

**DOWN OUR WAY:** Doriva and Didier Drogba look on as Bolo Zenden gets a cross in during Boro's game at Chelsea earlier this year - one of the few 'local' matches for members of Middlesbrough Supporters South who stage their annual party this evening



## You lot don't

**IT'S all right for you lot who live on Teesside - following the Boro is relatively straightforward.**

**Apart from the convenience of 20 or so League matches on your doorstep every season, you can go into any pub and just talk about the Boro without any problem finding someone who might share some of your views.**

**But it's not so easy for those Teessiders whose employers dump them in London where they are surrounded by people with unfamiliar accents who all**

**THE annual Middlesbrough Supporters South party takes place in London tonight and, to mark the event, stalwart member SHAUN KEOGH has penned a brief history for the benefit of Gazette Sports readers.**

**want to talk about Arsenal or Chelsea - or even Leyton Orient!**

**Then there is the little matter of a 500-mile round trip for Boro home games, which for many are out of the question.**

**That leaves around six away**

# know how lucky you are!

matches in the metropolis every season, plus, cash-flow permitting, perhaps a trip to Villa or Southampton to get our fix of that team they call the Boro.

Upon this set of circumstances, some 30 years ago a small group of Teessiders working and living in London formed themselves into Middlesbrough Supporters South (MSS).

The original idea was to simply meet up with similarly exiled Boro lads in London to go and watch the match with and

(invariably) drown your sorrows with afterwards over a few beers.

It should be noted that the world 30 years ago was quite different to the transient nature of the world today.

These days, it is quite normal for people to move around the country in search of the right job - indeed moving to a new town every year or two is not uncommon for many people.

However, 1975 and the early 1980s were quite different.

Middlesbrough was an employment desert. There really

was only one job on Teesside.

If you wanted to work, and you wanted your life to have some prospect of hope for a future you simply had to bite the bullet and move south.

MSS has now evolved into an essential part of life for exiled Teessiders whose lives have been permanently transplanted 250 miles south.

Our annual party is legendary. Good food, good company, great atmosphere, southern beer.

Well, you can't have everything...

