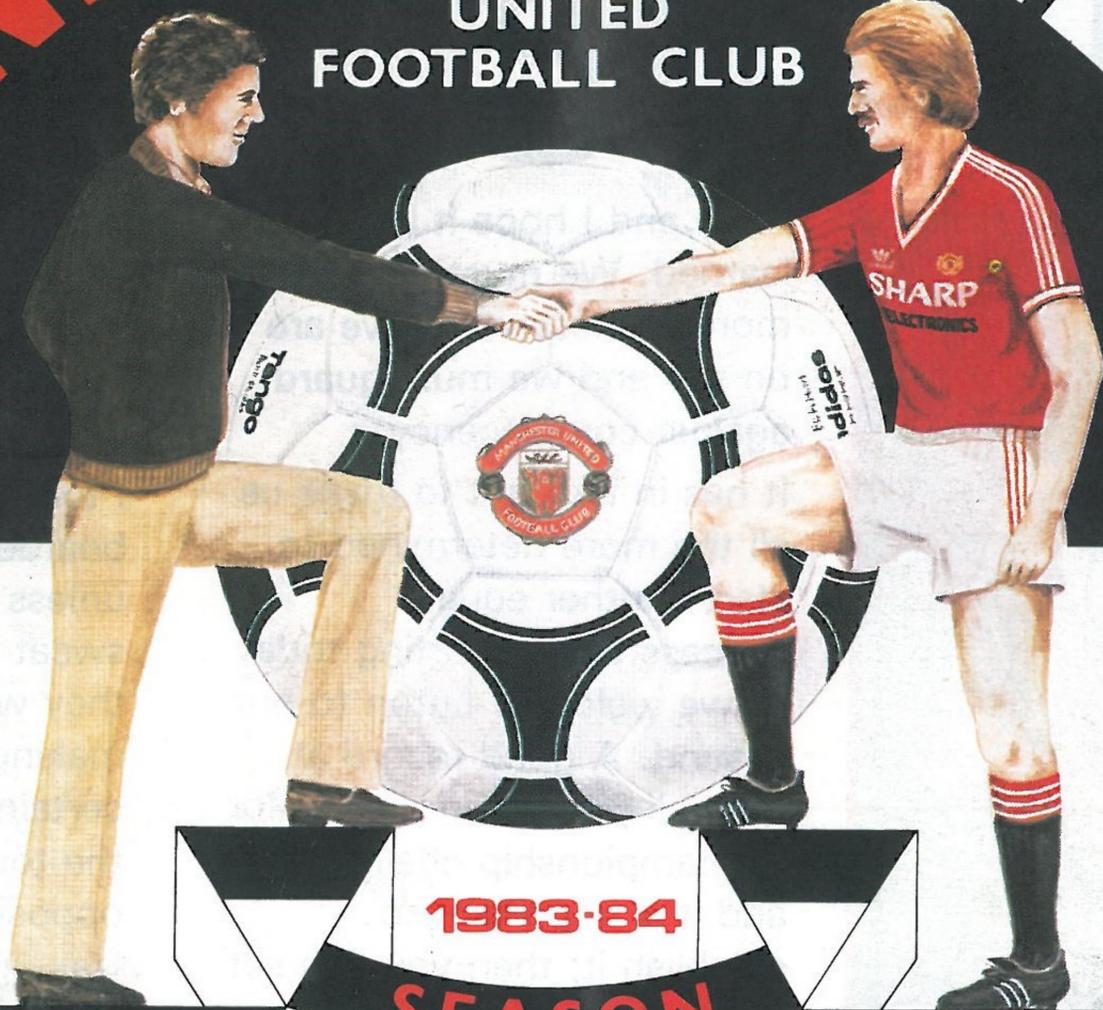


UNITED REVIEW

MANCHESTER
UNITED
FOOTBALL CLUB



FOOTBALL LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE

United
v
Luton Town

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Saturday
10th September 1983

30p

Volume 45, No. 3

OFFICIAL

1983-84
SEASON

PROGRAMME

Sponsored by **SHARP ELECTRONICS (UK) LTD**



UNITED v QPR, Saturday 27th August. Arnold Muhren sets United on course for victory on the opening day of the season as he slots home a penalty in the 12th minute, following a foul on Mike Duxbury by the Rangers keeper.

RON ATKINSON Talking



The aim this afternoon must be to make Old Trafford impregnable again. Nottingham Forest destroyed an unbeaten home League run that had stretched back for 18 months. We all felt pretty savage about the way it went, too, because in the first-half we had played so splendidly that the result seemed a foregone conclusion. There is perhaps a lesson

there and I hope it has been learned. We must become more ruthless when we are on top and we must guard against complacency.

It has in fact got to make us all the more determined to start another equally successful run starting today as we welcome Luton to our ground. A good record at home lays the foundation for a Championship challenge and it is important to establish it; then you can set about the business of winning points away.

There is no doubt that our away record last season was not good enough for a team hoping to win a League title. We won only five games away from home in the League.

We did well enough in the big Cup-ties away from Old Trafford, but when it came to travelling in the League we left a lot to be desired. For a start we lost four of the last five away games. Perhaps thoughts of Wembley distracted us, but that is really no excuse and I want us to set about our away fixtures with a little more application.

This was the message I tried to hammer home before we set off for our first away match of the season at

Stoke. I had watched them trounce West Bromwich 3-1 earlier in the week and I knew we were going to walk into a fierce game.

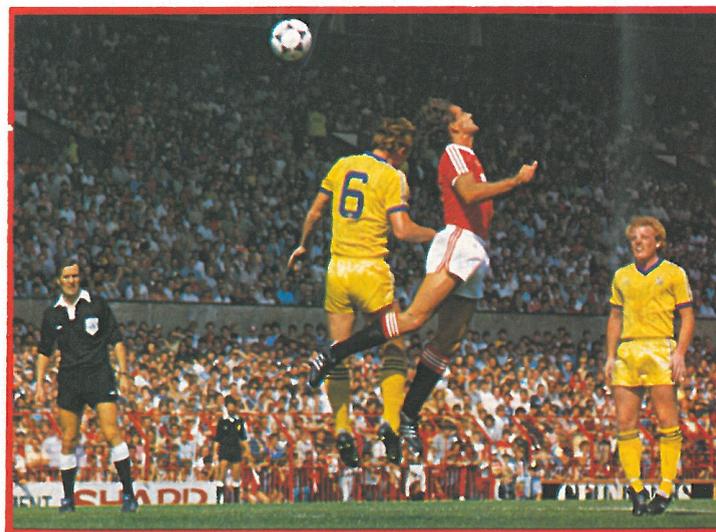
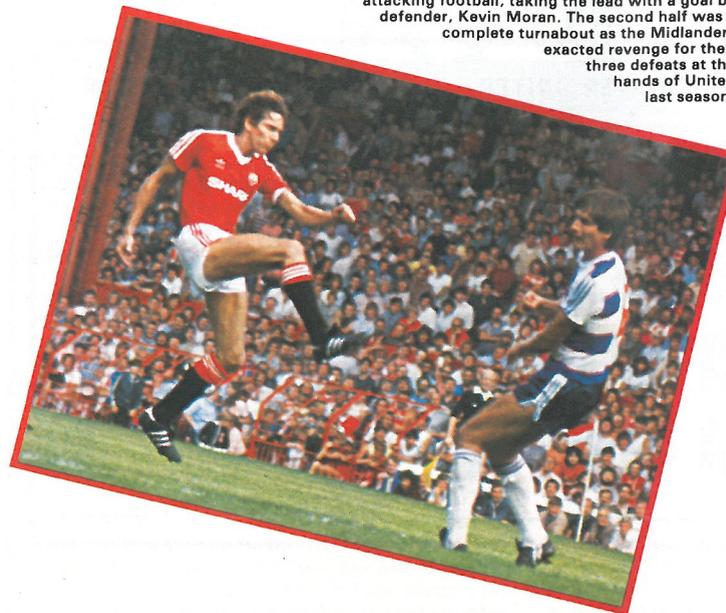
I told the players as they boarded the coach that unless they were prepared to sweat and perhaps die a bit they were wasting their time making the journey. I certainly did not exaggerate the tough nature of the opposition.

Happily we went out in the right frame of mind and survived a hammering with a basic kind of defending that owed more to determination than perhaps skill at times. Gordon McQueen and Gary Bailey served us particularly well.

In the second-half we swung it our way with an attacking spell that deserved Arnold Muhren's goal. It was a good start to our away programme and it puts us one ahead over last season when we lost 1-0 at the Victoria Ground.

If we can continue reversing some of last season's results on those lines we can perhaps have a say in the title race . . . always assuming of course that we can put one over Luton today and once again make Old Trafford a place to be feared.

United's 'M' squad swing into action. Following Ron Atkinson's call for more goals from his midfield men this season, Dutchman Arnold Muhren quickly responded with a 'pair' on the first day of the season. Picture (a) shows his powerful right foot shot which rounded off a fine 3-1 victory. Two days later we welcomed Nottingham Forest to Old Trafford. In his article in the *United Review*, Ron Atkinson warned that 'Forest will be particularly dangerous this afternoon.' He certainly knew what he was talking about as we suffered our first home defeat since April last year. Defeat seemed far away as United completely dominated the first half with a tremendous display of attacking football, taking the lead with a goal by defender, Kevin Moran. The second half was a complete turnabout as the Midlanders exacted revenge for their three defeats at the hands of United last season.



The official programme of Manchester United Football Club plc.
 Edited by Ken Ramsden
 Club statistics by Cliff Butler
 Photography supplied by Manchester United Supporters Club
 Printed by Hemmings & Capey (Leicester) Ltd.
 Voted First Division Programme of the Year 1982-83 by the Football Programme Directory



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Honours

European Champions Cup:

Winners: 1968
 Semi-Finals: 1957 1958 1966 1969

World Club Championship

Finalists: 1968

Football League Division One

Champions: 1908 1911 1952 1956
 1957 1965 1967
 Runners-up: 1947 1948 1949 1951
 1959 1964 1968 1980

Football League Division Two

Champions: 1936 1975
 Runners-up: 1897 1906 1925 1938

FA Challenge Cup

Winners: 1909 1948 1963 1977
 1983
 Finalists: 1957 1958 1976 1979
 Semi-Finals: 1926 1949 1962 1964
 1965 1966 1970

Football League (Milk) Cup

Finalists: 1983
 Semi-Finals: 1970 1971 1975

Inter Cities Fairs Cup

Semi-Finals: 1965

FA Charity Shield

Winners: 1908 1911 1952 1956
 1957 1983
 Joint Holders: 1965 1967 1977
 Finalists: 1948 1963

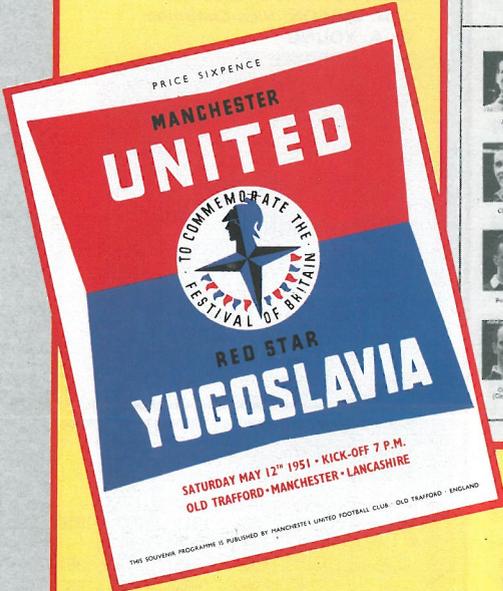
FA Youth Cup

Winners: 1953 1954 1955 1956
 1957 1964
 Finalists: 1982

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RARE REVIEWS



MANCHESTER UNITED

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

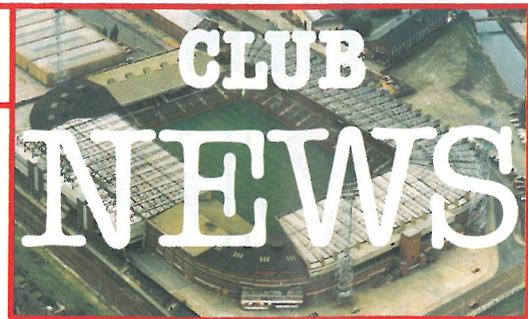
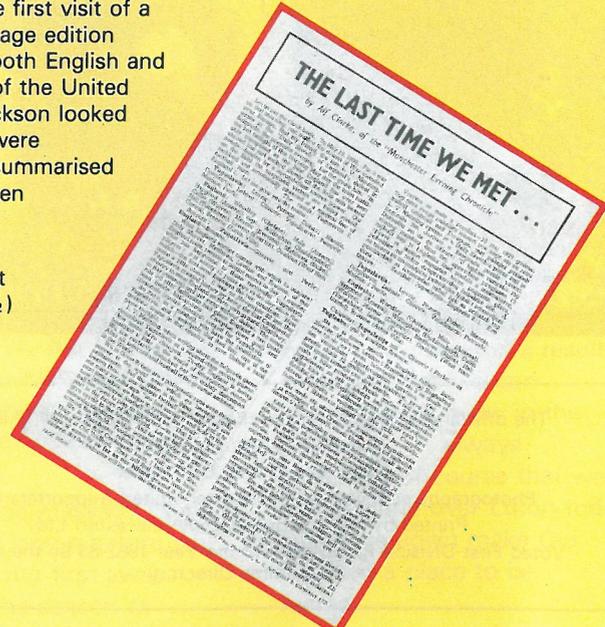
WELCOME TO RED STAR

by Tom Jackson, of the "Manchester Evening News"

Although never has been played in Yugoslavia the first time a football match was played in the city of Manchester was on the 12th of May 1951. It was a friendly match between Manchester United and Red Star Belgrade. The match was played at Old Trafford and was attended by 25,000 spectators. The match was a success and it was a pleasure to have the Red Star players in Manchester. The match was a success and it was a pleasure to have the Red Star players in Manchester. The match was a success and it was a pleasure to have the Red Star players in Manchester.

The Festival of Britain staged in 1951 was mounted to show to the world, Britain's quality of life. Then, as now, sport played an important part, and our contribution to the Festival took the form of a friendly fixture, between United and Red Star Belgrade. Although United were to pioneer English involvement in European soccer some six years later, this was in fact, the first visit of a foreign side to Old Trafford. The special eight page edition produced to mark the occasion was printed in both English and Slav throughout. Page 6 showed photographs of the United players and officials, whilst on page 7, Tom Jackson looked at the brief history of the Red Star club, (they were formed in 1945). On the back page, Alf Clarke summarised the previous fixtures at international level between England and Yugoslavia.

This souvenir issue is one of United's most collectable programmes and would fetch at least £25 today. Well worth the investment of 6d (2½) on the night! The Blackburn Rovers Programme Fair takes place at Ewood Park tomorrow from 11 am to 3 pm. Admission is free.



Photograph kindly supplied by Views Aerial Photography, Leeds 795684.

EUROPEAN SOCCER SPECIAL

United meet the crack Czech Army side, DUKLA PRAGUE, here at Old Trafford on Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm. Reserved seats priced £4.80, £4.40, £4.10 and £3.70 are available from the Ticket Office, weekdays from 9.30 am to 5 pm, and until kick-off on Wednesday. Reserved seats are offered at half price for children *only* when tickets are purchased *not later than Tuesday*. Admission to grounds £2.20 (children £1.10), paddocks £2.40 (children £1.20) and unreserved seats will be by payment at the turnstiles on the night of the match. For up-to-date ticket and turnstile information, please ring 061-872 0199.

SOUTHAMPTON

United's visit to The Dell next Saturday is, as usual, admission by TICKET ONLY. Ground tickets, priced £2.50, are available from our Ticket Office (usual hours).

LIVERPOOL

Our next First Division home match is an *ALL-TICKET* affair against Liverpool, on Saturday 24th September. Season Ticket and League Match Book Holders (seating and standing) should produce the required voucher, together with their book at the turnstile as usual. Standing tickets go on open sale from Monday onwards (9.30 am to 5 pm weekdays) or by post. All postal applications should of course include correct remittance and sae. An announcement regarding the availability of reserved seats will be made today.

WARNING

May we remind our supporters that they will *not* be admitted to the stadium solely on production of the ST or LMTB voucher. The book from which the voucher has been taken *MUST* also be shown to the gateman.

FOUND

A gold ladies watch was found at the end occupied by United fans at the Cup Final This has been forwarded to the Club Office in the hope that the owner will read this and identify the watch.

ADDITIONAL BUSES TO OLD TRAFFORD

Greater Manchester Transport have asked us to advise supporters that from the 24th September, two new services will operate from the Stockport area throughout the season as follows:

Via route 306 departing from Offerton Estate and Via route 192 departing Hazel Grove. Both services will depart at 1.45 pm for afternoon fixtures and at 6.15 pm for evening matches. Return tickets will be available and guarantee a seat for holders up to 15 minutes after the final whistle.

RESERVED SEATS

Are now available by post only, for the home match versus WEST BROMWICH ALBION on 15th October. Seats are priced £4.10 (children £2) and £3.20 (children £1.60).

WEMBLEY CELEBRATION

It wasn't just the excitement of the occasion that kept Mr M. Conroy of Middleton on his toes on Cup Final day. The baby that he and his wife were expecting started to arrive a little early and he and the friends he had made in H Stand upper, spent more time watching the scoreboard for news of the impending arrival than on the match itself. In any event, baby Helen, showing real consideration waited until dad returned home before making her grand entrance. Could she have spoken, her first words would no doubt have been 'how did we go on?'

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

JANET PILLING from Sale, celebrates her 21st birthday today. STEPHEN FALP from Leamington Spa is 8-years-old today. SEAN MURPHY is wished a very happy 8th birthday today. Keep up the good work Sean, you might make your Evertonian dad see sense one day! GARETH JONES from Leigh is 13 and best wishes come from mum and dad. RICHARD LEIGH of Timperley will be 8 on Monday.

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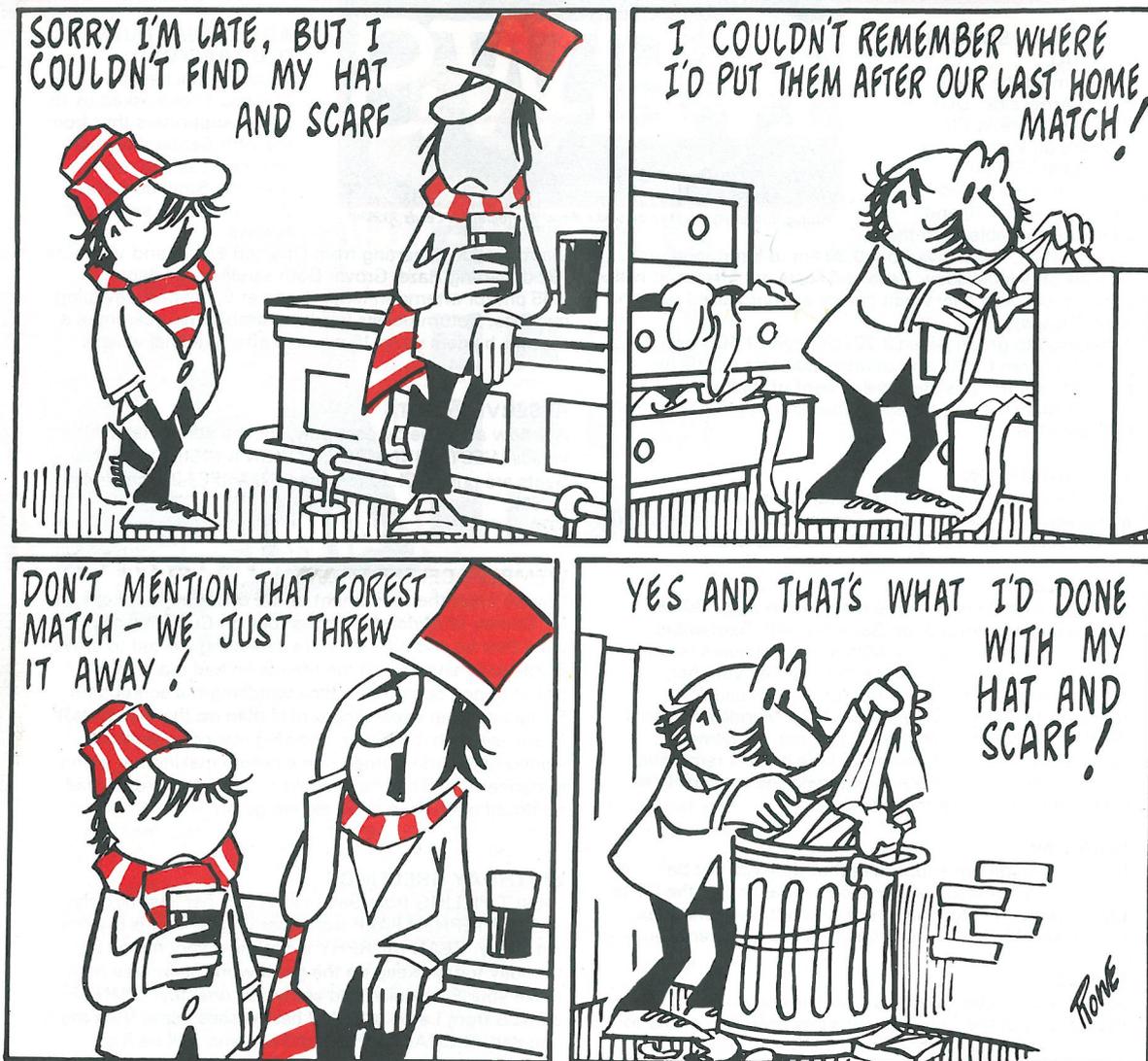
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THICK AND THIN

by David Rowe



Laugh with David Rowe

IN THE

AND

DAILY
Mirror

Sunday
Mirror

THE NORTH'S BEST SOCCER COVERAGE

DAVID MEEK'S

SOCCKER SCENE

As United face one of last season's scoring successes, Luton Town, manager Ron Atkinson will be well aware of the irony of the fixture planning that has seen the Reds come face to face with two renowned goalscorers who, if things had turned out a little differently, might have been lining up with United and not against them. Last Tuesday's game at Highbury gave Arsenal's Charlie Nicholas the chance to show Ron Atkinson what he had missed, when the Scottish youngster chose to parade his skills in London and not Manchester, while this afternoon it is the turn of Luton's Paul Walsh to show why just about every manager in the First Division wishes they had seen what David Pleat obviously saw, when he signed one of the games most exciting young players from Charlton Athletic just over 12 months ago. For, make no mistake, Ron Atkinson knows better than anyone just how short United are of firepower. He has already made it quite clear that he is looking to other departments of the team to boost the goalscoring. Fortunately Arnold Muhren has already responded positively with three goals in the opening three games; that notwithstanding, I'm sure that the manager would give an arm and a leg to strengthen the Old Trafford strike force. One shudders to think what would happen if either Stapleton or Whiteside were to be injured. Lou Macari would do a gallant job but would be the last to claim that at the age of 33 he sees himself as part of United's future. Other than Macari, the ever-ready Reserve, United have the still largely untried Scott McGarvey and young Mark Hughes. The Reds boss missed out on Alan Brazil and Charlie Nicholas; no doubt he will be keeping a close eye on developments at White Hart Lane as Steve Archibald contemplates his future.

SHARP AND CONFIDENT

Very early in the season it looked as if United's situation up front was going to be critical even without injury. Norman Whiteside made a slow start, looking tired even before the season had really opened. It's always been said that the big Irish lad needs to be worked hard to see him at his best, but maybe a different schedule is needed now. But one man who never lost faith in the player's

ability to snap out of it was Ron Atkinson, and the manager has already been justified.

At Stoke last Saturday the young Irish star moved much more confidently and sharply. Significantly he played a big part in the sustained build-up that led to Arnold Muhren scoring the winning goal. The Old Trafford manager clears away any remaining doubts when he says: 'Good players don't become bad overnight. A youngster like Norman at the age of 18 might be up and down, but no-one need have any fears about him. I would just like to remind people that some fans wanted Frank Stapleton out of the team this time last year because his goalscoring had gone off a bit; yet he went on to have a fine season. Norman will have a good season as well. Just wait and see.'

A BLIND TRIBUTE

Football has lost one of its most enthusiastic workers for the less privileged with the death of Dick Roberts. It really was a most imaginative step when Dick led a band of volunteers through the serious difficulties of setting up a scheme to broadcast football matches to patients in hospital. It naturally started with headphones for just a few beds, but now the Manchester, Salford and District Hospital Commentator's Association link up with virtually every hospital in the area. Typical of the man who was secretary since the Association was formed in 1952 he also had the vision to link up the broadcasts with a dozen sets of headphones behind the commentary box so that blind fans could follow the game more closely. The regular blind supporters at Old Trafford are particularly upset by Dick's passing and I am told they plan to donate more headphones in his memory. As Peter Dawes, the acting secretary, says: 'Dick's sense of community was acute. So many people benefitted from his work. His death marks an end of an era though I am sure he would wish it simply to be the start of just as successful an era for the Association. I am sad that he has left us.' United fans will be given the opportunity to pay their own tribute to Dick Roberts when, on the 24th September, the Association make their annual appeal outside the Old Trafford turnstiles.

REFEREE'S CORNER

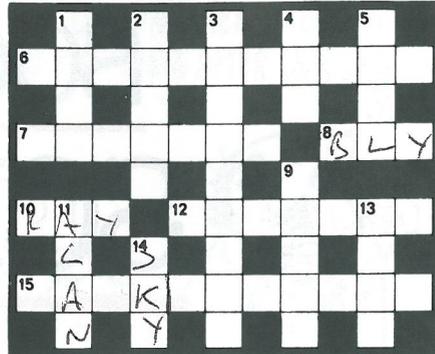


Each new season brings fresh optimism to the game and in an effort to 'keep the pot boiling', I thought that today I would take a look at some of the lighter moments of the game. Strangely enough, it seems as though it is either the referee or some passing dog who gives rise to mirth and merriment on the terraces. To avoid the wrath of dog lovers everywhere, I propose to leave our four-legged friends out of it and concentrate on the officials instead. We have all enjoyed those rare occasions when the ref has either been hit by the ball or knocked over by a passing tank masquerading as a player! Funnily enough it's always an accident — or so they say. In truth, though, we are lucky in this country, in that attacks on referees are so rare as to warrant front page coverage; long may it continue to be so. Some of the funniest incidents I can recall involve wigs, or for the more sensitive among you, hairpieces. One poor soul, a Manchester man as it happens, was refereeing a game at St James' Park (a cold place in August) when a particularly fierce gust blew off his pride and joy. All credit to the man, he just picked it up and carried on as though nothing had happened. He didn't see the funny side though when one innocent asked if he could stroke his ferret as they were leaving the pitch at half-time. Another ref, perhaps after hearing of his colleagues misfortune at Newcastle, decided to leave his wig in the dressing room, only to be met with, 'Tha's got the head on upside down lad', as he ran onto the pitch. Poor ref, he just couldn't win and that, as any referee would quickly tell you, would make a fitting epitaph on any referee's tombstone! As usual, enjoy the game. If what I've said today reminds you of a funny incident that you want to share with the rest of us, just drop me a line c/o The Editor. You won't get a prize; you will give us a laugh though.

J. T. Smith

IVAN T. SMITH, JP

Crossword



ACROSS

- In 1983 he completed a hat-trick in captaining his third successive club (Cardiff, following Sheffield Wednesday and Rotherham) to promotion from Division Three (5,6).
- One of the summer's contestants in the drastically-slimmed NASL (7).
- No-one has since approached his tally of 52 League goals in one season for Peterborough (3).
- Kennedy, the accumulator of medals (3).
- Defender who had a few games for York after a 100 for Morton and 400 for Bristol City (7).
- This midfielder won promotion to Division One with Leicester in 1980; in 1981 he stepped down to Notts County and within weeks had won . . . promotion to Division One! (4,7).

DOWN

- Manager who went from Wales to Hull (4,5).
- Half-back who made around 350 appearances for Chesterfield (had he 'broadened out', might he have played for Forest?)
- Bond, old one-armed referee (3).
- See 13 down.
- Club which drew exactly half of its League matches last season (5).
- Kennedy, the brother of Keith (4).
- 13 & 5 down. Bolton scorer in the 1953 FA Cup Final whose early injury helped swing the match Blackpool's way (4,4).
- The word which distinguishes the nicknames of Birmingham City and Coventry City (3).

Across: 1. Jimmy Mullin; 7. Seattle; 8. Bly (1960-61); 10. Ray; 12. Leeds; 11. Alan; 13 & 5 down. Eric Bell; 14. Sky (Blues).
Down: 1 & 2. Mike Smith; 3. Smallwood; 4. Alf; 5. See 13 down; 9. Sweeney; 15. Mark Goodwin.

RON CROWTHER

ACTION REPLAY

THE BANDSMEN RAN FOR THEIR LIVES!

Throughout the long and brilliant managerial career of Sir Matt Busby it was never quite sufficient for his Manchester United teams just to win. To give him the sense of satisfaction that was shared by the fans they had to win in style.

And it was with the kind of performance that became part of an Old Trafford tradition that United won the League Championship in 1952.

As older fans will recall, there were several reasons why Saturday 26th April of that year was a day of great significance. For this was the first League title triumph of the Busby regime . . . the first for United in 41 years . . . and one that followed five years of frustration in which captain Johnny Carey and his men had finished four times as runners-up.

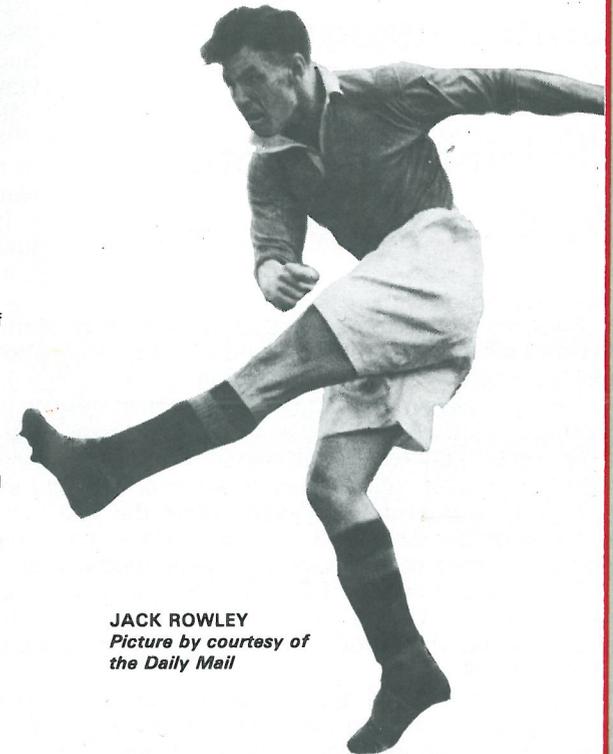
Yet, to stir up even more excitement, United stormed home to a 6-1 win against Arsenal, one of the title winning teams who had pushed them into second place in that early post-war era and who had been bidding before they visited Old Trafford in 1952 for the League and Cup double. Admittedly, the Gunners, captained by Joe Mercer, were badly hit by injuries in that crucial clash, and the mathematical possibility for them to grab the title with a 7-0 win against United was too slender to contemplate. But, as that elegant inside forward of that era, Stan Pearson, recalls: 'Sir Matt told us to go out and show everybody who were the real champions, and we did it in style.'

Stan scored two of the goals that day and the dynamic Jack Rowley went one better with a hat-trick. And for any of today's fans who are too young to have witnessed the scenes that followed there are colourful impressions still to be found in the newspapers of that time.

Don Davies, that popular Press-box figure who wrote in the *Guardian* under the nom-de-plume of 'Old International' — and who was later to lose his life at Munich — reported: 'As Manchester United's Football League champions, chased by worshippers, race from the field of play at the close of their 6-1 victory the Beswick Prize Band hastily struck up the tune which it had been holding in reserve for five seasons past — 'See the conquering hero comes'. The paean, alas, ended in a stricken wail, as by strangulation, and red-faced bandsmen could be seen struggling for their lives to get out of the crowd, holding aloft tubas and trombones, cornets and euphoniums, lest these too should be crushed flat in the press.'

After describing the wildly enthusiastic throng round the tunnel entrance Don wrote: 'As for the match itself, it was not enough that Arsenal, weakened and depressed already, as they were by ill luck and injuries, should have to take the field in the knowledge that seven goals at least, without reply, would have to be scored against one of the best club defences in existence before there was any hope of seizing the championship for themselves. They were soon labouring along a goal behind — Rowley being in the mood to brook no denial — when a further heartbreaking tragedy, a pure accident as all could see, robbed them of the services of their reserve centre-half, Shaw.'

As Don stressed, it would have been a tough enough proposition for any top strength team to take on United with all their hostile attacking power, so it was hardly surprising in the circumstances that the game became rather one-sided. Yet he added: 'There was, nevertheless, a pride of carriage and a mastery of technique about much of the football played which sustained interest to the last.' Pointing out also that 'United's positional play was as crafty as ever,' Don then paid the following glowing tribute to Rowley: 'At about 4.30 on Saturday afternoon Rowley placed the ball on the spot with the determined air of a man who is saying to

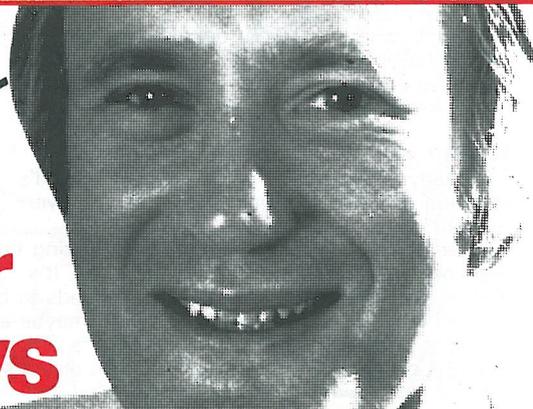


JACK ROWLEY
Picture by courtesy of
the Daily Mail

himself — 'I've missed 'em before and I'll miss 'em again, but please heaven, not today. This is my celebration.' And it was. With a terrific smash he bent George Swindin's wrists back, scoring his side's fifth and his own third goal, and thus ending the season as he had begun it — with a hat-trick. If, indeed, there was a man of the match, that man was Rowley. 'He was irresistible . . . the complete forward. He had a hand in all six goals except Pearson's second. Rowley took advantage of the first mistake made by the Arsenal backs to drive home a brilliant opener; he robbed Forbes, tricked Mercer, and rolled a sweet pass to Byrne for an easy third; he tore after a seductive lob by Carey and hooked it cleverly over Swindin's head for the fourth; he smacked home the penalty for the fifth, and then, as a gesture of friendship to a matchless team-mate, he laid the pass from which Pearson, in full stride, collected a glorious sixth. In the long history of United there has been no better servant than the 'gunner'.

Gunner Jack Rowley, as we all knew the man who was United's record breaking marksman in that era, remembers it well. He also recalls something that some of the writers failed to note. It was the day on which he took a penalty with his right foot! Jack, famous among other things for his explosive left foot, explains: 'A lot of people used to say I was one-footed. And, as we had a good lead against Arsenal, I decided I would show how hard I could hit a ball with my right one. Despite Arsenal's injury problems, nobody could afford to take anything for granted on such an important day, and, after going so near so often on the title trail, we were determined there should be no slip.'

Read
DAVID MEEK
every week in the
Manchester Evening News



A 'GRAND' GOAL BY ARNIE

United celebrate our 1,000th Division One victory by *Cliff Butler*

this day, was set.

Six games had elapsed in that initial season without success and then, on 15th October 1892, Wolverhampton Wanderers visited Manchester. They were trounced 10-1 (6-1 at half-time) and it is still recorded as our highest League victory.

The club were not relegated that season despite its rock-bottom position; victories in the test matches, that were played at the end of those early seasons, saw to that.

However, lady luck didn't shine on us the following season and after another series of test matches Newton Heath were sentenced to a long stretch in the Second Division.

So it was more than 17 years before the 100th victory was recorded. Nottingham Forest were the opponents that day — 7th January 1911 — and United, the title had by then been changed, on course for their second League Championship took the points with a 4-2 win.

The second century of Division One wins was chalked up on Easter Monday, 17th April 1922, when Sheffield United were beaten 3-2 at Old Trafford before a crowd of less than 15,000; a figure that indicates the mood of the day for the club were at the foot of the table and doomed to another stint 'downstairs'.

Mixed fortunes, as regards League status, followed before the 300th win in the top grade could be achieved on Boxing Day, 26th December 1938. Leicester City were the visitors and a 3-0 win ensured that the milestone was laid down.

That was the last completed season before the outbreak of World War Two, but within 10 years of the re-start in 1946, two further centuries had been reached.

The 400th came on 26th February 1951 with a 4-0 win at Hillsborough in a re-arranged fixture with Sheffield Wednesday and the half-way mark was recorded with, what has now become a rare occurrence, a triumph at the Hawthorns. The Reds winning 4-1 on Christmas Eve, 24th December 1955.

In the final game of the 1959-60 programme United beat Everton 5-0 here at Old Trafford to not only break the 100 mark for League goals that season but also usher in the 600th win.

Five-and-a-half years later, on 30th October 1965, a 2-1 victory over Blackpool at Bloomfield Road brought about the 7th century and a 2-0 Old Trafford success over Nottingham Forest on 13th March 1971 heralded the 800th Division One win.

Queens Park Rangers provided the opposition, here, on 8th April 1978 and were beaten by three goals to one, it was the 13th win of the season and the 900th registered in the top company.

All being well and so long as our status is retained the 1,100th should arrive sometime in the 1988-89 season, but I wonder how many of us here today will still be around when the 2,000th Football League Division One win is celebrated.

N.B. Technically the 1,000th was against Queens Park Rangers on the opening day of this season, because United won one of the three fixtures completed at the start of the 1939-40 season, but war then broke out in Europe and the League programme was cancelled. The results were declared void and to all intents and purposes struck from the record.

PART TWO: Will be included in next Wednesday's *United Review*, taking a statistical look at the achievement.

When Arnold Muhren scored the only goal of the game at Stoke last Saturday he not only gave us our second win of the season and first away success, but also set the seal on the club's 1,000th Division One victory.

The Old Trafford crowd was made aware that the milestone was imminent before and during the game with Nottingham Forest, but second-half events ruled that this latest landmark in the history of Manchester United would have to wait a further six days.

United are now competing in their 59th season in the top grade, but with frequent visits to the Second Division, in earlier days, dotted along the way, it has taken almost 91 years to bring up this notable milestone.

In 1892 the League decided to allow more clubs to enrol and United, then Newton Heath, were elected to join the expanding Division One.

It wasn't a successful venture for the club finished bottom with only six victories, but even during that miserable term a record, that stands to

COMPARE UNITED'S OUTSTANDING TALENT TO SHARP'S AND WIN A SUPERB CASSETTE PORTABLE

All you have to do to win this super prize is nominate your United player of the match for this afternoon's game and then study the five product attributes listed below and choose the one that you think can best be applied to that players performance.

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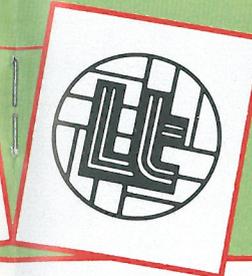
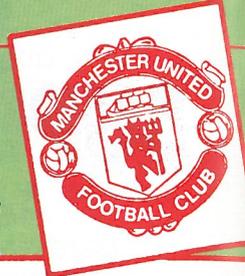
Manchester United's 'Men of the Match' Competition, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 0RA.

TODAY'S TEAMS

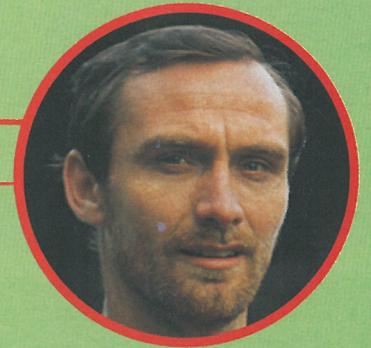
UNITED v LUTON



Red Shirts, White Shorts



Orange Shirts, Blue Shorts



2 (0)

(0) 0

Kept his initial League 'blank sheet' of the season last Saturday at Stoke — his first since Luton visited here last May.

Made his first League appearance of the season, last Saturday, when he returned to the side in place of the injured Mike Duxbury.

Missed the home League match with Luton Town last season — one of four League games he didn't appear in.

Started the campaign in really sparkling form — general opinion had it that he was United's Man of the Match in the opening couple of fixtures.

Opened his League goalscoring account for the season when he scored United's only goal against Nottingham Forest, almost a fortnight ago.

Still searching for his next elusive League goal — it is now almost two and a half years since his last one.

Was injured last Saturday as Arnold Muhren scored, but happily recovered to lead United to their 1,000th Division One victory.

Two goals against Queens Park Rangers on the opening day and one last week at Stoke has made him the early season leading goalscorer.

United's leading League goalscorer for the past two seasons he got off the mark for this term in the first game against QPR.

Up to and including the game at Stoke, last week, he had scored just two Division One goals this year, a tally he will certainly hope to add to before long.

Made his League debut, for United, in the game against Queens Park Rangers and is thoroughly enjoying his new lease of life at Old Trafford.

Gary Bailey	1	Les Sealey
John Gidman	2	Kirk Stephens
Arthur Albiston	3	Wayne Turner
Ray Wilkins	4	Brian Horton (Captain)
Kevin Moran	5	Paul Elliott
Gordon McQueen	6	Mal Donaghy
(Captain) Bryan Robson	7	Ricky Hill
Arnold Muhren	8	Paul Walsh
Frank Stapleton	9	Brian Stein
Norman Whiteside	10	Frank Bunn
Arthur Graham	11	David Moss
MOSES	12	ANTIC

Les, a £120,000 summer signing from Coventry, developed in Coventry's junior teams and made his League debut for the Sky Blues at QPR in April 1977. For the past five seasons he was their regular First Division goalkeeper, making well over 150 League appearances for the club.

Kirk was signed from Nuneaton for a mere £5,000 in 1978 and has been a fixture at right-back for almost five years now.

A Luton discovery, Wayne made his senior bow in 1978-79. Two seasons ago he was loaned to Lincoln City but last season he earned himself a regular place in midfield for the Hatters.

Brian made his League debut for Port Vale in 1970. He moved on to Brighton for £30,000 in 1976 and helped the Sussex club gain First Division status for the first time before joining Luton for £100,000 in 1981.

Paul, who established himself in the Charlton team in 1981-82, was transferred to Luton last March for an initial fee of £95,000 with more to pay when he has completed 60 First Division appearances.

Mal, signed from Larne for £20,000 in 1978, is now a regular member of the N. Ireland team with 24 caps.

Ricky joined the Hatters as a schoolboy and has been a first team regular for six years. Last season his performances were rewarded by a call up to the England squad and he won full caps against Denmark and West Germany.

Paul, who joined Luton from Charlton for £330,000 in 1982, scored 15 times last season. A former England Youth and Under-21 cap, Paul won three full caps during this summer's tour of Australia.

Brian was blooded in Luton's first team in 1977 and led their scoring list for the first time in 1980-81 with 19 goals. The following term, when they won promotion, he led the way again with 21. He netted 15 times in only 26 appearances last season.

Frankie served his apprenticeship with Luton and made his League debut three seasons ago. Prior to this season he had made only occasional appearances in the first team.

David joined Luton from Swindon for £90,000 in 1978 and was their top scorer in his first two seasons with 13 and 24. Last season, after relinquishing the responsibility for taking penalties, he scored 10 times.

MATCH FACTS

THE LAST MEETING AT OLD TRAFFORD—Football League Division One—May 9th 1983.

Manchester United 3 (McGrath 2, Stapleton), Luton Town 0.
Manchester United: Bailey, Duxbury, Grimes, McGrath, Moran, McQueen, Robson, Muhren, Stapleton, Whiteside. *Sub:* (McGarvey), Davies.
Luton Town: Godden, Stephens, Money, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Aylott, Walsh, Parker. *Sub:* (Antic), Daniels.
Attendance: 34,213.

UNITED'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST LUTON TOWN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	10	9	0	1	33	8	19
Away	10	5	4	1	14	8	14
Total	20	14	4	2	47	16	33

● United and Luton Town have met in twelve Division One fixtures, all since the last war, and we have yet to lose.



SCOREBOARD

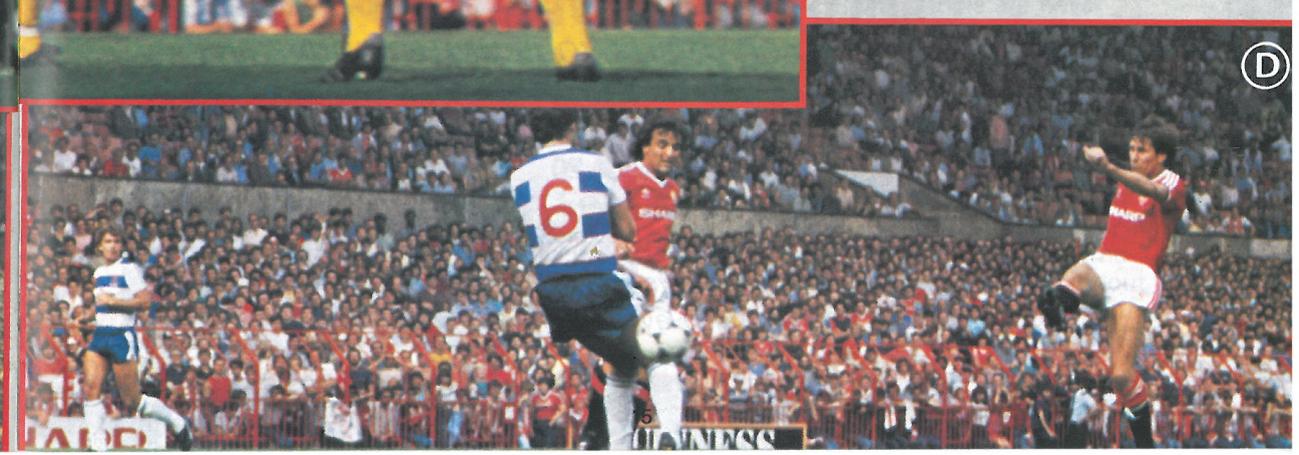
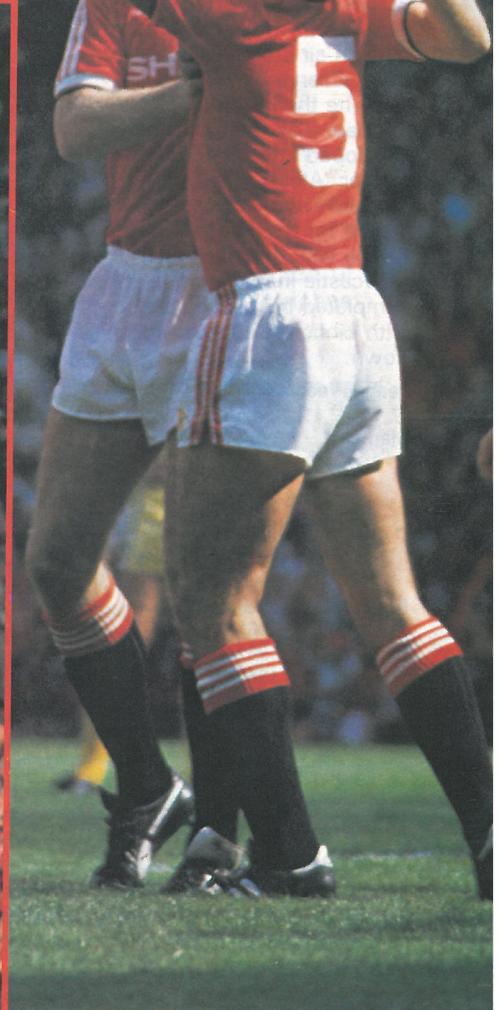
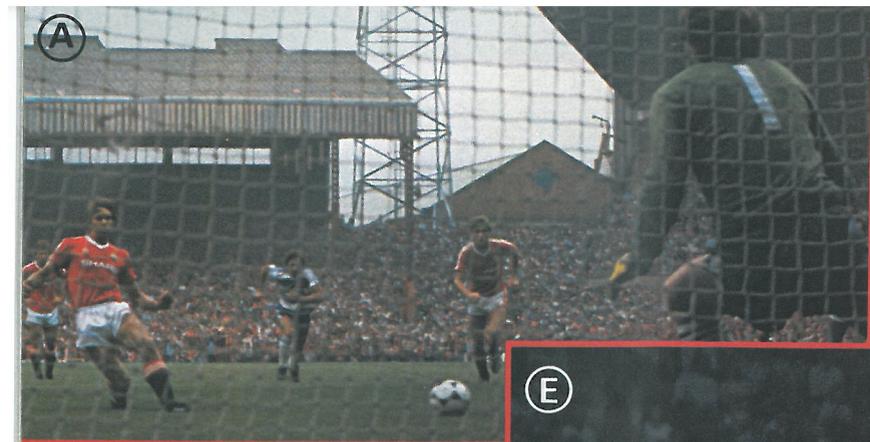
A Arsenal v Liverpool		
B Aston Villa v Norwich City		
C Everton v West Bromwich Albion		
D Ipswich Town v Stoke City		
E Leicester City v Tottenham Hotspur		
F Nott'm Forest v Queens Park Rangers		
G Sunderland v Southampton		
H Watford v Notts County		
J West Ham United v Coventry City		
K Wolverhampton v Birmingham City		

PICTURE GALLERY

Over 91,000 fans saw our opening two games in which the Reds completely dominated the opening halves, only to fade away in the second periods.

Goals by Arnold Muhren (a), Frank Stapleton (b & c) and Muhren again (d), sent First Division newcomers Queens Park Rangers home empty handed.

Our main picture shows Kevin Moran (number five) as he opens the scoring in the Bank Holiday fixture after Gordon McQueen had put the Forest goalkeeper under pressure. picture (f) sees our central defenders celebrate the success of their joint effort.



A TO Z

PART THIRTY-ONE

OF UNITED

By Tony Pullein

SCANLON, Albert. Albert was one of the survivors of the Munich air crash. More or less still a reserve player at the time, he then took his place in the new-look team and developed into an outstanding winger. Albert won five England Under-23 caps and played for the Football League XI. He was transferred to Newcastle in 1960 and later completed his playing days with Lincoln City and Mansfield Town.

League record:

	Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
Man Utd	1954-55	30	15	8	7	78	44	38	3rd
	1955-56	30	15	3	12	66	57	33	6th
	1956-57	30	17	5	8	56	34	39	2nd
	1957-58	30	16	6	8	64	35	38	4th
	1958-59	34	19	5	10	67	43	43	4th
	1959-60	34	20	4	10	63	27	44	4th
	1960-61	34	14	4	16	42	38	32	10th
	1961-62	34	11	6	17	38	53	28	15th
Newcastle	1960-61	34	15	8	11	53	38	38	5th
	1961-62	34	20	8	6	65	33	49	3rd
	1962-63	34	24	5	5	81	30	53	3rd
	1963-64	38	28	6	4	90	28	62	2nd
	1964-65	42	17	14	11	51	36	48	4th
	1965-66	42	13	14	15	52	44	40	14th
Lincoln	1961-62	42	23	11	8	57	23	57	2nd
	1962-63	42	17	8	17	71	72	42	12th
	1963-64	42	15	13	14	71	68	43	6th
	1964-65	42	14	6	22	59	85	34	20th
	1965-66	42	23	4	15	76	55	50	5th
Mansfield	1962-63	42	22	12	8	85	43	56	1st
	1963-64	42	22	9	11	82	50	53	2nd
	1964-65	42	26	9	7	66	30	61	1st
	1965-66	42	26	9	7	66	30	61	1st
		292						72	

SECOND DIVISION

United have spent a total of 22 seasons as a Second Division club, in five separate spells:

League record:

	Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
Man Utd	1954-55	30	15	8	7	78	44	38	3rd
	1955-56	30	15	3	12	66	57	33	6th
	1956-57	30	17	5	8	56	34	39	2nd
	1957-58	30	16	6	8	64	35	38	4th
	1958-59	34	19	5	10	67	43	43	4th
	1959-60	34	20	4	10	63	27	44	4th
	1960-61	34	14	4	16	42	38	32	10th
	1961-62	34	11	6	17	38	53	28	15th
Newcastle	1960-61	34	15	8	11	53	38	38	5th
	1961-62	34	20	8	6	65	33	49	3rd
	1962-63	34	24	5	5	81	30	53	3rd
	1963-64	38	28	6	4	90	28	62	2nd
	1964-65	42	17	14	11	51	36	48	4th
	1965-66	42	13	14	15	52	44	40	14th
Lincoln	1961-62	42	23	11	8	57	23	57	2nd
	1962-63	42	17	8	17	71	72	42	12th
	1963-64	42	15	13	14	71	68	43	6th
	1964-65	42	14	6	22	59	85	34	20th
	1965-66	42	23	4	15	76	55	50	5th
Mansfield	1962-63	42	22	12	8	85	43	56	1st
	1963-64	42	22	9	11	82	50	53	2nd
	1964-65	42	26	9	7	66	30	61	1st
	1965-66	42	26	9	7	66	30	61	1st
		434						31	

SETTERS, Maurice. Maurice was a hard-tackling, versatile player who gave a good performance in several positions. He began as a wing-half with his local club Exeter City but, after only ten first team outings with the Grecians, he was transferred to WBA where he built his early reputation. United signed him for £30,000 in January 1960 and he gave the club five years of excellent service. Maurice, a member of our FA Cup winning team of 1963, was an England Schoolboy and Youth international who won 16 Under-23 caps. He left us in 1965 to join Stoke City. He

later played for Coventry and Charlton and then spent a period as manager of Doncaster Rovers.

League record:

	Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
Exeter	1953-54	30	15	8	7	78	44	38	3rd
	1954-55	30	15	3	12	66	57	33	6th
	1955-56	30	17	5	8	56	34	39	2nd
	1956-57	30	16	6	8	64	35	38	4th
	1957-58	34	19	5	10	67	43	43	4th
	1958-59	34	20	4	10	63	27	44	4th
	1959-60	34	14	4	16	42	38	32	10th
	1960-61	34	11	6	17	38	53	28	15th
	1961-62	34	15	8	11	53	38	38	5th
	1962-63	34	20	8	6	65	33	49	3rd
	1963-64	34	24	5	5	81	30	53	3rd
	1964-65	38	28	6	4	90	28	62	2nd
	1965-66	42	17	14	11	51	36	48	4th
	1966-67	42	13	14	15	52	44	40	14th
	1967-68	42	23	11	8	57	23	57	2nd
	1968-69	42	17	8	17	71	72	42	12th
	1969-70	42	15	13	14	71	68	43	6th
	1970-71	42	14	6	22	59	85	34	20th
	1971-72	42	23	4	15	76	55	50	5th
	1972-73	42	22	12	8	85	43	56	1st
	1973-74	42	22	9	11	82	50	53	2nd
	1974-75	42	26	9	7	66	30	61	1st
		434						31	

FRANK STAPLETON will be featured in the next instalment of our A-Z, together with between-the-wars star **JOE SPENCE** and former goalkeeper **ALEX STEPNEY**. These, and other items, will make it yet another essential part of your club encyclopaedia. So make sure you get your copy!

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RESERVES & JUNIORS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEEDS UNITED RES 1 MANCHESTER UNITED RES 5

Manchester United Reserves found a cure for half-time ear ache by banging in five second-half goals against Leeds at Elland Road.

When their faces and ears started burning during the opening 45 minutes they did not need to guess who was talking about them. They all trooped off as though they were going to be charged with loitering *without* intent.

A dressing room blast awaited them from Ron Atkinson, and Brian Whitehouse repeated the barrage just to make sure it had sunk in.

Enough to say that in that opening spell of the first Central League match of the season no astronaut could have found more space than that presented to Leeds. Fortunately a touch from Kevin Hird laying on a goal for Aidan Butterworth was all the Yorkshiremen could slip past Jeff Wealands.

The second-half transformation was amazing. All the pre-season brilliance and build-up blossomed and bouquets were handed to everybody.

Leeds fans' growls turned to groans



everytime a Red touched the ball. They feared the worst as the best came out of Whitehouse's boys. It was rags to riches and as entertaining as can be found in any First Division match.

John Gidman soon levelled the scores with a diving header put together by Mark Dempsey and Paul McGrath.

In the 51st minute it was again heads to United when they twisted Leeds' tails.

Gidman curled a cross and Gary Worrall plonked a looping header inside the far post.

Youngster Pat Kelch, making a debut, found all those neat touches that has rocketed him into the Reserves. He had an understanding at the back with Clayton Blackmore and experienced Remi Moses was always ready to cradle the youngsters when danger threatened. Scott McGarvey joined the scoring act in a move that began in midfield by Graeme Hogg and carried on by Dempsey and McGrath as Leeds back pedalled to nowhere.

Mark Hughes kept making positions for a pot and was served well. Not known as Sparky for nothing he lit the blue paper in the last 10 minutes.

A sharp turn and an explosive left foot ground shot brought number four. Some people are never satisfied.

'We want five' shouted one solo voice forgetting all about the singular and trying to make everybody else look greedy.

His request was answered by Worrall. A lone ranger run of 30 yards was finished off properly.

Read next Wednesday's programme for the next part of the serial on the 'A' teams opening matches. Will they end up the junction against Crewe and can they out gun the Everton sharp shooters?

JOE LANCASTER

REDS ON RECORD 1983-84



Home fixtures in bold type
 * Attendance to be confirmed
 + Denotes 1 own goal
 Goalscorers in bold type
 ● Denotes 1 penalty scored
 Substituted player in brackets

1983 Opponents

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug. 20 Liverpool (Charity Shield)			92,000										
27 Queens Park Rangers			48,742										
29 Nottingham Forest			43,005										
Sept. 3 Stoke City			23,704*										
6 Arsenal													
10 Luton Town													
14 Dukla Prague (ECWC 1)													
17 Southampton													
24 Liverpool													
27 Norwich City													
Oct. 1 Norwich City													
5 Milk Cup 2 (1st leg)													
15 West Bromwich Albion													
19 ECWC 2 (1st leg)													
22 Sunderland													
26 Milk Cup 2 (2nd leg)													
29 Wolverhampton W.													
Nov. 2 ECWC 2 (2nd leg)													
5 Aston Villa													
9 Milk Cup 3													
12 Leicester City													
19 Watford													
*27 West Ham United													
Dec. 3 Everton													
10 Ipswich Town													
*16 Tottenham Hotspur													
26 Coventry City													
27 Notts County													
31 Stoke City													

1984

Jan. 2 Liverpool	A
7 FA Cup 3	A
*13 Queens Park Rangers	A
18 Milk Cup 5	A
21 Southampton	H
28 Birmingham City (FA Cup 4)	H
8 Norwich City	H
11 Milk Cup Semi-final (1st leg)	A
15 Milk Cup Semi-final (2nd leg)	A
18 Wolverhampton W. (FA Cup 5)	A
25 Stroud	A
Mar. 3 Aston Villa	H
7 ECWC 3 (1st leg)	A
10 Leicester City (FA Cup 6)	H
17 Arsenal	H
21 ECWC 3 (2nd leg)	A
24 Nottingham Forest	A
*25 Milk Cup Final	A
31 Birmingham City	H
April 11 ECWC Semi-final (1st leg)	A
14 Watford (FA Cup SF)	A
23 Notts County	A
25 ECWC Semi-final (2nd leg)	A
28 West Ham United	H
5 Everton	H
12 Ipswich Town	H
16 Tottenham Hotspur	H
16 ECWC Final	A
19 FA Cup Final	A

*Proposed live television coverage



RESERVE AND JUNIOR MATCH DETAILS 1983-84

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
August 30th v Leeds United (A) 5-1
(Worrall 2, Hughes, Gidman, McGarvey)
 Wealds, Kelch, Blackmore, Gidman, Hogg, McGrath, Dempsey, Moses, McGarvey, Hughes, Worrall.
 Substitute: Keough.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
August 31st v Crewe Alexandra Res. (H) 3-0
(Scott, Worthington, Platt)
 Pears, Rowbotham, Scott, Robinson, Ratcliffe, Murphy, Russell, Keough, Worthington, Platt, Mettrick.
 Substitutes: Mills (Worthington), McGuinness (Mettrick).

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
September 3rd v Everton 'A' (H) 1-1
(Rowbotham)
 Digby, Hill, Scott, Robinson, Ratcliffe, Keough, Rowbotham, Mills, Platt, Russell, Blackmore.
 Substitutes: Murphey (Russell), Worthington (Platt).

CENTRAL LEAGUE FIXTURES 1983-84

1983	F	A	1984
30 Leeds United	5	1	11 Nottingham Forest
September			14 Aston Villa
17 Aston Villa			25 Bolton Wanderers
20 Bolton Wanderers			28 Blackburn Rovers
28 Blackburn Rovers			February
October			11 Liverpool
4 Nottingham Forest			21 Sheffield Wednesday
15 Liverpool			28 Derby County
18 Sheffield Wed			March
26 Newcastle United			13 Newcastle United
November			21 Sheffield United
12 Derby County			24 West Bromwich A.
16 West Bromwich A.			April
26 Stoke City			4 Stoke City
30 Sunderland			10 Sunderland
December			17 Burnley
6 Burnley			23 Everton
13 Everton			TBA
20 Leeds United			Sheffield United

Fixtures subject to amendment. All home games played at Old Trafford. Saturday home games kick-off 2pm. Midweek home games 7.30pm.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE (Up to and including 3rd September 1983)

Pos	Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	West Ham United	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
2	Ipswich Town	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
3	Liverpool	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
4	Southampton	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
5	Luton Town	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
6	Notts County	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
7	Manchester United	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
8	Aston Villa	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
9	Arsenal	3	1	0	1	4	3	6
10	Coventry City	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
11	Norwich City	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
12	Everton	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
13	Queens Park Rangers	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
14	Stoke City	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
15	Nottingham Forest	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
16	West Bromwich Albion	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
17	Birmingham City	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
18	Wafford	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
19	Sunderland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
20	Tottenham Hotspur	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
21	Wolverhampton W.	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
22	Leicester City	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FIXTURES 1983-84

1983	F	A	1984
August			January
31 Crewe Reserves	3	0	21 Stockport 'A'
September			28 Barrow Reserves
3 Everton 'A'	1	1	February
16 Stockport County 'A'			4 Formby Reserves
24 Rochdale Reserves			18 Everton 'A'
October			25 Manchester City 'A'
1 Liverpool 'A'			March
8 Southport Reserves			10 Tranmere Reserves
15 Runcorn Reserves			17 Liverpool 'A'
22 Rochdale Reserves			24 Bolton 'A'
29 Tranmere Reserves			31 Burnley 'A'
November			April
5 Barrow Reserves			14 Crewe Reserves
19 Runcorn Reserves			28 Bolton 'A'
26 Southport Reserves			May
December			3 Chorley Reserves
3 Chorley Reserves			TBA
10 Formby Reserves			Manchester City Reserves
17 Burnley 'A'			
26 Umist			
31 Umist			

All home games played at The Cliff. Fixtures subject to amendment.

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE (Up to and including 3rd September 1983)

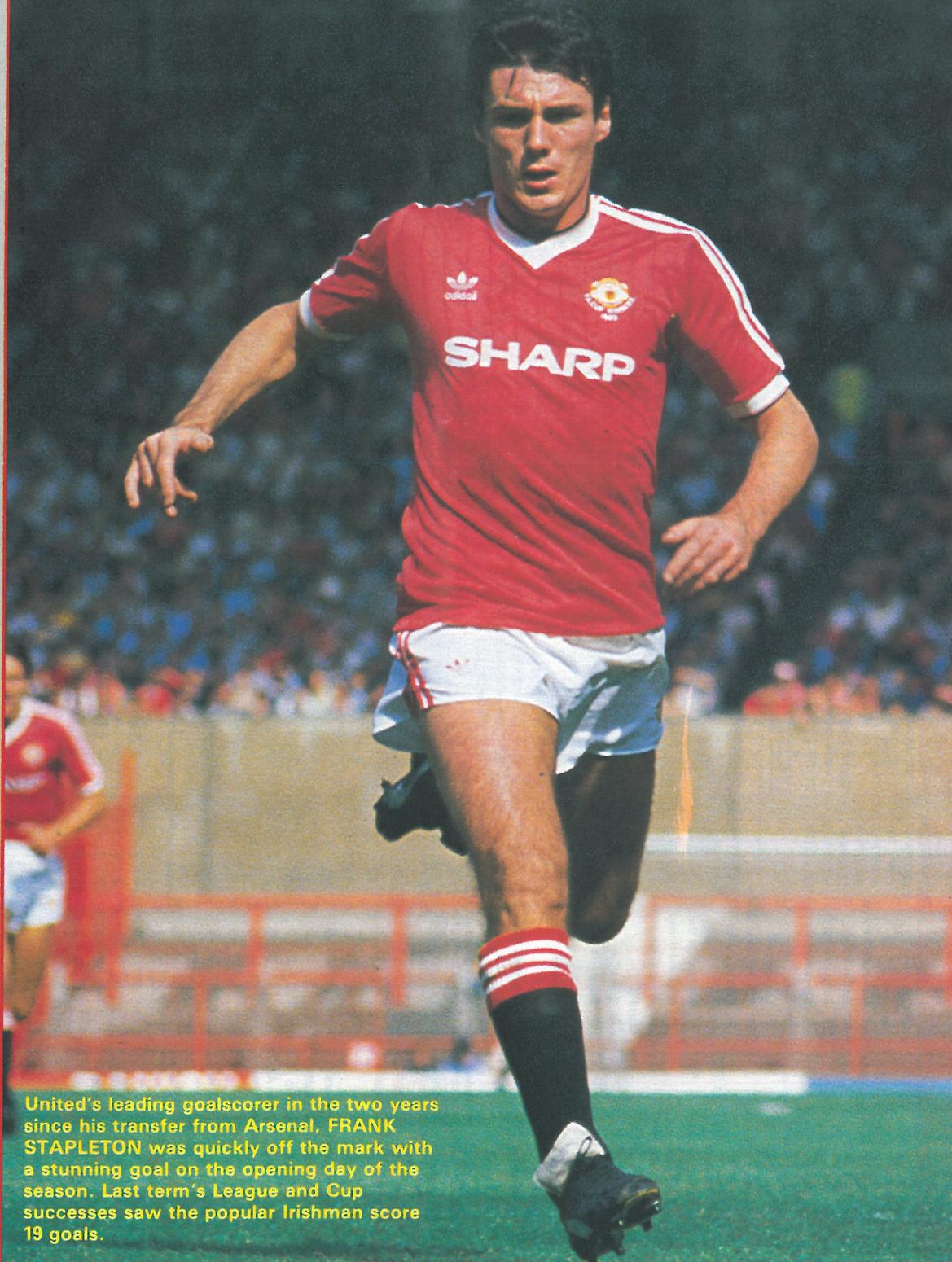
Pos	Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Bolton Wanderers	1	1	0	0	4	0	2
2	Manchester United	1	1	0	0	5	1	2
3	Blackburn Rovers	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
4	West Bromwich Albion	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
5	Everton	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
6	Aston Villa	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
7	Liverpool	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
8	Derby County	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
9	Sheffield United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
10	Stoke City	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
11	Sunderland	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
12	Sheffield Wednesday	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
13	Nottingham Forest	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
14	Newcastle United	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
15	Leeds United	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
16	Burnley	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

FORTHCOMING HOME FIXTURES

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP	CENTRAL LEAGUE
1st Round 1st Leg	Tuesday
14th September	20th September
DUKLA PRAGUE	BOLTON WANDERERS
Kick-off 7.30 pm	Kick-off 7.30 pm
A token will be issued	
DIVISION ONE	Tuesday
24th September	4th October
LIVERPOOL	NOTTINGHAM FOREST
Kick-off 3.00 pm	Kick-off 7.30 pm
Subject to Milk Cup	

For up-to-date ticket and match information Telephone: 061-872 0199 (24 hour answering service)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **STAR SHOT** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



United's leading goalscorer in the two years since his transfer from Arsenal, **FRANK STAPLETON** was quickly off the mark with a stunning goal on the opening day of the season. Last term's League and Cup successes saw the popular Irishman score 19 goals.

MUSC·MUSC·MUSC·MUSC·MUSC·

FANFARE

FIXTURES 1983-84

With the new season now in full swing, supporters should pay special attention to the Club fixtures printed on pages 18/19 of the United Review.

Amendments have been made to forthcoming games at all levels and latest available information will be up-dated each week during the course of the season.

At **First Team** level, the proposed fixture against Luton Town (away) has now reverted to its original date of **Saturday 11th February** with United's first 'live' TV appearance falling on **Sunday 27th November** away at **West Ham**.

The United v Tottenham fixture here at Old Trafford has **not yet been confirmed** as a Friday evening fixture despite it being proposed initially and confirmation of the exact date will be announced within the next fortnight.

The visit to **Queens Park Rangers** on **Friday 13th**

January still stands at the moment but it is vital that supporters continue to keep their eye on the fixture list printed in the programme each week.

At **Central League** level, the fixtures printed in the Supporters Yearbook No. 12 remain unaltered at the moment.

At **Junior** level, there have been a number of alterations and the list printed in today's programme is correct at the time of going to press.

Supporters are also reminded that all Saturday Central League fixtures to be played at Old Trafford will, again, kick-off at 2.00 p.m. and midweek games will kick-off at 7.30 p.m.

All Lancashire League home fixtures are played at The Cliff training ground with Saturday games varying in the time of kick-off; some being played in the mornings, others in the afternoon.

TOKEN SCHEME

As with last season, midweek

Reserve fixtures played at Old Trafford will only include a Token so long as the First Team are not involved in a competitive fixture (home or away) the same midweek.

Last week for example, the First Team travelled to Arsenal on Tuesday and the Reserves were due to play at Old Trafford on Wednesday (until Sheffield United's players suffered the after-effects of inoculations for a trip abroad) a new date will be announced as soon as possible. No token would have been issued for this Central League match.

FRIENDLY AT HARROW

This coming Tuesday (13th September) Harrow Borough of the Isthmian League play a Manchester United XI at Earlsmead, Cariyon Avenue, South Harrow, kick-off is at 7.30 p.m. and admission is by payment at the turnstiles.

SUPPORTERS CLUB TRAVEL

Saturday 17th September
SOUTHAMPTON
Coach: £9.50 Match: £2.50
Depart: 8.30 a.m.



MEMBERSHIP 1983-84

Membership of the Supporters Club is still available and official application can be obtained from the Supporters Club Office at Old Trafford, which is open Monday 1.30 p.m. until 5.00 p.m.; Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. (closed 1.00-1.30 lunch) and Friday 10.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.

The Office is also open on matchdays before and after all first team home games. Saturday 12 noon until 2.45 p.m./ 4.45 p.m. until 5.00 p.m.; Midweek 5.00 p.m. until 7.15 p.m./9.15 p.m. until 9.30 p.m.

Supporters Club application forms can also be obtained by post and all enquiries must include s.a.e.

HOLIDAY '84

£1

VOUCHER

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TODAY'S VISITORS

LUTON TOWN

Luton's miraculous last ditch escape from relegation last season has done nothing to change manager David Pleat's ideals. 'We are at our best when playing attractive, attacking football,' he says. 'And that's the way we shall try and play this season.'

The Hatters, who returned to Division One after a seven-year absence last season, seemed doomed to immediate relegation when they went into their final game at Manchester City. But a goal from substitute Raddy Antic, with just five minutes to play, saved them and sent City down.

'It was nearly too late when I realised where we had gone wrong,' admitted Mr Pleat. 'At the start of last season we played our natural game and scored 25 goals in our first 10 League games. Later we tried to tighten up at the back but this led to a loss of power up front and we found ourselves sinking into the relegation area.'

'This season we shall try and revert to our old style.'

So, with striker Brian Stein now fully recovered from the injury that kept him out of serious action from last December, Luton will be in a goal-hungry mood this afternoon.

Mr Pleat was so confident in his squad's ability to thrive in the First Division that he made only one close-season signing — goalkeeper Les Sealey from Coventry.

Sealey, a £120,000 investment, has taken over from Jake Findlay who missed the latter part of last season through injury.

Luton's main strength is in attack and midfield. At the height of last season's early success, the Hatters fielded a front line of Brian Stein, Paul Walsh and David Moss. When Stein dropped out in December, the attack lost much of its bite and, shortly before the transfer deadline, Mr Pleat signed Trevor Aylott from Millwall for £55,000 as a replacement.

In spite of the fact that he missed half of the campaign, Stein was still joint-top scorer with 15 goals. A glut of goals in pre-season friendlies has restored all his old confidence and he will certainly



Back row (left to right): Rob Johnson, Wayne Turner, Ray Daniel, Tim Breacker, Andy Beasley, Stacey North, Mitchell Thomas, Gary Parker, Mark Watts.

Middle row: John Moore, Richard Money, Clive Goodyear, Les Sealey, Paul Elliott, Mike Saxby, Jake Findlay, Trevor Aylott, Frank Bunn, Trevor Hartley.

Front row: David Coates, Kirk Stephens, Ricky Hill, Mal Donaghy, David Moss, David Pleat, Brian Horton, Raddy Antic, Brian Stein, Paul Walsh, John Sheridan.

Picture: Gareth Owen

have no inhibitions when he steps out onto the Old Trafford turf.

'When we won promotion I was a bit worried about how I would adapt to First Division football,' Brian confessed. 'But we came from behind to draw our first game at Tottenham. I scored our second goal, then got two more at Liverpool and a hat-trick against Brighton. None of us fear anyone now.'

There was much relief in the Luton camp when Brian Horton agreed to sign another contract this summer. Brian, who had originally sought a fresh challenge, has now resumed his partnership with Ricky Hill.

The third midfield man for much of last season was Wayne Turner but, when left-back Richard Money was sold to Portsmouth a few days before the opening of this new season, the versatile Turner reverted to the number three position. Frankie Bunn opened the new campaign on the left side of the midfield, had an impressive game against Arsenal at Highbury and scored in the Hatters' 3-0 win at Leicester.

Another contender for a place in midfield is the Yugoslav international Raddy Antic.

Luton's defence will probably comprise of Kirk Stephens, Paul Elliott, Mal Donaghy and Wayne Turner.

Another possibility for a place in the middle of the defence is Clive Goodyear who had been holding the first team spot for two years until Paul Elliott was signed.

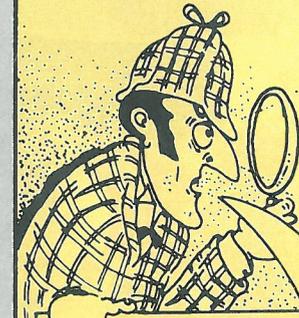
Luton lived up to their promise to play positive football when they opened the season at Highbury. Without being irresponsible, the Hatters pushed forward at every opportunity with David Moss, on the left, showing that he can take on an opponent, beat him and get in his cross.

Centre-forward Paul Walsh upstaged the illustrious Charlie Nicholas for much of that game, until he was injured. Here's a player with great balance who can wrong-foot a defender, change direction rapidly and get in a shot from most angles.

The partnership with Brian Stein, backed up by the ever-probing Ricky Hill, promises once again to be among the goals.

Luton's first two games were both away from home. They lost 1-2 at Arsenal, then won 3-0 at Leicester.

By **TONY PULLEIN**



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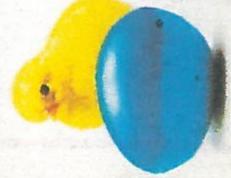
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