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PROGRAMME



SATURDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1969

LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL LEAGUE, Division III. Kick-off 3 p.m.

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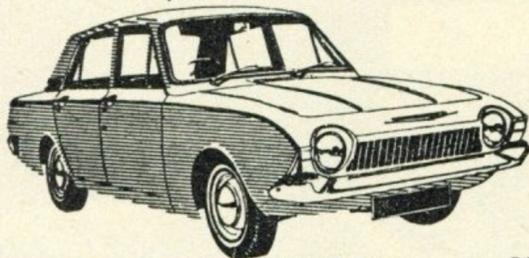
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FROM THE MANAGER'S CHAIR

Our point at Reading last Saturday means we have now gone three successive games without defeat, home or away, and that we have averaged a point a match on opponents' grounds for the past six matches!

It doesn't take any weighing up to point out straight away that it's our home form that's wrong. We have simply got to improve it and get rid of this home-match 'complex'.

The visit of the divisional leaders, Luton Town, under the skilful management of Alec Stock, makes this afternoon's challenge even harder than usual. But at least we have taken a little confidence from recent results and from our work against Fulham who, clearly, are another of the division's most efficient sides.

Then again our injury and sickness problems were, at the time of writing, earlier in the week, beginning to clear up. The past fortnight has included a spell when we had more players out of action at the same time, than at any other period since I became manager ten months ago.

The Reading game was pleasing in a number of ways, incidentally, and not least because it was essentially a football match — not a kicking match. It is not difficult to take sides with Bristol Rovers experienced boss Bert Tann when he says a month's real severity by referees would stamp out the present troubles in the game.

But for the minute back to the job in hand this afternoon . . . let's hope that by this evening we can have climbed out of the rut of home failure and disappointment. I'm sure we can do it.

JIMMY McANEARNEY.

Today's Referee — ALAN BONE (Sunderland)

ALAN BONE adopts a very professional approach to refereeing. Six years ago he became a qualified F.A. Coach "so that I could understand more fully the professional view of the game and get up to date with tactics currently being adopted at the highest level".

At one time there was the possibility that he might become a professional player himself. He played for Silksworth Juniors, a Sunderland F.C. nursery club. But during his national service he had the misfortune to break an ankle and, after his demob, he decided to become a referee.

Mr. Bone progressed through junior competitions to the now-defunct North Eastern League and spent 11 seasons with the Northern Intermediate League before gaining promotion to the Football League list last season, three years after becoming a League linesman.

Mr. Bone, a regional sales manager for a wholesale grocery firm, lives in Sunderland.

GOSSIP FROM THE MILLER MAN

Divisional leaders Luton Town are our visitors today for our ninth home game of the season in the League of which we have, sadly won only one.

* * * * *

But the record of recent years gives us encouragement not to mention our recent improvement in results. The Town have lost on four of their last six visits to Millmoor and drawn the other two games although at Kenilworth Road the record is equally as strong against us.

* * * * *

Back in 1960 we clipped five goals past them (when Ken Houghton was in his early career). Last season we shared four goals at Rotherham after losing 3-1 at Luton. But fiercest memories are of that 1954-55 season when in the space of 14 days Town hit nine goals against us in two matches with single goal reply.

* * * * *

We lost 5-1 in a cup-tie (when Jesse Pye the former Treeton native was at his best) and 4-0 in a League game. That was the season Luton went up with Birmingham City into Division One and we stayed down on goal average.

* * * * *

They came back to Division II at the end of 1959-60 — with Leeds United and have tasted Division Four in the years between. In 1967-68 they came back to Division III at the same time as Barnsley and last season finished third to Swindon and Watford.

* * * * *

It was good to see ex-Millers manager Jack Mansell at Reading last week with wife Moira and younger son Nicky — and all fit and well. Elder son Stephen has remained in America to study.

* * * * *

Good to see, too, one of our out-of-town supporters from the Barnsley area. Young Fred Hewitt comes from Cudworth but has been a Miller fan faithfully since 1964. He hardly misses a match home or away and says he wouldn't swap Millmoor for Oakwell under any circumstances.

* * * * *

Back to Reading briefly . . . Fred Green was down for the match too. He is going to 'scout' for Mansell. Gerry Summers, team manager of Oxford Town who have been so keen to sign Stephen Downes had hoped that Fred would join him in part-time capacity.

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A YEAR AGO: Rotherham 0 Watford 2. Attendance 9,014. Team: Furnell; Swift, Hague; Quinn Watson, D., Tiler; Brogden, Womble, Storrie, Watson, G., Bentley.

* * * * *

FIE YEARS AGO: Rotherham 1 Northampton 1. Team: Ironside; Carver, Clish; Lambert, Madden, Jackson; Lyons, Casper, Tiler, Houghton, Butler. Rotherham scorer: Butler.

* * * * *

TEN YEARS AGO: Rotherham 2 Portsmouth 1: Team: Ironside; Perry, Silman; Lambert, Madden, Williams; Webster, Kettleborough, Sawyer, Myerscough, Kirkman. Rotherham scorers: Sawyer, Kettleborough.

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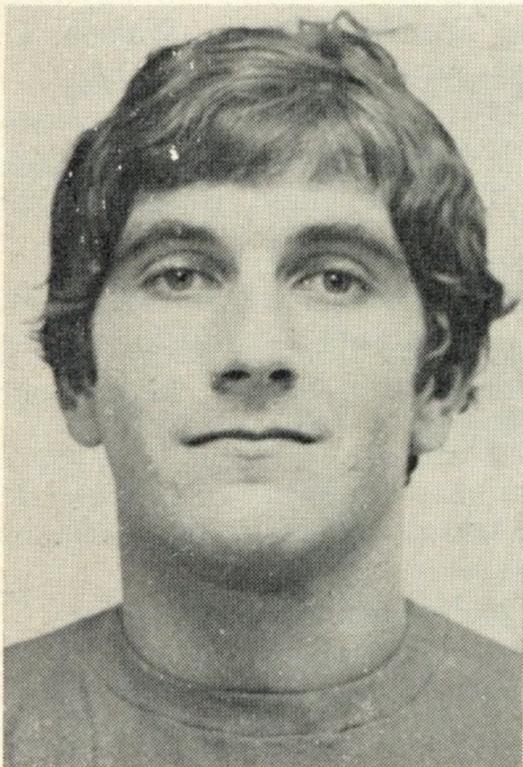


Photo courtesy of 'Rotherham Advertiser'

David Lill, our new man from Hull, made his debut at Reading and played again with the Reserves at York on Monday evening. At Bootham Crescent he was soon on the goal mark — and had another disallowed. As a junior at Boothferry David, who is 21, got a lot of goals. He plays either striker or in midfield.

We take this opportunity of welcoming him to Millmoor and wishing him every success with his new club.

LUTON TOWN F.C. 1969/70



Picture by courtesy of Home Counties Newspapers Ltd., Luton.

Back Row (left to right): Morris Stevenson, Freddie Jardine, Graham French, Mike Keen, Keith Allen, Peter Phillips.
Second Row: John Ryan, Alan Guild, Neil Rioch (now Aston Villa), Sandy Davie, Tony Read, Max Dougan, Terry Branston, Robin Wainwright.
Front Row: Brian Lewis, Alan Slough, John Moore, Jack Bannister, Mike Harrison, Bruce Rioch (now Aston Villa), Laurie Sheffield.

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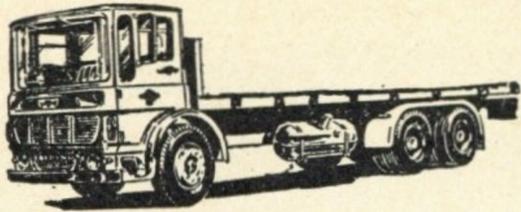
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Goal

1—FURNELL, J.

Right-Back

2—MEALAND, B.

Left-Back

3—LEIGH, D.

Right-Half

4—HAGUE, N.

Centre-Half

5—WATSON, G.

Left-Half

6—HUDSON, C.

Outside-Right

7—LILL, D.

Inside-Right

8—FANTHAM, J. CAPT

Centre-Forward

9—DOWNES, S.

Inside-Left

10—BENTLEY, D.

Outside-Left

11—WARNOCK, N.

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Referee:
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2—RYAN, J.

Left-Back

3—BANNISTER, J.

Right-Half

4—KEEN, M. CAPT

Centre-Half

5—NICHOLL, C.

Left-Half

6—SLOUGH, A.

Outside-Right

7—COLLINS, J.

Inside-Right

8—MacDONALD, M.

Centre-Forward

9—TEES, M.

Inside-Left

10—ALLEN, K.

Outside-Left

11—FRENCH, G.

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By Tony Pullein

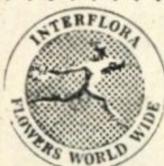
Beaten only once in League matches so far (0-2 at Doncaster), Luton Town are playing with such consistency that they have become firm favourites for promotion. If they do succeed, they will be well on their way towards a recovery as remarkable as their decline in the early 'sixties when they dropped from the First to the Fourth Division in five years. After licking their wounds they won the Fourth Division championship in 1968 and only narrowly missed promotion to the Second Division last season.

With his side now perching happily on top of the table, manager Alec Stock can laugh aside the critics who slated him for selling Bruce Rioch to Aston Villa during the summer. The fee for Bruce and brother Neil amounted to £110,000 but so wisely has he reinvested the cash that Mr. Stock replaced one top striker and a reserve player with **three** new strikers — Malcolm McDonald (from Fulham), John Collins (Reading) and Matt Tees (Charlton) — plus a brilliant young centre-half (Chris Nicholl from Halifax) and still had a few bob to spare!

MacDonald, whom Fulham signed from Southern League Tonbridge as a defender, is now Luton's top scorer with nine goals. John Collins, the former Queen's Park Rangers and Oldham player who led Reading's scorers with 17 goals last season, comes next with seven.

Matt Tees has hit six goals since his transfer. He first entered English football with Grimsby, who signed him from Airdrie, in 1963. He was the Third Division's most prolific scorer in 1965/66, hitting no fewer than 36 League and Cup goals, form that had Second Division Charlton moving up to their expectations for he was their leading scorer in both his completed seasons at The Valley.

It's not just the new men who know how to score, though. Keith Allen, one-time Portsmouth, Grimsby and Stockport player who signed for the Hatters two seasons



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ago, has popped in five goals so far. And winger Graham French, a former England youth cap, has come up with three important goals. Graham once thought he was on soccer's scrapheap when, after his youth international honours and service with Shrewsbury and Swindon, he found himself in non-league football with Wellington. Luton, feeling he should have another chance, gave it to him four years ago.

It wasn't long after taking the Luton job that Mr. Stock went back to his old club, Queen's Park Rangers, to sign one of his key players — Mike Keen. A talented wing-half, Mike made more than 400 first-team appearances for Rangers. Centre-half Chris Nicholl's transfer was clinched shortly after he had played a blinder against them for Halifax. Not much more than a year ago, Chris was playing for little Witton Albion.

Goalkeeper Sandy Davie has been the regular choice since his transfer from Dundee United last season. Right-back Fred Jardine originated from the same city, leaving Dundee F.C. for Luton some ten years ago. Since then he has made over 200 League appearances for them.

Jack Bannister served West Bromwich, Scunthorpe and Crystal Palace before signing for Luton last season. Alan Slough, one of the club's own discoveries, has made over 100 senior appearances in the last four seasons.

Luton's last visit to Millmoor was on March 15th last:

Rotherham (1) 2 (Quinn, Storrie) — Luton (0) 2 (French, Lewis) — 9,560

Rotherham: Furnell; Mealand, Leigh; Quinn, Watson, Swift; Brogden, Storrie, Downes, Bentley, Mullen.

Luton: Davie; Dougan, Bannister; McDerment, Slough, Moore; French, Allen, Sheffield, Lewis (Ryan), Jardine.

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			League	Cup	
D. Bentley	2		J. Storrie	2	1
S. Downes	3		T. Womble	1	
T. Womble	1	1	B. Coop	3	4
L. Brogden	1	2	M. Leng	2	
J. Mullen	1	2	K. Ball	1	
J. Storrie	1	1	T. Phillips	3	
D. Leigh	1		P. Bendig	1	
T. Swift	1		Own Goals	1	
N. Hague	1				
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FIXTURES 1969/70

FIRST TEAM

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
1969				Dec. 3	(W) League Cup Semi-Final		
Aug. 9	(S) Bury	Home	W 4-3	6	(S) F.A. Cup 2		
13	(W) Bradford (Lge. Cup 1)	Away	W 2-0	13	(S) Walsall	Home	
16	(S) Shrewsbury T.	Away	L 0-1	19	(F) Orient	Away	
23	(S) Doncaster R.	Home	L 0-1	26	(F) Doncaster R.	Away	
26	(Tu) Mansfield T.	Home	D 2-2	27	(S) Bournemouth & B.A.	Home	
30	(S) Bournemouth & B.A.	Away	L 0-1	1970			
Sept. 3	(W) Bolton (Lg. Cup 2)	Away	D 0-0	Jan. 3	(S) Stockport C.	Home	
6	(S) Orient	Home	D 0-0	10	(S) Gillingham	Away	
13	(S) Walsall	Away	W 2-0	17	(S) Barrow	Home	
15	(M) Rochdale	Away	L 0-2	24	(S) Plymouth A.	Away	
20	(S) Gillingham	Home	L 0-1	31	(S) Bradford C.	Away	
24	(W) League Cup 3			Feb. 7	(S) Bristol R.	Home	
27	(S) Barrow	Away		14	(S) Bury	Away	
29	(M) Stockport C.	Away		21	(S) Reading	Home	
Oct. 4	(S) Bradford C.	Home		28	(S) Fulham	Away	
7	(Tu) Shrewsbury T.	Home		Mar. 3	(Tu) Halifax T.	Away	
11	(S) Bristol Rovers	Away	L 0-3	7	(S) Torquay U.	Home	
15	(W) League Cup 4			10	(Tu) Southport	Home	
18	(S) Fulham	Home		14	(S) Barnsley	Away	
25	(S) Reading	Away	D 1-1	17	(Tu) Plymouth A.	Home	
29	(W) League Cup 5			21	(S) Halifax T.	Home	
Nov. 1	(S) Luton T.	Home		27	(F) Luton T.	Away	
8	(S) Tranmere R.	Away		28	(S) Southport	Away	
15	(S) F.A. Cup 1			30	(M)		
19	(W) League Cup S.F.			31	(Tu) Tranmere R.	Home	
22	(S) Torquay United	Away		Apr. 4	(S) Mansfield T.	Away	
25	(Tu) Brighton & H.A.	Home		8	(W) Brighton & H.A.	Away	
29	(S) Barnsley	Home		11	(S) F.A. Cup Final		
				14	(Tu) Rochdale	Home	

FUTURE MATCHES AT MILLMOOR

Tuesday, 4th November, 1969

F.A. YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION
ROTHERHAM UNITED v MANSFIELD TOWN
 Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

Saturday, 15th November, 1969

NORTHERN INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE
ROTHERHAM UNITED v BRADFORD PARK AVENUE
 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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When the **WHOLE** of the ball has crossed over the goal-line between the posts and under the bar, providing it has not been thrown, carried or propelled by hand or arm by a player of the attacking team.

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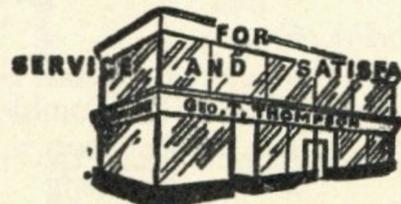
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