

Football League Division IV

Season 1965-66

Edgeley Park

Friday, December 10

STOCKPORT COUNTY

v.

LUTON TOWN

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.



Nº 3913

Stockport County A.F.C.

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Notes from the General Manager

Cup talk has filled the air all week with the intriguing third round line-up of ties and reflections on last Saturday's action and the replays that resulted. Since these notes are being compiled before the re-arranged replay against Southport, I think that Cup comment as far as our club is concerned is best reserved for a later programme issue.

There has been activity in other directions, as most people will have noted through last week's newspaper headlines. But our attempts to sign Blackburn Rovers' international wing-half Mick McGrath came unstuck because of a difficulty over the player's terms.

The fee had been agreed between the clubs and eight days ago our chairman, Mr. Victor Bernard, and myself met the Eire star to try and coax him into the move. The reason for the breakdown of negotiations 24 hours later is a personal affair between club and player—but I can assure our fans that there seems no likelihood of these differences being resolved at present.

Several players in our Cheshire League side have been showing form which has resulted in approaches from a number of non-league clubs in the competition. It is true that we have had a careful study of the staff position within the last fortnight and that certain changes are in mind for the early part of the New Year as we increase our attempts to make up lost ground in the League.

While we are reluctant to drain our resources at this stage, it would be unfair to stand in the way of a player who feels his first team future is uncertain. This is why we did not refuse transfer requests from inside-forwards Derek Hodgkinson and Dennis Hoggart. That is why some of these approaches will have to be relayed to the players under surveillance—those players with limited opportunity to claim a League spot at present—and the decision will be theirs.

On the subject of reserve team football I must say, at this stage of the season, what a successful venture our return to the Cheshire

League has turned out to be. I feel that the clubs in the League who finally decided to vote our return have been suitably satisfied with the support we have achieved.

Out of the eleven home gates, eight of them have been over the 1,000 mark—which is extremely encouraging since the side has only managed to better itself a little way over the mid-table mark. One of the crowd returns, for a mid-week match with Altrincham, was only a few fans short of 2,500.

From our point of view the League has been a blessing. With the competition centred in the Cheshire area all away games are within comfortable striking distance, and the standard must be rated the best for non-league football in the north. Not only this, but we have been very impressed with the friendliness that every club seems to specialise in.

Indeed, one of our prize items for the scrap book this season is a letter from Ellesmere Port secretary Mr. Stan Jenkins, who thanked us for the hospitality and praised our fans for their sportsmanship. It's little items like this that make that little extra effort all worthwhile in soccer. And prove that beneath that hard-headed, backstabbing reputation the game has, there are a tremendous amount of folk who are very nice to know.

BERT TRAUTMANN.

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Visitors' Pen Pictures

LUTON TOWN have been engaged in an extra share of F.A. Cup action. Like ourselves, they earned a replay last Saturday and took Corby Town to a replay at their Kenilworth Road ground.

Just like County, too, they left it late before snatching the second chance. It took a Ray Whittaker penalty six minutes from time to clinch the draw—and it took a David Shawcross spot kick four minutes from time for County to level their tie.

But Luton have got more important matters on their mind. It's 1958-59 since they last roared through to Cup fame, winning a Wembley final chance against Notts Forest—but losing 2-1. Those days are easy to remember . . . for First Division status went with them and its League status the "Hatters" are anxious to re-claim.

For the story since the club wallowed in that Wembley glory has been a sad one. In 1959-60 . . . relegation from the First Division; in 1962-63 demotion to the Third Division; and only last May the plunge into the Fourth. They were three points poorer than the team above them who dodged the drop—Oldham Athletic.

This season Luton have made a promising start on the come-back route. Before tonight's match they were holding joint fourth place with Colchester United, six points behind leaders Torquay United with two games in hand. With a sparkling home record, and the sharp-shooting of 14-goal John O'Rourke—joint second top scorer in the Fourth—they must rate among this season's promotion favourites.

Another revival they will be looking for at Kenilworth Road—improved attendances. Inside four years the League average has been halved. From a 12,572 average in their Division Two days in '60-61 they slumped to 6,663 last winter . . . a small deterioration on the 6,982 in '63-64. Yet 15,000 was once an easily-attained figure, though the record stands from their 1959 Cup run when they had a home tie against Blackpool which pulled in 30,069.

Luton was formed in 1885 by an amalgamation of Luton Excelsior and Luton Wanderers. Five years later they became a limited company. Their start in soccer was made in the Southern League, but considering the scope of the competition too restricted they made a bid for League status in 1896. Just a few years beforehand they had become the first club in the south to pay its players—5s. a week being the "pay packet" for three players and 2s. 6d. to each first teamer in home games and 3s. for away fixtures. Wages lost by leaving work before lunch were also compensated.

Admission to the League was gained in 1897, but three years later they returned to the Southern League. They dropped out of the top division in 1911-12 before regaining their status in 1914. It was from this League, with several rivals, they became members of the Third Division (South) in 1920.

They first gained promotion to the Second Division in 1937, and the next step up came in 1955 after some careful calculations had been made on goal averages. Like champions Birmingham City they finished with 54 points—and Rotherham United had a similar total. But the Yorkshire club had the weakest goal average.

It's been a long drop since that celebration season 10 years ago. The wheel of fortune is due a spin the other way now.

The GOALKEEPER berth is held by **Colin Tinsley**, who joined the club in August 1963. Before this season had only figured in 21 League games and 3s. for away fixtures. Wages lost by leaving work before Born at Middlesbrough, his first club was Grimsby Town. Then he served Exeter City. A six-footer, he tips the scales at 11st. 12lb.

At RIGHT-BACK is **Bobby Thomson**, who was raised at Menstrie in Scotland. He first came into prominence with Partick Thistle, who sold him to Liverpool for a big fee. Luton clinched his signing from the Merseyside club on August 2nd this year. 5ft. 10in. and 11st. 4½lb. His partner at LEFT-BACK was recommended to the club by a local scout, beginning as an amateur in October 1963. It wasn't until June 1964 that **Dick Edwards** was offered professional terms after consolidating himself in their Football Combination team. Last winter was given one first team chance, but now the club look to him to establish himself as a regular.

RIGHT-HALF is **John Reid**, who previously played for Bradford and Northampton, to whom the "Hatters" paid a substantial transfer fee in November 1963. A tireless and energetic worker, he gave valuable service last season missing only two matches. Born at Newmales, he's 5ft. 10in. and 11st. 7lb. The CENTRE-HALF spot belongs to **Matt Woods**, a native of Skelmersdale in Lancashire. His first club was Blackburn Rovers, for whom he made 126 appearances out of a possible 128, including a Cup Final. Went to Australia in 1963 before returning to this country in the summer. Luton immediately offered him terms.

Continued on Page 8

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5
Norman Sykes

6
David Shawcross

7
Len Allchurch

8
Billy Haydock

9
~~Len White~~ Young

10
Keith Allen 3

11
John Price

Referee:
J. E. Carr (Sheffield)

~~Billy Stark~~ 1

Ray Whittaker (Graham French) 11

John O'Rourke 9

John Moore 6

Matt Woods 5

John Reid 4

~~Fred Jardine~~ 3

~~Dick Edwards~~ 3

Bobby Thomson 2

Colin Tinsley 1

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PEN PICTURES—continued

The **LEFT-HALF** is **John Moore**, a newcomer to Luton, having been signed from Motherwell in May 1965. Was recommended by the club's Scottish scout, who forecasts a bright future for him.

On the **RIGHT-WING** is **Billy Harber**, who was practically born on Luton's doorstep—at Hitchin. Signed from Swindon, where he played inside-forward, being a free transfer player in September 1964. Made his debut for Luton as a winger, and had 15 first team appearances last campaign. Occupying the **INSIDE-RIGHT** role is **Tony Read**, who hails from Haydock. His first club was Sheffield Wednesday and in 1964 he left them to go to Peterborough—playing at centre-forward. Transferred to Luton in March 1965, but a broken foot bone prevented him playing last season. Can fill the goalkeeping bill (his customary position), but his adaptability leaves the club wondering what his best position will be.

The **CENTRE-FORWARD** sharp-shooter is **John O'Rourke**, who was previously with the Arsenal and Chelsea. Was a free transfer player in December 1964. Made his mark by scoring 22 goals in 23 matches but was dogged by injuries last term. Played for London Schoolboys and the England Youth team. 5ft. 9in. and 11st.

INSIDE-LEFT is **Graham French**. He first hit the mark with Shrewsbury Town, gaining international honours for the England youth team. Later sold to Swindon and then to Watford for large fees, before turning to non-league soccer with Wellington Town. Signed in mid-October from the Southern League side. The **LEFT-WINGER** is **Ray Whittaker**, a Londoner from Bow who was at Arsenal. Another ex-England Youth player, he starred in the side with O'Rourke in 1962 and 1963. Became a Luton player in March 1964 and has been a regular choice since.

Reserved

by

Geo. Hopwood

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION IV

Date	Opponents	Gnd.	Score
Aug.		F—A	
21—	Chester	(A.)	0—1
23—	Notts. County	(H.)	1—3
27—	Halifax Town	(H.)	3—0
Sept.			
1—	(Lge. C.) Workington	(H.)	2—3
4—	Port Vale	(A.)	0—2
6—	Tranmere Rovers	(H.)	1—2
10—	Crewe Alexandra	(H.)	2—0
16—	Notts. County	(A.)	1—1
18—	Bradford City	(A.)	7—1
24—	Barnsley	(H.)	1—0
Oct.			
2—	Colchester United	(A.)	2—3
4—	Darlington	(A.)	0—3
9—	Doncaster Rovers	(A.)	0—1
15—	Southport	(H.)	2—2
23—	Wrexham	(A.)	4—1
29—	Bradford (P.A.)	(H.)	2—3
Nov.			
6—	Aldershot	(A.)	0—1
13—	(1) Tranmere Rovers	(A.)	1—0
20—	Torquay United	(A.)	4—1
22—	Darlington	(H.)	1—1
26—	Chesterfield	(H.)	2—1
Dec.			
4—	(2) Southport	(A.)	3—3
10—	Luton Town	(H.)	
13—	(2, replay) Southport	(H.)	
17—	Southport	(A.)	
27—	Lincoln City	(A.)	
28—	Lincoln City	(H.)	
Jan., 1966			
1—	Doncaster Rovers	(H.)	
8—	Newport County	(A.)	
14—	Wrexham	(H.)	
22—	F.A. Cup, 3rd round		
28—	Chester	(H.)	
Feb.			
4—	Halifax Town	(A.)	
11—	Barrow	(H.)	
12—	F.A. Cup, 4th round		
18—	Port Vale	(H.)	
26—	Crewe Alexandra	(A.)	
Mar.			
5—	(5) Barrow	(A.)	
11—	Bradford City	(H.)	
18—	Barnsley	(A.)	
25—	Colchester United	(H.)	
26—	F.A. Cup, 6th round		
Apr.			
2—	Aldershot	(H.)	
8—	Hartlepool United	(A.)	
9—	Rochdale	(A.)	
11—	Hartlepool United	(H.)	
15—	Torquay United	(H.)	
23—	(S.F.) Chesterfield	(A.)	
25—	Tranmere Rovers	(A.)	
29—	Rochdale	(H.)	
May			
7—	Luton Town	(A.)	
14—	F.A. Cup Final		
20—	Newport County	(H.)	
28—	Bradford (P.A.)	(A.)	

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CHESHIRE LEAGUE

Date	Opponents	Gnd.	Score
Aug.		F—A	
21—	Stafford Rangers	(H.)	0—0
23—	Altrincham	(A.)	2—3
28—	Oswestry Town	(A.)	2—3
30—	Altrincham	(H.)	3—3
Sept.			
4—	Chester	(H.)	4—1
8—	Northwich Vic.	(A.)	Post.
11—	(Chal. C.) Frickley C.	(H.)	1—2
15—	Wigan Athletic	(H.)	3—0
18—	Bangor City	(H.)	1—2
22—	Winsford United	(A.)	3—2
25—	Stalybridge Celtic	(A.)	1—3
Oct.			
2—	Tranmere Rovers	(H.)	2—1
9—	Ellesmere Port Town	(H.)	2—1
16—	Buxton	(A.)	1—1
23—	Northwich Vic.	(H.)	3—2
30—	Mossley	(A.)	0—0
Nov.			
6—	Hyde United	(H.)	2—2
13—	Macclesfield	(A.)	0—2
20—	Runcorn	(H.)	0—0
27—	Frickley Colliery	(A.)	2—4
30—	Northwich Vic.	(A.)	3—0
Dec.			
4—	Wrexham	(H.)	Post.
11—	Witton Albion	(A.)	
18—	Mossley	(H.)	
27—	Rhyl	(H.)	
28—	Rhyl	(A.)	
Jan., 1966			
1—	Stafford Rangers	(A.)	
8—	Oswestry Town	(H.)	
15—	Runcorn	(A.)	
22—	(Ches. C.) Macclesf'd	(H.)	
29—	Chester	(A.)	
Feb.			
5—	Frickley Colliery	(H.)	
12—	New Brighton	(A.)	
19—	Cheshire Senior Cup		
26—	Witton Albion	(H.)	
Mar.			
5—	Macclesfield	(H.)	
12—	Bangor City	(A.)	
19—	Stalybridge Celtic	(H.)	
26—	Wigan Athletic	(A.)	
Apr.			
2—	Ellesmere Port Town	(A.)	
8—	Winsford United	(H.)	
9—	Tranmere Rovers	(A.)	
11—	Wrexham	(A.)	
16—	Hyde United	(A.)	
20—	Buxton	(H.)	
23—			
30—			
May			
7—	New Brighton	(H.)	
14—			
21—			
28—			

1965-66 APPEARANCES/GOALS

	Foot. Lge.Gls.	Ches. Lge.Gls.
Ken Mulhearn	17	2
John Collins	8	10
Maurice Tillotson	14	5
Ean Cuthbert	16	2
Colin Parry	6	7
Norman Sykes	14	1
David Shawcross	19	4
Frank Beaumont	13	3
Billy Haydock	17	2
Len Allchurch	14	4
Keith Allen	16	5
Len White	18	11
Dick Young	9	2
John Price	19	2
Dennis Hoggart	3	14
Ian Sandiford	3	14
Graham Beighton	2	18
Mike Harold		14
Bill Waddington		13
Peter Clarke		20
Mike Eckersall	1	10
Ian Mitchell		6
Derek Hodgkinson		19
Frank Peacock		15
Tommy Roberts		19
Adrian Mitchell		5
Dave Carey		3
Geoff Stevens		4
David Barnes		1
Alan Sinclair		2
Ian Hemstock		1
David Maloney		1
Roy Isherwood		1
John Higgins		6

SUBSTITUTE APPEARANCES: Frank Beaumont (2).

OWN GOALS: LEAGUE — Mike Smith (Bradford City), Colin Alty (Southport). LEAGUE CUP—Clive Middlemass (Workington).

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIV. IV

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Torquay Utd.	20	13	3	4	32	20	29
Tranmere Rov.	21	11	6	4	37	25	28
Chester	19	11	3	5	41	28	25
Colchester Utd.	18	10	3	5	29	20	23
Luton Town ...	18	10	3	5	39	29	23
Barrow	17	8	5	4	35	25	21
Doncaster Rov.	17	9	2	6	29	19	20
Darlington ...	17	8	4	5	25	22	20
Notts Co.	18	7	5	6	22	27	19
Chesterfield	18	6	6	6	26	25	18
Southport	18	5	8	5	25	29	18
Bradford	18	7	3	8	38	30	17
COUNTY	19	7	3	9	33	27	17
Newport Co. ...	18	7	3	8	31	32	17
Barnsley	17	7	3	7	29	35	17
Port Vale	17	6	3	8	24	19	15
Rochdale	17	7	1	9	26	29	15
Aldershot	19	6	3	10	32	40	15
Lincoln City ...	18	5	5	8	23	34	15
Crewe Alex. ...	18	5	3	10	20	29	13
Wrexham	19	5	3	11	28	41	13
Halifax Town. ...	16	4	4	8	22	30	12
Hartlepool U.	17	5	2	10	23	32	12
Bradford City. ...	16	2	4	10	21	44	8

LEAGUE CUP APPEARANCES — Mulhearn; Tillotson, Cuthbert; Beaumont, Collins, Shawcross; Young Haydock, White, Allen, Price—one each. GOALS: Price and own goal.

F.A. CUP APPEARANCES — Mulhearn (2); Collins (2), Cuthbert (1), Tillotson (1); Parry (2), Sykes (2), Shawcross (2); Haydock (2), Allchurch (2), Allen (2), White (2), Price (2). GOALS: Allen (2), Price, Shawcross.

F.A. CUP SECOND ROUND REPLAY

STOCKPORT COUNTY

v.

SOUTHPORT

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