

LUTON TOWN

Official
Programme

20^p

NOTTS COUNTY

Football League
Division Two

Saturday 1 October 1977
Kick off: 3.00pm



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HARRY HASLAM



WHEN WE met Notts County in the League last season we put four goals past them twice and if we can get back to that sort of

form today we shall all be well pleased. Today's match is the first of two home games, with Millwall coming here on Tuesday evening and we all realise the importance of collecting full points from them.

We also realise the need to make the best of our scoring chances, and it was a lesson that was rammed home hard at Spurs on Saturday.

By the time you read this you will know how we fared at Brighton on Tuesday, but I am having to write this column before that match.

We came back from Spurs with a mixture of feelings. I was delighted with the football played, particularly when we had taken on a top team with a weakened side. Alan West was not fully fit and it would have been too risky to ask him to play at White Hart Lane, and then the day before the match Ricky Hill developed a cold.

But it was nice to hear the compliments paid at the end of the game to our style of football, and to Ricky's showing.

The trouble, of course, was that for all the attractive build-up work we did, we finished up as losers. We might have scored three or four times but didn't.

We played some good enterprising football, and I think we might have surprised the Spurs. They tried to hit us with every-

thing in the early stages, and we took it all and came back fighting.

It sounds daft, but in the end the team that didn't create a clear-cut chance of its own won the game.

The Spurs were given a penalty just before half-time, and that knocked us sick. It was a very harsh decision. John Faulkner didn't know why it had been given and we are sure that he didn't push John Duncan in the back. Even Duncan was surprised to see the decision, but that's the way this game goes.

You have to take the rough with the smooth, and that for us was one of the rough bits. Even after Spurs has scored from the penalty I still fancied our chances. The lads played really well, and we got into a lot of dangerous positions. But we couldn't put the ball into the net and then Spurs got another break at the other end.

Milija Elastic was choked about the shot that bounced off his chest to give Tottenham their second goal. So it all ended in disappointment for us. But I'll tell you this — if Spurs fancy their chances of winning promotion back to the First Division, we compared very favourably with them. They're the best side we have met so far, but if they're top of the division at the end of the season I'm sure we won't be far behind.

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WELCOME NOTTS CO.

TRISTAN BENJAMIN (Defender) Twenty year old born in The West Indies, Tristan is a very talented player now established as a member of the County first team squad. Can also play with skill as a striker.

LES BRADD (Striker) This season is Les' Testimonial, granted by the club after ten years loyal service. Les is the Magpies all-time highest goalscorer and has scored many goals in the clubs climb from the Fourth to the Second Division.

MARTYN BUSBY (Mid-field) One of two footballing brothers - Viv is currently with Norwich City - Martyn is an extremely skilful mid-field player capable of dominating a game. Signed from Q.P.R. where his chances were marred by injuries, Martyn is now fulfilling his early promise and is thought to be a 'bargain buy' at around £35,000.

SAMMY CHAPMAN (Defender) Close-season signing from neighbours Nottingham Forest, Sammy's only previous League club. A very experienced player who was immediately made first team captain and thus fills the 'gap' left by David Needham's departure to Q.P.R. Sammy's

presence makes for very keen competition in County's traditionally strong rearguard.

STEVE CARTER (Striker) The Magpies ace penalty taker Steve is one of the cleverest ball-players in the Football League. A traditional style winger who plays on either flank. Always a potential match winner.

PAUL HOOKS (Striker) A highly regarded youngster who graduated from the apprentice ranks midway through last season. Paul is set on establishing himself as a first team squad player this season, very skilful and fearless and thought to have a great future.

ERIC McMANUS (Goalkeeper) An ever present last season, Eric is a member of the Northern Ireland squad. Brave and instinctive he has now made over 150 appearances for the County. Previously with Coventry City.

DAVID McVAY (Mid-field) Former Schoolboy International, David is a powerfully built mid-field player who likes to attack. Joined the club straight from school when aged 17, now twenty-two David can also

operate in defence with competence.

ARTHUR MANN (Mid-field) Originally a defender, Arthur cost Manchester City a then record fee for a Scottish back four man when they purchased him from Hearts. Known for his penetrating runs out of defensive positions into attack; Arthur is capable of top class performances in any position including goal!

GORDON MAIR (Mid-field) A young Scot who last season signed professional forms after serving his apprenticeship at Meadow Lane. Very talented and highly regarded Gordon is now a member of the first team squad - made his debut just last season.

RAY O'BRIEN (Defender) Eire International Ray is the Magpies most expensive signing, costing £45,000 from Manchester United in March 1973. An exceptionally clever ball player who is very strong in the tackle.

ERIC PROBERT (Mid-field) Although only twenty five years old Eric is a very experienced player having made his debut in the First Division for Burnley when just sixteen. Has made well over 100 first team appearances for Notts County.

LLOYD RICHARDS (Mid-field) Yet another youngster who graduated through the ranks with the Magpies, now a member of the first team squad and at just eighteen years old should have a great future.

BRIAN STUBBS (Defender) A local product now in his tenth season with the club. Highly respected, Brian is the 'iron man' in the County defence. With his commanding height he is very dangerous in dead-ball situations.

IAN SCANLON (Striker) A quick and exciting player Ian is the holder of the record for hat-trick scoring in the first and second divisions of the League. His trio against Sheffield Wednesday in 1976 being scored in 165 seconds!

JOHN SIMS (Striker) Joined the Magpies from his only previous club Derby County the season before last. A strong and resourceful front runner with a flair for scoring goals.

PEDRO RICHARDS (Defender) A local product who turned professional in the 1973/74 season. A stylish full back, very cool under pressure and likes to make long overlapping runs into attack.

DAVID SMITH (Mid-field) Nottingham born and one of the smallest players in the League. Made his debut two seasons ago and quickly established himself as a member of the first team squad. A 'busy' type of mid-field player with vision.

MICK VINTER (Striker) Leading goalscorer last season despite missing several matches through injury. County is his only professional club joining from his local town club Boston in Lincolnshire. A quick and hard working player.



Left to right.

Back Row: Ian Scanlon: Pedro Richards: Sammy Chapman: Eric McManus: John Sims: Tristan Benjamin.

Middle Row: Jack Wheeler (Trainer): Les Bradd: Gordon Mair: Paul Hooks: Lloyd Richards: Brian Stubbs: Mick Jones (Coach).

Front Row: Martyn Busby: Steve Carter: Mick Vinter: Ron Fenton (Manager): Arthur Mann: Ray O'Brien: David Smith.

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LUTON LATEST

A GREAT deal of discussion has taken place during the past few weeks over the behaviour of football fans in general and those of Manchester United in particular.

Many of the pundits who rush into making statements and offering solutions seem to do so without adequate consideration of all the consequences which their over simplified cures can bring about. Our Club and Town has suffered as much if not more than most from a particular band of supporters and it seemed unfair at the time (and it still does) that the entire responsibility should have been placed on the home club to ensure that no repetition occurred. As a result of an incident which took place in September and was not repeated for the remainder of the season we had to construct expensive fences to prevent an invasion of the playing area. In the case of the recent troubles at St. Etienne the visiting club has been held responsible and its team has been banned from the competition because of the actions of some of its alleged supporters. Many have applauded this course of action and others have proposed that the home team should be fined, relegated, expelled from the league or just had points deducted when trouble is experienced. If either of these solutions were adopted as official policy it would provide a marvellous incentive for individuals or groups to deliberately cause trouble either for financial gain or merely, out of sheer malice. They could be 'supporters' of a rival club not even taking part in the match. At St. Etienne, any group from any part of the country (or world) could have dressed themselves in red and white in order to achieve the expulsion of the club from Europe. It may be that we shall have to accept that more matches will become all ticket and that the clubs will have to restrict the sale of tickets as West Ham and others have recently decided to do. Elsewhere in this programme you can read of Cardiff's attempt to limit visitors and consider whether their plan is likely to succeed. Of

course these actions are as unfair to the vast majority of decent travelling supporters as the school system of keeping the whole class in detention because of the misdeeds of one or two but they are surely preferable to the more draconian actions of the European administrators who have decided that a great club must suffer as a result of the actions of itinerant trouble makers over whom they can have no possible control.

★

The following letter was received by Harry Haslam following the Charlton match and it gives us great pleasure to include it in our programme.

*Dear Mr. Haslam,
We are season ticket holders with Luton and have seen most home games and many away games for a number of seasons.*

On Saturday September 3rd., we missed the match because we were busy getting married (we had to arrange the date before the fixture list was published). Imagine how we felt when we heard the result!

Our disappointment was somewhat relieved by meeting our favourite player, Ricky Hill, at Luton station that evening.

We would like to congratulate everyone connected with the development of this young player because not only are his skills apparent in the context of the game but he is also a very charming and polite young man; being teachers ourselves we are very aware of how arrogant and brusque some teenagers and young men can be. Mr. Hill is a credit to his family, to Luton Town Football Club and to himself.

You may like to know that we shall be writing to the local press recounting this meeting.

*Yours sincerely,
Gale & Simon Lavery*

★

WE RECENTLY heard from a good supporter of the Club, Mr. P. Rayner, who was moving home from Meyrick Avenue to another part of the town. Mr Rayner had discovered in his attic two framed photo's

of Luton Town teams dating from 1911-13 and wondered if the club would like them. We gladly accepted his kind offer and duly collected the excellently preserved photographs. It occurred to us that Mr Arthur Wright would probably be able to identify the players for us and he was approached on the subject at the Blackburn match. He said that he would like to see the pictures and added that he had seen the Town play on the previous two grounds — Henry Brown's timberyard and the site of the Odeon and clearly remembered the first match at Kenilworth Road in 1905. He went on to name the opponents — Plymouth Argyle, the score 0-0, the entire Luton Team and even the name of the referee, who was a Mr. Green. Mr Wright has been supporting Luton for 78 years and still rarely misses a match. We hope that we will have his company for many years to come.

★

WHILST SPENDING a few days holiday in his native West Country, Commercial Manager Doug Lygo made a point of calling at the Park Inn at Kingskerswell, Devon, to meet a Luton exile who has achieved a considerable amount of fame for her long distance swimming exploits. Christine Sifleet, whose parents took over the Inn in 1969, has already one successful channel crossing to her name and recently broke a 50 year old record for the hazardous 14 mile swim from the Eddystone Lighthouse to Plymouth, incidentally becoming the first girl to achieve the feat. During the summer she also won the annual race across Torbay and is hoping to attempt a non-stop double channel crossing next summer. No British girl has yet managed to accomplish this task and we would like to offer our best wishes to Christine as well as our congratulations for her past achievements. Unfortunately it costs a great deal of money to swim the channel both ways and attempts are being made in her village to raise £1000 in sponsorships. If any of her old friends or other well wishers would like to contribute we will be happy to pass on donations, however small. When we heard of her first success-

LUTON LATEST

ful channel crossing we sent a card signed by the players and this occupies a treasured place amongst her numerous trophies and other Luton Town souvenirs. Christine who is now seventeen and her parents, Sid and Vi Sifleet lived at 83, Walcott Avenue, Luton and she attended Ramridge School and Luton & Vauxhall Swimming Club. The family would like to be remembered to their former friends and neighbours in Luton and would be delighted to see any who find themselves in the Newton Abbot-Torquay neighbourhood.

Incidentally the contact was originally made through two of Doug's friends, Helen and Wally Rowlands who kept the 'Punch Bowl' at Redbourn for many years before retiring to Kingskerswell in 1975 and they too would like to send greetings to their many good friends in the area.

★

Last Monday, along with our Director Mr. J. Yates and my assistant Wayne Morgan, I attended the Football League meeting in London which gave the players the freedom of movement for which they have been asking for so long. Now it is up to the player's union to accept the proposals to which the club agreed. I personally still feel that should they say yes, and I think they will, it will be the end of the youth schemes for many clubs. No one is going to coach and train players as apprentices only for the bigger clubs to come along with better offers and take them away when their apprenticeship ends. I hope I'm wrong.

★

I have been under fire this week from two members of the staff namely Fred Bunyan and Mrs Kent. Both claim to have seen the 'smoke' I wrote about in the last programme and somehow the newspapers got to hear about it and there have been constant telephone calls and interviews with the local press. What they have called me is nobody's business and not printable but I have since heard that the T.V. network is interested, but as I explained to them it is nice to know that someone reads the programme.

I received a letter this week from a Mr Banks of London enquiring about his father Joe Banks who played for the Town back in 1927-28. He died in 1942 and his son is trying to trace his father's career. The only information I have is that he played for Norwich City and Tottenham Hotspur before joining the Town. If any of our older supporters have any information I would be pleased to receive it and pass it on.

Enjoy the match.

★

We recently received the following letter from Cardiff City and in view of our visit to them on October 8th all of our travelling supporters are urged to study its contents most carefully.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I shall be grateful if you will note that my Club will be operating an Identity Pass system for the 1977/78 season, which requires any supporter under the age of 20 to have an identity pass to attend Ninian Park.

However, alternative arrangements have been made with the Police with regard to visiting supporters so that any of your supporters under the age of 20 years wishing to attend a match at Ninian Park must be accompanied by an adult. Special arrangements can be made for official supporters club parties, including persons under the age of 20, provided they can produce a supporters club membership card. The Secretary of the supporters club should contact me to discuss details.

In connection with the advanced booking arrangements for tickets at Ninian Park, I shall be grateful if you will note that due to the restrictions placed on the ground under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, 1975, some stand tickets may not be available for our match with you and I shall be grateful if you require tickets, if you will check with me a little nearer the date of our match as to their availability.

Yours sincerely, L. G. Hayward, Sec.

FROM THE SECRETARIES OFFICE By John Wilkinson

THE MAIN activity from the office this week has been the selling of the League Cup Tie tickets for our game with Manchester City. At our last home game against Blackburn Rovers our staff was at full stretch dealing with customers at selling points around the ground and also manning the turnstiles for people to gain entry to watch the game. As far as I am concerned the operation was a success for with only 9,149 spectators at the game our regular fans had the chance to get their tickets. As you may know all seats have been sold but there are still tickets left for the standing areas, so don't be disappointed, get your ticket now and bring a friend with you. If everyone at the Blackburn game had brought someone with them the 18,000 people would have been a sight for sore eyes. Nothing motivates

PLAYER PROFILE



Full Name – Timothy Carl Smith
Height – 5ft. 8ins.
Weight – 11st. 2lbs.
Birthplace – Gloucester
Birthday – 19th April
Star Sign – Aries
Signed as Pro. – 1976
League Debut – 1976 came on last half hour away to Hull
Previous Clubs – None
Family – Mum, Dad, Two Brothers
Hobbies – Tennis, Swimming
Favourite Foods – Anything except beans
Favourite Recording Stars – Elvis Presley, Jim Reeves
Favourite Holiday Resort – Down to

my Aunty in Paignton, Devon
Biggest Disappointment – Not being able to get home enough
Advice to Young Players – Train and work hard
When I Finish Playing – Don't know
My greatest moment – Signing Pro.
Ambition – To be a regular 1st. teamer

Autograph

BEHIND THE SCENES

THIS PAST week has contained the birthdays of three members of the first team squad and for two of them it was a significant milestone. Paul and Ron Futcher celebrated their 21st birthdays on Sunday 25th September and we offer our congratulations to them both. This used to be known as the 'coming of age' but in the case of these veterans of First and Second Division football who are now in their fourth season with the "Hatters" the term hardly seems appropriate.

Our best wishes also go to Phil Boersma whose birthday preceeded the twins by one

day. Phil has not had the best of luck since he joined us having been partially incapacitated by a painful hamstring injury but he played really splendidly in the Combination game at Hereford scoring two of our three goals and having a third unluckily disallowed. Let us hope that Phil is now over his problem and that he can bring this goal scoring touch to the first team.

It was a great pleasure to meet Steve Litt again on his return from the U.S.A. where he has been playing alongside Ron Futcher, Paul Price and Alan West in the

successful Minnesota Kicks team. Steve has signed for Northampton and played his first game for them last Saturday. Remembering some stirring performances which he gave for Luton against First Division opposition we are sure that he will prove a tremendous asset to the 'Cobblers' as they strive to regain the 3rd Division status which they surrendered last season. Before leaving for his second summer in Minnesota last April Steve married Lorraine Aubrey the daughter of Century Club committee members Brenda and Malcolm Aubrey and we wish both Lorraine and Steve every success in the future.

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LAST HOME MATCH ACTION...

LUTON 0 BLACKBURN 0

BLANKET DEFENCE by Blackburn Rovers caused frustration for our players and supporters alike. Blackburn obviously realised that they would be in for a tough time after we had torn Charlton apart in the previous home game, and their answer was to pack their penalty area and deny us space for shots.

We couldn't put the half-chances away so Blackburn went home with a 0-0 draw.

Top left is an illustration of the sort of problems we faced: On the right of the picture Ricky Hill is taking one defender out with a run across the penalty area, and Lil Fuccillo lets rip with a left-foot effort. But another defender is gritting his teeth and putting his body in the way to block the shot.

Bottom left shows Ron Futcher being closely policed by Glen Keeley. So close, in fact, that Keeley looks as though he has his hand on Ron's shoulder ready to make an arrest!

Bottom right shows the end of another attack, with three defenders beating off a move by Lil Fuccillo and Ron Futcher. The "defender" on the right is Dave Wagstaffe. On the team-sheet he was down as a forward.

Top right shows one of the brightest features of the game: Ricky Hill turned on a confident display of trickery, and his close control this time left Bobby Mitchell floundering.

Pictures: LUTON NEWS





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ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

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

THE FANS were beginning to return to Kenilworth Road ten years ago this week as the Town kept up a good early season run to suggest that Manager Allan Brown might be producing a promotion side.

Scouts from the top clubs were also flocking to Luton to look at Bruce Rioch.

On September 23 1967 the attendance rose to 7,977 to see the Town entertain York City. York were looking for their first win of the season, and had been forced to seek re-election at the end of the previous campaign, and their only notable asset then was a young goal-scorer named Ted MacDougall.

By contrast, the Town were short of a striker, because Rodney Green was in hospital for a cartilage operation and Keith Allen was having to take all the weight as the Town's attacking spearhead.

For York's visit defender Billy McDerment was moved up to become an emergency centre-forward.

MacDougall shook us all by putting York ahead in the 21st minute, for the first league goal scored against the Town for three home games. But Rioch waltzed round goalkeeper Fallon to make it 1-1 by half-time, and that was the end of York's challenge.

Fallon brought down Rioch to stop him scoring and Ray Whittaker scored from the penalty, and Rioch watched McDerment hit a post before blasting in his second goal of the game to give the Town a 3-1 win.

At the same time, Manager Brown had been shopping, and he solved his attack problems by paying Derby County £10,000 for the signature of Ian Buxton.

He went straight into the Town team, and his debut game, on the following Wednesday night, was a cracker. High-flying Southend, unbeaten in the league, were watched by 13,332 paying customers, the Town's highest for well over a year.

Buxton rapidly became a Kenilworth Road favourite. He had the ball in the net after 20 minutes, only to have the effort disallowed for offside, but in an all-action game John Moore put the Town ahead after goalkeeper Roberts found a Rioch drive too hot to hold. Ferguson equalised, but big Terry Branston joined the attack to head the Town back into the lead, and Southend's attempts to get back into the game were killed off when Graham French made it 3-1 12 minutes from time.

YOUTH

By George Rogers

THE YOUTH team have again notched up two more victories and their proud record to date stands at Played 5, Won 5, Goals for 25, against 3, giving them 10 points.

On Saturday 17th. Sept., Hertford Town were the visitors to Chrysler Sports ground at Houghton Regis. Hertford, with an experienced side, started off well but after 20 minutes Alan Judge in the Luton goal, saw Nigel Johnson in a one for one situation and a quick, long ball allowed Nigel to put Luton 1 up. Further goals by Steve Rowlands and Richard Eaton and one in the 2nd. half by new boy Paul Champkin, put Luton in a strong position. However, late in the game they did allow Hertford to score two goals making the score 4-2.

Luton team: A. Judge, J. Currie, R. Eaton, R. Howson, T. Stewart, J. Woodward, R. Haywood, P. Champkin, N. Johnson, A. Pearson, S. Rowlands and M. Beech.

On Saturday 24th. Sept. Luton visited Cheshunt. The conditions were not suited for good football. Long grass and very rough. However, after 25 minutes, Mick Pacey's shot was deflected by a defender and the same player put Luton 2 up, lifting the ball over the keeper's head. Just before half time the same player scored his hat trick. The lads had played some good football in the 1st. half but unfortunately they did not maintain this after the interval. With 5 minutes to go, Mike Beech coming on as substitute, made it Luton 4 Cheshunt 0. Team: A. Judge, T. Broome, R. Eaton, R. Howson, T. Stewart, J. Woodward, R. Haywood, A. Wilkinson, M. Pacy, P. Champkin, A. Pearson, M. Beech, L. Sayer.

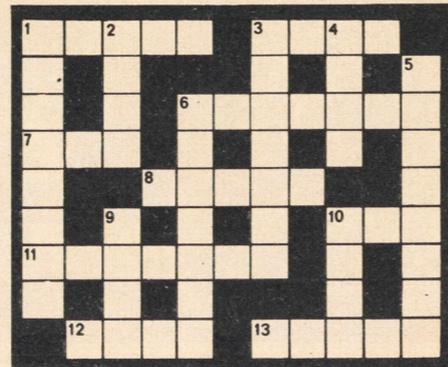
A few of our supporters have voiced opinions that we should be competing in a higher League, like the South East Counties. This is a Youth league which most of the southern Football League Clubs enter. The cost, visiting teams such as Portsmouth, Ipswich and Norwich has to be considered and players, to be on an equal footing, would have to be Apprentices. Competing in the Chiltern Premier does enable teams to play more youngsters and schoolboys in their 5th. year. It also allows them to have an extended run rather than make judgement on one game. Any lad who has played well in the Chiltern Youth League, has been given the opportunity in the Combination. At present a number of Youth players are playing in this League. The lads who do play in the Youth team are given more time to develop their skills.

The pleasure on Danny Bergara's face when Ricky Hill performed some of his skills v Blackburn was proof enough of the Town youth policy.

On Sunday I visited Barnfield College ground and after Cheshunt the previous day, it was a pleasure to see these well cared for pitches in such perfect condition. The boys taking part, I am sure will appreciate these excellent conditions but regretfully due to pilfering all clothes must be taken back to cars for safe keeping.

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- 1 Swansea's Field (5)
- 3 King ... was one of the non-League clubs for whom 6 across eventually turned out (4)
- 6 Famous old Middlesbrough and England inside-forward (7)
- 7 &
- 12 Famous Belgrade club (3, 4)
- 8 Recent Preston buy from Brighton (5)
- 10 It's often seen after the previous answer and always over the next one (3)
- 11 Senior serviceman for Sexton (7)
- 12 See 7 across
- 13 In 1975 they sold 5 down to Royal Antwerp as a 'save-the-club' measure (5)

CLUES — Down

- 1 First player from a Division Four club to win an international cap (for Wales in 1959) (3, 5)
- 2 One of Docherty's men (4)
- 3 ... Smith (Colchester United) (7)
- 4 Whatmore or Wilkinson (4)
- 5 See 13 across
- 6 Ipswich sailor (7)
- 9 Former Blackpool, Everton and England Keeper (4)
- 10 Referee who handled the 1977 Women's F.A. Cup final (4)

Answers to Crossword No. 3

SOLUTIONS — Across: 1 Recreation. 7 Denis Law. 9 Six (v. Luton), 10 Keith. 14 Ian. 15 Fourteen. 17 Alan Wilson. **SOLUTIONS — Down:** 2 Eddie (Kelly). 3 Rod. 4 Thistle. 5 Owls. 6 & 16 Two-nil. 8 Everton. 11 Paulo. 12 PFA. 13 Hull. 16 see 6 down.

COMBINATION

WHILST THE first team squad began their hectic end of season tour I travelled as a guest of the Northern Ireland Football Association with their youth team to the 15th International Youth Tournament held in Belgium.

It was an opportunity to watch Europe's best young footballers in action, study training methods, discuss ideas and look closely at the tactics employed. The Irish made me feel at home from the word go and I soon felt very much part of their squad. In the Irish group, which was based about 50 miles north of Brussels, were the favourites — the Russians, the Austrians and little Malta. The Irish included only one boy from England but the manager, Jackie Cummings had wisely gathered his squad from lads based in Irish football who could get together for regular training sessions. In training the Irish boys did not instil confidence but once the referee blew his whistle to begin the game against Russia the youngsters in green showed the meaning of spirit and team play. They played according to their abilities, not attempting the difficult but playing sensibly, supporting each other well and working hard. Unfortunately they lost their centre forward when he fell and twisted his ankle and he took no further part in the tournament. The Russians, very rigid in their approach and very strong in defence won the game 1-0 and went on to win the group. Although the winners did not impress me from a technique stand point, I learnt more from them than either the Austrians whom Ireland defeated 1-0 or Malta who lost 2-0. The Maltese were terribly excitable and lost their composure completely when the referee booked one of their defenders for an innocuous offence. The irate player chased the referee down the field to the delight of the crowd. His team-mates chased him and pinned the offender to the ground. He was then ordered off and led forcibly to the touchline. Four other players were booked and the dismissed defender was subsequently banned from playing in the next three international matches.

The Greek referee lost any grip on the game that he might have been considered to have, he was the first official in my experience to be genuinely frightened and he looked greatly relieved when the police escorted him from the field at the end of the match.

Against the Austrians the Irish played with greater freedom and fully deserved their victory. In Frasz, an exciting mid-field player the Austrians possess, all things being equal, an international of the future. He had all the qualities — pace, control, vision and a little aggression. After the game Jack Cummings and I had a two hour discussion with the Austrian manager who came up with one or two surprising theories.

It is interesting to note that the Italians sent no less than sixteen observers (all senior coaches) to attend the tournament with instructions to report back on any new ideas and developments. Generally speaking the tournament was poorly supported by the Belgians and there was little press coverage.

Considering these 16 qualifying teams contained many of the top international

THE DAVID PLEAT PAGE

players of the future this surprised me. The England team contained a number of league players including Arnott and Rowell (Sunderland), Sansom and Hilaire (Palace), Patching (Wolves), Kenworthy (Shef. Utd.), Entwistle (Bury), and Statham (W.B.A.), but also failed to win their group. Three of our own youngsters, Knight, Hill and Jones must have been close to earning selection. The England party, appearing tired after a

long and hard league season were understandably very disappointed at their lack of success on this occasion. I am sure after watching this tournament that our players are still the best at this age and our overall record would appear to prove this. It is their development after this point that must be our prime concern. I found my trip most profitable and I am most grateful to our own manager, to Danny Blanchflower and Bill Drennan, Secretary of the Irish F.A. for making it all possible.

MY VIEW

Sometimes I wonder if clubs are defeating their own purpose. It has always been our policy to avoid cancelling fixtures because of injuries, lack of availability etc. If a Reserve Team is weakened by 1st. team calls or injuries then youngsters must be promoted from the Youth Team to the Reserves. Likewise trialists and schoolboys should be given their chance in the Youth Team on such occasions. On August 27th. our reserve side met West Ham. Because of uncertainties over injuries to Ron Futcher and Phil Boersma the Boss took a squad of players who might reasonably have felt that they would have to wait much longer for their chance at this level. All our players were in their teens and six had only joined the Club eight weeks previously from school. Before the game I enquired of Bill Lansdowne, the West Ham coach how they had fared the previous Saturday. He told me their game had been cancelled because their opponents, Norwich City could not raise a side owing to injuries to several of their professionals. Without being too unkind, Bill was critical of this cancellation and I can understand why. The following Saturday West Ham also cancelled their Reserve game with Southampton for the same reason!

I can understand the Football League allowing severely weakened sides to postpone matches when medical certificates are produced as these games are too important to treat otherwise. However the Combination is a League designed to help produce first team players. It is a training ground where results should be important only in the

context of individual and collective performances. It is my hope that some clubs will bury their misplaced pride and give the boys their chance when they have problems with injuries. As the Boss says "You have got to find out sooner or later and it might as well be sooner!"

DAVID PLEAT'S QUIZ BALL No. 4.

1. Which Country did the following players represent and in which position.
(a) Gilmar (b) Henkenrath (c) Ramalletts (d) Viktor.
2. Who was known as:—
(a) The Clown Prince of Soccer (b) The Gentle Giant.
3. What are the Christian names of the following sets of brothers.
(a) Wilkins (b) Gray (c) Allchurch.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ BALL No. 2.

1. Gordon Milne (Coventry City).
2. Kettering Town. Derek Dougan (now no longer Manager). Mr. Tom Bradley (Chairman). Rockingham Road.
3. Lev Yashin (Russia) Nat Lofthouse (Bolton & England).

Once again we offer our congratulations to Mr. J. P. Hunt for his all correct solution to some tricky questions, and we ask if anyone is going to offer a serious challenge to Mr Hunt for the £10 prize.

QUIZ VOUCHER NO. 4

COMBINATION REPORT

13th. Sept 1977

Arsenal (1) 1 Luton Town (0) 1

Scorer Godfrey Ingram (90)

Team: Knight: Jones, Driver: Smith, Harriott, McNichol: Heale, Johnson, Ingram, Carr Turner: Sub. Sisman.

WE STARTED most apathetically against more experienced opponents. The game was played in warm sunshine and there was only a sprinkling of spectators to watch this afternoon match. Although we forced early corners Bob Wilson had few problems in the Arsenal goal. Tim Smith blasted in a great shot which he tipped over but generally our play was slipshod. Price put the home team ahead when he headed home a Matthews cross after fifteen minutes following a fine move. The game came a little more to life in the second half when the Luton side showed a more determined approach. There was little to worry the £25,000 Walford and Peter Simpson at the back however as we tended to play without penetration. Knight twice saved brilliantly after defensive mistakes. Johnson was unlucky with a low shot as we regained the initiative. A couple of fine moves down the left caused Arsenal problems but Heale and Smith were both crowded out. When the home side attacked Harriott and McNichol looked far more assured than they had done earlier. With only seconds remaining Ingram raced past a square defence on to a through ball from Jones. He calmly evaded Wilson's desperate challenge to score and keep his goal a game record. This was a good point but a far from satisfactory performance.

17th Sept. 1977.

Chelsea (0) 3 Luton (0) 0

Team: Knight: Jones, Sisman: Wilkinson, Harriott, McNichol: Heale, Turner, Ingram, Driver, Bowen: Sub. Pacey for Wilkinson after 75 minutes.

LUTON MAY well claim some injustice for this scoreline and even the most avid home fan would consider the Chelsea side fortunate to win so convincingly. However the result may well serve as a lesson to the Luton youngsters who cannot afford to squander their excellent approach work with such weak finishing. After dominating the first half and failing to capitalise on their chances they were punished in the second half for vital defensive errors. Heale caused early problems with some probing runs and full back Jones got well forward on the other flank. Luton gained midfield ascendancy with Wilkinson, Driver and Turner creating good openings but Bonetti demonstrated his experience and handled cleanly. At the other end Knight was a virtual spectator being well protected by the tenacious Harriott and the cool McNichol. Heale failed with an easy looking header, Ingram shot over the bar and McNichol hit two strong drives. At half time we had nothing to show for our superiority and effort. Fifteen minutes after half time Walker converted a penalty after McNichol had handled Lewington's close range shot. Six minutes later Johnson raced past the square Luton defence and easily beat Knight. Two minutes later Aylott scored the third after McNichol had mistrapped — 3 in seven minutes! We kept plugging away but a lack of penetration and strength up front was obvious. Heale shot weakly wide when well placed whilst Ingram and Bowen were crowded out in advantageous positions. Luton almost snatched a consolation goal but Ingram could not direct his header.

In a Luton side that were full of ideas and invention but lacked punch it was the younger element that caught the eye. The small midfield trio of Wilkinson, Driver and Turner did well and Harriott played soundly at the back.

FACTS & FIGURES ~ 1977-78

	Attendance	FA	ALEKSIC	JONES	BUCKLEY	CARR	FAULKNER	HUSBAND	SMITH	BOERSMA	FUCILLO	ASTON	HILL	McNICHOL	PRICE	FUTCHER R.	WEST	HEALE
Aug 20	8,061	1-0	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	11	9		
Aug 27	7,579	0-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	8	2	11	10		
Aug 30	14,682	3-1	1	3	3	12	5	7	11	9	4	11	8	2	9	10		
Sept 3	9,061	7-1	1	3	3	12	5	7	11	9	4	11	8	2	9	10		
Sept 10	5,940	2-1	1	3	3	12	5	7	11	9	4	11	8	2	9	10		
Sept 17	9,149	0-0	1	3	3	12	5	7	11	9	4	11	8	2	9	10		
Sept 24	32,700	0-2	1	12	3	4	5	7	12	11	10	10	8	2	9	10		
Sept 27	25,132	2-3	1	12	3	4	5	7	12	11	10	10	8	2	9	10		
Oct 1																		
Oct 4																		
Oct 8																		
Oct 15																		
Oct 22																		
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Nov 19																		
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Mar 27																		
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Apr 8																		
Apr 15																		
Apr 22																		
Apr 26																		
Apr 29																		
May 6																		

TODAY'S MASCOT

A few days ago a letter arrived in the Club office accompanied by a cheque for £17.40. It was a very brief note stating that the writer had raised the money from a sponsored walk and would like to donate it to the Club. A phone call established that the donor, Allen Baxter of 141, Bradley Road, Luton, was ten years old and a very keen supporter of the Town. Everyone at the Club was so impressed by this gesture that it was decided to ask Allen to present his cheque to one of the players and John Faulkner who lives nearby was only too happy to oblige. Our Picture, which is reprinted by courtesy of the Luton News, shows John and Allen in the garden after the cheque had been handed over. Allen, who is a member of the Junior Hatters Club, was asked if he would like to be our mascot for today's game. He replied that he had already acted in this capacity once but that the match in question had been abandoned. In view of this fact and in recognition of his enterprise in carrying out his ten mile walk alone, following the withdrawal of the other entrants, it was decided that Allen should be given the opportunity again and we welcome him, his Mother and their neighbours, Mr & Mrs Punter, who ensure that he misses very few 1st, or Reserve Team games at Kenilworth Road.

Picture: Luton News



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DIVISION TWO

Table of Results - As at 27.9.77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham	7	4	0	0	2	0	12
Bolton	7	3	0	0	5	2	11
Crystal Palace	7	2	1	0	7	4	10
Brighton	6	3	0	1	2	0	10
Stoke	7	3	1	0	7	1	9
Southampton	7	3	1	0	6	2	9
Blackburn	7	2	1	1	5	2	9
Blackpool	7	1	1	1	4	4	8
Luton	6	2	1	0	8	1	7
Oldham	6	2	0	0	5	2	6
Charlton	7	2	1	0	3	0	6
Mansfield	7	2	1	0	3	0	6
Hull	7	1	2	0	4	0	5
Cardiff	6	1	3	0	5	3	5
Sunderland	7	1	1	0	4	2	5
Fulham	7	1	2	0	6	2	5
Millwall	7	1	2	1	4	0	5
Orient	7	2	0	1	3	0	5
Bristol R.	7	0	3	1	8	4	4
Notts C.	7	0	3	1	5	6	4
Sheffield U	7	1	1	1	3	0	4
Burnley	7	0	2	1	1	2	3

COMBINATION

Table of Results - As at 27.9.77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	6	6	0	0	16	2	12
Q.P.R.	7	5	1	1	11	2	11
Chelsea	7	4	1	2	18	6	9
Tottenham	7	3	3	1	13	6	9
Hereford United	7	4	1	2	11	7	8
Bristol City	6	3	2	1	11	7	8
Birmingham City	7	2	4	1	8	6	8
Fulham	7	2	4	1	8	6	8
Luton Town	8	3	2	3	14	12	8
West Ham United	5	2	2	1	11	6	6
Arsenal	8	2	2	4	9	8	6
Crystal Palace	7	2	2	3	5	8	6
Swindon Town	7	2	2	3	5	8	6
Bristol Rovers	5	2	2	1	4	8	6
Leicester City	7	3	0	4	6	10	6
Norwich City	6	2	2	2	7	7	5
Ipswich Town	6	1	3	2	7	3	3
Orient	5	1	1	4	5	11	3
Oxford United	6	1	0	5	6	11	2
Plymouth Argyle	5	1	0	4	4	14	2
Reading	5	0	1	4	4	5	2
Cardiff City	5	0	1	4	5	2	1

Football Combination Fixtures

	24 Wed	5-1	Reading	10 Sat	Leicester City
Aug 27 Sat	1-1	West Ham United	Dec 17 Sat	Southampton	Bristol City
Sept 3 Sat	3 Sat	Orient	Dec 26 Mon	Ipswich Town	Swindon Town
Sept 5 Mon	3-1	Ipswich Town	Jan 2 Mon	West Ham United	Orient
Sept 10 Sat	1-2	Swindon Town	Jan 14 Sat	Swindon Town	Chelsea
Sept 13 Tues	1-1	Arsenal	Jan 21 Sat	Bristol Rovers	Bristol Rovers
Sept 17 Sat	0-3	Chelsea	Feb 4 Sat	Tottenham Hotspur	Swindon Town
Sept 21 Wed	3-2	Hereford United	Feb 11 Sat	Cardiff City	Chelsea
Sept 24 Sat	0-1	Bristol Rovers	Feb 14 Tues	Fulham	Bristol Rovers
Oct 1 Sat	1 Sat	Tottenham Hotspur	Feb 25 Sat	Bristol City	Tottenham Hotspur
Oct 5 Wed	5 Wed	Crystal Palace	Mar 4 Sat	Cardiff City	Cardiff City
Oct 8 Sat	8 Sat	Cardiff City	Mar 11 Sat	Fulham	Fulham
Oct 15 Sat	15 Sat	Fulham	Mar 18 Sat	Birmingham City	Birmingham City
Oct 22 Sat	22 Sat	Birmingham City	Mar 25 Sat	Bristol City	Bristol City
Oct 29 Sat	29 Sat	Arsenal	Apr 1 Sat	Norwich City	Norwich City
Nov 5 Sat	5 Sat	Norwich City	Apr 8 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	Plymouth Argyle
Nov 12 Sat	12 Sat	Hereford United	Apr 11 Tues	Southampton	Southampton
Nov 15 Tues	15 Tues	Reading	Apr 15 Sat	Oxford United	Oxford United
Nov 19 Sat	19 Sat	Plymouth Argyle	Apr 22 Sat	Leicester City	Leicester City
Nov 26 Sat	26 Sat	Queens Park Rangers	Apr 25 Tues	Crystal Palace	Crystal Palace
Dec 3 Sat	3 Sat	Queens Park Rangers	Apr 29 Sat	Queens Park Rangers	Queens Park Rangers

OUR NEXT HOME GAME

v. MILLWALL
Division 2
Tues. October 4th.
K.O. 7.30
v. CARDIFF
Combination
Sat. October 8th.
K.O. 3.00
v. FULHAM
Division 2
Sat. October 15th.
K.O. 3.00



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LUTON LATEST

JUNIOR HATTERS

IF YOU would like an autographed photograph of your favourite player sent to you on your Birthday, a seat in the Bobbers Wing Stand for 75p (League matches only), an opportunity to take part in a competition every home game, also a chance to be our Mascot, then write to Wayne Morgan, Luton Town F.C., Kenilworth Road, Luton, giving your name, address, date of birth, favourite Luton player, with a 40p postal order

COMPETITION

The answers to our last competition were as follows:

- (a) Cambridge United,
Shirts: — Black and amber stripes.
Shorts: — Black with amber stripe.
Stockings: — Black and amber with white turnover.
- (b) Northampton Town.
Shirts: — White, Claret trim.
Shorts: — White.
Stockings: — White.
- (c) Stoke City.
Shirts: — Red and white stripes.
Shorts: — White.
Stockings: — White.
- (d) Barnsley.
Shirts: — Red.
Shorts: — White.
Stockings: — White.

There were no all correct entries but the best entry picked out on Friday 23rd was Member 163, Paul Conlon, 70 Oak Road, Luton. Paul will receive a scarf.

THIS WEEK'S COMPETITION IS:

Can you name the four approved colours for goalkeepers jerseys.

Send your entries to: — Junior Hatters Club, 70-72 Kenilworth Road, Luton, to reach us by Friday 7th October. The first correct entry will receive 2 tickets for our home match against Fulham.

SMC

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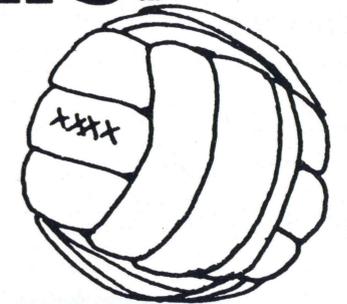
CARDIFF CITY v LUTON TOWN

Saturday 8th. October 1977. K.O. 3 p.m.

By car: Leave Luton on M1 going South. Leave M1 at junction 6, proceeding towards Watford then Slough A405 and North Orbital Road. At Slough join the M4 Motorway going West. Pass Membury Services (80 miles from Luton) Leigh Delamere Services (112 miles from Luton) Cross Severn Bridge (Toll 12p.) Leave M4 at Junction 28, 9 miles to Cardiff. Enter the City on the A48 along Queen St. over the River Taff. Turn left on to the A4161, then turn left again on the A4055 signposted Penarth. Ninian Park is situated on your left in Sloper Rd. Distance from Luton 164 miles.

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- 8 RICKY HILL
- 9 RON FUTCHER
- 10 ALAN WEST
- 11 PHIL BOERSMA
- 12 DAVID CARR



NOTTS COUNTY

- 1 ERIC McMANUS
- 2 TRISTAN BENJAMIN
- 3 RAY O'BRIEN
- 4 LLOYD RICHARDS
- 5 SAMMY CHAPMAN
- 6 BRIAN STUBBS
- 7 ALAN BIRCHENALL
- 8 JOHN SIMS
- 9 LES BRADD
- 10 ARTHUR MANN
- 11 IAN SCANLON
- 12

SCORE BOARD

- Arsenal
- West Ham
- Aston Villa
- Birmingham
- Ipswich
- Newcastle
- Nottm. Forest
- Norwich
- Wolves
- Leicester
- Blackpool
- Cardiff
- Bolton
- Stoke
- Burnley
- Millwall
- C. Palace
- Fulham
- Hull
- Mansfield
- Oldham
- Blackburn
- Orient
- Tottenham
- Sheffield U.
- Southampton
- Sunderland
- Brighton

OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr D. Smith (Hornchurch, Essex). Started refereeing in 1965 in Essex local leagues, then graduated via the Isthmian and Athenian Leagues to the Football League list. Has refereed three County Cup Finals, and has also been in charge of an F.A. Amateur Cup quarter-final and an F.A. Vase semi-final. A married man, he is a Maintenance Engineer. He played football, as an amateur, for Millwall and is interested in all sports but particularly in cricket.

Linesmen: Red flag - Mr M. J. R. Barker (Northampton); Yellow Flag - Mr M. G. Pulley (Coventry).