RED ATTITUDE
INDEPENDENT MANCHESTER UNITED FANZINE

Issue 12
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Currently being looked after by scottish glory hunter until end of season.

Geordie is in need of stress therapy and defensive training after traumatic 12 months at hands of previous owner
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INDEPENDENT MANCHESTER UNITED FANZINE

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FROM, THE ARCHIVIST

COVER STORY * DAVID BECKHAM, UNITED'S WONDER KID AND "CLASSIC" GOAL
SPECIALIST CELEBRATES YET ANOTHER WANDER STRIKE AGAINST SPURS. BECKS HAS MANAGED TO REPLACE RYAN GIGGS AS THE "TEEN IDOL", HEARTTHROB AT UNITED. YIK!

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN THE NEXT ISSUE AND MORE TO COME... ASK GARRY!

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD
As United's date with destiny in the European Cup quarter-final draws near, the season is taking shape on the Premiership front. After the steadily improving run since the middle of November we now find ourselves back in pole position. Ironically it was the home game against Juventus where although beaten, we were able to exercise the greyhounds that had affected our play in weeks previous. Being able to cut the mustard with the top team in Europe and (according to them) in the world as well, does something for your self-belief. Unbeaten in the league since October is the kind of consistency that managers dream of, even though the performance hasn't always matched the result.

Going out of the FA Cup to Wembley means we won't be making our annual trip to the Twin Towers for one of the domestic cup finals. A fitting protest against the decision to spend all that Lottery money on Wembley as opposed to Manchester's national stadium bid no doubt. Posse' we'll have to keep coming down and filling it for them after the rebuild awsalt.

One of the dangers of chasing glory on all fronts is that sometimes you end up with nothing. In that respect I'd concede the FA Cup and focus on the big two. For a number of years we've conceded the Coca Cola cup and under the circumstances the FA Cup is viewed in the same light by the Old Trafford strategists. With 13 games to go we are now on the championship run-in. This years race is going to be the most open for years with six or seven runners coming into the final bend. I suspect the safest place to be is where we are now, out in front, clear of all the pushing and shoving in the chasing pack.

Of the main contenders, Arsenal have shown good form all season in spite of this being a transitional season for them. Liverpool went top before Christmas with games in hand but a fortunate dip in form along with a Mark Hughes-inspired cup exit has put them back a peg or two. Newcastle continue to play as if Kevin Keegan is still in charge and hopefully it won't be long before you-know-who starts feeling the strain. Villa and Chelsea are just off the pace but will both take points off the top teams in the run-in. Wimbledon know they are good enough to qualify for Europe and have three routes open to them. Their cup exploits may distract them from any title ambitions for this year anyway.

Meanwhile we have the little matter of Porto to deal with in March. In simplistic terms it will come down to scoring more at home than we concede away. The lessons of the Champions league should bear us in good stead for this one. With away victories in Turkey and Austria along with a spirited home performance against Juve prove that we have the ability to complete the task both home and away. It's when we worry about what the opposition might do to us rather than trying to impose ourselves on them, that holds all the danger for United. Fenerbahce highlighted this point quite concisely. And if losing our unbeaten home record was the price we paid to progress further in Europe then so be it.

It seems our old friend Kanchelskis has also progressed in Europe with a move to Italy. Andre's agent has earned himself another wedge and pulled the same stunt he pulled at Old Trafford. Andre went lame at Goodison just as he did at O.T. Mind you at least he wasn't actually on the pitch when he was refusing to play for us!

On a more positive note, the Labour party have been talking about the possible return of football terraces. Now this may well be political opportunism but anything that raises the issue and puts the debate on the agenda is to be welcomed. Apparently many clubs who have spent money on seating the terraces would be against it. If they had built new stands with a different gradient for seating, then fair enough. However if all they've done is put seats in the terraces then the cost of removing them can be offset by increased revenue from additional attendances.

Finally we come to Kevin Keegan's demise. What pleases me with his departure is that we won't have to put up with all the other hypocrice bullshit that came with Kevin Keegan PLC. Keegan publicly endorsed both Labour and Tory leaders, whose respective parties have decimated jobs and industry in his beloved Tyneside as well as the rest of Britain. Many working class people look to the success of their local team as an expression of their own hopes and aspirations. Millionaire Keegan is in good company with his chums Blair and Major when it comes to broken promises and failing to deliver for working class people. Ho'Way Messiah to your golf course!

Until the next one, have a good one, and if we beat Porto, have a large one.

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(red and black)
Time for the Hissing to Stop

Notts Forest fans mocking the death of Matthew Harding and Aberdeen supporters mocking the Ibrox disaster of 1966 have made the headlines recently. Manchester United fans having suffered the loss of one of our finest teams in the Munich air disaster are no strangers to the emotions these events still invoke in the memory. Even more so when they are used by rival fans to taunt and bait each other. The glee with which some supporters sang and chanted about 'Munich 58' and 'Who's that lino on the runway' you'd be forgiven for thinking they were celebrating a weekend spent at a beer-fest rather mocking a plane crash. I recall being at Everton in the late seventies when some 'fans' saw fit to unfurl a Munich 58 banner.

It has been noticed that the Hillsborough disaster has caused Liverpool fans to drop the Munich song from their repertoire. Not quite as funny in the post Heysel/Hillsborough era. Would it be callous to suggest that a good belt from the hand of fate may help Leeds fans come to the same conclusion?

The one thing all of these tragedies have in common is that they were unforeseen, unplanned and, Heysel apart, were tragic accidents.

One thing that wasn't an accident was the Holocaust. At concentration camps like Belsen and Auschwitz, spread across Germany and occupied countries, six million people, mainly Jews, were gassed to death. This was part of the Nazi plan to deal with all the people they classed as inferior by exterminating them.

So what has this got to do with football. Sadly there are those who believe that 'hissing' or simulating the noise of gas escaping is somehow funny, acceptable or within the remit of terrace banter whenever United play Spurs. Some United fans at White Hart Lane started the 'hissing', ironically just before Spurs equalised. There are those who know the significance of the gesture and do it regardless, and also those who don't but do it on the misunderstanding that they are saying 'Shhhhhh...', implying that the home fans have gone quiet.

The logic behind the 'hissing' is that as Spurs are reputed to have a large Jewish following and are known colloquially as the Yids, then the Holocaust and the Nazi death camps can be invoked in order to taunt Spurs fans. United fans quite rightly gave Bosnich some stick at OT over his inappropriate salute at Spurs. However where there may have been doubts as to his intentions or meaning, there can be no doubt as to the meaning of the 'hissing'. It's time for the hissing to stop.

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Home and Away without the Neighbours

TOTTENHAM AWAY
PREMIER 12TH JAN

United's first game in the post-Kevin era, what would we make of it? The travelling fans, always eager to conspire the Toon army on the road to their latest 'frying opportunity', gave a jovious rendition of 'Come on Kevin Keegan' and 'Keegan's in the trap'. It's a pity the police on horseback outside didn't do likewise. Their attempts to coerce people into the ground, in spite of a delayed kick-off were unequalled for: Dad lovers, that's what I say, 'stand up if you're in the cup'.

United lined up with an unfamiliar five at the back. Ferguson resolving his defensive problems by opting to play all three of his injured centre-halfs, alongside Gigg playing wing half with as much assurance as a nowhere virgin. After the previous day's Premiership results, this was a game worth taking and despite the usual problems with unfamiliar systems, it was the Reds that took the lead. Subbuteo interplay and lethal finish from Anfield produced a 1-0 win.

Giggies, if not strong as a wing back, showed he was more than all as it came when challenged and won the chance of the game. This allowed the 'ugly sister' of Manchester United to take on the game, throw and kick their way back into the game.

Roy Keane, booked so consistently by the home fans that he just booked himself to see them, was yet again awesome in the middle of the park and his choice for man of the match. The winner came from this gifted and highly lucrative boot of Besic. A blinding strike and early candidate for goal of the year. Yes Alex, 'What a fucking goal.' Indeed! Having suffered the shug連結 attacks of Colin Calderwood for the second time in a week, it's great to see Besic giving Spurs their second net-buster by way of reply. And for the benefit of Trevor Francis and the Sky TV commentary team, the technique used by Calderwood to floor Beckham is most commonly known as a head butt. Can I feel an F.A. enquiry coming on? Hardly. Wrong colour shirt!

All in all we've had an easy 3rd round cup tie, six Premiership points, three Spurs goals, and one Blackburn winner. Not after the first goal Spurs were still发展 in midfield to play as third centre-back. This shored up the defence but made the midfield sadly lightweight. United lost the momentum in the middle, and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was rightly disappointed. His team didn't beat us at the first attempt. McClair and Scholes were overawed despite their best efforts. Ten minutes from the end, Blackburn switched to a back four. This move was to the advantage of Keane and he scored the winning goal.

WIMBLEDON HOME
FC A 25TH JAN

One of the strangest games I've seen for a long time. The two managers, the BBC, Sky sporters, and the papers all thought this was a great advert for football and the FA Cup. This maybe true from the neutral point of view, but for United supporters it was very poor. There was no cohesion for 90 minutes. No real effort being made to win the match. No FA Cup fight.

The main reason was the Coca-Cola style line-up we put out. Giggies and Clegg were drafted into a makeshift United defence, Ferguson, worried by the aerial threat posed by the Wimbledon attack at set pieces. Keane out of midfield to play as third centre-back. This shored up the defence but made the midfield sadly lightweight. United lost the momentum in the middle, and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was rightly disappointed. His team didn't beat us at the first attempt. McClair and Scholes were overawed despite their best efforts. Ten minutes from the end, Blackburn switched to a back four. This move was to the advantage of Keane and he scored the winning goal.

Cantona's effort that dinted Sullivan's bar early in the second half brought back memories of Arsenal last year, but this would have been better had it gone in. More chances before and after Perry's strike, was it going to be one of those? 'Throw on the Cole' was the shout and Ferguson duly obliged.

His work rate in the front line was a major influence on the outcome of the game. Full of energy, we'd have expected more. But it must be said that two great chances went begging. An unmarked header he just missed and a submit which hit his knee before it hit his foot. Still 1-0 down remember. Beckham's free kick is cleared for a corner from which Giggs heads home the equaliser. Keane headed it to the volley and it hit Perry's head. The ball went in the net. The least the Dons deserved.

WIMBLEDON HOME
PREMIER 29TH JAN

We could look forward to this game with more promise as Pallister and Irwin returned to the defence and Beckham alongside Keane back in midfield. Four days earlier we looked wary of the Dons, now we were to set about in the style of the Lisbon Lions in 1987. From the first minute we pounded down on Wimbledon like rain on our fair city. Giggs was interested, Cantona had a look of thrill. Cantona smashed the ball with the midway in total control, the main man to benefit was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. How this man didn't get at least a hat trick is beyond me. The bar twice, a header inches wide, a diving stretching effort, this is just the first half. Ole was plain unlucky, his attempts in the main on target with the keeper beaten. Other chances fell to more experienced players who failed to capitalise on them. Giggs missed a sitter, Pallister had a couple of headers and Eric had a couple of half chances. People scoffed, especially myself, but me, at my disadvantage that despite about 20 chances first half, we went in 0-0.

My fears were borne out as Perry gave the visitors an undeserved lead. It was now time to show people we were up for another tit-for-tat challenge. 1-0 down at home to Wimbledon. Many have failed from that position. Remember. This is a quality outfit who can play the ball around when the situation suits but still shove it up it you’re not concentrating.

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What was once regarded as the easiest away fixture to get tickets for, is now taking on comparable odds to the national lottery. Wimbledon's good run this year has seen their average attendance hit 15,000, which puts them above Southampton in the scheme of things. I'm told that United only took 4,000 tickets for the replay, with the rest of the tickets being sold to United fans by Ticketmaster. Anyone who spent two days unsuccessfully trying to get through, or only to be told they were sold out knows how I'm on about.

Enough of this all too familiar moaning about ticket allocations. The only solution is to play all United's London games at Wembly. This would also give the London teams the rare opportunity to use the 'national stadium'.
Our Friends in the North

What a terrible blow to United fans, we're my first thoughts after hearing of Kevin's sudden departure. First thoughts that is after the hysteria had subsided. This past 16 months we've had excellent sport with Kevin and even sang a special song just to cheer him up.

After Dalglish cracked and Jacked at Walker Steall, leaving behind him a team ready to terrorise Europe and beyond, but Harford got hold of it, or so he would now have you believe; there was great concern as to who would carry the fight to United on behalf of the rest of the country. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, and up pops KayKay, number one geordie son from Doncaster, ever keen to carry the hopes and prejudices of more than Tyneside alone.

Keegan took on the role vacated by Dalglish as the media appointed manager whose job it was to topple United as England's top club. Prior to this, Keegan had quite rightly earned a good deal of respect for his achievements in turning the fortunes of Newcastle around. In his first season he avoided relegation to the old third division and with some astute dealing and modest spending compared to later, he gained promotion to the Premier the following season.

Their return to the Premier in 93/94 was marked with enterprising football, finishing third in the table and qualification for Europe. The acquisition of players such as Lee, Cole, Venison and Beardsley served to enhance Keegan's growing reputation as a shrewd operator both tactically and in the transfer market. Looking back it's fair to say that those were the glory years for the Keegan era.

Achievement far exceeded expectations. From here on in achievement consistently failed to meet expectations.

The following season Newcastle failed to sustain the growth rate they'd set themselves and by New Year 95, an impotent Keegan decided it was time to make changes. First major export was Andy Cole to United for £7 million. Rumour has it that Keegan had George Weah lined up as his replacement for £5 million. Weak settled for Milan and Keegan settled for Kitson.

It is useful to recall that when Keegan's sale of Cole was questioned by some Newcastle fans, the suspicion was floated by the media that Cole was damaged goods and that an astute Kevin Keegan had off-loaded at the right time. The media have kept this going, arguing that the comparative lack of goals for United bears out this theory. The main flaw in the Newcastle team there were to be seen, Albert and Peacock moved in and the reliable Venison was spending more time on the bench.

Andy Cole's goals helped gloss over the deficiencies elsewhere in the team. When his output dropped Keegan sold him without a replacement. Since selling Cole, Keegan has spent £30 million in trying to replace him. (Kitson £3m, Ferdinand £6m, Asprilla £7m, Shearer £15m). Cole went on to make a valuable contribution to the winning of the Double with United, whereas Keegan had nothing to show for his smart moves!

With the departure of players like Cole, Venison, Sissoko, and Fox, the pattern of the Keegan management style was becoming ever more unstable. Players were replaced almost instantly by ever more expensive imports who in turn were replaced or discarded if they did not produce the goods. There was no transitional periods or time to bed in. The fees paid demanded instant returns, and the expectation rose accordingly. Keegan was no longer a talented coach, he was now a fantasy football manager.

The arrival of Eccleston, Gomis, Heslop and Ferdinand at the start of the 1996/97 season was heralded as the final piece of a very expensive jigsaw. Keegan's biggest mistake however was self inflicted, and that was to take on the job of toppling United on behalf of the media and the rest of the country as well as Tyneside.

Having won the league comfortably by Christmas, then had to go out and play a tougher second half to the season. Ferguson publicly conceded the race was over whilst privately set about demolishing their almost unassailable lead. As the load began to weight away, Keegan resorted to more comfort shopping with the arrival of Basu and Asprilla. Asprilla's arrival is off highlighted as being the turning point to when the season went sour, but it is probably safer to say that Newcastle's capitulation at O'2 over Christmas was more revealing as to what lay in store for Keegan's men. Under pressure, away from home and having to produce a result led to failure every time. Ferguson suffered it, and from conceding at Christmas he had turned to bailing his opponents out with a telling effect on Keegan's mental stamina for the run in. Keegan's outbreak on TV must have been music to the ears of Alex Ferguson. True to form media man had lost it in front of the cameras. A suspect defence and a suspect goalkeeper rather than a lack of firepower were plain for all but Keegan to see, and attempts by the media to point to him in the right direction went unheeded. This was the finish of Keegan and why he was left to stagger on like a punch drunk boxer for the next eight months is a bit of a mystery. Perhaps John Hall was getting his own back on a man who threatened to quit six times in six years and after spending over £50 million of his money, all he had to show for it was one five-nil win over United at St. James Park. There's more than Keegan that needs cheering up in geordie-land!

Keegan the snowman had finally melted, and John Hall went hard and fast for Bobby Robson, not Dalglish interestingly, who sat back waiting to be approached when Robson proved unavailable. However Hall's determination to get Robson panicked Dalglish who tipped off his media friends to canvass on his behalf. Henry Winter, Dalglish's biographer ran a full page article in the Daily Telegraph rewriting the Dalglish walkouts and promoting him for the Newcastle job. Alan Hansen was also called up to back the bid for Dalglish almost to the point of claiming he had magical powers when it came to winning trophies. Dalglish's record is suspect and John Hall knows it. At the press conference to announce his arrival, Dalglish hardly shut up. He was rambling like a man who had been drinking from Noel Gallagher's teapot, and spoke in more than twenty minutes than I've heard him speak in the last twenty years. Clearly with the Newcastle flotation looming up, Dalglish was under orders from Hall to drop his uncooperative manner when dealing with the press. A source of future conflict!

Dalglish's departure from Liverpool and Blackburn have been airbrushed out of the collective memory by the press, and instead we are treated to King Kenny's incredible success as both player and manager. No inquest has been held into the performance of his Blackburn team during his reign as director of football, both domestically and more appallingly in Europe.

Kenny though can't resist a no lose bet: if he wins the Premier, then it will be down to him, and if he doesn't win, it will be down to Keegan. As one Newcastle fan asked when Kenny was appointed, 'What if he does a Keegan and walks out?' Well don't worry Keegan was only doing a Dalglish!
The News of the World ran a front page 'exclusive' on Ian Wright's off the field activities on 12th of January 1997. This comes weeks after the News of the World interview with Ian over the racial abuse allegations against Peter Schmeichel. From reading the article on Ian's affair, it is apparent that it happened about twelve months ago and his wife knew all about it.

What is of interest to United fans though is this. Before Ian Wright's interview with the News of the Screws, the FA had nowhere to go with regard to the Schmeichel case as no-one, and in particular Ian Wright had complained. Based on what Ian Wright allegedly said in his interview with the paper, the FA were able to take the matter further by writing to the players for their comments on the 'incident'.

It would be fair to say that the News of the World had poor old Wright by the short and curlies if Ian didn't want the press to do the dirty on him, then he had to supply the ammunition for them to do the dirty on someone else. As Ian and the rest of us have since found out, they printed anyway.

**Something Cooking**

In issue 10 of Red Attitude we covered Mark Bosnich and his fascist salute at Spurs. We drew the conclusion that he was a clown rather than a fascist and that people should look elsewhere to find the real villains. We highlighted the Tory MP for Knutsford who is at the centre of the cash for questions scandal and has a solid past with links to many extreme right wing groups, as a more likely candidate. Well someone high up at Channel 4 must have been reading as they've just done a 'Dispatches' documentary on him.

Apart from plenty of additional material to show he was on the take across the board, one other very interesting story came to light. The Cooke Report, on learning that the influence and favours of MPs and ministers could be bought for cash by hiring a political lobby group called Ian Greer Associates set about investigating. Fat Rodger and his boys set up a bogus company and recorded meetings with Greer Associates, where they were told that Neil Hamilton MP and Minister, amongst others was on the books and available at a price. Strangely, this programme was never transmitted, and the makers, Central TV claimed that no-one would be interested in 'cash for questions'. When you think that Roger Cook has chased car thieves across three continents, isn't it strange that when he stumbles into a massive government corruption scandal he walks away from it. Can you imagine Coke knocking on 10 Downing Street confronting Mr Big about government corruption with a camera team in tow.

**King 'Bitter' Bee Records.**

On hearing that KingBee Records in Chorlton were stockists of football fanzines, our erstwhile Manchester sales co-ordinator John Priest popped in to see if they were interested in stocking Red Attitude. Upon asking the question, he was told in no uncertain terms that they only sell City fanzines. 'But this is a record shop,' our man replied in vain. 'I'm not interested' was the swift reply. John paused, cast his eye round the merchandise and asked dryly before leaving, 'Does this mean you only sell records to City fans aswell?' It does from now on, John!

**FOULING THE FOOTIE PATH**

Guess who has committed the most fouls in Premiership over the past six weeks? John, Dicks, Radcock? No, none of the usual reprobates. Would you believe it's Goody-2-Boots himself, Alan Shearer, who, according to computer analysis by the Spix index has totalled 25, five more than the other half of the former SAS, Chris Sutton. Odd, though that Shearer does not figure in the top ten of the card crime-count, headed by Coventry's Ken Stubbs. Are referees reluctant to bring the England captain to book because of who he is? Disputing the myth that the foreign imports don't like to mix it with the best of British, is Emmanuel, of Middlesbrough, who as well as being the top collector of Air Miles is also the most successful tackle in the Premiership, with 74 per cent won out of 34 made. More in character, Shearer is the most effective striker, with a 35 per cent shots to goals ratio (31 shots, 7 goals), but Sealyman of Manchester United is the most accurate marksman with 75 per cent of his shots on target. The Spix Index Player of the Week is Chelsea's Dennis Wise, no.
The Devils Ride Out...

**Peter Schmeichel**
Exposed too often of late, despite not being under any long periods of pressure. The defence need his organisational skills now more than ever. His own form is good with clean sheets becoming fairly standard.
8/10

**Gary Neville**
Still not producing his best form but is improving with the team. Has looked more comfortable at the centre-back position, but doubts over his aerial prowess suggest full back is the job to focus on.
7/10

**Denis Irwin**
Again a case of full back not quite living up to previously set high standards, however two sterling performances against Wimbledon and Southampton at home. Denis is on the move.
7/10

**David May**
Sick boy should be back for the Arsenal game and we’ll need him. Has been steady at the back, sound in the tackle.
8/10

**Ronnie Johnsen**
Another centre back with recurring injuries. He’s quality but shouldn’t have been thrown in at Selhurst Park, it upset the apple cart at the back!
7/10

**Chris Casper**
Looked good against the Dons at home and also away at Spurs when coming on as sub. Doesn’t get dragged out of position and given our problems at the back, he should be getting 20 minute runouts every game to get him up to pace.

**Michael Clegg**
Very impressive. Gary Neville watch out. Two games against Wimbledon and one against Southampton without a mistake I can think of. Should have held his place for the trip to Selhurst.
9/10

**Phil Neville**
All we can say is get well soon, as we’re dying to write something about you this season.
8/10 on account!

**Roy Keane**
Quality. What else needs to be said.
9/10

**Brian McClair**
He’s here, he’s there...and no doubt we’ll be saying it for a lot longer than we may like. Any sign of the coaching job yet?
6/10 (includes 3 from last issue)

**David Beckham**
From the RA Choccy archives
Still quieter of late, but lucky for him has produced a few flukes to help pay his way. Still ranks as the contender for player of the year. Don’t tell Keano!
10/10

**Nicky Butt**
Not played since Christmas, and we’ve missed his dogged tackling but not his dodgy passing.

**Ryan Giggs**
Giggs isn’t having a bad season, but the odd goal isn’t a good enough return from the chances he’s had. If we’re to stay top then his contribution, especially away from OT needs upping. Keep it up Ryan and I don’t mean in the Barton.
8/10

**Karel Poborsky**
Has looked better for getting a few starts under his belt. The fans should stay off his back and give him the time to develop as it may not happen for Karel this season. Keep going with the head down Karel.
7/10 for effort

**Ole Gunnar Solskjaer**
This little fellow continues to score and make people sit up and take notice of him. All plaudits richly deserved.
9/10

**Paul Scholes**
Paul’s had to mix and match to get into the team this year but his play anywhere style and knack of pulling a goal out of nowhere every now and again should at least guarantee a spot on the bench.
8/10

**Eric Cantona**
Still struggling to break off the shackles this term. Great goal against Sunderland, and the winner against Soton. Long live the King!
7/10

**Andy Cole**
Relax man! Keep working the forward line like last season and the goal return isn’t the only thing the fans are looking at. You score for fun when the confidence is there. It will come when the work rate is right. Score the goals till the end of the season and it’s Coley for England.
I think he looks good with Ole up front and Eric between midfield and attack.
7/10

Michael Palin
Fanzine Reviews

Forest Forever. Issue 34.

Forest Forever are keen believers in not wasting any space. Virtually every page is packed to the rafer with the goings on down by the Trent. They have a list of contributors which is longer than all United's fanzines put together, and they do they kick up some output. Such are the problems, they have plenty to talk about. Although since this one was printed, Forest have lost Mr. Clark to our would-be local rivals Man City, many of the Forest fans were of the opinion that Frank Clark had reached his sell-by date anyway. The money from the sale of Collymore was badly spent by Frank Clark. This belief the old rich club poor club argument which is wheeled out every time a club screws up. Having squandered the money, it's West Ham, they plead poverty as being the reason for a lack of success. Forest can take heart in losing Mr. Clark and having Stuart Pearce step into the breach. I just hope their FA Cup victory over Newcastle cheered their supporters up as much as it did the readers of Red Attitude! All in all a reasonable fanzine for so great other than it does its job.

Villa Fans Against Loyalty and Fascism.

Now here's an interesting cookie and judging by the title, it should be of interest to Red Attitude readers. The group started up in response to the advent of Aston Villa C18, with whom they have had one or two successful run-ins. Taking a leaf out of the Celtic anti-fascists and Man. United anti-fascists book, they have now gone into print. As with all first attempts, the style and quality is a bit ropey, however if it's free you can't complain, and it can only get better! What I did find interesting was the Villa fans opposition to loyalty alongside their opposition to fascism.

C18 have a big problem when they try to run their own colours at many clubs. To run on an anti-Black or anti-foreigner ticket would cut too much ice with supporters who have seen the beneficial contribution these groups have made to their clubs. The wearing of Rued Gudjot style wigs by Chelsea fans is not a Headhunter/C18 initiative. Likewise even at Leeds, organised fascist groups who once sold their propaganda openly at Elland Rd. have found it difficult to generate race-hate with the likes of Yeboah, Wallace, Rudoe, Deane and Palmer involved on the playing side.

C18's answer to this is to promote an issue which they feel is easy to defend. Namely, 'No surrender to the IRA'. This is the new rallying cry from the fascist recruiter's at football. The old ones like 'There ain't no black in the union jack' have been mothballed for now. The beauty of the position for C18 is that anyone who opposes their stance can be labelled as an apologist for the IRA. However even the loyalist groups are uneasy at the publicity their links with C18 and fascism have gained, especially as they are allegedly involved in peace talks. More apologists? I think not.

Villa fans have taken the ball by the horns on this one in not only challenging the fascists but also making a stand against the anti-Irish racism that these groups are whipping up. Further information on this initiative can be obtained from VFALF, PO Box 5311, Birmingham B13 0RZ.

RED, ANTI-FASCIST AND PROUD
SKY AWARDS 1996

best young player:
David Beckham.
No problem with this one although Nicky Butt should have made the final list along with Phil Neville if he'd carried on from where he left off in the summer.

fans player of the year:
David Beckham.
Pleasantly surprised at this award. Just goes to show that real football class will prevail over media hype, if the rest of the country voted for Beckham ahead of Shearer.

best overseas player:
Eric Cantona
Can't grumble with this one, but it should have gone to Peter Schmeichel and Player of the Year to Eric given his singular contribution to the Double.

best player:
Alan Shearer
Absolute bollocks I'm afraid. What did Shearer do last year over and above what his fat salary barely justifies? Oh, that's right, he moved from Blackburn to Newcastle for £15 million. That means he's the best player by about £7 million. How this award can go to Shearer, whose goals won diddly-squat last year, as opposed to Eric's goals which landed the silverware, is beyond me.

best manager:
Joe Kinnear
Undoubtedly one of the best managers in the Premierhip and I don't begrudge him his reward and recognition one iota. However, it does demonstrate a very interesting voting pattern from the league managers. Having lost the first three games of the season, Joe's award is based on Wimbledon's run since mid-September, which no matter what spin you put on lack of resources, there just isn't enough there to warrant manager of the year. Moreno when you weigh up the achievements of Ferguson and his homespun outfit, having won the double Double, qualified for the later stages of the European Cup and moved ominously closer to top spot in the league again. The question is, had Keegan won the league, would Joe have got manager of the year? Of course not but this time round it was the only avenue open to the anti-United elements.

non-football sports personality of the year:
Naseem Hamed
Ian Dowie would have been an obvious one for the non-footballing award, but it went to a very good boxer who has a fondness for wearing Newcastle United shirts. He should take note from the experiences of that other well known 'geordie' boxer, Nigel Benn whose career seems to have nose-dived about as spectacularly as a Newcastle United title challenge!

best song:
Cheer Up Kevin Keegan
A clear winner in this category, and the only argument is between United, Middlesbrough and Sunderland fans over who gives the best rendition. Kevin, apparently is haunted by this song, so he should be pleased to hear that the Monkees have reformed and will hopefully re-release the original version.

biggest tantrum:
Newcastle United Fans
Another clear winner for the geordies, this time for their celebrations in their own town centre after losing the Premiership to the super Reds.

biggest loser:
Kevin Keegan
Not only has he managed to lose sixty million pounds, and a fourteen point lead in the title race, but now he has gone and lost his marbles. It's a good job his balls are in a bag!

tackiest sports awards ceremony:
Sky 1996 Awards.
If you saw it, then you'll know what I mean; if you didn't then you're lucky. Good to see Eric not gracing the event with his presence, so all those sad tossers in the audience who saw fit to boo his award will feel suitably short-changed by his non-appearance.
Strong Words, softly spoken...?
The Noonan Interview

Red Attitude sent along two of its roaring reporters to catch up with Desdy Noonan and recorded the long awaited ‘Noonan Interview’. Proving elusive over the Christmas period, Red Attitude finally found their man on the morning of the Cup Clash with Spurs.

Desdy Noonan, long time United fan, and well known ‘face’ on the Manchester scene is perhaps less well known for his opposition to racism and fascism during the 80’s and early 90’s in Manchester. Here for the first time in print, Desdy gives his views on supporting United and also on his days fighting fascism.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST RECOLLECTIONS OF GOING TO OLD TRAFFORD?
A. I first started going to Old Trafford when I was about fifteen. It was the early seventies and best had just done one. Gordon Hill, Steve Coppell and Buchan at the back, those are the names that spring to mind. Hang on there’s someone at the back door. Hey! don’t put this in the magazine will you? Come in SD, I’m just doing an interview.

Q. NAME YOUR FAVOURITE UNITED ELEVEN FROM THE PLAYERS YOU HAVE SEEN.
A. Schmeichel, G. Neville, Irwin, Bruce, Buchan, Robson, Keane, Kanu, Schmeichel, Cantona, Giggs, Hughes.

Q. DURING THE EIGHTIES, MYSTIC SCOTTISHared NF SUPPORTERS OPERATING AT MANCHESTER REGULARLY. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THIS INITIATIVE?
A. Yes, I remember meeting some of the lads who were involved with this at the time. They were United fans to the core and over the years they have certainly put their money where their mouth is on this issue.

Q. DURING THE EIGHTIES CITY HAD A GROUP OF NF MEMBERS OPERATING AT MANCHESTER. WHAT WAS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS?
A. They were involved with the NF in Manchester and had attacked political meetings and demonstrations. They also turned out with the NF when they sold NF newspapers outside what was Chelsea girls (now Virgin records) on the corner of Piccadilly. Their paper sold well so they came to a half when the boys went down there week after week and knocked fuck out of them. In one attack, a German soldier, over here on NATO come and have a drink with us before the game, and thought no more about it. We were in the Whalley, again no more than seven or eight of us, but no show from our blue friends by the time we left. After the game we heard reports that a mob of City 200 strong had attacked United fans in the Whalley on the way to Old Trafford. The few Reds in the pub and the locals actually fought off the attack. This was City’s fascist inspired response to being feted in their own pub.

City’s fascists played up the football rivalry between us and them to hide the political differences, whilst we highlighted that their support for fascism meant they were getting it anyway and if City fans wanted to back them up they were placing ignorance on the politics, then so be it.

Q. WHY IS IT THAT THE FASCISTS WERE IDENTIFIED WITH CITY AND THE ANTI FASCISTS WITH UNITED.
A. Anti-fascist United fans have been involved at United for a long time and it has proved difficult for the fascists to get established. At City the fascists were there almost from day one. They were part of City’s mob but were organised and active politically for the NF separate from football. However once they’d been identified politically as being fascists it was game on so to speak. This also brought them into conflict with City’s local black supporters. Its worth mentioning that a lot of city supporters were totally opposed to them. A lot of the information that we acted on came direct from anti-fascist City fans. Their contribution has not been given the credit that it deserves.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH AFA.
A. For legal reasons obviously there’s a lot that wouldn’t look good in print, however what I will say is that it is an active organisation that is run by the people who
are prepared to go out and do the business against the fascists. In other words a 'hands on' type of outfit. For my part I've enjoyed every time I've been out drinking with them, and I've enjoyed telling people what they're doing politically is wrong and above all I've enjoyed hating their organisations and I will continue to if they carry on, as they are a disease and they need to be picked out.

Q. HOW HAS APA BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT ORGANISED FASCIST GROUPS FROM OPERATING IN MANCHESTER?
A. Quite simply because year after year we have out-voiced them. If they can't operate politically without being attacked then they will struggle to attract anything more than losers and punchbags. In 1993 the BNP started a branch in Manchester, within weeks their organiser was seen drinking in a pub in Moss Side discussing his surrender terms with us. They have a henchman in Salford run by a Mr Payne, but he's such a useless twat that it's better for us if he's left alone to carry on fucking his own outfit up.

The reason APA's been strong in Manchester is that everyone's stuck together. We've had London fu**ed down and lads from all over to help us. We've stood strong in situations, we've never backed down, and I don't think we will back down at the end of the day. I believe if you stand together in solidarity you'll get rid of whatever you want.

Q. HOW DO YOU SEE THINGS OPERATE THE NEXT 12 MONTHS WITH THE PROBABLE ELECTION OF A LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE BNP LOOKING TO FIELD FIFTY CANDIDATES AT THE ELECTION.
A. I've got my suspicions that if Labour get in then the BNP will do well out of it. Labour don't do anything about racism, or they do just enough to get the votes, but they're not bothered. They're just like the Tories, they don't give a shit. When they get in they will be just as quick at the Tories to blame the immigrants anyway.

Let's face it, working people are going to vote Labour expecting a change for the better after the Tories. Tony Blair's new Labour already claim to be the party of business and that's their words, so working class people are going to get well and truly ripped. The BNP are sat there using the election to stand on an anti-Labour ticket, hoping to cash in on working people's despair and disillusion twelve months down the line when Labour have shafted them.

Q. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANTI-FASCISTS IN THE FRONTLINE OF TODAY'S STRUGGLE?
A. By all means oppose the fascists at the election, but don't regard it as a victory if the BNP don't fare too well, they don't expect to. The real fight starts six to twelve months after Labour get in. The election is like half time. People have to be fit to play the full 90 minutes and extra time if necessary. My advice to APA supporters is to carry on with what you're doing. It's a struggle, maybe one day it will come together but it won't be easy. It's important then you fight for it.

Q. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ALEX FERGUSON FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON?
A. Just keep plodding along, I think we'll win the league and I'm certain we'll come close to winning the European Cup as well. Either way with the players and management we've got, we're going to be up amongst it for the next five years at least. Don't forget United are still a developing club and hopefully the finished article is yet to be seen.

Q. ARE YOU HEADING OVER TO PORTO FOR THE QUARTER FINALS?
A. You bet your life I am. I wasn't available for the previous rounds due to Home Office regulations, but with the Bosman ruling and the parole system I'm available for the knock-out stages.
A Letter From Eric...

RISLEY: 11.197.
I suspect that next week's porridge will seem greyer than usual in the kitchen of Vellut, Durham, Wingson Green and the London locals, where the majority of the incarcerated legions of our main line read prison rest. On the top eighth car today, couple that with the very respectable haul of points the lads pulled over Xmas and I think the message will be ringing clear: the mighty O.T. tide's getting into full low. Looking forward immensely to tomorrow's game at White Hart Lane. We get the second half of the Sunday games on TV. Us Reds are outnumbered about ten to one on this wing and it's excellent sport, with the very-undesired United mob baying for our blood. I love it.

A lot of it's in good humour though - the stick that fans take and give to each other - even when there's a phone card (which represents about a third of the average wage here) at stake. But there's definitely an edge of malice about the flick that's directed our way. Some of 'em are really bitter about our winning ways, it never ceases to surprise me. I remember talking to an old pal of mine, in Wandsworth, top-western villain he was, and, he said, he had plenty of money and a good rich life out of the game; cultured and intelligent in every respect. He was an Arsenal fan, for his sins. But it's no good blaming the supporters for all the boring teams the Gunners have produced. They can't switch their allegiance any more than we can. I'm on this day by now my true feelings for us overcoming his natural polish, "I fucking hate Man U, I fucking despise them, I really do. I was taken aback, "Why should you feel like that?" I asked. "You're a mature sophistica-
ted man; you support a big club, that's had massive success," "That's just it" he replied, "we are a bigger club, with a great history of success and tradition, the marble halls and all that; but you're bigger than us, in London you're bigger; it's Man United this and Man United that. I tell you more. I despise you. So there you are, if that was the response from the man of the world, I was described, what can we Reds expect from the somewhat less cosmopolitan residents of this suburban slum?

Mind you, the interest in football, gambling and sport in general inside, isn't what it used to be. A lot of the residents seem to be more interested in heavy duty drama, such as Neighbours or Home and Away. I glance into the T.V. rooms and I genuinely fear for the future of the criminal classes.

Where's the next generation of pettymen, burglars, fraudsters, etc going to come from? Certainly the crap films that are shown draw bigger gates than the football. They've got T.V.s in cells in Strangeways now, you know. The cons pay them to rent them out of earnings, so you're going to have to get working to get one. (And we are talking, in the main, about unconvicted prisoners, by the way. So don't get carried away with the holiday camps and all that. There has been a strong rumour that Michael Howard intends to do away with them. If that's right, then they need to be careful how they go about taking them away. It seems to this observer that they'd have more chance of taking the food away without any fuss!)

What a fool that Howard is. The riots in 1990 cost the state hundreds of millions of pounds: the one sure-fire way of guaranteeing a compliant prison population, is to install T.V.s in every cell. The chips would be far too concerned about the goings-on in Coronation Street, Eastenders, et al to even consider taking to the rooftops.

I've been following the debate about the current lack of atmosphere at O.T. (except on special occasions) with great interest. A couple of years ago, I was on the train to London, when I saw that Roland Smith (chairman of the PLC) I pulled up to about a few things, including the splitting of the club, down through the relegation. It was very handy, because he couldn't really get away from me. I was "suave and seated", and in first class I think everyone around travel first class: for all he knew I could have had an executive box at O.T., so he couldn't tell me to piss off and leave him alone. In fairness, though, he's obviously a very sharped businessman, he didn't come across as a pompous man, but he made a remark that showed the chasm that exists between those of his ilk and the fan, the blood, sweat and tears of any football club, I'd made a particular point about a lot of passion leaving O.T., along with the Stereford End. He said (and there were his exact words): "There's no room for passion in football!" Can you believe that? We were talking about the biggest club in the world, probably more than any club in the world, owes its entire raison d'etre to the biggest club in the word's passion. Different. I was talking about a football club, he was talking about a business. All power to the I.M.U.S.A. regards.

Eric the Red.

Editor's note: For those amongst us who are too young to know any better, a pettymen is a safekeeper.

PS. There's a letter from a firm of solicitors on page 35 which should be of interest to your good self Eric!

A Serious Disturbance

Strangeways 1990

A larger than usual crowd had gathered and there was an air of expectancy. Around 10.30am we could see the remaining lads on A wing roof. Shortly afterwards, a screw's head appeared through a hole at the end of A wing, then another. The lads retreated towards the chapel. Then we saw more screws: it was clear they had recaptured the whole of the nick, the bar small roof area that the lads still held. The screws stuck up a notice to the effect that they were back in charge and there were to be "No visits". (And those words were seriously intended as a wind-up. Whenever there is any sort of problem in gaol, the first thing they do is cancel visits. Never mind that people may have travelled hundreds of miles; there's "no visits". And often for the filmsiest of "reasons".) - Eric Allison

Darren Jones was snatched by riot screws at 10.20am on 25 April 1990, the final day of the protest. Aged 17, he had been remanded in custody for joy-riding. Interviewed a month later, Darren said the prisoners 'wanted it to be a peaceful protest but the prison authority didn't want that...they wanted to use violence...one lad had a snooker ball thrown at him when he was negotiating...He was cut above the eye...People were scared to come down.'

For most of the day enormous quantities of water were sprayed onto the roof. The prisoners remained defiant but were soaked and again. Preparations were made to spray the roof with detergent so that all but a tiny area would be too slippery to walk on.

Paul Taylor sums up the defiance of the protest: 'We did not surrender! We simply made a decision collectively, having worked together in preparing for as long as possible the prison being taken back into the control of the prison authority.'

At 6.20pm the final five prisoners - Paul Taylor, Mark Williams, Glyn Williams, Martin Brian and John Murray - made a spectacular departure from the prison in the bucket of a 'cherry picker' hydraulic platform, fists clenched, acknowledging the press and public as they went. It was like a curtain call at the end of a magnificent piece of theatre. And down below hundreds and hundreds of people watched and clapped and cheered and cried. Darren Jones' mother, Shireen, remembers how 'All the prison officers were on the roof and I saw the looks on people's faces. I saw people crying in that crowd...'

The revolt at Strangeways gave courage and strength to prisoners around the country. Between 1 and 25 April 1990 there were protests at over 20 gaols. Such an uprising shook the whole prison system to its core.

By 1 May 1990 Manchester Police had interviewed 900 of the 1,659 prisoners who were at Strangeways on 1 April and taken statements from most prison officers present during the 26 days. Copious statements continued to be taken over the next five months. Under the procedures of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act the interviews were taped-recorded which no doubt prevented some of the worst types of physical intimidation; it did not, however, prevent trickery and coercion being used by the police.

The following is an extract from an interview conducted at Stalybridge police station on 27 April 1990. DC Elder and DC Staying of...
Manchester Serious Crime Squad are asking
Mark Petrie, aged 19, about what happened in the
chapel.

DC S: Was Spencer first up with a stick in either
hand, hopstepping over the benches?

Petrie: Yeah.

DC S: Don’t be frightened to tell us these
things because these are things we
know already. They’re well documented.

DC S: We just want you to tell us your version of
events.

DC S: And I’ll tell you why: you know full well
now that you were suspected, as I’ve told
you, you’re suspected of assaulting.

Petrie: I’VE NOT DONE NOW TO NO ONE.
I’VE TOLD YOU THAT.

DC S: Right. We’re asking
you now for the full
picture. Don’t be fright-
ened of talking about
other people because
everyone is talking about
everybody, pointing the finger at
somebody or other.

Somebody’s pointing
the finger at you. Now
you may well be
involved, you may not be involved,
that’s what we’re here to try to sort out.
If you’re not involved, tell us what’s gone
on, divorce yourself from what’s gone
on and then we can, we can sort it out, we
can verify it. It’s like a bloody big jigsaw
puzzle to us and eventually we’ll know
whether or not you’ve told us the truth.’

Mark Petrie was interviewed for two solid days
in this vein; under immense pressure he
named three prisoners and described others in
detail but each time the police thought he was
cooperating fully, he announced he had been
lying. Although threatened with charges of
assault and wounding, even attempted murder,
he stated categorically that he would not give
evidence against anyone in court.

Some of those who later stood trial remained
entirely silent when questioned; others carefully
replied to questions about their own actions. But
a number of prisoners did incriminate their fellow
inmates, some trying to ‘box clever’ by
setting up additional meetings, feeding the
police false evidence and promising to be
witnesses for the prosecution in return for either
immunity or lighter sentences, apparently
hoping that a later date they would be able
to switch sides again and prove police corrup-
tion. Obviously the police encouraged such
‘assistance’, particularly when it concerned
evidence about prisoners against whom they,
the local force, held their grudges. One
prisoner maintained that the police, working
together with screws, were prepared to trade
false evidence against a Category A prisoner for
a passage to Ford open prison. These
‘informants’ subsequently retracted their
statements and stood trial, but by then it was
too late to undo some of the damage caused.

Not one of the men who had taken part in the
uprising in any significant way whatsoever had
an easy ride in the period that followed it; today, most of
them are still marked men.

On 10 June 1990, the day before the official inquiry into the
uprising opened, Alan Lord
cutely embarrassed both the
Prison Service and Manchester
police by escaping from
custody. He walked calmly out of ‘high-security’ Astley Bridge
department while the officers on
duty watched the World Cup
on TV. Sadly he was recaptured five days later
and imprisoned in Wakefield prison’s infamous F
wing segregation unit.

Alan Lord is still being victimised for his part
in the Strangeways uprising. A life-sentence
prisoner who had served ten years in 1990 and
could have reasonably expected to be walking
free in 1996-6, he is currently serving 11 1/2 years
concurrent with his life sentence, and has little
chance of release this century. The life sentence
is a wonderful weapon for the system which can
literally expand and contract as it sees fit. Life
for Privates Thain and Clegg, British soldiers
found guilty of murder in the
north of Ireland, meant three
four years’ imprisonment; for
Alan Lord, it could mean life.

More horrific is the fate of
young prisoner, Iain McKinlay.
After his surrender at
Strangeways, Iain was
transferred to Hindley remand
centre near Wigan and held in
solitary confinement. He was 18.

Prison officers at Hindley knew
exactly who he was and were
out of their way to victimise him. On 24 June,
after 49 days of brutality, Iain wrote a note
to his parents and girlfriend and hanged himself.

The inquest into his death heard evidence from
former Hindley prisoners, who described how
Iain had been subjected to a hate campaign by
prison officers who spread rumours he was a
‘nonce’ and even put a razor blade in his food.

Tim Owen, the barrister representing the
family, accused Alfred Jennings, Hindley’s
governor, of ‘appealing neglect’ and suggested
he would not treat a dog in the way Iain had
been treated.

While these events were unfolding, public talk
was all about ‘reform’ of the prison system. Eric
attended the Manchester and London hearings
of the Wooff Inquiry.

‘The Inquiry team consisted of Lord Wooff, three
“lay assessors” and a clerk. Then there were
the barristers, eight in all, and plenty of solic-
tors – representing the Inquiry, the Prison
Service, the Prison Governors’ Association,
Prison Officers’ Association, and the Crown
Prosecution Service. Council to
spare, in fact, for all of the vested
interest groups except one, the one
in the most trouble: the prisoners.

Where was the counsel for the
prisoners? I was to ask and ask
again, only to be told that David
Latham QC, counsel for the Inquiry,
was there for the prisoners,
because it was his job to establish
the truth. But how could he?

He wasn’t briefed. They were, all
the others’ armies of people
passing notes, confering, briefing
their briefs. And not so brief Latham on
behalf of the prisoners.

Noel Proctor, prison chaplain, was the first to
give evidence about the riot. I expected the
worst. Proctor had been at Strangeways since
1975: before that, Wandsworth and Dartmoor:
all well-known “screws’ nick” and Proctor was
a screws’ chaplain, who has never spoken out
against conditions or the actions of the screws.
He must have seen hundreds of inmates who
have been beaten it is part of his job to go down
to the block, where he will have seen men beaten
black and blue, men covering naked in a corner
of a strip cell, men in obscene body-belts, lying
sticking in their own urine and excreta. But
Proctor only speaks about god and the screws and how they both are. He did not change his tone for the Woolf inquiry.

"There were no problems on D1," he said, "there were no complaints." I couldn't believe my ears. The block in Strangeways was a mass of problems and complaints, a huge festering sore, a prison within a prison where many could be abused and the perpetrators be content their crimes would not come to light. But, of course, none of the learned barristers representing all the vested interests bar one, challenged this blatant lie.

"After Proctor, the screws started telling their tales. And I gradually became convinced something was going on that the Inquiry was failing to pick up: namely, either by incredible negligence or something more sinister, some screws at Manchester had actually helped the disturbance take place.

"My first shock came on hearing of the extraordinary amount of warning of trouble that the staff had: grasses from all over the nick were telling screws it was going to go off in the chapel on 1 April. One screw told the Inquiry that a lot of inmates had told him they wouldn't be going to chapel on Sunday because of the impending action.

"Nobody told the governors. The screws would normally have written out a Security Information Report but not one did. Indeed they did nothing they would normally have done. The order to "evacuate the prison" was given at the very moment when the inmates were starting to barricade themselves inside the chapel, with no possible thought of taking over the whole gaol. No words were spoken between any senior staff about the possibility of containing the disturbance within the chapel.

"I was in no doubt: the staff, or some of them, had "allowed" the disturbance to take place. There had always been friction between staff and management and in the weeks leading up to the riot, there had been disputes and threats of industrial action. It would have suited the POA to have a "quiet riot", one they could contain, then say to their masters and the public: "Look at the behaviour of these animals. We need more staff, more money." But they didn't bargain for the level of hatred that their years of tyranny and oppression had built up among the prisoners. Nor did they reckon on their own cowardice when the chips were down.

"The Inquiry was not without its lighter moments: a governor named Frost gave evidence, a huge man weighing about 20 stone; at the time of the riot, he was in charge of the kitchens and his main grievance was the loss of his book of "classical menus". There was an amusing exchange on the subject of "stew": in their culinary ignorance prisoners complained they were given too much "stew"; they thought that the turgid mess of spuds and veg with the odd bit of "stew" which was served up several times a week was "stew". They didn't know that on Monday it was a "fricasse", Tuesdays a "ragout", Wednesdays a "goulash"; they all thought it was "stew".

"Then there was the screw Rutson who went off duty on the Friday before the riot, passing a few remarks with the deputy governor on his way out about a rooftop protest a few days earlier: "Oh what a pair of nuts they were. No support from the other cons. Eeh, its going to be a nice quiet weekend.""

TO BE CONTINUED

Strangeways 1990: a serious disturbance by Nick Jameson and Eric Allison costs £2.96 and is available by post from Larkin Publications, RCMI Box 5009, London, WC1R 3XX.

Dear Mr Edwards

I wish to express my support for the introduction of a so-called "Singing End", along the lines suggested by IMUSA. I believe the introduction of such an area can only be to the benefit of the team.

Name

Address

Membership No.

I am/am not a Season Ticket holder

RED ATTITUDE
Tribute to a Friend

In last month's Red Attitude we reported the sudden death of Andy Dignam. Andy was a member of the Red Attitude team and a staunch supporter of Manchester AFA. Andy's funeral took place on the 19th December 1996, and as a tribute to Andy we print the speech read out at his funeral.

'in spite of being born with a major heart defect and after surgery at nine months old, Andy had a happy childhood and still has the friends he made at school. After a major operation in 1984, his surgeon Professor Yacoub spoke to Andy. He said, "I've operated on you to let you live not just to keep you alive." He took him at his word and lived life to the full. It's a tribute to his courage and personality that his many friends did not realise the seriousness of his heart condition.

Andy was very involved in the struggles of people less fortunate than himself, and went on public demonstrations in spite of the danger to himself. He had friends all over the country and in Ireland and Germany.

Andy was a keen Manchester United fan. He ended up in hospital after he collapsed at a match. He reckoned the shock of Philan scoring a goal did it. He always had a great sense of humour. His other interests were reading, music and having a good time with his friends. His parents thought his life was too hectic at times. He'd say, 'don't worry, just go with the flow.' He will be greatly missed by everyone he knew, but still they'll just have to go with the flow.

Doug and Eddie Britton first came to prominence last year with their book, 'Everywhere We Go'. This book came under fire for a few reasons. The first was self-explanatory - it was a book about Watford hooligans. Secondly, it was pretty boring stuff, leads of beer football yarros. Thirdly, and most importantly, it gave a free, unchallenged platform to the Nazi politics of the BNP. Despite this, the book sold well, as the media and the middle classes fell over themselves to devour anything supposedly authentic about football.

Buried by their success, these two brothers have produced yet another book about football exploits, 'England, My England'. Two books in a year? Pretty impressive output for two fellows who made such a big point about not being professional journalists.

This second book follows much the same format as the first. Basically, it purports to be a series of authentic anecdotes and stories from England English football, mainly dealing with the national team. Some are pro-England, some are pro-local team, some are fascist, some are anti-fascist. All are nonsense.

Let's get this out of the way. The book is complete shit. Absolute nonsense. The views of two dicheads, supposed hooligans from Watford ranting on about the game and what is to be done, interspersed with the most obviously self-plagiarised letters this side of Riafle ('Then the door bell rang... I couldn't believe it. It was her twin sister etc'). Unconvincing, boring war stories.

Are you proof they've invented them? Well, reading them makes it obvious enough, there is no evidence of regional variation in any of the stuff, in any of the styles. Plus, I know for a fact that the piece supposedly written by AFA was inspired by these. They approached London AFA about doing an interview, London AFA told them they weren't interested after the first book had allowed the BNP free speech, and didn't want anything to do with it. So what do the Mitchel brothers do - make it up. As far as I can tell, the piece about the BNP is also fabricated - too many coincidences. And why BNP not C18? Combat 18 were all over the press in the run up to Euro '96, you couldn't open the News of the World without finding another 'Naz' hooligans Riot Plan'. They wrote some

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Red Attitude

plumber from Harlow. Yet there is little or even no reference to this. Why? Makes you wonder if the Britton brothers have been swapping boring tales with C18, but have had to keep them anonymous. If that is the case, then remember the old saying, if you lay down with dogs, you get up with fleas.

Couple of short anecdotes to illustrate my next point:

First, early 80s, Fulham Palace Rd, London. A group of militant anti-fascists have attacked some pub okes in a gig. The boneheads are coming a poor second, one of them has been sparkled out with a lump hammer. In the middle of all this one big bonehead, wearing an SS shirt, spent the last hour or so Sieg Hailing at the band, piped up with, 'Why do you lot always have to bring politics into it?'

Second, Summer '96, Trafalgar Square, London. Some of the chaps from the Celtic Soccer Crew are milling around, fresh from an encounter with a contingent of Chelsea Oxford C18 in Camden - the Soccer Crew are staunch supporters of Celtic Farm Against Fascism. They bump into some of Rangers ICF, with whom an uneasy truce has been made for the day. Some threats are made to and fro. Comments are made regarding the fact that the ICF are pretty much C18 to a man. The response: 'You lot always have to bring politics into things'.

And so it goes in the last chapter of this book, 'England, My England'. Politics should be kept out of sport, out of football.

The point is this, what is always meant by this is 'progressive politics must be kept 'out of sport, out of working class culture'. Progressive politics is accused of getting in the way, that racism, bigotry, definite politics in themselves, are not in fact political, just parts of working class culture, and that any attempt to challenge this with anything progressive is interfering.

Complete bollocks. The book is cynical, dishonest and moralistic. It vainly portrays itself as the voice of bicoagisation addressing both the footballing establishment and the wider world. Actually it's just two muppets trying to cash in on the present middle-class obsession with all things 'laddish'. Defeat their plans to make money off the backs of real fans, real lives, and real anti-racists. Don't buy this book until it is out of print.

DTM

Deep Dive... The Britton Bros

31

30
In January 1993 they made their most ambitious move to date, trying to put on one of the biggest anti-Nazi demonstrations ever seen in Britain by a Danish nazi terror group which has links with the British nazi group C18. The media covered the story but replaced the identity of the real targets - anti-fascists - with high-profile personalities.

Charlie Sargent C18 "Retired?"

There is speculation as to who set up C18 and why, but despite that, the organisation has operated for some time. In the early 1990s the British National Party (BNP) launched a high profile campaign in London's East End around the slogan 'Right For Whiteness', and AFA soon noticed the emergence of an organised group of fascist stewards. AFA responded to the challenge of the BNP forcefully, and the fascists were seen off on several occasions. This new fascist outfit was soon to become the deadlock C18 - Combat Adolf Hitler.

At first C18 had a working relationship with the BNP. They believed that a racist attack was worth far more than a racist incident, especially when it was publicly claimed by C18 to create the impression of organisation and planning. They hoped to provoke random reactions on whites from claims of the attacks, which in turn would start a "race war".

It is possible that C18 was set up by British fascist groups as a "troop carrier" - to attract and identify the potentially most violent fascists and monitor their links with similar nazi terror groups around the world. Whatever the reason, by the end of 1992 C18 was producing its own propaganda, including magazines with "hit lists" of their opponents. They did attack a few soft targets, a couple of left wing bookshops and community centres, and were found of leaving threatening messages on people's answerphones but from the very outset they were promising more than they could deliver.

By 1993 the BNP had withdrawn from the "public arena" due to physical pressure from AFA, but the new standard bearers of street-level fascism were proving almost as elusive. Probably the first possibility of communication between AFA and C18 came at the massive (but pointless) Unity Demo in October 93. C18 were locked in a pub waiting for people to disperse from the march, but when approached by AFA they wouldn't leave the pub until the police arrived. This all seemed very familiar - rather than some new "terror group".

Who are ya?

Obviously encouraged by all the glowing tributes after the Dublin trouble, Euro '96 was being forecast as one long, hot summer of fascist violence. Despite the media's build up, either it was a case of ambition or ability, because they failed to organise any political activity off the back of the European Championships. Because C18 actually do very little they were kept under control by the police, who observed the situation from the windows of the adjacent police station.

The next time C18 hit the headlines was after the trouble at the Ireland v England game in Dublin, February 1995. The media built up C18 into an overnight international conspiracy, giving them publicity worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. To claim that an organisation with a dismal track record outlined above was capable of staging a major disturbance to wreck the "Peace Process" was complete dishonesty and obviously part of a different agenda.

Shortly after Dublin, C18 organised 100 stewards for a UVF march through central London, and despite AFA's credible record of dealing with the fascists, Searchlight magazine decided that because of the danger of serious violence Searchlight did not inform anti-fascist groups of the march. The following year, this time with the necessary information in place, AFA was able to successfully confront the Loyalists and the C18 stewards as they assembled for their march.

The damage done to C18's credibility at this early stage in their attempts to protect the Loyalists came just two weeks after a similar C18-backed UVF march in Bolton had been badly won. With C18 getting named over in Bolton a few days earlier, once again AFA, the front line of anti-fascist resistance, had completely exposed their media-created reputation.

C18 have actively built links with the UVF Loyalists, collecting money for them and putting on a couple of Blood and Honour gigs in the north of Ireland. Their support has been obvious with some UVF members wearing the old-style UVF controlled Blood and Honour magazine states. "We the Loyalists prisoners on East Belfast CUDA wing 2, are dedicated to keepin' Uther British and white... Half the UFF & C18.

On the football front C18 placed a lot of emphasis on recruiting from the football scene, "Getting all the football fans, or fobs, mobs, whatever and getting them all behind a Nationalist cause, as that's when we start to progress" was C18's publicly stated aim. In reality, once again, they have achieved very little.

Corey 32nd rownd 32

Red, Anti-Fascist and Proud

Who are ya?

...after the Dublin trouble, Euro '96 was being forecast as one long, hot summer of fascist violence...

"Wise inside the nationalist movement that football is not something that can do without the street activities". Seeing how the BNP are embarking on the biggest fascist electoral campaign since the 1970s it would seem logical that they would want to project themselves. The future of C18 remains uncertain. Some might rejoin the BNP but having said that there has always been a physical force element on the extreme right, whatever it calls itself, and sometimes it is diplomatic or tactical to separate the different "wings" of the movement. Another option is that a more political element might take control of C18 now that the corruption of its leaders has been exposed. So were the New Year letter bombs a sign of things to come or another failed attempt to restore some credibility to the name of C18?

One thing is certain, those who deliberately exaggerate the threat posed by C18 are hostile to the anti-fascist movement. The media portrayed C18 as larger than they actually are, to the fear of the uneducated, unthinking, unstoppable, and when they do mention the anti-fascist opposition it is only as victims. As the C18 slogan goes "Let them hate as long as they fear". No mention of AFA's successes against C18 and while the middle classes may find these stories shocking, there are disillusioned working class people who have been affected by fascism that may be impressed. Certainly the fascists appreciate the stories because they can reprimand them word for word in their magazines as evidence of their growing influence. As an AFA spokesperson said after the second World In Action C18 special: "Which is a moving that can be exploited by its target is of dubious value, and 9 times out of 10 counter-productive.

Behind all the publicity lies the real purpose of promoting C18, and it is the call on the Home Office and MI5 powers to deal with the problem. The successes of militant anti-fascists must be written out of history the fascist threat must be exaggerated, and then the only thing that stands between us and a fully blown "race war" are the suitably strengthened forces of law and order and those forces and powers that can be used rapidly to the Right itself, increases repression against the extreme Right, how long before that attention is then transferred onto groups on the Left?"
Letters

34 Ely Place Holborn Circus, London EC1N 6TD

Dear Sirs

We act on behalf of Frederick Wright who is currently engaged in Court proceedings against BPC Whealons Limited. In the proceedings our client seeks damages and an injunction in relation to a book entitled "Strangeways 1990 - a serious disturbance". The book contains allegations which are totally untrue, and are obviously highly defamatory of our client. They impugn to him serious criminal offences which, if true, would render him liable to imprisonment as well as dismissal from the Prison Service. Publication of the book has caused our client great embarrassment and distress and his reputation has been grossly injured. The fact that these proceedings are being taken is obviously well known to you as they are mentioned on page 23 of Issue No. 10 of your magazine entitled Red Attitude. That edition contains an extract from the book and indicates you intend to continue serialising the book in future editions. For reasons which are obvious our client is extremely disturbed that you should be considering publishing the contents of this book when Court proceedings are still ongoing. We must therefore request that you immediately confirm that you will not publish further extracts from the book. We await to hear from you.

Yours faithfully
LEE S LLOYD WHITLEY

Red Attitude reply.

It would appear that your client's intention is nothing less than an attempt to place a legal ban on a published work which is on sale to the general public. Having gained the consent of the authors of the book to do so, we have printed serialised extracts in issues 10, 11, and 12 of Red Attitude. We have not reprinted any allegations, which you and your client dispute, in the serialised extracts that have been used in Red Attitude. Whilst we would agree with you that your client is extremely disturbed, we do not feel that this, in itself, is sufficient reason not to publish further extracts from the book.

Indeed prior to United winning the League in 1992, the Strangeways riot was one of the highlights of Manchester's recent social history. The book is a serious attempt to tell the story of what happened through the eyes of those who were involved and also the recriminations that took place afterwards. The efforts of Fred Wright and his legal team in trying to get the book banned, is to try and continue the conspiracy of silence over the way the prisoners are run and more specifically the brutal regime that operate within. Already a bookshop in Manchester has been forced to take the book off its shelves or face legal action. Red Attitude will not be intimidated by what has to be seen as little more than a blatant attempt at legal censorship, and our message to Fred Wright is simple. Go fuck yourself!

Dear Red Attitude

I am writing to complain about the blatant censorship attempt by Fred Wright in this month's issue of Red Attitude. Don't ask me how this letter got in so quick, as I'm just as surprised as you are. What the fuck is it with prison officers. They are the same the world over. It doesn't matter what country you go to, nor what period in history you look at, and regardless of the politics of the regime, the good old prison officer is there doing his or her bit to make sure they go unchallenged as the dregs of humanity. Recently a number of prison officers were carpeted for keeping a dying cancer victim in chains until three hours before he died in spite of the strongest protests from the medical personnel present.

Also it has just come to light after the collapsed trial of five IRA escapees from Whitemoor prison, that they couldn't have done it on their own. Who cut the perimeter wire for them and what's happened to the prison officer who went missing just after the break out?

Throughout history the prison officer has excelled in his unassuming service and unquesioning loyalty to the brutality of the state. From the guards who ran the concentration camps, like at Treblinka where they complained of headaches from listening to the screams of people being gassed to death, to oppressive regimes the world over where the prison officer is also responsible for torturing and 'disappearing' people. In Chile and Argentina, thousands of people disappeared under the rule of the military. Where were they last seen? Being carted off to prison. Of course nothing like this would happen in Fred Wright's nick now would it. But if it did he'd hardly want you to find out would he?

Ex Prisoner

Manchester

RIGHT SAID FRED

As a member of the Right Said Fred fan club, I am deeply concerned over the apparent confusion between what Fred Wright said and Right Said Fred. I must insist that Fred Wright change his name forthwith in order to avoid any further confusion. Failure to do so may result in a visit from the Mitchell brothers, who are related to Right Said Fred.

So are Chas and Dave but that's hardly the point is it. Come on you Hammers.

East London slow learner.

Red Bright Ted

APPEAL

I write on behalf of the Fred Wright wheelchair appeal. We have been raising money for two years on this project. After numerous charity events including car boot sales, raffles, sponsored walks etc, we have finally reached our target. Last week the Fred Wright wheelchair was purchased and all we need now is for some kind soul to cripple the bastard!

Mr. BOF.

Prestwich area.

Red Attitude. Now that's what I call bad taste. Why can't you get a chair that you can plug in?

Dear Red Attitude

I am a United fan who stays in Glasgow or did I mean. I am probably one of a few who stays there and doesn't support Celtic or Rangers. Well I like football and I support a team who have always played the game well but I don't agree with religion in the game and that's why I follow United. I've been in prison for six years for murdering a man of 30. I was 16 at the time and am now 22. I've been trying to get this fanzine for quite a while. I've read my first copy which I got a loan of and I was impressed. I didn't get to fill the questionnaire in it because it wasn't mine, but the fanzine is really good. I've seen the Rangers one 'Follow Follow' which is really a big fat mag than anything to do with football, so you're miles ahead there.

I'd like to help you sell it outside Old Trafford but it would be hard, so maybe someday. Now writing articles for Red Attitude, that's more in my league. I'd be only too happy if you'd give me the honour. Just say the word. I think the fanzine should have a column where fans can write to and associate through it, as you know we've got fans all over the country.

What did strike me as impressive was the bit about Strangeways. It's a first for me seeing these things in a fanzine but it was good all the same. It took me years to get this fanzine which is a space of time to get an address. Anyway it's a 100% spot on. I've seen many Reds in prison, but some fanzine's don't see prison as a good thing for the fanzine. But it's a different outlook Red Attitude has and it's a winner.

I was hoping you could help me in getting useful addresses for say getting hold of terrace chant tapes. I have one 'United we
Jörg Haider
A Typical Austrian Story?

Vienna Rob, Red Attitudes Austrian reporter follows up last months report on United's greatest night on Austrian soil, with a more serious look at the developing political situation in Austria. Many people are comparing the threat from the Right that exist in France and Austria now, which has given rise to Front National and the Freedom Party, to the conditions that will exist in Britain if Labour come to power.

One of the founding chairmen of the FPÖ (Austrian Freedom Party) was Anton Reintalthaler, a leading national socialist and general of the infamous SS. The FPÖ was founded to form an alternative to the Socialists (SPÖ) and the Conservative Party ÖVP. Under Haider's predecessor Norbert Steger many old Nazis left the party. But under Jörg Haider they all came back. Steger's course was a "liberal course", defined by Get out votes from voters between SPÖ and ÖVP. There must not be another alternative on the right explained Haider in 1990. Three years later he was even more precise. The FPÖ should move "further to the right", to a point where nobody before had the guts to move to. He started with his inhuman politics at the FPÖ party congress in 1986, when he defeated Norbert Steger and became the chairman of the party. The new party leader showed his real face immediately, when more than 30 officials had to leave the party. Anyone with a different view or opinion was put under pressure and had to leave. The innerparty opposition around Heide Schmidt was labelled as a dissident group and later also left. Haider's FPÖ to form their own party, the Liberal Forum. The jubilation from the right-wing extremists was loud and clear. Haiders goals and words were the same as theirs. The terms used by Haider were often taken from the national socialist era. His cynical statements created an atmosphere of violence. Fire attacks to refugee shelters were common. A Jewish cemetery in Eisenstadt (Burgenland) was violated. Many graves had "Heil Haider" and "SS" signs sprayed on them. One of the two men found guilty was a member of the Freedom Party. In 1992, an

Red, Anti-Fascist and Proud

Roy Keane for the way he fights for the ball in midfield, from where he is dynamite. Who can ever forget his display in the Champions League in Vienna? Roy has made eighty four appearances for United with thirteen league goals to his credit.

Ryan Giggs, back at last to his best. Best in fact since 1993 with his pace and ball skills. Ryan has scored forty goals in one hundred and eighty one United league games.

In the end it could well be between Beckham, Giggs and Keane.

Robert B. Plymouth.

Hello Red Attitude,

My name is Boban and I am a United fan from Stockholm. I would like to order your fanzine from you.

What can stop United to win the double again? I guess nothing, and on top of all, we win the Champions League. I hope to meet you lads when I come to Manchester.

All the best,

Boban.

Hello Red Attitude,

We bought your fanzine when we were in London for Christmas 96. We are French and fans of Paris S.G. We also follow on T.V. the results of Celtic F.C. and we are anti-fascist. P.S.G. has a reputation of fascist fans, but not all of us. We make a fanzine about P.S.G. and French fans and music. If you're interested tell us. We would like to correspond with anti-fascist fans and would like to order the latest fanzine. That's all for now, Louis-François, Paris.

Red, Anti-Fascist and Proud

Red Attitude
died mysteriously in a car crash. The case was dropped in 1994. Haider's inflammatory campaign against foreigners doesn't fail to cause reactions. Early in 1993 he staged his anti-foreigner referendum ANTI-
AUSLANDER-VOLKSWEGEHEN (anti-foreigner), at the end of that year, Austria was hit by a series of letter bombs from a formerly unknown group called "BAVARIAN LIBERATION ARMY".

3.12.93 Two letter bombs - one addressed to a refugee information centre in Hartberg (Steyr) and one addressed to the presenter of a minority TV programme. Three people were seriously injured.

5.12.93 Vienna's mayor Helmut Zilk lost three fingers of his left hand after a letter bomb exploded in his hand.

6.12.93 Bomb number four - the secretary of the Islamic foreigner organisation was injured. Six other letter bombs, addressed to foreigner friendly politicians and organisations failed to explode.

24.8.94 A policeman lost his two forearms after a tube bomb exploded in front of a bilingual school in Carinthia.

10.9.94 Two letter bombs failed to explode.

1.12.95 The most cruel politically motivated attack in Austria after the Second World War. Four corpses died in an explosion when they tried to remove a sign saying "Gypsies back to India".

6.12.95 A parcel bomb exploded in a container. One seriously injured. Two letter bombs exploded. One was addressed to a black TV presenter. A secretary was injured.

9.12.95 A police woman was injured in an explosion in Luebeck. She was addressed to the vice-mayor Dittrich who criticised a too mild verdict after arson at a synagogue in Luebeck.

This series continued until last December with many injured casualties. The last bomb was sent to Home Secretary Caspar Einem's stepmother. The police disarmed the bomb, but also destroyed an important piece of evidence. That was not the only case of a police mishap. The investigations of the police concerning bombs as well as discoveries of bombs are a mere farce. Evidence is left unnoticed, disappears, reappears partially. Nobody wants to hear important witnesses who report to the police. Decisive information is withheld from the Home Secretary by his highest officials. On the other hand, internal investigation results are played into the hands of politicians of the "Freedom Party".

After more than three years, the state police constantly promises to be about solving the series of bomb attacks. We are still waiting for it to happen. The "brown spots (shirts)?" among the police are a tradition. The late director of the state police's office, Gustav Hochenbichler, had a picture of Hitler hanging on the wall of his living room. During several social gatherings, in which he took part, the Horst-Wessel-song was sung. When Hochenbichler was shot, he was administering and thinking threatened to become a public nuisance, the Home Ministry put him out of range by transferring him to another post. The incriminated top official became head of the aliens office. The rush from right-wing extremists towards Haider's Freedom Party and his foreigner policy has dramatically changed the ideological position of this formerly liberal party. This new racism, expressed in the foreigner referendum (1993) and in all of his election Campaigns, is the engine of a new radicalism of the right. In a study the British historian and specialist for Austria, Robert Knight, made about the Freedom Party and right wing extremism, he found out that in this party a separation of right, right wing and neo-nazism is not possible. Still all this, people vote for Haider. Not because of his neo-nazism policy, but in spite of it, not because many right-wingers found a new home, but in spite of that, not because the relation of the FPO to the atrocities of the past are some how still open and undigested, but in spite of that. But victories in elections can bring people to the point where they turn protest votes into an ideology. There lies the danger.

Vienna Rob

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Red Attitude is written, produced and distributed by Manchester United supporters who are opposed to the spread of racism and fascism in football and elsewhere. Red Attitude is endorsed by Anti-Fascist Action, a national organisation who promote the ideological and physical confrontation of fascist groups like the BNP and C18. Manchester United Anti-Fascists are determined to ensure that Old Trafford remains a fascist free zone.

Historically, the fascists have seen the football terraces as a way of reaching disaffected white, working class people. In the seventies and eighties, the NF and the British Movement made inroads at a number of clubs, most notably Leeds and Chelsea, along with many other lower division teams like Millwall and Rochdale. Manchester City also had a clique of supporters who were highly active in National Front politics in the early eighties.

The British National Party and, more recently their splinter group Combat 18, have continued this trend of trying to recruit football fans to support Nazi politics. The role they envisage for football supporters is as foot soldiers, recruited to do the fighting for them, and eventually discarded when the dirty work is done. Fascist leaders promote racial hatred and incite violence. Guess who they've chosen to put their ideas into action; ie to carry out the race attacks and arson attacks, do the time and also take the flak from the opposition? That's right, the football recruit.

Red Attitude