



# Queue of admirers forms

**C**onfidence is a much underestimated feeling, especially among pessimists. A jaunty spring in the step and a feeling of common cause and camaraderie can spell the difference between a tense and ultimately depressing afternoon, and a lively, enjoyable one.

I refer of course, to the Boro fans' pre-match liquid lunches of late. Something happened in the course of the last few weeks to change the topic of conversation from the doom of possible relegation and all that it would entail to the fact that we are actually playing some very attractive football at the moment. Stop laughing, it's true.

It's not as if there have been wholesale changes to the side, but whatever Steve McClaren is injecting into his players it seems to be having the desired effect.

Boro's match at

Queudrue, tough on the pitch and tough on the spell-checker

Charlton was a talking point among many fans for the superb debut of Franck Queudrue, on loan from Lens until the end of the season. Beating

Sunderland on live television created something resembling almost arrogance in a few fans and the post-match talk after the Spurs game was the great style of football played by both sides. Oh, and we even saw some Spurs fans laughing along as former Boro player Christian Ziege was taunted with a chant of "There's only one spotty German..."

The fluency of Boro's ball-playing and the confidence among the squad reflects back on the fans. Hell, they even gave the players an ovation

on leaving the field following defeat at White Hart Lane, a match which left Boro with 11 points from 11 games.

This time last year, the players left the field to a chorus of boos and calls for the manager's head after a defeat at Ipswich that left them with a not dissimilar ten points from 11 games. Funny old game eh, Bryan?

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ALLSPORT

## RESULTS

October 13  
**Charlton Athletic (a)** Drew 0-0.  
(3-5-2): Crossley - Ehiogu, Southgate, Gavin (Mustoe 33) - Stockdale, Wilson, Ince, Greening, Queudrue - Nemeth (Marinelli 55), Boksic (Windass 90).  
Booked: **Wilson**.  
Referee: **D Elleray**.  
Attendance: **20,451**.  
Position: **14th**.

October 22  
**Sunderland (h)** Won 2-0.  
(4-4-2): Schwarzer - Stockdale, Southgate, Ehiogu, Queudrue - Marinelli (Johnston 66), Mustoe, Ince, Greening - Boksic (Wilson 85), Nemeth (Windass 72).  
Scorers: **Queudrue 2, Boksic 21**.  
Sent off: **Ince**.  
Booked: **Queudrue**.  
Referee: **M Halsey**.  
Attendance: **28,432**.  
Position: **13th**.

October 27  
**Tottenham Hotspur (a)** Lost 2-1.  
(4-4-2): Schwarzer - Stockdale (Windass 77), Southgate, Ehiogu, Queudrue - Marinelli, Ince, Mustoe (Johnston 83), Greening - Boksic, Nemeth (Cooper 64).  
Scorer: **Boksic 9**.  
Referee: **M Dean**.  
Attendance: **36,062**.  
Position: **15th**.

## GOALS

Left-foot	1
Right-foot	0
Headed	2



## FIXTURES

**Nov 17:** Aston Villa (a)  
**Nov 24:** Ipswich Town (h)  
**Dec 1:** Blackburn Rovers (a)

## WEBSITES

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

## ATTENDANCES

Season's average: **28,316 (13th)**

## opta PLAYER OF THE MONTH

	Index score
Franck Queudrue	827
Alen Boksic	751
Ugo Ehiogu	745
Gareth Southgate	744
Paul Ince	681

By scoring two minutes into his home debut against local rivals Sunderland, Queudrue ensured a place in the hearts of Boro fans.

## opta JUST FANCY STAT

- 844** Middlesbrough made **fewer passes** than any other team
- 41** Their crosses and corners figure was also the **division's lowest**
- 2** Boro have twice taken the lead in a game this season and gone on to **lose**
- 110** Paul Ince was his team's most **prolific passer**
- 11** Robbie Mustoe made more **tackles** than any other Boro player

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