



# Classic Match

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

**A smash and grab win?** We smashed, we grabbed and we waved the loot in their faces wearing a comedy wig in their faces wearing a comedy wig to rub it in. It was hard work, though, I can tell you.

**In what way?** Well, it was a real backs-to-the-wall performance in a ferociously hostile atmosphere. We withstood wave after wave of Man United attacks – it was an onslaught. They hit the woodwork twice and Lukic pulled off a string of last-ditch saves. We scored with only our second attempt on goal and in truth we were pretty lucky to win.

**We don't actually care about that, though, do we?** Not one bit, a win's a win. Statistically everything was in Man United's favour except the one statistic that counts: we scored and they didn't.

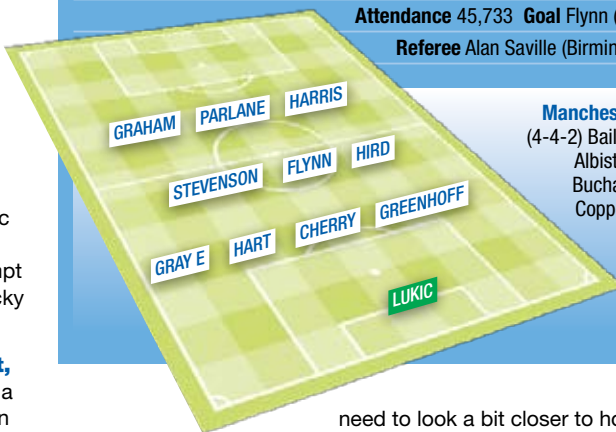
**There were some other stats in our favour, too, weren't there?** Yeah, they were unbeaten at Old Trafford all season, so this is a notable result. Plus they had only scored two goals in the previous six games. So clearly they

## Manchester United 0 Leeds United 1

Football League Division One Saturday February 28, 1981, 3pm Old Trafford

Attendance 45,733 Goal Flynn (85)

Referee Alan Saville (Birmingham)



**Manchester United**  
(4-4-2) Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Moran, Buchan, Wilkins, Coppell, Macari, McIlroy, Jordan, Birtles

## 1 Magic Number

Goals and points we *would* have settled for.

need to look a bit closer to home for something to blame, rather than just bad luck.

**Can we blame £1.25m record signing Garry Birtles?** If you like! In 20-odd appearances he has yet to score, and is quickly becoming the biggest waste of money in football history. Today, he hit the post but otherwise he looked

lost and lonely. Coppell was more lively – he hit the bar and also had a shot tipped narrowly over by Lukic – but Man United could have played until midnight and not scored. That said, we weren't too familiar with the opposition penalty area ourselves. Other than the goal, Derek Parlane had a good solo run but it ended with a weak shot that seemed to sum up our attacking display.

**What about those black shorts we wore?** Yeah, it just looked wrong! Either we forgot our away kit completely or the ref wouldn't let us play in all white, but yes, we played in black *Man United* shorts! Not something I'm entirely comfortable with, but it would be

Left: **Paul Hart, Derek Parlane???, Brian Flynn and Trevor Cherry in black and white – black Man United shorts and white Leeds shirts!**

Below: **Our matchwinner Brian Flynn.**

Right: **The match programme.**



pushing it to say that soured our victory, in fact, I've forgotten about it already, move on.

**Come on then, the goal?** A classic breakaway. We managed to lump it upfield then Kevin Hird played it out wide to Carl Harris, who beat Albiston for pace and played a ball low into the box....

**...and up pops the little Welsh Wizard?** Out of nowhere Flynny made a darting run, got to the ball in front of the statue-like Buchan and flicked it into the top corner from about 10 yards, past Bailey before the keeper could move. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. The Man United players were motionless with incredulity and Flynny just peeled away in front of the Leeds fans packed into the scoreboard end terrace. Pandemonium.

**How were the Leeds fans?** It was dangerously packed in the away end. We had the entire section behind the goal and some of the corner also. Leeds fans just kept appearing and we must have had close to 10,000 there. The idea of penning us in right below the home fans in the seats behind was an interesting move, but financially beneficial for some given the amount of coins raining down on us from above. We were still celebrating the goal when the final whistle went, and I was just laughing all the way home, which is quite tiring I can assure you.

**Best Leeds player?** Eddie Gray was class at left-back, used all his experience to get out of some tricky situations. Hart and Cherry soaked up lots of pressure, but Lukic was the hero. He has his critics but today he was immense.

**In a nutshell?** Back of the net!

