



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 99

Welcome to the commemorative newsletter for the 50th Anniversary of the Leeds FAC match. When we decided to do something to celebrate the occasion, we were unsure whether we would get enough contributions to make it worthwhile, however we were not let down and the following shows what interest fans of the U's still have for that momentous day.

Contributions from people who were at the game and those that weren't able to attend, give an insight into how much fans treasure those memories and we hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we enjoyed putting this together. We were able to select a number of photographs that are not normally seen and we have picked a some with fans as the main focus, should you recognize yourself or anyone you know, then please contact us so that we can do a follow up piece.

A big thank you to all of you who submitted contributions and also thanks to all who pre-ordered the matchday badge that we had designed, you should all have received your orders by now. This is a limited edition badge with just 100 being produced and priced at £3.50 each plus postage/packing at £1.00. If you would like to order one please email badges@cusa.co.uk or text Malcolm on 07901 612063



Memories from 50 years ago today....

So many memories, I was 16 and in those days travelled to all away matches with the supporters club, ably controlled by Michael Twiddle and his steel toed boots, ouch!

Apart from the goals and the atmosphere on the day I will never forget Brian Lewis nutmegging Terry Cooper- probably not wise when the next defender was Norman Hunter! I also remembered when the draw was made Billy Bremner was quoted as saying "Colchester, I don't even know where that is", so after the game I wrote to him saying "you do now, and can I have an autograph please", never did receive it!

Up the U's, up the U's, up the good old white and blues.....

Rob Green

I was 14 when we played the mighty Leeds United on 13 February 1971. I had been supporting the U's for 5 seasons strongly influenced by my Dad and my brother, 2 years older.

I had sneaked my blue transistor radio into school on the Monday, the day of the 5th Round draw and together with a friend, another U's fan, we listened to the draw outside the school kitchen. We had drawn 3-3 at Rochdale on the Saturday afternoon and had the replay that evening. What a draw and incentive - Leeds at home if we could win that night.

My brother had gone to Rochdale on the Football Train Special and besides the exciting end to the match, he remembers some Manchester United fans throwing bricks down onto the train platform at the U's fans after the match!!

What a great game the Rochdale replay was, winning 5-0 and standing in Terrace 3, such a performance that night and still one of my most memorable matches.

The build up to the match was all the papers were talking about. I remember getting to the ground very early with my Dad, brother and Grandad, the queue stretched for miles down Layer Road. I did buy a blue and white rosette that day from outside the ground and still have it (somewhere)! Also the 'green' programme, and the scrapbook of every match that season - I knew everything about the team in those days.

I managed to get to the front of Terrace 3 and watched the match leaning against the wall with my friend. My Dad was in the Main Stand and my brother behind the goal at the Layer Road End. What an afternoon, unbelievable scenes!

My Mum listened to the match score on the radio and every time we scored, she rang out into the garden to shout to our neighbour over the fence 'They've scored another one'.

On 15 February the UK went to decimal coinage, the date would never have quite the same importance to it for U's fans as 2 days earlier!

Bring on Goodison Park in the 6th Round / Quarter Final of the FA Cup...another story!

Elaine Soame

I started supporting the U's in 1945 when football started again after the war. I remember the highlights of games against many of the big clubs that we played over years including Huddersfield Town, Bradfield Park Ave, Blackpool, Man United, West Bromwich Albion, Chelsea, Arsenal but the one game I missed was the Leeds game.

I had moved to Wilmslow in Cheshire with work and although by living where I did I was able to continue to watch the U's on a fairly regular basis due to the number of teams in this neck of the woods, mainly Stockport, Rochdale, Chester, Shrewsbury, Crewe and many more. Unfortunately the Leeds game was a "no go". However with four fellow football fanatics (Man U, Man City, Liverpool and Scunthorpe fans) on this particular day we decided to travel to Stoke to see Ipswich V Stoke in the cup. My being a supporter of a small team in comparison, I had to talk up my team to my mates on the journey from Manchester to Stoke. I bet the four of them five shillings each that Colchester would win. It's easy now to say I was confident but whether or not I was I'm not so sure!

However you can imagine the thrill when the final whistle went at Stoke and the announcer informed us all that the U's had beaten Leeds. I immediately put my hand out and collected 4 x 5/-, i.e. £1, in winnings on my bets.

The journey back to Wilmslow was unbelievable and when we reached the outskirts of Manchester we stopped at every newspaper shop to get a copy of the Pink Un to read a report of the game- so although I didn't see the game I had a super day and will never forget it. The ironic thing is I can't even tell you the result of the game I had watched.

What a memory!!

Alan Daldry

My very vague memory of Colchester v Leeds 1971.

I was 8 years old.

I recall arriving at the match and being allowed to work my way down to the front by other supporters as you did in those days in the standing area.

My memory from standing near the touchline was when a supporter threw a toilet roll into the pitch, as they did in those days and being shocked when Paul Reaney, the Leeds fullback, picked up the toilet roll and a U's supporter shouted at Reaney 'wipe your arse on it'.

That was the general level of abuse in the good old days.

Paul Alston

COLCHESTER UNITED v LEEDS UNITED

People tend to remember where they were and what they were doing when famous or infamous historical events happened. Similarly they do the same on great sporting days – England's 1966 World Cup win, Johnny Wilkinson's drop goal to win the Rugby World Cup in 2003, England's Headingley victories against Australia in 1981 and 2019 for example.

Others are more personal, as with February 13th 1971 and to quote the immortal words of the Welsh poet, Max Boyce, "I was there." However, my vivid memories begin three weeks earlier on FA Cup 4th Round day. Colchester had sailed through the first three rounds without conceding a goal, only to be "rewarded" with a disappointing tie away to Rochdale. I was still confident of progress as Rochdale were struggling at the wrong end of Division Three whereas we were pushing for promotion from Division Four.

I recall sitting watching Grandstand with eager expectation – no running scores on Gillette Soccer Saturday or even Teletext in 1971 – when, just after 4.30pm, Frank Bough, I believe, gave the first second half update of our score, announcing that Rochdale were on their way to the fifth round as they led Colchester 3-1.

There would have been fewer than ten minutes remaining as the half-time interval was only ten minutes in those days and, with only one substitute, little additional time was played. Hopes dashed for another season, but I still sat and awaited the result to come through on the Grandstand teleprinter. For the uninitiated, the results came through in haphazard order and slowly, letter by letter, as they were typed. And so it came through

ROCHDALE 3 COLCHESTER 3

We were still in the cup thanks to goals in the last five minutes, as I found out later, by Brian Lewis and Dave Simmons. A replay beckoned, and in those days replays were played in the week following the match and, as Colchester played their weekday games on Monday evenings there would not be long to wait.

Of course, before the replay the draw for the fifth round would be made. No televised draws but live on Radio 2 at 1.50pm on Monday. Strange that certain things stay in the mind. Like so many others I was glued to my transistor radio hoping for a home draw against a big club. Colchester were drawn at home – brilliant – but against whom? When the name Leeds United came out I was actually disappointed! We wanted to beat a top side at Layer Road, but Leeds in those days were unbeatable and were leading Division One (no Premier League) by a distance having only lost once all season. Still, no time to dwell on that as we still had to win our replay that evening. I was very confident, and that confidence was well-founded as we cruised to a 5-0 victory.

The excitement escalated over the next two weeks with plenty in the papers. I secured my ticket, but haven't a clue how much it cost. The day grew closer. My hopes rose. On the day of the match I helped my aunt in her shop, Radio Center, in St John's Street. All the customers were talking about the game. I remember walking to the cake shop in High Street and actually telling the young girl who served me that I thought we would win! What bravado! It was home on the bus for lunch and then the very short walk to the ground. It would normally take about three minutes, but today it took a little longer.

I met my friends in our usual place, behind the goal at the Clock End. It was a little more crowded than usual! Naturally there was a buzz around the ground. Leeds fielded their strongest team – no squad rotation in those days – apart from Mick Bates taking the injured Billy Bremner's number 4 shirt. It was numbers 1 to 11 with the sub wearing 12 in those days. However, right back Bobby Cram wore the number 3 and left back Brian Hall the number 2. Left winger Mickey Mahon wore number 9 as usual. We started well. Then Ray Crawford scored with a superb header from Brian Lewis's free kick. Gary Sprake had flapped at the cross, but, in all honesty, he wouldn't have got near the header if he'd stayed on his line. Three minutes later Brian Gibbs lofted the ball into the penalty area. A melee followed which left Ray Crawford, Gary Sprake and, I think, Paul Reaney on the ground with the ball loose. I remember shouting, no, screaming, "Ray, the ball!!!" He swung his left leg, the ball hit the far post and rolled slowly into the net. Ray didn't acknowledge me, but I've always claimed an assist for that goal!

Half time arrived, but the general feeling, despite the current euphoria, was that Leeds would come back. Then it got better.

Dave Simmons headed the ball over Gary Sprake into the empty net. I clearly remember not cheering immediately, not out of shock, but I just stared at the referee and the linesman expecting a whistle for a foul. No whistle. 3-0! Unbelievable! Even the almighty Leeds couldn't come back from here, could they? Norman Hunter scored to make it 3-1. Ray Crawford then missed a good chance to make it 4-1 before Johnny Giles made it 3-2. I remember little of the last 15 minutes except when Peter Lorimer dribbled along the byline and crossed past Graham Smith, who was guarding his near post. The ball hit Brian Garvey on the shin inside the six yard box. How Graham Smith managed to arch back to make the most famous save in Layer Road history I just don't know. The final whistle came soon afterwards and we all jumped and shouted in pure joy. I recall watching Graham Smith and Brian Hall hugging each other as they danced up the pitch. The Leeds fans in front of us – no crowd segregation in those days – were graciously magnanimous in defeat and applauded us, saying we deserved to win.

That evening was spent celebrating in the pub, followed by the nightclub. I don't recall too much about it. My biggest regret, though, is missing Match of the Day. Not even a VHS video recorder in 1971. The next morning was spent reading and re-reading the Sunday newspapers, some of which I still have. We hit the front pages as well as the back. For the next week, despite something called decimalisation, Colchester United were the talk of the whole country, not just the town.

As a footnote, to turn almost full circle, I was back at Layer Road the following Saturday to watch our league game against Newport County. Seven days earlier we had beaten the best team in the country. Today we were playing the worst team in the Football League who sat rock bottom of Division Four by a distance. In typical football fashion we were 2-0 down halfway through the first half. We had levelled it by half time and eventually won 4-2. I cannot remember any of the goals. I cannot even remember who scored! What I do remember, however, is returning home to catch the scores as they came in on the aforementioned Grandstand teleprinter. When our result came through it said we had won 4-0. The presenter, quite possibly Frank Bough again, quickly stated that it must be incorrect and the other way round as Newport had been leading 2-0. Odd how certain memories stay in the mind for 50 years!

Nigel Manley

My memory is that there were two big wins on the same day! My friend and I played for St Helena School Football team in the morning before the game. We weren't very good and on the day of the Leeds game, we recorded our first win of the season.

After this game, we headed off to Layer Road, where spaces in the queue to get in were saved for us by my mate's younger brother. We must have been inside the stadium very early and took our places leaning on a crash barrier, close to the goal. We had perfect views of Ray Crawford's two goals and that brilliant late save from Graham Smith.

I don't remember too much about the match build-up but do recall there were many Leeds fans in the bar side. The stress of holding out for that historic win is still with me and counting down the clock. At the end of the game, we celebrated on the pitch. After this, we quickly went to my friend's house who lived on Butt Road at the time. He had a big poster in the window saying, "Up the U's" and he wanted to take it down because he was worried the very disgruntled Leeds fans would smash the window!

I watched the game with legendary COLU supporter, Ivars Plucis and his brother Andris. Ivars and I would have been about 13 at the time.

Steve Wood

Colchester United v Leeds United

On 13th February 1971 I was 14 years old. I went to my first Colchester United match at the age of 3 in 1959 – my parents met at Layer Road in 1948. By 1971 my Dad took me to watch Colchester play one week and Ipswich the next. I loved watching the big teams of the day play at Ipswich and saw many of the great players there, too, but it was Colchester United that I really cared about.

I remember Dad buying me and my brother fish and chips to eat on the way to the match – we had left home in Manningtree early so hadn't eaten. However, on reaching the ground, I was so nervous as to what the result might be and so amazed at the 16,000 crowd that I couldn't eat any more and stuffed the fish and chips in its newspaper wrapper into my pocket. I was totally in awe of all the big names playing for Leeds – all those famous players I'd seen on TV were now at little Layer Road! My brother and I had managed to get a spot on the wall in spite of the big crowd and thanks to Dad getting us there early. Once the match started I had such butterflies in my tummy. I don't think they got better even when we went 3-0 up. The noise the crowd made – and I made – every time we scored was unbelievable. It was so exciting. When Leeds pulled two goals back it was nerve-wracking and I for one didn't think for a moment we'd hold on – but we did! Leeds were the best team in the country and Colchester United had beaten them. I'm so happy I was there and even now, nearly 50 years later, it stands out as one of the best days of my life. At the end of the match the crowd spilled onto the pitch and Dad let us, too. When we got home, Mum said "I saw you on TV on the pitch - what were you

eating?" "Cold fish and chips, "I replied. The following week, as I queued up outside a science room at Harwich County High School, my biology teacher, Mike Riches, said " Come on, you have to come to the front of the queue – you're a TV star!"

Kay Sharpe

I was very much involved in playing in those days but the U's victory had a very rewarding side effect as most of my fellow players supported top London sides. They frequently took the mickey out of my support for the U's and I responded with bravado betting that the U's would win and they invited me to "put my money where my mouth was" There was no way I could back down but their bravado allowed me to get good odds. So I had two very good results that day. It may of been three but I can't remember the score in our game!

Roger Jenkinson

I qualified for tickets for the match and was due to attend with a friend plus my dad and uncle. I worked for a high street bank and unfortunately was told I had to work all weekend in preparation for Decimalisation which was on Monday 15th February.

Those who remember, it was when the UK's currency was changed from £.s.d to £p and Banks were required to change all the manual records - no computerisation in those days. I pleaded with my manager to let me have the Saturday afternoon off to go the match but was told it was not possible. Being very brave I asked if I could speak directly with the Regional Manager in Norwich. I knew him to be a football supporter and hoped he would see how important it was to me. Fortunately he agreed and wished the U's well so I will always have reason to thank a Norwich City supporter for being able to see what is arguably our most memorable game ever.

I always said that my grandfather who had died in 1970 was overseeing our win. He had taken me to my first match age 7 in 1950 and he continued to go to Layer Road up to the year he died - there is no question that he would have been there on our special day.

Up The U's

Terry Lawrence

What a day that was!!

I still have a copy of the programme with the green cover on show here at my tiny bungalow in the Vendée. I miss England, just can't afford to live there now. Back then, well; my father being a strict disciplinarian would not permit any attempt by me aged 15 to obtain a ticket for the match. It could have meant that he would have to get his 1947 Triumph 1800 'razor edge' saloon out of the garage from which it annually covered about 1350 miles in total. Not that a lad my age wanted to be seen in such a thing, of course.

So, on the afternoon in question I had to sit doing my homework from Braintree CHS in the sure knowledge that many boys from my class were going to the game and I'd feel stupid as usual come Monday. Very stupid and 'let down' as it happened!

Sat with fountain pen in hand I did have 'Grandstand' on and couldn't fail to see the scores appear on the black and white screen - I might even have uttered something when 1-0 became 2-0 and that it remained until half-time when my father took enough interest to turn on the wireless for commentary. I was

allowed to listen to the final nail-biting thirty minutes, having missed Dave Simmons' third. Immediately, of course, Leeds pulled one back and my father began to pour more cold water on the eventual outcome than you've ever seen. He never took back his words come final whistle either! Learning to be positive has been a constant challenge for me in life!! Over the years being a U's fan has hardly helped either!

On the Heddingham & District omnibus on the Monday morning a Sible Heddingham lad who was a weekend paper boy had every Sunday edition with him. I couldn't believe it.....the U's were front page news on each and every one! Extraordinary and I began to realise the enormity of what had happened. My maths teacher was from Leeds, a terrifying and indignant man who refused to give any credit, 'no team can play football on a cabbage patch' was all he would say. A class mate who had, of course, been at the game had witnessed an unrecorded interview with David Coleman - also by repute a Leeds fan. He was asked to predict the scoreline and apparently said 0-6. I wonder how he felt because each time I see the replays I know how I felt!!

Up the U's.

Alastair Riley - now 'exiled' in western France

I still have many happy memories of the Colchester Utd victory over Leeds in 1971.

I was playing football at the time but such was the impact of the FA Cup match that most (if not all) local club matches were postponed so that players and supporters could go to Layer Road. In my years of supporting the U's I had always been a "clock-end goal" supporter and on this occasion (being a 6'4" goalie) I stood in the back line of supporters almost behind the goal - in fact my face is just identifiable on the photo on the wall of the JobServe Community stadium!

It had been a habit at other matches to walk from that "top" end a few minutes before the end of the game and re-position at the corner of the Layer Road end, close to the exits, so as to not have a queue all the way from the clock end to get out - and I recall it amazed me that I was able to slip out round the back of "bar side" and get to the corner flag before the end of the match.

I had witnessed the remarkable goals from Col U whilst at the clock-end, but with time running out and everyone at fever pitch, I was able to see goalkeeper Graham Smith's outstanding save just before final whistle from my new viewing point! Getting out into Layer Road afterwards was quite an experience, many supporters had their small "Dansette" radios (obviously no mobile phones around then) tuned in to Sports Report who were covering the remarkable story, so I was able to pick up snippets of what was being said as I marched along with several thousand other supporters back towards the town centre in order to catch a Blackwells bus back to Halstead!

A truly incredible day indeed.

Barry Root

Although I personally have had many years on the Layer Road terraces, watching games from the Conference to the Championship, I was not born for this great historic game. Both my mum and dad were at Layer Road on 13th February 1971, and according to them so was all of Colchester! There was absolutely no space left empty and Layer Road was rocking! The Mighty Leeds United has come to town with a host of international players, many household names, and were arguably the best team in the country at that time.

The game was end to end stuff with some lovely football being played, Colchester undaunted by the opposition's pedigree, and when the great Ray Crawford scored the first of his two goals, Layer Road went

absolutely wild! Along came the second for Ray then Dave Simmons added a third and the noise from the home fans apparently could well have been heard back in Leeds!

Leeds then replied with two goals, and for the last 15-20 mins dominated the game looking for the equaliser, but we stood firm and when the referee blew his whistle, history was made!

Mum purchased the match commentary LP, which she was lucky enough to get signed by many of The Colchester Team, which I now treasure as a massive part of my Colchester United memorabilia collection, the signatures are a little faded now, but can still be read close up! Many years later I was lucky enough to buy a mint programme to go with the LP...so although I wasn't there, I can listen to the great day whilst reading the programme!

Up the U's

Craig Bannock

Firstly to think it's 50 years ago is amazing.

I was one of the lucky ones there and I can still to this day remember very clearly the excitement around our 3 goals the nerves of the Leeds fight back and the relief of Graham Smith's save.

I was living in London at the time, but had followed the U's since the early 50's when i was 6/7 years old when we lived in Lexden and I was taken to my first game by my father.

Up until the Thursday before the game I hadn't been able to get a ticket but then out of the blue my football mad uncle phoned to say he had got a ticket for me from one of his business contacts in the Midlands. To say I was excited was an understatement. So it necessitated a bit of urgent travelling to get the ticket.

I was standing in the block in the main stand at the Clock End. To say we were packed in like sardines was an understatement. From memory I believe Roger Joslyn was standing behind me.

Unfortunately I mislaid my programme but did manage to buy one at a football programme fair a few years later.

I then went to the Everton match in the next round.

All in all an amazing day - along with promotion at Yeovil and leading Chelsea for 9 minutes and delighted to have been at all 3

Peter Bower

At the time of the match I was eleven years old, in my last year of primary school in Clacton and did not get to see the match live at Layer Road. Having said that I did see a very confident Don Revie leaving the Royal Hotel, on Clacton seafront, leading his team to get onto the coach to take them to Colchester for what was thought to be the formality of a game against little old Colchester United.

Much as it pains me to say, Leeds were a very good team at that time, full of familiar household names, and were expected to progress without much difficulty. I did not think much more about the game until later that afternoon, while attending the annual school bazaar at my primary school, Holland Park, I casually asked a friend, who happened to have a transistor radio with him what the score was, only to be told Colchester were 3-0 up! This news and the fact Colchester managed to hang on to record what I consider their most famous victory made that day in February, a day I will never forget.

Ten days later I did see Leeds play as they had a league game at Portman Road against Ipswich Town. Leeds won the game 4-2 and played extremely well. During those days it was possible to get players autographs as

they came out of the changing rooms after the game, but a good friend of mine from school had told me he had been invited into the rooms as a thank you and emerged with a match ball signed by the entire Leeds team, which made the rest of us pretty envious at the time. It transpired that on the day of the Colchester v Leeds match, Leeds had somehow forgotten part of their kit, presumably at the Royal Hotel in Clacton, as my friend's father, who only worked around the corner, had to make an emergency dash from Clacton to Layer Road to re unite the two. The reward for this endeavour being the signed match ball at the Ipswich game on the 23/02/71. So for a match I did not actually see, I have quite a few memories!

Nick Cornish

It all started for me after the replay with Rochdale even today still the best performance I've ever seen from the U's. Travelling back to London on the train I shared a carriage with the referee Roy Capey and some shellshocked Rochdale fans! We all had a great discussion about everything football and Mr Capey said that was the best performance he had ever seen from a 4th Div side play like that, with that crowd in that ground, and our lads will beat Leeds!

I remember buying my ticket at a reserve match v Brighton and buying the match programme and reading it standing in a very long queue.

The great day arrived and as a member of The Scots Guards Band was on parade at Buckingham Palace in the morning, and after spending the week winding up a number of Leeds fans in the band dashed off to Liverpool St. to catch the 1-05 train, jumped in a taxi and arrived at Layer Road at 2-30 to see the whole Leeds team outside, some smoking and they all looked so nervous for arguably the best team in Europe I couldn't believe the state they were in.

The ground was packed and I managed to squeeze in to the far terrace of the main stand. The chap next to me said it's too nice a day to beat Leeds! He had a point, the sun shone but it was cold and the ground looked hard. We spotted Roger Joslyn in the clock end and then it all started we were level to the action what a free kick and Ray Crawford's header was sublime, and the 2nd even better on the floor. At half time we still expected Leeds to come back but when Dave Simmons scored the 3rd we started to believe, then the last 15 was a nightmare. Cue Graham Smith, what a save and it was all over! I retreated to Shreaves fish restaurant as I hadn't eaten since breakfast. The meal tasted the best ever and I was on cloud nine. I arrived at the north station to see the Leeds fans train depart. They weren't happy!

When I got to Liv.St. I realised I didn't have a TV, so I phoned one of my Sergeants and he invited me round to his house to watch it all again on Match of The Day!

Gordon Evans

I still remember the day of the Leeds game as clearly as it was yesterday and can't believe that it will be 50 years ago.

It started with listening to the 5th round FA Cup draw on my transistor radio with my earpiece in which I had brought into school, as the draw in those days took place on Monday lunchtime. When the draw matched the U's against Leeds United I was very excited although firstly the U's had to beat Rochdale in a replay that evening. Which they easily did.

I then remember that to obtain a ticket we had to queue up with a voucher that had been issued at a previous game. They went on sale one afternoon and as I was at school I persuaded my mother to queue up for me and rushed there straight from school with my brother to join her in the queue which sneaked down Layer Road towards Rainsborow Road. We were really pleased when we got hold of our tickets.

On the day I remember that as my friend Steve Wood, also a great U's supporter, and myself had a game for the school football team my brother had started queuing up from 10 o'clock in the morning 3 hours before the gates opened. After our game we rushed straight to the ground and joined my brother at the front of the

queue. Once the gates opened at 1 o'clock we ran straight to the Clock End to take up our places at the front of the terrace and waited excitedly for the game to start.

The Clock End was packed tightly with supporters standing shoulder to shoulder and some even hanging from the trees behind the goal.

Luckily we were at the right end of the ground to see the two goals by Ray Crawford go in and Graham Smith's great save to stop Leeds Utd equalising. It was nail-biting stuff at the end and wishing for the ref to blow the final whistle. Once the game was won we invaded the pitch to hug our heroes who had beaten the mighty Leeds, the best team in the country at that time.

After the game I can remember waiting for the highlights of the game to be shown on Match of the Day that evening.

On the Monday I remember the team going on a bus parade down the High Street and also seeing Dick Graham attempting to climb the Castle wall as he had promised he would if Colchester beat Leeds.

That's my recollection of the events surrounding the Leeds Utd game.

Ivars Plucis

Who can forget the magical cup run of 1970/71? Of course, everyone remembers the win against Leeds, whether you were there or not, due to it being one of the biggest Cup upsets of all time. This season Leeds have just made it back into the top division, so people forget what a powerhouse they were back in the early '70s. The year we played them was the second of three consecutive years that they finished as runners up in the top flight division. That showed that they were a force to be reckoned with.

However, our cup run had started well before then and holds as many memories for me as the Leeds match. A couple of straightforward wins to start with - at home to Ringmer and Cambridge - was followed by a potential banana-skin game at Barnet. That was the one game of the run that year that I missed. We had been due to go to the match on Saturday 2nd January 1971 but it was called off (due to snow/ice, as I recall) and it was played instead on the following Wednesday, with a 1-0 result taking us through to the fourth round. We were drawn away to Rochdale and this particular match was a great experience. There was a train hired to take the fans from Colchester station up to Rochdale. What a match it was! The U's were down 3-1 when we missed a penalty, and there were only five minutes remaining on the clock when Brian Lewis and Dave Simmons scored to force a replay. The players travelled back on the train with us, adding to the excitement. You would not get that happening these days - not even for a club in the fourth tier of English football - but they joined in with the fans, chatting and drinking with them. By the time the replay was due to be played, we already knew that the winner would play Leeds at home, so that added to the fever on that Monday night. The replay turned out to be an easier match with the U's winning 5-0.

Leeds took the match seriously - they were only missing a couple of first team players (Billy Bremner and Eddie Gray) due to injuries but all of their players were internationals and they played their strongest available team. We all know the result but perhaps the most overlooked part of the match was a superb save by our goalie, Graham Smith, when the score was already 3-2. The next match was to be our last in the competition that season, a 5-0 away loss to Everton but again there was a train laid on to take us up to Liverpool. I recall the Everton fans giving the U's players a great ovation at the end of the match in recognition of their efforts that day, as well as our earlier results.

As to other memories of the Leeds game, I subsequently bought a vinyl record which had been produced from the local radio commentary of the match. I still have it. The excitement of the commentators brings a tingle down the spine, every time I hear it. I took the record to the ground and got most of the U's team to give me their autographs (as per attachment), so it is a treasured memento of the most famous result in Colchester United's history and arguably the biggest upset in all the years of the competition.

Mark Hamnett

I was 27 at the time and living away from home. However my mother, never a football fan, queued for hours to get me a ticket when the last remaining unsold tickets went on sale (unsold how did that happen) outside the old ticket office in Layer Road.

I also recall getting held up in traffic and did not enter the ground until about 2.30pm. By then the ground was full and I must have been one of the last of the 16000 people to arrive. Finding any sort of view was difficult and so I stood on the rickety fence at the open end hanging on to an overhanging branch from a tree in an adjoining garden.

I had a perfect view of the pitch and my only concern was not falling off my perch as the excitement and tension of the match consumed me. You could see from the start the nerves within the Leeds team. There was clearly no communication between Jack Charlton and goalkeeper Gary Sprake and I was not surprised that we took an early 2 goal lead. Both Charlton and Sprake were clearly out of position and unable to deal with Brian Lewis's free kick which led to the first goal. Also from my view Crawford's second goal, the ball only just crept over the line - good job Simmons was on hand to follow up and tap in just to be sure. On a personal note I was pleased to see the BBC cameras filmed me celebrating from my elevated position - there were many more of us in this elevated position by then! The last 20 minutes with the score at 3-2 is still one of the more tense moments of my entire life.

Two other bits of useless information but perhaps relevant to this day were.

1. On the following Monday 15 February 1971 the UK went decimal. Until recently the Donkey & Buskins pub in Layer had a framed copy of their menu for that day in both old and new money. If you wanted to celebrate this famous victory afterwards a pint of bitter would have cost 1/11d (one shilling and eleven pence) or 10p in today's money.

2. Dave Simmons who of course scored our third goal went on to play for Cambridge United where at 11.00am on Sunday 6 January 1974 he became the first ever professional footballer to kick-off to start a match on a Sunday. He also scored in this match resulting in a 3-3 draw in a 3rd Round FA Cup tie against Oldham Athletic. This situation came about after prolonged nationwide industrial action whereby power, among other things, to the floodlights was not guaranteed - that is why there was an early start - other clubs playing that day chanced a later kick-off.

I have been following the U's for 67 years but I will always remember the Leeds match until my dying day.

Up the U's - come on Col U.

Ken Houghton

I was there behind Gary Sprakes goal as the U's scored twice through Ray Crawford in the first half. We were singing "Shakey Sprakey" the whole game through which seemed to unnerve him throughout the game.

St.John Meyers

I shall remember this day forever, as not only did we beat the mighty Leeds, but it was my 18th birthday!

I had been a programme seller at Layer Rd for a few years and on the day we were asked to get there mid-morning. People were buying programmes from the moment we arrived. Sellers were paid according to the amount of programmes sold, and that day we all got over £9.00, which was a fortune to me!

The downside of being a seller was that we had to count the money before going into the game. I had a season ticket so made my way to my seat soon after the kick off. The atmosphere and the noise inside the ground was amazing. I always remember my mother brought a large packet of crisps with her, and as the game progressed

and we got more and more excited, the crisps were eaten exceedingly quickly, giving us both indigestion, but it was worth it! I was given a rather large teddy bear for my birthday who, to this day, goes by the name of Bobby Leeds (named after Bobby Cram). He will be 50 on the 13th.

Jill Grimsey

Standing at the clock end with my (soon to be and still is wife) and throwing my arms up in the air in wild elation when Crawford's header flew in and it being minutes before I could get them down again such was the crush of the crowd. Thinking Leeds had equalised late on when Jones had to score only to realise Graham Smith was laying on top of the ball right on the goal line with U's defenders standing guard over him. What a day!

Mike Denny

From my father Clifford Hogg-Wyatt - FA Cup story 1970-71

I used to take my radio into work to listen to the FA Cup draws etc, but on the day of the 1st Round draw I forgot my radio. I was curious who we had been drawn against so phoned the club and much to my surprise manager Dick Graham answered the phone! He told me that Colchester United had been drawn at home to Ringmer, who I had never heard of. I then found out they were from Sussex and were the first village team to reach the FA Cup First Round Proper. We duly despatched of Ringmer 3-0, with a Ray Crawford hat-trick.

For the 2nd Round we were drawn at home to League Division 4 rivals Cambridge United who we also beat 3-0.

For the 3rd Round we travelled to Southern League Premier Division club Barnet on a Tuesday night after the match was postponed on the Saturday due to a frozen pitch. Of all the hundreds of matches I have attended this is the only time I did not go through a turnstile and instead paid my admission money to someone sitting at a table. On a difficult pitch we won 1-0 with a goal from winger Mick Mahon.

For the 4th Round we were drawn away at Rochdale who were a 3rd Division team and I was unable to attend as working a Friday night shift at Wonderloaf Bakery in Magdalen Street. I half woke up during the afternoon and my wife told me Colchester United were losing 3-1 with a few minutes left and I fell back to sleep thinking that was it in the FA Cup for another year. When I woke up my wife told me Colchester United scored 2 late goals to earn a replay. By the time we played the replay at Layer Road we already knew that if we beat Rochdale we would be playing the best team of that era Leeds United in the next round. Colchester blew Rochdale away to win 5-0.

On the day of the tickets going on sale I finished work about half an hour early in the afternoon and when I got to the ground they were still queuing a long way down Layer Road past Rainsborowe Road. I could not wait for the match to arrive and the excitement around the town mounted as the match got closer. Once again after another night shift a few days before the Leeds match I fell asleep on the couch with my wife later telling me that I half sat up and shouted 'United' 3 times and laid back down. I had no recollection of this when I woke up.

On the day of the match I got up a little later than I wanted, as once again had worked a Friday night shift at Wonderloaf Bakery. On the walk from our home in Plume Avenue to the ground there was nobody about, but there were more cars parked up than I had ever seen before. When I got into Layer Road much to my surprise the ground was practically full. I had attended all the home matches that season and used to stand in the Bar Side Stand, but this time had to get over the wall in the corner of the Layer Road end and stand directly behind the goal, which is the only time I ever stood there. The atmosphere and the size of the crowd was

unbelievable. There was no segregation and I was standing near some Leeds supporters, but there was no trouble, even when a Colchester fan commented on the Leeds bad reputation, which brought a reply from a Leeds supporter of 'we are not all like that'.

It seemed so surreal when we went 2-0 ahead after 24 minutes with the amazing goal by Ray Crawford when he was laying on the ground, still one of the best instinctive goals I have seen from a striker. One of the other things that sticks in my mind is Jack Charlton giving away a corner from the halfway line and chanting 'Shakey Sprakey' to the Leeds goalkeeper Gary Sprake. When we went 3-0 up it was unbelievable and then Leeds pulled a goal back. But after that we had a chance to make it 4-1 with Ray Crawford in on goal, but slotted the ball just past the post. With Colchester United tiring Leeds United pulled back another goal and the tension was unbearable waiting for the final whistle and I was bearing down into the pockets of my overcoat so hard I burst the buttons off. It was a great relief when the final whistle blew and we jumped over the wall, but I was one of the unlucky ones who was stopped by a burly policeman after only a couple of yards.

Of all the hundreds of matches I have been to this has got to rank as the number 1 match I have seen, when giant killing really meant giant killing against a full strength team. I also had a 2nd job at SCRDE on the Garrison and draftsman Alf Milner, who hailed from Leeds and still had family and friends there, told me on the Monday that people were standing in the streets dumbstruck as they could not believe it.

How I got the programmes signed was due to being friends with Colchester United legend Brian Hall. Brian took the programmes to the training ground at Reed Hall.

Brian Hall and Ray Crawford went into a joint venture opening a Sports Shop in Crouch Street opposite the old Odeon Cinema in Colchester town centre. Brian was a really nice guy, always looked smart, as if he was turned out of a bandbox.

The following Saturday we played Newport County in League Division 4 and were losing 2-0 after 23 minutes and I could not believe the difference from 7 days prior, but we came back to win 4-2. But the Newport County manager Billy Lucas moaned about the referee favouring Colchester in the papers, saying 'they are everybody's darlings at the moment'

We were drawn away at Everton in the 6th Round and I believed that if we had played Everton at home, we would have won, as Everton only won 2 matches away from home that season and Everton were much better at home. I became further convinced of this, when I watched Ipswich 0-0 Everton at Portman Road a few weeks later and thought Everton were a poor team. I could not book up to go to Goodison Park as my wife was due to give birth any day. It was fortunate I made that decision as on the morning of the Everton match on the 5th March 1971 Joy went into labour and my second son Tristin was born.

Interview conducted by his son Duncan Wyatt

At the time of the most famous match in the history of Colchester United, I was eighteen years old and in my final year at school studying for my A-Level exams.

The build up to the match had captured the attention of the national press and there was a lot of coverage in anticipation of a game which had the potential to epitomise the magic of the F.A. Cup. All the ingredients were there for a possible upset, especially as at that time no First Division team had ever won either an F.A. Cup or League Cup match at Layer Road, but few would have bet against a Leeds United team packed full of international players who at that time were arguably the best team in Europe, let alone England. However, perhaps as a portent of what was to unfold, I remember one particular article appearing in 'The Sun' on the day of the match in which Ray Crawford referred to our opponents as his 'rabbits' as he could knock in goals

against them as easily as a farmer with a shotgun could knock off rabbits in his meadow! On the day of the match, I set off with my friends Paul and Ricky at about 13.00, much earlier than we would have done for a league match.

At the time we all lived within about a mile or so of Layer Road so would invariably walk to the ground. We arrived at about 13.30, probably at the same time that the turnstiles were opening, and took up position behind the goal at the Layer Road end. Initially, we were very tightly packed in, and it wasn't that comfortable, but I remember there being a bit of a scuffle which, after it had subsided, seemed to create a bit more space!

It is incredible to imagine now how on earth there were sixteen thousand fans inside the ground, many taking advantage of some very unorthodox places from which to view the proceedings. I'm pretty sure that my uncle watched the match from a tree at the clock end! Although only one of the game's five goals was scored at the Layer Road end, it was perhaps the most significant as the header from Dave Simmons unbelievably gave the U's a 3-0 lead and the dream was becoming reality.

It was an anxious final twenty minutes or so after Leeds pulled two goals back, with many of the U's players out on their feet having given their all, but Graham Smith's miraculous save from Mick Jones enabled our team to hold on for one of the most remarkable upsets in the history of the F.A. Cup.

When I arrived home, I knocked on the front window, held my scarf aloft and waved it joyously to my family before entering the house. My Dad had been listening to Sports Report on the radio and couldn't believe the result. Later that evening I went out to celebrate with Paul and Ricky at 'The Star' pub in Straight Road. When the 'Green Un' came out, the headline read 'United K.O. Leeds.' Being an Ipswich based newspaper, it usually led with the Town match as its main story but not on this occasion.

The next day 'The People' newspaper produced a special souvenir Colchester victory edition with the front page headline 'It's Glorious Colchester.' On the back page was the heading 'The most fantastic result you will ever see!' The 'Sunday Express' had a front page headline of 'Champagne for the Colchester conquerors' and a back page headline quote from manager Dick Graham which simply said 'My Proudest Day.'

There was also a mention of Ray Crawford keeping his promise of scoring and Dick Graham hailing the victory as the greatest moment in his football career and that he would be climbing the castle walls! An extraordinary day which gave us all such wonderful memories!

Trevor Bailey

My the most exciting football match ever --- but I couldn't go on the day!

I waited as usual to hear the FA Cup Draw with fairly low expectations. However, when the news came that we were playing Leeds, Leeds United, all that changed in a split second. I was suddenly elated and shouting out to Angela and the Dogs! I wanted the whole world to know, but in my world of Dovercourt not everyone would be interested! Anyway, I straightaway called my friend and colleague, Stuart, a very keen Leeds Supporter, and asked him to come with me, to which he replied something like "Yes, I'll be pleased to come along for a laugh and I'll drive to support you for the journey home because you'll be in no fit state to drive"!

Leeds were regarded, not only as the best team in England, but by many as the best in Europe as well at that time.

In the days before the match my thoughts kept reverting to the match. Could CUFC really beat them?

Playing at the incomparable Layer Road; so wonderful but small as

it was, with chairs for children near the touchline increasing the intimidation! That would give us some start! I imagined the teams running out in their Blue and White Shirts to a tickertape welcome from a packed crowd with a bit of a rusty mist descending from the Stands! Post Horn Gallop playing!

I thought the U's could win. I told myself that they individually had great experience but not as a team; they had 'done it all'. This was a chance to put all this experience together for arguably the most important match United had EVER played. After all they had the Manager to do it in Dick Graham, canny as they come! Age was against them and they needed a good start to help those legs to work well for the whole match. In that case they really COULD do it!

Besides, how often do Col U do the unexpected? They so often lose to the poorer sides and beat the really good ones so I for one would NEVER write them off!!

I never have and never will which in my view is why they are such a special Club to support. We supporters are very lucky! These were amongst my thoughts leading up to the Match Day.

I got my 2 tickets as soon as the Ticket Office opened and remember the queue reaching back almost halfway to The Drury Arms pub!

Then it was matchday and I found that I couldn't go after all. I was off duty for the weekend but had a young patient in the hospital who had had a Coronary complication, which, though corrected, could recur in the next few days. It was possible my duty colleagues could be out on other calls if it did - and I had been advised not to transfer him if it did (because ambulances were not equipped then as now).

So I listened to the match in the Day Room, 1-0. 2-0; 27th minute 3-0!!! I was listening with Charlie Wade, a well-known local Sportsman; we were both so excited that Sister told me to go home before we made other patients ill on the wards, and she would call me if needed. Quite enough excitement already with the match on and a lot of people listening!

I was in a complete state of euphoria, just like after the Yeovil promotion match and the Ipswich home game in the Championship when Dugy gave the oppo's fullback a 90 minute demonstration of wing play.

Incidentally, my friend Stuart went to the match with my wife Angela, which was her first match. She is now a regular attender at home matches and a Supporters' Club Member. Stuart looked pale and white as a sheet when he arrived home, so much so that I felt sorry for him.

Anyway, in the days / weeks after the Leeds match it felt like walking 'on air', felt all the time as if I was wearing the most comfortable shoes ever.

Dr (Retired) John Rankin