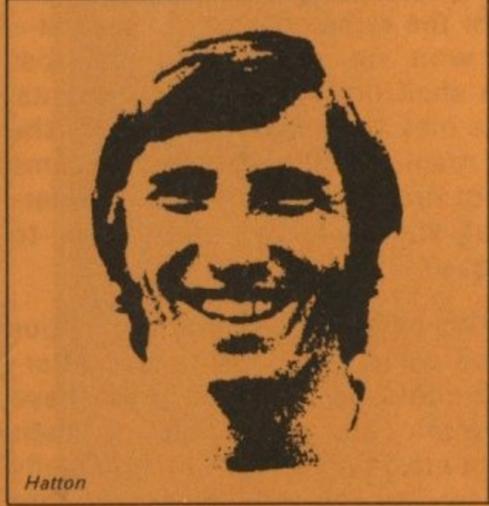
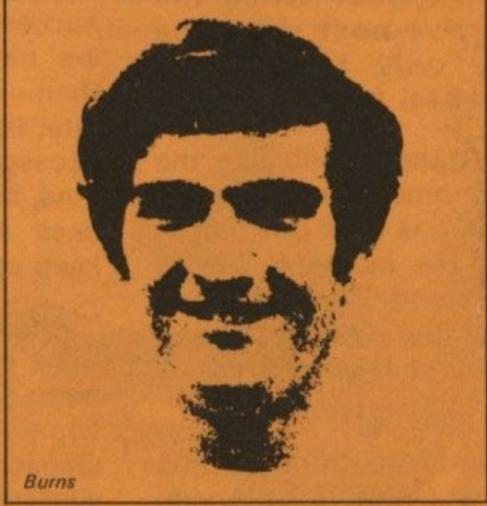


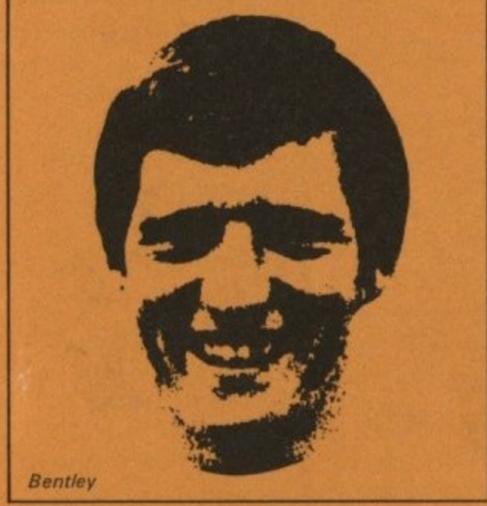
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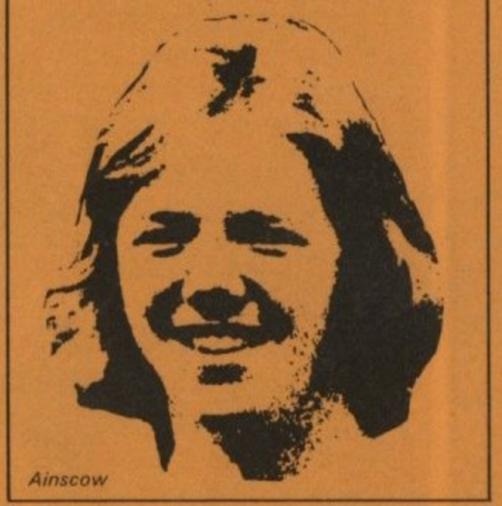
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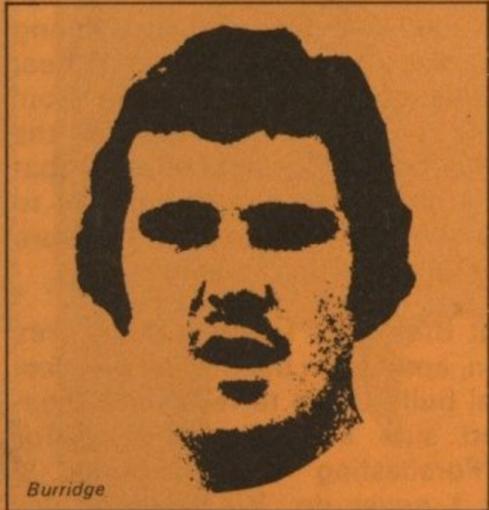
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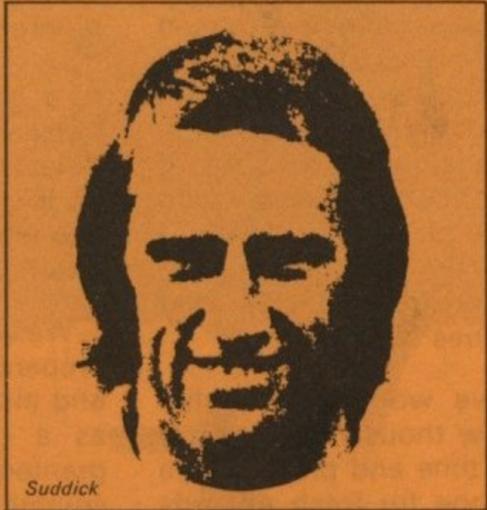
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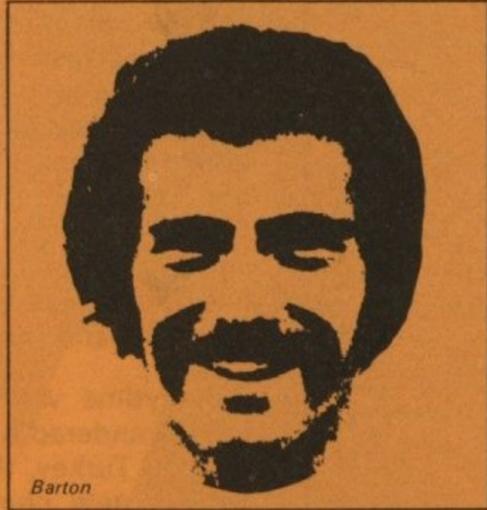
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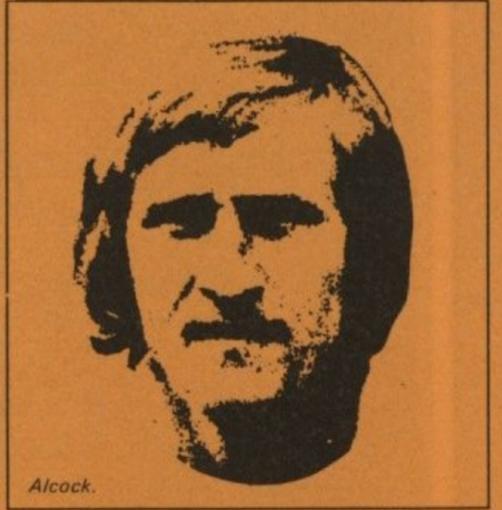
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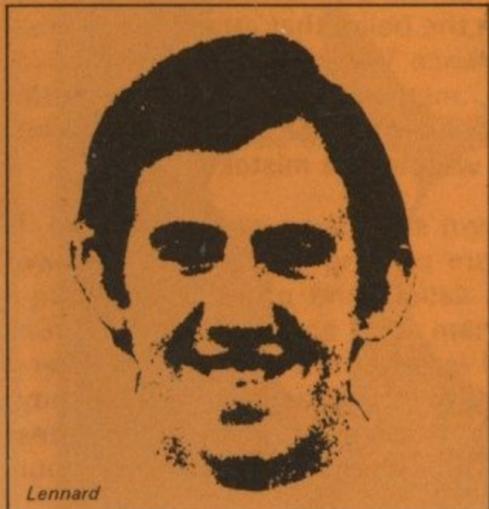
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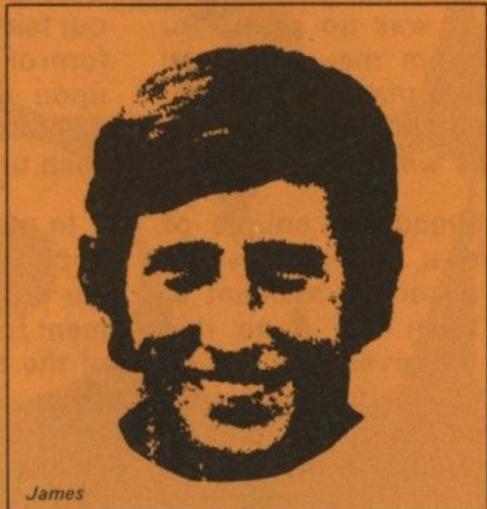
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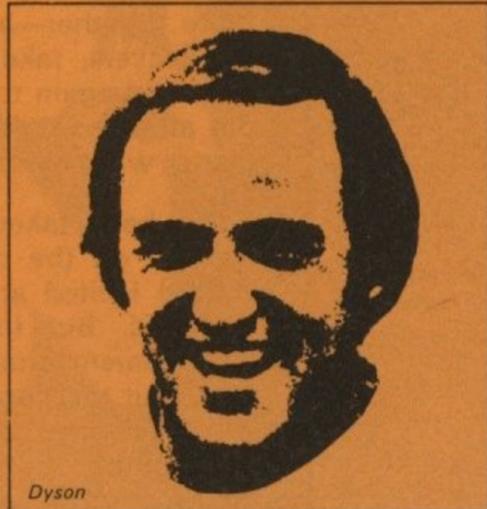
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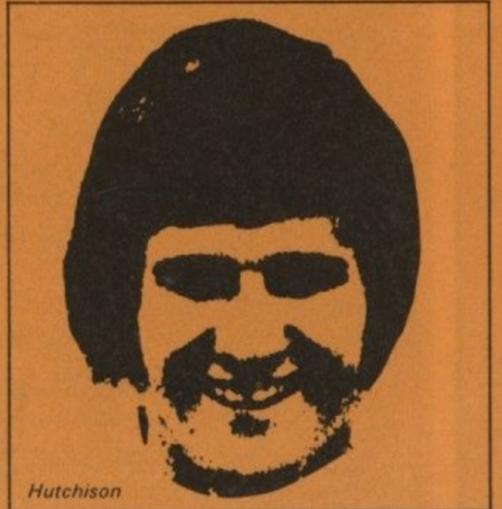
Lennard



James



Dyson



Hutchison

LUTON TOWN

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ATHLETIC CLUB
LIMITED

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HARRY HASLAM



Every Football League manager knows how imperative it is to make an encouraging start to a new season. Whether we have succeeded in this respect at Luton is a matter for personal opinion. I'll only go as far to say that, according to my pre-season calculations, to give us a chance of having a foot in the door when the crunch months arrive next year, the team is virtually only two points adrift from my mental target.

The League table runs a club like the weather guides a barometer and 'life' for the team is as buoyant as their position in the table allows. At the moment, 'life' is not too bad—touch wood. We are now at the quarter stage of the season, having played ten matches and taken 13 points from them.

When I did my homework three months ago I worked out a schedule for the side and it meant picking up 16 points by the end of September. Luton have now passed that stage just three points short. But we should remember that two of those can still be earned later when the home match with Portsmouth—postponed because of our League Cup commitments with Birmingham City—is played. Truthfully, I am very pleased that the lads have acquitted themselves so well, so quickly after problems and pressures of last term.

Everytime we have won my thoughts have wandered a few thousand miles . . . back to Turkey, the time and place where Luton's new challenge for fresh rewards was first hatched. When we were all out there together—and it was no picnic for the players, take it from me—I stressed time and again to them that we must get our attitudes right and stick with them no matter what hardships we have to suffer.

We have taken, already, a couple of 'results' on the chin—a home defeat by Oxford United and an embarrassment at Sheffield. But the team has done this management proud by never letting their heads hit the floor. It's an attitude of mind which is carried by all the great teams in this country, a belief that if one works hard enough towards an end, results will

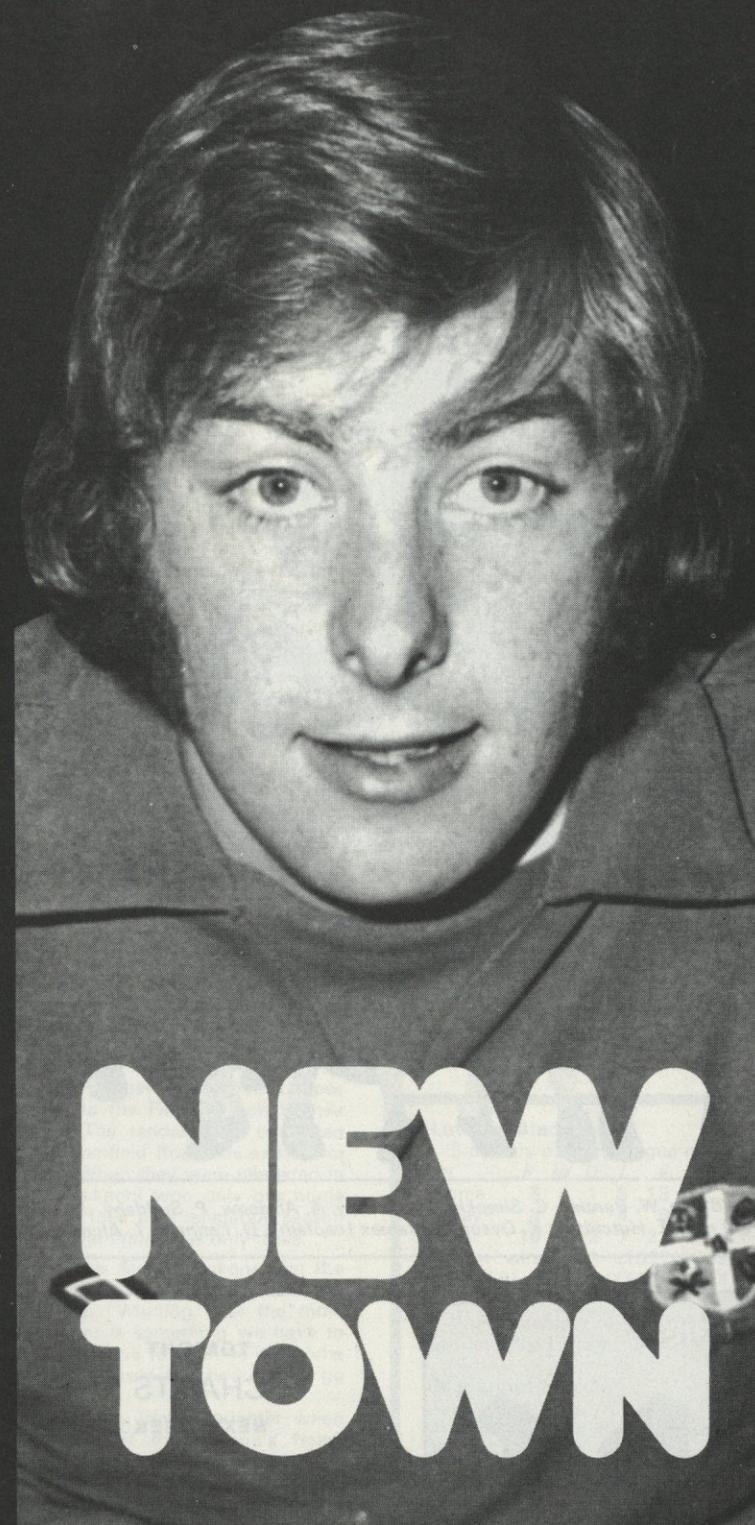
come, bringing with them the all important commodity of consistency.

This is one of the greatest assets any club can have and at the moment Roy McCrohan and myself are seeking to galvanise this into the side's performances away from home. Yet assuming that Luton hold their present rate of progress and success for the remainder of the season—we have won six, drawn one and lost three—we shall finish up with 52 points. That figure may be marginally short of the necessary magic number. But, at the same time, its not drastically short and it underlines what standards we now have to keep up to.

Already we have played three of the four sides above us in the Division this afternoon so it could be said that Luton have come through an early test of their character quite favourably. I'm not really surprised by any of the sides who are amongst the early pacemakers and I'm pleased to see Villa being pushed along by a Luton discovery, Bruce Rioch. I hear he's got five goals—four of them from outside the penalty area—such is the power in his boots. But appreciating that he is a first class player is also power to our elbow when we meet and I'm sure Aston Villa will be a test to enjoy.

We meet Blackpool today and the only preparation, apart from the normal physical and mental build up, is to recognise them as a good side and take nothing for granted. Forecasting match results is something I never do. We shall go for Blackpool as we did for Burnley, pinning our faith in the belief that attack is the best form of defence. We are working to improve upon this method and approach from day to day and we hope to learn a little bit each time we make a mistake.

In our own small way, at the moment, I hope we are proving to the fans that we are out to satisfy and produce entertainment for them and I am sure that if the run of the ball is on Luton's menu this afternoon, Blackpool will certainly know they have been through a full 90 minutes at Kenilworth Road. Thank you, for your support.



WILLIE CARRICK

Willie Carrick was hooked by Manchester United out of schools football in Dublin and whisked straight over to Old Trafford to join one of the most famous clubs in the world.

Now, five years later, Willie, who looked to be heading towards a challenge for United's goal-keeping position, has a new future at Kenilworth Road, and has already made his League debut.

Willie says: "I weighed up the prospects and reckoned that I could be one of the first contenders for the position between the posts at Manchester this season. Alex Stepney is number one, but not many goalkeepers command a top spot after 30. There was Jimmy Rimmer, who didn't make an appearance in the League last season, and John Connaughton, who United sent on loan to Torquay."

Willie made several Central League appearances and the breakthrough looked surely to come. So Willie was "surprised and disappointed when I heard Frank O'Farrell had decided to let me go on a free transfer."

Harry Haslam clinched Willie Carrick's confidence during the close season with the same reassurance which also persuaded Johnny Aston to sign for the Hatters, plus of course, the earlier United captures, Ken Goodeve, Don Givens and Jimmy Ryan.

Willie pin-pointed one of the problems facing every lesser individual on United's big staff. "The trouble is that the person responsible for the destiny of all the players does not have sufficient time to make real personal contact.

"My boss was Bill Foulkes, a great character, but I was perhaps only a name to the people at the top."

Willie came through with a crop of youngsters who have all now reached the first-team. Eric Young, Sammy McIlroy, Tommy O'Neill and Tommy Young, all played in front of Willie Carrick at sometime or another and they have now made it.

Perhaps, at Luton, Willie Carrick will discover the opportunity to prove United were too extravagant in allowing him to go 'scot-free' into a new future.

TALKING ABOUT BLACKPOOL



BLACKPOOL 1972-73 . . . Back row: D. Hatton, M. Burns, W. Bentley, C. Simpkin. Centre row: A. Ainscow, P. Suddaby, J. Burrige, A. Suddick, G. Wood, F. Barton, P. Hardcastle. Front row: T. Hutchison, K. Dyson, G. James (captain), D. Lennard, T. Alcock.

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Last season's final Second Division table, showing Blackpool in sixth place and finishing nine points away from a promotion spot, did not completely reveal the full strength of the Bloomfield Road side.

Once they had sorted out the re-building of the team in mid-season, Blackpool emerged after Christmas as the most exciting outfit in the section—and more successful than all the sides above them, with the exception of Birmingham City.

The Seasiders began 1972 with six consecutive wins in which they banged home 15 goals. In all, the 19 League matches played in the New Year produced 13 wins, 28 points and 42 goals, giving them a final tally of 70 goals and making them equal top with Burnley.

Compare that finishing burst to the top teams. Norwich City had 23 points and 25 goals, Birmingham City 30 points and 30 goals, Millwall 23 points and 23 goals, Queen's Park Rangers 25 points and 23 goals, Sunderland 25 points and 32 goals.

So you can well understand why Blackpool were bracketed among the promotion favourites at the start of this season. Unfortunately, they have yet to capture the form of last Spring and last Saturday's 1-0 home defeat by Middlesbrough dropped them back to five points behind the leaders.

Injuries have had a lot to do with the team's failure to hit full productivity. Skipper and centre-half Glyn James missed several matches because of Achilles tendon trouble, reliable right-back Dave Hatton was out for five games because of strained knee ligaments, and top scorer Mickey Burns has suffered from a recurrent virus in the last six weeks.

The reduction in Burn's scoring power has been felt most.

Burns worked up a successful partnership with Keith Dyson, the early-season signing from Newcastle United, and they shared 21 of Blackpool's last 42 goals. "After Christmas, things went well," says Burns. "I just knocked in one after the other. Early on, we were a bit inconsistent, but that was probably due to the settling down of new players. I think we must have a good promotion chance now."

The biggest danger to Blackpool's hopes of returning to the First Division is their home form. The tendency to conceded points at Bloomfield Road has existed for many years. When they were relegated in 1966-67, Blackpool won only one home game, and in their next relegation season in 1970-71, the figure was only three.

Manager Bob Stokoe reckons that the attitude of the fans is connected with the home failures. "Winning over the more critical element is something we have to aim at . . . we have to improve our home results and I believe the two things go together."

Things certainly looked brighter when Blackpool opened this season's home programme with a 6-2 hammering of Brighton, but, since then, the old faults have re-appeared in drawn games against Sunderland and Orient and defeat by Middlesbrough.

Crowds have been disappointing, too, and this has also been a long-standing



ACTION CLASH! Peter Suddaby, of Blackpool, in a tangle with Vic Halom.

handicap to the club. The removal of the maximum wage suddenly meant that Blackpool's attendances were not big enough to combat the increased salaries. As Mr Stokoe says: "If we had been able to hold on to such players as Alan Ball, Emlyn Hughes and Tony Green, think what a midfield trio they would have made."

Nevertheless, Blackpool have maintained a more consistent League standard than some of their Lancashire neighbours and there is a feeling that promotion is not far round the corner. This is a tribute to the work of Mr Stokoe, who arrived when relegation from the First Division was almost certain.

"The first year frightened me," he says. "I realised we were out of our depth, but I feel that we are on the right lines now." To achieve a sound basis, Mr Stokoe cleared out two-third of the staff he inherited, taking in over £200,000 and spending a good proportion on Keith Dyson, Chris Simpkin and Dave Lennard.

Stricter discipline has been a focal point of Mr Stokoe's command. Mickey Burns delivers the player's opinion: "We have a far better set-up these days and the manager won't stand for the bad boys. We are all benefitting . . . not only on the field. There is a better atmosphere and everybody is happy."

Luton v Blackpool . . .

Summary of past League results:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	8	4	1	3	13	12	9
Away	8	3	1	4	8	14	7
Total	16	7	2	7	21	26	16

Best wins: 3-1 (1897-98 and 1955-56) and 2-0 (1957-58) all at home.

Worst defeat: 4-0 (1956-57) at Bloomfield Road.

Blackpool History . . .

Founded: 1887
Amalgamated with South Shore: 1899.
Elected to League Division Two: 1896
Not re-elected: 1899.
Re-elected: 1900.
Ground: Bloomfield Road.

Record Attendance: 39,118, v Manchester United in 1952.

Division Two Champions: 1929-30.

Runners-up: 1936-37, 1969-70.
Division One Runners-up: 1955-56.

F.A. Cup Winners: 1953.

Finalists: 1948, 1951.

Ten-Year Record . . .

Season	Div	Pos	W	Pts
1971-72	2	6th	20	47
1970-71	1	22nd	4	23
1969-70	2	2nd	20	53
1968-69	2	8th	14	43
1967-68	2	3rd	24	58
1966-67	1	22nd	6	21
1965-66	1	13th	14	37
1964-65	1	17th	12	35
1963-64	1	18th	13	35
1962-63	1	13th	13	40

MANAGER CAPTAIN

As a player, Bob Stokoe built a reputation as one of the most unrelenting centre-halves in the business and had a 1955 F.A. Cup Final medal to show for his 13 years' loyal service to Newcastle United. As a manager, he has been just as tough in taking on assignments with five League clubs.

He began by acting as player-manager with Bury, who were propping up the Second Division when he took charge. He kept them in that Division, lifted them to sixth the following year, and signed players who were later worth £200,000 in transfer fees—including future internationals, Colin Bell and Eddie Colquhoun.

His work at Gigg Lane did not go unnoticed around the League and he was asked to perform a similar rescue service for Charlton Athletic. Once again, he pushed away relegation clouds, but after two years, he parted company and moved down into the Fourth Division with Rochdale.

Times were hard at The Spotland. They had asked for re-election in the previous two years and were fearing a similar fate until Mr Stokoe arrived. He hauled them away from the trouble zone and then, with one transfer—goalkeeper Les Green to Derby County—he raised a whole new team.

The re-building scheme brought Rochdale promotion, though halfway through the campaign, Mr Stokoe was on the move again, answering a plea from Carlisle United, then on the bottom of the Second Division. Once again, he conjured up an escape act, the team putting together an unbeaten run of 13 games, and the following season Carlisle reached the semi-final of the Football League Cup.

Then it was on to Blackpool in December 1970, but, for once, Mr Stokoe could not avert relegation. However, Blackpool soon won the Anglo-Italian Cup and are one of the more fancied promotion teams. That's the Stokoe style.



GLYN JAMES (right) rounds Robin Wainwright in last year's Blackpool match.

Glyn James, now in his 15th season at Bloomfield Road and the longest-serving player on Blackpool's books, has been a regular member of the Welsh international squad would have won many more caps but for competing for the number five spot with Tottenham's Mike England.

In a career of well over 300 games, the 30-year-old James has even tried his hand at goal-scoring with some considerable success, especially last season.

"While I'm scoring goals, I don't mind playing at centre-forward," he said. "But I'm only too glad to get back to my own position if the goals dry up. I suppose my knowledge as a centre-half helps when I

play in the attack. I try to do things which I don't like other strikers doing against me."

After several years as a First Division player, Glyn felt the blow of Blackpool's two relegation seasons more than most on the Bloomfield Road staff—but he is confident that he will end his days back in the First Division.

Mind you, Glyn is not really a Welshman at all. His parents are English and lived in Shropshire, but it just so happened that the nearest maternity hospital was over the border—and that's how Glyn qualified for the red jersey of Wales!

Glyn has not had the best of luck so far this season, suffering from injury and dropping out of the side for a spell, and when he returned it was at centre-forward.

POINTS ON PLAYERS

ALAN AINSCOW, *Forward*

First joined Blackpool as an apprentice in July, 1970, and switched to a full professional contract in 1971. Has good ball control and scored three times in 18 League matches last season.

TERRY ALCOCK, *Defender*

Has given good value for the modest fee paid to Port Vale in July, 1967. Strong-tackling and determined, he had 23 League outings last term.

BILL BENTLEY, *Defender*

Born in the Potteries, he won England Schoolboy caps and joined his local club, Stoke City, where he collected Youth International honours and had considerable first-team experience. He cost Blackpool around £30,000 when transferred in 1969. Made 23 League appearances last season.

MICKEY BURNS, *Forward*

Blackpool's top scorer with 17 goals in 40 League games last season—form which prompted Ipswich Town to table an offer in the regions of £100,000 early this term. It was refused because Blackpool see his lively sharpshooting as a feature of a possible promotion team. Mickey is one of several brainy types on the Blackpool books—he qualified as a schoolmaster and first played his soccer as an amateur with Skelmersdale United. Was capped by England at Amateur level.

JOHN BURRIDGE, *Goalkeeper*

Joined Blackpool from Fourth Division Workington for a small fee and was still a teenager when making his First Division debut at the end of 1970-71. Established as the regular first-choice last season, playing in 34 League games.

KEITH DYSON, *Forward*

Joined Blackpool early last season as a £40,000-valued part of the transfer which took Tony Green to Newcastle. While with Newcastle, Keith had plenty of First Division experience and was capped by the England Under-23 team. Netted 12 League goals for Blackpool last season.

PAUL FUSCHILLO, *Defender*

Another former amateur star, Paul was signed from Wycombe Wanderers in July 1971, and impressed as a strong defender. Currently skipper of the Central League side, but has played in the first-team this season.

TOM HUTCHISON, *Forward*

Although very tall for a winger—he is



ALAN SUDDICK

almost 6ft. Tom has all the natural qualities of speed, skill and poise. Signed from Alloa Athletic for a bargain fee in February, 1968, he helped Blackpool to promotion and was much admired in First Division circles. Has been capped by Scotland Under-23's since joining Blackpool.

DAVE HATTON, *Defender*

Former skipper of Bolton, where he had a wealth of First Division experience. Blackpool bought him for £40,000 in 1969-70 and first used him in midfield, but he returned to full-back for most of last season's 40 appearances. Has acted as skipper in a number of games this term.

STEVE HARRISON, *Defender*

Local boy who joined the Blackpool staff in December, 1970. Made good progress last season when he appeared in seven League matches.

PETER HARDCASTLE, *Defender*

Former amateur star who followed Burns' example by joining Blackpool from Skelmersdale, after playing in their F.A. Amateur Cup-winning side in 1970. Joined the Seaside in January, 1971, and made 16 League appearances last season.

DAVE LENNARD, *Midfield*

Dave thought his career was on the slide in 1969 when he was granted a free transfer by Bolton Wanderers, but a couple of successful seasons with Halifax Town revived his ambitions and Blackpool stepped in with a £30,000 bid in October last year. Made 23 League appearances for them, scoring six goals.

WILLIE MCGROTTY, *Forward*

Glasgow-born youngster who was signed from Scottish junior club Yoker Athletic in June, 1970. He made his League debut in the First Division, but did not get a senior game last season.

STUART PARKER, *Forward*

Young prospect who joined Blackpool in July, 1970, and showed great promise in the reserves last season. Made his first-team debut recently.

ALAN SUDDICK, *Forward*

Was rated among the game's most promising youngsters in his early days at Newcastle, where he won selection for the England Youth and Under-23 teams. Blackpool had to pay £65,000 for his services in December, 1966. He had his best season last year when voted number one player by the Supporters' Club.

PETER SUDDABY, *Defender*

Another former English Amateur international—formerly with Skelmersdale, but signed from Wycombe Wanderers in May, 1970. Won a Blue at Oxford University and is a schoolteacher by profession. Made 41 appearances last season.

CHRIS SIMPKIN, *Midfield*

Made around 300 appearances for his local club, Hull City, and it was something of a surprise when he transferred to Blackpool for £30,000 in October last year. Made 28 League appearances in his first season at Blackpool.

GEORGE WOOD, *Goalkeeper*

Cost a small fee when signed from East Stirling in January this year and he graduated to a League debut before the end of last season. Now challenging Burridge hard for the senior position.

MAN ON THE SPOT

ROGER DUCKWORTH'S VERDICT



AND MATCH REPORT EVERY SATURDAY

SPORTS POST



JIMMY
RYAN

MAN ABOUT TOWN

Ask former Manchester United winger Jimmy Ryan why he remembers the 1970-71 season and he'll give you two answers. (One): "Because it was the last time that Luton appeared to have a great chance of going into the First Division. That drive to leave our current status, however, was not built on the same football approach which the side is now concentrating on. And (two): "Last season was a bad time for us all. The results didn't come and the team's spirit suffered."

But the battle was bigger on a personal basis for Jimmy Ryan who had to endure the further misery of overcoming the physical and psychological affects of a dislocated shoulder.

"The weeks dragged by as I went through the daily routines, trying to get it firmly back in place again. But, even when I was given the O.K. to play again, I could still feel some discomfort and it used to jerk my confidence—and I just couldn't enjoy my football."

In fact, Jimmy rated last season as the worst in his nine years in professional football. So it's not surprising to learn, that instead of brooding and hoping things would come right this term, Jimmy's determination drove him to new lengths to put the problems right.

"I took my wife and daughter back to Manchester during the close season for eight weeks,"—the longest break Jimmy has had from football since he joined the Old Trafford squad in 1963. "I had an offer from a friend to make use of his gymnasium facilities and I worked throughout the summer on a weight-lifting programme.

"It has helped me lose the numbness from my hand and also bought my faith back to trust the joint won't slip again. It has taken a great worry off my mind because, towards the end of last season, it had destroyed my confidence—and when that's gone, you might as well pack up."

Instead of packing up, Jimmy Ryan is now backing up the Town's thirst for goals and last week's win against Swindon put the whole side back on their feet after the disappointment at Sheffield.

"Personally, I gave Wednesday a lot of credit for that win, but the goals ran all their way because we should have got at least a couple."

Jimmy considered the two points at Swindon the best since Luton put five past a side during the days of Malcolm MacDonald. "But it's a different Luton now. Two years ago the formula was to get the ball up to 'Big Mac' as quickly as possible and leave the rest to him. I think there is more skill associated with our attacking ideas under Harry Haslam's control and I hope we enjoy the results I think it can bring.

"Many of our supporters must have been disappointed that we didn't beat Birmingham in the League Cup. But I am sure those three games against a side, which went on to beat Manchester City and Everton, helped us a lot. On the run of play, over three matches, few could argue that we were not their match. So, though we eventually lost, we still gained a fair idea of respective standards."

(Opening end of
February 1973)



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TOWN TALK

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD . . .

Wednesday, 11th October, 1972

LUTON TOWN RESERVES v MILLWALL RESERVES

Kick-off: 7-30 pm

Wednesday, 18th October, 1972

Football League, Division Two
LUTON TOWN v PORTSMOUTH

Kick-off: 7-30 pm

Saturday, 21st October, 1972

Football League, Division Two
LUTON TOWN v HULL CITY

Kick-off: 3-00 pm

TODAY'S MASCOT . . .

MASTER NICHOLAS JAMES, aged 8

Note: He is mascot today because of a competition he won, selecting an England team. The competition was run by the *Odeon Cinema*—Saturday morning club. The prize being the mascot for today.

Rail travel to Sunderland v Luton Town on 14th October. Fare: £1.35.

	Depart	Arrive
Luton	08-20	23-25
Bedford	08-40	22-55
	Arrive	Depart
Seaburn	13-35	17-45

STATISTICS...

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

HOME		AWAY		*HOME GAMES.		TEAMS	*Best	Average	†LEADING SCORERS
P	WDLFA	WDLFA	P						
10	5 1 0 9 2	2 1 1 5 5	16	ASTON VILLA	34,843	31,154	Rioch 5, Evans 4, Lochhead 3		
12	6 0 0 18 6	1 2 3 6 9	16	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	23,109	20,505	Joicey 8, Prendergast 4, Sunley 4		
11	3 3 0 13 7	1 4 0 7 5	15	BURNLEY	14,804	12,590	James 7, Thomas 4, Casper 3		
11	2 2 1 3 2	3 1 2 6 4	13	PRESTON NORTH END	17,371	11,283	Tarback 3, Wilson 3, Young 3		
10	3 1 1 9 5	3 0 2 5 6	13	LUTON TOWN	12,197	10,871	Halom 6, Aston 5, Anderson 2		
10	3 2 0 13 5	0 4 1 7 10	13	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	12,528	11,774	Givens 7, Bowles 4, Leach 3, O'Rourke 3		
10	3 1 0 9 4	1 3 2 5 7	12	SUNDERLAND	16,960	13,861	Lathan 6, Tueart 4, Porterfield 2		
11	4 0 1 9 4	1 2 3 5 8	12	OXFORD UNITED	11,330	9,123	Cassidy 4, Clarke D. 4, Curran 4		
11	3 1 1 5 3	1 3 2 4 9	12	MIDDLESBROUGH	24,145	12,842	Mills 4, Smith 3, McMordie 2		
10	2 2 1 9 5	2 1 2 8 8	11	BLACKPOOL	14,797	12,092	Suddick 4, Burns 3, Dyson 3		
11	2 3 0 6 3	1 2 3 6 11	11	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	12,840	9,523	Smith D. 4, Gowling 4, Chapman 2		
11	3 2 1 6 4	1 1 3 4 10	11	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	18,082	10,902	O'Neill 3, Lyall 2, Richardson 2		
10	3 0 3 7 6	1 2 1 4 3	10	PORTSMOUTH	16,419	12,042	Reynolds 4, Lewis 3, Piper 3		
11	0 4 1 5 6	2 2 2 8 7	10	BRISTOL CITY	15,648	13,364	Spiring 5, Gow 4, Galley 3		
11	4 2 0 12 4	0 0 5 2 10	10	HULL CITY	11,189	9,049	Holme 4, Pearson 4, Knighton 2		
10	1 3 1 6 6	2 1 2 7 8	10	FULHAM	10,285	8,734	Earle 5		
11	1 3 2 6 7	0 3 2 2 5	8	ORIENT	9,492	6,295	Downing 3		
12	2 3 1 6 6	0 1 5 7 14	8	SWINDON TOWN	15,304	11,469	Peplow 4, Rogers 4, Treacy 2		
10	2 1 2 11 6	0 2 3 3 6	7	CARLISLE UNITED	10,969	7,911	Owen 6, Laidlaw 3, Balderstone 3		
11	2 0 3 5 7	1 1 4 7 9	7	MILLWALL	13,207	11,341	Wood 4, Bolland 3		
11	1 3 1 8 9	0 2 4 5 13	7	BRIGHTON & HOVE A.	17,404	16,243	Irvine 6, Murray 3, Templeman 2		
11	2 1 3 6 9	0 0 5 3 14	5	CARDIFF CITY	16,364	13,027	Bell 4, Clark 2, Showers 2		

Up to and including Saturday, 30th September, 1972 *League games only †League and Cup

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 72-73				MID-WEEK FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIXTURES—SEASON 1972-73					
Date	Opponents	Att	F A	Date	Opponent	F A	Date	Opponent	F A
Aug 12	Cardiff City	16,364	1 2	Aug 23	Gillingham	7 0	Dec 5	Northampton Town	
19	Preston North End	11,507	1 0	30	Brighton & Hove A	1 0	13	Colchester United	
26	Orient	6,494	1 0	Sept 6	Cambridge United	5 0	Jan 3	Millwall	
30	Oxford United	10,891	0 1	27	Cambridge United	1 1	10	Brighton & Hove	
Sept 2	Huddersfield Town	8,133	4 1	Oct 11	Millwall		17	Orient	
5	Birmingham City (L.C.2)	20,962	1 1	18	Watford		24	Southend United	
9	Nottingham Forest	9,495	1 0	25	Watford		31	Charlton Athletic	
13	Birmingham City (L.C. first replay)	13,806	1 1	Nov 1	Gillingham		Feb 7	Watford L.C.	
16	Brighton & Hove Albion	11,627	2 1	8	Northampton T.		14	Watford L.C.	
20	Birmingham City (L.C. second replay)	11,139	0 1	15	Southend United		28	Northampton L.C.	
23	Sheffield Wednesday	18,913	0 4	21	Charlton Athletic		Mar 6	Northampton L.C.	
26	Swindon Town	8,469	2 0	29	Colchester United		14	Orient	
30	Burnley	12,197	2 2						
Oct 7	Blackpool								
14	Sunderland								
18	Portsmouth								
21	Hull City								
28	Bristol City								
Nov 4	Swindon Town								
11	Portsmouth								
18	Aston Villa (F.A.C.1)								
22	League Cup—5								
25	Carlisle United								
Dec 2	Fulham								
9	Q.P.R. (F.A.C.2)								
16	Millwall								
23	Middlesbrough								
26	Sheffield Wednesday								
30	Preston North End								
Jan 6	Orient								
13	F.A. Cup—3								
20	Huddersfield Town								
27	Nottingham Forest								
Feb 3	F.A. Cup—4								
10	Brighton & Hove Albion								
17	Cardiff City								
24	Millwall (F.A. Cup—5)								
Mar 3	Blackpool								
10	Sunderland								
17	Hull City (F.A. Cup—6)								
24	Bristol City								
31	Carlisle United								
Apr 7	Fulham (F.A. Cup—S.F.)								
14	Queen's Park Rangers								
21	Aston Villa								
23	Middlesbrough								
24	Burnley								
28	Oxford United								
May 5	F.A. Cup—Final								

BACKTRACK

MATCH: SHEFFIELD W. v LUTON T.

GROUND: HILLSBOROUGH, SHEFFIELD

DATE: SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER.

ATTENDANCE: 18,913.

COMPETITION: FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION 2

TEAMS: Sheffield: Grummitt; Rodrigues, Clements; Mullen, Holsgrove, Craig; Henderson, Eustace, Sunley, Prendergast, Sissons. Sub: Swan.

Luton: Barber; John Ryan, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Slough; Jimmy Ryan, Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston. Sub: Moore.

SCORERS: Sheffield: Holsgrove, Rodrigues, Prendergast, Eustace.

RESULT: Sheffield W. 4, Luton T. 0

PAPER TALK: Tom Holley, *Sunday People*: "It was not all one-way and Luton had their moments. Halom and Anderson worked hard, often staking a claim for the midfield and, if Luton lacked power up front, it was because their shooting mostly came from long range." Roger Duckworth, *Evening Post*: "Luton took a real pounding at Hillsborough . . . but give them their credit. Even though outplayed in general, they put in two 15-minute spells of high-class football."

MATCH: SWINDON T. v LUTON T.

GROUND: COUNTY GROUND, SWINDON

DATE: TUESDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER

ATTENDANCE: 8,469.

COMPETITION: FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION 2

TEAMS: Swindon: Downsborough; Thomas, Trollope; Howell, Potter, Butler; Peplow (sub: Moss), Hubbard, Treacy, Noble, Rogers.

Luton: Carrick; John Ryan, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Slough; Jimmy Ryan, Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston. Sub: Moore.

SCORERS: Luton: Halom (2).

RESULT: Swindon T. 0, Luton T. 2

PAPER TALK: Roger Duckworth, *Evening Post*: "Willie Carrick, a soft-spoken Dublin Irishman, celebrated his 20th birthday in a manner he will never forget. He made his League debut with Luton, helped them pull off their third away win of the season . . . and pulled off a string of super-saves late in the match as the bedraggled Swindon attack tried to appease its mocking fans with a goal." *Daily Mirror*: "Vic Halom blasted two great goals in five minutes as Luton's faith in attacking football paid off."



TOWN IN ACTION

After the painful 4-0 trouncing at Hillsborough, it was an important result for The Hatters to win the next match 2-0 at Swindon with two goals from Vic Halom. Our action picture from The County Ground (above) shows a Swindon defender clearing off the line in one of Luton's many strong attacks.

That game was also notable for a fine debut by Willie Carrick, and the other pictures—from the 2-2 draw against Burnley—show the former Old Trafford 'keeper displaying his handling qualities.

Photographs: 'Evening Post'



MEMORY MAN

Sid Owen, searching round to rescue his career from joining the rubble and ruins of a bombed-out Birmingham shortly after the War, left St. Andrew's to pin his faith in a new life with Luton Town.

It was the first chapter in the Sid Owen story, which now recounts the fabulous days of the Fifties when Luton were promotion winners and Wembley finalists under the guidance and leadership of one of our most popular post-war skippers.

Luton only inherited the Birmingham-born master-defender because the manager who originally brought him into professional football—Harry Storer—couldn't find a place in the senior side for his 23-year-old wing-half.

"Blues slapped me on the list after two seasons and the manager said, more or less, that I wasn't good enough. I cost Luton £1,500 and from that minute, I was determined to prove Birmingham wrong and repay the debt I owed my new club."

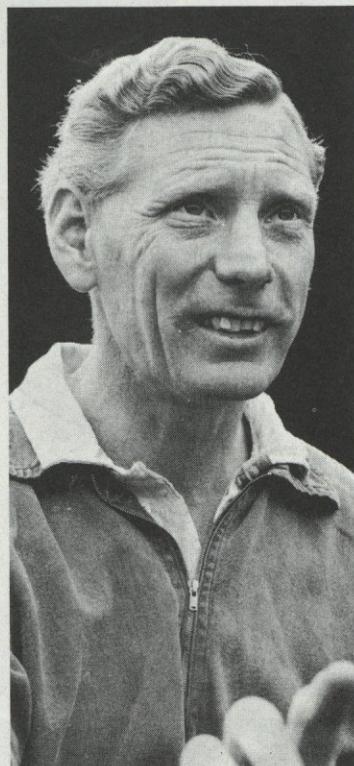
Twelve seasons later, the debt had been repaid in full, plus an incalculable amount of interest when Sid Owen, skipper of the club for nine years, and voted 1958-59 Footballer of the Year, wrenched himself away from Kenilworth Road to join . . . Leeds United.

Since that time, Sid Owen has helped to make the Elland Road side one of the giants of the soccer world. He is devoted to a chief coaching duty which followed a 12-year-spell at Luton.

"I remember Luton Chairman Charles Jeyes negotiating my transfer and I had to serve my apprenticeship in Luton's reserves before a string of injury problems for manager Dally Duncan opened the door for me to join the first-team."

Sid, the sweeper, stopper and chief security guard, first went into the pivot position against Northampton—and that's where he ended in his final game for Luton in 1958 . . . at Wembley, some 400 games afterwards.

Owen's belief in the benefits of sheer hard work was rewarded when he took Luton into the First Division at the end of the 1954-55 season and he had fellow 'Brummie' Ron Baynham beating off the opposition's attacks in goal.



SID OWEN

"Reaching Wembley was my proudest distinction. But the hurdle we cleared to get there brought me one of the most satisfying moments of my life when we beat Norwich with Billy Bingham's replay winner in the semi-final.

"That day I was to take Luton, as captain, to the Cup Final, the complete fulfilment of an ambition in every footballer's heart. But to win such an honour on a ground from which I had been sacked 12 years earlier put that little extra spice into the achievement."

Had Luton carried their flair and fire-power into the final, the result would

have been a dream curtain-call for Sid Owen, who was still in the squad only because Luton had refused to release him the previous season.

"I had told the club 12 months earlier that I wanted to finish, but it wasn't as easy as it sounds and they talked me round. For that, I shall always be eternally grateful."

Not many knew the personal anguish Sid Owen felt when Luton slumped to defeat at Wembley. "I was bitterly upset at being so near, yet so far away, in my very last game for the club."

Subsequent events suggested that Sid Owen had only an outside chance of lifting the coveted Cup, because, in association with his present club, Luton's former centre-half has been back three times to Wembley in the F.A. Cup—and only last year was he able to enjoy the thrill of being on the winning side!

Leeds, of course, beat Arsenal, a conquest which seem to have capped a decade of industry and success in the company of Sid Owen. "I was out of a job when a telegram arrived from Elland Road asking me if I would like to join them."

Leeds also gave Sid the opportunity to bring his own right-hand man, Les Cocker, the Luton trainer. So Leeds took on a new coach and trainer in 1959, the year they were relegated from the First Division.

We wonder what the past 12 years would have produced for Kenilworth Road if Owen and Cocker had stayed here. Sid is now recognised as one of the brains behind one of the most successful clubs in post-war years.

"The rewards any club earns ultimately depends on the ability of your players. At Leeds, we run three teams with a professional squad, including apprentices, of around 44 players. Except for Allan Clarke, Mick Jones and Johnny Giles, virtually the whole side has been cultivated from youth. I am involved in the development of our youngsters."

Judging on the record of the past ten years, Sid, you must be doing a super job. But no one who knew Sid Owen through his 12 years at Kenilworth Road would expect anything else from him.

SCORES

List One

Birmingham v Chelsea	A	
C Palace v Coventry	B	
Ipswich v West Ham	C	
Leeds Utd v Derby C.	D	
Leicester v Southampton	E	
Liverpool v Everton	F	
Man City v Wolves	G	
Newcastle v Norwich	H	
Sheff Utd v Arsenal	K	
Tottenham v Stoke	L	
W. B. Albion v Man Utd	M	
Brighton v Hull	N	

SCORES

List Two

Burnley v Swindon	A	
Fulham v Aston Villa	B	
Middlesbro. v Millwall	C	
Nottm For. v Huddersfield	D	
Orient v Cardiff	E	
Oxford v Sunderland	F	
Portsmouth v Bristol C.	G	
Preston v Sheffield W	H	
QPR v Carlisle	K	
Bournemouth v Tranmere	L	
Charlton v Plymouth	M	
Rochdale v Watford	N	



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TEAMS

LUTON TOWN

White Shirts, Black Shorts

- 1 WILLIE CARRICK
- 2 JOHN RYAN
- 3 BOBBY THOMSON
- 4 PETER ANDERSON
- 5 JOHN FAULKNER
- 6 ALAN SLOUGH
- 7 JIMMY RYAN
- 8 RODNEY FERN
- 9 VIV BUSBY
- 10 VIC HALOM
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12

BLACKPOOL

Tangerine Shirts, White Shorts

- 1 JOHN BURRIDGE
- 2 DAVE HATTON
- 3 BILL BENTLEY
- 4 GLYN JAMES
- 5 TERRY ALCOCK
- 6 DAVE LENNARD
- 7 TOM HUTCHISON
- 8 ALAN SUDDICK
- 9 KEITH DYSON
- 10 FRANK BARTON
- 11 ALAN AINSCOW
- 12

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		BLACKPOOL	
HALF TIME		HALF TIME	
FULL TIME		FULL TIME	

Referee:

W. J. GOW, Swansea

Linesmen:

F. LEWIS, Birmingham, *Red Flag*

K. F. MERRETT, Brackley, *Orange Flag*

Ball Donor: E. Feeney, Melson Arms, John Street, Luton

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