

# contents

No 218 April 2005



EMPICS



Blyth Spartans (in stripes) finally go out of the 1978 FA Cup in front of 42,000 at St James' Park, Newcastle

**As Good As It Got**  
**“Blyth had it all – a great name, an odd strip, a solid history, eccentrics in the dressing room and, for the papers, an easy headline – Blyth Spirit”**  
**p34**

#### 4 Editorial

Players who always blame someone else

#### 6 Diary

Sven draws a blank; Martin Allen takes the plunge; José R falls for the Spanish Jeremy Beadle; José M wins the big one

#### 10 Shot!

The stresses of last month's battles against relegation, told in pictures

#### 12 Sidelines

North Korea and Japan try to make friends; PSG at war with supporters; UK islands with international ambitions; Grimsby, Swindon and Stockport struggle on

#### 16 Playing for Survival

A Labour spin doctor's bid to save football at Cambridge and the player's dad doing the same at Northwich Victoria

#### 18 Foreign Relations

How UEFA's new bid to promote home-grown players could take football back to law and internationalise national sides; Arsenal's all-foreign squad



Rogue  
ref  
p27

OFFSIDE

#### 22 Glazer Returns...

...but Manchester United fans remain determined that the stay won't be a long or productive one

#### 27 Scandal in Germany

The disgrace of referee Robert Hoyzer and the chaos his match-fixing "confessions" have left behind. Plus, the allegations hanging over Turkey coach Ersun Yanal

#### 30 Match Of The Month

Hibernian can outclass Dundee – but can they, or anyone in Scotland, seriously challenge the Old Firm?

#### 34 As Good As It Got

The greatest non-League FA Cup run since before the First World War, when Blyth were seconds away from the quarter-finals

#### 38 Book Reviews

Sex, lies and footballers; feet, mouths and commentators; grounds nostalgia; an astonishingly bad biog of Thierry Henry

#### 40 The Strange Case Of...

Rafael Scheidt, John Barnes's biggest mistake at Celtic, despite the competition

#### 46 A Season In Brief

"Neil" Hislop helps Reading win Division Two, while Fulham slip into the basement

Regulars 29 WSC Subs & T-shirts 36 WSC Books 37 On the Web 42 Letters 45 Classifieds