

HALIFAX TOWN

v

LUTON TOWN

SATURDAY 8th JANUARY 1977

F.A. CHALLENGE CUP 3rd ROUND



10p

Pictured below: 2nd Division LUTON TOWN



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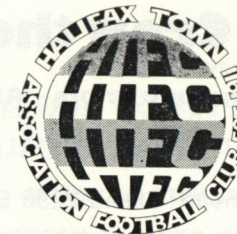
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Alan Ball (Manager), David Holland (Secretary).

Message from Alan Ball

Beaten by the weather like many other league clubs on the New Year fixtures we are straight into Round 3 of the F.A. Cup as our first match of 1977. Over Christmas I think we must admit to having made a present of 2 points to Barnsley although, for the majority of the game we had control. But with so many league clubs being put out of action by snow, and rock hard ground conditions, there is going to be real pressure on them to play two games per week in order to keep on top of fixture commitments. I welcome Luton Town to the Shay. Having seen Luton play this season I can assure you that there is no doubt as to the standard of football we shall see this afternoon. In my opinion they are a good footballing side, much the superior of our last cup opponents,

Preston North End, and, with players like John Aston (ex Manchester Utd.), we will see football of a high standard. None the less, we have proved our spirit and I can promise, we shall battle and strive and put on a good show. I have no lack of confidence and you will see a good game today and, if we can do well I will be truly proud of my team. So, once again, its up for the Cup and give us the same magnificent support you gave when we met Preston. It was tremendous and certainly gave the team the boost they needed and, indeed, deserved.

Keep cheering!!!

ALAN BALL

HALF-TIME SCORES KINDLY PROVIDED BY PENNINE RADIO

A WIMBLEDON v. MIDDLESBRO'	K MANCHESTER UTD. v. WALSALL
B BURNLEY v. LINCOLN CITY	L NORTHWICH VIC. v. WATFORD
C LIVERPOOL v. CRYSTAL PALACE	M SOUTHEND UTD. v. CHESTER
D MANCHESTER C. v. WEST BROM.	N HULL CITY v. PORT VALE
E NOTTINGHAM F. v. BRISTOL R.	P CHARLTON ATH. v. BLACKBURN
F IPSWICH TOWN v. BRISTOL CITY	R WEST HAM UTD. v. BOLTON W.
G OLDHAM ATH. v. PLYMOUTH ARG.	S BLACKPOOL v. DERBY COUNTY
H LEEDS UTD. v. NORWICH CITY	T EVERTON v. STOKE CITY
J SHEFFIELD UTD. v. NEWCASTLE UTD.	

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2. JACK TRAINER
3. TONY LOSKA
4. JIMMY MCGILL
5. CHRIS. DUNLEAVY
6. ALBERT PHELAN
7. BOBBY HOY
8. JOE CARROLL
9. MICK BULLOCK
10. JIMMY LAWSON
11. JOHNNY JOHNSTONE
GEORGE JONES

Linesmen: R. A. BANKS
(Red Flag)
A. A. BOOTH
(Yellow Flag)

LUTON TOWN

Colours:
Orange and White

1. MELAGA ALEKSIC
2. PAUL PRICE
3. STEVE BUCKLEY
4. BRIAN CHAMBERS
5. JOHN FAULKNER
6. PAUL FUTCHER
7. JIM HUSBAND
8. ALAN WEST
9. RON FUTCHER
10. PASQUALE FUCCILLO
11. JOHN ASTON

Referee: J. YATES
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LUTON TOWN F.C. PEN PICS 1976-77

STEVE BUCKLEY—He was a free-scoring left winger with Southern League club Burton Albion when Luton stepped in to buy him for the bargain price of £2,000 in the summer of 1974. Within six months he had been converted into a First Division full-back, and has been Luton's left back ever since his impressive debut. He still shows his old goal-scoring ability, and his fast over-lapping wing runs and thundering left foot shot make him a lethal attacking defender.

PAUL FUTCHER—Luton equalled their record transfer fee when they paid £100,000 for Futchter in the summer of 1974. He was still only 17, and with only a handful of Fourth Division games behind him with Chester, his home town club. But the big league clubs had already seen his potential, and Luton nipped in to beat them all. He has since become one of the most popular players with Luton's supporters; a cool, elegant centre-back, with a marvellous football brain. He reminds a lot of people of Bobby Moore at his best, a ball-winner and superb distributor. Don Revie has already called him up for training sessions with England, and no-one at Kenilworth Road will be surprised to see Paul make it all the way to the England team.

RON FUTCHER—Twin brother of Paul, and identical in looks. When Luton paid £25,000 for him, it was generally reckoned that he had been transferred from Chester just because the boys wanted to stay together. But Ron soon made his mark; he was thrown in at the deep end when Luton were struggling in the First Division and marked his debut with a winning goal. He followed up with a hat-trick in his second First Division game, and has since established himself in Luton's front line.

JOHN FAULKNER—Don Revie was the first man to give Faulkner his league chance; he was the centre-half in the Sutton United team that played Leeds in an F.A. Cup-tie, and did so well that Revie, then Leeds boss, immediately bought him. But he was unlucky at Leeds, and a broken leg threatened to end his career. He overcame it and joined Luton for £6,000 in March '72, and has been a regular member of Luton's defence ever since.

PAUL PRICE—Another player snapped up as a youngster, defender Price has had to fight harder than most

to break through - he broke a leg early in the 1974/75 season, fought his way back to fitness, then broke it again. His determination overcame his atrocious luck, and he came back to make his debut in Division II last season. Still only 22, he comes from Welwyn Garden City.

PASQUALE FUCCILLO—Son of Italian parents who settled at Bedford, players and supporters at Kenilworth Road give this strong midfield player the nickname of "Lil" to overcome their difficulties with his tongue-twisting nickname. But there is no mistaking his footballing ability; he joined Luton as a 16-year-old apprentice in the summer of 1973, and worked his way through to the League side. He scored on his debut in February 1976, and shows every sign of being a regular marksman on his thrusting runs from the middle of the field.

BRIAN CHAMBERS—A Geordie, Chambers made his name and reputation as a midfield player at Sunderland, and they collected £70,000 for him when he was transferred to Arsenal in 1973. But he never broke through to the First team at Highbury, and Luton got him for £30,000 only a year later, when he was 25. He had a patchy start at Luton, flitting in and out of the league side, but finally established himself last season when he became a regular member of the Kenilworth Road team. He reinforces his midfield value by breaking forward to score the occasional goal.

ALAN WEST—Luton broke all club records when they splashed out £100,000 to buy West from Burnley in October 1973, and he and Jim Husband, who was signed a few weeks later, helped the club to win promotion to the first division within six months. An England Under-23 International, West is one of the many starts to emerge from Burnley's "football production line". He comes from Hyde, in Cheshire, and almost went to Sunderland. Luton stepped in after that deal fell through, and West has become a mainstay in their side. Brilliant in his use of the ball, he has been club skipper since early 1975, and in his first full season with the club was named by the supporters as their Player of the Year. Still only 24, he is one of the stars Luton Town want to keep, despite his transfer market value.

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JIM HUSBAND—Joined Luton in November 1973 with a string of honours already collected with Everton. A Geordie, he was capped by England as a schoolboy, as a youth, and at Under-23 level. He went to Goodison Park as soon as he left school, and became a Merseyside favourite in a ten-year stay there in which he hit 75 goals. Luton paid Everton £70,000 for his services and he was their leading goal-scorer last season.

JOHN ASTON—Like his famous father before him, also named John Aston, John broke into professional football with Manchester United, and achieved

international fame with an out-of-this-world performance on United's left wing in their European Cup Final triumph against Benfica at Wembley in 1968. Aston destroyed their defence, but a broken leg interrupted his career at Old Trafford. He was 25 when Luton manager Harry Haslam, a former Manchester United player himself, stepped in to secure his services for £30,000 in July 1972, and Aston has been one of Luton's most consistent players ever since. He can tantalise full-backs and provide inch-perfect crosses - a winger in the traditional style.

A Touch of History. . .

1933 - F.A. CUP ROUND 5 - HALIFAX TOWN v. LUTON TOWN

The first of only two occasions on which Halifax Town has got through to the 5th Round of the Cup (on the other occasion we met Tottenham) they met Luton Town at Shay Ground. With Halifax in the 3rd Division (North) and Luton Town in the 3rd Division (South) the match promised to be even and entertaining. Snow was already falling when the players came out and Oliver Thompson, on winning "the toss" chose to play with the wind - a choice he probably regretted later on. He had seen a 'long haul' to get to the fifth round and having been drawn against Luton the hope was that 'Town' could go further. Well they might have done had they not had to play into a driving blizzard in the second half. After delaying the game for almost 15 minutes the wind and driving snow ran to the advantage of Luton during

the second half and from a match in which neither side had showed any particular domination of the other, Luton came out with a 2-0 win. The team, which had included Walter Shirlaw in goal, Flack, Barrie and Craig and Charlie Daines on the right wing under the control of captain Oliver Thompson had done well, beating Doncaster at Doncaster in the third round and, after drawing in the fourth round at Chester they beat them in extra time with a winning goal by Charlie Davies. A real achievement which was appreciated by the local community for over 29,000 of them turned out to see them meet Luton in the fifth round - at that time a record gate at the Shay and a day well remembered by many of our older supporters.

THIS WEEK'S REFEREE - JOHN H. YATES (Redditch)

Commenced refereeing in 1953 and progressed through the Bromsgrove League, Worcestershire Combination and Birmingham League to the Football League full list. Refereed the 1972 Watney Cup Final, a Football League Cup Semi-Final in 1974 and in the

1972 Anglo-Italian Tournament. Was linesman for a European Cup Quarter-Final in Yugoslavia - Red Star, Belgrade v. Moscow Dynamo. He is a Senior Industrial Relations Officer, and his interests are golf and travel.

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