

# SQUADS

## ASTON VILLA

Jimmy Rimmer  
Ken Swain  
Gary Williams  
Allan Evans  
Ken McNaught  
Dennis Mortimer  
Des Bremner  
Gary Shaw  
Peter Withe  
Gordon Cowans  
Tony Morley  
Andy Blair  
Mark Jones  
Nigel Spink  
David Geddis

## DYNAMO KIEV

Victor Chanov  
Vladimir Bessonov  
Sergei Baltacha  
Sergei Zhuravlev  
Anatoly Demyanenko  
Vladimir Lozinsky  
Leonid Buryak  
Andrei Bal  
Viktor Khlus  
Vladimir Veremeyev  
Oleg Blokhin  
Vadim Yevtuschenko  
Yuri Domansky  
Alexander Boiko  
Alexander Khapsalis  
Oleg Mikhailov

## MATCH OFFICIALS . . .

Referee:  
MARCEL VAN LANGENHOVEN, Belgium  
Red Flag Linesman:  
ALPHONSE COSTANTIN, Belgium  
Yellow Flag Linesman:  
JACQUES HANS, Belgium

## EXECUTIVE BOX . . .

Our Executive Box guests for tonight's important European Cup match are MR FRANCO ERCOLE, DIRECTOR OF MEDAFRICA LTD, and his party. We do hope they enjoy their evening.

## MITRE MATCH BALL SPONSOR . . .

Tonight's Mitre Match Ball has kindly been donated by:

MR H. LAWRENCE  
AND ASTON VILLA  
LONDON  
SUPPORTERS  
CLUB

**mitre**  
Gives you an  
unfair  
advantage

## EXTRA TIME . . .

If the score remains 0-0 after 90 minutes then extra-time will be played. If there is still no score after this extra period then the tie will be decided on penalties.

## SCOREBOARD MESSAGES . . .

Two electronic scoreboards, in opposite corners of the ground, will continually display messages and announcements for your information.

## YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT . . .

Will supporters please note that drinks are not to be taken into the stands. Please exercise care and attention when leaving the stadium and avoid pushing. Supporters are not allowed onto the pitch at anytime.



DYNAMO KIEV  
17.3.82

VILLA VOUCHERS  
ARE VALUABLE  
SAVE THEM

**20** NUMBER  
TWENTY



# Villa in Europe

ASTON VILLA NEWS & RECORD PRICE 35p



EUROPEAN CUP · QUARTER-FINAL · SECOND LEG · 17th MARCH 1982  
ASTON VILLA v DYNAMO KIEV (USSR)



A team of 22 young ladies take the field in traditional costume to present the players with red carnations.



## 20. TERRY DONOVAN

Villa Reserves recently piled up 31 goals in seven games — and Terry Donovan's share was ten in six outings. That is an example of the natural scoring flair the 24-year-old striker has displayed in three seasons since joining Villa from Grimsby Town in the summer of 1979.

His full record for the club (up to and including 6th March) was:

Season	First team		Reserves	
	App	Goals	App	Goals
1979-80	15	5	23	12
1980-81	—	—	33	18
1981-82	7	5	18	18
	22	10	74	48

Born in Liverpool, the son of former Everton skipper Don Donovan, he is qualified for the Republic of Ireland through his father's birthplace in Cork. Terry won his first full cap against Czechoslovakia in Prague before marking his Villa debut with a goal against Coventry City in December 1979.

He also played for the Republic against West Germany 'B' last summer and has appeared in their Under-21 team. Yet he also won England honours by playing for the Under-18 Schools side against Wales and Scotland!

Terry played for Louth United in the Midland League while still at Clee Grammar School and was 18 before he turned professional with Grimsby in August 1976.

**'We have got to win tonight — It's as simple, and as hard, as that'**

Good evening — and welcome to Villa Park for the second leg of our European Cup quarter-final with Dynamo Kiev.

This must rank as one of the most important matches we have played for a while and everybody at the club is well aware of what is at stake.

Our performance in Russia in the first leg was professional and disciplined, and tonight the players know that nothing less than that will do. We also realise that the boot is on the other foot for it is now important for us to score goals while making sure that we do not give any away.

We have got to win — it's as simple, and as hard, as that. While some would say that we did the hard part of the job by drawing the away leg we know that if Kiev should score an early goal we would have to score two. So it is imperative that we stay tight at the back.

Kiev were one of the favourites at the start of the season to win the European Cup and they are certainly a quality side as they showed in Simferopol, with players of ability to win matches.

Consequently I am sure that this evening's game will be nothing less than a hard and unrelenting 90 minutes.

Our performance against Wolves last Saturday was another step towards regaining a respectable position in the League. Although the pitch did not permit the game to become a classic the players, once again, must be congratulated on their attitude in overcoming very difficult conditions, and it was exceptionally pleasing that we scored three goals in the process.

Your support on Saturday was again magnificent and, with a bumper crowd giving us every encouragement tonight this will go a long way towards giving the players the extra boost they require.

**TONY BARTON**

## WHAT'S ON

### ASTON VILLA TRAVELLERS CLUB

Ipswich v Aston Villa  
Saturday 20th March 1982

Fare: £5.25

Coaches depart from Sports & Leisure Centre at 9.30 a.m.

Arsenal v Aston Villa  
Saturday 27th March 1982

Fare: £4.30

Coaches depart from Sports & Leisure Centre at 10.30 a.m.

### SOUVENIR SHOP

The Souvenir Shop now have a special edition of pennants to commemorate the European Quarter-Final Cup-tie against Dynamo Kiev.

Price: £2.25

There are also a limited number of pennants available for Valur and Dynamo Berlin.

Price: £2.50

### BOXING TOURNAMENT

Aston Villa Boxing Club and Birmingham City Boxing Club will do battle at the Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday 24th March in aid of charity to raise funds for the mentally handicapped. The Lyndon Team Trophy is also at stake. First bout starts at 7.30 p.m. and tickets are available from the respective Boxing Clubs and the Town Hall.

### SOUVENIR SHOP

#### CHARITY FOOTBALL

Also trying to raise funds is the Sutton Coldfield Ladies Hockey Club. After qualifying for the European Championships the club is seeking to raise cash to fund their games in Vienna and Italy by staging a Celebrity Football Match between a Central TV team and a Commentators team. The match takes place on Sunday 21st March at the Paget Rangers Ground in Springfield Road, Walmley. Kick-off is at 2.30 p.m. and admission is by programme, price 50p.

# SIDELINES

Mike Beddow talks to John Samwells who has organised Villa's excursions into Europe this season.

Regular travellers to Eastern Europe passed their verdict on Aston Villa's trip to the Soviet Union — 'the best yet in terms of flight and immigration formalities.'

And that was good news for John Samwells, the man who sweated on top line to make sure that the players suffered the least possible inconvenience on their 2,000 mile journey into the Crimea.

John is General Manager of the London-based company, Exclusive Travel, who have mapped out the club's arrangements for this season's European Cup games in Iceland, East Germany and the Soviet Union.

From the time of the draw in December, he spent three months working on various schedules, because the venue was in doubt until the last minute.

'Simferopol, where the game was eventually played, was one of three or four venues mentioned,' he said. 'I liaised closely with Steve Stride, who sent numerous telex messages to try to get information from the Russian people but had to resort to UEFA to get a firm ruling on where the game would be placed.'

'The delay caused problems for the Russian Embassy, who were unable to grant visas until the venue was confirmed. We had all the passports and documents ready to go to the Embassy in January but it was not until a week before departure that we knew we were going to Simferopol.'

The end-product was a 'door to door' journey from Elmdon to the capital city of the Crimea. And this



Medical Officer David Targett, Ken McNaught, Tony Barton and Jimmy Rimmer board the Aeroflot plane to take Villa back to Elmdon.

meant that Villa avoided the complications of going via Moscow, as had been the case for West Ham United, Liverpool and Wales when playing in Russia in the last couple



John Samwells, General Manager of Exclusive Travel.

of seasons.

'I asked Aeroflot (the national Russian airline) for a direct flight and they went away and did their sums on distance, weight and number of people to be carried,' explained Mr Samwells.

'It would not have been practical to use a British carrier because they would have needed special navigating rights over the Soviet Union. Going with Aeroflot made it a little more expensive, but the main thing is that we had a direct flight.'

'They were unable to advise us until the last minute of the type of aircraft they would be using, and I must admit I was sweating until I saw a big plane (a three-engined TU154 jet) landing at Elmdon. We had asked for a 144-seater but it turned out to be a 160-seater. According to the British Embassy people we met in Russia, this is the type of plane used on the Moscow-Simferopol run.'

For the return journey, it was

hoped at one stage that the team could fly out almost immediately after the match on the Wednesday evening. But departure was delayed until Thursday morning because the Russians indicated that a night-time reduction in air traffic control staff could cause a hold-up.

'There was no way we wanted to put the team in a situation where they could have been delayed for five hours or more at the airport,' said Mr Samwells. 'The Russian people were very co-operative on this matter and allowed the team straight through immigration channels on Thursday.'

The only area of disappointment was that the hotel accommodation was below expectations. 'Because of lack of information over the venue, the Russian authorities here warned us of possible problems,' said Mr Samwells. 'We tried as hard as we could to get the hotel we wanted in Yalta but this was impossible because the Dynamo Kiev team stayed there.'

'However, taking everything into consideration, I do not think we could have had better assistance. Going into a situation like that, we came out remarkably well — the travelling was good, the weather

was good and the result was good.

'It was the result of a team effort all-round. I must say that I had 100 per cent co-operation from Steve Stride on the team's requirements and also from Sue Walker, who liaised with me on bookings for Press and supporters.'

'The luck of the draw has not sent Villa to the most exotic places in Europe this season, but if they can win tonight, perhaps they will have better luck in the semi-final.'

● EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL hold a UEFA licence and have done business with other Football League clubs, including Manchester United and Ipswich Town. They also arrange end-of-season and pre-season matches for British clubs, as well as booking Youth teams in tournaments in such countries as Holland, France and West Germany.

Other enterprises include sending 45 teams of youngsters, ranging from Under-10s to Under-14s, to a soccer festival in the Isle of Wight at Easter, and senior teams to a similar event on May Day.

They also book soccer, rugby and tennis teams for competition with Americans at a sports centre in Long Beach, California.



Club Secretary Steve Stride with Interpreter George Scanlan.



ASTON VILLA  
FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED  
VILLA PARK, TRINITY ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM B6 6HE

Telephone:  
Club — 021 327 6604  
Information — 021 328 1722

PRESIDENT  
Mr. A. Trevor Gill

CHAIRMAN  
Mr. Ron Bendall

VICE CHAIRMAN  
Mr. Donald Bendall

DIRECTORS  
Mr. Harry Kartz  
Mr. A. Trevor Gill

CARETAKER MANAGER  
Tony Barton

SECRETARY  
Steven Stride

COMMERCIAL MANAGER  
Sue Walker

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Dr. David Targett

ASTON VILLA  
NEWS & RECORD

The Official Journal of  
Aston Villa FC Ltd.

PRODUCTION & DESIGN  
Sports Projects

PRINT  
By Hemmings & Capey  
(Leicester) Ltd. for  
Sports Projects

PHOTOGRAPHY  
By Terry Weir for Sports Projects

Programme Concessionaires  
Gerald Harris & Associates

# SIDELINES

## GOOD HOSPITALITY

Directors Donald Bendall and Harry Kartz had only one small complaint in Simferopol — the hospitality was too good!

'They love to make toasts, but we would have been grateful if they hadn't raised their glasses quite so often,' smiled Mr Bendall.

Liberal supplies of Vodka and Russian Brandy were a focal point of the welcome laid on by officials of Dynamo Kiev and the Ukraine FA, who went out of their way to entertain the Villa party following our initial complaint about the accommodation in the Hotel Moscow.

'I think that we have to remember that, to a certain extent, Dynamo Kiev were also on alien territory, hundreds of miles away from home,' says Mr Bendall. 'Certain things were out of their control, and after they had put their side of the story at a welcome dinner on the first night, everything improved from that moment onwards.'

'They took us on a tour to Yalta and that was the first time in my life that I have been driven, complete with a Police escort. I understand that supporters and reporters were also accompanied by an escort vehicle, but I think this was because they are not used to dealing with visiting supporters and were worried that something might happen.'

'In Yalta, we were taken to St Nicholas The Second's Palace, where the summit meeting between Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill was held at the end of the last war. There was also time for wine-tasting before we went back to Simferopol to watch the team's evening training session at the stadium.'



Villa's Vice Chairman Donald Bendall — happy with the hospitality provided by the Russians.

'As far as the hotel is concerned, it should be said that Simferopol is not a tourist area and I should imagine the building has been up for a fair length of time. Although it is



The Hotel Moscow — not quite what Villa had expected.

the best hotel in the city, the region is industrial and it is more of a travellers' hotel than one with the refinements that tourists come to expect.'

Players and officials were each presented with a samovar, a type of urn which the Russians use for heating the water to make tea. Mr Bendall has donated his gift for the club's collection of souvenirs from matches played abroad.

All in all, the three-night stay in the Crimea went off smoothly. 'It was a pleasant surprise that we were able to travel direct which meant that we got the best thing for club and supporters,' says Mr Bendall.

'The players also had very good meals from the food we took from England. The chef and waitresses were marvellous and, at the end of the day, I would say there was too much for the players to eat.'

Perhaps the most pertinent assessment came from George Scanlon, Head of Languages at Liverpool Polytechnic who travell-



Denis Howell and UEFA observer Leo van der Kroft.

ed as the club's interpreter. Having been in Russia with other British football teams, he told us that our trip was much the best-organised.

## VILLA ASSIST

Villa came to the rescue of the official UEFA observer who attended the match in Simferopol. Leo van der Kroft was able to avoid an arduous journey from Amsterdam, via Moscow, by flying to Elmdon and then joining the official party for the four-hour charter to the Crimea.

Mr van der Kroft, who lives in The Hague, is a member of the Board of the Dutch League and President of his country's Referees' Committee.

Also travelling with the Villa group was former Sports Minister Mr Denis Howell, MP for Small Heath.

## TERRY ASSISTS

Gary Newbon led a five-man team from Central Television, making a film report of our visit to the USSR.

But we nearly lost Gary after the match in the Lokomotive Stadium. He found himself locked in on the pitch-side of the tunnel and was only rescued when club photographer Terry Weir heard his agitated banging on the door!



Photographer Terry Weir, his hands on the League Trophy and hoping to do the same with the European Cup, was on hand to rescue Central TV's Gary Newbon.

## AWAY FORM

Valeri Lobanovski, coach to the Russian champions, is still quietly confident that Dynamo Kiev can achieve a successful result at Villa Park tonight.

And Lobanovski (pictured below) has the club's impressive away record in ten successive seasons' European Cup competition to support his claim that 'both sides have a chance of qualifying for the semi-final.'



Dynamo, who got through this season's second round after drawing at home, have lost only ten of their 26 away legs since 1972. Their full away record over this period is (Dynamo score first):

<b>1981-82</b>	
Austria Vienna	1-0
Trabzonspor	1-1
<b>1980-81</b>	
Levski Spartak	0-0
<b>1979-80</b>	
Lokomotive Sofia	0-1
Banik Ostrava	0-1
CSKA Sofia	1-1
<b>1978-79</b>	
Malmö	0-2
Valkeakosken	1-0
<b>1977-78</b>	
Eintracht Brunswick	0-0
<b>1976-77</b>	
B. Moenchengladbach	0-2
Bayern Munich	0-1
PAOK Salonika	2-0
Partizan Belgrade	2-0
<b>1975-76</b>	
St Etienne	0-3
Akranes	2-0
Olympiakos	2-2
<b>1974-75</b>	
PSV Eindhoven	1-2
Bursaspor	1-0
Eintracht Frankfurt	3-2
CSKA Sofia	1-0
<b>1973-74</b>	
Stuttgart	0-3
BK Copenhagen	2-1
Fredrikstad	1-0
<b>1972-73</b>	
Real Madrid	0-3
Gornik Zabrze	1-2
Innsbruck	1-0

# SIDELINES

The nickname department came up with a new tag for Des Bremner. He can now be persuaded to answer to 'Franz MacBeckenbauer' but modestly admits, 'I'm not in that class,' despite his excellent performance as defensive sweeper in Simferopol.

The popular Scotsman has certainly advertised his versatility in the last few weeks. Starting with the last 20 minutes against Liverpool, he had a stint at centre-back against Sunderland and Manchester United. He then managed to slot in two games in his midfield role but spent 80 minutes against Birmingham City at right-back.

In the next match, he took over from Allan Evans for 20 minutes against Coventry City and held on to the sweeper's spot against Dynamo Kiev and West Ham United.

The biggest test, of course, was in Russia where he was marking the top Soviet player, Oleg Blokhin. 'Early on, he caused us some problems and showed he could be devastating if he is allowed to turn and use his tremendous speed,' said Des.

'His turn of pace is something special, but after the initial 15 minutes, we didn't have so many worries. Even so, he's a class player, and no matter how much we might be on top tonight, he will always be dangerous.'

'I'll be quite happy to leave the marking job to Allan as long as he is fully recovered. I quite enjoy playing at the back, but I wouldn't like it to be a permanent move just yet. Maybe I'll go there when my legs are getting tired in a year or two.'

For Allan Evans, it was a major disappointment to miss the game in Simferopol after suffering some considerable discomfort on the flight — in the hope that his injured shoulder would heal in time.

'Obviously, it was worse than we thought,' he said sadly. 'It seems that the collar-bone joint came apart before snapping back. This stretched the ligament and there was also damage to the cartilage in the arm socket. It took ages for the bruising to go down, but I felt initially that I might play if I could get rid of some of the pain.'

'Things had improved from having



treatment on Sunday morning, and when we set out for Russia, I felt there was some chance. But the healing process came to a full stop and I was resigned to missing the game by the Tuesday.'

From his seat on the touchline, Allan was able to form an assessment of Blokhin and will know what to expect if he marks the former European Footballer of the Year tonight.

'It wasn't easy watching,' he says. 'When Blokhin shot against the post in the first five minutes, I thought it was going to be one of those days when the defence would be up against it.'

'But they settled down very well and, for me, Des and Gary Williams stood out. Des is a good player in that position and, although he's particularly tall, he is useful in the air because he attacks the ball.'



Allan Evans, wearing his shoulder sling, pictured with fellow Scot Andy Blair. Des Bremner has a smile for the young Russian lady that presented him and other members of the team with red carnations before the kick-off.



The Kiev keeper, Chanov, proves confident when handling the ball as can be seen from these pictures. Ken McNaught and Peter Withe are the Villa men challenging.

# M

# medafrica Ltd

Suite 11, Newton House, 118-119 Piccadilly, London W1V 9FJ Tel: 01-493 9527/8/9 Telex: 299270

**MR FRANCO ERCOLE**  
**DIRECTOR OF MEDAFRICA LTD**  
**AND**  
**HIS EXECUTIVE BOX GUESTS**  
**WISH VILLA EVERY SUCCESS**  
**THIS EVENING**

# NATIONWIDE

## DAVE'S A RAVE

Southampton's manager Lawrie McMenemy is backing £600,000 signing David Armstrong as an England World Cup candidate. 'He would surely figure in an England squad of 40,' he said of the former Middlesbrough player who holds one cap from an appearance against Australia in Sydney two years ago.

Talking to the *Southern Sports Echo*, Mr McMenemy said: 'Dave can defend, create and score goals, and there can't be many better left-sided midfield players in the game. When you look at the men in England, there is Trevor Brooking and then Armstrong, and further down the age scale — Graham Rix and Gordon Cowans.

'In my opinion, Armstrong should be Brooking's deputy, particularly now that Ray Kennedy has opted out of playing for England. Certainly, at a time when there is a shortage of quality left-sided players in the English game, you can't say that Armstrong falls short on class.'

## VILLA LESSON

Iain McCulloch, top scorer for fast-improving Notts County, picks out the starting point for the Magpies' recent rush of goals.

'I have said all along that the main difference between the First and Second Divisions is finishing and we have been given a couple of lessons by Ipswich and Liverpool,' he said in the *Nottingham Evening Post*.

'Most of all, though, I think the 6-0 FA Cup defeat by Aston Villa turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I was out of the side through suspension at the time, but I remember thinking, "that will never happen to us again." It was a view taken by the rest of the lads. They felt humiliated and now play with an extra determination to ensure there won't be any repeat.'

## SUNDERLAND PROBLEMS

Barry Batey, a Sunderland shareholder who played for England Schoolboys some years ago, attempted to force an extraordinary meeting as attendances at the famous Roker Park club dropped below 13,000.

Mt Batey argued that Sunderland needed to spend to avoid the Second Division at all costs, but chairman Tom Cowie looked for economies and appealed to the supporters for backing through the turnstiles.

He said: 'If fans want First Division football, they must support us through thick and thin. All I can offer is blood, sweat and tears, with a policy to sell first and buy later.'

## DONCASTER TREBLE

Billy Bremner, go-ahead boss of Doncaster Rovers, celebrated the selection of three players for international duty for the first time in more than 25 years.

Ian Snodin and David Harle played for England Youth against Scotland at Ibrox Stadium and 20-year-old Daral Pugh won his second Welsh Under-21 cap in France.

'It is a tribute to the youth policy we have at the club,' said Bremner. 'We believe in giving youngsters a chance to show what they can do and if they are good enough, they go in the first team. It shouldn't be forgotten that we have only just come up from the Fourth Division, and for a club in our position to get three players to national sides is a tremendous achievement for the scouts, coaching staff and everyone involved.'

The widespread England Youth net also covered the Fourth Division, for Blackpool striker Paul Stewart made his international debut against Scotland. He followed up a week later with his first League goal on his second appearance.

## CARRY ON, STEVE

Steve Grapes was playing for Cardiff City — three weeks after a specialist told him that arthritis in his knee would almost certainly end his career.

But the former Norwich winger refused to accept the decision and was rewarded when another specialist said there was no reason why he should stop playing. 'I might have to pack up at 31 or 32 instead of 35,' said Grapes in the *South Wales Echo*. 'But he assured me that the condition could be kept in check if I follow a special diet.'

## NO SUPPORT

Brighton defender Steve Foster lacked the usual support from teammates when he made his England debut against Northern Ireland. His pals were away on a three-day golfing break in Spain, but manager Mike Bailey said: 'I've heard very good reports about Steve and we will be having a look at the match on our video.'

## SALES TALK!

Kevin Bremner, younger brother of the Villa midfielder man, turned auctioneer to help Colchester United teammate Steve Foley when cancellations by guest speakers threatened to spoil a Testimonial Dinner.

Kevin was rated star of the night as he persuaded guests to bid over £200 each for a cricket bat signed by the Aussies and two footballers' shirts. But he wasn't without experience — Kevin had been an auctioneer's clerk before joining Colchester from Keith in the Highland League!

## UNLUCKY DOYLE

Mike Doyle's new career with Bolton Wanderers was marred by all sorts of problems. He conceded an own goal on his debut, was sent off in his second match and gave away a match-winning penalty three minutes from the end of his fifth outing.

'I've had more trauma in five games with Bolton than in the other 700 I have played,' said the ex-Stoke and Manchester City defender.

## CARDIFF BOSS

Graham Williams' four-month reign as coach of Cardiff City ended along with

Richie Morgan's 15 years' services as player and manager. They were replaced by Len Ashurst in a return to single-manager status. Ashurst, successful at Newport County and Sheffield Wednesday, recognised the problem of lifting Cardiff away from relegation trouble but added: 'I'm an experienced manager, and I've been confronted by difficult situations in the past. If you give up hope, you might as well pack up and go home.'

## YOUNG EVERTON

Howard Kendall's willingness to encourage young players at Everton was underlined when Adrian Heath, Gary Stevens and Steve McMahon were selected for today's England Under-21 game in Poland.

Stevens, 19 this month, was surprised by his selection because he had just been rested after four months in the first team. And his successor, Brian Borrows, was receiving rave reports, including a special mention from Ipswich Town manager Bobby Robson.



GARY STEVENS

# Dynamo Kiev



DYNAMO KIEV LINE UP BEFORE THE FIRST LEG MATCH AT SIMFEROPOL

Dynamo Kiev come to Villa Park as outsiders in this Champions' Cup quarter-final — but still nursing their big dream: to become the first Soviet side to win the competition.

When they won the Cup-winners' trophy in 1975 Kiev achieved one breakthrough. Their 3-0 defeat of Ferencvaros from Hungary in Basel made them the first Soviet winners in Europe. Now they want to go one better and claim another triumph for the city of Kiev and for the Ukraine — one of the traditional early centres of Soviet football.

Football is recorded in Kiev in the early years of the century and the city team were involved in the first major controversy of the original all-Russian Championship in 1913. In the quarter-finals Kiev had been beaten by Kharkov who, in turn, lost a mixed-up, badly-organised semi-final to Odessa.

Kharkov protested that the original referee had failed to turn up, an Odessa official had taken charge, and the result should not stand. Kiev then lodged a complaint against Karkhov for, in modern terms, bringing the game into disrepute.

The all-Russian Football Union took the easy way out — and annulled the entire Championship!

After the Soviet Revolution enveloped the Ukraine, football developed rapidly. From being a middle-class pursuit it was swiftly adopted by soldiers, sailors and students and in 1927 the local police force founded the Dynamo club. They entered the first major national knock-out competition in 1931 and then, five years later, were founder members of both the Soviet League and Cup competitions.

In that first Championship Kiev were runners-up, as they were again in 1952 before, in 1954 they became the first non-Moscow club to land either top prize in winning the Cup.

Right-half Yuri Voinov was the key man — establishing a Kiev tradition for a single key man in midfield. Later would come Yosef Sabo in the 1960s, Viktor Kolotov in the 1970s, and today Leonid Buryak.

This is the eighth time Kiev have appeared in the Champions' Cup, and already — thanks to their recent League win

— they are sure of a ninth appearance next season. But it was their debut in the competition which produced their biggest surprise.

This was in the autumn of 1967 when they eliminated newly-crowned European Champions Celtic — winning 2-1 at Parkhead and drawing 1-1 in the Ukraine — before they lost, anti-climatically, to Gornik of Poland.

Celtic and Kiev were drawn against each other in the first round the next season, too, but when the Scots protested because of the recent troubles in Czechoslovakia, UEFA weakly re-organised the draw and the Eastern block withdrew in disgust.

The following season, 1969-70, Kiev fell to Fiorentina of Italy in the second round. For all their ability and skill of men such as World Cup stars Sabo in midfield — sent off at Goodison in the 1966 World Cup semi-final against West Germany — and striker Anatoly Bishovets, Kiev lacked consistency.

That was one big weakness not even master coach Alexander Sevidov, who laid the foundation for the success of the seventies, could overcome. The pattern showed again in 1973, when Kiev reached the quarter-finals.

Sevidov warned: 'Always the same problem. When we get to the quarter-finals we are always in our close season. Not only are we short on match practice but our own pitch is iced over. We can go to southern Europe or South America to play . . . but that can never match the conditions we come back to.'

The truth was clear in the first leg against Villa — just as it was in 1973, against Real Madrid. The first leg then was played in Odessa; Madrid held out for a goalless draw, and won the return comfortably 3-0.

An omen for Villa Park?

But Kiev were far from finished by that 1973 setback. They already had some of Europe's outstanding players in goalkeeper Yevgeny Rudskov, schemer Kolotov and fair-haired left-winger Oleg Blokhin, who would shortly be voted

European Footballer of the Year.

That was his personal crowning glory after, in 1975, Kiev became the first Soviet side to win a major European title, the Cup-winners' Cup. Beating Malmo, Eintracht Frankfurt, Bursaspor of Turkey and PSV Eindhoven on the way, they swept past Ferencvaros in the Final with two goals from Vladimir Onishenko and one from Blokhin.

A Soviet team with skill and flair? It seemed too good to be true. Indeed, the Soviet authorities immediately saddled the Kiev club with all the national team and Olympic fixtures as well!

Overburdened with these extra responsibilities, Kiev not only lost their flair, their fitness and stamina collapsed. The team began to fall apart. They lost to Saint-Etienne in the 1976 Champions' Cup quarter-finals (this stage again!) and to Borussia Moechengladbach in the semi-finals the next year, after knocking out holders Bayern Munich.

They won the Soviet Cup in 1978 but only after a struggle against the mining team of Schakhtyor Donetsk; Blokhin suffered a string of injuries and lost his top League scorer and Footballer of the Year crown.

Two years in the shadows were enough. Kiev returned to win the League in 1980 and again in 1981. Long-serving coach Valeri Lobanovsky is still in charge and such is his influence that he is one of the assistants to national manager Konstantin Beskov as the fancied Soviets prepare for Spain and the World Cup.

The players are all officially amateurs but are well treated in return for their successes. Blokhin has a modern car, a luxury apartment and a seaside villa. But then, Kiev pull the crowds. They average around 45,000 for home games, and pull in capacity gates of 100,000 for a big match in Europe . . . when they're not forced away to Simferopol, that is!

## THE SQUAD

**VICTOR CHANOV.** Goalkeeper. Aged 23. One cap for the Soviet Union. Chanov was signed during the winter break from the miners' team, Schakhtyor Donetsk. Kiev haven't had a consistent goalkeeper since Yevgeny Rudskov retired four years ago. In the USSR, all transfers have to be approved by a central committee, but there was no way any objections would have been made to the national team's No. 2 goalkeeper moving to a club where he would gain experience alongside his prospective World Cup colleagues.

**YURI ROMENSKY.** Goalkeeper. Aged 29. Edged out of the first team by the signing of Chanov. Yet Romensky was himself previously on the fringes of the national team.

**VICTOR GRYSHKO.** Goalkeeper. Aged 20.

**SERGEI KRAKOVSKY.** Goalkeeper. Aged 21.

**ANATOLY DEMYANENKO.** Right-back/utility defender. Aged 23. Four caps. Kiev youth product who is now first choice in the national team. Useful occasional goal-scorer.

**SERGEI BALTACHA.** Centre-back. Aged 24. Eight caps. First choice stopper in the World Cup team. Emerged with some fine displays in the 1980 Olympics finals.

**SERGEI ZHURAVLEV.** Full-back/centre-back. Aged 22. Six caps. Has been absent from the national squad lately, but could well find a place in Spain — if Kiev withstand Villa!

**VLADIMIR LOZINSKY.** Left-back. Aged 26. Soviet B international. Another Kiev youth product on the fringe of the national squad.

**VIKTOR KAPLUN.** Centre-back. Aged 23. One cap — in the 1-1 draw against World Champions Argentina in December 1980.

**VITALY TARASENKO.** Full-back. Aged 20.

**VALERI CHERNIKOV.** Full-back. Aged 19.

**ALEXANDER BOIKO.** Centre-back. Aged 27.

**VLADIMIR BESSONOV.** Midfield. Aged 24. Twenty-four caps. Key midfield man with both Kiev and the national team. Captained the Soviet Union to victory in the inaugural World Youth Cup in Tunisia five years ago. Had to take a far greater responsibility in the team after Alexander Bereshnoi was banned for life 18 months ago for persistent drunkenness! World Cup certainty.

**LEONID BURYAK.** Midfield. Aged 29. Thirty-six caps. Member of the 1975 Cup-winners' Cup side. Key man in the World Cup effort. If he's not plotting the free-kicks he's tak-



ing some deceptive corner kicks . . . or hitting some Hoddle-like through passes for Blokhin to chase.

**VLADIMIR VEREMEYEV.** Midfield. Aged 32. Sixteen caps. Would have played in the 1975 Cup-winners' Cup Final but for suspension. So he went back to his original job as a press photographer for the night, and took the pictures of Kiev's winning goals! Recently back in favour at Kiev after two years in the shadows.

**ANDREI BAL.** Midfield. Aged 24. No caps — but a member of the Soviet World Cup squad all the same and likely to be in Spain.

**ALEXANDER KHAPSALIS.** Midfield. Aged 24. Youth international, with two full caps. Outstanding prospect but who has not quite made the expected progress. Substituted for the injured Bessonov during the first-half in Simferopol.

**VIKTOR KHLUS.** Midfield. Aged 23. A Kiev youth product. Began his career as an out-and-out striker.

**VADIM YEVTUSHENKO.** Attack. Aged 24. Two caps. Emerged as a star in the autumn of 1980 and won his first two caps for the Soviet Union last year. Likely to be in the squad for Spain.

**SERGEI YASHCHENKO.** Attack. Aged 23.

**YURI YAROSHENKO.** Attack. Aged 20.

**OLEG TATAR.** Attack. Aged 21. Youth international.

**OLEG BLOKHIN.** Attack. Aged 30. Forty-nine caps. The Kiev star and 1975 European Footballer of the Year. A past Soviet Player of the Year as well as leading League scorer. Has scored more goals in League and international football than any other Soviet player, past or present. Son of international athletes who counts former double Olympic sprint Champion Valeri Borzov among his friends. His wife is a highly-rated gymnast. Blokhin scored 20 goals last season — to finish third in the League behind Ramae Shengelia (Tbilisi) on 23, and Yuri Gavrilov (Moscow Spartak). Blokhin (34 international goals — 163 in the League) is wanted by both Rapid Vienna and Real Madrid after the World Cup.



## VILLA TAKE A TUMBLE!

Taking a break during training before the Kiev match, the Villa lads and management line-up for this exclusive team group photo. But there's a joker in the pack somewhere and a gentle push sends the front row tumbling. Close inspection reveals that Dennis Mortimer is missing from the picture below!



## FA CUP SEMI-FINAL TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v LEICESTER CITY

Saturday 3rd April 1982

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

In accordance with the rules of the competition competing clubs will be entitled to 40 per cent each of the accommodation at Villa Park. This means that Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City shall receive approximately 8,000 seats and 11,000 standing tickets each, leaving 4,000 seats and 5,500 standing tickets for Aston Villa to distribute.

From the balance held by Aston Villa, we have to supply first the requirements of the Football Association and the football world in general. The remaining tickets are then available for sale by Aston Villa and in view of the number of season ticket holders, it is obvious that the tickets will be fully taken up by season ticket holders.

In order to effect suitable crowd segregation, Aston Villa's tickets for this match will be limited to North Stand seats, Trinity Road enclosure seats and the Witton End standing enclosure.

Prices of admission to the Semi-Final will be:

Reserved Seats, North Stand	— £8.00 and £6.00
Trinity Road Enclosure	— £5.00
Standing	— £3.00

The arrangements for the sale of the available tickets are as follows:

**Seating Season Ticket Holders** — may apply for either seating or standing tickets on a basis of one ticket per season ticket voucher number 25 surrendered. Personal or postal applications, will be accepted from tomorrow Thursday, morning at 9.15 a.m. and during normal office hours, 9.15 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. subsequently, and will be dealt with in the order received. No guarantee of allocation can be given to postal applicants but they will be dealt with on the morning received at the same time as those tickets received personally that morning. Postal applications must contain the correct remittance, voucher number 25, stamped addressed envelope and a note advising us whether or not standing tickets will be acceptable in the event of all seating tickets being sold, by the time the application has been received.

**Standing Season Ticket Holders** — may apply on the same basis as above, except that only standing tickets may be applied for. Voucher number 25 must be surrendered.



Villa almost snatch a goal in the first leg match against Kiev but Gary Shaw's effort is touched around the post for a corner.





# ALBUM



(Above) The 'Mail' man is missing as the Press file their reports back to their respective newspapers after the game.  
(Right) Eamonn Deacy gets ready to tackle an appetising bunch of grapes.



(Above) Villa supporters are given plenty to cheer about in stark contrast with the Russian supporters around them.  
(Right) Wood-panelled walls and reclining seats are impressive features of the stadium dressing rooms with Gary Shelton and Ivor Linton in the picture.



(Above) The clock reads 6.45 and the scoreline reads 0-0. We now know how Aston Villa reads in Russian.  
(Below) The Villa bench keep under wraps during the match, but unlike almost everyone else on the picture, can do without head-warmers.



(Above) Russian police and army line the track and ground perimeters.  
(Left) Villa fans enjoy the pancakes on sale outside the stadium.  
(Below) Russian hospitality for the Villa party after the match.



# The Villa Cubs

ASTON VILLA'S JUNIOR SUPPORTERS CLUB



• Can Villa take another step forward tonight to winning the European Cup? This evening's match is bound to be a testing one for the team and an early goal will do much to calm the nerves of every Villa fan here tonight.

• It's also a special never-to-be-forgotten evening for two Villa Cubs who will lead the teams out onto the field as Match Mascots and for Helen and Mark Santy there's bound to be a few butterflies and anxious moments. However, once they're out there all those nervous moments spent waiting should disappear.

Helen and Mark are the first ever Villa Cubs to be selected as Match Mascots and what a match to start with! All Villa Cubs are eligible for selection as Mascots. If you're one of the lucky ones there is an extra bonus as well — you keep the Mascot kit.

Helen and Mark are pictured here with some of the Villa players earlier this month at Bodymoor Heath.

All Mascots will be notified. You do not need to send in any application if you are already a Villa Cub member.

• Have you managed to decipher the team line-ups featured on this page? It's all in Russian and was given to the Press as team information. There's some real tongue-twisters and it should be interesting to hear the TV and Radio commentaries on tonight's match.

• There were more Russians in the Midlands last week with the visit of Moscow Dynamo to Molineux for the John Richards Testimonial. In the Russian party was a very famous goalkeeper — once considered the best in the world. Can you name him? Answers on a postcard please to Villa Cubs, Aston Villa FC, Villa Park, Birmingham.

• Enjoy the game!



1/1 СЪСТАВЪТЪ НА ПОСЪТИТЕЛЯ КЪМЪ АСТОН ВЪЛЛА

г.Съставъта на посътителя "Астон ВЪлла" 3 мартъ 1982 г.

---

"Астон" (Хазя) - СССР

1. Иванъ Бурков	1. Прохоръ Давидов
2. Владимиръ Браунков	2. Георги Невин
3. Валентинъ Сепрев	3. Владимиръ Девин
4. Александъръ Сепрев	4. Евгенийъ Дев
5. Владимиръ Асенов	5. Валентинъ Невин
6. Владимиръ Браунков	6. Владимиръ Девин
7. Евгенийъ Сепрев	7. Клементъ Дев
8. Иванъ Асенов	8. Димитъръ Дев
9. Иванъ Бурков	9. Валентинъ Невин
10. Владимиръ Браунков	10. Владимиръ Девин
11. Евгенийъ Сепрев	11. Валентинъ Невин

---

"Астон" (Гостя) - Англия

12. Валентинъ Невин	12. Валентинъ Невин
13. Владимиръ Браунков	13. Владимиръ Девин
14. Евгенийъ Сепрев	14. Евгенийъ Дев
15. Владимиръ Асенов	15. Валентинъ Невин
16. Владимиръ Браунков	16. Владимиръ Девин

Съставъта на посътителя - Англия  
г.Съставъта на посътителя СССР  
г.Съставъта на посътителя

# Charlie's Chat

By Charlie Taberner  
Co-ordinating Officer  
for the Association of  
Aston Villa  
Supporters Clubs

I am pleased to announce that plans are already well advanced to build a headquarters at Villa Park for the members of clubs who form the Association of Aston Villa Supporters Clubs. When I was appointed as Co-ordinator of supporters clubs, announced by the club Chairman, Mr. R. F. Bendall, to a meeting of club management and supporters clubs in early September, I was invited to undertake a survey into the possibilities of such a development, together with other aspects of supporters interests and involvement. I am pleased to report that many meetings of the various clubs have been organised and many of those clubs offer organised transport services to both home and away games. There are now twenty clubs in our Association. I was pleased that the club Chairman and the Board of Directors had given thought to the future provision of supporters facilities at Villa Park when all of us could have been forgiven for prolonging the League Championship celebrations.

Within days I was in touch with Alfred Harvey, a keen Villa fan who is Chairman and Managing Director of Harvey Design Group and Associated Company's based at Knowle, Solihull, this company were ideally qualified to advise on design and construction of such a club; in addition to enjoying a vast knowledge of the various building and licensing procedures as well as being Management Consultants.

Then began a whole series of meetings and surveys around the ground and we were convinced that the site suggested by the club Chairman, on the corner of Trinity Road and Nelson Road was ideally situated. Plans were drawn up to build a two storey club premises, approval of these plans was given by the Board providing the whole enterprise was financed by the Supporters Organisation. Alfred Harvey then arranged numerous meetings with interested local breweries and other interested parties and loan terms were negotiated to ensure that club finances were protected and used for the purpose of managing the club and team and not for supporters social purposes. In all these protracted talks the Vice-Chairman, Donald Bendall, devoted considerable time and interest and the Directors were kept fully advised of progress.

Early in the New Year with plans available and finance guaranteed we were able to seek the necessary permission from Planning Departments, Police, Fire Service and the Licensing Justices. This process is still continuing and it will be several weeks before all is ready for the building to commence. If all goes well the club should be ready to open in the late autumn.

Membership of the club, will, in the first instance be offered to members of supporters clubs and obviously the requirements of friends and agents of the Promotion Department will have to be considered and it should be emphasised that Alfred Harvey and I have received an immense amount of encouragement and support from Promotions Manager Keith Smith. Every consideration is being given to a large supporters organisation being organised. At a time when the genuine supporter and his family are looking for good facilities near the ground on match days in many instances these are being denied them through the reputation of a small vociferous minority. It is therefore anticipated that there will be a large demand for membership and the capacity will soon be achieved. This being the case it is our inten-

tion to continue our involvement with the Leisure Centre, whose magnificent facilities are not being used to their fullest potential on matchdays. Also children and their parents can use these premises by virtue of the License that applies there as well as its proximity to the Serpentine Car Park.

In addition the Aston Tavern has for five years catered satisfactorily for one of our members clubs and I am meeting representatives of a brewery in the hope that a similar arrangement could be arranged at an establishment of the opposite end of the stadium. If all these plans transpire it will be agreed that an almost perfect supporters facility will have been established.

It will be a very busy close season transforming plans into actuality, it is still necessary to study the management structure, the catering and entertainment programme to be arranged. It is fortunate Villa have friends among their supporters, those who are ideally qualified to offer assistance and advice in these areas and this experience is being taken advantage of. Incidentally, if you have any suggestions to make these will be very welcome and I would be pleased to receive a letter from you which Alfred Harvey and all concerned will consider and I will acknowledge.

The provision of a supporters club is only the beginning, there are large areas at Villa Park at the moment unused and which will be put to better use not only on match days, but on many other occasions. To put plans into action is the next objective for the benefit of our supporters as well as assisting to make the stadium self supporting.

In this direction I am pleased that Alfred Harvey has been appointed by the Board in a consultative capacity.

One of the projects already taking shape is the provision of an Honours Room based in the North Stand which is occupying the keen attention of Mr Donald Bendall. It will be possible to collect many items of interest going back to the time of the clubs formation. Documents, programmes, photographs and invaluable reminders of our heritage will make this innovation a very great attraction not only to our supporters, but educational authorities and the tourist industry, who are taking a great interest in this project, which would be available to visitors at all times.

For some time there have been excellent rooms available in the Villa Park complex ideally suitable for private functions and this will be added to when development allows.

The many plans being considered are certain to make Villa Park an exciting place to be involved with and it is confidently hoped that all our efforts will develop in tandem with the team's achievements.

The fact that it has been five years since supporters enjoyed facilities on the ground make it an even greater achievement that in the six months that the Association of Supporters Clubs has existed, so much progress has been made to redress the situation.

It is appropriate that this announcement concerning the future at Villa comes on an historic evening with a European Cup quarter-final match in prospect and I know you will join me in extending all our good wishes to Tony Barton and Roy MacLaren and the team for a good result.

## IN BRIEF

Welcome to four Scotland Supporters Club Members who are at the match tonight. Oxford District Supporters Club are to meet regularly on the first Tuesday in the month although their first meeting is on Tuesday 30th March; Cannock Supporters Club have a meeting on Wednesday 24th March which Brian Little is attending; and Tony Barton and Roy MacLaren are visiting different clubs during the next two months, starting at Longbridge on Tuesday 23rd March, at 8.00 p.m. Supporters living in the North Gloucestershire area interested in arranging organised transport for home games please make contact with Mr Jesse Owen, 7 The Sharries, Stretton on Fosse, near Moreton-in-the-Marsh, telephone Shipston-on-Stour 62102.



but I would love to have played.

'Since then, other players have come into the reckoning — like Cyrille Regis, for instance. That is probably a question of timing. Had I enjoyed another season like last season, maybe it would be happening to me now. But it's very difficult to say anything definite and all I feel is that my time can come again because I am still only 21.'

If there is one aspect that Gary is able to pinpoint, it is the fact that he missed the start of this season because of a foot injury. 'Not playing in the FA Charity Shield was a big blow. Not only did I miss my first chance of playing at Wembley, but I was also left behind in terms of fitness.

'It is always nice to start fresh in the first game of a new season. There's something psychological about working up to that date, but when it goes wrong, it becomes a big disadvantage.

'I had done all the hard work in pre-season and then the injury knocked me back a week before the kick-off. I had to go through all the build-up work again before beginning my season on the last day of September in Iceland.'

His comeback was impressive. He scored two goals in that European Cup-tie in Reykjavik and six goals altogether in his first seven games. But each one was away from Villa Park — and the failure to hit the target at home stayed with him for ten months in all.

After scoring against Middlesbrough on 25th April last year, he did not celebrate another home goal until hitting the winner against Coventry City on 27th February. 'I couldn't believe that was happening, although, to be fair, I wasn't playing for five months because of the close season and then the injury.

'I never felt that I was having any particular trouble in scoring at Villa Park. It just seemed that goalkeepers made their brilliant saves here or I would have goals disallowed. It didn't really matter that much to me because a striker's game is all about scoring goals, whether they are at home or away.'

Of more concern was the fact that he picked up a puzzling new injury at Swansea in December and was also left out of the side at Everton later in the month. His knee was put in plaster in January and, even now, he is still getting some fluid build-up.

'Something must be wrong if the body produces fluid to protect a joint, but I can still run freely and don't really feel anything during a game. It seems that it could be a problem that can wait to the end of the season — just like the bunion that I still have on my left foot.

'This is the original injury from early in the season. It affects me if the tender spot is pressurised by wearing tight shoes, but the specialist has said that if it is troubling me, he can shave off a little bit in the summer.

'This run of niggling injuries has probably taken the edge off the under-

standing that I had with Peter Withe last season. Either I have been out through injury or Peter has been injured or suspended. Consequently, we don't seem to have had a run like last year when, if I wasn't scoring, Peter was, or if he was having a quiet spell, I was getting goals.

'It seemed to be coming back for a few games recently, but circumstances broke up the link again last Saturday.'

At international level, Gary won his fourth Under-21 cap against Hungary at Nottingham in November, but, here again, continuity is snapped again today because Villa's European fixture prevented his chance of selection for the England trip to Poland.

'I didn't even see the squad announced because we were away in Russia at the time. It's a pity that the side had to be changed because we played an interesting formula in beating Hungary home and away.

'I was playing a more withdrawn role, going a lot deeper and picking up off the midfield players, rather like Eric Gates does at Ipswich. I was getting a fair percentage of the ball and it was played to my feet all the time. In saying that, I have to add that the Hungarians were not very good markers, but I enjoyed setting things up.

'Justin Fashanu and Garry Thompson were the other strikers but played in wider positions than at their clubs. This left space for me to go bombing through the middle and it was nice to get one of the goals over in Hungary last summer.'

Gary is honest enough to admit that he should have registered another overseas goal this month, for he blames himself for missing Villa's best chance of the match against Dynamo Kiev. There's nothing he wants more than to make up for that by helping Villa through to the semi-final tonight.

But he is taking nothing for granted despite the good team performance in Russia. 'We have to learn from the last round when Dynamo Berlin showed us that we can't afford to go storming forward all the time. We can also look to West Ham last season when another Russian team, Dynamo Tbilisi, caught them on the counter-attack at Upton Park.

'We must be patient and we would all ask for the same of the fans. We know it's no use attacking hell for leather and then losing a goal by giving the ball away in a bad position. The important thing is not to concede a goal and if we can win 1-0, it doesn't matter if we have to wait for the last minute.'

● **PERSONAL NOTE** . . . Gary now has his own house in Castle Bromwich but confesses that his mother still does his washing and that he goes home for some of his meals. 'All I've got is a microwave,' he smiled. 'My neighbours have adopted me and I've managed to convert the father of the house to supporting Villa instead of Blues. He's even got a Villa sticker in his car now!'



**GARY SHAW**

## FOCUS

By Mike Beddow

### GARY SHAW

Some of the top honours in the game landed at Gary Shaw's feet last season. In the space of three months, he made his first England Under-21 appearance, received two Young Player of the Year awards and collected a League championship medal.

National acclaim turned into a 'Shaw for England' campaign in some quarters and this applied new pressures on a player who was then only a few weeks past his 20th birthday.

But no-one, not even Gary himself, can truly assess whether this sudden elevation to stardom was counter-productive. Was there an unconscious reaction? Or is it merely coincidental that he has not quite re-captured the form which brought him 20 goals last season?

The question he finds most difficult is whether a moderate return from this season is a good reason for suggesting that it was premature to link him with the full England squad last Spring.

'I suppose you might say it is never too early because you can always look back and say 'I've played for England', whether the first cap comes when you are 17 or, in Peter Withe's case, at 29. At the time, I was progressing a little bit quickly and, certainly, I didn't want to go there and discover I was not ready for international football.

'Perhaps it is worth considering that I had played only once for the Under-21 side when people were pushing me for a place in the Home Internationals. But, by then, I wasn't scoring goals as regularly as when I got to 13 before Christmas. I was scoring only once in every four, five or six games by the back-end of the season,