

LUTON TOWN

INSIDE TOWN TODAY:
Harry Haslam
Action 73

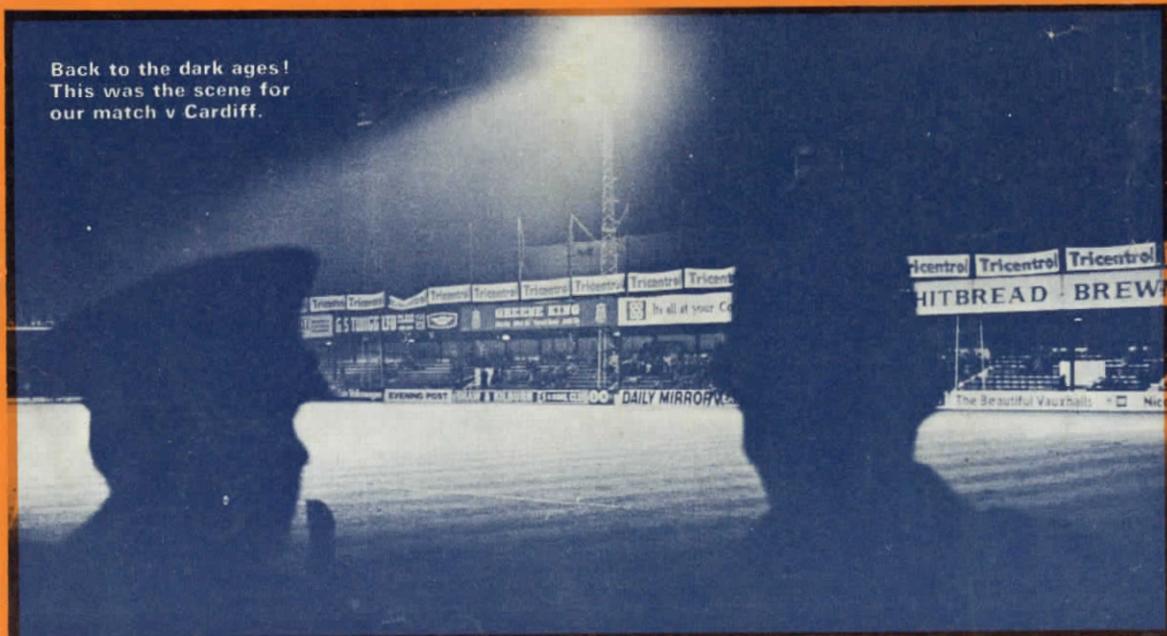


v FULHAM

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
Price 6p

Football League Div 2 Wed 26th December 1973 Kick-off 11.30 am Vol 1 No 13

Back to the dark ages!
This was the scene for
our match v Cardiff.





Action in the Cardiff goalmouth during the first half, and after the Black-out.

HARRY'S TOWN

The first sight of really bad weather, on top of all the problems which have presented themselves to football during December, will certainly be a sweet sight to those who advocate a fixed winter break for soccer. There are many good points and reasons why a period of hibernation could be considered beneficial for the health of our National game. But, speaking just personally, I do not go along with the people who hold such firm views because I think there is plenty of 'elastic' within the present framework of our business to cope with the re-arrangements as they are thrust upon us. Putting something off in advance is not going to ensure any club of a bigger gate that they would have got at a more rational time. Would such a break of four, six or more weeks be fair and acceptable to the successful clubs, the teams which are in tune and winning their games? Just how many people connected with Middlesbrough or Leeds United, for that case,

would be happy to turn round and say come on lads, down tools now, and let's see you back in the New Year sometime. The inference is obvious. The chances of returning to carry on where one leaves off is stacked pretty high. One only has to use the official close season as an example to see what can happen to clubs who finished up on a high note and then are as flat as a pancake and struggle when the new season starts. No, there is far more than just beating the weather, associated with taking a break. Players contracts, for instance, are delicate things, and I am sure the negotiation of these, to include such time off from duties, would be far more difficult than one could imagine. When Sir Alf Ramsey and Alan Hardacre visited Luton for the Spot the Ball prize presentation, preceding our recent game against Aston Villa, I told the team that here was a chance to show two of the most influential people in football just what we are trying to achieve at Kenilworth Road—and how. I think football is what it sounds,

control of the ball with one's boots, and to win the games on the strength of the ability you have with them, not apply the rest of ones physique to crash the opposition down by brute force. That's not football, and not how we see it at Luton.

I want the New Year to come in on a happy note for this club, a year when the soccer world begins to speak far more frequently about Luton Town as a footballing side, a reputation that one day may reach the lofty claims which the super Spurs of the early Sixties had. It might sound to some people that the Christmas spirit is still very much in evidence. But I can assure you, that this is no dream, but the aim of this club. The target is the First Division with a team that will be nothing but a credit to it.

Compliments of the season to everyone, from the Directors of this club, its staff and myself, and I just hope we can mould a new era for football out of the gloom and darkness in to which the country has sadly fallen.

LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CLUB LTD.

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THE TOWN'S

Date	Opponents	Results	Att.	League Position	Barber	Shanks	Thomson	Anderson	Faulkner	Garner	John Ryan	Jimmy Ryan	Butlin	Cruse	Aston	Finney	Horn	Hindson	Price	West	Fern	Sims	Sparks	Holmes	Husband
1973																									
Aug 25	Nottingham Forest	F-A	10,432	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	S	1								
Sept 1	Carlisle United	0-4	7,231	12		2	3	4 ²	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
8	Bristol City	6-1	12,208	9		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
11	Notts County	3-1	8,509	8		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
15	Portsmouth	1-1	11,652	8		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
22	Sunderland	3-3	27,334	7		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
29	Blackpool	3-0	10,365	3		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
Oct 6	Crystal Palace	2-1	19,790	4		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10*	11	10*									
10	Grimby Town (LC2)	1-1	9,656	—		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
13	Swindon Town	2-1	10,732	4		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
16	Grimby Town (LC2 R)	0-0	13,643	—		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
20	Orient	0-2	11,102	2		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
23	Grimby Town (LC2 2R)	2-0	15,365	—		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
27	Hull City	2-2	11,408	4		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
31	Bury (LC3)	0-0	8,191	—		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
Nov 3	Middlesbrough	1-2	22,520	6		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
6	Bury (LC3 R)	3-2	7,826	—		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
10	Bolton Wanderers	2-1	9,528	8		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
14	Cardiff City	0-0	5,999	7		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
17	Sheffield Wednesday	2-1	9,543	6		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
21	Millwall (LC4)	1-3	8,326	—		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
24	Preston North End	2-2	10,279	5		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
Dec 1	West Bromwich A	0-2	10,192	6		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
8	Millwall	1-0	6,965	3		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
12	Cardiff City	1-0	7,139	3		2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
15	Aston Villa					2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
22	Blackpool					2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
26	Fulham					2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
29	Bristol City					2	3	4	5	6	8	7	9	10	11	8									
1974																									
Jan 1	Carlisle United (FA Cup 3)																								
5	Portsmouth																								
12	Nottingham Forest (FA Cup 4)																								
19	Aston Villa																								
26	Sunderland																								
Feb 2	Swindon Town																								
9	Crystal Palace																								
16	Fulham																								
Mar 5	Hull City																								
9	Orient																								
16	Bolton Wanderers																								
23	Middlesbrough																								
30	Preston North End																								
April 6	Oxford United																								
12	Sheffield Wednesday																								
13	Oxford United																								
16	Millwall																								
20	Oxford United																								
27	West Bromwich A (FA Cup—Final)																								
May 7																									

REFERENCE LIBRARY

FOOTBALL COMB. TABLE, APPS. AND GOALSCORERS												
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Name	Apps	Goals		
Bournemouth	20	14	2	4	44	20	30	Anscomb	1	—		
Norwich City	19	13	3	3	39	11	29	Barber	10	—		
Leicester City	18	10	5	3	30	12	25	Bevis	(2)	—		
Birmingham C	18	10	2	6	20	13	22	Butlin	1	—		
Luton Town	19	9	4	6	45	32	22	Cruse	8	7		
Plymouth A	16	8	4	4	32	18	20	Coyne	3(1)	—		
Oxford United	16	7	5	4	16	12	19	Fern	17	11		
Tottenham H	16	7	5	4	19	15	19	Finney	6	4		
Crystal Palace	16	8	3	5	23	22	19	French	(1)	—		
Swindon T	17	7	4	6	26	24	18	Fuccillo	8	1		
Arsenal	18	6	6	6	21	23	18	Garner	1(1)	—		
Q.P.R.	15	6	5	4	30	20	17	Goodeve	13	2		
Ipswich Town	17	6	5	6	30	29	17	Gordon	4	—		
West Ham U	18	7	3	8	21	24	17	Hindson	13	5		
Bristol Rovers	19	5	7	7	23	34	17	Horn	5	—		
Fulham	17	5	6	6	19	20	16	Holmes	14	5		
Chelsea	17	6	3	8	28	25	15	Litt	5	—		
Swansea City	17	4	3	10	22	35	11	Malcolm	19	—		
Southampton	19	3	5	11	20	48	11	Mead	1	—		
Cardiff City	15	4	2	9	12	26	10	Melisi	2(8)	2		
Bristol City	17	3	1	13	16	43	7	Moore	20	2		
Reading	16	0	1	15	8	38	1	O'Connor	17	4		
								Price	18	—		
								Rouse	(1)	—		
								Ryan John	3	—		
								Sparks	15	3		
								Sims	1	—		

MID-WEEK LEAGUE TABLE, APPS. AND GOALSCORERS												
Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Names	Apps	Goals		
Millwall	13	8	3	2	35	21	19	Anscomb	2	—		
Orient	9	5	3	1	14	10	13	Barber	1	—		
Brighton H.A.	11	5	2	4	23	15	12	Bergara	5	2		
Watford	11	5	2	4	14	12	12	Bevis	7(2)	—		
Peterborough	13	5	2	6	20	22	12	Biley	9(2)	2		
Portsmouth	10	4	3	3	14	12	11	J. Brennan	2	—		
Southend U	10	3	4	3	16	13	10	C. Bufton	1	—		
Northampton	12	5	0	7	22	25						

Soccer salesman Alec Stock added two more names to his list of big-money transfers when he scooped around £220,000 into Fulham's bank balance by selling centre-half Paul Went to Portsmouth and striker Steve Earle to Leicester City.

You'll all remember Mr Stock turning over profits for Luton Town from such players as Malcolm Macdonald, Bruce Rioch and Chris Nicholl. And, in 18 months with Fulham, he has once again been one of the Second Division's most active dealers.

Within a few weeks of taking the manager's chair at Craven Cottage, he spent sizeable fees on Spurs skipper Alan Mullery and Went, who arrived from Charlton Athletic for over £80,000 and departed this month at a profit in excess of £50,000.

Mr Stock also turned to Kenilworth Road this year and paid out a big cheque to sign Viv Busby and Alan Slough, but the planned assault on the promotion stakes gradually went astray. Disappointed supporters were further setback to see the sale of two key men and now it remains to be seen how much of the incoming cash can be set aside for future team building.

Fulham took on heavy financial liabilities when boldly going ahead with plans to develop the new Riverside Stand, a fine building with luxury facilities in keeping with the

INTRODUCING FULHAM

ambition of an early return to the First Division. But the failure to keep in touch with the leaders brought a worrying decline in attendances which fell below 6,000—a 50 per cent drop compared with the start of the season.

Perhaps this accounted for the transfer activity and, in any case, Fulham were reasonably covered in these positions. John Lacy, a 21-year-old Liverpoolian, gathered experience alongside Went and then switched to centre-half with Eire international Jimmy Dunne coming into the side as his partner. Lacy ranks as Fulham's find of the season, having attracted keen interest from First Division scouts.

It was probably more difficult to replace Earle, the club's top scorer in the last three seasons, but they were able to call on Busby and John Mitchell, the former St. Albans City amateur who scored 11 goals in his first full season with Fulham.

Other experienced forwards on the

books include former England Under-23 winger Les Barrett and the Conway brothers from Ireland. Jim, now 26, has won many international caps for Eire and John, five years the younger, has progressed well in just over two years with the club.

Fulham also have skill and experience in midfield, where Mullery is as reliable as ever in the second season of his second spell with the 'Cottagers'. His transfer value hardly altered during eight years with Spurs in which he won F.A. Cup, League Cup and U.E.F.A. Cup medals and played in over 30 internationals for England.

Barry Lloyd, a former England Youth

international who was signed from Chelsea, assists Mullery in creating Fulham's attacks and has now played in over 200 games since signing in 1968-69. He was skipper of their Third Division promotion side.

Slough and John Cutbush, a free transfer signing from Tottenham in 1972, have settled down as a consistent pair of full-backs. Fulham are also well served in goal. The regular choice is Peter Mellor, who was an England Under-23 reserve while with Burnley, and Fulham have no worries about calling on former Arsenal apprentice Malcolm Webster, who had First Division experience as deputy to Bob Wilson.

On paper, Fulham have a well-balanced staff and certainly looked promotion material when losing only once in the first ten games of the season. At that point, they were second in the table, just two points behind Middlesbrough, but the next couple of months produced a disastrous decline in form. They lost six times in ten outings and dropped into the lower half of the division.

Fulham could hardly have started the season in better trim. They cruised home 2-0 against Millwall and then won 2-0 at Middlesbrough, who didn't lose again in the first half of the campaign. Even the shock of losing 3-0 at home to Orient didn't upset Fulham's promising start. They conceded only one goal in the next seven fixtures and took three hard-earned points off Aston Villa at a time when the Birmingham club were up with the leaders.

But it eventually became clear that Fulham would suffer for their inability to get enough goals. They

failed to score in 12 of the first 20 matches—and Barrett was then top League scorer with three of their 12 goals.

Barrett also collected three goals in the League Cup, but Fulham's hopes of making a money-spinning impact died in a narrow replay defeat at Ipswich after they had eliminated Oxford United at the first hurdle. So they must now be looking towards the F.A. Cup as their best means of making an impact this season—and, of course, they realise the importance of gaining a cash boost.

Times have been generally tough for Fulham since they lost their agonising fight to preserve First Division status in 1968. After many seasons flirting with relegation, the crash finally came and developed into a crisis when they went straight through the Second Division.

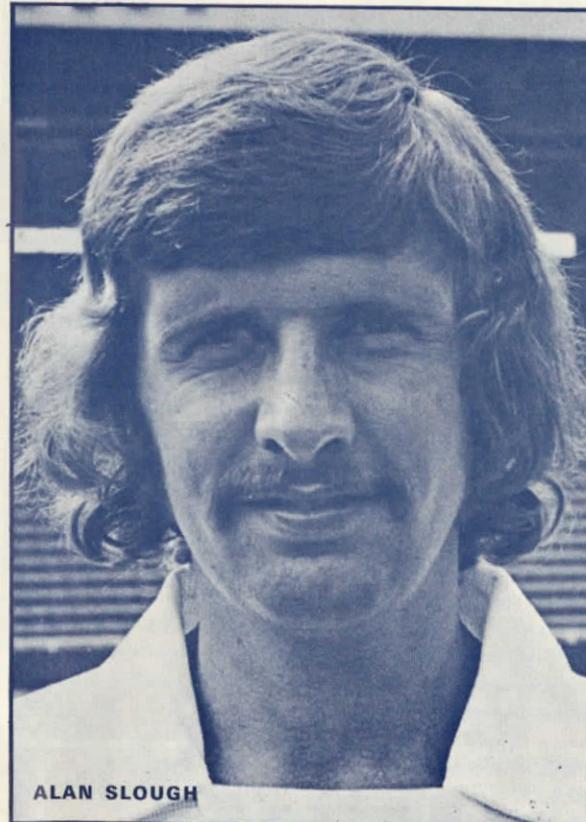
They needed a couple of years to sort out their problems in the Third Division before Bill Dodgin Jnr brought them up with an attractive footballing side. However, they only just held their place in 1971-72 and Mr Dodgin gave way to Alec Stock last season.

Things looked up as Fulham comfortably clinched a mid-table position with 44 points and many people expected them to make further strides this season.



FULHAM F.C.—1973-74 . . . (Back row): Jim Conway, John Fraser, Les Strong, Steve Earle (now Leicester), Les Barrett, John Conway. (Centre row): Barry Lloyd, David Moreline, Peter Mellor, John Lacy,

Paul Went (now Portsmouth), Malcolm Webster, John Mitchell, Viv Busby. (Front row): Alan Slough, Jimmy Dunne, Alan Mullery, Fred Callaghan, John Cutbush, David Carlton.



ALAN SLOUGH



ALAN MULLERY

TEAMS SCORES

LUTON TOWN

- 1 GRAHAM HORN
- 2 DON SHANKS
- 3 BOBBY THOMSON
- 4 PETER ANDERSON
- 5 JOHN FAULKNER
- 6 ALAN GARNER
- 7 JIMMY RYAN
- 8 JIMMY HUSBAND
- 9 BARRY BUTLER
- 10 ALAN WEST
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12 JOHN RYAN

Colours:

Shirts: Orange with White and Navy Vertical Stripe.

Shorts: Navy. Stockings: Orange.

FULHAM

- 1 PETER MELLOR
- 2 JOHN CUTBUSH
- 3 JOHN FRASER
- 4 ALAN MULLERY
- 5 JOHN LACY
- 6 JIM DUNNE
- 7 JIM CONWAY
- 8 JOHN CONWAY
- 9 VIV BUSBY
- 10 ALAN SLOUGH
- 11 LES BARRETT
- 12

Colours:

Shirts: White. Shorts: Black.

Stockings: White

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		FULHAM	
HALF-TIME		HALF-TIME	
FULL-TIME		FULL-TIME	

Referee:

K. W. BAKER, Rugby

Linesmen:

E. GILLINGHAM, Chippenham (Red Flag)

D. A. LING, Leigh-on-Sea (Orange Flag)

RECENT MEETINGS WITH FULHAM

Saturday, 7th April, 1973

Luton Town 1, Fulham 0

Scorer: Jim Ryan. Attendance: 8,430.

Luton: Horn; Shanks, Thomson; Faulkner, Goodeve, Jim Ryan; Anderson, French, Hindson, Fern, Aston.

Fulham: Mellor; Cutbush, Callaghan; Horne, Went, Mullery; Pinkney (sub: John Conway), Earle, Mitchell, Lloyd, Strong.

Tuesday, 27th March, 1973

Fulham 0, Luton Town 1

Scorer: Fern. Attendance: 7,442.

Fulham: Mellor; Cutbush, Callaghan; Mullery, Went, Shrubbs; Strong, Earle, Mitchell, Pinkney (sub: Lloyd), Barrett.

Luton: Barber; Shanks, Thomson; John Ryan, Faulkner, Goodeve; Jim Ryan, French, Hales, Hindson, Fern.

Saturday, 22nd January, 1972

Fulham 3, Luton Town 1

Scorers: Fulham—Johnston (2), Barrett. Luton—Anderson. Attendance: 11,328.

Fulham: Webster; Moreline, Callaghan; Dunne, Richardson, Matthewson; Johnston, Cross, Earle, Lloyd, Barrett.

Luton: Read; John Ryan, Slough; Keen, Nicholl, Moore; Anderson, Court, Halom, Givens, Hindson.

Tuesday, 28th September, 1971

Luton Town 2, Fulham 0

Scorers: Wainwright, Halom. Attendance: 14,017.

Luton: Read; John Ryan, Shanks; Slough, Nicholl, Moore; Wainwright, Keen, Halom, Givens, Anderson.

Fulham: Webster; Brown, Callaghan; Richardson, Matthewson, Dunne (sub: Moreline); John Conway, Cross, Earle, Lloyd, Barrett.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

KENNETH WILLIAM BAKER (Rugby). Took up refereeing in the Leamington and District League and progressed through local Leagues to the West Midland League in 1965. He was promoted to The League line two years later and the supplementary list in 1970. The following season he was appointed to the full list. He refereed the 1969 F.A. Amateur Cup Semi-Final (Whitley Bay v Sutton United) and was on the line for the 1970 Fairs Cup game Hertha Berlin v Victoria Setubal) and the 1971 League Cup Semi-Final (Aston Villa v Manchester United). A chief security officer, he is chairman of the Rugby Referees Association and plays tennis for the Rugby Police team. Served for 12 years in the Metropolitan and Warwickshire Police forces rising to the rank of Detective Sergeant before leaving the force and being appointed the Chief Security Officer with a large industrial concern.

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