

ASTON VILLA



NEWS AND RECORD

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE PRICE 20p



VOLUME NUMBER 36
WEDNESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 1978—KICK-OFF: 7.30pm
FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP, ROUND 4
ASTON VILLA
v
LUTON TOWN

PROGRAMME NUMBER 13

IF WE DRAW TONIGHT...

The replay will be at Kenilworth Road, Luton, on Tuesday 14th November—kick-off: 7.30pm. The match will not be all-ticket and admission to the standing terraces at Kenilworth Road will be by payment at the turnstiles on the evening of the match. Standing prices are...

Terraces £1.10
Oak Road £1.30
Covered Enclosure £1.50

Aston Villa will receive an allocation of reserved seats for the game—prices £2.50, £2.25 and £1.70. These will be available to Aston Villa seating season ticket holders only after tonight's match and tomorrow from the Ticket Office on presentation of their Season Ticket Books as identification. If still available the tickets will then be on general sale from 9.15am Friday and during normal office hours until 5.00pm on Monday 13th November.

**£3500
TO BE WON
ON THE
VILLA
BINGO**

**★ GREAT VALUE FOR ONLY 20p
Thousands of chances to win**

Promotor: R. Hogg, 75 Ipswich Crescent, Great Barr, B'ham.

SEASON TICKETS AT REDUCED PRICES

Last Saturday's match with Manchester City completed one-third of our home League programme, and as in past seasons we are now reducing the prices of available Season Tickets by approximately one-third of their League content and by half of the Cup content following our three home League Cup-ties including tonight's match.

THE NEW PRICES

TRINITY ROAD STAND SEATS: Doors E and G . . . formerly £60 now £37.50 (£30 Football League and £7.50 Cup). Doors A and H . . . Formerly £50 now £31.50 (£24 Football League and £7.50 Cup).

WITTON LANE STAND SEATS: Doors N and P . . . Formerly £60 now £37.50 (£30 Football League and £7.50 Cup). Door M . . . Formerly £50 now £31.50 (£24 Football League and £7.50 Cup).

NORTH STAND SEATS: Front . . . Formerly £60 now £37.50 (£30 Football League and £7.50 Cup). Centre . . . Formerly £50 now £31.50 (£24 Football League and £7.50 Cup). Rear . . . Formerly £37 now £23.50 (£19 Football League and £4.50 Cup).

TRINITY ROAD ENCLOSURE SEATS: Adults . . . Formerly £37 now £23.50 (£19 Football League and £4.50 Cup). Juveniles . . . Formerly £26 now £16.50 (£12 Football League and £4.50 Cup).

These tickets all include payment in advance for the first three possible home League Cup-ties, excluding Semi-Finals, or FA Cup matches that Aston Villa may play after the League Cup-tie with Luton Town this evening, with, of course, credit carried over to next season or return if we do not play all three home Cup-ties.

STANDING: Adults . . . Formerly £18 now £12. Juvenile . . . Formerly £10 now £7. These tickets do not include Cup-ties, but do give the holder priority in the cases of all-ticket home or away Cup-ties.

With many attractive League fixtures to come, such as West Bromwich Albion, Coventry City, Birmingham City, Derby County, Liverpool, Leeds United, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, these tickets represent excellent value and, as added bonuses, all Aston Villa Season Tickets give free admission to all Central League matches at Villa Park, and priority rights to FA Cup Semi-Finals or other important matches that may be staged here. And, of course, they are the only way to guarantee tickets for FA or Football League Cup Finals in which Aston Villa take part.

* Application forms are available all this week from the Ticket Office and the staff will be pleased to show you the seats available and to answer any queries you may have.

RON SAUNDERS



ASTON VILLA
FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

VILLA PARK, BIRMINGHAM B6 5HE

TELEPHONE
CLUB—021-327 6604
INFORMATION—021-328 1722

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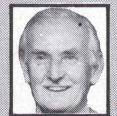
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COMMERCIAL MANAGER: ERIC WOODWARD

MEDICAL OFFICER: DR DAVID TARGETT

ASTON VILLA NEWS AND RECORD
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

EDITOR: ERIC WOODWARD

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN:
MIDLAND SPORTS MAGAZINES

Photographic contributions to today's
magazine includes pictures from: Terry Weir,
Bill Goulton, Bob Thomas and Terry Lake.

PRINTED BY:
PEERLESS PRESS LIMITED
SPON LANE, WEST BROMWICH B70 6AQ

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Today's cover picture:
John Gidman

Tonight sees us once again
turning our attention to the
League Cup which gives
us a respite from the
League games.

What with injuries and everything, we have found it increasingly hard to get a balance and a rhythm, and although the players are trying their utmost, it has been difficult to find the momentum that is so necessary to produce good football.

On the brighter side, Gordon Cowans, Alex Cropley and Gordon Smith all came through their try-out with the reserves on Saturday and we hope it will not be long before all three are available for consideration. Frank Carroddus, David Evans and Adrian O'Dowd are still working hard in the fight for fitness.

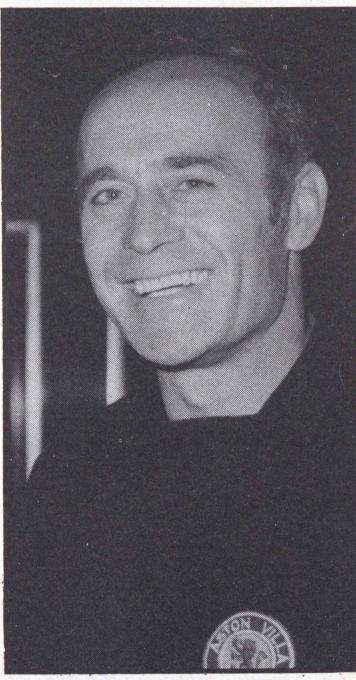
Tonight's game gives us the opportunity to put the frustrations of the League behind us and take another step forward in the League Cup.

Luton Town are one of the highest goal-scoring sides in the country and, having got this far in the competition they won't be coming to Villa Park to give up easily.

We will have to graft for anything that we are to get. I hope that not only can we get the right result but that we can also start developing the rhythm which we have been talking about and so begin building up our game for the rest of the season.

Let's see if between us, with your support and our effort, we can re-generate our missing rhythm.

Ron Saunders



Forward Trust sponsored their second game of the season at Villa Park last Saturday. To mark their continued association with Aston Villa, Frank Carroddus presented a pennant to Forward Trust Director Mr Moss.

David Pleat, of Luton Town, is one of the youngest managers in the Football League but he had no fears about succeeding the popular Harry Haslam at Kenilworth Road in January this year.

The 33-year-old former Nottingham Forest winger spent a few weeks assessing requirements and then set about organising one of the most remarkable re-building operations in the history of the club.

So far, he has sold six players and bought ten—with the total transfer turnover approaching £1 million. This is quite something for a club which has an average gate of barely 9,000, but there is no denying the success of Mr Pleat's positive action. Like his predecessor, who steered Luton to a season in the First Division in 1974-75, he has placed the emphasis on attacking football and the goals have flowed to the delight of the Kenilworth Road customers.

Six home League games produced 25 and another four came in the League Cup, where Luton reached the last 16 by beating Wigan Athletic and Crewe Alexandra. So Luton's form represents a considerable improvement on the tail-end of last season when they lost the last three games and slithered to within one point of the final relegation place.

It was this decline which convinced Mr Pleat that he should launch the biggest shake-up anyone at Luton can remember. The buying-and-selling programme during the summer was as dramatic as the manager's own progress since finishing a playing career which involved



LUTON

Pictures by courtesy of Home Counties Newspapers Limited, Luton.

spells with Nottingham Forest, Luton, Shrewsbury Town, Exeter City and Peterborough United.

Injuries affected him in the closing stages, but he was determined to stay in the game and took FA coaching courses to prepare himself for the future. He actually started as a manager a few miles from Villa Park—with Southern League Nuneaton Borough.

In 1975, he returned to Kenilworth Road, where he had spent three seasons as a player. His first appointment was to coach the reserve side, but events moved rapidly two years later. In December last year, he was promoted to first-team coach when Roy McCrohan left to take a job in America. Two months later, he was asked to become manager when Harry Haslam moved on to Sheffield United.

One of the first jobs was to sign up an assistant. A long-standing friendship with Brighton coach Ken Gutteridge provided the answer. They had first met at an FA coaching course and Mr Gutteridge was persuaded to form a partnership which is designed to take Luton back to the First Division.

The changing face of the Luton set-up actually started a fortnight before Harry Haslam's departure. They accepted an offer of around £175,000

from Derby County for the signature of Steve Buckley, the left-back who is the younger brother of Birmingham's new signing, Alan.

The outgoing moves speeded up under Mr Pleat's management. Long-serving defender John Faulkner and

former Everton forward Jimmy Husband were sold to America in March. Then, in June, Luton raised much of the finance for their incoming deals by taking £350,000 from Manchester City for the England Under-21 defender, Paul Futcher.

Two months later, Futcher's twin brother, Ron, returned from America and also went to Maine Road for £80,000. Since the season started, Luton have added to their cash balance by transferring ex-Liverpool striker Phil Boersma to Swansea City and Scottish Under-21 international defender Jim McNichol to Brentford.

The diary of Luton's purchases started on 7th March when Mr Pleat heard that Linfield were prepared to sell midfield man Terry Hayes and he dashed over to Ireland in order to win a race against several other clubs. The 18-year-old player had captained the Northern Ireland Youth-team and won an Under-21 cap against Eire last season.

Mr Pleat's knowledge of non-League football accounted for his next signing. He returned to his old club, Nuneaton, and paid £5,000 for promising full-back Kirk Stephens, who immediately bridged the gap to full-time football by gaining inclusion in Luton's senior squad.

Luton's fourth buy in June took Mr Pleat back to Ireland, where he signed the Larne centre-half, Mal Donaghy. Celtic, QPR, Sheffield United and Wolves were all reported to be interested in the Northern Ireland Under-21 international, but Luton were first off the mark and Donaghy has become a first-team regular.

In July, Luton went for experience by paying £95,000 for Peterborough centre-half Chris Turner and £50,000 for Blackpool forward Bob Hatton.

In June, Mr Pleat backed his judgement by signing four players who had not been tested in League football. It was a case of 'second time lucky' when he snapped up John Lucas from Manchester United. After leaving school as a Welsh Schoolboy international, the midfield player had turned down Luton in order to join the Old Trafford apprentice ranks. Within a year, he decided that his prospects might be better at Luton and he signed for them on 6th June.

In the following week, Luton completed the transfer of another youngster from Manchester. This time, they went to Maine Road for Steve Sherlock, who had served his apprenticeship with City, where he made 80 appearances in the Central League.

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MAL DONAGHY

Turner partnered former Villa skipper Ian Ross in the Third Division's most successful defence last season. During the summer he had a spell in America and it was while he was playing in the States that Luton battled for his signature with Norwich City. Mr Pleat's persuasion won the day—helped, no doubt, by the fact that he had played with Turner in the Peterborough team a few years ago.

The Luton boss also had to impress Hatton when last season's leading Second Division scorer was chased by a number of clubs. He was on target 22 times last term and made a little bit of history by becoming the first Blackpool player in 50 years to score four hat-tricks in a season.

Hatton is now with his seventh League club, having netted 145 League goals during his service with Wolves, Bolton Wanderers, Northampton Town, Carlisle United, Birmingham City and Blackpool. His partnership with Brian Stein is already one of Luton's success stories this season. Stein, a winger last year, has switched to the middle of the attack and is top scorer only 12 months after leaving non-League football with Edgware Town.

Luton now seem to have cover in most positions. They have two top-class goalkeepers, for instance. Milija Aleksić, who played for Stafford Rangers at Wembley in the 1972 FA Trophy Final, became the number one choice when bought from Plymouth Argyle in January 1977, but is now challenged by latest signing, David Lawson, who played for Everton against Villa in the 1977 League Cup Final.

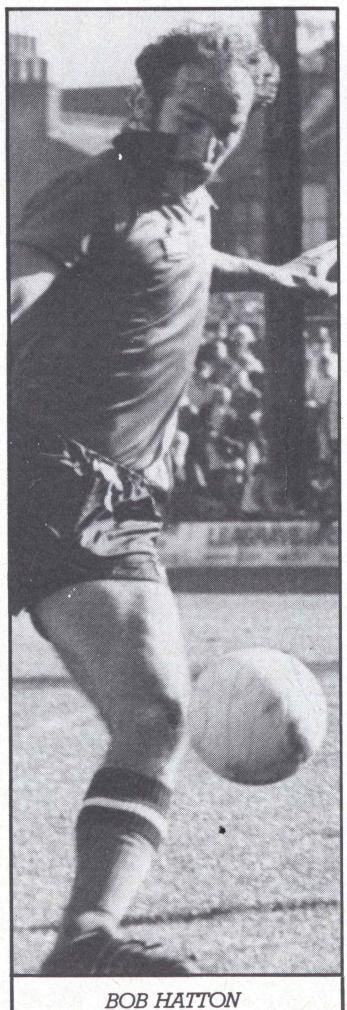
In the full-back department, Luton have three home-produced candidates—Paul Price, the club's longest-serving player who has twice recovered from a broken leg; David Carr, who joined them from school in Margate in 1973; and Graham Jones, a former Manchester schoolboy who made his League debut at 17.

Former England Under-23 international Alan West is the key man in midfield. He cost £100,000 when bought from Burnley five years ago, but his midfield colleagues both joined Luton Town as apprentices. Pasquale Fuccillo, the son of Italian parents who settled in Bedford, is the club's penalty expert, while Ricky Hill, from North London, won England Youth honours and made his debut at 17.

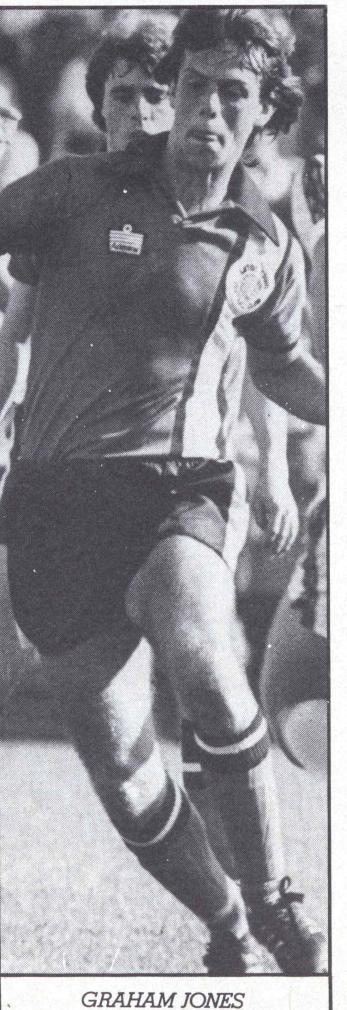
Youngsters to note are Geoffrey Ingram, a former England Schoolboy international; Nigel Johnson, a forward from Welwyn Garden City; and Gary Heale, an Essex youngster who made an impact with goals against Manchester City in last year's League Cup.



RICKY HILL



BOB HATTON



GRAHAM JONES



BRIAN STEIN

Photographs courtesy of Luton Evening News.

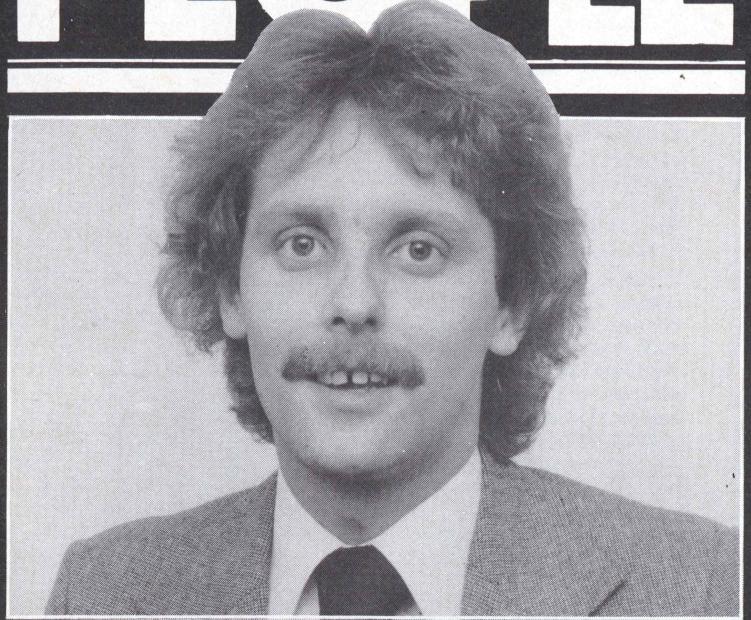
LUTON TOWN 1978-79

Front row:
K. Gutteridge—ass't. manager,
P. Fuccillo, A. West, R. Hatton,
D. Pleat—manager, R. Hill,
P. Boersma—now Swansea City,
R. Johnson—physiotherapist.

Middle row:
M. Aizlewood,
J. McNichol—now Brentford,
G. Jones, M. Aleksić, C. Turner,
P. Price, M. Donaghy.

Back row:
G. Ingram, K. Stephens, B. Stein,
D. Moss, D. Carr, S. Sherlock.

PEOPLE



★ Assistant Secretary **STEVE STRIDE** steps into the spotlight tonight in our series on people working in the back-room team at Villa Park . . .

★ ★ ★

Steve always wanted a job in football and he achieved his ambition as a result of a letter he wrote to Alan Bennett. "I asked if there were any vacancies at Villa Park," says Steve. "He replied that jobs were few and far between but would keep my name on file."

An opportunity finally arrived in June, 1972. Steve started as an administrative assistant and succeeded the late Len Latham as Assistant Secretary four years ago.

Steve says the job is "a bit of everything with lots of paper work." And he adds: "There's no business like football. Although we have similar clerical work to a normal office, doing the wages and paying the accounts, so much goes on in a football club."

On match days, for instance, one of Steve's responsibilities is to organise a part-time staff of almost 300 people. We have 75 turnstile operators in the charge of John Partridge and 200 Stewards who are looked after by Bill Pountney.

"They all have to be paid on the day," says Steve. "We have five or six people in the office looking after the payments to the casual staff. They also receive the money which comes in at half time from all the turnstiles. This now amounts to a considerable sum but it is all checked and counted and taken to the bank by the security firm before the end of the match."

The age of the computer has speeded up the secretarial work. All the wages are calculated in this way and what used to be a laborious task is now reduced to a couple of days a month. The full-time pay-roll numbers 95, including manager, coaches, players, and staff in the offices and commercial department.

Before his appointment at Villa Park, Steve had a spell in accountancy ("I didn't like that very much") and also worked on estimating for a firm in the heating and air conditioning trade.

But football always attracted him from the time he showed considerable promise as a player during his education at Castle Bromwich Church of England School and Coles-

hill Grammar School. He played for the Erdington and Saltley representative side and remembers a match in which Bob Latchford played against him for South Birmingham. Former Albion defender Alan Merrick was also in the same Coleshill Grammar School team as Steve.

After leaving school, Steve continued playing at left back for Brookhill in the Birmingham AFA and for the old Lions Club on Sundays. His talent was recognised by the Villa fans, for they made him Player of the Year on one occasion.

Steve was then a keen Villa supporter himself. He says: "Before I came to work here, I travelled with my girl friend, Gloria, to all the glamorous places like Halifax and Rochdale. The best moment for me was the 1971 League Cup Final. Although we lost, it was a great day for the supporters who gave Villa a better reception than the winning Spurs team."

Steve married Gloria four and a half years ago and they now live in Walmley.

Whilst working for Villa, he has had quite a few opportunities of travelling round Europe. Among the countries he has visited are Holland (twice), West Germany (twice), Turkey, Norway, France and Spain.

"I enjoy going with the team," he says. "Apart from the overseas trips, I usually get to about six or seven away games in the League when Alan Bennett is not travelling.

"There's nothing like the atmosphere of matches in Europe, particularly in the UEFA Cup, but I get just as much pleasure in going with the youth team. I don't see these lads very much and it gives me a chance to get to know them. Last summer we went to Deventer in Holland and Rheinfelden on the Swiss-German border. That was when I first began to take notice of Gary Williams and it's nice to see lads like Gary come on into the first team."

One thing that amazes Steve about foreign clubs is that many of them don't seem to have strict control of admission to the ground. He says: "Instead of turnstiles, you often see a man at a door and he seems to let through whom he likes. I often wonder how they manage to balance the money."

ASTON VILLA CRACKERS CLUB



Football League—Division One
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS v ASTON VILLA
at Wolverhampton, Saturday 11th November 1978
Fare: £1.20—Coaches depart at 12.45pm from the Serpentine Car Park.

★ To guarantee a seat, bookings must be made by 9.30pm tonight.

Football League—Division One
SOUTHAMPTON v ASTON VILLA
at Southampton, Tuesday 21st November 1978
Fare: £2.80—Coaches depart at 1.45pm from the Serpentine Car Park.

Booking Times

9.30am/4.45pm on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th, Friday 17th, 1.00pm/2.30pm and 4.40pm/5.15pm on Saturday 18th.

★ No seats can be guaranteed after 5.15pm on Saturday. For further information please telephone 021-328 2246.

RAC TRAVEL

SOUTHAMPTON

ASTON VILLA

TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 1978

Leave Birmingham by the A34, Stratford Road. Follow the A34 through Stratford, Oxford, Newbury and Winchester. Take the A33 out of Winchester to Southampton. Enter Southampton on the A33, The Avenue. Turn right into Banister Road and first right into Archers Road. The Football Ground is on your left. Total mileage: 130 miles.

Football League Division One **WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS v ASTON VILLA**

SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER 1978
(Kick-Off: 3.00pm)

This match is not all-ticket. Aston Villa Standing supporters should use the South Bank turnstiles.

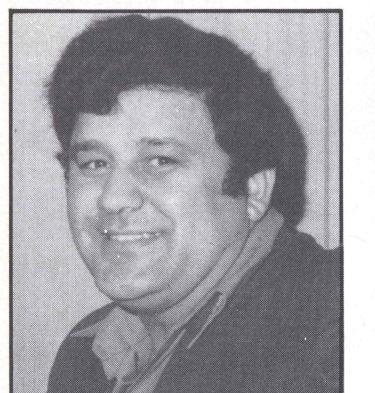
ON THE VILLA BEAT!

A Policeman from the sunny Mediterranean island of Malta is among the large band of supporters who follow Villa from overseas. Alfredo Vassallo (pictured below) always books his holidays to coincide with as many matches as possible on his annual visit to Birmingham.

'Fred', as he prefers to be known, comes from the town of Rabat in Malta and is described as 'Villa crackers' by his friends in Birmingham. His interest in the club stemmed from regular correspondence with Villa Development Agent, Ray Horne, and he is currently staying at Ray's home in Great Barr.

Each year, Fred receives a fixture list as soon as they are printed and then makes his holiday arrangements. He usually spends three weeks here and this year his trip is well-timed with four games at Villa Park in less than a fortnight.

Fred is always pleased to see Villa fans on holiday in Malta and one of his visitors was Villa Development Manager Keith Dale. "He made us very welcome," says Keith. "He just loves to have the chance of talking about Villa."



LEAGUE CUP FACTS

Luton Town are bidding to make history tonight. They have never advanced past the Fourth Round of the League Cup and, in fact, their only previous appearance in the last 16 was as long ago as 1963.

When the draw was made for this round, 'The Hatters' were among half-a-dozen clubs aiming to reach the quarter-finals for the first time. The others are Brighton, Charlton Athletic, Exeter City, Watford and Reading.

So far, the competition has been unkind to the First Division this season, but the top section is guaranteed three places in the last eight and Villa and Southampton could make the number up to five.

The Fourth Round draw included seven previous winners of the trophy . . . Villa, Nottingham Forest, Norwich City, Manchester City, QPR, Leeds United and Stoke City. So, even after all the giant-killing acts, the odds still favour a Wembley return for at least one of these clubs.

CLUB SCENE



LONDON FANS

A group of Villa supporters from a public house in Middlesex donated the ball for John Robson's game last week. John is pictured (left) receiving the ball from Butch Daley, who was accompanied by Ken Baker, John Payne and Robert Baker, from the Havelock pub in Harrow.

RESERVED SEATS

Advance Bookings . . . Reserved Seats for individual Home Football League matches are bookable in advance from the Ticket Office by post or personal application.

Personal Applications . . . May be made during Office hours (9.15am to 5.00pm) during the two weeks prior to the game.

Prices . . . Trinity Road Stand: Wing (Doors A & H) £2.00. Witton Lane Stand: Centre (Doors N & P) £2.50; Wing (Doors M & Q) £2.00. North Stand: Front £2.50; Centre £2.00; Rear £1.50. Trinity Road Enclosure £1.50.

GETTING BETTER

The improvement in Villa's injury situation continued last Saturday when Gordon Smith and Gordon Cowans returned to action in the Central League side at Molineux. It was Smith's first appearance in eight weeks since his cartilage injury at Ipswich, while Cowans was back within five weeks of breaking a bone in his foot against Nottingham Forest.

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BINGO PRIZE

Two Villa Bingo Agents enjoyed a luxury view of the John Robson game after their success in the weekly draw for two places in the Executive Box.

The successful Agents are pictured with friends and family enjoying a pre-match drink. Development Association Manager Keith Dale (top left) acted as host to Mr R. Adderley (top right) and Mrs K. Binks (bottom right).



DON'T FORGET . . .

The Central League match against Manchester City at Villa Park next Saturday will kick-off at 2.00pm. This will be the starting time for all Saturday reserve matches up to and including the one against Nottingham Forest on 10th February 1979.



RAFFLE BONUS

Dave Ismay, the Birmingham comedian who has supported Villa for 26 years, won a decanter and set of glasses in a raffle organised by the Development Association for John Robson's Testimonial Fund.

But Dave didn't take the prize—he put it up for an auction which raised another £100 for John. The bidding was organised by Villa President Mr Trevor Gill, one of the country's leading auctioneers—with Mr Alan Webb, the Development Association Chairman.

The prize was eventually sold to the wife of England and Derby County winger, Gordon Hill. In the picture (left), Gordon and his wife receive the glasses from Dave Ismay, watched by John Robson, Trevor Gill and Alan Webb.

AWAY TICKETS

SOUTHAMPTON v ASTON VILLA
Tue 21st Nov. Seats limited, available only on match day at £1.80.

CHELSEA v ASTON VILLA
Sat 9th Dec. Seats available at £4.00, £3.25, £2.75 and £2.25. Apply, from next Saturday, to: Chelsea FC, Stamford Bridge, London SW6 1HS. Enclose s.a.e. and correct remittance.

JOHN'S NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The John Robson Testimonial Night was a great success. The fans had value for money with 12 goals, including two hat-tricks, and, most important, the match raised a sum in the region of £30,000.

The occasion was marked by a dazzling four-goal show from John Deehan and three goals in as many minutes for Coventry City's Scottish international, Ian Wallace.

At one stage, Villa were leading 5-3 but the Wallace whirlwind put the International XI 6-5 ahead until a late goal made the final score a satisfactory 6-6.

Perhaps the highlight for Villa fans was the return of Alex Cropley for his first appearance at Villa Park since his injury last December. Alex came on for the last 20 minutes and set the crowd alight when, with only his second touch of the ball, he hammered a spectacular, left-foot goal outside the penalty area.

John Gregory scored the other Villa goal, while Gordon Hill, Duncan McKenzie and Ricardo Villa added to the International scoresheet.

It was certainly a night to remember for John and his many thousands of admirers. Our thanks go to all the players involved and especially those who gave up their time to make a long trip to Villa Park. This sums up the great spirit which exists in football—nothing is too much when a fellow-professional needs a helping hand.



Pictures: Terry Weir.



John Robson and his wife, Jane, pictured (above) on the night when the stars turned out for perhaps the most important Testimonial Match ever staged at Villa Park. Many of the world's leading players were only too happy to offer their services in order to ensure the financial security of John and his family. On a lighter note, John enjoyed his one-off experience of 'management'—and no doubt most First Division bosses would be envious of the all-star cast in his side (pictured below)!



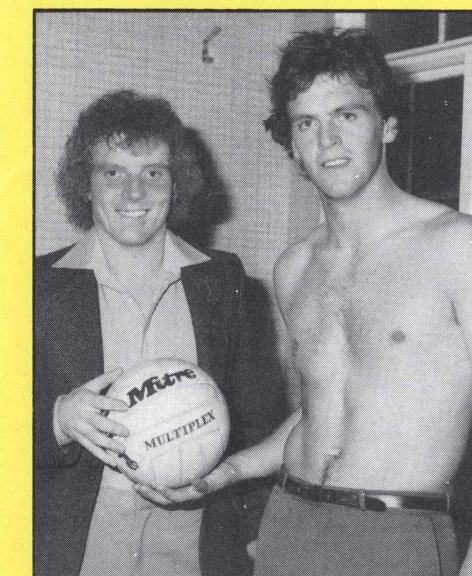
A big moment for John as he leads the teams on to the field.



The international stars line up before the kick-off.



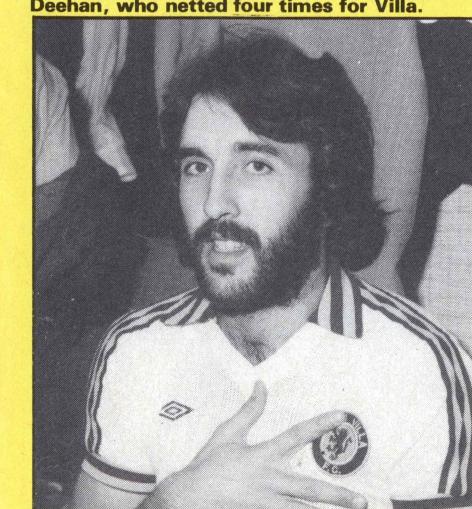
A young supporter pays his tribute to a great professional.



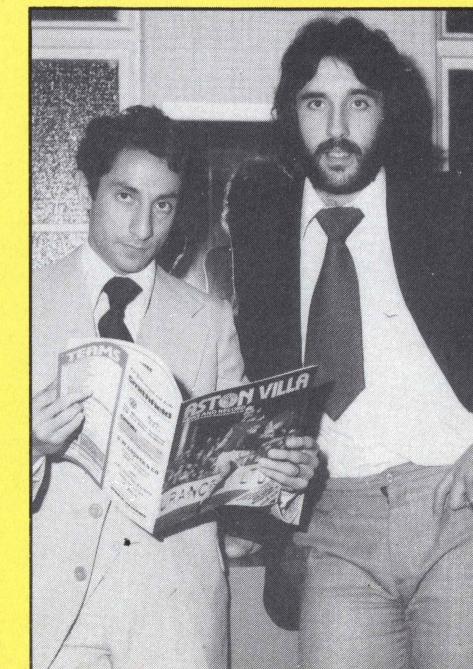
On the goal trail . . . Ian Wallace, who scored a hat-trick for the International XI, and John Deehan, who netted four times for Villa.



Action man . . . John Deehan shoots for goal on the night he returned to his best scoring form.



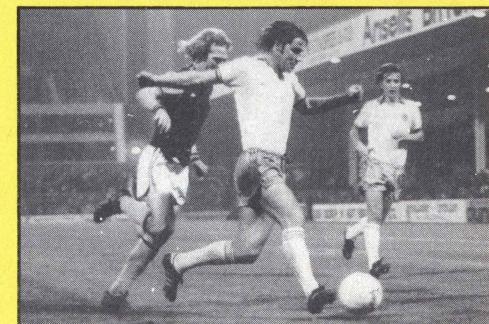
Villa in a Villa shirt! Argentinian Ricardo Villa looks fascinated by a jersey bearing his name.



Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa test their progress in the English language by reading the Villa News.



John Gidman versus Ricardo Villa.



Andy Gray challenges Martin Buchan and Jimmy Calderwood.

Christmas shopping is easy with Aston Villa. You can buy all your presents for a Villa family from our Souvenir Stall in Lewis's Store in the city centre.

No need for a special trip to Villa Park... just call into Lewis's while on your way round the main shopping area.

This is the third year we have had the city centre selling point and Development Association manager Keith Dale says: "We have found it to be quite a convenience for the supporters because they can purchase souvenirs with the rest of their Christmas shopping. "We have a full range of goods on display, but if people want anything which is not stocked on the Stall, we will take the order and make arrangements for the item to be collected next time the customer is in town."

Among the popular items this year, we have... Villa Jig-saw—a team picture on one side and an action photograph on the reverse side.

Villa Calendar—a glossy production with a large full-colour picture for each month.

Villa Kit—the official strip which is always a big seller for the young fans.

WE HAVE PRESENTS GALORE... COME TO LEWIS'S

The Villa Stall is open from now until the January Sales.



WE HAVE PRESENTS GALORE... COME TO LEWIS'S

The Villa Stall is open from now until the January Sales.

STATS

LEAGUE DIVISION ONE—TABLE AND HOME ATTENDANCES 1978-79

Teams	Home						Away			Best	Average
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
Liverpool	13	6	1	0	21	2	4	1	15	4	22
Everton	13	5	1	0	8	1	2	5	0	7	5
West Bromwich Albion	13	4	2	1	17	6	3	2	1	11	7
Nottingham Forest	13	3	4	0	9	5	2	4	0	6	3
Arsenal	13	4	3	0	15	6	2	1	3	8	8
Manchester City	13	3	2	1	11	7	2	4	1	11	8
Manchester United	13	3	3	1	9	8	2	3	1	11	11
Coventry City	13	3	3	0	11	6	2	2	3	6	12
Tottenham Hotspur	13	3	2	1	8	7	2	3	2	8	15
ASTON VILLA	13	1	4	2	7	9	3	1	2	8	4
Bristol City	13	2	2	2	9	10	3	1	3	6	13
Leeds United	13	3	0	3	14	8	1	4	2	'9	11
Norwich City	13	3	3	1	16	10	0	3	3	9	15
Middlesbrough	13	2	2	3	7	7	2	1	3	10	10
Queens Park Rangers	13	2	4	1	4	3	1	1	4	6	11
Derby County	13	4	2	1	13	9	0	1	5	3	17
Ipswich Town	13	2	0	4	5	8	2	2	3	9	11
Southampton	13	2	3	1	9	8	0	3	4	5	11
Bolton Wanderers	13	3	3	1	13	10	0	1	5	5	16
Chelsea	13	1	4	9	17	1	3	3	6	9	8
Wolverhampton Wanderers	13	3	0	3	7	8	0	0	7	4	18
Birmingham City	13	0	2	4	4	11	0	1	6	3	14

Up to and including Saturday 4th November 1978

FIRST DIVISION LEADING GOALSCORERS

RYAN, Norwich City	11	JORDAN, Manchester United	6	ARMSTRONG, Middlesbrough	4
WORTHINGTON, Bolton Wanderers	11	PETERS, Norwich City	6	BOYER, Southampton	4
DALGLISH, Liverpool	10	RITCHIE, Bristol City	6	BROWN (A), WB Albion	4
LATCHFORD, Everton	9	ROBERTSON, Nottingham Forest	6	CASE, Liverpool	4
BUDGE, Birmingham City	8	SJUNESSON, Liverpool	6	CHANNON, Manchester City	4
REGIS, WB Albion	8	BIRCH, Nottingham Forest	6	CHESTER, Newcastle City	4
STAPLETON, Arsenal	8	DOBSON, Everton	5	COCHRAN, Middlesbrough	4
BRADY, Arsenal	7	FERGUSON, Coventry City	5	EASTOE, QPR	4
GOWLING, Bolton Wanderers	7	FUTCHER, Manchester City	5	KENNEDY, Liverpool	4
GREENHOFF (J) Manchester United	7	GRAY (F), Leeds United	5	KIDD, Manchester City	4
MacDougal, Southampton	7	HAWLEY, Leeds United	5	LANGLEY, Chelsea	4
MARSHALL, Ipswich Town	7	JACKSON, Liverpool	5	MACARONI, Manchester United	4
OVER, Manchester City	7	KING, Everton	5	PALMER, Manchester City	4
CUNNINGHAM, WB Albion	6	MILLS, Middlesbrough	5	SWAIN, Chelsea	4
GRAY, Aston Villa	6	O'NEILL, Nottingham Forest	5	REEVES, Norwich City	4
GREGORY, Aston Villa	6				

Including League and League Cup games

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES, GOALSCORERS, RESULTS AND ATTENDANCES 1978-79

Date	V	OPPONENTS	F	A	Gate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub.
Aug 19	H	WOLVERHAMPTON	1	0	43,922	Rimmer	Gidman	Smith	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Shelton 1	Little 1	Gray* 1	Gregory 1	
23	A	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	4	1	47,892	Rimmer	Gidman	Smith	Evans (A) 1	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton*	Shelton 1	Little 1	Gray 1	Gregory 1	
26	A	BRISTOL CITY	0	1	23,492	Rimmer	Gidman	Smith	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
30	H	 SHEFFIELD W (LC 2)	1	0	31,152	Rimmer	Gidman	Smith	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
Sept 2	H	SOUTHAMPTON	1	1	34,067	Rimmer	Gidman*	Smith	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
9	A	IPSWICH TOWN	2	0	22,166	Rimmer	Gidman*	Smith	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig 1	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
16	A	EVERTON	2	1	38,633	Rimmer	Evans (A)	Gregory	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
23	A	Q.P.R.	1	1	16,410	Rimmer	Evans (A)	Gregory	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
30	H	MIDDLESBROUGH	2	1	36,735	Rimmer	Evans (A)	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Cowans	Cowans	Carroddus
Oct 4	H	C. PALACE (LC 3)	1	1	30,690	Rimmer	Gregory	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little 1	Deehan*	Shelton*	Philips
7	A	ARSENAL	1	1	34,537	Rimmer	Gregory	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Deehan	Deehan	Philips
10	A	C. PALACE (LC 3 Replay)	0	0	33,155	Rimmer	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Williams	Williams	Shelton	Craig	Little	Deehan	Deehan	Philips
14	H	MANCHESTER U	2	2	36,204	Rimmer	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Williams	Williams	Shelton	Craig	Little	Deehan	Deehan	Philips
16	A	PALACE (LC 3 2nd R)	3	0	25,455	Rimmer	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Williams	Williams	Shelton	Craig	Little	Deehan	Deehan	Philips
21	A	BIRMINGHAM CITY	1	0	36,145	Rimmer	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Williams	Williams	Shelton	Craig	Little	Deehan	Deehan	Philips
27	H	MIDDLESBROUGH	0	2	32,614	Rimmer	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Williams	Williams	Shelton	Craig	Little	Deehan	Deehan	Philips
Nov 4	H	MANCHESTER C	1	1	32,724	Rimmer	Gidman*	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Gray	Gray	Gregory
8	A	LUTON TOWN (FLC4)	1	1	32,724	Rimmer	Gidman*	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Gray	Gray	Gregory
11	A	WOLVERHAMPTON	1	1	34,537	Rimmer	Gidman*	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Gray	Gray	Gregory
18	H	BRISTOL CITY	1	1	38,633	Rimmer	Gidman*	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Gray	Gray	Gregory
21	A	SOUTHAMPTON	1	1	36,145	Rimmer	Gidman*	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton	Craig	Little	Gray	Gray	Gregory
25	A	W.B.A.	1	2	36,735	Rimmer	Gidman*	Williams	Evans (A)	McNaught	Mortimer	Shelton					



For 15 years the No 3 shirt at Villa Park was virtually marked down as the personal property of Charlie Aitken. But things have changed. The left back position is now the subject of strong competition—partly because of an injury crisis which gave Gary Williams his opportunity to stake a claim.

When the season began, Gary did not consider himself to be an immediate first-team candidate in his regular role as a central defender. But an injury to Gordon Smith, followed by the need to play John Gregory, suddenly opened the door for the 18-year-old discovery from Wolverhampton.

"I feel now that I may become a full back—and at left back if anywhere," he says. Gary makes that statement after considering the implications of nine consecutive first-team appearances which could direct his career on a new course in the years ahead. He recognises that the com-

in my life," he adds. "I had trained with the first team from the Wednesday previous but it was a real shock on the Friday morning when the manager said I would be in at left back. After the team was announced, I played in a practice match and that was my only experience of the job before going into the side against Forest."

In fact, it was Gary's second positional switch since he arrived at Villa Park as an apprentice in July, 1975. As a schoolboy, he had always played an anchor role in midfield, but he moved into the back four very early in his first season here.

He says: "We were short of central defenders in the youth team. I was moved there for the Youth Cup games and that was my first experience of playing as a sweeper."

His progress from that point was swift. In 1976-77, he made 17 appearances in the Central League and last season he added 35 more games at this level. By

Competing for Places

"I decided to set my sights on getting near the first team by Christmas," he explains. "I knew this would be difficult with so many players competing for places, but I felt it was important to think of getting perhaps a couple of games as substitute by the middle of the season."

"And if we were not involved in any important issues at the end of the season, I felt there was a chance that I might get one or two full games. That's what I was hoping for and I certainly didn't expect to be in the team this early in the season."

"My immediate ambition now is to get a regular place in the side but that's as far as I should be looking. Everybody wants to win medals but there's no point in dreaming about this before you have proved yourself good enough for a long run in the first team."

the timing of my tackling. But, more so than anything, I have worked at heading the ball."

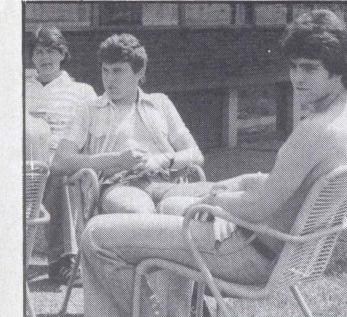
Heading Practice

"I stayed on in the afternoons and balls were chipped up for me to head. I like to think I'm quite reasonable in the air now. I've always been able to use my left foot, although I favour the right. This obviously helped when I was moved to left back."

As a youngster in Wednesfield, Gary learned his football at St. Albans Primary School and Coppice High School. He played for the Wolverhampton town team and captained Staffordshire Boys when Ivor Linton was playing in the same side.

He was invited to consider an apprenticeship with Villa after a local representative game for Wolverhampton, but he had several alternatives to consider. He was also wanted by Albion, Blues, Wolves, Plymouth and Derby. "I was impressed by the

GARY WILLIAMS



Gary Williams on the way up the soccer ladder... Left: Relaxing with Lee Jenkins and David Evans on a youth team trip to Holland. Centre: Sightseeing in Rotterdam Harbour with the Villa Youngsters. Right: Captain of the Villa team which reached the Final of the F.A. Youth Cup last season. This picture was taken at the semi-final against Burnley.



petition is about to hot up as Gordon Smith moves into the final stages of his recovery from cartilage trouble but he feels he could be best suited by challenging for the No 3 spot.

"Whatever happens," says Gary, "I know there are a lot of good players available to play in the defence. But having had some first-team experience at left back, maybe this position offers my best chance, for the moment anyway."

The idea of playing at full back came as a complete surprise to Gary. The first he knew of the switch was when Ron Saunders told him he would be making his debut against the League Champions, Nottingham Forest, at the end of September.

A Real Shock

"I had never played there before

then, he was captain of the side which went all the way to the Final of the F.A. Youth Cup before losing by a single goal to Crystal Palace at Highbury.

"We had a very good run in the competition," says Gary. "The best occasion was the 3-1 away win at Burnley in the first leg of the semi-final, but, unfortunately, we didn't seem to play in the Final. Crystal Palace had a very good side and four or five of their lads were in the first team when we played them in the League Cup this season."

During the summer, Gary celebrated his 18th birthday and also joined the full professional staff in June. He was quite happy with his game in two seasons with the club but remained wary of thinking about the next step into the First Division.

This is the sort of solid reasoning which governs Gary's approach to the game. Even at his young age, he has seen enough of the disappointment that comes to young professionals who do not reach the First Division's standards.

"One thing I've learned is that ability is not enough on its own," he says. "Some lads have the ability but don't make the grade because their attitude is wrong. If you don't come through at a First Division club, there's no guarantee of success lower down the League. Lads have left here and can't get into Third or Fourth Division sides."

"I feel this has taught me the value of hard work and dedication. My own game has improved with the help of everyone here. My distribution has got better and there is an improvement in

facilities which Villa have, he says. "But the fact which influenced me most was that Villa seem to give their apprentices an earlier start in the Central League."

"If you are making a good show in the youth team, you will get a chance in the Reserves. I'm sure I made the right choice, although you are obviously more inclined to think that way once you have made a breakthrough into the first team. There's a long way to go yet, but as each game comes along, I feel a little more confident."

Gary still lives in Wolverhampton but finds no problem in getting to Bodymoor Heath now that he has a car. He has been driving for six months and the journey takes only 40 minutes.

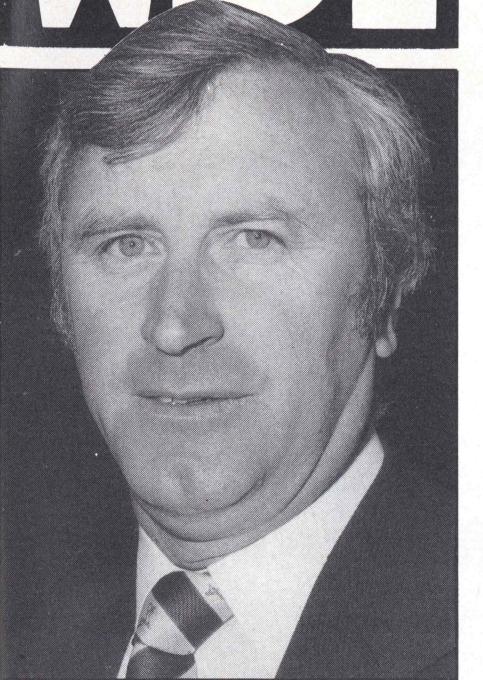
MIKE BEDDOW

FOCUS

Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Corrigan has that sinking feeling—and with good reason. John Deehan's header (main picture) had caught Corrigan off his line and the inevitable result is pictured (inset below). The other action from last Saturday's game shows... Bottom left: Corrigan punching clear from Dennis Mortimer and John Deehan. Bottom right: A narrow escape for City as Ken McNaught's header goes fractionally wide.



NATION WIDE



Leicester City manager **Jock Wallace** (pictured above) won and lost on the same Saturday! In the morning, Leicester were beaten 1-0 at Cardiff but later in the afternoon Mr Wallace was a winner when he dashed up to Port Vale and clinched the transfer of their 26-year-old midfield player, **John Ridley**. Ridley, who replaces **Steve Kember** in the city's squad, has been the target for a number of clubs in recent seasons. Two years ago, when Vale played at Villa Park in the FA Cup, he was watched by Tottenham and more recently, Vale listened to offers from Blackpool and Chesterfield. The move to Leicester came as a complete surprise. Ridley was enjoying an after-the-match drink at Vale Park when he was asked to go into the office to see Mr Wallace. The deal was agreed almost immediately. Ridley, who has a degree in Maths, was first signed for Vale by **Gordon Lee** and he played originally as an amateur whilst completing his studies. He can play in the back-four or in midfield and should be a good replacement for Kember, who returned to his first club, Crystal Palace.

Jimmy Adamson entered his new job as manager of Leeds United by setting out what he expects from the players. He said in the *Yorkshire Post*: "I demand two things from footballers—a big heart and intelligence. If they have those qualities they'll find they get on with me. I want to see them fighting for the ball, going forward at every opportunity, disputing every inch of the ground. If they give me all those things, United will really go places."

Mr Adamson added: "It's my job to make United winners again—to lead them back into Europe—but I can't do it without the support of everyone connected with the club." **John Tudor**, the former Newcastle forward, turned down the chance of a contract with Southend United because he now feels ready to switch into management. Having returned from a playing spell with the Belgian club, Ghent, he applied for the vacant job at Lincoln and his name was also connected with Darlington, where **Peter Madden** departed less than a month after his team had given a fine performance against Everton in the League Cup. Lincoln's former boss, **Willie Bell**, left with a message for the supporters of the bottom club in the Third Division. He said: "What I have to say might not make pleasant reading, for it involves the spectre of relegation. I know it may be a year at least before you see my policy come to fruition, with many youngsters coming into the team and commanding a regular first-team place. The team might even have to go into the Fourth Division before this happens. But you must accept the fact that when I came to Lincoln, I came to a Fourth Division side." He continued: "I think the next manager has a better chance than I had, as I have done most of the sorting out."

Ian Edwards, the former Albion forward, is now the leading scorer in the Third Division and looking set for more international caps after scoring four times for Wales in the match against Malta. But Edwards commented realistically: "It was only a matter of being in the right place at the right time. The service I got was so good that I had to score at least once. Someone had to get them and I happened to be in the position."

Bristol City are making concerted efforts to sign a foreign player. They have already given trials to Yugoslav, **Slobodan Antic**, and will have another look at him in a friendly in Belgrade. They are also interested in Finnish-born midfield man, **Berit Jantunen**, who plays for IFK Eskilstuna in Sewden. City first spotted him when he played against them on a pre-season tour. Arrangements were made for Jantunen to come to England this week and manager **Alan Dicks** said: "We were impressed when we saw him and now we have a chance to take a look at close quarters." Jantunen was due to play for City last night in a Testimonial Game for Bristol Rovers' midfield player **Frankie Prince**.

England skipper **Emlyn Hughes** is keeping an eye on Bristol Rovers' junior division. His 16-year-old cousin, Mark Hughes, signed for Rovers as an apprentice this summer. Mark has already done well in his original position as a central defender and is now being tried as a striker. The young six-footer was born in South Wales.

Former Villa striker **Bobby Campbell** had his second transfer of the season when he joined Halifax Town. The Irish man played in America during the summer and didn't sign for Huddersfield until mid-September. He was going well for them, scoring twice against Hereford United, but was then dropped for disciplinary reasons and transferred within four days.

Norwich City fear that former England striker **Martin Chivers** might be ruled out until Christmas because of an Achilles tendon injury. Chivers scored four times in seven appearances for the 'Canaries', but was resigned to a lengthy lay-off when a specialist said he needed an operation. Norwich asked for a second opinion before making a decision.

Former Everton defender **Mike Bernard** has been even more unfortunate with injuries since joining Oldham Athletic nearly 18 months ago. He had a four-month spell on the sidelines because of a bad thigh injury, but on making his return this term, the muscles wouldn't stand up to a full 90 minutes. This has also been the sad story in reserve-team matches.

A local radio station in Liverpool had a surprise when they ran a competition for youngsters to write in with a description of a goal they would like to score for Liverpool. They imagined that the kids would have their fantasies of scoring in a Merseyside derby against Everton. But almost 90% of the entries were tales of goals against Nottingham Forest! Perhaps it's not so surprising, for Liverpool have scored only once in six meetings with Forest in the last year.

After 15 years' service with Carlisle United, **Allan Ross** (pictured right) is still ready to help out the Brunton Park club in an emergency. The Glasgow-born Scot officially retired from the playing staff at the end of last season as the holder of the club record of 465 League appearances. But he was pressed into service in the reserves when Tony Harrison broke a leg and then reappeared in the first-team when Trevor Swinburne suffered a training injury. True to form, the reliable Ross kept a clean sheet in a 2-0 win against Swindon Town.



Honest words from Blackpool manager **Bob Stokoe**... Speaking at the club's AGM, he said: "Away from home, we have let you down. The Board has not let you down—it is the management and the players. I have the backing of the Board to spend money but I don't want to throw it away. We are trying to bring First and Second Division players into the Third Division and they are not very keen." Mr Stokoe (pictured left) was not helped by injuries which left him with only one recognised striker, **Derek Spence**. This season's top marksman, **Vic Davidson**, dropped out to have a knee operation.

Looking back over three decades of post-war Villa through the files of the *Villa News and Record*...

SIXTIES

In November 1968, Villa ended a run of eight games without a win by defeating Middlesbrough with the help of an own-goal by Dickie Rooks. It was hard work in a match watched by 15,159 spectators but the result was most important in taking bottom-of-the-table Villa to within one point of three teams... Fulham, Oxford United and Bristol City. During a period of struggle, one success story concerned Peter Broadbent. A 'Player Profile' in the Programme observed: "Peter is the 'experienced head' upon whom we are relying to overcome the attacking difficulties and as soon as the strikers can fasten on to Peter's shrewd midfield planning, then the sooner we shall get climbing that ladder. Peter moved from Brentford when only 17, after 16 outings and one goal, to become the idol of Molineux for the next 13 seasons. To his 452 appearances and 127 goals for Wolves, Peter also added an illustrious career of three Championship medals, seven full England caps and recognition for the 'B' Under-23 and Football League sides. After a further 69 games (seven goals) for Shrewsbury Town, he was enrolled as a 'Villan' in October 1966, with the prime object that some of his natural ability would rub off to the benefit of our youngsters. Born near Dover, Peter is at present the Professional Footballers' Golf Champion and is in business at Halesowen."

FIFTIES

Late October 1957, provided a small piece of history for Villa... our first game under floodlights. It was the FA Charity Shield match against Manchester United at Old Trafford and Villa were beaten 4-0. Memories of that Wembley incident between Peter McParland and Ray Wood were inevitably part of the pre-match talk, but the Programme recorded how matters were skilfully smoothed over. "Those who had suggested that Peter McParland should wear heavy disguise were silenced when, on the suggestion of team manager Eric Houghton, Peter and United's goalkeeper were made skippers for their respective sides. If any ill-feeling existed among supporters, it was certainly swept aside when Peter and Ray, the central figures in the Wembley controversy, shook hands in the middle and tossed for ends." Villa playing without Wembley skipper Johnny Dixon, who withdrew because of penicillin poisoning. The team did well to hold United in a goalless first-half, but were further handicapped when Jackie Sewell became a limping passenger with an ankle injury after the interval. Tommy Taylor scored a hat-trick in the space of eleven minutes and Johnny Berry put the final touch to the scoreline with a penalty. There was a pleasant function following the match. The Programme Editor wrote: "After the players had washed and dressed, they all assembled in Manchester United's luxurious lounge, where they found members of the FA and officials of the two clubs already gathered together. The presentation of the Shield to the winners then took place, and after Mr Arthur Drewry, Chairman of the Football Association, had congratulated the players on the fine, sporting game, he introduced the Lord Mayor of Stretford, who presented the teams with silver plaques to commemorate the game."

FORTIES

As a result of a friendly played against Shamrock Rovers early in November 1949, Villa signed two young players from the Irish club. The Programme recorded: "They are Patrick Daly, a centre-half, and Oswald Higgins, a centre-forward. Daly, who is rather on the short side for a centre-half, plays a tenacious game and times his tackles perfectly. He has played for Eire in international and inter-league games. Higgins, who stands a good six feet and is well-built, has good ball control and promises well for the future. He gave up boxing after winning the Junior Heavyweight Championship of Eire last winter and took up football as a part-time player." While the two Irishmen were introduced to the Central League side in a 3-1 home defeat by Preston North End, Villa's first-team tackled their hardest fixture of the season to that stage. Liverpool, having started in much the same way as the 1978 side, were unbeaten after 16 games and preserved their record by beating Villa 2-1. The Programme Editor, who said Villa were rather unlucky to lose after competing so well, picked out Billy Liddell as Liverpool's match winner. He scored the first goal and set up the second for Brierley before Johnny Dixon pulled one back for Villa in the closing minutes. On the international scene, Trevor Ford scored a hat-trick for Wales in their 5-1 win against Belgium at Ninian Park.

TEAMS

ASTON VILLA

Claret and Blue Shirts,
White Shorts.

1	JIMMY RIMMER
2	JOHN GIDMAN
3	GARY WILLIAMS
4	LEIGHTON PHILLIPS
5	KEN McNAUGHT
6	DENNIS MORTIMER
7	TOMMY CRAIG
8	BRIAN LITTLE
9	ANDY GRAY
10	JOHN DEEHAN
11	JOHN GREGORY
12	

LUTON TOWN

Orange Shirts
Navy Blue Shorts

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

SCORES

A	Exeter City Watford	L
B	Norwich City Manchester City	N
C	Reading Southampton	P
D		S
E		T
F		V
G		W
H		X
J		Y
K		Z

OFFICIALS

REFEREE: D. RICHARDSON,
Great Harwood.

David Richardson, Chief Order Clerk for a colour printing company in Accrington, started refereeing in 1960 and progressed through the Lancashire Combination. Has officiated in Scotland, Italy and Malta.

LINESMEN: D. CAPEY, Stoke on Trent—(Red Flag)
F. A. HARWOOD, Derby—(Yellow Flag)

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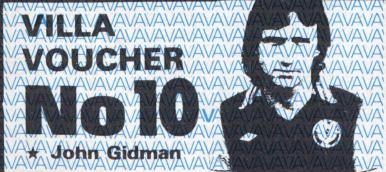
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