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PROGRAMME
PRICE 10p

OXFORD UNITED
v LUTON TOWN

FRIDAY 12th
APRIL 1974



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CLUB TALK

Two welcome points at the expense of Sheffield Wednesday really made a tremendous difference to the way we all felt last Saturday. I know things were far from perfect but at least we gave a full blooded challenge and got off our back-sides and did things. We are still too uptight but that will remain for the remainder of our "blood pressure" fixtures.

We are not, however, the only team dealing the extra tension caused by the three up three down decision and we shall have to overcome the additional stresses as best as we can in the crucial days to come. I am hoping that Saturdays victory will prove a tonic to the team and that the confidence a victory always wins will help them relax a little and play their natural game.

Today we welcome Luton Town who are also as desperate as we are for points but for other reasons. We could well have our biggest crowd of the season and I have a feeling that we are going to give you something to shout about, victory could certainly give us a flying start to a demanding Easter programme.



MANAGER GERRY SUMMERS

I do not often single out individual players for special mention. But I am making an exception in this case. Our two centre backs, Dave Roberts and Colin Clarke continue their magnificent form and John Shuker and Jimmy Light were only slightly behind

them in the Sheffield Wednesday match.

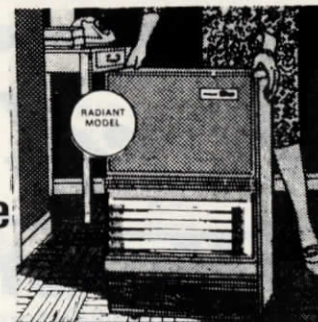
John Fleming supplied some of the urgency that has been missing in the midfield department but was unfortunate to get an injury so early in the game. Hugh Curran had to play with an injection in his foot due to a late injury sustained in training. But he obliged with the all important goal.

Our reserve team did exceptionally well to beat Birmingham City 2-1 at St. Andrews last Saturday. I do not use the word exceptionally without cause for there were no less than six players - Les Taylor, Andy Bodell, Mike Tait, Billy Jeffrey, Peter Foley, and David Jones - who are all seventeen or under while another two members of the team are just nineteen, so we turned out with only three experienced players.

Yet they managed to beat a Birmingham side that contained nine players, who had turned out for their first team this season! and three of them are full internationals while one is a current under 23 international. It was a magnificent effort.

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LUTON TOWN

Harry Haslam, a late arrival on the management scene after years as a super scout, is more than making up for any lost time as Luton Town stride towards promotion at the end of his second season in charge of Kenilworth Road affairs.

He accepted the appointment in the summer of 1972 when Luton were looking for a successor to Alec Stock, who had continued the Hatters' comeback trail from the Fourth Division by lifting the club from Division III to the fringe of the top section in 1971.

In those days, Harry Haslam was the man who "fed" the talent

into Mr Stock's coaching programme, but it must have distressed him to see Luton sell such players as Malcolm Macdonald, Bruce Rioch and Chris Nicholl, even at a combined income of something like £370,000.

The remarkable thing is that Luton have built their entertaining squad almost entirely with shrewd shopping from other League clubs. The regular first-team eleven show a skilful mixture of bargains and more expensive players such as Jimmy Husband (Everton) and Alan West (Burnley), who arrived for a total outlay of about

£150,000 earlier this season.

Most players have a First Division background, though they were largely on reserve duty until reinstated to regular rating in the Luton academy. The defensive set-up was built for virtually nothing, with full backs John Ryan (Fulham) and Bobby Thomson (Birmingham) picked up on free transfers. Centre half John Faulkner (Leeds) cost a mere £10,000 and his partner, Alan Garner, was signed without a fee from Millwall.

Goalkeeper Graham Horn, bought from Arsenal for £20,000



GRAHAM HORN



ALAN WEST

last season, is the most expensive player in this department, which is covered by reserves who cost the club mere signing-on fees. Former England Youth full back Don Shanks came from Fulham's apprentice ranks and centre half Steve Litt was a similar "snip" from Blackpool. Long-serving central defender John Moore was snapped up from Motherwell and goalkeeper Keith Barber came out of London amateur soccer.

Peter Anderson, the highly-rated midfield man with an eye for goals, also had an amateur background, but the forwards all started out in the First Division. Wingers Jimmy Ryan and John Aston had a top-class introduction with Manchester United and striker Barry Butlin was a little unlucky not to get more of a chance with Derby County.

Fair-sized cheques were also written out for Newcastle winger Gordon Hindson, former Leicester Cup Final forward Rodney Fern, and Irish striker Tom Finney, who scored five goals in his first four games at the beginning of this season. Another forward candidate is Peter Cruse, a youngster given a free move by Arsenal last summer.

Mr Haslam agrees that his demand for entertaining soccer has cost them goals, particularly in away matches, but points out proudly that Luton have also won more away games than anyone apart from Middlesbrough. Perhaps the best example of Luton's buoyancy came in the very first two games of the season — beaten 4-0 at Nottingham Forest on the opening day, they bounced back to whip Carlisle United with six goals all scored in the first half!



JIMMY HUSBAND



JOHN ASTON

Jimmy Husband and John Aston both have League Championship medals locked away in their "treasure chests" so a return to the First Division would be full reward for their gamble on Luton Town's ambition. They had to believe in Luton's promotion prospects to be tempted away from "High society" clubs like Everton and Manchester United... even though they had slipped into reserve football.

Aston, voted the "star of stars" on the night when United beat Benfica to win the European Cup six years ago, was first to switch to Kenilworth Road, arriving at the start of last season, and his most notable impact was to score the two goals which turfed Newcastle United out of the FA Cup. An orthodox left winger with all the appropriate skills, he was unfortunate at Old Trafford when breaking a leg after the European triumph, but he came back to win an England Under-23 cap against Wales in 1970.

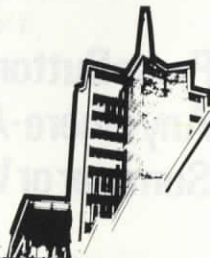
Husband, a member of Everton's title-winning side of four years ago played at Wembley in the 1968 FA Cup Final — oddly enough, just 11 days before Aston trod the same turf in the European Final. However, Everton's Geordie was not so lucky when the medals were handed out, taking a loser's award after his team had lost 1-0 to West Bromwich Albion. Jimmy had a best scoring season with 19 League goals the following year and went on to build a collection of five Under-23 caps to add to his previous honours in the England Youth and Schools teams. However, he lost his senior place in the last couple of seasons and joined Luton for a big fee last November.

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INTRODUCING LUTON TOWN



Back Row: Billy Holmes, Alan Slough (now with Fulham), Jimmy Ryan, Paul Price, Viv Busby (now with Fulham), John Faulkner, Ken Goodeve, Peter Cruse, Phil O'Connor.

Middle Row: Rodney Fern, Ken Whitfield (Coach), Alan Garner, John Moore, John Ryan, Stephen Litt, Graham Horn, Keith Barber, Barry Butlin, Peter Anderson, Graham French, Ray King (Coach), Nicholas Sparks, Roy McCrohan (Chief Coach).

Front Row: Reg Game (Physiotherapist), Bobby Thomson, Alex Malcolm, Vince Melisi, Harry Haslam (Manager), Derek Hales (on loan to Charlton Athletic), Gordon Hindson, Don Shanks, John Aston.

PETER ANDERSON, *midfield*, Born: Hendon. Former manager Alec Stock gave Peter a dramatic introduction to Second Division football when signing him from Hendon and putting him into Luton's promotion-chasing team in 1971. Peter, a left-winger at that time, was still an amateur when he made his debut. A professional for only two-and-a-half years he switched to midfield last season, having been top scorer with ten goals the previous term.

DON SHANKS, *defender*. Born: London. Don was also signed on a free transfer from Fulham and soon after joining Luton, he was a

member of England's 'Little World Cup' winners' team in 1971. He has since been watched by a number of First Division clubs **BOBBY THOMSON, *defender*,** Born: Smethwick. The most widely-experienced member of the Luton staff, Bobby enjoyed a tremendous League come-back last season when he was appointed Luton skipper and won their 'Player of the Year' award. He had been signed on a free transfer in 1972 from Birmingham City, where he had never quite lived up to the heavy transfer fee paid to Wolves. City sent him on loan to Walsall in 1971-72, but he turned down a move to Fellows Park in order to

join Luton. Bobby, of course, was an England international in a long career with Wolves, collecting eight full caps and another 15 with the Under-23 side.

JOHN RYAN, *Fullback*. Born: London. Another of Harry Haslam's shrewd free signings, John was allowed to leave Fulham three years ago after playing in over 40 League games. Previously with Arsenal as a junior he has progressed rapidly in three years at Kenilworth Road, playing at full-back or midfield, and was club captain for a time. A keen golfer, he won the Kent amateur title in 1972.

GRAHAM HORN, *goalkeeper*. Born: London. Powerfully-built goalkeeper who was a regular choice for Portsmouth in the first-half of last season, yet 'Pompey' didn't get a penny when Graham joined Luton for a five-figure fee in February this year. The money went to Arsenal, who had only loaned him to the Fratton Park club.

JIMMY RYAN, *winger* Born: Stirling. Joined Manchester United as a junior and went through the Old Trafford ranks to play in 24 League matches as well as several important Cup games. He cost Luton £20,000 three years ago and is now past his 100th League game for 'The Hatters'.

BARRY BUTLIN, *forward*. Born: Roslington. Barry opened his relatively-inexperienced League career with Notts County and then joined Derby County, where he became a prolific scorer in the side which won the Central League in 1971-72. He also played in the winning Texaco Cup final team, but he had only four League outings before joining Luton for a hefty fee half-way through last season. He scored four goals in 11 games, but was struck down by knee trouble and recovered from a broken jaw this season.

JOHN FAULKNER, *defender*. Born: Orpington. Leeds United's famous F.A. Cup trip to Sutton United in 1970 was the day a professional career opened for John. Although Sutton were trounced 6-0, Don Revie was impressed enough to take him to Elland Road as a potential successor to Jackie Charlton. However, he was unlucky enough to break a leg and had only two First Division games before signing for Luton in 1971.

TOM FINNEY, *forward*. Born: Belfast. Last season Tom was working as a pipe-fitter in Belfast and preparing for a new season as a part-time professional with Crusaders. Then Luton moved in with a £13,000 bid and Tom Finney (Mark Two) hit the Football League with five goals in four matches.



TOM FINNEY

ALAN GARNER, *defender* Born: Lambeth. When Harry Haslam was chief scout to Alec Stock, he made a habit of picking up free transfer bargains and, now he is manager, Mr Haslam is glad that he signed Alan when Millwall released him in 1971. He took over the number five spot from Chris Nicholl in his first season and proudly recalls the goal which took Luton into last season's F.A. Cup Sixth Round.

ALAN WEST, *midfield*. Born: Hyde. Another of this season's big signings, Alan arrived from Burnley in October after spending 18 months in the shadows at Turf Moor. He played in Burnley's 1968 F.A. Youth Cup-winning side and won an England Under-23 cap against Wales in 1971, but surprisingly managed only one substitute's appearance when the 'Clarets' won the Second Division title last term.

PETER CRUSE, *forward*, Born: London. A former Arsenal apprentice who was signed on a free transfer last summer. Peter didn't get a League chance with the 'Gunners', but has made several appearances for 'The Hatters'.

RODNEY FERN, *forward*. Born: Burton-on-Trent. Luton paid a sizeable fee to sign Rodney from Leicester City in time for the start of last season. He was a regular in the early part of the campaign, but later lost his place and went on loan to Coventry City without playing in their League side. At Leicester, he was a useful marksman, with 27 goals in 132 League games, and played in the beaten F.A. Cup Final team in 1969.

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golden oldie

Pat Quartermain, Oxford born and bred was one of United's longest serving professionals. First signed as a part-timer in September 1955 he stayed with the club until 1967.

He was the only survivor of the Harry Thompson days to become a regular as United moved from Southern League football to the Football League, and made 330 appearances in all.

Born in Garsington, Pat made his professional debut as a centre half, but when he returned from National Service, he was converted by Arthur Turner into a left back and that was the position in

Pat still recalls the agonies of indecision he had over turning full-time pro - because it meant losing £10 a week at first com-



pared to his trade as a toolmaker, but he said later that he never regretted making the decision.

Pat was a hard tackling uncompromising full back with a simple philosophy. "I don't want to hurt the winger," he used

to say, 'but I do want to let him know I'm there.'

After being so long with United, Pat became quite a travelling player after being transferred to Cambridge United in the summer of 1967.

From Cambridge he went to Nuneaton Borough, but then progression brought him gradually back in the Oxford direction, first to Banbury United and then to Witney Town as the manager, who first lifted the West Oxfordshire club out of the rut.

After two successful seasons, Pat left Witney to coach Clansfield, mainly because his business commitments as a representative for a building firm made it difficult to keep on the full managerial task.

A.A. RAC.

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SECOND DIVISION STATISTICS - 1973-74

These statistics are up to and including
Saturday April 6th 1974

FOUR GOALS IN A MATCH

Brown, T. (W.B. Albion v Nottm Forest)	12-1-74
Clarke (Carlisle v Swindon)	13-3-74

HAT-TRICKS

McCULLOCH	(Cardiff v Oxford)	12-9-73
PRENDERGAST	(Sheff W. v C Palace)	29-9-73
WOOD	(Millwall v Preston)	22-10-73
HALOM*	(Sunderland v Derby)	31-10-73
TUEART	(Sunderland v Swindon)	10-11-73
BURNS	(Blackpool v Luton)	22-12-73
FARRINGTON	(Cardiff v Sunderland)	29-12-73
BROWN, T	(W.B. Albion v Notts. Co.)	5-1-74
BYROM *	(Bolton v Stoke)	6-1-74
BUSBY	(Fulham v Sheffield W.)	2-2-74
FEAR	(Bristol C. v Millwall)	26-2-74
HUSBAND	(Luton v Orient)	16-3-74
BUTLIN	(Luton v Preston)	6-4-74

* CUP GAMES.

HIGHEST HOME WINS

LUTON	6	CARLISLE	1	1-9-73
CARDIFF	5	OXFORD	0	12-9-73
ASTON VILLA	5	CARDIFF	0	6-10-73
MILLWALL	5	PRESTON	1	22-10-73
BLACKPOOL	5	PORTSMOUTH	0	3-11-73
OXFORD	5	BRISTOL CITY	0	26-12-73
NOTTM FOREST	5	MIDDLESBROUGH	1	2-2-74
BRISTOL CITY	5	MILLWALL	2	26-2-74
SHEFF. WED.	5	CARDIFF	0	16-3-74
CARLISLE	5	SWINDON	1	30-3-74

HIGHEST AWAY WINS

NOTTS CO	1	SHEFF. WED.	5	9-3-74
C. PALACE	1	NOTTS. CO.	4	25-8-73
NOTTS CO.	1	SUNDERLAND	4	1-9-73
NOTTM F.	1	WB ALBION	4	12-1-74
SWINDON	1	NOTTS CO.	4	19-2-74
WB ALBION	0	MIDDLESBRO'	4	16-3-74
FULHAM	0	MIDDLESBRO'	4	19-3-74
SHEFF. WED.	2	ASTON VILLA	4	1-4-74

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS

9 MIDDLESBROUGH	To date
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MOST UNBEATEN GAMES

24 MIDDLESBROUGH	8-9-73 to 2-2-74
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MOST GAMES WITHOUT A WIN

15 CRYSTAL PALACE	25-8-73 to 10-11-73
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MOST SUCCESSIVE DEFEATS

4 SWINDON (TWICE), BRISTOL CITY, FULHAM MILLWALL, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

HIGHEST ATTENDANCES

43,080	W.B. ALBION v ASTON VILLA	16-12-73
41,658	SUNDERLAND v MIDDLESBROUGH	2-2-74
37,323	ASTON VILLA v W.B. ALBION	2-2-74
37,038	MIDDLESBRO' v SUNDERLAND	26-12-73
31,935	SUNDERLAND v C. PALACE	27-10-73
30,162	ASTON VILLA v FULHAM	19-9-73
30,054	CRYSTAL PALACE v MILLWALL	17-11-73
30,036	NOTTS. CO. v NOTTM FOREST	26-12-73

LOWEST ATTENDANCE

2,600	SWINDON v LUTON	26-2-74
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Goal number 13 for Hugh Curran could prove one of the most valuable and crucial contributions this super-striker has made for his club. Despite the ariel challenge of both John Holsgrove and Brian Joyce, Curran climbs in distinctive fashion to slot home the winner against Sheffield Wednesday, while Colin Clarke looks on. The inset also shows Clarke following the flight of the ball into the goal and two precious points were in the bag — thanks for Hughie's header.



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SUPPORTERS CLUB

For a year or two now Good Friday has proved to be the most popular date in our football calendar here at the Manor. Last year 13,174 watched our match with Burnley, which we lost 2-0, and the year before that 18,740 were in attendance when we were defeated 1-0 by Birmingham City. It is a strange coincidence that our visitors today should be Luton Town, a Club who are pushing strongly for promotion to Div. 1 this season, exactly as the two teams mentioned were doing the last two seasons.

There is however one distinct difference between today's match and those referred to. In each of the two previous seasons although the visiting team had been going for promotion, we had been in a fairly comfortable league position. Today we face the dreaded drop into Div. 3 and for that reason alone today's match has much more meaning.

I am writing these notes long before our match with Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday. If we have won that match then there must be an air of expectancy about today. If, on the other hand, it was lost or drawn then today could be our last chance of survival. If victory was ours last Saturday then I foresee our best league gate of the season, given good weather, this Good Friday. So, the best of luck to our lads and if,

as I hope, Luton are beaten today and again in the return match on Tuesday, I also hope Luton can win all their other matches which would ensure them promotion.

SCHOOLBOYS MANOR CUP

A week ago last Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of presenting the "Manor Cup" to the winning captain of the New Marston schoolboys up to the age of eleven years. The Manor Cup was given by Oxford United Supporter's Club back in the late fifties, being first played for during the 1959/60 season. It was refreshing to see these youngsters enjoying their game so much and in such a sporting manner. The fact that New Marston School defeated the local Headington School, St. Andrews, by 7-0 did not stop the local boys coming up smiling at the end. The Supporter's Club treasure this trophy and hope that our continued fostering of this competition will help and encourage schoolboy football in Oxford.

Judging by the performance of these lads of tender age the future of the magnificent Oxford Boys Senior side is healthy.

JIM HUNT.
SECRETARY/TREASURER.

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STATISTICS

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO up to and including Saturday 6th April

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Best	Average
Middlesbro	37	25	10	2	62	23	60	37038	22025
Luton	36	18	9	9	54	42	45	19812	11339
Orient	36	14	14	8	50	37	42	20611	10801
Blackpool	37	14	13	10	49	36	41	18575	9786
Carlisle	36	16	9	11	54	41	41	11152	7402
Nottm Forest	36	13	14	9	50	35	40	29657	14647
W.B.A.	37	13	14	10	45	41	40	43080	16540
Sunderland	36	15	9	12	47	35	39	41658	23753
Bolton	37	14	10	13	42	36	38	23315	15216
Fulham	37	14	10	13	32	34	38	18114	9611
Hull	38	11	16	11	41	45	38	17409	8534
Notts. Co.	38	14	10	14	51	57	38	30036	12471
Aston Villa	35	12	13	10	41	35	37	37323	24639
Millwall	37	12	12	13	46	45	36	15143	9145
Portsmouth	37	12	11	14	39	58	35	20062	14017
Bristol City	37	12	9	16	42	48	33	25438	14216
Cardiff	37	9	13	15	42	55	31	14799	9831
Sheff. Wed.	37	10	9	18	47	53	29	22094	14035
Crystal Palace	36	9	11	16	36	47	29	30054	20708
Oxford United	36	8	13	15	32	44	29	10161	6708
Preston	37	8	12	17	36	57	27	21747	12245
Swindon	38	5	11	22	33	67	21	13991	6976

OXFORD FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES INC. CUP

	A	G		A	G
ATKINSON	27	4	FLEMING	15	—
AYLOTT	19	—	GOUGH	13	2
BRAY	4	—	JEFFREY	12	1
BURTON	39	—	LIGHT	17	—
CASSIDY	25	6	LOWE	10	—
CLARKE C	31	1	LUCAS	20	—
CLARKE D	38	5	ROBERTS	39	1
CURRAN	33	13	SHUKER	37	1
EVANSON	24	—	SKEEN	17	—
FLAY	2	—	BRIGGS	7	—

DIV. 2 LEADING SCORERS

Byrom, BOLTON	23
McKenzie, FOREST	22
Brown (T), ALBION	22
Wood, MILLWALL	20
Fairbrother, ORIENT	19
Halom, SUNDERLAND	19
Foggon, MIDDLESB	16
Davies, PORTSMOUTH	15
Clarke, CARLISLE	15
Butlin, LUTON	15

FIRST TEAM

Sat. 30th March, Lost 2-0 v Bolton (home)

Burton, Light, Shuker, Roberts, Clarke, C.,
Briggs, Clarke, D., Atkinson, Curran, Bray,
Aylott. Sub. Skeen rep. Aylott 65 mins.

RESERVES

Wed. 27th March, Won 3-1 v Reading (away)

Thomas, Lucas, Flay, Bodell, Lowe,
Campbell, Fleming, Foley, Gough, Taylor,
Sub. Tait d.n.p.
Scorers, Campbell, Fleming, Gough

YOUTH TEAM

Mon. 25th March, Lost 3-1 v Coventry (away)

Millard, Taylor, Styles, Burgess, Bodell, Tait,
McGrogan, Hunt, Unitt, Foley, Jones
Sub. Baker rep Hunt 60 mins.
Scorer. Burgess

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
Norwich City	35	21	9	5	76	33	51
A.F.C. Bournemouth	34	20	7	7	60	37	47
Leicester City	34	19	8	7	49	23	46
Ipswich Town	37	19	8	10	69	46	46
Luton Town	35	16	8	11	73	49	40
Arsenal	34	15	10	9	44	32	40
Tottenham Hotspur	35	15	10	10	44	38	40
Chelsea	36	15	9	12	60	43	39
Queens Park Rangers	32	13	11	8	54	39	37
Oxford United	33	13	10	10	35	30	36
Plymouth Argyle	32	13	9	10	50	43	35
Fulham	33	12	10	11	33	34	34
Swindon Town	32	12	9	11	43	41	33
West Ham United	33	12	8	13	37	43	32
Birmingham City	35	13	6	12	34	40	32
Bristol Rovers	33	10	9	14	40	55	29
Crystal Palace	32	10	6	16	33	55	26
Cardiff City	36	9	7	20	36	60	25
Swansea City	31	9	5	17	40	59	23
Southampton	34	7	7	20	37	72	21
Bristol City	32	8	4	20	32	60	20
Reading	34	3	4	27	25	77	10

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date		Opponents	Att	F A
Aug 25	A	Hull City	7721	0-0
Sept 1	H	Nottingham Forest	7638	1-0
8	A	Aston Villa	28078	0-2
12	A	Cardiff City	8572	0-5
15	H	Sunderland	9022	0-1
19	H	Notts County	6739	2-1
22	A	Carlisle United	5093	1-2
29	H	Fulham	8046	0-0
Oct 2	A	Notts County	9279	0-0
6	A	Portsmouth	11669	1-2
10	H	Fulham (L.C.2)	7131	1-1
13	H	Crystal Palace	10161	1-1
16	A	Fulham (L.C.2)	6435	0-3
20	A	Swindon Town	7537	0-1
24	H	Cardiff City	6127	4-2
27	H	Orient	8830	1-1
Nov 3	A	Bolton Wanderers	12709	1-2
10	H	Middlesbrough	8733	0-2
17	H	Preston North End	6750	1-1
24	A	Sheffield Wednesday	7998	1-0
Dec 1	H	Millwall	Postponed	
8	A	Albion	12098	0-1
15	H	Blackpool	5001	2-2
22	A	Fulham	4973	1-3
26	H	Bristol City	7493	5-0
29	H	Aston Villa	10149	2-1
Jan 1	A	Nottingham Forest	18079	1-1
5	H	Man City F.A. Cup 3	13435	2-5
12	A	Sunderland	16509	0-0
19	H	Hull City	6094	1-1
26	H	Millwall	5397	0-3
Feb 2	A	Blackpool	5508	0-2
9	H	Carlisle United	Postponed	
17	A	Crystal Palace (5)	23169	0-2
23	H	Portsmouth	7765	3-0
Mar 2	A	Bristol City (LCF)	25438	0-0
9	A	Orient	10375	1-1
17	H	Swindon Town	9554	1-1
23	A	Middlesbrough	26877	0-1
30	H	Bolton Wanderers (SF)	6223	0-2
Apr 6	H	Sheffield Wednesday	7223	1-0
12	H	Luton Town		
13	A	Preston North End		
16	A	Luton Town		
20	H	Albion		
23	H	Carlisle United		
27	A	Millwall		
May 4		F.A. Cup Final		

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SPOTLIGHT

JIMMY CAMPBELL

When it came to a sporting discussion, the noble art of rugby always had pride of place in the Oxford home of Mr & Mrs Bill Richards. But that has obviously been under some dispute for the last 12 months since Jimmy Campbell moved in with other ideas from his Bedford birthplace.

Jimmy has "lodged" a challenge to the Richards' first sporting love by bringing professional football right into the living room of this family, who have proved his Oxford "digs" since Gerry Summers plucked him out of the Southern League with his string of goals.

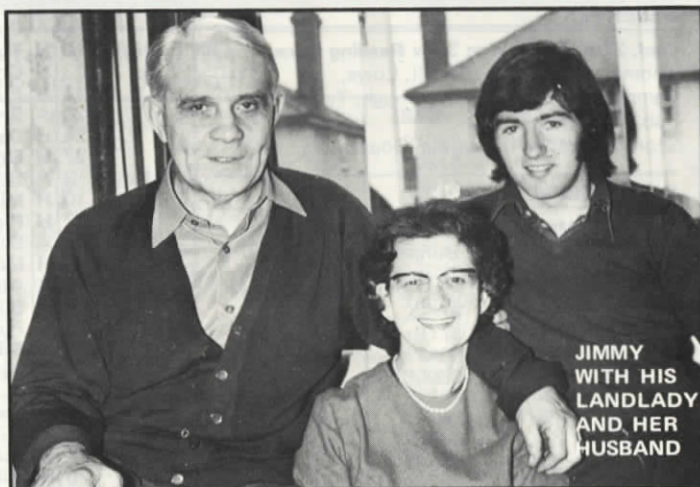
Says Jimmy: "As they are Welsh, I can understand their views and I have a tough time convincing either of them that my game has equal merits - but sometimes I know I'm on a sticky wicket with them."

After sampling the end of last season with Gerry Summers, this former Bedford Town striker has pinned down a permanent place in the Football Combination side but is disappointed that he's not hit more goals.

"I must thank the boss for being patient with me in persevering with a player who has not yet clicked to do the job for which he was bought. I scored in a pre-season friendly against Everton and have had to wait right up to the game against Reading last week - not the kind of averages I want to live with!"

But it's impossible for a player to lose overnight a "gift" which he has portrayed in such a positive and attractive manner over the last three seasons under the Bedford Town banner.

Three caps for England's Amateur Youth team stiffened young Campbell's bid to lift himself out



JIMMY
WITH HIS
LANDLADY
AND HER
HUSBAND

of the Bedford youth side. This he did with the guidance of Terry Chalk, the Youth team coach, and later it was Brian Garvey who moulded Jimmy into a top striker for the Town in the Premier Division of the Southern League.

"I was on the doorstep of Luton, but nothing happened there after a couple of trials, likewise at Ipswich, so when I had the chance of joining The Manor I took it, not because there was nothing else to go at, but because it is the kind of club where opportunities can come quickly."

Jimmy has just celebrated his first 12 months with a sustained run in the Combination side, mainly employed as a right flank striker - but his goals count has got him worried. "I never got off to a good start, and I've been working to try and catch up ever since - without success."

"Perhap now I've broken the ice, things may start to happen, but with only just over a handful of games left, there's not a lot of time in my favour."

Whatever the final total, rest assured Jimmy already has plans to start early in a bid to gear himself for a second full season and a bigger goal haul he says. "I have recognised the need to be fitter and faster in Football Combination games than was the case in the Southern League, so I intend to be using up some of the close season making sure my physical condition only gets better".

A thread through the record books over the last few years shows that Bedford Town has been the source of a couple of hefty transfer deal among the giants of the League. Chelsea's Bill Garner (£100,000) sprung into professional soccer from there and so did Dave Peach (£50,000), an ex-Bedford utility defender bought from Gillingham by Southampton.

From the same Southern League "pool" Oxford have hooked Jimmy Campbell, an Anglo-Scot with the potential and ability to be having his "fling" at the top of the soccer ladder in a few years time.

behind the scenes

Today we welcome all connected with Luton Town to the Manor for our only home fixture of the holiday period. After meeting fellow strugglers Sheffield Wednesday last week our opponents this afternoon are looking set for promotion back to Division One after an absence of fourteen years, so our match this afternoon and the return fixture at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday will have a vital influence on the future of both Clubs. Having gained two precious points last week our prospects of survival in the second division appear much brighter but every point and every goal now could prove decisive.

Our gate today, with the help of a large influx of "Hatters" followers, could be the best League attendance of the season, the present highest being 10,161 v Crystal Palace. If this were to prove so it would continue the sequence of the last three years when our best league attendance figures have been set on Good Friday. These were 16,196 v Birmingham City in 1970/71, 18,740 v Birmingham City again in 1971/72 and 13,174 v Burnley last season. This last figure was followed the next day with our lowest gate of last season v Carlisle United, but we are more fortunate this year with the fixture arrangements. It can never be a good thing to have two home fixtures on consecutive days, even at holiday times as the 'floating' spectators will choose the more attractive fixture and miss the other one and even the hard core must decide whether they can afford to double their gate money.

Behind the scenes preparations for next season which incidentally will start on Saturday August 17th,

are already under way. There will be an announcement about season tickets shortly, though obviously these will be affected by whether we retain our Second Division status. On Tuesday April 23rd The Football League is holding an Extraordinary General Meeting for considering future arrangements for the televising of Football League matches. This is the same date as our rearranged fixture with Carlisle United and I would remind any person who holds stand tickets from the postponed fixture in February that these will be valid for the new date.

At this time of year some alterations and additions to fixtures usually occur and those are often at fairly short notice so do keep a check in the local press. In particular we hope that details of a match in aid of Ken Fish's Testimonial Fund will soon be available probably to take place on the eve of the F.A. Cup Final.

I must end with my usual appeal to you all to refrain from running onto the pitch at all times before, during and after the match. Happy Easter to you all.

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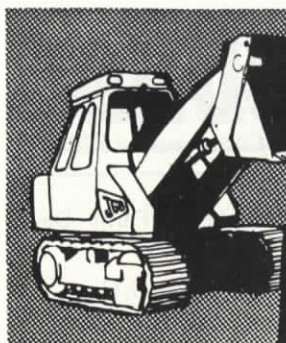
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Preston v Sheffield Wed.	G	Colchester v Brentford	S
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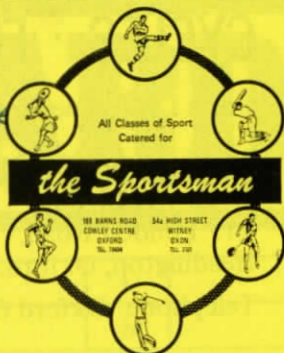
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