

MARCHING ALTOGETHER

Leeds Fans Against Racism and Fascism

Elland Road's

Number 21



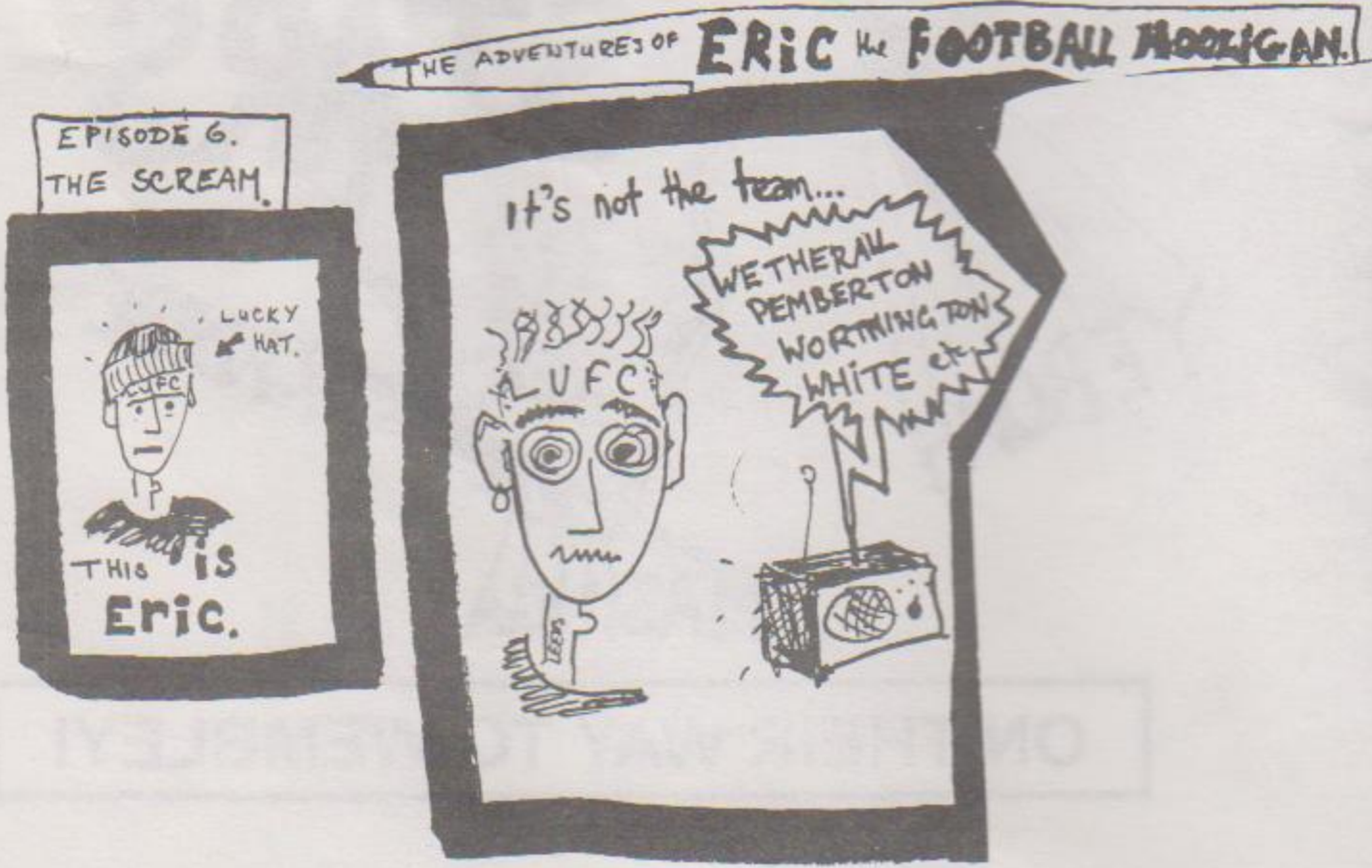
ON THEIR WAY TO WEMBLEY!

EDITORIAL...

Marching Altogether has been with you faithfully for the best part of 8 years now. Lots of things have changed - mostly for the better - during that time. For example, you're unlikely to see any of the racist dickheads trying to sell their papers outside the ground anymore. Players rightly get abused for their antics and their haircuts rather than the colour of their skin. Progress indeed. But if you think that's an end to it, and fanzines like this one have no place anymore, well.....think again.

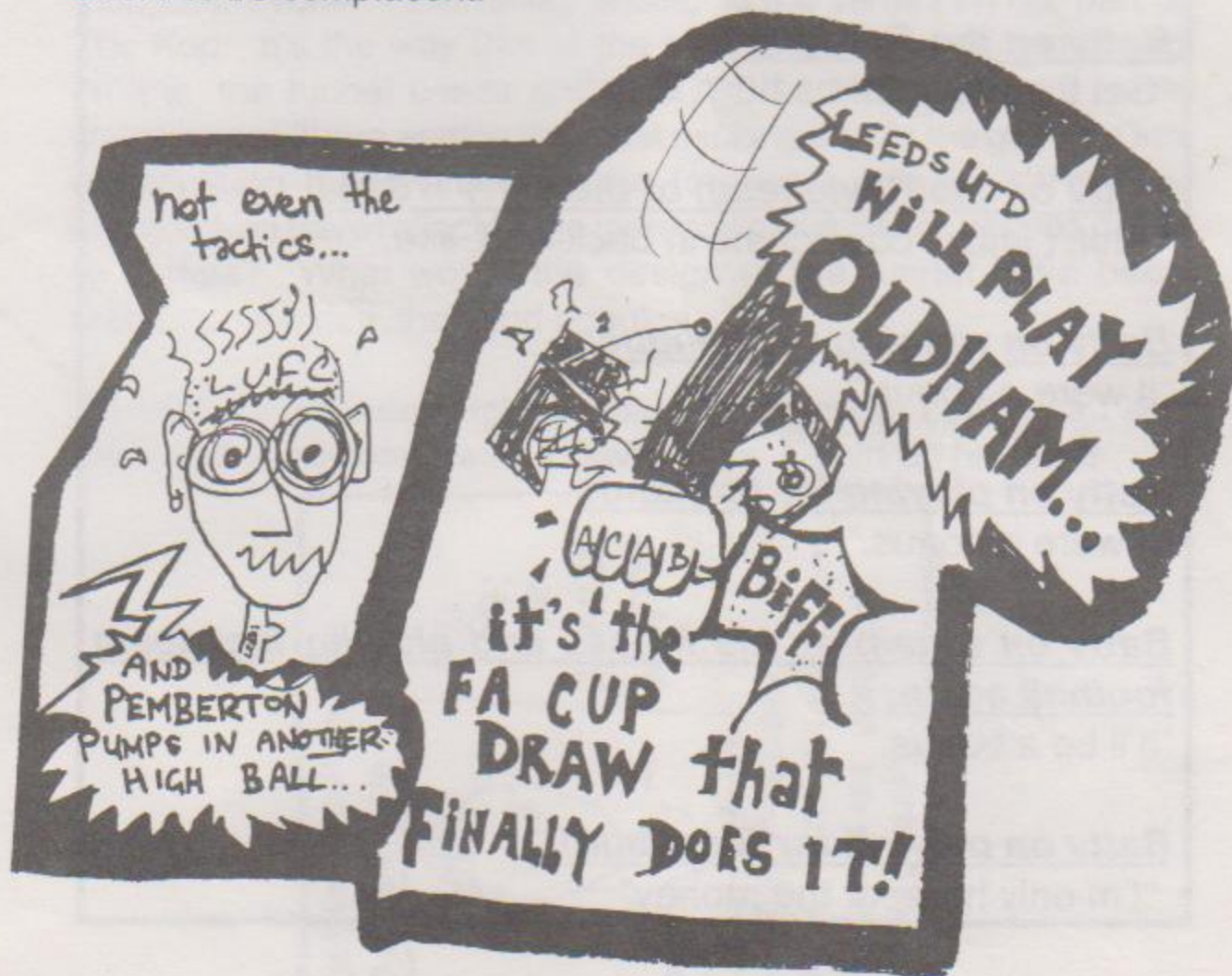
Things might be better at Elland Road, but they're a long way off being perfect. Just recently there seems to have been a resurgence of well-dodgy comments being made. It's mainly individuals muttering something under their breath, whereas previously it might have been whole groups chanting at the tops of their voices, but it's **still there**. The underlying attitude is still the same.

Just what exactly is causing it is hard to say. But it does seem to have coincided with the signing of Yeboah - "Another black" as the



bloke that sits next to me so eloquently put it. Is it that we've reached some mystery saturation point - that it's alright to have a certain number of black players, but anymore is unacceptable? The "oh-no-not-another-unknown-African" remarks (for more comment on that one see elsewhere in this fanzine), and the oh-so-witty comments about Masinga / Radebe / Yeboah's mums washing their kits in the river may not be as blatant as stuff we heard in the 70's/80's but they are just as racist. They're just as unacceptable it's up to us all to make that clear to them.

Campaigns like this one, and the F.S.A. national "Kick Racism Out Of Football" campaign (in which Leeds fans have been actively involved) are, unfortunately, far from being redundant yet. It's not even just about stopping the racist remarks / chants on the terraces. It's also about encouraging more black fans to come to matches. That is something the clubs, as well as the fans' campaigns, ought to be addressing. And unfortunately most of them aren't really. Token gestures aren't good enough. Real commitment and a lot of hard work are required. There's a long way to go before we can afford to be complacent.



THE WIT AND WISDOM OF MERCENARY FOOTBALLERS:

NO 4: DAVID BATTY

Having just gone through a third operation on that troublesome foot of his, with little prospect of premiership football for the rest of this season, M.A. have become increasingly worried that Batty's career will be over before we have had chance to encapsulate his peculiar brand of Leeds wisdom for posterity. So, for the first time we put forward David's views on a range of topics as a lesson to us all on living life to the full.

Batty on life as a First Team Player:

"We get us arses wiped really."

Batty on food:

"I eat owt, me."

Batty on the Gulf War:

"Get them Saddams beat, lads."

Batty on the Revie team of the early '70's:

"I don't know, cos I came in back-end, like."

Batty on winning the League:

"It were a bonus."

Batty on playing for England:

"It were a bonus."

Batty on regaining his fitness and playing first team football again:

"It'll be a bonus."

Batty on playing for Blackburn:

"I'm only here for the money"

THE MANDY BATTY COLUMN

FROM THE SAD LEEDS FAN IN THE LAST ISSUE...

Because I'm not in any way a sad or bitter person, I would like to be the first to congratulate David Batty on his latest arrivals.

Interestingly enough, I came across a bit of trivia on the same day as hearing about David. Apparently, the rate of divorce is higher in incidences of multiple births.

With this in mind, I eagerly looked out for him at the Blackburn game to congratulate him personally (and to remind him he's actually meant to be wedding me at some point), but this was to no avail. Looks like I'll have to settle for the rather cute sailor who was up for the game from Portsmouth. I didn't get your name, but Row 24, Seat 107 - you know who you are, and by the way, ta for the loan of your knee / thigh everytime Lukic had possession.

Talking of recent reproductions, the new players' tunnel is a bit of a thought-provoker. "Extremely phallic" is the verdict on our part of The Kop. It's the way that at the start of each game, the crowd erupts, the tunnel erects and WHOOSH....all the players come shooting out (there ending the most exciting part of the game). One observation made amongst our lot was: shouldn't the new construction have reflected the increasing number of women going to games? What would the design of the tunnel have been then?.....mmmm, the mind boggles.

Oh well, it's Saturday night, so back to 7 pints of Lowenbrau and the stand-in boyfriend with a David Batty T-shirt on his head.



LEEDS UTD AND THE NOT-SO-PREMIER LEAGUE

The win against Arsenal was enjoyable to watch and richly deserved, despite an appallingly priced seat at the back of a "lower tier". Wilko obviously knew how low, and deliberately fielded our tallest ever side, leaving Radebe, Palmer, Deane and Wetherall all with no heads on the far touchline. Nevertheless, the team looked relaxed and in control until we scored - and then started to show signs of sitting on a one goal lead. This is a question of confidence that never afflicted us during the championship season. Remember Spurs, when Eric came on at 2-1 up, to make it 3-1 in minutes with stunning attacking football?

The team, the management and the club as a whole are still recovering from the post-championship season. Shore up the barricades! Plug those Lukics, I mean, leaks!! We've now "progressed" from playing Fairclough in midfield, to playing two centre-backs in midfield! As a midfield player, Palmer will always be a hard running, heart and soul Graham Taylor reject. Instead, we must look to Palmer and Radebe as our two skilful

centre-backs, with a class midfield in front of it. So why oh why did we sell David Batty?

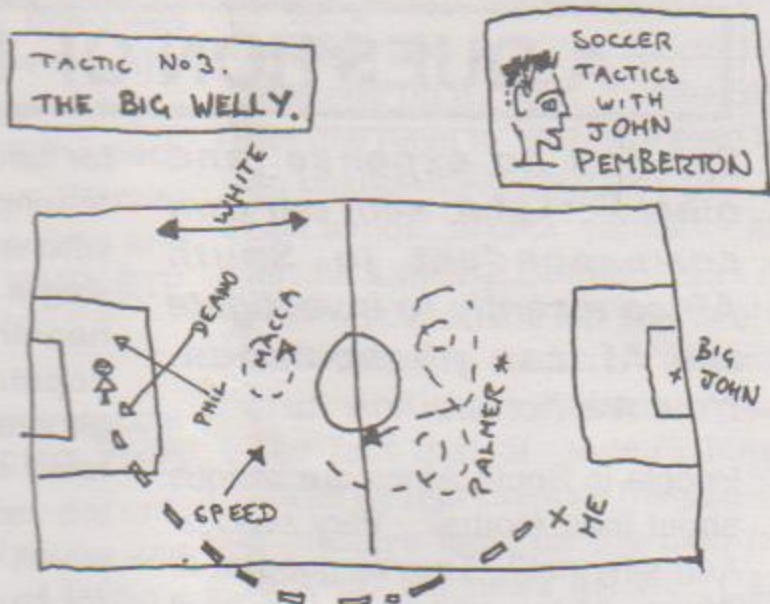
After Arsenal, we didn't score in 4 league games. When Masinga was through for his second goal, he only got as far as the oh-so-comical rebounds because he didn't have the confidence to shoot when he first got the ball on the edge of the area. We've now scored an incredible 12 goals in 3 games largely because of the boost he got from his first brilliant goal against Walsall. Yeboah's value as a signing will be in terms of confidence boosting as much as the goals he scores.

Wilko can be blamed for three transfer fiascos - Cantona, Rocastle and Batty - and for leaving the club with only 2 real midfield players (even Tinkler's a centre back!), one of whom should probably be a winger! But apart from that, he's won us promotion, the League, stopped us from going down and kept us in the top 7 or 8 for most of the last five years. His buying of Chapman, Strachan and Whyte back then even started a league-wide trend of building

round experienced players. As a club, we must look to Strachan as our next long-term manager, and surely must allow Wilko a second chance to prove himself.

Things are not all his fault. Premier League football is fast becoming the dog-fight that the old 2nd division was. Everyone from Spurs / Wimbledon / us in sixth place and down (the relegation zone), is scared to lose. The likes of Dumitrescu

and Amokachi, brilliant on a world stage, cannot get places in Premier League sides. Yet Everton and Spurs have been more *effective* without them. Masinga and Radebe are TOP African players - yet both are unable to instantly state their case in an English side. Would Stoichkov, current European Footballer Of The Year, be able to command a place in a mid-table Premier League side? Probably not. Yet we can win at Arsenal with our defenders in midfield, and Deane and Whelan playing just in front of the full-backs! English football must sometime, and soon, face up to the fact that our club and national sides are not world class, while world class players are not good enough for our game!?! The sad reality of English football is that a Palmer is always more *effective* than a Le Tissier. Wilko has made his mistakes, but the efforts he is now making to help us rise above the mid-winter mud of Premier League mediocrity, should be applauded, encouraged and given time to succeed.



AFTER DETAILED TACTICAL ANALYSIS THE GAFFA SUGGESTED I BY-PASS THE MID-FIELD AND PLAY IN THE EARLY BALL TO THE BIG LADS UP FRONT. CURIOUSLY IT REMINDED ME OF HAPPY TIMES AT BRAMALL LANE.

*not sure why Carlton does this. Either its a decay run or he's been smoking that stuff in the dressing room again.

Quality football -ON! ON! ON!

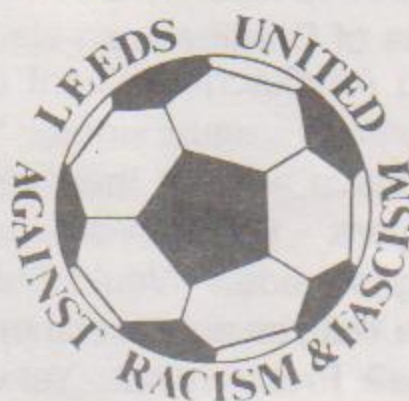
A QUESTION OF RESPECT

Sparing no expense (and other lies) M.A. sent our own correspondent to South Africa recently to investigate the African phenomenon. Now read on.....

People in South Africa are serious about their football. Very serious. And why not? They're good at it. South Africa will host the next African Nations Cup, but in Johannesburg they're already talking about the World Cup, and not just hosting it, winning it. Having successfully guessed the result of the Arsenal game before Xmas, I feel a prediction coming on: SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE THE FIRST AFRICAN TEAM TO WIN THE WORLD CUP IN 2002. Remember: you read it first in *Marching Altogether*. Not that they're there yet. I watched them play Ghana in a friendly and although they won, they were no match really for the extraordinary "unknown" Ghanaians. Those people play football at a level of skill and artistry most English managers can't even imagine, never mind emulate. Anyway, what this article is about is a lack of respect for African football.

South Africans I met weren't crazy about "Chippa" Masinga - not like they are about Doctor Kumalo for instance, their seriously cool international midfield man - but they know he's good and they are keen

for him to succeed here. "Waltzing Masinga" raised appreciative smiles whenever I was drunk enough to sing it and also made a full page headline in the country's most popular football magazine. In general, Radebe is the more highly rated of the two and he is part of the rock-solid central defence on which South Africa has based its recent success at international level. How well would England do if they played in Zambia for example? I wonder! In South Africa people talk knowledgeably about the world game and they know and value foreign players as well as taking pride in their own. Compare this with the catalogue of sneers and condescension showered on our South Africans in England:



Well, it started with Gordon Taylor of the P.F.A. making insulting comments about cut-price foreign imports. Can't seem to remember him saying the same thing about Klinsmann, but there you go. Is the implication that we're so good in England we need a good dose of insularity? I thought that was the cause of our problems.

Going a bit further back, there was "super coach" Don Howe in the World Cup telling us these foreigners couldn't stand the pace in our super-competitive Premier League. It's a popular view and you'd have to say it's COMPLETE AND UTTER BOLLOCKS.

I read a miserable trendy soccer mag called FOUR FOUR TWO recently - bad move. They not only hate Leeds, but cited Radebe and Masinga as examples of Wilko's desperation.

The worst one was Hansen, Mr Smooth Bastard, I'm-Such-A-Clever-Git-On-Telly, taking the piss out of Masinga and his second goal at Highbury on Match of the Day. Well, it was a lucky goal, but he did beat two men to make it and could you imagine Hansen doing the same to the treacherous French psychopath if he scored a lucky goal (unheard of!). It was a totally unwarranted attack and showed a basic lack of respect.

Then of course, there's Wilko. Won't play Radebe, an experienced international (Pemberton, Weatherall and Worthington are better?) and when he does put him in, he plays him out of position in midfield. He substitutes Masinga when he's by far our best player (against QPR) when he's on a hat-trick and has scored five goals in one and a bit games. When's the last time a Leeds player did that?

The night of that game I hear a voice in the crowd say "We should keep Masinga on as sub....". What does the guy have to do? But then he's an unknown African, isn't he? We can almost accept Yeboah - after all he's nearly German, isn't he? Although even the top scorer of the Bundesliga can be an "unknown" to us. And where is Ghana anyway? The fact that at today's lunatic prices he represents a bargain and a massive tonic for the club (and fuck do we need it!) won't stop mutterings about "unknown" Africans if he isn't an instant success.

The good news is there seems to be a real acceptance of and respect for black English players like Deano, but it does not extend in the same way to Africans with their "suspect temperaments" and all that crap. Africa is already a soccer continent to rival anything Europe or South America can offer. Although Elland Road and Wilko, through his bold decisions to buy these great players, are moving in the right direction, there is still a problem with many people's attitude to Africa, which, when all is said and done, is just plain racist.



EURO '96

So where will you be out drinking in June 1996? Don't know yet? Well, the chances are that if you're anywhere in the middle of Leeds you could be sitting chatting about the game with a crowd of Germans, or French, or Estonians, or Maldivians orwell, you'll find out exactly who next January.

In sixteen months time England plays host to the largest ever sports competition to hit our shores - bigger than the 1966 World Cup and infinitely more exciting than any World Darts or Snooker finals, Euro '96 is nearly upon us.

In council offices up and down the country, people with important job titles are just beginning to realise the implications of thousands of foreign football fans arriving in their town. And down in Lancaster Gate the F.A. are smiling broadly at the thought of all the money flowing into the game (but where?) and rubbing their hands at the possibility of staging the World Cup in 2006. But are we ready for this?

Members of the M.A. collective have joined up with other fans as part of the Football Supporters Association's campaign to get supporters here involved with Euro '96 organisation, and the feeling across the country is that those doing the organising are only slowly facing up to the enormity of the task.

Take the issue of tickets. Firstly, how much publicity has there really been to excite English fans about the international football on show in their own stadia? Secondly, how did the F.A. ever come up with a plan that says you must buy two tickets for all previous rounds' games to qualify for one final ticket? It promises to be a tout's paradise.

Doubtless there will be some operatic concert put on featuring the three tenors (and costing at least that!), but how will foreign fans spend most of their days here

between games? We have the chance to have a great international occasion, with friendships struck up between fans of all countries and some of the greatest football available anywhere actually showing at Elland Road and other grounds. That's why the F.S.A. thinks it crucial that fans are involved in the organisation from the start. Leeds' own Kenny Rogers (sorry,

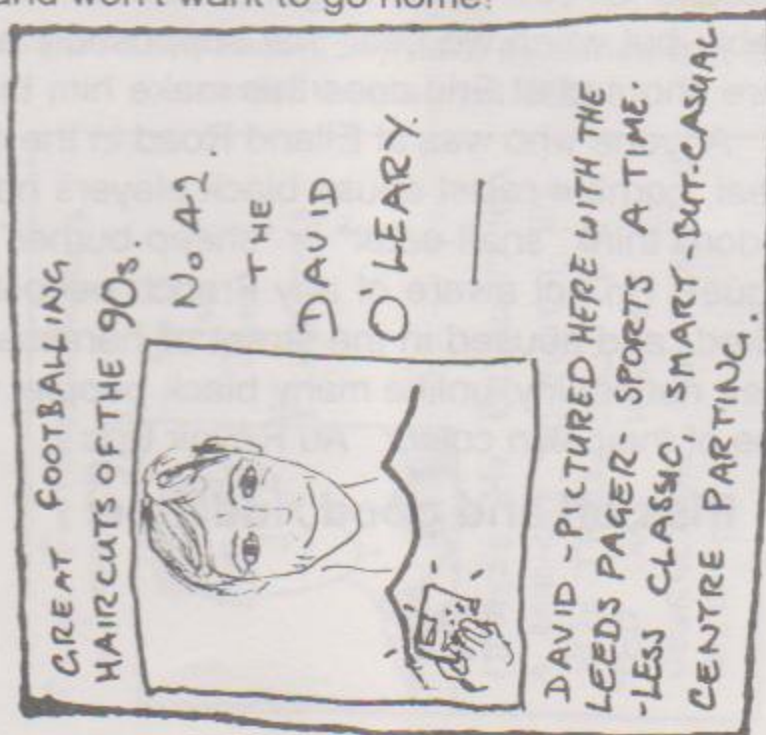
Alan Roberts) has a starring role in the organisation of games in Leeds and Newcastle, so we already have a strong connection. Secondly, Elland Road stages the England versus Sweden game this summer as a pre-Euro '96 tournament - the first time the national team has played outside Wembley in thirty years.

So watch out for chances to get involved in supporters' meetings in the coming months and most of all look forward to the chance of Leeds attracting Europe's greatest footballers - with any luck they'll like it here and won't want to go home!

MA - the voice of the fans



"Here boss some of the fans seem to think we need another midfielder."



ooh aah Canton-ha-ha-ha

Enough has been said about the Frenchman already, so I won't drone. I don't care whether he's a genius and a loss to football or not. The fact is that Cantona is an arrogant thug who kicks people when he doesn't get his own way. If you look at his career, Wilko is the only manager who has been able to control him for any time (not that he gets any credit for it). Wilko saw the signs that Cantona was starting to play up (and failing to do the business on the pitch - let's be clear about that, he was crap when the going got tough), and got shot of him.....and stop moaning about Wilko helping Man U. - what about Strachan coming the other way and taking us from nowhere to the title.

Cantona's one moment of madness? What about everything that happened in France, the kick in the head at Norwich, the stamp on Moncur of Swindon, the two-footed tackle on Macca, the spitting at fans at Elland Road?

Which leads us on to the next thing - if the fan in question was a nazi then I've got no sympathy for him (and he has made lots of money out of all this). But nevertheless the excuse that Cantona was verbally provoked put forward by Gordon Taylor of the PFA and others just doesn't ring true. Fans pay a lot of money and they are entitled to shout at players, especially those who encourage this by their actions. Of course we've got standards. Racist abuse is not acceptable but when we hear that supposedly anti-French comments were shouted at Eric does this make him the victim of racist abuse? Anyone who was at Elland Road in the mid-1980's knows what real, horrible racist abuse black players had to suffer at the time. I don't think "snail-eater" or "sheep-burner" is quite in the same league! I'm not aware of any French people in Britain who get attacked and abused in the street or harassed at home because of their nationality, unlike many black people who suffer abuse because of their skin colour. Au Revoir Eric....

Piss off and good riddance!

A VIEW FROM THE NORTH EAST CORNER

Eric Cantona, once the darling of Leeds United, has been cast as the devil in red and as soon as he slaps some racist Cockney thug around we hear it is the "blackest day in football" according to Des Lineham.....and what of Hillsborough, Heysel, Bradford City? Police incompetence killed 95 football fans at Hillsborough and we faced a total whitewash by the authorities. Most of the Premier League clubs are only concerned with their share-prices, so safety comes second (I genuinely hope I'm wrong, but the all-seater rule will eventually create another disaster). There is outrage from the press calling Cantona a "madman" - the same press (The Sun) that called Liverpool fans "Scum" when they were blamed for Hillsborough. The whole spectacle has been one of immense over-reaction. Now Cantona has been made out to be the bad face of the football coin, but just let us stop for one moment. The abuse that many players get at football grounds goes beyond a "competitive spirit" - it is as if some fans hate the fact that they cannot fight anymore inside the grounds that they vent all their violence in a verbal manner. The moron that Cantona hit deserved it, and it's no good saying what if he was a genuine fan expressing an opinion, he was a racist, BNP-supporting moron who deliberately left his seat to goad Cantona - and he got exactly what he deserved. And of course it was oh-so-unique and violent and, hang on a minute, didn't a Leeds United player slap a Leeds "supporter" after the so-called fan had racially abused Albert Johanssen (my old man witnessed that one) - and remember Billy Bremner and Kevin Keegan scrapping on the pitch - and above all, the Cantona incident was very, very funny. Let's get back to reality and back to football, instead of letting it get hijacked by wankers in suits. And let us appreciate that what makes football interesting is not boring bastards like Gary Lineker, but chaotic geniuses like Cantona. If you want the flare you have to take the flak.

(The MA team haven't seen any hard evidence that this guy is a racist thug as yet - Ed)



I'M AN ENGLISHMAN IN HAMBURG.....

Being a Whites fan in Hamburg is not always so easy, as they don't show any English footie on T.V. here, apart from Klinsmann or Rosler have scored, so it's always been world service or Monday morning's papers (when they're delivered at all). The last game I saw the lads play was the depressing game against Liverpool. What a buncha shite! But as I'm writing this, I've heard that Tony Yeboah is moving to Leeds. Watch out for him. He's a cracking player and was one of my faves to watch here. He should fit in well and maybe we'll start scoring again. As far as footie here goes, I've got a season ticket for the infamous St Pauli who play in the German 2nd Division (there ain't no f***ing Premier League here). It's looking like they're going up this year, but they always seem to blow it in the last few games of the season. St Pauli is a great ground to go to, still terraced, you can stand up without problems (at least 50% of the fans do) and the atmosphere at a big game is sound. Nazis don't get a sniff either. St Pauli's got a fine tradition of anti-racism and fan involvement, unlike some of the 1st Division teams, Dresden for example. I don't think it's worth me writing too much about St Pauli and its fans' anti-racism, as it's been well written about before. Keep up the good work and keep the Nazis out of Elland Road.

AFFILIATIONS

Why not support Marching Altogether's reserve midfielder fund by rushing us £3 with which we can try and persuade Wilko (Al Bunday?) it would be a good idea AND get the next three issues of MA through your door.

Cheques payable to
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GREAT FOOTBALLING
HAIRCUTS OF THE
90s.



No 2.
THE
NOEL
WHELAN

NOEL'S STYLISH
CENTRE-PARTING, TRENDY
BUT SHOWS HIS INCREASING
MATURITY.

LEST WE FORGET.....

You will probably have noticed that it's recently been the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camp, Auschwitz. At that place, one and a half million people were murdered by Hitler's Nazis. Most of them were Jews, killed because of their religion, but many others were killed because they were disabled, or gypsies, or Trade Unionists, or Socialists.

What's this got to do with football?

Well, the next time you see Nazi morons from the British National Party hanging around a ground, remember that they think Hitler was great.....and the next time we play Spurs, look out for dickheads making gas noises and singing songs about millions of people being murdered. Tell them that they are racist idiots and that we don't want to hear their shit.....physically, if necessary.



You Were My Sunshine...

Well you can't keep going on bananas forever. Gordon Strachan Our Bloody Ero has finally decided to hang up his boots. It's been coming for a while and we've all been whingeing about how old and slow you are recently. Fair enough lot's of people thought you should have been our super-sub to save your wee legs but we'll never forget your genius and the magic moments you gave us.

They talk about the genius of Cantona, Giggs and co. but in our hearts we know you were the greatest. You took us back to where we belong. I know another dozen players contributed but it was your passion, your commitment and your enthusiasm that enthralled us, inspired us and in the end made people respect us.

Throughout the agony and the ecstasy of the last few years you never let us down. I admit I used to have nightmares about those corners but then I'll never forget the brilliant ones like the one against Villa in the championship season. The 'best midfield in the country'? Where are you now?

