



ASTON VILLA AND THE LEAGUE CUP

All matches from 1960 to 2013

By John Billinger

Foreword By Ian Taylor



ASTON VILLA
and
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP
1960 to 2013

**Every match, every team, every programme.
Including match reports, officials, etc.**

Compiled by John Billinger

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With sincere and grateful thanks to:

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for putting up with all the programmes, tickets and memorabilia scattered around the
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John Billinger

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The Football League Cup

Foreword by Villa legend Ian Taylor

Aston Villa were the first-ever winners of the Football League Cup and have now won the trophy five times, so it's a competition with which the club have a special affinity.

They have also been runners-up three times and semi-finalists on 14 occasions. But it's not just the glory days that makes the League Cup so close to our hearts.

Behind the bare statistics lies a wealth of stories and emotions which have been experienced down the years by players and supporters alike. One of my most vivid memories, for instance, is the League Cup-tie that never was!

I scored after only four minutes of Villa's quarter-final against West Ham at Upton Park in December 1999 but the match eventually finished 2-2 after extra-time and we lost on penalties. That was the end of the road, we thought – until it was discovered the Hammers had fielded an ineligible player. So we headed back to Upton Park for a re-staged game in January, and I had the satisfaction of scoring twice.

Once again, extra-time was required and we didn't really fancy the prospect of another penalty shoot-out. Thankfully it was avoided when Julian Joachim put us 2-1 up in the 94th minute and I completed a 3-1 victory with my second near the end of the additional half-hour.

My goal in the original game was, understandably, expunged from the record books, although in view of that I thought it was a bit unfair that the booking I picked up that night was allowed to stand!

If those games at Upton Park were packed with drama, though, nothing could eclipse the feeling of scoring in the 1996 final against Leeds United.

Two years earlier, while I was a Port Vale player, I'd travelled on a supporter's coach so I could sit with my mates for the final against Manchester United and we had a great time cheering Ron Atkinson's side to a 3-1 triumph.

So just imagine how it felt to be back at Wembley in a claret and blue shirt, scoring at the same end of the stadium where I'd been a spectator, as we beat Leeds 3-0 to lift the trophy for the fifth time.

Not many footballers can claim to have done that, which makes the League Cup extra special for me.

Now I'm looking forward to watching Villa record a sixth triumph in the competition. Like

any other fan, I was bitterly disappointed when we lost the 2010 final after taking an early lead – and even more dejected when we were beaten by Bradford City in the 2013 semi-final. But the fact that a League Two club reached the final proved that anything can happen in cup football. I'm convinced Villa's time will come again!

Ian Taylor

Thanks to Ian for his foreword, and, just to reassure Ian that his part in the 'deleted' match at West Ham hasn't been forgotten, this match is included in this book, as to me it is part of Villa's League Cup record. West Ham also considered the match to be a replay as this is stated both on their programme and the match tickets.

About the Author

John Billinger

In 1947, when I was in Primary School in Cornwall, the Standard 10 teacher, Mr Hunsley, hit on a novel idea for teaching the class the geography of England, Wales and Scotland. Each member of the class drew three football teams from a hat – his old trilby as it happens. The idea was that we should look in the newspaper, find out where our team or teams were playing and learn about the area they were in. If one was at home the others should be playing somewhere else – at least that was the idea. It was great fun. We all wanted Plymouth Argyle or Exeter City - being the closest teams we knew, and we knew all about their area.

I drew Ipswich Town, St. Johnstone and Aston Villa.

Of the three I knew only Ipswich, the other two, as far as I knew were not even towns. This meant first of all a trawl through the paper to find the teams. Right so, I found them in the League Tables: Aston Villa – League Division 1, Ipswich Town - League Division 3 (South), St. Johnstone – Scottish League Division 2.

So they weren't likely to play each other, I assumed. Now where were they? Ipswich I found easily enough in Suffolk. St Johnstone I discovered was in Perth, Scotland, but Aston Villa? It sounded more like a house than a football team.

After a week or so following the teams in our lessons, my best friend Brian found that his team were playing away to Aston Villa, and that they played in Birmingham. I was fascinated. Now that I knew where they were, I thought that I had better find out about Aston Villa. I found a book in a second hand shop called 'The History of Aston Villa' – it cost me 6d – and I was hooked. The Villa, apparently, were the most famous club in the land, if not the world, or it appeared so to me anyway.

I followed all the results assiduously, and then I found that Villa in 1947 were not quite the force they once were. Even so they managed to finish sixth in the First Division in May 1948.

Then, in September 1948, I went to Grammar School. Now all my school mates had favourite teams, Arsenal, Derby, Charlton, all manner of teams, but none for the Villa except me. 48/49 and Aston Villa were 10th. 1949/50 – Villa finished 12th. However in March 1951 they looked as though they were going to be relegated! Eleven matches to go. Villa had just lost five in a row, but 15 points from the last 22 saved them. I had paid careful attention to who Villa were to play in the



My Supporters Club Handbook from 1953...



...And the badge that came with it!

final weeks of that season and the colours of those teams. With this information this 13 year old carefully painted a somewhat gory picture. It showed a Villa player in claret and blue – I went to great pains to mix claret – standing with a trident on a pile of bodies, each dressed in the colours of the teams that Villa had to play. Newcastle United were impaled on the trident! Then I added the legend T.V.T.V: The Villa The Victors.

My mother was impressed, so much so that she sent the picture to Villa Park. Now what she said in the letter I do not know, but a few days later a parcel arrived in the post, plus a letter from the Secretary of Aston Villa, Mr Billy Smith, thanking Mum for the picture, which he returned, and hoping that I would enjoy the enclosed. 'The enclosed' was half a dozen Aston Villa home football programmes, and a sheet of autographs. This act of kindness to a young boy in the wilds of Cornwall increased my love for the Club. Mr Smith need not have answered, but the fact that he took the trouble to do so demonstrated the care that the club showed for their supporters. I have happily followed Aston Villa ever since.

I still have those first six programmes, and they have been joined by many more, though Billy Smith's letter and my painting have long gone. I have quite a few books on the Villa, too, and often thought of writing my own, though all aspects seemed to have been well covered. However, there was a gap. Most books covered all matches, all personnel, and all statistics. I needed a different aspect.

I hope that I have found it, for in this book I have tried to capture the essence of Aston Villa's League Cup campaigns from the very first tie to the 2012/13 season. To do this I wanted to include everything I could about Villa's triumphs and disasters: match reports, crowds, programme prices, officials, in fact just about anything about these games. Then I thought that I could include the programme covers from every match – I do have them all – team changes, and any other points of interest, such as a match ticket, I have 160 of them. If I have missed anything, or there are mistakes, please let me know.

Since I am now a supporter of sixty-seven years standing it probably seems very odd to say that, up to the 2010/11 season, I had only ever been once to Villa Park. It was a momentous once, though – the 29th April 1972. On that day I saw Villa beat Torquay United 5 – 1 to ensure promotion from the Third Division.

I had seen them many times in away matches: teams in London when I was stationed near the capital with the Royal Air Force, matches at Hull, Leeds, Sunderland, Scunthorpe and Grimsby. And, of course, all the televised League and Premiership games, F.A. and League Cups, U.E.F.A and Championship, including the Final against Bayern Munich. Now I am a season ticket holder, and have seen every home match since 2010, plus several away games.

So what started at school so long ago has led to this book. Thank-you, Aston Villa, for all the pleasure - and sometimes pain - that you have provided over the years, and thank-you, Mr Hunsley, you don't know what you started!



Some of my memorabilia:

Above: This is the pennant that I purchased after the League Cup win over Rotherham United. For a long time it was displayed, losing a tassel in the process. Now it is kept with my myriad programmes, and a host of other Villa bits and pieces, some of which will probably appear later!



Right: An acquisition from eBay! This little book was printed about 1938, I

The Advent of the League Cup

On the following pages I have tried to capture the story of Aston Villa's League Cup campaigns from the very first tie to the 2012/13 season – 53 years of a Cup competition that, to begin with, some clubs did not want, indeed, they refused to play in it. At first, there were complaints that the League Cup would lead to fixture congestion and clashes, and the football would be of a poor standard. Villa did not subscribe to this, and were in from the start – admittedly after a bye in Round One! The article below gives Villa's view.

Article from 'The Villa News & Record' 12/10/60 against Huddersfield Town

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP by 'Spectator'

The Football League's new Cup competition, in which Huddersfield are our visitors tonight, was not launched without considerable opposition from the Press, and from some of the top-ranking First Division clubs. It was rejected as a backward step in English soccer by Wolverhampton Wanderers, West Bromwich Albion, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday and Luton Town. And clearly several other clubs decided to support it not because they were enthusiastic, but rather because they felt that they owed that much loyalty to the Football League. The main argument against the Cup was that it could hardly be expected to improve the flagging standard of our game in the international sphere. It was argued that a League Cup would merely be a further extension of the run-of-the-mill type of football being played every week all over the country: that its launching was aimed at keeping out foreign opposition of the type which was needed to provide the kind of opposition we should meet in order to raise our own standards. It was argued, too, that as ties have to be played almost entirely under floodlights, i.e., in the late evening, it could hardly be expected to draw healthy "gates" for obvious reasons of travelling difficulties, possible long overnight journeys, etc. It was forecast that when the F.A. Cup began in earnest there would be inevitable clashes of fixtures if replays in both competitions began to pile up.

But the League stuck doggedly to its guns, firm in its belief that the Cup tourney would provide a new shot in the arm for our game in bringing a fresh variety to the long season, a chance for the little man in the little soccer stronghold to get a glimpse - fleeting though it might be – of the giants of the game. They banked on the lure of a "tin-pot". And who is not to say that a gleaming cup at the end of the trail does not have its own magnetic attraction for both players and supporters? So the large majority of the League Clubs rallied round in support and tonight, in its way, is another landmark in the history of Aston Villa. By your support of this tie and the ties to come you will be giving your vote for or against an ambitious new venture. One thing is certain, however. For the players this is a big new incentive to add to their wage packets for it has been calculated that a winner's medal player could take an extra £150 per season from the competition. There will be seven rounds. In Round One 42 clubs were awarded byes and go through to Round Two with the 22

winners of the first round ties. Both these rounds are due to be completed by the end of October, with Rounds Three and Four scheduled for November and Round Five for December. The semi-finals and final will be played later in the season on a home and away basis with the dates to be mutually arranged. All ties will be in mid-week and 20 per cent of the net takings at all matches will go into a pool for division between the clubs concerned in the tie. Each club will be entitled to pay a match fee not exceeding £3 and not less than £2 to each player taking part in any tie or replay, plus the following bonuses: first four rounds £4 each for a win, fifth round £8, semi-final £20, final £25, with half the rate for a draw. Talent money will also be payable at the following rates: beaten semi-finalists £250 for the team, beaten finalists £500, Cup winners £750.

The last paragraph of the previous article was found to be erroneous, and led to the following: Correction re Bonus (in 'The Villa News & Record' 22/10/60)

It is regretted that an error in respect of the bonuses payable to players in the Football League Cup crept into the article by "Spectator" in our October issue. The bonuses payable in the first five rounds are, in fact: preliminary or first round £4, second round £6, third round £8, fourth round £10, fifth round £12.

For Aston Villa the League Cup has been justified by wins in the first ever competition, 1960/61, and then in 1974/75, 1976/77, 1993/94 and 1995/96, whilst they have been beaten finalists three times, and beaten semi-finalists six times. So, although their F.A Cup exploits have not been too good in this period, fourteen seasons, to the semi-finals and beyond, have given the Villa's faithful supporters League Cup joy.



These are not real tickets, obviously, but a set of stone coasters with some of Villa's memorable matches recorded on them. We found them in a street market in Greenwich. There are six, but two are repeated. They are, as all Villa fans will know: Top left, League Cup final, 1975, Villa 1 Norwich 0, top right. FA Cup final, 1957, Villa 2 Manchester United 1, bottom left, 1983, European Super Cup, Villa 3 Barcelona 0, bottom right, 1982, European Cup Final, Villa 1 Bayern Munich 0.

Notes

1 All teams are given as they are printed in the programme. If any player changes have been made, either noted in post-match reports or written into the programme, these are shown in italics after the printed player's name. I believe that if a spectator goes to the trouble of altering the names in the programme, then the announcement must have been made at the ground concerned, otherwise, why bother?

For example: In the Villa team for the match below, Park was selected at 6, but was replaced by Deakin who played in the match. Park became substitute 12. Similarly Godfrey was selected at 10, but Martin actually played, Godfrey either being dropped or injured.

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1 Dunn 2 Wright M 3 Aitken 4 Edwards 5 Turnbull 6 Park/*Deakin* 7 Ferguson (c)
8 Mitchinson 9 Woodward 10 Godfrey/*Martin* 11 Anderson 12 Park

All players' names are given as per programme. I have only named the captains if they are marked as such on the programmes.

2 All Officials are given as they are shown in the relevant programmes. Where flag colours were shown, they are given. I have not given titles (except for military ranks) as they are not always in the programmes, though some do have where the official comes from.

3 Attendances are mostly as shown in 'The Villa News & Record', or any relevant reference book or web site. Where there are variations I have given Villa's figures first and others in brackets.

4 The League Cup has had several names, but I have used 'League Cup' throughout. However, here are the names the Cup has been known as since its conception:

The Football League Cup (1960 to 1981)

Milk Cup (1982 to 1986), sponsored by Dairy Crest

Littlewoods Challenge Cup (1986 to 1990), sponsored by Littlewoods

Rumbelows Cup (1990 to 1992), sponsored by Rumbelows (former retailer)

Coca-Cola Cup (1992 to 1998), sponsored by Coca-Cola

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

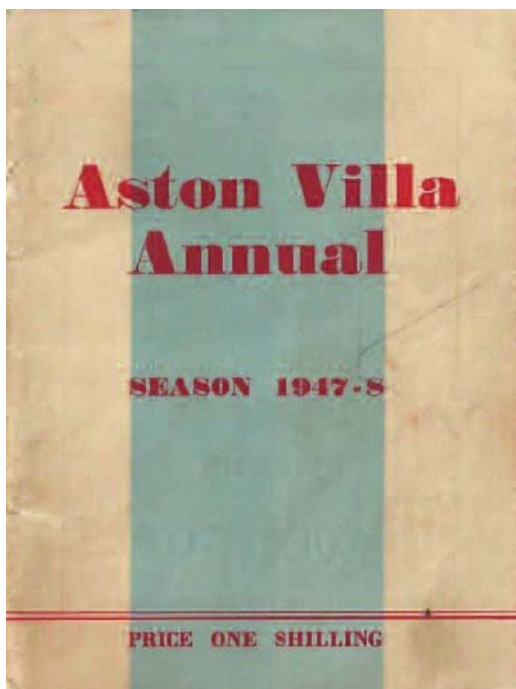
Worthington Cup (1998 to 2003), sponsored by Worthington Draught bitter

Carling Cup (2003 to 2012), sponsored by Molson Coors (brewer)

Capital One Cup (2012 to 2016), sponsored by Capital One (Credit Card)

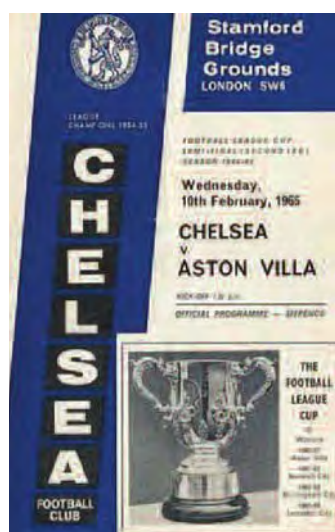
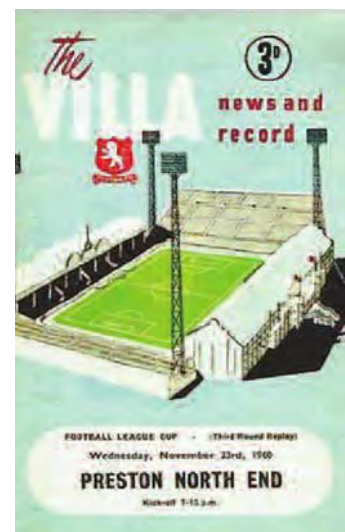
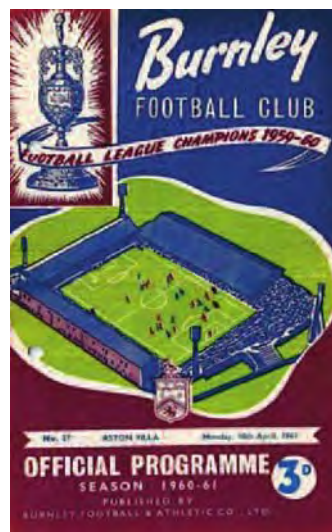
The original League Cup, as on the cover, was issued until sponsorship arrived. Then some sponsors, notably Dairy Crest for the Milk Cup and Littlewoods, used a cup especially made for them. However the original cup was restored and used until 2012/13. At first the winning team's players received tankards, but now medals are issued.

5 Finally, I would have liked to have given a full report on every match, but that would have been too cumbersome. I have therefore put in reports, both long and short, but not for every match. What I have tried to do, however, is to use reports from the programmes themselves. Not, unless specifically quoted in those programmes, from newspapers – I wanted the club's views not the papers. The programmes and tickets are all in my collection, and some pictures I have put in just for fun! I hope you enjoy all these memories.



An interesting piece of trivia. Villa were promoted at the end of the 1959/60 season, and, of course won the League Cup the next. They moved by bus in that promotion season, and surprisingly in 2005 that same bus was used by its then owner, the chairman of Altrincham FC, to carry the Australian Ashes team of that year to an Altrincham home game, as a break from cricket. Was the bus one of Flight's Tours in 1960? I wonder where that bus is now!

1960 to 1970



BEFORE THE CUP!

OUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP-TIE

As Huddersfield Town have not taken their full quota of Stand tickets for our Cup-tie with them on Wednesday, October 12th, we have a number on sale for the general public. They are 8/6 (42½p) and 6/- (30p) each. All postal applications should be accompanied by full remittance and a stamped addressed envelope.

A note from 'The Villa News & Record' 1/10/60

1960/61 Round 1: Aston Villa received a bye

Wednesday October 12, 1960

Round 2, At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,057, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (2) 4

Hitchens (19)
Wylie (27)
Wylie (55)
Burrows (78)

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (1) 1

Milner (37)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sims
2	Neal
3	Winton
4	Crowe
5	Dugdale <i>Morrall</i>
6	Saward
7	MacEwan
8	Thomson
9	Hitchens
10	Wylie R
11	Burrows

Huddersfield Town (Division 2)

1	Wood
2	Gibson
3	Parker
4	Taylor
5	Coddington
6	Low
7	McHale <i>Kerray</i>
8	Kerray <i>Balderstone</i>
9	Stokes
10	Massie
11	Dinsdale <i>Milner</i>

The Managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr E Boot

The Officials

Referee	A Edge (Liverpool)
Linesman (red)	R J Garvey (Northwich)
Linesman (Yellow)	A Goodfellow (Leicester)



The Football League Cup, second round

Our first engagement in the newly instituted Cup competition took place at Villa Park on Wednesday,

October 12th and drew a gate of seventeen thousand. Except that Morrall came in for Dugdale, Villa had the same side that had beaten Newcastle United. Although there was a certain degree of fog over the ground, visibility was not too bad, and a good game, in which Villa had the best of matters almost all through, was much to the liking of the crowd. Villa started in deadly earnest and the Huddersfield goal had several narrow and lucky escapes until the nineteenth minute when Hitchens headed a lovely goal from a centre by Burrows. Eight minutes later MacEwan accurately put the ball into the Huddersfield goal area where Wylie got his head to it and put it against the underside of the bar where it dropped well over the goal-line. The visitors hereabout were becoming prominent in attack and in the thirty-seventh minute, during a scramble in our goalmouth Milner was adjudged to have beaten Sims. In the second half it was almost all Villa, with the Huddersfield defence having a hectic time against a lively Villa attack which was aided and abetted by two persistent and attacking wing-halves. In the fifty-fifth minute, Villa went further ahead when Crowe took the ball up the wing and put in such a lovely centre that Wylie had no difficulty in once again beating Wood with a header. Villa were now right on top and in the seventy-eighth minute Burrows met a ball from magician MacEwan and Wood again had to collect the ball from the back of the net.

Match report from 'The Villa News & Record' 22/10/60



The first Aston Villa League Cup programme

Wednesday 12th October 1960 v. Huddersfield Town Villa's normal programme cover stayed in this form until Season 1965/66. This programme is Volume 18, No. 13. The match itself was not given a number as the normal League matches were.

Tuesday November 15, 1960

Round 3, at Deepdale, Attendance: 7,577, Programme price: 1d (.42p)

PRESTON NORTH END (1) 3

Thompson T (26)
Sneddon (50)
Wylie J (89)

ASTON VILLA (2) 3

O'Neill A (5)
Hitchens (44)
Thomson (85)

Preston North End (Division I)

- 1 Else
- 2 Cunningham
- 3 O'Neill J
- 4 Fullam
- 5 Singleton
- 6 Wylie J
- 7 Mayers
- 8 Thompson T
- 9 Thompson P
- 10 Sneddon
- 11 Taylor

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Neal
- 3 Winton
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Dugdale
- 6 Thomson
- 7 MacEwan
- 8 O'Neill A
- 9 Hitchens
- 10 Wylie R
- 11 McPar-

The managers:

Mr C Britton

Mr J Mercer

The Officials

Referee L J Tirebuck (Halifax)

Linesman (red) J Gibbs

Linesman (yellow) G C Harrison



Preston's single sheet programme for the match on the 15th November 1960. The price was then one old penny, but now if you want one of these it will cost much, much more!!

AN EXCITING GAME

Heavy rain and the fact that the First Division match between the two teams the previous Saturday was rather disappointing (it was a 1-1 draw) deterred many would be spectators for this Football League Cup Third Round tie at Deepdale on Tuesday night, but the 7,677 people who did turn up were rewarded with an exciting game which kept them on their toes from start to finish. After the way that the players on both sides triumphed over difficult conditions a draw was perhaps a fair result, although Villa showed a little more polish than their opponents. They had every chance to take the victory, going into the lead three times, but on each occasion they lost the advantage to a Preston team which never gave up trying. A goal in the first five minutes gave Villa an excellent start, O'Neill scoring from close range after MacEwan had put across a low centre from a pass by Peter McParland on the opposite side of the field. Preston were slow to retaliate, but eventually equalised in the twenty-sixth minute through Tommy Thompson. The ex-Villa player lobbed the ball in with the Villa defence momentarily caught off-guard. Just before half-time Villa led again, this time through Hitchens who, after forcing goalkeeper Else to drop the ball as McParland crossed it from the left, shot into the empty net. Once more Villa could not hold

the lead. In the second half, Villa were again in the lead through Hitchens, but this time the goal was saved by Else. In the 85th minute, a goal by Wylie R. gave Preston the lead, but in the 90th minute, a goal by Wylie R. gave Villa the lead. The match ended in a 3-3 draw.

on to their lead, for five minutes after half-time Sneddon netted after Sims had pushed out a powerful header from Taylor. Villa gritted their teeth again and five minutes from the end seemed to have the game won as Thomson scored following a right-wing free-kick. But Preston would not be denied even at this late stage, and with hardly any time left, their left-half, Wylie, ran up to head a free-kick past Sims to equalise for the third time.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 23/11/60, the Preston replay

From 'The Villa News & Record'

The Football League Cup: (Third Round Replay) ASTON VILLA v. PRESTON NORTH END at VILLA PARK on Wednesday Next at 7.15 p.m. Seats in Witton Lane Stand 7/- & 5/-, Trinity Road Stand 8/6 & 6/-. All pay at the turnstiles and Season Tickets will not admit. Usual First team prices in other parts of ground.

No tickets will be issued for stands.

Wednesday November 23, 1960

Round 3 Replay, at Villa Park, Attendance: 20,545, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (1)	3	PRESTON NORTH END (1) 1
Hitchens (30)		Thompson P (45)
Wylie R (58)		
MacEwan (82)		

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sims
2	Neal
3	Winton
4	Thomson
5	Dugdale
6	Deakin
7	MacEwan
8	O'Neill A
9	Hitchens
10	Wylie R
11	McParland

Preston North End (Division 1)

1	Else
2	Wilson
3	O'Neill J
4	Fullam
5	Singleton
6	Wylie J
7	Mayers
8	Thompson T
9	Alston
10	Sneddon
11	Thompson P

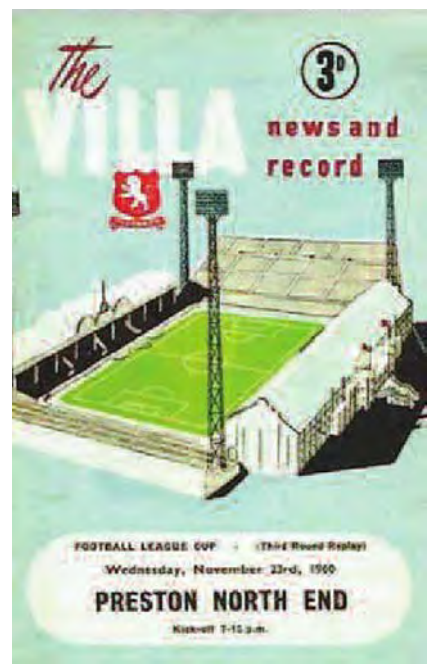
The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr C Britton

The Officials

Referee:	J G Williams (Nottingham)
Linesman (red):	J C Jays
Linesman (yellow):	R F Johnson



VILLA WORTHILY WIN REPLAY

For this Third Round replay, in the Football League Cup, we had to make changes in our middle line owing to Crowe being on duty for Wales versus England at Wembley in the afternoon. Thomson moved over to the right and Deakin came in on the left. Preston also had changes from the side which had drawn the previous game. Right from the start the game became a real Cup-tie tussle, and it soon became evident that the spectators were going to see something to set their blood tingling. Even play continued for the first half hour and then Hitchens gave Villa the lead. Roused by this reverse North End fought back with all the power they had, and our goal had several really narrow escapes until right on the interval when young Thompson gave North End a well-deserved equaliser. Villa came back in the second half like a house on fire, and thirteen minutes after the restart Wylie put Villa in front again. Keeping up the pressure, Villa dominated the game, and with but eight minutes left MacEwan put Villa safely into the Fourth Round with a grand thirty yards drive.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 3/12/60

Tuesday December 13, 1960

Round 4, at Villa Park, Attendance: 12,195, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 3

McParland (48)
McParland (56)
MacEwan (70)

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (2) 3

Carter (5)
Anderson (25)
Williams (59)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Neal
- 3 Winton
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Dugdale
- 6 Thomson
- 7 MacEwan
- 8 O'Neill
- 9 Hitchens
- 10 Wylie R
- 11 McParland

Plymouth Argyle (Division 2)

- 1 Barnsley
- 2 Robertson
- 3 Fulton
- 4 Williams
- 5 Fincham
- 6 Newman
- 7 Anderson
- 8 Carter
- 9 Kirby
- 10 McAnearney
- 11 Wright

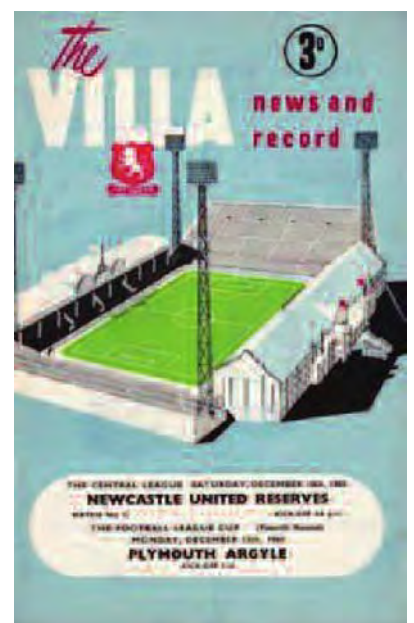
The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr N Dougall &
Mr G Taylor

Officials

Referee: R J Leafe (Nottingham)
Linesman (red): F E Mapson
Linesman (yellow): P R Parsons



This match was originally scheduled for Monday 12th, but was postponed because of fog, and played on the Tuesday. I assume that the Argyle contingent spent an unexpected night in Birmingham!

We are delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming Aston Villa to Home Park tonight, an opportunity made possible by the fighting display of the team last Tuesday. Those of us who were at Villa Park could not help but be proud of our team for their exhibition of fine football allied with great determination. We look forward tonight to another grand game with the hope that we can reproduce the same form and pass into the next round of the Cup. This match provides our supporters with an outstanding attraction for the Midlanders are among the elite of the First Division and have achieved greater honours in the game than the majority of clubs.

Article in the Plymouth Argyle replay programme of 19/12/60: From the Boardroom

Monday December 19, 1960

Round 4, Replay , at Home Park, Attendance: 11,006, Programme price: 4d (1.67p)

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

abandoned @ 90'

Plymouth Argyle (Division 2)

1	Barnsley
2	Robertson <i>Wyatt</i>
3	Fulton
4	Williams J L
5	Fincham
6	Newman
7	Anderson
8	Carter <i>Williams J S</i>
9	Kirby <i>Carter</i>
10	McAnearney <i>Jackson</i>
11	Maloy

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sims <i>Potter</i>
2	Neal
3	Winton
4	Crowe
5	Dugdale
6	Thomson <i>Deakin</i>
7	MacEwan
8	O'Neill A <i>Thomson</i>
9	Hitchens
10	Wylie R
11	McParland

The managers:

Mr N Dougall & Mr G Taylor

Mr J Mercer

Officials

Referee:	S Yates (Bristol)
Linesman (red):	W Webster
Linesman (yellow):	P G Woodland

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

For our Fourth Round replay in the Football League Cup at Plymouth, on Monday, we had to make one alteration to the side which had done so well at Chelsea [won 4-2]. In that game Sims suffered a thigh injury, and not being able to take his place, we brought in young Fred Potter who, thus made

his debut in our Senior side and right well did our ex-inside forward play. He gave an exhibition of first class goalkeeping, some of his saves deserving the word brilliant. There was no score at the end of ninety minutes hard and exciting play in which both defences were at their very best against two sets of two forwards trying their utmost to get goals in a sea of mud. Although extra time should have been played the referee decided otherwise in view of the bad state of the ground. It now remains for the Football League Management Committee to decide the date upon which the second replay will take place.

From 'The Villa News & Record' for 24/12/60:



The two Argyle v Villa replay programmes,

19th December was abandoned at 90 minutes with the score at 0 – 0 and the ground being declared unfit for extra time. The ticket is for the match on the 6th February

From the same programme:
ALAN O'NEILL

We are sorry to state that the injury our inside-right sustained in our League Cup game with Plymouth Argyle, at Villa Park, is likely to keep him out of the game for a short time. On a Specialist's report it seems that Alan's fourth toe on his right foot has a slight fracture, so football for the time being is out of the question.

Monday February 6, 1961

Round 4, 2nd Replay, at Home Park, Attendance: 13,548, Programme price: 4d (1.67p)

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (2) 3	ASTON VILLA	(1) 5
Carter (11)	Burrows (45)	
Newman (37)	O'Neill (60)	
Williams (82)	Hitchens (77)	
	Hitchens (79)	
	Hitchens (88)	

Plymouth Argyle (Division 2)

1	Barnsley
2	Robertson
3	Fulton
4	Williams
5	Wyatt
6	Newman
7	Anderson
8	Carter
9	Kirby
10	McAnearney
11	Wright

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Potter	<i>Sims</i>
2	Neal	<i>Lynn</i>
3	Winton	
4	Crowe	
5	Dugdale	
6	Thomson	
7	MacEwan	
8	O'Neill A	
9	Hitchens	
10	Wylie R	<i>Deakin</i>
11	McParland	<i>Burrows</i>

The managers:

Mr N Dougall & Mr G Taylor

Mr J Mercer

Officials

Referee:	R E Smith (Newport, Monmouth)
Linesman (red):	E F Ley
Linesman (yellow):	R C Stretch (Dorset)

The visit of Aston Villa to Home Park this evening is the third meeting of the two clubs in the Fourth Round of the League Cup, this replay being caused by the fact that the second engagement was abandoned after ninety minutes without any extra time being played, and we can only hope that the conditions are better than those of the previous games. The team have held the Villa on both occasions by great exhibitions of skill and determination, and if the same form is produced tonight then we may very well look forward to meeting Wrexham at Home Park on a date to be mutually agreed.

Article in the Plymouth Argyle programme of 6/2/61: From the Boardroom

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 11/2/61

We visited Plymouth, for the second time, last Monday, for on the first occasion the match was abandoned at ninety minutes with the score 0-0 and the ground declared unfit for extra time to be played. The composition of our side showed several changes from the team that had played at Manchester last Saturday. Despite bad ground conditions it was a well-played game between two hard fighting sides but, in a high-scoring game, it was won by the side possessing the greater stamina and power. Plymouth opened the scoring when in the 11th minute Carter beat Sims and, shortly afterwards they increased their lead by a curiously taken penalty, Newman netting from a tap from the spot by Carter. Right on half-time, Burrows scored for Villa. Fifteen minutes after the restart, O'Neill equalised. Then Hitchens got busy and with two quick goals put Villa on the winning way. Argyle, not disheartened, fought back and Williams, from thirty yards out, beat Sims to make the score 4-3. With but two minutes to go Hitchens, by scoring his third goal in the space of eleven minutes, made the game safe for his side.

Here is the alternative view of the match from a Plymouth Argyle publication kindly provided by Riccardo Rossi, a Pilgrims supporter from Florence, Italy:

Argyle 3, Aston Villa 5

Wilf Carter gave up the more orthodox method of trying to beat a goalkeeper from the penalty spot – and his ingenious touch paid off. Carter’s first tried and trusted system of placing his shot failed when the Villa goalkeeper Nigel Sims saved it. But when the referee ordered a retake because of an infringement Carter just pushed the ball forward and Johnny Newman raced into the box to crack it home. Carter later explained that he thought up the novel strategy on the spur of the moment because he had taken several penalties against Sims and he was convinced the keeper was “reading” his intentions. Both Carter and Newman said they had taken penalties this way in other games. Curiously enough Newman recalled performing a similar trick with Joe Mercer, the current Villa manager, when they played together in an All-Star XI. The 36th minute penalty was awarded after Vic Crowe punched out a corner kick by Bill Wright, and the goal should have given Argyle every incentive after Carter shot them into an 11th minute lead. Instead it proved to be the beginning of the end. Just on half time Harry Burrows pulled one back with a shot that completely deceived Geoff Barnsley. Villa stormed back with a furious second half rally sparked by Alan O’Neill’s 60th minute equaliser. In the space of ten minutes Gerry Hitchens beat Barnsley with a header, then lobbed the ball over the keeper’s head after Reg Wyatt’s back pass stuck in the mud. Argyle, now trailing 4-2, did have the satisfaction of scoring the goal of the match – a scorching 25-yard drive from Johnny Williams. But Villa always produced the more resourceful soccer and it was no surprise when Hitchens popped up for a fifth to complete his hat-trick.

Wednesday February 22, 1961

Round 5, at Villa Park, Attendance: 19,965, Programme price: 2d (0.83p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 3 **WREXHAM** (0) 0
 Thomson (60)
 Hitchens (66)
 Hitchens (76)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Sidebottom
- 2 Neal
- 3 Winton
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Dugdale
- 6 Deakin
- 7 Burrows
- 8 Thomson
- 9 Hitchens
- 10 Wylie R
- 11 McParland

Wrexham (Division 4)

- 1 Johnson
- 2 Jones
- 3 McGowan
- 4 Davis
- 5 Fox
- 6 Evans
- 7 Metcalf
- 8 Morris
- 9 Davies
- 10 Salisbury
- 11 Roberts

The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr W Morris



Officials

Referee: R H Windle (Chesterfield)
 Linesman (red): C E E Russell
 Linesman (yellow): G A Tovey (Kidderminster)

Football League Club – 5th Round

For this Cup-tie at Villa Park, on February 22nd, we had several changes from the side beaten by the Spurs. [Villa had lost to Spurs at home in both the League and FA Cup in their last two matches] Winton came in for Lynn, Deakin returned at left-half, Thomson moved to inside-right vice O'Neill and Burrows came in at outside-right for MacEwan, When the game started we found McParland labelled number eleven at outside-right and Burrows number seven, on the opposite wing and both these players remained in those positions until the interval. In the first half Villa held the initiative and were often to be found in the Wrexham penalty area but sound work by the Wrexham defence in which Fox, at centre-half, was particularly prominent and some poor finishing allied with misdirected shooting by Villa found a blank score-sheet at the interval. So far, the play had not been particularly inspiring and it continued on the same lines for the next fifteen minutes, though it must be said that the visitors tried to play good football in a neat and methodical manner. In the last half-hour the visiting defence began to tire, Fox lost his hold on Hitchens, and our centre-forward became his usual troublesome self. Our first goal came from Thomson, who slammed a lobbed ball from Burrows high into the net, and six minutes later Burrows put the ball into the centre for Hitchens to hook it past Johnson. Ten minutes later a great drive by Hitchens from about twenty-five yards out beat Johnson all the way and there the scoring finished.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 4/3/61

And from the same programme:

.NEW PROFESSIONALS

John Sleeuwenhoek ("Tulip") and Ralph Brown, two of our well known probationary professionals, both celebrated their seventeenth birthday last Sunday and during the week signed full professional forms for the club. We wish them both a long and successful career.

[Tulip went on to play a total of 260 matches for Villa over seven years, whilst Ralph... well, see the note after the first leg of the Final]

As most of you no doubt know, the semi-finals of the Football League Cup will be played on the home and away principle, and the dates with our opponents – Burnley – are as follows: Monday, April 10th at Turf Moor, and Wednesday, April 26th at Villa Park, with the kick-off at 7.15 p.m. All pay, as season tickets will not admit.

from 'The Villa News & Record' 1/4/61

Monday April 10, 1961

Semi Final 1st leg, at Turf Moor, Attendance: 16,094 (15,908), Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

BURNLEY (1) 1 **ASTON VILLA** (1) 1
 Miller (30) Hitchens (35)

Burnley (Division I)

- 1 Blacklaw
- 2 Angus
- 3 Elder
- 4 Joyce
- 5 Adamson *Cummings*
- 6 Miller
- 7 Connelly
- 8 McIlroy
- 9 Pointer
- 10 Robson *Fenton*
- 11 Harris

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Lynn
- 3 Lee
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Dugdale
- 6 Deakin
- 7 MacEwan
- 8 O'Neill A
- 9 Hitchens
- 10 Wylie R
- 11 McParland

The managers:

Mr H Potts

Mr J Mercer

The Officials

- Referee: A Holland (Barnsley)
- Linesman (red): N Methley
- Linesman (yellow): E T Nottingham



The Football League Cup – Semi-final



The “first leg” of this semi-final took place at Turf Moor on Monday, and ended with honours even, so now the return game on April 26th becomes a straight fight with no arrears on either side. For this game we had two changes at inside-forward, O’Neill for Baker and Wylie for Thomson. The game was always bright and full of thrills. Our players, right back to form, matched Burnley for footballing skill and some of the quick inter-changing of positions and thoughtful distribution by the forwards and half-backs had the home defence fully extended. Defensively, Villa were more than adequate, for McIlroy was splendidly curbed by Deakin, Pointer had few chances against Dugdale and Connelly was well held by Lee. Burnley’s forwards had fewer ideas and, in a late period of pressure, Villa were unlucky not to record a winning goal, for they were deprived of two penalty-kicks for offences which took place within the area, but for which free-kicks were awarded just outside. Burnley took the lead in the 30th minute by a powerful shot from Miller.

It was not long afterwards that we equalised, for, with Villa attacking strongly, Angus attempted to pass back to Blacklaw, but Hitchens scented the move and beating Blacklaw for the ball, neatly flicked it over the goalkeeper’s body as he fell for it. Although no goals were scored in the second half, the game kept the spectators well on their toes to the end, for there were many exciting incidents at both ends, and if we see as good a game on the 26th of the month, we shall be fully satisfied, whichever way the game may go.

In ‘The Villa News & Record’ match on 15/4/61

Wednesday April 26, 1961

Semi Final 2nd leg, at Villa Park, Attendance: 24,000 (23,077), Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (2) 2 BURNLEY (0) 2 aet
 Hitchens (14) Mcllroy (48)
 Thomson (21) Robson (60)

Aston Villa (Division I)

1 Sims
 2 Lynn
 3 Lee
 4 Crowe
 5 Dugdale
 6 Deakin
 7 MacEwan
 8 Thomson
 9 Hitchens
 10 Wylie R
 11 Burrows

Burnley (Division I)

1 Blacklaw
 2 Angus
 3 Elder
 4 Joyce Adamson
 5 Cummings
 6 Miller Joyce
 7 Connelly
 8 Mcllroy
 9 Pointer
 10 Robson
 11 Harris

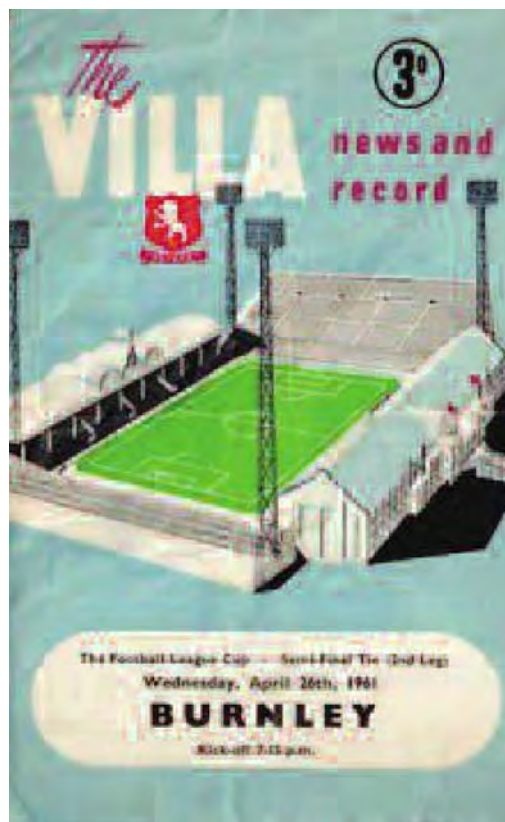
The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr H Potts

Officials

Referee: R H Windle (Chesterfield)
 Linesman (red): S W Plank
 Linesman (yellow): D Markham



...In the first leg of the semi-final of The League Cup, played at Turf Moor, on April 10th, the result was a draw of one goal each, so a win for either side tonight will mean the winners having to meet Rotherham United in the Final, which will also be played on the home and away principle

In 'The Villa News & Record' for the 2nd leg match with Burnley 26/4/61

Tuesday May 2, 1961

Semi Final Replay at Old Trafford, Attendance: 7,953, Programme price: 4d (1.67p)

ASTON VILLA(0) 2 BURNLEY (0) 1
 Lynn (69 (pen)) Robson (70)
 Hitchens (87)

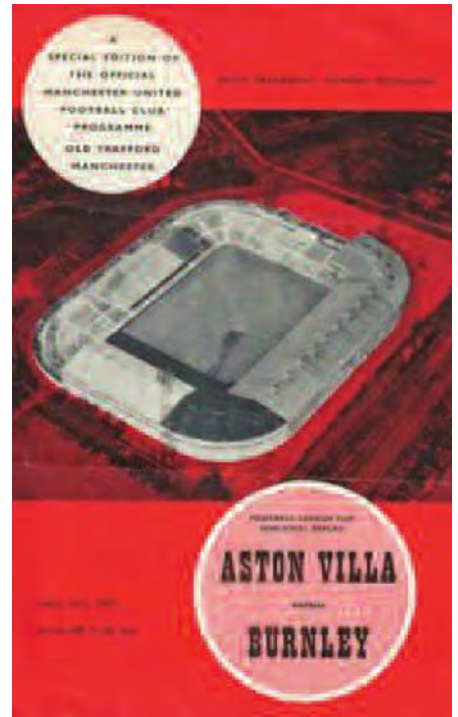
Aston Villa won on aggregate goals

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Lynn
- 3 Lee
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Dugdale
- 6 Deakin
- 7 MacEwan
- 8 Thomson
- 9 Hitchens
- 10 Wylie R
- 11 Burrows

Burnley (Division I)

- 1 Blacklaw
- 2 Angus
- 3 Joyce
- 4 Adamson
- 5 Cummings
- 6 Miller
- 7 Connelly
- 8 Lawson
- 9 Pointer
- 10 Robson
- 11 Harris



The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr H Potts

Officials

- Referee: A E Ellis (Halifax, West Yorkshire)
- Linesman (red): F D Booth (Sheffield)
- Linesman (yellow): J Lindsay (Hazel Grove)

Villa made hard work of reaching the first League Cup final. A Gerry Hitchens goal had earned a 1-1 draw at Turf Moor in the first leg, and Mercer's men had one foot in the final when they led 2-0 after 21 minutes at Villa Park through Hitchens and Bobby Thomson. But second half goals from Jimmy Robson and Jimmy McIlroy brought the scores level, with extra time failing to break the deadlock. There were no penalty shoot-outs in those days, so a replay was staged at Old Trafford the following week, Villa emerging 2-1 winners with a Gerry Hitchens goal and a Stan Lynn penalty.

From 'The Villa News & Record' for the 2nd leg match with Bradford City 22/1/13:

As the 1960/61 season had finished, the final was held over until the next season.

Tuesday August 22, 1961

Final 1st leg at Millmoor, Attendance: 12,226, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ROTHERHAM UNITED (0) 2

Webster (51)
Kirkman (55)

ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Rotherham United (Division 2)

- 1 Roy Ironside
- 2 Peter Perry
- 3 Lol Morgan
- 4 Roy Lambert
- 5 Peter Madden
- 6 Ken Waterhouse
- 7 Barry Webster
- 8 Don Weston
- 9 Ken Houghton
- 10 Alan Kirkman
- 11 Keith Bambridge

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Geoff Sidebottom *Nigel Sims*
- 2 John Neal *Stan Lynn*
- 3 Gordon Lee
- 4 Vic Crowe
- 5 Jimmy Dugdale
- 6 Alan Deakin
- 7 Jimmy MacEwan
- 8 Bobby Thomson
- 9 Ralph Brown
- 10 Ron Wylie
- 11 Peter McParland

The managers:

Mr Tom Johnston

Mr Joe Mercer

The Officials

- Referee: K A Collinge (Altrincham)
- Linesman (red): G W Grundy (Grimsby)
- Linesman (yellow): G W Lynch (Bradford)



In 'Editor's Notes': [After explaining that it was unfortunate that the Cup could not have been completed in the previous season, the author went on] With the best will in the world and while the attraction as always of the Villa remains, the setting tonight has not the same appeal. Just the same we look for a capital game both here and at Birmingham on September 5th... At this stage of the season and having regard to the venue of the first match I expect Rotherham to go to Villa next month with an advantage. I think they might very well win this evening.

From the programme for this match, Rotherham's first home match of the 1961/62 season

This is my programme for the first leg of the final, It is real, not a reproduction. It even has an autograph on the front – the only trouble is I can't decipher it!

The 'Villa News & Record' reported:

Jimmy Dugdale was slowed down with a leg injury following a first half collision with Nigel Sims.

This was the only first team match that Ralph Brown ever appeared in for the Villa. A record not likely to be equalled!

Tuesday September 5, 1961

Final 2nd leg at Villa Park, Attendance: 31,201, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 3 ROTHERHAM UNITED (0) 0 aet

O'Neill (67)

Burrows (69)

McParland (109)

After extra time: Aston Villa won on aggregate goals

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Geoff Sidebottom
- 2 John Neal
- 3 Gordon Lee
- 4 Vic Crowe
- 5 Jimmy Dugdale
- 6 Alan Deakin
- 7 Jimmy MacEwan
- 8 Alan O'Neill
- 9 Peter McParland
- 10 Bobby Thomson
- 11 Harry Burrows

Rotherham United (Division 2)

- 1 Roy Ironside
- 2 Peter Perry
- 3 Lol Morgan
- 4 Roy Lambert
- 5 Peter Madden
- 6 Ken Waterhouse
- 7 Barry Webster
- 8 Don Weston
- 9 Ken Houghton
- 10 Alan Kirkman
- 11 Keith Bambridge

The managers:

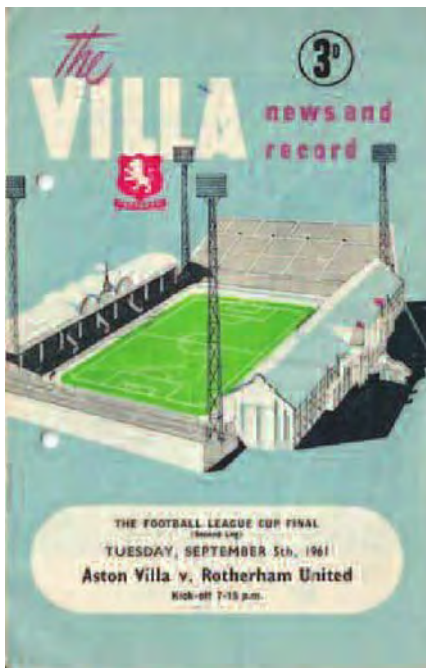
Mr Joe Mercer

Mr Tom Johnston

Officials

- Referee: C W Kingston (Newport, Monmouth)
- Linesman (red): H Richards (Oldham)
- Linesman (yellow): R H Harding

Match Report



In the 19th minute of extra time, in a pulsating battle during continuous rain at Villa Park on Tuesday evening last, Peter McParland lashed the ball into the Rotherham net. This goal put us in front for the first time in the two-leg final and proudly our name goes on to the first Football League Cup. The aggregate score was Villa 3, Rotherham United 2.

It was a game worthy of the big occasion and although it took us over-long to get on to the victory trail we pay a high tribute to the gallant defence of the men from Rotherham. Straightaway from the kick-off the Villa men revealed a terrific determination to wipe out the damaging lead which United gained on their own ground. Playing fast, skilful football they pinned the Yorkshire club in their own half of the field for long periods and with more controlled finishing must surely have built up an early lead. In the 17th minute McParland seemed certain to do the trick but shot narrowly outside

when put through with only the goalkeeper to beat. Rotherham tackled and covered well, however, in the face of Villa's strong pressure and goalkeeper Ironside was prominent in the 30th minute with a spectacular save from a brilliant left-foot shot by Burrows. Two minutes later there was a lucky let-off when Madden, trying to head clear a centre by MacEwan, grazed the ball off his own crossbar. O'Neill, too, went close, but Rotherham hung on to face more concentrated Villa pressure after the interval.



The home men put everything they had in their bid for the lead and there were some thrilling scrambles in the United goalmouth. A fine through ball by Deakin saw McParland glance the ball off the bar but in the 67th minute the Villa at last took the lead with grand goal by O'Neill from a pass by Deakin. Then, amid tremendous excitement Burrows went through two minutes later to beat three men and score with a shot which was deflected in off a defender. At the conclusion, to the cheers of a huge crowd, the Football League Cup and souvenirs were presented to the Villa team by the donor, Mr J. Richards, J.P., the President of The Football League.

Peter McParland's extra-time winner in this match meant that he became the first player to score in both League Cup and FA Cup finals. He had scored both goals against Manchester United when Villa had won the FA Cup in 1957. Jimmy Dugdale was the only other Villa player to have been in that Cup Final, and so he and McParland were the first two players to receive winner's medals (or tankards) for both domestic Cups.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 9/9/61



This postal cover was issued on September 5th 2001 to commemorate 40 years of the League Cup

We were already in the next season and some clubs still felt that the League Cup was unnecessary. This was the time schedule for the next season, from the programme for Rotherham's first home match of the 1961/62 season:

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP 1961-62

To avoid the fixture 'upsets' of last season the Football League have recommended the Wednesday of definite weeks; i.e.,

Round 1. September 11-15
 Round 2. October 2-6
 Round 3. November 13-17
 Round 4. December 11-15

Round 5. February 5-9
 Semi's March 6-10
 Semi's March 20-24
 Final to be arranged

There are 87 competing clubs so the first round will consist of 43 matches and one bye; Round 2, twenty-two games; Round 3, 11 matches; Round 4, three matches and five club byes.

The non-participants are: Arsenal, Wolves, West Bromwich, Wednesday, Everton (who lost to Shrewsbury last time), Manchester United, Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham.

And so on to the League Cup matches for 1961/62, but first from 'Club Jottings' in the Darlington programme for the League Cup first round match against Rotherham United on 11th

September 1961:

Good evening. Tonight we take time off from Fourth Division duties to partake in an extra tit-bit on the Feethams menu. All supporters will extend a warm welcome to Rotherham United, old friends who pay us this long-awaited return visit in the first round of the League Cup competition. Rotherham are the losing finalists from last year's league Cup having lost on a 3-2 aggregate to Aston Villa in the long delayed final, which, unlike the earlier rounds, is played on a home-and-away basis. We had hoped that they would win and bring the Cup with them tonight, for we have a special interest in the new knockout championship. It is just a year ago since the League Cup was inaugurated, and if Bolton Wanderers had not scored a last minute goal against us in round three, we would have been drawn at home against Rotherham United in the fourth round. A season later we get the opportunity to find out what might have been...

Rotherham won 1-0, and reached Round 5 in 1961/62, where they lost to Blackburn Rovers.

Rotherham had only six days after losing the first League Cup Final before playing Darlington, whereas Villa started their defence of the Cup eight days after winning it, at Valley Parade against Bradford City!

1961/62

Wednesday September 13, 1961

Round 1 at Valley Parade, Attendance: 9,768, Programme Price: 3d (1.25p)

BRADFORD CITY (0) 3

Webb (54)
Webb (76)
Webb (89)

ASTON VILLA (2) 4

MacEwan (13)
Wylie (23)
Wylie (37)
Burrows (52)

Bradford City (Division 2)

1	Downie	1
2	Flockett	2
3	Storton	3
4	Devitt	4
5	Smith <i>Lawlor</i>	5
6	Harland	6
7	Hockey	7
8	Webb	8
9	Layne	9
10	Reid	10
11	Hawksworth	11

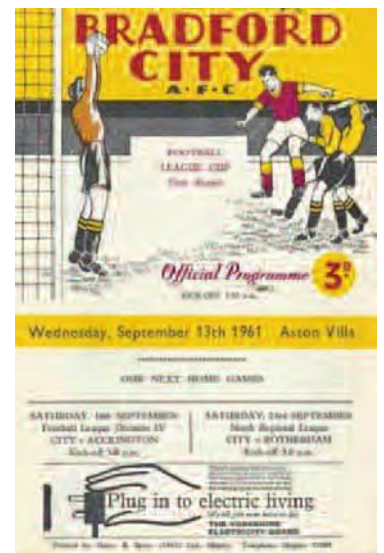
Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom	1
2	Neal <i>Lynn</i>	2
3	Lee <i>Aitken</i>	3
4	Crowe	4
5	Dugdale	5
6	Deakin	6
7	MacEwan	7
8	Baker <i>Tindall</i>	8
9	McParland	9
10	O'Neill A <i>Wylie</i>	10
11	Burrows	11

The managers:

Mr R Brocklebank

Mr J Mercer



Officials

Referee: G W Grundy (Grimsby)
 Linesman (red): R Bass
 Linesman (yellow): A Entwistle (Rossendale)

For this game, our first in this season's League Cup competition, at Bradford on September 13th, we had several team changes from the side beaten by West Ham the previous Saturday. At full-back Lynn and Aitken came in for Neal and Lee, Tindall took the place of Baker at inside-right and Wylie returned to inside-left vice O'Neill. Despite three late goals from Bradford City's inside-right Webb, Aston Villa played as if they mean to hold on to the League Cup won only eight days before. They had the speed and power, and football. Bradford City could not hold the Villa attack in the first half, although no goals for McParland, he led the line so well that the City always had two men chasing him. MacEwan scored Villa's first after 13 minutes, following up to shoot past the sprawling Downie, who had parried but failed to hold the winger's first shot. Ten minutes later Wylie made it 2-0, taking a long clearance from Sidebottom, he cleverly beat Devitt, and side-footed the ball past the City goal-keeper. Wylie got his second and Villa's third goal, with a shot from 35 yards. Villa's fourth, seven minutes after half-time, was started by Aitken and Wylie. The ball went to McParland, who pulled his pass back for Burrows to score. Bradford's persistence paid as Villa eased up for Webb to score an incredible late hat-trick.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 23/9/61

Monday October 9, 1961

Round 2 at The Boleyn Ground (Upton Park), Attendance: 17,735, Programme price: 6d (2.5p)

WEST HAM UNITED (1) 1

Musgrove (27)

ASTON VILLA (2) 3

McParland (35)

Burrows (44)

Bond (85 og)

West Ham United (Division 1)

1	Leslie
2	Kirkup
3	Bond
4	Hurst
5	Brown
6	Moore
7	Scott
8	Woosnam
9	Sealey
10	Dick
11	Musgrove

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom
2	Neal
3	Aitken
4	Crowe <i>Tindall</i>
5	Dugdale <i>Sleeuwenhoek</i>
6	Deakin <i>McMorran</i>
7	MacEwan
8	Tindall <i>Baker</i>
9	McParland
10	Wylie R
11	Burrows

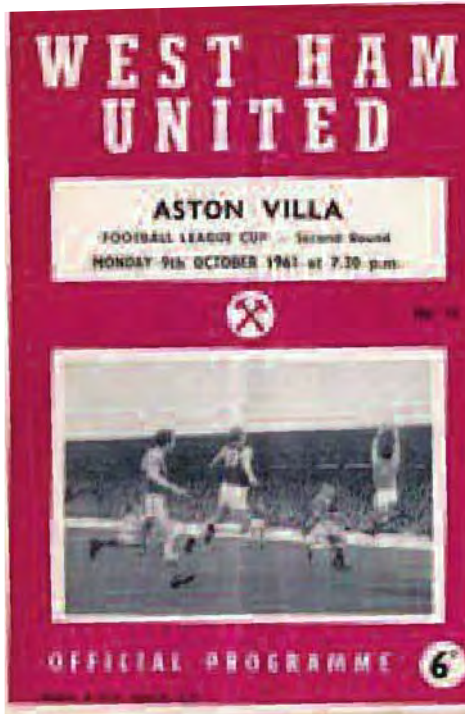
The managers:

Mr R Greenwood

Mr J Mercer

Officials

Referee: G D Roper (Newmarket, Cambs.)
 Linesman (red): E Harvey (Warboys, Hunts.)
 Linesman (yellow): Sgt B C Jakeman (Aldershot, Hants.)



Making six changes, including an entirely new half-back line, owing to injuries to Crowe and Deakin, from the team which had performed so disappointingly at Fulham [Villa lost 3-1], we gave a whole-hearted and skilful display at Upton Park, which revealed once again the high promise of many youngsters on our staff. So enthusiastically did the newcomers tackle, and so intelligently and speedily did they move into the open spaces that West Ham, a talented team, with an outstanding schemer in Woosnam, were put completely out of their stride, and we were not flattered by our 2-1 half-time lead. Against the run of play West Ham had taken the lead through Musgrove in the 27th minute, but a header by McParland from a corner (35 minutes), and a powerful drive by Burrows (44 minutes) quickly put a truer valuation on the exciting changes. Twice we netted only to be given offside, and West Ham had a similar point disallowed in addition to hitting the crossbar. After the interval West Ham were more direct in their approach work, and subjected us to intense pressure, but our young defenders held out well. Woosnam collided with the fencing, and was off the field for ten minutes, but upon his return Burrows put in another sparkling run. Bond was preparing to let a low centre go to Leslie, but seeing MacEwan approaching put out a foot, and had the misfortune to turn the ball into his own net. This was five minutes from the end, and set the seal on a fine display by our boys. It was our first victory ever at Upton Park, and a triumph for team work, every member of the side seeming to strike top form together.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 16/10/61



Tuesday November 21, 1961

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 22,541, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Burrows (47)
 Burrows (75 pen)

IPSWICH TOWN (2) 3

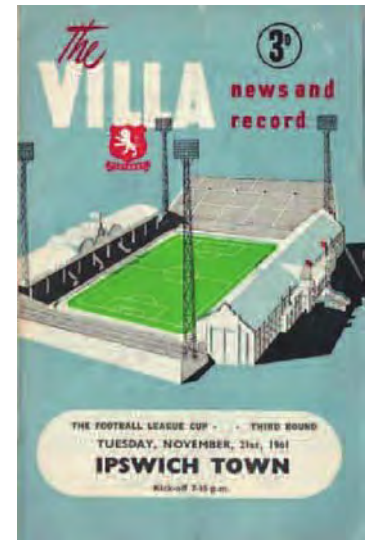
Leadbetter (15)
 Phillips (35)
 Phillips (77 pen)

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Lee
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Sleeuwenhoek
- 6 Deakin
- 7 McParland
- 8 O'Neill A Wylie R
- 9 Thomson
- 10 Wylie R O'Neill A
- 11 Burrow

Ipswich Town (Division I)

- 1 Bailey
- 2 Carberry
- 3 Compton
- 4 Baxter
- 5 Nelson
- 6 Elsworthy
- 7 Stephenson Owen
- 8 Moran
- 9 Crawford Curtis
- 10 Phillips
- 11 Leadbetter



The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr A Ramsey

Officials

- Referee: R Tinkler (Boston, Lincs.)
- Linesman (red): F Wain
- Linesman (Yellow): B F Watkins (Hereford)



VILLA OUT OF LUCK

Aston Villa said goodbye on Tuesday evening to their interest in this season's Football League Cup, but not without putting up a great fight. Having the "lion's" share of the game they failed to provide the penetrative power in terms of goals, finding the Town defence tightly packing the goal mouth area. Forcing corner after corner, and providing thrills and misses galore, the Villa kept the 30,000 crowd on its toes with plenty to shout about right up until the last minute. Ipswich took the "breather" with a two-goal lead but as so often is the case in such games, right against the run of the play. In the fifteenth minute, taking advantage of some hesitancy in the Villa defence, Ipswich left-winger Leadbetter-from the inside-right position put the Town in the lead. Nothing deterred, Villa kept striving away in the visitors half of the field but another breakaway, in the 35th minute, and Phillips was on the spot to put Ipswich undeservedly two goals up. Villa opened up the second period where they had left off and it was no surprise when, in the 47th minute, Burrows, taking a pass down the wing from O'Neill, scored with a great rocket shot. Still finding the Town defence a tough nut to crack it was not until the 75th minute that Villa were back in the game with an equaliser-Burrows scoring from the spot, following a penalty award for "hands." The Town put the final seal on the game just two minutes later with a fortunate penalty award, Aitken being deemed to having handled whilst intercepting Phillips. Thus with approximately four shots-three goals-Ipswich progressed into the fourth round of the League Cup.

So, although Villa had won the cup, they had nominally lost it after just 78 days, though they held on to the trophy until Norwich won it on the 1st May 1962.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 25/11/61:

[Ipswich were beaten 4-1 by Blackburn Rovers in the next round]

1962/63

Round 1: Aston Villa received a bye

Monday September 24, 1962

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,372, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (4) 6 PETERBOROUGH UNITED (0) 1

Dougan (6)	Hudson (72)
Ewing (7)	
Burrows (37)	
Dougan (41)	
Wylie (62)	
Dougan (82)	

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom
2	Lee
3	Aitken
4	Crowe
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Deakin
7	MacEwan <i>Ewing</i>
8	Thomson
9	Dougan
10	Wylie R
11	Burrows

Peterborough United (Division 3)

1	Ronson
2	Singleton
3	Walker
4	Graham
5	Hopkins
6	Simpson
7	Sheavills
8	Morton
9	Hudson
10	McNamee
11	Senior

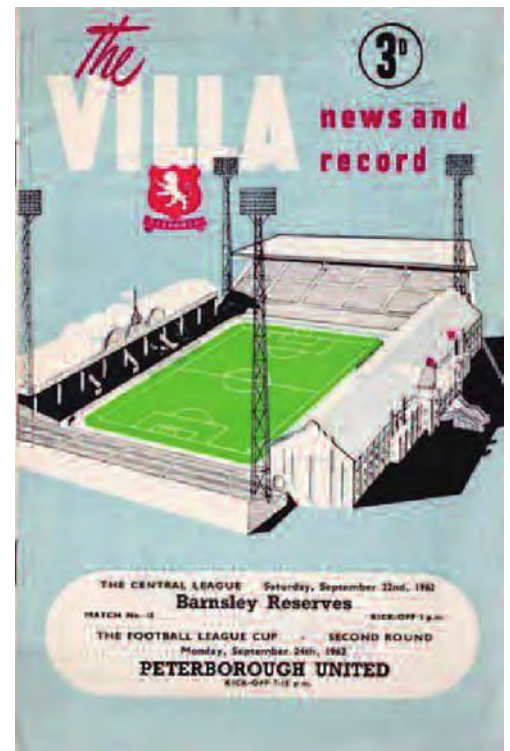
The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr J Hagan

Officials

Referee:	N A Matthews (Bicester)
Linesman (red):	J C Bentley
Linesman (yellow):	J H Hemmings



THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP Second Round

A comfortable win over Peterborough United, last Monday evening at Villa Park, ensured Villa's progress into round three of The Football League Cup. Our forward line, with Ewing making his first Senior appearance of the season, in lieu of the rested MacEwan, were far too good for the Perplexed defenders. Showing many nice football touches, the visitors were no match for our top form home men, failing to produce any real threat to our goal. Dougan, at his best, opened the account in the sixth minute with a breakaway run and shot, following up, within the minute, to square a low ball across, for Ewing to get in a diving header. Half-an-hour later, Burrows was brought down

on the edge of the "box" and, receiving from the resultant free-kick drove the ball past Ronson before an eye was blinked. Four minutes from the interval and it was that man again, Dougan, taking three "bites" from rebounds, finally put number four past a despairing goalkeeper. We had the rare spectacle of a Wylie goal just seventeen minutes after the re-start, when the inside-left, on his second attempt, had his shot enter the net via the bar to register number five. "Posh" scored their consolation goal in the 72nd minute, Hudson netting from close range following a bout of passing across the Villa goal. With eight minutes left, Dougan completed the scoring, and a personal hat-trick, when he finished off an exciting Aitken run and well-flighted centre. A satisfied crowd paid compliment to both teams for the evening's display, with a special cheer for the gallant and plucky losers.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 29/9/62

Wednesday October 17, 1962

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,990, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (2) 3

Thomson (2)
Ewing (19)
Burrows (90 pen)

STOKE CITY (0) 1

Matthews G (88)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom
2	Lee
3	Aitken
4	Crowe
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Tindall
7	Ewing
8	Baker
9	Thomson
10	Wylie R
11	Burrows

Stoke City (Division 2)

1	O'Neill
2	Asprey
3	Allen
4	Clamp
5	Stuart
6	Skeels
7	Bebbington
8	Viollet
9	Mudie
10	Matthews G
11	Ratcliffe

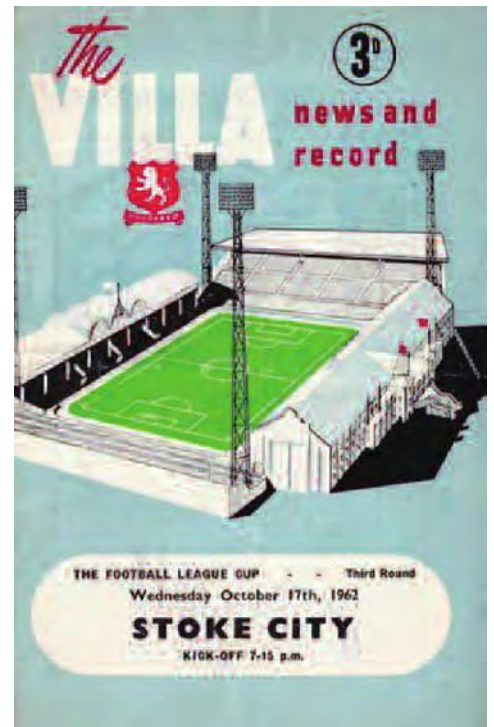
The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr A Waddington

Officials

Referee:	L Callaghan (Merthyr Tydfil)
Linesman (red):	D A Moore
Linesman (yellow):	F Roberts



A COMFORTABLE WIN

Stoke City, contrary to expectations, offered little opposition at Villa Park, on Wednesday evening, 17th October, to our entry into the Fourth Round of The Football League Cup. Thomson gave us

the lead in the second minute with a nod to put the ball where O'Neill wasn't and seventeen minutes later Ewing put us further ahead with the goal of the season. Burrows flighted a hard cross and our right-winger, in the centre, with a diving header rocketed the ball high into the net to receive prolonged acclamation from the large appreciative crowd. With the situation of nothing to lose but so much to gain, Stoke, in the second half, threw everything into attack but, without maestro Stan Matthews, they rarely troubled our defenders. In fact, both full-backs and centre-half "Tulip" found time to go "aforaging" whilst Vic Crowe quickly relinquished the centre forward spot after a spell recovering from injury. Two minutes before the end Matthews (G.) surprised Sidebottom with a left-foot volley to register Stoke's consolation but, in injury time, Burrows restored our margin in converting from the spot after an handling offence in the goalmouth. Deputising for England reserve Alan Deakin, Mike Tindall caught the eye with many determined tackles and some excellent distribution, maintaining the high efficiency of our rearguard.

Match Report from "The Villa News & Record" 27/10/62:

Monday November 12, 1962

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 18,815, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (2) 6

Burrows (14 pen)
Baker (23)
O'Neill (52)
Baker (59)
Burrows (64)
O'Neill (74)

PRESTON NORTH END (0) 2

Dawson (66)
Dawson (76)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom
2	Fraser
3	Aitken
4	Lee Crowe
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Tindall
7	Ewing <i>Fencott</i>
8	Baker
9	Dougan
10	O'Neill A
11	Burrows

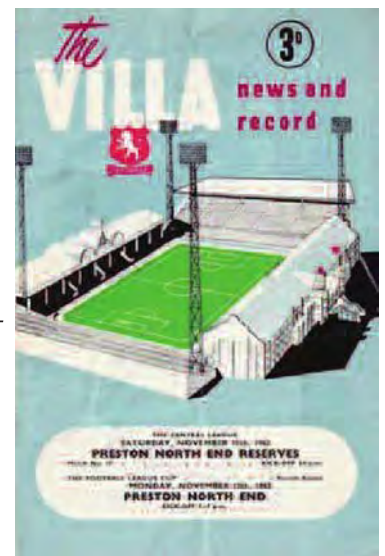
Preston North End (Division 2)

1	Kelly
2	Donnelly
3	O'Neill J
4	Ross
5	Singleton <i>Smith</i>
6	Barber
7	Wilson
8	Alston
9	Dawson
10	Spavin
11	Thompson P <i>Thompson T</i>

The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr J Milne



Officials

Referee: J E Carr (Sheffield)
 Linesman (red): F Smith (Breaston, Derbys.)
 Linesman (yellow): G Walker

Preston North End provided only genteel opposition, at Villa Park last Monday evening, to our entry into the last eight of The Football League Cup. A two goal interval lead – Burrows (14 minutes) with a penalty and a Baker nod (23 minutes,) – was a fair representation of the play, but thereafter the home men, in devastating form, dazzled their way to a comfortable win. Goals by O'Neill (52 minutes.), Baker (59 mins.) and Burrows (64 mins.) gave us a clear five goal lead before Dawson, in the 66th minute, outleapt the Villa defenders to remind everyone that North End were also playing. Further goals by O'Neill (74 mins.) for Villa, and Dawson (76 mins.) for Preston, completed the scoring. Making his senior team debut, "Cammy" Fraser impressed with many fine tackles and good ball distribution, whilst young Fencott did extremely well at outside-right.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 17/11/62

Monday December 3, 1962

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 13,826, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (I) 4

Thomson (40)
 Thomson (64)
 MacEwan (70)
 Dougan (85)

NORWICH CITY (I) 1

Bryceland (15)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom
2	Fraser
3	Aitken
4	Crowe
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Deakin
7	MacEwan
8	Baker
9	Dougan
10	Thomson
11	Burrows

Norwich City (Division 2)

1	Kennon
2	Kelly
3	Worrell <i>Thurlow</i>
4	Burton
5	Ashman
6	Mullett
7	Oliver
8	Bryceland
9	Allcock <i>Scott</i>
10	Hill <i>Allcock</i>
11	Punton

The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr R Ashman

Officials

Referee: R Tinkler (Boston, Lincs.)



Linesman (red): G D Green
 Linesman (yellow): B F Watkins (Hereford)

Villa had two away matches following this cup tie, and the next home programme, against Manchester City made no mention of this match, apart from giving details of tickets for the semi-final.

Saturday January 12, 1963

Semi Final – First Leg At Roker Park, Attendance: 32,237 (33,329), Programme price: 4d (1.67p)

This match was due to be played on Wednesday January 16, 1963, but as both Sunderland and Villa's league matches were postponed on 12th January, the clubs agreed to play the semi-final instead. This, then, became the first League Cup match to be played on a Saturday afternoon, though both the tickets and the programme showed the original date.

SUNDERLAND (0) 1	ASTON VILLA (2) 3
Sharkey	Crowe Thomson (44) Dougan (88)

Sunderland (Division 2)

1	Montgomery
2	Nelson
3	Ashurst
4	Anderson
5	Hurley
6	McNab
7	Davison
8	Fogarty
9	Sharkey
10	Crossan
11	Mulhall

Aston Villa (Division 1)

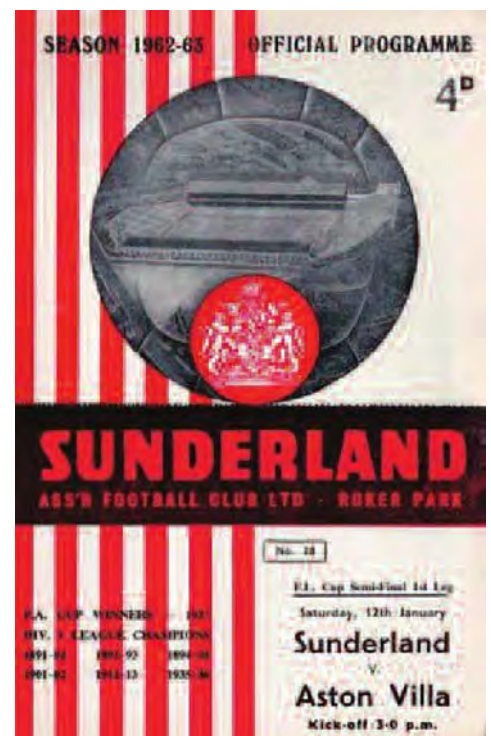
1	Sidebottom
2	Fraser
3	Aitken
4	Crowe
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Deakin
7	MacEwan
8	Baker
9	Dougan
10	Thomson
11	Burrows

The managers:

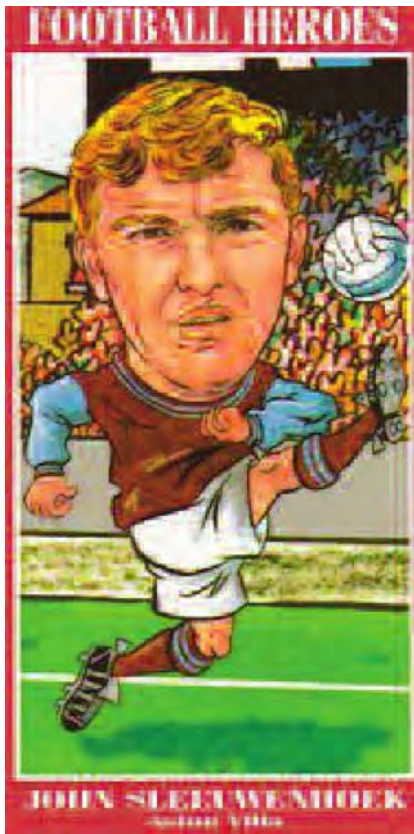
Mr A Brown	Mr J Mercer
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Officials

Referee:	A Jobling (Morecambe)
Linesman (red):	L Pearson
Linesman (yellow):	J R Dodds



A GOOD WIN Six hours of tremendous hard work by Sunderland manager Alan Brown and one hundred workers, enabled this first leg of The Football League Cup Semi-final to be played last Saturday, when so many games were cut out by the freeze-up. By the end of the game many Sunder-



land fans were wondering if the trouble of removing over four inches of snow had been worthwhile. This Villa win, in fact, puts Villa in a very strong position to reach the final for it seems to be asking a lot for Sunderland to pull back their two goals deficit when the second leg is played at Villa Park on Monday, February 4th. The home side had thrown away two good chances before our skipper, Crowe, opened the scoring with a glorious 20-yard drive that had goal written all over it. When Thomson pounced on a defensive mistake, a minute before the break, it was the inspiration that Villa needed. True, the Roker Park men came pounding back in the second half and Sharkey made it 1-2, but the fire slowly left the Sunderland side as it gradually became mastered by the extra method and better tactics of the Villa side. Right-back Nelson, deputising for the injured custodian Montgomery, gave Villa their third goal two minutes from the end. He dropped a long low cross from Burrows so neatly at Dougan's feet - and that was that. All round it was a competent performance by our boys, with special mention for Crowe, Sleeuwenhoek and Thomson.



Match Report from "The Villa News & Record" 19/1/1963

Monday April 22, 1963

Semi-Final 2nd Leg At Villa Park Attendance: 21,550, Programme price: 3d (1.25p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 SUNDERLAND (0) 0

Aston Villa win on aggregate goals

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Sidebottom
- 2 Fraser Lee
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Sleeuwenhoek
- 6 Tindall
- 7 Baker Ewing
- 8 Thomson Baker
- 9 Dougan Burrows
- 10 Wylie R
- 11 Burrows Fencott

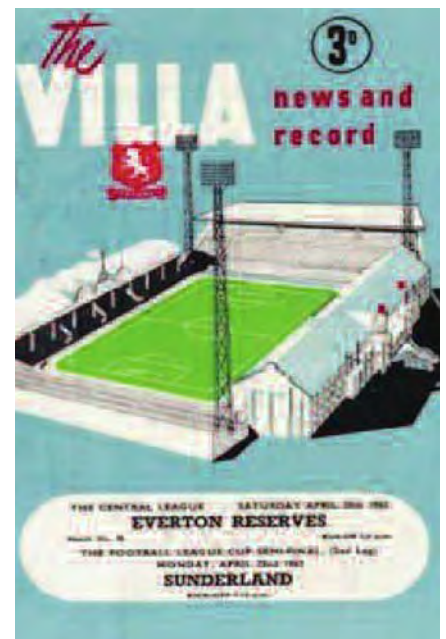
Sunderland (Division 2)

- 1 Montgomery
- 2 Nelson
- 3 Ashurst
- 4 Anderson Harvey
- 5 Hurley
- 6 McNab Anderson
- 7 Davidson (sic)
- 8 Herd Fogarty
- 9 Kerr Sharkey
- 10 Crossan
- 11 Mulhall

The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr A Brown



Officials

Referee: R E Smith (Newport, Monmouth)
 Linesman (red): A Rees
 Linesman (yellow): D Underwood

VILLA-BLUES FINAL

With two goals to the good from our first leg victory at Sunderland, in this Semi-final of The Football League Cup, this goal-less draw ensured our place in the Final with our friends and neighbours, Birmingham City, as opponents. Showing several changes in our forward formation, we gave a better display than of late, but still the all-important goals would not come. The visitors offered nothing that was likely to reduce their deficit and appeared content to keep a blank score sheet. Fencott on the left-wing, had extreme bad luck in seeing one of his shots parried by the Sunderland goalkeeper, the ball being grabbed just as it looked set to spin over the line.



Match report from 'The Villa News & Record', 4/5/63

Thursday May 23, 1963

Final 1st Leg At St. Andrews, Attendance: 31,580, Programme price: 4d (1.67p)

BIRMINGHAM CITY (1) 3 **ASTON VILLA (1) 1**
 Bloomfield (14) Thomson (45)
 Leek (52)
 Leek (66)

Birmingham City (Division 1)

- 1 Johnny Schofield
- 2 Stan Lynn
- 3 Colin Green
- 4 Terry Hennessey
- 5 Trevor Smith (c)
- 6 Malcolm Beard
- 7 Mike Hellowell
- 8 Jimmy Bloomfield
- 9 Jimmy Harris
- 10 Ken Leek
- 11 Bertie Auld

Aston Villa (Division 1)

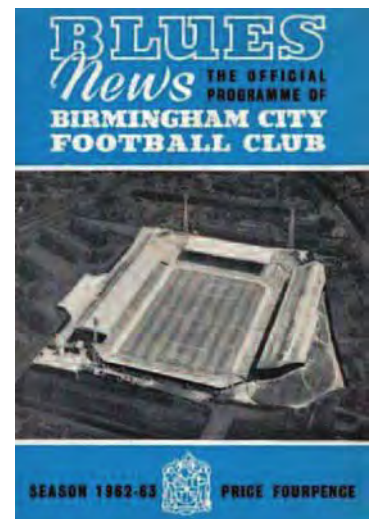
- 1 Nigel Sims
- 2 Cammie Fraser
- 3 Charlie Aitken
- 4 Vic Crowe (c)
- 5 John Sleenwenhoek
- 6 Gordon Lee
- 7 Alan Baker
- 8 George Graham
- 9 Bobby Thomson
- 10 Ron Wylie
- 11 Harry Burrows

The managers:

Mr Gil Merrick Mr Joe Mercer

Officials

Referee: E Crawford (Doncaster)



Linesman (red): A J Sturgeon (Putney, London)
 Linesman (yellow): W M Darlington

FROM THE PAST ...

Birmingham suffered a dismal 1962-3 League programme...but they made amends by winning the Football League Cup, beating Aston Villa 3-1 on aggregate in the two-legged Final.

The Blues had accounted for Doncaster, Barrow, Notts County, Manchester City and Bury leading up to the Final. Villa had knocked out Peterborough, Stoke, Preston, Norwich and Sunderland.

Villa were clear favourites to lift the trophy for the second time, having hammered the Blues 4-0 at Villa Park two months earlier in a league match. But in the first leg of the finals at St. Andrews, Birmingham put on a sparkling team performance and gained the precious two-goal advantage.

The Blues were in irrepressible attacking form, powering forward in quite brilliant style. Early on, Villa goalkeeper Nigel Sims saved twice from Jimmy Harris and Ken Leek, and then saw a Harris shot deflected on to the crossbar.

In the 14th minute the Blues struck with a breath-taking goal. Malcolm Beard and Terry Hennessey set up Harris, who fed Bertie Auld on the left wing. When the ball was crossed, in came Leek to slam it past Sims. Jimmy Bloomfield then took a knock on the thigh and this disrupted the Blues for a while. Then Villa equalised, against the run of play, through Bobby Thompson (sic) who was soon to sign for Birmingham.

In the 52nd minute the Blues regained the lead, the Harris-Auld-Leek combination working again, with the latter on hand to hit the ball past Sims. Goal number three came on 66 minutes through Bloomfield, who nipped between the two static Villa defenders to meet Harris' right-wing cross, the ball going in off an upright. Leek (twice) and Auld went close before the end. Four days [later], Birmingham held Villa to a goalless draw at Villa Park to lift the League Cup.

This match report comes from 'Blues News' dated 3rd January 1994

Monday May 27, 1963

Final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 37,921, Programme price: 3d (1.25)

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 0

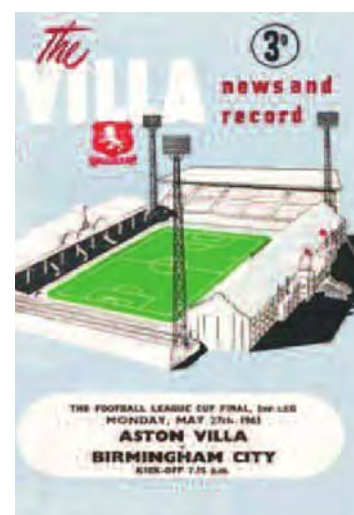
Aston Villa lost on aggregate goals

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Nigel Sims
2	Cammie Fraser
3	Charlie Aitken
4	Vic Crowe (c)
5	Lew Chatterley
6	Gordon Lee
7	Alan Baker
8	George Graham
9	Bobby Thomson
10	Ron Wylie
11	Harry Burrows

Birmingham City (Division I)

1	Johnny Schofield
2	Stan Lynn
3	Colin Green
4	Terry Hennessey
5	Trevor Smith (c)
6	Malcolm Beard
7	Mike Hellowell
8	Jimmy Bloomfield
9	Jimmy Harris
10	Ken Leek
11	Bertie Auld



The managers:

Mr Joe Mercer

Mr Gil Merrick

Officials

Referee: A W Sparling (Grimsby)
 Linesman (red): L W Faulkner (Liverpool)
 Linesman (yellow): R Burkinshaw

Having played for Villa against Rotherham in the first League Cup Final, Stan Lynn became the first player to appear in two League Cup Finals, this time for Birmingham against the Villa, and also the first to gain two winners tankards. George Graham appeared for Villa in this Final, and then in further finals for Chelsea and Arsenal.

1963/64

Round 1: Aston Villa received a bye

Wednesday September 25, 1963

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 10,679, Programme price: 2d (.83p)

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 BARNESLEY (0) 1
 Hateley (90 seconds) O'Hara (63)
 Baker (10)
 Burrows (83)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Wright JM
- 3 Lee
- 4 Crowe
- 5 Sleuwenhoek
- 6 Deakin
- 7 MacEwan
- 8 Baker
- 9 Hateley
- 10 Woosnam
- 11 Burrows

Barnsley (Division 3)

- 1 Williamson
- 2 Hopper
- 3 Brookes
- 4 Wood
- 5 Winstanley
- 6 Houghton
- 7 Sheavills
- 8 Kerr
- 9 Leighton
- 10 Murray
- 11 O'Hara

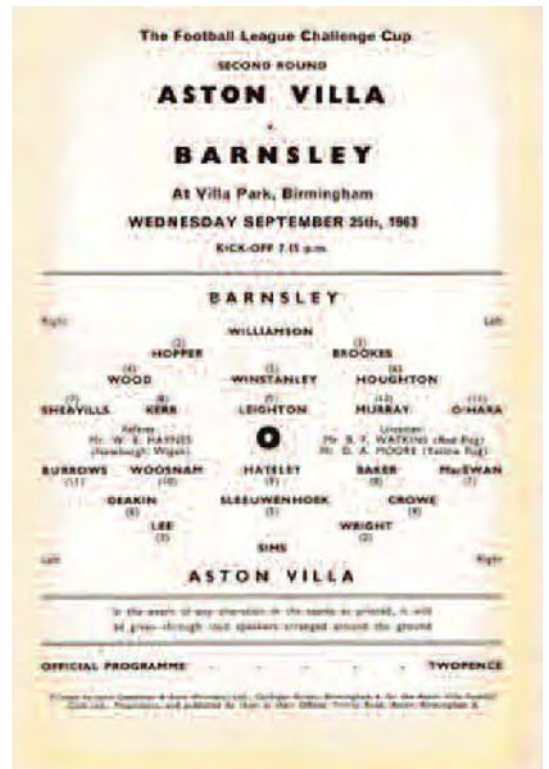
The managers:

Mr J Mercer

Mr J Steele

Officials

Referee: W E Haynes (Newburgh, Wigan)
 Linesman (red): B F Watkins (Hereford)



Linesman (yellow): D A Moore

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP (2nd Round)

We made rather hard work of this game against Barnsley, at Villa Park on Wednesday evening, and should have won by a more flattering margin. Bad finishing allied to some good 'keeping by the visitor's custodian, kept the scoring to proportion after an early promise of a "glut." Hateley, Baker and Burrows were our scorers, whilst O'Hara had kept his side in the game with a surprise goal.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 28/9/63

Wednesday October 16, 1963

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 11,194, Programme price: 4d (1.67p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 WEST HAM UNITED (0) 2

Bond (67)

Britt (75)

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Sims
- 2 Wright JM
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Crowe (c)
- 5 Sleenwenhoek
- 6 Tindall
- 7 Baker
- 8 Wylie R
- 9 Hateley
- 10 Woosnam
- 11 Ewing

West Ham United (Division I)

- 1 Standen
- 2 Bond
- 3 Burkett
- 4 Peters
- 5 Brown
- 6 Moore (c)
- 7 Sealey
- 8 Boyce
- 9 Britt
- 10 Sissons Hurst
- 11 Brabrook

The managers:

Mr J Mercer

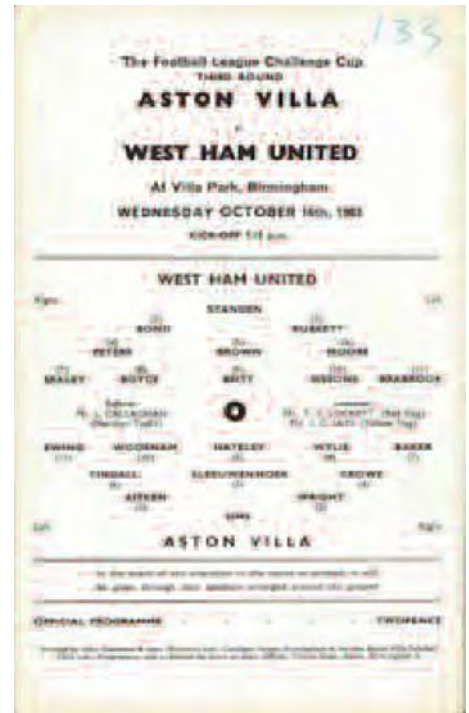
Mr R Greenwood

Officials

Referee: L Callaghan (Merthyr Tydfil)

Linesman (red): T E Lockett (Worcester)

Linesman (yellow): J C Jays



THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP (Third Round)

We bowed out of The Football League Cup last Wednesday evening, with a display of form which was almost too bad to be true. Yet, right up to the moment that West Ham took a lucky lead, it seemed we had the game well contained and it would only be a matter of scoring to make the game ours. The "Hammers" gratefully accepted our two "gifts." in the 67th and 75th minutes, but, even so, were highly flattered by the score.

[West Ham lost 3-6 on aggregate to Leicester City in the semi-final. Leicester went on to beat Stoke

in the final]

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 19/10/63

1964/65

Round 1: Aston Villa received a bye

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Should our Second Round tie in the Football League Cup, at Luton next Wednesday, end all square, the replay will be held on the following Monday, September 28th. The kick off will be at the usual 7.15 p.m., and ALL must pay as Season tickets do not apply.

From 'The Villa News & Record' September 19th, 1964

Wednesday September 23, 1964

Round 2 At Kenilworth Road, Attendance: 9,011, Programme Price: 6d (2½p)

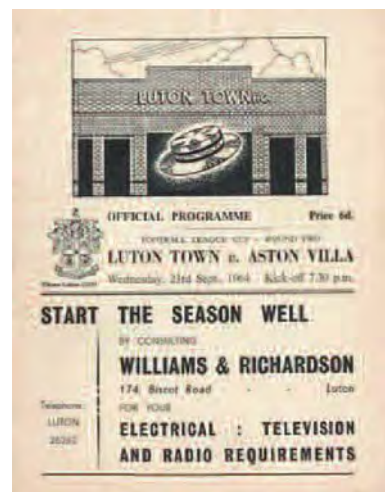
LUTON TOWN (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1
Park (22)

Luton Town (Division 3)

1 Baynham
2 McBain
3 Bramwell
4 Pacey
5 Fincham
6 Knights
7 Pleat
8 McKechnie
9 O'Rourke
10 Reid
11 Whittaker

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1 Sidebottom
2 Wright JM
3 Aitken
4 Roberts *Tindall*
5 Sleuwenhoek *Pountney*
6 Lee
7 Baker *Roberts*
8 Stobart *Park*
9 Hateley
10 Woosnam *Wylie*
11 MacLeod *Burrows*



The managers:

Mr W Harvey

Mr R Taylor

Officials

Referee: N A S Matthews (Bicester)

Linesman (red): R W Kates (Southall)

Linesman (yellow): L Newsom (Streatham)

Wednesday October 14, 1964

Round 3 At Elland Road, Attendance: 10,656, Programme Price: 6d (2½p)

LEEDS UNITED (I) 2

Johanneson (35)
Collins (62)

ASTON VILLA (I) 3

Burrows (15)
Park (62)
Hateley (90)

Leeds United (Division I)

1 Williamson
2 Wright B
3 Bell
4 Madeley
5 Charlton J
6 Hunter
7 Greenhoff
8 Henderson
9 Belfitt
10 Collins
11 Johanneson

Aston Villa (Division I)

1 Sidebottom
2 Wright JM
3 Aitken
4 Tindall
5 Sleuwenhoek
6 Pountney
7 MacEwan Roberts
8 Park
9 Hateley
10 Wylie R
11 Burrows

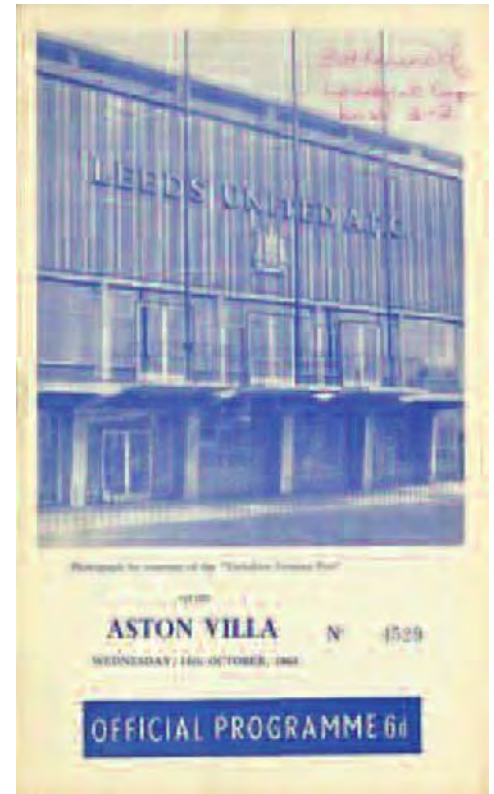
The managers:

Mr D Revie

Mr R Taylor

Officials

Referee: K E Walker (Blackpool)
Linesman (red): G C Harrison
Linesman (yellow): R M Bickerstaffe (Bolton)



A Warm (But Wary) Welcome to Villa

While we were beating our neighbours, Huddersfield Town, 3-2 at Elland Road in the second round of the League Cup Aston Villa were beating Luton Town 1-0 at Luton in the same round, and now we are meeting Villa in the third. By its attendances the League Cup has not exactly set this season's present public alight, but it has pulled in some useful "gates" by Saturday standards in various places, and we hope there is one here tonight. Villa are not having a good season so far... We are not taking Villa easily because of that, and "Cup football" is "Cup football" – the unexpected can happen, and often does.

From the Leeds programme for this match

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

In the Fourth Round of The Football League Cup we have been drawn at home with Reading as our visitors. The game will be played next Wednesday evening, Nov. 4th, with the usual 7.15 p.m. kick-off. The "Biscuitmen" are well placed in the Third Division and can be expected to be all out to prove that there is no division in Cup football, as our visitors today (Fulham) will testify. In a replay at Craven Cottage, Reading gave the k.o. to Fulham by three goals to one. Season tickets are not applicable and all must pay at the turnstiles on the night of the match. Admission prices will be as follows: Stand seats 8/6 and 6/- (42½p and 30p), Standing Enclosures 4/- (20p), and the remainder of Ground 3/6 (17½p), Boys 1/6 (7½p).

From 'The Villa News & Record' 31/10/64

Wednesday November 4, 1964

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 7,964, Programme Price: 2d (.83p)

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 READING (0) 1

Hateley (22)

Webb (49)

Hateley (30)

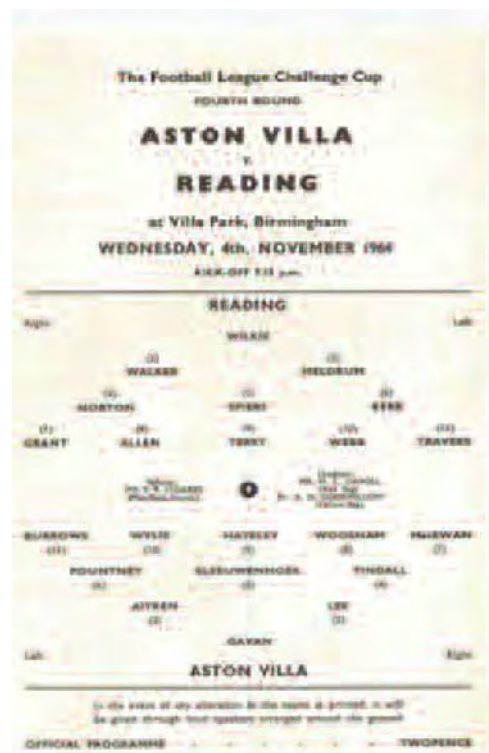
Burrows (55)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Gavan
2	Wright JM Lee
3	Aitken
4	Tindall
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Pountney
7	MacEwan
8	Woosnam
9	Hateley
10	Wylie R
11	Burrows

Reading (Division 3)

1	Wilkie
2	Walker Bridger
3	Meldrum
4	Norton
5	Spiers
6	Kerr
7	Grant
8	Allen Shreeve
9	Terry
10	Webb
11	Travers



The managers:

Mr R Taylor

Mr R Bentley

Officials

Referee: S R Stoakes (Mansfield, Notts.)

Linesman (red): D C Davoll

Linesman (yellow): A H Goodfellow (Leicester)

From 'The Royal', Reading's programme for the next League Cup meeting dated 24/9/86
 After beating First Division Fulham 3-1 away, the Royals came up against Villa. Villa were to prove much tougher opponents and they punished two defensive slips to lead 2-0. Reading then pulled a goal back through Douggie Webb, but Villa made the tie safe with a third goal near the end.

From 'The Royal', Reading's programme for the next League Cup meeting dated 24/9/86

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

In the Quarter-finals of The Football League Cup we have again be drawn at home, this time those Fourth Division "giant-killers" from Valley Parade, Bradford City, will be our opponents. The game will be played on Wednesday, November 25th, with the usual 7.15 kick-off, and, of course, as Season tickets do not apply, all must pay. The prices for admission, payable at the turnstiles on the night of the match, will be as follows: Stand seats 8/6 and 6/- (42½p and 30p), Standing Enclosures 4/- (20p), Ground 3/6 (17½p), Boys 1/6 (7½p).

From 'The Villa News & Record' 14/11/64

Monday November 23, 1964

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 7,882, Programme Price:4d (1.67p)

ASTON VILLA (4) 7

Chatterley (4)
Hateley (10)
Wylie (17)
Hateley (40)
Hateley (54)
Hateley
Burrows

BRADFORD CITY (0) 1

Price

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Sidebottom
2	Lee
3	Aitken
4	Tindall <i>Chatterley</i>
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Pountney
7	MacLeod <i>MacEwan</i>
8	Woosnam
9	Hateley
10	Wylie R
11	Burrows

Bradford City (Division 4)

1	Rollo
2	Kelly
3	Ellam
4	Wragg
5	Smith
6	Stowell
7	Walker
8	Price
9	Atkinson
10	Hellawell
11	Thorpe

The managers:

Mr R Taylor

Caretaker Manager

Officials

Referee:	K Stokes (Newark)
Linesman (red):	D A Moore
Linesman (yellow):	G A Tovey (Kidderminster)

From 'The Villa News & Record' 28/11/64

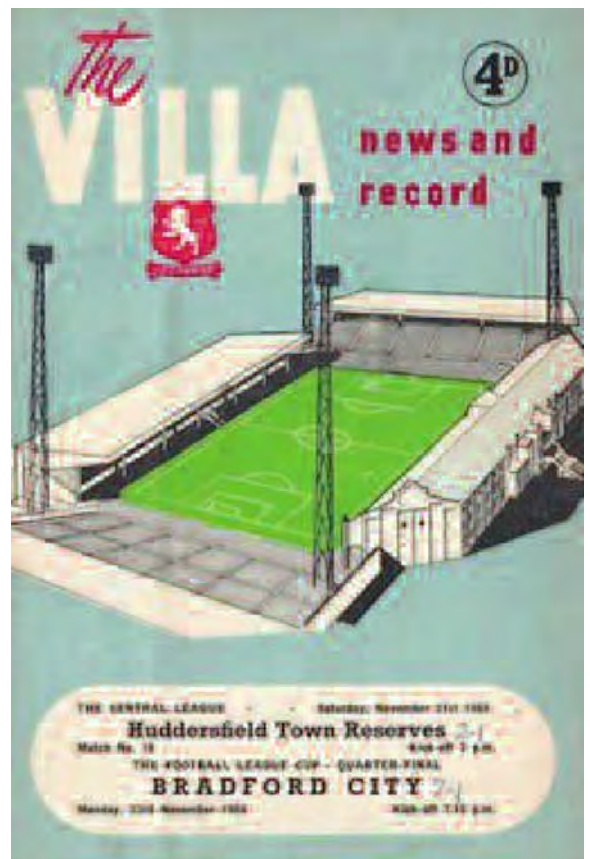
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP Quarter Final

Despite being more or less overwhelmed, last Wednesday evening, our visitors from Bradford must be com-

plimented on the sporting manner in which they never forsook trying to play clean neat football. However, the gap between the divisions was never more illustrated as the home men ran up their highest score since the inauguration of the competition. Hateley (4), Chatterley, Wylie, and Burrows were our marksman, whilst Price got a deserved consolation for the City.

This was Geoff Sidebottom's last game for Villa. In January 1965 he joined Scunthorpe United'

From 'The Villa News & Record' 28/11/64



Wednesday January 20, 1965

Semi-Final 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 12,022, Programme Price:4d (1.67p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Hateley (58)

Hateley (84)

CHELSEA (2) 3

Tambling (35)

Bridges (44)

Boyle (85)

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Withers
2	Lee
3	Aitken
4	Wylie R
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Pountney
7	Baker
8	Stobart
9	Hateley
10	Woosnam
11	MacLeod

Chelsea (Division I)

1	Bonetti
2	Hinton
3	McCreadie <i>Harris</i>
4	Hollins
5	Mortimore
6	Harris <i>Boyle</i>
7	Murray
8	Graham
9	Bridges
10	Venables
11	Tambling

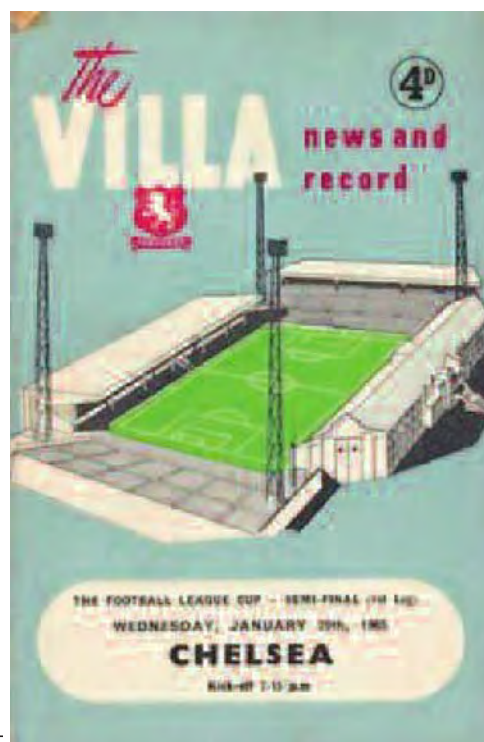
The managers:

Mr R Taylor

Mr T Docherty

Officials

Referee	M A Fussey (Retford, Notts.)
Linesman (red)	S L Evans
Linesman (yellow)	J W Tucker



Next Wednesday evening we have the return engagement with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, in the second leg of the Football League Cup Semi-final. The "Pensioners" start off a goal to the good as a result of their 3-2 win here at Villa Park, but with a little encouragement, our lads think they can overcome this. To those intending to travel may we remind you that the kick-off is at 7.30 p.m.?

From 'The Villa News & Record' 6/2/65

...being in with prize-winning hopes in three major tournaments is a new and pleasant experience for us. [Chelsea were in line for: First Division (second at this time), FA Cup (in the 6th round against Spurs) as well as the League Cup SF against Villa]. Indeed with so many major clubs side-stepping the Football League Cup, we are the first to establish such a live "treble chance" in home competition. In such circumstances the immediate game is always the most important...and tonight that is the semi-final against Villa. In the first leg at Villa Park, we set up a 2-0 lead at half time, but Villa fought back and levelled at 2-2 before John Boyle came along with the shot – to mark indelibly his first team debut – that puts us one up as we start the return leg... Not that the League Cup arouses

very great interest in London. Spurs and Arsenal have stayed out of the competition since its inception, and our own "home" crowds have been disappointing. . .

And from the Chelsea programme for the replay

Wednesday February 10, 1965

Semi-Final 2nd Leg At Stamford Bridge, Attendance: 17,425, Programme Price: 6d (2½p)

CHELSEA (0) | ASTON VILLA (1) |
 Graham (64) Hateley (30)

Chelsea win on aggregate goals

Chelsea (Division I)

1	Bonetti
2	Hinton
3	McCreadie <i>Harris</i>
4	Harris <i>Hollins</i>
5	Mortimore
6	Upton <i>Boyle</i>
7	Fascione <i>Murray</i>
8	Graham
9	Bridges
10	McCalliog
11	Tambling

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Withers
2	Wright JM
3	Aitken
4	Parker
5	Chatterley
6	Deakin
7	Baker
8	Park
9	Hateley
10	Woosnam
11	Burrows

The managers:

Mr T Docherty

Mr R Taylor

Officials

Referee	L Callaghan (Merthyr Tydfil)
Linesman (red)	J Carter (Ilford)
Linesman (yellow)	A F Mason (Swindon)



I have the programme (above) and was going to bid on eBay for the corresponding ticket in March 2013. However after 10 days the ticket sold for £451.00!!!

[Chelsea then beat Leicester City in the final]

1965/66

Tuesday September 21, 1965

Round 2 At Vetch Field, Attendance: 9,635 (9,858), Programme Price: 6d (2½p)

SWANSEA TOWN (I) 2

Allchurch (34)

Todd (49)

ASTON VILLA (I) 3

MacLeod (44)

Woosnam (47)

Woosnam (71)

Swansea Town (Division 3)

1	Black
2	Evans
3	Ward
4	Purcell
5	Johnson
6	Jones
7	Humphries
8	Allchurch
9	Todd
10	Hughes
11	McLaughlin

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Withers
2	Wright JM
3	Aitken
4	Tindall
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Pountney
7	MacLeod
8	Hamilton
9	Hateley
10	Woosnam
11	Park

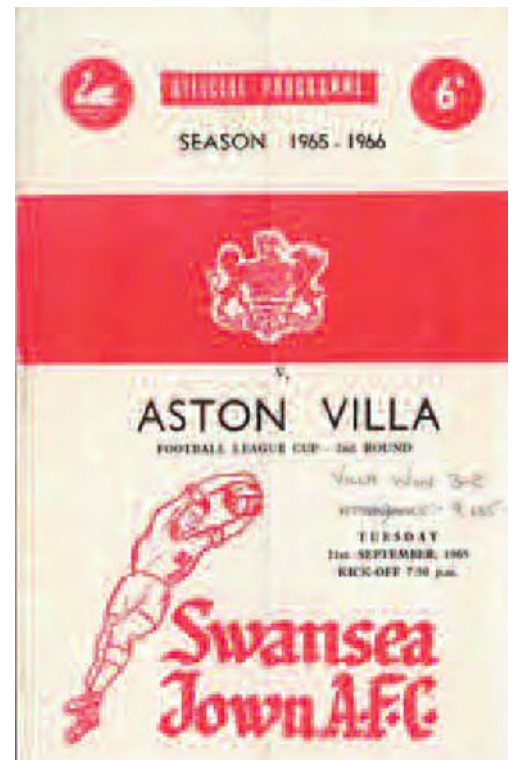
The managers:

Mr R Taylor

Mr G Davies

The Officials

Referee	D W Smith (Stonehouse, Glos.)
Linesman (red)	D A Munday
Linesman (yellow)	T Jenkins (Newport, Monmouth)



This season Villa have defeated Swansea 3-2, at Swansea, two of the goals being scored by Welsh international Phil Woosnam and the other by Scottish international outside-right John MacLeod. They had to fight tremendously hard to overcome the Welsh side, however, who gave a very courageous display after being reduced to ten men in the tenth minute. It seems certain Villa will have to tackle us without their free-scoring centre-forward Tony Hateley, who has been in hospital following an injury received in their home game with Tottenham at the end of last month.

From the Sunderland programme for the next round

Wednesday October 13, 1965

Round 3 At Roker Park, Attendance: 19,723, Programme Price 6d (2½p)

SUNDERLAND (0) 1

McNab (64)

ASTON VILLA (2) 2

Tindall (7)

Woosnam (17)

Sunderland (Division I)

- 1 Montgomery
- 2 Irwin Hurley
- 3 Ashurst
- 4 Parke
- 5 Harvey
- 6 McNab
- 7 Hellowell
- 8 Herd
- 9 Sharkey
- 10 Baxter
- 11 Gauden

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Withers
- 2 Wright JM
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Tindall
- 5 Sleenwenhoek
- 6 Deakin
- 7 MacLeod
- 8 Hamilton
- 9 Pountney
- 10 Woosnam
- 11 Park

The managers:

Mr I McColl

Mr R Taylor



The Officials

- Referee H P Hackney (Barnsley)
- Linesman (red) J A Burke
- Linesman (yellow) L Meadows

Should there be a replay

In the event of our Fourth round tie with Fulham next Wednesday ending all square, the replay will be on the following Monday, November 8th, with the kick-off at 7.30. Season tickets are not applicable for this game, but admission may be obtained on the night of the match by payment at the respective turnstile. The following prices will apply: Seats in the Trinity Road stand will be available at 10/- and 7/6, and in the Witton Lane stand at 6/-. Admission to the ground will be at the normal League prices.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 30/10/65

Wednesday November 3, 1965

Round 4 At Craven Cottage, Attendance: 10,083, Programme Price 6d (2½p)

FULHAM (0) I
Haynes 44

ASTON VILLA (1) I
Stobart 80

Fulham(Division I)

- 1 Macedo
- 2 Cohen
- 3 Nicholls
- 4 Pearson
- 5 Keetch
- 6 Robson
- 7 Key
- 8 Marsh *Leggatt*
- 9 Dempsey
- 10 Haynes
- 11 Dyson

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Withers
- 2 Wright JM
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Tindall
- 5 Sleeuwenhoek
- 6 Deakin
- 7 MacLeod *Stobart*
- 8 Hamilton *Baker*
- 9 Hateley
- 10 Woosnam *Park*
- 11 Scott

The managers:

Mr V Buckingham

Mr R Taylor



The Officials

- Referee J R Osborne
- (Ipswich)
- Linesman (red) W Morris
- Linesman (yellow) K H G Gates

Continued from last Wednesday
 With a much changed forward line, enforced by injuries and the like to Phil Woosnam, Willie Hamilton and Johnny MacLeod, we were held to a one-all draw last Wednesday in the Football League Cup fourth round tie at Craven Cottage. It is therefore our privilege to welcome to welcome a continuation with Fulham and another fine sporting contest from Johnny Haynes and his eleven.

From 'The Villa News & Record' for the replay

Monday November 8, 1965

Round 4 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 18,536, Programme Price 3d (1¼p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 FULHAM (0) 0

Woosnam (52)

Woosnam (85)

Aston Villa	(Division I)	Fulham	(Division I)
1	Withers <i>Gavan</i>	1	Macedo <i>McClelland</i>
2	Wright <i>JJM</i>	2	Cohen <i>Keetch</i>
3	Aitken	3	Nicholls
4	Tindall <i>Parker</i>	4	Pearson <i>Brown</i>
5	Sleeuwenhoek	5	Keetch <i>Dempsey</i>
6	Deakin	6	Robson <i>Callaghan</i>
7	MacLeod	7	Key
8	Hamilton	8	Leggatt <i>Haynes</i>
9	Hateley	9	Dempsey <i>Leggatt</i>
10	Woosnam	10	Haynes <i>O'Connell</i>
11	Scott	11	Dyson

The managers:

Mr R Taylor

Mr V Buckingham

The Officials

Referee	J R Osborne (Ipswich)
	R Tinkler (Boston)
Linesman (red)	K H G Gates
Linesman (yellow)	W Morris

Replay incentive

Our replay with Fulham in the Football League Cup had the incentive of an attractive Fifth round tie to follow, and one that West Bromwich Albion and Coventry City were especially keen to participate in. Both rivals had representatives present to size up the opposition, but it was a night when we were hardly at our best although proving too good for Fulham.

The Fifth round draw for the Football League Cup, to be played on Wednesday, November 17th, is as follows:

Cardiff City v Ipswich Town
 Grimsby Town v West Ham United
 Peterborough United v Burnley
 West Bromwich Albion v **ASTON VILLA**

From 'The Villa News & Record' 13/11/65:



Wednesday November 17, 1965

Round 5 At The Hawthorns, Attendance: 40,694, Programme Price 6d (2½p)

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (2) 3	ASTON VILLA (0) 1
Brown (19)	Hateley (65)
Kaye (35)	
Kaye (69)	

West Bromwich Albion (Division I) Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Sheppard	1	Gavan
2	Cram	2	Wright JM
3	Fairfax	3	Aitken
4	Lovett	4	Parker
5	Jones	5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Fraser	6	Pountney
7	Brown	7	MacLeod
8	Astle	8	Hamilton
9	Kaye	9	Hateley
10	Hope	10	Woosnam
11	Clark	11	Scott

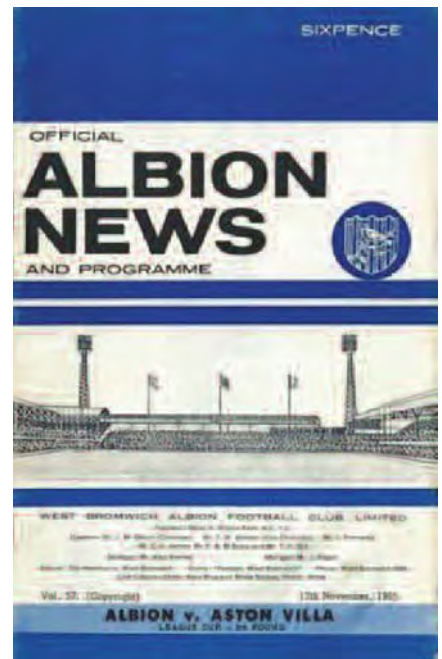
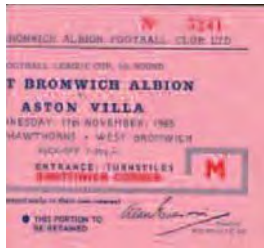
The managers:

Mr J Hagan

Mr R Taylor

The Officials

Referee	D W Smith (Stonehouse, Glos.)
Linesman (red)	P J Mason (Highfields, Staffs.)
Linesman (yellow)	P E James (Stoke, Coventry)



This was the first year that West Bromwich Albion entered the League Cup. They went on to lose in the final to West Ham.

1966/67



In this year it was announced by FIFA that the League Cup winners would qualify for the European Fairs Cup competition. QPR won the cup, but could not enter the Fairs Cup, as it was decreed that only clubs from the top division were admissible! QPR had won the Division 3 (present Npower League 1) championship.

This was the first year that Arsenal, Spurs and Wolves competed in the Cup – but Liverpool and Everton did not.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 3/9/66

Wednesday September 14, 1966

Round 2 At The Hawthorns, Attendance: 25,039, Programme Price 6d (2½p)

WEST BROMWICH (3) 6

Fraser (12)
Fraser (19)
Hope (29)
Clark (57)
Hope (70)
Hope (83)

ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Hateley (60 pen)

West Bromwich Albion (Division I) Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Sheppard	1	Withers
2	Cram	2	Bradley
3	Fairfax <i>Collard</i>	3	Aitken
4	Lovett	4	Tindall
5	Jones	5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Fraser	6	Deakin
7	Brown <i>Foggo</i>	7	MacLeod
8	Astle	8	Hamilton Park
9	Kaye	9	Hateley
10	Hope	10	Chatterley
11	Clark	11	Scott

The managers:

Mr J Hagan

Mr R Taylor

The Officials

Referee	L Callaghan (Merthyr Tydfil)
Linesman (red)	H Vickers (Crewe)
Linesman (yellow)	J C Sollis (Kenilworth)



OUR VISITORS

For the second time in two seasons we are hosts to Aston Villa in the Football League Cup. This is, of course, our first defence of the trophy since we were successful in our first entry into the competition last season, and consequently we are anxious to do well. They then gave a resume of Villa's League Cup progress in the previous years, and then went on... Last season's game came close to establishing a new gate record for the League Cup; 40,694 came to the match. The record is 41,188 for Albion v. Walsall in a previous round, but the receipts for the Villa game £10,235 2s 0d were the highest for our matches in the competition. Both of us have made a rather bumpy start to the season and it is difficult to forecast what tonight's crowd will be. We hope it's a big one. The atmosphere of a big crowd is so much better.

From 'The Albion News' for this match

The 'Villa News & Record' did not mention the match, apart



from giving the teams and the score, not surprising really!

This year West Bromwich went to the final again, only to lose this time to QPR

By 1967 the Football League Cup had gained some credence, possibly by the Final now being at Wembley instead of the two-legged tie, though the semi-finals remained on a home and away basis. The clubs reported the change. This extract is from the Northampton Town programme of 14th November 1967, though the details are from the week ending October 24th:

THIS LOOKS LIKE being a record season for the Football League Cup. Attendances at ties in the first and second round were the best for six years. Those for the third round beat last season's record takings by £5,000 without even taking into account the gates at this week's three replays.

Widely criticised in its formative years as being unnecessary, this new venture was not generally accepted as a major Tournament until last season (its seventh) when all the 92 Clubs except the League Champions (Manchester United) and F.A. Cup winners (Tottenham Hotspur) entered and the Final at Wembley attracted a 97,952 crowd.

The receipts (£57,667) were three times as much as the takings at any of the previous six two-legged finals and the record attendance, again for two matches, was 69,851 (for Villa v Birmingham) in 1963.

This justification of its sponsors' faith in the tournament as a means of meeting the public's need for more variety and competitiveness has been confirmed by the continued success this Season.

Three rounds, one incomplete, have drawn 1,052,332 spectators – a total only three times exceeded by any Season's complete returns, with 1,394,553 for 1966/67 being easily the record.

This total obviously will be well beaten this Season, and no-one will be more delighted than Sir Joseph Richards, who was League President when the Tournament was launched in 1960.

He not only gave it his blessing, but provided the trophy at his own expense. At the time, he insisted that there was room for both the League Cup and the League Championship. He has been proved right by the fact that both competitions are thriving.

1967/68

Wednesday September 13, 1967

Round 2 At The County Ground, Attendance: 11,832, Programme Price 6d (2½p)

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (1) 3 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Machin (32 pen)

Scott (90)

Hall (56)

Large (76)

Northampton Town (Division 3)

1	Harvey
2	Mackin
3	Faulkes
4	Kurila
5	Carr
6	Keirnan
7	Felton
8	Martin
9	Large
10	Hall
11	Lines
12	Best

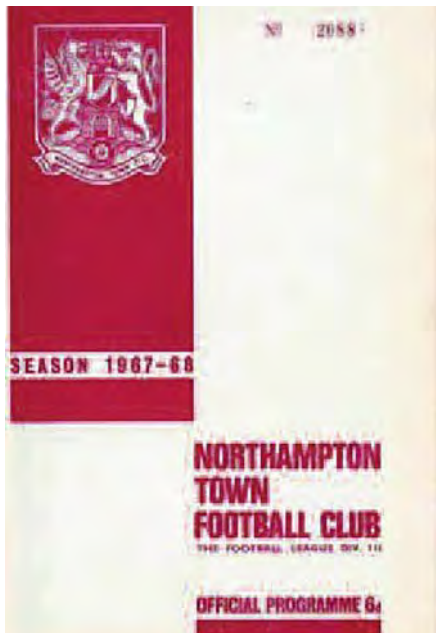
Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Withers
2	Bradley
3	Aitken
4	Chatterley
5	Sleeuwenhoek
6	Deakin
7	Anderson
8	Martin
9	Park
10	Inglis (12 Wright JM)
11	Scott
12	Wright JM

The managers:

Mr A Marchi

Mr T Cummings



The Officials

Referee	M C H Burtenshaw (Great Yarmouth)
Linesman (red)	L H Holland (Oxford)
Linesman (yellow)	K E Teaves (Charlbury, Oxon)

John Inglis made his second and final first team appearance for Villa in this match before moving to Crewe Alexandra in July 1968.

The cover of Northampton's programme makes no mention that this was a League Cup tie, but inside it had all the usual pen pictures, etc., of the Villa.

[Northampton lost in the 3rd round to Millwall 1-5 in a replay]

1968/69

Wednesday September 4, 1968

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,775, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

ASTON VILLA (0) | TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (1) 4

Martin (54)

Jones (41)

Chivers (53)

Chivers (57)

Chivers (76)

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Dunn
- 2 Wright JM
- 3 Aitken (12 Park (83))
- 4 Edwards
- 5 Turnbull
- 6 Park Deakin
- 7 Ferguson (c)
- 8 Mitchinson
- 9 Woodward
- 10 Godfrey Martin
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Park

Tottenham Hotspur (Division 1)

- 1 Jennings
- 2 Kinnear
- 3 Knowles
- 4 Mullery
- 5 England
- 6 Beal
- 7 Robertson Jones
- 8 Greaves
- 9 Chivers
- 10 Venables Bond
- 11 Gilzean
- 12



The managers:

Mr T Cummings

Mr W Nicholson

The Officials

Referee E D Wallace (Swindon)

Linesman (red) P T Beaumont

Linesman (yellow) R G Boyles (Derby)



Playing well above their Division Two showing, Villa failed to get the breaks that would have given

them a three goal lead before Spurs scored the pre-interval psychological goal. Martin kept the home team in the game by reducing the lead to 2-1, but Spurs kept their 'run of the ball' and forged ahead following a tragic back-pass. A lively game, with both teams – in particular the Villa – being applauded from the field.

Match Report from 'The Villa News & Record' 14/9/68

Views on Villa

Aston Villa lost their League Cup second round tie to Tottenham Hotspur, but not without some measure of praise. With due deference to the media, and their contributors, we publish a cross-section of Views on Villa.

Brian James in The Daily Mail said: 'Aston Villa, first winners of the League Cup, lost in the second round last night to a Spurs team trying as hard as they knew how. They were forced to, after an indifferent start, for the result could so easily have been reversed. Only luck was missing from Villa's brisk assault. They could have been three goals up before Tottenham took their first'.

And in the Daily Sketch, Jeff Farmer wrote: 'It is not often that a team are beaten 4-1 at home and are then applauded off the pitch. But it happened last night'.

From the newspapers of 5/9/68

On 22nd March 1969 Villa Park hosted the FA Cup Semi-final between Manchester City and Everton.

The receipts were a [then] Villa Park record of £38,929 10s.

[Spurs lost to Arsenal 1-2 on aggregate in the semi-final]



In the centre of the programme dated 15/3/69 was an eight page prospectus on pink paper, the front of which is shown above. As can be seen it invited all supporters to buy shares in the Villa at £5 each, and gave various benefits to the shareholders. The 5% discount on season tickets, for example, meant that a Witton Lane season (Door T, Row J, seat 73) costing £13, would be reduced to £12/7/0d (£12.35) and a Trinity Road ticket (Door H, Row L, seat 47) originally £10 would now be £9/10/0d (£9.50). Did anyone want any?

1969/70

Wednesday August 13, 1969

Round 1 At The Stadium, Sealand Road, Attendance: 10,510, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

CHESTER (0) 1
Dearden (75)

ASTON VILLA (1) 2
McMahon (18)
Hamilton (55)

15/-.

Standing Tickets

Tickets at 5/- and enclosure tickets at 7/- Will be on sale at Villa Park tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Postal applications for standing tickets cannot be accepted.

Police advise no overnight queueing will be allowed.

Tickets for other parts of the terraces are still available. The Ticket Office, in the Carriage Drive, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to personal callers and again after tonight's match. The office will also be open on Saturday, but NOT next Monday (Bank Holiday). Postal applications can be accepted, enclosing correct remittance and s.a.e.

Tickets are also available in the evenings (7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.) at the Lions Club, and, again next Sunday, between noon and 2 p.m.

And just a reminder about the kick-off. The game starts at 7, 45 p.m.

And from 'The Villa News & Record' 27/8/69

Wednesday September 3, 1969

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 40,303, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

ASTON VILLA (0) I WEST BROMWICH (1) 2

Hole (71)

Suggett (22)

Astle (78)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Williams E
- 2 Wright JM
- 3 Aitken
- 4 McMahon Hole
- 5 Edwards
- 6 Tiler
- 7 Ferguson Anderson
- 8 Hamilton
- 9 Simmons McMahon
- 10 Rioch B
- 11 Anderson Griffiths
- 12 Ferguson

West Bromwich Albion (Division 1)

- 1 Osborne
- 2 Fraser
- 3 Williams G Merrick
- 4 Brown
- 5 Talbut
- 6 Kaye
- 7 Hegan Suggett
- 8 Suggett Hughes
- 9 Krzywicki Astle
- 10 Hope
- 11 Hartford
- 12 Hegan

The managers:

Mr T Docherty

Mr A Ashman

The Officials

Referee B J Homewood (Sunbury-on-Thames)

Linesman (red) J H Smith (Groby Leics.)



Linesman (yellow) K W Baker (Rugby)

Some nostalgia about the last League Cup meeting (14/9/66) comes from 'The Villa News & Record' 27/8/69

So Charlie Aitken is Villa's 'odd Man out'

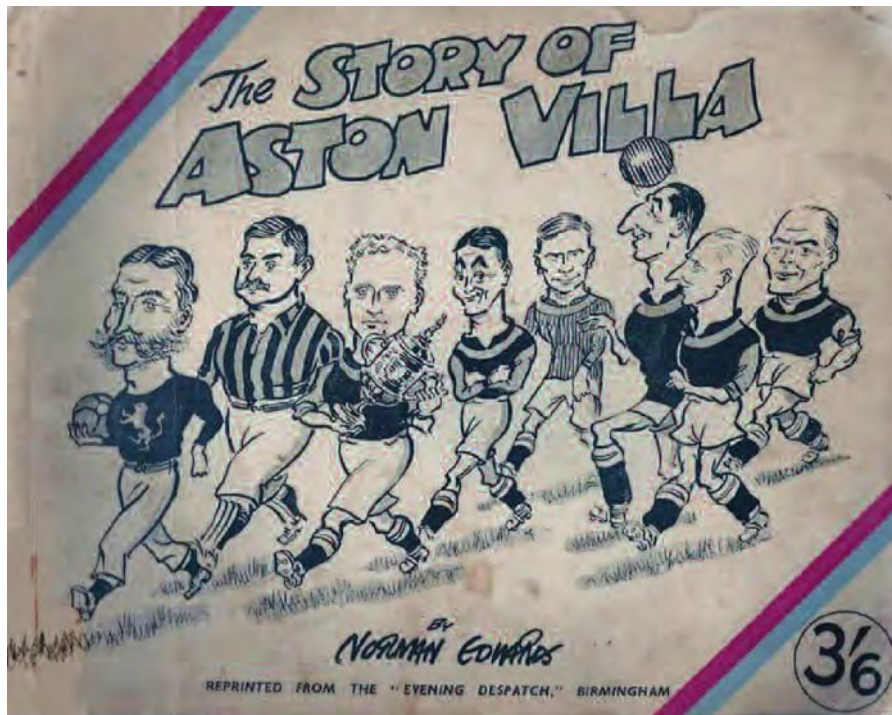


Forgive Charlie Aitken if he looks something of a 'stranger' when he turns out in next Wednesday's glamorous League Cup clash against Albion at Villa Park (7.45 p.m.).

The reason: it will almost three years to the date of the last Albion-Villa match in the League Cup. And it is likely that Charlie will be Villa's only survivor from the first game. In fact, only four members of that Villa side (beaten, dare we mention it, by 6-1) remain on the club staff – Aitken, Keith Bradley, Alan Deakin and Lew Chat-terley. The Albion camp has also undergone major transformation, but their regular squad still includes... Bobby Hope and Duggie Fraser are still star First Division men, while John Kaye, now a defender instead of a No. 9 striker, and Jeff Astle still remain...

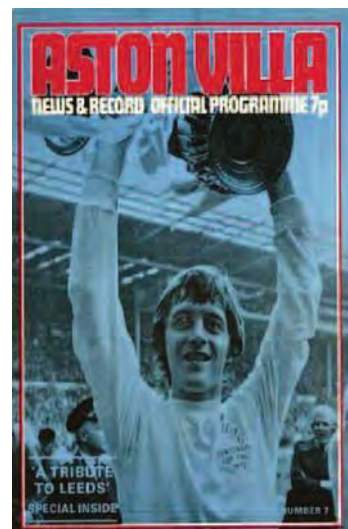
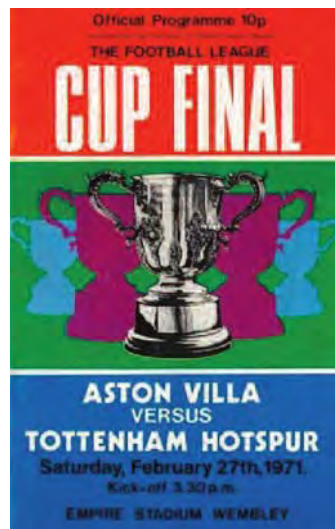
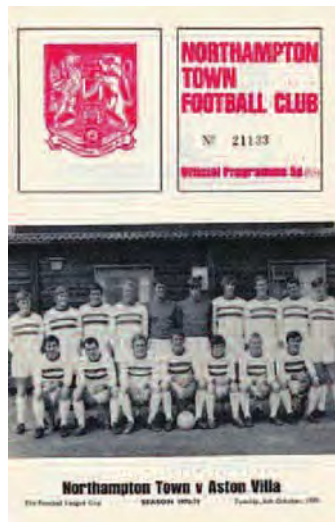
Some nostalgia about the last League Cup meeting (14/9/66) comes from 'The Villa News & Record' 27/8/69

West Bromwich lost again in the final, this time to Manchester City



Just a little bit of nostalgia!

1970 to 1980



1970/71

Wednesday August 19, 1970

Round 1 At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,843, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

ASTON VILLA (3) 4 NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0

Anderson (20)

McMahon (26)

Rioch B (40)

Hamilton (62)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Dunn
2	Wright JM
3	Aitken
4	Godfrey
5	Curtis
6	Chatterley
7	McMahon
8	Rioch B
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson
12	Brown

Notts County (Division 4)

1	Watling
2	Brindley
3	Worthington
4	Oakes
5	Needham
6	Stubbs (12 Ball)
7	Hobson
8	Bradd
9	Barker
10	Masson
11	Crickmore
12	Ball

The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr J Sirrel

The Officials

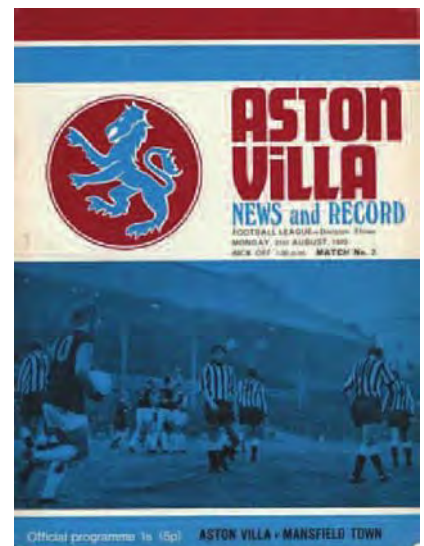
Referee J G D Lewis (Port Talbot, Glamorgan)

Linesman (red) W D Cashmore (Stoke on Trent)

Linesman (yellow) E Blunstone (Crewe)

Seven up for Villa's attack!

The League Cup triumph over Notts County gave Villa a satisfying seven-goal start from their first two matches of the campaign [they had beaten Chesterfield 3-2 away in the first League match]. But even a three-goal first-half romp was no more than we owed the loyal crowd of nearly 18,000 who braved one of the wettest nights for football in years. The scoring was started by Willie Anderson, roaming in from the right to plant a left-foot shot on Charlie Aitken's centre. Goal No. 2 was a well-timed header from Pat McMahon and the third was a typical Bruce Rioch 'rocket' from a free kick just



This is not the Notts County programme, though I do have it – it is in the same format. This one shows Ian Hamilton taking the ball back to the centre circle, whilst in the background the Villa players congratulate Bruce Rioch, who has just made the score 3-0

outside the area, which flashed past goalkeeper Barry Watling. Not to be outdone, Chico Hamilton weighed in with the fourth in the second half.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 31/8/70:

Wednesday September 9, 1970

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 28,341, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 BURNLEY (0) 0

Hamilton (65)

Martin (81)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Dunn
2	Wright M
3	Aitken
4	Tiler
5	Curtis <i>Turnbull</i>
6	Chatterley <i>Brown</i>
7	McMahon
8	Godfrey
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson (<i>12 Martin</i>)
12	Martin

Burnley (Division 1)

1	Walters
2	Angus
3	Ternent
4	Docherty
5	Waldron
6	Thomson
7	Thomas
8	Coates
9	Casper <i>Bellamy</i>
10	Probert
11	Kindon (<i>12 Collins</i>)
12	Collins

The managers:

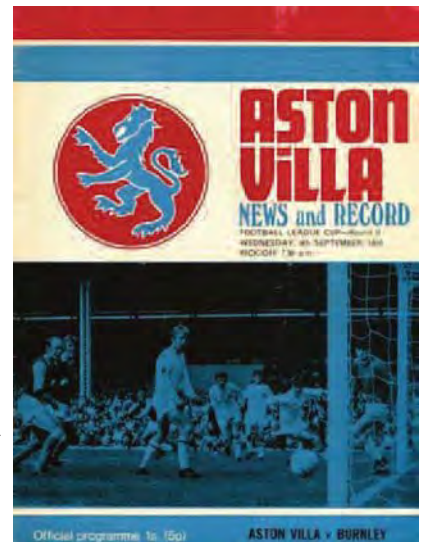
Mr V Crowe

Mr J Adamson

The Officials

Referee	R Barker (Crewe)
Linesman (red)	G M Hughes (Ross-on-Wye)
Linesman (yellow)	H B Worman (Crabbs Cross, Worcs)

Jimmy Brown was just 16 years, 341 days old when he played for the Villa in this match. He is, so far, the youngest player to represent Villa in the League Cup



Tuesday October 6, 1970

Round 3 At The County Ground, Attendance: 15,072, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (1) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Large (37)

Hamilton (23)

Northampton Town (Division 4)

- 1 Book
- 2 Fairfax
- 3 Brookes
- 4 Clarke
- 5 Rankmore
- 6 Keirnan
- 7 Felton *McNeil*
- 8 East
- 9 Large
- 10 Ross
- 11 Fairbrother
- 12 McNeil *Hawkins*

Aston Villa (Division 3)

- 1 Dunn
- 2 Wright M
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Tiler
- 5 Turnbull
- 6 Chatterley
- 7 McMahan
- 8 Anderson
- 9 Lochhead
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Gibson
- 12 Brown

The managers:

Mr D Bowen

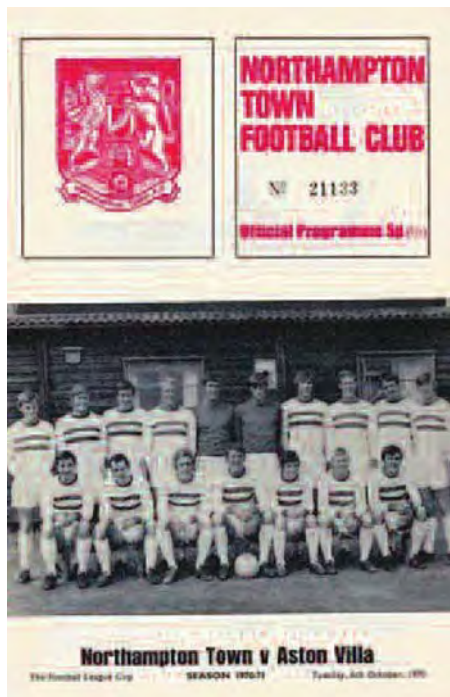
Mr V Crowe

The Officials

- Referee J Finney (Hereford)
- Linesman (red) A H Cooper (Norfolk)
- Linesman (yellow) J Smith (Groby, Leics.)

From the programme for the replay:

...In the League Cup, they have eliminated Scunthorpe United and York City after being drawn away and they are still highly confident of being able to repeat their 3-1 victory over us in the 1967-68 League Cup. Another feather in Northampton's cap was that they beat us twice in their First Division season – their only double at the top level.



Tuesday October 13, 1970

Round 3 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 25,822, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 NORTHAMPTON TOWN (0) 0

Lochhead (39)

Anderson (55)

Lochhead (65)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Dunn
2	Wright M
3	Aitken
4	Tiler <i>Godfrey</i>
5	Turnbull
6	Chatterley <i>Tiler</i>
7	Godfrey <i>Brown</i>
8	Anderson <i>Gibson</i>
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Gibson <i>Anderson</i>
12	Curtis

Northampton Town (Division 4)

1	Book
2	Fairfax <i>Neal</i>
3	Brookes
4	Clarke
5	Rankmore
6	Keirnan
7	McNeil
8	East
9	Large
10	Ross (<i>12 Townsend</i>)
11	Fairbrother
12	Townsend

The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr D Bowen

The Officials

Referee J Finney (Hereford)

Linesman (red) R J Boyles (Derby)

Linesman (orange) J B Goggins (Manchester)

From 'The Villa News & Record' for the match on 17/10/70

Two more goals from top-form Andy Lochhead took us into the last 16 of the League Cup with a 3 – 0 victory over Northampton Town. He stabbed home the first from Jimmy Brown's cross, and shot confidently past Kim Book for his second. Between Andy's goals Willie Anderson floated his over the 'keeper.

From 'The Villa News & Record' for the match on 17/10/70

Wednesday October 28, 1970

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,779, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 CARLISLE UNITED (0) 0

Tiler (67)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Dunn
2	Wright M <i>Bradley</i>
3	Aitken
4	Godfrey
5	Curtis
6	Turnbull
7	McMahon
8	Tiler
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson
12	Chatterley

Carlisle United (Division 2)

1	Ross
2	Hemstead
3	Davis
4	Ternent
5	Winstanley
6	Sutton
7	Martin (<i>12 Owen</i>)
8	Barton
9	Hatton
10	Owen <i>Kinsella</i>
11	Balderstone
12	Owen

The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr R Stokoe

The Officials

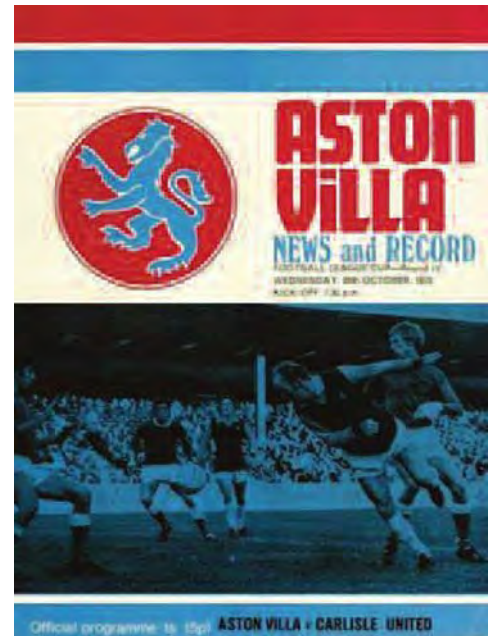
Referee	G Hartley (Wakefield)
Linesman (red)	T J Hopkins (Pontypridd)
Linesman (orange)	E G Yeomans (Derby)

The Other View

Villa 1 Carlisle 0

Not even Dodgin & Son, the family concern who have taken Fulham and Bristol Rovers within two games of Wembley could have conjured a more dramatic situation. For 67 minutes Villa played treadmill soccer, running and puffing madly and getting nowhere against a Carlisle blockade. Then came a goalmouth melee in which Aitken and Lochhead had shots blocked on the line before Tiler forced the ball in with his foot. The goal will earn Villa a Fortune, yet their game must improve considerably if they are to stay on the Wembley trail. Carlisle with one defeat in their previous 13 games had Ternent sweeping skilfully behind a defence that marked man for man. It was both realistic and effective but it limited the Second Division side to a handful of shots and produced a game that would have died of boredom but for the suspense. (quoted from 'The Daily Mail')

From 'The Villa News & Record'



Tuesday November 17, 1970

Round 5 At Eastville Stadium, Attendance: 28,780, Programme price: 1/- (5p)

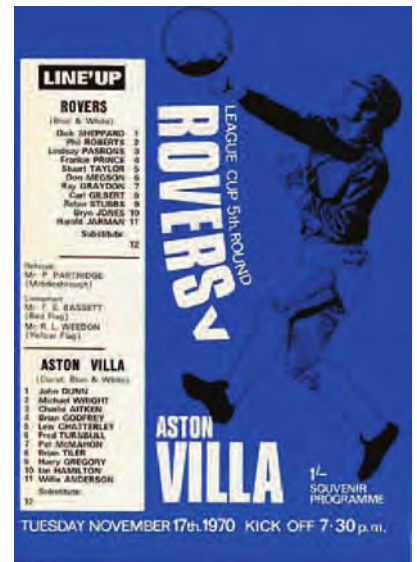
BRISTOL ROVERS (1) | ASTON VILLA (1) |
 Taylor (30) | McMahon (1)

Bristol Rovers (Division 3)

1	Sheppard
2	Roberts
3	Parsons
4	Prince
5	Taylor
6	Megson
7	Graydon
8	Gibert
9	Stubbs
10	Jones B
11	Jarman (12 Jones R)
12	Jones R

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Dunn
2	Wright M (12 Rioch N)
3	Aiken
4	Godfrey
5	Chatterley Turnbull
6	Turnbull Tiler
7	McMahon
8	Tiler B Brown
9	Gregory Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson
12	Rioch N



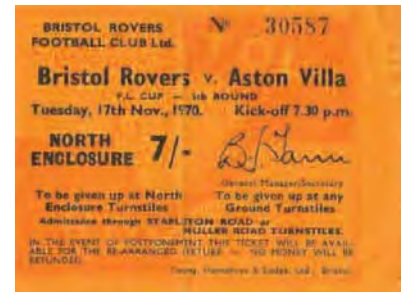
The managers:

Mr W Dodgin Snr

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

Referee	P Partridge (Stockton-On-Tees)
Linesman (red)	F E Bassett
Linesman (yellow)	R L Weedon



Aston Villa were the first ever team to play Bristol Rovers at Eastville on 3rd April 1897

It really was a champagne occasion at Eastville last week when Bristol Rovers and ourselves played to a standstill and the deadlock which brought tonight's replay. After the match Bill Dodgin senior, sent in a couple of bottles of bubbly to our dressing room – a wonderful gesture which was greatly appreciated by us all... Even the appalling conditions in the first game could not dampen the quality of the football, or the positive attitude of the players. So many others, I feel would have squelched their way around for the first few minutes and then given it all up as a bad job. Instead, Villa and Bristol Rovers shrugged off the handicaps and made it a match to remember. There was also drama that was not noticed. I came very close to pulling off Brian Godfrey when he was hurt, but Brian himself asked for "another five minutes" to see if his knee injury would improve. Had I acted on impulse and taken him off there and then we would have been in desperate trouble because five minutes later Michael Wright was hurt and had to come off with the injury that that meant surgery for cartilage trouble. So let battle commence once again, and here's hoping – and believing – that we are in for another football feast.

From The Vic Crowe Column in the programme for the replay

Wednesday November 25, 1970

Round 5 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 37,525 (36,483), Programme price: 1/- (5p)

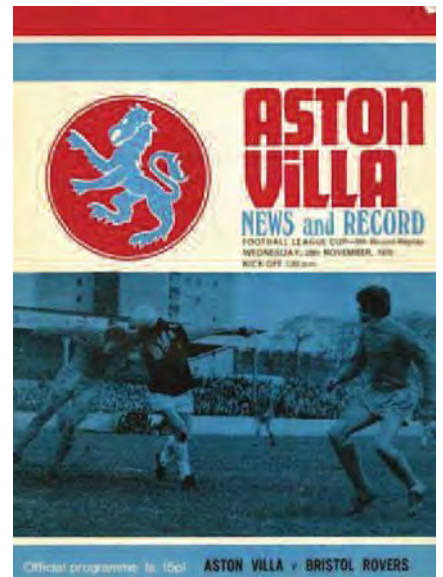
ASTON VILLA (0) I BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0
McMahon (88)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

- 1 Dunn
- 2 Bradley
- 3 Aiken
- 4 Godfrey
- 5 Chatterley *Turnbull*
- 6 Turnbull *Tiler*
- 7 McMahan
- 8 Brown
- 9 Gregory *Lochhead*
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Chatterley

Bristol Rovers (Division 3)

- 1 Sheppard
- 2 Roberts
- 3 Parsons
- 4 Prince
- 5 Taylor
- 6 Megson
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Gibert
- 9 Stubbs
- 10 Jones B
- 11 Jarman
- 12 Jones R



The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr W Dodgin Snr

The Officials

- Referee P Partridge (Stockton-On-Tees)
- Linesman (red) R N Perkin (Stafford)
- Linesman (orange) H Powell (Stourport)



Pat 'The Poacher' McMahan scored the two goals which decided Villa's quarter-final issue with promotion rivals Bristol Rovers. The first match, at Eastville, was only 52 seconds old, and in the replay he seized the only goal.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 23/12/70

And:

NO BANNERS AT OLD TRAFFORD

Manchester United secretary Les Olive reminds our followers travelling to the League Cup Semi-Final: "During the last few seasons my club decided that supporters who carry banners or flags on poles would not be admitted to the ground at future matches." This is because United received many complaints from spectators who had been injured by banner-waving.

This game was due to be played on Wednesday December 9, 1970, but was postponed, and played on the 16th. This caused the second leg to be moved to the 23rd.

Wednesday December 16, 1970

Semi Final 1st Leg At Old Trafford, Attendance: 49,000 (48,889), Programme price: 1/- (5p)

MANCHESTER UNITED (1) | ASTON VILLA (1) |

Kidd (45)

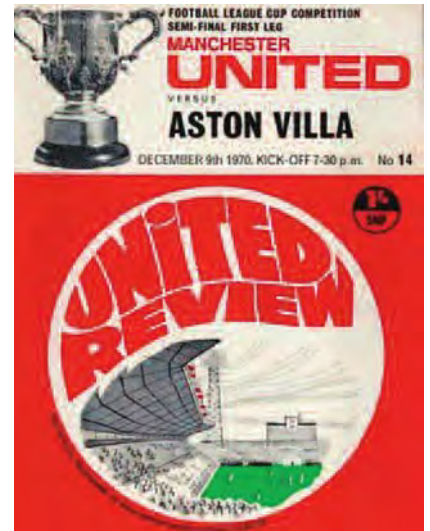
Lochhead (41)

Manchester United (Division 1)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Watson
- 3 Dunne
- 4 Fitzpatrick
- 5 James
- 6 Sadler *Stiles*
- 7 Law *Sartori*
- 8 Best
- 9 Charlton R
- 10 Kidd
- 11 Aston
- 12 Gowling

Aston Villa (Division 3)

- 1 Dunn
- 2 Bradley
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Godfrey
- 5 Turnbull
- 6 Tiler B
- 7 McMahon
- 8 Rioch B *Gibson*
- 9 Lochhead
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Brown



The managers:

Mr W McGuinness

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

- Referee G Hartley (Wakefield)
- Linesman (red) T Farley (Co. Durham)
- Linesman (orange) C Taylor (Doncaster)

This was Villa's 50th League Cup match, and after it the statistics were:

P	W	D	L	F	A
50	27	13	10	109	71

1970/71 was also only the fourth time that Manchester United had entered the League Cup.

Just Great!

An admiring Old Trafford crowd of 49000 rose to our performance in gaining a 1-1 draw in the first leg of the League Cup semi-final a week ago. "Just like old times," said the 8000 Villa contingent who forgot the Third Division for 90 minutes and remembered our regular League trips to the great Manchester ground. Andy Lochhead put us in front in the 40yh minute, but United eased the blow when Brian Kidd hooked home a great scissors-kick on the stroke of half-time. On a great night for our defence one of the vital incidents was a goalmouth clearance by Fred Turnbull from John Fitzpatrick.

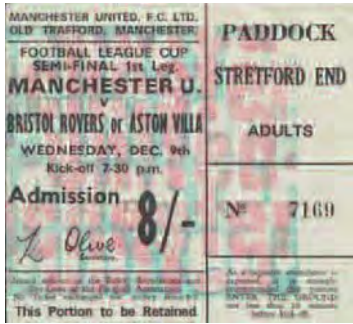
From 'The Villa News & Record' for the semi-final second leg

The Other View

Manchester United | Aston Villa |

United were given few chances to show their skills and when openings presented themselves, they were not accepted. Little had been seen of Charlton until he drove the ball high over the Villa cross-bar and out of sight at the Stretford end, where it remained. The replacement quickly found a resting place in the United net, and this time the goal counted. James was beaten by Hamilton and the ball ran loose to Lochhead who had no difficulty in scoring in the 37th minute. Eric Todd (The Guardian) Urged by their 8000 supporters, who even managed to silence the Stretford End for a time, Villa

troubled the Manchester defence with speed and enthusiasm. Lochhead, Gibson and the wily Hamilton were particularly dangerous. Denis Lowe (Daily Telegraph) Aston Villa playing with poise, flair and team-work shook Old Trafford to its proud foundations with Villa's finest display in years. Alan Williams (Daily Express) It was no cup fluke. United, still under the blue shadow cast over them in last Saturday's 4-1 derby humiliation by Manchester City, were a clear second best. Maybe it's too much to suggest that these two teams will be Second Division bed mates next season but last night Villa dramatically closed the gap. And fans, who are too accustomed to showering praise on the shaggy head of George Best, had to acknowledge Villa's balding hero Andy Lochhead.



from 'The Villa News & Record' 28/12/70

Wednesday December 23, 1970

Semi Final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 56,667 (62,500), Programme price: 2/- (10p)

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 MANCHESTER UNITED (1) 1

Lochhead (37) Kidd (14)
McMahon (72)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Dunn
2	Bradley
3	Aitken
4	Godfrey
5	Turnbull
6	Tiler B
7	McMahon
8	Rioch B <i>Gibson</i>
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson
12	Rioch B

Manchester United (Division 1)

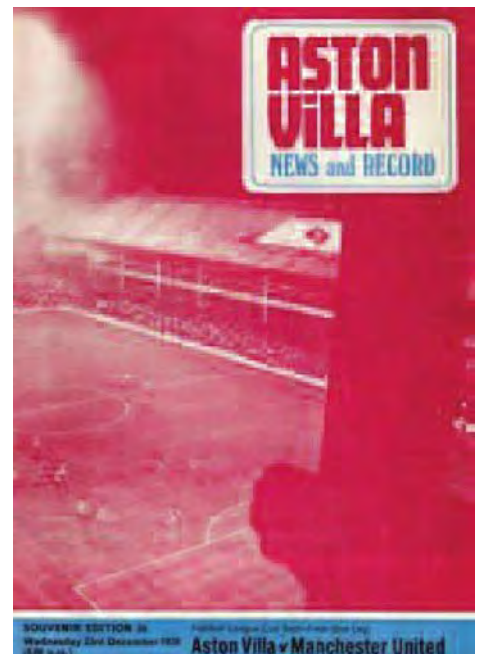
1	Rimmer
2	Watson <i>Fitzpatrick</i>
3	Dunne
4	Fitzpatrick <i>Crerand</i>
5	James <i>Ure</i>
6	Stiles <i>Sadler</i>
7	Law <i>Morgan</i>
8	Best
9	Charlton R
10	Kidd
11	Aston <i>Law</i>
12	Burns

The managers:

Mr V Crowe Mr W McGuinness

The Officials

Referee G Hartley (Wakefield)
Linesman (red) K W Baker (Rugby)
Linesman (orange) K B Gold (Cumberland)



The total attendance of 62,500 for this match is the highest at Villa Park in the League Cup. The

original total was 56,667.

Five days later Wilf McGuinness had resigned as Manchester United caretaker manager, and Matt Busby had returned.

And from 'The Villa News & Record' 16/1/71

We're on our way to Wembley!

We secured our first trip to Wembley since 1957 by beating Manchester United 2-1 to reach the Final of the Football League Cup on February 27. Hero of our two-leg success over Manchester United was Andy Lochhead, who not only scored the vital goal at Old Trafford, but also netted the equaliser in the home match from a superb header from Brian Godfrey's cross. No one among the 65200 crowd at Villa Park on that December night will forget the scenes of emotion... and it was just as unforgettable in the Villa dressing room. Chairman Mr Douglas Ellis joined the boys in a Champagne celebration – the cause of all the joy was Pat McMahon's winning goal.

Now, as it was nearly Christmas there were new Villa items in the club shop, as this advertisement shows:

And I bought a present for myself for the princely sum of seven shillings and sixpence (plus postage) – that's 37½p these days. I still have it, as you can see, restored beautifully by a lovely lady. It has been on quite a few of my cars, probably mostly on my '51 Wolseley, but now the badge is retired and is with my Villa memorabilia.



Saturday February 27, 1971

Final At Wembley, Attendance: 100,000 (97,024), Programme price: 10p

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (0) 2

Chivers (79)

Chivers (81)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	John Dunn
2	Keith Bradley
3	Charlie Aiken
4	Brian Godfrey (c)
5	Fred Turnbull
6	Brian Tiler
7	Pat McMahon
8	Bruce Rioch
9	Andy Lochhead
10	Ian (Chico) Hamilton
11	Willie Anderson
12	Dave Gibson

Tottenham Hotspur (Division 1)

1	Pat Jennings
2	Joe Kinnear
3	Cyril Knowles
4	Alan Mullery (c)
5	Peter Collins
6	Phil Beale
7	Alan Gilzean
8	Steve Perryman
9	Martin Chivers
10	Martin Peters
11	Jimmy Neighbour
12	Jimmy Pearce

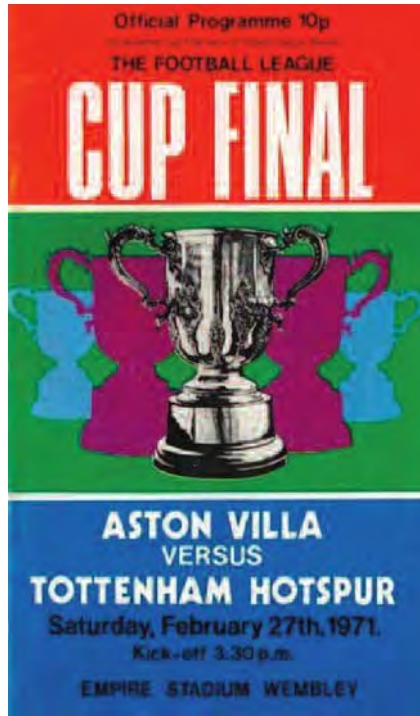
The managers:

Mr Vic Crowe

Mr Bill Nicholson

The Officials

Referee	J Finney (Hereford)
Linesman (red)	P Partridge (Stockton-On-Tees)
Linesman (yellow)	D F Morgan (Rotherham)
Reserve Linesman	C H Bond (Barnstaple)

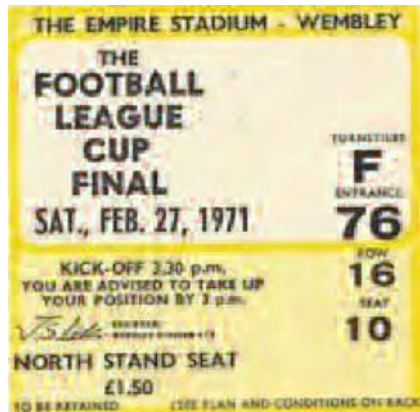


From the programme for this Final:
Another recent innovation for [this] competition has come from the added incentive for the winners, providing they are a First Division club, of being nominated by the Football League for inclusion in the following season's Inter-Cities Fairs Cup – now known as the European Fairs Cup.

From the programme for this Final

The 1971 Football League Cup Final took place in February 1971 at Wembley Stadium. It was the eleventh Football League Cup final and the fifth to be played at Wembley.

It was contested between Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa. At the time, Tottenham Hotspur was riding high in the First Division (the top level of league football in England at that time) and Aston Villa, the most successful club of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras and a traditional heavyweight, was in the old Third Division (then the third tier of English football), to which it had never previously sunk.



Despite the disparity in the teams' league positions, Aston Villa dominated proceedings. According to Peter Morris, in his *Aston Villa: The First 100 Years* (1974) the team was so impressive that "it was hard to believe they were the same players" who contested Third Division matches. Creating several scoring opportunities, Villa saw a shot by Andy Lochhead cleared off the line and another by Ian 'Chico' Hamilton hit the angle of post and bar with the goalkeeper beaten. However, Spurs' league standing eventually told, as Martin Chivers scored Tottenham's first on 79 minutes after the ball was deflected into his path close in by a Villa defender. Three

minutes later he scored a second, running through a Villa defence worn out by its efforts at marking him. The match finished 2–0 to Spurs.

Tottenham Hotspur, having been presented with the cup despite being outplayed for almost the whole match, took it to the end where their supporters were gathered. Eyewitnesses confirm that many of the Spurs fans laughed at their own team for parading around the ground with the cup after receiving such a roasting. The beaten Aston Villa players however embarked on a lap of honour around the stadium and were greeted by what Morris described as "the greatest ovation ever given to a losing team at Wembley". The Birmingham Evening Mail headlined its report "The day that Villa might have won it."

From Wikipedia.co.uk



More of my Villa stuff! Here we have season ticket books from 1969 to 1997, handbooks from 1953 on, Aston Villa Miscellany, the 1957 Cup player's souvenir booklet, etc.

1971/72

Wednesday August 18, 1971

Round 1 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,552, Programme price: 6p

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 WREXHAM (0) 2

Lochhead (61)

Griffiths (67)

Anderson (79 pen)

May (88)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

- 1 Hughes
- 2 Bradley
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Gregory
- 5 Turmbull
- 6 Tiler B
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Rioch B Vowden
- 9 Lochhead
- 10 Vowden Hamilton (12 Martin)
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Martin

Wrexham (Division 3)

- 1 Gaskell
- 2 Evans Ingle
- 3 Vansittart
- 4 Davis (12 Smith R)
- 5 May
- 6 Park
- 7 Moir
- 8 Griffiths Provan
- 9 Ashcroft Kinsey
- 10 Kinsey Tinnion
- 11 Provan Griffiths
- 12 Smith R

The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr J Neal

The Officials

- Referee J Wrennall (Eccleston, nr Chorley)
- Linesman (red) B Martin (Keyworth, Notts)
- Linesman (orange) D Cashmore (Stoke on Trent)



From John Neal's Viewpoint in the replay programme:

It is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome back Aston Villa to the Racecourse Ground this evening. Past games between the two clubs have always produced the highest standard of football entertainment and Wednesday's drawn encounter at Villa Park was no exception... the result was in doubt right up to the last kick and indeed, it was in the dying minutes of the game that Eddie May snatched the equaliser. The "big fella" is fast becoming the team's secret weapon with his capacity to move up and nod the ball home at a vital stage in the game. What was also especially gratifying was the team's ability to fight back after being twice in arrears.

John Neal was, of course, one of Villa's 1961 League Cup winning team.

Monday August 23, 1971

Round 1 Replay At The Racecourse Ground, Attendance: 12,113, Programme price: 7p

WREXHAM (0) | ASTON VILLA (0) | aet
 Davis (117) Anderson (93)

Wrexham (Division 3)

1	Gaskell
2	Ingle
3	Vansittart
4	Davis (<i>12 Smith</i>)
5	May
6	Park
7	Moir
8	Provan
9	Kinsey
10	Ashcroft <i>Tinnion</i>
11	Griffiths
12	Smith

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Hughes
2	Bradley
3	Aitken <i>Wright</i>
4	Gregory
5	Turmbull
6	Tiler B
7	Graydon <i>Rioch B</i>
8	Rioch B <i>Vowden</i>
9	Lochhead
10	Vowden <i>Hamilton</i>
11	Anderson
12	Martin

**The managers:**

Mr J Neal

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

Referee	J Wrennall (Eccleston, nr Chorley)
Linesman (red)	C F Smith (Altrincham)
Linesman (orange)	J D Hough (Macclesfield)



Tuesday August 31, 1971

Round 1, 2nd Replay At The Hawthorns, Attendance: 20,697, Programme price: 6p

ASTON VILLA (1) 4 WREXHAM (1) 3

Lochhead (2)	Moir (3)
Anderson (70 pen)	May (65)
Ingle (84 og)	Davis (78)
Lochhead (85)	

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Hughes <i>Crudgington</i>
2	Bradley
3	Aitken
4	Gregory
5	Turmbull
6	Tiler B
7	Graydon
8	Vowden
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton <i>Rioch B</i>
11	Anderson
12	Hamilton

Wrexham (Division 3)

1	Gaskell <i>Lloyd</i>
2	Ingle
3	Vansittart
4	Davis
5	May
6	Park <i>Smith</i>
7	Moir
8	Provan <i>Park</i>
9	Kinsey
10	Tinnion
11	Griffiths <i>Provan</i>
12	Ashcroft

The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr J Neal

The Officials

Referee

K Styles (Barnsley)

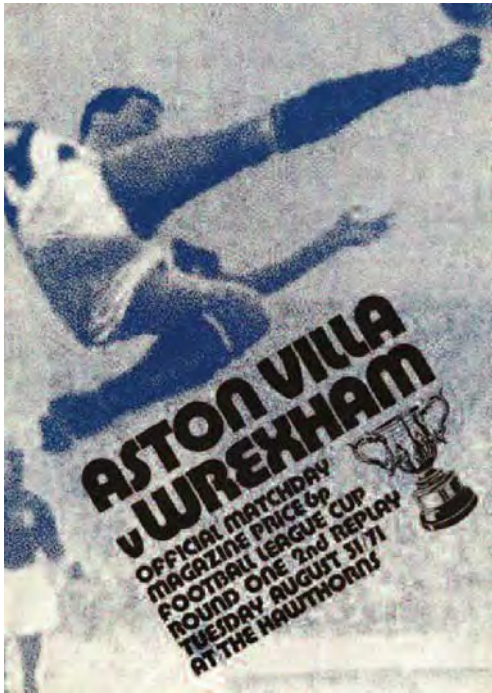
Linesman (red)

D Harwood (Chilwell, Nottingham)

Linesman (yellow)

D Lloyd (Fernhill Heath)

'SEVEN UP' SPECIAL



Villa v Wrexham... the mere mention of that fixture spells out goals to the customers at Villa Park and the Racecourse Ground! In five meetings over the last year the two teams have shared out no fewer than 25 goals... with the latest 4-3 scorecard giving us victory in the second League Cup replay at The Hawthorns. It was quite a night for Andy Lochhead, now coming back into his old scoring form. Andy popped up in the opening goal, when he glanced Willie Anderson's centre just inside the post. Willie himself scored the second from the penalty spot, but then Wrexham fought into a 3-2 lead. We got level with an own goal from Steve Ingle. Then Andy popped up again to snatch the winner with a flashing effort over the Wrexham defence.

And from the West Bromwich replay programme came the following statistics, showing how the League clubs gradually came to take the League Cup seriously:

HISTORY...

Entry to the competition was made optional, and has remained so until this season. Now every club enters. The clubs that entered each season is as follows: 1960-61, 87; 1961-62, 82; 1962-63, 80; 1963-64, 82; 1964-65, 82; 1965-66, 83; 1965-67, 90; 1967-68, 90; 1968-69, 91; 1969-70, 92; 1970-71, 91.

From 'The Villa News & Record', 11/9/71

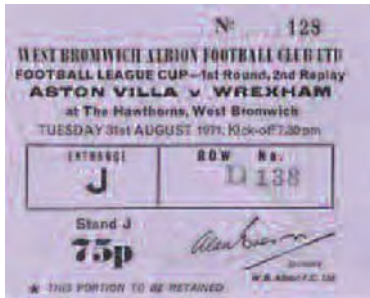
Wednesday September 8, 1971

Round 2 At The Recreation Ground, Attendance: 14,000 (13,842), Programme price: 5p

CHESTERFIELD (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (2) 3

Archer (35 pen)
Randall (75)

Lochhead (6)
Vowden (24)
Anderson (86 pen)



Chesterfield (Division 3)

1	Stevenson
2	Holmes
3	Tiler K
4	Fenoughty
5	Stott <i>Bell</i>
6	Phelan <i>Stott</i>
7	Wilson <i>Phelan</i>
8	Wright M
9	Randall
10	Archer
11	Pugh
12	Moyes

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Hughes
2	Bradley
3	Aitken
4	Gregory
5	Turnbull
6	Tiler B
7	Graydon
8	Vowden
9	Lochhead
10	Rioch B
11	Anderson
12	Hamilton

The managers:

Mr J McGuigan

Mr V Crowe

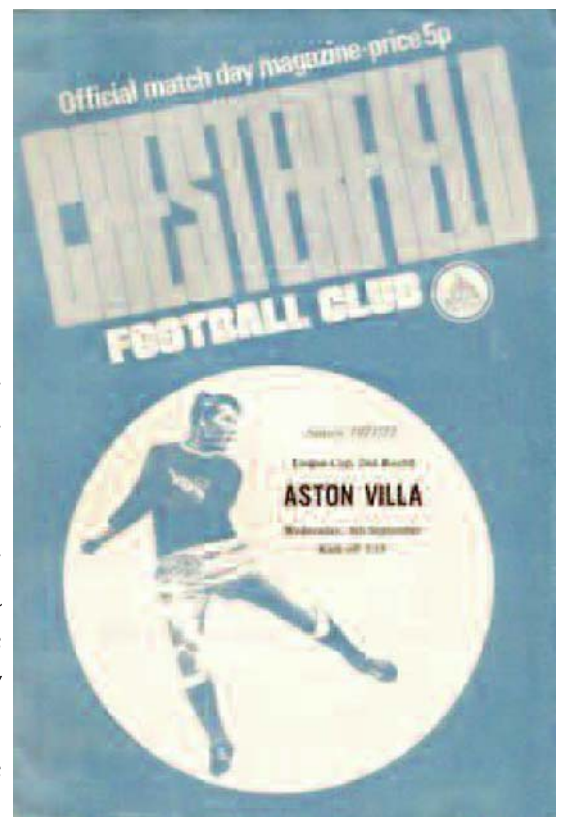
The Officials

Referee	I T Smith (Accrington)
Linesman (red)	N A Saul (Stockport)
Linesman (yellow)	N E Simpson

There was no specific report on this match in Villa programmes, though the 22/9/71 issue had two pages of pictures from Terry Weir's camera, but there were these in 3rd scene's THE OTHER VIEW:

"Andy Lochhead and Willie Anderson kept up their goal-a-game average in the League Cup and Aston Villa emerged from a punishing match at Chesterfield as the West Midlands' sole survivors in the competition." Harry Wakeling (Evening Mail)

"It is hard to recall Chesterfield fighting like this before. The atmosphere at the game was marvellous and both it and the game complemented each other. Neither side let up for a moment." Ken Watkins (Derby Evening Telegraph) explaining how Chesterfield were lifted by a bigger than average crowd for the League Cup.



Tuesday October 5, 1971

Round 3 At Selhurst Park, Attendance: 21,179, Programme price:6p

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Craven (34)
Tambling (56 pen)

Hamilton (65)
Lochhead (82)

Crystal Palace (Division 1)

- 1 Jackson
- 2 Payne
- 3 Wall
- 4 Goodwin
- 5 McCormick
- 6 Blyth
- 7 Pinkney
- 8 Craven
- 9 Jenkins *Tambling*
- 10 Queen
- 11 Taylor A
- 12 Scott

Aston Villa (Division 3)

- 1 Hughes
- 2 Bradley
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Rioch B
- 5 Curtis
- 6 Beard
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Vowden
- 9 Lochhead
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Anderson
- 12 Tiler



The managers:

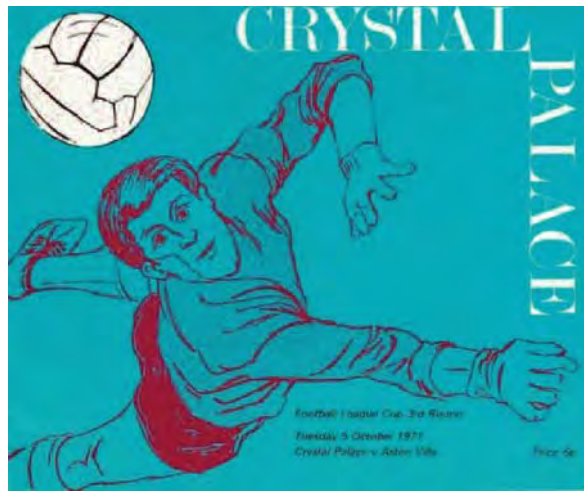
Mr B Head

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

- Referee N T Burtenshaw (Great Yarmouth)
- Linesman (cerise) L H Sinkins (Cheshunt)
- Linesman (orange) J W Craigie (Chatham)

The Other View



“Crystal Palace were pushed to the brink of League Cup destruction by Aston Villa, last season’s losing finalists, who summoned mammoth reserves of strength to take the Londoners.” Bob O’Driscoll, ‘The Sun’
 “Villa were now playing like men possessed. That one goal might have mushroomed to three or four by the time Lochhead touched in their 82nd minute equaliser when he got a foot to a low cross from Rioch.” Jeff Powell, ‘Daily Mail’

“After conceding two goals to Crystal Palace in an exciting League Cup tie at Selhurst Park, Aston Villa fought back with the skill and spirit that took them to Wembley

last year and deservedly earned a replay by scoring twice in the closing 20 minutes”. Donald Saunders, ‘Daily Telegraph’

And from the Crystal Palace programme for the League Cup tie on 10th October 1978, come these thoughts by the Rev. Nigel Sands on this match and the replay:

In October 1971 Palace were a First Division outfit and Villa had slumped into Division Three. In the Third Round League Cup tie here at Selhurst Park Palace demonstrated their superiority to begin with by going two goals ahead through John Craven and a Bobby Tambling penalty, but in the closing 25 minutes Villa rallied boldly. Chico Hamilton put them back into the game and four minutes from the end Andy Lochhead nodded the equaliser in a thrilling finale.

In the replay at Villa Park, Villa dominated the match and thoroughly deserved their two-goal victory earned with goals by Lochhead and Graydon in the second half.

Press comments from 'The Villa News & Record' 13/10/71

Wednesday October 13, 1971

Round 3 replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,978, Programme price: 6p

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0

Lochhead (66)

Graydon (83)

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Hughes
2	Bradley
3	Aitken
4	Rioch B
5	Curtis
6	Beard <i>Tiler</i>
7	Graydon
8	Vowden
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson
12	Brown

Crystal Palace (Division 1)

1	Jackson
2	Payne
3	Wall
4	Goodwin
5	McCormick
6	Blyth
7	Pinkney
8	Craven
9	Tambling
10	Queen <i>Jenkins</i>
11	Taylor A
12	Scott

The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr B Head

The Officials

Referee N T Burtenshaw (Great Yarmouth)

Linesman (red) M J Smith (Coalville)

Linesman (orange) J L Sier (Worcester)

WINNING IN THE RAIN

The 2-0 League Cup replay victory over Crystal Palace was perhaps our most satisfactory result of the season – especially for the sake of our wonderful supporters. The passage to a Fourth Round tie at Blackpool next Tuesday brought consolation for the Rotherham defeat and also rewarded the fantastic crowd of 24978 who braved shocking weather. The torrential rain made it impossible for our photographer Terry Weir to get clear shots of the goals. Andy Lochhead's header and Ray Graydon's goal saw us through.



From 'The Villa News & Record' 20/10/71

Tuesday October 26, 1971

Round 4 At Bloomfield Road, Attendance: 20,193, Programme price: 5p

BLACKPOOL (1) 4 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Suddick (42)

Anderson (72)

Green (49)

Hutchison (56)

James (60)

Blackpool (Division 2)

1	Burridge
2	Hatton
3	Harrison
4	Suddaby
5	Alcock
6	Simpkin
7	Hutchison
8	Green
9	James
10	Suddick
11	Burns
12	Wann

Aston Villa (Division 3)

1	Hughes
2	Bradley
3	Turnbull <i>Aitken</i>
4	Rioch B <i>Gregory</i>
5	Curtis <i>Turnbull</i>
6	Tiler B
7	Graydon
8	Vowden
9	Lochhead
10	Hamilton
11	Anderson
12	Martin

The managers:

Mr R Stokoe

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

Referee

H Williams (Sheffield)

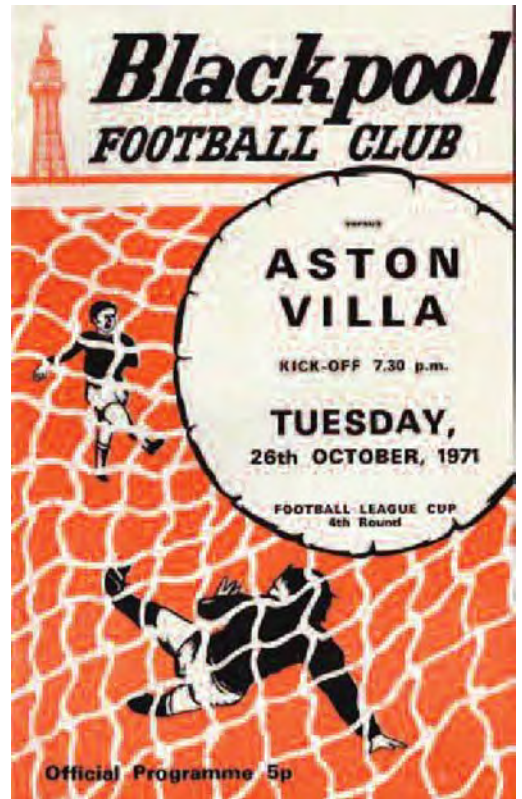
Linesman (red)

A Bradley

Linesman (yellow)

R D Jameson

This match was quietly ignored by 'The Villa News & Record', apart from giving the result and the teams. **Blackpool lost to Spurs 2-0 in the 5th round**



1972/73

Wednesday August 16, 1972

Round 1 At Villa Park, Attendance: 32,113 (32,314), Programme price: 7p

ASTON VILLA (1) 4 HEREFORD UNITED (0) 1

Rioch B (24)
 Graydon (46)
 Vowden (71)
 Evans (84)

Johnson (82)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1 Cumbes
 2 Wright M
 3 Aitken
 4 Rioch B
 5 Nicholl
 6 Ross
 7 Graydon
 8 McMahan
 9 Lochhead (12 Evans (71))
 10 Vowden
 11 Anderson
 12 Evans

Hereford United (Division 4)

1 Potter
 2 Mallender
 3 Naylor
 4 Jones
 5 McLaughin
 6 Tucker
 7 Slattery
 8 Hollett (12 Johnston)
 9 Owen
 10 Radford
 11 Wallace
 12 Johnston

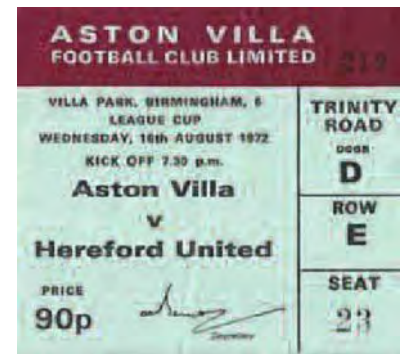
The managers:

Mr V Crowe

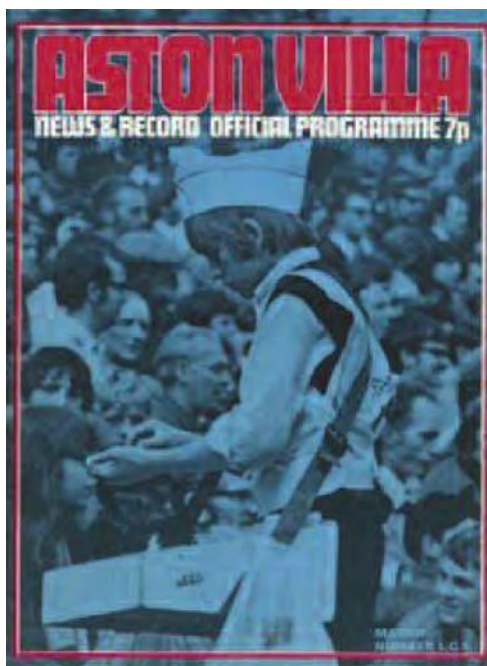
Mr C Addison

The Officials

Referee R Capey (Madley Heath, Crewe)
 Linesman (red) R E Mees (Alkstree, Derby)
 Linesman (yellow) J H Smith (Groby, Leicester)



BULLS SHOWN THE GATE



A few months earlier [in 1972] Hereford had wowed the football world with their FA Cup giant-killing feats, [beating Newcastle United in the Third round] but Hereford's baptism in the Football League was one to forget. On the opening day of the 1972-73 campaign, they suffered a single goal defeat at Colchester United in the old Fourth Division. And three nights later, the Bulls were slaughtered in their first-ever League Cup-tie. They arrived at Villa Park full of optimism but were sent packing to the tune of 4-1 by Vic Crowe's side. Villa, then in the old Second Division, were far superior to the League's newest club, as Randall Northam outlined in the following day's Birmingham Post... Not that it made happy reading under the headline 'Thrashed out of sight – that's sad Hereford'. "Villa took hold of the match from the start," wrote the Post reporter. "And in the second half they opened into a free-flowing attack to score three of their goals." The home side went

ahead on 24 minutes when former Villa goalkeeper Fred Potter dropped a Ray Graydon cross. Defender Ken Mallender cleared but only as far as Bruce Rioch, whose 20-yard right-foot drive flashed into the net. A minute after the interval, Graydon doubled the lead with a left-footer from a similar distance, and in the 71st minute it was 3-0, the unmarked Geoff Vowden heading home Graydon's centre. Hereford substitute George Johnston reduced the deficit eight minutes from the end, but there was still time for former Wolves and Liverpool striker Alun Evans to grab his first competitive Villa goal.

Match report from 'The Villa News & Record' 23/8/2011

Tuesday September 5, 1972

Round 2 At The City Ground, Attendance: 17,665 (17,655), Programme price:6p

NOTTM FOREST (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1
Evans (13)

Nottingham Forest (Division 2)

1	Barron
2	Hindley
3	Gemmell
4	Serella
5	Cottam
6	Fraser
7	McIntosh (12 Buckley (66))
8	Lyll
9	McKenzie
10	Richardson Lyons
11	O'Neill
12	Buckley

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Cumbes
2	Gidman
3	Aitken
4	Rioch B
5	Nicholl
6	Ross
7	Graydon
8	McMahon
9	Evans
10	Vowden
11	Anderson
12	Hamilton

The managers:

Mr M Gillies

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

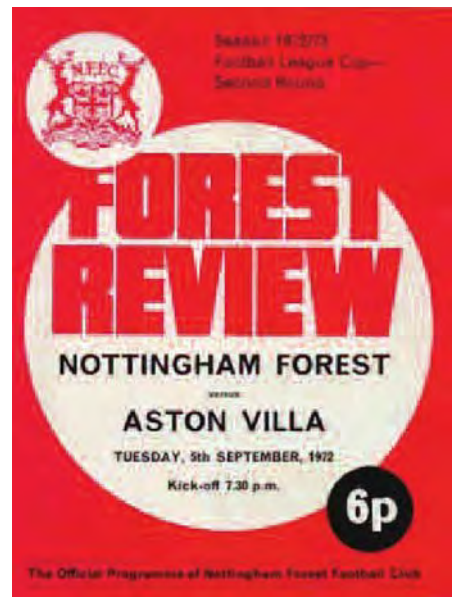
Referee	A E Morrissey (Bramhall, Cheshire)
Linesman (red)	A Challinor (Maltby, Yorks.)
Linesman (yellow)	K C Thorpe (Worksop)

Yes, this is THE Martin O'Neill at No 11



THE OTHER VIEW

"For all their effort, Forest did not possess the craft and class of Graydon, so quick and elusive, and Rioch, and were made to look extremely ordinary on occasions when running out of attacking ideas. Admittedly, McKenzie was unlucky to hit a post and then have a shot cleared off the line by Nicholl, but these were isolated



moments of menace by Forest.” – Ian James (Nottingham Post)

From ‘The Villa News & Record’ 27/9/72

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP – THIRD ROUND, ASTON VILLA v LEEDS UNITED

Villa Park, Wednesday, 4th October, 1972 Kick-off 7-30 pm

The match will NOT be all ticket, and prices of admission will be:

Reserved Seats (all doors): 90p, Unreserved Seats (Trinity Road Enclosure): 60p (Boys: 30p)

Ground: 40p (Boys: 20p)

And from ‘The Villa News & Record’ 16/9/72

Wednesday October 4, 1972

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 46,185, Programme price: 7p

ASTON VILLA (0) | LEEDS UNITED (1) |

Rioch B (68)

Charlton J (5)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Cumbes
2	Gidman
3	Aitken
4	Rioch B
5	Nicholl
6	Ross
7	Graydon <i>Hamilton</i>
8	McMahon
9	Lochhead
10	Vowden
11	Evans
12	Little B

Leeds United (Division 1)

1	Harvey
2	Reaney <i>Madeley</i>
3	Cherry
4	Bremner
5	Charlton J
6	Hunter
7	Lorimer
8	Clarke
9	Jones
10	Giles <i>Bates</i>
11	Gray <i>Yorath</i>
12	Jordan

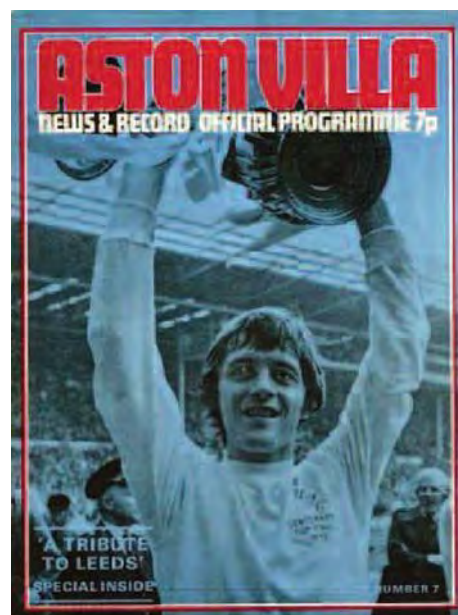
The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr D Revie

The Officials

Referee	A P Oliver (Leigh-on-Sea)
Linesman (red)	R W Bartlett (Banbury)
Linesman (yellow)	T Hardman (Worcester)

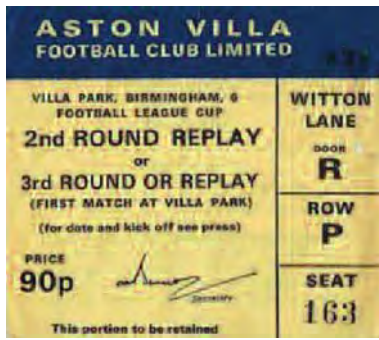


At this time the crowd of 46,185 was the largest that had watched Leeds in the League Cup, apart from Wembley Finals. It is also Villa's highest third round attendance.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 14/12/72:

THE OTHER VIEW

"Aston Villa, one goal down to a soft goal by Jack Charlton, were never overawed and a breath-



taking equaliser by Rioch gave them a deserved replay. There was a huge crowd for the occasion, and Villa, even without Anderson and Graydon, did not disappoint them.” David Miller, ‘Daily Telegraph’
 Villa and their remarkable crowd could well bring distinction to the First Division next season. In days when so many clubs find difficulty in packing the terraces without persistent hooliganism, the loyal and well-mannered Villa crowd provide a heart-warming experience.” Alan Williams, ‘Daily Express’

“Bruce Rioch blasted a spectacular goal to send the might of Leeds scrambling nervously away from Villa Park.” Jeff Farmer, ‘Daily Mail’

“Villa were given a standing ovation at the end, for they were the better side and had deserved to win.” Peter Ingall, ‘Daily Mirror’

This is the match ticket – obviously Villa were covering as many games as possible with it. The only reason I know it is for this match is because it has Allan Clarke’s autograph on the back.

Wednesday October 11, 1972

Round 3 Replay At Elland Road, Attendance: 28,894, Programme price: 5p

LEEDS UNITED (2) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Nicholl (og 30)

Jones (35)

Leeds United (Division 1)

1	Harvey
2	Madeley
3	Cherry
4	Bremner
5	Charlton J (<i>12 Yorath</i>)
6	Hunter
7	Lorimer
8	Clarke
9	Jones
10	Bates
11	Yorath <i>Gray</i>
12	Yorath

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Cumbes
2	Gidman
3	Aitken
4	Rioch B
5	Nicholl
6	Ross
7	Hamilton
8	McMahon
9	Lochhead
10	Vowden (<i>12 Graydon (67)</i>)
11	Evans
12	Graydon



The managers:

Mr D Revie

Mr V Crowe

The Officials

Referee

P Partridge (Stockton-On-Tees)

Linesman (red)

G M Trevett (Manchester)



Linesman (yellow) R Chadwick (Darwen)

Apart from giving the teams and the result, etc., the next home programme did not mention this game.

Leeds lost to Liverpool 0-1 in a 4th round replay

1973/74

Tuesday October 9, 1973

Round 2 At Bootham Crescent, Attendance: 7,981, Programme price: 6p

YORK CITY (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Peachey (83)

York City (Division 3)

1	Crawford
2	Stone
3	Burrows
4	Lyons
5	Swallow
6	Topping
7	Pollard
8	Woodward
9	Seal <i>Peachey</i>
10	Wilson <i>Calvert</i>
11	Butler
12	Holmes

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Cumbes
2	Robson
3	Aitken
4	Rioch B
5	Nicholl
6	Ross
7	Hockey <i>Graydon</i>
8	Brown
9	Evans <i>Morgan</i>
10	Vowden
11	Little <i>A Little B</i>
12	Hamilton

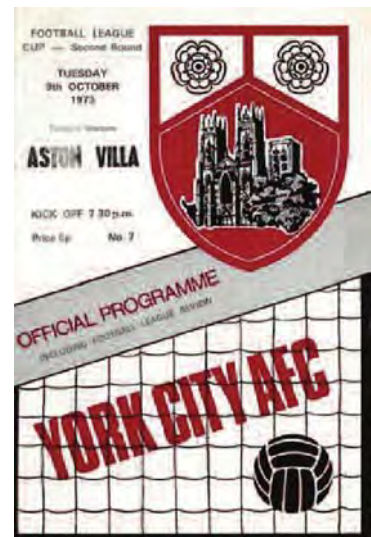
The managers:

Mr V Crowe

Mr T Johnston

The Officials

Referee	E Jolly (Manchester)
Linesman (red)	B Baker (Sheffield)
Linesman (orange)	C Cartich (Kingston-upon-Hull)



The only mention of this match was one sentence: 'The disappointment of the League Cup defeat at York was quickly quelled when we toppled Bolton Wanderers 2-1 at Burnden Park,' and the usual list of the teams. This was in the programme for 23/10/73.

From the Crewe programme for the 3rd Round match on 9/10/74:

Looking through Aston Villa's record in the League Cup, a very formidable one, it is interesting to note that it was only in last season's competition that they went out without scoring a goal, York City having beaten them by a single goal at Bootham Crescent.

York City lost to Manchester City in a 4th round replay 1-4



For a long time in the sixties and seventies Flights Tours coaches carried Villa players and staff to matches. Their advertisements appeared in the Villa's programmes and yearbooks. In April 1996 Exclusive First Editions (EFE) produced a version of a Flights Tours' Harrington Cavalier coach, registered 477 AOP and carrying 'Aston Villa AFC' legend on the front. This model is No 12110, and still appears on EBay lists. In December 2012 there were six listed at £8.95, £14.99, £4.99 (no bids), £6.99 (2 listed), and £7.99. Some mentioned the Villa, some didn't, but all were definitely 477 AOP.

They are probably still available in model shops if you look – but EBay is the most likely source. I have one, of course!

1974/75

Wednesday September 11, 1974

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 29,640, Programme price: 10p

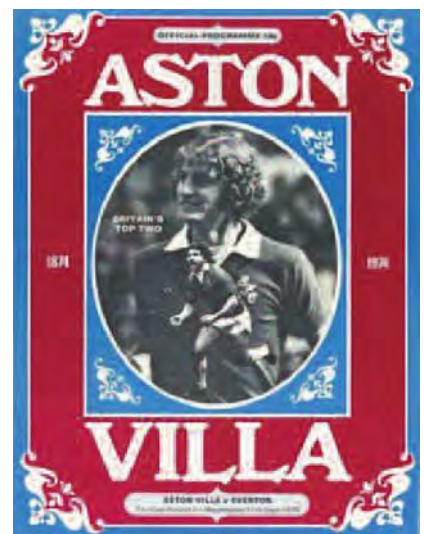
ASTON VILLA (1) | EVERTON (0) |
 Nicholl (30) Latchford (50)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Gidman
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Robson
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Morgan
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 McMahan

Everton (Division 1)

- 1 Lawson
- 2 Darracott *Bernard*
- 3 Seargeant
- 4 Clements
- 5 Kenyon
- 6 Hurst Lyons
- 7 Buckley
- 8 Dobson
- 9 Royle
- 10 Latchford
- 11 Connolly
- 12 Pearson



The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr W Bingham

The Officials

Referee R Capey (Madeley Heath, Crewe)

Linesman (red) G J Naphine (Sileby, Leics.)

Linesman (yellow) B T Stevens (Gloucester)



In 'Club Talk' in the Everton programme for the replay, the manager, Billy Bingham wrote:...

I knew immediately that, regardless of League standing, Everton were in for a very hard contest. By hard... I mean that they, with their tradition behind them, and their new manager spurring them on, would contest every 50-50 ball. This they did, and, in the process, they demonstrated that their drive for First Division status cannot be taken lightly. They belong there. I thought a draw was the fairest result from last Wednesday's match. The first half belonged to them [Villa] purely because they ran themselves into a frazzle, but it seemed to me that the quality of football that we were playing would also bring us dividends. Chances of deciding the match for either side were there to be taken, but the match was played in good spirit and with both teams allowing their opponents to express themselves as skilful individuals.

Wednesday September 18, 1974

Round 3 Replay At Goodison Park, Attendance: 24,595, Programme price: 10p

EVERTON (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 3

Morgan (49)

Carrodus (58)

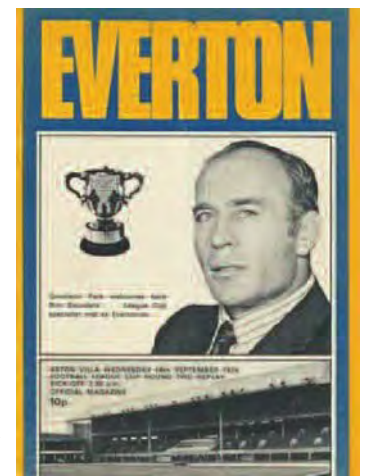
Graydon (80)

Everton (Division 1)

- 1 Lawson
- 2 Darracott *Bernard*
- 3 Seargeant
- 4 Clements (*12 Pearson (65)*)
- 5 Kenyon
- 6 Hurst *Lyons*
- 7 Buckley
- 8 Dobson
- 9 Royle
- 10 Latchford
- 11 Connolly
- 12 Pearson

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Gidman
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Robson
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B *Hamilton*
- 9 Morgan
- 10 Hamilton *Campbell*
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Leonard



The managers:

Mr W Bingham

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee R Capey (Madeley Heath, Crewe)
 Linesman (red) J Cross (Accrington)
 Linesman (orange) G T Cartman (Stoke-on-Trent)

From the Colchester programme for the 5th round

Villa's League Cup progress began in the second round. They were held by Everton 1-1 but won the Goodison replay 3-0, easily their best display of the season...

From the Colchester programme for the 5th round

Wednesday October 9, 1974

Round 2 At Gresty Road, Attendance: 12,290, Programme price: 10p

CREWE ALEXANDRA (0) 2 ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Duffey (49)
 Reed (85)

Morgan (10)
 Leonard (57)

Crewe Alexandra (Division 4)

1 Crudgington
 2 Lowry
 3 Snookes
 4 Lugg *Carter*
 5 Nicholls
 6 Riley *Lugg*
 7 Reed *Kinsey*
 8 Humphreys Riley
 9 Nelson
 10 Wain (*12 Reed*)
 11 Duffey
 12 Reed

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1 Cumbes
 2 Gidman
 3 Aitken
 4 Ross
 5 Nicholl
 6 Robson
 7 Graydon
 8 Hamilton
 9 Morgan
 10 Phillips *Leonard*
 11 Carrodus
 12 Little A

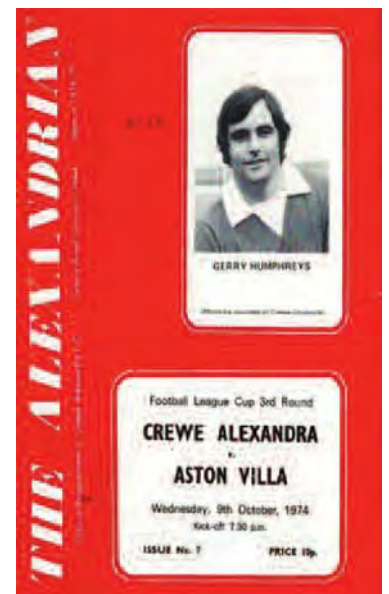
The managers:

Mr E Tagg

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee P N Willis (Meadowfield, Co. Durham)
 Linesman (red) M G Ballard (Anstey, Leics.)
 Linesman (orange) K Kisby (Bury)



Villa had to settle for a draw at Gresty Road, despite the fact the we were a Second Division club and Crewe were in Division Four. Despite being fairly basic, Crewe's publication cost 10p – the same as Villa's. Times were obviously hard for the Railwaymen...

From 'The Villa News & Record' dated 28th August 2012

Wednesday October 16, 1974

Round 3 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,007, Programme price: 10p

ASTON VILLA (0) | CREWE ALEXANDRA (0) 0

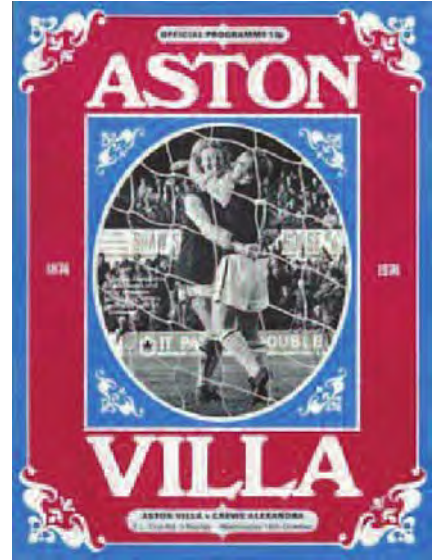
Hamilton (89)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Cumbes
2	Gidman <i>Rioch N</i>
3	Aitken
4	Ross
5	Nicholl
6	Robson
7	Graydon
8	Hamilton
9	Morgan
10	Leonard (<i>12 Little B</i>)
11	Carrodus
12	Little B

Crewe Alexandra (Division 4)

1	Crudgington
2	Lowry
3	Snookes <i>Kelley</i>
4	Carter <i>Rowlands</i>
5	Nicholls
6	Lugg <i>Carter</i>
7	Kinsey (<i>12 Nelson</i>)
8	Riley <i>Reed</i>
9	Nelson <i>Humphries</i>
10	Wain <i>Riley</i>
11	Duffey
12	Nelson



The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr E Tagg

The Officials

Referee	P N Willis (Meadowfield, Co. Durham)
Linesman (red)	R E Barston (S. Wigston)
Linesman (orange)	A J Parsons



Tony Betts only played a handful of games (4) for Villa but he made it on to the cover of the programme for third round replay against Crewe, celebrating with Ray Graydon on his debut at Oldham. Once again it was a tough game for Saunders' men before progress was assured.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 29/8/2012

In the third round Crewe held them [Villa] to a 2-2 draw at Gresty Road and put up a splendid performance at Villa Park in going down to a second half Hamilton goal...

From the Colchester programme for the 5th round

Tuesday November 12, 1974

Round 4 At Victoria Ground, Attendance: 12,305 Programme price: 8p

HARTLEPOOL (0) | ASTON VILLA (1) |

Moore (60)

Aitken (34)

Hartlepool United (Division 4)

- 1 Watling
- 2 Smith
- 3 Shoulder
- 4 Dawes
- 5 Goad
- 6 Potter
- 7 Honour
- 8 Gauden
- 9 Moore
- 10 McMahan
- 11 Spelman
- 12 Ward

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Rioch N *Robson*
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Robson *Brown*
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Hamilton
- 9 Campbell (*12 Betts*)
- 10 Carrodus *Little B*
- 11 Little B *Carrodus*
- 12 Betts

The managers:

Mr K Hale

Mr R Saunders



The Officials

- Referee M Lowe (Sheffield)
- Linesman (red) N Hilton (Oldham)
- Linesman (yellow) G Martin (Barnsley)

At Hartlepool, we played them at their own game and were well satisfied at the end of the match with a draw and a chance of going through to the quarter-finals should we finish the job off in the replay. Make no mistake about it, we are going to have to work very hard to get the right result against them because they run, run and run.

From Ron Saunders column in 'The Villa News & Record' 23/11/74

Monday November 25, 1974

Round 4 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,686, Programme price: 10p

ASTON VILLA (2) 6 HARTLEPOOL (0) 1

- Hamilton (10 pen)
- Hamilton (44)
- Little B (52)
- Little B (77)
- Graydon (82)
- Graydon (90 pen)
- Gauden (67)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Robson
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Brown
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Morgan *Little A (12 Evans (62))*
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Evans

Hartlepool (Division 4)

- 1 Watling
- 2 Smith
- 3 Shoulder
- 4 Dawes
- 5 Goad
- 6 Potter
- 7 Honour
- 8 Gauden
- 9 Moore
- 10 McMahon
- 11 Spelman
- 12 Ward

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr K Hale

The Officials

- Referee N Lowe (Sheffield)
- Linesman (red) D Rogers (Derby)
- Linesman (orange) W D Cashmore (Stoke-on-Trent)



From the Colchester programme for the 5th round:

Finally, in the last round, Fourth Division Hartlepool after a 1-1 draw at Victoria Ground, went out 6-1 and that was the second time Villa this year Villa have hit six. In the League they beat Hull City 6-1.



This is the programme for the Hartlepool Replay, but the cover shows Sammy Morgan (No. 9) celebrating his goal in the League Cup match against Crewe at Gresty Road

Tuesday December 3, 1974

Round 5 At Layer Road, Attendance: 11,871, Programme price: 10p

COLCHESTER UNITED (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 2
 Froggatt (85) Little A (28)
 Graydon (61)

Colchester United (Division 4)

- 1 Walker
- 2 Cook
- 3 Packer
- 4 Leslie
- 5 Harford (*12 Smith*)
- 6 Dominey
- 7 Thomas
- 8 Svarc
- 9 Froggatt
- 10 Lindsay
- 11 Bunkell
- 12 Smith

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Robson
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Brown
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Morgan *Little A*
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Betts

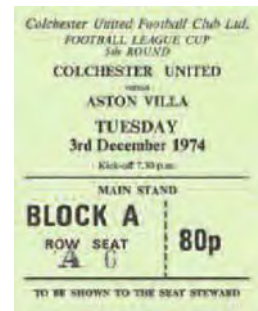
The managers:

Mr J Smith

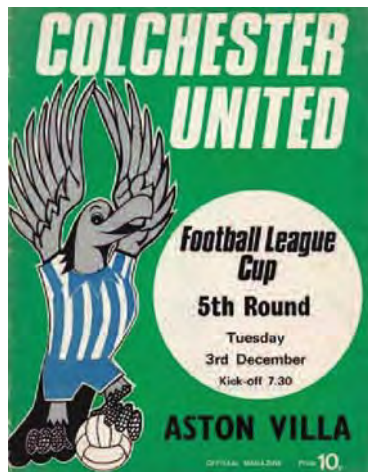
Mr R Saunders

The Officials

- Referee J Hunting (Leicester)
- Linesman (red) M S Jesson (Boreham Wood)
- Linesman (orange) J T Kensett (Croydon)



In the programme for this match the Colchester manager, Jim Smith, wrote:



Tonight sees another great occasion and match in the glorious traditions of Colchester United Cup campaigns. It's a night that could also be the most eventful ever in our club's history too, as the prize is a place in the semi-finals of the Football League Cup. But, of course, it's going to be a tremendous test for us and while we possibly have a favourites chance with the ground advantage Aston Villa, a famous club and full of cup-fighting traditions themselves, are a high ranking Second Division outfit. Any side managed by Ron Saunders must warrant every respect. Bobby Roberts and I went to Villa Park to see them on Friday night when they drew with Oxford United and we were both impressed with their fitness and hard running... I sincerely hope that we have a bumper gate and that all our supporters get right behind the lads and roar them on to the semi-finals. The players will be giving everything possible to make history, but however the game ends let's show our appreciation of our team for their wonderful efforts to get this far in the competition.

Wednesday January 15, 1975

Semi-final 1st Leg At The Stadium, Sealand Road, Attendance: 19,000, Programme price: 10p

CHESTER (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (1) 2
 Owen (44) McDonald (16)
 Moore (80) Graydon (50)

Chester (Division 4)

- 1 Millington
- 2 Edwards
- 3 Loska
- 4 Storton
- 5 Matthewson (c)
- 6 Mason Owen
- 7 Whitehead
- 8 Seddon
- 9 Draper
- 10 James (12 Moore)
- 11 Lennard
- 12 Moore

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Robson
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross (c)
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 McDonald
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Leonard
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Pimblett
- 12 Brown

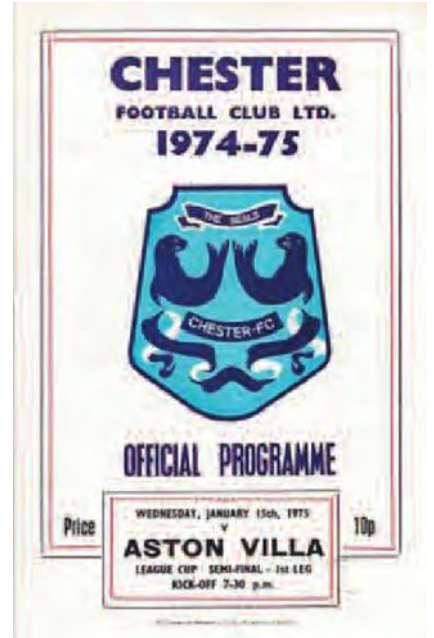
The managers:

Mr K Roberts

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

- Referee P Partridge (Stockton-On-Tees)
- Linesman (red) N A Saul (Stockport)
- Linesman (orange) W D Cashmore (Stoke on Trent)



For this match the Chester directors thanked ‘Hugh Lloyd, star of T.V. and radio’ for the gift of the match ball. The Chester manager was still the former Villa player, Ken Roberts.

From ‘The Villa News & Record’ for the semi-final second leg against Chester:

Bobby McDonald got Villa off to a great start in the first leg of the League Cup Semi-Final when he headed home from a Ray Graydon free-kick after 16 minutes, and the young Scot was certainly left with something to celebrate. After Chester had equalised just before half-time, Ray Graydon put Villa back in command with a fine cross shot for his 20th goal of the season.

Wednesday January 22, 1975

Semi-final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 47,632, Programme price: 10p

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 CHESTER (1) 2

- Leonard (18)
- Leonard (27)
- Little B (80)
- Mason (32)
- James (62)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Cumbes
- 2 Robson
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross (c)
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 McDonald
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Leonard
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Pimblett

Chester (Division 4)

- 1 Millington
- 2 Edwards
- 3 Loska
- 4 Storton
- 5 Matthewson(c)
- 6 Owen
- 7 Whitehead
- 8 Seddon *Lennard (12 Redfern)*
- 9 James *Moore*
- 10 Draper *James*
- 11 Lennard *Mason*
- 12 Redfern

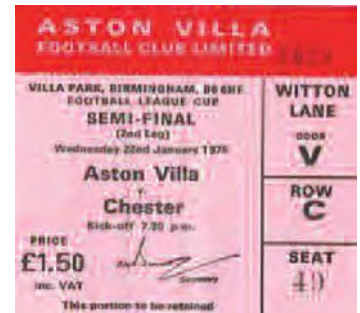
The managers:

Mr R Saunders

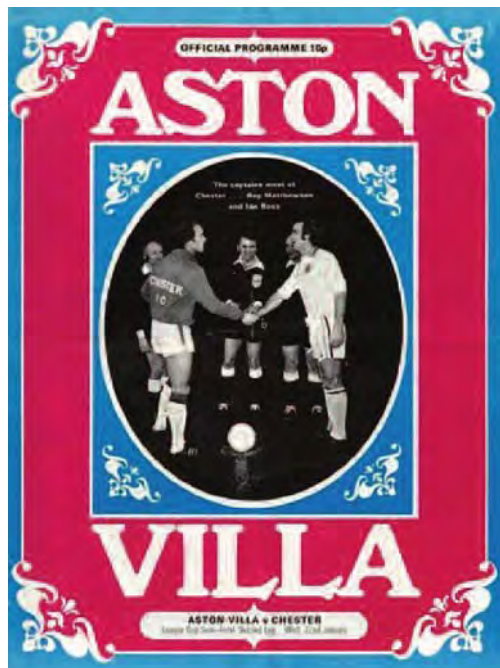
Mr K Roberts

The Officials

- Referee K Styles (Barnsley)
- Linesman (red) C C Brookes (Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.)
- Linesman (orange) R Chinn (Coventry)



Chester's recollections of these two matches are in the programme for the League Cup match on 14/9/99. Some are given here:



[In the first match] Chester went into the game with Terry Owen replacing the injured Stuart Mason and with the players knowing that the various promises made to them should they win the competition included a free freezer each and a free Hillman Imp car (ask your parent or grandparent about that one!)

Both sides had early attacks but it was Villa who took the lead after 15 minutes with a goal from Bobby McDonald and for a while they then took control of the game. Chester refused to buckle, however and with just one minute of the first half remaining grabbed an equalizer through Terry Owen. 5 minutes into the second half Villa regained the lead when the current [1999] Walsall manager Ray Graydon scored... Villa then took charge again but Chester hung on in there and were rewarded 10 minutes from time when substitute Gary Moore scored his first goal for the club. 2-2 was the final score and so it was

to Villa Park a week later and a conclusion to the tie.

Chester started badly and were 2-0 down inside 28 minutes when defensive lapses gave Keith Leonard two goals. Chester were up against it and without two of their most influential players in Ian Seddon and Derek Draper who were out injured. Within 5 minutes however Chester were

back in the game courtesy of a cracking 20 yard volley from Stuart Mason. Then there were several heart stopping moments for the 7,000 Cestrians in the 47,632 crowd but after 62 minutes Wembley beckoned again when "Jesse" James levelled the scores after Jim Cumbes in the Villa goal failed to gather a corner. Extra time loomed but wasn't to be as just 10 minutes from time Brian Little scored what proved to be the winner. With just 4 minutes left it seemed as if Norman Whitehead had equalized again but his shot went just the wrong side of the post and Wembley had gone. At the final whistle those 7,000 Cestrians were hoarse having totally out shouted 40,000 home fans.

Wembley, here we come! That was the chant from a crowd of 47,632 as they got real value for cash receipts of just over £40,000 in the League Cup Semi-Final, second leg, against Chester. Backed by the response of our biggest attendance since 47,821 Arsenal Cup replay last season, Villa stormed into the lead with a goal from Keith Leonard and were glowing with confidence when Keith got a second soon afterwards. However, we all had to admire Chester's pluck in coming back to equalise in the second half and the tension was gripping until Brian Little clinched the Wembley passport with 11 minutes to go. The most important goal of his young career came from a close range shot after Keith Leonard had touched on a corner from Ray Graydon.

And from 'The Villa News & Record' 8/2/75

Saturday March 1, 1975

Final At Wembley Attendance: 95,946, Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 NORWICH CITY (0) 0

Graydon (79)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Jim Cumbes
2	John Robson
3	Charlie Aitken
4	Ian Ross (c)
5	Chris Nicholl
6	Bobby McDonald
7	Ray Graydon
8	Brian Little
9	Keith Leonard
10	Ian (Chico) Hamilton
11	Frank Carrodus
12	Alun Evans

Norwich City (Division 2)

1	Kevin Keelan
2	Mel Machin
3	Colin Sullivan
4	Peter Morris
5	Duncan Forbes (c)
6	Dave Stringer
7	John Miller
8	Ted MacDougall
9	Phil Boyer
10	Colin Suggett
11	Tony Powell
12	Billy Steele

The managers:

Mr Ron Saunders

Mr John Bond

The Officials

Referee

G Hill (Leicester)

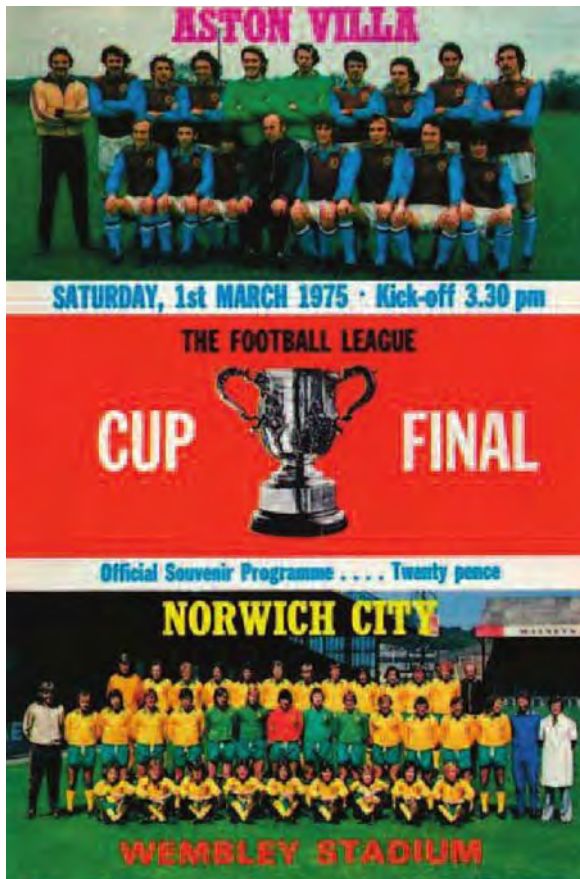
Linesman (red)

R Capey (Madeley Heath, Crewe)



ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Linesman (yellow) B H Chapman
Fourth Official D Mapp



Villa's goalkeeper, Jim Cumbes, is probably the only sportsman to win the Cricket County Championship, with Worcestershire, and the Football League Cup, with Villa, in successive years 1974 and 1975. Charlie Aitken gained a winner's medal in this match after two runners-up medals in 1963 and 1971. In all Charlie played in a record 61 League Cup games for the Villa. Norwich's keeper Kevin Keelan played five matches for Villa between 1959 and 1961.

This report was posted by Mat Kendrick on 27/2/10 on the Aston Villa FC news website. It also contains excerpts from the 'Birmingham Mail'

Villa dominated from the first whistle. The statistics tell the tale. Villa had 23 goal attempts to Norwich's five. Villa forced 15 corners, Norwich four (two of which went straight into the side netting).

The Canaries' much-vaunted strike pair of Ted MacDougall and Phil Boyer were well-shackled by Ian Ross and Chris Nicholl.

Only once did they threaten, in the 30th minute when MacDougall managed a goal attempt but Ross headed off the line. That was goalkeeper Jim Cumbes' last concern.

Norwich keeper Kevin Keelan, on the other hand, had his hands full. With Frank Carrodus running the show from midfield and Bobby MacDonald also impressive, Villa put the Canaries' box under siege.

Keelan kept them out though and with 11 minutes to go, it looked like Norwich's smothering tactics might pay off. Then Nicholl sent in a header which was handled by defender Mel Machin. Penalty. Ray Graydon had not enjoyed his greatest game for Villa. His day was about to get worse, for a second, then much, much better. He struck the spot-kick and Keelan dived to save, pushing the ball on to a post.

Luckily for Graydon, the rebound fell kindly for him and he scored.

Norwich had ten minutes to do what they hadn't looked like doing all day – score. But they never came close. "Nicholl was the best player on the field," reported the Mail, "bold and hard and winning everything in the air."

Villa closed the game out, lifted the cup for the second time and qualified for Europe for the first. After a worrying era, the giant had stirred.

"The League Cup was back in the hands of the first club to win it," said the Mail. "And there was a sense of something on the move: The rebirth of one of football's most historic clubs. The listless West Midlands football scene can only profit if Villa rise again."

This was the first of Villa's 'double' in this season. On 23rd April 1975 Villa beat Sheffield Wednesday

4-0 to win promotion back to Division 1, coming second in Division 2 to Manchester United by 3 points. They did, however, score 13 more goals than United.

1975/76

Wednesday September 10, 1975

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,138 (23,041), Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 OLDHAM ATHLETIC (0) 0

Leonard (63)

Nicholl (76)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Cumbes
2	Robson
3	Aitken
4	Ross
5	Nicholl
6	Phillips
7	Graydon
8	Little B
9	Leonard
10	Hamilton
11	Carrodus
12	Morgan

Oldham Athletic (Division 2)

1	Ogden
2	Branagan
3	Whittle
4	Blair
5	Hicks
6	Holt
7	Bell
8	Jones
9	Robins Wood
10	Chapman
11	Groves Robins
12	McVitie



The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Frizzell

The Officials

Referee	E D Wallace (Crewe)
Linesman (red)	P J Ackrill (Swindon)
Linesman (yellow)	C F Atwell (Northampton)

Wednesday October 8, 1975

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 41,447, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 2

Gray (88)

Macari (63)

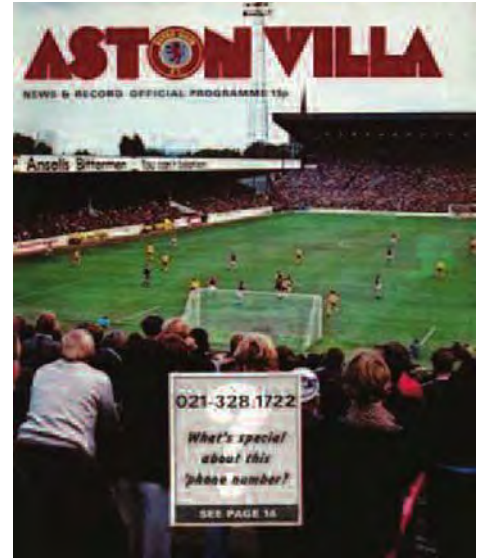
Coppell (71)

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Findlay
- 2 Gidman
- 3 Aitken
- 4 Ross
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Phillips
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Robson *Gray*
- 10 Hamilton
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Hunt

Manchester United (Division I)

- 1 Stepney
- 2 Nicholl
- 3 Houston
- 4 Daly *Jackson*
- 5 Greenhoff
- 6 Buchan
- 7 Coppell
- 8 McIlroy
- 9 Pearson
- 10 Macari
- 11 McCreery *Daly*
- 12 Grimshaw



The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr T Docherty

The Officials

- Referee P N Willis (Meadowfield, Co. Durham)
- Linesman (red) R C Jackson (Grantham)
- Linesman (yellow) M J Smith Coalville, Leics.)



Manchester United lost 0-4 to Manchester City in the 4th Round

1976/77

Wednesday September 1, 1976

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 34,585, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0

- Little B (33)
- Little B (47)
- Graydon (71)



Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Burridge
2	Gidman
3	Smith
4	Phillips
5	Nicholl
6	Mortimer
7	Graydon
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Robson
11	Carrodus
12	Hunt

Manchester City (Division I)

1	Corrigan
2	Docherty
3	Donachie
4	Doyle
5	Watson
6	Power (<i>12 Booth</i>)
7	Conway Barnes
8	Kidd Conway
9	Royle
10	Hartford
11	Tueart
12	Booth

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr A Book

The Officials

Referee	P G Reeves (Leicester)
Linesman (red)	J Ball (Leicester)
Linesman (yellow)	E N Darkes (Kidderminster)

**Manchester City were the defending League Cup holders.**

Wording from the captions to photographs in 'The Villa News & Record' 21/9/76: Villa's progress into the third round of the League Cup will be remembered for a long time by the fans who saw two outstanding goals from Brian Little in the 3-0 win against the holders, Manchester City. The overhead volley was just too quick for our cameraman, Terry Weir, but Chris Nicholl's smile in the main picture is enough to indicate everyone's pleasure in congratulating Brian. In the inset we see Brian slotting home his second goal after confusing the defence with his slick ball control.

This season, for some reason, the same picture would be used on the front cover of the programme for several consecutive issues. Thankfully all the League Cup issues all had different pictures!

Tuesday September 21, 1976

Round 3 At Villa Park Attendance: 31,295 Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 NORWICH CITY (0) 1

Gray (32)

Suggett (52)

Gray (63)

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Burridge
- 2 Gidman
- 3 Smith
- 4 Phillips
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Graydon
- 8 Little B
- 9 Gray
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Masefield

Norwich City (Division I)

- 1 Kelan
- 2 Ryan
- 3 Sullivan
- 4 Steele
- 5 Forbes Jones
- 6 Powell
- 7 Grapes Machin
- 8 Gibbins
- 9 Boyer
- 10 Suggett (12 Proudlove)
- 11 Peters
- 12 Proudlove

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Bond

The Officials

Referee

J Hunting (Leicester)

Linesman (red)

R F Smith (Rugeley)

Linesman (yellow)

C T Cartman (Stoke-on-Trent)



It was a night to remember for Andy Gray when his two goals against Norwich brought his tally to eleven this season and put Villa through to join the last sixteen in the 4th round of the League Cup. Andy out jumped the Norwich defence to send a looping header past Keelan for his first, and then scored the winner from a perfect cross by Brian Little.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 25/9/76

Wednesday October 27, 1976

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 41,428, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (2) 5 WREXHAM (1) 1

Little B (32)

Whittle (7)

Carrodus (36)

Little B (58)

Nicholl (63)

Gray (79)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Burridge
2	Gidman
3	Smith
4	Phillips
5	Nicholl
6	Mortimer
7	Graydon
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Robson <i>Cropley</i>
11	Carrodus
12	Robson

Wrexham (Division 3)

1	Lloyd
2	Evans
3	Dwyer
4	Davis
5	Roberts
6	Thomas
7	Shinton
8	Sutton
9	Ashcroft
10	Whittle
11	Griffiths
12	Lee

**The managers:**

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Neal

The Officials

Referee	C L Newsome (Broseley)
Linesman (red)	K J Gasser (Kidderminster)
Linesman (yellow)	T Hardman (Strensham)



The Villa Park "Goal Show" continued with the 5-1 win against Wrexham. That made the season's tally 30 goals from nine home games and clinched a League Cup quarter-final tie against Millwall on Wednesday, December 1st. The recovery from an early Wrexham goal started when Brian Little tapped home the equaliser after Chris Nicholl had headed on Ray Graydon's cross. Less than a minute later Frank Carrodus put Villa ahead after a move involving John Gidman, Andy Gray and Dennis Mortimer. Also Frank Carrodus was unlucky when his shot smashed against the bar in the first half. Brian Little made it 3-1 in the second half, and then Wrexham were in a sorry mess following Chris Nicholl's shot for the fourth which was helped over the line by full back Mickey Evans. Finally it was "Lucky 13" for Andy Gray as he headed home Ray Graydon's corner for his 13th Villa goal of the season.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 6/1 1/76

Wednesday December 1, 1976

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 37,147, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 MILLWALL (0) 0

Nicholl (8)

Little B (90)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Findlay
- 2 Gidman
- 3 Smith
- 4 Phillips
- 5 Nicholl
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Robson *Hunt*
- 8 Little B
- 9 Gray
- 10 Cropley
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Robson

Millwall (Division 2)

- 1 Johns
- 2 Evans
- 3 Donaldson
- 4 Brisley
- 5 Kitchener
- 6 Hazell
- 7 Lee
- 8 Seasman
- 9 Summerill *Moore*
- 10 Walker
- 11 Shanahan (*12 Fairbrother (72)*)
- 12 Fairbrother

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

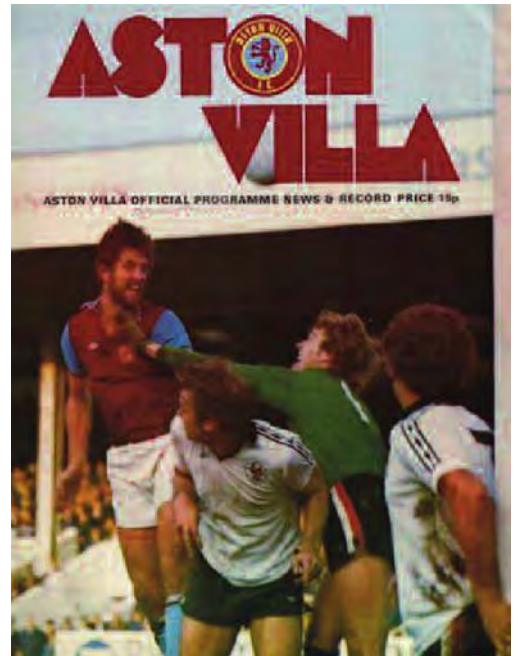
Mr G Jago

The Officials

- Referee E A Read (Bristol)
- Linesman (red) B Marchant (Hereford)
- Linesman (yellow) D V Meredith (Hereford)

Villa qualified for the Semi-Final of the League Cup for the sixth time in the 17 seasons of the competition when beating Millwall 2-0 at Villa Park. Chris Nicholl headed an early goal from an Alex Cropley corner, and Millwall reeled in disappointment. But the second Division side fought back courageously and it wasn't until the last minute that Brian Little made the match safe with a fine individual goal.

From 'The Villa news & record' 15/12/70



Tuesday February 1, 1977

Semi-final 1st Leg At Loftus Road Attendance: 28,739, Programme price: 15p

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Although the match was scheduled for the 19th January, then for 25th January, but was actually played on 1st February, due to a bad winter, the programme for 19/1/77 was used.

Queens Park Rangers (Division I)

1	Parkes
2	Clement <i>Shanks</i>
3	Gillard
4	Hollins (<i>12 Givens</i>)
5	McLintock (c)
6	Webb
7	Eastoe <i>Thomas</i>
8	Leach
9	Masson
10	Bowles
11	Givens <i>Eastoe</i>
12	Givens

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Burridge
2	Gidman
3	Robson
4	Phillips
5	Nicholl (c)
6	Mortimer
7	Deehan
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Cropley <i>Cowans</i>
11	Carrodus
12	Hughes

**The managers:**

Mr D Sexton

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee	A W S Jones (Ormskirk, Lancashire)
Linesman (red)	B L Cox
Linesman (yellow)	G C James (Newport)

From this QPR programme for this match, 19/1/77, a few statistics from the Rangers statistician, Derek Buxton:

“We have met Villa 9 times in League matches, at home and away, and they have never beaten us. We have won 7 and drawn 2. However, we have met them twice in cup matches and Villa have won them both. They beat us in the first round of the FA Cup 2-1 in 1920 at Villa Park, and beat us 2-1 in the 3rd round of the FA Cup in 1969. QPR have never failed to score against Villa, either at home or away in League or cup and Villa have never scored more than 2 against us in the 11 matches played so far.”

Villa were about to change those statistics!



Wednesday February 16, 1977

Semi-final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 48,429, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 2 aet

Deehan	Francis
Deehan (97)	Eastoe

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Burridge
2	Gidman
3	Robson
4	Phillips
5	Nicholl
6	Mortimer
7	Deehan
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Cropley
11	Carrodus
12	Hughes

Queens Park Rangers (Division I)

1	Parkes
2	Clement
3	Gillard
4	Hollins (<i>12 Eastoe</i>)
5	McLintock
6	Webb
7	Thomas
8	Francis
9	Masson
10	Bowles
11	Givens
12	Eastoe

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr D Sexton

The Officials

Referee

R Matthewson (Bolton)

Linesman (red)

M J Smith (Leicester)

Linesman (yellow)

D Rogers (Derby)

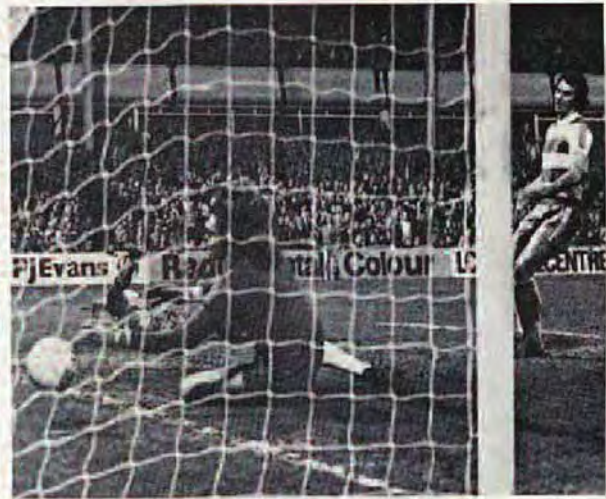


This page is from 'The Villa News & Record' for the First Division match with QPR, dated 19th February 1977. However, the league match was postponed until May 20th.

SO WE MEET AGAIN...



This splendid sequence shows John Deehan scoring our first goal in the second leg League Cup Semi-Final at Villa Park, on Wednesday. Yet John's fine effort and another tremendously hard-working team effort was still not enough, and we do battle again at Highbury on Tuesday night (7.30pm). Pictures: Bill Goulden.



RON SAUNDERS SAYS

On behalf of the lads and myself, I want to thank our friends for their fantastic support, both at Queens Park Rangers and during the second leg at Villa Park. We will continue to

battle all the way at Highbury in the replay and hope to finish the job there.

The same kind of team-effort backed by the same depth of support will be invaluable in our bid to make it third time lucky.

Tuesday February 22, 1977

Semi-final Replay At Highbury, Attendance: 40,438, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 0

Little B (21)

Little B (28)

Little B (89)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Burridge
2	Gidman
3	Robson
4	Phillips
5	Nicholl
6	Mortimer
7	Deehan
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Cropley (12 Cowans)
11	Carrodus
12	Cowans

Queens Park Rangers (Division 1)

1	Parkes
2	Clement
3	Gillard
4	Hollins Masson
5	McLintock
6	Webb
7	Thomas
8	Francis
9	Masson Eastoe
10	Bowles
11	Givens
12	Hollins

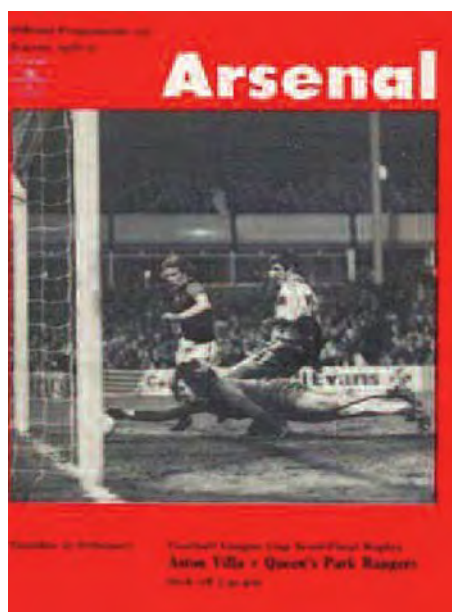
The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr D Sexton

The Officials

Referee	R Matthewson (Bolton)
Linesman (red)	J B Hazell (Colchester)
Linesman (yellow)	R Rodell (Luton)



Although there was no match report as such, in the programme for 2nd March 1977, against Derby County, Terry Weir's photographs of this game had the following captions:

GLORY, GLORY!

The toast is...WEMBLEY! And the champagne celebrations after beating Q.P.R. at Highbury were well deserved for John Burridge, who saved a penalty in the previous meeting at Villa Park, and Brian Little, who scored a memorable hat-trick to finish off another superb team effort. [The picture shows John and Brian in the bath after the match, holding bottles of Moet. Then follows a picture sequence of Brian's goals] (Top) A neat shot flicked home off goalkeeper Phil Parkes body. (Centre) A left foot drive threading its way through the crowded goalmouth. (Bottom) A wide angle view of Brian deftly placing in the third. And then came

a happy coach journey back to the Midlands – much to the delight of John Gidman (right). This programme is available from all good programme shops (if in stock)!

Saturday March 12, 1977

Final At Wembley, Attendance: 96,223 (100,000), Programme price: 25p

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 EVERTON (0) 0

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	John Burridge
2	John Gidman
3	John Robson
4	Leighton Phillips
5	Chris Nicholl (c)
6	Dennis Mortimer
7	John Deehan
8	Brian Little
9	Andy Gray
10	Alex Cropley
11	Frank Carrodus
12	Gordon Cowans

Everton (Division I)

1	David Lawson
2	Dave Jones
3	Terry Darracott
4	Mick Lyons (c)
5	Ken McNaught
6	Andy King
7	Bryan Hamilton
8	Martin Dobson
9	Bob Latchford
10	Duncan McKenzie
11	Ronnie Goodlass
12	George Telfer

The managers:

Mr Ron Saunders

Mr Gordon Lee

The Officials

Referee G C Kew (Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough)

Linesman (red) L N Douglas (Middlesbrough)

Linesman (yellow) G L Harry (Newport, Gwent)

Reserve Referee W J Gow (Swansea)



One strange coincidence in this match: Ron Saunders, Villa's manager, once played for Everton and Gordon Lee, of course, played for the Villa in the finals of 1961 and 1963.

It may have been the League Cup Final, but the game was widely reported to be the most boring yet. Both sets of players did not seem in touch and the newspapers condemned the game. (See the remarks for the replay,)

Wednesday March 16, 1977

Final Replay At Hillsborough, Attendance: 54,840 (55,000), Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 **EVERTON (0) 1 aet**
 Kenyon (og 79) Latchford (89)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	John Burridge
2	John Gidman
3	John Robson
4	Leighton Phillips
5	Chris Nicholl (c)
6	Dennis Mortimer
7	Alex Cropley <i>John Deehan</i>
8	Brian Little
9	Andy Gray
10	Gordon Cowans
11	Frank Carrodus
12	Gordon Smith

Everton (Division 1)

1	David Lawson
2	Dave Jones <i>Mike Bernard</i>
3	Terry Darracott
4	Mick Lyons
5	Ken McNaught
6	Andy King
7	Bryan Hamilton (<i>12 Jim Pearson</i>)
8	Martin Dobson <i>Roger Kenyon</i>
9	Bob Latchford
10	Duncan McKenzie
11	Ronnie Goodlass
12	George Telfer <i>Jim Pearson</i>

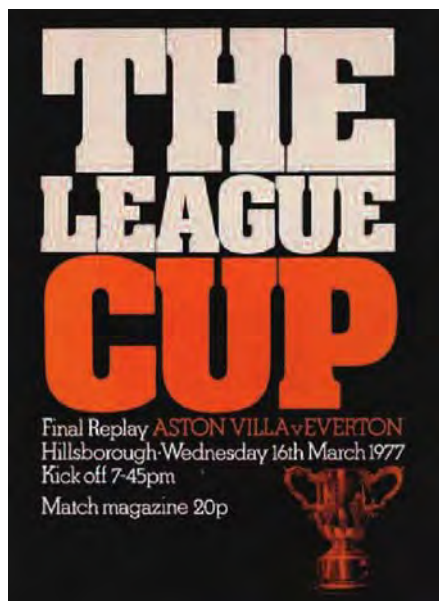
The managers:

Mr Gordon Lee

Mr Ron Saunders

The Officials

Referee	G C Kew (Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough)
Linesman (red)	L N Douglas (Middlesbrough)
Linesman (yellow)	G L Harry (Newport, Gwent)
Reserve Referee	W J Gow (Swansea)



From the replay programme, Wednesday March 16th 1977, at Hillsborough:

The Press slated this match (The Final at Wembley), one comment in 'The Sunday Mirror', was "Who wants a Cup on Wednesday?" seemed to sum up the disappointment of players, spectators and everybody else involved, although we are naturally pleased to be staging the second match here tonight.

One unidentified press quote said "Villa boss Ron Saunders said they never got started. 'The truth is, we froze on the day'. And Villa's Welsh International Leighton Phillips said: "It was a terrible game. We can never play as badly again." In the Everton dressing room manager Gordon Lee blamed "the occasion." He said: "It was too much for some of the young players." McKenzie said: "I

think there should have been extra time because it is something of an anti-climax now. Who cares who wins the Cup on a Wednesday night?" Everton are likely to be without midfield man Martin Dobson for the replay. He has a groin and back injury."

Well at least there were goals and extra time in this match! On, then, to the third game.

Wednesday April 13, 1977

Final 2nd Replay At Old Trafford, Attendance: 54,749, Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (0) 3 EVERTON (1) 2 aet

Nicholl (80)

Little B (81)

Little B (119)

Latchford (38)

Lyons (82)

Teams shown as per 'The Villa News & Record' 16/5/77:

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	John Burridge
2	John Gidman (<i>12 Gordon Smith</i>)
3	John Robson
4	Leighton Phillips
5	Chris Nicholl (c)
6	Dennis Mortimer
7	Ray Graydon
8	Brian Little
9	John Deehan
10	Alex Cropley
11	Gordon Cowans
12	Gordon Smith

Everton (Division 1)

1	David Lawson
2	Neil Robinson
3	Terry Darracott
4	Mick Lyons
5	Ken McNaught
6	Andy King
7	Bryan Hamilton
8	Martin Dobson
9	Bob Latchford
10	Jim Pearson (<i>12 Steve Seargeant</i>)
11	Ronnie Goodlass
12	Steve Seargeant

The managers:

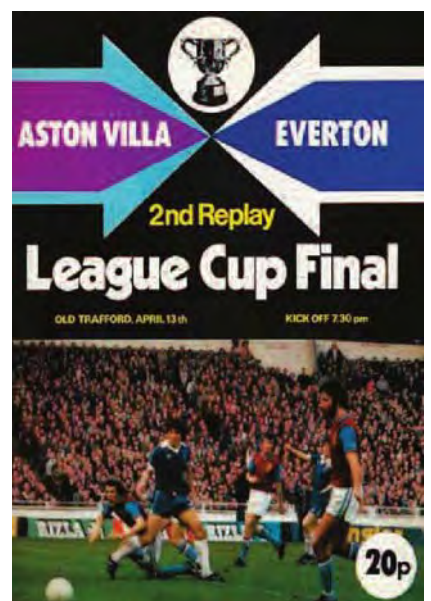
Mr Ron Saunders
Lee

Mr Gordon

The Officials

Referee	G C Kew (Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough)
Linesman (red)	L N Douglas (Middlesbrough)
Linesman (yellow)	G L Harry (Newport, Gwent)
Reserve Referee	W J Gow (Swansea)

1977 Football League Cup Final The was played between Aston Villa and Everton and required three games to decide the winner, the only time this has happened in the League Cup. The first match



took place at Wembley Stadium on 12 March and the game ended in a dull goalless draw. The first replay on 16 March was only marginally better as the teams again played out a draw, this time at Hillsborough the home of Sheffield Wednesday. Both teams at least managed a goal apiece on this occasion although both were scored by Everton players with Bob Latchford's last-minute equaliser nullifying Roger Kenyon's earlier own-goal. The second replay took place at Old Trafford on 13 April. The game is probably best remembered for a 40-yard goal from Villa centre-half Chris Nicholl, and in a 2010 poll this was voted in the Top 25 of all-time League Cup moments. Brian Little scored his second of the match in dramatic fashion during the dying seconds of the game to give Villa a 3–2 victory. Mick Lyons and Bob Latchford scored for Everton.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia



This cover is postmarked 12th March 1977, the date of the first match. The match results were added later. But why there is a Welsh stamp on the cover?

Now, just an aside from the League Cup, here is a piece of Villa memorabilia that is exclusive to our family. In the 1950s, Barbara – the lady who puts up with all my stuff lying about – lived in Aldershot. Her father, then a Staff Sergeant in the RAMC, was a qualified referee, who was in charge of many Army matches, including Army Cup finals. At this time Villa played an annual friendly against the Army. One such match was refereed by S/Sgt H W North. It was played on the 15th October 1952, and I believe it was the only time the soldiers won – not that the ref was biased. When Bill North was demobbed he was promoted to the FA Referee's list, and appeared as referee or linesman in several Division Three (South) matches. I am still searching for any of these programmes, although I do have one of the Army Cup Final programmes of a match that he officiated. The memorabilia we have, because it is Barbara's really, is the silver medal that her father received for being in charge of the Villa match. And here are photographs of that Medal:

1977/78

After beating Everton in the three match final on April 13th 1977, in the second home match of the new season the opponents were again Everton. Writing in the programme for that match, manager Ron Saunders had this to say in the Villa News and Record for the 27th August 1977:

Once again, the Football League Cup is just around the corner and it's a coincidence that we should be thinking about the competition on the day that we meet Everton. After last year's tremendously exciting Final between the two clubs, neither side needs reminding of the importance, and the rewards that can be gained, when we start this year's League Cup trail next week. The draw has given both clubs away games against teams from lower divisions, but I am sure Everton share our policy of paying the fullest respect to the opposition, no matter which division they are in or whether the fixture is home or away. While Everton will be travelling to Bramall Lane to meet Sheffield United, we will have a long journey to the South-West for our game against Exeter City.

Playing on a Third Division ground will seem a long way from the atmosphere



and publicity surrounding the League Cup-ties we were involved in against Queen's Park Rangers and Everton only a few months ago. But our attitude and our preparations will be exactly the same. In my first season at Villa Park, we had experience of several matches like this one and, next week, as holders of the trophy, the task will be just that much more difficult because we are there to be shot at. It's worth remembering the hard work and application that was needed for us to overcome lower division sides when we won the Cup in 1974-75. We needed replays at Villa Park to beat both Crewe and Hartlepool, and although we won first-time at Colchester in the quarter-final, there was nothing easy about meeting Chester in the semi-final. Again, we drew the away match and in the second leg at Villa Park, they pushed us all the way before we qualified for Wembley on a 5-4 aggregate. If we look back on these experiences and recall that the opposition had to be treated with the greatest respect, there is no reason why we cannot make progress next week. But it would be foolish to expect anything less than a very hard game. However, we must think first about today's game against Everton. By losing against Arsenal at Highbury on Tuesday, Everton were left without a point after two matches, but, to me, that only makes them more dangerous today. They have many good players, not only those who cost a lot of money on the transfer market, and they will be fighting hard to gain their first points of the season. For us to be successful, we will need the tremendous backing that you gave us in the League Cup Final matches last season and the usual 110% effort from all our players. With that much in our favour, I am confident that we can achieve the right result. (Everton won the League match 2-1.)

Wednesday August 31, 1977

Round 2 At St James' Park, Attendance: 13,768, Programme price: 20p

EXETER CITY (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 3

Robertson (64 pen)

Gray (22)

Gray (57)

Gray (89)



Exeter City (Division 3)

1	Baugh
2	Templeman
3	Hore
4	Weeks (12 Robertson)
5	Saxton
6	Hatch
7	Hodge
8	Kellow
9	Bowker
10	Beer
11	Jennings
12	Robertson

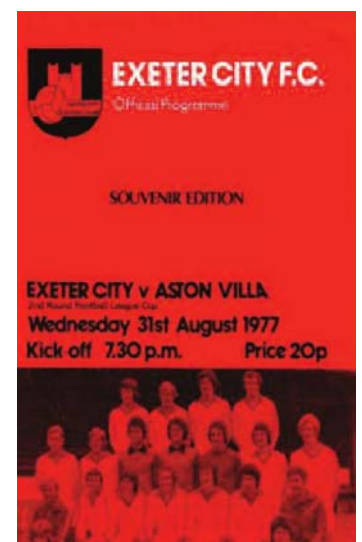
Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Gregory
3	Smith
4	Phillips (c)
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Deehan
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Cropley
11	Carrodus
12	Cowans

The managers:

Mr R Saxton

Mr R Saunders



The Officials

Referee D R G Nippard (Christchurch)
Linesman (red) A D Montacute (Yeovil)
Linesman (yellow) B R Stockley (Swanage)

In his notes in the programme for 10/9/77, Ron Saunders wrote:

At Exeter on Wednesday 31st, we played very well to end up worthy winners by 3-1 and go through into the Third Round of the Football League Cup which now gives us... surprise, surprise!... a home draw against Queens Park Rangers

Wednesday October 26, 1977

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 34,481, Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 0

Gray (pen 40)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1 Rimmer
2 Gidman
3 Smith
4 Phillips
5 McNaught
6 Mortimer
7 Deehan (12 Cowans)
8 Little B
9 Gray
10 Cropley
11 Carrodus
12 Cowans

Queens Park Rangers (Division 1)

1 Parkes
2 Clement
3 Gillard
4 Hollins
5 Needham (12 Abbott)
6 Shanks
7 Eastoe
8 Busby Williams
9 Masson Givens
10 Bowles
11 Givens Wallace
12 Abbott

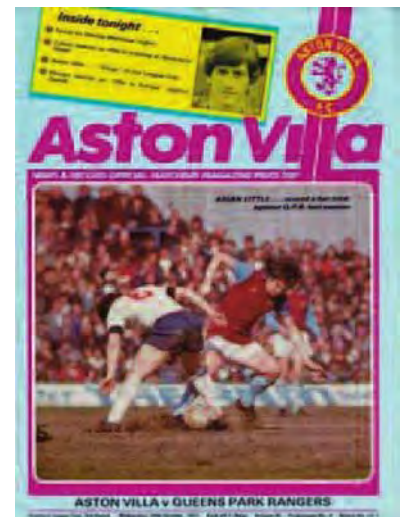
The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr F Sibley

The Officials

Referee D Richardson (Accrington)
Linesman (red) A R Humpage (Market Drayton)
Linesman (yellow) D Woodward (Welland, Worcs.)



Tuesday November 29, 1977

Round 4 At The City Ground, Attendance: 29,333, Programme price: 15p

NOTTM FOREST (3) 4 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Lloyd (7)
Anderson (15)
Withe (24)
Woodcock (52)

Little B (78)
Carrodus (83)

Nottingham Forest (Division I)

- 1 Woods
- 2 Anderson
- 3 Barrett
- 4 McGovern
- 5 Lloyd
- 6 Burns
- 7 O'Neill
- 8 Bowyer
- 9 Withe
- 10 Woodcock
- 11 Robertson
- 12 O'Hare

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Gidman
- 3 Smith
- 4 Phillips
- 5 McNaught
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Deehan (*12 Cowans*)
- 8 Little B
- 9 Gray
- 10 Cropley
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Cowans

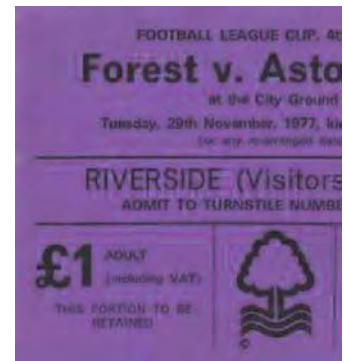
The managers:

Mr B Clough

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

- Referee C Thomas (Treorchy, Mid-Glamorgan)
- Linesman (red) J A Barker (Northampton)
- Linesman (yellow) G A Rose (Whitwick, Leicester)



Two moments from the Forest game: The top picture shows Brian Little volleying home our first goal, and below is Andy Gray's goal that was disallowed for offside

From 'The Villa News & Record' for the match with WBA on 10th December



Nottingham Forest won the Cup this season beating Liverpool 1-0 in a replay

1978/79

Wednesday August 30, 1978

Round 2 At Villa Park Attendance: 31,152, Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (0) 0

Shelton (26)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Gidman
3	Gordon Smith
4	Evans
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Shelton
8	Little B
9	Gray
10	Cowans
11	Carrodus
12	Phillips

Sheffield Wednesday (Division 3)

1	Bolder
2	Blackhall
3	Grant
4	Rushbury
5	Dowd
6	Mark Smith
7	Mullen
8	Porterfield (12 Owen (80))
9	Tynan
10	Johnson
11	Hornsby
12	Owen

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Charlton

The Officials

Referee	S G Bates (Bristol)
Linesman (red)	A D Blake (Bridgnorth)
Linesman (yellow)	K J Gasser (Stourport)

Shelton stunner clips Owls wings

If [Gary] Shelton is understandably reluctant to favour either side, however, it was Villa who benefited when he was on target in a second round tie between the clubs in August 1978. Wednesday, then struggling in the Third Division under the management of Jack Charlton, gave First Division Villa plenty to think about that night, but Shelton broke Hillsborough hearts with a memorable goal. "There was a good build up and Gordon Cowans slipped the ball to me on the edge of the penalty area," he recalls, "I hit it into the top corner of the net, and that was enough to take us into the third



round. Later, when I joined Wednesday, Jack Charlton used to have a dig at me over that goal.”

From 'The Villa News & Record' 28/11/2001

Wednesday October 4, 1978

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 30,690, Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 **CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 1**
 Little B (41) Swindlehurst (72 pen)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	David Evans <i>Gregory</i>
3	Gregory <i>Williams</i>
4	Allan Evans
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Craig
8	Little B
9	Deehan
10	Cowans <i>Shelton (12 Phillips)</i>
11	Shelton <i>Carrodus</i>
12	Phillips

Crystal Palace (Division 2)

1	Burridge
2	Hinshelwood
3	Sansom
4	Chatterton
5	Cannon
6	Gilbert
7	Nicholas
8	Murphy
9	Swindlehurst
10	Elwiss
11	Hilaire
12	Fenwick

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr T Venables

The Officials

Referee	A E Morrissey (Bramhall, Cheshire)
Linesman (red)	D E Wise (Malvern)
Linesman (yellow)	J Ball (Leicester)

Note: In the Palace programme for the replay it is noted that Swindlehurst scored Palace's penalty, not Chatterton as given elsewhere, and also that in the second half John Burridge, a former Villa 'keeper, saved a penalty from Tommy Craig



Tuesday October 10, 1978

Round 3 Replay At Selhurst Park, Attendance: 33,155, Programme price: 20p

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 **ASTON VILLA (0) 0 aet**

Crystal Palace (Division 2)

- 1 Burridge
- 2 Hinshelwood
- 3 Sansom
- 4 Chatterton
- 5 Cannon
- 6 Gilbert
- 7 Nicholas
- 8 Murphy
- 9 Swindlehurst (12 Walsh)
- 10 Elwiss
- 11 Hilaire
- 12 Walsh

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Gregory
- 3 Williams
- 4 Allan Evans (*sent off 79 mins*)
- 5 McNaught (12 Ormsby)
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Craig
- 8 Little B Deehan
- 9 Gray
- 10 Deehan Phillips
- 11 Carrodus
- 12 Ormsby

The managers:

Mr T Venables

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee

M J Taylor (Deal, Kent)

Linesman (red)

W G Cleere (High Wycombe)

Linesman (yellow)

A S Heselgrave (Kent)



Monday October 16, 1978

Round 3 2nd Replay At Highfield Road, Attendance: 25,455, Programme price: 15p

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0

Gray (19)

Gregory (31)

Gray (71)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Gregory Gidman
3	Williams
4	Evans Phillips
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Craig
8	Deehan Little B
9	Gray
10	Phillips Gregory
11	Carrodus
12	Evans A

Crystal Palace (Division 2)

1	Burridge
2	Hinshelwood
3	Sansom
4	Chatterton
5	Cannon (12 Fenwick)
6	Gilbert
7	Nicholas
8	Murphy
9	Swindlehurst <i>Walsh</i>
10	Elwiss
11	Hilaire
12	Fenwick

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr T Venables

The Officials

Referee	K Hackett (Sheffield)
Linesman (red)	H Taylor (Leicester)
Linesman (yellow)	D Wragg (Burton-on-Trent)

FROM THE COVENTRY CITY PROGRAMME FOR THE THIRD MATCH

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

The First Encounter

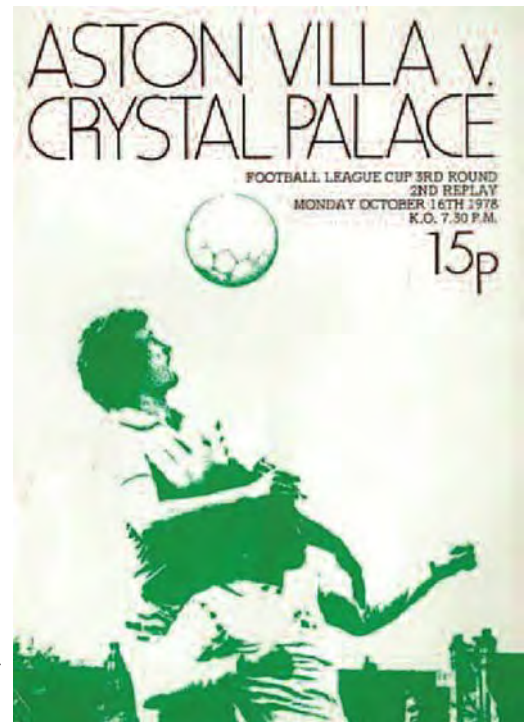
Aston Villa 1 Crystal Palace 1

Villa were made to fight for their lives by the young Palace players. Brian Little headed Villa in front in the 41st minute but impressive Palace hit back with a 72nd minute penalty by Nick Chatterton. The spot kick was awarded when Ken McNaught handled a speculative shot by Palace's brilliant midfield player Vince Hilaire. But injury hit Villa should have clinched the match. Tommy Craig, their Scottish midfield general missed a 59th minute penalty after Peter Nicholas had floored Gary Shelton. Palace's former Villa goalkeeper John Burridge flung himself to his left to save Craig's penalty and keep his side in the match. Villa lost Shelton with damaged knee ligaments 10 minutes from the end.

The Second Encounter

Crystal Palace 0 Aston Villa 0

Villa's defender Allan Evans was sent off in the 79th minute for a tackle on Jerry Murphy but his team mates held out bravely through extra time. Evans was cautioned for dissent by Referee Mike Taylor in the first half and when he was ordered off it left ten-men Villa with another 40 minutes of desperate action. In addition they had been hit just before half time by a knee injury to Ken McNaught. He was replaced by Brendan Ormsby. In this match it was the turn of Villa goalkeeper



Jimmy Rimmer to shine and he was prominent with several fine saves.

So now – an Encounter of the third kind



We at Coventry City are delighted to welcome Aston Villa and Crystal Palace to Highfield Road and to be able to stage what should be a fine match. We are very proud of our stadium and I am sure that the two teams could not wish for a better surface to play on, in an arena, which when it has a large crowd inside, generates a tremendous atmosphere. Crystal Palace might feel a little bit put out at losing the ground advantage on the toss of a coin, but at the same time to have the right conditions in which to play, is half the battle. Villa obviously will have the bigger following, but then that is what winning the toss is about in instances such as this. I must say it will be a novel situation for myself and our players and directors to sit and watch a match in which Coventry City is not involved. It is one which we are looking forward to, and it just remains for me to wish both sides luck.

Gordon Milne, manager, Coventry City

Wednesday November 8, 1978

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 32,727, Programme price: 20p

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 LUTON TOWN (0) 2

Hatton (66)
Stein (90)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Gidman
3	Williams
4	Phillips <i>Evans A</i>
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Craig
8	Little B
9	Gray (<i>12 Cowans</i>)
10	Deehan
11	Gregory
12	Cowans

Luton Town (Division 2)

1	Aleksic
2	Price
3	Aizlewood
4	Hill
5	Turner
6	Donaghy
7	West
8	Fuccillo
9	Stein
10	Hatton
11	Moss
12	Stephens



The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr D Pleat

The Officials

Referee D Richardson (Great Harwood)



Linesman (red) D Capey (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Linesman (yellow) F A Harwood (Derby)

We've met before...

...Luton were in the old Second Division in 1978-79, while Ron Saunders was moulding Villa into a side who would become League Champions in two-and-a-half years. On that November night, though, the formbook counted for absolutely nothing. Luton arrived here as apparent no-hopers, but headed back down the M1 in jubilant mood after causing a major upset. Under the guidance of David Pleat, then one of the youngest managers in the country, the visitors displayed absolutely no respect for Villa's reputation. They stuck to their game plan and clinched a place in the fifth round with an unexpected 2-0 victory. Goals from former Birmingham City striker Bob Hatton and Brian Stein were enough to sink a Villa side which was packed with talent but lacked consistency. They had come through the earlier League Cup rounds by edging home 1-0 against Sheffield Wednesday before beating Crystal Palace 3-2 in a second replay at Highfield Road. But on that November night against the Hatters, a line-up which also included Jimmy Rimmer, John Gidman, Allan Evans and Brian Little, could make no impression on their supposedly inferior opponents.

From 'The Villa News & Record' dated 2/10/2002

Luton Town lost 1-4 to Leeds United in the 5th round

1979/80

Tuesday August 28, 1979

Round 2 1st Leg At Layer Road, Attendance: 6,221, Programme price: 25p

COLCHESTER UNITED (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Shaw (35)

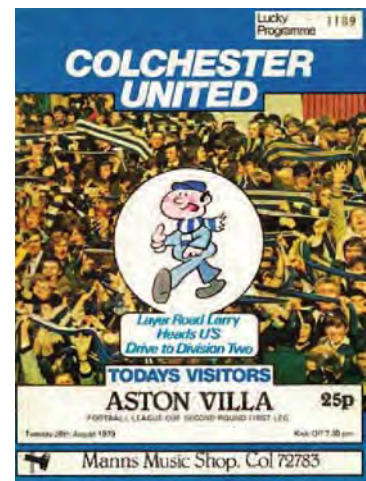
Shaw (73)

Colchester United (Division 3)

1	Walker
2	Cook <i>Leslie</i>
3	Wright <i>Packer</i>
4	Leslie <i>Rowles</i>
5	Wignall
6	Dowman
7	Hodge
8	Gough
9	Foley
10	Lee
11	Allinson
12	Bunkell

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Swain <i>Gidman</i>
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Morley
8	Little B <i>Shaw</i>
9	Deehan
10	Cowans
11	Shelton
12	Donovan



The managers:

Mr R Roberts

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee B Hill (Wellingborough)

Linesman (red) E N Day (Walthamstow)

Linesman (yellow) B A O'Bray (Huntingdon)

Wednesday September 5, 1979

Round 2 2ndLeg At Villa Park, Attendance: 19,473, Programme price: 30p

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 COLCHESTER UNITED (1) 2 aet

Lee (19)

Gough (79)

Aston Villa won 9-8 on penalties

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Linton *Gidman*
- 3 Gibson (*12 Shelton*)
- 4 Evans
- 5 McNaught
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Morley
- 8 Shaw
- 9 Deehan
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Swain
- 12 Shelton

Colchester United (Division 3)

- 1 Walker
- 2 Packer (*12 Dowman (78)*)
- 3 Rowles
- 4 Leslie
- 5 Wignall
- 6 Dowman *Wright*
- 7 Hodge
- 8 Gough
- 9 Foley
- 10 Lee
- 11 Allinson
- 12 Dowman

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr R Roberts

The Officials

Referee L C Shapter (Newton Abbot)

Linesman (red) A J Elcock (Kidderminster)

Linesman (yellow) D E Wise (Malvern)



After Tony Morley had successfully converted Villa's ninth kick, Mike Walker missed for Colchester, giving Villa the tie.

Magnificent U's are beaten by penalties, Colchester win second leg 2-0

Magnificent cup fighters Colchester United bowed out of the Football League Cup in the cruellest



possible fashion after a sensational sudden-death penalty shoot-out against Aston Villa at Villa Park last night. Colchester had made a mockery of their Third Division status in beating their First Division opponents 2-0 in the second leg to force the game, first into extra time, and then into an amazing penalty decider.

After a goalless extra 30 minutes, which left the aggregate scores level at 2-2, the U's lost 9-8 on penalties in one of the most thrilling and dramatic finishes in the history of the competition. In the end it was left to Colchester goalkeeper Mick Walker to keep his side's hopes alive. But Walker, who had produced a magnificent performance in goal throughout the night blasted his spot kick high over the bar into the crowd.

That left the penalty contest level at 8-8, but then Villa winger Tony Morley stepped up to convert the 17th spot kick of the night, which decided the outcome.

Colchester began the night facing a seemingly impossible task after last week's 2-0 defeat at Layer Road. But they surprised the 19,473 crowd with a superb all-round performance which more than warranted a place in the next round. Striker Trevor Lee put them ahead with a glorious headed goal after 20 minutes, and with Wignall and Wright out-

standing in the visitors' defence it was Colchester who dominated long periods of the game. Swain had a goal disallowed for Villa in the 23rd minute when Mortimer was adjudged offside, and in the 64th minute Mortimer hammered a tremendous shot against the post. But in the 78th minute Colchester stunned the crowd with a magnificent goal from the hardworking Bobby Gough to put the aggregate scores level. Colchester, who had Gough and substitute Dowman booked, almost settled the issue in extra time, when Lee got clear, but Rimmer just beat him to the ball. Then came the start of the penalty decider with Hodge, Allinson, Foley, Wignell and Leslie all converting their kicks. Villa, too, converted five out of five before it became a sudden death affair. Dowman, Lee and Gough converted Colchester's next three attempts before poor Walker ballooned his effort high into the stand.

Match report from the 'East Anglian Daily Telegraph'

In an advertisement in this 'Villa News & Record' there is this announcement from ASDA Stores, at Aston Hall Road:

OPENING HOURS

When the Villa first-team are playing at home in the League, League Cup or FA Cup this season, the ASDA Superstore closes down earlier than normal.

It then gives the opening hours, but does say that when the first team is not playing opening hours would be normal. Would this be to allow the staff to go to the match?

Tuesday September 25, 1979

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 22,635, Programme price: 30p

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 EVERTON (0) 0

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Rimmer
2	Gidman
3	Pejic
4	Evans
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Little B
9	Geddis
10	Cowans
11	Swain
12	Shelton

Everton (Division I)

1	Wood
2	Wright <i>Barton</i>
3	Bailey
4	Lyons
5	Higgins
6	Ross
7	Hartford <i>Nulty</i>
8	Stanley <i>Hartford</i>
9	King <i>(12 Stanley)</i>
10	Kidd
11	Eastoe
12	Stanley

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr G Lee

The Officials

Referee

A R Glasson (Salisbury)

Linesman (red)

H Taylor (Leicester)

Linesman (yellow)

H V Tomson (Tamworth)



Tuesday October 9, 1979

Round 3 Replay At Goodison Park, Attendance: 22,088, Programme price: 20p

EVERTON (2) 4 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Kidd (5) Swain (89)
 Latchford (11)
 Latchford (74)
 King (76, also given as Rimmer og)

Everton (Division I)

1	Wood
2	Barton <i>Wright</i>
3	Bailey
4	Lyons
5	Higgins
6	Ross <i>Nulty</i>
7	Hartford
8	Stanley
9	King <i>Latchford</i>
10	Kidd
11	Eastoe <i>King</i>
12	McBride

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Rimmer
2	Gidman <i>Gibson</i>
3	Pejic
4	Evans
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Little B
9	Geddis
10	Cowans
11	Swain
12	Ormsby



The managers:

Mr G Lee

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee	T Mills (Barnsley)
Linesman (red)	D M Charnley (Manchester)
Linesman (yellow)	P H Waters (Blackpool)

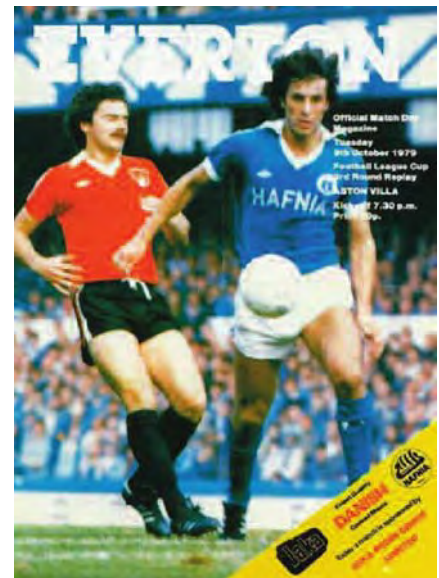
In this Everton programme was the following:

Everton grab their revenge

Everton 4 Aston Villa 1

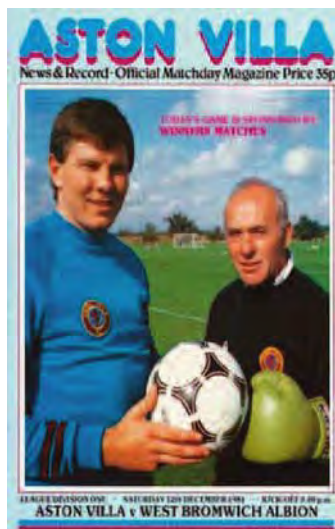
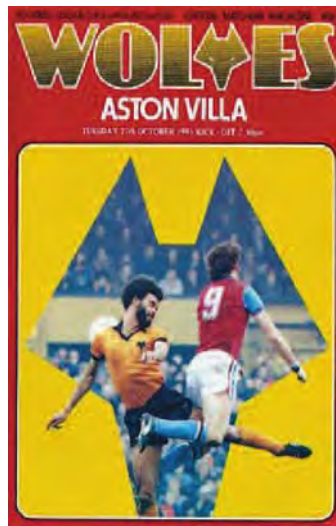
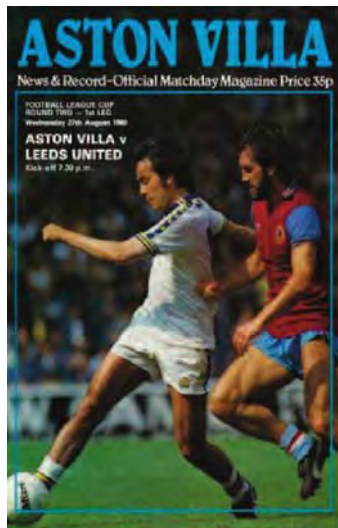
No Wembley for Aston Villa this year, they were unceremoniously bundled out of the Cup by a revenge win that had Everton fans licking their lips in sheer satisfaction. The Merseysiders, beaten by Villa in last season's marathon League Cup final, bounced back to deliver a humiliating defeat to the Midlanders at Goodison Park.

This wasn't a premonition of the result of this match; it was the result of the FA Cup match on 7/1/78!



Everton were beaten 1-2 by Grimsby Town in the 4th round

1980 to 1990



1980/81

Wednesday August 27, 1980

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 23,622, Programme price: 35p

ASTON VILLA (1) LEEDS UNITED (0) 0

Morley (9)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Swain
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer (c)
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	Cowans
11	Morley
12	Deacy

Leeds United (Division 1)

1	Lukic
2	Cherry (c)
3	Greenhoff
4	Flynn
5	Hart
6	Madeley
7	Chandler
8	Hamson <i>Thomas</i>
9	Connor
10	Sabella
11	Graham
12	Gray

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Adamson

The Officials

Referee	C B White (Middlesex)
Linesman (red)	E W Burns (Bath)
Linesman (yellow)	A T Bywater (Telford)



Goal Star!

A spectacular volley from Tony Morley after nine minutes was enough to give Villa a one goal lead against Leeds to take to Elland Road in the second round of the League Cup...

From 'The Villa News & Record' 17/9/80

Wednesday September 3, 1980

Round 2 2nd Leg At Elland Road, Attendance: 12,236, Programme price: 30p

LEEDS UNITED (1) 1 ASTON VILLA (2) 3

Graham (13)

Withe (6)

Shaw (45)

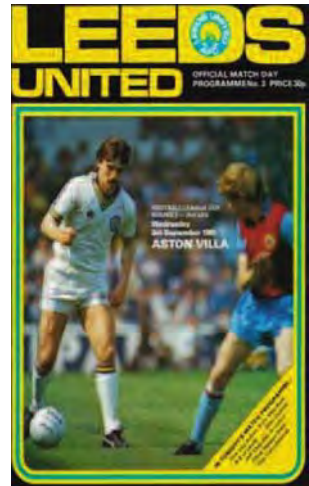
Shaw (72)

Leeds United (Division I)

- 1 Lukic
- 2 Cherry (c)
- 3 Greenhoff
- 4 Flynn
- 5 Hart
- 6 Madeley
- 7 Chandler *Parlane*
- 8 Hamson (*12 Harris*)
- 9 Connor
- 10 Sabella
- 11 Graham
- 12 Harris

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Swain
- 3 Gibson
- 4 Evans
- 5 McNaught
- 6 Mortimer (c)
- 7 Bremner
- 8 Shaw (*12 Deacy*)
- 9 Withe
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Morley
- 12 Deacy



The managers:

Mr J Adamson

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

- Referee J D Hough (Macclesfield)
- Linesman (red) J W Brown (Sale)
- Linesman (yellow) J B Robinson (Wigan)

We have an uphill fight on our hands this evening... but trailing by only one goal, we are still in with a shout. That's my reading of our second leg tie against Villa this evening. The tie is very finely balanced and if we can produce the football we are capable of over ninety minutes tonight and our supporters get behind the team from the start, then I am sure we can make up the deficit. Jimmy Anderson, the Leeds manager.

From the Leeds programme for this match

CAMBRIDGE: ALL TICKET:

It's 3-1 to Villa, and that's the happy outcome in the last round at Leeds, when Dennis Mortimer and the lads won through to the third round of the League Cup. Peter Withe increased Villa's overall advantage in the second match and two further goals from Gary Shaw put the result beyond doubt. Now it's a repetition of one of last season's Cup trips, at the Abbey Stadium for the Tuesday night game against Cambridge on 23rd September, KO 7.30 p.m. This match is ALL ticket.

from 'The Villa News & Record' dated 17/9/80, for the match against Everton

Tuesday September 23, 1980

Round 3 At The Abbey Stadium, Attendance: 7,608, Programme price: 30p

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Finney (8)
Spriggs (47)

Morley (6)

Cambridge United (Division 2)

- 1 Webster
- 2 Donaldson
- 3 Murray
- 4 Smith
- 5 Fallon
- 6 Gibbins
- 7 Streete Evans (12 Buckley (74))
- 8 Spriggs
- 9 O'Neill
- 10 Finney Reilly
- 11 Christie
- 12 Buckley

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Swain
- 3 Gibson
- 4 Evans A
- 5 McNaught
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Bremner
- 8 Shaw Geddis
- 9 Withe
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Morley (12 Shaw (63))
- 12 Shaw

The managers:

Mr J Docherty

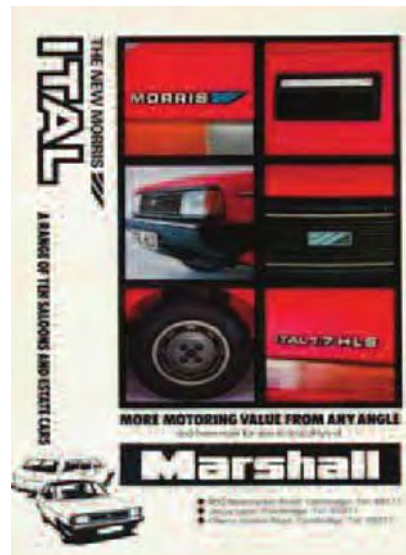
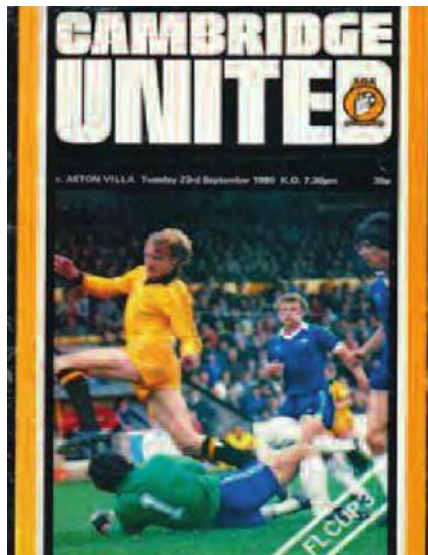
Mr R Saunders

The Officials

- Referee C Downey (Middlesex)
- Linesman (red) M G Richardson (Kent)
- Linesman (yellow) M J Taylor (Hampshire)

The second half started with Tony Morley giving away an unnecessary free kick, and although Des Bremner headed out the initial shot, Villa's defence gave Steve Spriggs too much room and his low shot from 25 yards crept past Jimmy Rimmer's right hand post to put Cambridge in the lead after 47 minutes.

From 'The Villa News & Record'



The front and back of the Cambridge United Programme.

How many people remember the Morris Ital illustrated on the back cover? Have you got one?

Cambridge United were beaten 0-1 by Coventry City in a fourth round replay

1981/82**Wednesday October 7, 1981**

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,353 (26,253), Programme Price:35p

ASTON VILLA (0) 3 WOLVERHAMPTON W (1) 2

Bremner (63)

Blair (75)

Morley (90)

Gray (33)

Gallagher (57)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Swain
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Ormsby
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Withe (<i>12 Blair</i>)
10	Cowans
11	Blair Morley
12	Blair

Wolverhampton Wanderers (Division 1)

1	Bradshaw
2	Palmer
3	Parkin
4	Daniel <i>Atkinson</i>
5	Gallagher
6	Berry <i>Villazan</i>
7	Birch <i>Hibbitt</i>
8	Hibbitt <i>Birch (12 Bell (87))</i>
9	Gray <i>Sent off (53 min)</i>
10	Richards
11	Matthews
12	Bell

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Barnwell

The Officials

Referee

C B White (Harrow)

Linesman (red)

J Roost (Bath)

Linesman (yellow)

R G Smith (Oxford)



Villa had to play Wolves at Molineaux in the League between the first match and the second leg. The programme for the League match on 24th October had this to say:

The big question facing Wolves is whether they can make up the leeway from the first leg at Villa Park a fortnight ago. Can they pull back the one goal difference from the 3-2 deficit? And can they then forge ahead into the third round? Villa's experienced goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer is one of the players who will be standing in their way. This Cup-tie is the sudden death decider. Tickets are now on sale for all parts of the ground in the Molineaux Stand ticket office.

And from the 'Wolves' programme for the replay:

Wolves and Aston Villa were locked in a fascinating League Cup battle almost three weeks ago before Ron Saunders' men emerged as narrow 3-2 winners of their second-round First-leg tie. The game was full of drama from the moment Andy Gray fired Wolves ahead in the 33rd minute after a clever through ball from Alan Birch. Gray was sent off in the 53rd minute. But amazingly the ten men forged further ahead with Joe Gallagher driving a left-foot shot into the net after goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer challenged by John Richards had dropped a cross from Birch. It seemed then that they were going to record an heroic victory. But they reckoned without the resilience of the hard-running Des Bremner. After England centre-forward Peter Withe had retired to the dressing-room with a thigh strain Bremner burst through on the right in the 63rd minute to pull one back for the Villa.

The inevitable happened after that with substitute Andy Blair equalising in the 75th minute before Tony Morley grabbed the winner in injury time. Now to the second leg...

Tuesday October 27, 1981

Round 2 2ndLeg At Molineaux, Attendance: 19,491 (19,942), Programme price: 40p

WOLVERHAMPTON W (0) I ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Richards (73)

Cowans (32)

Cowans (88 pen)

Wolverhampton Wanderers (Division 1)

1	Bradshaw
2	Palmer
3	Parkin
4	Matthews
5	Gallagher
6	Villazan Brazier
7	Birch
8	Clarke
9	Eves
10	Richards Daniel
11	Brazier Carr (12 Richards (58))
12	Richards

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Swain <i>Williams</i>
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Ormsby
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	Cowans
11	Morley
12	Blair

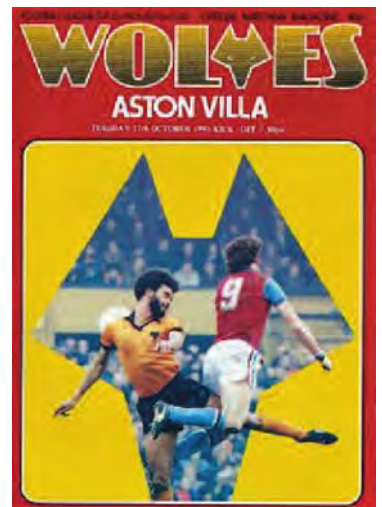
The managers:

Mr J Barnwell

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee	K Hackett (Sheffield)
Linesman (red)	C J Peake (Tuffley, Glos.)
Linesman (yellow)	B Saunders (Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.)



A 5-3 aggregate over two legs steers Villa into the third round of League Cup after a 2-1 win over Wolves at Molineaux. [It was a] Sweet night for Gordon Cowans with two goals (1 pen.) in an as-

sured-looking midfield performance reminiscent of a couple of seasons ago when first attracting [the current England manager] Ron Greenwood's attention. It was also Cowans' 23rd birthday!

Thursday 29th October

The luck of the League Cup draw pairs Aston Villa with Second Division Leicester for the third round. Villa must travel to Filbert Street for a testing night against the Jock Wallace Cup fighters on Wednesday 11th November. Plenty of belated fireworks expected, but last time Villa were in Leicester they enjoyed an encouraging 4-2 success.

From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' 27/10/81

Wednesday November 11, 1981

Round 3 At Filbert Street, Attendance: 19,806, Programme price: 35p

LEICESTER CITY (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Leicester City (Division 2)

- 1 Wallington (c)
- 2 Williams
- 3 Leet
- 4 MacDonald
- 5 Scott
- 6 O'Neill
- 7 Lynex
- 8 Melrose
- 9 Lineker
- 10 Wilson
- 11 Robson *Smith*
- 12 Welsh

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Swain
- 3 Gibson
- 4 Evans
- 5 Williams
- 6 Mortimer (c) (*12 Blair (59)*)
- 7 Bremner
- 8 Shaw
- 9 Withe
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Morley
- 12 Blair



The managers:

Mr J Wallace

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

Referee

J C Deakin (Bedford)

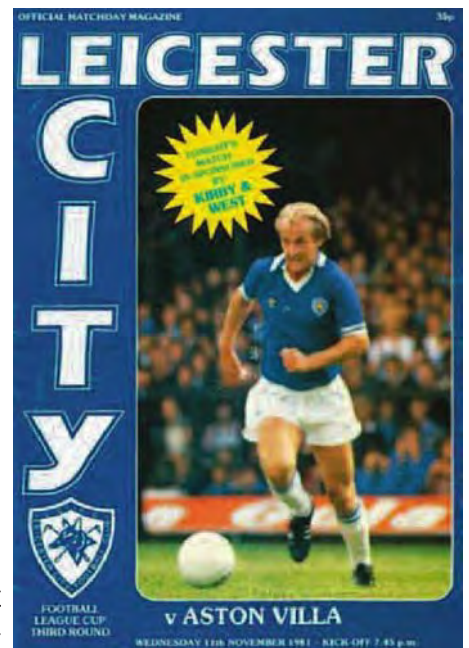
Linesman (red)

P Holland (Chesterfield)

Linesman (yellow)

T Johnson

Leicester's Cup-tie style football frustrates Villa at Filbert Street in a goalless draw – The winners are booked for Wigan. On a night when determination dominated the stage, Villa missed their few chances but Jimmy Rimmer displayed his normal safety standards to ensure a Villa Park replay. Wigan will be no picnic for the winners – Larry Lloyd's Fourth Division Fliers carry a giant-killing flavour after dismissing Chelsea.



From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' 12/12/81

Wednesday November 25, 1981

Round 3 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 23,126, Programme price: 35p

ASTON VILLA (2) 2 LEICESTER CITY (0) 0

Cowans (16 pen)

Withe (29)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Swain
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Williams
6	Deacy
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	Cowans
11	Morley
12	Linton

Leicester City (Division 2)

1	Wallington
2	Williams
3	Leet (<i>12 Smith (74)</i>)
4	Peake
5	May Scott
6	O'Neill
7	Lynex
8	Melrose
9	Lineker
10	Wilson
11	MacDonald
12	Smith

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr J Wallace

The Officials

Referee	K Walmsley (Blackpool)
Linesman (red)	K A Cooper (Swindon)
Linesman (yellow)	J F Pardoe (Kidderminster)



From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' 30/1/80:

Villa unchanged for the visit of Leicester City in the replay League Cup-tie. It brings a second opportunity for Eamon Deacy with Mortimer, who missed the Middlesbrough match through injury [still absent]. Villa boss says: 'We matched Leicester for aggression and fire in the first game and we must repeat that again because the tie is not yet over by a long way.'

Tuesday December 1, 1981

Round 4 At Springfield Park, Attendance: 15,362, Programme price: 30p

WIGAN ATHLETIC (1) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Houghton (10)

Cowans (pen 55)

Withe (87)

Wigan Athletic (Division 4)

- 1 Tunks
- 2 McMahon
- 3 Cribley *Glenn*
- 4 Wignall (*12 Wright (59)*)
- 5 Lloyd *Bradd*
- 6 Methven
- 7 Sheldon
- 8 Barrow
- 9 Bradd *Quinn*
- 10 Houghton
- 11 Evans
- 12 Quinn *Wright*

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Rimmer
- 2 Swain
- 3 Gibson
- 4 Evans
- 5 Williams
- 6 Deacy
- 7 Bremner
- 8 Shaw
- 9 Withe
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Morley
- 12 Linton



The managers:

Mr L Lloyd

Mr R Saunders

The Officials

- Referee D Hutchinson (Harrogate)
- Linesman (red) M McAuley (Leeds)
- Linesman (yellow) D B Scrimshaw (Cheadle Hulme)



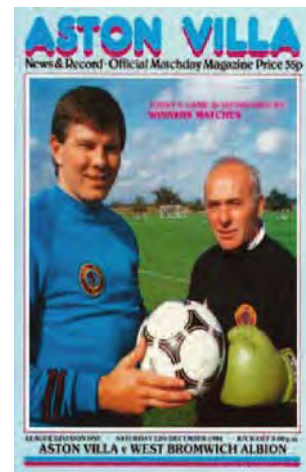
Wednesday January 20, 1982

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 35,197, Programme price: 35p

This match was originally scheduled for Wednesday 13th January, but due to the weather over this winter, many League and Cup matches were postponed. This match was rescheduled for Monday 18th January – then postponed again until the 20th. Perhaps it would have been better to wait!

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 WEST BROMWICH (0) 1

Satham (32)



ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Programme is for 12/12/81 Division I match that was postponed – the Villa team is correct for this match, but the WBA team might have made changes, and the officials could be different

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Rimmer
2	Swain
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Williams
6	Deacy <i>Mortimer (12 Bullivant)</i>
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Geddis <i>Withe</i>
10	Cowans
11	Morley (<i>sent off (45)</i>)
12	Bullivant

West Bromwich Albion (Division I)

1	Grew
2	Batson
3	Cowdrill <i>Statham</i>
4	Whitehead <i>Brown A</i>
5	Wile
6	Robertson
7	Jol
8	King
9	Regis
10	Mackenzie <i>Owen</i>
11	Owen <i>MacKenzie</i>
12	Bennett

The managers:

Mr R Saunders

Mr R Allen

The Officials

Referee	J Hunting (Leicester) <i>R Chadwick (Darwen)</i>
Linesman (red)	D R Palmer (Radstock, Avon)
Linesman (yellow)	D Wragg (Burton-on-Trent)

From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' for the match against Wolves on Saturday 13th March 1982:

At last, the Villa – Albion League Cup quarter-final goes on – but it turns out a bitter disappointment as Albion snatch a place in the semi-finals by virtue of the only goal of the game from full-back Derek Statham. Dramatic half-time dismissal for Tony Morley leaves Villa down to 10 men in a second-half when they held the opposition but failed to recover the first-half goal against them.

In the 'Villa News & Record' on the 17th February 1982 there was the following paragraph:

On Tuesday 9th February 1982 Ron Saunders terminated his contract with Aston Villa F.C. and left the club. The chairman and Board of Directors wish to place on record their appreciation of Mr Saunders' service to the club over the last seven years.

Tony Barton was appointed caretaker manager

West Bromwich were beaten 0-1 by Spurs in the semi-final

1982/83

Wednesday October 6, 1982

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 16,312, Programme price: 40p

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 NOTTS COUNTY (0) 2

Withe (22)

Chiedozie (72)

Clarke (86)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Jones (<i>12 Heard</i>)
3	Williams
4	Evans <i>Ormsby</i>
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	Cowans
11	Morley
12	Heard

Notts County (Division 1)

1	Avramovic
2	Benjamin
3	Worthington
4	Hunt
5	Kilcline
6	Richards
7	Chiedozie
8	Harkouk (<i>12 Clarke</i>)
9	McCulloch <i>Christie</i>
10	Goodwin <i>McCulloch</i>
11	McParland <i>Mair</i>
12	Clarke

The managers:

Mr A Barton

Mr H Wilkinson

The Officials

Referee N H Glover (Chorley)

Linesman (red) R J Smith

Linesman (yellow) K R Clewer (Worcester)



Despite taking a 1-0 lead through Peter Withe against Notts County in the first leg of the second round Milk Cup match, Villa go down 2-1. Manager Tony Barton comments: 'We got what we deserved.'

And in the same programme in the 'Press Comment' column, Mike Beddow of 'The Telegraph' wrote:

'David Clarke, a teenager playing in his first senior game, completed a fine recovery by Notts County by scoring the winning goal four minutes from time. Peter Withe, the World Cup striker so far overlooked by England this season, scored his fifth goal of the campaign to give Villa a first-half advantage. Villa's lead came under increasing pressure and their hard pressed defence was not improved by the withdrawal of Jones and County fully deserved late goals by Chiedozie and Clarke.'

From the 'Diary' in 'The Villa News & Record' 16/10/82

Tuesday October 26, 1982

Round 2 2nd Leg At Meadow Lane, Attendance: 6,921, Programme price: 35p

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Hunt (89)

Notts County (Division 1)

1	Avramovic
2	Lahtinen <i>Goodwin</i>
3	Worthington
4	Hunt
5	Kildine
6	Richards
7	Chiedozie
8	Christie
9	McCulloch
10	Clarke (<i>12 Hooks (73)</i>)
11	Mair
12	Hooks

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Rimmer
2	Jones (<i>12 Deacy</i>)
3	Gibson
4	Evans <i>Williams</i>
5	McNaught
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Shaw
9	Geddis
10	Cowans
11	Morley
12	Deacy

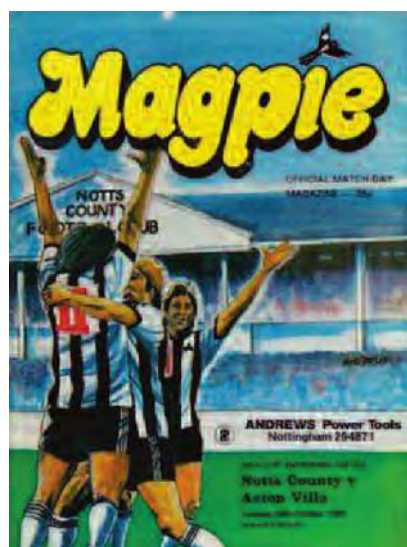
The managers:

Mr H Wilkinson

Mr A Barton

The Officials

Referee	R Chadwick (Darwen)
Linesman (red)	R C Jackson (Grantham)
Linesman (yellow)	T Johnson



In the programme for the return match, County's 'Magpie', under Today's Visitors':

'Our 2-1 victory at Villa Park will always be remembered here as "David Clarke's Match," of course, after the 17-years-old apprentice went on as substitute and claimed a debut winner.

And the Club Manager, Jimmy Sirrel, wrote:

... although we have a good advantage tonight after winning the first leg at Villa Park, I'm well aware that we still have a lot more work to do before we can think of progressing in the Milk Cup. We were handed a difficult task in being paired with the European champions, who have proved their ability to handle two legged ties. But by winning the away game, we rose to the challenge and we shall try to do so again. A draw is no good for Villa. They have to beat us and score at least twice in the process... and that should make for a tremendous match.

Notts County were beaten by West Ham 0-3 in a fourth round replay

1983/84**Tuesday October 4, 1983**

Round 2 1st Leg At Fratton Park, Attendance: 18,484, Programme Price: 50p

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Hateley (42)

Gibson (86)

Gibson (53 og)

Evans (90)

Portsmouth (Division 2)

1	Knight
2	McLaughlin
3	Money
4	Doyle
5	Tait
6	Aizlewood
7	Webb (<i>12 Rogers</i>)
8	Dillon
9	Hateley
10	Biley
11	<i>Rogers Morgan</i>
12	<i>Morgan Rogers</i>

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Williams
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Ormsby
6	Mortimer
7	Curbishley (<i>12 Bremner</i>)
8	Rideout <i>Shaw</i>
9	Withe
10	McMahon
11	<i>Morley Walters</i>
12	Bremner

The managers:

Mr R Campbell

Mr A Barton

The Officials

Referee	J A Moules (Ongar)
Linesman (red)	E W Burns (Bath)
Linesman (yellow)	M Topping (Aldershot)



From 'The Villa News & Record' – Wednesday 26th October 1983 v Portsmouth

The 'Diary' for the 4th October:

Mark Walters and Steve McMahon replace Tony Morley and Des Bremner against Pompey. Two goals in [the] last four minutes by Gibson and Evans salvage a draw

From 'The Villa News & Record' – Wednesday 26th October 1983 v Portsmouth

From 'The Villa News & Record' 15/10/83:

JUST THE TICKET...

Milk Cup – 2nd Round – 2nd Leg
ASTON VILLA v PORTSMOUTH

Wed. 26th October 1983, Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Season ticket holders are reminded that on the occasion of the above match they should submit voucher 'A' from the rear of their season ticket books. Non-season ticket holders may purchase tickets for all parts of the ground priced £5.00, £4.50, £4.00 and £3.50. The match is not all ticket and standing season ticket holders are to use their normal turnstiles on the evening of the match where admission will be £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for juveniles and OAP's.

Following this match, on Sunday 23rd October, Villa were shown live on television for the first time when they played Wolves at Molineaux. Could this have anything to do with the attendance there being just 13,202 to see the 1-1 draw? Tony Barton, Villa's manager was not a fan of football on a Sunday, either.

Wednesday October 26, 1983

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 20,898, Programme price: 40p

ASTON VILLA (0) 3 PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 aet

Evans (pen 52)

Biley (6)

Withe (86)

Dillon (79)

Walters (102)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Williams
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Ormsby
6	Mortimer
7	Bremner
8	Walters
9	Withe
10	McMahon
11	Morley
12	Curbishley

Portsmouth (Division 2)

1	Knight
2	McLaughlin
3	Money
4	Doyle
5	Tait
6	Aizlewood { 12 Morgan)
7	Webb
8	Dillon
9	Hateley
10	Biley
11	Morgan Rogers
12	Morgan

The managers:

Mr A Barton

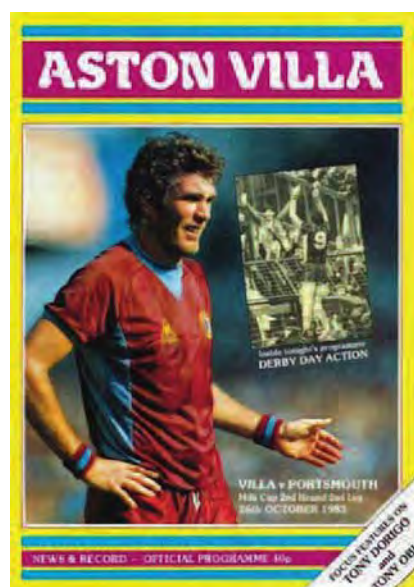
Mr R Campbell

The Officials

Referee D Richardson (Harwood)

Linesman (red) K R Clewer (Worcester)

Linesman (yellow) R G Smith (Oxford)



Portsmouth's Mark Hateley is the son of Villa's Tony who played in the League Cup completion for Villa in 1963/4/5/6.



Wednesday 26th October

One month loan period agreed for Eamonn Deacy at Derby County. Villa reach [the] next round of Milk Cup via 3-2 win over Portsmouth in extra time. Evans and Withe score the goals for 2-2 at 90 minutes and Mark Walters settles it.

From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' 9/11/83

Wednesday November 9, 1983

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 23,922, Programme price: 40p

ASTON VILLA (I) 3 MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0

Gibson (18)
Evans (62)
Mortimer (77)

Aston Villa (Division I)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Jones *Williams*
- 3 Williams *Gibson*
- 4 Evans
- 5 Ormsby
- 6 Mortimer
- 7 Birch *Jones*
- 8 Rideout *Birch*
- 9 Withe
- 10 McMahan
- 11 Gibson *Rideout*
- 12 Walters

Manchester City (Division I)

- 1 Williams
- 2 Ranson
- 3 May
- 4 Reid
- 5 Power
- 6 Caton
- 7 McNab
- 8 Kinsey *(12 Walsh (46))*
- 9 Parlane
- 10 Baker
- 11 Tolmie
- 12 Walsh



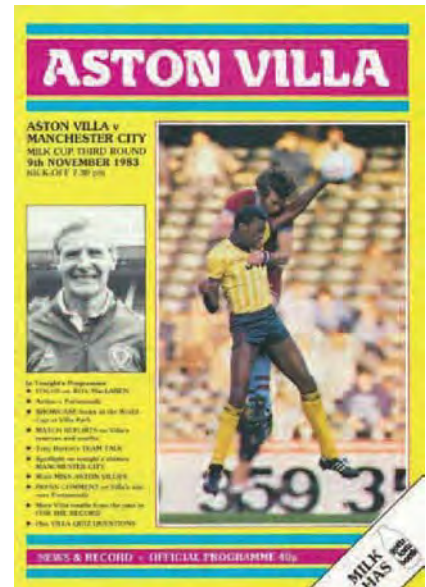
The managers:

Mr A Barton

Mr W McNeill

The Officials

Referee B Hill (Kettering)
Linesman (red) J F Pardoe (Kidderminster)
Linesman (yellow) D Wragg (Burton)



From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' 9/11/83:

Wednesday 9th November

Manager keeps to the same line-up for the third round Milk Cup-tie against Manchester City at Villa Park. Result a 3-0 win with goals by Gibson, Evans and Mortimer. Gibson hailed by media as the Man of the Match as he once again performs well in his switch from left-back to wide midfielder with the accent on attack.

Thursday 10th November

Villa are drawn away for an exciting local derby against West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns in the fourth round of the Milk Cup. Villa will 'listen to offers for Tony Morley and Des Bremner.

Wednesday November 30, 1983

Round 4 At The Hawthorns, Attendance: 31,114, Programme price: 40p

WEST BROMWICH (1) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Regis (30)

Walters (5)

Mortimer (71)

West Bromwich Albion (Division 1) Aston Villa (Division 1)

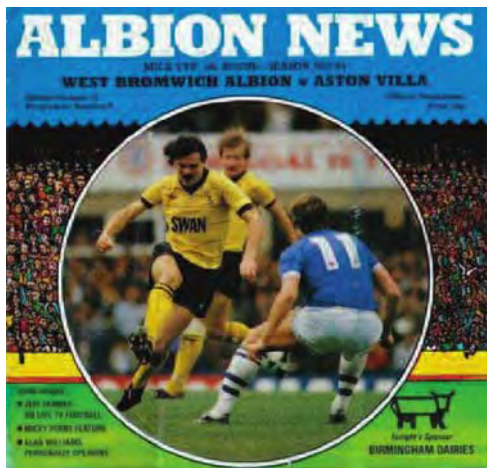
1	Barron	1	Spink
2	Whitehead	2	Jones <i>Williams</i>
3	Cowdrill	3	Williams <i>Gibson</i>
4	Zondervan	4	Evans
5	McNaught	5	Ormsby
6	Robertson	6	Mortimer
7	Jol	7	Birch
8	Thompson	8	Rideout
9	Regis (<i>12 MacKenzie</i>)	9	Withe (<i>12 Walker</i>)
10	Owen <i>sent off 44</i>	10	Curbishley
11	Luke <i>Cross</i>	11	Gibson <i>Walters</i>
12	MacKenzie	12	Walker

The managers:

Mr R Wylie

Mr A Barton

Ron Wylie, Albion's manager was another ex-Villa League Cup player, and had served on Villa's coaching staff after he retired from playing.



The Officials

Referee

C Thomas (Porthcawl)

Linesman (red)

E J Granger (Caerlon, Gwent)

Linesman (yellow)

B R Smith (Leicestershire)

Thursday 1st December

Villa count the cost of winning a rugged local derby the previous night. Peter Withe ruled out for a spell of matches after being taken off the field with damaged ankle ligaments and several other players under intensive treatment prior to this Saturday's [league] home game with West Ham. [Villa] drawn away to Norwich in the quarter-finals of the Milk Cup.

From the Diary in 'The Villa News & Record' 27/12/83

Tuesday January 17, 1984

Round 5 At Carrow Road, Attendance: 21,568, Programme price: 50p

NORWICH CITY (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (2) 2

Shaw (21)

Rideout (33)

Norwich City (Division 1)

1	Woods
2	Haylock
3	Downs
4	Mendham
5	Hareide
6	Watson (12 Donowa (7))
7	Devine
8	Channon
9	Deehan
10	Bertschin
11	van Wyk
12	Donowa

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Bremner <i>Williams</i>
3	Walker <i>Gibson</i> (12 <i>Deacy</i> (78))
4	Evans
5	Ormsby <i>Bremner</i>
6	Mortimer
7	Birch <i>Curbishley</i>
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	McMahon
11	Walters <i>Rideout</i>
12	Deacy

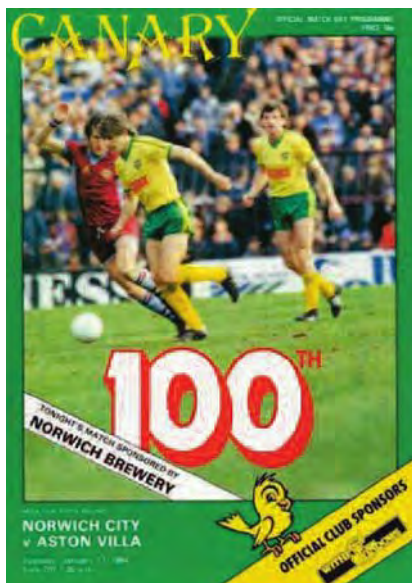
The managers:

Mr K Brown

Mr A Barton

The Officials

Referee	T Mills (Barnsley)
Linesman (red)	J F Hill (Redhill, Surrey)
Linesman (yellow)	M J Taylor (St Albans)
Reserve Official	C J Reeve (Reepham, Norfolk)



John Deehan played for both Villa and Norwich, and won a League Cup winners medal with both clubs

Norwich City 0 Villa 2

Six nights earlier [before this match] Villa had lost 3-0 to Norwich in an FA Cup replay but they returned to Carrow Road for a 2-0 success which took them to the League Cup (or the Milk Cup, as it was known at the time) semi-finals. The Canaries' programme cover featured an action shot from the original FA Cup tie and there were more pictures from Villa Park inside.

As can be seen from the cover of 'Canary' this was City's 100th League Cup tie.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 27/12/83

Wednesday February 15, 1984

Semi-final 1st Leg At Goodison Park, Attendance: 40,006, Programme price: 40p

EVERTON (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Sheedy (28)

Richardson (82)

Everton (Division 1)

1	Southall
2	Stevens
3	Bailey
4	Ratcliffe
5	Mountfield
6	Reid
7	Irvine
8	Heath
9	Sharp
10	Richardson
11	Sheedy
12	King

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Williams
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Bremner
6	Mortimer
7	Curbishley
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	McMahon
11	Rideout <i>Walters</i>
12	Rideout

The managers:

Mr H Kendall

Mr A Barton

The Officials

Referee

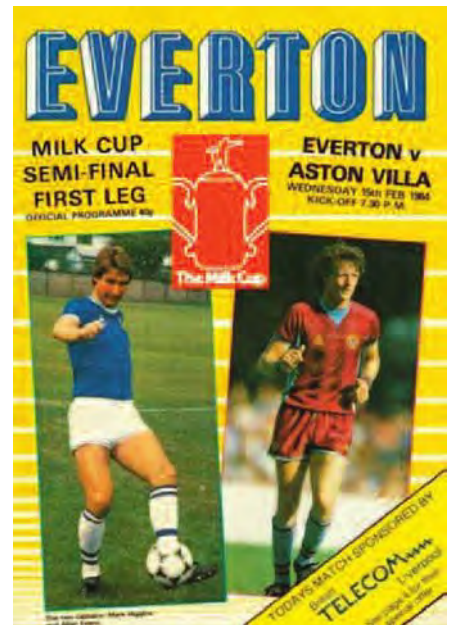
A Saunders (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Linesman (red)

D R Farrall (Nantwich)

Linesman (yellow)

E Hart (Leyland)



From 'The Villa News & Record' in the programme for the replay 22/2/84, Tony Barton wrote:

The game there [Goodison] never reached the heights in terms of being a football classic, but both sides achieved commitment, endeavour and graft, and, over the 90 minutes, we felt that the score line was a little unjust. The first goal was certainly down to a misunderstanding and the disappointing aspect was that we presented them with a soft goal at a time when they never really looked like scoring. We kept the scoreline at 0-1 until half-time, and in the second-half, I felt that we started to gain control without seriously threatening their goalkeeper. We looked reasonably in control of the situation and we believed that we had a good foundation for the second leg with only a one-goal deficit. Unfortunately, that wasn't to be. Eight minutes from time, a header from Des Bremner fell to Kevin Richardson, who brought the ball down and hit a very good shot past Nigel Spink and into the far corner. The result, of course, was a big disappointment, but the overall performance was not a bad one at all.

Wednesday February 22, 1984

Semi-final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 42,426, Programme price: 40p

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 EVERTON (0) 0

Rideout (60)

Everton won on aggregate goals

Aston Villa (Division I)

1	Spink
2	Williams
3	Gibson
4	Evans
5	Bremner
6	Mortimer
7	Curbishley
8	Shaw
9	Withe
10	McMahon
11	Rideout Walters (12 Rideout)
12	Rideout

Everton (Division I)

1	Southall
2	Stevens
3	Bailey
4	Ratcliffe
5	Mountfield
6	Reid
7	Irvine
8	Heath
9	Sharp
10	King
11	Sheedy
12	Harper

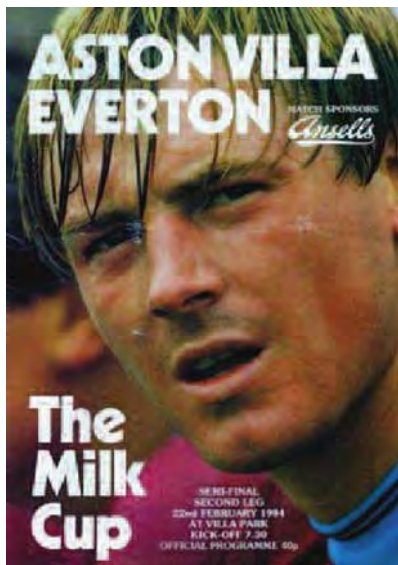
The managers:

Mr A Barton

Mr H Kendall

The Officials

Referee	K Hackett (Sheffield)
Linesman (red)	I W Gumbleton (Bath)
Linesman (yellow)	A N Rusling (Derby)



It was not to be, Paul Rideout's goal was not enough. And, just to rub it in Everton beat Villa 2-0 at Villa Park in the penultimate league match on May 7th.

FOR SALE

Manager Tony Barton recently took delivery of a new Rover car. His previous club vehicle, a 3 litre Vauxhall Royale is now on offer for private sale. It has 23,000 miles on the clock and as a price guide is valued in excess of £6,500. Anyone interested in purchasing the vehicle are invited to contact the club's Commercial Manager. (Anyone know where it is now? And what was a Vauxhall Royale, anyway?) Still, Tony Barton can't have had much use from his new Rover, as he left Villa the following June.

And, for something different, from 'The Villa News & Record' of 1/3/84

Everton were beaten 1-0 in a final replay by Liverpool

1984/85

Monday September 24, 1984

Round 2 1st Leg At The Old Show Ground, Attendance: 6,212, Programme price: 40p

SCUNTHORPE UNITED (0) 2 ASTON VILLA (1) 3

Lester (50)

Whitehead (83)

Kerr (37)

Gibson (77)

Kerr (80)

Scunthorpe United (Division 4)

1	Neenan
2	Longden
3	Pointon
4	Matthews (<i>12 Bell (85)</i>)
5	Whitehead
6	Green
7	Brolly
8	Dey <i>Graham</i>
9	Broddle
10	Lester
11	Cowling
12	Hill Bell

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Day
2	Gibson <i>Williams</i>
3	Dorigo <i>Gibson</i>
4	Evans
5	Foster
6	McMahon (<i>12 Dorigo</i>)
7	Birch
8	Rideout <i>Kerr</i>
9	Withe <i>Rideout</i>
10	Cowans
11	Walters
12	Williams <i>Dorigo</i>

The managers:

Mr F Barlow

Mr G Turner

The Officials

Referee	P Holland (Chesterfield)
Linesman (red)	D Scott (Burnley)
Linesman (yellow)	G Whitfield (Wakefield)

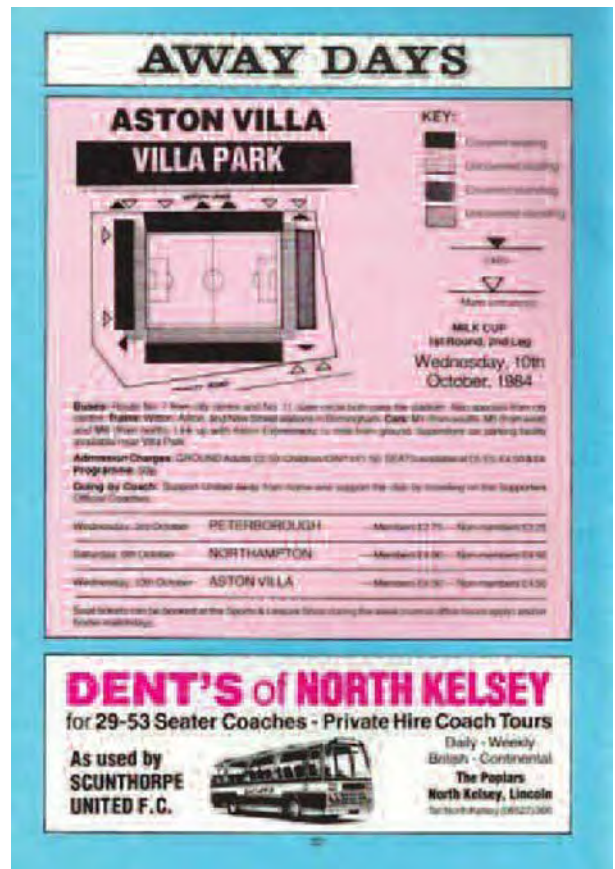
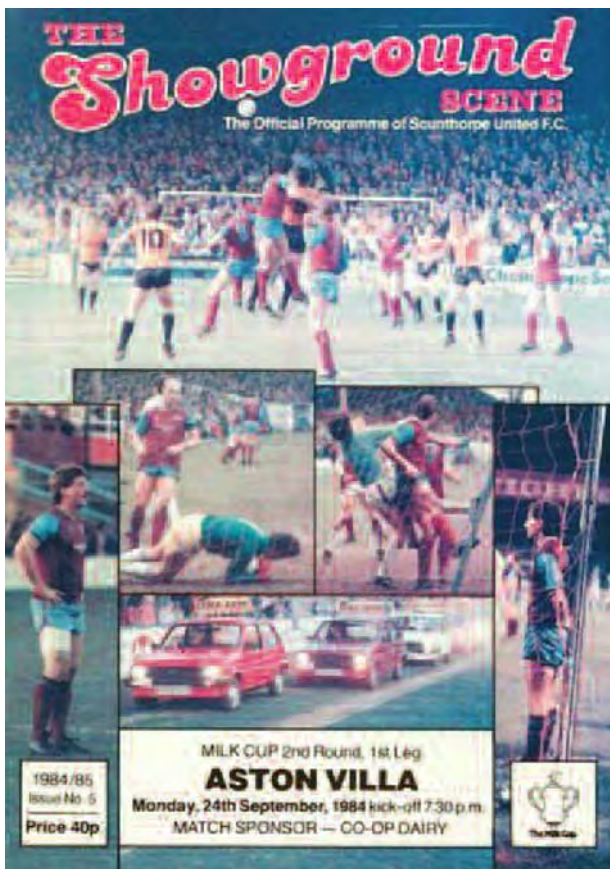
This match saw a first for Villa: Tony Dorigo, from Melbourne Australia, who came on as sub for Steve McMahon, became the first player born outside the British Isles to represent the Villa in a League Cup tie.

From 'The Iron' Scunthorpe's programme for the match on 20/9/06 – the next League Cup match against the Villa:

...United went down 3-2 in the first leg in front of 6212 fans. Goals from Mike Lester and Alan Whitehead weren't enough to cause an upset and the Iron faced having to make the journey to

Villa Park in their attempts to overturn the Villans' advantage.

This was a landmark match for me personally. I am a lifelong supporter of the Villa, but with the geographical distance from Birmingham, and the exigencies of my shift work I could only afford limited trips to Villa Park. I therefore adopted Scunthorpe United, the Iron, in lieu of Villa, and would visit the Old Show Ground (and now Glanford Park) to see my 'other' team as and when I could. This was the first time I had seen the two teams play each other, having been living in Somerset when they met in the Second Division in 1961/62. Who did I want to win? I knew when watching the match. Villa, of course. And they duly obliged. Now retired, I am still following both teams, and have had season tickets for Villa Park and Glanford Park since the 2010/11 season. The fixtures do not clash too often!



Anyone recognise the Iron's reserve centre forward, bottom left of programme cover?
Yes, that's Ian Botham!

Wednesday October 10, 1984

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 11,421, Programme price: 50p

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 SCUNTHORPE UNITED (1) 1

Cowans (31)

Pointon (37)

Gibson (67)

Rideout (73)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Day
2	Williams
3	Gibson
4	Evans <i>Foster</i>
5	Foster <i>Ormsby</i>
6	McMahon
7	Birch
8	Rideout <i>Walters (12 Rideout)</i>
9	Withe
10	Cowans
11	Six
12	Rideout

Scunthorpe United (Division 4)

1	Neenan
2	Lees
3	Pointon
4	Matthews
5	Whitehead
6	Green
7	Brolly
8	Graham
9	Broddle
10	Lester
11	Cowling
12	Bell

The managers:

Mr G Turner

Mr F Barlow

The Officials

Referee	N Glover (Chorley)
Linesman (red)	R Coaten (Cirencester)
Linesman (yellow)	D R Farrall (Nantwich)



Iron's goal scorer Neil Pointon in 1985 joined Everton (where he played 102 matches) and then Manchester City.

In 'The Villa News & Record' for this match, manager Graham Turner wrote:
 Tonight we welcome Scunthorpe United for the second leg of our Milk Cup tie. Above all we must avoid any complacency... [Villa had just beaten Manchester United 3-0]. It will not be an easy game, even though we are a goal in front from the first leg. I know what it is like on the other side of the coin and nothing is more certain than that Scunthorpe will wind themselves up on a First Division ground.

From 'The Official Centenary History of Scunthorpe United' by John Staff:

Scunthorpe United found themselves up against Aston Villa in the second round of the competition. There was very little chance of making progress against the sophisticated giants of the First Division, but in each of the two legs the team did themselves credit. An aggregate score of 6-3 in Villa's favour saw the Midlands side comfortably through, but for lowly Scunthorpe United to score three times in the tie was an extraordinary feat.

Tuesday October 30, 1984

Round 3 At Loftus Road, Attendance: 12,547, Programme price: 50p

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Gregory (64)

Queens Park Rangers (Division 1)

1	Hucker	
2	Neill	
3	Dawes	
4	Fereday	
5	Wicks	
6	Fenwick (c)	
7	Micklewhite	<i>Cooper (12 Charles)</i>
8	Fillery	<i>Waddock</i>
9	Bannister	
10	Stainrod	
11	Gregory	
12	Charles	

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Day
2	Williams
3	Gibson
4	Foster <i>Evans</i>
5	Ormsby
6	McMahon
7	Birch
8	Rideout <i>Kerr (12 Six)</i>
9	Withe (c)
10	Cowans
11	Six <i>Dorigo</i>
12	Six

The managers:

Mr A Mullery

Mr G Turner

The Officials

Referee	E A Read (Southampton)
Linesman (red)	P W Mence
Linesman (yellow)	R L Bigger (Surrey)



Note: There was a former Villa player in the QPR team, John Gregory, who scored QPR's winning goal, and one who would make a different impact with Villa the next season, Simon Stainrod. John Gregory described his goal as "one of the best goals I have ever scored" – Gregory struck the ball perfectly into the top right-hand corner of the net.

In 'The Villa News & Record' for 3/11/84, the manager, Graham Turner, wrote: Obviously it was a disappointment to go out of the Milk Cup this week although our performance at QPR was an improvement of the two previous [league] games. But after playing reasonably well and making the better chances, we went out of the competition. At least it was a positive performance. The players displayed a great deal of commitment and that is the most important thing in any side. There was no way we went to QPR looking for a replay. We were still positive and the result could have gone the other way had we finished better.

QPR were beaten 1-2 by Ipswich Town in a 5th round replay

1985/86

Wednesday September 25, 1985

Round 2 1st Leg At St James Park, Attendance: 5,325, Programme price: 50p

EXETER CITY (0) | ASTON VILLA (2) 4

Kellow (54)

Stainrod (11)

Stainrod (16)

Stainrod (56)

Stainrod (70)

Exeter City (Division 4)

- 1 Shaw
- 2 King Kirkup
- 3 Viney
- 4 McNichol
- 5 Impey
- 6 Marker
- 7 Ling (12 Pratt)
- 8 Jackson
- 9 Gale Kellow
- 10 Kellow *Gale off 84*
- 11 Harrower *Crawford*
- 12 Pratt

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Williams
- 3 Dorigo
- 4 Evans
- 5 Ormsby
- 6 Bradley *sent off 84*
- 7 Gibson *Birch*
- 8 Birch *Stainrod*
- 9 Gray *Walker*
- 10 Hodge
- 11 Daley *Walters*
- 12 Kerr



The managers:

Mr C Appleton

Mr G Turner

The Officials

Referee

M J Cotton (Camberley)

Linesman (red)

K S Bissix (Bristol)

Linesman (yellow)

C E Topliss (Poole)

Simon Stainrod was making his debut for Villa, having signed from Sheffield Wednesday the previous day.

Wednesday October 9, 1985

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 7,678, Programme price: 50p

ASTON VILLA (6) 8 EXETER CITY (1) 1

Gray (16)
 Gray (19)
 Stainrod (29)
 Ormsby (36)
 Williams (37)
 Williams (42)
 Birch (58)
 Ormsby (84)

Crawford (49)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Williams
- 3 Dorigo
- 4 Evans (*12 Daley*)
- 5 Ormsby
- 6 Gibson
- 7 Birch
- 8 Stainrod
- 9 Gray
- 10 Hodge
- 11 Walters
- 12 Daley

Exeter City (Division 4)

- 1 Shaw *Gwinnet*
- 2 Kirkup
- 3 Viney
- 4 McNicholl (sic)
- 5 Impey
- 6 Marker
- 7 Ling
- 8 Jackson (*12 Harrower*)
- 9 Kellow
- 10 Pratt
- 11 Crawford
- 12 Harrower

The managers:

Mr G Turner

Mr C Appleton



The Officials

Referee P A Tydesley
 Linesman (red) A Fenn (Nuneaton)
 Linesman (yellow) F Pardoe (Kidderminster)

In the programme for this match Graham Turner wrote:
 It's nice to look forward to the home leg against Exeter City tonight with the advantage of a 4-1 lead after Simon Stainrod's remarkable four goal debut a fortnight ago. Obviously, the outcome is now in our hands and we will be expected to complete the job with another victory tonight, but I don't think anyone should under-estimate teams from lower divisions.

And from the Leeds programme for the next match:
 Aston Villa recorded their highest Milk Cup score in the second leg of their second round match at Villa Park earlier this month after starting with a 4-1 lead from the first leg. After hammering

six first half goals past Fourth Division Exeter City they stormed to an aggregate victory of 12-1,

once Andy Gray had destroyed Exeter's confidence with his first two goals since re-joining Villa from Everton. The second round tie with Exeter City enabled Villa to record other notable achievements. In the first leg at St. James' Park, Simon Stainrod made a sensational four goal debut following his transfer from Sheffield Wednesday. While full-back Gary Williams ended his seven year wait for a senior goal by scoring twice in the second leg at Villa Park. Both his goals came in a six minute spell in the first-half.

Wednesday October 30, 1985

Round 3 At Elland Road, Attendance: 15,444, Programme price: 50p

LEEDS UNITED (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 3

Walters (14)

Stainrod (63)

Stainrod (71)

Leeds United (Division 2)

1	Day
2	Irwin <i>Dickenson</i>
3	Phelan
4	Snodin
5	Linighan
6	Aspin
7	Ritchie
8	Sheridan
9	Baird
10	Lorimer <i>McCluskey</i>
11	Hamson
12	Irwin

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Williams
3	Dorigo
4	Evans
5	Ormsby <i>Glover</i>
6	Gibson
7	Birch Daley
8	Stainrod
9	Gray
10	Hodge
11	Walters
12	Walker

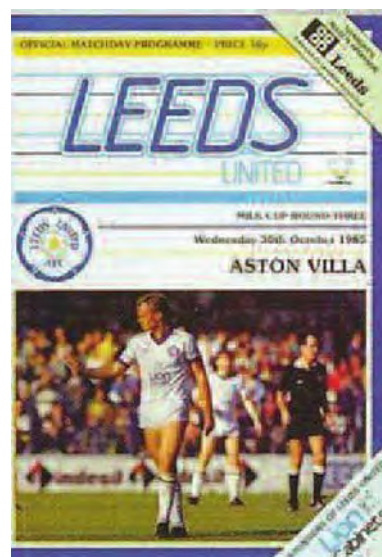
The managers:

Mr W Bremner

Mr G Turner

The Officials

Referee	K A Redfearn	(Whitley Bay)
Linesman (red)	K W Sales	
Linesman (yellow)	R R Turner	(Skipton, Yorks)



In the programme for the next Milk Cup match against Albion, Graham Turner wrote:

So far, we have done all that could be asked in our three matches in the Milk Cup. The 12-2 aggregate against Exeter City was convincing to say the least, but the tie at Leeds was a tricky one and we came through that very well. Simon Stainrod must be the leading scorer in the competition with seven goals and it would be nice to see him continuing that run tonight, especially if it means our qualifying for the last eight.

Wednesday November 20, 1985

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 20,204, Programme price: 50p

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 WEST BROMWICH (1) 2
 Evans (58 pen) Crooks (2)
 Stainrod (63) Bennett (51)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1 Spink
 2 Williams
 3 Dorigo
 4 Evans
 5 Glover
 6 Gibson (12 Birch)
 7 Daley
 8 Stainrod
 9 Gray
 10 Hodge
 11 Walker
 12 Birch

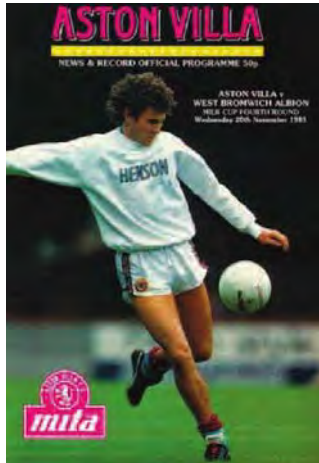
West Bromwich Albion (Division 1)

1 Bradshaw
 2 Whitehead *Nicholl*
 3 Statham
 4 Hunt
 5 Bennett
 6 Robertson
 7 Valentine *Armstrong (12 Palmer)*
 8 Grealish *Whitehead*
 9 Varadi
 10 Thomas
 11 Crooks
 12 Palmer

The managers:

Mr G Turner

Mr N Stiles



The Officials

Referee K S Hackett (Sheffield)
 Linesman (red) A J Bunce
 Linesman (yellow) J Byles (Oxford)

From the 'Albion Diary' in the programme for the replay:
 November 20th...It's all square at Villa Park – but Albion let it slip after going 2-0 up through Garth Crooks (115 seconds) and Martyn Bennett (51 minutes)...A disputed penalty turns the tide in Villa's favour...There are over 7,000 Albion fans in the 20,204 crowd...Albion deserve a replay on the night.

Wednesday November 27, 1985

Round 4 Replay At The Hawthorns, Attendance: 18,629 (18,868), Programme price: 60p

WEST BROMWICH (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 2
 Hunt (69) Hodge (25)
 Walters (60)

West Bromwich Albion (Division 1)

- 1 Bradshaw
- 2 Palmer
- 3 Statham
- 4 Hunt
- 5 Bennett
- 6 Robertson
- 7 Dennison (*12 Grealish*)
- 8 Whitehead
- 9 Varadi
- 10 Thomas
- 11 Crooks
- 12 Robson *Grealish*

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Williams
- 3 Dorigo
- 4 Evans
- 5 Glover
- 6 Bradley
- 7 Birch
- 8 Stainrod
- 9 Gray (*12 Shaw*)
- 10 Hodge
- 11 Walters
- 12 Shaw

The managers:

Mr N Stiles

Mr G Turner

The Officials

- Referee J B Worrall (Warrington)
- Linesman (red) C R Wilkes (Gloucester)
- Linesman (yellow) J Rushton (Stoke-on-Trent)



In 'The Villa News & Record' 30/11/85, the manager, Graham Turner, wrote of the two Albion matches:

Obviously we were delighted to come away from the Hawthorns on Wednesday evening with a place in the last eight of the Milk Cup and now we can look forward to an attractive home tie with Arsenal in January. I felt we fully deserved our replay victory over Albion. Despite the treacherous conditions, we played extremely well in the first-half, although when Paul Bradshaw was making a string of saves, there was a little fear that it might not be our night. We were unfortunate not to score more than one goal in the first-half when we played some good attractive football and took charge of the match. The first meeting at Villa Park was a heart-stopper for our supporters when Albion went two ahead early in the second half. I was pleased by the way we fought back but obviously concerned about the goals we had conceded. In the first-half we had two or three good chances to recover from the first

goal from Garth Crooks, but Albion defended well and cleared off the line on two occasions when we had them under tremendous pressure. The fact that we had to come from behind created a super atmosphere when the crowd got behind us in the second-half. I think everyone was delighted by the standard of the entertainment and I must congratulate the referee, Keith Hackett, for allowing the game to flow. We all thought he had an outstanding match. Unfortunately, Colin Gibson's troubles continued when he took a painful bang in his back. The injury was only a bad bruise but sufficient to keep him out of the League game at Chelsea last Saturday.

Wednesday January 22, 1986

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,093, Programme price: 50p

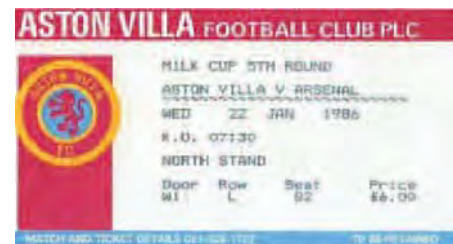
ASTON VILLA (0) | ARSENAL (1) |
 Glover (75) Nicholas (33)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Norton <i>Williams</i>
3	Dorigo
4	Evans
5	Elliott
6	Birch <i>Glover</i>
7	Kerr <i>Birch</i>
8	Stainrod
9	Gray
10	Bradley <i>Norton</i>
11	Walker
12	Kerr

Arsenal (Division 1)

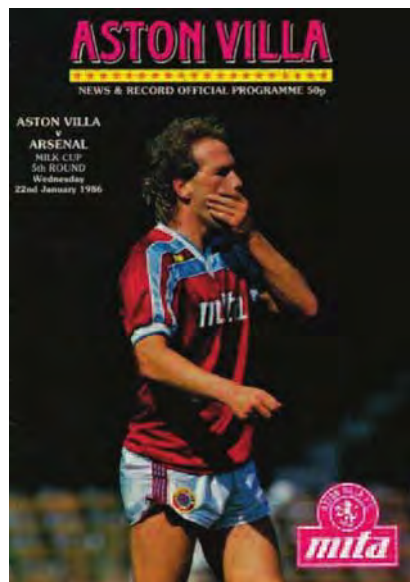
1	Lukic <i>Wilmot</i>
2	Anderson
3	Sansom
4	Davis <i>Rocastle</i>
5	O'Leary
6	Keown <i>Caton</i>
7	Allinson
8	Robson (<i>12 Woodcock</i>)
9	Nicholas
10	Quinn
11	Rix
12	Woodcock



The managers:

Mr G Turner

Mr D Howe



The Officials

Referee R G Milford (Bristol)
 Linesman (red) D R Farrell (Nantwich)
 Linesman (yellow) W A Nutall

From 'The Villa News & Record' 1/2/86:

Villa's bid to earn a place in the quarter-final of the Milk Cup at the first attempt against Arsenal at Villa Park never let up in an entertaining game full of commitment. Andy Gray scored with a flying header, whilst Mark Walters was unlucky when his nod down was blocked on the line. The equaliser came at last when Andy Gray cleverly shielded the ball before laying it into the path of Dean Glover. Glover connected beautifully and rifled his shot through the packed area for a most important first senior goal for Villa.

In this match Villa were faced by a player who became a future Villa manager, David O'Leary.

Tuesday February 4, 1986

Round 5 Replay At Highbury, Attendance: 33,091, Programme price: 50p

Tuesday March 4th, 1986

Semi-final 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 23,098, Programme price: 50p

This match was originally scheduled for February 11th, but bad weather caused referee Joe Worrall to postpone the match three times, eventually the match was played on 4th March – the original date for the second leg!

ASTON VILLA (1) 2	OXFORD UNITED (1) 2
Birch (33)	Aldridge (8)
Stainrod (55)	Aldridge (56 pen)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Norton
3	Glover
4	Evans
5	Elliott
6	Bradley
7	Birch
8	Kerr
9	Stainrod
10	Hodge
11	Walters
12	Shaw

Oxford United (Division 1)

1	Judge
2	Trewick
3	Slatter
4	Phillips
5	Briggs
6	Shotton
7	Houghton
8	Aldridge
9	Charles
10	Hebberd
11	Brock <i>Rhoades-Brown</i>
12	Langan

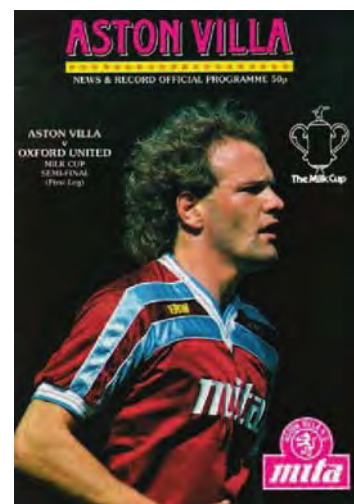
The managers:

Mr G Turner

Mr M Evans

The Officials

Referee	J B Worrall (Warrington)
Linesman (red)	R A Funnell
Linesman (yellow)	D B Scrimshaw (Cheadle Hulme)



From Graham Turner's notes in 'The Villa News & Record' 8/3/86:

Obviously, we are disappointed that we won't have the luxury of a goal or two to take to Oxford United for the second leg of the Milk Cup Semi-Final next week. If we are to get to Wembley, then we will have done it the hard way – playing at home first and then having to go away to win. The trip to Oxford promises to be the toughest yet. The prize is that much greater at this stage and it will be a new experience for a lot of our lads to play there. It's a tight pitch with a bit of a slope on it and there will be a good atmosphere. Yet I feel we can improve on our performance in the first leg. It was a cracking semi-final, with plenty of goalmouth incident, and chances to both sides, but. To be honest, we could easily have lost it. The killer blow was in conceding a penalty within seconds of going ahead. It is generally accepted most vulnerable immediately after they have scored. We needed to settle down at that point, and then there would have been a chance of adding to the

lead instead of having to start all over again at 2-2.

And from the Oxford United programme for the 2nd leg:

United were looking forward to their historic first semi, but, after three postponements the match went ahead. In perfect conditions United and Villa combined to produce a scintillating cup-tie. After the lively Mark Walters had threatened for Villa, United took a shock early lead from goal machine John Aldridge. Trevor Hebbard sent a long pass to Ray Houghton, his cross found Aldridge and the striker swept home his 22nd goal of the season after just eight minutes. Soon afterwards Aldridge came desperately close to a second goal with a deft chip which beat everyone, but crashed against the woodwork. But Villa were undeterred and after several close shaves they replied with Paul Birch netting a fantastic goal from the edge of the area after a troublesome long throw from Darren Bradley had not been cleared, Despite the stakes, both sides played with gay abandon, pushing wide men forward in pursuit of goal. And not long after the restart it was Villa who took the lead, with Simon Stainrod scoring his ninth Milk Cup goal of the season for Villa. United fought back within a minute with Allan Evans' foul on John Aldridge giving the striker the chance of a quick reply from the penalty spot. Aldridge sent the ball to Nigel Spink's left and although the Villa goalkeeper went the right way the ball beat him and United were level. Both sides came close to further goals before the end, but 2-2 was the final score, meaning that tonight we should see a quite fascinating tussle with the ultimate prize at stake – a trip to Wembley.

Wednesday March 12, 1986

Semi-final 2nd Leg At The Manor Ground, Attendance: 13,989, Programme price: 50p

OXFORD UNITED (0) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Phillips (57)

Walters (87)

Charles (73)

Oxford won on aggregate goals

Oxford United (Division 1)

1	Judge
2	Trewick
3	Slatter
4	Phillips
5	Briggs
6	Shotton
7	Houghton
8	Aldridge
9	Charles
10	Hebbard
11	Rhoades-Brown
12	Langan

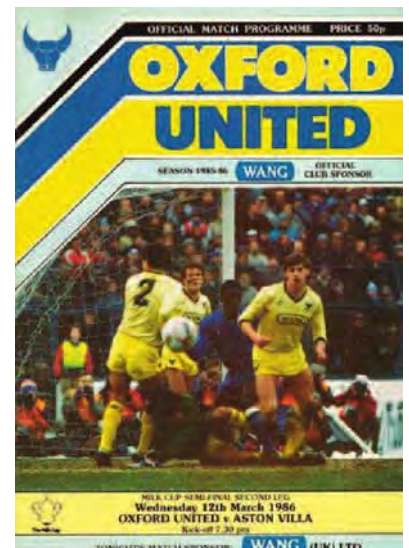
Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Norton <i>Williams</i>
3	Glover <i>Dorigo</i>
4	Evans
5	Elliott
6	Bradley <i>Glover</i>
7	Birch
8	Stainrod <i>Kerr</i>
9	Gray
10	Hodge
11	Walters
12	Bradley

The managers:

Mr M Evans

Mr G Turner



The Officials

Referee A Robinson (Waterlooville)
 Linesman (red) K S Bissix (Bristol)
 Linesman (yellow) K Ryman (Stratford-on-Avon)

Mark Walters scored a great goal with his shot through the penalty area. Unfortunately it was not quite enough to achieve the Wembley dream.

Oxford United won the League Cup this season, beating QPR 3-0 at Wembley.

They were relegated in 2006 to the Conference, and now (2013) are in Npower League 2 The old Division 4

1986/87

Wednesday September 24, 1986

Round 2 1st Leg At Elm Park, Attendance: 9,363, Programme price: 60p

READING (I) | ASTON VILLA (I) |
 Bremner (2) Hodge (11)

Reading (Division 2)

- 1 Westwood
- 2 Peters *Bailie*
- 3 Bailie *Richardson*
- 4 Beavon
- 5 Hicks
- 6 Wood
- 7 Williams
- 8 Hurlock
- 9 Senior
- 10 Bremner
- 11 Canoville
- 12 Peters
- 13 Horrix

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Poole *Spink*
- 2 Keown *Norton*
- 3 Dorigo
- 4 Evans
- 5 Elliott
- 6 Kerr *Keown*
- 7 Hunt *Birch*
- 8 Stainrod
- 9 Thompson
- 10 Hodge
- 11 Daley *Hunt*
- 12 Daley
- 13 Kerr



The managers:

Mr I Branfoot Mr W McNeill MBE

The Officials

Referee R Hamer (Avon)
 Linesman (red) P Alcock
 Linesman (yellow) N Ludlow



From 'The Villa News & Record' , 11/11/86:

Billy McNeill recalled Nigel Spink for his first game in charge at Reading in the Littlewoods Cup, and it was certainly no easy return to the senior side when he was picking the ball out of the net after only two minutes. Nigel said, 'I wondered what was going to happen next. But the lads pulled out of it very well. The draw down there was a good, battling result.'

Wednesday October 8, 1986

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 12,484, Programme price: 60p

ASTON VILLA (2) 4 READING (1) 1

Hodge (6)

Senior (28)

Gray (14)

Gray (55)

Walters (88)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Norton
3	Dorigo
4	Evans
5	Elliott
6	Keown <i>Hunt</i>
7	Birch
8	Stainrod <i>Thompson</i>
9	Thompson <i>Gray (12 Kerr)</i>
10	Hodge
11	Hunt <i>Walters</i>
12	Kerr
13	Keown

Reading (Division2)

1	Westwood
2	Bailie
3	Richardson
4	Beavon
5	Hicks
6	Wood
7	Williams (<i>13 Gilkes</i>)
8	Hurlock <i>Horrix (12 Peters)</i>
9	Senior
10	Bremner
11	Canoville
12	Peters
13	Gilkes

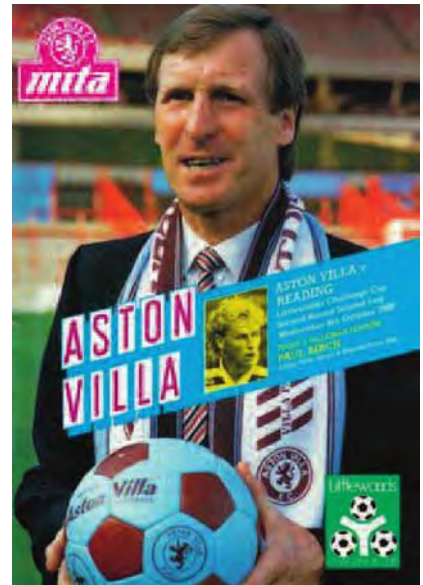
The managers:

Mr W McNeill MBE

Mr I Branfoot

The Officials

Referee	N J Ashley (Nantwich)
Linesman (red)	G Banwell (Stafford)
Linesman (yellow)	A Hodgett



In 'The Villa News & Record' for this match, there were many statistics for the League Cup:

Villa Top of the League

As this table shows, Villa have the best record in the competition. Although Liverpool have won the trophy four times, once more than Villa, they are still 33 points behind - the table is based on three points for a win and one for a draw.

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Aston Villa	128	69	33	26	253	158	240
2	Norwich	114	62	26	26	204	121	212
3	Liverpool	107	59	30	18	206	81	207
4	West Ham	110	55	26	29	226	139	191
5	Man City	105	54	25	26	192	121	187
6	Arsenal	94	46	25	23	183	91	163

So, it seems Villa have always been ahead in the League Cup!

Wednesday October 29, 1986

Round 3 At The Baseball Ground, Attendance: 19,374, Programme price: 70p

DERBY COUNTY (0) | ASTON VILLA (1) |

Harbey (66)

Daley (15)

Derby County (Division 2)

1	Wallington
2	Sage
3	Forsyth
4	Williams
5	Hindmarsh
6	Maclaren
7	Micklewhite
8	Gee
9	Davison
10	Gregory
11	Harbey
12	Garner
13	Penney

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Norton
3	Dorigo
4	Evans
5	Keown
6	Hunt
7	Birch
8	Daley
9	Thompson <i>Stainrod</i>
10	Hodge
11	Walters
12	Williams
13	Kerr

The managers:

Mr A Cox

Mr W McNeill MBE

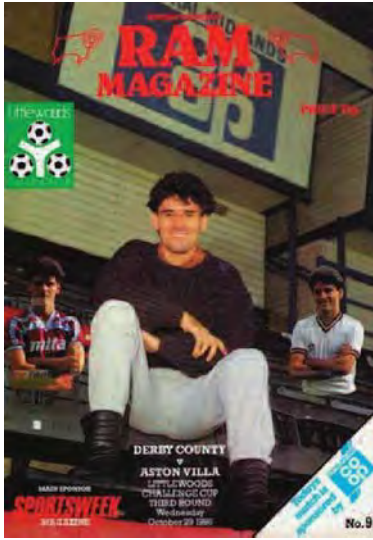
The Officials

Referee	D B Allison (Lancaster)
Linesman (red)	D W Mansfield (Macclesfield)
Linesman (yellow)	W A Nutall



From the Manager's page in 'The Villa News & Record' programme for the replay, Billy McNeill wrote:

We anticipated a stirring cup-tie in the electric atmosphere of the Baseball Ground last week, and that was what we got. Now we anticipate another whole hearted and very committed performance tonight. As far as we are concerned the situation is very similar to the one we had against Reading,



where we came away with a 1-1 draw and then got very quickly into the driving seat at Villa Park. There were times at Derby when we created situations that would have been ideal for Garry Thompson. Hopefully, he will be available to give us another attacking dimension. We know that Paul Elliott will be in contention ... though I should say that the two centre backs and Nigel Spink defended very well against Derby. I was only disappointed that they didn't get the clean sheet they deserved. I must also make mention of Tony Daley's goal. The way he went through the whole defence was a tremendous piece of individual flair. He did have chances to see off Derby when we were leading 1-0, and, though it was frustrating not to have finished the job at the first attempt, the good point was that the players showed good character in coming through a daunting task.

Tuesday November 4, 1986

Round 3 Replay At Villa Park, Attendance: 19,477, Programme price: 60p

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 DERBY COUNTY (1) 1

Birch (11)

Williams (22)

Thompson (61)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Norton
3	Dorigo
4	Evans
5	Keown
6	Hunt
7	Birch
8	Daley <i>Stainrod</i>
9	Thompson
10	Hodge
11	Walters <i>Daley</i>
12	Walters
13	Elliott

Derby County (Division 2)

1	Wallington
2	Sage
3	Forsyth
4	Williams
5	Hindmarsh
6	Maclaren
7	Micklewhite
8	Gee
9	Davison
10	Gregory (<i>14 Lillis</i>)
11	Harbey (<i>12 Penney</i>)
12	Penney
14	Lillis

The managers:

Mr W McNeill MBE

Mr A Cox

The Officials

Referee

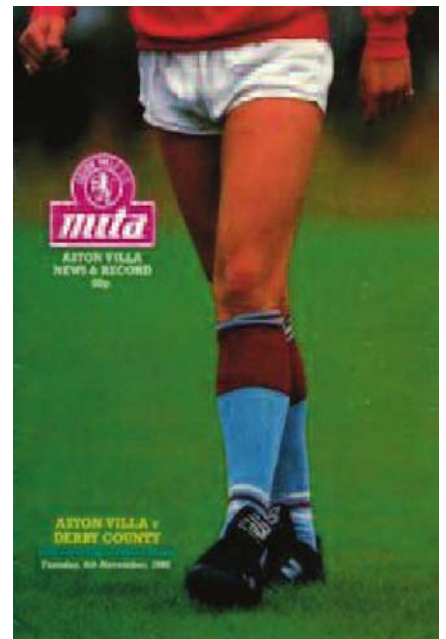
F Roberts (Prestatyn, Clwyd)

Linesman (red)

A Fenn (Nuneaton)

Linesman (yellow)

I C Murray



Tuesday November 18, 1986

Round 4 At The Dell, Attendance: 13,402, Programme price: 60p

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Case (16)

Evans (67 pen)

Clarke (64)

Southampton (Division 1)

1	Shilton
2	Forrest
3	Dennis <i>sent off 74</i>
4	Case
5	Wright
6	Gittens <i>Bond</i>
7	Lawrence
8	Cockerill
9	Clarke
10	Armstrong <i>Baker</i>
11	Wallace
12	Jordan
13/14	tba

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink Poole
2	Norton <i>Williams sent off 77</i>
3	Dorigo
4	Evans 77
5	Elliott
6	Keown <i>sent off 74</i>
7	Norton
8	Stainrod <i>(14 Kerr (57))</i>
9	Thompson
10	Hunt
11	Daley <i>(12 Walters (63))</i>
12	Walters
14	Kerr

The managers:

Mr C Nicholl

Mr W McNeill MBE

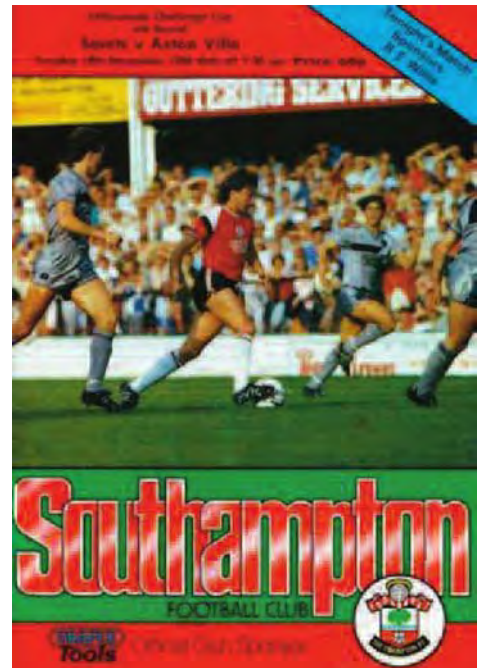
The Officials

Referee	D J Axcell
Linesman (red)	A V Culverwell
Linesman (yellow)	M E Pierce

Southampton were managed by yet another ex-Villa man, Chris Nicholl

From the Southampton programme for this match:

Tonight we welcome Aston Villa and their new manager, Billy McNeill, to The Dell for this important Littlewoods Cup-tie. They beat us 3-1 at Villa Park on October 11, and they've had an impressive run and now they are a very difficult side to beat. Last season they reached the semi-finals of this competition and they're s renowned Cup side. However, we feel that the prize of a place in the quarter-finals will give us a big incentive to win... and we'll be in the right frame of mind to set about clinching that place in the last eight.



Notes regarding the sendings off in this match: Martin Keown was sent off on 74 minutes along with

Southampton's Mark Dennis. Keown was fouled by Dennis and reacted with an elbow in the Southampton player's face. Dennis had previously been booked after bringing down Gary Williams. Gary Williams was sent off on 77 minutes after aiming a kick at Steve Baker.

Tony Daley had been taken off following a foul by Mark Dennis. (See above substitution)

Paul Kerr was brought down by Kevin Bond for the penalty award.

Allan Evans was booked for dissent on 77 minutes. Paul Elliott and Steve Hunt were also booked.

Thank-you, Frank, for this information.

Southampton lost 0-3 to Liverpool in the semi-final

1987/88

Wednesday September 23, 1987

Round 2 1st Leg At Ayresome Park, Attendance: 11,424, Programme price: 60p

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

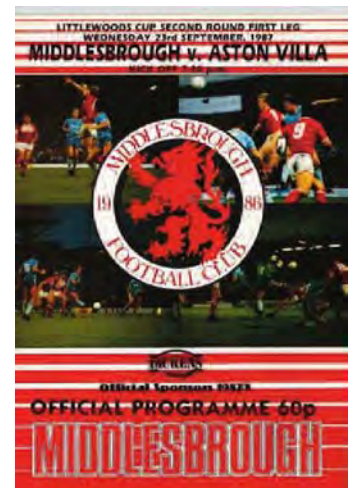
Aspinall (25)

Middlesbrough (Division 2)

- 1 Pears
- 2 Glover
- 3 Cooper
- 4 Mowbray
- 5 Parkinson
- 6 Pallister
- 7 Slaven
- 8 Stephens
- 9 Hamilton
- 10 Kerr
- 11 Ripley
- 12 Kernaghan
- 14 Proudlock

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Gage
- 3 Gallacher
- 4 Cooper *Hunt D*
- 5 Sims
- 6 Keown
- 7 Birch
- 8 Aspinall
- 9 Lillis
- 10 Hunt S
- 11 Walters
- 12 Burke
- 14 Hunt D *Stainrod*



The managers:

Mr B Rioch

Mr G Taylor

Bruce Rioch was, of course, a former Villa captain, and won a League Cup runners' up medal in 1971 and a Division Three Champions medal in 1971/72 with them.

The Officials

- Referee C C Trussell (Liverpool)
- Linesman (red) R Poulain
- Linesman (yellow) S E Williams



From 'The Villa News & Record' for the second leg match:

Wednesday 23rd September:

Warren Aspinall's goal gives Villa a 1-0 lead to bring back to Villa Park for the second leg as the teams share in an exciting tussle in which Villa narrowly gain the edge. Nigel Spink saves a last minute penalty. "It is not over yet," warns Villa manager Graham Taylor, mindful of Villa's difficulty in reaching satisfactory home form. With Cooper still doubtful and minor injuries collected at Ayresome Park, the team formation for the home game with Sheffield United is still undecided.

Wednesday October 7, 1987

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 11,702, Programme price: 70p

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0

Birch (80 seconds)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Spink
2	Gage
3	Gallacher
4	Lillis
5	Sims
6	Keown
7	Birch
8	Aspinall (<i>13 Evans</i>)
9	McInally <i>sent off for dissent</i>
10	Hunt S
11	Walters
12	Shaw
14	Evans

Middlesbrough (Division 2)

1	Pears
2	Glover
3	Cooper
4	Mowbray
5	Parkinson
6	Pallister
7	Slaven
8	Kernaghan (<i>12 Laws (54)</i>)
9	Hamilton
10	Kerr
11	Ripley
12	Laws
14	Gill

The managers:

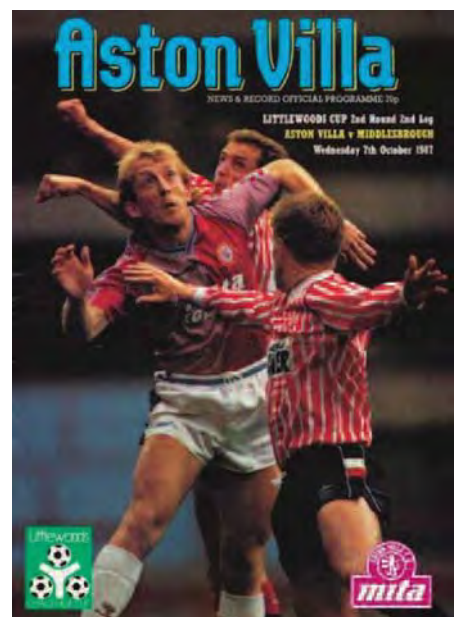
Mr G Taylor

Mr B Rioch

The Officials

Referee	A W Ward (London)
Linesman (red)	P E Townsend
Linesman (yellow)	D T Colwell (Kidderminster)

Alan McInally was sent off for dissent in unusual circumstances. He was cautioned by the referee following a comment made after a minor clash with Gary Pallister. However, he refused to give his name to the official and was sent off. (via Frank Holt)



From Villa's 'Official Yearbook 1988/89' under the review of the previous season's (Littlewoods) League Cup:

[The win in the first leg] set up an appetizing second leg at Villa Park... when a Paul Birch goal completed an emphatic 2-0 passage to a third round home tie with Spurs. Sadly this period proved to be the final phase of Steve Hunt's career. The talented midfield player was having continuing knee problems and by mid-October he had been warned by a specialist that the consequences of continuing to play would be horrendous.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 8/10/87:

Thursday 8th October:

After the victory over Middlesbrough, Villa are drawn at home to Spurs in the third round of the Littlewoods Cup. Checks on minor injuries before manager Graham Taylor can decide squad for the next away trip to Leeds on Saturday as Villa attempt to extend winning sequence. Allan Evans, who was sub in the second half against 'Boro, is the only doubt as Villa a send similar squad to Elland Road.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 21/10/87:

Wednesday 7th October: Allan Evans and Gary Shaw, having played in the 0-0 draw with Sunderland at Roker Park last night are included in Villa's 13, as subs for the second leg of the Littlewood's Cup-tie with Middlesbrough at Villa Park. After Villa set up a 2nd minute lead via an 18-yards blast from Birch, Alan McNally, on his third appearance for the club, is sent off for dissent. Villa's ten men defend their 2-0 aggregate and survive well to reach the next round. It is an encouraging performance by the depleted team, showing loads of character, and it produces the first home win of the season.

Thursday 8th October: Draw reveals that Villa are at home in an attractive third round draw against Spurs on October 28. Manager Graham Taylor is critical of ex-Celtic striker McNally for allowing dissent to force him to face the prospect of a two-match ban so soon after Steve Hunt had suffered a similar punishment. Now Villa look forward to trip to Leeds [in the League] and hopefully the extension of an impressive sequence of victories away from home.

At this stage of the season Villa had gone 12 matches without defeat in league and cup matches, a run they extended to 15, from September 12th to November 7th, before losing to Millwall.

Wednesday October 28, 1987

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 29,114, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (0) 1

McNally (8)

Ardiles (63)

Aspinall (78)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Gage
- 3 Gallacher
- 4 Lillis
- 5 Sims
- 6 Keown
- 7 Birch
- 8 Aspinall
- 9 McNally
- 10 Hunt D
- 11 Walters
- 12 Shaw
- 14 Blair

Tottenham Hotspur (Division 1)

- 1 Parks
- 2 Hughton *Stevens*
- 3 Thomas
- 4 Samways (*12 Moran (80)*)
- 5 Fairclough
- 6 Mabbutt
- 7 Allen C
- 8 Allen P
- 9 Ardiles
- 10 Stevens *Metgod (14 Hughton (58))*
- 11 Claesen
- 12 Moran
- 14 Hughton

The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr T Hartley & Mr D Livermore



The Officials

- Referee K J Breen (Liverpool)
- Linesman (red) P D Harding
- Linesman (yellow) W A Nutall

From Villa's 'Official Yearbook 1988/89' under the review of the previous season's (Littlewoods) League Cup:

The thrilling Spurs tie attracted an attendance of nearly 30,000 and goals by Aspinall and Allan McNally earned a superb 2-1 victory at a time when Villa were also completing a climb up the Second Division table from the bottom three in the opening weeks towards the top.



Wednesday November 18, 1987

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 25,302, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 1
Thompson (32)

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (1) 2
Chapman (21)
West (71)

Aston Villa (Division 2)

1	Spink
2	Gage
3	Gallacher
4	Lillis
5	Sims
6	Keown
7	Birch
8	Aspinall
9	McInally
10	Blair
11	Walters <i>Thompson(14 Evans)</i>
12	Shaw
14	Evans

Sheffield Wednesday (Division 1)

1	Hodge
2	Jacobs <i>Sterland</i>
3	Worthington
4	Fee
5	Madden
6	Owen
7	Chamberlain
8	Megson (<i>sent off</i>)
9	Chapman
10	West
11	Galvin (<i>Bradshaw (45)</i>)
12	Bradshaw
14	Jacobs

The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr H Wilkinson

The Officials

Referee	G Courtney	(Spennymoor)
Linesman (red)	P Jones	(Loughborough)
Linesman (yellow)	P Stokes	



From Villa's 'Official Yearbook 1988/89' under the review of the previous season's (Littlewoods) League Cup:

Wednesday's visit drew another large gate, this time more than 25,000, to indicate not only that the new manager [Graham Taylor] was making first-class early progress but that the crowd were responding to the appeal of attractive fixtures. It had to be admitted that Wednesday's extra experience and Division One expertise told its tale despite their losing midfield man Greg Megson, sent off in the first half. It was an uncompromising game won by a Colin West decider after Garry Thompson had equalised a lead set up by Lee Chapman in the first half. It was Villa display which never really got going.

The two scorers for Wednesday in this match were to become two of the most travelled players of their era. Colin West played for 13 different teams in three countries, Wednesday were his fourth, whilst Lee Chapman had 15, again in three countries. Wednesday were his fifth club. In addition Colin West had brief spells as caretaker manager with Hartlepool and Millwall.

Wednesday lost 0-1 to Arsenal in the 5th round

1988/89

Tuesday September 27, 1988

Round 2 1st leg At St Andrews, Attendance: 21,177, Programme price: 60p

BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (2) 2

Gage (9)

Gray A (45)

Birmingham City (Division 2)

1	Godden
2	Ranson (<i>14 Bremner (89)</i>)
3	Roberts
4	Atkins
5	Overson
6	Bird <i>Clarkson</i>
7	Bremner <i>Morris</i>
8	Trewick <i>Langley</i>
9	Whitton <i>Yates</i>
10	Robinson (<i>12 Whitton (56)</i>)
11	Wigley
12	Whitton
14	Bremner

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Mountford (<i>sic</i>)
4	Gray A
5	Gage
6	Keown
7	Daley
8	Platt
9	McNally <i>Thompson</i>
10	Cowans
11	Gray <i>S Gallagher</i>
12	Evans
14	Olney

The managers:

Mr G Pendrey

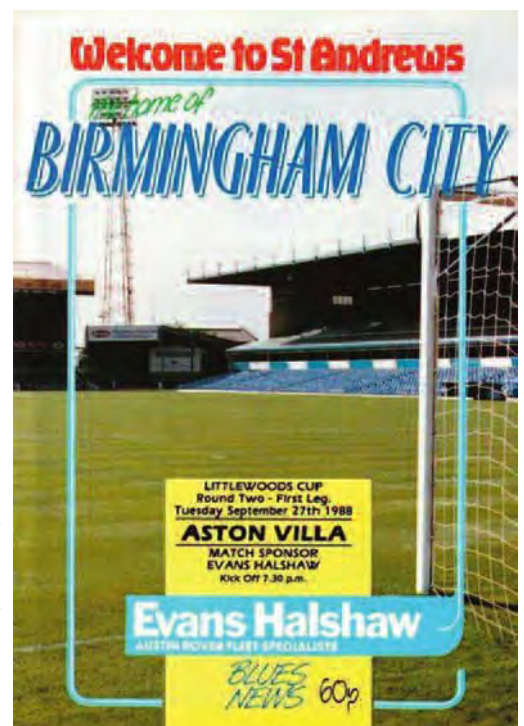
Mr G Taylor

The Officials

Referee	H W King (Merthyr Tydfil)
Linesman (red)	A Bennett
Linesman (yellow)	P E Townsend
Fourth Official	A Haber

From 'The Villa News & Record' for the second leg match:
ROLL UP, ROLL UP

One consolation for Birmingham City in going 2-0 down in the first leg of the Littlewood's Cup second round was the size of their attendance. Their gate of 21,177 was the biggest in the competition this season to date, an indication that the old Brummie rivalry still flourishes. It will be interesting to watch how it compares with tonight's second leg as the neighbours go for that tempting third round place.





BLUES 0 VILLA 2

Kevin Gage put Villa in the driving seat in the first leg at St. Andrews when he latched on to a Garry Thompson knock-down to hammer the ball home from close range. Our photographer, Terry Weir, enthused about the second goal, a 'thunderbolt' from Andy Gray. "I thought Bruce Rioch was back" remarked Terry.

Wednesday October 12, 1988

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 19,753, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (4) 5 BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 0

Mountfield (45 sec)

Gage (11)

Gage (17)

Olney (18)

Daley (70)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Price
- 3 Mountfield
- 4 Gray A *Evans*
- 5 Gage
- 6 Keown *Sims*
- 7 Daley
- 8 Platt
- 9 Thompson *Olney*
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Gray S (*12 Gallagher*)
- 12 Gallagher

- 14 McNally

Birmingham City (Division 2)

- 1 Godden *Elliott*
- 2 Ranson (*12 Sturridge (46)*)
- 3 Frain
- 4 Atkins
- 5 Overson
- 6 Bird Clarkson
- 7 Bremner
- 8 Peer
- 9 Whitton *Morris (14 Childs (46))*
- 10 Robinson
- 11 Wigley
- 12 Sturridge

- 14 Childs

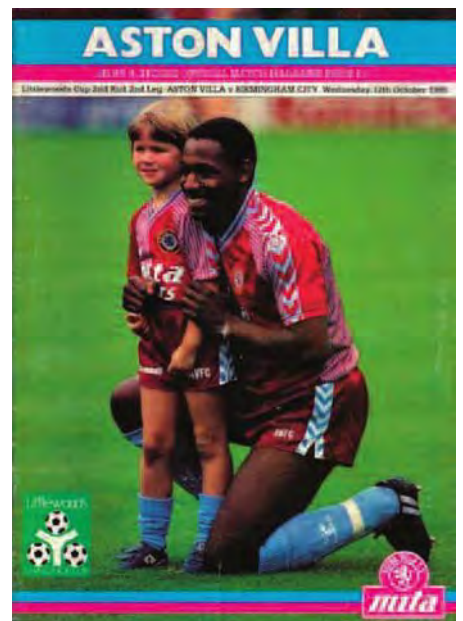
The managers:

Mr G Taylor Mr G Pendrey

The Officials

Referee K S Hackett (Sheffield)
 Linesman (red) J Hilditch (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Linesman (yellow) M P Joyce

Derek Mountfield's goal after just 45 seconds is the fastest goal scored for the Villa in the League Cup.





From 'The Villa News & Record' for the fourth round match: Villa Park has staged three exciting Littlewoods Cup Games already this season. First Villa's 5-0 hammering of the Blues, then [see next match]...

Wednesday November 2, 1988

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,648, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 MILLWALL (1) 1

McInally (17)

Ruddock (10)

McInally (21)

Platt (72)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Price
- 3 Mountfield
- 4 Evans
- 5 Gage
- 6 Keown
- 7 Daley
- 8 Platt
- 9 McInally
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Gray S *Gallagher*
- 12 Olney
- 14 Gray A

Millwall (Division 1)

- 1 Horne
- 2 Stevens *(12 O'Callaghan (84))*
- 3 Dawes
- 4 Hurlock *Morgan*
- 5 Wood *Thompson*
- 6 McLeary
- 7 Lawrence *Salman*
- 8 Briley
- 9 Sheringham
- 10 Cascarino
- 11 Ruddock
- 12 O'Callaghan
- 14 Sparham



The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr J Docherty

The Officials

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Referee | L C Shapter (Torquay) |
| Linesman (red) | D J Gallagher (Oxfordshire) |
| Linesman (yellow) | I C Murray |

... the 3-1 success against Millwall which included two cracking goals from Neil Ruddock and Alan McInally, followed by last week's third round second replay between Arsenal and Liverpool. [See next match]

Wednesday November 30, 1988

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 16,284, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (2) 6 IPSWICH TOWN (0) 2

McNally (11)

Stockwell (83)

McNally (15)

Atkinson (89)

Platt (59)

Platt (65)

Platt (70)

Platt (77)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

Ipswich Town (Division 2)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Price
- 3 Mountfield *Gray S*
- 4 Evans *Gage*
- 5 Gage *Mountfield*
- 6 Keown
- 7 Daley *Gray A (12 Williams)*
- 8 Platt
- 9 McNally
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Gallacher *Daley*
- 12 Williams
- 14 Evans

- 1 Forrest
- 2 Yallop *O'Donnell*
- 3 Harbey *(14 Hill (48))*
- 4 Zondervan *Redford*
- 5 Milton
- 6 Lowe *Linighan*
- 7 Linighan *Lowe*
- 8 Dozzell
- 9 Wark
- 10 Atkinson
- 11 Stockwell
- 12 Cheetham
- 14 Hill

The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr J Duncan

The Officials

- Referee K Cooper (Pontypridd, Glamorgan)
- Linesman (red) P E Townsend
- Linesman (yellow) M J Watkiss



...If tonight's game is anywhere near as exciting as those three games then we shall have been well and truly entertained.

And from 'The Villa News & Record' 5/1/2013:

It was the Platty and Rambo show as Villa crushed the Tractor boys in a cup competition back in the 1988-89 season. It was the fourth round of the League Cup that paired the teams together. There were two goals for Alan McNally, while David Platt bagged an astonishing quartet in what proved to be a resounding win for the boys in claret and blue.

Villa's reward for beating Ipswich was West Ham (again).

Wednesday January 18, 1989

Round 5 At The Boleyn Ground, Attendance: 30,110, Programme price: on Stadium price £1.00, off Stadium price £1.50

WEST HAM UNITED (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Ince (15)

Kelly (85)

Platt (88)

West Ham United (Division 1)

1	McKnight
2	Potts
3	Dicks
4	Gale
5	Martin <i>Strodder</i>
6	Devonshire
7	Brady
8	Kelly
9	Rosenior
10	Dickens (<i>12 Ward</i>)
11	Ince
12	Ward
14	Keen

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Gage <i>Gray S</i>
4	Gray <i>A Gage</i>
5	Mountfield
6	Keown
7	Daley <i>Gray A</i>
8	Platt
9	McInally
10	Cowans
11	Gray <i>S Daley (14 Olney)</i>
12	Evans
14	Olney

The managers:

Mr J Lyall

Mr G Taylor

The Officials

Referee

J Martin (Alton)

Linesman (red)

R L Bigger (Surrey)

Linesman (yellow)

J E Clarke



From 'The Hammer', West Ham's programme for this match: Tonight we turn our attention once more to cup Football and a most important quarter-final tie against Aston Villa in the Littlewoods Cup. [They] have quite a pedigree in this competition. We have met twice before – both times in the third round –when the away team was successful. In season 1961-62 Villa won here 3-1 and two years later we knocked them out at Villa Park by 2-0. Villa, eight places and nine points above us in the First Division table have won only one of their 10 away games this season. It looks like quite a scrap this evening.

West Ham lost to Luton Town in the semi-final 0-5 on aggregate

1989/90

Wednesday September 20, 1989

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 27,400, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 WOLVERHAMPTON W (0) 1
 Platt (15) Mutch (46)
 Gray (63)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Price
- 3 Gallacher
- 4 Gage
- 5 Mountfield
- 6 McGrath
- 7 Platt
- 8 Heath (*12 Nielsen*)
- 9 Olney
- 10 Gray S
- 11 Callaghan
- 12 Nielsen
- 14 Ormondroyd

Wolverhampton Wanderers (Division 2)

- 1 Lange Kendall
- 2 Bellamy
- 3 Venus
- 4 Robertson *Streete*
- 5 *Streete Clarke*
- 6 Vaughan (*12 Downing*)
- 7 Thompson *Bennett*
- 8 Gooding
- 9 Bull (*14 Paskin*)
- 10 Mutch
- 11 Dennison
- 12 Downing
- 14 Paskin

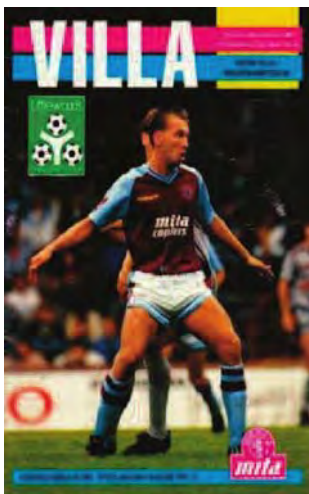
The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr G Turner

The Officials

- Referee T Mills (Barnsley)
- Linesman (red) P D Harding
- Linesman (yellow) J J Shawcross



From Villa's 'Official Yearbook 1990/91' under the review of the previous season's (Littlewoods) League Cup:

Watched by the biggest crowd of the season (so far), Villa earn a single goal advantage to take into the second leg at Molineaux. Earlier in the day Mark Lillis left the club in a £40,000 move to Scunthorpe United.

Central TV announce that Villa's game at Manchester City next month will become the first match ever to be screened live on regional television. Later Central announced that the match had had 1.975 million viewers.

From the 'Villa News & Record' for the match with Derby County:
 Wolves v Aston Villa

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS GAME WILL NOW BE PLAYED ON WEDNESDAY AND NOT TUESDAY AS PRINTED ON THE MATCH TICKETS.

Wednesday October 4, 1989

Round 2 2nd Leg At Molineaux, Attendance: 22,754, Programme price: £1.00

WOLVERHAMPTON W (0) | ASTON VILLA (1) |
 Bull (75) | Mountfield (16)

Wolverhampton Wanderers (Division 2)

1	Kendall
2	Bellamy
3	Venus
4	Westley
5	Clarke <i>Streete (14 Downing (73))</i>
6	Vaughan
7	Bennett <i>(12 Chard (12))</i>
8	Gooding
9	Bull
10	Paskin
11	Dennison
12	Chard
14	Downing

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Gallacher
4	Gage <i>(12 Heath (45))</i>
5	Mountfield
6	McGrath
7	Daley
8	Platt
9	Olney
10	Cowans
11	Gray S
12	Heath
14	Neilsen

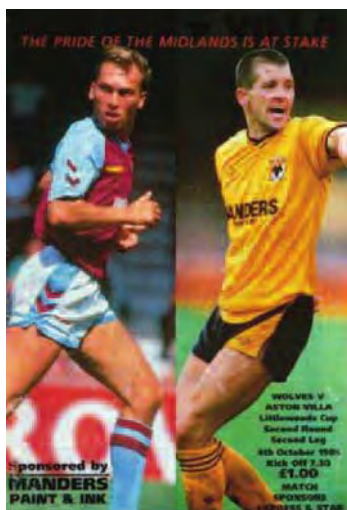
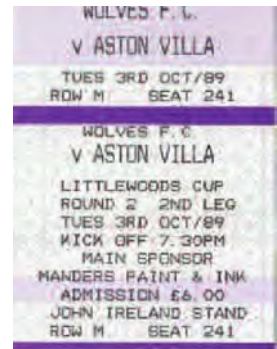
The managers:

Mr G Turner

Mr G Taylor

The Officials

Referee	K S Hackett (Sheffield)	M Peck (Kendal)
Linesman (red)	R W Pellatt (Swindon)	
Linesman (yellow)	G A Racey	
Fourth Official	S Blackley	



From 'The Villa News & Record' for the third round match: Manager Graham Taylor described the defensive performances of Derek Mountfield, Paul McGrath and Nigel Spink as "absolutely brilliant". In the draw for the third round, made live on ITV after the highlights of the game from Molineaux, Villa are given a home tie with West Ham. It was the 'Hammers' who put Villa out of the competition at the quarter-final stage last season.

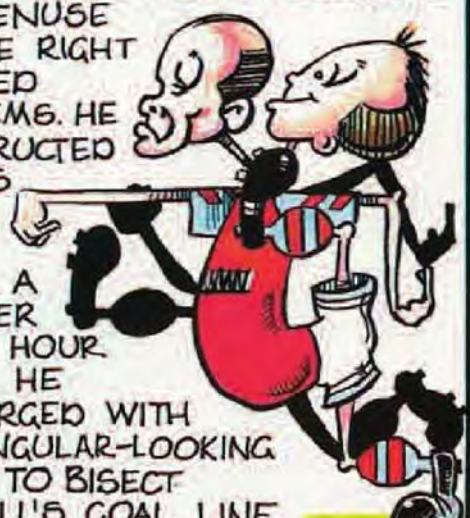
The match report on the first leg from the Wolves programme – too good to miss!

2ND ROUND, 1ST LEG 20 SEPT. 99

VILLA'S LIGHTWEIGHT FORWARDS SCURRIED AROUND LIKE MICE IN THE OPENING 15 MINUTES & BIRTHDAY BOY KENDO NEEDED FELINE REFLEXES TO KEEP OUT AN EFFORT FROM OLNEY AND A DEFLECTION OFF TOM BENNETT.



PRICE'S DIRECT RUNS ALONG THE HYPOTENUSE ON THE RIGHT CREATED PROBLEMS. HE CONSTRUCTED VILLA'S FIRST GOAL AFTER A QUARTER OF AN HOUR WHEN HE CONVERGED WITH THE ANGULAR-LOOKING PLATT TO BISECT KENDALL'S GOAL LINE.



IN THE PASSIONATE ATMOSPHERE WOLVES FOUGHT BACK TOWARDS HALF-TIME. ANDY MUTCH STRUCK ANOTHER BLOW FOR THE MINISTRY OF STRIKERS WITH FUNNY WALKS EARLY IN THE SECOND HALF WHEN HE HEADED HOME A CROSS FROM VENUS.



WOLVES BACK FOUR GREW MORE ASSURED AS VILLA GREW MORE DESPERATE. BRUNO IN PARTICULAR, LOOKED COMFORTABLE IN DEALING WITH HIGH BALLS AIMED AT VILLA'S SUBBUTED FORWARDS.

GALLAGHER & PLATT BETWEEN THEM FINALLY PRISED OPEN WOLVES' DEFENCE. PLATT'S FINE RUN TO THE GOAL-LINE WAS FOLLOWED BY A PEACH OF A CROSS, AND GRAY APPLIED THE FINISHING TOUCH.



VILLA'S CHANGE IN ATTACKING OPTIONS CAME IN THE SURPRISING SHAPE & ALARMING SHORTS OF KENT NIELSEN. HE WAS AN UNMISTAKEABLE TARGET HOWEVER, & ONE TURN AND SHOT MIGHT WELL HAVE WIDENED THE GOAL MARGIN.



DSCHVOOM!

VILLA 2 WOLVES 1

Wednesday October 25, 1989

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 20,898, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 WEST HAM UNITED (0) 0

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Gage
4	Blake <i>Birch (12 Ormondroyd (35))</i>
5	Mountfield
6	Nielsen
7	Daley <i>(14 Blake (70))</i>
8	Platt
9	Olney
10	Cowans
11	Gray S
12	Ormondroyd
14	Blake

West Ham United (Division 2)

1	Parkes
2	Potts
3	Dicks
4	Strodder
5	Martin
6	Keen
7	Ward Brady <i>(14 Kelly (79))</i>
8	Slater
9	Dolan
10	Allen
11	Parris
12	McQueen
14	Kelly



The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr L Macari

The Officials

Referee	G Courtney (Spennymoor)
Linesman (red)	P Cox (Coventry)
Linesman (yellow)	M Fletcher

From 'The Villa News & Record' 5/11/90:

[This was] the first goalless cup-tie (involving Villa) at Villa Park for ten years. The last was against Everton in the League Cup on 25th September 1979. In the draw for the fourth round the winners of the replay will meet either Wimbledon or Middlesbrough,



Wednesday November 8, 1989

Round 3 Replay At The Boleyn Ground, Attendance: 23,833, Programme price: £1.00

WEST HAM UNITED (1) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Dicks (31)

West Ham United (Division 2)

- 1 Parkes
- 2 Potts
- 3 Dicks
- 4 Strodder
- 5 Martin
- 6 Keen
- 7 Brady
- 8 Slater
- 9 Dolan
- 10 Allen *Ward*
- 11 Parris
- 12 Gale
- 14 Kelly

Aston Villa (Division 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Price
- 3 Gage *(14 Comyn)*
- 4 McGrath
- 5 Mountfield
- 6 Nielsen
- 7 Daley *(12 Callaghan (65))*
- 8 Platt
- 9 Olney
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Ormondroyd
- 12 Callaghan
- 14 Comyn

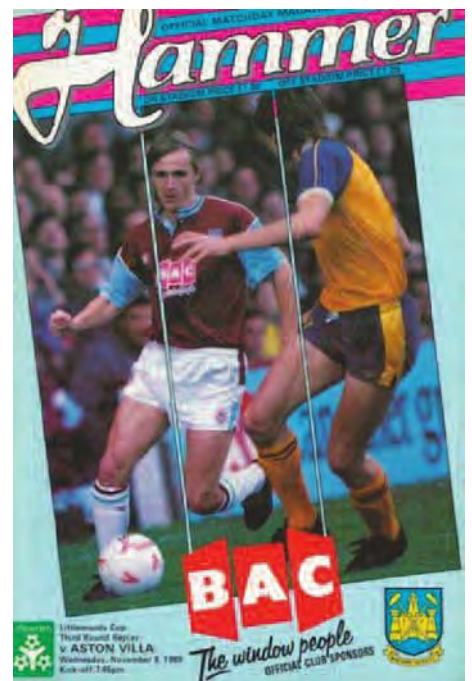
The managers:

Mr L Macari

Mr G Taylor

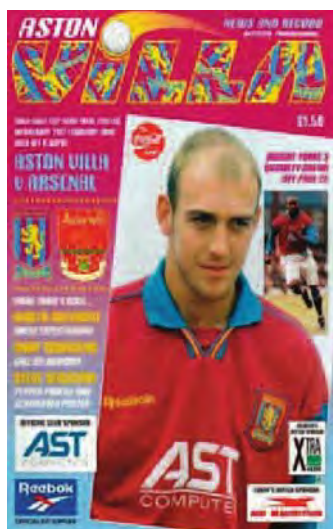
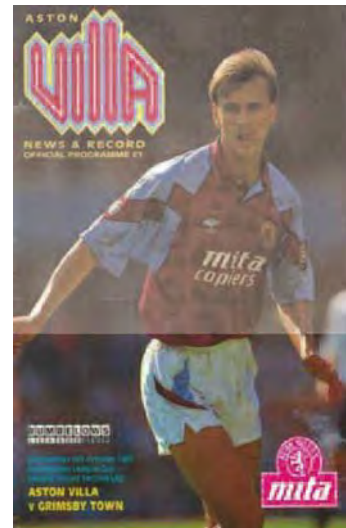
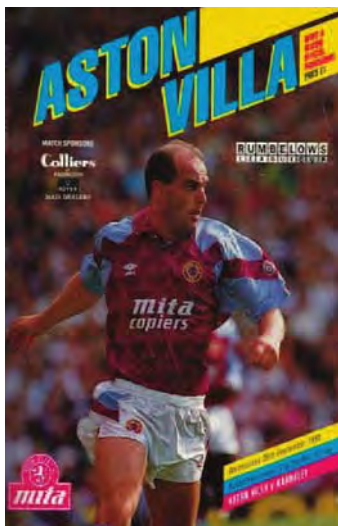
The Officials

- Referee D Hutchinson (Oxfordshire)
- Linesman (red) P J Brennan
- Linesman (yellow) M D Dearing
- Fourth Official A Romain (Chelmsford)



West Ham again, and another loss to the Hammers. Better luck next time!
The Hammers lost 3-6 on aggregate to Oldham Athletic in the semi-final

1990 to 2000



1990/91

Wednesday September 26, 1990

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 14,471, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 BARNESLEY (0) 0

Platt (58)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink	
2	Price	
3	Gray S	
4	McGrath	
5	Mountfield	
6	Nielsen	
7	Daley	
8	Platt	
9	Olney	
10	Cowans	
11	Ormondroyd	(12 Birch)
12	Birch	
14	Blake	

Barnsley (Division 2)

1	Baker
2	Fleming
3	Taggart
4	McCord
5	Smith
6	Tiler
7	Robinson
8	Cooper
9	Saville
10	Agnew
11	Archdeacon
12	Robinson
14	Dobbin

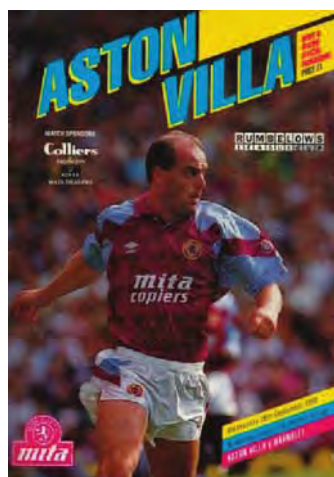
The managers:

Dr J Vengloš

Mr M Machin

The Officials

Referee	J Ashworth (Leicester)
Linesman (red)	R W Pellatt (Swindon)
Linesman (yellow)	P E Townsend



Dr Jozef Vengloš, from Czechoslovakia (present-day Slovakia), was the first manager born outside Britain or Ireland to take charge of a top flight English Club.

Whilst Mel Machin was manager of Barnsley at this time, his Player Coach was John Deehan, once of Villa. John returned briefly to Villa in 2001 as assistant to John Gregory, but left again in 2003 when Graham Taylor was appointed. In January 2012 John Deehan was appointed Director of Football at Plymouth Argyle.

From "The Villa News & Record" for this match:

Barnsley come to Villa Park tonight looking for their first ever win against Villa. In the twelve previous meetings between the sides the men from South Yorkshire have managed no more than three draws. The only previous meeting in the Football League Cup was at Villa Park on September 25th 1963. This time Villa won 3-1 with goals from Tony Hateley, Alan Baker and Harry Burrows, O'Hara replying for Barnsley

Tuesday October 9, 1990

Round 2 2nd Leg At Oakwell, Attendance: 13,924, Programme price: £1.00

BARNSELEY (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Daley (19)

Barnsley (Division 2)

1	Baker
2	Banks
3	Taggart
4	McCord
5	Smith (12 Robinson (74))
6	Tiler
7	O'Connell
8	Rammell
9	Saville
10	Agnew
11	Archdeacon
12	Robinson
14	Dobbin

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Gray S
4	McGrath
5	Mountfield
6	Nielsen Comyn
7	Daley
8	Platt
9	Olney (12 Cascarino)
10	Cowans
11	Birch
12	Cascarino
14	Gallagher

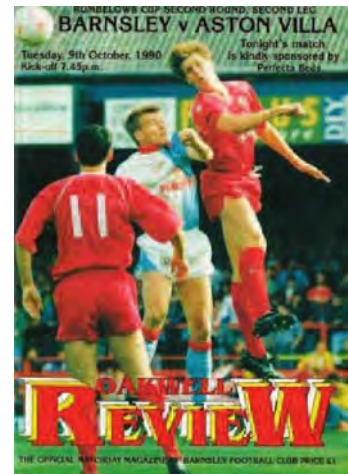
The managers:

Mr M Machin

Dr J Vengloš

The Officials

Referee	P L Wright (Northwich)
Linesman (red)	M A Riley (Liverpool)
Linesman (yellow)	J J Richardson (Leeds)



In 'The Oakwell Review' for this match, manager Mel Machin wrote:

We are now, of course, all looking forward to tonight's Rumbelows League Cup tie with First Division Aston Villa, who are in the second round of the UEFA Cup competition. We enjoyed the first leg at Villa Park and it was only a world-class goal from England's David Platt which saw us trailing 1-0. We will, however, have to pull something out of the top drawer if we are to progress. We shall have to be at our best tonight, there is no doubt about that, because Villa are a very good side. With your support, however, we feel we are capable of overcoming that first leg deficit providing we ourselves give maximum effort and have that little bit of luck which is always necessary in cup

competitions such as these.

And a brief statement from 'The Villa News & Record' from the next cup match against Millwall:

The goal that secured Villa's place in tonight's third round: Tony Daley latched on to a short back pass from Barnsley's Gerry Taggart, raced clear of Mark Smith, went round goalkeeper Clive Baker and calmly slid the ball into the net.

Wednesday October 31, 1990

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 15,117, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 MILLWALL (0) 0

Cascarino (49)

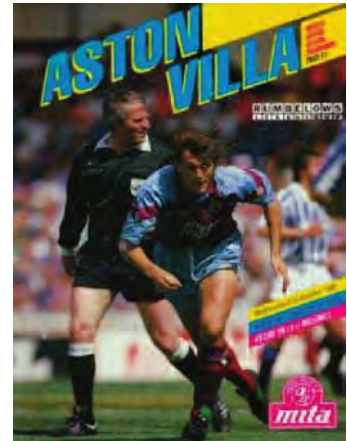
Platt (56 pen)

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Gray S (12 Birch)
4	Comyn
5	Mountfield
6	Nielsen
7	Daley
8	Platt
9	Birch Ormondroyd
10	Cowans
11	Cascarino
12	Birch
14	Olney

Millwall (Division 2)

1	Horne Branagan
2	Stevens
3	Cunningham Dawes
4	McCarthy Waddock
5	Wood
6	McLeary
7	Carter
8	Waddock Allen
9	Sheringham
10	Rae
11	O'Callaghan
12	Stephenson
14	McCarthy



The managers:

Dr J Vengloš

Mr B Rioch

The Officials

Referee	R G Milford (Bristol)
Linesman (red)	J Caulkin (Stoke-on-Trent)
Linesman (yellow)	R J Horswell (Bristol)
Fourth Official	M J Kendall



Wednesday November 28, 1990

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,317, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2

Ormondroyd (12)
Daley (60)
Platt (pen 79)

Slaven (86)
Slaven (90)

Aston Villa (Davison 1)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Price
- 3 Gray S
- 4 McGrath
- 5 Mountfield
- 6 Nielsen
- 7 Daley
- 8 Platt (12 Birch (83))
- 9 Olney
- 10 Cowans
- 11 Cascarino Ormondroyd
- 12 Birch
- 14 Cascarino

Middlesbrough (Division 2)

- 1 Pears
- 2 Cooper
- 3 Phillips
- 4 Mowbray
- 5 Kernaghan (12 Ripley (67))
- 6 Wark
- 7 Slaven
- 8 Mustoe
- 9 Baird
- 10 Kerr
- 11 Hendrie
- 12 Ripley
- 14 Proctor

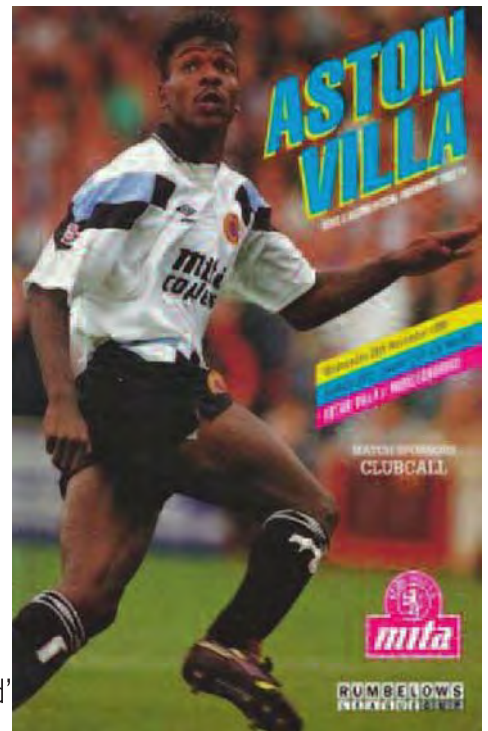
The managers:

Dr J Vengloš

Mr C Todd

The Officials

- Referee J Rushton (Stoke-on-Trent)
- Linesman (red) J Barlow (Ripley, Derbys.)
- Linesman (yellow) D M Charnley (Manchester)
- Fourth Official T J Stevens



From 'The Villa News & Record'
8/12/90:

Bernie Slaven's late goals are the first conceded by Villa in the competition this season. The draw for the quarter-finals sends Villa to Leeds in January.

Wednesday January 16, 1991

Round 5 At Elland Road, Attendance: 28,176, Programme price: £1.00

LEEDS UNITED (1) 4 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Chapman (17)
McAllister (54)
Speed (78)
Chapman (80)

Ormondroyd (84)

Leeds United (Division 1)

1	Lukic
2	Sterland
3	Snodin (12 Haddock (89))
4	Batty
5	Fairclough
6	Whyte
7	Strachan
8	Shutt (14 Pearson (84))
9	Chapman
10	McAllister
11	Speed
12	Haddock
14	Pearson

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Price
3	Gage Gray
4	McGrath
5	Comyn Birch (Ormondroyd (61))
6	Nielsen
7	Yorke
8	Platt
9	Cascarino
10	Cowans
11	Callaghan
12	Ormondroyd
14	Gage

The managers:

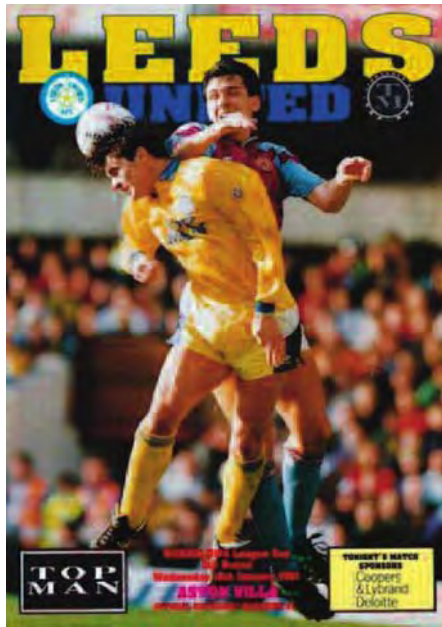
Mr H Wilkinson

Dr J Vengloš,



The Officials

Referee	R Lewis (Great Bookman, Surrey)
Linesman (red)	J S Cowley (St. Helens)
Linesman (yellow)	R D Furnandiz (Doncaster)



'The Villa News & Record' 2/2/91, only gave the teams and scorers, no other information, but from the Leeds v. Villa programme of 23/10/96 comes:

[Leeds] United had knocked in 23 goals and only conceded three in their last three home wins, but Villa had two players in Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino and promising teenage attacker Dwight Yorke looking for a chance to shoot holes into that impressive record. But United rose to the occasion and swept Villa aside in majestic fashion. Total commitment, vision and more than a touch of class turned the game into one to savour for United fans, two goals from Lee Chapman and one each from Gary McAllister and Gary Speed putting the icing on the cake. Paul Birch almost gave Villa a ninth minute lead with a shot that struck the crossbar but once Chapman had headed a 17th minute near post goal to take his tally for the season to 15. Wilkinson's men never

looked back. Mel Sterland's industry on the right flank had been a feature of United's recent play and it was from one of his crosses that United went 2-0 up, Speed heading the ball back for McAllister to fire in his fifth goal of the season. Speed got his name on the score sheet after 78 minutes with a downward header to Gordon Strachan's cross and Chapman headed the fourth ten minutes from the end. It was left to former Bradford City striker Ian Ormondroyd, who came on as substitute to give Villa a slight consolation, with a headed goal after 85 minutes. But that could not take the gloss off United's excellent all round performance.

Leeds lost 1-3 on aggregate to Manchester United in the semi-final

1991/92

Wednesday September 25, 1991

Round 2 1st Leg At Blundell Park, Attendance: 13,835, Programme price: £1.00

GRIMSBY TOWN (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Grimsby Town (Division 2)

1	Sherwood
2	McDermott
3	Jobling <i>Agnew (12 Smith (21))</i>
4	Futcher
5	Lever
6	Dobbin <i>Cunnington</i>
7	Childs
8	Gilbert
9	Jones <i>(14 Rees (79))</i>
10	Agnew <i>Dobbin</i>
11	Woods
12	Smith
14	Hargreaves <i>Rees</i>

Aston Villa (Division 1)

1	Spink
2	Kubicki
3	Staunton
4	Teale
5	McGrath
6	Richardson
7	Daley <i>Yorke</i>
8	Regis <i>Blake</i>
9	Atkinson <i>D Regis</i>
10	Cowans
11	Mortimer
12	Yorke <i>Olney</i>
14	Nielsen <i>Mountfield</i>



The managers:

Mr A Buckley

Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee	D T Phillips (Barnsley)
Linesman (red)	N S Barry (Scunthorpe)
Linesman (yellow)	K Hughes



The Grimsby programme had the usual précis of Villa's League Cup exploits and the pen pictures of the team and manager. The best part was the recollection of the last Division One meeting between the two teams at Blundell Park on 23rd August 1947. Grimsby won 3-0, but were relegated that season.

Wednesday October 9, 1991

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 15,338, Programme price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB

CLUB DETAILS

ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB PLC
 Villa Park, Trinity Road, Birmingham B6 6HE

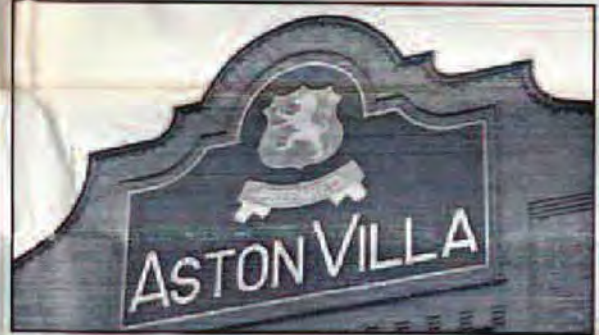
Telephone	Clubcall	0898 12 11 48
	Ticket Line	0898 12 18 48
	Club	021 327 2299
	Commercial Department	021 327 5399
	Ticket Office	021 327 5353
	Credit Card Ticket Sales	021 327 7373
	Souvenir Shop	021 327 2800
	Lottery Office	021 328 3322
	Travellers Club	021 328 2246
	Sports & Leisure Centre	021 328 8830
	Stumps Indoor Cricket Centre	021 328 7777

Telex No. 334695 VILLA G
Fax No. 021 322 2107

President Harold Musgrove
Chairman Doug Ellis
Directors J. A. Alderson
 Dr D. H. Targett,
 P. D. Ellis
 Ron Atkinson
 Steven...

Manager
Secretary
Commercial Manager
Stadium Manager
Assistant Manager
Coaching Staff

Chief Scout
Director of Youth
Physiotherapist
Fitness Consultant
Promotions Manager
Community Liaison Manager
Safety Operations Manager



CLUB RECORDS

Year Formed: 1874
 Turned Professional: 1885
 Founder Member of the Football League: 1888
 Limited Company: 1896
 Public Limited Company: 1900

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 Telephone (0773) 532067

HONOURS

World Club Champion Finalists	1982
European Cup Winners	1982
First Division Champions	1893-94, 1895-96, 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1909-10, 1980-81
First Division Runners-Up	1888-89, 1902-03, 1907-08, 1910-11, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1989-90
Second Division Champions	1937-38, 1959-60
Runners-Up	1974-75, 1987-88
Third Division Champions	1971-72
F.A. Cup Winners	1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913, 1920, 1957
F.A. Cup Runners-Up	1892, 1924
Football League Cup Winners	1961, 1975, 1977
Football League Cup Finalists	1963, 1971
European Super Cup Winners	1983
F.A. Charity Shield Joint Holders	1981
F.A. Charity Shield Finalists	1910, 1957, 1972
F.A. Youth Cup Winners	1972, 1980
Midland Youth Cup	1992
Purity Youth League Cup	1992

...points for a win-70pts, F.L. Third Division
 ...a win-78pts, F.L. Second
 ... 1987-88
 Most League Goals Scored: 128, F.L. First Division, 1930-31 (League Record)
 Highest League Scorer in a season: Tom 'Pongo' Waring, 49 F.L. First Division, 1930-31
 Most League Goals in Total: 213, Harry Hampton, 1904-20 and Bill Walker, 1919-34
 Most League Appearances: 560, Charlie Aiken, 1961-76
 Most Capped Player: Peter McFarland, Northern Ireland, 34
 Record Transfer Fee Paid: £1.7 million to Oldham Athletic for Earl Barratt, February 1992
 Record Transfer Fee Received: £5.5 million from Bari for David Platt, July 1991
 Team Managers since the War: Alex Massie, August 1945-August 1950; George Martin, December 1950-August 1953; Eric Houghton, September 1953-August 1958; Joe Mercer, December 1958-July 1964; Dick Taylor, July 1964-May 1967; Tommy Cummings, July 1967-November 1968; Tommy Docherty, December 1968-January 1970; Vic Crowe, January 1970-May 1974; Ron Saunders, June 1974-February 1982; Tony Barton, April 1982-June 1984; Graham Turner, July 1984-September 1986; Billy McNeill, September 1986-May 1987; Graham Taylor, May 1987-August 1990; Jozef Venglos, August 1990-May 1991; Ron Atkinson, July 1991
 Previous Grounds: Aston Park-1874-1876, Perry Barr-1876-1897, Villa Park-1897
 Size of Park: 115 yards by 75 yards
 Ground Capacity: 40,312

Wednesday September 23, 1992

Round 2 1st Leg At The Manor Ground, Attendance: 8,837, Programme price:£1.20

OXFORD UNITED (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Beauchamp (89)

McGrath (52)

Teale (72)

Oxford United (Football League 1)

- 1 Kee
- 2 Smart
- 3 Ford *Collins*
- 4 Lewis
- 5 Evans
- 6 Melville
- 7 Magilton
- 8 Beauchamp
- 9 Penney
- 10 Durnin
- 11 Allen
- 12 Cusack
- 14 Phillips

Aston Villa (Premier League)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Barrett
- 3 Staunton
- 4 Teale
- 5 McGrath
- 6 Richardson
- 7 Houghton
- 8 Parker
- 9 Saunders
- 10 Atkinson D (*12 Yorke (83)*)
- 11 Froggatt
- 12 Yorke
- 14 Sealey (GK)

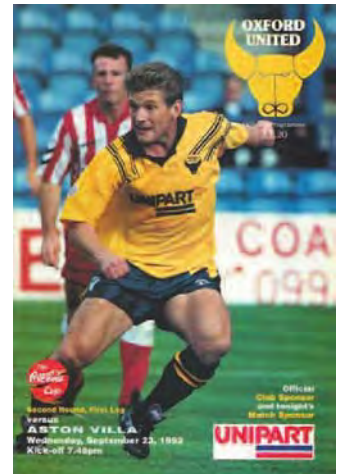
The managers:

Mr B Horton

Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

- Referee R Wiseman (Borehamwood)
- Linesman (red) M A Hair
- Linesman (yellow) P A Vosper
- Fourth Official R M Nocton



From 'The Villa News & Record' for the 2nd leg match:
Defenders Paul McGrath and Shaun Teale score their first goals of 92/93; McGrath's being the first headed goal from a Villa player this season. The Villa contingent at the Manor Ground was 2,195.

Wednesday October 7, 1992

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 19,808, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 OXFORD UNITED (0) 1

Atkinson D (11)

Cusack (88)

Richardson (90)

Aston Villa (Premier League)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Barrett
- 3 Staunton
- 4 Teale
- 5 McGrath *Ehiogu*
- 6 Richardson
- 7 Houghton
- 8 Parker
- 9 Saunders
- 10 Atkinson D
- 11 Froggatt *Yorke*
- 12 Blake
- 14 Bosnich (GK)

Oxford United (Football League 1)

- 1 Kee *Reece*
- 2 Smart
- 3 Collins (*12 Allen (80)*)
- 4 Lewis
- 5 Evans
- 6 Melville
- 7 Magilton *Phillips*
- 8 Beauchamp *Cusak*
- 9 Penney
- 10 Durnin
- 11 Allen *Ford*
- 12 Allen
- 14 Jackson

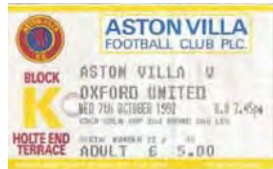
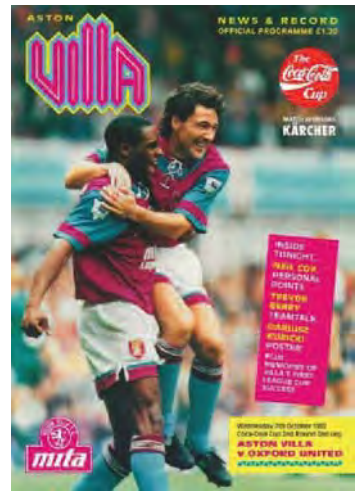
The managers:

Mr R Atkinson

Mr B Horton

The Officials

- Referee R F Nixon (West Kirby)
- Linesman (red) R H Andrews (Warrington)
- Linesman (yellow/red) P J Griggs
- Fourth Official T P Keady



From 'The Villa News & Record' dated 19/10/92:

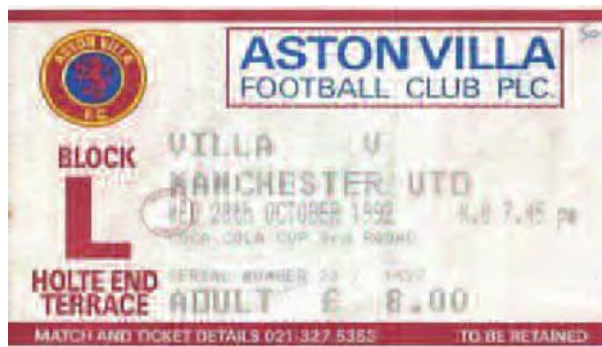
The terrace fans took advantage of reduced admission prices to produce what is a bumper gate for this stage of the competition.

Wednesday October 28, 1992

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 35,964, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (0) | MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 0

Saunders (75)



Aston Villa (Premier League)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Barrett
- 3 Staunton
- 4 Teale
- 5 McGrath
- 6 Richardson
- 7 Houghton
- 8 Parker
- 9 Saunders
- 10 Atkinson D
- 11 Small Yorke
- 12 Small
- 14 Blake

Manchester United (Premier League)

- 1 Schmeichel
- 2 Parker
- 3 Irwin (*12 Kanchelskis*)
- 4 Bruce
- 5 Ferguson
- 6 Pallister
- 7 Blackmore
- 8 Ince
- 9 McClair
- 10 Hughes
- 11 Giggs
- 12 Kanchelskis
- 14 Webb

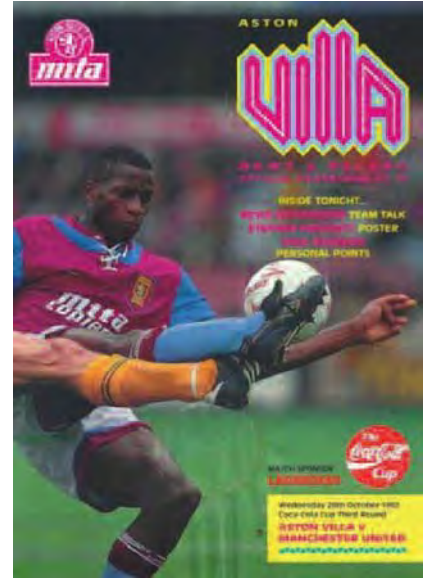
The managers:

Mr R Atkinson

Mr A Ferguson

The Officials

- Referee P Don (Middlesex)
- Linesman (red) R Thomas
- Linesman (yellow/red) J Barlow (Ripley, Derbys.)
- Fourth Official B Mallett



Wednesday December 2, 1992

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 21,545, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 IPSWICH TOWN (0) 2

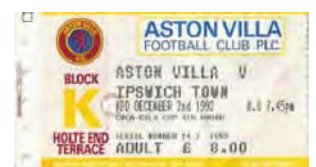
- Atkinson D (65)
- Saunders (77)
- Kiwomya (74)
- Kiwomya (83)

Aston Villa (Premier League)

- 1 Spink
- 2 Barrett
- 3 Staunton
- 4 Ehiogu *Kubicki*
- 5 McGrath
- 6 Richardson
- 7 Houghton (*12 Regis*)
- 8 Parker (*14 Cox*)
- 9 Saunders
- 10 Atkinson D
- 11 Small
- 12 Regis
- 14 Cox

Ipswich Town (Premier League)

- 1 Baker
- 2 Whelan
- 3 Thompson
- 4 Stockwell
- 5 Johnson *Wark*
- 6 Linighan
- 7 Williams *Johnson*
- 8 Goddard (*12 Youds*)
- 9 Palmer Whitton
- 10 Dozell
- 11 Kiwomya
- 12 Youds
- 14 Bozinoski



The managers:

Mr R Atkinson

Mr J Lyall

The Officials

Referee	J E Martin (Four Marks, Nr Alton, Hants)
Linesman (red)	P J Robinson
Linesman (yellow/red)	D W Mansfield (Macclesfield)
Fourth Official	D C Courtney

Ron Atkinson wrote in 'The Villa News & Record' for this match:



Ipswich will be formidable opposition, you can be sure of that. We were happy to come away from their ground with a 1-1 draw on opening day, bearing in mind the way they were looking to celebrate their return to the top flight... But, speaking on a personal level, it seems a long time since I was actually on the losing side in a League Cup-tie and it's a run I am eager to keep going. Last season we went out only on the 'away goals' rule and before that I was fortunate enough to be on the winning side [with Sheffield Wednesday] at Wembley. I'm not tempting fate, nor am I counting chickens, simply looking for one of the top performances which have served us well so far. No-one can ask more than that. With

the help of our fans we can achieve it.

Tuesday December 15, 1992

Round 4 Replay At Portman Road, Attendance: 19,196, Programme price: £1.20

IPSWICH TOWN (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Kiwomya (57)

Ipswich Town (Premier League)

1	Baker
2	Whelan
3	Thompson
4	Stockwell
5	Wark
6	Linighan
7	Johnson
8	Goddard (12 Williams)
9	Whitton
10	Dozzell
11	Kiwomya
12	Williams
14	Guentchev

Aston Villa (Premier League)

1	Spink
2	Barrett
3	Staunton
4	Teale
5	McGrath
6	Richardson
7	Houghton
8	Parker (14 Breitkreutz)
9	Saunders
10	Atkinson D Regis (12 Yorke)
11	Small Cox
12	Yorke
14	Breitkreutz

The managers:

Mr J Lyall

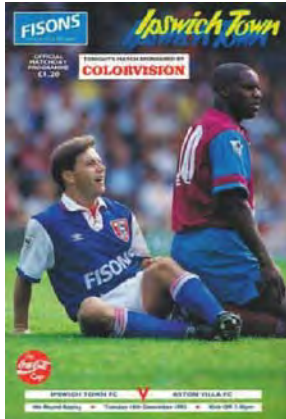
Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee	M James (Horsham)
Linesman (red)	B J Foreman
Linesman (yellow)	R L Tye
Fourth Official	B T W Jefferies



Ron Atkinson wrote in 'The Villa News & Record' 28/12/92:



In the Villa camp we are well aware of the disappointment among fans at our going out of the Coca Cola Cup at Ipswich. No doubt it was similar to the mood at the club. No-one could have been sicker than I was myself. I honestly felt that we had a chance of going all the way. But, to put the thing into perspective, let's acknowledge that if we had held on a little longer for a draw and a replay everyone would have said: "What a professional display." We didn't quite make it. But that's football. And Ipswich's recent form shows that they are no mugs. The thing which disappointed me most was that we were not as inventive as we can be in midfield.

Ipswich lost 0-1 to Sheffield Wednesday in a quarter final replay

1993/94

Tuesday September 21, 1993

Round 2 1st Leg At St Andrews, Attendance: 27,815, Programme price: £1.50

BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Richardson (83)

Birmingham City (Football League 1)

1	Miller
2	Hiley
5	Dryden
15	Whyte
3	Frain
28	Shutt
4	Parris
11	Smith
18	Donowa
9	Saville
12	Peschisolido (10 McMinn (86))

Aston Villa (Premier League)

1	Spink (13 Bosnich (30))
2	Barratt
3	Staunton
4	Teale
5	McGrath
6	Richardson
9	Saunders
10	Atkinson D
14	Townsend
15	Cowans
22	Whittingham

Substitutes not used

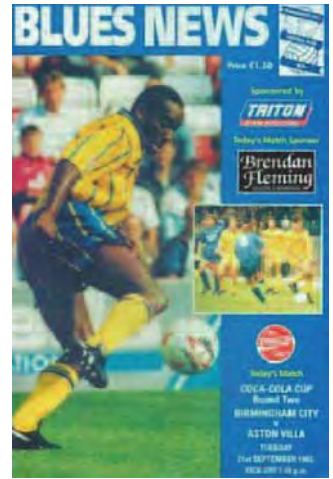
8	Tait	7	Houghton
13	Steadman GK	8	Parker

The managers:

Mr T Cooper Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee	K P J Barratt (Coventry)
Linesman (red/yellow)	A Butler
Linesman (yellow)	P D Harding



This match was attended by 27815 spectators. At that time this was a capacity crowd for St. Andrews. Later in this season, the Blues almost equalled this when the crowd for the WBA league match achieved 27808.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 2/10/93:
Mark Bosnich, substitute for the injured Nigel Spink, saved a 36th minute John Frain penalty after a foul by Dalian Atkinson on Andy Saville.

Wednesday October 6, 1993

Round 2 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 35,856, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (0) | BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 0
Saunders (83)

Aston Villa (Premier League)

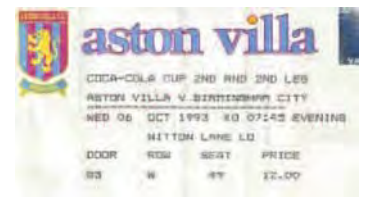
13	Bosnich
3	Staunton
4	Teale
5	McGrath
6	Richardson
9	Saunders
10	Atkinson D
11	Daley
14	Townsend (7 Houghton (45))
15	Cowans
17	Cox

Birmingham City (Football League 1)

1	Miller
2	Hiley (14 Scott)
8	Tait sent off 63 mins
5	Dryden
15	Whyte
18	Donowa (20 Fenwick)
28	Shutt
6	Mardon
29	Hooper
11	Smith
3	Frain

Substitutes not used

1	Spink (GK)	13	Steadman (GK)
22	Whittingham		



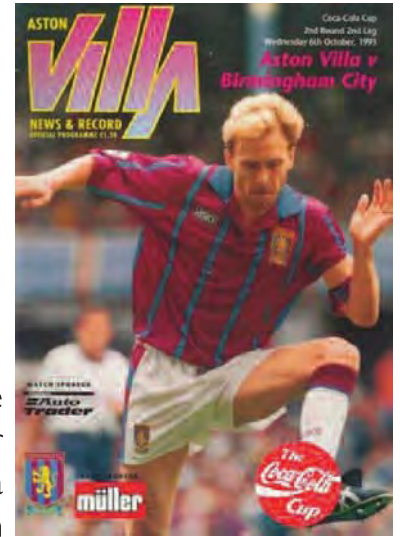
The managers:

Mr R Atkinson

Mr T Cooper

The Officials

Referee	G Ashby (Worcester)
Linesman (yellow/red)	L Short
Linesman (yellow)	V J Reed
Fourth Official	S Castle



Arsenal were the holders of the League Cup at this time, and were joint favourites with the bookmakers to win again, with Manchester United also at 11/2. Liverpool were 13/2, Blackburn Rovers 10/1, Villa 11/1, Spurs 14/1, Newcastle & Sheffield Wednesday 16/1, Everton 18/1, Norwich 20/1, Leeds 22/1 and Chelsea and Manchester City 25/1. Sunderland were 40/1 and Birmingham 200/1. The rank outsiders were Hereford United, Lincoln City and Rochdale at 1000/1. Tranmere, who were eventually Villa's Semi-Final opponents were 125/1.

Tuesday October 26, 1993

Round 3 At Roker Park, Attendance: 23,692, Programme price: £1.00

SUNDERLAND (0) | ASTON VILLA (2) 4

Gray P (47)	Atkinson D (27)
	Richardson (33)
	Houghton (75)
	Atkinson D (89)

Sunderland (Football League 1)

1	Chamberlain
16	Martin Gray (24 Lawrence)
3	Ord (4 Bennett)
19	Melville
15	Atkinson B
6	Ball
7	Owers
8	Goodman
9	Armstrong
10	Phil Gray
22	Martin Smith

Aston Villa (Premier League)

13	Bosnich
2	Barrett
4	Teale
5	McGrath
6	Richardson
8	Parker
10	Atkinson D
11	Daley
14	Townsend
22	Whittingham (7 Houghton)
23	Small

Substitutes not used

13 Norman (GK)

1	Spink (GK)
16	Ehiogu

The managers:

Mr T Butcher

Mr R Atkinson



The Officials

Referee W A Flood (Stockport)
 Linesman (red/ yellow) A J Billingham
 Linesman (yellow) P Kitson
 Fourth Official D P Smith

In 'The Villa News & Record' of 26/9/07, Frank Holt wrote:
 When Villa travelled to Sunderland in October 1993, Dean Saunders was suffering from chicken pox, which resulted in him missing his first game since joining the club 13 months earlier. But Villa hit four goals for the first time at this stage of the competition.



Tuesday November 30, 1993

Round 4 At Highbury, Attendance: 26,453, Programme price: £1.50

ARSENAL (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Atkinson D (5)

Arsenal (Premier League)

1 Seaman
 2 Dixon (4 Davis (71))
 14 Keown
 12 Bould
 3 Winterburn
 17 Jensen (7 Campbell (71))
 21 Morrow
 10 Merson
 11 McGoldrick
 8 Wright
 9 Smith

Aston Villa (Premier League)

13 Bosnich
 2 Barrett
 4 Teale
 5 McGrath
 6 Richardson
 7 Houghton
 8 Parker
 9 Saunders (11 Daley)
 17 Cox
 14 Townsend
 10 Atkinson D

Substitutes not used

? Miller (GK)

1 Spink (GK)
 22 Whittingham

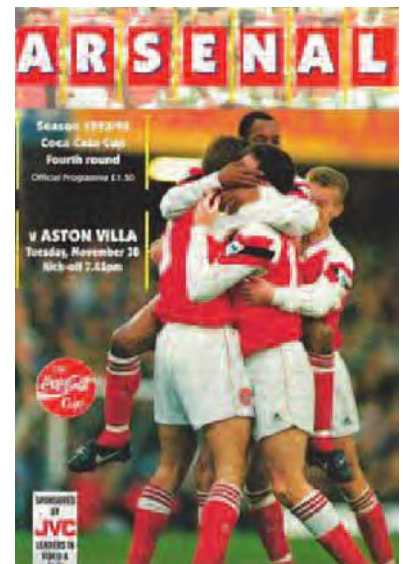
The managers:

Mr G Graham

Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee R Gifford (Llanbradach, Glamorgan)
 Linesman (red) C T Finch (Bury St. Edmunds)
 Linesman (yellow) E Green (Slough)
 Fourth Official S Tincknell (Watford)



Wednesday January 12, 1994

Round 5 At White Hart lane, Attendance: 31,408, Programme price: £1.50

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Caskey (64)

Barrett (69)

Houghton (57)

Tottenham Hotspur (Premier League)

1	Thorstvedt
22	Kerslake
3	Edinburgh
4	Samways
5	Calderwood
14	Sedgley
7	Barmby
20	Caskey
9	Anderton
12	Dozzell
23	Campbell (25 Hendry)

Aston Villa (Premier League)

13	Bosnich
2	Barratt
3	Staunton
4	Teale
5	McGrath
6	Richardson
7	Houghton
8	Parker
9	Saunders
10	Atkinson D
14	Townsend



Substitutes not used

13	Walker
2	Austin

1	Spink (GK)
11	Daley
17	Cox

The managers:

Mr O Ardiles

Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee	T J Holbrook (West Midlands)
Linesman (red)	L E Cable (Hampshire)
Linesman (yellow)	M Stobbart (Surrey)
Fourth Official	R G James (Buckinghamshire)



This cartoon came from a paper long before this match was played, as can be seen from its condition. I always knew that one day it would fit!



Wednesday February 16, 1994

Semi-final First Leg At Prenton Park, Attendance: 17,148, Programme price: £1.20

TRANMERE ROVERS (2) 3 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Nolan (5)
Hughes (24)
Aldridge (78)

Atkinson (90)

Tranmere Rovers (Football League 1)

1 Nixon
2 McGreal
3 Nolan Hughes
4 Brannan Garnett
5 Hughes Nolan
6 O'Brien Brannan
15 Morrissey Irons
8 Aldridge O'Brien
9 Malkin Nevin (12 Morrissey (98))
10 Nevin Aldridge
16 Mungall Malkin

Aston Villa (Premier League)

13 Bosnich
2 Barrett
3 Staunton (12 Froggatt (74))
5 McGrath
6 Richardson
7 Houghton
9 Saunders
10 Atkinson D
11 Daley
14 Townsend
17 Cox



Substitutes not used

13 Coyne (GK)
14 Mungall

1 Spink (GK)
16 Ehiogu

The managers:

Mr J King

Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee	R Milford (Bristol)
Linesman (red/yellow)	A N Butler (Wigan)
Linesman (yellow)	P R Richards (Preston)
Standby Official	J W Lloyd (Wrexham)



The only comment from 'The Villa News & Record' on 22/2/94:

Dalian Atkinson's last minute goal throws Villa a lifeline for the second leg after Tranmere race into a three-goal lead. And 4,220 Villa supporters made the trip to Tranmere.

Sunday February 27, 1994

Semi-final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 40,593, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 TRANMERE ROVERS (1) 1

Saunders (19)
Teale (23)
Atkinson (87)

Aldridge (29 pen)

Aston Villa won aet on penalties 5-4

Sunday March 27, 1994

Final At Wembley, Attendance: 77,231, Programme price:

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 1

Atkinson (25)

Hughes (83)

Saunders (75)

Saunders (90 pen)

Aston Villa (Premier League)

13	Mark Bosnich
2	Earl Barratt
5	Paul McGrath
4	Shaun Teale
3	Steve Staunton (17 Neil Cox (78))
10	Dalian Atkinson
25	Graham Fenton
6	Kevin Richardson (c)
14	Andy Townsend
11	Tony Daley
9	Dean Saunders

Manchester United (Premier League)

13	Les Sealey
2	Paul Parker
3	Denis Irwin
4	Steve Bruce (9 Brian McClair (45))
6	Gary Pallister
14	Andrei Kanchelskis (Sent off 90)
16	Roy Keane
8	Paul Ince
11	Ryan Giggs (5 Lee Sharpe 45))
7	Eric Cantona
10	Mark Hughes

Substitutes not used

7	Ray Houghton
1	Nigel Spink (GK)

25	Gary Walsh	(GK)
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The managers:

Mr Ron Atkinson

Mr Alex Ferguson

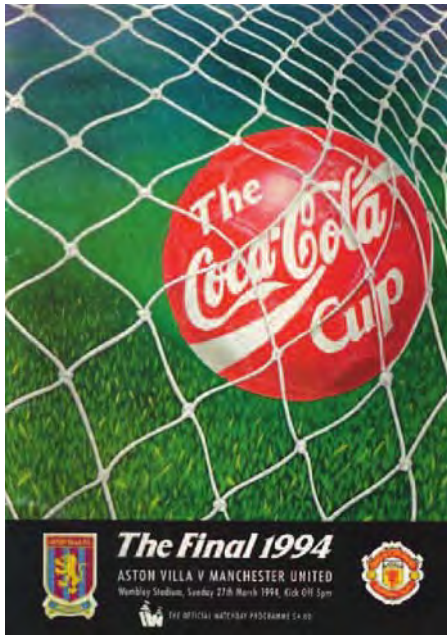
The Officials

Referee	K Cooper (Pontypridd, Glamorgan)
Linesman (red)	J Elwin (Norwich)
Linesman (yellow)	R J Harris (Oxford)
Reserve Referee	P Foakes (Clacton-on-Sea)



Match Summary from Wikipedia

Aston Villa had finished runners-up to Manchester United the previous season but were in poor form going into this final, losing three consecutive games. The bookmakers and national press were predicting that the Villa would be beaten comfortably at Wembley. Manchester United had suffered a slight blip of their own with a couple of draws in their previous league matches and several high-profile red cards to the likes of Eric Cantona and Peter Schmeichel - but the predicted victory for them in this match was expected to be the first part of a domestic treble. Alex Ferguson decided to field his full strength team with the exception of former Villa keeper Les Sealey who was deputising for the suspended Schmeichel. Villa boss Ron Atkinson decided to field a five man midfield with



Tony Daley and Dalian Atkinson on the flanks and unknown rookie Graham Fenton to partner Andy Townsend and Kevin Richardson in the centre. With Liverpoolian comedian Stan Boardman on the team bus and in the dressing room, Ron Atkinson ensured his players were relaxed before kick-off.

The match began with Aston Villa playing a fast counter-attacking game. United saw a lot of the ball but the Villa's defence, marshalled expertly by Paul McGrath, rendered Cantona anonymous. There was a scare for Villa when Mark Bosnich looked to have brought down Roy Keane outside the box but the referee played on. Aston Villa's only chance in the first twenty odd minutes had been an inswinging corner from Steve Staunton which was touched over by Sealey. On twenty five minutes however Townsend played a pass into the feet of Dean Saunders who

flicked the ball over the top of United's defence and into the path of Dalian Atkinson who made no mistake.

In the second half the pattern of the game remained the same, United sluggish and Villa playing a counter-attacking game. On 70 minutes Kevin Richardson tackled United substitute Lee Sharpe who looked certain to score. Five minutes later Villa went down the other end and earned a free-kick when Daley was brought down just outside the United box. Richardson swung it in and Saunders stuck a leg out to divert it into the net for Villa's second goal. Mark Hughes pulled a goal back for United with seven minutes remaining and was denied a second just moments later when Bosnich pushed a venomous looking volley round the post. With time nearly up Villa broke once more, Tony Daley striking the United post with a fantastic shot. The ball fell to Dalian Atkinson who hit it goal-wards only for the ball to strike Andrei Kanchelskis on the hand. The Russian was to be red carded and could only watch as Dean Saunders converted the resulting penalty. The final whistle went and the Villa had won 3-1. United went onto win the FA Cup and FA Carling Premiership but the day was Villa's and it was Kevin Richardson who stepped up to collect the cup for the Birmingham club.

1994/95

Wednesday September 21, 1994

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 12,433, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (2) 5 WIGAN ATHLETIC (0) 0

Yorke (4)

Atkinson (26)

Saunders (69)

Lampsey (73)

Atkinson (85)

WIGAN ATHLETIC (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 3

Lamptey (43)
Lamptey (85)
Whittingham (60)

Wigan Athletic (Football League Div. 3)

1 Farnworth
2 Carragher (12 Rennie (79))
3 Jakub
4 Strong
5 Robertson
6 Farrell
7 Campbell
8 Kilford
9 Gavin
10 Rimmer (c)
11 Lyons (14 Morton (84))

Aston Villa (Premier)

30 Oakes
3 Staunton
4 Teale
5 McGrath
12 Lamptey
14 Parker
15 King
18 Yorke
19 Fenton
21 Farrell
22 Whittingham

Substitutes not used

? Statham (GK)

2 Barrett
11 Townsend
13 Bosnich (GK)

The managers:

Mr G Barrow

Mr R Atkinson

The Officials

Referee P Jones (Loughborough)
Linesman (Yellow) D Pugh (Wirral)
Linesman (red /yellow) R Sutton
Reserve Official A T Willoughby

From 'The Villa News & Record' 22/10/94:

Wigan 0 Aston Villa 3

A much changed team, giving several of the regulars a rest, completes the job against Wigan with an 8-0 aggregate scoreline in the Coca Cola Cup, second round, second leg. Michael Oakes makes his debut in goal while Nii Lamptey keeps up his progress by netting another two goals and Dave Farrell plays on the left wing.

This was David Farrell's last match for Villa before moving to Wycombe Wanderers.

During the 1995 close season Wigan's Springfield Park saw re-roofing and the installation of new crush barriers. These were purchased from Villa Park when the Holte end was redeveloped. The seats from the Holte formed part of the transfer fee of Neil Cox from Scunthorpe United.



Wednesday October 26, 1994

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 19,254, Programme price: £1.20

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0

Townsend (30)

Aston Villa (Premier)

13	Bosnich	
2	Barrett	
3	Staunton	
5	McGrath	
7	Houghton	
9	Saunders	
11	Townsend	
14	Parker	
16	Ehiogu	
18	Yorke	
22	Whittingham	(12 Lamptey)

Middlesbrough (Football League Div. 1)

1	Miller	
2	Cox	
3	Fleming	
4	Vickers	
5	Whyte	
6	Blackmore	
7	Todd	(12 Hignett)
8	Pollock	
9	Wilkinson	
10	Hendrie	
11	Moore	

Substitutes not used

1	Spink (GK)	14	Wright
6	Richardson	13	Roberts (GK)

The managers:

Mr R Atkinson

Mr B Robson

The Officials

Referee	K Morton (Bury St. Edmunds)
Linesman (yellow)	B L Polkey
Linesman (yellow/red)	R A Smith
Standby Official	J A Mizzi



On the 10th November 1994 Ron Atkinson was dismissed after a 4-3 away defeat at Wimbledon. Brian Little was recruited from Leicester City to replace him on 25th November. This led to acrimony between the two clubs. See the note after the Crystal Palace game.

Playing for Middlesbrough in this match was former Villa back Neil Cox, who had joined Villa from Scunthorpe United in 1991 for a fee of £400,000 and a set of seats from the redevelopment of the Holte end. He also was part of the League Cup winning team earlier in 1994. Neil must have started a trend as Gareth Southgate and George Boateng were both to follow him to Boro.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 1/11/94:

Coca Cola Cup, 3rd Round Aston Villa 1 Middlesbrough 0

Andy Townsend, skipper in the absence of Kevin Richardson, scores the first-half goal which ensures a place in the fourth round as Villa dominate Bryan Robson's team. Guy Whittingham is injured late on and Nii Lamptey makes a brief appearance as sub, again showing his speed, skill and enthusiasm.

Wednesday November 30, 1994

Round 4 At Selhurst Park, Attendance: 12,653, Programme price: £1.50

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 4 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Armstrong (48)

Atkinson D (32)

Southgate (58)

Southgate (76)

Armstrong (88)

Crystal Palace (Premier)

1	Martyn
2	Humphrey
3	Southgate <i>Gordon</i>
14	Shaw <i>Southgate</i>
6	Coleman
23	Newman
7	Gordon
11	Salako
15	Bowry
18	Preece
11	Armstrong

Aston Villa (Premier)

13	Bosnich
2	Barrett
5	McGrath
7	Houghton
9	Saunders
10	Atkinson D (<i>19 Fenton</i>)
14	Parker
15	King
16	Ehiogu <i>sent off</i>
18	Yorke
21	Farrell (<i>22 Whittingham</i>)

Substitutes not us

13	Wilmot (GK)
16	Pitcher
24	Ndah

1	Spink (GK)
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The managers:

Mr A Smith

Mr B Little

The Officials

Referee	G S Willard (Worthing)
Linesman (yellow)	A J Webb
Linesman (yellow/red)	D Downs
Reserve Official	D Cook

From 'The Villa News & Record' 28/12/94:





Brian Little and the players are in London for tonight's Coca Cola Cup-tie when the good news comes in that Leicester's attempt to enforce an injunction has failed. FA Premiership chief executive Rick Parry has been acting as a 'referee' to attempt to bring an out-of-court agreement between the two clubs. [This was about Brian Little joining Villa from Leicester City]

The news from Selhurst Park is not so good, however. Skipper Kevin Richardson has suffered a back spasm and is ruled out. And, as Villa go out 4-1 after being a goal up, goal scorer Dalian Atkinson goes off injured and Ugo Ehiogu is sent off. In Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Nii Lamptey scores after only three minutes for Ghana against Cameroon in the Four Nations Cup.

The performance of one of Palace's players impressed the Villa management, and he was soon to be seen in claret and blue. His name? Gareth Southgate.

Crystal Palace lost to Liverpool on aggregate in the semi-final

1995/96

Wednesday September 20, 1995

Round 2 1st Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 19,602, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (3) 6 PETERBOROUGH UNITED (0) 0

Draper (12)

Yorke (15 pen)

Yorke (42 pen)

Johnson (67)

Heald (81 og)

Southgate (90)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Bosnich
2	Charles
4	Southgate
5	McGrath
7	Taylor (15 Fenton)
8	Draper
10	Johnson
11	Townsend (19 Farrelly)
14	Wright
16	Ehiogu
18	Yorke

Substitutes not used

13 Spink (GK)

Peterborough United (Football League 2)

1	Sheffield
2	Williams <i>sent off (35)</i>
3	Rioch G
4	Ebdon
5	Breen
6	Heald
7	Clark Gregory
8	Carter (12 Morrison (57))
9	Martindale (14 Power (73))
10	Farrell Clark
11	Manuel

13 Tyler (GK)

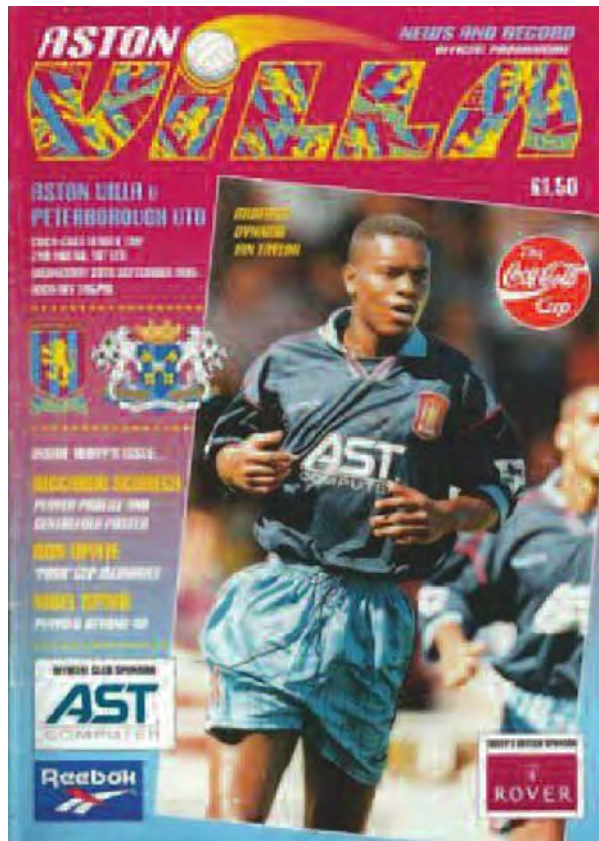
The managers:

Mr B Little

Mr J Still

The Officials

Referee T Heilbron (County Durham)
 Linesman (yellow) B J Griggs
 Linesman (red/yellow) D J Hine
 Reserve Official C J Worrall (Warrington)



From Villa's "Souvenir Yearbook 1996/97" under the review of the previous season's (Coca-Cola) League Cup:

Tommy Johnson comes in for Savo [Milosevic], who is on international duty with Yugoslavia against Greece. A 6-0 romp effectively sees off Peterborough's challenge in this Cup 2nd round first leg match. Gareth Southgate scores his first goal for the club. Milosevic scores for Yugoslavia in a 2-0 win.

From the Peterborough programme for the second leg:

The Coca Cola Cup first leg meeting with Aston Villa a fortnight ago failed to produce the hoped for performance to add another chapter to Posh's giant killing history but the side kept its shape and discipline despite a heavy defeat and looks forward to a far more impressive showing against one of the Premiership's outstanding sides at London Road tonight.

SIX UNLUCKY FOR SOME

The 6-0 defeat at Villa Park in the first leg of the tie to be completed tonight equalled an unwanted Posh record for the Football League Cup competition. Posh also lost 6-0 at Barnsley in the 1981-82 season, 6-1 to Villa back in season 1962-63 and 6-2 to Aldershot in 1989-90.

The Rioch in the Peterborough team is Gregor, the son of Villa's former captain Bruce.

Tuesday October 3, 1995

Round 2 2nd Leg At London Road, Attendance: 5,745, Programme price: £1.20

PETERBOROUGH UTD (1) | ASTON VILLA (0) |

Martindale (39)

Staunton (88)

Peterborough United (Football League 2)

- 1 Sheffield
- 2 Rioch G *Ashley*
- 3 Gregory *Manuel*
- 4 Le Bihan
- 5 Breen
- 6 Heald
- 7 Carter
- 8 Clark *Le Bihan*
- 9 Power
- 10 Martindale
- 11 Manuel Morrison

Aston Villa (Premier}

- 1 Bosnich
- 2 Charles
- 4 Southgate
- 5 McGrath
- 7 Taylor
- 8 Draper (*15 Fenton*)
- 9 Milosevic
- 11 Townsend
- 14 Wright
- 16 Ehiogu
- 18 Yorke (*3 Staunton*)

Substitutes ot used

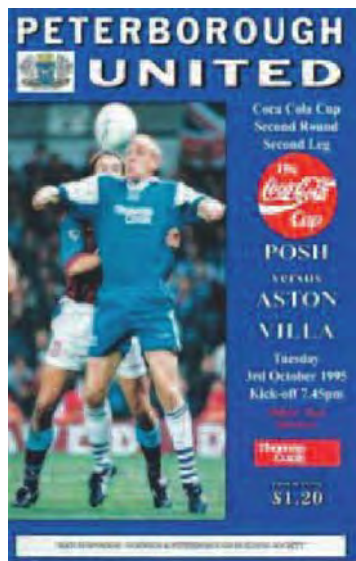
- 12 Furnell
- 13 Meredith
- 14 Tyler (GK)

- 13 Spink (GK)

The managers:

Mr J Still

Mr B Little



The Officials

- Referee G R Ashby (Worcester)
- Linesman (yellow/red) G M Lee
- Linesman (yellow) M J Perry
- Stand by Linesman A J Johnson

From Villa's "Souvenir Yearbook 1996/97" under the review of the previous season's matches:

Steve Staunton, a second-half substitute, scores a late equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Peterborough to progress in the Coca-Cola Cup 7-1 on aggregate.



Wednesday October 25, 1995

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,679, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 STOCKPORT COUNTY (0) 0

Ehiogu (57)

Yorke (64)

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Bosnich
2	Charles
4	Southgate
7	Taylor
8	Draper
9	Milosevic
11	Townsend
14	Wright
16	Ehiogu
18	Yorke
20	Scimeca

Stockport County (Football League 2)

1	Edwards
2	Connelly
3	Todd
4	Bennett (14 Oliver)
5	Flynn
6	Gannon
7	Beaumont <i>Chalk</i>
8	Ware (12 <i>Eckhardt</i>)
9	Lloyd-Williams (13 <i>Landon</i>)
10	Armstrong
11	Chalk

Substitutes not used

10	Johnson
15	Fenton
30	Oakes (GK)

The managers:

Mr B Little

Mr D Jones

The Officials

Referee	D J Gallagher (Banbury, Oxfordshire)
Linesman (yellow)	J R Hubbard
Linesman (red/yellow)	M Singh
Reserve Official	R Osborne



From 'The Villa News & Record' for this match:

Villa Park visitors Stockport County are among three clubs in this season's last 32 who have yet to reach a quarter-final. Reading and Charlton have each appeared in the fourth round on three occasions and Stockport's best run ended at that stage in 1972-73.

From Villa's "Souvenir Yearbook 1996/97" under the review of the previous season's matches: Goals from Ugo Ehiogu and Dwight Yorke give Villa a comfortable passage into the Fourth Round of the Coca-Cola Cup at the expense of Stockport County.

Wednesday November 29, 1995

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,951, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (0) | QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 0

Townsend (60)

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 1 Bosnich
- 2 Charles
- 4 Southgate
- 5 McGrath
- 8 Draper (20 Scimeca)
- 9 Milosevic
- 10 Johnson (3 Staunton)
- 11 Townsend
- 14 Wright
- 16 Ehiogu
- 18 Yorke

Queens Park Rangers (Premier)

- 1 Roberts
- 5 McDonald
- 2 Bardsley
- 21 Yates
- 14 Ready
- 20 Wilkins
- 27 Brazier
- 7 Impey
- 11 Sinclair
- 4 Barker
- 10 Gallen (26 Hateley)

Substitutes

- 13 Spink (GK)

- 6 Maddix
- 15 Osborn

The managers:

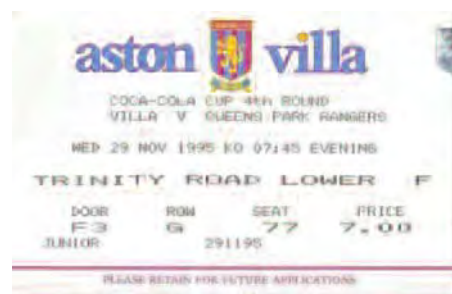
Mr B Little

Mr R Wilkins

The Officials

- Referee R A Hart (Darlington)
- Linesman (yellow) N E Green
- Linesman (red/yellow) K J Hawkes (Quedgeley, Glos.)
- Reserve Official S Cartwright

From Villa's "Souvenir Yearbook 1996/97" under the review of the previous season's matches: Andy Townsend is back from injury to score the winner as Villa beat QPR at Villa Park.



Wednesday January 10, 1996

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 39,277, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 WOLVERHAMPTON W (0) 0

Johnson (66)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Bosnich
2	Charles
16	Ehiogu
4	Southgate
5	McGrath
14	Wright
8	Draper
11	Townsend
10	Johnson (7 Taylor (80))
9	Milosevic
18	Yorke

Wolverhampton W (Football League 1)

1	Stowell
2	Thompson (14 Law (89))
6	Richards
5	Venus (12 Foley (81))
3	Young
11	Pearce (13 Dennison (70))
7	Rankine
4	Atkins
10	Ferguson
9	Bull
8	Goodman

Substitutes not used

13	Spink (GK)
20	Scimeca

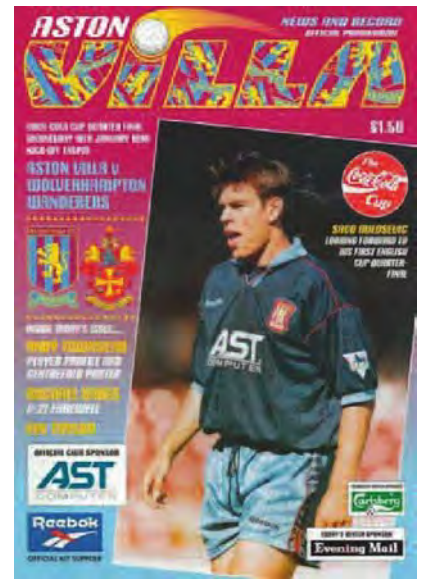
The managers:

Mr B Little

Mr M McGhee

The Officials

Referee	M Bodenham (East Looe, Cornwall)
Linesman (yellow)	D M Horlick
Linesman (red/yellow)	C Jones
Reserve Official	R C Hall



From 'The Villa News & Record' 21/1/96:

Another slice of League Cup history as Villa clinch a record-breaking tenth appearance in the semi-final with a second half strike from Tommy Johnson – his third successive match on target since the turn of the year... Paul McGrath returns after a two match absence with a groin injury and a substitute appearance puts Ian Taylor on the come-back trail following

his ankle ligament problem in the pre-Christmas match at QPR.

On the 31st January goalkeeper Nigel Spink ended his 19-year stay at Villa, signing for WBA on a free transfer.

Wednesday February 14, 1996

Semi-final 1st Leg At Highbury, Attendance: 37,562, Programme price: £1.50

ARSENAL (2) 2 ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Bergkamp (26)	Yorke (38)
Bergkamp (37)	Yorke (72)

Arsenal (Premier)

1	Seaman
2	Dixon
12	Linighan
14	Keown
3	Winterburn
9	Merson
19	Jensen
17	Hillier
11	Helder (15 Parlour (64))
10	Bergkamp
8	Wright I

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Bosnich
2	Charles
3	Staunton
4	Southgate
8	Draper
9	Milosevic
10	Johnson
11	Townsend
14	Wright A
16	Ehiogu
18	Yorke

Substitutes not used

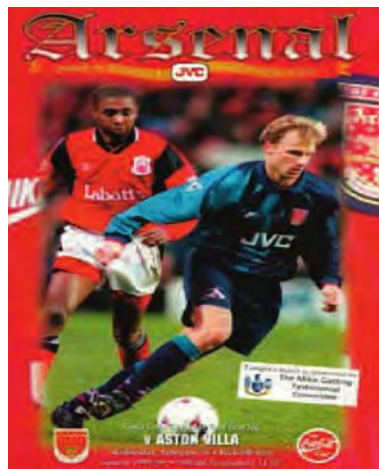
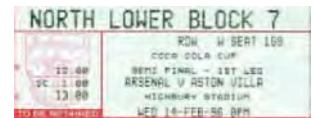
16	Hartson
18	Morrow

5	McGrath
7	Taylor
30	Oakes (GK)

The managers:

Mr B Rioch

Mr B Little



The Officials

Referee	P Durkin (Portland, Dorset)
Linesman (red)	K J Hawkes (Quedgeley, Glos.)
Linesman (yellow)	K Pike (Gillingham, Dorset)
Fourth Official	I S Hemely (Amphill, Beds.)

From Villa's "Souvenir Yearbook 1996/97' under the review of the previous season's matches:

In a thrilling cup-tie Villa come back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Highbury in the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final. Two goals from Dwight Yorke cancel out a brace from Dennis Bergkamp, thus setting up a cracker at Villa Park in the second leg.

Wednesday February 21, 1996

Semi-final 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 39,334, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 ARSENAL (0) 0 aet

Aston Villa win on the away goals rule

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Bosnich
2	Charles
16	Ehiogu
4	Southgate
3	Staunton (20 Scimeca (70))
14	Wright A
7	Taylor (5 McGrath (33))
8	Draper
11	Townsend
9	Milosevic
18	Yorke

Arsenal (Premier)

1	Seaman
2	Dixon
14	Keown
12	Linighan
18	Morrow
3	Winterburn (7 Platt (103))
17	Hillier
15	Parlour
9	Merson
10	Bergkamp
8	Wright I

Substitutes not used

30 Oakes (GK)

28 Hughes

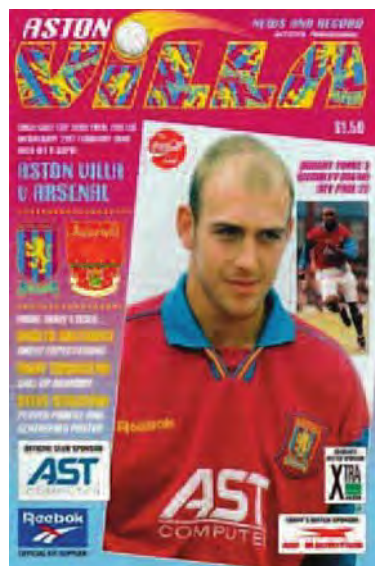
13 Bartram



The managers:

Mr B Little

Mr B Rioch



The Officials

Referee

L R Dilkes (Mossley, Manchester)

Linesman (red/yellow)

M D Messias (W. Yorkshire)

Linesman (yellow)

A S Hogg

Reserve Official

S W Dunn (Bristol)

From 'The Villa News & Record' 6/3/96:

A record-breaking tenth appearance in the semi-finals leads to a record equalling seventh final in the 36 seasons of the competition by virtue of the away goals scored in the 2-2 draw in the first leg at Highbury... Ian Taylor's role as replacement for Tommy Johnson is curtailed by a first-half hamstring injury.

Sunday March 24, 1996

Final At Wembley, Attendance: 77,065, Programme price: £5.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 LEEDS UNITED (0) 0

Milosevic (20)

Taylor (56)

Yorke (88)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Mark Bosnich
3	Alan Wright
2	Gary Charles
6	Ugo Ehiogu
5	Paul McGrath
4	Gareth Southgate
7	Ian Taylor
8	Mark Draper
11	Andy Townsend (c)
10	Dwight Yorke
9	Savo Milošević

Leeds United (Premier)

1	John Lukic
6	David Wetherall
5	John Pemberton
3	Lucas Radebe (14 Tomas Brodin (65))
2	Gary Kelly
4	Carlton Palmer
7	Andy Gray
10	Gary McAllister (c)
8	Mark Ford (12 Brian Deane (46))
11	Gary Speed
9	Tony Yeboah

Subs not used:

12	Steve Staunton
13	Michael Oakes (GK)
14	Tommy Johnson

15	Nigel Worthington
----	-------------------

The managers:

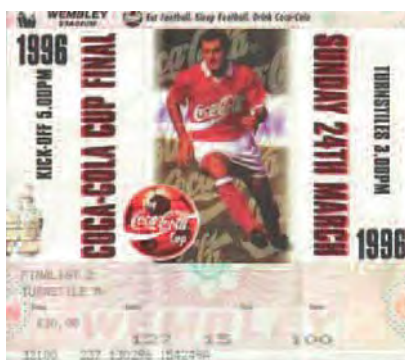
Mr Brian Little

Mr Howard Wilkinson

The Officials

Referee:	R Hart (Darlington)
Linesman (red)	B Coddington (Sheffield)
Linesman (yellow)	M Sims (Bristol)
Reserve Official	J Rushton (Stoke-on-Trent)

For this match traditional, rather than squad, numbers were worn by both teams.



The 1996 Coca-Cola Cup Final took place on 24 March 1996 at Wembley Stadium and was contested between Aston Villa and Leeds United. This was the 35th final and the 29th to be played at Wembley. Aston Villa had won the trophy two years earlier, while Leeds' last victory was in their only final appearance in 1968.

In the first half the teams could only be separated by a superb strike from Savo Milošević. After half-time, Leeds United tired and Aston Villa took advantage to eventually win 3–0. Goals from Ian Taylor and Dwight Yorke completed the scoring. This was the beginning of

the end for Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson, as he was heckled by the clubs fans for his and the team's failure. However it was Villa's fifth success in the competition, at the time equalling the record set by Liverpool

COCA-COLA CUP FINAL

Aston Villa 3 Leeds United 0

Milošević (21), Taylor (55), Yorke (90) [Timings different from Villa's Programme]



Attendance: 77,056

For weeks Brian Little has been telling anybody who cares to listen that Savo Milošević just might score the most important goal of the season. Perhaps the Aston Villa manager has second sight as well as far sight.

Milošević scored a goal at Wembley yesterday which was worthy of winning any final. This one, arrowed in after 20 minutes, went a long way towards winning the Coca-Cola Cup final. It tilted an even match in Villa's direction and, when Ian Taylor stymied a possible Leeds United revival with a second after 55 minutes, Villa's record-equalling fifth success in the competition was assured.

The match itself was disappointing, it was too one-sided. Leeds, despite a positive approach, did not play. Villa were excellent, from the Croat, Bosnich, through to the Serb, Milosevic.

There was one consolation for Leeds. They have lost a final, but they may have found a star, Andy Gray, 18-year-old son of Frank, and, more pertinently, nephew of Eddie. Gray looked instantly at home at Wembley and, though he was unable to match Uncle Eddie's Wembley performance in 1970, he looked as if he may do one day.

Gary's inclusion was the biggest of a clutch of surprises sprung by Howard Wilkinson. In a change from recent policy he devised a wing-back system with the emphasis on attack. Gary Speed, rather than Nigel Worthington, was employed on the left and Gary Kelly given licence to push forward on the right. Gary McAllister was also given a more forward role. Villa lined up as expected. Only Tommy Johnson of their injury victims was not fit to start and he joined Steve Staunton on the bench.

The young Gray was first to shine, his ancestry quickly evident as he dribbled just out of touch on the left byline. Then he went past Gareth Southgate as if he were dribbling by a training cone and curled a shot past the post.

He was not the only one to settle quickly, both sides forcing early corners, but it was 14 minutes before either goalkeeper was stirred. Then it was John Lukic who made the save, not that he knew much about it. Dwight Yorke, given alarming space from a Leeds viewpoint, crashed one shot into John Pemberton's body before, having retrieved the rebound, thumping a second against Lukic's shoulder.

Lukic spread himself well then but he had little chance when, six minutes later, Milosevic struck. A Speed error led to his gaining possession 25 yards out. He advanced on Pemberton before whipping a dipping drive past and over Lukic's right hand.

It was the sort of goal which must have featured prominently in that legendary video - the one that persuaded Little to buy him. But who was laughing now?

Villa now took control as Leeds sought to steady themselves. A Milosevic header was deflected over, Andy Townsend and Mark Draper tested Lukic, even Southgate was spotted crossing from the byline - which must have impressed the watching Terry Venables.

Leeds slowly settled again but they remained troubled by Milosevic and Yorke, with the

Serb twice being halted by last-ditch tackles. In attack they at least stretched Mark Bosnich, the Villa keeper being forced to punch away a corner under pressure from McAllister.

That gave a clue to Wilkinson's half-time switch. Brian Deane's height and strength were added to the attack, Gray was moved to the left and Villa's wing-backs were forced to defend. It almost paid dividends as Gray, twice, came inside Gary Charles but each time shot when he could have crossed.

Villa's verve remained unquenchable however and they, too, spread their wings. A Yorke chipped cross was just cleared then, 10 minutes into the second half, Wright crossed from the left, Lucas Radebe, under pressure from Milosevic, half-cleared, and Taylor followed in to volley inside the far post.

Villa, who have won more matches and scored more goals than any club in the 35-year history of this competition, began to celebrate. Deane and Carlton Palmer had half-chances but Villa always looked more likely to add to their total than concede.

They did with a minute to go. Milosevic made a break down the right before pulling the ball back to Yorke. The Trinidadian, overcoming his surprise at his partner passing inside the box, fired into the roof of the net.

Aston Villa (3-5-2): Bosnich; Ehiogu, McGrath, Southgate; Charles, Taylor, Draper, Townsend, Wright; Yorke, Milošević. Substitutes not used: Staunton, Johnson, Oakes (gk).

Leeds United (3-5-2): Lukic; Wetherall, Pemberton, Radebe (Brolin, 65); Kelly, Palmer, McAllister, Ford (Deane, h-t), Speed; Gray, Yeboah. Substitute not used: Worthington.

Referee: R Hart (Darlington).

Bookings: Aston Villa: McGrath, Southgate; Leeds United: Wetherall, Ford.

Man of the match: Townsend.

At the end of the 1995/96 season both Ugo Ehiogu and Alan Wright were voted into the Professional Footballers' Association Premier League Team of the year, a great accolade.

1996/97

Wednesday October 23, 1996

Round 3 At Elland Road, Attendance: 15,803, Programme price: £1.70

LEEDS UNITED (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Sharpe (69)

Taylor (70)

Yorke (77 pen)

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Leeds United (Premier)

1	Martyn
2	Kelly
26	Beesley (9 Harte (86))
16	Jobson
5	Radebe (6 Wetherall (73))
23	Couzens
4	Palmer
22	Ford
7	Sharpe
8	Wallace
9	Rush

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Bosnich
16	Ehiogu
20	Scimeca
18	Tiler
15	Nelson (8 Draper (77))
7	Taylor
26	Curcic
6	Townsend
14	Wright
11	Johnson
10	Yorke

Substitutes not used:

15	Beeney (GK)	12	Joachim
		13	Oakes (GK)

The managers:

Mr G Graham

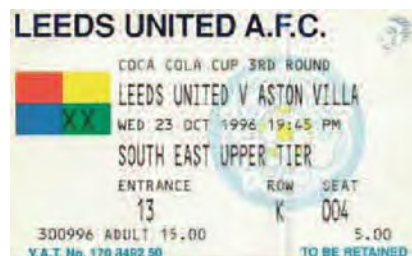
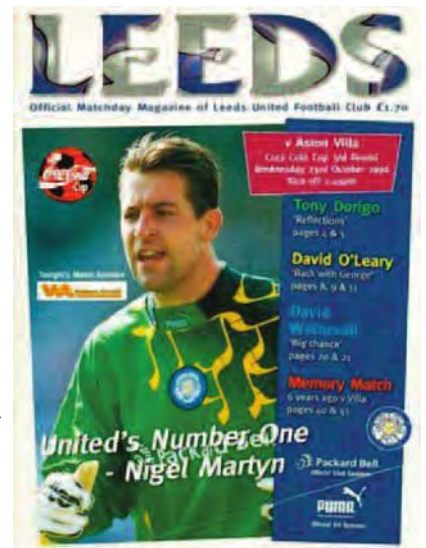
Mr B Little

The Officials

Referee:	J Winter (Stockton-On-Tees)
Assistant (Red):	D J Adcock (Long Eaton, Notts.)
Assistant (yellow):	S R Brand (Wirral)

After beating Leeds in the Final in March, their first match in the Cup in the next season was against – Leeds United! Leeds did not refer to the Cup Final loss directly in their programme.

Here we have yet another of Villa's old players managing a team against them. George Graham had played for Villa in the loss over two legs against Birmingham City in 1963.



Tuesday November 26, 1996

Round 4 At Selhurst Park, Attendance: 7,573, Programme price: £2.00

WIMBLEDON (1) | ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Gayle (44)

Wimbledon (Premier)

- 1 Sullivan
- 2 Cunningham
- 3 Kimble
- 4 Jones
- 5 Blackwell
- 7 Leonhardsen
- 8 Earle
- 9 Ekoku (22 Clarke (70))
- 11 Gayle (20 Harford (70))
- 12 Perry
- 18 Ardley

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 13 Oakes
- 3 Staunton
- 4 Southgate (20 Scimeca (82))
- 6 Townsend
- 7 Taylor
- 8 Draper
- 10 Yorke
- 12 Joachim (9 Milosevic (66))
- 14 Wright
- 15 Nelson
- 16 Ehiogu

Substitutes not used:

- 24 Fear

The managers:

Mr J Kinnear

Mr B Little

The Officials

- Referee: P Jones (Loughborough)
- Assistant (red/yellow): P Griffin
- Assistant: (red) C Francis
- Fourth Official: M John



The manager, Joe Kinnear, in his notes for this programme included this:

The early rounds of the Coca Cola Cup might not have grabbed the attention and enthusiasm of the fans, but I think that now we are approaching the latter stages the interest should pick up. After all, the winner of this evening's match will have the little matter of a quarter final place to be getting on with. And that is why, as far as I'm concerned, it's all hands to the pump again as we prepare to take on a Villa side that are not going to want to relinquish their hold on the Coca Cola Cup without one heck of a battle. They will be on a high tonight after their good win at Coventry at the weekend, but we can take heart from a magical 15 match unbeaten run.

Unfortunately for Villa the Dons made it 16 matches unbeaten, through Marcus Gayle's goal just before half time.

Wimbledon lost to Leicester City on the away goals rule in the semi-final

1997/98

Wednesday October 15, 1997

Round 3 At The Boleyn Ground, Attendance: 20,360, Programme price: £2.00

WEST HAM UNITED (2) 3 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Hartson (9)
Lampard (17)
Hartson (81)

West Ham United (Premier)

22 Forrest
2 Breacker (12 Rowland (22))
4 Potts
6 Unsworth
10 Hartson
11 Lomas
14 Dowie (7 Bishop (46))
15 Rio Ferdinand
18 Lampard
20 Impey
29 Berkovic

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Bosnich
15 Nelson (2 Charles (71))
14 Wright
5 Ehiogu
20 Scimeca
4 Southgate (16 Grayson (71))
7 Taylor
8 Draper
9 Milosevic (18 Curcic (71))
10 Yorke
11 Collymore

Substitutes not used:

21 Sealey

The managers:

Mr H Redknapp

Mr B Little

The Officials

Referee: S J Lodge (Barnsley)
Assistant (yellow): T J Pollard (Suffolk)
Assistant (red/yellow): K R Torrance (Surrey)
Fourth Official: A Valentino (Bexleyheath)



West Ham lost 1-2 to Arsenal in the quarter-final

1998/99

Wednesday October 28, 1998

Round 3 At Stamford Bridge, Attendance: 26,790, Programme price: £2.50

CHELSEA (1) 4 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Vialli (32) Draper (10)
Vialli (67)
Flo (71)
Vialli (85)

Chelsea (Premier)

- 23 Kharine
- 2 Petrescu (26 Terry (86))
- 3 Babayaro
- 8 Poyet
- 9 Vialli (27 Harley (90))
- 11 Wise (sent off 87)
- 12 Duberry
- 19 Flo
- 21 Lambourde
- 22 Nicholls (29 Clement (76))
- 28 Morris

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 13 Oakes
- 2 Charles (22 Vassell (75))
- 3 Wright (28 Jaszczun (74))
- 5 Ehiogu
- 6 Watson
- 7 Taylor
- 8 Draper
- 12 Joachim
- 16 Grayson
- 20 Scimeca (11 Thompson (56))
- 21 Byfield

Substitutes not used:

- 13 Hitchcock (GK)
- 25 Zola

- 30 Rachel (GK)
- 31 Samuel

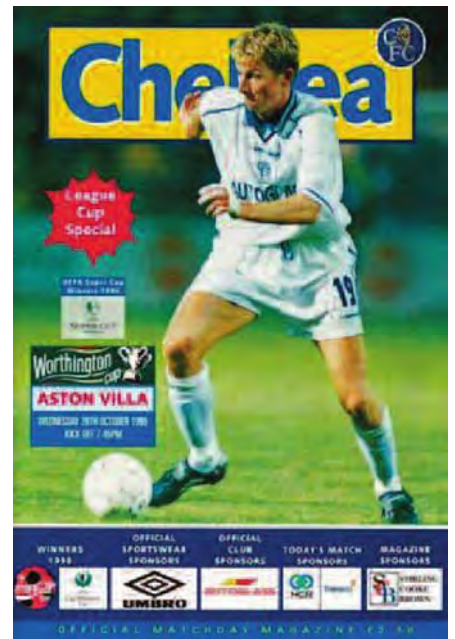
The managers:

Mr G Vialli

Mr J Gregory

The Officials

- Referee: G P Barber (Tring, Hertfordshire)
- Assistant (red trim) L C Jones
- Assistant (Yellow trim) M Tingey
- Reserve Official A P D'Urso (Essex)



Chelsea gave a first outing to a 17-year old John Terry in this match, when he came on as an 86th minute substitute. I believe he went on to be rather famous!

Chelsea were beaten by Wimbledon 1-2 in the quarter-final

1999/2000

Tuesday September 14, 1999

Round 2, First Leg At the Deva Stadium, Attendance: 4,364, Programme price: £2.00

CHESTER CITY (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Hendrie (78)

Chester City (F.L. Division 2)

1	Brown
2	Davidson
18	Doughty
5	Lancaster
6	Woods
9	Milovajjevic (23 Berry (83))
7	Shelton
8	Richardson
11	Fisher
15	Wright
10	Beckett

Substitutes not used:

13	Cutler (GK)
14	Jones
26	Malone
16	Carson

The managers:

Mr T Smith

The Officials

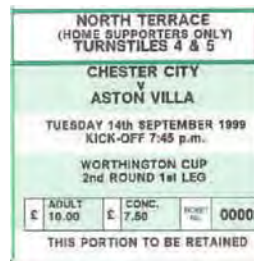
Referee:	J A Kirkby (Sheffield)
Assistant	A R Brown
Assistant	I D Shaw
Fourth Official	G Johnson

Aston Villa (Premier)

39	Enckelman
2	Watson
5	Ehiogu
34	Calderwood
15	Barry
20	Ghrayib
7	Taylor
17	Hendrie
11	Thompson
10	Merson (22 Vassell (72))
12	Joachim

6	Boateng
8	Draper
13	Oakes (GK)
31	Samuel

Mr J Gregory



From 'The Villa News & Record' 25/1/2000:

Only a late Lee Hendrie goal spares Villa blushes after a modest performance in the first leg. Chester City's Deva Stadium is unique in that the pitch is in Wales, whilst the entrance and the Club Offices are in England!

Tuesday September 21, 1999

Round 2, 2nd Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 22,613, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (2) 5 CHESTER CITY (0) 0

Boateng (17)
Taylor (31)
Hendrie (46)
Hendrie (47)
Thompson (50)

Aston Villa (Premier)

39	Enckelman
2	Watson
4	Southgate
5	Ehiogu
15	Barry (31 Samuel (51))
7	Taylor (10 Merson (48))
6	Boateng
17	Hendrie
11	Thompson
9	Dublin (12 Joachim (57))
22	Vassell

Chester City (F.L. Division 2)

1	Brown
7	Shelton (23 Berry (51))
2	Davidson
5	Lancaster
6	Woods
18	Doughty
8	Richardson
9	Milovajjevic (14 Jones (62))
11	Fisher (16 Carson (86))
15	Wright
10	Beckett

Substitutes not used:

13	Oakes (GK)
26	Stone

13	Cutler (GK)
26	Malone

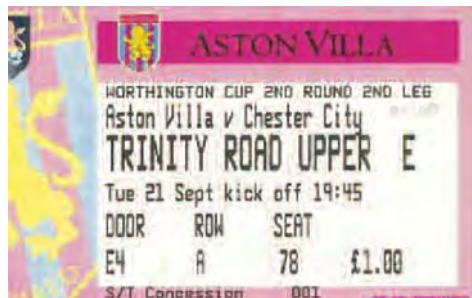
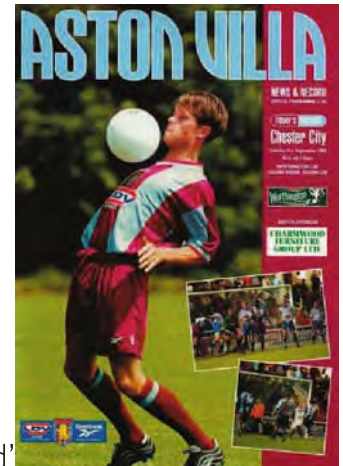
The managers:

Mr J Gregory

Mr T Smith

The Officials

Referee:	S W Mathieson (Cheshire)
Assistant (red/yellow)	G B Turner
Assistant (yellow)	J H Holbrook
Reserve Official	W Ramsey



From 'The Villa News & Record' 25/1/2000:

The form-book prevails a week later, however, as Villa cruise to Round Three with all five goals coming from midfield players [with] two from Hendrie. Chester are denied a consolation when a goal from the penalty spot is wiped out for encroachment and they miss the retaken kick.

Wednesday October 13, 1999

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 33,815, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 0

- Joachim (18)
- Taylor (49)
- Stone (90)

ASTON VILLA & THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Aston Villa (Premier)

39	Enckelman
5	Ehiogu (2 Watson (45))
6	Boateng
7	Taylor
9	Dublin
11	Thompson (26 Stone (75))
12	Joachim (22 Vassell (57))
15	Barry
17	Hendrie
24	Delaney
34	Calderwood

Manchester United (Premier)

1	Bosnich
13	Curtis
14	Cruyff
20	Solskjaer
23	Clegg
28	Higginbotham (38 David Healy (67))
30	Wallwork
34	Greening
37	O'Shea
39	Chadwick
42	Twiss (41 Wellens (74))

Substitutes not used:

13	Oakes (GK)	29	Notman
10	Merson	31	Culkin (GK)
		40	Roche

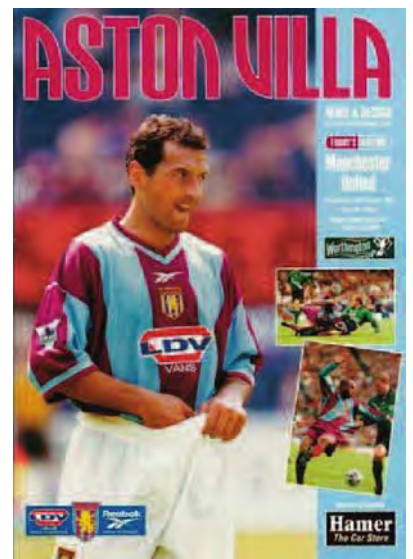
The managers:

Mr J Gregory

Sir A Ferguson

The Officials

Referee:	M A Riley (West Yorkshire)
Assistant (yellow)	D S Bryan
Assistant (red/yellow)	G A Hall
Reserve Official	A M Penn



From 'The Villa News & Record' 25/1/2000:

A routine win against a United line-up barely recognisable from its usual assortment of star names. Only ex-Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich prevents further damage, as Julian Joachim, Ian Taylor and Steve Stone all find the net.

Wednesday December 1, 1999

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 17,608, Programme Price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 4 SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0

Watson (22)
Joachim (66)
Dublin (72)
Dublin (90)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	James
34	Calderwood
4	Southgate
15	Barry
2	Watson
6	Boateng
7	Taylor (26 Stone (74))
17	Hendrie (11 Thompson (79))
3	Wright
9	Dublin
12	Joachim (10 Merson (75))

Southampton (Premier)

1	Paul Jones
21	Tessem
5	Lundekvam
6	Richards
24	Colleter
14	Ripley (2 Dodd (84))
32	Soltvedt (7 Le Tissier (44))
8	Oakley
9	Hughes
30	Kachloul (35 Boa Morte (84))
17	Pahars

Substitutes not used:

20	Ghrayib
39	Enckelman (GK)

16	Beattie
13	Moss (GK)

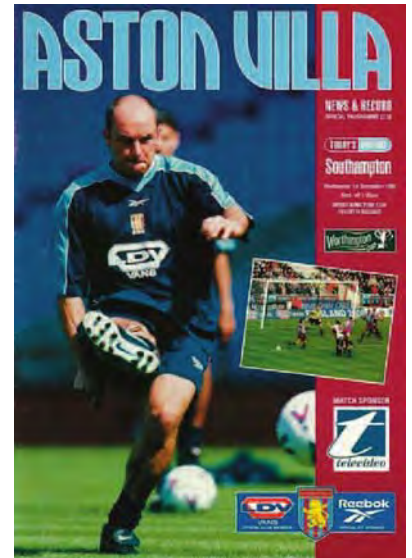
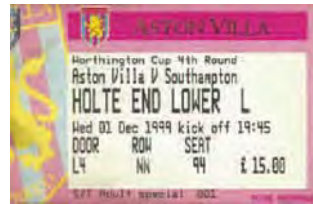
The managers:

Mr J Gregory

Mr D Jones

The Officials

Referee:	B Knight (Kent)
Assistant (Yellow)	D P Morrison
Assistant (red/yellow)	B Bello
Fourth Official	A Bates



From 'The Villa News & Record' 25/1/2000:

Revenge for Villa after a league defeat by the Saints in their last game. It takes the hosts time to find their stride but once Steve Watson scores his first goal for the club and Julian Joachim makes them safe, Villa open up, Dion Dublin scoring twice in the last 18 minutes.

Wednesday December 15, 1999

Round 5 At The Boleyn Ground, Attendance: 23,974, Programme price £2.50

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 2 ASTON VILLA (1)2 aet

Lampard (71)
Di Canio (90 p)

Taylor (3)
Dublin (90)

West Ham won 5-4 on penalties but the match was ordered to be replayed as West Ham fielded an ineligible player. The player concerned was Manny Omoyinmi who had played in the League Cup earlier in the season whilst on loan at Gillingham. Gareth Southgate was the Villa player who missed the penalty!

West Ham United (Premier)

1	Hislop
30	Margas
15	Ferdinand
6	Ruddock
8	Sinclair
26	Joe Cole (9 Kitson (46))
18	Lampard
11	Lomas
7	Keller
10	Di Canio
12	Wanchope (27 Omoyinmi (113))

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	James
5	Ehiogu
4	Southgate
15	Barry
2	Watson
6	Boateng
10	Merson (26 Stone (76))
7	Taylor
3	Wright
9	Dublin
12	Joachim (22 Vassell (111))

Substitutes not used:

22	Forrest (GK)	13	Cutler (GK)
13	Foe	31	Samuel
20	Minto	34	Calderwood

The managers:

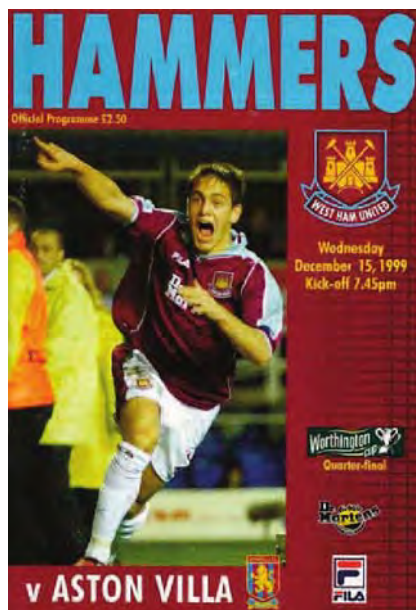
Mr H Redknapp Mr J Gregory

The Officials

Referee:	S J Lodge (Barnsley, South Yorkshire)
Assistant (red/yellow)	K J Hawkes (Gloucester}
Assistant (red)	A C Harvey (Hertfordshire)
Fourth Official	D R Crick (Surrey)



From 'When Saturday Comes'



Cup-tied Hammer costs them dear.

For a club that has made a habit of not so much shooting itself in the foot as hacking it off with a rusty knife, it is appropriate that this week marks the tenth anniversary of one of the most farcical episodes in West Ham's history. Not many people would remember Manny Omoyinmi, but for his introduction in the 113th minute of a League Cup quarter-final against Aston Villa that West Ham won on penalties. Omoyinmi didn't miss a penalty or an easy chance or score an own-goal. In fact, he didn't do very much at all. What he had done, though, was play in the competition while on loan at Gillingham earlier in the season.

Inexplicably West Ham had not realised Omoyinmi was cup-tied. The news emerged two days after the game, and those picking up their newspapers on that Friday morning were accompanied by a very sudden feeling of nausea. The Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis pressed for West Ham's elimination, but after discussions with the West Ham chairman Terry Brown, Football League secretary David Dent and Premier League chairman Dave Richards, he

settled for a replay.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, bemoaned a “cock-up”, not that he was attributing blame to himself, as well he might have done. How could he not have known what one of his players was getting up to at Gillingham – then again, how did Omoyinmi manage to forget?

It was the pointlessness of the substitution that baffled. In his seven minutes on the pitch, Omoyinmi only touched the ball twice and did not take a penalty in the shoot-out. He was almost too inconsequential to deserve the pariah status in which he was instantly held. This was his one appearance for West Ham that season, and he only scored two goals in five years. He was soon ushered down to the lower leagues and retired in 2006.

As for Redknapp, he emerged with his reputation intact, and instead it fell to the club secretary Graham Mackrell, Sheffield Wednesday’s secretary at the time of the Hillsborough disaster, and the football secretary Alison O’Dowd to resign. The pair had accepted responsibility for a small error with a huge price.

All this sadly detracted from one of the most entertaining games that year. Villa took the lead through Ian Taylor, before Frank Lampard equalised. Then in stoppage time, Dion Dublin volleyed in what was surely Villa’s winner, only for West Ham instantly to win a penalty, converted by Paolo Di Canio. In the ensuing shoot-out, Villa’s villain was ironically Gareth Southgate, whose kick was saved by Shaka Hislop. Neither player knew it was all for nothing.

Supporters who could prove they were at the first match were let into the replay for free, but the outcome was predictable. Villa won 3-1 in extra-time, this time David James saving a Di Canio penalty that would have made it 2-2.

Tuesday January 11, 2000

Round 5 Replay At The Boleyn Ground, Attendance: 25,592, Programme price: £2.50

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 3 aet

Lampard (47)

Taylor (80)

Joachim (93)

Taylor (118)

West Ham United (Premier)

1	Hislop
4	Potts (6 Ruddock (91))
15	Ferdinand
5	Stimac
11	Lomas
13	Foe
18	Lampard
26	Joe Cole
20	Minto
8	Sinclair (7 Keller (108))
10	Di Canio

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	James
15	Barry
4	Southgate
5	Ehiogu
3	Wright
6	Boateng (34 Calderwood (102))
7	Taylor
26	Stone
2	Watson (11 Thompson (68))
12	Joachim
10	Merson (22 Vassell (57))

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 1 James
- 5 Ehiogu
- 4 Southgate
- 15 Barry
- 2 Watson (24 Delaney (57))
- 7 Taylor
- 6 Boateng
- 26 Stone (19 Walker (57))
- 3 Wright
- 12 Joachim
- 10 Merson

Leicester City (Premier)

- 1 Flowers
- 4 Taggart
- 15 Gilchrist
- 11 Guppy (37 Zagorakis (65))
- 14 Savage
- 6 Izzet (5 Walsh (75))
- 24 Impey (16 Campbell (84))
- 3 Sinclair
- 29 Oakes
- 9 Heskey
- 18 Elliott

Substitutes not used:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 11 Thompson | 21 Fenton |
| 34 Calderwood | 22 Arphexad (GK) |
| 13 Cutler (GK) | |

The managers:

Mr J Gregory Mr M O'Neill

The Officials

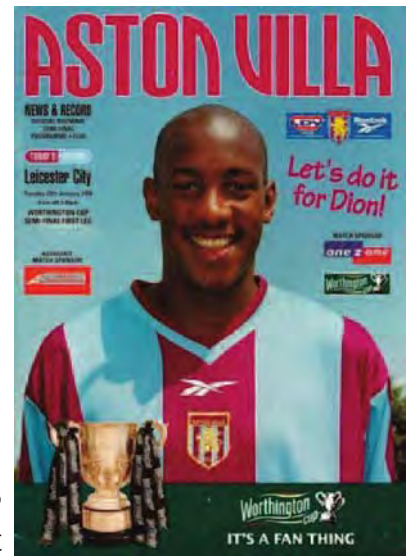
Referee: T Heilbron (Newton Aycliffe)
 Assistant (yellow): P V Norman
 Assistant (red/yellow): G A Hall
 Fourth Official: C J Foy (Merseyside)

'The Villa News & Record' reported in their column entitled PRESS COMMENT



Rob Bishop in the 'Birmingham Post' wrote:

John Gregory's side came up against a brick wall at Villa Park last night, as they were held to a goalless draw by a Leicester City outfit aiming for their third Final in the space of four seasons.



Wednesday February 2, 2000

Semi Final Second Leg At Filbert Street, Attendance: 21,843, Programme price: £2.00

LEICESTER CITY (1) | ASTON VILLA (0) 0
 Elliott (45)

2000 TO 2013



2000/01

Wednesday November 1, 2000

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,138, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1

Horlock (89 pen)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 James
 16 Alpay
 4 Southgate
 15 Barry
 18 Stone (2 Delaney (69))
 6 Boateng
 7 Taylor
 3 Wright
 10 Merson (17 Hendrie (83))
 12 Joachim
 9 Dublin (22 Vassell 90 min (45))

Manchester City (Premier)

1 Weaver
 7 Prior (8 Bishop (78))
 24 Howey
 16 Ritchie
 18 Jeff Whitley
 4 Wiekens
 15 Haaland
 6 Horlock
 19 Tiatto (34 Kennedy (71))
 9 Dickov
 10 Goater (29 Wright-Phillips 90)

Substitutes not used:

31 Samuel
 39 Enckelman (GK)

13 Wright (GK)
 25 Jobson

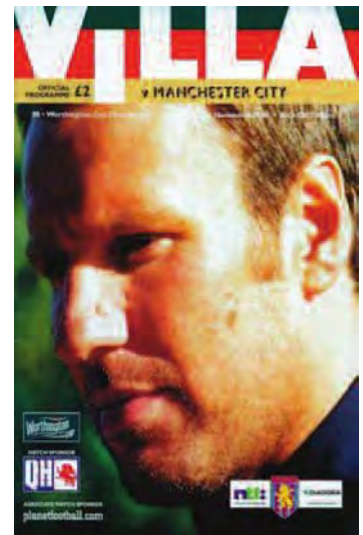
The managers:
 Mr J Gregory

Mr J Royle

The Officials

Referee: D R Elleray (Harrow-on-the-Hill)
 Assistant: R G James (Buckinghamshire)
 Assistant: K J Hawkes (Quedgeley, Glos.)
 Fourth Official: N Hancox

From 'The Villa News & Record' 11/11/2000:
 VILLA 0 MAN.CITY 1



A game seemingly destined for extra time is resolved in dramatic fashion as Villa fall at the first hurdle of a competition that took them all the way to the semi-final last season. An 88th minute attack by City looks to be ultimately devoid of teeth, like so many that preceded it when a cross from the right becomes a lob to the far post, following a deflection by Alpay Ozalan. City's inspirational skipper, Alf-Inge Haaland has his back to the goal

and David James looks to have him covered when a push from the Villa keeper sends Haaland to ground and referee David Elleray to the penalty spot. Birthday-boy Kevin Horlock duly obliges to send the vociferous travelling supporters into ecstasy and as James heads upfield in support of Villa's goal or bust riposte, he finds only further disappointment. Darius Vassell has the ball in the net in the final minute from an Alan Wright free-kick, only for his use of the hand as he did so to seal Villa's fate. While they had cranked up the action considerably in the second half against flagging opposition, this is no fluke by their opponents, a dogged team whose commitment to playing intelligent football even when under the cosh does them credit. The pace of Paul Dickov constantly threatens Villa's defence and after a shaky start, Steve Howey proves insurmountable in defence, as Villa fail to cash in on several one-to-one breaks. Goalkeeper Nick Weaver produces a series of saves amid a barrage of Villa corners midway through the second period, but when Paul Merson strikes the bar from 30 yards with 20 minutes remaining, it seems only a matter of time for the hosts, only for that late penalty to turn their Worthington dream flat.

Manchester City lost in round 5 to Ipswich Town 1-2

2001/02

Wednesday October 10, 2001

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 23,431, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 READING (0) 0

Dublin (45)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Schmeichel
2	Delaney (9 Dublin (27))
5	Alpay
11	Staunton
3	Wright 36 min
20	Hadji 18 min
6	Boateng 68 min
17	Hendrie
30	Kachloul
8	Angel (19 Balaban (87))
14	Ginola

Reading (F.L.1)

1	Whitehead
18	Whitbread (3 Robinson (81))
5	Viveash
8	Williams
28	Shorey
10	Forster
15	Harper
16	Parkinson 39 min (24 Henderson (70))
17	N Smith
7	Rougier (12 Cureton (81))
9	Butler



Substitutes not used:

12	Enckelman	(GK)	19	Gamble
15	Barry		21	Ashdown (GK)
29	Cooke			

The managers:

Mr J Gregory

Mr A Pardew

The Officials

Referee: M D Messias (W. Yorkshire)
 Assistant: K J Hawkes (Quedgeley, Glos.)
 Assistant: M L Short
 Fourth Official: S W Dunn (Bristol)



Wednesday November 28, 2001

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,526, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (0) 0

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (1) 1

Ekoku (40)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Schmeichel
 4 Mellberg
 5 Alpay
 11 Staunton
 18 Stone
 7 Taylor (14 Ginola (45))
 17 Hendrie
 20 Hadji (6 Boateng (41))
 30 Kachloul
 9 Dublin
 19 Balaban (22 Vassell, 63)

Sheffield Wednesday (F.L.Championship)

1 Pressman
 22 Geary 45 min
 4 Bromby 51 min
 25 Maddix
 24 O'Donnell
 7 Quinn (9 Ekoku (29))
 6 Soltvedt
 12 Haslam
 11 Morrison (4 McLaren 76 min (54))
 18 Donnelly
 8 Sibon (21 Westwood (81))

Substitutes not used:

12 Enckelman (GK)
 15 Barry

10 Bonvin
 13 Stringer (GK)



The managers:

Mr J Gregory

Mr T Yorath

The Officials

Referee: C R Wilkes (Gloucester)
 Assistant: D Richards (Yorkshire)
 Assistant: K Woolmer
 Fourth Official: D Pugh (Wirral)



Wednesday October 2, 2002

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 20,833, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 LUTON TOWN (0) 0

De la Cruz (9)

Dublin (25)

Dublin (48)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Enckelman
4	Mellberg
27	Johnsen
11	Staunton (28 Leonhardsen (68))
15	De la Cruz
17	Hendrie
26	Kinsella
6	Barry
21	Samuel
10	Vassell (Moore (45))
9	Dublin (14 Allback (83))

Luton Town (F.L. I)

16	Emberson
17	Boyce
5	Perrett 35 min (23 Hillier (45))
12	Coyne
24	Davis
11	Robinson
20	Holmes (3 Neilson (45))
4	Spring
21	Hughes
19	Howard 88 min
14	Fotiadis (15 Crowe (73))

Substitutes not used:

13	Postma (GK)
16	Crouch

18	Brkovic
35	Berthelin (GK)

The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr J Kinnear

The Officials

Referee:	C Webster (Tyne & Wear)
Assistant	J Hubbard
Assistant	R Pashley
Fourth Official	J Sheffield



Wednesday November 6, 2002

Round 3 At the Kassam Stadium, Attendance: 12,177, Programme price: £2.50

OXFORD UNITED (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 3

Taylor (74)

Barry (77)

Dublin (86)

Oxford United (F.L.I)

1	Woodman
5	Crosby
18	Bound (<i>7 Hackett (79)</i>)
24	Viveash
2	Scott <i>McNiven</i>
4	Savage
8	Hunt
12	Whitehead
11	Robinson
17	Louis (<i>25 Gordon (53)</i>)
23	Basham (<i>14 Omoyinmi (81)</i>)

Aston Villa (Premier)

13	Postma
2	Delaney
11	Staunton
27	Johnsen
21	Samuel
28	Leonhardsen (<i>8 Angel (45)</i>)
7	Taylor <i>65 min</i>
26	Kinsella (<i>12 Hitzlsperger (75)</i>)
6	Barry
9	Dublin
25	Moore (<i>14 Allback (75)</i>)

Substitutes not used

3	Powell	16	Crouch
6	Waterman	39	Henderson (GK)

The managers:

Mr I Atkins

Mr G Taylor

The Officials

Referee:	M D Messias (W. Yorkshire)
Assistant	J Holbrook
Assistant	M L Short
Fourth Official	P Durkin (Portland)



From 'The Villa News & Record' dated 4/12/02, for the Round 4 match with Preston.

Just the ticket as Villa march on

Villa experienced the Bus Syndrome at the Kassam Stadium as they clinched their passage to the fourth round of the Worthington Cup. They had waited ages for a lucky break, and two suddenly came along together. Very welcome they were, too. Graham Taylor's men were well in control of their third round tie against Oxford United, but with only 16 minutes remaining, we were wondering just where the breakthrough goal was coming from. Three minutes later the answer had been provided and a passage to the last 16 was assured, thanks to the generosity of home goalkeeper Andy Woodman. Poor Woodman will have nightmares this match

for years to come. His failure to hold Mark Kinsella's 74th minute corner enabled Ian Taylor to force home Villa's opening goal at point blank range, and the keeper had barely recovered when he allowed Gareth Barry's deflected 20-yarder to slip from his grasp and into the bottom left hand corner. The visitors could barely believe their good fortune, but they weren't about to complain. After all, they had encountered more than their fair share of bad breaks during their opening weeks of the campaign to concern themselves with sympathy for their Third Division hosts. Indeed they displayed the killer touch which has so often been absent by claiming a third goal in the 86th minute when

Barry charged down a clearance from home skipper Andy Crosby and Dion Dublin despatched a spectacular angled volley past the beleaguered Woodman.

Wednesday December 4, 2002

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 23,042, Programme Price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 5 PRESTON NORTH END (0) 0

Vassell (44)
Vassell (55)
Dublin (80)
Angel (84)
Hitzlsperger (88)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Enckelman
21 Samuel (*15 De la Cruz (82)*)
11 Staunton
27 Johnsen
6 Barry
28 Leonhardsen
12 Hitzlsperger
7 Taylor (*26 Kinsella (31)*)
17 Hendrie
10 Vassell (*8 Angel (82)*)
9 Dublin

Preston North End (F.L.Championship)

1 Lucas
2 Alexander
20 Locketti
14 Murdock *34 min*
22 Eaton
26 Skora (*24 Mears (81)*)
4 Etuhu (*7 Cartwright (63)*)
16 McKenna (*8 Rankine (63)*)
17 Lewis
11 David Healy
25 Cresswell

Substitutes not used:

13 Postma (GK)
14 Allback

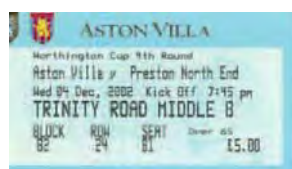
6 Broomes
21 Moilanen (GK)

The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr C Brown

The Officials



Referee: Mr C R Wilkes (Gloucester)
Assistant Mr M Cairns
Assistant Mr P Sharp
Fourth Official Mr M Jones (Chester)



From 'The Villa News & Record' dated 18/12/02, for the Round 5 match with Liverpool
Five star Villa cruise through

Graham Taylor's assertion that football is now very much a squad game was perfectly illustrated in Villa's 5-0 demolition of Preston. The Worthington Cup tie between two of the founder members of the Football League saw substitutes Ulises de la Cruz and Juan Pablo Angel combine two minutes

after coming on to notch up Villa's fourth goal on the night. It was a cracking strike from the fans' favourite but it had good competition from the other four for the goal of the evening. A brace from Darius Vassell, a headed bullet from Dion Dublin and a wonder strike from Thomas Hitzlsperger settled an entertaining tie. Indeed former manager Ron Atkinson described all five as goal of the season contenders.

Wednesday December 18, 2002

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 38,530, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 LIVERPOOL (1) 4

Vassell (23 pen)
Hitzlsperger (72)
Dublin (84)

Murphy (27)
Baros (54)
Gerrard (67)
Murphy (90)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Enckelman
15 De la Cruz (*8 Angel (79)*)
4 Mellberg
21 Samuel
6 Barry
17 Hendrie (*26 Kinsella (83)*)
12 Hitzlsperger
28 Leonhardsen
20 Hadji
10 Vassell
9 Dublin

Liverpool (Premier)

22 Kirkland
6 Babbel (*23 Carragher (39)*)
2 Henchoz *37 min*
4 Hyypia *17 min*
30 Traore
13 Murphy *10 min*
17 Gerrard
21 Diao
18 Riise
10 Owen (*8 Heskey (76)*)
5 Baros

Substitutes not used:

13 Postma (GK)
14 Allback
30 Edwards

1 Dudek (GK)
7 Smicer
9 Diouf

The managers:

Mr G Taylor

Mr G Houllier

The Officials

Referee: G P Barber (Tring)
Assistant: J Holbrook
Assistant: D S Babski (Lincolnshire)
Fourth Official: S W Dunn (Bristol)



Liverpool beat Manchester United 2-0 in the final

2003/04**Tuesday September 23, 2003**

Round 2 At The Causeway Stadium, Attendance: 6,072, Programme price: £2.50

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (2) 5

Whittingham (14)

Angel (31)

Angel (50 pen)

Angel (55)

Vassell (84 pen)

Wycombe Wanderers (F.L.Division 1)

18 Steve Williams *49 min*
 2 Senda
 3 Vinnicombe
 4 Thomson (*12 Harris (62)*)
 5 Roger Johnson
 6 Rogers
 7 Currie
 28 Simpson
 30 Brown (*11 Bulman (45)*)
 20 Holligan
 21 Bell A (*16 Cook (75)*)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Sorensen
 3 Samuel
 15 De la Cruz
 9 Dublin
 2 Delaney
 6 Barry
 7 Hendrie (*24 Ridgewell (76)*)
 8 McCann
 17 Whittingham
 14 Allback (*23 S Moore (76)*)
 18 Angel (*10 Vassell (62)*)

Substitutes not used:

14 Roberts
 1 Talia (GK)
 12 Hitzlsperger
 13 Postma (GK)

The managers:

Mr L Sanchez

Mr D O'Leary

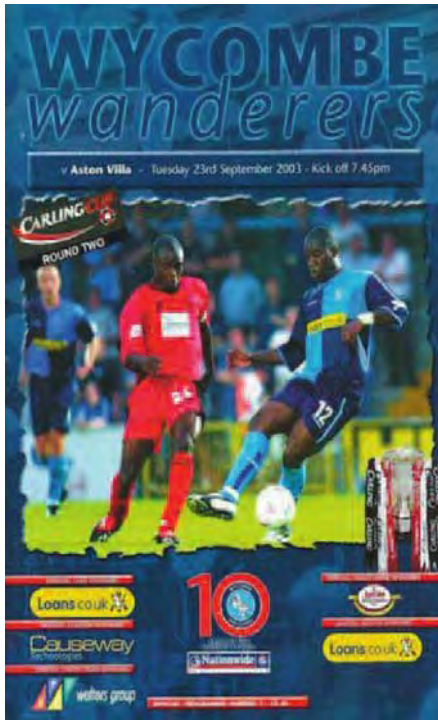
The Officials

Referee: A N Butler (Nottinghamshire)
 Assistant J Hayto
 Assistant M McCoy
 Fourth Official R Lee

From 'The Villa News & Record' 29/10/03:

HAT-TRICK AT LAST FOR JUAN PABLO

There's no such thing as an easy game, so they tell us, but Villa might just dispute that notion after they cruised into the third round of the Carling Cup at Adams Park. Juan Pablo Angel's hat-trick underlined all too clearly the gulf in class between the Premiership and Division Two. Even though it



wasn't against the strongest opposition, Angel had every reason to celebrate his treble after scoring twice on numerous occasions. And with Peter Whittingham netting his first senior goal and substitute Darius Vassell grabbing his first of the season, Villa recorded their most emphatic victory since last December's third round thrashing of Preston. In truth, the winning margin should have been even wider, for David O'Leary's side dominated from start to finish, creating chance after chance as they adopted a thoroughly professional approach which deservedly earned rich praise from their manager. Wycombe undoubtedly have more pressing concerns as they strive to climb away from the Second Division danger zone, and their exit was inevitable from the moment resistance was weakened by the opening goal. Ironically, the goal came after the home side had enjoyed a rare spell of pressure, Jllloyd Samuel clearing a corner before Angel went racing down the right to deliver an inviting low cross which Whittingham despatched left-footed into the bottom corner from 15 yards. With Gavin McCann

again dominant in midfield, the visitors remained firmly in control, Marcus Allback having a volley deflected for a corner and Lee Hendrie firing across the face of the goal before they doubled their lead on 31 minutes, McCann was the provider with an astute pass, and Angel's angled drive into the far corner was simply unstoppable. At 2-0, the tie was effectively over and Villa could have been forgiven for shutting up shop, but with Angel in such irrepressible mood, there was no danger of that. Attacking the end where 2,000 travelling fans were massed, they continued to turn on the style, and when Angel was bundled over as he charged into the penalty area on 50 minutes, the Columbian striker picked himself up to send goalkeeper Steve Williams the wrong way from the spot. Villa's supporters were now in party mood, and the celebrations were really under way on 55 minutes when Williams could only push aside a fierce drive from Ulises de la Cruz and Angel reacted smartly to convert the rebound for his hat-trick. After that it was simply a question of how many. The answer was just one more, a Vassell penalty after he had been brought down by Chris Vinnicombe. Near misses by Allback, Vassell, McCann and Stefan Moore simply underlined what might have been.

The Wycombe programme for the next match between the clubs (R2, 20/9/05) has a piece from Keith Allen, Wycombe's Secretary, in which he says:

'Juan Pablo Angel scored a hat-trick and afterwards requested the match ball, which of course I was delighted to present to him...although he was not happy as it was not the original match ball. It was with a smile that I told him he couldn't have the original match ball, because he had deposited it into the farmer's field behind the Valley terrace, after a wayward shot at goal.'

Wednesday October 29, 2003

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,729, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 LEICESTER CITY (0) 0
Hitzlsperger (75)

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 1 Sorensen
- 2 Delaney
- 4 Mellberg (c) (9 Dublin (85))
- 27 Johnsen 32 min
- 3 Samuel
- 15 De la Cruz (14 Allback (57))
- 8 McCann
- 6 Barry
- 17 Whittingham
- 12 Vassell (12 Hitzlsperger (65))
- 18 Angel

Leicester City (Premier)

- 16 Coyne
- 2 Impey
- 24 Howey
- 3 Sinclair
- 11 Stewart
- 12 Brooker (10 Scowcroft (81))
- 8 Nalis
- 32 McKinlay (6 Izzet (82))
- 5 Hignett (7 Gillespie (64))
- 27 Deane
- 22 Dickov

Substitutes not used:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 13 Postma (GK) | 19 Murphy (GK) |
| 24 Ridgewell | 34 Priet |

The managers:

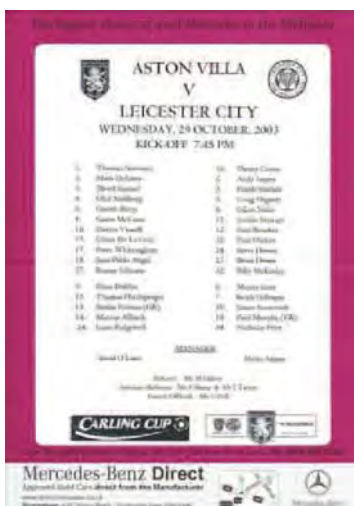
Mr D O’Leary Mr M Adams

The Officials

- Referee: M R Halsey (Lancashire)
- Assistant P Sharp (Hertfordshire)
- Assistant J Tattan
- Fourth Official G Poll (Tring)



From ‘The Villa News & Record’ dated 3/12/03 for the League Cup match against Crystal Palace. THOMAS TANKS ‘EM



Thomas Hitzlsperger revealed some weeks ago that one of his favourite musical artists was R Kelly. Well, he certainly fired up the ignition on his left foot as Der Hammer slammed into the net late on to give Villa victory over Leicester City. It was somewhat fitting that Thomas would get the winner. It was somewhat fitting that Thomas would get the winner. Not only was Filbert Street his favourite away ground but his first ever goal in the claret and blue was struck against the Foxes in the 2001-02 season – with his lesser known right boot. But this Carling Cup goal, make no mistake, was struck with his awesome left and capped off an impressive move. Olof Mellberg collected the ball in his own half and threaded it through to Gareth Barry on the right. His precise pass was picked up by the German under-21 international. One look and away – and past Danny Coyne. To use the title of his favourite film, it was a case of ‘Catch Me If You Can.’ It was certainly the highlight of a game where Villa struggled to turn their superiority into goals. Mickey Adams sprung a surprise prior to kick-off when he announced, in his pre-match press conference, that he would be dropping 10 of the 11 players that had capitulated to a 4-3 defeat at Wolves after being three goals to the good at half-time. And the men he eventually did send out at Villa Park



started in the same vein as the ones who finished at Molineaux. The claret and blue troops dominated the first half, with good openings for Juan Pablo Angel from a Mark Delaney cross, Darius Vassell after a good show of speed and Gavin McCann after a 25-yard free kick. Yet, ironically, the Foxes probably had the best chance of the half when Brian Deane headed back across the box and Paul Brooker's close range shot was blasted straight at Thomas Seorensen. Anywhere else and it would have been 1-0 Leicester. Villa pushed just as hard in the second period for a winner. On 55 minutes, captain Mellberg clipped a glorious ball to Ulises de la Cruz. The Ecuadorian jinked inside but hit his left footed shot straight at Danny Coyne. Gareth Barry unlocked the Foxes defence a minute later, with a smashing over-the-top ball, which fell perfectly for Vassell. Unfortunately for the England international, his first touch let him down as he homed in on goal. Further half-chances fell to Angel and substitute Marcus Allback before Hitzlsperger's 75th minute cracker.

Wednesday December 3, 2003

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 24,258, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0

Symons (22 og)

McCann (70)

Angel (79)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Sorensen
15	De la Cruz
4	Mellberg
9	Dublin (24 Ridgewell (80))
3	Samuel
23	Moore S
8	McCann
12	Hitzlsperger 79 min
6	Barry (17 Whittingham (72))
18	Angel
10	Vassell (14 Allback (73))

Substitutes not used:

7	Hendrie
13	Postma (GK)

The managers:

Mr D O'Leary

The Officials

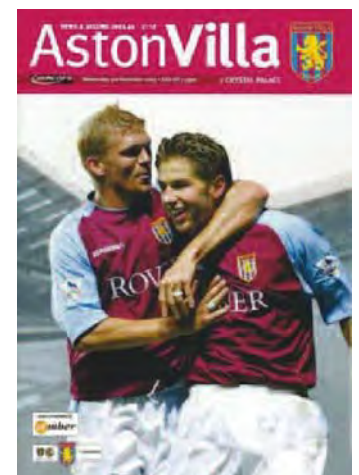
Referee M L Dean (Wirral)

Crystal Palace (F.L.Championship)

13	Berthelin
2	Fleming (15 Riihilahti (56))
5	Symons
6	Popovic
18	Borrowdale
4	Butterfield
10	Derry (14 Watson (78))
17	Michael Hughes
16	Black (22 Routledge (45))
11	Shipperley
9	Freedman

3	Granville
25	Myhre (GK)

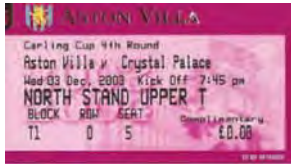
Mr K Symons



Assistant N Bannister (East Yorkshire)
 Assistant T Massey
 Fourth Official U D Rennie (South Yorkshire)

From 'The Villa News & Record' 17/12/03 for the League Cup match against Chelsea:

THE EAGLES ARE GROUNDED



Villa can be excused for having a feeling of déjà vu in the League Cup. Last season, they dumped First Division Preston North End out of the competition with a convincing win before facing a team in the upper echelons of the Premier League at the quarter-final stage. This time around, the claret and blue army disposed of Crystal Palace 3-0 before finding out that they had been paired with another title-chasing outfit, Chelsea. The game was really settled by two Palace players, one who could finish and one that couldn't. Unfortunately for the Eagles, the man who could find the net – his own – was Kit Symons. Juan Pablo Angel decided to fire at will in the 20th minute, the ball taking a wicked deflection off the Palace player-manager and looping over stranded 'keeper Cedric Berthelin. The player who will surely still be cursing his luck after one of the worst misses ever at Villa Park – and that includes Ronny Rosenthal – is Tommy Black. A great ball found its way behind Villa's defenders and veteran striker Neil Shipperley powered in a header which Thomas Sorensen did well to parry. Up stepped the incoming Black for what looked a certain conversion – only to fire a shot over the bar from a yard out. It would have done Jonny Wilkinson proud! That proved to be Palace's only real chance of the half, although Villa were unlucky not to go in at the break more than a solitary goal to the good. Black paid a heavy price for his miss on the stroke of half-time, not appearing for the second period. They started brightly with Gavin McCann proving the spark, and the midfielder's through ball found Darius Vassell in acres of space early on. The striker's power drive, unfortunately, was well parried by Berthelin as the 'keeper fell. As the interval approached, Villa started shooting for fun, youngster Stefan Moore going close with two efforts while a Hitzlsperger hammer wasn't quite accurate enough. Black paid a heavy price for his miss on the stroke of half-time, not appearing for the second period, although Palace did come back into the game at the start of the second period, without ever really making much of their possession. When it came to efforts on goal they simply found Villa's back line too hard to breach. Their best two efforts came from their experienced front two, Dougie Freedman and Shipperley, who were both denied by Sorensen. But it was the home side who had the final say, clinical finishing giving the result a healthy gloss. McCann popped up with a header to score his first goal for Villa after some impressive build up play which saw Angel head down Jllloyd Samuel's left wing cross. No wonder the Blackpool born midfielder gave a knowing smile to the crowd as he popped his head through the net after bagging his first competitive goal for the club. The former Sunderland man was again involved in number three as he played a fine pass for Hitzlsperger to cross for Angel to steer home from close range.

Wednesday December 17, 2003

Round 5 At Villa Park, Attendance: 30,414, Programme price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 CHELSEA (0) 1

Angel (16)

Joe Cole (69)

McCann (78)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Sorensen	90 min
2	Delaney	53 min
4	Mellberg	
27	Johnsen	
3	Samuel	
7	Hendrie	(12 Hitzlsperger (69))
8	McCann	
6	Barry	
17	Whittingham	
10	Vassell	(23 Moore S (52))
18	Angel	(16 Crouch (83))

Chelsea (Premier)

34	Sullivan	
2	Johnson	(21 Crespo (55))
26	Terry	65 min
13	Gallas	85 min
3	Babayaro	
15	Melchiot	
14	Geremi	
10	Joe Cole	
4	Makelele	(8 Lampard (45))
11	Duff	(30 Gronkjaer (55))
9	Hasselbaink	

Substitutes not used:

13	Postma (GK)
24	Ridgewell

6	Desailly
31	Ambrosio (GK)

The managers:

Mr D O'Leary

Mr C Ranieri

The Officials

Referee:	N S Barry (Scunthorpe)
Assistant	D S Babski (Lincolnshire)
Assistant	D Drysdale (Lincolnshire)
Fourth Official	M A Riley (West Yorkshire)



From 'The Villa News & Record' dated 27/1/04, for the Semi-final 2nd leg against Bolton Wanderers.

GOALS THE NAME OF THE GAME



Chelsea may have Money, Money, Money but as Villa fans pointed out after this game – The Winners Take It All. Goal scorers Juan Pablo Angel and Gavin McCann may have shared the glory but it was a real team effort. That term is often overused in footballing parlance however, not in this case, as the claret and blues upset their more established blue foes with a performance that came right from the heart. Claudio Ranieri said after the game that Villa had shown more spirit than his team and who could disagree with his assessment. David O'Leary's men took the Blues by the horns right from the opening whistle, with Darius Vassell going close early on. But it was Angel who opened the scoring with a 'Goal of the Season' contender. He controlled the ball on half way and weaved past in-form John Terry before unleashing an unstoppable 25-yard scorcher past Neil Sullivan. Either side of the goal, Chelsea created good chances, the first falling to Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, whose blast flew just wide. Lively Joe Cole, who was predominantly kept under wraps by Peter Whittingham and McCann, secured the Blues best chance of the half. He burst clear and his blast was well

parried by Thomas Sorensen. Villa went into half-time not only with a slender one goal lead but also with the knowledge that if they continued playing solidly they would make [it] into the next round. But things don't always work out the way you hoped and this was certainly the case at the start of the second period. The Blues made three early changes, Frank Lampard, Jasper Gronkjaer and Herman Crepo coming on for Makelele, Duff and Glen Johnson respectively. Although Villa had the early running with two Angel strikes from distance, Chelsea drew level in the tie, thanks to the foresight of Crespo. On 68 minutes he fired wide after a great through ball from Lampard but a minute later, he turned provider as he cushioned a ball on to Cole, who calmly chipped Sorensen. But Villa weren't to be denied and they regained the lead eight minutes after having it snatched it from their grasp. Again, good work and a stinging shot from Angel could only be parried by Sullivan and midfield dynamo McCann was on hand to follow in like a predator. But for all Villa's fight and heart, Chelsea could have snatched a draw at the death, Terry slammed a header goalwards but Sorensen showed exactly why O'Leary was so eager to bring him to the club, as the Danish shot-stopper sped across his goal to parry the downward effort.

Wednesday January 21, 2004

Semi-final First Leg At Reebok Stadium, Attendance: 16,302, Programme Price: £2.50

BOLTON WANDERERS (3) 5 ASTON VILLA (1) 2

Okocha (2)

Nolan (9)

Giannakopoulos (17)

N'Gotty (74)

Okocha (80)

Angel (20)

Angel (56)

Bolton Wanderers (Premier)

22	Jaaskelainen	1
18	Hunt	2
5	N'Gotty	4
26	Thome	9
2	Barness (3 Charlton (63))	3
16	Campo	7
7	Stelios Giannakopoulos (9 Pedersen (69))	8
6	Djorkaeff (15 Ba (84))	17
10	Okocha	6
4	Nolan	18
14	Kevin Davies	10

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Sorensen
2	Delaney
4	Mellberg (27 Johnsen (54))
9	Dublin 90 min
3	Samuel
7	Hendrie 89 min
8	McCann 64 min
17	Whittingham
6	Barry (12 Hitzlsperger (57))
18	Angel
10	Vassell 68 min (14 Allback (77))

Substitutes not used:

1	Poole (GK)	13	Postma (GK)
25	Javi Moreno	15	De la Cruz

The managers:

Mr S Allardyce

Mr D O'Leary



The Officials

Referee: P A Durkin (Dorset)
Assistant: G B Turner
Assistant: R Bone
Fourth Official: P Dowd (Staffordshire)

KEY MOMENTS

2 mins: Okocha's free-kick curls beyond Sorenson
9 mins: Nolan doubles the lead with a rifling shot
17 mins: Giannakopoulos makes it 3-0 with an overhead kick
20 mins: Angel's floated pass gets one back for Villa
56 mins: Angel is on hand to deflect in Vassell's shot
74 mins: N'Gotty header puts Bolton 4-2 up
80 mins: Okocha powers home a second free-kick to make it 5-2

From the programme for this match:

Strikers Juan Pablo Angel and Robert Earnshaw of Aston Villa and Cardiff City respectively are the top scorers in this year's competition with five goals each, three more than Bolton Wanderers' top scorer Mario Jardel.



Jardel didn't play in either semi-final against Villa.

Tuesday January 27, 2004

Semi-final Second Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 36,883, Programme Price: £2.50

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 BOLTON WANDERERS (0) 0

Hitzlsperger (10)

Samuel (88)

Bolton win 4-5 on aggregate

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Sorensen
2 Delaney
4 Mellberg
9 Dublin
3 Samuel 26 min
7 Hendrie (17 Whittingham (49))
8 McCann (sent off 39)
12 Hitzlsperger
6 Barry
16 Crouch
10 Vassell 27 min

Bolton Wanderers (Premier)

22 Jaaskelainen
18 Hunt 41 min
5 N'Gotty
26 Thome 16 min
3 Charlton (2 Barness (68))
7 Stelios Giannakopoulos
8 Frandsen (25 Javi Moreno (88))
16 Campo
15 Ba
14 Kevin Davies 75 min
6 Djorkaeff (9 Pedersen (79))

Substitutes not used:

13	Postma (GK)	1	Poole (GK)
14	Allback	32	Vaz Te
24	Ridgewell		
27	Johnsen		

The managers:

Mr D O'Leary

Mr S Allardyce

The Officials

Referee:	S Bennett (Kent)
Assistant	P Norman
Assistant	M Tingey
Fourth Official	A P D'Urso (Essex)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 20/9 2011:
SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR...



Villa and Bolton have previously met only once in the League Cup but what an epic encounter we witnessed. And if the two-leg semi-final in January 2004 ended in heartbreak for anyone of claret and blue persuasion, it was a classic case of a glorious failure. While the Trotters went on to lose to Middlesbrough in the final, David O'Leary's men could at least content themselves with the fact that they had almost pulled off one of the most dramatic comebacks of football's modern era. It was almost a case of Mission Impossible when Villa went into the second leg trailing 5-2 from the first game at the Reebok Stadium six days earlier. Ninety pulsating minutes later they were agonisingly close to sending the tie into extra time. German midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger fired them into a 10th minute lead, sending a 20-yard free-kick over the visitors' defensive wall and into the corner of the net. And even after Gavin McCann was sent off in the 39th minute for a second bookable offence, the claret and blue troops charged forward relentlessly. Even with 10 men, they had Bolton on the ropes throughout the second half as home supporters generated a volume level not heard at Villa Park for a long time. It was just a pity that Jloyd Samuel's 88th-minute angled drive came too late to alter the outcome. If a 5-4 aggregate was no disgrace, though, Villa's players were only too aware that they had let themselves down at the Reebok. Three down inside 18 minutes to goals from Jay-Jay Okocha, Kevin Nolan and Stelios, they had battled back bravely, Juan Pablo Angel reducing the deficit with a cross-shot which sneaked inside the far post and a scrambled effort on 56 minutes. At that juncture you wouldn't have bet against Villa grabbing an equaliser but all their good work was undone when Bruno N'Gotty headed home on 74 minutes and Okocha fired a bullet free-kick inside Thomas Sorensen's near post 10 minutes from the end. That left Villa with a mountain to climb. They only just failed to reach the summit.

Bolton lost to Middlesbrough in the final 1-2

2004/05

Wednesday September 22, 2004

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,975, Programme Price: £1.50

ASTON VILLA (2) 3 QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 1

Vassell (29)
Angel (38)
Solano (78)

McLeod (48)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Sorensen
15 De la Cruz
4 Mellberg
3 Samuel
17 Whittingham
11 Solano
8 McCann
7 Hendrie (*12 Hitzlsperger (74)*)
6 Barry (*16 Berson (84)*)
9 Angel
10 Vassell (*18 Cole (60)*)

Queens Park Rangers (F.L.Championship)

1 Day
2 Bignot *38 mins*
5 Shittu
22 Gnohere (*23 Santos (73)*)
4 Edghill
14 Rowlands (*17 Cook (74)*)
6 Johnson (*29 Furlong (46)*)
19 Branco
18 McLeod
10 Gallen
15 Cureton

Subs not used:

13 Postma (GK)
24 Davis

8 Bircham
13 Cole (GK)

The managers:

Mr D O'Leary

Mr I Holloway

The Officials

Referee: G Salisbury (Lancashire)
Assistant: A Hutchinson
Assistant: D Unsworth
Fourth Official: I Evans



Tuesday October 26, 2004

Round 3 At Turf Moor, Attendance: 11,184, Programme price: £2.50

BURNLEY (1) 3 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Branch (9)
Camara (65)
Valois (85)

Angel (81)

Burnley (F.L.Championship)

1	Coyne
2	Roche
6	Duff
4	McGreal
3	Camara
11	Grant <i>34 mins</i>
17	Micah Hyde
24	Duffy
25	Valois
8	Blake (c)
9	Branch

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Sorensen
2	Delaney
4	Mellberg
19	Ridgewell
3	Samuel (<i>12 Hitzlsperger (60)</i>)
7	Hendrie
8	McCann
17	Whittingham
11	Solano (<i>22 Moore L (73)</i>)
9	Angel
18	Cole

Substitutes not used:

12	Jensen (GK)	13	Postma (GK)
26	Sanokho	15	De la Cruz
14	O'Neill	24	Davis
15	Pilkington		
16	Scott		

The managers:

Mr S Cotterill

Mr D O'Leary

The Officials

Referee:	C J Foy (Merseyside)
Assistant	G Atkins
Assistant	G Turner
Fourth Official	I M S Pike (Cumbria)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 6/11/04:

The main topics of conversation among Villa supporters heading for Turf Moor surrounded their team's potential fourth round opponents and whether a trip to Cardiff was in prospect this time around. They weren't unreasonable assumptions, either, given Burnley's status in the bottom half of the Championship and the fact that Villa were semi-finalists last season. By the end of 90 thoroughly depressing minutes, though, both notions had been blown away on the Lancashire moors. Manager Davis O'Leary rated Villa's performance as the worst of his 18-month managerial reign; those of us who have followed the club for rather longer struggled to think of anything quite as bad during the past decade. There wasn't the slightest hint of Villa taking their lower division opponents to extra-time, even after Juan Pablo Angel had powered home a header from substitute Luke Moore's right-wing centre. That was only Villa's second worthwhile attempt of the second half, the Colombian striker having earlier sent a volley not far over the bar, the visitors having otherwise been outsmarted in every department by Steve Cotterill's side. It was simply one of those nights when Villa could do nothing right, although that should not detract from the quality of Burnley's performance, which was a vast improvement on their disappointing recent league form. The Clarets were ahead after only nine minutes, Graham Branch heading in skipper Robbie Blake's left wing

cross, and although Peter Whittingham was narrowly off target with a far post header, Burnley were always the more dangerous outfit. Even when Thomas Sorenson dived to his left to claw away Blake's 55th minute penalty, it failed to inspire Villa and 10 minutes later they were two-down as Mo Camara charged into the penalty area to power home an unstoppable header from Tony Grant's driven cross. Angel's equally impressive header offered a brief glimmer of hope, particularly as Moore had made such a good run before delivering his centre, but it was not to be. Any thoughts of a dramatic late comeback were destroyed five minutes from time when Jean-Louis Valois produced some clever footwork before beating Sorenson with a fierce right foot drive.

Burnley lost 0-3 to Spurs in the next round

2005/06

Tuesday September 20, 2005

Round 2 At Adams Park, Attendance: 5,365, Programme Price: £2.00

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (3) 3 ASTON VILLA (1) 8

Tyson (6)
Johnson (18)
Mooney (39)

Davis (14)
Baros (48)
Milner (64)
Easton (69 og)
Barry (72 pen)
Barry (78)
Milner (86)
Davis (90)

Wycombe Wanderers (F.L.Division 1)

1 Talia
2 Senda
6 Williamson
5 Roger Johnson (c)
3 Easton
8 Burnell 81 mins (28 Anya (84))
4 Oakes
10 Bloomfield
9 Tyson (22 Torres (54))
16 Mooney (11 Stonebridge (79))
18 Dixon

Substitutes not used:

21 Steve Williams (GK)
12 Martin

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Sorensen
3 Samuel 86 mins
18 Hughes (15 De la Cruz (84))
19 Ridgewell
21 Cahill
6 Barry (c)
11 Milner
12 Davis
23 Berger (7 Hendrie (78))
10 Baros
9 Angel (22 Moore (68))

4 Mellberg
13 Taylor (GK)

The managers:

Mr J Gorman

Mr D O'Leary

The officials

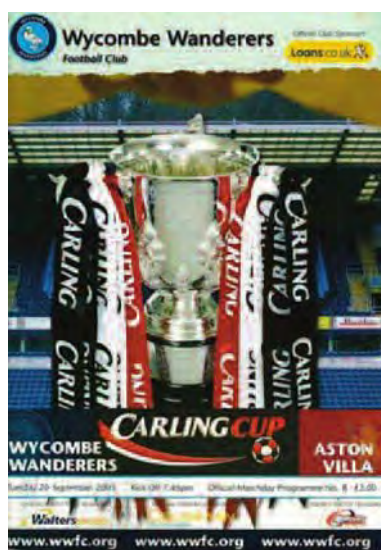
Referee	R Beeby (Northampton)
Assistant	S Chittenden
Assistant	G Snartt
Fourth Official	S Scholes



This was just the third first team game for a 'youthful' James Milner. I wonder what became of him?

From the 'Villa News & Record' for the Round 3 match against Burnley:

DEL_EIGHT_FUL



Villa rattled up eight goals in a competitive away match for only the third time in the club's 131-year history. But you wouldn't have bet on it at half-time. The thought of emulating the class of 1929 (8-0 at Clapton Orient in the FA Cup) or 1932 (8-3 at Leicester) was furthest from the minds of David O'Leary and his players as they pondered a 3-1 deficit at the Causeway Stadium. It wasn't just that Villa were trailing by two goals to Wycombe Wanderers; they had been almost totally outplayed by a team from three divisions below them and were facing an ignominious Carling Cup exit. But rarely has the tired old phrase about a game of two halves been more appropriate. Gareth Barry, skipper for the night, used it in his post-match interviews, and you could see exactly where he was coming from. The only surprise about the first half was that

Villa actually managed to score; by the end we were wondering how they hadn't won even more convincingly. After Nathan Tyson had headed Wycombe into a sixth minute lead, a well struck 14th minute equaliser from Steven Davis should have settled the visitor's nerves. Unfortunately it did no such thing and by the break John Gorman's men had added further headed goals through Roger Johnson and Tommy Mooney. Heaven Knows what might have happened if the former Blues player had converted a good chance within two minutes of the resumption. Instead, he put the ball out of the ground and it was as if Villa suddenly realised they were up against Wycombe, not a World XI. Within a minute, a fine run and cross by Aaron Hughes had set up a simple goal for Milan Baros and once James Milner had fired a 64th minute equaliser from the edge of the penalty area the outcome – if not the scoreline – was inevitable. Clint Easton's own goal put Villa ahead for the first time before Barry was on target twice in six minutes, thumping home a penalty after Baros had been brought down and then driving in a perfect pass from the Czech striker. Substitute Sergio Torres hit the post in an increasingly infrequent Wycombe attack but Milner and Davis both added their second goals in the closing minutes. And all the talk over the previous few days had been about football becoming too boring...

When James Milner scored the third goal for Villa in this match, it was also Villa's 400th goal in the League Cup. They were the first team to reach the 400 mark.

Tuesday October 25, 2005

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 26,872, Programme Price: £1.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 BURNLEY (0) 0

Phillips (21)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Sorensen
2	Delaney
4	Mellberg (c)
19	Ridgewell
3	Samuel
11	Milner
8	McCann
12	Davis
6	Barry
9	Angel (22 Moore (78))
20	Phillips

Burnley (F.L.Championship)

12	Jensen
6	Duff
5	Sinclair (c)
20	Keith Lowe
21	Harley
11	Elliott (3 Karbassiyoon (78))
7	O'Connor J
14	O'Connor G
19	Spicer (15 Noel-Williams (74))
16	McCann (22 Courtney (90))
10	Akinbiyi

Substitutes not used:

13	Taylor (GK)
14	Djemba-Djemba
15	De la Cruz
23	Berger

13	Crossley (GK)
25	Pugh

The managers:

Mr D O'Leary

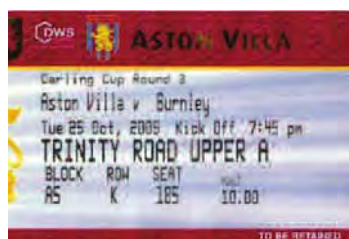
Mr S Cotterill

The officials

Referee	U D Rennie (South Yorkshire)
Assistant	M T Cassidy
Assistant	A Williams
Fourth Official	K A Friend (Leicestershire) B Curson



From the 'Aston Villa Yearbook Season 2006/07' reporting on the previous seasons matches:



Burnley again underlined the fact that getting the better of Championship teams in cup competitions is no easy matter. It took a touch of class from master marksman Kevin Phillips to secure Villa's passage into the fourth round. Twenty minutes had elapsed before either side mustered anything like a decent chance, Juan Pablo Angel heading wide from James Milner's centre. While that did not unduly trouble the visitors' defence however, Villa were ahead just a minute later. Phillips darted inside the penalty area and picked his spot with a low right-footed shot inside Brian Jensen's left hand post. Jensen wasn't inconvenienced again be-

fore the interval but at least Villa offered more threat in the second half. Angel again headed just too high from a Milner free-kick, Gareth Barry sent an angled drive narrowly off target, and Phillips had an overhead kick saved by Jensen after Angel had headed down a Barry corner. The best effort of all, though, saw substitute Luke Moore accelerate down the left in the 85th minute before cutting inside to unleash a fierce shot which was charged down by the Burnley 'keeper.

Tuesday November 29, 2005

Round 4 At Belle Vue, Attendance: 10,590, Programme Price: £2.00

DONCASTER ROVERS (1) 3 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

McIndoe (20 pen)

Heffernan (53)

Thornton (80)

Doncaster Rovers (F.L.Division 1)

36	Seremet
15	Fenton
4	Roberts S
23	Foster
30	Mulligan
26	Coppinger
8	Thornton
19	Ravenhill
21	McIndoe
7	Guy (20 Green (87))
14	Heffernan

Substitutes not used:

12	Budtz (GK)
13	Fortune-West
27	Oji
9	Roberts N

The managers:

Mr D Penney

The officials

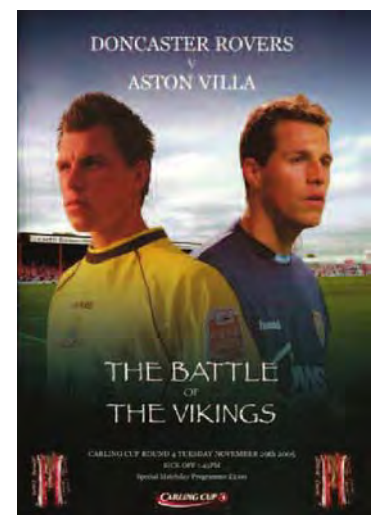
Referee	M L Dean (Wirral)
Assistant	M Cairns
Assistant	S Procter-Green
Fourth Official	C J Foy (Merseyside)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Sorensen
18	Hughes
4	Mellberg
19	Ridgewell
3	Samuel <i>54 mins (20 Phillips (59))</i>
11	Milner
8	McCann
12	Davis
6	Barry
9	Angel
10	Baros

7	Hendrie
13	Taylor (GK)
15	De la Cruz
22	Moore

Mr D O'Leary



From 'The Football League' website, posted on 27/2/10

Donny do Villa

League 1 Doncaster deservedly reached the Carling Cup quarter-finals after dumping Villa out of the competition on another famous night of giant-killing thrills in 2005. The outstanding Michael McIndoe gave Doncaster a first-half lead with a calmly taken penalty following Liam Ridgewell's handball. Early in the second-half Paul Heffernan added another, converting Lewis Guy's pass. Dave Penney's side confirmed their passage to the final eight when Sean Thornton completed the rout.

Doncaster lost to Arsenal on penalties in the quarter finals

2006/07

In 'The Iron' the Scunthorpe programme for this match, there were several articles on previous United/Villa matches, and also on players that connected the two clubs. Of these, three, Neil Cox, Geoff Sidebottom and Brian Godfrey, all won League Cup Final medals with the Villa, Cox in 1994 against Manchester United, Sidebottom in 1961 against Rotherham, with Brian Godfrey getting a losers medal in 1971.

This match was just Martin O'Neill's eleventh game in charge of the Villa.

Wednesday September 20, 2006

Round 2 At Glanford Park, Attendance: 6,502, Programme Price: £2.50

SCUNTHORPE UNITED (0) 1 ASTON VILLA (0) 2

Sharp (74)

Angel (42)

Angel (64)

Scunthorpe United (F.L.Division 1)

1 Murphy
 2 Mulligan
 5 Hinds *41 mins*
 12 Foster
 17 Williams
 15 Taylor
 7 Sparrow
 11 Baraclough (c)
 27 Morris
 24 Sharp
 19 Keogh *44 mins*

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Sorensen
 18 Hughes
 4 Mellberg *9 mins*
 19 Ridgewell
 6 Barry (c)
 11 Petrov
 8 McCann *(17 Whittingham (42))*
 12 Davis
 15 Agbonlahor
 9 Angel
 22 Moore *(10 Baros (69))*

Substitutes not used:

22 Lillis (GK)
 4 Crosby
 6 Byrne
 16 MacKenzie
 3 Ridley

13 Taylor (GK)
 5 Laursen
 23 Berger

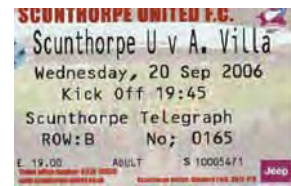
The mangers:

Mr B Laws

Mr M O'Neill

The officials

Referee T M Kettle (Berkshire)
 Assistant S A J Duncan
 Assistant G Wallace
 Fourth Official G J Sutton (Lincoln)



From the 'Aston Villa Yearbook Season 2007/08' reporting on the previous seasons matches:

On a night when three other Premiership clubs were victims of giant-killing acts, Villa were relieved to sidestep a potential banana skin and secure a place in the third round. It was only a few miles



down the road at Doncaster 10 months earlier that they suffered one of the most humiliating defeats in the club's history, but there was never any great danger of a repeat at Glanford Park. The Iron made life uncomfortable for the first 25 minutes but once the visitors had settled, the outcome was never really in doubt. Two goals from Juan Pablo Angel – one of them from a penalty rebound – established a two goal lead before Billy Sharp raised home hopes with a header 16 minutes from time. And while the issue was obviously uncertain to the final whistle, it should not be forgotten that Villa also hit the woodwork on four occasions. Angel and Gareth Barry both hit the bar, Scunthorpe's Richard Hinds inexplicably slammed the ball against the underside of his own bar, and a low Steven Davis drive came back off the inside of the post. Villa went ahead in the 42nd minute when Luke Moore was hauled down by Hinds in the penalty area. Goalkeeper Joe Murphy dived to his right to charge down Angel's

spot kick, but the Columbian reacted sharply to slot home the rebound. If there was a certain amount of fortune about the opener, the second goal was a classic, Aaron Hughes crossing from the right and Angel climbing to send a powerful header past Murphy and into the corner of the net. Scunthorpe reduced the deficit with a Billy Sharp header from a corner after the striker's original shot had been tipped behind by Thomas Sorensen.

And from John Staff's 'Official History of Scunthorpe United':

In the Second Round, Aston Villa dropped in for a change from their Premiership routine. This tie gave the Scunthorpe men the opportunity to pitch their skills against some of the best in the country. A crowd of 6,502 spectators enjoyed an entertaining ninety minutes of good football. Even though Villa did not have the lion's share of the play, it was the older claret and blues who scored a goal in each half. Scunthorpe did have their minute of fame, when Billy Sharp reduced the lead to 1-2, but it was the Villans who went further.

Tuesday October 24, 2006

Round 3 At The Walkers Stadium, Attendance: 27,288, Programme Price: £3.00

LEICESTER CITY (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (2) 3 aet

Stearman (42)
Kisnorbo (85)

Angel (5)
Barry (45 pen)
Agbonlahor (119)

Leicester City (F.L. Championship)

13 Henderson
17 Stearman
14 McAuley *86 mins*
3 Kisnorbo *90 mins*
15 Johansson
2 Maybury *100 mins*
22 Sylla *90 mins (4 Kenton (102))*
20 Wesolowski
23 Welsh *(16 Low (67))*
18 Hammond *(33 Odhiambo (76))*
7 Hume

Aston Villa (Premier)

13 Taylor
18 Hughes
4 Mellberg
19 Ridgewell
6 Barry *70 mins*
15 Agbonlahor
27 Osbourne *(16 Bouma (108))*
11 Petrov
12 Davis *(31 Agathe (91))*
9 Angel
10 Baros *(20 Sutton (67))*

Substitutes not used:

1 Douglas (GK)
11 Tiatto

25 Olejnik (GK)
5 Laursen

The managers:

Mr R Kelly

Mr M O'Neill



The officials

Referee M Clattenburg (Tyne & Wear)
Assistant G D Horwood
Assistant C D Sargison (Staffordshire)
Fourth Official P J Joslin (Nottinghamshire)

From 'The Villa News & Record' 26/9/07: Gabriel Agbolahor scored in the final moments of extra time to send Villa into the fourth round. Juan Pablo Angel slid Villa ahead, bur Richard Stearman slammed home to level. Gareth Barry put Villa back in front from the penalty spot, but Patrick Kisnorbo's header made it 2-2. Barry had a second penalty saved before the end of normal time but Agbonlahor had the final say.



Wednesday November 8, 2006

Round 4 At Stamford Bridge, Attendance: 41,516, Programme price: £3.00

CHELSEA (1) 4 ASTON VILLA (0) 0

Lampard (32)
 Shevchenko (65)
 Essien (82)
 Drogba (84)

Chelsea (Premier)

23 Cudicini
 14 Geremi
 9 Boulahrouz *24 mins*
 6 Carvalho
 18 Bridge
 4 Makelele (*19 Diarra (85)*)
 8 Lampard (c)
 5 Essien
 13 Ballack (*10 J Cole (75)*)
 7 Shevchenko (*21 Kalou (75)*)
 11 Drogba

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Sorensen
 16 Bouma
 4 Mellberg
 5 Laursen (*19 Ridgewell 73 mins (46)*)
 18 Hughes
 6 Barry (c) (*23 Berger (45)*)
 8 McCann *49 mins*
 11 Petrov
 12 Davis (*10 Baros (71)*)
 15 Agbonlahor
 9 Angel

Substitutes not used:

40 Hilario GK
 24 Wright-Phillips

13 Taylor GK
 27 Osbourne

The managers:

Mr J Mourinho

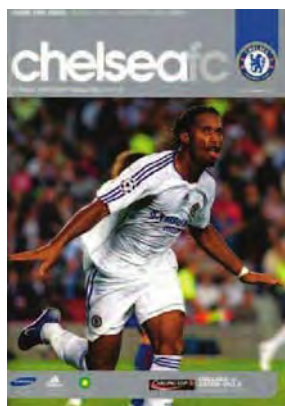
Mr M O'Neill

The officials

Referee M R Halsey (Lancashire)
 Assistant G Ward (Surrey)
 Assistant M Yerby
 Fourth Official L Probert (Gloucestershire)



From the 'Aston Villa Yearbook Season 2007/08' reporting on the previous seasons matches: Six thousand supporters headed to the capital after the club offered free coach travel to Stamford Bridge, and they were as vocal at the final whistle as they had been before kick-off. Unfortunately Chelsea were equally relentless on the pitch. Whilst the visiting contingent out-shouted the home supporters, Jose Mourinho's aristocrats gradually wore down Villa and were a class apart in the closing stages. Villa comfortably withstood the Londoners' early pressure but it was an uphill battle after Frank Lampard had headed the opening goal from Michael Ballack's 32nd minute centre. The cause was hardly helped when skipper Gareth Barry limped out of the action with a back injury in first half stoppage time and Martin Laursen failed to appear for the second period having suffered medial ligament damage to his right knee. One substitute, Liam Ridgewell, did an admirable job at the back, while the other, Patrik Berger, welcomed the chance of a rare slice of action but there was never any real prospect of a comeback. A speculative 54th minute cross from Steven Davis almost embarrassed Carlo Cudicini as the home goalkeeper tipped over at the last second but that was Villa's



final threat as an attacking force. Six minutes later their fate was all but sealed when Andriy Shevchenko met Lampard's cross with a glancing header into the far corner and from that moment few sides would have lived with Jose Mourinho's powerful machine. Michael Essien and Didier Drogba piled on the agony with further goals in the final eight minutes and by the end Villa were a well-beaten side.

I am aware that the report gives Chelsea's second goal as being in the 60th minute, but lists (including this yearbook) show it as having been scored in the 65th. You takes your choice!

Chelsea won the cup this year beating Arsenal 2-1 in the final

2007/8

Tuesday August 28, 2007

Round 2 At The Racecourse Ground, Attendance: 8,221, Programme Price: £2.50

WREXHAM (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 5

Maloney (29)
Moore (51)
Reo-Coker (62)
Maloney (70)
Harewood (77)

Wrexham (F.L.Division 2)

13 Michael Jones
2 Spender
4 Pejic
5 Evans
3 Valentine 77 mins
22 Murtagh (21 Marc Williams (53))
18 Mackin
7 Mark Jones
14 E Williams (25 Taylor (77))
10 Proctor (17 Johnson (59))
11 Llewellyn

Aston Villa (Premier)

13 Taylor
26 Gardner
4 Mellberg
21 Cahill
6 Barry
11 Agbonlahor
27 Osbourne
20 Reo-Coker (19 Petrov (66))
28 Maloney
8 Moore
9 Harewood

Substitutes not used:

1 Anthony Williams GK
15 Mike Williams

22 Carson GK
5 Laursen
7 Ashley Young
10 Carew

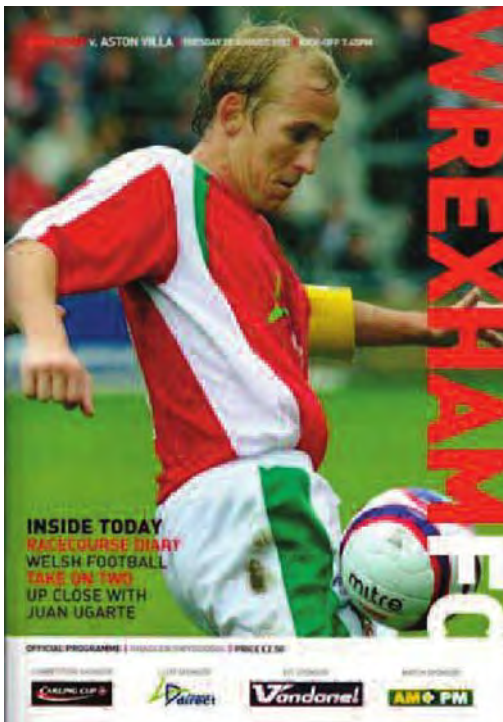
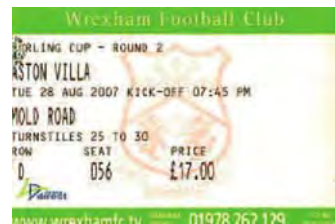
The managers:

Mr B Carey

Mr M O'Neill

The officials

Referee G Laws (Tyne & Wear)
 Assistant G Hilton
 Assistant I Nolan
 Fourth Official J Lloyd (Wrexham)



From the 'Aston Villa Yearbook Season 2008/09' reporting on the previous seasons matches:

Villa produced a thoroughly professional performance to comfortably negotiate their first hurdle in the Carling Cup on a night when Nigel Reo-Coker and Marlon Harewood both scored their first goals for the club. Even those two, though, were overshadowed by Shaun Maloney, who followed up his late winner against Fulham by scoring twice at the Racecourse Ground. The Scottish midfielder opened the scoring on 29 minutes, collecting the ball 40 yards out and jinking towards the edge of the penalty area as Wrexham defenders back-pedalled, before curling a low shot into the bottom corner. There was a brief threat of an equaliser just after half-time when Stuart Taylor saved twice in a couple of minutes from Eifion Williams and Chris Llewellyn but that was the extent of the goalkeeper's inconvenience.

Villa increased the tempo, Harewood hitting the post with an angled shot on the turn before Luke Moore doubled the lead, heading past goalkeeper Michael Jones from Gareth Barry's 51st minute free-kick. Reo-Coker scored his first Villa goal 11 minutes later, moving on to Harewood's pass and charging through a Shaun Pejic challenge to calmly roll the ball past Jones, before Maloney claimed his second with the goal of the night, a 30-yarder into the far corner from wide of the left. Isaiah Osbourne almost added his name to the score-sheet when he found space on 76 minutes to unleash a tremendous rising shot which was brilliantly tipped away by Jones at full stretch. But the save was merely a brief respite for Wrexham. From Maloney's resulting corner kick, Harewood nudged the ball home at the near post to join his former West Ham pal Reo-Coker in opening his Villa account.

Wednesday September 26, 2007

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 25,956, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 0

LEICESTER CITY (0) 1

Fryatt (75)

Aston Villa (Premier)

13	Taylor
4	Mellberg
15	Davies (<i>23 Berger (80)</i>)
16	Knight
6	Barry (c)
19	Petrov
27	Osbourne (<i>7 Young A (71)</i>)
20	Reo-Coker
28	Maloney
9	Harewood (<i>8 Moore L (76)</i>)
11	Agbonlahor

Leicester City (F.L. Championship)

21	Fulop
4	N'Gotty
5	McAuley
3	Kisnorbo
2	Chambers
6	Clemence (c) 74 mins
8	Kishishev (<i>27 Maybury (66)</i>)
17	Stearman
23	Mattock
7	Hume (<i>10 Campbell (62)</i>)
12	Fryatt (<i>28 Kenton (81)</i>)

Substitutes not used:

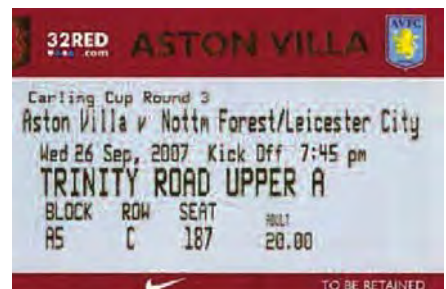
22	Carson (GK)	31	Henderson (GK)
26	Gardner	16	Sheehan

The managers:

Mr M O'Neill Mr G Megson

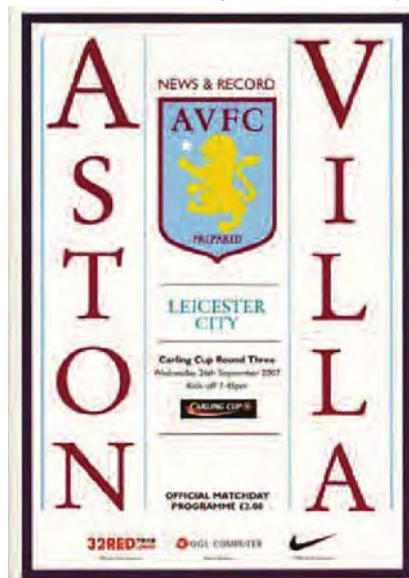
The officials

Referee	L. Mason (Lancashire)
Assistant	J Flynn (Wiltshire)
Assistant	R Ganfield
Fourth Official	R Shoebridge (Derbyshire)



From the 'Aston Villa Yearbook Season 2008/09' reporting on the previous seasons matches:

Defeat invariably means disappointment but sometimes it results in total dejection. That was most



definitely the case after Villa had made their exit from the Carling Cup at the second hurdle. There had been the feeling around Villa Park that this might just be the season for Martin O'Neill's men to enjoy an extended run in the competition which offers a route into Europe. But any such notion was well and truly dispelled during the course of 90 depressing minutes. Villa most certainly didn't underestimate their Championship opponents – their manager would never have allowed any hint of complacency – but they simply couldn't do anything right on the night. By the time Leicester broke away for Matt Fryatt to grab the winner on 75 minutes, in fact, there was almost an air of acceptance around a subdued and sparsely populated arena that Villa simply weren't going to score. Right from the outset, the home side struggled to get going, and it was difficult to Believe that Villa had just reeled off three consecutive home wins.

True, Gabby Agbonlahor had a fierce shot deflected wide in the opening half, while Shaun Maloney's volley was brilliantly tipped over by Marton Fulop. Leicester's goalkeeper also had to be at his best immediately after half-time when Agbonlahor met Gareth Barry's inswinging corner with a header

which Marton clawed to safety. But it was only in the final 10 minutes, as the tie was slipping away from them, that Villa's urgency became evident. During that closing period, the lively Maloney sent a low drive just wide and had a 20-yard free-kick tipped away by Fulop, while Agbonlahor was not far off target with a low shot on the turn before hooking just over in stoppage time.

Leicester lost 3-4 to Chelsea in round 4

2008/9

Wednesday September 24, 2008

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 21,541, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 0 QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 1
Stewart (58)

Aston Villa (Premier)

22	Guzan	
26	Gardner	60 mins
24	Cuellar	36 mins
16	Knight	
21	Shorey	
27	Osbourne	(18 Routledge (67))
19	Petrov	
6	Barry	
7	Ashley Young	
9	Harewood	(11 Agbonlahor (67))
10	Carew	

Q.P.R. (F.L.Championship)

24	Cerny	
16	Connolly	
5	Hall	
3	Stewart	
2	Delaney	81 mins
4	Mahon	
14	Rowlands	
7	Parejo	
20	Ledesma	(19 Balanta (90))
10	Buzsaky	(6 Leigertwood (81))
11	Agyemang	(22 Di Carmine (66))

Substitutes not used:

1	Friedel	(GK)
14	Delfouneso	
15	Davies	
17	Salifou	
20	Reo-Coker	

1	Camp	(GK)
9	Blackstock	
13	Gorkss	
25	Ephraim	

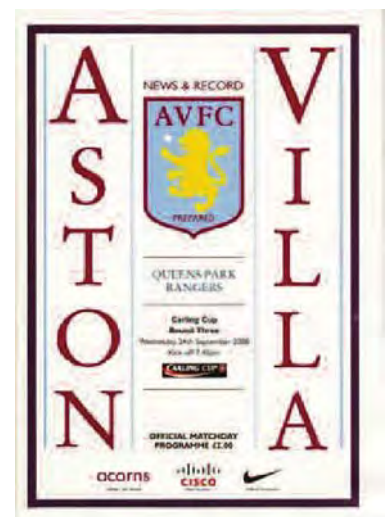
The managers:

Mr M O'Neill

Mr I Dowie

The officials

Referee	L S Mason (Lancashire)
Assistant	J Colin
Assistant	P J Kirkup
Fourth Official	S J Bratt (West Midlands)



Match report from 'The Villa News & Record' 18/10/08:

SEPTEMBER 24

For the second successive season, Villa go out of the Carling Cup at the third round stage. Martin O'Neill's men are on top for long periods of the home tie against Queens Park Rangers but lose 1-0 to a 58th minute Damion Stewart goal

QPR lost 0-1 to Manchester United in the next round

2009/10

Wednesday September 23, 2009

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 22,527, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (1) | CARDIFF CITY (0) 0

Agbonlahor (3)

Aston Villa (Premier)

22 Guzan
 23 Beye *77 mins*
 24 Cuellar
 29 Collins
 21 Shorey
 8 Milner
 16 Delph *61 mins*
 19 Petrov (c)
 26 Gardner (*12 Albrighton (76)*)
 10 Carew
 11 Agbonlahor

Cardiff City (F.L.Championship)

20 Enkleman
 27 Matthews
 6 Gyepes *58 mins*
 15 Gerrard
 12 Capaldi
 11 Burke
 4 Rae (*28 Wildig (90)*)
 19 Scimeca (*8 Chopra (60)*)
 16 Ledley
 7 Whittingham
 9 Bothroyd

Substitutes not used

1 Friedel (GK)	1 Marshall (GK)
4 Sidwell	5 Hudson
5 Dunne	14 Quinn
14 Delfouneso	24 Comminges
25 Warnock	29 Magennis
47 Clark	

The managers:

Mr M O'Neill

Mr D Jones

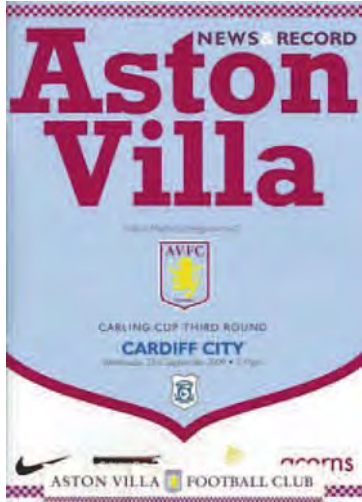
The officials

Referee A Taylor (Manchester)
 Assistant K Hayward



Assistant G Stretton
 Fourth Official K Wright (Cambridgeshire)

From 'The Villa News & Record', 5/10/09:



Of all the results in Villa's run of six straight victories, this was perhaps the most predictable. While the Barclays Premier League will always be a priority, it was important for Martin O'Neill and his players to put an end to what had become a worrying trend in the Carling Cup. The previous two seasons had seen us go out of the competition at the first hurdle, on both occasions at home to opposition from a lower division. But where Leicester City and QPR had sneaked away from Villa Park with 1-0 victories, Cardiff City returned home to Wales empty-handed after Gabby Agbonlahor's fourth goal in as many games secured our progress to the next junction of a road which will hopefully lead to Wembley. It was a goal, too, which would have graced a final, never mind a third round tie, the striker's confidence shining through as he almost impudently met John Carew's low cross from the right with a clever back-heel into the far corner of the net. Ahead in less than three minutes, Villa's nerves were settled against a team whose Championship form had given every indication they might well lay another Carling Cup banana-skin in our path. The Bluebirds were certainly plucky opponents, displaying a willingness to engage in an open entertaining contest although, in fairness, they had little option after falling behind so early. Even in stoppage time Cardiff were still pressing for an equaliser, and were convinced they had achieved it when Jay Bothroyd nudged the ball home from close range following a free-kick. Thankfully, a linesman's flag was raised – and the boys in claret and blue were through to the fourth round.

Tuesday October 27, 2009

Round 4 At The Stadium of Light, Attendance: 27,666, Programme price: £2.00

SUNDERLAND (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 0 aet

Aston Villa win 3 – 1 on penalties

Sunderland (Premier)

1 Gordon
 22 Da Silva
 6 Nosworthy
 4 Turner
 3 McCartney (5 Ferdinand 82 mins (78))
 9 Campbell (8 Malbranque (95))
 16 Henderson 71 mins
 19 Cana
 10 Richardson
 14 Murphy (20 Reid (73))
 17 Jones

Aston Villa (Premier)

22 Guzan
 24 Cuellar
 29 Collins 84 mins
 5 Dunne
 25 Warnock 15 mins
 8 Milner
 20 Reo-Coker (16 Delph (91))
 19 Petrov 45 mins (4 Sidwell (115))
 7 Young A
 11 Agbonlahor
 18 Heskey (10 Carew (78))

Substitutes not used

18 Meyler
 23 Healy
 32 Fulop GK
 26 Reed

1 Friedel GK
 2 Young L
 21 Shorey
 23 Beye

The managers:
 Mr S Bruce

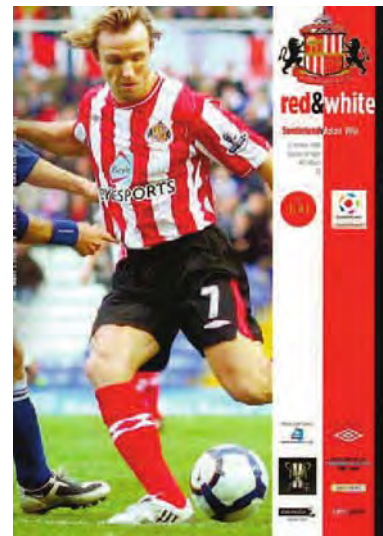
Mr M O'Neill

Penalty Kicks

Reid (Sunderland) – saved	0-0
Carew (Aston Villa) – scored	0-1
Cana (Sunderland) – saved	0-1
Collins (Aston Villa) – scored	0-2
Malbranque (Sunderland) – scored	1-2
Agbonlahor (Aston Villa) – saved	1-2
Henderson (Sunderland) – saved	1-2
Young A (Aston Villa) – scored	1-3

The Officials

Referee	P Dowd (Staffordshire)
Assistant	D Coote (Nottingham)
Assistant	N Bannister (East Yorkshire)
Fourth Official	N Miller (Co DAham)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 29/12/09:

Sandwiched between two stalemates [against Wolves and Everton] Villa drew against Sunderland. The fourth round Carling Cup-tie ends goalless after extra time before Villa emerge 3-1 winners in the penalty shoot-out. Goalkeeper Brad Guzan is the hero, saving three Sunderland spot kicks in addition to his penalty save from Kenwyne Jones in normal time. Luke Young returned to action after a long injury lay-off.

This was a match that I was privileged to be at. Villa played extremely well with no luck at all, and the match was won by Brad Guzan and his terrific ability to save penalties!

Tuesday December 1, 2009

Round 5 At Fratton Park, Attendance: 17,034, Programme Price: £2.50

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (2) 4

Petrov (og 10)
 Kanu (87)

Heskey (12)
 Milner (27)
 Downing (74)
 Young A (89)

Portsmouth (Premier)

31	Begovic
18	Vanden Borre 55 mins
26	Ben-Haim
3	Kaboul 82 mins
7	Hreidarsson
39	Belhadj
22	Hughes (35 Wilson (85))
32	Yebda
11	Brown 53 mins
17	Utaka (9 Piquionne (76))
19	Webber(27 Kanu (65))

Aston Villa (Premier)

22	Guzan
2	Young L
5	Dunne
24	Cuellar
25	Warnock
8	Milner 59 mins
19	Petrov
6	Downing
11	Agbonlahor 87 mins
18	Heskey (14 Delfouneso (90))
7	Young A

Substitutes not used:

21	Ashdown (GK)
33	Basinas
24	Dindane
6	Mullins

1	Friedel (GK)
16	Delph
20	Reo-Coker
23	Beye
26	Gardner
47	Clark

The managers:

Mr A Grant

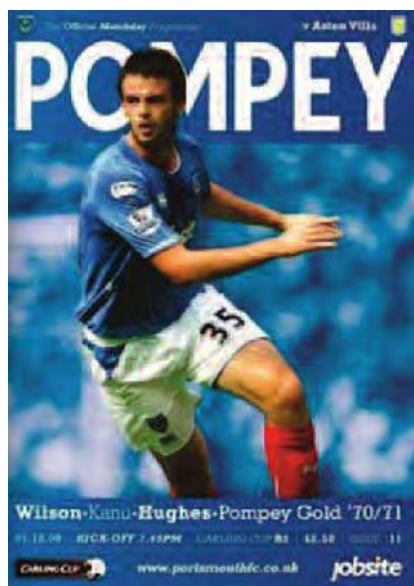
Mr M O'Neill

The Officials

Referee:	Lee Mason (Lancashire)
Assistant:	J Flynn (Wiltshire)
Assistant:	M Murphy
Fourth Official:	P Walton (Northamptonshire)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 29/12/09:



Martin O'Neill's men clinch a place in the Carling Cup semi-finals, beating Portsmouth 4-2 at Fratton Park with goals from Emile Heskey, Ashley Young, Stewart Downing – his first for the club – and Ashley Young. The semi-final pairs us with Blackburn Rovers.

And from the Rovers Semi-final programme:

Stewart Downing scored on his first Aston Villa start as Martin O'Neill's men came from behind to see off Portsmouth in a thriller on the South Coast. Stilian Petrov sliced a corner into his own net to give Pompey an early lead, but Emile Heskey ran through on goal to chip Villa level less than two minutes later. James Milner's superb long-range shot put the visitors ahead and Downing's second-half header, from Ashley Young's cross, seemed to have settled the tie. Substitute Nwanko Kanu's 87th-minute strike gave Portsmouth hope, but [Ashley] Young secured the win with a finish into the roof

of the net a minute from full time.

Thursday January 14, 2010

Semi-final First Leg At Ewood Park, Attendance: 18,595, Programme price: £3.00

BLACKBURN ROVERS (0) 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 1

Milner (23)

Blackburn Rovers (Premier)

1	Robinson	
2	Jacobsen	(21 Olsson (45))
4	Samba	
6	Nelsen	
27	Salgado	(16 Reid (70))
39	Chimbonda	
7	Emerton	
8	Dunn	
12	Pedersen	(10 McCarthy 90 mins (74))
15	N'Zonzi	
22	Kalinic	

Aston Villa (Premier)

22	Guzan	
5	Dunne	
24	Cuellar	
25	Warnock	
29	Collins	
6	Downing	
7	Young A	
8	Milner	
19	Petrov	
11	Agbonlahor	39 mins
18	Heskey	(4 Sidwell (70))

Substitutes not used:

32	Brown	(GK)
28	Jones	
23	Hoilett	
26	Di Santo	

1	Friedel	(GK)
2	Young L	
23	Beye	
16	Delph	
10	Carew	
20	Reo-Coker	

The managers:

Mr S Allardyce

Mr M O'Neill

The Officials

Referee:	M Clattenberg (S Bennett (Kent) in programme)
Assistant:	D Cann (Norfolk)
Assistant:	J Flynn (Wiltshire)
Fourth Official:	C Foy (Merseyside)

This match was due to be played on Tuesday January 5th, as the ticket shows, but it was actually played on Thursday 14th.



Match report from 'The Villa News & Record' semi-final programme:

James Milner was the star of the show as he produced a high-octane performance in central mid-field, as well as scoring an all-important away goal. Milner has played in a variety of positions so far this



season – even at left back for his country – but it was in the middle ground where he showed his class and composure against Blackburn. If his performance had been judged on attitude and application he would have gained full marks but throw in a goal of true quality and you appreciate his value to the team. After helping boss the centre of the park in the early stages, he opened the scoring for Villa following a quick break. Milner charged forward towards the Rovers goal with wing wonder Stewart Downing keeping track with him down the right. Milner fed Downing before the former Middlesbrough man returned the pass, and Martin O'Neill's men were a goal to the good. It was thoroughly deserved after a terrific spell of play at the start of this contest. The first game in a two-leg tie is often a tight and cagey affair but this proved an exception as Villa played creative and expansive football throughout, while Rovers also produced a spell of pressure after the break. It ended 1-0 but as the manager said in his post-match press conference – despite the advantage – the

tie is still very much in the balance.

Wednesday January 20, 2010

Semi-final Second Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 40,406, *Programme price: £5.00

ASTON VILLA (2) 6 BLACKBURN ROVERS (2) 4

Warnock (30)
 Milner (40 pen)
 N'Zonzi (og 53)
 Agbonlahor (58)
 Heskey (62)
 A Young (90)

Kalinic (10)
 Kalinic (26)
 Olsson (63)
 Emerton (84)

Aston Villa (Premier)

22 Guzan
 25 Warnock
 24 Cuellar
 5 Dunne
 29 Collins
 6 Downing (4 Sidwell (86))
 8 Milner 28 mins
 7 Young A
 19 Petrov (c)
 18 Heskey 61 mins
 11 Agbonlahor

Blackburn Rovers (Premier)

1 Robinson
 39 Chimbonda
 6 Nelsen
 4 Samba sent off 39 mins
 21 Olsson
 5 Givet 39 mins
 8 Dunn (10 McCarthy (56))
 12 Pedersen
 7 Emerton
 15 N'Zonzi (16 Reid (61))
 22 Kalinic (26 Di Santo (72))

added time that we were able to breathe a sigh of relief and begin to appreciate that our efforts in the competition have secured us a much-coveted date at Wembley on February 28th.

Sunday February 28, 2010

Final At Wembley, Attendance: 88,596, Programme price: £7.00

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 MANCHESTER UNITED (1) 2

Milner (5 pen)

Owen (12)

Rooney (74)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Brad Friedel
5	Richard Dunne
24	Carlos Cuellar (10 John Carew (80))
25	Stephen Warnock
29	James Collins 11 mins
6	Stewart Downing 18 mins
7	Ashley Young
8	James Milner
19	Stilian Petrov (c)
11	Gabriel Agbonlahor
18	Emile Heskey

Manchester United (Premier)

29	Kuszczak
3	Evra 41 mins (c)
15	Vidic 68 mins
21	Da Silva (2 G Neville (66))
23	Evans
13	Park (28 Gibson (85))
16	Carrick
24	Fletcher
25	Valencia
7	Owen (10 Rooney (42))
9	Berbatov

Substitutes not used:

22	Brad Guzan (GK)
2	Luke Young
4	Steve Sidwell
23	Habib Beye
16	Fabian Delph
14	Nathan Delfouneso

12	Foster (GK)
6	Brown
18	Scholes
32	Biram Diouf

The managers:

Mr Martin O'Neill

Sir Alex Ferguson

The Officials

Referee:	P Dowd (Staffordshire)
Assistant:	S Proctor-Green (Lincolnshire)
Assistant:	D Richardson (Yorkshire)
Fourth Official:	L Mason (Lancashire)
Reserve Assistant:	N Bannister (East Yorkshire)



A report on the match from the Carling Cup website: www.carling.com/carlingcup

Aston Villa 1-2 Manchester United (2010)

In 2010, we saw the 50th season of the Carling Cup come to its conclusion. Villa took the lead in

the 5th minute with a James Milner penalty kick, only to be cancelled out by the experienced Michael Owen seven minutes later. After half time, Wayne Rooney, having replaced the injured Michael Owen just before half time, fired home 16 minutes from time to give the Red Devils a hard fought victory. Having beaten Tottenham Hotspur in the previous year's final, Fergie's men became the first team to retain the Carling Cup title since Nottingham Forest in 1990, yet another feat for the Scotsman.

At the end of the season Richard Dunne and James Milner both were voted into the Professional Footballers' Association Premier League Team of the year, a great accolade. They joined John Gidman and Ray Graydon from the 1974/75 PFA Second Division Team of the Year, John Gidman (again) and Andy Gray. 1995/96 Ugo Ehiogu and Alan Wright



Ah, what could have been!

2010/11

From 'The Villa News & Record', 18/9/10:

When Villa and Blackburn Rovers met in last season's Carling Cup semi-final they had never previously been paired together throughout the competition's 50-year history. Who could possibly have imagined, then, that Villa's next draw would throw up a repeat of that never-to-be-forgotten encounter in January?

Wednesday September 22, 2010

Round 3 At Villa Park, Attendance: 18,753, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 3 BLACKBURN ROVERS (1) 1

Heskey (59)

Young A (75)

Young A (77)

Givet (34)

Aston Villa (Premier)

22	Guzan
3	Warnock
21	Clark (15 Davies (76))
24	Cuellar
30	Lichaj
4	Sidwell
7	Young A
20	Reo-Coker
25	Bannan
10	Carew (18 Heskey (58))
11	Agbonlahor (14 Delfouneso (31))

Blackburn Rovers (Premier)

13	Bunn
3	Olsson
5	Givet
6	Nelsen (4 Samba (66))
28	Jones
39	Chimbonda
7	Emerton
12	Pedersen
15	N'Zonzi
21	Benjani (41 Biram Diouf (62))
23	Hoilett (9 Kalinic (78))

Substitutes not used:

1	Friedel (GK)	10	Diouf EH
17	Salifou	14	Linganzi
23	Beye	33	Morris
27	Osbourne	34	Fielding (GK)

The managers:

Mr G Houllier Mr S Allardyce

The Officials

Referee: C Foy (Merseyside)
 Assistant: M Cairns
 Assistant: M Yerby
 Fourth Official: S Tanner (Somerset)



From 'The Villa News & Record' for the next Round match against Burnley:



Villa's 3-1 win against Blackburn Rovers in the third round was Gerard Houllier's first game in charge of the team. The only previous occasion on which a Villa Manager's first match was a League Cup-tie was in September 1986 when Villa played a second round, first leg tie at Reading two days after Billy McNeill arrived. After a 1-1 draw, Villa won the home leg 4-1.

Wednesday October 27, 2010

Round 4 At Villa Park, Attendance: 34,618, Programme price: £2.00

ASTON VILLA (0) 2 BURNLEY (0) 1 aet

Heskey (85) Carlisle (89)
 Downing (96)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Friedel
21	Clark
23	Beye
24	Cuellar
30	Lichaj
4	Sidwell (29 Collins (118))
7	Young A
9	Ireland (18 Heskey 89 mins (59))
12	Albrighton sent off 100 mins
20	Reo-Coker 81 mins
25	Bannan (6 Downing (64))

Substitutes not used:

22	Guzan (GK)
28	Hogg
35	Johnson
14	Delfouneso

The managers:

Mr G Houllier

The Officials

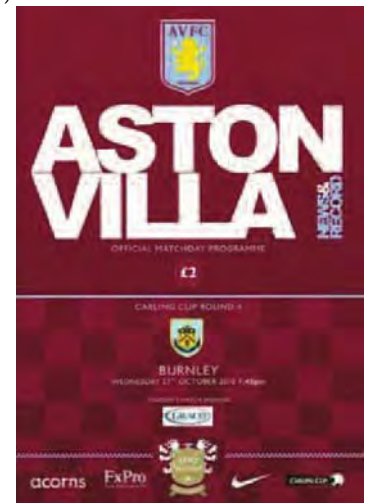
Referee:	M J Jones (Chester)
Assistant:	R Ganfield
Assistant:	S Long
Fourth Official:	S Tanner (Somerset)

Burnley (Npower Championship)

1	Grant
2	Alexander
3	Fox
4	Duff
5	Carlisle
14	Mears
6	Cork (30 Thompson (87))
8	Marney (11 Elliott (69))
22	Wallace
10	Paterson (9 Iwelumo (106))
19	Rodriguez

12	Jensen (GK)
15	Edgar
21	Bikey
24	Easton

Mr B Laws



From the Villa Diary in the programme for the Manchester United match on 13th November 2010:

Stewart Downing's extra-time goal secures a 2-1 victory over Burnley in the fourth round of the Carling Cup. Emile Heskey had opened the scoring in the 85th-minute, with Clark Carlisle heading a late equaliser to force the

additional 30 minutes.

Wednesday December 1, 2010

Round 5 At St. Andrews, Attendance: 27,679, Programme price: £3.00

BIRMINGHAM CITY (1) 2 ASTON VILLA (1) 1

Larsson (12 (pen))
Zigic (84)

Agbonlahor (30)

Birmingham City (Premier)

26	Foster
2	Carr 62 mins
5	Johnson
6	Ridgewell
15	Dann 49 mins
4	Bowyer (8 Gardner (65))
7	Larsson (3 Murphy (87))
12	Ferguson
18	Fahey
10	Jerome
19	Zigic (14 Derbyshire (90))

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Friedel
2	L Young
3	Warnock (14 Delfouneso (90))
5	Dunne
21	Clark
29	Collins 90 mins
6	Downing
7	A Young 82 mins
25	Bannan (9 Ireland (73))
28	Hogg 72 mins (8 Pires (90))
11	Agbonlahor

Substitutes not used:

1	Taylor (GK)	22	Guzan (GK)
28	Jiranek	24	Cuellar
17	Michel	30	Lichaj
23	Beausejour	10	Carew

The managers:

Mr A McLeish

Mr G Houllier

The Officials

Referee:	C Foy (Merseyside)
Assistant:	D Cann (Norfolk)
Assistant:	R Pollock (Merseyside)
Fourth Official:	H Webb (South Yorkshire)



This was the last League Cup match that Brad Friedel played for Aston Villa. In doing so he became the oldest player to represent Villa in the League Cup at 39 years and 163 days. On 22nd May 2011 Brad made his last appearance for Villa and became Villa's oldest ever player at 40 years and 4 days.

From 'The Villa News & Record' 11/12/10:

ACTION REPLAY

Villa's hopes of a second consecutive Carling Cup final were cruelly dashed on a night to forget at St. Andrew's. Just when it seemed that extra-time was looming in this quarter-final clash, Gerard Houllier's men found themselves victims of a sucker punch. The visitors had been on top for most of the second half, displaying the sort of poise and patience which most observers felt would carry them through to the last four. Instead, it's our neighbours who can look forward to a two-leg semi-final against West Ham next month after plundering an unlikely winner six minutes from the end. Nikola Zigic had barely posed a threat to Villa's defence – indeed, his most significant contribution had been to clear a James Collins header off the line – but when Cameron Jerome crossed low from the right in a rare Birmingham attack, The Serbian striker got in a close-range shot. Even that might have been saved by Brad Friedel, but Luke Young's brave block tackle caused the ball to loop



over the keeper's despairing reach and into the net. It was a devastating blow to a Villa side who had been technically superior and had looked perfectly capable of extending their unbeaten sequence over Blues to eight matches. Even the disappointment of falling behind after 12 minutes was no great inconvenience. Although Seb Larsson sent Friedel the wrong way from the penalty spot after Richard Dunne had brought down Lee Bowyer, Villa were not distracted from their thoughtful, methodical approach. Ironically, though, our 30th-minute equaliser arrived less than 60 seconds after the home side had thought that they had doubled their lead. The ball appeared to have crossed the line before Friedel clawed away Zigic's close-range shot, and there was great relief when a linesman flagged Liam Ridgewell offside. But Villa swept straight to the other end, Ashley Young and Jonathan Hogg combining to set up Gabby Agbonlahor for a precise low right-foot shot on the turn. Keeper Ben Foster was well beaten as the ball flew into the far corner from 15 yards. Although both Jerome and Agbonlahor went close within a minute

of each other at the start of the second half, Villa then assumed almost total control, pinning Alex McLeish's team back in their own half for long periods. Barry Bannan saw one low shot well saved by Foster and then had an effort deflected for a corner before making way for Stephen Ireland – who was even closer to scoring in the 81st minute. The midfielder's stinging low drive was tipped away by Foster, with Young just failing to capitalise on the rebound. Even after Zigic's winner, Ciaran Clark almost forced an additional 30 minutes with a header which flashed just over – but it wasn't to be.

Birmingham City went on to win the Cup, beating Arsenal in the final 2-1, but then completed an unfortunate double by being relegated

2011/12

Tuesday August 23, 2011

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 21,058, Programme Price £3.00

Aston Villa (0) 2 Hereford United (0) 0

Lichaj (80)

Delfouneso (88)

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 22 Guzan
- 5 Dunne (c)
- 21 Clark
- 30 Lichaj *70 mins*
- 7 Ireland
- 10 N'Zogbia *(14 Delfouneso (59))*
- 12 Albrighton
- 17 Makoun
- 25 Bannan
- 31 Herd *(23 Beye (87))*
- 9 Bent *(26 Weimann 77 mins (73))*

Hereford United (Npower League 2)

- 28 Cornell
- 2 Green
- 3 Heath
- 5 Townsend
- 16 Williams
- 4 Pell
- 8 Featherstone
- 14 McQuilkin *(11 Lunt (60))*
- 17 Colbeck
- 7 Fleetwood *(30 John (90))*
- 10 Facey (c) *(9 Arquin (72))*

Substitutes not used

- 33 Marshall (GK)
- 28 Hogg
- 32 Baker
- 34 Lowry

- 38 Houl (GK)
- 19 McCarthy
- 31 Feeley
- 32 Perkins

The managers:

Mr A McLeish

Mr J Pitman

The Officials

- Referee: K Wright (Cambridgeshire)
- Assistant: K Lawson
- Assistant: P Wright
- Fourth Official: W Barratt



From 'The Villa News & Record' 27/8/11:
ACTION REPLAY



We will be roughly 10 minutes into today's game with Wolves when the draw takes place for the third round of the Carling Cup. Whoever our opponents happen to be, they are unlikely to be any more resolute than Hereford United were in Tuesday's second round tie. The Bulls arrived here as a team languishing at the foot of League Two. They left with their heads held high after a brave battling performance almost earned them extra time against Alex McLeish's men. In fairness, there was never any real prospect of an upset, but who knows what might have happened had the tie gone to an additional 30 minutes? Thankfully, that unsettling scenario was dispelled in the last 10 minutes when Villa finally broke down the visitors' stubborn resistance. Eric Lichaj certainly won't forget this game in a hurry. The American full-back scored his first senior goal and it effectively booked Villa's passage into round three. Lichaj was alert as Hereford defenders hesitated

as the ball took a ricochet in a crowded goalmouth in the 80th minute, ramming the ball home as the visitors failed to clear Marc Albrighton's corner. The second goal, two minutes from the end, was manufactured by Villa's three substitutes. Habib Beye, who had joined the action only a minute earlier, floated a cross to the far post, Andreas Weimann headed down and Nathan Delfouneso executed a simple tap-in. In an instant, it all seemed so simple and straightforward. Earlier, it had been anything but. Despite dominating from first whistle to last, Villa were frustrated again and again by the visitors' solid defending, the occasional pool final pass or, for the most part by goalkeeper David Cornell. The Wales under-21 keeper made a series of outstanding saves, including one from Lichaj's powerful 53-minute rising drive, which was destined for the roof of the net until Cornell tipped it over. That would have been an even better goal for the 22-year-old USA international to savour, although he certainly wasn't alone in being thwarted by the youngster between Hereford's posts. Cornell also tipped over a Ciaran Clark header, spread himself to keep out Stephen Ireland's ferocious close-range drive and then managed to tip a Darren Bent header on to the inside of the post. Those were just a few of the chances which came and went before Lichaj and Delfouneso finished the job.

Tuesday September 20, 2011

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 22,261, Programme Price £3.00

Aston Villa (0) 0 Bolton Wanderers (0) 2

Eagles (54)

Kakuta (77)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Given
 2 Hutton
 3 Warnock
 5 Dunne
 6 Collins
 7 Ireland
 12 Albrighton (10 N'Zogbia (73))
 19 S Petrov (c)
25 Bannan 86 mins
 11 Agbonlahor
 14 Delfouneso

Substitutes not used

22 Guzan (GK)
 16 Delph
 23 Beye
 34 Lowry
 36 Burke
 38 Gardner

Bolton Wanderers (Premier)

1 Bogdan
 2 Steinsson (4 Robinson (76))
5 Cahill (c) 39 mins
 31 Wheater
 6 Muamba (16 M Davies (88))
 7 Eagles
 8 Holden
 11 Gardner
 21 Pratley
 24 Ngog (14 K Davies (73))
 28 Kakuta

22 Jaaskelainen (GK)
 10 M Petrov
 20 Blake
 9 Tuncay

The managers:
Mr A McLeish

Mr O Coyle

The Officials

Referee: D Deadman (Cheshunt)
Assistant: D Meeson
Assistant: D Naylor
Fourth Official: M Naylor (South Yorkshire)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 1/10/11:
ACTION REPLAY



It had to happen sometime, but Villa's first defeat of the season was all the more galling because it came in a competition we were hopeful of winning. Manager Alex McLeish had tasted Carling Cup success only seven months earlier while several of Villa's players had been involved in the 2010 final. Sadly there will be no trip down Wembley Way next February. There was no lack of intent, a fact underlined by the fact that Villa fielded a strong line-up, but on the night it simply didn't happen. When Villa – and skipper Stiliyan Petrov in particular – produced numerous shots which were charged down or blocked, the only on-target effort was a long-range James Collins drive which was fumbled by keeper Adam Bogdan two minutes from the end. Perhaps the weight of expectation was too great. While Bolton settled from the outset into this third round tie, Villa's players toiled tirelessly but had nothing to show for their endeavours. There were certainly no complaints from the Villa boss after a more relaxed Bolton side claimed victory with second half goals from Chris Eagles and Gael Kakuta. How different it might have been, though, had Gabby Agbonlahor capitalised on a superb Barry Bannan cross in the same manner he had a few days earlier. Against Newcastle, Agbonlahor had displayed the lethal finishing which has put him on course to become the club's leading Premier League marksman; this time he sent a header well wide and that 23rd-minute miss just about summed up Villa's night. Neither side particularly impressed during a largely sterile first half but in the 54th minute the Trotters went ahead with a well-executed but slightly fortuitous goal. Attempting to cut out Stuart Holden's crossfield pass, Marc Albrighton succeeded only in knocking [the ball] into the path of Chris Eagles, who took a couple of strides before sending a well-placed 20-yard shot past Shay Given. As Villa's search for an equaliser intensified, Petrov twice had shots blocked before Bannan's inviting low centre flashed just beyond the far post with no-one able to apply the finishing touch. But in the 78th minute, the visitors grabbed a second goal, Kakuta drilling home a low 18-yard left-footer following a long high ball from left-back Riccardo Gardner. The Wembley trail had reached a dead end.

Bolton were beaten 1-2 by Arsenal in the 4th round

2012/13

Tuesday August 28, 2012

Round 2 At Villa Park, Attendance: 15,319, Programme Price £3.00

Aston Villa (1) 3 Tranmere Rovers (0) 0

Delph (38)
Herd (65)
Bent (81)

Aston Villa (Premier)

22 Guzan
29 Stevens (14 Holman (67))
30 Lichaj
32 Baker
34 Lowton
7 Ireland
16 Delph 77 mins
25 Bannan 84 mins
31 Herd (36 Burke (76))
9 Bent
26 Weimann (10 N'Zogbia (70))

Substitutes not used

1 Given (GK)
23 Delfouneso
35 Johnson
37 Williams

Tranmere Rovers (Npower League 1)

1 Fon Williams
2 Holmes 83 mins
4 Taylor 27 mins(19 Kay (65))
14 Bakayogo
21 Gibson
6 Palmer
7 Thompson (22 Bell-Baggie (68))
8 Wallace
10 Robinson (12 Harrison (76))
9 Cassidy
26 Akpa Akpro

33 Mooney (GK)
15 Kirby
16 Stockton
17 Power

The managers:

Mr P Lambert

Mr R Moore

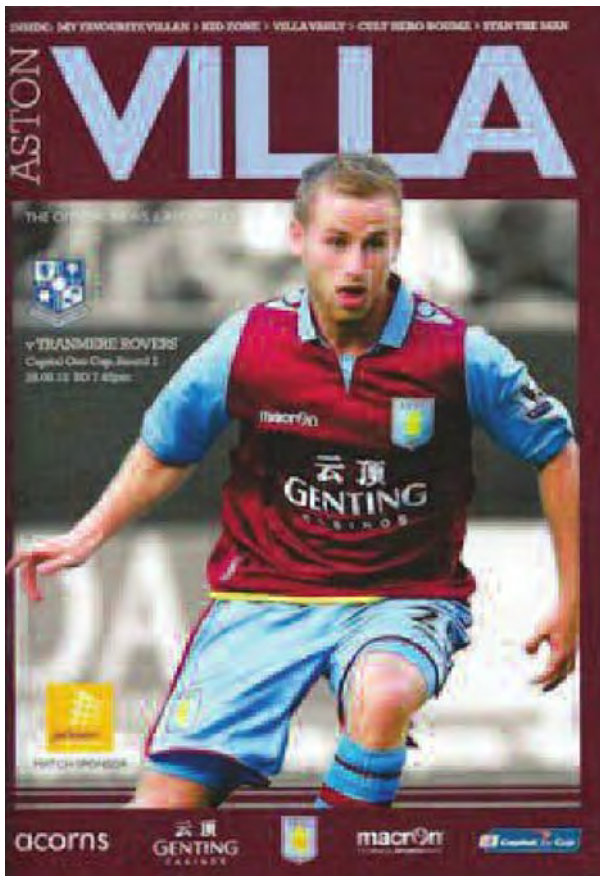
The Officials

Referee: J Adcock
Assistant: N Hobbis
Assistant: A Newbold
Fourth Official: R Ellis



From 'The Villa News & Record' 15/9/12:

Two debuts, three goals and a place in the third round. All in all, it wasn't a bad night's work as Villa safely negotiated the first hurdle along a path which will hopefully lead to Wembley. The only disappointing statistic was the attendance of 15,319, although it was the third highest in the Capital One Cup on the night. And that figure will undoubtedly soar if Paul Lambert's men reach



the later stages of the competition. For the time being, those who turned up were able to witness Villa's first competitive win under new manager Paul Lambert, plus the first senior action in claret and blue for left-back Enda Stevens and substitute Graham Burke. The goals weren't bad, either, even if it took Villa 38 minutes to break down their stubborn League One opponents. During that opening spell, the home side had twice been frustrated by a raised flag which ruled out efforts by Nathan Baker and Stephen Ireland. But after Barry Bannan had only just cleared the bar with a well-struck free-kick, it was the same yellow flag which indicated we finally had the lead. Stevens played a crucial role, working his way in from the left before delivering a deep cross, which Delph nudged goalwards at the far post. Although goalkeeper Owain Fon Williams clawed the ball away, a sharp-eyed linesman indicated that it had crossed the line. The second arrived in the 65th minute, after Andreas Weimann had gone close three times. Ireland made a strong

run through the left channel before cutting the ball back for Herd to sidefoot home from eight yards. Ireland then forced Fon Williams to push away his angled shot at full stretch, before Darren Bent completed the scoring nine minutes from the end, driving into the roof of the net after Brett Holman had cut the ball back to him.

Quotes from BBC Sport:

Aston Villa boss Paul Lambert: "I know from experience that these games can be tricky. It is never easy to win a match, no matter what level you are up against. Tranmere gave a really good account of themselves and manager Ronnie Moore has got them going well in their own league."

Tranmere boss Ronnie Moore: "We are better than we showed tonight. No-one expected us to win but we would have liked to have put in a better performance. Even though Villa are struggling in the Premier League, they have got quality all over the place."

Tuesday September 25, 2012

Round 3 At Etihad Stadium, Attendance: 28,015, Programme Price £2.50

Manchester City (1) 2 Aston Villa (0) 4 aet

Balotelli (26)

Kolarov (64)

Barry (og 58)

Agbonlahor (70)

N'Zogbia (96)

Agbonlahor (113)

Manchester City (Premier)

- 30 Pantilimon
- 33 Nastasic
- 28 Toure 108 mins**
- 6 Lescott (10 Dzeko (74))
- 7 Milner
- 18 Barry
- 13 Kolarov 118 mins**
- 62 Razak 90+5 mins (61 Helan (105))**
- 32 Tevez 45+1 mins**
- 45 Balotelli
- 36 Suarez (11 Sinclair (62))

Aston Villa (Premier)

- 1 Given
- 34 Lowton
- 4 Vlaar 63 mins
- 6 Clark
- 27 Bennett (30 **Lichaj (86))**
- 16 Delph 45 + 1 mins**
- 8 El Ahmadi (31 Herd (72))
- 10 N'Zogbia 102 mins**
- 26 Weimann (12 Albrighton (66) 88 mins)
- 11 Agbonlahor
- 20 Benteke

Substitutes not used:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 29 Wright (GK) | 22 Guzan (GK) |
| 5 Zabaleta | 9 Bent |
| 49 Scapuzzi | 25 Bannan |
| 70 Evans | 32 Baker |

The managers

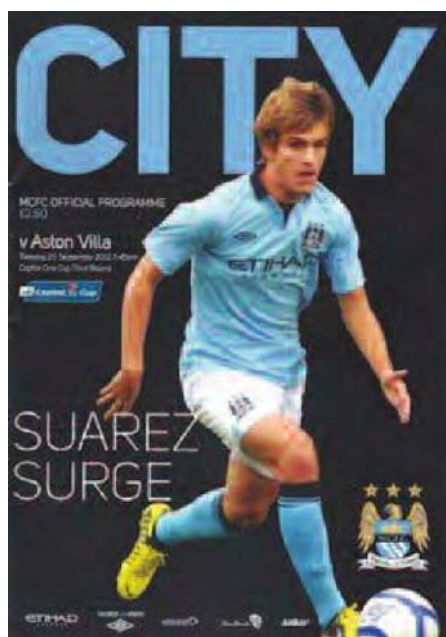
Mr R Mancini Mr P Lambert

The Officials

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Referee: | P Dowd (Staffordshire) |
| Assistant: (yellow) | A Garratt |
| Assistant: (red) | L Betts |
| Fourth Official: | M Atkinson (West Yorkshire) |



From 'The Villa News & Record' 30/9/12:



It was wet, it was windy – and it was wonderful. Villa strode into the fourth round of the Capital One Cup with a performance which belied the miserable conditions in the rain-lashed Etihad Stadium. Manchester City's impressive home has regularly been a graveyard for Villa over the past decade. But all that changed as Paul Lambert's men turned on the style for a famous victory. Despite trailing twice, the visitors simply refused to submit, battling back to equalise on each occasion before extra-time goals from Charles N'Zogbia and Gabby Agbonlahor – his second of the night – clinched a memorable victory. Despite a spirited first half showing in which Andreas Weimann and Agbonlahor both went close, Villa trailed at the interval to a 26th-minute Mario Balotelli goal, the enigmatic Italian firing home in clinical fashion following a low cross from James Milner. If one former Villa man had a hand in that goal, another was responsible for the visitors drawing level on 58 minutes, Gareth Barry unwittingly diverting

the ball back into his own net after keeper Costel Pantilimon had pushed out Weimann's right wing cross. Six minutes later, City were back in front, Aleksandar Kolarov curling a superb 22-yard free-kick into the corner. But on 70 minutes Villa were level again, Agbonlahor accepting a cross from Christian Benteke before bursting forcefully through the middle to score a right-foot shot beyond Pantilimon. Villa needed a magnificent Shay Given save from Balotelli's late header to take them into extra-time but then they took control. Six minutes into the first period, N'Zogbia stroked home from close range after Agbonlahor's low shot had been turned aside by Pantilimon. And seven minutes from the end, Agbonlahor worked his way across the penalty area before hitting a low shot which hit a defender and looped into the corner of the net.

An analysis by Kevin Gallagher of BBC Radio 5 live:

"It was a fantastic extra time period for Aston Villa. Young legs got them through it. At times it was a little too easy for Manchester City. The home side made mistakes and switched off to allow Aston Villa to catch them on the counter attack"

Tuesday October 30, 2012

Round 4 At The County Ground, Attendance 14,434, Programme Price £3.00

Swindon Town (0) 2

Storey (78)

Storey (81)

Aston Villa (2) 3

Benteke (30)

Agbonlahor (39)

Benteke (90)

Swindon Town (NPower League 1)

1	Foderingham
5	Devera
12	McCormack (c)
4	Flint 14 Mins
3	McEveley
10	Ritchie
18	Miller
8	Ferry
11	Roberts (23 De Vita (69))
14	Benson (16 Williams (51))
9	Collins (20 Storey (75))

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Given
34	Lowton
31	Herd (29 Stevens (31))
4	Vlaar (c)
30	Lichaj
26	Weimann
7	Ireland (9 Bent (83))
8	El Ahmadi
25	Bannan (16 Delph (82))
11	Agbonlahor 78 mins
20	Benteke

Substitutes not used:

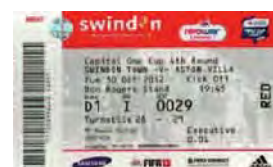
30	Bedwell (GK)
2	Archibald-Henville
15	Thompson N
19	Thompson L

22	Guzan (GK)
12	Albrighton
14	Holman
36	Burke

The Managers:

Mr P. Di Canio

Mr P. Lambert



Norwich City (Premier)

28	Bunn
2	Martin
20	Barnett
5	Bassong
23	Tierney
7	Snodgrass
8	Howson (<i>17 Bennett (87)</i>)
4	Johnson
12	Pilkington
9	Holt
16	Morison (<i>10 Jackson (80)</i>)

Aston Villa (Premier)

1	Given
6	Clark
31	Herd
32	Baker
34	Lowton
8	El Ahmadi
16	Delph
14	Holman (<i>10 N'Zogbia (73)</i>)
30	Lichaj
20	Benteke
9	Bent (<i>26 Weimann (35)</i>)

Substitutes not used:

13	Rudd (GK)	22	Guzan (GK)
6	Turner	11	Agbonlahor
15	Fox	12	Albrighton
18	Garrido	25	Bannan
33	Francomb	37	Williams

The Managers

Mr C Hughton

Mr P Lambert

The Officials

Referee:	M Oliver (Northumberland)
Assistant: (yellow)	R West
Assistant: (red/yellow)	P Bankes
Fourth Official:	S Attwell (Warwickshire)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 26/12/12:



Hopefully there will be more special nights for Villa supporters before the season has run its course. For the time being, though, recollections of this one will warm many a claret and blue heart.

It wasn't just that Villa reached the League Cup semi-finals for the 14th time, or that manager Paul Lambert enjoyed such a triumphant return to Carrow Road.

As the Norfolk mist rolled in, Villa's performance could not have been more vivid or, ultimately, more emphatic.

Facing a team that had gone 10 matches without defeat in their own back yard might have been a daunting prospect but Lambert's Lions made it clear from the outset that they were intent on putting on a show for the large contingent of fans who made the long trip to East Anglia.

They almost conceded in the first minute when Steve Morison hit the post, and almost scored in the second when Darren Bent's

shot was saved by keeper Mark Bunn. That blistering start set the tone for an enthralling contest between two teams committed to attacking, entertaining football.

The game also threw up an unlikely hero. Andreas Weimann started on the subs bench and might well have stayed there but for the injury which forced Bent out of the action 10 minutes before half-time.

By then it was 1-1, Morison's 19th-minute opener for the Canaries having been cancelled out a couple of minutes later when Brett Holman fired home sublimely with the outside of his right foot from 22 yards.

Despite close calls at either end, that's how it stayed until Weimann abandoned his walk-on role to take centre stage. With 11 minutes remaining, the young Austrian put Villa ahead when he stroked home Eric Lichaj's low cross and six minutes later he scored in a similar fashion after Christan Benteke had created the opening.

Villa were as good as in the last four – and Benteke put his own name on the score-sheet in stoppage time with a 20-yard shot which left Bunn helpless.

I was doubly pleased with this win. Obviously I was delighted that Villa had won and made the semi-final again, but also because they had (although they didn't know it) avenged my other claret and blue club's defeat at Carrow Road in the second round. The Iron had beaten Derby County on penalties after a 5-5 draw at Pride Park, and stretched Norwich, who only beat them 2-1. Thanks, Villa, both from me and Scunthorpe United.

Tuesday January 8, 2013

Semi-final First Leg At Valley Parade, Attendance:22,245, Programme price: £4.00

Bradford City (1) 3 Aston Villa (0) 1

Wells (19)

McArdle (77)

McHugh (89)

Weimann (83)

Bradford City (Npower League 2)

12 Duke

2 Darby

23 McArdle

16 McHugh 89 mins

27 Good

20 Hines (26 Turgott (66))

18 G Jones

24 Doyle

14 Atkinson

9 Hanson

21 Wells

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Given

34 Lowton

6 Clark

32 Baker

27 Bennett

11 Agbonlahor (9 Bent (57),36 Burke (85))

16 Delph 77 mins

25 Bannan

10 N'Zogbia 59mins

20 Benteke

26 Weimann

Substitutes not used:

1 McLaughlin (GK)

22 Guzan (GK)

4	Ravenhill	7	Ireland
7	Reid	29	Stevens
8	Jones	30	Lichaj
10	Hannah	40	Carruthers
17	Connell		

The Managers
Mr P Parkinson

Mr P Lambert

The Officials

Referee: H Webb (South Yorkshire)
 Assistant: (yellow) Ms Sian Massey (Coventry)
 Assistant: (red/yellow) M Mullarkey
 Fourth Official: N Swarbrick (Lancashire)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 12/1/13:



If Paul Lambert is looking for an inspirational team-talk ahead of the second leg, he need only remind Villa's players of remarks made over the PA system at the end of the game at Bradford. The Valley Parade announcer was understandably in buoyant mood as he celebrated his team's first leg victory with jubilant home supporters.

But to suggest that he might book a hotel room in readiness for the Capital One Cup final was surely a step too far. As we know from past experience, League Cup semi-finals last at least 180 minutes rather than the regular 90. This tie is at the half-way stage and is far from over. Indeed, it might well have been Villa in the driving seat, even allowing for the fact they conceded three goals. They created a succession of chances and home keeper Matt Duke made so many crucial saves that he was voted man of the match.

Duke was finally beaten when the predatory Andreas Weimann lifted the ball over him following Christian Benteke's 83rd minute flick on. That appeared to have put Villa in a strong position for the return clash, but Carl McHugh's 89th minute header means Lambert's Lions must claw back a two-goal deficit. For the time being, however, we have to accept a first-leg defeat at the hands of a side who had already claimed the scalps of Wigan Athletic and Arsenal in this competition.

Nahki Wells opened the scoring on 19 minutes, sending a low angled drive beyond Shay Given after a Zavon Hines shot had deflected into his path, and defender Rory McArdle headed in a 77th minute cross from Gary Jones to double the advantage.

Yet Duke was far the busiest keeper, notching up saves from Charles N'Zogbia, Christian Benteke and Gabby Agbonlahor, who might all have had a couple of goals. And Bradford must have realised it was going to be their night when sub Darren Bent headed over after Duke had only been able to parry N'Zogbia's stinging 67th minute drive.

Tuesday January 22, 2013

Semi-final Second Leg At Villa Park, Attendance: 40,193, Programme price: £5.00

Aston Villa (1) 2 Bradford City (0) 1

Benteke (23) Hanson (54)
Weimann (89)

Bradford City win on aggregate goals

Aston Villa (Premier)

1 Given
34 Lowton
4 Vlaar
6 Clark 22 mins
27 Bennett (26 Weimann (70))
7 Ireland
16 Delph 90+3 mins
25 Bannan (9 Bent (62))
10 N'Zogbia 83 mins
20 Benteke
11 Agbonlahor

Bradford City (Npower League 2)

12 Duke
2 Darby
16 McHugh
23 McArdle
27 Good
20 Hines (11 Thompson (71))
18 Jones
24 Doyle
14 Atkinson
9 Hanson
21 Wells (26 Turgot (87))

Substitutes not used:

22 Guzan (GK)
14 Holman
29 Stevens
30 Lichaj
40 Carruthers

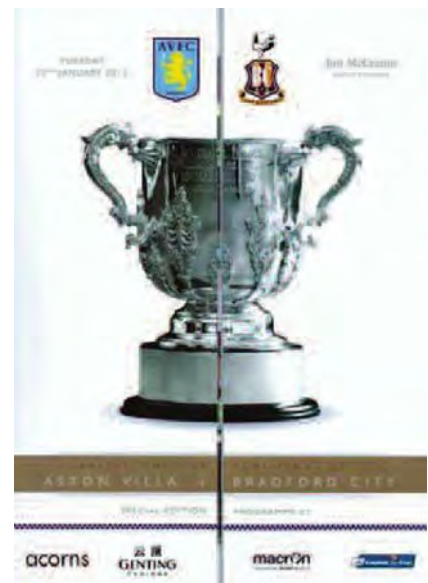
1 McLaughlin (GK)
4 Ravenhill
7 Reid
17 Connell
22 Nelson

The Managers
Mr P Lambert

Mr P Parkinson

The Officials

Referee: P Dowd (Staffordshire)
Assistant: (yellow) S Long
Assistant: (red/yellow) G Beswick
Fourth Official: M Dean (Wirral)



From 'The Villa News & Record' 29/1/13:

So it will be a trip to the Emirates Stadium on Saturday 23rd February, rather than a day out at Wembley 24 hours later. We were always destined to visit North London on that particular weekend and the put of three Barclays Premier League points at Arsenal is arguably more important than chasing cup glory. Yet even that logical thought does nothing to ease the pain of losing to Bradford City and missing out on a place in the Capitol One Cup final. Full credit to the Bantams on becoming the first club from English football's fourth tier to reach a major Wembley final. But deep down we are all aware that Villa really should have been good enough to beat League Two opponents over two legs of the semi-final. Much of the damage had been done in a 3-1 setback at Valley Parade, of



course, but most of us were reasonably confident that Paul Lambert's team would overturn the deficit on home soil. Until the 54th minute that assumption seemed to be well founded. Playing with confidence, Villa led through Christian Benteke's superb goal and had created numerous other chances. Surely it was only a matter of patience? But James Hanson's header from skipper Gary Jones' corner totally changed the complexion of the tie. The equaliser restored the visitors' two goal aggregate advantage and Villa's superiority gradually evaporated. Even though Andreas Weimann's 89th minute opportunist effort secured a win on the night, it came too late for anyone to contemplate the prospect of extra time. Yet everything had been going to plan as Villa took control from the outset, the inventive Charles N'Zogbia setting up some early chances and a well-deserved goal materialised in the 23rd minute. Barry Bannan played the ball wide to Joe Bennett and the left-back's pinpoint centre was volleyed home by the alert Benteke from just outside the six-yard box. Bradford keeper Matt Duke then tipped over goal-bound shots from both N'Zogbia and Stephen Ireland, but Hanson's equaliser knocked the stuffing out of the home side, and sub Garry Thompson, once of Scunthorpe United, almost grabbed a second for Bradford with a shot that hit the bar.

Paul Lambert:

"Everyone is hurt. You will never have a better chance to reach a cup final throughout your whole career."

Bradford lost 5-0 to Swansea City in the fina



**ASTON VILLA
FOOTBALL CLUB**

Please find enclosed your
tickets as requested

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It is the responsibility of the ticket holder to ascertain the new date and kick-off time of all re-arranged matches if the fixture schedule changes.

Home Match Tickets

These match tickets are for a section of Villa Park for home supporters and are purchased by you on that basis. Supporters of the away team will be refused entrance to this section. Supporters requiring a refund will be offered one, if the tickets are returned to the point of purchase no later than 24 hours prior to the day of the match.

Villa Park is an all-seater stadium. Persistent standing is not allowed.

To comply with the smoke-free (premises and enforcement) regulations, the following applies: Smoking will be permitted in all open areas within the club grounds, but outside the stadium. Unfortunately, smoking is not allowed in any of the concourse areas (including the toilets). Failure to comply with this not only puts our employees at risk from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, it also puts us in breach of the regulations and at risk of severe fines.

Concession Tickets:
Supporters are reminded that they must pay the correct concession price for their match ticket. Supporters who are in possession of concession tickets may be requested to provide identification on match day. Failure to do so may result in refused entry or ejection from the stadium without refund. Supporters can upgrade their ticket by contacting the Consumer Sales Department on **0800 612 0970**, or call in at one of the Ticket Offices situated around the stadium on match day. Full Terms & Conditions of Entry are available on www.avfc.co.uk

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Oh well, there's always next season!

Aston Villa's League Cup Records to the end of 2012/13

Aston Villa hold the following League Cup records:

They have played more League Cup matches than any other team: 230

2nd are Liverpool with 214, and 3rd Arsenal 212. No other team has over 200.

This total comprises 114 home matches, 104 away matches and 12 matches on neutral grounds.

They have won more League Cup matches than any other team: 136

2nd Liverpool 124, 3rd Arsenal 120

The only others with 100 or more are Tottenham (117), West Ham (115) and Manchester United (101)

They have scored more goals than any other team: 457 at an average of 1.99 goals per game

The next team with over 400 is Liverpool with 432

They are second only to Liverpool with 5 cup wins to 8.

Villa are third with the number of clean sheets, 77, after Arsenal, 81, and Liverpool, 80.

Semi-final appearances: Villa are equal with Liverpool and Arsenal, all with 14

Villa have played 67 different teams in their 230 League Cup matches.

Of these, 34 have yet to beat Villa in the League Cup. They are:

Arsenal	Barnsley	Blackburn Rovers
Bristol Rovers	Cardiff City	Carlisle United
Chester (City)	Chesterfield	Crewe Alexandra
Derby County	Exeter City	Fulham
Hartlepool United	Hereford United	Huddersfield Town
Middlesbrough	Millwall	Norwich City
Oldham Athletic	Peterborough United	Plymouth Argyle
Portsmouth	Preston North End	Reading
Scunthorpe United	Stockport County	Stoke City
Sunderland	Swansea (Town)	Swindon Town
Wigan Athletic	Wolverhampton W	Wrexham
Wycombe Wanderers		

And Villa have yet to beat 7 of them:

Blackpool	Cambridge United	Doncaster Rovers
Grimsby Town	Liverpool	York City
Wimbledon (NOT MK Dons)		

The remaining 26, who have lost to, and beaten, Villa, are:

Birmingham City	Bolton Wanderers	Burnley
Bradford City	Chelsea	Colchester United
Crystal Palace	Everton	Ipswich Town
Leeds United	Leicester City	Luton Town
Manchester City	Manchester United	Northampton Town
Nottingham Forest	Notts County	Oxford United
Queens Park Rangers	Rotherham United	Sheffield Wednesday
Southampton	Tottenham Hotspur	Tranmere Rovers
West Bromwich Albion	West Ham United	

The teams that Aston Villa have played the most ties against are:

9 times: Everton and Leeds United

8 times: Queens Park Rangers and West Ham United

7 times: Birmingham City, Burnley, Crystal Palace, Leicester City, Manchester United and West Bromwich Albion.

Of the 230 matches 27 have been replays. There have been two matches won on penalties (Tranmere Rovers and Sunderland), one won on away goals (Arsenal), one lost on away goals (Grimsby Town), three lost on aggregate goals (Chelsea, Bradford City and Everton), six won after extra time, and one match lost on penalties, but subsequently won on a replay as West Ham fielded an ineligible player in the first match.

Highest wins			Highest Loss	
Exeter City	H	8-1	West Bromwich A	1-6
Wycombe Wanderers	A	8-3		
Bradford City	H	7-1		
Peterborough United	H	6-0		
Hartlepool United	H	6-1		
Peterborough United	H	6-1		
Ipswich Town	H	6-2		
Preston North End	H	6-2		
Blackburn Rovers	H	6-4		

The 8-3 win over Wycombe Wanderers was extra special because Villa were 3-1 down at half-time!

Highest Aggregate wins over two legs						
Exeter City	A	4-1	H	8-1	Total	12-2
Wigan Athletic	H	5-0	A	3-0		8-0
Birmingham City	A	2-0	H	5-0		7-0
Peterborough United	H	6-0	A	1-1		7-1
Blackburn Rovers	A	1-0	H	6-4		7-4

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Attendances in the League Cup (given from various sources, mainly Villa figures)

Villa Park:

Highest: 56,667 v. Manchester United, 23rd December 1970 (also given as 62,500)

Lowest: 7,678 v. Exeter City, 9th October 1985

Away (at opponents ground)

Highest: 48,889 v. Manchester United, 9th December 1970 (also given as 49,000)

Lowest: 2,633 v. Wigan Athletic, 5th October 1994

Neutral Grounds

Highest: 100,000 v. Everton, March 12th 1977 at Wembley (also given as 96,223)

97,024 v. Tottenham Hotspur, 27th February 1971 at Wembley (also given as 100,000)

Lowest: 20,697 v. Wrexham at the Hawthorns, 31st August 1971

Total attendance at all Villa's League Cup matches, using the lowest totals when more than one is given is 5,519,106. This is an average of approximately 23,996 per match.

This total is made up of:

Home matches	Away matches	Neutral ground matches
2,856,124	1,927,125	735,857

The average attendances are:

per home match 25,054

per away match 18,530

per neutral ground 61,321

Match results

These statistics are taken from the scores at the end of the matches either 90 or 120 minutes, and do not take account of penalty or aggregate wins or losses:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	114	80	16	18	254	98
Away	104	48	25	30	179	158
Neutral	12	8	2	2	24	12
Total	230	136	44	50	457	268

Own Goals and Penalty Goals

Given that some own goals and penalties may not have been recorded in some programmes, the totals I have found are:

Own goals by opponents, 9

Own goals by Villa players, 3

Penalties converted against Villa, 12

Penalties converted by Villa, 27

(Penalty shoot-outs are not included)

Highest goal aggregates in a League Cup competition:

29 in 1960/61

25 in 1985/86

23 in 1962/63

22 in 1974/75

21 in 1976/77

Lowest goal aggregates in a League Cup competition:

0 in 1973/74

0 in 1997/98

0 in 2000/01

0 in 2008/09

Rounds reached before losing:

1st: Villa have never lost in this round

2nd: Seven times

3rd: 15 times

4th: 11 times

Q/F: 6 times

S/F: 6 times

Final: 3 times

Final (Winning): 5 times

Longest Sequences of:

Consecutive home matches

6 10th September 1975 to 1st December 1976

Consecutive Home matches without losing

4 24th September 1962 to 2nd December 1962

4 1st September 1976 to 1st December 1976

Consecutive (all) matches without losing

10 12th October 1960 to 2nd May 1961

12 1st September 1976 to 26th October 1977

Consecutive Away Matches

5 23rd October 1996 to 14th September 1999

5 29th November 2005 to 28th August 2007

Consecutive Away Matches without losing

4 10th February 1965 to 3rd November 1965

Consecutive Wins

5 24th September 1962 to 12th January 1963

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- 5 21st September 1993 to 12th January 1994
- 5 27th February 1994 to 26th October 1994
- 5 14th September 1999 to 11th January 2000 (this does not count the 'loss' to West Ham which was ordered to be replayed)
- 5 23rd September 2009 to 20th January 2010 (this includes the penalty shoot out win against Sunderland)

Consecutive Unbeaten (includes draws)

- 12 1st September 1976 to 26th October 1977

Consecutive Losses

- 4 17th November 1965 to 4th September 1968

Hat Tricks (and more)

Players who have scored three goals or more in a League Cup match for Aston Villa are:

- 6th February 1961 Gerry Hitchens v. Plymouth Argyle
- 24th September 1962 Derek Dougan v. Peterborough United
- 23rd November 1964 Tony Hatley v. Bradford City (4 goals)
- 22nd February 1977 Brian Little v. Queens Park Rangers
- 31st August 1977 Andy Gray v. Exeter City
- 25th September 1985 Simon Stainrod v. Exeter City (4)
- 30th November 1988 David Platt v. Ipswich Town (4)
- 23rd September 2003 Juan Pablo Angel v. Wycombe Wanderers

And players who have scored three goals in a League Cup match against Villa are:

- 13th September 1961 Bobby Webb for Bradford City
- 14th September 1966 Bobby Hope for West Bromwich Albion
- 4th September 1968 Martin Chivers for Tottenham Hotspur
- 28th October 1998 Gianluca Vialli for Chelsea

League Cup: Highest scorers for Villa

The record League Cup goal scoring record for Villa is held jointly by Harry Burrows, 1960 – 1965, and Brian Little 1973 – 1979. They both scored 15 times as below:

Harry Burrows	Brian Little
12/10/1960 v Huddersfield Town (78 mins)	25/11/1974 v Hartlepool United (52)
06/02/1961 v Plymouth Argyle (45)	25/11/1974 v Hartlepool United (77)
05/09/1961 v Rotherham United (69)	22/01/1975 v Chester (80)
13/09/1961 v Bradford City (52)	01/09/1976 v Manchester City (33)
09/10/1961 v West Ham United (44)	01/09/1976 v Manchester City (47)
21/11/1961 v Ipswich Town (47)	27/10/1976 v Wrexham (32)
21/11/1961 v Ipswich Town (75, pen)	27/10/1976 v Wrexham (58)
24/09/1962 v Peterborough United (37)	01/12/1976 v Millwall (90)
17/10/1962 v Stoke City (90, pen)	22/02/1977 v Queens Park Rangers (21)
12/11/1962 v Preston North End (14, pen)	22/02/1977 v Queens Park Rangers (28)

12/11/1962 v Preston North End (64)
 25/09/1963 v Barnsley (83)
 14/10/1964 v Leeds United (15)
 04/11/1964 v Reading (55)
 23/11/1964 v Bradford City

22/02/1977 v Queens Park Rangers (89)
 13/04/1977 v Everton (81)
 13/04/1977 v Everton (119)
 29/11/1977 v Nottingham Forest (78)
 04/10/1978 v Crystal palace (41)

Aston Villa Players in League Cup Finals

To the end of the 2012/13 season the following 93 Villa players have all won League Cup winners or runners-up, tankards or medals, depending what was issued at the time. In brackets are the years that they represented Aston Villa in a League Cup Final. The substitutes who did not play are given in italics:

Charlie Aitken (1963, 1971 & 1975)

Willie Anderson (1971)

Alan Baker (1963)

Habib Beye (2010)

Keith Bradley (1971)

John Burridge (1977)

John Carew (2010)

Gary Charles (1996)

James Collins (2010)

Neil Cox (1994)

Vic Crowe (1961 & 1963)

Jim Cumbes (1975)

John Deehan (1977)

Nathan Delfouneso (2010)

Stewart Downing (2010)

Jimmy Dugdale (1961)

Richard Dunne (2010)

Alun Evans (1975)

Cammie Fraser (1963)

Dave Gibson (1971)

Brian Godfrey (1971)

Andy Gray (1977)

Brad Guzan (2010)

Emile Heskey (2010)

Tommy Johnson (1996)

Keith Leonard (1975)

Andy Lochhead (1971)

Jimmy MacEwan ((1961)

Paul McGrath (1994 & 1996)

Peter McParland (1961)

Savo Milošević (1996)

John Neal (1961)

Michael Oakes (1996)

Gabriel Agbonlahor (2010)

Dalian Atkinson (1994)

Earl Barrett (1994)

Mark Bosnich (1994 & 1996)

Ralph Brown (1961)

Harry Burrows (1961 & 1963)

Frank Carrodus (1975 & 1977)

Lew Chatterley (1963)

Gordon Cowans (1977)

Alex Cropley (1977)

Carlos Cuellar (2010)

Tony Daley (1994)

Alan Deakin (1961)

Fabian Delph (2010)

Mark Draper (1996)

John Dunn (1971)

Ugo Ehiogu (1996)

Graham Fenton (1994)

Brad Friedel (2010)

John Gidman (1977)

George Graham (1963)

Ray Graydon (1975 & 1977)

Ian 'Chico' Hamilton (1971 & 1975)

Ray Houghton (1994)

Gordon Lee (1961 & 1963)

Brian Little (1975 & 1977)

Stan Lynn (1961)

Bobby McDonald (1975)

Pat McMahon (1971)

James Milner (2010)

Dennis Mortimer (1977)

Chris Nicholl (1975 & 1977)

Alan O'Neill (1961)

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Stiliyan Petrov (2010)	Leighton Phillips (1977)
Kevin Richardson (1994)	Bruce Rioch (1971)
John Robson (1975 & 1977)	Ian Ross (1975)
Dean Saunders (1994)	Geoff Sidebottom (1961)
Steve Sidwell (2010)	Nigel Sims (1961 & 1963)
John Smeuwenhoek (1963)	Nigel Spink (1994)
Gordon Smith (1977)	Gareth Southgate (1996)
Steve Staunton (1994, sub 1996)	Ian Taylor (1996)
Shaun Teale (1994)	Bobby Thomson (1961 & 1963)
Brian Tiler (1971)	Andy Townsend (1994 & 1996)
Fred Turnbull (1971)	Stephen Warnock (2010)
Alan Wright (1996)	Ron Wylie (1961 & 1963)
Dwight Yorke (1996)	Ashley Young (2010)
Luke Young (2010)	

Players who have played for, and then managed Aston Villa in the League Cup:

Vic Crowe
Brian Little
John Gregory

Players who have played against, and then managed Aston Villa in the League Cup:

Tommy Cummings (Burnley)
John Gregory (Queens Park Rangers)
David O'Leary (Arsenal)
Martin O'Neill (Nottingham Forest)
Graham Turner (Chester)

The Professional Footballers' Association Team of the Year is an annual award given to a set of 44 footballers in the top four tiers of English football; the Premier League, the Championship, League One and League Two, who are seen to be deserving of being named in a "Team of the Year".

The following Villa players have been voted into the PFA Team of the year:

1973/74	Division Two (old)	Bruce Rioch
1974/75	Division Two (old)	John Gidman and Ray Graydon (Villa were League Cup winners and promoted from Division Two).
1976/77	Division One (old)	John Gidman and Andy M Gray (Villa were League Cup winners).
1977/78	Division One (old)	John Gidman
1980/81	Division One (old)	Kenny Swain, Allan Evans and Gary Shaw (Villa were Division One champions).
1981/82	Division One (old)	Kenny Swain (Villa were European Cup winners).
1987/88	Division Two (old)	Nigel Spink and Andy A Gray (Villa were promoted from Division Two).
1989/90	Division One (old)	David Platt
1992/93	Premier League	Paul McGrath (Villa were Premier League runners-up)

1995/96	Premier League	Ugo Ehiogu and Alan Wright (Villa were League Cup winners).
2007/08	Premier League	Ashley Young
2008/09	Premier League	Ashley Young
2009/10	Premier League	Richard Dunne and James Milner (Villa were League Cup runners-up).

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In addition to Villa's programmes, I have quoted from other team's publications. They are: Barnsley; Birmingham City; Blackburn Rovers; Bradford City; Chelsea; Chester; Colchester United; Coventry City; Crystal Palace; Darlington; Everton; Grimsby Town; Leeds United; Leicester City; Northamp-

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ton Town; Notts County; Oxford United; Peterborough United; Plymouth Argyle; Queens Park Rangers; Reading; Rotherham United; Scunthorpe United; Sheffield Wednesday; Southampton; Sunderland; Wycombe Wanderers; West Bromwich Albion; West Ham United; Wigan Athletic; Wimbledon; Wolverhampton Wanderers; Wrexham. Thank you all. My apologies to any that I may have missed.

My grateful thanks to:

Phil Neill for the use of his cards "<http://www.philneillcards.co.uk>"

Graeson Laitt, Kevin Drury & Jeff Whitehead, keepers of the Colchester archive at "<http://www.colu-data.co.uk>"

Colin Abbott for help with missing data and advice

Riccardo Rossi for Plymouth Argyle details

Please note: Errors & omissions excepted



I have been an Aston Villa supporter from the age of 8. Not unusual? In my case it is, because my family lived in Cornwall, and I didn't know anything about the football club until a geography lesson by an astute primary school teacher stirred my curiosity. The kindness of Billy Smith, the Villa Secretary also had its effect, and now 68 years later the 8 year old is still a confirmed Villa man. It took a until 1957 before I saw the Villa in action – the Cup Final on television, and the first live Villa match I attended was at the Boleyn Ground in 1958 (West Ham 7 Villa 2). Not downhearted I still followed the club from a distance, the RAF and other work prevented any regular viewing until 1972, when I first made it to Villa Park. That was the match that gave Villa promotion to Division 2, and Brian Little scored! When Villa won the League Cup in 1960, and reached the final in 1962 the former boy supporter became intrigued and thus began the collection of League Cup programmes and memorabilia that has led to this book.

The Author, John Billinger



In 1994 I travelled on a supporter's coach so I could sit with my mates for the final against Manchester United and we had a great time cheering Ron Atkinson's side to a 3-1 triumph. So just imagine how it felt in 1996 to be back at Wembley in a claret and blue shirt, scoring at the same end of the stadium where I'd been a spectator, as we beat Leeds 3-0 to lift the trophy for the fifth time.

Ian Taylor, Aston Villa Player



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