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HARRY HASLAM



The very fact that Luton are leading the whole four Divisions as the club with the most number of wins away from home—last Saturday's win against Bristol City registered number five—is forcing me to examine our record at Kenilworth Road with some consternation.

It never has been, nor ever will be, easier to pick up points on the opposition's ground for widely appreciated and traditional reasons. Any side, however, which can come to terms with the demands when they travel should be able to approach home games in a slightly more relaxed and composed frame of mind. Confident they have the ability to 'take' the opposition to the satisfaction of their manager and fans.

The success achieved on visiting grounds suggests that Luton could well be fearsome conquerors when playing hosts. But, for some unaccountable reason, so far, our home performances are not producing the results which are normally expected for a side with such a sound away record. Various theories may be advanced, some logic, some illogical. It's a problem which has only become a matter for serious discussion because of our current spot in the table which makes us realise where Luton Town might well be if just a couple of the home matches had made sweeter music.

We cannot afford to waste such a magnificent points bonus away from home and in searching for the answer to bring out Kenilworth Road displays up to a comparable level, I have begun today a new schedule for the team which I intend to continue for as long as I think it may be of benefit.

We are in the crazy position, for the want of a better word, of having won more points away than we have in front of our own fans. Of the 19 in our possession, ten of these have been taken on our travels, and it's the travelling aspect of these fixtures which has led me to believing that it would not be a bad idea in principle to give the players more time together before they play at Kenilworth Road.

Normally when there is a journey in prospect the team party assemblies around 9-00 am, and rarely later than 10-00 am. And so we are all encased in one group where the team can talk and chat their way into the correct attitude for the game. It's no guaranteed way to get points at home—

but are there any? I feel it is an important aspect of a team's build-up to a match, a state of mind which helps them get through their 90 minutes in a pressure cooker.

Starting today, I have called the team together for 11-00 am this morning, four hours before the kick-off when we shall have a light lunch and plenty of time to talk around any issues involving the game or the players.

This way I think the team will avoid the threat of tension which I reckon has been playing a big part in bringing a shade of inconsistency at home. The team had used to report at 2-00 pm an hour in which we chat, the team change, fitness tests are taken, pre-match briefings and tactics are explained, all helping to create an atmosphere which makes the players feel good—but perhaps sometimes too good.

The only specific instructions I give whenever they play is that they are good enough to win and I believe that if they grasp this belief strongly enough, they are in tune and have an attitude which can prove the backbone to success.

Some of the disappointments could stem from the fact that they have tried too hard to live up to the standard of a side capable of winning regularly away.

Swindon, whom we welcome today, will seem a strange side to many supporters without the familiar figure of Don Rogers. He was an extremely talented player to be in Second Division football, as his transfer fee paid by Crystal Palace only too clearly underlined. But earlier this season we went to Swindon and faced the Rogers 'threat' and came away with both points.

We shall be confident of doing the same again today. But not because Don Rogers is absent. We always think about what we hope to achieve, not what they are likely to do. And, in any case, if the success of Queen's Park Rangers after the transfer of Rodney Marsh is a reliable guide, then Swindon Town could be a more difficult side to beat today than they were in September.

Two statistical points to end on. We have five away wins in the bag and at the end of the season I hope we are close to Tottenham's record 16. The average points figure for a promotion side at the end of a season is just over 55. Luton had netted 17 from a third of this term's matches, firm foundations which I think are there to be built on.

GRAHAM FRENCH

There's forty odd shopping days to Christmas. But the High Street is the last place one is likely to see Graham French between now and then because it's the aim of the former England Youth international winger to be back in the Luton senior side by that time—and that's the only present Graham is looking forward to getting.

Three years away from the glamour and excitement of League soccer has only served to sharpen the ambition and determination of a class, touch-line trickster whose skill has tormented many noble defensive names in the past.

But there is now the small matter of reaching the super-fit standard without which no successful professional can survive. "Hindsight suggests that I tried to do too much too quickly when I came back to Kenilworth Road about six weeks ago," he says. "I had an illness setback which pulled me right down and it's only recently that I have been able to get back to Kenilworth Road for an hour-a-day training on my own."

Graham's target is to be groomed and geared for first-team selection by Christmas—and there is no

easy route to that objective as Graham appreciates only too well. "I'm determined to make the breakthrough and I know it's going to be difficult. But it's a big opportunity for me and I should be a fool not to give it all I've got."

We have a feeling a kind fellow by the name of Roy McCrohan will be doing his best to direct Graham through a strict training schedule which this winger now faces before he can put himself to the real test again.

All the fans who witnessed a particular scoring feat fashion by Graham French, a few seasons ago will trust that the New Year will add the French firepower to Luton's goals-for-promotion policy. It was claimed as a 'world record' when Graham scored against Mansfield—after picking the ball up inside his OWN penalty area, embarking on a mazy 80-90 yards dribble past anyone who challenged him before waltzing round stunned goalkeeper to walk the ball into the net.

"I remember that day, that the further I went with the ball, the more confident I was that I could beat whatever came up in front of me. Perhaps I'll never do it again. But it was no freak-goal because I had the Mansfield target within my sights when I

crossed the half-way line."

It was such fluid control and the ability to create from tight situations which earmarked Graham French for a top-flight career when Huddersfield manager Eddie Boot took a tender 15-year-old on the books at Leeds Road.

But it was the following year which brought the rocket-paced elevation from Staffordshire Schools team to the League side with Shrewsbury. Manager Arthur Rowley's gamble with a 16-year-old unknown led to a string of England Youth international caps for young French.

The Wolverhampton-born winger established himself in the representative side which went right through the 1962-63 Little World Cup to beat Ireland in the final 4-0. Among the 22 that day were such celebrated names as Tommy Smith, Sissons, Shaw, Jennings, Badger, Todd, a hot-bed of talent from which Graham French has emerged as a player of quality after spells with Swindon, Watford and Wellington. He is now prepared to put together a serious last phase of a League career to lift Luton back into the First Division.

Picture: Graham signs on again for Luton, watched by Harry Haslam and Bob Readhead.



Disappointing playing results and heavy financial pressures forced Swindon Town to announce, with great reluctance, that they had to sell one or two star players in order to find money for team strengthening.

This culminated in the £150,000 transfer of former England Youth and Under-23 winger Don Rogers to Crystal Palace after last Saturday's 2-2 home draw against Brighton.

Manager Dave Mackay made immediate steps to replace Rogers, spending a third of the fee to buy Southampton left-winger Tom Jenkins early this week and announced that he hopes to sign two more players in the near future.

In explaining the club's decision to sell some of their major playing assets, they issued a statement which said:

"The financial position of the company has long been a source of worry to the Directors. This, together with lack of success on the playing field, which has resulted in falling gates, has meant that the Board has had to find ways and means of trying to rectify the position.

"It was necessary to consider how to raise cash to purchase new players in an effort to arrest the club's football decline.

"A solution to our problems appeared to be Swindon Corporation's generous offer to make available a sum of £100,000 for general development, thereby releasing club funds for the purchase of playing staff.

"While some portion of this sum has now been received, the club, reluctantly, could not see its way clear to taking the whole sum. Present gates and existing commitments would not justify further financial involvement at this time.

"The money received has enabled the Board to stabilise its immediate financial position, but left nothing for the purchase of new players.

"The only answer to this problem seemed to be the sale of a player or players and the Board, in consultation with the team manager, and considering the lack of support, decided that it had no alternative but to adopt this means to obtain cash with which to purchase new players."

It was reported at the time that Swindon's books were showing a deficit of well over £1,000 a week. The Chairman, Mr Eric Lane, commented: "Undoubtedly, the future of this club must be linked to a strong youth policy, which, in the past, has produced such players as Ernie Hunt, Mike Summerbee, Rod Thomas, Don Rogers, Bobby Woodruff and John Trollope."

TALKING ABOUT SWINDON



Unfortunately, they lasted only two seasons in the Second Division, and took four years to return as runners-up to Watford in 1968-69. That was when the promoted pair pipped The Hatters by only three points . . . and, of course, the same season saw Swindon create a sensation by beating Arsenal 3-1 to win the Football League Cup at Wembley.

Dave Mackay, the 1971 summer signing from Derby County, was given charge of the team while continuing as a player, but, this term, he is firmly installed on the manager's side of the business.

The advance of one or two younger players has been the most heartening feature of Swindon's struggle for consistency. Former West Bromwich Albion reserve Ron Potter has settled down well in Mr Mackay's old defensive spot, and ex-Liverpool youngster Steve Peplow has snapped up several useful goals. Ron Howell has also done well since being introduced to midfield duties.

Before the season began, Mr Mackay was optimistic that Swindon could make a show in the promotion stakes. He said the division was more open than ever before and there was an opportunity for his side if they could get off to a flying start.

This was not to be. An opening home draw against Q.P.R. was followed by unlucky away defeats by Sheffield Wednesday and Carlisle United and the resulting boost from successive home victories over Bristol City and Sheffield Wednesday was only temporary.

Swindon then went through their next eight League games without a win and picked up only three draws. This sequence included a 2-0 home defeat against Luton on 26th September.

The slide was eventually halted by a thrilling recovery to beat Preston North End 3-2 with an injury-time goal from Don Rogers. Then came successive 2-2 draws. So Swindon have now gone ten games without an away success.

Last Saturday, the boot was on the other foot, for Mackay's men were two down in quick time against Brighton, but came back to earn a 2-2 draw. The match was watched by Bert Head, the Crystal Palace manager, and, three hours later, he agreed the terms which ended Don Rogers' memorable association with Swindon.

Back: J. Trollope, P. Downsbrough, R. Smart. Centre: R. Potter, T. Hubbard, R. Thomas, F. Burrows, D. Anderson, (coach). Front: D. Rogers (now with Crystal Palace), S. Peplow, R. Bunkell, D. Mackay (manager), R. Treacy, J. Butler.

SWINDON TOWN HISTORY . . .

Founded: 1881. Elected to The Football League, Division Three: 1920. Ground: The County Ground, Swindon, Wiltshire. Record Attendance: 32,000 against Arsenal (F.A. Cup), January, 1972. Runners-up, Division Three: 1962-63 and 1968-69. Football League Cup Winners: 1969. Anglo-Italian Tournament, Winners: 1970.

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SWINDON'S EIGHT YEAR RECORD . . .

Season	Div	Posn	W	P	Season	Div	Posn	W	P
1971-72	2	11th	15	42	1967-68	3	10th	16	49
1970-71	2	12th	15	42	1966-67	3	8th	20	50
1969-70	2	5th	17	50	1965-66	3	7th	19	57
1968-69	3	2nd	27	64	1964-65	2	21st	14	33

LUTON v SWINDON (Past League Results) . . .

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Biggest Win:
Home	20	14	5	1	55	22	33	6-0 (home) 1931-32.
Away	21	2	8	11	21	45	12	Worst Defeat:
Total	41	16	13	12	76	67	45	9-1 (away) 1920-21.

MANAGER CAPTAIN

Nothing was more certain that Dave Mackay would follow his distinguished playing career by becoming a manager—though his elevation to that status possibly came quicker than he thought when joining Swindon Town from Derby County in 1971.

He was bought as a player, but half-way through last season, Swindon parted company with manager Fred Ford, and the great Scottish wing-half took charge for the rest of the campaign.

Now officially team manager, he has virtually abandoned all intentions of playing again and is treating his new job with the same conviction which highlighted his career with Hearts, Spurs and Derby.

When a man has won so many honours, it is inevitable that he will demand a fierce competitive attitude from the players he manages. Swindon have discovered that in the last year. Mackay made no bones about his opinions of the 1971-72 campaign. Even though Swindon were comfortably placed in mid-table, he said: "It was the worst season I can ever remember taking part in. The only time we had anything like the right atmosphere was when we heard that we had drawn Arsenal in the F.A. Cup. That didn't last long."

Mackay's plans for this season included extra fitness demands and total commitment to the idea of making Swindon a promotion-contending team. Things have not worked as he wanted, but anyone who expects Swindon to stay in the lower half of the table does not know Dave Mackay. He wants action and will keep demanding it until he is successful.

That is how he overcame two broken legs and came back to win his second F.A. Cup Final medal, placing it alongside the one which came in Tottenham's double-winning season. As an international, he won 22 full caps and, even when at the end of the road at White Hart Lane, he still had the urge to play on.



DAVE MACKAY



ROD THOMAS

Rod Thomas, Swindon's skipper since last season, has three current ambitions.

First, he wants today's game to be the start of a Swindon surge up the Second Division table. Next, he wants to win his 24th Welsh international cap a week on Wednesday in the vital World Cup qualifying match against England at Cardiff. And, thirdly, he would like to play in First Division soccer—preferably with Swindon.

Since the announcement that Swindon were to sell one or two star players, it was obvious that Thomas's name would create speculation in the newspapers. As it was Swindon sold £150,000 Don Rogers and, at the time of going to press, we were expecting the Welsh right-back to be on parade at Kenilworth Road today.

Rod deservedly holds a reputation as one of the best defenders in the four Home countries and, at the age of 25, he can look forward to many more international appearances. He is proud of the fact that he won his first cap while still a Third Division player and when still only 20-years-old.

He admits, however, that he detected a certain prejudice about his first full honour. "Some people said they must be scraping the barrel by picking a Third Division player," he recalls. "I suppose it is true that you have to be really outstanding to get anywhere internationally if you play in the lower divisions. But I can't see why this is the case."

Mind you, Thomas does not disguise the fact that he has First Division ambitions, even though the Welsh selectors have proved conclusively that Thomas is one of the first names on their team-sheet.

Rod was English-based before he became a professional footballer. Born in the Welsh village of Glynorwg, he moved with his family to Churchdown when he was 14 and later played for Gloucestershire Youth and the Southern League club, Gloucester City. He was signed for Swindon by former manager Bert Head.

POINTS ON PLAYERS

PETER DOWNSBOROUGH, Goal-keeper. Born Halifax. Signed in August, 1965, from Halifax Town, where he was a product of local football. A fearless, agile player who has done much to strengthen the Town's defence. Regular member of the promotion-winning side of 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969 and Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70.

JOE BUTLER, Defender. Born Newcastle. Joined Swindon in August 1965, from Newcastle United, where he had graduated to the senior ranks through the junior team. A tenacious player whose speed and ability amply make up for his lack of inches. Regular member of the promotion winning side of 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969 and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70.

ROGER SMART, Midfield. Born in Swindon. Another local player who joined the club direct from Swindon Schoolboys team. At 17, he was appearing regularly at centre-forward in the reserve team. A regular member of the promotion winning side of 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969 and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70.

FRANK BURROWS, Defender. Born Larkhill, Scotland. Joined Swindon from Scunthorpe United, for whom he played three seasons. Formerly with Raith Rovers. A strong defender who has made his mark as a regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969, and played in the



JOHN TROLLOPE, SWINDON

Anglo-Italian Competition winning side of 1969-70.

PETER NOBLE, Forward. Born Sunderland. Joined Swindon in January, 1968, from Newcastle United, for whom he played for four years. Prefers to play an attacking role. Regular member of the promotion winning side of 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969, and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70.

RON POTTER, Defender. Born Wolverhampton. Signed on a free transfer from West Bromwich Albion in November, 1970. Made only six League appearances in his

first two seasons at Swindon, now established as the regular number six.

STEPHEN PELOW, Forward. Born Liverpool. Played for Liverpool Schoolboys and joined Liverpool from school. Made three first-team appearances in 1969-70 for Liverpool and was a regular member of the team which won the Central League for two consecutive years. Scored five times in the pre-season friendly against Newport County this year.

PAUL PETERSON, Defender. Born Luton. Signed during the close season from Leeds United, whom he joined from school. Played three games for Leeds first-team and regularly for the Central League side.

RAY TREACY, Forward. Born Dublin. Joined Swindon from Charlton Athletic this summer for a reported £40,000. Prior to this, he was a member of the West Bromwich Albion squad. Ray has represented Eire at Schoolboy, Youth, Under-23 and full international levels.

RONALD HOWELL, Midfield. Born Tottenham. Joined Swindon from Kettering, his previous clubs being Tottenham, Millwall and Cambridge United. He was also a member of the London Boys team. Ron is a forceful attacking midfield player who has made his presence felt since joining the club this season.

TERRY HUBBARD, Forward. Born Newport. Former apprentice who signed professional in 1969. Has now established himself as a regular first-team player.

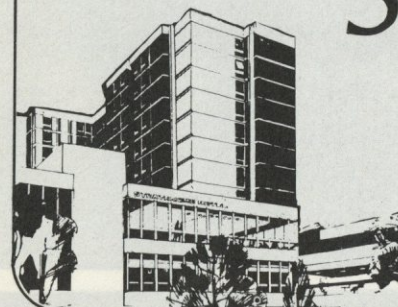
TOM JENKINS, Winger. Signed this week from Southampton as a £50,000 replacement for Don Rogers. In nearly three years on the Dell staff, the skilful Londoner played in nearly 100 first-team games, but lost his regular place this season. He cost Southampton £60,000 when signed from Reading in December 1969—a transfer which completed a remarkable rise from Southern League soccer with Margate.



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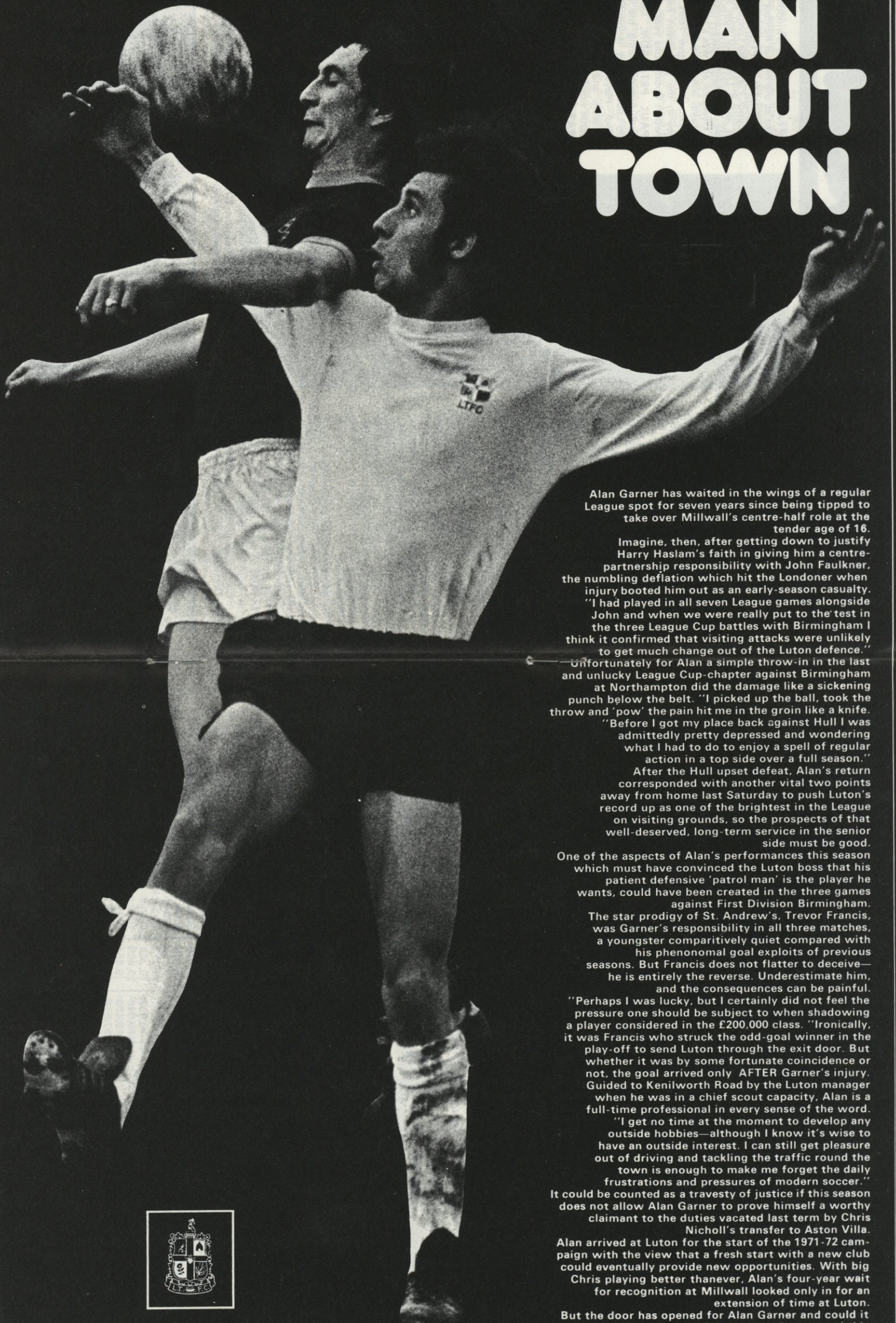
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MAN ABOUT TOWN



DEBUT-BOY ALAN GARNER TAKES ON PAUL FLETCHER

Alan Garner has waited in the wings of a regular League spot for seven years since being tipped to take over Millwall's centre-half role at the tender age of 16.

Imagine, then, after getting down to justify Harry Haslam's faith in giving him a centre-partnership responsibility with John Faulkner, the numbing deflation which hit the Londoner when injury booted him out as an early-season casualty. "I had played in all seven League games alongside John and when we were really put to the test in the three League Cup battles with Birmingham I think it confirmed that visiting attacks were unlikely to get much change out of the Luton defence." Unfortunately for Alan a simple throw-in in the last and unlucky League Cup chapter against Birmingham at Northampton did the damage like a sickening punch below the belt. "I picked up the ball, took the throw and 'pow' the pain hit me in the groin like a knife.

"Before I got my place back against Hull I was admittedly pretty depressed and wondering what I had to do to enjoy a spell of regular action in a top side over a full season."

After the Hull upset defeat, Alan's return corresponded with another vital two points away from home last Saturday to push Luton's record up as one of the brightest in the League on visiting grounds, so the prospects of that well-deserved, long-term service in the senior side must be good.

One of the aspects of Alan's performances this season which must have convinced the Luton boss that his patient defensive 'patrol man' is the player he wants, could have been created in the three games against First Division Birmingham.

The star prodigy of St. Andrew's, Trevor Francis, was Garner's responsibility in all three matches, a youngster comparatively quiet compared with his phenomenal goal exploits of previous seasons. But Francis does not flatter to deceive—he is entirely the reverse. Underestimate him, and the consequences can be painful.

"Perhaps I was lucky, but I certainly did not feel the pressure one should be subject to when shadowing a player considered in the £200,000 class. "Ironically, it was Francis who struck the odd-goal winner in the play-off to send Luton through the exit door. But whether it was by some fortunate coincidence or not, the goal arrived only AFTER Garner's injury. Guided to Kenilworth Road by the Luton manager when he was in a chief scout capacity, Alan is a full-time professional in every sense of the word.

"I get no time at the moment to develop any outside hobbies—although I know it's wise to have an outside interest. I can still get pleasure out of driving and tackling the traffic round the town is enough to make me forget the daily frustrations and pressures of modern soccer."

It could be counted as a travesty of justice if this season does not allow Alan Garner to prove himself a worthy claimant to the duties vacated last term by Chris Nicholl's transfer to Aston Villa.

Alan arrived at Luton for the start of the 1971-72 campaign with the view that a fresh start with a new club could eventually provide new opportunities. With big Chris playing better than ever, Alan's four-year wait for recognition at Millwall looked only in for an extension of time at Luton.

But the door has opened for Alan Garner and could it be that the sport is now fully prepared to reward this unassuming centre-back for refusing to accept defeat?

The result of the competition for the Hull City gate was: Mr A. D. Burley, 63 Hitchmead Road, Biggleswade, Mr J. D. Smith, 6 Church Lane, Wicken, Wolverton. Mr P. J. Marsh, 9 Athelstan Road, Hemel Hempstead. Mr I. J. White, 71 Tomlinson Avenue, Luton. Mr D. E. Bradshaw, 92 Sundown Avenue, Dunstable. Mr P. R. Garner, 40 Napier Street, Bletchley.

Watford, roundabout, leave by Rickmansworth Road, follow signs 'Slough A.412 Denham, turn left A.40, roundabout, take third road, continue A.412. "Crooked Billet" Public House. Roundabout, take second road, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on, turn right B.470. "William V" Public House, turn left A.4. M.4 motorway, follow signs "Reading M.4" Intersection 3. Windsor A.355, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on

Train to Aston Villa, 18th November
Watch for Local Press announcements.

†League and Cup games

Luton Town 1, Hull City 2

PAPER TALK:
David Park, *News of the World*: "Luton's disappointing home form, which has now taken them four games without a win, continues. They fell away badly in the face of a fighting Hull revival. They looked so sharp at the start that their manager, Harry Haslam, must have wondered why they let things slide." Pat Collins, *Sunday People*: "Luton must be kicking themselves over this result which checked their hopes of making headway at the top . . . both Hull's goals were the direct result of bad failings in defence and must have been the subject of discussion in the hour-long inquest that went on in Luton's dressing room."



TOWN IN ACTION



An away win can rarely be described as the "form" result—yet that was the case when we won at Bristol City last Saturday. City have not won at home this season and The Hatters now top the country after five away wins! John Faulkner scored the winner (that's him celebrating) and the defence played soundly throughout, as displayed in the top picture, where City's Danny Bartley's inspired attack is well covered.

Pictures: Evening Post

MEMORY MAN

Luton Town finished 8th in the First Division in 1957-58 and, encouraged by probably the most outstanding league campaign in his history of the club, manager Dally Duncan immediately began the search for the couple of key players who could piece together a Division One Championship side.

A lot less fortunate at the end of that same season was the North Eastern stately home of Sunderland, the Bank of England club during the early Fifties who failed to buy security and slipped out of the top Division along with Sheffield Wednesday.

Among the host of star names which the Roker Park relegation dragged into the Second Division was the Irish 'Imp' of a winger, Billy Bingham. This touchline dangerman was full of mischief for opposing defences and had the ability to create the openings for fellow marksmen.

Glad to get their hands back on some of their capital expenditure, Sunderland released Billy Bingham to Luton for a £15,000 fee, some £5,000 more than they had originally paid to Glentoran F.C., Belfast, when they hooked their 19-year-old discovery out of the Irish League.

Billy, of course, is now in a football capacity some 2,000 miles distant to English soccer, currently fulfilling the second year of his contract with the Greek Football Association as their National coach.

It's a long way from the time that Billy signed on at Sunderland in 1951 for the 'bumper' weekly payout of just £12. But seven years later his financial prospects and personal ambitions were considerably brighter when he made the immediate return to First Division soccer, swapping Roker Park for Kenilworth Road.

Manager Duncan considered that craft was all important on the wings and it was just what he wanted to make an all-out and concentrated attack on the championship for 1958-59. Such a plan fell sadly short of its target. But Billy Bingham was a member of a proud Luton side which graced Wembley at the end of the season, a reward for a team capable, and prepared, to play entertaining football.

Billy remembers: "Under the auspices of Mr Percy Mitchell and Dally Duncan I quickly realised, after I had joined my new team, that Luton had a wonderful group of players. There were no Prima Donnas, like the previous

set-up I had experienced, and the atmosphere in the club was first-class."

Billy's signing immediately strengthened the attacking quality and put new polish on ideas which had established the Luton side of the mid-50's as a progressive unit seeking overdue recognition at the highest level. "I got the impression that the side was well-balanced and, except for just one or two positions, it was more or less a settled team—and nothing succeeds like a settled formation."

"However, drawing on the wisdom of subsequent years in football and the knowledge one gains every day, I don't think we had enough GOOD players in depth to win the League Championship."

But even though the ambitions of a Championship medal never came the way of the Bingham side, the former Irish international still warmly treasures the memories of his playing days

BILLY BINGHAM

with Luton. "I often think fondly and with nostalgia of my comrades in that team, particularly my fellow forwards—George Cummins, with the velvet touch in his left foot; Alan Brown, a powerhouse player with tremendous strength when in possession; Gordon Turner, who could seemingly score a goal from any angle; Jimmy Adam, the strong dribbling left-winger, and the unlucky Tony Gregory, who, by some stroke of fate, failed to fulfil his earlier promise."

Billy burst on the Luton scene with 16 goals from the wing in his first season, six of them coming in the wonderful build-up to Wembley, missing by just one goal to equal the distinction of the mighty Blackpool idol of the early Fifties, Stan Mortensen, who struck in every round including the Final.

The particular Cup match of that campaign which stands out in Billy's memory, even now while he guides the

future path of Greek football, takes him back to the clash against Ipswich Town. "Skipper Syd Owen said to us before we went on to the field . . . Let's hold them for the first 30 minutes and then I think we shall be alright."

"It was our kick-off. But we lost possession almost immediately and the Ipswich outside-right led an attack before crossing into our goal area and the centre-forward was on the mark to put Luton a goal behind. So much for tactics!"

"However, the story had a pleasant ending, of course, Luton eventually overpowering the challenge to storm back to a 5-2 win."

That cleared one of the five vital hurdles on the way to Wembley, a scene of final sadness for Luton who had blazed a Cup trail with such tremendous confidence that few could envisage the disappointment they all had to suffer when Nottingham Forest scuttled what should have been Luton's proudest day.

Billy, an established member of the Irish attack in every Home Championship game against England, Wales and Scotland from 1952 to 1957 while with Sunderland, was a member of a forward line in May, 1959, which seemed to have no stomach for the big occasion.

Billy's outside-right role demanded that his job was on the fringe of the problem on the wing, an offshoot from the engine room which was affected by the unbalanced production supply.

Billy Bingham and Luton lost the chance of a memorable achievement for all time, a shock defeat particularly as the team which nose-dived between the twin-towers was the identical squad which had so effectively silenced all opposition in previous rounds.

But the uncertainty of the football world is something which has never failed to play a big part in keeping it ticking as a spectacle which is savoured the world over. Billy Bingham was an artist of the wing, a born footballer who enjoyed all the ups and downs associated with it. In the next programme, we look further along the road which this Irishman set out on 21 years ago, covering his prestige performances for a championship winning side and the time when most feared injury for all footballers, a broken leg, forced Billy to re-appraise his soccer capacity, a decision which cast the die for his entrance into managerial matters.

SCORES

List One

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

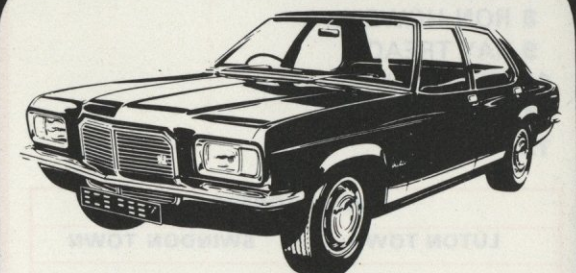
SCORES

List Two

Brighton v Cardiff	A	
Fulham v Bristol C.	B	
Huddersfield v Sheff Wed.	C	
Middlesbrough v Burnley	D	
Nottm For. v Millwall	E	
Oxford v Portsmouth	F	
QPR v Hull	G	
Sunderland v Aston Villa	H	
Bristol R v Brentford	K	
Charlton v Tranmere	L	
Rotherham v Watford	M	
Walsall v Rochdale	N	



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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 GARNER
- 7 JIMMY RYAN
- 8 ALAN SLOUGH
- 9 VIC HALOM
- 10 GORDON HINDSON
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12

SWINDON TOWN

Red Shirts, Black Shorts

- 1 P. DOWNSBOROUGH
- 2 ROD THOMAS
- 3 JOHN TROLLOPE
- 4 ROGER SMART
- 5 FRANK BURROWS
- 6 RON POTTER
- 7 STEVE PELOW
- 8 RON HOWELL
- 9 RAY TREACY
- 10 PETER NOBLE
- 11 TOM JENKINS
- 12

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		SWINDON TOWN	
HALF TIME		HALF TIME	
FULL TIME		FULL TIME	

Referee:

B. J. HOMEWOOD, Sunbury-on-Thames

Linesmen:

P. E. KNOCK, Oxford, *Red Flag*

L. H. SINKINS, Cheshunt, *Orange Flag*

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