

# ASTON VILLA

NEWS & RECORD – SPECIAL SATELLITE EDITION – PRICE 20p

## SPACE SOCCER LAUNCH!

Technical gremlins permitting, our UEFA Cup-tie second round, first leg with Moscow Spartak will be screened for you live here at the Leisure centre to give the club yet another historic 'First'.

The film will not be 'From Russia With Love'. Nor will it be 'From Russia With Roubles'. The match pictures will arrive from Russia with the aid of a specially hired and located receiver dish beamed in to the Soviet Satellite in Outer Space.

The decision to go ahead with what is clearly a slightly risky experiment was taken, despite all its inherent problems, in keeping with the club's aim and ambition to provide every possible service to supporters who deserve it.

When the second round draw was made and it was clear that very, very few fans would be able to make the trip our first reaction was: 'What a pity more will not be able to see it'.

Our second reaction was to recall that a TV technician who lives at Bromsgrove has just such a receiver at his home and regularly watches programmes from the Eastern Bloc via Satellite.

If HE can do it, why not Aston Villa?

Inevitably we have to break new ground in order to present such a transmission to a paying public and thus we admit to

**UEFA CUP  
SECOND ROUND  
FIRST LEG**

**MOSCOW  
SPARTAK  
VERSUS  
ASTON VILLA  
AT THE  
DYNAMO STADIUM  
MOSCOW  
19th OCTOBER  
1983**

doing it with fingers crossed.

The experiment is made with a feeling of adventure which we feel sure supporters will understand and appreciate. Technically we are assured that there is no reason whatsoever why the occasion should not be a total success.

Had there been we would probably not have gone ahead. Assurances that the system would work prompted us to publish this programme and to provide English commentaries and a TV style panel of 'experts' to add interest to the occasion and make it a readily-recalled slice of club history.

We're on the launching pad. Count down has begun . . .

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR . . .

• When it was decided to go ahead with this pioneering project we guessed our fans would support us as always and as soon as the tickets went on sale our confidence was justified.

Such an occasion seemed worthy of a programme but to produce one at short notice meant all the stops had to be pulled out.

It was not until 3.20 on Saturday, when our Dutch Connection checked a Russian flight at Schipol airport carrying the Red version of the TV Times that we were sure the game would be televised. Since then it has been something of a rush.

However, this issue which you have purchased will undoubtedly become a collector's item since there are only limited numbers in existence and programmes for special and unusual events are always in demand. **OUR ADVICE IS: NOW YOU HAVE IT DON'T LET GO.**

We can let you into one humorous moment when a decision was being made as to whether the event justified a publication.

'If we produce one and the event takes place successfully it will be a collector's item', volunteered on sage.

'If we produce a programme and the event DOESN'T take place it will be an even BIGGER collector's item', said another. That decided us.

**SPECIAL  
SATELLITE  
EDITION**

# RUSSIAN REPORT

## BY VILLA SCOUT MALCOLM BEARD

Aston Villa seek a satisfying result behind the Iron Curtain tonight aided by the soccer scout who has helped the club to European success in the past.

Malcolm Beard will hopefully be among the audience along with virtually the entire club staff, watching to see if the report he gave to manager Tony Barton brings the right rewards.

Beard was in the giant 90,000 Lenin stadium last Friday night watching Spartak play Dzalgriris Vilnius.

However today's game has been switched to the smaller Dynamo stadium so on Saturday Beard went there to watch them play Dynamo Minsk in the 50,000 seater venue.

As a result of his fact finding trip he has been able to supply details of the journey, the atmosphere in Moscow, the weather, the team and the venue. And of course, the food.

First of all, players to watch:

Goalkeeper DASSAYEV is known in Russia as the new Lev Yashin, a compliment that says it all.

Midfielder BOULNOV is a dependable anchor man who is powerful going forward.

Right back SOCHNOV has been transferred to defence from attack and has retained his aggressive tendencies. Although he is billed as being a right-sided defender he in fact pushed forward to a midfield role and is known to attack from there.

CHERENKOV is an attacking midfield player with a growing reputation in Russia's international side having starred in the 2-0 win over Poland which virtually assured his country a place in the European Championship Finals.

KUZNETSOV is a 22-year-old midfield player who also has a great deal of skill and will be one for Villa to watch.

Striker RODIONOV made his international debut as substitute in the Soviet's 4-1 win over Hungary in August 1980.

Their star player is probably GAVRILOV, aged 30 with twenty-seven caps. He played in all five Soviet games in the 1982 World Cup Finals.

He was second top scorer in the Russian League last season and has currently scored 18 this term. At the end of August this year he became one of the few players to have scored 100 goals in the Russian First Division.

In the first round return of this

season UEFA Cup he scored four of his side's goals against HJK in Helsinki.

What else did Malcolm glean from his Euro-mission?

Firstly, the team's journey will not have been as exhausting a journey as when they faced Dynamo Kiev. The flight from Heathrow to Moscow is approximately a four hour jaunt, little more tiring than a coach trip to the North-East.

Once in Russia, however, the atmosphere is strictly non-Western. Sombre by our standards and strictly not for laughs.

As for the food, they will by now be more than grateful for the hampers of English produce they humped with them on the 1,500 mile journey.

In those hampers there is tea and sugar, breakfast cereals, chocolate, bacon and eggs and many other familiar items from a normal English diet.

Said Beard: 'It seems that cattle and other animals for eventual slaughter are fed on some sort of whale food. This explained to me why it was that everything seemed to taste like fish.'

'The first meal I asked for was meat but not only did it taste like fish it smelled like it, too. Needless to say I couldn't eat it. In those circumstances you would soon yearn for home cooking.'

The weather is, well, cold. Villa's European travellers have found that the top coats supplied by Foster Menswear for the purpose were not

needed in Portugal because it was too warm.

Now, in Russia a far heavier garment is needed. If Villa get through to round three both the players and Fosters Menswear will hope to be blessed with an in-between climate!

Treatment of visitors to Russia is formally hospitable though not warmly welcoming as here in Aston.

Malcolm was fortunate in finding a kindred spirit in a Spartak coach named Ivanov (what else!) who looked after him when he needed it and, wonder of wonders, spoke perfect English. Well not PERFECT but better than Malcolm's Russian . . .

Playing style is calculated, tactics are considered and slightly clockwork, but individual skills are finely tuned and impressive.

'They tend to look rather casual and slow in their build up but when they break forward they get plenty of men up. Technically they are very sound and mostly they look comfortable and at ease on the ball in an unhurried sort of way.'

'They are very efficient in possession and pass the ball around well. The system they adopt seems to give them time and space. They never give the impression of being crowded but that, of course, is when they are up against a side who play much the same as themselves.'

Now he has come in from the cold would he stick his neck out on a forecast? 'It's possible that the way we play, especially at Villa Park, will shake them out of their normal composed style.'

'Obviously the key is the first leg. We mustn't be impatient in Moscow. If we play as we all know Villa can then I believe we can do it.'

## TERRY WEIR - SPECIAL AGENT

The face of Terry Weir is a familiar one in Villa circles, especially when it is half hidden by a camera.

Terry is the club photographer and has been for several years, never missing a European trip with the club.

This time though Terry was made to feel like a sinister agent from MI5, as he compiled his official clearance papers.

Every single film he intended to take had to be logged as did the number of exposures on each film. Come to think of it, though, Terry could constantly be in disguise.

It would explain a lot. It's NOT his real face after all . . .

Jovial Terry, whose tongue clicks faster than his shutters, is not the only Villa News and Record representative on the trip. Mike Beddow, another regular European traveller is there, too.

Between them Terry and Mike will bring back exclusive features and pictures for the special edition programme for the return leg.

That will be an issue none of you should miss.

## JIM'S UEFA BLACK-OUT

● A kit man's working life is made up of all those little tiny problems you would never even have thought about.

Jim Paul was confronted with one of these when preparing the change strip for the Soviet visit.

The problem was that, under UEFA laws, only one logo is allowed on players' kit. And the stylish garments supplied by Le Coq Sportif had two.

One had just got to go. But how?

It was suggested that Jim blot out the emblem on the number squares with claret coloured dye. It seemed a reasonable idea. But what if it rained in Russia?

Claret dye running all over the nice white background would hardly be Aston Villa style.

So Jim had to choose between small patches to cover the offending emblems or new number patches. It's all in a day's work.

## The Milky Bar Kids

It's every kids delight . . . a whole handful of chocolate. Bar after bar of Cadbury's goodies.

Villa and England striker Peter Withe, one of the macho members of the Villa squad (they all are, of course) looks much too big a lad to indulge himself in all that choc-choc but he was not spoofing as he made sure that loads of it was packed.

Peter's pre-match diet, the one that suits him and seemingly his game, is chocolate and sugar puffs. And not just any old chocolate, either.

It has to be Cadbury's or nothing.

So into the skip for the Moscow trip went loads of

chocolate bars and several boxes of sugar puffs. Peter's eating habit has been so successful for him that others have caught on.

There are fewer steaks nowadays and more and more bars of dairy milk.

In the picture Withe is seen with the Cadbury's commercial director Norman Hawkins who was happy to supply a few samples for despatch behind the iron curtain.

Watch closely today. There might have been a 'Lion of Moscow'. That was West Bromwich Albion's Derek Kevan many years ago.

But Withe could well be crowned Moscow's first Milky Bar Kid.

## It's not all Double Dutch to Rudolf

● The marvels of modern technology, double Dutch to most of us, have been unravelled for us by a technical wizard from Amsterdam, Rudolf Van Egmond.

Rudolf has been improving his expertise in the field of communications by Satellite for two years or more now and has amassed a great deal of experience in beaming pictures back from Eastern Europe.

He is, of course, a full-time professional in the subject and will provide the appropriately sized receiver dish and all the necessary paraphernalia that goes with it.

The event is in Rudolf's capable hands and there is a good deal at stake for him as well as for Aston Villa and our supporters here this evening.

The Dutch communications expert hopes to make this a forerunner of many similar exercises so Villa are guinea pigs and pioneers all rolled into one.

One club keeping a very close eye on

events and hoping the occasion is a roaring success are Spurs. They have their game with Feyenoord in Holland on November 2nd and will consider a similar operation based on progress tonight.

It's a safe bet that he will get further orders if the gods are kind to us. We appreciate his efforts and we're excited at being part of it.

Our association with Rudolf stems from inquiries the club have been making into the new field of Diamond Vision and the installation of a giant screen at Villa Park.

Had the kick-off time been later we would have pursued the idea of attracting a bigger audience outdoors with the full use of the ground but, with a 5 o'clock kick-off it was too light. Hence the Leisure Centre is ideal.

If all goes well this will not be the last Satellite show in Aston, of that you can be sure.

## The Hurry-Along Haddocks make it to Moscow

Only 15 Villa fans in Moscow . . . but by some kind of miracle one them, Bev Haddock, speaks Russian!

Bev and Keith, two of our thousands of dedicated fans, just can't bear to miss a Villa game . . . even if it happens to be taking place practically next door to the Kremlin.

The moment they heard that the second round UEFA Cup draw was taking their favourites to Moscow they set about achieving what seemed to be the impossibility of visa clearance in time to qualify for the trip.

And sure enough they are out there in the stadium today with just a very small band of supporters and officials in the Villa Park party.

Bev and Keith are from Devon and never miss a match if they can avoid it. Hustling up and down the M5 is kid's stuff to them.

In order to get onto the trip with the necessary papers they drove miles up and down motorways at all hours and finally succeeded in finalising everything at one o'clock in the morning.

Maybe they'll give us a wave by satellite.

## CAR-LESS BY THE KREMLIN

The commercial department is conspicuous by its absence from the Spartak visit — unlike in Portugal where promotional activity was rife.

Reason: Austin Rover have never sold a single vehicle in Russia!

## RUSH-IN

This special satellite edition of the Villa News & Record was produced by Sports Projects. Dennis Shaw compiled the copy and the programme was printed by Hemmings & Capey (Leicester) Ltd.

Be sure to buy your copy of the Villa News & Record for the return leg which will feature exclusive features and stories from Moscow.

## YOUR PANEL OF EXPERTS

In true TV presentation style a forum of experts will be on stage to help add discussion and debate to the screening of the match.

First half commentary will be provided by Paul Franks of Radio W.M. since obviously the Russian version would be of little value.

Then, in the second half, we shall take the live radio description from the Radio W.M. in the stadium David Wigley whose commentary is being broadcast.

Along with Paul Franks and Pat Foley of Radio Beacon we have the following distinguished team of pundits:

Gary Shaw, England Under-21.

Gordon Cowans, full England cap.

Brian Little, Aston Villa Youth team coach, former star striker, and capped once for England.

Incidentally there are two happy events for Gordon shortly. He's to be married at the end of the month. And the next day he has his light plaster removed, fabulous progress after such a dreadful injury.

Before the kick-off and leading up to the action the panel will talk about the likely preparations and prospects for the game.

Then, at half-time, in true TV panel style, we shall get their informed comments about the action so far.

## FOR YOUR LEISURE

The staging of the link-up from behind the Iron Curtain at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre is another indication of both its endless uses and of the increasing co-operation between the Asda venue and the parent club.

It's well worth a reminder of the activities which have been staged here: Championship Boxing, Wrestling, The Davenport's Bullets Basketball matches, International Volleyball, International King's Cup tennis, International Judo, International Badminton, Marching bands, five-a-side football and almost every other conceivable activity.

Perhaps even more important is the community involvement which the extensive facilities create. There is an unemployed programme where out-of-work folks can carry out any activity of their choice on two days a week for just 25 pence. Also there is a summer scheme for schoolchildren and can go all day for various sports and games at prices ranging from 15 to 30p per day.

There is a membership of more than one thousand for squash and badminton whilst one hundred teams play regularly in five-a-side leagues here of which the Aston Villa Travellers are one. In addition there is a thriving women's five-a-side league based at Asda, perhaps the only one of its kind in the country.

Not a bad variety of worthwhile events all under one roof. Yet it doesn't end even there. The Leisure Centre has become an increasingly important part of the club's sponsorship package. The facilities available allow for sponsoring companies to stage an indoor sporting occasion in conjunction with a matchday sponsorship and also to entertain on the premises, just a short distance from Villa Park.

It's a super kind of partnership when both sides are winners.