

Black Sunday (The Best Worst Day Ever)

On Sunday 5th October 2003, I attempted to go to watch Villa v Bolton at Villa Park, Birmingham with my friend Steve. Little did I know what awaited me ...

Here's a list of all the things that went wrong today:

- 1) I had already queued at the arts centre for an hour for an interview in the morning ...
- 2) The bus timetable I had was wrong – the bus was due 15 minutes after I thought ...
- 3) The bus was then late ...
- 4) So we missed the train ...
- 5) Then the next train was delayed by ½ hour...
- 6) It arrived eventually ... but then terminated 1 stop before the one we wanted, so we had to get off there
- 7) I gave 50p to a random man who claimed he'd lost his bus pass.
- 8) There were no trains to our require destination (the next station) for nearly an hour ...
- 9) So we decided to give up on getting to the match and find a pub to watch the game in. The only problem was: we were in "Birmingham International" Station, a special station for Birmingham airport, so its in the middle of nowhere. So, you guessed it, no pub!
- 10) Went back to the platform where it was now pouring. Nice.
- 11) Jumped on a train back towards Leamington, where we were packed in like sardines (As we were coming from the airport everybody had huge suitcases that were about the same size as a fridge-freezer).
- 12) Thought we'd try and find a pub in bleak Coventry. We saw one in the distance and finally got there after walking round a car park and a council estate: "The Rocket". It was ½ hour into the game when we got there.
- 13) Villa 1-1 Bolton: a poor result. We (Villa) hit the post and bar, had shots cleared off the line and missed a penalty 3 minutes from time.
- 14) Absolutely famished. Went across the road to Burger King. When leaving the guy who served me said "see you soon". I was thinking, "Well, I sure hope I don't".
- 15) Another packed train, complete with a drunk middle-aged couple making a fool of themselves.
- 16) Reached Leamington and wandered around looking for the bus stop ... unsuccessfully
- 17) Finally found a bus stop and discovered we had to wait an hour for the next bus ...
- 18) So we thought we'd wander up to Tesco's. Shut.
- 19) We were reduced to McDonalds as it was getting rather cold by now.
- 20) I asked for a Toffee Crisp McFlurry but when I received it I was told, "We don't have any more syrup – we're getting some more in tomorrow". So much for a Toffee Crisp McFlurry, more like a Crisp McFlurry."
- 21) Sat in McDonalds writing this stupid list on a scrap of paper, whilst they mopped the floor around us. ☺
- 22) Realised I'd missed the social at the chaplaincy, featuring a free meal. ☹

Total Expenditure = approx. £15

Total Outcome: Very little, except much misery ...

Oh well, you win some, you lose some – it just today I seem to have been losing rather more than I've been winning!