



# No comfort at home

Following Boro brings to mind those early teenage fumbblings with the opposite sex. Progress is sometimes made where a slap in the wrist is expected, then when you are absolutely sure you have a green light, you get an unexpected knock-back.

After a first home win of the season, and four out of six away points, a home win against Southampton was the very least that was expected. Cue slap in the face, resulting in frustration and anger across Teesside.

As with last season, it is Boro's home form that is cause for most concern, and is having an effect on gates.

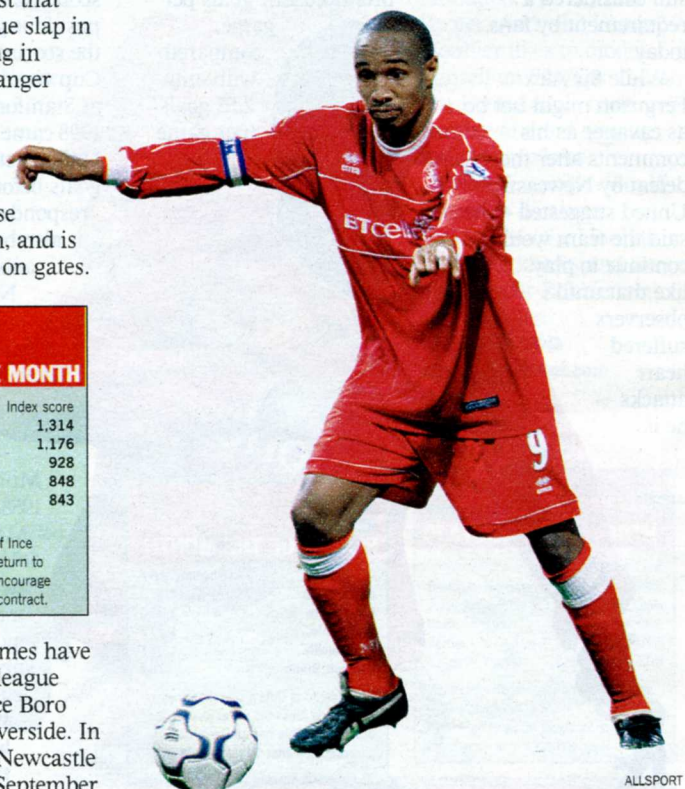
game after going behind. However, Boro gained points last month after going behind in consecutive games, at Leicester and Chelsea. Some may argue that the point at Stamford Bridge was just as precious as the three won at Leicester, because the last time Boro scored more than one goal at Stamford Bridge was back in 1975.

All in all, though, an

encouraging month, but the team is certainly riding what little luck is coming their way. Alen Boksic has yet to score from open play and Brian Deane's goal is the only one goal scored so far this season by a striker.

Another winter of discontent beckons on Teesside.

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**PLAYER OF THE MONTH**

	Index score
Paul Ince	1,314
Ugo Ehiogu	1,176
Colin Cooper	928
Jonathan Greening	848
Robbie Mustoe	843

Ince's agent has talked of Ince making an "emotional" return to Italy, but his form may encourage Boro to offer him a new contract.

The past two games have seen the lowest league attendances since Boro moved to the Riverside. In addition, when Newcastle visited early in September the attendance was 5,000 short of capacity.

The away points gained aside, the most positive thing to come out of last month was the fighting spirit of the players, something usually absent under Bryan Robson.

Last season, they did not once get back into a

## JUST FANCY STAT

- 3** The number of **penalties** awarded to Boro last month – the most in the Premiership
- 10** No team **conceded more goals** than Boro last month
- 3** Unlucky or just inaccurate? **Brian Deane** hit the woodwork more times than any other player in September
- 21** Steve McClaren sent **more players** on to the field last month than any of his rival managers
- 53** Target man **Brian Deane's** number of headed flick-ons in September

## RESULTS

September 8  
**Newcastle United (h)** Lost 4-1.  
(4-4-2): Schwarzer - Fleming, Vickers, Southgate, Cooper - Greening, Ince, Mustoe, Johnston (Job, 78) - Deane, Windass (Crossley, 33).  
Scorer: **Cooper** 4.  
Sent off: **Schwarzer**. Booked: **Ince**.  
Referee: **G Poll**.  
Attendance: **30,004**.  
Position: **20th**.

September 15  
**West Ham United (h)** Won 2-0.  
(4-4-2): Schwarzer - Fleming, Southgate, Ehiogu, Cooper (Gavin 70) - Greening, Ince, Mustoe, Johnston (Wilson 85) - Deane, Windass.  
Scorers: **Deane** 31, **Johnston** 41.  
Booked: **Greening, Windass**.  
Referee: **M Riley**.  
Attendance: **25,445**.  
Position: **19th**.

September 17  
**Leicester City (a)** Won 2-1.  
(4-4-2): Schwarzer - Fleming, Southgate, Ehiogu, Cooper - Greening, Ince, Mustoe (Nemeth 77), Johnston (Wilson 69) - Deane, Windass (Marinelli 46).  
Scorers: **Ince** 85, **Greening** 88.  
Booked: **Marinelli**.  
Referee: **N Barry**.  
Attendance: **15,412**.  
Position: **11th**.

September 23  
**Chelsea (a)** Drew 2-2.  
(4-4-2): Crossley - Fleming (Marinelli 74), Gavin, Southgate, Cooper - Greening, Ince, Mustoe (Wilson 74), Johnston (Stockdale 46) - Boksic, Deane.  
Scorers: **Stockdale** 61, **Boksic** 90 pen.  
Booked: **Gavin, Deane**.  
Referee: **R Styles**.  
Attendance: **36,767**.  
Position: **12th**.

September 29  
**Southampton (h)** Lost 3-1.  
(4-4-2): Schwarzer - Fleming, Ehiogu, Southgate, Cooper - Greening, Wilson, Mustoe (Okon 69), Johnston (Marinelli 69) - Boksic, Deane (Nemeth 69).  
Scorer: **Boksic** 75 pen.  
Referee: **A Wiley**.  
Attendance: **26,142**.  
Position: **15th**.

## GOALS

Left-foot	1
Right-foot	5
Headed	2



## FIXTURES

**Today:** Charlton Athletic (a)  
**Oct 22:** Sunderland SKY (a)  
**Oct 27:** Tottenham Hotspur (a)  
**Nov 3:** Derby County (h)

## WEBSITES

**Official:** www.mfc.co.uk  
**Fansites:** www.mss.org.uk  
www.middlesbrough.rivals.net

## ATTENDANCES

Season's average: **28,287 (12th)**

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