



GM VAUXHALL
CONFERENCE

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE STATISTICS 1990 - 1991

This is the final GM Vauxhall Conference Press Release for the 1990-91 season. Included are the following statistical details relating to the campaign :-

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3 JUNE 1991

I. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES 1990-1991

Aggregate 1990-91	Average Gate	% Inc	Gates over 1,000	Gates over 2,000	Clubs with % Inc
653,860	1,415	- 0.09	57%	21%	11

II. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES BY CLUB 1990-1991

	AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE 1990/91	AVERAGE GATE 1990/91	% INC OR DEC	AVERAGE GATE 1989/90	GATES OVER 1,000
COLCHESTER UNITED	63,068	3,003	- 5	3,159	21
BARNET	61,280	2,918	+ 2	2,869	21
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	58,674	2,794	+ 48	1,890	21
YEOVIL TOWN	55,321	2,634	+ 17	2,253	21
KETTERING TOWN	53,831	2,563	+ 16	2,208	20
BARROW	29,958	1,427	+ 10	1,292	21
ALTRINCHAM	29,085	1,385	+ 76	789	14
BOSTON UNITED	28,820	1,372	- 13	1,579	19
KIDDERMINSTER H.	25,132	1,197	- 15	1,415	17
TELFORD UNITED	24,924	1,186	- 3	1,219	16
STAFFORD RANGERS	24,626	1,174	- 1	1,188	13
CHELTENHAM TOWN	21,619	1,029	- 27	1,423	11
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	21,027	1,001	- 29	1,422	11
SLOUGH TOWN	24,537	1,168	+ 83	640	8
WELLING UNITED	20,696	985	- 11	1,108	8
BATH CITY	18,555	883	+ 14	776	7
SUTTON UNITED	18,365	874	- 4	915	4
MERTHYR TYDFIL	17,309	824	- 49	1,645	5
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	15,706	748	+ 3	726	3
RUNCORN	15,316	729	- 10	809	2
FISHER ATHLETIC	13,663	651	+ 16	562	2
GATESHEAD	12,318	586	+ 93	303	0

III. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE HIGHEST ATTENDANCES 1990-91

7,221	Colchester United	v	Altrincham	20.4.91
5,105	Barnet	v	Colchester United	1.1.91
5,048	Colchester United	v	Kettering Town	17.4.91
5,020	Kettering Town	v	Colchester United	10.11.90
4,579	Barnet	v	Wycombe Wanderers	18.9.90
4,540	Kettering Town	v	Barnet	23.3.91
4,402	Wycombe Wanderers	v	Barnet	29.4.91
4,283	Fisher Athletic	v	Barnet	4.4.91
4,261	Barnet	v	Kettering Town	4.9.90
4,169	Yeovil Town	v	Colchester United	18.8.90

IV. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE LEADING GOALSCORERS 1990-91

<i>Conf.</i>			<i>FA</i>	<i>BL</i>	<i>FT</i>
30	GARY BULL (BARNET)	+	2	-	-
24	MARK WEST (WYCOMBE WANDERERS)	+	6	-	3
22	KEN McKENNA (ALTRINCHAM)	+	3	2	3
19	MARK CARTER (BARNET)	+	-	1	1
	PAUL RANDALL (BATH CITY)	+	-	-	3
18	COLIN COWPERTHWAIT (BARROW)	+	-	2	1
	TERRY ROBBINS (WELLING UNITED)	+	2	1	-
17	MARIO WALSH (COLCHESTER UNITED)	+	-	-	1
16	PAUL CAVELL (BOSTON UNITED)	+	5	1	2
	NICKY EVANS (BARNET)	+	5	-	-
15	CHARLIE BUTLER (GATESHEAD)	+	-	1	-
	PETER HOWELL (KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS)	+	-	1	4
14	JOHN ASKEY (MACCLESFIELD TOWN)	+	-	-	-
	JOHN BRADY (ALTRINCHAM)	+	1	-	2
	KIM CASEY (CHELTENHAM TOWN)	+	2	-	1

V. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE HIGHEST SCORERS 1990-91

4	Ian Benbow	Kettering Town	v	TELFORD UNITED	(GM Vauxhall Conference 6.4.91)
	Gary Bull	BARNET	v	Slough Town	(GM Vauxhall Conference 21.8.90)
		BARNET	v	Fisher Athletic	(GM Vauxhall Conference 16.10.90)
	Chris Burton	CHELTENHAM TOWN	v	Boston United	(GM Vauxhall Conference 1.5.91)
	Mark Carter	RUNCORN	v	Kidderminster H.	(GM Vauxhall Conference 15.9.90)
	Chris Cook	BOSTON UNITED	v	Lowestoft Town	(FA Cup First Qualifying Round 15.9.90)
	Malcolm O'Connor	NORTHWICH VICTORIA	v	Cheltenham Town	(GM Vauxhall Conference 4.5.91)
	Chris Townsend	BATH CITY	v	Northwich Victoria	(GM Vauxhall Conference 16.4.91)
	Mark West	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	v	Kettering Town	(GM Vauxhall Conference 3.11.90)
		WYCOMBE WANDERERS	v	Sutton United	(GM Vauxhall Conference 15.12.90)

VI. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE : HIGHEST AGGREGATE SCORES 1990-91

Altrincham	9	2	Merthyr Tydfil	16.2.91
Barnet	8	1	Fisher Athletic	16.10.90
Welling United	4	5	Northwich Victoria	29.9.90
Gateshead	0	9	Sutton United	22.9.90
Yeovil Town	7	2	Slough Town	6.4.91

VII. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE : LARGEST HOME WINS 1990-91

Altrincham	9	2	Merthyr Tydfil	16.2.91
Barnet	8	1	Fisher Athletic	16.10.90
Merthyr Tydfil	7	0	Fisher Athletic	24.11.90
Welling United	6	0	Gateshead	30.3.91

VIII. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE : LARGEST AWAY WINS 1990-91

Gateshead	0	9	Sutton United	22.9.90
Boston United	2	6	Altrincham	16.2.91
Gateshead	0	4	Northwich Victoria	1.12.90

IX. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE MATCHES WITHOUT DEFEAT 1990-91

28	Altrincham
15	Kettering Town
12	Colchester United
10	Barnet, Stafford Rangers
9	Kettering Town

X. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE MATCHES WITHOUT A WIN 1990-91

13	Fisher Athletic
12	Kidderminster Harriers, Welling United
10	Bath City, Cheltenham Town, Northwich Victoria
9	Cheltenham Town, Sutton United
8	Kidderminster Harriers, Stafford Rangers (twice), Sutton United, Yeovil Town (twice)

XI. CONSECUTIVE VAUXHALL CONFERENCE VICTORIES 1990-91

7	Barnet, Kettering Town
5	Altrincham, Merthyr Tydfil, Northwich Victoria, Telford United
4	Barrow, Colchester United (3 times), Macclesfield Town, Wycombe Wanderers (twice)

XII. CONSECUTIVE VAUXHALL CONFERENCE DEFEATS 1990-91

7	Yeovil Town
6	Kidderminster Harriers
5	Bath City, Boston United, Runcorn, Slough Town (twice), Sutton United

XIII. THE MAIL ON SUNDAY MANAGER OF THE MONTH 1990-91

August/September	Peter Morris	Kettering Town
October	Barry Fry	Barnet
November	Peter Wragg	Macclesfield Town
December	John King	Altrincham
January	Ian Atkins	Colchester United
February	John King	Altrincham
March	John King	Altrincham
April	Martin O'Neill	Wycombe Wanderers

XIV. THE MAIL ON SUNDAY GOALSCORER OF THE MONTH 1990-91

August/September	Mark Carter	Runcorn
October	Gary Bull	Barnet
November	Mark West	Wycombe Wanderers
December	Charlie Butler	Gateshead
January	John Brady	Altrincham
	Mark Carter	Runcorn
	Ken McKenna	Altrincham
February	Ken McKenna	Altrincham
March	Billy Gilmour	Barrow
April	Gary Bull	Barnet

XV. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP AWARDS 1990-91

	VAUXHALL MOTORS SPONSORSHIP	VAUXHALL GOALS JACKPOT	TITLE AWARD	SPORTSCAST	PPA	TOTAL
BARNET	4,000	1,000	8,000	4,450	2,000	19,450
COLCHESTER UNITED	4,000	-	4,000	4,700	2,000	14,700
ALTRINCHAM	4,000	1,000	3,000	2,750	2,000	12,750
KETTERING TOWN	4,000	-	-	3,225	2,000	9,225
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	4,000	500	-	2,075	2,000	8,575
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	4,000	500	-	1,825	2,000	8,325
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	4,000	-	-	2,075	2,000	8,075
RUNCORN	4,000	-	-	2,075	2,000	8,075
SLOUGH TOWN	4,000	-	-	2,075	2,000	8,075
STAFFORD RANGERS	4,000	-	-	2,075	2,000	8,075
TELFORD UNITED	4,000	-	-	2,075	2,000	8,075
BARROW	4,000	-	-	1,825	2,000	7,825
FISHER ATHLETIC	4,000	-	-	1,825	2,000	7,825
KIDDERMINSTER H.	4,000	-	-	1,825	2,000	7,825
SUTTON UNITED	4,000	-	-	1,825	2,000	7,825
YEOVIL TOWN	4,000	500	-	1,200	2,000	7,700
BATH CITY	4,000	-	-	1,200	2,000	7,200
BOSTON UNITED	4,000	-	-	1,200	2,000	7,200
CHELTENHAM TOWN	4,000	-	-	1,200	2,000	7,200
GATESHEAD	4,000	-	-	1,200	2,000	7,200
MERTHYR TYDFIL	4,000	-	-	1,200	2,000	7,200
WELLING UNITED	4,000	-	-	1,200	2,000	7,200

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE RESULTS 1990-91

XVI.

	ALTRINCHAM	BARNET	BARROW	BATH CITY	BOSTON UNITED	CHELTENHAM TOWN	COLCHESTER UNITED	FISHER ATHLETIC	GATESHEAD	KETTERING TOWN	KIDDERMINSTER H.	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	MERTHYR TYDFIL	NORTHWICH VICTORIA	RUNCORN	SLOUGH TOWN	STAFFORD RANGERS	SUTTON UNITED	TELFORD UNITED	WELLING UNITED	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	YEOVIL TOWN
ALTRINCHAM	X	4-1	1-1	2-0	1-1	3-0	2-2	0-0	4-1	3-2	1-2	5-2	9-2	0-2	1-0	3-0	0-0	4-1	2-1	0-1	1-0	2-2
BARNET	0-0	X	3-1	2-0	5-0	2-1	1-3	8-1	1-1	0-1	2-3	3-1	2-3	1-1	2-0	6-1	2-0	1-0	0-0	3-2	3-2	3-2
BARROW	1-0	4-2	X	1-1	1-1	0-0	2-2	3-1	3-1	0-1	1-3	1-1	0-2	2-2	2-1	2-1	2-0	3-1	2-1	1-1	2-2	1-0
BATH CITY	2-3	1-4	1-1	X	1-0	2-0	1-2	0-1	3-0	3-3	4-1	0-2	0-0	4-1	6-1	4-0	0-1	2-2	0-1	2-1	1-2	2-1
BOSTON UNITED	2-6	1-3	0-2	3-0	X	2-1	1-3	4-1	5-1	1-2	3-1	1-1	3-0	4-1	2-2	0-1	0-2	2-2	2-1	0-0	0-1	4-0
CHELTENHAM TOWN	1-4	1-4	3-1	0-0	5-0	X	1-2	0-0	1-0	2-2	0-0	2-2	0-1	1-1	1-3	2-0	1-2	3-2	0-1	3-0	1-0	1-0
COLCHESTER UNITED	1-1	0-0	1-0	2-0	3-1	3-1	X	2-1	3-0	3-1	2-0	1-0	3-1	4-0	2-2	2-1	2-0	1-0	2-0	2-1	2-2	0-1
FISHER ATHLETIC	0-0	2-4	1-2	0-3	1-2	1-1	0-0	X	0-2	0-0	1-1	1-2	0-0	5-2	0-1	1-1	1-3	1-1	2-0	1-1	2-3	2-1
GATESHEAD	0-3	1-3	5-1	2-0	0-1	3-3	1-2	1-0	X	1-2	2-1	1-1	1-0	0-4	3-1	1-0	2-1	0-9	5-1	0-3	2-1	1-1
KETTERING TOWN	1-1	1-3	2-0	1-1	1-1	5-1	1-0	3-2	1-0	X	4-1	2-0	2-0	1-0	3-0	0-0	2-0	5-2	2-5	0-0	0-1	1-1
KIDDERMINSTER H.	0-1	0-3	3-1	3-2	3-3	2-0	0-0	3-3	2-3	3-0	X	0-0	1-2	3-1	3-1	1-2	2-1	1-0	1-3	1-2	1-2	0-0
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	0-1	3-2	3-0	3-1	2-0	5-1	1-0	1-1	4-0	1-2	0-0	X	0-1	1-2	2-1	1-2	2-1	4-2	1-2	2-1	0-0	2-1
MERTHYR TYDFIL	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-0	2-0	3-0	3-0	7-0	3-1	1-3	1-2	0-2	X	3-2	0-0	3-0	1-1	3-0	2-3	1-0	2-4	1-1
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	1-1	0-2	2-2	2-0	3-1	5-2	2-2	0-0	3-2	0-1	1-1	4-1	0-3	X	1-4	1-0	1-1	1-0	2-4	1-2	1-1	2-0
RUNCORN	1-3	3-2	3-1	1-1	2-1	2-2	0-3	5-1	2-0	2-1	5-1	1-2	2-1	2-1	X	3-1	1-0	5-1	0-0	2-3	1-1	0-3
SLOUGH TOWN	3-3	1-3	3-0	2-0	2-0	0-3	0-2	1-0	1-1	0-3	0-0	0-1	1-2	2-4	2-1	X	2-1	1-2	2-0	3-0	3-3	2-0
STAFFORD RANGERS	2-1	2-2	2-2	2-1	1-2	2-2	0-2	2-0	0-1	0-0	3-1	2-2	2-0	0-0	1-1	3-4	X	1-2	1-1	1-0	2-1	1-1
SUTTON UNITED	1-2	0-1	2-1	1-1	0-0	2-3	0-1	3-1	3-3	1-2	1-2	3-1	1-1	2-2	1-3	5-2	0-3	X	0-3	1-1	1-0	1-0
TELFORD UNITED	1-2	1-1	0-1	2-2	1-0	1-2	2-0	3-1	1-2	0-1	1-0	1-2	3-1	1-0	2-0	2-1	0-0	4-2	X	2-1	1-0	1-2
WELLING UNITED	2-2	1-4	4-2	2-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	1-1	6-0	0-0	1-0	0-0	2-1	4-5	2-2	2-0	2-1	1-2	1-1	X	1-1	0-3
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	3-0	1-3	2-1	0-0	3-0	0-2	1-0	2-0	4-0	5-1	2-3	0-0	2-1	3-0	1-1	2-1	3-0	4-1	3-2	4-1	X	2-0
YEOVIL TOWN	2-3	1-4		3-2	1-1	4-0	2-0	0-1	4-1	0-1	2-0	1	3-3	1-1	1-0	7-2	0-0	2-1	1-2	0-1	2-2	X

XVII.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE TABLE 1990-91

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BARNET	42	13	4	4	50	23	13	5	3	53	29	87
COLCHESTER UNITED	42	16	4	1	41	13	9	6	6	27	22	85
ALTRINCHAM	42	12	6	3	48	22	11	7	3	39	24	82
KETTERING TOWN	42	12	6	3	38	19	11	5	5	29	26	80
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	42	15	3	3	46	17	6	8	7	29	29	74
TELFORD UNITED	42	11	3	7	30	21	9	4	8	32	31	67
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	42	11	4	6	38	22	6	8	7	25	30	63
RUNCORN	42	12	4	5	44	29	4	6	11	25	38	58
MERTHYR TYDFIL	42	9	5	7	37	24	7	4	10	25	37	57
BARROW	42	10	8	3	34	24	5	4	12	25	41	57
WELLING UNITED	42	7	10	4	33	27	6	5	10	22	30	54
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	42	8	7	6	33	30	5	6	10	32	45	52
KIDDERMINSTER H.	42	8	5	8	33	30	6	5	10	23	37	52
YEOVIL TOWN	42	9	5	7	38	29	4	6	11	20	29	50
STAFFORD RANGERS	42	7	9	5	30	26	5	5	11	18	25	50
CHELTENHAM TOWN	42	8	6	7	29	25	4	6	11	25	47	48
GATESHEAD	42	10	3	8	32	38	4	3	14	20	54	48
BOSTON UNITED	42	9	4	8	40	31	3	7	11	15	38	47
SLOUGH TOWN	42	9	4	8	31	29	4	2	15	20	51	45
BATH CITY	42	9	4	8	39	27	1	8	12	16	34	42
SUTTON UNITED	42	6	6	9	29	33	4	3	14	33	49	39
FISHER ATHLETIC	42	3	9	9	22	30	2	6	13	16	49	30

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BARNET	42	26	9	7	103	52	87
COLCHESTER UNITED	42	25	10	7	68	35	85
ALTRINCHAM	42	23	13	6	87	46	82
KETTERING TOWN	42	23	11	8	67	45	80
WYCOMBE WANDERERS	42	21	11	10	75	46	74
TELFORD UNITED	42	20	7	15	62	52	67
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	42	17	12	13	63	52	63
RUNCORN	42	16	10	16	69	67	58
MERTHYR TYDFIL	42	16	9	17	62	61	57
BARROW	42	15	12	15	59	65	57
WELLING UNITED	42	13	15	14	55	57	54
NORTHWICH VICTORIA	42	13	13	16	65	75	52
KIDDERMINSTER H.	42	14	10	18	56	67	52
YEOVIL TOWN	42	13	11	18	58	58	50
STAFFORD RANGERS	42	12	14	16	48	51	50
CHELTENHAM TOWN	42	12	12	18	54	72	48
GATESHEAD	42	14	6	22	52	92	48
BOSTON UNITED	42	12	11	19	55	69	47
SLOUGH TOWN	42	13	6	23	51	80	45
BATH CITY	42	10	12	20	55	61	42
SUTTON UNITED	42	10	9	23	62	82	39
FISHER ATHLETIC	42	5	15	22	38	79	30

XVIII. GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE DIARY OF EVENTS 1990-91

AUGUST

- 1 - 14 *Barnet*, runners-up in three of the last four seasons, are 5-2 clear favourites for promotion. 9-1 second favourites *Colchester United* open season with 18 full-time professionals under leadership of former Everton midfielder Ian Atkins. New managers at *Telford* and *Stafford* with former Eire international Gerry Daly at the Bucks Head and Chris Wright taking charge at Marston Road. *Hycombe Wanderers* and *Yeovil Town* forsake famous sloping pitches for purpose built stadia. Crowds of over 5,000 see Nottingham Forest open Adams Park and Newcastle open *Yeovil's* Huish Park. Third Division Chester begin two-year ground share at *Macclesfield Town* and FA Cup holders Manchester United linked with *Barnet* striker Andrew Clarke. *Welling* pay club record £30,000 for former striker Gary Abbott and *Cheltenham* sign *Kidderminster* forward Kim Casey for £20,000. *Kettering's* 40-year old striker Ernie Moss retires from senior football and Vauxhall Motors begin fifth season as official sponsors of the Football Conference. Newcomers *Gateshead* secure new ten-year lease at the International Stadium becoming only all-seater ground in England and Wales.
- 15 - 21 Conference newcomers enjoy mixed opening day fortunes. *Gateshead* and *Colchester* both lose away, *Bath* earn a point against *Kettering* and *Slough* defeat *Boston United* 2-0. *Barnet* take lead three times but only earn a point at *Macclesfield*. Sell keeper Peter Guthrie who joins Bournemouth for £15,000 to become fifth ex-Conference player at Dean Court. Meanwhile midfielder Hakan Hayrettin makes hasty return to Underhill. Ends brief playing spell in Turkey when advised that Turkish parentage qualifies him for compulsory national service. *Telford* increase number of full-time players to three signing former Shrewsbury midfielder Gary Osbourne and *Macclesfield* complete programme of ground improvements costing £180,000. *Bath City* gain planning permission to build all-seater stand and *Yeovil's* new stadium proves ever popular with fans. Season tickets break 700 mark for the first time and a crowd of 4,169 watch first competitive match enjoying 2-0 win over *Colchester United*. Opening day aggregate of 15,678 spectators is the second highest in history of Conference.
- 22 - 28 *Kettering Town* lead first Conference table picking up ten points from opening four games. On less positive note, lose striker Robbie Cooke who is ruled out for six weeks with a chipped ankle. A further five clubs remain undefeated with *Yeovil* boasting only 100% record. At the bottom, *Gateshead* and *Stafford* still without a point. Media coverage of the Vauxhall Conference continues to grow with BBC Radio 5 broadcasting results for Saturday and midweek games. *Barnet* striker Gary Bull sets out scoring intentions netting four in the 6-1 defeat of newcomers *Slough*. Club turning on the style off the pitch securing a sponsorship agreement for blazers and trousers with famous fashion house Yves St Laurent. Almost 3,000 watch *Hycombe's* first competitive fixture at Adams Park where *Wanderers* defeat *Welling* 4-1. *Boston United* launch progressive scheme with HMP North Sea Camp to provide work experience opportunities for prisoners awaiting release. Former Celtic striker Jim Melrose joins *Macclesfield* and ex-Everton player Mickey Walsh becomes coach at *Slough*. *Northwich Victoria* defer plans for new ground and announce intention to stay at Drill Field for near future.

SEPTEMBER

- 29 - 3 *Yeovil* relinquish last remaining 100% record drawing 1-1 with *Boston United*. *Stafford* and *Gateshead* open points account and Vauxhall Conference Management Committee publish comprehensive ground criteria for clubs seeking promotion to the competition. Progressive trends within Conference clubs see *Kidderminster Harriers* adopt women's team and *Welling United* announce free admission at selected matches for female supporters. *Barnet* prepare for promotion completing £100,000 programme of safety and improvements work whilst highly rated striker Andrew Clarke looks to promotion of a personal kind. Becomes subject of 65 minute video showing all 37 goals scored last season. *Colchester* increase full-time squad to 24 signing striker Mario Walsh and goalkeeper Scott Barrett for £25,000 each. Walsh repays investment scoring twice on debut. *Hycombe* manager Martin O'Neill makes first money signing with £7,000 forward Simon Hutchinson joining from Eastwood Town. Leaders *Kettering Town* strengthen midfield signing *Kidderminster's* Paul Bancroft for five figure fee. England international becomes the second most expensive recruit to Rockingham Road.
- 4 - 10 *Kettering* open five point lead with 3-0 victory over *Runcorn* - their sixth consecutive win of the season. Points tally of 19 the largest recorded at this stage of any Conference campaign. One of their victims, *Barnet*, establish seasonal attendance record when 4,261 watch 1-0 reversal by leaders. Match marks debut for £15,000 midfielder Kevin Durham who joins Bees from *Hycombe*. Conference members given until 1993 to comply with standards set out in four tier grading document and *Yeovil* adopt full-time policy agreeing terms with a further seven players. Raises number of Huish Park full-timers to 13. Former Aston Villa midfielder Des Bremner joins *Stafford Rangers* and Blackpool forward Carl Richards makes temporary move to *Telford United*.
- 11 - 17 Fire destroys *Bath City* grandstand with police detaining eight in connection with suspected arson attack. *Kettering Town* held to goalless draw by *Welling* to end run of seven straight wins. On a brighter note the Poppies remain unbeaten for nine games closing in on the Conference record. Table topping side lose defender Richard Brown to Blackburn Rovers

SEPTEMBER

- 11 - 17 for £25,000 and *Yeovil* break club transfer record with £15,000 signing of Worcester midfielder Joe Jackson. *Cheltenham* sign central defender Paul Brogan from Mansfield to become sixth Conference club to employ full-time player. Ex-Manchester City forward Peter Barnes joins *Northwich Victoria*. Mark Carter of *Runcorn* and *Boston's* Chris Cook both score four and all seven Conference clubs progress to FA Cup Second Qualifying Round. En route *Slough* hit eight against Feltham and *Boston* beat Lowestoft 7-0.
- 18 - 24 *Barnet* midfielder Phil Gridelet joins Barnsley for Pyramid record £175,000. Club collect another record as seasonal best of 4,579 watch 3-2 win over *Wycombe Wanderers*. *Kettering* extend unbeaten run to 10 with 3-2 defeat of *Fisher Athletic* although Poppies concede first goal in 570 minutes ending best Vauxhall Conference run since 1985. At the bottom of the table, *Bath* still searching for first win. Avon club accrued just two points from nine games. *Gateshead's* David Parnaby becomes first managerial casualty of the season resigning from the post due to increased work commitments. Meanwhile Tynesiders slump to 9-0 defeat by *Sutton United* - the worst home reversal in the history of the Conference.
- 25 - 1 Conference launch Fair Play Award with support from Vauxhall Motors. Objective to promote sportsmanship and good conduct on the field. *Barnet* increase income from the sale of players to £260,000 in a week with £85,000 combined transfer of David Regis and Paul Harding to Second Division Notts County. *Kettering* extend unbeaten start to eleven games with 1-0 win against *Yeovil Town*. Meanwhile club agree five-figure fees for midfield duo Paul Richardson and Andy Wright. *Barnet* and Aylesbury United the chasing clubs. Defender Des Bremner agrees to remain at *Stafford Rangers* for the rest of the season and *Kidderminster Harriers* sign Moor Green striker David Hadley in five-figure deal. At *Gateshead*, caretaker manager Jim Pearson steps down to make way for the permanent incumbent.

OCTOBER

- 2- 8 Ex-Norwich defender Steve Walford joins *Wycombe Wanderers* linking up with former team-mate Martin O'Neill. *Northwich Victoria* winger Neil Morton joins Third Division Chester City for £50,000 and *Gateshead* appoint former Leicester midfielder Tony Lee as manager. Mr Lee starts Conference career with 3-0 home defeat by *Welling*. *Bath* end barren ten match run with 3-0 win over *Fisher Athletic*. Avon side move off the bottom for the first time in five weeks. YT trainee, 16-year old midfielder Mark Wolsey, makes debut for *Kidderminster Harriers* to become one of the youngest players to represent the club. *Stafford* winger Changez Khan captures public's imagination with an unorthodox somersault throw-in. Technique, which allows Khan to hoist the ball over 60 yards, is referred to FIFA. *Barrow's* financial revival continues. Club agree £70,000 sale of Bluebird Social Club with funds going to clear outstanding loans. Continuing monetary theme, *Northwich* players agree to donate fixed sum from weekly wage to assist John Stringer during his recovery from a broken leg. *Cheltenham Town* reach Welsh FA Cup Third Round defeating Builth Wells 5-1.
- 9 - 15 *Kettering Town* equal Vauxhall Conference record for an unbeaten start to the season. 1-0 defeat of *Barrow* extends sequence to 14. *Yeovil* dismiss Brian Hall as manager after four years and former Exeter player coach Clive Whitehead named as Huish Park successor. *Bath City* receive £20,000 windfall from Southampton following former defender Jason Dodd's England Under-21 call-up. Ex-Eire and Everton goalkeeper Jim McDonagh signs for *Telford United* and *Barnet* also strengthen reserves signing Wealdstone striker Tony Lynch for £15,000. *Barrow* agree to play the King's Own Scottish Borderers in a friendly prior to the regiment's departure to the Gulf. FIFA confirm legality of Changez Khan's somersault throw-in. *Sutton United* goalkeeper Nicky Sullivan makes shortest appearance in club's history suffering an injury only 15 seconds into 1-0 reversal at Colchester.
- 16 - 22 BSB announce first ever live coverage of FA Cup First and Second Round ties. Another managerial departure as *Cheltenham Town* part company with Jim Barron. Second placed *Barnet* record biggest home win of the season defeating *Fisher Athletic* 8-1. Striker Gary Bull hits three to become first Vauxhall Conference player to register hat-trick of hat-tricks. Bull tops scoring charts with twelve from six games. Leaders *Kettering Town* extend run of clean sheets to five despite losing 'keeper Kevin Shoemake after six minutes against *Stafford*. Defender Ian Phillips deputises. Bottom club *Bath City* pledge to name area of new stand the "Wednesday Section" after visiting Sheffield Wednesday fans donate £300 to 'Save the Twerton Fund'. *Slough Town* register record gate with 3,394 attending 3-3 draw against neighbours *Wycombe Wanderers*.
- 23 - 29 BBC confirm continuation of FA Cup coverage broadcasting extended highlights and eleven Vauxhall Conference clubs secure places in First Round Proper with seven facing midweek replays. *Yeovil Town* guarantee record 42nd appearance after 3-1 defeat of Marlow. *Wycombe Wanderers* produce most impressive FA Cup display defeating Basingstoke 6-0. Boardroom changes see David Courtney elected as Chairman of third from bottom *Cheltenham Town* and Keith Wennam heading a reconstructed five main board at bottom but one side *Fisher Athletic*. *Colchester United* maintain challenge defeating *Barrow* 1-0. remain in third place with 100% home record.

NOVEMBER

- 30 - 5 Fifteen Vauxhall Conference clubs enter FA Cup First Round Proper equalling record set in 1984-85. *Altrincham's* home game against Huddersfield selected by BSB for first live tie. Leaders *Kettering* slump to 5-1 defeat at *Wycombe* ending record unbeaten start to the season

NOVEMBER

- 30 - 5 of 15 games. However, second placed *Barnet* fail to take advantage being held to 1-1 draw by *Gateshead*. *Runcorn* part with manager Barry Whitbread following a series of disappointing results. Cheshire club subsequently lose 6-1 at struggling *Bath* - their heaviest defeat since joining the Conference in 1981. The victory lifts *City* off the foot of the table. Ex-Crystal Palace and Arsenal 'keeper Paul Barron returns to *Welling United* where he began his career 23 years ago as a striker. *Colchester United* present plans for new 10,000 all-seater stadium.
- 6 - 12 *Kettering Town* extend lead to seven points with a 1-0 win over *Colchester United*. Seasonal record 5,020 watch top of the table game. *Merthyr Tydfil* make Welsh Cup progress defeating Cardiff City 4-1 at Ninian Park. Joined in Fourth Round by *Cheltenham Town* who dismissed Cwmbran 7-1. Returning to Whaddon Road helm is former manager John Murphy who rejoins after two-year absence. *Colchester United* gain £25,000 windfall from Wimbledon who complete payment for midfielder Paul McGee. Manager Ian Atkins continues rebuilding programme signing American striker Michael Masters for initial one month trial. Meanwhile former Brighton boss Mike Bailey agrees terms for extension to contract at *Fisher Athletic*. Immediate outcome sees arrival of six new players including former Chelsea midfielder Jerry Murphy and ex-Everton striker Alan Biley. *Runcorn* appoint leading marksman Mark Carter as caretaker manager whose first task is to overcome run of five consecutive defeats following 3-1 reversal at *Kidderminster*. *Gateshead* strengthen coaching side drafting in former Hartlepool manager Billy Horner. Conference champions Darlington lift Championship Shield defeating *Barrow* 4-1 in front of record 2,104 crowd.
- 13 - 19 *Barrow* reach FA Cup Second Round for first time in 21 years with a 1-0 win over Bishop Auckland. *Colchester* join them dismissing Third Division Reading 2-1. In the championship race *Kettering Town* open ten-point gap despite being held to goalless draw at lowly *Fisher*. Club remain on song however recording latest fan-inspired single 'The Poppies Song'. *Hycombe Wanderers* selected to stage Women's European Championship Quarter-Final between England and Germany. *Barnet* maintain continental theme receiving bids from Dutch First Division side Groningen for defender Richard Nugent and midfielder Hakan Heyrettin. *Fisher Athletic* agree terms for one year ground sharing arrangement with Dulwich Hamlet.
- 20 - 26 *Barnet*, *Merthyr* and *Hycombe* make FA Cup progress after First Round replays and *Kettering Town* defeat *Northwich* 1-0 to increase lead at top to eleven points. *Altrincham* make it four wins in five at *Sutton United* to ease into fourth position and *Merthyr Tydfil* record second largest victory of the season defeating *Fisher Athletic* 7-0. Build-up included 3-2 midweek friendly reversal against Russian visitors CSKA Moscow. Good news for England striker Mark Carter who celebrates managerial debut with 3-2 win over *Barnet* and *Yeovil Town* appoint former Arsenal forward Brian McDermott as assistant manager recruiting 29-year old for £10,000. Continuing the managerial theme, *Barrow's* Ray Wilkie prepares to sign new five year contract. On the financial front *Macclesfield Town* announce profit of £19,630 and *Slough Town* gain £17,562 from the Football Trust for essential safety work.

DECEMBER

- 27 - 3 *Runcorn* appoint Hyde United's Peter O'Brien as manager who duly steers Linnets to 2-1 win against *Merthyr*. No changes to the top of the table with leading four all successful. *Barnet's* 4-1 victory at *Yeovil* takes club beyond the 50 goal mark with Barry Fry's side becoming first in Britain to reach half century. *Boston United* and *Fisher Athletic* make FA Trophy progress reaching First Round Proper at expense of Pyramid sides. *Northwich Victoria* take firm disciplinary stand cancelling registration of two players for arguing with officials. *Boston United* turn attentions to more sedate pursuits making preparations for May's 'Leisure in Boston' festival. Enlist supporter to prepare floral interpretation of club. Creative theme continued at *Hycombe* who stage premiere of 'The Loakes Park Years 1895 - 1990' video. *Colchester United* tender bid to sign former England B international Shaun Elliot and *Bath City* announce healthy £37,687 profit.
- 4 - 10 John Murphy resigns at bottom side *Cheltenham Town* less than one month after rejoining club. Pressure from outside influences leaves assistant Dave Lewis in charge in caretaker capacity. Former England and Manchester City forward Peter Barnes is another departure following release from *Northwich Victoria*. 33-year old in talks with Swiss First Division club. Snow affects most of the football programme although *Barnet* manage to stage FA Cup tie against Fourth Division leaders Northampton Town. Vauxhall Conference side held 0-0. *Runcorn* also beat weather to draw 2-2 at *Boston United*. Disappointing day for travelling fans who cross county hoping to watch Linnets' first weekend away win in 18 months. Arrive midway through second half only to see *Runcorn* relinquish 2-0 lead. *Colchester* secure Blackpool defender Shaun Elliot and *Kettering Town* re-record 'Poppies Song' following demand for percentage of sales income by musicians union.
- 11 - 17 *Barnet* win 1-0 at Northampton Town to reach FA Cup Third Round. On a less positive note, manager Barry Fry enters hospital with a heart complaint. *Barrow* also make Cup progress breaking 23-year record with Third Round appearance with 1-0 win at Whitley Bay. Peterborough's visit to *Hycombe Wanderers* attracts record 5,695 crowd forcing replay with 1-1 draw. *Stafford Rangers* sell striker Stan Collymore to Crystal Palace for initial £100,000 fee. Meanwhile *Rangers* boss Chris Wright promoted to full-time status. *Merthyr Tydfil* decline invitation from Welsh FA to become founder members of proposed 'League of Wales'. Holders *Yeovil* bow out of Bob Lord going down 3-2 to last year's Finalists *Kidderminster*. Featuring in tie was 17-year old full-back Mike McEvoy who becomes one of the youngest debutants to appear in Glover's senior side.

DECEMBER

- 18 - 2 *Barnet's* promotion challenge suffers setback over Christmas with 3-1 reversal against *Colchester* watched by 5,105 seasonal best. Top four sides start to breakaway opening six point gap. Leaders *Kettering* strengthen promotion push re-signing striker Ernie Moss from Shephed Charterhouse. *Cheltenham Town* enjoy festive period picking up nine points to lift themselves off foot of the table. Eventful week at Whaddon Road as club part company with striker Simon Brain who joins Hereford for £10,000. Neighbours *Bath City* make 5-figure outlay to strengthen bid to retain Vauxhall Conference status. Four players including Dorchester's Chris Townsend move to Twerton Park. *Yeovil Town's* run of seven successive defeats ends with 2-2 draw with *Wycombe*. *Stafford Rangers* strengthen squad with midfielder Steve Butterworth joining in record £10,000+ deal. Marston Road goalkeeper Ryan Price attracts League attention with 20-year old undergoing one week trial at Millwall. *Gateshead* set football first signing major sponsorship agreement with trade union GMB and *Colchester* show enterprise commissioning painting of Layer Road stadium in anticipation of possible ground move.

JANUARY

- 3 - 7 *Barnet* and *Barrow* make FA Cup exit losing to Portsmouth and Bolton respectively. Gate of 6,109 at Underhill is *Barnet's* highest since 1973 setting record club gate receipts. *Barrow* consider proposal to employ first full-time player since departure from Football League. Winger Neil Doherty looking to combine full-time training with managerial post at town's new sports centre. *Fisher Athletic* part company with manager Mike Bailey following take over at bottom placed club. Former player Dennis Sharp appointed for remainder of season. Ex-Everton player Mickey Walsh offered full-time post at *Slough Town* taking charge of commercial activities at Wexham Park. Neighbours *Wycombe Wanderers* place record signing Nicky Evans on transfer list and *Kettering Town* maintain ten point lead with 4-1 win over *Kidderminster*. *Colchester* keep in touch with 2-1 victory against *Slough*.
- 8 - 14 Ten clubs make FA Trophy progress at first attempt. Among the casualties are title chasers *Barnet* who lose 3-2 at home to Farnborough. *Kettering* set Trophy First Round attendance record with 4,421 watching 2-0 win over Woking. *Barnet* tender £20,000 bid for former striker Nicky Evans. *Wycombe* forward also engaged in talks with another Vauxhall Conference club. Conference postpone midweek fixtures to accommodate England Semi-Professional international against Italy and *Bath City* start construction of new Twerton Park grandstand. £250,000 facility to be completed in May. *Barrow* defender Tony Chilton and winger Neil Doherty attract further League interest. Chilton spends week training at Cambridge United whilst Doherty declines similar offer from undisclosed Second Division side. One definite departure at *Boston United* where club plan celebrations for day release prisoner David McKnight. Six month spell at York Street part of initiative to prepare prison inmates for return to community.
- 15 - 21 *Kettering* concede 86th minute goal going down 2-1 at *Runcorn* to suffer only second defeat of campaign. Nearest challengers fail to capitalise being held to draws. *Barnet* re-sign Nicky Evans from *Wycombe Wanderers* for £25,000. Meanwhile fire at Underhill guts clubhouse and kitchens. Leyton Orient offer free use of Brisbane Road. *Telford* tender £15,000 bid for *Fisher* striker Paul Gorman and former Eire goalkeeper Jim McDonagh takes charge of Bucks Head reserves. *Gateshead* manager Tony Lee maintains signing-a-week ratio where Port Vale striker Paul Atkinson becomes 14th recruit. Celebrations at *Slough Town* where club awarded first penalty in 48 senior games.
- 22 - 28 *Barnet* equal transfer record signing *Barrow* midfielder Kenny Lowe for £40,000 and *Kettering* striker Andy Hunt attracts £150,000 bid from Newcastle United. Fee accepted and two parties enter talks. *Colchester United* join the transfer party recruiting former Spurs midfielder Gary Brooke. In the championship race, leaders *Kettering* go down to a last minute goal at in-form *Altrincham*. The Cheshire side's 3-2 win extends unbeaten run to 15 equalling seasonal best. *Colchester* and *Barnet* close in with victories against *Sutton* and *Bath*. Good news for *Runcorn* who register first away win of the season ending 13 match sequence with 4-1 success at Cheshire neighbours *Northwich*. Chris Turner ends consultancy spell at *Barnet* to take charge at Fourth Division side Peterborough United.

FEBRUARY

- 29 - 4 *Kettering* striker Andy Hunt completes £150,000 move to Newcastle United. Fee is the second largest commanded by a Vauxhall Conference player. Meanwhile Poppies boss Peter Morris enters hospital with a virus. Rockingham Road reins handed to striker Ernie Moss for interim period. *Barnet* narrow margin moving into second place with 3-1 win at *Boston*. Eight clubs progress to FA Trophy Third Round with Mark West steering *Wycombe* through at VS Rugby whilst holders *Barrow* draw 0-0 with *Kettering*. *Merthyr Tydfil's* Lyn Jones appointed manager of Welsh Semi-Professional side and the Women's FA request Vauxhall Conference assistance in appointing suitably qualified successor for England job. *Welling* defender Mark Stone offered trial at Fourth Division Peterborough United.
- 5 - 11 *Barrow's* FA Trophy defence ends with 2-1 defeat at *Kettering Town*. Conquerors return to Conference duty with three new recruits including experienced forward Keith Walwyn. *Colchester* player manager Ian Atkins in demand with Birmingham City seeking permission to interview the 34-year-old for the St Andrews vacancy. *Runcorn* place England striker Mark Carter on the transfer list at his own request. *Kidderminster Harriers* reach Bob Lord Trophy Semi-final for second year in succession with youth policy obviously paying dividends. Line-up for 2-1 win at *Runcorn* features seven players under the age of 20.

FEBRUARY

- 5 - 11 *Macclesfield Town* sell land to raise £180,000 for ground improvements programme and Vauxhall Conference announce examination for Associate Schoolboy scheme within competition.
- 12 - 18 *Altrincham* set seasonal record extending unbeaten run to 16 matches with 9-2 win over *Merthyr Tydfil*. McKenna and Davis both net hat-tricks. Lifts *Altrincham* to within striking distance of pacemakers *Kettering* and *Barnet* who both drop points. *Barnet*, *Wycombe* and undisclosed Conference side tender £40,000 bid for *Runcorn* forward Mark Carter. Dave Lewis' efforts in lifting *Cheltenham Town* off the bottom rewarded by managerial post for remainder of the season. *Telford* re-sign former Leicester forward Steve Lynex and *Welling United* agree one year extension to ground sharing arrangement at Park View Road with Charlton reserves.
- 19 - 25 Speculation surrounding *Barnet* striker Andrew Clarke draws to an end with Wimbledon signing 23-year old for record £250,000 fee. Raises club's haul to £1.2 m since 1988. Bees swift to secure replacement drafting in *Runcorn* forward Mark Carter for £40,000. Club proceed to close gap on leaders *Kettering* scoring twice in last 10 minutes to beat *Yeovil* 3-2. *Boston United* prove unsuccessful in attempt to sign former million pound striker Justin Fashanu with discussions breaking down over suitable fee. *Colchester United* announce sale of ground to local council for £1 million. Meanwhile 4,913 visit Layer Road to watch 3-0 FA Trophy win over Wivenhoe. United progress into Quarter-Finals alongside *Altrincham* and *Wycombe*. *Yeovil Town* part with record signing Joe Jackson who joins Dover and *Northwich Victoria* open discussions to bring women's football to the oldest football ground in the world.

MARCH

- 26 - 4 *Kettering's* 28-week tenure at the top of the Vauxhall Conference ends with *Barnet* taking over following 2-0 win against *Runcorn*. Only four points separate leading quartet as *Altrincham* close in with 6-2 victory at *Boston* and single goal success over *Wycombe*. Impressive form earns John King Mail on Sunday Manager of the Month award for second time. Successful week for *Altrincham's* leading marksman Ken McKenna who completes hat-trick of hat-tricks at *Boston*. *Altrincham* remain on course for Vauxhall Conference record for unbeaten run taking sequence to 18 - four short of Scarborough's best. Promotion rivals *Barnet* lodge unsuccessful bid for England and *Sutton* midfielder Paul Rogers whilst *Boston United* are more fortunate in strengthening resources signing former Scotland international Asa Hartford. *Barrow* and *Sutton United* reach Bob Lord Trophy Semi-Final defeating *Stafford* and *Colchester* respectively.
- 5 - 11 George Rooney becomes seventh managerial casualty in the Vauxhall Conference parting company with *Bath City* following 1-0 home defeat by *Stafford Rangers*. Club appoint long serving defender Tony Ricketts for remainder of season. *City* find themselves three points adrift at the bottom as *Fisher* record 5-2 win over *Northwich*. *Cheltenham* strengthen bid to steer clear of relegation zone recruiting former Notts Forest midfielder Ian Bowyer in coaching capacity. Meanwhile the leading trio register comfortable victories but *Altrincham* lose ground drawing 2-2 at *Welling United*. Promotion contenders *Colchester* draft in *Telford's* former Vauxhall FA National Schoolboy Gary Osbourne to full time staff at Layer Road. Almost 2,000 watch England and Italy draw 0-0 in the Semi-Professional International and *Kettering* reach Bob Lord Trophy Semi-Final with 1-0 win over *Welling*.
- 12 - 18 Lyn Jones announces decision to step down as manager of *Merthyr Tydfil*. Assistant Wynford Hopkins succeeds in caretaker capacity. *Cheltenham Town* sell midfielder Chris Burns to Portsmouth for initial £25,000 fee whilst *Barnet* spend equal sum on *Welling* defender Duncan Horton who debuts in 3-2 home defeat by *Merthyr Tydfil*. Reversal enables *Kettering* to resume Conference leadership gaining maximum points with last minute goal at *Macclesfield*. *Altrincham*, *Kidderminster* and *Wycombe* reach Semi-Finals of the FA Trophy with favourites *Colchester* going down to Witton Albion. U's knocked out by 88th and 90th minute goals. Better news for teenage midfielder Mark Kinsella who receives Eire Under-18 call-up. *Wycombe* submit planning application for artificial pitch for community use and *Slough* launch Antiques Market at the Wexham Park Stadium. New share issue at *Yeovil Town* gathers momentum particularly among club employees. Manager, assistant and players become shareholders.
- 19 - 25 Vauxhall Conference sign £50,000 agreement with TV channel Sportscast for live coverage of championship run-in. *Altrincham* and *Barnet* chosen to launch first live football deal outside the First Division. In preparation, crowd of 4,450 see visitor's *Barnet* return to the top with 3-1 win at *Kettering*. *Altrincham* and *Colchester* maintain pressure with victories over bottom two. *Barnet* continue to recruit bringing in Peterborough forward Paul Culpin and *Colchester* also look to strengthen extending one week trial to Nigerian international Okenla Folorunso. Layer Road fans lend their support raising £3,000 to bring in Laurie Ryan and Ricardo Gabiadini, brother of Sunderland forward Marco. *Yeovil Town* enter relegation fray slipping into 20th place with 1-0 defeat at *Cheltenham*. *Altrincham's* win at *Bath* moves the club to within one match of the Vauxhall Conference record for an unbeaten run and 43-year old former Swansea City assistant manager Tommy Hutchinson joins *Merthyr Tydfil*. *Barrow* win 4-2 at *Kidderminster* to reach Final of the Bob Lord Trophy.

APRIL

- 26 - 2 *Altrincham* set Vauxhall Conference record for an undefeated run. Robins pick up four Bank

APRIL

26 - 2 Holiday points against promotion rivals *Barnet* and *Kettering Town* to extend sequence to 24 matches. Earns John King Mail on Sunday Managerial award for third time in four months. Proved an enjoyable weekend for the Cheshire club who move to the top of the table. Their opponents falter in title challenge with *Barnet* held to a draw by *Telford*, *Kettering* managing only 2 points against *Stafford* and *Altrincham* and *Colchester* losing unbeaten home record with 1-0 reversal by *Yeovil Town*. To bolster run-in former Ipswich manager Bobby Ferguson joins coaching staff at Layer Road. Other arrivals include former West Brom 'keeper Tony Godden and ex-Spurs forward David Leworthy. A total of 34 players beat transfer deadline with all but 6 Conference sides registering new recruits. Among the list is Lincoln City striker Keith Scott who joins *Hycombe Wanderers* for potential £30,000 fee. In the opposite direction, *Fisher's* Paul Gorman signs for Charlton Athletic for a possible £45,000 outlay. *Bath City* maintain revival with victory at *Gateshead* whilst *Sutton United* move closer to danger zone losing at *Barnet* and *Yeovil*.

3 - 8 *Hycombe* open 2-1 lead over *Altrincham* in the FA Trophy Semi-Final and *Kidderminster Harriers* enjoy single goal advantage over Witton Albion. *Altrincham's* Vauxhall Conference absence has little effect upon the championship race. Last minute penalty by *Northwich Victoria* denies *Colchester* maximum points and *Telford* striker Ian Benbow grabs four goals to dampen *Kettering's* title hopes as visitor's win 5-2 at Rockingham Road. Three points separate leading quartet. It proves a bad week for managers with Cliff Roberts era at *Northwich Victoria* coming to an end. The longest serving manager at the Drill Field, his four year term closes following a series of disappointing results. Succeeded for a temporary spell by midfielder Paul Maguire. Similar pattern at *Yeovil Town* where Clive Whitehead released from managerial duties following 16 defeats in 26 matches. Defender Steve Rutter takes over with immediate effect guiding club to 7-2 win over *Slough Town*. On the scoresheet is goalkeeper David Fry whose drop kick finds the net on only second bounce. Better news for *Merthyr's* manager Wynford Hopkins who is confirmed in the Pen-y-darren Park seat. *Sutton United* reach Bob Lord Trophy Final with 4-1 win over *Kettering*.

9 - 14 *Hycombe* win 2-0 at Trophy favourites *Altrincham* to reach first Wembley Final since 1957. Opponents still to be determined as *Kidderminster* concede last minute goal in extra-time to draw 4-4 on aggregate with Witton Albion. In the promotion race, points dropped by leading candidates. *Barnet* go down 3-2 at home to *Kidderminster*, who end 12-match Conference run without success, and *Altrincham* held in midweek by bottom side *Fisher*. *Kettering* manage to recover form beating *Barrow* 2-0 and *Colchester* go top with 2-1 win over *Welling United*. *Fisher Athletic* lose 1-0 at *Gateshead* to drift closer to relegation. Boost from abroad seems to lift Tynesiders with England forward Chris Waddle making contact to wish them success in maintaining their Vauxhall Conference status. *Bath City* offer Tony Ricketts one-year managerial contract. New boss duly responds guiding Romans to 1-0 win over *Boston United* to close gap at the bottom to five points. Nearest rivals *Northwich Victoria* advertise managerial vacancy while *Slough Town* offer opportunity of a more refreshing kind. Club open transport cafe to cater for travellers on motorway network near to town.

15 - 22 *Altrincham*, *Barnet* and *Colchester* each earn midweek victories. *United* recover from first half deficit to defeat *Kettering Town* 3-1 in front of 5,048 and weekend brings 7,221 to Layer Road for the 1-1 draw against *Altrincham*. The Conference's largest gate of the season wait 15 minutes for kick off but celebrations in store as point restores *United* to pole position. They replace *Barnet* whose 3-1 win at *Slough* the previous evening maintains their challenge. *Kettering* however are less fortunate slipping up with 1-1 draw at home to *Bath City*. Two points still separate leading quartet although *Altrincham* enjoy games in hand and an unbeaten run of 27 matches. *Kidderminster Harriers* reach FA Trophy Final for second time in five years defeating Witton Albion 2-1. Richard Forsyth seals Wembley date in injury time. Mixed fortunes for *Sutton United* who take advantage in Bob Lord Final with 1-1 draw at *Barrow*. Conference form remains poor as club drop into 20th place with defeat at *Kidderminster*. Situation more ominous at *Fisher* who lose 2-1 to *Barrow* to virtually ensure relegation. *Bath City*, on the other hand, continue to close the gap with Chris Townsend's quartet against *Northwich Victoria* strengthening survival plan.

23 - 29 Hectic week for promotion contenders as *Altrincham* go top with 4-1 win over *Sutton United*. Displace *Colchester* who can only manage a draw at *Kidderminster* with *Barnet* also slipping relinquishing 2-0 lead to share points at *Stafford*. It's not all good news for *Altrincham* whose busy Conference diary begins to take its toll. The Robins' 28 match unbeaten run finally ends with 1-0 defeat at *Barrow* and the weekend brings no more joy as club lose leadership to *Barnet* where Bull's 87th minute penalty secures 3-2 win over *Welling*. *Kettering* stumble with 3-0 reversal at *Kidderminster* and *Colchester's* challenge dented 2-0 at *Telford*. The Sunday live game sees *Altrincham* relinquish lead falling 2-1 victims at *Stafford*. Title now poised at only two points spanning top three. Different story at *Fisher* who concede relegation with 1-1 draw against *Welling United*. *Bath City's* 3-0 win over *Gateshead* lifts them out of bottom two and *Sutton United* fill the relegation vacancy losing 3-1 at *Barrow*. A call from afar takes *Slough's* Naseem Bashir on cultural tour to Pakistan and *Kidderminster* YT graduate Alan Knott is offered scholarship at US university. Vauxhall Conference gates pass 600,000 mark for only the second time and Witton Albion secure Conference status with HFS Loans championship. *Hycombe Wanderers* visit Abbey Road studios to record "The Wanderers" and *Telford* extend number of full timers at Bucks Head offering professional contracts to three YT graduates.

MAY

30 - 7 HRH Duke of Kent performs official opening ceremony of *Hycombe's* Adam's Park Stadium.

MAY

30 - 7 4,402 watch *Barnet* win 3-1 and open lead at the top of the table. *Sutton United* gain some consolation for disappointing season defeating *Barrow* 5-1 to win the Bob Lord Trophy. Attention returns to title race as *Colchester* ensure dramatic last day conclusion with 3-0 win over *Gateshead*. Meanwhile *Altrincham* feel pressure and relinquish 3-1 lead at *Slough* conceding last minute goal to share points. Three behind *Barnet* with a game in hand, Cheshire side find neighbours *Northwich* stern opponents losing 2-0 at home to end title ambitions. *Sutton United* also taste disappointment losing 5-2 at *Kettering* to assume final relegation place. Closing day of the season draws 4,283 to *Fisher's* Surrey Docks Stadium where bottom side twice take lead against *Barnet*. With half-an-hour remaining *Colchester* face prospect of a return to Football League leading 2-0 against *Kidderminster*. Drama at *Fisher* continues as *Barnet* equalise and two late goals from Gary Bull guarantee promotion. *Colchester* complete campaign as 1990-91 runners-up and *Altrincham* take third place to register a top five Conference position for the seventh time. Champions *Barnet* set new Vauxhall Conference record becoming first club to reach century mark with 103 goals and Conference attendances finish at their second highest level in the competition's history. Gary Bull wins The Mail on Sunday Goalscorer of the Year Award with 30 goals and *Northwich* shortlist six for the Drill Field vacancy.

8 - 28 Redbridge Forest, Farnborough Town and Witton Albion lift feeder league championships to win promotion to the Vauxhall Conference. *Sutton United* face a season in the Vauxhall League whilst *Fisher Athletic* are relegated to the Beazer Homes. *Wycombe Wanderers* and *Kidderminster Harriers* attract record 35,000 gate for FA Trophy Final. *Wycombe* take Trophy courtesy of a 2-1 victory. *Barnet* celebrate Vauxhall Conference title in style with over 7,700 watching 4-2 defeat by First Division champions Arsenal. Darlington lift the Fourth Division title - only one year and two new players after winning the Conference and *Cheltenham Town* appoint former Worcester boss Ally Robertson as manager. Defender Steve Rutter confirmed as *Yeovil* manager and *Northwich Victoria* appoint Martin Dobson at the Drill Field. *Stafford Rangers* receive two bids approaching £100,000 for goalkeeper Ryan Price with both First Division bids rejected.

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