



HAMMER



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Canon League Division One
LUTON TOWN
Saturday 24th August 1985
Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.
Official Programme



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Football League Cup:
Runners-up 1965-6, 1980-81
Semi-finalists 1963-4, 1966-7, 1971-2
Football League (Div. II):
Winners 1967-8 1980-81
Runners-up 1922-3
F.A. Charity Shield:
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Runners-up 1975, 1980
Football Association Youth Cup:
Winners 1962-3 1980-81
Runners-up 1956-7, 1958-9, 1974-5
Semi-Finalists 1952-3
Address: Boleyn Ground - Green Street
- Upton Park - London E13

Matchday Programme
Editor: Colin Benson
Pictures: Steve Bacon
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Essex.

NOTHING REALLY NEW

"ITV 10.30 pm, HOOLIGAN. Documentary on a group of West Ham United supporters who are known and feared around the country. It looks at their activities, questions their motives and attitudes and gives the views of sociologists on football hooliganism."

That is a verbatim extract from last Tuesday's TV programmes published in a national newspaper. It was sufficient to attract interest from a percentage of viewers, and probably many of those here this afternoon were among them.

However, we must firstly re-emphasise that those featured in the documentary have no official connection with West Ham United FC. They were not using the Travel Club facilities last season and do not hold any membership cards associating them with our Club.

Nevertheless, whilst the documentary was being prepared we were requested by the Football Trust to co-operate in its making. We agreed to assist that organisation as far as possible, but did not accede to the request for their personnel to follow our Travel Club on its official train or for their cameras to be placed in our ground.

The scenes inside Upton Park were not taken from inside our ground and the street scenes were specially filmed by camera crews over whom we as a Club had no control.

Having established that basis, we can now consider what actually appeared on the screen last Tuesday night.

Much of the footage did not feature "West Ham United supporters". Among the "hooligans" shown were shots which we have already seen many times, such as last season's incidents in Brussels, Luton, etc. To these were added additional related material from Russia, China, South America plus items from Victorian days, the 1923 FA Cup Final and subsequent years. As such it covered a far wider spectrum than "a West Ham United group".

Then, in addition to interviews with individuals there were various opinions expressed by sociologists from the Universities of Bradford and Leicester. It was all very much "run of the mill" stuff, and comment from an official football angle was more-or-less limited to Mr Bert Millichip's statement that football cannot solve all the "hooligan problem" on its own — as we have so often said in the past.

"Tribalism" formed much of the overall theme of the sociologists, and this was underlined by the comment of one "traveller" who said that north of Watford it's a different life; there was a difference of attitude, etc among those who go to football matches to seek a fight in preference to watching the game (although you still hope "your" team will win). This view was confirmed with further remarks that the violence seekers will still fight and find places to do so whatever restrictions may be imposed.

So the aggressors and the sociologists had an opportunity to put their viewpoint to a nation-wide audience through TV. Apart from saying that punitive measures do not work, the sociologists offered no real solution to the hopes of football administrators and most of the regular fans that the "violence ratio" could be reduced.

The overall view seemed to be that we all choose our own way of life. In a democratic community that must be accepted, and we would not wish it otherwise; but when violence affects the livelihood and enjoyment of much of the community surely a discriminatory line must be drawn at one point . . . and one might reasonably have expected that in a one-hour programme (less advertising insertions) we would have heard some views on that.

In conclusion, we must advise that we as a Club have officially written to the Football Trust on the subject in general.

Incidentally, those who watched the match here last Tuesday probably enjoyed it much more than the TV programme!

TICKET INFORMATION

Canon League Division One
v LIVERPOOL

Saturday 31 August
Kick off 3 p.m.

v LEICESTER CITY

Saturday 14 September
Kick off 3 p.m.

Advance seat tickets for the above matches are on sale at the Ticket Office Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and also on First Team Saturdays, OR via our Dial-a-Seat service (01) 472 3322 quoting Access or Visa.

Postal applications are also accepted.

Seat Prices: £4.50, £6.00, £6.50 and £7.50.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Match and Ticket Information:
01-470 1325
Dial-a-Seat 01-472 3322
General Enquiries ... 01-472 2740
Commercial Office 01-472 5756
Pool Office 01-472 7352
Hammers Shop 01-472 4214

GODDARD PUT OUT OF JOINT

You could almost feel the pain as Birmingham City's six-foot-two centre-back Ken Armstrong crashed into the unfortunate Paul Goddard in the 31st minute of the opening game of the season and flattened him.

Paul eventually had to leave the field after trying to play on but physiotherapist Rob Jenkins confirmed that it was not the beefy challenge which curtailed Paul's progress. "He was taken from the right but fell badly on his left shoulder and put one of the joints out," he explained.

Our England striker missed Tuesday's home game against Queens Park Rangers and is doubtful for this afternoon's fixture against Luton Town.

ANGELS

LEAGUE soccer dipped its big toe into the pool of uncertainty last Saturday, as one of the most crucial seasons in the game's history got under way, and took a definite step forward in the battle to regain a disenchanted public's support.

The aggregate attendance was the lowest for the start of the season since the war, but following the nightmares of last May when hooliganism almost wrecked our domestic game the first Saturday of the season was completed without a single disturbance to cause concern.

Nowhere was there more anxiety than in the Boardroom of Birmingham City Football Club, the scene of a fatal riot at the close of last season. But in the warm summer sunshine all was peace and quiet on the terraces and outside the ground as the 1985-86 season kicked off with the morning fixture between Birmingham City and the Hammers.

Afterwards Mr Jack Wiseman, Birmingham's vice-chairman smiled: "There must have been at least 1,000 West Ham supporters here and not a hint of trouble."

That's the way we hope it will be for the rest of the season.

SUPER KIDS

Fifteen year old midfielder Paul Kelly, who is an Associated Schoolboy with us, turned the tables on Yugoslavia when he came on for England at half-time during the recent under-16 international at Wembley. The Slavs were 2-0 ahead at the interval but Paul inspired a brilliant recovery as he took control in the middle and the English boys ran out winners by 3-2. Another young Hammer on duty was winger Adam King.

FRONT COVER — Alan Devonshire makes his return to First Division football at Birmingham last week. His first League game since January 1984.



Paul Goddard clutches his shoulder after coming off at St. Andrews.

FAMILY SEATING AREA

We have a number of season tickets available for this area priced as follows:-

Adults £110
Children (Under 16) £55

Applications can be made in person at the Ticket Office between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. or by post.

Telephone enquiries to Richard Livett on (01) 472 2740.

NEXT AT UPTON PARK
SATURDAY 31st AUGUST
CANON LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

LIVERPOOL

KICK OFF 3.00 p.m.

GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE AT UPTON PARK BUY A SEASON TICKET

- ★ No queuing
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- ★ Priority for Cup Matches
- ★ Free admission to all Combination Fixtures

We have a number of seating and terrace season tickets available priced as follows:-

West Stand Upper Tier: £126, £116
West Stand Lower Tier: £126, £116
East Stand Category One: £126
East Stand Category Two (South Wing): £116
East Terrace: £70

Applications can be made in person at the Ticket Office between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday or by post.

Telephone enquiries: (01) 472 2740.

LIKE TO LEND A HAND?

If you are a regular supporter and feel you would really like to be part of the club we have the answer. Become a steward.

We have a few vacancies for Stewards to officiate at our first team matches. It is an important and essential job and one which makes you part of the West Ham United tradition.

Amongst the obvious perks is free admission to the games. If you are interested then write to Mr. E. Chapman, Chief Executive, West Ham United F.C., Green Street, Upton Park, London E13 9AZ.

HAMMERS HANDBOOK

It's on sale here today, the 1985-86 West Ham United Handbook. Packed full of facts and figures, details of all the current stars, historical facts and statistics. The perfect companion for every West Ham United fan.

Fully illustrated with a centrespread featuring a full colour picture of the squad in their new strip it has to be one of the best bargains of the year.

Make sure you buy one today . . . Price just £1.

THE 1985-6 SEASON

A statement by Mr. Leonard Cearn, Chairman, West Ham United FC

During the past few months English football has sustained its worst set-backs for nearly 50 years. Not since the early days of World War II has our national game had to face a situation which in any way resembles the overall problems which have crowded in upon Clubs, League and Association administrators during 1985.

The tragedies of Birmingham and Brussels were the culmination of a background which has built-up through the years. The unruly element which leached itself upon soccer is not confined to the terraces; there has also been hooliganism in the stands and the overall ugliness has spilled onto the streets of our cities and towns.

However, football does not — and cannot — accept all the blame. Our Club match-programme has for the past 10 years — and more — maintained that this unruly conduct is a national disgrace not limited to part of our sporting life. We have seen outbreaks of it elsewhere, and the Government may well have to extend its proposed limitations on football to other areas.

Indeed, it was significant that Mr. Norman Tebbit considered that civil violence was becoming Britain's biggest social and political problem. It is the darker side of life, which among other things mars our social and sporting recreation.

The suggested policy of "fence 'em in" has never met with the approval of the West Ham United Football Club. We have consistently adopted a slogan: "Keep the fences away from Upton Park". There are still three major grounds in London without perimeter fences: ours is one, Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers are the others. We want to keep it that way, and are certain that our terrace fans would also wish to watch a match without a restricted view.

Unfortunately, there is a minority which does not wish to accept the wishes of the majority. That minority also includes those who use foul and abusive language during matches. We have constantly told them that even if they are accustomed to behave in that fashion in their own places of residence we do not wish them to bring such conduct into our home.

We would not regret their absence; indeed, if they stayed away we would probably find that many who used to come to the Boleyn Ground would return to give active support to the Hammers.

In an attempt to root out the minority who may cause problems, we are installing a closed-circuit television system which will scan the entire spectator accommodation; we hope it will prove a deterrent to those

who have failed to meet acceptable standards of behaviour in the past.

Following Government legislation no alcoholic drinks will be served in any part of the Boleyn Ground for our first three League games here this season. The situation may be reviewed after we have applied for a new licence early in September.

It has also been formulated that we shall not organise away travel for supporters through our official Travel Club (now disbanded) for the opening three away fixtures; neither shall we be selling tickets for any reserved accommodation which will be available at those matches and we would advise our supporters not to attempt to travel to those matches. These restrictions may be irksome to those many well-behaved supporters who have followed us over the past years; we feel sure that they will understand that our motives are intended to benefit them in the long run and that they will accept the situation until a balance is restored.

Traditionally we have always been a "family club". We now have a "family section" in our Stand where we hope that parents and offspring can sit and enjoy a game, and that it will not be spoiled by unwelcome "noises off". Those of us who recall the *good natured* cheering and rivalry of 20 years ago are saddened to hear the one-track-mind outlook of a few who apparently believe they have "something to prove".

As Chairman of a Club with a tradition for much of what is best in football, I appeal to all who come to Upton Park to set a good example to all our contemporaries.

Keep the fences away, cut out the abuse and foul language, encourage both teams, and football could quickly regain what it has sadly lost. We've had some great times here — may they soon return.

It won't be easy; we must always accept that if there are winners there must also be losers; but the Hammers have had past successes that put our name among the statistical records, and there may well be more to come.

So please, help to make 1985-86 an enjoyable and good-natured season. Help us to keep our traditional reputation . . . and give us back the entertaining game which we have enjoyed at Upton Park for so many years.

In the aftermath of the Bradford disaster we have also carried out additional work on the ground to meet the requirements of the Safety of Sports Ground Act and so have made Upton Park a safer ground.

The Skipper's View



I thought the two new lads, Mark Ward and Frank McAvennie, were great in our opening game at Birmingham last week. We all played well and the Blues were fortunate not to be 3-0 down at one stage but they tucked the one chance they had all day away, and ran out the winners 1-0.

That caused us to choke on our lemonade after the game but there was a lot to encourage us from our overall play.

Frank McAvennie is always willing to run, he will run anywhere even after lost causes and little Ward hits some great shots and gets stuck in. Dev was full of running, up and down the field, but probably did a little bit deeper than we want him to. He is so unselfish he helps out on the edge of our box half the time. If we can push him up and get him to do it on the edge of the opposition's box then he is going to cause some problems.

In goal Phil Parkes was as solid as ever making his saves look easier than they were. He had no chance with the one which did beat him. But in a nutshell Birmingham had three shots — two of them long range — and scored and we did not capitalise on the many chances we carved out.

Still there is always something to work on if you are creating chances and so we are not despondent. Eventually of course you have to start taking those opportunities and I'm sure we will.

But overall I was very pleased with the performance. I think we have a team here which is capable of playing some really entertaining football. And this is an aspect of our game we are very conscious of at Upton Park. The past two years have been very disappointing in that respect and we want to put it right. We have earned a reputation as a side which plays good constructive football, even in defeat, and this year we feel it is more important than ever that we produce inventive football.

Not because this is a crisis season, it's not a crisis season. But it is a season which we know we have got to pick up in following the lull of the past two years. It is crucial that we entertain our public because they expect it and deserve it. Those are the standards we have set at West Ham.

Our fans have stood by us through these difficult times and now hopefully we will be luckier with injuries this season and get down to providing the best in football entertainment.

POSTBAG

Your letters to us



SUPER HAMMERS

Cambridge City Football Club have just opened this season in the Southern League in a new stadium, built on the site of the original ground. Changes of this nature always bring out some nostalgic memories and we can recall a winters evening, 25th February 1959, when West Ham United came to provide the opposition at the inauguration of the new floodlights.

At the time they were reputed to be the best outside of League football, and after Sir Stanley Rous had officially switched them on, the game got under way.

After having the courtesy to allow Cambridge to score first the Hammers then proceeded to treat the 11,000 spectators to a display of football which the Cambridge Chairman described as; "surpassing anything that has ever been seen on the City ground."

Goals from John Dick (3), Vic Keeble and Tony Scott secured a 5-2 victory for the Hammers. Your team that night was: Gregory; Bond, Cantwell, Malcolm, Brown, Moore, Grice, Smillie, Keeble, Dick, Musgrove. Scott substituted for Musgrove.

Paul Martin,
Cambridge



1



2

THE SUN SHINES ON SOCCER'S OPENING DAY

There was a hint of summer in the air at St Andrews where West Ham kicked off the new season against Birmingham City. The Hammers were well in control in the early stages and here TONY COTTEE launches an attack (pic 1). In the 47th minute ALAN DICKENS showed tremendous skill to hold off the challenge of Bremner (on the ground) but as he drew the goalkeeper the young Hammer fired his shot against the foot of a post (pic 2). New boy MARK WARD showed his paces and is seen here bursting past a City defender (pic 3) . . . But this morning's game was strictly a case of the Blues, City winning by 1-0.

Pictures by STEVE BACON
"Newham Recorder"



British Telecom's

HAMMERLINE



PHONE THE HAMMERLINE anytime during this weekend or on Monday and spot the two players on the other end of the line . . . Ring again on Tuesday and Wednesday and see if you can recognise two more players voices. When you have identified all the players write their names on a postcard and send your entry to our Pools Office — to reach us by mid-day on Friday next . . . The first correct card picked out of the sack will receive TWO VIP Tickets for the WEST HAM UNITED v LIVERPOOL game . . . Second prize is a Hammer PHONE. Winners will be announced on the HAMMERLINE on Friday August 30th.

Remember the Number. 01-475 0555
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Welcome back to the Canon League.



This is the third season of the Canon League — Canon's sponsorship of the Football League Championship.

Canon's outstanding success in the high technology industries of cameras and business equipment has enabled them to support our national game with over £3 million.

The sponsorship money is shared between all 92 League clubs and is used to help keep admission prices down, encourage exciting attacking football with goalscoring awards and to provide recognition and financial support to those clubs who do most to promote family attendances at Canon League matches.

In the 1984/85 Canon League season, the beautiful trophies pictured above — specially created by Garrard, the Crown Jewellers — were won by Everton, Oxford United, Bradford City and Chesterfield. This season, all 92 clubs will again compete for these most prestigious trophies in the toughest football competition in the world — the Canon League.



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HAMMERS HISTORY



HAMMERS and HATTERS

Luton Town are one of many clubs with whom the Hammers have had a lengthy association. Our first competitive meeting was in the Southern League in the 1900-01 season; it took place on their ground, and we lost by 0-2. However, the score was reversed when they visited Upton Park for the return game, Frank Taylor (our youngest player) and Frank Corbett netting a goal apiece.

Our clubs continued in membership of the Southern League until the end of the 1914-15 season, although during that 15 years there was a break in our meetings for the two seasons when the Bedfordshire side went into Division II of the tournament.

However, it will come as a surprise to many with a knowledge of soccer history to realise that Luton Town were actually members of the Football League before the turn of the century. They took the place of Bolton Wanderers in 1897, but departed in 1900 when Blackpool were elected in their place.

The Hatters missed the early part of the 1915-16 season, but came in to the supplementary competition of the London Combination in February 1916. They missed the next couple of seasons, had one season back in the Southern League (1919-20) and then regained Football League status in the newly-formed Division III in 1920.

It was not until 1936 that we again came into senior competitive opposition. A Third Round FA Cup tie at Upton Park drew an attendance of 42,000; our team was challenging for promotion from the Second Division and the visitors had remained unbeaten for three months in the Third Division (South) and two cup ties. The line-ups as per programme were:

West Ham United: Conway, Chalkley, Walker (A.), Fenton (E.), Barrett, Cockcroft, Simpson, Marshall, Mangnall, Goulden, Ruffell.

Luton Town: Coen, Mackey, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Despite Luton's fine run the Hammers were favourites to win; but goals by Dave Mangnall and Jim Ruffell could only earn us a draw.

The replay on the following Wednesday afternoon at Kenilworth Road was seen by another 17,527 fans. Our unchanged XI failed to cope with a rampant home team, and were thrashed by four clear goals.

Two seasons later we met for the first time in the Football League, Luton having gained promotion to Division II.

In 40 League games each club has scored 48 goals, although we have recorded 14 wins to Town's 13, with the other 13 drawn.

Among those games, two reflect how quickly fortunes can change. On Christmas Day 1951 this Hammers' XI had a comfortable 3-0 win at Upton Park: Gregory (E.), Wright, Forde, Parker, Walker (R.), O'Farrell, Woodgate, Gregory (J.), Hawkins, Gazzard, Andrews. John Gregory, Gerry Gazzard and Bert Hawkins were our scorers, and our supporters among the 20,000 gate went home to a happy Christmas dinner.

Perhaps our team also dined too well! Suffice it to say that the same line-up went up to Luton for the return fixture next day (on Boxing Day afternoon) and sustained what is our heaviest ever defeat by this afternoon's rivals. Ernie Gregory picked the ball out of our net six times; his namesake John netted his second of the holiday, but that was all we could muster. However, at least most of the 19,654 fans again went home happy for a cold-turkey supper!

Our best League victory over Luton also took place on their ground. That was by 4-1 during the 1978-79 season in Division II. The line-ups were:

Luton Town: Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, West, Turner, Price, Silkman, Carr, Taylor, Hatton, Hill. Sub: Donaghy.

West Ham United: Parkes, McDowell, Brush, Curbishley, Martin, Bonds (capt.), Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Brooking, Robson (B.). Sub: Jennings.

The 14,205 fans included a large proportion of Hammers' supporters, the gate being 8,000 higher than at the Luton ground on the previous Saturday. The homers hit the bar during the first half, but that was the nearest to a goal in the opening 45 minutes.

We scored twice in the opening quarter-hour after the interval, Alan Devonshire volleying in from the edge of the penalty-box and Dave Cross making it 2-0, with 20 minutes left on the clock the Town side reduced the margin; but Cross then added another — his fifth in five games — and Pop Robson maintained his good run of a goal a game for six successive matches.

Our most recent meeting — at Upton Park last April was a goalless draw. We feel sure that this afternoon's clash will be more interesting than that one!

OUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(Hammers' scores first)

SOUTHERN LEAGUE (Div. I)

	H	A
1900-01	2-0	0-2
1901-02	4-1	3-0
1902-03	4-1	0-4
1903-04	0-0	0-1
1904-05	6-2	2-0
1905-06	1-2	1-1
1906-07	5-1	1-1
1907-08	1-0	3-0
1908-09	4-0	0-1
1909-10	1-2	2-4
1910-11	2-0	1-1
1911-12	3-0	1-2
1914-15	3-0	2-1

FOOTBALL LEAGUE SOUTH

1945-46	3-4	4-1
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FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Div. II)

1937-38	0-0	2-2
1938-39	0-1	2-1
1946-47	2-1	1-2
1947-48	0-0	0-0
1948-49	0-1	1-0
1949-50	0-0	2-2
1950-51	2-1	1-1
1951-52	3-0	1-6
1952-53	0-1	0-0
1953-54	1-0	1-3
1954-55	2-1	0-2
1978-79	1-0	4-1
1979-80	1-2	1-1
1980-81	1-2	2-3

DIV. I

1958-59	0-0	1-4
1959-60	3-1	1-3
1974-75	2-0	0-0
1982-83	2-3	2-0
1983-84	3-1	1-0
1984-85	0-0	2-2

FA CUP

1935-36	2-2	0-4
(3rd rd.)		
1948-49	—	1-3
(3rd rd.)		
1971-72	2-1	—
(3rd rd.)		

SUMMARY

		W	D	L	F	A
Southern League	(H)	10	1	2	36	9
Southern League	(A)	4	3	6	16	18
Football League	(H)	9	5	6	23	15
Football League	(A)	5	8	7	25	33
Football League South	(H)	0	0	1	3	4
Football League South	(A)	1	0	4	1	
F.A. Cup	(H)	1	1	0	4	3
F.A. Cup	(A)	0	0	2	1	7
		30	18	24	112	90

by Jack Helliard

MARK WARD PROVES A POINT

By Colin Benson

THERE was a smile as broad as the Thames across the face of Mark Ward as he walked through the gates of St Andrews last Saturday. The lad who had been tossed onto the soccer scrap-heap by Everton as a youngster had just completed his baptism in First Division football and shown that he can be as big a thorn in the side of First Division defenders as he has been to those in the Second Division over the past two seasons.

As he happily scribbled his autograph for the jostling band of young admirers he admitted that he was quite pleased with his performance and added, "I thought we played quite well as a team and we should have won it. I must admit the game seemed very fast to me but then it usually does first game of the season. I felt I coped quite well despite getting tired towards the end".

The youngster from Prescot certainly made his mark. He fired the first shot of the season in the 10th minute, although it went wide, but another long range effort had Birmingham goalkeeper David Seamen stretching his six-foot-three frame to the limit to tip the ball over the bar. "I love having a go at goal," he beams.

After the game Mark rushed back home to Liverpool, with two of his brothers, still unable to take in the full impact of his arrival at West Ham. The former baker's roundsman had just signed a new three year contract and was contemplating helping Oldham Athletic try to gain promotion from the Second Division when he was told of the Hammers approach.

"I couldn't believe it when I got the phone call from Joe Royle. It left me speechless I just didn't know what to say. It was a dream come true, to have the opportunity to play in the First Division.

"I have always wanted to be a footballer nothing else. Even though I was always passed over at school and never gained any representative honours because they said I was 'too small' I always believed that one day I would make it."

Mark showed enough promise however to interest Everton and

they added him to their apprentice ranks but when the moment of truth came and they were dishing out the professional contracts Mark was left out in the cold.

That was a sad moment, rejection is never easy to bear, and when it threatens your life-long ambitions it can be cruelly devastating. But it was at this time of stress that Mark showed his true qualities and when he picked up his career with non-League Northwich Victoria he was determined that he would go out there and show them.

"I couldn't give up," declares Mark. "I decided I would have to get my head down and work hard at my game. The Alliance Premier League provides a tough grounding. It is very physical at times but you learn a lot. I was determined that I would not let my footballing career go by the wayside.

"One of the Club directors got me a part-time job driving a little bread van around. People laughed about it saying, 'I suppose you make plenty

of dough there.' But I wasn't connected with the bakery side and the job only lasted a couple of months by which time Oldham Athletic had come in and signed me. It was a nice cushy job while it lasted.

"Oldham offered me a contract which was always what I wanted and I signed right away. A lot of clubs had looked at me but Oldham were the ones who offered me a job.

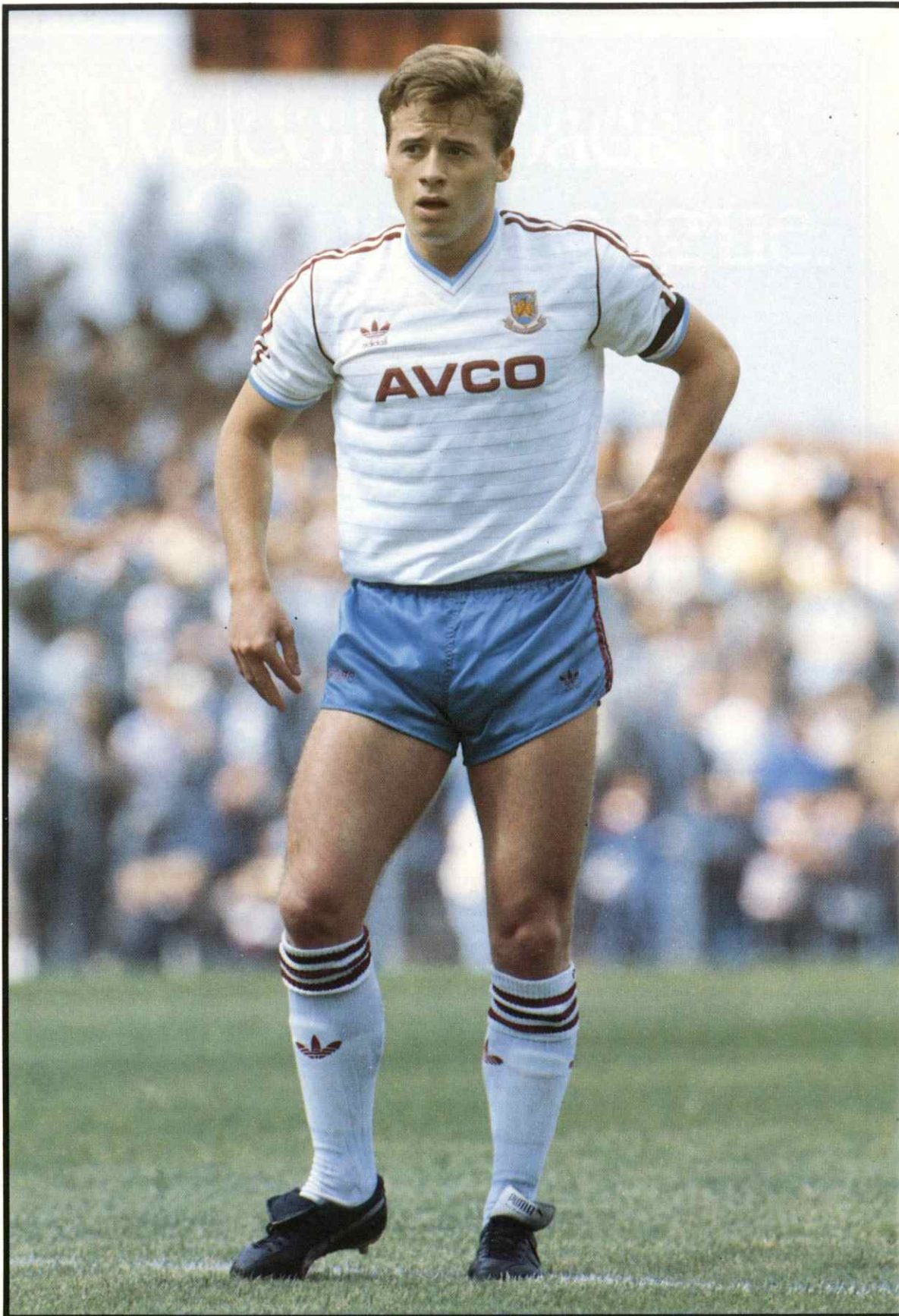
"I had two really good seasons at Boundary Park, never missed a game — touch wood — and I shall always be indebted to Joe Royle. He gave me the opportunity to play League football, took the chance when the others were not prepared to. Mr Royle had faith in my ability to play at a higher level."

Was it a big jump from non-League football to the Second Division? "No not really. I scored in my first game and it seemed quite easy. I was doing things I did with Northwich like taking people on and it came off. I was totally uninhibited, just played as it happened. Obviously I had a lot to learn about team discipline and working back, you need that at this level."

John Lyall has bought Mark to fill the role vacated by Paul Allen and the stocky little forward would seem well suited to tackle the task. "Oldham played me on the right wing in some 15 games last season but I prefer playing in midfield where you are more involved with the game," he says.

"Mr Lyall has told me to get wide when the opportunity arises. I like to think that my passing is one of my better strengths. I have only been here just over a week and I've loved every minute. The manager and the players have been smashing, really made me feel at home, I hope I can live up to the West Ham standard."

Young Ward's accent is unmistakably Scouse, but there is only one team for him West Ham United. . . There was one thing which niggled him after that game at Birmingham, we lost and Mark does not like losing. But he reckons that once the new combination has settled down he will be forever blowing bubbles!



Hammers

IN ACTION

Our camera focuses on the opening game of the season at Birmingham City last Saturday. In the top sequence Mark Ward turns Billy Wright inside out before crossing the ball. Below, Alan Devonshire has the beating of Ray Ranson while in the final frame Neil Orr is head and shoulders above the rest as he completes his clearance.





BACK ROW: Mark Stein, David Preece, Gary Parker, Emeke Nwajioobi, Stacey North, Mark North, Ray Daniel, Rob Johnson.
MIDDLE ROW: John Moore, Tim Breacker, Les Sealey, Paul Elliott, Mick Harford, Andy Dibble, Mitchell Thomas, John Faulkner.
FRONT ROW: Trevor Hartley, Ricky Hill, Mal Donaghy, Steve Foster, David Pleat, Peter Nicholas, Brian Stein, Ashley Grimes, John Sheridan.

It was quite a season for the Hatters last term. After flirting with relegation they eventually held their own and were only a whisker away from causing the upset of the season in the FA Cup semi-final against Everton.

Still First Division survival was the main priority and in the end this was achieved quite comfortably after manager **David Pleat** had virtually rebuilt the side.

There have been no new signings this summer, following the busy transfer negotiations last season which saw the likes of central defender **Steve Foster** (£70,000 from Aston Villa); midfielders **Peter Nicholas** (£100,000 from Crystal Palace) and **David Preece** (£150,000 from Walsall), and striker **Ray Harford** (a £250,000 capture from Birmingham City), drafted in.

With midfielder **Wayne Turner** transferred to Coventry City and striker **Frank Bunn** signing for Hull Mr Pleat has managed to trim his staff slightly for this current campaign.

The only clouds on the horizon concerned England internationals **Ricky Hill** and **Brian Stein** who were reportedly looking for transfers but both players have resigned for the Hatters and so basically the team is the same as that which finished last season, although **Andrew Dibble** was preferred to **Les Sealey** in goal.

In pre-season games the Hatters drew at Wimbledon (1-1), beat Plymouth (1-0) and lost to Bournemouth (3-2) before opening their League programme with a 1-1 draw at home to Nottingham Forest, **Brian Stein** giving

the Hatters the lead in the 20th minute.

ANDREW DIBBLE - Goalkeeper. Cost Luton £125,000 when they signed him from Cardiff City in the summer of 1984. Born in Cwmbran he joined Cardiff as an apprentice making his League debut against Cardiff City (8-5-82). In all made 62 League appearances for the Welsh club helping them gain promotion to the Second Division. While at Ninian Park he was capped by Wales at Youth and Under-21 levels. Started last season in the Luton goal until injury in November cost him his place.

TIM BREAKER - Defender. Established himself in the Luton side last season although he made his League debut against Ipswich in the previous campaign. Born in Bicester he was living in the St Neots area when Luton spotted him and introduced him to their reserve team the season before last. A six-footer he is solid in the tackle and extremely competitive. Started as a midfielder but has impressed at rightback.

MITCHELL THOMAS - Defender. Joined Luton courtesy of the Government Youth Opportunity Scheme and established himself in the No 3 shirt last season, after graduating through the youth ranks. Was only 18 when he made his League debut, here at Upton Park (4-1-83), and gained England and Youth honours.

LAST SEASON HERE

Canon League Division One
Saturday 27, April 1985
WEST HAM UNITED 0 LUTON TOWN 0
Hatters: Parkes, Stewart, Brush, Orr, Martin (capt), Gale, Allen, Swindlehurst (Bonds 65), Goddard, Cottee, Dickens, Hatters: Sealey, Beaker, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster (capt), Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Bunn (Parker 78), Nwajioobi, Preece.
Att: 17,303
Referee: Allan Gunn (Burgess Hill).

STEVE FOSTER - Central Defender. Has been an influential figure at Kenilworth Road since his arrival from Aston Villa in November 1984. David Pleat plucked the former England pivot from Villa's reserve team for just £70,000 and rates the deal the best he's ever done. Born in Portsmouth he joined his local club as an apprentice and made 109 League appearances for them in four seasons. Brighton invested £150,000 for him in the summer of 1979 and he came to prominence as Albion gained First Division status and reached the 1983 FA Cup Final. In March 1984 Villa paid £200,000 for him but he did not figure in Graham Turner's plans when he took control. Won 3 caps with England and played for the Under-21 side.

MAL DONAGHY - Central Defender. Cost only £20,000 when signed from Larne in June 1978. Made his League debut on the opening day of the 78-79 season against Oldham Athletic. Can play in defence or midfield and is an established member of the Northern Ireland side with over 20 caps. Had ambitions as a goalkeeper when he was young and is a great all-round athlete.

PETER NICHOLAS - Midfield. Experienced Welsh international from Newport, Gwent. Joined Crystal Palace as an apprentice in 1976, making his League debut, at right back, at Millwall (20-8-77). A key figure in their 1979 2nd Division Championship winning side he had made 127 League appearances when Arsenal swooped to sign him for £500,000 in March 1981. Sixty games later he was back at Selhurst Park, (October 1983), for £150,000 but was not happy playing Second Division football and moved to Luton for £100,000 in January 1985.



RICKY HILL - Midfield. A sigh of relief went up from Kenilworth Road when Hill resigned earlier this month. There had been doubts about his future plans until he decided to continue his career with the club he joined from school. Made his League debut at 17, as a sub v Bristol Rovers (19-4-76), scoring in a

3-1 win. Emerged as an exciting and creative player and was capped twice by England in 1983, as a sub v Denmark and against West Germany. A hamstring operation kept him out for the last few months of the '83-84 season, and he made his come-back that summer in Sweden, playing for Vasteraas.

DAVID PREECE - Midfield. Busy little left-sided player who made his mark with Walsall after graduating from the apprentice ranks. Made his League debut as a sub against Chester (17-1-81) and made over 100 League appearances for the Sadlers before joining Luton in an exchange deal involving striker Steve Elliott. Preece was valued at £150,000 and made a scoring debut for the Hatters against Aston Villa.

GARY PARKER - Midfield. England Youth international with a promising future. Was spotted playing for Oxfordshire Boys and Luton signed him as an apprentice. Made his League debut at Old Trafford (9-5-83) and now at the age of 20 he is on the verge of a permanent place in the Luton team. Has a nice touch and is particularly skilled at long passing.



BRIAN STEIN - Striker. Plucked out of non-League football when he was 20 - Luton paid Edgware Town £5,000 for him in October 1977 - this South African born striker has developed into a full England international. Made his debut in November '77 in a League Cup game against Manchester City and then came on as a sub at Mansfield in a Second Division fixture. Played for England against France in Paris in February 1984. Missed some of the 82-83 season with a broken bone in a foot. Has scored 93 goals in eight seasons of League football.

MARK STEIN - Striker. Like his elder brother Brian, Mark was born in Cape Town. Joined Luton under the Y.T.S. scheme and was given a pro contract in January 1984. Made his debut v Everton in April 1984. Is still only 19 and has England Youth honours.

MICK HARFORD - Striker. Capped a dream debut for Luton with a dramatic last minute header to earn a draw at Leicester (15-12-84). Signed from Birmingham City for £250,000 only three days earlier, he cracked in 15 First Division goals for the Hatters last season. Born in Sunderland he was playing for Lambton St Boys Club when Lincoln City discovered him and gave him his League chance against Gillingham (10-12-77). Scored 41 goals before his transfer to Newcastle United (£180,000), in December 1980. Played

19 League games (4 goals) and was then sold to Bristol City for £160,000 in the summer of '81. Birmingham City then invested £100,000 in him in March 1982 and after making a scoring debut v Brighton, he netted 10 goals in 12 games to save the Blues from relegation.

EMEKA NWAJIOBI - Forward. Born in Nigeria, another player plucked from non-League soccer. Was with Dulwich Hamlet when Luton snapped him up in December 1983. Made his League debut the following month v Nottingham Forest and scored, but played in only another three games in the 1983-84 season. A powerful runner he is perhaps a little unpredictable, but scores some spectacular goals, as Tom McAlister will testify.



THE MAN IN CHARGE

DAVID PLEAT - One of the most respected managers in the game he has achieved miracles at Kenilworth Road since taking charge in the Spring of 1978.

Born in Nottingham, he emerged as a brilliant young player, gaining English Schools and Youth honours, and he played six League games for Nottingham Forest before joining Luton Town in the mid-sixties. Made 70 League appearances; Exeter City (69 League appearances) and Peterborough United where his career was terminated by a back injury in 1971 after 28 League games.

Always a keen student of the game and a contributor of probing articles he took up coaching and started on the managerial ladder at hard up Nuneaton. In 1975 David re-joined Luton, as reserve team coach and three seasons later succeeded Harry Haslam as Club manager.

Won the Second Division Championship in 1982 with a record run which showed only four defeats. Was the first recipient of the Sunday Telegraph 'Canon' Sportsman of the Year Award for season 1982-83.

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Junior HAMMERS



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President:
TREVOR BROOKING,
MBE



Good Afternoon Junior Hammers,

On your behalf I send greetings to all members of the Junior Hammers Club and wish them continued success — in the early days of the Junior Hammers, I was able to get some valuable assistance from Colin Ball, one-time organiser of the Junior Hammers.

I have received many enquiries regarding membership of the Junior Hammers, so I thought I would give some details in these notes — MEMBERSHIP is open to Girls and Boys up to the age of 15 years, subject to parents' permission. On completion of the Application Form and payment of the Fee of £2 together with 2 Passport size photographs, each new member receives a special 'T' Shirt, Membership Certificate and Card and a metal Badge. On production of the Membership Card each member is admitted Free to all Reserve XI Home Matches in 'C' Block of the West Stand. Also, Junior Hammers are able to obtain seats at Half Price, providing they are with an adult, in the Family Enclosure. Of course, Season Tickets are still available in the Family Enclosure at Half-Price for Junior Hammers. ALL TICKETS FOR THE FAMILY ENCLOSURE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE TICKET OFFICE MONDAY-FRIDAY (9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m.), and of course, the Junior Hammers Membership Card must be produced at the time.

In addition, there are regular monthly meetings at the Boleyn Ground where members are able to meet Players and Club Officials, and often other people closely connected with the Club. NEWSLETTERS are sent out, giving dates of meetings and details of activities. Last season we held competitions for projects on the history of the Hammers, also QUIZZES — some members were involved in a Coaching Course organized by ADIDAS and others took part in Indoor Football against the Junior Gunners, and we finished the season taking part in Athletics and Games in an OPEN DAY at the ground of SPURS F.C. along with a number of other Junior Clubs. In most cases I like parents to come to meetings to support members — for I feel it adds to the Family Atmosphere so necessary these days if we are going to bring supporters back to watch football!

I send Special Birthday Greetings to the following Junior Hammers and I hope they have all received their Autographed Birthday Cards — Garry GEORGE, Matthew CLARK, Trevor EAST, Lance TAYLOR, David ALLABUSH, Scott BROOKER, Richard PAYNE, James SMITH, Lee HITCHCOCK, Malcolm TURPIN, Phillip WILLIAMS, Richard MANGAN, Lee GOODSSELL, Bertrand RINNER (France) and Christopher STUCHFIELD.

The following Junior Hammers will parade the pitch today in our EXCLUSIVE CLUB TRACK SUITS — Danny PRICE, Scott WALKER, Gene WRIGHTSON, Gary WHITEHEAD, Daniel SUGDEN, John WILLIS.

One item of SPECIAL NOTE, last week I enrolled our YOUNGEST MEMBER, **LEE BUSH — 1½ hours old.** Lee's Dad, Gary is obviously very proud and highly delighted with this record. The BUSH Family live in Leicester, and I understand they will pay us a visit in the near future.

If you have any news or items of interest just drop me a line.

Enjoy the game!
BILL ELLIOTT

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HAMMERS HALL OF FAME

TOMMY HODGSON



THIS TOUGH ex-miner held a unique record in the game when he rose through the ranks to serve as player, captain, director, managing director, chairman and president of the same Football League club — Luton Town.

Born in Hetton-le-Hole, Northumberland in 1902, Tommy first came to notice as a bustling centre-forward for Hetton C.E. School and remained in that position with his first amateur club Morsley Swifts, for whom he distinguished himself by scoring 45 goals in one season.

His debut as a full-back was made for the same club owing to an injury to the regular holder of the left-back berth... and so began his career as a defender.

A Hammer before he became a Hatter, Tom arrived up Upton Park from Hetton Celtic to sign professional forms for the 1921-22 season, making his first appearance in the claret & blue against Blackpool at Bloomfield Road on the last day of that campaign. Being well-served in the full-back berths at that time by such notables as George Horler, Jack Hebden and our 1923 Cup Final pair, Jack Young and Billy Henderson, Tommy had to be content with Reserve Team fare, although his ability to play at either right or left-back held him in good stead when he was called into the League side.

Described in the 1927 Club Handbook as being "One of the most stylish backs in London," he followed up the honour of representing the London Combination by being awarded a well-deserved benefit by the club in recognition of his loyal service.

Finally shaking off the injury hoodoo which had plagued him throughout his career at the Boleyn, Tom settled down in the right-back position for the 1928-29 season to enjoy his best every run in the League side and was also an ever-present in the fine F.A. Cup showing that year which saw Hammers go out somewhat unluckily in the Sixth Round by a 3-2 defeat to Portsmouth at Fratton Park, after disposing of Sunderland, Corinthians and Bournemouth, after a replay.

After a playing career which spanned nine eventful seasons with us, Tommy played his last game for Hammers at Upton Park against Blackburn Rovers on December 28, 1929 before joining Luton in the new year.

Then playing in Division Three South, Tom went on to skipper the Hatters and kept up his interest in the club after retiring from the playing side, eventually being elected to the Board of Directors.

He was appointed managing director in 1958 and had the great honour of leading Town out at Wembley for the 1959 Cup Final meeting with Nottingham Forest, as they were without a manager.

A steady decline followed those heady days and Tom experienced all the resultant disappointments as the little Bedfordshire club plummeted down through the Leagues into the Fourth Division with alarming speed, although there was a bright spot when Town were Champions of that division with Tom as chairman in 1967-68.

Retiring to a bungalow home in Poplar Avenue, Luton, he then went into the Licensed Victuallers trade and became the popular proprietor of the Old Bell at Harpenden, Herts.

In his later years he was a regular visitor to both Upton Park and Kenilworth Road as a spectator and was able to reflect on a long and varied career which encompassed all levels of the game.

TONY HOGG.

Tom's career details while with Hammers:

	Lge apps	Gl's	Cup	Gl's
1921-22:	1	—	—	—
1922-23:	11	—	—	—
1923-24:	5	—	—	—
1924-25:	1	—	—	—
1925-26:	16	—	—	—
1926-27:	16	—	—	—
1927-28:	5	—	—	—
1928-29:	28	—	5	—
1929-30:	4	—	—	—
TOTAL:	87	0	5	0

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Date	Opponents	Att.	F	A
Aug. 17	Birmingham City	11,164	0	1
20	Queens Park Rangers	15,530	3	1
24	Luton Town			
26	Manchester United			
31	Liverpool			
Sept. 3	Southampton			
7	Sheffield Wednesday			
14	Leicester City			
21	Manchester City			
Mid-week - Milk Cup 2 (1L)				
28	Nottingham Forest			
Oct. 5	Newcastle United			
Mid-week - Milk Cup 2 (2L)				
12	Arsenal			
19	Aston Villa			
26	Ipswich Town			
Nov. 2	Everton			
9	Oxford United			
16	Watford			
23	Coventry City			
30	West Bromwich Albion			
Dec. 7	Queens Park Rangers			
14	Birmingham City			
21	Luton Town			
26	Tottenham Hotspur			
28	Southampton			
1986 Jan. 1	Chelsea			
4	FA Cup 3			
11	Leicester City			
Mid-week - Milk Cup 5				
18	Liverpool			
25	FA Cup 4			
Feb. 1	Manchester United			
8	Aston Villa			
Mid-week - Milk Cup SF (1L)				
15	Ipswich Town (FA 5)			
22	Manchester City			
Mar. 1	Nottingham Forest			
Mid-week - Milk Cup SF (2L)				
8	Newcastle United (FA 6)			
15	Arsenal			
22	Sheffield Wednesday			
29	Chelsea			
31	Tottenham Hotspur			
April 12	Everton (FA SF)			
19	Oxford United			
20	Watford			
26	Milk Cup Final			
May 3	Coventry City			
10	West Bromwich Albion			
	FA Cup Final			

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Parkes Parkes Stewart Stewart Walford Walford Gale Gale Martin Martin Devonshire Devonshire Ward Ward McAvennie McAvennie(2) Goddard+ Dickens(1) Cottee Cottee Orr Orr Dickens(2) Campbell

HOW WE FINISHED LAST SEASON

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES SENIOR LEAGUE 1984/85											
FINAL TABLE											
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
West Ham U.	30	24	3	3	120	27	51				
Ipswich Town	30	19	8	3	92	44	46				
Tottenham H.	30	20	4	6	87	30	44				
Chelsea	30	17	8	5	76	40	42				
Norwich City	30	15	5	10	58	49	35				
Arsenal	30	16	1	13	59	45	33				
Millwall	30	12	6	12	59	51	30				
Watford	30	12	6	12	59	64	30				
Portsmouth	30	11	6	13	52	55	28				
Gillingham	30	10	8	12	39	57	28				
Charlton Ath.	30	9	8	13	60	73	26				
Orient	30	10	5	15	57	81	25				
Southend U.	30	7	6	17	35	63	20				
Fulham	30	6	7	17	44	87	19				
Q.P.R.	30	6	6	18	45	71	18				
Cambridge U.	30	2	1	27	32	137	5				

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
Everton	42	16	3	2	58	17	3	6	30	26	90	
Liverpool	42	12	4	5	36	19	10	7	4	32	16	77
Tottenham Hotspur	42	11	3	7	46	31	12	5	4	32	20	77
Manchester United	42	13	6	2	47	13	9	4	8	30	34	76
Southampton	42	13	4	4	29	18	6	7	8	27	29	68
Chelsea	42	13	4	5	38	20	5	9	7	25	28	66
Arsenal	42	14	5	2	37	14	5	4	12	24	35	66
Sheffield Wednesday	42	12	7	2	39	21	5	7	9	19	24	65
Nottingham Forest	42	13	4	4	35	18	6	3	12	21	30	64
Aston Villa	42	10	7	4	34	20	5	4	12	26	40	56
Watford	42	10	5	6	48	30	4	8	9	33	41	55
West Bromwich Albion	42	11	4	6	36	23	5	3	13	22	39	55
Leuton Town	42	12	5	4	40	22	3	4	14	17	39	54
Newcastle United	42	11	4	6	33	26	2	9	10	22	44	52
Leicester City	42	10	4	7	39	25	5	2	14	26	48	51
West Ham United	42	7	8	6	27	23	6	4	11	24	45	51
Ipswich Town	42	8	7	6	27	20	5	4	12	19	37	50
Coventry City	42	11	3	7	29	22	4	2	15	18	42	50
Queens Park Rangers	42	11	6	4	41	30	2	5	14	12	42	50
Norwich City	42	9	6	6	28	24	4	4	13	18	40	49
Sunderland	42	7	6	8	20	26	3	4	14	20	36	40
Stoke City	42	3	3	15	18	41	0	5	16	6	50	17

Goalscorers in **Bold** type. †Player substituted. *Own goal.

On behalf of the Directors, Staff and Players I wish to pay tribute to Paul and Marilyn Brush, their son Peter, and their families, following the tragic loss of Marilyn.

My immediate thoughts are of two very brave people who for many months have faced up to problems which many of us cannot even imagine happening in our lives.

Together they faced the reality that Marilyn had the deadly blood cancer leukaemia and stood up to the horror in a courageous and forthright manner.

Marilyn's illness first became apparent during her pregnancy but when the initial diagnosis was made the full seriousness of her condition was not readily appreciated.

Following the birth of her son Peter, in February, Marilyn's condition became more serious. Because of this Paul had to withdraw from our Summer tour to Japan.

They were then given the opportunity to have a bone marrow transplant, thanks to the compatibility of her brother Peter's marrow, and with Paul's support Marilyn decided to undergo surgery.

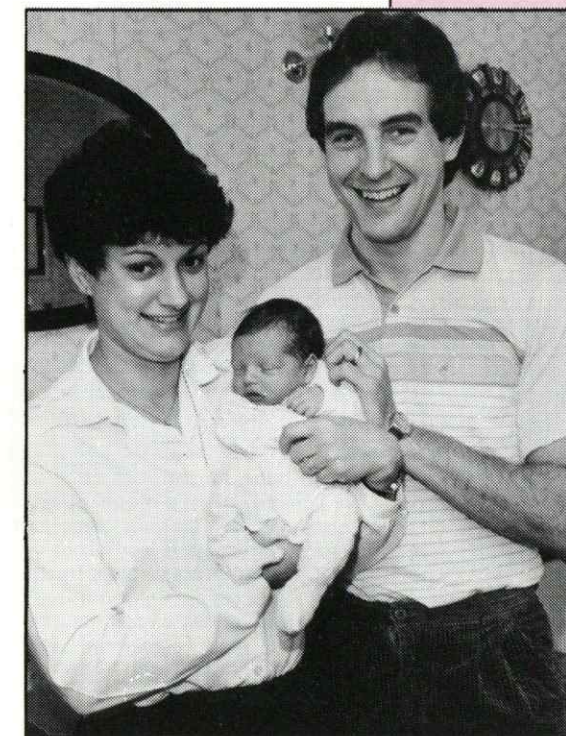
The couple faced the uncertainty which lay ahead with great courage and dignity. They kept their worries to themselves

confiding only with their families, close friends and colleagues. Marilyn faced life in her normal happy manner not letting on about the seriousness of her problem, while Paul continued his career as a footballer under great stress, tackling all the problems in his stride.

For several days following the operation Marilyn displayed tremendous will-power to overcome and control her severe discomfort during the post operational treatment. Then on Wednesday, 14th August 1985, Marilyn sadly passed away in the London Hospital.

Whilst football has always played a major part in our lives a tragedy of this nature brings to light the real values of life. The strength and courage shown by Marilyn and Paul and their families has been an example to us all, and will remain with me and my colleagues for the rest of our lives.

The future will indeed be difficult for Paul. He has to face up to life without Marilyn by his side. I know he will approach the task of bringing up his young son Peter, with the same determination and courage he and his dear wife displayed during the past year.



Proud Parents, Marilyn and Paul, with young Peter.

PAUL and MARILYN BRUSH

I am also sure that all our supporters will join us and show understanding and compassion towards Paul and the relatives of both families during the trying months which lay ahead

Jimmy Ball

PAUL has requested that any donations be made to the London Hospital, Leukaemia Appeal, Whitechapel Road, Whitechapel, London E.1.



CAPTIONS

Frank McAvennie pounces to score his first League goal for the Hammers against QPR. Alan Dickens watches anxiously as his header spins towards the Rangers net for our second goal.
Rangers keeper, Peter Hucker, is floored as Frank McAvennie beats him for the second time to make it 3-1 to the Hammers.

Pictures by Steve Bacon
"Newham Recorder"



Birmingham City's decision to have a morning kick-off at St. Andrew's last Saturday was hardly surprising in view of current restrictions and events which took place there last season. As it turned out, there were no problems from the 11,000-plus

spectators who included several hundred Hammers' supporters in the stadium.

Several forecasters had predicted a drawn game, and in our opinion had their opinions proved correct it would have been a fair outcome. One after-match commentator opined that whilst City played with gritty determination the Hammers had supplied the elegance. Unfortunately we suffered the loss of Paul Goddard shortly before the interval and then came nearest to scoring when substitute Alan Dickens' shot cannoned off a post.

The Robert Hopkins' goal that settled the issue in favour of the Blues came in the 65th minute after an attempted clearance hit Alvin Martin and provided the homesters with an unexpected opportunity that was gratefully converted. From thence onwards the Midlands held on in a second half that was more entertaining than the proceedings prior to the interval.

For our part there was consolation in the performances of our two English First Division debutants. Both Frank McAvennie and Mark Ward showed up well and we were happy with their efforts on this occasion. It was also good to see Alan Devonshire in competitive action again.

A Promising Night

Last Tuesday night's match against Queens Park Rangers was an occasion which gave early (but we hope not premature) hopes for the future of soccer in this country. It was along the lines which the older fans among us remember with nostalgia; plenty of good football, goals, "aggro" a noticeably lacking ingredient (thank goodness!) and a general bonhomie.

Our two newcomers — Frank

MATCH review by JACK HELLIAR

SINKS RANGERS

'SUPERMAC'

McAvennie and Mark Ward — quickly made their mark on the game (no pun intended!). McAvennie's 11th minute goal set the Hammers on their way and a glorious 35-yard volley by Ward nearly brought him a similar success. However, our team was not to be denied further joy, as midway through the half Alan Dickens put us two up by concluding another good move.

Although down at the interval, Rangers were doing enough to show that they were not out of contention. Ten minutes after the resumption John Byrne reduced our margin, and we were by no means able to ease off. Indeed, the Hammers were only too willing to

provide further entertainment — and eventual success. McAvennie's persistence earned him a second goal, and with over 20 minutes to go there was the possibility that he might earn a "hat-trick match ball" on his first appearance at Upton Park. It was not to be, but nevertheless our eventual 3-1 victory was a heart-warming performance.

The standing ovation from the 15,000-plus attendance was well deserved by both sides; and although we would have hoped to see more fans here it was a step in the right direction that there were no ejections.

To return to our first paragraph we hope that prospects for the future were not premature. It's "early days" yet, but we are keeping our fingers crossed!

Thanks, everyone, for a happy evening!

MATCH FACTS

Canon League Division One

17-8-85
BIRMINGHAM CITY (0) 1
WEST HAM UNITED (0) 0
City: Seaman, Ranson, Roberts, Wright (capt.) Armstrong (Kuhl 56), Daly, Bremner, Clarke, Jones, Geddis, Hopkins.
Scorer: Hopkins 64

Hammers: Parkes, Stewart, Walford, Gale, Martin (capt.), Devonshire, Ward, McAvennie, Goddard (Dickens 42), Cottee, Orr.

Att: 11,164
Referee: Norman Glover (Chorley, Lancs.)

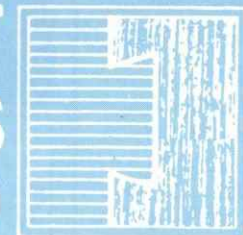
20-8-85
WEST HAM UNITED (2) 3
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (0) 1
Hammers: Parkes, Stewart, Walford, Gale, Martin (capt.), Devonshire, Ward, McAvennie, Dickens, Cottee, Orr. Sub: Campbell.

Scorers: McAvennie (10, 66)
Dickens (24)

Rangers: Hucker, Chivers, Dawes, Waddock, McDonald, Fenwick, Byrne, Bannister, Robinson (James 45), Fereday, Gregory.
Scorer: Byrne 54.

Att: 15,530
Referee: Mike James (Horsham)

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IN RESERVE

POINT WON

Our Reserves drew 1-1 with Norwich City at Upton Park in last Saturday's Combination fixture. Greg Campbell put us in the lead with a cross-shot from outside the penalty-box, but the Canaries equalised a little before half-time. There were opportunities for both sides to score again after the interval, but failure to finish meant that neither could claim an eventual advantage.

A matter of interest was that all our players on view with the exception of two (Paul Hilton and Tom McAlister) were products of our youth squad.

Our Reserves had an engagement v Millwall at The Den last Wednesday, but are without a fixture this afternoon.

Our reserve-string played the last of its five pre-season friendlies against Clapton F.C. on Tuesday 13th August. After a goalless first half we ended as 3-1 winners; Greg Campbell scored twice and Bobby Barnes once.

We afterwards heard with regret that our very old-established nearest senior non-League neighbours (they have passed their centenary) have been instructed to close down their main stand until necessary reconstruction and safety work is carried out. It will be a difficult problem for a club which has had such an illustrious past.

Football Combination Fixtures 1985-1986

Month	Date	Team	F	A
Aug	17	Norwich City	1	1
	21	Millwall		
	31	Birmingham City		
Sept	3	Brighton & H.A.		
	7	Luton Town		
	14	Southampton		
	21	Reading		
	24	Crystal Palace		
Oct	5	Arsenal		
	8	Charlton Athletic		
	22	Ipswich Town		
	26	Bristol Rovers		
Nov	2	Tottenham Hotspur		
	5	Chelsea		
	9	Swindon Town		
	12	Fulham		
	23	Watford		
	30	Oxford United		
Dec	3	Queens Park Rangers		
	7	Portsmouth		
	14	Norwich City		
	21	Swansea City		
1986				
Jan	4	Brighton & H.A.		
	11	Birmingham City		
	18	Southampton		
	25	Luton Town		
Feb	1	Swansea City		
	4	Queens Park Rangers		
	8	Ipswich Town		
	22	Reading		
	25	Bristol Rovers		
Mar	1	Crystal Palace		
	8	Arsenal		
	15	Charlton Athletic		
	22	Chelsea		
	29	Millwall		
Apr	5	Tottenham Hotspur		
	8	Swindon Town		
	12	Watford		
	19	Fulham		
	22	Portsmouth		
May	3	Oxford United		

Kick-off times for home games:
Saturday matches 2.00 p.m.
Midweek matches 2.30 p.m.

Focus on YOUTH

A Cup for the Youth Team

South East Counties League

We are not competing in the Junior Division of the South East Counties League this season, so any younger members of our squad will be facing immediate competition against under-18's.

Our line-up included several newcomers in the opening League game last Saturday. The first half of our match against Charlton Athletic at Chadwell Heath was scoreless, but within a few minutes of the resumption the visitors were three up. That came as a complete surprise as our team had been on top for the opening 45 minutes. We made a great rally to draw level, with Steve Morrall, Eamonn Dolan and Paul Ince scoring; our third goal came after the

opposing 'keeper had saved Ince's penalty-kick, only for the taker to follow up and net the rebound. Then the Valiants broke away in the closing seconds to score the winner in a game of more than fluctuating fortune.

Youth Cups

The draws have been made for two youth tournaments.

In the South East Counties League Cup we are at home to Millwall in the First Round. The winners oppose Tottenham Hotspur or Ipswich Town in the Second Round.

The draw for the First Round of the Southern Junior Floodlight Cup has paired us with Cambridge United; we shall be at home on a date to be arranged.

Off the RECORD

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES SENIOR LEAGUE 1985-1986

1985-1986					
Month	Date	Day	Team	Venue	
Aug	17	Sat	Charlton Athletic	Home	
	24	Sat	Chelsea	Home	
	31	Sat	Fulham	Away	
Sept	7	Sat	Gillingham	Away	
	14	Sat	Ipswich Town	Home	
	21	Sat	Millwall	Home	
Oct	5	Sat	Orient	Away	
	12	Sat	Portsmouth	Home	
	19	Sat	Queens Park Rangers	Away	
Nov	26	Sat	Southend United	Away	
	2	Sat	Tottenham Hotspur	Home	
	9	Sat	Watford	Away	
Dec	23	Sat	Norwich City	Away	
	30	Sat	Arsenal	Home	
	7	Sat	Cambridge United	Away	
	14	Sat	Charlton Athletic	Away	
1986					
Jan	4	Sat	Fulham	Home	
	11	Sat	Gillingham	Home	
	18	Sat	Ipswich Town	Away	
Feb	25	Sat	Millwall	Away	
	1	Sat	Orient	Home	
	8	Sat	Portsmouth	Away	
March	15	Sat	Queens Park Rangers	Home	
	22	Sat	Southend United	Home	
	1	Sat	Tottenham Hotspur	Away	
April	8	Sat	Watford	Home	
	15	Sat	Norwich City	Home	
	5	Sat	Cambridge United	Home	
	12	Sat	Arsenal	Away	
	19	Sat	Chelsea	Away	

All home matches played at Chadwell Heath
kick-off 11 a.m.

Mainstream popular music has been running for quite a long time now; in fact it was probably Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Rag-time Band" in 1921 that started the middle-of-the-road music. Taking a straight line down the middle avoiding the extremes. On the one hand jazz, and on the other classical, and/or the gentle drawing room ballad.

Mainstream has stood the test of time, and one must not underestimate the power of good honest popular music. From 1920 to well after the Second World War was to become the golden age of mainstream, with such composers as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, etc. Of course, these composers were greatly assisted by the big bands of the era, who interlaced into their programmes jazz and versions of current popular music. For the past 20 years or so, we have had the music of Paul Simon, Paul McCartney and Bacharach and Mancini, to say nothing of the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber (probably the best known modern composer who has been clever enough to bring tunes into his productions that have been swept along on the popular tide of mainstream); my prediction is that his music will last longer than all of them.

Mainstream music recently has had a boost in its popularity with The London Symphony Orchestra Pop concerts at the Barbican. The concerts were the brain-child of Johnny Dankworth, the jazzman. Popular classics were played alongside more serious composers like Berlioz and Dvorak and apparently the music of these great composers sounded rather ordinary against the soul of evergreen Tin Pan Alley melodies. The concerts were a sell-out and very popular. Could this be the start of something big? The country's other big orchestras (concerned with ever decreasing government and Arts Council grants) might take a leaf out of the LSO's book and raise some money to save themselves.

Don't forget your dedications; send them in nice and early to avoid disappointment. Kindly send all correspondence regarding this column to BILL REMFRY c/o West Ham United F.C., Green Street, London E.13.



Commercial news

SPECIAL WELCOME

It gives us great pleasure this afternoon to welcome AVCO TRUST our OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSORS who are today also our Matchday Sponsors. A special greeting goes out to Alex Hampshire, who will be leading the Avco party; and also to Paul Bridge, who

represents Mallermann Summerfield, Avco's advertising and P.R. Agents.

Our thanks and gratitude go to Avco for their sponsorship and we look forward to a happy and long association.

JOIN OUR MASCOT TEAM

If you would like your Son/Daughter or friend to be a Matchday Mascot at Upton Park then contact Michele Long on 01-472 5756. For full details on Matchday Mascot Sponsorship. We still have a few available games for this season, so hurry before you are disappointed.

THE EXECUTIVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to announce that we still have a few vacancies in our very prestigious Executive Lounges.

Membership is £360.00 per season and for this you are entitled to the use of the Executive Lounges Boleyn or Thames as allocated, plus first class seating in the Lower Tier.

You can dine from two hours prior to a game and use the facilities of the Executive Lounge.

If you feel that you would like to look around and see just what the Executive Club offers then contact Kim Montague our Executive Club Secretary, on 01-472 5756. Join our Executive Club and watch football in First Division style.

If you feel that you would like to be an agent for West Ham United Commercial Department, earning commission, plus free entry to all Upton Park games, then contact Eddie Gillam on 01-472 5756.



WEST HAM UNITED



- 1 **PHIL PARKES**
Now embarking on his 18th season in League football in a career which has spanned Walsall, Queens Park Rangers and the Hammers.
- 2 **RAY STEWART**
Popular right back with a Scottish international pedigree.
- 3 **STEVE WALFORD**
Now in his third season with the Hammers following his £165,000 transfer from Norwich City in August 1983.
- 4 **NEIL ORR**
Comes from Greenock in Scotland and started his career with Morton.
- 5 **ALVIN MARTIN (capt.)**
Comes from Walton in Liverpool but has spent his whole football career with the Hammers.
- 6 **TONY GALE**
Made his Hammers' debut against Ipswich Town on August 25th, 1984 and chalked up his 300th League appearance v QPR on New Year's Day.
- 7 **MARK WARD**
Made his League debut two years ago for Oldham Athletic after a spell with non-League Northwich Victoria. Signed earlier this month for £225,000.
- 8 **FRANK McAVENNIE**
One of the hottest properties in Scottish football Luton Town had hoped to sign him but the Hammers swooped in June to clinch a £340,000 deal with St. Mirren. Scored twice in his home debut on Tuesday.
- 9 **ALAN DICKENS**
A very talented young midfield player. Scored our second goal against QPR on Tuesday night.
- 10 **TONY COTTEE**
Just turned 20 years old yet has already clocked up some 108 senior games and scored 48 goals.
- 11 **ALAN DEVONSHIRE**
One of the best left sided midfield players in the country he was in the England squad before injury curtailed his career for 19 months.
- 12

LUTON TOWN



- 1 **ANDREW DIBBLE**
Now commencing his second season with Luton. Previously with Cardiff City was signed in 1984 for £125,000 — the fee set by the tribunal.
- 2 **TIM BREAKER**
Powerful player who has emerged as an influential player over the past season.
- 3 **MITCHELL THOMAS**
A gangling six-footer, is known as 'Viv' at Kenilworth Road because of his resemblance to England and Arsenal fullback Viv Anderson.
- 4 **PETER NICHOLAS**
Seasoned Welsh international. A determined ball winner described as having a tiger in his tackle. Formerly with Crystal Palace and Arsenal.
- 5 **STEVE FOSTER (capt.)**
Former England pivot. His long hair and white head-band are distinguishing features. Brilliant in the air he is particularly dangerous at set pieces.
- 6 **MAL DONAGHY**
Is almost a permanent fixture in the Hatters side. Talented Northern Ireland international who has formed a good partnership with Foster.
- 7 **RICKY HILL**
Hails from North London. Luton just beat the Hammers to his signature when he was a promising schoolboy. Now a fully fledged England international.
- 8 **BRIAN STEIN**
A fast and nimble striker whose quality earned him full England recognition in 1984. Scored in the opening game against Forest.
- 9 **MICK HARFORD**
Signed from Birmingham City last season as a replacement for Paul Walsh who was sold to Liverpool. Good strong player, the perfect target man.
- 10 **EMEKA NWAJIOBI**
Has a degree in pharmacy and certainly provided the right medicine for Luton when we visited them last season with a brilliant goal just after the interval.
- 11 **DAVID PREECE**
Little midfield dynamo who was described by manager David Pleat as a budding Archie Gemmill. Started his career with Walsall.
- 12

Match Referee

REFEREE: TERRY HOLBROOK
(Wightwich, Wolverhampton)
Chartered Secretary, Midshires Building Society. Commenced refereeing in 1966 and progressed via Staffs. County and Central League. Interested in tennis and squash. Linesman, European Nations' Cup match in 1982 and F.A. Cup Final, 1985.



Linesmen:
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(Mannings Heath, West Sussex)
Red Flag
D. KEEN (Reading, Berks)
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Match Mascot

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Today's Matchday Mascot is Paul Nicholas Foulkes of Old Mill House, Lodge Road, Woodham Mortimer, Malden. Paul is aged 11 and attends The Plumes School. His Hobbies are; football, scouts and helping Dad. He plays football for 'The Saints'. His favourite team is West Ham United and his favourite player is Tony Cottee. We wish Paul an enjoyable afternoon and a memorable one at Upton Park.



WEST HAM PLAY
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