

LUTON TOWN

V
ORIENT

INSIDE TOWN TODAY:

Harry Haslam

Action 74

Town Focus

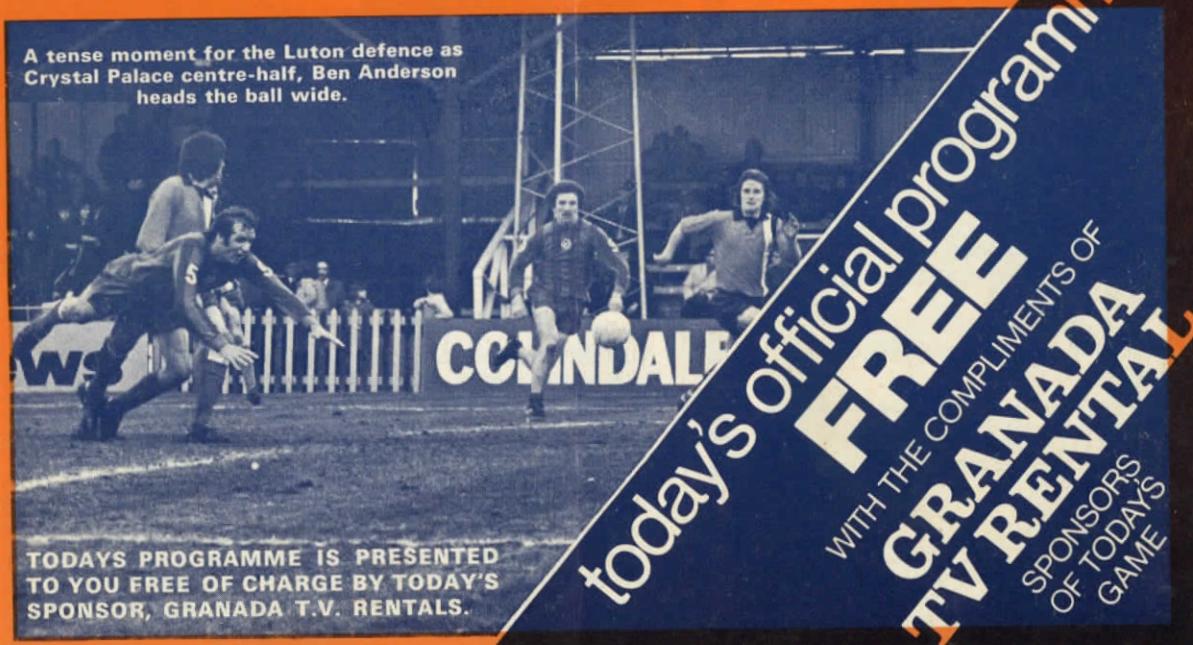
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Price 10p



Football League Div 2 Saturday 16th March 1974 Vol 1 No 20

A tense moment for the Luton defence as
Crystal Palace centre-half, Ben Anderson
heads the ball wide.



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MAN IN THE MIDDLE

VINCENT JAMES (York). Took up refereeing after a scout told him he would not make the grade as a professional player. Graduated through the York and District League and the Yorkshire League to The League line in 1956 and went on the referee's list in 1961. Refereed the 1969-70 League Cup Final (Manchester City v West Bromwich Albion), on the line for the 1967 F.A. Cup Final (Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur) and has officiated in European games, amateur and full internationals and an Under-23 game. He is married with two teenage sons and is employed as a sales representative. President of the Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen.

HARRY'S TOWN

Looking at the League table today, I feel that it would not be misjudgement to consider Luton nearer to realising their ambition of returning to the First Division than at any other time since the fight was on to get back.

In nearly 15 years away from such recognition, all my predecessors have tried hard and some taken the club within sight of it on more than one occasion.

Had this season's promotion battle been on the scale of the past with only the traditional pair getting the call, I would still feel rather confident, even at this stage, of Luton filling one of the two spots in the ten games time between now and the end of the season.

But the new legislation, introduced to permit three to travel up for the first time, gives a side in our position far more scope and breathing space though, rest assured, there is no possibility of anyone at Kenilworth Road taking anything for granted until it's impossible for us not to be promoted. The new system is a winner in Luton's eyes at the moment because it reduces one important factor—pressure.

But one such defeat is not going to destroy the confidence of this club. I was annoyed at the time, but there was sufficient evidence in the team's efforts and ideas for me to believe we could go to Hull last Saturday with the same attacking outlook—that's a policy of this club—and get the reward for our efforts.

We did, and today we face a true foot-

balling side who have many of the same ideals and methods backing their Second Division challenge. I said right at the beginning of the season that it would be the most skilful sides to be there at the finish and today's fixture should be the evidence to substantiate such a belief.

Luton's run of just four defeats in our last 20 League matches is the kind of quiet, consistent progression I had hoped would be the nucleus of our build-up to the last lap of the season.

It's far more convincing in my mind than any spectacular sprints or dashes. It may not at first produce the drama and excitement to get the fans on the boil, but I think, sooner or later, they become convinced overnight that their team has got the target well within its sights.

I hope Luton's supporters will realise that this is when the lads will really be counting on them to give them the final push into the First Division.

For today's fixture, we are fortunate to have 'First Division' sponsorship from *Granada TV Rentals*. Like ourselves, they are a forward-looking group of people who see the advantages both parties can enjoy from linking with one another in this way. We are delighted to welcome the representatives of this National Company to Kenilworth Road and I trust they will have reason to be pleased with themselves for aiding the Club's bid to bring the best football entertainment back to Bedfordshire.

HARRY HASLAM

GRANADA TV RENTAL

Money, money, money—that's all Lyn Riches thinks about...

... which isn't surprising, really. With a name like Riches, she's just right for her job as Cashier at Shaw & Kilburn, Dunstable Road. She's there from Monday to Saturday in S & K's Service Department, making bill-paying as pleasant as possible for all customers. These include Luton Town players like Bobby Thomson, Jimmy Ryan, Peter Anderson—as well as hundreds of Luton Town supporters. All of them know where to get the best Vauxhall service in Vauxhall's home town—and that's at

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THE TOWNS

— Goals Scored	S—Substitute	Appearances	— Withdrawal								
Date	Opponents	Results	Att.	League Position							
1973											
Aug 25	Nottingham Forest	F.A.	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	Plymouth	3-3	11,552	8							
22	Sunderland	1-0	27,334	7							
29	Blackpool	3-0	10,385	3							
Oct 6	Crystal Palace	2-1	19,790	4							
10	Grimsby Town (LC2)	1-1	9,556	—							
13	Swindon Town	2-1	10,732	4							
16	Grimsby Town (LC2 R)	0-0	13,643	—							
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	Boleyn 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	1-0	10,020	3							
22	Blackpool	0-3	7,796	4							
26	Fulham	1-1	15,529	3							
29	Bristol City	1-0	11,398	3							
1974											
Jan 1	Carlisle United	0-2	9,255	3							
5	Port Vale (FAC 3)	1-1	8,127	—							
9	Port Vale (Replay)	4-2	5,833	—							
12	Plymouth	0-0	18,476	3							
19	Nottingham Forest	2-2	11,888	3							
26	Bradford C (FAC 4)	3-0	12,470	4							
Feb 2	Aston Villa	1-0	26,180	3							
5	Notts County	1-1	4,908	3							
16	Leicester C (FAC 5)	0-4	25,712	—							
23	Crystal Palace	2-1	14,287	4							
26	Swindon Town	2-0	2,600	2							
Mar 5	Fulham	1-2	10,071	2							
16	Hull City	3-1	7,027	2							
23	Orient	1-0	—	—							
30	Boleyn Wanderers	1-0	—	—							
April 6	Middlesbrough	4-2	5,833	—							
12	Preston North End	0-0	18,476	3							
13	Sheffield Wednesday	2-2	11,888	3							
16	Oxford United	3-0	12,470	4							
20	Millwall	1-0	26,180	3							
27	West Bromwich A	1-2	10,071	2							
May 1	Sunderland (FA Cup—Final)	3-1	7,027	2							

— Goals Scored
S—Substitute

today's game sponsored by
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Up to and including 27th February
Up to Tuesday, 5th March, 1974

REFERENCE LIBRARY

FOOTBALL COMB. TABLE, APPS. AND GOALSCORERS

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Norwich City	31	19	7	5	67	28	45
Bournemouth	31	18	6	7	55	34	42
Ipswich Town	33	17	7	9	63	43	41
Leicester City	30	16	7	7	42	21	39
Arsenal	30	13	10	7	38	29	36
Tottenham H.	32	13	10	9	38	34	36
Luton Town	31	14	8	9	69	45	36
Chelsea	31	14	6	11	53	37	34
Q.P.R.	27	11	10	6	49	34	32
Oxford United	28	12	7	9	29	23	31
Plymouth A.	28	11	8	9	44	37	30
Fulham	29	11	8	10	32	31	30
Birmingham C.	32	12	6	14	31	38	30
Swindon T.	28	11	7	12	33	39	27
West Ham U.	28	11	5	12	33	39	27
Crystal Palace	28	10	5	13	34	45	25
Bristol Rovers	30	8	9	13	38	53	25
Cardiff City	31	8	6	17	32	54	22
Bristol City	30	8	4	18	32	56	20
Southampton	31	6	7	18	34	69	19
Swansea City	26	7	3	16	33	53	17
Reading	29	3	2	24	22	67	8

Up to Tuesday, 5th March, 1974

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Anscomb	1	—					
Barber	19	—					
Bevis	(3)	—					
Biley	(2)	—					
Butlin	1	—					
Cruse	14	—					
Coyne	4(3)	—					
Fern	26	—					
Finney	9	—					
French	(1)	—					
Fuccillo	9(6)	—					
Garner	1(1)	—					
Goodeve	13(2)	—					
Gordon	6	—					
Hindson	23	—					
Holmes	21(2)	—					
Horn	5	—					
Litt	27	—					
Malcolm	28(1)	—					
Mead	3	—					
Melisi	2(8)	—					
Moore	31	—					
O'Connor	28	—					
Price	28	—					
Rouse	(1)	—					
Ryan John	4	—					
Sparks	26	—					
Sims	1	—					

Up to and including 27th February



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	A	2-2
12 Wed	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1-1
15 Sat	West Ham United	A	1-1
18 Sat	Queen's Park Rangers	H	5-1
22 Sat	Ipswich Town	A	7-1
25 Sat	Chelsea	H	3-1
Oct 3 Sat	Bristol City	A	3-1
10 Sat	Swansea City	H	0-3
13 Sat	Bristol Rovers	A	2-4
20 Sat	Cardiff City	H	2-0
31 Wed	Swindon Town	A	4-2
Nov 3 Sat	Southampton	A	0-0
10 Sat	Oxford United	H	0-0
13 Sat	Leicester City	A	0-3
16 Sat	Reading	A	4-1
23 Sat	Bournemouth	H	3-0
Mar 2 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	A	2-2
9 Sat	Crystal Palace	H	1-2
16 Sat	Birmingham City	A	0-1
23 Sat	Ipswich Town	H	2-0
Feb 2 Sat	Birmingham City	A	

INTRODUCING ORIENT

It's a common theory that physical strength is a major requirement for teams chasing promotion from the Second Division, but Orient, like ourselves, challenge that argument by concentrating on their skills and pushing forward for goals.

As the highest scorers in the division when holding second place last month, Orient had won constant praise for their entertainment, based on manager George Petchey's preference for the 'push and run' type of football made famous by Spurs.

Even when Orient's promotion prospects shuddered because they dropped five points from games against Carlisle United, Hull City and Nottingham Forest in February, Mr Petchey stated: "We will try to prove the kickers wrong by going up

through skill."

He alleged that "the most aggressive team" would go up and said: "I am beginning to think it is impossible to play attractive, clean football in this country." But he still maintained faith in Orient's simple style of quick, short passing. "Pushing the ball to them and getting it back straight away," he explains.

The success of his shrewd thinking can be witnessed by the irony that his former club, Crystal Palace, where he was coach when they went into the First Division, are in danger of relegation at a time when Orient are pushing hard for the top.

To make the comparison more intriguing, just look at the heavy contingent of former Palace personalities involved in Orient's outstanding

development. In the backroom, they have Arthur Rowe, ex-Palace manager, Terry Long, former assistant manager at Selhurst Park and secretary Peter Barnes. On the field, there are five signings from the South London club, defender Phil Hoadley, now in his third season with Orient, striker Gerry Queen, who arrived last term and three newcomers this season, goalkeeper John Jackson, full-back Bill Roffey and full-back or midfield player David Payne.

Mr Petchey's impact on Orient's affairs has been quite astonishing, for he built the team almost from scratch and defied the economics of running on gates which were regularly in the 7,000 region. Apart from the imports from Palace, he has signed several other key men.

Ricky Heppolite, rated one of the best young midfield operators in the division, came from Preston North End for about £40,000 last season and another sizeable sum went on Derrick Downing, always a winger when at Middlesbrough but now capable of adjusting to a full-back role. Another newcomer this term is John Boyle, the Scottish utility player who was surprisingly released on a free transfer by Chelsea.

It is quite remarkable how the signings have merged so quickly and successfully with the hard core of



ORIENT F.C.—Season 1973-74 . . .

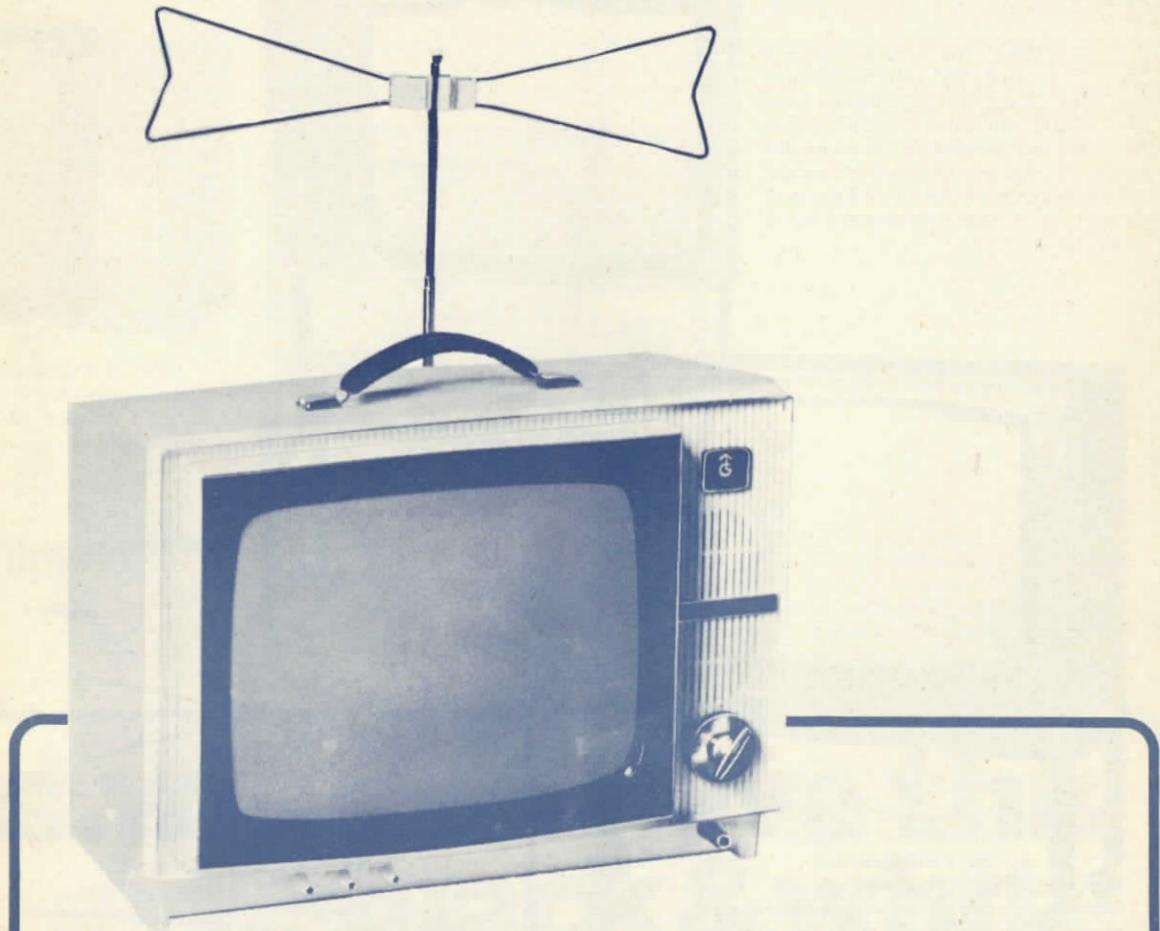
(Back row): Fairbrother, George Petchey (manager), Hoadley, Queen, Walley, Bennett, Harris, Linton, Roffey, Bullock, Peter Angell (trainer), Downing.

(Front row): Fisher, Brisley, Jackson, Allen, Goddard, Payne, Heppolite.

FOR THE RECORD . . .

Founded: 1881 (known as Clapton Orient until 1946 and Leyton Orient until 1967). Elected to League Division Two: 1905. Ground: Leyton Stadium, Brisbane Road, Leyton, London E10. Record Attendance: 34,345, against West Ham United F.A. Cup, 1963-64). Division Three (South) Champions: 1955-56. Runners-up: 1954-55. Division Three Champions: 1969-70. Division Two Runners-up: 1961-62.

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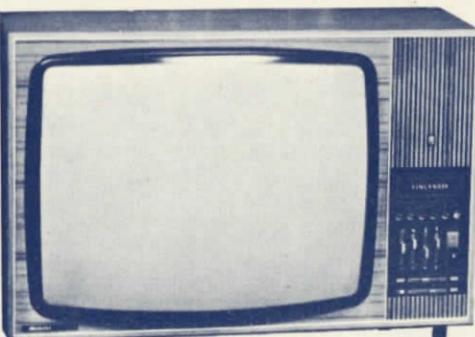
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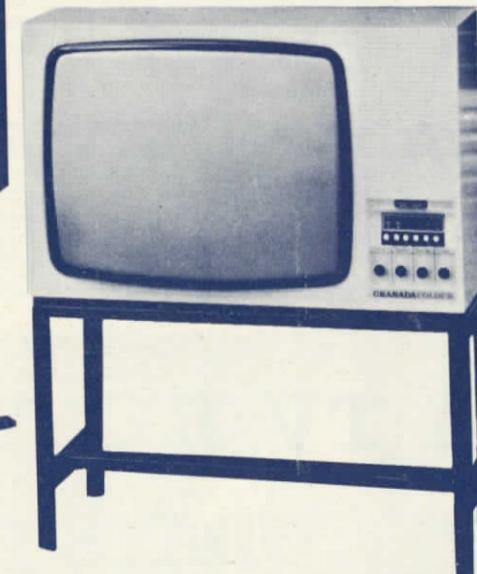
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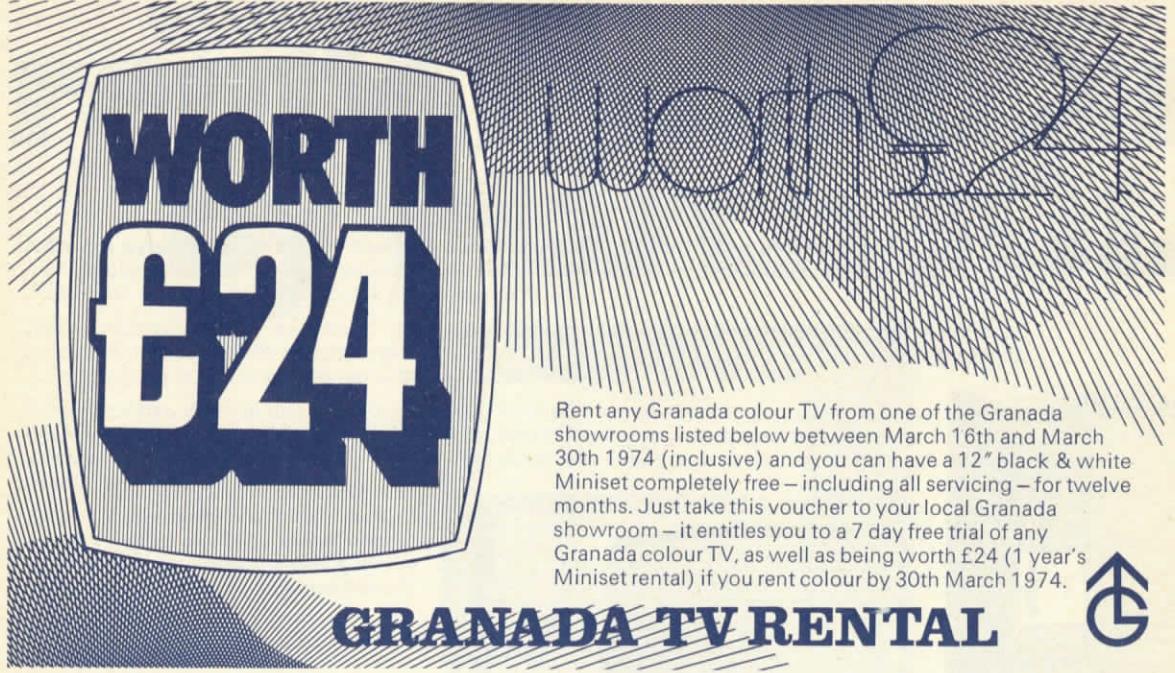
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INTRODUCING ORIENT

Orient's Third Division Championship side from 1969-70. Barrie Fairbrother and Mickey Bullock, the sharp-eyed strikers who have scored over 30 goals between them this season, are playing better than ever in the new environment, largely because of the extra chances created in the free-flowing set-up.

Other survivors from Jimmy Bloomfield's term of management include Peter Allen, Tom Walley and Terry Brisley and the latter, in particular, has become a fine young midfield operator under the encouragement of Mr Petchey.

The development is not entirely connected with playing matters. Gone are the days when Orient were in such financial difficulties that a 'save the club' meeting was organised and

a collection taken from loyal supporters.

Taking the lead from their manager's progressive thoughts, the Board worked hard to set up a new training headquarters and, if they get to the First Division, plans will be launched to build a new stand. They certainly have no fears of repeating their last First Division experience when they were relegated after just one season. The one question is whether Orient can draw sufficient support for First Division football, but the advent of several London derbies would partly solve the doubts.

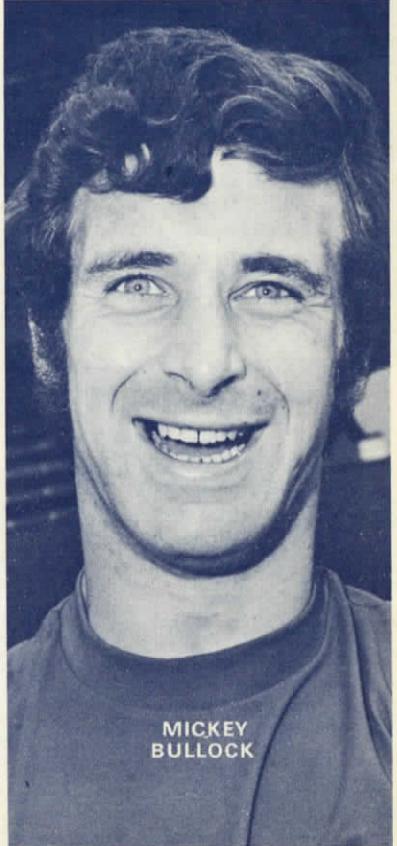
At the moment, however, Orient have to be content with an average of around 11,000, which, in itself, is a large improvement on the early stages of the season. Before the mes-

sage got over that they had a genuine promotion chance, crowds hovered between 7,000 and 8,000, but they built up to the five-figure mark by mid-October, starting with 11,135 when we were pipped 2-0 on Alan West's debut day.

The best so far is 20,611 when they played Palace on Boxing Day. Mind you, their football deserves even more support considering that promotion rivals Blackpool, Nottingham Forest, West Bromwich Albion and ourselves were all beaten at Brisbane Road.

Only two teams have given them a lot of trouble. Middlesbrough drew 0-0 in London and then won 3-2 at Ayresome Park, while Carlisle United scraped home 1-0 on Orient's territory and clinched a handsome 3-0 success at Brunton Park on 2nd February.

At that point, only Carlisle and Cardiff City had beaten Orient in a run of 19 games dating back to 2nd October, but the slip in Cumberland was followed by a home draw with Hull City and then a costly defeat at Nottingham Forest, where Ricky Hepplewhite and the home team's Tommy Jackson were both sent off. Obviously, it is important for Orient to regain form quickly—and today's match probably rates as their most crucial.





today's game sponsored by

**GRANADA
TV RENTAL**

Nicky Sparks



TOWN FOCUS

It must be all very baffling to the hundreds of professionals waiting to graduate into football's front line when they hear and read of the 'Super-Stars' who want to get out of it.

Nicky Sparks knows nothing about the strain, pressures and demands that descend on players when they reach the top because he remains one of the patient types who is still waiting for his League call five years after joining Luton.

Soccer's stars and 20-year-old Maidstone-born Sparks would seem poles apart on a status level—but that doesn't make a Luton loyalist in any way jealous of the headlines the famous names of football command. "I'm happy at Kenilworth Road covering a little bit of ground at a time and though plenty of players have enjoyed the breakthrough at my age, I see my situation improving all the time—and in the right direction."

To be ready to spring from the wings of reserve duty is a commendable appraisal of the dedication Sparks has shown towards his profession when many less determined juniors may have been discouraged.

It's open to argument, but the possibility of Nicky Sparks already being acquainted with senior competition would be more than probability now if it had not been for a chapter of injury and illness set-backs which have followed him through his Kenilworth Road career so far.

His first brush—"easily the most painful one"—arrived after he began knuckling down to complete his apprenticeship terms. "Each of my big toenails were extracted at the roots to ease pressure and each operation took six weeks from start to finish."

Three months is a big chunk out of any season and there is always a lot of hard work and lost ground to churn out and win back. Nicky gritted his teeth and threw off despondency to battle back and fashion a regular spot in the 'shadow squad' with the welcome hand of a League debut coming closer each game.

But blow number two arrived around this time last season to crunch the Sparks' ambitions for another term. Glandular fever grounded him until a few weeks before the end of the season. "I got back but it had knocked the stuffing out of me and that was the end of last year's hopes."

Fate played another unkindly visit to Sparks in 1973—this time before the new term began when he was on pre-season tour in the first-team squad in Germany.

Perhaps Nicky was trying too hard, too early, because it caught up with him for the third time and he flew back from Munich nursing knee ligaments. "It booted the first six weeks of this season sky-high and to say I was disappointed would be an understatement."

But Nicky Sparks is back now, high on Harry Haslam's short list once again. Already he has sampled the first-team 'life' on match days and was a substitute who 'sat-in' for a brief spell in a Cup game.

During the periods when Nicky escaped the clutches of injury, he spent a lot of his time wisely conditioning himself to become a fully qualified coach. Already a holder of a preliminary badge—at the age of only 20, remember—Nicky's enthusiasm and prowess was spotted by a school master and now Luton's next new

discovery is recognised the official football coach for Stopsley Junior School.

"I hold classes every Tuesday night—and, boy, what a thrill it is when they go out on Sunday mornings and win. That goes too for S.C. Luton, an amateur side to whom I pass on every good idea I learn in my professional circle."

Clearly, there is no time for Nicky Sparks to look back. The future looks a bulging diary of duty in too many areas of his football world for him to worry about the grey luck of the past.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Birthplace: Maidstone, Kent.

Birthday: 12th December, 1953.

Height: Five feet, eight inches.

Weight: Ten stone, six pounds.

Colour of Eyes: Blue.

Colour of Hair: Brown.

Education: Cornwallis Secondary School, Maidstone.

Schoolboy Honours: Played for Kent.

Biggest Break: Signing professional.

Biggest Disappointment: Injuries.

Biggest Influence: Harry Haslam.

Hobbies: Cricket and training local Schoolboys.

Favourite Colour: Yellow.

Favourite Clothes: Modern, Casual.

Favourite Artistes:

Male Singer: Neil Diamond.

Female Singer: Olivia Newton-John.

Actor: Paul Newman.

Actress: Susan Hampshire.

Player: Norman Hunter.

Group: The Carpenters.

Car: Vauxhall Viva.

Dislikes: Smoking.

Ambition: Luton's League side in the First Division.

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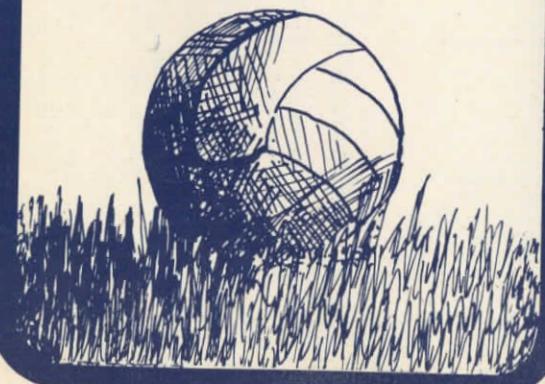
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LUTON TOWN

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

Colours:

Shirts: Orange with White and Navy Vertical Stripe.

Shorts: Navy. Stockings: Orange.

ORIENT

- 1 JOHN JACKSON
- 2 DAVID PAYNE
- 3 BILL ROFFEY
- 4 JOHN BOYLE
- 5 PHIL HOADLEY
- 6 TOM WALLEY
- 7 BARRIE FAIRBROTHER
- 8 TERRY BRISLEY
- 9 MICKEY BULLOCK
- 10 GERRY QUEEN
- 11 DERRICK DOWNING
- 12

Colours:

Shirts: Yellow. Shorts: Blue. Stockings: White.

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN	ORIENT
HALF-TIME	HALF-TIME
FULL-TIME	FULL-TIME

Referee:

Mr V. JAMES, York

Linesmen:

Mr R. E. BARSTON, Leics.—Red Flag

Mr B. H. CHAPMAN, Cambridge—Orange Flag

LIST ONE	SCORE
A Birmingham City v Manchester U	
B Burnley v Everton	
C Chelsea v Newcastle United	
D Ipswich Town v Arsenal	
E Leicester City v Derby County	
F Liverpool v Leeds United	
G Manchester City v Sheffield United	
H Q P Rangers v Wolverhampton W	
K Stoke City v Southampton	
L Tottenham Hotspur v Norwich City	
M West Ham United v Coventry City	
N Bristol City v Aston Villa	

LIST TWO	SCORE
A Carlisle United v Crystal Palace	
B Millwall v Bolton Wanderers	
C Nottingham Forest v Blackpool	
D Portsmouth v Hull City	
E Preston North End v Notts County	
F Sheffield Wednesday v Cardiff City	
G Sunderland v Fulham	
H W B Albion v Middlesbrough	
K Bournemouth v Port Vale	
L Plymouth Argyle v Watford	
M Rochdale v Charlton Athletic	
N York City v Bristol Rovers	

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Teams	Home					Away					P
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Middlesbrough	32	13	3	1	27	7	7	7	1	21	15
Luton Town	32	9	5	1	29	16	7	4	6	18	21
Orient	32	8	5	3	23	12	5	8	3	24	20
West Bromwich Albion	32	7	6	2	21	13	6	6	5	20	18
Blackpool	32	8	4	4	23	12	5	7	4	20	18
Carlisle United	31	8	5	3	29	15	6	3	6	17	20
Nottingham Forest	31	9	4	2	30	13	2	9	5	13	16
Hull City	33	8	7	2	21	12	1	8	7	13	25
Notts County	34	6	4	7	26	33	6	5	6	22	20
Sunderland	32	7	6	3	25	11	5	2	9	16	22
Bolton Wanderers	32	10	3	3	26	13	2	5	9	11	20
Fulham	31	9	3	4	19	12	3	5	7	10	17
Portsmouth	32	7	6	3	20	13	4	3	9	15	38
Millwall	33	7	4	5	22	13	3	6	8	18	29
Bristol City	32	7	5	4	22	16	4	3	9	15	25
Cardiff City	33	7	5	5	21	13	2	6	8	17	31
Aston Villa	30	5	8	2	22	14	3	4	8	7	16
Preston North End	33	7	6	3	22	16	1	6	10	12	31
Oxford United	32	6	6	3	23	16	1	6	10	7	24
Sheffield Wednesday	33	6	5	5	22	18	2	4	11	17	30
Crystal Palace	32	5	6	6	21	19	2	4	9	10	25
Swindon Town	34	5	7	6	21	24	0	2	14	9	34

Up to and including Sunday, 10th March, 1974

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