



## SHAUN KEOGH

First match: Millwall (a)  
November 9, 1968

### TFH Reason to be cheerful?

**SK** Juninho-o-o!

### TFH Reason to be fearful?

**SK** McClaren may be poached at any time . . .

### TFH The new signings — good or bad?

**SK** Neither; just interesting. Especially if McClaren's tactical and coaching nous can succeed in getting the best out of them.

### TFH Who will be the next big thing?

**SK** Massimo Maccarone; or at least, he had better be. At a club record £8.15 million, any lack of goals will result in the first doubts setting in regarding McClaren's magic touch.

### TFH How is the boss managing?

**SK** Here's the scenario: You are a rookie manager. You inherit an ageing squad that only avoided relegation the previous season after the temporary appointment of a world-class coach. You are told on being appointed that there is no money to improve the squad; indeed, you are expected to reduce the squad numbers and wage bill dramatically. Oh, and you must keep the club in the Premier League. Scary, huh? The payback? Boro finished 12th and were very unlucky not to progress past the FA Cup semi-finals. Beginners luck? I don't think so.

### TFH Which player is indispensable?

**SK** All of the ones that pull on the shirt with pride and play with passion.

### TFH And one to sell?

**SK** Alen Boksic, unless he stays fit.

### TFH How are the neighbours?

**SK** It has been a long haul, but with the help of Peter Reid, Boro are now established above the Mackems in the North East pecking order. In addition, up to the end of last season,

## AUGUST

17	Southampton	(A)
24	Fulham	(H)
31	Blackburn	(H)

## SEPTEMBER

3	Man Utd PPV	(A)
10	Sunderland	(H)
14	Everton	(A)
21	Birmingham	(H)
28	Tottenham	(A)

## OCTOBER

5	Bolton	(H)
20	Charlton SKY	(A)
26	Leeds	(H)

## NOVEMBER

4	Newcastle SKY	(A)
9	Liverpool	(H)
16	Chelsea	(A)
23	Man City	(H)
30	West Brom	(A)

## DECEMBER

7	West Ham	(H)
14	Chelsea	(H)
21	Arsenal	(A)
26	Man Utd SKY	(H)
28	Aston Villa	(A)

## JANUARY

1	Blackburn	(A)
11	Southampton	(H)
18	Fulham	(A)
28	Aston Villa	(H)

## FEBRUARY

1	Newcastle	(H)
8	Liverpool	(A)
22	Sunderland	(A)

## MARCH

1	Everton	(H)
15	Leeds	(A)
22	Charlton	(H)

## APRIL

5	West Brom	(H)
12	Man City	(A)
19	Arsenal	(H)
21	West Ham	(A)
26	Birmingham	(A)

## MAY

3	Tottenham	(H)
11	Bolton	(A)

Kevin Phillips had scored against every Premier League club except Boro. Oh, and didn't we do the double over them last season? And another thing. . . (ad infinitum).

### TFH If you were chairman?

**SK** I have lodged papers with my solicitors which order my being sectioned under the Mental Health Act should I ever consider such folly.

### Alen Boksic, oft-injured

### TFH If your club was an actor/celebrity/group, who would it be?

**SK** David Bowie. Like Bowie, the Boro have been around for over a hundred years and had a good run in the 1970s, but have not done much of note for a considerable period of time.

### TFH Prediction?

**SK** There appears to be room for some small hope of snatching a UEFA place. In reality land, I truly believe that Boro can win one of the domestic trophies this year.

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