

# MEMORIES OF MANSFIELD: TEN YEARS AGO THIS WEEK



November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1996  
 FA Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round  
 Mansfield Town V Consett  
 Field Mill, Mansfield  
 Kick off: 3pm

## Mansfield Town 4 v 0 Consett AFC



The Journal  
 November 18, 1996  
 Jeff Bowron at Field Mill

“For the North West Durham former steel town of Consett the FA Cup dream is over – at least for this year – consigned to the history books following Saturday’s four goal defeat at lowly Third Division outfit Mansfield.

The homely Northern League club has enjoyed enormous media coverage both locally and nationally but normal service now resumes in two days time when they make the much shorter trip to Brandon in another historic though much less salubrious competition, the Durham Challenge Cup.

They had reached the first round of the FA Cup only once before in the 97-year history and no-one could deny manager Colin Carr and his club their hour of glory.

### The Road to Mansfield

Date/Round/Opponent/Result	Scorers
August 31 Preliminary Round Alnwick Town (A) Drew 0-0	
September 4 Prelim Round replay Alnwick Town (H) Won 2-0	<b>Gary Cowley (12 mins) Steven Brown (71 mins)</b>
September 14 1st Qualifying Round Harrogate Town (A) Won 1-0	<b>Carl Rowell (23 mins)</b>
September 28 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qualifying Round Durham City (A) Drew 1-1 Durham City resigned from the competition after fielding an ineligible player	<b>Darren Grimes (Consett) (8 mins) Craig Pearson (Durham) (84 mins)</b>
October 10 3rd Qualifying Round Bishop Auckland (A) Won 1-0	<b>Colin McLeod (17 mins)</b>
October 26 4th Qualifying Round Gateshead (A) Won 1-0	<b>Colin McLeod (49 mins)</b>
November 16 1st Round Mansfield Town (A) Lost 4-0	Ford, Eustace, Doolan, Wood (30, 42, 45, 74)

It was an occasion that united the town’s football followers of both black and white and red and white persuasion and encompassed all generations.

Youth was no better personified than in two-year-old mascot Sam Rooney, who, resplendent in replica shirt, led Consett into battle in the arms of a delighted father.

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For Sam, video footage will bring the day into clearer perspective in the years to come, but for 74-year-old committee member George MacDonald the tie brought the memories flooding back.

As a local landlord the former boxer had seen his beloved Consett crash 5-0 at Doncaster in the Cup back in 1958, with future comedian Charlie Williams at the heart of the Rovers defence.

MacDonald described both occasions as “great days”, but it was a far from humorous Consett dressing room at half time after their hopes of achieving a Cup shock had been blown away in 15 frantic minutes.

Goal-less after half an hour, though Wood and Harper had gone close for the Stangs early on, the crucial opening goal was then followed by two in four minutes to leave Consett on the ropes.

With 22 years loyal service between them, 35-year-old sweeper Paul Quinn and captain Jeff Sugden, a local fireman, provided valuable resistance throughout.

But when lively wingback Steve Harper eased his way past Quinn to cross low to the back post Tony Ford, two years Quinn’s senior, took a touch before driving the ball underneath Richard Lee.

With ex-Newcastle stopper Brian Kilcline in the home side’s ranks Carr had warned his squad to be extra vigilant at set pieces.

His words however fell on deaf ears and when Ben Sedgemore curled a free kick into the heart of the penalty area it was “Killer’s” sidekick Scott Eustace who, unchallenged, planted a header into the back of the visitors’ net.

SPORT PLUS

■ Grim reality: The dream is fading for brave Consett after a Mansfield goal goes in on Saturday

# Shine gets taken off Consett steel

Mansfield Town	4
Consett	0

By JEFF BOWRON  
at Field Mill

Doolan's shot kept over Lee following a wicked deflection off Sugden.

The Shrimston is much more troubled than keeper Ian Rowing. But they chased and harried and defended resolutely until Stone Wood's excellent 74th minute overhead kick completed the evening.

"We could have done with stopping the game at a well-earned interval."

Consett proud. We weren't able to get enough support to front players Midland and Rowing and I was disappointed with two of the goals conceded.

"But we've had a great run and have raised some useful money towards our floodlight appeal. I just hope it's not another 20 years before we reach the first round!"

The Club Secretary Richard Stone (bottom) looks on as Consett's goalkeeper Ian Rowing (top) is challenged by Mansfield's Tony Ford (middle) during the match. Other players in the picture include Consett's Steve Harper (left) and Jeff Sugden (right). The match was played at Field Mill, Mansfield, on Saturday, September 10, 1994.

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Consett desperately needed the half time whistle to regroup. But with only seconds remaining fate played a cruel hand when John Doolan's shot looped over Lee following a wicked deflection off Sugden.



The Steelmen in truth never troubled home keeper Ian Bowling. But they chased and harried and defended resolutely until Simon Wood's excellent 74<sup>th</sup> minute overhead kick completed the scoring.

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"We could have done with staging the game at a wet and windy Belle Vue on a heavy pitch as conditions here were perfect," said manager Carr ruefully.

"Mansfield did well and made us do a lot of running but the players gave it everything they had and did Consett proud. We weren't able to get enough support to front players McLeod

and Rowell and I was disappointed with two of the goals conceded.

"But we've had a great run and have raised some useful money towards our floodlight appeal. I just hope it's not another 38 years before we reach the first round!"

**Mansfield Town:** Bowling, Ford, Harper (Clarke 81), Kilcline, Eustace, Watkiss, Sedgemore, Walker, Wood, Hadley (Williams 77), Doolan (Sherlock 87).

**Consett:** Lee, Woodward, Gray (Hagan 45), Quinn, Sugden, Smith, Rowell, Suddes, McLeod, Outterside, Brown (Clarke 87). Sub (not used) Kelly.

**Referee:** Bill Burns (Scarborough)  
**Attendance:** 3,183"

**1,000 fans cheer on the Steelmen**

## Consett do the league proud!

CONSETT did the FBNL proud despite losing 4-0 away to Nationwide Division Three side Mansfield Town in the first round of the FA Cup on Saturday.

The Steelmen, through to the first round proper for only the second time in their history, had early chances through Steve Brown and Colin McLeod before Mansfield took a 30th minute lead through Tony Ford.

Scott Eustace and John Doolan added further goals before the break to give Mansfield a 3-0 interval lead. With the game beyond them, Consett continued

FA Cup round-up

regained our pride in the second half."

Whitby Town still carry the FBNL flag in the FA Cup after drawing 0-0 with Third Division Hull City at Scarborough's McCain Stadium on Sunday. The replay is at Hull on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Consett and Whitby Town have been named as joint Teams of the Month for October in the Federation Brewery Northern League, for winning through to the first round proper of the FA Cup.

Consett have new shirt sponsorship from AA Flags, the firm that makes the outside banners now often seen at games.

Consett keeper Dickie Lee made a tremendous late save from Sedgemore to prevent a repeat of Consett's 5-0 defeat away to Doncaster Rovers in their last appearance in the first round in 1958.

There were over 1,000 Consett supporters in the crowd of 3,183. "We did our supporters proud," said Consett manager Colin Carr. "Conceding two goals just before half time was a killer blow, but we

***The programme for Saturday's game in the FA Vase against Garforth Town will feature interviews with players, fans and club officials who attended the game at Field Mill in 1996.***

***If anyone remembers Consett's 1958 FA Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round match against Doncaster Rovers, please get in touch with us at [consettafc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:consettafc@yahoo.co.uk)***

## FA CUP 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND 1996 – FACTFILE

- Consett received six consecutive **away** draws in the 1996-97 FA Cup.
- Consett Captain Jeff Sugden was taken off after 25 minutes of the Preliminary Round match against Alnwick with what turned out to be a punctured lung. He returned to Cup action in the 4<sup>th</sup> Qualifying Round against Gateshead.
- The replay against Durham City was cancelled when Durham admitted fielding an ineligible player in the drawn game. Goalkeeper Michael Boyle – signed because Durham's first-choice custodian Stuart Dawson had been cup-tied playing for Peterlee – reportedly insisted five times he had not played in earlier rounds. After Consett's protest was upheld, he 'remembered' playing for South Shields in their 5-0 defeat against Nantwich in the FA Cup Preliminary Round.
- Consett Centre-half Johnny Brown was sent off for two bookable offences in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qualifying Round against Bishop Auckland. His suspension meant he missed the Mansfield game.
- Consett Striker Colin McLeod scored the winning goal against his hometown team Bishop Auckland in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qualifying Round.
- The attendance for the Mansfield Town v Consett match was, at that stage, Mansfield's highest gate of the season. An estimated 1,200 fans made the journey from Consett to watch the game.
- The money from Consett's 1996 FA Cup Run went towards the floodlights, which are still standing at Belle Vue today.
- Other teams in the draw for the first round in 1996 included former winners Burnley, Cardiff and Blackpool, current Premiership side Fulham, and Newcastle Town (no relation).
- The 1996-97 FA Cup Final was won by Chelsea, who beat Middlesbrough 2-0 at Wembley, with the fastest goal in Cup Final history after 42 seconds by Roberto Di Matteo.



# MEMORIES OF MANSFIELD: PART TWO

*Consett v Mansfield has become like the legendary Sex Pistols gig at the 100 Club; if everybody who claims to have been there really was, a million tickets would have been sold. However, we do know for certain that around 1,200 fans made the trip from County Durham. Here are the memories of a few who were there.*



## **Colin Carr, Team Manager at the time**

“We started at Alnwick and played a 0-0 draw and they hit the bar with five minutes to go. It was six matches before we got to Mansfield, all our draws were away from home, and we never conceded a goal. Harrogate Town and Bishop Auckland were in the Northern Premier at the time, and Gateshead were in the Conference and we beat them 1-0.

“Everybody worked hard and wanted to play for each other. They were getting paid very little in those days. So it was a lot of loyal lads, who knitted well together, and a couple of outstanding players, like Sugden and McLeod, who could have played anywhere, but chose Consett

“I remember going down on the bus, walking out on the pitch, the team talk, but the most outstanding moment was the ovation by the fans from behind the goal, and although we lost, they appreciated the lads giving everything.

“We also won the Northern League Cup and the Shipowners Cup, but that was probably the best achievement at the club in the 15 years I was manager, I think. It was a dream for a little club like Consett and I’ve still got a lot of happy memories from it.”

## **Brian Nicholson (“Dappa”) Consett AFC Physio at the time**

“I had a fantastic day. There was tremendous anticipation at Belle Vue with all the coaches, and going into Field Mill felt great; it was a big old-fashioned ground. The atmosphere in the dressing room was electric.

“I actually thought we had a chance – we were a good side at the time, with a very strong backbone – but Mansfield got a couple of early goals and the dressing room at half time was all about trying to keep the score down.

“On the back of that game, we put the floodlights up. We used the money wisely and with matched funding from the FA. They cost the neck-end of £30,000, so you see how important that run was.

“If we’d got a replay, we were arranged to play at Durham City, because of crowd control, and we might have got 2000 or 3000 of our own fans at a replay. We started with a draw at Alnwick, but after that went from strength to strength. The most exciting was when we beat Gateshead, after their manager, Colin Richardson, said it was going to be like playing a Sunday side. Dickie Lee was magnificent in goal.



“We had a do at Delves Club the Thursday before the game, and the sponsors were coming out of the woodwork. It was a massive day for the club, and the biggest achievement while I was involved.”

## **Jeff Sugden, Consett AFC Captain and central defender at the time**

“We never got a sniff in the game itself. They seemed to come out as if they were the non-league team to rough us up – what we would be expecting to do to them. We seemed to be two down pretty quickly. I don’t think we created a chance; they were too much for us.



“Realistically, we didn’t have much of a chance, and I was just thinking that even though it was a big game, just to go out and enjoy it as much as you can. It was a beautiful pitch and there were loads of people there from Consett behind the goal were ‘supposed’ to be attacking, and they were so vocal and all dressed up in all sorts of costumes.

“Brian Kilcline was captain of the Mansfield team and on the pitch he dominated everything and Maca didn’t get much of a kick that day. He was canny crack and came into the bar afterwards.

“The day itself was spot on. A great experience. The media were well into it and did articles on this one and that one. I’d say it was the biggest game I played in. Not many people have done it at our level.

“It would be good to meet up with the lads in that team. We used to see each other now and again, and it’s been spoken of getting us together. We were a decent side on the pitch, but socially we were unbeatable.”

### **Colin McLeod, Consett AFC striker at the time**

“To be honest, at Mansfield, we got battered a bit. They did a professional job on us. It wasn’t like playing a non-league team. They went at us straight from the start and killed us off. I didn’t really expect to win, but I didn’t think either that they would be as good as they were. The fullback Ford was about 40 and I remember thinking: ‘Let’s have a go at him’, but he was as fit as fire, up and down the pitch. Unbelievable.

“We’d all done interviews and I was on 5 Live, so was Suggs. I remember being out on the night in Mansfield and bumping into Mansfield fans and they were all telling me that because I’d scored in the previous two rounds, they’d been told to keep an eye on me.

“It’s the game I remember most – and I’ve still got the video and all that – but I’m a Bishops lad, and scoring the goal in the earlier round that knocked them out was also memorable.”



### **John Hurst, Current Consett AFC President**

“My father was a miner and we moved down to Mansfield in the sixties. I used to watch Mansfield at every home match for years and still go down twice a year to see a match, so when I heard the draw it was quiet magical. I’ll never forget the feeling. I took my son Michael down and showed him where I used to live, my old school and the garage I used to work as an apprentice.

“The match itself was like a scene from the film, *The Great Escape*. There were people from Consett everywhere. The Rufford Arms was just taken over by people from Consett.

“In the match, the gulf was too great. They held out for most of the first half but eventually conceded. The atmosphere was electric. Even Dappa (Brian Nicholson) got a rousing reception when he went on to treat a Consett player.

“In the end, it was damage limitation as we lost 4 0, but what a day!”

### **Ian Hamilton, Current Consett AFC Secretary**

“At 8am I was in the board room of Belle Vue looking out over an empty car park. I was at the ground early making sure we had everything we needed for our historic trip. Ten minutes later I returned to the boardroom window and to my utter surprise the car park was a mass of people. In the end, we took a massive 20 buses to Nottinghamshire.

“On the way down, the bus driver had the radio on and during the news an interview I’d done on the Thursday evening was featured.

“On entry to the ground we were ushered to the Directors Bar where we enjoyed some special hospitality and all the beer we could drink. Fifteen minutes before the game we were asked to take our seats in the stand and to my astonishment we were in the Directors’ Box and the view of the Steelmen Army was a sight worth seeing.



(continued from page 20)

“Chris Cullen was perched on a wall high above the rest with the club’s flag, a donation from the main sponsor at the time, AA Flags.

“After the match, we headed off for a night on the town, but you could feel intimidation building as the night went on, we went from pub to pub with quite a lot of the Consett Mass staying down there for the night. News was filtering through that some of our people had been in altercations with home supporters. The Mansfield people weren’t chuffed at their town being taking over by the Steel Army.

“A week later I received a letter from a Mansfield MP, thanking the people of Consett for their support and good behaviour. He said he was aware what had happened in the evening but was overwhelmed at the way our people responded to the intimidation.”



**John Paul Hardy, Consett AFC Programme and Website Editor**

“I was living in Kent at the time but had been following Consett’s progress through the rounds from afar, and when they won through to the 1st Round I resolved to go to see them wherever it was. As a consequence I didn’t know who any of the players were as it had been a few years since I’d actually seen Consett play.

“It was my first visit to Mansfield and I recall it being a “perfect” away ground, i.e. easy to find, easy to get parked in a retail park near the stadium, with a KFC next to the car park and a pub between that and the away end!

“The game wasn’t much of a contest once they got the first goal, and I remember being surprised and disappointed at how hostile the home fans chants towards us were – even when they were three up. Then again they were struggling in the Fourth Division then, and probably weren’t in the mood for sentiment as they were ripe for a giant-killing!

“The team did well to keep it down to four to be honest, as when they went in 3-0 down at half time, there were fears of a right hammering in the offing. At the end they got – and deserved – a great reception from the travelling hordes though, with Suggs leading a spot of, “We’re not worthy”, bowing on the pitch.

“A great trip all in all, and just a shame we’ve never come close to repeating those exploits since.”

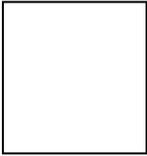
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**Michael Swift, Fan**

“It was the day before my 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I can remember it felt like a long way down. I remember being sat on the minibus with a lot of drinking adults and wondering what it would be like to be an adult.

“There was a lot of banter and singing, but it was more exciting on the way down than the way back up. In the ground, we were all packed together. It was bitterly cold, but it felt like a great away trip, because all your friends were there. You were surrounded by familiar faces. I felt more at home there than I ever have at Newcastle. I was excited, but because I was only 10, I wasn’t as interested in the football as I am now. I would appreciate it more now.”





### **Paddy Naughton, Fan**

"It was champion because you went with all your mates, who were Sunderland and Newcastle fans and for once we were all at the match together. It's first time I can remember a bus being organised from Number One Club for any match, and it was a mix of people, from blokes in their 60s, down to kids aged just 10.

"I wasn't really expecting they would win. Nobody was that disappointed when they lost, so that's why it was such a good laugh. People were dressed up in all kinds of costumes and whatever crappy Consett merchandise they could get their hands on.

"The first thing I saw when I got off the bus was 12 lads walking along the street on their knees, dressed as dwarves and singing: 'hi-ho, hi-ho!' The big chant of the day was 'Steeeeeelmen!' which was also quite funny.

"The Mansfield ground was quite impressive, with a huge stand they got from the local race course. Brian Kilcline really got stuck in, and it felt like the ref didn't give Consett a fair crack of the whip. Colin McLeod got a real battering. But Kilcline didn't really break sweat. He looked like he could have gone on all day.

"Newcastle were playing that day and went a goal down. The Mansfield fans started taking the mick out of the Consett fans and didn't understand when all the Sunderland fans were going more berserk than them.

"It was all over pretty quickly. I shook hands with Paul Quinn at the touchline and Jeff Sugden was on his knees doing a 'we're not worthy' salute. The look on the players' faces was fantastic. They were just grinning and shaking their heads at the crack going on.

"It was great crack. I didn't feel any resentment to the Mansfield fans. The day was a great laugh and I would love to do it again."

### **Charlie Young, fan**

"I was still working down in London at the time, and coming home at the weekends, and Sunderland were playing Spurs in London that same day, but I went to Mansfield instead. It was just one of those great days out for football fans.

"The mascot was Pat Rooney's lad, Sam and I can remember him kicking a ball on the pitch before the game, even though he was only two.

"They were coming down pretty hard on people with drink at football matches at the time, and they felt it was safer to have the people from Consett in the ground where they could control them, but it was just a party atmosphere. Mind, people were also drunk on the experience of supporting Consett.

"It was a great opportunity for face-spotting, because it seemed like everyone from Consett was there. Anyone back in Consett could have safely left the back door open! There was also quite a bit of support from outside places like Stanley and Prudhoe, because that's where the keeper was from, but just about everybody you knew who was remotely interested in football was there.

"Once they scored that was it. It was like a steamroller. There was a huge gulf in class. But we felt quite proud of them and it's a shame a town like Consett has never got any further.

"The team came over to applaud the fans at the end of the game and Jeff Sugden had a flag and was running up and down the touchline in front of us.

"It was just one of those unique experiences. Someone like Blyth Spartans might have had that ten times, but that was the only time we had that in our lifetime.

"Before the game we would have been over the moon with a draw, but everyone on the bus was talking about who we'd fancy in the next round, like Burnley. You're full of anticipation and hope and think it could be the team that pulls it off. You need a good team and that bit of luck, but it was just a fantastic feeling to see your hometown team in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the FA Cup."