak in defence the unimaginable happened.

Russell Cook delivered a free-kick from halfway towards the home area where the luckless Fitzpatrick could only steer his attempted clearance to the loping Ricketts and he coolly headed over Acton and into the far corner.

Town almost doubled their advantage when Danny Williams' snapshot was fumbled by Acton, who recovered to grasp the ball on the line, but Boro squandered two great offerings late on. Substitute Ollie Burgess fluffed his shot with just Smith to beat and in the dying seconds Gez Murphy squeezed a close-range shot wide.



Bradford Park Avenue — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to the Horsfall Stadium to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Bradford: Skiba, Cooke, Grayston, Wilson, Clarke, Shaw, Longley (Greaves 46), Redfearn, Parke (Sherman 78), Ross, Senior (Connor 70). Subs: Chattoe, Halliwell.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, D. Burgess, Chapman, O. Burgess, Noon, Denny, Staff, Murphy, McPhee. Subs: Reeves, Wilkin, Franklin, Jackson.

Boro withstood a second-half onslaught to finally end their FA Trophy hoodoo, racing into a two goal lead through Neil Moore and Gez Murphy, only to take their foot off the pedal in the second half, where Boro survived 13 corners.

Derek Brown failed to shake off his back injury, allowing Daryl Burgess to make a rare start. But it was the form of Neil Redfearn, who inspired a lively start for the home side.

The 41-year-old former Barnsley midfielder pulled all the creative strings for his side, and could have opened the scoring after only 15 seconds when he pounced on Darren Acton's poor clearance, only to drive the ball back into the keeper's grateful arms.

Ryan Senior drilled over the bar before captain Gary Shaw headed narrowly wide from a Redfearn corner.

Murphy had the ball in the net after 13 minutes when he delicately chipped Piotr Skiba, but was offside.

David Staff cut inside from the left wing on 18 minutes to curl a 25-yard strike on goal, which was clawed away for a corner at full stretch by Skiba.

But from the resulting corner, Ollie Burgess whipped in a probing cross which Moore headed firmly home from close range after 18 minutes.

Seconds later Acton lofted a long ball forward which Murphy latched onto via Mark Noon's headed flick, controlling and firing straight at Skiba, who parried tamely into the roof of his own net.

Despite clearly being second best in the first half, Bradford managed to produce two more excellent opportunities, both from the inspirational Redfearn.

Firstly, Jamie Longley capitalised on Chapman's slip to cut back for the midfielder to drive inches wide, and soon after Acton had to be at his very best to tip over Redfearn's ominous looking goal-bound cross.

Gary McPhee should have made it 3-0 two minutes before half-time, but his header flew inches wide of goal following an excellent cross from Oddy.

The second half began with a nightmare moment for Murphy, after he was harshly penalised for handling an innocuous ball inside his own penalty area, Neil Ross despatched the resulting spot kick past the despairing dive of Acton to halve the deficit.

Still feeling aggrieved over the penalty decision, Murphy attempted to atone for his error by curling a speculative effort from long range which failed to trouble Skiba.

Jay Denny and McPhee combined in a swift one-two, only for a sliding Chris Clarke challenge to prevent the latter from capitalising inside the area.

Acton again proved his credentials by back-tracking desperately to tip over Ryan Senior's ambitious lob shot, and from the resulting corner, Boro's number one made a sensational instinctive one handed save to push Ross's close range header over the bar.

Despite the penalty incident, Murphy was called upon three times to head to safety as Bradford heaped on the pressure in search of an equaliser.

On a rare foray upfield, Murphy's surging run and pass found Noon who cleverly played in McPhee, but his daisy cutter was a disappointing end to a promising attack.

Redfearn fired over for the home side while Ollie Burgess spurned two opportunities to secure Boro victory, the first a wild shot over the bar and a

second strike hitting the post with only the keeper to beat.

A poor punch from Acton allowed substitute Lee Connor to strike from the edge of his penalty area, only for a well positioned Oddy to clear off the line.

And Boro were once again grateful for the positional awareness of their right-back when Oddy headed Clarke's goal bound header over the bar for Bradford's 13th and final corner of the game.

Boro hung on to claim victory in a fine cup tie, which was fiercely competed and could have gone either way.

Redditch United — 1st Round Proper

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 1st Round Proper tie.

Boro: Acton, Moore, Wilkin, Chapman, Oddy, Fitzpatrick, Noon (Staff 37), Denny, Franklin, Murphy (Blenkinsopp 11), Darby. Subs: Brown, O Burgess, Collins.

Redditch: Anstiss, A. Walker (Petty 75), Whitcombe, Rea, Geohaghon, Taylor (Clarke 72), Downes, Francis (D. Walker 62), Rickards, Hollis, Palmer. Subs: Cotterill, Alsop.

Boro's horrific 11-year winless FA Trophy record ended in the previous round at Bradford Park Avenue but on Saturday in the first round proper they endured one of their heaviest ever home defeats in the competition.

They were run ragged by a more committed Redditch, who lie four places adrift of Boro in Nationwide North but looked a class apart, especially in the opening half.

For the fifth time in the last seven games at Manor Park, Boro failed to trouble the scorers while for the first time this season their defence let in more than a solitary home goal.

Few would argue United were gift-wrapped the success by some chronic defending in which keeper Darren Acton must again take his share of the blame.

The previous week Boro went to Alfreton and powered to a superb 3-0

win, ending the only unbeaten home record in Nationwide North but now the boot was on the other foot as Gary Whild's boys etched another dismal statistic on Boro's woeful Trophy record.

There was an early warning for Boro when Simon Hollis's 20-yarder was clutched by Acton although Gez Murphy came close at the opposite end with a 15-yarder that bounced inches wide.

Almost immediately Murphy pulled a hamstring and was replaced by David Blenkinsopp, who with his first touch saw his stretching 14th minute header from Connor Franklin's excellent cross clip the outside of a post.



David Blenkinsopp hits the woodwork.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

But within 60 seconds United were gifted the lead in most outrageous fashion.

Neil Moore attempted to head a Rickards centre away for a corner only for Acton to sprawl to his left and stop the ball going out only to spill it back into play for the grateful Hollis to slot into an empty net.

On 21 minutes Redditch doubled their advantage with Rickards gleefully netting on his return to Boro as he delivered a superb 20-yard curling free-kick beyond the poorly positioned Acton after he'd been harshly adjudged to have been fouled by Moore.



Connor Franklin misses a good chance.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Rickards, Palmer and Hollis all went close to adding to United's tally before their superiority was further rewarded on 40 minutes.

Boro, who lost the services of Mark Noon with a back injury, were caught in total disarray from a slick four-man build up and when Rickards fed Palmer, the latter's angled drive slithered past a slow reacting Acton and found the target just inside the far post.

Boro came out for the second half with a mountain to climb but showed some fight, Gary McPhee powering an 18-yarder inches over while on the hour

teenager Franklin latched on to Richard Anstiss's parry from Fitzpatrick's cross shot only to stab the ball back into the grateful arms of the grounded keeper.

Blenkinsopp was then put clear by Jay Denny but Anstiss was smartly off his line to block the youngster's effort.

Franklin fired over Anstiss and also the bar before at the opposite end Kevin Wilkin's sliced clearance hit his own bar and bounced to safety and then Redditch's Hollis rounded Acton and scuffed his shot inches off target to save more embarrassment for the despondent hosts.



Boro fans protested after the latest humiliation

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 2



Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2006-07

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.15	Cambridge City	A	PSF	2-2	Murphy, Staff	202
07.16	Wellingborough Town	A	PSF	2-2	Blenkinsopp, Darby	370
07.20	Coventry City	H	PSF	3-2	Murphy (2, 1 pen), Moore	1764
07.24	Shrewsbury Town	H	PSF	0-2		263
07.29	Rugby Town	A	PSF	6-0	Burgess (2), Murphy, McPhee, Reeves, Blenkinsopp	250
08.01	Wycombe Wanderers	H	PSF	3-1	Moore, McPhee, Reeves	475
08.05	Tamworth	A	PSF	3-3	Murphy (2), Darby	401
08.12	Workington	H	L	0-0		1073
08.14	Worcester City	A	L	3-1	Murphy (2, 1 pen), Reeves	1189
08.19	Droylsden	A	L	2-4	Murphy, Rickards	470
08.22	Leigh RMI	H	L	0-1		843
08.26	Scarborough	H	L	1-1	Moore	837
08.29	Hucknall Town	A	L	1-2	McPhee	522
09.03	Gainsborough Trinity	A	L	1-1	Oddy	415
09.09	Lancaster City	H	L	1-0	Staff	881
09.12	Kettering Town	H	L	2-1	Darby, McPhee	1202
09.23	Farsley Celtic	H	L	1-1	Darby	893
09.30	Oadby Town	A	FAC 2Q	6-0	McPhee (3), Darby, Brown, Moore	714
10.06	Vauxhall Motors	A	L	3-1	McPhee, Collins, Darby	242
10.10	RC Warwick	H	BSC 2	5-1	Noon, Blenkinsopp, Burgess, Murphy, Moore	226
10.14	Hucknall Town	H	FAC 3Q	0-1		1090
10.17	Stalybridge Celtic	A	L	3-4	Darby (2), McPhee	308
10.21	Barrow	H	L	3-0	Murphy, Darby, Staff	771
10.28	Worksop Town	H	L	0-0		813
11.04	Moor Green	A	L	1-1	Murphy	504
11.11	Blyth Spartans	H	L	1-1	O. Burgess	892
11.18	Hyde United	A	L	2-3	Murphy, Staff	413
11.21	Coventry City	H	BSC 3	0-1aet		285
11.27	Bradford Park Avenue	A	FAT 3Q	2-1	Moore, Murphy	216
12.02	Harrogate Town	H	L	0-0		779
12.09	Alfreton Town	A	L	3-0	Murphy (2), Oddy	333
12.16	Redditch United	H	FAT 1	0-3		731
12.26	Hinckley United	A	L	2-2	O. Burgess, Nurse (o.g.)	2889
12.30	Kettering Town	A	L	2-3	Graham (o.g.), Oddy	1469
01.01	Hinckley United	H	L	0-1		1333
01.06	Lancaster City	A	L	4-0	Darby (2), Denny, Moore	273
01.20	Redditch United	H	L	1-0	Darby	823
01.27	Farsley Celtic	A	L	1-0	Noon	459
02.03	Blyth Spartans	A	L	2-1	Noon, Quailey	651
02.13	Stalybridge Celtic	H	L	3-2	Chapman, Denny, Curtis	728
02.17	Harrogate Town	A	L	1-1	Williams	714
02.27	Gainsborough Trinity	H	L	0-1		705
03.03	Worksop Town	A	L	0-0		452
03.06	Redditch United	A	L	0-2		478
03.10	Moor Green	H	L	0-1		671
03.17	Droylesden	H	L	1-0	Moore	652
03.20	Hyde United	H	L	0-0		511
03.23	Workington	A	L	0-2		804
03.27	Alfreton Town	H	L	1-0	Quailey	553
03.31	Worcester City	H	L	1-1	Quailey	775
04.07	Scarborough	A	L	3-1	Cowan, Curtis, Denny	1077
04.09	Hucknall Town	H	L	2-1	Cowan, Williams	682

Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2006-07

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.14	Leigh RMI	A	L	0-1		191
04.21	Barrow	A	L	1-0	Brown	735
04.28	Vauxhall Motors	H	L	1-1	Murphy (pen)	2077

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



Nuneaton Borough 2006-07

Back: (left to right): Martin Reeves, Gez Murphy, Derek Brown, Darren Acton, Dave Clarke, Scott Rickards, Duane Darby, Mark Noon.

Middle (left to right): Richie Norman (physio), Ian Weaving (youth team), Rob Oddy, Oliver Burgess, Matt Collins, Tom Breward, Gary McPhee, Gary Fitzpatrick, Brian Quailey, Alan Cooper (kit man), Graham Wilson (secretary).

Front (left to right): David Blenkinsopp, Kevin Wilkin (assistant manager), Neil Moore (captain), Roger Ashby (manager), David Staff, James Ellis (coach). Not on photograph: Daryl Burgess.



Nuneaton Borough 2006-07 (Last Game at Manor Park: April 28th 2007)

Back: (left to right): Neil Moore (captain), Alan Cooper (kitman), Ollie Burgess, Tom Curtis, Ben Chapman, James Ellis (coach), Kevin Wilkin (manager), Brian Quaily, Stephen Jackson, Darren Acton, Connor Franklin, Derek Brown, Rob Oddy, Mark Noon, Daryl Burgess, Richie Norman (physio).

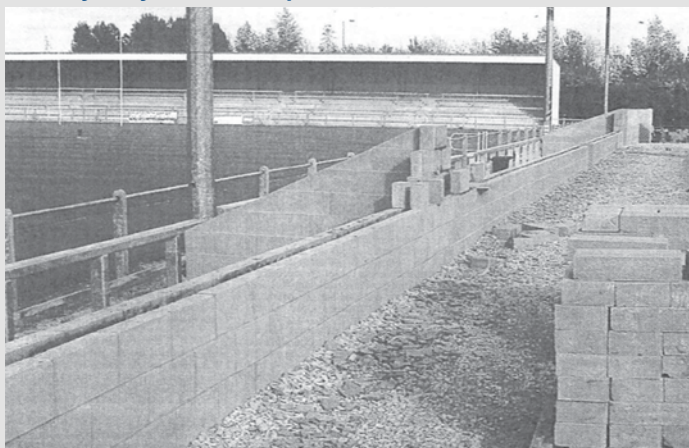
Front (left to right): Jay Denny, Danny Williams, Bradley Pritchard, Matty Collins, Gez Murphy, David Blenkinsopp, Gary McPhee, Ron Bradbury (assistant manager)..

Ricketts Joins Boro

Towering centre-forward Gary Ricketts has joined Nuneaton Borough from fellow Blue Square Northern club Hucknall Town. The 31-year-old striker has signed terms at Liberty Way after impressing manager Kevin Wilkin over a series of matches. Ricketts, who is 6ft 4in, was born in Nottingham and started his career at Heanor Town and Arnold before joining Boro's local rivals Hinckley United in 1999. Two years later he signed for Hucknall and helped them to win the Unibond Championship scoring 25 goals.

Full-back Ben Chapman, who was signed from Northwich Victoria last summer has been released. He joins a growing list of players who have not been retained by manager Kevin Wilkin including Duane Darby, Gary McPhee, David Staff and midfielder Jay Denny.

Liberty Way Takes Shape



Liberty Way stadium begins to take shape as work continues on the terraces in front of the rugby club. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Moore Offered Contract

Nuneaton Borough skipper Neil Moore has signed a contract to remain at the Liberty Way club following interest from local rivals Hinckley United. The 34-year-old centre-half was initially offered non-contract terms for the 2007-08 season, prompting plenty of interest from Knitters' boss Dean Thomas and other clubs in the Blue Square North.

Busses Planned For Liberty Way

Nuneaton Borough fans are to be bussed from Manor Park to Liberty Way to help ease the pain of leaving their spiritual home. The club's transport plan has long been a subject of debate among supporters, with many questioning how they would get to the club's new home. But officials have revealed the Boro Independent Supporters Club have taken over responsibility for arranging transport for those who need it.

Josie Moore, from the commercial department, said: "BISC are going to handle transport from the club to Liberty Way. They will be running three coaches to start with and see how it goes."

Burgess On His Way Out

Nuneaton Borough midfielder Ollie Burgess has been released after just one season with the club. Manager Kevin Wilkin has decided that the former Queens Park Rangers and Northampton Town player is surplus to requirements. "Ollie admitted himself that he has not had as good a season as he would have expected," said Wilkin. Meanwhile youngsters David Blenkinsopp and Danny Williams have been offered non-contract terms.

Palmer Brings Bite

Kevin Wilkin believes his second summer signing – Carl Palmer – will bring much needed bite to Nuneaton Borough's midfield next season. The 28-year-old hard man has arrived from fellow Blue Square North outfit Redditch United, joining Gary Ricketts as Boro's only squad additions to date.

Boro Expand Into Community

Nuneaton Borough's positive work in the local community continued following the completion of a merger with Whitstone Sports Juniors. In conjunction with their summer move to Liberty Way, Boro can now boast the largest junior football club in the town – with all Whitstone's teams now operating under the Blue Square North division club's name. There will be over 260 players added to the club, from five-year-olds through to new ladies and youth teams...

Derek Brown Moves On

Derek Brown has decided to leave Nuneaton Borough due to work commitments. The 33-year-old centre-half has recently seen an upturn in his off-field career and has informed manager Kevin Wilkin he can no longer commit himself to make the commute from Milton Keynes. "It's a shame because Derek was a player who I wanted to keep," said Wilkin.

Cowan Signs – Murphy Leaves

Nuneaton Borough have beaten off a host of chasers to land the signing of sought-after centre-half Gavin Cowan on a two-year deal. Interest in the 26-year-old ignited following his release from Blue Square Premier club Grays Athletic.

However, Cowan's signing has to be balanced against the loss of Gez Murphy who has decided to join Hinckley United. The big front runner said: "This was a footballing decision and one which took me a long time to make. I had to get it right in my own mind that I was doing the right thing, and I had made up my mind on Thursday of last week."

Make Or Break For Boro

Nuneaton Borough AFC could go into receivership should councillors turn down an offer to lift the covenant from its former Manor Park home. Councillors on Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council have been given an ultimatum. They have been warned to accept an offer from Stadiasafe, which trades as Nuneaton Borough AFC, to pay off the covenant on the former Manor Park ground or the town's



football club could fold. The ultimatum will go before a full meeting of the borough council this Friday, when the fate of the football club will be decided. It is the first time that the covenant will be debated in the open after several behind-closed-doors meeting between the council, Bloors (Tamworth), the new owners of Manor Park and Stadiasafe.

Councillors will be asked to decide whether to accept a settlement from Stadiasafe to resolve the covenant, which was placed on the ground so that it would be used 'perpetually for sport.' Should they decide to reject the offer, then Bloors (Tamworth), has indicated that it will challenge the council's decision in court. Bloors have also said that if the covenant is not removed they will not pay Stadiasafe the money they have held back to protect their interests. If this happens then Stadiasafe may be forced into receivership...

Boro Sign Towers

Nuneaton Borough have plunged into the lower leagues to recruit one of last season's most exciting midfield prospects. Jamie Towers, aged 24, was a key component of Leamington's incredible Midland Alliance success. The recently reformed side scored 105 goals and claimed 103 points, winning the title by 17 points.

Brown Move Hits A Snag

Kevin Wilkin's bid to bring Hinckley United striker Andy Brown to Liberty Way has stalled as the Knitters' manager Dean Thomas is looking for a fee for the 21-year-old who has netted 23 goals in 73 outings since joining Hinckley from Scunthorpe.

Boro Back From The Brink

Nuneaton Borough FC have been rescued from the very edge of financial ruin with an 11th hour vote by borough councillors. They voted overwhelmingly to accept a deal put forward by the football club – in return for lifting a controversial covenant which had been placed on their old Manor Park ground. It represented a crucial off-the-field victory by the Boro – but it comes at a cost.

The club will have to pay £250,000 to the council to have the covenant lifted. They have offered to pay an initial lump sum of £100,000 with the balance stretched over five years. Dozens of Boro fans packed the public gallery at Nuneaton Town Hall last night – and they cheered the historic decision...

Boro Coach Dies Aged 29

Nuneaton's football community is mourning the loss of a much-loved player and youth coach who collapsed on the pitch and later died, aged just 29. It was while playing the game that he loved that Sam Turpie collapsed on a football pitch in Victoria Road, Hartshill. The father of two young daughters was taking part in a charity football match when he collapsed after suffering a cardiac arrest on the pitch at around 3.25 pm. Frantic spectators and an off-duty nurse in the crowd attempted to revive the former Hartshill School pupil while they waited for the paramedics to arrive...

2007-08

Histon v Nuneaton Borough

14-07-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Franklin, Curtis, N. Moore, Cowan, Towers (Pritchard 81), Palmer, Ricketts, Quailey (Nicholls), Collins (Blenkinsopp 85. **Subs:** Brown, Armson, Edmond, Hood, T. Moore.

Boro made the journey to the Glassworld Stadium to play Histon in a pre-season friendly game.

Histon made a promising start and Antonio Murray put them ahead in spectacular style. The game was barely 15 minutes old when he latched on to a long goal kick and showed great awareness to lob Boro keeper Acton from 25 yards. Minutes earlier, Quailey had been denied after a shot from the edge of the box and then Towers should have equalised when he sent a diving header wide from six yards after a cross whipped in by Matty Collins. Brian Quailey's strike before the break saw the teams go in all-square at the break.

Boro then hit Histon with two goals within the space of eight minutes to virtually settle the game. Another deep cross from Collins was palmed on to the crossbar by the back tracking Histon goalkeeper. He appeared to have done enough to prevent a goal, but Towers thought otherwise and as the ball thudded back into play he was first to react and forced the ball home to put Nuneaton in front. That was in the 55th minute and, moments later, Borough made it 3-1. Ashley Nicholls, on in place of Quailey, was given time to take a couple of touches and set up Ricketts. The striker, who could well become a cult figure at Liberty Way, scored with a low drive to the keeper's right.

Boro were the better side for the remainder of the game, although Histon carved out some openings and Acton pulled off one fine save from Clirr Akurang.

Cogenhoe v Nuneaton Borough

15-07-2007

Boro made the journey to the Compton Park to play Cogenhoe United in a pre-season friendly game.

With only Connor Franklin surviving from the previous day's match it was a much-changed Boro side that battled their way to a 1-0 win. Kevin Wilkin snatched the winner when he steered the ball home following a near-post corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City

17-07-2007

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Moore, Cowans, Franklin (Hood 86), Towers (Nicholls 58), Palmer (Armson 89), Curtis, Collins (Pritchard 74), Quailey (Moore 72), Ricketts.

City: Collett, Nenange, Robinson, Marmol, Koo-Boothe (Francis 58), Jiovani, Barratt (Richie 77), Hildreth (Gooding 46), Simpson (Simmons 46), Andrews (Ashraf 72), Branco (Burtoft 64).

Boro welcomed Coventry City to Liberty Way to play a pre-season friendly game.

City were the stronger in the opening period and swept into a two-goal lead just past the half hour as Lider Marmol and

Robbie Simpson netted but by the break Boro had cut the deficit through Gavin Cowan while a Nathan Koo-Boothe own goal square matters just before the hour.

Boro included newcomers Gary Ricketts, Carl Palmer and Jamie Towers, all of whom looked solid on their first home outings in what was another encouraging performance from Kevin Wilkin's men. The first chance of the friendly fell to Boro's Brian Quailey who latched on to a Jamie Towers through ball only to watch keeper Neil Collett confidently save the striker's stretching drive above his head while at the opposite end Darren Acton superbly parried away Branco's point blank effort.

But on 14 minutes the Sky Blues took the lead as Marmol unleashed a fierce dipping 20-yarder that flew over the helpless Acton and high into the net and soon after new City signing Robbie Simpson saw his angled chip clip the bar and rebound back into play. On 34 minutes the visitors doubled their advantage, Branco threading a neat pass beyond a slow moving Nuneaton back division for Simpson to round Acton and slot into an empty net. Collett then splendidly blocked a goal-bound shot from Quailey and Matty Collins had a half-volley deflected just wide by team-mate Neil Collins before Boro cut the deficit 90 seconds from the break, Cowans' determination enabling him to get on the end of a Towers corner and head in from five yards.

Boro started the second period on the offensive with Rob Oddy bringing an excellent tip over from the flying Collett but on 58 minutes parity was restored with Tom Curtis' low right-sided cross forcing Koo-Boothe to slice into his own net under pressure from Ricketts. Both sides had chances with Quailey rifling over from 12 yards and City substitute David Burtoft inches too high with a stunning dipping angled drive but in the end few could complain over the stalemate.

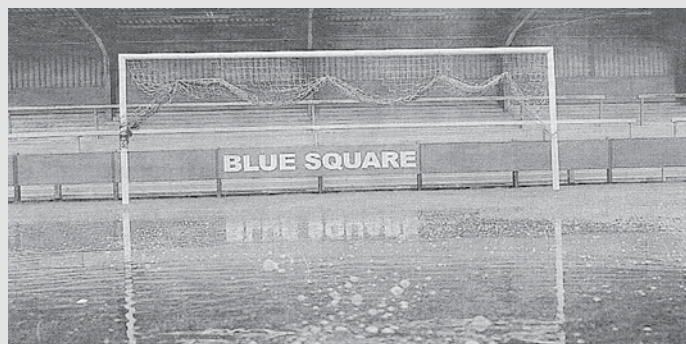
Brown Signs For Boro

Talented striker Andy Brown has signed for Boro from local rivals Hinckley United – without a penny in compensation changing hands. Brown's former employers were holding out for a £10,000 compensation fee under the Bosman ruling due to the player being under the age of 24. However, due to the 21-year-old not being placed on the retained list by the Knitters, the door was wide open for Boro to land their man.

Liberty Way Battered By Elements

The week began with tremendous optimism at Liberty Way, but ended in scenes which had to be witnessed to truly be believed. As preparations for last Tuesday's friendly with Coventry City were being discussed, major shareholder Ted Stocker explained on a local radio station how impressive the ground's drainage system was. No matter the rainfall, within 20 minutes the pitch would be fit for play – and Boro would never lose a game to the elements. Cue the rainfall – by the bucket load over the weekend. While manhole covers were spewing water into mini fountains and homes were

ravaged across the Midlands, Liberty Way painted a very sorry picture indeed. Ironically, signs entering the ground explain the ground is built on a flood plain, hence the temporary buildings being constructed on three foot high wooden stilts but Friday's monsoon like conditions produced an avalanche of water which battered down temporary walls constructed on the perimeter of the ground, and advertising boards were ripped unmercifully from their fresh positions.



"I've never seen anything like it," said club secretary Graham Wilson. I know the rain fall had been heavy over the weekend, but I couldn't quite believe it when I pulled into the ground. I know the stadium is on a flood plain, but even the people with the Nuns haven't seen anything as bad as this and they've been here for over ten years..."

Cock And Bear End Demolished



The last few seconds in the life of the Cock and Bear End at Manor Park. Moments later the powerful claws of the JCB reduced the once proud structure into a sad pile of rubble. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 24-07-2007

Bedworth: Beckford-Quailey (Farmer 46), Spacey (Sheward 46), Darlison (Davies 46), Pitham, Barnett (Hunt 46), Greenway (Bartley 65), Starkey, Browett (Williams 46), Kinder, Porter (Scott 65< Cummins (Baker 46).

Boro: Acton (Sanna 80), Oddy, Moore (Hood 65), Cowan, Franklin, Towers, Curtis (Pritchard 65), Palmer (Brindley 65), Collins, Quailty (Ricketts 46), Brown (Muggleton 75).

Boro made the journey to The Oval to face Bedworth United in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro were quickly out of the blocks and took the lead inside two minutes, Neil Moore's looping header falling beyond the stretching Pete Spacey for Brian Quailey to race clear and rifle

a fierce 15-yarder past his helpless younger cousin Damian Beckford-Quailey in the United goal. The visitors continued to dominate, recent signing Andy Brown on his first appearance heading weakly over from one of a succession of pin-point Jamie Towers crosses. Quailey failed to hit the target with a six-yard header before United's Adam Kinder saw his 20-yarder bring an easy save from Boro keeper Darren Acton. But on 26 minutes Brown opened his Nuneaton account by rising at the back post to power a downward header into a gaping net from Quailey's lofted right-wing cross. Just past the half-hour the outstanding Towers was upended by Lee Greenway's sloppy challenge but Quailey's tame penalty was easily blocked by Beckford-Quailey. Brown then had a header clip the bar and Quailey somehow headed too high when it was easier to score. However, inside 90 seconds United cut the deficit when Danny Pitham's centre found Kinder and he slotted past Darren Acton from point-blank range.

Just after the hour Greenway crashed home a stunning low 20-yarder to level matters only for Boro to regain the advantage on 68 minutes, Towers racing through to coolly rifle under substitute keeper Tom Farmer. Triallist Ricky Muggleton added the fourth in the 87th minute, slotting into an empty net after Gary Ricketts' angled drive had clattered the base of the post.

was afforded the space to attack and he tried an ambitious lob which was well caught by a back-tracking Morris. With 12 minutes left Boro grabbed the winner following an excellent cross from Oddy which found Gavin Cowan at the far post and his downward header allowed Muggleton to steam home a six yard strike with his first touch after coming onto the field.



Andy Brown presses for a goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Leamington 28-07-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, N. Moore, Cowan, Towers (Hood 80), Palmer (T. Moore 80), Ricketts (Quailey 60), Brown (Pritchard 82), Collins (Oddy 60). **Subs:** Muggleton, Williams, Burgess, Pritchard.

Leamington: Morris, Jackson, Parkinson, Cooper (Knight 62), Gregory (Hier 62), Fountain, Bates, Jephcott, Thompson, Blake (J. Adams 79), R. Adams. **Subs:** Reynold, Willetts, Gibson.

Ilkeston Town v Nuneaton Borough 31-07-2007

Ilkeston: Pettinger, Imre, Featherstone, Holmes, Woolley, Hore, Wade, Gardner, Muller, Palmer, Hunter. **Subs:** Carruthers, Hindley, Brewer, Munday, Pilerio.

Boro: Acton, Oddy, Travis, Brindley, Hood, Burgess, Williams, Pritchard, Blenkinsopp, Muggleton, A. Brown. **Subs:** M. Brown, T. Moore, Armson.

Boro welcomed Leamington to Liberty Way to play a pre-season friendly game.

Former Leamington winger Jamie Towers sparked the first real action when Gary Ricketts powered his cross narrowly over the bar after 15 minutes. Three minutes later Darren Acton was called into action to deny Josh Blake with his legs. Ricketts then headed Tom Curtis' free kick past the post before Connor Franklin went close with a long range header. Acton was called on to save a Jephcott header following good work from Blake but Boro soon gained the upper hand and should have taken the lead just after the half-hour mark when Curtis collected a poor clearance from Richard Morris, instantly delivering a searching ball which Andy Brown headed inches the wrong side of the post. The half ended with Morris saving smartly from Towers after the winger had burst into the area.

A comparatively dull 15 minutes ensued after the interval before the match sparked into life once more when Blake crashed a drive through a crowded penalty area forcing Travis to clear although appeals were made that the ball had crossed the line. Oddy, on as substitute for Matty Collins, hit a stinging free-kick on 66 minutes while the impressive Franklin

Boro made the journey to The New Manor ground to face Ilkeston Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Boro took the lead after just five minutes when Bradley Pritchard found space in midfield and his slide-rule pass found Danny Williams who crashed a rising drive past Paul Pettinger. The home side almost clawed their way back into the game after ten minutes when Ross Gardner freed Colin Hunter down the left but Jermaine Palmer headed the winger's cross over the bar. Boro doubled their lead when Pritchard's shot was blocked by Woolley, but the ball rebounded to the midfielder and he crashed a shot past Pettinger from 20 yards out.

Boro further extended their lead after 17 minutes when Williams robbed Featherstone and played the ball through to Blenkinsopp who beat the keeper with a sharp finish at the near post. The beleaguered home side found themselves four down after 30 minutes when Pritchard freed Williams down the left and he ran clear of the Ilkeston back line before finding Muggleton who hit a shot high into the net for his third consecutive goal. Ilkeston mounted a rare attack in the 32nd minute and Holmes' 25-yard effort was just wide before Acton was called on to make a save from Adam Muller who got onto the end of Dougie Wade's long throw.

The second half saw a number of changes for both sides

and the tempo of the game slackened but youngster James Armson made himself some space in the middle of the park before picking out Tom Moore, who shot wide from 20 yards out. Pettinger tipped a Pritchard shot from 30 yards over the top before Williams beat three defenders and squeezed in a shot at the near post. The fifth goal came after a good run from Blenkinsopp saw him square the ball to Tom Moore who tapped the ball home from close range.

Travis Signs

Nuneaton Borough have signed former Hereford United player Simon Travis, who can operate as a midfielder or defender. The 30-year-old started his career with Torquay United before moving to Stockport County. He has also featured for Telford, Forest Green Rovers and Stevenage.

Atherstone Town v Nuneaton Borough	31-08-2007
<p>Atherstone: Roper, Beale, Cameron, Wood, Williams, Jones, Reece, Barlone, Allmark, Civzelis. Subs: Saunders, Green, Dunkley, Williams, Harvey, Haynes, Hill.</p> <p>Boro: Acton, Oddy, Franklin, Hood, Burgess, Towers, Pritchard, Brindley, Moore, Blenkinsopp, Williams. Subs: Collins, Quailey, Armson, Edmund, Brown.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Sheepy Road to face Atherstone Town in a pre-season friendly game.



Bradley Pritchard heads the opening goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro opened the scoring after three minutes after Jamie Towers picked out Bradley Pritchard from a corner kick and the youngster powered a header past Mark Roper in the Atherstone goal. David Blenkinsopp scuffed a shot wide of an open goal before Towers crossed onto the head of Jamie Hood, who headed straight at Roper from eight yards. Tom Moore assisted Williams in scoring Boro's second goal after 23 minutes, slipping a ball through to the winger who shot home from 20 yards out. Daryl Burgess brought Barlone's run to an end in a rare foray upfield by the Adders before Blenkinsopp put a shot wide of the post. The visitors then extended their lead after good inter-play between Moore and Blenkinsopp set Williams free in the box and he drilled a shot past the

helpless Adders' keeper. The last action of the half saw Mark Williams put a shot wide of Acton's post.

It was a dull opening 15 minutes to the second half before Pritchard made the score 4-0 from the penalty spot after he was upended in the box. After a number of substitutions former Adder Matt Brown lashed a shot wide before Nathan Jones drilled a shot across Acton but the keeper made a good save. Andy Brown robbed Cameron Stuart and curled a shot into Roper's chest. The match lost a lot of its vigour as the minutes ticked away although James Armson was put through one-on-one with Roper but his chip failed to beat the keeper. The match ended with an amount of animosity creeping in and Hood and Brown were both spoken to.

Rugby Town v Nuneaton Borough	04-08-2007
<p>Rugby: Afandiyev, Stringfellow, Morley (McGrath 40), Harris, Gordon, Francis (Edge 65), Gearing (Carrington 79), Beward (Skubala 74), Stone, Kolodynski, Staff. Subs: Young, Kabongo, Omobgou.</p> <p>Boro: Belford, Oddy, Franklin, Curtis, N. Moore, Cowan (Burgess 84), Towers (Williams 56), Palmer (Pritchard 56), Ricketts (Collins 71), Quailey (Brown 56), Travis. Subs: Hood, Brindley.</p>	

Boro made the journey to Butlin Road to face Rugby Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Rugby were the more adventurous team before the break with striker David Stone a constant threat while in midfield ex-Boro youngster Tom Beward impressed. Boro toiled for the main part and right on the interval fell behind as Curtis' indecision exposed Neil Moore allowing David Kolodynski to secure possession and round keeper Courtney Belford, a late replacement for the unavailable Darren Acton, before slotting confidently home.

Stone's deft touches and close control helped set up openings for Matt Gearing and Staff to squander before Boro drew level on 85 minutes. Danny Williams burst clear and delivered the perfect cut-back for Matty Collins to rifle in from six yards. But three minutes later Rugby restored their advantage when the pacy Stone chased down Moore's indifferent knock back to the slow reacting Belford, who was late on the scene and could only trip the striker allowing Staff to blast in the spot-kick clincher.

Nuneaton Borough v Harrogate	11-08-2007
<p>Boro: Acton, Oddy (Collins 86), N. Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Travis, Curtis, Palmer, Williams (Pritchard 69), Travis, Ricketts (Quailey 69), Brown. Subs: Towers, Burgess.</p> <p>Harrogate: Aspden, Price, Peat, Ingram, Hume, Dunning, Hunter, James (Bettney 81), Jackson, Holland (Whittington 86), Merris. Subs: Musselwhite, Ellerker, Wood.</p>	

Boro welcomed Harrogate Town to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Boro promised plenty early on and inside 90 seconds could have taken the lead, Brown bursting clear to feed Ricketts, who failed to force a close range effort past keeper

Curtis Aspden. But on 18 minutes the visitors snatched the initiative. Midfielder Darren Dunning fed Dave Merris on the left and his low centre was coolly despatched by Holland from close range as Gavin Cowan was caught flat-footed. Palmer, Boro's most accomplished performer, saw his 20-yard shot fly straight at Aspden but it was the visitors who almost stretched their lead, Denny Ingram heading tamely over Mark Hume's splendid set-up header.

Boro were fast out of the blocks after the break, Brown failing to make contact on a Simon Travis centre and Cowan seeing his header drift across the face of goal with no-one to add a crucial touch. However, against the run of play Harrogate made it 2-0 on 56 minutes, Holland being allowed time and space to swivel 20 yards out and rifle a powerful low drive past Acton.



Rob Oddy slams in a free-kick. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Just beyond the hour, Rob Oddy's 25-yarder, from a short free-kick, was parried by Aspden to Williams who sliced woefully wide with just the keeper to beat. A double substitution brought Brian Quailey and Bradley Pritchard into the action, the pair offering added effort and fresh legs as cracks began to appear in Harrogate's back-line. On 76 minutes Curtis' free-kick was turned across the six-yard zone by Cowan but Quailey got only minimal contact allowing Jamie Price to hook off the goal-line. But on 84 minutes Boro finally got on the scoresheet. Quailey broke away down the right and unselfishly squared to Brown whose rising 15-yarder bulged the roof of the net to ensure a tense finale. Alas it was too late to deny the Yorkshiremen maximum points as Kevin Wilkin's boys licked their wounds on a historic day at Liberty Way.

Alfreton Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-08-2007

Alfreton: Lindley, Henshaw, Barnard, McFadzean, Winder, Wilson, Pringle, Walton, White (Nangle 63), Rickards (Glass 63), Anton Brown. Subs: Bowler, Outram, Cockerill.

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Towers 84), Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Travis, Curtis, Palmer, Collins (Pritchard 88), Ricketts (Quailey 79), Andy Brown. Subs: Williams, Wilkin.

Boro made the journey to The Impact Arena to play Alfreton Town in a Blue Square North match.

Kicking down the slope, Boro dominated most of the opening half with Andy Brown going narrowly wide as he charged in on Rob Oddy's low cross. A slick three-man move again

opened up the Town back division before Oddy's astute through ball found Matty Collins, who was marginally offside as he fired past keeper Jimmy Lindley. Boro's uncompromising approach saw them concede 11 free-kicks inside the first quarter but the commitment and desire certainly upset Town's rhythm. Ricketts then headed into the path of Brown whose drive was hit straight at Lindley, while livewire Tom Curtis' free-kick found Ricketts whose header struck the keeper's boot.

It was all Boro with Lindley thwarting Collins from Connor Franklin's skidding cross, but the breakthrough finally came on 36 minutes. Curtis hoisted a right-wing corner to the far post where the outstanding Cowan rose unchallenged to head goal-wards and though Mark Barnard blocked the ball on the line it bounced off Moore into the net.

Early in the second period Pringle's downward header struck the turf and bounced inches over the bar and the same player went down under Moore's challenge but penalty claims were turned aside. Brown's toe-poke from Collins' centre was blocked by Lindley's body but on 64 minutes Boro's lead was doubled. Travis galloped clear down the right and his near post centre was coolly converted by Ricketts from six yards.

Alfreton got back into contention on 76 minutes when Oddy's clearance clattered against Laurie Wilson and fell invitingly for Pringle to slide a 15-yard cross shot beyond the helpless Acton. However, Boro sewed up the game in the 89th minute, Palmer scooting clear and cutting inside to beat Lindley with a tasty angled 15-yard drive. Acton pulled off two fine saves in stoppage time but Boro stood firm to notch up a fine success and get their season up and running.

Workington v Nuneaton Borough

18-08-2007

Workington: Collin, Gullen, Kendrick, May, Gray, Hopper, Johnston, Birks, J. Wright, Reed, A. Wright. Subs: Rowntree, Hewson, Rudd, Gordon, Taylor.

Boro: Acton, Oddy (Towers 69), Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Travis, Palmer, Ricketts (Quailey 61), Brown, Collins (Pritchard 78). Subs: Williams, Armson.

Boro made the journey to Borough Park to take on Workington in a Blue Square North game.

Workington started the livelier of the two sides and won five corners in the first five minutes. From this spell of pressure, Workington were rewarded with a free-kick 25 yards out. Craig Johnson stepped forward and forced an acrobatic save from Darren Acton to palm wide. Despite the fact that Boro had the lion's share of possession, the first half was a scrappy, ill-tempered affair with neither side having a cutting edge. Workington had some half chances via Reed, Kendrick and Steve Birks but all three failed to hit the target.

Boro's best two chances fell towards the closing stages of the half. Firstly, on 35 minutes, a Ricketts flick on found Brown through on goal. The striker was about to launch a shot on goal, but a remarkable sliding tackle from May forced the ball

for a corner. Then on 40 minutes a looping Connor Franklin cross was met by Collins' diving header but was just wide of the right hand post leaving the match goalless at the break.

Workington took full control in the second half and began bombarding Acton's goal. The constant pressure resulted in an inevitable goal on 57 minutes. A searching long ball pumped from defence was chased down by Reed who beat Cowan to the ball. The striker coolly side-footed the ball past Acton from 15 yards. The goal prompted Wilkin into making three changes as Boro tried to play their way back into the game, but they lacked the nous to break down the home defence.

As Boro huffed and puffed to no real end, Workington substitute Wayne Gordon broke away with the ball from the half-way line. His run was cut short when he was brought down by Carl Palmer, leaving the referee with no choice but to award a penalty. Kendrick stepped up and calmly placed the spot kick to the keeper's right, sealing the win. Gavin Cowan received a red card for dissent after the final whistle.

Nuneaton Borough v Burscough

25-08-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, N. Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Towers (Ricketts 79), Curtis, Palmer (Quailey 31), Pritchard, Brown (Burgess 62), Collins.
Subs: Williams, Oddy.

Burscough: McMillan, Flynn, McGinn, Roberts, Kilbane, Moogan (Booth 62), Parry (Fitzhenry 81), Price, Robinson (Smart 77), Kilheaney, Leadbetter. **Subs:** Hibbert, Wade.

Boro welcomed Burscough to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North game.

The lively Pritchard made an immediate impact with a fierce 20-yarder that keeper Tony McMillan parried away while more good work by the home teenager saw him release Connor Franklin down the left and from his low centre Price raced back to clear, somewhat fortuitously, via the outside of a post. Ninety seconds later the same player's luck proved to be right in as he put Burscough ahead. Referee Richard Palmer missed a blatant elbow into Cowan's face by Robinson and immediately Franklin was harshly penalised for a fair looking shoulder charge on Kevin Leadbetter, who whipped in the free-kick for Price to glide a ten-yard glancing header wide of a static Darren Acton.



Andy Brown rams the ball into the net.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Quailey then replaced the injured Carl Palmer and the substitution brought Boro to life and on 43 minutes they

were level. Towers' superbly flighted through ball set Quailey scampering down the right and his excellent cut-back was confidently dispatched by Brown. Burscough had hardly got over the shock before they were behind. Again Quailey was the architect with a pinpoint pass through a square visiting back division for Brown to steam away, round McMillan and rifle into an empty net.

Boro attacked at the start of the second period with Pritchard pulling most of the strings but against the run of play Burscough levelled on the hour. Price's through pass gave Kilheaney a clear run on goal that was abruptly halted by Cowan's desperate lunge which left referee Parker no choice but to give a penalty and then red card the defender. Robinson made no mistake from the spot.

Soon after Adam Flynn flattened Quailey and was yellow carded with the home fans baying for red while Matty McGinn repeated the dose on Travis, who retaliated to also be booked as was the arguing Leadbetter. However, ten-man Boro were dealt the cruellest of blows as Robinson broke into the box and though Franklin got in a challenge the ball looped into the path of Leadbetter and he volleyed in from 12 yards.

Boro should have restored parity when Quailey's strength took him away from Flynn and his pass was touched on by Collins to Tom Curtis, who crashed a rising 15-yarder over the bar. Burscough's cynical approach tested Boro's patience in the closing stages as Quailey was again mugged this time by substitute Neil Fitzhenry, who became Burscough's fourth caution of the game, but it mattered not as the points headed back to Lancashire.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough

27-08-2007

Redditch: Lewis, Clarke, Taylor, Rea (Johnson 45), Walker, Deakin (Softley 43), Cowley, Downes, Ball, Murphy (Stanley 86), Forinton.
Subs: Whitcombe, Anstiss.

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Moore, Cowan, Towers, Curtis, Pritchard, Collins, Quailey (Ricketts 78), Brown (Williams 88). **Subs:** Palmer, Oddy, Burgess.

Boro made the journey to The Valley to take on Redditch United in a Blue Square North game.

Although Boro enjoyed more possession in the opening quarter it was United who came close with Graham Deakin slicing wide from 15 yards. Chris Murphy then had a goal-bound drive deflected just wide before Boro began to take a firm grip of midfield with Jamie Towers and Bradley Pritchard doing most of the prompting. However, it was from set plays where the visitors looked most dangerous with Gavin Cowan flicking on a Tom Curtis corner for Neil Moore to volley over the top before Andy Brown's header from another Cowan assist was confidently held beneath the bar by Lewis.

Brown then had two optimistic drives which failed to hit the target as Boro continued to rule without finding the answer required to breakdown a dogged, yet vulnerable looking home back division.

There was a scare for Boro soon after the interval as Simon Travis lost possession but just when Murphy was about to press the trigger 12 yards out, Cowan's superb last ditch challenge averted the danger. But that proved to be a rare Redditch threat as Boro, kicking down The Valley slope, poured forward without making it pay. Brown threaded a neat pass into the danger zone only for Quailey to shoot off target and when Cowan's downward header found Brown he failed to force the ball past Lewis.

Towers then provided Brown with a great opportunity but the striker glanced his near post header inches wide of the far post while hesitant Boro defending gave Richard Ball a glimmer of an opening as he sliced his effort past Acton's left-hand upright. However, Boro were soon back on the offensive with Gary Ricketts, replacing Quailey, and Brown both having goal-bound shots blocked while Cowan yet again won his header from another Curtis corner but Lewis somehow leant backward to fingertip on to the bar. In the dying seconds it needed another outstanding reaction stop by Lewis to beat away Cowan's fierce 12-yarder with Ricketts steering the rebound over the top.

fierce 15-yard shot virtually k'od Mike Haran and flew to safety while soon after the break Hall was narrowly wide for Stalybridge with a downward header. Play switched to the opposite end where Ricketts set up Moore whose six-yard header was hooked off the line by Andy Smart and the centre-back saw another header saved at the second attempt by Gamble. Ellington fired straight at Acton before Boro had the ball in the net, but Towers' well-struck cross-shot was ruled out for offside.



Tom Curtis scores from the spot.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Stalybridge Celtic 01-09-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, N. Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Towers, Curtis, Pritchard, Collins (Williams 86), Ricketts, Brown (Muggleton 86). **Subs:** Wilkin, Oddy, Palmer.

Stalybridge: Gamble, Stringfellow, Smart, Dudgeon, Haran (Barwick 57), Sykes, Ellington, Burbeary, Hall, Barlow, Roca (Winn 57). **Subs:** Oakes, Garner, Pearson.

Boro welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North game.

The visitors created the first chance but Carlos Roca's drive was blocked by Darren Acton, making his 200th appearance for Boro, while at the opposite end Ricketts' header was deflected over. The tall striker then had a flicked header clutched by keeper Paddy Gamble at full stretch before Neil Moore's superb glancing header from Towers' corner grazed the bar. But on 20 minutes, against the run of play, Celtic snatched the initiative. Paul Sykes found space to launch a deep cross that deceived Acton for Hall to loop a header back over the stranded keeper and over the line. The lead could have doubled when Lee Ellington's angled effort was pushed out by Acton but Matty Barlow's goalbound header was nodded to safety by Curtis.

Just past the half hour, Collins failed to make contact when faced with a begging net from Connor Franklin's left-wing cross but on 40 minutes Boro were deservedly back on terms. Man-of-the match Simon Travis made one of many darting runs down the right and his dangerous centre looked destined for the head of the in-rushing Collins but Mike Stringfellow blatantly pushed the midfielder in the back and referee Carl Dunn immediately pointed to the spot, Curtis confidently drilled the penalty past Gamble.

Curtis was at it again at the start of the second-half. His

However, on 68 minutes there was no reprieve for Stalybridge. Travis powered deep into visiting territory and hoisted a precise centre for Collins to ghost in and thump a fine eight-yard header past Gamble's despairing right hand. Within 60 seconds Celtic should have levelled, Hall miscontrolling Smart's cross with only Acton to beat while Boro's Ricky Muggleton shot tamely at Gamble, whose miscue had fallen straight at the feet of the home substitute.

Solihull Moors v Nuneaton Borough 08-09-2007

Solihull Moors: Ghent, Duggan, Follett, Ayres, Streete, Fry (Motteram 65), Morrison, Middleton, Davidson, J. Moore (Jakab 65), Gould, S. Downing, Rachel. **Subs:** Faulds, Downing, Rachel.

Boro: Acton, Travis (Oddy 48), N. Moore, Burgess, Franklin, Towers (Williams 68), Curtis, Pritchard, Collins, Ricketts, Brown (Muggleton 78). **Subs:** Palmer, Quailey.

Boro made the journey to Damson Park to play Solihull Moors in a Blue Square North fixture.

The first opportunity came following a slick build-up and Connor Franklin's far post centre that the ineffective Gary Ricketts prodded weakly for keeper Matt Ghent to push aside. Then Simon Travis' long throw was flicked on by Ricketts to Darryl Burgess and his stretching header was hooked off the line by Tim Gould. Boro's best performer, Bradley Pritchard, had a fierce 20-yarder fly straight at Ghent but on 15 minutes, and totally against the run of play, it was Solihull who struck the front. Burgess was penalised on the home right and from skipper Dave Morrison's well-flighted deep free-kick the unchallenged Jason Moore thundered an unstoppable eight-yard volley past the helpless Darren Acton.

Despite the setback Boro hogged possession, Andy Brown's

looping header was grasped from beneath the bar by Ghent, who then fumbled behind another Burgess effort. The incessant pressure continued with Travis and Brown setting up Ricketts, whose low goalbound drive was blocked and Tom Curtis grazed the bar from the follow up. Ricketts was then plainly fouled a yard inside the area but referee Andy Newbold ruled Lee Ayres's careless challenge outside the box.

Boro footballled their opponents to death but the end product was missing in attack and it was down to central defender Neil Moore, who seconds earlier headed against a post from Boro's seventh corner of the half, to level 90 seconds into time added on. Tom Curtis's defence-splitting pass gave Moore oceans of space inside the home area and he coolly swivelled and slotted wide of Ghent's outstretched left-hand.

The trend was similar at the start of the second period with Pritchard's fierce 20-yarder being finger-tipped away at full stretch by Ghent and Burgess's full-blooded volley unluckily deflecting over off Ayres. However, yet again Boro were caught out on the hour. Morrison swept in a far post centre which was splendidly nodded back by Darren Middleton for Davidson to head into the roof of the net from close range. That knocked the stuffing out of Boro and on 74 minutes Middleton's raking corner was headed back into the danger zone by Ayres for Davidson to swivel and volley high into the netting from six yards to seal Boro's fate.

Nuneaton Borough v Gainsborough Trinity 15-09-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, N. Moore, Burgess, Franklin, Towers (Palmer 67), Curtis, Pritchard, Collins, Ricketts, Brown (Muggleton 83).
Subs: Quailey, Williams, Oddy.

Gainsborough: Reid, Wood, Drury, Ellis, Pell, Needham, Callery, McMahon, Smith (Graves 76), Mallon, Hall. **Subs:** Bird, Forbes, Taylor.

Boro welcomed Gainsborough Trinity to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.



Andy Brown gives Boro the lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Boro pressed early on and from a succession of corners, Gary Ricketts had one header pushed away by Aaron Reid and another deflected on to the roof of the net. Bradley Pritchard, again showing plenty of quality and tenacity in midfield,

released Matty Collins, who lobbed over Reid but wide of the target. Trinity's first real offering came from Lewis McMahon's 30 yarder that flew inches off target, but midway through the half Boro made the breakthrough. Tom Curtis' free-kick was half cleared to Collins, who fed Neil Moore down the inside left channel and the central defender's cross shot bounced off the far post for Andy Brown to net his fourth goal of the season from point blank range. However, Boro's joy was short-lived as the visitors stunned the home faithful with a two-goal burst inside 90 seconds.

On 29 minutes, Brown carelessly gave away possession in the Trinity half. Chris Hall's 20 yard shot was blocked by Daryl Burgess, but the ball rolled straight to the unmarked Mallon who fired home. Before Boro regained concentration they suffered a second stunning blow as McMahon burst through the heart of the home rearguard and crashed an unstoppable rising drive beyond the stranded Acton.

The double setback unsettled the hosts and they continued to look ill-at-ease and soon after the interval Liam Needham and Smith both tested Acton. But on 56 minutes Boro drew level after Jamie Towers hoisted in a cross for Brown to flick on a header and Ricketts moved in at the back post to force the ball over the line from close range. Both sides went in search of the winner in the closing quarter with Ricketts twice failing to make the most of gilt-edged heading opportunities with tame far post efforts. It then required a superb save from Acton to thwart Trinity's hopes of a first away triumph as he brilliantly turned over Richard Pell's dipping 20 yarder which had "goal" written all over it.

Vauxhall Motors v Nuneaton Borough 18-09-2007

Vauxhall: Lake, Holmes, Hadzik (Wright 84), Griffiths, McMahon, Kelly, Garrity, Field (Morgan 77), Hotte, Johnson, Taylor. **Subs:** Longrigg, Smith, Hitches.

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Burgess, Collins (Towers 86), Palmer, Ricketts (Quailey 63), Brown (Williams 80), Pritchard. **Subs:** Muggleton, Oddy.

Boro made the journey to Riveacre Park to play Vauxhall Motors in a Blue Square North match.

Boro started brightly and should have been ahead after two minutes after some neat passing saw Simon Travis find space down the right. His low cross was met by the swinging boot of Gary Ricketts, but the former Hucknall man drove a half-volley high over Sean Lake's goal. Three minutes later Ricketts again had a half chance, but his back post header was again high and wide. Vauxhall Motors' highly regarded striker Paul Taylor proved to be a handful at the other end. On nine minutes, the league's top scorer was played through by Tom Field and unleashed a powerful left-foot shot forcing a parry from Darren Acton.

Meanwhile, four minutes later, Ricketts had another chance of giving the visitors the lead after he was played through by Andy Brown. His acute angled shot, however, flashed across the goal and failed to trouble Lake who was well positioned.

The remainder of the half descended into a scrappy affair as the home side began to dictate the pace of the game. Taylor proved himself a tricky customer and had two half chances from distance as the half drew to an end but was marshalled comfortably by Daryl Burgess. Boro had one final chance before the half-time whistle when Bradley Pritchard was picked out from an outswinging cross from Tom Curtis, but his header was placed straight at Lake.

In the early stages of the second half Boro dictated the play and on 54 minutes some great one touch passing in midfield saw Pritchard play Travis through down the right. The ex-Hereford full-back struck a venomous shot from 15 yards which was only parried by Lake and the ball fell to Curtis on the edge of the box but his shot was narrowly over the bar.

Eight minutes later Brown found himself through on goal but his shot was again directed straight at Lake, while on 65 minutes Brown tried an audacious bicycle kick from a flick on from Matty Collins, but he could not direct it at goal. Vauxhall's Steve Johnson jinked his way through Boro's defence but a poor touch allowed Acton to collect the ball from under his feet as the winger was about to shoot. With ten minutes to go, Wilkin brought Danny Williams and Jamie Towers on but the Boro attack dwindled and Acton was forced to make another difficult save from Johnson towards the close.

Ricketts Leaves

Pre-season signing Gary Ricketts has parted company with Nuneaton Borough after failing to live up to his goal-scoring reputation. The striker has gone back to Hucknall Town from where he joined Boro in the close season.

Nuneaton Borough v Leigh RMI	22-09-2007
Boro: Acton, Travis (Cowan 59), N. Moore, Burgess, Franklin, Towers, Curtis, Pritchard, Quailey (Muggleton 83), Brown, Collins. Subs: Williams, Oddy, Towers.	
Leigh RMI: Lamb, Ellison (Charnock 83), Roberts, Unsworth, Maddox, Brockley, Settle (Williams 76), Willis (De Costa 88), Lugsden, Jackson, Heald. Subs: Lenders, Roscoe.	

Boro welcomed Leigh RMI to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

In an uneventful opening period that Boro dominated, chances were at a minimum as the visitors got plenty of bodies behind the ball. The only goal attempt of any consequence came on 21 minutes when Tom Curtis's left-wing free-kick was punched off the head of Andy Brown by stretching keeper John Lamb. Meanwhile the sole Leigh threat before the half-hour saw Kieran Lugsden release Mark Jackson, who slipped at the crucial second allowing Connor Franklin to clear the danger.

But it was the home side who forced the pace without really looking convincing, although a neat combination between Bradley Pritchard and Franklin saw the latter's fierce angled drive parried away by Lamb. The Leigh keeper then had two attempts to grasp a Curtis free-kick that slithered through a crowded goalmouth while Brown's looping header was easily

taken just below the bar by Lamb. Right on the interval Boro should have broken the deadlock. Pritchard's deep free-kick searched out Neil Moore at the back post but his weak header flew into the side-netting.



Carl Palmer is brought down.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Immediately after the interval Boro were caught napping with Steve Settle sending Gavin-Lee Ellison clear down the right but with just Darren Acton to beat the full-back lacked composure as he snatched his cross-shot well wide. However, on 64 minutes Boro took the lead to the relief of the home fans. Pritchard's deep free-kick found substitute Gavin Cowan whose header was blocked on the line and though both Moore and the outstanding Darryl Burgess had efforts smothered the ball eventually fell to the alert Brown and his rising six-yarder bulged the roof of the net.

Leigh then enjoyed their best spell without causing any undue concern to a Boro defence in which Moore and Burgess were dominant forces. But as the half progressed Boro reasserted and could easily have doubled their advantage. Karl Muggleton, replacing Quailey, was close to getting a touch on Carl Palmer's fierce cross while Brown latched on to Pritchard's centre to bring out a fine near post stop from Lamb. Deep into time added on the Railwaymen had their first shot on target but Lee Unsworth's 20-yarder was confidently dealt with by an otherwise redundant Acton.

Barrow v Nuneaton Borough	06-10-2007
Barrow: Deasy, Woodyatt, Butler, Bayliss, McNulty, Henney, Bond (Walker 78), Sheridan, Thompson, Rogan, Wilson (Brown 60). Subs: Jones, Fowler, Elderton.	
Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Pritchard, Palmer, Quailey (Towers 86), Williams (Collins 89), Burgess. Subs: Oddy, Edmond, Armson.	

Boro made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a Blue Square North game.

Boro came out on top of a dire encounter in South Cumbria – but the result was the most important thing for improving Boro. Gavin Cowan was gifted the only goal of the game on 71 minutes when home goalkeeper Tim Deasy flapped at a

Tom Curtis free-kick and allowed the tall midfielder an easy header at the far post. Cowan's finish was a rare moment of brightness in a game otherwise dominated by the midfielders and bereft of any real quality.

The early chances fell to the hosts, with striker Chris Thompson firing the best of them straight into the hands of Darren Acton when played into space by Nick Rogan. At the other end, Deasy produced an at-best inconsistent display in the Barrow goal, seemingly determined to gift the visitors the lead. He spilled a Curtis cross into the path of Danny Williams early on and was lucky the striker was unable to get any real control on the ball. He then gifted the ball to Brian Quailey on 22 minutes with an ill advised display of dribbling outside the area after a backpass from Dave Bayliss. Quailey's cross into the area was cleared by Andy Bond, but Deasy was not done with his mistakes yet.



Brian Quailey goes close.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton may feel the keeper was lucky not to be sent off when he handled the ball outside his area after coming too far out to claim a through ball, a booking his only punishment. The best chance of the first half fell to Carl Palmer after a fast break from the halfway line. Williams crossed to him in a seemingly offside position inside the area, but the linesman's flag stayed down and Palmer was left to hang his head after powering the ball wide with a diving header.

Bradley Pritchard had several shots at goal, but both sides were as profligate as each other when chances came their way, Nick Rogan and Thompson missing the target for the hosts, Quailey and Palmer having shots blocked for the visitors. Boro may not have performed at their best, but it was still enough to take the three points and move further ahead of Barrow in the table.

Nuneaton Borough v Wolverhampton W. 09-10-2007

Boro: Acton (Belford 58), Oddy, Travis, Armson (Nelmes 65), N Moore, Burgess, Towers, Collins, Quailey (T Moore 58), Edmond, Williams.
Subs: Franklin, Palmer.

Boro welcomed Wolverhampton Wanderers to Liberty Way to play a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Impressive Wolves tore depleted Boro apart as two exquisite

strikes from former Hungarian international Dene Rosa sandwiched a Liam Hughes goal as the visitors exposed Boro's defensive limitations and their lack of a cutting edge.

On seven minutes it was Rosa who took the advantage as he broke forward from midfield and unleashed a stunning 30-yarder that whistled past a static Darren Acton and rippled the roof of the home rigging. Stephen Gleeson and Matt Jarvis both went close during more extensive pressure from the Black Country outfit and it came as no surprise when they doubled their advantage on 34 minutes with a dubious, yet well worked goal. Rosa looked offside as he spurred down the right but he made the most of the situation with a classy near post cross that Liam Hughes confidently side-footed wide of Acton from six yards.

There was an increase in Boro's tempo at the start of the second period and though chances were in short supply Danny Williams had a glimmer of an offering only for his turning half volley to fly over the bar. However, Wolves were hardly flustered and on 69 minutes Rosa stretched their advantage with slick 10-yarder that flashed past substitute keeper Courtney Belford. Teenagers Tom Moore and Adam Nelmes came off the bench to provide Boro with some impetus, the latter having a fierce 30-yard cross shot tipped away by Lumley, who seconds later turned aside Rob Oddy's edge-of-the box free kick.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 20-10-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, N. Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Pritchard (Quailey 67), Curtis, Palmer, Collins (Towers 90), Williams, Brown, Palmer, Collins (Towers 90), Williams, Brown. **Subs:** Muggleton, Burgess, Oddy.

Kettering: Harper, Eaden, Jaszczun, Graham, Kemp, Solkhon, Brady, Dempster, Randle, Marna (Hall 80), Westcarr (Burton 80).

Subs: S. Collins, Lloyd, Bussey.

Boro welcomed Kettering to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North game.

There was little to excite Liberty Way's biggest crowd of the season in the opening half with defences on top and misplaced passes the order of the day. Neither side showed much in the creativity department with Boro's ability to give away possession – especially skipper Tom Curtis, continually frustrating progress. Franklin produced the tackle of the game with a superb challenge to halt Mark Randle.

Randle had the best opportunity of the first half just before the break as he looked yards offside latching on to a John Paul Marna touch on, but his goalbound drive was brilliantly blocked by the agile Darren Acton.

If the first half was dour, the second period provided immense entertainment and on the hour Kettering took the lead somewhat bizarrely. A left wing corner was headed goalwards by John Dempster and as Acton came to claim possession, Collins inexplicably headed the ball out of the hands of the keeper and into his own net.

However, on 70 minutes Boro levelled. Acton's long clearance

was flicked on expertly by substitute Brian Quailey with his first touch of the game and when Collins fed Williams, the winger rifled a stunning left-foot 15-yard volley past Harper and just inside the near post. Six minutes later Boro should have led as again Collins fed Quailey who in turn released Brown – but with just Harper to beat the striker tamely shot wide.



Bradley Pritchard holds off Kettering's Tom Kemp.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

The miss was then replicated soon after when a quick break saw Williams superbly free Travis down the middle to go one-on-one with Harper, who deflected the wing-back's side-foot shot past the post. These two misses certainly robbed Boro of a victory although late on the lively Williams cut inside but his angled drive was blocked while Neil Moore's late header drifted wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 23-10-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, Moore, Cowan, Franklin, Collins, Curtis, Palmer, Williams, Quailey, Brown. **Subs:** Muggleton, Burgess, Oddy, Pritchard, Towers.

Boston: Crockett, Matthews, Smith, Ellender, Crane, Bloomer (Leabon 76), Medine (Rowan 62), Green, Froggatt, Stevenson, Thompson (Nicholls 62). **Subs:** O'Halloran, Wright.

Boro welcomed Boston United to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Boston had an opportunity within the first 90 seconds but Mbiyeye Medine's goalbound drive from 15 yards was charged down, while at the opposite end Boro squandered a gilt-edged chance with Brown heading against the bar before

Quailey somehow sliced his shot against a post from three yards. It was then Boro's turn to endure a let-off, Crane's fine header being cleared off the line by Curtis before Quailey's fierce rising drive was splendidly pushed away by Lee Crockett at full stretch.

More Boro pressure saw Brown's miscued effort hooked off the line by Matt Bloomer before the deadlock was broken on 35 minutes. Boston's defence were hesitant as Brown had two attempts to find Quailey and when the ball finally arrived the striker coolly lofted a sweet 15 yarder over the advancing Crockett and into a gaping net. The Pilgrims responded and another goal line clearance kept Boro's lead intact with Connor Franklin in the right place at the right time to clear Jon Stevenson's looping header to safety.

There was a worrying spell at the start of the second half when Boro continually gave away possession that provided United with plenty of possession but it was Boro who almost doubled their advantage when Simon Travis whipped in a fine cross but Quailey's stooping header drifted narrowly over. The same combination carved out another excellent opportunity with Travis again the provider but Quailey's point blank header was brilliantly parried to safety by Crockett but on 81 minutes, against the run of play, Boro doubled their advantage when Curtis gained possession wide right and arched in a pinpoint cross for Brown to rise impressively above Crane to plant a ten-yard header beyond the flailing finger-tips of Crockett.

On 88 minutes United were given a late lifeline when Collins was adjudged to have tripped Stevenson allowing Crane to score from the penalty spot. And then Stevenson stunned Liberty Way as his acrobatic volley from Crane's downward header flew past Acton to earn Boston a draw when minutes earlier defeat looked certain.

Boro Sign McIlwain

Nuneaton Borough boss Kevin Wilkin has completed the signing of defender Craig McIlwain. The former Kettering Town captain goes straight into the squad for the FA Cup tie against Chasetown. McIlwain began his career at Rothwell Town before joining Kettering Town where he became club captain. Meanwhile, Jamie Towers will be joining Leamington on loan.

Boro Land Striker

Nuneaton Borough have secured the signature of one of League Two's most talented up and coming strikers on a short-term basis.

Teenager Jordan Stepien has signed for Boro on a month's loan from Bury and comes to Liberty Way with a big reputation. Shakers' chief Chris Casper rates Stepien highly but feels that the Manchester-born front-runner is still learning his trade and is not ready for the rigours of League Two football. Boro boss Kevin Wilkin is delighted to have Stepien, who is 18, on board.

Nuneaton Borough v Hyde United

04-11-2007

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, McIlwain, Moore, G. Cowan, Collins (Palmer 76), Pritchard, Brown, Stepien (Quailey 64).
Subs: Williams, Muggleton, Burgess.

Hyde: Dootson, Brass, Lynch (T. Cowan 24), Davis, Band, Innes, Johnson, Pickford, Simm (Wharton 71), Seddon, Clee (Morley 77).
Subs: Cartwright, Robinson.

Boro welcomed Hyde United to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

The free-scoring Manchester side made their intentions clear in the third minute. A Connor Franklin header dropped for Steve Pickford on the edge of the box and his drive deflected off a red shirt a foot wide of Acton's goal. A minute later the small contingent of away fans were appealing for a penalty when the ball was deflected onto a Boro hand in the box but referee Martin said no. Boro were all over the place at the back and a long throw was woefully defended and Curtis was forced into a clearance from a yard out. Hyde appealed for a penalty for a second time when the ball hit Pritchard around the arm but Mr Martin was again unmoved.

Soon after Seddon fired a shot straight at Acton from the edge of the box after being given far too much space to combine with team mates. Nuneaton first attacking foray came in the 13th minute from a Franklin corner. McIlwain appeared to be shoved as he leapt for the ball but the penalty appeal was muted. Boro had finally settled and by the 28th minute they had earned their fourth corner. Pritchard put in a decent delivery from the right which was met by McIlwain but his header from 14 yards drifted wide of Craig Dootson's left hand post.



Neil Moore heads Boro's winning goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Stepien made his first telling contribution on 38 minutes when he turned Brass and whipped in a left footed cross. Brown rose highest in the middle but he couldn't climb high enough to make a proper contact from six yards. Brown then headed over from ten yards on the stroke of half-time after Stepien and Franklin combined well on the left.

Boro started the second half in total contrast to the first and Moore gave them the lead in the 50th minute. Earl Davis was forced to concede a corner and from Pritchard's delightful delivery Moore rose highest to put a bullet header past

Dootson from eight yards. Collins looked like he had made it 2-0 six minutes later when he drilled in Travis' cross from the right but it was disallowed for an infringement. Stepien was replaced by Quailey in the 64th minute before Pritchard did well to force a corner. Brown won a header from the flag kick that flashed wide of the post.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough

11-10-2007

Tamworth: Veiga, Lyttle, Langdon, Briscoe, Smith, Tuohy (Leonard 64), Wright (Richter 61), Nurse, Robinson (Sheridan 77), Williams, Sheldon.
Subs: Bains, Ebdon.

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Moore, Cowan, McIlwain, Curtis, Collins, Pritchard (Palmer 93), Brown (Quailey 83), Stepien. **Subs:** Williams, Oddy, Burgess.

Boro made the journey to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a Blue Square North match.

Boro had the first effort on goal in the third minute when a Simon Travis long throw was headed by Moore and then Matty Collins before Brown directed the ball straight into the arms of keeper Jose Veiga. Boro almost fell behind when Travis was out of position as he tied his boot in the 11th minute and the Lambs exploited his absence to force a corner, which was won by Anthony Robinson. The Tamworth striker sent a powerful header goalwards but Curtis cleared off the line.

Stepien then opened his account on the 15 minute mark, but Tamworth were furious as they thought the ball had gone out for a throw before Franklin crossed from the left. The defence failed to clear and Brown headed the ball into the path of Stepien who made no mistake from 10 yards. Boro fans were screaming for a handball in the Tamworth box but nothing was given before Boro were forced to defend for the next 15 minutes but they looked dangerous on the break. Tamworth almost drew level in the 37th minute as Gareth Sheldon curled a shot from the corner of the box past Acton, but just wide of the far post. The referee waved away appeals for a penalty after Robinson went down under Moore's challenge but play on was the decision.

Stepien had the first shot of the second half in the 51st minute, slicing Pritchard's cross wide. The teenager was the inspiration behind the second goal when he set Brown up. Stepien turned, held off defenders and drove towards goal before playing a delightful ball in behind the back four for Brown to beat Veiga with a left foot shot into the far corner. Tamworth found a way back into the game in the 63rd minute with a score that was given as a Franklin own goal. A cross from the left caused confusion and the ball somehow found its way past Acton to make the score 2-1.

Tamworth left back Dominic Langdon shot over the top from 25 yards before Acton pushed a shot out and the ball fell to Ben Leonard who sliced wide. Darren Acton was booked for time-wasting with eleven minutes to go before the last action saw handball claims against Nuneaton turned down.



Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 12-11-2007

Worcester: Wright, Doran, Khan, Smith, Clarke, Colley, Ward, Nwadike, Wood, Webster (Wilding 81), Clegg. Subs: Hill, Burley, Palmer, Tyack.

Boro: Acton, McIlwain, Burgess, Cowan, Oddy, Pritchard, Palmer, Collins, Franklin, Williams (Brown 84), Quailey. Subs: Curtis, Travis, Stepien, Moore.

Boro made the journey to St George's Lane to face Worcester City in a Setanta Cup second round tie.

Boro started well with both Craig McIlwain and Matty Collins unable to take advantage of half chances inside the opening three minutes while Brian Quailey's goalbound 15-yarder unluckily struck Chris Smith in the chest. City's first opportunity fell to Troy Wood but his drive clipped Gavin Cowan and curled off target but Boro were robbed of the lead by the woodwork on 14 minutes when Rob Oddy's angled drive rattled the near post, with Pete Doran then slicing his clearance onto the roof of his own net.

It was then Carl Palmer's turn to be frustrated as his skidding effort was parried away at full stretch by keeper Mike Wright but Boro continued to hold most of the aces and on 37 minutes they came up trumps. Good work by Bradley Pritchard and Brian Quailey down the left gave Williams time and space 15 yards out and his fierce low shot gave Wright no chance to save. However, right on the interval City equalised from their first effort on target as Pritchard conceded a needless free-kick 22 yards out and Clegg, as he did twice last season against Boro, crashed the set-piece round the wall and past Darren Acton just inside the far post.

There was a scare for Boro soon after the interval when Emeka Nwadike's snap shot grazed a post with Acton beaten while Graham Ward's driven centre was just short of the outstretched boot of Adam Webster. Clegg then beat two Boro defenders only to fire straight at Acton as City continued to create the opportunities while their opponents enjoyed more possession. And with less than 90 seconds of normal time left, Boro snatched the victory when Rob Oddy hoisted a free-kick to the edge of the City area where Cowan's deft header flew over a packed defence and bounced into the far corner of the net.

Leigh RMI v Nuneaton Borough 17-11-2007

Leigh: Dittmer, Goulding, Davies, Unsworth, Maddox, Hill, Settle, Carroll, Lugsden, Smyth, Roberts. Subs: Fairhurst, Smith, Chetcuti, O'Neil, Brockley.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Pritchard, Curtis, Collins, Franklin, Stepien, Brown. Subs: Quailey, Palmer, Williams, Oddy, Burgess.

Boro made the journey to Hilton Park to play Leigh RMI in a Blue Square North game.

Boro made all the early running with Leigh keeper Tim Dittmer unconvincingly turning aside a Simon Travis cross-shot while soon after Connor Franklin's searching effort from the left forced the shot-stopper into parrying away anxiously.

Neil Moore headed over Pritchard's corner in a one-sided opening quarter that offered no threats to the Boro defence. The pressure continued as Jamie Davies hooked a dangerous Gavin Cowan back-header to safety while Brown saw his downward effort lack the power to trouble Dittmer but on 28 minutes The Railwaymen were lucky to stay on equal terms. Pritchard's corner was half-cleared and when Brown flicked on to Craig McIlwain the centre-back's looping header beat Dittmer, struck the inside of the far post and rebounded back into the keeper's arms.

The outstanding Travis, very much Boro's man-of-the-match, twice came close to breaking the deadlock in as many minutes but his first chance flew just wide following good work involving Cowan and then the wing-back's deflected drive was cleared off the line by John Goulding. But 90 seconds into time added on to the first half, the breakthrough came when Travis again crossed for Pritchard's delightful flick over a packed defence to loop beneath the bar before nestling in the far corner of the net.

The lead was stretched on 53 minutes when Brown and Franklin ripped the home defence apart down the left and from the latter's centre, Stepien headed against the bar but reacted smartly to force the rebound over the line. Boro took their foot off the gas and were punished when Cowan and McIlwain failed to deal with an innocuous high ball and Settle raced away to hammer a low drive past Darren Acton.

The latter then brilliantly turned over Kieran Lugsden's rising 30 yarder and the save lifted his colleagues as they raised the tempo again to complete the win on 85 minutes in magnificent style. A flowing five-man move saw skipper Tom Curtis and substitute Danny Williams, on as sub for Stepien, create the opportunity for the galloping Travis to get away on the right and his tasty cross to the near post was expertly glanced past Dittmer by a leaping Brown.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 19-11-2007

Worcester: Wright, Clarke, Burley, Khan, Smith, Gill (Colley 81), Ward, Nwadike, Wood, Wilding, Clegg. Subs: L. Palmer, Walker, Tyack, McDonnell.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Pritchard, Curtis, Palmer, Franklin, Collins (Williams 84), Brown. Subs: Quailey, Oddy, Burgess, Muggleton.

Boro made the journey to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Blue Square North game.

Boro were quickly out of the blocks and Andy Brown escaped the attentions of his marker and curled a 20-yard shot just past the post. But Worcester were not so fortunate on three minutes as Travis produced a fine interception in midfield and raced forward before unleashing a superb left-foot drive from the edge of the area that flew past Mike Wright and just inside the far post. Boro's pace and power continued to worry the hosts as Travis again got free only to slice off target while Brown's effort was saved at the second attempt by Wright. City's first attempt on goal saw Shabir Khan's header clawed



to safety by Darren Acton but it wasn't long before Boro were again on the offensive. Neil Moore's looping header sailed onto the roof of the net before, on 23 minutes, the visitors' lead was doubled. Acton's long clearance caught the City back line square enabling Pritchard to race clear and delightfully square for Palmer to finish with a fierce shot from 12 yards out.

The tireless Matty Collins then carved out an opening that both Pritchard and Tom Curtis failed to capitalise upon, while the latter's cross narrowly avoided the outstretched boot of Gavin Cowan. Moore's back header then found the target but the goal was disallowed for a foul by Brown on keeper Wright. However, right on the interval there was no reprieve as Boro stretched their advantage. Connor Franklin's header into City territory slipped beneath the boot of Chris Smith and Brown was in smartly to sprint into the box and coolly slide beyond the helpless Wright from a tight angle.

Boro lost some of their momentum in the second period as City played for their pride and created numerous openings with Graham Ward half-volleying wide and Emeka Nwadike headed straight at Acton. Worcester were enjoying their best spell with Craig Wilding missing a great opportunity by rifling wide with only Acton to beat and soon after Adam Burley's shot was pushed away by Acton.

Pritchard wasted a good offering when shooting over from 18 yards but on 86 minutes Brown completed his brace to take his tally for the season to ten with a close range header that Wright could only palm into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Vauxhall Motors 01-12-2007

Boro: Acton, N. Moore, Mcllwain, Cowan, Oddy, Curtis, Palmer, Collins (Pritchard 32), Franklin, Brown (Williams 77), Stepien (Quailey 77).
Subs: Muggleton, Burgess.

Vauxhall: Murphy, Owena, Dames, Smith (Wignall 59), McMahon (Holmes 32), Brannan, Heler, Griffiths, Reed, Marsh-Evans, Wright (Egerton 53). **Sub:** Cart.

Boro welcomed Vauxhall Motors to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Boro pressed from the first whistle with Collins setting up Brown, but his close-range shot was blocked by Ged Brannan, while it needed a brave stop by keeper Andy Murphy to deny Jordan Stepien. However, on 13 minutes Vauxhall's defence was breached as Stepien was brought down by Joe McMahon's reckless challenge just inside the area and Curtis confidently netted his third penalty of the season. Brown then had a looping header drift inches over before the Motormen carved out a great opportunity to level as Mark Reed burst away only to fire straight into the legs of the sprawling Darren Acton.

The action returned to the opposite end where Brown's swerving 20 yarder flew too high before the foraging and outstanding Carl Palmer ghosted past two opponents but his rising effort failed to trouble Murphy. Just before the interval, Craig Mcllwain brought down Reed on the edge of the box

and was booked for his trouble and from Brannan's set piece Acton punched clear under pressure.

Boro should have doubled their advantage three minutes after the interval as Pritchard's neat work on the right and low centre found Brown eight yards out but the striker completely missed his kick with only Murphy to beat. Stepien then clipped in a cross that flew across goal and wide with Brown unable to get a touch while at the other end Alan Griffiths unleashed a powerful rising 25 yarder that grazed the bar. There was concern on the Boro bench when Acton went down clutching his leg, but he recovered enough to limp through the remainder of the game.

Vauxhall upped the tempo in search of an equaliser and substitute Ryan Wignall fired towards an empty net from just inside the area but Curtis intervened with a timely deflection. With Neil Moore, Gavin Cowan and Mcllwain working overtime to keep the visitors at bay it was against the run of play that Williams sewed up the points on 89 minutes. Connor Franklin's long throw was half cleared to Curtis, who headed down for Williams to turn smartly and slither in a low effort past Murphy and into the far corner of the net.

Stepien To Stay With Boro

Jordan Stepien has turned down offers from three other Blue Square North clubs and has agreed a further month's loan at Nuneaton Borough.

Wilkin Wins Manager Of The Month

Manager Kevin Wilkin was delighted to have avoided the dreaded manager of the month curse after Nuneaton Borough made it five league wins in a row. A day after picking up the award Boro were successful in their game against Vauxhall Motors, winning 2-0 at Liberty Way.

Nuneaton Borough v AFC Telford United 04-12-2007

Boro: Acton, N. Moore, Mcllwain, Burgess (Quailey 66), Oddy, Palmer, Curtis (Noon 72), Pritchard, Franklin, Williams, Stepien. **Subs:** Cowan, Travis.

Telford: Young, Vaughan, Charlton, Turner, Teesdale, Rodgers, Cornes, Adams, Birch (Reynolds 81), Husbands (Moore 69), Forsdick (Fitzpatrick 46). **Subs:** Lewis, Pacey.

Boro welcomed AFC Telford United to Liberty Way to play a Setanta Shield fourth round match.

Boro were dominant before the break and could have gone ahead inside 90 seconds when Carl Palmer's determination carved out a chance for Bradley Pritchard but he was unable to force the ball home from close range. Pritchard's downward header then set up a shooting opportunity for Rob Oddy whose 15-yarder grazed a post while in between Darren Acton fielded a couple of hopeful efforts from the visitors. With the hosts enjoying more possession, Telford relied on the break but on 35 minutes the deadlock was broken as Williams unleashed an optimistic 25 yarder that Young fumbled into his own net.

The interval came at an opportune time for Telford, who brought on ex-Nuneaton favourite Gary Fitzpatrick in place of Simon Forsdick for the second period, as they netted twice in the opening five minutes to snatch the advantage. On 48 minutes there was little danger when Husbands gained possession wide on the left but he cut inside a hesitant Craig McIlwain and then Neil Moore before slotting low past Acton from a narrow angle. And before Boro had recovered from the setback they were behind as Charlton found time and space in a dithering home area to rifle wide of the helpless Acton from 15 yards. But Boro retook the initiative in time added on and Brian Quailey was brought down just inside the penalty area and coolly stroked home the spot kick to keep Boro in the competition.

Quailey then struck again in extra time when, in the 104th minute, he picked up Mark Noon's through ball, rounded Ryan Young and confidently slotted the ball into a gaping net. Jordan Stepien made sure of the result when he again netted after another Noon through ball.

Wilkin May Face Ban

Nuneaton Borough manager Kevin Wilkin is facing a possible touchline ban for his part in a mass brawl against AFC Telford United. Wilkin was sent to the stands after he and Bucks defender Asa Charlton sparked a scuffle that saw players, substitutes and coaches row in front of the home dug out.

Boro Sign Keeper

Nigerian international goalkeeper Ademola Bankole has been signed up by Nuneaton Borough to deputise for Darren Acton against Blyth Spartans. The former Crewe keeper will deputise for Darren Acton, who is serving a one match ban

Blyth Spartans v Nuneaton Borough 08-12-2007

Blyth: Bartlett, Christensen, Boyle, Leeson, Forster, Williams, Webster (Johnson 77), McCabe, Dale (Houlahan 43), Bell, Gildea (Hedley 82).
Subs: Snowdon, Logan.

Boro: Bankole, Travis (Oddy 35), Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Palmer, Collins (Pritchard 80), Brown, Stepien (Williams 68), McIlwain.
Subs: Quailey, Burgess.

Boro made the journey to Croft Park to play Blyth Spartans in a Blue Square North game.

In torrential rain throughout, Spartans just about edged proceedings and certainly had more efforts on goal where Boro's stand in keeper Ademola Bankole had an unconvincing debut. The game, however, was heading for a goalless stalemate when Blyth grabbed the winner six minutes from time after a Nuneaton attack broke down. Andy Brown's shot from just outside the box struck a defender and the home side immediately turned defence into attack when Chris McCabe found Phil Bell in midfield. Boro had been caught pushing for the winner and were exposed at the back when the ball was swept out to the left flank to give Andy Johnson his first touch, having replaced Adie Webster seven minutes

earlier. Johnson cut inside to curl a magnificent right foot shot from the edge of the left side of the penalty area past Bankole and into the far corner. It was a stunning strike from the 21-year-old who had marked his home debut in October with a goal and there was no time for Boro to recover in monsoon conditions.



Gavin Cowan is just off target.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The only clear cut chance in a game dominated by two solid defences also came Blyth's way when another sub, Martin Houlahan, superbly turned Neil Moore inside the box to be one-on-one with Bankole. The 38-year-old former Crewe keeper, however, spread himself to make an important block. Nuneaton had earlier seen Simon Travis taken to hospital with a bad ankle injury during an evenly fought first half, following a reckless lunge by Bell.

Webster and Bell had both put 25 yard shots narrowly wide early on for Blyth while Matty Collins was just unable to convert a Travis header at the other end and then had a goal-bound shot blocked by Andy Leeson. Two glaring errors from Bankole following crosses into the box just before half-time could have been punished by McCabe who shot wastefully over and Alex Gildea's cross fell just past the far post.

Gildea went close with a free-kick after the break and it wasn't until the 49th minute that home keeper Adam Bartlett made his first save tipping over Connor Franklin's 20 yard drive. Boro's best chance came on the hour when Brown broke down the left channel but he failed to pick out the unmarked Jordan Stepien on the right side of the box.

Hyde United v Nuneaton Borough 15-12-2007

Hyde: Dootson, Brass, Lynch (Johnson 49), Morley, Band, Innes, Stephens, Pickford, Tipton, Seddon (Wharton 90), Clee. Subs: Sinn, Cartwright, Harrison.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Collins, Pritchard (Williams 72), Curtis, Palmer, Franklin, Stepien (Quailey 72), Brown. Subs: Burgess, Oddy, Edmond.

Boro made the journey to Ewan Fields to take on Hyde United in a Blue Square North match.

Tigers threatened right from the opening whistle and Dave Morley glanced a header wide while Seddon almost



capitalised on a Bradley Pritchard mistake. In between, Boro's Gavin Cowan's miscued volley was deflected over the bar but Hyde continued to press and when Seddon dispossessed Craig McIlwain his deft chip was grasped by a stretching Darren Acton. On 10 minutes the breakthrough came, Steve Pickford cut out Cowan's weak forward pass, pierced the visiting defence with a peach of pass that Seddon controlled immaculately before slotting his low 20-yarder beyond Acton's flailing fingertips.

Carl Palmer had a tame header fly straight at the grateful Craig Dootson and the miss proved costly as Hyde doubled their advantage on 27 minutes. Again Seddon was the key. He rounded Neil Moore and crashed a rising cross-shot against the bar for Tipton to smartly slam the rebound high into the rigging from 12 yards. Chris Lynch then had a centre deceive Acton and clip the bar while Seddon's angled drive struck the base of the far post before Boro's Moore saw his downward header blocked low down by Dootson, who then brilliantly turned aside Connor Franklin's goal-bound 20-yarder. But Hyde were on the goal hunt with Seddon bringing out a fine save from Acton, who then watched Seddon hit the woodwork again with another stunning drive.

After the interval, Boro upped the tempo and won a spate of five corners in quick succession that reaped no joy while Brown was too high when well placed and Jordan Stepien was thwarted by the agility of Dootson. At the opposite end substitute Dale Johnson grazed a post and Tipton's goalbound effort looped narrowly over while Acton splendidly parried away Seddon's close range drive. Late on Brian Quailey, on for Stepien, was wide from 12 yards and Brown had Dootson sprawling low to make another good stop but few would disagree Hyde were worth the win and pole position as Boro remain sixth.

Stocker Severs Involvement With Boro

Ted Stocker, the man who saved Nuneaton Borough, is no longer involved with the football club. The board of directors have announced that he has stepped down and is to sell his major shareholding for a "nominal consideration." Ongoing health difficulties have been given as the reasons for the shock departure by the millionaire businessman, who was the driving force behind the move from Manor Park to Liberty Way. Speaking on behalf of the directors, club chairman Roger Stanford said: "We would like to thank Ted for the tremendous effort he has put into the football club over the past two years and for successfully achieving the move to the new stadium and the development at Liberty Way.

The chairman added: "Ted's forcefulness and ambition for the football club will be sorely missed. It is hoped that, with less pressure, his ongoing health problems will be resolved and he will be able to join us in the stands from time to time to simply enjoy a game of football." Andy Briggs, the supporters' representative on the management board, added their tribute: "We would firstly like to wish Ted well with

regard to his health, he said. "We would also like to pass on our appreciation for all his efforts to secure the future of the football club over the past couple of years. Without doubt, Ted was the driving force behind the long awaited move from Manor Park to a new ground, thus presenting the possibility for the club to generate much-needed off the field revenue – and hence a more financially secure future." The supporters' spokesman added: "Although Ted's vision is not yet complete, the foundations that he has laid bode well for the future. We sincerely hope that any future investor shares Ted's passion, enthusiasm and determination and continues his work to secure the future of our club."

Stocker's legacy is the new £2.5 million Liberty Way Stadium and the directors are now actively seeking a new investor or investors to take the club on to the next stage of development. His decision to sell his majority shareholding for a nominal consideration in an example of his desire for the club to further progress and could speed up the transition and ease the way for a new benefactor or benefactors.

Nuns Slam Boro Over Ground Share

Nuneaton Rugby Club chairman Dave Warden has launched a scathing attack on Liberty Way ground-share partners Nuneaton Borough over a potential fiasco tomorrow. Warden has claimed Nuns are "doing the thinking for the football club because they can't do it for themselves" as a row over kick-off times erupted. Both teams have games on the same day for the third time this season. Boro's Setanta Shield tie against Altrincham kicks off at 1pm and the Nuns meet Cambridge in National League Two with a 3.30pm start. But with Boro having to settle their cup match on the day, the prospect of extra-time and penalties looms large.

Should that be the case then it is inconceivable for the pitch to be cleared for 3.30pm. Even if the game ends at the scheduled 2.45pm finish the pitch has to be re-marked and the posts replaced...

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham

22-12-2007

Boro: Acton, N. Moore, McIlwain, Burgess (Williams 25), Oddy (Quailey 68), Curtis (Pritchard 85), Palmer, Collins, Franklin, Brown, Stepien.
Subs: Armson, Edmond.

Altrincham: Coburn, Aspinall, Tinson, Lane, Scott, Lawton, Sedgemore, Peyton (O'Neill 82), Logan (McFadden 85), Little, Senior.
Subs: Bailey, Browne, Munroe.

Boro welcomed Altrincham to Liberty Way to play a Setanta Shield fourth round tie.

Boro had the better of the early exchanges and were almost rewarded when Stuart Coburn miskicked but Andy Brown's angled shot flew across the empty net and just wide of the target. Good work by Rob Oddy and Stepien gave Brown another half-chance but this time he was unable to keep his shot from flying over the advancing Coburn and off-target. On 13 minutes Altrincham carved out their first real threat with Chris Senior's low drive forcing a confident low stop

out of Darren Acton who produced another good save from the same striker's goal bound shot. Ron Lawton struck the side stanchion as the Boro defence endured a difficult patch, although right on the interval Brown escaped the attentions of the visiting back division to crash a right-foot volley from Stepien's pin-point cross straight at the grateful Coburn.

Three minutes after the break Boro fell behind after Jake Sedgemore's free-kick was charged down by Neil Moore but the midfielder hooked the ball into the danger zone where Senior stretched forward to divert the ball past Acton's flailing right hand. Just past the hour mark another Sedgemore set-piece found Chris Lane and his splendid header clattered the underside of the bar and flew out to safety. Quailey's arrival then brought a head of steam from Boro as Brown's overhead volley was turned over by Coburn.

But Boro's pressure paid off with four minutes left. Connor Franklin headed into the path of Quailey some 25 yards out and he unleashed a fierce drive that found the empty net with Coburn completely out of position. Altrincham failed to recover from the setback and deep into injury time Quailey struck again. Brown cut in from the left and tried his luck with a 20 yard cross shot but it fell perfectly for the in-rushing Quailey, who deflected the ball past the surprised Coburn.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley United 26-12-2007

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Collins, Curtis, Palmer (Oddy 60), Pritchard, Franklin, Brown (Williams 81), Stepien (Quailey 76).
Subs: Armson, Edmond.

Hinckley: Bowles, Roma, Lenton, Lavery, Hood, Jackson, Story (Burtoft 81), Storer, Kelly, Harris (Byron 46), Lloyd. **Subs:** Philpott, Birch, Belford.

Boro welcomed Hinckley United to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Although United's indifference at the back was a major element in the defeat, Boro's chance taking was excellent, emphasised as early as the fourth minute. Hood's initial mistake, following Richard Lavery's half cleared header, was speedily latched upon by Stepien and he raced clear to confidently beat keeper Sean Bowles. Stepien then rifled over from six yards following a neat exchange between Bradley Pritchard and Connor Franklin while a Brown effort flew wide.

Boro had not long to wait to double their advantage when on 19 minutes Hood failed to clear a long punt from Curtis and Brown swooped. His first shot was splendidly blocked by Bowles only for the rebound to fall to the ex-Knitter to coolly fire home. Soon after a 15-yard shot from Lavery skimmed the bar before another smart break by Boro saw Stepien find Brown but Bowles did well to parry to safety. However, it was the hosts who continued to force the pace and on 35 minutes made it 3-0 with Curtis confidently dispatching a penalty after Pritchard rounded Jamie Lenton only to be felled from behind. Brown was thwarted by Bowles as Boro stepped up the tempo but the interval brought some respite for United and a few calming words from team boss Dean Thomas.

Inside 90 seconds of the restart Lavery, Hinckley best performer, clipped the bar with a glancing header although at the opposite end a Neil Moore's header had the same result. To their credit, United battled hard and Acton then had to show his agility with three fine saves. First, he stretched to his right to finger-tip away Leon Kelly's overhead volley, then Storer's fierce 30-yarder was tipped over at full stretch before Acton grasped a slithering 15-yarder from Owen Storey.

But on 79 minutes Boro went further ahead. A high bouncing ball inside the Hinckley area caused hesitation and Quailey, just three minutes after coming on as a substitute, headed over the helpless Bowles. Boro's Acton then brilliantly turned another Storer screamer over and then denied Kelly with a brave stop at the striker's feet to keep a welcome clean-sheet.



Andy Brown celebrates his goal with Jordan Stepien.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 29-12-2007

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Collins, Curtis, Pritchard, Palmer, Franklin, Brown, Stepien (Quailey 71). **Subs:** Williams, Oddy, Noon, Edmond.

Redditch: Lewis, Walker, Edwards, Daly, Geohaghton, Softley, Cowley, Downes, Johnson, Spencer (Forinton 74), Deakin (Murphy 80). **Subs:** Taylor, Evans, Heggs.

Boro welcomed Redditch United to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North game.

In a dour and dismal opening period it was Collins who came closest to breaking the deadlock just before the half-hour. A typical burst into the penalty box to latch on to a half-cleared free-kick ended with a looping 15-yarder that Danny Lewis did brilliantly to turn away at the base of his left-hand post.



Soon after the break Boro showed their intent as Bradley Pritchard cut inside and forced Lewis into a stretching save. However, from a quick break, United carved out an opening with Richard Softley seeing his goal-bound effort take a late deflection and fly wide of the goal.

But Boro upped the tempo as they drove forward in numbers, Lewis spendidly turning aside an Andy Brown shot that took a ricochet and Cowan having a diving header fly across the face of the net. Jordan Stepien's angled chip drifted inches off target and Gavin Cowan failed to get a clear header. The deadlock was finally broken when a slick build-up down the right saw Pritchard's low ball back heeled by Brian Quailey across the area for Brown to dummy and allow Collins to race in and crash a fierce shot past a helpless Lewis.

Quailey could have doubled the lead only to fire weakly into the side-netting before United were cut down to ten-men on 88 minutes when Ashley Walker was red-carded for a late lunge that left Collins in a heap on the right touchline. Brown could have sealed the victory in time added on with a rising 15-yarder that glanced the bar but Boro confidently saw out the period to take the points.

Hinckley United v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-2008

Hinckley: Bowles, Roma, Lenton, Lavery, Byron, Jackson, Story, Storer, Kelly, Marrison (Harris 78), Lloyd. Subs: Birch, Burtoft, Hood, Belford.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Collins, Curtis, Palmer (Noon 70), Pritchard, Franklin, Brown, Quailey (Williams 79). Subs: Oddy, Travis, Edmond.

Boro made the journey to the Marstons' Stadium to play Hinckley United in a Blue Square North game.

Following a cautious opening United carved out the first chance but Leon Jackson's weak header was easily taken by Darren Acton. The action livened up considerably from then on with Boro twice being denied by the brilliance of Bowles as United's hesitancy from set plays had the home fans on tenterhooks. Twice Tom Curtis clipped in corners, the first of which found Gavin Cowan whose fierce far post header was superbly turned away by Bowles and almost immediately Neil Moore's glancing header from the second produced an even more spectacular reaction save. More Boro pressure saw Connor Franklin find Andy Brown on the edge of the box and the former Hinckley hit-man's 20 yard side footer struck the base of the post with Bowles a spectator.

However, Hinckley almost made the most of their good fortune when Leon Kelly splendidly twisted past Neil Moore but his skidding cross shot was acrobatically finger-tipped round the post by Acton. Owen Story cracked a fierce shot through a crowded goalmouth and Tom Curtis hacked the ball off the line before Colin Lloyd's rising 18 yarder flew a yard too high. Boro's response was another Cowan header from a Curtis corner which flew straight at the grateful Bowles, although the last chance of the half fell to Knitters' skipper Richard Lavery who guided a 10-yard header over the top.

After the break both sides huffed and puffed as Boro showed the quality while the Knitters' tenacity and desire kept them very much in the hunt for maximum points. Just before the hour a sweet move involving Brown and Bradley Pritchard ended with the latter's slithering centre flying across the face of the net with Collins narrowly failing to get a touch following an 80 yard dash. Collins then failed to make proper contact on a heading opportunity with just Bowles to beat although Hinckley could have stolen the advantage midway through the half as Jamie Lenton's looping centre fell into the path of Colin Marrison, who scuffed his ten yard half volley dismally into the stands.

Nuneaton upped the tempo, with the immaculate Craig McIlwain heading off target and a Collins angled drive grazing a post. But deep into time added on substitute Danny Williams looked set to snatch the glory as he got beyond the home defence and cut inside but his low drive was blocked by the outstanding Bowles.

Stepien Can Stay

Jordan Stepien has been given the go-ahead to stay at Nuneaton Borough until the end of the season – to the delight of manager Kevin Wilkin. The teenage striker has looked impressive during his two month loan and was due to go back to Gigg Lane, but Bury director of football Keith Alexander said: "I am quite happy for Jordan to carry on playing at Nuneaton."

Nuneaton Borough v Hucknall Town 05-01-2008

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins, Curtis, Pritchard, Franklin (Noon 55), Brown, Stepien. Subs: Quailey, Oddy, Armson, Edmond.

Hucknall: Smith, Asher, Cullingworth, Timmons, Sucharewych, Cooke, Robinson, Mayman, Saunders, Bacon, Graves (Howell 72). Subs: Kistell, McPherson, Thorpe, Wilson.

Boro welcomed Hucknall Town to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North game.

Boro dictated the first half with Gavin Cowan's overhead volley providing the first goal attempt, but the ball sailed inches too high. More Nuneaton pressure saw Craig McIlwain's goalbound effort blocked by Ian Robinson and Bradley Pritchard's edge-of-the-box drive drifted inches off target. Pritchard then had a glancing header graze a post but the best opportunity came on 40 minutes, Stepien's square header falling to Matty Collins whose close range half volley deflected off Greg Smith's outstretched leg.

It was a similar story after the break, Boro continuing to put the questions and finally Town's back division was breached on 64 minutes. And it was a goal of high quality. Tom Curtis arrowed a pass into the visitors' penalty area where Stepien's first touch was sublime and his second equally impressive as he chipped over defender Gary Sucharewych's head to crash a clinical 15 yard cross shot past Smith. Brown was then thwarted by Smith's agility, although a square pass to the unmarked Stepien would surely have reaped better rewards,

and on 85 minutes Hucknall levelled. Boro's rearguard was found wanting for once and though Tony Howell's angled drive was blocked and Danny Bacon's follow-up rebounded off Acton's legs, Robinson made no mistake at the third time of asking to find the target from 15 yards.



Jordan Stepien is buried beneath jubilant team-mates after netting Boro's winner.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Town's ecstasy turned to anguish two minutes into time added on when Boro regained the advantage. Yet again it was out of the top drawer, Curtis releasing Pritchard down the inside-right channel and the young midfielder fired a telling square ball across the six-yard area where Stepien popped up unchallenged at the far post to net the points with his sixth Boro goal.

Burgess Released As Cooper Quits

Cash strapped Nuneaton Borough have released veteran defender Daryl Burgess in the wake of a key director's decision to quit the club. Burgess, 36, was told on Tuesday night by manager Kevin Wilkin that the Blue Square North promotion chasers were letting him go as they need to cut the wage bill. Chairman Roger Stanford has urged fans not to panic as the club's financial situation remains unchanged, while Wilkin has paid tribute to the efforts of Burgess.

Stanford said: "Graham was due to retire from his business as his wife retired last year. But his company has expanded over the last 12 months and he felt he could not step down from his work at this time." ...

..."Graham was not a shareholder any more because Ted Stocker bought him out. He is owed money by the club, as

are all the directors. He does not want the money back at the moment. It is not there to give him if he did. The financial situation has not changed so no one should panic. The club has no outside debts. The directors are all owed money and that has not changed. We will continue to monitor the budget. We have been running over budget so Daryl has been released."...

The Lights Go Out At Liberty Way

Nuneaton Borough's home league game with Worcester City was abandoned after 84 minutes on Saturday with the home side leading 2-0. All the lights failed on the Horestone Grange side of Liberty Way after 79 minutes before flickering back into life three minutes later but the four sets of lights dimmed again and Worcester manager Richard Dryden insisted that the match should be abandoned. The referee Mr Simmons later insisted that he had called the game off on the advice of an electrician. Earlier Matty Collins and Bradley Pritchard had given the home side a 2-0 lead.

Boro Trio Get England Call

Andy Brown, Bradley Pritchard and Mark Noon have all been selected to represent the 2008 English Universities representative side.

Mud Bath Needs Sorting Out



Urgent action is needed to solve a serious safety problem posed by mud-ridden turnstiles and access to Nuneaton's football and rugby ground. Both the chair of Nuneaton Borough Football Club and the chair of Nuneaton Rugby Club



are desperately trying to find a way of getting rid of the mud bath that has formed at the main access to the ground.

In fact, the problem is getting so bad that Nuneaton Borough FC chair Roger Stamford fears the access is becoming a safety hazard that is affecting the turnout to home games...

Pritchard Signs New Contract

Nuneaton Borough midfielder Bradley Pritchard has handed the club a major boost by signing a contract until the end of next season. The 21-year-old was on non-contract forms at Liberty Way – meaning the club could lose the player for nothing if a rival made an official approach.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough 19-01-2008

Boston: Rayner, Matthews, Bloomer, Ellender, Crane, Weaver (Wood 14), Gaughran, Galbraith (Nicholls 67), Leabon, Stevenson (Thompson 66), Rowan. **Subs:** Beeson, Medine.

Boro: Acton, Moore, Mclwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins (Palmer 88), Curtis (Noon 72), Pritchard, Franklin, Brown, Stepien (Quailey 86). **Subs:** Williams, Oddy.

Boro made the journey to York Street to play Boston United in a Blue Square North match.

Boston's on-loan goalkeeper Simon Rayner from Torquay United was kept busy by Boro's attack in the early action but chances were few and far between, although Pritchard's 15-yard volley was easily dealt with by Rayner, while at the opposite end Gaughran had Acton going low to his left to smother a drive at the base of his left-hand upright. On 38 minutes Kieran Leabon weaved his way into the danger zone and unleashed a rising angled drive that Acton clutched confidently to his left. At the other end Brown broke on the right only for his feeble cross to deflect off the bulky Tony Crane straight to the grateful Rayner.

Boro started the second half positively and on 51 minutes created the best chance so far when Stepien's super deep cross found Matty Collins, who headed dismally wide from six yards. But Boro were gifted another gilt-edged chance just before the hour as Connor Franklin headed a right-wing centre down for Pritchard who was dragged to the turf by home skipper Paul Ellender for a blatant penalty. However, Curtis' effort lacked power and Rayner saved easily. Curtis then had a 20-yard free-kick saved by Rayner while Matt Bloomer got a crucial deflection on a Franklin centre to deny Brown and Stepien as the visitors continued to dictate a one-sided second period.

On 71 minutes Boston came close to taking the lead as substitute Ashley Nicholls powered a low header towards the far corner of the net but Acton's reactions were top drawer as he clawed the ball aside at full stretch. Collins and Cowan then failed to capitalise on a rare handling error by Rayner from a Pritchard set piece but on 78 minutes the goal Boro deserved finally came. And Mark Noon, who seconds earlier replaced Curtis, coolly lobbed across the United area where Stepien waited for the ball to drop before powering a seven-

yard right-foot volley high into the rigging. The goal brought The Pilgrims to life and only the brilliance of Acton defied United as he brilliantly pushed away Ashley Nicholls' drive that took a wicked deflection off Noon and then tipped over Tony Crane's dipping 25-yard free-kick. But two minutes into time added on Lee Thompson appeared to put Sam Gaughan's optimistic 25 yarder past the wrong-footed Acton.

Quailey Goes To Hinckley

Nuneaton Borough striker Brian Quailey has joined arch rivals Hinckley United after Boro manager Kevin Wilkin allowed the deal to be rushed through. The 29-year-old has scored 28 goals in 101 appearances over four spells with Nuneaton.

Boro Net Rodman

Nuneaton Borough have secured the signature of Alex Rodman from Gainsborough Trinity. The 20-year-old has come up through the leagues after starting with Leamington before moving on to Grantham and then Gainsborough.

Nuneaton Borough v Workington 26-01-2008

Boro: Acton, Moore, Noon, Cowans, Travis, Curtis, Pritchard, Collins (Palmer 64), Franklin, Brown (Williams 87), Stepien (Rodman 75). **Subs:** Oddy, Edmond.

Workington: Collin, Hewson, Inglis, May, Gray, C. Johnson, Anthony, Hopper, Berkeley, Wright, Andrews. **Subs:** McLuckie, Galloway, Gullen, R. Johnson, Taylor.

Boro welcomed Workington to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Both sides took time to settle with the swirling wind, but on 17 minutes it was Boro who broke through. Curtis' angled pass was superbly controlled by Stepien, who coolly rounded full-back Alan Inglis and though the striker's fierce rising cross-shot was splendidly parried by Collin, Brown pounced to net with a low 12-yard volley.

Workington were hardly seen as an attacking force as Boro continued to dominate and on 37 minutes the visitors could have fallen further behind. Curtis' left-side corner was flicked into the danger zone by Gavin Cowan where Pritchard's reaction header flew straight into the grateful arms of Collin. Pritchard then dispossessed Craig Johnstone in midfield and played a one-two with Stepien but Collin was off his line smartly to block the midfielder's run and shot.

Workington enjoyed their best spell immediately after the interval with Johnstone squandering their best chance as he miscued with just Darren Acton to beat. But Boro reacted positively from the let-off and stretched their advantage on 53 minutes. Curtis hoisted in a deep free-kick and when Cowan's header flew across the face of goal, Stepien raced in unchallenged to nod into the net from a yard out. Pritchard clattered a rising 15-yarder against the bar with Collin brilliantly turning aside the midfielder's follow-up drive. But from the resulting corner Boro sewed up the points. Collin palmed away Curtis' set-piece but Pritchard gathered

possession and his whipped cross was met full-on by Brown, whose close range diving header gave Collin no chance.



Andy Brown scores with a tremendous diving header.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Twice Collin brilliantly kept Pritchard off the scoresheet with top drawer saves from powerful drives before the keeper tipped over Neil Moore's spiralling header and then clutched a Cowan volley low to his right. Substitute Alex Rodman came close to netting on his first appearance but his glancing header was just wide of the far post.

Skipper's Present



Nuneaton Borough fan Anne Hales was paid a surprise visit seconds before last week's game against Workington as captain Tom Curtis helped to celebrate her 91st birthday. Mrs Hales was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Curtis, who left his team-mates on the pitch to climb the stairs in the main stand to rapturous applause. The skipper said: "I was really pleased to present Anne with the flowers. Hopefully the 3-0 win made her day even better." Photo: Heartland Evening News

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough 02-02-2008

Stalybridge: Gamble, Woolliscroft, Smart, Burke, Garner, Sykes, Dean (Roca 77), Barwick, Hall, Barlow (Ellington 77), Meechan. Subs: Haran, Wilkinson, Pearson.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins (Noon 85), Curtis, Pritchard, Franklin, Brown, Stepien (Rodman 59). Subs: Williams, Palmer, Oddy.

Boro made the journey to the Bower Fold to play Stalybridge Celtic in a Blue Square North match.

Kicking down the slope Boro almost took an early lead but a last-gasp challenge by home skipper Paul Skyes deprived Jordan Stepien of a clear opportunity. Excellent build-up play involving the tormenting Bradley Pritchard and Brown saw the latter's cross glide across the front of the net while Tom Curtis' 10-yarder was hacked off the line by Andy Smart. Just past the half-hour Celtic finally posed a problem but McIlwain's splendid stretching header thwarted Simon Garner. But Nuneaton continued to force the pace with Matty Collins going close after rifling against the outside of the post from a narrow angle.

Boro had to show their defensive attributes in the early phases of the second period as James Dean blazed inches wide from 12 yards with only keeper Darren Acton to beat. Acton then did superbly well to grasp Alex Meechan's cross-shot. Curtis headed off the line from Garry Burke's glancing header before Garner's fierce 30 yarder was held at the second attempt by the well-placed Acton. But Boro survived the onslaught to snatch the lead on 59 minutes. The grounded Collins somehow toe-poked the ball through a static home defence for the alert Brown to outpace Sykes and slide a low 12-yard shot wide of the advancing keeper Paddy Gamble. The striker could have doubled the advantage as he raced on to a Pritchard pass but failed to get power into his drive enabling Gamble to block and then smother the frontman's follow-up shot.

Substitute Alex Rodman narrowly failed to get a touch to Travis' dangerous low centre before the points were secured with a minute left. Pritchard galloped down the inside left channel, cutting inside Sykes, who blatantly fouled the young midfielder and Brown netted his 15th goal of the season by coolly sending Gamble the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Burscough v Nuneaton Borough 09-02-2008

Burscough: McMillan, Moogan, McGinn, Roberts, Flynn, Fitzhenry, Parry (McCulloch 87), Moogan, Smart (Dunn 88), Kilheaney, Booth (Clancy 72). Subs: Price, Tomlinson.

Boro: Acton, Moore (Williams 76), McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins, Curtis (Noon 65), Pritchard (Palmer 65), Franklin, Brown, Rodman. Subs: Dean, Edmond.

Boro made the journey to Victoria Park to play Burscough in a Blue Square North game.

Alex Rodman showed up well early on, although his low angled drive inside three minutes lacked power and keeper



Tony McMillan saved. The visitors continued to make the running and from successive Tom Curtis corners, central defender Neil Moore squandered excellent opportunities, seeing his diving six yard header graze a post while the Liverpoolian's first touch let him down, taking him wide with his goal attempt sailing harmlessly over. Another Curtis set-piece searched out Gavin Cowan whose fine downward header was hooked off the line by Matt Parry. But on the half-hour it was the Lancastrians who snatched the lead.

It came completely against the run of play when Moogan tried a speculative 25 yarder and Acton completely misjudged the bounce and the ball flew between his legs into the net. Acton almost conceded a second soon after – Craig McIlwain's back-header drifted beyond the Boro shot-stopper who chased back smartly to grasp the rolling ball as it headed goalwards.

Boro were rocked as The Linnets slowly hit the right notes, Ciaran Kilheaney's snap shot from the edge of the area clipping the outside of a post while soon after the interval the lively front man cut inside from the left but his skidding drive was confidently held by Acton. However, on 58 minutes Boro fell further adrift. Bradley Pritchard's miscue flew straight to Kilheaney who fed Matty McGinn and though he miscued his shot it struck the luckless Cowan on the hand and referee Billy Smallwood pointed to the penalty spot from where Kilheaney coolly beat Acton.

Boro responded with Pritchard twice going close, firstly seeing his turning cross-shot saved at the second attempt by McMillan and then narrowly failing to make contact with a Simon Travis centre. Burscough threatened on the break as Boro threw caution to the wind. Kilheaney's optimistic 25 yarder was fumbled around an upright by Acton, who then produced a magnificent triple save to frustrate Allan Smart twice and Kilheaney. Sean Clancy then crashed a 20 yarder against a post before Boro almost snatched a late consolation, the unchallenged Andy Brown was unable to beat McMillan from a one-on-one, summing up a forgettable afternoon in West Lancashire.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 12-02-2008

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Curtis, Collins, Pritchard, Brown, Rodman (Palmer 75). **Subs:** Noon, Williams, G. Dean, Edmond.

Worcester: Belford, Ward, Gill, Munday, Clarke, Price, Walker (Colley 46), Nwadike, Webster (Dinsmore 89), Wilding, Clegg. **Subs:** Brown, Dinsmore, Wood, Burtoft.

Boro welcomed Worcester City to Liberty Way for a Blue Square North fixture.

Alex Rodman was presented with an early chance when he found himself through on goal in the third minute. The 20-year-old's first touch was good but Cameron Belford made a great save when Rodman tried to place the ball low to his right. Even then Boro should have scored when the rebound fell straight to Brown but he hit the rebound straight at Belford. Rodman really should have scored when Travis

was put in down the right and he hit an inch-perfect cross which the striker glanced a yard wide from six yards out in the sixth minute. It was 1-0 on 14 minutes when Pritchard slammed the ball into the roof of the net from 14 yards with a great finish. A Franklin corner was punched down by Belford straight to the midfielder and he showed his ability to half-volley the ball home.

Worcester looked to reply immediately with a Jamie Price free-kick from all of 30 yards that Acton took no chances with as he turned it over the bar. Boro thought it was two in the 28th minute when Rodman headed another corner goalwards. It hit Price before Belford gathered amid claims that the ball had crossed the line, but nothing was given. A minute later Brown scuffed a 20 yard left footer towards goal that almost deceived Belford when it took a wicked bounce. At the break Boro were in total control with the only worry being their narrow 1-0 lead.

City made a lively start to the second period as Acton did well to turn away a George Clegg drive. The keeper made a great save a minute later when Webster was presented with a gilt edged chance to roll the ball home from ten yards. Rodman brought his side to life in the 53rd minute with a turn of pace to beat Munday to the ball and play in Brown. He had a great opening 12 yards out with a virtual open goal but could only slice his shot horribly wide. Boro were in the ascendancy as Brown had a shot turned away. The rebound fell straight to Rodman but he dallied and the keeper saved.

Nuneaton were given a reminder of the precarious nature of the score when Webster was denied by a saving tackle before the defence cleared off the line in the 68th minute. Rodman, who had enjoyed a good game, was replaced by Carl Palmer with 15 minutes to go and Collins went up front. A goal had been on the cards for Worcester and it arrived on 83 minutes when a Price cross was not cleared and Webster headed in at the far post.

Boro Sign Taylor

Nuneaton Borough have signed Rob Taylor from Redditch United on a non-contract basis and he is included in the squad to face Southport.

Southport v Nuneaton Borough 16-02-2008

Southport: Drench, Lever, Barratt, Holmes, Lee, Holland, Houghton, Sorvel (Powell 82), Robinson (Blakemore 73), Gray, Prince. **Subs:** Smith, Hine, Walker.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins, Palmer (Noon 82), Pritchard, Franklin, Brown, Stepien (Rodman 73). **Subs:** Taylor, Williams, Edmond.

Boro made the journey to Haig Avenue to play Southport in a Blue Square North fixture.

Southport were far sharper in the opening half with Boro having to graft hard and defend in depth. Inside four minutes Prince's cross-shot was deflected wide and from the corner the outstanding Paul Barratt flashed a 20-yarder just too



high. Mark Houghton then raced clear onto Neil Sorvel's through pass but Darren Acton reacted superbly to the danger by saving to his right as the striker looked to round the keeper. Boro's first glimpse of a chance came from a Connor Franklin corner that Brown headed across the net for keeper Steve Drench to punch off the head of Carl Palmer, who was replacing suspended skipper Tom Curtis. Prince then volleyed over from six yards following more good work by Barratt although the hosts had an escape when Brown fed Jordan Stepien who trod on the ball at the crucial second with only Drench to beat.

Robinson was then off target when well placed but on 38 minutes he opened the scoring. Barratt was allowed the freedom of the park on the left and from his near post cross Boro's static back-line failed to mark-up the darting Robinson and his six-yard downward header left Acton helpless. Boro's Neil Moore weakly headed at Drench and Port's Tony Gray failed to deliver with a half volley from eight yards. But deep into time added at the end of the first half Boro surprisingly got back on terms. Stepien pierced the home defence with a fine through pass down the inside left channel forcing Drench to unceremoniously bring down Brown. The defender escaped with a caution, but Brown confidently found the net from the resulting penalty, coolly waiting for Drench to move to his left before firing to the keeper's right.

The goal lifted Boro and they looked far more confident after the interval although Gavin Cowan had to produce a crucial defensive header to clear Chris Holland's cross destined for Gray. However, on 62 minutes the visitors snatched the lead to stun a partisan home crowd. A superb ball winning challenge from Bradley Pritchard provided Brown with possession and his pass, intended for Matty Collins, was toe-poked past his own keeper by Holmes.

The Sandgrounders responded with passion, and on 81 minutes they cracked Boro's armour. Substitute Alex Rodman must take a share of the blame as he twice failed to clear his lines. The ball was picked up by Barratt, and the wing-back's cross was only partially cleared by an under-pressure Acton to Prince whose angled 15-yarder found the far corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Moors 22-02-2008

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Moore, Cowan, McIlwain, Curtis, Palmer (Noon 86), Pritchard, Collins (Rodman 82), Brown. **Subs:** Taylor, Williams, Edmond.

Solihull: Crane, Midworth, Follett, Ayres, Collins, Gould (Motteram 46), Ducros, Middleton (McPhee 70), Anderson, Faulds (Hollis 57), English. **Subs:** Streete, Rachel.

Boro welcomed Solihull Moors to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Moors keeper Daniel Crane flapped at two crosses in the opening 12 minutes but both Brown and Cowan failed to take advantage. Calamitous defending from Boro on 14 minutes saw McIlwain and Moore head the ball skywards and when it fell to Darren Middleton he scuffed a shot a foot

wide of the far post from eight yards out. Nuneaton made the breakthrough on 20 minutes as Brown headed in a Curtis free-kick from the right. The ball was whipped in with quality and Brown glanced it inside the far post from just beyond the penalty spot. Boro thought they had made it 2-0 with a goal from Cowan who found himself on the right wing and a step over later he had crossed the ball to Brown, who scored but was penalised for use of the elbow.

Nuneaton almost gifted Solihull an equaliser when Moore tried to let a long ball run through to Darren Acton. Middleton nipped in to lob the keeper, who got a hand to it and Moore cleared from under the bar.

Boro started the second half by passing the ball better, but they were almost stung with an equaliser when Lee Collins stabbed in a close range shot that Acton did well to keep out with an outstretched boot. Nuneaton went straight up the other end and made it 2-0 on 52 minutes when Brown latched onto a lob over the top. He ran in behind Moors right back Phil Midworth, nodded the ball down and lobbed Crane from 18 yards. Boro were well on top now and they almost added a third with a slick move on 63 minutes. Curtis' cross from deep was flicked on by Palmer, Pritchard took it down for Collins and his back-heel was hooked a foot wide by Pritchard from 10 yards as he took the neat through ball.

Cowan flashed a header over from yet another quality Curtis ball after 75 minute while Franklin put a good ball in from a corner two minutes later and this time Collins glanced a decent chance wide from seven yards. Nuneaton were totally dominant from free-kicks and yet again Cowan connected with a Curtis delivery but again his effort flew over. Boro were given a nervous last 11 minutes when Lee Ayres nodded in from Solihull's first corner of the game to make it 2-1.

Nuneaton Borough v Halifax Town 26-02-2008

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Moore, McIlwain, Noon, Curtis, Collins, Palmer, Franklin, Brown, Rodman. **Subs:** Pritchard, Cowan, Williams, Edmond, Nelmes.

Halifax Town: Legzdins, Doughty, Clarke, Quinn, Kearney, Killeen (Wright 90), Shaw, Nelthorpe (Campbell 54), Davies, Griffiths (Forrest 60), Heslop. **Subs not used:** Mawson, Jones.

Boro welcomed Halifax Town to Liberty Way to play a Setanta Shield fifth round tie.

It was the visitors who should have taken the lead early on, when Anthony Griffiths split the Boro defence with a neat through ball down the inside right channel only for Simon Heslop to shoot into the side-netting with only keeper Acton to beat. It was midway into the half before Boro carved out a semblance of an opportunity when good work by Rodman put Carl Palmer in a crossing position and it needed a desperate header over his own bar by Adam Quinn to thwart Matty Collins.

Collins then volleyed over from the edge of the area as Boro strived for a breakthrough that almost came when Simon

Travis's looping centre found Andy Brown and his downward header just lacked the pace to evade the well positioned keeper Adam Legzdins.

The interval came with neither side really looking capable of penetrating the other's solid defence although just before the hour substitute Andy Campbell broke free and though his cross shot beat Acton it grazed the outside of the far post. Halifax continued to do the bulk of the attacking and when Shaw unleashed a fierce 15-yarder Neil Moore was ideally placed on the goalline to hook clear with Tom Kearney firing narrowly wide seconds later. Acton then brilliantly pushed away a power-laden Heslop 20-yarder and then grasped a skidding Kearney effort from the edge of the area.

But on 89 minutes The Shaymen grabbed the all-important goal from the penalty spot. Kearney's deep corner flew into a crowded six-yard box where Palmer clearly handled under pressure from Shaw. Referee Graham Scott had no second thoughts and immediately pointed to the spot from where Shaw confidently converted as Acton went the wrong way.

Nuneaton Borough v Alfreton Town 01-03-2008

Boro: Acton, Travis, Moore, Mcllwain, Cowan, Franklin, Curtis, Collins (Taylor 86), Pritchard, Rodman, Brown (Noon 41). **Subs:** Oddy, Williams, Edmonds

Alfreton: Matthewson, L. Wilson, Brown, M. Wilson (McDonald 85), Butler, Warne (Pacey 67), Law, Walton, Clayton, Reet (Cusworth 73), Bowler. **Subs:** Barnard, Dodds.

Boro welcomed Alfreton Town to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Alfreton went into the game without a goal in their previous three games. And it was their skipper Tony Butler who found his own net to hand Boro the victory. The goal came in the 56th minute when a high Tom Curtis free-kick eluded the Boro challengers, and as it bounced up, Butler diverted a header under the crossbar, with his keeper Laurence Matthewson stranded.



Bradley Pritchard tries to squeeze a shot past Alfreton defenders, but the visitors held out.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Two minutes later, Boro were robbed of a chance to go further ahead when nippy front runner Alex Rodman was blatantly tripped in the box by opposing No. 4 Matt Wilson as he chased a long clearance. Referee Daniel Meeson waved aside Boro's claims. The match official, from Stoke-on-Trent, incensed the home crowd again in the 81st minute when he showed a straight red card to Connor Franklin.

The young Boro full-back was trying to win a throw on the clubhouse touchline and raised his foot as Alfreton substitute Robert Pacey moved in to stop the ball going out of play. No contact was made but referee Meeson dashed across to dramatically order Franklin from the field. It left depleted Boro to play out an anxious nine minutes, plus four minutes of added time. But Alfreton had no joy, as Boro's back three of Neil Moore, Craig Mcllwain and Gavin Cowan stood firm.

The Derbyshire side's only real chance in the game came after 77 minutes when Josh Law had a close-range header clawed away by the diving Acton. In a scrappy first half, Boro striker Andy Brown had to leave the field with a thigh injury after a no-nonsense tackle by Burton. Mark Noon went on as a replacement in midfield, with Matty Collins pushing forward to join Rodman. With the wind at their backs, Boro dominated the second half, prompted by energetic midfielder Bradley Pritchard. A chance was set up by Noon, who found Simon Travis overlapping on the right and Collins slid in to miss his low cross by inches.

Moore had a header saved by keeper Matthewson and Curtis shot over as Boro plugged away. Then, in the dying minutes, recent signing Rob Taylor – on as a substitute for Collins – went on a mazy run into the Alfreton box before forcing Matthewson into a point-blank save.

Boro Fans Have Been Let Down

Dear Editor

In your paper on February 19, there was a short letter signed "Ex-Boro fan, now totally dejected". It read: "Is it me or does Liberty Way lack any atmosphere whatsoever?" Then he comments on how 1,000 fans regularly used to turn up (presumably at Manor Park), now the gates are down to 700. I have heard similar comments from other Boro supporters and I hate to say this but "I told you so!"

Ever since I heard about the move from the ancestral home of Nuneaton Town and Nuneaton Borough football clubs at Manor Park, I have been shocked by what I have witnessed and heard about the moves that have been undertaken, the sell off of the land at Manor Park, to facilitate the move to Liberty Way. You will not be surprised to know that at the back of all this, forget football, forget the fans, it's money, money, money!

In all the fog of disinformation which went around at the time one thing struck me was that Nuneaton Borough Football Club is not about the players, or the directors, it was all about those thousand or so faithful fans who braved all weathers on

a wintry afternoon, or evening. Grandfather, father and son and their wives, girlfriends and daughters. Regulars who paid their ticket money to see the match. Generations of them who believed that their football club was theirs alone. Rightly so I say. It would not surprise me to find that the vast majority of them lived on the west side of town where the spirit of old Nuneaton still happily resides against all the odds. The move to Liberty Way was catastrophic for several reasons. Just imagine you live at Stockingford and going up the Boro had been your family's Saturday afternoon way of life for generations.

A few pints in the Cherry Tree, or the Cock and Bear followed by unbridled passion at Manor Park. Now you are faced with a walk of another two miles. The routine is broken. You get in the pub with its wide screen TV football match. Warmth and comfort surrounds you. Mellowed by a few beers. Imagine you have to leave that cosy bar and trudge another two miles. In all weathers too! I would imagine that is where those 300 missing fans are on a Saturday afternoon. In the pub in front of the wide screen or snuggled up at their own comfortable fireside with "footy" on the TV and a can of beer in hand.

What the management of Nuneaton Borough Football Club seem to have forgotten, in order to bank the money generated by the sale of the ground, was that their core key customers, upon which any business depends, the average Nuneaton Borough supporter, might be put off by the extra distance it would entail in getting to Liberty Way.

When James Payne gave the Manor Park ground to the old Town football club his wish was that the land was inviolate. It belonged to the "People of Nuneaton".

Then a covenant was placed on the ground to stop it being used for any other purpose than sport. I remembered his family's wishes when I read out my letter to the full council meeting that met that fateful Friday night when the covenant was unceremoniously lifted.

The total disregard that the leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Dennis Harvey, gave in response to my words expressed in the spirit of that heartfelt gesture on behalf of the people of Nuneaton by James Payne all those years ago.

Then the lifting of the covenant was pushed through with barely a luke warm ripple of opposition by any of our so-called "elected representatives". I would say to those dejected and disgruntled Boro fans the same councillors will depend on your vote in May. Their glossy brochures will land on your mat soon saying how they are looking after the interests of the community.

It will be the same councillors who took the atmosphere and spirit of Manor Park away from the people of Nuneaton. Have a think about that on voting day. I fear for the future of Nuneaton Borough Football Club.

Peter Lee, Horeston Grange, Nuneaton

To The Heartland Evening News: - March 4, 2008

Harrogate v Nuneaton Borough

08-03-2008

Harrogate: McLaughlin, Bettney, Peat, Ingram, Hume, Dunning, Wood, Hackworth (Grant 41), Ellerker, Holland, Merris. Subs: Whittington, Heard.

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Collins (Palmer 89), Pritchard, Stepien, Rodman (Williams), McIlwain. Subs: Noon, Taylor, Oddy.

Boro made the journey to Wetherby Road to play Harrogate Town in a Blue Square North fixture.

The first real chance of the game fell to Town's Danny Holland who found himself clear, but couldn't guide his shot towards goal and the ball went high over the bar. Nuneaton's first effort came moments later when Jordan Stepien's shot forced a save out of Jonny McLaughlin before, with 12 minutes gone, Harrogate had the ball in the net after a Denny Ingram throw-in fell to Chris Bettney, whose cross found Mark Hume who jumped with Acton and nodded the ball into the net, but the referee decided a foul had been committed on the goalkeeper. Boro took the lead in the 17th minute after a clever through ball by Alex Rodman found Jordan Stepien who coolly slotted home his eighth goal of the season.

Tony Hackworth tried to respond immediately but he failed to hit the target. Dave Merris almost scored when he unleashed a high effort which was meant as a through ball but the wind carried the ball towards goal and Acton had to dive backwards to push the ball over the bar.



Stepien puts Boro ahead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Substitute Gareth Grant went close for Town, breaking into the box and firing in a shot which Acton parried away, though the ball trickled towards the Boro goal and Acton had to grab the ball at the second attempt. The home side kept up the pressure and Darren Dunning's cross found Mark Hume whose dangerous header forced another save from Acton as the conditions deteriorated. Gareth Grant put his side level when he controlled a cross and side-footed the ball into the net.

Harrogate's joy was short-lived as Stepien scored his second goal of the match as a Harrogate player was dispossessed and the ball found its way to Stepien who was unmarked and he skipped past a Harrogate defender and shot past McLaughlin. The home keeper denied Boro another goal after a Travis cross found Stepien, but his effort was tipped



over by the Bradford City trainee. The final 15 minutes were a test for Boro, with Nathan Peat going close from a free-kick. Denny Ingram was booked, as was Hume who was joined by Nuneaton's Gavin Cowan before Alex Rodman failed to convert the final chance of the game.

Stepien – I Would Join Boro

On-loan striker Jordan Stepien is prepared to sign for Nuneaton Borough if he is released by Bury at the end of the season. He said: "I would sign here, of course I would. The lads are great, the fans are great and I'm scoring goals."

AFC Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 11-03-2008

Telford: Young, Vaughan, Charlton, Khela, Roberts, Forsdick, Adams, Fitzpatrick (Jagielka 81), Lewis, Husbands (Marsden 75), Moore.
Subs: Reynolds, Teesdale, Thomas.

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins (Palmer 72), Curtis, Pritchard (Noon 60), Franklin, Brown, Stepien (Rodman 78).
Subs: Williams, Taylor.

Boro made the journey to the Bucks' Head to play AFC Telford United in a Blue Square North fixture.

There was little goalmouth action in a dour first period in which defences dominated. Boro's only real offering came on eight minutes when Boro's Gavin Cowan rose above everyone to meet a Tom Curtis corner, but his looping header drifted just over. United had more of the play without causing too many problems to a Nuneaton back-line in which Cowan was a colossus. However, on 21 minutes Telford carved out the best opportunity of the half. Home skipper Lee Vaughan raced down the right and pumped in a fine cross that was met by Matt Lewis and his downward header looked a goal all the way before Acton somehow clawed away at the foot of a post.

The game then fell into a tedious midfield battle with neither side showing much creativity and flair although Andy Brown controlled a Simon Travis centre but Dave Roberts was smartly in to hook away at the crucial second.

United were first to press at the start of the second period and when Neil Moore was caught in two minds on the edge of the penalty area Matty Lewis was quick to strike but his low 20-yarder was confidently dealt with by Acton low to his left. The tempo lifted with the hosts doing the bulk of the attacking and Asa Charlton went close with an effort that deflected off Brown in a goalmouth melee, while Michael Husbands completely mis-kicked from eight yards following Lewis' header across the six yard box. Telford were in the driving seat and from a spate of five corners in rapid succession Boro were forced to defend in depth.

Fitzpatrick had Acton at full-stretch with a spiralling cross shot that the keeper gratefully turned over the bar and Jon Adams' long range drive diverted inches wide off Cowan's. Substitute Alex Rodman then lost out to Lee Moore on the edge of his own area and the latter's shot had Acton scrambling across his line

to turn round the post. But on a rare Boro break Carl Palmer, who replaced Matty Collins, should have sealed the points. Brown's angled centre was only pushed out to the ex-Redditch man who with the goal at his mercy failed to make contact and the chance of glory was missed.

Nuneaton Borough v Barrow

15-03-2008

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Curtis, Collins (Noon 62), Pritchard (Palmer 54), Taylor, Brown, Rodman (Williams 77). **Subs:** Edmond, Armson.

Barrow: Deasy, Woodyatt, Elderton, Jones, McNulty, Henney, Bond, Boyd, Walker, Rogan (Tait 79), P. Brown (Thompson 67). **Subs:** Morris, Bayliss.

Boro welcomed Barrow to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

In a dire opening half neither keeper had a save to make as defences dominated while both midfields and attacks lacked flair, imagination or direction. Boro's sole goal threat came on 14 minutes when Gavin Cowan headed a deep Tom Curtis corner back into the danger zone where Alex Rodman, under pressure from keeper Tom Deasy, headed over. Barrow looked lively on the break with Andy Bond their main threat with a couple of shots going close.

The early stages of the second half continued in the same vein but the appearance of Boro substitute Carl Palmer just before the hour offered a glimpse of inspiration. With his first touch, Palmer weaved past two opponents and saw his 20 yarder take a wicked deflection off McNulty and graze a post with keeper Deasy wrong-footed. On 70 minutes came a lucky escape after he rushed out of his area to bring down Andy Brown, who was clean through on goal after Steve McNulty had underhit a back pass, but the keeper received only a yellow card.

Cowan then had a header blocked on the line while Barrow's Matt Henney saw a looping header drift too high before Jason Walker had a snap shot parried to safety by Boro's Darren Acton – virtually the only shot on target in the 90 minutes.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough

22-03-2008

Kettering: Harper, Eaden, Jasczun, Dempster, Branston, Solkhon, Brady, Bridges, Beardsley, Robinson, Westcarr (Mills 80).
Subs: Graham, Bussey, Marna, Kemps.

Boro: Acton, Moore (Williams 80), McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins, Curtis, Palmer, Taylor, Brown, Rodman. **Subs:** Noon, Pritchard, Edmond.

Boro made the journey to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Blue Square North fixture.

The Poppies made all the early running and took the lead on five minutes when Chris Beardsley squared to the lively Craig Westcarr who instantly planted a crisp 20-yarder past the helpless Darren Acton. But Boro bounced back almost immediately from their first threat as Tom Curtis' right wing corner was headed down into the six yard area by Gavin Cowan where Alex Rodman pivoted smartly to fire home

from close range for his first goal for the club. Kettering were soon back on the offensive with Jon Brady cracking a wicked 25-yarder inches wide before David Bridges' skidding drive was splendidly turned away by the stretching Acton. At the opposite end, Rodman's determined run past two defenders went unrewarded as a timely interception by skipper John Dempster deprived the workaholic Palmer a clear shooting chance. Just past the half-hour Acton brilliantly tipped another Bridges drive onto the underside of the bar but right on half time Boro conceded a dreadful second goal. Cowan lost possession to Beardsley on the right of the area and the striker cut inside and coolly slipped past Acton to fire into an empty net.

Early in the second half Boro savoured their best spell in which the outstanding Rob Taylor and Palmer had efforts fly just over although Neil Moore came closest with a goal-bound header that glanced off Guy Branston and drifted off target. Kettering looked ill-at-ease and when Moore's glorious chip fell into Palmer's path his first time shot beat Lee Harper but was wide of the post. That proved a defining moment as within 60 seconds the Poppies grabbed a crucial third goal. Beardsley was allowed acres of space down the left and he exquisitely picked out Brady, racing in at the far post, who crashed an unstoppable six-yard header past the exposed Acton.

Battling Boro rallied an on 83 minutes reduced the deficit with a magnificent Taylor strike. Rodman was fouled by Branston, who was duly booked for his over zealous challenge, and from the 25-yard free-kick Taylor cracked a thunderous rising drive that bulged the top left hand corner of the net with keeper Lee Harper grasping at thin air.

Nuneaton Borough v AFC Telford United 24-03-2008

Boro: Acton, N. Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins (Williams 75), Curtis, Palmer, Taylor, Brown, Rodman. **Subs:** Noon, Edmond, Pritchard, Armson.

Telford: Young, Vaughan, Charlton, Turner, Roberts, Khela, Adams (L. Moore 80), Fitzpatrick (Rogers 73), Lewis (Reynolds 73), Husbands, Forsdick. **Subs:** Jagielka, Thomas.

Boro welcomed AFC Telford United to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Inside three minutes Asa Charlton's long range drive took a deflection, forcing Darren Acton into a save to his left and soon after the keeper had to be alert to dive on the ball and deny Indy Khela following a goalmouth scramble. But Boro slowly found their stride – when Gavin Cowan rose superbly to meet Tom Curtis' right-wing corner it needed a superb full-length parry by ex-Boro shot-stopper Ryan Young to thwart the defender and from the rebound Andy Brown's close-range effort was hooked away by Khela. Boro then had a couple of optimistic penalty appeals turned down as Cowan was barged to the ground by Jimmy Turner and Alex Rodman's cross struck the outstretched arm of Dave Roberts.

Just past the half-hour Cowan again powered above the Telford defence and Young did brilliantly to push away with Brown's goal-bound volley being denied by Lee Vaughan's

clearance. The last chance of the half fell to The Bucks with Jon Adams firing a foot wide after Boro had failed to properly clear a Charlton free-kick.

There was an early scare for Boro after the restart when Adams flicked on for Michael Husbands, whose on-the-turn volley flew straight at the grateful Acton. Just before the hour it was again the agility of Young which foiled the hosts as Rodman powered forward, fed Simon Travis and from the return pass the striker's reaction shot was splendidly finger-tipped around the post by the keeper. The end-to-end action continued with Matty Lewis shooting tentatively at Acton following a Cowan error but on 78 minutes Boro made the breakthrough. A smart break out of defence saw Travis cut inside to drill an incisive pass down the inside-right channel for the ever available Palmer who delivered a peach of a centre for Brown to sweep home from point blank range.



Andy Brown scores Boro's second goal. Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Eight minutes later victory was guaranteed with another slick build-up started by Rodman's neat header to release substitute Danny Williams and when he put Travis in the clear, the wing-back strode forward to cross low and Brown stole in unguarded to side-foot home from two yards.

New Board Member At Manor Park

Businessman Ian Neale has joined the board at Nuneaton Borough. Neale, who played a major part in the construction of the Liberty Way ground joins the club along with two other prominent Nuneaton businessmen. Roger Stanford is expected to continue as chairman in the short term.

Members of staff at Boro headquarters were notified about the move early yesterday although the club's general manager, Mick Dewis is away on holiday and has yet to be informed.

Boro Sign Farquarson

Boro have signed teenage striker Nicholas Farquarson from Crewe Alexandra until the end of the season. The 19-year-old signed yesterday morning and is in the squad for the weekend game against Gainsborough Trinity.



Liberty Way Saved Boro

Dear Editor

In reply to Peter Lee, quoting ex-Boro dejected fan, I have to ask where he got a figure of 1,000 fans at Manor Park. My mate and I went to every game at the Park and apart from the high profile games the gate never got near 800, the last game at the Park v Vauxhall Motors drew around 2,200.

His (I told you so comment) smacks of sour grapes to me, for was it not the Liberal Democratic who led the major objection to the club moving to Liberty Way, even though unlike fans that travel from Stamford, Preston, Milton Keynes, etc., has probably never been to a Boro game.

The move to Liberty Way was motivated by the need to save the club from dying. The need to generate money to keep the club alive is just as great as any other business in the town and no way could Manor Park be updated to do that.

So we have had some difficult times during the move, but so does anyone who moves house. At Liberty Way we now have good sport in the community projects going, and when the north stand is up and running the club will really forge along.

He talks about the fans on the west side of the town as if the club belongs to them. What about the other fans from Weddington, Hill Top, Caldwell, and believe it or not Beduth. In the 50s and 60s when we had gates of 5,000-8,000 I can remember hordes of us walking from the Wharfe Inn and the Boot along the towpath, regardless of the weather. Buses were laid on for the fans in the outlying areas of the town, but were discontinued due to the lack of use. An average gate now of around 700 clearly shows that those true blues who want to get there will do so, and those who only want to come to the high profile games will be made most welcome the next time we have a good cup run.

“Clicker” (Name and address supplied)

Heartland Evening News March 27, 2008

Gainsborough Trinity v Nuneaton Borough 29-03-2008

Gainsborough: Sollitt, Greenwood, Drury, Parker, Dudgeon (Austin 56), Anson, Callery, Needham, Bird, Mallon, McMahon. Subs: Pell, Wood, Austin, Slofin, Reeves.

Boro: Acton, Moore (Franklin 62), McIlwain, Cowan, Travis (Pritchard 27), Collins, Curtis, Palmer (Farquharson 83), Taylor, Brown, Rodman. Subs: Noon, Williams.

Boro made the journey to Northolme to play Gainsborough Trinity in a Blue Square North fixture.

Boro, who had new signing Nicholas Farquharson on the substitutes' bench but kept an unchanged starting line-up, created the first chance inside 90 seconds but Alex Rodman, returning to his former club, could only steer his close-range header disappointingly off target. At the opposite end Darren Acton confidently dealt with a Ryan Mallon 20-yarder before Rodman's neat footwork deceived James Dudgeon but his rising drive flew harmlessly over. Both sides put the emphasis

on attack in an entertaining opening, Trinity's Wes Parker had a turning volley fly straight at Acton before Ross Greenwood's curling centre found Mallon, who failed to make contact allowing the Nuneaton keeper to gratefully collect.

But midway through the half Boro made the breakthrough. Curtis's long throw-in was flicked on by Cowan and McIlwain climbed unchallenged to head home from four yards. However, just past the half hour both sides were reduced to 10 men. Brown was brought down by McMahon's clumsy challenge but reacted by shoving the home midfielder to the ground. Consequently Wakefield referee Ricky Wootton felt he had no alternative but to dismiss McMahon for dangerous foul play and Brown for retaliation. Soon afterwards, Neil Moore was cautioned for a late tackle on Alex Callery with the home fans screaming for another red card while right on the interval Acton brilliantly parried away Mallon's fierce close range volley.

Gainsborough started brightly after the break and came close to levelling when Simon Bird latched upon a Tom Curtis error, exchanged passes with Mallon only to side-foot straight into Acton's arms. But there was no reprieve for Boro 60 seconds later as Bird got free on the left side of the area and squared to Callery, who coolly found the net from seven yards. The setback spurred Boro forward and twice the outstretched legs of Adam Sollitt defied Rodman while the keeper spooned a Palmer drive to safety and then grasped Cowan's weak header.

Trinity were under the cosh as Boro turned up the tempo. Curtis's header gave Rob Taylor a glimmer of a chance but the wing-back's skidding cross-shot was finger-tipped around the post by the stretching Sollitt. Farquharson was a late introduction although he sampled little of the action as the hosts almost snatched the lead with Danny Anson's powerful 20-yarder grazing a post but there was a let-off for Trinity in the dying seconds with Connor Franklin's sizzling angled drive also flying inches wide.

New Owners To Back Wilkin

Boro boss Kevin Wilkin is preparing to tie down his top talents to new contracts after being told he will be manager next season. Wilkin held "very positive" talks with new majority shareholder Ian Neale on Wednesday. He was told he will be offered a new deal to stay at Liberty Way as the club prepares to either mount a Blue Square North promotion push or a battle for survival in the Blue Square Premier next term.

A thrilled Wilkin said: "I'm more than happy with what Ian told me throughout the meeting. He has asked me to stay for next season and I'm delighted. You never know what will happen in football so it was good to hear. We'll sit down in the next few weeks and thrash out a deal.

"Things were a bit up in the air before with my situation so it is good that things are going to be resolved quickly. Now is the time for me to step up contract talks with some of our players I want to be here next season. I feel as though we already have the nucleus of a good squad."...



Nuneaton Borough v Blyth Spartans 05-04-2008

Boro: Acton, Collins, Moore (Rodman 73), McIlwain, Cowan, Franklin, Pritchard, Noon (Farquharson 73), Curtis, Taylor (Williams 83), Brown.
Sub: Palmer.

Blyth Spartans: Bartlett, Christensen, Boyle, Leeson, Snowdon, Williams, Webster (McCabe 76), Gildea, Dale, Houlahan (Dalton 46), Birks (Hedley 83). **Sub:** Fenton.

Boro welcomed Blyth Spartans to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

Neither side made much impact in the opening stages but from their first attack of any note it was Boro, who recalled Franklin, man-of-the-match Bradley Pritchard and Mark Noon to the starting line-up, who snatched the lead. Andy Brown's determination won him possession and when his cross was pushed away by keeper Adam Bartlett, Pritchard's follow-up effort was blocked, but Franklin rifled a stunning 25-yard rising angled drive into the net. Boro continued to press with Franklin's swift dash down the left laying on a chance for Pritchard, whose 20-yard chip sailed too high.

Blyth offered little in attack and were fortunate not to go further behind on 39 minutes when Taylor's far post centre was met by Craig McIlwain whose powerful header was superbly turned over by Bartlett.

Blyth raised their game after the interval with substitute Ged Dalton posing a threat as his skidding drive deflected wide off Pritchard. Then on 62 minutes the Spartans levelled matters. Webster's twisting run took him into the home area where he was felled by Moore's stretching tackle. Williams dispatched the spot kick past Acton to record Blyth's only effort on target. The goal brought Boro to life with Matty Collins' overhead kick finding Brown whose downward header was grasped on the line by Bartlett.

Boro substitute Alex Rodman made an immediate impact and was unfortunate not to have won a penalty when his snapshot clattered against the outstretched arm of Andy Leeson but the referee had other ideas. Pritchard's good work then released Rodman down the right and his deep centre found recent acquisition Nick Farquharson, whose stretching close-range header drifted wide.

Soon after, Brown's dipping header spiralled inches too high following another Rodman cross but in the closing seconds Boro had another cast-iron penalty appeal waved away.

Tom Curtis hoisted a left-wing corner to the back post where Gavin Cowan rose above his marker and was poised to head goalwards only for Peter Snowdon to fist the ball away but even to the surprise of the Blyth defender, the referee again turned a blind eye.

Boro Bought By Ian Neale

Nuneaton Borough are on the brink of a full takeover by businessman Ian Neale amid promises of a new era for the club. The construction chief, whose company built Liberty

Way stadium, has vowed to erect the North Stand and 3G pitches – so long as an inspection of the club's finances and running methods this week is successful.

The Nuneaton-born owner of Ian Neale Construction Group now holds 53 per cent of the shares after taking them over from Ted Stocker. That gives him control of the club, however, he will take over all shares so long as the due diligence checks over the next seven days run smoothly. He has promised to invest substantial amounts of money in the ground and possibly the playing side with talks with the manager due to take place this week...

...Neale also hopes to improve the rocky relationship that exists with Liberty Way ground share partners Nuneaton RFC while also developing the junior side of the club and contacts with Nuneaton's business community.

It is believed club staff were furious at the handling of the transfer of power with many not trusting the new regime. Talk of a mass walkout was said to have been raised...

...Roger Stanford, who will continue in his capacity as chairman, admitted the move could have been handled better. However, he believes the takeover will be a massive long term benefit to the club. He said: "It should be a good thing for the club."...

...Neale will be joined on the board by his close colleague Paul Roberts, former Boro director Graham Cooper, leading member of the junior football club Ian Brown, Cliff Holmes and Elizabeth Robbins...

Boro Sign Keeper

Nuneaton Borough have registered goalkeeper Steve Jackson as cover for veteran number one Darren Acton. Jackson, 21, has trained with the club in recent weeks and he has played in a number of reserve team games. Jackson, who currently plays for BGBL Southern League Midland Division side Willenhall Town and Loughborough University, was registered on non-contract terms at Liberty Way until the end of the season.

Fans To Be Kept Informed

Nuneaton Borough's fans have been promised honesty and openness under new majority shareholder Ian Neal's regime. The construction boss insists he will keep the Boro faithful in the picture regarding developments behind the scenes – where possible. He said: "We will be open and honest where we can be. Obviously there are things that are private and confidential, as with any business. However, where it is about something that concerns the fans, such as the playing facilities, we will tell the truth. In that sense the fans will own the club."...

Acton And Franklin Win Awards

Connor Franklin and Darren Acton were the big winners at the Nuneaton Borough Player of the Year awards night. Left wing-back Franklin, 20, was pick of the bunch within the dressing



room as he scooped both the Players' Player and Manager's Player honours at Liberty Way on Saturday night. Veteran goalkeeper Acton was the cream of the crop this season in the eyes of the supporters as he was named Borough Independent Supporters Club (BISC) Away Player and Official Supporters Club Player of the Year.

Hucknall Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-04-2008

Hucknall: Dickinson, Asher, MacPherson, Haran, Ellis, Wilson, Bacon (Galloway 82), Mayman, Knox, Saunders, Cullingworth (Ricketts 77).
Subs: Dempsey, Cooke, Ryan.

Boro: Acton, Travis, McIlwain (Moore 90), Cowan, Franklin, Collins, Curtis, Pritchard (Palmer 89), Taylor, Rodman, Stepien (Williams 15).
Subs: Noon, Farquharson.

Boro made the journey to Watnall Road to play Hucknall Town in a Blue Square North game.

Both sides made a nervy start with Boro's first threat coming from Connor Franklin, who hammered a fierce 30-yarder just off target. But there was a blow for the visitors on 15 minutes when Stepien limped off with a recurrence of a hamstring pull giving Danny Williams the opportunity to shine against his former club.

In a turgid opening period neither side looked capable of a breakthrough yet out of the blue Boro snatched the lead on 37 minutes. Craig McIlwain caused problems in the home defence as he challenged Steve MacPherson for a hanging cross, the ball fell to Rodman and though his shot was deflected away it fell to the unmarked Williams who joyfully scooped it into the net from four yards out.

Soon after, Williams had a glancing header bounce the wrong side of an upright before Town almost levelled straight after the interval, Danny Bacon's dangerous low centre being diverted past the post by the alert Travis. However, Boro pressed forward with Williams getting free on the left and seeing his cross deflected behind off Collins while Bradley Pritchard's theatrics failed to bring him a penalty under Nicky Ellis' challenge. It was against the run of play that Hucknall equalised on 58 minutes. Alistair Asher's long throw slid off Gavin Cowans' head and though Darren Acton pushed the ball away, Dan McPherson stooped and nodded the ball home from point blank range.

But on 67 minutes Boro regained the advantage and Williams was again influential. His incisive run from the right ended with a defence-splitting pass to the outstanding Rob Taylor and his fierce 10-yarder bulged the roof of Dickinson's net. Home skipper Danny Mayman somehow escaped being sent off when he viciously scythed down Rodman on the halfway line, but got away with a talking to. The home side levelled things up after neither Cowan nor McIlwain dealt with a bouncing ball and Ben Saunders miscued from three yards out, but the ball flew skywards, hit the underside of the bar and bounced over the line. Late on Gary Ricketts shot over while Rodman failed to get a proper connection with only Dickinson to beat.

Boro Crisis Talk Harmful

Nuneaton Borough majority shareholder Ian Neale has refused to quash rumours the club is going into administration. Talk this week suggest Neale's inspection of the books following his investment in the Liberty Way club has uncovered a mountain of financial difficulties.

Mr Neale said he could neither confirm nor deny the rumours, which he describes as "harmful" to his long-term recipe for success on and off the field. Any move into administration could redress financial problems, however, it would bring with it a ten point deduction at the start of next season...

Nuneaton Borough v Southport 18-04-2008

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Taylor, Pritchard, Farquharson, Williams, Rodman. **Subs:** Noon, Palmer, Collins, Edmonds, Jackson.

Southport: Drench, Lever, Barratt, Hocking, Lee, Holland, Duffy, Blakeman, Robinson, James, Prince. **Subs:** Gray, Whiteside, Rae, Jack, Powell.

Boro welcomed Southport to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North game.

After just five minutes skipper Tom Curtis lost possession near the halfway line and Southport's Mark Duffy sent Neil Robinson away as Boro tried to push out to play offside. The visitors' No. 9 saw his shot on the run blocked by keeper Darren Acton but he calmly stroked the rebound into an empty net.

The second goal came in the 48th minute and again Boro were guilty of giving the ball away in midfield. This time Neil Prince seized onto it and his chip over the Boro back line found Liam Blakeman, who simply sent a lob over the stranded Acton. Boro boss Kevin Wilkin started off with a 4-4-2 formation but changed it around to 4-3-3 midway through the first-half, pushing Alex Rodman forward. And the Boro No. 11 had a half chance five minutes before the break when he ran onto a Bradley Pritchard pass, only for Southport keeper Steven Drench to race off his line to block the danger.

Farquharson, who had wasted an opportunity just before Southport had taken the lead, saw a snap shot saved by Drench on the stroke of half-time and he was replaced by substitute Matty Collins in the 58th minute. With Boro two down and chasing the game, Carl Palmer replaced skipper Tom Curtis in midfield and he almost put Collins clear after 65 minutes, only for Southport central defender Kevin Lee to intercept. Four minutes later Boro won their first corner but Pritchard's cross was comfortably cleared.

Neil Moore went upfield for another corner in the 75th minute and flashed a near post header across the goalmouth. But Boro were kept at bay by a Southport side who were well marshalled by experienced former Birmingham City man Chris Holland and became the first side to win at Liberty Way since August.



Wilkin Agrees Boro Contract

Delighted Nuneaton Borough manager Kevin Wilkin has agreed a new two year contract to remain at Liberty Way. The deal is yet to be signed but Wilkin and majority shareholder Ian Neale shook hands on terms after two hour talks this week. Wilkin has also been given the same playing budget as he had this season in the hope of mounting a Blue Square North promotion push next term – even if the club goes into administration...

Boro May Be Sinking

Nuneaton Borough are virtually certain to go into administration after it was claimed the club is up to £1 million in debt with losses spiralling out of control. Sources close to Liberty Way have revealed that there has been a shortfall of up to £200,000 this year alone – an average of some £4,000 per week. The source, who did not wish to be named, said: “The debt is between £800,000 and £1 million. It is a massive amount. Before the sale of Manor Park, the club was losing £150,000 per year, but that figure is £200,000 this season. £1,000 per week is currently being spent on hiring and fuelling a generator to power Liberty Way. It shows how the club has been managed.”

The debt is believed to have piled up over a number of years, with up to £450,000 being owed to previous directors and other considerable sums owed to construction companies and tax debt. The debt is feared to go back over a period of more than ten years and over that time the board has changed considerably.

New majority shareholder Ian Neale has already admitted he is “shocked” by the scale of the debt and that administration was a possibility. However, now the full extent of the debt has been revealed, that appears to be a certainty, with a statement on the future of the club expected in the next week...

...Chairman Roger Stanford, who has come in for heavy criticism of his running of the club in recent weeks, declined to comment on the claims...

Fans Plan Protest

Fans angry at the financial plight of Nuneaton Borough Football Club are considering a protest at the club's final home game of the season this afternoon. Others want a boycott amid fears the club is on the brink of administration with debts reported to amount to £1 million. One unconfirmed report says Boro are losing £4,000 a week. The club has issued a statement about today's game with Tamworth, saying the “safety and enjoyment of all supporters attending Saturday's game is paramount.” It warns that anyone indulging in abusive or threatening behaviour will be ejected from the stadium.

Supporters have been having their say about the planned banner protest on the Nuneaton Borough fans' forum on the Nike website under the subject heading of: Are boycotts better than banners? One supporter said: “I don't particularly

like the veiled threats being issued by ‘der management’. “Who do they think they are? I am struggling most with the concept of giving over any more of my money to directors past and present whose views on the club are at best still pretty mysterious and at worst very cynical.”...

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth

26-04-2008

Boro: Acton, Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Collins, Palmer, Curtis (Noon 66), Franklin, Pritchard, Rodman (Williams 89). Subs: Edmond, Armonson, Taylor.

Tamworth: Cisak, Law, Langdon, Smith, Little, Foster, Bampton (Sheridan 29), Wright, Sheldon, Marrison (Ebdon 79), Richter. Subs: McAughtrie, Jackson, Waldrum.

Boro welcomed Tamworth to Liberty Way to play a Blue Square North fixture.

In the opening half, Boro outclassed their rivals with some of their best football of the season and only the agility of on-loan keeper Alex Cisak kept Tamworth on level terms. Twice in quick succession the youngster from Leicester City served up stunning saves following corner kicks as he finger-tipped away Craig McIlwain's stretching 10-yard header while palming over Alex Rodman's close range effort following good work in the air by Gavin Cowan. Man of the match Pritchard pitched in up front alongside Rodman, then skilfully glided past four challenges and his low skidding drive looked destined for the net only for Cisak to splendidly turn the effort away for a corner.

Tamworth were under mounting pressure and were yet again grateful to the heroics of Cisak when Dave Bampton upended Pritchard following Rodman's powerful run and pass but from the resulting penalty, the keeper went down to his left to parry aside Curtis' weakly struck spot kick. Nothing had been seen of the Lambs as an attacking force but midway through the half Gareth Sheldon got free down the inside left channel and unleashed a rising 20 yarder that clattered the angle of bar and post. But Boro held the upper hand with Pritchard's acrobatic overhead volley flying over while another goalbound McIlwain header from a set-piece was cleared from beneath the bar by Graham Law.

Tamworth savoured their best spell immediately after the break and carved out a great chance but skipper Martin Foster mishit his 12-yard shot well wide with only Acton to beat. At the opposite end, Pritchard's sweet drag back completely deceived the Lambs' defence only for his angled drive to again bring out a brilliantly one-handed save from the talented Cisak. However, on 70 minutes the Polish keeper was finally beaten. Franklin crossed from the left, Tamworth's defence failed to clear and when Carl Palmer rolled the ball into the path of Rodman the striker's 10-yarder flew past Cisak and just inside the post. Simon Travis skimmed the same upright from long range as Boro surged forward while for once Pritchard chose the wrong option as he fired wide of the far post with Rodman waiting unmarked in front of an open net.



Football Conference North 2007-2008

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering Town	42	30	7	5	93	34	97
Telford United	42	24	8	10	70	43	80
Stalybridge Celtic	42	25	4	13	88	51	79
Southport	42	22	11	9	77	50	77
Barrow	42	21	13	8	70	39	76
Harrogate Town	42	21	11	10	55	41	74
Nuneaton Borough	42	19	14	9	58	40	71
Burscough	42	19	8	15	62	58	65
Hyde United	42	20	3	19	84	66	63
Boston United	42	17	8	17	65	57	59
Gainsborough Trinity	42	15	12	15	62	65	57
Worcester City	42	14	12	16	48	68	54
Redditch United	42	15	8	19	41	58	53
Workington	42	13	11	18	52	56	50
Tamworth	42	13	11	18	53	59	50
Alfreton Town	42	12	11	19	49	54	47
Solihull Moors	42	12	11	19	50	76	47
Blyth Spartans	42	12	10	20	52	62	46
Hinckley United	42	11	12	19	48	69	45
Hucknall Town	42	11	6	25	53	75	39
Vauxhall Motors	42	7	7	28	42	100	28
Leigh RMI	42	6	8	28	36	87	26

Boro In Limbo

Nuneaton Borough's immediate future is stuck in limbo after a decision on whether to put the crisis club into administration had to be shelved after a board meeting scheduled for last night to make an announcement was cancelled at the last minute because the club, which is up to £1 million in debt, was waiting to hear crucial information from the Football Conference board.

Administration and the ten points penalty on the pitch that it brings with it remains by far the most likely option but a time scale cannot be set. Majority shareholder Ian Neale, said: "We have been in contact with the Football Association and the Football Conference about the penalties for going into administration but the Conference have not given us a satisfactory reply to our questions. We are trying to ensure the club incurs the lowest possible penalty if we do go into administration but we are yet to get the full picture from the Conference.

"We have drafted a detailed letter to the 12 members of the Conference board to try to resolve the situation because we need answers urgently. We require clarification on the likely penalties we will receive because we need to keep our fans in the picture..."

Wilkin Fears Player Exodus

Nuneaton Borough manager Kevin Wilkin is fearful that some of his better players will jump ship as a result of the club's off-field problems.

Conference Tell Boro: Make Your Move

Nuneaton Borough's administration saga appears to have reached a stalemate after the Football Conference told them to make their move. Boro had planned to announce whether they were going into administration on Tuesday night but that was shelved at the last minute after they were unable to find out from the Conference what their punishment would be. Director Ian Neale has written to general manager Dennis Strudwick appealing for urgent answers but Strudwick says they will not be forthcoming until Nuneaton make their intentions clear.

That means both parties appear to be in a stalemate, at least until the 12 strong Conference board discusses Boro's plight on Wednesday. Neale fear the club could be relegated from the Blue Square North if they go into administration under league rules, something he is desperate to clarify before a final decision is made...

Boro Go Bust With £1 Million Debts

The news that every Boro fan was dreading was finally announced at a press conference at the club's Liberty Way ground at 2pm. That was the moment the club officially ceased to be members of the Blue Square North League. Their future, on the playing field, now rests with the Football Association who will be announcing next Monday which league the club will be playing in next season. The signs are that Boro will be relegated two tiers into the Midlands Division of the Southern League.

Ian Neale, Boro's major shareholder who has now become club chairman, said liquidation was the only option because the club could otherwise have folded and there was a "serious prospect" of Nuneaton losing its football club.

Announcing the liquidation of the club, which has debts in excess of £1 million, Mr Neale said: "This will not be the news that the club's fans want to hear and the position is not popular with the board, senior management or players who wear the shirt of Nuneaton Borough Football Club with pride. If we drop two divisions, so be it. We have to draw a line in the sand, move on and create a new future for this club. We also have to be positive. We must look to a new chapter, a new era for the Boro."

The new chairman said he had been working "day and night" to resolve the club's plight. Mr Neale went on to say: "My company has guaranteed the players' wages and we are now committed to investing in excess of £1 million in order to get the club back on its feet, develop new facilities, build the new North Stand and help the manager develop the playing side of the club."

Bromsgrove Rovers — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to the Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Bromsgrove: Lewis (C. Taylor 80), Lloyd, McHale, Snape, Spittle, Walters, Alsop, Birley (Cotterill 65), Clarke, Lamey, Petty.
Subs: M. Taylor, Dyer, Bridgewater.

Boro: Acton, Collins, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Pritchard, Palmer, Quailey, Brown, Burgess. Subs: Oddy, Williams, Towers, Muggleton.

Boro's lack of a cutting edge has been their Achilles heel all season – and on Saturday it again threatened to be their downfall at the Victoria Ground.

Kevin Wilkin's men were not at their best but certainly had the chances to have clinched this second qualifying round tie at the first time of asking.

As it was, it was left to central defender Gavin Cowan to salvage a replay after Jermaine Clarke had given Rovers a shock lead.

The kick-off was delayed 15 minutes due to the match officials being involved in a road accident and when the action did get under way Boro were lucky not to be behind after only two minutes.

A Connor Franklin back header put Clarke clean through on goal but Daryl Burgess recovered to get in a superb tackle to deny the big striker.

But Boro quickly seized the initiative with Cowan glancing a header across the face of the home goal before Brian Quailey forced a fine stop from Karl Lewis with a fierce volley from a narrow angle.

Both sides were showing full commitment but there was little for the purists with much more graft than guile.

Boro did fashion a quality break, however, with skipper Tom Curtis picking out Quailey with a pinpoint cross only to see the frontman's downward header fly a yard wide.

But Bromsgrove were not prepared to roll over and with half-time approaching Darren Acton had to go full length to his left to beat away Clarke's cross-shot.

Boro upped the pace at the start of the second period and could have broken the deadlock on 54 minutes when Cowan steered a close range header over the top.

The visitors were made to rue that miss on the hour mark as Rovers snatched a shock lead.

Matt Birley took advantage of a fortunate ricochet and his cross found Clarke who powered a header past Acton.

This was the spur that Boro probably needed and they were back on level terms eight minutes later.

Bradley Pritchard's superb free-kick picked out Cowan who scored with a diving header.

The home side were now finding it increasingly difficult to mount much of a threat and as the half wore on Boro took a firmer grip on the proceedings.

Quailey headed a Neil Moore free-kick back across the face of goal with Andy Brown just unable to apply the finishing touch and then Quailey's close range shot was kept out by the keeper's legs.

There was an anxious moment for the travelling Boro fans when Nathan Lamey found time and space in the penalty area in a rare Rovers break, but Matty Collins hooked the ball to safety.

Boro had opportunities to clinch the tie twice in the closing minutes with Bromsgrove now hanging on by their fingertips.

Andy Brown's shot was deflected for a corner and from the flag kick Cowan's header hit the crossbar with Pritchard firing the rebound inches over the angle.

Then in the final minute Pritchard and Carl Palmer combined to send Quailey clear but his cross-shot beat the keeper and the far post.

Bromsgrove Rovers — 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Liberty Way to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Boro: Acton, Moore, Burgess, Cowan, Collins, Pritchard, Curtis, Palmer, Franklin, Quailey (Edmond 72), Brown (Williams 34). Subs: Muggleton, Oddy, Towers.

Bromsgrove: C. Taylor, Petty, Lloyd (Alsop 64), Snape, Spittle, Walters, Bridgewater, M. Taylor, Clarke (Birley 72), Lamey (Davis 72), Dyer. Subs: Cotterill, Lewis.

Centre-back Gavin Cowan was Boro's



Gavin Cowan scores the equaliser that earns Boro a replay.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

goal hero as his 53rd minute strike put Kevin Wilkin's men on course for victory. Cowan, who netted the equaliser in the 1-1 draw at The Victoria Ground, showed his strikers what finishing is all about with a crisp drive following an indirect free-kick inside the Rovers area before substitute Danny Williams confirmed Boro's superiority with a stunning second late on.



Man of the match Danny Williams.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Yet again Boro's inability to turn possession and gilt edged chances into goals was a concern but fortunately Cowan, and then Williams, had no such problems to bank the club a £3,750 bonus.

Unchanged from the first encounter at the Victoria Ground at the weekend, Boro dominated the majority of the opening period but lacked the killer touch.

And the main culprit was out-of-form Brian Quailey who squandered the best of the home opportunities although the first fell to Matty Collins whose near post header flew wide.

Rovers' best offering came from Wayne Dyer's slithering 30 yarder that Darren Acton pushed around the post.

Then twice in 90 seconds Quailey

failed to get headers on target when unchallenged and placed to do better while Nathan Lamey sliced wide in a rare Rovers' attack.

Early in the second period Taylor fumbled a Tom Curtis cross but Quailey's downward header lacked pace and was hooked off the line by Marlon Walters.

However, there was no escape soon after as Taylor was penalised for handling a back pass 15 yards out and when Curtis touched the indirect free-kick to Cowan he smashed a deflected low drive through a sea of legs and past the helpless keeper.

Seconds later Williams raced past two defenders and crossed to Quailey who controlled well only to blast his five-yard drive against the legs of full-back Jamie Petty.

But Williams was not to be denied and when he cut inside from the right and unleashed a fierce 20 yarder Boro's advantage was doubled on 84 minutes.

Pritchard and teenage substitute Danny Edmond could have added to the scoreline late on but by then Boro were looking forward to a third qualifying round home tie against Stamford.

Stamford AFC — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Stamford to Liberty Way to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round replay.

Boro: Acton, Travis (Towers 85), N. Moore, Burgess, Cowan, Franklin, Curtis, Palmer, Pritchard (Collins 80), Quailey (Brown 73), Williams. Subs: Muggleton, Oddy.

Stamford: Sanna, Jones, Colkin, Piercewright (Wormall 61), Julian, Marshall, Kirk (Toyne 76), Hughes (Childs 68), Battersby, Mettam, French. Subs: White, Hallcro.

Boro's superior class told in Saturday's FA Cup, third qualifying round tie as they rallied tenaciously from a goal adrift to put Stamford to the sword at Liberty Way.

A poor opening half display was quickly

forgotten by the home faithful as Kevin Wilkin's men turn on the power in the second period to eclipse The Daniels and book their passage into the final qualifying round draw.



Gavin Cowan heads Boro's first goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Despite the setback of going behind to a glorious Tyrone Kirk strike inside eight minutes, Boro showed their resolve to level through Gavin Cowan's fourth goal in as many starts.

And though Boro struggled to dampen the spirits of their Lincolnshire rivals prior to the break, it was a different story in the second period with an Adam Jones own goal, a Tom Curtis penalty and a slick effort from Danny Williams completing Stamford's misery.

Boro looked nervous early on as the visitors looked the more incisive, Mettam having a low skidder deflect off target while Acton superbly turned Kirk's goal-bound 15 yarder to safety before Stamford took the lead.

Jones released the pacy Dan French whose deep centre was controlled immaculately by Kirk, who delightfully twisted past Simon Travis and Acton to slot into the net from an acute angle.

Boro's response was immediate, Curtis'



Boro fans celebrate the 4-1 win over Stamford

Photo: Heartland Evening News

corner kick found Cowan eight yards out and his downward header flew off keeper Chris Sanna's hand and found the net off the inside of the post.

Bradley Pritchard scuffed a shot wide as Boro took control while Sanna saved bravely at the feet of Quailey although at the opposite end Acton did likewise to deny French.



Danny Williams is brought down by Sanna, but no penalty. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The misfiring Quailey then shot into a wall of legs as the tie continued at a frantic pace with the Boro frontman again missing out with Sanna's spreading body coming to the visitors' rescue.

However, on 49 minutes Boro were in front. Steve Julian's misplaced header fell to Quailey, who rounded Sanna and though his angled shot hit the near post it rebounded off Jones' boot into the full-back's own net.

More home pressure almost brought more rewards and Sanna brilliantly parried away Travis' power drive before a remarkable sequence of events saw Boro sew up the tie.

On 68 minutes Curtis netted from the penalty spot after the outstanding Carl Palmer was upended by Lee Marshall but within 90 seconds Boro's Daryl Burgess was adjudged to have tugged Tony Battersby's shirt but Acton produced a stunning low save from Mettam's spot-kick.

Almost immediately play switched to the opposite end where Williams cut through a hesitant Stamford back division to drill past the advancing Sanna to extend Boro's advantage.

The overworked Sanna again came to The Daniels' rescue by pushing Pritchard's 20-yarder to safety and was then relieved to see the midfielder's skidding 15-yarder strike the base of the upright.

Late on Acton produced a fine one-handed save to thwart substitute Kevin Childs while Sanna did well to foil Jamie Towers but Boro were home and hosed.

Chasetown — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to the Scholars' Ground to play Chasetown in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Chasetown: Evans, J. Branch, M. Branch, Slater, Thomas, Williams, Steane, Parson, Perry (D. Smith 81), Perrow, Holland (S. Smith 79). Subs: Thompson, Edwards, Spacey.

Boro: Acton, Travis, Moore, Cowans, Connor, Collins, Curtis, Palmer (Pritchard 55), Williams (McIlwain 88), Brown (Muggleton 80), Quailey. Subs: Burgess, Oddy.

If Nuneaton Borough players are trying to get manager Kevin Wilkin the sack, then they are doing an excellent job.

For an hour of this cup tie, Boro were poor in all departments, with their passing, movement and commitment way below average as the home side showed them what effort and tenacity is all about.

And Wilkin must be alarmed to think that his immediate future rests in the hands of an under-performing squad who will have to show a massive all-round improvement over the course of the next couple of games if his reign is to continue.

They were taught a harsh lesson by the tenacious Scholars, who operate two levels down the football pyramid but showed far more hunger and were rewarded with two gift-wrapped goals in three minutes around the interval.

Boro were again let down by indifferent defending and their own inadequacies in front of the net where the strike duo of Andy Brown and Brian Quailey was ineffective.

It was goals from John Branch and leading scorer Dean Perrow at crucial times that made Boro pay dear and though a superb effort from a tireless Matty Collins midway through the second period launched a Nuneaton rally it failed to save their embarrassment.

It was a day Boro pessimists had waited for as the Staffordshire men deservedly



John Branch puts the home side ahead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

At last Boro lifted their game and spirits, with Moore and Cowan setting up Brown for a free stretching header that Evans brilliantly fingertipped around the post.

The otherwise quiet Danny Williams showed his pace to race into the box and lift his shot over Evans only to see the ball clip the bar and fly over.

Then on 86 minutes Boro were left open-mouthed as substitute Bradley Pritchard fed Quailey down the inside left channel but, with just Evans to beat, his 15-yarder flew way off the mark and with it hopes of a place in the first round proper.

booked themselves a first-round tie at Team Bath next month.

In front of an all-ticket crowd, Boro had a half-chance inside three minutes but Neil Moore failed to get proper contact as his header skidded wide.

Brown then used his strength to forge an opening only for his drive to lack power, providing Lee Evans with an easy save.

Chasetown were confident in possession and when Perrow whipped in a near-post cross, Kyle Perry's spectacular diving header failed to trouble keeper Darren Acton.

Boro enjoyed most possession but their BGB Southern Midlands rivals worked enthusiastically but caused few worries, while lazy Boro hardly broke sweat.

But with less than 90 seconds remaining at the end of the half, Boro were stunned as Charlie Blakemore's boys snatched the lead.

A left-wing move gave Perrow the chance to get beyond a slow reacting defence and his clip back into the danger zone found John Branch who made no mistake with a crisp, low finish from 10 yards.

The half-time cup of tea was not so sweet, with Wilkin urging an increase in tempo.

However, within a minute they were further adrift.

Yet again Boro's rearguard was caught asleep, Perry getting his head on to a Mark Branch cross and as Gavin Cowan and Acton dithered in clearing the danger, leading marksman Perrow was more alert to prod into the net from close range.

Boro were under the cosh, with their midfield lacking flair and imagination, and it was Chasetown who almost added a third, with the outstanding Michael Branch crashing a dipping 20-yarder against the bar.

But on 68 minutes Boro were given hope as Collins reduced the deficit with a tremendous run and 25-yard angled drive that flew past Evans and rippled the roof of the Chasetown rigging.



A disconsolate Kevin Wilkin is left head in hands.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Some of Boro's impressive away support at Chasetown.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Workington — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Workington to Liberty Way to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round game.

Boro: Acton, N. Moore, McIlwain, Cowan, Travis, Curtis, Pritchard, Palmer (Quailey 76), Franklin, Brown (Stepien 46), Collins. Subs: Oddy, Burgess, Williams.

Workington: Collin, Gray, Rowntree (Nicholson 70), May, Edmondson, Johnston, Anthony, Hopper, Berkeley, J. Wright, A. Wright. Subs: Rudd, Inglis, Seggie, Taylor.

Out-of-favour striker Brian Quailey squandered a great opportunity to prove the doubters wrong when yet again he failed to deliver.

The tall striker has dropped down the pecking order since teenager Jordan Stepien arrived on loan and Matty Collins showed versatility in adapting to a front-running role.

When he went on as a 76th-minute substitute, he had a glorious opportunity to seal Boro's place in the FA Trophy first-round draw.

Quailey's knack of getting into goal-scoring positions was evident when

he dropped off his marker to meet an 87th-minute Tom Curtis cross – but his finishing was amiss as he glanced an eight-yarder header wide of a gaping net.

Keeper Lee Collin expected the worst but was surprised and grateful to watch the former West Brom forward fail to capitalise, a trait that has cost Boro a £3,000 pay day and facing the unenviable task of a 500-mile round trip to Cumbria for the replay.

Although manager Kevin Wilkin admitted it was a bad miss, he agreed that Boro's overall performance was poor and the visitors were worthy of a second bite of the cherry.

And he also conceded that goalkeeper Darren Acton was rightfully sent off for blatantly fouling the outstanding Matty Berkeley 25 yards out after the striker looked certain to snatch the crucial first goal.

Amazingly it has been more than 12 years since Nuneaton have won a FA Trophy home tie and they can have few complaints at not ending that atrocious run.

Berkeley was a constant source of

danger to the home defence which was demonstrated early on when he rifled an angled drive just over and was then denied a clear run on goal by Craig McIlwain's magnificent intervention.

Carl Palmer, a tireless grafter in the Boro engine-room, was disappointed to see his goalbound strike from just inside the area take a late deflection with Collin beaten while the latter then did superbly to turn aside Connor Franklin's fierce cross-shot.

But Boro's persistence in giving possession away provided Workington with plenty of the ball and when Berkeley again worked an opening Acton watched anxiously as the effort scampered past a post.

Gavin Cowan had a swerving 20-yard free-kick curve inches wide but it was Workington who were unfortunate not to take the lead just before the interval as Bradley Pritchard surrendered the ball to Craig Johnston.

He released Berkeley down the left and the frontman skilfully cut inside and drilled in a rising 15-yarder that clipped the bar.

Boro had Acton to thank for keeping them on terms soon after the break as he kept out Jonny Wright's low skidder with his feet while at the opposite end Collin did likewise to block Cowan's downward header from Tom Curtis' pin-point cross.

However, on 80 minutes Boro's hopes sank when Acton scythed down Berkeley well outside his area and no-one could dispute referee Neil Hair's production of the red card.

Cowan took over between the posts and had little to do in the closing minutes as Boro strived to snatch the tie out of the fire.

And when Curtis launched a looping centre into the danger zone from wide on the right, the best chance of the 90 minutes fell to Quailey, who glanced wide to the bewilderment of the expectant home fans.



Carl Palmer battles with Gary Rowntree for possession.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Workington — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Boro made the journey to Borough Park to play Workington in a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round replay.

Workington: Collin, Gray, Rowntree, May, Edmondson, Nicholson, Anthony, Hopper, Berkeley, J. Wright, A. Wright (Reed 75).
Subs: Rudd, Gullen, Inglis, Taylor.

Boro: Acton, Travis, Franklin, Curtis, Moore, Cowan, Palmer, Collins, Stepien (Quailey 81), Williams (Muggleton 81), McIlwain. Subs: Oddy, Pritchard, Armson.

Boro lost out in a dramatic second half after they had dominated the opening 45 minutes.

When they took the lead on 53 minutes it looked as though Boro would be heading for Leigh in the first round proper of the FA Trophy.

But the goal spurred Workington to life and they produced their best football of the game to get back on terms and then snatch a controversial winner.

Nuneaton played some outstanding football in the first half, knocking the ball around cleverly as they looked like the Blue Square North's form team, something they hadn't shown in the home tie at Liberty Way.

On that occasion Workington had been the better side and created most chances but were unable to take them.

Nuneaton carved out a number of chances and should have gone ahead on 18 minutes when good play by Danny Williams on the left-hand side produced a cross which found Jordan Stepien who was unmarked six yards from goal but he could only shoot tamely straight at home goalkeeper Adam Collin.

More good work by Williams and Connor Franklin, again down the left, caused problems for Workington but neither Stepien nor Matty Collins could apply the finishing touch to the ball which whistled past the far post.

Boro keeper Darren Acton did not have a save to make in the first-half as Nuneaton dominated the game for long periods.

They went in front eight minutes after the restart when the lively Simon Travis cut in from the right and a left-foot shot took a fortunate deflection to loop high in the air over Collin and into the far corner of the net.

The goal, however, lifted the Workington players more than Boro

and the home side came back to play their best football.

It was no surprise when they drew level on 68 minutes through a superb free-kick by Graham Anthony.

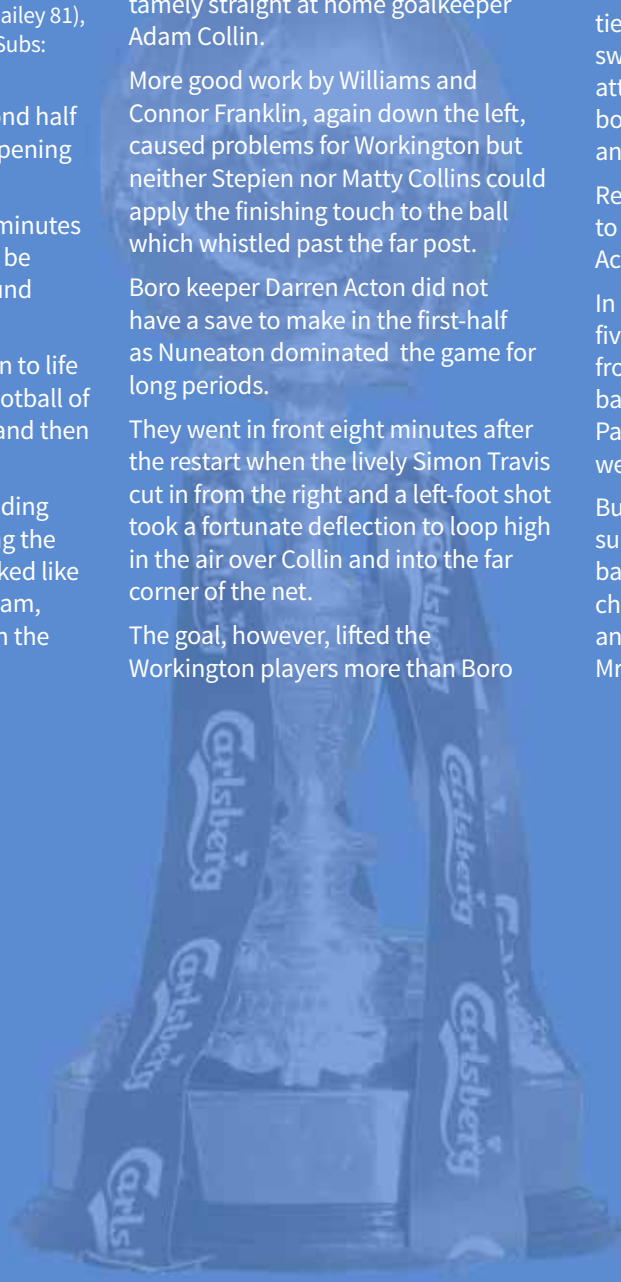
From a central position five yards outside the area he curled his shot over the ball and into the corner giving Acton no chance.

The goal that eventually settled the tie came on 78 minutes. A high ball, swirling in the wind, evaded Acton, two attackers and three defenders before bouncing awkwardly up at Neil Moore and striking him on the hand.

Referee Tom Conway pointed straight to the spot and sub Michael Read beat Acton from the penalty kick.

In a nail-biting finish Nuneaton forced five corners in the last two minutes and from the penultimate one when the ball was half-cleared a shot from Carl Palmer struck a Workington player and went behind for another corner.

But seven Nuneaton players surrounded the referee insisting the ball had struck Reed's hand and not his chest. Their protests fell on deaf ears and when the final corner was cleared Mr Conway sounded the final whistle.



Nuneaton Borough 2000-2008 – Part 2



Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2007-08

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.14	Histon	A	F	3-1	Quailey, Towers, Ricketts	
07.15	Cogenhoe Town	A	F	1-0	Wilkin	
07.17	Coventry City	H	F	2-2	Cowan, Koo-Boothe (o.g.)	2020
07.24	Bedworth United	A	F	4-2	Quailey, Brown, Towers, Muggleton	418
07.28	Leamington	H	F	1-0	Muggleton	688
07.31	Ilkeston Town	A	F	5-0	Williams, Pritchard, Blenkinsopp, Muggleton, T. Moore	
08.02	Atherstone Town	A	F	4-0	Williams (2), Pritchard (2)	229
08.04	Rugby Town	A	F	1-2	Collins	229
08.11	Harrogate Town	H	L	1-2	Brown	1027
08.14	Alfreton Town	A	L	3-1	Moore, Ricketts, Palmer	342
08.18	Workington	A	L	0-2		454
08.25	Burscough	H	L	2-3	Brown (2)	750
08.27	Redditch United	A	L	0-0		557
09.01	Stalybridge Celtic	H	L	2-1	Curtis (pen), Collins	909
09.08	Solihull Moors	A	L	1-3	Moore	406
09.15	Gainsborough Trinity	H	L	2-2	Brown, Ricketts	673
09.18	Vauxhall Motors	A	L	0-0		175
09.22	Leigh RMI	H	L	1-0	Brown	672
09.29	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	FAC 2Q	1-1	Cowan	581
10.02	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	FAC 2Qr	2-0	Cowan, Williams	607
10.06	Barrow	A	L	1-0	Cowan	742
10.09	Wolverhampton Wanderers	H	BSC	0-3		326
10.13	Stamford AFC	H	FAC 3Q	4-1	Cowan, Jones (o.g.), Curtis (pen), Williams	839
10.20	Kettering Town	H	L	1-1	Williams	1197
10.23	Boston United	H	L	2-2	Quailey, Brown	712
10.27	Chasetown	A	FAC 4Q	1-2	Collins	1408
11.04	Hyde United	H	L	1-0	N. Moore	916
11.10	Tamworth	A	L	2-1	Stepien, Brown	1305
11.12	Worcester City	H	SS 2	2-1	Williams, Cowan	568
11.17	Leigh RMI	A	L	3-1	Pritchard, Stepien, Brown	177
11.19	Worcester City	A	L	4-0	Brown (2), Travis, Palmer	703
11.24	Workington	H	FAT 3Q	0-0		786
11.27	Workington	A	FAT 3Qr	1-2	Travis	285
12.01	Vauxhall Motors	H	L	2-0	Curtis (pen), Williams	739
12.04	AFC Telford United	H	SS 3	4-2	Quailey (2), Williams, Stepien	440
12.08	Blyth Spartans	A	L	0-1		391
12.15	Hyde United	A	L	0-2		408
12.22	Altrincham	H	SS 4	2-1	Quailey (2)	533
12.26	Hinckley United	H	L	4-0	Quailey (2), Williams, Stepien	440
12.29	Redditch United	H	L	1-0	Collins	769
01.01	Hinckley United	A	L	0-0		1593
01.05	Hucknall Town	H	L	2-1	Stepien (2)	774
01.19	Boston United	A	L	1-1	Stepien	1491
01.26	Workington	H	L	3-0	Brown (2), Stepien	734
02.02	Stalybridge Celtic	A	L	2-0	Brown (2)	627
02.09	Burscough	A	L	0-2		486
02.12	Worcester City	H	L	1-1	Pritchard	753
02.16	Southport	A	L	2-2	Brown (pen), Holmes (o.g.)	935
02.22	Solihull Moors	H	L	2-1	Brown (2)	872
02.26	Halifax Town	H	SS	0-1		469
03.01	Alfreton Town	H	L	1-0	Butler (o.g.)	797
03.08	Harrogate Town	A	L	2-1	Stepien (2)	502

Football Conference North: Fixtures, Results & Scorers - 2007-08

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.11	AFC Telford United	A	L	0-0		1788
03.15	Barrow	H	L	0-0		850
03.22	Kettering Town	A	L	2-3	Rodman, Taylor	1741
03.24	AFC Telford United	H	L	2-0	Brown (2)	1277
03.29	Gainsborough Trinity	A	L	1-1	Mcllwain	733
04.05	Blyth Spartans	H	L	1-1	Franklin	852
04.12	Hucknall Town	A	L	2-2	Willaims, Taylor	556
04.18	Southport	H	L	0-2		1210
04.26	Tamworth	H	L	1-0	Rodman	1073

KEY : L = Conference North, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, SS = Setanta Shield, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 2007-08

Back: (left to right): Andy Brown, Rob Oddy, Danny Williams, Matty Collins.

Middle (left to right): Richie Norman (physio), James Ellis (coach), Brian Quaily, Neil Moore (club captain), Gavin Cowan, Darren Acton, Gary Ricketts, Jamie Towers, Daryl Burgess, Ron Bradbury (assistant manager), Mark Noon.

Front (left to right): Tom Curtis (captain), Simon Travis, mascot, Kevin Wilkin (manager), Carl Palmer, Bradley Pritchard, Connor Franklin.

Acknowledgments

A great debt is owed to the dedicated people who spent many long hours researching library records, archives and county records to provide the information for this website and its e-books.

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Others, too numerous to mention, have also contributed - their names may not be mentioned but their services and knowledge of both the football club and the town have been invaluable.



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