

# LUTON TOWN

Official  
Programme

20p

♥ **CHARLTON**

Football League  
Division Two

Saturday 3 September 1977  
Kick-off: 3.00pm



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# HARRY HASLAM



THEY SAY it never rains but it pours. Well that's how it was for us at Oldham on Saturday, and I can only say that I hope now we're due for a bit of sunshine!

We were all sick at being beaten, even though there are any number of excuses that can be put forward. Our troubles started before the game, and although on the day we had only ourselves to blame for the way things fell apart you might be interested to know of the problems we had to overcome.

Phil Boersma was still suffering from the hamstring injury that forced him to bow out early in our first

match. He worked like a beaver with physio Reg Game to try to get fit for the trip to Oldham, and very nearly made it. It's typical of the spirit we have right through the club that even when he knew he was not fully fit he still wanted to play, and would have turned out for us if I had let him.

I am delighted to say that we have a good young squad coming through the youth and reserve teams, but this was not the occasion to throw in one of the youngsters. The temptation might be great, but one lesson I have learned from football is that the timing has to be exactly right if young players are to make the breakthrough to the league team. So while youngsters might be ready and eager to have a go, I have to give careful consideration to the possibility that a kid can be pushed in too early. He can be "killed" for months and that is far worse than being held back in the reserves.

So we went to Oldham without a centre-forward, with Alan West wearing

the Number Nine shirt. Our traditions at Luton have always been to ask the midfield men to go through into attacking positions, and that is the way we played it.

Jim Husband and John Aston had to work hard in the front line, with David Carr, Ricky Hill, Lil Fuccillo and Westie going through in support.

It was interesting to see how the pattern baffled Oldham for a long time, and in the end I think Oldham were highly relieved to hold on, then take the points with a lucky winner.

Obviously we were hoping that we could catch Wolves on the rebound in Tuesday's League cup game. I had to write this column before that match, but whatever happened there our main target is still more directly related to today.

We want both points from Charlton, because although cup runs are welcome our major objective is to put Luton Town back where the club belongs — in the First Division.

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Cover photo of Paul Fletcher by courtesy of Gareth Owen — Sportswide Photography

# WELCOME

# CHARLTON

**LAURIE ABRAHAMS**

London born. 5' 10½" 11st. 5lb. Striker. Joined Charlton Athletic in June, 1977, from Barking where he scored 36 goals in Isthmian League last season.

**LES BERRY**

London born. 6' 2" 12st. Defender. Became contract player for Charlton Athletic in January, 1974, and made League debut in February, 1976. Has since become regular first team member, making 39 league appearances last season making a total of 53 appearances and scoring 3 goals.

**TONY BURMAN**

London born. 5' 9" 10st. 8½lb. Midfield player or striker. Signed as contract player with Charlton Athletic in August, 1976, after one month's trial, having been an apprentice at Queen's Park Rangers. Made league debut in match v. Millwall at The Den in December, 1976, when he scored in closing minutes. Made 11 appearances and scored 3 goals last season.

**DAVID CAMPBELL**

Edinburgh born. 6' 1" 11st. 4lb. Defender. Signed as Associated Schoolboy for Charlton Athletic in November, 1973. Was first Associated Schoolboy to appear in first team for Charlton — 1 full and 2 sub. outings. Became contract player in June, 1977, upon leaving school. Is currently a student at London University. Has represented Anglo Scots in match v. Home Scots at St. Mirren in November, 1976.

**BOB CURTIS**

Derbyshire born. 5' 10" 12st. 3lb. Defender. Signed Associated School-

boy forms in May, 1964, became apprentice in April, 1965, and contract player in January, 1967, since when he has been regular first team player. The total of 330 league appearances and 35 goals includes 36(1) and 6 goals last season.

**MIKE FLANAGAN**

Born Ilford, Essex. 5' 10½" 12st. 3lb. Striker. Signed for Charlton Athletic in August, 1971, after playing for Tottenham Hotspur as amateur. His total 184 league appearances and 56 goals for Charlton Athletic include his ever-present 42 last season with 23 goals making him the club's highest scorer in 1976/77. On one occasion has scored 4 goals and also a hat-trick.

**JIM GILES**

Oxfordshire born. 6'. 13st. Defender. Signed for Charlton Athletic in June, 1975, after service with Exeter City, Swindon and Aldershot. Was ever-present in 1975/76 Season and made 36(1) appearances last season scoring 3 times in each season.

**STEPHEN GRITT**

Bournemouth born. 5' 10" 10st. 6lb. Striker. Signed for Charlton Athletic in August, 1977, after a month's trial. Was previously with Bournemouth for whom he made 6 appearances.

**PETER HUNT**

London born. 5' 6½" 11st. 5lb. Midfield player. Signed for Charlton Athletic in February, 1972, from Southend United. Has made 138(20) appearances for the club and has scored 6 goals, including 33(3) appearances last season.

**HUGH McAULEY**

Born in Bootle Lancs. 5' 8½" 10st. 12lb. Winger. Signed for Charlton Athletic in December, 1976, from Plymouth Argyle. Started career with Liverpool, then went on loan to Tranmere Rovers. Made 24 league appearances for the club last season.

**WILLY O'SULLIVAN**

London born. 5' 7" 8st. 13lb. Striker. Signed Associated Schoolboy forms for Charlton Athletic in February, 1975, then became apprentice in April, 1976. Made League debut as substitute in match v. Hereford U. on 25th February, 1977, at The Valley. Has represented the Republic of Ireland in UEFA Youth Cup Tournament at the end of last season.

**KEITH PEACOCK**

Born in Barnehurst, Kent. 5' 6½" 10st. 10lbs. Midfield player. Signed professional for the club in July, 1962, having been with the club one year as an amateur. Was the first ever substitute in Football League when he came on in the match against Bolton Wanderers on 21st August, 1965. Total league appearances of 447(16) and 86 goals, includes 39 and 6 goals for last season.

**MARK PENFOLD**

London born. 5' 7" 10st. 6lb. Defender. Signed apprentice forms with the club in May, 1972, and full professional in April, 1974. Became the youngest ever player to appear for Charlton Athletic in August, 1973, at the age of 16 years 8½ months. His total league appearances of 54(3) includes 9 last season.

**COLIN POWELL**

Middlesex born. 5' 10" 11st. 7lb. Winger. Signed for Charlton in January, 1973, from Barnet and was previously with Stevenage Town. His total league appearances of 177(6) and 18 goals, includes his ever-present 42 last season and 2 goals.

**DICK TYDEMAN**

Born Gillingham, Kent. 6' 1½" 12st. 7lb. Midfield player. Signed for Charlton Athletic in December, 1976, having been with Gillingham as an apprentice and professional making 280 league appearances for them. Made 24 league appearances for the club last season.

**PHIL WARMAN**

Born Downham, Kent. 5' 7" 11st. 2lb. Defender. Signed professional for the club in March, 1968, having been an amateur since 1966. Began career as winger but most of his 212(3) league appearances have been at left back. Represented England in Amateur Youth International. Made 38 League appearances last season and scored 2 goals.

**JEFF WOOD**

London born. 6' 1" 10st. 13lb. Goalkeeper. Has been ever-present since league debut in November, 1975. Has made 56 league appearances with the club. Previously with Harlow Town.

**Left to Right**

Front: Abrahams, Hunt, Wood, Peacock, McAuley.

Middle: Warman, Carey, Powell, Flanagan, Burman, Penfold.

Back: Tydeman, Berry, Curtis, Giles, Campbell, Hicks.

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# LUTON LATEST

SINCE OUR last programme the offices in Kenilworth Road has been a rather busy place. With the arrival of Paul Price, Alan West & Ron Futchler back from the United States, came the problem of obtaining the International Clearance Certificates from the N.A.S.L. (North American Soccer League) to our own Football Association before they could play in England. After numerous telephone calls to and from America they were finally obtained on Wednesday afternoon just in time for the trio to play in the Reserve match at Reading. Then on Friday afternoon came the news that Northampton wanted to sign Peter Mead. Talks between the two managers ended with the news that Peter would join Northampton on loan to the end of the Season (as we did with David Geddis last season). All the forms and documents necessary were signed and posted off. Then came the news that the Football League would not accept the transfer as the 'Cobblers' already have one player on loan. Under a new ruling this season, a club may loan two players during the season but not at the same time. After more talks between the two managers and the player it was decided that Peter would leave us and sign for the 'Cobblers' permanently. We wish him every success with his new club. Incidentally he signed his forms on the slip road of the M1 motorway at junction 14. This just goes to show the unusual places that transfers are made these days. John Seasman's transfer to Millwall was another one. That was

completed in the self service cafeteria at Scratwood again on the M1.

★

Next season we, like all other clubs in the 2nd Division come under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act. I wonder if any of our supporters saw in the national newspapers that Everton were in trouble with their local County Council for allowing 38,000 people into their ground when their limit has been set at 36,000. This for a ground that can hold 60,000 plus takes some taking in but perhaps it is the sign of the times. I believe that some of the smaller clubs could fold unless enough money is found to put their grounds in order. I hope I'm wrong.

★

Supporters who come into our ticket office have probably noticed a new face at the window. Wayne Morgan who was one of our apprentice professionals, has taken up the position of assistant secretary and now has the opportunity to learn the other side of the game. At the moment he is still playing for Aylesbury United during mid-week matches just to keep his hand in. His duties also include looking after the Junior Hatters, so now you youngsters know who to write to now that its founder George Rogers has left us.

★

One of our most popular youngsters, 16 year old Tony Wilkinson, has suffered an unfortunate start to his

career with the Club. The ex-Luton Boys and Lewsey Centre player received an elbow in his face in the friendly game against Qatar. As a result he sustained a cracked cheekbone and has lost his front teeth. Knowing his determination and attitude we are all sure that he will soon be back in the fray. Tony has already played in our Combination side whilst still a school-boy and we are sure that this injury will only prove a temporary setback. Get fit soon Tony!

★

Alan Currie who has recently joined the Club from Belfast as an apprentice professional made his debut in the Football Combination at Reading last week. Alan, a 16 year-old Irish International Schoolboy full back could not have wished for a better start. He played a fine pass across goal for Gary Heale to complete a five goal away victory. Alan is one of nine apprentices who joined the Club in the close season. Five of the others, Les Harriott, Gary Sisman, Wayne Turner, Tony Wilkinson and Tom Stewart have already played in our Football Combination side.

★

In our last programme we referred to a cross-country event for horses and riders which is taking place on Sunday, September 25th at Burston Hill Farm, Weedon, Near Aylesbury, Bucks. The very interesting course is approximately 5 miles long and comprises 30 obstacles. The course is designed to

# LUTON LATEST

cater for both novices and experienced riders and there are many prizes and awards to be won. Last year, when the event was held for the first time, £1000 was raised and this was shared between the Football Club and the British Heart Foundation and it is hoped that this target can be exceeded this year. Entry fees are only £1 per horse but most of the revenue is derived from sponsorships and each rider must obtain at least 2½p per point, the liability of sponsors being limited to 200 points. Prizes and Rosettes are awarded to all competitors who achieve £10 or more in sponsorships. At last years event Harry Haslam's daughter Karen, taking part in a competitive event for the first time not only completed the course but also took the top prize for sponsorship with no less a figure than £140. You can help in several ways. First of all we would like as many riders to know about the event as possible and if you have friends who are competing please help them to obtain sponsors. If you do not know of anyone and would like to contribute, then we will be pleased to place your sponsorships for you and finally we would like to hear from anyone (well in advance) who would be prepared to act as a steward for the day. Last year the event was not only financially successful but also a most enjoyable occasion in very pleasant surroundings and in view of the tremendous amount of work which is put in by the joint organisers, Mary and Mike Talbot, the Club is happy to give its full support

and hopes that the supporters will do the same. Entry and sponsorship forms can be obtained from the Ticket Office in Kenilworth Road where we will also endeavour to answer any queries.

★

ON the eve of our opening league match against Orient the Chairman of the Century Sporting Club, Ken Ball presented a cheque for £1000 to the Chairman of the Football Club. This handsome donation, following the handing over of £2000 at the Annual Century Club Dinner at the end of the season, means that a total of £12,000 has been raised by the members from subscriptions and various fund raising activities during one year. On behalf of the Football Club, Mr. Mortimer thanked the members of the Century Club for their magnificent efforts and paid tribute to the hard working and dedicated committee who gave up so much of their time for the cause.

★

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Mrs Eva Wainwright and we would like to offer our condolences to her family. Mrs Wainwright will be remembered with affection for her work in the Hatters Club when she provided players and officials with lunches and also of course as the Mother of Robin and Barry, both well known in local football circles.

Another familiar face which will be sadly missed at Kenilworth Road this season is that of Mr Gerald Hull who was a gateman at the Town ground for over 15 years. Mr Hull was preparing to attend the friendly match against Arsenal on August 12th when he collapsed and died at his home in Ninth Avenue, Sunden Park and the Directors and staff extend their sympathy to Mrs Hull and family in their sad loss.

★

Today we re-introduce the voucher system as an attempt to resolve the thorny problem of allocation of tickets to the big games if we become involved in one later in the season. The first token appears in the bottom corner of the back page of your programme and these tokens will continue until the end of the season. Due to an oversight no question voucher appeared in the first programme and this may have dissuaded some from sending in their answers. If you would like to submit your entry to the No. 1 quiz when you send in the answers to today's questions these will be acceptable provided that they arrive not later than Thursday, 1st September.

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# PLAYER PROFILE



**Full Name** – David Carr  
**Height** – 5' 9½"  
**Weight** – 11st. 1lb.  
**Birthplace** – Aylesham, Kent.  
**Birthday** – 31st. January  
**Star Sign** – Aquarius  
**Previous Clubs** – None  
**League Debut** – Oldham, Away - May 14th 1977. Won 2-1  
**Family** – Parents and 5 Brothers  
**Hobbies** – Listening to records and spending week-ends at home  
**Favourite Foods** – Sea Foods and Steaks  
**Favourite Recording Stars** – Linda Ronstad, Ronnie Lane

**Favourite Holiday Resort** – Thanet (Parents Home)  
**Best Country Visited** – America (On pre-season tour)  
**Greatest Moment** – Playing alongside Paul Futcher  
**Worst aspect of Football** – Losing  
**Advice to Young Players** – Listen to advice and train hard  
**When I finish playing?** – Don't know  
**Ambition** – To be a good pro.



# BEHIND THE SCENES

IN OUR last edition we welcomed our new Director and Players and this time we take great pleasure in welcoming back from America our old friends, Alan West, Ron Futcher and Paul Price all of whom will no doubt soon be making their presence felt if in fact they have not already done so by the time you read this column.

Although not quite as successful as last year when their team, Minnesota Kicks reached the National Final, they were again Champions of their region and we have asked Alan West to give us his thoughts on the American

scene which he does on page 15.

Alan and Paul were, of course, only on loan to the American club whereas Ron's registration had actually been transferred. I am sure that his safe return will be warmly welcomed and that he will be pleased to learn that during his absence our offices have been inundated with calls and letters from supporters enquiring into the steps we were taking to ensure that he would again be appearing in Luton colours this season.

Ron has not been the only member of the family travelling abroad and we

would like to offer our congratulations to Paul (our cover boy) on his England under 21 caps against Finland and Norway in May. It is with complete confidence that we predict that this will only be a prelude to an illustrious international career.

Finally we would like to offer our best wishes to friends who have recently moved on to other clubs – Keith Barber who is now happily settled at Swansea, Jimmy Ryan at Dallas Tornados, also section winners in the North American League and Sandor Simon.

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# LAST HOME MATCH ACTION...

## Luton 1 Orient 0

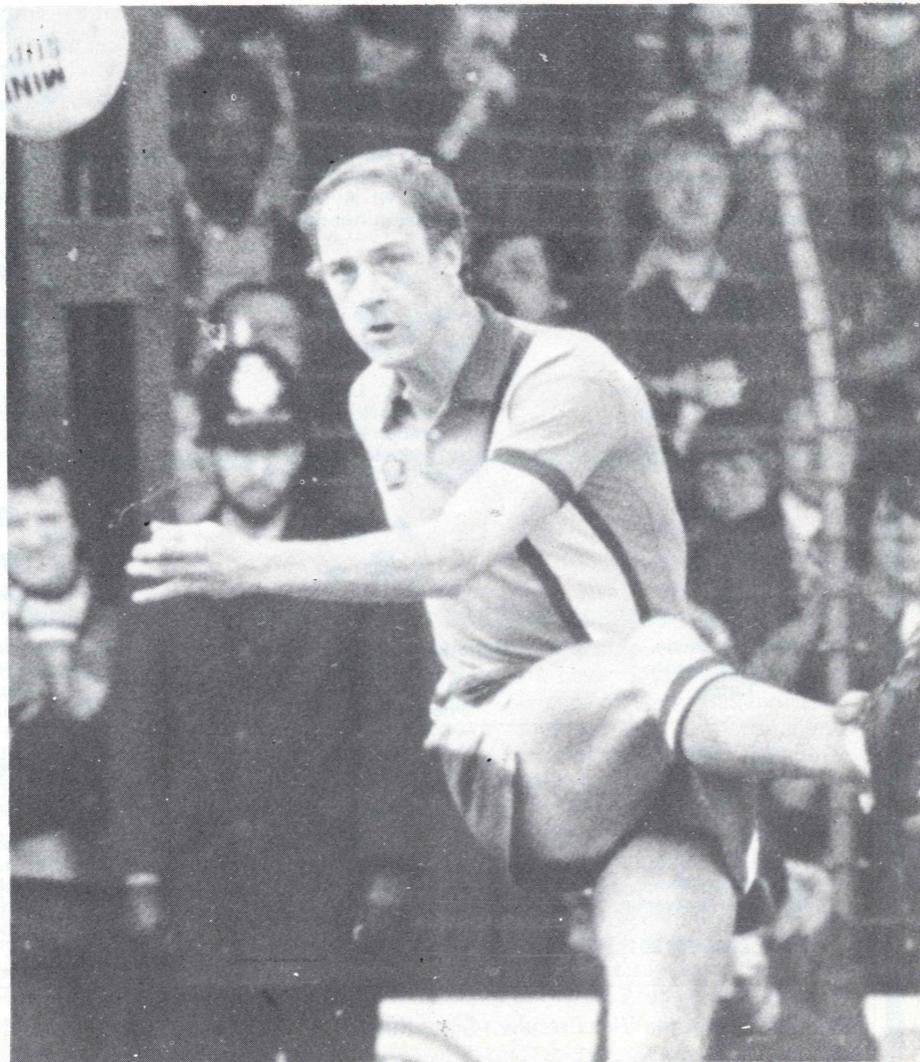
*MANAGER Harry Haslam says he is always happy to see the end of the first game of the season, and this year, as last, we had to kick off the new campaign with some of our regulars missing.*

*We welcome back Alan West, Paul Price and Ron Fletcher, and it's also an appropriate time to pay tribute to John "Max" Faulkner who has been doing two jobs - blocking opponents' path to goal, and standing in as skipper while Alan West has been away.*

*Our picture shows why big John is a model pro., with perfect balance, eyes on the ball, and a copy-book follow-through as he clears against the Orient.*

*The Londoners went home feeling that they were unlucky to lose, but manager George Petchey added that goalkeeper Milija Aleksic, pictured in action, was the man who kept us in the game when Orient did create chances.*

*On the right are the two men who made our left wing so dangerous. Steve Buckley is unlucky with his goals and posterity - he hits the ball so hard, and usually from outside the box, that cameramen are rarely able to capture the full scene when he scores. We couldn't find one of the full-backs winner against Orient, but the style is unmistakable in the camera's view of Steve bearing down on Orient's defence.*



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## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

A look at Luton Town a decade ago.  
By BRIAN SWAIN, Sports Editor, Luton News.

OUR VISITORS today from Charlton have good cause to remember their contact with Luton Town just ten years ago. Then, the Town were generally rated as one of soccer's failures, struggling in the Fourth Division, while Charlton, with greater traditions and a bigger following, were a powerful Second Division team with every prospect of getting back into Division One.

But the formbook was shot to pieces on Wednesday, August 30, 1967, when the Town went to The Valley for a Football League Cup first-round match and came away with a brilliant 2-1 win.

The Londoners were torn apart, and there was never any indication that the Town were two divisions below them. And the supporters were beginning to hope that at last the corner had been turned and better things lay ahead.

Injuries had forced manager Allan Brown to make sweeping changes, but the side showed a new-found fighting spirit. Charlton had a dream start, with Matt Tees putting them ahead after only 55 seconds. But the Town drew level in 36 minutes when Micky Brown made an opening and Bruce Rioch raced through to score.

The game developed into a ding-dong cup-tie, and went into extra time.

Charlton's despair when Went hit the bar in the 95th minute turned to even greater misery when the winner came after 105 minutes of stirring soccer. Rioch started a move in midfield, and by the time Ray Whittaker crossed from the left wing Rioch was in position to head the winner past Charlie Wright.

A late save by Tony Read clawed out a header by Tees, and those of us who had worried about the Town's future came home feeling a lot happier with life.

The major reason was that the introduction of Terry Branston as centre-half had brought a new solidity to the Town defence, and the fighting spirit has improved no end.

We couldn't remember the last time the Town had fought back after going a goal down. But three days later they did it again, when they went to Swansea on September 2, 1967.

There was another big surprise too — Rioch scored another with his head, a rarity indeed for a player famed more for his shooting boots.

Swansea led after 14 minutes when Ivor Allchurch laid on a goal for Williams, but Micky Brown hit his first goal for the Town 11 minutes later, and from then on the Town were on top. Rioch's header, from a cross by Graham French, put them 2-1 up in the 40th minute, but a dramatic late equaliser saved a point for Swansea.

There were only 20 seconds to go, and the Town had fallen back on defence, with Branston dominating the middle and Read looking very sharp in goal. But a drive by Humphries hit the bar, and in the crowded goalmouth Todd was first to the rebound and snatched a point which Swansea scarcely deserved.

But on our away record of the time, the fact that we had taken one point was encouraging. The end of the season was still eight months away, but this was the Town's eighth game without defeat and after years in the doldrums we were beginning to believe that better things really were coming.

## YOUTH

By George Rogers

THE LUTON Youth team will have played two games in the Chiltern Premier League. They were due to play Barnet last Monday and continued with a home game v Stevenage this morning. Details and the teams taking part will be in the next home programme. It is also hoped to highlight these youth players by having a photograph and a pen picture so that you can watch the progress of these talented youngsters.

A lot of people are asking, "What is the day to day life of an Apprentice". They report every morning except Sundays at 9 a.m. Under the watchful eye of Reg Game they prepare all the kit needed for training purposes that day. Training starts at 10 a.m. Training takes the form of fitness and technique. If any players have taken part in games the previous day, these games are analysed and mistakes highlighted, hoping they can be rectified. Some will be taking part in a game that day. This is all taken into account when the Coaches plan their training schedules.

When training is finished these apprentices then must clean up the dressing rooms, wash all the baths, collect all the kit and sort it out ready for the laundry. If an evening game is played, it means that they do not get away much before 10.30 p.m. On Saturdays they report ready to play a game in the morning and when this is finished they must report to Kenilworth Rd., either with the reserves or 1st. team to assist in the preparation and afterwards to clean up ready for Monday morning.

Tomorrow sees the start of Youth football around the parks and I am sure the hard working secretaries in the Chiltern Youth League (93 teams taking part) are saying, Has the pitch been booked? Has the Referee been notified where we are playing?, Have all the players been notified?, Will they all turn up?, Is the kit in good order?, Are the balls O.K.? These people who take on these tasks do a great job for football with very little reward. Just a "Thank you", at the end of the season from the boys taking part is the usual thing. But who knows, he may have one of his boys selected for further honours, this is a reward in itself.

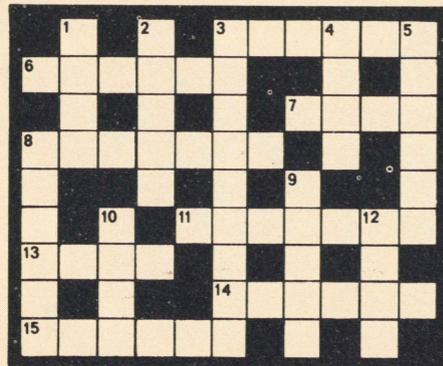
A lot of these games will take place without an official referee and once again the Secretaries volunteer to give the boys a game. Could you help in this? You could play or watch on Saturdays and help out by Refereeing these games on Sundays. If you are interested Phone Luton 31920, giving your name and address, we will then arrange for you to have instruction on the "Laws of the Game".

## CROSSWORD No.2



CLUES — Across

- 3 Runaway French Champions (6).
- 6 Name given to a free-ranging key defender (6).
- 7 Victims of the record 0-26 FA Cup battering handed out by Preston North End in 1887 (4)
- 8 Bradford boss (7)
- 11 West Bromwich Albion secretary for the past 17 years, his father having earlier held the post for 46 years (7).
- 13 Nickname of Brentford (4).
- 14 League ever-present for Palace last season (6).
- 15 Often used to mean 'win', but it also covers draw and defeat (6).



Answers to Crossword No.1

Across — 1. Russia. 4. Best. 6. Beer, 7. Fraser, 8. Ron Saunders (Villa, League Cup), 11. Sewell, 13. Goal, 14. None, 15. Blades.

Down — 1. Robertson (Forest), 2. Stein, 3. Alf, 4. Bradd, 5. Throstles, 9. Steve, 10. Ewood, 12. lob.

CLUES — Down

- 1 Ferguson or Flanagan (4)
- 2 Former Celtic, Luton and Scotland striker now with Adelaide City (5).
- 3 Bjorn ..... recently made his 100th appearance for Sweden (9).
- 4 Former Daily Express writer now Cosmos general manager (4).
- 5 Tommy Docherty wrote a book called "Tommy Docherty ....." (6).
- 8 Leicester link-man (6).
- 9 Clark or Clarke (5).
- 10 Nickname of Workington (4).
- 12 Scunthorpe are sited at Old .. Ground (4).

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# COMBINATION

## Watch the Free Kicks!

STATISTICS show that 40% of all goals scored come directly from set plays, i.e. corner kicks and free kicks. It is therefore extremely foolish for any coach to neglect paying extra attention to these occasions when opponents must be ten yards from the ball. Pressuring players and restricting space is so vital in the flow of a game that to have the nearest opponent so far away at a set piece is indeed a bonus and we must work to take full advantage of the situation. Playing to ones own players' strengths and organising accordingly is the secret.

Of the teams I saw play last season in almost every senior league (Football League, Combination, Central League, Isthmian, Southern and Northern Premier Leagues) today's visitors impressed me most in set plays. They scored 52 goals at the Valley and on my visits there I was fortunate enough to see five goals direct from free kicks and television also showed up their prowess in this direction.

Their organisation was first class. A good kicker (Peacock) is of course vital. Space is made by the initial positions of the forwards in the penalty box. Remember, generally speaking, most defenders mark man for man when balls are crossed into the box. Consequently the Charlton players create space (usually around the near post) by taking their markers away from the area they wish to attack and the ball is then aimed into this area. By practising the timing of

late runs, decoy running and blocking off opponents, they showed a fine understanding. Hales picked up several goals prior to his transfer to Derby County from the flick-ons from centre half Giles.



## THE DAVID PLEAT PAGE

Charlton have shown the importance of working hard at practising set pieces. Their percentage of success is proof of the importance of using ones initiative as a coach, organising, improvising and working hard to produce results.

Of course I sincerely hope that Charlton Athletic achieve a nil percentage of success this afternoon. Their efforts last season have already helped my coaching repertoire. As a coach you can learn something from every game.

### David Pleat's Quiz Ball — No. 2.

All answers enclosing a question voucher must be sent to the Programme Editor to arrive not later than the first post five days following the game. The person or persons with most correct answers at the end of the season will be offered a choice of prizes all of which will be worth at least £10.

1. Which 1st Division Manager played right half for Britain v Rest of the World, Wembley 1963.
2. Who are the "Poppies"? Who is their Manager? Who is their Chairman? Where do they play?
3. Who was the "Black Cat"; the "Lion of Vienna"

Answers in Programme No. 4.

QUESTION  
VOUCHER  
No. 2.

# SUMMER TOUR

## THE NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER SCENE

*A first hand account of soccer progress in the USA as seen through the eyes of club skipper Alan West who has just completed his second summer season in Minnesota.*

Soccer in the USA is undoubtedly growing in stature and getting more and more popular each season. The standard is also improving steadily and in my short experience over there the difference in just one year was quite surprising. There are more and better players going over there each summer, and many Nationalities are represented including British, German, American, Yugoslavian, South American, and South African. This I feel is good for soccer, especially in a country where it is just starting. The American public get to view soccer as it is played throughout the world and do not see just one style of play. I'm certain soccer in the USA is now there to stay and will grow into a tremendous sporting spectacle.

There are at present 18 teams in the N.A.S.L. (North American Soccer League). There will be more teams by the start of next season I'm sure, and how many teams there will be in the league five years from now, is anyone's guess.

Each year the overall attendance is higher, and when teams like New York start getting attendances of 78,000 and 73,000 as they have had in their last two games, then things look pretty rosy for the future of soccer in the USA.

The attendances of the Minnesota Kicks for whom we Luton players have played for the past two summer seasons, improved to an average of 32,000 a game, a figure most clubs in the world would be happy with. Of course there are those teams throughout the States where it hasn't taken off as dramatically, but in any new sport it takes time to fill the stadiums.

Speaking only of Minnesota because that's the only State I'm familiar with, soccer is now flourishing at many levels, especially at school level, which is so important if America is to compete in the soccer world. It will take some years to develop world class players and compete in world class company, but I believe soccer there has gone past the turning back stage

and is only a matter of time. We Minnesota Kicks players were out almost every day, talking and coaching soccer all over the State of Minnesota. This kind of enthusiasm and eagerness to learn the game from both old and young is quite unbelievable until one experiences it. The players who now live in Minnesota are busy coaching, and are fully employed through the winter months.

One good point about the American Soccer scene is, there is no hooliganism or vandalism. The simple reason for this is that the teams are so far away from each other that very few away supporters travel — well can you imagine jumping in your car and driving a couple of thousand miles. Here's to a great season for Luton. Yours in Football, Alan West.

## COMBINATION REPORT

24th Aug. 1977 Reading (1) 1 Luton (3) 5.  
Scorers: West (13) Hill (22) Heale (34) Ingram (65) Heale (88).

Team: Judge, Mead, Driver, Turner, Price, McNichol, Ingram, Hill, R. Fletcher, West, Heale. Sub. Currie for Turner after 70 mins.

Torrential rain had left the pitch very wet but the conditions helped as we moved the ball about with pace and purpose. We attacked Reading from the start and Alan West on his return from America gained confidence from an early goal as a result of a crisp ground shot. Poor defensive play allowed Reading to equalise. Hill soon restored the advantage with a fine shot and then set Heale up with a through pass to give us a two goal half time advantage. Twenty minutes after half time Hill flicked on a Mead corner and Ingram slid the ball in at the far post. After Ron Fletcher had been fouled he persisted to shoot home but the referee insisted on the award of a penalty which Ingram missed by shooting wide. Substitute Alan Currie set up the final goal when he fired in a low centre. Fletcher unselfishly stepped over the ball and Heale completed a fine team performance with the fifth goal.

27th Aug 1977 Luton (0) 1 West Ham (0) 1  
Scorer: Ingram (85).

Team: Knight, Currie, Sisman, Pacey, Harriott, McNichol, Johnson, Turner, Ingram, Heale, Driver.  
Sub. Wilkinson for Pacey 73 minutes.

The Reserves fielded their youngest side ever. Currie and Pacey played their first full game whilst Sisman, Harriott, Turner and Wilkinson were the other 16 year-olds in the team. We attacked West Ham with crisp football and the experienced Ferguson

made some magnificent saves. Ingram was particularly unlucky but Driver, Johnson and McNichol all had fine efforts saved. Our visitors got more into the game in the second half although we still maintained the advantage. Ingram and Johnson, well supported by Driver, Turner and Heale continued to give McDowell, Green and McGiven problems. However West Ham took the lead when Jennings attacked down the right and his cross was headed home by Lansdowne. Our youngsters did not put their heads down and Johnson and Turner narrowly missed equalising. Five minutes from time Ingram seized on to Driver's through ball, went past Ferguson and wrong footed a defender to score a dramatic equaliser. Coach David Pleat summed it up thus "An excellent game, the whole team played with skill and character and were not overawed by their experienced opponents".

### MASCOT

Today's mascot is Matthew John O'Donovan of 5, Lynsey Close, Redbourn, Herts. Matthew is 8 years old and is a pupil at St. Columba's College, St. Albans. He is also a member of the Junior Hatters Club and his favourite player is David Carr. His father, Mr J F O'Donovan is a member of the Century Sporting Club and Managing Director of Redbourn Electrical Contractors Ltd., Today's Match Ball Sponsor.

### BALL DONOR

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# FACTS & FIGURES ~ 1977-78

**Bold** figures indicate scorers

Goals F A

	ALESCIC	JONES	BUCKLEY	CARR	FAULKNER	FUTCHER P.	HUSBAND	SMITH	BOERSMA	FUCILLLO	ASTON	HILL	MCNICHOL	PRICE	FUTCHER R.	WEST
Aug 20 <b>Orient</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
Aug 23 Brighton & Hove Albion																
Aug 27 Oldham Athletic	1		3	4	5	6	7									
Aug 30 Wolves (LC2)	1		3	4	5	6	7									
Sept 3 <b>Charlton Athletic</b>																
Sept 10 Bristol Rovers																
Sept 17 <b>Blackburn Rovers</b>																
Sept 24 Tottenham Hotspur																
Sept 24 <b>Notts County</b>																
Oct 1 <b>Millwall</b>																
Oct 8 Cardiff City																
Oct 15 <b>Fulham</b>																
Oct 22 Blackpool																
Oct 26 League Cup 3																
Oct 29 Bolton Wanderers																
Nov 5 <b>Hull City</b>																
Nov 12 Mansfield Town																
Nov 19 <b>Stoke City</b>																
Nov 26 Sunderland (1)																
Nov 30 League Cup 4																
Nov 30 <b>Burnley</b>																
Dec 3 Southampton																
Dec 10 <b>Mansfield Town (2)</b>																
Dec 16 Crystal Palace																
Dec 27 <b>Sheffield United</b>																
Dec 31 Brighton & Hove Albion 1978																
Jan 2 Orient																
Jan 7 F.A. Cup 3																
Jan 14 <b>Oldham Athletic</b>																
Jan 18 League Cup 5																
Jan 21 Charlton Athletic																
Jan 28 F.A. Cup 4																
Feb 4 <b>Bristol Rovers</b>																
Feb 8 League Cup SF																
Feb 11 Blackburn Rovers																
Feb 15 League Cup SF																
Feb 18 <b>Tottenham Hotspur (5)</b>																
Feb 25 Notts County																
Mar 4 <b>Cardiff City</b>																
Mar 11 Fulham (6)																
Mar 18 <b>Blackpool (LCF)</b>																
Mar 21 <b>Bolton Wanderers</b>																
Mar 24 Sheffield United																
Mar 29 <b>Crystal Palace</b>																
Mar 31 Hull City																
Apr 1 <b>Sunderland (SF)</b>																
Apr 8 Stoke City																
Apr 15 <b>Southampton</b>																
Apr 22 Millwall																
Apr 26 Burnley																
Apr 29 F.A. Cup Final																
May 6																

## DIVISION TWO

Table of Results - As at 31.8.77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	3	2	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Tottenham	3	2	0	0	6	3	0	0	1	0	0	6
Oldham	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	5
Crystal Palace	3	1	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	3	0	4
Blackburn	3	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
Hull	3	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	4
Stoke	3	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	4
Charlton	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	1	3
Blackpool	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	4
Brighton	2	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	0	3
Sunderland	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Bristol R.	3	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Southampton	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
<b>Luton</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Sheffield U.	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	6	2
Notts Co.	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	4	2
Mansfield	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	4	2
Fulham	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2
Cardiff	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	1
Orient	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	1	1	2	1
Millwall	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	3	5	0
Burnley	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	5

## COMBINATION

Final Table of Results - Season 1976-77.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goals		
								F	A	Pts
Chelsea	42	26	12	4	96	32	64			
Plymouth Argyle	42	17	16	9	71	51	50			
Tottenham	42	20	10	12	53	41	50			
Birmingham C	42	17	15	10	49	37	49			
Ipswich Town	42	20	8	14	78	52	48			
Arsenal	42	19	10	13	54	41	48			
Norwich City	42	17	14	11	56	48	48			
Oxford United	42	17	13	12	54	52	47			
O.P.R.	42	19	8	15	60	41	46			
Bristol City	42	18	10	14	60	49	46			
Fulham	42	17	11	14	56	56	45			
Leicester City	42	14	14	14	71	57	42			
Reading	42	14	14	14	55	68	42			
Southampton	42	15	10	17	57	75	40			
Hereford United	42	14	11	17	58	64	39			
West Ham	42	12	12	18	71	75	36			
Cardiff City	42	13	19	19	46	61	36			
Swindon Town	42	10	13	19	37	57	33			
Orient	42	10	12	20	47	72	32			
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>31</b>			
Crystal Palace	42	9	12	21	48	70	30			
Bristol Rovers	42	10	2	30	40	98	22			

Appearances Division 2 League & Cup

Aleksic	27	Goals	-	11
Aston	37(1)			
Barber	16			
Buckley	45			3
Carr	1(5)			3
Chambers	40			3
Faulkner	43			1
Futcher P.	43			13
Futcher R.	32(4)			6
Fuccillo	45			4
Geddis	9(7)			4
Hill	10(11)			13
Husband	36(5)			-
Jones	4(5)			-
Knight	2			1
Price	44			3
Ryan	10(3)			
West	35			

## Football Combination Fixtures

	Reading	West Ham United	Ipswich Town	Swindon Town	Leicester City	Southampton
Aug 24 Wed						
Aug 27 Sat						
Sept 3 Sat	Orient					
Sept 5 Mon	<b>Ipswich Town</b>					
Sept 10 Sat	<b>Swindon Town</b>					
Sept 13 Tues	Arsenal					
Sept 17 Sat	Chelsea					
Sept 21 Wed	Hereford United					
Sept 24 Sat	<b>Bristol Rovers</b>					
Oct 1 Sat	Tottenham Hotspur					
Oct 5 Wed	Crystal Palace					
Oct 8 Sat	<b>Cardiff City</b>					
Oct 15 Sat	Fulham					
Oct 22 Sat	<b>Birmingham City</b>					
Oct 29 Sat	<b>Arsenal</b>					
Nov 5 Sat	Norwich City					
Nov 12 Sat	<b>Hereford United</b>					
Nov 15 Tues	<b>Reading</b>					
Nov 19 Sat	Oxford United					
Nov 26 Sat	<b>Plymouth Argyle</b>					
Dec						



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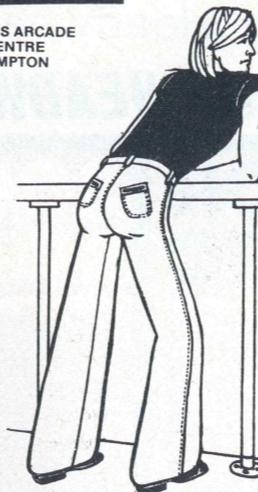


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# TOWN TRAVEL



**BRISTOL ROVERS v LUTON TOWN**  
Saturday 10th September 1977. Kick-off: 3.00pm

Leave Luton via the Dunstable Road towards the M1 Motorway.  
Proceed South on the M1 until the end of the motorway at the  
junction with the A1 Great North Way. Proceed South on the A406  
(North Circular Road) to Ealing.  
Join the M4 Motorway at intersection No. 1 Continue West on the  
M4 through Slough, Reading and Swindon to Bristol.  
Leave the M4 at intersection No. 19 and continue on the M32 until  
the exit with the B4058 Park Road junction with Muller Road and  
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football league.

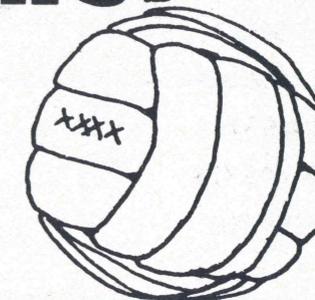
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- 10 ALAN WEST
- 11 RON FUTCHER
- 12 DAVID CARR



### CHARLTON ATHLETIC

- JEFF WOOD 1
- LES BERRY 2
- PHIL WARMAN 3
- DAVID CAMPBELL 4
- LINDSAY SMITH 5
- DICK TYDEMAN 6
- COLIN POWELL 7
- LAURIE ABRAHAMS 8
- MIKE FLANAGAN 9
- KEITH PEACOCK 10
- HUGH McAULEY 11

### SCORE BOARD

- Derby C. . . . .
- Man. Utd. . . . .
- Everton. . . . .
- Wolves . . . . .
- Ipswich . . . . .
- Chelsea . . . . .
- Man. City . . . . .
- Norwich . . . . .
- Newcastle . . . . .
- West Ham . . . . .
- Blackpool . . . . .
- Bristol R. . . . .
- Burnley. . . . .
- C. Palace . . . . .
- Cardiff . . . . .
- Tottenham. . . . .
- Fulham. . . . .
- Blackburn . . . . .
- Hull. . . . .
- Bolton . . . . .
- Mansfield. . . . .
- Brighton . . . . .
- Millwall. . . . .
- Stoke . . . . .
- Notts C. . . . .
- Southampton . . . . .
- Orient . . . . .
- Oldham. . . . .
- Sheff. Utd. . . . .
- Sunderland. . . . .

### OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Mr Roger B. Kirkpatrick (Leicester). Started refereeing in 1949 in Leicester local leagues and via the Southern League was included in the Football League referees list in 1966. Refereed the 1972/73 F.A. Youth Cup Final and the National Association of Youth Clubs Cup Final last year. A married man, with two sons, he is a Franchise Consultant. Is keen on all aspects of physical fitness, playing golf, squash and five-a-side soccer. Gives a lot of his spare time to youth soccer. Is President of the Leicestershire Saturday Teens League.

**Linesmen:** Red flag - Mr P J Ackkill (Swindon); Yellow flag - Mr L Pierpoint (Daventry).