

TALK ON!

The big fella wasn't joking

Bond, we know you make sense

IT IS time for football to put away an image of John Bond.

The redundant image is of an engaging lightweight who can survive on a shoestring and occasionally talks too much.

Keep talking, John Bond. You're making a lot of sense.

NORWICH'S 3-1 win over **FOREST** was more than a superbly planned and beautifully executed triumph over one of the two most formidable sides in England and Europe.

It was a fine testament to the quality of Bond's work in East Anglia over a long haul.

Of five meetings with Forest since the dawn of the age of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor, Norwich are now dead level with three draws, one defeat, and one win.

How far can Norwich go? Everything depends on their ability to cover, on limited financial resources effectively against injuries to key players.

Thrilling

V. Take away Kevin Reeves and Justin Fashanu and you would lose more than a striking partnership which is developing at a thrilling pace.

You would lose the whole thrust and style of a team which is no less exciting because it is built on fragile foundations.

Bond's specific achievement on Saturday was to shut down John Robertson and thus rob Forest of their most persuasive tactical arm. There isn't a manager or coach in the land who doesn't know the importance of stifling Robertson.

But Bond worked out the means as well as the end. Richard Symonds shadowed Robertson perfectly until it ceased to matter.

Offensively, Norwich were quick and sweet. Reeves is everything.

PLEAT PRAISES STAND-IN

LUTON manager David Pleat was unimpressed by **NOTTS COUNTY** claiming they back-pedalled all the way in their 0-0 top-of-the-table clash. But he liked the performance of County's stand-in keeper, signed for £30,000 in midweek because Yugoslav Raddy Avramovic is injured.

By James Lawton

Malcolm Allison's cheque-book says he is. He is perceptive and the timing of his runs is such that he must surely soon be called up to support Kevin Keegan's England campaign.

Fashanu is brave deceptively fast and his control and vision is growing, according to Reeves, with every game.

Bond said he was pleased. Pleased that homework had been rewarded, that his players had so nicely seized the moment.

He should also be pleased for himself. Few careers have been conducted with such genuine love—and hope—for the game.

GOALS.—Norwich: Reeves, Fashanu.



Great to be back! Alan Ball (right), just home from America, celebrates Mick Channon's first goal back at Southampton. Saints beat Spurs 5-2

CHANNON AND BALL GET THE MESSAGE!

By STEVE CURRY

THERE are plenty in football who see Lawrie McMenemy as a cross between Eric Morecambe and the Marx Brothers.

When he did a radio commercial for Fred Pontin last year, one fellow manager cracked: "They picked the right man. He runs a holiday camp at SOUTHAMPTON!"

Big, affable and humorous, he may be. But those in the game who decline to take him seriously, do so at their peril.

They don't come more battle hardened than Alan Ball and Mick Channon, reunited at the Dell this weekend as Saints slammed SPURS 5-2.

It's a tested combination—one that worked successfully enough for England in the early 70s.

Both played their part as Southampton twice hauled themselves from behind then rapped in three crackers inside seven minutes.

At half-time, Saints were 1-0 down.

Let Ball take up the story. "Lawrie came into the dressing room and was brilliant."

Wrong way

"He had his finger directly on what was wrong, why we weren't getting it together."

"It was only a small adjustment in midfield, but it was a vital one."

"It was the difference between winning and losing. Channon chipped in: 'I don't think any of us had spotted what was wrong. But the big fella had.'"

"I've had my rows with Lawrie but the man is a different class. I wouldn't be back here but for him."

McMenemy's version of the half-time orders was this: "They had a young player, Stuart Beavon, operating behind the front two and we were employing a midfield man to mark him."

"I thought that was a negative tactic. I told Ballie that in the second half I wanted him to see the backs of our other midfield men Nick Holmes, Steve Williams and Graham Baker."

It worked. Within three minutes, Phil Boyer had equalised Glenn Hoddle's first-half Spurs opener and though Chris Jones struck a splendid second, Holmes equalised within seven minutes.

Then came Saints' come back with further goals from Baker Channon and Holmes.

Poor, Keith Burkinshaw — beset with injuries, said sadly: "We made problems for ourselves."

SOCCER'S ALWAYS BEST IN THE EXPRESS

Cool it, Billy

BILLY GILBERT had seemed to have buried his wild past.

Under **PALACE** manager Terry Venables, the young central defender looked to have funnelled all his natural aggression into the proper channels.

He had become an England player in the making.

But against **ASTON VILLA** on Saturday we saw a flash of the old Gilbert—the one who can't walk away from trouble.

By MALCOLM FOLLEY

Venables has taught his team to take care of themselves in the tough arena of the First Division. He has NOT taught them to throw punches.

That is why Gilbert saddened him when he put a right-hander on Ken Swain's chin during Palace's 2-0 win which carried them into fourth place.

Venables will give Gilbert a blunt message this morning.

ing. Briefly, it will be: control your temper — or else, cool your heels in the stand.

Venables said: "I'm not going to condone anything like that. I would be the first to complain if it happened to one of my players."

"In the First Division you've got to be tough as well as highly skilful. But you must keep within the rules. I won't let the incident go. But in Gilbert's defence the foul on him by Swain was diabolical."

The heat's on Marinello

FULHAM'S Peter Marinello, sent off in the 3-1 home win over **BURNLEY** for arguing with referee Ron Challis over a corner kick, admitted: "It was one of those things that happens in the heat of the moment." Now he faces manager Bobby Campbell this morning. "He didn't look too pleased," said Marinello.

Attitude the key —Hurst

GEOFF HURST pinpoints his top-priority problem after Chelsea's 3-0 defeat at Shrewsbury as "the players' attitude."

Caretaker-manager Hurst said: "I thought we could have got back into the game. We go a goal down and our heads drop. This is the area to work on."

The first goal-came as early as the 12th minute from Steve Biggins, with more to follow from Mann and Keay (pen).

But Hurst, "hoping for the best but expecting nothing" about clinching the manager's job at Stamford Bridge, with not be trying to solve his problems by buying.

Doc locks it up

By Jim Hill

SHOOTING PAIN!

CARDIFF goalkeeper, Ron Healey, is grateful Luther Blissett was not on shooting form in the 1-1 draw at **WATFORD** (writes JOHN LLOYD).

Healey needed pain-killing injections for a troublesome shoulder.

"I doubt if Healey could have stretched to Blissett's usually accurate placed shots," revealed Cardiff club physician, Dr Leslie Hamilton, who gave the painkillers.

Watford, leading by a Ray Train goal, were caught on the post when Cardiff's young goal-getter Gary Stevens, slotted home a pass from left-back Colin Sullivan.

TOMMY DOCHERTY, one of Soccer's more compulsive spenders, will lock his cheque book away after adding £275,000 Derby defender Steve Wicks to the Queen's Park Rangers staff today.

Reviewing his situation after a 2-1 win at Swansea, the Doc said: "That will be the lot for a bit."

He believes that with Wicks sharing central defence with Bob Hazell, Rangers will be ready to start the climb back to Division One.

But it was "old hand" Stan Bowles who bailed them out at Swansea when they were trailing to a Jeremy Charles goal.

Bowles created a 73rd-minute equaliser for Steve Burke, then spread the confusion that led to an own-goal winner from Swansea's teenage centre-half Nigel Stevenson.

Docherty admitted the windfall, but wisecracked: "Swansea are difficult to play against. They play aerial ping-pong. It's never going to take the place of football."

FISHER SETS A PROBLEM

EUROPEAN style football arrived four days ahead of schedule at **WREXHAM**, where **ORIENT** played the talented Bobby Fisher as a sweeper behind their back four.

Although Wrexham won 2-1 and jumped to fourth place in the Second Division, it was a scrambled untidy victory over a team without a win in six League games this season.

Versatile Ray is the new Bonds

By NORMAN DIXON

their new men that had the Hammers fans purring.

Ray Stewart, a 20-year-old from Dundee, is not only a good player but also a future captain.

"He's a born leader and, like Billy Bonds, doesn't mind where he plays," said manager John Lyall.

Stuart Pearson has added extra thrust, urgency and ideas to the attack.

"He's struck up a quick understanding with David Cross and they are really working well together. And didn't Pearson take his goal well?" enthused Lyall.

Jimmy Neighbour, the latest signing from Norwich, quickly showed his skill but faded as Alan Devonshire took over the stage. What a great player Devonshire looks when he is on song.

Sunderland were just never in the game with Billy Bonds policing his old pal Pop Robson.

SATURDAY SCORE CHECK

DIV I—Arsenal 2, Middlesbrough 0—Brighton 2, Ipswich 0—Bristol 0 0, Stoke 0—Coventry 3, Bolton 1—Crystal Palace 2, Aston Villa 0—Everton 2, Wolves 3—Leeds 1, Liverpool 1—Man Utd 1, Derby 0—Norwich 3, Nottingham Forest 1—Southampton 6, Tottenham 2—West Brom 4, Man City 0. **DIV II**—Birmingham 1, Charlton 0—Cambridge 4, Bristol Roy 1—Fulham 3, Burnley 1—Newcastle 3, Leicester 2—Notts Co 0, Luton 0—Oldham 3, Preston 2—Shrewsbury 3, Chelsea 0—Swansea 1, QPR 2—Watford 1, Cardiff 1—West Ham 2, Sunderland 0—Wrexham 2, Orient 1.

DIV III—Blackburn 1, Southend 1—Blackpool 3, Rotherham 2—Brentford 1, Grimsby 0—Bury 0, Hull 1—Colchester 0, Shrewsbury 0—Gillingham 2, Chester 2—Mansfield 1, Oxford 0—Millwall 5, Exeter 1—Plymouth 3, Wimbledon 0, Reading 2, Carlisle 0—Sheff Utd 2, Barnsley 0—Swindon 2, Chesterfield 1.

DIV IV—Darlington 0, Aldershot 0—Huller 1, Hereford 0—Lincoln 1, Doncaster 1—Newport 1, Bradford City 2—Peterborough 3, Crewe 0—Port Vale 5, Northampton 0—Scunthorpe 1, Huddersfield 1—Walsall 3, Hartlepool 1—Wigan Ath 2, York 5.

Scottish League, Prem Div 1: Aberdeen 3, Rangers 1—Dundee 4, Morton 3—Hibernian 1, Celtic 3—Partick 0, Kilmarnock 0—St Mirren 3, Dundee Utd 2. Div 1: Aldrie 1, Dumbarton 0—Arbroath 1, Dumfries 1—Berwick 1, St Johnstone 2—Clyde 4, Hamilton 0—Clydebank 1, Ayr 0—Hearts 3, Stirling 1—Raith Rovers 5, Motherwell 2. Div II: Cowdenbeath 1, Brechin 0—Forfar 1, E Stirling 2—Meadowbank 1, Albion 2—Montrose 0, Stenhousemuir 2—Queen of Sth 2, Falkirk 0—Queen's Park 1, East Fife 2—Stranraer 1, Alloa 0.