

A RECORD OF VISITS TO ALL PREMIER/ FOOTBALL LEAGUE GROUNDS



This is a bit of a personal thing, but I've decided to share it on the website. Yes, I've made a visit to the grounds of every English Football League club, now of course, including the Premier League too. The following pages show a record of my first attendance at each of the grounds and a few brief notes, to make it less of a mere list and perhaps to give it that little bit of entertainment value. Some great matches are included in the notes and, via my own observations made at that time, they are recalled.

Please note that the first visit made for a match of a high enough status is shown and this would not necessarily be the very first visit made to the ground itself. For example, prior to my visit for a Football League game, a match had already been seen at Nottingham Forest for a Notts. F.A. County Cup final which included the complete first teams of Forest and County (even England goalkeeper Peter Shilton was held back from joining their 1982 World Cup squad to play in the game!) So, a qualifying match has to be made clear. A qualifying match consists of European games, E.F.L./ Premier League, F.A. Cup and Football League Cup. One ground, Filbert Street, has two entries as the first visit there was when it was used as a neutral venue, the second one showing the appropriate Leicester City home game at the ground. It is only 'counted' as one ground of course.

If you support a team playing in the Premier/EFL you might, for curiosity value, search to find the visit to your club and you may even find them as a visiting side.

I do fully understand that many other football fanatics have achieved this feat too and it is far from unique. I hope that someone out there might find this article to be of interest. If it proves to only be me - then so be it!!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
1	**The Dell, Milton Road, Southampton** Saturday 08/03/1969 Football League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 2	**Southampton**	1-0	**Sunderland**	In the beginning … a late decision whilst in the city centre to jump on a bus destined for The Dell. The only goal came from Saints' cult hero Ron Davies, a header from Micky Judd's cross just before half-time. Saints were the vastly superior side.
2	**Arsenal Stadium, Highbury, Avenell Road, London N5** Saturday 06/12/1969 Football League - Division1 Ground 1 of 2	**Arsenal**	2-2	**Southampton**	A sudden realisation for this young man … they weren't all like The Dell! This was reproduced so eloquently in Nick Hornby's film *Fever Pitch* on his first visit to this ground. Jon Sammels gave the Gunners an early lead with a 'rocket' shot. Terry Paine crossed for Ron Davies to head an equaliser. John Radford made it 2-1 in the second half but another Saints header by defender Jimmy Gabriel saved a late point.
3	**Fratton Park, Frogmore Road, Portsmouth** Saturday 05/09/1970 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Portsmouth**	2-0	**Sheffield Wednesday**	I recall a sailor joined both the captains in the centre for the pre-match coin toss. Goals from Ray Hiron, a close range header following good work by Nicky Jennings and Brian Bromley after 9 minutes was followed by another headed goal by Jennings after 22 put Pompey in charge of this one.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
4	**Stamford Bridge Grounds, London SW6** Saturday 24/11/1973 Football League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Chelsea**	4-0	**Southampton**	Chelsea goalkeeper Peter Bonetti was making his 600th appearance for the club (483rd in the League) and kept a clean sheet. Goals by Ian Britton (4 minutes), Chris Garland (58) and a Steve Kember brace (75 and 89) completed their win. The kick-off was 2.15pm, due to a ban on the use of floodlights and it got dark before the end.
5	**Portman Road, Ipswich, Suffolk** Saturday 02/02/1974 Football League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Ipswich Town**	7-0	**Southampton**	This was a Saturday evening (7pm) kick-off as Ipswich had use of a generator. The goals came from Mick Lambert (7 minutes), Trevor Whymark (31 and 63), Bryan Hamilton (55 and 75), Kevin Beattie (61) and Mick Mills (84) to complete a most comprehensive win for the home side.
6	**Ashton Gate, Bristol** Saturday 21/09/1974 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Bristol City**	2-0	**Southampton**	Pre-match entertainment came from The Wurzels (including "Drink Up Thy Zider"). The Robins were the better side as the Saints were struggling to adapt to the Second Division following their summer relegation; they did have three goals disallowed though! City defenders were on target - Gerry Sweeney (16 minutes) and Geoff Merrick (56). Wurzels the highlight!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
7	**Manor Ground, Headington, Oxford** Wednesday 25/09/1974 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 2	**Oxford United**	0-4	**Southampton**	A superior performance by the visitors. Mike Channon scored a hat-trick, his first was an individual effort (16 minutes) and he then netted two penalties (76 - given for handball and 84 following a foul). Peter Osgood rounded off the win two minutes from time.
8	**Dean Court Ground, Bournemouth** Saturday 23/11/1974 F.A. Cup - First Round Ground 1 of 2	**AFC Bournemouth**	5-0	**Southwick**	Sussex County League side Southwick (who included former stalwart Brighton goalkeeper Brian Powney as an outfield player) did extremely well to reach this stage. The Third Division Cherries were, as expected, much better and their goals came from Howard Goddard (3), Brian Greenhalgh and Neil Hague.
• Additional note - Dean Court Ground. The pitch was realigned in 2001, and has been visited since but not considered to be a new ground.					
9	**Elm Park, Norfolk Road, Reading** Wednesday 09/04/1975 Football League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Reading**	2-1	**Rochdale**	Rochdale took a first half-lead from defender Keith Hanvey, a header following a corner on 36 minutes. Dale held this lead until Andy Alleyne levelled with a good shot on the hour. When it seemed Dale had held onto a point, the Biscuitmen's hopes of a top four (promotion) place were revived when Robin Friday netted a 90th minute winner. He famously celebrated by kissing a patrolling policeman!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
10	**Recreation Ground, High Street, Aldershot** Saturday 01/11/1975 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Aldershot**	3-0	**Gillingham**	The Shots led 1-0 at the break through a goal by winger Neil Warnock. Midfielder Pat Morrissey and striker Jack Howarth netted in the second half as the home side comfortably defeated a disappointing opponent.
11	**Leyton Stadium, Brisbane Road, Leyton, London E10** Saturday 15/11/1975 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Orient**	2-1	**Southampton**	A rather inept Southampton performance. They had a half-time lead though, a cross by Jim McCalliog finding the net in the 16th minute. Striker Gerry Queen levelled midway through the second half and a Peter Rodrigues own goal in the last ten minutes brought a victory for the home side.
12	**Brunton Park, Carlisle** Saturday 29/11/1975 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Carlisle United**	1-0	**Southampton**	Very little is recalled about this one. An extremely long coach journey which seemed to be heading up the wrong side of the country but made it in time. A second half Frank Clarke goal settled this one and the Carlisle fans were friendly people. Final whistle and then all the way back south!!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
13	**Bootham Crescent, York** Saturday 28/02/1976 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**York City**	2-1	**Southampton**	The Saints had been a team in form whilst the Minster Men had lost their last seven. It looked like an 'away banker' but football isn't always predictable. One memory of the ground was a quaint picket fencing pitch surround! Micky Cave's opener for the home side was levelled by Mick Channon before half-time. Jim Hinch scored York's 87th minute winning goal.
14	**Bristol Stadium, Eastville, Bristol** Saturday 17/04/1976 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 3	**Bristol Rovers**	2-0	**Southampton**	Midfielder Frankie Prince scored two first half goals which proved to be enough as FA Cup finalists Southampton's slim promotion hopes practically disappeared. The second goal came from the penalty spot. It seemed pretty unlikely that the Second Division (and on this day, second rate) Saints would even compete with Manchester United in that final in two weeks' time but the rest is history!!
15	**70-72 Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds.** Saturday 23/10/1976 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Luton Town**	1-4	**Southampton**	Two David Peach goals (the first from a penalty) put the Saints 2-0 ahead in the first half. Brian Chambers pulled a goal back but Ted MacDougall netted (from a Steve Williams cross) and Nick Holmes (counter attack) completed a resounding 4-1 victory for the visiting side.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
16	**Goldstone Ground, Old Shoreham Road, Hove. Sussex** Saturday 19/03/1977 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 3	**Brighton & Hove Albion**	1-1	**Bury**	Brighton were the better team in the first half and took the lead on the half-hour mark with a thumping header by Andy Rollings. The Shakers improved after the break and the Brighton lead lasted exactly thirty minutes due to a goal by their top scorer Andy Rowland.
17	**County Ground, Swindon, Wilts.** Saturday 17/12/1977 F.A. Cup - Second Round Ground 1 of 1	**Swindon Town**	2-1	**Brentford**	An enjoyable *Inter-City 125* train journey (complete with onboard announcements, automatically opening doors and even an engaged light to show the toilets were occupied) from Reading took me to Swindon. This was a cracking cup tie with all the goals in the second half. Steve Phillips put the Bees in front with a penalty but goals from Colin Prophett and Ray McHale put Town through.
18	**Blundell Park, Cleethorpes. South Humberside** Saturday 07/01/1978 F.A. Cup - Third Round Ground 1 of 1	**Grimsby Town**	0-0	**Southampton**	My first 0-0 draw on an initial visit to a Football League ground (and there's a fair few more to come!). This was an exciting F.A. Cup tie with Saints' keeper Ian Turner returning to his former employer and making a fine save from Mike Brolly. Both teams hit the post. The Fourth Division side put up a determined display against Second Division Saints.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
19	**Field Mill Ground, Quarry Lane, Mansfield** Saturday 14/01/1978 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Mansfield Town**	1-2	**Southampton**	All the goals were scored in a six minute spell towards the end of the first half. Alan Ball put Saints ahead from a penalty following a foul on 36 minutes. Ted MacDougall glanced home a second just two minutes later. Salisbury-born Dave Syrett netted with a 41st minute glancing header to reduce the arrears for the Stags.
20	**Filbert Street, Leicester (Leicester City F.C.) NB: neutral ground** Monday 16/01/1978 F.A. Cup - Third Round, Second Replay Ground 1 of 2	**Grimsby Town**	1-4	**Southampton**	An awful evening weather-wise but having seen both 0-0 draws between these teams it just had to be watched to a conclusion. David Peach and Phil Boyer put Saints into a 2-0 half-time lead. Further goals by Ted MacDougall and Nick Holmes made it four with Joe Waters netting a late goal for the Mariners. The pitch was churned up! This produced a dilemma 'grounds wise' so a separate entry is shown for a Leicester City home match, see note below.
• For the visit to watch Leicester City play a home game at this ground see reference 81A					
21	**Burnden Park, Bolton** Saturday 18/03/1978 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 2	**Bolton Wanderers**	0-0	**Southampton**	This was a top of the table clash and both teams played in a way that protected what they had and it was an inevitable stalemate. Additional note: A revisit to this ground was made almost ten years to the day later with Bolton then in the Fourth Division. This match was also a 0-0 draw!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
22	**Goodison Park, Liverpool. L4** Saturday 07/10/1978 Football League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Everton**	0-0	**Southampton**	Southampton were now back in the First Division. Everton were awarded an early penalty when defender Manny Andruszewski handled Martin Dobson's header on the line. Saints keeper Terry Gennoe made an excellent save from Andy King's spot-kick and put in an inspired performance to keep out the Toffees. This proved to be my only ever visit to Goodison Park.
23	**Plough Lane Ground, Durnsford Road, Wimbledon, London** Tuesday 09/01/1979 F.A. Cup - Third Round Ground 1 of 3	**Wimbledon**	0-2	**Southampton**	The match was postponed on the previous Saturday. Two second half Phil Boyer goals produced a win for the visitors who always had the game in their control. The Dons had joined the Football League in 1977 and were leading the Fourth Division at the time. In a bit over ten years time they would be lifting the FA Cup itself - Alan Cork playing in both this game and that final too. The club had made incredible progress in a short time.
24	**Selhurst Park, London. SE25** Saturday 01/01/1980 Football League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 2	**Crystal Palace**	0-0	**Norwich City**	I had chosen a non-league game but had to source another match on arrival in London. This game appeared to know it wasn't my first choice and provided a rather disappointing affair. Some great players on show though, the likes of John 'Budgie' Burridge, Gerry Francis and Vince Hilaire for Palace and Justin Fashanu, Graham Paddon and the legendary Martin Peters for the Canaries.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
25	**Spotland, Willbutts Lane, Rochdale** Tuesday 09/03/1982 Football League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Rochdale**	1-0	**Crewe Alexandra**	This was a horrible wet night with both teams fighting to move out of the bottom four (and having to apply for re-election). Dave Goodwin's tap-in put Dale in front just before half-time. Referee Flint blew the final whistle seven minutes early causing confusion whether it had been completed. It transpired that he'd dropped his watch in the mud and had to rely on his secondary watch instead.
26	**Roots Hall Ground, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea** Friday 19/03/1982 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Southend United**	2-2	**Preston North End**	Two Keith Mercer goals put Southend into a 2-0 lead within twenty minutes. They created more chances but Preston hit back Steve Elliott netting on 70 minutes. They completed the comeback eight minutes from time when home keeper John Keeley failed to hold a corner and Alex Bruce applied the finish. An entertaining game.
27	**Anfield Road, Liverpool 4** Tuesday 13/04/1982 Football League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Liverpool**	2-0	**Stoke City**	Great names in the Liverpool team - Grobbelaar, Dalglish, Rush and Hansen to name a few. Alan Kennedy's fourth minute 25-yard shot put the home side in front and when Ian Rush's shot was parried by Stoke keeper Peter Fox, Craig Johnston was there to apply the finish. It was 2-0 at half-time and that's how it remained.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
28	**Recreation Ground, Saltergate, Chesterfield** Tuesday 31/08/1982 Milk Cup - First Round, First Leg Ground 1 of 2	**Chesterfield**	2-1	**Hartlepool United**	This was a sponsor's name for the Football League Cup. Richard Dawson put the Spireites in front and they held the lead at the break. Andy Linighan levelled for Pools with a stunning 35-yard dipping effort. The home side won it when Bill Green's shot was parried by the visitors keeper and David Windridge was there to fire home the rebound in the 85th minute. [Hartlepool won the second leg and therefore progressed]
29	**Gresty Road, Crewe** Friday 08/10/1982 Football League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Crewe Alexandra**	1-1	**Rochdale**	David Waller put Alex ahead on the half-hour mark. Dale levelled three minutes after the break when Micky French initially shot poorly but received a rebound and made no mistake. Dave Goodwin who scored for Dale against Crewe last season (ground #25), appeared for Alex as a substitute. It was a disorganised match.
30	**Rangers Stadium, South Africa Road, London. W12** Tuesday 26/10/1982 Milk Cup - Second Round, Second Leg Ground 1 of 1	**Queens Park Rangers**	0-0	**Rotherham United**	These were the days when Loftus Road (as it was more affectionately known) had an artificial surface known as 'Omniturf'. The surface had a most erratic bounce which often bamboozled the players - even the home ones who should have been used to it! It spoilt the game as a spectacle. Rotherham were managed by former Liverpool stalwart Emlyn Hughes who was still playing and this 2-1 win on aggregate took him and his Millers team back to Anfield in the next round.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
31	**The Den, Cold Blow Lane, New Cross, London SE14** Tuesday 02/11/1982 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Millwall**	2-2	**Plymouth Argyle**	This was a decent game. Plymouth took the lead through Leigh Cooper. When Lawrie Madden diverted an Andy Rogers cross past his own goalkeeper it looked like Plymouth had built up a comfortable lead going into half-time. But this was not so as right on the break a foul in the box and Nicky Chatterton netted the penalty. Willie Carr (famed for his "donkey kick" at Coventry) set up Andy Massey to net early in the second half but neither team could secure a winning goal.
32	**Boleyn Ground, Green Street, Upton Park, London E13** Monday 29/11/1982 Milk Cup - Third Round Replay Ground 1 of 2	**West Ham United**	2-1 (aet)	**Lincoln City**	This game produced a novelty as West Ham full-back Ray Stewart, a spot-kick specialist, saw his penalty brilliantly saved by Imps keeper Dave Felgate, but he responded to the loose ball to put the Hammers in front. A Sandy Clark own goal, deflecting a George Shipley shot past keeper Phil Parkes, levelled for Lincoln. Clark scored at the right end near to the end of extra time, a low shot. It was a win West Ham didn't deserve.
33	**Somerton Park, Newport, Gwent** Sunday 06/02/1983 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Newport County**	0-0	**Brentford**	My first match in Wales and it was a disappointing one, not helped by a referee who took seven names (which was quite unusual back in the day). Both sides, and in particular Brentford, missed good chances. The Brentford midfield included Chris Kamara (later a TV pundit), the tough-tackling Terry Hurlock and the late great showman Stan Bowles.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
34	**Home Park, Plymouth, Devon** Tuesday 08/02/1983 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Plymouth Argyle**	0-0	**Walsall**	A second Football League Divison 3 game finishing as a cipher in three days! This was a long midweek trip too. Saddlers keeper Ron Green saved well in the opening minute but neither side possessed the quality to break the deadlock. It was a better game than the previous one at Newport though, but having seen Plymouth quite recently (at Millwall) I was expecting a far better performance from them.
35	**Shay Ground, Halifax, West Yorkshire** Friday 04/03/1983 Football League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Halifax Town**	0-0	**Rochdale**	An afternoon arrival and the local paper revealed that Halifax, stricken with illness, tried to postpone it! But it was 'game on' and this was easily the worst ever Football League game seen, without a shot on target throughout. The home side received a standing ovation at the end which was understandable. The long journey home, the consolation being the game was played.
36	**Plainmoor Ground, Torquay, Devon** Sunday 20/03/1983 Football League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Torquay United**	0-2	**Bristol City**	I had 0-0 draws on the last 3 'new' Football League visits so a trip to Devon was made more in hope than expectation. No worries though, a cross was headed home by Alan Crawford after just 9 minutes. There was a large City support and the team responded well as Glyn Riley fired past Graham Horn to seal the win in the 74th minute. There were two player/managers on the pitch - Bruce Rioch of Torquay and City's Terry Cooper.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
37	**The Valley, Floyd Road, Charlton, London SE7** Friday 29/04/1983 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Charlton Athletic**	0-1	**Shrewsbury Town**	It was looking like another 0-0 on my Football League '92' quest. I'd given up hope but Alan Brown's header that came off the inside of the post and just crept over the line on 85 minutes, allayed my fears. Relegation threatened Charlton were the better side but wasted possession and when they did get near goal they found the Shrews keeper Steve Ogrizovic in good form.
38	**Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, Kent** Tuesday 03/05/1983 Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Gillingham**	3-0	**Bradford City**	This was a fine performance by the home side. They took the lead with a Dave Mehmet volley and shortly after, a Mehmet corner was headed superbly home by Tony Cascarino. Jeff Johnson added a third for Gillingham in the second half. Bradford's Cec Podd was sent off for dissent when a throw went against him (second booking). Bradford included six players who went on to become pro-club managers - McCall, Cherry, Abbott, Chapman, Yorath and Jackson.
39	**Feethams Ground, Darlington, County Durham** Saturday 27/08/1983 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Darlington**	0-2	**Colchester United**	The new season started with the Football League having a sponsor's name for the first time (it had already applied to the League Cup). This was a poor game that was won by two second half goals for United. Tony Adcock put them in front with a scrappy effort (74 minutes) and it was sealed by a Stewart Houston header three minutes from the end. Houston was ex-Chelsea and Man U, whilst the U's also included Perry Groves who went on to play for Arsenal and Saints.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
40	**Belle Vue Ground, Doncaster** Sunday 11/09/1983 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Doncaster Rovers**	3-0	**Hereford United**	The 'St Ledger', an infamous horse race, was held at the adjacent racecourse on the previous day, moving this game to Sunday. Late first half goals by Ernie Moss and Colin Douglas put Donny in charge and Billy Russell added a third midway through the second half. It was a most pleasant ground which was a fair walk from the rail station.
41	**County Ground, Abington Avenue, Northampton.** Sunday 18/09/1983 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Northampton Town**	0-0	**Stockport County**	This was another 0-0 affair on a Football League new ground. The Northampton nickname is the 'Cobblers' (after the shoe making industry in this area) and, that could well sum this one up perfectly. The Northampton effort stepped up a gear following the introduction of former Southampton player Austin Hayes as substitute but it finished in a most disappointing deadlock.
42	**748 High Road (a.k.a. White Hart Lane), Tottenham, London. N17** Wednesday 28/09/1983 U.E.F.A. Cup - First Round, Second Leg Ground 1 of 2	**Tottenham Hotspur**	8-0	**Drogheda United**	Spurs completed a 14-0 aggregate victory. Their goals on the night came from Mark Falco 2, Graham Roberts 2, Alan Brazil 2, Steve Archibald and Chris Hughton. There was a funny moment when Tony Galvin pushed Hughton (his teammate) away to get the ball himself and the Maltese ref gave a free kick (which was technically correct, being unsporting behaviour!). The fans roared with laughter, but don't think they would have done so if they hadn't been winning quite so convincingly at that time.

- This ground was rebuilt and rebranded Tottenham Hotspur Stadiium in 2019 and visited. It is partly on the same site so therefore not 'new' (opinions may differ on that)

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
43	**Molineux Grounds, Wolverhampton** Sunday 23/10/1983 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Wolverhampton Wanderers**	1-1	**Aston Villa**	With live football now being televised (this being the second such game) and played on Sundays, a chance to get to Wolves. An attendance of just over 13,000 suggested most decided to watch at home rather than attend. Peter Withe headed in a Mark Walters cross in the first half for Villa. A cheeky 51st minute back-heel by Wayne Clarke levelled it Sixties pop group Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Titch didn't entertain pre-match due to electrical issues!
44	**Bramall Lane Ground, Sheffield** Tuesday 25/10/1983 Milk Cup - Second Round, Second Leg Ground 1 of 1	**Sheffield United**	2-2	**Shrewsbury Town**	The Shrews led 2-1 after the first leg of this League Cup tie. Keith Edwards put the aggregate level on the night for the Blades. Early second half goals by Gary Hackett and Philip (Chic) Bates put the visitors in front. Kevin Arnott's low volley levelled it. United were still behind overall, but the visitors held on in the final 13 minutes. This was an excellent match (long overdue!!)
45	**Vale Park, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent** Monday 31/10/1983 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Port Vale**	0-1	**Plymouth Argyle**	This was a poor game played in blustery conditions. An early goal brought promise, David Phillips receiving a Gordon Staniforth knock on and shot home for the Pilgrims. They could have added to it ten minutes after the break but Staniforth's penalty went over. Vale struggled. They included Alan Oakes, their 41 year-old reserve team manager, who was appearing in his 776th and last Football League game.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
46	**Gigg Lane, Bury** Tuesday 01/11/1983 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Bury**	2-1	**Stockport County**	This was the second match of a three-day trip. An header by defender John Bramhall put the Shakers into an early lead. They struck early again, in the second half this time, another headed goal by Paul Hilton, meaning both centre-backs were on target. Mike Quinn pulled a goal back from close range for County but Bury held on to win. So, 46 now visited and 46 still to go!
47	**Old Trafford, Manchester** Wednesday 02/11/1983 U.E.F.A. Cup Winners' Cup - Second Round, Second Leg Ground 1 of 1	**Manchester United**	2-0	**Spartak Varna**	The three-day trip concluded with a game at the 'Theatre of Dreams'. United led 2-1 from the first leg and netted after 55 seconds, a fine individual effort by Frank Stapleton. He added a second after 31 minutes, sinking to his knees to head in Arthur Graham's cross. There was a strange refereeing decision, Mr Eriksson from Sweden brandishing a yellow card to a Bulgarian player whilst allowing play to continue with a United advantage.
48	**Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road, Stockport** Friday 11/11/1983 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Stockport County**	4-0	**Halifax Town**	A goal in each half by both Mike Quinn and Tommy Sword produced an emphatic win for dominant County. Quinn's second was his 13th of the season (I'd seen his 10th at Bury a few days back, ground #46). A crowd of just over 2,000 watched this Friday evening match. I picked the visit made to Edgeley Park well, with Stockport most impressive in their centenary year.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
49	**Abbey Stadium, Newmarket Road, Cambridge** Wednesday 28/12/1983 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Cambridge United**	2-2	**Grimsby Town**	Cambridge, struggling in the division, twice led. They went in at half-time ahead due to Robbie Cooke's sliding finish. Trevor Whymark got the final touch after Paul Emson headed goalwards to level for the Mariners. Andy Sinton's penalty soon put United back in front but Tony Ford fired through a crowded goalmouth to break home hearts with an 89th minute leveller.
50	**County Ground, Meadow Lane, Nottingham** Sunday 08/01/1984 F.A. Cup - Third Round Ground 1 of 1	**Notts County**	2-2	**Bristol City**	Division 1 side County were expected to beat Fourth Division opposition. They went behind early to Alan Crawford's diving header. A push in the box and Trevor Christie levelled from the spot. Christie added a second, five minutes into the second half but City levelled due to a disputed goal by Tom Ritchie. It was a full-blooded cup tie on a heavy surface.
51	**St James Park, Exeter** Friday 03/02/1984 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Exeter City**	0-2	**Bradford City**	A Friday evening trip to Devon where the visiting Bantams won due to second half goals from Terry Gray and John Hawley. It was a dour match that did improve as it progressed. Bradford celebrated a club record of ten successive victories after the whistle. They also showed they can play under lights, having had none of their own for about a year owing to gale damage.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
52	**Vetch Field, Swansea** Sunday 05/02/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 2	**Swansea City**	0-3	**Fulham**	This was a battle between relegation threatened teams. There were no goals in the first half but Fulham hit the Swans with two goals in five minutes. Gordon Davies got their first and Dean Coney added a second. This put Fulham in control against a youthful looking home side. Davies confirmed the victory late on with a well placed shot.
53	**Ewood Park, Nuttall Street, Blackburn** Friday 17/02/1984 F.A. Cup - Fifth Round Ground 1 of 1	**Blackburn Rovers**	0-1	**Southampton**	A long Friday night coach trip, accommodated for television. It was won by Semi-Final bound Southampton, due to a 62nd minute goal, deftly flicked home by David Armstrong. Blackburn had two efforts cleared off the line. Got back home at 0321 hours on Saturday morning and, still not missing an Eastleigh game, I was at Brading Town on the following day!!
54	**Ninian Park, Sloper Road, Cardiff** Sunday 19/02/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 2	**Cardiff City**	0-4	**Fulham**	Blackburn on Friday, Isle of Wight on Saurday and Cardiff on Sunday!! This was becoming non-stop but youth was on my side. An emphatic Fulham win with Dean Coney again scoring two as he did recently at Swansea (ground #52). Striker Leroy Rosenior weighed in with the other two.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
55	**Hillsborough, Sheffield** Wednesday 07/03/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Sheffield Wednesday**	1-1	**Fulham**	This was a tremendous ground - this city having two of them. This one was a fair way out of town though! A goal-less first half but John Pearson (an early substitute) put the promotion-chasing Owls controversially ahead after the ball appeared to be knocked out of the Fulham keeper's hands. Leroy Rosenoir levelled for Fulham shortly later. Seen a bit of Fulham recently!! The train back south left at 2359!!
56	**Deepdale, Preston** Friday 30/03/1984 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Preston North End**	2-0	**Newport County**	A very long Friday evening trip. Preston stepped up a gear in the second half and won it with two well worked goals. Steve Elliott netted on 69 minutes and the win was completed with three minutes to go through Peter Sayer. A sleeper train back to London and then another home. I had to work the following morning before the Eastleigh match later in the day. Youthful exuberance!
57	**Racecourse Ground, Mold Road, Wrexham** Friday 20/04/1984 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Wrexham**	0-3	**Swindon Town**	Another long Friday trip, but this time it was a Good Friday game. Two teams at the wrong end of the table but it was Swindon who won it as comfortably as the score suggests. A Simon Gibson header (12 minutes) and a handling offence on the line (only a yellow card then) enabled Alan Mayes to score a penalty (40). Gary Emmanuel added a further goal (86).

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
58	**London Road Ground Peterborough** Tuesday 24/04/1984 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Peterborough United**	6-0	**Northampton Town**	My 200th game in this non-stop 83/84 season and the first time I'd seen the Posh play. They put on an impressive show too with six unanswered goals and there could have been more. Alan Waddle 2, Jimmy Holmes (penalty), Errington Kelly 2 and Pat Rayment got the goals, but Kenny Beech and Dick Tydeman played well. It was a miserable evening for the Cobblers.
59	**Maine Road, Moss Side, Manchester** Friday 04/05/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 2	**Manchester City**	0-2	**Chelsea**	This was a superb show by Chelsea and they had to wait until the second half but they eventually got the goals they deserved. Pat Nevin (low angled shot) and Kerry Dixon (heading home David Speedie's cross) notched the goals. City's pitch dimensions of 119 x 79 yards were almost maximum area (shared with Belle Vue) and it was Chelsea who enjoyed playing on it.
60	**St Andrews, Birmingham** Saturday 05/05/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Birmingham City**	0-0	**Liverpool**	The 0-0s return, the first on a new ground at this level since number 41. Muhammad Ali, the famous boxer, was introduced to the crowd before the match. Both teams needed the points for different reasons and it was a decent match. Ian Rush hit the bar for Liverpool whilst Noel Blake played well at the back for the home side.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
61	**Layer Road Ground, Colchester** Monday 07/05/1984 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Colchester United**	3-0	**Hereford United**	A May Bank Holiday Monday trip to Essex and another ground that was a fair hike from the rail station. Colchester always had this match under control, leading on 18 minutes through Keith Bowen. Their second came from Bowen's head on and was netted by Tony Adcock. I had thought Bowen scored the 'U's third goal but Hereford defender Tony Larkin was attributed with an own goal.
62	**Sincil Bank, Lincoln** Saturday 12/05/1984 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Lincoln City**	3-2	**Port Vale**	I was still not missing an Eastleigh match back then and this was the last Saturday of the Football League season. I chose the game based on potential travel difficulties as I was determined to complete the "92" in a year's time. Mid-table Lincoln defeated relegated Port Vale. John Thomas scored a hat-trick for the Imps, the winner being a penalty. Mark Bright and Terry Armstrong scored for Vale, the second putting them ahead. It was a decent game.
63	**The Hawthorns, West Bromwich** Monday 14/05/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**West Bromwich Albion**	0-2	**Southampton**	This proved to be Southampton's best season at the top level of the English game. They needed to win this one to have a chance of finishing runners-up. They did so at what was usually an unlucky ground. Two goals in three second half minutes, by David Puckett and Steve Moran ensured they kept up the pace and, needing a point in their last game three days later, won at Notts County.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
64	**Highfield Road Stadium, King Richard Street, Coventry** Tuesday 28/08/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 2	**Coventry City**	0-0	**Norwich City**	The start of a whirlwind 1984/85 season with an aim of 29 FL grounds to visit and not miss an Eastleigh match (yes, I know daft isn't it?). Many of them were miles away from Hampshire and every opportunity had to be taken. Does the reader recognise a 'dead cat strategy' for this one. Guilty! This was not a good start. The Canaries were defensive and the Sky Blues lacked invention. A 'crazy' homeward journey too!
65	**Villa Park, Trinity Road, Birmingham B6** Wednesday 05/09/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Aston Villa**	0-5	**Nottingham Forest**	Now, this made up for the last one! What a team Forest were back then. Ian Bowyer crashed home the first; 1-0 Forest at half-time. Trevor Christie headed in their second on the hour and Johnny Metgod and Steve Wigley combined for his second. Steve Hodge's close range finish made it four and Christie completed his hat-trick with a tap-in late on after Gary Mills' shot had hit the bar.
66	**City Ground, Nottingham** Sunday 16/09/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Nottingham Forest**	3-1	**Luton Town**	The first of a four-day Football League ground tour. Another Forest match, this time on the banks of the River Trent. Another win too. All the goals came in the second half, Steve Hodge scoring twice with Peter Davenport netting in between. David Moss got a late consolation goal for Town. Forest's Johnny Metgod had such great vision in the Forest midfield.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
67	**Prenton Park, Prenton Road West, Birkenhead** Monday 17/09/1984 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Tranmere Rovers**	1-0	**Halifax Town**	A 42nd minute John Clayton goal, heading in a Dave Higgins long throw, via the underside of the bar, settled this game. Rovers had to thank keeper Nigel Adkins for keeping their lead intact. This was the sixth time I'd seen the visiting Shaymen and I'd yet to see them score a goal. It wasn't a match for the memory, it would be surprising whether any of the 1,432 that attended, would recall it!
68	**Bloomfield Road Ground, Blackpool** Tuesday 18/09/1984 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Blackpool**	1-1	**Port Vale**	An early evening FA Cup replay at nearby Wren Rovers and on to the main event. Vale keeper/captain Barry Siddall left the field injured on 9 minutes, striker Ally Brown deputised until he returned 11 minutes later. Gary Brazil's 71st minute shot put Vale in front which was levelled ten minutes from time by John Deary. This was a decent game, with Blackpool the more dominant.
69	**Baseball Ground, Shaftesbury Crescent, Derby** Wednesday 19/09/1984 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Derby County**	1-0	**Bristol City**	This four day 'tour' started in the East Midlands and finished there. The Rams were in the Third Division and Kevin Wilson, received Kevin Taylor's pass and beat two players before shooting home. Rams winger John Robertson was prominent. This included holding the ball in the corner near to the end to preserve the lead, something not seen before, but many times since!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
70	**Gay Meadow, Shrewsbury** Tuesday 25/09/1984 Milk Cup - Second Round, First Leg Ground 1 of 2	**Shrewsbury Town**	2-2	**Bolton Wanderers**	Two Ross MacLaren goals within three minutes (36 and 39 - and a booking in between!) put the Shrews in the driving seat. Bolton's Jeff Chandler was on hand to level after Tony Caldwell's shot had stuck the bar. Shrews were awarded a penalty and MacLaren had a chance of a hat-trick (he also usually took them) but Simon Farnworth saved it. George Oghani levelled for the Trotters late in the game. A great match.
71	**Boundary Park, Oldham** Tuesday 02/10/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Oldham Athletic**	2-0	**Middlesbrough**	This wasn't a game of any great note. The Latics first goal came from Mike Quinn (whom I'd watched score a goal or two for Stockport in the previous season), a low 20-yard shot. Derrick Parker got the second in the 89th minute. Crowds had dwindled at football in this period, the attendance being a mere 2,815 for a second tier match. Perhaps those that stayed away knew something I didn't!!
72	**The Stadium, Sealand Road, Chester** Wednesday 03/10/1984 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Chester City**	2-4	**Tranmere Rovers**	Without realising, I'd stumbled on a local derby game and there was a little crowd trouble. Rovers sailed into a 3-0 lead in 33 minutes, Ronnie Clayton 2 and John Williams on target. Peter Sayer pulled one back for the 'Seals' before the break. Colin Clarke made it 4-1 whilst City's David Brett completed the scoring. Chester included Lee Dixon (later Arsenal and England).

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
73	**Boothferry Park, Kingston upon Hull** Tuesday 09/10/1984 Milk Cup - Second Round, Second Leg Ground 1 of 2	**Hull City**	2-2	**Southampton**	Southampton led 3-2 from the first leg and they were given a right battle by the Tigers. It looked good for the Saints when Danny Wallace gave them a 13 minute lead but Hull striker Andy Flounders levelled. A Steve Moran flick put Saints back ahead early in the second half. Hull's Stan McEwan sent a penalty high and wide. A Billy Whitehurst finish gave Hull late hope but Saints held on to progress. It was an exciting game.
74	**Elland Road, Leeds** Wednesday 10/10/1984 Milk Cup - Second Round, Second Leg Ground 1 of 1	**Leeds United**	3-2	**Gillingham**	Leeds won the first leg 2-1 but were 2-1 down at half-time and had a bit to do. David Shearer put the Gills ahead, with Mark Gavin levelling, both goals scored in the opening ten minutes. A fine goal from Tony Cascarino put the visitors back in front. Scott Sellars shot home in the opening minute of the second half and the veteran Peter Lorimer showed a trademark finish, blasting home from 12 yards. It was a dominant second half Leeds show.
75	**Fellows Park, Walsall** Tuesday 23/10/1984 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Walsall**	0-0	**Derby County**	This was a rare one … no, not the scoreline (I've had a few of those and more to come) but it was an entertaining 0-0 draw. There was a great atmosphere at the game and the players responded well but couldn't find the net. Right at the end Walsall's Dave Bamber hit the bar with an unmarked header. An overnight trip back home.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
76	**Millmoor Ground, Rotherham** Tuesday 30/10/1984 Milk Cup - Third Round Ground 1 of 3	**Rotherham United**	0-0	**Grimsby Town**	The craziest of midweek trips began on a very wet Tuesday night at Millmoor. United claimed an early penalty but the ref obviously considered the conditions and Tony Simmons had a good chance shortly after but shot wide. Grimsby improved after the break but neither team possessed enough quality on the night. Grimsby won the replay 6-1!! Another overnight home.
77	**Carrow Road, Norwich** Wednesday 31/10/1984 Milk Cup - Third Round Ground 1 of 1	**Norwich City**	0-0	**Aldershot**	Following Rotherham, a morning's work and an afternoon train to Norwich. The main stand at Carrow Road had been gutted by fire damage. Surely Div 1 vs Div 4 would produce goals, but no, the Shots put up a gallant performance on the night to keep the Canaries at bay. The home fans sportingly applauded the visitors off the pitch at the end. Norwich won the replay quite comfortably and also the Milk Cup itself.
78	**Turf Moor, Burnley** Tuesday 06/11/1984 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Burnley**	0-1	**Gillingham**	Well, with three consecutive 0-0s still fresh in my mind it was the turn of another long trip to Burnley. Goals were more in hope than expectation!! There was a goal, just one, scored by Martin Robinson for the visitors, a low volley on 50 minutes. Burnley put up a poor show overall but David Fry made a couple of late saves to secure the points.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
79	**St James' Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne** Sunday 18/11/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Newcastle United**	0-2	**Liverpool**	A train trip that started at 8pm on a Saturday evening and was completed at midnight on Sunday. Got to Newcastle very early (only way I could do so and watch the entire game). Liverpool won this quite comfortably. Steve Nicol put them ahead, taking a return ball from Kenny Dalglish and finished well. The home side seldom looked like scoring. The win was completed at the end as Nicol provided John Wark to net from close range.
80	**Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, Fulham, London SW6** Friday 07/12/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Fulham**	3-1	**Oldham Athletic**	I did visit this ground in 1978 but was horribly late, so it had to be 'done' properly. An average game but there were some good goals scored. Ray Lewington (40 minutes) and Robert Wilson (49) put Fulham in control. Bob Colville's header pulled one back for Oldham but soon after, Dean Coney headed in a free kick and Fulham won comfortably. Seven bookings (5 Oldham).
81	**Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough. Teeside** Friday 14/12/1984 Football League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 2	**Middlesbrough**	1-1	**Shrewsbury Town**	A freezing Friday evening in Teeside. There was an early goal, Gary Stevens netting a majestic header for the Shrews. Borough put up a poor show and were behind until late when Ross MacLaren, sent the ball over his own keeper and in. My matches with Mr MacLaren were interesting (see #70). Empty overnight coach going home? No chance, students heading back for Xmas!!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
81a	**Filbert Street, Leicester** Sunday 23/12/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 2 (first ground visit see #20)	**Leicester City**	5-1	**Coventry City**	The 'tidy up' game at Leicester (had previously visited as a neutral ground) and it was a pre-Christmas cracker. Micky Gynn put Coventry ahead but a foul in the box and Steve Lynex levelled. Two goals close to half-time put Leicester on top, David Rennie netting and a Gary Lineker header. The second half drifted a bit until further late goals by Lineker and Alan Smith completed a 5-1 verdict. Coventry weren't too bad.
82	**Victoria Ground, Stoke-on-Trent** Wednesday 26/12/1984 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 2	**Stoke City**	2-1	**Manchester United**	Stoke supporters were suffering in 84/85 but I visited on a rare good day, witnessing one of only three First Division wins for them in the entire season (and against Man U too!!). Frank Stapleton finished well for United, a lead they held into the interval. A rather controversial penalty brought the Potters back in it - scored by Ian Painter. It was turned round within four minutes when Carl Saunders scored. Stoke battled to win.
83	**Oakwell Ground, Grove Street, Barnsley** Saturday 29/12/1984 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Barnsley**	0-0	**Notts County**	The 0-0s are back! The Eastleigh match was called off on Friday evening, enabling this Saturday trip to South Yorkshire. It was wet and there was a gloomy mist around Oakwell. I sat in the stand with a drip from the roof hitting me on the head! It looked like 0-0 throughout, a thoroughly miserable affair all round, but no.83 of 92 completed.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
84	**Edgar Street, Hereford** Tuesday 01/01/1985 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Hereford United**	3-0	**Southend United**	The fourth new Football League ground 'ticked off' in ten days kept my quest to complete them on track. This was a comprehensive win for the Bulls. They went 2-0 up within six minutes, Stewart Phillips and Ollie Kearns on the mark. Southend survived further concession going into the break. Jimmy Harvey sent Chris Price on a chase and he knocked it past the keeper early in the second half. A convincing win.
85	**Victoria Ground, Scarborough Street, Hartlepool** Saturday 19/01/1985 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 1	**Hartlepool United**	2-2	**Port Vale**	The South suffered a cold spell and Eastleigh's game was called off on Thursday. Plenty of time to plan a long trip. This was one of only ten Football League games on in the country. Kevin Dixon gave Pools an early lead which they took into the break. Ally Brown levelled but Dixon headed Pools back ahead. A late Oshor Williams goal secured a point for Vale. A decent game. The only long trip now is Sunderland.
86	**Leeds Road, Huddersfield** Wednesday 23/01/1985 F.A. Cup - Third Round Replay Ground 1 of 2	**Huddersfield Town**	3-1	**Wolverhampton Wanderers**	This was postponed a few times. Game on though on a white pitch (with the lines cleared) and a brown ball, perfectly playable! Mark Lillis struck twice for the Terriers either side of half-time (and was apparently unwell during the break) but Alan Ainscow struck soon after. Town sub Daral Pugh made it safe in the 87th minute. This was a fine FA Cup tie at a typical rugged Northern ground - they don't make them like that now.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
87	**Old Show Ground, Scunthorpe, South Humberside** Tuesday 12/02/1985 Canon League - Division 4 Ground 1 of 2	**Scunthorpe United**	2-1	**Peterborough United**	The ground was passed fit at 3pm (must have been on the way). A low Julian Broddle shot put "Iron" into the lead which was doubled by Mike Brolly's neat lob just before the break. The home side introduced England cricketer Ian Botham for the last ten minutes and within a minute the Posh got a goal back through a well taken Gary Worrall strike. Botham forced John Turner to tip over his twisting header. A fair result.
88	**Valley Parade Ground, Bradford** Wednesday13/02/1985 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Bradford City**	2-0	**Bristol Rovers**	Moved on from Scunthorpe into West Yorkshire. It was a freezing night and not a particularly good match. Bradford City, heading for the Third Division title, took the points. Bobby Campbell received a Don Goodman head across to score on 36 minutes with Campbell then finding Mark Ellis to net ten minutes later. Rovers were seldom in it and the Bantams had done enough on a very hard surface. 4am home!
89	**GriffinPark, Braemar Road, Brentford** Tuesday 05/03/1985 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Brentford**	2-1	**Burnley**	This was one of a couple of 'local' grounds left until the end. It was 0-0 and not much at half-time. Two schools had a penalty competition at the break and hadn't settled it when the players were ready for the second half! Goals came in the last 17 minutes, Burnley opening from a well-taken Kevin Hird free-kick. Robbie Cooke and Steve Butler turned it around in the 'last eight'.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
90	**Roker Park Ground, Sunderland** Wednesday 03/04/1985 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 2	**Sunderland**	0-3	**Liverpool**	There was a touch of irony to this one. I wanted to go to this on its original Saturday but the Eastleigh match was called off on the morning. The game at Roker Park was abandoned and I attended this rearranged game! Didn't want a 0-0 this far and a home error meant Ian Rush obliged inside just 52 seconds. Kenny Dalglish carved out Rush's second (28 minutes) and John Wark latched onto Steve Nicol's pass (70) to complete an impressive Liverpool win. Dalglish superb.
91	**Springfield Park, Wigan** Friday 03/05/1985 Canon League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 2	**Wigan Athletic**	5-2	**Doncaster Rovers**	This match was moved to Friday as Wigan RFC were playing in a Rugby Cup final. Goals galore, 1-1 at the break Tony Kelly for Wigan, Ian Snodin soon levelling. Paul Jewell netted a swift brace early in the second half. David Harle scored a soft goal for Rovers to make it 3-2. Everything seemed to be going in, David Lowe making it 4-2 with Kelly's penalty following a handling offence, completing the goal glut.
92	**Vicarage Road Stadium, Watford** Tuesday 07/05/1985 Canon League - Division 1 Ground 1 of 1	**Watford**	0-2	**West Bromwich Albion**	This moment had come. Everyone who's done this feat knows where it was completed. Two teams who hadn't performed too well when I'd watched them in the past and I was thinking perhaps 0-0!! West Brom won this 'end of season' affair though - Garry Thompson opening the scoring on 35 minutes, sealed by Gary Owen's 90th minute 20-yard drive. A fair result. Featured in 'Top 50' of this website.

COMMENT

(By Gary - written on 8th March 2026)

Well, that completed a visit to the English Football League grounds. Some great players, some great memories, some great games, as well as some that weren't so good. Back in May 1985, if completing this was anything to go by, then there would be no need to make many further visits for this purpose. After all, look at the facts as they appeared at that time.

Few Ground Moves

No club had moved from their ground since 1955, when Southend United returned to Roots Hall. Only two others - Hull City in 1946 and Port Vale in 1950 had moved grounds since World War II, so nothing like that was likely to happen. *[Realised after writing that I'd forgot about Queen's Park Rangers' brief flirtation with White City Stadium in 1962/63 before returning to Loftus Road.]* The Fourth Division had a re-election process which usually meant the bottom four clubs would get the nod to remain in the Football League. Since my first game in 1969, only Bradford (Park Avenue), Barrow, Southport and Workington had lost their Football League places (all visits I had missed). So, it looked like the 'status quo' was likely to remain.

Only One Club Resignation

Looking at the situation as it was in the mid-eighties, only one club - Accrington Stanley had resigned from the Football League mid-season, that coming in 1961/62. But football in the eighties was not in a particularly happy place as some clubs, such as Bristol City and Wolverhampton Wanderers reformed without sanction. On my visit to Sheffield Wednesday, their manager Howard Wilkinson said in his programme notes: "Hopefully, by the time you read this, Charlton Athletic Football Club will still be in existence." These are only three examples of clubs with financial issues in the early to mid eighties.

Dwindling Attendances

What was surprising was the visits were made often at large grounds but with small attendances. For example - a top level game (and at the business end of 83/4) between Birmingham City and champions-elect Liverpool attracted a mere 18,809 spectators.

Changes Coming

There were big changes on the horizon. The horrendous fire at Bradford City's Valley Parade ground, just five days after that 92nd visit (and only seven matches after my own visit there), raised concerns about the suitability of wooden stands at football grounds. That, coupled with the Hillsborough disaster in April 1989, meant many clubs had to take a hard look at their grounds and how they were going to make improvements or relocate. In between those terrible events came the ground-breaking automatic promotion and relegation set up with the Alliance Premier League (now known as the National League) thus providing the potential of more 'new' Football League grounds to visit. This at first was only one club being promoted, then became two and there is now a push for three!! A case of give an inch and a mile is taken! A fair number of those clubs and grounds would return to the Football League (and been visited before), and some visited for a non-League match (but you have to go to the ground to watch them play as a Football League club, don't you? Well, I do.)

The attendance issue was later resolved by a restructure of football, branding the top level as the 'Premier League'. When this started, in 1992, it consisted of the same clubs that would have played in the First Division had it remained as before. Supporters came in their higher numbers to watch the 'Premier League' but perhaps not if matches had been billed as a Division 1 game. It was effectively the same re-branded product, perhaps a wolf in sheep's clothing. It did demonstrate the power of advertising but was necessary to boost what seemed to be a failing product.

So, the list was going to carry on. At the time of writing there has been 160. That's 68 more grounds visited to watch a Premier/ English Football League club after the initial 92. I kept it going and will bring this article right up to date soon. However, somehow, that 92nd visit made to Watford, over forty years ago, will always remain as the day I'd made it to this particular finish line.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
93	**Odsal Stadium, Bradford** Friday 13/12/1985 Canon League - Division 2 Ground 2 of 2 (< 88)	**Bradford City**	1-0	**Carlisle United**	This stadium was an alternative venue following a tragic fire at Valley Parade in May, they ground shared at Leeds and Huddersfield when Bradford RLFC had a game here. Not a great match, won by the Bantams when John Hendrie's 85th minute cross went straight in. City returned to Valley Parade almost a year to the day following my visit.
93a	**Leyton Stadium, Brisbane Road, London. E10** Tuesday 20/10/1987 Barclays League- Division 4 Ground #11 (revisit for club name change)	**Leyton Orient**	8-0	**Rochdale**	Orient reverted back to a previous name in the summer of 1987 and I made a visit for the name change. As the score suggests, they completely dominated this match, scoring four goals in each half. Mark Smalley, Paul Shinners 2, Kevin Hales 2 (1 penalty), Kevin Dickenson, and Alan Comfort 2 scored. The O's joint best win here and this also equalled a woeful Dale's heaviest ever defeat. Got a VHS tape of this one … it is still watched occasionally and it doesn't get any better … a reminder of one of the most one-sided games ever watched.
94	**Twerton Park, Bath** Wednesday 04/11/1987 Barclays League- Division 3 Ground 2 of 3 (< 14)	**Bristol Rovers**	1-2	**Preston North End**	Rovers moved from Eastville in 1986 and remained at this ground, the home of Bath City until 1996 (this being their second season here). Tony Ellis fired PNE in front near half-time, levelled by Kenny Hibbitt in the 57th minute. Nigel Jemson seized on a defensive error to run through and net North End's 82nd minute winning goal.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
95	**The McCain Stadium, Seamer Road, Scarborough** Saturday 10/09/1988 Barclays League- Division 4 Ground #1 of 1	**Scarborough**	3-3	**Rochdale**	This was the Athletic Ground with a sponsor's name. Boro' were the first team to be promoted into the Football League in 1987, this being their second season in it. A cracking match, Carl Harris put Dale in front and into half-time. A Mitch Cook (penalty) and Gary Brook turned it round but in a thrill-a-minute spell, David Sutton levelled, Colin Morris made it 3-2 but Steve O'Shaughnessy's firm finish levelled it.
96	**Glanford Park, Scunthorpe, South Humberside** Saturday 04/03/1989 Barclays League- Division 4 Ground #2 of 2 (< 87)	**Scunthorpe United**	4-0	**Rochdale**	United were the first Football League club to relocate for over thirty years. They won this game comfortably with two goals in each half. Tony Daws scored the opener and the final goal with Tony Brown and Andy Hodkinson netting in between. One team played with confidence and the visitors lacked it. This might have been the first but there were more ground moves to come!
97	**Watling Street, Dartford, Kent** Wednesday 04/04/1990 Barclays League- Division 4 Ground #1 of 1	**Maidstone United**	2-0	**Rochdale**	The Stones used Dartford FC's ground and there were newly-built houses in close proximity to one end which suggested this ground didn't have long to go. It was reported that one resident claimed a recent game was taking place in his kitchen! The 'home' side won it with second half goals by Paul Rumble and Jason Lillis. It was early-April but a cold evening more like mid-winter. The Stones pulled out of the Football League on the eve of the 1992/93 season.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
98	**Bescot Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall** Saturday 16/03/1991 Barclays League- Divison 4 Ground #2 of 2 (< 75)	**Walsall**	0-1	**Rochdale**	A disappointing game overall but Dale won it when Steve Doyle's pass split the Saddlers defence and top scorer Peter Costello coolly slotted past the keeper (64 minutes). Ground very much in the 'Scunthorpe new build'. Went past the partially demolished Fellows Park on the way to the ground, now ancient history.
99	**Underhill Stadium, Barnet Lane, Barnet, Herts.** Saturday 28/03/1992 Barclays League- Division 4 Ground #1 of 2	**Barnet**	3-0	**Rochdale**	Page-by-Page readers might have detected a 'Rochdale penchant' by now! Aldershot had just been expelled from the Football League and this improved Dale's promotion prospects. Not a day to be outplayed then! Gary Bull put Barnet ahead early, Mark Carter made it two (70 minutes) and a Bull penalty put the gloss on it. Dale stayed in Division 4.
100	**Deva Stadium, Bumpers Lane, Chester** Friday 19/03/1993 Barclays League- Division 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 72)	**Chester City**	1-2	**Rotherham United**	City had struggled in their new home and were again defeated. A neatly worked goal ended with a tap-in for Imre Varadi after 66 minutes. Chris Wilder (once a Saints youth, who later made his name as a manager) added a second with a firmly struck shot. David Thompson soon pulled a goal back but it was the play-off chasing Millers who claimed the points.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
101	**The Den, Zampa Road, London. SE16** Wednesday 06/10/1993 Coca-Cola Cup - Second Round, Second Leg Ground #2 of 2 (< 31) This ground was commonly known as the New Den in its early days to differentiate it from their former ground with the same moniker.	**Millwall**	4-3 (aet)	**Watford**	The first leg was 0-0. Gary Parker put the Hornets into a first minute lead, added to by Lee Nogan. The Lions fought back to level by half-time, Richard Huxford and Bruce Murray netting. Watford had Paul Furlong dismissed and, early in the second half his teammate David Holdsworth along with Murray were also sent off. Andy Hessenthaler put the 9 men ahead but Jamie Moralee levelled for the ten. Etienne Verveer put Millwall in front for the first time in the game with a minute of extra time left.
102	**Adams Park, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe, Bucks** Tuesday 19/04/1994 Endsleigh Insurance League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1	**Wycombe Wanderers**	1-1	**Rochdale**	**This match was postponed twice. The Dale keeper mishandled a Steve Guppy corner and Tony Hemmings put Wycombe in front on 16 minutes. Dale equalised in the 72nd minute through a flying Mark Stuart header from Steve Whitehall's cross. There was plenty of entertainment and endeavour but neither side had the quality to win it.**
103	**Alfred McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield** Tuesday 20/09/1994 Coca-Cola Cup - Second Round, First Leg Ground #2 of 2 (< 86)	**Huddersfield Town**	0-1	**Southampton**	This stadium has taken various sponsors names over the years and the one shown was the first. It's a most impressive stadium design. The Premiership team were given a tough game but came through to take a lead into the second leg. The goal came from Matthew Le Tissier in the 89th minute, a header that deceived the home keeper. [Saints won the second leg much more comfortably]

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
104	**Sixfields Stadium, Northampton** Saturday 10/12/1994 Endsleigh Insurance League - Division 3 Ground #2 of 2 (< 41)	**Northampton Town**	0-0	**Doncaster Rovers**	Northampton didn't like me coming to them much, no goals on my first visit to the old ground and also the case here (visited both again, with goals thereafter). Third-placed Doncaster posed an early threat but play settled. There was a lot of effort put in by the teams but a lack of genuine scoring opportunities - good defence, poor attacking - a mixture of the two and the inevitable!
105	**Cellnet Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough** Tuesday 12/09/1995 FA Carling Premiership Ground #2 of 2 (< 81)	**Middlesbrough**	0-0	**Southampton**	This was Middlesbrough's second game at this new venue and, having beaten Chelsea in the first match, I had the pleasure of watching the first 0-0 here! It didn't inspire either, neither team could provide a spark on the night as both keepers' - Borough's Gary Walsh and Dave Beasant for Saints - weren't tested. How many times do I get one 0-0 and another comes along afterwards - the London Bus analogy springs to mind!
106	**Memorial Stadium, Filton Avenue, Bristol** Saturday 30/11/1996 Nationwide Football League - Division 2 Ground #3 of 3 (< 14 and 94)	**Bristol Rovers**	4-3	**Bury**	Rovers played the opening game of this season at Bath and then moved in here, sharing with Bristol RFC. The ground was still fairly basic on this initial visit. What a game! A ten-minute hat-trick by Peter Beadle put Rovers into a 3-0 lead, but goals at the end of the half by David Pugh and David Johnson made it 3-2 at the break. Billy Clark made it 4-2 early in the second half, whilst Mark Carter's late penalty gave Bury hope.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
106a	**Selhurst Park (Crystal Palace FC)** Saturday 23/08/1997 FA Carling Premiership Ground 2 of 3 (< #24 (share))	**Wimbledon**	1-1	**Sheffield Wednesday**	Wimbledon had shared here since 1991. The Dons deserved their first half lead, Jason Euell's diving header (17 minutes). Inspired by Benito Carbone, who was involved in almost all of their attacks, the Owls levelled when Andy Booth's shot deflected in off Paolo Di Canio (74). Wednesday sat back from there to preserve their first point of the season.
107	**Britannia Stadium, Stanley Matthews Way, Stoke-on-Trent** Wednesday 27/08/1997 Coca-Cola Cup - First Round, Second Leg Ground #2 of 2 (< 82)	**Stoke City**	1-1	**Rochdale**	This was the first game at this ground. An early arrival and the finishing touches were being applied. Yellow bibs were replaced by supporters with replica shirts and scarves a couple of hours later. Stoke led 3-1 from the first leg. Graham Kavanagh broke the deadlock, a top corner shot on 85 minutes, Alex Russell shooting in a deserved 89th minute leveller for Dale. Stoke had done sufficient in the first leg.
108	**Sunderland Stadium of Light, Stadium Park, Sunderland** Tuesday 21/10/1997 Nationwide Football League - Division 1 Ground #2 of 2 (< 90)	**Sunderland**	0-0	**Swindon Town**	Stayed at Roker Seafront meaning passing the old ground when heading here (only the main stand surviving and awaiting its final fate). Home striker Kevin Phillips was tripped and took the 15th minute penalty himself, but he gave keeper Fraser Digby a fairly comfortable save. Seen worse games with goals. Mentioned I didn't want a 0-0 on my Roker Park visit - but got it here tonight!!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
109	**Pride Park Stadium, Pride Park, Derby** Wednesday 22/10/1997 Carling FA Premiership Ground #2 of 2 (< 69)	**Derby County**	1-1	**Wimbledon**	This had been Derby's first game here on 13th August but it was abandoned due to a floodlight failure (Derby winning 2-1) and rescheduled. Honours even this time, both goals scored in the second half. Francesco Baiano received Paulo Wanchope's header to nod home (52 minutes). Colin Court, also with a header, levelled for the Dons (69).
110	**Reebok Stadium, Burnden Way, Lostock, Bolton** Monday 01/12/1997 Carling FA Premiership Ground #2 of 2 (< 21)	**Bolton Wanderers**	1-0	**Newcastle United**	There was no Alan Shearer, Ian Rush or Faustino Asprilla in the Toon line-up for this game and John Barnes was on the bench (came on late). Promoted Bolton had been struggling in the league and goals had been sparse at this new ground. The Trotters won it though, a 21st minute Nathan Blake shot deflecting in off keeper Shaka Hislop; the only goal. [Had to double check but yes, Rush was a Newcastle player for a while]
111	**Whaddon Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire** Saturday 07/08/1999 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1	**Cheltenham Town**	0-2	**Rochdale**	This was Cheltenham's Football League debut game. It was a fairly straight forward Dale win. The unmarked Graeme Atkinson put them ahead (25 minutes) and he crossed for the veteran Tony Ford to head the second (44). There was a second half streaker! Pre-match, "Whadney", Town's mascot robin, mimicked Dale's warm-up and this resulted in it being upended!!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
112	**Madejski Stadium, Reading** Wednesday 11/08/1999 Worthington Cup - First Round, First Leg Ground #2 of 2 (< 9)	**Reading**	0-0	**Peterborough United**	This was the day of the first full solar eclipse since 1927, the next one is due in 2090. This was a poor game but credit to United for putting up a good show against higher opposition. There were some good second half saves as keepers' Mark Tyler for Posh and particularly Scott Howie for the Royals 'eclipsed' the scoring opportunities!
113	**The JJB Stadium, Robin Park Complex, Newtown, Wigan** Friday 12/11/1999 Nationwide Football League - Division 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 91)	**Wigan Athletic**	2-1	**Wycombe Wanderers**	A most impressive stadium but too big for the 5,523 attendance. Wycombe took the lead when home keeper Derek Stille challenged Stuart Balmer, the ball running to Jamie McSporran to net. Stuart Barlow equalised with an unmarked header near to half-time. Referee Parkes showed seven yellow cards in the second half, the one goal coming from Balmer, heading in a corner by Roberto Martinez from close range. [This was a full Premier League ground in 2005.]
114	**Moss Rose, London Road, Macclesfield** Sunday 14/11/1999 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1	**Macclesfield Town**	1-1	**Brighton & Hove Albion**	This was 'Macc's third Football League season. Tried to attend in December '97 and spent most of the day here but the temperature plummeted and it was frozen off! Honours even for this one. John Askey put the Silkmen in front, a low 15-yard shot (63 minutes). An 87th minute Kerry Mayo header rescued a visiting point.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
115	**Withdean Stadium, Tongdean Lane, Brighton** Friday 10/12/1999 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #2 of 3 (< 16)	**Brighton & Hove Albion**	3-4	**Rochdale**	A most inadequate ground for this level of football, most of the crowd getting drenched as the rain was unrelenting. A goal-fest though. It was 2-2 at the break, Dale into a two-goal lead through Dave Bayliss and Graeme Atkinson but Brighton 'stormed' back near half-time, Warren Aspinall and Danny Cullip netting. Gary Hart put the home side ahead early in the second half but a late Clive Platt brace turned it around for the visitors.
116	**Aggborough Stadium, Hoo Road, Kidderminster, Worcs** Friday 08/10/2000 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1	**Kidderminster Harriers**	0-0	**Rochdale**	A blank score sheet but, despite that, it was a decent game. Dale started well but Kiddy got more into the game and looked more likely to score as it progressed. The game was played on a Friday evening as England had a World Cup qualifying match on the following day which was covered by TV.
117	**Kassam Stadium, Grenoble Road, Oxford** Saturday 11/08/2001 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #2 of 2 (< 7)	**Oxford United**	1-2	**Rochdale**	This was the first day of the 2001/02 season and the first competitive match at this ground. A fine curling effort by Matt Doughty put the visitors in front. Oxford hit back early in the second half, an excellent chip by Jamie Brooks. Defender Simon Coleman's only goal for Dale won it, a close range effort.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
118	**Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium, Britannia Road, Southampton** Monday 24/09/2001 FA Barclaycard Premiership Ground #2 of 2 (< 1)	**Southampton**	1-3	**Aston Villa**	This was Saints' second home game on this ground. Villa took charge as George Boateng and Juan Pablo Angel put them two-up in 14 minutes. Marian Pahars pulled one back in first half stoppage time. There were a couple of red cards early in the second half from separate incidents as Saints' Rory Delap and then Villa's Dion Dublin were dismissed. Villa, the better team, netted again through Moustapha Hadji.
119	**Avenue Stadium, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester. Dorset** Tuesday 25/09/2001 Nationwide Football League - Division 2 Ground #2 of 2 (Dorchester Town FC)	**AFC Bournemouth**	1-0	**Reading**	This was the fourth of eight games being played at Dorchester due to Dean Court being rebuilt, including the pitch being rotated. A friend, who worked near to the Reading ground, got my ticket. James Hayter's 71st minute goal settled an average game. Stewards had to ask the Reading mascot - 'Kingsley Royal' (a lion with a long tail, or a bloke in a suit !) to move from behind one of the goals because he was too close to the pitch and was almost part of it.
120	**Nene Park, Diamond Way, Irthlingborough, Northants** Saturday 16/02/2002 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1	**Rushden & Diamonds**	1-1	**Rochdale**	For two teams vying for a place at the top of the division this was a poor match which had "0-0 written over it". That was until Paul Hall put the Diamonds into an 87th minute lead with a breakaway goal. When a David Flitcroft shot was parried by home keeper Billy Turley, Kevin Townson pounced to level two minutes later. The teams met in the end of season play-offs and Diamonds won over two legs.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
121	**York Street Ground, Boston, Lincs.** Saturday 26/10/2002 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground 1 of 1	**Boston United**	3-1	**Rochdale**	A fair result on the day. Simon Weatherstone fired home in the first half. Tony Battersby added to the lead after Weatherstone's shot was blocked in the 64th minute. David Flitcroft reduced the arrears with ten minutes to go but sub Stuart Douglas had a simple chance at the end of the game.
121a	**Fitness First Stadium [previously Dean Court], Bournemouth** Saturday 28/12/2002 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1 (pitch re-positioned for ground #8)	**AFC Bournemouth**	3-3	**Rochdale**	A revisit for a new pitch lay-out including it being rotated. The wood had now been replaced and the ground was renamed with a sponsor. It was 2-1 to the Cherries at half-time, Marcus Browning and Steve Fletcher twice putting AFC in front, David Flitcroft scoring in between. Lee McEvilly made it 2-2 from a penalty and Clive Platt nudged Dale in front. Gareth O'Connor's penalty made it 3-3. Not a bad game for a 'technical revisit' which was fairly local.
122	**Walkers Stadium, Filbert Way, Leicester** Saturday 15/03/2003 Nationwide Football League - Division 1 Ground #2 of 2 (< 20 & 81a)	**Leicester City**	2-1	**Preston North End**	A 5.35pm kick-off enabling a long walk from the station to Oadby Town FC at 3pm. A taxi ride got me back with a few minutes to spare before k.o. Eddie Lewis' superb free kick put North End in front. Brian Deane levelled just before the interval and added a second ten minutes into the second half. Leicester did enough to keep their promotion hopes on track.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
123	**City of Manchester Stadium, Sport City, Manchester** Thursday 14/08/2003 U.E.F.A. Cup - Qualifying Round, First Leg Ground 2 of 2 (< 59)	**Manchester City**	5-0	**T.N.S.**	This was the first competitive game on this ground (and even before it donned a long term sponsor's name). This was David vs Goliath stuff (the Welsh club were from Llansantffraid, the initials, back then, stood for Total Network Solutions). City won easily enough, one goal in the first half by Trevor Sinclair, added to by Shaun Wright-Phillips, Jahai Sun, David Sommeil and Nicholas Anelka. It was the first time that two clubs contesting a European match had not played previously at the ground used (the second leg being played at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff).
124	**National Hockey Stadium, Silbury Bulevard, Central Milton Keynes, Bucks** Saturday 01/11/2003 Nationwide Football League - Division 1 Ground #1 of 2 (< 23)	**Wimbledon**	2-1	**Bradford City**	The Dons made a controversial move, around 50 miles to Milton Keynes (but not to Dublin, which was suggested at one time!) This was between the two sides at the bottom of the table. The Dons fought back from a goal down to record their first win on this ground. Andy Gray put City in front but Nigel Reo-Coker netted two goals in the space of four second half minutes. The club's difficult time was reflected by the 'Administrator's Page' in the programme!
125	**Huish Park Stadium, Yeovil** Saturday 10/01/2004 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #1 of 1	**Yeovil Town**	1-0	**Rochdale**	This game was settted by a 13th minute Gavin Williams goal, a scuffed effort. Dale were struggling at this time and were bereft of players due to injury, suspension and even an international call up! The Glovers fully deserved their narrow victory which seldom looked under serious threat.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
126	**Kingston Communications Stadium, The Circle, Walton Street, Hull** Saturday 27/03/2004 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground 2 of 2 (< 73)	**Hull City**	1-0	**Rochdale**	Dale operated with only Grant Holt up front and did well to frustrate the Tigers at the risk of failing to create opportunities of their own. Just one goal settled this, a fine 25-yard effort by Damien Delaney in the 79th minute. A decent attendance of 16,050 turned out at this impressive ground for a fourth tier game and also taking into account that most of them would have been home supporters.
127	**New Stadium, Darlington, County Durham** Saturday 01/05/2004 Nationwide Football League - Division 3 Ground #2 of 2 (< 39)	**Darlington**	1-2	**Swansea City**	This ground had been known with the owner's name (up to the previous match played here, in fact.) Swans had to sub their injured keeper in the early minutes. All the goals came in the second half, Paul Connor putting the Swans in front, levelled by Daniel Graham. Kevin Nugent headed home a Roberto Martinez free kick for the winner. The stadium seemed too large for the 5,487 attendance but a successful Quakers team of the future would have a ground to suit (or so it seemed at that time).
127a	**National Hockey Stadium, Milton Keynes** Saturday 15/01/2005 Coca-Cola League 1 Ground #1 of 2 (< 124) Revisit for new team	**Milton Keynes Dons**	2-0	**Colchester United**	One of those 'technical visits'. I'd decided that MK Dons and AFC Wimbledon, formed from the old Wimbledon FC, were new teams (but a matter of opinion). Early goals by Ben Harding and Wade Small decided this game. The club weren't staying here as it was reported in the programme that the groundwork was being laid for the new ground. Another visit to MK to come!!

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
128	**Ricoh Arena, Phoenix Way, Foleshill, Coventry** Monday 29/08/2005 Coca-Cola Championship Ground #2 of 3 (< 64)	**Coventry City**	1-1	**Southampton**	This was the second competitive game at this ground and the Saints were visitors. Two old top division teams but now playing in the second tier. The goals came in the first twelve minutes. James Scowcroft put the 'Sky Blues' in front but a defensive error gave Ricardo Fuller a chance to level. A promising start turned into a battle for supremacy which neither side could achieve.
129	**Liberty Stadium, Morfa, Swansea** Friday 17/03/2006 Coca-Cola League 1 Ground #2 of 2 (< 52)	**Swansea City**	2-1	**Brentford**	A top of the table Friday night clash. Brentford started well and shaded the first half. Swansea went in front though with their first attack on 19 minutes, Adebayo Akinfenwa netting from close range. Andy Frampton headed the Bees level on the half-hour mark. An entertaining second half produced a Swans winner, a well measured free kick by Andy Robinson on 85 minutes.
130	**Emirates Stadium, 75 Drayton Park, Highbury, London N5** Saturday 23/12/2006 Barclays Premiership Ground #2 of 2 (< 2)	**Arsenal**	**6-2**	**Blackburn Rovers**	Arsenal, still unbeaten at their impressive new stadium, won this comfortably. Shabani Nonda scored an early penalty for the visitors but Arsenal led 3-1 at the break - Gilberto Silva, Alexander Hleb and Emanuel Adebayor on the mark. Nonda's overhead effort reduced it to 3-2. Goals late on, two of them for Robin van Persie and completed by Mauel Flamini to record a 3-1 score in each half in the Gunners favour.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
131	**Fraser Eagle Stadium, Livingstone Road, Accrington. Lancs** Saturday 24/03/2007 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Accrington Stanley**	2-0	**Hereford United**	A sponsor's name for the Crown Ground. With time to spare the walk from the rail station took in Peel Park, the site of the previous club with the Stanley name in the Football League. The team of the day looked to be going straight back down so a visit had to be made. David Brown and Peter Cavanagh scored in each half. Brown was sent off just before full-time. Stanley preserved their place comfortably enough which, at the time of writing, they still hold.
132	**The New Meadow, Oteley Road, Shrewsbury** Saturday 29/09/2007 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 70)	**Shrewsbury Town**	3-4	**Rochdale**	It was 1-0 at the break, Dave Hibbert netting from close range. Adam Rundle levelled in the opening minute of the second half, but Stewart Drummond put the Shrews back in front. Glenn Murray equalised and Gary Jones' 25-yarder made it 2-3. An 88th minute David Hunt effort seemed to get Town a point but Adam ("Alfie") Le Fondre's header won it. It was more like a play-off match rather than an early season league game!!
133	**Christie Park, Lancaster Road, Morecambe. Lancs** Saturday 27/10/2007 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground #1 of 2	**Morecambe**	1-1	**Rochdale**	This wasn't exactly an old-fashioned Lancashire derby as the teams had only met once before (a pre-season cup game in 1966). David Artell put the 'Shrimps' a goal up which they held into the break. Rory McArdle levelled ten minutes into the second half, also a header. Morecambe were down to ten players when Michael Twiss was sent-off on 66 minutes but it remained all-square.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
134	**Keepmoat Stadium, Stadium Way, Lakeside, Doncaster** Sunday 16/12/2007 Coca-Cola League 1 Ground #2 of 2 (< 40)	**Doncaster Rovers**	1-2	**Yeovil Town**	Goals by Darren Way (deflected shot - 37 minutes) and Marcus Stewart (header - 77) put the Glovers well in control against an off-form Rovers. Stewart had collected an early booking and was shown a second yellow as the game entered stoppage time. There was time for a Terry Skiverton own goal to pull one back for Rovers but it was too late to rescue the game fully. An eventful trip back!
135	***stadium*MK, Stadium Way, Milton Keynes, Bucks.** Saturday 26/01/2008 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground 2 of 2 (< 127a)	**Milton Keynes Dons**	0-1	**Rochdale**	Dale lost defender Nathan Stanton to a 10th minute red card for disputing a penalty decision but Keith Andrews' spot-kick was saved by Dale keeper Sam Russell. A fine run by Kallum Higginbotham set up a simple finish for Gary Jones (32 minutes). It was backs to the wall stuff by ten man Dale. Even the pitch sprinklers came on late in the game, drenching players of both teams and causing Dons a frustrating delay. Dale held on for a gritty win at a ground with potential.
136	**London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Stadium, Victoria Road, Dagenham** Saturday 12/04/2008 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Dagenham & Redbridge**	1-1	**Rochdale**	A case of sponsor's name gone mad for this one (traditionally just Victoria Road, of course). The referee's opening whistle appeared to signal for a hailstorm!! Dale struggled early on. They led when keeper Tommy Lee's big punt downfield was chased by Kallum Higginbotham who controlled and fired past keeper Tony Roberts. The Daggers soon levelled through Ben Strevens. A fair result overall.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
137	**Don Valley Stadium, Worksop Road, Norton, Sheffield** Saturday 13/09/2008 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground 2 of 3 (< 76) Temporary ground	**Rotherham United**	2-2	**Rochdale**	This stadium, in Sheffield, existed between 1990 and 2013 and was used by Rotherham between 2008 and 2012, whilst awaiting completion of their new ground. It didn't feel like a football ground but wasn't really intended to be at this level. Jordan Rhodes and Will Buckley put Dale two-up, but they had newly-introduced sub Lee Thorpe red-carded on 68 minutes. The Millers hit back due to a calamitous Rory McArdle own goal and a stoppage time Reuben Reid effort.
138	**Weston Homes Community Stadium, United Way, Colchester, Essex** Saturday 17/01/2009 Coca-Cola League 1 Ground #2 of 2 (< 61)	**Colchester United**	3-1	**Cheltenham Town**	The first half was mediocre and goal-less. Town went ahead through a close range Chris Westwood header. Dean Hammond headed the U's level and Town sub John Finnigan was sent off within six minutes of coming on (akin to the previous game!). Another sub, Colchester's Steve Gillespie, a former Town player, nodded his side ahead, which was confirmed in the 88th minute by Mark Yeates. The second half was eventful.
138a	**EBB Stadium (Recreation Ground), Aldershot** Saturday 19/09/2009 Coca-Cola Championship Ground #1 of 1 (< 10) Visit for new Football League club	**Aldershot Town**	2-4	**Rochdale**	This new club replaced the former Aldershot FC in 1992 and worked their way from the lower non-league divisions into the league. The never to be forgotten Joe Thompson (then aged 19) bagged a 16-minute hat-trick, added to by a blinding 30-yard Ciaran Toner shot - 0-4 at half-time. A counter-attack and Marvin Morgan pulled one back. Dale's Nathan Stanton was red-carded and Shots gave it a real good go in the time left, Scott Davies netting.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
139	**Cardiff City Stadium, Leckwith Road, Cardiff** Saturday 19/09/2009 Coca-Cola Championship Ground #2 of 2 (< 54)	**Cardiff City**	0-2	**Queens Park Rangers**	Cardiff departed from Ninian Park in the summer and moved across the road to this ground. The gates of the former ground were moved here (showing 1908-2009). Two first half goals goals by Jay Simpson (who was on loan from Arsenal) put Rangers in control of this game. The Cardiff performance was pretty poor overall and the more cohesive team won the game and quite comfortably.
140	**Pirelli Stadium, Princess Way, Burton-upon-Trent** Sunday 04/10/2009 Coca-Cola League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Burton Albion**	1-0	**Rochdale**	A third minute Richard Walker shot settled this game. The Brewers had the better chances in the match and when the fourth official showed four minutes added at the end, Dale went long. They looked more like scoring then than they had in the ninety minutes before. Uncompromising Burton defender Guy Branston, once a Dale loanee, bagged the home man-of-match award.
141	**Globe Arena, Christie Way, Westgate, Morecambe, Lancs** Tuesday 28/09/2010 Npower - League 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 133)	**Morecambe**	1-4	**Bury**	This game went in phases - Bury dominated the first half-hour, Morecambe battled back to boss the first thirty minutes of the second half before Bury came back strongly again. Michael Jones put Bury into a 3rd minute lead, added to by Steven Schumacher. Stewart Drummond pulled one back before half-time. Morecambe then dominated but were held back by Bury's defence before Andy Haworth and a further Schumacher goal settled it.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
142	**Lamex Stadium, Broadhall Way, Stevenage. Herts.** Saturday 16/10/2010 Npower - League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Stevenage**	2-1	**Burton Albion**	Burton lost an injured player early and it could have got worse as they conceded a penalty but Chris Holroyd's poor kick was saved by Adam Legzdins. A very niggly game saw Borough awarded a second 'pen' which this time Scott Laird converted. Aaron Webster levelled for the Brewers early in the second half but Holroyd did find the net with a neat goal. Stevenage were forced to play the last twenty minutes with ten, Luke Foster having been sent off for a last-man foul.
143	**b2Net Stadium, 1866 Sheffield Road, Whitington Moor, Chesterfield** Saturday 16/04/2011 Npower - League 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 28)	**Chesterfield**	2-1	**Macclesfield Town**	This was Chesterfield's title winning season and they could have guaranteed promotion if they'd won this and results were favourable elsewhere. Macc made it tough though, going in front in first half stoppage time, Lewis Chalmers scoring from a penalty. An excellent Craig Davies shot on the hour levelled it and when Town keeper Jose Viega didn't get a good contact to his punch, Danny Whitaker netted the winning goal.
144	**Broadfield Stadium, Winfield Way, Crawley** Friday 29/07/2011 Carling Cup - Preliminary Round Ground #1 of 1	**Crawley Town**	3-2	**AFC Wimbledon**	This was an unusual July game between the Football League's newest teams and the only Preliminary Round match. Luke Moore put the Dons in front but Hope Akpan levelled before half-time. Jack Midson put the Dons back in the lead just 21 seconds into the second half, but Sergio Torres soon levelled for Crawley again. Matt Tubbs scored the home side's winner. Akpan might have scored Crawley's first goal as a Football League club but he also became the first to get a red card in stoppage time.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
145	**American Express Community Stadium, Village Way, Brighton** Saturday 07/01/2012 F.A. Cup with Budweiser - Third Round Ground #3 of 3 (< 16 and 115)	**Brighton & Hove Albion**	1-1	**Wrexham**	The 'Amex' was a most impressive stadium amongst the South Downs. Non-League Wrexham were the visitors. Brighton, a Championship team, dominated possession but the Welsh side were well organised. The Seagulls took a 48th minute lead, Jake Forster-Caskey netting following good work by Kazenga LuaLua. Wrexham levelled when Adrian Cieslewicz was left unmarked in the box. Brighton won the replay, but needed penalties to do so (again 1-1).
146	**Cherry Red Records Stadium, Jack Goodchild Way, Kingston-upon-Thames** Saturday 15/09/2012 Npower League 2 Ground #1 of 2	**AFC Wimbledon**	1-2	**Rochdale**	It was a baking hot September afternoon. Bobby Grant picked out Dele Adebola to put Dale in front with a downward far post header. Dons had Jack Midson red carded following a clash with Grant. Dale added a second and Grant scored it. The Dons attacked in the second half but struggled to break down a resilient Dale. Luke Moore pulled one back after the ball came back off the crossbar in the 81st minute.
147	**New York Stadium, New York Way, Rotherham** Tuesday 18/09/2012 Npower League 2 Ground #3 of 3 (< 76 and 137)	**Rotherham United**	2-3	**Rochdale**	This ground, and their former Millmoor home, are fairly close. Dele Adebola put Dale ahead in first half stoppage time. The second half twisted and turned, Alex Revell and Daniel Nardiello put the Millers ahead. Dale had a route back when an unnecessary trip brought a penalty which Bobby Grant converted. Andy McIntyre played a one-two with Ray Putterill and struck a fine shot to put Dale back ahead. A draw would perhaps have been fair outcome on the evening.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
148	**Rodney Parade, Newport, Gwent** Sunday 01/12/2013 Sky Bet League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Newport County A.F.C.**	3-2	**Chesterfield**	A Sunday lunchtime game and a decent one. County into an early lead Danny Crow heading in a free kick. Into the second half and Jimmy Ryan levelled things on 61 minutes. The Spireites had Liam Cooper sent off (last man) and the penalty scored by Adam Chapman. Andy Sandell netted on 87 minutes to make it 3-1 whilst Marc Richards scored in stoppage time for Chesterfield.
148a	**Sixfields Stadium** **(Northampton Town FC)** Sunday 12/01/2014 Sky Bet League 1 Ground 2 of 3 (< 64 and 128) Ground share arrangement	**Coventry City**	2-2	**Crawley Town**	This was a problematic time for the 'Sky Blues' and a ground share at Northampton. A Mat Sadler own goal put City in front near half-time. Franck Moussa's looping header on 82 minutes appeared to bag the full points. But Crawley responded straight away netting through Jamie Proctor. Was it a consolation? No, Andy Drury's close range finish pulled it back to 2-2. [Note - Coventry later shared with Birmingham City, but didn't get to watch them there.]
149	**The Hive, Camrose Avenue, Edgware, London** Tuesday 16/08/2016 Sky Bet EFL - League 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 99)	**Barnet**	1-1	**Blackpool**	This was Barnet's second season as a Football League club whilst at this ground. It was a delightful early season evening and a good match with plenty of exciting goalmouth action. A goal-apiece in the end. Mark Cullen gave Blackpool a lead midway through the first half. It looked like they would hold onto it too until Barnet's persistence paid off with John Akinde's stoppage time equaliser.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
150	**London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London** Thursday 25/08/2016 U.E.F.A. Europa League - Qualifying Play-off, Second Leg Ground #2 of 2 (< 32)	**West Ham United**	0-1	**FC Astra Giurgiu**	It was a 1-1 draw in Romania and the Hammers put up a disappointing show at the London Stadium to exit the Europa League. Filipe Teixeira, formerly of West Brom and Barnsley, netted the visitors goal from a counter attack with 45 minutes played. West Ham dominated the second half but they (and their supporters) were frustrated by the visitors, particularly keeper Silvu Lung. It was a rather distant view which appeared to be the case wherever you might be sat at this stadium - definitely a single trip!
151	**The New Lawn, Another Way, Nailsworth, Gloucs.** Friday 22/09/2017 Sky Bet EFL - League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Forest Green Rovers**	0-2	**Swindon Town**	EFL football came to this Cotswold village in the summer. EFL newcomers Rovers met Swindon for this local derby game and the visiting fans went home happy due to late goals. Olly Lancashire put Town ahead, forcing the ball over the line at the back post following a corner (86 minutes). Matthew Taylor's 24-yard effort in stoppage time sealed the win. This wasn't a classic on the night but Town deserved to win.
152	**Wembley Stadium, South Way, Wembley, London** Sunday 07/01/2018 Emirates F.A. Cup - Third Round Ground #2 of 2 (< 42) (Alternative ground during a ground rebuild)	**Tottenham Hotspur**	3-0	**AFC Wimbledon**	Didn't expect this one to be a club ground! AFC Wimbledon put up a good resistance but the deadlock was broken on 63 minutes when Harry Kane guided home Moussa Sissoko's cross. Kane reacted to Kyle Walker-Peters' deflected pass to swiftly add a second. The third goal (all within an eight minute spell) sealed this when Jan Vertonghen sourced the top corner from distance. Spurs went onto the semi-final and (playing at 'home'!) lost to Man United.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
153	**Peninsula Stadium, Moor Lane, Salford** Tuesday 17/09/2019 Sky Bet EFL - League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Salford City**	1-0	**Grimsby Town**	The Ammies were promoted to the EFL in the summer via the play-offs. The summary of this was two free kicks. Mark Shelton's 21st minute one from 25-yards counted and was the only goal. One 'scored' by Grimsby's Jordan Cook was a real 'beauty' but was ruled out due to teammate Jake Hessenthaler being stood too close to the home wall, a rule in place in the summer.
153a	**Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Lilywhite House, 782 High Road, Tottenham, London N17** Saturday 09/11/2019 Premier League Ground 1 of 2 (< 42 and 152). Original stadium rebuild.	**Tottenham Hotspur**	1-1	**Sheffield United**	It's very much a matter of opinion if this should be 'new' or not as it was a rebuild adjacent to the 'old' ground, but not for me. It was an impressive stadium (first used in April of this year). Haung-Min Son put Spurs ahead on 58 minutes. George Baldock levelled twenty minutes later. This game proved to be Spurs' manager's Mauricio Pochettino's last in charge. My first experience of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) too. David McGoldrick scored what looked to be a fine goal for the Blades; VAR took 4 minutes disallow - is that clear and obvious?!
154	**Cherry Red Records Stadium, Plough Lane, Wimbledon, London. SW17** Saturday 01/04/2023 Sky Bet EFL - League 2 Ground #2 of 2 (< 146)	**AFC Wimbledon**	0-1	**Rochdale**	Almost 3½ years had passed since the Spurs visit. There was a pandemic but this didn't stop the ground moves. Wimbledon moved, playing close to the former club's home. Relegation threatened Dale won this through Daniel Lloyd-McGoldrick on 64 minutes in what was a poor quality game. A big Dale win but they had far too much to do to avoid the drop into non-league.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
155	**VBS Community Stadium, Gander Green Lane, Sutton** Saturday 23/03/2024 Sky Bet EFL - League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Sutton United**	3-1	**Accrington Stanley**	Sutton's three-year existence in the EFL was under threat. Their iconic amber and brown was replaced by a 'one off royal aubergine' kit. They had a good day, going 3-0 up, goals by Harry Smith, Omar Sowunmi and Nono Adom-Malaki and fans showed good hearted humour by celebrating they were off the bottom place! Jake Bickerstaff scored a late consolation for Stanley. Sutton failed to survive the dreaded drop.
156	**SO Legal Stadium, Holker Street, Barrow, Cumbria** Tuesday 13/08/2024 Carabao Cup - First Round Ground 1 of 1	**Barrow**	3-2	**Port Vale**	A long trip north on a pleasant early season evening. This League Cup tie was entertaining. Ged Garner put Barrow into the lead on just 42 seconds. Vale levelled through Ruari Paton's fine free kick, 1-1 at the break. Vale took the lead Tom Sang's smart finish on 66 minutes. Back came the home side to win it through Emile Acquah (header 70) and Ben Jackson (neat finish 77). A fine cup-tie with Vale playing a very full part.
157	**Gtech Community Stadium, Lionel Road South, Brentford** Saturday 31/08/2024 Premier League Ground #2 of 2 (< 89)	**Brentford**	3-1	**Southampton**	Of all the 'Covid ground moves' this was the trickiest one (Premier League and a small ground) but a mate with a Saints season ticket duly obliged. No luck for Saints on the day though. Bryan Mbeumo scored twice for the Bees, Yoane Wissa adding to it. Yukinari Sugawara scored a late Saints consolation. This was early season, but it got little better for the Saints during the entire campaign.

Number	Ground/ Match Info	Home Team	Result	Away Team	Notes:
158	**Hayes Lane Stadium, Bromley, Kent** Saturday 28/09/2024 Sky Bet EFL - League 2 Ground #1 of 1	**Bromley**	1-1	**Milton Keynes Dons**	The three 'new' grounds with clubs beginning in 'B' was completed (and all in alphabetical order!). Dons went into an eighth minute lead Joe Tomlinson netting. Michael Cheek finished well to level after a Dons attack had broken down. It was an average game, the Dons having the better chances. Bromley, still settling into the EFL following their play-off promotion, would feel the most satisfied.
159	**The Exercise Stadium, Wetherby Road, Harrogate** Tuesday 01/04/2024 Sefl - League 2 Ground 1 of 1	**Harrogate Town**	3-2	**Tranmere Rovers**	The '92' (as it stood at the time) was again completed but for the first time since 2020. This was fourth-bottom v third-bottom. Ellis Taylor put Town in front (1-0 at the break). Tom Cursons powerful header added to it but Regan Hendry soon pulled one back. Ben Fox's firm finish made it 3-1 but Rovers back again, a fine individual effort by Omari Patrick. Handball and a chance for Rovers to level in stoppage time but Josh Hawkes put it wide.
160	**Hill Dickinson Stadium, Bramley Moore Dock, Regent Road, Liverpool L3** Tuesday 03/03/2026 Premier League Ground #2 of 2 (< 22)	**Everton**	2-0	**Burnley**	This most impressive stadium is unusually situated on the banks of the River Mersey. Everton won comfortably with a goal in each half. James Tarkowski with a powerful 32nd minute header and a neat Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall finish on the hour brought the points to the Toffees, who had struggled to get results here recently. Burnley, under the threat of an immediate return to the EFL, were very disappointing on the night.

THE 'NINETY TWO' COMPLETED (AGAIN!) - COMMENT

Well, as at March 2026, the visit to Everton's new stadium completed the 92 once more. Will it change next season? There's a possibility that York City will be the next one to be visited as, at the time of writing, they are looking good to get back the Football League place they'd lost back in 2016. Significantly though, the club are on a different ground nowadays!!

Ground Sharing

A note regarding clubs that had ground shared, which covers some that have the 'a' suffix. This list can be relied upon for every ground that's staged Premier League/ EFL football certainly since 1986 when the 92, as it was at that time, was completed. However, there have been times when clubs have moved to share at another ground. From a visit point of view, this isn't consistent. For example, Charlton Athletic moved away from The Valley between 1985 and 1992. They initially went to Selhurst Park (Crystal Palace) and briefly to the Boelyn Ground (West Ham United). There was plenty of time to go there but no visit was made to see the Addicks at either ground. However, I did go to Selhurst Park to watch Wimbledon FC for their ground share shortly after the Charlton departure!

Other ground shares not visited were Chester City sharing at then non-league Macclesfield Town whilst they were waiting a move to their new stadium. Town, at first ironically refused entry into the Football League on ground grading issues, eventually took their place and a visit made later to watch the 'correct' team play at Moss Rose. Many years later I went to Northampton to watch Coventry City share there, but a decision was taken not to go to Birmingham City when the 'Sky Blues' moved on to that ground. City's ground dispute was eventually resolved and, similar to Charlton, they returned to their ground. There were other temporary ground shares missed too, like when Harrogate Town were promoted in 2020 and, whilst their artificial turf pitch was being replaced, made their EFL home bow by using Doncaster Rovers' ground. But this was during the Covid-19 pandemic when social distancing and travel restrictions were in place, so even Town supporters didn't get to their historic first EFL home match.

There were three grounds visited that were shared that belonged to non-league clubs. Two of them - Bath City and Dorchester Town - are still playing on the same grounds. How I allocate a ground number to these clubs if and when they make it into the EFL then I am not sure, but I'll deal with that at that time. I will, of course, have to visit those grounds again if necessary. The third non-league ground was Dartford, who have relocated to a different venue since, so it will be much easier if they make it one day.

Future Moves

Any ground that gets promotion from the National League which hasn't been visited for an EFL game in the past (or an instance like a different team, possibly AFC Halifax Town, who are not the former club but still use The Shay and look out for the 'new' Macclesfield FC club coming through, playing at Moss Rose). There are moves afoot for Birmingham City and Oxford United and, most probably, there are others in the pipeline too. I'll keep at it whilst I can but one thing's for sure, this will continue long into the future and for as long as I am able to go.

Yes, at one time there were only ninety two!! It's 160 and counting, actually!! [18/03/2026]