

LUTON TOWN



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Division Two

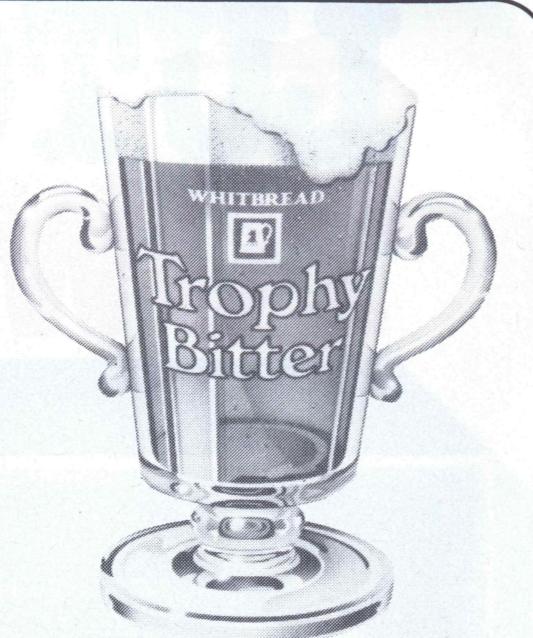
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DAVID PLEAT

IT WOULD be nice to be reflecting on a good away performance and a great result. Unfortunately once again we have returned pointless from our travels and we can only keep working so that we get the away breaks sooner rather than later. We have been unable to call upon a completely injury free staff on any match day so far and it was unfortunate that Bob Hatton did not recover from a foot injury to play at Bristol. However injuries give other players opportunities. Last week Godfrey Ingram came in for his third full game, Ingram like other promising youngsters have time on their side and we are closely watching their progress in the reserves. Incidentally the reserves have made an excellent start.



Phil Boersma has moved to Swansea and we wish him well. As with all transfers there are many aspects to consider. Phil didn't spend long at Luton, but was a good professional and a popular lad in the dressing room. Congratulations to Jim McNichol on being selected for the Scotland Under 21 side and John Lucas for selection in the Welsh Youth squad. They deserve this recognition and I am hoping other players will be following this path. It is early days yet to indulge in forecasting success or doom, but it is a pastime of some of the media. I have yet to see Luton connected with any chance of promotion, likewise Cardiff City. We shall have to work hard today to achieve a result and I anticipate a good game. Next week we are home again to neighbours Cambridge United who have made such rapid strides in such a short time.

Remember get behind the lads from the word go. Some of the younger players have already felt the affect of the crowds backing here, it may have lifted their game. Keep it up. Everyone has a part to play.

cardiff city

RON HEALEY. One of the finest goalkeepers in the second Division. Made a First Division debut at 18 for Manchester City and, after loan spells with Coventry City and Preston, he signed for Cardiff at a bargain £20,000 fee. Agile and with superb reflex reactions, he is an Eire International — having been born in Salford of Irish parents.

JOHN DAVIES. Wales Youth squad goalkeeper and one of the tallest in the game at 6 feet 3 inches. Rated an outstanding prospect who has made impressive progress at Ninian Park after signing as an apprentice from local football in West Wales. The only Welsh speaker on the City staff.

Defenders

PHIL DWYER. A player almost impossible to categorise in any one position — but has played most of his games for his hometown club as a right-back. Also plays with powerful authority as a centre-half, energetic enterprise in mid-field and was one of the sensations of the British Championship as a robust Trevor Ford style striker.

FREDDIE PETHARD. Consistent Glasgow-born left-back who moved to Cardiff after a spell with Celtic. Former Scottish Schoolboy International who can also operate with constructive skill in mid-field.

GERRY BYRNE. A young Scot who forced his way into the

first team squad last season and impressed in his dozen first team appearances with cool, confident tackling and intelligent anticipation.

BRIAN ATTLEY. Poised, talented full-back or mid-field player who takes every chance in either position to display his eagerness to attack. Another of Cardiff's locally-born and raised players. Former Wales Youth international

ROD THOMAS. The most experienced international defender of all time — won his 50th cap for his country against Czechoslovakia earlier this season. Signed from Derby in a bargain £10,000 deal to lend his experience to the Cardiff defence. Can play in any defensive position but at his best at right back. Born in Glyncorrwg, started with Swindon Town and played in their 1969 team which won the League Cup. Later transferred to Derby for £100,000 and was a member of their 1974-75 Championship winning side.

KEITH PONTIN. Made his real breakthrough last season. Although he had played a handful of first team games the previous season, he came into the side regularly last season and played game after game with increasing confidence and ability.

RICHIE MORGAN. Cardiff's club skipper and longest serving player. Experienced central defender with a record of battling to the last reserves of skill and stamina in the cause of his only

— and hometown — club.

ALBERT LARMOUR. Fought his way back into the side last season and immediately clicked into the form which has marked his six years at Cardiff; cool, efficient defence playing alongside the centre-half.

Mid-Field

JOHN BUCHANAN. Cardiff's top scorer last season as he alternated between orthodox mid-field and striker. Possesses one of the most explosive shots in the Second Division and can hit the ball with equal power from either foot. Born in the Highlands, he signed for Cardiff in 1974-75 from Northampton Town.

DAVID GILES. A busy, eager worker in mid-field who has been capped at both Youth and Under-21 level. Signed for Cardiff after some exciting displays in local Schools football and has worked his way from ground staff to the first team.

ALAN CAMPBELL. The experienced 'Hub' of Cardiff's mid-field after his signing late in the 1975-76 season from Birmingham City helped to clinch an immediate promotion back into the Second Division. A player who possesses the traditional Scottish skills of control, 'vision' and intelligent prompting.

STEVE GRAPES. High paced flank attacker, either as an orthodox winger or playing wide in mid-field. A brilliant crosser of the ball, this former First Division player for Norwich City has created a great many goals for Cardiff City since his transfer in October 1976.

Forwards

TONY EVANS. One of Cardiff's biggest success stories in recent years. Signed on a free transfer from Blackpool during the 1975 close season, he promptly scored 28 goals to play a leading part in restoring newly relegated Cardiff back to the Second Division. Top scorer again the following season.

RAY BISHOP. Took his chance eagerly last season with the injury to Evans. In exactly the same mould of sudden acceleration and direct breaks for goal, he stunned opposing defences with his neat control and darting breaks.

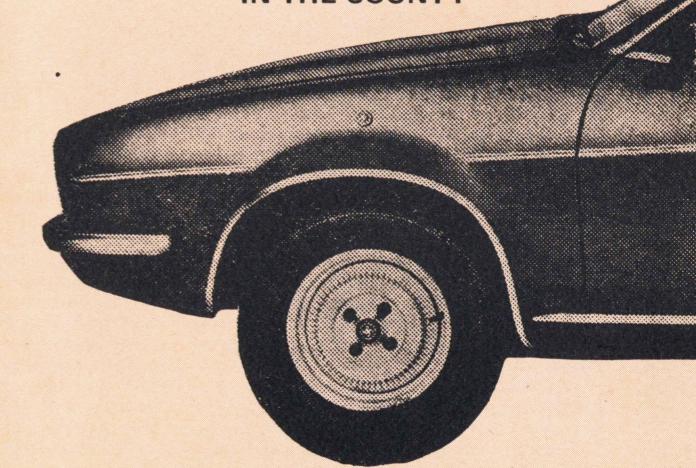
TONY BEASLEY. A newly signed winger of immense promise. Joined Cardiff from Southern League Trowbridge too late last season to win a Second Division place — but this could be breakthrough season. A player of natural attacking flair, blistering pace and rocketing shot.



Back Row: A. Campbell, P. Went, K. Pontin, J. Davies, A. Larmour, J. Buchanan, F. Pethard, S. Grapes.
Front Row: G. Byrne, R. Thomas, B. Attley, P. Dwyer, J. Andrews (Manager), R. Morgan, R. Bishop,

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LUTON TOWN

AFTER A hectic start to the season, getting our new players settled in and the rush to get the ground ready after alterations we are gradually settling down to some sort of routine, if ever football can be routine.

To get a new player to fit in as one of the family is seldom easy, but with our nine new lads it was a task requiring a lot of effort and good will all-round. Happily they all have settled in and it is difficult to realise that they have only been with us a short while.

Our secretary, John Wilkinson, has mentioned in his news that ground safety is ever present in the minds of all clubs, we at Kenilworth Road achieved quite a lot during the last summer close season but more remains to be done and will be done.

This Saturday we have the pleasure of meeting our friends from Cardiff City. To the Directors, Manager, Players and Officials we extend a sincere welcome and look forward to a good game.

THINGS have not gone too well so far for JIMMY ANDREWS' Cardiff team this season and it could well be that they will find themselves fighting another rearguard action against relegation, something they have achieved successfully in each of the last two seasons since bounding straight back from Division Three in 1975/6.

It doesn't seem long of course to our older supporters since we were meeting them in Division One where they have enjoyed three spells — in the 20's, the fifties and the early sixties. In fact they were runners-up there to Huddersfield in 1923/4 and during this same purple patch they shook the football world by beating Arsenal in the 1926/7 F.A. Cup Final to take the trophy out of England for the one and only time.

LAST SEASON

LAST season we did the double over them and after our 3-1 win here in March they dropped into serious trouble with only two wins in their next ten games, but just when it mattered they beat Bolton, Sheffield United and Notts County in quick succession and so scrambled to safety.

In the present campaign they have been

put out of the League Cup by Oxford and after drawing their first league match at home to Preston they have lost successively at Stoke, Bristol Rovers and at home to Oldham.

RAY BISHOP, who won a place near the end of last season, has been the most consistent goalscorer since then whilst former Northampton man JOHN BUCHANAN (swapped for John Farrington three season ago) has also popped in the odd goal from midfield where he is likely to be joined by local lad DAVID GILES and vastly experienced DAVID CAMPBELL, formerly with Charlton and Birmingham.

Ex-Norwich man STEVE GRAPES may also come into the reckoning in this department, while in defence current Welsh international PHIL DWYER, DAVE ROBERTS (newly signed from Hull and another Welsh cap) line up with Scotsman FREDDY PETHARD who has played all his league football in Wales and ROD THOMAS, who arrived from Derby last season and has over 400 club games and 50 internationals to his credit.

In goal new boy JOHN DAVIES has had a few outstanding games so far this season having made his debut in place of former Manchester City man RON HEALEY. At 18 he looks an outstanding prospect for a team that has fielded some outstanding goalkeepers, men like RON HOWELLS and GRAHAM VERNCOMBE.

CONGRATULATIONS

A FUTURE Hatters supporter made her first appearance on the scene on St. Bartholomew's day. Amelia Faye Jarvis was born not with a silver spoon in her mouth but clutching a football and shouting 'Off side'.

This is not surprising as her grandfather is Eric Morecambe OBE.

Sincerest congratulations to Gail, Eric's daughter, and husband Paul on the birth of their daughter.

JIM McNICHOL

IT WAS with great pleasure that we received the news of the inclusion of Jim McNichol in the pool of sixteen players from whom

the Scotland "Under 21" team will be chosen to play against the United States of America on Sunday, 17th September 1978. Jim is one of only two "Anglo's" in the party and his selection is a just reward for a player who always gives 100% in whatever Luton team he is selected to play.

FROM JOHN WILKINSON'S DESK

LAST MONDAY, accompanied by our Chairman Mr. D. Mortimer, I attended the first of this season Group 4 meetings. The other clubs in attendance belonging to our group were Cambridge United, Chesterfield, Derby Co., Grimsby Town, Ipswich Town, Lincoln City, Leicester City, Mansfield Town, Northampton Town, Norwich City, Nottingham Forest, Notts County, Peterborough United and Scunthorpe United, with Mr. J. Dunnett M.P. the Notts County chairman in the chair. Many items were on the agenda, ranging from 'local radio to Artificial playing surfaces. We believe that these meetings are essential these days, because clubs can get together and discuss not only their own problems but also the problems that exist in the game today. One subject discussed and I think that every meeting we have had for the past two years, this item has been on the agenda, and that is the Safety of Sports Ground act. Our visitors today have been hit very hard by this act as everyone who has visited Ninian Park lately will know. We ourselves are bringing the ground nearer to the required standards and a lot more work has to be done next closed season. I have received a letter from a supporter inquiring about Luton Town's involvement in the Luton Charity Cup in the 1890's. Our records at the club do go back that far but we have nothing on this Cup Competition.

If any of our supporters can help us in this matter the questions are:— (1) Does the cup still exist? (2) Did Luton Town ever enter for it? (3) Who were the last winners? Please drop me a line if you have any ideas.

SOUVENIR SHOP

THE SOUVENIR shop is in the process of being re-organised to give a better service to

our supporters. In future all mail orders should be addressed to

Wendy Tyler
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All enquiries and orders should be accompanied by a S.A.E. and sufficient money to cover cost of orders.

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SECOND DIVISION SCENE

STOKE CITY are now clearly establishing themselves as the pace-setters so far with only one point dropped and only one goal conceded in six league and cup games so far. BRENDAN O'CALLAGHAM chose just the right time to score his first goal of the season on Saturday for it earned two points at Orient, this being the fourth defeat in a row for JIMMY BLOOMFIELD's boys.

Crystal Palace, though holding on to second place, dropped a surprise home point to Sunderland on Saturday, this being the first point the Rokerites have picked up away from home this season after four defeats in a row in league and cup.

Oldham looked for a time like causing an upset at Brighton where they had avoided defeat on each of their last two visits, but in the end a JOHN HURST own goal gave the Seasiders their fourth league and cup win in a row.

Despite the fact that they are in third place Brighton's gates have dropped this season, Saturday's was their third in a row below the 20,000 mark though last season this happened only once all season.

In fact the one gate that did top the 20,000 mark on Saturday was at Newcastle where PETER WITHE opened his account for the Magpies with two goals in their 3-1 win over Blackburn, this being the first time they have scored as many as three goals since last December. Manager BILL McGARRY, who once sold Withe cheaply in his Wolves days, must be pleased with his form to date, even though he cost £200,000 this time.

Still maintaining their reputation of winning all their home games and losing all their away games Bristol Rovers beat us 2-0 on Saturday with young striker PAUL RANDALL scoring for the fourth time in five home games.

K TALK TA

Apart from Stoke and Crystal Palace the only other two unbeaten teams in Division Two are Burnley and Wrexham. While the latter drew at Charlton for the third time in successive visits. Burnley won a 'Match of the Day' thriller 3-2 against West Ham, who had not previously lost an away game.

Leicester are finding goals almost as difficult to score in Division Two as they did in Division One last season. They have scored just once in four home games to date, losing to Notts County by the only goal of the game on Saturday. This was County's first away win since their 3-1 success at Mansfield last October.

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to Mal Donaghy who celebrated his 21st birthday on 13 September and to Gary Sisman who will be 18 next Thursday. Two of our apprentices to whom we also send best wishes are Alan Currie (18 yesterday) and Martin Conquest (17

next Monday).

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

6 September. Luton 3 Hereford Utd 1

A THIRD successive win by Luton's reserve team lifted them into second place in the table behind Spurs who have the only 100% record in the league. The 3-1 victory against Hereford marked the debut of 16 year old Rob Johnson one of the Town's new apprentices at right back. Rob who has had Southern League experience with Bedford Town played with a maturity beyond his years and looks a very fine prospect indeed. The goals came from Godfrey Ingram (2) including one of his special 'thunderbolts' and Wayne Turner and another youngster to catch the eye was John Lucas just back from training with the Welsh under 18 squad.

Team: Judge, Johnson R, Sherlock, Hayes, Carr, McNichol, Moss, Turner W, Ingram, Heale, Lucas. Sub: Sperrin for Heale after 63 minutes.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP ROUND 3 LUTON TOWN v. CREWE ALEXANDRA TUESDAY OCTOBER 3RD 1978 KICK-OFF 7.45 PM

Ticket Prices

Centre Stand £2.50

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Bobbers Centre Stand £2.25

Season Ticket holders wishing to purchase their seats should do so before 12 noon on Saturday September 30th. Voucher number 31 from the back of the Season Ticket book should accompany all applications. All persons applying by post should include a stamped addressed envelope.

CROSSWORD 4

CLUES ACROSS:

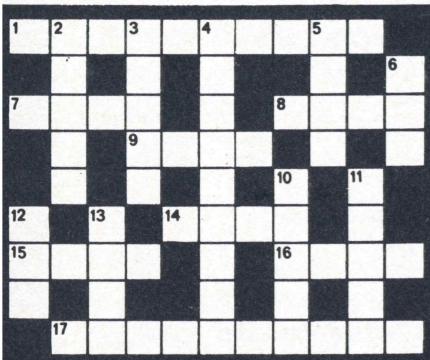
The first-ever First Division champions (10)
Present holders of the FA Vase: Blue—(4)
Syrett or Shipperley (4)
See 6dn
4 —Cummins (Middlesbrough)(4)
5 & 16 A 'present' that should always be accepted by the attacking side (4,4)
7 Chester keeper who appeared in 248 consecutive League games for Wrexham, setting a goalkeeping record (5,5)

CLUES DOWN:

1 & 2 Old Charlton and England stopper and Kent wicket-keeper (5,5)
3 Old Spurs and Scotland winger who subsequently played for both of the 1978 FA Cup finalists (9)
4 Liverpool regular (4)
5 & 9ac Wolves forward (3,4)
0 Miguel — (Real Madrid & Spain)(5)
1 Arsenal international (5)
2 Ashman or Allen (3)
3 Erich — (Hertha Berlin & West Germany)(4)

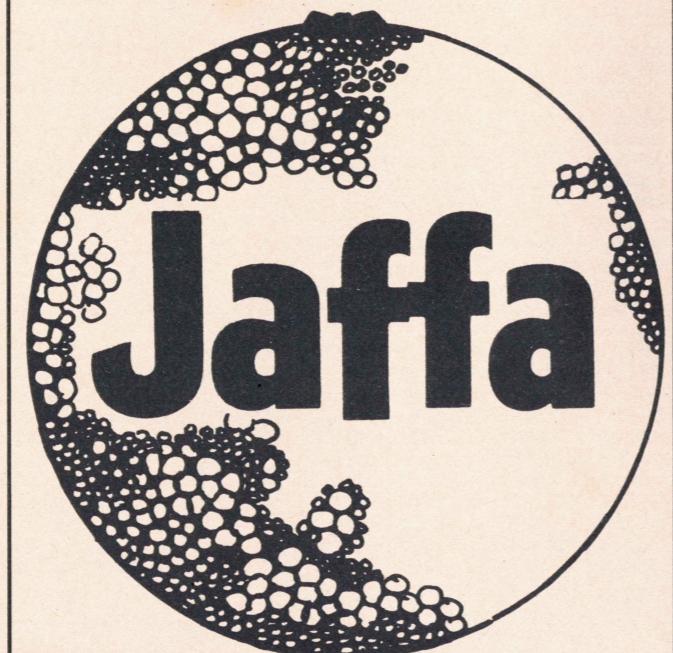
ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 3

ACROSS: 1 Joicey. 4 Eric. 6 nets. 7 Oldham. 8 Barrie Mayer. 1 Osgood. 13 Ward. 14 Dens. 15 Possee.
DOWN: 1 Jongbloed. 2 Inter. 3 Yeo (135 goals). 4 Eddie. 5 Cambridge. 9 Roots. 10 Yeats. 12 dip.



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N ACTION ACT



LUTON v CHARLTON

IT WAS a case of the old one-two making three as our good home form continued against Charlton. Midfield men and forwards produced some sparkling combination work at times, with one-two passing movements breaking down Charlton's defence and leading directly to all three goals.

Perhaps in Brian Stein's case it was more a matter of one-two making four: the picture left shows him slamming the second goal of the match, and his fourth of the season to give the Oak Road end a treat.

Bob Hatton's low cross made the opening, and once again the camera shows how we managed to get men into the box and away from defenders for the final strike.

Goal machine Hatton had already started the demolition of the Londoners' rearguard with the opening goal in the first half. Probably goalkeeper Jeff Wood should have made a better job of his attempted save, but the picture below illustrates Bob's textbook technique: high off the ground, perfectly balanced, and eyes still on the ball as it speeds towards the top corner of the net.

Pictures: LUTON NEWS.



ION AC

GERRY HARRISON

ANGLIA TELEVISION'S MATCH OF THE WEEK COMMENTATOR

ARE YOU fit enough to be a Football League referee? You might not be too sure of this. But until a few weeks ago you would have been in good company because the men in the middle themselves weren't too sure either.

As part of a joint venture between the Football Association and the Football League minimum fitness tests have been introduced this season for Football League referees for the first time here. It is, however, nothing new. The tests are standard procedure in every other FIFA country in Europe. And indeed any referee in Great Britain aspiring to a FIFA appointment has to pass a fitness test first. So when Ken Ridden, the Football Association's National Training Officer for Referees, suggested the idea there were plenty of grounds why it should be accepted.

What are the standards? There are four tests:

1. Run 400 metres in under 75 seconds.
2. Run 50 metres in under 8 seconds.
3. Complete 4 shuttle runs of 10 metres each in under 11.5 seconds.
4. And complete a minimum of 1750 metres if you are over 40 (2000 metres under 40) during a run which must be continued for ten minutes.

The long distance run is something of an experiment. The test along FIFA lines was a specific distance which had to be completed in under 12 minutes. But most of the referees found it too easy and completed the distance in, say 8 minutes, and stopped running. The idea here is to push them longer.

These tests of course have to be run consecutively. The official order is number 1, 2, 4 and finally number 3. A maximum recovery period of five minutes is allowed between each test.

Football League referees have come out of the tests well so far. There were one or two failures in the first batch of tests. And the refs know that they will be given no Football League appointments until all four categories have been successfully passed.

To begin with Ken Ridden had to set up twenty one different test centres. The reason for this was simply to cut down expense. In an ideal world all the referees would be called together in one or two areas and put through their paces. This would be fairer and easier to administer. It would also be more expensive. The object now is to cut the centres down to about six.

Remember, this is only a minimum fitness test and will no doubt be developed in the next few seasons. The Germans for instance require their officials to complete the 50 metre sprint in 7.5 seconds. How demanding should these tests become?

Another question involves the thorny point of enforced retirement to League referees at the age of forty seven. These tests will perhaps indicate what many have often thought — that some referees under 47 are not fit enough . . . and that many who reach the enforced retirement age are well capable of continuing in the middle for a few more years . . . in a game where experience is so valuable.

THIS LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE RECENTLY AND I AM SURE IT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO MANY OF OUR SUPPORTERS.

To The Secretary,

A club was formed in June 1978 to recognise the achievement of those football followers who have visited each of the current 92 Football League grounds to watch first team soccer.

There are currently 49 members, many of whom have completed their visits in the season 1977/78. The primary aim of the Ninety-Two Club is to provide some formal recognition of this achievement at cost. A club insignia has been designed and incorporated in the members tie and lapel badge as well as the membership card and certificate which give details of the date and ground of the 92nd visit. In addition each member is provided with a detailed list on which to record visits to all grounds on which league football has been played in the post war period, including those clubs who are no longer member clubs of the Football League. A national list of all members and their achievements will also be issued to each member, when 100 members have enrolled, and thereafter it is expected that members will develop the club further, with area or national meetings at selected matches.

A number of optional items are also available to members — tie clips, cuff links and plaques all incorporating the club insignia and all profits raised from the sale of these items, together with any surplus from membership fees will in due course be donated to the Benevolent Funds which exist to benefit those people connected with the game, who have given members so much pleasure in the past, namely the Football Association, Football League and Professional Footballers Association.

Any supporter who has already qualified or has visited a substantial number of League grounds (over 70) and is interested in further details is asked to send a stamped addressed envelope for details to:—

*Gordon Pearce,
104 Gilda Crescent,
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Bristol, BS14 9LD*

Mascot

OUR Mascot for today's match is Stephen John Smith. He attends Weald Middle School at Harrow Weald and athletics and football form his major interests sportwise. Last season he played for his school team and had a trial for South West Herts. under 12's, he also plays for Royston Rangers of South Oxley. Last season he won a trophy for the highest goal scorer of last season. His favourite player is Bob Hatton and he is fully kitted out in Hatters colours. He has supported Luton Town for 5 years, and he and his family make the journey from Harrow Weald to support us.



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

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

SOME OF the most important football news of the week a decade ago was an off-the-field announcement from Kenilworth Road. Bruce Rioch, called an inside left in those days, reached his 21st birthday and the Town announced that he had marked the occasion by signing a new contract which would keep him with the club for the next four years.

Scouts from many First Division clubs had been casting envious eyes at Rioch, and it was made known that bids of £80,000 had been rejected. The new contract, said a Town statement, should end speculation about Rioch's future. It didn't of course, and it is now a matter of record that Rioch was transferred within a year of that announcement.

On the field, Rioch was in a team which could do no wrong in the eyes of its supporters. On September 7, 1968, they had a big following to see them meet Leyton Orient in East London. Both teams were undefeated, and it turned out to be a rugged, physical game. The gate of 13,719 was Orient's biggest for two years. There were fouls galore by both sides, and Alan Slough, stand-in centre-half for the injured Terry Branston, had a personal triumph by playing Vic Halom out of the game.

Orient used their sub, player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield, for the second half, but the stalemate continued and it ended in a 0-0 draw with home supporters furious at the Town's well-organised offside trap.

The following Saturday 12,965 were at Kenilworth Road to see the Town defend their 100 per cent home record, on a day when heavy rain made the match a doubtful starter.

The Town controlled most of the first half in dreadful conditions. Brian Lewis had an early "goal" disallowed for offside before Laurie Sheffield made it 1-0 in the 21st minute from Mike Harrison's cross.

But things went wrong after Tony Read misjudged a cross-shot just before the interval to give McNamee an equaliser.

Tranmere started to show signs of earning a draw until Slough and Rioch set up a goal for Lewis in the 60th minute and Terry Branston made it safe with the third goal after a corner by Graham French five minutes later.

The Third Division table looked lovely that night: the Town were top with 12 points from seven matches, three points clear of the field.

YOUTH

By George Rogers

Maddon, L Harriot, G Sisman, M Conquest, R Eaton, M Jones, T Wilkinson, A Pearson. Sub: N Johnson.

THE Youth team played a Midland Youth League fixture v Bristol City in Luton on the afternoon of Thursday 7 September. This resulted in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

The game was played on the excellent playing surface at Vauxhall Motors ground and the players of both clubs expressed their pleasure by giving us an entertaining game. With a 2pm start it also enabled some of the Vauxhall work force who have the last lunch break to wander over and see the stars of the future. Of the game itself, Luton went into the lead in the 23rd minute when Martin Conquest crossed the ball from the right, Jones heading the ball down to Richard Eaton who shot in to the net. This score remained until 8 minutes from time when some slack marking in the Luton defence allowed Bristol to score. Luton team: G Phillips, J Woodward, T Murphy, N

Murphy, N Maddon, L Harriott, G Sisman, S Rowlands, R Eaton, M Conquest, T Wilkinson, A Pearson, R Brammer, R Giltrow, T Kitchener.

During September the Youth team will have completed 9 games and if you

are able to come along and give the lads some support, you will be most welcome.

The rest of this month's fixtures are:

Tues. 12th Birmingham away

Wed. 13th Letchworth G C away 7.30

Sat. 16th Harlow Chrysler S G 11.00

Tues. 19th Swindon away

Sat. 23rd Cambridge Utd Chrysler S G 11.00

Mon. 25th Ipswich Kenilworth Rd 7.30

Thur. 28th Swindon Vauxhall Motors S G 2.00

Sat. 30th Vauxhall, Vauxhall Motors S G 3.00

The game on 25 September is the Eastern Junior Cup Final left over from last year. Luton reached the final but the other semi-final between Ipswich and Norwich was not played until this season. This competition will be completed when Ipswich come to Kenilworth Road for the final. Please come along and cheer the lads on to victory.

FOCUS ON

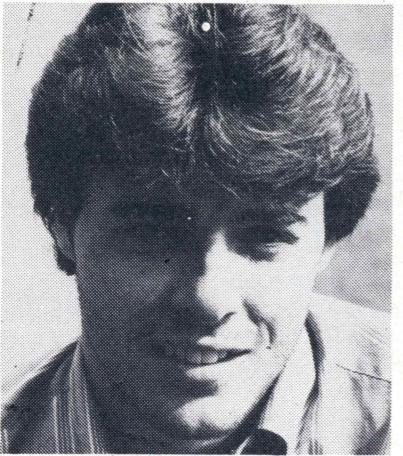
MAL DONAGHY
BY DOUG LYGO

ALREADY a firm favourite with the Luton fans as a result of some excellent performances, Mal Donagh has experienced a meteoric rise during the past two years. His first ever Football League match on August 19th was only the second that he had seen, the only previous experience having been as a spectator at Old Trafford when Everton were the visitors.

Born 21 years ago last Wednesday in Belfast, Mal was denied the opportunities that we take for granted, that is to play soccer at school and youth level. His school engaged only in the Gaelic variety of football and as a more than useful exponent Mal represented County Antrim at this sport.

It was not until he joined the Post Office that Mal experienced organised soccer and he quickly progressed to their representative side at the age of eighteen. At the start of 1977/78 season he was playing junior football but by Christmas he had been signed by Irish League Club, Larne and immediately established himself in their first team at Centre-half. After a further dozen matches the Irish selectors drafted him into the first ever Northern Ireland Under 21 side which drew with Eire 1-1 in Dublin. It was at this point that Luton became one of a number of British clubs taking a close interest in the talented young defender and

after his performance in the international the chase 'hotted' up. A week in Glasgow ended with Celtic showing definite interest but, fortunately for the Hatters, the changes in management there delayed the decision. This was followed by a week-end at Loftus Road and the offer of a contract by Queens Park Rangers. Despite this interest by these and other senior



clubs David Pleat's persistence was rewarded and some weeks after he and Assistant Manager, Ken Gutteridge had watched the Dublin international the latter made another crossing of the Irish Sea to clinch the deal. Mal Donagh was a Luton player for a modest fee and largely because he had been told that there was a first team place for

him if he continued to progress. This he did in pre-season games despite playing in the unaccustomed role of midfielder, and against Charlton he demonstrated his ability as a central defender although he quickly gave the credit to Paul Price for the way the defence responded following the injury to Chris Turner.

Mal Donagh comes from a large family — he has six sisters and three brothers and admits that he has missed them since coming to Luton. However he gives much of the credit for his successful transition to English football to the friendly 'digs' which the club found for him and Terry Hayes. These two young players who played together for the Northern Ireland Under 21 team have moved in with Mr. and Mrs. Haughney who for nearly four years shared their home with Paul and Ron Futcher. Landladies seldom receive the recognition which they deserve and it is a pleasure to record our thanks to all the ladies who play such an important part in the success of the club.

In wishing Mal continued success and happiness at Luton we also hope that he achieves all his ambitions including the winning of a full 'cap'. If he maintains his present rate of progress this is an honour which will surely not be long denied.

POOLS NEWS

MAY I remind Hon. Treasurers of Local Sporting Organisations that the "Hatters" are now able to "Help out" with their club fund raising.

We realise that at all levels of Sport, cash is an essential ingredient, so, in order that the less fortunate clubs should not be on "The Bread Line", we have once again "come up" with something good. If you are interested in knowing more about this scheme, just ring Bob Powell on Hitchin 813507, or call into the pools

office anytime or ring Luton 30748.

THE TOWN LOTTERY

Latest members of our £1000 Winners Club" are Mrs. V. Benetti. 26, Limbury Rd., Luton. Mr. S. T. Gurney. 24, Watson Ave. St. Albans. Mrs. M. E. Langford. 48, The Rowlands. Biggleswade.

Mr. J. P. Forde. 37, Curry Rd. Greenford Middx. (How did that one get in?)



Mike Kitchener (Pools Manager), Mike Hardwicke (Managing Director), Eric Morecambe O.B.E. (Vice Pres.) and Bob Powell (Town Lottery Promoter) celebrate at a recent £1000 Winners Club.

FACTS

DIV.2		Attendance	F.A.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 19	S	Oldham Athletic	8,043	6-1	Aleksic	Stephens	Donghy	Turner	Aizlewood	Hill	Fucillo (1 pen)	Stein (1)	Hutton (2)	Moss (2)	Ingram* McNichol Hill
22	T	Crystal Palace	17,739	1-3	Aleksic	Stephens	Aizlewood	Aizlewood	Aizlewood	Hill	Fucillo (1 pen)	Stein	Hutton	Hutton	Moss Moss Moss
26	S	Newcastle Utd.	24,112	0-1	Aleksic	Stephens	Donghy	Turner	Hill	Hill	Fucillo	Stein (2)	Hutton	Hutton	Moss Moss
29	T	Wigan Ath. (LC2)	6,618	2-0	Aleksic	Stephens	Aizlewood	Aizlewood	Hill (1)	West	Fucillo	Stein (1)	Hutton (1)	Ingram	West* West
Sept. 2	S	Charlton Ath.	8,509	3-0	Aleksic	Jones	Aizlewood	Hill	Turner	Price	Fucillo	Stein	Hutton	Boersma	
9	S	Bristol Rovers	6,508	0-2	Aleksic	Jones	Aizlewood	Hill	Turner	Price	Fucillo	Stein	Hutton	Moss	
16	S	Cardiff City													
23	S	Cambridge Utd.													
30	S	Sheffield Utd.													
Oct. 3	T	Crewe Alex. (LC3)													
7	S	Wrexham													
14	S	Blackburn													
21	S	Notts County													
28	S	Orient													
Nov. 4	S	Leicester City													
8	W	League Cup 4													
11	S	Oldham Athletic													
18	S	Newcastle Utd.													
21	T	Charlton Ath.													
25	S	Sunderland (1)													
Dec. 2	S	Burnley													
9	S	Preston													
13	W	League Cup 5													
16	S	Brighton (2)													
23	S	West Ham													
26	T	Millwall													
30	S	Fulham													
Feb.	3	Cambridge Utd.													
10	S	Sheffield Utd.													
17	S	Wrexham (5)													
24	S	Blackburn													
Mar.	3	S	Notts County												
10	S	Orient (6)													
17	S	Leicester City (LCF)													
24	S	Crystal Palace													
31	S	Sunderland (SF)													
April 7	S	Burnley	9 M	West Ham	14 S	Millwall	16 M	Stone City	21 S	Brighton	28 S	Preston			
May 5	S	Fulham	12 S	F.A. Cup Final											
1979															
Jan.	1	M	Stoke City	6 S	F.A. Cup 3	13 S	Bristol Rovers	17 S	Leicester City (LCF)	20 S	Crystal Palace	31 S	Sunderland (SF)		
Feb.	7	S	Burnley	9 M	West Ham	14 S	Millwall	16 M	Stone City	21 S	Brighton	28 S	Preston		
Mar.	3	S	Notts County	10 S	Orient (6)	17 S	Leicester City (LCF)	24 S	Crystal Palace	31 S	Sunderland (SF)				
Apr.	7	S	Burnley	9 M	West Ham	14 S	Millwall	16 M	Stone City	21 S	Brighton	28 S	Preston		
May	5	S	Fulham	12 S	F.A. Cup Final										

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Bold denotes home game and score. * denotes substitute used

Division Two

As at 10 September 1978

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke City	5	4	1	0	7	1	9
C Palace	5	2	3	0	8	4	7
Brighton & Hove Albion	5	3	1	1	7	3	7
Burnley	5	2	3	0	8	6	7
Wrexham	5	2	1	2	5	6	5
Bristol Rovers	5	3	0	2	10	9	6
West Ham	5	2	1	2	11	7	5
Preston North End	5	1	3	1	9	8	5
Fulham	5	2	1	2	4	4	5
Newcastle United	5	2	1	2	5	6	5
Oldham Athletic	5	2	1	2	7	9	5
Nottingham County	5	2	0	3	5	6	4
Sunderland	5	2	1	2	4	7	5
Luton Town	5	2	0	3	10	7	4
Cambridge United	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Charlton Athletic	5	1	2	2	5	6	4
Orient	5	2	0	3	5	3	3
Millwall	5	1	2	2	4	8	4
Leicester	5	0	3	2	5	3	3
Blackburn	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
Sheffield United	5	1	1	3	4	8	3
Cardiff City	5	1	1	3	6	11	3

FOOTBALL COMBINATION FIXTURES - 1978-79

Aug. 19	S	Oxford United	0-2	18	S	Birmingham City	
22	T	Cardiff City	3-1	21	T	Bristol Rovers	
26	S	Birmingham City	2-0	29	W	Reading	
30	W						
Sept. 6	W	Hereford United	3-1	Dec.	2	Fulham	
9	S	Southampton	3-1	9	S	Arsenal	
13	W	Bristol Rovers	11	13	W	West Ham	
23	S	Norwich City	16	16	S	Bristol City	
30	S	Swindon Town	19	19	T	Crystal Palace	
Oct. 4	W		30	S	Q.P.R.		
7	S	Chelsea		1979			
14	S	Orient		Jan.	1	M	
21	S	Tottenham H.		6	S	Ipswich Town	
28	S	Plymouth Argyle		13	S	Southampton	
Nov. 4	S	Leicester City		17	W	Hereford United	
8	W	Oxford United		20	S		
11	S			24	W		
				27	S		

All Saturday Matches Kick-off 3pm

All Fixtures subject to alteration

Feb.	3	S	Norwich City	
	10	S	Swindon Town	
	17	S	Chelsea	
	24	S	Orient	
Mar.	3	S	Tottenham H.	
	10	S	Plymouth Argyle	
	17	S	Leicester City	
	21	W	Crystal Palace	
	28	W	Cardiff City	
	31	S	Reading	
April	7	S	Fulham	
	16	M	Ipswich Town	
	21	S	Bristol City	
	24	T	West Ham	
	28	S	Arsenal	
	May	5	S	Q.P.R.

v CAMBRIDGE UTD	Division Two	Sat. 23 September	Kick-off: 3.00pm
v SWINDON TOWN	Combination	Sat. 30 September	Kick-off: 3.00pm
v CREWE ALEX.	League Cup 3rd round	Tues. 3 October	Kick-off: 7.45pm

Next home games

Junior Hatters

BIRTHDAY Greetings this week to:— Member No. 513 Scott Canupp, 17th., 167 Peter Read, 17th., 169 Darren Booth, 23rd., 223 Claire Gates, 23rd., 239 Kathryn Murden, 25th., 91 Paul Miller, 26th., 502 Kevin Folland, 28th., 153 David Gorbutt, 28th and 202 John Townsend, 28th September, 1978

Many happy returns of the day to you all.

We have recently held a further ballot for the Match Day Mascots and this has resulted in the following being chosen:—

16th September v. Cardiff City Stephen J. Smith
23rd September v. Cambridge Utd. Paul Miller
3rd October v. Crewe Trevor Mitchell
7th October v. Wrexham Anthony Green
21st October v. Notts County Andrew Hopkins

The answer to the competition in the Charlton programme was:—

1. 1885
2. Malcolm McDonald

The first correct answer opened was from Philip Doyle of Vale Close, Harpenden who will receive a Supporters scarf.

This weeks' competition:—

- 1) Back to front or up-side-down this year saw the founding of Preston North End, Tranmere Rovers and Orient among others?
- 2) This Cheshire fourth division team shared their ground with a Rugby League team until shortly after the second world war?

Entries to Junior Hatters Competition, Luton Town F.C., Kenilworth Road, Luton, to arrive by first post Saturday 23rd September, 1978. The first correct answer opened will receive two seats for a home match.

Kenilworth Club

Chiltern Insulations Ltd,
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Woburn Street, Ampthill,
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Century Club

by Catherine Ball, Secretary

QUIET SATISFACTION, but most definitely not complacency, was the keynote of the Century Club's annual general meeting, at which we reviewed last year's efforts and looked forward to another successful season in the months to come.

Any club is only as good as its members, and it is to their credit that the hard-working committee was able to maintain our twin objectives: provide a good social club facility and give solid support to Luton Town FC.

The most obvious way of supporting the team is to help in the never-ending task of raising money, for the benefit of Luton Town. We are providing finance week by week through the generosity of members, and by various forms of fund-raising, and we hope very shortly to be able to announce another major donation.

Our accounts look healthy, with a balance sheet showing a profit last year of £3,600. I will give more information about that side of our activities next week, but at this stage I would like to say a big thank-you to all Century Club members for their continued support.

We have an extended programme of social events this season, but the main priority is still to do everything we can to help Luton Town.

David Pleat seems to be welding together a very useful team, with youth and experience nicely mixed, and although it is still early days our members are already beginning to give thought to our "Player of the Year" award, which is made at the end of the season.

We also give an award to our own club in the shape of a supporter of the year trophy, but this season there will be a third prize to be won: for the most dedicated young player of the year.

We will leave it to David Pleat to make the choice, simply hoping that the decision is just as difficult as those our members make in picking the player of the year.

Voting for our awards will not take place until the closing stages of the season, but I hope all members are already giving thought to the subject match by match.

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LUTON TOWN

1	MILIJA ALEKSIC
2	GRAHAM JONES
3	MARK AIZLEWOOD
4	RICKY HILL
5	CHRIS TURNER
6	PAUL PRICE
7	MAL DONAGHY
8	PASQUALE FUCCILLO
9	BRIAN STEIN
10	BOB HATTON
11	DAVID MOSS
12	ALAN WEST



CARDIFF

K BARBER	1
R THOMAS	2
F PETHARD	3
A CAMPBELL	4
K PONTIN	5
D ROBERTS	6
S GRAPES	7
M BURNS	8
P DWYER	9
R BISHOP	10
J BUCHANAN	11
G STEPHENS	12

Half Times

Arsenal	Blackburn	Sheff Utd
Bolton	Leicester	Burnley
A Villa	Cambridge	Stoke
Everton	Charlton	Brighton
Leeds	Millwall	Sunderland
Spurs	C Palace	Fulham
Liverpool	Notts Co	West Ham
Coventry	Orient	Bristol R
Man Utd	Oldham	Wrexham
Notts For	Preston	Newcastle

Officials

Referee: Mr. Michael J. Taylor (Kent). Started refereeing in 1958 whilst in the Royal Marines, and progressed via the Kent and Southern Leagues to the Football League list. Refereed the 1971/72 Southern League Cup Final, and lined a European Cup Winners Cup Semi-Final in 1973/74. Was a linesman, also, in the 1972/73 Anglo-Italian Tournament. A married man, with two children, he retired from the Royal Marines and is now a Company Secretary.

Linesmen: Mr. J Byles (Oxford) Red flag; Mr. M. J. Bidmead (Hock-Surrey) Yellow flag.