

# REVIEW

“THE ‘A1’ SUPPORTERS”  
NORTH HERTS’ SUNDERLAND SUPPORTERS’ CLUB MAGAZINE  
[Motto: ‘Let’s push on’]



No. 228

[nineteenth year]

JAN 2012

## Review

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posted by  
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**ITEMS FOR  
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PLEASE**

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## COVER PIC

### MARTIN O’NEILL

So, Brucey has gone...and  
Martin O’Neill has arrived.  
All sorts has been said about  
Bruce’s departure – from the  
club and by the ‘experts’.  
With results the way they  
were was there any option?  
Martin O’Neill has a good  
track record...and he’s a Red  
& White fan of old.  
A sMART appointment!

### ALWAYS REMEMBERED

**DOUGLAS MELROSE**  
04/10/20 - 21/06/99  
**RAY CHAYTOR**  
19/02/46 - 26/11/99  
**FRED DUNN**  
11/06/16 - 29/02/00  
**DAVE TREWICK**  
18/03/52 - 25/11/01  
**ALAN JOBSON**  
03/04/31 – 30/12/02  
**RON SMITH**  
02/10/23 – 29/03/05  
**AUNT ELSIE**  
13/03/13 – 28/01/07  
**ROGER MAKIN**  
04/06/32 – 22/12/09  
**DENNIS TAYLOR**  
25/11/24-  
**EDDIE PERKINS**  
17/04/41 - 04/09/11

# Reflections

by The Silver Fox

An action-packed month to close the year!

Following the home defeat to Wigan at the end of November, we've had the sacking of STEVE BRUCE.....the coming of MARTIN O'NEILL ..... late drama at Wolves .....AND at home to Blackburn.....a(nother) single-goal defeat (at Tottenham).....even more late drama at QPR.....and a disgraceful penalty award v Everton!

So, in the space of four weeks we have gone from the depths of despair of slipping into the relegation places to having a more positive outlook for the remainder of the season guided by our long-time-favourite-for-the-job, new manager MO'N!

Much was said in the press of the 'for's & against' for Steve Bruce – a lot of it was a load of tripe in my opinion. Do they honestly believe that the Red & White fans seriously thought that his tenuous connections with the Mags was a reason to get rid of him? As far as I could see he'd simply lost his way over the last few months and seemed unable to stop the rot. He was NOT helped by the fact that the home defeat to the Mags happened so early in the season! Anyway.....we now have a new master at the helm, so let's get behind him 100%, trust his judgement in team selection, and cheer the lads on to better times!

Reports on the matches in December (and the Wigan match) appear inside this issue of 'Review', so there is no point in going over each of them here. Let's just say that the performances have shown signs of improvement and a renewed confidence in the players. We do have a decent side which is more than capable of doing much more than just 'surviving' in this league – there is a bit of catching-up to do at the moment but I for one am confident that the new manager can get the best out of the playing staff and that we can, slowly perhaps, move up the league table. There are plenty of teams in the league that are less capable than us!

I suppose our first game of 2012 will be a 'test' as Man City have certainly started the season well. But will their expensive players really relish the prospect of a bitterly cold wind blowing in from the North Sea....with a vociferous Red & White crowd urging on the Lads?

January brings the 3<sup>rd</sup> rd of the FA Cup....and a televised (not a good idea!) trip to Peterborough. If my memory serves me well, then the last time we met them in the 3<sup>rd</sup> rd was back in 1967, at Roker Park....and we won quite handsomely (7-1)! Sssh! Let's push on....Next year the World!

Haway the Lads! Happy New Year to one and all.



# Branch News

## ► REPORT OF MEETING – 01/12/11:

Meeting commenced at 8.40pm – 7 members present.

Apologies received from Bob Parkin (at a concert), & Keith Watson (no reason!)

**Chairman:** Pending election of a Chairman, the Secretary welcomed those present.

**Secretary:** (Colin Dunn)

A summary of the November meeting was in the latest issue of 'Review'.

Matters arising:

Branch banner: - Reply received from SAFC/BLC – banners are being moved for easier access, and to coincide with the away fans being located in the North Stand Upper from 2012/13. No time-scale given for erection of banner.

Eddie's Shirt: Raffle to be made at the London Branch Xmas Party on 18/12/11. Draw by Gary Bennett.

Branch shirts: Latest orders have now been distributed.

Chairman: Volunteer wanted – see article in 'Review'.

Webmaster: ....as for Chairman.

Current issues:

Branch 20<sup>th</sup> anniv: Still need to decide 'what/when?'

Coach parking: (at SoL) – seems to be a bit of 'panic over nothing'! SAFC considering charging away coaches parking at SoL....but as most park elsewhere it is all a bit irrelevant!

**Treasurer:** (Colin Chandler)

Colin did his 'usual waffle' (*these were his own words!...Ed*). 'Review' printing costs have NOT been increased by the printer...this was an error on their part! Eddie's Shirt raffle has raised approx £120 so far. Mini-bus fees have been increased as previously discussed. Current finances are shown in the latest 'Review'.

**Transport:** (Ed Rayner)

A bit of a problem with concessionary tickets requested from SAFC – for Tottenham they sent a full-priced ticket even though a concessionary voucher had been supplied. (*Secretary will take this up with SAFC*). Ticket requirements for Chelsea (a) are required asap. Ticket transactions for 'home' tickets now cost £2.50 per ticket!.....so if anyone wants the Branch to get 'home' tickets there will be a surcharge imposed to cover the transaction fee. A reminder to make cheques payable to 'Sunderland Supporters Club (North Herts)'

**A.O.B.:**

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'do': Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012? A curry?  
Media '73: We have opted NOT to supply Media '73 with member's address details and will distribute any info/magazines received ourselves.  
Shirt mugs/pics : Orders still welcome.  
SAFC news: Sean Thornton now playing at Welsh side Aberystwyth Town!

Next meetings: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 & Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 – to be held at The Rose & Crown, Baldock.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

*Colin Dunn*

*[I understand that Frank Garrick has now applied for the role of Chairman]*

**► Treasurer's Report:**

Hello everyone and a Happy New Year to you all.

**Membership –**

We've have a further renewal this month in with the Christmas cards. It takes us to 133 in total. Welcome back Geoff Evans.

**Printing –**

I mentioned last month that printing costs for the Review had gone up. It seems we were charged at the wrong rate. The more you have, the cheaper it gets. This month's was back to normal and Ryman's have refunded us the overcharge.

**Postage –**

You may remember we bought a large amount of 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps earlier in the year to beat a substantial postal price rise. It just left us with the monthly cost of the overseas Reviews each month because they can't really be done in advance. This bulk purchase is almost used up now so it was agreed at the last meeting to buy a further batch not only for convenience but to beat any possible increase next year. The cost of 55 books of second class stamps is shown below and the lady at the post office was very pleased too.

**Minibus –**

The increase in fares is now filtering through with modest surpluses being shown on recent trips. The overall arrears of the bus are now coming down nicely but as has been said before, it's not the intension for the bus to make a large profit for branch funds. Therefore, if a larger surplus does build up, regulars will be given a cheaper trip to reduce it. I will keep an eye on things and all will be addressed nearer the end of our financial year when it's easier to gauge where we stand.

**Balance at 22/11/11 - £3413.80**

**Income -** minibus surplus v. Wigan - £13.00  
Last Scorer Sweep v. Wigan - £3.00– winner £10 John Mongan.  
3–Scorer Sweep - £1.40 v.Wigan – No winner so fund now stands at £38.40.

Minibus surplus v. Blackburn - £31.00

Membership - £8.00

Refund Ryman's copying - £6.00.

Bank interest – £0.25 – 3 months on savings account

**Expenditure -** Review printing - £35.00- December Review.

Postage – £6.74 – December overseas members.

Ticket transaction fee away v. Wolves - £0.50 (2 tickets)

Ticket transaction fee away v. Tottenham - £0.50 (7 tickets)

Ticket transaction fee away v. QPR - £0.50 (1 ticket)

Bulk purchase 2<sup>nd</sup> class 36p UK stamps - £237.60

**Balance at 20/12/11 - £3195.61.**

**Birthdays** in January – taken from those who ticked their membership slips.

Sandra Isaacs (6<sup>th</sup>), Sterling Cherry (14<sup>th</sup>), Liam Morrell and Richard Curry (both 21<sup>st</sup>), Adam Spencer (22<sup>nd</sup>), Cormac Malone (23<sup>rd</sup>), Margaret Johns (25<sup>th</sup>), Tom Milburn (27<sup>th</sup>) and last but not least, Lily Llewellyn (30<sup>th</sup>)

Happy birthday to you all.

*Colin Chandler.*

**► Bedford sub-branch:**

A few Bedford locals meet up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Pheasant pub in Bedford....any time from about 8.30pm onwards. This is not a 'formal' meeting, but is more just a good excuse for a chat and a drink. Next meetings are Wednesday's 11<sup>th</sup> January & 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012.



**► Branch Banner / Flag at Sol:**

Andrew Lisgo (BLC/SAFC) has advised that the banners are being moved away from their present North Stand location to be away from away fans when they are re-located in the Upper North Stand next season. He has not yet confirmed how long it takes from us submitting designs to the banner being erected.

*Silver Fox*

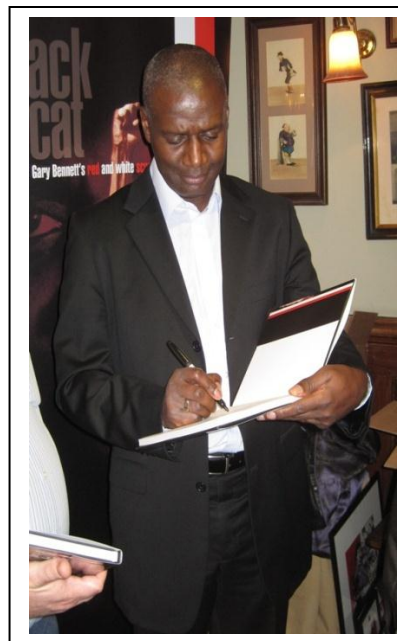
► **Eddie's Shirt raffle...and an evening with 'Benno':**

As you all probably remember, the raffle for Eddie's signed shirt was in collaboration with the London branch and the plan was to have the winning ticket drawn at their Christmas do in a pub near Liverpool St station. The evening also featured a Gary Bennett book-signing and question-and-answer session, and Gary was very kind in drawing the winning ticket for us. So here's a quick rundown on the evening's events regarding both Benno and the shirt.

Postal applications for raffle tickets had been coming in over the few weeks so armed with these and the framed shirt itself, I took the train to London and tube round to Liverpool Street. The framed shirt is quite a big thing but being suitably protected in a homemade cardboard box, I adopted the tactic of letting everyone else off the train first and then following along in their wake. It worked quite well although there were a few funny looks. Perhaps I should have painted "the end of the world is nigh" on it and pretended it was a sandwich board? The venue's doors opened at 6.30pm and once inside, I unpacked the shirt, put it on display and then mingled for a chat and a drink. After it looked as though the majority of people had arrived, I wandered round selling tickets to those who thought they might have slipped the net.

Gary Bennett wasn't long in arriving after that and started the proceedings with a little chat on how he came to Sunderland. Len Ashurst was his manager at Cardiff and when Ashurst moved to become Sunderland manager, he told Gary he'd be back for him in the summer when his contract finished. There was a tribunal to fix the fee and also an alternative bid from Crystal Palace but Sunderland was where he ended up. His arrival at Roker Park was rather low key and he asked if they'd had any previous black players. "Yes", came the reply. "Roly Gregoire." There was much audience sniggering as it's fair to say he didn't set the world alight for us. Bennett was to be in a different class. After a bit more chit chat, he switched to a question-and-answer session with the first question being asked about David Speedie. There was much amusement all round at the quickness this question came up. Gary elaborated that a grudge had built up during 2 or 3 previous meetings when Speedie was at Chelsea and it ended with that match against Coventry where GB clutched Speedie around the throat and "helped him" backwards into the Clock Stand paddock. He commented he was disappointed the crowd pushed him back out. Needless to say, they don't ring each other for sociable chit chats these days. Asked about players he enjoyed playing with, he covered Gabbiadini, Gates etc. and about managers, he mentioned a fair few including Lawrie McMenemy and said he hoped the LM side of what happened would be told one day. Obviously relegated to the third division after that, he said he enjoyed playing under Denis Smith and the way they got promoted at the first attempt. He also touched on being a manager at Darlington under George Reynolds which seemed a "lively" time for all concerned. His answers weren't as long and protracted as Niall Quinn's at the previous do I went to but then nothing much can stop Quinny.

All in all, once the questions were finished, the buffet was served and everyone dived in whilst those who wanted, took photos or bought books and had them signed.



A very pleasant and convivial evening and a nice bloke to talk and listen to. GB then drew out the winning ticket for Eddie's shirt – winner Mike Collins, London branch member from Dorking - and also the London branch's own raffle. Hopefully there's space to show a picture of the raffle draw itself but please note we used the traditional North Herts. change bag which is always used for sweeps, swindles and raffles as it's good to be traditional. All that was left then to do was to repack the shirt and take it home with me as Mike Collins wasn't there to collect it himself. All told, it was an enjoyable evening all round and its good the two branches collaborate well. Talking to Ian Todd of the London branch, he said they hope to have a similar book signing/question and answer session shortly with Dennis Tueart to which our branch will be included.

Lastly, the raffle for Eddie's shirt raised £225 for the RSPB – his favourite charity.

*Colin Chandler.*

► **Branch 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Discussions on how, when & where to celebrate this seem to have concluded that we have a curry night on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 at the establishment next to the Rose & Crown Hotel, Baldock.

# S.A.F.C. NEWS

\* SAFC NEWS \* SAFC NEWS \* SAFC NEWS \* SAFC NEWS \* SAFC NEWS \*

## ► Transfer news :

Sunderland (& Everton) have been linked with Croatian striker NIKICA JELAVIC (26), currently with Glasgow Rangers. He cost Rangers £4m when he signed from Rapid Vienna last year. Reports also suggest an interest in Hamburg's MARCELL JANSEN – a left-back/left midfielder. JAMES COLLINS (28) of Aston Villa & ALBERT ADOMAH – winger – of Bristol City are also listed as possible January targets. There have been reports that Martin O'Neill WILL consider a return to Sunderland for ASAMOAH GYAN....but also reports denying this!

## ► Injuries:

CRAIG GORDON & FRAIZER CAMPBELL are both still on the road to recovery. CONNOR WICKHAM is out of action again with a knee injury. *[Did he make a premature comeback from the injury suffered at Old Trafford?....Ed]*. SIMON MIGNOLET is still out of action with a severe fracture of his nose and eye socket. TITUS BRAMBLE suffered an achilles injury v Everton and PHIL BARDSLEY suffered a thigh injury in the same game. It is not known (at this time) how long either player will be out.

## ► New back-room staff:

Martin O'Neill has appointed two new faces to his back-room staff. STEVE WALFORD has been named as 1<sup>st</sup>-team coach, and SEAMUS McDONAGH is named as 1<sup>st</sup>-team goalkeeper coach. Walford has worked with the new manager over a number of years, whilst McDonagh – a one-time loanee at Sunderland – has been recruited from Hull City. He has also worked with O'Neill in the past. Former coaches, recruited by departing manager Steve Bruce, ERIC BLACK & NIGEL SPINK have both left the club.

## ► Fair play to SAFC fans:

At the end of November 2011, Sunderland fans were top of the Fair Play League with a score of 8.54 out of 10. The marks are based on reports from the Premier League's match delegates, who attend every game. Marks are assessed on behaviour at matches. Norwich & Newcastle are 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>...with Blackburn, Bolton & WBA at the bottom. Sunderland fans won the award last year.

## ► Squad No's, Cards & Goals: [to & inc 26/12/11]

	<u>Y</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>G</u>		<u>Y</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>G</u>
1				2	3	1	
3				4	2		
5	2	1		6	6		
7	6	5		8	1	1	
9				10			1
11	3	2		12			
13				14	3		1
15	2	1		16	2		
17		1		18			
19			1	20			
21				22			
23				24			
25				26			
27			1	28	3		3
40				52	1		3
OG			1				

PHIL BARDSLEY received a 4-game ban (v Stoke, Norwich, West Brom, Arsenal) after the FA cited him retrospectively for an incident in the Chelsea game.

SEB LARSSON was banned for 1 match (v Fulham) after his booking at Old Trafford.

LEE CATTERMOLLE was banned for 1 match (v Blackburn) following his booking at Wolves.

TOTAL HOME ATTENDANCE (League games only) [to & inc 26/12/11]:-  
347,676 (ave 38,630)

*DID YOU KNOW?.....the match v Everton on Boxing Day was the FIRST match this season [18 League + 1 Cup] that Sunderland received NO yellow cards!*

## ► Star man Sess:

Safc.com's Star Man poll – conducted after each match – has STEPHANE SESSEGNON ahead in this season's 'rankings'. He polled 55% of the votes in the QPR match – 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed Kieran Richardson polled 12% - to lead the way with 6 poll wins this season. David Vaughan was in 2<sup>nd</sup>-place with 3 wins.

## ► Duo arrested:

NICKLAS BENDTNER & LEE CATTERMOLLE were recently arrested following an alleged car-wrecking spree in Newcastle!

► **SAFC Old Boys news:**

COLIN WEST (1978-85) was recently in the frame for the manager’s job at Bournemouth. *[I best remember West for a couple of absolute ‘rocket’ goals from long-range at Arsenal ....7<sup>th</sup> May ‘83 & somewhat appropriately 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (Firework Night) 1983. He also featured in the League Cup tie at Stamford Bridge in 1985...the horse on the pitch match!].* SEAN THORNTON (2002-05) is now strutting his stuff at Welsh Premier League side Aberystwyth Town. *[I saw him make his 1<sup>st</sup>-team debut in a FA Cup replay v Bolton in Jan 2003....he looked quite useful. Trouble was that more often than not he looked awful, as if he couldn’t be bothered. He scored some cracking goals for Sunderland ...and later for Doncaster & Leyton Orient but his goals were few and far between and his attitude never seemed to improve.]* He signed for Aberystwyth in Sept 2011 and has agreed to stay until the end of the season.

► **Sunderland WFC:**

Three members of the team represented their countries recently. Rachel Furness & Sarah McFadden both represented Northern Ireland in the Women’s UEFA 2013 Euro qualifiers v Norway & Hungary.....with Furness scoring the third goal in a 3-1 win over Hungary. Keira Ramshaw was on target for England U19 v Netherlands in the recent Rosmalen Tournament. Back in the League, Sunderland beat Reading (a) 1-0, with leading-scorer Beth Mead on target. She has now scored 14 goals this season. They returned to the top of the National Premier League with a 2-0 win over Leeds, with goals from Williams & Gutteridge. Furness had a 2<sup>nd</sup>-half header cleared off the line as this win saw Sunderland leap-frog Leeds at the top of the table./

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts	
<b>SUNDERLAND</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>Leeds Utd</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>Charlton Ath</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>Coventry</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>Barnet</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Aston Villa</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>Cardiff City</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Nott’m Forest</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Watford</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>7</b>

# Match Reports

**SUNDERLAND v WIGAN ATHLETIC**  
**[SAT 26<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2011]**

Not so much a match report, more a bit of a meander this week. It was the usual stuff, we started brightly and scored. No problems there. It seems to be what we do. Wigan were poor and looked as if they could be easily beaten. Good for us then. We had more chances but didn’t take any of them. Again, it’s what we do. If only we could play the entire match the way we play at the beginning. As we neared halftime, their player Moses - who was very prone to falling over - fell over in the penalty box much to everyone’s annoyance. A penalty? Probably but it was the way it happened that upset the crowd. That made the score 1-1 at half time and some disgruntlement was brewing because we weren’t making any headway. We still clearly need what’s known as a “prolific goal scorer” to take some of these chances. On to the second half which was more even but with us still on top. Chances were again spurned and the crowd were becoming split between those who criticised and those who encouraged. There was a round of “Bruce out” from the North east corner which was the first time I’d heard any anti Bruce rumblings but apparently there have been some at previous matches too. So, we continued to press and then came the comic moment that summed up everything about our situation. We were exerting pressure in their area as we searched for a last gasp winner. It was a case of everyone forward which shows how keen we were to get points. Unfortunately it’s a tactic that’s nearly caught us out in previous matches as we have no cover at the back. It bit today when an aimless hoofed “get-it-clear” Wigan ball was collected by Brown who was basically the only one in our half. With an attacker closing him down, he did what he’d done many times previously and laid the ball back to our goalkeeper. Westwood then played it back to him no doubt with the intension of Brown getting the ball back into their area as quickly as possible. Unfortunately Brown’s touch let him down and the ball rebounded to be collected by a second attacker who swept majestically past him. With 2 strikers, one goal keeper and another Sunderland player back tracking and then falling over, there was only one outcome. We went 2-1 down with no chance of getting back in the match. If it had happened to the opposition, we’d have been crying with laughter. As it was us, we just stuck to crying. Not surprisingly there was a mass

crowd exodus, much booing and more “Bruce outing.” It wasn’t a particularly pleasant atmosphere to be truthful and Steve Bruce looked a very forlorn figure standing in the technical area. It can’t be very nice having that many people howling at you.

So is it all the manager’s fault or are there others who should shoulder some responsibility too? We all have our opinions of course but Dave “behind me” and I mulled things over whilst each munching a gingerbread man at half-time. We came to the conclusion that we’ve both seen a fair few ups and downs during our time but can do very little about any of them. Our support won’t change so it’s probably best we just enjoy our half time snack and let those who can, sort it out.



Things seem so much nicer on a full stomach and anyway, what else can we do?

FINAL SCORE: SUNDERLAND 1 WIGAN ATH 2

SUNDERLAND: – Westwood, O’Shea\* (Ji Dong-Won 84), Brown, Turner\*, Bardsley (Vaughan 66), Richardson, Colback\*, Cattermole (Gardner 66), Larsson, Sessegnon & Bendtner.

[Unused subs –Carson, Meyler, McClean & Elmohamady]

\* = booked

Attendance - 37,883

*Colin Chandler.*

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**WOLVES v SUNDERLAND**  
**[SUN 4<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2011]**

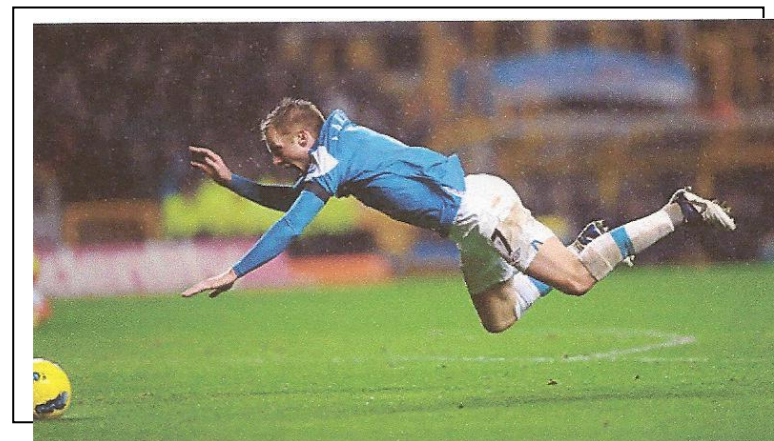
I took the easy option of watching this on the much-maligned (by me especially) Sky Sports, in the comfort of my son’s flat.....with a humongous 3-D surround-sound TV I resisted a pre-match pint and settled down to watch the Black’s Cats (clever that....what with Eric Black selecting the team for today! Never mind though!)

Incoming manager Martin O’Neill sat up in the stand with his new back-room staff. Former Black Cat star ‘Super’ Kev was in the studio, and if I remember correctly (which I may not!) Don Goodman was also somewhere giving his comments.

No real surprises in the team selection, but it was nice to see Ji given a start for a change – how else are we supposed to see how good/bad he is?

Sessegnon had a half-chance in the first 5 minutes but could only direct his under-hit shot to the home keeper. At the other end it was close...but not THAT close....as Fletcher headed towards goal – but Westwood claimed the ball just short of the goal-line. Thankfully the referee agreed, despite the claims of some of the Wolves players. Larsson & Brown then had chances on target – both saved by the Wolves keeper. Sunderland should have had a penalty on 19 minutes when O’Shea went down in the box having been wrestled there by Berra....right under the ref’s nose! The play was a bit laboured for much of the first-half, but sprang to life in the closing minutes of the half. Firstly, Westwood made a superb close save from the unmarked Hunt, and then Sessegnon got the ball just outside the box to beat a couple of players with some neat footwork....only to see his shot across the keeper turned back into the keepers hands by a last-minute interception from a Wolves defender..

The 2<sup>nd</sup>-half started well for Sunderland with Ji put into a good position – unfortunately he shot well wide when Larsson was better placed. Sunderland continued to push forward and took the lead on 52 mins with a great goal. Cattermole cleared toward the half-way line where Bendtner superbly flicked the ball on to Sessegnon. He carried the ball forward and then laid off a perfect pass for the overlapping Richardson to curl a screamer beyond the helpless keeper. Well worthy of Goal of the Month....and maybe even Goal of the Season!. Wolves adopted a more attacking formation with a couple of substitutions but it was Sunderland who almost got the second goal on 72 mins. Larsson ran in toward the box and went down under a challenge from former Black Cat Jody Craddock. TV replays clearly showed that not only was the challenge outside the box, but that Craddock had not actually touched Larsson! In truth Larsson’s ‘fall’ was somewhat dramatic and he should really have been booked for diving!



However, we had a penalty and a great chance to seal the win. I made a rather rash comment at that stage: "We need to score this otherwise they will get an enormous lift." Ha! 'Foot' & 'Gob' come to mind! Larsson took a pretty poor penalty....the keeper saved....threw the ball out....and Wolves equalised! ALL IN 25 SECONDS!

My words proved right...the goal gave Wolves just the lift they needed....and it deflated us for a while. My fears were proved right on 81 minutes as Wolves took the lead....though they had an element of good fortune in the build-up. O'Hara clearly used an arm to lay the ball off to Fletcher who hit home from 12 yards. Sunderland heads dropped noticeably....Larsson's in particular!

There was still for more drama however. Ryan Noble had replaced Sessegnon on 87 mins and in injury-time he was unmarked in the penalty area as he received the ball from Bendtner(?) – he was just about to stroke it into the empty net when the ref blew for offside against Bendtner(?). He wasn't!

FINAL SCORE: WOLVES 2 SUNDERLAND 1

SUNDERLAND: Westwood, Bardsley, Richardson\*, Brown, O'Shea, Larsson, Sessegnon (R Noble 87), Cattermole\*, Colback, Dong-Won (Elmohamady 75), Bendtner\*.

[unused subs – Carson, Gardner, Vaughan, Bramble, McClean]

\* = booked

Att: 25,145

*Silver Fox*

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## SUNDERLAND v BLACKBURN [SUN 11<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2011]

The persistence of Branch Treasurer Colin Chandler, and Transport Officer Ed Rayner finally persuaded me travel up for this match. It was not a question of not wanting to go to the game....more a question of home economics! I can't honestly remember when I last travelled to the Stadium of Light...or indeed any game. From being a matchday regular (home or away) and one for taking in the delights of Fans Forums held by Mick McCarthy (all those years ago!) in midweek, I had become noticeable by my absence over the past 2-3 years. I was not proud of such a lengthy absence!

Anyway, fully laden with a few items of grub, and the Eddie Perkins Framed Signed shirt (for onward transmission to the London Branch Xmas Party via Colin Chandler) I arranged to be picked-up at my home by mini-bus driver Simon Christie at 7.45am – he was on time.....thankfully, because it was beginning to rain a bit! The three of us (Brian Liddle was also on board) headed off for pick-ups at the Black Cat roundabout at Tempsford (Colin Chandler, Ed Rayner and John & June Flint) and on to Yaxley

for a final pick-up (Ray Tweddle & Keith Waugh) [*Keith is featured in another article in this issue...Ed*]

With changing weather on the outside of the bus, it was nice and cosy on the inside! The chat was intermittent...the snores were constant....and before you could say **Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch** [*why anyone would want to say that is well, beyond me!*] we were pulling in at Blyth Services, for the customary 5-minute comfort – and stock up on snacks – break.

I had noticed various improvements to the motorway thus far, and would notice more on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-leg of the journey. The weather showed little sign of improving so we were set for a cold, wet day. We finally made it to the Stadium coach park at about 12.15pm. Obviously the traditional few pints in the Harbour View would have to be forgone today in view of the early (1.30pm kick-off time)....but that didn't mean we had to go without a drink – don't be silly! We (Colin, Ed & me) headed for 'Malones' on the concourse and were soon joined by Ray and also by Mick Woodward & Tim Chapman's brother, both from Bedford. [Apologies to Tim's brother...I appear to be having an Alzheimer moment and have forgotten your first name!]. An enlightening chit chat about football and a few sordid topics....a few pints of bitter...and a lovely hot, deep-filled, steak pie (where's the fork'n plate?) and it was time to walk the steps up – and then down – to our seats.

On to the match then. To be perfectly honest I did not/could not enjoy the majority of it. It seemed all a bit 'bitty'...lots of effort...little end product....many unforced errors (where did the tennis come into it?)...and a lot of sighs of 'Oh dear!' Blackburn were gifted an early goal & were possibly robbed of a second when the ref blew for a foul on Westwood. We created several promising openings but these came to nothing either due to a bad final ball, or bad finishing....which I suppose is also a bad final ball! Half- time came with me thinking 'this is shite....and we are better than shite!'

At some point during the match a gloved hand appeared over my right shoulder – it was holding a matching glove. What should I do? Did I need to cover up one of my hands? Why? Was this some strange ritual that I should have known about? I thought for a moment and then went to take the 'spare' glove. "No, not the glove...there's a sweetie for you" came the stunned comment from Mrs Sweetie aka Brenda. [*Brenda? I thought I'd left her in bed when I left home this morning!*] Not just one but TWO sweeties....and very nice as well thank you.

Anyway, I digress. Half-time meant a trip downstairs – not for a wee-wee but a pint. There was divided opinion on how the match had gone and what lay ahead, but there was a common factor – it was not good!

Back upstairs and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-half was already underway, but we hadn't missed anything – surprise there then! The 2<sup>nd</sup>-half was in truth much like the first, but some of our play seemed even more desperate and lacking in confidence. Martin O'Neill brought on Ji for Wickham on 73 mins, and McClean for Colback on 76 mins....and there it all began! McClean 'brushed' aside the Blackburn defenders and positively 'glistened'.

## TOTTENHAM v SUNDERLAND [SUN 18<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2011]

Within 8 minutes of his arrival he had awoken something deep inside...the crowd were gee'd up...and the play showed a remarkable change. Larsson & Sessegnon had half-chances which had been all too obviously missing during the 2<sup>nd</sup>-half.



On 84 mins the Stadium erupted – well, all except about the 300 Blackburn fans who had bothered to journey across the North country. A cross from Sunderland's right was headed clear ....but only into the path of the in-rushing Vaughan. He met it with the sweetest connection you will ever hope to see, and the ball fairly flew into the net with the keeper doing an impression of Emperor Hirohito from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War....saying “What the f\*\*\* was that?”(as the bomb went off) What indeed! Surprisingly Colin Chandler was still sat in his seat! He was celebrating, but in a seated position.

Was it because all around him had launched skywards and he was unable to make any headway upwards?.....clearly he would not make it in the after-life if he came back as a salmon!

Well, so we'd got a point out of it by the look of it then! Nah, the Lads were having none of that! One cross after another went into the Blackburn box, but the big lad Samba was having a decent game at the back and was getting most things thrown at him. However, as we went into injury-time there was a handball offence just outside the Blackburn penalty box...over towards Sunderland's left flank. Seb Larsson hovered over the ball....he'd done it before, could we dare hope he could do it again? 'Whoosh' it went into the net! Once again it was mad jumping in the air – for most of us! – as the players and the bench went potty.

So, after nearly 80-minutes of very average (at best) play, the game had finished with a double-whammy....and we had won!

FINAL SCORE: SUNDERLAND 2 BLACKBURN 1

SUNDERLAND: Westwood, O'Shea, Bardsley, Brown, Bramble, Richardson, Larsson, Colback (McClellan 76), Vaughan, Sessegnon\*, Wickham (Don-Won 73).

[unused subs: Carson, Kilgallon, Meyler, Elmohamady, R Noble.]

\*=booked

Att: 39,863

Silver Fox

[I must congratulate Match of the Day – their editing of the match made it look very good!]

[A third successive Sunday kick-off! My son went to the match with his fiancé.....Ed]

Here is a match report from a different angle – from a 'home' fan sitting in the 'away' end... what I do for my man!!!

It was a very enjoyable day as the journey there was in a car full of Spurs fans (apart from Ian of course..... which I think he secretly liked ☺) and we HAD to go for a few pre-match drinkies in a local Spurs pub.

The Sunderland colours were slowly coming out, as when the drinks started to go down nicely he was feeling a little 'hot' so a whole two buttons were undone .....or maybe he was trying to be a little brave, but I was keeping a close eye on him.

After entering the ground I was pretty buzzing about the day as the banter between myself and Ian was on top form now as we were now entering the love/hate side of our relationship – but all in good taste of course – as we take our seats, and I felt pretty glad that I had swapped my Spurs top for a pair of long johns as it was a lil bit on the nippy side (COYS)



[Sorry Sarah, but it looks like daughter Harley has been 'spurred' on to support the 'Red & Whites' .A 'sensible', young, Essex bird!.(something of a 'one-off'!).....Ed]

Really enjoyed the experience of the day and meeting a few of Ian's friend's which he was telling them I was a Spurs fan sitting in the away end. The best moment for me was watching Ian and the other supporters up on their feet and hearing him shout the 'C' word sooooo loud...well I did tell him off after. He was up on his feet when Spurs scored and I was soooo chuffed I gave him a lil dig in the ribs and said that was me cheering. Don't think it would have gone down too well if I'd jumped up and down like a complete nutter. (I think he was "Well Jel" by this point )

After a fab game we left the ground and 3 out of the 4 of us were smiling all the way on the journey home. The agreement we had was that whoever won we would go out

and celebrate, so on the plus side we were both getting smashed on a Sunday either way! Looking forward to the next Spurs v Sunderland game and hopefully next time will get Ian looking "Reem" in a Spurs shirt ☺

FINAL SCORE: TOTTENHAM 1 SUNDERLAND 0

SUNDERLAND: Westwood, O'Shea, Brown, Bramble, Bardsley (McClellan 68), Larsson, Colback (Gardner 74), Vaughan\*, Richardson\*, Wickham (Bendtner 45), Sessegnon.

[unused subs – Carson, Elmohamady, Cattermole, Ji]

\*=booked

Att: 36,021

*Sarah 'Lou Lou' Rubery*

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## QUEENS PARK RANGERS v SUNDERLAND [WED 21<sup>ST</sup> DEC 2011]

by **Stuart Rayner**, The Journal

AT WHITE Hart Lane on Sunday, Jack Colback said Sunderland were still getting to grips with what Martin O'Neill wanted from them. Back in the capital last night, they showed they are quick learners.

Colback was speaking after a backs-to-the-wall defensive performance which showed the Black Cats had the necessary organisation for a team battling at the wrong end of the table. At Loftus Road they demonstrated the hunger for goals their manager asked for next. Had it not been for four mad minutes when they temporarily forgot all the defensive lessons of Sunday, it would have been a perfect night for O'Neill. As it was, he recorded his second win in three games in charge.

As his ecstatic celebration showed, the winner came from an unlikely source, Wes Brown glancing in an 89th-minute corner. But O'Neill will have taken most satisfaction from the 2-0 lead his strikers gave him, only for it to be squandered at the other end. Leading the way was Nicklas Bendtner, a willing target-man in his best performance since Steve Bruce was sacked.

The R's started quicker on a mild night, Joey Barton's set-piece deliveries causing problems for Sunderland's defenders, if not goalkeeper Keiren Westwood. Sebastian Larsson needed to make a good block from Armand Traore, perhaps the only player wearing hoops to impress in the first half, and Titus Bramble can consider himself fortunate his dozziness waiting for the ball to come to him was not punished by Jamie Mackie, who over-hit his cross. Matthew Connolly headed over a Barton free-kick.

Eleven minutes had passed before Sunderland produced a decent attack, Lee Cattermole – as tigerish as he ought to be on his first start for O'Neill – winning the ball and feeding Larsson. His cross was just over Kieran Richardson but having talked a lot since the last game about the need to flood opposition boxes, O'Neill would have approved of the run.

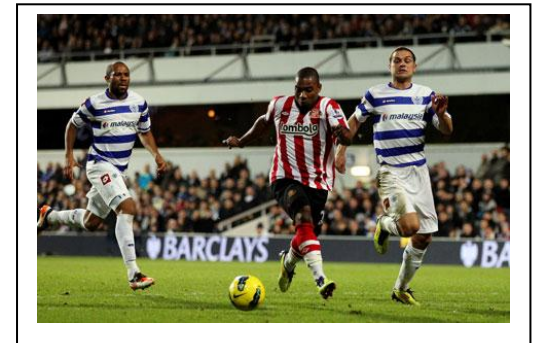
Soon Larsson got the chance to show his set-piece expertise, putting in a free-kick John O'Shea flicked on and the stooping Bendtner headed against the post. Two minutes later the Dane scored his third Sunderland goal, bulleting a header with a classic near-post run from Richardson's corner.



Sunderland were dominant, Richardson carrying the ball from halfway to the edge of the area, from where he shot only narrowly wide. The visitors looked dangerous whenever Westwood had the opportunity to launch one of his mammoth kicks. Bendtner flicked one to Stephane Sessegnon, who fed Larsson. The winger easily beat Traore and when he crossed, Danny Gabbidon could only put it out for a corner. Sunderland's routine looked rehearsed, but Larsson lurking outside the area failed to make clean contact with his volley.

When Gabbidon conceded another corner, unsure if there was anyone behind him to convert Richardson's cross, the home fans voiced their frustration. Westwood's boot produced another good chance, former Middlesbrough defender Luke Young misjudging the kick, then beaten by Sessegnon for good measure. Connolly spared his blushes. They restarted in the same fashion, Sessegnon taking less than 20 seconds to charge down the field and cut onto his right, shooting wide. Yet it was QPR who ought to have scored next, Bramble stooping on the line to nod clear Heidar Helguson's header from a Traore cross.

It had the desired effect on Sunderland, but only briefly. Within about a minute Sunderland had doubled their lead, Bendtner pressurising Gabbidon into a header which gave Sessegnon the ball in his own half. From there he went passed two defenders to a one-on-one with Paddy Kenny, putting a good shot past him.



It prompted a substitution, .....but only of referees.

At 2-0, the game looked beyond QPR and perhaps the Black Cats believed as much. If they did, it took all of four minutes to shake them from their complacency. In that time the hosts scored twice, as Sunderland found left-wing crosses impossible to deal with. Helguson got on the end of both. First he slid in to beat Wes Brown to Alejandro Faurlin's low delivery then having just headed wide a Young cross, he played a deep centre into the path of Jamie Mackie, whose forehead completed a turnaround scarcely imaginable five minutes earlier.

O'Neill responded by throwing on Craig Gardner and Jack Colback, Gardner did what he was bought for, running beyond the strikers in the 78th minute. Sessegnon delayed the pass until just the right minute, and it took a brilliant Kenny save to deny the midfielder. With eight minutes left, Bendtner went close, heading onto the roof of the net after Bramble headed a corner back to him. When Kenny made another outstanding block after Phil Bardsley's give-and-go with Sessegnon, Sunderland must have been resigned to their fate. But another run to the near post from a Richardson corner – this time by Brown – produced the winner.

## SUNDERLAND v EVERTON

[MON 26<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2011]

### Disputed penalty denies Cats win

By Paul Fraser, Chief Football Writer, Northern Echo

THERE has been a festive ecard doing the rounds among Sunderland fans showing Martin O'Neill as Father Christmas.

After he was prevented from claiming a third win as manager, there is only one man worthy of the tag Scrooge. When referee Howard Webb watched Leon Osman go to ground in the box minutes after half-time, the World Cup official looked prepared to wave play on. Instead, after taking time to think, he pointed to the spot and Leighton Baines executed the spot-kick with the sort of quality that would give goalkeeper Keiren Westwood problems every time.

Yet Baines should never have been given the chance to take it. Despite close attention from Sunderland team-mates Lee Cattermole and Wes Brown, Osman kicked the turf before falling over. Sunderland players surrounded Mr Webb, who was also approached at the final whistle to deliver his version of events. Whether he admits to the mistake or not, it will do nothing to alter the outcome. Fortunately Sunderland had already taken the lead through Jack Colback's first goal for the club after emerging as a substitute early in the game. Otherwise the ref's error could have been even worse for Sunderland.

O'Neill has still lost only one of his opening four games since taking over from Steve Bruce, even if he couldn't deliver a fifth home league win of the year to end 2011.

There was a sense that too much turkey had been eaten for much of the first half, with chances few and far between to lift a pretty subdued atmosphere inside the Stadium of Light. With the exception of a long ball that caught out the Sunderland defence when it gathered pace in blustery conditions, neither team tested the two goalkeepers until Colback's opener. It was Phil Jagielka's clearance from deep inside his own half which appeared to be blown beyond Brown by the wind and that opened the door for Tim Cahill to break in. The Aussie, without a goal since December last year, has a habit of scoring against the Black Cats and home fans feared the worst when he was faced with just Westwood to beat. But Westwood stood tall to turn away Cahill's low drive, which would have given him his eighth goal against Sunderland.

Instead Sunderland survived. They also were fortunate to see Cahill head a Baines corner a yard wide moments before Louis Saha should have at least hit the target when he was left unmarked at the back post to meet Royston Drenthe's flag-kick. O'Neill had wanted Stephane Sessegnon to stay further forward and there were plenty of times when he was up against the Everton last man. It has not taken the Northern



FINAL SCORE: QUEENS P. R. 2 SUNDERLAND 3

SUNDERLAND: Westwood, O'Shea, Bardsley, Brown, Bramble, Larsson (Gardner 75), Richardson, Cattermole\*, Vaughan (Colback 71), Sessegnon\*, Bendtner.

[unused subs – Carson, Elmohamady, Kilgallon, McClean, Dong-Won.

\*=booked

Att: 16,167

# Reserve & Youth up-date

Irishman long to realise that finishing off chances has been Sunderland's biggest problem this season. A partnership between Sessegnon and Nicklas Bendtner is still in its infancy, but there was some nice link-up play and often it was just that extra touch which let them down in front of goal. Bendtner was often the guilty party, regularly looking to turn on to his other foot, which gave the Everton defence plenty of time to react and thwart the attacks.

But the lift which Sunderland had been looking for arrived from the most unlikely of sources midway through the first half.

After Titus Bramble had been unable to shrug off an ankle problem he told O'Neill that he could not carry on and Colback, rather than centre-back Matt Kilgallon, was his replacement. Colback's introduction meant a change around in midfield and attack. Phil Bardsley swapped flanks to the right, John O'Shea moved inside and Kieran Richardson dropped from the wing to left-back. When Bendtner combined with Sessegnon deep inside the Everton half it was Colback who was left unmarked. The tenacious midfielder's shot was helped over goalkeeper Tim Howard by Sylvain Distin's attempted block to give Sunderland the lead in the 26th minute.

Everton created some nice passages of play but looked a team struggling for goals and rarely looked like improving a record of 17 league goals. Only Swansea and Wigan have scored fewer this season. But Sunderland, who also had to change things around after the restart when Bardsley had to be replaced at rightback by midfielder Craig Gardner, still had to be alert.

There were a few half-chances at both ends, but Sunderland's players had every right to feel aggrieved with the moment which cost them the lead. When Osman picked up possession he had a lot to do. Without any contact, the Everton man kicked the floor, fell to ground and, after a lengthy pause, Mr Webb pointed to the spot. If there was any debate about the decision to award the penalty then it didn't stop Baines being conclusive with his effort. With Westwood bouncing all over the place on the line, Baines' left foot picked out the goalkeeper's top left corner with precision and power.

In a desperate attempt to claim the three points for his second home game in a row, O'Neill introduced Northern Irish winger James McClean in the hope it would help do just that. But, unlike McClean's cameo against Blackburn, and despite an instant run and shot which trickled wide, it was not to be – even though Distin almost turned Sessegnon's low centre into his own net late on.

Sunderland claimed a point, but can rightly feel aggrieved that it wasn't more.

FINAL SCORE: SUNDERLAND 1 EVERTON 1

SUNDERLAND: Westwood, O'Shea, Bardsley (Gardner 46), Brown, Bramble (Colback 21), Larsson, Richardson, Cattermole, Vaughan (McClean 81), Sessegnon, Bendtner.

[unused subs – Carson, Elmohamady, Kilgallon, Dong-Won]

\* NO bookings!

Att: 43,619

## SUNDERLAND RES v SCUNTHORPE UTD RES: 7-0

A strong Sunderland side easily overcame Scunthorpe in this Central League Cup tie. Sunderland included Carson, Gardner, Meyler, Vaughan & Dong-Won. James McClean & Ji Dong-Won both scored a brace....but it was Ryan Noble who stole the show. He came on as a 58<sup>th</sup>-minute substitute and claimed a late hat-trick with goals in the 82<sup>nd</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup> & 86<sup>th</sup> minutes!

## SUNDERLAND RES v MAN UTD RES: 6-3

League leaders Utd had lost only once and conceded only 7 league goals all season...until they came up against a rampant Sunderland side..

United took the lead on 14 minutes, but goals from Meyler (36 min) & Gardner (44 mins) had Sunderland ahead at the break. Noble scored on 48 mins & 53 mins to put the home side 4-1 ahead, but United rallied with goals on 58 mins & 64 mins. However Noble got his hat-trick on 65 mins and his fourth on 88 mins. These goals took his tally to 11 goals in the last four games....including three hat-tricks!

## HULL CITY RES v SUNDERLAND RES: 2-2

Goals from Louis Laing (5 mins) & Oumare Tounkara (30 mins) had put Sunderland into the lead twice in this Central League Cup clash. John Egan had a late, late header headed off the Hull goal line.

	<u>TOP OF LEAGUE</u>											GD	Pts
	<u>HOME</u>					<u>AWAY</u>							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Manchester Utd	10	5	1	0	18	2	2	0	2	10	11	+15	22
<b>SUNDERLAND</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>19</b>
Liverpool	10	4	0	0	16	4	1	2	3	5	10	+7	17
Newcastle	9	2	1	1	10	7	3	1	1	11	7	+7	17
Everton	9	2	0	2	5	5	1	2	2	10	9	+1	11

## SUNDERLAND U18 v NOTT'M FOREST U18: 1-2

Sunderland bowed out of the FA Youth Cup at the first hurdle. They created plenty of opportunities but lacked a cutting edge. George Honeyman got Sunderland's goal.

## DERBY CO U18 v SUNDERLAND U18: 2-1

After a good first half, Sunderland took early in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-half with a goal from Nathan Thomas. Sunderland then failed twice to pick-up a runner and conceded on each occasion.

# Being Frank

## Frankly speaking

### ....or speaking Frankly ?



[Another Book Review from Frank this month.....received in a suitably small envelope to avoid any surcharge!.....Ed]

**SUNDERLAND: Player of the Year 1976-2011** by Rob Mason  
Published by DB Publishing

This new book would make an excellent present for any Sunderland supporter. It's written by the club's publications editor & historian, so the research cannot be faulted. The award has been made 35 times and all the names should be familiar. The original winner in 1976/77 was Joe Bolton whilst the winner last season, was as you know, Phil Bardsley.

Only three players have won the award twice. Marco Gabbiadini won it in successive years 1988/89 & 89/90. Kevin Phillips won it twice within three seasons (1997/98 & 1999/2000), whilst Gary Bennett's awards spanned seven years (1986/87 & 93/94).

As you would expect, most of the winners are quite familiar, like Bobby Kerr, Shaun Elliott, Nick Pickering, Paul Bracewell, Eric Gates, Kevin Ball & Niall Quinn. However, I must confess there were some winners who I had nearly forgotten, like the French goalie Lionel Perez and defender Jeff Clarke. But it gets worse.....! Two winners were totally unknown to me: Dariusz Kubicki & Sean Thornton (2002/03).

Anyone like me, who was born before 1950 may resent the fact that the award came too late for their favourites to feature. For example, between 1920 & 1976 I believe that many of the following would have won the award: Buchan, Cresswell & Mapson (pre 1939) and Wright (A), Shackleton, Ford, Anderson, Hurley, Ashurst, Montgomery, Clough, Sharkey, Baxter, Todd, Tueart, Hughes, Watson (W) & (D) and Halom.

*Frank Garrick*

[Frank, where have you been? Not heard of Kubicki or Thornton? Dariusz made his debut on 05/03/94 v Notts County (h) and was an ever-present until 14/09/96 when he was dropped for the match at Derby – a run of 123 consecutive games!- to make way for the 'oh so wonderful' Gareth Hall!! This did not go down well with fans. His last appearance for SAFC came on 13/04/97 v Liverpool (h). He made 149 appearances and 'missed' a total of 5 games.....he never got on the score sheet! He had been signed from Aston Villa for £100,000 in July 1994 (after a loan period from March 1994). He was transferred to Wolves in August 1997 on a 'free'. He was a Polish international right-back. See SAFC News re Thornton.....Ed]

# Ed 's Travel

Hello and welcome again.

So it is Peterborough (a) in the FA Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> rd. A short trip up the A1M (or Gt Northern Railway) will do us fine.

Anyone wanting tickets for Stoke (a) on 04/02/12 should get their requirements & cheques to me asap as the deadline for Season Card applications is 19/01/12. See below for ticket prices.

Apart from potential FA Cup matches, the next away game will then be West Brom on 25/03/12, closely followed by Newcastle on 03/03/12. Anyone wanting tickets for either of those should contact me by the end of January.

Later in the season we will be looking to travel to Lichfield on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> for Villa. The Big Bus Trip to the SOL will be on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> for the season finale against Man United.

**PLEASE NOTE: NEW FARES ON MICK'S MINIS TRIPS**  
**ADULT £30 : JUNIOR £15 : RETURN DRIVER £20**

All the best. Let's push on!

*Ed Rayner* Mobile 07789035483 : Home 01462 813963  
E-mail [edrayner@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:edrayner@gotadsl.co.uk) or [travel@alblackcats.co.uk](mailto:travel@alblackcats.co.uk)

#### TICKET INFO:

Chelsea(a)	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan (3.00pm)	Adult £50/£47.....O65/U16 £23.50
Stoke (a)	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb (3.00pm)	Season card app to 19/01/12 General sale from 25/01/12 Adult £30....O65 £21.....U17 £17 U11 £14.

CD

# FIXTURES

## PREMIERSHIP

Aug 13	Liverpool	(a)	1-1
20	NEWCASTLE	(H)	0-1
27	Swansea City	(a)	0-0
Sep 10	CHELSEA	(H)	1-2
17	STOKE CITY	(H)	4-0
26	Norwich City	(a) +	1-2
Oct 1	WEST BROM	(H)	2-2
16	Arsenal	(a) +	1-2
22	Bolton Wand	(a)	2-0
29	ASTON VILLA	(H)	2-2
Nov 5	Man Utd	(a)	0-1
19	FULHAM	(H)	0-0
26	WIGAN ATH	(H)	1-2
Dec 4	Wolves	(a) +	1-2
11	BLACKBURN	(H) +	2-1
18	Tottenham	(a)	0-1
21	Queens Park R	(a) +	3-2
26	EVERTON	(H)	1-1
Jan 1	MAN CITY	(H) +	3.00
3	Wigan Ath	(a)	
14	Chelsea	(a)	
21	SWANSEA	(H)	
31	NORWICH	(H) +	8.00
Feb 4	Stoke City	(a)	
11	ARSENAL	(H)	
25	West Brom	(a)	
Mar 3	Newcastle	(a)	
10	LIVERPOOL	(H)	
17	Blackburn	(a)	
24	QUEENS P.R	(H)	
31	Man City	(a)	
Apr 7	TOTTENHAM	(H)	
9	Everton	(a)	
14	WOLVES	(H)	
21	Aston Villa	(a)	
28	BOLTON	(H)	
May 5	Fulham	(a)	
13	MAN UTD	(H)	

\* espn + sky sports

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## FRIENDLIES

July 13	York City	(a)	2-1
17	Arminia Bielefeld	(a)	1-1
20	Hannover '96	(a)	1-3
23	Borussia Mchgbch	(a)	0-0
27	Kilmarnock	(a)	2-1
30	Burnley	(a)	0-1
Aug 2	Hartlepool Utd	(a)	3-1
3	Darlington	(a)	3-0
6	Hibernian	(a)	0-0

## CARLING CUP

Aug 23	Brighton	(a)	0-1 (aet)
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## F. A. CUP

Jan 8	Peterborough	(a)	+3.30
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## LATE NEWS

**NORWICH (h),  
PETERBOROUGH (a)**  
now 'live' on Sky TV

The SUNDERLAND/MAN CITY  
match was broadcast 'live' on BBC  
Swahili to East Africa.

REMEMBER  
KEEP THE FAITH  
KEEP THE FAITH  
KEEP THE FAITH  
KEEP THE FAITH  
KEEP THE FAITH



# Get shirty....get a mug



Want to be the proud owner of a Sunderland mug showing the teams colours over the years (to 2008)?.....  
.....or a framed photo of the same [25" x 18"] ?

I have found a supplier of both items, so if you're interested please get in touch without delay.

Get your family to buy you one – or both – for Christmas.

Mugs are £6.50 & the framed photos are (approx) £35.00 [exact price to be confirmed- may get a discount!]

Contact me, Colin Dunn, on 07734508861 or 01438221519  
or via e-mail on [silverfox.safc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:silverfox.safc@hotmail.co.uk)  
or [editor@blackcats.co.uk](mailto:editor@blackcats.co.uk)