

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUES.

5. MORE CLUBS ... MORE CONTROVERSY!

1975-1976:

By and large players had stayed with their "local" clubs during the early years of the League, with the main movements being due to relocation for work, and the occasional coming and going of foreign imports.

As the League became more established, these moves (still, to a large extent determined by where players lived, as basketball was still very much an amateur sport) increased, although there was still far more stability within teams than there is today.

At **Doncaster**, the Panthers welcomed back Ian Day (who had had a year at SCP), while England International Mick Dudfield (now working in Grimsby) joined them from from relegated St. Luke's Exeter. John Belk, who had already been part of the first team squad, now made the full step up to the senior team from the Junior cup winning side. They were, however, due to lose their top scorer, Mike Gattorna, who was heading for Australia in October, and Ian Redford, one of the best defensive guards in the country, who needed to concentrate on the final year of his degree course at Manchester University.

The really big signings for the Adwick-based club, though, were from across the Atlantic, with the arrival of "Shotgun" Steve Pound, a shooting guard from Canada, and 7'1" Dan Campagna.

Sutton & Crystal Palace also had a new American, in Mark Saiers, a 6'8" centre, who was to become a well known figure in the English game – and one who would walk into most observers' all-time National League all-star team.



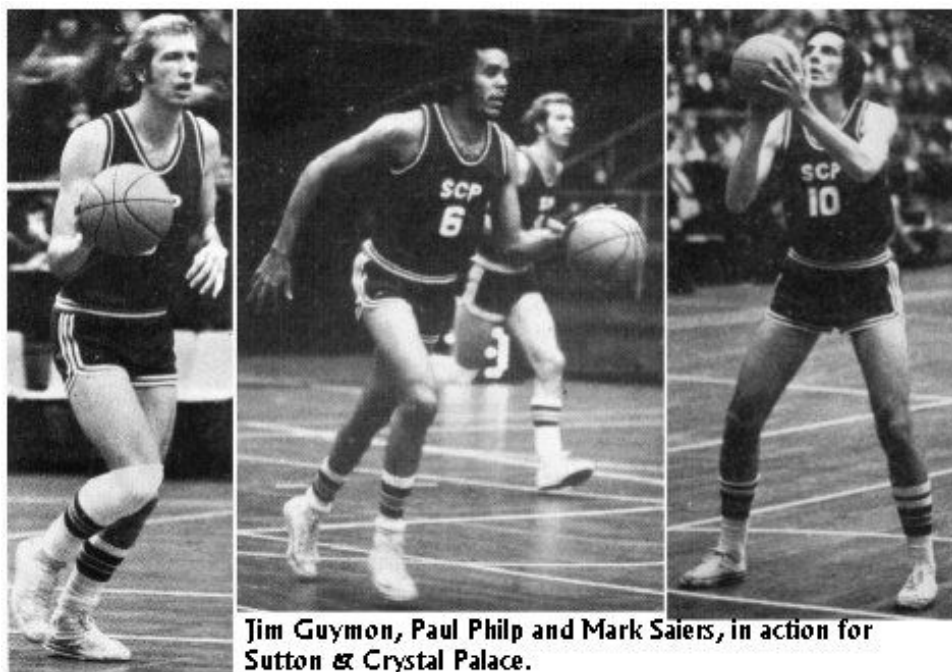
No. 12
IAN DAY
6'4": Age 22 years

Of course if Ian were to offer me enough, I'd be prepared to remove this photo!

They welcomed Ken Walton back from Manchester, giving them back-up to Jim Guymon and Paul Philp, and David Last stepped into the coach's hot seat.

What Palace didn't have was a home venue at Crystal Palace itself! They continued to play the majority of their home games at Crawley, but actually played three (including the one against their biggest rivals Embassy) at Worthing!

Embassy had also taken steps to strengthen their squad, with the signing of Miles Gerrish, a 6'10", 18 stone American, to play



Jim Guymon, Paul Philp and Mark Saiers, in action for Sutton & Crystal Palace.

alongside Schmitt!

They were very clearly determined that anything that Sprogis happened to miss from the field would not fall to a defensive rebounder!

The Islington based team were also involved in the strangest transfer deal of the Summer – Stu Turpie's move to Coventry ... and back! The Embassy captain signed for Granwood during the close season, but then changed his mind, and moved back to the All-Stars. It was a move that was to have implications during the early part of the campaign.

Granwood, Coventry were another team playing outside their nominal home town. The new Coventry Sports Centre was not yet ready, and they continued to play their games at the University of Warwick, in Leamington. They still had the high-scoring Bob Howell, with Oxford University student Mike Oristaglio as their other American. During the Season they acquired a third American, Jim di Fernando, and they appear to have rotated him with Oristaglio as Howell's partner. Their strong English contingent included Steve Assinder, Phil Hield, Robin Hall, and Neville "elbows" Hopkins.

London YMCA Metros were another team waiting for their home to be finished, and they continued to play at Romford YMCA, in Essex. They were expected to have Juan Salazar de Cardenas back, and he was certainly on the team list sent out before their first game, but equally certainly he didn't play in that match. Indeed, I'm unable to find any further reference to him during the Season, and it may well be that he didn't make it. In any case, Metros had already signed Bob Overton, and brought in Chris Beacham, also from NIU. Their biggest strength, though, was their quality English players, including Colin Gregg, Nick Startin and Pete Turner. Coach to the Metros was Humph Long – later to become even more influential through his work in the Junior ranks, especially at East London.

Just down the road, at Picketts Lock, **Avenue** continued their policy of sticking with an entirely British team, and it showed little change from the previous season. Mind you, those British players included two G.B. players (Rick Mann and Vic Collins), an England International (Geoff Gregg), and no less than four with under-19 International experience, including the impressive Lee Scott.

The other all-British side, at the start of the season, was **Loughborough All-Stars**, but again they had a very strong English contingent. Despite the loss of John Dabrowski and Kevin Wright to neighbours Nottingham, in Division Two, they still had Carl Olsson, Richard Pearce, Chris Worcester and Pete Siddall. Bob Wilson was the only player-coach in the First Division. Within a few weeks of the season tipping off Avenue were left as the only all-British team, as Loughborough brought in American Richard Steckis.

ATS Giants (Stretford), who played at Sale(!) were determined to avoid the struggles of the previous two seasons, despite the loss of Kenny Walton (back to Palace), and of Al Malik Kaaba (to new entrants Leeds).

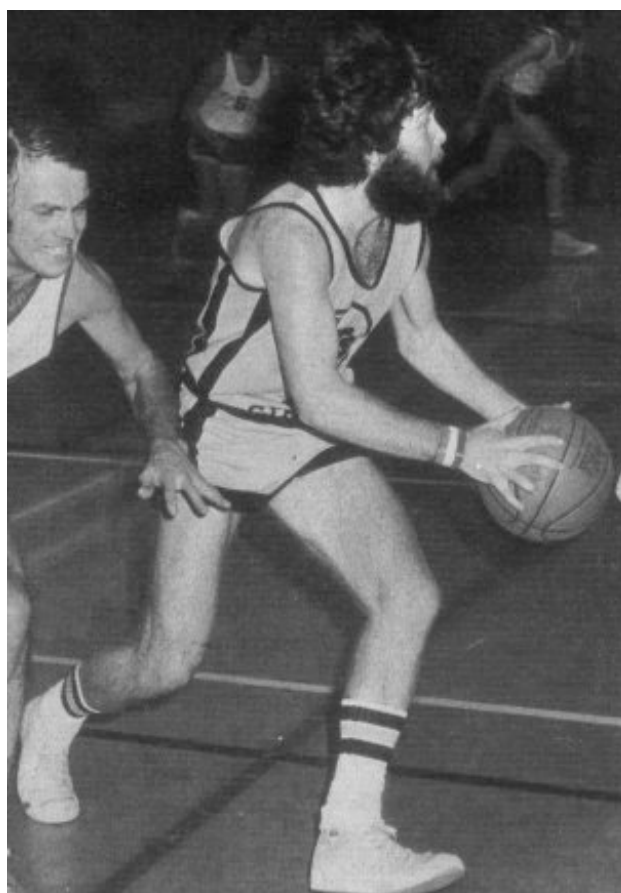
They brought in hot-shot guard Mark Badger from the USA, though their other foreign spot was filled by Dave Calderwood, from Sidney, who appears to have made little impact.

The Giants were another team with a strong English contingent, headed by Steve Latham, alongside Vic Tinsley, John Nono, and Bob Park, while a certain Trevor Pountain was pushing for a place on the scoresheet.

Trevor, of course (like Richard Pearce at Loughborough) went on to greater fame(?) as a top grade referee ... before deciding that it would be more fun to try to keep the game in order off court, as President of the Association!

It was destined to be a season where hot-shot guards took many of the (better) headlines, and **Cleveland Strongarm**, who had only survived (from last place in the League) thanks to a fine showing in the NIT, brought in Gary Kloppenburg, alongside 6'6" forward Gary Bowman. Englishmen Ken Lynd, Mal and Dave Liddell and Brian Ayre gave steady back-up.

That left **Larsen Lions, Leeds**, the new boys on the block, as pretty much an unknown quantity. Hampered by not knowing until mid-September (when they beat Guildford in a final elimination match) whether they'd be in Division One or Two, they began the campaign in October without any foreign players.



Mark Badger (Giants) perfects the two-handed dribble - misled, perhaps, by being told "You can travel further with A.T.S."

(Photo: Bob Williams)

be in Division One or Two, they began the

Al Maik Kaaba, though, had returned to his home town, from ATS, to play, and they had other English players in Keith Hawkswell, Steve Crewe, Yusef Hedar, Bob Mitchell, and Fred Petty's brothers, Dave and Steve. A few weeks into the Season they brought in American Bob Orshan and Owen Kratz, but it was obviously going to be a testing time for the newcomers.

Another big development that Season was off court, with the launch of the first official Supporters' Club in basketball - the Panthers' Supporters' Section.

Many fans had already begun to travel to follow their teams on the road, but this had mainly been as individuals, or, for big games, through the clubs themselves. Now the supporters were beginning to do their own thing.

"Their own thing" included the launch of an insignificant little magazine – "Pawprint".

Originally billed as the organ of the Panthers' Supporters, it soon got a reputation for iconoclasm that often resulted in the editor being referred to as a very different kind of organ! Nowadays "Pawprint" would be called a Fanzine, but this was long before the term had been coined, and long before any football club had one.

The Season – Division One (Men).

The season began with high hopes that the two-team race of previous years would not be repeated, and the general air of optimism was epitomised by the official opening of the Association's new headquarters, "Calomax House", in Leeds, in early September.

The first day of the Season, on 4th October, suggested that it would, indeed, be a highly competitive campaign, as ATS came close to upsetting Sutton & Crystal Palace, going down 77-81 at Sale.

Loughborough led Granwood 42-34 at the interval, and stayed ahead until three minutes from the end before succumbing 64-70. Bob Howell's 30 points did much to save Coventry's blushes, while Carl Ollson hit 19 for the All-Stars.



Ian Day scores for Panthers against Metros on the opening day of the Season.

The Sunday thus proved something of an anti-climax, with three convincing results.

Cleveland had only won two games in their first Season, and though Leeds stayed with them to 53-all midway through the second half at Stockton, new American Gary Kloppenburg helped the home side to an 83-70 victory.

Wilson Panthers posted their intentions, at Adwick, with an impressive 102-79 victory over Metros. New signings Pound (32 points) and Campagna (22) led the way for the Panthers.

Past and present champions met at Edmonton, where Avenue went down 70-93 at home to Embassy. Steve Schmitt showed his continued dominance, with 34 points, backed up by 17 for newcomer Gerrish; Avenue's top scorer, Lee Scott, could manage just 14.

Dave and Steve Petty of Leeds came up against brother Fred of SCP on the second Saturday, and although they contained the seven-footer, their team mates could not do the same to Guymon (25 points), Walton (17) and Hall (17). With only Keith Hawkswell (12) in double figures for Leeds, the visitors ran up a convincing 52-89 scoreline.

Cleveland equalled their points tally of the previous Season in just two games, as they visited Sale, where Steve Latham was in outstanding form. ATS led early in the game, but Americans Bowman and Kloppenburg came good for Strongarm, and Latham's 32 points could not prevent a 76-83 success for the visitors, for whom Kloppenburg had 28 and Bowman 20.

The most eagerly awaited game of week two was Doncaster's visit to the Sobell Centre, Islington. Panthers' hopes were raised by a leg injury to Miles Gerrish, which limited his time on court.

With Campagna and Schmitt largely cancelling each other out, the game became a classic shoot-out, with "Shotgun" Steve Pound facing up to "Pistol" Peter Sprogis.

Pound won the individual battle, 34-31 (with 15 of Sprogis' points coming from the line), but it was the Embassy guard who sealed the game for the defending

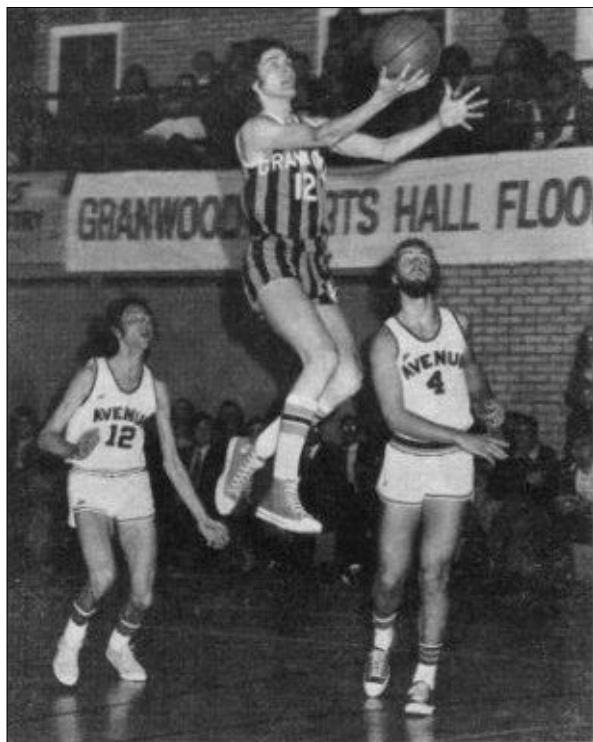
champions, as he led a spurt in the last six minutes, extending the home side's lead from two points to eleven, at 95-84.

"Basketball" magazine reported that "... it was 20 points by Stuart Turpie that made the difference". You can imagine the feelings of the Panthers' players and fans when they discovered, the following week, that Turpie's re-registration, following his abortive move to Coventry in the close-season, had not been finalised, and he was thus ineligible to play!

You can equally imagine that those feelings were hardly assuaged when it was announced that, as a result of this breach of regulations, Embassy had been fined ... ten pounds!

Imagine the feelings? You don't have to. "Pawprint" magazine may have only reached issue 3, but it gave an indication of the style which was to become easily recognised over the coming seasons.

"So ... Embassy have been fined £10 by the League. BIG DEAL." began the December editorial, eschewing the Christmas spirit, "How could Embassy have not known that Turpie was not re-registered ... especially as they had already had a warning?" it went on, suggesting that a fairer punishment would have been "to deduct Turpie's points from Embassy's total, leaving a scoreline of 75-84".



Phil Hield drives through the Avenue defence to lay-up 2 of his 19 points in Coventry's 96-60 victory.

The Association was hardly likely to respond to such blandishments, and Doncaster slipped behind not only Embassy and Palace, but also Granwood (96-60 victors over Avenue) ... and Cleveland!

Strongarm's joint leadership of the table was not to last, however, as Doncaster took out their frustration the following weekend by opening with a 16-2 spurt and coasting to a 118-73 victory, with all ten players recording points.

With Granwood having a blank weekend, the table began to look ominously familiar, with Palace (64-93 victors at Avenue) and Embassy (80-64 winners at home to Metros) clear at the top. Mark Saiers made his debut for SCP, contributing just 12 points.

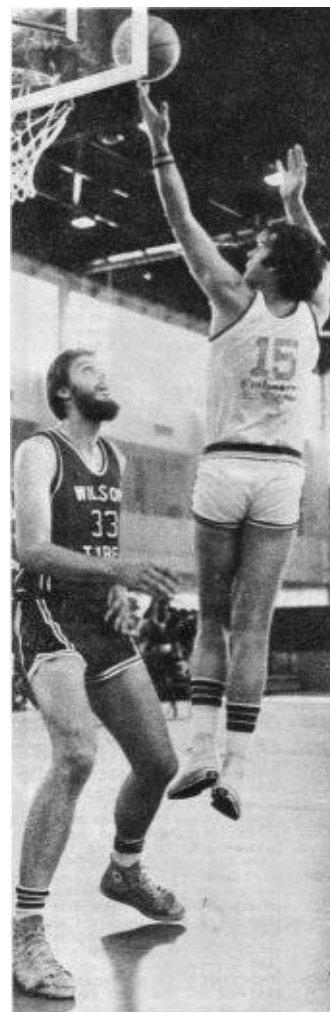
At the other end of the table, Larsen showed that they could compete at this level as they came close to upsetting Loughborough, in Leeds.

The strength of both teams was their defence, and it was clearly demonstrated as they shared a mere 108 points

between them – the lowest scoring game in the National league up to that point. Even more surprising was that the visitors had led 24-37 at the interval, before being restricted to just 19 second half points, as Al Malik Kaaba spurred his team to close the gap. With three minutes to go, the visitors' lead was down to 52-56 ... and it remained there as both sides failed to find the basket again.

Week four saw Larsen at home again, and Embassy involved in even more controversy. Three minutes into the game Steve Schmitt was called for an intentional foul on Dave Petty ... while Petty called for an ambulance, to have nine stitches inserted in his mouth where it had contacted the Embassy player's elbow.

Now as I recall the crowd at the Carnegie Centre in those days, you're talking two rows of chairs along the sidelines, so when "Basketball" reports that "It took fifteen minutes to restore order, and enable the match to continue", you realise the understatement in "the crowd were incensed".



6'10" Miles Gerrish lifts his 18 stone frame, to shoot over 7'1" Dan Campagna.

The incident, though, seemed to knock the stuffing out of Leeds, and Embassy did some stuffing of their own, with a 2-15 run, and the visitors led 13-33 after just fourteen minutes. Leeds recovered to 25-37 at the break, only for the All-Stars to sprint away again within three minutes of the restart, to lead 28-47.

Suddenly, though, what seemed a formality became anything but, as Steve Crewe injected some urgency into the Leeds' play. With Yusef Hedar and Keith Hawkswell responding to his prompting, the Lions roared back into the game, as Embassy froze. With four minutes remaining, Leeds had the temerity to take the lead!

What the home side lacked, however, was a player of the calibre of Sprogis, and as he took his tally for the game to 29, he eased his team to a 65-72 victory. Embassy had taken the points ... but won few friends in the process.

Meanwhile, the grip of the "big two" on the League increased, as SCP romped to a 20-point victory (88-68) at home to Coventry, despite having Jimmy Guymon sitting out the whole of the first half with a leg injury.

Avenue picked up their first victory of the Season, 74-75 at Loughborough, despite the debut of Richard Steckis, the Midlanders' first American import.

Metros, too, got off the mark, coming from behind in the last ninety seconds, to win 87-86 at home to Cleveland, and leave Leeds as the only team still looking for points.

The first weekend in November saw just two matches, with Doncaster and Coventry looking to make up ground on the leaders. Both did so, but not without a fright, as Panthers edged past Loughborough 88-85, and Granwood just shaded Leeds, 89-83.

As SCP and Embassy continued to pick up points, their main challengers, Panthers and Granwood, met at Adwick. A close match was expected, and so it proved for the first 28 minutes, as the home side led 66-64. Coventry had run into early foul trouble, however, and 14 unanswered points by Doncaster put them in control as they raced to a 104-89 victory, led by Steve Pound's 32 points. Hall and Oristaglio led the visitors with 20 apiece.

The next week, Doncaster visited Crawly for the eagerly awaited match up with SCP. The visitors enjoyed a 4 point advantage at the interval, but with 90 seconds remaining the home side, led by Guymon and Saiers had established a five point lead, only for Day and Dudfield to level it up and take the game into overtime.

The Panthers went ahead again in the extra period, but once more the Palace came back, with Bob Mackay scoring the crucial basket to give them a 77-74 victory. Saiers (25) and Guymon (23) dominated the scorers for the victors, but Steve Pound kept up his average with a game-high 30.

Over the next few weeks SCP and Embassy continued on their imperious way, while Panthers and Granwood kept the pressure on, though not always convincingly. Doncaster, for instance, edged nervously past Loughborough, 81-84, in a match which was most memorable for Steve Pound's first miss of the season from the foul line – after 41 successful shots!

Just before the mid-point of the season, the two undefeated teams met ... at Worthing! SCP were at "home" to the "cross-town" visitors Embassy, and the visitors had a big height advantage (despite Nigel Acres' suspension, following disqualification the week before at Cleveland), with Schmitt, Gerrish and Turpie towering over Saiers, Hall and Walton.

Palace, however, relied very much on the fast break for their points, thus negating the height difference, and at the interval they led 41-35. The score remained close, with Sprogis and Dave Shelley scoring well for the visitors, and with eight minutes remaining it stood at 65-61.

As Gerrish and Turpie both fouled out, the All-Stars found themselves beginning to struggle, and as Martin Hall and Kenny Walton picked up the points on the break, Palace raced away to a 15 point victory, 85-70.

A week later Embassy were on the road again, this time for a visit to Granwood, and this time it was a very different story, as the visitors opened with a 0-11 run. Coventry got back into their stride, but still trailed 44-55 at the interval, and though they closed to within six in the second half it was as close as they could get, and Embassy ran out winners, 96-105. In a personal high-scoring game, Bob Howell led the way with 42 points (a record for a player on a losing team), followed by Sprogis (39) and Schmitt (33) for Embassy.

As the teams entered the Christmas/New Year break, SCP thus led the table, with ten victories in as many starts. Embassy had just one defeat, Doncaster two, and Coventry three. As clichés go, “there was still everything to play for” is still pretty apt.

As the teams returned to the court after the two week festive break they lost no time in showing that the lay-off had done nothing to blunt their scoring instincts.

ATS Giants and London Metros bucked the trend with a relatively sedate 82-80 score at Sale, where Colin Gregg hit 28 for the visitors. The home side snatched the win with a basket from Steve Latham in the dying seconds.

At Crawley, though, Sutton were in sparkling form, over-running Loughborough 108-72, with Guymon (34) and Saiers (32) demonstrating their prowess.

Wilson Panthers had a low scoring game for them, hitting just 80 at home to neighbours Leeds, but they restricted their visitors to 59 - while Steve Pound hit his customary 31!

Cleveland had lost Gary Bowman, picking up Richard Steckis from Loughborough instead, but he was unable to prevent them going down 84-76 at Avenue.

The weekend's big game, though, was at Islington, where Embassy started slowly against Granwood, to lead 31-27. Then the All-Stars' true instincts came to the fore, and by the interval the game was over as a contest, 63-37! The final result, 110-77, put paid to Coventry's lingering hopes of the title, with Sprogis hitting 36, and Howell replying with 29.

After a week's break, Sutton and Embassy were once again among the points. The former hammered ATS 104-85, on one of their rare excursions to Worthing, while the latter set a new record victory margin with their 123-65 demolition of Avenue. Peter Sprogis had a field day with 47 points - only three short of the individual record he'd set against Metros the Season before.

Coventry took out their frustrations on a disappointing Loughborough, with a 105-77 victory, but the Panthers stuttered at Metros, greeting the final buzzer, and a 75-78 win, with relief.

In Leeds, an even lower scoring game seemed to be about to produce a first victory for Larsen Lions, as they led for much of the second half against Cleveland. Strongarm, however, edged ahead in the closing minute, to set up a nail-biting finale. Bobby Orshan was fouled going for the winning basket in the dying seconds, but when he stepped to the line he missed both free shots - and his team had recorded yet another defeat, this time by an agonising 57-58!

When Crystal Palace strolled past Leeds 95-50 on the last day of January, both Wilson Panthers and Embassy were desperate for victory in their encounter at Adwick to avoid slipping off the pace.

With John Rowland playing excellent one-on-one defence on Peter Sprogis, the home side shaded the first half, 46-41.

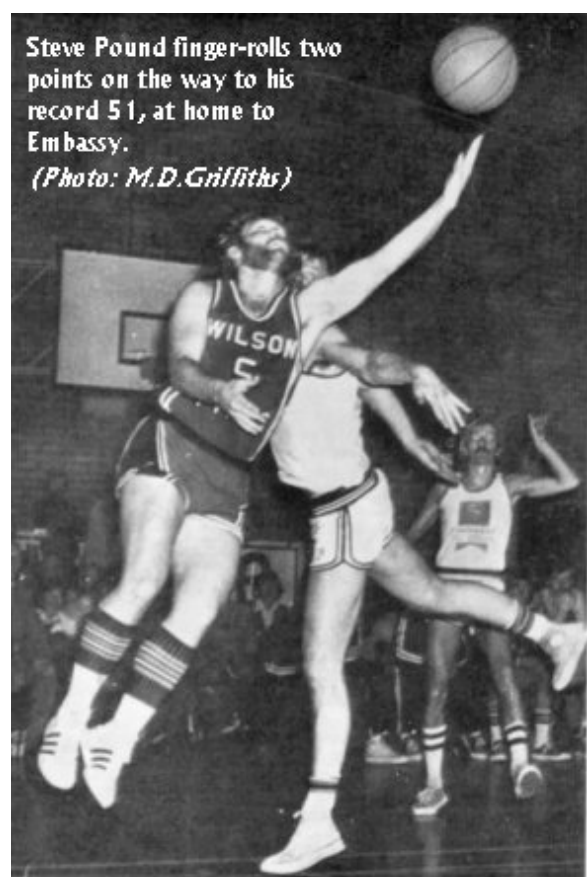
After the break, however, with Dan Campagna rested on four fouls, Steve Schmitt began to dominate the boards, and the visitors held the advantage, 64-69.

Steve Pound, who was already shooting well, with 20 points in the first half, chose that moment to set his sights at "automatic".

With eight minutes remaining, the Panthers had levelled the scores at 71-all, but then Embassy edged back ahead as Campagna and John Belk both fouled out.

Surprisingly, for such an experienced team, the tension seemed to be getting to the visitors, as they began to argue amongst themselves, and before long Gerrish and Turpie had retired to the bench on five fouls. The latter probably still had the fans' taunts of “Are you registered yet?” still ringing in his ears.

Doncaster edged ahead, 85-84, four minutes from time, and they succeeded in keeping their noses in front for a 95-94 victory.



Despite the evidence of a record-breaking 51 points from Steve Pound (which was all the more remarkable for being achieved against one of the strongest teams in the country), the win was undoubtedly the product of a fantastic team effort by the Panthers.

Embassy had lost to a team other than Sutton for the first time, and were as magnanimous as people were coming to expect them to be. They signed the scoresheet under protest!

The grounds for this action? They complained that the clock didn't work properly (the seconds display had gone awol ... but the rules at that time stated that the clock need only show minutes); that the half-time interval had been extended; and that the refereeing was poor!

Pawprint's comment at the time maintained it's habitual subtlety - "They've got a bloody nerve".

Later that day, Coventry's hopes of even a top three finish evaporated, as they went down 83-78 at Avenue. Bob Howell was the game's top scorer, with 29, but their all-English opponents shared the scoring around, with five players in double figures - Lee Scott, Rick Mann, Adrian Acres, Colin Gregg and Vic Collins.

Another break in League action ensued (for the third round of the Cup), and then Embassy hosted SCP, knowing that nothing less than inflicting a first defeat of the Season on their visitors would keep them in contention. Indeed, the Islington team realised that they really needed a victory by more than 15 points if they were to stand a realistic chance of overtaking the leaders.

The 1,800 crowd had good grounds for optimism at half time, as the home side led by thirteen, 51-38. It was a different story after the interval, as SCP showed why they deserved their position in the table. They could not quite do enough to take the game, but the winning margin, 87-84 to Embassy, still left the title's destiny in Palace's own hands.

With Granwood losing yet another game (89-81 at ATS), the top three were well clear of the pack, and they continued to pick up victories by varying margins. At Cleveland, Strongarm rattled in 103 points against the Panthers, but Steve Pound was unstoppable as he broke his own scoring record, with 55 points (and remember that this was before the introduction of the 3-point arc!).

The following week, Pound did it again - 55 points at home to ATS. The Giants set a new high-score for a losing team (128), while the Panthers set a new mark for a winning score - 147! The game had been close for thirty-four minutes; the teams were tied at 68-all at the interval, and it was still just 112-106 to the Panthers with six minutes to play. Then Bob Park and Mark Badger had fouled out for the visitors, and the home side coasted to victory. Badger had 39 points, Latham 36 and John Nono 21, but Pound was ably backed up by Campagna (31), Dudfield (20) and Belk (19).

The newly-sponsored "Cinzano SCP" were not to be outshone, and they led Granwood 26-63 at the interval in Coventry. The home side made slightly more of a contest of it in the second period, but the visitors still left with a resounding 112-60 victory. Guymon (32) and Walton (26) did most of the damage.

The penultimate week of the Season thus saw the top three still separated by just one defeat. SCP had lost one game, and Embassy and Panthers two. The leaders' visit to Doncaster was thus virtually a title decider. If Palace won they would have to default in their last game to lose the title; if the Panthers could win by 14, and then win their last game (at Granwood) they would snatch the crown - and if the margin was 19 or more, Cinzano would slip to third. The margin for error, though, was narrow, as an eleven point victory or less would still leave the Panthers in third place.

It was the visitors who began more confidently, though with Guymon fairly quiet it was Saiers who doing the damage. Steve Pound, though, began to get his rotund frame into its stride, and at the interval the home team trailed by just five, 36-41. As the second half began, things began to look decidedly bleak for the Panthers, as Cinzano hit twelve unanswered points to go 36-53 ahead. A desperate Time Out by coach Wordsworth broke the visitors' rhythm, and instilled a greater sense of purpose into the Doncaster team, and by the ninth minute of the half they were back within a point.

Once more Cinzano edged away, to 64-74, but then Paul Philp fouled out, and with Guymon, Walton and Martin Hall all on four fouls, Steve Pound and John Rowland brought Doncaster back yet again to trail by just one with a minute remaining. At this stage only Hall was keeping his side in the game, but inevitably it was Guymon who stepped up in the closing minute, to give SCP an 81-85 victory - and with it the League title. The Londoners thus became the first team to win the competition more than once ... but it was by no means to be the last time.

The final week saw Cinzano celebrate at home with an easy victory (145-80) over Cleveland, and Embassy confirmed the runners-up spot with an 85-105 victory at Loughborough, which was tougher than the final score suggests. Despite their disappointment, the Panthers used their visit to Coventry to end the Season on a high note, with a 91-100 victory over Granwood. Steve Pound's 31 points took him to the amazing total of 643 for the Season ... at an average of over 36 per game!

While most interest had been at the head of the table, there was plenty to play for at the other end, with teams vying to avoid the last two places, and the play-offs which would decide relegation to Division Two.

Leeds had already booked their unwelcome extension to the Season, and their 100-73 defeat at ATS on the final weekend merely confirmed that they finished the Season with a Eurovision Norwegian score - "nul points". They could, however, look back on a Season where, despite lack of preparation time, they had competed strongly, with five games only lost by single figures - including a 7 point home reverse to Embassy, and that heartbreaking 1 point defeat to Cleveland.

Four teams were tied on 24 points at the start of the final weekend, with Metros on 22, with any one of the five having a chance of finishing in the second play-off slot. When ATS beat Leeds they lifted themselves out of the equation, and made the calculations somewhat easier, and despite defeats Loughborough and Cleveland they knew that they were safe, as their records against their relegation rivals were just good enough. In short it all came down to Avenue's visit to Metros, at Romford. A six point victory for the "Y" would haul them above their visitors, while anything less would leave them in the relegation frame themselves.

Four minutes from time, Avenue led by nine, 55-64, but a superhuman effort by the home side kept their visitors scoreless for the remainder of the game, as Bob Overton took his game tally to 37 points, and a 66-64 victory. Metros thus climbed level with their rivals, on 24 points - but remained in the relegation play-off zone on games between the four teams.

Division One Men. 1975-1976		P.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.	
1	Cinzano SCP	18	17	1	1806	1282	35	
2	Embassy All-Stars	18	16	2	1628	1337	34	
3	Wilson Panthers, Doncaster	18	15	3	1742	1542	33	
4	Granwood, Coventry	18	10	8	1509	1483	28	
5	ATS Giants (Manchester)	18	8	10	1549	1603	26	
6	Loughborough All-Stars	18	6	12	1395	1490	24	
7	Avenue	18	6	12	1363	1565	24	
8	Cleveland Strongarm	18	6	12	1527	1738	24	
9	London YMCA Metros	18	6	12	1416	1572	24	Won relegation play-off
10	Larsen Lions, Leeds	18	0	18	1175	1509	18	Relegated after play-off

Leading scorers, 1975-1976

Overseas players in red.

	Player	Team	Points	Games	ppg
1	Steve POUND	Doncaster	643	18	35.7
2	Bob HOWELL	Coventry	530	18	29.4
3	Peter SPROGIS	Embassy	478	17	28.1
4	Jimmy GUYMON	C. Palace	464	18	25.8
5	Mark BADGER	Manchester	457	18	25.4
6	Steve SCHMITT	Embassy	421	18	23.4
7	Steve LATHAM	Manchester	408	18	22.7
8	Gary KLOPPENBURG	Cleveland	397	18	22.1
9	Bob OVERTON	YMCA	395	18	21.9
10	Carl OLSSON	Loughborough	341	18	18.9
11	Richard PEARCE	Loughborough	274	17	16.1
12	Pete TURNER	YMCA	274	17	16.1
13	Dan CAMPAGNA	Doncaster	273	17	16.1
14	Stu TURPIE	Embassy	267	18	14.8
15	Ken WALTON	Crystal Palace	264	18	14.7

Copyright:

"Pawprint" has done its level best to try to find contact details for all the photographers whose work appears in these articles.

This has proved nigh impossible after such a length of time, but since none of the publications from which they are culled are still in existence, it seems probable that the photographs are now in the public domain.

If, however, you have contact details for any of the people whose names are credited, or, indeed, if you believe you hold the copyright to any of the pictures, please contact us at webmaster@pawprint75.co.uk

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to:

"Basketball" Magazine, Vol.15, 1975-1976; ed. Mel Welch, published EBBA.

"Basketball Review 1980-1981", ed. Richard Taylor

Doncaster Panthers' match programmes

Granwood & Embassy match programmes

"Pawprint" Magazine, Vol. 1, 1975-1976