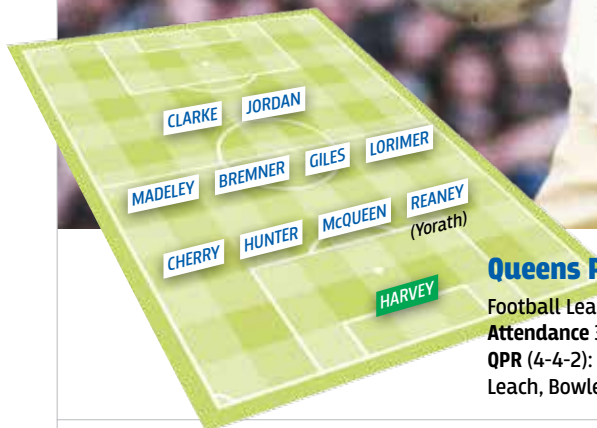


CLASSIC MATCH



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



Queens Park Rangers 0 Leeds United 1

Football League Division One Saturday April 27, 1974, 3pm Loftus Road
Attendance 35,353 Goal Clarke (57) Referee Gordon Hill (Leicester)
QPR (4-4-2): Parkes, Busby, Gillard, Venables, Mancini, Hazell, Thomas, Francis, Leach, Bowles, Givens.

Let's have a party! That is effectively all this game was. Right from the beginning when the QPR players afforded Billy and his men a "Guard of Honour" as they entered the pitch, and Leeds took the acclaim of all four sides of the ground from the centre-circle with their customary one-armed salute, the day was a relaxed and convivial affair.

A record crowd for QPR, too? So I believe, yes. Over 35,000 were crammed into every available space of the cozy Loftus Road, and it was clear that the day-trippers had come to see one thing only; the crowning of Super Leeds. Revie confessed earlier in the week that he had set his team two goals prior to this season; to go the entire campaign undefeated, and to clean up the team's disciplinary record with a suspended £3,000 FA misconduct charge

hanging over the club. Finally Revie had accepted that his earlier highly effective, but antagonistic and intensely suffocating tactics meant their true "abilities were being destroyed", and he let his players off the leash with a renewed freedom of expression. It has worked wonderfully, and now Revie can turn his attention back to his ultimate challenge; winning the European Cup.

We are worthy Champions, aren't we?

I'm biased but I don't think anyone can argue that point. Having gone 29 games unbeaten from the start of the season before suffering the blip in March (our four defeats all coming in an uncomfortable seven-game spell), Leeds regained form just at the right time. It may not have been the imperious stroll that it threatened

↑ Joe Jordan holding off a challenge from Rangers' Terry Mancini.

↓ Gordon McQueen.

↗ Norman Hunter and future Leeds boss Terry Venables.

→ Billy Bremner.





to be in the first half of the campaign, but Leeds' second First Division Championship is well-earned and, in the end, by a margin of five points. We thought today's game was going to be the conclusive one, but Liverpool's surprise midweek defeat to Arsenal handed us the goods and ensured that Billy and the lads could have navigated today's affair with a celebratory cigar in hand, had they chosen to.

It was a strange old game wasn't it?

Leeds simply played to the crowd and, to be honest, QPR let them. The first half was a sedate exhibition of consummate one-touch simplicity from Leeds. It was like an exhibition match, with Giles, Bremner and Lorimer spraying the ball around to the backdrop of appreciative "Ooh!"s and "Aah!"s from the spellbound masses. As accommodating hosts, QPR just stood and watched us, almost mesmerised.

The second half was slightly different, though?

Yes, I think both teams got a bit of a rollicking at half-time and the second 45 minutes saw a lot more spirit and ambition. Harvey was forced into brilliant saves from Bowles and Mancini, and in the end QPR deserved much more from the party than just a huge pile of washing up and a few cocktail sausages trodden into the carpet.

Stand up Allan Clarke... In the absence of the injured Mick Jones we have come to rely

on Sniffer even more. His own mid-season injury has affected his goal output, but when it mattered he delivered once again. He scored the crucial late winner in the 3-2 win over Ipswich last weekend, which effectively clinched the title, and he scored the only goal again today after 57 minutes, a typically ice-cold finish from a sublime Giles through-ball, passed the helpless Phil Parkes. It looked simple, but that is Clarke's inherent quality; the art of making the difficult appear elementary.

How were the Leeds fans? There were pockets of them all over the heaving ground, and the relaxed air to the game meant the atmosphere was at times subdued. But in the end both sets of fans were appreciative of Leeds' superiority, and like that famous night at Anfield five years ago, the home fans simply had to stand and applaud.

Best Leeds player? Giles and Bremner patrolled midfield with a commanding authority, and Hunter and McQueen continued their almost faultless campaign by keeping QPR largely at arms length. However, in a game of no pressure you would expect that. So for his clinical strike it has to go to Clarke.

In a nutshell? All hail the Champions.

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Defeats all season and number of major, domestic trophies.

