

United Colours of Football 4



- > David Baddiel on 'Yiddos'
- > Eastern Europe: What's the deal?
- > Clough Vs Fergie by England's 1st Black player
- > Up from the roots



Plus: Vox Pops • England's Finest and some nice pics



www.KICK IT OUT.ORG

WELCOME TO UNITED COLOURS OF FOOTBALL 4

It's been a while since the last edition of this fanzine. There's been a lot going on in the meantime - some of which is explored in the following pages.

Depressingly many of the issues covered in the previous edition are still relevant today. The problems of racism around England games – home and away - have been well documented, and given added bite over the frenzy leading up to Turkey; black players are still getting stick in Europe; and, the BNP have been working overtime using the failure of local politics to spread a bad smell into football stadiums.

We suggested last time around that football fans may have been involved in racist attacks that contributed to the riots in Oldham and Burnley. Some of the subsequent trials have heard evidence that this was the case. A sad state of affairs. Call us idealists but we've always thought that the shared experience of going to a game should be the starting point of a positive collective identity. Not some kind of rite of passage into 'Paki bashing'.

Onto the here and now. Across the page **BLACK FLASH, FLASH IS BLACK** takes as its starting point the screening of a recent BBC film, to explore the history of black footballers. The piece asks some interesting questions about the development of black players.

A key figure in the history being explored is **VIV ANDERSON**, with whom we spoke to about his England debut and the small matter of working with two of the most successful and forceful managers in the business (page 8).

We asked Viv to pick his all time Black England XI which he obligingly did. The **ANDERSON ELEVEN** is featured on page 5. In case you're wondering, the team has been put together to celebrate the contribution these guys have made, we're not plotting a separate England team.

Whilst on the subject of achievement we feature a tiny club from the heart of east London who have made it to senior football against the odds, including some stereotypes. **SPORTING BENGAL** (page 11) are staying true to their roots by staying in the heart of Tower Hamlets from where they originate. They're already a success story; FA Cup glory is just around the corner.

On page 6 acclaimed comedian (and singer!) **DAVID BADDIEL** draws attention to the issue of anti-semitic chanting at games. If you're in any doubt - and you shouldn't be - of what the term 'Yiddo' means, he sets you right. It ain't funny.

Finally, through the **BALD ONES RULE HERE** (page 13) we take a look at what exactly is going on in eastern Europe through using Poland as an example. It's a frightening situation that presents all manner of questions for European football administrators on violence, nazism and on all things right-wing.

Once again this fanzine is being produced as part of the activities taking place during national anti-racism week of action. The week represents a phenomenal coming together of fans, players, professional clubs and community groups to stand united against racism with one voice. Check out www.kickitout.org to see what's going on and where.

As usual all feedback is welcome and should be sent to us through info@kickitout.org. The views expressed in this publication don't necessarily reflect those of the editors or of our funders.

BLACK FLASH (FLASH IS BLACK!)

CELEBRATING A HUNDRED YEARS OF BLACK PLAYERS



Midway through the Daily Mail's fight for our brave black boys (the racist abuse from the Macedonian crowd towards England players in September was 'shameful... despicable... foul and disgusting'), the paper reflexed, and splashed this: 'THEY'RE BACK: the new asylum army massing in Calais'.

It's a comforting, fuzzy two-tier world of racism. And football, unfortunately, lives by it. Why, Mail readers must be wondering along with half of the country, are only 1% of season ticket holders black or Asian? Why not when they're given such generous one-of-us backing by the regulars as: 'I'd rather be a Paki than a Turk'?

But as depressing as the relapse is – particularly outside the Premiership, where the scale of the problem seems to be increasing – the BBC's recent Black Flash was like a breath of fresh air. Using interviews and archive footage to illustrate well how much progress has been made, and at what cost.

The film showcased the history of black footballers in Britain over the last 120 years, charted their arrival, their abuse, and the legacy of individuals. Men such as Arthur Wharton – the first black professional footballer in Britain (every football fan should know his name): an 1880's womanising,

drinking, world record breaking sprinter and Preston goalkeeper, and Tottenham's Walter 'Darkie' Tull – who, in an age when science had 'proven' blacks inferior to whites, went on to become the first black officer in the British army, and to die a hero – among his men – in the Somme.

Postwar immigration from the British colonies marked the real start of the transformation of the game to a point where, in last summer's World Cup quarter-final, England's team featured more black players than white.

Among those that led the way, and bore the brunt was Albert Johanneson – black stereotyped as 'gifted but gutless' – who died an alcoholic in a high rise in Leeds. Lloyd 'Lindy' Delaphena, Chris Williams, Viv Anderson – England's first capped black player; Cyril Regis, who received a bullet in the post before his first England game; Luther Blissett, England's first debut hat-trick scorer, and John Barnes, who faced travelling home from his famous England goal in Brazil on the same flight as what might as well have been fully paid-up members of the National Front. All of these are names to relish as footballers, regardless of their race.

A glaring question strikes me - what of the Asian players? The black breakthrough came at the right time, the way was paved for others. The climate should be right to see a transition from the mad-for-it kids to be seen in local parks in London, Manchester and all points midlands and east. But talk to enough scouts and managers and you know that beyond the 'we'll take all talent, doesn't matter what they eat or when they pray', lies a feeling that is more likely to say 'leave 'em to cricket'.

And what about our pioneers where are they going? Brendon Batson, John Barnes and Ian Wright have all recently talked about the glass ceiling in the



Above left: Albert Johanneson
Above right: Luther Blissett
Left: Clyde Best



game. Remarkably, despite his legendary status as a player, coaching qualifications a plenty, and desire to manage (let's face it Football on Channel 5 isn't likely to keep many of us in one place for long) Barnes is clear that he isn't being offered a job because of his race. If they manage to get a job in the first place, he says, black managers aren't given a second chance.

The man who stands out most, perhaps for isolation at the start of football's TV era, is Clyde Best, who took the worst of the Seventies abuse from opposition fans, and from his own at West Ham. An inspiration to the likes of Barnes and Wright, Best's dignified resolve was indomitable.

'Clyde was absolutely vital to what is going on now because he took all the abuse almost single-handedly,' says Rodney Hinds, sport editor of the Voice. 'Without a pioneer like Clyde Best today's footballers – where would they be?'

Indeed and perhaps now is the time to ask where will they, and others like them, be in five, ten, fifteen years time....

THE ANDERSON ELEVEN

Viv names the greatest black players to turn out for England



DAVID JAMES
Blondie keeps his place



PAUL PARKER
No place for Spider himself then. Parker was solid



RIO FERDINAND
Build from the back. Still the man



SOL CAMPBELL
The Rock



ASHLEY COLE
The most effective form of defence is attack!



LAURIE CUNNINGHAM
Possibly the greatest. Get out a video kids



PAUL INCE
The gunner on the field and soon to be off it says Viv



MARK WALTERS
Pioneer for Rangers – would solve Sven's current problem



JOHN BARNES
Maracana. How could you forget?



IAN WRIGHT
Loves England. Good goals. Great celebrations.



CYRIL REGIS
Received a bullet on call up – but would you stand in the way of one from him?

SUBS: Mark Chamberlain · Mark Bright · Luther Blissett · Paul Davis · Ugo Ehiogu

Why a Black England XI?

We asked Viv Anderson to name his Black England XI as part of the celebration of the achievements of black players in Britain. The players named played for their country and are worthy of celebrating. Before the snipers get their sights on - it's not meant to be an alternative XI or any kind of separatist team.

SO YOU THINK WE'VE KICKED RACISM OUT OF ENGLISH FOOTBALL?

Anti Semitism in Football

HE'S ONLY A POOR LITTLE YIDDO,
HE STANDS ALL ALONE ON THE SHELF
HE GOES TO THE BAR
TO BUY A LAGER
AND ONLY BUYS ONE FOR HIMSELF!

An old marching tune of Mosley's blackshirts? A rather literal translation of the second verse of the Horst Wessel song? Well, no actually: it was sung in London a little more recently than that. At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea Football Club's home ground, to be exact. As well as that ditty, there was:

WHO'S THAT TEAM THEY CALL THE CHELSEA?
WHO'S THAT TEAM THEY ALL ADORE?
BARCELONA, REAL MADRID
TOTTENHAM ARE A BUNCH OF YIDS!

Plus of course just the simple chant of "Yiddo! Yiddo!", repeated, in a deliberately guttural, threatening echo, with added ever-so-slightly Nazi finger movements, every five or six minutes.

This happens every time Chelsea play Tottenham. Chants of "Yiddo!" are also meted out to any player who spent any time at Tottenham, Teddy Sheringham, for example, when he was at Manchester United. I don't know how many Jews do actually support Tottenham (a fair amount, certainly), nor do I know how much this behaviour is replicated at other



By David Baddiel

grounds, but I would be surprised if local derbies with Arsenal or West Ham are entirely Yiddo-free.

I've noticed these past few months, after the appalling abuse Emile Heskey, Ashley Cole, et al suffered at the hands of Slovakian and Macedonian fans, there's been not a little self-congratulation about how well we've done in Britain to, as the saying goes, kick racism out of football. As a Chelsea fan and a Jew, some of this self-congratulation has left me feeling a little hollow.



Anti-Semitism is the "other" racism in football, and, because it so lags behind in visibility to racial abuse of black players, it is hardly ever discussed. But it's an important issue, not least because, in my experience, there are loads of Jewish fans at many grounds – it is virtually impossible to be Jewish and male and not interested in football – and I know that we all dread the starting up of these chants.

Without doubt, it seems mainly to be a London problem, and it does centre around Tottenham. For some time, in fact, I told myself that it didn't matter, that for most of these fans, "Yiddo" simply meant Tottenham player, or Tottenham fan, and that the negativity was just about that and not actually about race.

Then I heard the same chants shouted at Eyal Berkovic, Manchester City's Israeli midfielder, who has never played for Tottenham, and at the entire Hapoel Tel Aviv team when we played

them in the UEFA Cup the season before last, and I realised that I was in denial about it: "Yiddo" may mean Tottenham fan, but it also means Jew.

Either way, who cares about exactly what the word means? If similar language were being used in en-masse singing and chanting, about African - Caribbeans or Asians, it would be a cause for national outrage.

But I'm not blaming the club, there's little that it can do. The mass nature of the anti-Semitism – the fact that it exists in songs and chants – is the key to its survival. Abuse towards black players, thankfully, tends now to be individuals, odd shouts, easily targeted and dealt with. Chelsea has a policy, in fact, of encouraging its fans to report racism to the stewards, who should throw the racist out. But it's no good reporting the whole back half of the Matthew Harding Stand to the stewards.

I used to sit in that stand, until four seasons ago; the racism was one of the reasons I moved round to sit in the posher East Stand, where at least you can only hear the anti-Semites, rather than having to hug them when Chelsea score.

Having said that, the last time we played Tottenham, the bloke who sits next to me – who works in the music business – still got up and shouted "Palestine!", which I actually thought was pretty funny.

At some level, the anti-Semitism is funny. I now almost have a soft spot for "He's Only a Poor Little Yiddo", because it so demonstrates the small-minded nature of English racism, the only country in the world where the main crime anti-Semites would accuse Jews of is not drinking the blood of Christian babies, nor infiltrating the higher echelons of international finance, but failing to stand a proper round.

So sometimes it makes me laugh. But then, occasionally, when we're playing Tottenham, the hardest section of the crowd, the ones at the back of the Matthew Harding Stand, will start emitting an elongated hiss, supposed to emulate the sound of the gas chambers. And I'm not really sure how funny that is.

The writer is a comedian, novelist and football fan

FAN MAKES CITIZENS ARREST

Hats off to a Leeds fan who took direct action to bring an anti-semitic chant to task. Elland Road season ticket – holder Mr. 'S' had alerted stewards and police to an individual involved in anti-semitic chanting – including amongst other things 'Spurs are off to Belsen' – at United's home match against Spurs last season.

Hearing him make the comments, Mr. 'S' had reported him – but the man managed to get away. They bumped into each other again when Blackburn visited Leeds. Mr. 'S' grabbed him and alerted stewards, who eventually called the police. "I was angry," he says, "I don't want to hear that sort of chanting and I don't want my kids to hear it either".

The perpetrator, 49 year-old Michael Hector, who was fined £250 with £40 costs, told the Yorkshire Evening Post he had been watching United for 36 years and had been a season ticket holder for 25.

Hector, a father of two and a grandfather, said "It was just part of the general banter with the crowd and something thousands of fans join in with and chant.

"I never thought anything about it, then two games later at the Blackburn match I was suddenly arrested and handcuffed and taken to Holbeck nick. There were thousands of people chanting, not just me. I don't know why I have been picked on.

"Personally I think it is a big fuss over nothing. I work hard and go to games for a bit of fun."

His wife Linda said "It's barmy."

"HISTORY IS NOT ALWAYS MADE

VIV ANDERSON



WITH GRAND GESTURES"

WHEN YOU MEET VIV ANDERSON YOU GET THAT QUIET SENSE OF DESTINY - FULFILLED THAT ONE ALMOST EXPECTS FROM A LEGEND.

His name passed into history as the first black player to turn out for the senior England team on November 29th 1978. Twenty-five years on, his significance extends beyond just being the first black. He was a key player in a generation of England footballers that straddled the gap between the game as it used to be, and the modern entertainment business it has become.

KICK IT OUT spoke to him about the night of his debut, on being managed by two of the greatest and his own thoughts on management.

TELL US ABOUT THE DAY YOU GOT THE CALL UP TO THE SQUAD AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

I had an idea that I had a chance of being called up. My manager Brian Clough had told me I stood a good chance. I knew we'd be told on the Wednesday before the squad got together on the Sunday, so I made sure I was at home where I got a call from some press people to let me know I'd made the call up. I felt very honoured.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOLLECTIONS OF THE DEBUT ITSELF?

I remember it was a full house, nearly 100,000 people. It was a cold, bitter, winter's night and not the most memorable of games. The pitch was hard on one side and soft on the other, so for the first half we wore rubber studs because it was like rock and during the second it was back to studs as normal.

I had a hand in the goal, passing the ball to the winger who crossed it over for Steve Coppell to score.

I was only 20 or 21 at the time and it's only now that everyone is making a big noise about it. At the time I was just happy to play, happy to do well for my family and my club. I was focused on trying to get into the next squad so I wanted to play well on the night.

History isn't always made with grand gestures is it? It was just a matter of playing and trying to do well.

YOU'RE A ROLE MODEL FOR SO MANY PLAYERS, AND IN PARTICULAR BLACK PLAYERS ACROSS THE GENERATIONS - DES WALKER, IAN WRIGHT AND ASHLEY COLE HAVE ALL NAME-CHECKED YOU. BUT WHO DID YOU LOOK UP TO?

There weren't too many black players around at that time and so I always followed the 1970's Brazil team, to see people who looked like myself playing the game. And what a side they were!

Clyde Best was at West Ham at the time - so it was nice to see a black face on the TV. Apart from him I had to look to Europe and further afield.

YOU WON MOST THINGS AS A PLAYER. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR PLAYING CAREER?

I was very fortunate. I played in sides that won European Cups, League Championships, FA Cups and I've represented my country. So there's nothing I would change. I went to two World Cups and didn't play - people might think I'd change that but it didn't worry me whatsoever. Just to be in the squad and be a part of it was great.

The pluses in my career far outweigh the minuses, but if I had to pick one I'd say winning the championship was different to winning a cup. To win the First Division as it was then, you had to be consistently good, which is a far more of an achievement and far more enjoyable than picking up a cup I think.

YOU PLAYED WITH TWO OF THE MOST CHARISMATIC MANAGERS IN ENGLISH FOOTBALL. SO WHO WAS THE TOUGHER - FERGUSON OR CLOUGH?

When Alex first came to United he would be shouting and spitting, knocking cups around because I think he was slowly trying to get the people he wanted in, so it was frustrating for him early on.

Brian Clough was just a one off. I'm not sure we'll ever see his like again. You never knew from one week to the next what the team was going to be, how he would react to results. He was a complex character that I don't think anyone could say they sussed him.

Alex was in yer face, he'd tell it to you as it was. Brian was just crazy at times, he trod a fine line between success, failure and glory. And he trod it all the time.

YOU WERE A PLAYER-MANAGER AT BARNSELY AND A SUCCESSFUL ASSISTANT AT MIDDLESBROUGH TO BRYAN ROBSON. ANY PLANS TO RETURN TO MANAGEMENT?

Well I've got an events company now (North West Events) and I do a lot of media work, but my first love is still football. If I got a chance to go back into management with the right club, with the right ambition, I would seriously consider it. But at this moment in time having been out of the game for 18 months nothing has really made me think I'd like to get back, the right offer hasn't been there. The opportunities are few and far between but you don't know what may crop up in the future.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LACK OF BLACK MANAGERS IN THE GAME?

I think it's a natural progression. We've gone from playing when there weren't many black faces and become accepted for it.

The next stage is for there to be a successful black manager. I've had a go at it - things were going well at Barnsley; I went to Middlesbrough as a bigger club with more resources on the condition that I could have a say in everything - the team selection, purchase of players. So although I was assistant I went there virtually as the manager.

To get to the next stage I hope players who are coming to the end of their careers, people like Paul Ince for example, look at the game and think, "Viv's done it and so can I".

You can find yourself in the strangest situations in football - I got involved in management because the chairman of Barnsley asked me to come and manage his club - he thought I'd do a good job and enjoy it. I was unsure at first because I was still playing, but I took the job and might still have been there now.



WHAT'S THE SCORE?

People have been talking about an increase in racism in football for years. Some evidence seems to be bearing this out - Home Office arrest statistics show an increase of 57% for racism and a survey published by The Times revealed that 41 per cent of supporters claimed to have seen or heard racist chanting, in the last two years.

Is racism in football getting better or worse? We asked around....

"Regards football hooliganism - the media is both reporting and driving forward the idea of increased hooliganism. The police also seem to push the idea of more hooliganism in order to obtain further resources and powers.

"I have seen incidents of racism and hooliganism [sad to say I was involved in some of them myself in the 70s] every season for the last 35 years at Sunderland and also at other games, the scene is nowhere as bad as the 70s or the 80s, and is probably marginally worse than in the 90s. All seater grounds have made it more difficult for fans to be outwardly racist, doesn't mean they've changed their attitudes though!"

Mark Metcalf, Sunderland home and away

"There may be a view that hooliganism is starting to raise its ugly head again, together with racism, there is certainly a general perception from within the game that such issues are being constantly addressed.

"There is much more effective action now in dealing with racism, in particular as a result of work by campaigns. The integration of more foreign players than any other country has been achieved successfully in this country and as a regular attender at games I have without doubt seen a vast reduction in racist abuse."

Gordon Taylor, PFA chief executive and former Bolton, Blackburn and Bury player

"Both. There are signs that some clubs, leagues and governing bodies have started to properly address the issue, but it's still patchy. The hysteria around asylum seekers and the rise in islamaphobia is

fuelling intolerance in general, seen in the actions of significant numbers of fans - the Turkey game at Sunderland an obvious example."

Howard Holmes, campaigner and Sheffield United regular

"'Racism is like a Cadillac. The 1960 Cadillac doesn't look like the 1921 Cadillac, but it is still a Cadillac; it has simply changed form' Malcolm X

"In this respect the key issue for me is getting those who would align themselves with the rhetoric of anti-racism to see how they themselves and the institutions they represent might be implicated in forms of racism that they don't currently recognise as such."

Tim Crabbe, academic and Crystal Palace fan

"On a personal level, my feeling is that racism is getting worse, but it's a different sort of racism from the 70s and 80s; the asylum seeker hysteria doesn't help, and my own perception is that rather than organised fascists feeding off racism and organising it, it's more generalised and therefore more 'ingrained'. Hopefully though, the anti-racist work will have penetrated into fanbases to help counter this."

Dave Boyle, Supporters Direct and AFC Wimbledon man

"Racism is changing. There's not many organised groups of racist fans on the rampage. But how many black or Asian managers, coaches, club administrators, football journalists and commentators are there?"

"And going to football, there's still very few black and Asian fans. Yet football has huge numbers of black and asian supporters. Groups are being excluded, and feeling excluded. Football is failing to tackle this. Finally there's now a focus, very welcome, on the racist abuse black players suffer in Europe. The abuse wouldn't have even been commented on a few years ago. Another change. Better or worse? Its better it's being noticed and dealt with, worse it still happens."

Mark Perryman is an active member of EnglandFans and a Tottenham Hotspur regular

UP FROM THE ROOTS

By Matthew Brown

As footballing milestones go it probably won't rank up there with the first FA Cup final or England's World Cup win, but the acceptance of an east London amateur team into the ranks of the Go Travel Kent League marks a breakthrough of no little significance for one, often marginalised, section of the footballing fraternity.

When Sporting Bengal, from Mile End in Tower Hamlets, line up against the likes of former football leaguers Maidstone United and Beckenham Town next season, they will become the first predominantly Asian team to play at such a high level of the non-league game. The Kent League is one rung down from the Ryman's, and a significant step up the football pyramid from Bengal's previous position in the London Intermediate League.

The club, formed in 1996, is essentially a representative side for the Bangladeshi Football Association UK, drawing many of its players from the 29 teams in League Bangla, a summer competition organised by the association. It is regarded as one of the top Asian teams in the country.

"Just the thought of a side from the Asian community playing in the FA Cup is amazing," says Suroth Miah, a former player and current chair of the club. "This promotion is very important for us, but it's more important for the Asian community."

Bengal started out in the London Asian Football League, but after winning the double two years in a row, and the league three times, they realised pretty quickly they needed to test themselves against tougher opposition. It was the sort of move much encouraged by those seeking to shift Asian football, and Asian footballers, from their relatively marginal, community-based, position.



The Sporting Bengal Team

Miah is all too aware of the various 'Asians in football' campaigns and initiatives that have bounced into being. With his club's ascendance, and the emergence of a smattering of Asian professional players, led by Michael Chopra and local Tower Hamlets boy Anwar Uddin, Miah believes "the time has come for Asian footballers".

Although lots of Asian youngsters now get picked up by the pro clubs' academies, Miah still believes there's "something going wrong" at that level. "Pro clubs have got to change their thinking," he says. "Bangladeshi's are of a relatively small build and we'll probably be the smallest team in the Kent League, but watch us, we'll be one of the most skillful and the quickest."

Indeed, Bengal has players of some pedigree, including two who were on Arsenal's books for seven years, another who was at Burnley, plus a handful who have played in the Ryman's league and for pro teams in Bangladesh.

Sporting Bengal is more than just a team though. It also trains members to become coaches so they can work with local Asian kids. "One of our main aims is to produce a player who will break through into professional levels," he says. "It won't happen overnight so we've got to start encouraging kids from a young age."

Having a first team that plays with the big boys will certainly help, even if Kent has had to stretch its boundary northwards across the Thames to fit them in. The club's also had to make a few adjustments – six yards have been added to the 104 yard pitch at Mile End Stadium, for example, and some of the changing facilities have been upgraded – all generously paid for by the local authority.

As for the Kent League's indigenous football community, it seems keen to welcome the latest sign of the coming of Asian football. "I think it'll give their league a boost," says Miah. "The interest has already gone up and clubs are anticipating a rise in crowds. We're a marketable product."

Next stop: The Ryman's!



Anwar Uddin

Eastern Europe

'THE BALD ONES RULE HERE'

Everyone, it seems, is up in arms about Eastern Europe. In footballing circles it's become a place associated with racism - highlighted by the abuse meted out to England players and black players in the UEFA and Champions League.

The reasons are complex and will have a bigger impact on European football than anybody yet realises. Rafal Pankowski describes the situation in Poland.

Everywhere you look, the Polish media is full of stories on football hooliganism. It's discussed most days thanks to serious incidents in stadiums across Poland and the seeming hopelessness of our police in dealing with gangs of aggressive youths.

What the TV and press don't mention however, is the successful penetration of hooligan circles by a hardening racist ideology and by organised fascist groups.

No other area of life in Poland is as affected by racism and fascism as football. Attacks on Jews, 'foreigners' and people of colour are common. An anti-semitic subculture dominates football, with rival fans routinely abusing each other's clubs as 'Jewish' as a term of abuse. The display of Celtic crosses and other Nazi skinhead symbols has become commonplace.

Skinheads may seem like an outmoded idea in England but here they are alive and, quite literally, kicking. Many refer to their actions with pride - 'the bald ones rule here' is a common saying.

The issue was highlighted publicly not too long ago in Lodz, an industrial city with two big clubs, LKS and Widzew. Nazi graffiti, often combined with club badges was everywhere. Nobody seemed concerned about it until a shocked visitor from an international group of former Lodz inhabitants (most of

them survivors of the Lodz Ghetto), wrote an open letter to the authorities demanding to know what they intended to do about it.

Alerted to the fact that the city's international reputation was at stake, the authorities and the local media organised a clean up day.

In an act of defiance the same evening, Lodz Nazis showed their contempt for such initiatives. They daubed "Juden raus" and symbols of the fascist party, National Revival of Poland (NOP), on the home of a prominent anti-fascist.

Anti-Semitism is not the only form of prejudice widely expressed at football grounds. The problem of racism in football is increasingly affecting African players who have joined Polish clubs since the mid-1990s.

Frankline Mudoh, a Polish League footballer born in Cameroon, points out that in many teams players put pressure on the coach not to include black players in the team.

The Nigerian Emanuel Olisadebe became the first black member of the Polish national team in August 2000, after being granted Polish citizenship. Weeks before his international debut he was spat on by another player during a league game.



'THE BALD ONES RULE HERE' CONT

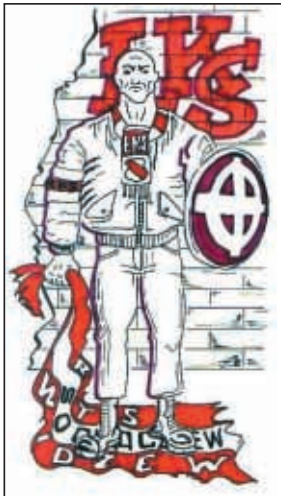
The quality of Polish football is now rather poor compared with the glory days of the 1970s and early 1980s, and the numbers attending games have dwindled. Because of that, it is much easier for an extremist minority to dominate our terraces.



The lust for violence and the frustration of young, predominantly working class, youths involved in football hooliganism, is easily channelled by fascist activists who provide them with a sense of purpose.

Hooligan leaders are open about what they believe. As one told a fanzine recently, "Fascism is not a nasty idea. National socialism is a necessary means of purifying the ranks of groups of gypsies, punks and negroes".

A well known club with a big fascist presence is Legia Warszawa. The enormous banner of a hooligan gang 'White Legion', sporting nazi symbols, can be seen at every game. One of the leading members of the gang, is serving a 9-year jail sentence for brutally murdering a teenage boy simply because of his 'alternative' dress style.



Surprisingly, given our country's history, the NOP fascist party encounters few obstacles to organising football hooligans into "national-revolutionary" cadres. The government's attitude is blasé and riddled with hypocrisy.

Eastern Europe is a very different set of nations, with very differing cultures. Many places are still riven with internal tensions and are struggling with

the transition to a free market. To refer to us as one place is a mistake.

Football is one of the few arenas in which we can compete with the west. Our countries have sides playing in all European competitions, if only until

January. The racism we have seen thus far will undoubtedly continue until the problem is challenged at home.

More frighteningly, as we become wealthier places, with more people able to follow club sides abroad, the violence we see in domestic football may make a presence internationally. The disruption to European football will be a depressing step back.

Yet it's not all as grim as it might seem. Some progress is being made. A campaign 'Let's Kick Racism Out of the Stadium' launched by the anti-fascist Never Again and supported by people like Emmanuel Olisadebe and many forward-thinking fans has had success at smaller clubs like Orkan Sochaczew and Wkra Zuromin. The Polish FA recently gave some recognition to the problem by working with Never Again.

We've a long way to go but the positives are embodied in individuals like Olisadebe who became a national hero after scoring three goals in his first two international outings, and almost single-handedly got us qualification for the World Cup in Japan and Korea.

ZERO TOLERANCE OF RACISM

Is this fan shouting abuse, racial abuse or just supporting their side?

There's a clear line to be drawn between abuse of a racist nature and just getting hot under the collar. Understand it and respect the boundaries. Any level of racism is unacceptable.

If you see or hear racism, call Kick It Out free.

0800 16 99 414



www.kickitout.org



KICK IT OUT

THIS FANZINE HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY KICK IT OUT

As football's anti-racism campaign Kick It Out works with supporters, clubs and community groups on issues related to race and anti-racism in the game.

Sponsored by the Professional Footballer's Association, the FA Premier League, the FA and the Football Foundation to a programme of work aimed at challenging racism in all parts of the game. For more information see www.kick-itout.org

Thanks to anti-racist football fans everywhere. Special thanks to our contributors – David Baddiel, Matthew Brown, Dave Hills, Rafal

Pankowski, The Independent, When Saturday Comes, Viv Anderson, all of the fanzines who have agreed to help distribute.

The sponsors of Kick It Out deserve a special mention for recognising the importance of projects such as the production of this fanzine.

Davis Baddiel's 'So you think...' was published first in The Independent. Matthew Brown's 'Sporting Bengal' was first published in When Saturday Comes

Produced in conjunction with our friends in the Football Against Racism in Europe Network (FARE)



Kick It Out is funded by



WE'LL SUPPORT YOU EVER MORE!!

This publication is supported by the following fanzines:

City Independent (Hull City)
Dial M for Merthyr! (Merthyr Tydfil FC)
Don't you point at me! (Runcorn FC)
Eyrie' go (Bedford FC)
Fly me to the Moon (Middlesbrough)
Follow the Yellow Brick Road (Mansfield)
FourFiveOne (Cork City)
Grorty Dick (West Bromwich Albion)
My Eyes Have Seen The Glory (Spurs)
One Wonky Antler (Cambridge United)
On to Victory (Yeovil Town)
Popular Stand (Doncaster Rovers)

Red Issue (Manchester United)
Red News (Manchester United)
Rub of the Greens (Plymouth Argyle)
Show me the Way to get Home (Maidstone Utd)
Speke from the Harbour (Everton)
The Mighty Shrew (Shrewsbury Town)
United we stand (Manchester United)
Vale Park Beano (Port Vale)

Design & Production:
Northstar
01282 865333

Photos supplied courtesy of

