

LINE-UP

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DES BREMNER	SERGEI RODIONOV
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PETER WITHE	YURI GAVRILOV
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**ASTON VILLA
 VOUCHER 83/4**

v Moscow Spartak
 2nd November 1983

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ASTON VILLA

MOSCOW SPARTAK

UEFA CUP

ROUND TWO – SECOND LEG
 2nd NOVEMBER 1983
 KICK-OFF 7.30



NEWS & RECORD – OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 40p

IN TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME
 EXCLUSIVE
 PICTURES AND
 REPORTS FROM
 MOSCOW

UP FRONT

...with The Villan

Once again Aston Villa proudly carry the flag for the West Midlands into European competition.

Our Russian visitors, Moscow Spartak, whom we welcome to Villa Park, number among the illustrious visitors from abroad who have graced our famous pitch.

Teams from the USSR are not, of course, unknown here, Dynamo Kiev having been among our opponents when we won the European Cup two seasons ago.

However foreign clubs always bring with them a touch of the unknown and help to create a feeling of adventure and excitement among supporters.

Quite apart from numerous ap-

pearances in European competition over the last 10 years the club's policy of bringing top foreign sides to Villa Park, for friendlies whenever possible, has made our supporters familiar with some of the world's most famous names.

Santos of Brazil, Barcelona of Spain, Juventus of Italy... these are among the great club sides who have played here. Also, dating back to 1966 fans old enough to recall will boast of having seen the West Germany side who subsequently lost to England in that never-to-be-forgotten World Cup Final.

Moscow Spartak fit comfortably into this level of opposition as was seen by their display against us in the Russian capital two weeks ago.

Although we were in the lead 2-1 and almost won the game it was clear that the contenders for the Soviet Championship are a powerful side of true quality.

Our supporters unquestionably have a treat in store tonight in

terms of a closely-fought competitive match between two sides capable of playing entertaining and adventurous football.

Any suggestion that Villa are the pre-match favourites can be based only on our having home advantage. Otherwise the two sides are evenly matched.

Indeed many experienced observers in Moscow expressed the view that Spartak could be even more formidable away than they are at home.

Villa will carry the flag of the West Midlands and of the nation not only with pride but with a determination to bring more European colour to the stadium in future rounds.

It was a unique occasion two weeks ago with the space-shot by Satellite back to the Leisure Centre and also the beaming of the match by the Russian authorities to their own astronauts in outer space.

Whatever the result tonight it is a UEFA Cup-tie which will justify a place in the club's history books.



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TEAMTALK

Tonight we welcome the players and officials of Moscow Spartak to Villa Park for the second leg of the UEFA Cup-tie which began well for us with a satisfactory trip to the Soviet Union.

The hospitality, assistance and organisation of the Spartak club was first class and we hope that they are equally happy with their reception in Birmingham this week.

The tie is still on a knife-edge despite our fine performance in drawing 2-2 in Moscow. We have done only half the job because, make no mistake, Spartak are an excellent side who can score goals away from home, as they proved against Arsenal last season.

The result in Moscow was a good one for us, although a little disappointing because we were leading until we lost the second goal on a penalty thirty seconds from the end.

While we are aware of what Spartak can do, we also know that at our best, we are more than capable of holding our own and getting the result to take us through to the last sixteen. And if tonight's game is as good as the one in Moscow, the public should be well entertained.

Obviously, we have to shake the memory of last Saturday's game out of our system. Arsenal brought us down to earth with a bump and we have to go back a long way in the record books to find the last instance of Villa conceding six goals at home. There was nothing to leave either myself or the players with anything to be proud of in our performance, but tonight we have the opportunity to put things right.

Saturday was a day when so many things were wrong that it was a job to know where to start any analysis. If any good can come out of such a nightmare, let's hope that the players have learned that no side is invincible and that we do not have a divine right to win every home game.

This week, with the Spartak game and then a visit to Manchester United, will show what sort of character we have in our team. Having said that, I am certainly not taking anything away from Arsenal for what must have been one of their best performances for many years.

It is a tremendous achievement for a striker to score five goals away from home, and although we were left totally disappointed and disillusioned, we must pay tribute to Tony Woodcock for being in the right places to accept the chances which we allowed Arsenal to make.

The Milk Cup draw has given us another good home tie against Manchester City next Wednesday. Judging from our experience against Portsmouth, it will be a difficult match against a side from the higher reaches of the Second Division. But we can't ask for more than being at home and we have a good opportunity to reach the next round later in the month.



By **MANAGER TONY BARTON**

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PRESS VIEW

● It may seem a long time ago now but it's well worth recalling and savouring the return leg of the UEFA Cup-tie against the Portuguese club Vitoria Guimaraes.

After seemingly having left the club's place in the competition in jeopardy with a rather disappointing 1-0 defeat away from home the 5-0 second leg victory was a glorious experience.

The *Birmingham Post* introduced a new name on the big-game front in the Midlands in Derek Lawrenson who has joined the newspaper to report golf and soccer.

With the *Post's* No. 1 soccer man Ian Willars off sick Lawrenson took over to write: 'Aston Villa's version of the quick-step — the Morley-Withe one-two — swept them safely into the next round at vibrant Villa Park.'

He also put forward an interesting version of the Portuguese theory on defensive play having earlier spoke of Withe's 'marvellous hat-trick'... and the 'deft skills of Walters'.

He added: 'Realising the vast gulf in skill between the sides Guimaraes hacked and kicked their way back into the match as if to prove to any doubting onlooker that the neighbouring Spaniards had not taken out a patent on the method.'

'The Portuguese version runs roughly like this: if you are naturally gifted like Walters or Morley, you are warned first with a tap on the ankles. Anyone who has the temerity to continue entertaining the crowd then has the full works... namely six studs on the calf.'

Sounds more painful than a sting from a 'Portuguese Man O' War'! If it really was dangerous as that for Villa as they achieved their memorable scoreline then all the more credit for earning their trip to Russia in such emphatic style.

One aspect of a sports writer's life which the readers can be expected to understand is the difficulties experienc-

ed in telephoning reports back from far-flung corners of the soccer world.

The Eastern Bloc countries always present worrying problems and it is a great tribute to the Press corps that detailed reports are on their breakfast tables the following morning.

All sorts of telephone problems were encountered in Moscow but they did not prevent the exciting news being relayed.

'MAGIC MARK' enthused the *Daily Mirror* headline on Dave Horridge's report. Dave, of course, helped the *Radio WM* commentary from the Dynamo Stadium, too.

Hugh Jamieson in the *Sun* wrote: 'England Under-21 newcomer Mark Walters kept Villa firmly on course with one of the most dazzling goals seen in Europe this season.'

'It's Vintage Villa' was the bannerline on Ray Matts' report in the *Daily Mail*. 'A display of cool containment crippled Spartak in this second round tie and paved the way for Villa's ultimate success in the return in a fortnight.'

Hope, you're right, Ray.

'Their 2-2 draw was reminiscent of the finest nights in winning the European Cup' wrote Leon Hickman in the *Birmingham Post*.

On the question of Walters, who displayed so much skill and maturity, Hickman added: 'Walters, too, displayed exceptional talents and the Spartak reaction to his flights of fantastic control was to knock him down at the first opportunity.'

The actual match in Moscow was not the only event to be reported. Another huge success surrounding that match was the Satellite version in Aston.

John Pearson in the *Sunday Mercury* claimed that commercial manager Tony Stephens deserved a medal for bravery for putting the event on with all its inherent problems. 'It deserved to be a success. And success it was.'

All in all not a bad night for Aston Villa!

DIARY

Wednesday 19th October

● Moscow Spartak 2 Aston Villa 2 in magnificent display. Superb goals by Colin Gibson and Mark Walters, but late penalty prevents outright win. Nearly three thousand fans see history making live showing by Satellite at Leisure Centre.

Thursday 20th October

● Manager Tony Barton praises Villa's young lions after their mature displays against Blues last Saturday and in Russia. Back home, Gordon Cowans revealed to be making encouraging recovery from his broken leg.

Friday 21st October

● Side which drew in Moscow retained for Sunday's match at Molineux. Gary Shaw has stitches removed following cartilage operation and progress looks encouraging.



Sunday 23rd October

● Wolves 1 Aston Villa 1. Peter Withe scores in second League game to be screened live on a Sunday. Gate of 13,202 disappointing.



SEASON 1924-25

Division One	H	A
Arsenal	4-0	1-1
Birmingham	1-0	0-1
Blackburn R	4-3	1-1
Bolton W	2-2	0-4
Burnley	3-0	1-1
Bury	3-3	3-4
Cardiff C	1-2	1-2
Everton	3-1	0-2
Huddersfield	1-1	1-4
Leeds Utd	2-1	0-6
Liverpool	1-4	4-2
Manchester C	2-1	0-1
Newcastle U	0-0	1-4
Nottingham F	2-0	2-0
Notts Co	0-0	0-0
Preston NE	1-0	2-3
Sheffield U	1-1	2-2
Sunderland	1-4	1-1
Tottenham H	0-1	3-1
WBA	1-0	1-4
West Ham Utd	1-1	0-2

League appearances:
Donnell 41, Walker 35, Spiers 34, Kirton 33, York 30, Smart 28, Johnstone 24, Milne 22, Bowen 22, Mort 19, Moss 18, G. Blackburn 17, Capewell 17, Muldoon 17, C. Harris 15, G. Stephenson 13, Talbot 13, Eccles 10, Surtees 9, Jackson 8, Varco 8, Dinsdale 5, W. Harris 4, Campbell 3, Jakeman 3, Jones 3, Phoenix 3, Armfield 2, Corbett 2, McClure 2, Clarke 1, Dennington 1. Total: 462 apps — 32 players.

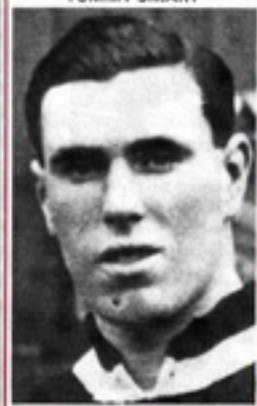
League scorers:
Walker 18, Donnell 8, Capewell 6, Kirton 6, Stephenson 6, York 6, Moss 2, Phoenix 2, Varco 2, Blackburn 1, Surtees 1. Total: 58.

During this season Villa used eight different centre-forwards, including Dickie York, and still failed to produce the goods, finishing in 15th position with this record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	21	10	7	4	34	25	27
Away	21	3	6	12	24	46	12
Total	42	13	13	16	58	71	39

Huddersfield (58 pts) won the title — the second leg of their 'hat-trick'.

TOMMY SMART



FOR THE RECORD

SEASON 1925-26

Division One	H	A
Arsenal	3-0	0-2
Birmingham	3-3	1-2
Blackburn R	1-2	1-3
Bolton W	2-2	3-1
Burnley	10-0	3-2
Bury	1-1	3-2
Cardiff C	0-2	0-2
Everton	3-1	1-1
Huddersfield	3-0	1-5
Leeds Utd	3-1	2-2
Leicester C	2-2	2-1
Liverpool	3-0	1-3
Manchester C	3-1	2-4
Manchester U	2-2	0-3
Newcastle U	2-2	2-2
Notts Co	2-1	0-1
Sheffield U	2-2	1-4
Sunderland	4-2	2-3
Tottenham H	3-0	2-2
WBA	2-1	1-1
West Ham Utd	2-0	2-5

League appearances:
York 40, Mort 39, Donnell 38, Walker 36, Capewell 34, Johnstone 34, Moss 31, Smart 29, G. Stephenson 25, Milne 24, Spiers 24, Kirton 20, Jackson 18, Muldoon 14, Talbot 14, Bowen 12, Norris 6, C. Harris 4, Armfield 3, G. Blackburn 3, Corbett 3, Chester 3, Dinsdale 3, W. Harris 2, Jones 2, Jakeman 1. Total: 462 apps — 26 players.

League scorers:
Capewell 32, Walker 21, York 19, Donnell 5, Stephenson 3, Norris 2, Chester 1, Milne 1, Mort 1, Smart 1. Total: 86.

The first season of the new off-side law saw Villa score 86 goals and of those 10 against Burnley, Capewell hit five and Walker three. In the home game with Blues, Villa let slip a 3-0 lead which they held with just 11 minutes left for play.

This record gave Villa sixth spot in the First Division:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	21	12	7	2	56	25	31
Away	21	4	5	12	30	51	13
Total	42	16	12	14	86	76	44

SEASON 1926-27

Division One	H	A
Arsenal	2-3	1-2
Birmingham	4-2	2-1
Blackburn R	4-3	2-0
Bolton W	3-4	2-0
Burnley	1-1	3-6
Bury	1-2	1-0
Cardiff C	0-0	3-2
Derby Co	3-1	3-2
Everton	5-3	2-2
Huddersfield	3-0	0-0
Leeds Utd	5-1	1-3
Leicester C	2-0	1-5
Liverpool	1-1	1-2
Manchester U	2-0	1-2
Newcastle U	1-2	0-4
Sheffield U	4-0	1-3
Sheffield W	2-2	1-3
Sunderland	3-1	1-1
Tottenham H	2-3	1-0
WBA	2-0	2-6
West Ham Utd	1-5	1-5

League appearances:
York 42, Donnell 38, Jackson 38, G. Stephenson 36, Milne 35, Moss 35, Walker 33, Bowen 31, Smart 30, Kingdon 26, Mort 23, Capewell 21, Johnstone 16, Cook 13, Harris 13, Kirton 8, Talbot 6, Chester 4, Norris 3, Johnson 2, Muldoon 2, Spiers 2, Armfield 1, Corbett 1, Gibson 1, Jakeman 1, Nicholson 1. Total: 462 apps — 27 players.

League scorers:
Capewell 16, Walker 16, Stephenson 13, York 12, Cook 9, Donnell 7, Harris 4, Kingdon 2, Kirton 1, Johnstone 1. Total: 81.

Not a good season for Villa who struggled for long periods and in the end had to be content with 10th position in the table with this record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	21	11	4	6	51	34	26
Away	21	7	3	11	30	49	17
Total	42	18	7	17	81	83	43

Three teams did the 'double' over Villa this term including Champions Newcastle and West Ham who won both encounters by a 5-1 margin — a quite remarkable feat.

SEASON 1927-28

Division One	H	A
Arsenal	2-2	3-0
Birmingham	1-1	1-1
Blackburn R	2-0	1-0
Bolton W	2-2	1-3
Burnley	3-1	2-4
Bury	1-0	0-0
Cardiff C	3-1	1-2
Derby Co	0-1	0-5
Everton	2-3	2-3
Huddersfield	3-0	1-1
Leicester C	0-3	0-3
Liverpool	3-4	0-0
Manchester U	3-1	1-5
Middlesbrough	5-1	0-0
Newcastle U	3-0	5-7
Portsmouth	7-2	1-3
Sheffield U	1-0	3-0
Sheffield W	5-4	0-2
Sunderland	4-2	3-2
Tottenham H	1-2	1-2
West Ham Utd	1-0	2-2

League appearances:
Walker 40, Milne 37, Smart 36, Donnell 36, Cook 35, Bowen 32, Kingdon 31, Beresford 30, York 28, Gibson 24, Olney 20, Jackson 17, Moss 17, Mort 14, Waring 12, Chester 11, Yates 11, Capewell 6, Tully 6, Tate 4, Armfield 3, Brittleton 2, Hickman 2, Johnson 2, G. Stephenson 2, Talbot 2, Goddard 1, Harris 1. Total: 462 apps — 28 players.

League scorers:
Cook 23, Beresford 10, Walker 10, Donnell 9, Waring 7, Smart 4, York 4, Capewell 4, Chester 3, Armfield 2, Gibson 1, opponent 1. Total: 78.

Villa took eighth position in the League this term with this playing record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	21	13	3	5	52	30	29
Away	21	4	6	11	26	43	14
Total	42	17	9	16	78	73	43

That defeat at Newcastle saw Villa score three times in the last 30 minutes when Jimmy Gibson took over in goal — and the action was played in a blinding snowstorm.

TOMMY MORT



ACTION



Action from Villa's emphatic win over Guimaraes at Villa Park.

1. Peter Withe opens the scoring and levels the aggregate score.
2. Withe again – this time a header to put Villa 2-0 up.
3. Another header. Brendan Ormsby makes it 3-0.
4. Colin Gibson gets in on the act with goal number four.
5. Peter Withe completes his hat-trick and the 5-0 scoreline.
6. Congratulations for Withe from Colin Gibson.
7. Tony Morley shows concern for the Guimaraes defender.
8. Alan Curbishley receiving the 'dead-leg' treatment.
9. Peter never pushed him – he just fell!
10. The Villa scoreboard proclaims Withe's hat-trick.



GOAL SCORER PETER WITHE

GOAL SCORER PETER WITHE

GOAL SCORER PETER WITHE

VITORIA GUIMARAES ARE NO MATCH FOR ASTON VILLA . . .

PETER WITHE SCORES A HAT-TRICK

The last time Villa went to the Soviet Union, for a European Cup quarter-final against Dynamo Kiev, Brendan Ormsby was back at Bodymoor Heath training with the Reserve squad.

The European stage seemed a long way off at that low point in his career. Ken McNaught had returned after injury and Brendan was in the shadows despite playing so well in the previous round in Berlin.

Now the soccer wheel of fortune has turned the full circle and the former England Youth captain, who was 23 a month ago, is relishing his first extended opportunity in the senior side.

'I feel a lot easier in myself now that I'm part of the set-up', he says. 'When we won the European Cup, I wasn't involved at all at the end, but I've never forgotten

WHEEL TURNS FULL CIRCLE FOR BRENDAN



how we won against Dynamo Berlin earlier that season.

'Most of the lads reckon it was one of our best European performances. I kept thinking of it while we were playing the game in Moscow. It was a similar performance and we would have won again but for that last-minute penalty.'

It's history now that Brendan was ruled to have tripped full-back Vadim Sochnov. But the memory still hurts. 'It put a sour note on the whole trip,' he says. 'If it had been a straight-forward penalty, I wouldn't have argued. I might have touched him, but it certainly wasn't intentional.'

Brendan was given a marking role in Moscow, picking up the deep-lying striker, Yuri Gavrillov. 'He's a very good player, but we did our defensive job quite well,' he says. 'The main thing now is to work just as hard in the second leg.'

SIDELINES

SURPRISE FOR LES

Les Limbrick, a lifelong Villa fan from Churchdown, near Gloucester, has just enjoyed the best surprises of his life.

First, his daughter, who lives in Weston-super-Mare, called to say that she had booked him on what he calls 'my trip of a lifetime' to the Soviet Union.

Next, Les was getting ready for the holiday when he realised that his stay in Moscow would coincide with Villa's date against Spartak.

Like a true Claret and Blue loyalist, he popped his Villa scarf into his luggage. 'Just in case,' he smiled.

The next surprise for Les was to find that he was booked into the same hotel as the Villa team. Well, that was too good an opportunity to miss! And when the Press contingent heard of Les's story, a quick call to secretary Steve Stride put the wheels in motion.

He found a match ticket for our unexpected 76-year-old fan and arranged a VIP ride to the Stadium in the coach carrying Press and Supporters.

'Everyone has been marvellous to me,' he said later. 'The match was very good and the result even better. And I'll be back home in time to see the second leg!'



CLAUDE NINE

'The whole game in Russia was so fast, through standing near the half-way line, he got his neck in a twist!'



Ray Walker and Paul Rideout settle down to a game of cards at Moscow Airport before flying home.



PROGRAMMES

Two programmes that caused a lot of interest among collectors were the official match programme brought back from Russia by players and supporters and the 'satellite' edition of the 'Villa News & Record', produced for the transmission at the Villa Leisure Centre. The four-page satellite publication was well received and there are still some available and on sale tonight, price 20p.

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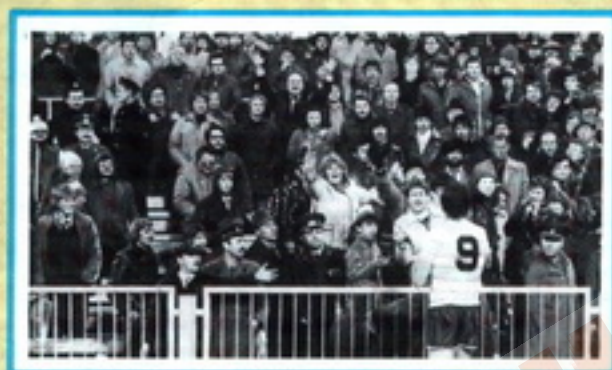
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BY OUR MAN
IN MOSCOW
MIKE BEDDOW



If you were to look out of the front windows of The Kremlin, you would see the Union Jack.

The British Embassy is on one bank of the River Moscow and directly opposite is the seat of the Soviet Government. 'Eyeball to eyeball' as our guide suggested.

The meeting of East and West was just one of the sights we saw during our stay in a fascinating and eye-catching city.

Above all, though, is our memory of our treatment by the Soviet people. Spartak were excellent hosts. Our hotel was bright and modern. Training facilities were first class. And the Moscovite football supporters were polite and knowledgeable.

We trust that we left a similarly favourable impression. Not least in satisfying the countless requests for badges and souvenirs.

Few countries show as much enthusiasm for football as the Soviet Union, yet we were surprised to learn that attendances for League matches are comparatively low.

Malcolm Beard, our Chief Scout, reported that only 10,000 people were in the Lenin Stadium when he saw Spartak playing against Dzalgris Vilnius. The following day, the Dynamo Stadium attracted only 8,000 spectators for Dynamo against the League champions, Dynamo Minsk.

But when it came to international competition, there was a 50,000 sell-out for our match which was switched from Spartak's home ground to the smaller but well appointed (and superbly illuminated) Dynamo Stadium.

Malcolm Beard, incidentally, was on the first flight made by British Airways to Moscow after the industrial dispute. And his homeward journey was unusual, to say the least. He was one of only two passengers!

It was because of possible complications that we switched the team's flight to Japan Airlines. For many of the players, it was a reminder of last year's long trip to Tokyo for the World Championship. Once again, we received first class treatment on a JAL Boeing 747.

The return flight was slightly more prolonged because JAL's Jumbo terminated at Paris. We stopped over for two hours at Charles de Gaulle Airport before British Airways whizzed us into London on a 35 minute journey on a TriStar jet.

In all, it took 13 hours from the hotel in Moscow to our cars parked at Villa Park. Red Square seemed a long way behind us in the early hours of Friday morning. But, tired as we were, there was a vote of thanks to the team for making our trip so memorable.

P.S. The British Embassy in Moscow echoes those sentiments. No fewer than 60 members of the Embassy staff shared our excitement by watching the 2-2 draw in the Dynamo Stadium.

• Our main back-drop picture shows Moscow's famous Red Square. The other pictures (in descending order) show how the Villa team looks in Russian . . . Peter Withe delighting Russian fans with his customary after match presentation of his sweat bands . . . Manager Tony Barton being interviewed after the match by a member of the Russian Press.

"We need to be at our best to finish the job" says Allan

Allan Evans went on record that he would be bitterly disappointed if Villa didn't win by three clear goals in the last home UEFA Cup-tie against Vitoria Guimaraes.

That was when we were one down from the first leg. Tonight Villa are better off in starting level with Moscow Spartak — but there are no promises of a comfortable win this time.

'The result out there may have given the public the impression that the tie is almost over,' Allan warned. 'We know better than that. The slightest sign of complacency — and we will lose.'

'We always knew we were a much better side than Guimaraes, but this is a completely different type of game tonight.'

'The pitch in Moscow probably didn't help them. There were times when they were setting up a shot from the 18-yard line and the ball bobbled up. They will be hitting those shots on a better pitch at Villa Park.'

'Technically, they are a very good side, and we know that we need to be at our best to finish the job. With a couple of exceptions, we have been quite sound defensively at Villa Park and we have to be confident because of our home record.'

Allan has no doubts that the 2-2 draw in Moscow ranked alongside Villa's best performances in Europe. 'We were delighted with the way we played, particularly after our experience in Portugal,' he said. 'That match left a few questions and I feel we answered them in Moscow.'

'The will to win was strong and the co-operation between the players was outstanding in terms of helping each other out. Everyone did his job well, and having set up things defensively, we went on from there in the second-half.'

'The first goal was typical of the way Colin Gibson has been getting forward this season. Again, he popped up when we needed a goal and that is always good for a full-back. I, for one, believe he can't be ignored for much longer as far as internationals are concerned.'

'The second goal from Mark Walters was quite brilliant. Perhaps it's sufficient to say that we could talk all day about that one!'

● Pictured below is Allan Evans making the customary exchange of pennants with the Russian captain, goalkeeper Renat Dasajev.



IN SUPPORT OF VILLA

William Johnson, MBE, has been a Villa fan for 60 years, but we don't suppose he ever imagined that his support for the club would lead to this photograph in the Kremlin Gardens!

Bill, as he prefers to be called, was among the 22 supporters on the official trip to Moscow, one of the few major cities he had not previously visited in his travels around the world. 'The attraction of Moscow and the friendship I found on other trips with Villa made up my mind,' he said. 'I wasn't let down. We had a wonderful reception and I'm pleased I've been to Moscow.'

Bill, who ran a long-established family firm of Iron and Steel Merchants, is old enough — 'say I'm coming to my 80th birthday!' he suggested — to remember players like Frank Barson and Billy Walker.

'I enjoyed the early days best,' he says. 'The players were in their knee-length shorts and our season ticket was in the old wooden stand until they built the new stand in Trinity Road.'

'The modern team is very good, too, and they seem to excel themselves in these European games. I've watched them in Turkey and Spain, and now Russia, and I don't think I've seen them lose.'

Bill, who lived for 14 years in Majorca before returning to his present home in Stretey, was a keen sportsman himself. He competed in no fewer than 16 Monte Carlo Rallies and, before the last war, he was a motor cycle trials rider.

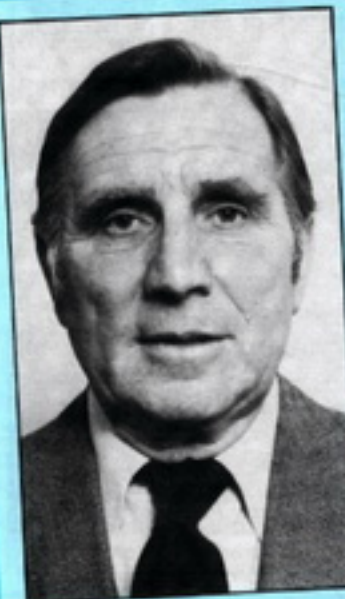


COVER-UP FOR PETER Peter Withe is never one to hide his responsibilities — on or off the park — but Terry Weir's camera did catch Peter in disguise, wearing a Russian hat and tinted glasses, on Villa's trip to Moscow.



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE!

Natalie is a young Muscovite and Andy Congrave is a Villa fan who pols up on all our European trips. Football brought them together, proving that people are always above politics.



CLOCK TURNS BACK FOR BILL

The clock turned back nearly 30 years for Bill Shorthouse when he joined the fans watching the Spartak match on the satellite television link.

Villa's Reserve coach played against Spartak during the days when Wolves pioneered the Floodlit Spectaculars at Molineux in the 1950s.

He was at left-back in an all-star Wolves team, including Bert Williams, Billy Wright and Johnny Hancocks, in a 4-0 victory over Spartak in November 1954.

Bill remembers the occasion well. 'Spartak had seven internationals, including Netto, the Russian captain,' he says. 'The thing that struck me then is that Russian sides are very disciplined. And judging from the TV pictures a fortnight ago,

that is still true. There is no fuss and they don't shake hands after a goal.'

Wolves paid a return visit to Spartak in 1955. What Bill recalls most is the travelling. 'We flew to Copenhagen and then on to Helsinki, where we stopped overnight and trained the next day in the national stadium,' he says. 'Then we carried on to Moscow in an old plane, a bit like a Dakota. We must have spent a good day and a half getting there.'

Moscow, incidentally, was not new territory for Villa. We played two matches in the Lenin Stadium in May 1961, losing 2-0 to Moscow Dynamo but winning 1-0 against a Combined Soviet XI with a goal by Jimmy MacEwan.



SUGAR PUFFS & CHOCOLATE

As if footballers don't have enough treats to make the youngsters envious Peter Withe has come up with another.

The big rugged striker has found that the pre-match meal which suits him best is a bar or two of chocolate and a dish of sugar puffs.

So when 'Mr Goals' Withe posed with Cadbury's commercial director Norman Hawkins ready to eat his way through a few bars of 'Dairy Milk' he was only half joking.

When Villa set off for Moscow, with all the food problems ahead, Withe made sure that the skips were well-stocked with his favourite variety.

Cadbury's were happy to supply it and to feel afterwards that their wares had played a tiny part in that magnificent performance.

The 'Dairy Milk' Kid can eat what the heck he likes ... as long as he keeps on scoring! Otherwise we'll knock his block off ...

COLIN'S ON TARGET

Colin Gibson sets himself a target of five goals for each season. And with only a quarter of the current campaign gone, he has scored four.

'I haven't reached my target in the last two seasons, but I've got to be hopeful of making it this time,' he says. 'And if I could get one or two more — well, that would be a great bonus.'

The flying full-back seems to be making a habit of notching important goals in Cup-ties this term. In fact, he scored in three consecutive Cup rounds — the home win against Vitoria Guimaraes, then at Portsmouth in the Milk Cup and finally in Moscow against Spartak.

'For importance, the one in Russia rates as the best,' he says. 'It's always nice to score a vital goal, but I don't honestly think it was one of my better finishes.'

'It was a good work-up along the left, and when I went to hit my shot, I did it right by keeping my head down. But I was a bit lucky in that the goalkeeper was moving towards his far post and my shot sliced inside the near upright.'

The goal that Colin liked best from a professional point of view was the one against Vitoria Guimaraes. 'The main reason is that the whole move was quite clinical,' he explains. 'Everyone involved did everything just right, and when I found myself clear, I put the shot where I wanted and in it went.'

Colin, of course, was disappointed to miss last Saturday's game against Arsenal because of suspension, although he was relieved that it wasn't for two matches.

The FA ban put a little cloud over what has been an excellent season for Colin so far. 'The trouble with going out of the side is that you always worry that you might not get back,' he says. 'I'd like to think that I would come back against Spartak, and I've had my fingers crossed since the weekend.'



Colin Gibson 'surfaces' with Steve McMahon in the Dynamo Stadium, Moscow.



'The best so far' says Mark Walters

Mention of being with Villa in Moscow guaranteed a talking point with football people in the last fortnight. And there are no awards for guessing the subject. It was THE goal!

Managers and players everywhere gave an ecstatic reception to Mark Walters for a piece of magic which everyone seems to be comparing with Kenny Dalglish's goal for Scotland against Belgium last year.

Yet the least excited person appeared to be 19-year-old Mark. 'Yes,' he agreed, 'it is the best I've scored so far.' But the quality was perhaps not as significant to him as the fact that he had broken a nine-game run without scoring.

'I scored in the first two games this season, but then the goals stopped. So I was just pleased to get off the mark again,' he explained.

What were his thoughts when that super shuffle — already a Walters' trademark — left his marker for dead on the corner of the penalty area?

'I was thinking of turning and squaring the ball to

some-one else,' he says. 'Then I looked at the position I was in and thought it would be best to get going and try a shot.'

'Another defender started coming towards me, but I got half-a-yard on him. All I concentrated on then was trying to place my shot.'

The result was a goal which is sure to be preserved on video by every manager in the country. And Mark has his own record thanks to his mother taping it before he got back from the Soviet Union.

England Under-21 manager Dave Sexton is among the many who have congratulated Mark personally. Obviously, he hopes that it will help him towards his first full appearance with the Under-21 side soon.

Two trips to Eastern countries in 10 days did no harm to his ambitions. Prior to Moscow, he played for the last 30 minutes for the England Under-21 side in Hungary. 'It was a tough trip,' he says. 'The accommodation was bad, but it was worth it to come home with a cap.'



The Villa bench in the Dynamo Stadium — feeling the cold weather.

MOSCOW SPARTAK

● **MOSCOW SPARTAK** may have won the Soviet League title only once in the last 14 years, but they remain one of the most famous of clubs.

Their history includes 10 Championships (one fewer than record-holders Moscow Dynamo) and nine Cup Final victories — itself a record.

Yet they have yet to make their mark in European competition, even though this is their 10th appearance, this season. To date their top performance remains reaching the Champions' Cup quarter-finals in 1981, when they lost 0-0, 0-2 to Real Madrid.

Spartak suffered then as every East European club suffers — from the havoc wrought by the hard eastern European winter.

Because the Soviet season usually begins in March, runs through the summer and ends in November, the clubs are usually ill-prepared for the European quarter-finals, which come around every March, at the start of their season.

Spartak's last appearance in Europe, last season, brought them a stunning result against English opposition. In the first round of the UEFA Cup they beat Arsenal only 3-2 in the Olympic Stadium in Moscow... then stormed to a 5-2 success at Highbury.

After beating Haarlem of Holland in the second round, however, they fell 2-0 on aggregate to Spain's Valencia in the third round — played after the Soviet season had finished, and when the Spartak players were leg-weary.

Spartak gained fame in England from being one of Wolves' opponents in that memorable series of floodlit friendlies in the mid-1950s. But in fact their connection with English football goes back much further.

Like Arsenal they established themselves as one of the leading domestic powers in the 1930s — winning the League and Cup double in 1938 and 1939 — and, like Arsenal in England they were the first Soviet side to copy Herbert Chapman's stopper centre-half tactics.

Since the war Spartak have included many of the Soviet Union's finest players. Igor Netto, a left-half of power and skill, inspired the Soviets' Olym-

pics victory in Melbourne in 1956; and Nikita Simonyan was for years the Soviet League's all-time record top-scorer with 179 goals.

Spartak were formed in 1922 but took their present name only in 1936. They are backed by a large trades union and include among their players men who will later take up posts as teachers, hospital staff and civil servants.

The club is also a multi-sports organisation, with sections formed in many cities across the length and breadth of the Soviet Union. Basketball and chess are just two of the most popular of the 'other' sports controlled by the Spartak organisation.

Important home matches are played in the 102,000-capacity (all-seater) Lenin Stadium, which was re-named the Olympic Stadium after the 1980 Games in Moscow.

For all but the biggest matches, however, sections of the stadium are cordoned off to help maintain crowd control. That can have its disadvantages.

Unofficial reports leaking out of Moscow a year ago said that 70 fans had been killed and more than 150 hurt in a crowd disaster after the Spartak-Haarlem UEFA Cup-tie. If the fans had been spread more thinly round the ground, the fatal crush would never have taken place...

Spartak were relegated for the first time in their history in 1976. But they quickly recovered and now count some of the finest players in Soviet soccer among their stars — including current Footballer of the Year Renat Dassayev in goal.

The credit for masterminding the revival is virtually all due to the manager, 62-year-old Konstantin Beskov.

He has been a busy man over the last few years for he held on to his job with Spartak while simultaneously guiding the Soviet Union's 1982 World Cup campaign. (They were eliminated in the second round in Spain.)

Beskov earned his original fame as a member of the Moscow Dynamo team who made such an impression in Britain on their famous visit immediately after the last war.

After retiring with a domestic career record of 127 League and Cup goals — placing him 13th in the overall Soviet scoring charts — Beskov turned to coaching with great success. In the early 1960s he was first appointed national manager, and was in charge of the team beaten just 2-1 by hosts Spain in the Final of the 1964 European Nations' Championship.

Even though Beskov had originally been a Dynamo player, old loyalties meant for nothing when Spartak needed a new manager in the mid-1970s. Spartak had just been relegated for the first time ever and it was felt that only Beskov had the necessary experience — and respect — to re-organise them and turn them round quickly.

In his first season they won promotion and, in 1978, then won the League Championship. The following spring they were even into the quarter-finals of the Champions' Cup — a revival which earned Beskov the national team recall.

Working in close harmony with Kiev coach Valeri Lobanovsky (now national boss himself) and Tbilisi's Nodar Akhalkatsi, Beskov produced one of the finest Soviet sides for a long time. But in Spain that promise melted away.

Later it was alleged that Beskov had too many aides, all trying to impose their own ideas. He was, however, the man who carried the can. That may have been a relief. Fired as national boss he could safely return to his work at Spartak.

Beskov is a very democratic man. One novel touch he has brought to team management consists of frequently asking his players each to write down the line-up they would choose.

Whether he takes any notice is another matter!

THE PLAYERS

RENAT DASSAYEV, Goalkeeper. Aged 26/36 caps. Born at Astrakhan on 13th July 1957. 6ft 1in and 11st 9lb. Nicknamed the 'New Lev Yashin' and one of the finest goalkeepers in the world. Kept goal for the Soviet team who finished third in the 1980 Moscow Olympics and was then voted 1980 Footballer of the Year. With only two goals conceded he was top goalkeeper in the European qualifiers for the 1982 World Cup, and went on to enhance his reputation in the Finals in Spain. Made his senior international debut in a 1-0 win over East Germany in September 1979. Dassayev, who began as a centre-forward, was handed a three-match ban during the summer for forgetting to turn up at the supporters' presentation ceremony! Is the current Footballer of the Year.

ALEXANDER MIKHAILICHEV, Goalkeeper. Aged 18 — promoted this season from the Spartak Youth section.

GENNADI TSVETKOV, Goalkeeper.

Aged 21. Promoted to first Reserve after the transfer last winter of Aleksei Prudnikov.

ALEXANDER MIRZOYAN, Defender. Aged 32/1 cap. Veteran of the side, born in Armenia, but a one-club man with Spartak. A steady defender and a star performer from the penalty spot.

GENNADY MOROZOV, Defender. Aged 21. A Spartak Youth product who forced his way into the first team 18 months ago. A reliable defender who is very good in the air and uses his ability to go forward for set pieces and corners.

OLEG ROMANTSEV, Full-back. Aged 29/12 caps. A member of the Soviet 1982 World Cup squad, though he didn't play in Spain. In fact the last time he appeared in the national team was in a 1-1 draw with Argentina in Mar del Plata, in December 1980. A member of the Soviet squad who finished third in the Moscow Olympics earlier that year. Has qualified as a lecturer in physical education.

VADIM SOCHNOV, Defender. Aged 28. A former striker who was converted to right-back with great success by manager Konstantin Beskov. Still remembers enough about the attacking game, however, to provide some dangerous crosses for his forwards.

ALEXANDER KAIMOV, Defender. Aged 19.

VLADIMIR KOROLEV, Defender. Aged 18. Youth product.

EDUARD MILESHKIN, Defender. Aged 23. Outstanding in the first round, second leg against HJK in Helsinki.

SERGEI TISHIN, Defender. Aged 20.

SERGEI SHULIGIN, Defender. Aged 20.

EDGAR GESS, Midfield. Aged 29/1 cap. Came to Moscow from the little-known republic of Tadzhik and is another teacher off the pitch. Began as an orthodox outside-right but has moved back in the past year following a clear-out of a lot of older players. A member of the Soviet squad who finished third in the 1980 Olympics.

BORIS POZDNYAKOV, Midfield/Central defence. Aged 21. Gained his original opportunity earlier in 1982 when Spartak's World Cup hopefuls were frequently away on duty with the national squad. His play has matured quickly, for he was at first heavily criticised for trying to dribble past one player too many.

FYODOR CHERENKOV, Midfield/attack. Born 3rd May 1959. Aged 24/17 caps. Stands 5ft 8½in and weighs 11st 5lb. Cherenkov was a member of the third-placed Soviet team at the Moscow Olympics, having been given his chance by Konstantin Beskov, his club boss. Cherenkov made his senior debut in the 1-0 defeat by Greece in the

European Championship in September 1979 — the defeat which eliminated the Soviets. Cherenkov gained revenge however by scoring one of the goals with which the Soviet Union beat Greece in a friendly in March 1982. Surprisingly omitted from the 1982 World Cup squad, but he has been a regular since then, playing in the recent 2-0 win over Poland which virtually assured the Soviet Union a place in the European Championship Finals next year.

EDUARD KUZNETSOV, Midfield. Aged 22.

VALERI GLADILIN, Midfield. Aged 32. Scored a vital goal when he grabbed the second in Spartak's 2-0 win over HJK Helsinki in Moscow in the UEFA Cup first round, first leg. Gladilin scored just two minutes from time.

SERGEI NIKITIN, Midfield. Aged 23.

YURI ROMANOV, Midfield. Aged 18.

YURI GAVRILOV, Attack. Aged 30/27 caps. Made his international debut in a 1-0 win over East Germany in September 1979. A member of the third-placed Soviet Olympic side a year later. Gavrilov played in all the Soviet Union's five matches in the Finals of the 1982 World Cup but was then discarded by new manager Valeri Lobanovsky. His recall came in the recent 2-0 victory over Poland in the European Championship. Gavrilov was second top-scorer in the League last season with 21 goals and is the current season's top marksman with 18. At the end of August one goal in a 4-0 away win over Torpedo Kutaisi lifted Gavrilov among the elite to have scored 100 goals in the Soviet First Division. A further demonstration of his ability came when he scored four of Spartak's five goals in the thrashing of HJK in Helsinki in the UEFA Cup first round return. Two were penalties.

SERGEI RODIONOV, Attack. Aged 31/8 caps. Important in the Spartak scheme of things for taking some of the attacking pressure off Gavrilov. Rodionov made his international debut as a substitute in the Soviet's 4-1 win over Hungary in August 1980. A member of the 1980 third-placed Olympics squad, and of the 1982 World Cup squad.

SERGEI SHVETSOV, Attack. Aged 23/1 cap. Made his international debut as a substitute in the 1-1 draw with Argentina in Mar del Plata in December 1980. Lost his place with Spartak then, only to regain it last season. Prefers to attack down the wings.

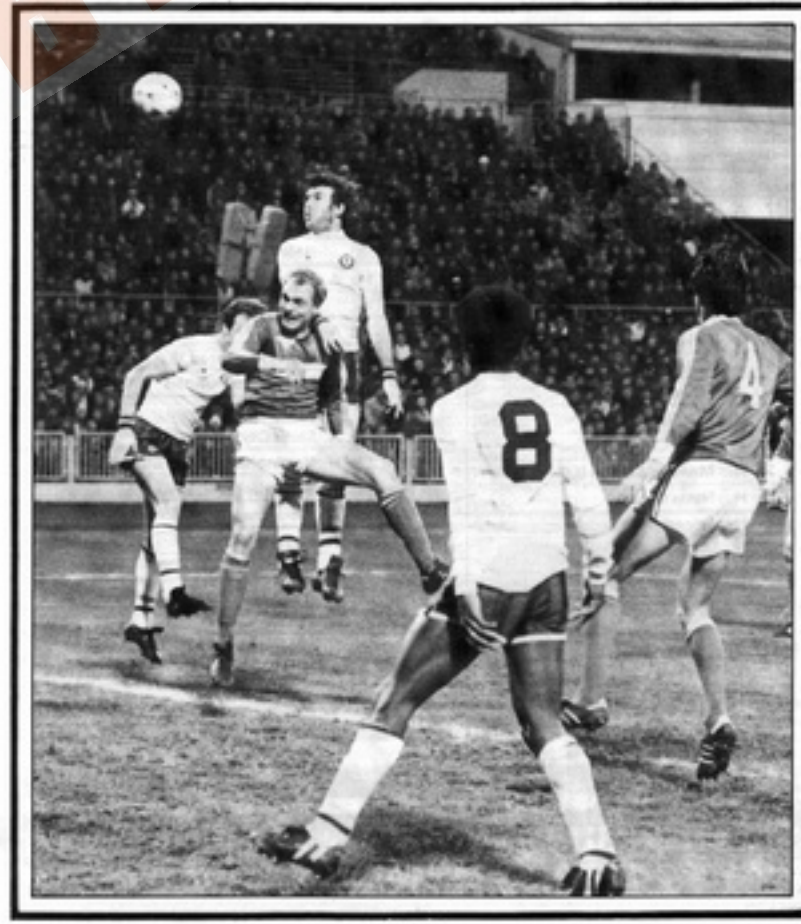
MIKHAIL DUBININ, Attack. Aged 25.

OLEG SMIRNOV, Attack. Aged 19.

GENNADY KHRUSTALEV, Attack. Aged 19.

SERGEI ARGUDYEV, Attack. Aged 20. Scored the first goal against HJK of Finland in Spartak's 2-0 home leg victory.

MIKHAIL RUSSYEV, Attack. Aged 24.



ATTENDANCES AND DIVISION ONE TABLE 1983-84

			Home										Away										
Highest	Average		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts									
56,121	45,497	Manchester United	11	5	0	1	13	3	3	1	1	8	8	25									
34,246	30,685	Liverpool	11	3	1	1	10	3	4	1	1	8	3	23									
27,140	20,079	QPR	11	3	1	1	8	3	3	1	2	12	6	20									
32,555	22,697	West Ham United	11	4	1	1	16	6	2	1	2	4	4	20									
20,674	18,936	Southampton	10	4	1	0	8	2	2	1	2	5	5	20									
38,042	32,563	Tottenham	11	2	1	2	5	6	4	1	1	12	8	20									
12,747	11,610	Luton Town	11	4	1	0	14	4	2	0	4	5	11	19									
42,704	31,324	Arsenal	11	3	0	3	11	8	3	0	2	12	6	18									
26,185	18,093	Ipswich Town	11	3	1	2	14	7	2	1	2	8	7	17									
13,441	11,951	Coventry City	11	2	1	2	7	7	3	1	2	10	10	17									
26,658	16,920	Nottingham Forest	11	3	2	1	10	7	2	0	3	7	10	17									
20,224	15,349	WBA	11	3	1	1	6	3	2	1	3	10	14	17									
19,016	14,609	Birmingham City	11	4	0	1	6	2	1	2	3	5	10	17									
39,318	25,501	Aston Villa	11	5	0	1	10	9	0	2	3	5	8	17									
22,658	16,955	Everton	11	2	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	4	7	15									
23,859	17,228	Norwich City	12	2	1	3	11	11	1	3	2	6	8	13									
26,826	16,524	Sunderland	11	2	2	2	7	8	1	1	3	3	9	12									
21,056	15,332	Watford	11	1	2	3	10	12	1	1	3	5	6	9									
23,074	15,648	Stoke City	11	2	0	3	7	10	0	3	3	5	12	9									
11,031	9,217	Notts County	11	1	1	3	3	9	1	0	5	7	12	9									
15,538	12,695	Leicester City	11	1	1	3	4	12	0	1	5	4	11	5									
26,249	16,315	Wolverhampton	11	0	3	3	6	12	0	0	5	2	14	3									

RESERVE FIXTURES

Date	V	Opposition	F	A
Aug 31	H	Stoke City	2	1
Sept 8	A	Burnley	0	1
Sept 17	H	Manchester United	1	1
Sept 20	A	Sheffield Wednesday	4	2
Oct 1	H	Liverpool	1	3
Oct 5	H	Leeds United	2	0
Oct 12	A	Blackburn Rovers	1	1
Nov 9	A	Bolton Wanderers		
Nov 16	A	Sunderland		
Nov 23	H	Sheffield United		
Nov 30	A	West Bromwich Albion		
Dec 7	H	Everton		
Dec 14	A	Newcastle United		
Dec 21	H	Burnley		
Jan 11	H	Derby County		
Jan 14	A	Manchester United		
Jan 25	H	Sheffield Wednesday		
Feb 4	A	Liverpool		
Feb 8	H	Blackburn Rovers		
Feb 22	A	Nottingham Forest		
Feb 29	H	Bolton Wanderers		
Mar 13	A	Leeds United		
Mar 21	A	Stoke City		
Mar 28	H	Sunderland		
Apr 4	A	Sheffield United		
Apr 11	H	West Bromwich Albion		
Apr 17	A	Everton		
Apr 25	H	Newcastle United		
TBA		Derby County (A)		
		Nottingham Forest (H)		

RESERVE APPEARANCES 83-84

	A	G	A	G
Belford	1	—	Jones	7
Birch	2	—	Kennedy	2
Blair	6	3	Kent	4
Bradley	3	—	Morley	4
Bremner	2	—	Norton	5
Day	6	—	Obl	2
Deacy	4	—	Palin	2
Dorigo	4	—	Rideout	5
Geddis	4	2	Walker	7
Glover	7	—		

MID. INT. LEAGUE FIXTURES 83-84

Date	V	Opposition	F	A
Aug 27	A	Shrewsbury Town	1	1
Sept 3	H	Mansfield	0	1
Sept 17	H	Nottingham Forest	1	1
Sept 24	A	Birmingham City	2	1
Oct 1	H	Walsall	4	4
Oct 8	H	Coventry City	0	0
Oct 15	A	Notts County	1	3
Oct 22	H	Derby County	2	4
Oct 29	A	West Bromwich Albion	2	2
Nov 5	H	Wolverhampton W.		
Nov 12	A	Stoke City		
Nov 19	A	Port Vale		
Nov 26	A	Port Vale (LC)		
Dec 3	A	Notts County (LC)		
Dec 10	H	Leicester City (LC)		
Dec 17	A	Derby County (LC)		
Dec 31	H	Shrewsbury Town		
Jan 7	H	Stoke City		
Jan 14	H	Birmingham City		
Jan 21	A	Nottingham Forest		
Jan 28	A	Coventry City		
Feb 4	A	Walsall		
Feb 11	A	Leicester City		
Feb 18	H	Port Vale		
Feb 25	A	Derby County		
Mar 3	H	Mansfield Town (LC)		
Mar 10	H	Notts County		
Mar 17	H	Leicester City		
Mar 31	H	West Bromwich Albion		
Apr 7	A	Mansfield Town		
Apr 21	H	Nottingham Forest (LC)		

MID. INTERMEDIATE 1983-84

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nott'm Forest	10	6	3	1	22	9	15
Shrewsbury	10	6	2	2	30	12	14
Coventry	10	5	3	2	20	8	13
Leicester	8	5	2	1	17	14	12
Derby County	9	5	1	3	25	16	11
Notts County	9	4	3	2	14	12	11
Stoke	9	5	1	3	16	16	11
Wolves	9	2	5	2	10	11	9
Aston Villa	9	1	5	3	13	17	7
Mansfield	10	3	1	6	13	18	7
Birmingham	8	2	2	4	21	21	6
WBA	9	1	4	4	10	16	6
Walsall	9	1	3	5	10	29	5
Port Vale	9	0	1	8	8	30	1

FIRST TEAM RECORD

Date	V	Opposition	F	A	Att.	Pts
Aug 27	H	West Bromwich Albion	4	3	29,522	—
Aug 29	H	Sunderland	1	0	20,390	—
Sep 3	A	Queens Park Rangers	1	2	16,922	8
Sep 7	A	Nottingham Forest	2	2	16,363	—
Sep 10	H	Norwich City	1	0	18,887	6
Sep 14	A	V. Guimarães (UEFA 1-2L)	0	1	30,000	—
Sep 17	A	Liverpool	1	2	34,246	8
Sep 24	H	Southampton	1	0	21,209	6
Sep 28	H	V. Guimarães (UEFA 1-2L)	5	0	23,732	—
Oct 1	A	Luton Town	0	1	12,747	11
Oct 4	A	Portsmouth (MC 2-1L)	2	2	18,484	—
Oct 15	H	Birmingham City	1	0	39,318	8
Oct 19	A	Moscow Spartak (UEFA 2-1L)	2	2	50,000	—
Oct 23	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers	1	1	13,202	9
Oct 26	H	Portsmouth IMC 2-2L	3	2	20,898	—
Oct 29	H	Arsenal	2	6	23,678	14
Nov 2	H	Moscow Spartak (UEFA 2-2L)				
Nov 5	A	Manchester United				
Nov 9	H	Manchester City (MC3)				
Nov 12	H	Stoke City				
Nov 19	H	Leicester City				
Nov 23		(UEFA Cup 3)				
Nov 26	A	Notts County				
Nov 30		(Milk Cup 4)				
Dec 3	H	West Ham United				
Dec 7		(UEFA Cup 3)				
Dec 10	A	Everton				
Dec 17	H	Ipswich Town				
Dec 26	A	Watford				
Dec 27	H	Tottenham Hotspur				
Dec 31	H	Queens Park Rangers				
Jan 2	A	Southampton				
Jan 7		(FA Cup 3)				
Jan 14	A	West Bromwich Albion				
Jan 18		(Milk Cup 5)				
Jan 20	H	Liverpool				
Jan 28	A	Coventry City (FAC 4)				
Feb 4	H	Luton Town				
Feb 8		(Milk Cup Semi-Final)				
Feb 11	A	Norwich City				
Feb 15		(Milk Cup Semi-Final)				
Feb 18	A	Arsenal (FAC 5)				
Feb 25	H	Wolverhampton W.				
Mar 3	H	Manchester United				
Mar 7		(UEFA Cup 4)				
Mar 10	A	Stoke City (FAC 6)				
Mar 17	H	Nottingham Forest				
Mar 24	A	Sunderland (MC Final)				
Mar 31	A	Birmingham City				
Apr 7	H	Coventry City				
Apr 14	A	Leicester City (FAC SF)				
Apr 21	H	Watford				
Apr 23	A	Tottenham Hotspur				
Apr 28	H	Notts County				
May 5	A	West Ham United				
May 7	H	Everton				
May 12	A	Ipswich Town				

RESULTS · ATTENDANCES · APPEARANCES · GOALSCORERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans ¹	Ormsby ¹	Mortimer	Curtishley	Shaw ¹	Withe	McMahon	Walters ¹	Rideout	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Blair	Curtishley	Shaw	Withe	Birch	Walters ¹	Rideout	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Shaw	Withe ¹	McMahon	Walters [*]	Rideout	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Shaw ¹	Withe ¹	McMahon	Walters	Rideout	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer ¹	Curtishley	Rideout	Withe	McMahon	Walters	Blair	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Rideout [*]	Withe	McMahon	Blair [*]	Walters/Morley	
Spink	Williams	Gibson ¹	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Rideout	Withe	McMahon	Walters [*]	Morley	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Walters	Withe ¹	McMahon	Morley	Rideout	
Spink	Williams	Gibson ¹	Evans	Ormsby ¹	Mortimer	Curtishley	Walters	Withe ¹	McMahon	Morley	—	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Walters	Withe	Brenner	Morley [*]	Shaw	
Spink	Williams	Gibson ¹	Evans ¹	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley [*]	Shaw	Withe	McMahon	Walters	Brenner	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Curtishley	Walters	Withe ¹	McMahon	Morley [*]	Brenner	
Spink	Williams	Gibson ¹	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Brenner	Walters ¹	Withe	McMahon	Morley	—	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans	Ormsby	Mortimer	Brenner	Walters	Withe ¹	McMahon [*]	Morley	Rideout	
Spink	Williams	Gibson	Evans ¹	Ormsby	Mortimer	Brenner	Walters ¹	Withe ¹	McMahon	Morley	Curtishley	
Spink	Williams	Jones	Evans ¹	Ormsby	Mortimer	Brenner	Walters	Withe	McMahon	Morley ¹	Curtishley	

FOCUS...

Alan Curbishley has a tourist's eye vision of Moscow. Red Square. The Kremlin. The magnificent Olympic setting of the Lenin Stadium. But not the memory he wanted to take home from a four-day working visit to the Soviet capital.

A 3,500-mile round trip which began with high expectation, when the Japan Airlines Jumbo touched down at Sheremetyero Airport, turned into a wasted journey less than 24 hours after Villa's arrival.

An innocent-looking tumble in the first practice session put him out of the match with Moscow Spartak. 'It was my first injury for two years — and what a time for it to happen,' he said disconsolately.

'We had been training for only 15 minutes when I went into a tackle with Colin Gibson. When I went down, my shoulder jarred on the ground, and when I got up to chase back, I felt a pain in my neck. "Oh, no!" I said to myself. "I've gone and cricked my neck."

'It was hurting me all the time we were in Moscow, yet, usually, that's the type of thing that is gone in two days. Even a week later, it was still there and I was under treatment right up to the Portsmouth match.

'It seemed ridiculous that such a silly injury could keep me out for two or three games, and with the competition we have for places in midfield, I didn't know what damage it had done.'

Injuries, in fact, have been decisive in the struggle for the No. 7 shirt since Alan made the short move from Blues last March. 'When I came here, I accepted that I was a squad player,' he says. 'It was a bit of luck from my point of view that Des Bremner was injured. I managed to get in and stay in for the last half-a-dozen games last season.'

'At the start of this season, we had half a game each in the first two matches and then Des was injured again. This time it was the other way round. I got injured and Des was back. But that's the way football is. It's all about having competition, and if Des or myself were guaranteed to come back, there would be no competition.'

'When Gordon Cowans and Gary Shaw are fit again, the rivalry for places will be unbelievable. In midfield, there will be at least seven of us looking for three places, and apart from young Paul Birch, six of us have played a lot of first-team football.'

'That's what the manager wanted and that's what he has got. It's also why Villa have done so well in recent years. When I was at St Andrews, I looked across the city and saw how Ron Saunders bought players just for the squad. Tony Barton has done the same and now I would say that only Manchester United and Spurs have as much strength in depth.'

'I knew what the score was when Mr Barton came in for me. The main thing that influenced me was that at West Ham and then at Birmingham, I was in sides which struggled in the First Division for one reason or another.'

'Joining Villa was the first time I was certain I would

be in a squad which was not going to struggle. That makes a lot of difference, and for me, it was worth the gamble of leaving a first-team spot and coming over to Villa, knowing that I would have to fight for a place.'

It has also meant a change of role for the former England Under-21 international. He prefers to play in the centre of midfield, where he believes he can best use his strength in passing, but he willingly accepted the restrictions of playing wide on the right.

One lesson that he has learned is the scale of Des Bremner's contribution to the side in that position. 'I don't think he has ever been given enough credit for what he has done for the team,' says Alan. 'Villa tend to attack down the left side, with Colin Gibson pushing forward to link up with either Tony Morley or Mark Walters on the wing.'

'The right side is not usually involved in so much attacking, but that doesn't make the job any less important. Quite often, Des (or myself) and Gary Williams will be faced by three people — the left-back, the left-midfield man and the left-striker. And it's up to us to hold them up.'

'What invariably happens if our attack breaks down on the left is that Gary Williams has moved across to cover the centre-half and the right-midfield player can end up playing at right-back until we re-organise.'

'If you win the ball, it's hard to get up the field and have a go at goal. That's probably why Des hasn't scored too many goals for Villa, but I hope the fans understand what he has done for the side. I can tell you this... when Ron Saunders came over to Birmingham and started to apply similar methods, I realised straightaway that Des's role was a major factor for Villa's success.'

'A lot of work goes unnoticed in that position. I know now how hard it is to play there. And I'm not trying to flatter myself. The main point is that I'm happy to play anywhere to be in the side.'

'I'm lucky to have come into a good team, and I am absolutely certain that Villa will remain among the top clubs for a long time to come. We are not lacking in experience, but we have quite a few young players and we can only go from strength to strength.'

Alan was attracted by the idea of playing in Europe when he joined Villa. His first opportunity came in the UEFA Cup-tie against Vitoria Guimaraes, and he uses that as a guide to the side's capacity to learn.

'It was a new experience for some of us. There was a big crowd, a bad pitch and other things like that. We didn't play at all well in losing the first match, but our form at home retrieved the situation comfortably.'

'Going to Russia, the side adapted a lot better. The performance there was 10 times better than in Portugal. And everyone knew it had to be. Spartak are a good side, and in the team talk, we mentioned that we can't keep relying on our home record. Every side, even Liverpool, has to slip-up at sometime, and we knew that Spartak wouldn't let us take any liberties if we had to come from behind at home.'

'The tie isn't settled yet, but we have given ourselves a good base to work from with the draw in Moscow.'

● **PERSONAL NOTE:** Alan, who reaches his 26th birthday next Tuesday, and his wife, Carol, were married this summer and they live in the Solihull home which Alan established during his time with Blues. They met in London six years ago when Alan was playing for West Ham.

MIKE BEDDOW



'I'M LUCKY TO HAVE COME INTO A GOOD TEAM'

SATELLITE SUCCESS!

● There were grannies, mums and dads and kids cheering. There were well-heeled businessmen, who cut short their day at the office and factory workers who clocked off before the hooter sounded.

And they all voted the satellite beaming of Villa's majestic Moscow performance a hit as they raised the rafters of the club's space age Leisure Centre.

It was quite a night there as the team's every move was cheered against Moscow Spartak thanks to the miracle of modern technology. A packed Leisure Centre, with 2,500 people, was turned into an indoor Holte End for the night.

And joining all those Villa fanatics was a couple of the stars left behind to recover from injury. Gordon Cowans and Gary Shaw joined Youth team coach Brian Little on a panel chaired by Beacon Radio sports editor Pat Foley.

Brian also joined Radio WM's Paul Franks during the first-half to comment on the action and, after the interval, David Wigley, who was in Moscow, was on the line to



Pat Foley talks to Gordon Cowans and Gary Shaw.

provide on the spot commentary with comments from David Horridge of the 'Daily Mirror'.

But there were few words needed as that half exploded into action. The first few shouts of encouragement were just dying away as Colin Gibson started his run on the left.

A rumble of anticipation growled through the hall. Then, just when it looked as though he was going to cross, he diddled the Russian international keeper with that magnificently placed shot, low at the near post.

That rumble burst into the loudest eardrum-bursting whoop of joy that must have been heard in Sutton. Even some hard nosed reporters leapt to their feet to ap-

plaud it.

And one woman was so carried away by it that she raced to the front of the hall and fell to her knees in adulation in front of the giant colour screen, and blew kisses clean across Europe right to the very doorstep of the Kremlin.

But if we thought that was something special we were in for a surprise. The mood was really buoyant. Nobody could see the team, playing so well and in such an assured fashion, lose out after that super strike.

The crowd, bigger than some Fourth Division club gates for their matches, cheered and chanted. 'Villa Villa,' and 'Champions' thundered out... for five minutes.

Then the accomplished Russian side hit back as a corner came over and suddenly the ball was in the back of the Villa net. Silence!

The Leisure Centre was stunned. The defence, which was coping with a bit in hand with everything the Russians could throw at them, looked at each other in disbelief.

If they could have heard the backing from Birmingham though it would have lifted them. For the



Another satisfied customer.



Central TV film from the monitor.



Tony Stephens provides the cabaret - cossack dancing with cups of tea!

atmosphere was electric as the Leisure Centre got right behind their team and roared them on.

It was as if the satellite had taken us into an even more advanced age and picked up that swell of noise. For the players seemed to be responding to the cry of battle from Brum.

The men at the back were steadfast. The midfield powered forward. Tony Morley sprinted on the left, Peter Withe snarled like a wounded lion and Mark Walters appeared to be everywhere as the Russians chased his elusive twists, turns and tricks.

There was something in the air. You could sense the mood at the Leisure Centre. Expectancy, a never-say-die spirit. Call it what you like, but the fact remains that it was no surprise when a second Villa goal lit up the night and warmed the chill Russian air with the sheer breathtaking breadth of its brilliance.

There was Walters taking a pass out on the right with his back to goal. We gasped at his skill and his cheek as he flicked the ball round and left the Russian looking as mobile as a Kremlin sentry stood still at attention.

That got a mighty roar of approval. But when Mark cut across the box and then curled the ball into the top corner of the net the sound barrier must have been broken. Surely they heard that shout in Moscow without the aid of high level satellite communications.

Strangers embraced each other and others danced in the aisles. Others simply sat shaking their head in disbelief. It was such a goal that it was hard to believe it possible.

But there it was in full colour and in slow motion action replay. Each time it was flashed up on the screen to be re-lived it seemed even more incredible that such a piece of skill had been conjured up to hit such a goal.

That certainly took the wind out of the Russian sails. After wonderful Walters struck they looked dumbfounded and dejected. But you've got to be tough to survive a Russian winter and back they came as the minutes ticked away.

The fans kept looking at their watches as time ran out. Now it was like being in the nervous nineties and then there was only a low buzz throughout the hall.

That buzz turned into an angry howl as Brendan Ormsby moved in to make a tackle with seconds left and the Russian fell inside the box. The referee pointed to the spot and they equalised and then the game was over as the fans still raged.

However, they were soon back on form as they headed for the exits talking about those two great goals. That's when commercial manager Tony Stephens breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Tony had masterminded the whole extravaganza and everything had gone according to plan. It was a rip-roaring success.



Gerald Harris and the satellite programme.



An hour to go before kick-off.



Fans queue for tickets outside the Leisure Centre.



The 'dish' that received the satellite ground.



Villa take the lead!