

# LUTON TOWN

## v BRISTOL CITY

INSIDE TOWN TODAY:  
Action 73  
Town Focus

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
Price 6p



Football League Div 2

Sat 29th December 1973

Kick-off 2.00 pm

Vol 1 No 14



An unusual picture! Luton players taking a rest during the game v Cardiff, when the lights went out.

Although Bristol City have been confined to the Second Division during the six-year reign of manager Alan Dicks, there can be no doubt that they have achieved notable progress under the direction of the former Coventry City assistant chief. Mr Dicks, who played centre-half for Southend United and Chelsea, is still only 37—yet he celebrates 12 years in management next month. It was in January, 1962, that Coventry asked him to become Jimmy Hill's lieutenant and he stayed with the 'Sky Blues' in their club from the middle of the Third Division to a place in the First Division by 1967.

City, seeking a successor to Fred Ford, admired Mr Dick's work in the Coventry set-up and appointed him as manager in October, 1967. He was the highest-paid boss in the club's history and the Board were prepared to give him time to re-build an ageing side and launch a youth policy.

The going was hard in those early days, for while Mr Dicks paid deep attention to piecing together a nationwide scouting system, he had the worries of keeping City afloat in the Second Division. They spent four years bobbing just above relegation places and the impatient supporters were yelling for the manager's head. But City's Directors gave a lead to clubs who are sometimes tempted to

# INTRODUCING

## BRISTOL CITY

yield against public pressure. They re-stated their faith in the young manager and it is now being re-paid by a side largely assembled from the apprentice ranks.

Their small staff is almost entirely stocked with home-produced discoveries. This also reflects credit on the backroom team—assistant manager John Sillett, a Coventry player during Mr Dick's term at Highfield Road, Ken Wimshurst, the former City and Southampton defender, and Dave Merrington, the former Burnley skipper who joined City as a player but had his career curtailed by injury. Another aspect of the skilful building operation is that good players have been sold—and replaced—in order to keep the finances on a manageable level. They received over £300,000 for Chris Garland (Chelsea), Bobby Kellard (Leicester City), Peter Spiring (Liverpool), John Galley (Nottingham Forest) and Bobby Gould, who was

transferred to West Ham United for £80,000 only last month.

The most exciting discovery of this season is Clive Whitehead, a clever winger who was spotted playing for a Birmingham amateur club in the F.A. Youth Cup last season. Now establish in City's first-team, he looks a certainty to win an England Youth cap this term and already has the top clubs keeping a keen eye on his development.

City have also noted considerable interest in other players. Skipper Geoff Merrick, a defender who reminds many people of a young

Bobby Moore, has attracted bids in excess of £100,000 and Tom Ritchie, a lanky midfielder player, from Scotland, could also have been sold for a sizeable sum.

City should certainly have no problems in central defence for years to come. Apart from Merrick, they have 21-year-old David Rodgers well established at centre-half, while 18-year-old Gary Collier, skipper of City's F.A. Youth Cup Final team last season, has already sampled Second Division football.

The adaptable Merrick has occasionally featured at left-back this season

because of injuries to Brian Drysdale, an £8,000 bargain signing from Hartlepool in 1969. The right-back berth is now in the hands of Trevor Tainton, a former England Boys star who once drew a £50,000 offer from Liverpool—as a winger.

City also have two promising goalkeepers. Ray Cashley, who was once a centre-half or full-back, switched to the specialist job between the posts four years ago. He achieved a rare feat of scoring from a clearance against Hull City this season, but dropped out of the side because of injury in October. This gave a prolonged chance to Len Bond, a West Country youngster who stands only five feet nine inches tall. He makes up for his lack of inches with great agility.

The midfield section also contains a couple of smart discoveries. John Emanuel, the 26-year-old Welshman who won his first cap against Eng-

land last season, was playing in the Welsh League in 1971, but came straight into City's first-team. He merges well with Gerry Gcw, a 21-year-old signing from Glasgow school football who is now tipped for a Scottish Under-23 cap.

Gerry Sweeney, a £20,000 capture from Morton in 1971, makes up the midfield unit, though he has played full-back and right-wing since arriving at Ashton Gate. City also went to Scotland with a £30,000 cheque to sign Donnie Gillies from Morton towards the end of last season.

Gillies, who spent the early part of this season on the substitute's bench, got a new chance on the sale of Gould and was competing for a regular spot with Keith Fear, a 21-year-old Bristol-born player who displays considerable skill for a striker.

So there's every reason for City to be optimistic about their future. The First Division is their aim, but it may not happen this season because of a form slump since they were up with the leaders in mid-October. A 2-0 win against Sunderland was the one bright spot during a period in which they declined towards the middle of the table.

But City remain confident that they have the right set-up to take the club back to Division One for the first time since before the First World War.

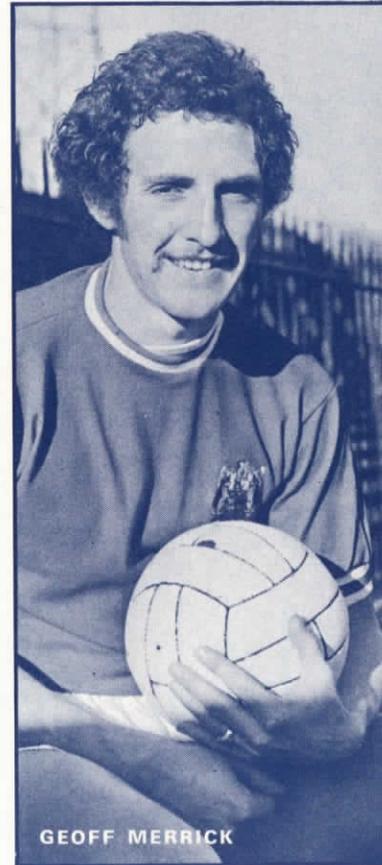


BRISTOL CITY F.C.—1973-74 . . . (Back row): Gerry Sweeney, Joe Durrell, Martin Rogers, Paul Crowley, Clive Whitehead, Don Gillies. (Centre row): Alan Dicks (manager), Gary Collier, Tom Richthiet, Ray Cashley, Len Bond, Bob Wardle, David Rodgers,

Bobby Gould (now West Ham), John Sillett (chief coach). (Front row): Eddie Woods, Kevin Griffin, Trevor Tainton, John Emanuel, Geoff Merrick, Keith Fear, Gerry Gow, Brian Drysdale. Picture: Evening Post, Bristol.



TOM RITCHIE



GEOFF MERRICK



GERRY SWEENEY

# THE TOWN'S

Date	Opponents	Results	Att.	League Position	Goals Scored	
					S—Substitute Appearances	—Withdrawal
1973		F-A				
Aug 25	Nottingham Forest	0-4	10,432	—		
Sept 1	Carlisle United	6-1	7,231	12		
8	Bristol City	3-1	12,208	9		
11	Notts County	1-1	8,509	8		
15	Portsmouth	3-3	11,552	8		
22	Sunderland	1-0	27,334	7		
29	Blackpool	3-0	10,365	3		
Oct 6	Crystal Palace	2-1	19,790	4		
10	Grimsby Town (LC2)	1-1	9,656	4		
13	Swindon Town	2-1	10,732	4		
16	Grimsby Town (LC2 R)	0-0	13,643	2		
20	Orient	0-2	11,102	2		
23	Grimsby Town (LC2 2R)	2-0	15,365	—		
27	Hull City	2-2	11,408	4		
31	Bury (LC3)	0-0	8,191	—		
Nov 3	Middlesbrough	1-2	22,520	6		
6	Bury (LC3 R)	3-2	7,826	—		
10	Bolton Wanderers	2-1	9,528	8		
14	Cardiff City	0-0	5,999	7		
17	Sheffield Wednesday	2-1	9,543	6		
21	Millwall (LC4)	1-3	8,326	—		
24	Preston North End	2-2	10,279	5		
Dec 1	West Bromwich A	0-2	10,192	6		
8	Millwall	1-0	6,965	3		
12	Cardiff City	1-0	7,139	3		
15	Aston Villa					
22	Blackpool					
26	Fulham					
29	Bristol City					
1974						
Jan 1	Carlisle United					
5	(FA Cup 3)					
12	Portsmouth					
19	Nottingham Forest					
26	(FA Cup 4)					
Feb 2	Aston Villa					
9	Sunderland					
16	Swindon Town					
23	Crystal Palace					
Mar 5	Fulham					
9	Hull City					
16	Orient					
23	Bolton Wanderers					
30	Middlesbrough					
April 6	Preston North End					
12	Oxford United					
13	Sheffield Wednesday					
16	Oxford United					
20	Millwall					
27	West Bromwich A					
May 7	(FA Cup—Final)					

# 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	Holmes	14	5
Fulham	17	5	6	6	19	20	16	Horn	5	—
Chelsea	17	6	3	8	28	25	15	Litt	20	2
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	10	Carr	9	—
Gillingham	12	4	2	6	19	22	10	Chalmers	2(5)	—
Colchester U	12	3	4	5	15	24	10	Coyne	11	—
Cambridge U	10	3	3	4	17	15	9	Cruse	4	4
Charlton A	9	2	4	3	7	13	8	P. Elsie	1	—
Luton Town	12	3	2	7	19	35	8	Finney	1	—
								French	1	—
								Fuccillo	11	2
								Goodeve	2	—
								Gordon	9	—
								Hindson	3	1
								Holmes	3(1)	1
								King	1(1)	2
								B. Levene	1	—
								Litt	7(1)	—
								Malcolm	4	—
								Mead	10	1
								Melisi	7(1)	3
								Moore	1	1
								O'Connor	2	—
								Rouse	5(4)	—
								Price	1(1)	—
								Ryan John	1	—
								Sarno	3(2)	—
								Sparks	2	—

## DIVISION 2—GOALSCORERS

League and Cup	Goals
Mackenzie, Nottm. Forest	13
Bullock, Orient	12
Halom, Sunderland	11
Queen, Orient	10
Wood, Millwall	10
Brown (T), W.B. Albion	9
Bruce, Preston North End	9
McCulloch, Cardiff City	8
Randall, Notts County	8
Rogers, Crystal Palace	8

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION FIXTURES

1973	OPPONENTS	V	F A
Aug 25 Sat	Crystal Palace	H	1-2
29 Wed	Chelsea	A	2-4
Sep 1 Sat	Fulham	A	2-6
5 Wed	Tottenham Hotspur	H	2-0
8 Sat	Arsenal	H	1-0
12 Wed	Tottenham Hotspur	A	2-2
15 Sat	West Ham United	A	1-1
22 Sat	Queen's Park Rangers	H	5-1
29 Sat	Ipswich Town	A	7-1
Oct 3 Wed	Chelsea	H	3-1
6 Sat	Bristol City	H	3-1
13 Sat	Swansea City	A	0-3
20 Sat	Bristol Rovers	H	7-0
31 Wed	Cardiff City	A	2-4
Nov 3 Sat	Swindon Town	H	2-0
10 Sat	Southampton	A	4-2
21 Wed	Oxford United	H	0-0
24 Sat	Leicester City	A	0-3
28 Wed	Norwich City	H	1-1
Dec 5 Wed	Reading	A	4-1
15 Sat	Bournemouth	A	—
22 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	H	—
29 Sat	Crystal Palace	A	—
Jan 1 Tues	Fulham	H	—
5 Sat	Birmingham City	A	—
12 Sat	West Ham United	H	—
19 Sat	Arsenal	A	—
26 Sat	Birmingham City	H	—
Feb 2 Sat	Ipswich Town	H	—
9 Sat	Bristol City	A	—
16 Sat	Swansea City	H	—
23 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	A	—
Mar 2 Sat	Bournemouth	H	—
9 Sat	Cardiff City	H	—
13 Wed	Oxford United	A	—
16 Sat	Bristol Rovers	A	—
19 Tues	Queen's Park Rangers	A	—
23 Sat	Southampton	H	—
30 Sat	Swindon Town	A	—
Apr 3 Wed	Leicester City	H	—
24 Wed	Reading	H	—
27 Sat	Norwich City	A	—

## MID-WEEK LEAGUE FIXTURES

1973	OPPONENTS	V	F A
Aug 30 Thur	Northampton Town	A	1-5
Sep 5 Wed	Millwall	A	1-5
10 Mon	Gillingham	H	2-1
19 Wed	Watford	A	1-4
24 Mon	Brighton & Hove A.	H	1-3
Oct 1 Mon	Colchester United	H	3-3
15 Mon	Peterborough United	H	1-3
23 Tue	Colchester United	A	1-3
Nov 5 Mon	Cambridge United	A	4-3
19 Mon	Watford	H	0-0
21 Wed	Portsmouth	A	4-2
28 Wed	Gillingham	A	0-3
Dec 10 Mon	Millwall	H	2-3
17 Mon	Northampton Town	H	—
Jan 7 Mon	Charlton Athletic	A	—
15 Tue	Charlton Athletic	H	—
23 Wed	Southend United	A	—
30 Wed	Peterborough United	A	—
Feb 4 Mon	Orient	H	—
11 Mon	Peterborough United	H	—
18 Mon	Southend United	H	—
20 Wed	Peterborough Utd (LC)	A	—
25 Mon	Cambridge United	H	—
Mar 4 Mon	Northampton T (LC)	H	—
13 Wed	Bright & Hove Albion	A	—
21 Thur	Northampton Town (LC)	A	—
25 Mon	Portsmouth	H	—
Apr 1 Mon	Cambridge Utd (LC)	H	—
10 Wed	Orient	A	—
22 Mon	Cambridge United (LC)	A	—

Up to and including Friday, 14th December, 1973



Manager Harry Haslam, presents the Cup to Luton's Player of the Year—Bobby Thomson

# LUTON TOWN



**FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CLUB LTD.**

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# TOWN

Former England defender Bobby Thomson had only one regret and real set-back last season when he was elected skipper by boss Harry Haslam and won the vote of the supporters as Luton's Player of the Year.

"It's a long time since I was with a club who went into the Sixth Round of the Cup and all the problems which had followed me and ruined my previous couple of years in soccer had vanished.

"But the bitter pill of Sunderland giving us the K.O. after we had twice beaten them in the League and then having to sit back and applaud them winning the Cup—when it might well have been Luton—was jarring to say the least."

But Bobby, a seasoned professional after a glittering first chapter with Wolves followed by a term with Birmingham, is ready to believe that patience, the one thing which years of experience in the sport can bring, can result in Luton having the last laugh with Bob Stokoe's braves.

"I have never enjoyed the sense of elation which went up to Wearside when Sunderland won the Cup. It not only boosted the team and the club, but also the entire area itself. However, winning the Cup cannot compare, in the long term, with winning promotion and it's this determination at Kenilworth Road to beat Sunderland to the First Division which is inspiring the lads to keep going."

The race to stay amongst the favourite candidates for promotion is en-

couraging because for the first time in football's history three clubs are going up and as Luton have good records as challengers over the last few seasons for such qualification, the belief is that "Thomson's squad" will make it this season—and the more pressure from outside the better. "There has been a tremendous strengthening of the side with the signings of Alan West and Jimmy Husband, two top-class players who have served to set an example which the rest of the team aim to equal. I consider the side far better equipped now to make a serious approach for top soccer than it was when I joined them.

"We have improved in all areas of our game, not only the positions which have been re-covered. The mood of the side is that our dream will be reality at the end of the season. It's just like the old days at Wolves when Stan Cullis was really kicking the team along each week and firing the gold shirts towards First Division awards.

It may not be an attack at that level this year for Bobby, who produces the kind of reliability in the defence, which saw him go through the entire season's programme last term without 'default'. His record for the start of the 1973-74 campaign suggests that Bobby is doing all he can to make sure Luton don't fall away from their responsibility, as so unfortunately happened when the season turned over for the club earlier this year.

## PERSONAL DETAILS

**Full Name:** Robert Thomson  
**Born:** Smethwick, Worcestershire  
**Birthday:** 5th December, 1943  
**Height:** Five feet, eleven inches  
**Weight:** Eleven stone, five pounds  
**Colour of Eyes:** Green  
**Colour of Hair:** Light Brown  
**Educated:** Lyndon High School, Solihull, Warwickshire  
**School Football Honours:** Birmingham and District F.A., Birmingham and District County  
**First Club:** Wolves, followed by Birmingham City, Walsall and Luton  
**International Record:** Schoolboy Trials Internationals. Fifteen Under-23 Caps. Eight Full England Caps.  
**Debut:** (F.A. Cup) Wolves v West Bromwich Albion.  
**League Debut:** Wolves v Spurs—1961-62  
**Individual Awards:** Player of the Year 1972-73—for Luton F.C.  
**Important Matches Abroad:** Holland v England—Argentina v England—Portugal v England (last two Little World Cup in Brazil)  
**Biggest Influence in Career:** Stan Cullis, former Wolves manager  
**Main Hobby:** Golf  
**Favourite Colour:** Blue  
**Favourite Clothes:** Casual  
**Favourite Artistes:**  
*Male Singer:* Andy Williams  
*Female Singer:* Diana Ross  
*Footballer:* Pele  
*Group:* The Beatles  
**Food:** Steak  
**Drink:** Lager and Lime  
**Car:** Vauxhall Ventora

# FOCUS

# 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 *ORASE*

Colours:

Shirts: Orange with White and Navy Vertical Stripe.  
Shorts: Navy, Stockings: Orange.

## BRISTOL CITY

- 1 LEN BOND
- 2 TREVOR TAINTON
- 3 GEOFF MERRICK *DRYSDALE*
- 4 GERRY SWEENEY
- 5 DAVID RODGERS *COLLIER*
- 6 GARY COLLIER *MERRICK*
- 7 CLIVE WHITEHEAD *FEAR*
- 8 TOM RITCHIE *SUB, ON*
- 9 DONNY GILLIES
- 10 GERRY GOW
- 11 KEITH FEAR *DURRELL*
- 12 GRIFFIN

Colours:

Shirts: Red. Shorts: White.  
Stockings: Red

### GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		BRISTOL CITY	
<i>ANDERSON</i>			
HALF-TIME	<i>1</i>	HALF-TIME	<i>0</i>
FULL-TIME	<i>1</i>	FULL-TIME	<i>0</i>

*11-399*

Referee:

**K. H. BURNS, Stourbridge, Worcs**

Linesmen:

**M. E. BALLARD, Anstey (Red Flag)**  
**J. J. FAULKNER, Didcot (Orange Flag)**

### LIST ONE SCORE

A	Birmingham City v Leeds United	<i>10</i>
B	Burnley v Wolverhampton Wanderers	<i>00</i>
C	Chelsea v Liverpool	<i>01</i>
D	Everton v Derby County	<i>00</i>
E	Leicester City v Arsenal	<i>10</i>
F	Manchester United v Ipswich Town	<i>00</i>
G	Newcastle United v Sheffield United	<i>00</i>
H	Norwich City v Manchester City	<i>11</i>
K	Southampton v Coventry City	<i>10</i>
L	Stoke City v Queens Park Rangers	<i>01</i>
M	Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham U	<i>000</i>
N	Bolton Wanderers v Portsmouth	<i>10</i>

### LIST TWO SCORE

A	Cardiff City v Sunderland	<i>21</i>
B	Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace	<i>20</i>
C	Millwall v Blackpool	<i>21</i>
D	Notts County v Carlisle United	<i>02</i>
E	Orient v Fulham	<i>00</i>
F	Oxford United v Aston Villa	<i>11</i>
G	Preston North End v Hull City	<i>00</i>
H	Sheffield W v Nottingham Forest	<i>01</i>
K	W B Albion v Swindon Town	<i>10</i>
L	Brighton H A v Plymouth Argyle	<i>00</i>
M	Hereford United v Charlton Athletic	<i>02</i>
N	Oldham Athletic v Watford	<i>01</i>

## MAN IN THE MIDDLE

KENNETH HOWARD BURNS (Stourbridge). One of the League's most experienced referees, Took charge of last season's F.A. Cup Final (Leeds United v Sunderland) and has refereed many international and European matches. Began refereeing in the Cradley Heath and District League and progressed via the Wolverhampton and District League, the Worcestershire Combination and the West Midland League to The League line in 1957-58. A League referee for the 1960-61 season, he was appointed to the F.I.F.A. list in 1969 and the U.E.F.A. panel a year later. Refereed League Cup Semi-Finals in 1969 and 1970, F.A. Cup Semi-Finals in 1967 and 1971, the 1970 F.A. Charity Shield. He is married with two daughters and employed as a legal executive. Has had trials with Worcestershire and Warwickshire at cricket and is a keen snooker player and golfer. A former president of the Association of Football League referees and Linesmen, he is president of the Referee's Association.

Designed and produced by Midland Sports Magazines.  
Printed for Luton Town Football and Athletic Club Ltd., by Peerless Press Ltd., Spon Lane, West Bromwich.