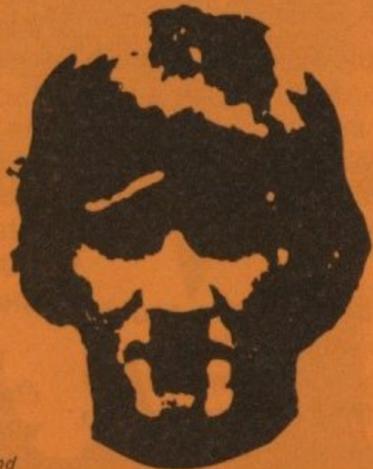


LUTON TOWN



Stephenson



Hand



Munks



Wilson



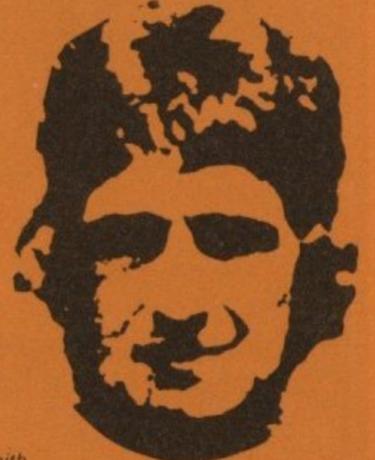
Hiron



Milkins



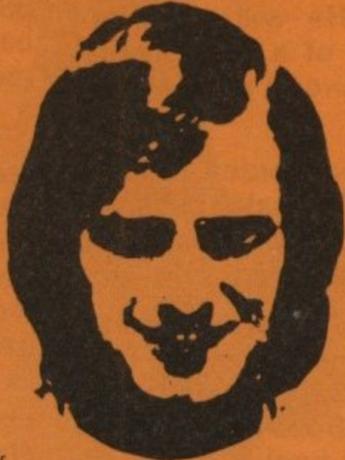
Reynolds



Smith



Collins



Piper



McCann



Lewis

LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL AND ATHLETIC CLUB LIMITED

KENILWORTH ROAD, LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU1 1DH
Telephone: 0582-23151

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HARRY HASLAM



I had hoped that our £20,000 new floodlighting project would have been virtually completed at this stage of the season to give us the satisfaction of taking up our option of a friendly and attractive fixture with Newcastle.

But the work is taking a little longer than we first anticipated to get our lights up to the colour standard required for T.V. and I had to tell United manager Joe Harvey last week that we are not quite ready to entertain his "stars and stripes."

But another intangible has cropped up, of course, that of the unfortunate injury to Malcolm McDonald, around whom this fixture was originally built before he went off with all our good wishes to Tyneside, where he has established himself as an outstanding player.

Unfortunately, he's been on the touchlines in the last few weeks with a leg in plaster after damaging his ligaments and we all trust that "Big Mac" fights it off to return as quickly as possible—for the game is surely much poorer with artists of his calibre watching instead of playing.

Luton certainly lost a great player when the time came for us to give him the freedom to further his own ambitions. But his departure was no total loss for the club.

Besides the revenue aspect of a regrettable but unavoidable transfer, "Big Mac's" move, and success, with Newcastle, has done nothing but reflect a great deal of good and recognition for Luton.

It's nice in some ways to see a player with whom you have been associated for many years leave the family and make his own way in a tough world. I hope Luton's fans are looking forward as much as I am to the night when Malcolm makes his return to Kenilworth Road. He will no doubt re-gloss our memories of a goal scoring craftsman whom I am proud to think was once a Luton player.

And, as Viv Busby and Gordon Hindson will tell you after their personal experiences at St. James's Park, Newcastle have many players of outstanding quality.

I am McFaul and David Craig are regulars in the Northern Ireland squad, while Tony Green, who cost well over £100,000 from Blackpool, and skipper Bobby Moncur are fixtures in the Scotland pool.

In view of our pending date with Newcastle, it was good to hear that Moncur has recently recovered from injury and that Green, like Big Malcolm, discarded the plaster cast on a similar leg injury.

When the lights are ready, we shall also be playing hosts to the current League champions Derby County. I have agreed with Brian Clough to arrange a Testimonial Match for Ian Buxton, a player many fans will remember had three seasons with us a few years ago. Ian, of course, has proved a great all-round sportsman by being just as prolific with a bat and ball as he was with his football boots. In Derby, he mixed duty at the Baseball Ground, during the years, with appearances in the County Championship for Derbyshire. After holding the captaincy of the county side for several seasons, Ian retired only at the end of last term.

The sporting world, I'm sure, admires a character who has demonstrated such wonderful loyalty to his job and it is for this reason that I personally want Luton and their supporters to acknowledge a dedicated professional at all levels. Loyalty is something which football thrives on and if every player carried the same outlook as Ian Buxton, the profession would certainly claim greater respect.

At this present time, the club is preparing to process the arrangements to acknowledge two of our own players of similar mould, Tony Read and Freddie Jardine. Big "T" has retired this season and Freddie is not forgotten for the eight years service he put in at Kenilworth Road.

They may not have been any World Cup players in their day. But I'm sure their loyalty is as important, and probably more difficult to maintain, than that which is the backbone of some of their more easily recognisable colleagues.

Both Tony and Freddie are currently staging their dances and functions. etc., and I hope you will all support both of them and next year make a date to be on the ground when we shall be playing matches to mark their service and a final gesture from us for their contribution to the club.

Harry Haslam was talking to Norton Jones



DENNIS MORTIMER

NEWTOWN



ROGER SMITH

Introducing two directors who were co-opted on to the Board only recently . . . Mr Dennis Mortimer and Mr Roger Smith.

Mr Mortimer, a well-known haulage contractor, has watched Luton since before the war when it was his habit to come to Kenilworth Road one week-end and go to Watford the other. But, for all his allegiance to Luton, he admits to having had a lifelong affection for . . . West Bromwich Albion.

"My family hailed from West Bromwich and are still Albion fans. There will be some leg-pulling at the next family re-union, I can tell you," said Mr Mortimer. But when I moved, it was Luton for me.

I think the greatest game I ever saw was in 1946 when Luton were losing 3-0 at half time to Newcastle United and won 4-3."

Mr Mortimer, who now lives in Ashridge Park and whose special responsibility will be to establish close liaison between the supporters activities and the club, played for Hemel Hemstead Town and also took part in representative football while in the Army.

Mr R. J. Smith, on the other hand, is a recent recruit to the band of soccer enthusiasts. As Managing Director of Tricentral Industrial Holdings, he described his pre-directorial participation as that of an "interested by-stander".

But now he says: "I may get into trouble with the wife, but I can see myself becoming a real fanatic for the game. I shall watch Luton home and away and hope that I can make a contribution to the business of running the club.

"I have enjoyed my participation in football so far because it makes one forget one's own business activities. It might prove to be hard work in fact, I am sure it will be but I shall be disappointed if I am not kept busy with the things with which I can assist.

"For me, it will be relaxation and a chance to forget my normal line of business."

Portsmouth's form in the opening weeks of the season was a source of frustration for management, players and spectators. Pompey swept to a magnificent start, in which they gathered five points out of six and won a League Cup-tie at Torquay United.

And, in the process, they achieved that rarity of victory at Millwall—where the men from The Den had protected an unbeaten home record of 29 matches until Portsmouth cruised home with two goals from Brian Lewis.

Portsmouth were proudly perched in second place when the first League table was issued and faced two home games which promised to put them on top. But that was where form went haywire. They lost 2-1 to Huddersfield Town, then crashed 2-0 to Burnley, and were watched by less than 7,000 spectators when Chesterfield completed their third successive home defeat.

So, in the space of eight days, Portsmouth's confidence took a shattering blow and the club lost a valuable channel of revenue by going out of the League Cup. League gates also suffered, falling from 16,000 against Huddersfield to 11,000 against Burnley.

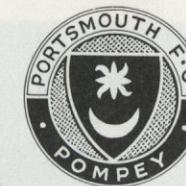
Manager Ron Tindall sensed that his players were developing bad habits in home games. He explained: "Away from home, we have played with control, kept possession, and found a successful formula. At Fratton Park, we have been going hell for leather and failing to play creative football."

This is not an unusual fault in modern football. Faced by powerful defensive line-ups, the home team feels compelled to take charge of the attacking play and, if goals do not come early, then composure tends to be replaced by uncontrolled activity.

Mr Tindall is only too aware that the Fratton Park problems must be overcome quickly; otherwise the team could get a complex about playing at home. In contrast, Pompey have been quietly successful on their away trips. A missed penalty cost them victory at Nottingham Forest, then came the wins at Millwall and Torquay, and even after the three home slips, they were back in the groove at Sheffield Wednesday. Ray Hiron put them ahead before Wednesday snatched the points in the closing stages.

The encouraging away form shows that Pompey have adapted quickly to several changes in personnel, compared with last

TALKING ABOUT



PORTSMOUTH

season when they finished only four points above relegated Charlton Athletic.

Among the departures from Fratton Park were full-back Tommy Youlden (Reading), defender Colin Blant (Rochdale) and forward Mike Trebilcock (Torquay). John Milkins, the goalkeeping regular last term, was temporarily pushed into the back-ground by Graham Horn, who played in Arsenal's F.A. Youth Cup side last season.

The defence was further strengthened by the £32,000 purchase of former England Under-23 centre-half Alan Stephenson from West Ham United. The attack also paraded two signings—Brian Lewis, snapped up from Colchester United at the back end of last season, and Welsh Under-23 international Peter Price, who was rated at £27,000 after scoring 28 goals for Peterborough United.

Price, unfortunately, was bothered by a back strain in the pre-season matches and, although he made his debut in the first League game against Forest, he was kept out of action for a time. Lewis, although scoring several valuable goals, also suffered briefly from hamstring trouble and popular left-winger Mick Jennings was laid down by a back injury.

However, Pompey are better equipped nowadays to conquer injury worries. Manager Tindall feels that the professional pool is stronger in depth than in recent seasons and knows that fierce competition for places will back up his constant demand for 100 per cent effort.

Portsmouth are prepared to spend more cash in their efforts to regain the First Division place they lost as long ago as 1959. The road back to the top has been littered with obstacles—not least the decline in support. Maybe this is a natural reaction to the departure of the time when Portsmouth were a major First Division power just after the last War, but it is also connected with the changing face of the City.

Portsmouth's decline as a Naval base has removed a large corner of the club's spectator potential. Whether a promotion team could bring the crowds flocking back to Fratton Park in huge numbers is an imponderable, but the Portsmouth Board deserve full credit for backing Ron Tindall's team-building plans.

Back row: R. Pointer, A. Stephenson, E. Hand, D. Munks, B. Wilson. Centre row: G. Ley (now Brighton), R. Hiron, J. Milkins, G. Horn, R. Reynolds, F. Smith. Front row: P. Price, J. Collins, N. Piper, A. McCann, N. Jennings and B. Lewis.

PORTSMOUTH HISTORY . . .

Founded: 1898. Elected to League Division Three: 1920. Ground: Fratton Park, Frogmore Road, Portsmouth PO4 8RA. Record Attendance: 51,385 against Derby County (F.A. Cup), February, 1949. Division One Champions: 1948-49, 1949-50. Division Two Runners-up: 1926-27. Division Three (South) Champions: 1923-24. Division Three Champions: 1961-62. F.A. Cup Winners: 1939. Finalists: 1929, 1934.

after the match why not visit

CÉSARS

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PORTSMOUTH'S EIGHT YEAR RECORD . . .

| Season | Div | Posn | W | P | Season | Div | Posn | W | P |
|---------|-----|------|----|----|---------|-----|------|----|----|
| 1971-72 | 2 | 16th | 12 | 37 | 1967-68 | 2 | 5th | 18 | 49 |
| 1970-71 | 2 | 16th | 10 | 34 | 1966-67 | 2 | 14th | 13 | 39 |
| 1969-70 | 2 | 17th | 13 | 35 | 1965-66 | 2 | 12th | 16 | 40 |
| 1968-69 | 2 | 15th | 12 | 38 | 1964-65 | 2 | 20th | 12 | 34 |

LUTON v PORTSMOUTH—Past League results:

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P | Best win: |
|-------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|---------------------|
| Home | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 13 | 20 | 4-1 (home) 1923-24. |
| Away | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 23 | 10 | Worst defeat: |
| Total | 24 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 37 | 36 | 30 | 5-0 (away) 1957-58. |

MANAGER CAPTAIN

Seven years ago, Ron Tindal wondered where his future lay. "I was on the scrap-heap at Reading," he remembers—and then Portsmouth suddenly gave me a new lease of life."

"I cannot speak too highly of George Smith, the manager, or the club," he says. Equally, of course, Pompey have been delighted with their 1965 signing from Reading. He was engaged as player-coach—with the emphasis on coaching—but, in fact, became a regular member of the defence and played over 150 games.

As a fully-qualified F.A. coach, Ron always wanted a career in management and he received great help from George Smith. When Ron was appointed Pompey's manager two seasons ago, with Mr Smith becoming general manager, the 'pupil' said of his 'tutor': "For three years he has groomed me for this job. I can't thank him enough."

Ron admits that he savours responsibility. He says: "The more power you have, the more you want. When I was coach, I wanted to be the boss."

Born in Streatham, London, Ron Tindall set out on a dual sporting career in the 1950's, signing on for Chelsea—he was a goal-scorer in those days—and playing as an all-rounder for Surrey County Cricket Club.

After making his debut for Chelsea in 1955-56—they were League Champions at the time—Ron piled up 155 appearances and scored 67 goals. He then had a brief spell at West Ham United and moved on to Reading before Portsmouth revitalised his League career.

All the time, he continued to work hard at his coaching and played county cricket. He was one of the last players to fully combine the two sports and did not retire from Surrey until 1966. As a batsman,



Pompey skipper EOIN HAND (left) and Welsh defender JOHN COLLINS.

he scored over 5,000 runs, with two centuries, and, as an off-break bowler, he secured more than 150 wickets.

But then football—and Portsmouth, in particular—took all his time and he was a manager before reaching his 35th birthday.

Eoin Hand's rise to captaincy of Portsmouth is a complimentary reflection on the judgment of former Fratton Park manager George Smith.

Almost four years ago, Mr Smith flew across to the Republic of Ireland to see for himself a young Drumcondra defender who had been the subject of many promising reports from Irish observers. He watched Eoin Hand for 90 minutes—and immediately agreed terms of £7,500 to bring the strapping six-footer to Portsmouth.

But this was not Hand's first experience of soccer in England. As a teenager, he was with Swindon Town, but returned to Ireland and later confessed that he had no hankering to get back to England.

"I had a good job in Ireland," he says. "I was happy and never really thought about another chance in the Football League. Then things suddenly started happening. Torquay watched me play and Portsmouth turned up the following week."

Within three weeks of joining Pompey, he was playing in the Second Division—"and I could hardly believe it!" Eoin (pronounce it as 'Owen') soon impressed Pompey as a rugged defender and, during over 150 games for the club, he has become a good all-round defender.

Eoin played for three Irish clubs after his short spell at Swindon. He first signed for Dundalk and then had four seasons with Shelbourne. His next move took him to Drumcondra, where he played so well that the League of Ireland selectors picked him for a game against the Scottish League in September, 1968.

The former Eire Youth international made his way to a full cap as substitute against Czechoslovakia in May, 1969, and this was followed by several more international honours. After being a Pompey ever-present in 1969-70, he was troubled by injuries the following year, but re-established last season and was appointed club captain. He missed only two League games.

POINTS ON PLAYERS

JOHN MILKINS, *Goalkeeper*

Born Dagenham, Essex. John joined Portsmouth straight from school. A Youth international, he made his debut in 1960 and has been a regular for the last eight years. A partner in a Sports business, John is married with two children, and somehow finds time to enjoy golf and cricket. Has just had a well-earned Testimonial.

GRAHAM HORN, *Goalkeeper*

Born in London. Graham joined Pompey from Arsenal for one year. A huge lad, Graham is still only 18, and a Youth international. His obvious ambition is to make the top with the Gunners, but meanwhile, has sampled League football at Fratton Park.

FRED SMITH, *Full-back*

Fred joined Portsmouth from Burnley in 1970 after a long stint in the first-team. Sharp and tenacious for his size, Fred enjoys his game, and gives his best at all times. Married with two children, Fred enjoys relaxing and sun-bathing.

JOHN COLLINS, *Full-back*

Born Rhymney, Wales. John joined Tottenham from school and was always on the verge of the first-team. Has three Welsh Under-23 caps, and has performed consistently well for Pompey. John also enjoys cricket.

NORMAN PIPER, *Midfield*

An England Under-23 international, he joined Pompey from Plymouth for a record fee in the summer of 1970. An excellent footballer, Norman is married and likes the cinema and television. Would like to make the First Division with Portsmouth.

ALAN STEPHENSON, *Centre-half*

One of Pompey's latest recruits, Alan was signed from West Ham, who bought him from Crystal Palace. A very experienced player, he is obviously a great asset in defence. Has just moved to Hayling Island, and loves to do his own decorating, repairs, etc. Drives a Humber Sceptre, and is married with a small child.

PETER PRICE, *Forward*

A Welsh Under-23 international, Peter arrived from Peterborough in the close season for a substantial fee. A prolific goalscorer for Peterborough. Peter is married and enjoys the game of golf.

ALBERT McCANN, *Midfield*

Second only to John Milkins in length of



NORMAN PIPER

service. 'Albie' has been a good servant to Portsmouth. Joined them in 1962 after spells with Luton Town and Coventry City. Always reliable, he is married with three children and lives at Havant. Is a great sun-worshipper and spends his spare time on the beach. Albert takes his ten-year Testimonial this year.

DAVID MUNKS, *Defender*

A former Youth international, David gained all his experience with Sheffield United, as a wing-half. Joined Portsmouth for £19,000 in 1969 and has been a fairly regular performer. Now plays in the back four. Is a fan of pop music and has a staunch record collection. Single, David

drives a Ford Cortina and likes the cinema.

BILLY WILSON, *Midfield*

A former full-back, Billy was converted to mid-field, where he has done a very good job. Bought from Blackburn Rovers for £15,000 in January, 1972, Billy loves his football. Tenacious and sharp, he is enjoying his first full season with Pompey. Born in Seaton Delaval, he is married and lives in Waterlooville.

RAY HIRON, *Forward*

The only local boy in the side. Joined Pompey from Fareham Town in 1964. Practically an ever-present, he has scored regularly. Very skilful for a big lad. He is married with two children, Ray is a very good cricketer and golfer. Drives a Triumph 1300, and lives in Fareham.

NICKY JENNINGS, *Forward*

Nicky joined Pompey from Plymouth in January, 1967, for a £25,000 fee. Has been a regular, but was dogged with injuries last season and hopes for better luck this season. Born in Wellington, Somerset, Nicky likes all ball sports and takes part in them regularly. Known as 'Topper' to his team-mates, he is married and has a little girl, Nicole.

RICHARD REYNOLDS, *Forward*

A former England Youth international, Richard joined Portsmouth on a free transfer from Plymouth in 1971. Had previously been on loan to Yeovil. He won his place early on, and gave consistently good performances. Was voted Portsmouth Player of the Year, and ended the season with 11 goals. Married.

BRIAN LEWIS, *Forward*

Now in his second spell with Pompey, Brian rejoined them from Colchester United at the end of last season. He can play anywhere but got goals regularly for Colchester. Brian is a very good cricketer with both bat and ball. Born Woking and started his career with Crystal Palace, later serving Coventry City, Luton Town and Oxford United.

RAY POINTER, *Forward*

A highly respected player, Ray a former international now in his fifth season with Pompey. A prolific goalscorer, Ray started his career with Burnley, where he made a big name. Has just been made youth-team coach, and looks forward to a long association with Pompey. After leaving Burnley, Ray had brief spells with Bury and Coventry City.

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READ THE POST

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MAN ABOUT TOWN



JOHN RYAN

When Harry Haslam broke the news to John Ryan on the Turkey tour that the Kent-born full back was the man chosen to lead Luton's new promotion campaign, it sealed a bond of respect between player and manager which has built up for the last ten years.

Similar to a good percentage of the present-day Luton squad, John had his first opportunities in football through the wisdom and guidance of the current Kenilworth Road boss, that was when both personalities were making Tonbridge tick in the Southern League in the early '60's.

Harry Haslam has now acknowledged John's dedication, which has enabled this fierce-tackling defender to throw off disappointments with Arsenal and Fulham.

We asked John just what being captain of a successful League side now meant to him. "Well, I feel it's the big reward of roughly ten seasons' hard work, a tough trail at times but one which has led me to an ambition I always had.

"Mind you, the personal promotion has also very quickly brought it's pressures. I may not show it, but I feel the responsibility for the full 90 minutes and if, at the end of the match the team has taken a reverse or dropped a point, I'm punch drunk with worry.

"I have had to look at life a little differently this season and it's a big strain to play well enough all the time to be in the position to encourage the rest of the side. It has changed my attitudes both on and off the field.

"I have forced myself to be a better disciplined player and control the impulse to get involved, something which used to lead me into mischief in the past. I no longer want that.

Luton's new leader also takes a cooler approach off the field. This owner of a real pedigree sports car finds time on his weekend trips back home to Maidstone to reflect on the day's events instead of helping Dunlops to higher profits.

The former 25-goal striker for Fulham, before the arrival of Rodney Marsh, finds his goals hard to come by these days. "My place is in the back four", the springboard men as John labels them, whose task it is to process first—not last—moves.

"It looks as if my target days have dried up. I got three last year. But that only made it seven over the past three seasons. Still, it won't bother me as long as the lads up front continue to do their job. We have made a good start, virtually comparable to the 1970-71 campaign when we could have had a couple more points—but there is more thought and creation behind the work and ideas of the present team.

"There is a great deal of flair in the heart of this squad, with players confident and capable of beating an individual with the ball. No one works harder than Viv Busby. He really runs his legs off up front—but I don't think many people give him enough credit for it".

MAN ABOUT TOWN

ERIC PUGH

Mr L. S. Hawkins, the Vice-Chairman of Luton Town F.C., writes: It is with regret that we learned on Tuesday of last week of the unfortunate passing of Mr Eric Pugh. Eric was linked with the club since he came to Luton in 1935 and I am particularly pleased to have been associated with him since that date.

I was privileged to travel with the team in Eric's company. Throughout our association there was always the most friendly spirit and his writings were

acknowledged throughout the country. Eric accompanied the team not only all over England, but also on a number of foreign tours, being respected by players and officials alike.

His passing will be mourned by many people, and he will long live in our memories as a forthright and fair-minded critic.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to his widow, Pat, who shared his interests, and the Board have been gracious to accede to her wishes that his ashes be scattered on the ground where he spent so many happy and memorable days.



STATISTICS...

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

| HOME | | | | | AWAY | | | | | TEAMS | HOME GAMES | | LEADING SCORERS | | |
|------|---|---|---|----|------|---|---|---|----|-------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| P | W | D | L | F | P | W | D | L | F | | A | Pts | | Best | Average |
| 13 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 19 | BURNLEY | 14,804 | 12,422 | James 8, Thomas 4 |
| 14 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 17 | SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY | 30,197 | 21,889 | Joicey 8, Prendergast 4, Sunley 4 |
| 12 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 16 | QUEENS PARK RANGERS | 12,528 | 11,771 | Givens 7, Bowles 4, Leach 4, Francis 4 |
| 12 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 16 | ASTON VILLA | 34,843 | 31,567 | Rioch 6, Evans 4, Lochhead 3 |
| 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 16 | LUTON TOWN | 12,197 | 11,071 | Halom 7, Aston 6 |
| 13 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 14 | OXFORD UNITED | 11,330 | 9,082 | Curran 7, Cassidy 5, Clarke, D. 5 |
| 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 14 | BLACKPOOL | 14,797 | 12,008 | Suddick 5, Ainscow 4, Burns 4 |
| 13 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 14 | PRESTON NORTH END | 17,371 | 12,002 | Wilson 4, Tarbuck 4, Young 3 |
| 13 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 14 | MIDDLESBROUGH | 24,145 | 12,512 | Mills 4, Smith 3 |
| 13 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 13 | HULL CITY | 11,189 | 9,116 | Pearson 8, Holme 7 |
| 13 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 13 | BRISTOL CITY | 15,648 | 13,447 | Gow 5, Spiring 5, Galley 3 |
| 13 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 13 | NOTTINGHAM FOREST | 18,082 | 10,478 | O'Neill 3 |
| 12 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 12 | FULHAM | 17,576 | 10,208 | Earle 5, Mullery 3, Mitchell 3 |
| 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 12 | SUNDERLAND | 16,960 | 13,768 | Lathan 6, Tueart 4 |
| 13 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 12 | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | 12,840 | 9,258 | Gowling 5, Smith D. 4 |
| 14 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 10 | SWINDON TOWN | 15,304 | 11,002 | Rogers 7, Peplow 4, Treacy 3 |
| 12 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 | PORTSMOUTH | 16,419 | 11,661 | Reynolds 4, Lewis 3, Piper 3 |
| 13 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 10 | BRIGHTON & HOVE A. | 17,404 | 15,924 | Irvine 6, Murray 4 |
| 12 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 9 | CARLISLE UNITED | 10,969 | 7,630 | Owen 6, Laidlaw 4, Balderstone 3 |
| 13 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 9 | MILLWALL | 13,207 | 11,130 | Wood 6, Bolland 3, Cripps 3 |
| 13 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | ORIENT | 9,492 | 6,293 | Downing 3 |
| 13 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 8 | CARDIFF CITY | 16,364 | 12,656 | Bell 5 |

Up to and including Saturday 14th October 1972

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 | 2 1 | 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 | 12,073 | 2 2 | | | | | | |
| 14 | Sunderland | 13,394 | 2 0 | | | | | | |
| 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:
LUTON TOWN v BURNLEY
GROUND:
KENILWORTH ROAD, LUTON
DATE: SAT 30th SEPTEMBER
ATTENDANCE: 12,197
COMPETITION:
FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION 2
TEAMS:
Luton: Carrick; John Ryan, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Slough; Jimmy Ryan, Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston. Sub Hindson.
Burnley: Stevenson; Docherty, Newton; Dobson, Waldron, Thomson, Thomas, Casper, Fletcher, Collins, James. Sub: Nulty.

SCORERS:
Luton: Aston (penalty 16 minutes) Halom (53 minutes). Burnley: James (3 minutes and 89 minutes).
RESULT:
Luton Town 2, Burnley 2
PAPER TALK:
Roger Duckworth *Evening Post*: "Luton's biggest home crowd of the season was treated to a cracking match from two sides that went out to entertain. Both outfits played some great, open football... there was some beautiful football from Busby, who does not always get the credit he deserves for the part he plays in some of the better moves." Roy Bentley *The Sun*: "Burnley's Leighton James will always remember the 70th minute booking he received in this Match of the Day thriller... with affection. For, after the booking, he mesmerised Luton and finally became the hero with a glorious drive from the edge of the box for the equaliser."

MATCH:
LUTON TOWN v BLACKPOOL
GROUND:
KENILWORTH ROAD, LUTON
DATE: SAT 7th OCTOBER 1972
ATTENDANCE: 12,073
COMPETITION:
FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION 2
TEAMS:
Luton: Barber; John Ryan, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Slough; Jimmy Ryan, Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston. Sub. Hindson.
Blackpool: Burridge; Hatton, Bentley; James, Suddaby, Barton; Hutchison, Suddick, Parker, Ainscow, Burns. Sub. Fuschillo.

SCORERS:
Luton Slough (3 minutes) Aston (40 minutes). Blackpool: Hutchison (16 min) Ainscow (21 min).
RESULT:
Luton Town 2, Blackpool 2
PAPER TALK:
Bill Edwards *Sunday People*: Football as an entertainment rather than a stalemate. That was the dish served up by Luton and Blackpool, and it was fitting that a miraculous one-handed save by John Burridge in the last minute should enable Blackpool to draw... It was such a fabulous effort that Busby—who made the header that looked a winner all the way—shook off his own disappointment to give the 19 year-old Burridge a special pat on the back." Roger Duckworth *Evening Post*: "We see life at Luton. Luton have become masters at hurried stop-gap tactics, which both Slough and Thomson showed to good effect."

(Opening end of February 1973)



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TOWN IN ACTION

A superb game—that was the general opinion of the rousing 2-2 draw with Blackpool, in which Luton took the lead in three minutes, with Alan Slough's first goal of the season, and then found themselves 2-1 down before Aston got the second.

Our pictures show pressure in the Blackpool goalmouth. Left: It looks as if Blackpool 'keeper John Burridge is aiming an 'Enery's Hammer at Vic Halom... but he was only going for the ball and Vic's face escaped damage. Above: Rodney Fern moves in between the defence to try for goal.

Right: Halom on the prowl again as three Blackpool defenders come back to assess the danger.

Pictures: Evening Post



MEMORY MAN

Twenty years ago, when Luton were pushing for promotion to the First Division, they were lucky to have a pure craftsman, Charlie Watkins, pulling the strings for the striking talents of Jessie Pye and Gordon Turner.

When the battle was won in 1955, it also signalled the completion of Charlie Watkins' British soccer career. The former "Blue Devil" of Glasgow Rangers stock, said farewell to football in this country for another five years as a player-coach in Africa.

Charlie, whose soft Scottish tones inspire thoughts of those great days when the stars North o' the Border used to wound the pride of England, is now in practice in Mill Street, Luton, as a qualified physiotherapist and chiropractist. He loves to talk of his dream days when a local boy made good and went up the street to play for none other than "Rangers".

Watkins must be a name well known in Scottish football because Charlie was the son of Fred Watkins, a left back with Queen of the South, who lost a family argument when his son decided to fashion his future with Rangers—but I'm sure he was more proud than disappointed.

Yet the giants of Ibrox Park were only one of many in the queue for this brilliant ball-playing amateur who graduated through Paisley Y.M.C.A. and representative games for West of Scotland Amateurs.

He recalls: "I was a marine engineer when the War started and I was only playing football as a hobby—I certainly had no ideas about making it a profession. But the clubs kept asking me to go for trials. I had them with Celtic, Partick Thistle and Third Lanark. But Rangers invited me when I was with a local side, St. Antonys, and when manager Wally Struth asked me to join them, I still reckoned myself as an engineer first, and footballer second."

It got serious for Charlie in 1941 when, being available full time because of his trade in civvy street, he became a part-time professional. So the boy who took great delight at watching one of Scotland's top clubs in action before the War, actually joined the players' ranks, rubbing shoulders with such famous names as Willie Waddell—current manager—Willie Woodburn and a host of others.



CHARLIE WATKINS

Charlie Watkins was a personification of the true, traditional Scottish player. "I was never a goal-scorer in the true sense of the word, although I played many games at inside forward in both countries. I preferred wing-half and it was in this position that I played before 130,000 at Ibrox Park against Moscow Dynamo in a match which virtually celebrated the end of the War".

Not before or since has Charlie seen the ground just a seething mass of people. They were up poles, on sheds and just about everywhere. I think no one could possibly forget that day, because the Russians went two goals in front before Rangers threw everything at them.

"I know I never will. For a start one of our lads took our breath away in the first half when he said the opposition had 12 players. He was right. The sub was on and so was the player he was replacing.

"My last memory of that game was seeing my hopeful long range shot

cannon off the crossbar in the last couple of minutes—a goal missed, but a memory for life."

Charlie's term with Glasgow Rangers stretched from 1941 to 1948. "I reached a point where I was off-form and though I didn't mind a spell of reserve football, I wasn't always guaranteed of that because there was a huge staff at Ibrox and only two teams."

After discussions with manager Struth, Charlie Watkins emphasised his insistence on a regular game to such an extent that Rangers were forced to part and he decided to make Kenilworth Road his first and last English League club.

"Billy Arnison had left Rangers a few seasons earlier for Luton and I signed for £4,500 for Dally Duncan after what he had told me. It was the first time I had sampled English soccer—and I knew there was a difference straight away.

"It was more serious and better organised. I had been with Scottish football through the War and as a part-timer. They only trained twice a week, but it was double that at Kenilworth Road".

Watkins won his English "spurs" against West Bromwich at inside left—his wing partner Billy Warr, now secretary of the recreation department at Electrolux—the same day his old Celtic, friend Tommy Kierman was also introduced by Luton. "I forget the result, now, but I know I felt really good and my stay at Luton was a really happy one."

The "epic" of Charlie's time with Luton was the spellbinder in the 1948-49 Fifth Round cup clash against the eventual Finalists, Leicester City. The first game produced a goal fiesta when both sides scored five goals. The replay also found the net bulging eight times—but only three of them came Luton's way.

Charlie signed off in 1955, the year Luton realised their First Division dream. "The game was against Bristol Rovers and we won 2-0." As we have said, Charlie was never a £100,000 striker. But judgment on his goal ability was reserved for that very last day, however, and the boot of providence blasted both promotion goals from the feet of . . . Charlie Watkins.

Interviewed by Norton Jones

TOWN TALK

L.P. PRIZES

Pickwick International of Leighton Buzzard, the suppliers of match-day music at Kenilworth Road, have kindly donated six L.P.'s to be won by Hatters supporters at each home game.

We feel sure you would like us to pass on your thanks for this wonderful gesture—and that many fans will want to enter the regular competition for top discs. A competition will be run in which you should attempt to forecast the next home attendance—in this case, for the Hull match at the weekend.

All entries must reach Mike Skinner, Luton Town Promotions, 231 Dunstable Road, by mid-day on Saturday, 21st October. The successful names and addresses will then be published in the programme against Swindon Town.

£1 a POINT

Luton Town hope to be among the Championship contenders this season—and supporter Tony Archer is prepared to pay if we fail. Mr Archer, of 38 Grampian Way, Sundon Park, has offered £1 for every point dividing us from the eventual Champions. The cash—if we're not Champs, will go to a local charity. Thanks, Mr Archer, for a generous offer, although we'd prefer you NOT to have to write out a cheque.

POSTBAG

From Alan Barnard, of Barnard & Co, 325 Hitchin Road, Luton, writes: "I, too, am in agreement with Mr P. J. Rollings, who asked for the re-instatement of travel directions to the next away game. Also, being a traditionalist, I would prefer the Town to remain with their Black and White strip.

"I appreciate the attacking and goal-getting football which Harry Haslam's team are producing this season, but am dismayed that more so-called fans are not sharing this first-class entertainment. I cannot understand why it needs a good Cup draw to attract the type of support which the team now deserves.

"Furthermore, I cannot understand why a proposal has been made in the local Press for the Council to have a controlling interest in the club. Surely, this would not be in the best interests of supporters, players or management"

EDITOR: Road route directions for future away games will be re-started in Saturday's programme.

MASCOT

Today's Mascot is Andrew Johnson, aged nine, from Luton.



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TEAMS

LUTON TOWN

White Shirts, Black Shorts

- 1 KEITH BARBER
- 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

PORTSMOUTH

Blue Shirts, Blue Shorts

- 1 JOHN MILKINS
- 2 FRED SMITH
- 3 BILLY WILSON
- 4 EOIN HAND
- 5 ALAN STEPHENSON
- 6 DAVID MUNKS
- 7 NORMAN PIPER
- 8 RICHARD REYNOLDS
- 9 RAY HIRON
- 10 ALBERT McCANN
- 11 BRIAN LEWIS
- 12

| GOALSCORERS | | | |
|-------------|--|------------|--|
| LUTON TOWN | | PORTSMOUTH | |
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| | | | |
| HALF TIME | | HALF TIME | |
| FULL TIME | | FULL TIME | |

Referee:

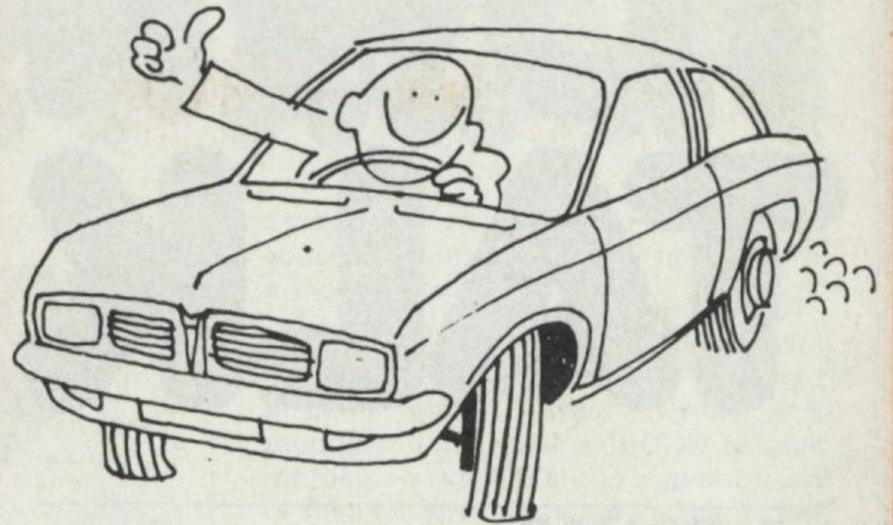
B. H. DANIELS, Brentwood, Essex

Linesmen:

P. J. DREW, Upminster, Essex *Red Flag*

K. G. SALMON, Cockfosters, *Orange Flag*

Ball Donors: Messrs. R. Skidmore and P. Lucas.



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