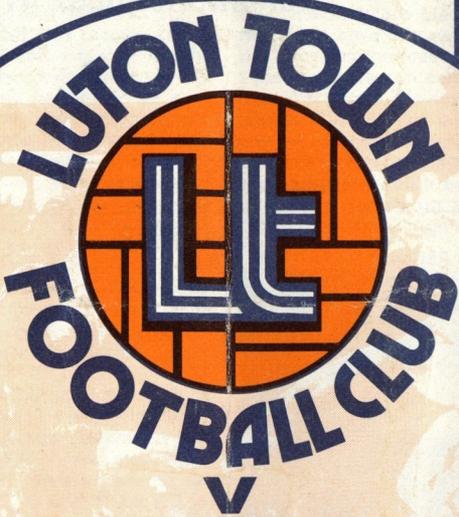


**WELCOME  
THROSTLES**



**LUTON TOWN  
FOOTBALL CLUB** ©

**V**

**W.B. ALBION**

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 11  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO  
SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER 1975  
(Kick-off: 3.00 pm)



**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
PRICE: TEN PENCE**



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# HARRY'S TOWN

I am taking the opportunity during a brief quiet spell in the Esso Hotel, Belgium, where I have just spent one of the most nerve-racking weekends in my football life. I came over to sell Peter Anderson and arrived to hear the news of our problems reverberating across the Continent and around the world of football.

It is difficult to believe the consequences and the results of our financial dilemmas. I was telephoned by almost every newspaper and television company in the country and told that unless 'Andy' signed, the Club would find itself in an irretrievable position as the creditors had only given us 28 day's grace. It was a terrible position to be in. I was in danger of losing my bargaining power regarding the deal with Antwerp. It was in the Belgian Press and they knew full well our situation. When Roger Duckworth from the *Evening Post* caught up with us in Antwerp and informed me of the position regarding the shareholders' and creditors' meetings it was like a nightmare. We really spent the weekend on hot coals. We went to two games on Saturday—Antwerp reserves in the afternoon and the first team against Charlerois in the evening—during which time Peter was being constantly chatted up by Antwerp's directors.

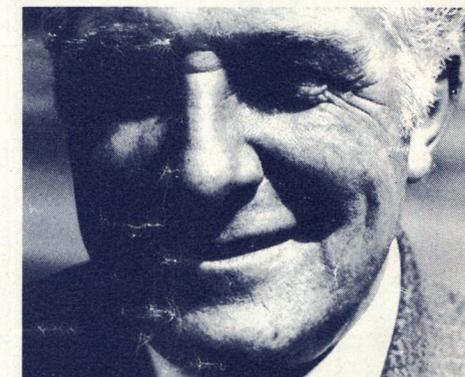
It was rather an invidious position to be in. I had to be non-committal whilst negotiating both for Peter and for Luton. When interviewed by the Belgian T.V. company, I had to try and make light of it. "Would Peter sign?" they asked. "It all depends on the weather," I told them. "The weather?" they said. "Yes," I replied, "whether or not he wants to!"

I know it seems flippant to laugh at a time like this but I felt that a blasé attitude at this time could save the day. I had to play it by ear. It is difficult to conceive the situation in which we find ourselves when you take into consideration that the last football club to fold was Accrington Stanley in 1962 and, believe me, whilst you think it can never happen to you, it certainly has been brought home to us this week. It is an incon-

ceivable thought. I can assure you on behalf of players, staff and myself we are going to fight; we are going to pull up our socks and have a go. There is talk, I understand, of the Club issuing a new block of 100,000 £1 shares. Please buy some. Become part of the Club. I have always told you that Malcolm MacDonald would do anything for Luton Town—and for me. Well, when he heard of the shares, he was on the 'phone offering to buy some if it would help. So come on, follow Mac. For a couple of quid you may help save a great football club. Let's get this show on the road again.

I just hope we can carry on our good form and beat West Brom. It's not been an easy time for the players. They are big enough to take it, and they are big enough to push us back to the top of Division Two. Come with us!

I would like to finish by saying thank you to all those who turned up to make Monday a great night for Alan Slough's benefit. It was quite a night.



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## THANKS ALAN!

9,400 Luton fans said their own "Thank You" to Alan Slough last Monday night as the Town played an All-Stars line-up that included Bob Wilson, Malcolm MacDonald, Colin Todd, Bruce Rioch and David Nish.

Gareth Owen was busy recording the scenes during and after the match.

- 1—Alan signs for his fans.
- 2—Goal! Andy King gives Bob Wilson no chance.
- 3—'Supermac' and mascot Carl Barnett.



# WELCOME TO WEST BROM



**WEST BROMWICH ALBION F.C.—Season 1975-76**

Back row: John Trewick, Trevor Thompson, Bryan Clarke, Ian Edwards, Bob Ward, John Osborne, Joe Mayo, Bryan Robson, Ally Brown, Ray Wilson, Tony Brown, Brian Whitehouse (Coach).

Front row: Len Cantello, Allan Glover, Alistair Robertson, Gordon Nisbet, John Wile, John Giles (Player/Manager), Barry Donaghy, Dave Shaw (now Oldham Athletic) Alan Merrick, Dave Rushbury, Willie Johnston.

**West Bromwich Albion, from the industrial Black Country, are bang on target for promotion and a return to Division One, which they vacated in April 1973. They are looking stronger with every game played.**

**Under the shrewd, telling and superb guidance of that elegant midfield genius, Johnny Giles—the club's first player-manager incidentally—Albion have been woven into a side of workers; of whole-hearted grafters; of runners—men who will keep going hard until way after full-time!!**

Team-work, when players delve, cover and strive for each other, is the key point in Giles tactics. He learnt this efficient style at Leeds, and now he's successfully putting it over at Albion—and it's not only to the seniors!

His Central League XI are riding high in their Division and the youth teams, too, are doing equally well in their respective competitions. Giles has his forwards scurrying back to cover in

defence; his midfield men constantly go forward and back, as the case requires, and overall, players are covering players.

**At the start of this season, Albion struggled—losing at Southampton, Fulham, Sunderland, and Fulham again in the League Cup. But since that last defeat they've only lost once—at Plymouth—in 14 matches, and victories at Bristol City, Blackpool, Oxford and Bolton were really workmanlike performances.**

No doubt the linking of two Eire internationals—**Mick Martin** from Manchester United and **Paddy Mulligan** from Crystal Palace—with their boss, has helped bring about this big revival, which has circulated straight through the side.

**John Osborne**, the 35 year-old "youngster" whom Albion signed from Chesterfield in 1967, is playing better than ever; Scot **Ray Wilson**, with 283 games behind him, is having a new lease of life, while central defender, **Ally Robertson** (192 appearances) is also in splendid form, and has been pencilled in for

full Scottish honours. **Tony 'Bomber' Brown**, with 221 goals in 529 senior outings for Albion, is another player who has been revitalized; as have ex-Leicester star, **Alistair Brown**, currently buzzing around like a 10-year-old, and Under-23 cap **Len Cantello**, a man in the £150,000 class.

Welshman **Ian Edwards**, England's 1966 World Cup idol, **Geoff Hurst**, whom Albion captured from Stoke earlier in the season, after he had hit 210 goals in 518 League games for West Ham and City, and big **Joe Mayo**, the former Walsall player, have all figured as front-runners, with the latter proving a real bargain at £10,000.

But it's **wee Willie Johnston**, the ex-Glasgow Ranger and the club's record "buy" at £138,000 three years ago, who is the "man in form". capped nine times by Scotland. Willie has been brilliant on Albion's left flank, and in his career he's netted 122 goals in 360 appearances.

**John Wile** will be missing from today's fray—having collected a 3-match ban following five

bookings, but he has a capable deputy in **Bryan 'Pop' Robson**, who has already had 11 games in the first team.

Going back to **Paddy Mulligan** . . . he replaced Gordon Nisbet at right-back and although the wrong side of 30, he has added experience and strength to Albion's defence.

Paddy's fellow countryman, **Mick Martin** is easily Giles's finest acquisition. A tremendous competitor, he has magnificent skills, and loads of stamina—a snip at £20,000.

**Trevor Thompson, Alan Merrick, Dave Rushbury, Allan Glover** and young **John Trewick**, have featured in Albions senior ranks this term, but neither has been able to command a regular place.

**Giles**, on the other hand, has been the driving cog in this new Albion team.

He's played in some 465 competitive games for Manchester United, Leeds and Albion, including a record five F.A. Cup Finals, European, Fairs Cup and Football League Cup Finals, umpteen semi-finals and has 45 Eire caps—a brilliant record, befitting a brilliant footballer—even today, at the age of 35!

His "talking" left foot is sheer magic and his "brain" is certainly making Albion tick in 1975-76.

## ALBION FACTS AND FIGURES:

This is the 22nd meeting between us at League level and our record to date reads;

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	10	3	3	4	12	10	9
Away	11	1	1	9	7	25	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>

- Our best win is 5-1 here, in December 1957, while Albion's best is 4-0, at The Hawthorns, in February 1957 and October 1959.
- The first time we met in any sort of game was in 1891, when Albion won a friendly encounter 4-0 at Dallow Lane in front of 3,500 fans.
- The initial League clash took place on Christmas Eve 1938, when Town won a Division Two affair, 3-1, before 11,700 people. Redfean (2) and Stephenson scored, and Johnson replied.
- In the F.A. Cup, the first Luton-Albion tie was played at the Excelsior Ground in January 1897, and a record crowd—16,898, paying record receipts of £184 15 1d—saw Albion win 1-0.
- Ten players have assisted both Luton and Albion down the years: Jack Bannister (1960s), Lewis Bedford and Louis Bookman (1920s) Eli Bradley (1900s), Eddie Connelly (1937-47), Billy Gripton (late 1940s), Fred Haycock (1907-08), Derek Kevan (1960s), Mark Nicholson (1890s) and Bruce Rankin (1907-08).
- Albion coach, Brian Whitehouse, did a similar job at Luton in the mid '60s, before moving to Arsenal.



## LUTON V ORIENT

Saturday 29th November

1—Jimmy Husband crashes a goal past John Jackson

2—John Aston's header just goes wide

3—After a great 30-yards dash, John Ryan's effort is thwarted by Jackson

Action Pictures:  
Gareth Owen



# TOWN CHAT

## MASCOT

This afternoon's mascot is Paul Cullen of 5 Hewlett Road, Leagrave, Luton, Paul is eleven years old.

## FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Monday, 1st December, 1975

### LUTON TOWN 0, IPSWICH TOWN 1

Team: Knight, Mead, Thomson, Jim Ryan, Carr, Price, Russell, Spiring, Ron Futcher, Seasman, Fuccillo. Substitute: Simon for Russell, after 65 minutes.

This game was played in aquatic conditions, but the standard of play was very good considering the driving rain, the wind and the ankle-deep mud.

In the first half, although we created the two most clear-cut chances, Ipswich looked the more compact side. Ipswich's goal, the only one of the game, was scored by Turner when he received the ball on the edge of the box and cleverly held off Carr and Mead.

In the second half we began to put Ipswich under pressure. However, as soon as we came within shooting range the ball either stuck in the mud or our forwards took the ball one step too far.

With twenty-five minutes to go, Simon substituted for Russell. We continued in command of the game with Tony Knight, in goal, almost a spectator, but when he was called upon he made a tremendous save to keep out a Turner header. Sivell, in the Ipswich goal, kept out all our efforts with some fine handling and although everyone gave all they had we just could not manage to score.

Our fitness was certainly proved in these conditions. Fuccillo and Mead continued their improved form but it would be impossible to criticise anyone on this display.

## MIDWEEK FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Thursday, 4th December, 1975

### LUTON TOWN 2, WATFORD 0 (Donnelly, Seasman)

Team: Knight, Morgan, Thomson, Jim Ryan, Jones, Malcolm, Simon, Russell, Spiring, Fuccillo, Donnelly. Substitutes: Seasman for Spiring, 72 mins. Coyne.

Owing to the waterlogged state of the Kenilworth Road pitch following the Combination game against Ipswich on the previous Monday, this match was played at the Laporte Sports Ground.

Watford included some very experienced players in their side, but our youngsters

gave a very good display throughout the game.

In the first half we had a goal disallowed for offside and we didn't manage to get the ball in the back of the net again until the second half when, in the 59th minute, a well-taken free kick by Fuccillo was converted into a goal by Ian Donnelly. After 84 minutes we increased our lead when Seasman scored our second goal.

This was a good result with an impressive performance from a very young side—Thomson at the back, Jim Ryan in midfield and Peter Spiring up front were the only experienced players. Both Graham Jones and Alex Malcolm had great games and all the youngsters showed improvements.

## MIDWEEK FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLE (Up to and including 8th December, 1975)

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	15	9	3	3	31	16	21
Peterborough Utd.	11	7	3	1	25	14	17
Cambridge United	11	5	5	1	17	11	15
Charlton Athletic	8	6	2	0	29	14	14
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>
Southend United	11	5	2	4	20	14	12
Brighton & H. A.	12	4	4	4	17	19	12
Millwall	12	4	3	5	25	31	11
Orient	7	4	0	3	16	13	8
Portsmouth	10	3	2	5	13	18	8
Brentford	12	2	4	6	12	23	8
Gillingham	11	2	3	6	20	19	7
Colchester United	12	2	2	8	16	33	6
Northampton T.	11	1	1	9	14	32	3



The Directors, Players and Staff

would like to wish you a

*Merry Christmas*

and a

*Successful New Year*



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# TOWN TRAVEL

HULL CITY v LUTON TOWN

Saturday 20th December 1975 Kick-off 3pm

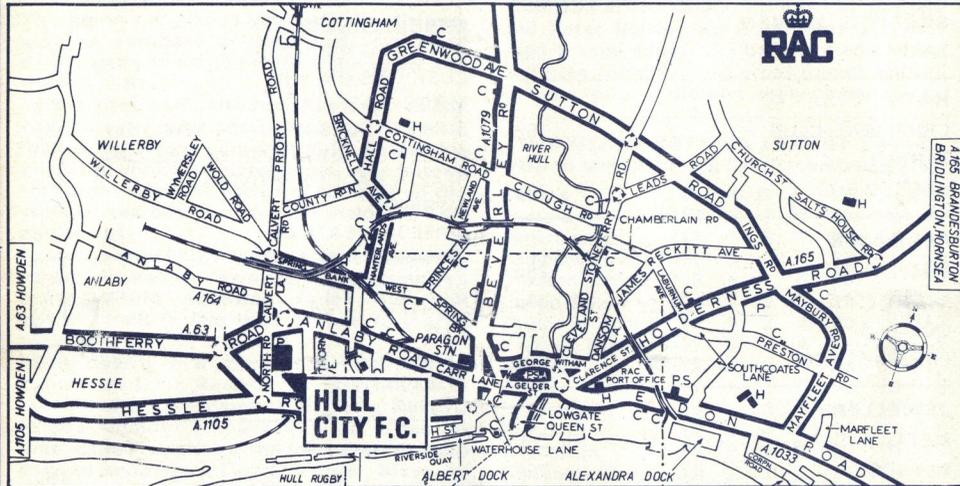
Leave Luton via the Dunstable Road towards the M1 Motorway. Proceed North on the M1 through Northampton, Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham to Rotherham. Join the M18 until junction No. 1. Leave the M18 at the junction with the A631 to Bawtrey, then take the A614 to Howden and the A63 to Hull. Enter Hull along Boothferry Road,

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# TEAMS

## LUTON TOWN

Colours: Shirts—Orange with a White & Navy Stripe. Shorts—Navy. Stockings—Orange.

- 1 KEITH BARBER
- 2 JOHN RYAN
- 3 STEVE BUCKLEY
- 4 BRIAN CHAMBERS
- 5 JOHN FAULKNER
- 6 PAUL FUTCHER
- 7 JIMMY HUSBAND
- 8 ANDY KING
- 9 RON FUTCHER
- 10 ALAN WEST
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12 JIM RYAN

## WEST BROMWICH ALBION

Colours: Shirts—Navy Blue and White Stripes  
Shorts—White. Stockings—White.

- 1 JOHN OSBORNE
- 2 PADDY MULLIGAN
- 3 RAY WILSON
- 4 TONY BROWN
- 5 BRYAN ROBSON
- 6 ALISTAIR ROBERSTON
- 7 MICK MARTIN
- 8 ALISTAIR BROWN
- 9 JOE MAYO
- 10 JOHNNY GILES
- 11 WILLIE JOHNSTON
- 12

# SCORES

1	Aston Villa v Norwich City	
2	Burnley v West Ham United	
3	Everton v Birmingham City	
4	Ipswich Town v Leeds United	
5	Leicester C. v Newcastle Utd.	
6	Manchester C. v Coventry C.	
7	Q.P.R. v Derby County	
8	Sheffield Utd v Manchester U.	
9	Stoke City v Arsenal	
10	Tottenham H. v Liverpool	
11	Wolves v Middlesbrough	
12	Bristol City v Hull City	
13	Carlisle United v Chelsea	
14	Fulham v Bolton Wanderers	
15	Nott'm F. v Portsmouth	
16	Oldham A. v Blackburn R.	
17	Southampton v Notts County	
18	Sunderland v Oxford United	
19	York City v Bristol Rovers	
20	Gillingham v Brighton & H. A.	
21	Hendon v Swindon Town	
22	Millwall v Crystal Palace	
23	Darlington v Cambridge Utd.	
24	Exeter City v Northampton T.	

## MAN IN THE MIDDLE

### Referee:

Mr E. A Raed, Bristol

Eric Read refereed in local leagues and the Western league before going on the League line in 1968, the Supplementary List and the full list last season. Linesman for a UEFA Cup match in West Germany last season and a League Cup semi-final in January 1974. Married with a daughter he is a general manager and his interests include travelling and photography, watching all sports and coaching new referees. His wife and daughter watch most of his matches.

### Linesmen:

Mr D. HUTCHINSON, Witney—Red Flag

Mr P. E. KNOCK, Reading—Orange Flag

## DIVISION TWO LEAGUE TABLE 1975-76

Teams	P	Home					Away					P
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
Sunderl'd	20	10	1	0	28	5	3	2	4	8	12	29
Bolton W.	20	5	3	1	19	7	5	4	2	16	13	27
Bristol C.	20	6	3	1	19	5	4	3	3	16	14	26
Notts Co.	20	5	4	1	11	4	4	2	4	9	12	24
W.B.A.	20	4	5	0	11	5	4	3	4	9	14	24
Fulham	19	4	4	2	14	6	4	2	3	11	10	22
Bristol R.	20	3	5	2	12	10	3	5	2	12	9	22
Oldham	20	7	3	1	20	12	1	3	5	9	18	22
Nott'm F.	20	5	1	4	14	8	2	6	2	9	10	21
Chelsea	20	4	4	1	13	8	3	3	5	11	17	21
South'ton	19	9	0	1	26	7	0	2	7	8	20	20
Hull City	20	5	3	3	14	9	3	1	5	8	12	20
<b>Luton T.</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>
Orient	19	5	4	1	10	5	1	3	5	6	11	19
Blackburn	20	3	4	4	10	9	2	5	2	8	10	19
Blackpool	20	4	3	12	14	3	2	5	8	11	19	
Plymouth	20	6	2	2	17	12	0	3	7	5	16	17
Charlton	19	4	1	3	14	13	2	4	5	8	19	17
Carlisle U.	20	4	4	2	11	9	1	2	7	5	17	16
Oxford U.	20	3	2	5	11	14	2	3	5	9	15	15
York C.	20	3	0	6	11	18	0	3	8	5	20	9
P'smouth	20	0	5	5	5	12	1	1	8	6	21	8

Up to and including Saturday 6th December