



The Goon Show

The new season's fixture list started well for us mssers - hands up who wasn't Arsenal? I was not happy to see both Ipswich and Norwich relegated last season, as both grounds (apart from being nice stadia with a fairly laid back atmosphere) are within easy reach of where I live, and just as important, they are easy to get away from, with the minimum of traffic congestion. I considered Palaces' relegation to be a bit of a bonus,

because Selhurst Park is not best placed for approach by car so just one visit (for the Wimbledon game) will be enough for me. Readers of the Boro players write up in the Arsenal programme will not doubt be as stunned as I was at the remarkable similarity between Alan Moore and Jan



Robbie Mustoe
won six England 21 caps.



Alan Moore
He's been a regular for the past two seasons. Moore was a member of the Boro team

Fjortoft, and Robbie Mustoe and John Hendrie. Are they by any chance related? I think we should be told.

★ I snatched a week in Corfu during June, and whilst waiting at the luggage carousel I noticed one, two and then a third replica Boro' shirt. It was obviously a family group (mother, father and young son) and so I approached the father and introduced myself as having identical loyalties. We spoke briefly and he told me that he and his family wore their shirts for the journey to Corfu because they had flown out of Newcastle, and just wanted to enjoy the sneers and general unpleasantness that was passed their way as they went through the airport buildings. I wonder if their luggage made it across in one piece?

IT FIGURES

The statistics for Boro's relegation season of 1927-28 are worth a nod of respect, especially when compared to our relegation season of 1981-82:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1927-28	42	11	15	16	81	88	37
1981-82	42	8	15	21	48	63	39

Both teams finished 22nd. I wonder if any other teams have been relegated from any league after scoring 81 or more goals? Answers to mss please.

Incredibly, George Camsell scored 37 league goals that season - so who was the top scorer in the First Division that year? Camsell cannot have been far off, surely. It was a staggering achievement really, when you consider that we only won eleven games all season; He scored four each against Everton and Bury. By way of contrast, in Boro's first division relegation year of 1981-82, we played the same amount of games as in 1927-28, but won only eight. The top scorers that season were Heine Otto, Billy Ashcroft and Bobby Thomson with.....Well, er, five each actually.

It is truly sad that great footballers such as Camsell were born too early - how much would he be worth in today's world football market? It's likely that if George had been told back in the Twenties that players such as he would be millionaires in the 1990's he would have laughed

into his pint. Mind you, if you would have told me ten years ago that Boro' would be First Division Champions in 1995, (ten years ago was pre-premier league, remember) I'd have thought you meant the Conference. Oh, and by the way I would have agreed with you.

I'm looking forward to revisiting Spurs and QPR but I Don't Want To Go To Chelsea although I must, if only to erase the dreadful memory of my last visit.

I'm not talking about the unspeakable scenes that followed our defeat of them in the play-offs. I'm talking about the 4-0 defeat we suffered there a couple of years ago that virtually consigned Boro' to the Endsleigh League.

Chelsea had their own problems at the time, which shows how bad Boro' were to lost by such a margin; I cannot remember being so depressed both during and after any other match before or since. The sign that heads were down was evident not only on the pitch but also on the 200 or so sad and dejected faces around me on that miserable and cold afternoon.

The environment is no particular hobby horse of mine, but I'm all

I was just slightly miffed by Harry Pearson's excellent piece about programme adverts in the last mss, because I had half prepared a short article on the same subject for this edition. My favourite Boro' programme advertisement was for Bennys Hair Stylist from 1964-65. The slogan used still makes me guffaw like a schoolboy - it probably wouldn't get past the Advertising Standards Authority these days - "I Need Your Head For My Business."

I NEED YOUR HEAD FOR MY BUSINESS

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for ridding the world of CFC's.

As we passed into a new era at the Chelsea game I felt very emotional as I walked up the steps and saw our new stadium for the first time, but I also felt sad as I thought of an empty and decaying Ayresome. I don't suppose I'll ever know now what 'Dial A Duck' really meant.

I got a reasonable laugh at the Chelsea game. When barmy was writhing on the ground after taking a knock the stadium hushed when

four gadgies ran onto the pitch with a stretcher. "Looks like Robbo's coming on," said I.

Speaking of match fitness, the daily mail demonstrated how it is at the very hub of the fast moving cut and thrust premier league when it printed it's fantasy league players. Mushroomed between Jamie and Robbie is Andy Peaker! And here's the funny bit, they valued him at £0.57 million! And to think we let the police have him on a free.

3	BLCL	Blackmore Clayton	MID	1.68	
7	HIGN	Hignett Craig	MID	0.84	SH
27	MOAL	Moore Alan	MID	0.92	SH
38	MUST	Mustoe Robble	MID	0.57	
37	PEAA	Peake Andy	MID	1.94	
9	POLL	Pollock Jamie	MID	0.81	
90	ROBB	Robson Bryan	MID		
10	LAMB	Lambert Paul			

If in need...

Just in case the season doesn't continue as it has started, **mssers** might find that the following cut out and keep guide to excuses may come in handy when faced with awkward questions from workmates, families or geordies.

General use:

"We're really missing Uwe"

"Hendrie's carrying an injury"

"We're really missing Ayresome"

"It's all down to Robson - he keeps coming on as substitute in a wheelchair."

If the season turns bad the following excuses may be useful:

DECEMBER

"You can't blame Jamie, Manchester Uniteds' offer was too good for him to refuse."

"We were slightly under strength for the Villa match because Robson wants to ensure that all the key men are available for the FA Cup 3rd round game next week"

JANUARY

"Well that's what the Cup's all about - and lets face it, Spenny-moor are strong up front this year; their fourth one was a belter"

"At least we can concentrate on the league now"

"Hendrie's carrying an injury"

FEBRUARY

"It's too cold"

"We were unlucky to have to play so many in-form teams in succession - the last four games have been against Chelsea, Southampton, Arsenal and Spennymoor"

MARCH

"Robsons' spending too much time with his England job"

"Nigel Pearson is back next week from the injury he picked up in August - that should tighten it up a bit"

APRIL

"It was obvious at the end of last season that Fjortoft just wasn't going to fit in"

"We should have bought Nigel Clough and given Hendrie a deeper attacking mid-field role to support Fjortoft; at least it would have reduced the injuries he's picking up"

MAY

"Its too hot"

"Well, it was good to see how the Premier League stadiums have changed since we were here last, but I quite like the Endsleigh, me like, we sometimes outnumber the home supporters when we're playing away, the crowds aren't big so you can get away from the ground dead quick, like, and it's a hostile atmosphere at Premier matches, it's much friendlier in the Endsleigh, and Hendrie was carrying an injury..."

Free at last

For those of you who collate these things, I am reliably informed by my brother-in-law that the match where we saw Paul Rodgers of Free at Ayresome Park (see **mss** 108) was against Sheffield United, on Boxing Day 1974. Boro' won 1-0.