# Mud in your eye

**A FISTFUL of mud, a touch of goalkeeping gamesmanship and a weakly struck shot produced a penalty miss that ensured a club record for IPSWICH and a rethink for LIVERPOOL.**

**The bizarre climax to a disappointing 1—1 draw—when Dutch star Frans Thijssen threw a dollop of mud at the ball before Terry McDermott's spot kick was saved by Paul Cooper—will have repercussions in the Anfield camp.**

By JOHN KEITH

**"I think it's time that Phil Neal and I started sharing the penalty job," said McDermott. "If it's down to one man all the time, goalkeepers can get to know too much about how you take them."**

**Referee Bert Newsome not only refused a penalty retake, but allowed Thijssen to escape unpunished for his mudlark. "I saw the mud being thrown, but it didn't interfere with the action of taking the kick," he said. That must be a matter of opinion.**

**McDermott refused to make excuses for his spurned 86th minute opportunity which cost the leaders a point and clinched a record 15-match unbeaten run for Bobby Robson's side.**

**The great expectations of the duel between clubs with only two defeats between them in their previous 34 games faded after an explosive opening in which David Fairclough scored a superb eighth-minute goal.**

**There were long periods of sloppy passing and midfield stalemate and when Eric Gates flashed on to Butcher's header for Ipswich's 34th minute equaliser, it was only the second shot aimed at Ray Clemence's goal all afternoon.**

PAUL COOPER

# Rovers teach Hurst lesson

By JOHN DAVIES

**BRISTOL ROVERS**, the club that only a few weeks ago was racked with managerial controversy and relegation fears, gave **CHELSEA'S** promotion hopes a slap in the face.

The 3—0 scoreline would easily have been doubled by Rovers, but for the superb display of Chelsea's reserve 'keeper Bob Iles, making his first League appearance of the season.

"Bob did really well to keep us in the game at half-time," said Chelsea chief Geoff Hurst.

Rovers' sparkling form surprised Hurst, who last saw the Bristol team play in January, when they lost 2—1 at Eastville to Aston Villa in the third round of the FA Cup.

That was the night that his assistant Bobby Gould, turned down the opportunity of becoming Rovers' manager.

Gould's selection pitched former Eastville left-wing hero, Harold Jarman, into Rovers' hot seat.

Since December 15, when Jarman took over, first as caretaker manager, and then as the full boss until the end of the season, Rovers have only dropped six points from a possible 18 and have kept a clean score sheet for the last five games.

Chelsea were sunk by Rovers' two-goal hero Shaun Penny, the former England schoolboy international, who was once sent by Bristol City to finish his education at England's most expensive public school, Millfield.

# RE-WARDED!

ENIGMATIC Peter Ward was served an endorsement of approval from an unlikely source, after hitting **BRIGHTON's** late equaliser against **LEEDS.**

Trevor Cherry, long time regular in the England squad, forecast that it will not be long before the Brighton striker is back among the boys of Ron Greenwood's brigade.

Leeds skipper Cherry deputed himself to curb the threat of mercurial Ward.

He whacked him a couple of times with typically hard, physical but fair tackles.

Then he forecast: "Ward is not a long way short of being back to his best. He is very sharp, works hard and if he keeps it up, he could soon be back in the England squad."

But Ward was the only bright spot in the match—the one diamond in the dross.

Leeds boss Jimmy Adamson castigated all and sundry.

## Lost confidence

His players: "When things are not running perfectly too many of them lose confidence and try to hide in the long grass."

The supporters: "They are too quick to criticise, instead of getting behind the team. At the moment, the lads prefer to play away."

About 200 gathered outside to chant "Out Adamson."

"I have had it at every club, but it does not affect me. They say that where there is no sense, there is no feeling," he said.

That last remark was said as a joke. I think.

You do not need to call in Sherlock Holmes to find reasons why Leeds attracted less than 20,000 for the second successive home match and weighed in with Saturday's lowest First Division gate.

Having failed to take the lead when Kevin Hird hit the post with a penalty, Leeds got their nose in front after Steve Foster deflected a shot from Brian Flynn, well wide of Graham Moseley.

And from that moment on, Leeds' surrendered what tentative initiative they had held and Ward's equaliser was no more than Brighton deserved.

Brighton boss Alan Mullery made the valid point: "We have to be greedy and go looking for our full whack, instead of being happy to settle for half the points."

If more clubs thought — and acted—in that positive way, gates would not be dropping so dramatically. That message applies particularly to Leeds.

## CHERRY TIPS BRIGHTON RESCUER FOR ENGLAND

By Alan Thompson

# Luton's boss sure he can figure it out

By JOHN DONOGHUE

**LUTON** manager David Pleat is good at doing his sums.

Which is why out of 26 promotion points still to be played for, he has already worked out how many his team can afford to lose — and still win promotion to the First Division.

After the 1—0 defeat at **SUNDERLAND**, Pleat came up with the number. "No more than nine."

Luton, cut down by teenager John Cooke's second-half goal, ought to have got something out of the match, which they helped to raise above the ordinary.

They played the more attractive football, created the greater percentage of chances, but found goalkeeper Chris Turner in excellent form.

Said Pleat: "The result is not a tragedy for us, but it is a disappointment. We were worth at least a point.

"However, if we can go on playing like that, then we will not be far away at the end."

# Palace in a pickle

WALSH

**NOW the winter Olympics are over EVERTON and CRYSTAL PALACE can stop doing their own version of the downhill.**

**The Merseyside millionaires have been on the slide from the first day of the season, but they showed enough in the 1—1 draw at Selhurst Park to suggest that they have pulled themselves together in time to stay in Division 1.**

**And Palace, who have previously skidded to three successive defeats, at least slowed their descent, although they were fortunate to collect a point.**

By ROGER KELLY

**Everton, inspired by two of their newer stars, young Scottish winger Joe McBride and Gary Megson, a £250,000 buy from Plymouth, should easily have beaten inept Palace and would have done but for an amazing give away goal by Peter Eastoe.**

**Eastoe had put Everton ahead after 51minutes, then 20 minutes later, under very little pressure, he flicked the ball back from almost the halfway line to his keeper. But Ian Walsh nipped in to equalise.**

# You can't hide here

WATFORD'S star names will not be dropped, no matter how badly they play. Who says so? Manager Graham Taylor, that's who.

"There's no place at Watford for the players to hide. They will have to stay in the side and battle through their bad form and lack of confidence," said Taylor after a dire display and 3—0 defeat by competent but unspectacular **ORIENT.**

"The players I've brought here recently came from big clubs where they were dropped into the reserves I they were off form — and they were probably glad to be out of the spotlight for a while.

"But we're a small club and I've no place to put them. I've told them they must stay in the side and see it through."

Watford, playing like a team of disorganised misfits crashed to the simplest of goals from Billy Jennings, John Chiedozie and Ralph Contes and have now not won at home in the League since December 1.

By COLIN BATEMAN

## MILLER ON MONDAY

# A fine feat for fighting Ipswich

**THE discouraging news for Manchester City—there is almost no good news—is that their final game of the season is at home to Ipswich.**

**And Ipswich have just completed a record club run of 15 games unbeaten.**

**Yet late on the evening of December 1, Ipswich arrived back home in East Anglia, after losing 4—1 at Coventry. They were third from bottom of the table. The position was bleak.**

**Chairman Patrick Cobbold waved goodnight to his manager Bobby Robson, his only parting comment being: "Don't worry, see you on Monday."**

## Fair comment

**The local paper was claiming that Ipswich were in their fifth week of a crisis, which was fair comment. Robson's team could hardly put a foot right.**

**But Cobbold, returning three months later from taking a point off Liverpool at Anfield, told me yesterday:**

**"A lot of people would have got cold feet, but all we did was to have a bit of a laugh. We didn't panic, or call a board meeting.**

**"We knew we had the right manager and the right players, and we were prepared to wait in a mood of optimism rather than pessimism."**

**Indeed Cobbold and his brother John, who was chairman before him, are in the proud position of being able to boast: "We've never sacked a manager."**

**Only Liverpool, Manchester United, and Southampton have had as few managers since the war—five—and so it is perhaps a fair reflection that these clubs currently occupy the top positions of the table.**

## Team spirit

**Ipswich, possibly because they are rather inaccessible and are not prey to so much pressure from the media, are a picture of cosy contentment, but this hides ambition and a team spirit which tends to be one of the best in the country.**

**If the Cobbold family might be open to criticism of old-fashioned patronage by country squires, then such criticism is utterly dismantled by the admirable way in which the family have steered the little club to the top and kept it there with the minimum of fuss and controversy.**

**Cobbold says: "Nobody likes being at the bottom of the table, but some poor devils have to be. We were sure things would come right, and after our performance at Anfield on Saturday, we're sure that Bobby and his team can achieve almost anything."**

David Miller

# REST OF THE WEEKEND SPORT IN SHORT

### ASSOCIATION

**WOMEN'S F.A. CUP.**—Quarter-final (Middlesbrough).—Cleveland Spartans 5 Chelsea 0.

### BILLIARDS

**ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP** (Nottingham).—Final: N Dagley (Earl Shilton) 3,825; O Everton (Birmingham) 3,172.

### BASKETBALL

Div 1: Men: Ziebart Doncaster 98 Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead 85—Kelly Girl Kingston 117 Fiat Coventry 102.

### CRICKET

**SHEFFIELD SHIELD** (Perth).—Queensland 300 for 9 dec. W Australia 259 for 3 (Shepperd 104, Langer 101). **SYDNEY.**—S Australia 338 — 7 (I Chappell 158, Inverarity 53) NSW 202—4 dec.

### CYCLING

**NATIONAL CYCLO CROSS CHAMPS** (S Coldfield).—12½ miles: C Wheglitt (Strada/Man) 1hr 15min 44sec.

**NORTH ROAD CC.—Hard Riders TT** (25 miles): T Stevens (34 Nomads/OF (Herts) 1hr 5min 45sec (event record).

**ROCKINGHAM FOREST WHEELERS.—Hilly TT** (25 miles): P Bennett (Edgware/Revox) 1hr 7min 24sec.

**CRABWOOD CC.—Medium Gear TT** (25 miles): A Doyle (Clarence Wheelers) 56min 36sec (National record).

### EUROPEAN SOCCER

**GREECE.** — Panathinaiko: 2 Rhodes 0 — Larissa 3 Iraklis 0 — Apollon 0 Panahaiki 0 — Paok 1 Doxa Drama 0 — Olympiakos 1 Panionios 0 — Ofi Crete 0 Ethnikos 0 — Kavala 0 Corinthos 1 — Kastoria 1 AEK 1 — Aris 3 Ioannina 2.

**ITALY.**—Ascoli 0 Milan 0—Avellino 2 Pescara 0—Cagliari 1 Lazio 1—Fiorentina 0 Bologna 0—Inter Milan 3 Catanzaro 1—Juventus 0 Torino 0 — Perugia 1 Napoli 0—Roma 1 Udinese 1.

**PORTUGAL.**—Varzim 0 Sporting 0—Portimonense 4 Guimaraes 5—Setubal 0 Porto 2—Benfica 5 Beira Mar 0—Boavista 2 Belenenses 1—Braga 0 Uniao de Leiria 0—Espinho 2 Estoril 1.

**SPAIN.**—Las Palmas 1 Malaga 1 — Atletico Bilbao 1 Burgos 0—Valencia 3 Gijon 1—Rayo Vallecano 2 Alicante 1—Barcelona 0 San Sebastian 0—Almeria 2 Salamanca 0—Zaragoza 0 Real Madrid 1—Betis 2 Espanol 0.

### GOLF

**NIGERIAN OPEN** (Lagos). — 264—W Longmuir (Unatt) 64, 66, 68, 66. 268—T Horton (R Jersey) 67, 67, 65, 69. 271—M Gregson (Gloucs Hd) 67, 67, 67, 70. 273—D Ingram (Dalmahoy) 66, 71, 66, 71; M Miller (Cawder) 69, 66, 69, 69. 274—M Inglish (Windermere) 64, 70, 72, 68. 275—J Morgan (R L'pool) 71, 68, 68, 68.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OPEN** (Adelaide). — 281—S Owen (N Z) 75, 73, 71, 72. 282—G Norman (Aust) 70, 71, 72, 79. R Davis (Aust) 74, 73, 71, 75.

**PHILIPPINES OPEN** (Puerto Azul). 287—Lu Hsi-Chuen (Taiwan) 76, 70, 70, 71. 289—S Torrance (G.B.) 71, 71, 70, 77; R Lavares (Phil) 70, 75, 71, 73. 291—G Player (S.Af). 292—John Godwin (U.S.).

### HOCKEY

**MERCIAN LEAGUE.** — Div 2: Nth Stafford 1 Alton and West Warwicks 3. Div 4: GKN 3 Lichfield 1—Birmingham Municipals 2 Market Drayton 0.

**FRIENDLY.**—Warwick 1 Beds 2.

### ICE HOCKEY

**INTER CITY LEAGUE.**—Southampton Vikings 10 Oxford University 6 — Solihull Barons 4 Altrincham Aces 0.

### MOTOR CYCLING

**RINGWOOD SCRAMBLE** (Fordingbridge): 1st novices: K Reed (250 Suzuki). 1st experts: D Thorne (420 Kawasaki). 2nd novices: J Whatley (250 Kawasaki). 2nd experts: M Watts (440 Maico). 3rd novices: J Whatley. 3rd experts: D Thorne.

**MILTON KEYNES MOTO-CROSS** (Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire): A Scott (465 Yamaha), 1; C Hale (440 Maico), 2; J Reeves (250 Kawasaki), 3.

**SOUTH MIDLANDS TIME AND OBSERVATION TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIP** (Arrington, Cambs).—Round 1: G Goodwin (250 Suzuki), 1; P Hole (175 Yamaha), 2; G Hilton (350 Montesa), 3.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

**RUGBY LEAGUE CUP.**—Barrow 4 Halifax 10—Huddersfield 3 Widnes 48—Hull 18 York 8—Hull KR 28 Castleford 3—Oldham 5 Wakefield 10—Rochdale 5 Salford 26—Warrington 8 Leeds 2. Div 1: Blackpool 8 Leigh 13—Workington 16 Wigan 10. Div 11: Doncaster 6 Huyton 3—Whitehaven 17 Swinton 5.

### RUGBY UNION

**ESSEX CUP FINAL.** — Woodford 22 Southend 10.

Middlesex Schools 10 Middlesex Colts 14.

### SQUASH

**McEWANS LAGER OPEN** (Stockton): Second rd: G Hunt (Aus) bt A Safwat (Egypt) 5—9, 4—9, 9—1, 9—3, 9—3 — J Barrington (G.B.) bt H Jahan (Pak) 10—8, 5—9, 8—10, 9—7, 9—2 — D Williams (Aus) bt G Brumby (Aus) 9—1, 9—2, 10—8 — B Brownlee (N.Z.) bt A Aziz (Egypt) 9—7, 5—9, 1—9, 9—5, 9—3 — M Khan (Pak) bt G Briars (G.B) 9—1, 9—4, 9—2 — M Ahmed (Pak) bt I Shawcross (Aus) 9—1, 9—4, 9—6 — Q Zaman (Pak) bt H Asran (Egypt) 9—3, 9—3, 9—7 — G Alauddin (Pak) bt H Yasin (G.B.) 9—5, 9—2, 9—2.

### TENNIS

**SAAB JUNIOR TOURNAMENT** (Bradford). — Girls 18 and under final: E Jones (Hants) bt R Brown (Norfolk) 6—2, 4—6, 6—0. Boys 18 and under final: D Felgate (Essex) bt A Mitchell (Yorks) 3—6, 6—4, 6—3.

### WINTER GAMES

**LAKE PLACID.—Four-man bob:** E Germany I 59-80, 1-00-03, 58-73, 1-03-30. 3m 59-52s, 1; Switzerland I 4-00-87, 2; E Germany II 4-00-97, 3. Britain I 4-04-92, 9; Britain II 4-07-69, 15.

**ICE HOCKEY.** — U.S. 4 Finland 2 (U.S. win gold).

## TODAY'S SPORT FIXTURES

### ASSOCIATION

(k.o. 7.30 unless stated)

**DIVISION III**

Southend v Reading .....

**DIVISION IV**

Tranmere v Wigan .....

**ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE.—CUP: Semi-final, Second Leg:** Altrincham v Barnet. **League:** Worcester v A P Leamington.

**SOUTHERN LEAGUE.** — **Midland:** Taunton v Bridgend. **Southern:** Addlestone v Folkestone/Shep—Chelmsford v Waterlooville.

**FOOTBALL COMBINATION.** — West Ham v Bristol R.

**NORTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE.** — Sunderland v Mansfield—Rotherham v Notts Co.

**BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE.—Div 1:** Bishops Stortford v Met Police—Finchley v Harwich.

**FRIENDLY.**—Southall v Fulham XI.

**SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP.**—Millwall v QPR.

**MIDWEEK LEAGUE.** — Peterborough v Charlton.

**BADMINTON.**—Middlesex championships, Orion Hall, Stamford Hill (5.30).