

Classic VOTV – issue 66 (April 1996)

The complete A-Z of Millwall

The latest Lout Rants included a witty alphabetical look at the Addicks, which is odd because they don't regard us as local rivals. Fisher are more their level. But we felt we had to return the compliment anyway

A is for Arsenal, ambushed by Millwall supporters armed, among other things, with planks of wood at New Cross Gate as the Gunners fans returned from a Selhurst match with Charlton on November 1st, 1986.

B is for Burtenshaw, referee Norman who was assaulted as he left the pitch at The Den at the end of a game in October 1967.

C is for Crystal Palace, where Millwall played their 1947 home game with Newcastle. The Den had been closed because of an attack on a referee who awarded a last-minute penalty to Barnsley in a 3-3 draw.

D is for Derby County, whose superiority to Millwall in their 1994 play-off game was such that home fans rioted, producing a suspended sentence of three docked points, a £100,000 fine and two games behind closed doors.

E is for Exeter City, who won 5-3 at The Den in the 1950 FA Cup. The referee and linesmen were attacked and the ground was closed.

F is for Fratton Park, scene of Millwall's home match with Bristol Rovers in 1978. Also the home of the team represented by the unfortunate Smith when he had his head gashed by a stone while taking a corner at Millwall in 1900.

G is for Grenade, the one thrown on to the pitch by a Millwall fan at Brentford in November 1965.

H is for Home run, a record sequence which, when Plymouth had the cheek to end it, caused Millwall fans to smash the windows of the visitors' coach.

I is for Ipswich Town, whose 6-1 FA Cup win at The Den in 1978 was interrupted for 18 minutes by Millwall fans who charged both police and visiting supporters. Some 22 officers were hurt, one seriously, and it led to an English record fifth closure of the ground.

J is for Jermaine Darlington, who was 17 in 1992 when he made his full League debut at The Den to a torrent of racist abuse.

K is for Kenilworth Road, where Millwall fans rioted in 1985 after losing their FA Cup quarter-final against Luton, ripping out seats to throw at the police.

L is for Leeds United, whose visit to The Den in November 1985 produced such trouble outside the ground that the FA made all Millwall's future home games all-ticket.

M is for Manor Ground, where "fighting broke out behind one of the goals on several occasions" during Millwall's visit in April 1966.

O is for Other grounds used by Millwall. East Ferry Road was remembered by one opposing player because "the smell wouldn't come off for weeks", while at North Greenwich children used to throw sand in the faces of opposing forwards.

P is for Park Avenue, from Bradford. Their visit in 1934 ended with the referee and opposition players pelted with missiles and the ground was closed. Despite being found guilty by the FA, Millwall continued to refer to the attack as an "alleged incident".

Q is for QPR, where there was crowd trouble involving Millwall in 1966, including a sit-in to try to get the game stopped, during a 6-1 defeat.

R is for Reading, where a spanner was thrown at the home goalkeeper by a Millwall fan in 1995.

S is for Smokebombs, which were first thrown at The Den in the return game against Brentford in 1966.

T is for Thorne, Alan, the Millwall chairman who threatened to close the club down after crowd trouble during an FA Cup tie at Slough which the mighty Lions lost 1-0. Pity he changed his mind.

U is for Unpaid bill. Kevin Cressey, the Millwall executive supporter who was arrested over the attack on Charlton chairman Roger Alwen at The Valley in 1993, still hasn't paid for his lunch.

V is for Volkswagen, whose cars were sold by Millwall chairman Mickey Purser in showrooms on the Old Kent Road which regularly had their windows smashed by disgruntled Lions supporters after home games.

W is for West Ham, one of whose supporters was killed under a train at New Cross as he tried to escape Millwall supporters on his way back from a game at Charlton.

X is for X-certificate, which should have been applied to Millwall defender Pat Van Den Hauwe's first-minute challenge on Shaun Newton at The Valley in 1993.

Y is for You, because it's always your fault and never theirs.

Z is for Zampa the Lion. Zampa, your secret is safe with us!