

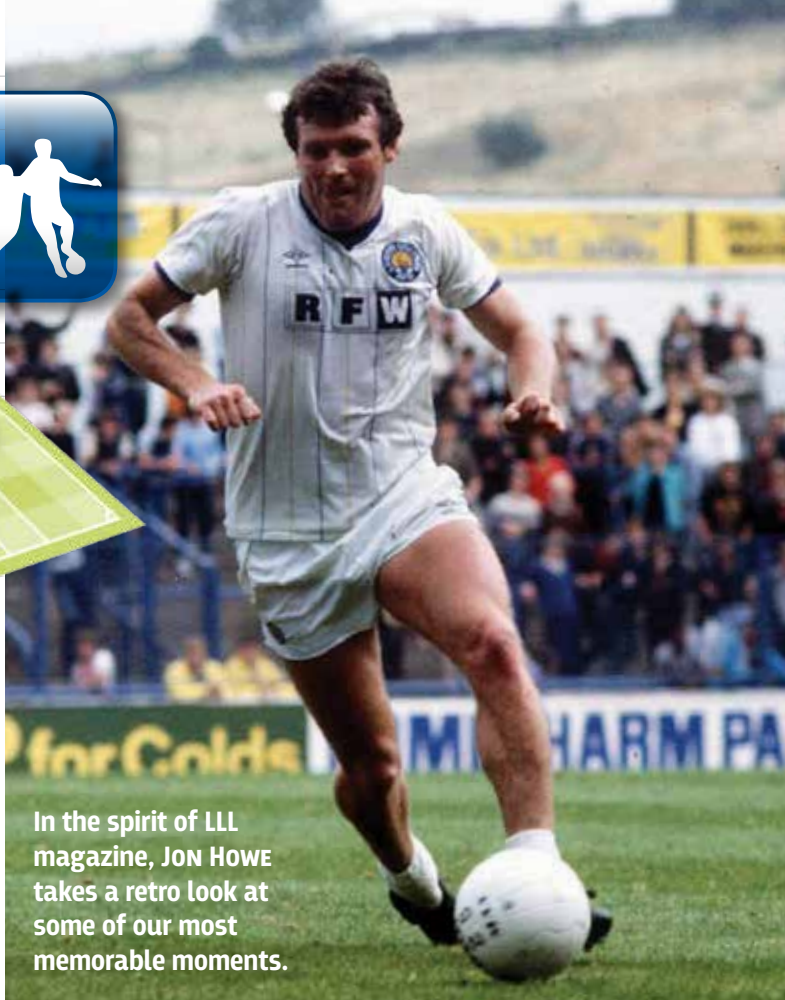
CLASSIC MATCH



Leeds United 1 Arsenal 1 (after extra-time)

FA Cup Fourth Round replay
Wednesday February 2, 1983, 7.45pm
Elland Road **Attendance** 24,410
Goals Butterworth (119), Rix (120)
Referee J Hunting (Leicester)

Arsenal (4-3-3): Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Robson, O'Leary, Nicholas, Talbot, Sunderland (Davis), Petrovic, Woodcock, Rix.



In the spirit of LLL magazine, **JON HOWE** takes a retro look at some of our most memorable moments.

Aarghh! Maddening, galling, exasperating!

And we thought leading for just one minute in the *first* game before Arsenal equalised was frustrating... Well, that was like bathing in a tub of feathers compared to this. After nearly two hours of dogged but fairly turgid stalemate on a heavily-sanded, energy-sapping pudding of a pitch, we thought Leeds had taken an insurmountable lead with effectively the last kick of the game.

But it wasn't the last kick of the game, was it?

No. After the shock of relegation last season, this was a very welcome opportunity to taste the big time again and, as undeniable underdogs, we had Arsenal just where we wanted them. But tragically, we let it slip.

We definitely matched them, though?

Yes, but while we should take great credit from our efforts in the tie – which we are still in, by the way – it is perhaps symptomatic of our inconsistent league form that we couldn't hold onto the lead again here. At Highbury last Saturday, we led through a

Paul Nicholas own-goal for just a minute before Alan Sunderland equalised, and tonight it happened again. But the fact it happened while the fat lady was warming up her vocal chords was like a dagger to the heart.

Time to look at the positives? Yes. This performance showed that our mixed bag of a team still has fighting qualities, and we did this without the rapidly-maturing John Sheridan who completed his two-match suspension today, and hamstring injury victim Kenny Burns. Also, we had to contend with the atrocious windy conditions that blew off part of the Lowfields Stand roof and meant the seating area was closed tonight. Add to that the snow and rain we've had recently, and it was a miracle any football was played at all.

Chances at a premium? To say the least. Lukic barely had a save to make, and Gwyn Thomas had our best chances; rounding Jennings when played through before firing wide of the open goal, and also having a



60

TRAGIC NUMBER

Seconds somehow found by the ref, to allow Arsenal to equalise.



shot acrobatically cleared off the line by Kenny Sansom. But they were just brief interludes of intrigue among 120 minutes that were full of endeavour, but little else.

Then it all happened in a flash? Yeah, anyone who left to get an early bus will feel massively short-changed. With a second replay looming, Leeds launched one final attack from deep inside their-own half. Eddie Gray played it to Arthur Graham who carried the ball into the Arsenal half before releasing Terry Connor down the left wing. Connor found the strength from somewhere to take on and beat Stewart Robson before delivering an incisive cross to the back post. Aidan Butterworth's shock of blond hair appeared from nowhere and he just managed to stick out a leg to connect and stab the ball home, before collapsing with cramp. Jennings was finally beaten, Elland Road erupted and the Arsenal players sank to their knees.

But not for long? The Kop scoreboard said time was up in beautiful, bright neon digits. The ground was bouncing. After years of knocks and a cataclysmic decline, we were finally getting some payback. But straight

from the re-start Arsenal were awarded a free-kick 30 yards out. I don't know where the ref got the time from, but as Lukic was organising his wall Graham Rix swung a shot in towards his near post. We all thought Lukic would gather it easily, but somehow it beat him and nestled in. It was like a dream sequence, somehow it just didn't seem real. The ground fell silent, and the Arsenal players bounded off to their tiny band of fans in the corner of the Lowfields terrace. Everyone else in the ground was stood open-mouthed. This was cruel. Not only that, we lost the toss and the second replay will be played at Highbury. *T'riffic!*

How were the Leeds fans? Shaking their heads all the way home. This was like a caricature of what being a Leeds fan involves, and a grossly exaggerated one at that.

Best Leeds player? Every player can be proud of their performance tonight, but Butterworth was almost the hero.

In a nutshell? One minute of madness.



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⌚ Clockwise from bottom left: Kevin Hird, Eddie Gray, John Lukic and goalscorer Aidan Butterworth.

