

Charlton look to the Valley again

CHARLTON could be ending their exile and returning to their beloved Valley Ground.

Secret behind-the-scenes meetings over the last few months might result in an emotional return to South East London for the Club.

Charlton left the Valley, their home since 1974, two years ago after a financial crisis which threatened the club's existence.

They moved to Selhurst Park to share, as tenants, with Crystal Palace a move that brought protests from fans—and a boycott.

With dwindling crowds

By KEVIN MOSELEY

it was obvious they could not survive in South West London but a return was complicated by the involvement of former chairman Michael Gilkstein and Greenwich Council.

The council, taking the club's side, refused to allow Gilkstein planning

permission for the area of the ground he owned unless Charlton returned to the area.

Lately the council has asked residents if they had any objections to the redevelopment of the Valley and now Charlton are likely to go back.

The first indication was their £250,000 purchase of a training ground at near-by Eitham.

Masterminding the

return are directors Roger Alwen and Mike Morris who could yet become the new kingpins of the revitalised club.

Plans for the 'Valley'

Concern about the falling condition of Charlton Athletic's former football ground, the Valley, has prompted the Council to consider a planning brief for the future of the site.

The Council would like the area to remain as open space with a sports hall community development and limited housing.

A draft planning guide for the area is being prepared and this will be followed by full and extensive consultations with all local residents and groups in the area.

The area is currently scheduled as community open space in the Borough Plan, and any change would have to be approved.

The Council has moved into action because it is now sadly unlikely that Charlton will ever return to the Valley. The area has become a playground for vandals, and local people are concerned about the safety of the ground and buildings.

Buildings are at the



NOVEMBER

1987

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS...

Valiants Viewpoint



Please reply to the secretary
unless otherwise stated

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Once again Charlton Athletic seem to have confirmed their position as having one of the most consistent match programmes in the league. CONSISTENTLY BAD that is. For a brief spell at the start of the season I thought we were in for some good reading from this seasons effort, even some colour pictures to treasure. But that lasted only a fortnight, between the first game against Forest and the second against Man Utd. The Forest edition had colour pics in the middle and colour action pictures on the front along with a few new ideas inside. The team line up had a brief intro to each player, the next visitors were highlighted and there was a spotlight section on the players. Two pages were donated to the visitors and the reserves and youth teams shared a page. The price had jumped to 80p but this seemed ok considering the colour now splashed in the middle.

Sadly the colour inside was missing for the Man Utd issue and has been ever since. The colour action picture on the front has been the same ever since and we are gradually reverting to the problems of last season where the same things are mentioned on virtually every page. The one consistently good page in this seasons programme is Michael Whelan's Flashback, which is obviously written by someone who has a great knowledge of our club and football in general. The rest of the programme appears to be written by people who either dont know or cant be bothered about the history and background of the club.

The clubs argument is that they dont sell enough programmes to cover the cost of colour pictures and extra pages. Well why can Oxford produce such an excellent programme compared with ours, at 10p cheaper and having 4 extra pages. Of it's 16 pages the Oxford issue has 11 with colour pictures of some sort and the programme is packed with interesting reading for both Oxford and away fans. If you also consider that the size of print in Charltons programme is almost double that in the Oxford issue it makes it even more amazing. If the print gets much bigger in our programme you will only have room for one line on each page. Even Walsall in the third division, who must work on a similar sales figure to ours manage 12 pages at 50p with plenty of reading and normal size print. The Chimes. Pompeys programme costs 80p and has 20 pages of reading and colour pictures. It has even the Board of Directors featured in colour on the third page (not that we would want that in our programme).

The simple fact is, if we have got twelve pages, lets have someone who can write interesting things about the club and the rest of football, not the morons who struggle to find anything of interest to write and obviously consider the task a chore. The page entitled Viewpoint I find ridiculous as it seems to start halfway through a conversation. There is never any introduction to the player concerned and just consists of a list of statements.

What on earth would Peter Burrows do if he had to fill the 32 pages of West Ham programme every other week. Charlton actually have one of these people required to produce an interesting programme, sadly he is no longer involved, Colin Cameron I am sure, along with Mike Whelan could fill the programme each week with normal size print and not say the same thing on each page.

Charlton's Long Good Friday, was a hand book that was long overdue. Sadly it was written by Peter Barratt who is unknown to Charlton supporters and I should think never saw a single Charlton game last season going by the number of mistakes in the book. Every body knows John Sheridan was the scorer for Leeds at St Andrews. Ian Baird was the one Peter Shirliff kicked in the back of the head.

The other part of the handbook that was impossible to believe was the page by Richard Collins, the current Chairman of Charlton Athletic. Now Mr Collins likes to tell us he used to watch the club from the Valley terraces as did other members of the board. The first paragraph of his page show the attitude Mr Collins has towards Charlton supporters. It's our fault that we are now homeless. To save us doing any research he says, the crowds at the Valley were miserable. Well Mr Collins so were the facilities. Anyone who watched from the East terrace for thirty years was entitled to pick his games. NO TOILETS, NO REFRESHMENTS, NO COVER. But we were still playing in SE7 where we belonged. If Mr Collins had done the research he mentioned, he would see the games against first division sides at the Valley, even in the eighties, were better supported than anything we have had at Selhurst. Charlton crowds have always picked their games, the casual fans came more to see the opposition than Charlton, even in the forties when we registered our record home average attendance of 40,216 in 1948/49 season. In that season our top gate was the 61,475 that saw the visit of Pompey compared with the 23,603 that came for the visit of Derby County.

So Mr Collins I dont think it is the fault of the supporters that Charlton had to leave the Valley, more the fault of successive boards of directors who had no interest in improving facilities to entice more supporters to the Valley.

Back to the Handbook and the same problem of no one to write anything who knows anything about the club. Previous handbooks were always very well compiled and packed with statistics about the club. Unfortunately this publication was packed with mistakes and the statistics page was just a copy from the last programme against Leeds United. Having said all this it must be said that without the efforts of Eugene McGinn we would not even have the handbook we did get. He certainly has tried his best to get the commercial side of the club moving, but once again he suffers from a lack of knowledge about Charlton Athletic.

OPEN DAY AT THE NEW TRAINING GROUND IN ELTHAM.

The Open day certainly went down very well . In fact I think it was better attended than even the Directors had hoped for. It appears to be a very well equiped training ground and can only help the players to improve their ability. The programme for the day said the club were 'reviving their roots'. I wonder if that is all they are doing. Perhaps it should have said 're-building'.

You may think after reading the last two pages, that all we do is criticize Charlton Athletic, well at the moment thats all you can do. The few supporters of Charlton Athletic are criticized by Mr Collins. The club play the wrong side of London and I've just watched us lose to

Bradford City with one of the most pathetic performances I have seen for years. Sometimes I wish I was one of the Selhurst boycott brigade, but unfortunately I have this inbuilt problem. I have to keep going. All the time the Valley still stands we can live in hope. Away games are now a pleasant relief from the Selhurst agony.

Rumours are flying around about a possible return to the Valley, all are being denied by the club. Everything about the club is shrouded in secrecy, in fact I understand that from the new year all team changes will be secret, and the players will wear face masks. Matches will not be advertised and match tickets will not give the date of the game. This is the latest idea of the Charlton board as they feel that the fans are finding out too much information about the club.

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN BILL

Its Thursday morning, 13th August, the Charlton supporter who couldn't face the journey across South East London to watch the friendly against Pisa Sporting Club is anxiously searching the sports pages for the result and perhaps, even a match report. The Sun, Mirror, Star, Independent not a mention, just a minute, Egypt 1. Kenya 0. how interesting. Daily Telegraph, nothing, Daily Mail, surprise surprise Charlton 3 Pisa 1 at last the result and its in the Guardian too, but alas no report. I wonder who scored! Daily Express, the cream of Fleet Street, a write up on the match, not much, but at least the scorers are there. Wait a minute, whats this, The Today newspaper, remember, the one that used to sponsor the Football League, with one of the smallest circulations in Fleet Street finds room for a comprehensive match report on Charlton versus Pisa.

No wonder we get small gates, not only do we play the wrong side of London, but we get absolutely no publicity. A London first division club playing an Italian first division club, I bet if it was Arsenal or Spurs, or even Wimbledon, playing Pisa they would have had a write up in all the papers mentioned.

What this club needs is a 'Press Officer' I thought to myself, only to be informed that "we already have a Press Officer", Peter Burrowes. Well how about it Peter, if you cant get the club any decent publicity we have a young man, Steve Dixon, who has the club at heart, and could certainly make a better effort at getting our result in a National newspaper along with a scoreline from the other side of the world.

Peter Burrowes actually went on the pre-season trip to Sweden with the team, where, I believe five games were played, I'm not sure about that or any of the scores because not once were any of the games mentioned in the National press sports pages. A brief mention in the South London Press was all we had to go on. Every other team that went to Sweden this summer (half the League I think) had their games reported, even Palace.

The Annual General Meeting of the Supporters Club was held recently at the Valley Club and many proposals were put forward from the floor. These will be taken up with the Directors of the Club and a report will be made in a later issue. Many thanks to all those members who attended and thankyou for your continued support.

Yours in sport

Bill.

QUIZ REPORT

Once again this season, we will be entering a team in the Home Counties Quiz League. We just about managed to retain our Second Division status in a manner not dissimilar to that of the Charlton team, except that we did not have to play off for our place.

We actually finished in one of the relegation places in Division Two last season, but were unable to complete a number of games. Fortunately, the Charlton representative at the League A.G.M managed to convince those present that our failure to play three games was totally beyond our control, therefore Hull City were relegated in our place.

The Home Counties Supporters Clubs Quiz League comprises 22 clubs split into three divisions of ten, six and six. In Division Two we play the other five clubs home and away. This season all our matches will take place in London, with our furthest journey being to Griffin Park.

Teams consist of six players who endeavour to answer as best they can over six rounds. During three of the rounds, conferring is permitted.

Last season, we played a number of matches with a short team, so were are hoping that some members of the Supporters Club will try their luck this year. If you don't fancy joining the team, we also require a couple of volunteers to keep score and ask the questions at our home fixtures, which always take place at The Valley Club. Anyone wishing to help out - please contact Supporters Club Secretary Roy King or Quiz team captain Steve Dixon at the address printed in this newsletter.

This season's fixtures are as follows;

Date	Opponents	Venue
12:10:87	London Plymouth	Away
05:11:87	London Celtic	Away
09:11:87	Romford	Home
26:11:87	Brentford	Away
11:01:88	London Meadowbank	Home
25:01:88	London Plymouth	Home
22:02:88	London Celtic	Home
07:03:88	Romford	Away
21:03:88	Brentford	Home
21:04:88	London Meadowbank	Away

In the League Cup we received a bye in the First Round, and in the Second Round we have been drawn at home to the Reading side which finished last season as Second Division Champions.



Off the Post



Dear Valiants Viewpoint

May I firstly congratulate you on an excellent and improving, Supporters Club News. What a pity the two enduring memories of it, offer little joy for loyal supporters of Charlton Athletic. Firstly there was the questionnaire circulated to local residents by Rosie Barnes and, secondly, the absence of an introduction by Mr Collins.

Any questionnaire circulated to residents living near a football ground would result in a resounding vote in favour of that grounds removal. Any public place of entertainment provides the locals with traffic and parking nuisance, the problems of a misbehaving minority to be found in any large gathering, noise from the public address systems etc. I live next to a factory; I should love someone to take it away! However I moved next to the factory knowing it was there and so did the residents in the Valley area. I should imagine, however, that a questionnaire circulated in the Selhurst area, who now suffer double the nuisance, would result in a 'yes' vote for our return to the Valley.

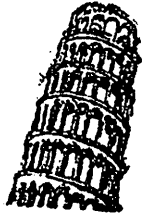
Unfortunately, being a politician, Rosie Barnes was unable to resist 'bending' the questionnaire form and asking about pop concerts (there were only ever two) and markets (these had stopped anyway). The fact that she deliberately biased the questionnaire is less important than her reason for doing it. This can only be that she has no interest in football and wouldn't give a monkeys whether Charlton Athletic return or not.

Perhaps on reflection it is just as well that Mr Collins did decide not to provide an introduction to the last edition. This view is based on his introduction to 'Charlton's Long Good Friday' (which he did find time for). According to this, it is we dis-loyal supporters who are to blame for our being at Selhurst and for the Valley moulding in our absence! I find that hard to accept and other readers of this magazine who shivered at our two first Full Members Cup games last season will be equally unconvinced. Crowds were small at the Valley he says, (miserable was his exact description). But they were in keeping with any second division club that has been in the doldrums for thirty years. We loyalists turned up every week, but of course the fair weather followers did not

It is nice to have a hand book again, what a pity Mr Collins did not have the grace in his introduction to applaud those loyal supporters who travel to a ground they hate in order to register their support for the great Charlton Athletic Football Club (thats its name by the way Mr Collins, not Charlton Football Club).

Yours faithfully

John F Bennett
Ridgewood Gardens
Bexhill-On-Sea
East Sussex



Dear Valiants Viewpoint

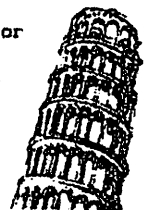
I am writing concerning my recent escapade in Pisa. Because I had purchased a monthly railcard, I decided to go to Pisa to see the boys before staying with friends and family near Nice (Cote d'Azur), and in Koblenz (V.G.)

Full of excitement, I set off on the 6th of August. After 25 hours on the train I arrived and eventually found the ground, visited the stupid tower and dossed in a cafe until midnight. What to do? I thought. Not much money to spend, so I wanted to Rome on the over-night train. The next day I went to Florence, returning to Pisa by mid-day. What was to be the next line of action? I sat next to the tower wearing a silly looking C.A.F.C. hat. At about three o'clock an Italian wished me well (at least that's what I thought he was doing), whilst I also received vindictive glares and looks of bewilderment, and probably total ignorance. Just when I was becoming bored with my own company, along came someone who spoke English. "Made it I see" was his first words. His wife thought they would see no-one, before they paid £2 to ascend the tower. In their absence, I descended on John Humph like a vulture, praying for his autograph. Instead, I was invited to the teams hotel to get all the autographs. Before this, Mark, his wife and I strolled around Pisa and visited a cafe wearing our Charlton colours.

In the hotel lounge about 16 players, Lennie, Bill Gallagher, Collins and a few others were either at the bar or watching T.V. Into this quiet setting did we invade. I had helped myself to a fixture list in a shop and promptly got it signed by all the players. Just as good was the fact that we got three free £25 tickets from Lennie, our leader, thanks to Humph.

At the ground we met Ian and his wife, who had bought their £25 rip-off tickets. After a few more beers at yet another bar we returned to the stadium, which, in comparison, only made Sell Out Park resemble a football ground. The match could be likened to a wonderful show by Roadies' outfit - it was that bad. Their first goal should never have been and made Mr Axcell (remember Norwich away, if you were sober) seem like the second Christ. The second was as off-side by as big as the infinity of Arsenal's use of the off-side trap. The third even had us clapping the Ian Rush impersonation. Humph had a few good runs, but as much as we tried, they were slightly quicker and always seemed to get nine players behind the ball.

Afterwards we hailed our heroes, un-tied our Union flags and made our way to the nearest bar since the players seemed to have lost their way back to the hotel. Congratulations to Ian, who after doing a massive creep job on Paul Elliot, was promised his shirt at the return match then succeeded in getting us drunk. Cheers mate, I owe you one. Congratulations also to Rob Parker for making it to Pisa and also for flashing his Supporters Club card (I new it must be good for something) and eventually gaining free entry into the £25 seats. Ian after forking out £50 was looking as sick as a parrot.



At 2am the players seemed to stagger into the hotel, alcoholically refreshed. We followed. Rambo stole my silly hat (I never got a chance to autograph it for him), Bob Bolder was the Liberace on the piano, Walshie was indulging in his Aled Jones act, while Lennie was telling that the most important ingredient to being successful in Charlton colours was 100% commitment and never giving up. Mr Fryer was also there. At around 6am, us six drunk merry and contented cavaliers staggered to the station. C'est la vie!!!

For the record:

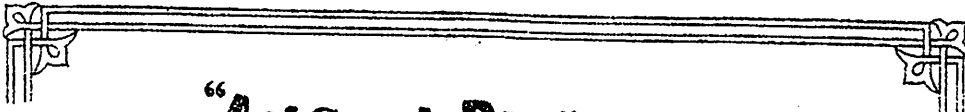
PISA NISTA, CAVALLO, LUCARELLI, FACCEDEA (53'DIANDA), ELLIOT, DUNGA (64'BRANANI), COUGHI, CANEO (53'CHITI), PIOVANELLI (53'GORDI), DOLCETTI (69'FLORENTINI), CECCONI. MANAGER, MATEBRAZZI.

US BOLDER (58'JOHNS), HUMPHREY, REID, MACKENZIE (58'WILLER), THOMPSON, PENDER, MILBE (58'GRITT), AMOS, WILLIAMS, WALSHIE (58'CURB), CROOKS.

GOALS: 21' CECCONI, 33' PIOVANELLI, 64' CECCONI. ATTEND approx 3,500

WEATHER: HOT, PITCH: IN PERFETTE CONDIZIONI ! MAN OF THE MATCH: CECCONI. / HUMPH. / WILLIAMS.

Darren Risby.



"ANGRY 'ARRY"

Voice of the not so silent majority

Since the start of the season and the introduction of two substitutes, I've been perplexed by one of the greatest mysteries that this great game of ours has conjured up. When the team changes are announced, why do they swap the 12 and 14 around? What's the point? Even apparently sensible blokes like our Lennie muck about with the numbers. I keep spilling my Bovril while I'm trying to scribble down all the changes in my programme. Give me strength!!

Am I the only person on this planet who isn't remotely interested in the life and times of Terry Venables? Apart from getting Palace into Division One (admittedly a miracle in the loaves and fishes league), getting QPR to Wembley (it's all of five miles) and winning one of Europe's poorest Leagues with one of it's richest clubs, just what has the man done? I'll tell you what he's done... perfected the ten-man offside trap.

I haven't forgotten that time at The Valley when QPR lined up like the Tiller Girls. I lost count of the number of times the poor old linesman had to flag. I reckon they pensioned him off with Flagger's Elbow after that game. Why penalise a forward who's caught offside by defenders pushing up? How can they claim he's seeking to gain an advantage? It makes me very angry!!

Why didn't Charlton run coaches for the 'home' game against Walsall? Don't they realise how difficult it is for me to get down here for a midweek game after a hard day's work at the abattoir? I'd walk here on Saturday to see us beat Liverpool but two hours and three buses to watch Walsall is a bit much. When I got in at midnight my missus said I loved Charlton more than her. I soon put her straight. I told her I loved Crystal Palace more than her!

I may be a reactionary old codger who makes Margaret Thatcher look like a pinko but one thing which really gets my goat is booing black players. Quite apart from advertising the fact that the perpetrators of this vile behaviour have got IQ's slightly lower than the number of goals Ralph Milne gets with his head, it's about the best way to gee up a player to play out of his skin, be it black, brown, yellow or green and scaly (like mine). Button it, boneheads!

Talking of terrace noises recalls my happy youth (yes, even I was young once) when I was a member of the Covered End Chorale. We knew loads of songs, even if we didn't know what some of the words meant. But what do the songsters of the Arthur Wait Enclosure have in their repertoire? 'Come on you Reds' (which always sounds like a 45 played at 33 rpm) and 'Yippie Aye Ay, Yippie Aye Yo'. Who do these kids support? The Dallas Cowboys? What's wrong with the kids today? That's what I'd like to know...

We may have beaten off the challenge of Leeds United in last season's play-offs but Billy Bremner is determined to see Charlton back in Division Two... one player at a time! Only eight more to go Billy!

Anyway, I can't stand here gassing allday. My neighbours have just put their washing out, so I've got to light my bonfire. It's 'all go, isn't it?

Peace and Love,

'Arry

Valiants Viewpoint

by
Steve Dixon

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Before I start, I'd like to remind all Charlton fans of the words of Mr R.D.Collins, the new club chairman, under the heading of Chairman's Comments in the new club handbook.

"Where are the millions of pounds that would be needed...
.....the invitation is on the table so over to you."

Encouraging words indeed. If you, like me, were astonished to read such a statement, perhaps you would care to consider the following table which lists all the players bought since Sunley's took over the club in March 1984.

Towner	£15,000	Bolder	£20,000
Curbishley	£40,000	Walsh	£125,000
Reid	£40,000	Peake	£75,000
Pearson	£100,000	Milne	£125,000
Humphrey	£60,000	Miller	£130,000
Pender	£35,000	Williams	£10,000
Shipley	£15,000	Crooks	£75,000
Thompson	£25,000	Mackenzie	£200,000
Melrose	£45,000	Jones	£350,000
Shirtliff	£125,000	Campbell	£75,000

£1,685,000

Now - add to that the cost of the new training ground, and you have a tidy little sum. Were Mr Collins to read this, he would probably say that had the club spent that money on The Valley instead of the team, we would not be in Division One. That is, without doubt, a very valid point, but it still begs the question ; which would you prefer ?

CLUBS WHOSE GROUNDS ARE NOT MUCH FUN TO VISIT : PART 1 - LUTON

The unfortunate incident at Scarborough recently has reawakened the tiresome argument involving members only grounds, with a certain MP / club chairman hysterically predicting the closure of the country's major grounds if we don't all change to members only.

No doubt he picked up good brownie points from Mrs Thatcher for his ludicrous outburst, but, at the end of the day it is the fans who judge the new ideas in football by either turning up or staying away.

The Full Members Cup, for instance has been given the thumbs down, but, by the same token, the play - offs went down well.

The average attendance at Luton Town was down 806 last season from the year before, so instead of attracting people to their super safe ground, they actually did quite the opposite and drove them away.

All things considered, the plastic surface, the artificial atmosphere and the extraordinary admission charges (£5 - £7 to stand !) make Kenilworth Road one of the least attractive places in the League, whether you be home, away, or otherwise.

CLUBS WHOSE GROUNDS ARE NOT MUCH FUN TO VISIT : PART 2 - POMPEY

I am aware that many people consider Portsmouth to be one of the better grounds in the League, but I've always felt that Fratton Park is a fairly miserable place to visit at the best of times, but even more so when it is raining, which was the case when we made the journey south a few weeks ago.

For those of you who have yet to experience the delights of a visit to Fratton Park, please note that the travelling fans' section of the ground is exposed to all the elements.

With this vital piece of information taken into consideration, you can imagine my astonishment when the less than friendly local constabulary judged an umbrella to be an offensive weapon, especially when in the hands of one of our older supporters who quite obviously presented very little threat to the peace and harmony of the local community.

Having been forced to leave my dangerous umbrella on the coach, I decided not to risk double pneumonia and went in search of a seat.

The ultra helpful matchday steward wasn't certain if there were any visitors seats but he suggested I try turnstile D.

Upon arriving at the aforementioned turnstile D I noticed plenty of familiar faces and joined the queue, thinking that I'd found the visitors section. Unfortunately there was only one gate to deal with 200 people and the arthritic gateman appeared to be suffering from terminal stupidity so it was 3.05 before I got inside to find that it wasn't away fans seating after all and I was surrounded by hostile blue and white scarves.

All in all, why bother to ban away fans? Just treat them like this a bit more often and they won't turn up anyway.

Next issue ; part 3 - Crystal Palace !

TOP OF THE POPS

As it was the second anniversary of the last game at The Valley recently, I decided to compose a song to mark the occasion. It goes something like this ;

THE VALLEY

(to the tune of ' are you watching on the box ')

We be - long

We be - long

We be - long at The Vall - ey

We - ee be - long at The Vall - ey

Eat your heart out Paul McCartney

QUESTIONNAIRE

In the two years that Charlton have been playing at Crystal Palace, I have lost count of the number of occasions that people have made suggestions regarding the course of action that the Supporters Club should take.

For this reason, we have issued a questionnaire with this newsletter, which we hope people will take the time and trouble to fill in and return to us.

A KICK UP THE ARSENAL

From my own personal point of view, one of the saddest things to emerge from this season was the attendance against Arsenal.

Before Charlton moved to Palace, our average home gate with Arsenal was 55,000, and our lowest ever crowd when entertaining the Gunners was 39,000.

Indeed, on one occasion for a cup - tie there were 72,000 present and Arsenal also provided the opposition for our record League attendance of 68,000.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that we would have had 55,000 had we been playing at The Valley, although we all know that the gate would have been substantially larger. The point I am trying to make is that in the history of first class football in South London, there has never been a fixture with more meaning or importance than Charlton Athletic vs Arsenal.

We had all the big names down at The Valley during our first spell in Division One but each year Arsenal was the big game, and in almost every season they attracted our biggest crowd.

Bearing all this in mind, one can see why 15,000 is such a pitiful attendance, especially considering the number of visiting fans present, and this more than anything puts into perspective the folly that is Selhurst Park, because if the fans don't turn out for that fixture, they simply will not turn out at all.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR 1982 - 1987

Not surprisingly, in view of recent results, there has been a great deal of speculation in the press and also amongst the fans with regard to the position of Lennie Lawrence as manager.

My sincere hope is that all these rumours prove to be unfounded, and that the award of a new contract is not the dreaded 'vote of confidence'.

How many other managers in the League have had to cope with three relegation struggles, a former European Footballer of the Year on the payroll, frequent High Court appearances culminating in the club going out of business, the ensuing takeover, and a disastrous ground sharing scheme, and still manage to lead the team to promotion, First Division survival through the most nail - biting route of all time, and a Wembley appearance, and all in the space of five years!

Lennie Lawrence has gone through more in his spell with Charlton than most managers have to face in their entire career, and yet he is still able to conduct himself with dignity whether in victory or defeat, and should the unthinkable happen and Charlton were to lose their battle to stay up, I am sure that Len would be the man best equipped to lead them back.

And remember, it could be a lot worse - at least he's not a kerb crawler!

ADELONG AND ON

Another rumour I caught the tail end of recently concerns the apparent winding - up of Adelong Ltd. By all accounts, the demise of Michael Gliksten's company was reported in that most trustworthy of publications, the Financial Times.

Certain questions spring to mind. Have Adelong really gone into liquidation? Does this mean that The Valley is for sale? Has it been sold already? Have the board investigated the possibility of it's purchase? These are questions that supporters might wish the club to answer. Or are their wishes to return home just spouted regularly to pacify the fans?

FACE TO FACE

Steve Dixon talking to PETER SHIRTLIFF after the Littlewoods Cup Second Round First Leg victory over Walsall.

- SD: Were you pleased with tonight's result ?
- PS: Yes, three - nil is always a good win, and I thought we gave a good second half performance, but it will still be tough in the second leg.
- SD: Presumably no - one has forgotten what happened in the F.A.Cup last January ?
- PS: We've been far more solid over the past few weeks and we are putting some good performances together, and if we can keep this run going, I think we'll start climbing the League.
- SD: Did you feel that the result was a fair reflection of the game ?
- PS: Yes, especially during the second half, which we dominated and we created quite a few good openings with Garth Crooks taking his goals well.
- SD: Has Charlton's poor start to the season been a disappointment to you ?
- PS: It was disappointing to miss the first three games, especially those against Manchester United and Nottingham Forest, but apart from that I think we've played quite well.
- SD: What was it like having to watch the games ?
- PS: I'm a poor watcher of football, particularly when it's my own team. I try to kick every ball and I can't relax.
- SD: What exactly was your injury ?
- PS: I had a trapped nerve in my back, which has now cleared up completely, and I feel one hundred per cent fit again.
- SD: Do you feel that that there is any particular reason why the team began so badly ?

- PS: During the pre - season build - up, we suffered a lot of injuries to key players. Paul Miller, Ralph Milne, Colin Walsh and myself were all injured and this upsets the continuity of the team. This is about the first time this season that we have had all the senior professionals fit, so we have competition for places as well as a settled side.
- SD: How do you feel about the signing of Andy Jones ?
- PS: I think he'll be a good player for us. He's a good lad and he seems to have settled in well. We have a good bunch of lads here and they'll help him settle down. I think he's just the type of player we need to give Garth Crooks some support.
- SD: Has he been impressive in training ?
- PS: Although he's only been with us a few days, he looks worth the money we paid for him.
- SD: Do you think that Charlton will once again be fighting relegation at the end of the season ?
- PS: It's hard to say, because there is a long way to go yet, but if we continue to play as consistently as we are at the moment, I think we can get halfway up the League.
- SD: Talking about recent results, it must have been a terrible disappointment to come away from Liverpool empty - handed, having played so well.
- PS: The players were unhappy at not getting a result, having been two - one up and deservedly so. Although they had a lot of the ball, they didn't create many openings. However I think our performance will stand us in good stead.
- SD: You were involved in the penalty incident. What happened ?
- PS: I thought it was a penalty. I did just manage to play the ball, but I caught him on the follow through.
- SD: How do you feel about returning to Hillsborough this weekend ?
- PS: I'm looking forward to the game. It was a good game last season, and I thought we could have taken all three points, but this year I fancy us to win.
- SD: Do you think that a game between the two bottom clubs will be a test of character for Charlton ?
- PS: I don't feel it will be as much of a test as the Liverpool game. It will be a hard game, but if we play as well as we can, we're capable of winning.
- SD: Talking about your former club, what persuaded you to leave Wednesday and join Charlton ?

- PS: Basically, Lennie Lawrence. I was very impressed by him. I fancied a change and London seemed like a good idea. I've been here just about a year now and I've enjoyed every minute.
- SD: Were you expecting better things this year after beating the drop last season ?
- PS: I think we were expected to do better. We've spent money on players which shows that the club is ambitious to do well, and I think all the players want to do well.
- SD: What's your opinion on Steve Mackenzie ?
- PS: We haven't seen the best of him yet. He seems to flit in and out of games, but the signs are there that he's going to be a very good player for Charlton.
- SD: Having survived the play - offs, what are your thoughts on the system in general ?
- PS: I think it's unfair that the First Division side should kick off on the same level as the three Second Division teams. They should play in a mini league, with the winners meeting the First Division club for the right to be in Division One.
- SD: Do you think that the play - offs are a good idea and will remain ?
- PS: They were well supported last year, so I expect them to stay, and it does generate interest amongst the supporters.
- SD: There must have been an enormous amount of relief in the dressing room at St Andrews after the final victory over Leeds.
- PS: Relief is the word, more than anything else.
- SD: You must have been surprised to score two goals in one game.
- PS: I've never scored twice in one match before, but after playing at Elland Road I fancied scoring, but obviously scoring two was a bonus.
- SD: Did you feel any sympathy for any of the other clubs involved in the play - offs.
- PS: I felt for Oldham a little bit, because they finished third, well in front of the other two sides, so over the season the play - offs were not a fair reflection of the Second Division.
- SD: What was it like having to play against Mark Aizlewood and John Pearson in such an important game instead of playing alongside them.

- PS: It was strange in some ways, having known John from when we were at Hillsborough as 17 and 18 year olds, but you just have to get on with the game.
- SD: Do you see Charlton aiming from year to year just to survive in the First Division ?
- PS: There is no point in standing still in football, so I think that we have to go on to better things, and with the manager and the players wanting to do well, we have a chance.
- SD: Which teams do you think you will be hoping to finish above at the end of the season ?
- PS: We will be looking to finish above as many as we can, but I'm not really bothered which teams they are !
- SD: Are there any strikers in the Football League that you dislike playing against ?
- PS: You respect players, but it is no good being afraid of people. If you went out to play with that attitude, you might just as well not go out in the first place.
- SD: Do the players get a lift from the support they get at away grounds ?
- PS: Definately. It is always nice to get away support, because you feel you are playing for somebody. It's nice to go to the supporters after the game, especially if you have won, because it makes their journey worthwhile.
- SD: Finally, is there anything you would like to say to those Charlton fans who follow the team throughout the season ?
- PS: Just support the team as best you can.

**TO PLACE YOUR AD
ON THIS PAGE PHONE**

0322 614387

The following three page document was found in amongst the debris at the Valley on my most recent pilgrimage. It clearly indicates bonus payments to players during the season and cannot, be all that out of date as it refers to a Canon League season.



CHARLTON ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB
I N C E N T I V E S C H E D U L E

SEASONS

CANON LEAGUE - BONUS PAYMENTS:-

During the period of this contract the Club shall make the following payments to a maximum of 16 players as nominated by the Team Manager for each Second Division match:

- (i) When appearing in the Canon League Division Two during season 1985/86 the Player will be paid a bonus for each match as follows:-

For the first two matches played until the first League table is printed on a Sunday Morning, the player will receive a bonus per match of £100 for a win and £50 for a draw for every home match played and £125 for a win £60 for a draw in every away match played.

As from the Second Sunday of the season the following bonus payments will be paid as per The League Tables shown each Sunday following the Saturday match.

FIRST, SECOND & THIRD LEAGUE POSITION

Home match £200 for a win - £100 for a draw

Away match £250 for a win - £125 for a draw

FOURTH - ELEVENTH POSITION INCLUSIVE

Home match £100 for a win - £50 for a draw

Away match £125 for a win - £60 for a draw

If the club are in a lower position than eleventh no win or draw bonus will be paid.

Bonuses will be paid for mid-week League Matches dependent on the position of the team on following Sunday. E.g. If the team is 3rd in the League on the Sunday following to the League fixture - the bonuses are payable as per this schedule.

If the team are outside the top 3 in the League on the previous Sunday and the result of the mid-week fixture takes them into the top 3 when the Saturday fixture is played, bonuses are only payable relative to their position on the following Sunday

- (ii) In the event that promotion is gained to the First Division of the Canon League, an additional £240 shall be paid for each Canon League appearance up to a maximum of £10,080.

If the Club are relegated from the Second to the Third Division during the period of his contract the above bonus payments will be amended to read as follows:-

During the period of this contract the Club shall make the following payments to a maximum of 16 players as nominated by the Team Manager for each Second Division Match.

1) When appearing in the Canon League Division Three the player will be paid for each match as follows:-

The Player will be paid a bonus per match of £100 for a win and £50 for a draw for every home match played and £125 for a win and £60 for a draw in every away match played.

When the club has achieved five away wins the bonus to be increased to £150 for a win and £75 for a draw.

In addition a bonus shall be paid for each player in the squad for the team's League position on Sunday morning equivalent to:-

£50 for First Place

£35 for Second Place

£25 for Third Place

(iii) In the event that promotion is gained to the Second Division of the Canon League an additional £100 shall be paid for each Canon League appearance up to a maximum of £4,200 and in the event that the Club wins the Third Division Championship an additional £50 shall be paid for each Canon League appearance up to a total of £2,100.

2. MILK CUP

In the event of Charlton Athletic Football Club playing in the following rounds of the Milk Cup Competition, the Club will pay up to 16 nominated players appearance money as specified including replays:

1st Round:	£20*	5th Round:	£150
2nd Round:	£40*	Semi-Final:	£250
3rd Round:	£80	Final:	£3,000
4th Round:	£100		

(*each leg)

In addition when playing in the Milk Cup Competition the 11 players plus the nominated substitute who take part in each match will share 10% of the club's share of net gate receipts (less all expenses connected with the matches played in this competition until the Club's exit). This payment will be paid in accordance with the player's number of appearances in this competition and will be payable within 14 days of such exit.

3. FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP

In the event of Charlton Athletic Football Club playing in the following rounds of the Football Association Challenge Cup Competition, the Club will pay up to 16 nominated players appearance money as specified including replays:

3rd Round:	£60	6th Round:	£200
4th Round:	£100	Semi-Final:	£500
5th Round:	£150	Final:	£3,000

In addition when playing in the Football Association Challenge Cup Competition the 11 players plus the nominated substitute who take part in each match will share 10% of the Club's share of net gate receipts (less all expenses connected with the matches played in this competition until the Club's exit). This payment will be paid in accordance with the player's number of appearances in this competition and will be payable within 14 days of such exit.

4. FRIENDLY MATCHES

The Club will pay up to 16 nominated players with respect to Friendly Matches £20 per game except for Testimonial matches.

5. FOOTBALL COMBINATION

The following bonus shall be paid:

Win: £6.00

Draw: £3.00

6. SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP:
SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP: FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP

The following bonus shall be paid:

Win: £4.00

Draw: £2.00

In the event of promotion or relegation, the bonus scheme will be re-negotiated.

Bonus Schedule If the Club are promoted or relegated during the period of the said player's contract the bonus payments as set out would not be less favourable.

PLAYER

Date:

SECRETARY

Date



Christmas Disco 87

The Christmas Disco will be at the Valley Club on Tuesday 16th December.

Fancy Dress is optional but would be in keeping with the evening

Tickets are £3 and will be available from the Club shop or the Valley Club





TRAVEL NEWS



1987		BY	BR	WHAFOX	AH	CAT
Sat 14th Nov	Watford	£4.00	12.30	12.30	12.15	12.00 12.50
Sat 28th Nov	Newcastle Utd	£11.00	07.00	06.45	07.15	07.30 07.00
Sun 13th Dec	Tottenham	£3.00	Times subject to kick off			
1988						
Fri 1st Jan	Man Utd	£9.00	*	*	*	*
Sat 16th Jan	Nottingham F.	£7.00	10.00	09.30	10.15	10.30 09.50
Sat 6th Feb	Q.P.R.	£3.00	12.15	-----	12.30	12.45 -----
Sat 27th Feb	Arsenal	£3.00	12.30	-----	12.45	13.00 -----
Sat 5th Mar	Derby County	£6.00	09.30	09.00	09.45	10.00 09.20
Sat 19th Mar	Southampton	£5.00	11.30	11.30	11.15	11.00 11.15
Sat 2nd Apr	Norwich City	£6.00	10.00	10.00	09.45	09.30 09.45
Sat 9th Apr	Coventry City	£6.00	10.00	09.30	10.15	10.30 09.45
Sat 30th Apr	Everton	£8.50	07.30	07.15	07.45	08.00 07.30
Sat 7th May	Chelsea	£3.00	12.30	-----	12.45	13.00 -----

KEY BX . . . Bexleyheath in Albion Road behind Marks & Sparks
 BR . . . Bromley South Station
 WH . . . Eltham Well Hall at the roundabout
 FOX . . . Fox Under The Hill public House in Shooters Hill
 AH . . . Anchor & Hope at junction with Woolwich Road in Charlton
 CAT . . . Catford Town Hall

PLEASE NOTE all fares and timings are subject to alteration.

ALL FARES SHOWN ABOVE ARE FOR MEMBERS ONLY membership and I.D. cards must be produced when booking either coach or train.

NO ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED ON EITHER COACH OR TRAIN TRAVEL.

NEWCASTLE UNITED V. CHARLTON ATHLETIC. 28th NOVEMBER 1987

This game is all ticket, and their is standing tickets only available for away fans. Tickets priced at £3.50 are available from the portakabin. Please ensure you get your ticket before traveling.

BY TRAIN TO NEWCASTLE

The fare is £25 and the train departs from Kings Cross at 10.25am, arriving at Newcastle at 13.22pm. The return journey leaves at 17.15 pulling into Kings Cross at 20.45pm

BY COACH TO NEWCASTLE

The fare is £11. Coaches depart Bexleyheath at 07.00am, Bromley at 06.45, Well Hall and Fox at 07.15, Anchor at 07.30 and from Catford at 07.00am

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR V. CHARLTON ATHLETIC. SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 1987

Please note this game has an 11.30am Kick Off. Coaches depart Bexleyheath at 09.00, Fox and Well Hall at 9.15 and 09.30 from the Anchor. Their will be no pick up at Catford or Bromley for this game.