



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2

Contents

	Page No.
1996-1997	207
1997-1998	243
1998-1999	279
1999-2000	321
Acknowledgements	355



Dean Linked With Borough

Former Manchester United youth team member Craig Dean has been linked with a move to Nuneaton Borough from their near neighbours Hinckley Town. Dean joined the Eagles from Tamworth near the end of last season after failing to tie down a regular first-team spot at the Lamb. However, the prospective move comes as a surprise to officials at Leicester Road as the highly-rated midfielder is currently coaching youngsters in the United States along with ex-Bedworth United defender Jay Powell.

Rodwell Transfer Rumour

Former Nuneaton Borough favourite Jim Rodwell, who left Manor Park on a free transfer, is the subject of a race for his signature between two Premiership outfits, Leeds United and Liverpool. The classy defender, currently with Halesowen Town spend two seasons at Manor Park after then manager John Barton paid £6,000 to bring him from Hednesford in 1993.

Lennie Harris Reserve Team Boss

Former Bedworth United manager Lennie Harris has been appointed the new reserve team boss at Nuneaton Borough, taking over the role from Paul London, who left the club at the end of last season. The 47-year-old, who most recently was in charge of the highly successful youth team set up at the Oval before parting company with the Greenbacks over a dispute with player-manager Dean Thomas, will take charge immediately.

New Commercial Manager

Nuneaton Borough will have a fresh face in charge of their financial affairs this season after the appointment of a new commercial manager. Phillip Wright will be taking over the role from Phil Clayton, and with his wealth of experience in fundraising gained at Aston Villa, Weston-super-Mare and Kidderminster Harriers, will be an invaluable asset to the club.

Phillips Signs Seivwright

Nuneaton Borough manager Brendan Phillips has strengthened his squad for the forthcoming Dr Martens Premier Division season with the signing of Tamworth's Kevin Seivwright. The 27-year-old midfielder is no stranger to Manor Park having enjoyed a previous spell at the club, and will provide yet more cover after the acquisition of Craig Dean from Hinckley Town last month.

Moss Joins From Tamworth

Brendan Phillips has added to his first team squad by signing Chris Moss, from Tamworth. The 25-year-old has been a consistent goalscorer throughout his career with the Lambs and previously at Redditch United, and will be another string in Phillips' impressive bow. Phillips said: "Chris is a player I have long admired and was interested in when he was at Redditch, and I tried to take him into the Conference when I was at Stafford Rangers.

1996-97

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 23-07-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Davidson, Crowley, Seivwright (Clamp 78), Massey, Straw, Drewitt, Moss. Subs: Grassby, Lavery.

Hednesford: Cooksey, Cotterill (Carty 45), Collins, Simpson, Comyn, Russell, Yates (Lake 45), Lambert, Taylor (Derry 87), Street, O'Connor (Worth 65).

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

The visitors had the early initiative, but it was the hosts who came closest on 15 minutes when Wayne Simpson almost turned a teasing centre from debutant Chris Moss past his own goalkeeper. At the other end Joey O'Connor side-footed against a post with Paul Hayward well beaten before Straw put Borough ahead on 34 minutes, rifling home from a narrow angle after outstripping the Town defence. However, five minutes before the interval the Pitmen were level when a shot from John Cotterill was turned in from six yards by O'Connor.

Straw, who has lost none of the sharpness that brought him 34 league and Dr Martens Cup goals last term, forced Scott Cooksey into two outstanding one-handed saves but in the end both sides seemed happy with a share of the spoils, which on the balance of play was just about right. But there were a couple of casualties from the game, Seivwright, after an impressive debut, went off with concussion near the end.

Nuneaton Borough v Macclesfield Town 27-07-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald (Lavery 50), Luby, Statham, Davidson, Clamp (Grassby 75), Buton (M'Briwa 75), Massey, Straw, Drewitt, Moss.

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

Borough, once again playing in their soon to be defunct change strip, had the look of an away side as they were restricted to attacking on the break. In fairness, with Ian Drewitt, Rob Straw and Chris Burton all looking sharp, they looked dangerous when given the opportunity. But the Silkmen were a constant threat in the early stages, though Burton had the best effort of the half when he curled a stinging shot just wide with the outside of his right foot from 20 yards.

The visitors should have taken the lead when a mistake by Seamus Luby let in Darren Lyons, who with only keeper Paul Hayward to beat fired high over the bar. A cross from Steve Circuit almost embarrassed Hayward just before the interval but the ball cannoned to safety off the woodwork. Borough's influential full-back Warren Donald had to limp off early in the second half with an ankle injury with Richard Lavery forced into an unaccustomed role as a result.

The hosts were pinned back for long periods, as Donald's competitiveness was badly missed, and flying winger Tony Hemmings gave Lavery a torrid time.

A goal seemed inevitable and finally came on 73 minutes

when substitute Simon Hutchinson crossed for another Macclesfield replacement, the unmarked Marc Coates, who headed home convincingly from eight yards.



Rob Straw battles for possession.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Ilkeston Town v Nuneaton Borough 31-07-1996

Borough: Hayward, Davidson, Luby, Statham, Williams (Magill 63), M'Briwa, Seivwright (Grassby 67), Massey, Straw, Martin, Moss.

Borough travelled to The New Manor Ground to play Ilkeston Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough came away from the game with a goalless draw, but more importantly without any injuries, although Barry Williams was carried off after 63 minutes as a result of the Robins' uncompromising physical approach, which left manager Brendan Phillips far from happy. Fortunately, Williams has only a stiff calf and should be fit in a couple of days.

The closest either side came to a goal in a disappointing game was with 15 minutes remaining when David Taylor missed from the penalty spot after being fouled by keeper Paul Hayward while Rob Straw had a late chance for Borough but his 20-yarder flew narrowly wide.

Wainfleet New Shirt Sponsors

Nuneaton Borough have revealed their new kit sponsors for the next two seasons – local coach firm Wainfleet, of Oaston Road – and have had their home and away strips redesigned to mark the occasion.

Back in the early 1970s Borough had a change kit of yellow and green, and to match their sponsors' company colours they have reverted to that combination. It will be worn at every away game except those where it clashes with the hosts. Meanwhile, the traditional blue and white stripes will remain at home, though with white shorts and socks, with a yellow collar on the shirts.

In addition, the company name will appear on ground advertising boards, in the match day programme and as match day sponsors on chosen dates. Wainfleet's managing director, Kelvin Clifford, a long-time vice-president of the club and, whose company have been responsible for ferrying the team around in recent years, was delighted with the deal.

"We wanted to put something back into the community and this is the biggest sponsorship deal we have ever done. When I was approached about sponsoring the shirts I didn't have any second thoughts and hopefully this can carry on our close connection with the club."



Borough unveil their new strip with Gary Statham modelling the away kit and Rob Straw the traditional blue and white home colours. On the back row are (from left), manager Brendan Phillips, chairman Howard Kerry, Wainfleet's managing director Kelvin Clifford and his wife Kim, and commercial manager Phil Wright.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Umbrella Stand Almost Complete

Nuneaton Borough's so-called "umbrella stand" is well on the way to completion although it's touch and go whether it will be ready for the start of the new season. Over the past few weeks workmen have been paving the way for the roof to be fitted in the hope that all will be complete for the club's first home Dr Martens Premier Division fixture against Newport AFC on Tuesday, August 20.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 03-08-1996

Borough: Hayward, Luby, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Massey, Seivwright, Martin, Straw Drewitt, Moss (Grassby 79), M'Briwa, Stanley, Beckett.

Coventry: Filan (Quy 45), Nolan (Prenderville 45), Shilton, Willis, Hawkins, Hall, Healey, O'Toole, Falconbridge, Ducros, McMenamin.

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

Borough chalked up their first pre-season win with a stylish performance. It was the Sky Blues who made the early running as Borough appeared a little nervous in the opening exchanges. On eight minutes, Craig Falconbridge burst through a static home defence but as he rounded Paul Hayward he knocked the ball too far in front and it rolled harmlessly over the line for a goal kick. Three minutes later

an Andy Ducros header was well saved by Hayward but the Sky Blues striker should really have scored. Borough then started to get into the match and on 25 minutes Rob Straw turned Colin Hawkins on the edge of the 18 yard area and fired a powerful shot which just whistled past the post. On the half hour mark, neat play by Straw set up Ian Drewitt who shot into the side netting.



City keeper John Filan watches helplessly as Ian Drewitt's diving header flashes just wide of the post. Photo: Heartland Evening News

With 32 minutes on the clock, Borough took the lead with a fine goal when a defence splitting pass from Richard Massey set Straw away and he clinically rounded keeper John Filan and slotted the ball into the vacant net. It was an advantage that was nearly increased seven minutes later when Danny Martin's right wing cross found the diving Ian Drewitt whose header flew just wide. Soon after Seamus Luby got in on the act with a curling 20-yarder which narrowly cleared the bar.

The second half began with Borough on top and Massey should have scored but he blazed high over the bar from six yards after being set up by the busy Rob Straw. The hosts were made to pay for that miss on 55 minutes when City equalised. Andy Ducros picked up a loose ball and promptly turned Tom McGinty inside out before firing a powerful 18-yard drive into the corner of the net giving Hayward no chance.

Borough then showed their mettle by regaining the lead four minutes later. Rob Straw's corner was dropped by substitute keeper Andy Quy and Statham had the simple task of tapping the ball home. Just after the hour mark, Chris Moss should have scored when glancing a header wide from Straw's free-kick. Moss was back in action soon after when his close range shot was pushed over by substitute keeper Quy and Straw's resultant corner kick found Statham, who saw his first-time shot brilliantly saved by the City custodian.

Two goals in the 67th and 68th minutes wrapped up the win for Borough. The first was started by Statham who carried the ball forward Barry Williams style, a neat one-two with Moss saw Statham return the ball to Moss who fired home past Quy from close range. From the kick-off, Borough regained possession and Straw was set free down the left and his inch-

perfect cross found Drewitt whose first-time shot ripped into the back of the net sending the Borough faithful at the Cock and Bear end wild with delight.

It was all Borough now as they moved the ball around with some excellent one-touch football but with 15 minutes remaining and against the run of play, Sky Blues reduced the deficit when Brett Healey stabbed the ball in from close range after the Borough defence had failed to clear.

Pershore Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-08-1996

Borough: Hayward, Luby, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Seivwright, Massey (Martin 57), Straw, Moss, Simpson. **Subs:** Grassby, M'Briwa.

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

Borough wound up their pre-season fixtures with a narrow success in a dour match that was only brought to life late on when lightning struck a floodlight.

Playing on an excellent pitch, Borough made a good start and it came as no surprise when they took an eighth minute lead when Tony Simpson took a short corner to Rob Straw who returned the ball to the inrushing Simpson and his shot took a deflection off a defender on the way into the net. Pershore could have levelled when Joey Licata blazed his shot high over the bar from 10 yards, following good work by Rob Connolly while on the half-hour Straw threatened when he picked up a loose ball and from 18 yards out his powerful left foot drive cannoned off keeper Mick Scott's chest and was scrambled clear by a grateful home defence.

The Borough front-runner, however, was not to be denied five minutes before the break when he increased the visitors' lead. An inch perfect pass by Richard Massey found Straw unmarked in the box and he made no mistake with a drive in-off the post. Nine minutes after the re-start Chris Moss almost added to the score when he saw his header fly just wide following a good cross from Straw. After this the game became bogged down into a midfield stalemate and it did not burst into life until the final 15 minutes.

On 76 minutes Kevin Seivwright found Straw who shot inches off target and soon after Straw turned his marker on the edge of the box, but his shot brought a good save from Scott. Chris Moss missed a good chance with 11 minutes to go.

Rushden & Diamonds v Nuneaton Borough 10-08-1996

Rushden: Benstead, Peaks (Wooding 45), Lilwall, Wilson, Hannigan, Stott, Cramman, Butterworth, Wilkin (Alford 45), Collins, Hackett (Kirkup 71).

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Massey, Seivwright (Martin 60), Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** M'Briwa, Grassby.

Borough travelled to Nene Park to play Rushden & Diamonds in the Southern League Championship Shield game.

The early stages saw the hosts playing some neat football and only a last ditch tackle by Gary Statham halted Kevin Wilkin following good work from Andy Peaks. On the 15

minute mark Garry Butterworth ran unchallenged and from fully 25 yards unleashed a fierce shot which Paul Hayward did well to tip over for a fruitless corner. It was Borough's turn to be denied three minutes later when a brilliant double save from Graham Benstead thwarted Rob Straw following neat play down the right from Ian Drewitt and Tony Simpson. Midway through the half, Butterworth has another long range effort but Hayward saved comfortably.

With 32 minutes on the clock, Wilkin missed a sitter – blazing high over a gaping net from six yards – courtesy of Kenny Cramman's right-wing cross. Soon after Borough had a penalty appeal turned down when Simpson appeared to be fouled by Lilwall and just before the break the Borough winger was denied by a finger-tip save from Benstead after being set up by Rob Straw.

The second half opened with Borough enjoying most of the possession and on 50 minutes a Seamus Luby free kick just failed to find the lurking Simpson in the six-yard area. Eight minutes later, a fine run down the right from Chris Moss saw his cross narrowly fail to find the leaping Rob Straw and almost immediately Brendan Hackett broke away and his inch-perfect centre was headed badly wide by Darren Collins.

Collins, however, was not to be denied on the hour when an astute Carl Alford pass sent the Rushden number ten free and he calmly rounded Hayward to slot home into an empty net. It was Collins again two minutes later who increased the home advantage with a carbon-copy of his first – again set up by the influential Alford, Diamonds' record £75,000-plus signing from Kettering at the end of last season.

Borough almost hit back a minute later when a good run down the right from Ian Drewitt saw him cut the ball inside to Straw, whose shot just failed to find the in-rushing Danny Martin. It was Rushden who then upped a gear with Tim Wooding picking up a Terry Wilson pass before blasting a long-range effort just wide. The home side continued to dominate and 12 minutes from the end they added their third. Andy Kirkup floated in a harmless looking cross only for Warren Donald to head into the path of a surprised Alford who had the simple task of tapping the ball home. The goal effectively killed off the game as a contest as the match fizzled out during the dying minutes, but Borough can take heart from an encouraging performance despite the scoreline.

Borough's Alf Dies

One of Nuneaton's most respected sporting gentlemen has died at the age of 80. Alf Scattergood, who was life president of Nuneaton Borough Football Club and president of Nuneaton Cricket Club, died at his home in Hinckley Road on Friday after a brave battle against cancer. Nuneaton Borough press officer, Gordon Chislett, said he was upset after hearing that Alf had died. "It is a tragedy. He was a terrific character and a great servant to the club of which he had been associated for more than 40 years as chairman, director and latterly, life president."...

Borough's Welsh Connection



Nuneaton Borough's Welsh connection have helped the Manor Park club cash in by sponsoring the first home game of the season against Newport AFC on Tuesday. Glyn and Richard Burrell are both avid Borough fans but the clash with Newport will bring back memories of years gone by for the brothers, both of who spent their childhood days down the "Valleys" before moving to Nuneaton back in 1940. However, their loyalties now belong with Borough and they felt it would be a fitting gesture if they could sponsor the game.

Richard said: "As soon as we saw that the Borough's opening home match was against Newport we immediately put the wheels in motion as to sponsoring the match. We asked club officials and they were delighted to accept our offer"...

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Sudbury Town v Nuneaton Borough

17-08-1996

Sudbury: Mokler, Girling, Carter, Greaves, Tracey, Bishop (English 67), Cheetham, Calinan (Grice 67), McClean, Smith, Adams. Sub: Stafford.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Massey, Luby, Moss (Seivwright 5), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: Davidson, Lavery.

Borough travelled to The Priory Stadium to play Sudbury Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Although Sudbury had the early play, it was Borough who nearly scored in the fourth minute when Chris Tracey made a hash of a backpass to Steve Mokler, but the home custodian recovered well to save from Rob Straw. After 15 minutes Tom McGinty put Paul Hayward under pressure from a backpass with the Borough keeper being forced to head the ball. The resulting free-kick saw Mick Smith's powerful shot strike his own forward Steve Callinan on the six yard line with the ball going harmlessly wide for a goal-kick. After this, Borough took control and in the 19th minute they took the lead

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



through Rob Straw. An inch-perfect cross by Tony Simpson found Straw who beat two home defenders before shooting low into the corner of the net.

With 30 minutes on the clock, a fine run down the right by Warren Donald resulted in his cross just failing to find the in-rushing Rob Straw and a minute later, Tom McGinty picked up a loose ball 25 yards out and his powerful left-foot drive whistled inches past the post. Just before the break, Tony Simpson ran into the 18-yard area and set up Straw whose shot was well held by Mokler. The second period opened with Sudbury trying to force the issue and a dangerous looking cross from the left by Jason Carter was well cut out by Seamus Luby. Soon after, Ian Drewitt turned his marker on the edge of the area before firing just over the bar.

In the 56th minute, a sweeping move down the right flank saw Drewitt cut the ball inside to Luby who saw his 20 yard effort shave the wrong side of the post and minutes later a Simpson run down the middle resulted in his shot just clearing the bar. Just after the hour, a smart turn by Straw saw him lose his marker but his low drive was saved by Mokler. Borough continued to call the tune and another mazy run from Simpson saw the Borough winger cut into the box but his low drive was pushed round the post by the busy Mokler for a fruitless corner.

The second goal that Borough had been threatening finally came in the 80th minute and Tony Simpson was again the architect with a slide-rule pass that sent Ian Drewitt clear into the box and the Welshman clinically fired past Mokler into the corner of the net. This put the seal on the victory for Borough, who in the closing stages were continuing to play excellent one-touch football and on a couple of occasions could have added to their score when a Rob Straw cross flashed across a vacant goalmouth and right at the death Luby sent Drewitt into the box but this time Mokler smothered his shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Newport AFC 20-08-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Massey, Luby, Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Davidson, Seivwright, Lavery.

Newport: Roberts, Street, Smothers, Coyne, Brazil (Jones 58), John, Aizlewood, Tucker, Donovan, Evans (Burton 83), Nicholls (Quarterly 77).

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

Borough should really have gone ahead as early as the fourth minute when visiting skipper Ray John misjudged Warren Donald's long clearance allowing Rob Straw to race clear. But in a one-on-one situation he shot hurriedly at the legs of keeper John Roberts and from the rebound Simpson shot well over the top. There was danger at the other end shortly after when Danny Street and Andy Evans combined to put Neil Smothers in but his volley lacked power and was comfortably pouched by Hayward. On 16 minutes a fierce Tom McGinty free-kick was saved by Roberts only to fall straight at the feet of Simpson who completely missed his

kick with an open goal beckoning, allowing the Newport defence to scramble the ball for a corner.

Arguably the move of the half came on 21 minutes when Chris Moss dummied on the left and fired in a cross that ran free to Drewitt on the edge of the area but he was unlucky to see his stunning drive hit the crossbar. On 34 minutes the context of the game changed when the visitors were reduced to ten men. Jason Donovan was the man dismissed for a tackle on Richard Massey that left the Borough midfielder writhing in agony and lucky to escape serious injury. The referee had no hesitation in producing a red card. After a lengthy delay while Massey received treatment, Borough thought they had broken the deadlock when Moss stabbed the ball home from McGinty's free-kick but the goal was ruled out for a push on Roberts.

The skies were already beginning to darken, and the second period was played in driving rain with the occasional flash of light from the heavens. Borough huffed and puffed without looking like blowing down Newport's house, and it was only a shrewd tactical move with time running out that decided the issue. Phillips switched Simpson over to the left and it paid dividends immediately as on the next attack the diminutive striker was tripped by Ryan Nicholls and Drewitt calmly sent Roberts the wrong way from the spot to give Borough the lead.



Barry Williams in the thick of the action. Photo: Heartland Evening News

With Newport forced to stick their head out of their defensive shell, gaps began to appear and Straw almost created a second for Moss after breaking clear and then should have done better with a McGinty through ball but shot disappointingly wide. As time ran out the visitors had former Welsh international Mark Aizlewood, Phil Coyne and Mark Tucker cautioned.

Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 24-08-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Luby, Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson (Sievwright). **Subs:** Massey, Davidson.

Borough welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

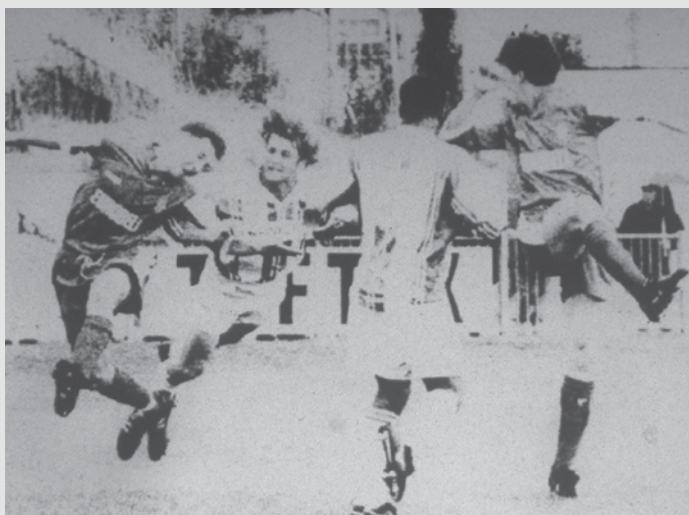
Borough's winning run in their return to the Premier flight of the Dr Martens League came to a sad halt as they suffered a shock 2-1 defeat. Brendan Phillips' men, who had won their opening two matches of the campaign, could not have asked for a better start as they took a second minute lead through

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Seamus Luby, his first goal for the club. But the Sussex visitors were far from being downhearted, bouncing back from their early setback to snatch a first win of the season following successive defeats.

Their hero was former Sunderland and Brighton striker, John Byrne, who netted two second half goals with his opener coming on 49 minutes and the winner, a superbly struck 25-yard drive on the hour.



Gary Statham attempts to get onto the end of Rob Straw's centre as Borough look to extend their lead. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 26-08-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Luby (Seivwright), Massey, Straw, Drewitt, Martin. Subs: M'Briwa, Davidson.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The hosts pressed for an opener early on and only a fine double save from the ever-impressive Paul Hayward denied Cotter and then Dougie Keast. Mick Nuttall gave Phillips a taste of what he is missing after failing to sign him last term, as he caused the Borough back four continual problems. Then on 19 minutes Drewitt was released by Williams in the inside right position, but with Straw waiting in the middle he went for goal himself and was thwarted by a brave block from Darren Acton. Statham was then caught in possession on halfway by Cotter and from the resulting move Nuttall headed wide when well placed.

The game became a little scrappy as the interval approached, although Statham almost headed the visitors ahead from a Straw corner but Charlie Palmer cleared off the line with Acton gratefully clutching the ball fired back into the danger area from Seamus Luby.

A minute after the break the Brewers came close to breaking the deadlock when a fierce 30 yard drive from Matthew Davies brought an acrobatic save from Hayward. On 51 minutes Borough eased the pressure that was mounting on their goal when Richard Massey fired a long ball through to

Straw but he first allowed Simon Redfern to block and from the rebound saw Acton parry for a corner.

Then on 56 minutes Albion's persistence paid off. Martin Devaney's well flighted corner caused a frantic scramble in the six-yard box before Cotter reacted to turn and shoot left footed low into the net past the grounded Hayward.

Just past the hour mark, Straw was again presented with a clear shot at goal after good work by Massey and Drewitt but allowed Palmer the time to get in a vital tackle. Four minutes later Burton grabbed a decisive second when Martin Devaney netted to give the home side an unassailable lead.

Salisbury City v Nuneaton Borough 31-08-1996

Salisbury: Simpkins, Lovell, Baird, Sandrey (Webb 68), Emms, Canning (Preston 84), Smith, Harbut, Shaw, Chalk, Boyce. Sub: Guy.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Davidson, Crowley, Seivwright, Dean (Lenton 81), Straw, Drewitt, Massey. Subs: Luby, Martin.

Borough travelled to Victoria Park to play Salisbury Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had the best of the early play and on seven minutes took the lead. Kevin Seivwright started the move with a pass to Rob Straw who in turn found debutant Craig Dean, and when the midfielder's return pass was dummied by Richard Massey, Straw was perfectly placed to fire home, giving John Simpkins in the home goal no chance. Soon after, good work by Straw saw him square to Dean who fired over the bar from 20 yards. Salisbury then started to get into the game and on 16 minutes a Matt Lovell free-kick found Roger Emms, who saw his header just clear the bar.

A minute later a right wing Mark Smith cross was met at the back post by Lovell but the full-back headed well wide. With 20 minutes on the clock City should have equalised as Peter Canning put Smith clear, but as Paul Hayward narrowed the angle, the home winger blazed his shot high and wide. It was Borough's turn next when a Tom McGinty free-kick picked out Gary Statham whose header was confidently dealt with by Simpkins. The equaliser that the home side had been threatening came on 27 minutes. Smith's corner found Emms who headed the ball into the six yard area for Dave Boyce to hook a shot into the roof of the net.

Robbie Herbert shot wide following a mistake by Tom McGinty while five minutes from the break a right wing cross by Seivwright found Statham, but he shot straight at the keeper. The same player headed narrowly over three minutes later following a Straw set-piece.

The early stages of the second half saw Salisbury force the issue and a dangerous centre from Chris Shaw was well cut out by Hayward. David Boyce then turned two defenders but his low shot was saved by Hayward, while at the other end Borough had clear appeals for a penalty turned down as Rob Straw was tripped by Emms, however the referee awarded an indirect free kick on the edge of the area. Soon after good work by Straw set up Ian Drewitt, but his powerful strike was



well blocked. The 58th minute saw Borough's hopes take a dive when Statham was shown the red card for elbowing Ian Chalk, who needed lengthy treatment.

Borough still pushed forward and a cross from Tom McGinty almost deceived Simpkins who tipped the ball over the bar. From the corner Straw found Dean who passed back to Straw who unleashed a piece drive which was pushed out to Drewitt, whose shot was turned round the post for a fruitless corner. As the half wore on City started to make their extra man tell and a double save by Paul Hayward with 15 minutes to go kept Borough in the hunt. The Borough keeper kept out Lee Webb's stinging drive, which he fingertipped onto the bar, and when the ball was cleared as far as Sandy Baird, his cross was headed goalwards by Chalk, but Haywood again saved.

Salisbury went down to ten men with just eleven minutes remaining when Emms received a second yellow for pulling back Ian Drewitt as he tried to break away. Borough almost grabbed victory on 83 minutes when a fine run and cross by Straw found the intruding Drewitt, who mis-hit his shot enabling Simkins to save. Straight after Straw again got free but shot wide.

Dr Plester New Borough President

Dr George Plester has been appointed as the new president of Nuneaton Borough Football Club, succeeding Alf Scattergood, who passed away recently. For the last five years, Dr Plester has been the official club doctor at Manor Park, returning to the role he filled for many years earlier, before taking a break.

Nuneaton Borough v Baldock Town	03-09-1996
<p>Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Seivwright, Dean, Straw, Drewitt (Simpson 45), Massey. Subs: Luby, Davidson.</p> <p>Baldock: Jones, Bruce, Dalli, Graves, Challinor, Kilby (Johnson 20), Pack, Fenton, Stein (Thomas 72), Perkins, Small (Howell 90).</p>	

Borough welcomed Baldock Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Baldock announced their intentions early on when Jean Dalli was booked for a tackle from behind that left Ian Drewitt writhing on the ground, and the same player was lucky to stay on the pitch after a similar challenge on Kevin Seivwright moments later. Borough produced their best move of the match after 15 minutes as Barry Williams intercepted and slipped a pass to Tom McGinty. After a bout of interpassing the ball finished up at the feet of an unmarked Drewitt, who shot disappointingly wide from 20 yards. Seivwright went close with a long range shot that had Jimmy Jones back-tracking, but on 21 minutes the visitors went ahead.

There had already been signs of danger a minute earlier when Lenny Pack fired wide, but this time Ray Kilby exchanged passes with Mick Small before hitting a left-foot shot from 20 yards that deflected off McGinty past a helpless Paul Hayward.

Massey and Drewitt both went close with headers before Jones

produced a fingertip save to stop another Massey header. Seven minutes from the interval, Baldock extended their lead. There seemed no danger when player-manager Brian Stein picked up the ball in the area, but as he looked to be going wide Williams inexplicably bundled him to the floor and Darren Fenton sent Hayward the wrong way from the spot.

At half-time, the injured Drewitt was replaced by Tony Simpson and Borough frantically tried to step up the pace and get back into the game. But it was Town who looked the more likely to add to their tally, and after a slip by Williams, former Luton Town striker, Stein, was only denied by a fine save from Hayward. From the resulting corner, Declan Perkins was allowed a free header but screwed the chance wide. On 55 minutes, Simpson went down in the box, bringing strong appeals for a penalty, which the referee rightly turned down. Massey and Simpson were then involved in a scramble on the penalty spot with Jones after the keeper had spilled a McGinty cross.

With Marcelle Bruce running the show at sweeper, Borough were always up against it, and the game was over as a contest on 70 minutes. Hayward's clearance was returned straight back by Pack to Stein who fed Small. The striker then beat four lack-lustre challenges before lifting the ball over an exposed keeper from the edge of the area. However, he should really have been ruled offside. Williams almost made amends for his earlier errors, but volleyed Rob Straw's cross into the houses at the Beaumont Road end.

Nuneaton Borough v Sittingbourne	07-09-1996
<p>Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley (Massey 52), Seivwright (Davidson 64), Dean (Martin 45), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson.</p> <p>Sittingbourne: Hough (Saunders 65), Haylock, Kimble, Miller, Pearson, Plank, Miller (Eeles 73), Blondrage, Seager, Lovell, Kearns (King 64).</p>	

Borough welcomed Sittingbourne to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Despite an early effort by Straw it was Sittingbourne who started the brighter of the two sides. On 10 minutes they looked certain to take the lead when Tom Plank was presented with a golden opportunity eight yards out, but failed to hit the target with only keeper Paul Hayward to beat. Plank then wasted another chance before central defender Ricky Pearson headed over from Paul Haylock's teasing free-kick on the right. Crowley set up Simpson on the 15 minute mark but his shot went agonisingly across the face of goal, while full-back Haylock's accurate centres were a constant thorn in the Borough defence as Pearson again almost put his height to good advantage.

The home side began to take more control of the game as the half progressed, and Gary Statham was unlucky to have a powerful header cleared by Gary Kimble. Two minutes before the break Borough took the initiative as chaos reigned in the Brickies' defence. Dean linked with Simpson on the left before the latter's centre saw Pearson halt Statham's header

on the line, but the ball hit his rapidly backtracking keeper Andy Hough allowing Drewitt to force the ball home, though there was confusion as to who had finally claimed the goal. Unfortunately, moments later, Dean was stretchered off with blood coming from his knee and clearly distressed. Danny Martin took his place on the left.



Craig Dean follows up to make absolutely sure as Borough take the lead just before the interval.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Seamus Luby came to Borough's rescue in the opening minute of the second period when he blocked a seemingly certain goal for Steve Lovell. It was the last serious alarm for Phillips' men as on 52 minute visiting skipper Blondrage was dismissed for his second bookable offence, a dreadful tackle from behind that saw Crowley join Dean in the dressing room with a serious-looking leg injury. With a man advantage Borough ran the show. Kevin Seivwright should have scored just after the hour but controlled badly allowing Hough to smother. The keeper then made a fine save to deny Drewitt.

However, a freak injury to Hough, who turned over his ankle while patrolling his penalty area, made life even tougher for Sittingbourne as substitute Scott Saunders, normally an outfield player, took over between the posts. On 77 minutes, Saunders made a useful save from Straw but the resulting corner from the Borough striker was headed in off the post by a delighted Statham. Pearson was then booked for a lunge on Drewitt which could easily have been a red card, as Borough looked like scoring every time they had the ball.

In the first minute of injury time, Drewitt rode a heavy challenge before playing in Straw, who beat the advancing Saunders and walked the ball into an empty net. The game looked as if it would go on forever as 14 minutes added time were allowed, but right at the death Simpson's cunning back-heel allowed Straw to burst clear but he was blatantly upended by Pearson. The referee awarded the penalty but allowed Pearson to stay on the pitch. Drewitt confidently sent Saunders the wrong way from the spot to complete the scoring.

Ashford Town v Nuneaton Borough

14-09-1996

Ashford: Munden, White, Dunn, Pearson, Warrilow, Wynter, Chambers (Carruthers 45), Allon, Dent, Stanton (Parkes 85), Ross. Sub: O'Brien.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Davidson, Williams, Crowley, Martin (Moss 80), Dean (Massey 57), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: McGinty.

Borough travelled to The Homelands Stadium to play Ashford Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The opening exchanges were scrappy and it wasn't until the ninth minute when the first effort on goal came with Ian Drewitt firing over from 20 yards following a Warren Donald pass. Two minutes later home midfielder Carlton Wynter set up Mart Stanton who shot wide from the edge of the area.

With 20 minutes on the clock, a Cliff Ross corner was only cleared to Jason Wheeler lurking on the edge of the box and he curled a shot just wide of the post, but eight minutes later Borough should have taken the lead when a fine run down the middle from Barry Williams saw him square the ball to Ian Drewitt, who shot wide from a good position.

Another chance went begging after 33 minutes following a mazy run down the right by Tony Simpson. His low cross found Danny Martin 10 yards out but his shot hit the outside of the post. Five minutes from the break Nicky Dent latched on to a loose ball and from 25 yards unleashed a powerful drive that Paul Hayward held on to in excellent fashion and on the stroke of half-time a run down the left from Stuart White saw his low cross evade everyone and roll harmlessly out for a goal kick.

Early in the second half Borough were awarded a free-kick just outside the area for a foul on Rob Straw, and the Borough front runner narrowly failed to find the lurking Drewitt from the resultant kick. Soon after a Ross free-kick found Dent but his header flew wide. After 64 minutes the Nuts and Bolts took the lead when a corner from Ross caused a frenetic scramble in the six-yard box and centre-back Andy Pearson prodded the ball home.

Boosted by the goal the hosts upped the tempo and a fine crossfield pass from Ross sent Stanton free down the right, and his centre was headed over by Dent. With 15 minutes to go Borough almost got back in the game as Straw set Tony Simpson free down the left but as he cut inside the Borough winger saw his shot sail high over the bar. The action then moved to the other end and a mazy run from Ross saw his shot well saved by Haywood. Soon after Straw picked up a loose ball but from 20 yards sliced his shot badly wide.

The second Ashford goal came on the stroke of full-time as the visitors pressed for an equaliser. Dent broke down the left and his cross to the far post found the unmarked Tom Parkes, and the home substitute had the simple task of slotting past the exposed Hayward to complete a miserable afternoon for the Borough.



Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 17-09-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Davidson, Williams, Crowley, Massey (Martin 88), Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson (Lenton 73). **Sub:** Dean.

Atherstone: Williams, Blair, Everitt, Olnier, M. Albrighton, Randle, Judd, Middleton (D. Albrighton 22), Ellison (Sinden 56), Green, Armeni (Owen 68).

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

A stop-start first-half was littered with stoppages for numerous injuries, offsides and minor offences, but it was very competitive. On 18 minutes the hosts had strong appeals for a penalty turned down when Tony Simpson seemed to be bundled over by Leigh Everitt. Four minutes later the Adders should have gone ahead. Everitt linked with Kim Green before crossing for an unmarked Paul Olnier, but the experienced midfielder fired well over.

Green missed a good opportunity from the edge of the area, again shooting over after the referee, Mr Burton, had played a sensible advantage after substitute Dean Albrighton was clearly impeded. A goal was desperately needed to bring the game to life, and it was provided on 36 minutes as keeper Richard Williams failed to hold Simpson's corner and Straw crashed the ball home through a crowd of bodies from eight yards.

Then in first-half injury time Moss looked to have doubled the lead as he was fed through by Simpson, but up went the flag for offside despite the fact that Straw seemed the one who had strayed off and was not interfering. Simpson then wasted a good chance from 12 yards after Straw had worked the opening, shooting tamely into the side netting.

After the break the entertainment increased as Atherstone took the game to Borough in search of an equaliser. Dean Albrighton was involved in a great deal of Adders good work, and fired over the bar in the 48th minute while seconds earlier he had caused problems in the home defence that ended in Paul Hayward blocking Green's low shot. At the other end Nuneaton had another penalty claim refused when Scott Blair clearly upended Ian Drewitt but again the referee was unmoved.

After 58 minutes the visitors second replacement, Sven Sinden, missed a golden opportunity, scooping the ball over an unguarded net from 10 yards when he looked certain to score. Another appeal for a spot kick, this time Moss the player in the thick of things, was waved away but Borough were beginning to find space as Adders pressed for a leveller.

But Hayward had to be out smartly to deny Dean Albrighton 10 minutes from the end after Olnier and Robin Judd had created a clear cut opening, then the hosts were grateful to Jon Davidson for clearing another Dean Albrighton effort off the line three minutes later. In the end the issue was finally settled two minutes from time by that man Straw as he latched onto Moss' through ball and calmly slotted past the advancing Williams.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 21-09-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Davidson, Williams, Crowley, Massey, Moss (Dean 83), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Martin, Lenton.

Worcester: Watson, Greenman, Burnham, Molloy, Heeley, Pick (Wright 32), Guppy (Norris 72), Cottrill, Thomas, Power, Whittington.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The opening stages saw visiting keeper Melvin Watson in action when he pushed away a dangerous Tom McGinty cross. Soon after Watson cut out a teasing Chris Moss centre. After 15 minutes Chris Greenman sent Trevor Whittington down the right and as he cut in the City number 11 curled a shot narrowly wide. Two minutes later persistent work from Richard Massey forced Jason Burnham into giving the ball away to Rob Straw but the frontrunner shot straight at Watson.

After 21 minutes a fine Richard Massey pass set Rob Straw down the left and he in turn found Ian Drewitt whose cross picked out Simpson but his shot was blocked, only to rebound to Dave Crowley who shot tamely at Watson. Just before the half-hour the visitors should have taken the lead when good work on the left by Anton Thomas saw his cross pick out the unmarked Andy Power but he headed badly wide. But Worcester were not to be denied and in the 32nd minute they took the lead when Paul Molloy's 25-yard free-kick took a wicked deflection off the Borough wall before dropping into the net past a wrong-footed Paul Hayward.

The home side did not take long in bouncing back when two minutes later they were on level terms. Ian Drewitt picked up a loose ball outside the area and the Welshman unleashed a powerful drive which Watson spilled into the path of the in-rushing Simpson and the Borough winger gleefully hammered the ball home for his first goal of the season.

The second period opened with Borough forcing the issue and after 47 minutes a Rob Straw corner was headed just wide by Barry Williams. Three minutes later a Simpson pass freed Massey in the box but his angled drive was beaten out by Watson and scrambled clear. Soon after Tom McGinty got a piece of the action with a neat one-two with Drewitt which saw the Borough full-back shoot just over from 18 yards.

With 64 minutes on the clock, Paul Molloy's header scraped the crossbar. The visitors were to rue that miss when two minutes later Borough took the lead. Simpson broke down the right and cut the ball inside to Massey, who threaded a pin-point pass through to Rob Straw and he clinically slotted the ball past Watson and into the corner of the net.

Straw's corner just eluded Moss and with 15 minutes to go Borough had a chance to increase their lead when Warren Donald's cross found Moss, but he missed the ball and Drewitt sliced his shot wide. Thomas bundled the ball into the net for the visitors, but the flag was already up for offside and with two minutes remaining a fierce free-kick from Steve Norris was well held by Paul Hayward.



Newport AFC v Nuneaton Borough 25-09-1996

Newport: Roberts, Donovan, Lowndes, Brazil, Parselte, John, Brown, Tucker, Burton (Trueman 76), Evans, Relish (Quarterly 64), Sub: Hoskins.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Dean (Lenton 76), Moss, Straw (Massey 76), Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: Davidson.

Borough travelled to Spytty Park to play Newport AFC in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were first to show when Chris Moss set Straw away down the left and his pin-point cross picked out Ian Drewitt, whose first-time shot was blocked by Derek Brazil and cleared. On the 15 minute mark a low free-kick from Mark Tucker found Norman Parselte on the edge of the box and his first-time shot flew narrowly wide as the Exiles began to make an impression. A minute later Moss put Tony Simpson clear but instead of shooting he opted to try and find the unmarked Straw with a badly directed pass and the chance was lost.

Midway through the half, Borough missed another chance when a mazy run from Simpson saw him free the ball to Drewitt and his cross found Moss, who shot badly wide. Just before the half-hour Brazil's short free kick to Steve Lowndes saw the Newport left-back's shot whistle just wide. Then came a niggly spell of play which resulted in Brazil, Tom McGinty and Gary Statham all being shown yellow cards before Lee Relish's 20 yard free-kick just cleared the bar. On the stroke of half-time Parselte picked up the ball, mishit his shot from 25 yards and the ball fell to Paul Burton, but Haywood was quickly out.

Seven minutes after the break a Jason Donovan pass set up Ray John but his long range effort was well over. John got in a header from Lee Relish's corner, but it was saved by Hayward. Just after the hour, Borough scorned an excellent chance when Craig Dean picked up a poor clearance from Jon Roberts and found Straw, who over ran the ball as he went for goal, enabling Roberts to smother. With 14 minutes remaining the visitors nearly took the lead when fine work in midfield from Dave Crowley saw the Borough skipper push a slide rule pass through to Simpson in the box but the Borough winger watched his angled drive hit the top of the bar and fly over.

Seconds later Straw turned his ankle and had to be carried off with a badly twisted ankle. From then on the game fizzled out but deep into injury time the home side had one last effort when Lee Brown crossed to Andy Evans, but his first-time shot was just too high.

Nuneaton Borough v Gravesend & Northfleet 28-09-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Martin, Moss (Massey 89), Straw, Drewitt (Dean 88), Simpson. Sub: Hassall.
Gravesend: Turner, Leahy (Gooding 45), Docker, Gibb (Robinson 64), Mortley, Walker, Munday, Powell, Arter (Newbury 55), Lovell, Jackson.

Borough welcomed Gravesend & Northfleet to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were first to show and Chris Moss sent Ian Drewitt down the right, but his cross was cut out by Mortley. With

ten minutes on the clock Martin put Shaw free in the box but his shot was blocked by the out-rushing Lee Turner and from the rebound Straw's effort hit the post and went out. Martin sliced a shot wide following good work from Straw and Simpson. The goal Borough had been threatening came in the 18th minute when Drewitt's free-kick picked out Statham who soared above the Fleet defence and firmly planted his header into the corner of the net.

Gravesend hit back after the goal and on 26 minutes a fine effort from Dave Arter flew just wide from 18 yards and seven minutes from half-time the visitors could have equalised when a chip shot from 18 yards from Jimmy Jackson struck the post and Arter completely missed the rebound with the goal at his mercy. Gravesend were to rue that miss as in the 43rd minute Borough increased their lead. Drewitt found Straw on the edge of the area and he smartly turned his marker before curling a right foot shot into the net. A minute later Arter headed over an open goal from Jackson's cross. On the stroke of half-time Simpson released Straw but his shot was blocked by Turner and Simpson looked sure to score from the rebound but for a last ditch tackle from Mark Leahy.

Two minutes after the break Warren Donald saw his 20-yarder go just wide following good work by Simpson, who had a shot saved by Turner just after. Gravesend centre-half Peter Mortley was sent off for his second bookable offence on 66 minutes after he pulled Moss back on the edge of the area. Two minutes later Martin's diving header from Drewitt's cross whistled just wide of the post. With 15 minutes left Statham's long ball out of defence found Straw and the striker's crisp drive brought another good save from Turner, and soon after a teasing Simpson centre was well cut out by substitute Clint Gooding.

Moss missed a good chance after he robbed full-back Ian Docker, but fired tamely at Turner. But Borough wrapped up their victory in injury time with an excellent piece of football. Sub Craig Dean started the move, finding Martin who in turn fed Simpson on the right. The winger's low cross was turned in by Straw from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings Town 05-10-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty (Hassall 88), Statham, Williams (Massey 78), Crowley, Martin (Dean 88), Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson.
Hastings: Creed, Simmonds, Willard, Larkin, Callaway (Barham 78), Gregory (Parris 85), Ball, Beard, Cuggy, O'Shaughnessy, Tuppeney. Sub: Lambert.

Borough welcomed Hastings Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

There was no hint of the drama to follow when the visitors stunned the home crowd into silence in the opening minute, as Justin Gregory rifled an unstoppable shot past keeper Paul Hayward from 12 yards after a neat build-up involving Danny Simmonds and Simon Beard. But the silence turned to celebration four minutes later, when Straw's innocuous through ball was missed by sweeper Paul Tuppeney allowing the alert Tony Simpson to slot past an exposed keeper James Creed.

Gregory almost restored Hastings' lead but was denied by the legs of Hayward, then Straw wasted a glorious chance when he headed over the impressive Chris Moss' centre in the 21st minute. Simpson missed a sitter, spooning the ball over an empty net but on 26 minutes Straw crossed deep to the far post to Ian Drewitt, who cut in from the edge of the area to lash a fierce right-footer into the bottom corner that left Creed rooted to the spot.



Ian Drewitt leaps to head goalwards but watches in despair as the ball comes back off the bar. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Sixty seconds later the game turned sour, as Donald was involved in an off-the-ball incident with Steve Cuggy that saw them both banished to the dressing room. Drewitt will be wondering how he managed to head against the woodwork following Barry Williams surging run and cross. Ten minutes before the break there was more controversy. Straw ran on to Simpson's flighted pass and headed past the advancing Creed who stuck out an arm to stop the ball. He was clearly outside his area, but the referee only showed a yellow card. Hastings rallied before the interval and Hayward kept the hosts in front as he made two fine saves from Kieran O'Shaughnessy and Simmons.

The second half was all Borough and Simpson, Moss and Drewitt all squandered chances to increase the lead before Creed made a stunning one-handed save to deny Straw on 52 minutes. As pressure mounted Creed was called upon time and again to keep his side in contention. Only the post denied Straw in the 67th minute as the ball rolled agonisingly across the line and was cleared but in the 73rd minute the striker drilled the ball home from 10 yards after he was released by Moss. The former Tamworth striker added a fourth to the delight of the Cock and Bear end, who seem to have taken him to their hearts, as he rode three tackles, unselfishly tried to release Straw and when the ball presented itself back at his feet, he thumped it home via defender Richard Callaway.

Straw, already booked, was sent off for kicking the ball away and Matthew Ball joined him, being sent off for dissent. Right at the end Simpson put a shot wide with only Creed to beat.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1996

Hinckley: De Garis, Young, Smith, Aston (Coleman 76), Redgate, Burke, Holden (McBean 76), McGlinchey, Scott, Machin, Bradder. Sub: J. McGinty.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, Hassall, Statham, Massey (T. McGinty 60), Crowley, Martin (Dean 70), Moss (Lenton 75), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson.

Borough travelled to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Doc Martens Cup first round first leg tie.

Both sides looked to stamp their authority on the tie in the early stages, and Scott Machin was presented with a half-chance after three minutes, but Warren Donald intervened. Moments later debutant John Hassall was cautioned for a crude challenge on Craig McGlinchey.

Hinckley began to take control Dave Crowley gave the ball away in midfield, allowing Machin to race goalwards and he was only denied by the legs of ever-impressive keeper Paul Hayward. Sixty seconds later Ian Scott was left shaking his head in disbelief after McGlinchey put him clear and he lifted the ball over Hayward, only for the post to come to Borough's rescue.

Gary Statham thumped a free-kick well wide after 15 minutes and two minutes later Donald diverted Machin's goalbound header for a corner. Town then had two more chances to break the deadlock as the half progressed with Mark Holden firing inches wide from 20 yards after good work by Gary Redgate and Scott should have found the net from McGlinchey's accurate centre but headed over when well placed.

Straight after the break Drewitt miscued a header from eight yards but made up for this miss when he picked up Richard Massey's long ball out of defence before curling an exquisite shot in off the far post past a helpless Paul De Garis. It proved to be the turning point, though Hinckley were rueing their luck when the woodwork again denied them as Hayward turned McGlinchey's header onto the upright with Donald on hand to clear.

On 66 minutes Straw gave Borough a two-goal cushion. Substitute Tom McGinty played the ball square to Donald at the back and his piercing through ball released the previously lethargic Rob Straw, who calmly lifted the ball over the advancing De Garis with his right foot from the corner of the box. A well-placed Chris Moss then headed over a Tony Simpson cross before Drewitt and Statham both dived in on a well-flighted Moss centre, but the ball came back off the post and into De Garis' arms.

The home keeper had to be at his best with 13 minutes remaining, making an excellent save to deny Straw. But late on, the hosts made sure the second leg will be far from a formality as first Hayward made a stunning save to keep out a powerfully hit free-kick from Ricky Smith. And with a minute left Hinckley deservedly got on the scoresheet as Scott popped up at the far post to stab home after McGlinchey had created space on the left for a telling cross.



Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 12-10-1996

Gloucester: Coles, Yates, McGrath (Webb 58), Thorne, Kemp, Burns, Kirkup, Tucker (Cooper 71), Holmes (Milsom 54), Watkins, Johnson.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Martin, Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Massey, Hassall, Dean.

Borough travelled to Meadow Park to play Gloucester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough made the early running and after four minutes Chris Moss set Rob Straw free in the box but his angled shot went high and wide. On 12 minutes a fine Barry Williams run saw him pick out Ian Drewitt in the area, but the Welshman failed to control the ball and the chance was lost. Gloucester started to get into the game, and on the 15 minute mark Andy Kirkup freed Andy Tucker, but the alert Paul Hayward was off his line quickly to smother the danger. With 21 minutes on the clock, the hosts had a narrow escape when a Straw corner picked out Gary Statham, who saw his header cleared off the line and Drewitt's follow up shot flashed just wide of the post.

On the half-hour a cross from Gary Thorne was met by a Craig Burns header which Hayward did well to hold. Hayward came to Borough's rescue after 36 minutes when Burns' through ball put Dave Watkins clear, but Hayward pulled off a brilliant save. A minute later a Gary Kemp header was inches over the bar from a David Johnson corner but towards the end of the half Borough hit back and on 43 minutes a fine turn and shot by Straw brought a good save from David Coles and right on the stroke of half-time a mazy run from Tony Simpson saw the Borough winger find Moss, but his shot flew across goal and out for a goal kick.

The early stages of the second half saw Gloucester take the game to Borough and Kirkup fired wide and on 57 minutes Borough had keeper Hayward to thank for a double save, both times denying Kemp. With an hour on the clock Borough should have taken the lead when a Moss pass sent Drewitt down the left and as he cut inside he skied his shot wildly over the bar. Two minutes later Straw failed to capitalise on a defensive mistake, shooting tamely wide from close range.

Another chance went begging in the 65th minute when a fine ball from Straw found Moss down the left and his return pass to Straw saw Borough's top marksman blaze his shot high over the bar. With 15 minutes remaining Simpson's cross found Moss, but he hooked his effort well wide. Two minutes later fine play between Webb and Kirkup set up Watkins, but his shot was well saved by Hayward. Gloucester finally broke the deadlock in the 79th minute when a long throw from Thorne was flicked on by Milsom, the ball was only half-cleared to substitute David Webb on the edge of the area and his low drive found the corner of the net.

After this City were in full cry and Milsom should have increased Tigers' lead, heading Webb's corner wide. Borough hit back in the dying minutes when Straw's cross to the back post just failed to find the inrushing Moss.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 15-10-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham (Lenton 15), Williams, Massey, Martin (Hassall 83), Moss, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson (Lavery 89).

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Steve Spooner fired wide and then Darren Stride walked past two half-hearted tackles before seeing a powerful drive blocked by Hayward. Then on nine minutes the visitors went ahead. The usually reliable Barry Williams attempted to walk the ball out of defence and was caught in possession by Simon Redfern, the ball being put through for Mickey Cotter to skip round the exposed Hayward and score.

Worse was to follow after 15 minutes as Statham limped off after a dreadful challenge by Cotter that went completely unpunished but left the Borough defender with a hole in his left shin right through to the bone. Jamie Lenton took his place with Richard Massey dropping into the back four.

The hosts almost responded moments later when Tony Simpson saw a volley come back off the upright and Drewitt hit an acrobatic left foot volley inches over. But Burton were still in control, and only the underside of the crossbar saved them following right back Alan Davies' thundering effort. Hayward saved well at the feet of Cotter before Redfern volleyed over a Davies corner. Without Crowley and Statham, Borough looked a little lightweight and were under pressure for the remainder of the half, but the visitors failed to take advantage.

After the interval, little seemed to have changed as Dougie Keast went close on 55 minutes, firing wide from the edge of the area. Then at the other end, Straw should have done better on 57 minutes when he scooped Drewitt's through ball over the top but three minutes later the sides were level. Tom McGinty hit a long hopeful ball down the left that Redfern seemed to have covered, but never-say-die Moss raced in to beat both the defender and keeper Darren Acton to the ball and lob into an unguarded net.

It proved just the tonic Borough needed, though Stride should have converted a Keast centre a minute later and Spooner was unlucky to see a shot come back off the woodwork. As the game entered its final quarter, it was Nuneaton who looked the more assured, and Danny Martin should have scored from a Straw lay off but stabbed the ball wide from six yards. Drewitt and Nuttall were both dismissed in the 75th minute, Nuttall not content at seeing the fiery Welshman get his marching orders and turning what would have been only a yellow card into an early bath by continuing his verbal attack just a little too long.

With six minutes remaining, Borough grabbed the winner and what a well-worked goal it was. Williams fed Massey who in turn found Simpson, whose piercing through ball put Straw in space and he made no mistake from 18 yards, firing past Acton with his right foot.



Borough Sign Two

Brendan Phillips has moved into the transfer market and has brought in two midfielders. Stuart Lake is 21-years-old and comes to Manor Park on a month's loan from Hednesford Town. Lake will be joined by Clive Walker, from Stourbridge, who has previous experience at Southern League Premier level with Worcester City.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 29-10-1996

Borough: Read, Martin, McGinty, Hassall, Williams, Crowley, Walker (Lenton 65), Lake, Darroch (Grassby 80), Dean, Simpson. **Sub:** Beckett.
Hinckley: Belford, Young, Smith, Aston, Redgate, Holden, Pearson (Ashton 82), Scott, Hallam, Machin, McGlinchey. **Subs:** Dutton, Williams.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup first round second leg tie.

For 30 minutes it was difficult to see either side scoring in what was a poor game, but it all came to life on 33 minutes when the Eagles stunned the home crowd. A Craig McGlinchey corner was missed by Lake, whose initial error it was that led to the flag kick and Ian Scott swivelled at the far post to smash the ball past stand-in keeper Dean Read from six yards. Things worsened for Borough within a minute as Ricky Smith was allowed space to cross from the left and loan signing Mark Hallam rose at the far post to head Town ahead on aggregate.

Suddenly, the game had sparked to life and Nuneaton should have pulled a goal back three minutes later from the penalty spot. Tony Simpson's shot from the edge of the area brought a diving one-handed save from centre-half Keith Aston. Controversially the referee failed to produce a red card and to compound matters, new signing Clive Walker's spot kick was well saved by Dale Belford. Then, three minutes before the break, Walker was handed another gilt-edged chance after an incisive through ball from Simpson, but with only Belford to beat he shot tamely at the Town custodian.

After the interval, the game seemed to lose its sparkle, but Borough were fortunate not to be further behind when Tom McGinty's short backpass put Read in trouble and Chris Pearson almost capitalised. On 65 minutes Phillips replaced a jaded looking Walker with Jamie Lenton, who with his first touch of the ball fired over a pin-point cross for Simpson to stab home from four yards.

At the other end there was a moment of danger when Hallam climbed above Read from Mark Holden's free-kick, but fortunately for Borough directed his header over the bar. With six minutes remaining the game looked set for extra time, until a goal of pure quality settled the issue. McGinty picked up the ball in midfield and surged forward before floating a delightful pass into the path of an unmarked Lake, and the Hednesford midfielder calmly lifted the ball past the exposed Belford and slotted home from eight yards. Right on full-time, Lake had a goal disallowed for offside, following good work by Craig Dean.

Youth Team Land Plum Draw

A scrambled goal from striker Scott Darroch booked Nuneaton a glamour tie at Everton in the first round proper of the FA Youth Cup as they beat Burton Albion 1-0 at Eton Park.

Dorchester Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-11-1996

Dorchester: Veysey, Sullivan, Lisk, Lovell, Coates, Taylor, Richardson, Wilkinson, Killick, Pickard, Coughlin. **Subs:** Reeks, Reeve, Harris.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, Dean, Lake, Williams, Crowley, Walker (Hassall 71), Moss (Grassby 84), Straw, McGinty, Simpson (Martin 84).

Borough travelled to The Avenue Stadium to play Dorchester Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

In conditions that were at best treacherous and at times appalling, rain and a near gale force wind, life was far from easy for both sets of players. But there were encouraging early signs playing against the elements, as Stuart Lake slipped a neat ball to Rob Straw, only for keeper Ken Veysey to hold on to the striker's cross at the second attempt. At the other end Tommy Killick headed over from a Pickard centre then almost immediately, Straw wasted a glorious chance when he was picked out by Chris Moss eight yards from goal but failed to control and the danger was cleared. Dave Crowley was booked for a late tackle on the lively Pickard in the 22nd minute and from the resulting free-kick Paul Hayward did well to beat out Russell Coughlin's 25-yarder.

Two minutes later the same player hit a thunderous 30-yard drive that left Hayward standing and came back off the angle of the bar and post. Borough were now being severely tested, and in the 27th minute Hayward was again to the rescue as Coughlin crossed for full-back Mark Lisk whose header was turned for a corner. Dave Lovell almost got onto the end of Steve Richardson's centre and Barry Williams did well to block a fierce shot from Pickard. The visitors best attempt came when Lake put Straw in on the left but with Tony Simpson well placed he fired harmlessly into the side netting.

Having weathered the storm Borough may have thought they would get back into the game after the break, but they were wrong and on 59 minutes Dorchester had what seemed a definite penalty turned down when Hayward appeared to upend Killick, however, the home side only had to wait two minutes to open the scoring. Left-back Lisk suddenly turned up on the right creating the overlap and his ball into the middle found an unmarked Pickard who headed home from eight yards.

Craig Dean did force Veysey into a save but most of the action was at the other end. Richardson hit a shot wide from a yard out after Killick's looping centre deceived Hayward. The second and killer goal came on 68 minutes. Central defender Lovell played a long ball to Killick who used all his strength to hold off Williams. His shot lacked power and direction but fell straight at the feet of Pickard, who walked it home from four yards, though he did look well offside. Tom McGinty and John Hassall were booked late in the game.



Nuneaton Borough v King's Heath 05-11-1996

Borough: Bennett, Donald, Hassall, Massey, Williams (Simpson 51), Crowley, Martin, Moss (Lenton 69), Straw, Campbell, McGinty. **Sub:** Grassby.
King's Heath: Parker, Donaghy, Adams, Shaw, Duggan, Douglas (Ebbutt), Teague, Crumpton, Cartwright, Annand, Lloyd. **Subs:** Trindle, Seeley.

Borough welcomed King's Heath to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

The hosts made every attempt to play neat and constructive football but you could not help feeling something was lacking, and that missing ingredient would have to be confidence. Plus points were that Massey looked assured in central defence and ex-Atherstone United striker Steve Campbell made a reasonable debut. Jamie Lenton, with the seemingly rare ability to play with either foot, could also be worth an extended run in the first team.

If Rob Straw's 11th minute effort had gone in rather than cannon off a post to safety it might have made the world of difference. But the one real moment of quality came on 33 minutes. Massey collected the ball in the centre circle and strode forward unchallenged before being given time to pick his spot and fire a low shot past keeper David Parker from 25 yards. Borough were well worth their lead on possession alone and the small gathering sat back and waited for more goals – they never came. In fact, youth team keeper Lee Bennett was called on to make a fine diving save to beat away a Gary Annand drive minutes later.

Tony Simpson was introduced for the injured Barry Williams six minutes into the second half, and his enthusiasm made a difference, but the home side could find no way through, though Chris Moss will be wondering how he managed to lift the ball over from eight yards after being put in by Simpson and Straw's inventive set piece. In the end the final whistle came as a relief after King's Heath almost snatched an equaliser three minutes from time. Lloyd crossed from the right, Bennett missed the ball under pressure from Duggan, but Mark Adams somehow headed against the bar from five yards with the goal gaping in front of him.

Moroccan International To Make Debut

Former Moroccan Under-21 international – Ahmed Mettioui – will make his Borough debut in a friendly with Bromsgrove Rovers. The London based midfielder was with manager Brendan Phillips at Stafford Rangers and could be signing permanently, subject to negotiations.

Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 15-11-1996

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

Two goals from stand-in skipper Rob Straw and another from debutant Steve Burr gave Borough a morale-boosting 3-1 success. But it was the performance of another newcomer, Ahmed Mettioui which caught the eye as the Moroccan

Under-21 international had an hand in all three goals and his quality on and off the ball stood out like a sore thumb in this friendly encounter. Borough had already come within a whisker of taking the lead when Ian Drewitt saw a shot rebound off the bar when just 60 seconds later they were ahead. Drewitt's throw-in found Mettioui's cultured flick created an opening for Straw and he lifted the ball into the net past the advancing keeper Chris Taylor from eight yards. Four minutes from the interval, Drewitt again found Straw unmarked but this time the striker's rising drive cannoned off the underside of the bar.

On 49 minutes, Mettioui chased what seemed a lost cause, won possession and fed Straw, who in turn found Burr and the experienced frontman calmly slotted home. At the opposite end, Darren Grocutt headed wide but it was Borough who were in control and the third goal came just after the hour mark. There looked to be no danger when Mettioui gained possession in the centre circle. But he left Paul Wardle for dead and raced 40 yards before having the vision and presence of mind to lay a square pass to Straw who could hardly miss from inside the six-yard box.

A late rally by Rovers saw substitute Chris Smith cut the deficit after Richard Gardner's long range shot had struck the bar and bounced back into the scorer's path. Home custodian Paul Hayward made a fine diving save from a Mark Crisp header late on but in the end Borough were good value for their victory.

Mettioui Signs

After a successful debut in a friendly match against Bromsgrove Ahmed Mettioui has agreed to sign for Borough until the end of the season.

Youth Team Lose To Everton

Borough's youth team went out of the FA Youth Cup when they lost 3-0 to Everton at Southport's Haig Avenue. Everton fielded a very strong side which included Michael Branch, who has made Premiership appearances for the club.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 23-11-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Dean, McGinty, Massey (Moss 84), Crowley, Walker, Burr, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui (Simpson 79). **Sub:** Grassby.
Halesowen: McDonnell, Clarke, Bradley, Wood, Knight (Owen 78), Evans (Colley 31), Harrison, Wright, Crisp, Shearer, Hackett (Snape 69).

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Before some late-comers had taken their places, Dave Crowley fed a ball into the path of an unmarked Rob Straw. Only 30 seconds had elapsed and Straw had only keeper Danny McDonnell to beat. The crowd held their breath, but the once lethal striker saw his low shot blocked, and that – as far as clear cut chances went for Borough – was that.

Halesowen could have taken the lead but Tom McGinty was on hand to head off the line from Gary Hackett and Warren Donald was similarly placed to do the same with Wright's flamboyant

volley. However, on 22 minutes it was an error rather than good play from the visitors that led to the opener. Hackett's inswinging corner was too hot to handle for an under-pressure Paul Hayward, who allowed the ball to slip through his grasp and onto the far post. After a frantic goalmouth scramble it was Wright who kept his cool to stab the ball home.

The onus was now on the home side to take the initiative, but despite Halesowen losing defender Stuart Evans, it made little difference to an impressive rearguard. As half-time approached, there were strong appeals for a penalty when Clive Walker was blocked by McDonnell, but a goal kick resulted. Speculative long-range efforts apart Borough were posing few threats.



Steve Burr holds off a challenge from Town's left-back Andrew Bradley.
Photo: Heartland Evening News

After a disappointing start to the second half the visitors sealed their win with a goal of real simplicity in the 58th minute. Former England schoolboy international, Keith Knight, a constant thorn in the hosts' side, fired a 50 yard ball over a static back four to Wright, and the defence looked longingly for an offside flag that never came. The striker zipped past the advancing Hayward and slotted into an empty net. Seven minutes later Donald managed to find Dave Crowley but the midfielder, shot tamely at McDonnell.

Matt Clarke was involved in a neat one-two with Knight, and Hayward had to make a hurried save at his near post from the former's first-time drive from all of 25 yards. Walker almost pulled a goal back with a header from McGinty's free-kick, but again McDonnell was ideally placed to gather with ease.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 03-12-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Dean (Lenton 45), McGinty, Massey, Crowley, Moss (Darroch 64), Burr (Simpson 20), Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui.
WBA: Germaine, Bennett (James 45), Hamner, Knight, Herbert, Butler, Donovan, Buckley, Taylor, Rodosthenous, Craven (Bowman 87) **Sub:** McNamara.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Burr, who was replaced by Tony Simpson after just 20 minutes, almost opened the scoring after 90 seconds firing just wide from 20 yards with keeper Gary Germaine

desperately scrambling across his goal. After long range efforts from Rob Straw and Drewitt had kept Germaine busy, the home side went in front on 27 minutes. Ahmed Mettioui tried to lift the ball past right back Dean Bennett, who stuck out a hand and from the penalty spot Drewitt fired confidently past the keeper.

A mistake by Warren Donald nearly let in Dean Craven for an equaliser but at the other end Craig Dean missed a chance to double the lead, but lifted his shot over the top under pressure from Bennett after Straw's neat lay off.

Within three minutes of the second half the Albion were level. Taylor held off Dave Crowley and walked through a lame challenge from Donald to thump an unstoppable drive past Paul Hayward underlining his reputation as one of the leading marksmen in Division One. The goal stunned Borough and changed the complexion of the game as the visitors began to look more menacing. Rodosthenous was a constant threat, forcing Hayward into a fine save with a snap shot from a Simon Buckley free-kick. Then on 65 minutes came the decisive moment of the match, Rodosthenous played a lovely one-two with Taylor before intelligently chipping the ball over Hayward for what proved to be the winner.

Four minutes later Straw almost levelled, pouncing on an error from Craig Herbert but Germaine blocked well with his legs. Taylor came close to grabbing his second with a rising drive that flew just over, then right at the death Borough came within a whisker of forcing the tie into extra time. Crowley put substitute Jamie Lenton in on the left and his pull back was hit first time by Drewitt, but agonisingly it crept just the wrong side of the right hand post with Germaine well beaten.

Phillips Signs Three

A trio of new signings are set to make their debut against King's Lynn. Manager Brendan Phillips has brought in Jake LeBerl on a month's loan from Crewe Alexandra. And on a permanent basis, he has acquired the services of Luke Yates from Hednesford and attacking midfielder Ray Woods from Telford. To make room in the squad Richard Massey has been released. Phillips said: "Richard has done a good job for me but the way things are I have had to make room for the other lads".

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 07-12-1996

King's Lynn: Lewis, Matthews, Skelly, Bloodworth, Hoyle, Curtis, Pascoe, Dunlop, Spencer, Stringfellow, Hudson (Hopkins 87). **Subs:** Harrison, Stanhope.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Yates, LeBerl, Crowley, Walker (Dean 80), Wood, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. **Subs:** Simpson, Lenton.

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

Borough opened brightly and an early cross from Ian Drewitt had to be headed behind by Skelly before Darren Bloodworth's centre was headed straight at Paul Hayward by Jason Pascoe. Nine minutes later Martin Matthews skinned Tom McGinty on the right and found the unmarked Ian



Stringfellow whose shot was held by Hayward. A quick throw out put Borough on the attack and Rob Straw found himself through on goal. Keeper Steve Lewis forced him wide but somehow he managed to hit the target from an acute angle only for Colin Hoyle to clear off the line. Two minutes later Straw again was clear but his right foot shot squeezed under Lewis and rebounded to safety off the left hand upright.

The home fans were screaming for a penalty moments later when Wayne Spencer went down theatrically inside the area, but the officials were having none of it. Meanwhile, Ahmed Mettioui fired just over before the hosts wasted the best chance of the half. Simon Dunlop fed the ball to Stringfellow on the right, he played the ball back into Dunlop's path, but when presented with a clear shot on goal from 16 yards he hurriedly fired well wide of the target. As half-time approached, Drewitt was denied when Lewis did well to beat out his shot.

Within 50 seconds of the restart the vital breakthrough came and it went in favour of King's Lynn. Matthews was allowed the time to cross from the right and Stringfellow rose unchallenged at the near post to glance a header past the hapless Hayward. Drewitt was again thwarted by Lewis before Straw had a shot blocked by Matthews with the keeper well beaten. With Borough pressing for an equaliser the home side were looking dangerous on the break and soon doubled their lead.

Lee Hudson made a run from midfield, and after being picked out by Hoyle, he slotted clinically past a furious Hayward, who lambasted his defence for allowing the midfielder the space to score. Lewis was again called into action when he raced from his line to save bravely at the feet of Straw, however, it did not take long for Peter Morris' men to again find the target.

Skelly took a short corner to Stringfellow and he crossed deep to where Spencer climbed highest to thump a header inside the near post. Mettioui wasted a good chance as he headed wide from Drewitt's telling centre and Straw also came close, but only a stunning save from Hayward kept out a first-time drive from Hudson. Ten minutes from time the misery was complete. Matthews again put the ball into the danger area. Stringfellow blasted against the underside of the bar from point-blank range, but in keeping with the way the afternoon had gone for Borough the ball fell to Skelly, who could hardly miss from two yards. Late on Mettioui was denied a consolation by Lewis.

Moss Released

Borough have released Chris Moss after the former Tamworth player failed to reproduce his Midland Division goalscoring form at a higher level. And rather than spend time on the sidelines for Borough he had agreed with Brendan Phillips, that should a club come in for him he will be allowed to leave with no fee involved.

Phillips said: "Chris is a nice lad and I am sorry about the way it has worked out for him here. He has a lot of promise and scored goals for fun in the Midland Division."

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 17-12-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Hassall, Williams, Crowley, Woods, Yates (Lenton 84), Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui (Simpson 67). **Sub:** Dean.

Burton: Cheetham, Davies, Titterton (Benton 51), Spooner, Palmer, Smith, Keast, Redfern, Nuttall, Devaney, Hornby. **Subs:** Hadley, Marlowe.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup second round tie.

In the opening stages the home side were much the livelier, and on four minutes Ian Drewitt headed straight at keeper James Cheetham after a Straw run and cross. But they were almost caught out when a Dougie Keast centre bounced awkwardly and Nuttall was only denied by the alert Paul Hayward. The visitors were beginning to settle and the impressive Steve Spooner carved an opening for Simon Redfern, but again the keeper rushed off his line to block. A superb tackle by Matt Smith thwarted Rob Straw before on 22 minutes, Borough put together the move of the match. Luke Yates slipped a pass to Drewitt, who had the vision to spot Woods in space on the right, and the latter's first time ball was met by an unmarked Straw, who lashed his shot high over the bar.

Nuttall went close, just failing to connect with Spooner's cross-cum-shot but seven minutes before the break the deadlock was broken. Crowley was robbed of possession on the halfway line by right-back Alan Davies, he raced forward into the box and lashed the ball across goal. With Martin Devaney set to pounce, Borough defender Jon Hassall could only turn the ball past Hayward and into his own net.

Three minutes after the break Straw almost equalised when he picked up Woods' pull back and fired a right-footer against the post and wanted too much time from the rebound. However, just before the hour mark Straw made amends for his earlier misses. Woods was again involved, firing in a testing cross that was exquisitely flicked on by Ahmed Mettioui, and Straw made no mistake with a crisp first-time drive.

Burton then showed why they are one of the better sides in the Premier Division as they took the pace out of the game. But when it seemed a replay was on the cards they struck. With 15 minutes to go Les Hornby curled in a corner and the ball found its way to the far post where Nuttall stabbed home on the volley from six yards. Borough chased the equaliser and Drewitt had a chance, but was off balance and shot wide. In the dying seconds substitute Tony Simpson wasted a shooting chance created by the tireless Woods.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 21-12-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Hassall, Williams, Crowley, Woods, Yates, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. **Subs:** Dean, Simpson, Lenton.

Gloucester: Mildenhall, Holloway, Howell, Johnson, Kemp, Burns, Kirkup (Rosenior 69), Webb, Ferguson, Adebowale, Cooper.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The visitors hardly posed a threat in the early stages and

should have been down to ten men after only six minutes when skipper Chris Burns was booked for a crude tackle on Woods and repeated the offence moments later but after being cautioned for the first offence received no more than a strong lecture for the second. Borough made the breakthrough after an uneventful 20 minutes. Woods was released on the right by Luke Yates and his ball to the near post was inch-perfect for Straw to net his 13th goal of the campaign from eight yards.



Luke Yates races away from Dave Johnson to set up another Borough attack.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Apparently stunned by the setback, City rallied and Andy Kirkup fired across the face of goal seconds from the restart. Then on 24 minutes there was a real moment of danger for the hosts as Burns rose to head against the crossbar from a Dave Johnson free-kick before Kirkup lashed the rebound high into the Beaumont Road end. Straw had a chance to stretch the lead on 28 minutes as he latched on to a slide-rule pass from skipper Dave Crowley, but he pulled his shot wide. Drewitt also put a shot wide on the stroke of half-time after Woods' free-kick had been only half-cleared.

Woods was proving to be a constant nuisance for Gloucester left-back Ian Howell and he again left him for dead three minutes after the break before his dangerous centre was turned behind by keeper Steve Mildenhall. On 64 minutes Warren Donald was caught in possession by Andy Adebawale who found Steve Ferguson unmarked eight yards out, but with only Hayward to beat he shot hurriedly and came closer to hitting the corner flag. Straw fired a stunning first-time drive just over the bar after more good work from Woods.

Borough extended their lead after 73 minutes when Straw took a short corner to Woods and his ball into the danger area was lashed against the bar by Barry Williams, however, Mettioui was on hand to nod the ball past a prone Mildenhall and into the unguarded net. Gloucester's only threat came when Adebawale looked set to race clear but Jon Hassall capped a solid game with a late saving tackle. Right on the death, Yates slipped a neat ball through to Straw and only the fingertips of Mildenhall prevented the striker from adding a third.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 26-12-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Dean, McGinty, Williams, Crowley, Woods, Yates, Straw, Drewitt (Lenton 82), Burr (Simpson 73). **Sub:** Darroch.

Atherstone: Glover, Everitt, R. Knight, Olnier, M. Albrighton (Percival 67), C. Knight, Judd, Middleton, Murphy, Bennett (Ellison 76), Williams (Green 64).

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Atherstone should have been ahead in the fourth minute when a mistake from Barry Williams let in Gez Murphy and Dave Bennett, but the duo seemed to get in each other's way before Murphy saw his powerful shot palmed over by Paul Hayward. Three minutes later they were rueing the miss, as the hosts took the lead. Ray Woods was released on the right and he charged goalwards before keeping his composure to lay the ball on a plate for veteran striker Burr, who left stand-in keeper Craig Glover, signed from Stockingford AA on Christmas Day to replace flu victim Richard Williams, with no chance.

However, the visitors, who also gave a debut to 19-year-old midfielder Jamie Williams, were soon back on level terms. Bennett challenged for an aerial ball with Williams, and the defender fell heavily. While he was lying on the ground Craig Knight played the ball forward, Bennett dummied cleverly and Judd, who had already wasted an early opportunity, walked through unattended to slot the ball beneath the body of the exposed Hayward.



Steve Burr escapes his marker Leigh Everitt to head past stand-in keeper Craig Glover.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

It was no more than they deserved at that stage, but once level they seemed to sit back and surrender the initiative to the Manor Park side and eight minutes before the break Borough regained the lead. Straw looped a high cross to the far post where Burr took advantage of his marker Leigh Everitt being caught ball watching to drift clear and plant a downward header past Glover. Faced with the prospect of an ear-bashing from Bradbury at the interval, United hit back with the evergreen Bennett always in the thick of things.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



And it was from one of his knock-downs in the 40th minute that Judd was presented with the ball ten yards out, only for Hayward to deny him at the near post. The former Coventry City man was then left holding his head in his hands in frustration after a smart turn created him a shooting chance, but he fired inches wide of the right-hand upright.

After an uneventful start to the second half, the lead was extended in the 57th minute. There seemed little danger when Straw with the ball at his feet was closely monitored by Lee Middleton, but somehow he twisted and turned before lashing a left-foot drive into the bottom corner with Glover scrambling desperately across his goalmouth. The debutant was again called into action when a mix up with Middleton almost let in substitute Tony Simpson, but the keeper raced bravely from his line-up to thwart the diminutive striker.

Jason Percival shot weakly at Hayward after being put in by Kim Green's header and with 11 minutes to go there was almost an own goal to grace any "bloopers video" when Glover advanced to collect only for Middleton to divert the ball past the custodian, but fortunately for Adders it was just wide of the goal. There was a nervous end for Borough when, seven minutes from time, Borough twice failed to clear their lines before Everitt at last provided some quality service for Murphy, who headed goalwards. Williams tried to head clear and Green leapt to head past Hayward from four yards.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-12-1996

Cheltenham: Gannaway, Wootton, Wring, Banks, Freeman, Victory, Chenoweth (Clarke 40), Wright, Howells (Parker 74), Cotterill (Duff 87), Bloomer.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Dean, McGinty, Williams, Crowley (Mettioui 45), Woods, Yates, Straw, Drewitt, Burr (Simpson 84). Sub: Lenton.

Borough travelled to Whaddon Road to play Cheltenham Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Cheltenham went ahead with their first real attack after surviving a couple of missed clear-cut chances from Straw. Full-back Jimmy Wring was allowed time and space out on the right and he wasted no time in crossing for unmarked ex-Adders' midfielder Darren Wright to head past keeper Paul Hayward. Straw was presented with another opening after 19 minutes when skipper Dave Crowley slid a telling ball that set the striker clear, however, home keeper Ryan Gannaway raced off his line to bravely block the danger.

Paul Chenoweth almost stretched the home side's lead seven minutes later as he headed wide from former Wimbledon striker Steve Cotterill's cross. But on 34 minutes the advantage was doubled. Chenoweth's centre was only half cleared, Wright's miscued volley was flicked on by Cotterill and Jamie Victory hooked the ball home from eight yards.

Borough suffered a huge blow when Crowley had to limp off with a knee injury, ironically sustained in a clumsy challenge on Bob Bloomer that earned him a caution. Then in the first-half injury time, the situation almost worsened as substitute Dean Clarke, on for Chenoweth, played a neat pass through

to Lee Howells, who exquisitely dinked the ball over a static back four and was only denied by the alert Hayward.

Borough began the second half like a house on fire. Just 90 seconds in, Straw saw a shot from 12 yards go wide, while a minute later Luke Yates and Ahmed Mettioui combined to release Steve Burr, but Gannaway was again quickly out to save at the frontman's feet. On the hour, central defender Barry Williams showed the forwards the way to find the target as he powered in a header from a Warren Donald centre that brought a fingertip save from the impressive Gannaway.

Mettioui was next to threaten and only a saving tackle at full stretch from Mark Freeman denied him a clear shot on goal. In the 68th minute, the hosts came close to putting the points beyond doubt. Howells released Clarke on the right and he picked out Victory at the far post in acres of space and it took a superb save from Hayward to turn the ball over. Gannaway came to the home side's rescue, thwarting Burr, while at the other end Donald was fortunate to escape a red card when he brought down Clarke. As time ran out Williams saw his crisp half-volley from 18 yards thud straight into the chest of the well-placed Gannaway. Both Tom McGinty and Straw missed late chances when well placed.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 14-01-1997

Atherstone: Williams, Everitt, Middleton, Albrighton, R. Knight, Judd, C. Knight, Olnier, Bennett, Ellison, Green. Subs: Percival, Blair, Higgs.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Hassall, Stanborough, Williams, Yates, Mettioui (Lenton 75), Burr (Dean 72), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: Woods.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough began confidently and on eight minutes should have gone ahead when Stanborough's through ball searched out Mettioui but his angled drive was splendidly parried around the post by Richard Williams. Soon after the strong Nuneaton contingent in the 858 crowd were holding their heads in their hands as Rob Straw, Tony Simpson and Ian Drewitt combined to set up Mettioui, however, from ten yards out he fired wide.



Barry Williams get the better of Robbie Ellison as Nick Stanborough looks on.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



The visitors continued to dictate with Straw unable to make anything of two half chances before a piece of optimism from Mettioui almost brought the breakthrough, his cheeky flick from Tony Simpson's long range drive squirming agonisingly across goal and inches wide of the post with Williams wrong-footed. It was not until the 26th minute that United showed any positive attacking tendencies with Richard Knight blasting a rising 25 yarder narrowly off the mark while Bennett could only fire into the side netting after Hayward had flapped at a Craig Knight centre.

A lull in the action at the start of the second period was broken with a spell of Borough pressure, Stanborough and Drewitt both being frustrated by last ditch challenges from Mark Albrighton and Kim Green. But it was the Adders who then began to get the upper hand with Bennett causing most of the problems out on the left and it was from some neat approach play by the former Coventry City man which carved out an opportunity for Craig Knight, who sliced disappointingly wide from 15 yards.

At the opposite end, Williams pushed away a Straw free-kick and from the resulting corner, United launched a quick break with Bennett finding Knight, his miscued effort falling to Green, whose hasty first-timer rolled across Hayward and grazed the upright before rolling to safety. Robbie Ellison then set Green away on the right and it needed a fine save low to his left by Hayward to keep Borough on terms and the scoreline blank.

Sittingbourne v Nuneaton Borough 18-01-1997

Sittingbourne: Hough, Haylock, Saunders (King 70), Ponsford, Pearson, Owen, Miller, Seager (Kimble 45), Holliday (Hodge 45), Rutter, Searle.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Hassall, Stanborough, Williams, Yates, Simpson, Dean, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. Subs: Stanley, Lenton, Woods.

Borough travelled to Central Park to play Sittingbourne in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough came close after just 50 seconds. Tony Simpson, in the side in place of Ray Woods, played a pass into the stride of Mettioui, he slid the ball past advancing keeper Andy Hough, but it hit the right-hand post, rolled agonisingly across the line and out for a goal kick. Encouraged by this, the visitors took control and should have been in front on 15 minutes. Luke Yates swung over a corner and the ball fell to an unmarked Straw four yards out, however, he was denied by a goal-line clearance from Scott Saunders and Ian Drewitt's follow-up effort was deflected for another flag-kick by Pearson.

Straw had a goal disallowed for offside before the home side began to find their feet, although Hough was forced to save a Simpson drive. Borough were almost made to pay for their missed chances when full-back Paul Haylock curled over a cross and Rutter rose unchallenged to head goalwards but Paul Hayward threw himself to his right and clawed the ball away. Steve Search put Paul Holliday through but Hayward was alert, pushing the centre-forward wide and averting danger.

In the second period the game burst into life, as the Brickies went at it with all guns blazing for the opening ten minutes. And they should have gone ahead on 53 minutes, but Rutter headed wide from close-range after substitutes Damien Hodge and Gary Kimble had combined to create the opportunity. Straw was then thwarted by Hough before the breakthrough finally came just before the hour mark. Simpson was again the provider, putting Mettioui in on goal and he made no mistake as he planted a delightful chip over the head of Hough from 25 yards.

Two minutes later the lead was doubled. Simpson was brought down on halfway and while the defence contested the decision, Warren Donald had the presence of mind to quickly play the ball to Straw and he converted with an almost identical finish to his strike partner from virtually the same spot on the pitch. Sittingbourne then had a goal from Rutter disallowed on 70 minutes after a foul from Robert Owen but they reduced the deficit four minutes later when Haylock's free-kick to the back post saw Pearson rise above Nick Stanborough to head powerfully past Hayward.

The Kent side continued to press and came perilously close to drawing level when Hodge lashed an unstoppable 20-yarder against the post with Hayward well beaten. The keeper then had to punch a dangerous Haylock cross to safety as Borough's legs seemed to tire and the home side surged forward at every opportunity. Just when it seemed the Manor Park side would hold on they were stunned by a bizarre 88th minute leveller. Searle put over a corner and Hayward failed to collect. The ball deflected off Drewitt and as Rutter lost his footing and stumbled to the ground the ball clipped his heel and trickled into the bottom corner.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 25-01-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Hassall, Stanborough (Elvin 5), McGinty, Crowley, Woods (Simpson 45), Yates, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. Sub: Stanley.

King's Lynn: Lewis, Matthews, Skelly, Bloodworth, Hoyle, Curtis (Pascoe 55), Dunlop, Harrison, Spencer, McNamara, Stringfellow. Subs: Hopkins, Stanhope.

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

It took the visitors just four minutes to find a way through a Borough rearguard missing the presence of flu victim Barry Williams. Darren Bloodworth curled a long ball behind the back four and McNamara raced in at the far post to head powerfully past keeper Paul Hayward. Within 60 seconds the lead was doubled after a dreadful error from the normally reliable Hayward. Bloodworth's innocuous through ball was turned back by centre-half Nick Stanborough but under no apparent pressure Hayward completely missed his kick and McNamara was on hand to lash the ball into an empty net for his 50th goal for the Linnets.

To make matters worse, Stanborough fell awkwardly and had to be stretchered off. Kevin Elvin came on with Warren Donald forced into an unfamiliar central defensive role.

Borough were shell-shocked but gradually settled and on 25 minutes Mettioui tested Lynn keeper Steve Lewis for the first time with a fierce volley but the custodian did well to save. The Linnets continued to look dangerous and McNamara assumed the role of provider, as he crossed for the lurking Stringfellow, but fortunately for Borough his shot deflected inches wide off the foot of Tom McGinty. As the game swung to and fro, and Mettioui volley was well held by Lewis, then the frontman almost created a chance for strike partner Rob Straw, but he was thwarted by Simon Dunlop. Borough were denied a penalty when Lewis appeared to impede Straw, but the referee awarded a goal kick.

Hayward made amends for an earlier error by tipping a Wayne Spencer header onto the post and in first-half stoppage time, Mettioui threw Borough a lifeline as he latched onto a ball from Elvin to neatly place the ball past a wrong-footed Lewis from eight yards.



Ahmed Mettioui, two goals and a constant threat.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

After the break, Ian Drewitt, again impeccable in midfield, fired a long-range effort well wide and Straw did likewise after a neat turn and shot on the edge of the box. Seven minutes after the break parity was restored. Kings Lynn failed to clear their lines and Mettioui found space and time to drill a low shot past Lewis from the tightest of angles. The turning point of the afternoon came minutes later, Mettioui burst clear and looked set for a scoring opportunity, but he was cynically brought down by substitute Jason Pascoe, who had yet to touch the ball. But the referee produced only a yellow card and the free-kick came to nothing.

Tony Simpson lashed over a cross that hit Drewitt on the forehead and flew over. However, on 61 minute, all the good work was undone when Richard Skelly broke down the left and centred. The ball found its way through a crowd of legs

and landed at the feet of Martin Matthews, and he calmly rolled it sideways for Stringfellow to lash past Hayward as he scurried desperately across his six-yard box. Borough were not finished yet and skipper Dave Crowley came close to a rare goal with a 20 yard drive that clipped the woodwork before Lewis beat out a close range Straw effort.

But 14 minutes from time came the decisive fourth goal. Garry Harrison played a one-two with Spencer before letting fly from 20 yards. Hayward dived to his left to make an excellent stop but the ball fell kindly for Stringfellow who lifted the ball over the keeper and into the net. Borough never gave up and threw men forward. Drewitt cut in from the left before squeezing a shot past the left-hand upright and McGinty twice had Lewis at full-stretch with well-struck long range drives. With a minute remaining McNamara almost completed his hat-trick when his low shot squirmed out of Hayward's grasp but trickled the wrong side of the post.

Hastings Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-02-1997

Hastings: Creed, Henderson, Willard, Ball, Shearer, Larkin, Barham, Playford, Cuggy (Parris 69), Ferguson (Tuppenny 80), Ullathorne. Sub: Carman.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Hassall, McGinty, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Yates, Lenton, Drewitt, Mettioui. Subs: Statham, Elvin, Stanley.

Borough travelled to The Pilot Field to play Hastings Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Hastings were quickly out of the traps and only a hurried clearance by Barry Williams snuffed out the danger from Simon Ullathorne's left-foot cross. Then in the ninth minute Borough were handed a perfect opportunity to take the lead. Drewitt found space behind the home back four but was upended by the combined attentions of Lee Shearer and Matt Ball. But Drewitt failed to convert the spot kick. At the opposite end, Shearer should have done better with a header from Ullathorne's centre but the visitors were beginning to take the upper hand.

Despite this, Ullathorne forced keeper Paul Hayward into tipping over a 20-yard drive in the 27th minute. As half-time approached there was more frustration for Drewitt as he headed against the bar after good work from Ahmed Mettioui, with Tony Simpson putting the rebound into the side netting. And in the 44th minute Jamie Lenton set up Luke Yates with a telling crossfield ball but the midfielder shot wide from 10 yards with only Creed to beat.

Borough continued to enjoy more possession after Hastings started the second period brightly. The hosts best effort during a ten-minute spell came when Stuart Playford drilled in a shot from 25 yards that Hayward turned onto the crossbar and over for a corner. Chances were at a premium and several players found their way into referee Martyn Newell's book, including Borough skipper Dave Crowley, and it began to look inevitable the match would end in stalemate.

So it proved, but not before Drewitt had come inches away from atoning for his earlier penalty miss. An exquisite turn by

Mettioui saw him release Simpson, who had the vision to find the diminutive striker in space. After initially treading on the ball, he recovered to lift the ball over Creed and agonisingly onto the bar and out to safety.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 03-02-1997

Worcester: Moore, Greenman, Burnham, Richards, Heeley, Harding, Evans (Norris 73), Cottrill, Taylor, Thomas, Power. **Subs:** Ashby, Blakely.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, Hassall, Statham (Woods 73), Williams, McGinty, Simpson, Yates, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. **Subs:** Lenton, Elvin.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough almost fell behind on five minutes when former Bedworth United striker Anton Thomas almost capitalised on indecision by Warren Donald, lashing a shot that flew across the face of goal. On 14 minutes Borough should have gone ahead. Ian Drewitt, as always busy in midfield, slipped a ball into Straw, but as keeper Paul Moore advanced from his line the striker shot straight at his body. City began to put Borough under pressure as the half progressed and on 26 minutes hesitant defending resulted in Ian Cottrill finding Colin Taylor on the right, and when he centred, Carl Heeley volleyed over the crossbar from 16 yards. Three minutes later keeper Paul Hayward dropped a corner under pressure from Taylor and was then forced to save from Richard Evans.

Still the home side pressed and a cross from Jason Burnham dipped dangerously and Hayward was forced to back pedal and tip over for a corner. As half-time approached a rare excursion into enemy territory almost saw Borough in front, Tom McGinty's long ball from the back setting up Straw but he blazed over with only Moore to beat.

The second half continued in much the same vein, as George Rooney's side pushed for an opener and Taylor should have done better when he completely miscued from Heeley's accurate centre. Cottrill then fired in a shot from 30 yards that went well wide but was almost diverted in by the lunging Thomas. On 62 minutes the hosts were guilty of wasting a proverbial sitter. A corner from Burnham was only half cleared and when Thomas turned the ball back into the six yard box Taylor somehow headed over with the goal at his mercy.

Seven minutes later Thomas was shaking his head in disbelief as he found space to get on the end of Taylor's cross but inexplicably failed to trouble Hayward from seven yards. With 17 minutes remaining Ray Woods replaced Statham with Williams dropping back into his more accustomed position. A well-worked short corner between Tony Simpson and Straw brought a good save out of Moore in the 78th minute, but the keeper was powerless to prevent the goal that decided the issue. Straw was upended by Dave Richards on the right and as the defence waited expectantly for Woods to loft the free-kick into the area he rolled it across the edge of the D for the Borough striker to fire an awkwardly bouncing ball into the bottom left-hand corner, with Moore sent the wrong way by

the deflection. Worcester were forced into a frantic late bid to save the game and put the Borough goal under the sternest examination, with Donald and McGinty making vital blocks to deny Thomas and Steve Norris.



Former Borough Star Mourned

Former Borough keeper Bob Knight has died of cancer at his Black Country home. He was a hugely popular figure with the Manor Park faithful and was a team mate of current boss Brendan Phillips in the late 1970s...

...He was also a member of the victorious Nuneaton Borough side

who beat Oxford United 2-0 at Manor Park in the First Round of the FA Cup in 1977, having won the club player of the year award the previous season. Bob was also the star man at Sincil Bank when Graham Taylor's rampaging Lincoln City side overwhelmed Borough 6-0 during their 1976 Second Round FA Cup clash on December 11, and many fans left the ground convinced it would have been double figures on the frost-bound pitch had it not been for the bravery and skill of the keeper who started his career with Wolves.

Bob, who counted Telford United among his previous clubs, left Borough in 1978 on a free transfer after playing 244 first team games and having the proud record of never conceding more than 37 league goals in a season and the club never finishing outside the top ten of the Premier Division. He also collected a Birmingham Senior Cup winners medal in May 1978 and a Southern League runners-up medal in 1975.

Before last night's game with Worcester, for whom Bob also played around 300 games, a minute's silence was observed by players and supporters of both clubs who have fond memories of the custodian.

Borough Unable To Sign Diamonds' Duo

Brendan Phillips has been unsuccessful in bringing two Rushden & Diamonds players to Manor Park. The Nuneaton Borough manager has been chasing winger Ian King and striker Kevin Wilkin for some time as he looks to pep up his front line. Borough and Rushden agreed a fee for the pair but they have decided to stay at Nene Park until the end of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Sudbury Town 08-02-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Yates, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui (Woods 76). **Subs:** Hassall, Lenton.
Sudbury: Mokler, Ball (French 58), Stafford, Carter, Tracey, Pope, Cheetham, Brown, McClean, Smith, Rolph. **Subs:** Reilly, Walton.

Borough welcomed Sudbury Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

After a lively opening the hosts were stunned as Town went ahead. Former Colchester midfielder Nicky Smith curled in

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



a corner which Paul Hayward looked to have under control, but as he arched backward, the keeper collided with Warren Donald and allowed the ball to slip from his grasp, leaving a simple tap in for Sudbury's top scorer Ian Brown. Unruffled by this early set back Borough responded and only a scrambled clearance by Darren Rolph prevented Straw converting Ahmed Mettioui's centre. There was another moment of danger in the 13th minute when Smith's through ball picked out Michael Cheetham, who miskicked with only Hayward to beat.

Sixty seconds later Drewitt put Straw clear and despite the attentions of Chris Tracey, the frontman swivelled on the corner of the box and hit a glorious right-footer past Steve Mokler. With Cheetham looking impressive in midfield, Sudbury proved hard to break down and it took ten further minutes for Borough to threaten again, Tom McGinty's free-kick being headed wide by Barry Williams from six yards.

Opportunities then came thick and fast as first Luke Yates wasted a fine chance, his first touch letting him down with only Mokler to beat and Straw somehow missing the target. Eight minutes from the break Straw set up Tony Simpson, who many felt was enjoying his best game of the season, but Mokler flung himself to his left to divert Simpson's flick and then got down well to hold Mettioui's header from the corner.

After such a feast of entertainment in the opening half, the second was a disappointment. Borough had a lots of possession without looking dangerous and the best chance fell to Christian McClean on a rare Sudbury excursion, but he directed his header from Tracey's cross over the top. Gary Statham then marked his first home appearance for four months with a yellow card that could well have been red after an off the ball clash with McClean. As the game entered its final ten minutes things livened up and there was a second or two of panic as Hayward attempted a punched clearance that landed at the feet of Neil Pope who lofted the ball to the far post where Borough were grateful to substitute Ray Woods for heading clear with Smith set to pounce.

A minute from time Borough felt they should have had a spot kick as Drewitt looked to have been impeded by Cheetham, but there was even more drama to follow. Deep into injury time Dave Crowley was beaten down the left by Cheetham who found Brown. He kept his composure to go round Hayward and looked certain to snatch the spoils, but amazingly his own striker McClean got in the way of his goalbound shot and the ball ran safely out for a goal kick.

Baldock Town v Nuneaton Borough 11-02-1997

Baldock: Jones, Bruce, Rattle, Graves, Howells, Johnson (Dalli 45), E. Stein, Fenton, B. Stein (Kilby 82), Small (Dylan 86), Atkinson.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Yates, Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. **Subs:** Hassall, Woods, Stanborough.

Borough travelled to Norton Road to play Baldock Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

To say the first half lacked entertainment would be an

understatement. The only real incidents were a save from Borough keeper Paul Hayward from home skipper Lee Graves while at the other end Tony Simpson had the ball in the net only for offside to be given.

Within 60 seconds of the second half the game sprung to life. Straw found room on the left to cross for Simpson, who slid the ball against the post from a yard under pressure from Graves. Seven minutes later Straw again was the provider, this time for the hard working Ian Drewitt, but the little Welshman shot well wide from six yards. A goal seemed inevitable for Borough and duly came when Simpson found Straw unmarked on the edge of the box and he confidently steered a right foot shot past a sprawling Jimmy Jones into the far corner.

Straight from the kick-off Straw again looked to have scored as he slotted past Jones from Mettioui's through ball only for an offside decision to rule it out. Suddenly Baldock enjoyed a brief spell of superiority and Borough were grateful to Drewitt for blocking Steve Atkinson's goalbound shot. But on the hour the sides were level. Atkinson crossed from the left, Hayward seemed to have the ball covered until he was barged over by Small and as everyone at Norton Road waited for referee Steve Tinknell's whistle Brian Stein stabbed the ball home from a yard.

The hosts then went forward again with Atkinson racing clear but after taking the ball past Hayward he shot into the side netting from a tight angle. The Baldock storm – unlike the inclement weather – passed, and after Tom McGinty had crashed a 35-yearer past the post Straw restored the lead 20 minutes from time, racing onto Drewitt's searching ball out of defence before skipping past Jones and sliding his shot into an unguarded net.

Jones then made a fine save from Simpson as Borough went on the rampage before Mettioui held off the challenge of Jean Dalli before laying a hat-trick on a plate for Straw only for the 18-goal man to blaze the ball over from eight yards. As time ran out Straw was again denied his treble by a goal-line clearance from Edwin Stein and Luke Yates should have capped a solid display in midfield with a goal, but skewed his shot wide of the target with Jones nowhere to be seen.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 18-02-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Yates (Woods 88), Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui. **Sub:** Stanborough.

Merthyr: Wager, Barnhouse, Downs, O'Brien, Abraham (Wigley 45), Williams, Pascoe (Jenkins 59), Ramsey, Mitchell, Summers (Mardenborough 59), Preedy.

Borough welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough went a goal down following Merthyr's first attack. Former Coventry City defender Greg Downs whipped in a low cross from the left touchline, Ian Mitchell stepped over the ball and Summers drilled a low shot past the despairing dive of Paul Hayward from 12 yards. Up against

the elements in the opening half, the hosts found it difficult to make any impression and in the 32nd minute they almost found themselves further behind. Barry Williams dallied, then slipped, allowing Summers to rob him and race down on Hayward, but the custodian stood tall and made a fine save with his legs. As the interval approached, the hosts finally made headway, with Ian Drewitt denied by David Barnhouse's tackle and Williams seeing his on target shot blocked.

A number of the Borough faithful were looking forward pessimistically to the second half but spirits were lifted 45 seconds after the restart. Warren Donald lifted the ball into the path of Straw, and with the Welsh defence looking for an offside flag that never came, he lashed the ball past keeper Gary Wager. Six minutes later, Straw was close to a second, firing in a powerful left-footer from 18 yards after a well-worked short corner with Drewitt, but Wager was this time equal to the task.



Tony Simpson wrong foots Greg Downs as he sets up another Borough attack.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Straw hit the roof of the Cock and Bear stand when well placed and Borough looked as though they were on the way to three points. However, the final ball into the box lacked quality and near the end the visitors almost snatched an undeserved winner when substitute Anthony Jenkins volleyed high and wide from eight yards following the impressive Mitchell's pin-point centre.

Minutes earlier, Wager spilled Drewitt's 20-yarder but Mark Williams reacted quickest to clear the danger.

Bullock Windfall

Former Nuneaton Borough midfielder Darren Bullock has moved from Huddersfield Town to Swindon Town for £400,000. The 28-year-old has long been admired by Robins' boss Steve McMahon and finally put pen to paper yesterday. And the deal is good news for Borough, who originally received £60,000 for the player known affectionately to the Manor Park faithful as "Mad Dog". As part of a sell on clause they will receive 17.5% of the profit made by the Terriers, which will net them £59,500.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashford Town

22-02-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Hassall, Straw, Drewitt (Beckett 67), Mettioui (Woods 84). **Sub:** Stanborough.
Ashford: Munden, Morris, Scott (White 45), Pearson, Warrilow, Wynter, Wheeler, Donn, Allon, Stanton, O'Brien (Parks 45). **Sub:** O'Leary.

Borough welcomed Ashford Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

For once Borough had the advantage of an early goal, central defender Barry Williams heading home his first of the season after Tom Warrilow had needlessly conceded a corner. From the moment Williams' second-minute header nestled in the back of Maurice Munden's net there was only going to be one winner. And had Rob Straw not had a nightmare day in front of goal it would probably have meant the shoes and socks coming off in the press box to add up the score. So dominant were Borough.

Twice in a matter of minutes the ball found its way to the top scorer's feet when well placed, twice he hesitated and failed to get in a shot. But to dwell on the missed chances would be to mask the impressive build-ups by the hosts' midfield. Tony Simpson, Crowley, livewire Ian Drewitt and Jon Hassall, in for the injured Luke Yates, were all on top of their game. Simpson especially working tirelessly down the right and popping up as often at right back as right wing.

After Straw had again had the ball whipped off his toe, the Kent side enjoyed their only real moments of danger. An Andy Allon free kick forced keeper Paul Hayward into a rare save and David Scott's header flew inches wide from the resulting corner and they were Ashford's only threats in 90 minutes.



Darren Beckett clinches the points for Borough with a goal on his debut.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

But Borough had still to kill off their visitors and as the break approached Ahmed Mettioui shot wide from 10 yards in injury time and there was a worry that it might prove costly. Not so! After an off-balance Straw had missed a sitter, taking the ball off Hassall's toe, the contest was over on the hour mark. Straw it was who made amends as he raced onto Drewitt's

through ball and after being forced wide by Munden, coolly chipped the ball onto the head of Mettioui who could hardly miss from two yards. Enter Beckett, for the limping Drewitt in the 67th minute, 120 seconds later he was in wonderland, latching on to a Straw pass to drill a shot in off the left hand post from 18 yards. He even had a goal ruled out for handball 14 minutes from time which would really have been a fairytale beginning.

Nuneaton Borough v Salisbury City 01-03-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Hassall (Beckett 70), Drewitt, Mettioui (Woods 70). **Sub:** Stanborough.

Salisbury: Simpkins, Lovell, Fletcher, Baird, Rofe, Preston (Middleton 86), Shaw, Guy (Hobson 62), Elmes (Parkin 62), Chalk, Smith.

Borough welcomed Salisbury City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

For 56 mind-numbingly tedious minutes the only winner of this game looked like being the strong wind which made even standing up difficult. There was hardly an incident worthy of description and the smart money was firmly placed on a goalless draw. But just when you thought it was safe to head for the bar, safe in the knowledge you would miss nothing, the whole context of the game changes. Warren Donald played an innocuous looking ball into the visitors's area and with Ian Drewitt being ushered wide, City striker Ian Chalk wrestled him to the ground and Straw scored from the spot, sending John Simpkins the wrong way.

At last Salisbury were forced to come out of their ultra-defensive shell and try and salvage something from the game, it proved to be their undoing. They threatened only briefly, Chalk shooting inches over the bar and full-back Gary Fletcher was off target with a long range effort, but throughout the 90 minutes home custodian Paul Hayward must have felt like joining the crowd behind the Salisbury goal.



Tony Simpson celebrates as John Simpkins is unable to stop the ball from crossing the line.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

After surviving the visitors' storm, Borough went in search

of a second and Drewitt twice came close to finding the net, first seeing Simpkins dive smartly to his left to block a well struck effort and then firing over after a cheeky back heel from Simpson. Substitute Darren Beckett, again looking hugely impressive, then released Simpson but Simpkins was again equal to his low drive. With ten minutes remaining, the home side at last found a way through, Ray Woods flighted a free-kick into the six yard box and Statham swooped to head a bouncing ball past a helpless keeper. It was not party time, with the Borough faithful suddenly finding their voices and the players exhibiting a number of exhibition moves.

Straw and Beckett were both denied before two minutes into time added on the latter lashed in a shot from 18 yards that Simpkins could only parry and Simpson was quickest to react firing the ball in off the underside of the bar. Right at the death Straw finished the afternoon on a high note with a stunning left footer from 20 yards that flew into the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 04-03-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Hassall, Straw, Drewitt, Beckett. **Subs:** Stanborough, Woods, Elvin.

Chelmsford: Williams, Hunter, Watts, Bellamy, Wall, Southon, Kane, Garvey, Docking, Matthews, Kimble. **Subs:** Russell, Davidson, Dicker.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Rob Straw created an opportunity for Drewitt after just four minutes and then squandered a chance for himself, made by Darren Beckett, making his first start for the club. Straw then crashed home the first goal after combining with Drewitt before firing left-footed past City keeper Darren Williams from 16 yards. Four minutes later, it looked like a landslide was on the cards as Drewitt and Tony Simpson put Straw clear and he again obliged. This time with his right foot from the edge of the area.

To their credit the visitors did not lie down and had slightly the better of things for a 20 minute period but rarely threatened Paul Hayward's goal. A flicked header from Neil Docking and a low drive from David Matthews were the only moments of danger. At the other end, Drewitt was again thwarted by a diving Williams and the keeper also did well to clutch a deflected Simpson drive.

Early into the second half, Hayward was called upon to turn a Paul Watts volley for a corner from which Docking headed just wide. However, it did not take long for Borough to respond with skipper Dave Crowley seeing a header go inches wide then have a similar effort stopped by the City custodian. Ray Woods was introduced for a not surprisingly jaded looking Beckett in the 66th minute. Then, out of the blue, Chelmsford grabbed a lifeline on 75 minutes when Colin Wall fired into the roof of the net after joint manager Gary Bellamy's flick on from Gary Kimble's free-kick.

However any hopes of the Essex men returning south with any reward was soon ended with that man Straw again



setting the Borough faithful alive with another sublime piece of finishing in the 82nd minute. As City's hopes stemmed towards an equaliser Straw made sure there was to be no dramatic comeback when he played a super one-two with Woods before beating Williams at his near post with clinical efficiency. Late on Hayward had to make a brave save, racing from his line to deny Docking. And right at the death the same player missed a proverbial sitter when clean through, shooting wide of the target.

Gravesend & Northfleet v Nuneaton Borough 15-03-1997

Gravesend: Webb, Jackson, Lamb, Walker, Mortley, Munday, Powell (Hodges 69), Arter, Newbery (Docker 60), Lovell, Robinson. **Sub:** Gooding.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Yates (Beckett 64), Simpson, Woods (Hassall 71), Burton (Stanborough 78), Drewitt, Mettioui.

Borough travelled to Stonebridge Road to play Gravesend & Northfleet in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The word that best describes the opening 45 minutes is turgid. Defences were well on top and Gary Statham was a barrier that the hosts could find no way through or around, such was his presence. Of the brighter moments were two 20-yard free kick by Jimmy Jackson that just failed to find the target.

For the visitors, Tony Simpson came closest, latching on to Ray Woods' half-cleared corner and forcing keeper Carl Webb to tip his first-time effort over the top for another flag-kick. Simpson then had a similar strike more comfortably deal with before the game sprang to life in first-half stoppage time. Fleet won a corner, but there seemed little cause for concern until Simpson was caught needing too much time on the ball and Paul Lamb put over a telling cross that was turned past an exposed Hayward by Dave Arter from eight yards.

Borough needed to step things up after the interval but it was Gravesend who threatened on 50 minutes, Richard Newbery having a goal disallowed after Arter had clearly impeded Hayward. And the home side continued to press as Mark Munday crossed for Newbery, who headed inches wide with his back to goal and Hayward seemingly beaten.

On 58 minutes a mistake by Barry Williams presented Newbery with a second opportunity, but Hayward blocked with his legs, and the keeper then made it a hat-trick of chances for frontman Newbery, miskicking straight to his feet 25 yards from goal and looking relieved as the striker shot tamely wide to the derision of the home fans, before being immediately substituted. Chris Burton, deputising for the absent Straw, was then denied a clear run on goal by a blatant obstruction from Jackson that brought only a yellow card. Phillips then played his joker, bringing talented young midfielder Darren Beckett into the fray.

And within five minutes the super-sub had done it again. His ball out to the right found Simpson, who in turn picked out Drewitt with a defence-splitting pass, and he controlled before sweeping a low shot past Webb.

It was then that Hayward came into his own, making a

stunning reflex save to keep out a header from the hosts' player manager Steve Lovell. And with eight minutes left, he arched backwards to turn an Arter header over the bar as it looked destined for the top corner. But Borough hung on under late pressure and no-one would argue that they were just about good value for a share of the points.

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 22-03-1997

Chelmsford: D. Williams, Hunter, Watts, Bellamy, Guiver, Southon, Roberts, Garvey, Davidson, Mayes, Kimble. **Subs:** Matthews, Farmer, Girling.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, B. Williams, Yates, Simpson, Woods (Stanborough 45), Straw, Drewitt, Mettioui (Burr 58). **Sub:** Elvin.

Borough travelled to New Writtle Street to play Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The opening period proved scrappy but from their first real attack Chelmsford took the lead on seven minutes. A loose ball fell to the unmarked Bobby Mayes and his weak shot slipped under Hayward and into the net. On 15 minutes Borough tried to hit back when a Ray Woods' corner found Ian Drewitt but his shot into the ground was then headed well over by Rob Straw. Soon after a fine through ball by Glyn Roberts picked out Mayes, who was again unmarked, but this time the City striker blazed his shot badly wide.

On 30 minutes Borough's hopes nosedived when Statham was shown the red card following a clash with City's Kurt Davidson in which the pair had to separated. Davidson got away with only a caution much to the chagrin of the visiting fans. After this, Chelmsford went up a gear and a Garvey cross picked out Jamie Southon, who saw his unchallenged header flash a yard wide. Six minutes before the break, City increased their advantage when a poor clearance from the Borough's defence was picked up by Lee Guiver on the edge of the box and his harmless looking lob dropped into the net as Borough custodian Hayward thought the ball would go over the bar.

The second half opened with Borough looking a much brighter outfit and two chances went begging that could have put the Blues back in contention. On 51 minutes Ahmet Mettioui set Straw off down the left and as he shaped up to shoot the ball took a nasty bobble and his sliced shot flew wide. Two minutes later a Tony Simpson through ball found Straw but this time his shot was on target but he was denied by a fine save from Darren Williams.

City hit back when Mayes laid the ball square to Davidson but his low shot whistled inches past the post. On 66 minutes Chelmsford added their third goal when a cross from Guiver should have caused Hayward no problems but somehow the Borough keeper spilt the ball from his grasp and it fell invitingly to Gary Kimble who had the simple task of shooting into an empty net. Two minutes later the hosts nearly increased their lead when Kimble crossed for Guiver but his first-time shot went a yard wide.

To Borough's credit they cut the deficit in the 71st minute with the goal of the game. Tony Simpson picked up the

ball 25 yards out and he unleashed an unstoppable angled left-foot drive that ripped into the back of the net. After this the game fizzled out as City comfortably held on. The final whistle brought the curtain down on what was probably Borough's worst performance for some time.

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 29-03-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson, Beckett (Woods), Straw, Drewitt, Yates. **Subs:** Mettioui, Stanborough.

Borough welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

After an uninspired opening half in which neither side struck any real rhythm or fluency, it was Straw's 53rd minute rocket – his 26th goal of the season – which brought the game, and also a 1,400-plus Manor Park crowd to their feet. Straw, who had missed a far easier opportunity before the break, looked to be posing few problems when he received possession some 25 yards out but a slick turn and devastating left-foot rising drive gave keeper Mark Goodwin no chance as it found the net off the underside of the bar.



Rob Straw hold off the challenge of Ron Fletcher to fire home the winner.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Late on Gresley claimed an equaliser when Kevin Allsop's header beat keeper Paul Hayward and struck the underside of the bar and bounced down for Luke Yates to hack clear, but with the visitors adamant that the ball had gone over the line, referee James waved play on. Tony Marsden then shot over when ideally placed as Rovers saw their last chance of taking a point disappear as their lead at the head of the table was cut to six points following second placed Cheltenham Town's 5-1 away thrashing of Halesowen Town.

Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 31-03-1997

Gresley: Goodwin, Wardle, Horseman, Devine (Denby 67), Blount, Fletcher, Catledine, Allsop, Marsden, Garner (Pitt 72), Fowkes. **Sub:** Jennings.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson (Woods 60), Beckett, Straw, Drewitt, Yates. **Sub:** Mettioui, Hassall.

Borough travelled to The Moat Ground to play Gresley Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The opening minutes were tight with little to enthuse about until, on 17 minutes, Dave Crowley skipped past two tackles before slipping a pass to Drewitt, who in turn released Straw,

but his fierce 20 yard shot flew a foot over the top. Both sides enjoyed brief spells of pressure and Rovers came closest as Tony Marsden headed against a post from Richard Wardle's ball into the area. Crowley produced a last-ditch saving tackle to deny Marsden before the hosts went ahead on the stroke of half-time. An innocuous ball into the box was miskicked by Beckett allowing Allsop to slide in a shot at the far post.

Borough made the perfect start to the second half when on 47 minutes Beckett's run down the left was picked out by Yates, and the midfielder made amends for his earlier error by putting a cross into the path of Drewitt, who rifled home from 12 yards. Tony Simpson and Straw both had chances to increase the lead, the former somehow stumbling over the ball with the goal at his mercy and Straw bringing a fine save out of keeper Nick Goodwin.

It mattered little as on 64 minutes Borough confirmed their dominance as they took the lead. Straw found his way to the byline before coolly setting up Yates, who shot home with the help of a slight deflection. Gresley responded and Richard Denby lashed a shot across the face of goal that Allsop tried manfully, but without success, to touch home. Eight minutes from time the visitors were denied a penalty when Drewitt played a one-two with Straw and seemed to be brought down by Mark Blount, but the referee waved play on.

Ray Woods was introduced for a tiring Simpson on the hour mark and played a big part in the third and decisive goal a minute later. After Drewitt had been upended for the umpteenth time during the match, he cross deep for Statham to soar like a salmon and power a header past Goodwin. Straw then had the final say in the 88th minute, seeing his first shot blocked after cutting in from the right but recovering to fire into the bottom corner past a hapless home keeper.

Borough Appoint New Directors

Nuneaton Borough have ended recent speculation by adding three new members to their board. In a statement they have named local businessmen Graham Cooper, Ralph Nolleth and Trevor Woolley as the men coming in. Chairman Howard Kerry said: "For the past six years the present board of directors has worked hard for and achieved success for Nuneaton Borough and felt that now is the time or progress further.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 05-04-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Stanborough, Williams, Crowley, Woods (Simpson 56), Beckett (Mettioui 74), Straw, Drewitt, Yates.

Cheltenham: Malloy, Duff, Knight, Clarke, Freeman, Victory, Howells (Symonds 84), Wright, Dunwell (Chenoweth 78), Boyle (Eaton 61), Bloomer.

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Yet again there was an early goal to get proceedings under way. It came when Rob Straw attempted to weave his way into the box only to be brought down by Bob Bloomer. Ray Woods curled over a free-kick and Williams climbed above the visitors' defence to head powerfully goalwards with

keeper Kevin Maloy only able to parry the ball into his own net. The goal gave the hosts the impetus they needed and they took a firm grip, keeping Town pinned deep in their own half for long periods. Two minutes after Williams' goal, Straw found room to pick out Drewitt unmarked in the area but the little Welshman missed the ball altogether.

Within seconds they threatened again, this time Darren Beckett's defence-splitting pass helped into Straw's path by Drewitt, and only a Mark Freeman clearance prevented the striker adding to his already impressive goal tally. After 24 minutes, the Robins finally forced Hayward into action, albeit with a tame header from Jamie Victory but Borough were soon back on the offensive as Beckett helped a ball over the top to Straw who shot high and wide when well placed.

With the interval looming Woods was denied by Malloy and then on 41 minutes Bloomer upended Straw ten yards out. Drewitt confidently stepped up to take the spot kick but fired the ball wide off the outside of the right hand upright.



Nick Stanborough gets up high, but is beaten by Cheltenham's Mark Freeman. Photo: Heartland Evening News

And it almost proved costly as moments later Woods was caught in possession deep in his own half by Lee Howells, who slipped a pass to Richard Dunwell, with Hayward looking slightly relieved to see his curling shot slip past the post.

After a quiet start to the second period, Town looked more purposeful and when a Keith Knight corner was only half cleared, Darren Wright's drive from the edge of the area was deflected to safety by Dave Crowley. Borough hit back with a sweeping move that saw Luke Yates find Drewitt on the right and his cross had to be smartly deal with by Malloy. Again the home side came forward. Drewitt finding Straw who centred for substitute Tony Simpson, and only a desperate block by Victory prevented a second goal.

But Cheltenham were then denied a penalty when Dunwell was apparently impeded by Stanborough right on the edge of the area but the referee waved play on. Wright then fired in a left-footed effort that went inches wide and five minutes from time Wright again came close after good work by substitute Jason Eaton. With time running out, another replacement John Symonds crossed for Knight, and only the alertness of the largely inactive Hayward denied an undeserved equaliser.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 08-04-1997

Cambridge: George, Jeffrey (Leete 90), Lockhart, Taylor, Gawthrop, Pincher, Halsall, Tovey, Harris, Bennett, Reilly. Subs: Chattoe, White.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Stanborough, Williams (Hassall 45), Crowley, Woods, Beckett, Straw, Drewitt, Yates. Subs: Mettioui, Simpson.

Borough travelled to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The honours went the way of the home side during the first-half. Former Wimbledon striker Mickey Bennett led their attack with plenty of aggression while the deadball ability of Michael Halsall – the ex-Peterborough United player-manager – was a constant worry for the visiting rearguard. Neil Harris had a couple of early opportunities then on 19 minutes Bennett rose unchallenged in the area to head past a hapless Paul Hayward from Halsall's inswinging corner.

The Manor Park side were playing the more cultured football but Cambridge looked the more likely and from a Bennett centre Andy Pincher headed into the path of Harris whose final touch deserted him. The same player then raced through in first-half injury time but was brought to a halt by the legs of Hayward before volleying the rebound wide.

Williams was replaced by Hassall after the break but Borough finally found their recent rhythm, and Warren Donald wasted an opening three minutes after the restart. But Phillips' side did not have to wait too long to get back on terms as Drewitt raced on to Hayward's long kick five minutes later to fire an angled drive past keeper Jeremy George. Drewitt fired into the side netting before getting on the end of a Ray Woods cross to head over.

With 17 minutes left on the clock Borough grabbed the goal that looked like giving them maximum value from their trip south. The home back-line showed signs of hesitancy and like a flash Straw pounced on the ball 25 yards out and lashed a fierce shot into the bottom corner past a despairing George for his 28th goal of the campaign. It did not take long for thoughts of victory to be dispelled as 120 seconds later City were level. Chris Tovey curled the ball into the box and after a slight deflection off the boot of Pincher, Reilly swivelled six yards out to beat Hayward with a rising effort.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 12-04-1997

Merthyr: Wager, Barnhouse, Downs, Abraham, O'Brien, Wigley, Jenkins, Pascoe (Mardenborough 84), Bowen (Mitchell 46), Rees, Summers.
Borough: Hayward, Donald (Elvin 34), McGinty, Hassall, Stanborough, Crowley, Woods (Simpson 57), Beckett (Mettioui 57), Straw, Drewitt, Yates.

Borough travelled to Penydarren Park to play Merthyr Tydfil in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The outcome of the game might have been so different had the visitors accepted a gilt edged chance to take the lead on 11 minutes. Tom McGinty's long ball out of defence was missed by former Coventry City defender Greg Downs allowing Ray Woods a clear run on goal, but he shot tamely at

keeper Gary Wager with Ian Drewitt's follow up shot cleared off the line by Russell Wigley. And Borough were denied a clear penalty on 25 minutes, Woods and Downs again involved, the latter clearly pulling the midfielder back but the screams for a spot kick were met with silence from the match official. At last the home side began to come into the game, Tony Rees firing well over the top from 20 yards. And on 32 minutes they were in front in bizarre circumstances. Rob Straw was adjudged offside and from Downs' long free-kick into the area, Neil O'Brien flicked on, Rees pulled the ball back and Sam Bowen nodded home from point-blank range.

Within two minutes Borough were level, Woods putting Straw in and the frontman skipped past several challenges, took the ball around Wager, and slipped it into an empty net. However, they then lost the services of Donald who needed nine stitches in a cut above his head after clashing accidentally with team-mate Stanborough. Bowen then brought a smart save out of keeper Paul Hayward and five minutes from the break Gareth Abraham's snapshot again brought the best out of the custodian, the rebound being lifted onto the head of O'Brien who headed inches wide.

Moments later the Martyrs regained the initiative, a long throw from Anthony Jenkins was helped on by O'Brien to the lurking Chris Summers, who poked out a foot to send the ball past Hayward.

The interval seemed to come at just the right time, but within 25 seconds of the restart Merthyr struck again, Jenkins' punt upfield miscontrolled by the otherwise impressive McGinty, and Rees nipped in to delightfully chip the advancing Hayward. The Manor Park outfit now came under siege and on 67 minutes the main talking point of the match left them facing a mountain to climb. Hayward dropped a Colin Pascoe cross under pressure from substitute Ian Mitchell, and Summers tapped in his second. But Hayward and Mitchell became embroiled in a touch of fisticuffs with players from both sides racing in to add their two penneth. When the dust settled, Stanborough and Wigley were given their marching orders while Hassall hobbled off at the same time, and Borough were forced to play 23 minutes with nine men.

Sensing their opportunity the hosts swarmed forward, exploiting the space caused by the earlier mayhem and the only surprise was that they added only one more goal, Mitchell's lob coming off the woodwork and dropping kindly for Jenkins to lash home in the 83rd minute.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 19-04-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Stanborough, Williams (Mettioui 85), Crowley, Simpson, Beckett, Straw, Drewitt, Yates. **Subs:** Elvin, Woods.
Cambridge: Kelly, Beattie (Ippocito 45), Lockhart, Taylor, Gawthrop (Rutter 85), Pincher, Halsall, Tovey, Harris, Bennett, Chatton. **Sub:** Byatt.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

With the game still in its infancy Borough made a

breathtaking start, Barry Williams' long ball to Straw was helped into the path of Simpson, who cut in from the right before steering his shot past Daniel Kelly into the far corner. However, three minutes later the visitors were handed the perfect opportunity to draw level when Luke Yates handled Mickey Bennett's seemingly goalbound header. Up stepped Chris Tovey to take the spot kick but Paul Hayward dived low to his right to save with Gary Statham completing the clearance. Boosted by the let-off the home side surged two goals ahead on 19 minutes. Stanborough turned defence into attack releasing Simpson, who in turn found Drewitt, and he raced down the flank to the byline before pulling the ball back for Straw to slot into an unguarded net.

Back at the other end Cambridge always looked a threat and Nuneaton were grateful for Stanborough's header off the line from a Tovey free-kick. And striker Neil Harris was left cursing after he had latched onto a Mickey Halsall through ball, turned inside Stanborough and Statham, but somehow missed the target with only Hayward to beat. Just before the break Borough provided one of their best moves of the match, Warren Donald starting it at the back and Drewitt, Simpson and Crowley were all involved with the only disappointment being Luke Yates' 10 yard drive beaten out by Kelly.

The game was all over as a contest three minutes into the second half when from a well-worked short corner, Simpson and Straw combined with the latter putting an inch perfect cross onto Stanborough's head, and the central defender duly obliged from four yards. Yates then blazed into the side netting when it seemed easier to score and Drewitt did likewise, though the ball did seem to take an awkward bounce at the vital moment.



Borough fans celebrate the third goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Cambridge were not done yet and with 15 minutes remaining Harris hit a shot that Hayward could only parry and Simpson was ideally placed to clear the danger. Drewitt again fired over in an almost carbon copy of his earlier miss after Tom McGinty's searching long ball picked out his run. As time ran out the visitors looked more and more desperate with a sense

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



of lethargy seeming to take a grip on the hosts. Substitute Mario Ippocito created a chance for the tireless Bennett, but Stanborough was on hand to block. Then with two minutes to go Stanborough brought down Aaron Rutter on the edge of the area and Keith Lockhart fired a curling free kick past an apparently unsighted Hayward.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-04-1997

Crawley: Harris, Dennington, Payne, Pullan, Eriemo, Garland, Jeffery, Ford, Warden, Prosper, Gregory. Subs: Geddes, Johansen, Foot.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Stanborough, Crowley, Simpson (Mettioui 75), Beckett (Woods 50), Straw, Drewitt, Yates.

Borough travelled to Town Mead to play Crawley Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

On a pitch that would have lent itself better to the Paris Dakar Rally, sand being the outstanding feature, constructive football was nigh on impossible. And it was clear the Sussex outfit knew just the right tactic to cope with the conditions playing as much route one stuff as they could. It proved the most effective method as Borough's attempts to play neat passes in the centre of the park ended with a bobble or a bounce. Fortunately, Borough had Gary Statham back in the fold, albeit at the expense of the injured Barry Williams.

After five minutes the first aerial assault produced a chance for Justin Gregory, who volleyed well wide of Paul Hayward's goal. Rodney Prosper then powered in a shot that Hayward clutched above his head before Dave Crowley was caught in possession and the keeper had to rush from his line to save at the feet of Warden. On 29 minutes a Bob Dennington shot with the outside of his left foot had Hayward troubled as it flew a whisker past the post.

And as the hosts continued to press for what was the crucial opener. Tom McGinty almost steered a header past his own keeper from Mark Ford's ball into the box. The visitors took 37 painstaking minutes to bring home keeper Andy Harris into action. Rob Straw's weak shot causing him only minor inconvenience. It was pretty depressing stuff for the surprisingly large Borough contingent who ignored manager Brendan Phillips' plea to stay at home. And it got worse on 55 minutes. Sol Eriemo's long ball seemed innocuous but a mix up between Hayward and Nick Stanborough presented Warden with the chance to break the deadlock.

Crowley now looked as though they really fancied the job against a weary-looking Borough side and they should have increased their lead just past the hour mark as Gregory fired over when well placed. Within a minute Ian Payne headed over at the far post after good work from Prosper and Mark Garland. Hayward then came to the rescue four minutes later when Payne found Warden in space and only a smart save from the Borough custodian prevented the frontman adding his second goal of the game.

Straw and Ian Drewitt provided the only spark of encouragement for the Manor Park side with 17 minutes

remaining, the latter starting and then finishing a move with a first-time shot from 18 yards that whistled past the upright with Harris clearly beaten. And though Harris tried his best to present substitute Ray Woods and then Straw and equaliser with some eccentric goalkeeping, there was no way back.

Nuneaton Borough v Dorchester Town 26-04-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Simpson (Hassall 88), Beckett (Woods 45), Mettioui, Drewitt, Yates. Sub: Elvin.

Dorchester: Veysey, Redwood, Morgan, Lovell, Coates, Harris, Richardson (Sullivan 60), Wilkinson, Killick, Pickard (Reeve 45), Coughlan.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Twice in the opening minutes Luke Yates threaded passes to Ian Drewitt which the Welsh striker failed to capitalise on. But Dorchester could have gone ahead when Tommy Killick brought a fine save out of Paul Hayward with a header from a Neal Coates corner. Drewitt then had a shot tipped over before lending a hand in Borough's first goal. His cross was only half-cleared, allowing Donald to exchange passes with Tony Simpson before thumping a fierce shot past Ken Veysey from 20 yards.

Off came the shirt as Donald raced Ravanelli-style to the main stand to celebrate his first goal of the season. After Simpson had almost produced a second with a jinking run and shot that Veysey did well to hold, Borough stretched their advantage on 33 minutes. Beckett collected the ball in midfield and sent Drewitt clear of a visiting back line caught square and with only the keeper to beat Drewitt obliged with a cheeky shot through his legs.



Luke Yates notches a third goal in the closing minutes.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Ten minutes later the game was all-but-over as a contest when Drewitt latched onto Dave Crowley's ball down the right and as he headed backwards was wrestled to the floor by Morgan, who received his marching orders before tearfully heading for the dressing room.

The second half was a huge anti-climax as Borough struggled to make any headway, though their task was not helped by



Beckett being replaced at the interval through injury with Ray Woods taking his place. It took until the 76th minute for an incident of any real note. Hayward, producing a brave save at the feet of Toby Redwood after a Coates corner had been allowed to run across the six-yard box.

Crowley and Simpson both saw spectacular 20 yarders miss the target but with 90 seconds remaining Yates ran half the length of the pitch to slip the ball under Veysey's body.

Borough May Leave Manor Park

Borough chairman Howard Kerry has admitted the club may quit Manor Park for a new stadium. The soccer supremo revealed officials have been looking at possible sites for a new home. The shock move could end more than 70 years of soccer at Manor Park as Borough make a concerted push for Football League status.

The news comes as the Borough board announced it would make more cash available to boss Brendan Phillips for new players. But Mr Kerry stressed no final decision had been made about any move. Speaking following a public meeting with fans, Mr Kerry said: "All possibilities are being looked at to see whether or not it is in the interests of the club for us to move to a new home..."

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-05-1997

Halesowen: McDonnell, Gardner (Colley 35), Bradley, Owen, Snape, Evans, Harrison (Bellingham 81), Wright, Crisp, Clarke, Sharpe (Hackett 86).

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Hassall (Woods 5), Simpson, Beckett (Mettioui 79), Straw, Drewitt, Yates.

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The first incident of note came on five minutes when John Hassall limped off following a heavy challenge to be replaced by Ray Woods. Soon after a dangerous-looking Richard Crisp centre was well cut out by Tom McGinty. After 15 minutes a well flighted John Sharpe free-kick picked out John Snape, but he put his header well wide. A minute later Borough almost took the lead when Straw turned his marker on the edge of the box but saw his left-foot drive whistle inches past the upright.

The Manor Park men continued to press and a mazy Tony Simpson run down the left saw the Borough winger cut inside and shoot just wide. However, on the half-hour mark Halesowen took the lead when Sharpe's corner was headed back across the goal by Stuart Evans, giving Andy Bradley the simple task of nodding home at the back post. After this Borough came storming back and on 32 minutes Straw's corner was firmly met by Gary Statham, but the header was well saved by Darren McDonnell. The Halesowen custodian was back in action minutes later, tipping over a long range Warren Donald effort, and just before the break the Borough full-back picked up a short free-kick from Woods and put the ball a foot over the bar.

Two minutes into the second period another run from Simpson took him to the edge of the box and his cross found Straw, but the resulting looping header was well held by McDonald. A minute later Donald picked up a poor Halesowen clearance and his low shot was again competently saved by McDonnell. Borough continued to create the better chances and good work by Darren Beckett and Luke Yates created an opening for Ian Drewitt, but the Welshman blazed his shot high and wide.

With 20 minutes remaining Town wasted a gilt-edged chance when a good cross from Snape picked out Wright, but he headed over when well placed. A minute later Straw was desperately unlucky not to score when, after receiving a short free-kick from Woods he unleashed a 25 yarder which bounced the wrong side of the post with McDonnell well beaten. The match was sealed for Halesowen in the 75th minute with their second goal. Sharpe's corner was only half-cleared by the Borough defence and the ball fell to Jason Owen who saw his shot bounce over the diving Paul Hayward and into the corner of the net.

Halesowen stepped up a gear and really should have increased their lead on 83 minutes. A Snape header was well saved by Hayward but Wright hesitated to make the most of the rebound and the chance was lost. Just before the end Borough had the ball in the net when Ahmed Mettioui shot home from a Straw pass, but the Moroccan was adjudged to be offside.

Southern League Premier Division 1996-97

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gresley Rovers	42	25	10	7	75	40	85
Cheltenham Town	42	21	11	10	76	44	74
Gloucester City	42	21	10	11	81	56	73
Halesowen Town	42	21	10	11	77	54	73
King's Lynn	42	20	8	14	65	61	68
Burton Albion	42	18	12	12	70	53	66
Nuneaton Borough	42	19	9	14	61	52	66
Sittingbourne	42	19	7	16	76	65	64
Merthyr Tydfil	42	17	9	16	69	61	60
Worcester City	42	15	14	13	52	50	59
Atherstone United	42	15	13	14	46	47	58
Salisbury City	42	15	13	14	57	66	58
Sudbury Town	42	16	7	19	72	72	55
Gravesend & Northfleet	42	16	7	19	63	73	55
Dorchester Town	42	14	9	19	62	66	51
Hastings Town	42	12	15	15	49	60	51
Crawley Town	42	13	8	21	49	67	47
Cambridge City	42	11	13	18	57	65	46
Ashford Town	42	9	18	15	53	79	45
Baldock Town	42	11	8	23	52	90	41
NewportAFC	42	9	13	20	53	73	40
Chelmsford City	42	6	14	22	49	70	32

Mettioui Released

Ahmed Mettioui has been released by Borough manager Brendan Phillips, who cites travelling difficulties as one of the reasons behind his decision. The manager said: “It was difficult for him to make training twice a week because of living in London. It wasn’t fair on him or the club and this is the best thing all round for Ahmed and Nuneaton.”

Player Of The Year Awards



Nuneaton Borough have crowned a successful season in the Dr Martens Premier Division with their annual end of season dance. All the players were honoured for their dedication and commitment to the club, with three singled out for their particular contribution throughout the season at the celebrations, staged at the Royal Court in Coventry.

Sharing the spoils in the Players’ Player of the Year were Tom McGinty and Rob Straw, while Barry Williams collected the vice-presidents’ Player of the Year trophy. Hot-shot Straw also collected the goal of the season award.

Borough boss Brendan Phillips was glowing in his praise of the trio: “They have all done well for us. Rob Straw in particular, he has had a very good season, especially the second half and hopefully he can repeat the feat next season.”

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough Celebrate Diamond Anniversary

Nuneaton Borough is 60 years old today and one man who was on parade at Manor Park in those days is still very much a popular figure at the club today. Stan Marshall, who lives little more than a penalty kick away from the ground, was on the club’s books back on May 15, 1937 although he admits he was just there for the ride, being just a teenager.

“I used to travel with the team and help out where I could.

I was only a slip of lad, barely 17, and just getting into the game but I enjoyed mixing with the likes of Billy Bonds, Jack Bates and Bill Whitehouse.”

It was not until the late 40s that Stan turned out in the Borough colours but after one season he moved on to Bedworth and later played for Atherstone Town. Seventy-seven-year-old Stan continued: “It seems a long time ago now but they were good old days when football was played for love and not money. We had some good times and there were plenty of good players around then who could certainly have made it at Football League level, in fact quite a few did who got the breaks.”

In latter years, Stan has virtually been a part of the woodwork at Manor Park, working daily on the ground doing the many odd jobs behind the scenes which ensures the stadium does not fall into decay. However, recently, Stan has finally decided to hang up his paint brush and spade but still potters along to keep an eye on things. Another man who has been a vital cog off the pitch during the past 50 years and beyond is Joe Taylor and despite being in his late 70s, continues to play his part in the Borough set up.

“I have had two spells with the club, the latest starting about 20 years ago. I have spent many happy hours at the ground as did my late wife, Anne. Anything that needed doing we did including brewing the tea, washing the kit and cleaning the dressing rooms.

“We both have given a lot of time and effort in the past but Nuneaton Borough have always looked after us. Hopefully there are plenty of good times ahead,” added Joe.

Manor Park Pitch Upgrade



All the spadework has been completed at Manor Park to make Nuneaton Borough’s pitch one of the best in the Dr Martens Premier Division next season.

Immediately after the final match was played at the ground, workmen were immediately in action to ensure the playing surface and surrounds are in tip-top condition come the league kick-off on Saturday, August 16. Director John Wilson, who along with several volunteers has worked on the ground non-stop since the season ended, said: “More than 60 tonnes of top soil has been laid on the pitch which

has also been venti-drained, fertilised and treated with weedkiller. Everything has been completed nice and early, in fact all the preparatory work was completed last Wednesday. The pebbles have also been removed from in front of the main stand and is being turfed to come into line with GMC regulations.”

True Blues Player Of The Year



Rob Straw (right) receives the Supporters' Player of the Year prize from John Tallis, treasurer of the Borough True Blues Club.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The goal-grabbing talents of Rob Straw paved the way to netting the popular Nuneaton Borough striker the club's supporters Player of the Year. The talented hotshot scored an impressive 28 league and cup goals during the Manor Park outfit's 1996-97 campaign in the Dr Martens Premier Division – in which they finished seventh – a performance that earned him the top marksman in the league honour alongside Halesowen Town's Evran Wright...

Symonds Back With Borough

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has clinched a shock deal to sign former Nuneaton and Bedworth striker John Symonds, who returns to Manor Park after a loophole in his contract with Cheltenham left the Borough side not having to pay a fee. And his capture was bolstered by the news that Phillips has also persuaded Hednesford's Tyrone Street to join.

Nick Stanborough Released

Borough's ex-Gresley Rovers defender Nick Stanborough has been released as part of the squad re-vamp. But holidays have brought a temporary halt to more signings.

Borough Sign Brown

Brendan Phillips has secured the signature of highly-rated Derek Brown from Rothwell Town. The 6ft 2in centre-half has previously played for Buckingham and Corby Town. And Phillips described the new signing as “very aggressive”.

Borough Fans Will Pay More

Nuneaton Borough supporters have been hit by an 11.7 per cent rise in season ticket prices for next season. Fans will have to fork out £110 for a seat or £95 to stand. But club officials are confident fans will flock to snap up season tickets despite the increase, which is almost four times the rate of inflation. As an added incentive to buy, the new Borough tickets will include admission to all 21 league matches, all reserve and youth team games plus all four home pre-season friendlies.

Borough Stadium Bid Rejected

Nuneaton Borough's plans to build a new £3 million 10,000-capacity stadium on the outskirts of the town have been dashed by the Nuns rugby club. Officials from the Liberty Way set-up have rejected a cash offer from their soccer neighbours. Borough bosses were hoping to create a major new stadium on land owned by the Nuns. The scheme includes banqueting and conference facilities, a new Borough social club, a gymnasium, a large coach and car park and substantial seating for supporters.

But Nuns chairman Mo Burge revealed that the club had refused the Borough's cash offer. He said: “Their offer was way, way short of the amount we are looking for. At the moment this scheme is a non-starter. The Borough came and spoke to us but talked of raising cash to pay for the scheme via the Lottery.

“But it takes at least six months for an application of that sort to be processed so nothing is imminent at all. The point is that the Borough have not made us an offer we can accept.”

Mr Burge said the Nuns had applied for their own Lottery grant to create their own multi-sports stadium at Liberty Way. He added: “Because of that we are in no rush to sell this land. Any talk of a new Borough stadium at Liberty Way is a shame because it's building up the hopes of a lot of people and unnecessarily so.”

Borough director Gordon Chislett had revealed plans for the new stadium a fortnight ago. He admitted the club were currently unable to agree a price with the Nuns for the land at Liberty Way and added the Borough were looking at two more sites for the stadium.

However, he said the Liberty Way venue was “by far the most suitable and probable”. He confirmed that architects have spent the last four years drawing up plans for the new ground. The plans include one all-seater stand behind each goal plus standing accommodation opposite the main stand. Mr Chislett said: “If we don't do something soon about building a new ground, Nuneaton will be left behind.

“Our plans incorporate banqueting facilities which Nuneaton currently hasn't got plus a new social club and a gym. We have been negotiating with the Nuns and my opinion is that it's a nice site – in fact it's the only land we can get that is available. Nothing has been finalised and planning permission has not been applied for yet.”

Colwyn Bay — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to the Llanelian Ground to play Colwyn Bay in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Colwyn Bay: R. Roberts, McCosh, Rigby, Harley, Graham, Price, Dulson, G. Roberts, Fuller, Donnelly, Jones (Drury 62). Subs: Woods, Mann.

Borough: Hayward, Grassby, Dean, McGinty, Williams, Crowley, Martin, Lenton (Darroch 45), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Beckett, Elvin.

It was a day of despair in Wales as Borough bowed out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle – and missed out on a lucrative home tie with Nationwide Division Two side Wrexham.

Fielding an under-strength side as a result of injury and suspensions, Borough went down to a Peter Donnelly goal five minutes before the interval.

But if effort and commitment counted for anything they would have taken at least a draw from what was in truth a disappointing game played for the most part in glorious sunshine.

However, the ability of Borough's strikers in front of goal is again a concern, as they failed to force home keeper Richie Roberts into a save in the whole match.

As if the visitors didn't have enough problems at kick-off, two minutes into the match their plight was worsened when an innocuous through ball bounced bizarrely for keeper Paul Hayward, and as he tried to adjust, Bay's Graham Roberts ploughed into the back of stand-in left back Craig Dean, who in turn collided with Hayward.

Though able to continue after heavy strapping to his left knee, Hayward was clearly in some difficulty and was a virtual passenger in many respects for the remainder of the tie.

Roared on by a vocal and somewhat intimidating home crowd, the Seagulls put Borough under intense early pressure and Darren Grassby had to be alert to head behind a dangerous centre from Dave Fuller.

From the resulting corner, Hayward showed the first signs of his injury

when he flapped at Fuller's cross but fortunately the ball was scrambled clear.

Five minutes later, Graham Roberts came close when he fired a dipping shot just wide and in the 27th minute the same player rifled in a low centre that cannoned off the shins of the home side's leading scorer Tommy Jones and out for a goal kick.

Nuneaton then had a glorious opportunity to go ahead against the run of play. Tony Simpson, whose surges down the right had already brought a booking for Lee Harley, set up Rob Straw unmarked just inside the area, but for once his normally lethal finishing let him down and he skewed the ball well wide of its intended target.

It looked like being a fruitless first half until with 40 minutes on the clock, Glen Graham played the ball into the Borough box from deep to Graham Roberts, who rose above Grassby to head goalwards. Hayward blocked but Donnelly walked the ball into an empty net from two yards.

Afterwards, Hayward admitted, that had it not been for his injury he would probably have come to collect the initial cross.

Phillips decided to change his hand at the interval by introducing Scott Darroch for the largely inactive Jamie Lenton.

And ten minutes into the half it looked like paying dividends as Simpson put the young striker through, but he hurried his shot and it went harmlessly wide of the keeper's left-hand upright.

Borough were enjoying most of the play and four minutes later went close. Ian Drewitt won the ball on the edge of his own area and slipped the ball out wide to Straw, who in turn raced forward before playing a return pass to Drewitt. However, Drewitt over-elaborated on the edge of the box, refusing a chance with his right before firing just wide with his left.

As time began to run out, Hayward had to save from Fuller at his near post but at the opposite end Barry Williams should have done better with a header from six yards which looped in the air for Richie Roberts to claim, and right at the death the same player headed over from Tom McGinty's free-kick.

But the hosts hung on and the large Borough contingent were left to ponder what might have been on the long journey home.



Ian Drewitt takes on Colwyn Bay's left back Neil Rigby.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Congleton — 1st Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Hayward, Massey (Lenton 57), McGinty, Hassall, Williams, Crowley, Martin (Darroch 69), Moss, Dean, Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: Beckett.

Congleton: Heeps, Harrison, C. Adams, D. Adams, Thelwell, Cuddy, Wallace (Weston 86), Booth (McCluskie 90), Roberts, Livingstone, Washington. Sub: Burgess.

Despite a bright opening ten minutes from the visitors, they hardly looked a threat as they were content to pack men behind the ball and allow the hosts almost unlimited possession.

But in the final third there was little or no penetration and the only work for keeper Stuart Heeps was to collect back passes and take goal kicks.

On 13 minutes Chris Moss missed the only real chance that Borough created as he headed over Tom McGinty's knock back from Drewitt's cross.

It was all too frustrating for the home side and skipper Dave Crowley and the fiery Drewitt both went into the referee's notebook.

Just when it seemed the first half would end scoreless the tedium was broken by a rare moment of quality. Richard Livingstone collected the ball 30 yards out and skipped past two challenges before crossing for the unmarked Joey Roberts to head home from six yards.

To say it stunned the 902 present would not be fair as they were already in a state of numbness.

And it almost got worse a minute later as Matt Booth fired a stunning 35-yard volley that whistled just past Paul Hayward's left hand upright.

After the break the visitors, buoyed by their shock opener, continued in the ascendancy and twice in the space of three minutes could have doubled the lead.

However, on 53 minutes, Drewitt almost grabbed what would have been an undeserved equaliser, as he combined well with Crowley, before striking the outside of the post from 18 yards.

It should have been the lift Borough needed, but three minutes later the game was over as a contest. Livingstone started and finished a move

that took the ball some 80 yards before Chris Adams cross was missed by Massey, allowing the number ten to rifle past Hayward from eight yards.

Within 60 seconds it could have been three, as Danny Adams was allowed to run the length of the pitch unchallenged before firing just over from 20 yards.



Scott Darroch tries to get on the end of a Tony Simpson cross.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Drewitt was trying his best to inspire Borough to greater efforts, and he came close on 67 minutes, as he fired in a well struck first-time volley from a Tony Simpson corner, but Heeps was equal to the task, tipping the ball over the top.

At the other end, Hayward had to beat out a fiercely struck shot from Darren Washington before the final indignity came with ten minutes remaining.

Craig Dean put Hassall in trouble and he in turn put Hayward under pressure with a backpass. The keeper had a mental block and went to pick up the ball, realising his error at the last second he then had to watch as Roberts nipped in to rob him and walk the ball into an empty net.

The end could not come quick enough after that and Borough will need to improve 100 per cent if they are to make progress in the FA Cup.



Tony Simpson fires in a cross that evades Chris Moss and Scott Darroch.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1996-97

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.23	Hednesford Town	H	PSF	1-1	Straw	405
07.27	Macclesfield Town	H	PSF	0-1		439
07.31	Ilkeston Town	A	PSF	0-0		312
08.03	Coventry City	H	PSF	4-2	Straw, Statham, Moss, Drewitt	1209
08.06	Pershore Town	A	PSF	2-1	Simpson, Straw	122
08.10	Rushden & Diamonds	A	SLCS	0-3		1210
08.17	Sudbury Town	A	L	2-0	Straw, Drewitt	502
08.20	Newport A.F.C	H	L	1-0	Drewitt (pen)	1203
08.24	Crawley Town	H	L	1-2	Luby	1333
08.26	Burton Albion	A	L	0-2		1231
08.31	Salisbury City	A	L	1-1	Straw	460
09.03	Baldock Town	H	L	0-3		940
09.07	Sittingbourne	H	L	4-0	Statham, Straw, Drewitt (2, 1 pen)	911
09.14	Ashford Town	A	L	0-2		659
09.17	Atherstone United	H	BSC1	2-0	Straw (2)	808
09.21	Worcester City	H	L	2-1	Simpson, Straw	977
09.25	Newport A.F.C.	A	L	0-0		635
09.28	Gravesend & Northfleet	H	L	3-0	Straw (2), Statham	905
10.05	Hastings Town	H	L	4-1	Simpson, Drewitt, Straw, Moss	1111
10.08	Hinckley Town	A	DMC1-1L	2-1	Drewitt, Straw	365
10.12	Gloucester City	A	L	0-1		1055
10.15	Burton Albion	H	L	2-1	Moss, Straw	1007
10.19	Congleton Town	H	FAT1Q	0-3		902
10.26	Colwyn Bay	A	FAC4Q	0-1		1026
10.29	Hinckley Town	H	DMC1-2L	2-2	Simpson, Lake	467
11.02	Dorchester Town	A	L	0-2		532
11.05	Kings Heath	H	BSC2	1-0	Massey	265
11.15	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	F	3-1	Straw (2), Burr	
11.23	Halesowen Town	H	L	0-2		1119
12.03	West Bromwich Albion	H	BSC3	1-2	Drewitt (pen)	442
12.07	Kings Lynn	A	L	0-4		896
12.17	Burton Albion	H	DMC2	1-2	Straw	513
12.21	Gloucester City	H	L	2-0	Straw, Mettioui	824
12.26	Atherstone United	H	L	3-2	Burr (2), Straw	1607
12.28	Cheltenham Town	A	L	0-2		1065
01.14	Atherstone United	A	L	0-0		858
01.18	Sittingbourne	A	L	2-2	Mettioui, Straw	652
01.25	Kings Lynn	H	L	2-4	Mettioui (2)	930
02.01	Hastings Town	A	L	0-0		442
02.03	Worcester City	A	L	1-0	Straw	679
02.08	Sudbury Town	H	L	1-1	Straw	1001
02.11	Baldock Town	A	L	2-1	Straw (2)	184
02.18	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	1-1	Straw	702
02.22	Ashford Town	H	L	3-0	Williams, Mettioui, Beckett	903
03.01	Salisbury City	H	L	4-0	Straw (2, 1 pen), Statham, Simpson	830
03.04	Chelmsford City	H	L	3-1	Straw (3)	732
03.15	Gravesend & Northfleet	A	L	1-1	Drewitt	682
03.22	Chelmsford City	A	L	1-3	Simpson	763
03.29	Gresley Rovers	H	L	1-0	Straw	1472
03.31	Gresley Rovers	A	L	4-1	Drewitt, Yates, Statham, Straw	1424
04.05	Cheltenham Town	H	L	1-0	Williams	1241

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1996-97

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.08	Cambridge City	A	L	2-2	Drewitt, Straw	324
04.12	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	1-5	Straw	514
04.19	Cambridge City	H	L	3-1	Simpson, Straw, Stanborough	911
04.20	Crawley Town	A	L	0-1		757
04.26	Dorchester Town	H	L	3-0	Donald, Drewitt, Yates	865
05.03	Halesowen Town	A	L	0-2		991

KEY : L = Southern League Premier, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, SLCS = Southern League Championship Shield, DMC= Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1996-97

Back Row (left to right): Luke Yates, Gary Statham, Barry Williams, Tom McGinty, Paul Hayward, Nick Stanborough, John Hassall, Ray Woods, Colin Welsh (Coach).

Front Row (left to right): Brendan Phillips (Manager), Ian Drewitt, Rob Straw, Dave Crowley (Captain), Tony Simpson, Warren Donald, Ahmed Mettioui, Darren Beckett.

Nuns Offer Ground Talks

Nuneaton Rugby Club chairman Mo Burge has issued a “if you’re serious, we’ll talk” challenge to Nuneaton Borough bosses over the soccer club’s £3 million bid for a new stadium.

The rugby club supremo has told Borough officials to make a realistic offer after rejecting their first bid to buy land for the new ground. The shock snub has forced Borough officials to consider alternative sites for the new stadium. The soccer club wants to use the land as the base for a new super-stadium that will include banqueting facilities, a gymnasium, a new Borough social club and coach and car parking. But Mr Burge said the offer was “way short” of being realistic.

Now Borough directors are desperate to revive the deal and have called for talks between the two clubs for later this week. And Mr Burge responded by saying: “We’re in no rush to sell but if the Borough are serious and want to talk then we’ll listen. But we would only consider selling this land if the offer is right – and there first bid was nothing like right.

“Since they made their first moves we’ve heard nothing back from them so I think the episode is dead as it stands at the moment.” Mr Burge explained that the rugby outfit had already applied for a grant from Lottery funds to help build their own multi-sports stadium adjacent to their HQ. Gordon Chislett, a Borough director, said the soccer club had been forced to look at two alternative sites in case the Liberty Way idea is finally killed off for good. He refused to name the other two sites but added: “We are still hopeful we can sort something out with the Nuns. We haven’t been able to agree on a fee yet but I’m hoping we can have a meeting later this week and try again.”

If the two clubs agree a price, the Borough will have to submit a planning application to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. The club also intends to raise 75 per cent of the £3 million needed via a Lottery grant with the sale of their current Manor Park ground helping to pay for the majority of the rest.

Borough Pay £4,000 For Street

Nuneaton Borough have had to pay a transfer fee of £4,000 to secure the services of Hednesford Town’s Tyron Street. The midfielder has played at Conference level for the past two seasons.

Borough Snap Up Free-Kick Wizard

Manager Brendan Phillips has signed free-kick expert Ian King from Rushden & Diamonds, beating off a host of other clubs including Yeovil and Enfield. The 22-year-old is said to be a dead ball expert. Phillips said: “If Ian plays as well as he is capable then we have a very exciting signing.”

Kevin Wilkin Signs

Nuneaton Borough took their summer signing spree to five when they recruited ex-Northampton and Cambridge

United striker Kevin Wilkin. The 27-year-old has a wealth of experience and will be a valuable asset. Wilkin’s signing has been tempered by the news that midfielder Luke Yates has decided to join Halesowen Town.

Borough Fans Against Ground Move

Nuneaton Borough fans are overwhelmingly against plans to leave Manor Park and relocate to a new purpose-build 10,000 capacity stadium at Liberty Way, home of Nuneaton RFC. Fans have concerns that the move could result in a drop in the number of fans attending matches.

Stadium Move On Ice

Borough’s plans to relocate to Attleborough have been put on ice after the club reached an impasse with their rugby playing counterparts at Liberty Way. And with no plans for any further talks the project could be all but over.

1997-98

Nuneaton Borough v Sheffield Wednesday 22-07-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, M. Crowley, Statham, Beckett (Quailey 78), D. Crowley, Street, King, Symonds (Lawrence 63), Drewitt, Bailey.
Subs: Wood, White.

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

John Symonds, a source of concern for the Owls’ back division throughout before being substituted midway through the second period following a clash of heads, was denied by the outstanding Jon Scargill. However, less than a minute later, Wednesday took the lead. King dithered in midfield, losing possession to the slick Junior Agogo and he raced clear to plant a low 15-yarder past the exposed Paul Hayward. Symonds has a good opportunity to level just before the break when David Crowley, who did well in an unaccustomed central defensive position, found him with a neat through ball but the striker’s finish threatened the houses in Beaumont Place more than Scargill’s rigging.



John Symonds is denied by keeper Jon Scargill.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



If the opening half was evenly contested, Borough dominated the second and only the brilliance of Scargill kept Sheffield in the driving seat as he produced a superb double save to frustrate Darren Beckett and Bailey in rapid succession. Less than 60 seconds later a repeat performance from the six-foot plus custodian thwarted the luckless Beckett and Street, although he was left a spectator when Bailey fed Street on the edge of the area and the latter's rising drive clattered against the inside of the post and bounced across the line to safety.

Simpson's Future In Doubt

Flying winger Tony Simpson could find himself out in the cold for the upcoming Beazer Homes season. The attacking winger is taking part in a tour of Sicily with the British Universities team, which had virtually killed off his chances of being selected for the first team in the near future. Manager Brendan Phillips has let it be known that Simpson is free to leave should he want to.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 26-07-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, M. Crowley, Statham, Lawrence, Beckett (Symonds), Street, King, Wilkin, Drewitt, Bailey. Subs: Wood, White.

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

Borough made the early running with Tyron Street's rising drive from the edge of the area flying just too high while Ian Drewitt's long range effort flew marginally off target. The Poppies struggled to make any impression, their only threat being a 30 yarder from Gary Pick that failed to trouble keeper Paul Hayward. On the half-hour Borough newcomer Kevin Wilkin hammered a long centre across the face of the net which Bailey narrowly failed to make contact with.

On 37 minutes, Borough took the lead when Ian King's delightful through pass set Bailey powering through the offside trap and he drew keeper Simon Shepperd before lobbing the ball into an empty net.

After the break, neither side created much in the way of clear cut opportunities, Wilkin going closest with a fierce drive that thudded against the post, but as the friendly entered its closing stages, it was Kettering who gained the upper hand and on 83 minutes they grabbed the equaliser when Ian McGinley slotted in from close range.

In the dying seconds, Bailey's terrific run took him past four Town players before he was blatantly floored inside the area but Borough's penalty claims were surprisingly turned down by local official Donny Clarke.

Borough Sign Richard Bailey

Brendan Phillips has secured the signing of former Rushden & Diamonds man Richard Bailey. The midfielder/striker signed for Borough and ended speculation that he might sign for one of a string of GM Conference clubs.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 28-07-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, King, Statham, Lawrence, Crowley, Street, Symonds, Bailey, Wilkin, Drewitt, Symonds. Subs: Beckett, M. Crowley, Quailey, Wood.

WBA: Crichton, James, Potter, Gilbert, Burgess, Dobson, Tranter, Bowman, Rodastenos, Bennett, Craven. Subs: McWilliams, Cunningham, Garrity, Germaine.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough took the lead on eight minutes when the energy-packed Bailey robbed Albion midfielder Dave Gilbert and surged forward to unleash a shot which Crichton, who at full stretch, could only palm the ball to the feet of the intruding Symonds who made no mistake. By this time King, who was playing at left back for Borough, was making some telling runs and crosses down the left but on 21 minutes his role was reversed when he found himself in the box and latching onto a cross from Symonds but somehow he put his shot over the bar when it seemed easier to score.

After 20 minutes of Borough pressure, the Baggies forced their first corner while Paul Hayward made an impressive stop from Dean Craven. Another King run saw him put in a deep cross where Ian Drewitt headed just wide. As the half drew to a close Bailey held off two challenges to fire just wide of Crichton's goal and the same player found King who shot across the face of goal. Right on the interval Albion's left back Graham Potter, a £200,000 signing from Stoke City, tested Hayward with a low drive but the Borough keeper pulled off another fine save.

During the break Albion made one chance with keeper Crichton being replaced by England Under 21 international Gary Germaine and he was soon in business as Symonds unleashed a shot which he tipped over the bar. Then on 62 minutes came Albion's equaliser. A cross from Dobson was met by Craven who decided he couldn't get his head to the ball and pushed it over the line with his arm and even to the astonishment of the player and everyone in the ground, the referee awarded a goal.

On 67 minutes, Street and Wilkins were replaced by Brian Quailey and Darren Beckett, the latter releasing Symonds and his rising drive clattered against the crossbar. As the half progressed the visitors came more into the game and a fine move ended up with Dean Bennett unleashing a fierce shot which hit the base of Hayward's post and was cleared to safety.

On 77 minutes Bailey was taken off to rapturous applause from the Borough fans and was replaced by Paul White. Soon after Quailey shot just wide and then came the winning goal and what a goal it was.

The impressive Quailey robbed Tony Dobson midway in his own half to run through and hit an unstoppable shot from 25 yards out which curled round the keeper and into the net.



Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Borough 02-08-1997

Borough: Hayward (Wood 45), Donald, M. Crowley, M. Statham, Lawrence, Beckett, Street (Quailey 73), King, Straw, Wilkin, Symonds.
Subs: White, McGinty.

Borough travelled to Hampton Road to play Racing Club Warwick in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough began brightly when Ian King fed Straw but he sliced his shot wide. On nine minutes Straw turned provider when he put John Symonds away but his shot cannoned off the crossbar. With 25 minutes gone the woodwork saved Racing again when Straw turned his marker superbly but his powerful 20 yard drive crashed against a post and out to safety. Statham put a header wide from King's corner after 30 minutes and two minutes later the woodwork again came between Borough and a goal when Beckett found King whose angled shot hit the post.

The goal that Borough had been threatening came on the stroke of half-time when King's corner found Tyron Street and his back header came back off the bar where Lawrence was well placed to put home the rebound.

Three minutes after half-time Borough increased their lead when Martin Crowley picked up a loose ball on the edge of the box and shot into the corner of the net. After this, Warwick stepped up their game and cut the deficit in the 58th minutes. Mick Walker lobbed a shot over substitute keeper Rob Wood following a mix-up in the Borough defence. Unbelievably Warwick drew level three minutes later when Walker scored his second when he turned a Mark Smith cross into the net from close range.

Borough should have regained the lead in the 70th minute when Kevin Wilkin got round the back of the Warwick defence but instead of crossing to the unmarked King on the back post, he opted to shoot wildly across the face of goal. Borough had the ball in the net with just five minutes to go when Beckett cut the ball inside to Straw to fire home, but offside was given.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 06-08-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Brown, Lawrence, D. Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Wilkin. **Subs:** M. Crowley, Wood, Quailey, Green, Darroch.

Coventry: Mullen, Prenderville, Shilton, Richardson, Willis, Hall, Johansen, Strachan, Faulconbridge, Ducros, O'Neil. **Subs:** Quinn, Andrews, Barnett.

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

Borough looked the better of the two sides for the best part of an hour and could have taken the lead on a couple of occasions in the first-half. First Warren Donald's shot grazed the post and then Ian King headed just wide with only Nicky Mullen to beat. Borough took the lead after 31 minutes when Richard Bailey won possession and passed the ball to Donald, whose pass found Wilkin just inside the area and the former

Northampton and Cambridge United man turned and put in an accurate angled drive which went high into the far corner, leaving Mullen helpless.

Former Arsenal and Everton midfielder Kevin Richardson was imposing himself in midfield and the visitors stepped up the pace, although they almost went 2-0 down when Brown put a header over the top following Drewitt's mishit shot. As the game entered the final quarter Borough began to tire and it needed the outstretched leg of keeper Paul Hayward to divert Michael O'Neill's goalbound drive. Hayward superbly turned over Andy Ducros' fierce close range effort while Bedworth-born Adam Willis saw his downward header cleared off the line by Donald.

But with just 15 minutes to go, Coventry drew level when Gavin Strachan's swerving 25-yard free-kick went over the Borough wall and just inside the post with Hayward rooted to the spot. Sam Shilton's header whistled a foot wide before Coventry notched the winner nine minutes from time. Ducros got beyond the Borough back line and cut the ball across the box for Faulconbridge to divert the ball into the net from 12 yards despite the close attentions of Hayward and two Borough defenders.

Phillips In Everitt Talks

Borough manager Brendan Phillips is to enter into talks with ex-Atherstone United defender Leigh Everitt and is hopeful of persuading the full-back to sign for the Manor Park club. Ray Woods, though, is on his way out and will team up with former Borough boss George Rooney at Worcester City.

Leek Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-08-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Brown, D. Crowley, Street, King, Wilkin (Quailey 70), Drewitt (M. Crowley 50), Symonds (Lawrence 70).

Borough made the journey to Harrison Park to play Leek Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough had the best of the early exchanges with both King and Street heading just wide. And on 23 minutes, King's corner picked out Derek Brown, whose looping header hit the top of the bar. The pressure paid off just two minutes later when Ian Drewitt picked up a loose ball 20 yards out and fired home a superb left-foot shot. Leek threatened briefly but five minutes before the break Borough increased their lead when Warren Donald's cross found the unmarked King who made no mistake from close range.

The newly-promoted Conference outfit came more into the game after the break and cut the deficit in the 53rd minute. A Gary Baures corner was slotted past Hayward by Steve Soley. Four minutes later Leek levelled the scores when Neil Ellis pounced on a loose ball and hammered a 20-yard shot into the roof of the net. To their credit, Borough battled back and on the hour they again took the lead after King's free-kick was charged down but the ball broke to Wilkin, who superbly turned his marker and fired home.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



A minute later Wilkin turned provider by slipping his pass through to the unmarked Street who waltzed around home keeper Ray Newlands and slotted the ball into an empty net.

The match was brought to a premature end by a power cut which resulted in the referee blowing for time ten minutes before the scheduled end.

Borough Complete Everitt Signing

Former Atherstone United full-back Leigh Everitt has agreed terms with Nuneaton Borough boss Brendan Phillips and will be in the squad to face Merthyr Tydfil tomorrow.



Leigh Everitt signs the forms that make him a Nuneaton Borough player.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 16-08-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw (Symonds 77), Drewitt (Street 77). **Wilkin. Sub:** Everitt.

Merthyr: Wager, Barnhouse, Milsom (Summers 45), O'Brien, Abraham, French, Clarke, Griffin, Bowen (Rivett 77), Rees (R. Evans 77), M. Evans.

Borough welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started brightly but it was Merthyr who created the first real threat as former Welsh international Tony Rees found space on the right and the unmarked Cohen Griffith almost scrambled the winger's low cross past Paul Hayward at the far post. But Borough hit back immediately with Gary Statham and Richard Bailey carving out a chance for Straw who fired straight at keeper Gary Wager.

Ian King put a free-kick just wide of the post from 25 yards before Drewitt cracked a rising drive inches over the top following a surging run by Kevin Wilkin. It was all Borough and Straw forced a sprawling save from Wager and then saw another effort turned onto a post by the outstanding Wager. Just before half-time Straw had the best chance of the match when Drewitt dummed Bailey's through ball but the Borough striker lost control after rounding the keeper.



Merthyr keeper Gary Wager turns away a right wing cross as Gary Statham looks to pounce.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Donald headed wide at the start of the second half, but Borough were stunned as the Welshmen grabbed a shock lead. Borough's defence failed to clear a hopeful ball into the box after 55 minutes and when Rees had a shot blocked, Bowen swept the ball into an empty net to stun Manor Park into silence.

Borough stormed back with Drewitt having a shot turned for a corner by man-of-the-match Wager and Straw lobbed over the top with just the keeper to beat. Despite their efforts, Phillips' men could not find the elusive equaliser and in added time a mistake by Statham almost let in Merthyr substitute Chris Summers for a second goal.

Rothwell Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-08-1997

Rothwell: Beresford, McGuire (Kirkup 62), Orton, Bullimore, Torrance (Bracketts 65), Stephens, Andersen, Keast, Warner (Gribbon 62), Beazeley, Lord.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Brown (Everitt 67), Crowley, Bailey, King (Street 78), Straw (Symonds 78), Drewitt, Wilkin.

Borough travelled to Cecil Street to play Rothwell Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Rothwell simply had no answer to Borough's flowing football. Borough were quickly into their stride and went ahead in the seventh minute. The "Bones" defence failed to clear Dave Crowley's diagonal pass and as Ian Drewitt harried Gary Torrance the ball broke to King who drilled a low shot past Paul Beresford. Before Rothwell could recover from conceding the first goal, Kevin Wilkin headed Borough further into the lead as he headed King's left wing corner into the net at the near post. Marc Orton put a header on to the roof of the net as the home side looked for a way back into the game but



Borough were well in control and it came as no surprise when they extended their advantage on 38 minutes. Drewitt and Wilkin had both gone close before Richard Bailey found Straw in the box and the Nuneaton striker reached his century in style with a cracking shot into the far corner.

Beresford made a fine save to deny Drewitt just before the break and shortly after the restart Wilkin fired over the top after Bailey had carved out the opening. But the pressure had to pay off and eight minutes into the second half Crowley's flighted ball into the area found Straw who glanced the most delicate of headers into the right-hand corner. Six minutes later King freed Straw in the box and when the keeper could only parry the ensuing shot, Wilkin was left with a simple tap-in to make the score 5-0.

To their credit, Rothwell kept battling away and deservedly pulled a goal back midway through the half when Andy Kirkup cracked a low shot wide of Paul Hayward after a neat pass from Dougie Keast. However, Borough were quickly back in charge with Street hitting the bar and then seeing another effort superbly clawed around a post by Beresford.

With just three minutes remaining Borough put the icing on the cake for their travelling fans when Leigh Everitt's free-kick picked out Jon Symonds at the far post and he headed back across goal for Wilkin to power home.

Hastings Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-08-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, King (Everitt), Straw, Drewitt, Wilkin (Street (Symonds)).

Borough travelled to The Pilot Field to play Hastings Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were very lucky to come away with all three points, after looking set for a straightforward victory after goals from Kevin Wilkin, Ian King and Ian Drewitt (pen), put them in the driving seat. But Stuart Playford cut the arrears with a goal on 62 minutes after Warren Donald had received his marching orders for scything down Steve Payne.

Hastings then reduced the deficit to 3-2 after substitute Stafford Brown scored. The home side piled on the pressure with Playford causing concern only for his finishing to let him down. Borough custodian Paul Hayward had to make several good saves before Borough made the game safe with a fourth goal in the 84th minute when Straw provided the finishing touch to make the game safe.

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 25-08-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty (Everitt 81), Williams, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt (Symonds 64), Street. **Sub:** Quailey.
Gresley: M. Wilson, Wardle, Horseman, Devine, Davies (Howell 27), Guyett, T. Wilson, Farmery, Pitt, Garner (Cunningham 83, Fowkes (Turner 55).

Borough welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were in control from the first whistle with Rovers

reeling under the power of the home attack. However, the home side almost had an early shock as Barry Williams made a hash of a clearance and Ian Pitt played Andy Garner clear, but Derek Brown stepped in with a saving tackle. But Borough were soon into the lead, with just eight minutes on the clock, when Street powered home a near post header from Rob Straw's right wing corner. The visitors fell further behind six minutes later when they failed to clear another Straw corner and Richard Bailey picked up the loose ball and scored from close range.

Gresley hit back and Terry Wilson put a header over the top before Paul Hayward had to make a fine save from Lee Farmery's free-kick. But Borough soon reasserted themselves as Street flashed an overhead kick inches off target. Borough extended their lead after Scott Guyett brought down Straw seven minutes before half-time and Ian Drewitt made it 3-0 from the penalty spot.

Borough were still in the box seat at the start of the second half and Straw missed a sitter from eight yards out before Drewitt added to Borough's tally with a goal from Ian King's free-kick which the No. 10 calmly turned into the net. Gresley keeper Mark Wilson somehow kept out Straw's header but King left him helpless with a low cross shot mid-way through the half after Dave Crowley set him free.

Jon Symonds saw a chance slip away as he allowed the ball to get too far in front of him in the box and Wilson was quickly out to smother. But the striker made amends in the 75th minute. Donald and Crowley combined to set Symonds racing down the right and he squared the ball for Straw to slip home from six yards. A rare mistake by Tom McGinty let in Pitt who should have scored a late consolation but his chip was comfortably held by Hayward.

Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 30-08-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Williams, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, King, Symonds (Quailey 88), Drewitt, Street. **Sub:** Everitt, Lawrence.
Crawley: Harris, M. Garland, Riley, Pullan (Kirkland 81), Mackie, Eriemo, Duku (Moss 15), P. Garland, Warden, Payne (Davy 66), Hawthorn.

Borough welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

There was an early scare for Borough when Warren Donald was caught in possession and Hawthorn set up John Warden who blazed over the top from the edge of the box. However, Nuneaton drew first blood with a glorious goal after just 12 minutes. Tom McGinty floated a free kick deep into the Crawley box and Brown outjumped Mark Pullan to loop a header into the far corner. Borough were now brimming with confidence and Symonds was only inches away from reaching Donald's through ball before Ian King flashed a centre across the face of the visitors' goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

John Mackie had a shot blocked as Crawley began to get a grip and it came as no surprise when Mark Hawthorn put



them level on the half-hour mark after John Warden had seen his shot blocked. Borough were unfortunate not to be back in front shortly afterwards when Street's close range volley hit Steve Moss on the line and bounced clear. But six minutes before the break Crowley stunned the Manor Park crowd as they went ahead with Warden knocking down Mackie's long ball for Hawthorn to shoot past Paul Hayward. Symonds was only inches wide with a glancing header from King's corner as Phillips' side ended the half on top.

Seven minutes after the break Borough were back on level terms when Mark Garland brought down Symonds on the edge of the area and King drilled the resulting free-kick wide of the diving Andy Harris. Two minutes later Ian Drewitt saw his spot kick saved by Harris after he had been pushed over by Andy Riley. However, the disappointment of the fans was short-lived. Almost immediately Symonds had a header cleared off the line but there was no let-off for the visitors on 62 minutes as Street swept the ball home from close range when King headed Drewitt's cross back into the goalmouth. In a rare Crowley raid substitute John Davy almost snatched an equaliser in a chase for possession with Hayward but Williams eventually hooked the ball to safety. King flashed a dangerous ball across the Crowley goal as Borough quickly resumed control and five minutes from the end King put the issue beyond doubt, cutting in from the left before shooting low past Harris. There was still time for Bailey to waste another chance after bursting clear and then King missed out on a hat-trick, shooting wide from the penalty spot with virtually the last kick of the match.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-1997

King's Lynn: Hollman, Matthews, Skelly, Wright (Darton 81), Hoyle, Spearing, Pascoe, Roberts (Mead 87), Williams, McNamara, Hudson. Subs: Stock.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Williams, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Subs: Everitt, Symonds, Drewitt.

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

Borough began the match full of confidence, but it was the home side who created the first opening with Steve Williams dragging a shot across the face of Paul Hayward's goal. Warren Donald tested James Hollman in the home goal as Borough hit back but the visitors were stunned as King was sent off following a tackle on Brett McNamara. It looked as though King played the ball into touch, but to everyone's surprise King was sent off.

Borough were happy to see Pascoe's header from Richard Skelly's cross go straight at Hayward. McNamara and Tony Spearing both went close as the Linnets continued to call the tune and it came as no real surprise when they broke the deadlock two minutes before the break. There appeared to be little danger when McNamara fed Pascoe but a right footer screamed past Hayward from outside the box. Rob Straw was only inches away from an equaliser straight from the restart and that was the spark for Nuneaton's fightback.

Early in the second half Dave Crowley and Tyron Street combined to find Drewitt inside the area and he pulled the ball down before curling a shot narrowly wide of the far post.

Straw drilled in a fierce low centre that Pascoe almost turned into his own net and the Borough striker then whistled a drive over the top. However, Borough were in deep trouble when a misplaced pass from Drewitt found Hudson and he raced clear but his shot rebounded off the crossbar. With 11 minutes remaining Borough took full advantage of that let-off. Crowley knocked a high ball into the area and Drewitt challenged keeper Hollman who failed to gather and the striker reacted quickly to force the ball home from close range.

Borough almost snatched victory in the closing seconds when Straw thumped a 20 yard drive that beat the keeper but flew inches wide of the angle.

Statham Moving To Aberdeen

Borough skipper Gary Statham has shocked Borough officials by announcing his relocation to Aberdeen, where he will study at university. But the player, who cost Borough £6,500 when he signed from VS Rugby, has pledged his future to the Manor Park side, meaning he will have to board a plane to make the 840-mile round trip for matches.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 08-09-1997

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, McGinty, Williams (Lawrence 53), Brown, Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Subs: Symonds, Beckett.

Bath: Hervin, Hedges, Towler, Wootton, Wyatt, Harrington, Skidmore (Brookes 46), Chenoweth (Reeves 71), Paul, Davis, James (Colbourne 46).

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough enjoyed most of the early pressure and Ian Drewitt put in an early 20 yard effort which tested keeper Mark Hervin, although City grew in confidence after a slow start and came close to taking the lead when the impressive Mike Wyatt rifled in a cross shot from which Martin Paul glanced his header wide. Straw then saw his rising drive from the edge of the area saved high to his left by Hervin before Borough took the lead after 34 minutes. Ian King whipped in a corner from the left which found Street at the near post and his glancing header from seven yards left Hervin helpless.

The Bath keeper had to be alert to turn over a looping header from Leight Everitt, making his full debut for Borough before a neat move ended with Richard Bailey's 30 yarder flying inches wide of the target. But in injury time at the end of the half Borough extended their advantage with a typical piece of cool finishing from the lethal Rob Straw as he fastened onto Street's defence splitting pass, drew Hervin out and then clipped a low 18 yarder beyond the exposed keeper and into the unguarded net.

Hayward required treatment at the start of the second half after a collision with substitute Colbourne following Derek Brown's underhit back pass and from then on Hayward

looked ill at ease. However Borough continued to look dangerous and both King and Bailey went close to extending their grip on the game, although City's Wyatt was only denied by Hayward's legs.

Borough lost Barry Williams to injury and he was replaced by Carl Lawrence, but Borough almost extended their lead as King's centre found Straw 12 yards out and his dipping header beat Herwin only to rattle the bar before bouncing down for Gary Wootton to clear. Straw had a shot deflected wide before Street almost repeated his first-half goal with a near post flick that struck Herwin and rebounded away from the danger zone. Then on 77 minutes Bath cut the deficit. Hayward expertly turned over Neil Reeves 25-yard volley but the resulting corner kick saw Ian Hedges rise unchallenged to plant a fierce header past Hayward from eight yards out.

Straight from the restart Borough surged forward and when Drewitt dispossessed the hesitant Hedges, he instinctively fed the lurking Straw inside the area and the ace marksman cut away from Wootton before drilling a low 12 yard shot well out of Herwin's reach.



Rob Straw leaves Colin Towler helpless as he fires Borough into a 3-1 lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

To their credit Bath failed to accept defeat and two goals in a seven minute spell late on brought them back on terms. The fightback began when Paul's free-kick was headed down by Colbourne into the path of Crowley and the Borough skipper in his attempt to clear could only head the ball into the roof of his own net. Soon after a King slip let in Wyatt and from his pinpoint cross Neil Reeves planted a strong header straight into Hayward's grateful hands but on 87 minutes Manor Park was stunned into silence as City levelled.

Wyatt was again the instigator as his telling centre saw Hayward fumble away possession under the challenge of Colbourne, who reacted smartly to swivel and unleash a rising 15 yarder into the far corner of the rigging. In the last minute Borough almost suffered another blow as Wyatt's through ball found Colbourne on the right but this time Hayward was perfectly positioned to take his cross.

Straw's Goalscoring Feats Recognised



Borough's Deadly Doctor Straw is the toast of the town after reaching a brilliant century of goals. The magical marksman has scored 100 goals for Nuneaton Borough. A professional young doctor, Straw has been the perfect tonic for the Manor Park faithful in the past few seasons. And the excellent achievement was noted by the club with the presentation of a special award.

Club chairman Howard Kerry and David Hall, chairman of the Vice-Presidents were on hand to make the presentation before Monday night's 3-3 draw with Bath City.

Wilkin May Require Operation

Borough are reeling from the news that hot-shot striker Kevin Wilkin may require an operation to fix his injured knee. Officials fear that the heavy knock he picked up against Hastings may be worse than was at first thought.

Quailey Joins West Brom

Borough striker Brian Quailey has joined West Bromwich Albion in a £5,000 move. Should Quailey make the Albion first team Borough will benefit financially as the Hawthorns-based club have agreed to a number of add-ons.

Ashford Town v Nuneaton Borough

20-09-1997

Ashford: Munden, S. White, Reynolds, Wells, Bower, Donn, Eeles, Parks (Smith 81), Scott, Griffiths (Heather 81), O'Brien. **Sub:** Harrison.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Everitt, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, Symonds (Darroch 83), Straw, Drewitt, Street. **Subs:** Lawrence, P. White.

Borough travelled to Short Lane to play Ashford Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough showed little of the form that has seen them up among the early Premier Division pacesetters and can have few complaints. Both sides had problems with a stiff breeze



during the early stages but as Borough settled, a neat build-up gave Richard Bailey the opportunity for a 25-yard shot that flew a foot over the top. Jon Symonds was only inches away from getting the vital touch after Derek Brown had knocked down Tom McGinty's free kick before Dave Crowley tested Maurice Munden in the home goal with a low drive that brought a hurried save to his right.

Ashford then sparked into life with Tony Reynolds and Dave Scott carving out a chance from Lenny Griffiths that he sliced well off target. Borough should have been ahead when Drewitt found space on the left and his inviting cross whistled across the face of the home goal with both Symonds and Tyron Street unable to get the finishing touch. There was more trouble for Borough as Dave Scott fastened onto a long ball by Reynolds and turned McGinty before firing narrowly wide of the left-hand post. But it was the visitors who made the vital breakthrough after 23 minutes. Crowley freed Drewitt on the left and Street volleyed in the cross on the near post.

However, Borough's celebrations were short lived as ten minutes before the break Ashford were back on level terms. Paul O'Brien crossed from the left and as Scott went for the ball, referee Neil Perkin harshly adjudged Drewitt to have pushed the striker and Stuart White scored from the penalty spot. Borough's hopes plummeted even further five minutes into the second half with Matt Bower's looping header from White's free-kick found the corner of the net.

The visitors should have equalised almost immediately when Straw worked some space in the area and picked out Bailey with his centre but the midfielder headed over from only four yards. Ashford player-manager Nigel Donn got his marching orders for a second bookable offence on the hour mark and that was the signal for Borough to put the home side under heavy pressure. McGinty thumped a fierce free-kick narrowly wide as Borough looked for the elusive equaliser and then Straw saw his effort fly over the angle with Munden beaten.

But despite their pressure Borough failed to create much in the way of clear-cut chances. However, Drewitt was denied a certain goal when he was deceived by a cruel bounce as he was about to turn in Straw's cross from point blank range. On top of the disappointment of losing their unbeaten run, Borough also had Warren Donald, Leigh Everitt, Derek Brown and Dave Crowley all booked.

Wilkin Out For Season

Doctors have confirmed Borough's worst fears concerning centre-forward Kevin Wilkin and that is that his knee injury is far more serious than was originally thought. The former Northampton and Cambridge United man now faces surgery to try to repair the extensive damage to a cruciate knee ligament. Brendan Phillips has already made enquiries about a replacement, but may be unlucky with his bid for Kettering Town striker Micky Nuttall, who may now go to Woking who have made a big money offer for the former Rushden and Diamonds player

St Leonards v Nuneaton Borough

04-10-1997

St Leonards: Lange, Burt, Gatting, Farrier (Magee 45), Jones, P. Ruddy, Parris, Brady, Willard, Miles, Adams. **Subs:** G. Ruddy, Stonham.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Statham, Williams, Brown (McGinty 76), Beckett, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. **Subs:** Lawrence, Darroch.

Borough travelled to The Firs to play St Leonards in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Razor-sharp Borough displayed lethal finishing as they crushed the struggling Premier newcomers who featured former Blues and West Ham star George Parris, ex-West Brom keeper Tony Lange and Mike Gatting's ex-Brighton brother, Steve. Borough had to survive a spell of pressure shortly before the interval when St Leonard's could have got themselves back into the contest. But they found Paul Hayward in superb form and the Borough keeper frustrated them with a string of fine saves.

Borough had an early scare when Wayne Farrier curled in a deep cross from the right but Matthew Brady headed well over the top. But the visitors hit back to make the initial breakthrough after 13 minutes. King found space on the left and his centre picked out Richard Bailey who glanced a header into the top corner.

Both sides were finding problems with the hard bumpy surface but midway through the half King again split the home defence with a through ball and Rob Straw had no trouble in adding the second. St Leonard's threw men forward as they gambled on finding a way back and it took a superb double save by Hayward to deny them. First he went full-length to turn away Paul Ruddy's shot and when Keith Miles knocked it back across goal the Borough keeper somehow kept out Tony Burt's close range effort.

There was more trouble for Borough when Ian Drewitt was caught in possession by Craig Willard and he freed Ruddy who raced into the area only for Hayward to smother at his feet. The Borough keeper was again in action shortly before the break, turning Brady's goal bound header over the top. But Borough regained their composure in the second period and seven minutes after the restart they tightened their grip on the points as they extended their lead. Burt tried to find Steve Gatting with a pass along the face of his own area, but Straw intercepted and side-stepped Matt Jones before easily beating Lange.

St Leonard's gave themselves a lifeline after 56 minutes as Gatting picked out Keiren Adams in midfield and he drilled a superb 30 yard shot past Hayward and into the top corner. However, the home side's celebrations were cut short within 60 seconds as King's free-kick rebounded off the crossbar and Statham pounced to restore Borough's three goal lead. Tyron Street saw his header clip the top of the crossbar from King's left wing corner as Borough continued to dictate and ten minutes from the end Warren Donald wrapped up the scoring from another King cross.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 07-10-1997

Bedworth: Ullah, Bindley, Gregory, Sanders, Woodley, Stanley, Young (O'Neill 90), Corden, Beard, Kir, Raybone. Subs: Jones, Grassby.

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Beckett, Bailey, King, Symonds (Darroch 78), Lawrence, Street. Subs: Green, Drewitt.

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Doc Martens Cup first round first leg tie.

Borough's early lethargy cost them as Bedworth took a fifth minute lead. Robbie Beard and Nick Kirk combined well in a move which released Stanley in the visitors' box. He drew keeper Paul Hayward off his line before slotting home. The setback fired Borough into action and from an eleventh minute Ian King corner the away side almost equalised, but Tyron Street's well directed near post header brought an equally good save from Mark Ullah.



Ian King, who caused Bedworth many problems, and was closely marked throughout the game.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

King's next flag kick midway through the half did pay dividends as Borough got back on level terms. This time King's set piece was floated to the far post where Bailey powered his way into the danger zone to thump a fine header past Ullah from close range. In the following three minutes Borough looked as though they might run away with the tie as they did the FA Cup replay, but it was not to be. A splendid 50 yard pass from Tom McGinty set Street clear on goal but Jason Bindley nipped in to clear the danger. Almost immediately Street went close again from another corner from King, and moments later King attempted a shot from 20 yards which was blocked by Jason Woodley.

Kirk put a shot wide from inside the area while in the 35th minute Stanley won possession and fed Beard who went on a mazy run into Borough's area before firing in a low right wing centre which McGinty desperately turned away for a corner. As the half drew to a close, King was again in the thick of the action as his corner was headed over by Gary Statham before King was denied by Stanley, mopping up at the back following Darren Beckett's fine through ball.

The second half was a huge disappointment, but it was still Borough who had the better of the play. Ullah was forced to

go full stretch to keep out Bailey's 25-yarder and then easily saved Leigh Everitt's long range drive. King hoisted in another hanging corner which Guy Sanders headed clear and the latter followed up his own clearance to set Bindley on his way but he gave possession away with Bard poised ready for the kill. Ullah saved from Beckett before Hayward had to save bravely at the feet of Kirk following Stanley's incisive pass.

The final opportunity was created by Street in the 85th minute but Bailey's powerful drive from a central position on the edge of the area was claimed by Ullah at the second attempt.

Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 14-10-1997

Gresley: Ford, Cotterill, Horseman, Denby, Fitzpatrick, Guyett, Robinson, Fowkes, Allsop, Pitt (Grant 73), Simpson. Subs: Tretton, Powell.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Brown, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Subs: McGinty, Everitt, Symonds.

Borough travelled to The Moat Ground to play Gresley Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Rovers showed no shortage of fire and spirit in the opening exchanges as Borough took time to settle on the slippery surface and in light drizzle. The alert Derek Brown was on hand in the second minute to dispossess Ian Pitt inside the area following a mishit back pass from Barry Williams while keeper Paul Hayward needed two attempts to keep out a rising drive from Graeme Fowkes. At the opposite end it needed all the agility of home custodian Stuart Ford to turn away an explosive Straw shot that was destined for the roof of the net.

Pitt then had a tame header bounce safely into the arms of Hayward before Straw put Borough ahead on 31 minutes with a goal worthy of the admission fee. Ian King's left-wing corner was headed out by Rovers' Paul Kirkpatrick to the lurking striker 20 yards out and his electrifying right foot volley soared through a packed area and beyond the groping Ford to bulge the back of the Gresley net.

Three minutes later Rovers came close to levelling when another Williams error gave Scott Guyett unexpected possession 30 yards out and his fierce shot beat Hayward only to clatter against the bar. Both sides then struggled to find any rhythm or fluency in their game with the early phases of the second half producing precious little goalmouth action although Straw dragged a half-chance wide of the far post following good work from King and Bailey.

But Borough seemed to have things under control with Statham a tower of strength as he gave no quarter in his heading duels with the frustrated Allsop, whose only effort of note was a close range header he put straight into the arms of Hayward on 72 minutes. As the game wore on it was Borough who began to assert their superiority with Statham's powerful defensive header putting Straw in the clear but for once his accuracy was lacking, albeit not by much, as his low drive beat Ford only to hit the post and bounce to safety. Brown had to produce an excellent saving tackle to thwart

substitute Paul Grant before, a minute into injury time, Bailey had the chance to add a final nail into Rovers' coffin but after rounding Ford his shot lacked pace, allowing Guyett to race back and hook the ball off the line.

Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 18-10-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Brown, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey (Beckett 85), King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. **Subs:** McGinty, Everitt.

Forest Green: Shuttlewood, Mitchell (Sykes 59), Dicks, Smart, Kilgour (Jackson 13), Cook, McLoughlin, Collinan, Boyle, Hunt, Forbes. **Sub:** Ward.

Borough welcomed Forest Green Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough pushed forward right from the first whistle and when Ian Drewitt's through ball homed in towards Rob Straw it needed some smart work from Rovers' keeper Justin Shuttlewood to save at the striker's feet. But Borough fans were celebrating after just five minutes when the Blues took the lead with Tyron Street's eighth goal of the season. It was the former Hednesford midfielder who began the move when he won possession just inside his own half and fed Crowley whose tasty ball beyond Rovers' full-back Dave Mitchell gave King the opportunity to rifle in a square, low cross for the foraging Street to crash in a stunning eight-yarder.

Forest Green were bemused by the slick, open football of the opposition and on ten minutes they were ripped apart again as Borough extended their advantage from another high quality move. Richard Bailey's determination and skill left Don Forbes in his wake out on the right and when the ex-Rushden man clipped in a low cross along the 18-yard line, Barry Williams helped the ball on into the path of King and his explosive drive ripped past Shuttlewood and into the net.



All smiles and jubilation from the Cock and Bear end as Borough fans cheer their favourites from the field.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough were firing on all cylinders and they came close to adding to their lead on 21 minutes when Ian Drewitt was hauled down on the left of the area by Gary Smart and from King's low free kick Street's back-heel looked destined for Bailey but Mitchell hacked clear over his own bar. Rovers were failing to live up to their tag as championship favourites, giving away possession far too often and easily as Borough posed most of the questions although on 25 minutes the visitors received an unexpected gift.

the lively Hunt, who currently leads the Premier Division goal charts with 13 to his credit from 11 outings, was tripped by Williams some 20 yards out and from the resulting free-kick Grantley Dicks, brother of West Ham's Julian, saw his low drive fly through the defensive wall and the outstretched arms of keeper Paul Hayward and into the rigging. Suddenly Rovers were back in contention as Borough showed signs of weakening although Street put a header over the bar from a King corner kick.

Hunt hit the bar with a mis-hit shot that spiralled high into the air before hitting the bar and bouncing to safety. Borough quickly took play to the opposite end where Bailey cut in from the right and fed the unusually subdued Rob Straw and his left-foot drive was held by Shuttlewood at the foot of the post.

Seven minutes into the second period a poor clearance by Rob Cook fell to Street 35 yards out and his speculative volley caught the napping Shuttlewood in no man's land but the ball drifted just wide. Despite not producing the authority or the incisive play of the opening quarter, Borough still held the upper hand and again came close to going further ahead as Straw's volleyed centre flew to Street and he completely miskicked from eight yards, the ball striking the unaware Forbes on the upper arm before being cleared.

Rovers, having rode their luck started to sense that some reward could be gained and when Toby Jackson fired in a left-wing corner, a goalmouth melee provided both Martin Boyle and Hunt with half chances which went begging. Alex Sykes then lofted a ball to the unmarked Boyle and he volleyed wide when well placed while Borough's King saw a deflected 20-yarder fly just over. However, Forest Green had the last opportunity to salvage a point on 86 minutes as Jackson's looping pass was misjudged by Williams allowing Hunt to skip clear but Hayward was off his line smartly to block the low shot with his legs.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough

21-10-1997

Tamworth: Rowe, Mulholland, Crawford, Steele, Batchelor, Keogh, Smith, Gray, Piggott, Baddams, Hunter. **Subs:** Bennett, Howard, Wilson.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Brown, Statham, Williams (McGinty 53), Crowley, Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. **Subs:** Beckett, Everitt.

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

Borough began confidently enough and twice came close to going ahead inside four minutes with Willie Batchelor producing a vital clearance from Rob Straw's dangerous low cross and then home sweeper Tim Steele deflecting a Straw free-kick against his own crossbar. Bailey headed over from Ian King's corner before Tamworth offered their first threat on 15 minutes as Piggott just failed to get on the end of Michael Crawford's left wing centre.

Ade Baddams was booked for a crude challenge on Barry Williams before, against the run of play, the Lambs took the lead, with a question mark against Borough keeper Paul



Hayward who allowed an ambitious 25-yard cross shot from Gray to flash across him and into the far corner of the net. Borough responded with King forcing Rowe into a low save but it was plain to see that Tamworth's no-nonsense approach was having the desired effect on their rivals although Ian Drewitt came close with a 15-yard half-volley that flew just over following Tyron Street's cross.

But as the interval approached Paul Hendrie's side had their rivals on the back foot with Crawford's volley from Dennis Mulholland's pass skimming the post with Hayward beaten and when Paul Hunter dispossessed a hesitant Derek Brown, the winger fired tamely into the side-netting.

After the break Crowley carved out an opening for the subdued Straw whose weak effort was confidently dealt with by Rowe. Street then rifled a low 20-yarder at the keeper before the home side should have increased their lead just after the hour mark when Piggott latched on to a Gary Statham error only to see his drive blocked by Hayward. It was then that Statham turned provider as his lofted pass found Straw, but his timid finish flew well wide.

However, on 68 minutes Borough pressure was rewarded when King's cross caused panic allowing Bailey to hold off the challenge of Crawford before pivoting and crashing a rising right-footer from eight yards into the roof of the net. Drewitt chose the wrong option when played clear by Warren Donald, choosing to cut across the area instead of shooting.

Bailey brought a good save from Rowe before another mistake by Statham let in Piggott who scooped his effort high over the bar with just Hayward ahead of him, but on 84 minutes the striker became the toast of the Lamb. Hayward had done well to turn aside Baddams' curling 25-yarder following a free-kick but when Gray's corner was only half-cleared Piggott cracked a low deflected 15-yarder through a sea of legs and beyond the keeper's grasp and into the net. From then on the result was never in doubt and had Crawford shown more assurance later on the scoreline could have been much more emphatic.

Borough Striker Joins Knitters

Out of favour striker John Symonds has teamed up with his ex-Bedworth manager Dean Thomas at Hinckley United. Brendan Phillips had already turned down an offer of £1,000, which he described as an insult, but United came back with an offer of £2,500 and Symonds is now a Hinckley player.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 28-10-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald (Darroch 10), McGinty, Brown, Williams, Crowley, Beckett, Everitt, Bailey, Drewitt, Street (Healey 60). **Sub:** Green.
Bedworth: Ullah, Seivwright, Gregory, Dutton, Dickson, Piggon, Andersen, Daly, Beard, Kirk, Corden (Stanley 72). **Subs:** Young, Raybone.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup first round second leg tie.

Bedworth produced the first threat with Paul Beard dragging a shot wide after Corden had flicked on a long clearance.

Corden then volleyed over the top when Borough failed to clear an Andersen free-kick before Paul Hayward had to react smartly to beat away Corden's fierce volley. In a rare Borough raid Street worked a neat one-two with Ian Drewitt but as he burst into the box Darren Dickson produced a vital tackle to halt the danger at the expense of a corner.

But Bedworth were quickly back in charge with Hayward making a point-blank save to deny Nicky Kirk and then Corden had a shot blocked by Derek Brown. Despite being under the cosh for much of the half, Borough should have been ahead three minutes before the break. Darren Beckett interchanged passes with Richard Bailey but shot wide from ten yards with just Mark Ullah to beat.

However, the goal Bedworth had been threatening duly arrived eight minutes after the break when Beard beat two men and raced into the area where he was brought down by Hayward and Andersen calmly tucked away the resulting penalty. Borough were still trying to come to terms with the setback when they found themselves further behind just two minutes later. Beard's low cross from the right was not cleared by the home defence and Corden pounced to score at the second attempt after Hayward had blocked the first shot.

Substitute Brett Healey pulled a shot wide from Bailey's cut-back as Borough looked for a lifeline before Bailey himself failed to hit the target after turning Adie Gregory on the edge of the area. In a spirited late rally, Drewitt saw his header clip the top of the bar and Tom McGinty forced a fine save from Ullah. But it was too little too late for Borough.

Borough Sign Thomas

Brendan Phillips has swooped to sign Worcester City striker Anton Thomas for an undisclosed four-figure fee and the burly hitman will make his debut against Dorchester.

Nuneaton Borough v Dorchester Town 01-11-1997

Borough: Hayward, Street, Brown, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey (McGinty 76), King, Straw, Drewitt, Thomas (Beckett 83). **Sub:** Everitt.
Dorchester: Maloy, O'Brien, Redwood, Coates, Lisk, Harris, Richardson, Lovell (Killick 68), Bundy, Shepherd, Myers. **Subs:** Laight, Sullivan.

Borough welcomed Dorchester Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Dorchester shocked the home fans as they took the lead from their first real attack after eight minutes. Skipper Dave Crowley was harshly adjudged to have brought down Neil Coates and Chris Myers made no mistake from the resulting penalty. Borough were struggling to find their rhythm at this stage and when Coates again got clear to whip in a low centre from the right it needed a superb interception from Barry Williams to prevent Scott Bundy from scoring.

But the Manor Park side began to get a grip and when Ian Drewitt sent Straw racing into the area Andy Harris rescued the visitors with a superb tackle to clear the danger. Dorchester now found themselves coming under intense

pressure as Borough forced three corners in quick succession. From the third, King swung the ball in from the left and Street slipped his marker to glance the ball home on the near post for a 31st minute equaliser.



New signing Anton Thomas is foiled by Magpies' keeper Kevin Maloy.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough were now well in control and Maloy made a tremendous one-handed save to turn Thomas' goal-bound shot away for a corner. Three minutes before the interval however, Borough got their noses in front. Straw's shot rebounded from the crossbar to Thomas who laid it off to Drewitt and as his shot flashed across the goalmouth where Street was on hand to turn it in.

It was obvious that Borough needed a third goal to put the issue beyond doubt and twice early in the second half they were within inches of getting it. First Straw freed Thomas who saw his shot brilliantly turned around a post by Maloy and then the visiting keeper made an acrobatic save to somehow keep out Drewitt's deflected shot. Borough kept up the pressure with Maloy making a reflex save from Derek Brown's close-range header before Roy O'Brien almost turned a Drewitt cross into his own net.

However, Dorchester began to come more into the picture as Borough tired and Williams did well to block a Martin Shepherd shot. The visitors were back on level terms after 74 minutes when O'Brien curled an innocuous ball into the area and Steve Richardson was totally unmarked as he stabbed it home from close range. Straw dragged a shot wide as Borough hit back and King then curled a 25-yard shot narrowly over the top. But Borough had a late let-off when Shepherd got clear but drilled his shot wide of the near post.

Everitt Slaps In Transfer Request

Nuneaton Borough defender Leigh Everitt has stunned the club by slapping in a transfer request. The want-away full-back is fed up at being left on the bench since joining the Manor Park club in the summer. The former Adders' player has been unable to force his way into the promotion chasing Nuneaton side on a regular basis and has been restricted to only a handful of first team appearance.

Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough

08-11-1997

Merthyr: Wager, Clarke, Rivett, Barnhouse (Jenkins 76), O'Brien, Gibbons, Porretta, Griffith (Rees 84), Mitchell, Loss (Bowen 78), Chappell.

Borough: Hayward, Donald (Everitt 43), McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey, Hercock, Thomas, Drewitt, Street. Subs: Beckett, Healey.

Borough travelled to Penydarren Park to play Merthyr Tydfil in a Southern League Premier Division game.

After weathering an early storm from the home side, the Manor Park outfit forced their way back into the game and dominated the second half but were let down by some wayward finishing with their lack of a cutting edge again proving costly. New boy Hercock, making his debut at left back was quickly into action as Dean Clarke made ground down the right and whipped in a cross that Ian Mitchell glanced wide.

Barry Williams forced Gary Wager into a save on the near post from a Hercock corner as Borough hit back but Merthyr were quickly back in control. Clarke wasted a good chance, slicing his shot well wide and then Cohen Griffith and Mitchell got in each other's way after Clarke had created chaos in the Borough defence. But as the visitors settled they gradually got a grip with Williams volleying narrowly over the top following a Hercock free-kick and Bailey saw his shot deflected for a corner.

Borough should have been ahead five minutes before the break when Dave Crowley found space on the right and knocked a diagonal cross into the box where Ian Drewitt dummied it and Bailey shot wide from close range.

But Borough were stunned after 63 minutes as Merthyr took the lead. Tom McGinty was harshly adjudged to have fouled Griffiths as they challenged for a high ball and Mitchell made no mistake from the resulting penalty. As Borough pushed forward looking for the equaliser, Drewitt wasted another great chance, volleying wildly over the top from well inside the area.

It was all Nuneaton now and Williams twice went close, shooting over before seeing Wager make a fine save to turn away his goal-bound header and in the closing seconds, Borough might have salvaged a point when McGinty's free-kick found Tyron Street but his shot flew straight at Wager.

Borough Players Selected For Representative Game

Three Nuneaton Borough players and one from Atherstone United have been called up for the Dr Martens League representative squad for an England Non-League team trial match. Striker Rob Straw, club captain Dave Crowley and defender Gary Statham are the Manor Park trio selected for the match against a Vauxhall Conference XI on December 9.

Atherstone's talented defender Lee Middleton is also in the 26-man squad for the match at Gloucester City's Meadow Park ground.

Nuneaton Borough v Salisbury City 15-11-1997

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley (Bailey 34), HercocK (King 60), Thomas, Straw, Drewitt (Beckett 79), Street.

Salisbury: Mogg, Parkin, Clement, Lovett, Bradford, Braybrock, Preston (McCormack 83), Rofe, Puckett, Homes, Housley. Subs: Whale, Sotouden.

Borough welcomed Salisbury City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough could have been behind after only 40 seconds when Danny Holmes was not picked up from John Preston's cross and his shot rebounded off the crossbar to Dave Puckett who saw his close range header brilliantly turned away by Paul Hayward. With Borough struggling to find any sort of cohesion, Salisbury had another great chance but Lee Bradford pulled a shot wide from inside the six-yard box when he looked certain to score. But there was not let-off for Borough on the half-hour mark when the visitors found the net. Housley, who had just seen Hayward superbly claw his goalbound shot around a post for a corner, fastened onto a through ball from Danny Rofe and as the keeper came out, calmly lobbed the ball over him into an empty net.

However, Borough response was positive and eight minutes later they were back on level terms with Williams grabbing his first league goal of the campaign. The visitors failed to clear Dave HercocK's cross and when the full-back knocked it back into the area, Williams planted a superb header into the top right hand corner.



Anton Thomas and Gary Statham cause problems for the Salisbury defenders.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough opened the second period with much more purpose and Leigh Everitt was unfortunate to see his volley from Ian King's cross blocked by the lunging Rofe. But Salisbury looked dangerous on the break and Puckett's shot from the edge of the area, after being set up by Rofe, was inches wide. Anton Thomas glanced a header a foot wide from another King centre before Nuneaton breathed a sigh of relief when the referee turned down Salisbury's appeals for a penalty following a tackle by Ian Drewitt on Plunkett. With both sides appearing to be happy with a share of the spoils, Borough

made the vital breakthrough. King drifted a free-kick into the area where Bradford handled allowing Straw to hit the winner from the resulting penalty.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 18-11-1997

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, McGinty, Statham, B. Williams, Bailey, Beckett, King, Straw, Street (Drewitt 74), Thomas. Subs: HercocK, Healey.

King's Lynn: Hollman, Matthews, Skelley, Wright, Ellis, Stearing, Hopkins, S. Williams (Stock 53), Roberts (Delicata 53), McNamara (Cambridge 44), Hudson.

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

It was the Linnets who produced the first threat with Kevin Ellis heading wide from Richard Skelley's cross before Steve Williams had a goal ruled out for handball. However, Borough could have been ahead as early as the ninth minute when Anton Thomas and Tyron Street carved out an opening for Ian King but he pulled his shot wide. Rob Straw then stabbed a shot past keeper James Hollman but wide of the target after Thomas had flicked on Tom McGinty's free kick.



A King's Lynn defender stretches to make a vital clearance as Anton Thomas looks for any mistake.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Matthew Wright did well to head away another McGinty free-kick under pressure from Thomas early in the second half as Borough looked for the breakthrough. But it was the visitors who broke the deadlock after 62 minutes. Julian Delicata went round Statham and whipped in a low centre from the left. There appeared to be little danger as McGinty moved to clear but he slipped leaving Hudson to score with ease.

Borough missed a golden opportunity to grab an equaliser almost straight away from the restart when Straw moved on to a through ball and went round James Hollman only to drag his shot inches wide of an empty net. Street turned a Straw cross wide of the far post and Barry Williams was then unlucky to see his header fly a foot over the top from a King corner.

The visitors were now content to sit on their lead and soak up the pressure and it took a fine save by Hollman to deny Bailey with a glancing header from Straw's cross. Williams was again out of luck when his header was finger-tipped over the top by



the keeper before Straw flashed a low centre across the face of the Lynn goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. As Borough's efforts took on an air of desperation, Darren Beckett was wide with a shot from the edge of the box after substitute Drewitt's effort had been blocked and Thomas put a last gasp header straight at the keeper.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 22-11-1997

Bath: Hervin, Hedges, Towler, Wotton (Skidmore 68), Brooks, Chenoweth, Wyatt (Loydon 82), Kiratzogiou (Harrington 75), Colbourne, Davis, James.

Borough: Hayward, Everitt (Bailey 25), McGinty, Statham, Williams (Brown 45), Crowley, Hercock (Beckett 57), King, Straw, Drewitt, Thomas.

Borough travelled to Twerton Park to play Bath City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Rock-bottom Borough were a distant second best as they were outplayed, out-fought and out-run by an impressive Bath outfit. Borough's defensive inadequacies were ruthlessly exposed as the home side ripped them apart time and again. It was a nightmare performance by the visitors and they were extremely lucky that their disastrous afternoon did not end with an even more humiliating scoreline. Phillips' side came under heavy pressure from the start and were fortunate when Mike Davis' fifth minute header was touched onto the crossbar by Paul Hayward. The visitors had another let-off when Paul Chenoweth fired over the top from ten yards after Graham Colbourne had set up the opportunity.

Chenoweth then flashed a cross-shot inches wide before Anton Thomas saw his effort blocked by Bath keeper Mark Hervin's legs in a rare Borough raid. But the goal Bath had been threatening duly arrived after 31 minutes. Hayward came out to block at Alex Kiratzogiou's feet on the edge of the area and the ball rebounded to Colbourne and he knocked it square to Stuart James who chipped into an empty net from the edge of the box.

Borough should have been back on level terms two minutes later when Bath failed to clear an Ian Drewitt cross but Rob Straw blasted high over the top from close range. But on 36 minutes Borough found themselves with a mountain to climb when Hayward came out for a Chenoweth free-kick, failed to get there and Colin Towler's back header looped into an empty net. Shortly before the break Davis was clean through but saw his shot deflected wide by Hayward.

However, there was no escape for the visitors as four minutes after the break Bath put the issue beyond doubt. Colbourne bundled aside Tom McGinty to get on to the end of Garry Wotton's speculative ball into the area and although Hayward got a hand to the shot, the ball looped into the net. Davis headed wide from Wyatt's cross but there was no let-off for Borough after 61 minutes when Chenoweth was clear on the left and from his centre Davis thumped a header past Hayward. Straw wasted a glorious chance for Borough, hitting the bar from almost point-blank range after the home side had failed to clear an Ian King corner.

In a bright spell for the visitors, King flashed a low ball across the Bath goalmouth with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch and Straw had a shot deflected into the side netting. But Bath quickly regained the initiative as Towler had a header clip the top of the bar before Davis took advantage of a mix-up between Gary Statham and Hayward to grab a fifth goal and complete a miserable afternoon for Borough.

Phillips Given Board's Full Support

Borough chairman Howard Kerry has pledged the board's full support for boss Brendan Phillips despite the side's nose-diving fortunes. As pressure starts to mount following Saturday's FA Trophy exit, Mr Kerry has moved swiftly to quell speculation that Phillips' job could be on the line. Supporters have become increasingly angry about the plight of the Manor Park club, who have won only once in nine outings.

Borough Sign Diamonds Duo

Brendan Phillips has acquired the services of Andy Furnell, a striker, and Andy Peaks, a midfielder, both from Rushden and Diamonds.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 06-12-1997

Borough: Hayward, Everitt (Beckett 56), Hercock, Statham, Brown, Peaks, Street, King, Straw, Drewitt, Furnell. Subs: Healey, Green.

Cambridge: Kelly, Adams, Chattoe, Carter, Taylor, Pincher, Cheetham, Jeffrey, Harris, Ullathorne, Cogger. Subs: Hipperson, Butler, Baillie.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were soon on the defensive as Cambridge made a bright start and leading scorer Neil Harris could have given the visitors a seventh minute lead but steered a shot wide of the near post after Andy Pincher and Neil Cogger had created the opening. Furnell had a header turned over the top by Dan Kelly as Borough pushed forward but they were again fortunate when Harris failed to make contact in the six-yard box with just Hayward to beat.

Borough came back into the game and might have scored after 35 minutes. Ian Drewitt fired in a low shot after Rob Straw's overhead kick had been charged down and Furnell got a foot to it only to see Kelly make a fine save from close range. However, Borough had another escape a minute before the break when Pincher knocked the ball beyond the home defence to free Simon Ullathorne but he hooked a weak shot wide of the target.

Cambridge opened the second period as they ended the first with Cogger testing Hayward after skipping past two defenders. Andy Taylor wasted another chance with a poor effort well over the top before Ullathorne cracked a low drive a foot wide. Borough were now at full stretch to contain the visitors but could have been ahead on the hour mark with Statham putting a close range volley way over the top from an Ian King corner.

Cambridge were quickly back in control as Harris fired a low



centre across the face of the Borough goal with no-one able to apply the finishing touch and Hayward then produced fine saves to deny both Cogger and Ullathorne in quick succession. But Borough again had an opening when Kelly was forced into a superb save by Rob Straw and Darren Beckett hammered the loose ball wide. That was Nuneaton's last glimpse of a chance as Cambridge continued to rip gaping holes in the home defence. Adams put a header a foot wide of the angle from a Pincher centre and Hayward did well to block a Michael Cheetham effort before Harris saw his lob rebound off the crossbar.

Cogger missed another clear-cut chance for the visitors, shooting wide of an empty net after rounding Hayward. But the goal Cambridge had been threatening finally arrived with just five minutes remaining. Hayward's punch from Cogger's free-kick only reached the edge of the area and Adams took full advantage to score with a low shot.

Straw Has Long Term Injury

Borough have been left reeling with the news that striker Rob Straw could be sidelined until February. The prolific goalscorer has been suffering with fluid on the knee and although there is no cartilage or ligament damage, Straw is in some discomfort. Borough have also announced that former Sheffield Wednesday full-back David Hercock is leaving the Manor Park side.

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 13-12-1997

Forest Green: Shuttlewood, Honor, Dicks, Smart, Kilgour, Cook, Winter, Sykes (Hunt 65), Birkby, McLoughlin (Jackson 85), Forbes. **Sub:** Coupe.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Brown, Peaks, Street, Healey, Bailey, Drewitt (Beckett 37), Furnell (Thomas 81). **Sub:** White.

Borough travelled to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Showing much more spirit than of late, Borough could have taken the lead after four minutes when Street and Drewitt freed Leigh Everitt on the left and his lofted cross beat Mike Kilgour to find Furnell who stabbed a low shot past Justin Shuttlewood only for it to clip the outside of the post. A minute later Borough found themselves a goal down as Gary Smart went past Drewitt in the area and crossed to the far post where Gary Birkby, totally unmarked, scored with a close-range header.

Borough hit back and Gary Statham headed Drewitt's free-kick back across goal and Richard Bailey had a shot blocked by Shuttlewood before Furnell stabbed home the equaliser. Borough imposed themselves on the home team and were unlucky not to take the lead as Statham's shot rebounded off the home keeper's legs. The central defender then headed Street's corner over the bar. However, Borough were hit on the break after 30 minutes and Smart restored Rovers' lead as he hooked Paul McLoughlin's low centre into the net.

Smart almost extended the home side's lead at the start of the second half when he hit a shot just wide of the target from the edge of the area before Borough's chances

suffered a severe setback as Kilgour thumped a low shot past Hayward from Grantley Dicks' corner. Despite this bitter setback, Borough hauled themselves back into the contest eight minutes later with great determination as Bailey cut the deficit after the home defence had been in disarray following a Warren Donald free-kick.

At this stage it looked as though the Manor Park side might salvage an unexpected point with Healey and Everitt both having shots deflected narrowly wide. But six minutes from time Paul Hunt put the issue beyond doubt with a looping header from another Dicks corner that once again found Nuneaton's frail defence severely lacking.

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 16-12-1997

Borough: Hayward, Donald (Brown 60), Everitt, Peaks, Williams (Thomas 72), Crowley, Street, Healey (King 67), Bailey, Beckett, Furnell.
Gloucester: Lambert, Evans, Eley, Thorne, Steadman, Ferguson, Tucker, Burns, Adcock, Mings, Cooper. **Subs:** Hobbs, Welsh, Hughes.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started the game brightly and Furnell had a shot blocked early on but Gloucester retaliated with Adie Mings firing in a low centre across the face of goal before the visitors took the lead after 18 minutes. Mings was unmarked as Andy Tucker's free-kick came in and his header from close range gave Paul Hayward no chance. Warren Donald put a shot just wide after Darren Beckett and Richard Bailey had created a chance, but Gloucester finished the half on top. David Eley's right wing corner found Paul Adcock in space and his header forced Hayward into a terrific one-handed save.

Gloucester could have extended their lead just after half-time when Adcock found Mings free in the box but he wanted far too much time and eventually the ball was scrambled clear. At the other end Furnell hammered a close range shot against the keeper's legs and Bailey only just failed to get the vital touch to a Tyron Street free-kick. Borough had another escape after 60 minutes when Mings found space on the left and his low cross was smashed against the crossbar by Adcock. But Borough hit back with an equaliser in the 64th minute. Street's cross found Furnell, who was brought down by Steve Fergusson and the ball ran free to Bailey who put it into the net.

Borough were still under pressure and Mings hooked a good chance wide after Barry Williams had headed an Eley free kick straight up into the air. Substitute Anton Thomas put a shot narrowly wide following a neat back-heel from Street before Borough took the lead in the 81st minute. Thomas played a neat one-two with Street and the big striker made ground and unleashed a tremendous 20-yard drive that smashed against the underside of the bar with Furnell putting in the rebound.

Then with three minutes to go, Borough put the issue beyond doubt when Thomas and Furnell linked up before finding King and he turned past his marker to smash a 25-yard drive into the top corner.

Nuneaton Borough v Rothwell Town 20-12-1997

Borough: Wood, Peaks, Everitt, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Street (Thomas 63), Healey (King 52), Bailey, Beckett, Furnell. **Sub:** Brown.

Rothwell: Liquorish, Finlay (Orton 69), Hercock, Keast, Torrance, Bullimore, Kirkup, Coe, Marshall (McGuire 69), Foley, Lord. **Sub:** Tallantire.

Borough welcomed Rothwell Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had an early scare as Darren Beckett headed clear an Andy Kirkup cross with Dean Foley closing in. Borough went close as Barry Williams split the Rothwell defence with a superb through ball and Furnell lobbed it over Liquorish, but his shot drifted wide. Tyron Street had a free-kick safely gathered by Danny Liquorish before Beckett shot wide following a neat move involving Dave Crowley and Bailey. Ricky Marshall shot wildly over from 12 yards after Foley had set him up.

As the first-half drew to a close it took the combined efforts of Wood and Statham to halt Kirkup, while at the other end a superb ball from Andy Peaks put Crowley clear but Liquorish produced a fine save from the Borough skipper.

Just after the break Borough introduced Ian King in place of Brett Healey and the former Rushden man was in action straight away, swinging in a cross that Liquorish dropped and David Hercock hooked away for a corner. King continued to cause the visitors problems and when he went past Foley, his centre bounced off the top of the Rothwell bar. However, midway through the half Borough got the break they had been threatening. Bailey played a superb 67th minute through ball to open up the Rothwell defence and Furnell's left-foot drive gave the keeper no chance.

The visitors were not really in the game, but in a rare foray substitute Marc Orton brought a fine save from Wood. But any hopes that the Bones might have had of salvaging a point disappeared nine minutes from the end. Crowley worked some space on the right and his cross was superbly headed home by Thomas, his first goal since moving to Manor Park at the end of October. However, his second was not far behind. Thomas had already been denied by a last-ditch tackle from Dougie Keast when, with just three minutes left, Furnell found the big striker free inside the box and his finish was incisive.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1997

Atherstone: R. Williams, Young, Martin, Hart, Olnier, Redgate, Blair (Warner 56), Middleton, Ellison (Judd 77), Green Dean. **Sub:** Barratt.

Borough: Wood, Peaks, Brown, Statham, B. Williams, Crowley, Bailey, King, Thomas, Beckett (Street 74), Furnell (Drewitt 61), Healey.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough began confidently and came close to taking the lead inside three minutes when United's Paul Olnier first saw a sliced clearance from Ian King's corner hit his own keeper Richard Williams and from the rebound the defender steered

a header against the bar. But Adders were out of luck on 21 minutes as Borough's early industry brought its reward as Richard Bailey, who was outstanding before the break, raced past three challenges before seeing his hard hit centre strike the arm of Redgate, racing across the area to close down the midfielder. Referee Morris left the home fans stunned and their Borough counterparts in ecstasy as he pointed to the spot from where Thomas blasted past Williams.

King had a ten yard volley fly into Williams' arms before Bailey squandered a gilt-edged offering as hesitant work by the Adders allowed the midfielder to gain possession and race clear unheeded only to shoot wide from 15 yards with just the keeper to beat. Nuneaton continued to be quicker in the tackle as well as winning the majority of the 50-50 balls with Andy Furnell heading wide and Thomas seeing a speculative 35-yarder drift wide after keeper Williams had done well to dispossess Furnell only to mis-hit his clearance to the former Worcester front man. It was not until injury time at the end of the half that Adders forced young keeper Rob Wood into action as the latter brilliantly fended away a close range header from his team-mate Derek Brown which had equaliser written all over it.

The second half began with United still looking anxious and struggling to strike the right chords but in a three-minute spell two incidents saw the pendulum swing the way of the Sheepy Roaders. Firstly Crowley was given his marching orders in the 54th minute for a second bookable offence, a clumsy but not malicious tackle on Craig Dean, and soon after a tactical substitution provided the vital breakthrough for Adders. Warner, on for Scott Blair for less than 60 seconds, made an immediate impact. Receiving possession from Middleton, the former VS Rugby striker nipped inside and let fly with a 20-yarder that struck Brown on the chest and curled around the wrong-footed Wood and just inside the far post.



Anton Thomas blasts home his second penalty to give Borough a share of the spoils.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Warner then brought Wood to his knees with a low angled drive before a quality move paved the way for Green to net his fourth goal of the season. Craig Dean and Middleton

did the early spadework on the right before Robin Judd's exquisite control and pass set Boyd Young charging down the right and his peach of a cross to the back post found Green who climbed high to plant a five-yard header into the roof of the net. It looked curtains for Borough as Adders sensed more success. Danny Martin, the pick of the home midfield, curling a 20 yarder narrowly wide before the Manor Park outfit found a second wind to restore parity with three minutes remaining.

Substitute Ian Drewitt was the creator with a tenacious break down the right and from his centre Statham looked certain to score only for the defender to scuff his shot and allow Richard Williams to parry on to the post. Statham quickly swooped on to the loose ball and from his centre the ball crashed into the body of Olnor, who was as stunned as any to see Mr Morris point to the spot. Adders swarmed towards the official in anger, captain David Hart being cautioned for his dissent before the patient Thomas stepped forwards to crack the penalty firmly past the diving Williams.

Nuneaton Borough v Sittingbourne 27-12-1997

Borough: Wood, Peaks, Brown, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey, King, Thomas (Street 82), Beckett, Furnell. **Subs:** Donald, Healey.

Sittingbourne: G. Williams, Smith, Hodge (Walker 70), Hume (Overton 42), Pearson, Taylor, Ponsford, Lyndsey, Planck (Sinden 55), Roland, Allan.

Borough welcomed Sittingbourne to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough, who took time to settle, found themselves a goal down after just seven minutes as the home defence failed to clear Darren Smith's left wing corner and the ball was returned into the penalty area by Lloyd Hume and the unmarked Lynden Rowland was able to head the ball past Wood to give the visitors a 1-0 lead. The home side hit back and Ian King caused the Sittingbourne keeper some consternation with a free-kick before shooting just past the post from 25 yards.

Derek Brown robbed Roland following a mistake by Gary Statham but Borough were quickly back in control as the visiting keeper did well to punch clear a King corner under pressure from Anton Thomas. But the pressure paid off and Andy Peaks took advantage of a mistake by Damien Hodge to score his first goal for Borough. Richard Bailey had a shot deflected wide as Borough continued to dictate and then Andy Furnell saw his lob beat the visiting keeper but sail inches wide of the angle. Williams then kept out a point-blank range effort from Furnell before producing a superb save to finger tip King's tremendous free-kick over the top. But the keeper was fortunate just before the break as Smith hooked a Brown effort off the line.

Borough picked up where they left off after the break with Darren Beckett twice forcing saves from the over-worked Williams and Thomas thumping rising drive narrowly over the angle. Williams then made a stunning save to deny Peaks, pushing the ball out for a corner. Bailey hooked a shot over

the top before Borough finally got the goal they had been threatening after 57 minutes. King's corner found its way to the other side of the box and Barry Williams turned it back in for Thomas to glance home on the near post.

It was all Borough and it came as no surprise when they extended their lead. King's deep 67th minute cross picked out Andy Furnell and he cracked in a tremendous right-foot volley into the bottom corner. King had a shot scrambled off the line by Ben Taylor as Borough threatened to run riot with Bailey heading wide from King's corner.



Ian King crashes a 25-yard shot against the Sittingbourne woodwork.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

In a rare attack by Sittingbourne Ricky Pearson fired well over after Rob Wood had punched out a Richard Ponsford corner. But Borough had the last word with Furnell again finding the net but an offside flag cut short the celebrations.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1998

Borough: Wood, Peaks, Everitt, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey, King, Thomas, Beckett, Furnell. **Subs:** Street, Healey, Donald.

Bromsgrove: Parsons, Simpson, Howell, Elmes, Davies, Langston, Smith, Softley (Lamorte 78), Whitehouse, Carter (Grocutt), Burgher. **Sub:** Clarke.

Borough travelled to the Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough came under early pressure and Chris Smith made space on the left and whipped in a cross that Barry Williams headed clear under pressure from Recky Carter. Mark Whitehouse then had an opening but curled his shot wide from the edge of the box. Borough hit the woodwork from Furnell's diving header following a King free-kick and another Furnell header went well wide before Williams was fortunate to escape a booking after pulling back Symon Burgher as he was breaking clear. Shaun Davies got in a last-ditch tackle to halt Furnell after Anton Thomas had freed him in the area but Borough then had a real let-off.

Smith robbed Andy Peaks to whip in a low centre that Borough failed to clear. Burgher had a shot cleared off the line by Statham and Richard Softley somehow screwed the rebound wide. Shortly before the break, Richard Bailey made

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



a surging run into the area but Leigh Everitt and Furnell got in the way of the midfielder and the chance was lost.



Dave Crowley plays a defence splitting pass as Borough mount second half pressure.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough's hopes of extending their unbeaten run to five games took a severe jolt just seven minutes after the restart when they found themselves a goal down. Whitehouse made some space wide on the right and his centre was forced home from close range by Carter. But the Manor Park side were back on level terms within 11 minutes. Furnell had a shot deflected for a corner and from King's flag-kick, Thomas saw an overhead effort blocked with Statham volleying home the rebound from a narrow angle. Darren Beckett then had a shot deflected wide before Davies rescued the visitors with a timely clearance to deny Furnell following a determined run and cross by Thomas

However, the goal Borough had been threatening for some time finally arrived with 15 minutes remaining. Dave Crowley's forceful run took him into the area and when the ball broke to King he made no mistake from 12 yards. Dave Longston failed to make contact with Burgher's ball into the box as Bromsgrove looked for a way back before Borough missed a great chance to put the issue beyond doubt. Beckett played a neat one-two with Crowley and cut into the area before pulling the ball back to Furnell who steered his close-range shot wide of the target.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 10-01-1998

Borough: Wood, Peaks, Everitt, Statham, Williams, Drewitt (Street 67), Bailey, King, Thomas, Beckett, Furnell. Subs: Healey, Donald.

Tamworth: Phillips, Keogh, Crawford, Steel, Batchelor, Howard, Foy, Wilson (Piggott 35), Smith, Gray, Hunter. Subs: Bennett, Baddams.

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

Borough might have gone ahead as early as the second minute when Richard Bailey freed Ian Drewitt but his low shot flew across the face of the Tamworth goal with no-one able to apply the finishing touch. Ian Hunter hooked a shot

high over the bar as the visitors hit back before Borough squandered another fine opportunity. Following a neat interception in midfield, Ian King found Anton Thomas on the edge of the area. He flicked the ball to Drewitt who fired way over from ten yards. As play switched to the other end Hunter was only inches away from turning in Gary Smith's low centre on the near post.

Borough could have taken the lead ten minutes before half-time when Thomas was clean through, but saw his shot blocked by Mark Phillips and the visiting keeper was quickly to his feet to gather Drewitt's follow up effort. Within 60 seconds it was Rob Wood's turn to rescue his side with a superb point-blank save to deny Hunter after Gary Piggott had carved out a clear-cut chance for the Tamworth striker.

Borough raised the hopes of the Manor Park faithful as they made an impressive start to the second period with Thomas seeing his shot deflected narrowly wide for a corner. King then squandered another good opening, shooting wide from 12 yards following a neat build-up involving Darren Beckett, Bailey and Thomas. But it was Tamworth who broke the deadlock in the 58th minute. Smith found space on the right and when Wood allowed the striker's low shot to slip from his grasp, Hunter pounced to crack home the rebound.

Furnell shot straight at Phillips as Borough hit back and the Tamworth keeper was fortunate to escape when he dropped a King free-kick in the six-yard-box, but Tamworth tightened their grip on the game with a second goal after 68 minutes. Borough's problems started when the referee got in the way in the centre circle, gifting Tamworth possession. Smith broke clear, lost the ball and regained it before bursting into the area where Wood made a brave save at his feet, but Piggott was first to the loose ball and shot into an empty net.

King had a shot deflected wide as Borough hit back but Piggott then wasted a golden chance to make it three for the visitors. In a late Borough flourish Tyron Street hooked an effort narrowly wide with the keeper beaten and Phillips then made a tremendous save to turn away a King free-kick.

Borough Sign New Sponsorship Deal

Midlands brewery giants Bass have sealed a substantial new sponsorship deal with Nuneaton Borough that takes their support of the club into the Millennium. The Birmingham-based firm has increased the amount of cash it gives to the Manor Park club each year. But the new deal won't mean a change of name on the players' shirts. Phil Clayton, Commercial Director at Manor Park, said the new tie-up was a major boost for the ambitious Borough, who are aiming to secure Conference football at the earliest opportunity.

He said: "We are over the moon about the amount of money involved. It's an increase on previous years and it's a very generous sum. To be involved with such a prestigious company over a lengthy period of time is good for the image of the Borough and we are very grateful to Bass."...

Solihull Borough v Nuneaton Borough 14-01-1998

Solihull: Adey, Abell, Wolsey, Bradley (Woodley 45), Brown, Brogan, Mitchell (Rowe 45), Myers, Cross, Dowling (Pippard 74), Byrne.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Williams (King 38), Crowley, Healey, Drewitt, Bailey, Beckett, Street (White 78). **Sub:** Elvin.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Solihull Borough in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough's last chance of putting some silverware on the sideboard this season ended in a disastrous defeat. But the Manor Park side will be kicking themselves after being given a harsh lesson that it's goals that win matches. For more than half an hour Borough footballled Solihull to death and created enough chances to have wrapped up this second round tie long before the interval.

However, they failed to transfer their dominance into goals and once they'd gone behind they seldom looked like pulling it back. It was all Nuneaton and when Beckett headed on a left wing corner Bailey whipped the ball across the face of the home goal with no one able to apply the finishing touch. Solihull were struggling to hang on and were thankful to see Dave Adey turn Healey's shot away for a corner. But the Manor Park side squandered two golden opportunities to break the deadlock – misses they were soon to regret. First Ian Drewitt was clean through with just the keeper to beat but instead of shooting tried to go round Adey who robbed him.

Two minutes later a neat build up freed Beckett who also delayed his shot and in the end was crowded out by the keeper. Borough's regrets were not long in coming as in the 33rd minute Warren Donald's tackle on Joe Dowling was adjudged to be a foul and Solihull's leading scorer netted the resulting penalty. Solihull extended their lead after 52 minutes. Dowling cut in from the left and squared the ball to substitute Phil Rowe who beat Paul Hayward with a low drive from the edge of the box. The third goal came from Martin Myers in the 70th minute.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 24-01-1998

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Peaks, Crowley, Bailey, King, Thomas (White 77), Beckett, Furnell. **Subs:** Brown, Healey.

Halesowen: McDonnell, Gardner, Owen, Wood, Snape, Crisp, Reed, Wright, Pearce, Yates, Sharpe (Harrison 77). **Sub:** Evans, Cooper.

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough gave their supporters some early hope with Ian King twice going close. First he saw a shot deflected wide off Phil Wood and then dragged an effort inches wide after Darren Beckett had carved out the opening. There was trouble for Borough when Warren Donald lost possession on the edge of the area but Gary Statham cut out John Snape's low cross with Steven Pearce waiting to pounce. Wood was then fortunate to escape with only a booking after bringing down Furnell as he broke clear. King curled the free-kick a

foot wide. But ten minutes before the break Borough had a let-off when Paul Hayward failed to hold John Snape's centre and Luke Yates saw his follow-up effort rebound off Statham. Furnell missed a clear-cut opportunity to put Borough ahead shortly before the interval, shooting high over the top.

Beckett put a diving header wide from King's cross early in the second half while at the other end it took a fine save from Hayward to keep out Richard Crisp's close range shot. Halesowen could have been ahead on the hour mark when Snape drilled a ball across the face of the home goal and Hayward clawed Pearce's header to safety. Seven minutes later Borough broke the deadlock. Beckett's neat ball in the box caught the visitors' defence square and Thomas played it across the face of the goal to give Furnell a simple tap-in.



Andy Furnell celebrates the first of his two goals.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

A sloppy back-pass from Peaks almost let in Pearce and then King had to produce a superb covering tackle to keep out Crisp as the visitors pushed for an equaliser. However, Halesowen scored after 78 minutes with Evran Wright heading home at the far post from Crisp's deep cross. Beckett had a great chance to restore Borough's lead but Wood recovered to clear. Richard Bailey had a shot cleared off the line. Wood got his marching orders two minutes from time for a second bookable offence before Borough grabbed the points in the closing seconds. King got free on the right and whipped in a tremendous centre for Furnell to out-jump the Halesowen defenders and plant a header into the top corner of the net.

Borough Duo May Leave Manor Park

Uncertainty surrounds the future of Borough midfielders Ian Drewitt and Tyron Street after they were both dropped from the first team and forced to play for the reserves at Shepshed. And with rumours of transfer bids from Tamworth floating around, Nuneaton manager Brendan Phillips has admitted he would listen to offers for the players. Both are thought to be among a group of players lambasted by Phillips following last week's dreadful 3-0 defeat at Solihull Borough. After that defeat Phillips conducted a stern face-to-face meeting with the players.

Trophy Donated In Memory Of Nick Carter



The memory of one of Borough's former captains will live on thanks to a new trophy. Nick Carter, who was skipper at Manor Park during the 50s, died last year and his family have decided to present a magnificent new cup to the club so it can be awarded to the manager's player of the year at the end of the season. The trophy was presented to Borough chairman Howard Kerry by Nick's widow Mrs Rita Carter.

Salisbury City v Nuneaton Borough 24-01-1998

Salisbury: Mogg, Baird, Rofe, Mundee, Sherwood, Braybrook, Holmes, Whale (O'Neill 88), Bright, Chalk, Browne. **Subs:** Bargham, Sotoudeh.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Peaks, Crowley, Bailey (Street 78), King, Thomas, Beckett, Furnell (Healey 14). **Sub:** Brown.

Borough travelled to Victoria Park to play Salisbury City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough could have taken an early lead as both Andy Furnell and Dave Crowley wasted good chances in the opening three minutes. In their very first attack Crowley freed Thomas on the left and the big striker's cross found Furnell who put a close-range header over the top. Then Ian King curled in a left-wing corner for Crowley to glance a header inches wide of the far post. Borough had to reorganise as Furnell was helped off with a serious-looking knee injury. Richard Bailey was pushed up front to partner Thomas with Brett Healey coming on and slotting into midfield.

King was fortunate to escape with just a booking after bringing down Danny Holmes and from the resulting free-kick Paul Hayward had to make a smart save to deny Simon Browne as City reminded Borough they had something to offer up front. Bailey had a great chance to open the scoring. He was clean through with just the keeper to beat but shot

tamely over the top. Borough were to regret that miss as Salisbury took the lead in the 24th minute, somewhat against the run of play. Ian Chalk, making his 500th appearance for City, knocked in a centre from the right and when Borough twice failed to clear, David Bright scored with a simple far post header. But the visitors came storming back to stun Salisbury with a two-goal blitz in less than a minute. Nine minutes before the break Thomas lost his marker and played a beautiful ball into the area for Healey to fire a rising drive past Dave Mogg, his first goal for the club. The home side were still reeling from that blow when King went round Jeff Sherwood and his cross found Thomas who hooked the ball into the top corner to make it 2-1. However, Borough's joy was short-lived as in the 42nd minute Browne was given time and space to cross from the left and Kevin Braybrook was left unmarked to head past Hayward from close range.

Borough might have regained the lead at the start of the second period but Bailey failed to control Leigh Everitt's through ball and the opportunity was lost. Sherwood then made a fine tackle to halt Healey as he was bursting clear before Everitt had a header blocked by Braybrook. But there was trouble for Borough when Hayward failed to gather a right wing corner by Holmes and the keeper was fortunate to see Chalk's volley fly straight into his arms.

Mogg did well to cut out Bailey's curling cross as Borough looked for a late winner but the home side had few problems in holding out for a point.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 26-01-1998

Worcester: Moore, Fraser, Burnham, Greenman, Richards (Malloy 63), Heeley, Kelly, Griffiths, Bowen, Rouse, Cottrill (Power 45). **Sub:** Hallam.
Borough: Hayward, Donald (Brown 45), Everitt, Statham, Peaks, Crowley, Bailey (Healey 67), King, Thomas, Beckett (Street 75), Furnell.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Worcester put Borough's defence under pressure from the start and it came as no surprise when the home side took the lead on six minutes as Griffiths forced his way past Warren Donald and Statham to lay it off for Bowen to beat Paul Hayward with a low shot from outside the area. Borough were battling to stay in the contest at this stage with Hayward making a smart save to deny Bowen and then Mark Kelly thumped a shot way over the top. Little had been seen of the Nuneaton attack at this stage but Richard Bailey did hook a volley narrowly wide as Borough at last pushed forward.

However, Worcester quickly resumed control with Griffiths again going close and Sean Rouse saw an effort cleared off the line by Everitt. Bowen burst clean through only to be robbed by Hayward before Griffiths beat three defenders only to see the Borough keeper fingertip his shot away for a corner. But Borough switched things round at the interval with Derek Brown coming into the heart of the defence in place of Donald and from then on Nuneaton took control.

Ex-Worcester front runner Anton Thomas could have put Borough level early in the second period but headed over the top from close range after Everitt's cross had stretched the home defence. Worcester were now being penned deep in their own half and were lucky to escape when a free-kick from Ian King flashed across the home goal and came out off the post. Thomas curled another free-kick narrowly wide with keeper Paul Moore struggling as Borough continued to dictate the pace.

But the Manor Park side were again out of luck six minutes from the end when Dave Crowley flicked on King's corner and Brown's header looked destined for the back of the net but took a deflection and flew over the top. Borough piled on the pressure in the closing stages forcing four corners in succession and might have salvaged a point with virtually the last kick. The Worcester keeper made a mess of clearing Brett Healey's high ball into the box but King fired the rebound a foot wide of the near post.

Street Loaned Out

Borough's former Hednesford midfielder, Tyron Street, who joined Borough from the Pitmen in a £4,500 deal, has been sent out on loan to Blakenall of the Southern League Midland Division. The loan, which is for a month, could become a permanent deal if all goes well.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings Town 31-01-1998

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, Peaks, Statham, Brown, Crowley, Drewitt, King, Thomas, Beckett (Healey 60), Furnell. Subs: Donald, P. White.

Hastings: Creed, Henderson, Tuppenney, Playford, Morris, Yates (Fox 75), Payne, Dent, Willard, Browne, Beard. Subs: Larkin, T. White.

Borough welcomed Hastings Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had an early chance when Mark Morris underhit a back pass to his keeper, but James Creed was quickly out of his goal to clear the danger as Anton Thomas moved in. But Borough were also fortunate when Paul Hayward's attempted clearance was charged down by Stafford Browne and the keeper gratefully gathered the rebound. At this stage the visitors looked the more lively outfit and twice within the space of five minutes might have taken the lead. First poor marking by the home defence allowed Steve Payne time and space inside the area and Hayward had to produce a smart save low to his left.

Payne then caused more problems and when his cross was headed down by Simon Beard to Browne the Town striker fired way off target from 12 yards. There was high expectation for Borough fans when Dave Crowley's through ball was seized on by Thomas, but having rounded the keeper, he failed to pull the ball back from a narrow angle with King and Furnell both waiting in the middle. However, Borough were again grateful for Hayward's sharp reflexes as he finger-tipped a rising drive by Nicky Dent over the top shortly before the break.

Borough made the breakthrough following a neat build-up nine minutes into the second period. Crowley found Beckett on the edge of the area and he played a one-two with Thomas. But as he bore down on goal Stuart Playford got in a block tackle but the ball broke to Furnell who scored a simple goal.



Andy Furnell shoots past Hastings' keeper Creed to open the scoring.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Hayward had to make a smart save to deny Beard as Hastings looked for a way back and then Dent pulled a shot wide of the near post. However, the visitors found themselves with a mountain to climb as Borough extended their lead after 71 minutes. Thomas broke clear on the right and his low cross found Furnell in the area. The striker's shot appeared to be covered by the keeper but King stepped in to turn it in from close range.

The visitors felt they had cut the deficit when Dent scrambled the ball home after Hayward had dropped a Paul Tuppenney free-kick but a linesman's flag cut short their celebrations. There were few problems for Borough in the closing minutes as they comfortably held on to complete a double over the south coast visitors.

Sittingbourne v Nuneaton Borough 07-02-1998

Sittingbourne: Hough, Haylock, Seager, Hume, Owen, Taylor, Smith, Clout, Overton (Rowland 64), Planck, Allen. Subs: Bincks, Lindsey.

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, Peaks, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey, Drewitt (King 58), Thomas, Beckett (Healey 58), Furnell. Sub: Brown.

Borough travelled to Central Park to play Sittingbourne in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The home side started strongly and had two early chances. Both fell to the lively Tom Planck, but on both occasions he failed to produce the necessary finishing quality. After 17 minutes Darren Smith broke clear and found Planck unmarked in the area. He chested the ball down before flicking it past Paul Hayward but Leigh Everitt recovered to clear off the line. And then the Sittingbourne striker stabbed a shot wide with just the keeper to beat after a neat one-two with Peter Overton on the edge of the Borough area.

The visitors were still struggling to get going but midway

through the half Ian Drewitt had a clear cut chance as he burst into the area. But home keeper Andy Hough blocked the shot and Sittingbourne eventually cleared the danger after a goalmouth scramble. There were more problems for the home side when Anton Thomas played in Andy Furnell but his low cross was deflected narrowly wide by Lloyd Hume with Thomas waiting to pounce.

Early in the second period Borough carved out another chance but Drewitt's header from Everitt's cross lacked the power to trouble Hough. At the other end Borough failed to clear Paul Hayward's free-kick and they were happy to see Overton's shot go straight into Hayward's palms. Dave Crowley fired a 30 yarder straight at the home keeper while Sittingbourne substitute Lyndon Rowland saw his effort deflected for a corner. Borough then produced a neat build-up but Ian King's shot was comfortably held by Hough before the home side made the vital breakthrough with 79 minutes gone.

A mistake by Barry Williams allowed Planck to cut into the box from the right and he pulled the ball back for Robert Owen to fire a cross shot into the far corner. In a late Borough rally King curled in a dangerous free-kick but Hough punched well clear under pressure from both Thomas and Furnell.

Brown Goes Out On Loan – Yates Back

Summer signing Derek Brown has admitted that he has kicked his last ball for Nuneaton, as he departed for a loan period with his former club, Rothwell Town. He said: "We'll have to see what happens but I can't honestly see me playing for Nuneaton again." Another transfer move has seen the return of Luke Yates following his transfer from Halesowen.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 14-02-1998

Borough: Hayward, Healey, Yates, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey (Donald 84), King, Thomas, Beckett, Furnell (Dyer 65). **Sub:** Green.

Worcester: Moore, Fraser, Burnham, Greenman, Richards, Power (Jordan 69), Hamstock (Bowen 69), Griffiths, Molloy, Rouse, Cottrill. **Sub:** McCarthy.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

There was an early scare for the home side when Paul Molloy flicked on a through ball and Paul Hayward had to go down bravely at the feet of Michael Griffiths. Hayward then failed to hold Jason Burnham's free-kick but Brett Healey cleared before Paul Rouse could react.

This sparked Borough into life and they came within inches of breaking the deadlock when Darren Beckett played Thomas into the area and his centre flew across the visitors' goal with both Andy Furnell and Ian King failing to get the finishing touch. Furnell then broke clear into the box but he pulled his low centre behind the lurking Thomas and the opportunity was lost. But Borough were exposed at the back by the pace of Griffiths and it took a desperate tackle from Barry Williams to halt the City striker.

The visitors then found themselves stretched at the back as

Borough hit back and when Beckett pulled the ball square to Richard Bailey, the midfielder cracked a 20-yard drive straight at the keeper. Shortly before the break Ian Cottrill wasted a good chance for the visitors, firing high over the top from close range after Molloy had flicked on Burnham's cross.



Worcester's Chris Greenman comes under pressure from Gary Statham and Barry Williams.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough were caught ball-watching straight from the re-start when Cottrill was not picked up for a Burnham free-kick but his close-range header was straight at Hayward. But Borough made the vital breakthrough ten minutes into the second half immediately after Gary Statham had hooked a close range shot over the top from King's corner. Worcester only cleared another King flag kick to the edge of the area, Bailey knocked it wide to Furnell and his cross was headed home at the far post by Thomas.

Griffiths turned smartly in the area to force a low save from Hayward as the visitors looked for a way back and Cottrill then burst clear but couldn't keep the ball in play. With time running out, Healey squandered a great chance to wrap things up, shooting weakly at Paul Moore from ten yards after Yates and King had carved out the opening. However in the dying seconds, King beat Chris Greenman in the area only to be brought down by the Worcester defender and Thomas coolly converted the resulting penalty.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City 18-02-1998

Borough: Hayward (Crant 45), Donald, Drewitt (Woodhouse 50), Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey (Yates 50), King (Christie 60), Straw (White 75), Beckett (Green 56), Thomas (Dyer 56).

Leicester: Steve Wilson, Wenlock, Ullathorne (Jaffa 72), Goodwin, Walsh (Allen 45), Harkin, Stuart Wilson (Arcos-Diaz 72), Skeldon (McCann 45), Gunner-Carlstrund, Fox, Oakes.

Borough welcomed Leicester City to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

A solitary Luke Yates goal gave Borough the edge over a strong Leicester side. Borough welcomed back striker Rob Straw while the Foxes lin-up included first-teamers Steve Walsh and Rob Ullathorne. It was the hosts who showed first when in the fifth minute Warren Donald's free-kick whistled



a yard wide although soon after Paul Hayward did well to push away a well-struck drive from Fergal Harkin. The keeper was in action again when pulling off a fine save from Stefan Oakes' header. Midway through the half, Anton Thomas' strong run down the left ended with a deep centre which picked out Straw but his knock back found no-one and the chance was lost. On the half-hour good Borough interplay presented Donald with an opportunity but his fierce strike was charged down and then Thomas had a glancing header graze the bar from Ian King's corner kick.

Three minutes into the second period a King through pass put Straw away only for his angled drive to fly straight at keeper Steve Wilson while Thomas had a goalbound effort cleared and Straw saw his rising drive tipped over brilliantly by the City custodian.

The Foxes hit back on the hour when Oakes' 20-yard free-kick curled just too high but on 78 minutes Borough broke the deadlock when Malcolm Christie threaded the ball through to Yates and he clinically fired past Wilson into the corner of the net. Borough then upped the tempo and a fine run and cross by John Woodhouse was well cut out by Tom Goodwin.

In the closing few minutes Brendan Phillips' side comfortably contained all Leicesters' efforts to equalise to secure victory in a match which provided an excellent work-out for the 18 players Borough used.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-02-1998

Halesowen: McDonnell, Crisp, Bradley, Wood, Snape, Evans, Reed, Skidmore (Azevedo 84), Pearce, Harrison, Cooper. Subs: Collins, Beswick.
Borough: Hayward, Healey, Drewitt, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Bailey (Donald 39), King, Thomas, Beckett (Green 56), Furnell (Straw 45).

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

There was an early scare for Borough when John Snape drilled in a low centre to the near post where Steve Pearce almost turned it past the sprawling Hayward. Kevin Harrison then made space on the left and his cross picked out the unmarked Pearce who put a free header wide. Halesowen continued to dictate the pace and Borough had a let-off when Adrian Cooper cracked a shot against the left-hand upright. Home keeper Danny McDonnell had few problems in dealing with a King free-kick as Borough looked for a foothold but the Yeltz made the breakthrough they had been threatening after 33 minutes.

Borough failed to clear a corner and Ian Reed played it back to Snape who laid it across the goal for Cooper to tap in at the far post. Halesowen were now in full flow but squandered two great chances to extend their advantage. First Harrison put Pearce in the clear but he delayed his shot and Ian Drewitt cleared off the line, then Gary Statham blocked Snape's close-range effort when he looked certain to score.

Borough brought on Straw for Andy Furnell at the start of the second period and he immediately brought a diving save from McDonnell. King also went close with a cross shot that had

the keeper at full stretch but it was Halesowen who struck to extend their lead after 58 minutes. Richard Crisp's corner caused problems in the visitors' defence and when Borough failed to clear Stuart Evans rose unchallenged to head home.

Shortly afterwards, Borough's hopes of getting back into the contest disappeared with Williams' dismissal but despite being down to ten men, Nuneaton had their best spell of the game and were desperately unfortunate when Straw turned in King's cross only to have it ruled out for offside. But Halesowen put the issue beyond doubt seven minutes from the end with Crisp scoring from the penalty spot after Green had needlessly handled. With time running out, Borough were awarded a penalty for a supposed foul by McDonnell on Straw but justice was done when the keeper easily saved King's spot kick.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-02-1998

Crawley: Hunwick, Payne, Riley, Pullan, L. Richardson, Gregory (Warden 45), Barber, Stevens, J. Richardson, Abbey, Hawthorne. Subs: Moore, Andrews.
Borough: Hayward, Everitt, Healey, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Yates, King, Straw (Bailey 71), Drewitt, Thomas. Subs: Beckett, Donald.

Borough travelled to the Broadfield Stadium to play Crawley Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough took time to settle as the home side started brightly. Twice Dave Stevens posed problems for the visitors' defence, thumping a shot into the side netting and then whipping in a low cross that Paul Hayward did well to cut out. But Borough hit back with King volleying across the face of the home goal and a poor punch by Colin Hunwick and Rob Straw burst clear only to be denied by a fine recovering tackle from Lee Richardson.

Luke Yates cracked a rising drive over the angle from a Straw lay-off as Borough continued to dominate and then Straw saw his low drive touched on to a post by Hunwick. Borough finally got the goal they had been threatening three minutes before the break when Hayward's long clearance found Thomas and he held off Andy Riley to smash home a fierce left-footer.

But the Borough were brought back to earth as Crawley grabbed an equaliser ten minutes into the second half. Mark Hawthorne found space wide on the right and his deep cross was headed back across goal by John Warden and Phil Barber rammied a header home from close range. Borough were then caught pushing forward and it required a tremendous tackle by Barry Williams to halt Warden as he burst into the area.

However, the visitors should have been back in front on the hour mark. Ian Drewitt's ball into the area completely split the Crawley defence but Straw shot wide from eight yards with just the keeper to beat. Thomas curled a free-kick narrowly over the bar before, with 11 minutes left, Borough grabbed the winner. Ian Payne dragged down Drewitt on the edge of the area and King's free-kick beat Hunwick low down on his near post. Borough continued to dictate the pace and it took a brave save from Hunwick to prevent another goal.



Street Moves To Stourbridge

Tyron Street, Borough's out-of-favour midfielder has signed for Southern League Midland Division Stourbridge in a £3,000 deal. The talented Street cost Borough £4,500 when they signed him from Hednesford last summer.

Phillips Signs New Contract

Brendan Phillips has been awarded a new contract at Manor Park and the club have agreed to a radical shake-up of the club's management system. Under the new system the club will employ a professional first team coach and a full-time scout. Phillips asked for the new positions in a bid to help ensure Borough gain promotion at the end of next season.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 06-03-1998

Borough: Wood, Donald, Everitt, Yates, Williams, Crowley (Dyer), King (Christie), Bailey (Woodhouse), Thomas, Drewitt (Green), Healey.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

Albion shone early on and Rob Wood had to make a fine save to deny Darren Robinson but the hosts upped a gear and it was no surprise when they took the lead on 24 minutes, albeit from a Baggies' howler. Keeper Chris Adamson completely miskicked a back pass leaving Anton Thomas the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net. Stubborn defence from the visitors prevented Borough from increasing their advantage before the interval and the second period continued with Brendan Phillips' men still calling the tune.

On the hour Ian Drewitt picked up a loose ball 18 yards out and the Welshman drilled a left-footer just wide. Soon after the same player was stretchered off following a heavy midfield challenge. With 66 minutes on the clock, fine play between Matt Dyer and the impressive Malcolm Christie set up Thomas who fired narrowly wide and then Dyer put Christie away and the triallist was denied by a double save from substitute custodian Kelly.

The Albion equalised in the 73rd minute against the run of play when Andy Loclock broke through the home rearguard before stabbing past Lee Crane. Borough immediately went in search of a winner, which almost came five minutes from time when skilful work from Christie provided Warren Donald with an opening but his low drive was well held by Kelly. The final whistle drew warm applause from the 254-strong crowd who were well entertained in a game which proved an excellent work out for the Manor Park outfit.

Borough Management Shake Up

Work has begun on setting up a new management structure at Nuneaton Borough and the first step sees Steve Burr appointed as first-team coach, while reserve team manager Lennie Harris has been given a more high profile scouting position. Phillips' number two Colin Welsh is being retained and there will be a new goalkeeping and fitness coach to further boost the backroom team.

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1998

City: Mokler, Holloway, Huggins (Steadman 49), Cooper, Kemp, Fergusson, Keeling (Powell 86), Webb, Mainwaring, Adcock, Tucker. Sub: Nichols.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Yates, Statham, Crowley, Bailey, King, Thomas (Furnell 71), Drewitt, Healey. Subs: Green, Elvin.

Borough travelled to Meadow Park to play Gloucester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were made to pay for missed chances as Gloucester took control after the break before being gifted their simple winner. There was an early worry for the visitors when Paul Adcock had time and space to cut in from the left, but Statham was on hand to clear the low cross away from the danger area. However, Borough quickly seized the initiative with Gloucester keeper Steve Mokler going down bravely to deny Anton Thomas after Dave Crowley had split the home defence.

Mokler was again in action as he had to save at Ian Drewitt's feet following a fine diagonal ball from Luke Yates but Borough had another scare when they were caught pushing forward and it needed a superb tackle by Statham to stop Darren Keeling as he burst clear. Ian King curled a free-kick narrowly over the top before Brett Healey's 20 yard snapshot flew inches over the angle. Shortly before the break Borough had Hayward to thank that they were still on level terms. Steve Fergusson's free-kick put Andy Tucker clean through but the Nuneaton keeper blocked the shot with his legs.

There were problems for Borough as Keeling appeared to be brought down by Statham but the referee ignored Gloucester's heated penalty appeals. However, the Tigers were ahead after 64 minutes following Statham's blunder when Andy Mainwaring netted his simple goal.

Phillips: Welsh Not Ousted

Borough boss Brendan Phillips and the club's directors today insisted that they had not ousted assistant manager Colin Welsh after his shock resignation. Phillips' number two walked out of the club because of a disagreement about his future role. It is believed that Welsh was unhappy with the situation and after telling the manager and chairman of his decision, he turned up at Gloucester to hand in a detailed five page letter explaining why he had quit...

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 21-03-1998

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Yates, Statham, Crowley, Bailey, King, Thomas, Drewitt, Healey (Furnell 80). Subs: Green, Woodhouse.

Burton: Goodwin, Davies, Lyons, Grocutt, Blount, Spooner, Benton, Garner, Stride, Cotter (Ejiofor 64), Holmes. Subs: Woolley, Middleton.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The opening stages were all Borough and they should have had a penalty after only nine minutes for a blatant foul on Anton Thomas. Richard Bailey flicked on Ian Drewitt's cross and with Thomas poised to head home he was pushed off



the ball by Alan Davies but Borough's penalty appeals fell on deaf ears. There were problems for Borough when Statham was caught in possession and Paul Lyons fed Cotter who put a tame shot straight at Hayward.

Burton skipper Davies almost gave Borough the lead as he sliced a Brett Healey shot inches wide of goal. Thomas then carved out a great chance for Everitt but the full-back dragged his shot across the face of goal from inside the area. With Borough reduced to ten men, Burton stepped up the pace in the second half and shortly after the restart Mark Blount powered a header inches wide from a David Holmes corner. The home defence was again in a mess as Darren Stride burst clear and it took a brave save by Hayward to halt the striker.

But Borough then wasted another clear cut opportunity. Dave Crowley's long ball freed Drewitt and his cross found Thomas unmarked but the striker's close range header lacked the power to trouble Nick Goodwin. That was the Manor Park side's last real threat and the visitors made the breakthrough after 70 minutes with a gift goal.

Dave Benton made a 60 yard surging run to force a corner and from Holmes' flag kick Hayward failed to gather, leaving Spooner with a simple header. Borough seldom looked like pulling back the goal and were fortunate not to be further behind as Hayward made a hash of his attempt to keep out Stride's header but the goal was ruled out for offside.

Borough Sign Malcolm Christie

Borough have signed Market Deeping striker Malcolm Christie, who has scored 22 goals this season in the Peterborough Senior League and was picked up by scout Bill Berry, who also paved the way for Furnell to come to Manor Park.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1998

Burton: Goodwin, Davies, Lyons, Grocutt, Blount, Spooner, Benton, Garner, Stride (Smith 89), Cotter (Ejiofor 79), Holmes. **Sub:** Middleton.

Borough: Hayward, Everitt, Woodhouse, Donald, Green, Williams, Yates, King, Thomas, Drewitt (Bailey 58), Furnell (Christie 58). **Sub:** Healey.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were still trying to organise themselves when they went a goal behind to a simple effort after just eight minutes. The Nuneaton defence was caught flat by Andy Garner's through ball and Holmes was completely clear to calmly lob the ball over the stranded Paul Hayward. Borough hit back with Ian King finding space on the left to whip in a far post cross that Barry Williams was only inches away from turning in. King then beat two men inside the area before finding Andy Furnell with a low centre but David Benton got a partial block on the shot and Nick Goodwin saved comfortably.

But there was a scare for Borough when Holmes was fouled on the edge of the box and it took a fine save from Hayward to keep out Garner's free-kick with Micky Cotter putting the rebound into the side netting.

There was another let-off for Borough shortly after half-time when Garner put a free header over the top from an Alan Davies cross. However, the visitors should have been back on level terms ten minutes into the second period. Furnell's neat lob put Ian Drewitt clear in the area but his low show was beaten away by the diving Goodwin. Borough then made a double substitution with Furnell and Drewitt being replaced by Malcolm Christie and Richard Bailey and they pressed forward in search of an equaliser. They wasted another chance on the hour mark with Williams getting well above the Burton defence for King's corner but his header flew wide.

But the visitors were twice almost caught out as they continued to throw men forward with Darren Stride and Garner both going close to extending the Brewers' lead. Leigh Everitt put a volley over the top after King had headed down inside the area as Borough hit back before the visitors again came within inches of levelling the match. The outstanding Williams played a superb ball into the area to find Bailey unmarked but his close-range shot rebounded to safety off Goodwin.

Borough could have salvaged a point from another incisive move instigated by Williams. The central defender swept a glorious ball out wide for the over-lapping Everitt and the wing back's centre flew across the face of the Burton goal with Christie unable to get the vital touch.

Nuneaton Borough v St Leonards

04-04-1998

Borough: Wood, Everitt, Woodhouse (Elvin 71), Donald, Green, Williams, Yates (Healey 54), King, Thomas (Bailey 9), Drewitt, Christie.

Borough welcomed St Leonards to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough could not have made a worse start as they went behind after just 60 seconds when former West Ham and Birmingham City man George Parris swung in a left wing corner which Peter Montgomery flicked on at the near post and the unmarked Adam Flanagan headed in from close range. Borough should have been back on level terms shortly afterwards when Anton Thomas fastened on to a long clearance and rounded the keeper but he went too wide allowing Gavin Ramsden to recover and block the shot.

The visitors were coming under increasing pressure and in a goalmouth scramble John Woodhouse had a shot blocked and Ian King's effort was deflected narrowly wide. There were problems for Nuneaton when Thomas limped off to be replaced by Richard Bailey but Borough continued to push for the equaliser with Barry Williams powering a header wide from a King corner.

Ian Drewitt had two chances to level the match. First he saw his close-range shot deflected wide after Christie had superbly carved out the opening and then Flanagan headed off the line as the Borough striker took advantage of a mistake by visiting keeper Neil Powell. But shortly before the break Borough had a let-off when Miles volleyed over from 12 yards following an incisive break by Montgomery.



After the interval Borough continued to make heavy weather of breaking down the worst defence in the league but Brett Healey had a shot charged down following a King free kick. However, as the Manor Park faithful were beginning to despair, Borough got the goal they had been desperately seeking. Drewitt linked up with Leigh Everitt on the right for the full-back to whip in a fine cross and Christie made no mistake with a short-range header.

The visitors might have been back in front midway through the half when Paul Ruddy's cross found Steve Norman unmarked but he put his header over the top. Christie fired a fierce drive a foot wide from the edge of the area as Borough hit back and then the youngster broke clear off a through ball from Bailey but Powell saved well at his feet. Borough continued to push forward with King narrowly failing to turn in Warren Donald's free-kick and in the closing minutes the winger saw his shot turned around a post by Powell at full stretch.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 11-04-1998

Borough: Hayward, Yates, Everitt, Donald, Williams, Crowley, Healey, King, Furnell, Drewitt, Christie. **Subs:** Bailey, Elvin, Dyer.

Borough travelled to The Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Two goal striker Stuart Payne eased Bromsgrove's relegation problems as they battle to stave off relegation for the second season in a row. However, it was clubmate Steve Taylor who gave the home side the lead in the fifth minute when he rifled in Dean Bennett's low cross from the right.

But Borough responded in a positive way with teenager Malcolm Christie grabbing an equaliser just five minutes later with a fine individual effort. The youngster glided past a couple of tackles before easily beating the advancing keeper Derek Dudley. However, the leveller failed to inspire Borough and it was Rovers who deservedly regained the initiative on 27 minutes when Payne opened his account by dispossessing the dithering Warren Donald before racing clear and confidently sliding the ball past the exposed Paul Hayward.

From then on Rovers always looked in command, although the visitors did create the odd opportunity before Payne added the final nail to Borough's coffin in the 76th minute with another slick piece of finishing after Recky Carter and Mark Peters had carved out the opportunity.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 13-04-1998

Borough: Hayward, Yates, Everitt, Donald, Williams, Crowley, Burr, (Furnell 54), King, Thomas, Drewitt, Christie. **Subs:** Bailey, Woodhouse. **Atherstone:** Williams, Young, Blair, Olnier, Albrighton, Redgate, Judd, Middleton (Wright 85), Ellison (Green 50), Warner, Dean (Hart 55).

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were slow out of the blocks and could have been behind inside eight minutes had it not been for a fine diving

save from Paul Hayward as he turned away Scott Blair's 20 yarder at full stretch. Soon after a Paul Olnier free-kick was headed on by Gary Redgate to Warner who needed two attempts to get the ball back for Robbie Ellison who scooped his close range shot over the bar with the home back division in disarray.

Borough had to rely on the odd break to help satisfy their supporters although United keeper Richard Williams had little to trouble him in the opening quarter. In fact it was another sweeping move down the right which created another clear cut chance for the visitors when Warner fed Lee Middleton on the right and his deep centre found Robin Judd whose downward header was blocked by Hayward, the ball then clipping the post, allowing Barry Williams to clear.

It was not until the 25th minute that Borough tested Williams, Ian Drewitt's swerving 25-yarder being confidently dealt with by the ex-Birmingham City custodian low to his right. The referee turned down penalty claims from the Borough when Malcolm Christie cut in from the left only to be halted by Mark Albrighton's abrupt challenge while Ian King's low angled drive flew across the face of the net and wide of the post.

However, the arrival of Green suddenly brought a new dimension to United's game and inside four minutes he had broken the deadlock. A long punt forward saw the veteran frontman get in a flicked header wide to Warner and his quick burst of pace took him beyond the home defence before firing in a deadly cross for Green to rifle home from four yards out. This brought an immediate response from Phillips' men, Ian Drewitt unleashing a long range drive which crashed against the upper arm of Paul Olnier, who along with Gary Redgate dominated, and flew to safety before Anton Thomas provided Borough's best effort of the night, a dipping drive from the edge of the area which Williams superbly tipped over.

However, it was Adders who continued to look the more authoritative and hungry. Warner got clear on the left only to force Hayward into another splendid block while David Hart should have wrapped things up late on as he volleyed tamely over from 15 yards after Green and Warner had torn apart the home rearguard down the left flank.

Phillips Promises Clear Out

Disgusted Borough boss Brendan Phillips has promised a mass clear-out in the summer after his side's latest dismal failures. The Manor Park gaffer has given five first team flops the red card following their Easter double defeat.

Borough's league record in 1998 reads like relegation form P14 W3 D2 L9 plus a 3-0 Birmingham Senior Cup defeat by lower-league opposition Solihull Borough. And Saturday's game proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back as he vowed to take action to stop the rot. But the manager has refused to name the five players concerned. He said: "It's not fair on those players to have their names splattered across the papers at this stage of the season, but they know who they are."



Phillips Chases Non-League International

Brendan Phillips will continue his chase to sign England semi-pro international defender Wayne Simpson, as he looks to revamp his side for next season, despite being told he'll have to cough up £10,000! The Borough boss is hoping to "come to some other type of agreement" with his Hednesford counterpart John Baldwin after admitting the fee was beyond the Manor Park club's reach.

Dorchester Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-04-1998

Dorchester: Finn, Sullivan, Redwood, Coates, Lovell, R. Cross, Richardson, O'Brien, O'Hagan (Killick 45), Shepherd, J. Cross (Taylor 87). Sub: Lisk.

Borough: Hayward, Donald (Elvin 77), Everitt, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Healey (Dyer 69) Yates, Thomas (White 60), Drewitt, Christie.

Borough travelled to The Avenue Stadium to play Dorchester Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough made a bright start with Anton Thomas twice creating problems for the home defence. The big striker turned his marker on the edge of the area to fire a rising drive narrowly over the top and then had another effort deflected by Dave Lovell straight to keeper Neil Finn. But it was the Magpies who drew first blood as they took a 12th minute lead with yet another soft goal. Paul Hayward's clearance only found Martin Shepherd and he quickly made ground before playing the ball square to Danny O'Hagan, who drilled a fierce shot into the top left hand corner.

However, there was hardly time for the home fans to complete their celebrations before Borough stunned them with an equaliser within 60 seconds. Leigh Everitt found space on the left and the full back cut inside to the byline and his cross picked out Thomas who bulged the roof of the net with a powerful header. The goal lifted Borough and Ian Drewitt should have done better when he put a close-range header into the side netting before skipper Dave Crowley saw a 25-yarder dip narrowly over the top.

But the Manor Park side again found themselves behind on the half-hour mark as O'Hagan grabbed his second goal of the afternoon. Martin Sullivan had acres of space as he broke down the left and his deep cross was headed back across Hayward and into the far corner by the centre-forward. Borough pushed forward looking for a second equaliser and Healey had a fierce shot blocked after Thomas had laid on the opportunity. However, the visitors' hopes plummeted two minutes before the break when they only cleared a John Cross corner to the edge of the box and Lovell half-volleyed a shot into the top corner.

There was a let-off for Borough early in the second period as Magpies' substitute Tommy Killick put a close range header straight into Hayward's arms. But Borough were unfortunate not to cut the arrears as Finn made a superb save to deny Drewitt from a Luke Yates free-kick. Paul White then saw a 20-yard drive whistle a foot over the top before Borough had another escape after a defensive mix-up.

A Barry Williams back-header let in Killick but the striker collided with the out-rushing Hayward and Williams recovered to clear as the ball rolled towards an empty net. Borough continued to show plenty of spirit but shortly before the end they had Hayward to thank that they were not further adrift as the keeper made a superb save to turn away Toby Redwood's goal-bound shot.

Nuneaton Borough v Ashford Town 25-04-1998

Borough: Wood, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Williams, Healey, Yates, Furnell, Thomas (P. White 67), Drewitt, Christie. Subs: Elvin, Dyer.

Ashford: Harpley, Bower, Ross, Porter, Scott, S. White, Lough, Chambers (Reynolds 50), P. Wilson, M. Wilson (Griffiths 50), O'Brien. Sub: Eeles.

Borough welcomed Ashford Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough made an encouraging start and were unfortunate not to be ahead after only four minutes. The recalled Andy Furnell laid off a neat ball to Anton Thomas and the big centre-forward was left bemoaning his luck when his shot smacked against the visitors' crossbar and bounced to safety. However, Borough's disappointment was short-lived as 60 seconds later they were in front. Malcolm Christie broke on the left and with Thomas waiting to turn in the winger's low cross, Ross lunged in to intercept but only succeeded in turning the ball into his own net. Christie then had a shot blocked and from the rebound Brett Healey thumped a 20-yarder over the top.

At this stage the visitors had hardly offered a threat and it came as no surprise when Borough extended their lead after 24 minutes. Yates found Christie on the right and he beat Ross on the outside before pulling the ball back from the bye-line for Yates to score from close range. Nuneaton then had a let-off when they failed to clear a left-wing cross and Warren Donald hacked a Matt Bower shot off the line with Rob Wood, making a rare appearance, stranded. But Borough were quickly back in control with Christie having a goal ruled out for offside and Thomas seeing his effort roll across the Ashford goalline with no-one able to apply the finishing touch.

Borough should have put the issue beyond doubt early in the second half, but Thomas failed to make contact with Christie's low cross and it flew across goal. Christie then wasted a golden opportunity, blasting wide from six yards after Ashford keeper Dean Harpley had failed to hold Furnell's shot. Some sloppy marking then let in visitors' substitute Lennie Griffiths and it took a fine save from Woods to protect Borough's two goal advantage. But Ashford were back in the contest after 64 minutes, when Lee Lough picked up a loose ball 30 yards out and his cracking drive left Wood grasping at thin air as it bulged the roof of the net.

Healey cracked a rising drive narrowly over the top as Borough hit back and Christie then forced a fine save from Harpley. However, Borough had a late scare when Lough's dipping lob beat Wood but dropped inches over the top.



Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 02-05-1998

City: Barber, Harriott, Hercock (Chattoe 45), Carter, Chapman, Adams (Addington 84), Pincher (Cheetham 51), Bennett, McDougald, Brown, Cogger.
Borough: Wood, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Healey, Yates, Furnell, Drewitt (Elvin 80), Christie (Thomas 44). **Sub:** Green.

Borough travelled to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough produced the first threat and could have been ahead as early as the second minute. Skipper Dave Crowley, fit again following a knee injury, put Andy Furnell clean through but his shot lacked the power to beat Barber who gathered comfortably. The visitors when only cleared a corner to the edge of the area and when it was knocked back in Mark Adams brought a fine low save from Borough keeper Rob Wood. Cambridge had a great chance to break the deadlock after 16 minutes but Mickey Bennett shot high over the top from only six yards after Neil Cogger had created an opening.

Cogger, who has recently been on trial with Coventry City, created more problems for the Borough defence and it took another smart save from Wood to deny Andy Pincher. At the other end Ian Drewitt lost his marker and his 25 yard drive forced a diving save from Barber, low to his right. But Cambridge finally made the breakthrough after 36 minutes. Gary Statham needlessly fouled Brown on the edge of the area and McDougald thumped the free-kick into the top corner. The goal sparked Borough to life and Barber had to react smartly to deny Brett Healey an equaliser.

Borough stepped up the tempo at the start of the second period with Malcolm Christie squandering a glorious chance, shooting high and wide after bursting clean through the middle. Barry Williams failed to capitalise on a free header as Borough continued to press and then Drewitt volleyed straight at the keeper. Nuneaton continued to press forward looking for the equaliser with Anton Thomas and Luke Yates both going close. But there was a scare for the Borough when Marvin Harriott whipped in a low cross from the right and Williams was only inches away from turning the ball into his own net as he cleared the danger at the expense of a corner.

Cambridge gradually regained control and two minutes before the end put the issue beyond doubt when Cogger got clear on the left and pulled the ball back for Brown to score a simple goal from close range.

Hayward First Clear Out Victim

Veteran keeper Paul Hayward is one of the victims of Brendan Phillips' ruthless Manor Park clear-out. The manager has axed at least five first teamers, told two others their future is hanging by a thread and admitted up to another four could be gone by the end of the week. In a merciless carve-up of his below-par and under-achieving squad, Phillips has told experienced defender Warren Donald he can only stay at the club in a coaching capacity.

Also on their way are former Rushden & Diamonds midfielders Ian King and Richard Bailey while centre-half Derek Brown sees his wish come true with Borough agreeing to make his loan move to Rothwell permanent for a small fee. Luke Yates and Andy Furnell have not been offered new contracts but will be given a final chance to prove themselves during the summer.

Southern League Premier Division 1997-98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Forest Green Rovers	42	27	8	7	93	55	89
Merthyr Tydfil	42	24	12	6	80	42	84
Burton Albion	42	21	8	13	64	43	71
Dorchester Town	42	19	13	10	63	38	70
Halesowen Town	42	18	15	9	70	38	69
Bath City	42	19	12	11	72	51	69
Worcester City	42	19	11	12	53	44	68
King's Lynn	42	19	10	13	64	64	67
Atherstone United	42	17	12	13	55	49	63
Crawley Town	42	17	8	17	63	60	59
Gloucester City	42	16	11	15	57	57	59
Nuneaton Borough	42	17	6	19	68	61	57
Cambridge City	42	16	8	18	62	70	56
Hastings Town	42	14	12	16	67	70	54
Tamworth	42	14	11	17	68	65	53
Rothwell Town	42	11	16	15	55	73	49
Gresley Rovers	42	14	6	22	59	77	48
Salisbury City	42	12	12	18	53	72	48
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	13	6	23	67	85	45
Sittingbourne	42	12	8	22	47	66	44
Ashford Town	42	8	5	29	34	85	29
St Leonards Stamcroft	42	5	10	27	48	97	25

Bury Town — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Ram Meadow to play Bury Town in a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Bury: Evans, Meredith, Thompson (Flanz 67), Jay, Howlett, Casey, Wales, Vince, R. Layton (Lodge 67) Godbold (T. Layton 84), Tuck.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Everitt, Brown, Crowley, Beckett (Symonds 84), King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Subs: Lawrence, Quailey.

Borough were forced to battle back from behind to the Jewson United Counties side in Suffolk to earn the right to play Bedworth United who beat Telford at the Buck's Head.

Borough were nowhere near their best and looked to be in trouble as they went behind early on. But they dug deep into their battling qualities and in the end they were good value for their narrow success.

Borough, already without Gary Statham, Kevin Wilkin and Richard Bailey, suffered another blow before the kick-off when defender Barry Williams failed a fitness test on his damaged ribs.

However, they made an encouraging start with Ian Drewitt firing across the

face of the Bury goal and Tyrone Street thumped a drive over the top.

But Borough had a shock after only ten minutes as the home side snatched a shock lead. Ross Layton burst through a static defence that was looking for an offside flag and although Paul Hayward blocked his shot Dale Vince hooked the rebound over his head into an empty net.

That was the spur Borough needed and within two minutes they were back on level terms. Rob Straw was bundled over by keeper Jason Evans as he moved on to Drewitt's through ball and Borough's leading scorer made no mistake from the penalty spot.

Drewitt flashed a shot narrowly wide as Borough pushed forward and then Street was only inches off target after Everitt and Dave Crowley had carved out the opening. But Borough were caught pushing forward and were relieved to see Dave Thompson hammer a shot well off target after he had found space inside the area.

Shortly before the break Nuneaton could have been in front but Evans made a fine save low to his right to deny Straw.

However, the goal Borough had been threatening duly arrived five minutes after the break. Ian King's deep cross found Everitt who headed back across Evans and into the far corner. Remarkably the full-back had not scored in almost 300 appearances for Atherstone United during his five-year stay at Sheepy Road.

Darren Beckett could have put the issue beyond doubt two minutes later but headed over the top from another King centre.

Borough continued to pen the home side back in their own half and it took a superb save from Evans to turn Straw's shot round a post.

Drewitt then failed to make contact with King's corner when he looked certain to score but Bury began to believe they could salvage the tie.

Borough found themselves coming under pressure in the closing stages and the home side could have forced a replay with virtually the last attack of the match but Brendan Tuck's header was smothered by Hayward at the second attempt.

Bedworth United — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Bedworth: Ullah, Bindley, McGrory, Sanders, Piggon (Gregory 68), Daly, Dickson, Jones, Beard (Stanley 77), Corden, Dutton. Sub: O'Neill.

Borough: Wood, Donald, McGinty, Williams, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, Symonds, Straw, Drewitt (Everitt 88), Street (Beckett 75). Sub: Lawrence.

It looked as though Brendan Phillips' men were in for a cosy ride when Barry Williams headed them ahead early on but the hosts came back bravely and were deserving of their equaliser which came with just ten minutes remaining from the lively Paul Corden.

And as the game wore on Dr Marten's League Premier outfit Borough could



Ace marksman Rob Straw slots home from the penalty spot to put Borough back on level terms.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Barry Williams climbs above Bedworth skipper Adrian Piggon to head Borough into a fifth minute lead.
Photo: Heartland Evening News

have suffered an embarrassing defeat as Bedworth's young hotshot Robbie Beard put together an impressive display to bring consternation to the visitors' bench.

At the end both camps were satisfied with a replay although Borough, with home advantage will be odds-on favourites to progress to the next round

The game burst into life from virtually the kick-off with United's Tom Daly making his way down the right before crossing to Robbie Beard whose header looped over the bar and keeper Rob Wood, taking over against his former colleagues when regular Paul Hayward failed to recover from a concussion suffered in the game at Ashford.

However, Borough quelled United's early fire by taking the lead on five minutes from Tyron Street's fifth-minute corner as Williams rose unchallenged at the far post to power home a fine header into the top right hand corner of the net

Bedworth should have levelled eight minutes later, Daly going on another mazy run down the right, beating two

Borough defenders before clipping in a pin-point low centre to Beard six yards out, but the young striker blazed over from inside the six-yard box.

But Borough were soon creating more openings of their own. Warren Donald and John Symonds combined well in the 17th minute to release Richard Bailey but he was unceremoniously upended 20 yards out by Adrian Piggon, who was cautioned for the offence. But the free-kick was wasted while 60 seconds later a snap shot from top marksman Rob Straw, from an acute angle, flashed inches wide of the far post.

Midway through the half Greenbacks failed to capitalise on another gilt-edged opportunity when Shaun McGrory chipped the ball into the visitors' box, Craig Dutton expertly controlled only to miss the target with his close range drive.

On the half-hour, Dutton released Beard and Corden on a two-on-one break, but the former's shot was saved by Wood with Corden better placed.

The action then swung to the United end and ex-Bedworth frontman

Symonds, who had scored 99 goals in his stay at The Oval, and Street both had close range efforts blocked before Bedworth keeper Mark Ullah pounced on the ball to end the goalmouth melee.

Straw then robbed Guy Sanders of possession but the central defender recovered well to block the Borough front man's effort from 20 yards. Shortly afterwards, Symonds watched his first-timer from 20 yards fly over and a little later was stopped in his tracks by a superb tackle from McGrory after the influential Dave Crowley had prised open the home defence with an inch perfect pass.

The second half continued to be end-to-end action. Darren Dickson teed up a chance for Corden which was well stopped by Wood while Bedworth's Ullah saved confidently to deny Straw.

Near the hour mark, Bailey was a yard wide with a long range shot and soon after the same player turned provider with a fine cross field ball to Donald, who in turn sent in a hanging centre which Ullah handled well under pressure from Ian Drewitt.

Dickson and Beard created a 70th minute opening for Corden but his crisply-hit shot was always rising over the woodwork. Soon after Sanders rifled a superb pass into the Borough box for Beard to run onto but Williams nipped in quickly to intercept and clear the danger.

Greenbacks kept plugging away and deservedly forced an equaliser and a replay with a goal ten minutes from time which sent the home fans into fits of delight.

Dickson's short corner found Jai Stanley and he squared for Corden who made no mistake as he cracked home from close range with the Borough defence in complete disarray.

From then on both sides seemed content with the scoreline, neither creating any worthwhile openings as the tie ended in a stalemate.

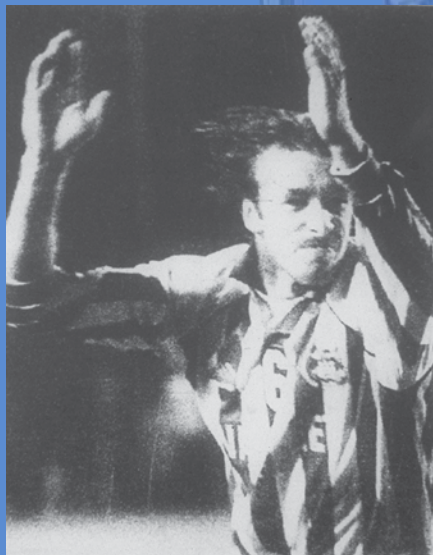
Bedworth United — 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Statham (McGinty 73), Williams, Brown, Crowley, Bailey, Beckett, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Subs: Everitt, Lawrence.

Bedworth: Starkey, Bindley, McGrory, Sanders, Piggon (Gregory 75), Daly, Dickson, Jones (O'Neill 79), Beard (Stanley 60), Corden, Dutton.

Borough got off to a flying start with a goal after only five minutes but were stunned as the Greenbacks battled back to grab a deserved equaliser midway through the half.



Borough captain Dave Crowley turns to the crowd to celebrate after scoring the first of Borough's six goals.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

However, two goals in a seven minute spell before the interval settled Borough's jangling nerves and from then on the result was never in doubt.

Borough, who had goalkeeper Paul Hayward, defender Gary Statham and midfielder Darren Beckett back in the starting line-up, were the first to threaten with Wayne Starkey doing well to hold on to Drewitt's swerving free kick.

But the Bedworth keeper was picking the ball out of the net shortly afterwards. Drewitt's ball into the

area was turned back inside by Bailey and when Street's mis-hit shot fell to Crowley, the Borough skipper made no mistake from close range.

Starkey did well to save bravely at Straw's feet as Borough continued to press and then scrambled the ball off the line when Street looked certain to score.

However, Bedworth were coming more into the game and Derek Brown was happy to turn Tom Daly's low cross behind with Beard waiting to pounce.

The pace and movement of the Greenbacks gave Borough problems and when Daly found Jason Bindley wide on the right he crossed to Craig Dutton who beat Hayward with a low shot from the edge of the box.

Borough had loud appeals for a penalty turned down when Bailey was upended by Adrian Piggon in the area but they were back in front after 38 minutes.

Statham's through ball split the visitors' defence and Straw steered a low shot wide of Starkey and into the far corner.

Then, in first-half injury time, Borough put the tie beyond the reach of the Greenbacks when Street challenged Starkey for a high ball, the keeper dropped it and Street reacted quickly to slip the ball into an empty net.

Hayward did well to turn away an awkward swinging centre from Daly early in the second period but any faint hopes the visitors had of salvaging the match disappeared after 58 minutes.

Piggon carelessly played the ball across the face of his own penalty area to Bailey who rounded Starkey to score with ease.

Straw shot into the side netting from a narrow angle after racing past Sanders and Starkey before Bedworth were reduced to ten men for the final 18 minutes as Bindley was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Bedworth continued to show plenty of spirit and Shaun McGrory saw his long-range effort clip the top of the bar but Nuneaton extended their advantage on 77 minutes.

Bailey made yet another surging run down the middle beating three men and when he laid it square, Street scored a simple goal.

But Borough saved the best till last. With seven minutes remaining, Warren Donald found Beckett in midfield and the youngster threaded a delightful ball inside the full back for Drewitt to hammer a 20-yard cross shot into the far corner.



Borough fans celebrate at the final whistle.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Stourbridge — 3rd Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Brown, Statham, Williams, Beckett (McGinty 68), Bailey, King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Subs: Everitt, Symonds.

Stourbridge: S. Johnson, Ingram, Meenan, Horne, Wilkinson (Peach 45), Bastable, Nicholls, Hackett, Hall, Parker (A. Johnson 63), Grant (Wright 70).

There was never any real chance of a cup shock as Borough registered what was a comfortable victory.

Derek Brown's second goal of the season provided the initial breakthrough and from then the result was never really in doubt.

Further strikes from Richard Bailey, Rob Straw and Tyron Street confirmed Borough's superiority.



Gary Statham threatens the Stourbridge goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The home side, who were still without suspended skipper Dave Crowley, had to weather some early pressure as Stourbridge made a spirited start.

Garry Hackett fired well wide from the edge of the area after Toby Hall had set up the chance and then Brown did well to hook away Hackett's cross with Richard Parker closing in.

But as Borough got a grip the Glassboys



Derek Brown puts Borough ahead after some goalmouth action. Photo: Heartland Evening News

found themselves coming under increasing pressure as they were penned into their own half for long spells.

Keeper Steve Johnson made a poor clearance and when Straw dispossessed John Horne he laid it square to Ian King who drilled a shot inches wide.

Straw then turned his marker on the corner of the box to crack a cross shot past the far post before Borough's leading scorer wasted a clear-cut chance - hooking a shot high over the top from 12 yards after Bailey had made the opening.

Street had a shot deflected wide by Horne following a neat one-two with King as Borough continued to dictate the pace.

But the pressure finally paid off after 23 minutes. Straw's corner from the right produced an almighty scramble in the visitors' goalmouth and when the ball eventually fell to Brown, he thumped it home from close range.

Stourbridge were finding it difficult to get out of their own half but in a rare raid Steve Wilkinson pulled a shot off target from the edge of the area.



Rob Straw nets Borough's third goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

However, Borough tightened their grip on the tie seconds before the interval. Warren Donald's high ball into the area caused more problems for the visitors and when they failed to clear Bailey pounced to make it 2-0

There was a shock for the home fans as the visitors clawed their way back into the contest seven minutes after the re-start when Hall was totally unmarked for Hackett's right-wing corner and a firm header gave Paul Hayward no chance.

But there was little time for the visitors to celebrate as 90 seconds later Straw restored Borough's two goal cushion.

King found Bailey in the area and he flicked it on to Straw who saw his shot take a deflection as it beat Johnson.

Bailey was then only inches away from extending Nuneaton's lead following King's cross before Hayward was fortunate to scramble away another Hall header.

As Borough quickly regained control, Street headed inches wide from Ian Drewitt's free kick but the home side then had a miraculous escape.

Hackett's free kick found Liam Meenan who saw his header superbly saved by Hayward and the defender cracked the rebound against the post when it looked easier to score.

That was the visitors' last hope as two minutes from the end Drewitt found Straw on the right and he drew the keeper before squaring it to Street for a simple goal.

Emley — 4th Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Brown, Statham (Beckett 81), Williams, Crowley, Bailey (McGinty 85), King, Straw, Drewitt, Street. Sub: Everitt.

Emley: Marples, Nicholson, Jones (Wood 85), Thompson, Lacey, David, Calcutt (Tonks 67), Hurst, Graham, Wilson (Hutson 81), Reynolds.

Borough could have taken the lead after only three minutes, but Emley keeper Chris Marples produced a tremendous save to turn over Gary Statham's header from Tyron Street's free-kick.

The groans of disappointment could still be heard on the terraces when Emley took the lead. Paul David's through ball caught the Borough defence square and former Manchester United striker Deiniol Graham raced clear to calmly lob Paul Hayward.

Skipper Dave Crowley thumped a 20-yard drive narrowly wide as Borough hit back and it came as no surprise when they equalised after 18 minutes.

Rob Straw turned the ball into the area from the right, Street headed it on and Ian King drilled a low shot past Marples.

Borough continued to dominate and were unfortunate not to be ahead midway through the half when Marples missed King's corner and Statham's close range effort rebounded off a post.

Street then forced a superb save from the keeper with a tremendous 30-yard free-kick but Borough got the goal they had been threatening after 29 minutes from the resulting corner.

King's flag-kick found Street who saw his flick-on parried by Marples but Barry Williams rammed home the rebound.

Borough should have extended their lead four minutes later. Williams beat

three men before freeing Straw who had only the keeper to beat but Marples was out quickly to block the shot.

The hosts had an early warning in the second half when they were again caught square and David headed Glynn Hurst's cross over the top.

But Borough wasted another chance to tighten their grip on the tie with Ian Drewitt finding Street in the area only for his first touch to let him down and Emley scrambled the ball clear.

Nuneaton were to regret that miss as the visitors were back on level terms after 65 minutes. Borough only cleared a corner 15 yards outside the box and Simon Jones hammered in a rising drive that Hayward could only help into the net.

The Manor Park faithful were still reeling from that set-back when Emley scored again just 90 seconds later. Michael Reynolds got clear on the right and his cross found the unmarked Hurst who planted a header in the bottom right hand corner.

King drilled a shot over the top after sidestepping two men as Borough looked for a way back, then Straw failed to capitalise after Marples had slipped and lost the ball.

But despite throwing caution to the wind during the closing minutes, Borough seldom looked like salvaging a tie they should have won with something to spare.



Barry Williams (second right) is about to receive the plaudits as his rising shot finds the roof of the net.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Altrincham — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Everitt, Statham, Brown, Crowley, Beckett, King, Thomas, Drewitt, Street. Subs: McGinty, Bailey, Healey.

Altrincham: Dickens, Shepherd, Adams, France, Maddox, Taylor, Kerry, Kelly, Hardy, Carmody, Sharratt. Subs: McKenna, A. Brown, Waring.

Despite a bright start, Borough were rocked as they conceded two goals late in the first-half, leaving them with a mountain to climb.

Borough went into the tie without leading scorer Rob Straw and suffered another blow when they lost striker Anton Thomas at the interval with a suspected hamstring injury.

Nuneaton looked the sharper side in the opening exchanges with Tyron Street being hacked down by Mark Maddox as he burst clear and Darren Beckett pulled a shot off target from the edge of the box.

But there was a warning for the home side when Warren Donald slipped, allowing in Neil Hardy who shot tamely at Paul Hayward. Street then had the Cock and Bear end ready to salute a goal with an overhead shot from a Thomas effort that whistled narrowly wide, while at the other end, Hayward had to save low down from Jamie Taylor.

At this stage, Borough were causing the visitors a few problems with Ian Drewitt directing a header straight at keeper Matt Dickens before Street hit a shot on the turn narrowly over the angle.

However, Altrincham were coming more into the game and it took a tremendous save from Hayward to turn away Hardy's goal-bound shot.

But the keeper could do nothing to prevent the visitors from taking a 34th minute lead. Tony Kelly's through ball

split the Borough defence and Hardy calmly chipped Hayward as he came out to meet him.

Borough were very unfortunate not to be back on level terms shortly afterwards when Thomas saw his cracking 25-yard free-kick rebound to safety off the crossbar.

That was a cruel blow to the Manor Park men as a minute before the break, Kelly flicked on a Chris Sharratt free-kick and Taylor was unmarked to head in from close range.



Gary Statham moves in on one of the tricky Altrincham forwards.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

After the break Altrincham were content to sit on their lead but were within inches of extending their advantage when Danny Adams headed wide from a Kelly cross.

But Borough were enjoying territorial advantage and should have cut the deficit with a quarter of an hour left.

Drewitt found Brett Healey in midfield and his astute ball into the area picked out Richard Bailey who stepped round his marker only to shoot wide from 12 yards.

King then produced a mazy run into the area that took him past three defender but his shot was deflected over the top for a fruitless corner.

However, Altrincham could have had a third goal in the closing minutes when Healey lost possession in midfield and Hayward had to produce another good save to deny Stuart Terry.

After the game Brendan Phillips was in philosophical mood and said: "To miss out on a Trophy run is disappointing financially but to be honest we went out to a very good team and one who a lot of clubs will be wanting to avoid in the next rounds."



Gary Statham and Leigh Everitt block a determined visiting forward's assault on goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1997-98

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.22	Sheffield Wednesday	H	PSF	0-1		1011
07.26	Kettering Town	H	PSF	1-1	Bailey	641
07.28	West Bromwich Albion	H	PSF	2-1	Symonds, Quailey	708
08.02	Racing Club Warwick	A	PSF	2-2	Lawrence, M.Crowley	236
08.06	Coventry City	H	PSF	1-2	Wilkin	1230
08.12	Leek Town	A	PSF	4-2	Drewitt, King, Wilkin, Street	192
08.16	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	0-1		1203
08.19	Rothwell Town	A	L	6-1	Wilkin (3), Straw (2), King	657
08.23	Hastings Town	A	L	4-2	Wilkin, King, Drewitt (pen), Straw	467
08.25	Gresley Rovers	H	L	6-0	Drewitt (2, 1 pen), Street, Bailey, King, Straw	1605
08.30	Crawley Town	H	L	4-2	King (2), Brown, Street	1534
09.02	Kings Lynn	A	L	1-1	Drewitt	1180
09.08	Bath City	H	L	3-3	Straw (2), Street	1603
09.13	Bury Town	A	FAC1Q	2-1	Straw, Everitt	502
09.20	Ashford Town	A	L	1-2	Street	378
09.27	Bedworth United	A	FAC2Q	1-1	Williams	2342
09.30	Bedworth United	H	FAC2Qr	6-1	Street (2), Crowley, Straw, Bailey, Drewitt	1960
10.04	St.Leonards	A	L	5-1	Straw (2), Bailey, Statham, Donald	501
10.07	Bedworth United	A	DMC1-1L	1-1	Bailey	486
10.11	Stourbridge	H	FAC3Q	4-1	Brown, Bailey, Straw, Street	1411
10.14	Gresley Rovers	A	H	1-0	Straw	859
10.18	Forest Green Rovers	H	L	2-1	Street, King	1560
10.21	Tamworth	A	L	1-2	Bailey	1242
10.25	Emley	H	FAC4Q	2-3	King, Williams	1960
10.28	Bedworth United	H	DMC1-2L	0-2		568
11.01	Dorchester Town	H	L	2-2	Street (2)	1155
11.08	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	0-1		869
11.15	Salisbury City	H	L	2-1	Williams, Straw (pen)	1174
11.18	Kings Lynn	H	L	0-1		902
11.22	Bath City	A	L	0-5		786
11.29	Altrincham	H	FAT3Q	0-2		903
12.06	Cambridge City	H	L	0-1		889
12.13	Forest Green Rovers	A	L	2-4	Furnell, Bailey	402
12.16	Gloucester City	H	L	3-1	Bailey, Furnell, King	926
12.20	Rothwell Town	H	L	3-0	Thomas (2), Furnell	816
12.26	Atherstone United	A	L	2-2	Thomas (2 pens)	2101
12.27	Sittingbourne	H	L	3-1	Peaks, Thomas, Furnell	1009
01.01	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	L	2-1	Statham, King	1376
01.10	Tamworth	H	L	0-2		1573
01.14	Solihull Borough	A	BSC2	0-3		120
01.17	Halesowen Town	H	L	2-1	Furnell (2)	1107
01.24	Salisbury City	A	L	2-2	Healey, Thomas	371
01.26	Worcester City	A	L	0-1		965
01.31	Hastings Town	H	L	2-0	Furnell, King	940
02.07	Sittingbourne	A	L	0-1		447
02.14	Worcester City	H	L	2-0	Thomas (2, 1 pen)	1091
02.18	Leicester City	H	F	1-0	Yates	405
02.21	Halesowen Town	A	L	0-3		913
02.28	Crawley Town	A	L	2-1	Thomas, King	858
03.06	West Bromwich Albion	H	F	1-1	Thomas	254
03.14	Gloucester City	A	L	0-1		649
03.21	Burton Albion	H	L	0-1		1115
03.28	Burton Albion	A	L	0-1		864

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1997-98

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.04	St.Leonards	H	L	1-1	Christie	635
04.11	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	L	1-3	Christie	693
04.13	Atherstone United	H	L	0-1		1113
04.18	Dorchester Town	A	L	1-3	Thomas	600
04.25	Ashford Town	H	L	2-1	Ross (o.g.), Yates	610
05.02	Cambridge City	A	L	0-2		491

KEY : L = Southern League Premier, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, DMC= Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1997-98

Back Row (left to right): John Symonds, Brian Quailey, John Hassall, Paul Hayward, Tom McGinty, Ian King, Kevin Wilkin, Richie Norman (Physio).

Centre Row (left to right): Derek Brown, Gary Statham, Brendan Phillips (Manager), Howard Kerry (Chairman), Colin Welsh (Assistant Manager), Rob Straw, Tyron Street.

Front Row (left to right): Leigh Everitt, Warren Donald, Dave Crowley, Richard Bailey, Carl Lawrence. Not on picture: Barry Williams, Darren Beckett, Ian Drewitt.

Borough Wages To Be Based On Winning

Nuneaton Borough's first team squad have been told: "You'll have to win for your wages!" The club's board of directors and manager Brendan Phillips have revealed that first teamers' wages will be performance related for next season. And that means dismal displays will hit players in the pocket.

The new measures are designed to prevent players from believing they can demand big-money contracts from the Manor Park set-up just because it is regarded as a major non-league club...

Furnell Joins Stamford

Andy Furnell has joined Stamford on a free transfer. The Lincolnshire club have agreed to host Borough's first pre-season friendly on Saturday, July 18 as part of the deal to take Furnell.

Season Ticket Prices Rocket

Borough fans have been hit with a price increase that has rocketed to more than three times the rate of inflation. Fans will have to shell out £121 for a seat or £104 to stand at Manor Park next season. That represents a ten per cent increase on last season. Concessionary prices for season tickets are £52.25 for those wishing to stand in the ground and £71.50 for those after a seat in the comfort of the covered stand.

Phillips Given Extra Budget

Brendan Phillips has been given extra cash to plan an assault on next season's Dr Marten's League Premier title, despite the club making a substantial loss last year. Chairman Howard Kerry has revealed the Manor Park club ended up heavily in the red during a season of turbulence and poor performances. The news comes just days after Borough announced a ten per cent increase in season ticket prices.

Phillips Signs Richard Williams

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has swooped to sign Atherstone United keeper Richard Williams. The keeper became Phillips' first pre-season signing after quitting Atherstone in a dispute over wages.

Watson Joins Manchester United

Nuneaton soccer scout Geoff Watson has landed one of the European game's top jobs after joining Alex Ferguson's staff at Manchester United. The Reds' boss stopped in to personally ask the former Borough Reserves manager to take over as Youth Recruitment Officer with the Old Trafford club.

Borough Sign Wray

Brendan Phillips has agreed to splash out a four-figure sum to bring wing wizard Shaun Wray to Manor Park. The flying Stafford Rangers player has also agreed personal terms with the club and is set to become Borough's second pre-season signing this summer. Wray, was at Shrewsbury Town, where he made a number of first-team appearances.

Gardner And Angus Sign

Brendan Phillips has signed Richard Gardner, a 22-year-old utility player from Bromsgrove Rovers. The former Walsall player has been signed to add more bite and passion to the side. Gardner can play left back, wing back or on the left side of midfield. Another welcome addition is Terry Angus, the former Fulham and Slough defender, who also played at VS Rugby earlier in his career.

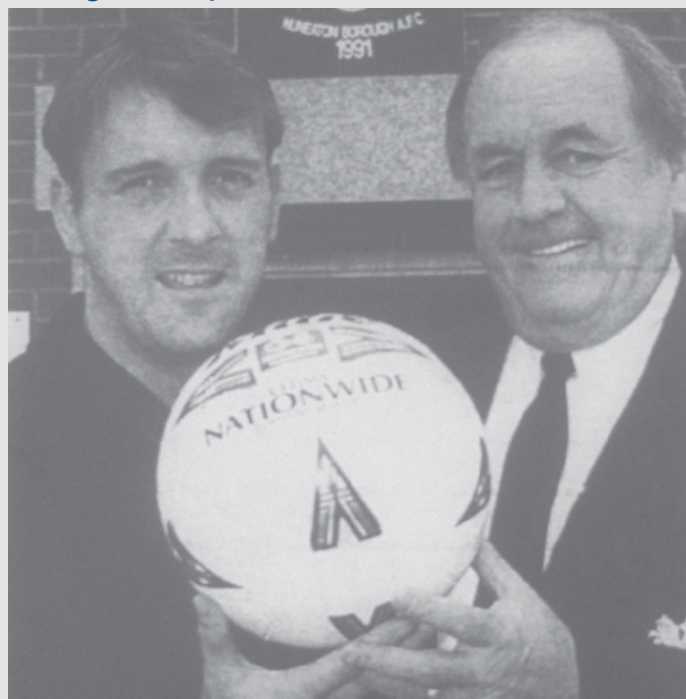
Kerry Steps Down

Howard Kerry has stepped down as Borough chairman following a boardroom shuffle. Mr Kerry has resigned his position to make way for commercial director Phil Clayton, who is now in place as his successor. The reorganisation came about on Monday night when the club's executive board met at Manor Park.

Borough Appoint Draper

Former Racing Club Warwick boss Dave Draper has been appointed as Nuneaton Borough's new community officer as the club goes back to school this summer to seek out new blood for the club. The former Borough and Bedworth player comes to Manor Park to establish close links with the town's community as well as start up a ladies team.

Borough Add Experience



Borough chairman Phil Clayton welcomes Ian Muir to Manor Park.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough have added a wealth of experience to the team with the addition of England non-league international defender Steve Prindiville and former Tranmere goal hero Ian Muir, who have both put pen to paper.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Prindiville is an experienced left back who previously played for Kidderminster Harriers and played more than 100 Football League games for Chesterfield, Mansfield and Doncaster. Muir was with Tranmere for over ten years and scored more than 140 goals. After leaving Tranmere Muir had spells with Birmingham City and Darlington before trying his luck in Hong Kong, from where he returned in the summer.

1998-99

Stamford v Nuneaton Borough 18-07-1998

Borough: Wood (Crane 45), Everitt, Prindiville (Woodhouse 73), Statham (Jennings 45), Angus (Green 73), B. Williams (Roundtree 54), Wray (White 73), Drewitt (Horner 58), Christie (Dyer 73), Muir (Thomas 45), Beckett (Healey 45).

Borough travelled to Hanson's Field to play Stamford in a pre-season friendly game.

Stamford were the first to show as Dale Morris burst through the Borough defence but keeper Rob Wood was out quicky to smother the danger. On seven minutes new signing Ian Muir saw his free kick well tipped over by the Stamford keeper. A minute later Shaun Wray's cross picked out Muir who brought out a fine double save from the Stamford keeper. Borough took the lead after 15 minutes when a pin-point Ian Muir pass found Malcolm Christie who saw his shot parried and Shaun Wray was on hand to fire home the loose ball.

Soon after Muir again made the telling pass this time to Ian Drewitt who shot narrowly wide. With 20 minutes on the clock, Christie beat two defenders on a fine run and was unlucky to see his shot strike a post. Borough did not have to wait long for their next goal as they increased their lead in the 23rd minute. A cross from the right by Leigh Everitt picked out Barry Williams and his header looped over the keeper and dropped into the net.

It took until the 33rd minute before Stamford had their first worthwhile effort on goal when Kevin McGuire saw his long-range effort strike the bar, but a minute later a good run and cross by Wray found Christie whose first-time shot brought out a brilliant save from the Stamford keeper.

Christie should have increased the Borough's lead early in the second half when another Wray cross found the Borough front runner unmarked but he blazed his shot wildly over the bar. Midway through the half Wray again crossed from the right and the ball found Gareth Jennings who fired a yard over. On 77 minutes, Stamford cut the deficit when Richard Bailey headed home a Kevin McGuire cross giving substitute keeper Lee Crane no chance.

However, a minute later Borough regained their two-goal cushion when Anton Thomas beat the keeper to a long punt out of defence before slotting the ball into the empty net. The nearest Stamford came to troubling Borough in the closing stages was when a Matt Carmichael free-kick hit the post as Nuneaton comfortably held on to win.

Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 21-07-1998

Borough: Crane, Everitt, Prindiville, Williams, Angus (Rowntree 75), Healey (Beckett 51), Wray (Straw 75), Drewitt (Horner 51), Christie, Muir (Wilkin 51), Gardner.

Coventry: Kirkland, Colwell, Williams, Brightwell, Prenderville, Eustace, Barnett, O'Neill (Ford 30), Howarth, Ducros, Shilton.

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

After early Coventry pressure, it was Borough who took an early lead when Malcolm Christie took advantage of some slack defending to score a marvellous solo strike. Christie brilliantly stole the ball off Brightwell after eight minutes before crashing the ball past Kirkland off the foot of the post. Coventry equalised two minutes later after Michael O'Neill skinned Everitt before racing down the left and picking out Haworth. The striker got the wrong side of Angus and blasted the ball past Crane.



Malcolm Christie celebrates after scoring Borough's first goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Richard Gardner brought the best out of Kirkland after eleven minutes before City began to exert their superiority on the game with some exquisite moves Haworth headed wide from a Barnett corner and a breakthrough looked inevitable with the Borough defence at breaking point. The pressure finally paid when Everitt performed a terrible lunge on livewire Ducros and O'Neill made no mistake from the penalty spot.

Some threatening runs from O'Neill were tearing the Borough middle apart and home debutant Angus lost his bearings, gifting City another. An innocuous ball seemed to send the Blues back-line into a state of panic and with Howarth applying the pressure Angus and Crane both went for the same ball. A clash of bodies saw the ball spin off Angus and drop agonisingly over the line. Coventry piled on the agony when Ducros pushed the ball through to Prenderville who lashed the ball past Crane.

With Borough looking to be on the wrong end of a hiding they pulled themselves together and Gardner began to show on the left along with Drewitt through the centre. Drewitt and Christie both had shots blocked as Borough piled on the pressure and it was City reeling on the ropes, who were grateful for the half-time whistle.

Borough came out for the second half like a team possessed as Gardner and Drewitt made their presence felt early on. Phillips then made a triple substitution, taking off Muir, Drewitt and Healey and bringing on Glen Horner, Wilkin and Beckett. The changes seemed to work as Borough came more into the match and they eventually pulled a goal back when Beckett smashed a drive against the bar and Wilkin crashed home the rebound. Christie and Gardner both went close before Wilkin smashed in the third with a thumping header from Prindiville's swirling left-side cross on 80 minutes.

Nuneaton Borough v Sheffield Wednesday 23-07-1998

Borough: Wood, Williams (Everitt 56), Prindiville, Statham, Angus (Rowntree 56), Horner (Drewitt 68), Thomas (Straw 65), Christie (Wilkin 65), Gardner.

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

Borough took the lead after just five minutes when winger Shaun Wray looked to be going nowhere when he picked up the ball out on the right. However, with the Owls' defence only just finding their feet, Wray suddenly dipped his shoulder and accelerated inside. The orange rearguard seemed to evaporate as Wray continued to advance into the final third before pulling the trigger from full 25 yards out. The ball flashed past Wainwright in the Wednesday goal and crashed into the net.



Jody Wainwright is left helpless as Shaun Wray's 25-yard screamer puts Borough ahead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Andy Douglas shot straight at Wood after a well-worked move, but Borough looked solid at the back with Statham having a superb game alongside Prindiville. Wednesday's number four Kryston Kotylo though was beginning to pull the strings in the centre of midfield and just before the half-hour striker Vil Powell should have done better. Borough were looking dangerous in attack with Christie putting pressure on the Wednesday back-line.

The visitors began to turn the screw as half-time approached and Mark McKeever wasted two gilt-edged chances after the Borough defence had been carved open with some slick movement.

The second-half also saw defensive qualities on show as even Borough's Christie found it difficult to make any headway. However, the number 10 should have done better after rounding Wainwright, only to be tackled by the back-tracking Kotylo. Phillips used all his substitutes in a second half that lacked the killer ball to unlock the Wednesday defence. Leigh Everitt and Martin Rowntree replaced Angus and Williams on 57 minutes.

The introduction of Wilkin and Straw livened up the forward line and a dazzling run by Wilkin resulted in a screaming effort that blazed just past Wainwright and Straw should have done better when put through by Clifford. However, despite Straw and Wilkin both going close it was not to be and the visitors clinched a draw with a scrambled effort two minutes before time. The dangerous Douglas forced the ball home after a defensive mix-up left the Borough back division in complete disarray.

Witton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 25-07-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Gardner, Statham, Angus, B. Williams (Rowntree 76), Beckett (Healey 55), Drewitt, Thomas, Christie (Prindiville 82), Horner.

Borough travelled to Chapel Street to play Witton Albion in a pre-season friendly game.

Richard Gardner had a shot pushed over the bar by Scott Healey after nine minutes and soon after a fine through ball from Glyn Horner found Ian Drewitt who screwed his shot just wide of the post. Albion's first effort of note, a 20th minute long range shot from full-back Richard Carter brought a fine save from Williams. Malcolm Christie then took on the home defence only to be stopped by a last ditch tackle from Wayne Johnson. Borough should have taken the lead in the 41st minute when a Gardner corner was met by Terry Angus but his header flew wide when well placed.

The second period saw Witton gain the upper hand as Borough were content to sit back as another Carter long range effort flew just over on 47 minutes. Ten minutes later a good run by Joey Roberts saw him burst through the Borough defence but was halted by a fine tackle from Horner. It was not until the 74th minute before Borough threatened when Gardner fed Anton Thomas who back headed the ball to Gardner who burst through the middle but he lobbed over keeper Healey and the crossbar.

The visitors were to rue that miss as five minutes later Witton took the lead. Substitute Martin Rowntree and Richard Williams got in a right mess and although Leigh Everitt cleared the initial danger Johnson whipped the ball back into the box to Andy Smolenskis who was on hand to head home.

Borough then stepped up the tempo and were rewarded with an 87th minute equaliser. A fine run down the right by Homer produced a low cross to Ian Drewitt who turned the ball into the net. A draw was a fair reflection of play in a mainly undistinguished game of football.



Aylesbury United v Nuneaton Borough 01-08-1998

Borough: R. Williams (Wood 78), B. Williams, Rowntree, Statham (Thomas 76), Angus, Healey (Horner 49), Wray, Andersen, Thomas (Christie 55), Muir (Wilkin 63), Gardner (Knight 63).

Borough travelled to Buckingham Road to play Aylesbury United in a pre-season friendly game.

After seven minutes Corey Browne robbed Martin Rowntree on the edge of the box but as he closed in on goal, shot badly wide. A minute later Jason Soloman fed John Lawford whose shot brought a fine save from new boy Richard Williams. After 15 minutes Soloman picked up a loose ball on the edge of the area and his low drive skidded just past the post.

It took Borough more than half an hour before they could muster a telling attack when Richard Gardner went on a good run down the left and his cross was met by Ian Muir but he headed straight at home keeper Richard Wilmot. However, the former Tranmere man didn't have to wait long to make up as in the 41st minute, and against the run of play, Borough took the lead. Good work by Anton Thomas found Gardner down the left and his low cross was side-footed home by Muir.

Two minutes later Shaun Wray slipped the ball in from the right to Barry Williams but his shot found the side netting while on the stroke of half-time only a desperate tackle from Jason Court halted Thomas as he shaped up to shoot.

The second period saw Borough well on top with Gardner taking the ball off full-back Keiran Gallagher and his cross-shot was well pushed around the post by Wilmot. From the resulting 49th minute corner Borough increased their lead when Andersen picked out Gary Statham and his left-foot volley found the corner of the net. Five minutes later Browne picked up a loose ball but shot wide.

Borough scored their third goal in the 58th minute when a pinpoint pass from Muir found Malcolm Christie down the right and his cross was met by Wray who blasted his right-foot shot into the rigging. On 65 minutes it was 4-0 when substitutes Knight and Kev Wilkin combined well and from Rowntree's left wing cross Lee Harvey headed into his own net. But Aylesbury scored a consolation goal in the 71st minute when Steve Butler shot home Gary Crawshaw's low centre. Shortly afterwards Crawshaw and Statham clashed and the referee ordered that both players be substituted.

Borough wrapped up the scoring in the 76th minute when Wray crossed from the right, Christie tried an overhead kick but Wilkin was on hand to slot home the loose ball.

Nuneaton Borough v Tottenham Hotspur 04-08-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (Gardner), Angus, B. Williams, Wray (Horner), Crowley, Christie (Wilkin), Muir (Thomas), Andersen.

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

Borough had their first break after five minutes when Shaun

Wray and Dave Crowley played a one-two to send the ball through to Malcolm Christie who hit the ball high to the left of the post. Ian Muir broke through early on and hit a shot from the edge of the area which flew off the outside of his boot – hitting the corner flag. Spurs chipped away at the Borough defence and after 20 minutes took to the long ball game. On 27 minute Barry Williams hit the side netting after a Christie cross as Borough began to gel.

Richard Williams made a telling save from Spurs' full-back Mark Gower before Gary Statham made a strong challenge on Tottenham forward Neil Fenn and then turned his attentions to Carol Gonzales in an off the ball incident which the referee missed. As the first-half came to a close, a goalmouth scramble resulted in the opening goal. Fenn and Gonzales linked with the outstanding David Lee, who scored from just outside the area.

Both teams came out unchanged for the second half and Terry Angus hit the side netting. But a terrible defensive error by Statham handed Spurs a second. Gonzales took the ball away from his feet and slipped it past the helpless Williams. Borough tried to pull one back with a set piece which the impressive Christie hit into the arms of keeper Alan Marriott.

Phillips made some changes and replaced Statham with Richard Gardner – whose first touch resulted in a good shot at goal. Danger man Gonzales was involved in a skirmish with Barry Williams and referee Attwell warned both players about their conduct. Borough changed their forward line after 65 minutes and Anton Thomas replaced Muir with Kev Wilkin coming on for the plucky Christie. Glen Horner replaced Shaun Wray and he linked up with Wilkin and Thomas. A moment of confusion that followed an apparent own goal, resulted in a penalty for Borough. But Thomas hit it along the ground and straight into the arms of the keeper. Minutes later the former Worcester man tried to redeem himself with a strong header at goal but his efforts were in vain.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 08-08-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (Rowntree 65), Angus, B. Williams (Wilkin 70), Wray, Andersen (Drewitt 52), Christie (Horner 70), Muir, Gardner (Vincent 52).

Hednesford: Cooksey, Sedgemore (Francis 61), Colkin, Blades, Brindley (Comyn 80), Bradley, Beeston (Kelly 71), Ware, Hayward, Fitzpatrick, Carty.

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

From the first whistle, the Pitmen showed Borough they meant business. But the ever-impressive Malcolm Christie broke at the other end of the pitch forcing a save from one of the best non-league goalkeepers, Scott Cooksey. Richie Gardner had the Manor Park faithful applauding after five minutes when he broke down the wing and linked with Nicky Andersen to provide Christie with a chance to open his account. Hednesford attackers Andy Hayward and Paul Carty looked dangerous but were stopped in their tracks by some solid defending from Steve Prindiville.



After 15 minutes Hayward was clean through with only Richard Williams to beat, but lobbed the ball over the bar. Seconds later Gardner and Andersen linked again and a foul by Chris Brindley gave Borough a free-kick that was played short by Prindiville to Leigh Everitt who failed to hit the target. After 28 minutes Christie played a brilliant one-two with Gardner and forced Cooksey to make a relex save from inside the penalty area.

Borough's forwards were linking well and it was a mixture of old and young which saw them go into the lead just before the break. Everitt passed to Wray who broke down the right wing and slipped the ball to Christie. The youngster ran in from the corner flag and passed it to Wray who shot at goal only for Cooksey to parry the ball to the feet of Muir who tapped it into the back of the net.

Gardner and Christie caused problems for Hednesford early in the second half before Phillips made changes after 52 minutes with Vincent on for Gardner and Drewitt replacing Andersen. Seconds later Muir put Barry Williams through and he hit the ball from the edge of the box, beating Cooksey, but hitting the post. After 65 minutes Statham was replaced by Martin Rowntree and suddenly Hednesford were through on goal only for Richard Williams to tidy up. Wray clipped the crossbar with only the keeper to beat.

Hednesford drew level after Everitt committed an offence in the box and Hednesford skipper Paul Ware tucked away the penalty. Seconds later Everitt broke down the wing and Ware committed a diabolical challenge on the full back and to everyone's surprise received only a yellow card. Minutes later Wray was poleaxed by Lee Colkin without punishment. Four minutes later Colkin again felled Wray and received a yellow card. The final action of the game saw Drewitt force a diving save from Cooksey.

Borough Plan Jubilee Move

Nuneaton Borough plan to quit Manor Park and build a new multi-million pound super stadium near the Jubilee Centre in Greenmoor Road. The ambitious soccer club aim to build a dream new ground good enough for the Football League and the envy of their Dr Marten's rivals.

It is understood that the scheme would involve a partnership with the council-run Jubilee Sports Centre and the neighbouring St Thomas More RC School. It is believed both organisations will be able to share some of the facilities at the new stadium and existing car parks could be used by spectators visiting the new ground.

As well as a new state-of-the-art stadium, the plans are thought to include all-weather astro-turf pitches and other facilities to encourage the involvement of the local community. Borough officials have spent the past 18 months developing the impressive scheme which should help put Nuneaton on the soccer map. Secret top-level talks have been held with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council officers.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough

01-08-1998

Borough: Crane (Wood 60), Healey, Rowntree, Green, Angus (Barry 45), Crowley, Vincent, Beckett (Horner 72), Wilkin, Thomas, Drewitt. **Subs:** Dyer, Darroch.

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a pre-season friendly game.

A much-changed Borough side played out a goal-less draw. It was a full ten minutes before any action when good work from Luke Vincent saw him slip the ball inside to Kev Wilkin who shot just over the bar. Nine minutes later Lee Crane was in action, pushing a well-struck Lee Lavery shot around the post. Five minutes before the break, Borough almost took the lead when an Anton Thomas flick sent Wilkin away down the right and his low cross flew up off Thomas and fell to Ian Drewitt whose powerful shot was cleared off the line by Andy Carmichael. On the stroke of half-time, Vincent controlled well and turned to put in a shot from 18 yards which was just wide of the post.

The second-half was a slow as the first and it wasn't until the 55th minute that the sparse crowd had anything to savour when Drewitt saw his long range effort well held by substitute keeper Mark Ullah. On the hour Rugby should have taken the lead when a fine Darren Dickson cross picked out the unmarked Lavery but he tamely headed wide when well placed. Two minutes later the home side had a let-off when a good run by Thomas saw him thread a pass through to Vincent, whose shot struck the base of the post.

Borough again went close with six minutes left when substitute Glyn Horner broke free and he lobbed the advancing Ullah, but Kieron Sullivan got back to head the ball off the line. Soon afterwards, Borough survived an almighty scramble in their own 18-yard area before Dave Crowley went on a good run down the middle and passed to Horner, who saw his low shot well held by Ullah.

Phillips Denies Christie Rumour

Borough whizz-kid Malcolm Christie is to spend two days training with Tottenham Hotspur. But Borough manager Brendan Phillips was quick to play down any talk of a permanent move, saying: "The lad is going down there for a couple of days' training and that's the top and bottom of it.

"Spurs are only one of several Football League clubs who have shown a lot of interest in young Malcolm and there is certainly no talk of a permanent move at this stage."

Nuneaton Borough v Aston Villa

14-08-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt (Angus 62), Prindiville, Statham, B. Williams, Crowley, Wray (Healey 79), Andersen (Vincent 62), Thomas (Wilkin 69), Christie (Straw 75), Gardner.

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

Borough started well and were on top in the opening 15

minutes as the visitors' back line settled nervously and both Christie and Thomas went close in the opening minutes but found Adam Rachel in fine form in the Villa goal. However, the Premiership side began to settle and with their superiority beginning to tell, the stalemate was broken on 16 minutes. Full-back Tommy Jaszun sprinted down the left before taking on Leigh Everitt and sliding the ball inside to number 11 Graham Evans. The youth player hit a stinging drive that former Adders' keeper Richard Williams could only parry and in the scramble that followed Barry Williams turned the ball into his own net.

Borough kicked off again in determined mood and both Nicky Andersen and Christie went close with wonderful strikes. However, with Christie being well-contained by the Villa rearguard, somewhat over-physically for a friendly at times, the visitors began to spray the ball around with Welsh Under-21 midfielder David Hughes orchestrating most of the moves. It was only a matter of time and the second goal came just before the half-hour mark with frontman Alan Lee capitalising on a pin-point cross from Reuben Hazell to fire low past Williams into the corner.

However, Borough finally pulled one back just after 43 minutes when Anton Thomas played Richie Gardner in for the winger to crash a glorious low drive past Rachel and into the bottom right hand corner.

Four minutes into the second half the game threatened to erupt with referee Callow having difficulty keeping order. In an off-the-ball incident Villa's Richard Hughes clashed with Malcolm Christie only for Callow to show him the red card. With the Villa man leaving the field Anton Thomas decided to run over and vent his anger on the Villa centre-half by pushing him, but the referee simply ordered to the game to continue.

Thomas was lucky to stay on the pitch and such petulant behaviour will be his downfall when the new term kicks off. The final 45 minutes was a mixture of sublime football and terrible challenges with players from both sides lucky to stay on the pitch. Phillips hauled Everitt and Andersen off and replaced them with Luke Vincent and Terry Angus as well as Brett Healey coming on for Shaun Wray and hitmen Kev Wilkin and Rob Straw for Christie and Thomas. However, they couldn't hit the target and Villa sealed the result on 90 minutes when David Curtolo's delightful cross was beautifully converted by Lee's diving header.

Residents Reject Borough's Jubilee Move

No stadium in our backyard – Nuneaton Borough's plans for a new ground at the Jubilee Leisure Centre were booted firmly into touch at a stormy public meeting. Hundreds of placard-waving residents of the Greenmoor Road and Raywoods areas crowded into the sports hall to deliver an overwhelming 'no' to the club board and architects behind the 10,000 seater stadium plan.

But after half-an-hour during which speakers were constantly

booed and heckled Borough chairman, Phil Clayton, insisted the move from the Manor Park ground is still on. Refusing to take questions from the floor, he said: "It appears quite clear you will not let us put our views to you. Therefore you relinquish the right for us to listen to your points of view.

"The board of Nuneaton Borough have a clear picture of how residents feel. We would have welcomed the opportunity of hearing specific problems but it seems there is absolutely no point going on with the discussion."...

Wayne Simpson Joins Borough

Cock-a-hoop Borough boss Brendan Phillips clinched the dramatic 11th hour signature of Hednesford's highly-rated utility man Wayne Simpson, and the former non-league international goes straight into the squad for the season's curtain raiser against Hastings Town.

The former Port Vale player who was captain at Stafford Rangers when Phillips was in charge, cost Borough £2,000.

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings Town

22-08-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, B. Williams, Crowley, Wray (Thomas 69), Andersen (Simpson 56), Christie, Muir, Gardner. **Sub:** White.

Hastings: Kessell, Smith, Mintrium, Playford, Morris, Myall (White 77), Yates, Simmonds, Fox, McRobert, Chapman. **Subs:** Ball, Jones.

Borough welcomed Hastings Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started brightly and might have been ahead after just five minutes. The visitors were in trouble following a mix-up between keeper Tony Kessell and Stuart Playford and when the ball broke to Nicky Andersen, the midfielder drilled in a low 20-yarder that brought a superb save from Kessell. Hastings replied immediately and Lee McRobert hooked a shot narrowly over the top after Gary Statham had failed to cut out a Steve Yates cut-back.



Malcolm Christie in full flight in another lightning break.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



The visitors continued to show adventure and when Borough failed to pick up Mark Morris from a long throw-in, it took a fine reflex save by Richard Williams to deny the big defender. The Manor Park side hit back with Christie jinking his way inside two defenders but his fierce 20 yard shot flew straight at Kessell. However, Borough then had a real let-off. Williams could only push out Simon Fox's centre to Spencer Mintrum who looked odds-on to score but Leigh Everitt somehow cleared the shot off the line.

Borough had another hair-raising moment early in the second period when Fox got the ball in the net but it was ruled offside. This seemed to spark Borough into life and it was the visitors' turn to heave a sigh of relief when Richie Gardner's low centre struck the base of a post. There were problems for Hastings when Shaun Wray freed Christie on the right. He whipped in a deep centre and Smith did well to hook the ball away with Gardner waiting to pounce.

Borough then had appeals for a penalty turned down on 70 minutes when Mintrum appeared to handle in the area but the Manor Park side were in front 60 seconds later. Muir found space in the area and laid off a superb ball with the outside of his foot for Christie to flick past the keeper from eight yards. Gardner then saw a fierce 25-yarder superbly beaten away by Kessell before Muir had a shot cleared off the line by Smith with the keeper beaten. Borough were now in full control and should have put the issue beyond doubt with Anton Thomas failing to take advantage of two clear-cut opportunities.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough	25-08-1998
King's Lynn: Lewis, Wright, Puttnam, Hilton, Hoyle, Spearing, Sterling, Oakes (Roberts 75), Nuttall (Hardy 45), Cotterell, Stringfellow. Sub: Gibson.	
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Simpson, Christie (Wikin 85), Muir (Thomas 57), Gardner. Sub: Andersen.	

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

The Norfolk side looked far sharper from the off with their pace and invention causing Borough plenty of problems. Twice Dave Puttnam broke clear on the left to whip in dangerous centres. On the first occasion Micky Nuttall headed inches over the top and then the big centre-forward saw another effort clip the top of the crossbar. But it was Borough who drew first blood after a quarter of an hour. Christie cut in from the right and found Barry Williams who beat Steve Lewis low to his right.

Kings Lynn hit back and found the equaliser just six minutes later with Lee Cotterell finding the corner of the net from 18 yards. The home side were fortunate to still be on level terms when Lewis made a tremendous save to keep out a Richie Gardner shot and the home side somehow scrambled away the loose ball. Borough's hopes appeared to nosedive on 38 minutes as Lynn hit them with a swift counter-attack and when Matt Wright found Ian Stringfellow in space on

the right, the winger whipped in a cross for the unmarked Cotterell to head his second goal of the night.

But the large travelling Nuneaton fan contingent was in good voice again two minutes before the interval when Christie beat the offside trap from Terry Angus' through ball and the youngster showed great composure as he coolly lobbed the ball over the advancing keeper and into an empty net.

Shaun Wray had a fierce drive beaten away by Lewis at the start of the second period before Borough had a nasty scare. Richard Williams punched out a Wright free-kick straight to Cotterell who saw his goal-bound shot blocked by the covering Angus. That was almost the last real threat for the home side with both Gardner and Wray going close as Borough began to dominate.

The goal they had been threatening finally arrived after 68 minutes. Angus did well to keep the ball in play following a Gardner corner and he turned it back to Wray who centred for Williams to bury a powerful header. There was a scare for Borough with just a minute to go when a Glyn Roberts header from a corner appeared destined for the net but for the second time in four days Leigh Everitt cleared off the line.

However, all doubts about the outcome were removed in the closing seconds when Wilkin fastened on to a flick on by Wray to work himself some space before cracking a low left-footer into the bottom corner.

Boston United v Nuneaton Borough	29-08-1998
Boston: Bastock, Cowshall (Taylor 73), Curtis, Fee, Clyde, Charles, Horseman, Appleby, Watts, Withe (Stanhope 73), Mason (Bailey 82).	
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (Wilkin 67), Simpson, Thomas, (Muir 81), Christie, Gardner (Crowley 67).	

Borough travelled to York Street to play Boston United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Making their first visit to Boston for 12 seasons, Borough made a bright start with youngster Christie at the heart of some inventive attacking moves. However, it was the Pilgrims who made the breakthrough after 29 minutes. Paul Watts was not picked up for Richard Mason's left-wing corner and the striker glanced in a close range header.

But Borough were back on level terms four minutes into the second period. Gardner's cross from the left was only cleared to the edge of the area to Christie and when his shot was blocked on the line by Darron Clyde, Simpson was on hand to force home the rebound. The visitors took a 63rd minute lead when Thomas put Christie into the area and the youngster twisted and turned his way past Clyde before scoring with a cross-shot that went in off the far post.

Boston levelled in the 83rd minute with sub Simon Bailey stabbing home the rebound after Greg Fee had hit the bar. But there was still a twist in the tail as with just two minutes remaining Barry Williams had a 25 yard shot blocked and Simpson pounced on the loose ball to slot home the winner.



Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 31-08-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, B. Williams (Crowley 52), Angus, Wray (Muir 61), Simpson, Thomas (Wilkin 85), Christie, Gardner.
Grantham: Davis, Dakin, Cope, Nwadike, Speed, Hawthorne, Glasser, Twynham, Jackson, Gilbert, Archer. **Subs:** Fairclough, Bowman, Collinson.

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

Gary Statham produced a smart tackle to halt Kirk Jackson as he burst clear early on, while Barry Williams just failed to connect with a Wayne Simpson free-kick. At the other end Richard Williams reacted smartly to deny Jackson after Simon Dakin had flicked on a Dave Gilbert corner. The visitors came under more pressure as Richie Gardner whipped in a superb cross from the left for Simpson to put a diving header a foot wide and shortly afterwards Barry Williams was only able to get the faintest of touches to a Steve Prindiville centre.

However, Borough had a real let-off shortly before the break. Gary Twynham broke from deep inside his own half and as the depleted Nuneaton defence parted, he burst straight through the middle only to drag his shot well wide of goal.

Christie put a snap shot high into the Cock and Bear end at the start of the second half before Borough had another anxious moment when Paul Archer got free on the left and evaded the on-rushing Richard Williams but to the relief of the home fans Statham got up well to head clear. But it was Borough who made the vital breakthrough after 67 minutes. Statham got in a downward header from Gardner's left-wing corner, visiting keeper Craig Davis could only parry the ball away and Thomas turned smartly to thump in a right-foot volley.

Three minutes later Borough tightened their grip on the points when Christie broke on the right and his centre appeared to strike defender James Cope but the referee awarded a penalty and the youngster made no mistake with the spot kick. To their credit, Grantham threw men forward as they looked to salvage something from the match. Jackson's flick on put Twynham well clear but the former Manchester United starlet pulled his shot horribly wide.

Phillips Manager Of The Month

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has been named Manager of the Month. Phillips picks up the award for managing the only side with a 100 per cent record.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 05-09-1998

Crawley: Blake, Stevens, Payne, Taylor (Abbey 65), Mackie, Gregory, Hawthorne, McEntaggart, Warden (Eadahe 50), Ullathorne, Barber (Richardson 77).
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (Healey 74), B. Williams, Angus, Crowley, Simpson, Thomas, Christie, Gardner. **Subs:** Muir, Wilkin.

Borough travelled to the Broadfield Stadium to play Crawley Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Crawley made a bright enough start with Jon Warden forcing an early save from Richard Williams with a rising drive from

just inside the area. But Borough stunned the home side by taking an eighth minute lead from their first real attack with Malcolm Christie on target to the delight of the watching bevy of Football League scouts. Dave Crowley's through ball sent Anton Thomas racing clear but John Mackie recovered to get in a superb tackle as the striker prepared to shoot. However, the ball broke to Christie and he made no mistake from 15 yards.

Borough upped the pace with Thomas twice testing the home defence to the limit. First he saw a cracking drive deflected for a corner by Mackie and the big striker then glanced a header narrowly wide from Leigh Everitt's cross. But the visitors had keeper Richard Williams to thank that they were still on level terms midway through the half when he made a tremendous save low to his right to turn Simon Ullathorne's free-kick onto a post. Barry Williams hammered a scorching volley over the top as Borough hit back but the pressure finally paid off shortly before the break. Everitt freed Christie on the right and the youngster cut in along the by-line before pulling the ball back to Thomas who cracked in a drive from 12 yards.

Borough resumed the second period where they left off and twice within the space of 60 seconds they were within inches of extending their lead. Barry Williams had a shot deflected narrowly over the top with Adrian Blake beaten and then the in-form Thomas was left cursing his luck as his cross-shot left the keeper grasping at thin air but frustratingly it rattled the right hand post. However the goal Borough had been threatening finally and deservedly arrived after 65 minutes. Wayne Simpson's free-kick was only half cleared, Richie Gardner knocked it back into the middle to Thomas who headed back across the face of goal for the outstanding Terry Angus to score from close range.

In a rare threat, Mackie brought a smart save from Richard Williams with a crisp header but Borough were quickly back in control. Christie put a shot into the side netting after a flick on by Thomas and then beat two men before being denied by the keeper as Borough ended on top.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 08-09-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, B. Williams, Angus, Crowley, Simpson, Thomas, Christie, Gardner. **Subs:** Muir, Wilkin, Wray.
Burton: Goodwin, Davies, M. Smith (C. Smith 70), Benton, Blount, Spooner, Stride, Holmes, Cotter (Webster 80), Garner, Hackett. **Sub:** Marsden.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride and an early sweeping move ended with Wayne Simpson whipping in a low cross that Mark Blount was happy to turn behind with Christie closing in. The young Borough striker then found some space on the right and Nick Goodwin did well to cut out the centre with Richie Gardner ready to pounce. Burton were under considerable pressure and when Goodwin spilled a Barry Williams shot, Gardner quickly knocked the ball back into the area but Williams put a half volley over the top at full stretch.



Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 12-09-1998

Gloucester: Mokler, Holloway, Thorne, Wyatt (Steadman 63), Kemp, Fergusson, Webb, Burns, Rutter (Keeling 79), Mings, Tucker. Sub: Cairns.
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (Wilkin 75), B. Williams (Wray 60), Angus, Crowley, Simpson, Thomas (Muir 79), Christie, Gardner.

It came as no surprise when Borough finally broke the deadlock after 16 minutes. Gardner found Thomas on the edge of the box and the big striker played a neat one-two with Christie before bursting into the area to bury a left footer past Goodwin. Brendan Hackett turned smartly past two defenders but his cross flew harmlessly across the home penalty area. The Manor Park side heaved a sigh of relief and extended their lead five minutes before the interval. Goodwin came out of his area to clear a long through ball but failed to do so under pressure from Thomas and Christie pounced to guide a super 25-yard lob into an unguarded net.

But Borough were stunned two minutes later as the Brewers clawed their way back into the match as Richard Williams embarrassingly failed to hold Matt Smith's harmless looking ball into the box and Steve Spooner floated a lob inside the far post which veteran Andy Garner got the faintest of touches to. Steve Prindiville then cleared off the line as Borough looked vulnerable.

Early in the second half Borough's defence was caught square and Cotter should have scored but was twice denied by Richard Williams and, when the ball broke to David Holmes on the penalty spot, he looked odds-on to equalise until Barry Williams produced a brilliant last-ditch tackle. But Borough weathered the storm to grab the vital third goal after 64 minutes. Christie was caught offside as Burton pushed out but was deemed not to be interfering with play and Thomas was allowed to burst clear and drew the keeper before slipping the ball square for Christie to fire into an empty net.

The Burton players protested and Goodwin was lucky not to get sent off as he kicked the ball into the crowded Cock & Bear end in disgust. Borough were now well in command with Simpson shooting into the side netting before Thomas put the issue beyond doubt with five minutes remaining. Barry Williams superbly turned his man in midfield to free Thomas who quickly made ground and ran deep into the area to easily beat Goodwin from close range with style and panache.

During the closing stages Borough could easily have added to their total with Simpson directing a close-range header straight at Goodwin and then firing a rising drive over the top from inside the box.

Drewitt Joins The Knitters

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has wished Ian Drewitt well after the Welshman accepted a move to Hinckley United. Twenty-nine year-old Drewitt spent three and a half years at Manor Park and his 100 per cent commitment to the Blues elevated him to hero status with the fans

Straw's Career Under Threat

Borough officials have sent striker Rob Straw to one of the country's leading specialists in an attempt to cure his long-term knee injury. The player travels to Harley Street on Monday for a detailed examination and exploratory surgery as fears grow that he may never play for the club again.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough found themselves under pressure early on and Gary Thorne whipped in a centre from the left which found Ade Mings unmarked and it took a tremendous tackle by Barry Williams to deny the big striker and then Gary Statham deflected Tom Rutter's follow-up for a corner.

Gloucester continued to dictate the pace and it was no surprise when the breakthrough came after only ten minutes. Chris Burns swept a long crossfield ball out to Mings who slipped when challenged by Statham. But he was first to his feet and turned the ball square for Tucker to thump a rising drive past Richard Williams.

Borough could not get out of first gear at this stage and were fortunate not to be further behind when Burns broke clear only to see his shot bounce to safety off the legs of Barry Williams. There were more problems for the visitors as they only cleared a corner after a goalmouth scramble and then Burns clipped the angle of post and crossbar with a dipping 20 yard volley.

This sparked Borough into life and they might have snatched a 28th minute equaliser. Wayne Simpson's right wing cross was fumbled by Mokler and when Anton Thomas laid the loose ball off for Malcolm Chistie the in-demand youngster pulled a shot well-wide.

Shortly before the break Rutter got free on the left and his cross found Burns who fired a left-foot volley straight at Richard Williams.

Borough's woes continued in the second half as the wind had now lost much of its strength and the home side still looked the sharper outfit. Richie Gardner made a timely interception following a mistake by Statham and then Richard Williams did well to deny Mings after Rutter had headed on a Burns corner. Simpson put a header over the top following a neat build-up involving Thomas and Kevin Wilkin before the latter fired a centre across the face of the home goal with no one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Borough were at last showing some urgency as they fought to hang on to their unbeaten tag and were unfortunate not to be back on level terms with just six minutes remaining. Another neat move saw Crowley play the ball square to Shaun Wray and the Borough substitute hammered in a cracking drive that looked destined for the net until Mokler made a superb save low to his right. With time running out, Terry Angus got up well for a corner but his header was cleared off the line by Jon Holloway as Borough failed to find the net for the first time this season.



Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 15-09-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, Angus, Crowley, Wray, Simpson, Thomas (Muir 76), Christie (Wilkin 76), Gardner. **Sub:** Andersen.
Lynn: D. Roberts, Wright, G. Roberts, Fuff, Hoyle, Bloodworth (Delcata 20), Hardy (Nichols 52), Gibson, Nuttall, Stringfellow, Oakes. **Sub:** Cotterell.

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

The visitors made a bright start and Coren Hardy forced a smart save from Richard Williams with a snap shot on the turn. However, Borough hit back immediately as Thomas found space to chip in a centre from the left that the impressive stand-in keeper Duncan Roberts did well to hold at full stretch and then Christie dragged a shot wide after skipper Dave Crowley had made the opening. Borough continued to dictate the pace and got the breakthrough they were looking for after 16 minutes. Thomas flicked on a Simpson pass into the area and Christie showed plenty of coolness in front of the watching Premiership and Football League scouts as he steered home his eighth goal of the campaign in style.

The visitors then had Roberts to thank that they were not further behind when he made a superb save to turn Thomas' goal-bound header over the top. On-song Thomas was then inches away from turning in a spectacular overhead kick by Richie Gardner before Crowley was denied a penalty after clearly being pushed over in the area by Matthew Wright. Shortly before the break Steve Prindiville fired a free kick straight at Roberts and the visitors keeper again excelled himself, twisting backwards to fingertip a deflected Shaun Wray shot to safety.

The second goal Borough had been threatening arrived two minutes after the restart. Christie freed Wray on the right and the winger, playing his best game for the club so far, cut in along the by-line before centering for Thomas to head home from close range. Wray could have made it three shortly afterwards, shooting over from 12 yards, but any hopes King's Lynn might have harboured disappeared totally as Borough stretched their advantage after 51 minutes. Thomas was the architect, making space on the left and delivering a peach of a cross for Simpson to turn in a diving header.

Roberts then made another outstanding save, turning away a Thomas shot at full stretch, but he was fortunate when Prindiville's lob bounced back into play off the crossbar as Borough went for the kill. However, there was no let-off nine minutes from the end as Borough scored again when Wray swept a long crossfield ball to Gardner and he drilled a fierce low centre into the area for Statham to deflect past the keeper. Shortly before the end it could have been five when substitute Kevin Wilkin sent former Tranmere Rovers hero Ian Muir away on the right and then raced into the box to get on to the end of the ensuing centre but his diving header hit Roberts and bounced clear.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 19-09-1998

Worcester: Higgs, Sandeman, Burnham, Richards, Heeley, Cottrill (Wood 89), Woods, Wright (Bowen 45), Owen, Chenoweth, Hillman (Jones 89).
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (B. Williams 72), Crowley, Angus, Wray, Simpson, Thomas (Muir 81), Christie (Wilkin 81), Gardner.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The home side posed an early threat when the visitors' defence was caught square by a long clearance from City keeper Shane Higgs and Evran Wright hooked a shot straight at Richard Williams. But Borough hit back with Jason Burnham denying Christie a shooting chance after Thomas had set him free and then Thomas made space for himself, only to drag his shot wide. Shaun Wray put Leight Everitt clear on the right but the full-back wasted the opportunity as his cross was easily cut out by the keeper with men waiting in the box.

Borough continued to dominate and when Simpson found Wray the flank man danced inside three men but was eventually crowded out. There was a let-off for the visitors, however, when Carl Heeley was not picked up for a Ray Woods corner and his glancing header flew inches wide of the far post. There were more problems for Borough as Gary Statham was caught in possession, allowing Mark Owen to burst into the area and it took a superb save low to his right by Richard Williams to prevent the striker from putting City ahead. However, it was Borough who broke the deadlock five minutes before the break. Wray found Simpson on the edge of the area and when his initial shot was blocked, the midfielder pounced on the loose ball to fire a low effort into the corner.

Worcester introduced Sam Bowen at the start of the second half and the striker was immediately in the thick of the action. He almost turned in an Owen cross after Everitt had allowed a long ball to run past him and Bowen then fired a rising drive over the top from inside the area. At the other end Thomas turned inside his marker to thump a shot across the face of the home goal before Everitt tested Higgs with a low left-footer.

Former Borough player Ian Cottrill then wasted a chance to put the home side level, dragging his effort well wide after the visitors had failed to clear a corner. That was Worcester's last real threat as Borough took control, with Wray twice going close and Christie flashing an effort across the home goal before two goals in a minute wrapped up the points. Bradley Sandeman's 74th minute back pass failed to reach Higgs and Thomas nipped in to hook the ball past the stranded keeper. City were still reeling from that blow when Heeley needlessly brought down Christie and the youngster gratefully rammed in his ninth goal of the campaign from the penalty spot.

But Borough saved the best until last. With the game deep into injury time Ian Muir superbly laid off a ball to Barry Williams who immediately fed Wray on the right. He cut into the bye-line before squaring the ball to Wilkin who completed the scoring with ease.



Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 22-09-1998

Grantham: Davis, Dakin, Hilton, Twynham, Speed, Nwadike, Bowman, Jackson, Pell (Collinson 82), Gilbert, Archer (Glasser 59). **Sub:** Cope.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, Crowley, Angus, Wray (B. Williams 59), Simpson, Christie, Thomas (Wilkin 80), Gardner (Muir 71).

Borough travelled to the South Kesteven Stadium to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Grantham were fired up for the game and put Borough under early pressure, making full use of the strong wind in their favour, the Gingerbreads almost snatched a third minute lead when the visitors failed to clear a free-kick and Steve Prindiville did well to crowd out Jackson. Terry Angus was only inches away from getting on the end of a Richie Gardner corner as Borough hit back, but the Manor Park outfit found themselves a goal down after only nine minutes. Richard Williams made a fine save to keep out a Robert Pell header but from the ensuing corner, Jackson was completely unmarked as he glanced home a header.

Grantham continued to call the tune with Richard Williams having to react smartly to divert a Jackson cross-shot to safety and Angus did well to dispossess Pell as he was poised to shoot. Borough then had a let-off when Pell's long throw-in found Adrian Speed in the area and he hooked a volley inches wide from ten yards. But there was no escape for the visitors after 25 minutes. There appeared to be no danger as Darren Bowman knocked a ball into the box from the right but Gary Statham completely miskicked leaving Jackson to beat Richard Williams with ease.

It then required another fine save from the keeper to prevent Borough from falling further adrift before the break. The visitors opened the second period in a more positive mood with Malcolm Christie firing an effort straight at Craig Davis and Anton Thomas directing a header off target. Borough looked a different proposition with the wind now in their favour and were unfortunate not to cut the deficit on the hour mark when the diving Christie was inches away from turning Gardner's driven cross in. But Borough were caught pushing forward as a through ball by Dave Gilbert sent Pell clear but the striker drew Richard Williams before steering a shot wide of a gaping net. The Borough keeper then had to go low to his right to deny Jackson his hat-trick before Leigh Everitt drilled a cross-shot inches wide of the far post in the closing minutes.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 26-09-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (Andersen 60), Crowley, Angus, Wray, Simpson, Wilkin (Muir 74), Christie, B. Williams. **Sub:** Healey.

Tamworth: Rowe, Warner, Shaw, Clark, Batchelor, Howard, Foy, Gray, Yates (Wood 72), Smith (Houghton 83), Steele (Colley 55).

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

The visitors offered the first threat when Gary Smith turned inside Leigh Everitt and whipped a shot across the face of the

home goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. The home side responded immediately but the build-up was over-elaborate and visiting keeper Tony Rowe easily cut out Christie's cross. There were more problems for Borough when Jon Howard flicked on Tim Steele's corner and Michael Gray dragged a shot wide from the edge of the area. Steele then fired a long range effort straight at Richard Williams as Tamworth continued to look the livelier outfit.

Borough were struggling to get a grip and they had a clear let-off after 23 minutes. Smith put Steve Yates in the clear and his pace took him past Gary Statham who clearly brought down the Tamworth striker but their heated appeals fell on deaf ears. To add insult to injury Yates was booked for protesting. Borough took full advantage of their good fortune as they swept into a 27th minute lead. Tamworth failed to clear a corner and when Barry Williams knocked the ball back into the middle David Foy miskicked and Wray cracked a low left footer past Rowe for his first goal. This sparked Borough into life with Terry Angus seeing a header turned behind for a corner before Wayne Simpson fired an effort over the top following a short free-kick by Dave Crowley. But Borough had Williams to thank just before the break as he came out to block Smith's close range shot.

Borough opened the second half in determined mood and Steve Prindiville was only inches wide with a cracking 35 yard drive. However, Brendan Phillips' men had another fortunate escape. Foy's free-kick found Smith unmarked in the box but the Tamworth striker put his header over the top from six yards. Wray made space on the right to whip in a centre that Rowe gathered at the second attempt. Tamworth, looking to repeat last season's win at Manor Park gave themselves a mountain to climb when they gifted Borough a second goal. Christie followed a ball into the visitors' area but keeper Rowe had already safely gathered when Howard needlessly pushed the Borough striker over and the youngster fired home his tenth goal of the season from the resulting penalty.

Crowley did well to turn away a Nick Colley cross with Gray closing in as the visitors looked for a way back but the result was beyond doubt. Borough began to assert some authority with Barry Williams putting a looping header wide from a Prindiville free-kick. Christie saw his shot hit Richard Clark and bounce clear. Then in the closing minutes Simpson made a superb break from the back to link up with Wray but his chipped effort sailed inches wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Dorchester Town 10-10-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham (Andersen 15), Crowley, Angus, Wray, Simpson, Wilkin, Christie (Muir 42), B. Williams. **Sub:** Healey.

Dorchester: Maloy, Sullivan, Hale, Coates, Harris Cross, O'Brien, Medlin, O'Hagan, Shepherd (Ghazghazi 65), Lovell (Cooper 75).

Borough welcomed Dorchester Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Both sides took time to find their feet before Borough finally burst into action with Barry Williams flashing a centre across



Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 24-10-1998

Bromsgrove: Alden, Dodd, McCallum, Winstone, Bowater, Turpin, Bennett, Jeffery (Purdie 37), Robinson (Jinks 68), Daly (Petty 85), Ashley.
Borough: Wood, Everitt (Healey 85), Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Wray, Williams (Dyer 77), Wilkin, Muir (Landon 77), Gardner.

the face of the visitors' goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. Dorchester keeper Kevin Maloy was then fortunate to grab a Leigh Everitt cross at the second attempt with Barry Williams and Christie poised to pounce before Borough had a let-off. The referee failed to spot a blatant hand ball by Danny O'Hagan which put Martin Shepherd clear but to the relief of the home fans the striker fired over the top. This sparked Borough into life and when Steve Prindiville's free-kick found Kevin Wilkin in the area, he laid it off to Barry Williams who hit a shot on the turn over the target.

Nuneaton then had another chance to break the deadlock. Shaun Wray's cross picked out Wilkin who headed it down for Christie but the youngster hit a weak shot straight at Maloy. But the visitors were looking dangerous on the break and twice they came within inches of breaking the deadlock. First O'Hagan almost turned in a Neil Coates cross on the far post as Borough were caught ball-watching and then Martyn Sullivan had a shot deflected narrowly wide and from the ensuing corner the full-back saw his swinging cross bounce out off the crossbar.

Borough continued to live dangerously and four minutes into the second half they had an amazing escape when O'Hagan missed an absolute sitter. Andy Harris' deep cross from the left caught Borough pushing out of the area leaving O'Hagan all alone in front of goal but he somehow steered the ball over the bar from just four yards. At the other end Wray forced a fine save from Maloy with a cracking left-foot drive and Terry Angus saw his header from Prindiville's corner clawed away by the visiting keeper.

Wilkin then wasted a clear cut opening, firing high over the top after Maloy, under pressure from Ian Muir, had hit a clearance straight to him. Borough were at last putting the visitors under some sustained pressure and they had loud appeals for a penalty turned down when Nicky Andersen appeared to be felled inside the area. Wilkin then had a close-range effort deflected for a corner before Wray drilled a shot across Maloy and wide of the left-hand upright. In the closing seconds Barry Williams was only a hair's breadth away from snatching all three points when his close range effort was touched on to a post and out for a corner by the excellent Maloy.

Christie Moves To Derby County

Super striker Malcolm Christie signed for Derby County last night and vowed to set the Premiership alight but left a message for Borough supporters: "I'll never forget you!"

The teenage hot shot was due at Pride Park for the second time within 48 hours today for a medical and confirmation of his £130,000 move to Jim Smith's side. Malcolm's father, Bill, said: "During his short time at Nuneaton Borough he made many friends and will always remember the people there.

"Malcolm is not a flash, Jack the lad type of character, his feet are firmly planted on the ground and he's calm and level-headed."

Borough travelled to The Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough stamped their mark on the match from the outset. Shaun Wray beat two men wide on the right and Bromsgrove skipper Russell Dodd was happy to glance the winger's cross behind for a corner with Richie Gardner ready to pounce. Bromsgrove then had a double let-off in the space of seconds. Muir superbly turned away from his marker on the edge of the area and his lob beat home keeper Darren Alden but bounced out off the crossbar.

Gardner pounced on the rebound and when the Rovers defence failed to clear his lob cross, Dave Crowley stabbed a close-range shot the wrong side of a post. However, the Borough pressure paid off as they broke the deadlock after just ten minutes. Steve Prindiville found Muir in the box and he laid off a superb pass for Wilkin to beat Alden with a low shot inside his near post. The home side were still reeling from that blow six minutes later when Borough stretched their lead. Wray made space on the right before finding Williams who drilled a shot under the diving keeper.

Rovers then had another escape when, following a neat build-up, Gardner's deep cross picked out Williams but he was denied by the woodwork as his header bounced down and out off the underside of the bar. Shortly before the break Borough were caught pushing forward as Dean Bennett beat Rob Wood to a through ball but his effort from a tight angle was off-target.

Bromsgrove, who had hardly been in the game as an attacking force, threatened again briefly at the start of the second period with Paul Robinson seeing a back header from Jon Purdie's cross land on the roof of the net. Borough quickly resumed their dominance with Gardner wasting a chance with a shot well off target after being set up by Williams and the winger repeated his previous wayward effort from inside the area. But the visitors took a stranglehold on the points with a third goal after 64 minutes. Muir's beautifully-weighted through ball sprang the Bromsgrove offside trap and Wilkin raced clear to calmly beat Alden.

Landon, on a month's loan from Macclesfield, and Wayne Dyer, making his first team debut, were both introduced with 13 minutes left and were immediately in the thick of the action. Landon saw his close range effort beaten away by the keeper after chesting down a Gardner cross and then Dyer's shot on the turn was turned around a post by the diving Alden. With the seconds running out, Landon marked his return to Borough by burying a close range header home after Wray had created the opportunity.

Nuneaton Borough v Weymouth 31-10-1998

Borough: Wood, Everitt (Healey 77), Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Landon, Williams, Wilkin, Muir, Gardner (Dyer 73). **Sub:** Statham.
Weymouth: Myers, Gammon (Flory), S. Browne (Boulton 73), A. Browne, Waldock, Powell (Heath 73), Blamey, Hutchinson, Adcock, Laws, Mansell.

Borough welcomed Weymouth to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough created an early chance when Richie Gardner was brought down on the edge of the area but Muir curled the free-kick over the top. Gardner then had a shot cleared off the line by Simon Browne with Paul Myers beaten before Kevin Wilkin was only inches away from turning in Landon's astute crossfield ball. Borough continued to call the tune and the pressure paid off as they broke the deadlock after 21 minutes. Steve Prindiville made an interception around half way and burst forward before finding Muir on the edge of the area and he buried a low right foot shot wide of Myers' right hand.



Ian Muir scores his first goal for Borough. Photo: Heartland Evening News

This reverse stung the visitors into action and Alex Browne found space from a Craig Mansell corner to power a header narrowly over the top. But Borough quickly resumed control and were unfortunate not to extend their lead. Wilkin got free on the right and his cross picked out Landon who put in a looping header that appeared destined for the net but Myers finger-tipped the ball on to the bar and John Waldock cleared.

The visitors were still looking sharp on the break and it took a superbly-timed tackle by Terry Angus to halt Paul Adcock just inside the area. Then it was Borough's turn to have a let-off. Dave Crowley fouled Ian Hutchinson and Darren Powell's 30 yard free kick beat Rob Wood and came out off the post.

After the break Simpson headed away a dangerous cross before the visitors' loud penalty appeals for hand ball by Angus fell on deaf ears. Borough gradually regained their grip and left the visitors with a mountain to climb as they grabbed a second goal after 62 minutes. Williams picked up possession from a short free-kick on the right and cut into the area before firing a superb left footed cross shot into the far corner. Weymouth were still reeling 90 seconds later when Borough put the game out of reach as Gardner broke into the

area where he was fouled by Alex Browne and Muir made no mistake from the resulting penalty.

Gardner then had a shot deflected for a corner and Myers was grateful to collect a Landon shot at the second attempt. Borough continued to call the tune and Muir was unlucky not to complete his hat trick when his goal bound header hit Waldock and bounced clear. But with ten minutes left the visitors cut the deficit when David Laws scored from the penalty spot after Angus had been penalised for pulling Adcock's shot. There was a second shock for the home fans two minutes from the end as Borough failed to clear a left-wing cross and Hutchinson knocked the ball back into the area for substitute Mark Boulton to steer a low shot inside Wood's right hand post. However, Williams restored Borough's two-goal advantage straight from the restart, again cutting inside from the right to beat Myers with another searing cross shot.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 03-11-1998

Burton: Goodwin, Davies, Ashby, Marsden, M. Smith, Grocutt, Lyons, Stride, Holmes, Garner, Crosby. **Subs:** C. Smith, Benton, Webster.
Borough: Wood, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Wray, Williams, Landon (Thomas), Muir, Gardner. **Subs:** Wilkin, Dyer.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quickly out of the blocks with Matt Smith making a fine tackle to halt Richard Landon as he was bursting through the middle. The Brewers were then fortunate to scramble Steve Prindiville's corner off the line before former Notts Forest winger Gary Crosby broke clear to whip a centre across the face of the visitors' goal.

It took a magnificent save from Nick Goodwin to prevent Barry Williams from putting Borough ahead after 11 minutes, going full stretch low to his left to claw the midfielder's fierce shot around the post. There was trouble for Borough when Wayne Simpson slipped and let in Holmes but Rob Wood was quickly out to divert the striker's shot for a corner. Borough had another clear cut chance when in a counter attack, the outstanding Ian Muir freed Wray on the right and the winger's cut-back found Gardner in the box but his first touch let him down and the eventual shot was blocked.

But Borough got the goal they had threatened after 27 minutes. Another quick break out of defence put Muir clear and when Burton failed to clear his low centre, Gardner fastened on to the loose ball and his shot looped into the net after taking a deflection off Smith. Skipper Dave Crowley then picked up his fifth booking of the campaign for a late challenge on Smith. With half-time approaching Andy Garner appeared to have worked himself a shooting chance but Terry Angus robbed him at the last minute with a superbly timed tackle.

Williams was brought down in full flight by Darren Stride at the start of the second period and Prindiville's curling free kick was only a foot too high. Tony Marsden fired a volley over the top after Borough had only partially cleared a corner

and then Holmes had a low shot comfortably held by Wood. Burton were committing a lot of men forward as they looked for an equaliser but with Angus and Simpson commanding at the heart of the defence, they seldom looked like making the breakthrough. Gardner then fired a low centre across the home goalmouth with no one able to get the vital touch as Borough hit back and Wray wasted another promising opportunity with a wild shot.

But the visitors were stunned after 74 minutes as Burton levelled. There appeared little danger as Holmes turned on the edge of the area but his 25 yard lob caught Wood flat-footed and off his line as it sailed over the keeper and into the net. Despite their disappointment, Borough still had chances to have won it in the closing stages.

First Gardner saw his cracking drive magnificently turned away by the flying Goodwin before Wray missed the best opportunity of the night, weakly heading substitute Anton Thomas' cross straight at the keeper from inside the six yard box. But then right at the death it took a brave save by Wood at the feet of Pat Lyons to ensure that Borough did not finish empty-handed following a mistake by Williams.

Borough Youth Hold Swansea

Borough's youngsters threw away a two goal lead in an exciting FA Youth Cup encounter. On the balance of play it was a fair result but it could have been a different story had Swansea made their first half dominance tell. Borough took the lead through Lee Greenway on 60 minutes and extended that lead four minutes later when Mackenzie scored. Although Barwood cut the deficit in the 70th minute, the Borough youngsters looked to have booked their passage, but Morgan rescued the tie for Swansea in the 90th minute.

Swansea could have taken the honours in injury time, but Bishop headed wide from six yards out. The replay is at the Vetch Field on Tuesday.

Statham Quits Borough

Gary Statham has decided to quit Manor Park after three years with the club. His university studies have been an integral part of his life as he moved up the quality surveyor ladder and last year he moved from Aberdeen to Reading, but has found things difficult there and is returning north of the border.

Nuneaton Borough v Boston United 07-11-1998

Borough: Wood, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Wray (Wilkin 54), Williams, Landon (Thomas 54), Muir, Gardner. **Sub:** Dyer.

Boston: Bastock, Gowshall, Curtis, Stringfellow, Hardy, Charles, Stanhope, Withe, Carmichael, Venables (Watts 67), Mason. **Subs:** Taylor, Clyde.

Borough welcomed Boston United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had an early scare when Shaun Wray lost possession to Matt Carmichael and he sent David Venables racing into the area but Terry Angus recovered to produce a timely

tackle and clear the danger. Richie Gardner had a low cross shot safely gathered by Paul Bastock as Borough hit back before Richard Landon glanced a header wide from Steve Prindiville's centre. Wray then made space to whip in a centre from the right that Andrew Stanhope was happy to head behind with Gardner poised to pounce.

The disappointing Landon was off-target with another header from an Ian Muir free kick but despite Borough's possession and territorial advantage, they were not posing many problems for Bastock. Stringfellow flashed a cross shot wide with Rob Wood scrambling across his line before the Pilgrims took a 31st minute lead. Williams badly sliced an attempted pass across the face of his own penalty area, Wood failed to clear and Stanhope lobbed into an empty net from 25 yards despite the efforts of Angus to keep it out.

Borough might have levelled straight from the restart when the visitors failed to clear a Leigh Everitt free kick and Landon lobbed the loose ball over Bastock only to see it hit the top of the bar and bounce out of play. Muir had the ball in the net four minutes before the break but his diving header from Gardner's driven cross was ruled out for offside.



Terry Angus rises high above the Boston defence but his header went wide of the goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Wray wasted another promising opportunity with a wild shot across the face of the Boston goal early in the second half before Borough had a let-off. Williams failed to cut out Richard Mason's low centre and when the ball eventually reached Martin Hardy it needed a superb finger-tip save from Wood to turn his shot onto the bar and away to safety. Almost immediately Borough had a chance to level matters as Muir burst clear of the visitors defence with just the keeper to beat but Bastock's foot denied the striker.

The visitors were looking increasingly dangerous on the break and the home side had another let-off when Charles' close-range shot hit Williams on the line and Borough scrambled the ball clear. At the other end, Williams blazed a shot high over the top after Bastock had failed to hold Gardner's cross and then it was Gardner's turn to miss the target after Anton Thomas had set up the chance. As the frustration mounted, Borough grabbed an unlikely equaliser with Williams rising high to power Prindiville's 82nd minute corner into the top of



the net. However, with Borough still heaving a sigh of relief, they suddenly found themselves under severe late pressure as the visitors looked for the winner. With the contest into the last minute Angus was adjudged to have handled in the area, but Charles, successful with his previous five penalties, blazed the spot kick high over the bar.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1998

Atherstone: Belford, Blair, Barratt, Kelly (Wright 79), Albrighton, Niblett, Young (Elvin 82), Hart, White, Middleton, Martin. **Sub:** Dean.
Borough: Wood, Everitt, Prindiville, Dyer (Healey 71), Crowley, Angus, Wray, Williams, Wilkin, Muir (Thomas 52), Gardner.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Doc Martens Cup first round first leg tie.

It was 12 minutes before either keeper was called into action and then Steve Prindiville's right wing corner found Barry Williams but his header lacked power and Dale Belford gathered easily. Leon Kelly used his pace to find some space wide on the right as Adders hit back but his centre flashed across the face of the visitors goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. A neat link-up between Crowley and Ian Muir provided the opportunity for Kevin Wilkin to burst clear but the Borough striker's wild shot was well wide of the target.

Another Borough break saw Wayne Dyer surge into the area but he showed too much of the ball to the advancing Belford who smothered it with ease. Shortly before the break Borough had a scare when they failed to clear Lee Middleton's free-kick and Nigel Niblett's shot at the far post was fortunately blocked by Williams.

But there was no let-off for the visitors two minutes after the restart as United made the breakthrough. Borough failed to pick up Niblett from Middleton's deep free-kick and although Rob Wood parried the central defender's initial header he followed up to bundle the ball home. However, the cheers of the Sheepy Road faithful were still filling the night air when Borough silenced them with an equaliser just 60 seconds later. Belford excelled himself to turn away Muir's header for a corner which Prindiville swung into the far post and the unmarked Muir made no mistake with another close range header.

There were problems for Borough when Wood flapped at Middleton's floated free kick but the keeper recovered to smother the ball at Paul White's feet. But with everything pointing towards the honours ending even, Adders went in front for the second time. Richard Barratt whipped in a cross from the right and Wright lost his marker to score with a diving header.

White then forced a fine save from Wood with a header from another Barratt centre before Borough wasted a late chance to square the tie. Wilkin sent Anton Thomas clear on the right and his pull back found Prindiville inside the area but this free shot flew high over the top.

Borough Sign Shoemake

Brendan Phillips has brought in former Orient and Peterborough United keeper Kevin Shoemake as cover for Richard Williams. The experienced goalkeeper has also seen service at Harlow, Chelmsford, Welling and Kettering Town, where he spent four years.

Beckett Fined

Teenage Borough midfielder Darren Beckett has been fined two weeks' wages after failing to turn up for a Doc Martens League Cup match with Atherstone Town. Manager Brendan Phillips said he had told Beckett to 'shape up or ship out'.

O'Connor Joins Borough

Brendan Phillips has signed former Hednesford goal ace Joey O'Connor, who has netted over 200 goals for the Pitmen.

Hastings Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1998

Hastings: Kessell, Smith (Sargent 85), Mintram, Playford, Ball, Myall, McRobert, Chapman, Jones (White 67), Simmonds (Fox 45), Yates.
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (Healey 72), O'Connor, Thomas, Muir, Gardner. **Subs:** Wilkin, Landon.

Borough travelled to The Pilot Field to play Hastings Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Hastings were quickly out of the blocks and there was an early scare for Borough when they failed to clear Lee McRobert's right wing cross and Paul Jones laid the ball off to Danny Simmonds who shot wide from inside the area. The home side continued to push forward and when Danny Chapman flicked on a Simmonds corner, Richard Williams had to react smartly to turn it over the top. But Borough weathered the storm and took control to stun the home supporters by snatching the lead from their first real attack.

Thomas split the home defence with a superb through ball and O'Connor sped clear to round keeper Tony Kessell and slip the ball into an empty net. Leigh Everitt was happy to head a Simmonds' cross behind for a corner as Hastings hit back before Borough had a let-off. Shaun Wray lost possession in midfield, Stuart Myall quickly found Simmonds in the area but he put his shot into the side netting. Borough quickly regained the initiative with Barry Williams firing a shot over the top before the visitors tightened their grip on the points with a second goal. O'Connor produced a strong run to the edge of the box and held off Spencer Mintram to whip in a low centre for Gardner to fire into the roof of the net from close range.

Borough went close to extending their lead at the start of the second half when O'Connor put a header narrowly off target after Terry Angus had knocked a Steve Prindiville free-kick back across goal. Borough then put the issue beyond doubt as they made it 3-0 after 51 minutes. Muir and Williams linked up to find Thomas and he played it square to Gardner before racing into the area to turn in the winger's low cross. McRobert dragged a shot wide of the near post as Hastings



looked to salvage some pride and player manager Terry White drifted a free-kick over the angle.

But Borough hit Hastings again with another goal 13 minutes from the end. Muir produced a telling ball into the area where O'Connor laid it off for Gardner whose shot appeared destined for the net when Thomas volleyed home from point-blank range. Borough were now threatening to run riot and a superb dribble by O'Connor saw him beat two men on his way into the area and round the keeper before running out of space and the home side escaped. Then in the dying minutes Thomas missed a great chance to complete his hat-trick as his close range shot was smothered by Kessell after O'Connor had flicked on a Brett Healey cross.

Phillips Fails In Player Bid

Nuneaton Borough manager Brendan Phillips has failed in his bid to bring two Burton Albion players to Manor Park. Having tabled a £15,000 bid for Darren Stride and David Holmes, the Brewers acted quickly by extending the players' contracts, which were signed by both players, tying them to the club until the 2000-01 season.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 28-11-1998

Borough: Shoemake, Everitt (Crowley 52), Prindiville, Simpson, Williams, Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas (Wilkin 65), Muir, Gardner (Straw 82).

Halesowen: McDonnell, Bradley, Hollis, Gardiner, Wood, Peters (Smith 69), Crisp, Birch, Pearce (Elmes 72), Francis, Reed (Cooper 69).

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough could not have wished for a better start as the visitors failed to pick up Williams from Steve Prindiville's corner and he planted a superb header into the top corner. But Borough's joy was short-lived as just four minutes later Wayne Simpson gave away a free-kick on the edge of the area and former Aston Villa star Paul Birch gave Shoemake no chance with a curling 20-yard free-kick. Borough were fortunate not to go further behind when the impressive Delton Francis beat Shoemake to a poor Terry Angus back-pass and pulled the ball back for Steve Pearce who scuffed a shot across the face of goal.

It was then the Yeltz's turn to heave a sigh of relief as Matt Hollis chested an Angus effort off the line after Danny McDonnell had made a hash of a Prindiville corner. Shortly afterwards the keeper made full amends, turning away a dangerous Leigh Everitt cross with Williams waiting to pounce. At the other end it needed a superb double save from Shoemake to deny both Pearce and Birch to keep the home side on level terms. But 60 seconds before the interval Halesowen got their noses in front. Matt Gardiner broke quickly from the back and found Ian Reed wide on the left. His deep cross picked out Francis and he chested it down before burying a close range shot.

Borough should have been back on level terms a minute into the second period but Richie Gardner, set free in the area by

Anton Thomas, completely mis-kicked with just the keeper to beat. Williams put a header inches wide before the goal Borough had been threatening came on 68 minutes. Phil Wood fouled Kevin Wilkin as he moved on to a Prindiville free-kick and Ian Muir made no mistake from the penalty.

Halesowen's hopes suffered a further setback just a minute later when Gardiner got a second yellow card for a foul on Gardner and was sent off. McDonnell then made the save of the season to keep the Yeltz on level terms. Prindiville's free-kick found Williams on the edge of the box and the midfielder hit a tremendous first-time shot on the turn that looked a certain goal until the Halesowen keeper flew low to his right to finger-tip the ball to safety. Despite being a man short the visitors themselves were looking for a winner and two minutes from time Francis saw Angus clear his shot off the line after the visiting striker had gone round Shoemake.

Borough failed to learn their lesson and a minute later they were again caught pushing forward as Francis raced clear and this time he made no mistake. It looked all over for Borough but Rob Straw, on as a substitute, found space on the left and his low centre was turned in by Muir. McDonnell then produced another fine save from Joe O'Connor but with the match in the seventh minute of time added on, Straw again centred from the left, Muir turned it back and Shaun Wray drilled home a low shot for the sensational winner, sending the Borough fans into a frenzy.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 01-12-1998

Moor Green: Heyes, A. Jones (Hamilton 62), Davies, Gillard, Shea, P. Jones (Bassford 68), Tilley, Casey, Shepherd, Round, Pearce. Sub: Lamorte.

Borough: Furlong, Healey, Gardner, Simpson, Ennis, Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Straw (Lyons 59), Thomas (Dyer 67), Jennings. Sub: Barry.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride and Sean Davies did well to cut out O'Connor's cross at full stretch with Thomas waiting to pounce. Moors then had an unbelievable escape when Wayne Simpson headed down Brett Healey's centre, Thomas' shot was deflected by the keeper and Andy Jones hooked it off the line via the underside of the crossbar. But the pressure paid off as Borough finally broke the deadlock after 18 minutes. A neat build up on the right ended with Wray whipping in a deep cross and when the defence failed to clear Thomas pounced to score.

Moor Green were still trying to recover from that blow four minutes later as Wray freed Healey on the right and the full back's cross was swept home by Jennings. Wray, who was leading the Moor Green defence a merry dance, went past two men, cut inside and watched in dismay as his fierce left footer beat Heyes but rebounded off the crossbar. But Borough were stunned as the home side cut the deficit after 28 minutes. They failed to clear a Chris Pearce free kick and following a scramble Mark Shepherd prodded the ball home.



However, the visitors quickly regained their control and on the stroke of half-time Thomas restored the two goal cushion with a searching 20 yarder into the top corner after a neat one-two with Simpson.

Heyes was quickly back in action after the break, saving well from Straw and then turning O'Connor's goal bound header over the top. But there was nothing he could do seven minutes into the second half when Richie Gardner played a quick ball to Wray and his shot from the edge of the area gave the keeper no chance. Kim Casey sliced an effort wide with just Scott Furlong to beat as Moors looked to salvage some pride but they went further behind after 67 minutes. Wray caused the home defence problems on the right and his centre picked out O'Connor who made no mistake with a firm header.

Borough's celebrations were cut short, however, as just 60 seconds later poor defending saw them fail to deal with a left wing corner and substitute Stuart Hamilton scored a simple goal. Furlong then had to make a smart save low to his left to deny Shepherd as Borough eased off but the issue was already well beyond doubt.

Phillips Lines Up O'Toole

Borough boss Brendan Phillips is set to sign former Coventry City youngster Gavin O'Toole from Leek Town. The 23-year-old midfielder is a former Irish youth international and is expected to be in the squad to play Rothwell.

Rothwell Town v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1998

Rothwell: Parsons, Foley, Tiday (Coates 62), Brown, Wagstaff, Lord, Meeds, Dunlop, Jowett, Heffernan, Spencer (Marshall 81). **Sub:** Fletcher.

Borough: Dudley, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Williams, Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas (Wilkin 76), Muir (O'Toole 81) Gardner. **Sub:** Healey.

Borough travelled to Cecil Street to play Rothwell Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quick off the mark and should have been ahead after only two minutes. Ian Muir's through ball put Joe O'Connor clear with just the keeper to beat but his shot rebounded to safety off the legs of John Parsons. Rothwell had another escape shortly afterwards when the keeper wildly sliced a Steve Prindiville ball into the area towards his own net but Dean Foley recovered to head the goal-bound ball for a corner. Borough continued to dictate the pace and as Anton Thomas burst into the area, it took a timely challenge from Andy Tiday to block the striker's shot and O'Connor was unable to turn in the loose ball from a tight angle.

At the other end a mix-up in the Borough defence let in Paul Wagstaff but Barry Williams recovered to clear the danger at the expense of a corner. The visitors were then fortunate to survive a goalmouth scramble after Dudley had missed his punch to a left wing corner but the keeper redeemed himself as he was quickly out to deflect Wayne Spencer's shot wide of the target. As Borough regained control Shaun Wray had a fierce volley superbly turned over the top by Parsons before flashing a drive across the face of the home goal.

But Borough and their travelling fans were stunned as the Bones broke the deadlock six minutes into the second half. Simon Dunlop's ball into the area was not cleared and when Liam Heffernan back-heeled it, Wagstaff's first-time shot was blocked by Dudley but the Rothwell midfielder headed home the rebound. However, the home side's celebrations lasted just two minutes. Thomas linked up with Gardner before cutting back a low centre from the line that O'Connor turned in at the far post.

Despite this set-back the Bones showed plenty of ambition with both Wagstaff and substitute Steve Coates hitting shots narrowly wide of the target. Gardner had a shot well parried by Parsons as Borough hit back before O'Connor saw a point-blank effort smothered by the Rothwell keeper after Williams and Gardner had created the chance. Then, with just five minutes remaining, Williams produced a superb cross to the unmarked O'Connor but the striker put a free header wide from eight yards out.

Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 12-12-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams (Crowley 45), Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas (Wilkin 85), Muir (O'Toole 77), Gardner.

Crawley: Blake, Gregory, Payne, Taylor, Mackie, Stevens, Hawthorne, McEntaggart, Abbey (Veiga 71), Ullathorne, Warden (McEwen 71). **Sub:** Andrews.

Borough welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The visitors had no time to settle as they came under pressure from the start with Barry Williams volleying narrowly over the top in the first minute. But there was no let-off three minutes later when Shaun Wray was brought down in the area by Ian Payne and Muir scored from the resulting penalty. Crawley were still on the back foot a little later and had a lucky escape as Richie Gardner beat Justin Gregory to a deep cross from Wray only to see his header strike the foot of the post. As Borough continued to surge forward, Joe O'Connor had an effort saved by keeper Adrian Blake when he was clean through but the pressure paid off as Barry Williams rose to Steve Prindiville's 15th minute free kick to power home a header – his tenth goal of the season.

In a rare Crawley attack Mark Hawthorne had a shot deflected for a corner and then Richard Williams had to make a low save from Sean McEntaggart. Borough were quickly back in control and were desperately unfortunate not to increase their lead when O'Connor's shot, following a Prindiville right wing corner, beat Blake but was cleared off the line by Payne. Wray then had an effort well held by the keeper before O'Connor glanced a header inches wide from an Anton Thomas cross with the keeper well beaten. But seconds before the half-time whistle Simon Ullathorne swung in a free kick from the right and Taylor rose unchallenged to head in at the far post.

Borough had a let-off right at the start of the second period when Gregory's free-kick was knocked on by John Warden for Ben Abbey to head over from six yards. Gardner forced a low

save from Blake as Borough looked to reassert their control and Wray saw a fierce drive turned away by the visiting keeper. Crawley were now enjoying far more possession than in the first period and were beginning to pen Borough back deep inside their own half.

However, despite their territorial advantage, the visitors found the Borough rearguard in an uncompromising mood and Richard Williams in the home goal hardly had to make a save of note.



Crawley keeper Blake beats Joe O'Connor to the ball.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

But there was a moment of anxiety for Borough fans late on when they failed to clear a right wing corner and substitute Victor Veiga had a shot deflected over the top. Then in the closing seconds Crawley might have salvaged a point when a cross rebounded to Gregory but the full back's close shot was sliced well wide of the target.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 15-12-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Healey, Prindiville (Thomas 72), Everitt, B. Williams, Crowley, Wray (Mackenzie 77), O'Connor, Wilkin, O'Toole, Gardner (Simpson 88).

Atherstone: Belford, Blair (Elvin 88), Barratt, Olnier, Albrighton, Dean, Green (Kelly 58), Hart, Landon, Middleton, Martin. Sub: White.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup first round second leg tie.

Borough shocked Adders with an early goal, scoring in the eighth minute. Adders conceded a corner on the right and when Prindiville curled in the flag kick to the far post both Dale Belford and Richard Barratt missed it and the ball sailed into the top corner. Borough failed to clear a free kick as the visitors looked for a quick response and when Kim Green knocked the ball back into the middle it took a diving save from Richard Williams to keep out Landon's diving header.

But the Manor Park side missed a great chance to increase their advantage on the half-hour mark. Richie Gardner nicked

the ball away from David Hart and drew Belford as he cut into the box but Gavin O'Toole stepped in to shoot wide of a gaping net. Joe O'Connor then hooked an effort a foot wide before Barry Williams had a header cleared off the line by Barratt with Belford beaten. Shortly before the break a rebound put Green clear but the Adders striker showed too much of the ball to Richard Williams and the Borough keeper halted the danger.

Adders were living dangerously again at the start of the second period with a Prindiville corner being cleared off the line by David Hart and Gardner hammering a fierce volley wide from Shaun Wray's cross. At the other end Borough were in trouble when Landon won the ball outside the area but Leigh Everitt recovered to hook away the ensuing centre with Green poised to pounce. Atherstone substitute Leon Kelly then went close with a volley on the turn which went narrowly wide before the visitors grabbed a surprise 63rd minute equaliser. Kelly played a neat one-two with Middleton to put the midfielder into the area. There appeared to be little danger as Middleton seemed to overrun the ball but a clumsy challenge by Barry Williams brought him down and he picked himself up to score from the penalty spot.

But four minutes later Borough missed a golden opportunity to go back in front. O'Connor took advantage of a mistake by Paul Olnier, drew Belford as he cut in from the left and slipped the ball square to Kevin Wilkin who amazingly knocked it wide from two yards. Borough were to pay a dear price for that miss as Adders got a second goal after 77 minutes with Kelly taking full advantage of an awful mix-up between Everitt and Gardner before the simplest of goals. To rub salt into Borough's wounds Landon put the issue beyond doubt in the dying seconds with a tremendous volley from the angle of the penalty area which screamed into the far top corner.

Veteran Striker Joins Borough

Brendan Phillips has completed the signing of Andy Kirkup from Raunds Town on a free transfer. The experienced striker goes straight into the squad for the game at Cambridge.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 19-12-1998

Cambridge: Rust, Greaves (Starbuck 31), Chattoe, Linighan, Carter, Harriott (Holden 59), Owen (Sweet 75), Brown, Kiwomya, Cambridge, Galliers.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams (Crowley 49), Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas, Muir, O'Toole. Subs: Wilkin, Healey.

Borough travelled to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

City were hard pushed to contain Borough during the early proceedings and it came as no surprise when the visitors swept ahead after only seven minutes. Joe O'Connor was the architect, beating two men and playing a neat one-two with the excellent Thomas before cutting into the area and whipping in a low centre that was turned in from close range by O'Toole. Barry Williams then found space and surged to the bye-line but his cross was cut out at the near post by the alert Nicky Rust.

Borough continued to dominate and could have extended their lead after 17 minutes when Thomas turned his man and played O'Connor into the area but his low shot was well blocked by the keeper. But Borough had a real let-off midway through the half. Richard Williams failed to gather an Adie Cambridge free-kick, Angus could only partially clear as he headed out from under the bar but somehow Ian Brown and Andy Kiwomya managed to steer the ball wide from in the six yards box. The Borough defence then got in a bit of a tangle and Ben Galliers stepped in to drill a cross-shot a foot wide of the far post. But the visitors were quickly back in control with Shaun Wray volleying over the top following a surging run by O'Connor and O'Toole saw his chip well held by Rust.

Borough continued to look the more dangerous at the start of the second period with Thomas beating two men and forcing a superb save from Rust. A neat one-two with O'Toole saw O'Connor burst into the area but the keeper was quickly out to smother the danger at the striker's feet. However, Borough were rocked as Cambridge grabbed a 63rd minute equaliser. Brown's persistence forced Steve Prindiville into conceding a corner and from the flag kick Angus needlessly handled and Kiwomya made no mistake from the spot.

Borough could have been back in front within 60 seconds but Thomas' header from Muir's free-kick was touched onto the crossbar and O'Connor put the loose ball wide. Thomas produced an astute ball to free O'Connor in the area and he went round the keeper only to put the ball wide of a gaping net. As Borough continued to push for the winner, O'Connor did well to set up a chance for Thomas but Rust again made a superb block to beat away the close range effort. There was a moment of real anxiety for Borough when Cambridge went clear in the area on a rare raid by the home side, but Prindiville made an excellent covering tackle to halt the danger.

Then, with everyone appearing to accept that the honours would be shared, Borough had a golden opportunity to snatch the points with the very last kick of the match. The contest was already into the fifth minute of added time when Thomas fastened onto a poor back pass by Brian Linighan only to be brought down by Rust as he rounded the keeper. Amazingly, Rust escaped with only a yellow card and then, to rub salt into Borough's wounds, produced a superb diving save low to his left to palm away Muir's well-taken penalty.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 26-12-1998

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Gardner (O'Toole 27), Thomas, Muir (Crowley 86), O'Connor. **Sub:** Kirkup.

Atherstone: Belford, Blair, Barratt (White 88), Dean, Albrighton, Olnier, Green (Kelly 75), Hart, Landon, Middleton, Martin.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Both sides took time to adjust to the conditions, but it was Atherstone who produced the first real threat after seven minutes. Richard Barratt's deep cross from the left only found

Gardner who sliced his attempted clearance and was relieved to see the ball go straight to his keeper. However, Borough could have been ahead just two minutes later, Ian Muir's free kick picked out Thomas and he laid it off to Barry Williams only to see the midfielder fire a shot over the top from 15 yards.

At the other end Danny Martin turned smartly to lose his marker but his left-footer was held by Richard Williams. Nuneaton then had appeals for a penalty turned down when Barratt appeared to handle Shaun Wray's deep centre before the Manor Park side missed a clear cut chance to break the deadlock. Gardner moved quickly onto a ball from Thomas and burst past Mark Albrighton in the area before pulling a low ball across the face of goal. Barry Williams mis-hit his shot and when the ball eventually finished up with Wray the winger's shot was cleared off the line by David Hart straight into the arms of grateul Adders' keeper Dale Belford.

That was virtually Gardner's last contribution as shortly afterwards he limped out of the action to be replaced by Gavin O'Toole. Almost immediately Wray's long ball saw Thomas outpace Hart but the striker's fiercely struck drive flew well wide of the target. Borough were doing most of the pressing but were again out of luck when Joe O'Connor was poised to shoot when he was brought down from behind by Paul Olnier but again Nuneaton's penalty appeals fell on deaf ears. As the Manor Park side continued to dictate the pace Barry Williams sent Wray racing into the area but he selfishly fired into the side netting with men waiting in the middle.



Anton Thomas heads home Borough's winning goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

However, Borough's pressure finally paid off two minutes before the interval. Muir was brought down wide on the left by Richard Landon and when the Nuneaton midfielder curled in the free-kick Thomas glanced home a close range header.

O'Connor produced a superb run into the box early in the second period as Borough picked up where they had left off but he pulled his shot wide of the near post. Although Adders were battling for everything, they were offering little in the way of an attacking threat, but they might have been back on level terms on the hour mark. Kim Green out-muscled Wayne Simpson and played the ball square to Landon who failed to test Richard Williams with a hurried shot from the edge of the

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



area. Borough then missed a great chance to put the issue beyond doubt. Muir's free kick from the left was flicked on by O'Connor only for Wray to volley wide from close range. The visitors brought on both Leon Kelly and Kevin Elvin as they looked to salvage a point in the closing minutes. Elvin quickly made an impression as he found space on the right. However, his low cross was well cut out by Richard Williams with Kelly waiting to pounce. But Borough had the last word with Wray dancing inside from the right only for O'Connor to fail by inches to get on to the end of the winger's low cross.

Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 28-12-1998

Gresley: Ford, Brown, Wardle, Carvell, Faulkener, Fitzpatrick (Thornhill 61), Smith (Fowkes 45), A. Simpson, Pitt (Sandar 75), Rowland, Orton.
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Wray (Kirkup 61), O'Toole (Healey 83), Thomas (Wilkin 73) Muir, O'Connor.

Borough travelled to The Moat Ground to play Gresley Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Anton Thomas miscued from a Gavin O'Toole cross before Matt Carvell was happy to cut out Steve Prindiville's low centre with Joe O'Connor closing in. Thomas put a header over the top as Borough continued to cut the pace but the visitors had a scare when Andy Simpson was not picked up for Mark Orton's free-kick and his header was only narrowly wide. But Nuneaton were quickly back in charge with Prindiville having a shot deflected over and from the resulting corner Shaun Wray fired an effort off target after keeper Stuart Ford had failed to gather.

At the other end, confusion between Terry Angus and Richard Williams almost let in Ian Pitt before Borough had a let off. Dave Faulkener's deep cross from the left found Lynden Rowland who headed it back across goal but Pitt put a weak header wide of the post. Borough wasted a great chance to break the deadlock after 35 minutes. Dave Crowley made space on the left and his centre gave Wray a simple header but he failed to find the net from inside the six yard box. But two minutes later Borough were in front. Another neat build up ended with Muir freeing Prindiville on the left and he picked out Thomas who hooked home a volley on the turn.

It could have been 2-0 shortly afterwards when Muir's shot took a deflection off Carvell and clipped the post on its way out for a corner. Muir brought a good save from Ford following a neat lay-off by O'Toole. Borough opened the second period in the same vein and it came as no surprise when the visitors extended their lead in the 48th minute. Thomas flicked on Prindiville's right wing corner and Faulkener, desperately trying to deny Angus could only steer the ball into his own net from almost on the line.

Borough were now in total control with O'Toole and O'Connor both going close as Gresley struggled to hang on. Ford was again in action to keep out Muir's low drive and was relieved to see a 25 yarder from Crowley flash inches over the angle.

The Rovers goal was having a charmed life and they had another let-off as they scrambled the ball clear after

O'Connor's header from a Thomas cross had bounced off the crossbar. But there was no escape for Gresley after 75 minutes as Borough put the issue out of reach. Ford needlessly pulled down substitute Kevin Wilkin in a goalmouth scramble and Muir made no mistake from the resulting penalty.

Rovers refused to give in and twice went close during the closing stages. Borough were in a tangle from Graeme Fowkes' left wing corner and O'Toole had to clear Rowland's header off the line then Simpson got in a header from a Rowland cross but Richard Williams was well positioned to save low to his right.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-01-1999

Halesowen: McDonnell, Crisp, Cooper, Wood, Lloyd, Gardiner, Birch, Wright, Bradley, Francis, Reed. Subs: Owen, Elmes, Peters.
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, B. Williams, Crowley, Angus, Wray, O'Toole (Kirkup 78), Thomas, Muir, O'Connor (Wilkin 44). Sub: Healey.

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough opened brightly with Shaun Wray having a close range shot blocked by Matt Gardiner after an Anton Thomas cross had been flicked on by Joe O'Connor. But the visitors had a scare after ten minutes when they failed to clear a left wing cross and Ian Reed hooked a shot narrowly over the angle. Three minutes later Borough were behind, failing to deal with a left wing corner, the ball went back to Birch who beat O'Toole, moved into the area and tucked a low shot into the far corner.

Borough were finding problems prising open a no-nonsense Yeltz defence but came close to an equaliser when Leigh Everitt flashed a centre across the face of the home goal with O'Connor and O'Toole unable to get the vital touch. Terry Angus was then only inches away from turning in O'Toole's deep cross before Wray cut inside from the right and saw his low drive fumbled by Halesowen keeper Danny McDonnell who was happy to grab the ball at the second attempt.

Kevin Wilkin replace O'Connor, who was feeling the effects of flu, shortly before the break and Borough began the second period in a more purposeful mood. Steve Prindiville's centre was finger-tipped away from the lurking Thomas by McDonnell and then an Ian Muir free-kick caught everyone napping and almost crept in at the far post.

Midway through the half Borough were within inches of an equaliser when Wilkin's glancing header from a Prindiville right wing corner flashed agonisingly wide of the target. But the visitors were caught on the break in a swift Halesowen counter-attack and Reed's dipping 25-yard drive was only inches over the top. Then with six minutes remaining on the clock, Borough's hopes of salvaging anything from the contest nose-dived when Adrian Cooper put Wright clear and when he rounded Richard Williams he was hacked down by the keeper who was sent off. Skipper Dave Crowley took over in goal and produced a couple of smart saves but could do nothing to prevent Wright turning in Cooper's left-wing cross with virtually the last kick of the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Merthyr Tydfil 03-01-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, B. Williams, Crowley, Angus, Wray, O'Toole, A. Thomas (Kirkup 84), Muir, Wilkin. **Subs:** Healey, Jennings.
Merthyr: N. Thomas, Regan, Michael, Needs, Abrahams (Driscoll 80) M. Williams, Evans, Griffith, Benbow, Shephard, Chiverton (Ramasut 68). **Sub:** Ashman.

Borough welcomed Merthyr Tydfil to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had an early scare when Garry Shephard found space on the right and his low cross picked out Mark Benbow who drilled a shot straight at Richard Williams. Gavin O'Toole put a header over the top as Borough hit back but the Manor Park side were in trouble when an under-hit back pass by Dave Crowley let in Shephard but Richard Williams got a hand to the shot to turn the ball on to a post and out for a corner. It was then the visitors' turn to be grateful to their keeper a couple of minutes later as Neil Thomas made a superb save low to his right from a Barry Williams header.

Borough then virtually put the points out of reach of the visitors as they opened up a three-goal advantage in the space of four minutes. Ian Muir knocked a 17th minute free-kick square to Steve Prindiville and the full-back drilled a low centre into the goalmouth for Angus to turn it in from close range. Two minutes later Merthyr failed to clear a right-wing corner allowing Prindiville to cross to the far post where Wilkin headed home. The visitors were still reeling from that double blow when Barry Williams played a neat one-two with Wilkin and raced into the area before beating Thomas with a low shot that went in off the left hand post.



Kevin Wilkin heads Borough into a 2-0 lead. Photo: Heartland Evening News

It could have been four a couple of minutes later as Muir sent Wray in on the left but the winger's shot rebounded to safety off the foot of the post. Muir then put a shot over the bar and Thomas glanced a header wide before O'Toole's drive was held by Thomas.

Borough picked up where they left off after the break with Thomas going close with a header and Angus thumping a header against the bar, with Mark Williams heading the

rebound against his own bar. Merthyr continued to lead a charmed life and a Wray cross was cleared to the edge of the area from where Muir cracked a 20-yard volley against the woodwork. But the visitors cut the deficit in the 67th minute when Shephard raced clear to beat Richard Williams from close range. Angus had a header superbly saved by Thomas and Wray missed a great chance from Prindiville's cross.

However, the pressure paid off with Borough putting any hopes of a Merthyr revival completely out of reach with two goals in a 60 second spell. Merthyr were caught short as Wray burst clear, side-stepping the on-rushing keeper and putting the ball into the net off the underside of the bar. Wray again broke clear and his cut-back found Thomas who rammed a 12 yard shot into the roof of the net. Merthyr were in total disarray and Muir flashed a free kick across the visitors goalmouth where Needs turned the ball into his own net.

Abbey Turns Down Borough

Hot-shot striker Ben Abbey has snubbed a move to Manor Park in a bid to find Football League glory. The speedy Crawley Town hitman has rejected a move to Manor Park, hoping for a big money move into the professional game.

Phillips Flattered By Harriers Link

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has admitted to being flattered by rumours that he is a contender for the vacant Kidderminster Harriers job. But he has denied throwing his hat into the ring and has pledged to stay at Manor Park and help Borough become a bigger club than the Aggborough outfit.

Ilkeston Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-01-1999

Ilkeston: Marples, Ludlam, Fearon, Middleton, Weaver (T. Simpson 77), Knapper, Clifford, Robinson, Helliwell, O'Reilly, Wright (Eshelby 60). **Sub:** Asghar.
Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, B. Williams, Crowley (W. Simpson 67), Angus, Wray, O'Toole, Thomas, Muir, O'Connor. **Subs:** Kirkup, Healey.

Borough travelled to The New Manor to play Ilkeston Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough might have taken the lead in the first minute when Anton Thomas freed Gavin O'Toole who cut in from the left but lifted his shot well over the top. But the visitors were in trouble shortly after when Steve Prindiville gave the ball away in midfield and Dave Wright quickly sent Justin O'Reilly racing clear and it took a fine tackle by the covering Angus to halt the danger. Ian Robinson then glanced a header well wide from a corner before John Knapper fired a rising drive straight at Richard Williams after Ian Helliwell had knocked down Wright's ball into the area.

However, Borough began to get a grip in midfield and when Ian Muir played a ball square across the home penalty area. Barry Williams had a clear chance but his shot flew way off target. Borough were then denied what appeared to be a blatant penalty after 34 minutes when Dean Fearon brought down Joe O'Connor after Thomas had sent him clear in the area. But 60 seconds later Borough were in front. Prindiville's



right-wing corner took a deflection off Ilkeston defender Simon Weaver and Angus made no mistake with a close-range volley. Then, shortly before the break, a superb ball from Muir put Shaun Wray clear on the right but he wanted too much time and Fearon recovered to cut out the winger's cross intended for the unmarked O'Connor.

Borough picked up in the same vein at the start of the second period and could have extended their advantage two minutes after the restart. A neat build-up on the left by the visitors ended with Prindiville whipping in a near-post cross that O'Toole was only inches away from turning in. Ilkeston were now struggling to make much of an impression and Borough squandered a great chance to make the points safe.

Muir again sent Wray clear after winning possession in midfield and the winger cut into the area before squaring the ball to O'Connor but the striker dragged his shot wide from 12 yards out. Richard Williams had to be alert to cut out a long ball from Knapper with O'Reilly tearing in before Thomas broke clear to force a tremendous save from home keeper Clive Marples. Ilkeston had a penalty appeal for handball against Angus turned down but Borough were quickly back in charge with Thomas powering a header inches over the top from Prindiville's left-wing corner.

Borough continued to call the tune and Thomas had another great chance but dragged his shot wide after Wray had set up the opening. Then, in the closing minutes a determined run into the area from Thomas saw the big striker back-heel the ball into the path of Muir who was denied by another excellent save from the diving Marples.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 12-01-1999

Borough: Shoemake, Healey (Everitt 41), Prindiville, Simpson, Jennings, Angus, Wray, O'Toole, Wilkin, Kirkup, O'Connor (Dyer 79). **Sub:** Muir.

Stourbridge: De Bont, Colcombe, Wood, Brookes, Grant, Thompson, Bastable, Baker, Nicholls, Danks, Lunt (Smith 22). **Subs:** Howells, Garratt.

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

Borough were quickly into their stride and in the very first minute Andy Kirkup found space on the left but his cross was cut out by Stourbridge keeper Andy De Bont with O'Connor waiting to pounce. But three minutes later Borough had a real let-off. The defence was all over the place as Adam Bastable drilled in a low ball from the right for Anthony Baker who looked certain to score at the far post but his weak close range effort was smothered by Kevin Shoemake. Borough's response was positive as Gareth Jennings slipped Kirkup through the middle only for De Bont to make an excellent save to turn the shot over the top.

Borough still didn't look comfortable at the back and shortly before the break they were relieved to see Baker glance a header well wide from Richard Woods cross. However, the home side showed far more purpose at the start of the second period and twice might have broken the deadlock.

Five minutes after the break Shaun Wray's reverse pass sent Everitt racing into the area but his cross shot took a deflection and flew wide. Kevin Wilkin then found himself some space on the edge of the area to bring a smart save from the visiting keeper with a snap shot. But Borough suddenly found themselves behind on the hour mark. Paul Danks made a break on the right and pulled the ball back to Colcombe who saw his tame shot find the corner of the net. The visitors celebrations were short-lived however, as Borough surged forward to find an equaliser just two minutes later.

Wilkin was desperately unlucky when he superbly turned his marker only to see his 20 yard drive smack against the crossbar with De Bont beaten. But the Manor Park side squared the tie almost immediately afterwards when Stourbridge failed to clear a ball into the area and as it broke to Everitt the full-back hit a shot into the bottom corner. Wayne Simpson then saw his low cross in the 67th minute scrambled round the post by the keeper but Borough went in front from the resulting corner. Steve Prindiville swung in the flag kick from the right and O'Connor powered a superb 12 yard header into the roof of the net.

To their credit the visitors kept battling away and Shoemake had to make a brave save to halt Danks who looked well offside and Terry Angus headed the follow-up effort off the line. But in the closing seconds it might have been three when Wray's dipping centre beat De Bont but flew over the top off the crossbar.

More Seating At Manor Park

Manor Park could have a second stand with seating facilities for Borough supporters. Officials of the Dr Martens League championship favourites are launching a feasibility study to determine whether seating can be installed in the canal side stand. This would improve facilities at the ground where the only seating is currently in the main stand. Borough chairman Phil Clayton insisted the scheme was in a very embryonic stage and nothing had been decided.

Phillips Signs Kiwomya

Brendan Phillips was in a jubilant mood after clinching the signing of Cambridge City hitman Andy Kiwomya. The 31-year-old former Dundee, Halifax Town, Notts County and Bradford City striker, who has scored 12 goals so far this season, joins the club on a non-contract basis.

Manor Park Given Grade A Certificate

Nuneaton Borough are on course for Conference football both on and off the pitch after a team of officials gave the club the green light after a rigorous inspection. Representatives from the Conference, police, fire service and borough council scrutinised Manor Park yesterday and the outcome is one that has delighted the club after they were given a Grade A status. The ground was last graded 18 months ago and the necessary work identified then has now been completed to the satisfaction of the authorities.

Nuneaton Borough v Salisbury City 23-01-1999

Borough: Shoemake, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Williams, Angus, Wray, O'Toole (Wilkin 75), Thomas, Muir (Crowley 64), O'Connor (Kiwomya 64).

Salisbury: Matthews, Harbut, Braybrook, Rofe, Emms, Randall, Bowers, Sales, Hayter, Chalk, Housley. **Subs:** Bright, Thompson, Coles.

Borough welcomed Salisbury City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started strongly and tore apart the Salisbury defence at will, but found visiting keeper Jason Matthews in inspired form. Matthews was in action from the first move of note when Gavin O'Toole found Anton Thomas wide on the left and the keeper superbly cut out the ensuing cross under severe pressure from Joe O'Connor. Almost immediately Matthews made an excellent save low to his right to beat away a 25-yard drive from Barry Williams before enjoying a stroke of luck.

Thomas won possession in the middle of the park and played a short ball to Steve Prindiville who hit a tremendous first-time shot that the Salisbury keeper was happy to collect at the second attempt after diverting the shot onto a post. It was all Borough at this stage and when Williams was brought down on the edge of the area, Matthews had to make another fine save from Prindiville's free-kick. There were more problems for the visitors when they failed to clear O'Toole's left-wing cross and Ian Muir's cracking drive appeared destined for the net until Matthews went full length to his left to beat the ball away.

But as the half wore on the visitors began to pose more of a threat and twice came close to breaking the deadlock. Salisbury made a swift counter attack down the left and when Neil Houseley's cross found Paul Sales, the striker hooked an acrobatic over-head effort narrowly wide. Then, shortly before the break, Hayter got away and Sales was only inches away from turning in his low cross on the near post.



Barry Williams challenges the Salisbury keeper.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The visitors opened the second period and Borough had a let-off after 12 minutes. Adie Randall's fierce cross-shot hit a post and rebounded to Tyronne Bowers whose initial shot was blocked by Kevin Shoemake who then superbly turned the follow-up shot over the top. Shaun Wray wasted a good opening, blazing wildly off target after being sent clear by Leigh Everitt before the visitors broke the deadlock after 63 minutes. Shoemake's throw-out failed to find Muir and the keeper could only palm out Houseley's shot to the lurking Hayter who made no mistake from close range.

Borough were then fortunate to escape conceding a second when Hayter flicked a Bowers cross through Wayne Simpson's legs and Shoemake managed to smother on the line. Newcomer Andy Kiwomya, making his debut as substitute, got to the byline and whipped in a great cross and Thomas glanced a header wide from six yards. But Salisbury had the last say with Robbie Harbut seeing his cross-shot rebound into Shoemake's arms off the foot of the post before Sales missed a sitter from six yards.

Borough's Windfall

Nuneaton Borough have enjoyed a £25,000 pay day after hot shot teenager Malcolm Christie made his Premiership debut for Derby County. The 19-year-old striker who just a few months ago was working in a supermarket became the Nuneaton side's record transfer when he was sold to The Rams last year.

Nuneaton Borough v Bath City 30-01-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt (Gardner 65), Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Crowley, Thomas (Kiwomya 85), Muir, O'Connor. **Sub:** O'Toole.

Bath City: Hervin, Davis, Bodin, Elsey, Towler, Tisdale, Rollo, Fraser, White, Paul, James. **Subs:** Colbourne, Wotton, Loydon.

Borough welcomed Bath City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were the first to show when Shaun Wray burst through the middle but he allowed the ball to get too far in front and City keeper Mark Hervin was able to smother at his feet. White then put a header straight at Richard Williams after Martin Paul had provided the cross as the Romans immediately hit back. But Borough squandered a chance to take a ninth minute lead. Joe O'Connor's flick on put Anton Thomas clear but he allowed Hervin to block the shot and David Elsey completed the clearance at the expense of a corner.

Borough continued to dictate the pace with Thomas finding space on the left before whipping in a centre that was a shade behind the disappointing O'Connor who could not get any real power into the header and Hervin was able to gather comfortably. Then an impressive build-up involving Steve Prindiville and Thomas set up Muir who fired in a 20-yard shot that beat the keeper but flew narrowly over the angle. But there was a scare for Borough when Jimmy Fraser broke and found Paul who laid it off for Make Davis who side-footed over the top from just inside the area.



Barry Williams brought a low save from Hervin as Borough regained the initiative but five minutes before the interval the Manor Park men found themselves behind. Richard Williams made a fine save to deny Fraser as he broke through but when Borough failed to clear, Stuart James centred from the left and the much-travelled veteran and 40-year-old assistant manager White fired home at the far post.

Borough stepped up a gear as they looked for an equaliser at the start of the second period and the visitors were forced to defend in depth. Barry Williams had a shot charged down by City skipper Colin Towler and then the midfielder saw his neat chip sail over the top with the keeper struggling. Little was seen of Bath as an attacking force after the break but they could have extended their advantage twice within a minute. First White failed to control the ball after Elsey's cross had opened up the Borough defence and then Richard Williams had to react smartly to keep out Fraser's close-range effort at the near post.

But that was the last real threat from Bath as Borough totally dominated. It looked as though they had found the elusive equaliser midway through the half when City failed to clear a Prindiville free-kick and Barry Williams saw his shot crash against the underside of the bar and rebound to safety. O'Connor then burst clear into the area only to be fouled by Towler but Borough's penalty appeals fell on deaf ears. Prindiville then put an effort into the side netting as Nuneaton continued to push for the equaliser which finally arrived after 80 minutes.

The Romans defence had been having a charmed life but their luck ran out when on-loan Jimmy Rollo's clumsy tackle sent Barry Williams sprawling and Muir made no mistake from the resulting penalty. Borough could have gone on to claim all three points as shortly before the end, Towler cleared off the line from Wray after sub Andy Kiwomya had charged down an attempted clearance by the City keeper.

Dorchester Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-02-1999

Dorchester: Davis, Cooper (Rice 44), Ferrett, Nash (Groves 80), Harris, Cross, O'Brien, Murray, O'Hagan, Shepherd, Lovell. **Sub:** Medlin.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Kiwomya, Thomas (Wilkin 72), Muir, Gardner (Crowley 72). **Sub:** O'Connor.

Borough travelled to The Avenue Stadium to play Dorchester Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough looked the sharper outfit in the early stages and Kiwomya had the first opportunity from Leigh Everitt's fifth minute cross but his header lacked power and then a poor bounce robbed Ian Muir as he was about to shoot on the edge of the area. Muir then saw his 20 yard free-kick turned over the top by Gavin Davis before Kiwomya shot wide from well inside the area following a Steve Prindiville free kick. But the visitors had a scare when Chris Ferrett's left wing corner held up in the wind causing problems for Richard Williams who appeared to push Martin Shepherd but no penalty was given. Borough were

having difficulty turning their possession into clear cut chances but Wray should have done better when heading well wide from Prindiville's cross. Shortly before the break Adam Nash found space on the right and when he whipped in a low centre to the far post Borough's travelling fans were relieved to see Everitt's sliced clearance fly out for a corner.

The visitors quickly regained the initiative at the start of the second period and could have broken through almost straight from the restart. Barry Williams played an astute ball inside the full back to send Wray clear in the area but he put a weak shot straight at the keeper. Five minutes later the Magpies were fortunate when Wray's shot from the edge of the area hit the foot of the post and Davis somehow managed to scramble the rebound clear with Anton Thomas waiting to pounce.

Shortly afterwards it was Borough's turn to breathe a sigh of relief when Ferrett's free kick picked out Danny O'Hagan at the far post and his header flew across the face of goal with no-one able to get a touch. Wray had a fierce shot turned over the top by Davis as Borough hit back and then a double substitution with Dave Crowley and Kevin Wilkin replacing Richie Gardner and Thomas turned the course of the game. Wilkin was quickly involved and his superb ball into the area saw Kiwomya lose Ryan Cross to fire a low shot past Davis.

Wilkin continued to cause the Town defence problems and a neat turn in the box saw him shake off his marker before forcing a fine save from the home keeper. Borough then missed a great chance to put the issue beyond doubt. A fine crossfield ball from Wilkin found Muir and he laid it off to Barry Williams who wanted too much time and Davis was able to block the midfielder's shot. There was then a late scare for Borough as Dorchester threw everyone forward in an effort to salvage a point. Borough failed to get away Ferrett's left wing cross and Roy O'Brien got in a long range header that found its way into the net through a crowded goalmouth – but the effort was disallowed for a foul on Richard Williams.

Phillips In Talks With Wilkin

Borough boss Brendan Phillips is to have talks with Kevin Wilkin ahead of the trip to Cambridge City, who are trying to obtain the centre-forward's signature. Phillips said: "I hope Kevin will stay and he has a valuable role to play with us."

Borough In Talks To Improve Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough are in talks to improve Manor Park up to Football League status in time for the 1999-2000 season. The Dr Martens Premier league leaders, who are odds-on for promotion to the Nationwide Conference in time for next season are eager to improve their ground to Football League standard in case their exploits on the field are repeated next season.

Borough chairman Phil Clayton said that the club didn't want to be in a position where their ground wasn't up to scratch and they would be denied promotion to the Football League. Three clubs have been refused entry into Division

Three in recent years after becoming Conference champions. In 1994 Graham Alner's Kidderminster Harriers were refused permission and a year later Sammy McIlroy's Macclesfield Town had the same fate. Two years later the Cheshire side were promoted but not before Paul Fairclough's Stevenage Borough had lifted the title only to be told they had to stay in the Conference. Nuneaton Borough are determined they will not miss out on the chance to step out of non-league football.

Clayton said: "Things have to be done at Manor Park to ensure that if the team gets into the Conference then we won't be put in a position like Stevenage or Kidderminster Harriers where we can't get into the Football League.

"We are exploring the avenues we need to get an A-grading for the Football League and we need to have the plans in place for next year. The position we are in is one of looking and talking to advisors about what would be possible and feasible in terms of developing Manor Park."...

Borough Kick-Start Upgrading Plans

The ball has started rolling in the development plans for Nuneaton Borough following their decision to stay at Manor Park. The club, who are currently top of the Dr Martens Premier League, have just renewed a planning application to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council for a two storey stand extension to bring the ground up to Football League status. The application, which intends to create an office, viewing boxes and changing rooms was first unveiled in 1994.

And, if successful, the developments will create hospitality facilities which could attract major new businesses to the ground and increase the club's revenue...

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 13-02-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Kiwomya (O'Connor 70), Wilkin, Muir, Crowley. Subs: Thomas, Gardner.

Cambridge: Rust, Saddington, Cogger, Holden, Carter, Campbell, Reeder, Tovey, Galliers, Cambridge, Spring. Subs: Owen, Nightingale, Moore.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride and City were penned back in their own half. Steve Prindiville fired a rising 25-yard drive over the top and then Andy Kiwomya produced a surging run into the area and his low ball to the near post was cut out by Steve Holden. As Borough continued to call the tune, Terry Angus found space from Prindiville's left-wing corner but the ball struck his knee and flew wide. However, the goal Borough were looking for arrived after just ten minutes. Prindiville freed Kiwomya with a delightful chip into the box and he drilled in a low centre for Barry Williams to smash home from close range.

The visitors had a let-off when Ian Muir laid the ball back to Barry Williams on the edge of the area and his shot rebounded to safety off keeper Nicky Rust's feet. Cambridge were again lucky to escape a hectic scramble in their goalmouth. Angus had a header from Prindiville's corner

cleared off the line by James Saddington and when the Borough full-back knocked the ball back into the middle Angus again saw his header hooked out by Saddington with the keeper beaten.

In a rare break for the visitors a through ball from Mark Reeder sent Karl Spring racing clear but Richard Williams was quickly out to block the shot. Borough quickly regained the initiative with Shaun Wray hooking a spectacular overhead effort straight into Rust's arms before Kiwomya failed to take advantage of a mistake by Jason Carter. The game suddenly exploded following a clash between Dave Crowley and Chris Tovey and about 15 players were involved in an ugly melee. When the referee finally sorted things out Crowley and Tovey were surprisingly the only two names to go into the book. Shortly before the break, Kiwomya saw a shot turned for a corner by Rust and from Prindiville's flag kick, Borough were again out of luck with Saddington clearing off the line from Wray.



A good chance goes begging.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough picked up where they had left off at the start of the second half but Angus was again unfortunate when Muir and Wray set him up on the edge of the area but his shot bounced clear off the keeper's knees. At the other end, Adie Cambridge hooked a shot high over the top following a Neil Cogger cross before Borough tightened their grip on the points on the hour mark. Kiwomya robbed Carter and cut into the area where he was brought down by the big central defender and Muir made no mistake from the resulting spot kick.

Seven minutes later Kevin Wilkin picked up a ball just outside the area and beat two defenders in a silky run before firing a low shot across Rust and into the far corner. Wray then fired over the top from a Barry Williams cross after the midfielder had burst clear on the right but there was little respite for Cambridge as Borough scored again two minutes later. City failed to clear a Prindiville cross and Wray brilliantly jinked his way past three defenders into the area and cracked a low shot into the left hand corner. Borough continued to dominate until the final whistle and it took a brave save from Rust to deny Wilkin in the dying seconds.



Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-1999

Hednesford: Morgan, Carty, Reece (Broadhurst 82), Comyn, Brindley, Lake, Ware, Sedgemore, Davis, Amos (Colkin 45), Kimmins (S. O'Connor 72).

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt (Crowley 64), Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (Kirkup 72), Gardner, Thomas (Wilkin 64), O'Toole, J. O'Connor.

Borough travelled to Keys Park to play Hednesford Town in a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

Borough twice went close early on. A neat build-up put Gavin O'Toole in space but he snatched at the shot and dragged his effort wide. Then a tremendous break by Barry Williams took him deep into the home area and when he squared the ball to Richie Gardner the winger saw his shot bounce to safety off Phil Morgan's legs. But Borough were then caught square by a long ball from Andy Comyn after 16 minutes and Kimmins lofted the ball over the advancing Richard Williams and it went in off the far post.

O'Toole fired a fierce drive straight at Morgan from a lay-off by Gardner as Borough hit back and then the visitors squandered a clear cut chance. Shaun Wray worked some space on the right and whipped in a cross but Anton Thomas, inside the six yard box got only the faintest of touches and Paul Carty scrambled the ball away. Shortly before the break there were more problems for Borough when Davis went round Leigh Everitt but he put his shot into the side netting with men in the area.

Borough's hopes of salvaging the tie nose-dived five minutes after the break as Hednesford scored. Carty caused the initial problem with a neat ball to Kimmins and he switched it into the area for Davis to burst clear and beat Williams with ease. It could have been worse just 60 seconds later when Kimmins was clear in the box but the danger was halted.

Borough were fortunate to survive a goalmouth scramble when Chris Brindley sliced a corner straight up in the air in the six yard box with several Hednesford players unable to force the ball home before Richard Williams finally smothered it. Borough hit back and Dave Crowley thumped a 25 yarder narrowly wide of the post.

Borough had a great chance to cut the deficit. Brindley was happy to concede a corner from Andy Kirkup's inviting cross and when Hednesford failed to clear the flag kick Kirkup put a close range volley over the top. But the Pitmen should have scored in the final minute when Shaun O'Connor got clear of Prindiville but shot wide from inside the area.

Bath City v Nuneaton Borough 20-02-1999

Bath: Hervin, Richards, Bodin, Wotton, Towler, James, Skidmore (Harrington 77), Fraser, White, Colbourne, Eelsey. Subs: Loydon, Vickerman.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Wilkin, Thomas (O'Connor 83), Muir, Crowley. Subs: O'Toole, Gardner.

Borough travelled to Twerton Park to play Bath City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were slow to start and twice in the opening minutes

Bath exposed them down their left flank. First Fidel Richards broke past Steve Prindiville but his cross was easily cut out by Wayne Simpson. Shortly after the full back again found space and Borough were thankful to see him hit his far post cross too long. As the visitors hit back, Anton Thomas was fouled on the edge of the area and Ian Muir curled a free kick narrowly wide.

Muir dragged a volley wide from Prindiville's free kick and Thomas thumped a shot off target before Borough wasted a great chance to break the deadlock. Wilkin found Muir on the edge of the area and he played a superb one-two with Dave Crowley but Muir saw his low shot blocked by Mark Hervin. Borough could have paid dearly for that miss as shortly afterwards Jimmy Fraser took advantage of a mistake by Simpson and his cross from the right found Steve White who cracked in a low shot that seemed destined for the net until Richard Williams made a superb full-length save to his right.

Two minutes before the break the Manor Park side came within inches of taking the lead. Prindiville found Thomas in the area and the striker hit a volley on the turn that left Hervin flat-footed as it smacked against the right hand post and came out to safety.

But there was no escape as Borough opened their account two minutes after the restart. Barry Williams swept the ball into the area, Muir knocked it up in the air and when Thomas flicked it on, Angus scored with an overhead volley. Bath were still reeling from that setback when Borough tightened their grip on the points with a second goal six minutes later. Shaun Wray made ground on the right and his deep cross found Thomas whose cushioned header found Wilkin and he swept a first-time half-volley home from eight yards.

Richard Williams had to make a smart save to deny Richards as Bath looked for a way back but a neat Borough build-up put Barry Williams into the home area where Hervin did well to block his shot. City then went close to cutting the deficit twice in quick succession. Richard Williams made a fine save to block a shot from Fraser after he had turned Leigh Everitt, and then Gary Wotton had an effort cleared off the line by Prindiville. But Borough put the issue beyond doubt after 75 minutes. Barry Williams freed Thomas on the right and the striker held off Wotton and cut into the area before pulling the ball back for Wray to thump past Hervin.

Bath threw caution to the wind and Borough had a let-off when Graham Colbourne steered an effort wide after a Richards' cross had rebounded off the post. Then came an incident that left Borough with ten men. Richard Williams came out for a long through ball and as he went up above Angus and Paul White, he handled outside the area and was sent off. Colbourne meanwhile had put a loose ball into an empty goal only to have it ruled out but Bath got their just reward when Paul Bodin scored from the resulting free-kick to make deputy keeper Crowley's first task that of picking the ball from the back of the net. In the dying seconds Bath might have scored again when Fraser saw his goalbound shot hit White and fly narrowly wide of the target.



Merthyr Tydfil v Nuneaton Borough 27-02-1999

Merthyr: N. Thomas, Regan, Wle (Michael 62), Needs, Abraham, M. Williams, Evans, Griffith, Chiverton, Shephard, Loss. Subs: Murray, Benbow.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, Wilkin, A. Thomas, Muir (Kiwomya 70), O'Toole (Gardner 53). Sub: O'Connor.

Borough travelled to Penydarren Park to play Merthyr Tydfil in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough carved out the first opening when Gavin O'Toole found Anton Thomas on the edge of the area but the striker's shot lacked the power to trouble Neil Thomas. However, the Martyrs quickly took a grip and Borough found themselves having to defend in depth. There was a let-off for Borough after eight minutes when Adrian Needs floated a free kick into the area. Barry Williams failed to get distance on his header and Mark Williams blazed over the top. Craig Evans hit a 20-yarder straight at Richard Williams before Borough responded with a flowing move that might have brought them the opening goal.

Ian Muir got possession in the centre circle and switched it to O'Toole. He quickly sent Kevin Wilkin racing into the area but his centre flashed across the face of the home goal. But Borough were struggling to contain a combative Merthyr outfit and found themselves a goal down after 17 minutes. John Wile's cross was deflected to Colin Loss and although Richard Williams made a great block the ball rebounded to Evans on the edge of the area and he lashed a shot into the corner.

Williams made a superb save to prevent Borough going further behind, reacting smartly to turn a Mark Williams shot over the top following Evans' cross. Borough at last began to get a grip in midfield and might have grabbed an equaliser. Wilkin and Muir combined to free Shaun Wray who raced clear only to see Neil Thomas divert his shot for a corner. Borough were now enjoying their best spell and were twice unlucky not to level. First Wray blazed wide from the corner of the six yard box after Merthyr had failed to clear a Muir free-kick and then Anton Thomas saw his looping header beat Neil Thomas only to clip the top of the bar and fly over the top.

Borough continued to press forward looking for the equaliser at the start of the second period but again they failed to capitalise on a spell of sustained pressure. They squandered a great chance after 58 minutes when Leigh Everitt freed Wray down the right with a quick free kick. The winger's cross to the far post found Barry Williams who should have scored and when his downward header failed to find the net Anton Thomas had a chance but did not react quickly enough.

Merthyr soon regained the initiative and twice Richard Williams came to the rescue. He was ideally positioned to gather a Cohen Griffith header from an Evans free-kick and then the keeper went full length to deny Garry Shephard after he had found space on the edge of the area. But Borough's hopes of salvaging anything from the match disappeared four minutes from the end as substitute Jamie Michael made ground on the left and his deep centre picked out Shephard who made no mistake with a close range header.

Merthyr could have increased their advantage even further following a slip by Steve Prindiville but Griffith and Shephard made a mess of it and the opportunity was lost. To their credit, Borough's heads did not drop and they got their reward with the game deep into injury time when substitute Andy Kiwomya sent Anton Thomas into the area for him to clip a low shot past the keeper.

Phillips Brings In McKenzie

Brendan Phillips has secured the services of Leyton Orient goalkeeper Chris McKenzie to cover the suspension of first-choice keeper Richard Williams.

Manor Park Could Get New Stand

Exciting plans for a magnificent new stand are being considered to transform Borough's Manor Park into a stadium fit for the Football League. Delighted supporters heard confirmation of the scheme at a packed fans forum held in the Millennium Lounge at Borough's social club last night when chairman Phil Clayton addressed the packed room.

The Borough chief said the club was actively looking into the notion of building a stand which would stretch from the back of the goal at the Beaumont Road end up to the existing stand. The new stand would mean Manor Park will then house 1,000 seats to meet Football League green standard criteria...

Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Rovers 06-03-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Williams (O'Toole 70), Angus, Wray (O'Connor 70) Kiwomya, Wilkin, Muir, Crowley. Sub: Thomas.

Bromsgrove: Naisbitt, Bytheway, Pendleton (Moore 81), Dodd (Davies 63), Bowater, Winstone, Colley, Cooper, Wright, Anderson, Ulfing (Jinks 81).

Borough welcomed Bromsgrove Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Despite their lowly league position, Bromsgrove made a lively start and produced the first threat when Nick Colley played Steve Ulfing in to the area but Shaun Wray slid in to cut out the danger. But Borough quickly took charge and thought they had broken the deadlock after just seven minutes. Barry Williams saw his first-time shot from Ian Muir's astute pass superbly parried by Danny Naisbitt and Kiwomya tapped in the loose ball only for an offside flag to cut short the home side's celebrations. Borough continued to dictate the pace with Terry Angus putting a header straight at the visitors' keeper before the Manor Park side squandered a gilt-edged chance.

Kiwomya was the architect, bursting into the area and cutting a pass back to Wray who had only Naisbitt to beat but he decided to pass instead of shooting and Russell Dodd stepped in to clear. Leigh Everitt's poor back pass then almost let in Rovers' new signing Dale Anderson and Mackenzie had to come racing out of his goal to fly-hack the ball into touch. However, the breakthrough Borough had been threatening finally arrived after 31 minutes. Crowley played the ball to find Prindiville in space on the left and he switched it inside to Williams who found Muir inside the area

and his cross-shot into the far corner gave Naisbitt no chance. Mackenzie comfortably dealt with a long-range effort from Dodd as Rovers looked for a way back but as Borough quickly regained the initiative and Kiwomya forced a fine save from Naisbitt after linking up with Wilkin. Shortly before the break, Borough might have increased their lead but Williams saw his chip from the edge of the area drop inches over the top.



Ian Muir slots in the first goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough moved into top gear on the restart and Matt Pendleton was only inches away from turning a Crowley through ball into his own net. Naisbitt, on loan from Walsall, then made another excellent save to deny Wray but a superb blast of four goals in a ten minute spell left the visitors shell shocked. A neat build-up in the 56th minute saw Everitt get to the by-line and his low cross was swept home by Kiwomya from close range. The former Cambridge striker then saw a terrific cross-shot fly inches wide of the target before he set up Wilkin to crack in the third after 62 minutes.

Borough were now in total control and two minutes later Williams whipped the ball in from the right for Kiwomya to score at the second attempt after Naisbitt had superbly saved his first effort. The visitors were still reeling when almost straight from the re-start, Wray's header rebounded off the crossbar to Wilkin who made no mistake from the edge of the six yards box. Substitute Gavin O'Toole then saw his effort from Wilkin's centre deflected narrowly wide before Wilkin was denied a hat-trick by yet another fine save from Naisbitt. But two minutes from the end, Borough capped a tremendous performance when Prindiville played a slick one-two with Kiwomya before slipping a low shot past the exposed keeper.

Nuneaton Town Name Coming Back?

Nuneaton Town FC, a legendary name in soccer folklore, could be resurrected over 60 years after it vanished. Nuneaton Griff FC, have said they intend to change their name to Nuneaton Town – a name last used in 1937 by the predecessor of Nuneaton Borough – if they are allowed to move to the Pingles athletics stadium. But councillors on Nuneaton and Bedworth's leisure and amenities committee will also be asked to consider a request to use the stadium from another side, Attleborough Village FC.

Salisbury City v Nuneaton Borough

13-03-1999

Salisbury: Matthews, Winter, Braybrook, Rofe, Emms (Lovell 82), Randall, Bowers, Thompson, Bright, Chalk, Housley. Subs: Evans, Coles.
Borough: Mackenzie, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Williams, Angus, Wray, Kiwomya (O'Connor 58) Wilkin (Thomas 58), Muir (O'Toole 12), Crowley.

Borough travelled to Victoria Park to play Salisbury City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride and keeper Jason Matthews had to react smartly to gather Shaun Wray's early low cross with Chris Kiwomya boring in. Barry Williams then wasted a chance to put Borough ahead, seeing his shot finger-tipped over the top by Matthews after bursting clear through the middle. There were more problems for City when Williams found space in the area after a neat link-up with Wray but Kevin Braybrook cleared at the expense of a corner from which Kevin Wilkin glanced a header across the face of the home goal.

Ian Muir came off with a back problem and was replaced by O'Toole. City had another let-off when a superb build-up ended with Wray sending Kiwomya racing into the area where he rounded the keeper but left himself with a narrow angle and only found the side-netting. Wray then turned his marker to fire a 25-yarder straight at Matthews as Borough continued to dominate before Kiwomya wasted another great chance. O'Toole's through ball put him clear with just Matthews to beat but he made a total hash of his attempted lob.

Another chance went begging on the half-hour mark when Williams pulled a ball back, but as Wilkin was about to pull the trigger, Wray stepped in and scooped the ball harmlessly wide. Borough were made to pay as Salisbury took a shock 34th minute lead from their first real attack of note. Tyrone Bowers got to the by-line on the right and when Ian Chalk dummied the winger's low cross, Borough failed to clear allowing Housley to score from inside the six yards box.

Brendan Phillips' men might have been back on level terms just two minutes into the second half when O'Toole fastened on to a long throw-in from Steve Prindiville but the midfielder's shot took a deflection and bounced out off the crossbar. Borough had Chris Mackenzie to thank that they were not further behind after 64 minutes, making a superb save low to his right as Adrian Randall raced clear. A poor first touch from O'Toole allowed Matthews to clear as Borough pushed for an equaliser.

Mackenzie made another save to deny Randall and then Wayne Simpson did well to cut out Chalk's low cross before Williams saw his shot beat Matthews and hit the crossbar. However, with three minutes left, Borough found the elusive equaliser. Housley handled clearly inside the area but the referee surprisingly awarded a free kick on the edge of the box instead of a penalty but justice was done when O'Toole curled a superb 20-yard shot into the top left-hand corner.

Borough might have snatched all three points but Terry Angus' header from Prindiville's corner flew inches over.

Gardner Out - Marsh In

Brendan Phillips has acted quickly to oust winger Dickie Gardner and replace him with rising star Jamie Marsh. Gardner has rejoined Bromsgrove Rovers. Marsh arrives at Manor Park on a free transfer, having had spells with Kettering and Stevenage, for whom he played against Newcastle at St James' Park last season.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 20-03-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (O'Toole 80), Wilkin (O'Connor 56), Thomas, Muir, Crowley. **Sub:** Kirkup.

Worcester: Higgs, Sandeman, Burnham, Greenman, Heeley, Cottrill, Lutz (Jukes 78), Chenoweth, Owen, Davies, Woods (Bowen 78). **Sub:** Talbot.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Worcester posed the first threat when Jason Burnham's free-kick from wide on the left found Carl Heeley but he put a header straight at Richard Williams. At the other end, Wilkin neatly turned his marker in the area and forced a low save from Shane Higgs before Borough had a bit of a let-off. Paul Chenoweth's quickly taken free kick caught the home defence napping, putting Mark Owen clear in the box but Leigh Everitt got back to block the shot and the ball looped narrowly over the angle. Thomas fired a rising drive inches wide as Borough hit back but there was another anxious moment for the home side when Owen's overhead kick found Paul Davies eight yards out and his dipping header went over Richard Williams but thankfully for Borough over the bar.

However Borough began to impose themselves in midfield and Thomas glanced a header wide from Ian Muir's free-kick before Shaun Wray dragged a shot way off target after bursting clear down the middle. But the growing pressure paid off after 26 minutes as Borough broke the deadlock. Muir intercepted an Owen pass in the centre circle and quickly switched it to Thomas wide on the left and he raced past Bradley Sandeman and produced a superb cross for Wilkin to bury a close range header. Barry Williams then had a fierce shot deflected narrowly wide by Heeley as Borough continued to press before Thomas wasted a clear-cut chance.

Steve Prindiville found Wilkin who quickly set Thomas free and the striker cut into the area before hammering in a shot that rebounded to safety off the diving Higgs. The visitors opened the second period in determined mood and had the ball in the net three minutes after the re-start but Owen's effort was ruled out for offside. But Borough quickly regained the initiative with Wray finding space on the right only to delay his cross and the opportunity was lost.

Wilkin, who had been leading the line with spirit and imagination, then limped out of the action with a knee injury to be replaced by Joe O'Connor. City had Higgs to thank shortly afterwards that they didn't fall further behind when the keeper produced an excellent save low to his right to keep out Prindiville's swirling free-kick. But there was little he

could do to prevent the Manor Park side from doubling their lead after 71 minutes. Barry Williams robbed Burnham 15 yards inside the Worcester half and raced clear to round the exposed keeper before slipping the ball into an empty net.



Barry Williams rounds Higgs for Borough's second.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

In a rare City raid Chenoweth forced a save from Williams but Borough upped the tempo as they finished with a flourish. Thomas really should have stretched Borough's lead eight minutes from time following a super build-up involving Gavin O'Toole, Dave Crowley and Muir but the striker smashed a close range effort wide of the left-hand post. Prindiville's low 25 yarder brought another smart save from Higgs and then Barry Williams ran the ball out of play after O'Connor had sent him racing into the area. In the closing seconds, Thomas hustled his way past Heeley to set up O'Connor but his shot beat Higgs only to rebound off the crossbar.

Straw Career May Be Over

Borough super striker Rob Straw has admitted that his career may well be over as he virtually concedes defeat in his battle to avoid retirement. The much-loved hitman is fighting against arthritis but is clinging to the remote hope that he can kick-start his career in the summer...

Wilkin Out For Season

Borough striker Kevin Wilkin faces a heart-breaking end to his season after damaging his knee in the win over Worcester City. The former Cambridge City, Northampton Town and Rushden & Diamonds striker is facing a date with the same surgeon who told his ex-strike colleague Rob Straw to hang up his boots.

New Chat Service

A lifelong Nuneaton Borough fan is aiming to take the club into the Millennium with the best technology possible and provide a free service for fans throughout the world. London-based Jonathan Collett is setting up a free chat service for Borough fans that will enable them to hear the latest news and gossip wherever they are based...



Nuneaton Borough v Ilkeston Town 27-03-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas, Muir, Crowley. **Subs:** O'Toole, Kirkup, Healey.
Ilkeston: Marples, Clifford, Fearon, Middleton, Weaver, Knapper, Fairclough, O'Reilly, Helliwell, Moore (Allsop 81), Wright. **Subs:** Korol, Ball.

Borough welcomed Ilkeston Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started well with Barry Williams curling a header inches wide from Steve Prindiville's fourth minute corner. But Ilkeston, who showed plenty of adventure from the outset by playing three men up front, quickly seized the initiative with Borough being forced onto the back foot. The visitors fully exploited Nuneaton's lack of a wide man on the left hand side of midfield with right back Mark Clifford having a field day. And it was Clifford who created the first major problem for Borough when he stepped inside Prindiville and found Christian Moore in the box and although he was clearly brought down by Terry Angus, the referee ignored Ilkeston's justifiable penalty claims.

However, Borough's relief was short-lived as the Robins took an 11th minute lead. Moore fastened on to Wayne Fairclough's astute ball into the area and left Prindiville for dead before tucking a low left-footer past Richard Williams. Almost immediately there was another escape for Borough when Gary Middleton's long free-kick was flicked on by Ian Helliwell for Moore to hook a close range effort narrowly over the top.

Ilkeston continued to dictate the pace and they extended their lead after 20 minutes. Clifford again found space to whip in a deep centre from the right, Helliwell headed it back across the six yard box and Justin O'Reilly thumped a close-range shot into the roof of the net. Simon Weaver then cracked a tremendous 25 yard volley narrowly wide after Borough had only partially cleared a corner but the Manor Park men handed themselves a lifeline as they cut the deficit after 31 minutes.

Dave Crowley was brought down wide on the left by Dale Wright, Ian Muir's free kick found Angus who planted a header into the top corner despite Town keeper Chris Marples getting a hand to it. Borough now had their tails up and when Shaun Wray whipped in a near post cross, Barry Williams looked odds-on to score until Dean Fearon made a brave clearance at the expense of a corner. Shortly before the break Borough wasted a gilt-edged chance to equalise. Muir's deep ball from midfield sent Joe O'Connor racing clear but with just the keeper to beat, he completely miscued his shot and Marples gathered easily.

However, Borough's hopes of salvaging the match suffered a severe setback just four minutes after the re-start when Simpson got his marching orders following an off-the-ball clash with Moore who received a yellow card. Despite being down to ten men, Borough still showed plenty of ambition and might have been back on level terms when Anton Thomas found O'Connor on the near post only for Middleton to get in a decisive block on the striker's shot. At the other

end O'Reilly wasted a promising opportunity when he fired into the side netting after cutting into the area. Wray then forced a diving save from Marples with a downward header as Borough hit back before O'Reilly was again off target for the visitors, heading tamely over the top from six yards.

Borough did have the ball in the net after 79 minutes when Angus forced home a Crowley right wing cross but the effort was ruled out for a foul on the keeper. But any hope that the Manor Park side had of snatching a point finally disappeared seven minutes from the end as Ilkeston put the issue beyond doubt. Clifford's free-kick from wide on the right was touched on by Helliwell and substitute Kevin Allsop neatly turned his marker and fired a low shot past Richard Williams.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 03-04-1999

Atherstone: Belford, Blair, Barratt, Olnier, Albrighton, Dean (Elvin 77), Ball, Hart, Kelly, Aubury (White 15), Young (Mills 77).

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (O'Toole 77), Kiwomya, Thomas, Muir, Crowley. **Subs:** Paul, Kirkup.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had the first chance of the game after just three minutes. The impressive Ian Muir delivered a curling right sided free-kick into the box which was met by Barry Williams but his close range header was well saved by Borough old boy Dale Belford. Leigh Everitt found himself booked in the tenth minute after he recklessly fouled the lively Leon Kelly on the right touch line. The Adders cause was not helped by the loss of prolific scorer Stuart Aubury in the 15th minute. He was forced to leave the field after a clash with Richard Williams and a later trip to hospital confirmed that he had punctured a lung which will surely rule him out for the rest of the season.

Young marksman Paul White replaced Aubury for the Adders and his side should have broken the deadlock with 22 minutes showing on the clock. Richard Barratt's mishit shot was flicked on by Leon Kelly into the path of Ball but he was unable to take advantage of the situation, firing well over the crossbar when in a glorious position to give his new club the lead over their arch rivals. The hosts had another good opportunity just moments later. Mark Albrighton's shot was deflected wide for a corner and Ball delivered a superb in-swinging flag-kick which only needed a touch but it missed everyone and Borough breathed out a huge sigh of relief.

Belford had to pull off a smart stop to deny Kiwomya on the half-hour mark and although the former Cambridge City man had the ball in the back of the net ten minutes later, the referee ruled it out for a clear handball offence by the forward. The Adders came within inches of taking a deserved advantage in the final minute of the first-half. Craig Dean's right sided corner was flicked goalwards by Albrighton's glancing header but Barry Williams was on hand to clear off the line with his namesake Richard stranded in goal.

The league leaders obviously received a severe roasting from



their manager during the interval as they were a rejuvenated force after the break with Muir pulling the strings in midfield and Terry Angus winning everything in the heart of defence. Anton Thomas had a good opportunity in the 51st minute but he dragged his shot wide of the target after he had outpaced the Adders rearguard. Kelly got away from Everitt on the right wing moments later but Wayne Simpson produced a wonderful last-ditch tackle to deny the inexperienced striker who was poised to shoot. White had a 12 yard shot comfortably saved by Williams and Belford had to make two smart stops to deny Shaun Wray's chip and a low drive from Thomas.

Muir's free-kick set up Thomas with a one-to-one against Belford and five minutes later the striker was booked for a rash challenge on the Adders' keeper. Thomas had the last laugh though, as he opened the scoring with a glorious finish in the 70th minute. The former Worcester City man skipped past three Atherstone defenders before rifling an unstoppable shot into the right hand corner of Belford's net to send the Borough faithful wild as they sensed the league title was within their sights. The home side were clearly tiring as their opponents began to dominate the match providing their championship credentials. They made the points secure with a second strike minutes later following a tremendous flowing move.

Barry Williams did the spade work and his pass found Wray who flicked it into the path of Kiwomya and he neatly tucked the ball away into the bottom left hand corner. The last 15 minutes offered little to entertain the large crowd with Nuneaton happy to pass the ball around the park with the Adders chasing shadows. The final whistle met with cheers of delight and a stampede from the Borough fans as they celebrated their side's success and the chant of 'Champions' could be heard all across Sheepy Road as Brendan Phillips and his troops charged towards the Nationwide Conference.

Williams For England

Borough's influential midfielder Barry Williams got his England call-up last night when he was part of the national squad for the non-league friendly against Holland. Williams was also on stand-by against Italy last month but was called up on Saturday after a string of late injuries.

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 05-04-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt (Healey 78), Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, O'Toole, Kiwomya, Thomas, Muir (Kirkup 55), Crowley (Paul 70).
Gresley: S. Ford, Broadhurst (Brown 75), Kearns, Blades, Faulkner, Carvell, Marsden, Wardle, Payne, Orton, Fowkes (Rowland 63). **Sub:** Grant.

Borough welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Gresley produced the first threat when Tony Marsden found space following a throw-in on the right but his shot flashed across the face of the home goal. But Borough quickly took the initiative and it needed a superb save by Stewart Ford to turn over Thomas' close-range header from a Steve Prindiville corner. Another Prindiville flag kick picked out

Gavin O'Toole at the far post and when he headed it back into the goalmouth Terry Angus hooked it over the top. Borough continued to dictate the pace and might have broken the deadlock after 15 minutes with Kiwomya beating two men inside the area and drilling a low ball across the six yard box with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Marsden fired a rising drive narrowly over the top as the visitors' raids became rarer and it was no surprise when Borough finally broke the deadlock after 20 minutes. Ian Muir found Thomas on the edge of the area and the big striker turned his marker to make ground to the byline before whipping in a cross that Kiwomya volleyed high into the net from 12 yards. It was all Borough now and they might have increased their advantage from yet another Prindiville corner but Angus' header flew a foot over the target. But the Borough side then had a let-off. Richard Wardle, was through on goal but Richard Williams blocked the shot with his legs and Prindiville recovered to complete the clearance.

Borough opened the second half in determined mood and Ford again had to be alert to cut out Kiwomya's cross after he had linked up with O'Toole. There was an anxious moment for the Borough faithful when Richard Williams failed to gather a long cross from Dave Kearns but Prindiville quickly lifted the loose ball out of the danger area. Borough tightened their grip on the points as they doubled their lead seven minutes after the break. Dave Faulkner failed to control a square pass from Neil Broadhurst just inside his own half allowing Thomas to pounce and race clear before slipping a shot under the advancing Ford.

Borough wasted a great chance to make it three – Kiwomya miskicked when O'Toole found him inside the area and when the ball broke to Thomas just eight yards out, he looked certain to score until Faulkner made a superb block. However, there was no let-off for the visitors after 68 minutes as Borough put the issue beyond doubt with a goal of the highest quality. A neat three-man move ended with Barry Williams in possession just inside his own half. Williams set off on a surging run that took him deep into the heart of the Gresley defence and he danced his way around Paul Blades into the area before firing a low cross-shot past Ford and into the far corner.

Gresley might have pulled a goal back when Ashley Brown's deep cross was knocked down at the far post but Wayne Simpson hooked it clear with Karl Payne waiting to pounce. There were more problems for Borough when Barry Williams deflected Orton's right wing corner towards his own goal but Prindiville was ideally positioned to clear off the line. Borough should have stretched their lead to four as Thomas' pace took him clear of Matt Carvell but he unselfishly tried to tee up a goal for young substitute Kingsley Paul and Ford intercepted the striker's pass. Then, with the game deep into injury time, Gresley got their reward for persistence with Lynden Rowland taking advantage of some indecisive marking to snatch a consolation goal for the visitors.



Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 10-04-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Crowley, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (March 57), Kiwomya, Thomas (O'Connor 45), Muir, O'Toole (Paul 82).
Gloucester: Mountain, Hickey, Fergusson, Webb, Kemp, Niblett, Rutter, Callinan, Mainwaring, Mings, Hemmings. **Subs:** Tucker, Jenks, Griffith.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough were quickly out of the blocks with Barry Williams linking up with Shaun Wray before whipping in a centre that Dave Webb was happy to cut out at the near post. The visitors then failed to deal with a Steve Prindiville corner and Wray saw his shot deflected wide by Nigel Niblett. There was a scare for Borough after six minutes when Tommy Callinan was allowed space in the box and his cross-shot flashed narrowly wide with Richard Williams struggling. But the Manor Park side quickly regained control as Prindiville was only inches off target with a 20-yard curling free-kick before Terry Angus steered an effort wide from six yards.

Steve Fergusson headed out a Wray centre under pressure from Anton Thomas, who then glanced a header wide after Wray had again carved out the opportunity. But Borough came under pressure as City forced three corners and Barry Williams was fortunate when he sliced the second of these over his own bar with Andy Mainwaring boring in. Borough then squandered two great chances to break the deadlock as Gloucester were penned back deep in their own half.

Thomas flicked the ball on as he beat City keeper Pat Mountain to a Prindiville corner but Kiwomya hooked his shot wide. Another chance went begging as Thomas broke down the left and cut the ball back into the box but the unmarked Wray shot wide from around the penalty spot. With half-time approaching Barry Williams made space for himself but his 25-yard drive was confidently dealt with by Mountain low to his left.

O'Connor replaced Thomas for the second half and Borough made a positive start with Gavin O'Toole hooking a 30 yard effort over the top. But ten minutes after half-time Borough got the break they had been threatening following an incisive build up. Ian Muir lost his marker and played a neat ball into the area where Kiwomya muscled his way past Niblett before firing a rising drive wide of Mountain and high into the net.

Prindiville's through ball caught City square and O'Connor only just failed to get a touch before a rare Gloucester foray saw Adie Mings float in a free kick and Gary Kemp put a close range header over the top. Borough had two gilt-edged chances when Kingsley Paul broke and his cross found Kiwomya, who sliced his shot wide and again when Kiwomya's deep centre picked out Paul who headed the ball back into the danger area only for Muir to blast over the top.

However, with the game deep into injury time Borough finally doubled their advantage when City failed to clear Leigh Everitt's cross and Paul drilled home a low shot, his first goal for the club.

Borough Unveil Academy

Nuneaton Borough have officially unveiled their Academy of Football which will hopefully unearth stars of the future for the soon-to-be Nationwide Conference team. The programme will act as a partnership between the club itself and North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and will perform as a centre of excellence for young footballers who have ambitions and aspirations to play at the highest level. However, the Academy is not just about sport as members will also be given high quality further education opportunities leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

The prospects of the arrangement have been boosted with the acquisition of former Portuguese professional Jose Marques Ascensao who will fill the position of coach...

Weymouth v Nuneaton Borough 17-04-1999

Weymouth: Myers, Gammon, Hale, Brown, Waldock, Bradford, Robinson, Hutchinson, Adcock, Laws, Mansell. **Subs:** Spiller, Killick, Browne.

Borough: R. Williams, March, Prindiville, Crowley, B. Williams, Angus, Wray (Kirkup 80), Kiwomya, O'Toole (Healey 80), Muir (Paul 72), O'Connor.

Borough travelled to Wessex Stadium to play Weymouth in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough made an encouraging start with Andy Kiwomya producing a nice lay-off to O'Connor who sent Gavin O'Toole racing into the area but his low shot was cut out by Alex Brown. There followed a moment of anxiety for Borough's large band of travelling fans when Steve Prindiville left his back pass short and Richard Williams had to come haring out of goal to hack clear from Dave Laws. But Borough gradually tightened their grip on the proceedings and came within inches of taking a 19th minute lead. Barry Williams headed a Prindiville corner back across goal and Kiwomya just failed to get the vital touch on the far post.

The near miss sparked Weymouth into life and when Matt Hale whipped in a centre from the left, Mark Gammon headed across the face of the visitors' goal. The Terras then forced three successive corners before Borough were able to relieve the pressure. Ian Muir fired a rising drive way over the top as Borough regained the initiative and took a 37th minute lead. Weymouth keeper Paul Myers failed to cut out a high cross from March, leaving Barry Williams to stoop and steer a low header into an empty net.

Borough then twice went close to extending their advantage as they ended the half on a high note. First Myers had to go full-length to deny Barry Williams his second goal at the expense of a corner and then, when Kiwomya flicked on Muir's corner, Terry Angus put a close range shot against the base of the post.

But the hosts looked a different proposition as they started the second half in a positive mood, searching for an equaliser. A neat build-up down the right created space for Gammon and when his cross picked out Brown it took a fine interception by Dave Crowley to deny Weymouth a goal.

However, Borough had no time to enjoy their let-off as the Terras snatched a 50th minute leveller. Laws was unmarked inside the area and he fed Robinson who turned a close-range shot inside the far post.

There were more problems for Borough as they failed to cut out a Hale cross and Gammon thumped a drive inches over the angle with Richard Williams well beaten. Borough then upped the pace with Shaun Wray sending O'Connor clear through the middle but his first-time lob from the edge of the area beat Myers but sailed narrowly over the bar. It was now the home side's turn to come under increasing pressure with Kiwomya firing wide after O'Connor had set up the opportunity. Weymouth then had a let-off when Angus lost his marker for a Muir corner but he glanced his header wide of the target from inside the six yard box.

Borough were then thankful to see O'Toole cut out Ian Hutchinson's ball destined for the unmarked Laws before the visitors saw another chance go begging. A quick counter attack saw O'Connor clear in the area but he was pushed by John Waldock in the act of shooting and his shot trickled wide with no penalty given. Late in the game Weymouth might have snatched all three points when Borough failed to clear a corner and Craig Mansell put it back into the box for Lee Bradford to head straight into Richard Williams' arms.

Borough Get Wilkin Boost

Borough striker Kevin Wilkin has given the club a huge boost with the news that his knee injury won't force him to retire from the game. The former Northampton Town hitman has suffered a bucket tear of the cartilage in his knee and not a repeat of his serious cruciate ligament damage.

And that should mean Wilkin linking up with the first team squad for pre-season training in the summer. Borough officials had originally feared the worst when the big man pulled up in agony during the home fixture against Worcester City on March 20.

Nuneaton Borough v Rothwell Town 24-04-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Crowley, B. Williams (Healey 89), Angus, Wray, Kiwomya (O'Connor 64), Thomas (Kirkup 87), Muir, O'Toole.

Rothwell: Hughes, Tiday, Jowett (Wilkes 51), Brown, Wagstaff (Dunlop 68), Bullimore, McDonad, Lord (Stephens 68), Moore, Preston, Davies.

Borough welcomed Rothwell Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

There were only 80 seconds gone when Ian Muir and Gavin O'Toole were involved in a neat move to free Steve Prindiville on the left and the full-back's cross found the unmarked Kiwomya who made no mistake with a firm downward header. Rothwell, still needing points to be certain of avoiding relegation, responded immediately and twice in the space of three minute might have snatched an equaliser. First Andy Tiday volleyed narrowly wide from Richard Preston's cross and then Micky Moore shot weakly at Richard Williams.

Thomas had a rising drive saved by John Hughes as Borough regained the initiative and the big striker then put a header straight into the visiting keeper's arms. Borough were then denied a blatant penalty after 17 minutes. Kiwomya fastened onto a Barry Williams ball into the area and looked certain to score as he rounded Hughes but he was clearly pulled over by Bones' skipper Andy Bullimore only for referee John Farries to turn a blind eye. There was an anxious moment for the home fans when Richard Jowatt found space on the right but his low cross was behind Moore and the danger was cleared. Neither side was able to impose themselves on the game but with half-time approaching O'Toole brought a smart save from Hughes before Terry Angus steered a header wide from Prindiville's corner.

Early in the second period Borough might have increased their lead when Kiwomya got free on the left and whipped in a centre that former Borough skipper Glynn Davies managed to glance away from the intruding Thomas. Borough continued to have the better of things despite not being at their best and a patient build up ended with Wray touching inside from the right before firing a 20-yarder inches wide. Angus squandered a chance to double Borough's lead, heading wide from six yards after Prindiville's cross had found him unmarked.

The Bones then had another let-off when Wray's centre took a deflection off Derek Brown and Thomas' header flew a foot over the bar. But as the half wore on Borough began to get careless and twice in quick succession the visitors might have snatched a share of the spoils. Moore showed an impressive turn of pace to beat Crowley on the edge of the area but as the striker cut in towards goal the Borough skipper recovered to clear the danger at the expense of a corner.

Shortly afterwards Borough had a real escape. Substitute Tim Wilkes appeared to foul Richard Williams as he went up for a Simon Dunlop cross but the offence went unpenalised and Wilkes pounced on the loose ball to fire a shot against a post. Wray put a shot over the top as Borough hit back and Barry Williams saw his 20 yard effort deflected wide after Andy Kirkup had set up the opportunity. But with the game in its dying throes, Wray made the points safe as he danced his way past three defenders to slip a low shot past Hughes.



Borough fan Adie French congratulates Brendan Phillips.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Skipper Dave Crowley and Terry Angus show off the Southern League Shield.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough

01-05-1999

Tamworth: Knowles, Warner, Mitchell, Grocott, Hatton, Briggs, Foy, Gray, Hallam, Houghton (Smith 74), Colley. Subs: Clark, Yates.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams (O'Toole 34), Angus, Wray (Healey 75), Kiwomya (Paul 74), O'Connor, Muir, Crowley.

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

Borough made a bright start and might have snatched a third minute lead. A long ball out of defence by Terry Angus dropped behind Darren Grocott to put O'Connor clear but a nasty bounce allowed the Tamworth captain to recover and the opportunity was gone. Borough were looking confident during the early stages but there was an anxious moment for the visitors after 11 minutes when Dave Foye's swinging free-kick landed on top of the net. That was the signal for a spell of sustained pressure from The Lambs with Leigh Everitt denying Mark Hallam at the expense of a corner after Nick Colley had cut the ball back into the area.

Rob Warner then freed Hallam down the right and when he drilled a low ball across the face of the Borough goal there was no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. But Borough hit back and were desperately unlucky not to take a 24th minute lead. Barry Williams cut into the area from the right and his cracking drive beat keeper Chris Knowles but rebounded to safety off the upright. At the other end Warner forced a smart save from Richard Williams with a low 20 yarder before Hallam headed well over the top from Warren Houghton's cross.

The home side continued to hold the upper hand and there were more problems for Borough when Colley's swinging centre bounced off the top of the crossbar. Borough had a let

off two minutes into the second period when a poor bounce deceived Dave Crowley, letting in Michael Gray but he dragged his shot wide of the far post. Play quickly switched to the other end where Shaun Wray dragged a close range shot off target with the home defence in a mess. It took a smart save from Knowles to keep out Ian Muir's flighted free-kick after Wray had been brought down on the edge of the area by Grocott.

Everitt rescued Borough, heading over his own bar with Hallam boring in, but Tamworth got the goal they had been threatening after 64 minutes. Foy cleverly switched play out to Gray on the left and his cross found Briggs unmarked for the American midfielder to glance a header inside the far post. Andy Kiwomya hooked a shot on the turn narrowly over the top from Everitt's through ball as Borough looked for an equaliser before they had another escape. Angus gave the ball away and Hallam raced clear. He was partially blocked by Richard Williams and when the loose ball ran to Houghton he headed against the outside of a post.

The Borough keeper then made a tremendous save to deny substitute Gary Smith from point blank range after Hallam had headed a Foy centre back across goal. But with ten minute left Borough were back on level terms. Muir drifted a free-kick into the area where Angus seemed to clash with the keeper but the referee was generous and O'Connor stabbed home the loose ball. O'Connor flicked on another Muir free-kick but Angus just failed to get the final touch.

Southern League Premier Division 1998-99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton Borough	42	27	9	6	91	33	90
Boston United	42	17	16	9	69	51	67
Ilkeston Town	42	18	13	11	72	59	67
Bath City	42	18	11	13	70	44	65
Hastings Town	42	18	11	13	57	49	65
Gloucester City	42	18	11	13	57	52	65
Worcester City	42	18	9	15	58	54	63
Halesowen Town	42	17	11	14	72	60	62
Tamworth	42	19	5	18	60	67	62
King's Lynn	42	17	10	15	53	46	61
Crawley Town	42	17	10	15	57	58	61
Salisbury City	42	16	12	14	56	61	60
Burton Albion	42	17	7	18	58	52	58
Weymouth	42	14	14	14	56	53	56
Merthyr Tydfil	42	15	8	19	52	62	53
Atherstone United	42	12	14	16	47	52	50
Grantham Town	42	14	8	20	51	58	50
Dorchester Town	42	11	15	16	49	63	48
Rothwell Town	42	13	9	20	47	67	48
Cambridge City	42	11	12	19	47	68	45
Gresley Rovers	42	12	8	22	49	73	44
Bromsgrove Rovers	42	8	7	27	38	84	30

Nuneaton Borough v West Brom

04-05-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, March (Henderson 67), Crowley, B. Williams (Kotylo 45), Angus, Healey, Kiwomya, O'Connor (Greenway 74), Muir (Norman 45 (Cooper 82)), Kirkup (Reed 58).

West Brom: Morris, Holmes, Blake, A. Chambers, Mardon, J. Chambers, McFarlane, Oliver (Policiano 42), Quailey, Richards (Scott 72), Angel.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park for an end of season friendly match.

Borough were quickly into their stride, dominating the opening stages and it was no surprise when they surged into an eight minute lead. O'Connor dispossessed Paul Mardon on the edge of the box and a one-two between Andy Kirkup and Andy Kiwomya set up Barry Williams who made no mistake from eight yards. As Borough continued to dictate the pace, Kiwomya engineered some space and his cross picked out Barry Williams who put a header narrowly over the top.

Albion were struggling to get a grip on the game and they had Eliot Morris to thank that they were not further behind after 20 minutes. A neat four-man build-up ended with Kirkup exchanging passes with Kiwomya before chipping the West Brom keeper but Morris recovered to fingertip the ball over the top at full stretch. But Borough pressure paid off again with a second goal after 29 minutes. Morris brought down O'Connor as he burst into the box and Muir calmly tucked away the resulting penalty.

Kiwomya went close to adding the third as the Manor Park men remained on top and it took a timely interception from Mardon to deny O'Connor. It was not until shortly before the break that Richard Williams was called into action, going down smartly to gather a Justin Richards shot at the near post.

Early in the second period a poor header by Terry Angus looking to find his keeper, let in Brian Quailey but the former Borough striker put his shot well wide with just the keeper to beat. However, Borough were quickly back in control and it required an excellent save from Morris to deny Kirkup after Kingsley Paul created the opening. The Albion keeper was again in action when he cut out Leigh Everitt's low cross with both O'Connor and Paul waiting to pounce.

Midway through the half Borough were unfortunate not to increase their lead when Dave Crowley's long ball picked out O'Connor and he side-stepped his marker to fire a drive a foot wide from the edge of the box.

But there was no escape for the visitors in the 73rd minute as the blue-and-whites put the issue beyond all doubt. Paul's pace took him clear of the West Brom defence and he rounded the keeper only to find the angle too narrow but he pulled the ball back for O'Connor to net with comparative ease. West Brom did show a bit more invention during the closing stages but on the one occasion they did offer a real threat to the Borough goal, young substitute Adam Cooper produced a superb tackle to halt Mark Scott.



The Cock and Bear end salute their champions following Borough's 2-0 victory over Rothwell on April 24.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Atherstone United — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Atherstone: Belford, Blair, Barratt, Dean, Albrighton, Redgate, Green (Wright 85), Hart, White, Middleton (Young 62), Martin (Berks 89). Subs: Higgs, Bennett.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, Crowley, Angus, Wray (Wilkin 72), Simpson, Thomas (Muir), Christie, B. Williams. Subs: Andersen, Healey, Wood.

In a game of few clear cut opportunities, it was Borough who made the brighter start and they twice went close to opening the scoring inside the first six minutes.

Adders failed to clear a third minute Terry Angus free-kick and when Barry Williams knocked the ball back into the middle Anton Thomas looked certain to score but Scott Blair recovered to clear off the line.

There were problems for the home side when Angus rose above the United defence for a Steve Prindiville free-kick but the big central defender's header flew well over the top.

Borough were forced into making a change after only eight minutes when



Terry Angus gets in a powerful header but Dale Belford saves.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

striker Thomas, back in the starting line-up after recovering from flu, limped off with a pulled hamstring to be replaced by Ian Muir.

Following a slow start, Adders began to find their feet and the visitors were lucky to escape when Richard Williams failed to cut out Lee Middleton's corner and Gary Statham hooked the loose ball clear.

Then a neat Adders' build-up saw ex-Borough teenager Paul White find Danny Martin in space and the

midfielder fired a low 25-yarder straight at Richard Williams.

Borough hit back with Wayne Simpson bursting clear on the right but he put his cross behind the home goal with both Malcolm Christie and Muir lurking in the area.

Shortly before the interval Borough misses a great chance to break the deadlock. Adders only half cleared a Prindiville free-kick and when Muir returned the ball to the far post Angus put a free header inches wide.

But it was Adders who carved out the first opportunity of the second half when Shaun Wray failed to clear Martin's cross giving Blair a chance but Wray got a half block on the shot and Richard Williams gathered comfortably.

The home side continued to enjoy a good spell and again went close with Kim Green powering a header narrowly wide of the angle from Middleton's corner.

It then needed a fine tackle by Gary Redgate to halt Wray as he cut inside two defenders before Christie hooked a dipping volley over the top as Borough threatened to take control.

Muir's superb close control on the edge of the area brought more problems for the Adders and the home fans were



A section of the crowd await the kick-off.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

relieved when Martin hooked the ball clear following a goalmouth scramble.

Adders' keeper Dale Belford then did well to turn away an awkward cross from substitute Kev Wilkin before the home side again went close to making the breakthrough.

White, looking well offside, was allowed to race away and cut across the face of the Borough penalty area but his fiercely-struck goalbound shot hit Green and bounced clear.

David Hart's back header almost put Belford in trouble and the keeper had to react smartly to save at Wilkin's feet.

Angus then thought he had won the tie for Borough as he thumped in a header from Prindiville's free-kick but former Nuneaton favourite Belford made a magnificent save to turn the ball away and Wilkin headed the rebound against the crossbar.

At the other end Richard Williams superbly gathered Richard Barratt's deep cross under pressure but Borough had the last word with Wilkin firing a rising drive into the side netting.

Atherstone United – 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Statham, Crowley, Angus, Wray, Simpson, Wilkin, Christie, B. Williams. Subs: Muir, Andersen, Healey, Wood.

Atherstone: Belford, Blair, Barratt, Dean (Berks 68), Albrighton, Redgate (Olner 67), Green, Hart (Wright 78), White, Middleton, Martin. Subs: Higgs, Young.

Both sides struggled to get a grip in the early stages and it was 15 minutes before either keeper was called into serious action.

There was a threat to the visitors as Dave Crowley slipped a ball into the United penalty area but Dale Belford was quickly off his line to force Christie wide of the target.

But the visitors came storming back

with Kim Green finding Richard Barratt and when Barry Williams failed to clear the full back's low cross, Paul White had a shot blocked by Gary Statham.

Danny Martin then turned sharply in the area only for Steve Prindiville to charge down his effort before Craig Dean fired a shot from just inside the area straight at Richard Williams.

As half-time approached Borough at last began to up the pace with man-of-the-match Barry Williams heading a Wayne Simpson free-kick over the top and then Adders central defender Mark Albrighton produced a vital tackle to halt Simpson as he burst into the area.

But five minutes after the restart the 3,000-plus crowd were celebrating Borough's opening goal. Scott Blair did well to head a curling Barry Williams centre out for a corner but from Prindiville's flag kick Williams rose to glance home a close-range downward header past Belford.

It was almost 2-0 shortly afterwards as

Shaun Wray got his foot to a Christie flick-on and the ball sailed inches wide of the far post with Belford struggling.

There was a moment of anxiety for Borough fans when Atherstone substitute John Berks lofted a free kick deep into the area which Barry Williams headed away under pressure from Green.

Adders then had a real let-off. Albrighton appeared to handle in the area but the penalty appeals were turned down and Belford made another fine save as Christie moved onto the loose ball.

Any hopes the visitors had of getting back into the contest disappeared with 15 minutes left as Borough tightened their grip on the tie with a second goal.

Adders were caught short by a quick counter-attack and Christie looked odds on to score after being set free by Wray. But the in demand teenager produced a classy back-flick back to Wray who crossed straight to Wilkin who buried a superb 15-yard drive in the top corner.



Barry Williams outjumps everyone to head Borough's first goal

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Christie then wasted a good chance with just the keeper to beat, wanting far too much time, and from the ensuing scramble, Barry Williams forced another low save from Belford.

Borough were then denied by the woodwork as Wilkin beat two men on the byline to set up Christie but the youngster's shot rebounded to safety off the left-hand upright.

However, Borough put the icing on the cake with a third goal in injury time. Albrighton failed to cut out Prindiville's through ball and Christie was on it in a flash to curl a superb 25 yard lob over the stranded Belford.

Burton Albion — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Burton: Goodwin, Davies, M. Smith, Benton, Blount, Grocutt, Stride, Holmes, Marsden, C. Smith, Lyons. Subs: Webster, Francis, Middleton, Davidson, Mayes.

Borough: R. Williams (Wood 42), Everitt, Prindiville (Muir 80), Statham (Healey 69), Crowley, Angus, Wray, Simpson, Silkin, Christie, B. Williams. Sub: Andersen.

Both sides looked uneasy during the early stages but the Borough stunned the home side as they swept ahead from their first real attack.

Wray fastened on to Kevin Wilkin's flick-on and turned inside Matt Smith to fire in a drive that Nick Goodwin could only partially save and Malcolm Christie dived to head home the loose ball from point blank range.

Borough then wasted an excellent chance to extend their advantage when Dave Benton headed out Wayne Simpson's cross under pressure from Wilkin and Christie fired over the top.

Burton hit back immediately and should have been on level terms after 11 minutes. Craig Smith fed Alan Davies wide on the right, his cross picked out Craig Smith again who saw his header brilliantly parried by Richard Williams

but the ball went straight to David Holmes who put it wide of an empty net from inside the six yard box.

Steve Prindiville then did well to shepherd the ball back to his keeper as Holmes threatened to burst through before Borough again went close to doubling their lead.

Benton's back pass put Goodwin in trouble and when Barry Williams latched on to the keeper's half-clearance to whip in a low shot, Goodwin failed to gather on the near post but the in-rushing Christie ran the ball out of play.

Borough's leading scorer then had a great chance to tighten the visitors grip on the tie as Wilkin put him clear with only the keeper to beat but Goodwin blocked the striker's shot.

It was all Borough at this stage and another chance went begging when Christie found Barry Williams who skipped round Davies to fire the ball across the face of the home goal with Wilkin inches away from turning it in.

But four minutes before the break the travelling fans were stunned as Burton snatched an equaliser totally against the run of play.

Gary Statham should have cut out a Pat Lyons through ball but allowed Holmes to race clear and curl a tremendous lob over Richard Williams into the far corner from a tight angle.

Worse was to follow for Borough as their hopes of a place in the next round disintegrated in the second period.

Two minutes after the restart Richard Williams saved a Holmes free-kick at the second attempt and was clattered by Darren Stride. The keeper received lengthy treatment on the pitch before being stretchered off to hospital with what looked like a serious neck injury.

When play eventually restarted, substitute Rob Wood was immediately called into the action to turn over Matt Smith's header.

Borough failed to clear the resulting corner and Craig Smith cracked home a shot on the turn.

Almost immediately Borough suffered yet another body blow as Wray was sent off for a second bookable offence following a clash with Matt Smith.

Despite being down to ten men, Borough surged forward in search of an equaliser with Goodwin saving bravely at Wilkin's feet before Prindiville flashed a fierce 30 yarder inches wide with the Brewers keeper well beaten.

Barry Williams then shot straight at Goodwin as Borough continued to dominate but the midfielder was then caught in possession, allowing Stride to break clear and it took a fine save by Wood to deny the Burton striker.

Substitute Brett Healey glanced a header wide of the target as Borough resumed control and shortly before the end Terry Angus found Christie with a free-kick but the youngster put his header into the side netting.



Wray's shot takes a deflection but is put in by Malcolm Christie.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Hyde United — 2nd Round

Borough welcomed Hyde United to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 2nd Round tie.

Borough: R. Williams, Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, B. Williams, Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas, Muir, Gardner. Subs: Wilkin, Healey, Jennings, Dyer, Shoemake.

Hyde: Scargill, Esdaille, Annan, Wilson, P. Richardson, Dolby (Switzer 78), L. Richardson (Washington 60), Hall, Band, Moncrieffe, Page. Sub: Haw.

Borough, although not at their best controlled the tie for virtually the whole of the 90 minutes.

The home side dominated the possession, certainly had enough chances to have put the issue beyond doubt and had two blatant penalty appeals turned down.

But after finally breaking the deadlock early in the second half, Borough failed to press home their advantage and they appeared to sit back on their lead.

And eventually they paid the price as Hyde, who showed plenty of typical northern grit without posing much of a threat, earned themselves a second chance with a late equaliser.

Borough, who were unchanged from last week's trip to Hastings, were a little slow out of the blocks and Richard Williams had to react smartly to cut out Chris Dolby's low cross with Prince Moncrieffe waiting to pounce.

However, Borough quickly seized the initiative with Barry Williams blazing his shot over the top from the edge of the area and Anton Thomas hooked an effort wide after Joe O'Connor had sprung the visitors' offside trap.

The home side continued to set the pace and O'Connor twice had clear-cut opportunities to break the deadlock.

First the striker did well to hold off Paul Richardson as he burst through the middle but he put his lob over advancing keeper Jonathan Scargill and over the empty net.

Thomas then produced a neat through

ball to free his strike partner and O'Connor veered wide of the advancing keeper only to see Scargill recover and turn his goalbound shot for a corner.

From the ensuing flag kick Steve Prindiville found Terry Angus who knocked it back in the middle for Thomas who saw his header hooked off the line by Richard Annan.

The visitors were not in the game as an attacking force and as Borough continued to surge forward Wayne Simpson fired a rising drive narrowly over the angle.

Borough were again out of luck as they were denied a penalty twice in the space of three minutes. First, Full-back Darren Esdaille clearly handled a Thomas flick-on and Dolby followed suit shortly afterwards but on both occasions referee Stuart Winton waved play on.

But the breakthrough Borough had been threatening finally arrived four

minutes after the restart. Scargill did well to punch away a Richie Gardener cross under pressure from Thomas but it only found Barry Williams who controlled the ball before drilling home a low left footer from 15 yards.

There was a moment of anxiety for the home fans when Moncrieffe's cross found Peter Band but Leigh Everitt closed him down to block the shot.

Borough were not as fluent as in the first period but it took a fine clearing header from Paul Richardson to deny O'Connor from a searching Shaun Wray cross.

However, the home side were stunned as Hyde snatched a 76th minute equaliser against the run of play when skipper Don Page headed home a Moncrieffe cross.

This stirred Borough into action and twice they came close to finding the winner with Angus and Thomas both having efforts cleared off the line.



Anton Thomas challenges Hyde centre-forward Phil Band.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Angus then missed a great chance to wrap things up, heading over from three yards after Scargill had failed to clear a Wray centre.

It was all Borough but they could not find the breakthrough as Scargill twice made vital saves to deny Barry Williams.

Hyde United – 2nd Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Ewan Fields to play a FA Trophy 2nd Round replay.

Hyde: Scargill, Esdaille (Hardy 83), Annan, G. Wilson, Taylor, Washington, L. Richardson, Hall, Band, Moncrieffe (P. Wilson 23), Page. Sub: Switzer.

Borough: Williams (Shoemake 28), Everitt, Prindiville, Simpson, Healey (Wilkin 65), Angus, Wray, O'Connor, Thomas, Muir (McKenzie 81), Gardner. Subs: Dyer, Barry.

Borough's hopes of FA Trophy glory and a trip to Wembley's twin towers are over after a bitterly disappointing night.

Prince Moncrieffe's first-half strike was enough to settle last night's tight clash and book Hyde a third round trip to Runcorn.

The Manor Park side, so dominant in the first meeting were nowhere near their best in the replay and can have few complaints.

They never really got to grips with the tie as the Tigers proved to be a totally different proposition on their own ground.

Borough did improve considerably after a dismal first-half and could point to two great chances going begging.

However, they had to accept second best on the night and the home side always looked the more likely winners.

To add to Borough's woes, goalkeeper Richard Williams was stretchered off to hospital with a suspected broken nose early in the first-half.

But this gave a first chance to stand in keeper Kevin Shoemake and the experienced keeper proved his worth with a couple of outstanding saves.

Borough, who had Brett Healey in midfield in place of the unavailable Barry Williams came under early pressure but Leigh Everitt was in quickly to rob Peter Band.

At the other end, Jonathan Scargill had to react quickly to gather Ian Muir's low 25 yarder after it had taken a nasty deflection but after 19 minutes the home fans were celebrating the opening goal.

A long clearance by Williams was headed back into the Borough half by Paul Taylor, Lloyd Richardson hooked it on and Moncrieffe was clear to round the keeper and slip the ball into an empty net.

Williams then needed six minutes treatment on the pitch before being stretchered off following an aerial clash with Band and deputy Shoemake was quickly in action when play restarted, saving well at the feet of Paddy Wilson.

Anton Thomas set up a shooting chance from Richie Gardner as Borough looked for a way back but Scargill gathered easily down at his near post.

With half-time approaching Borough came under more pressure with Richardson flashing a centre across the face of the visitors' goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Then Paddy Wilson cut in from the left past Everitt and with no challenge

coming, advanced deep into the area only to slice a wild shot well off target.

Borough showed more determination at the start of the second period with Gardner hammering a fierce 25 yard drive wide of Scargill's near post.

But again Shoemake was in action doing well to cut out Paddy Wilson's cross before Borough were desperately unlucky not to level the tie.

Muir produced a great through ball to split the home defence and sent Thomas racing clear but the striker's shot took the slightest deflection off the advancing Scargill's foot and thumped against the far post and stayed out.

Borough were certainly enjoying a better spell and midway through the half should have wiped out the arrears. Muir knocked another telling ball wide to Gardner and his low cross found Thomas in the area who, despite mis-hitting his first attempt, had a golden chance but scooped the ball inches wide from six yards.

Shaun Wray then had a shot deflected narrowly wide for a corner as Borough continued to look for the equaliser but it took a superb save from Shoemake to prevent Neil Hall from putting the issue beyond doubt, the big keeper going full length to his right to turn the Hyde midfielder's scorching goal bound drive round the post.

Borough could still have salvaged the tie in injury time when the home side failed to clear Steve Prindiville's left wing corner and Wayne Simpson's close range drive seemed destined for the net but Scargill somehow got his body in the way and the home defenders gratefully scrambled the ball clear.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1998-99

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.18	Stamford	A	PSF	3-1	Wray, B. Williams, Thomas	215
07.21	Coventry City	H	PSF	3-4	Williams (2), Christie	1156
07.23	Sheffield Wednesday	H	PSF	1-1	Wray	455
07.25	Witton Albion	A	PSF	1-1	Drewitt	c200
08.01	Aylesbury United	A	PSF	5-1	Muir, Statham, Wray, Harvey (o.g.), Wilkin	271
08.04	Tottenham Hotspur	H	PSF	0-2		1488
08.08	Hednesford Town	H	PSF	1-1	Muir	441
08.11	V.S.Rugby	A	PSF	0-0		155
08.14	Aston Villa	H	PSF	1-3	Gardner	841
08.22	Hastings Town	H	L	1-0	Christie	1211
08.25	Kings Lynn	A	L	4-2	B. Williams (2), Christie, Wilkin	1039
08.29	Boston United	A	L	3-2	Simpson (2), Christie	1159
08.31	Grantham Town	H	L	2-0	Thomas, Christie (pen)	1919
09.05	Crawley Town	A	L	3-0	Christie, Thomas, Angus	675
09.08	Burton Albion	H	L	4-1	Thomas (2), Christie (2)	2030
09.12	Gloucester City	A	L	0-1		1010
09.15	Kings Lynn	H	L	4-0	Christie, Thomas, Simpson, Statham	1564
09.19	Worcester City	A	L	4-0	Simpson, Thomas, Christie (pen), Wilkin	1355
09.22	Grantham Town	A	L	0-2		1117
09.26	Tamworth	H	L	2-0	Wray, Christie (pen)	2099
10.03	Atherstone United	A	FAC2Q	0-0		2029
10.06	Atherstone United	H	FAC2Qr	3-0	B.Williams, Wilkin, Christie	3019
10.10	Dorchester Town	H	L	0-0		1330
10.17	Burton Albion	A	FAC3Q	1-2	Christie	1894
10.24	Bromsgrove Rovers	A	L	4-0	Wilkin (2), B. Williams, Landon	608
10.31	Weymouth	H	L	4-2	Muir (2, 1 pen), B. Williams (2)	1227
11.03	Burton Albion	A	L	1-1	Gardner	1059
11.07	Boston United	H	L	1-1	B. Williams	1440
11.09	Atherstone United	A	DMC1-1L	1-2	Muir	531
11.14	Hastings Town	A	L	4-0	Thomas (2), O'Connor, Gardner	710
11.21	Hyde United	H	FAT2	1-1	B. Williams	1207
11.23	Hyde United	A	FAT2r	0-1		472
11.28	Halesowen Town	H	L	4-3	Muir (2, 1 pen), B. Williams, Wray	1230
12.01	Moor Green	A	BSC2	5-2	Thomas (2), Jennings, Wray, O'Connor	97
12.05	Rothwell Town	A	L	1-1	O'Connor	574
12.12	Crawley Town	H	L	2-1	Muir (pen), B. Williams	1409
12.15	Atherstone United	H	DMC1-2L	1-3	Prindiville	558
12.19	Cambridge City	A	L	1-1	O'Toole	546
12.26	Atherstone United	H	L	1-0	Thomas	2242
12.28	Gresley Rovers	A	L	3-0	Thomas, (o.g.), Muir (pen)	1490
01.01	Halesowen Town	A	L	0-2		1521
01.03	Merthyr Tydfil	H	L	6-1	Angus, Wilkin, B. Williams, Wray, Thomas, (o.g.)	1228
01.09	Ilkeston Town	A	L	1-0	Angus	1338
01.12	Stourbridge	H	BSC3	2-1	Everitt, O'Connor	202
01.23	Salisbury City	H	L	0-1		1404
01.30	Bath City	H	L	1-1	Muir (pen)	2018
02.06	Dorchester Town	A	L	1-0	Kiwomya	802
02.13	Cambridge City	H	L	4-0	B. Williams, Muir (pen), Wilkin, Wray	1515
02.15	Hednesford Town	A	BSCQF	0-2		718
02.20	Bath City	A	L	3-1	Angus, Wilkin, Wray	1285
02.27	Merthyr Tydfil	A	L	1-2	Thomas	582
03.06	Bromsgrove Rovers	H	L	6-0	Kiwomya (2), Wilkin (2), Muir, Prindiville	1533
03.13	Salisbury City	A	L	1-1	O'Toole	1050

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1998-99

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
03.20	Worcester City	H	L	2-0	Wilkin, B. Williams	1724
03.27	Ilkeston Town	H	L	1-3	Angus	1638
04.03	Atherstone United	A	L	2-0	Thomas, Kiwomya	2043
04.05	Gresley Rovers	H	L	3-1	Kiwomya, Thomas, B. Williams	2945
04.10	Gloucester City	H	L	2-0	Kiwomya, Paul	1538
04.17	Weymouth	A	L	1-1	B. Williams	1350
04.24	Rothwell Town	H	L	2-0	Kiwomya, Wray	2007
05.01	Tamworth	A	L	1-1	O'Connor	1404
05.04	West Brom	H	F	3-0	Williams, O'Connor, Muir	440

KEY : L = Southern League Premier, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, DMC = Southern League Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F = Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1998-99

Back Row (left to right): Shaun Wray, Andy Kiwomya, Richard Williams, Terry Angus, Gavin O'Toole, Anton Thomas, Kevin Wilkin, Ian Muir, Andy Kirkup, Joe O'Connor.
 Front Row (left to right): Barry Williams, Leigh Everitt, Steve Prindiville, Dave Crowley, Wayne Simpson, Jamie March, Kingsley Paul, Brett Healey.



Borough Transfer Trauma

Nuneaton Borough have been rocked by the news that Anton Thomas has sensationally quit the club – joining Burton Albion on a Bosman transfer. Brendan Phillips is also reeling at the news that transfer target Steve Pearce has become a target of Hereford United.

Wray Loses League Chance

Borough winger Shaun Wray has lost out on a chance of League football as Second Division Reading have scrapped their reserve side for next season. The 21-year-old has played two trial matches for Reading against Fulham and Arsenal and was tipped to be offered a deal.

Cooper Battles Cancer

Rising Borough starlet Adam Cooper is taking on his toughest opponent – cancer. The teenager is determined to see off a rare form of skin cancer and force his way into Brendan Phillips' first team plans over the next couple of seasons.

Borough Sign Kotylo

Brendan Phillips has signed 21-year-old Sheffield Wednesday midfielder Krystof Kotylo. The player has been with The Owls since he was a schoolboy, but has never made the first team.

Borough Fans Hit With Price Rise

Nuneaton Borough supporters have been hit in the pocket with a 27 per cent hike in admission prices. Standing admission to league matches next season has risen from £5.50 to £7 while taking a seat in the stand will now cost £9 instead of £6.50. A ground season ticket will cost £132 but a seat in the stand will set fans back £170.

Concessionary season tickets will cost £66.50 for the ground and £104 for a seat in the stand. These will reduce to £63.50 for the ground and £100 if bought before the July 15 deadline. Concessionary matchday admissions are £3.50 for the ground and £5.50 for the stand.

Abbey Set To Sign

Crawley Town striker Ben Abbey is set to sign for Borough within the next 48 hours, bringing a much needed boost to the Manor Park strike force. Abbey scored 40 goals for Crawley last season, although his form dipped at the start of the year after he became the subject of transfer speculation from a number of clubs.

Brendan Signs Blake

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has beaten Kettering Town in the race to sign West Bromwich Albion reserve striker Marvin Blake. The Borough boss sealed the deal to bring the 19-year-old Blake to Manor Park after he was released by the Baggies. The signing comes after Phillips pulled out of negotiations to sign Crawley Town striker Ben Abbey.

Thackeray Signs

Brendan Phillips has completed the signing of Halifax Town midfielder Andy Thackeray. The former Manchester City and Rochdale player has joined Borough despite competition from Football League Mansfield Town

Southern League Manager Of The Year

Brendan Phillips has been voted the Southern League Manager of the Year for the second time in four seasons after overseeing Borough's magnificent title charge. The Manor Park chief received the award in Bournemouth at the weekend and dedicated it to his back room staff.

Jon Brown Joins Borough

Brendan Phillips has snapped up another Halifax Town player in the form of utility man Jon Brown. The 32-year-old can play in a number of positions and began his career with Denaby United in the Northern Counties East League before joining Exeter City where he made 130 appearances.

Borough Sign Hanson

Dave Hanson has become the third ex-Halifax Town player to join Nuneaton Borough. The striker previously played with Joe O'Connor and Wayne Simpson at Hednesford Town before and earlier in his career was associated with Manchester United and Bury and was sold by Hednesford to Leyton Orient for £50,000.

Matthews Joins

Brendan Phillips has secured the signature of Salisbury City custodian Jason Matthews.

Kotylo Breaks Foot

Borough's Krystof Kotylo has broken his foot in a training ground incident. The former Sheffield Wednesday player will now miss the beginning of the season as he will be out for four to six weeks.

1999-00

Nuneaton Borough v Deeping Rangers 17-07-1999

Borough: Matthews, Everitt (Thackeray 45), Prindiville, Simpson, Brown (O'Toole 45), Angus (Ryder 45), Wray (Norman 45), Williams (Tallants 70), Blake (Hanson 70), Muir (Rawle 45), Reed.

Deeping: Banning, Harker (Yarde 35), Bradley, Roberts, Walker, Coupe, Greatrex (Ray 35), Roddis, Jones, Tarrent, Wilson (Mackintosh 35).

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

Marvin Blake had a shot saved by the Deeping keeper Aaron Banning after being played in by Barry Williams as Borough started strongly before Deeping shocked Borough by taking the lead after 27 minutes. Simpson and Angus were caught in no man's land and Matthews sprinted out to narrow the angle and clattered into Tarrant. The referee had no hesitation

in awarding a penalty which was despatched by Greatrex. Borough equalised after 37 minutes when Muir, with his back to goal, looped an incisive ball into the onrushing Blake. Defenders Roberts and Coupe were caught flat footed as Blake raced between the two and rammed the ball past Banning.



Barry Williams plays in hat-trick man Marvin Blake.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

A minute later Williams put Borough ahead when Prindiville put in a dangerous cross and Williams challenged the keeper and won the aerial battle, just getting his head to the ball which found its way into the net. Borough were now in the ascendancy as Deeping seemed to lose their composure and it came as no surprise when Blake stole the ball off a Deeping defender before drilling the ball past Banning to make it 3-1. Borough put the game out of Deeping's reach when Prindiville's corner was headed against the bar by Williams and the ball fell to the feet of Blake who gleefully completed his hat-trick.

Phillips made five changes at the start of the second half with Andy Thackeray, Gavin O'Toole, Mark Rawle and Stuart Ryder replacing Leigh Everitt, Wray, Brown, Muir and Angus. Banning parried Prindiville's shot after 54 minutes before the lively Reed began to expose Deeping's lack of organisation and it was no surprise when he made it five, two minutes later. The livewire Rawle picked up a Norman right wing cross before directing the ball behind him to Reed who sprinted in front of his marker to slot home past the rooted Banning. Five minutes later Deeping's misery was complete as an own goal from Roberts added insult to injury.

Borough Sign Francis

Nuneaton Borough have bolstered their strike force by signing highly-rated attacker Delton Francis from Nationwide Conference rivals Kingstonian. The 21-year-old has been tracked by Brendan Phillips since he joined Hednesford Town after being released by Birmingham City.

Hednesford sold Francis to Kingstonian and he was on the bench for the FA Trophy final at Wembley. Unfortunately travelling became a problem with Francis having to make a five-and-a-half-hour round trip every time he pulled on a shirt for the Surrey club

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 20-07-1999

Borough: Matthews (R. Williams 62), Thackeray, Prindiville, Crowley, Brown (Norman 75), Angus, Wray (Everitt 62), B. Williams (O'Toole 75), Hanson (Montcrieffe 50), Blake, Reed.

WBA: Miller, Gabbidon (McDermott 45), Potter, Van Blerk, Burgess (J. Chambers 45), Raven, Chambers, Sneekes (Oliver 62), Evens (Quinn), De Freitas (Quailey 62), Kilbane.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough could have taken an early lead when Marvin Blake found himself one-on-one with Alan Miller, but the former Baggies striker hit the post and then fired the ball into the keeper's hands. Richard Sneekes gave West Brom the lead after five minutes when he got onto the end of a through ball from Kevin Kilbane and lobbed the ball over the hands of the helpless Jason Matthews. Albion extended their lead after 12 minutes following some good play by Sneekes. A delightful move saw Adam Chambers, Fabian De Freitas and Daniel Gabbidon move forward only for Steve Prindiville to intercept. Sneekes lunged for the ball and tapped it through to Kilbane who passed the ball to Daryl Burgess and he set up centre-forward Micky Evans who slotted the ball past Matthews, who could only watch the ball fly into the net.

Blake went close after 20 minutes before Reed set up Dave Hanson five minutes later, but the former Halifax man dived for the ball, but failed to connect. Blake had another chance after 30 minutes but the ball was smothered by Miller. Minutes later Angus headed wide as Borough enjoyed the bulk of the play. Matthews made a spectacular save from Sneekes, gathering the ball at the second attempt.

Kilbane tried to lob Matthews at the start of the second half but his effort went wide. Borough brought on triallist Prince Moncrieffe of Hyde United, who won a corner with his first touch. The flag kick fell to Angus who tried a volley which soared over the bar. Blake found himself through on goal after 55 minutes as Borough almost pulled a goal back. After an hour Wray found himself through on goal but fired at the feet of Miller but at the other end a similar situation between De Freitas and Crowley saw the West Brom man beat his marker and slot the ball home after 62 minutes.

Barry Williams tried to pull back a goal with a strike from the edge of the area but by now tired legs were creeping in all round. Moncrieffe was trying to get possession for Borough but it was all to no avail. Jason Matthews was replaced by Richard Williams, whose first task was to pick the ball out of the net.

Everitt was dispossessed and Quinn fired a shot at the Borough keeper, who saved, but Kilbane crossed the ball back to Quinn who made no mistake in scoring Baggies' fourth goal. Barry Williams tried to pull back a goal with a strike from the edge of the area. Angus prevented a fifth West Brom goal ten minutes from time as players got tired, but the central defender remained committed right up until the final whistle.



Borough Sign Stuart Ryder

Brendan Phillips hopes to secure the signature of former England under-21 international Stuart Ryder after his impressive display against Deeping Rangers. The ex-Walsall and Mansfield man who has over 150 Football League appearances under his belt has been on trial with Borough.

Stalybridge Celtic v Nuneaton Borough 24-07-1999

Borough: R. Williams (Matthews 53), Thackeray, Prindiville (Everitt 53), Brown (O'Toole 59), Angus, Wray (Muir 45), B. Williams (Healey 59), Hanson (Wray 75), Blake (Steele 45), Reed (Norman 65).

Borough travelled to Bower Field to play Stalybridge Celtic in a pre-season friendly game.

Angus cut out a dangerous situation with a flick back to Richard Williams before the first shot of the game after 20 minutes. Steve Pickford picked up a loose ball on the edge of the area, but his powerful strike flew a foot wide. Borough struck back through the impressive Andy Thackeray, who found Barry Williams well-placed at the far post, but his header flew just over. Just before half-time good work by Celtic's Stratford down the right saw his centre met by Eddie Johnson whose header cleared the bar

The second half started slowly and there was almost an hour on the clock before Dave Hanson found O'Toole with a ball that he struck narrowly wide from the edge of the box. O'Toole was then the provider as he set up Thackeray who hit a 25-yard effort into the hands of home keeper Gary Ingram. With 15 minutes to go Muir's corner was met full on by Terry Angus but his header flew just over the bar.

During the closing stages Stalybridge went up a gear in search of the winner and on 82 minutes Pickford sent substitute Andrew Stanhope clear through the middle but his shot was well blocked by Matthews. A minute later a smart turn and shot by Matt Williamson only missed by inches. With two minutes remaining a rare Wayne Simpson mistake let in Stanhope but Matthews saved the day with another fine block. As the match entered injury time, and a draw looked likely, Borough struck the winning blow. Thackeray's fine kick picked out Angus who outjumped the home defence and his back header looped over keeper Ingham and the ball entered the net off the bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge United 27-07-1999

Borough: Mackenzie (R. Williams), Thackeray (Everitt), Prindiville, Simpson, Brown (Crowley), Angus, Wray, Williams, Hanson (Blake), Muir (O'Connor), Reed. **Subs:** O'Toole, Healey.

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

Borough turned in an impressive performance against the Second Division side. Record signing Joe O'Connor made a surprise return from holiday and was on the pitch for less than a minute before he sprang the United offside trap and buried the ball in the back of the net. Barry Williams and Marvin Blake got the other Borough goals in a convincing 3-1 win.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 31-07-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray (Storer 33 (Thackeray 45)), Reed, Simpson, Brown, Angus, Healey (Storer 72), Williams, Hanson, Ducros (Blake 68), O'Connor. **Sub:** Francis.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play King's Lynn in a pre-season friendly game.

Joe O'Connor broke through after four minutes, but as he rounded keeper Chuck Martini, full-back Dave Robinson cleared the danger. Borough had a let-off after 12 minutes when Ian Reed cleared Lee Williams' header off the line and three minutes later Martini did well to get hold of a Dave Hanson shot and the former Halifax man tested the American keeper again six minutes later when he got his head on a Reed corner. Borough took the lead after 28 minutes when Reed's left wing cross was met by Joe O'Connor but his header smacked against the post only for Andy Thackeray to slot home the rebound and open his Borough account.

Three minutes later Thackeray was on hand to help set up Borough's second when he picked out his old Shaymen team-mate Hanson, who controlled the ball on his chest but his flick cannoned off a home defender into the path of Andy Ducros who had the simple task of shooting home from close range. Kings Lynn came more into the game during the latter stages of the first-half and almost cut the deficit just before the break when Wilson's shot clipped the top of the bar.

Early in the second half Mackenzie made a comfortable save from Mark Turner's shot and ten minutes into the half Reed latched onto a loose ball 20 yards out that brought a smart save from Martini. But after 64 minutes it was the Linnets who hit back when a Tony Spearing cross was met by the left foot of Dave Puttnam who volleyed home from 20 yards giving Mackenzie no chance. Former Norwich City star Jeremy Goss had a chance to level and played a one-two with Puttnam but the ex-Canary saw his shot pushed onto the post by Mackenzie.

With 15 minutes left Marvin Blake put an effort high and wide before Barry Williams set up Thackeray, but his 25 yard effort whistled past the post. O'Connor and Angus both had attempts on goal before the final whistle.

Nuneaton Borough v Derby County 03-08-1999

Borough: R. Williams, Thackeray, Prindiville, Crowley (Healey 24 (Ducros 45)), Brown, Williams (Crowley 45), Wray (Norman 71), Blake, Hanson, Muir, Reed. **Subs:** Simpson, Miller, Kenney, Mackenzie.

Derby: Hault, Jackson, Dorigo, Boertien, Elliott, Stimac (Porter 65), Trobbini, Murray, Burton (Legeyt 86), Harper (Christie 45), Bridge-Wilkinson. **Subs:** Riggott, Doherty.

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

Derby took an early lead when Tony Dorigo picked up the ball on the left wing from Stimac and ran down to cross with pin-point accuracy to Harper who made no mistake in heading past Richard Williams. Borough had their first chance



after five minutes when Reed picked out Barry Williams who half-hit a volley at Hoult in the Rams goal. Burton was looking dangerous for the visitors and gave the Borough defence problems. After 12 minutes Reed crossed to Barry Williams but his header was wide.

Dorigo hit a 25-yard free-kick wide of the post before Richard Williams failed to get hold of a Stimac free-kick and Crowley cleared to safety. Marvin Blake wasted a chance after being set up by Reed after 23 minutes while two minutes later Crowley committed a two footed lunge at Harper, which led to him leaving the field. Reed set up Blake just before the break, but he sliced the chance at Hoult.

Andy Ducros and Dave Crowley were introduced after the break and Blake had another chance to score before Christie sprung the Borough defence and hit a tame shot that bobbed past Richard Williams from 20 yards to extend Derby's lead. Reed and Wray both had long distance efforts saved by Hoult and after 58 minutes Wray picked up the ball 30 yards out but fired wide. Hanson and Blake were showing signs of forming a partnership but the former West Brom man missed the target again after an hour.

Ducros had a series of impressive long distance shots after 70 minutes that tested Hoult before Richard Williams was called on to make a save after 71 minutes. Bridge-Wilkinson made the score 3-0 a minute later after Adam Murray supplied him with a great ball on the edge of the box that he fired past the ailing Borough keeper. Christie wasted a chance to increase Derby's lead when he failed to find Burton who was waiting to pounce. Ducros was beginning to pepper shots at the goal but the final chance fell to Hanson, but Hoult's quick thinking closed down the opportunity.

Ducros Signs

Brendan Phillips has finally obtained the signature of former Coventry City striker Andy Ducros after a two week chase. The ex-Sky Blues man put pen to paper after the friendly game with Derby County.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 07-08-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Brown, Angus, Wray (Crowley 62), Williams, Blake, Ducros, Reed. **Subs:** Muir, Healey.

Sutton: Ladkin, Ling, Heir, Kinsella (Howells 85), Hamer, Dutton, Holder, Lavery, Perry, McGinty, Haywood. **Subs:** Richardson, McCann.

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Champions Cup game.

Borough opened brightly and dominated the early exchanges with Shaun Wray only inches away from turning in Marvin Blake's fifth minute cross. Richard Lavery committed a dreadful foul on Andy Ducros and from the ensuing free-kick Terry Angus headed just wide. Midway through the half Borough were denied the lead by a blatant professional foul by Ladkin, as he handled on the edge of the area with Blake clear through on goal, without seeing a card of any colour.

Ducros curled the free kick wide of the post, and then put another free-kick just over the bar while Reed's close range volley was just over from Barry Williams' cross. Just before half-time Ducros turned smartly and lost his marker, but dragged his shot across the face of the goal.

Borough began the second half smartly with Blake bursting into the box, but his shot bounced to safety off the keeper's knees. Borough were still enjoying the majority of the possession but had a narrow escape after a long clearance by Ladkin created problems for Borough keeper Chris Mackenzie who came way out of goal but failed to clear and when Haywood whipped the ball back into the goalmouth, it took the combined efforts of Prindiville and Angus to scramble the ball off the line.

Ducros had a shot deflected for a corner following Reed's cross before Mark Holden got clear for Sutton, but Perry was unable to convert his low cross. With six minutes remaining Borough made the vital breakthrough, Blake was fouled by Jonathan Kinsella and Reed curled a superb 25 yard free-kick into the top left hand corner. Borough could have extended their lead a couple of minutes later but Thackeray's shot rebounded off the foot of a post with Blake seeing his follow-up effort deflected wide.

Matthews To Exeter

Borough goalkeeper Jason Matthews is set to complete his transfer to Exeter City for a small fee as Brendan Phillips begins to finalise his battle plan for the Conference kick-off. The ex-Salisbury City player has impressed the Grecians during a ten-day trial at St James' Park and moves to the club initially as cover for regular keeper Stuart Naylor.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 10-08-1999

Bedworth: Wood, O'Brien, Halford, Sanders, Dale, Goodman, Stanley, Bedder, Martin, McKenzie, Darlison. **Subs:** Ormes, Beard, Corden, B. Brown.

Borough: Williams, Everitt, Kenny, Ryder, Barry, Crowley, Genner, O'Connor, Francis, Muir, Healey. **Subs:** Greenway, Miveld, Hill, Cooper, Ennis.

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a pre-season friendly game.

Bedworth had a strong penalty appeal turned down after four minutes when Ross Genner bundled over Christy McKenzie. Twelve minutes later Peter Barry wrestled McKenzie to the ground in the box, but again no penalty was given. The closest either side came in the first-half was after 22 minutes when Martin's back-heel found full-back Paul O'Brien unmarked on the edge of the area. He spotted Richard Williams off his line, lobbed the ball over the keeper, only to be denied by the crossbar. Wood's only activity of the half came on 27 minutes when he saved the blushes of defender John Halford whose mistake let in Joe O'Connor.

Borough then suffered a major set-back when Brett Healey was carried off with a suspected broken ankle after challenging Jai Stanley and was taken to hospital.

After the break it took a last ditch tackle from Barry to deny



McKenzie but on 53 minutes came the decisive moment. Stand-in left-back Andy Dale made a rare foray forward and fired in a low cross shot and Martin reacted quickly to steer the ball home from eight yards. Nuneaton substitute Lee Greenway almost made a dramatic entrance, but his first touch, a close range header from Leigh Everitt's centre, sailed over. Despite playing second fiddle for most of the evening Borough had two chances to steal an equaliser.

Damien Hill fired in a low shot. Wood saved but failed to hold onto the ball, but picked himself up quickly to take the ball off Joe O'Connor's toe. And right on full-time another error by the otherwise impressive Halford gifted Hill a one-on-one with Wood, but he guided the ball wide of the target from 18 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Hayes 14-08-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Wray, Williams, Hanson (O'Connor), Ducros, Reed.
Subs: Blake, Muir, Williams.

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

Borough carved out the first chance after 11 minutes. Ian Reed's left wing corner picked out Ducros on the far post and when he headed back across goal, Alvin Watts cleared off the line with Terry Angus waiting to pounce. Hayes hit back immediately and Wayne Simpson was happy to deflect a Lee Charles effort for a corner which Chris Mackenzie climbed high to gather under pressure from Nathan Bunce. Borough continued to have the better of the exchanges and Watts again rescued the visitors as he hooked a Shaun Wray header clear.

There were more problems for the visitors when Ducros freed Reed on the left but after cutting into the area his low cross was too near Gothard who easily snuffed out the danger. Borough were then caught short at the back as they pushed forward and it needed a smart save from Mackenzie to deny Mark Boyce following a swift Hayes counter attack. Nuneaton quickly regained the initiative but were again out of luck when Bunce blocked Dave Crowley's flick on from Reed's corner as it looked destined for the net. However, Borough got the breakthrough they had been threatening shortly before the interval when Ducros had a simple tap-in from close range after Gothard had stopped Reed's initial shot with his feet. Reed then dragged his shot wide before Mackenzie had to make a diving save to prevent Steve McKimm from putting the visitors back on level terms.

There was a scare after the break for the Manor Park men when Tony Witter's long clearance caught their defence square and Mackenzie had to race out of his area to halt Charles. Play quickly switched to the other end where a deep cross from Barry Williams had the Hayes defence in a tangle but Ducros failed to get any power into his shot and Boyce cleared easily.

The striker then made space for himself on the edge of the box before forcing a superb save from Gothard with the visiting keeper repeating his heroics to block Dave Hanson's

follow-up shot. Borough were then stunned as Hayes grabbed a 65th minute equaliser. Bunce crossed from wide on the left to find Flynn who fired low past Mackenzie from close range.

Borough were desperately unlucky not to be back in front shortly after as Barry Williams hammered a tremendous 25 yard drive against the angle with Gothard totally beaten. The home side were now back in control and Hayes were relieved to hear the referee's whistle after Ducros had wriggled clear of Watts inside the area. But Borough's pressure was rewarded after 78 minutes when Barry Williams and Wray linked up before finding Ducros who turned inside the area before firing a low cross shot past the diving Gothard into the far corner.

The Nuneaton striker then had a great chance to put the issue beyond doubt as he burst clear into the box but Gothard beat away his fierce shot. Borough had the edge taken off their performance in the closing minutes when striker Hanson was stretchered off with a nasty-looking head injury.

Hereford United v Nuneaton Borough 17-08-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Crowley, Angus, Wray, Williams, O'Connor, Ducros (Blake), Reed. **Subs:** Muir, R. Williams, Francis, Everitt.

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

Borough were quickly into their stride with home keeper Andy Quy cutting out Steve Prindiville's first minute free-kick. They continued to cut the early pace and Ian Reed produced a great cross from the left which saw Joe O'Connor rise above his marker, but his header flashed just wide. As the Bulls hit back Pearce found some space in the area but Wayne Simpson quickly closed him down. Keeper Chris Mackenzie had to get down smartly to a first-time effort by Paul Fewings before almost presenting Pearce with a chance from a poor goal kick.

Borough continued to press and Tony James was happy to head behind a deep cross from Angus with O'Connor closing in. Hereford were again pulled apart as an O'Connor cut-back set up a shooting chance for Andy Ducros but Quy gathered comfortably. At the other end Mackenzie produced a smart save to turn a Pearce free-kick over the top before Borough took a 33rd minute lead. O'Connor charged down a clearance from Tony James and sent Ducros clear. His low shot beat Quy but flew across the face of the goal off the foot of the post and Ducros was the first to react, turning the ball into the path of O'Connor who had the simplest of tap ins.

Borough were denied a blatant penalty after Shaun Wray was brought down by Paul Sturgiss and then O'Connor glanced a header wide before Wray fired wide from 25 yards. But Borough were hit by a sucker punch right on the stroke of half-time. A long clearance by Quy caught them pushing forward and Pearce held off the desperately back-tracking Simpson to bury a low shot past Mackenzie.

There were more problems for Borough at the start of the second half as a mistake by Prindiville let in Pearce but



Angus recovered to cut out the low cross at the expense of a corner. Hereford were now enjoying more of the possession but it was Borough who looked more dangerous and Wray wasted a great opportunity when he pulled his centre behind Ducros and Barry Williams with the goal gaping. Dave Crowley then produced a superb tackle to halt the marauding Gavin Williams before Borough again went close to regaining the lead. Prindiville's right wing corner picked out Angus and the big defender's powerful header seemed destined for the net until Quy fingertipped it over the top.

Leroy May headed a long throw from Matt Clarke against the foot of the post before Borough wasted a golden opportunity to wrap up all three points with just nine minutes to go. Crowley sent Wray away and the winger produced a superb run before laying the ball square to substitute Marvin Blake who totally miskicked in front of an open goal.

O'Toole Joins Aberystwyth

Gavin O'Toole has quit Nuneaton Borough for Aberystwyth Town in a bid for regular first-team football. The former Coventry City man who joined Borough midway through last season had been on the transfer list for the past month.

Dover Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1999

Dover: Hyde, Browne, Munday, Shearer, Beard, Norman, D. Clarke, Hynes, Wormall, LeBerl, Vansittart. **Subs:** Coates, Virgo, M. Clarke, Manning, Mitten.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, Prindiville, Wray, B. Williams, Crowley, Reed, O'Connor, Ducros. **Subs:** Hanson, Brown, Muir, Everitt, Blake.

Borough travelled to The Crabble to play Dover Athletic in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough had an early scare when Wormull's second minute corner resulted in a hectic goalmouth scramble before Barry Williams hooked the ball clear. There were more problems for Borough when Shearer's long through ball found Mark Hynes unmarked inside the area but he failed to get any power in his shot and Chris Mackenzie gathered comfortably. Ian Reed fired well over from Joe O'Connor's lay off before Wormull's fiercely struck cross shot flew narrowly over the angle. The same player shot straight at Mackenzie before Borough were hit with a three goal burst by the Lilywhites.

The breakthrough came after 31 minutes when Tony Browne's long ball picked out Clarke and he laid it off to Wormull who cracked a terrific 25 yarder into the top left-hand corner. Mackenzie then came racing out of his area where he wildly sliced an attempted clearance and was relieved to see Terry Angus block a goalbound shot from Hynes. But Borough were in deep trouble after 36 minutes as Dover doubled their lead. An ill-timed tackle from Dave Crowley sent Joff Vansittart sprawling and Shearer made no mistake from the spot.

Borough's hopes of getting back into the contest nose-dived even further four minutes before the interval as they conceded a poor goal. More indecisive defending from the

visitors left Clarke unmarked in the area and he glanced home a header from a Hynes cross – but Mackenzie will be disappointed that he failed to save low to his left.

Dave Hanson appeared at the start of the second period in place of Shaun Wray as Borough pushed forward looking for a way back into the match and Reed fired a 20 yarder straight at Paul Hyde. But Borough were fortunate to escape shortly afterwards when Hynes beat Wayne Simpson to a loose ball on the edge of the area and his lob sailed inches over the bar with Mackenzie struggling.

Dover almost grabbed a fourth goal when Hynes knocked the ball back into the area and Jake LeBerl's header seemed destined for the net, but Mackenzie produced a superb save. Hyde did well to block O'Connor's effort at the near post before excelling himself with a tremendous save from Steve Prindiville's cracking 20 yarder.

However, Borough got the goal they had been threatening after 71 minutes. Substitute Ian Muir set Reed free on the left and his deep cross was powerfully headed home by Thackeray from ten yards. Borough continued to have the better of the closing exchanges but they were unable to breach the home defence for a second time.

New Borough Ground Plans Unveiled

Detailed plans have been unveiled for the new Nuneaton Borough soccer ground at Bermuda. Borough are set to kick off in a big way with an ambitious plan to build a brand new £4.2 million stadium. Following years of speculation about the future of the Manor Park headquarters, the Nationwide Conference league club is on the verge of a new future at the dawn of the new millennium.

A site has already been earmarked at the former quarry and waste tip bordering Bermuda Road and detailed plans for a stadium, practice pitch, car parking and landscaping have been drawn up and are currently lodged with the planning department of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Club chairman, Phil Clayton, said: "We are very excited about the prospects of a new stadium and we believe it is in the best interests of the club. The projected site is not too far away from our present ground and has the advantage of good access, but for more than 80 years Manor Park has been the home of football in Nuneaton so it will be a wrench to leave.

"However, we have to temper our excitement as there is an awful long way to go and we have to be patient and see how it unfolds," he said. Mr Clayton added that club officials were restraining their enthusiasm for the time being and until the designs can be viewed by local authority planners.

The ground, to be developed by the Linford Group from Lichfield, and to be sited on the new Eliot Park, is projected to be built in phases with an initial capacity of 6,500 including 1,500 seated, together with up to 100 places for disabled supporters and hospitality boxes providing places for 129 people...



An aerial view of the site which could be transformed into Borough's new home. Photo: Jim Jarvis

A birds-eye view reveals the proposed Nuneaton Borough Football Club's new stadium on the edge of the town. A former industrial wasteland could soon be the new home of the Nationwide Conference League outfit in time for the opening season of the new millennium. From the air all is revealed. In the left foreground can be seen the terraced homes and sports club at Bermuda village. The A444 carves its way across the landscape from lower left to middle right, bordering the St George's Way industrial site and the grounds of the George Eliot Hospital seen above the by-pass as it makes its way towards Coton.

Bermuda Industrial Estate provides the left wing of the site, once occupied by a quarry and waste tip and if things go to plan will one day provide state-of-the-art facilities for Borough's loyal following as well as a sporting venue second to none. Borough officials are delighted by the prospect of a new stadium and are quietly hopeful the ambitious plans will be given the green light by planners.

Nuneaton Borough v Yeovil Town 24-08-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, Prindiville, Williams, Crowley, Muir, Reed, Hanson, O'Connor. **Subs:** Ducros, Wray, Brown, Blake, Everitt.

Yeovil: McKenzie, Skiverton, Cousins, Chandler, Pitman, Hayfield, Stott, Norton, Fishlock, Patmore, Foster. **Subs:** Eaton, Simpson, Smith, Brown, Piper.

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

Borough made a bright start and a neat build up down the right after only two minutes ended with Barry Williams thumping a shot over the top from the edge of the box. However the visitors looked dangerous when they responded with Patmore holding off Terry Angus to free the overlapping Jamie Pitman down the right but his poor cross was easily cut out by Wayne Simpson. Joe O'Connor headed just over from Steve Prindiville's cross and Terry Skiverton was happy to head Reed's centre behind for a corner with Williams boring in at the far post.

Yeovil had a great chance to break the deadlock when Prindiville brought down Patmore in the box in the 25th minute but the striker's fiercely struck shot was turned

around the post by the Borough keeper. Wray, on for the injured Williams, produced a neat cross for Hanson to shoot a couple of feet wide. O'Connor was then crowded out as he burst into the area and Hanson had a diving header well saved by Tony Pennock.

The Manor Park men picked up where they left off on the restart with Hanson making space on the right before switching the ball inside to Dave Crowley who found Reed but the midfielder was off target from inside the area. Hanson headed wide from Wray's centre before Yeovil drew first blood after 56 minutes. Simpson got in a fine tackle on Patmore only to see the ball break to the unmarked Norton who cracked a fierce 15 yarder past Mackenzie. Borough's response was immediate and they were unfortunate not to grab an equaliser during a goalmouth scramble after Hanson had headed on Prindiville's corner.

But Yeovil's lead lasted just three minutes. Reed's low centre caused panic in the visitors' defence and Hanson stepped between two defenders to force the ball home despite Skiverton's desperate efforts to clear off the line. Two minutes later Borough had heated appeals for a penalty turned down when O'Connor was flattened by the keeper and Hanson's shot was scrambled away. But Borough had a let-off when Matt Hayfield's ball into the box somehow found its way to Adrian Foster, but his tame shot from close range was well wide. There were more problems for Borough when Pitman found space to whip in a superb centre across the face of the home goal with no-one able to get a touch.

That sparked Borough into action and after linking with Hanson, Prindiville picked out O'Connor in the area but he glanced his header wide of the right hand post. Borough might have snatched all three points in the closing seconds when substitute Ducros crossed from the left and the ball was flying around the Yeovil penalty area like a pinball before finally being hooked to safety.

Nuneaton Borough v Northwich Victoria 28-08-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Brown, Angus, Crowley, O'Connor (Francis 80), Hanson, Muir (Ducros 72), Reed. **Subs:** Wray, Everitt, R. Williams.

Northwich: Key, Birch, Bates, Crookes, Robertson, Devlin, Ellis, Walters, Cooke (Illman 74), Robinson (Peel 74), Vicary (Owen). **Subs:** Terry, Gann.

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

Following a tentative opening Borough were first to threaten when Ian Muir put a shot wide after seven minutes. Ian Cooke blasted a shot over the bar from a good position while Borough pressed, but were kept at bay by a resolute Northwich defence. Borough were unlucky not to take the lead as Steve Prindiville's cross from the left was met full on the volley by Muir just five yards out, but his blockbuster thudded into goalkeeper Lance Key's body and onto the bar before bouncing to safety.



Almost immediately afterwards another teasing centre, this time from Ian Reed, found the head of Joe O'Connor but his effort sailed harmlessly over the target. Northwich squandered a good chance when the dangerous Darren Vicary forced a fine save from Chris Mackenzie. The home side immediately counter-attacked and a long ball by Andy Thackeray found Reed in open space on the edge of the area, but the subsequent shot sailed well wide. The final ten minutes of the first-half were evenly matched but as half-time approached it was Borough who looked more likely to score.

Borough started the second half at a much quicker pace and Muir saw a shot from the edge of the area well saved by Key. Terry Angus put a powerful header from Prindiville's cross just over the bar before Borough went behind on 51 minutes. The ever-menacing Vicary broke on the left and squared the ball along the 18-yard box to Cooke. He in turn played it square to the unmarked Liam Robinson, who fired home past the stranded Mackenzie.

The setback seemed to kick-start Borough into life and within two minutes they were on level terms. A high ball into the box from the right was greeted by the forehead of David Hanson whose effort rebounded off the base of the post to Joe O'Connor, who tapped the ball home from six yards. There followed a period of mediocre play before Andy Ducros replaced Muir on 72 minutes and the speedy striker began to cause problems. Borough took the lead for the first time after a deep cross by Angus from the left seemed to be going out for a goal-kick but Hanson produced an acrobatic diving header to squeeze the ball home from an acute angle.

Borough sealed the three points two minutes later, when Key made a clumsy high tackle on O'Connor, for which he received a yellow card. Prindiville stepped forward to take the spot kick and calmly sent Key the wrong way.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-08-1999

Hednesford: Morgan, Evans, Lake, Brindley, Colkin, Airdrie, Kelly, Robinson, Goodwin, Kimmins, Mike. **Subs:** Norman, O'Connor, Hunter, Amos, Reece.

Borough: Mackenzie, Ryder, Simpson, Angus, Thackeray, Reed (Wray 18), Brown, Ducros, Prindiville, O'Connor, Hanson. **Subs:** Francis, Muir, Blake, Williams.

Borough travelled to Keys Park to play Hednesford Town in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Stuart Ryder, making his first league appearance, played an influential role at the back, and also helped to create the best chance of the game in the dying moments. Shaun Wray had climbed off the bench after only 18 minutes to replace Reed, who had been taken out by a callous challenge. Wray linked with Ducros and then fed Ryder through the inside right channel. Ryder then returned to compliment square to an unmarked Wray but the Borough man could only watch in agony as the ball rebounded off the foot of the post and away to safety. The closest Hednesford came to scoring was immediately after when Mackenzie came to the edge

of his area in search of a high ball – but mistimed his punch at the ball, leaving him stranded. Angus got back to make a superb block from Ged Kimmins as he looked certain to undeservedly snatch the points for the home team.

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 04-09-1999

Forest Green: Perrin, Hedges, Hatswell, Honor, Clark, Randall, Cook, Sykes, Mings, Bailey, Burns.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Ryder, Prindiville, Brown, Angus, Muir, Ducros, Hanson, O'Connor. **Subs:** Wray, Francis, Blake, Everitt, Williams.

Borough travelled to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough had a troubled start to the game as they were forced into making two substitutions in the first ten minutes when Wayne Simpson limped off with a groin strain to be replaced by Leigh Everitt and Joe O'Connor left the field with the same complaint, to be replaced by Delton Francis. Everitt making his first appearance of the season made a rocky start and put some pressure on Mackenzie, but did settle down after Terry Angus shepherded him through his bad patch.

That wasn't the end of Borough's problems though as Alex Sykes drove a long range effort past the despairing left-hand dive of Mackenzie. Things got worse for Nuneaton after 26 minutes when Dave Hanson went down in the area after a clumsy challenge by Ian Hedges. It turned out to be a broken nose and he was replaced by Marvin Blake. Borough then started to look more solid and Ducros was causing Forest Green all sorts of problems.

Ian Muir fed Ducros on the half-way line and his resulting piledriver was superbly pushed onto the bar by keeper Steve Perrin. It was Ducros again a minute later that forced a smart save from Perrin to his left and the resulting corner saw Angus' goal bound header somehow cleared off the line by Hedges. Thackeray then joined in with a rare foray only to receive a two handed push in the back, but the referee gave nothing. Terry Angus then accused Adie Mings of elbowing him, but got his revenge as he went clean through the back of Mings, who hit the perimeter wall. Angus was lucky to only receive a yellow card.

The second half started quietly with Forest Green looking to be happy with what they had, leaving their front two of Bailey and Mings to fight for the ball on their own. They paid the penalty for sitting on their laurels after 57 minutes when Ducros was freed down the left. He got to the byline and then proceeded to beat two players, before being brought down by the third. Muir made no mistake from the spot.

Muir tried to lob the keeper but his effort found Ducros who stepped inside and forced an excellent save from Perrin. More drama followed as Forest Green were awarded a penalty after Everitt's back pass left Mackenzie stranded and the keeper brought down Randall who picked himself up to take the kick, but sank to his knees as Mackenzie saved.

Ducros made another winding run over the half way line and into the area. His early cross was miskicked by Blake and the referee gave a penalty. Muir didn't need to be asked twice as he stepped up to dispatch his second penalty into the opposite corner. The closing minutes were nailbiting for Borough but they held on to record their first away victory.

Planning Chiefs Require Further Assessment

Planning and Development manager at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Nick Blamire-Brown, has told Nuneaton Borough FC that they must carry out an environmental impact assessment on their proposed move to the 5.97 hectare site at Bermuda. The decision to ask for such a study is left to the discretion of the planning department, and Mr Blamire-Brown ruled that it is necessary given the location, size and use of the proposed site.

"It is European legislation that has become government legislation," explained Mr Blamire-Brown, "certain developments require this to be done – for instance large power stations automatically require an environmental impact assessment." He added: "It only applies to major applications, and factors taken into account include residential areas nearby, the current land use, and noise from crowds going to the ground. They may not be a problem, but the idea is for us to see whether there is cause for concern or not, and if there is, how it will be addressed."

Phillips Wins Top Award

Brendan Phillips has been voted the Non-League Manager of the Year at a top awards ceremony in London. The Borough boss follows in the footsteps of Martin O'Neill, Sammy McIlroy, Paul Fairclough and Steve Cotterill and rates the achievement as "the peak of my managerial career."

Nuneaton Borough v Welling United 11-09-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Brown, Ryder, Angus, Prindiville, Muir, Williams, Ducros, Thackeray, Hanson, Francis. **Subs:** Blake, Wray, Everitt, Shoemake, Williams.

Welling: Harris, Watts, Harle, Rowe, Edwards, Rivers, Hanlon, Rutherford, Brown, Dennis, Braithwaite. **Subs:** Bailey, Twin, Chapman, Baker, Side.

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

Barry Williams, returning to the side after injury, was the man of the moment with a hat-trick of headed goals. It did not take him long to get back in the groove as he opened his account in the eighth minute. Prindiville's corner was headed clear but only to the feet of Jon Brown who swept the ball wide to Prindiville who had all the time in the world to measure a perfectly flighted cross for the soaring Williams to thump an unchallenged header past Harris. Three minutes later Williams scored a carbon copy of his first goal. Ducros received a short free-kick wide on the left and after flummoxing Rivere with some audacious footwork, lifted a

cross to the head of Williams who rose like a salmon to put Borough two up. Prindiville and Ducros peppered the Welling area with crosses from either flank. It began to look as if there may be a landslide of goals as time and again Borough poured forward with Muir and Ducros setting the pattern of creating space in the middle and then freeing an unmarked Prindiville.



Barry Williams heads home his second.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

However, a shock was in store for Borough when a long, hopeful clearance by Mike Rutherford was looking like meat and drink for the normally solid Terry Angus, but an awkward bounce caught him out and his ensuing short header back to Mackenzie was punished by Leon Braithwaite as the keeper slipped. Borough's nerves were settled after half-an-hour when Muir's first touch left him in acres of space and his incisive ball to Ducros was complemented by a sublime touch and turn and his early shot was parried into the corner of the net by Harris.

Five minutes before the break the visitors again hauled themselves back into contention when Zeke Rowe scored a brilliant goal to make the score 3-2 after he found some space and curled an absolute peach of a strike into the far corner. For a game that had been so one-sided for the first 20 minutes it was turning into a real contest and Welling drew level with virtually the last kick of the half. Richie Hanlon found himself with just Mackenzie to beat. The keeper did a great job in cutting down the angles and put doubts in the mind of the midfielder, he kept his cool though and pushed a pass into the path of Braithwaite who lifted his shot over Mackenzie and Borough were stunned.

The visitors' confidence must have been sky high at the start of the second period, but they were quickly brought back to earth as Barry Williams completed his hat-trick with another headed goal. Prindiville's corner was met by a soaring header putting Borough back into the lead. Braithwaite then had a great chance to complete his hat-trick at the other end as Welling refused to lie down and Ritchie Hanlon crashed a screaming 20 yard drive against the crossbar. With 13 minutes left Prindiville was sent off for something he said to the referee, but the Borough defence held firm and they secured another victory to force their way into the top four.



Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Boro' 04-09-1999

Kidderminster: Clarke, Hinton, Stamps, Pope, Smith, Bennett, Webb, Skoverbjerg, Brownrigg, Druce, Foster. Subs: Collins, Brock, Weir, Hadley, Barnett.

Borough: Mackenzie, Ryder, Brown, Angus, Prindiville, Williams, Muir, Ducros, Thackeray, Hanson, Francis. Subs: Wray, O'Connor, Williams, Blake, Everitt.

Borough travelled to Aggborough to play Kidderminster Harriers in a Nationwide Conference League game.

It was Kidderminster who drew first blood as Mark Druce and Ian Foster exchanged passes and when Brownrigg received the ball on the edge of the box, his left-footed, curling shot entered Mackenzie's goal off the far post to put the hosts one up. The home side were now very much on top as they won a lot of ball in the middle of the park with Borough lacking the bite of Crowley.

The home side breathed a sigh of relief five minutes after going ahead when Delton Francis let rip from the edge of the box and the rebound was pounced on by Dave Hanson, who scored with a far post header, only to see a flag raised for offside. Borough slowly came into the contest and Andy Ducros made in-roads with his pace and Muir finding plenty of space to often feed the unmarked Prindiville wide on the left. Clarke in the home goal was left a spectator as Thackeray put in a 25-yard drive.

Borough started the second half where they left off with some neat possession as Muir and Ducros began to dictate the pace. Terry Angus got in on the act with a rare long range effort that whistled over the Harriers goal as Borough searched for the equaliser. The pressure then swung back the other way as Kiddy's assistant manager Gary Barnett entered the fray. Stuart Ryder was the unlikely source of Borough's much celebrated equaliser with just 15 minutes to go. Thackeray's deep cross was headed clear and the ball sat up nicely for Ryder who had one thing on his mind and his 20 yard piledriver deflected past the grasp of Clarke and 600-plus Borough fans silenced their counterparts at the other end.

A mazy run by Hanson was brought to a halt by Adie Smith's tackle, as Harriers were pushed back and Borough forced a string of corners which culminated in Williams firing over the top from eight yards out. Three thousand people held their breath as Ian Foster lobbed Mackenzie only to see the ball roll down the back of the rigging. Then the Borough hit Kidderminster with a knockout blow as Williams slid a pass into Hanson's path and he took one touch before hitting a powerful low cross into the danger area. Andy Ducros hit a sweet first-time shot that bulged the net with just four minutes left.

With two minutes time added on it was a tense finish but Borough hung on for an incredible result. The final whistle was received with a tremendous roar from the away contingent as they saw a top three spot become a reality for their blue and white heroes.

Scarborough v Nuneaton Borough 18-09-1999

Scarborough: Woods, Betts, Harriott, Sinnott, Middlemass, Jones, Bass, Stoker, Brodie, Morris, Roberts. Subs: McAlindon, Martin, Quinn, Morris, Rennison.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Ryder, Brown, Angus, Williams, Muir, Hanson, Ducros, Francis. Subs: Simpson, R. Williams, O'Connor, Wray, Everitt.

Borough travelled to Seamer Road to play Scarborough in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough were first to show as Ian Muir lifted a high ball into the box which keeper Woods duly dropped under pressure from Barry Williams, whose ensuing lob landed on top of an unguarded net. The game then degenerated and both sides gave away cheap possession in the middle of the park. It was difficult to see where a goal was going to come from but with just five minutes to go before the break Woods failed to hold Barry Williams' shot after he had been played in by Ducros and Hanson pounced to convert from the tightest of angles.

Whatever the Scarborough manager Colin Addison said at half-time had little effect on the standard of football was the home side continued where they left off – giving away valuable possession and wasting what few opportunities came their way as Brodie, Morris and Roberts all missed chances. With 15 minutes left it looked as though Borough's number was up as they were torn apart by a great left sided move involving Jones, Bass and Sinnot. It seemed that Roberts would surely score but he midkicked and then Brodie shot well wide much to the consternation of the Seasiders' faithful.

Borough were now under the cosh as they were forced to concede several corners as they fought to hang on to their lead. The flame-haired Andrew Quinn was posing most of the questions after coming off the bench to replace Harriott after 76 minutes. The tactical move was an unpopular one but it was certainly effective as his pace and crossing ability was stretching the Borough back line to its limit.

The fourth official had just returned to his seat after displaying his three minutes to go board when Simon Betts swung in a deep left wing cross. Substitute Andy Quinn rose highest on the back post to nod the ball to an unmarked Gareth Stoker whose resulting volley flew into the net from eight yards, leaving Mackenzie with no chance

Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham 25-09-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Ryder, Simpson, Brown, Angus, B. Williams, Muir, Hanson, Ducros, Francis. Subs: Wray, Blake, O'Connor, Barry, R. Williams.

Altrincham: Greygoose, Hodson, Adams, Timons, Pickering, Talbot, Power, Russell, Trees, Burke, Ellison. Subs: Maddox, Landon, Lovelock, Crowe, Senior.

Borough welcomed Altrincham to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

There was little action to speak of as both sides started at a

sedate pace in the warm and humid atmosphere. The crowd had to wait until the 14th minute to see an attempt on goal of any description, when a half chance fell to the impressive Wayne Simpson, who put his shot wide. Borough then saw the best chance of the game so far go begging. Andy Ducros jinked and swaggered past three defenders and fed Delton Francis with a perfectly weighted pass but his cross went along the six yard line with no one there to get a touch.



Delton Francis looks to beat Greygoose. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough took the lead three minutes later when an edge of the area melee led to a Borough free-kick for handball. Andy Ducros let fly from the dead ball kick. As the ball sailed into the top corner, the keeper was a mere spectator. Three minutes later Borough's lead was almost doubled when Ian Muir slipped a great ball to Dave Hanson, who cleverly rounded the keeper, only to see his shot rebound off Talbot for a corner. It looked to have hit the defender's arm but penalty appeals were waved away.

Ducros then found himself in space on the left, but after having beaten two men he was brought down on the edge of the box, but the free-kick was wasted as Ducros dribbled the ball into the welcoming arms of Greygoose. Kevin Ellison gave the Borough defence something to think about by taking every opportunity to run at them and it was fitting that he grabbed the equaliser.

Ryder completely lost sight of the ball and when it bounced up behind him, it seemed that Simpson would clear the danger, but he comically missed his kick and it fell to Ellison who found time to turn and hit a shot which deflected off Thackeray to clip the inside of the post and go past the despairing reach of Mackenzie.

The visitors' hardly deserved to be level, but it only lasted six minutes before Francis won a corner and Ducros curled in an in-swinger onto the head of Angus on the far post and his header was met at close range by Francis who restored Borough's advantage with 60 seconds of the half left.

The second half started brightly and Borough won a corner which was cleared, but only as far as Ducros, whose shot was blocked by Greygoose, but the ball wasn't cleared and Hanson was unlucky to see his header come back off the bar. Altrincham then came into the game and had a period of possession and knocked the ball around well but did not make Mackenzie work.

With 25 minutes remaining former Borough player Richard Landon entered the fray to a resounding chorus of "Borough Reject" from the Cock and Bear end. Altrincham continued to pepper the six yard box, but Mackenzie never looked in any trouble. Then, eleven minutes before time Francis put Borough further ahead with a fantastic solo effort. Receiving the ball on his chest, he turned towards a square flat back four, poked the ball through the defence and gave chase. All arms were raised appealing for offside, but it wasn't to be and he calmly lobbed Greygoose from 35 yards. The home side held on comfortably for the last ten minutes and sit joint top.

Nuneaton Borough v Southport

02-10-1999

Borough: McKenzie, Thackeray, Ryder, Simpson, Brown, Angus, B. Williams, Muir, Hanson, Ducros, Francis. **Subs:** Prindiville, Wray, Blake, O'Connor, R. Williams.

Southport: Dickinson, Clarke, Formby, Guyett, Bolland, Ryan, Grayston, Gouck, Arnold, Ellison, Stuart.

Borough welcomed Southport to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough started brightly with several forays into the visitors' territory by stand-in left-back Barry Williams who was asked to take over Steve Prindiville's position, even though the regular left back is now back from suspension. Borough missed Williams in midfield where Ryan and Grayston chased and harassed every loose ball. Their persistence paid off after half-an-hour as they snatched the lead. Wayne Simpson seemed to have time on his hands to pick a pass but was quickly closed down and forced into a mistake by Ian Arnold, who beat Mackenzie with consummate ease.

The setback seemed to stir Borough into action as they enjoyed the luxury of some good possession and several corners in quick succession but Dickinson was rarely troubled between the sticks. The half ended at a very sedate pace.

The teams came out for the second half and were greeted by some inclement conditions as the wind speeds had risen and were joined by some steady rain. Prindiville came on for the second half allowing Williams to return to his more familiar central role. The change could be seen straight away with Hanson going close with a header and Andy Ducros forcing a save after a mazy run. Borough were let off the hook though ten minutes into the half, as Southport had the ball in the net for a second time, but the goal was disallowed

Southport's midfield were allowed comfort, time and space for long periods in the second half with Ryan, Ellison and Stuart dictating the pace of the game. As time ticked by



Borough pushed forward more and more and Delton Francis went close with a bicycle kick after being fed by Angus. Ducros sidestepped Bolland and curled a shot just over the angle from 20 yards. Shaun Wray replaced Barry Williams and was immediately in action, beating two defenders only to see his cross go begging. Andy Thackeray won the man of the match award with a tireless display down the right side. He repeatedly worried Southport's rearguard with some strong running added to his power in the air. With ten minutes to go he was almost a permanent resident in Borough's front line as they pressed for an equaliser.

Southport, however, got bodies behind the ball and Phillips made one more throw of the dice with eight minutes remaining, bringing on Marvin Blake at the expense of Ryder. The action was all at one end now as Borough pounded Dickinson and his line of eight defenders. Ducros went agonisingly close with two minutes remaining as his goalbound effort was deflected wide. Prindiville then smacked a 20 yarder against the upright, but Southport gained possession and quickly attacked. With so many men committed forward, Borough were caught short at the back and substitute Lee Elam beat Mackenzie from 18 yards.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-10-1999

Hednesford: Hayward, Evans, Colkin, Lake, Brindley, Twynham, Goodwin, Lampkin, Aidrie, Mike, Hunter. Subs: Reece, Rhodes, Morgan.
Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Ryder, Angus, Wray, B. Williams, O'Connor, Kotylo, Blake. Subs: Francis, Barry, R. Williams.

Borough travelled to Keys Park to play Hednesford Town in a Nationwide Macmillan Trophy first round game.

Borough started much better than Hednesford and could have been a goal up in the first minute as Shaun Wray wriggled free on the right to produce a teasing cross that was just too high for the onrushing Marvin Blake. This was the only opening for either side in the first 15 minutes as the fascinating battle in the middle of the park began to warm up. Gary Twynham and the impressive Stuart Airdrie were seeing a lot of the ball for the hosts but were getting very little change out of Kotylo and Angus.

Indeed it was Kotylo who won good possession off Twynham with a perfectly judged tackle to feed Williams who then rampaged on a familiar run through the heart of the Pitmen's defence – but seemed to run out of ideas on the edge of the area and tried an impossible ball to Blake when O'Connor seemed the obvious choice. Borough won the first corner of the night and Prindiville played it short to Thackeray on the corner of the area but his first time delivery was disappointingly easy for the home keeper Paul Hayward.

Borough were not to be denied though and took a deserved lead after 15 minutes. Stuart Ryder had time to slide a beautifully weighted pass into the path of O'Connor who side-stepped two defenders with one drop of the shoulder and fired his shot past Hayward.

Williams then headed a Prindiville corner over as Borough were now in full control. There was almost a surprise equaliser five minutes later as Hednesford made a rare threat on Mackenzie's goal. The keeper rushed out to cut off a low cross but fumbled the ball leaving Twynham with a gaping goal, but his weak shot was easily cleared by Angus. Colin Hunter then had a chance to level as he raced clear with Borough's defence looking flat but Simpson back-tracked superbly and Hunter's shot was well saved by Mackenzie.

The second half started in much the same vein as neither side was allowed much time on the ball. O'Connor won possession and fed Blake who lobbed the ball onto the top of the net. Reed, on as sub for Kotylo was soon in action and his dangerous ball into the box was cleared at the second attempt. Hednesford grabbed an equaliser on the hour as Stuart Airdrie went on a mazy run and fed Szewczyk who scored at the near post. Airdrie then ran straight through the Borough defence but dragged his shot wide.

With 15 minutes to go Borough grabbed a winner. Prindiville's vision saw O'Connor's great running off the ball and timed his pass to perfection to leave the back four stranded and O'Connor made no mistake from 18 yards with a sublime strike high into the roof of the net. Wray almost made it three as he stepped inside and curled a sweet left-footer onto the roof of the net.

Doncaster Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 09-10-1999

Doncaster: Warrington, Marples, Maxfield, McIntyre, Walling, Sutherland, Penney, Minnett, Duerden, Newell, Cauldwell. Subs: Wright, Kirkwood, Warren, Maamria, Goodwin.
Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Ryder, Angus, Brown, B. Williams, O'Connor, Ducros, Francis. Subs: Wray, R. Williams, Hanson, Blake, Muir.

Borough travelled to Belle Vue to play Doncaster Rovers in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Doncaster started on the front foot, testing Borough from the off. Borough refused to yield and soaked up the early pressure before easing themselves back into the game. Prindiville's free-kick for a foul on Jon Brown found the tireless O'Connor, but his pass was overhit. But Borough then took the lead. A great move down the inside left channel involving Ducros, Thackeray and then Angus saw O'Connor on the end of the one touch move. He dropped the shoulder to create space 10 yards out and bludgeoned a shot past a hapless Warrington.

Doncaster were finding it difficult to handle Borough's constant harrying and were forced into mistakes and the half-time whistle was accompanied by a crescendo of boos from the terraces as Snodin stormed into the tunnel shaking his head.

The second half started in bruising fashion with Dave Penney going into the book for a late high challenge on Barry Williams. Borough then enjoyed ten minutes of keepball as Rovers chased shadows. Several corners in quick succession

promised a further Nuneaton breakthrough, but there was almost an equaliser at the other end as Mike Newell rose high above all to head a disappointing effort wide. Then came Doncaster's best chance of the game. Marples beat Prindiville wide on the right and his early low cross was met by Kirkwood but his effort from three yards was wide of the target. Mackenzie pulled off the save of the match after 68 minutes. Kirkwood's initial shot was a powerful one and Mackenzie got his body well behind the ball but couldn't help spilling it, but bravely dived at the feet of the onrushing forwards to smother the ball.

Borough's defence continued to stand firm under increasing pressure in the last ten minutes, but Rovers just didn't look like converting their possession into a goal. The travelling fans in the far corner of the ground took great pleasure in seeing the home support deserting the terraces with five minutes to go as they sensed another famous away success.

Ducros had the chance to put the icing on the cake in injury time. Prindiville fed Williams who darted into the area, drew the keeper out and pulled the ball back for the unmarked Ducros to shoot low at the centre of the goal but the ball was cleared off the line by Warrington with a desperate lunge across the goalmouth

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton United

23-10-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Brown, Ryder, Angus, B. Williams, Muir, Hanson, Ducros, O'Connor. **Subs:** Simpson, Francis, Wray, Blake, Shoemake.

Sutton: Little, Brooker, Skelly, Barry, Laker, Harlow, Back, Harford, Sears, Rowlands, Ekoku. **Subs:** Vines, Watson, Winston, Forrester, Riley.

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

It took the game quite a while to get going and possession was freely exchanged. Borough were clearly the better team but were finding it very difficult to get into any sort of rhythm as Sutton were well organised and physically very strong. The first chance of the game fell to Barry Williams. Ian Muir dinked a beauty over the visiting rearguard for Williams to take on his chest, but the midfielders' touch deserted him and the ball rolled harmlessly to the grateful arms of Andy Little.

The visitors came to life through the tricky Richard Skelly as he danced his way down the left evading four challenges on his way. His cross was headed out by Brown and the ball fell to Harford who was just about to pull the trigger when referee Thiarra got in the way. Borough regained the initiative as they swept forward again and Ducros was brought down on the edge of the area, didn't get a decision, but lashed out in anger and got himself booked.

Six minutes later Borough were ahead after Barry Williams went on a surging run at the heart of the Sutton defence, slipped a pass to Ducros on the left and made his way towards the back post. The pass had sent Ducros too wide

for an immediate cross but when it did come it was telling. Williams rose like a salmon only to see his header handled on the line by Jimmy Dack, who received a red card before Ian Muir stepped up to finally breathe life into the game.

O'Connor then had the first of two gilt-edged chances to score. Andy Thackeray put the striker clean through with just the keeper to beat, but O'Connor shot against the legs of the outrushing Little. With a minute to go before half-time, Andy Ducros was put in a very similar position having been set up by a lovely one-two between Hanson and O'Connor. The keeper stood no chance this time.



Andy Ducros scores Borough's second goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The second half began with Sutton continuing to do their best to make a contest of it and almost reduced the size of their task when Nko Ekoku appealed for a penalty after Jon Brown had pulled his shirt. They came even closer as Sammy Winston square the ball across Mackenzie's goal with no-one on hand to get the final touch. The game was now degenerating into a chore as Borough did all that was necessary and Sutton began to realise they weren't going to score.

The 72nd minute brought another chance for O'Connor. A mistake by Gwynne Berry let the striker in and once again he was joined by Hanson and once again O'Connor elected to shoot and the keeper saved again. With 15 minutes to go Chris Mackenzie was called into action as he stretched to his right to palm away a superb 40-yard free kick by David Harlow. Ducros teased the Sutton back line and teed up Francis, whose shot looped over Andy Little only to rebound off the crossbar. Borough then had several opportunities to finish their opponents off with Francis going close twice and Ducros and Simpson spurning chances.

Borough Turn Down Ducros Bid

Nuneaton Borough have turned down a bid from Wigan Athletic for Andy Ducros. The offer was tabled after the 22-year-old appeared for the Division Two side's reserves against West Bromwich Albion. The ex-Coventry City man was outstanding in the game for the Latics and the club made a cash offer to the Manor Park side. But with a number of other teams believed to include Sunderland, Wolves and Sheffield United taking an interest, Borough are prepared to wait.

Telford United v Nuneaton Borough 30-10-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville (Blake), Brown, Ryder, Angus, B. Williams (Wray), Muir (Simpson), Hanson, Ducros, O'Connor.
Subs: Murphy, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to The Bucks Head to play Telford United in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Telford were first out of the blocks as they pushed Borough back for the first ten minutes. Indeed, they could have taken the lead in the sixth minute when Angus gave away cheap possession 50 yards out allowing Gez Murphy to gallop down the right. His ensuing low cross was met by McGorry whose shot rebounded to safety off the rooted Mackenzie's crossbar.

Borough were struggling to find any sort of rhythm and were fortunate again after 15 minutes. Not for the last time during proceedings it was Palmer and Murphy exchanging passes to set up a great chance for McGorry – but the number ten missed his kick at the vital moment. Joe O'Connor was then booked for a challenge on Carl McAuley before Ian Muir made a last ditch tackle to bring a Telford move to a halt.

A goal was looking increasingly unlikely as the half wore on, with a greasy pitch and the wind swirling to make conditions difficult. McGorry almost snatched the lead for United but missed his kick in front of goal. Andy Ducros let fly from 20 yards with a rising drive that just missed the angle – much to the admiration of Brian Talbot and Jan Molby. The half ended as it had begun with Telford on top and Stuart Ryder was forced to concede a corner as Fitzpatrick twisted and turned.

Borough came out after the break a more determined side and won several corners in home territory. Telford weren't going to lie down though, as they carved out another chance with Palmer testing Mackenzie after Angus had missed his tackle on the edge of the area. The excellent Jon Brown then handled on the edge of the box to concede a dangerous free kick. Mackenzie placed a five man wall and Charlie Hartfield blasted over the top. O'Connor just failed to connect with a Ducros cross and then had a great chance as he rounded the keeper, but went too wide and chipped the ball into the hands of Williams.

Ducros then missed a chance as Hanson fed the ball into his path and he calmly dropped a shoulder and rounded the keeper. He did everything right until he hit the side netting of the open goal. With 25 minutes to go Hanson had a goal disallowed after poking home from two yards, but a foul on the goalkeeper was awarded. Dave Hanson went close with a right wing effort that was brilliantly tipped away by Williams.

Telford then made a triple substitution and two minutes later they took the lead. Terry Angus lay sprawled in the area after winning an important challenge and the ensuing loose ball was fired straight at him from close range by Malkin. Angus lifted his arms to protect his head and ball cannoned off his elbows. A penalty was awarded and Charlie Hartfield despatched the spot kick with consummate ease.

The goal stunned Borough into making a serious assault on Williams' goal. Chances galore came and went as Telford clung on to their lead.

Nuneaton Borough v Rushden & Diamonds 02-11-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Ryder, Brown, Angus, Wray (Muir), Williams, Hanson, Ducros, O'Connor. Subs Francis, Shoemake, Murphy.

Borough welcomed Rushden & Diamonds to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Rushden took the game to Borough from the kick-off and their class and ball skills had the home side chasing shadows as Butterworth and Hamsher pulled the strings freeing De Souza through the centre and Underwood down the left seemingly at will. However, the home keeper was rarely troubled as Borough soaked up the early pressure. Hanson put in a deep cross from the left which evaded everyone and ran out to Shaun Wray who pinged it straight back into the area and Barry Williams soared to plant a header into the net, only for the referee to disallow the effort for a foul by O'Connor.

Borough won a free-kick after 15 minutes, deep in Rushden territory. After much deliberation Steve Prindiville was the taker and his high speed left footed kick from the wide on the right was an absolute peach and Terry Angus rose majestically and headed home. Borough then conceded a succession of corners as Borough came under the hammer and it took a brave punch at waist height by Mackenzie to avert real danger as De Souza and Collins sought to pounce on anything loose. A minute before the break Borough had a real let off when a central free kick from Brady found Warburton but his header hit the post with Mackenzie beaten.



Terry Angus scores to put Borough ahead. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Diamonds began the second half where they left off and it took them just five minutes to equalise. Paul Underwood's left wing cross left Angus all at sea and Miquel De Souza was allowed time and space to crash the ball home.

The teams then cancelled each other out in most areas although Wray got in a cross after beating three players in the corner, but no-one was there to cash in. Turley saved well from O'Connor from point-blank range before with ten minutes to go Phillips sent Ian Muir into the fray and he was instantly in the game as his first touch gained him room to slide a pass to

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Prindiville on the overlap but the first-time cross was headed straight up in the air and the ensuing scramble saw the ball fall at the feet of the previously quiet Barry Williams whose goal bound effort was superbly saved on the line by Turley, which was the final act and the points were shared.

Woking v Nuneaton Borough 06-11-1999

Woking: Batty, Perkins, Girdler, West, Goddard, Danzey, Akrou, Gridelet, Payne, Hay, Steele. **Subs:** Wilkinson, Bolt, Smith, Flahavan.
Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Ryder, Brown, Angus, Wray, Williams, Hanson, Ducros, O'Connor. **Subs:** Muir, Simpson, Francis, Murphy, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to The Kingfield Stadium to play Woking in a Nationwide Conference League game.

There were danger signs for Borough as early as the first minute when Terry Angus was adjudged to have fouled Darren Hay and Andy Thackeray had to be alert to clear Scott Steele's curling free-kick. The Cards looked the sharper outfit and it came as no surprise when they scored after five minutes. Borough's defence failed to deal with Steve Perkins' deep centre and when Hay headed the ball back across the goal, Akrou was left with a simple tap in.

There were more problems for Borough with Grant Payne putting a header over the top and Mackenzie had to go low to his left to gather a Steele free-kick. The lively Akrou was causing the Borough rearguard problems and the travelling fans were delighted to see him shoot wide. Mackenzie then made a superb double save to keep the visitors in the hunt. First he made a fine reflex save to divert Akrou's goal-bound shot and then he got up to block Payne's follow up effort.

Borough were hanging on by their fingernails, but as the half came to a close, they produced their first threat of the afternoon and could have been on level terms five minutes before the break when Barry Williams put a header inches wide with keeper Laurence Batty beaten. The Woking keeper was happy to grab Williams 30 yard drive at the second attempt.

Borough were caught napping at the start of the second half and when Stuart Gridelet whipped in a left-wing centre, it needed a timely header from Stuart Ryder to clear the danger. But Borough gradually tightened their grip and when the increasingly influential Andy Ducros made space to pick out Dave Hanson with a neat cut back the big striker put a header straight into Batty's hands. Williams put a shot over the top and Hanson was only inches away from turning in Ducros' centre. Ducros then beat three men, but Williams lifted his shot high over the top. Borough pressure paid off as they grabbed the equaliser they had been threatening after 65 minutes through substitute Francis. Ian Muir linked up with Shaun Wray and when he found Francis the striker showed deft control as he flicked it into the air before finding the net off the far post with a superb overhead shot.

In a late flourish by the home side, Payne took advantage of a mistake by Prindiville to find Akrou, but Mackenzie saved.

Doncaster Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1999

Doncaster: Warmington, Atkins, Walling, Warren, Marples, Minnett, Foster, Maxfield, Cauldwell, Duerden, Kirkwood. **Subs:** Barnard, Penney, Maamria.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Ryder, Brown, Angus, Muir, Murphy, Simpson, Williams, Hanson, Blake. **Subs:** Crowley, Prindiville, Shoemake, Ducros, Francis.

Borough travelled to Belle Vue to play Doncaster Rovers in a Nationwide Macmillan Trophy second round tie.

For the second game in a row Borough were slow out of the blocks and found themselves a goal down before they had time to settle. Jason Minett's low cross from the right after just seven minutes found Glen Kirkwood and his cross was cleared, but only to the edge of the area where Martin Foster crashed a rising drive into the roof of the net. There was more trouble for Borough when Matt Cauldwell was allowed a free header and Terry Angus had to clear off the line. Rovers continued to dictate the pace and Scott Maxfield fired a fierce drive straight at Chris Mackenzie before Stuart Ryder cut out an Ian Duerden effort at the expense of a corner.

It was all Doncaster and Simon Maples saw his shot deflected inches over the bar by Angus and then Duerden turned sharply on the edge of the box to thump a shot against the angle. Kirkwood should have put the home side two up after 37 minutes but pushed his shot wide from ten yards. However, Borough did not benefit for long as three minutes later Rovers extended their advantage when Dean Walling met a Mark Atkins free kick and his ten yard downward header found the corner of the net. Mackenzie spilled a Duerden shot just before the break, but Ryder hacked clear.

Things did not improve after the break and Marples whipped in a centre that took a deflection off Angus and Mackenzie turned the ball over the top at full stretch. Borough had another let-off when Minett was given space to centre and Kirkwood flicked on but Maxfield pushed his shot wide. The visitors could still not find any sort of rhythm and were glad to see Minett fire well wide of the target after Foster had created the opportunity. Borough, who had not created any threat finally went close after 74 minutes when Angus powered a head inches over from Steve Prindiville's right wing corner.

But three minutes later Borough went further behind when Cauldwell's cross was touched onto a post by Mackenzie and Duerden knocked the ball in. Four minutes from the end the Borough defence failed to clear Mark Barnard's low ball and it ran to fellow substitute Nouredine Maamria who scored from close range. Ged Murphy cleared a Walling header off the line seconds from the end.

Borough Players In England Squad

Four Nuneaton Borough players have been named in the England non-league squad for games in December. They are Chris Mackenzie, Andy Thackeray, Andy Ducros and Barry Williams, who will line up against the Unibond, Dr Martens and Ryman Leagues.



Nuneaton Borough v Kingstonian 12-11-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Angus, Ryder, Prindiville, Simpson, Wray, Williams, Brown, Francis, Ducros. **Subs:** Hanson, Shoemake, Muir, Crowley, Murphy.

Kingstonian: Farrelly, Mustafa, Lockett, Crossley, Harris, Allan, Patterson, Pitcher, Taylor, Leworthy, Wingfield. **Subs:** Marshall, Hurst, Stewart, Smit, Kadi.

Borough welcomed Kingstonian to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Kingstonian's early possession had Borough chasing shadows in the early exchanges. Mackenzie was called into action within the first five minutes. Wingfield headed straight at him from six yards with his first of several threats over the course of the game. From an early Wingfield cross, Angus headed out for a corner before Thackeray left the field with a hamstring injury. For all of the visitors' possession, they fell behind after Shaun Wray sped over the half-way line into a vast open space on the right and passed a 20-yarder inside to Ducros. He received the ball with his back to goal and turned to bring Muir into play. His brilliant one-two with Francis was blasted across the six yard line where Kingstonian captain Matt Crossley lay in wait to fire a rising drive past his own keeper.

Colin Lockett had a great chance to level the affair ten minutes later when he had plenty of time but shot high over the bar. Both teams won a number of corners as play swung to and fro and Wingfield got round the back of Borough's defence to deliver a number of dangerous crosses but Mackenzie was up to the task. With two minutes to go before half-time, Tarkan Mustafa came close to scoring as his far post volley deflected first off Prindiville and then Angus to fly past the post with Mackenzie beaten.

Borough started the second half much better and began to dictate the pace and direction of the play. Francis put a weak header straight at Farrelly after an exciting run by Wray. Ducros won a corner after evading three challenges as Borough turned the screw. Francis had a great chance to convert after an incisive pass from Muir had cut the defence wide open but an excellent saving tackle from Crossley averted the danger. Muir then put an effort wide from 20 yards before the Ks pushed forward. They looked as if they may be rewarded with 20 minutes left as Stuart Ryder failed to clear, allowing Wingfield to steal in. Mackenzie was off his line like a shot to smother the danger as he capitalised on Wingfield's poor first touch.

The encounter was now opening up as the visitors pushed for an equaliser while the home team refused to sit on their lead. Williams surged forward with a three on one situation opening ahead of him but he chose the wrong option as he fed the ball to Francis with Wray in a better position. Borough looked to be ending the game on the back foot but the action transferred to the other end, where with five minutes remaining Williams sprayed the ball out to Wray who beat three players to square to Ducros who dropped his shoulder to create space and crashed the ball home from 10 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v Brackley Town 17-11-1999

Borough made the journey to St James Park to play Brackley Town in a friendly game.

Rob Straw made a surprise return to the Borough side. The 28-year-old striker, who had to cut short his Borough comeback almost a year ago after he injured his knee scored a goal and completed 90 minutes of action. The inclusion of the prolific goalscorer was at the request of the player who wanted to ease back into action – and the club will now be eagerly monitoring his progress. Marvin Blake scored the other Borough goal, but there was a blow when Dave Crowley limped off injured.

Borough gave a run-out to former St Mirren player Paul Cummings who is set to have another chance to impress.

Nuneaton Borough v Telford United 20-11-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Brown, Prindiville, Simpson, Ryder, Angus, Wray, Williams, Muir, Ducros, Francis. **Subs:** Hanson, Shoemake, Blake, Reed, Murphy.

Telford: Williams, Macauley, Fowler, Ford, Bentley, Albrighton, Cooper, Fitzpatrick, Edwards, Doyle, Murphy. **Subs:** Malkin, Bray, Travis, Huckerby.

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

Telford began strongly, forcing two corners inside the first five minutes of which the second was dealt with by a superb punch by Mackenzie. The visitors mounted the first threat on goal with a marvellous move on the left involving Mark Cooper, Jake Edwards and Lee Fowler whose shot was lifted over the bar from a tight angle. The latter hobbled off moments later to be replaced by Simon Travis, who was immediately into action. Two poor kicks in succession by Mackenzie put Borough under pressure and Travis' through ball gave Edwards a one-on-one with the keeper.

With the offside trap sprung, he looked sure to put the visitors ahead but he took too long and Stuart Ryder was able to complete a saving tackle. Ian Muir had a thunderous shot blocked and then Prindiville had the rebound deflected just wide for a corner, which Muir delivered from the right and was cleared to Jon Brown who swept the ball back to Muir. The ball was then transferred to Francis, who held off his man and laid the ball into the path of Wray whose cross fell to Jon Ford who tried to clear for a corner but put it past his own keeper.

Angus was sent off three minutes later for a second bookable offence following his challenge from behind on Cooper. Former Adders' man Gez Murphy terrorized Borough and his cross with ten minutes to half-time went behind with no-one able to get a final touch as it sped across the area. Simpson cleared for a corner as Murphy threatened again before Borough almost stole another goal when Andy Ducros' persistence forced Ford into a short back pass, but the striker was forced wide and his shot from a narrow angle was beaten out for a corner by Dean Williams. The half drew to a close with Telford wasting a couple of corners.



Borough had a fright early in the second half as Macauley crashed a shot against the outside of the post after Edwards' flick on. Barry Williams then had the ball into the net, but his effort off the inside of the post was ruled out for offside after Ducros and Francis had worked the opening on the canal side. The next 15 minutes saw possession exchanged too cheaply for either side to gain any advantage and to their credit Borough didn't look outnumbered. The tension and frustration boiled over after 64 minutes as Brown and ex-Adder Mark Albrighton were added to the referee's book following a scuffle.

Muir was penalised a minute later as he was clearly unable to avoid a collision with Bentley and was then added to the referee's growing list for an alleged foul on Macauley. Darren Huckerby was introduced at the expense of Ford after 65 minutes and made his mark just seven minutes later. Huckerby's rising drive into the top corner left Mackenzie with no chance and the travelling band of Telford supporters celebrated wildly.

Borough almost took the lead with 12 minutes remaining as Williams forced his way through a packed Telford defence which led to the ball finding the feet of Simpson ten yards out. The crowd held its breath and the keeper held his shot. Ducros then set off on a run that took him past a series of challenges and then intelligently laid the ball off to Muir whose shot fizzed inches over the bar. Reed was introduced with five minutes to go but he had little chance to shine.

O'Connor On Transfer List

Record signing Joe O'Connor has been placed on the transfer list by boss Brendan Phillips, as he begins a shake up of his first-team squad. Youngster Marvin Blake is also being made available for loan as Phillips believes he needs first team football but does have a future at Manor Park.

Altrincham v Nuneaton Borough 30-11-1999

Altrincham: Greygoose, Maddox, Adams, Timons, Talbot, Gallagher, Hawse, Burke, Russell, Kielty, Ellison. **Subs:** Landon, Lovelock, Price, Goodier, Senior.

Borough: Mackenzie, Brown, Simpson, Ryder, Prindiville, Angus, Wray, Williams, Crowley, Hanson, Ducros. **Subs:** Francis, Reed, Blake, O'Connor, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to Moss Lane to play Altrincham in a Nationwide Conference League game.

The first 15 minutes was an untidy affair as neither side were able to keep possession for any length of time. The first real threat was in the 17th minute when Andy Ducros evaded two challenges as he burst forward from midfield only to be recklessly carved down by Hawse, who was booked. The free-kick which ensued led to a left sided corner and when Prindiville's kick was punched to the edge of the box Ducros side stepped his man and hit a rising drive high and wide.

Crowley fought a fascinating battle in the middle of the park with Steve Hawse, while Mark Maddox found his name in the book after clipping Williams as he set off towards goal. The

home side then had their best chance so far as a high ball from the captain Timons put Wray under pressure. Ellison gained the upper hand and hit a low shot that was well saved by Mackenzie but his second save was even better as Kielty hit the target with the rebound.

As the home side began to enjoy more possession, Borough suddenly burst into life. Barry Williams played a lovely one-two with Ducros and his resulting shot was well blocked by Timons for a corner. Prindiville's inswinger looked to have been dealt with by Greygoose with a firm punch but he hadn't gambled on Wray unleashing an unstoppable 25 yard volley into the far top corner. Forty seconds later Ducros made it two. Prindiville's long ball held up in the wind and Hanson flicked it on. Ducros sprinted through the offside trap and just won the race to the ball against Greygoose to lift the ball over the stranded keeper and then head into an unguarded goal.

Altrincham set about their task with a passion in the second half and it took just four minutes to reduce Borough's lead. An awkward high ball looked to be covered by Angus or Prindiville, but they left it for each other and Burke stole in around the back to leave Mackenzie with no chance from ten yards. Shaun Wray was then booked for a challenge on Russell. Borough didn't look comfortable on the ball, were short of ideas and looked anything but league leaders. They won a succession of corners which were wasted as Ducros on the left and Prindiville on the right failed to read the strength of the wind.

Crowley conceded a free-kick after a tussle with Gallagher, from which Mackenzie had a rush of blood and tried to punch the ball over a huddle of players, but he completely missed the ball and Ellison scored into an empty net from 12 yards. Altrincham were now in control and laid siege on Borough's goal for the remaining 15 minutes. But Borough held out and escaped with a point.

Borough Duo Join Stafford Rangers

Full-back Leigh Everitt and goalkeeper Richard Williams will be joining Stafford Rangers. Everitt has joined on a free transfer and Williams is expected to do the same when his loan deal is up.

Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 04-12-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Brown, Simpson, Ryder, Prindiville, Crowley, Wray, Williams, Murphy, Francis, Muir. **Subs:** Straw, Shoemake, Kotylo, O'Connor, Reed.

Forest Green: Perrin, Hedges, Hatswell, Clark, Kilgour, Burns, Daley, Drysdale, McGregor, Bailey, Cook. **Subs:** Randall, Domm, Sykes, Hunt, Mehew.

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

Chris Mackenzie was in action early on as he saved a header from Marc McGregor and was called into action again soon after, having to back pedal furiously to tip over a Dennis Bailey cross. Simpson was forced to head the resulting

corner off the line and was glad to see Burns hit the rebound wide. Borough were looking disjointed, badly organised and second to every ball. It was no surprise when the visitors opened the scoring after 15 minutes. Simpson lost possession in the right back position to McGregor, whose shot was saved by Mackenzie but the rebound was squared to the unmarked Tony Daley who smashed the ball home from 12 yards.

Mackenzie made a great one-handed save, picking the ball off Bailey's head. Stuart Ryder found his way into the referee's notebook as Daley was brought down in full flight 25 yards out and Mackenzie pushed the subsequent free kick over the bar. Borough fell further behind after 27 minutes when Drysdale's free-kick was met with a glancing header from Bailey and the ball nestled neatly into the bottom corner. Any hopes Borough had of making a fightback were thwarted five minutes from half-time when Bailey struck again. Daley escaped the attentions of Simpson and drew the keeper before squaring the ball to Bailey who smashed home from 10 yards.

The second half began with renewed optimism as Borough forced an early corner. It came to nothing though as Rovers easily cleared and Bailey set off like a greyhound down the left, leaving Brown in his wake as he whipped in a tremendous cross which was met by Daley's first-time volley. Mackenzie frustrated the former England player though with a brilliant one-handed save. O'Connor came on for Muir after 53 minutes and put in a commendable performance. Shortly after he was joined by Rob Straw, who replaced Delton Francis.



Rob Straw marks his return with a goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Wray hit the crossbar from 25 yards as Borough forced their way back into the game with a number of corners before Prindiville reduced the deficit with a sweet left footer after he too had hit the crossbar from some distance. It was too little too late though, but they still weren't finished as the game entered its dying seconds. Straw completed a memorable comeback with a goal that bulged the Cock and Bear end rigging. The final whistle came seconds later and arms were held aloft by the Rovers contingent as they recorded their first away win of the season

Carty Joins On Loan

Brendan Phillips has signed Paul Carty on loan for a month from Worcester City, whose manager, John Barton, has been forced to slash the wage bill.

Northwich Victoria v Nuneaton Borough 11-12-1999

Northwich: Gann, Bates, Wllis, Walker, Robertson, Owen, Devlin, Walters, Cooke, Pell, Vicary. **Subs:** Terry, Crookes, Birch, Poland, Thomas.

Borough: Mackenzie, Simpson, Ryder, Brown, Wray, Williams, Angus, Prindiville, Crowley, Ducros, Francis. **Subs:** Carty, Straw, Reed, Hanson, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to The Drill Field to play Northwich Victoria in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough suffered their first setback with just three minutes on the clock. Terry Angus shaped to make a clearance from a Northwich throw-in. The Borough captain slipped and fell awkwardly and limped off behind the goal. While Angus was off the corner came in and Prindiville could only head into his own net. Angus attempted to rejoin the action but moments later he limped off in obvious discomfort. He was replaced by Ian Reed, who himself looked far from fit and he too was replaced by Rob Straw.

Barry Williams received a caution before Borough snatched the equaliser five minutes later. Delton Francis received a short ball from Shaun Wray, who lashed a shot into the top corner of the net. Borough could have taken the lead after 15 minutes as Wray robbed Robertson on the right wing. He galloped into the area and his firm, low cross was lifted over the bar by Ducros. The home side had a chance to go ahead as Robert Pell beat Stuart Ryder to the ball. His cross found Ian Cooke in a great position but his shot hit Mackenzie.

After 30 minutes Borough lost Barry Williams, red carded after a second bookable offence for protesting against the referee's decision not to award a penalty after the ball had struck Jamie Bates on the arm. Borough were all at sea after the sending off and it didn't take long for Northwich to take advantage. Steve Walters saw a couple of close range efforts superbly defended as John Brown blocked the first and then Mackenzie forced him to fire the second over the bar.

Borough's cause took a brutal blow when Ryder laid a 20-yard back pass back to Mackenzie, but much to his horror, it stuck in the mud. The keeper rushed out to meet Pell and the ball somehow found Cooke on the edge of the area, who only had to put the ball into a gaping net.

Carty replaced Ryder for the start of the second half and Wayne Simpson was booked in the opening minute. Mackenzie's mistimed punch allowed Robertson to shoot wide before Devlin shot into the side netting. Val Owen missed a sitter from Pell's cross before Northwich won a corner on the left. Devlin's inswinger put Borough in all sorts of trouble and Simpson headed against his own bar. The rebound fell to Owen who couldn't miss from 18 inches out. Bates then hit the Borough crossbar from 25 yards out.



The next 15 minutes was littered with mistakes from both sides as the weather deteriorated and it was plain to see that Borough weren't going to get anything out of the game. At the death Simpson was sent off for his second bookable offence to leave Borough with nine men. However, there was still more to come as Wray was red carded leaving Borough with seven outfield players still on the pitch.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 14-12-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Simpson, Prindiville, Ryder, Brown, Crowley, Wray, Williams, Straw, Ducros, Francis. **Subs:** Hanson, Murphy, Muir.

Bedworth: Glover, Marshall, Darlison, Saunders, McGinty, Goodman, Clamp, Leighton, Webster, Fitzhugh. **Subs:** Stanley, Jardin, Mallabone.

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

Adam Webster, on loan from Notts County, was the first to show and his low shot from Darlison's low cross was saved by Mackenzie. Ducros had a similar attempt at the other end as the game started brightly. Bedworth quickly got into their stride and Guy Sanders should have done better after being found by Andy Leighton but Mackenzie dealt with the shot. Borough were forced to reshuffle after 20 minutes when Jon Brown was replaced by Ian Muir and Dave Crowley dropped back into the defence.

Muir lost possession to Robbie Beard, whose quality cross went begging. Chris Goodman put in a weak effort before Wayne Simpson was forced to leave the field injured and was replaced by Ged Murphy. Rob Straw was put in on goal by Murphy's through ball but Craig Glover palmed the ball away, but only as far as Barry Williams, who bundled the ball over the line. Bedworth looked to hit back immediately through Webster and when his shot was blocked he regained possession and fed Adie Fitzhugh who fired into the side netting.

The Greenbacks equalised five minutes before half-time. Beard hit a 20 yard rocket that beat Mackenzie and rebounded off the bar to Chris Goodman, who gave Mackenzie no chance from eight yards out.

The second half began with Bedworth again on the attack and Darlison's long clearance found Beard in acres of room. The impressive marksman had time to compose himself and shoot, but Mackenzie saved and gathered at the second attempt with Webster in close attendance. Beard went close but his shot was too close to Mackenzie. The pressure exerted on the Borough defence paid off after 56 minutes as Beard beat the offside trap from Leighton's pass and easily won a one-on-one with Mackenzie as he slid it under the advancing keeper from the edge of the area.

With eight minutes remaining, Borough had a great chance when the quiet Andy Ducros won a free-kick on the edge of the area. Prindiville placed the ball and hit it past the seven man wall, but his curling effort was superbly saved by Glover and Dave Hanson headed the resulting corner tamely over the top.

Brendan Boosts Squad

Macclesfield Town's Paul Ware has joined Borough on a month's loan and will be in the squad to face Sutton United. Brendan Phillips has also lined up Everton youngster Wayne McDermott. Ware is a former Stoke City and Stockport County player and was skipper at Hednesford Town. Another player brought in by the Borough manager is Aidan O'Brien, the former Hayes sweeper.

Sutton United v Nuneaton Borough 18-12-1999

Sutton: Howells, Brooker, Skelly, Riley, Laker, Harlow, Dack, Harford, Newhouse, Watson, Ekoku. **Subs:** Hutchinson, Rowland, Sears, Forrester, Winston.

Borough: Mackenzie, Williams, Ryder, Brown, Prindiville, Wray, Crowley, Ware, McDermott, Hanson, Francis. **Subs:** Murphy, Kotylo, Muir, Angus, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to Gander Green Lane to play Sutton United in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough started strongly and pegged Sutton back in their own half. The first defensive task for Borough was after 12 minutes when Mackenzie was forced to punch clear as Nko Ekoku threatened to pounce from Danny Brooker's long throw-in. It wasn't a worry though as an air of confidence was hanging over the back four. McDermott created the first chance as his deep cross was met by Dave Hanson, but there was no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Steve Prindiville put in a powerful free-kick which was deflected for a corner and the same player crossed for Shaun Wray to put a spectacular diving header over the bar. United were restricted to trying to lift the ball over the top for Ekoku and Mark Watson, but their efforts just ran through to Mackenzie. Ekoku then tested Williams' defensive qualities, which proved to be plenty good enough as he timed his tackle to perfection and came away with the ball.

Ware and Crowley formed a formidable partnership in midfield and dictated the pace of the game. Mackenzie showed off his footballing skills as he took a through ball on his chest, dipped his shoulder and wrong footed both Ekoku and Watson before playing a lovely ball out to Prindiville. Then, with just two minutes to go before half-time Hanson set off down the right and held the ball up for Wray, who twisted and turned past Skelly and Harlow before putting a cross which was met by Ware just inside the area. The debutant's header was well placed into the bottom corner leaving the home keeper helpless.

The second half was much more even as Sutton ran at the Borough defence, which resulted in Mackenzie being called on much more often. He pulled off a great catch from almost on Ekoku's forehead before Jimmy Dack wasted a chance on the hour mark, shooting straight at the Borough keeper. Ekoku was replaced by Sam Winston and 90 seconds later he sprinted down the left leaving Jon Brown in his wake. When he reached the by-line he pulled it back to the edge of the area where Skelly thundered in a right foot shot into the bottom corner.

Hanson headed just wide as the game opened up as the hosts had a succession of corners as they took the game to Borough. Ware won a free kick in a good position, which he took himself and found Ryder at the far post but the defender couldn't pick out a team mate and United cleared. Sutton almost took the lead after 79 minutes when Mackenzie was almost caught in possession outside his area as he was challenged by Aidan Newhouse, but the ball spun into the air and out to safety.

Mackenzie saved from Sam Winston as a goal looked more likely in the latter stages. It almost came when Andy Riley almost turned the ball into his own net from Wray's cross, but the ball went out for a corner. Wayne McDermott's flag kick found Ryder at the back post and he picked out Ware who volleyed on the turn and gave Borough the lead. Watson should have equalised immediately but Mackenzie saved from the one-on-one situation. Sutton continued to press but Borough held out to complete the double over the Londoners.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 27-12-1999

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Brown, Ryder, Prindiville, Angus, Carty, Crowley, McDermott, Hanson, Francis. **Subs:** Ducros, Straw, Murphy, Muir, Shoemake.

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

The game began at a sedate pace and the early pressure enforced on Borough was often of their own making as they failed to clear from defensive areas. Fisher put a shot into the side netting after Mackenzie kicked a poor clearance but the keeper redeemed himself when he saved from Watkin's spectacular bicycle kick. Angus received a caution for continuing to argue after being penalised for a foul on Kettering keeper Adam Sollitt.

Borough wasted a good chance after Prindiville picked out Wayne McDermott, whose cross flashed across the face of goal with no one on hand to get a touch. Carty put a shot wide from an acute angle before he was subjected to an assault from Norman, who was booked. Carty squeezed his way through four challenges only to see his hard work undone as Francis took the ball off his toe to shoot over the bar.

Kettering took the lead 90 seconds after the break. Stuart Ryder was involved in a challenge with Leroy Chambers as they both raced towards the Borough box and as Mackenzie held his ground confusion reigned and Chambers poked the ball to the unmarked Dale Watkins who completed the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net. Kettering were now the better side and forced a trio of corners.

Thackeray was replaced by Ducros as Borough tried to get more men forward but this proved difficult as they continually gave away possession. Borough made a double substitution with 20 minutes remaining as Dave Hanson and Delton Francis made way for Ian Muir and Rob Straw. This kicked Borough into gear with Straw causing one or

two problems for Kettering. Ducros then thought he had pulled Borough level after being sought out by Straw with a great diagonal ball 40 yards out. He ran straight at goal and managed to ride two challenges and shoot, but Sollitt made a great one-handed save



Delton Francis lets fly at the Kettering goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Watkins' shot was blocked by Ryder after the Kettering man had beaten Angus and Colin Vowden had a 20-yarder cleared off the line by Angus. Borough pressed for an equaliser and the final minutes were very tense as Carty fired over from 30 yards and Ducros spurned another chance as he sidestepped his man only to see the shot saved and the rebound fell to another Kettering player.

Kettering Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-01-2000

Kettering: Sollitt, Diuk, Adams, Cox, Setchell, Norman, Fisher, Ridgway, Brown, Chambers, Watkins. **Subs:** Hudson, Hopkins, Banya, Storer, Wilson.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Brown, O'Brien, McDermott, Angus, Wray, Williams, Crowley, Straw, Ware. **Subs:** Ducros, Francis, Kotylo, Murphy, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to Rockingham Road to play Kettering Town in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Kettering created the first chance and Terry Angus blocked Carl Adams' shot, but it made its way to Matt Fisher on the right who got to the byline and delivered the ball to Dale Watkins who put the ball high and wide. Aiden O'Brien missed a free header from McDermott's corner before Shaun Wray was booked on 15 minutes. Borough made a sweeping end to end move as Mackenzie's long throw found Straw, whose turn and pass to Ware who was 40 yards out. His fizzing shot was just over the bar.

Barry Williams hit a brilliant volley from the corner of the area only for Adam Sollitt to produce a flying save. Borough won a free-kick on the edge of the area after Paul Cox elbowed Wayne McDermott and Paul Ware placed the ball, and curled his kick beautifully around the wall and into the top corner. Kettering hit back immediately and put Borough under serious pressure. Brown conceded a free kick which was skewed over his own bar by Williams.



Nuneaton Boro' v Kidderminster Harriers 08-01-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Brown, Ware, Crowley, Angus, Wray, Williams, Straw, Ducros, McDermott. **Subs:** O'Brien, Murphy, Shoemake.

Harriers: Clarke, Clarkson, Stamps, Petersen, Hinton, Smith, Bennett, Skoverbjerg, Hadley, Foster, Marsh. **Subs:** Hines, Druce, Taylor, Brock.

Terry Angus pulled off a great save from Setchell's 20 yarder as Mackenzie looked beaten. Shaun Wray was caught offside and threw the ball back to where he thought the kick should be taken from and the referee booked him and sent him off for a second bookable offence. Lee Chambers and Watkins both missed chances to equalise before the break.

Fisher committed a late tackle on Barry Williams at the start of the second half and was booked. Phil Brown put a diving header wide shortly before Angus was booked for a foul on Watkins. Then, with 20 minutes remaining, Fisher twisted and turned on the right wing and was allowed the room to cross. It was a good delivery and Lee Chambers rose higher than all others to plant a firm header in the bottom corner, past the despairing Mackenzie.

Borough almost equalised in the very next minute as Andy Thackeray thumped a 25 yarder against the crossbar. Delton Francis came on for Straw as Kettering piled on the pressure. With ten minutes to go Borough were putting up a stiff defence as Kettering piled forward. Chambers won a free-kick on the right and as the ball came in the defending was at desperation stakes as Mackenzie and three of his team mates ended up in the back of the net.

Francis, the lone striker, then had a rare chance and took on four defenders, but pulled his shot well wide of the target. Kettering resumed the pressure but didn't look like scoring and Borough could have snatched it. Francis raced towards the area only to be pulled back by Fisher for which he received a second booking. McDermott put the free kick miles over with his left foot and the final chance was gone.

Hanson Listed

Borough striker Dave Hanson has been placed on the transfer list by Brendan Phillips as the manager plans to shake up his squad for the New Year.

Sid Clay Dies

A local sporting stalwart who was known and loved by many has died at the age of 60. Staunch Nuneaton Borough supporter Sid Clay passed away at the George Eliot Hospital following an illness.

Delay On Borough Ground

A hold-up in the production of important papers has meant a further postponement of a decision over the new ground for Nuneaton Borough Football Club. Despite the passing of several months the Borough still hasn't handed Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council the results of an environmental impact study, which has to be completed into the new site at Bermuda.

Borough planners say if the report had been received, the planning and development committee due to meet on Wednesday of next week, could have debated the move. But now the debate will have to wait until at least February.

Borough welcomed Kidderminster Harriers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Kidderminster had a dream start when they went ahead after Borough had spurned the first chance of the game when Andy Ducros shot tamely at Tim Clarke after just three minutes. Ian Clarkson was fouled and Scott Stamps stepped up to knock a free kick into the danger zone towards the trio of Jon Brown, Chris Mackenzie and Foster. The ball went over the line and the striker claimed the goal but Brown was clearly affected by the incident and many thought he got the final touch.

Dean Bennett was linking up with one time Borough triallist Clarkson and the duo set another ex-Nuneaton player Stewart Hadley up. The visitors were probing the Borough back line and Bennett was given space to run after an error from Brown but failed to deliver. Thomas Skoverbjerg showed his experience and class but the home side looked ragged and were struggling to match their opponents. Shaun Wray worked hard but had little impact. Borough though, did hit back and Barry Williams switched the ball across to Ducros who went on a run and delivered the ball into a packed box where Andy Thackeray scrambled it home.

Borough worked hard to stop Kidderminster's all-out attack and in the middle of the park Crowley was making his presence felt with some typically crunching tackles and the home side had their only chance to go ahead after 36 minutes when Wayne McDermott played a corner short to Thackeray who looped the ball in and Angus headed into the arms of Clarke. Borough then fell behind after McDermott lost the ball to Bennett who delivered a perfect ball to Foster who tapped it into the net. Kidderminster almost extended their lead when Mackenzie rushed out to clear, but Angus tapped the ball to the feet of Hadley who lobbed the ball into the net, but the referee had already blown for an infringement.

Mackenzie tipped Skoverbjerg's effort over the bar and then the Dane's corner found the head of Marsh, who guided the ball goalwards where it appeared to cross the line, but Foster made sure by blasting the ball into the net for his hat-trick.

Bennett tested Mackenzie before Crowley found himself in the book for a crunching tackle. Skoverbjerg, Hadley and Foster continued to push forward in search of more goals before Straw made way for Delton Francis as Kidderminster continued to press. However, Borough continued to battle and Wray and Ducros linked well for the ex-Coventry man to place a probing cross onto the head of McDermott who made amends for his earlier mistake and gave his team a lifeline. But with only 13 minutes remaining time was running short. Brown and Ducros both had shots in the dying seconds.



Borough Players In Representative Game

Four Borough players have been chosen to play for the England non-league side against the Combined Services at Worcester City's St George's Lane ground. Chris Mackenzie, Andy Thackeray, Andy Ducros and Terry Angus have all been chosen to take part.

Triallists In Reserves Game

Three triallists are to be given a run-out when Borough face Telford in the Central Conference. Nigerian striker Ade Tinbulu, former York City defender Rory Prendergast and British Universities midfielder Ben Stephenson will all be given a chance to show off their skills.

Christie Nets Two

Ex-Borough striker Malcolm Christie netted twice for Derby County in their game against Middlesbrough on Saturday and should he keep his place in the side for Saturday's match it will trigger a further payment to Borough of £25,000.

Phillips Loses Out On Quailey

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has failed in his attempt to bring Brian Quailey back to Manor Park after his agent arranged a trial for the front man at Reading.

Nuneaton Borough v Dover Athletic	22-01-2000
Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Ryder, Brown, Prindiville, Williams, Kotylo, Muir, McDermott, Francis, Ducros. Subs: Murphy, Blake, Straw, O'Brien, Shoemake.	
Dover: Hyde, Browne, Norman, LeBerl, Shearer, Beard, Clarke, Wormull, Le Bihan, Vansittart, Brown. Subs: Hynes, Morrison, Munday, Carruthers, Hudson.	

Borough welcomes Dover Athletic to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Dover took the lead after only seven minutes when Tony Browne thumped a long ball down the right for Clarke to chase. Jon Brown hesitated thinking the ball was going out and was robbed by Clarke, who put a cross over to the near post where Vansittart headed past the despairing dive of Mackenzie. A speculative drive from Delton Francis and a wayward header from Stuart Ryder was all that Borough could muster as they struggled badly to come up with anything more threatening than Ducros' early 30-yarder.

Dover extended their lead after 22 minutes after Ian Muir lost possession to Vansittart who ran through the Borough defence and as Clarke's run dragged defenders away and space opened up Vansittart despatched a low shot from 20 yards into the far corner of the net. Simon Wormull then had a corner cleared off the line by Andy Thackeray as the game degenerated into an exhibition of poor passing on Borough's part and the half-time whistle came as a blessing.

After a number of substitutions failed to inspire the home side at the start of the second half, Dover sat back and protected their two goal cushion. By now there was very little action at

either end as Dover were satisfied with what they had and Borough weren't good enough to do anything about it. Then came an explosive incident when Barry Williams launched himself into a two-footed tackle on Leberl for which he was sent off, but not before Leberl took his revenge, kicking out at Williams and earning the Dover man his marching orders. Players from all over the pitch rushed to join in the argument, which even continued after the final whistle.

Two minutes after the sending off Ryder gifted substitute Dave Morrison with a free run at goal but he shot wildly over the bar when totally unchallenged. Borough did no more than limp towards the final whistle which saw the terraces rapidly empty of its disconsolate spectators.

Welling United v Nuneaton Borough	29-01-2000
Welling: Wilkerson, Watts, Harney, Horne, Budden, Edwards, Riviere, Rutherford, Rowe, Side, Chapman. Subs: Clarke, Harle, Bailey.	
Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, Prindiville, Crowley, Williams, McDermott, Ducros, Francis, Blake. Subs: O'Brien, Shoemake, Murphy, Muir, Reed.	

Borough travelled to Park View Road to play Welling United in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Welling were the more adventurous of the two sides as they looked to build on their win over Stevenage the previous week. But despite that the home side hardly created a chance throughout. Borough continually struggled to contain Lew Watts as the marauding left back overlapped only for his standard of delivery to be very low. The back four were the highlight of Borough's performance but once again the lack of creation going forward was a major concern.

It wasn't until half an hour had passed that the home keeper was brought into the game and he easily caught Wayne McDermott's waist-high left wing cross. The game simply went from bad to worse and the only action of note came when Andy Ducros shot well over from distance inside the final ten minutes of the first half.

As the second half began the skies darkened and possession was squandered time and again. Neither side looked like scoring, but in the 57th minute home keeper Paul Wilkerson gave away a free kick in the penalty area for time wasting. Ducros drove it goalwards and the rebound sat up nicely for the same player but his lob was acrobatically saved by Wilkerson. It was Borough's best and only chance of the game.

The best move of the game followed when Mike Rutherford went on a mazy run and pulled the ball back to Chapman who fired a low shot at Mackenzie. The keeper smothered the shot relatively easily as the number 11 looked to score his first goal in over 100 appearances. An even better chance fell to the feet of Zeke Rowe as he barged his way through. Angus clearly pulled him back twice but the strong front man still forced a good save from Mackenzie. The referee awarded a corner, but booked Angus for his shirt pulling antics. The referee then took Crowley's name as Borough threatened to



lose their discipline. Ged Murphy replaced Marvin Blake and Ian Muir came on for Francis but it was all in vain as 0-0 had been the soundest bet all along.

Borough Sign Broughton

Nuneaton Borough have signed Peterborough United striker Drewe Broughton on a month's loan. Brendan Phillips had to fight off interest from Chester, Leyton Orient and Stevenage.

Stevenage Borough v Nuneaton Borough 05-02-2000

Stevenage: Taylor, Harvey, Love, Smith, Kersey, Howarth, Martin, Wraight, King, Alford, Hockton. **Subs:** Leadbetter, Miller, Harrison, Kirby.
Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, Prindiville, Murphy, Wray, Crowley, McDermott, Ducros, Broughton. **Subs:** Kotylo, Shoemake, Prendergast, Francis, Muir.

Borough travelled to Broadhall Way to play Stevenage Borough in a Nationwide Conference League game.

There was an early scare for Borough when Hockton found space on the right and his low centre flashed across the visitors' goal with Alford unable to get a touch. Hockton then found space and cut into the area but Wayne Simpson halted the danger. Borough could have made an early breakthrough with two chances in a minute. First Wayne McDermott's through ball found Andy Ducros who held off Lee Kersey only to see his low drive blocked by keeper Chris Taylor. A neat build-up saw Ducros send McDermott clear in the area but he was forced wide by Taylor who diverted the midfielder's shot for a corner.

Borough were made to regret those misses as Stevenage drew first blood with an 18th minute strike from Alford. Former Nuneaton player Ian King found the striker on the edge of the area and the Conference's leading scorer turned smartly before cracking a 20 yard drive into the top left hand corner. A mis-directed backpass by King put Ducros in possession but his centre was cut out by Taylor with Broughton moving in. However, the Stevenage keeper was penalised for taking too many steps but Ducros' free kick failed to breach the mass home defence.

Chris Mackenzie did well to claw away a back header by Simpson before McDermott was only inches away from levelling with a fierce 20-yard drive. But in first-half injury time Borough's hopes took a knock as Hockton's shot from the edge of the box took a massive deflection off Steve Prindiville to leave Mackenzie flat footed and the ball curled into the corner.

There were more problems for Borough early in the second period when Thackeray was caught in possession by Dean Martin but the Nuneaton full-back recovered to block the shot. Then a neat build-up from the home side saw Lee Harvey bursting into the area and it took a brave save by Mackenzie to deny the defender.

Borough hit back and Ducros freed Wray on the right and he made ground before whipping in a centre that McDermott just failed to reach at the far post. The visitors were now dictating the pace and as Wray burst through the middle,

Taylor was happy to see his fierce 25 yarder fly a foot over the top. But the pressure finally paid off as Borough cut the deficit with 15 minutes remaining. Wray again made space to chip in a near post centre from the right and Thackeray stooped to score with a header.

Stevenage were now penned back deep into their own half and Borough might have snatched a late equaliser when Ducros' low cross found Broughton but, under pressure from Mark Smith he failed to connect properly and Taylor was able to gather comfortably. The final action saw Murphy put a lob inches over the top with Taylor furiously back-peddalling.

New Borough Director

Nuneaton Borough have appointed a new director in Mick Rose, who has high hopes of getting the club promotion to the Third Division. The managing director of Pailton Engineering has been added to the Borough board after many years of watching football. The self-confessed Coventry City fan was approached by Ralph Nollett – the owner of the engineering company and himself an executive director of Borough – when the club wanted to add another member to their board. And Rose was delighted to join up with what he hopes will be a team that in the near future will be in the 92 member club.

He said: "The main reason I am coming on board is due to my love of football. The company had been involved with the Borough and the owner of our company wanted someone on the board of directors and I was delighted to accept the role..."

Covenant Could Be Lifted

Nuneaton Borough Football Club's long-awaited ground move could surge back into life this week with the lifting of a protective covenant on the Manor Park ground. Members of Nuneaton and Bedworth council's policy and resources committee will meet in private on Wednesday to discuss the financial implications of lifting the covenant. Currently the legal protection prevents the club selling the ground for anything other than sporting use...

Nuneaton Borough v Morecambe 12-02-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, McDermott, Murphy, Crowley, Wray, Prendergast, Ducros, Broughton. **Subs:** Francis, Reed, Kotylo, Blake, Shoemake.

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

Borough almost took the lead in the seventh minute when Andy Farrell scuffed his clearance from the corner of the area. The ball sailed towards Andy Ducros at the far post. He pulled the ball back to Rory Prendergast and his firm cross-cum-shot flashed across the goal and a desperate lunge by Drewe Broughton was agonisingly insufficient as he stretched in an attempt to steer the ball into the empty goal. Shaun Wray was in great form as he continually stretched the Shrimps defence. Borough went into the lead on 12 minutes after Shaun Wray



caused all sorts of problems and it was from his initial shot that the goal came. Andy Banks saved Wray's effort but the now exposed keeper was helpless as Ducros latched on to the rebound and kept a cool head to slot the ball past three defenders and into the bottom corner.

Then came Angus' sending off. First he was booked when he contested the referee's decision to reverse a throw-in and then had to walk following an elbowing offence on Hardy. Ducros dropped back as did Crowley leaving Drewe Broughton isolated as a lone striker. Borough were still looking the better wide even a man short. Mackenzie was in good form and he made a good save at Hardy's feet. Dave Swannick conceded a corner as he mishit a clearance from Broughton's cross. The Peterborough man could have extended Borough's lead just before half-time as Wray put in a quality ball after beating Gregg Brown and Swannick. His cross was met with a near post header that went just wide.

The second half opened with Borough still holding their own but Morecambe began to probe them and began to commit more men forward and were almost caught with a classic sucker punch as Mackenzie's throw out sent Wray off on a run that stretched the length of the pitch only for his shot to be palmed away for a corner. Gary Thompson entered the fray in place of Paul Burns and started to put in some dangerous runs and his cross to Brown at the near post was flicked on to McKearey whose free header went just over the bar.

Borough looked as though they may be in the frame for all three points, but with 15 minutes to go Darren Lyons sent a searching diagonal ball towards Justin Jackson and it reached him due to Thackeray's mistake. The full back missed the ball and Jackson was left with the task of rifling the ball past Mackenzie for his 15th goal of the season. Lyons hit a free-kick from the edge of the area against the inside of a post with Mackenzie beaten and Greg Brown hit the bar when well placed.

Borough Sign Weaver

Brendan Phillips has swooped to sign highly-rated Ilkeston Town centre-half Simon Weaver. The 22-year-old defender signs for a "nominal fee" after completing a four-month trial with Grimsby Town.

Yeovil Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-02-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, McDermott, Murphy, Wray, Crowley, Prendergast, Ducros, Broughton. **Subs:** Francis, Weaver, Brown, Reed, Shoemake.

Borough travelled to Huish Park to play Yeovil Town in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Yeovil created several early chances and Warren Patmore looked odds-on to score his 17th goal of the season, but his low shot was well saved by Mackenzie. Yeovil's early domination was only broken when Rory Prendergast was brought down on the edge of the area by Dean Chandler who was lucky not to go in the book. Ducros lined the kick up and his well-struck shot was superbly tipped onto the

upright by the flying Anthony Pennock. Patmore and Eaton were working well together giving Angus and Simpson some serious food for thought throughout the early exchanges.

A sweeping Yeovil move led to Rob Cousins skating past two challenges to hit a thundering 35-yard shot over the angle as Borough began to buckle under the strain. Ducros and Broughton looked like isolated individuals instead of a partnership as the distance between them proved to be too great. Yeovil, however, gelled well and the opening goal came as no surprise. Jason Eaton crossed from the left to the head of Patmore at the far post. His header back across the goal was despatched into Mackenzie's net by the unmarked Pitman.

Mackenzie had to be on his toes as he rushed out to smother at the feet of Jason Eaton after Simpson missed his clearance. Two minutes later the keeper had to rush out to deny Eaton again before Prendergast evaded a Piper tackle and raced away down the left but his cross was too high for Ducros and Broughton. Borough stepped up their game and the passing became swift and accurate as they wrested control away from the hosts. It was no surprise when Wayne McDermott's cross found Drewe Broughton who levelled the scores.

The second half started in the same vein and Wray escaped the attentions of substitute Matt Hayfield and galloped towards the by-line but his cross could only find the grasp of a grateful Pennock. It was then Broughton's turn to test the keeper as he stole in around the back to connect with Murphy's deep cross. A well-placed free-kick was wasted by Ducros as he thumped it straight at the wall. Yeovil won a couple of corners but Borough easily coped and they looked capable of snatching the lead.

Borough scored their second goal after 67 minutes when another accurate corner kick from Ducros was flicked on at the near post and Ged Murphy stuck his head in to put Borough in front. Pennock pushed a Ducros shot away for a corner, Prendergast volleyed wide and Broughton had a fine header cleared off the line. Broughton shot wide from six yards and as the game entered its final five minutes Prendergast won a corner after shooting at Pennock and Ducros' delivery was again perfect as Shaun Wray thumped a superb header into the roof of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Hereford United 04-03-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Weaver, Simpson, McDermott, Wray, Crowley, Muphy, Prendergast, Ducros, Broughton. **Subs:** Francis, Reed, Kotylo, Brown, Shoemake.

Hereford: Cooksey, Lane, Clarke, White, Sturgess, James, Rogerson, Snape, Parry, May, Rewings. **Subs:** Elmes, Williams, Hanson, Shirley, Quay.

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

The most remarkable action of the game did not take place on the pitch, but in the Cock and Bear end of the ground after Hereford supporters stormed the terrace and drove out hundreds of Borough supporters, taking over the premium



Manor Park viewing point and conducted an afternoon of rowdy support for their team.

Borough began the game on the attack as Broughton and Ducros again looked useful together. Both teams took time to settle and it wasn't until the 25th minute that there was a threat on either goal, when Fewings was allowed to shoot from distance, but Mackenzie scrambled the ball aside for a corner. It was very much hustle and bustle from both teams until Wray produced a real stroke of quality with a run that took him past two defenders and then a beautiful drag back allowed him the space to cross to Broughton, who unfortunately was offside.

Mackenzie's throw found Wray again and he ran almost the full length of the pitch and when his shot was charged down, Murphy spooned the rebound wide from 20 yards. Borough seemed the more likely to open the scoring, as Wray was a constant threat with the ball at his feet and Broughton won everything in the air, but Hereford almost snatched the lead just before half-time. Wray was booked for handball and the ensuing free-kick saw Rodgeron's inswinger met by Leroy May, but his header was hacked away by Thackeray on the line.

The second-half began with neither side able to retain possession for more than three or four passes. Fewings made way for Elmes on the hour mark and four minutes later he scored. After winning a corner on the right, the visitors threw everyone forward and Parry's cross was headed back to him. His second attempt at a cross was a much better effort and Elmes met it with a fierce downward header that left the keeper with no chance. With the visitors now in the lead the Hereford supporters in the Cock and Bear end let everyone know about it, but they were almost silenced by Ged Murphy in the 75th minute as he smashed a shot against the crossbar.

Borough pushed forward more and more, as they searched for an equaliser and were lucky not to concede a further goal as they were caught on the break on several occasions. As the game entered its latter stages it became clear it wasn't Borough's day. In fact, it wasn't football's day either as the game took a back seat to the hooligans.

Bradshaw And Young Sign

Brendan Phillips has added two more players to his squad in the form of Halifax Town's Mark Bradshaw and Chasetown's highly-rated young goalkeeper Ryan Young. Bradshaw is a former Blackpool, Macclesfield Town and Stafford Rangers left-back and joins Borough on an initial one month loan that could be extended to the end of the season. Young is a promising keeper who has joined Borough for a nominal fee.

Residents Protest Against New Borough Ground

Families facing the prospect of living in the shadow of a £4.2 soccer stadium are mounting a campaign to end Nuneaton Borough Football Club's dream of moving to a new ground. More than 60 residents from Bermuda Village and the Heath End Road area of Nuneaton gathered to air their views over

the Borough's proposed ground move. And the result of the meeting at Bermuda Working Men's Club was a resounding 'no'. Residents are today contacting councillors in an attempt to arrange another meeting this week where they can express their grievances to Nuneaton and Bedworth council's councillors and planning officers...

Nuneaton Borough v Scarborough

11-03-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Weaver, Bradshaw, Crowley, Wray, Murphy, McDermott, Broughton, Ducros. **Subs:** Prendergast, Francis, Brown, Williams, Young.

Scarborough: Woods, Russell, Rennison, Ellender, Betts, Jones, Williams, Stoker, Roberts, Tate, Brodie. **Subs:** McNiven, Tyrell, McNaughton, Morris, Martin.

Borough welcomed Scarborough to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough's new look defence was slow off the mark and conceded a fourth minute goal. Wayne Simpson and Simon Weaver collided with each other and the ball broke to Chris Tate who beat Chris Mackenzie with some ease. It was a sign of things to come for Borough as the goalscorer then had a good chance to double his tally three minutes later, but his powerful header was at a comfortable height for Mackenzie.

Borough were being stretched by Tate, Brodie and ex-player Darren Roberts as the visitors looked too quick and clever for Borough's disorganised and nervous rearguard. Tate again caused problems as he latched on to Steve Brodie's cross, but Shaun Wray did enough to put him off his shot. It was 15 minutes before Borough launched an attack as Shaun Wray squirmed past two challenges to pull back a tremendous far post cross, but with no one on the end of it.

Steve Brodie was instrumental in almost everything Scarborough did as he, together with Gareth Williams and Simon Betts had Borough all at sea. A brilliant one-two between Brodie and Tate sent Betts scurrying down the left and Tate met his cross with a perfect header but Mackenzie pulled off a tremendous save to keep the ball out. Borough had a chance to equalise when Mark Bradshaw put in a long throw and Woods failed to gather and the ball fell to Ged Murphy whose shot was goalbound before it hit Simon Betts on the line.

The second half could not have been more different as Borough forced their way back into the game. Andy Ducros was replaced by Delton Francis and Barry Williams also joined the fray after his four match suspension. Borough looked a different side as they gelled well with Williams settling into his midfield position and Crowley dropping back. Murphy hit a volley over the top and then saw his 25 yarder go straight to the keeper. But Borough had a narrow escape as Roberts sprang the offside trap and raced towards goal but put his shot into the side netting

That miss was punished by Borough four minutes later as Delton Francis was upended by Gareth Williams on the edge of the area. Bradshaw and Murphy stood over the ball, but it



was quickly squared to McDermott who thumped a low shot past Andy Woods. The goal livened the game up as well as the crowd as a long awaited home win looked on the cards. But the travelling supporters were left open mouthed as Shaun Rennison's header flew goalward only for Mackenzie to pull off a save of real quality to pluck the ball from the air.

Brodie crashed to the ground in the penalty area under the challenge of Crowley, but the referee waved play on and moments later Wayne Simpson was felled by a dangerous challenge from Tate. As the game entered its final throes Scarborough pulled everyone back behind the ball as Borough battled in vain for the elusive winner. Mackenzie pulled off one final save from Betts to round off a terrific display.

Kotylo To Redditch

Borough's ex-Sheffield Wednesday midfielder Krystof Kotylo has signed loan forms with Redditch United for a month. The 22-year-old has been unable to force his way into the Borough side after breaking a foot in pre-season.

Kingstonian v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Crowley, Bradshaw, Williams, Wray, Murphy, McDermott, Francis, Broughton. **Subs:** Brown, Prendergast, Weaver, Ducros, Young.

Borough travelled to Kingsmeadow to play Kingstonian in a Nationwide Conference League game.

The closest either goal came to being breached came just inside the first ten minutes when Phil Wingfield's nonchalant looking shot from distance was almost spilled into the net by Mackenzie. Delton Francis spurned a good chance at the other end five minutes later as he turned on a sixpence only to put in a weak shot which was easily dealt with by Farrelly. O'Connor then entered the fray as Eddie Akuamoah limped off with a thigh strain.

Before the break the ball spent most of the time in the air as several bouts of head tennis took place. Borough's back four were at ease with the proceedings but that couldn't be said for Mackenzie as he added to his earlier spill with more than one miskicked clearance. The half ended with its most productive period so far for both teams. The home crowd's loud appeals for a penalty when Gary Patterson was bundled over in the area were turned down flat. Geoff Pitcher put in a bullet-like shot which cannoned to safety off the crossbar before Borough hit back with Francis and Shaun Wray both bringing the keeper into play. Three successive corners saw Borough end the half in the ascendancy.

Wingfield squandered a good chance straight after the break but shot straight at Mackenzie. There was a break in play while a hole in the pitch was repaired before Wray won a corner on the right. Francis was on the end of the cross but somehow contrived to scoop the ball over from underneath the crossbar. O'Connor then had the ball in the net but the whistle had already gone. Borough were looking increasingly

dangerous as Wray worked his magic and Drewe Broughton caused all sorts of problems. The latter won a free-kick in a dangerous position and Wayne McDermott put in a 20-yarder which was tipped over the bar by Farrelly.

Wingfield made way for Leigh Hendrie with 15 minutes to go as Chapple tried to stop the tide and five minutes later the game turned on its head. Shaun Wray was booked for diving before two defensive errors in the space of four minutes saw the game suddenly drift away from the visitors. The first saw Patterson send in an ordinary-looking cross to the far post. Everyone left it and Mark Harris was left with the simple task of scoring to put the Ks ahead. While Borough were still trying to work out what had happened they conceded again and this time it was that man O'Connor.

The offside trap was sprung and the hosts found themselves with the luxury of six on three in the penalty area. It looked as though too much time had been taken as the move turned into a desperate scramble but O'Connor was on hand to toe-poke the ball into the bottom corner. He almost doubled his tally a minute later but put his side wide of the post. Farrelly pulled off two fine saves to deny Andy Ducros and then saved a towering header from Drewe Broughton.

Nuneaton Borough v Doncaster Rovers 25-03-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Weaver, Bradshaw, Brown, Williams, Crowley, Wray, Broughton, Ducros. **Subs:** Murphy, Hanson, McDermott, Francis, Young.

Borough welcomed Doncaster Rovers to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

Doncaster were first to show and Wayne Simpson and Barry Williams both charged down shots from Lee Warren, who was then booked for a challenge from behind on Broughton. Rovers captain Dean Walling was next in the book for an illegal challenge on Broughton

Borough sprang to life and Andy Ducros supplied a great cross to Broughton who looked like he was subjected to a two handed push in the back by Mark Barnard. Broughton chested down Mackenzie's long kick and found Ducros on a diagonal run and his first touch took him away from the last man only for him to see his firm cross-shot saved by Andy Warrington.

The first fifteen minutes of the second half were fairly uneventful and then Borough almost opened their account as Broughton raced clear down the left towards the Cock & Bear end and was allowed to run into the area and square to Shaun Wray who somehow missed from six yards. The crowd began to liven up as Borough turned the screw before the ineffective Ducros made way for Dave Hanson. The game began to open up as it entered its final quarter as chances at both ends developed.

Shaun Wray volleyed just wide from 25 yards and then McIntyre struck a beauty at the other end only for Mackenzie to pull off the save of the day to concede a corner. Barry Williams went on a run that covered 40 yards and evaded three challenges only



to dispatch a weak shot into the grateful arms of Warrington. The final ten minutes was all one-way as Borough bombarded the Doncaster goal. Ged Murphy hit a sweet effort but the keeper pulled off a great save. Wray steamed in on the rebound but hit his shot over from eight yards. Mark Bradshaw delivered a left-side corner and the ball fell to Williams who looked as if he's scored but the ball struck the back of Warren's head inside the six yard box.

Hanson and Broughton were causing chaos in the Rovers' defence as a goal looked very much on the cards. It was Hanson again with just a minute left when his initial shot came back to him, he played in a wicked cross that went right across the goal-line but no-one was on hand to make the final touch. That was the final action of the game and Borough can consider themselves unfortunate not to have taken all three points against their more affluent opponents.

Borough Unlikely To Survive Without Ground Move

Directors of Nuneaton Borough Football Club have revealed that unless the club moves from its Manor Park home it is unlikely to survive. Club bosses revealed at a meeting that gates for Borough matches do not even pay the players' wages, and force directors to regularly dip into their own pockets. In a stark revelation, club chairman Phil Clayton said: "The ground move is the only practical way to ensure the survival of the football club. A club can't survive on nostalgia alone.

"Gate admissions do not even pay the players' wages and the directors can't keep paying forever. If we do not get planning permission then we could get Manor Park up to Football League status, but there are no commercial opportunities to make it possible to survive in the leagues.

"Without planning permission directors will continue to have to pump money in as things get harder. We would then have to see whether the directors continue to pay money in..."

Rushden & Diamonds v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-2000

Rushden: Turley, Peters, Burgess, Bullock, Rodwell, Warburton, Butterworth, Wormull, Underwood, De Souza, Lowe. Subs: Hamsher, Naylor, Cooper, Collins, Mison.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Brown, Bradshaw, Simpson, Angus, Crowley, Williams, Wray, Broughton, Ducros. Subs: Hanson, Young, Francis, Murphy, McDermott.

Borough travelled to Nene Park to play Rushden & Diamonds in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough had the first chance of the game through Barry Williams after ten minutes. Ducros stepped inside two challenges and released the ball to Williams who hit an absolute screamer towards the top corner only to see England keeper Billy Turley tip the ball over the bar. It was Williams again in command just after 15 minutes when he ran 70 yards through the backbone of the Rushden side. As he reached the edge of the area, Paul Underwood got a toe in to guide it back to Turley.

Diamonds then had a good spell as they upped the tempo and took the game to Borough. A succession of corners and crosses were dangerous but Angus, Simpson, et al were coping well with the aerial threat of Mequel De Souza, Simon Wormull and Gary Butterworth. The pressure almost bore fruit after half an hour when De Souza rode two challenges and found David Lowe, but his first-time shot was weak and straight at Mackenzie. Crowley was winning everything in midfield but Borough suffered a severe blow just before the break when Williams was carried from the field on a stretcher after a late, high and inexcusable challenge from Underwood.

Borough were forced to defend but they were doing so in impressive fashion and there were echoes of the early part of the season. Angus pulled off a superb saving tackle to concede a corner as Lowe almost got in a shooting position. Phillips replaced Drewe Broughton with Dave Hanson as the Peterborough man tired. Wayne Simpson had a tremendous afternoon but he experienced a nightmare five minutes.

First he conceded a dangerous free-kick on the edge of the area from which, fortunately for him, Underwood almost managed to find the car park with. Soon after, Jim Rodwell sent in a hopeful looking diagonal ball to the far post from the half-way line. Simpson looked to have time to clear but he didn't manage it and Andy Burgess gleefully accepted the invitation to put Diamonds ahead with 69 minutes gone. Borough poured forward looking for an equaliser and one of Bradshaw's long throws caused confusion in Turley's penalty area and the ball was half-cleared to Thackeray. Keeping his cool he lifted the ball to the back post where Shaun Wray lay in wait. He side-stepped a challenge and hit a shot that deflected off Rodwell and left Turley with no chance.

It was a frantic finish as Borough desperately defended for what seemed like an eternity and when the final whistle came it was a draw that seemed like a victory to the away fans, who continued to celebrate as the home fans stood in disbelief.

Southport v Nuneaton Borough

04-04-2000

Southport: Dickinson, Guyett, Grayston, Ryan, Bolland, Ryan, Morley, Gouck, Elam, Arnold, Furlong. Subs: McNiven, Stuart, Mike, Devereux, Gummer.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Bradshaw, Simpson, Brown, Angus, Wray, Murphy, Crowley, Francis, Hanson. Subs: McDermott, Garrity, Young, Brennan, Ducros.

Borough travelled to Haig Avenue to play Southport in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough had some early early defending to do as Southport started strongly and there was an early scare for the visitors as Ged Murphy's header back to Mackenzie had the keeper at full stretch. Phil Bolland did well to head away Andy Thackeray's cross with Crowley closing in and when Mark Bradshaw knocked the ball back into the area Murphy put a header straight at Steve Dickinson in the home goal.

A neat build-up by Southport ended with Dominic Morley



trying his luck from the edge of the box but his shot lacked the power the trouble Mackenzie who gathered his weak effort comfortably. Borough then failed to clear a Gouck free-kick and when the ball broke to Scott Guyett he netted with a close range drive but it was ruled out for handball. Bradshaw had a shot blocked in a rare Borough raid while at the other end Lee Furlong headed inches wide from Martin Clark's deep cross.

Borough had a let-off when Morley's centre picked out Elam and he saw his header beat Mackenzie but bounce clear off the crossbar. The visitors hit back and Crowley picked out Wray with a curling centre but the Borough man put his header well over the top. But a minute before the break the visitors found themselves behind. Grayston's ball was flicked on by Gouck and when Brown's back header failed to reach Mackenzie, Elam nipped in to slip the ball just inside the far post.

Both sides took time to pick up the pace in the second half, but it was Borough who carved out the first real chance after an hour when Wray cleverly made space on the right to get in a cross and when Southport failed to clear, the ball fell to substitute Andy Ducros who put a tame shot wide. But there were more problems for Borough when David McNiven, on loan from Oldham, tricked his way past Terry Angus and it needed a smart save from Mackenzie to prevent Borough from falling even further behind.

McNiven forced another save from Mackenzie before Delton Francis wasted Nuneaton's best chance of the night. The striker turned smartly to lose his marker as he cut into the area but he pulled his shot wide from 15 yards. Any hopes Borough had of pulling the game round disappeared after 70 minutes. Brown was harshly adjudged to have fouled Arnold and the striker took the resulting penalty to double the home side's advantage.

The game exploded 13 minutes from the end when both sides were reduced to ten men. Southport's Morley deservedly got a red card for stamping on Jon Brown's head and two minutes later Crowley earned himself a second yellow card and went off for an early bath.

Nuneaton Borough v Peterborough United 15-04-2000

Borough welcomed Peterborough United to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

Marvin Blake and Rory Prendergast scored Borough's goals in a game that saw Steve Prindiville return to the first-team. Borough were hit by an injury to skipper Dave Crowley who broke his thumb and also bruised his ribs and may be out of action for the best part of a month.

Despite Crowley's injury, Phillips believes the game was a useful exercise and singled out Ryan Young and Karl Brennan after they both impressed.

Barry Williams, Andy Ducros and Terry Angus all missed the game through injury but it is expected they will be fit for next weekend's Nationwide Conference fixture.

Councillor Threatens To Thwart Borough Ground Move

Councillor Colin Richards, who represents the Chilvers Coton Ward where the football club propose to build a new football stadium is to try and prevent the football club from moving there. Councillor Richards says he cannot see how the development will work and describes the club's environmental impact study as being 'full of holes'.

He also poured scorn on Borough's scare tactics, saying that threats that the club would die if it didn't move 'left him cold'. "Such statements do absolutely nothing to further their cause and can easily be misconstrued as constituting a threat or means of applying undue pressure on the members and officers of the council's planning and development committee."...

Nuneaton Borough v Woking

22-04-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Weaver (Kotylo 46), Augus, Wray, Williams, Broughton (Hanson 67), Ducros, Brown (Prendergast 67).

Woking: Batty, Miller, Hollingdale, West, Smith, S. Brown, Hayfield, Stott (Aligheiri 81), Akrou, Hay, Steele.

Borough welcomed Woking to Manor Park to play a Nationwide Conference League game.

The Cards made the better start and could easily have been two up inside 90 seconds with striker Nasim Akrou fluffing two chances – firstly when he raced down the left straight from the kick off and with keeper Chris Mackenzie to beat lobbed the ball wide of the far post and just seconds later he volleyed over from 15 yards when ideally placed.

The all-important goal came after five minutes when Matthew Hayfield was released down the right and from his cross Hay put away a low drive from just inside the area past the helpless Mackenzie. Borough tried to battle back and it needed a brave tackle from visiting skipper Steve West to deny Andy Ducros' goal-bound volley.

Borough tried hard for an equaliser with Wray heading a good chance wide and Drewe Broughton almost got on the end of a Ducros cross. Mackenzie was tested again before the break when he tipped Akrou's header over the bar and from the resulting corner Barry Miller's downward header bounced up and struck the bar and flew to safety to leave the home fans wondering which of the two sides was in the relegation zone.

Mackenzie was tested again straight after the break, again by Akrou, as the Cards looked to kill off the game. After Hayfield saw his low shot deflected off Andy Thackeray and role agonisingly wide of the upright it was Borough's turn to attack and Barry Williams forced Laurence Batty to make a superb one-handed save.

Borough's best chance of the game came when Krystof Kotylo sent a 20 yard drive into a sea of legs but the ball went out for a corner as the match drew to an end. However, this was after Akrou had been given another chance when his looping header struck the bar.



Morecambe v Nuneaton Borough 24-04-2000

Morecambe: McIlhargey, Fensome, Wright, McKearney, Hardiker, Knowles, Thompson, Drummond, Eastwood, Jackson, Norman. Subs: Banks, McGuin, Burns, Black, Smith.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, Prindiville, Wray, Murphy, Williams, McDermott, Broughton, Ducros. Subs: Kotylo, Francis, Brennan, Brown, Young.

Borough travelled to Christie Park to play Morecambe in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Borough had some good early possession as they took the game to the home side and almost took a sixth minute lead when Wray's trickery had Andy Fensome bamboozled and his low cross was almost turned in at the far post by Broughton. Borough had some defending to do as John Hardiker's ball set Justin Jackson away where he was felled by Wayne Simpson and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. However, Mackenzie made a save from Jackson's spot kick.

Williams wasted a great chance to put Borough ahead when the ball was well worked out to Wray and his one-two with Ducros resulted in Williams being found but his shot was high. Ged Murphy was superb in midfield and he won the ball and sent Ducros away, who forced a good save from Banks. Ducros brought another save from the keeper a minute later and then Williams headed straight at him from a corner.

The difference in form between the two sides was stark but it was difficult to see any difference in ability between them. The hosts began to work harder though and dictated the final minutes of the first half. Jackson, Phil Eastwood and then John Norman all went close before an incredible melee in the Borough area saw a goal-line clearance from Simpson and a wonderful save by Mackenzie to keep the scoresheet blank.

Borough began the second half on top with Wray showing some great skill and then Andy Ducros shot over from distance. The home side forced their way back into the game, however, and Borough paid for their missed chances after 61 minutes. Michael Knowles squared the ball across the edge of the area and Eastwood made no mistake with his first-time shot low to Mackenzie's right. However, Borough weren't behind for long as McDermott swung in a dangerous cross from the left, and Williams soared into the air at the far post to head back across the goal to Broughton, who with his back to goal, turned and smashed in Borough's equaliser.

The game then entered a stand-off as neither wanted to make the mistake that would gift the points to the other side. Ducros suffered a hamstring injury and made way for Delton Francis with 15 minutes to go and chances were carved out at both ends. Stewart Drummond opened Borough up with ten minutes to go but should have passed instead of shooting from 25 yards out. Broughton wasted a chance at the other end as the game entered a tense closing phase and Prindiville's right sided corner was met superbly by Williams, but his header was cleared off the line and out to McDermott, whose cross found Angus, but he headed straight at Banks.

Nuneaton Borough v Stevenage Borough 29-04-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Murphy, Angus, Wray (Brennan 77), Williams, Hanson, Francis (Weaver 86), McDermott (Reed 80). Subs: Kotylo, Young.

Stevenage: Hassell, Trott, Love, Smith, Howarth, Bass, Wraight, Kirby, Alford (Pearson 88), Ledbeater (Hockton 77), Martin. Subs: Collins, Harvey, King.

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

Borough started well and it seemed only a matter of time before they opened their account, as they stroked the ball around and kept highly rated striker Carl Alford quiet. The pressure almost paid off in the 17th minute as Dave Hanson raced clear down the left only to fire a fierce shot wide. Five minutes later Delton Francis had the ball in the net but his close range effort was ruled out as skipper Terry Angus was penalised for handball.

Angus mishit a shot towards the goal but Hasell somehow managed to claw it out and Hanson hit the loose ball into the side netting. The visitors first effort of note came in the 41st minute. Martin was in acres of space in the inside right channel as Borough fell asleep at the back. He had time to steady himself and pick his spot but he shot too early and Chris Mackenzie had an easy save to make. Borough broke away immediately and a 60 yard run from Barry Williams finished with his shot beating the keeper but also the upright.

The lack of a recognised goalscorer was to be Nuneaton's undoing as three minutes into the second half, Stevenage's second strike on goal was successful. A high looping cross should have been dealt with by Mackenzie, but Martin beat him to the ball and his header – even under the challenge of the keeper – simply bounced into the net.

Williams had a chance to hit the target just after the hour but again his effort was ruled out – this time for offside against McDermott. Stevenage, however, were happy to just sit back and let Borough come at them.

With time running out Hanson had a close range header tipped over and the worst miss of the day then followed from Steve Prindiville as he failed to hit the target from eight yards with just the keeper to beat as Borough slipped to yet another home defeat.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 01-05-2000

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Simpson, Angus, Prindiville, Murphy, Williams, Wray, Reed, Francis, Hanson Subs: Brennan, Weaver, McDermott, Brown, Young.

Hednesford: Ford, Sedgemore, Colkin, Evans, Bradley, Robinson, Airdrie, Kelly, Bagshaw, Davis, Norbury. Subs: Goodwin, Kimmins, Rhodes, Szewcyck, Brindley.

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

The game started slowly before a powerful Delton Francis



effort was blocked on the six yard line and Williams failed to get the rebound on target as Borough began to take control. The partnership of Hanson and Francis came to fruition as the two caused the Pitmen all sorts of problems. Hanson's upper body strength allows him to hold the ball up effectively and Francis' determination and speed proved to be too much for Hednesford.

Angus almost turned a corner into his own net as Hednesford began to show before Ian Reed nearly opened the scoring on 25 minutes as his well-struck effort was blocked. Ged Murphy burst into the area, but the chance was wasted when he tried to find a marked Hanson. Borough were now moving well and a brace of corners were followed by the best move of the game. Williams freed Hanson down the right with a beautiful pass and the big man beat a defender before squaring to Reed, who volleyed into the side netting.

Hanson was brought down by Evans in the area, but penalty appeals were waved away. But Hednesford didn't enjoy their let-off for long as a great ball from Barry Williams found Francis who was able to pick his spot and put the home side into the lead. Just two minutes later Borough surged into a 2-0 lead when Wray side-footed home from Francis' pass. Just before the break Wray found his way into the referee's book.

Murphy put a volley wide early in the second half before Reed then set up Francis for his second and Borough's third goal. The offside trap was sprung by Reed's well judged pass and the speed of Francis took him clear to slot the ball past Ford.

A confrontation between Wray and Colkin saw both players receive a yellow, but unfortunately for Wray it was his second of the game and off he went. Borough had to reshuffle and left Hanson alone up front as Francis dropped back into midfield. Evans volleyed wide from a corner 15 minutes from time and Hednesford were forced back again, but Francis shot tamely into Ford's arms. Hednesford numerical advantage was wiped out when Robinson fouled Francis and then kicked the ball away, earning him a second yellow.

Hayes v Nuneaton Borough 06-05-2000

Hayes: Gothard, Moore, Flynn, Coppard, Tucker, Goodliffe, Preston, Telemaque, Stevens, Metcafe, Molesley. Subs: McKimm, Charles, Boyce.

Borough: Young, Thackeray, Simpson, Brown, Prindiville, Murphy, Williams, Brennan, Reed, Hanson, Francis. Subs: McDermott, Weaver, Prendergast, Healey, Mackenzie.

Borough travelled to Church Road to play Hayes in a Nationwide Conference League game.

Hayes were first to show and Telemaque broke through the Borough defence as he looked to latch onto Tucker's hopeful ball forward but the impressive looking Young dealt with the problem – outside his area conceding the first corner of the game. Young came to Borough's rescue again a minute later as he pulled off a great save from Dean Coppard. The early threats from the home team finally came to fruition after 21 minutes as Young was left hopelessly exposed. Preston was quicker than Brown in chasing the ball into the area. The

midfielder's initial shot was well saved by the keeper but failed to stop the rebound being converted.

Another good move from Hayes resulted in a corner after a good save from Young. A second Hayes goal was on the cards and it came two minutes before the break. Dave Stevens was allowed to escape from the attentions of Wayne Simpson on the left. He cut inside the area and somehow managed to score from a tight angle to double the scoreline. Young denied Stevens his second moments later with a wonderful one-handed save from and eight yard volley.

Borough finally created a chance five minutes into the second half when Williams headed over Andy Thackeray's cross. Brennan then won a corner as Borough threatened to come into the game – but Hayes defended with some comfort. Ian Reed hit a thundering shot from the corner of the area only to see his effort tipped over by Gothard.

With 15 minutes to go Ged Murphy was replaced by Rory Prendergast but the substitute lasted just 60 seconds before he was stretchered off following an agricultural challenge from Barry Moore, which went unpunished. The game's latter stages were littered with saves from Borough's new keeper as he made a desperate one-man attempt to keep the score down. His efforts were in vain though as substitute Lee Charles scored the third and final goal of the game. Mark Boyce went on a mazy run allowing him into the area where he pulled the ball back to the unmarked Charles who calmly stroked the ball past the exposed keeper.

Nationwide Conference 1999-2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kidderminster Harriers	42	26	7	9	75	40	85
Rushden & Diamonds	42	21	13	8	71	42	76
Morecambe	42	18	16	8	70	48	70
Scarborough	42	19	12	11	60	35	69
Kingstonian	42	20	7	15	58	44	67
Dover Athletic	42	18	12	12	65	56	66
Yeovil Town	42	18	10	14	60	63	64
Hereford United	42	15	14	13	61	52	59
Southport	42	15	13	14	55	55	58
Stevenage Borough	42	16	9	17	60	54	57
Hayes	42	16	8	18	57	58	56
Doncaster Rovers	42	15	9	18	46	48	54
Kettering Town	42	12	16	14	44	50	52
Woking	42	13	13	16	45	53	52
Nuneaton Borough	42	12	15	15	49	53	51
Telford United	42	14	9	19	56	66	51
Hednesford Town	42	15	6	21	44	68	51
Northwich Victoria	42	13	12	17	53	78	51
Forest Green Rovers	42	13	8	21	54	63	47
Welling United	42	13	8	21	54	66	47
Altrincham	42	9	19	14	51	60	46
Sutton United	42	8	10	24	39	75	34

Guseley — 4th Qualifying Round

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

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Ryder, Angus, Brown, B. Williams, O'Connor, Ducros, Francis. Subs: Hanson, Muir, Wray, Kotylo, R. Williams..

Guseley: Shutt, Sanders, Hogarth, Phillips, Nettleton, Hazel, Poole, Gallagher, Parke, Agana, Shuttleworth. Subs: Zoll, Davison, Stancliffe, Brooks, Hook.

Borough's task was made all the more difficult by the fact that Guseley took an early lead. Just three minutes had gone when Terry Angus lost possession in midfield to allow Sanders to escape down the right. His high, looping cross towards the far post remained unclaimed by the normally safe Mackenzie but the keeper stuttered and stayed on his line to allow visiting captain Des Hazel to head back across the goal where Simon Parke was well placed to score past a stranded Wayne Simpson who tried in vain to clear off the line.

By now it was clear that Borough were not at ease with being given such little time to settle into any sort of pattern or rhythm as Guseley continued to fight for every loose ball.

Guseley approached the game in very much the same way as Borough had at Doncaster and it was difficult to see where or how Borough could change things, even with lots of possession.

With the passing poor and challenges just not quick enough, it was typical of the game so far when Delton Francis' wayward pass put Simpson under all sorts of pressure, but the No. 4 recovered superbly to avert the danger from the lurking Agana.

The ultimate price for poor marking was paid after 25 minutes when Guseley stunned the 2,100-plus crowd with their second goal of the game. A near post corner by Lee Poole was delivered past Mackenzie by the widely experienced Tony Agana to leave Borough looking shell-shocked and very much second best.

Borough needed to play to the strengths of the attacking full backs and the close control of Ducros, but were continually being thwarted by the solid defending of a well-drilled opposition.

The lack of imagination from the home side was epitomised by the fact that James Shutt's first save from a weak header by Prindiville was not until ten minutes before the break.

The second half saw a constant barrage of corners and free kicks in Borough's favour. It seemed as though the afternoon's frustration would continue as the Manor Park men were simply denied by numbers as Guseley packed nine, ten and often eleven behind the ball, in a desperate attempt to keep their lead intact.

Mackenzie was then called into action with a superb one-handed tip over from Shuttleworth in a rare Guseley foray. Dave Hanson entered the fray after 58 minutes at the expense of Delton Francis and made a massive impact.

His size and general presence upset the Guseley back line instantly as he won everything in the air.

Indeed, it was his chest down and lay off that led to Borough gaining a lifeline. As the ball came down he calmly brought the ball under control and O'Connor, who twisted to gain a yard on his man and pulled the ball back for Barry Williams to force home.

It was the breakthrough Borough had been seeking and the crowd sensed there was more to come as O'Connor set off on a mazy run only to be crowded out. Ducros warmed the keeper's hands again with a terrific free-kick as the equaliser looked more likely.

Williams, then O'Connor again tested Shutt's agility but he was powerless when Hanson was set free in the inside right channel.

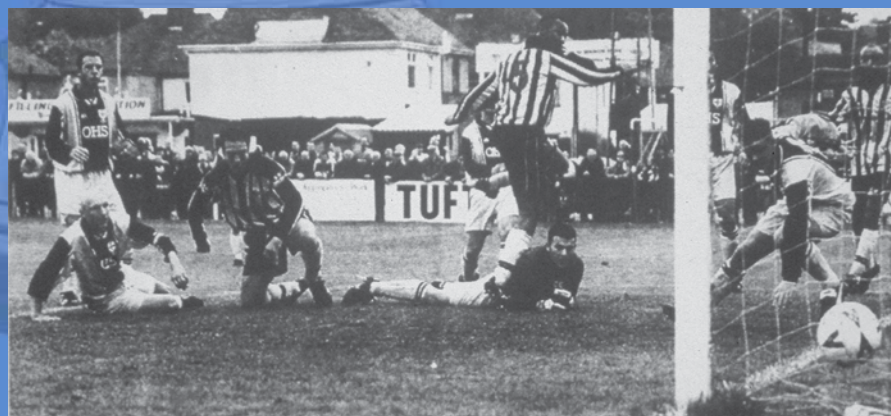
After being on the field just eight minutes, the big man sent the crowd into absolute delirium as his crashing right foot drive brought about the equaliser.

Surely now there was only one winner as heads dropped and confidence drained out of the visitors. The game had changed and Guseley had to seek a third goal.

Borough piled on the pressure and threw more and more forward as they tried to grab a sensational winner.

Shots were blocked and bodies thrown as Guseley desperately defended their goal, but there was another shock in store for Borough. Angus lost possession as he trod on the ball and allowed Simon Parke to score his second goal of the game.

The remaining 15 minutes were agony for Borough as they pressed for the goal that would bring a replay. Sadly, it wasn't to be as Borough were once again despatched by Northern League opponents.



Barry Williams, on bended knee, watches Borough's first goal enter the net.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Guiseley — 2nd Round

Borough made the journey to Nethermoor Park to play Guiseley in a FA Trophy 2nd Round tie.

Guiseley: Shutt, Parsley, Hogarth, Hook, Nettleton, Poole, Shuttleworth, Williams, Gallagher, Parke, Gallagher. Subs: Zoll, Bulgin, Stancliffe, Brooks, Sanders.

Borough: Mackenzie, Thackeray, Prindiville, Simpson, Williams, Angus, Wray, Muir, Ducros, Francis, Hanson. Subs: Crowley, Shoemake, Murphy, Reed, Blake.

Simon Parke put a shot wide as early as the first minute, but the offside flag was up anyway. Lee Poole put a shot wide from 20 yard as Borough struggled to make an impact.

Ducros won a free-kick 30 yards out and Muir picked his spot but James Shutt pulled off a tremendous save. It was the first of a series of saves from the home keeper as he was kept busy all game.

Borough looked good in possession and battled to get the ball back when it was lost and Parsley conceded an unnecessary corner as he failed to head back to Shutt only for Ducros to waste the kick at the second attempt.

Hanson's shot was tipped over for a corner before Ducros saw a goal bound effort deflected wide.

Borough looked much calmer than their opponents as they passed neatly, used the ball well and created space. Hanson dug out a great cross from the right to find Shaun Wray who forced an incredible save from Shutt.

Guiseley had lost their way as Muir and Ducros, linking well with Hanson and Francis, had them chasing shadows. So it was a shock when the home team took a 26th minute lead.

Neil Parsley's mis-hit pass somehow found Lee Poole as he diagonally entered the area left to right.

The midfielder then found the strength to hold off Prindiville and create enough room at the near post to unleash a shot that comprehensively beat Mackenzie.

Borough had been rocked to the core and couldn't believe they were behind, but three minutes later they conceded again after Poole galloped away down the right and split the defence to find Parke.

Angus seemed to have all angles covered as he tried to shepherd the ball out for a goal kick and failed dreadfully as Parke was then faced with Mackenzie and a tight angle but he side stepped the keeper and crashed the ball home.

Borough were soon back in control as the half drew to a close and Francis shot wide from a bicycle kick.

Dave Crowley came on for Ian Muir after the break and his physical presence was certainly required. Ten minutes into the half Shutt pulled off another great save, this time from Williams after Prindiville's thunderbolt had been charged down.

The keeper was called into action when forced into a desperate punch through a crowd from Ducros' corner and then tipped away a header from Hanson.

Delton Francis made way for Ian Reed before Thackeray's cross forced Parsley into conceding a corner as Borough pummelled their hosts.

Borough had a big scare though just after the hour when Simpson gifted Parke with possession, and he played a clever one-two with Agana, but Mackenzie made a good save to smother the danger.

From that point it was eleven men back and defend for your lives as Guiseley desperately held on to their lead.

Williams had the ball in net, but was offside, then Ducros' mazy run found space for a cross from the left only for Hogarth to scramble clear at the near post.

Ged Murphy came on and was soon in the thick of the action and he put in a cross that found Hanson unmarked, but his header was saved by Shutt.

Borough's hopes were fading as the minutes ticked away and they desperately threw everything at Guiseley. However, it wasn't enough and seconds before the final whistle a skull and crossbones was draped over the fence to signify the death of another cup run for Borough.

Credit has to go to Guiseley for not wilting under enormous pressure but there is no doubt they will admit to being fortunate.



Simon Parke is congratulated after scoring Guiseley's second goal.

Photo: Airedale & Wharfedale Observer

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 2



Nationwide Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1999-2000

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
07.17	Deeping Rangers	H	PSF	6-1	Blake (3), B. Williams, Reed, Roberts (o.g.)	434
07.20	West Bromwich Albion	H	PSF	0-4		1186
07.24	Stalybridge Celtic	A	PSF	1-0	Angus	219
07.27	Cambridge United	H	PSF	3-1	B. Williams, O'Connor, Blake	698
07.31	Kings Lynn	A	PSF	2-1	Thackeray, Ducros	359
08.03	Derby County	H	PSF	0-3		1128
08.07	Sutton Coldfield Town	H	SCM	1-0	Reed	744
08.10	Bedworth United	A	PSF	0-1		510
08.14	Hayes	H	L	2-1	Ducros (2)	2186
08.17	Hereford United	A	L	1-1	O'Connor	2551
08.21	Dover Athletic	A	L	1-3	Thackeray	1087
08.24	Yeovil Town	H	L	1-1	Hanson	2216
08.28	Northwich Victoria	H	L	3-1	O'Connor, Hanson, Prindiville (pen)	2084
08.30	Hednesford Town	A	L	0-0		1622
09.04	Forest Green Rovers	A	L	2-1	Muir (2 pens)	910
09.11	Welling United	H	L	4-3	B. Williams (3), Ducros	2007
09.13	Kidderminster Harriers	A	L	2-1	Ryder, Ducros	3152
09.18	Scarborough	A	L	1-1	Hanson	1662
09.25	Altrincham	H	L	3-1	Francis (2), Ducros	2205
10.02	Southport	H	L	0-2		2519
10.04	Hednesford Town	A	NMT1	2-1	O'Connor (2)	456
10.09	Doncaster Rovers	A	L	1-0	O'Connor	3407
10.16	Guiseley	H	FAC4Q	2-3	B. Williams, Hanson	2175
10.23	Sutton United	H	L	2-0	Muir (pen), Ducros	1766
10.30	Telford United	A	L	0-1		1217
11.02	Rushden & Diamonds	H	L	1-1	Angus	4490
11.06	Woking	A	L	1-1	Francis	1711
11.09	Doncaster Rovers	A	NMT2	0-4		1245
11.12	Kingstonian	H	L	2-0	Crossley (o.g.), Ducros	3203
11.20	Telford United	H	L	1-1	Ford (o.g.)	2203
11.27	Guiseley	A	FAT2	0-2		597
11.30	Altrincham	A	L	2-2	Wray, Ducros	763
12.04	Forest Green Rovers	H	L	2-3	Prindiville, Straw	1929
12.11	Northwich Victoria	A	L	1-3	Francis	1125
12.14	Bedworth United	H	BSC2	1-2	B. Williams	348
12.18	Sutton United	A	L	2-1	Ware (2)	749
12.27	Kettering Town	H	L	0-1		3602
01.03	Kettering Town	A	L	1-1	Ware	2598
01.08	Kidderminster Harriers	H	L	2-3	Thackeray, McDermott	2596
01.22	Dover Athletic	H	L	0-2		1608
01.29	Welling United	A	L	0-0		708
02.05	Stevenage Borough	A	L	1-2	Thackeray	1711
02.12	Morecambe	H	L	1-1	Ducros	1411
02.19	Yeovil Town	A	L	3-1	Broughton, Murphy, Wray	2629
03.04	Hereford United	H	L	0-1		1947
03.11	Scarborough	H	L	1-1	McDermott	1351
03.18	Kingstonian	A	L	0-2		985
03.25	Doncaster Rovers	H	L	0-0		1723
04.01	Rushden & Diamonds	A	L	1-1	Wray	4144
04.04	Southport	A	L	0-2		1064
04.15	Peterborough United	H	F	2-2	Prendergast, Blake (pen)	195

Nationwide Conference: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1999-2000

Nuneaton Scores First

Date	Opposition	Venue	Competition	Score	Scorers	Attendance
04.22	Woking	H	L	0-1		1355
04.24	Morecambe	A	L	1-1	Broughton	1620
04.29	Stevenage Borough	H	L	0-1		1250
05.01	Hednesford Town	H	L	3-0	Francis (2), Wray	1369
05.06	Hayes	A	L	0-3		703

KEY : L = Conference, SCM = Southern League Championship Match, FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy,
NMT= Nationwide Macmillan Trophy, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1999-2000

Back Row (left to right): Richard Williams, Steve Burr (Coach), Brendan Phillips (Manager), Shaun Wray, Barry Williams, Terry Angus, Kevin Shoemake (Reserves Manager), Jon Brown, Chris McKenzie, David Crowley, Ian Muir, Richie Norman (Physio), Dave Draper (Development Officer), Stuart Ryder.

Front Row (left to right): Delton Francis, Andy Ducros, Wayne Simpson, Marvin Blake, Ian Reed, Steve Prindiville, Andy Thackeray, Brett Healey, Leigh Everitt.

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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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