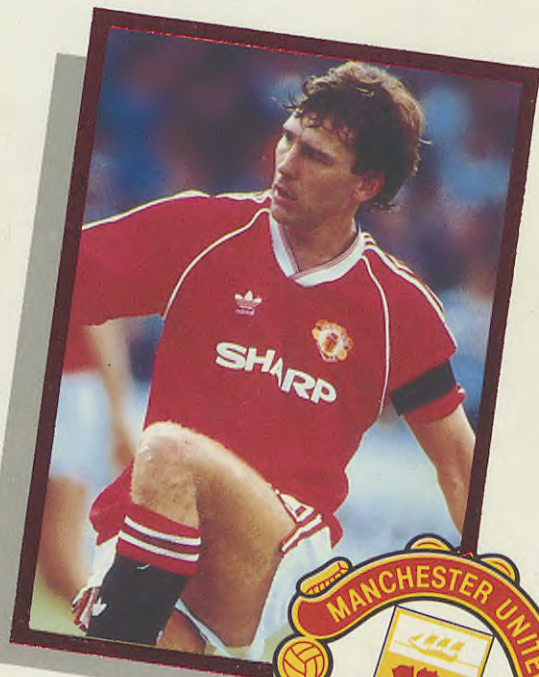


# BRYAN ROBSON

OBE

TESTIMONIAL YEAR 1990-1991



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# Bryan Robson

OBE

TESTIMONIAL  
YEAR 1990/91

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello,

On behalf of the testimonial committee, may I thank you for supporting Bryan. It is only once in every decade that a true 'Great' arrives in any walk of life. For every Manchester United and England supporter we have had the privilege of bearing witness to one of the all-time 'Greats', in the person of Bryan Robson.

To extol Bryan's talents will merely add testimony to his exceptional record for both club and country. Any football fan will surely be familiar with the cries of every commentator reeling into "this man gives 110 per cent . . . Captain marvel . . . etc . . . etc."

Well, the time has arrived when, although it seems like only yesterday to some of us, Bryan is celebrating his ten years with Manchester United.

No one amongst us can deny that his commitment to his club and country has been outstanding. The leadership to both club and fellow international players has had a profound effect on many games, but that is regarding football only. Previously I spoke of a 'Great'.

He is also a 'Great' family man, a 'Great' worker on behalf of many charities, and many more attributes, basically, a really nice guy. His testimonial is reflected by the fact that we, as a committee, are concentrating on quality, not quantity. We will be holding a golf day, a race day, a boxing night, and of course, the highlight of the year, the game against Celtic.

To start the year we have the celebrity golf day which is under the scrutiny of Wendy Frost, who has organised many such events for the charity 'Save a Babe' for which Bryan has been an **active fundraiser for many years**.

We have Gerry Taylor and Phil Black who will be responsible for the race day at Haydock, Bryan's partners in their successful horse 'Taylor Made Boy'.

To assist in these and all the other events, may I pay tribute to all the other members of the committee listed below, who have all played an invaluable part in putting together a super programme of events.

May I also thank our wives and companions, whom have supported us through those long meetings, especially my wife, Inge, for her kind understanding, and a big thank you to Ron Wood, Bryan's business partner, for his most excellent work in putting together this fabulous brochure. But the biggest thank you of all goes to you, the fans and supporters, for being part of Bryan's year. On behalf of the Bryan Robson Testimonial Committee, it is both an honour and a privilege to serve such a gentleman.

*Michael Prophet*

Michael Prophet

### TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE

Mike Prophet (*Chairman*), Wendy Frost (*Secretary*), Barry Walsh (*Treasurer*)

### COMMITTEE

Ron Wood, Gerry Taylor, Phil Black, Peter Molloy, Jim Ennis, Shaun McCarthy

### PATRONS

Sir Matt Busby, Ian Botham MBE, Peter Scudamore, Walter Swinburn, Bobby Robson, Bill Wyman, Rod Stewart, John Stalker

*The committee would like to thank the advertisers for their support. We would like to express appreciation to the editors, David Meek and Tom Tyrell, for photographs to Harry Goodwin, Bob Thomas, the Daily Mirror and the Manchester Evening News, also Cliff Butler for the statistics and also Peter Fitton.*

### OTHER EVENTS

GOLF DAY - Monday 8th October, 1990

RACE DAY - Thursday 22nd November, 1990

❖ GALA BALL - London, 19th January, 1991

❖ BOXING NIGHT - Monday 4th February, 1991

❖ GALA BALL - Manchester, Saturday 27th April, 1991





Bryan and Tony Woodcock thrilled after defeating Brazil in '83 at the Marcana Stadium.



Taylormade Boy wins the Newcastle Northern Handicap.



Charlotte, Denise, Ben, Bryan and Claire at home.



Bryan receiving trophy from the great man Pele after leading The Football League 11 to victory over The Rest of the World.

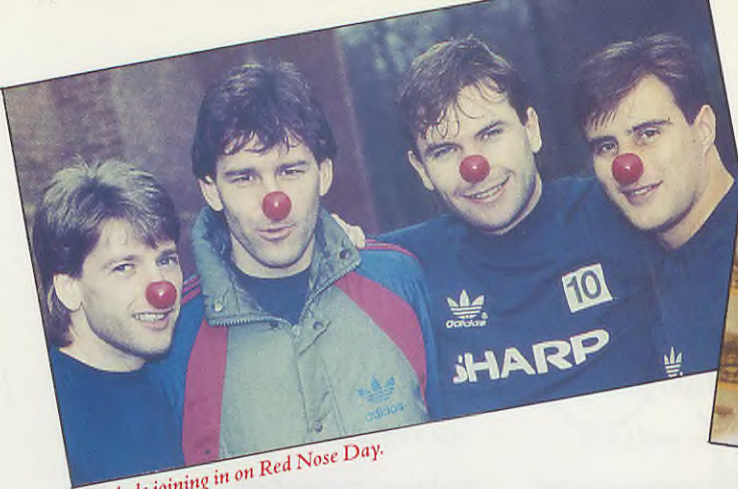


Some of the England players and wives dining in Italy.

In Australia, meeting Prime Minister, Bob Hawke.







The lads joining in on Red Nose Day.



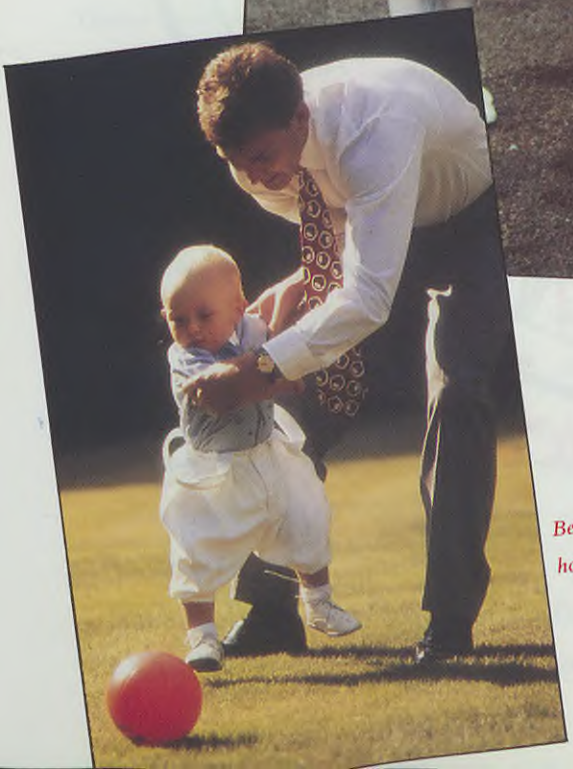
Alex Ferguson measuring Bryan up before the FA Cup Final.



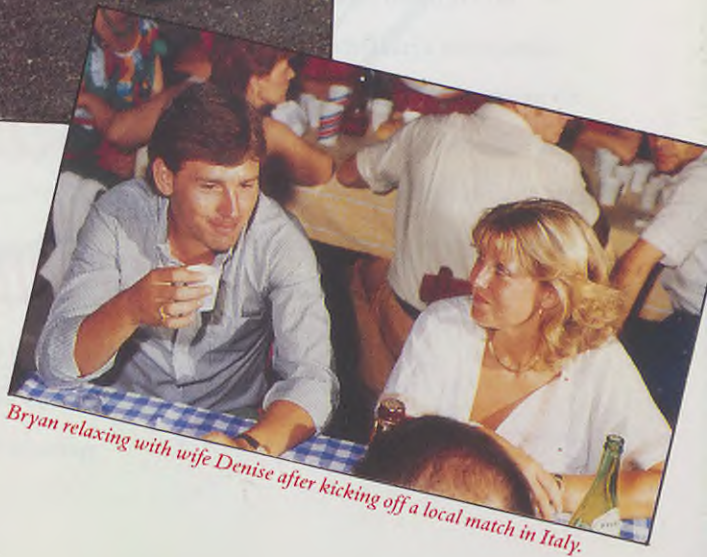
The Nun and the Musketeer.



Bryan, Denise, Claire and Charlotte outside Buckingham Palace after collecting the OBE.



Ben showing dad how to play.

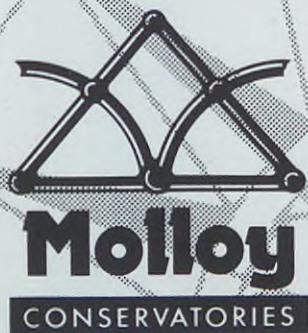


Bryan relaxing with wife Denise after kicking off a local match in Italy.





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# A MESSAGE AND THANK-YOU FROM BRYAN ROBSON

To play for Manchester United for 10 years is both a pleasure and a privilege, and I want to take this opportunity to put on record my appreciation of what it all means to me.

I arrived at Old Trafford a decade ago from West Bromwich, yet it only seems like yesterday.

In football you are always looking forward to your next match with little time to spare for the one you have just played, so in a way you are almost wishing your life away.

But this is also a moment for me to look back and say how much I have enjoyed it.

The supporters have always been brilliant with me, and I have always tried to give as much back as I have taken. If I have ever rushed past a fan wanting to talk football, or ignored an autograph book, it really has been because I have been in a rush, invariably late as my wife Denise would probably confirm!

The fact is that we both love life in Manchester and all things being equal want to settle in the area for the future.

It's one of the reasons why I turned down the opportunity to go to Italy a few years ago when I had the chance. Of course, from time to time I wonder what it would have been like to have pitted myself against some of the leading players in Europe on a week to week basis.

People like Platini were playing in Italy at the time and the Italians had

won the World Cup in 1982, so it was all happening in their country.

But I have no real regrets because the advantages of playing for Manchester United and keeping my family where I knew they were happy far outweighed the challenge and money abroad.

I have also always enjoyed being around the club. People sometimes say Manchester United are big and impersonal, not a family club, but I have always felt part of it.

The big disappointment of course has been the absence of the League championship. I might have contributed a little more to trying to win the title but for my injuries.

I first came to Old Trafford to join up with Ron Atkinson again in an effort to win things, and I honestly thought at the time that one day we would win the League.

It hasn't happened as yet, but we will be giving it our best shot again this season, and you never know.

At least I have had the consolation of going to Wembley a few times, with three FA Cup successes.

But the highlight of my United career and the final which has given me the most satisfaction was the last one because basically the team took such a lot of criticism last season.

I was pleased because of the new lads in the side and they must have wondered at times what they had walked into. We seemed to take stick every week until we finally answered the critics by winning the Cup.

Alex Ferguson had lost his midfield with injury with both me and Neil Webb out, but nobody made any allowances, and it was tough, particularly for the newcomers, because that kind of treatment undoubtedly gets to you in the end.

Some of the younger lads looked to the likes of internationals like me and Neil, and for long periods we just weren't there.

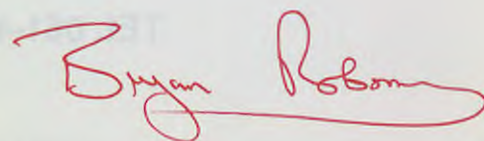
They all had to work very hard, but they did it and proved a few things. Everyone got their reward for sticking at it – including the fans!

I was delighted with the way players like Gary Pallister and Paul Ince finished the season. Lee Martin came of age and toughened himself.

I think the Boss has laid good foundations and I know we are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging season with great confidence.

I also hope that my testimonial game against Glasgow Celtic will add something to the season. A match against 'The Jocks' is always competitive, and I remember the fantastic day out everyone had when they were down at Old Trafford for Lou Macari's testimonial.

My thanks go to Celtic for doing me the honour of playing. I would like to thank United as well, of course, and all those behind the scenes who have made my testimonial year possible.





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1980-81



1981-82



1982-83



1983-84



1984-85



1985-86



1986-87



1987-88



1988-89



1989-90

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# CUP CELEBRATIONS



*Bryan Robson led Manchester United back to Wembley to win the FA Cup at the second attempt against Brighton in 1983. With him celebrating on the pitch with the trophy are (back row) Ray Wilkins, Kevin Moran, Mike Duxbury, Gordon McQueen, Gary Bailey, Lou Macari, Ashley Grimes, Norman Whiteside.*

*Front row: Alan Davies, Bryan Robson, Arthur Albiston, Frank Stapleton, Arnold Muhren.*

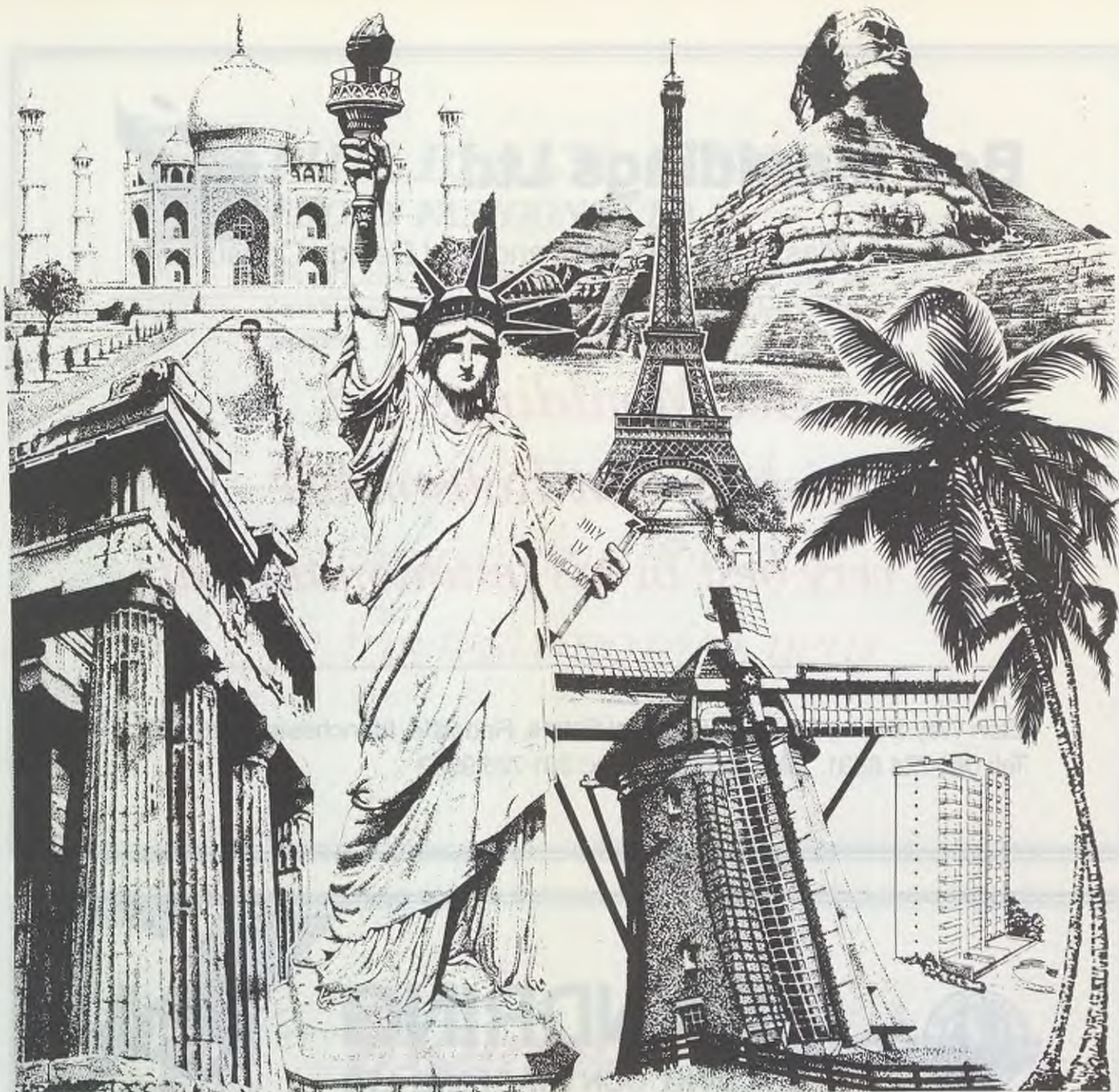


*Bryan holds the FA Cup aloft in triumph after beating Everton in 1985. Up for the medals with him are Gary Bailey, John Gidman, Gordon Strachan, Norman Whiteside, Paul McGrath, Arthur Albiston, Mark Hughes and Frank Stapleton.*



*Manchester United celebrate after beating Crystal Palace in the replay of the 1990 FA Cup. Back row: Steve Bruce, Lee Sharpe, Mark Robins, Les Sealey, Mike Phelan, Brian McClair, Clayton Blackmore, Colin Gibson. Front row: Danny Wallace, Mark Hughes, Gary Pallister, Lee Martin, Bryan Robson, Neil Webb.*





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*to Bryan and family*  
*in his testimonial year*



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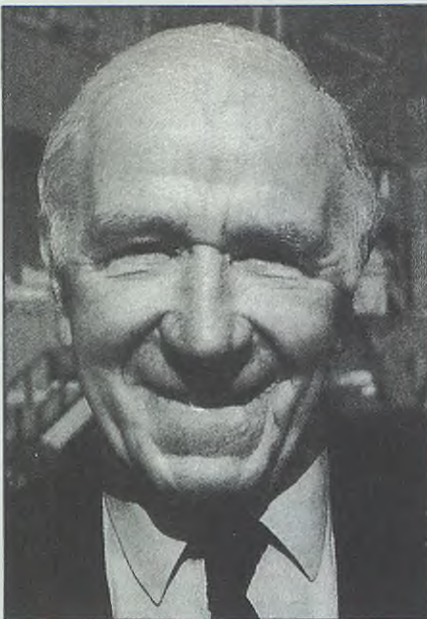
Fred Frost and family  
are pleased to be associated with  
Bryan Robson in his testimonial year  
and wish him good luck for the future



FROM THE NUMBER 1 IN SALFORD  
TO THE NUMBER 1 IN ENGLAND







*Sir Matt Busby, in an interview with Tom Tyrrell of Piccadilly Radio.*

**T**here was no one prouder than me on that night in May 1990 when Bryan Robson took a step into the history books by becoming the first Manchester United skipper to lead his club to victory in three FA Cup finals.

It meant that Bryan was achieving something for which he can always be remembered, and as far as I am concerned he has really earned his place alongside some of the great players who have represented this wonderful club.

I am often asked to make comparisons between players from the modern era and those from the past, but my answer is always the same . . . great players are great players and will always be that.

By that I mean that an outstanding player in the 1930s would certainly have been just as impressive had he been involved in another era of the game.

The game may change but great players all have the same qualities – skill, stamina, and a will to win.

Bryan Robson has all these plus one more ingredient, which has been very

much a part of his make-up . . . bravery.

Had he been around in the fifties or sixties then I know I would have wanted him in my side, and I suppose that is the best way of making a comparison between today and yesteryear.

He is the kind of player every manager looks for and we at Old Trafford became aware of him when he was a young boy with West Bromwich Albion. I shared in the delight of many people at the club when he moved here, and he has shown us over the years that we made the right move.

Bryan is a natural leader who has handled the responsibility of being captain of both club and country very well.

To be given the captaincy of your team shows that those above you at the club recognise your leadership qualities, to be handed a similar role at international level shows that others have also been aware of these skills.

I have mentioned bravery earlier, and I suppose that this ingredient of the Bryan Robson game has been a major contributor to the long list of injuries he has had during his career. Some players might have second thoughts about going into situations where they could be injured, especially if that is what happened to them on a previous occasion, but not Bryan. He gives 100 per cent and has never thought about his own safety if there was a chance of scoring, or preventing a goal.

You will never see Bryan Robson ducking and diving, if he has to put his foot in where it hurts, then he will make the challenge no matter what might happen to him.

It is sad really that Bryan has missed so many games and we all felt for him during the 1986 World Cup and again in Italy this year when he found himself out of the England side. That shoulder injury in Mexico illustrated his bravery, how many other players would have endured the pain Bryan must have gone through because they felt their country demanded it? It was a terrible shame that injury again robbed him of the opportunity of leading England through the 1990 World Cup.

Another ingredient of the Robson recipe is versatility. He is certainly no one position player and his ability to adapt to any role he is asked to fill by his manager is an example to any youngster coming into the game. A player who can fill many roles is of greater value to a side than one who cannot.

And what does the future hold in store for Bryan?

Well, there is no doubt that the qualities he has shown as a player, his knowledge of the game, his approach to his profession and his leadership could see him taking a step into management. That, however, is a milestone for the future.

*Matt Busby*



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# BRYAN ROBSON IS SIMPLY THE BEST

It's been my pleasure as a football manager to have had some of the best players in the world playing for me.

Over the years I have been privileged to see, in close-up, people like Cyrille Regis, Laurie Cunningham, Willie Johnston, Paolo Futre, Paul McGrath, Ray Wilkins, Arnold Muhren and Steve Coppell.

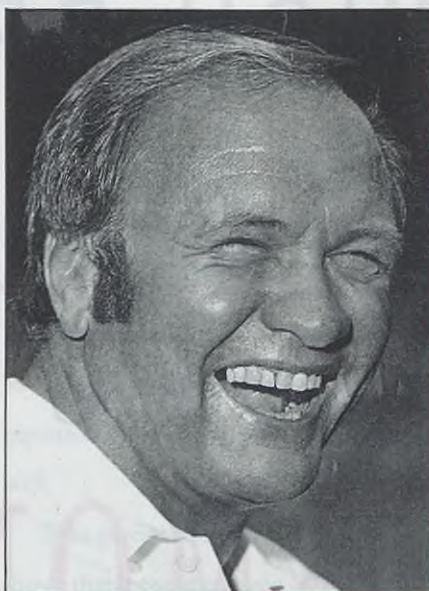
So the biggest compliment I can pay Bryan Robson is to say that among all these great players none came even remotely near him.

I think it's a judgement even these players themselves would agree with.

Without a shadow of doubt Bryan Robson is the most complete player possibly in the world to emerge since Johan Cruyff.

They say one man does not make a team, but if it had not been for injuries at vital times during my time as manager of Manchester United at least two League championship trophies would have landed at Old Trafford.

I have always described Bryan as a world-class professional who plays with the enthusiasm of the keenest amateur to add to his fine portfolio of abilities, be it a big international match or a Friday morning five-a-side exercise.



*By Ron Atkinson, the manager who broke the British transfer record when he signed Bryan Robson from West Bromwich Albion for £1.5m.*

## BRYAN ROBSON

Born: 11th January, 1957

Birthplace: Chester-le-Street

Signed apprentice (for W.B.A.):  
6th September, 1972

Signed professional (for W.B.A.):  
10th August, 1974

Football League debut (for W.B.A.):  
12th April, 1975 v. York City (A)

First Football League goal:  
19th April, 1975 v Cardiff City (H)

Transferred to Manchester United:  
3rd October, 1981

Football League debut (for United):  
10th October, 1981 v Manchester City (A)

First Football League goal (for United):  
7th November, 1981 v Sunderland (A)

*Statistics by Cliff Butler and Tony Matthews.*

Yet through it all he has remained completely natural and unspoiled by all the success and adulation.

He is an object lesson for any aspiring young player. His career was slow taking off at West Bromwich because his physique was not all it might have been. There was a worry that he might not get strong enough for the rigours of professional football at the highest level.

But there was always something different about him, and a decision was finally taken to give him a contract. Even then things were not easy for him. He broke his leg three times in the space of 12 months, which naturally set him back.

He overcame that problem by sheer hard work and determination to become the player we know and admire today.

Nobody should begrudge him the success and rewards which have come his way because no player has ever worked harder or been more dedicated to his club and country than Bryan Robson.

To sum up, he is simply the best!





Ron Atkinson set a British record transfer fee when he paid £1.5m to West Bromwich Albion for Bryan Robson in October 1981. The signing was completed out on the pitch at Old Trafford with, left to right: Ron Atkinson the manager, new boy Bryan, secretary Les Olive (standing) and chairman Martin Edwards.

Bryan then joined the rest of the spectators in the stands as his new team-mates went on to beat Wolves 5-0 with a hat-trick from Sammy McLroy. Already, Bryan Robson was an inspiration!

#### PLAYING RECORD WITH WEST BROMWICH ALBION AND MANCHESTER UNITED

	Football League		FA Cup		Football League Cup		European Competition		*Other Matches		TOTAL	
	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals	Apps.	Goals
<i>(with West Bromwich Albion)</i>												
1974-75	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
1975-76	14(2)	1	1(1)	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	21(3)	2
1976-77	21(2)	8	0(1)	0	1(1)	0	0	0	5	0	27(4)	8
1977-78	35	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	10	1	50	4
1978-79	41	7	5	0	3	0	8	2	8	0	65	9
1979-80	35	8	0	0	5	2	2	0	7	1	49	11
1980-81	40	10	2	1	5	0	0	0	14	2	61	13
1981-82	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	10	0
<i>(with Manchester United)</i>												
1981-82	32	5	1	0	2	0	0	0	6	4	41	9
1982-83	33	10	6	3	8	1	2	1	9	6	58	21
1983-84	33	12	1	0	6	0	6	4	9	3	55	19
1984-85	32(1)	9	4	1	2	1	7	2	6	0	51(1)	13
1985-86	21	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	5	1	31	8
1986-87	29(1)	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	3	37	10
1987-88	36	11	2	0	5	0	0	0	11	4	54	15
1988-89	34	4	6	2	3	2	0	0	9	1	52	9
1989-90	20	2	4	2	3	0	0	0	5	1	32	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>464(6)</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>37(2)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>51(1)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>697(8)</b>	<b>158</b>

\*Includes: FA Charity Shield, Anglo-Scottish Cup, Tennant-Caledonian Cup, Screen Sport Super Cup, Tour Matches, Testimonials, etc.  
 Figures in brackets denote substitute.

Statistics by Cliff Butler and Tony Matthews





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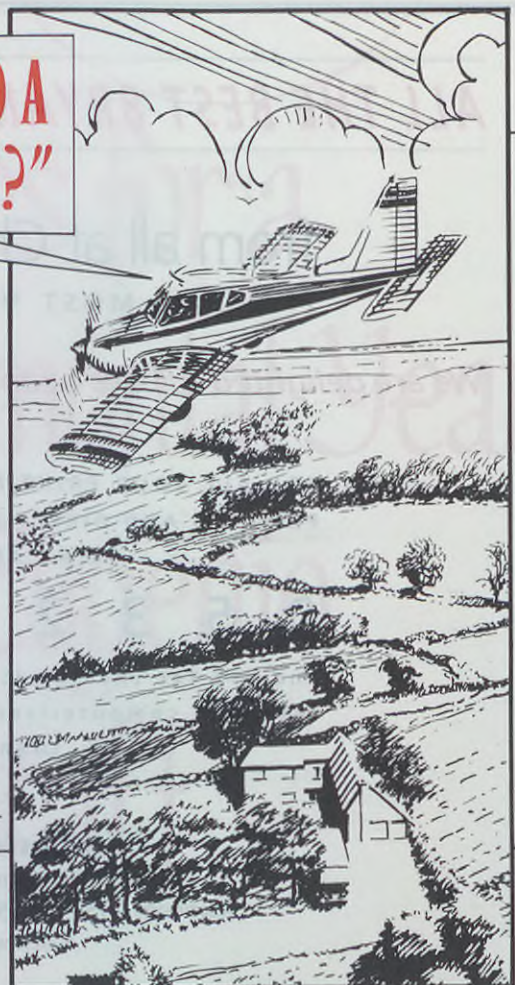
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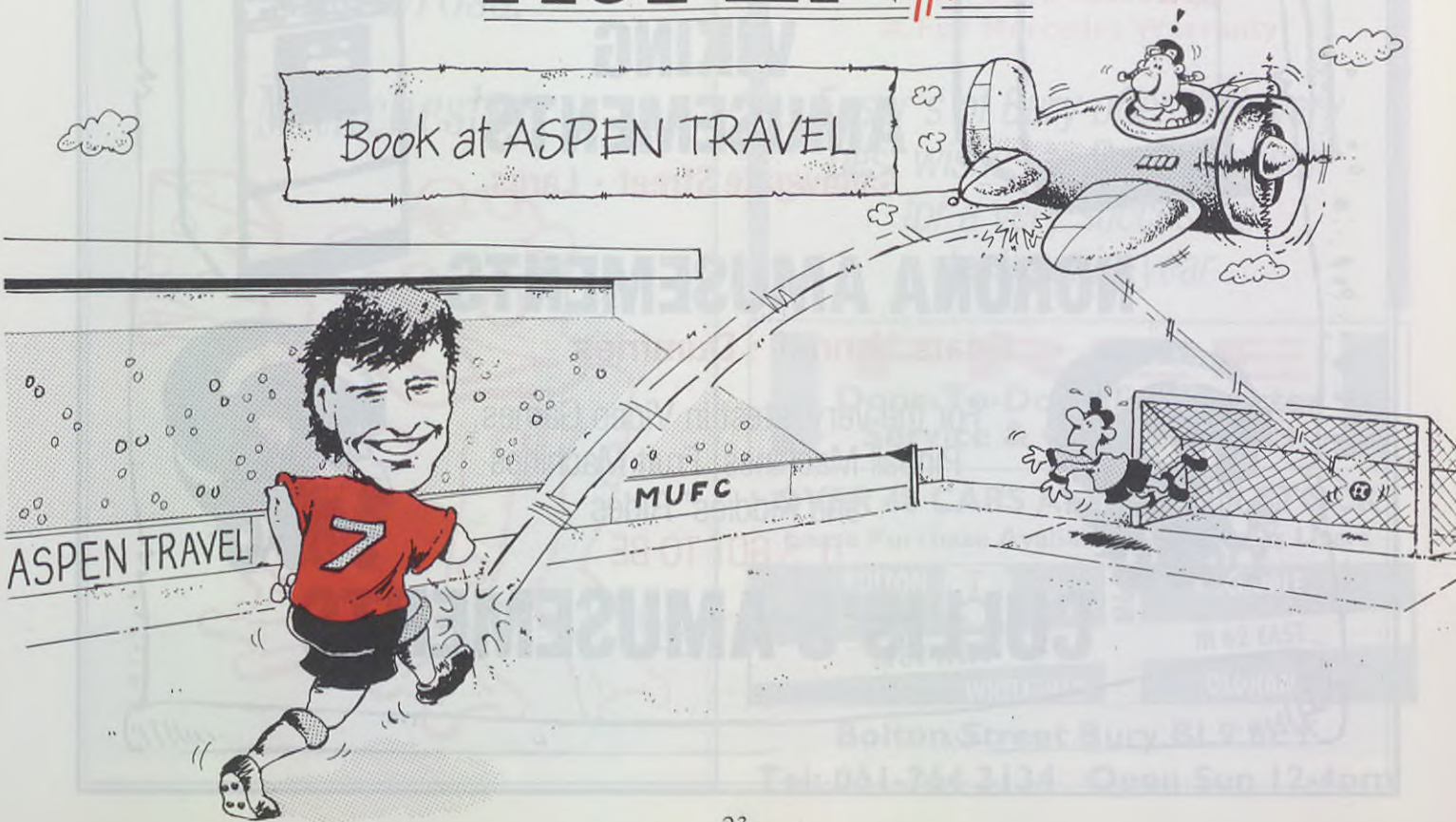
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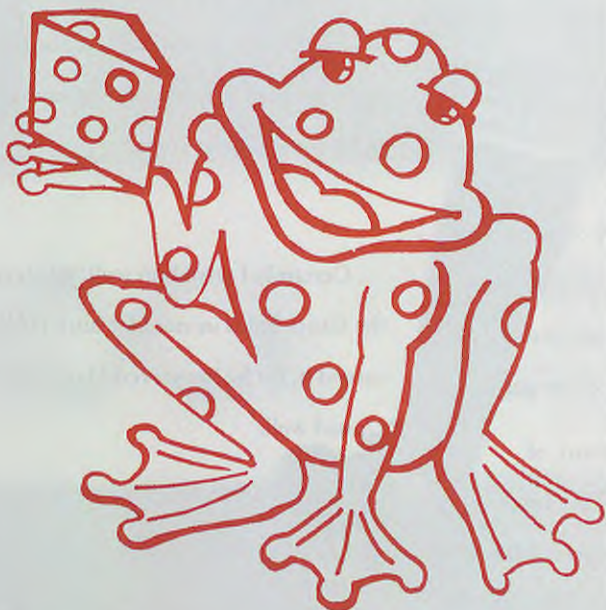
IT'S GOT TO BE

# CULLIS'S AMUSEMENTS



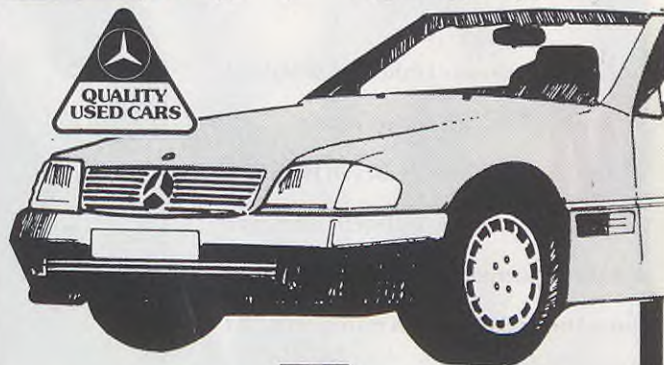
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# A MANAGER'S DREAM

**M**anchester United are delighted to be taking part in this testimonial to Bryan Robson.

I know full well that Bryan had the opportunity to join the exodus abroad before my time as manager of Old Trafford. The Italians wanted him, and I am sure he could have made himself a fortune if he had indicated that he wanted to try his luck in Europe.

But he chose to stay and I was more than happy to find him still with United when I took over. For Bryan is a manager's dream and he has served this club well.

There is a peak in guts for any human being and Bryan reaches this level more than most. He is prepared to go through hell and high water for the sake of the team and the ambition that burns so fiercely within him.

He has played like this for 10 years for this club and he has performed similar marvels for England as well.

There is an aura about him, a presence impossible for friends or foes to ignore. When he is out on the park, as a manager, you feel secure.

His courage gets him a lot of knocks, but the same bravery often sees him taking the field when others might well have pulled out with their injury.

Most players getting the knocks he does would miss many more games than he has done. He is a very rare gem.



*By Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United.*

The way he plays the game is an absolute image of him as a person – loyal, committed and dependable; and there aren't too many of his kind around.

I can think of that tank of a man where I come from in Scotland, John Greig, and Willie Miller at Aberdeen, but the closest is probably Dave Mackay, a lion of a player.

They share this quality of being able to grab a game by the scruff of the neck, then they shake it and get the result they want. They are the giants of the game.

Some players start to think of retirement or slipping off into some quieter water when they start to plan their testimonial, and of course it's true that he is now 33.

Maybe he doesn't make 40 of those famous surging runs into the opposition box any more, but he still makes 20, which is more than most midfield players, and what's more, they are of the kind that count.

He made us all sweat when he came home early from the World Cup in Italy this summer to have an operation on his Achilles tendon, but I am sure he won't let this stop him for very long.

I reckon Bryan has got unfinished business to complete before he is ready to hang up his boots. There is the matter of bringing the League championship to Old Trafford.

It's a quest which burns him up. He wants it so badly and there is an urgency in him which fires him up.

The highest compliment I can pay him is to say that it is a hunger which everyone at Manchester United needs to feel. He has set the standard for the last 10 years and I am sure he will continue to do so for some time to come.

Certainly I wish him well, whatever the future holds in store for him. He has earned it, for he has served Manchester United well.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Alex Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Alex" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Ferguson" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The ink is a vibrant red color.





*Bryan Robson . . . a giant of a player able to grab a game by the scruff of the neck, and an ideal captain, says manager Alex Ferguson.*



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BRYAN**

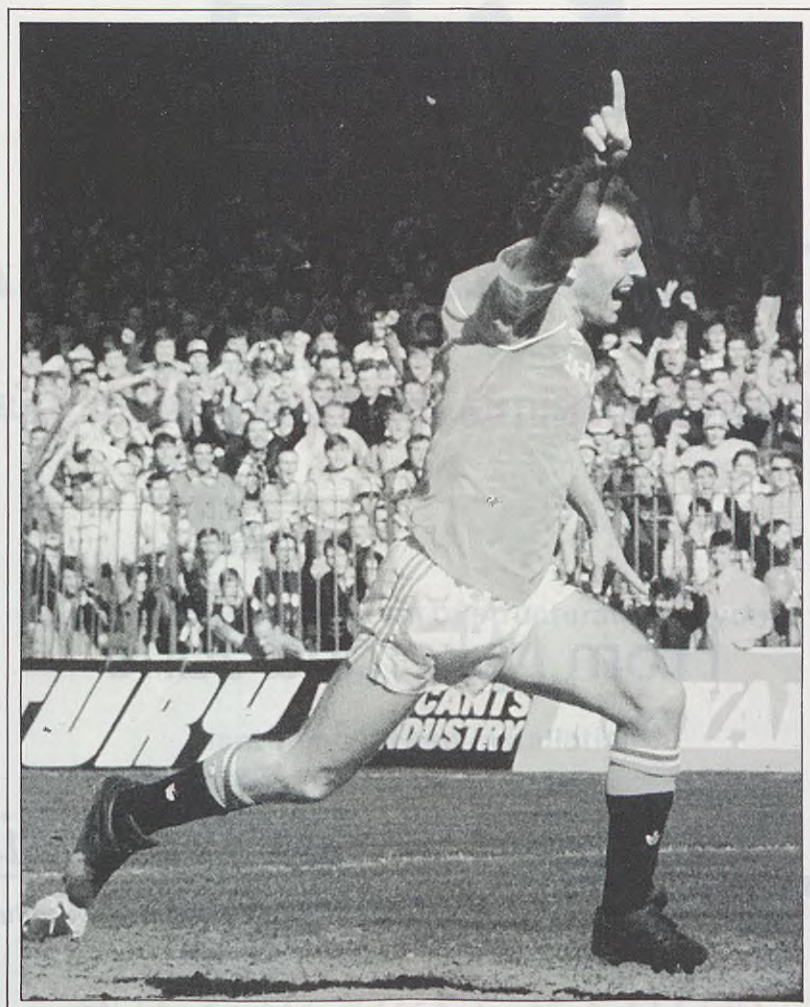
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*Bobby and Bryan during an England training session.*





# 'HE IS MY PLAYER OF THE EIGHTIES'

A tribute from Bobby Robson, England manager 1982-1990

I am glad of this opportunity to say a few words about Bryan Robson, because this summer with England has seen the parting of our ways.

Bryan has been skipper of the international team throughout my eight years as manager and I will always look back on our relationship as one of the most positive and enduring experiences in charge.

His loyalty and commitment to the cause were outstanding and provides one of my happiest memories from the international world as I set about my new job here in Holland.

During our eight years working together we had our highs and lows as a team, but the great thing about him was that even when things looked their blackest, like after the European championships two years ago, he never wavered.

In fact his contribution was much more positive than that, because when we were up against it he tried extra hard. Although injury robbed him of a place in the World Cup semi-finals in Italy this summer, it was Bryan Robson more than any other single player who was responsible for getting us there in such good shape.

He was magnificent after Germany in 1988 and played out of his skin to get us back on the road to success. At a time

when it would have been easy for heads to drop, his chin came up. He stood up ready to be counted and stiffened the backbone along with men like Peter Shilton and Terry Butcher in readiness for our good performance at the World Cup in Italy.

But for injuries to the captain at vital times, we might have had even more success, perhaps, at the World Cup in Mexico in 1986.

It was the recurring dislocation of his shoulder which stopped him that time, just as an Achilles tendon problem stopped him in the final stages in Italy.

Bryan has had dreadfully bad luck with injuries, though having said that, he has always been vulnerable because of the fearless way he plays.

Lesser players have won more but none have given as much. He should have had well over a hundred caps by now, but under me he has missed more than 30 through injury.

It's the price he has paid for his committed style.

Of course, you are not taught to play like Bryan Robson, it is in-born. It's a natural characteristic which separates the men from the boys.

Whenever I selected a squad for an England match I always worried about people dropping out, particularly the

skipper, for he was always the last one you wanted to be missing.

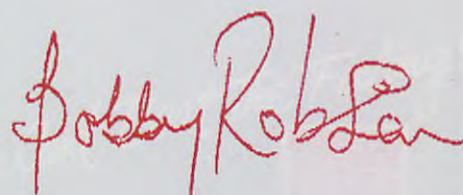
I think some people probably felt I put too much emphasis on his value to the team and waited too long at times to give him every possible chance of recovering from some injury or other; but it was very difficult to do otherwise because he was simply our best player.

When he ever told me he was injured, my heart used to sink. I used to ask myself who was there to replace him, and the answer was that while we always had excellent players around, nobody quite measured up to Bryan Robson.

He has always been worth his weight in gold to both his country and to Manchester United. He is priceless . . . not just an inspiration but a match-winner.

There hasn't been another midfield player to compare with him, and I have no hesitation naming him my Player of the Eighties.

There have been Peter Shilton, Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking, plus a few more, but only one Bryan Robson.





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broken nose  
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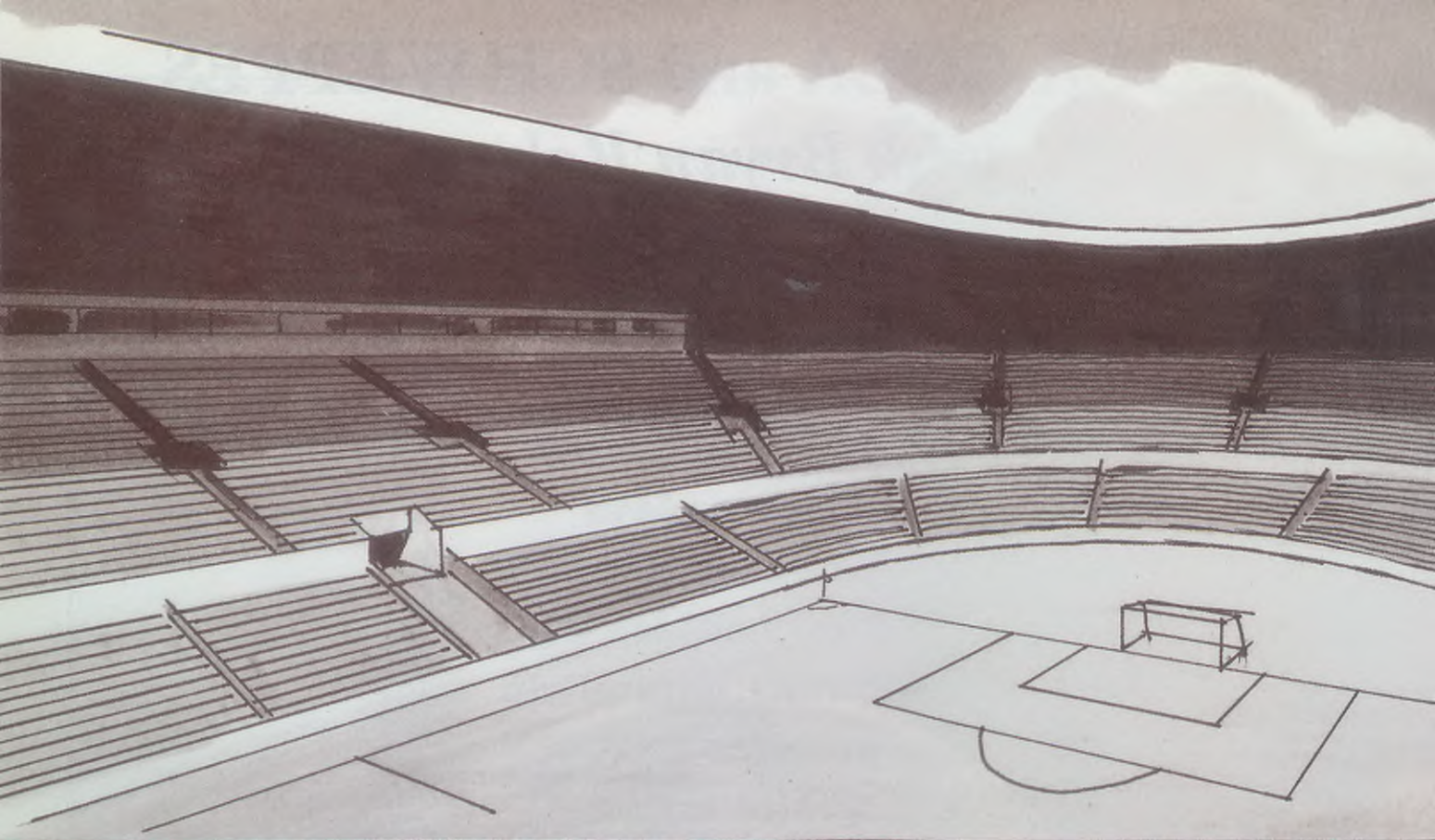


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Middle row: Jim McGregor, Archie Knox, Colin Gibson, Brian McClair, Russell Beardsmore, Clayton Blackmore, Paul Ince, Ralph Milne, Norman Davies.

Bottom row: Danny Wallace, Denis Irwin, Mark Robins, Bryan Robson, Alex Ferguson, Mark Hughes, Gary Pallister, Lee Martin.

### TEAM SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING SQUAD

#### GOALKEEPER

- Jim Leighton
- Les Sealey

#### MIDFIELD

- Paul Ince
- Ralph Milne
- Mike Phelan
- Bryan Robson
- Neil Webb

#### DEFENCE

- Viv Anderson
- Russell Beardsmore
- Clayton Blackmore
- Steve Bruce
- Mal Donaghy
- Colin Gibson
- Denis Irwin
- Lee Martin
- Gary Pallister

#### FORWARD

- Mark Hughes
- Brian McClair
- Mark Robins
- Lee Sharpe
- Danny Wallace

MATCH OFFICIALS Referee: Neil Midgley





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Top row: Andy Walker, Chris Morris, Dariusz Wdowczyk, Paul Elliott, Derek Whyte, Martin Hayes, Steve Fulton.  
 Middle row: Brian Scott, Perry Creaney, Pat Bonner, Billy McNeill, Andy Murdoch, Mike Galloway, Tommy Craig.  
 Bottom row: Joe Miller, Charlie Nicholas, Peter Grant, Paul McStay, Dariusz Dziekanowski, John Hewit, John Collins.

## TEAM SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING SQUAD

### GOALKEEPER

- Pat Bonner
- Andy Murdoch

### MIDFIELD

- John Collins
- Steve Fulton
- Mike Galloway
- Peter Grant
- Martin Hayes
- Paul McStay

### DEFENCE

- Chris Morris
- Dariusz Wdowczyk
- Derek Whyte

### FORWARD

- Perry Creaney
- Dariusz Dziekanowski
- Paul Elliott
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# BRYAN ROBSON

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1980-81		
Norway		Brazil
Romania		Wales
Switzerland		Scotland
Spain		Switzerland
Romania		Hungary
	1981-82	
Norway (1)		Scotland
Hungary		Finland (2)
Northern Ireland (1)		France (2)
Wales		Czechoslovakia
Holland		West Germany
Spain		
	1982-83	
Denmark		Luxembourg
Greece		Scotland (1)
	1983-84	
Hungary		Soviet Union
Luxembourg (2)		Brazil
France		Uruguay
Northern Ireland		Chile
Scotland		
	1984-85	
East Germany (1)		Romania
Finland (1)		Finland (1)
Turkey (3)		Scotland
Eire		Italy
Mexico		United States
West Germany (1)		
	1985-86	
Romania		Mexico
Turkey (1)		Portugal
Israel (2)		Morocco
	1986-87	
Northern Ireland		Turkey
Spain		Brazil
Northern Ireland (1)		Scotland
	1987-88	
Turkey (1)		Colombia
Yugoslavia (1)		Switzerland
Holland		Republic of Ireland
Hungary		Holland (1)
Scotland		Soviet Union
	1988-89	
Denmark		Albania (1)
Sweden		Chile
Saudi Arabia		Scotland
Greece (1)		Poland
Albani (1)		Denmark
	1989-90	
Poland		Uruguay
Italy		Tunisia
Yugoslavia (2)		Republic of Ireland
Czechoslovakia		Holland

Goals scored in parentheses

# ENGLAND ON PARADE



Early days with England playing in the Kevin Keegan team. Back row: Trevor Francis, Viv Anderson, Phil Neal, Trevor Brooking, Peter Withe, Russell Osman. Middle row: Bryan Robson, Paul Mariner, Peter Shilton, Phil Thompson, Ray Clemence, Glenn Hoddle, Peter Barnes. Front Row: Ray Wilkins, Mick Mills, Tony Woodcock, Kevin Keegan, Terry McDermott, Ken Sansom.



Bryan was appointed captain of England in 1984 and he led out the international team for the first time in Athens against Greece. With him from the left are: Peter Shilton, Kenny Sansom, Sammy Lee, Phil Thompson, Tony Morley, Steve Williams, Paul Mariner, Tony Woodcock, Alvin Martin, Phil Neal.

**CAPS:** 87 (to 1st October, 1990)  
**GOALS:** 27  
**DEBUT:** Against Republic of Ireland at Wembley, 6th February, 1980  
**CAPTAIN:** 63 times  
**RESULT RECORD:** Won 44, Drawn 26, Lost 17



A word of encouragement from the captain for England team-mate Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest defender.





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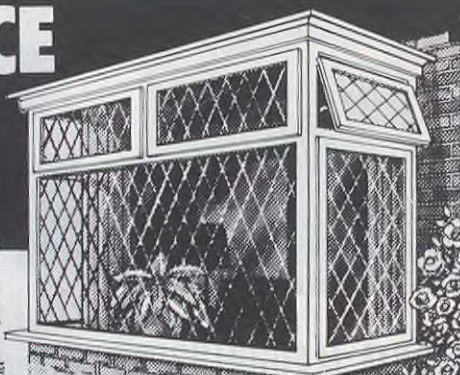
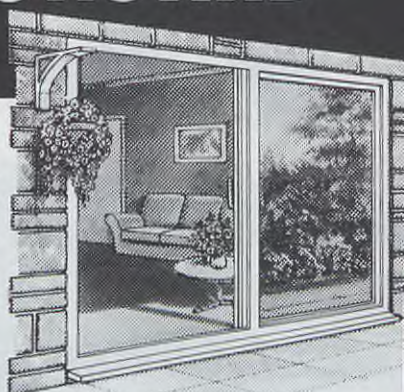


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on a fine career and send their best wishes for the future.*



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ON HIS TESTIMONIAL YEAR

*Well done and good luck  
for the future*

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*Bryan gets into pantomime mood for his first Christmas as a Manchester United player, no doubt hoping the magic lamp genie will be bringing him lots of cups and medals.*



*More pantomime as the United and England skipper slips into matador gear in preparation for the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, but this was the tournament where he could have done with the magic lamp for his dislocated shoulder.*



*No, it's not Billy Meredith, just Bryan Robson in appropriate strip to mark the centenary of the Football League.*





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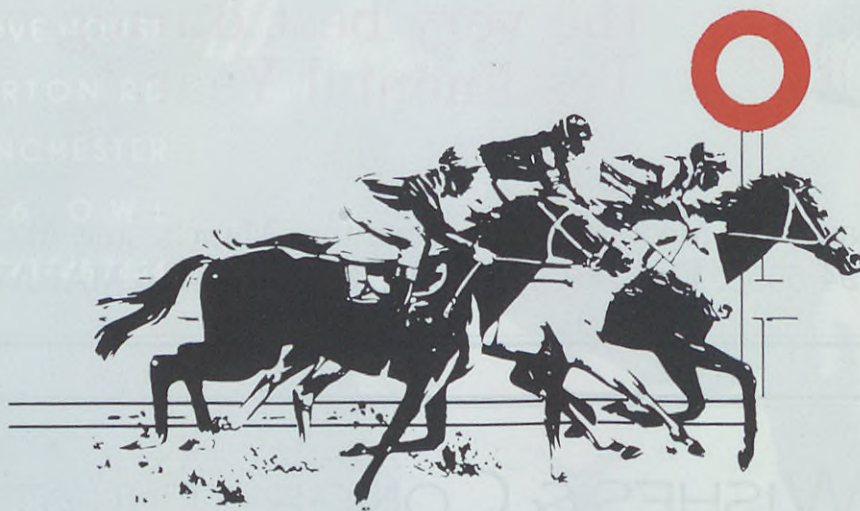
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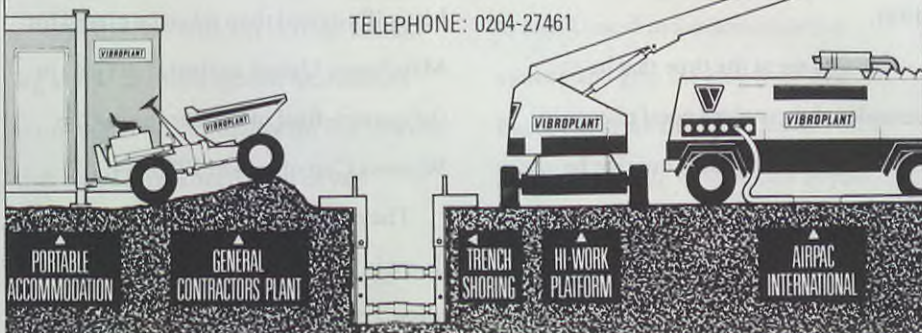
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# A BARGAIN BUY —EVEN AT £1.5m

Says David Meek of the  
*Manchester Evening News*

**B**ryan Robson, skipper of Manchester United and England, is the Captain Fantastic of modern football.

He is the complete all-rounder, the player who can do virtually everything, and what's more, do it better than most. The unassuming Geordie is a man to build a team round, which of course is why Ron Atkinson set a record fee when he paid West Bromwich Albion £1.5m to bring him to Old Trafford.

The beauty of Bryan is that time showed that he was a bargain buy.

He made no secret of the fact that the motivation behind leaving West Bromwich was to be with a club which

won things, and he also turned down the chance of making his fortune in Italy in order to pursue his domestic ambitions with United.

Perhaps it is the absence of an elusive championship medal which keeps him going at Old Trafford. Certainly his drive and determination is as fierce as ever, and therefore considerable because it has always been his presence as well as his personal ability which has marked him out as special.

For Robson is an influential, and an inspiring, player who brings out the best from those around him. He leads more by example than by orders so that when he does speak on the field of play it is with considerable effect.

Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, continues to see Robson as one of the players he can regard as a stable and known quantity.

This of course is how Ron Atkinson saw the player when he examined his resources on succeeding Dave Sexton as manager at Old Trafford in the summer of 1981.

He told me at the time that he considered there were good players in both defence and attack, but that he just couldn't see how United were going to stop the opposition tearing through the midfield.

The result was a return to his old club at The Hawthorns to work out a package valued at £2m for Remi Moses and Robson. With those two players in his side he achieved a high level of consistency, twice winning the FA Cup and finishing in the top four in the League in all five seasons he was in the Old Trafford hot-seat.

Robson's strength is his ability to bring together the art of the well-timed tackle and the vision to make good use of the ball once he has won it. His passing is invariably accurate, and it is not always safe passing. He will put the ball into space and he will prompt movement in his own team in order to create an opening.

To that basic efficiency he adds a tremendous capacity for work, covering tirelessly yet always ready to make those driving runs into the opposition penalty box.

It's made him a midfield player who scores goals.

Robson's commitment was never better illustrated than when he played for Manchester United against Barcelona in the quarter-final of the European Cup Winners Cup of season 1983-84.

The captain felt he had let the team down in the first leg in Spain when he had missed chances and the Reds had come



*United's captain seems to be such a bargain buy that he is even ready to do his own running repairs to his shirt.*





*Manchester United thrilled their fans when they came from behind to beat Barcelona in the European Cup Winners Cup. Their inspiration was undoubtedly Bryan Robson who seemed to make victory a personal crusade.*

home with a 2-0 defeat.

But the fans who felt that the second leg at Old Trafford against Maradona's team would be a formality for the Spanish club had not reckoned with Bryan Robson's reaction.

The Reds' skipper seemed to have made the return match a personal crusade.

He was a man inspired as he scored twice to lead United to a memorable 3-0 victory and give the club their first European semi-final for 15 years on a marvellous night reminiscent of past glories.

The home fans burst on to the pitch at the end to carry the captain off on their

shoulders. He deserved no less after a remarkable recovery which prompted the old master, Sir Matt Busby, to say: "The memories came flooding back. The game took me right back to the time we pulled back two goals against Bilbao at Maine Road for that memorable win in our first season in Europe in 1957."





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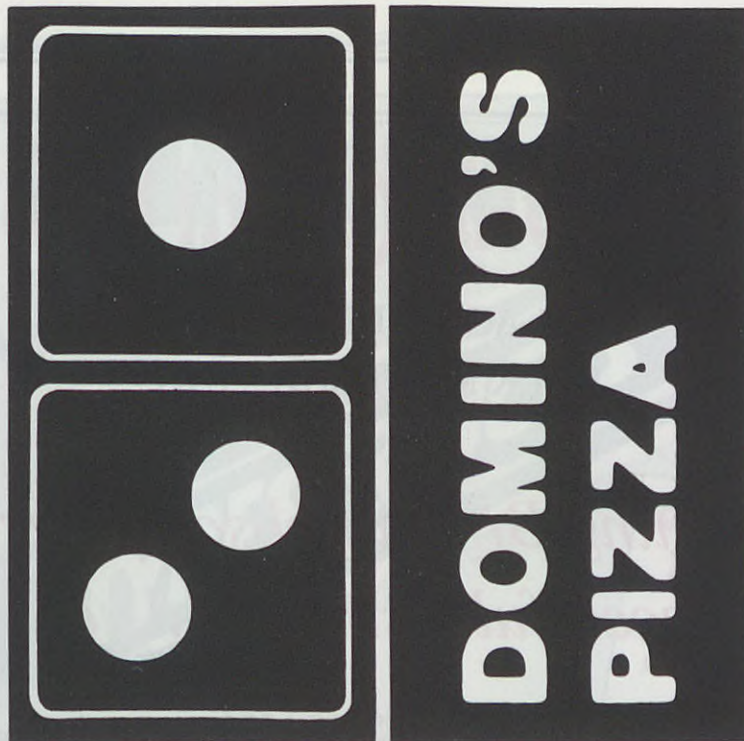
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# A SEVEN-STONE WEAKLING WHO CAME GOOD!

By Peter Fitton of *The Sun*

**B**ryan Robson is the colossus of football who once might have been driven out of the game because he was . . . a seven-stone weakling.

And he was deliberately force-fed a club-approved bottle of Guinness a day to make sure he survived and collected his first pay packet in soccer.

Anyone who has seen that intimidating strength and high-powered technique terrorise the rest of the world in the last ten years must question the story.

But every unbelievable word of it is

true. Robson confirmed it in his early days at Manchester United, long before he started rightfully rubbing shoulders with the rest of Old Trafford's legends.

The major question mark whether he was made for the modern game loomed over him as a talented teenager at West Brom.

"I was a bit of a titch, so small for football they worried whether I would ever be big enough to make the grade," revealed Bryan.

"I was about seven stones wet through and they decided the best chance was Guinness. They put me on a bottle a



day after training, to build me up and give me strength. It seemed to work."

Sure did. Not that anyone was ever mean enough, or brave enough, to kick sand in the face of this proud, durable and highly combative Geordie, even when he was most vulnerable.

His Rambo approach has cruelly, wrongly, clouded the absolute truth about this prowling tiger of a player.

Robson's skill, passing accuracy and killer instinct in the box are of a calibre to equal the greats.

Tragically, too, the total commitment and courage have also carried the physical risks that made him the injured fall-guy of two World Cups.

"The first in Mexico was bad news – the next, in Italy, was desperately hard to take," he told me.

"But at least I was able to get on that stage three times. I shouldn't ever forget that."

A statement that underlined the true nature of the hard-man with a genuinely humble streak. And living proof to the skinny hopeful down the street that so-called whimps can turn into wondermen.



Peter Fitton



*Early days playing for West Bromwich after worrying whether he was going to be strong enough to make the grade as a professional footballer. Action man was prescribed a bottle of Guinness a day after training to try and build up his strength.*

*It seemed to work.*



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# ROBBO—LEADER OF THE PACK

## *Tom Tyrrell takes a look at Bryan's career*

**W**hat is the connection between Newcastle United, West Bromwich Albion, Manchester United and Lord Baden-Powell? The answer is that each of them had an influential role in the rise to footballing fame of Bryan Robson.

The first links are obvious, as a youngster Bryan supported Newcastle, the biggest club within reach of his Chester-le-Street home, and this helped to build his interest in the game. His ability as a player took him to West Bromwich and then Old Trafford. But where does Baden-Powell come into the story?

Well, it was through the Scout movement, founded by Baden Powell, that Bryan took his first steps into competitive football, even though he confesses that he had little interest in scouting.

When Bryan was a nine-year-old the local Wolf Clubs had a football team and he joined the pack so that he could get involved. Mind you, Akaila didn't disapprove, even at nine, young master Robson was an outstanding player.

Through the competitive matches involving other Cub packs, Bryan developed his game and got into his school side eventually captaining Chester-le-Street Juniors in the 1967-68 season, an important time for Bryan and one which had rather special significance at Old Trafford too!

While United celebrated success in the European Cup, Bryan's school team topped their league.

Bryan Robson caught the eye of a scout who had nothing to do with Baden-Powell and eventually signed schoolboy forms for West Brom.

He had an aunt who lived in the Birmingham area and this made it easy for Bryan to link up with the Midlands club, staying with his relatives during the summer holidays and training with other boys at the Hawthorns.

Soon he was to join West Brom as a young professional and at the end of his first season, 1974-75 was drafted into the senior side for three games. He scored in two of them, Bryan Robson was on his way!

He caught the eye of England's talent spotters and played for his country at Youth level before showing his adaptability during the 14 senior games he had for Albion in his second season in which he played in six different positions ranging from full back to centre forward.

The injury burden he has had to carry throughout his career began to emerge in those early years at The Hawthorns when three times he broke an ankle, but the Robson determination to battle back was there and he was soon in action again.

He became recognised as one of West Brom's outstanding players and this led to him winning his first England Under 21 cap. By 1980 he was a full international, making his debut against the Republic of Ireland.

A year later Ron Atkinson moved from West Brom to Old Trafford and at the top of his shopping list was one player, Bryan Robson.

United paid £1.5 million for the midfielder who by then was an England regular.

Within two seasons Bryan was captain of both club and country, leading England to the final stages of three World Cup competitions, although from a personal viewpoint it proved a painful experience.

There were some bright moments though, like in the 1982 finals in Spain when he scored the quickest goal in the tournament, netting against France after only 27 seconds.

Four years later hopes of success in Mexico were shattered by a recurring shoulder dislocation which required surgery, and it was a similar story when Bryan led England to Italy in 1990. This time a heel injury cut short his stay in Sardinia and as his team-mates went on to reach the semi-final stages for the first time on foreign soil, he flew home for an operation on his Achilles tendon.

But there have been happier moments for Bryan Robson who became the first Englishman to collect the FA Cup on behalf of Manchester United when Brighton were defeated in 1983, and then took himself into a unique position in the club's history by repeating this feat in 1985 and 1990.

His achievements in the game earned him the OBE in the New Year's Honours of 1990 and today he is one of the biggest names in football.

From the Wolf Cubs to the world stage is the route to glory taken by Bryan Robson, and I am sure that Lord Baden-Powell would have been proud to know that he played a part in the rise to success of one of the game's greatest players.



**Morson International Congratulate**  
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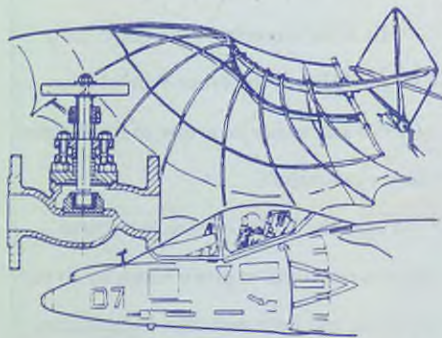


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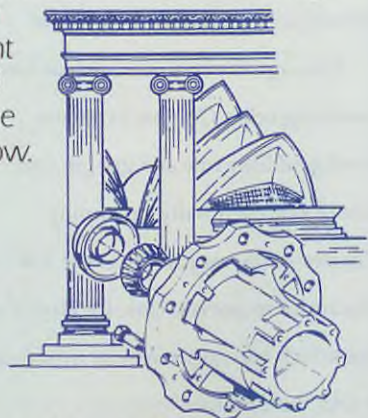
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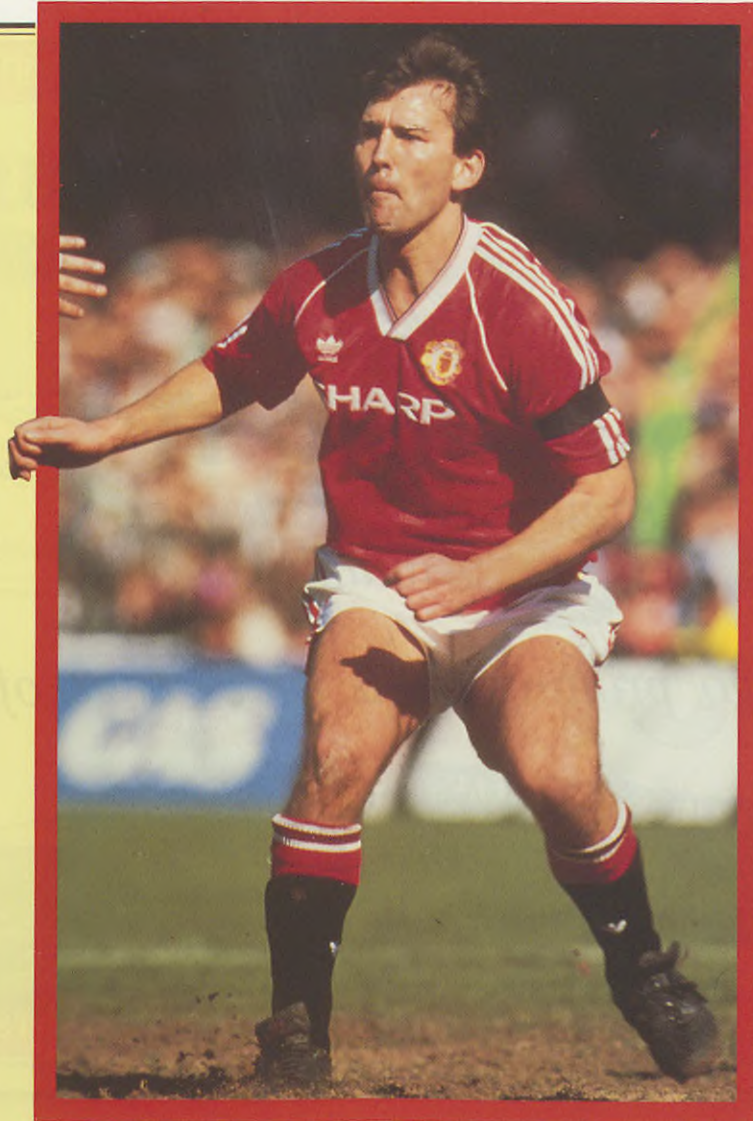
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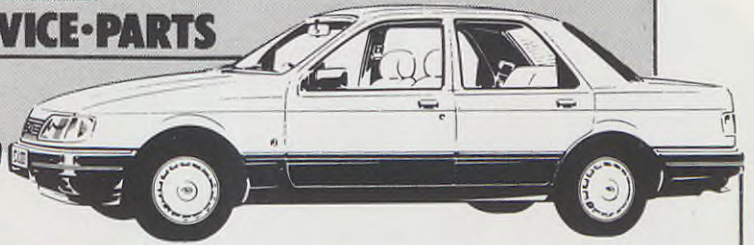
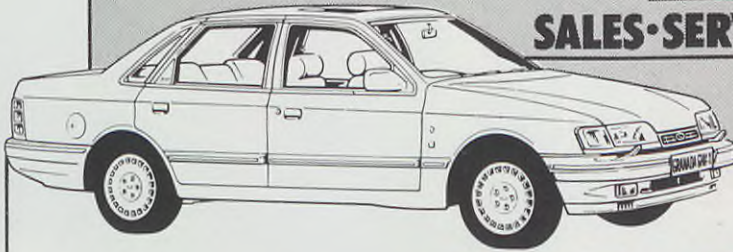
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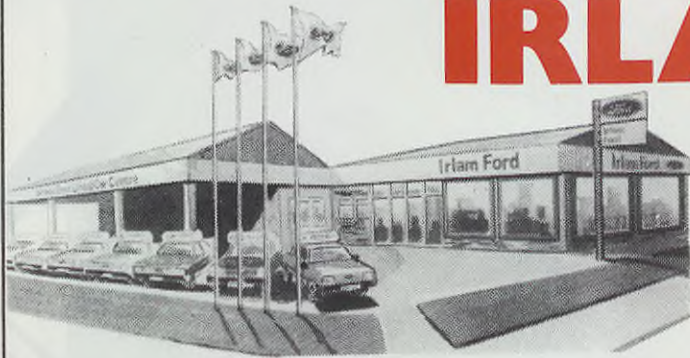
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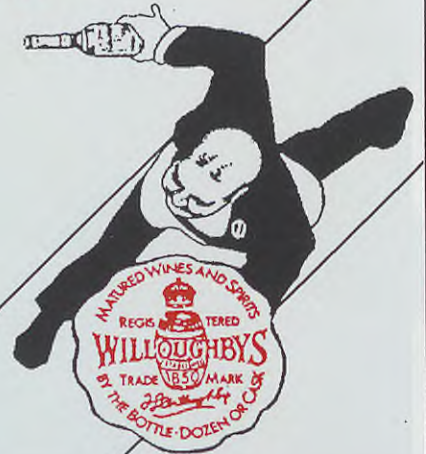
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