

THE *Peter Beardsley*

BENEFIT MATCH

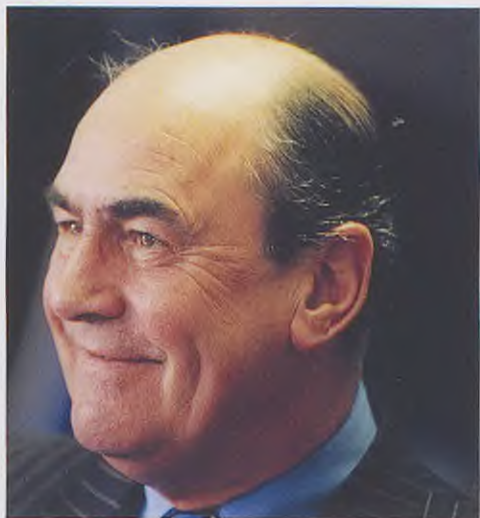
PETER BEARDSLEY SELECT XI
v GLASGOW CELTIC
ST. JAMES' PARK
WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY, 1999
Kick-off 7.45pm



OFFICIAL
SOUVENIR
BROCHURE

£2

Peter has a special place in United's Hall of Fame



On behalf of every member of the Testimonial Committee, can I say how delighted we have been to be associated with this memorable year in Peter's career.

Tonight represents the highlight of all the activities undertaken to date and it means a great deal to Peter, as he has for a very long time looked forward to sharing this special occasion with his fellow Geordies. These are the fans who over the years have shared his enthusiasm for the game and encouraged him to a level which ensures a very special place in United's Hall of Fame.

We will all long remember his unique individual skills which mesmerised defences while delighting Tyneside. These special talents have been superbly complemented by Peter's attitude off the field, where he is mixing with all levels of the community, focusing particularly on the deserving young folk with whom he has a special rapport demonstrating compassion and genuine interest.

For Peter, his wife Sandra and their children, Drew and Stacey, we hope this represents a memorable night and we wish them continued success and good health in the future.

ALASTAIR M. WILSON

Chairman, Peter Beardsley Testimonial Committee

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSOR

Reed Print & Design

Reed Print are privileged to sponsor Peter's Benefit match tonight. His exemplary conduct and infinite skills have thrilled us all over the years. A true ambassador for the game and a role model for the youth of today, Reed Print wish Peter every success in the future.

Thank you Peter Beardsley,

Brian Reed

Thanks also to ...



CEARNS & BROWN



MOOR-DALE COACHES



for their support

Programme published by
Crystalspirit Limited

P.O. Box 17, Gateshead, Tyne and
Wear NE11 0TU.

Editorial Consultant: **Tony Hardisty**

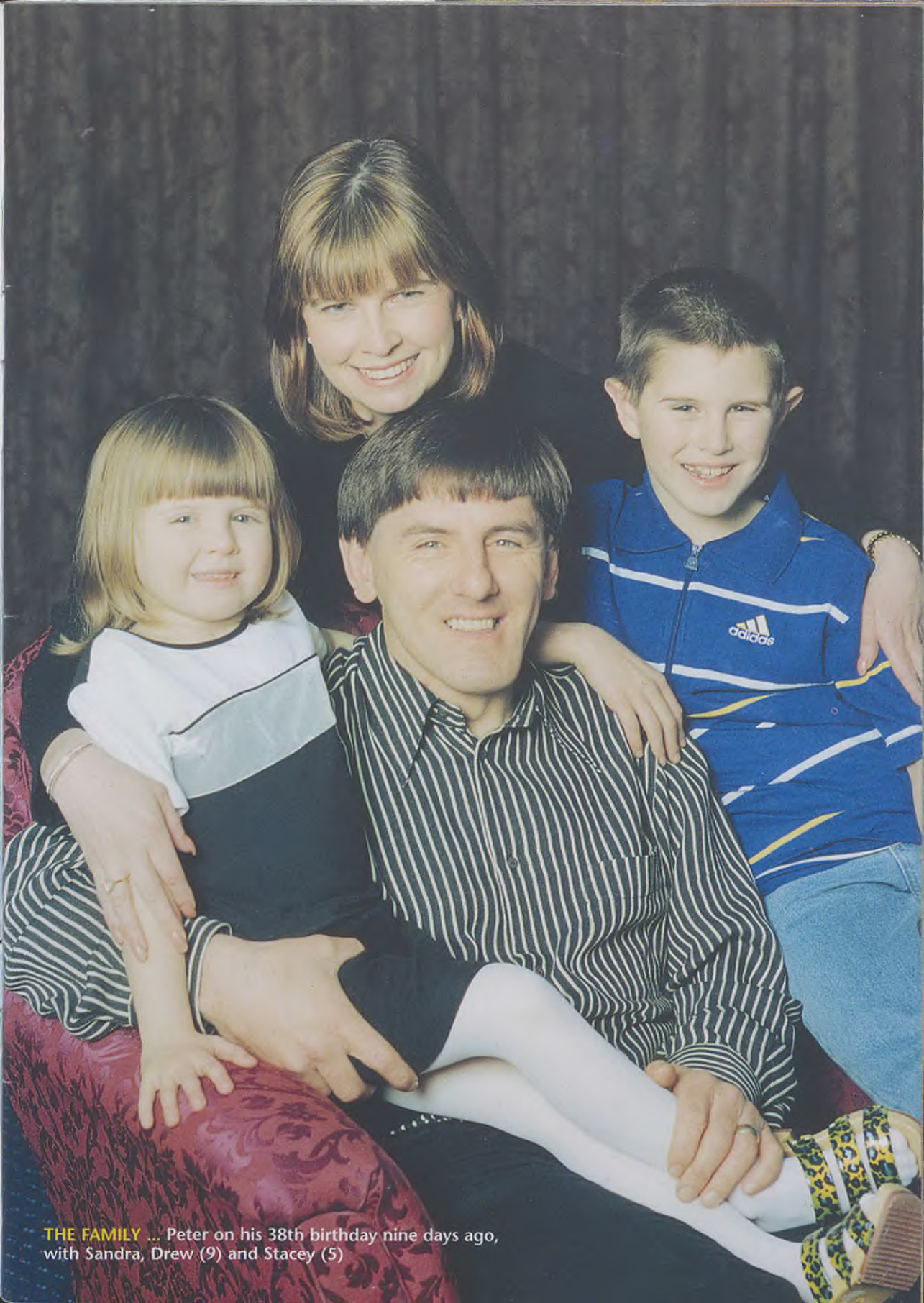
Deputy Editor: **Paul Tully**

Photography: **Ian Horrocks**

Design & pre-print production:

David Hewson / Typstyles

Printing: **Polar Print Group**



THE FAMILY ... Peter on his 38th birthday nine days ago, with Sandra, Drew (9) and Stacey (5)

Kevin Keegan



Tony Hardisty talks to Kevin Keegan, who tells him:

"Peter is simply the best, better than all the rest."

KEVIN KEEGAN uses the words of the Tina Turner hit song to salute the player he rates above any he has played with or managed.

"And I've played with some of the very best for Liverpool and England. I've also had the pleasure of managing some world-class players, but Peter tops them all for talent and temperament, for all-round excellence and outstanding enthusiasm," says the Pied Piper who filled the ground and led Newcastle to promotion in the '80s and then came back in the '90s to rescue United from obscurity and take them on to Premier League glory.

The charismatic Yorkshireman known as Special K to Newcastle fans

everywhere has not been back to St. James' Park since his shock departure in January 1997, but there was never any doubt that he would be back to honour the Geordie genius he tipped to become one of the game's finest back in 1983 when United were in the old Second Division.

"I'm coming back to St. James' Park for two reasons - firstly to pay my personal tribute to the best little player and professional I have ever played or worked with, and secondly to say goodbye and thank-you to the Newcastle United fans I didn't get the chance to put my hands together for two years ago.

"It's a special night for a special player and special supporters and I'll be more than happy to pull on a black and white shirt for Peter and the fans," says the man who has just recovered from neck surgery in the midst of raising Fulham's profile at the summit of the Second Division.

"Peter played his part in our revival at Craven Cottage, as everybody knows, and now, at 38, he's helping Hartlepool. Nobody I know, or have ever known, loves playing football more than Peter - and nobody in my experience has been such an outstanding individual *and* team player. The two don't often go together, but they have done throughout Peter's career and that's what has made him so special," says KK, who readily admits that he knew nothing about the player when Arthur Cox brought him back to his native Tyneside from Vancouver in September 1983.

"I did wonder if Newcastle were signing another nearly or maybe player at a time when we needed

a definite, somebody who could really help us," he recalls. "I soon knew different - after his first training session I knew we had a stone-cold certainty for stardom and when he played his first few matches I knew he was going to be just extraordinary. He had such a great brain, such marvellous football vision, the nimble feet, the dribbling skills, the ability to pick people out with a perfectly-weighted pass - all topped off by an enthusiasm that has never left him, no matter whose shirt he has worn.

"I've been given the credit for leading Newcastle United to promotion in 1984 and maybe I was the catalyst on the pitch, but you can take it from me that the outstanding playing contribution came from Peter Beardsley - there's absolutely no doubt about that.

"He was so good it was obvious he would go on and play for his country. In the end he got 59 caps and should have had a lot more."

Ten of those caps were won after KK brought him back from Everton in the summer of 1993 at the age of 33. And United's former manager still chuckles as he tells the story of how he warned United's hierarchy that if they didn't sign him then Sunderland would.

"It was a lie - Peter would have gone to Arthur Cox at Derby if we hadn't bought him," smiles Kevin. "But it was a lie I had to tell because



Sir John Hall was definitely not happy at the prospect of paying £1.35m. for a 33-year-old. But I was more than happy - we had just been promoted to the Premier League and I knew that Peter would give us instant credibility in the top flight. He did exactly that and was as good a signing as any manager ever made, just fabulous."

And then he reveals: "He actually took a cut in wages of £1,000 a week to come back to St. James' from Goodison Park. Imagine that - it's unheard of for players to do such a thing, but that's how much he wanted to come and wear the black and white shirt again.

"He was actually one of our lowest-paid of the established players in his second spell at Newcastle, which is why I insisted - and the Board readily agreed - that he should be granted a benefit game. We kept signing players and kept on giving them more money than our top player and skipper, the man the club had sold for a British record fee of £1.9m. six years earlier. That money helped to build the Jackie Milburn Stand, and that's a rightful tribute to another legendary United player, but there are still Newcastle fans who call it the Peter Beardsley Stand.

"Take it from me, if ever a man put his club first and himself second when he signed for me it was Peter Beardsley. That's why he deserves a full house for this match and that's why so many players and managers have wanted to be there. Everybody in football has the utmost respect for him and I'm right at the top of those who respect him most.

"I honestly believe that he's the best player who ever pulled on a black and white shirt - I just can't imagine that there's been a better one. Tony Green was very similar, I'm told, back in the seventies, but his career was tragically cut short by injury - he played less than 40 matches for the club - so you can't compare their contributions.

"As I say, Peter was an astonishingly-gifted individual who was also completely unselfish as a team player, so much so that when Andy Cole was rattling in a club record 41 goals in that 1993-94 season I had to pull Peter to one side and tell him to be a bit more selfish, to stop looking for Andy all the time and score a few himself. He responded with 24 goals of his own!"

Everybody has a favourite Peter Beardsley memory and when you ask Kevin Keegan for his he makes a mock protest with the words: "Where do I start? I could go on for hours about what he did in this match or another, how he scored this brilliant goal or another, the way he created goals

for Coley, Gary Lineker, Les Ferdinand, Alan Shearer and a stack more.

"I'll give you a couple of his out-of-this-world goals - the one everybody talks about at Portsmouth, of course, when he had defenders sliding all over the place and his own team-mates open-mouthed in disbelief as he waited until HE was ready before putting the ball in the net.

"And then there was that amazing chip over the big man, Joe Corrigan, to score at the Gallowgate End in my very last match for Newcastle. I don't know a player on earth who would have had the courage to even *think* about chipping a goalkeeper that big, never mind actually *doing* it.

"Mind you, I had a hand in both those goals - I gave Peter two hospital balls which he turned into great passes before scoring!

"So they are the goals, but there's so much to remember with the utmost pleasure about Peter Beardsley and certainly one of my warmest memories of him was in Belgium early in the 1994-95 season when he came back two weeks before he should have done from a fractured cheekbone to play in our first UEFA Cup tie against Royal Antwerp.

"I told him to play on the flanks, to keep away from physical contact, but just to have him wearing a Newcastle shirt again gave the whole club a lift. We won 5-0 and I'm sure a lot of our outstanding performance was down to Peter's presence. Robert Lee grabbed the headlines with a hat-trick of headers, but I knew that it was Peter who had really inspired us.

"Make no mistake, he was simply the best. Better than all the rest."

Sir John Hall takes his hat off to KK's signing of Peter in 1993.



"I'm coming back to St. James' Park for two reasons - firstly to pay my personal tribute to the best little player and professional I have ever played or worked with, and secondly to say goodbye and thank-you to the Newcastle fans I didn't get a chance to put my hands together for two years ago."



Kenny Dalglish



“We had identified Peter as the player we wanted and even if we did pay a record fee there was no hesitation in our paying it, for we knew he was a player of the highest quality.”

KENNY DALGLISH paid a British record £1.9m. to take Peter Beardsley from Newcastle to Liverpool in the summer of 1987.

And rarely was money better spent.

For in his first season on Merseyside, Peter helped Liverpool to the League title ... and scored the goal which clinched the big prize on a memorable Anfield day against Tottenham in April 1988.

“Everybody knew his quality as a player and everybody thought he would be a good acquisition for Liverpool,” says Kenny. “He certainly turned out to be that.”

“We had identified Peter as the player we wanted and even if we did pay a record fee there was no hesitation in our paying it, for we knew he was a player of the highest quality.”

“Peter often says he didn’t play well in his first few months with Liverpool but I reckon he must have suffered a memory blackout because I can tell you as manager that he was tremendous!

“People like John Barnes and John Aldridge were getting a lot of the credit that year but Peter was doing a great job as well. On his debut at Arsenal he got flattened by Tony Adams and had to be substituted, but he was back for the next game and scored when we beat Coventry 4-1 away.

“We won eight league games in a row, were unbeaten until March, and won the Championship with room to spare. Peter got 15 goals and three more in the Cup on our way to the Final, so I don’t think he did too badly.

“There should have been one more goal, too, because he scored in the Cup Final against Wimbledon when it was wrongly disallowed.”

When Peter moved to Liverpool, he and wife Sandra settled in Southport ... with a back garden that backed onto Kenny’s own.

And Kenny says: “Peter’s a good fella. He always lived an uncomplicated life which suited him. Both as a man and a footballer, he was first-class.

“When he first came to Liverpool, we gave him the No. 7 shirt which I had worn, and which Kevin Keegan before me had worn. That could have been inhibitive for some people, but not for Peter. He made it his own.

“There were a lot of special games, special moments, and special goals in those years. And Peter didn’t just do it for Liverpool: he also did it for Everton after Graeme Souness sold him, and he did it for Newcastle in both spells there, as well as his other clubs. He’s still doing it now for Hartlepool at 38, which says everything about his fitness and enthusiasm for the game.

“When I had my testimonial for Liverpool against Real Sociedad, Peter replaced me 15 minutes from time. And if he thinks I was knackered that night, wait until he sees me tonight!

“But nothing would stop me paying my tribute to the wee fella and I’ve been in special training for this game. All I ask is that he goes easy on an older bloke ...”



ALAN SHEARER

"Sublime ability, terrific enthusiasm and so genuine that he was one of the most unselfish players you ever saw - that's how I will remember Peter Beardsley.

He was a great goalscorer in that he scored some truly amazing goals, but he was also as good as they came at creating goals for other people. As a striker I can tell you that he was an absolute joy to play with - Gary Lineker scored 48 goals for England and he always said that half of them could be attributed directly to Peter.

Everybody has a special memory of Peter and, apart from the fact that he defied all the dieticians with his liking for sweets, chocolates, crisps and Coca-Cola, I will remember a lovely header he scored when we were a goal down at Sunderland in my first season at Newcastle. It set us on the road to victory - Les Ferdinand got the winner - on a night when none of our fans were allowed into Roker Park. All I can say is thanks for all the memories, Pedro."

JOHN BARNES

"I arrived at Liverpool a month before Peter and he's always telling the tale of how well I played and how poor he was in our first few months together. Well I can tell you that there's never been anything wrong with his footballing brain, but there's definitely something wrong with his memory because for my money he immediately looked to be worth every penny of the near £2m. Liverpool had paid for him.

We started rooming together for both Liverpool and England and we've been close friends for all those years, which is a joy for me because he's a smashing family man as well as being as modest a great footballer as you will ever meet.

He was at Liverpool four years and played his part to the full in helping us to win two League titles and the F.A. Cup. The bigger the game, the better he played - and that's truly the sign of a top-class performer. Liverpool sold him too soon - he still had so much to offer, as he proved at Everton and then in his second spell at Newcastle.

How good was Peter in his prime? As good as there was - certainly as good as anybody I've ever played with."

STEVE WATSON

"Millions of words have been written in praise of Peter over the years and not one of them has changed him. He's the same man as he has always been - modest about his own magnificent achievements and always there to help others, especially the younger players.

I was one of those kids he was there for. And I'll never forget him for taking an interest in me. Lee Clark, Robbie Elliott, Alan Thompson, who I've joined at Aston Villa, Darren Huckerby and a stack of others will tell you the same. Peter Beardsley encouraged us all and takes pleasure in how we're doing now.

I've seen him do things against really top-class players that only the uniquely gifted would think about doing. He scored as many goals with his left foot as he did with his right - and made countless others for players at every club he has served.

Even in the so-called twilight of his career he was running the legs off players 10 years younger than himself. And he ran us all ragged at every training session.

As soon as I heard he was getting a benefit match I knew St. James' Park would be packed to the rafters. Geordies know a great player when they see one."

STUART PEARCE

"Whenever I think about Peter I think not only about how fantastic he has been as a footballer but also about what a terrific role model he is for kids everywhere.

He has been an absolute credit to himself and to his family, to his clubs, to his country and, of course, to his chosen profession of football.

He is the best possible example for budding young players to try and emulate, because his massive talent has always been matched by a natural modesty and an eye-catching enthusiasm which he took into every training session as well as into every game he played in.

I played against him many times and he was absolutely spellbinding - as difficult an opponent as you could meet because his footballing brain meant he was always one step ahead of we mere mortals.

And playing with him, which I did many times for England, gave me yet another insight into his unique talents. Peter, Newcastle United and their great fans, gave my testimonial game at Nottingham Forest a terrific boost. Now he is set for a night in his honour at St. James' Park. It couldn't happen to a more deserving man."

ROB LEE

"I have always considered it a great privilege to have followed Peter Beardsley as captain of Newcastle United, but I was just as proud to be vice-captain when he was the skipper because he was always special as a player and as a man.

When he came back from Everton and started doing things in training many players wouldn't be able to do if they practised all day and every day, I began to appreciate just how exceptionally talented he was. And then he did those things in the heat of battle and your admiration for him just grew and grew.

In that first season - 1993-94 - his partnership with Andy Cole was as good as you will ever see. And he was great for the midfield players, too, because he always knew when to drop deep and play you in on goal with the perfect ball.

They just don't come any better than Pedro. I haven't seen another like him and I don't suppose I will. He's a one-off - one of the greats."

WARREN BARTON

"My first thoughts of Peter go back to when I was at Wimbledon, playing only my fourth League game for them against Liverpool at Plough Lane. They beat us 2-1, but I must have played fairly well because Peter, who missed that match, came up to me at the end and said 'Well done'. That tells you so much about him - he didn't have to do it, I was just a young lad then, but he made that special effort to seek me out and encourage me.

Since then I've had the honour of playing with him and becoming a friend. He's a great player - of course he is. But he's also a great father to Drew and Stacey and loves being with Sandra and the kids.

The phrase world-class gets used very freely with footballers, but he's definitely got that class. But he's world-class as a man, too. I remember when we won 4-0 at Stoke in the Rumbelows Cup and he gave the mountain bike he had won as Man of the Match to a ball-boy. That was typical of him and it's what makes him special."

What the PLAYERS say...



Peter Beardsley MBE

PETER ANDREW BEARDSLEY MBE

BORN: Newcastle, January 18th, 1961.

CAREER:

CARLISLE UNITED (from Wallsend Boys' Club free Aug. 1979): 123 games, 29 goals. £275,000 to Vancouver Whitecaps, April 1982.

MANCHESTER UNITED (£250,000 from Vancouver September 1982 - fee returned): 1 game, 0 goals.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (£120,000 from Vancouver September 1983): 163 games, 66 goals.

LIVERPOOL (£1,900,000 - British record - from Newcastle July 1987): 175 games, 59 goals.

EVERTON (£1,000,000 from Liverpool August 1991): 95 games, 32 goals.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (£1,400,000 from Everton July 1993): 162 games, 58 goals.

BOLTON WANDERERS (£450,000 from Newcastle United August 1997): 21 games, 2 goals.

MANCHESTER CITY (Loaned February 1998): 6 games, 0 goals.

FULHAM (Loaned March 1998 then free September): 27 games, 6 goals.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED (Free January 1999): 4 games, 1 goal.

HONOURS: 59 England caps 1986-1996; two England B caps.

First Division Championship 1988, 1990.

F.A. Cup winner 1989; runner-up 1988.

Charity Shield 1988, 1989.

Promotion with Newcastle United, Division Two, 1984.

"The pleasure has been all mine. It's been a joy playing for my own folk."

PETER BEARDSLEY has a message for the thousands who will pack St. James' Park tonight to pay tribute to the Geordie genius many believe is the greatest player ever to pull on the black and white shirt.

"This is my chance to thank them for all their support in my two spells at Newcastle," says the star whose fabulous talent never outgrew his intrinsic modesty. And he adds: "Now they are turning up one last time to support me again and I could not be more grateful. If I've given them some pleasure then I'm delighted because I'm one of them - just a Newcastle United fan who was lucky enough to become a Newcastle United footballer.

"The truth is that the pleasure has been all mine - it's been a joy playing for my own folk. I know how they feel, how proud they are of following a club called Newcastle United, because their club is my club and always will be.

"I have been lucky enough to play for other great clubs and for my country. But the deepest emotions and the most satisfying moments I've had in football have been in a black and white shirt. When I became the captain of the club I have supported since I was a small child I was the proudest Geordie alive.

"My only regret is that I did not get my hands on a trophy or two for the Toon Army, because no supporters anywhere in football deserve success more than those who have followed Newcastle with such loyalty for so long. Football fans who don't live in the North-East always marvel at that loyalty, but those of us who have been part of it understand it totally.

"That's why I am so pleased to have the chance to put my hands together one last time for all those fans in the stadium - and for those who can't be there. Thank-you for all your support - that's what I want to say."

This from a man blessed with sublime skills, exemplary enthusiasm and the perfect temperament to take every great goal, every mesmerizing move and all the accolades and trappings of fame in that sure-footed stride which took him to the top after Gillingham, Cambridge and Burnley turned him down. That hypnotic shake of the hips and those dancing feet have been admired by defenders the world over even as he ghosted through their tackles.

Peter Beardsley's greatness lies not just in what he has achieved as an individual, but also

in the help he has given to so many other players, on and off the pitch. Team first, self second has always been the creed of a man so gifted it defies belief that he had to play football in Carlisle and Canada before Newcastle United had the good sense to parade him - at 22 - on the St. James' Park stage he should have graced as a teenager.

Peter himself says: "I loved it at Carlisle and Vancouver Whitecaps and I was never upset that Ron Atkinson didn't sign me for Manchester United when he had the chance.

"The most important thing in my whole career was that Newcastle did sign me in September 1983 and that I did have those unforgettable months in the same team as Kevin Keegan, Chris Waddle and Terry McDermott. The football was fantastic and KK looked after me from day one. He told me he would go for the high balls and take the knocks because, as he put it, his career was coming to an end and mine was just beginning.

"Only a very special man would do that and that's why, ten years later after I'd had four great years under Kenny Dalglish at Liverpool - alongside John Barnes, the best I ever played



Tony Hardisty talks to one of Newcastle United's all-time greats

with, incidentally - and two more at Everton, I was more than happy to take a cut in wages to leave Merseyside and come home to play for Kevin Keegan at Newcastle United. Almost the first thing he told me was that the move would revive my international career, which had come to a full stop. It was a lovely thing for him to say, but I didn't really believe I would add to my 49 England caps. Then I got my 50th after a gap of almost three years and finished with 59 - that's how good Kevin Keegan was for me as a manager.

"It still haunts me that we didn't give him and the Newcastle fans the Premier League title they deserved in 1996 after going into the second half of the season so far in front. Everybody has their opinion about why we didn't stay in front, but as the captain of that team I say it was down to the players. Kevin Keegan could handle the pressure, but in the end his players couldn't and we threw away games we should have won at Liverpool, Blackburn and finally Nottingham Forest. It's only fair to give Manchester United credit - they did, after all, win 13 of their last 15 games to pip us in the last week - but the truth is that the players let a great manager down.

"I will always believe that it would have been only a matter of time before Kevin did win a trophy here, but the reality is that we'll never know. I was devastated when he left, along with

humility. Wor Jackie is talked about now, almost half a century after his greatest playing days, with the greatest affection, awe and reverence by Geordies so proud of one of their own. Beardsley, I believe, will fall into that same exalted category long into the new Millennium.

Ask this footballer, sprinkled with stardust and assured of an honoured place in their history as one of Newcastle United's true greats, what he would like the future to hold and he does not hesitate. "I would love to help Newcastle United again in some way," he says.

It would have been a surprise to hear him say anything else.



TALENT-SPOTTER Peter Kirkley first saw Peter Beardsley play in five-a-side games as a kid. And Kirkley says: "His skill just stood out. You could see straight away that he was a truly exceptional footballer - he would get the ball and just run through teams and knock it in."

"I was with Wallsend Boys' Club then and we would try to talk him into coming in, but he wouldn't. He was playing for the Robert Holmes Youth Club (now Longbenton Community School) and he would never leave his mates!

"When Peter did go the Boys' Club, there were scouts running teams there and that's where Brian Watson came in.

"Eventually Peter went to Gillingham, where Gerry Summers memorably said he would never make a player!

"I was scouting for Burnley, and after Peter's last game for the Boys' Club I took him down to Turf Moor. He played in a game and didn't set the world alight but I told the Burnley manager, Harry Potts, he should take a chance on

him. They said he hadn't done enough, so I said I'd bring him back at the start of the next season. By that next season, Peter had joined Carlisle.

"And until the day he died, Harry Potts told me that the one time he didn't listen to me, he missed the best.

"I remember, too, Peter's last game for the Boys' Club at 18 against Lynemouth - the Boys' Club won 9-1, and Peter scored six!!"

Jimmy Nelson, who ran Newcastle United's Northern Alliance A team, had Peter in his side once and once only, in the last game of the season before he joined Carlisle.

"Me and Geoff Allen, who was the Newcastle scout then, invited him in for a trial at the start of the next season. At the start of that next season Peter walked into the training ground at Benwell and told me that he was going to Carlisle!

"But he eventually joined Newcastle via Carlisle and Vancouver ... and the rest is history."

BOBBY ROBSON who gave Peter his first England cap - and 44 more:

"A gem is a priceless commodity and as far as I was concerned, Peter was priceless."

"He was very clever. He had twinkle-feet. He could feint and double-feint and go past people in a way that would make you think 'How on earth did he do that?'"

"He was a tremendously fit player with an enormous burst of speed over short distances. He had an eye for a great pass and made it without any problems. And he scored goals."

GRAHAM TAYLOR who gave Peter just four caps:

"He was a marvellous, highly-talented individual with a superb touch and deceptive swerve that enabled him to leave opponents standing."

"I took on board an established international player and, if I made a mistake, it was in not recognising the fact that, in spite of his experience, he was someone who needed to be talked to."

TERRY VENABLES who gave Peter his 50th to 59th caps after a near-three-year absence:

"Peter fully deserved his recall to the England squad during my time in charge."

"He has been a tremendous player - one of the best I've had the privilege of working with. He is the type of role model every young player and pro should look to follow, and he is a credit to his family and his profession."



The Wonder Years...



1984: Peter scores against his old club Carlisle in United's Second Division promotion run-in



1984: Beardo blasts one of the goals in the 2-2 draw at Huddersfield which sealed promotion to Division One



1984: Pure theatre - Peter's own description of the final-day victory over Brighton in Kevin Keegan's last match



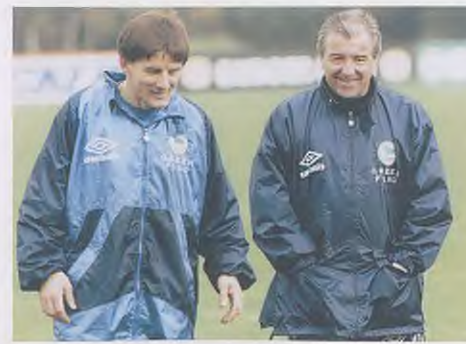
1986: England hero - Peter scores for his country in the World Cup finals against Paraguay in Mexico



1986: In action against John Barnes of Watford. They later became team-mates



1987: Shake, pal - Peter, by now a Liverpool star, shakes hands with Mirandinha at St. James' Park



1994: An International again - Terry Venables recalled Peter to the England set-up after a three-year absence



1995: Peter replaces team-mate Les Ferdinand for the Geordie's last Wembley international match against Portugal



1996: Ton up - Peter lashes in the 100th goal of his Newcastle career in the 2-1 defeat of Bolton at St. James' Park



1994: Unlucky break - a fractured cheekbone at Leicester in the first match of the season



1996: Oh, the agony - after the 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest in the penultimate match of the ill-fated Championship chase



1994: Tops with the Kop - Peter gets a great reception from the Liverpool fans on his return with United to Anfield.



1997: Peter's last United appearance - against Juventus in Italy

Beardo's Best

Peter picks his own Top Ten Goals

Every Newcastle fan has his own private list of Peter Beardsley's finest goals.

It's one of the pastimes of Newcastle football folk to argue their merits and rank them in order of quality. But few people agree on the order, and Beardo's Best will be a source of debate forever and a day.

So, with so many conflicting views about the Beardo Top Ten, who better to ask than the man himself?

So Paul Tully put it to Peter and asked him to give us the definitive list from the horse's mouth.

And here it is...

1 v Brighton (h) 3-1 May 12th, 1984

The King of them all. Peter worked a one-two with Kevin Keegan, KK'S return pass was for once off-beam, but Peter slid in to steal the ball off Brighton centre-half Eric Young, climbed to his feet, and in the same movement chipped an immaculate 20-yarder over giant 'keeper Joe Corrigan into the top left corner.

Says Peter: "Brighton was the top one for a lot of reasons. It was near the end of Kevin Keegan's last match, it took me to 20 goals in a season for the first time, and, technically, everything was right about it. I had to tackle Eric Young and get up and chip all in one movement. Joe Corrigan was a big fella, too, so I had to get it absolutely right to beat him - and I did."

2 v Portsmouth (a) 4-1 February 4th, 1984

Peter gathered a ball on the left and set off for goal, weaving past one defender after another and, even a yard from the line, dragged the ball back to evade the last defender before rolling the ball into the opposite corner.

"Everyone remembers this one - and it was a bit special. I kept going and going and in the end was close to the line. I saw the Portsmouth full-back, Colin Sullivan, sliding back to try and block the shot and I knew that if I shot then, it might hit him. But I also knew that the way he was coming in, he had no chance of getting the ball if I held it back, so I let him slide past me then put it into the open net. It was just before half-time and I also remember Arthur Cox had gone to the dressing-room and didn't know I'd scored the second goal!"

3 v Norwich (h) 3-0 April 8th, 1995

From wide on the right touchline, Peter saw Norwich goalkeeper Andy Marshall coming off his line for the cross, and whipped a shot into the net before Marshall could blink.

"I went for it,

though some people thought I couldn't have been meaning to score from that far out on the wing. Marshall had come off his line for one or two crosses before that so I knew there was a chance. It was like a goal I'd scored for England against Poland, and also one I put in



against Wimbledon in the 1988 Charity Shield but which was disallowed for some reason I've never discovered."

4 v Arsenal (h) 1-0 March 19th, 1995

With only minutes to go, United had been unable to break down the Gunners' rock-solid defence. Then Peter received the ball 35 yards out, took a few steps forward, and unleashed a right-foot shot which left

goalkeeper Vince Bartram helpless.

"I had nothing to lose by trying a shot because the match was almost over and Arsenal had defended well. I got a good view of the goal and struck it sweetly. Bartram didn't get anywhere near it."

5 v Queen's Park Rangers (a) 2-1 January 16th, 1994

Peter worked a slick exchange of passes with Andy Cole and threw himself into the air for the return, connecting perfectly to volley into the top corner.

"Coley gave me a return ball which was high up and I was able to jump and volley it in the same movement. Happily, I got the shot and the angle just right and it flew in. It was a difficult goal to score and I was pleased to see it fly in."

6 v Queen's Park Rangers (h) 2-1 April 6th, 1996

With scarcely any space at the left post, and defenders snapping at his heels, Peter juggled,

"Everyone has their own favourites and I'm only glad that I've been able to give the wonderful Geordie fans a few special ones."



twisted and turned and somehow put a left-foot shot inside the far angle.

"We'd been 1-0 down and struggling a bit and then I got two goals in a few minutes. This was the winner and one I particularly enjoyed. I was tight for space and close in to goal but I knew I had to open up an angle to shoot. When the gap appeared, I went for it left-footed and it squeezed right into the opposite top corner."

7 v Queen's Park Rangers (h) 2-1 November 5th 1994



Poor old QPR - three out of ten of Beardo's best came against the Londoners, but perhaps they should be honoured to have conceded them! After Paul Kitson had shot against the post, Ruel Fox retrieved the ball and crossed for Peter, with his back to goal, to execute an exquisite flying overhead kick.

"It looked like the chance had gone when 'Kit' hit the post but Foxy got it back into the middle and the only way I could score was by doing an overhead kick. So I went for it, I got it absolutely right, and the ball was in the net when I turned round!"

8 v Oldham (a) 3-1 November 8th 1993

In United's first-ever away appearance on Sky TV, on a Monday night at Boundary Park, Andy Cole scored two and Peter one in a 3-1 victory. Peter's goal, United's second, came

from the right as he ran from half-way, jockeyed for position, and finally drilled an inch-perfect shot across the goalkeeper into the far corner.

"Being on Sky for the first time added to it, but it was a very good victory and I was very pleased with my goal. The attack had built up from the half-way line, I got it onto my left foot and hit it well to put it beyond the goalkeeper right into the corner."

9 v Crystal Palace (a) 1-0 October 15th, 1994



With a minute to go, and the score 0-0, Peter collected a ball at inside-left, drew back his left foot and whipped in a 25-yard shot that was bound for the top corner as soon as it left his boot.

"It was great because it was the winning goal right at the end and preserved our 100 percent away record in what was our fifth away league game of the season. We'd deserved to win the game but hadn't scored and this was just about our last chance. The ball came to me, I saw the opportunity to shoot, and just like the fans have always said, I could see it was going in as soon as I hit it."

10 v Wimbledon (h) 4-0 October 30th, 1993

Peter's only top-flight hat-trick for United - and this goal was the pick of the bunch he grabbed against the Dons. After an Andy Cole shot was blocked, the ball came out to Peter who calmly and expertly lifted it over the stranded goalkeeper.

"The ball had been played in and Coley had a shot which ricocheted out to me. The goalie had committed himself, I saw that, and just dinked it back over him into the net."

So there it is - Beardo's Best, by Beardo himself.

There were others that came into the reckoning, such as the dipping rocket against Middlesbrough in 1983-84, the measured 18-yarder in the 1985 New Year's Day hat-trick against Sunderland, the long run from the half-way line against Forest in 1986-87, the ballroom dancing acts against Tottenham in 1993-94 and Aston Villa the following season, the impossibly-angled shot from the byline in off the post at Sheffield Wednesday in 1995, and the dazzling run and shot at Nottingham Forest in the final week of the 1995-96 season.

Says Peter: "Everyone has their own favourites and I'm only glad that I've been able to give the wonderful Geordie fans a few special ones to enjoy."

"A lot of people liked the ones against Villa and Spurs, when I ran at the defenders, but sometimes goals like those are partly due to poor defending."

"I've gone for goals which were technically good - where there wasn't really any fault attached to the defenders. But this is only one man's opinion - and I'm sure a lot of people will disagree with my Top Ten!"



Arthur Cox



"I signed Peter Beardsley for Newcastle in the Autumn of 1983 – 18 months later than I had planned. Yet I can only say he was well worth the wait.

Football, like life, teaches you that you can't always have what you want when you want it. I wanted Peter when he was playing at Carlisle United.

The trouble was that Carlisle were asking £225,000, and I didn't have that amount of money to spend. That is why he went off to play for Vancouver Whitecaps, and why Newcastle had to get on without him.

You learn, though, to be patient in football, and while he was out in Canada we made sure we kept tabs on him, hoping that when he did come back to England we would be the club to grab him.

At one stage, it looked as though Manchester United would be the team he would

join. But the comfort for me was that I could not see that happening. At that stage he was going to cost Manchester United £500,000. In today's money that would be equivalent to £5m – and I doubted whether they would pay that for a player of his age and background.

So I waited and waited, and eventually managed to strike a deal with Peter Bridgewater, Vancouver's Chief Executive. It involved us having to pay £60,000 down with a further £60,000 to follow within 12 months. Manchester United's loss was definitely our gain.

I can recall how we funded the deal. I sold Ray Varadi to Sheffield Wednesday for £120,000 and though he had scored quite a few goals for us, I knew what a good deal it was going to prove.

Yet waiting for Peter seemed to be the name of the game because even after we had agreed the deal, he was unable to join us straight away. He had to play for the Whitecaps in the North American Championship play-offs. So I waited...

Then one night the phone rang at home. It was Peter. Within two hours of playing his final game in Canada, he was phoning from the airport to tell me he was on his way. I told him to hold his horses, that we hadn't even discussed a contract. He just said: 'I know you will look after me.' He put the phone down, and the next time we spoke was in Newcastle

when he was climbing off a plane from Heathrow where, coincidentally, he had bumped into Kevin Keegan on the same flight.

People sometimes ask where I think he stands in the list of all-time United greats. I think they expect me to say right at the top. Under no circumstances would I say that!

I know Peter would not want me to make that sort of claim on his behalf. What I will say is that you put down your list of Newcastle favourites, and he will rank alongside any of them. He is a footballer who would have graced any team in the world.

I am no different to the millions of supporters he has given so much pleasure to. Genuinely, I would slip to the edge of my seat when, in the early days, he, Chris Waddle or Kevin Keegan got the ball – simply because I knew something was going to happen.

If you ask me what I consider to be the highlights of his career then without wanting to sound trite, I would say every game he ever played. On the days when I thought it needed saying, I would pull him to one side and tell him to give the people something to talk about. I like to think it was a philosophy that struck a chord with him – because that is what he did in almost every game he ever played.

Not that he took much managing, not that he gave me the opportunity to rollock him. Only once did I think I had caught Peter out. He was always the great time-keeper, never a minute late. But on one particular day as we prepared for our team meeting, at 1pm as usual, Willie McFaul came to me and said Peter was nowhere to be seen.

I started laying down the law, saying how much it was going to cost him in fines when suddenly Peter came out of one of the giant lockers we had in the dressing room, and from where he had been hiding. The prank, of course, had been organised by Kevin Keegan.

Where he pops up next in football, who knows? But without trying to stick my nose into other people's business I do hope it involves Newcastle United.

I believe he would make a great ambassador for this club, perhaps a vehicle for attracting the best young players in the region by fronting up the search for youth talent.

He is the sort of person every would-be footballer in the North-East can identify with. A great footballer he may be, a great example to follow, but in many ways he is still the lad from Wallsend Boys' club, never happier than when he is playing five-a-sides.

If I know Peter, he will still be playing five-a-sides when he is 60 ... and munching on a Mars bar as he comes off the pitch."

- "If I know Peter, he will still be playing five-a-sides when he is 60 ... and munching on a Mars bar as he comes off the pitch."



Chris Waddle

"When you gave him the ball there was nobody better at looking after it. He had a sublime first touch, he was sensational running at defenders and he could pick out the right pass - short or long, either side - in an instant. He made every player on his team better, he created goals galore for others and scored blinders himself. Peter Beardsley wasn't just a good player - he was one of the greats!"

Chris Waddle's tribute to the man he played with for Newcastle and England is as fulsome as it is sincere. The one-time sausage factory worker, Felling-born and a month older than the lorry driver's lad he first lined up alongside during United's 1983-84 promotion season, has no doubts at all that Beardsley belongs in the higher echelons of Newcastle's Hall of Fame.

"We had a good side when he came to St. James' Park, but he improved it immediately, just as he improved every team he played in. We were certs to go up from the day he joined us - he was the last piece in Arthur Cox's jigsaw and for me that season was pure joy," says another Geordie who fulfilled his potential by leaving the North-East.

Waddle chose Tottenham in 1985 and went on to enjoy a glittering career with Marseille before coming back to Britain and more top-flight football with Sheffield



Wednesday. Now he's on the Hillsborough coaching staff, but still looks back with the utmost affection to his time on Tyneside when Kevin Keegan, Beardsley and himself teased and tormented defenders.

United scored 85 League goals as they came out of the old Second Division behind Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea and Waddle recalls: "Keegan got 27, Beardsley 20 and yours truly notched 18 of them - that's 65 out of the 85. It was just smashing to be playing in the same team as KK and Pedro, who hadn't been there five minutes before Kevin was tipping him to play for England.

"He was dead right as well. And Peter was just as good for England as he was for Newcastle. I remember his third cap so well - it was against the USSR in Tbilisi in 1986 and I played a ball down the right-hand side. A big defender was favourite for it, but Peter won it with that sliding tackle of his and then played a great ball across the face of their goal for me to slot it in. It was the only goal of the game and it was typical of his quality. He was thrilled to bits for me and that was also typical of him - he always took as much pleasure out of making goals as he got out of actually scoring himself."

Peter's penchant for all things chocolate also gets a mention whenever Chris Waddle is talking about his fellow Geordie. "When we were in Italy for the 1990 World Cup, Paul Gascoigne and me would raid Peter's room and take away bags of sweets and chocolates. He would always know who had taken them, we would always deny it and then Gazza would push the wrappers back under Peter's door - it was a riot," chuckles Waddle as he looks back on the happy days he has spent in the company of a man who, like himself, escaped the drudgery of factory work for a place in the soccer spotlight.

"Top man, top player," are his final words on the subject of Peter Beardsley. And then, as an afterthought: "God knows what he would cost if you could turn the clock back 15 years. The mind boggles..."



"God knows what he would cost if you could turn the clock back 15 years. The mind boggles..."



Lee Clark



"He's just the best player I've ever played with and a man who is right up there as Number One. He was my idol when I was a kid and he's still my idol."

And if you think that's a fine tribute from Lee Clark, now 26, then you should not be surprised that there's more, much more, to come on the subject of Peter Beardsley from the present Sunderland star who first watched his hero from the terraces at St. James' Park.

"In those days," he adds, "when Peter, Kevin Keegan and Chris Waddle had us all drooling over their skills, I was just happy to have

the chance to see Newcastle United - and particularly Peter - play. I was a Wallsend Boys' Club kid from Walker and, like Peter had done before me, I was just desperate to pull on that black and white shirt.

"I was at United's School of Excellence and for some reason, don't ask me why, Peter took to me. He was an established pro' then, of course, and he went out of his way to give me boots and other items of kit.

"I remember that he came back from the World Cup in Mexico in 1986 and gave me more gear. He was interested in me and - biggest thrill of all - he really thought I had the ability to make a living out of the game.

"Eventually I did sign professional forms for Newcastle, of course, but by that time Peter had moved on to Liverpool. That didn't stop him keeping in touch and I always felt that I had this marvellous friend and mentor keeping me right, giving me advice.

"I couldn't believe my luck when Kevin Keegan brought him back to Newcastle from Everton in 1993 and I started to play alongside him. That was the ultimate football experience for me - to be actually playing in the same side as Peter Beardsley and to be training alongside him every day was just perfect.

"How good was he? He was just out of this world, both individually and as one of the finest team players this country has produced. He was so unselfish - he genuinely got as much pleasure out of setting up goals for others as he got in scoring them himself.

"And we all know how many great goals he did score. Some of the things he did on the pitch just took your breath away. I played with some great players at Newcastle - the likes of Andy Cole, David Ginola, Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand and Tino Asprilla - but there was nobody to touch Peter Beardsley.

"I'm not surprised he has played for so long, because he has always looked after himself - you've never seen a man set a better example in training. I'm just glad to know him, to be called his pal. He has helped me so much I will never be out of his debt.

"I'm just glad Sunderland's Worthington Cup semi-final first leg against Leicester was brought forward, because I would have been sick if I'd missed the chance to be at St. James' Park for Peter's benefit match. I'm delighted but not surprised that the stadium will be packed - Newcastle fans could wait a very long time before they see a player as good as Peter Beardsley in a black and white shirt."



Andy Cole

Manchester United's Andy Cole says:

"He was as good to me off the pitch as he was on it, just a great player and a great bloke - the best strike partner I've ever had."

And what a man he is. He was the skipper, of course, a quiet man who just led by example. And what an example he set everybody else. He was the ultimate professional and team player and I wouldn't miss the chance to go back and pay my respects to him at St. James' for the world.

I had great, great times there and so many of my best memories involve Peter Beardsley.

He was as good to me off the pitch as he was on it - just a great player and a great bloke. I haven't a single bad word to say about a man for whom I have the utmost respect.

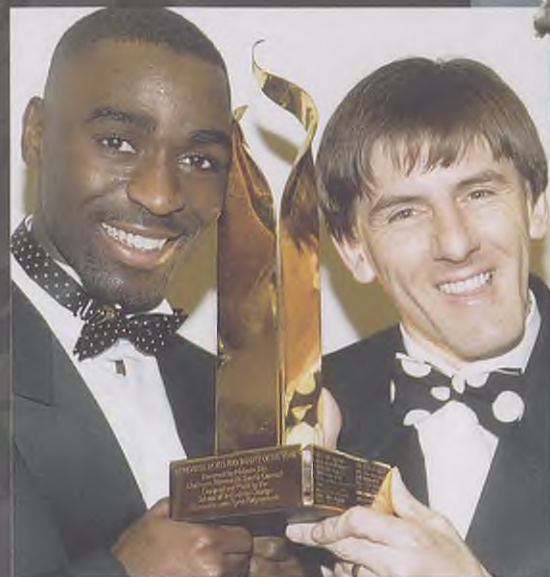
He deserves a night he will remember for ever and I'm just pleased that I've been asked to be part of it."



"The finest tribute I can pay Peter is simply to say that he's the best strike partner I've ever had. On top of that he was also the best team player I've ever played with.

We were together a year and a half and it was magic to have him alongside me. I scored 41 goals in my first season with Peter and he got 24. He had a hand - or an educated foot - in many of my goals. The man really could create goals out of nothing, as he did in that 93-94 season and I'm the holder of a Newcastle club scoring record I'll be proud of as long as I live.

I remember playing a one-two with him against QPR and he hit the most stunning volley - the ball just rocketed into the net. What a memory.



■ Best of pals ... sharing the Sports Council award for the 1994 Newcastle Sports Personality of the Year



Peter Beardsley *SELECT XI*



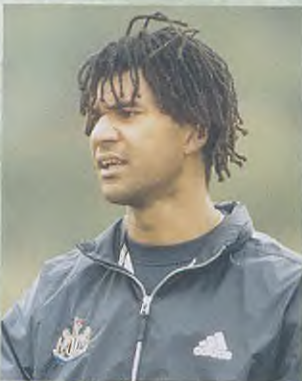
- PHILIPPE ALBERT** (Newcastle United)
- JOHN BARNES** (Newcastle United)
- PETER BEARDSLEY** (Hartlepool United)
- WARREN BARTON** (Newcastle United)
- JOHN BERESFORD** (Southampton)
- DAVID BATTY** (Leeds United)
- STEVE BRUCE** (Sheffield United)
- ANDY COLE** (Manchester United)
- LEE CLARK** (Sunderland)
- KENNY DALGLISH**
- PAUL DALGLISH** (Newcastle United)
- ROBBIE ELLIOTT** (Bolton Wanderers)
- PAUL GASCOIGNE** (Middlesbrough)
- KEITH GILLESPIE** (Blackburn Rovers)
- RUUD GULLIT** (Newcastle United)
- STEVE HOWEY** (Newcastle United)
- SHAKA HISLOP** (West Ham United)
- DARREN HUCKERBY** (Coventry City)
- KEVIN KEEGAN** (Fulham)
- PAUL KITSON** (West Ham United)
- ROBERT LEE** (Newcastle United)
- ALAN NEILSON** (Fulham)
- DARREN PEACOCK** (Blackburn Rovers)
- STUART PEARCE** (Newcastle United)
- SCOTT SELLARS** (Bolton Wanderers)
- ALAN SHEARER** (Newcastle United)
- PAVEL SRNICEK** (Sheffield Wednesday)
- STEVE STONE** (Nottingham Forest)
- ALAN THOMPSON** (Aston Villa)
- BARRY VENISON**
- CHRIS WADDLE**
- STEVE WATSON** (Aston Villa)



Andy Cole



Jonathan Gould



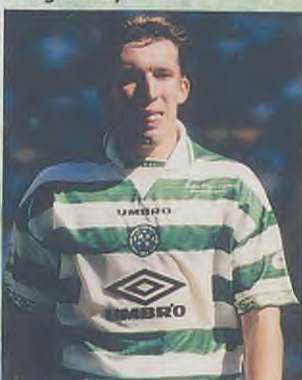
Ruud Gullit



Craig Burley



Kevin Keegan



Alan Stubbs

Glasgow Celtic

- 1 **JONATHAN GOULD**
- 2 **TOM BOYD**
- 3 **STÉPHANE MAHE**
- 4 **JACKIE McNAMARA**
- 5 **MARC RIEPER**
- 6 **ALAN STUBBS**
- 7 **HENRIK LARSSON**
- 8 **CRAIG BURLEY**
- 9 **HARALD BRATTBAKK**
- 10 **PHIL O'DONNELL**
- 11 **MORTEN WIEGHORST**
- 12 **TOMMY JOHNSON**
- 13 **SIMON DONNELLY**
- 14 **PAUL LAMBERT**
- 15 **DARREN JACKSON**
- 16 **DAVID HANNAH**
- 17 **ENRICO ANNONI**
- 18 **TOSH McKINLAY**
- 20 **REGI BLINKER**
- 21 **STEWART KERR**
- 22 **BRIAN McLAUGHLIN**
- 23 **ANDREW McCONDICHIE**
- 24 **COLIN HEALY**
- 25 **LUBOMIR MORAVCIK**
- 26 **JOHN PAUL McBRIDE**
- 27 **MARK BURCHILL**
- 28 **BARRY ELLIOT**
- 29 **GERARD CROSSLEY**
- 30 **VIDAR RISETH**
- 31 **JAMES GALLAGHER**
- 34 **TONY WARNER**
- 35 **JOHAN MJÄLLBY**



Manager: Jozef Venglos

"We are delighted to take part in a game to honour such a great player."



Manager: Arthur Cox

"It's my pleasure and privilege to manage another team with Peter Beardsley in it."



Highlights of this evening's benefit match will be shown on 'BEARDSLEY'S BIG NIGHT', on Tyne Tees Television at 10.40pm tonight.

Tonight's Officials:

Referee: **ALAN WILKIE** (Chester-le-Street)

Referee's assistants:
BOB LOCKHART and **MALCOLM HALL**

Reserve Official: **ROB COOPER**



The Peter Beardsley Benefit Match • St. James' Park

What the media says ...

about PETER BEARDSLEY

The Journal **IAN MURTAGH**
"Peter Beardsley was the all-round forward: artist and artisan, goalmaker and goaltaker, architect and executioner, king of the assists and master of the spectacular.

"Yes, this Georgie genius could score goals. But he was much, much more than a mere poacher. Just ask Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand, Andy Cole and Gary Lineker.

"I was lucky enough to see Peter's debut at Barnsley, and I saw his marvellous hat-trick soon after against Manchester City.

"That 1983-84 season brought a sackful of wonderful goals, and the two that stick in my memory encapsulate the power and glory of the

SUNDAY Sun **NEIL FARRINGTON**
"After all that he has achieved since, it is difficult to believe that Peter Beardsley was a relative unknown in the early 1980s, when he was cast aside by Ron Atkinson at Manchester United and eventually arrived, via Vancouver, almost unnoticed and unannounced in the Newcastle dressing-room.

"Who knows where Newcastle United would be now had Arthur Cox not seen fit to recall Beardsley from his footballing exile in the football backwater of Canada?

"Peter took just 35 days to drop the strongest possible hint that he was to become the most popular and enduring player to grace St. James'

Daily Mail **JOHN RICHARDSON**

"In a sport which invariably passes by in a blur of matches, say the name Peter Beardsley and a smile will inevitably light up any supporter's face.

"People currently rave about the impact of Gianfranco Zola at Chelsea. But Peter at his peak possessed all of Zola's skills, and more. He also demonstrated a fierce competitive and workaholic spirit.

"His footballing brain has rarely been matched. His instinctive passing, his unerring ability to leave opposition defences in a shambles, picked him out as a very special talent.

TT TV **ROGER TAMES**
"After studying four decades of football footage while researching for Tyne Tees' 40th birthday celebrations this month, the conclusion was undeniable: no other player in North-East football could match Peter Beardsley for spectacular goals.

"Peter had a touch of genius, and Newcastle United seemed to pull the best out of him. Of course he scored some tremendous goals in Liverpool and Everton colours, but so many of the TV images of his United goals are genuine black-and-white classics.

man. They are the goal of wonderful control and long-range shot against Middlesbrough in the 1984 Tyne-Tees derby, and the equaliser at Huddersfield in the penultimate match - perhaps the hardest shot I've ever seen.

"Mick Tait, who was with Peter at Carlisle and was, until recently, his manager at Hartlepool, told me of those early Cumbrian days, then described his capture of Peter for 'Pool as 'the most satisfying day I've experienced as a manager'.

"Peter is now playing for the love of the game, and Tait says that money never came into it. His legs may not be what they were, but that football brain is still there and he rarely wastes a pass."

Park since Jackie Milburn.

"His virtuoso performance against Manchester City on October 29th, 1983, was my first sight of the Wallsend will-of-the-wisp, and by 4.45pm City, who had arrived on Tyneside second in the table, had been torn to tatters with their nerves shredded by Beardsley's brilliance.

"It is testimony to him that Peter spent what are supposedly the peak years of a player's career, between the ages of 26 and 32, elsewhere, yet is as fondly remembered for the magic of his second spell at United as he is for his first."

"For me, that fantastic shimmy and swerve which dissected the best of defences will live forever in my memory.

"Yet for all his international status and acclaim there was always time for Peter to conduct the endless interviews demanded of him.

"He will be remembered as one of Newcastle United's best-ever players, as well as one of the most popular. His special affinity with the fans was always apparent. Tonight we are all here to acclaim Peter, and we will all enjoy every minute ... except, maybe, those defenders who will be facing him."

"In several of his Newcastle United campaigns Peter could have held his own personal Goal of the Season competition.

"How fitting it would be if Peter could produce one of his classics at his own benefit match. And if the name of Peter Beardsley is on the scoresheet tonight, it's certain to be a goal that Tyne Tees replays time and again.

"But then this occasion is already guaranteed to be given an historic place in the region's sporting archives."

■ Tonight's benefit match will be shown on BEARDSLEY'S BIG NIGHT, on Tyne Tees tonight at 10.40pm.

John Pickering

JOHN PICKERING, the man Peter calls "as good a coach as you will find anywhere in football", marvelled at the Beardsley brilliance when he worked with him at both Carlisle and Newcastle.

"I could see he was exceptional from the day I first met him at Brunton Park," says the one-time player who now works for Bryan Robson at Middlesbrough. "Quite apart from outstanding natural ability, he had an infectious enthusiasm which was a joy to behold. He loved training, he was a good listener and a very quick learner and he had the perfect temperament.

"For me, it was always a pleasure and a privilege to work with a man so gifted and so modest about his talents. His achievements - and they have been many - have never affected him in any way. He loves the game now with the same passion and enthusiasm with which he loved it all those years ago when I first worked with him at Carlisle. For me he has always been different class both as a player and as a man."

John (50), a Stockton-born central defender who joined Newcastle in 1963 but left without making the first team - he then gave Halifax and Barnsley outstanding service before turning to coaching - still finds it hard to comprehend that Peter was turned down by Gillingham, Cambridge and Burnley before Carlisle set him on the road to stardom in 1979.

"It was just so obvious that he had everything in his make-up to become a top-class professional footballer," Pickering says now. "He showed immediately he got into the first team at Carlisle that he was something special - you could see that on the training ground, by the way - but even then he had to go to Vancouver Whitecaps and play for Johnny Giles before he came back to his roots when Arthur Cox signed him for Newcastle in 1983. In between times he had a spell on trial at Manchester United and Ron Atkinson decided not to make the move from Whitecaps a permanent one. Don't ask me why Ron didn't take him and I also don't know why it took until he was nearly 24 before Peter became established in his own country.



"It's just a mystery - for my money Peter Beardsley was always going to develop into a quite outstanding footballer because he had both the talent and the temperament, not to mention the perfect attitude to training and preparation for matches.

"I reckon he will make a fine coach, too. And he'll also make a fine manager. All he needs is the right opportunity - that's all he ever needed, by the way."

"Quite apart from outstanding natural ability, he had an infectious enthusiasm which was a joy to behold."



PAUL TULLY recalls the day Peter Beardsley destroyed Manchester City ... and hears why this is Peter's favourite Newcastle match.

Flashback

Newcastle United 5 Manchester City 0

DIVISION TWO • SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th, 1983

PETER BEARDSLEY had joined Newcastle five weeks earlier, when United were seventh in the Second Division.

His arrival then coincided with a run of four league victories which propelled Arthur Cox's side into fourth position. And Peter notched his first Newcastle goal in a 2-0 win at Cardiff ten days before the visit of second-placed Manchester City to St. James' Park.

But in three home games, including a Milk Cup-tie against Oxford United, Peter had failed to find the target at St. James' Park - and he was increasingly keen to change that.

Against Manchester City, in a game of a thousand memories, he did. Three times. And everything about the lad from Longbenton glittered on that magical October day.

Kevin Keegan and Chris Waddle, the other members of that fabulous forward line, scored one each; but it was the day the stage belonged to Beardsley as he scored the first, third and fourth goals, and generally ran City ragged.

It was Newcastle's first home hat-trick since Alan Gowling had hit three against Everton seven years before, and the quality of Peter's one-two-three made it well worth the wait.

The roof which fell in on City began to give way in only the ninth minute. Chris Waddle, racing clear, tried to

go round Alex Williams but was thwarted by the City 'keeper's dive. As the ball squirted clear, Beardsley hungrily gathered it up, quickly assessed his options, and dribbled past Williams to sweep the ball into the empty net (top right).

What a start for the lock-out crowd - and there was no easing up.

As United engulfed City with a tide of exhilarating attacking football, the visitors clung grimly on for dear life. But there was to be no survival on this day, and United's second goal six minutes before half-time effectively finished them off.

Terry McDermott fed Keegan, who in turn supplied Waddle, then Keegan raced into the middle to convert Waddle's cross. 2-0.

By this time, City fans were sitting behind the wall at the North-West corner of the Leazes End, unwilling and unable to watch any more of the slaughter.

On 61 minutes Beardsley's second goal arrived - in style.

Speeding down the left wing and leaving defenders in his wake, Peter cut in along the byline, laid the ball back for Waddle, and when Waddle's shot cannoned back off the brave Williams, Beardsley was first to react to cut an angled shot into the net.

Eighteen minutes later the hat-trick arrived ... and a star was born. This time Waddle produced an exquisite pass which set up Peter to dart into the heart of the penalty area, throw Williams off-balance with a sharp feint, and slot the ball past him into the corner of the net.

There was still time for Waddle, so much a contributor to the cause, to beat Williams from 20 yards and seal a magnificent victory which propelled United into second place - their highest of the season.

United boss Cox, who had brought Beardsley to Tyneside, was never given to overstatement but allowed himself to comment: "That was a very good performance. Few sides in the country could have stood up to that. Most teams would have got a pasting today."

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Thomas, Anderson, Ryan, McCreery, Saunders, Carney, Keegan, Beardsley, Waddle, McDermott, Wharton.
Sub: Mills.

MANCHESTER CITY

Williams, Ranson, May, Walsh, Power, Caton, McNab, Davidson (sub Kinsey), Parlane, Baker, Tolmie.

PETER BEARDSLEY



With his wife Sandra and the signed match ball



And Peter, the hero of the hour with the match-ball safely in his possession, said afterwards: "This is my first hat-trick in English football - and the greatest day of my life."

IN EVERY great player's career, there is a first great match. And for Peter Beardsley, that was the Manchester City massacre of October 1983.

Bought for a giveaway £120,000 from Vancouver Whitecaps the previous month, he'd gone on for his debut as a late substitute at Barnsley and helped earn a draw and spark a run of form which eventually shot United into a promotion position.

But when Peter scored his first Newcastle goal, he did it almost 300 miles away at Cardiff, and the Tyneside fans were still waiting for him to score in front of them when United ran out against Manchester City on the last Saturday of October 1983.

The three Peter did score against City were a personal watershed, and he says today: "That game was fantastic for me.

"Having scored at Cardiff, when Kevin Keegan had got the first one and I got the second, I would have settled for one more in a victory over Manchester City - as long as we won the game, which was the most important thing.

"But to score my first goal at St. James' Park, and then to follow up with two more, was absolutely mega. It was one of those walking-on-air jobs."

Adds Peter: "It was a very important game because City arrived at Newcastle in second place and we took second place off them that day.

"Alex Williams, their goalkeeper, had a great game - and we stuck five past him! And strangely enough, just recently when I went to Manchester City, I discovered Alex working in their Football In The Community section.

"He told me that that day still haunts him. But I told him it shouldn't, because the result was nothing to do with him. I told him he had a fantastic match."

The memory may haunt Williams, but it still gives off a warm glow for Peter,

who has always treasured the match-ball he was presented with signed by both the Newcastle and Manchester City teams.

And the three goals are also indelibly printed on his memory.

"It's all fresh in my mind like it happened yesterday," Peter says. "For the first goal the ball just broke to me after Waddler had made a great run and Alex had saved at his feet.

"For the second, I went down the left wing, cut in and gave the ball to Chris, who shot. Alex parried it and I just kept on running - and got my reward for it.

"For the third, Waddler deserves a lot of credit. He played an absolutely unbelievable ball - 40 yards with a sidefoot - and anybody could have scored after a ball like that. I just took a touch, sidestepped a defender, and sidefooted it in."

Such an occasion gave Peter memories to cherish forever and a day. But he also has more tangible souvenirs.

For he smiles: "I've still got the match-ball and I've still got the pictures.

"To me it was just a dream day. And that was what I had come home for."

The dream carried on, of course, and United were promoted in third place come May 1984.

Peter notched up 20 goals, Keegan 27 and Waddle 18 in a side which thrilled the nation.

And all the golden treasures of that season were summed up in the final match, at home to Brighton, when a capacity crowd turned out to herald the end of Keegan's playing career, and thank a great team for what it had given the fans.

"Brighton was a great day," says Peter. "It's a day I remember with great affection - but it was Kevin Keegan's day.

"We've had some great occasions at St. James' Park but I don't know whether I've experienced a better atmosphere there than that day against Brighton."



Sharp-Shooter in Focus

So often the photographers' target, Peter turns the tables.



Master Stroke

Out of a hole ... golfer Peter digs his way out of the bunker.



TV Advert Star

Peter enters into the spirit of an adidas new kit launch.



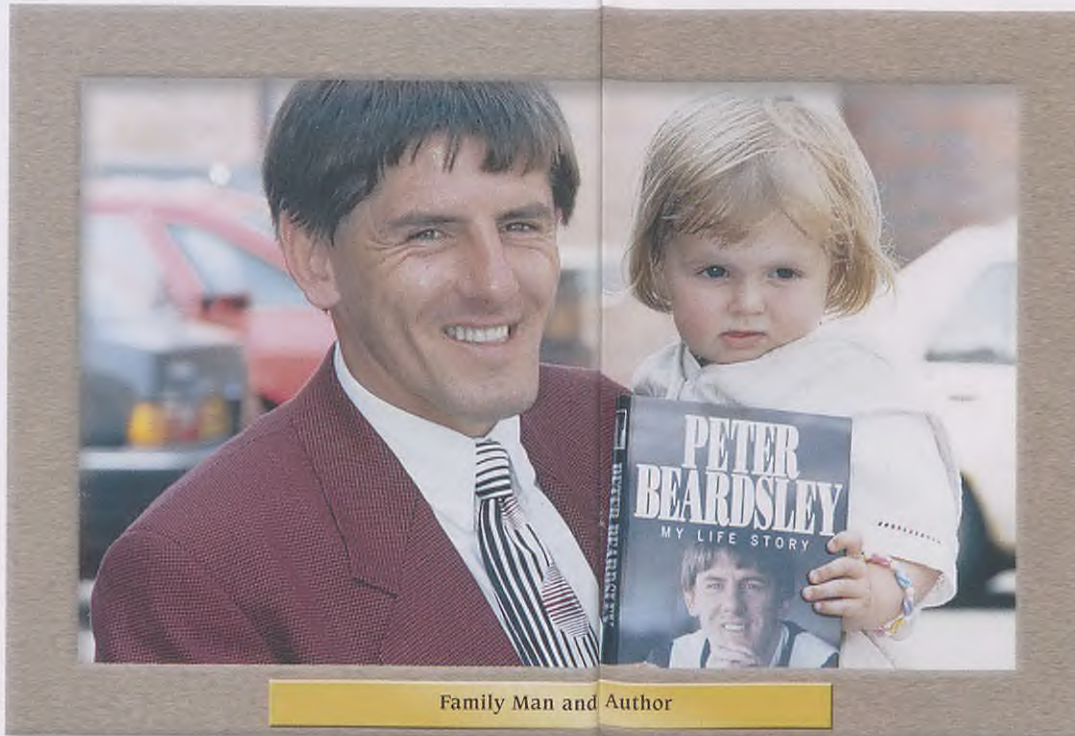
Local Hero

A silver salver from Hennessy Cognac for a golden star.



Peter Beardsley MBE

Peter with his proud family: wife Sandra, daughter Stacey, son Drew - and medal.



Family Man and Author

Dad, Stacey and autobiography ... and what a story!



Master of Disguise

It takes ALLSORTS ... and here's Peter as Bertie Bassett in the United players' fancy dress Christmas extravaganza!



He's Got it Taped

Peter the Great ... never did a video have a more suitable title.



A Question of Sport

... and the question for you Peter, with help from captain Ian Botham, is where did you get that shirt?!!

PETER THE GREAT

Peter Beardsley Gallery



Son of Mine

Peter, seen by millions on TV, sharing a special scoring moment with ball-boy son Drew at St. James' Park.



"Peter's always been there for me."



"He made things happen in and around the box."



"He was a delight to work with."



"He was the greatest at making chances."



"Peter made a mug of defenders like me."



PAUL GASCOIGNE

"Nobody in football deserves a testimonial more than Peter Beardsley, because nobody has done more to help others.

He was established when I was just a kid at Newcastle, but he always encouraged me and that's a great thing for a youngster. Eventually I broke through into the first team and it was just terrific to be in the same side as Peter.

He was such a fantastic player, as everybody knows, but he was brave into the bargain. I remember a time when we were playing Oxford and somebody elbowed me and broke my nose. Peter couldn't stop laughing - until he was really badly clattered a couple of minutes later. He should have gone off, but there was no chance of that happening with Peter. Mind you, yours truly didn't stay on!

After we had both left Newcastle, Peter never lost touch - whenever I was down you could bet your life he would be in touch with a quiet word or two. Those 'phone calls meant a lot, especially when I had my serious injury problems, but then Peter's always been there for me and that's why I'll be there for him on his big night because nobody deserves it more.

One more thing - when I was a Newcastle United apprentice and was always broke, Peter often loaned me a fiver. He never got the cash back. Maybe tonight, Peter..."

PETER REID

"Peter and I are different types, but we've got a few things in common. We've both had great times in the North-East, we've both played for Everton - and we came together in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and helped to turn things round for England.

Peter was instrumental in us reaching the quarter-finals. As a player, he was top drawer. He was always great with the ball at his feet, running at defenders. He made things happen in and around the box - that was his great strength.

He's also spent his career being no trouble at all to referees. He's certainly a bit different to me in that respect!"

HOWARD KENDALL

"Peter Beardsley proved me wrong when I signed him from Liverpool eight years ago. I can remember telling Everton's directors that, because of his age, we wouldn't get our money back.

Yet when I sold him to Newcastle two years later, we actually made a profit. I paid £1.1m for him and Kevin Keegan paid £1.4m to take him back to Tyneside. That spoke volumes about the lad in terms of his fitness and the way in which he had looked after himself.

Peter had an incredible first season with us. It was one of his best in terms of goals and he became a big favourite with the fans. He was also a delight to work with and a great example to young players at the club.

His popularity will be reflected by the size of the crowd tonight. There's only a certain number of players who would be honoured by the fans in a situation like this - but Peter is one of them. That also speaks volumes for him."

LES FERDINAND

"Peter Beardsley is one of the greatest forwards I've ever played with. He had so much about him, and he was simply inspirational to play with.

Peter was always buzzing around the field, and even if you were having a bit of an off-day, he made you play through the sheer quality of his football.

He was the greatest at making chances. He could beat a man and put the ball into the tightest space for you to score, or he could score them himself.

The beauty of Peter was that he took as much pleasure out of creating a goal for others as scoring one himself. And he certainly created a few for me after I arrived at Newcastle in 1995.

There were a few matches that stand out for me personally because of what Peter did, but one in particular sticks in my mind above all the rest.

It was a home match against Everton in December 1995, Peter put me through with a ball that was so good I didn't even need to break stride - and I was even able to score with my left foot, which was a bit unusual!

That was Peter for you - always capable of providing that little bit of inspiration.

When a player is as special as that, it's a privilege to play alongside him, and every player who has been lucky enough to play on the same side as Peter Beardsley will say the same.

He's been a credit to football, a figure for everybody to look up to, and long may it continue. I see he rattled in a spectacular goal on his debut for Hartlepool the other week, just to show us he hasn't lost the old touch!

My big regret tonight is that I'm unable to be at St. James'. The same applies to Ruel Fox and David Ginola - we've got a Worthington Cup semi-final against Wimbledon.

Otherwise, without a shadow of doubt I'd have been proud to be there on Peter's big night.

However, I speak on everyone's behalf in wishing him a wonderful night. He thoroughly deserves everything he's got from football, and he truly deserves this very special occasion."

STEVE BRUCE

"We're both products of Wallsend Boys' Club, of course. But there the similarity ends! Peter had fabulous natural ability.

And he was such a dedicated professional - he was fantastically enthusiastic.

Peter made a mug of defenders like me. I remember going to Anfield with Manchester United early in the 1990-91 season and a terrific Liverpool side turned us over 4-0.

Their front three were Beardsley, John Barnes and Ian Rush but on that day Beardsley was unstoppable. He scored three of the four.

Playing against Peter Beardsley at any time was a major headache. And when he was at his inspirational best he was just a nightmare for defenders.

A great, great player and as modest a man as you will ever meet."

1
Which former Newcastle United captain signed Peter for Carlisle United in 1979?

2
How many goals did Peter score for Newcastle United?

3
Which United manager signed Peter from Vancouver Whitecaps in 1983?

4
Against which team did Peter make his United debut in September 1983?

5
How many League goals did Peter score in his first season at St. James' (1983-84)?

6
Peter scored a hat-trick in United's 1983-84 promotion season - against which side?

7
What is Peter's middle name?

8
In which year did Peter hit a New Year's Day hat-trick for Newcastle against Sunderland?

9
Against which country did Peter win his first England cap in 1986?

10
Peter's last game for United was in a pre-season friendly in August 1997 against which side?



Quiz

11
How many full England caps did Peter win in total?

12
What honour was awarded to Peter by the Queen in 1995?

13
Peter was the first Newcastle player to score a hat-trick in the Premier League in 1993/94. Against which side?

14
Apart from Gary Lineker, Peter was England's only other goalscorer in the 1986 World Cup Finals. Which country did he score against?

15
Peter scored his 100th League goal for United in January 1996. Against which side?

16
How many First Division Championship medals did Peter win with Liverpool?

17
In which year did Peter collect an F.A. Cup winners' medal, having received a losers' medal the year before?

18
Which side did Peter join on loan between playing for Bolton and Fulham?

19
In which year did Kevin Keegan bring Peter back to St. James' Park?

20
On his Hartlepool United debut Peter scored against which team?

1. Bob Moncur • 2. 119 • 3. Arthur Cox • 4. Barnsley • 5. 20 • 6. Manchester City • 7. Andrew • 8. 1985 • 9. Egypt • 10. Juventus • 11. 59 • 12. M.B.E. • 13. Wimbledon • 14. Paraguay • 15. Bolton • 16. 2 • 17. 1989 • 18. Manchester City • 19. 1993 • 20. Cambridge United

Tom Boyd



The Celtic skipper says:

"I played against Peter when I was at Chelsea and you can take it from me it was like trying to pick up quicksilver."



"If you could ask Celtic fans which top English player they would like to have seen in the green and white I would put money on it that they would nominate Peter Beardsley, and I can't pay the man a bigger compliment than that.

"He has never made any secret of his love for Celtic and when he played for Newcastle at Celtic Park in the game which opened our new stand he was given a fantastic reception by our supporters. Les Ferdinand got Newcastle's goal - it finished 1-1 - but for the Celtic fans it was Peter Beardsley they couldn't get enough of, which is why there will be many a Scots voice at St. James' Park on the 27th cheering for a truly outstanding player.

I played against Peter when I was at Chelsea and you can take it from me it was like trying to pick up quicksilver - he was just so clever, so elusive, so brainy and had such quick feet. He saw situations ahead of other players, which is why he was such a great asset to strikers like Gary Lineker, Ian Rush, John Aldridge, Andy Cole, Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer

Every player loved having Peter in their team and that's essentially what he has always been - a brilliant individual talent and a great team player to boot.

As the Celtic skipper, I can tell you that we're delighted to be here to honour one of Britain's finest."



John Gibson

EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR,
Newcastle Evening Chronicle

"IT'S BEEN my privilege, man and boy, to see some of the greatest players ever to wear the famed black and white of Newcastle United over almost 50 years and Peter Beardsley stands proudly amongst the elite.

His talent lifted him beyond the masses of mediocrity and into the land of the few whose names will be at the forefront of United history forever. And the fact that he's a Geordie only adds to his appeal.

Twice we have been allowed to see the dancing feet, wondrous vision, fine range of passing, and spectacular finishing of a wee man with a massive stature - the early Beardsley at the shoulder of Kevin Keegan and Chris Waddle as the '80s got under way and the mature, finished article a decade later when his mentor Keegan brought him back home.

Yet we may well have been denied such pleasure because no-one was willing to take a chance on the kid from Wallsend Boys' Club until former Newcastle skipper Bob Moncur spirited him off to Carlisle United and put him up in his own home.

I well remember while Peter was at Carlisle being asked to judge the North-East's Most Promising Newcomer. The organisers brought locally-born starlets to Newcastle from all over the country for a dinner where the top award was being presented by Jack Charlton. I voted for Beardsley, which didn't go down well with some. I consider it one of the best decisions I've ever made!

When I carried the story in the Evening Chronicle, incidentally, I got an irate phone call from then Carlisle boss Bob Stokoe accusing me of tapping Peter for United. As if ...

During his first spell here it was inevitable that Beardsley would be voted North-East Player of the Year which resulted in the sponsors, Hennessy Cognac, sending me over to Paris with Peter and Sandra to cover a trip which was

part of his prize. It was getting better and better.

Beardsley had genuine all-round ability. He was not only touched by genius himself as a footballer but could make others. Ask Andy Cole when he was at Newcastle and Gary Lineker for England.

They rewrote the goalscoring record books only because of the help received from their partner. He wouldn't say so, of course. Modesty forbids. Therefore others must say it on his behalf.

Liverpool may be where Peter won his medals but Newcastle is where he won hearts. The fathers and then the sons who make up the Toon Army saw in him the dream of themselves and fulfilled the fantasy by living his achievements.

More than 100 goals for United, almost 60 caps for England, two World Cup finals, once skipper of his country. The facts are as good as the fantasy.

It is totally fitting that this evening we all should be allowed to pay tribute to a black and white minstrel who sang so sweetly."



"A black and white minstrel who sang so sweetly."



Bob Moncur



FORMER skipper Bob Moncur almost deprived Newcastle United of the prodigious talents of Peter Beardsley. Instead, he merely delayed their arrival at St. James' Park.

For Moncur took Peter to Carlisle when he was manager at Brunton Park - and left then-Newcastle boss Bill McGarry cursing his luck.

It would be another four years before the lad from Longbenton would pull on the black-and-white shirt he always coveted.

Although Moncur, United's 1969 Fairs Cup-winning captain, is forever credited with the master stroke of signing the teenage Beardsley, he takes pains to point out that others played a greater part than

himself.

"The late Brian Watson, plus Peter Flaherty, now retired as Deputy Head of Whickham Comprehensive School, were scouting for me on Tyneside and those two boys kept saying I had to have a look at this lad Beardsley," Bob says.

"They wouldn't stop going on about the kid, and when fellas with their knowledge of football tell you something, you listen - so I took Peter on trial at Carlisle. And I was sufficiently impressed to decide I wanted to see him in a live game.

"We came over to play Newcastle Blue Star at The Wheatsheaf. That was Pete's first game - and, boy, did he prove that night that he could play. I was actually playing, too, and he was even making my passing look good, so he had to have something!

"At that time, Newcastle were keen on him, too. Geoff Allen was the scout but Newcastle were dithering a bit and I sneaked in. I admit now that I did feel a bit guilty, because Peter Beardsley was born to play for Newcastle - he was a local lad and supported the club, but I was doing my job as manager of Carlisle, and I knew I was signing a star in the making.

"The thing was that, in those days, we operated on a tight budget at Carlisle, and that budget only stretched to 18

professionals, which I already had on the books. Peter was 18 years old then, and had to go on a professional wage. But I'd seen enough to know that he was special, so I went into a Board meeting and asked my directors to make an exception in order to get this very special young player into the club. Happily, they supported me - and they never regretted it."

The great Ivor Broadis, a former Newcastle star and Carlisle manager, once said that he'd always had a soft spot for Beardsley "ever since he first arrived at Carlisle as a kid and started making monkeys of all the other players in training".

And Moncur, with whom Beardsley lodged when he first went to Carlisle, says: "Ivor was right. For example, we had a goalkeeper called Tony Harrison who'd been around a bit, and one day in a practice game Peter got the ball, went past three men, and only had Tony to beat.

"Peter feinted to shoot one way, and Tony dived that way, but Peter held his foot over the ball. Then Tony got up and Peter made to shoot the other way, Tony dived that way, and Peter held his foot over the ball again. And finally he just rolled it into the empty side of the net. Tony was foaming, and all the other

players were splitting their sides laughing.

"Phil Bonnyman, who was a very good player himself, watched Peter playing five-a-side on the Astroturf in the gym and said to me: 'Where'd you get him? He's an absolute genius!'

"And when Peter got in the Carlisle side, even at that age, he was ahead of the rest of the players.

"Martin Harvey, the former Sunderland defender, was my number two, and we'd seen football at a higher level so we knew what Peter was about. But he used to see things the other Carlisle players didn't see, and play balls into holes that nobody was reading. So sometimes, at first, the Carlisle fans would think it was a bad pass. But they quickly came to realise that here was a special talent in their midst.

"He did things that had Martin jumping out of the dug-out, and Martin would turn and look back at the stand where I always sat, and all I could do was shake my head."

When Peter left Carlisle, it was to go to Vancouver Whitecaps, where former Leeds star Johnny Giles was manager - a move that Moncur disagreed with.

Bob was by then managing Heart of Midlothian, and he recalls: "Peter rang me up in Edinburgh and asked for advice, and I told him not to go. I knew there were a

few clubs looking at him, and I felt going to Vancouver would be time out of his career in England. There was also a danger of him being forgotten in Canada.

"I spoke to Sandra, too, who had been my junior secretary at Carlisle when Peter and her started going out together, but they felt it was going to be a good move both for the experience and financially for them and they decided to go. But even to this day, I still say my advice was right. Peter would have got his big move very, very quickly."

By 1983, Arthur Cox was in charge of Newcastle and Brian Watson, who is sadly no longer with us, was working as a United scout. Inevitably, Watson bent Cox's ear at every opportunity about the talent going to waste on the other side of the Atlantic.

Manchester United, under Ron Atkinson, had wasted a golden chance to take Peter onto the Old Trafford payroll, and he had returned to America.

Eventually, in September 1983, Cox paid £120,000 - the bargain to beat all bargains - to bring Peter back home. And the rest, as they say, is history.

"Newcastle was always his team," says Moncur. "He was always destined to go there. When I signed Peter in 1979 I knew he was a Newcastle person but he liked the set-up at Carlisle and was happy to come.

"But the beauty of Peter is that he isn't just a great footballer. He's also a nice bloke - I've been lucky to have been associated with him.

"Is he the best player I've seen in my lifetime? Well, I'd say that George Best was probably THE all-time great - for about three years when he was at his peak.

"But over a long period of time, over his career, Peter Beardsley has sustained his high standard, and for that reason I put him ahead of Besty, at the very top of the tree.

"Peter Beardsley is the best player I have seen in my lifetime."



"He did things that had Martin Harvey jumping out of the dug-out, and Martin would turn and look back at the stand where I always sat, and all I could do was shake my head."



Happy days at Carlisle ... Peter with Paul Bannon, Phil Bonnyman and Martin Harvey





Giants of Scottish Football

GLASGOW CELTIC is one of the great names of football. Once champions of Europe, and 36 times champions of Scotland, the famous green-and-white hoops have long been a symbol of power and achievement.

Now, having ended rivals Rangers' run of nine successive titles, Celtic are battling to make up ground this season after going into the Scottish Premier League's mid-season break in third position.

But with regular crowds of close on 60,000 at the magnificently redeveloped Celtic Park Stadium, and top-class international stars in the ranks, Celtic are ready to press home a renewed challenge.

Former Aston Villa manager Dr. Jozef Venglos, who took

over last year, drafted in veteran Slovakian international Lubomir Moravcik - whom he had under him in the old Czechoslovakia team - and the impact was immediate.

Thirty-three-year-old midfielder or striker Moravcik, 74 times capped, scored twice in the 5-1 slaughter of Rangers in November and has proved a revelation with his new club.

Swedish international striker Henrik Larsson, with 15 goals in 26 games this season and 19 in 47 last, has also given Celtic an extra cutting edge since his bargain move from Feyenoord in July 1997. Celtic's former coach Wim Jansen, under whom Larsson had won two Dutch Cup medals, tempted him to Glasgow and although Jansen left the club, the Larsson legacy is a

major plus for Dr Venglos.

Another Swedish international, Johan Mjällby, shot to fame after scoring the Euro 2000 qualifying match winner against England in Stockholm last September. Earlier, Andreas Andersson had equalised Alan Shearer's opener for England.

Another emerging talent up front for Celtic is 18-year-old local boy Mark Burchill, who was promoted to the first team after 13 goals in 17 Reserve outings and promptly scored twice on his full debut against Dundee in early November.

Celtic have been hit by injuries - some would call it World Cup fatigue, for the Celts have seven Scottish internationals in their ranks as well as Danes Marc Rieper and Morten Wieghorst and Norwegian midfielder Vidar Riseth.

Scottish international midfielder Craig Burley, a scorer for his country in the France World Cup, is now on the verge of returning from a groin injury and may

make an appearance tonight. Defender Jackie McNamara, Scotland's 1997-98 Player of the Year, has also had bad luck with injuries and has had two lengthy spells on the sidelines since August.

On the other hand, Paul Lambert, a European Cup winner with Borussia Dortmund in 1997, returned to Scotland in November of that year and has been virtually ever-present for his club this season.

In defence, skipper Tom Boyd, signed from

Chelsea in 1992, is a virtual fixture with over 300 Celtic appearances to his name.

Capped over 50 times for Scotland, the highly-regarded Glaswegian has earned a coveted place in the Scottish F.A. Hall of Fame.

Former Bolton star Alan Stubbs has also been troubled by injuries but has hit peak form in the 20-plus games he has played in 1998-99, while Frenchman Stéphane Mahe has made the left-back slot his own with a string of excellent displays.

In goal, former Halifax, West Bromwich,



Lubomir Moravcik



Coventry and Bradford City goalkeeper Jonathan Gould, son of Wales manager Bobby, has kept his place since replacing Gordon Marshall - son of the former Newcastle 'keeper of the same name - last year.

When Gould missed four games in November, he was replaced by on-loan Liverpool goalkeeper Tony Warner, who will be with Celtic until mid-February.

On the fringe of the team, former Sheffield Wednesday star Regi Blinker has struggled to rediscover his English Premier League form, while Norwegian striker Harald Brattbakk, scorer of ten goals in 21 games in 1997-98, had scored only four times in 24 this term before losing his place in November.

Former Newcastle forward Darren Jackson, now 32, is currently on loan to Coventry City.



Paul Lambert

Celtic F.C.

Glasgow



Henrik Larsson

ROLL OF HONOUR

Scottish League Champions
36 times

Scottish Cup Winners
30 times

Scottish League Cup
Winners
10 times

European Cup
Winners
1967



THE FINAL WORD

When I look back over my life, and particularly over my career in football, I just feel lucky that a Geordie kid who started work sweeping a factory floor on Tyneside has travelled the world playing a great game he was always happy playing just for fun.

Luckier still, that the youngster who was turned down first by Gillingham and then by Cambridge and Burnley, should eventually enjoy a career that culminated in the captaincy of the club that was always closest to his heart, Newcastle United.

When I consider that football's yellow brick road which has led me to tonight has also given me a match when I captained England as one of 59 international caps then I really appreciate how blessed I have been.

Promotion with Newcastle, League titles with Liverpool, a second magical spell on Tyneside and, along the way, honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with the award of an MBE...magical memories are made of this and so many, many more happy days when I've had to pinch myself to know that all my childhood dreams - and more - have come true.

Since I began my professional career under Bob Moncur's management at Carlisle in the summer of 1979, I have had the privilege of playing with and against some of the world's finest players. Some of them are here tonight - can you imagine a front three of Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish and Ruud Gullit with John Barnes dancing down one wing, Chris Waddle on the other and Paul Gascoigne pulling the strings in midfield! - and I thank every player and personality who has turned out for my benefit match.

Celtic were always my second-favourite club and I could not be more thrilled that they have agreed to play for me tonight.

There are, of course, so many people to thank, not only for their support on this occasion, but also for giving me their help and advice over the years. I would not attempt to name them all for fear of offending those I might inadvertently leave out, but I do sincerely want to express my gratitude to every person over the last 20 years who has helped me to make the grade from WallSEND Boys' Club to World Cup finals in Mexico and Italy.

from

Peter Beardsley

But there's one person I make no apologies for singling out - my wife Sandra. I had the good fortune to meet her when she worked at Carlisle Football Club and she has always been my best friend and greatest supporter. We are blessed with two smashing children, Drew and Stacey - nine and five - and the greatest joy of my life is having such a lovely family.

Coming home to play for Newcastle in 1983 was a pleasure beyond compare. I can still remember the thrill of pulling on a black and white shirt for the first time. It's a feeling that never leaves you and to get the chance, under Kevin Keegan, to have an action replay of those feelings when he brought me

back to St. James' Park ten years later meant I had been doubly blessed.

Newcastle United told me at the time that they would allow me to have a benefit match in this stadium I love above all others and I thank the Chairman, Freddy Shepherd, and the Chief Executive, Freddie Fletcher, for honouring that promise.

My Testimonial Committee, under the chairmanship of Alastair Wilson, have worked so hard to give me a night to remember. And remember it I will, as long as I live. To be honoured at any time is smashing. To be honoured by your own Geordie folk is something very, very special.

So yes I feel lucky. And I feel humble. I started out with a determination not to go back to that factory floor in Killingworth, where people were so kind and considerate to a kid who spent every waking hour aching to be given his footballing chance.

Fortunately for me I was given that chance, and many others, to show what I could do on some of the world's great soccer stages.

But nothing has ever surpassed being cheered to victory by my own Geordie folk at St. James' Park.

I thank each and every Newcastle United fan who has supported me over so many memorable years in a black and white shirt. My dreams came true well beyond my expectations and you can be absolutely certain that I appreciate your support to the full.

*Best wishes
Peter Beardsley*

PETER BEARDSLEY MBE

took the high road from Carlisle to Hartlepool - via some spectacular soccer stations, including England.

His club career took him from Carlisle to Vancouver, Manchester United, Newcastle United, Liverpool, Everton, Newcastle again, Bolton, Manchester City, Fulham and finally Hartlepool.

Throughout his illustrious career, Peter has given us a million golden moments to cherish.

Thanks for the memories, Peter ...

NEWCASTLE UNITED



HARTLEPOOL



EVERTON

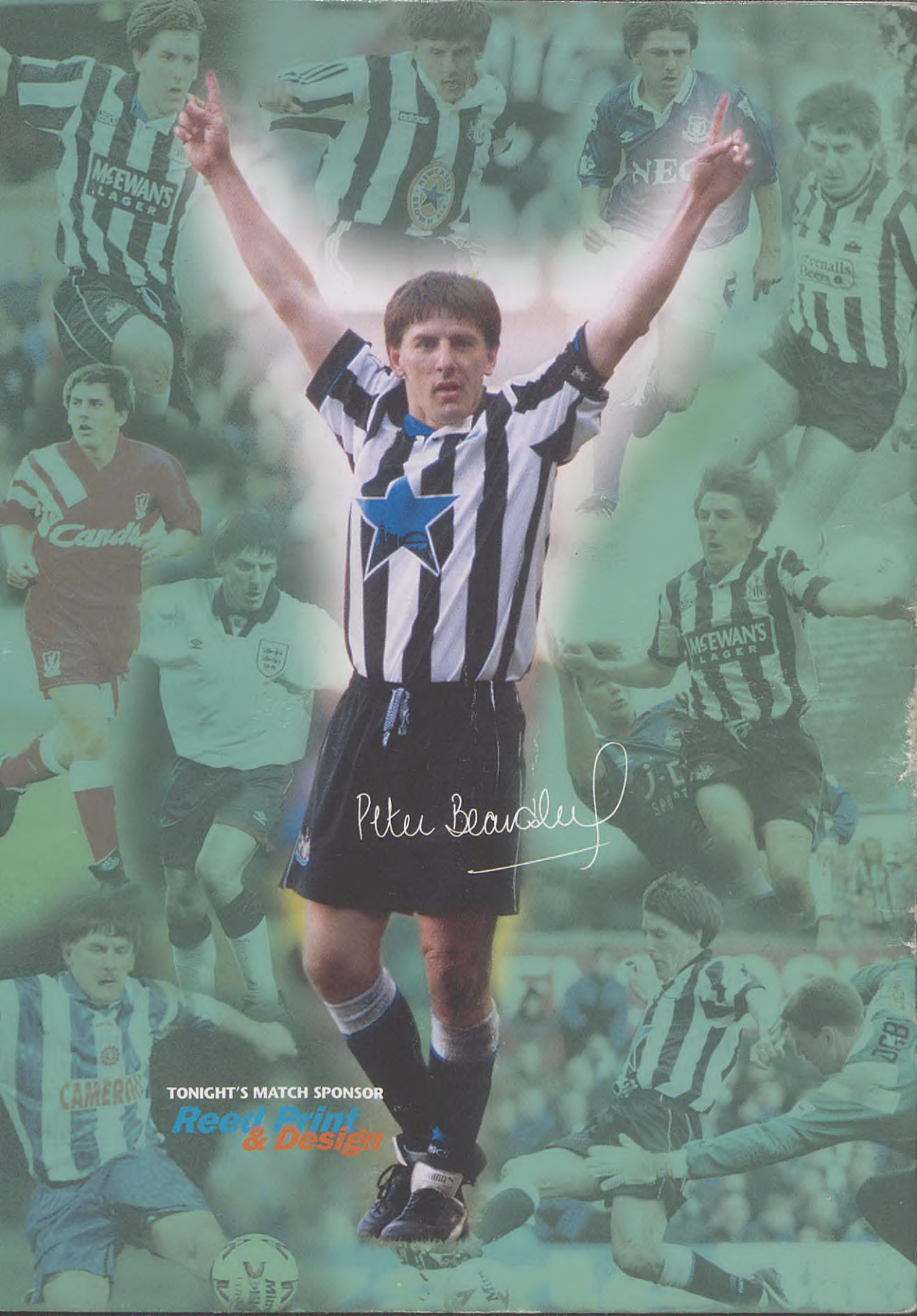
ENGLAND

BOLTON

CARLISLE UNITED

LIVERPOOL

THE BEARDSLEY YEARS



Peter Beardsley

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSOR

**Reed Print
& Design**

