

LUTON TOWN



STOKE
CITY

Football League
Division Two

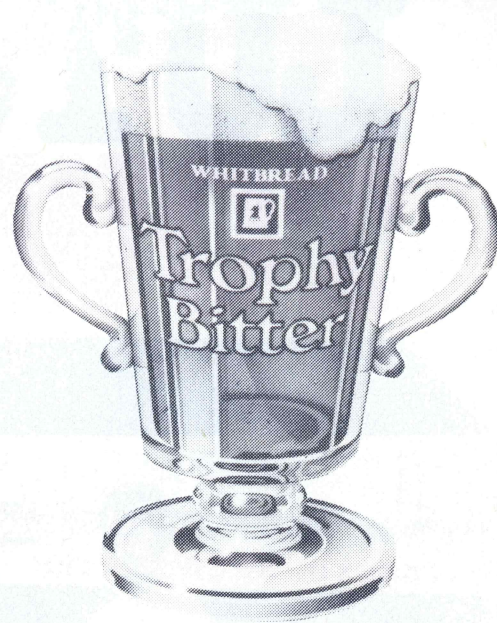
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DAVID PLEAT

SO MUCH has happened since the last home game, it is difficult to condense our views into a few column inches.

Although beaten clearly at Leeds, we did not disgrace ourselves. Once we conceded the second goal, a minute after half-time, we faced an uphill battle, but never put our heads down.

For the very first time since taking charge, I was shocked by some of the referees decisions, which contributed directly to Leeds scoring 3 of their goals.

At Brighton we played with spirit and determination which merited a point.

We all wish Lil Fuccillo a pleasant but complete recovery from his "accident", which leaves a nasty scar. Mal Donaghy nearly joined him in plaster, after a knee high tackle. We finished the game with nine men and after battling to save a point, Brighton broke away in the last seconds, to complete a bad day. Half an hour later we received news of an F.A. Cup tie at York. This will prove a difficult game,

and success there can only come from a united team effort.

Having lost the attractive West Ham fixture because of the ground conditions, our already unorthodox Christmas was further disturbed. We enjoyed a good Christmas Eve training session, and visited Millwall with confidence.

There were many good things in our performance. The result only partly reflected our superiority and Moss's two goals would have rivalled each other for the goal of the season. After Fuccillo's bad injury we had the sad job of telling young Irish player Ciaron McCurry that we would have to allow him back after doubts on his medical condition.

We have also released apprentice Richard Eaton, and Martyn Sperrin has joined Barnet. Also Milija Aleksic has joined Tottenham and we wish him every success.

So to today's game. Alan Durban needs little introduction and neither does his side. They will receive the respect that they have earned, and we hope the game will reflect the ability's of both sides.

Enjoy the game, encourage the players. They appreciate your support, I am quite pleased with the progress of the side and particularly the four players in their first full league season. There will be inconsistency while we learn and gain experience, but we are building the foundations.

To all our supporters may I on behalf of all the players, directors and staff, wish you a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year.



Cover photo by: Sportswide photography

Stoke City



Back Row (left to right) Alan Durban (Manager), Paul Richardson, Alan Dodd, Geoff Scott, Roger Jones, Brendan O'Callaghan, Terry Conroy, Viv Busby, Mike Doyle. Front Row (left to right) David Gregory (now Bury), Howard Kendall, Sammy Irvine, Denis Smith, Garth Crooks, Steve Waddington (now Walsall), John Marsh.

IAN BOWERS (defender). Ian is Staffordshire born and joined the club in 1972. Has played mostly at full-back but also in midfield. He was unable to command a regular 1st team place last season and has yet to appear this year.

BRENDAN O'CALLAGHAN (striker). Brendan was Alan Durban's first signing. He made a sensational debut last season when he scored in less than ten seconds after coming on as substitute. Big, strong and brave he has soon become a favourite with the City fans.

TERRY CONROY (striker). Eire international. Made his debut in 1967 and although appearing slightly 'injury prone' he has appeared regularly ever since. Combines 'flair' and 'effort' and still has the skill to make 'something out of nothing'. Dublin born he played for Home Farm and Glentoran before signing for the 'Potters'.

JEFF COOK (striker). Born in Durham and played for Hartlepool before going to South Africa to play for Cape Town F.C. Joined Stoke City in 1977/78 season and progressed into a useful player. Has the ability to progress highly in the game.

GARTH CROOKS (striker). Local lad who joined Stoke in 1973. He made his debut in the 1st Division in 1976 and was marksman with 18 goals last season (his first full season in the 1st team). Possesses tremendous skill on the ball and has a powerful shot on either foot. A player of tremendous potential.

ALAN DODD (defender). Locally born, Alan made his debut in 1973 and progressed into an outstanding defender earning several under 23 international caps. Has played at full-back and in the centre of the back four. Thoughtful and intelligent player who on his day can be brilliant. Ever present last year.

MIKE DOYLE (defender). Signed from Man. City for £50,000 during the close season. Intelligent and calm Mike possesses tremendous experience in top class football (has several international caps) and also has the will to win, a trait that Stoke hope will become infectious.

PETER FOX (goalkeeper). 'Foxy' to his pals, Peter joined City for £20,000 from Sheffield Wednesday late last season. Scunthorpe born this 20 year old has the makings of an excellent keeper, continuing the club's high standards in this department. Became a married man in July, 1978.

PAUL RICHARDSON (midfield). Spent some years with Notts Forest before signing for Chester. Stoke signed him for around £50,000 eighteen months ago. Has been a regular this season and on his day impresses with his all round skill and application.

SAMMY IRVINE (midfield). Cost £60,000 when signed

from Shrewsbury before this season. Glasgow born Sammy is a confident mature player who also possesses the art of scoring goals from mid-field. The club have high hopes that he will do well for them.

PAUL JOHNSON (midfield). Small but tenacious player Paul has been with the club for five years. Has yet to attain a regular spot in the 1st team. Played in American soccer during the close season.

ROGER JONES (goalkeeper). Came to the Victoria Ground on a 'free' from Newcastle United. Covered for Peter Shilton before he took over the regular goalkeeping spot last season. Highly thought of in the game and vastly experienced having played for Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Blackburn besides Newcastle.

HOWARD KENDALL (midfield). Durham born he first played for Preston and became the youngest ever player to appear in an F.A. Cup Final. Joined Everton and moved to Birmingham City going to Stoke a year ago. Cost £40,000. Enjoyed a brilliant season last year and was voted 'Player of the Year'. Was appointed Team Coach by Alan Durban. Ever present last season.

KEVIN LEWIS (defender). Hull born Kevin was signed by Stoke from Manchester United on a free transfer. He made his debut for Stoke in the 1973/74 season. Played in South Africa for Cape Town where he suffered a broken leg, which kept him out of the side for the 1977/78 season.

JOHN MARSH (defender). Locally born John or 'Jack' as he is known, has spent all his career with Stoke and has made several hundred appearances. Reliable and consistent he is a 'fitness fanatic'.

GEOFF SCOTT (defender). Birmingham born Geoff joined Stoke from amateur side Highgate Utd. in the close season 1977. Strong and tall left sided player who made a tremendous impact during his first season with the club.

KEVIN SHELDON (striker). Staffordshire born Kevin is a product of the club's Youth Scheme. Made his debut in April 1976 and immediately impressed and had made the spot his own when he suffered a broken leg when playing against Leeds Utd. As a result he missed the whole of last season but has eventually regained full fitness again and appeared as substitute v. Oldham when he unfortunately tore ligaments in his ankle.

DENIS SMITH (defender). Born in Stoke, Denis made his debut for the club in 1968 and has been a regular ever since. A tremendous competitor who plays by example. Has had many injuries including a broken leg, but has overcome them all to return to 1st team football. Team captain.

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WELCOME

ON THIS first day of 1979 our New Year greetings and sincere welcome goes to Stoke City, a much respected name throughout their long history in League football, in fact they are the second oldest Football League Club in England. It is only in recent times though, that they have enjoyed their best successes. At one stage in their history, the club dropped from the First to the Third Division but made a rapid recovery, and in 1972 the side won their first major trophy, the Football League Cup. Stoke have qualified twice for Europe in the seventies, being beaten by Kaiserslautern (W. Germany) and then Ajax (Holland).

After being founded in 1863, they suffered varying fortunes until 1908 saw their resignation from the League. After 11 years in non-league football, Stoke regained a place in Division Two in 1919, to commence a hectic yo-yo period which saw them rise into Division One for one campaign (1922/23), then only four years later drop into Division Three (North). They were champions of that section at the first attempt and eventually returned to Division One in 1933, to remain until 1953. Then followed ten seasons of Second Division football until promotion was achieved in 1963. Steady progress was made since then and in 1972 the club reached Wembley for the first time, defeating Chelsea 2-1 to win the Football League Cup.

Though many of Stoke's present team have been developed in the club's junior teams, the Potters have never been afraid to go into the transfer market in a big way. During 1974 Stoke invested £240,000 in England international Alan Hudson, £150,000 in Geoff Salmons and a record £340,000 for England goalkeeper, Peter Shilton.

Stoke have only sought the best for their fans for many years. Some of the truly great players to wear Stokes famous red and white stripes in modern times have included Gordon Banks, Stanley Matthews

Stoke discovered him before the war, then brought him back in the sixties, George

Eastham and Peter Dobing amongst many others.

Stokes policy of providing top class players, although designed to make them compete with Englands and Europes best has not however met with sustained success on the field, and their recent decline culminated in relegation in 1977.

George Eastham took over as manager from long serving Tony Waddington but met with little success and was replaced by Alan Durban, soon after Stoke's 2-3 defeat by Blyth Spartans in a 4th round F.A. Cup match. When he took over the side, they were in 18th position but improved well to finish 7th. New signings by Durban last season were Brendan O'Callaghan (£60,000) from Doncaster, and Peter Fox (£20,000 from Sheffield Wednesday). During the close season, experienced international defender Mike Doyle has been signed for £50,000 (from Manchester City) and 22 years old, midfielder Sammy Irvine (for £60,000 from Shrewsbury). Together with 'Player of the Year' Howard Kendall; top scorer Garth Crooks; stalwarts Denis Smith and Terry Conroy and promising youngster Geoff Scott, Stoke have high hopes of returning to the First Division very quickly.

HERE TODAY

GIVING good support to local product Garth Crooks and last seasons signing Brendan O'Callaghan in the goal scoring stakes, Sammy Irvine, a close-season signing from Shrewsbury, has netted several times from midfield, while Paul Richardson arrived from Chester, has also shown an eye for goals from midfield. Still going strong in the engine room, Howard Kendall, who played for Preston in the 1964 F.A. Cup Final, is now in his second season since moving from Birmingham. Howard who is also club coach, played in every game last season, as did Alan Dodd, who has since moved from the defence to a more free-ranging role in the number 7 shirt. He is a home-grown product as are experienced defenders John Marsh and team captain Denis Smith. They have been joined this season by Mike Doyle who had

previously made over 500 League and Cup appearances for Manchester City and had won 5 England caps. Geoff Scott, who came from amateur team Highgate United just over a year ago, has made great progress to hold down a regular place on the left flank of the defence while behind them Roger Jones (ex-Bournemouth and Blackburn) has proved a tower of strength since moving on a free transfer from Newcastle and ultimately taking over from Peter Shilton last season. Two strikers on the edge of the team this season have been our old friends Viv Busby, who has since been with Fulham and Norwich and Eire international Terry Conroy.

BOBBERS TRAVEL CLUB

THE BOBBERS Club is starting an Away Travel Section run by Steve and Jenny Russell. If anyone is interested please come along to the Bobbers Club on Wednesday January 3rd between 7-10 p.m. where we will give you information on cheaper travel etc. If you can't make it on that night, send a S.A.E. for information to—Mr. & Mrs. S. Russell, 19 Broadbank Court, Handcross Road, Luton.

MASCOT

THE MASCOT for todays game with Stoke City is Kevin Johnson. Kevin attends the Heathfield Lower School and his sporting activities include soccer and watching motor racing. He tells us that he keeps a very comprehensive scrap-book on Luton Town and his favourite player is Bob Hatton.

NEWS FROM THE POOLS

THROUGH the year we rely on well over 1,000 good people to support our fund raising activities, in actual fact, the backbone of our Pools organisation are the agents. To these good people we extend the Seasons Greetings for 1979, and wish you all a Prosperous New Year.

Final results of the Christmas raffle

which was drawn on Wednesday 20th December by David Pleat, our ever smiling manager, will be published in full in the Luton v. Bristol Rovers programme. The 106 winners and bonus cheques have already been sent off so these lucky people know about their share of the total £550, but because people don't mind losing as long as they know who has won, please watch out for the results, and we do hope that your name and address appears on the list. As always, this seasons raffle was a huge success and we do thank you all for such fine support.

Mike Hardwicke M.D.

Hatters Pools

GIANT DAY FOR PROGRAMME COLLECTORS

SUNDAY, January 7th is the eagerly awaited day for programme collectors, when the second Giant New Year Programme Fair takes place. Collectors, young and old, will descend on the Ivanhoe Hotel, Bloomsbury St., London, WC1 (only two minutes from Tottenham Court Road. tube station) to view or purchase thousands of programmes ranging from scarce pre-war issues to current season issues from every club in the League.

A special exhibition area will be devoted to caps, shirts, medals and some of the rarest known programmes in existence, including a unique collection of examples from Football League clubs no longer in existence such as Nelson, Merthyr Town and Thames Association who used to play at West Ham Stadium. The event runs from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and admission (by programme on the door) is just 30p adults and 20p juniors.

THE HATTERS IN VERSE

WE RECEIVED this poem the other day and thought our fans would appreciate reading it. It was written by Steve Faulkner who is one of our supporters. Many thanks Steve for taking the trouble to write it.

LUTON TOWN F.C.—THE TEAM 1978-79.

Luton Town F.C. the best, We'll give any Club a test.

To see if they can beat us sound, Or we thrash them—on any ground. When Harry left, things looked bleak, It seemed that we had passed our peak, The management? It seemed in doubt, But then the news was given out—

“David Pleat is in—O.K.”?

And that was our redemption day!

David Pleat—he did his rounds,

And turnover reached a million pounds!

K TALK TA

Players came, and players went, And David saved and David spent, A team was built—a bright young side, The Directors chests, they swelled with pride!

Mal, Mark, Chris and Bob, David, Kirk and Steve Sherlock, All were new, all were good, All did as a good team should, 'Oak' and 'Maple' cheered like mad, They scored the goals—and we were glad, So that's how this team came to be, And they will fight for you and me, The team is good—they can go up, As well as win that great League Cup! Villa couldn't hold us back, And suffered from our strong attack. We toppled them—and now it's Leeds— Can we now show them our speed? I can't say—but we'll go up, To cheer the Team on to the Cup! So keep on Luton, come on strong, With our support—you'll do no wrong. Steve Faulkner

POINT OF CONTROVERSY

ONCE again British weather has taken us all by surprise and after as pleasant an Autumn as we have experienced for many years we have had the Pools Panel sitting earlier in the season than ever. As so often in recent years, a few die-hard fans have been left muttering that twenty or more years ago it is doubtful whether thirteen much less over thirty games would be off after what in most parts of the country was a light fall of snow followed by an almost immediate thaw.

There are many reasons for this increased readiness to call off games. There is the feeling that games played in farcical conditions can produce equally farcical results and perhaps have even an undue influence on championship and relegation issues. There is the need to cut losses by saving the cost of visitors' travel, purchase of perishables for refreshment bars etc. and perhaps most of all the avoidance of an embarrassingly small gate. Spectators, like players, are probably less hardy than they were years ago and there is every

chance that when the postponed game is ultimately played the increased gate will more than make up for losses incurred by the cancellation.

Where does the soccer fan go then when his local match is postponed? Maybe he helps the wife with the Christmas shopping. Maybe he does a few of the odd domestic jobs that he has been putting off for most of the year or maybe he just sits in front of the television. All these activities are all right in themselves, but if they become too pleasurable there is always the danger that in subsequent weeks when the match is on but the weather not too inviting the erstwhile soccer watcher will find the comfort of the house more attractive than the terraces.

Maybe the most constructive answer to football-less Saturdays lies with the small band of amateur soccer statisticians (and most clubs have a few of these who at a moments notice can turn up the line-up, goalscorers and gate for a match played thirty or more years ago). These will spend their time bringing their records up to date or just browsing through programmes and reports from years ago.

So much then for making the best of a bad job. One recognises all the commonsense reasons behind the modern trend to call off games when in doubt. Yet older fans amongst us may still regret that we no longer see games played on waterlogged pitches or those with a carpet of snow, lines painted in blue and the ball taking on unusual shapes as snow clings to it. Farcical they may have been, results may have been more unpredictable than ever, yet they were fun and we wouldn't have missed them for anything.

BALL SPONSOR

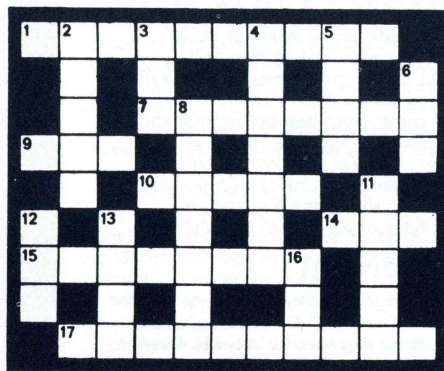
OUR MATCH Ball today is being sponsored by Mr. John Draper of Drapers Coaches, 117b Gardenia Avenue, Luton. Mr. Draper who is a very keen supporter of the Club is a member of the Vice-Presidents Suite and we thank him for his continued assistance.

CROSSWORD 14

- CLUES – ACROSS**
- 1. Irish international whose 178 League goals were shared between Sunderland, Blackburn, Scunthorpe, Brentford, Halifax and Stockport (3,7)
 - 7. Liverpool lost the 1965/66 ECWC final to Borussia Dortmund, for whom this international had scored a tournament match record six in the first round (8)
 - 9. The so-called World one is actually solid! (3)
 - 10. See 13dn
 - 14. See 6dn
 - 15. Northern Ireland Double winners last season (8)
 - 17. Cheshire County League side whose forerunners were given the 36-0 F.A. Cup pasting by Preston (4,6)

- CLUES – DOWN**
- 2. Former Burnley back, capped at many England levels (5)
 - 3. Tottenham keeper transferred to Torquay (1975) or Torquay striker signed by Tottenham (1977) (3)
 - 4. Frank McLintock wrote a book called "That's The Way --- Bounces" (3,4)
 - 5. Old Villa player and manager: --- Houghton (4)
 - 6. & 14ac. Famous part of Anfield (3,3)
 - 8. Former Oldham defender --- Whittle played for Fort Lauderdale Strikers last summer (5)
 - 12. The last player to pass 50 League goals in a season (3)
 - 13. & 10 ac. Old soccer and cricket international with Villa and Surrey (4,5)
 - 16. Brothers Billy and --- Richards played together for Wales (3)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD No. 13
Across: 3. Thames (1932), 6. Zurich, 7. (White Hart) Lane, 8. Ballboy, 11. Streete, 14. & 13. Elland Road, 15. Styles.
Down: 1. Luka, 2. Gills (Gillingham), 3. Throstles (WBA), 4. Moat, 5. Spence, 8. Bairns (Falkirk), 9. Kelly, 10. Gary, 12. Tony.



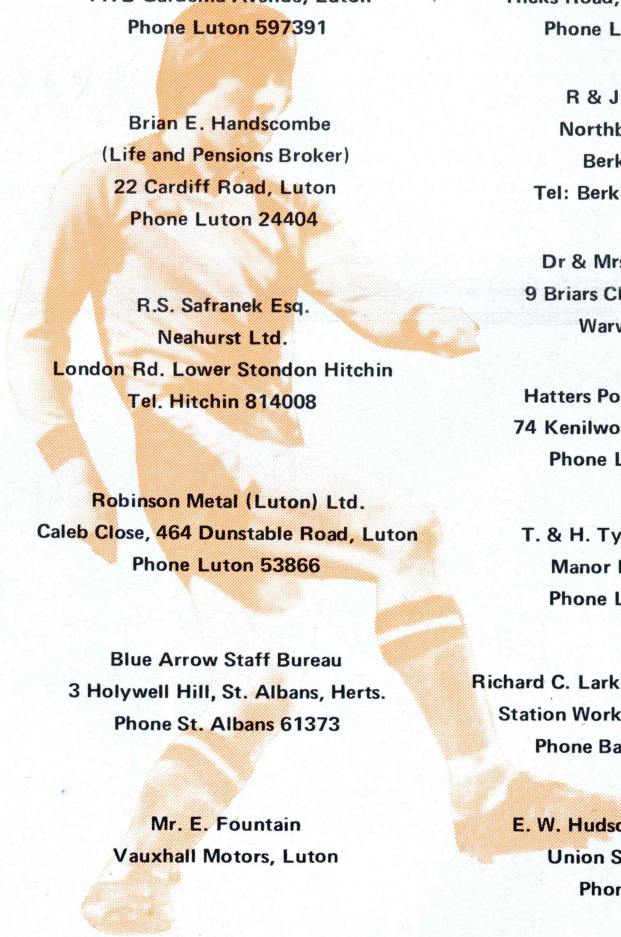
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N ACTION ACT

ION A

style?
We suspect that supporters might not find these too difficult, and invite readers to take part in the guessing game.
Each picture is of a regular member of the Town's League side. Can you identify the faces hidden by the question-marks?

Name all four, left to right, on a postcard or letter giving your name and address, to arrive at the Programme Editor's office in Kenilworth Road by Monday week, January 8.

The first three all-correct entries picked out of the hat on that day will win a pair of stand tickets for a home League game in January or February, so please state on your entry which match you would like to see.

Pictures: LUTON NEWS



GERRY HARRISON

ANGLIA TELEVISION'S MATCH OF THE WEEK COMMENTATOR

THOSE OF us who are mad enough to follow football through thick and thin get our satisfaction in different ways from the game. But I've never heard so many people express how much they simply "enjoyed" a game than those I spoke to after the Martin Peters testimonial game with the England World Cup side of 1966.

It was a great night but the enjoyment wasn't reserved for those of us on the sidelines. Geoff Hurst whom I met again briefly at an England training session before the European Championship game, said: "We all enjoyed it. I thought we could have won it in the end. But our legs let us down." (Norwich won 4-2; gate: 18,426).

FIFA referee Alf Grey from Great Yarmouth was enthusing only last week about the sheer ability of the internationals on view.

And it was good to see Jimmy Greaves in such form. Jimmy has had his problems since he finished with League football but he remains very good company, full of stories. One he told us when we were interviewing some of the players before the game was about the day of the World Cup Final itself. Jimmy, of course, played in the first three of the 6 Final games, was injured and then lost his place to Geoff Hurst who went on to make history with the Final hat-trick.

"The players who weren't playing against West Germany sat in the stand," Jimmy said. "With five minutes to go, and England leading 2-1, we left our seats to make our way down to the pitch for the lap of honour which was to involve all 22 players in the squad."

"But while we were in the lift, unbeknown to us, Germany equalised. So when we got down to ground level and saw them playing extra time we had to ask someone what was going on! No, we didn't go back upstairs again. We stayed around by the bench for the rest of the match."

Sir Alf Ramsey was also well satisfied with the showing that night—because it was a real match . . . not one of these staged affairs of many goals and no bite.

If it proved anything it was that we don't make the most of the players of distinction in the game. Many other countries have special veteran tournaments which are very popular.

In Holland there is a televised form of five a side football, indoor, with a different format to our game but essentially an open contest of soccer skill . . . played in a league and cup form between teams of players whose top class professional days are over. It pulls in reasonable crowds and makes very good television.

In South America too, the veterans put on some fine entertainment, often in short pre-match spells.

Nobody can turn the clock back entirely but sometimes I think we should have a darn good try.

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Town Away

YORK CITY v. LUTON TOWN
SATURDAY JANUARY 6th 1979
F.A. CUP 3rd ROUND
K.O. 3.00 p.m.

A1 and A64 to York. Tadcaster bypass and follow signs to York South and Racecourse. Enter York. 2nd traffic lights left into Dalton Terrace. Left again. Follow signs to Thirsk into Holgate Road and signs to Clifton. Ground in Bootham Crescent.

TRICENTROL COACHES:
Depart The Square, Dunstable— 09.00 a.m.
Depart Maple Road, Luton—09.30 a.m.
FARE £4.15



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

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

THE ENTHUSIASM that came with the arrival of new manager Alec Stock was matched by a welcome revival on the field as the old year went out ten year ago.

The Town had a quiet Christmas. The big game of the holiday was to be on Boxing Day, against Third Division leaders Watford. Every seat was sold in advance, but for once it was a White Christmas, and after the snow thawed a sharp frost set in and the game had to be postponed.

But 1968 went out with a rare pleasure: on December 28 the Town went to Northampton and won 2-0 in front of Northampton's biggest gate of the season, 15,161, most of us from Luton. John Moore returned after injury to tighten up the Town's defence, and two Bruce Rioch specials in the first half decided the result. It was only the second away win of the season, and the first away point since the previous September. Rivals had all suffered Christmas setbacks and once more promotion seemed a possibility, with the Town in fifth place, five points behind Watford.

But League points had to be forgotten for a while because the Town's next game was in the FA Cup, and they could hardly have been given a harder match.

They were away to Manchester City, at that time one of

the best teams ever to win the Football League title. They were in the middle of a remarkable period of success, with Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison leading them to major honours for five consecutive seasons.

They were League champions, favourites for the Cup, and generally thought to be streets ahead of Third Division Luton Town.

Their midfield, dominated by Colin Bell, still the most complete footballer I have ever seen, did indeed hold the key to success, but it was a pleasure to be at Maine Road that day to cheer on the underdogs, and only a penalty saved mighty Manchester City from the indignity of a replay at Kenilworth Road.

It came in the 27th minute when John Moore was adjudged to have fouled Francis Lee, and the chunky England centre-forward scored from the spot. He became a national institution as a penalty king, and we all thought this was one of those times when the goal was a case of "Lee Won Pen."

Rioch was well marked by City, and probably on the day they just about deserved to win although I can remember leaping off my seat at one Rioch drive which beat Harry Dowd from 25 yards. It looked a goal all the way, but swerved an inch or two past the post.

YOUTH

By George Rogers

IT IS ARSENAL! After the youth team success in the previous round of the F.A. youth cup versus Bedford, we have been waiting for the draw for the next round and we have been notified that we are at home against Arsenal youth. This has been arranged for Saturday 6th January, kick-off 3 p.m., if you are not going to York, please come along and give the lads your support.

Over the past two weeks the youth team have been having a break from competitive games but no holiday has resulted. Many things are still to be learnt and the routine jobs to be done. In training if you ask a defender what causes him most anxiety the answer will probably be a clever attacker running at speed at him.

The ability to dribble at speed towards a defender and then to beat him, requires many hours of practice and this is usually achieved by weight transference. The defender is poised to move in one direction and transfers his weight to do so. If the attacker can make him change position several times, causes him to overbalance. A player that can commit and beat a defender has one of the attributes which if harnessed correctly can produce match winning qualities.

All you lads who are wondering what to do this holiday, get a ball and kick it against a wall at various angles and your control must improve.

On the local scene at the December

meeting of the Chiltern youth league a Christmas Draw took place. This resulted in a profit of £750. Congratulations to all. Although most of this money will be required for trophies at the end of the season the balance will be required towards an international tournament to be staged by the league to mark its 25th Anniversary. This will take place at Easter 1979. Teams are expected from Sweden and Germany. One of the requests made by the Officers of the league is for accommodation for approximately four nights for these 14-16 year old overseas visitors.

'CAN YOU HELP?' a phone call to me or Peter Brown — Luton 55070 will give you further information if required.

FOCUS ON

DAVID COATES
& ROY JOHNSON
by Doug Lygo

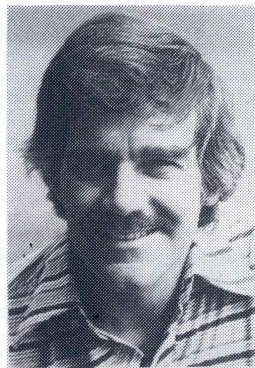
David is a native of Washington, in Tyne & Wear and after representing Durham at school and youth level he joined Hull City at the age of 17. After eight seasons on Humberstone during which time the Club went from 2nd to 3rd and back to the Second Division he moved to Mansfield who were managed by that legendary figure Raich Carter. Promotion from 4th to 3rd Division in 1963 was followed a year later by a transfer to Notts County where David graduated into a player coach. His next move, in 1967, took him to Aston Villa where he coached the reserve team and two years later he accepted a similar appointment with Leicester City.

During his nine years at Filbert Street, David served under Frank O'Farrell, Jimmy Bloomfield and Frank McLintock and in all reckons that he has had personal experience of around seventeen different managers before joining Luton. Out of these he selects Bloomfield as the best manager and Raich Carter as the outstanding personality.

Out of the sides which he has seen in the 2nd Division this season, David rates Palace as the most skilful and he also regards Stoke as a very powerful side who will take some stopping.

David and his wife Sheila have two daughters, Susan 14, and Lynn 10, and a one year old son, Steven. We hope that they have had an enjoyable Christmas and that 1979 will be a happy and successful year for them.

TWO IMPORTANT members of David Pleat's staff who joined the Club in the close season are featured in our 'Focus On' series today. They are David Coates our second team coach and physiotherapist Roy Johnson.



David Coates



Roy Johnson

Roy Johnson's appointment as full-time physiotherapist in succession to the late Reg Game in July 1978 followed a period of several months when he assisted Reg on a part-time basis. Roy has always been associated with football in the County having been born in Biggleswade in 1940 and he played for his home town team for thirteen years. During this period he also represented the County.

When his playing days were over he became Trainer of Stevenage Ath. and subsequently their Manager.

In 1974 Roy became Assistant Manager and Physiotherapist to Cambridge City and took over as Manager during 1976. His next move took him to Bedford Town where he was trainer when Luton approached him to help out at Kenilworth Road.

Roy qualified as a physio through the F.A. scheme during 1975 and a year later was confirmed as an F.A. Lecturer in sports injuries. He intends to continue his studies in this subject and his ambition is to become a physiotherapist in the 1st Division, with Luton Town of course.

Early in the new year Roy, his wife Pat, who works as a secretary in the Club offices, and teenage daughters, Karen, 17 and Tracey, 14 will be leaving Biggleswade and settling in Luton and we wish them every possible happiness in their new home.

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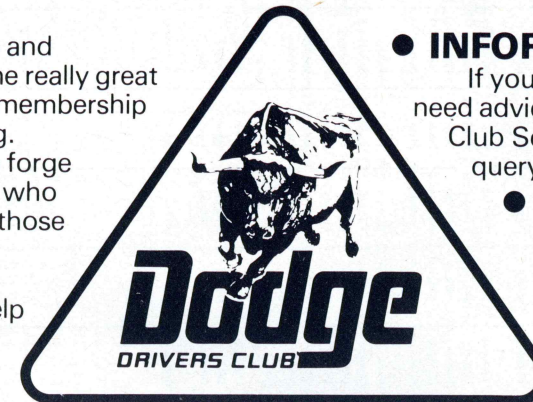
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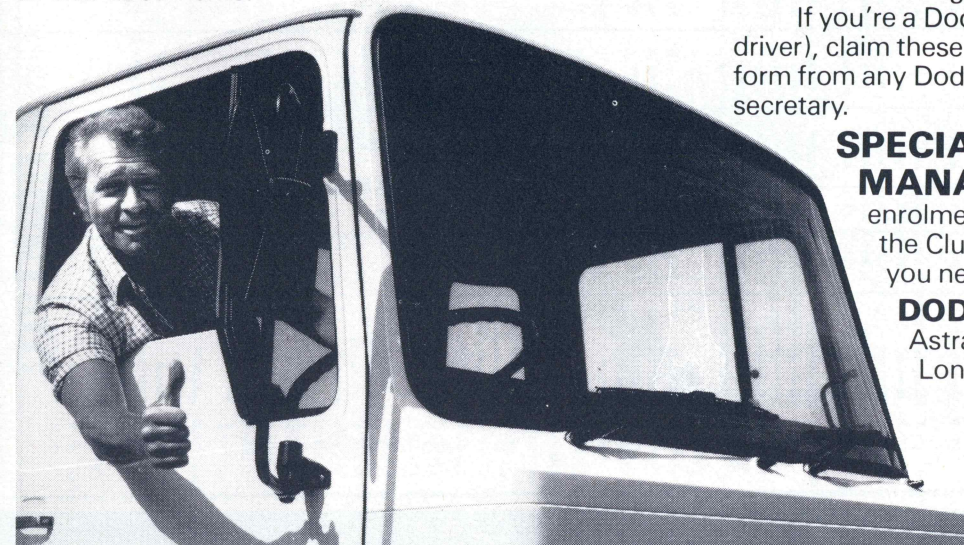
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FACTS

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	Sherlock	Donaghy	Turner	Aislewood	Hill	Fuccillo (1 pen)	Stein (1)	Hatton (2)	Moss (2)	Ingram
	22 T Crystal Palace	17,739	1-3	Aleksic	Stephens	Sherlock	Donaghy	Turner	Aislewood	Hill	Fuccillo (1 pen)	Stein	Hatton	Moss	McNichol
	26 S Newcastle Utd.	24,112	0-1	Aleksic	Stephens	Aislewood	Donaghy	Turner	Price	Hill	West	Stein (2)	Hatton	Moss	Hill
	29 T Wigan Ath. (LC2)	6,618	2-0	Aleksic	Stephens	Aislewood	Donaghy	Turner	Price	West	Fuccillo	Stein (2)	Hatton	Moss	Hill
Sept.	2 S Charlton Ath.	8,509	3-0	Aleksic	Jones	Aislewood	Hill (1)	Turner	Price	Donaghy	Fuccillo	Stein (1)	Hatton (1)	Boersma	West*
	9 S Bristol Rovers	6,508	0-2	Aleksic	Jones	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Price	Donaghy	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton (1)	Moss	West
	16 S Cardiff City	7,752	7-1	Aleksic	Jones	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Price	Donaghy	West	Stein (2)	Hatton (1)	Moss (2)	Fuccillo (1 pen)
	23 S Cambridge Utd.	10,801	1-1	Aleksic	Jones	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Price	Donaghy	West	Stein (1)	Hatton	Moss	Fuccillo*
	30 S Sheffield Utd.	15,295	1-1	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	Fuccillo	West	Stein	Hatton (1)	Moss	Jones
Oct.	3 T Crewe Alex. (LC3)	6,602	2-1	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill (1)	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton (1)	Moss	Jones
	7 S Wrexham	8,683	2-1	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo (1)	Stein (1)	Hatton	Moss	Jones
	14 S Blackburn	7,450	0-0	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss	Jones
	21 S Notts County	8,561	6-0	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo (1)	Stein (2)	Hatton (1)	Moss (1)	Jones
	28 S Orient	7,035	2-3	Aleksic	Donaghy	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Price	West	Fuccillo (2)	Stein	Hatton	Moss	Carr
Nov.	4 S Leicester City	10,608	0-1	Aleksic	Donaghy	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Price	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss	Carr
	8 W Aston Villa (LC4)	32,727	2-0	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein (1)	Hatton (1)	Moss	Stevens
	11 S Oldham Athletic	6,876	0-2	Aleksic	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss	Stevens
	18 S Newcastle Utd.	10,434	2-0	Lawson	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner (1)	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein (1)	Hatton	Moss	Jones
	21 T Charlton Ath.	10,161	2-1	Lawson	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton (1)	Moss (1)	Jones
	25 S Sunderland (1)	10,249	0-3	Lawson	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Jones	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss	Carr
Dec.	2 S Burnley	7,036	1-2	Findlay	Price (1)	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss	Jones
	9 S Preston	28,177	1-4	Findlay	Price	Aislewood	Hill	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein (1)	Hatton	Moss	Heale
	13 W Leeds Utd. (LC5)	16,252	1-3	Findlay	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss (1)	Stein*
	16 S Brighton (2)			Findlay	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss (1)	Jones
	23 S West Ham			Findlay	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss (1)	Jones
	26 T Millwall			Findlay	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner	Donaghy	West	Fuccillo	Stein	Hatton	Moss (1)	Jones
	30 S Fulham			Findlay	Price	Aislewood	Carr	Turner	Donaghy	West	Hill	Stein	Hatton	Moss (2)	Jones
1979															
Jan.	1 M Stoke City														
	6 S York City (FAC 3)														
	13 S Bristol Rovers														
	17 W League Cup SF														
	20 S Cardiff City														
	24 W League Cup SF														
	27 S F.A. Cup 4														
Feb.	3 S 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 Stoke 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 26 December 1978

	P	HOME			Goals			AWAY			Goals		
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Crystal Palace	22	7	2	2	219	83	77	14	9	29			
Stoke	22	6	4	1	22	104	43	8	11	28			
Brighton	22	9	0	2	27	73	35	14	17	27			
West Ham	21	7	2	2	24	83	34	16	15	25			
Sunderland	22	6	3	2	19	113	44	13	16	25			
Newcastle	22	8	2	1	16	62	36	8	15	25			
Notts County	22	5	5	1	12	83	44	18	27	25			
Burnley	21	8	1	1	23	121	55	12	20	24			
Fulham	21	6	3	3	21	113	24	9	14	23			
Orient	22	6	2	3	17	103	26	9	15	22			
Bristol Rovers	21	8	2	1	26	151	27	4	21	22			
Wrexham	20	5	4	1	16	72	35	9	14	21			
Charlton	22	3	4	4	15	144	34	20	22	21			
Preston	22	5	4	2	24	142	27	12	25	20			
Cambridge	22	2	7	2	12	113	35	11	18	20			
Luton	20	6	1	3	28	102	26	9	16	19			
Oldham	20	4	5	1	15	102	26	13	24	19			
Leicester	21	2	4	4	10	122	63	8	10	18			
Sheffield Utd.	20	5	1	4	16	121	36	9	18	16			
Cardiff	21	4	3	3	15	151	19	10	32	14			
Blackburn	20	1	6	2	13	122	18	9	24	13			
Millwall	22	3	2	6	12	191	28	7	19	12			

Combination

As at 11 December 1978

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham H	21	18	3	0	64	22	39
Norwich City	19	14	2	3	52	16	30
Ipswich Town	18	12	4	2	40	16	28
West Ham Utd	18	10	5	3	42	19	25
Southampton	17	10	5	2	29	14	25
Chelsea	18	9	4	5	35	23	22
Queens PR	16	9	4	3	31	21	22
Fulham	19	8	5	6	31	23	21
Bristol City	19	7	5	7	32	35	19
Arsenal	16	6	6	4	34	23	18
Bristol Rovers	18	6	6	6	25	34	18
Plymouth A	20	7	3	10	27	35	17
Crystal Palace	19	4	8	7	32	36	16
Oxford United	18	5	5	8	25	30	15
Luton Town	18	6	2	10	21	32	14
Leicester City	18	4	5	9	19	24	13
Cardiff City	18	4	3	11	23	37	11
Birmingham C	18	2	6	10	10	25	10
Hereford Utd	17	3	3	11	18	42	9
Reading	16	3	3	12	23	48	9
Orient	18	3	3	12	18	50	9
Swindon Town	19	1	6	12	11	38	8

LEAGUE/CUP

LEAGUE/CUP		Apps		Gls	
Aleksic	17	4(2)	2	1	2
Stephens	24	2	2	1	2
Shirlock	24	2	2	1	2
Aislewood	24	2	2	1	2
Donaghy	22	2	2	1	2
Price	22	2(1)	2	1	2
Hill	20(2)	2(2)	2	1	2
Fucillo	20(2)	2(1)	2	1	2
West	23(1)	23	13	9	1
Stein	23	23	9	1	2
Hatton	23	23	1	2	9
Turner C.	23	23	1	2	9
Moss	23	2(2)	2	1	2
Ingram	23	(1)	1	2	2
McNichol	5(9)	1	2	1	2
Jones	Boersma	1	2	1	2
Carr	4(3)	3	2	1	2
Lawson	4	4	1	2	2
Findlay	1	1	2	1	2
Heale	1	1	2	1	2
Own Goal	1	1	2	1	2
COMBINATION					
W. Turner	3	4	3	1	2
Sperin	4	6	1	2	2
Ingram	6	1	2	1	2
Currie	1	1	2	1	2
Jones	1	1	2	1	2
N. Johnson	1	1	2	1	2
Lucas	1	1	2	1	2
MIDLAND/CHILDREN					
Pearson	9	2	2	1	2
Eaton	6	6	1	2	2
Conquest	6	4	3	1	2
Ingram	4	3	3	1	2
Sisman	4	3	3	1	2
Madden	3	3	3	1	2
Wilkinson	3	3	3	1	2
Harrott	2	2	2	1	2
W. Turner	2	2	2	1	2
Kitchener	1	1	1	2	2
R. Johnson	1	1	1	2	2

Junior Hatters Club

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:—

Philip Bonner, 8th, Martin Shadbolt, 2nd, Andrew Johnson, 7th, Kevin Woolhead, 15th, Clint Watts, 1st, Paul Brett, 6th, Steven Porter, 13th, Sean Watkiss, 2nd, Paul Walker, 3rd, Karen Knight, 7th, Colin Taylor, 5th, Paul Brandreth, 7th, David Norman, 13th, Dominic Holland, 6th, Angela Shepherd, 6th January, 1979. A very happy birthday to you all.

Results of the competition in the Preston programme was:—

1. Crystal Palace
2. 1949

AS WE HAVE HAD TO GO TO PRESS BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE THE WINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT PROGRAMME. THE NEXT QUIZ WILL APPEAR IN THE BRISTOL ROVERS PROGRAMME.

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Century Club

by Catherine Ball, Secretary

IT'S TRADITIONAL today to express good wishes and bright hopes for a happy future to everyone. Our wishes for a happy new year are offered to all, supporters, players, directors and staff, and to Manager David Pleat.

But for once I would like to pick out one man above all the others: Lil Fuccillo. We have watched him graduate from the youth team, through the reserves and into the League side, and surely Luton Town could not have had a better asset than Lil. I don't want to add fuel to the controversy about his injury, but we were all very sad indeed, and we send our very best wishes to him for a speedy and full recovery, and to his wife.

One way and another December brought some disappointing occasions for anyone who supports Luton Town, but that was the most cruel blow of the lot.

Perhaps we have now reached a turning point and we all hope that 1979 is going to bring brighter days. It was certainly a very mixed 1978, but as the old year passes we can at least look back on some very good football occasions.

We began our festivities in the Century Club with our annual Christmas party, and everyone who went had a good time. The hypnotist in particular was an incredible entertainer, and our thanks are due to the guests who cheerfully allowed themselves to be "put under the influence."

On the football front we again had a strong Century Club party at the Boxing Day game at Millwall, and I think we are enjoying our trips out to other clubs even on the days when results don't go the way we would like.

The FA Cup draw might also have been a little kinder to Luton Town, but this will be another game when we will take support in an organised party. At the time of writing final details of coach times and fares had not been worked out, but any Century Club members interested in making the trip to York should make contact with me as soon as possible. And then we all hope for a home draw next time.

But to finish back where I began today's notes: A very happy New Year to everyone, and good luck to Luton Town.

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- 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



Stoke City

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| ROGER JONES | 1 |
| JOHN MARSH | 2 |
| GEOFF SCOTT | 3 |
| HOWARD KENDALL | 4 |
| DENIS SMITH | 5 |
| MICK DOYLE | 6 |
| JIMMY MCGROARTY | 7 |
| SAMMY IRVINE | 8 |
| BRENDON O'CALLAGHAN | 9 |
| GARTH CROOKS | 10 |
| PAUL RICHARDSON | 11 |
| ALAN DODD | 12 |

Half Times

Blackburn	Notts. C	Leeds
Derby	Sheff. Utd	Nottm. For
Bristol R	Orient	Liverpool
Derby	Fulham	Aston Villa
Cardiff	Wrexham	Tottenham
West Ham	Burnley	Southampton
Leicester	Bolton	West Brom
Sheff. Wed	Everton	Bristol City
Newcastle	Chelsea	Southend

Officials

Referee: Mr. Ronald C. Challis (Tonbridge, Kent). Commenced refereeing with R.A.F. in Singapore (1952) then progressed via Kent League, Southern League—referee for 10 seasons—Football League line to full list in 1968. Has refereed F.A. Challenge Trophy Final and a European Competition Final in 1976. the Football Association Cup Final in 1975, also twice in Inter-Cities Cup matches. Linesman in U.E.F.A. Cup semi-final in 1978. Married and with two sons is a Magazine Production Manager.

Linesmen: Mr. E. N. Day (Walthamstow) Red Flag: Mr. G. R. Rigby (Epsom) Yellow Flag.