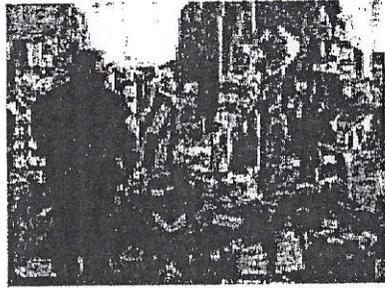


Condolences



This is a copy of an e-mail we sent on Thursday 6th April to Ian Silvester (Club Secretary) and Ray Fell (Chairman –LUFC Supporters' Club), after the Istanbul incidents.

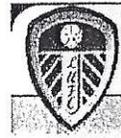
“On behalf of the Committee and members of the Leeds United Supporters Club (Malta) we would like to give our deepest condolences to the families and friends of Kevin Speight and Christopher Loftus.

We promise to remember them in our prayers. This is really one of those moments where we have to unite and March On Together.”

End of Season Lottery

You have all received a packet of 25 tickets for our lottery. Each ticket costs 25cents and 5 tickets are free with every packet sold. The Prize is a Sony Playstation, from Forestals of The Strand, Gzira. This will be drawn on the 19th May 2000. Please forward all tickets and money (cheque or cash), by not later than Friday 12th May 2000, to: - Eugene Schembri, 32, Fairwinds, Triq il-Blanzuni, Attard BZN 13
We rely on your support.

May we remind you that we are meeting for televised games at Going Places - Paceville for league games and The Cherry Tree – Gibbiba for Uefa Cup Games



Leeds Newsletter

Mailing address: “Madre del Sacro Cuore”, Lapsi Street, St.Julians STJ 15
Telephone No: 382714 Fax: 383758 e-mail: depaes@orbit.net.mt

April 2000– Issue No 5

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Dear Supporter,

We are now nearing the end of this campaign and our much beloved team is still in contention for honours. It has been a very hectic period for all our players and maybe recent results have dealt us a severe blow particularly in the final surge for the Championship.

Let us all hope that these last matches will get us what we aimed at, a UEFA Champions League spot. March saw a delegation from the club visit Elland Road. Myself together with the Vice-President Hilary Attard and Committee Member Charles Sammut attended the Coventry and Roma matches. Details of this visit can be found in another section of this publication.

Summer is nearing and we are surely going to be in the thick of the transfer market. Speculation is mounting on many players from Britain and even across the continent. Let us all hope that we increase the depth in our squad in order not to encounter difficulties that we are presently facing.

Presently our local branch is organising a Lottery which all of you are aware of since you received a Circular together with relative tickets. The least thing you can do is selling the packet you received to help our local club in raising some funds. Without your help we cannot plan for the future. We will keep you informed also with activities, which the club intends to organise for the end of season.

On a sour note I cannot but stop and reflect on what happened in Turkey on that horrible night prior to our match against Galatasaray. These so called human beings made a mess out a scuffle and killed two of our travelling supporters. Two supporters like we are. Let us all pay tribute to Christopher Loftus and Kevin Speight.

Remember that WE ARE LEEDS and proud of it.

Simon Farrugia
President

NEWS REVIEW

AN UPDATE OF KEY NEWS FROM ELLAND ROAD.

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of Leeds United, a special social gathering was held for former stars that graced the Elland Road turf, throughout the years.

During a celebrity night, an expert panel comprising Chairman Peter Ridsdale, Yorkshire Evening Post sportswriter and analyst in Leeds United affairs Don Warters, ex-manager Jimmy Armfield and life long supporter Ron Dieghton selected the following team as the best formation over the past eight decades:

Nigel Martyn, Paul Reaney, Jack Charlton, Norman Hunter, Terry Cooper, Peter Lorimer, Billy Bremner, John Giles, Harry Kewell, Allan Clarke, John Charles.

Subs: Paul Madeley, Tony Currie, and David Harvey.



Leeds have rushed in to sign 17 year old keeper **Shaun Allaway** from Reading in a deal that could amount to £2 million, for a kid who has yet never played a first team game.

However, Allaway, is an England under-16 keeper, with a great deal of potential who will be groomed to eventually step up the ladder into the first team over the years. Leeds will pay an initial £200,000, for Allaway, rising to £2m, depending on appearances and future international recognition.

Allaway was widely expected to join Tottenham, who confirmed that only a wrist injury was holding up the deal, however Leeds moved in swiftly under their noses, to tie up the transfer of the England Youth international. This signing will also mark the latest in a series of transfer clashes between Leeds and Spurs, with the Bridges and Korsten wrangles well documented. The new arrival will give Leeds a wealth of goal keeping talent, with England keepers at full, under-21 and under-16 levels, in **Nigel Martyn**, **Paul Robinson** and **Shaun Allaway**. Moreover, Leeds also has Australian under-23 international keeper **Danny Milosevic**, who only arrived at Elland Road last January in a £100,000 deal from Perth Glory. It is certain that the future regarding the Leeds goal keeping position is fully secure!

NEWS REVIEW

AN UPDATE OF KEY NEWS FROM ELLAND ROAD.....Cont.

With a co-operation agreement between Leeds and Bran Bergen (Norway), in the offing, and the possible trial at Elland Road of Erland Hansveit (see above), a counter move of a Leeds player to the Norwegian side is being contemplated. **Tommy Knarvic**, the young Norwegian midfielder, is holding talks with Bran Bergen director of football Arne Moller after impressing in a friendly between the Norwegian side and the Leeds reserve team. It is being expected that a deal will take Knarvic back to his homeland before the summer when his contract at Leeds runs out.

Tommy was voted Young Player of the Year for the 1997/98 season, but a series of injuries has set him back from the first team reckoning.



Leeds Sporting Plc, the holding company of Leeds United, has set up a subsidiary, Leeds United Youth Development Ltd, which is set to buy a 9.9% stake in Oldham Athletic. The scope will be a 50/50 agreement between both clubs to set up a youth academy and a new centre of excellence.

As the FA rules presently stand, an academy can recruit under-16 children who live within 90 minutes travelling distance away. With the setting up of this new academy, Leeds will have first choice over more youngsters under 16 years, and who live further away. By this deal, which will cost around £1 million over five years, Leeds will not have any influence whatsoever on the running of Oldham Athletic, but will widen the net to catch new talent from the Greater Manchester, Merseyside and North Wales areas.

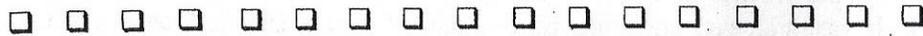
The FA has meanwhile termed this as a legal loophole and will be looking into the matter.

Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds Chairman, insists no rules have been broken and is confident the deal will go through. He stated that if the FA move to stop Leeds and Oldham in this venture, it will be the latter who suffer, as Leeds can set up the academy on their own right on Oldham's doorstep.

NEWS REVIEW

AN UPDATE OF KEY NEWS FROM ELLAND ROAD.....Cont

Leaving Elland Road, was **Mark Jackson**, who started as a trainee and had a run of 15 appearances during the George Graham days. He has joined Scunthorpe United on a free transfer. Meanwhile, **David Robertson**, the left-back signed by Graham in the summer of 97, for £500,000 from Glasgow Rangers, has terminated his contract with the club on medical grounds after failing to overcome a series of injuries, and may well be forced to retire completely from the game. Striker **Lee Matthews** has joined Gillingham on loan till the end of the season.



Jack Kelly, Leeds United's oldest surviving ex-player, has died this month aged 86. Kelly spent three years at Leeds, making 54 appearances and scoring 18 goals. He was bought from Newcastle United in 1935 and moved on to Derby in 1938.



With the transfer deadline closing on the 23rd March, Elland Road saw no new arrivals in spite of much speculation as to whom the 'mystery man' signaled by Chairman Peter Ridsdale was. In fact after the failure of the Carl Cort (Wimbledon) transfer, all remained quiet at Leeds. However, now, Mr.Ridsdale is strongly hinting that Leeds will move to broaden their transfer policy into the top European market, and that this summer 's transfer activity will not just be restricted to the U.K. scene. Time will tell! Meanwhile, Leeds are also looking ahead to invest in young players, thus laying the building blocks for future years. Among the players under scrutiny are:

Gary Doherty	20yrs	striker/defender	Eire U-21	Luton Town
Lee Wilkie	19yrs	defender	Scotland U-21	Dundee
Erland Hansveit	20yrs	defender/midfield	Norway U-21	Bran Bergen

My Corner

Philip Depares

As from this issue this corner will be reserved for your opinions and ideas about our beloved club Leeds United. Do not tell me that you don't have any. I hear thousands at every game. For example, Charlie, do you think we should still buy that Turkish striker? Allan, are you still Bridge's No 1 Fan? Let alone our love for Duberry. The best contribution will get **a prize**.

What are my ideas of Leeds this season? I never expected that we would be in this position. But I believe we have suffered from inexperience at all levels, i.e. Club Management, Team Management, and players.

I feel that Mr.Ridsdale and co still have to gain experience in top club management. We now are one of the top clubs in the world but it will take us time to get to the level of Real, Juve and Scum as regards experience. An example of this inexperience is how the Korsten and the Majestic affairs were handled. But I must say that Peter Ridsdale could not have handled the Galatasay situation better. He is one of the top men in English football.

As regard David O'Leary. This is only his second year in the driving seat. We know he likes youth. But how can you continue playing Smithy. The only thing he is capable of doing is head to head conversations and getting yellow carded. DOL keeps on complaining about the depth in the squad and that the players are tired. Then he leaves players like Alfie, Hucks and Danny Mills on the bench.

The transfer campaign is another story. I believe we have wasted our money on Duberry (what did they see in this guy) and Huckerby. We could have purchased instead two exciting players like Robbie Keane and Kyron Dyer.

Team experience. This is obviously lacking in our young team. A further set back was the injury to David Batty. But DOL could have easily played Halland at the back instead of Woody, Kelly on the right wing, and Mills as right back. Up front, well, we missed Jimmy. We have no replacement. Bridges was good, but he still needs to grow.

What do we need?

Our management is learning and fast. David O'Leary is becoming one of the best managers around. Ferguson wants him to be his replacement at the Scum (God Forbid). All he needs is a crash course in "Making Substitutions". We need to get three top class experienced players and a right winger. I would suggest Jardel, Oliver Doucort and Robbie Fowler. I am open to suggestions on the right wing.

Next time I want your ideas. Send them to me by post at LUSC Newsletter. "Madre del Sacro Cuore", Lapsi Street, St. Julians STJ 15 or e-mail at: depares@orbit.net.mt

Elland Road Visit.

On Friday 3rd March, Hilary Attard Charles Sammut and myself left Malta on our way to Leeds. It was the morning following the 0-0 UEFA Cup result against Roma and thus our spirits were sky high.

We arrived in Leeds on Saturday at about noon since we passed our first day in London. Being greeted by some friends who are also Leeds supporters we were all focused on Sunday's match against Coventry. The atmosphere on Saturday evening was already getting started and you could hear already in the Headrow and Briggate (Leeds City Centres main Streets) supporters singing 'Super Leeds' and 'Marching on Together'. The die hards from Yorkshire, witnessing one of the best seasons in recent history were also already looking into the UEFA Cup return match against Roma.

On Sunday after having breakfast and a rather relaxed morning, we set off to Elland Road and arrived there at about 1300hrs, that is two hours prior to kick off. There we were greeted by the Chairman, Mr. Peter Ridsdale who was more than pleased to accompany us to the boardroom as his guests. There together with distinguished guests such as Lord Mayor Councilor Keith Parker, Bill Fotherby, Leslie Silver, Directors Adam Pearson, Stephen Harrison, Secretary Ian Silvester and much more we were treated for a couple of drinks and for lunch. Five minutes before kick off we were escorted to the Main Stand by one of the officials and what an atmosphere. Kewell and Bridges continued to that by putting Leeds 2-0 up till half time. During the interval back to the boardroom and after Jason Wilcox sealed the issue we went back after the match to the boardroom we there we were again treated for drinks and snacks. On behalf of the Leeds United Supporters Club (Malta) I presented a momento to Mr. Ridsdale.

Leaving Elland Road we set our sights on the following day when we had to be at Thorp Arch (the place were our babes train). We were there at 10 am and after being greeted by Ian Silvester and Dick Wright we watched our players train all morning. Being so near to these players and being greeted by them as if they knew us ages ago was just fantastic. So we exchanged greetings, got autographs, photos and anything we requested it was there for us. We were treated like Kings. Everybody was great Harry, Bridges, Bow, Woody, the Chief 'Radebe', Batts, Nigel, Hartie, Kelly, Bakke, Smithy,

Huckers and one must not forget the Welsh Wizard Matt Jones. What a nice guy he is. Then at about 1330 we met David O'Leary and also made a presentation to our dedicated manager. We wished each other good luck and set off back to the city.

Visiting the Souvenir Shop and passing through Elland Road was something of a ritual. Thursday 9th was UEFA match day vs. Roma. Leeds needed a win to make it through to the quarter finals and thus meet Slavia Praha since the latter had already beaten Italians Udinese. The atmosphere during the day was building up and after having a couple of drinks at the Banqueting Suite were again we were the Guests of the Club half an hour before kick off we were in our seats. And what a place to be in. Just sitting next to the substitutes bench. It wasn't an easy encounter playing against an international team called Roma. But our young players rose to the occasion. Playing some direct football saw the first half finish goalless. The second half started and we were desperate for a goal. In the 67th minute after a good run by man of the match Alfie Inge Haaland the ball fell to Bowyer who passed to KEWELL and from the edge of the area he fired a shot which beat the goalkeeper all ends up. Wonderful strike and Elland Road exploded. That was it. Nerves till the end and two sending offs for ungentlemanly conduct. The final whistle was greeted with a great applause and Elland Road witnessed wonderful scenes once again. Hugging, chanting, singing and a great ovation for our lads. Well done once again.

We left Yorkshire on Friday round about 1100hrs and after passing another night in London back to Malta Sunday morning.

This visit was something that will be remembered by all three of us. The reception that we got from the Elland Road staff was second to none. We hope that we can keep this appointment every year and hopefully if we put our local supporters club on good grounds we can also occasionally start organising tours for Leeds matches. Well done Leeds and keep it up.

'It was just 'fantastic'
Simon Farrugia