

Do They Mean Us?

"He also visited some of the pubs used by football fans in Leeds, Batley, and Dewsbury, and told them that Manchester United fans would be amongst the marchers in Leeds on 26th November. No doubt he was relying on the known hatred of Man United or "scum" as they are known in West Yorkshire, to provoke a street confrontation"

Leeds BNP document - March 1995, commenting on a Leeds anti-racist march. If we recall correctly, the score that day was MUAF 1 - Leeds Scum 0.

"Ankers (the Dublin rioter spotted on TV in a United hat) was later dragged out of a pub and supposedly beaten to a pulp, allegedly by Red Attitude sympathisers. This new virulently anti-fascist 'zine had been threatening to make a mark for some time with its pro-aggro hardline against the BNP, NF and C18"

"Some had the additional concern of a promised visit from Combat 18 up to wreak vengeance on those who had attacked Jason Ankers, apparently. Red Attitude sellers kept their heads well above the parapet on Warwick Rd, secure in the knowledge that their handy young men propped up by the railings were not just there to take in the afternoon air"

"A week before the game, a red dominated anti-fascist group had battled with blue-hued loyalists and neo-nazis outside the 'Clarence' pub yards from Maine Rd"

As the Reds Go Marching On..! - The Unofficial Story of United's '94/'95 Season - Richard Kurt.

MAIL ORDER

The following merchandise can be ordered direct from MUAF. Please make cheques payable to Red Attitude.

Back issues of **Red Attitude**, no's 3, 5 and 6. 50p each plus A5 SAE.

Fighting Talk, no's 10, 11 and 12. The journal of Anti-Fascist Action. £1.50 inc P&P.

MUAF T-Shirts. £6 inc P&P.

MUAF Stickers. £1 for 20 inc P&P.

Tiocfadh Ar La. Celtic and Ireland fanzine, no's 9, 10, 11 and 12. £1.50 each inc P&P.

AFA - In The Area. Introduction to Manchester Anti-Fascist Action. FREE with SAE.

Wake Up, Huge fanzine packed full of stuff about Beggars ITA, American Indians, MI5, The Black Panthers, etc. £4 inc P&P.

FUTURE ACTIVITY

Celtic Trip

MUAF are planning a trip to Glasgow to watch Celtic later on in the season. This might be organised in conjunction with Celtic Anti-Fascists. Drop us a line if you are interested.

Social

We are also planning a social evening with local bands and DJ's sometime towards the end of the season. You will be notified nearer the date.

Man. Utd Anti Fascists

Newsletter #1

Winter 1995

What is Fascism?

Many people see fascists as being nothing more than just a bunch of organised racists, and without wishing to underplay the special threat posed to black people by the fascists, it has to be understood that fascism poses a threat to everyone, regardless of the colour of their skins.

Fascism has been described as "a razor in the hands of the bosses". In times of economic crisis, fascism has been used by the rich and powerful to divide working class opposition by providing convenient scapegoats to blame for the crisis. It was the Jews in Germany in the 1930's, it could be the blacks and Asians in Britain today.

Whenever fascists have got to power, they have protected the interests of the wealthy by destroying hard fought for liberties and rights. Under fascism you have no freedom, no say, and no vote. There is not even the facade of democracy.

Fascists see football and football supporters as an important source of recruits. It is still the case that most football supporters are young, white and male, and in addition are willing to fight for what they believe in. That is why the likes of C18 target football firms. That is why they have to be stopped.

Welcome to the first issue of the Manchester United Anti-Fascists newsletter. This newsletter is intended as an irregular publication designed to keep members and supporters of MUAF up to date with news and activities of the group.

MUAF and Red Attitude were set up by a group of anti-fascist United supporters who were concerned that fascists in the North-West were beginning to get active around football grounds in the area.

We'd been aware for a while that the BNP and the NF had tried to recruit football supporters at Blackburn Rovers, Burnley, Rochdale, Oldham Athletic and Wigan Athletic. We'd also received unconfirmed reports that they had also attempted to hold paper sales at City, Everton and Stoke City. It appeared to be only a matter of time before they chanced their arm at Old Trafford. We in turn were determined that they would receive a hostile reception if they showed their faces at United.

So when C18 graffiti started appearing around Old Trafford, it became clear that something would have to be done. Even if no fascist intervention was imminent it would at least give us a chance to prepare and organise the opposition.

We are firm believers in the old adage that "where there are fascists, there will also be anti-fascists". Usually however they will be isolated and unorganised, unaware that others share their opinions. Isolation leaves people vulnerable to attack and lacking the confidence

MUAF - PO Box 83, SWDO, Manchester, M15 5NJ

to tackle the problem. We decided that this would not be the case at Old Trafford.

With this in mind, some United supporters from Anti-Fascist Action got together with sympathetic reds, and *Red Attitude* and *MUAF* were launched.

We like to think that in our first season as a group that we can claim some small successes, despite at times coming under attack from everyone from the News of the World to the Football Supporters Association.

Thankfully there has never been much of a problem with racism at Old Trafford, but there has always been the odd loud-mouthed bigot who thinks it's clever to abuse footballers because of their skin colour, nationality, or religion. These people need to be challenged before others start believing that this kind of behaviour is acceptable. It is now more commonplace for these people to be confronted. While this change of attitude is not entirely due to *MUAF*, we've certainly done our bit.

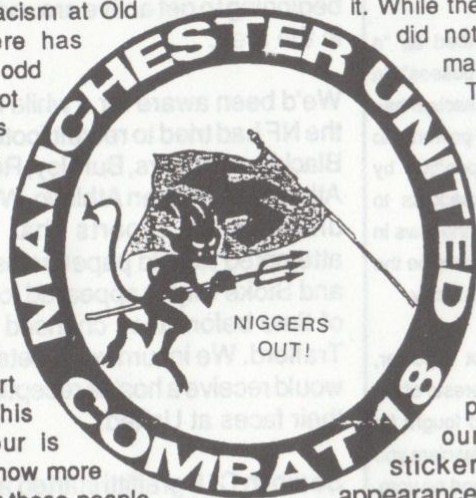
Elsewhere, we've thwarted attempts by the likes of C18 to infiltrate football supporters at Maine Rd, when a recruitment drive at the Clarence pub in Rusholme was nipped in the bud by a "red dominated anti-fascist group" (we weren't tipped off - honest!). A similar attempt to infiltrate the Burnley Suicide Squad was also stopped. Several other incidents of

a similar nature have meant that any possible plans C18 might have had for Old Trafford have had to be put on hold for the time being. Meanwhile, it has also become common practise for United supporters unaligned to *MUAF* to confront fascists when they come across them.

In addition, *Red Attitude* regularly sells out of its print run, and thousands of *MUAF* stickers and hundreds of T-shirts have been sold.

While all this is good news, we are not complacent. Fascism has a tendency to rear its ugly head when you least expect it. While the fascist intervention did not materialise in the manner expected at Old Trafford (possibly due to the arrival of *MUAF*), they do still maintain a low level of activity around the ground, as witnessed by the recent spate of 'Manchester United C18' stickers (a very poor quality rip-off of our own esteemed stickers), and the appearance towards the end of last season of a C18 'hit-squad' (unfortunately the boys in blue prevented a full and frank discussion taking place). Additionally there is always the threat of a visit from fascist supporters of other teams, notably, Chelsea, West Ham, Bolton, etc.

There is still plenty to do, and your help is always needed. If you want to get involved, write to our address, or see one of the Red Attitude sellers on Sir Matt Busby Way.



"What is less of a problem in football is organised fascism" - Adam Brown. FSA.

While the likes of the FSA might like to pretend that fascism in football can be ignored (because they have no idea how to deal with it), and while things certainly aren't as bad as they were in the 1970's, it would be foolish to ignore the growing fascist influence within football.

No-one, least of all *MUAF*, is pretending that the problem is massive at Old Trafford, but it is growing nationally. At the moment the fascists are still weak and unorganised at most football grounds, why wait until they are strong and organised before challenging them?

Below we present a list of recent examples of fascist involvement at football. This list is far from complete, as there are other examples too numerous to mention, but is merely intended to highlight the growing problem.

93/94

Chelsea Headhunters, including C18 members attack United supporters drinking in Kilburn prior to the FA Cup Final. This follows a pattern set by C18 during England games when Irish people in the area were attacked before matches at Wembley.

94/95

(i) C18 members attack Chelsea Independent Supporters Association

(CISA) following the first game of the season. Previously those involved in CISA had published anti-racist articles in their fanzine. C18 follow this up with a further attack on CISA after Chelsea's game in Prague.

(ii) BNP supporters attempt to recruit City supporters in the 'Clarence' before City's FA Cup game against Villa. Attempt disrupted by 'persons unknown'.

(iii) England supporters including C18 and NF members riot in Dublin.

(iv) Glasgow Rangers ICF Casuals, which is heavily fascist influenced, randomly attack two innocent men in Glasgow, nearly blinding one. Police treat the attacks as 'attempted murder'. Earlier in the year,

during a pre-season tournament in Glasgow, a joint Rangers and Newcastle mob, including fascists attempt to attack United supporters due to our large Irish support, and alleged Catholicism.

95/96

A large mob of fascists from various clubs including Arsenal, West Ham, Chelsea, Villa, Birmingham City, amongst others attempt to attack Celtic supporters during their pre-season friendly against Birmingham City. This is due to Celtic's support for republicanism and strong anti-fascist reputation. After a few early successes, the fascists had the tables turned on them (literally), and the Celts ran out clear winners.

Fascists? What Fascists?

