



Bluesletter



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What It Means to Be Chelsea in America... in Louisville, Kentucky by Josh Hampton aka Wordnerd1975

It's a secret few people share. A club with very few members. It's most times being the only guy cheering Chelsea at the pub, vastly outnumbered by those bandwagon-jumping muppets known 'round the world as Man U supporters (there's always one or two lurking in the shadows, it seems).

It's a knowing nod and a smile to the rare stranger on the street in a Blues shirt. It's pride. Joy. Excitement. Walking on air after a win. Week-long bouts of depression when we lose. Wearing a jersey to work every day leading up to big games—and having said jersey occasionally mistaken for a NASCAR shirt ("Who in the hell is Lampard and why's he got Dale Jr's number?!")

It's waking up at 7:45 in the morning to watch the match in a postage-stamp-sized window on my computer. In Turkish. That cuts in and out every five seconds. But still being able to tell who's

who on the pitch because of how they run and move.

It's having the opening credits of Blue Revolution on my laptop dock so I can launch it anytime I feel the urge, which is probably way too often considering I'm usually at work when I use my laptop.

It's obsessively memorizing the fixtures so I know what days I can watch the match delayed, what days I can leave work a little early to catch it at the pub, and when I'll have to take off altogether to make sure I don't miss anything—with all the dates kept on a color-coded calendar tacked up on the wall at my desk, just underneath my framed autographed photo of Super Frank (Thanks, Mick!).

It's having more Chelsea gear than everyday clothes, including just about every home and away jersey from the past six years.

It's going beyond just buying both the Millenniums and the NUAs—it's making sure every pair of sneakers I buy are Adidas and have some form of Chelsea blue in them so they match all those damn shirts and jackets.

It's teaching my kids the Chelsea chants and songs (with a few choice edits of course). Getting my wife to come along to a game, and watching her get so sucked into the atmosphere that she actually sings the "Celery Song." About a hundred times. With a great big smile on her face.

From Stamford Bridge to Louisville, I'll be keeping the blue flag flying high, don't you worry. Now you'll have to excuse me, I'm pretty sure there's a Chelsea episode of Classic English League Soccer about to start that I've just got see again. Cheers!



Thanks to our Kent Blues, Gill and Graeme, and their efforts to display the CIA flag at each and every Chelsea match, our flag was prominently displayed for the world to see at the Reebok stadium! (screencap thanks to Burgerbitz)



DEEP FROM THE HEART

Notes from the Chairwoman

Okay boys and girls, can you believe this – four matches, 17 goals! And if that wasn't sweet enough, none against us! Now, don't get delirious just yet, it is a long season, but... sorry, I just had to jump up and down in absolute glee! TOP OF THE LEAGUE, WE ARE HAVING A LAUGH!

Okay, I am sitting down again. It is still a long season, and we have a lot of tough matches ahead of us in four competitions. We all have to keep the faith, and just like our boys we can't get lazy and not support at the same full force that we want them to play at!

Today was also twice as sweet as our lovely Gill and Graeme hung their flag – the one we all signed on tour – at the match away at Bolton, and there it was, full screen for nearly forever on all of our television screens! That was amazing, and from the state of my texts on my phone it was as exciting for you all as it was for me. That was really, really exciting. There you go everyone, it is official that we are known. Let the world be warned, Chelsea in America is a growing Blue Army! We are loud and we are proud and we are here, there and everywhere (as is Joey Cole; aren't we all glad he is back!).

Just a bit of business: don't forget, if you have not renewed your CIA membership or your True Blue membership, the ability to renew will end in December. If you forget, you will be out until next season. So, if you are still thinking about the spring trip or just becoming a card-



A few of the fabulous Chelsea Chicks gather in Columbus to see the Blues take on Liverpool... read more about the trip on the next page!

carrying member of our beloved Chelsea and our fantastic Chelsea in America, then don't delay and get on it. Signing up for CIA is easy, just go to www.chelseainamerica.com and click on the banner on the top of the home page. It will take you to a short form to fill out and then a click to use to PayPal to pay. At only \$8, it is a real bargain.

To get a True Blue membership, it is just about as easy. Go to www.chelseafc.com and look for membership, then follow the links to renew or get your first membership. The least expensive package is the Ticket only ROW (rest of the world), only 25 pounds! If you have already done your CIA membership and now are doing your True Blue, please be sure to let us know! We can't help you if we don't know, and we can only order tickets for members whose True Blue membership is registered with us, which we have to report. So if this is the case, just email us at database@chelseainamerica.com and give us your True Blue number and we will do the rest. That way when the spring tour comes, we can get you a ticket or a ticket for any other match. Also, you can send any changes – if you move, email changes, etc. – at the same database email, so help us help you.

And don't forget all the things that your membership brings; not just the newsletter, not just special privileges on the board, the IM on the board if you are at home alone for games, the podcast every Monday night at 8:30pm Eastern time, twitter updates from us and from your regional club, Facebook pages to check, and the competitions, but also, coming to your mailboxes in late December, the first Official Chelsea in America Summer Tour in Review DVD! Yes, it is your special bonus for being a member. All the information is on our website, or on the board if you can't find it – feel free to ask.

Okay, back to the fun... TOP OF THE LEAGUE, WE ARE HAVING A LAUGH! KEEP THE FAITH!

CAREFREE,

Beth

Footy CHAT.
INSPIRING Legends!
APPOSITE Gossip?

Tune in & join the
Chelsea In America
Podcast.

Mondays
8:30 PM Eastern
chelseainamerica.com

CONTRIBUTORS:

A big thanks to everyone who helps make the CIA Bluesletter possible!

Editor: Jamie Edwards
Chairwoman: Beth Wild
Logo and Graphics: Raciell Diaz
Dates to Remember: Tel Stevens
Proofreaders: Dorothy Cooper and Sarah Drake

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Want to contribute or make a suggestion? Send Jamie an email at newsletter@chelseainamerica.com!



THE MIDWEST BLUES TAKE OVER COLUMBUS, OHIO

by Rick Finch

Last April, seven Midwest Blues made the trip to Columbus to watch a little MLS then gather with fellow supporters at Fado Irish Pub the next day for Chelsea vs. Arsenal. We had a wonderful time and met several new blue friends in Columbus. The Midwest Blues cover a large area and it is very hard to find a suitable place for a get together. Columbus gave us members in the tri-state and province area a chance to support our Blues in force. For Beckie and I, our typical Chelsea match experience is usually spent at home watching on FSC or, even worse, at work streaming the match on-line. So when Kevin said, "Let's do a Columbus trip again," I was looking forward to sharing a weekend of footie with my blue family.

Thanks to the brilliant planning of Kevin, Andy and our Columbus mate Ky, we had a date, a pub, and two matches to watch! The plan was to gather on Saturday and take the party bus from Fado to the Columbus Crew vs. Seattle Sounders match, then back to the pub on Sunday for Chelsea vs. Liverpool. After planning, and a little prodding, we had fourteen C.I.A. signed up to attend.

Beckie and I had a conference to attend in Columbus on Friday and part of Saturday so we checked into the hotel early Saturday then went to establish a beachhead at the pub and await the others. We arrived at the pub and ordered our ciders just as Ky (President of the Ohio Chelsea Supporters Union) came in. After an exchange of hellos, one of the young Liverpool supporters came up to Ky and said "Hey you ought to meet this guy on the other side of the bar. He is Chelsea and came in from Ontario!" I should have known that Burger would be "first on the beach!" Burger had been there for a couple of hours already, had "quality tested" the Jameson's, and it seemed to be just fine. After a short chat, I noticed another Chelsea jersey at the bar and sure enough it was Bob P. from Virginia. Things were starting to get fun and Burger regaled us with the story of the ten or twelve ManUre supporters who decided that they needed to try to kick something off with the one lone Sunderland man. Typical.

As the beers, ciders, and shots went down, we kept running into more Blues. Three young ladies from Indiana had made the trip in and were also planning to ride the party bus, more Columbus supporters came in and then the rest of our crew; Andy, Kevin, Eric, Monique and Marie (our Texas guests) arrived. With a "Chelsea here, Chelsea there" we got into full voice and turned a few heads at the pub.



The trip to the Crew match was a great time. We had about 25 people riding in an old school bus with a keg in the back. We also had two guests on the bus. Two young ladies from Seattle had won an all expenses paid trip to Columbus to watch the Sounders play the Crew. They were quite excited to be there and made a fun addition to the group. Thanks to our new mate Carey, a Crew season ticket holder, we learned a few Crew songs and were ready to cheer the Crew to victory. Unfortunately, that was not in the cards and the Crew lost 1-0 to the Sounders. Back to the bus and to the keg to cheer us up. As we were waiting to leave, we had an incident that led to a new nickname for Eric. We were standing in front of the bus having a beer when someone ran up purse-snatching style and ripped the scarf off the neck of one of the Sounders girls. Before we knew it, young Eric was after the scumbag and off like a shot. Even though he did not retrieve the scarf, he did earn the nickname Eric the Sprinter!

A short ride later, we were back to the pub for a few more beers, songs and Chelsea. Some of the diehards stayed to close the pub and I am sad to say I missed the dance routine put on by Monique and one of the Sounders girls!

We arrived Sunday to the pub around 9:30 a.m. to find the place already packed. The best sight was to see our mate and fellow Midwest Blue, Detroit Bob, sitting at the bar! He made the trip down from Michigan just for the match, having left Detroit at 6:00 a.m. Loyal supporter!

The staff at Fado treated us wonderfully with free breakfast and discounts on our pints. Throughout the morning we had more and more Blues streaming in and as Andy wrote, we ended up with around 60 Chelsea in the pub. We took up about three quarters of the pub, and Liverpool had one-quarter of the pub. We had Blues from all over the state of Ohio plus from Michigan, Indiana, Texas, Virginia and Ontario.

We had been told that the Liverpool supporters were much different than the Arsenal (who didn't make a peep in April) and that they "knew their songs and would give it to us large." Well, someone must have been taking the piss because their support was miserable.

We started the sing song about 20 minutes before the match with "When the Blues Go Steaming In" and didn't stop until after the match. Many of the traditional Chelsea songs and anti-Liverpool songs were sung. Some of my favorites were "We all agree, Gerrard and Torres are lovers" and, to Gerrard, "You're supposed to be in jail." Meanwhile the Scousers stood in stunned silence. "Have you heard the Scousers sing?" "Scousers, give us a song," and "Shall we sign a song for you?" elicited no response from their support. No matter, we had plenty of song and plenty of voice for everyone.

We had a bit of a shaky start, but I though our back four did very well. Brana and Ashley seemed to be all over the pitch, and Riccy and JT shored things up well. Frankie seemed quiet the entire match, but Essien made up for it. I was not pleased to see Drogba falling down so much, but he made up for it with the brilliant set up for Anelka. In the end, a wonderful victory on the pitch and at the pub!



CIA INVESTIGATES: FLORENT MALOUDA - A STUDY IN MEDIOCRE?

by Dave Braley aka dmbraley

Year	Apps	Goals	Assists	Shots On Goal	Shooting %	Passes	Successful Passes	Passing %	YC	RC	Overall Rating
2007-2008	21	2	0	29	10	34.5%	626	512	81.8%	2	0
2008-2009	32	6	5	90	27	30.0%	993	807	81.3%	3	0
Totals	53	8	5	119	37	31.1%	1619	1319	81.5%	5	0
Rating	5	5	1	3	7	10	10	6.8			

Florent Malouda: age 29, acquired from Olympique Lyonnais July 2007. In the following paragraphs, we will take a look at his career statistics while playing with Chelsea over the past 2 campaigns. I hope to give a clear picture of his ability and will give my judgment of whether or not he is good enough for Chelsea FC.

First off, above are his career statistics with Chelsea through the end of last season in Premier League play only, I felt this campaign was too early to judge yet.

So to study the above, let's take the most important areas for a midfielder as he often plays on the wing. For me the most important statistics for him are assists, pass accuracy, goals and shooting accuracy in that order.

November Dates to Remember

Frode Grodas was signed at the beginning of November 1996; he was our first "Bosman Ruling" signing.

11/8/1981 - Joe Cole's birthday

11/9/1945 - Chelsea posted their lowest ever attendance with just 4,767 turning up to see us beat Plymouth 6-2.

11/11/1957 - Bryan "Pop" Robson, who only played 17 games for us in '82-'83, will be 64

11/13/1945 - Chelsea take on the mighty Russians Dinamo Moscow. An "estimated" 100,000 turned up to watch the game end in a 3-3 draw.

11/18/1967 - Gavin Peacock was sold to QPR for 1 million gbp on the same day as his birthday (in 1996); he will be 42.

11/27/2009 - Chelsea Pitch Owners Annual Lunch



Assists:

So to look at assists he had none in the 2007-2008 campaign, for a midfielder player that is completely unforgivable. Last campaign five, better, but considering the number of passes he should have had at minimum twice that, frankly in looking at the virtual chalkboard it seems all his crosses are off their intended target, definitely an area the young man needs work on. All in all for a midfielder player his assists are pathetically low, rating out of 10: 1

Pass Accuracy:

His passing accuracy is slightly better than average. Over all you can count on him to deliver the ball to the proper person about 8 out of 10 times, not great but not bad. Again he needs work delivering the ball when it actually matters and getting assists. Rating out of 10: 7

Goals:

Scoring is an important ability for any forward player, which Florent most definitely is. Sadly in two seasons he has only found the net 8 times in 119 shots. Florent, if you aren't going to set the strikers up to score, you should help out and score a few more yourself to balance it out. Score out of 10: 5

Shooting Accuracy:

His overall shots on goal also seem to leave something to be desired. He only

seems to put the ball in the right place 1 in 3 times, again for an attacking player you would really rather see a much higher number than this, because at least then it simply means he is having his shots saved more often than not and only needs to work on beating the keeper. Florent, the goal is the three big bars with a net strung between them, not the fit bird in the 45th row. Overall rating out of 10: 3

Overall:

So overall I would give Florent a rating of about 6.8 out of 10. When you take into account his lack of ability to provide assists, pass accurately, score and shoot accurately he comes out very poor. When you work in other intangibles he does seem to gain some credibility, he does not ever get sent off and rarely gets carded, hopefully the more he is out there the better he will get. Then counter balancing that you have to factor in that he couldn't nutmeg a statue and you get a slightly better than average player who probably does not belong on Chelsea.

If it was not for the transfer ban I would close this article by calling for his immediate transfer this winter. Unfortunately since FIFA has seen the need to hand out punishment we may need him at times, so holding on to him may not be a bad idea. Hopefully tutelage under Carlo Ancelotti will benefit the lad greatly and he'll improve, he has shown some improvement already this campaign. If not he may still be able to score important goals or provide important assists for the other boys, to quote Tom Petty even the losers get lucky sometimes.

Until next time cheer and Keep the Blue Flag Flying High!

Have an opinion? Send a contribution to newsletter@chelseainamerica.com!



5 QUESTIONS FOR... Ben Horner aka NUHusky 13

How did you become Chelsea and when?

This is a fun story, at least to me. In January of 2007, when I was a junior in high school, I had a terrible stomach flu and was home for almost a week. To help stave off the boredom, my friend let me borrow FIFA 07. Since I was incredibly bored, I played FIFA for about 4 or 5 hours each of those days. I started out playing as various teams, and playing some international games. Whenever I played with England, I liked using Joe Cole, Lampard and of course JT. I did some research and found out who they played for, and started following them casually. I followed the players more than the team at first, but as I played the game more and more, I got more and more attached to Chelsea.

When my brother came home from college that summer, he told me he had started getting playing FIFA as well. We started playing countless games against each other and he was using Le Arse, so to keep the derby feel I continued using Chelsea. From that point on, I guess you could say "it was love at kick-off". I started looking up everything I could about the club and the players. I learned their past results and championships, learned about the tradition of the club, and of course, learned the songs. I got my first kit that summer, and still wear it proudly. I may not have come to Chelsea in a "traditional" way, but to me it doesn't matter, because I got there in the end.

What is your favorite Chelsea memory?

My favorite Chelsea memory comes from the 2008 Champions League Semi-Final. As I said before, I did my best to learn everything about the club, recent and past, so I knew about the heart-breaking loss in the 2007 Semis. When that match went into extra-time, I was a nervous wreck. When Ballack won that penalty and Lampard stepped up to take it my admiration for him went through the roof. He had just lost his mother, yet here he is, playing for his club in our biggest match in years. Seeing him nail that penalty, I went nuts, but it was



Ben, right, with the FA Cup in Baltimore

nothing compared to how I felt seeing him grieving on the pitch, with his teammates supporting him. I love watching replays of that penalty, because it reminds me of how much Chelsea means to Frank, and more importantly, how much Frank means to Chelsea. That's why that is my favorite memory of Chelsea.

Who is your favorite first team player?

That's a tough one, but I would probably have to go with #10, Joey Cole. Even though he hasn't started in the first team for almost a year, he is still one of my favorite players, and one of the reasons that I was drawn to Chelsea. He is such a hard worker, and always so committed to the team. Every time we score, whether he is playing or not, he goes mental. His excitement is so contagious! Just look at the game against Liverpool a few weeks back; when Nico scored he went absolutely NUTS! I remember when he was interviewed a few months back he said "The only thing better than being an injured Chelsea player, is being a Chelsea player." He is always 100% committed to the club. Even if he doesn't agree with what the manager is doing, he always plays hard, and always looks like he is having a ball on the pitch. I can't wait for him to get back.

What is your most cherished piece of Chelsea "stuff"?

My favorite piece of Chelsea gear is my first kit. It is the 06-08 home kit, and I

wear it during every game, and after the majority of their wins. I don't usually spend a lot of money buying jerseys and things like that, but this was different. I bought it when I first started getting into Chelsea, and to me it symbolizes my commitment to being a life-long Blue. To be honest, I'm probably more protective of that shirt than any other piece of clothing I own.

Do you have any pregame rituals? If so what are they?

I'm a pretty superstitious and ritualistic person when it comes to sports, probably from my days of playing various sports, but surprisingly up until this season I didn't really have any pregame rituals. This year that has started to change. Last season, I would wake up and sit in bed trying to find a stream, or watching on FSC, nothing special. This season though, I will get up, grab my jersey and scarf, put on some coffee and plop myself on the couch in front of my TV with my laptop. About 15 minutes before kick-off, the kit and scarf go on and I'll have the first of a couple cups of coffee. I'll log into the CIA "Live Chat", turn on the game, sit back, and watch Chelsea. If we are not playing well, I will take off the scarf and change where I am sitting to try and find a position with a good vibe. I am just going to point out that the only two games we've lost are games I either didn't watch for one reason or another, or my ritual was disrupted by something, so I think it's working out pretty well.

I would love to be able to go to a pub to watch matches and add that to my ritual, but alas I have yet to have any luck in that department so far. Any Boston Blues out there, we need a meet up for a big upcoming match!!

The Bluesletter is not possible without your help! We are always looking for writers to make the Bluesletter bigger and better each month! Send an email to newsletter@chelseainamerica.com with your ideas!



TEL'S SEASON IN QUESTION: 1909-10

Okay, first things first. I wasn't sure what season to do this time as I had done one from the 70's, one from the late 90's and one from 5 years ago. So what I did was just grabbed my book and whatever season it opened to was the season I was going to write up. And so this Season in Question is from way back. It's actually the season from 100 years ago, 1909-10. I know it's a long time ago, but it is still our history, and there are some famous names I'm sure you have heard about in the past.



Having been promoted for the first time just three years earlier, we were struggling to find our feet in the elite division of English footy. Previous finishes of 13th and 11th didn't bode well for the upcoming season. Our first match was a home game against Notts County. They had already been around a quarter of a century so they obviously knew what they were doing. We managed to sneak a point at home, 2-2. Our next game was against Liverpool just three days later. Again we were at home, and thanks to goals from Hilsdon and Windridge, we grabbed both points in a 2-1 win. The Liverpool game was going to be the highlight of September as games against Villa away and Sheff Utd at home would only get us one more point.

Going into October, we had three players all having two goals to their name. The problem was the defense were letting a whole bunch in. The first game in October was against Bolton at home, and we got the win with a late Jones header, 3-2. Next up was a long trip up to Tees-side to play Boro... can you imagine how long this journey must have taken 100 years ago?! Well, it couldn't have been that bad as we came away with a 1-0 win. So far we were at 3 wins, 2 draws and a couple of defeats in our first 7 games - not spectacular but not too bad either.

The middle of the month saw us with another lengthy trip, this time to Blackburn. Unfortunately we lost 1-0; this result was the beginning of a downward spiral for the boys in Blue as we only managed one win in the next 7 games. All the others were defeats - a

0-4 drubbing at the Black Cats, 3-0 home defeat to Bradford and a 4-1 loss at Sheff Weds. The other bad thing is that we only scored one goal in all those defeats, so we went from scoring 13 in the first 7 games to scoring only 3 in 8 games.

We were now struggling near the bottom (bottom two went down in those days), so come December we needed a win at home to Bristol City. The boys obliged by giving us our biggest win of the season, 4-1. Next up was a trip to Gigg Lane to play Bury and in front of a paltry crowd of 5000 we lost 2-4.

Spurs was the next game at the Bridge, and even 100 years ago they still couldn't beat us as we thrashed them 2-1 with goals from Windridge and Bradshaw. A Christmas Day defeat at Notts County wasn't helping us get ourselves away from the relegation zone, so a home game against high-flying Newcastle wasn't really the game we needed. But Chelsea, being Chelsea, made the bookies pay out a few quid as we ran out 2-1 victors in front of a crowd exceeding 70,000.

Hopefully that would be the turning point for us as we headed into the New Year, but Chelsea, again being Chelsea, went on a baseball-style road trip and headed up north for three games against Newcastle, Liverpool and Preston - and promptly lost all 3 games, scoring just once and letting in 8. The end of January saw us take our first point of the new year against those "Dirty Villians" who later won the League.

February started with yet another trip up

north, this time to Bolton. Even though we scored 2, we let in 5. When we got home to play two more teams from up north, we managed to grab a couple of victories; one against Boro, the other Blackburn. We even managed to get 5 goals in winning those two..

Come the start of March we were still struggling, so a string of good results would see us to safety. Unfortunately, from the start of March through to the second week in April we drew 4 and lost 3. Things were looking pretty bad - Bolton, Arsenal, Chelsea, Boro and Bristol City were all up for relegation. Bolton were as good as down but the other remaining spot was up for grabs.

Our next match was middle-of-the-table Sheff Weds. They had nothing to play for, no place in the Europa League, so we took full advantage and beat them 4-1, again tying for biggest win of the season. Two of our last three games were away. Bristol City was win-able but we made it lose-able. Bury at Home was a must win, and we did 2-0. Our last game was of course a must win game against Spurs at 2 point Lane, but we lost 2-1, and with Arsenal getting a point (that took some research!) in their game they stayed up and we went down. If we had won we would have stayed up on Goal Average, as it was back then

The FA Cup didn't do us any favors either. We lost in the second round 0-1 at home this time to the team that sent us down.

Attendances:
 Highest: Newcastle 70,000+
 Lowest: Sunderland 15,000
 Most Appearances: Samuel Downing 37 in 38 games
 Most Golas: Jimmy Windridge 6 in 23 games
 Note: George "Gatling Gun" Hilsdon was injured for most of the season playing just 15 times. Had he stayed fit, maybe we would have stayed up.

One other thing - if there's a season you would like me to highlight please let me know. Any suggestion will be gratefully received. Send an email to newsletter@chelseainamerica.com!