

Official Programme
Price £1.00

LUTON TOWN



FA Cup Fifth Round (2nd replay)
LUTON TOWN v. ARSENAL
Wednesday, March 5th, 1986
Kick-off 7.45 p.m.

ACTION REPLAY

COVER STORY



Cup-tie special: Will we see a repeat of last season's great Cup run?

INSIDE

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Steak Hou



Mick's winner: Mick Harford is caught in the thick of the action during last Saturday's 1-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday. Also caught by Gareth Owen is Mick Newell who was unlucky not to notch the Town's second goal.

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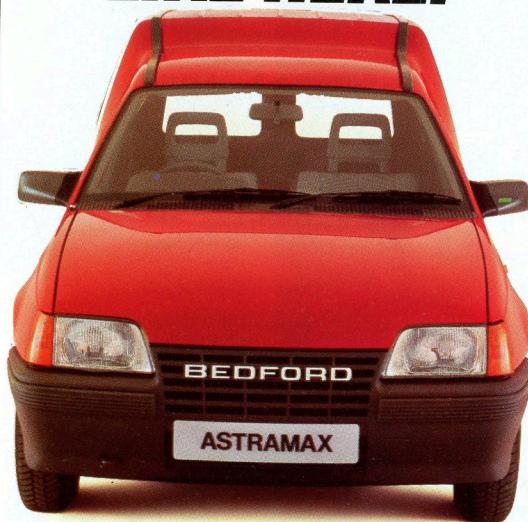
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100 Years On

Welcome to everyone for another Cup-tie with our friends from the Arsenal. After the enforced weather break, football is breathing life again and there is never a better occasion than a magical FA Cup game.

I was delighted with our determination and attitude on Monday evening in most difficult conditions. We are obviously not going to give up easily the chance of Cup progress. In view of the fact that three established forwards were missing we never conceded to the talented Arsenal team. Our supporters were superb and on behalf of all the players, I can only say, keep right behind the lads. We appreciate your cheers.

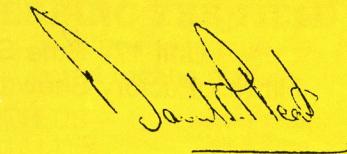
Brian Stein has almost discarded his crutches. Emeka Nwajiobi entered hospital yesterday for an exploratory operation of his injured foot. Mark Stein has been recalled from a loan spell at Aldershot. Ricky McEvoy missed an Eire Youth Cup against England last week through injury. Marcus Tuite, his midfield partner won another cap in that game. Mal Donaghy was brilliantly balanced in Paris last week. Mike Newell was upset his "goal" against Sheffield Wednesday was ruled out. Mitchell Thomas has been selected for England under-21s against Denmark next week. Peter Nicholas and Ricky Hill were both away last week on international duty. Rob Johnson was 24 last week.

When games come thick and fast after postponements, all clubs will be stretched on playing resources. The importance of good coaching staff and medical people cannot be underestimated. They have to "carefully train" players through those periods and have to know the players who can cope with the



strain and their individual reactions to niggles and strains. Fresh legs and minds are vital as teams run in to the crucial end of season.

Regardless of Cup-tie involvement, our pleasure last Saturday was considerable. In beating Sheffield Wednesday, we have achieved the 50 points objective. We have gained those points at an earlier stage than any previous First Division season. As we sit in our summer deckchairs, we dream of 50 points—I am delighted to be conceited enough to tell all our supporters who have learnt never to take anything for granted. WE ARE IN THE FIRST DIVISION NEXT SEASON—and with our artificial pitch!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'David Pleat'.

David Pleat

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Girl Talk

Why don't more women go to football matches? Is it that football's a "male sport" as so many men would have it? Or is it more complex than that? The women who do go obviously enjoy the atmosphere, and are as knowledgeable about the game as the men. Is it that the image of the sport is predominantly masculine? The players, team managers and directors are generally male. Some clubs, however, are trying to promote a feminine face with the introduction of female stewards, pre-match entertainment and even female executives. Luton are among the pioneers.

Families

Perhaps it's family commitments that keep many women from football matches. Small children clearly won't appreciate 90 minutes of football; parents are thus unwilling to buy them season tickets. Mothers usually have to stay at home to look after toddlers while dad and older children go to the match. Clubs could possibly provide incentives for parents to bring small children to matches, or at least make it easier for mums to come. That is, of course, assuming that football does genuinely want to encourage women and that "family enclosures" and so on that we read about are not just gimmicks to attract media (and female) attention to increase overall support. It wasn't too long ago that Glasgow Rangers proudly announced its new "family" incentive—a reduced price for a father-and-son ticket!

Of course some of these enclosures do work; and the benefit of the family atmosphere is felt all round the ground. At Watford in November I saw two boys, aged about eight, sitting happily together chatting about the game. One was dressed in Watford's colours, the other in Luton's.

Football is changing; those involved at all levels need to think radically about it, not paper over the cracks, if it is to grow healthily. I believe that women have a great deal to offer the game both as supporters and at a more professional level.

Gale Waller

Anyone wanting to contribute to Girl Talk please write to:

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Fab Luton Strikers

On behalf of the "Laughing Cavaliers" Vauxhall Motors, I should like to thank the Luton Strikers for entertaining our local handicapped friends at the disco we arranged for them. The evening was made a big success by their performances and kindness to our young friends—many who are Luton Town fans. Once again thank you Luton Strikers you were fab and did an excellent public relations job for Luton Town FC.

G. Berresford,
Chairman,
The Laughing Cavaliers

Fantastic

Dear Sir,
I doubt you shall print this but here goes. I would like to applaud Luton Town for "BRILL" performances against good sides Notts Forest, Man Utd, and West Ham which I thought was the best. I went to Luton with Stony Stratford FC with many West Ham supporters to see Luton and West Ham and I can tell you them few fans were thrilled with Luton's fantastic team work and play "Very well done Luton Town".
Robert Wise,
Milton Keynes

Much-improved away form

Dear Sir,
"Nice one Luton", several brilliant away performances by "the Hatters" mean that the team has redeemed itself for that "below par" showing in their home match against Coventry. Yes, their away performances this season are a great deal more solid and convincing and must be a pointer to a good placing on the final league table.

At Kenilworth Road we see an even run of the ball, resulting in good attractive, skilful football.

Handshake

Dear Sir,
May I, on behalf of Supporters United thank you for your help and consideration in bringing about the handshake at Luton Town FC earlier this season.

The help shown by Luton Town and staff was first class, and made the whole event most enjoyable.

Once again please pass our thanks onto your staff.
B. Wagstaff

Birthday special

Dear Sir,
Thank you for arranging a special surprise for my birthday. I really like your two brilliant forwards coming in and having my photograph taken with them. My friends enjoyed it too, and I'm glad you won.

James Lindner,
Luton

Unprintable?

Dear Sir,
I doubt very much whether you will print this letter in the mailbag column as it seems to be a smug exercise in self-congratulations and glowing praise for the club. My letter contains what I consider to be constructive criticism and should be printed if mailbag claims to be a representative organ for supporters.

My moan is directed against the guilty man who was responsible for the outrageous 100% price rise of the programme. The new look programme is a good read, well presented and contains a wide variety of interesting features ie. the reserves and youth team pages. All Our Yesterdays and Girltalk, which presents a much-needed feminine view on the club. However, there is no justification in charging £1.00 for it.

It is the most costly programme in the entire football league, 40 pence more expensive than its nearest rivals. I think that the club is guilty of exploitation and greed by charging such a sum.

The yardstick for the £1.00 programme was set by the excellent 1985 Cup Final edition. The Town's effort is simply not in the same class. So come on Luton, play the game and reduce the price to a more realistic level to provide value for money and stop conning your loyal supporters.

M. D. Craig, Luton.

Editor: Thank you for your comments. The programme justifies itself, we hope, and its cover price. What do other fans think?

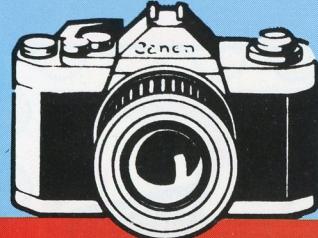


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Luton News



FOR PRIZE-WINNING
PICTURES
THURSDAYS 14p



First Team ACTION

Luton Town 1 Sheffield Wed 0
A Mick Harford header after 16 minutes proved to be the winner in a match of limited entertainment against a dour and muscular Sheffield Wednesday at Kenilworth Road last Saturday.

Harford, playing with his customary vim and skill, rose startlingly high at the far post from David Preece's corner to send a towering header past Martin Hodge, the Wednesday goalkeeper, and give the Hatters a first league win over the Owls since 1980-81.

Snow cleared

The pitch, which had been cleared of 130 tons of snow, played as superbly as ever but could do nothing to insist that the visitors should play with the same open style as the hosts.

As a result, there was less goalmouth action or fluent play than usual. Mike Newell, again demonstrating his energy and enthusiasm, played well and kept the Wednesday defence busy and Steve Foster earned plaudits again for a good containing job against the muscular and difficult Garry Thompson.

For Wednesday, Gary Megson performed with his usual intelligence and it was from his accurate left-foot shot five minutes from time that Les Sealey was forced to make his most telling contribution of the day.

Luton: Sealey, Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Newell, Harford, North, Preece.

Sheffield Wednesday: Hodge, Sterland, Morris, Hart, Shirtliff, Smith, Marwood, Megson, Thompson, Shelton (sub Shutt 73 mins), Snodin.



ACTION REPLAY from

Kenilworth
Road



Narrow win: Mick Harford's goal sealed our 1-0 win over the Owls on Saturday.

(Photos: Gareth Owen)



MAL DONAGHY

ViEWS

from the bench

Defender Mal Donaghy travelled to represent Northern Ireland last week when they secured an excellent 0-0 draw against European Champions France at the Parc des Princes in Paris—and once again he received little recognition for his part in a fine performance. Where Mal is concerned, consistency and reliability are passwords for a low profile in public. Today Mal, who will be appearing in his second successive World Cup finals series, talks about Northern Ireland and their chances in Mexico.

"It was my third experience of playing for Northern Ireland against France but the first time I had been in a team which kept a clean sheet. On the last two occasions we met, we were beaten 4-0 and 4-1, just before and then during the finals in Spain in 1982.

"However, we now have strung together seven clean sheets. In fact, we have not conceded a goal at all since we allowed Mark Hateley to nick one for England in Belfast. That was in February 1985, I think. So it is not a bad record, is it?

"Of course, we have had a bit of luck to do that. But you need some luck. Against France, we did well. I played left-back and we all did our best. I always try to keep my international football and my club football apart as two separate things. That way seems to work alright.

Brilliant Platini

"France impressed me. They are a very, very good side. Don't be fooled by the result against us—they will be as big a threat to

everyone in Mexico as everyone expects. And so will we! Platini of course is a great player. He was outstanding against us and was easily the man of the match. He is the best player I have seen anywhere at all for a long, long time.

"Conditions were not very good at all, but he looked just great. The French lads all wore gloves and tights for the match which I thought was a bit, well different you know. A bit strange. But it made no difference for us... although I came home with a severely bruised back-side from one challenge which left me bouncing a very sore behind on a very hard pitch.

"We had a chance to do a bit of tourism in Paris while we were there on the Tuesday. We were staying in a hotel very near to the Eiffel Tower and of course we had a good look at that and also did a bit of shopping. Mind you the prices were ridiculous. Very steep. We didn't spend much, I can tell you!

Algeria no mugs

"Looking ahead to the finals, I think it is vital for Northern Ireland to get a result against Algeria and make a good start in our first match. It will be crucial. But it is no good thinking it will be easy. Algeria are no mugs and Emeka, who has seen them play, has been telling me about them a bit.

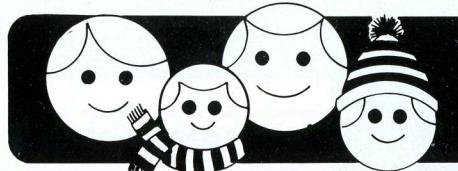
"Of course we also have to face Brazil and Spain. And nobody needs telling that they will be tough matches. But we do have a habit of doing quite well against the so-called top teams in the world."

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Club News

LANDLADIES WANTED

Landladies are urgently wanted by the club for schoolboy players during holiday periods. Anyone who can help in providing much-needed assistance and accommodation is invited to contact Ron Howard at the club offices (Telephone Luton 411622). Thank-you for your assistance.

RICKY HILL TESTIMONIAL

Arrangements are being made for a match between Ricky Hill's Luton XI and Bobby Robson's England XI as a testimonial event for our popular midfield player Ricky Hill. The match will take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, April 8th, 1986.

TICKET OFFICE NEWS

At this point in time we do not know if we are at home on Saturday, March 8th in the sixth round of the FA Cup or away to Manchester Utd in the league. We will not know until the result of tonight's replay.

On Saturday, March 15th we have a Canon League Division One home fixture against Oxford Utd—kick-off 3.00 pm.

On Saturday, March 22nd we are at home in a Canon League Division One fixture against Everton—kick-off 3.00 pm. For all your match information telephone Luton 30748 (daytime) or Luton 33010 (24-hr service).

Forthcoming matches at Kenilworth Road



Canon League Division One
Saturday, March 15th, 1986
Luton Town v. Oxford United
Kick-off 3.00 pm

Saturday, March 22nd, 1986
Luton Town v. Everton
Kick-off 3.00 pm

Travel Club

We play Leicester City on March 29th, this is of course Easter Saturday. Our coaches will be leaving the Maple Road car park at 11.30 am and the cost will be £4.50. Why not join our travel club and travel in luxury to all our away matches. Please ring Luton 412418 for further details.

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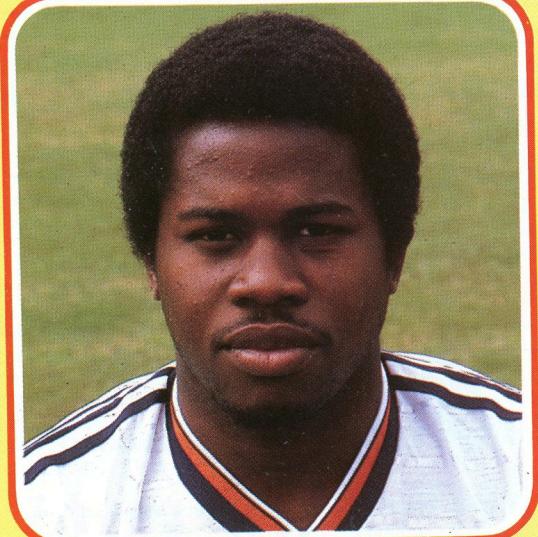
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Development Executive

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A purchasing manager, Allan is married with two daughters. He began refereeing in 1965 in Sussex and progressed through the Football Combination to the League list. He enjoys swimming and squash. Allan took charge of the FA Youth Cup Final in 1980 and a 1985 Milk Cup semi-final.

RAY
DANIEL

TOP HATTER



Born in Luton on December 12th, 1964, Ray has made fine progress through the ranks from the local schoolboys team and youth side to the First Division of the Canon League. He is a very skilful player and particularly strong on his left foot. His speed is also a great asset. He signed as an apprentice in 1982 and as a full professional 15 months later. He made his debut at Manchester United in May 1983 and is now pressing hard for a first team spot.

FAMILY MAN

Midfielder Ray Daniel found new pleasure in life last year when his first child Nathan was born. Now four months old, the boy has become the apple of his father and mother Patricia's eyes and now enchants them said Ray with his smiling and screaming!

"I like to go home and be with my family more than anything else," said Ray when asked what he likes doing best away from the professional game. "I'm not a great sportsman although I do play a bit of snooker with the lads. That's just now and then though."

Ray is knocking on the door of the first team these days, but finding it difficult to break through because we have a settled side. An injury last season, which led to the removal of a lateral cartilage in a knee, held him back, but he has plenty of good memories in the game already at the age of 21.

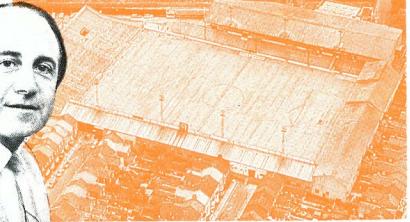
First goal

"My most memorable game was at Stoke City when we won 4-2 away in December 1983. I scored my first goal for the club and Paul Walsh scored a hat-trick—it was also my 18th birthday."

Ray hopes to have a career in the game as a coach when he finishes playing. He has coached youngsters at the Wigmore Athletic and 61 FC clubs. But now his time is taken up with his own youngster.

"He shouts a lot now. But he is great. I am quite adept at home life—I like watching a lot of television but I also do quite a bit of cooking and so on around the house. Nathan used to wake up every two hours but now he is a good boy and sleeps right round the clock at night."





Bill Tomlins, Commercial Director

AROUND

WELCOME BOB



New boy: Bob Bolder recently joined us on a month's loan from Sunderland. We wish him well and hope he enjoys his stay at Kenilworth Road.

MAN OF THE MATCH—MITCHELL THOMAS

All smiles: Town fan and TV-AM presenter, Nick Owen was a guest at QPR recently where he presented our own Mitchell Thomas and Rangers' Steve Wicks with man-of-the-match awards.



the TOWN

A WEEK OF WORRY, HEADACHES AND TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

by Bill Tomlins

Pass the Aspirin—it has been one of those weeks. What with the tremendous interest in the pitch and our new executive boxes and now a week of extraordinary ticket and match-day arrangements, all our club staff are both punch-drunk with the work, and delighted with the club's continuing success.

The possibilities of what could or could not have happened this week have made for a quite dramatic life behind the commercial scenes at Kenilworth Road—not least for such items as match-day arrangements, sponsorship and the production of the programme.

COMPLEX

Let me give you an example. On Monday morning, it was not at all clear if or how many home matches we would have this week. Owing to the complexities of the FA Cup, we could have ended up playing two or none!

Obviously a draw at Highbury meant a replay. But

where? A toss of a coin job of course like last year with Watford when Wayne Turner ended all the drama on his 24th birthday.

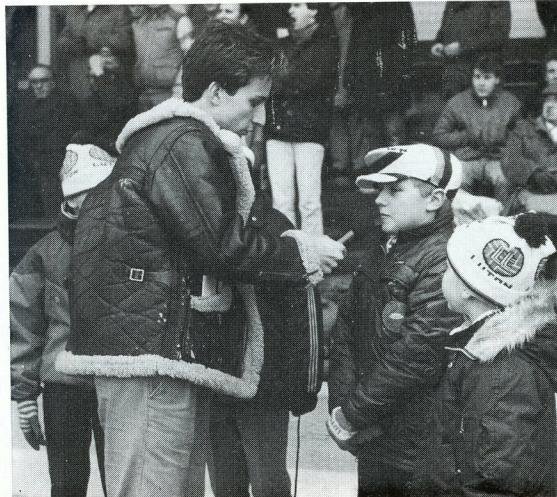
A defeat meant the end of the cup—but what of the league. If Watford failed to go through or were continually postponed, Liverpool would have had a day off . . . and, theoretically, might have wished to get rid of their outstanding fixture here. It would have been a mighty short notice of course. It all meant more headaches for everyone concerned.

DEBATE

So, thank goodness, we don't have winter all the year round . . . which brings me onto the debate over synthetic pitches as discussed by John Smith on page 25. As you will have read in the papers, it is said a group of league clubs are not in favour of synthetic pitches—but as far as I know most players are. And the commercial benefits are obvious to everyone!



● On the lookout: New closed circuit television cameras have recently been installed around the ground. I'm hoping we never have to use them as evidence in case of trouble.



● Youngsters: Chiltern Radio's Paul McKenna chats to some of our young fans at a recent home game. Paul and Chiltern's involvement with our Junior Hatters has been a huge success.

(Photos: Gareth Owen)

CAPTAIN'S DIARY

with
Steve Foster

AIMING FOR EUROPE

Last Saturday's win over Sheffield Wednesday was an important one. Not only did it consolidate our position in the top six, but it also meant we could overcome physical teams at the top of the table . . . and it keeps open the outside chance that we could win a place in Europe next year.

It is always important to keep morale and spirits high and that sort of win did a lot to ensure we stayed in a very confident frame of mind, particularly as we have been hit by an unfortunate run of injuries.

With Brian out now for a while, it is only sensible to recall Mark Stein from Aldershot. He has a lot to play for and it does seem Brian could be out for a few weeks.

Marc's Metro

On a more cheerful note, I am glad to report that Marc North has at last bought himself "the business"—a Metro turbo, I think it is! It was high time he bought himself something to drive.

And on the subject of strikers, I must mention that Mike Newell—who has settled in exceptionally well—had already picked up four or five nicknames in the dressing room. And they have all stuck! The latest—no, not psycho—is Cilla . . . after that other famous Scouser Cilla Black.



Junior Hatters



Sponsored by:
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and CHILTERN RADIO



Looking forward to a game of golf

With this cold spell and the snow, I bet that all you Junior Hatters are enjoying yourselves on the hills with sledges, bread-trays or even plastic bags. On my way in to training I could see a lot of you out enjoying the snow in the half-term holiday. I even took my family for an afternoon out in the snow with their sledge and got me going down the slopes near my home.

It is not much fun with two on a sledge and you can't see where you are going and you go over a bump and roll off on top of one another. Still it was all good fun! I will be glad when I can get

out to play some golf. It seems weeks since I last had a game!

We should have artificial golf courses like our pitch. So we can play in the winter as we do on our pitch while some pitches are frozen and games have to be postponed we are still playing on our pitch.

Peter Nicholas

ESCORTS



Mark Quinn

Robert Spiers

MASCOT



Paul Quinn

ESCORTS



Katherine Gallagher Benjamin Walker

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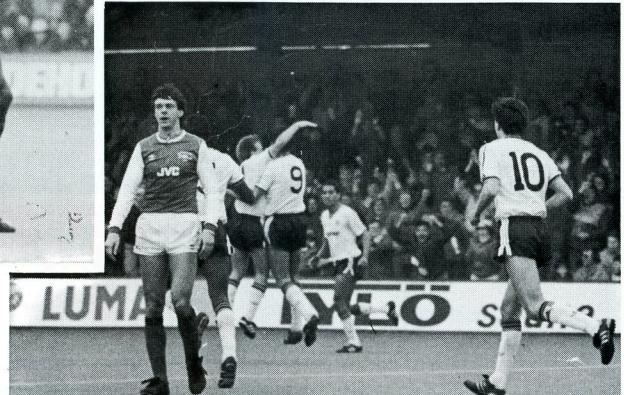
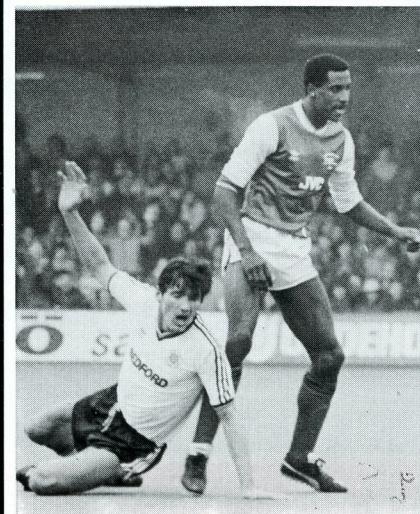
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EMEKA FIGHTBACK HITS HITCH



● Fighting back: Emeka Nwajiobi's bid for a return to first team action after a foot operation has been halted. Emeka, pictured in action against Bristol Rovers reserves, has a trapped nerve in his foot and needs further surgery. We wish him a quick recovery.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Arsenal	26	19	5	2	90	20	43
2 Chelsea	28	19	3	6	84	23	41
3 West Ham	25	18	3	4	88	43	39
4 Watford	26	15	5	6	62	32	35
5 Luton	29	14	6	9	39	37	34
6 Norwich	28	14	5	9	51	29	33
7 Tottenham	25	15	2	8	58	37	32
8 QPR	27	14	4	9	58	43	32
9 Oxford Utd	29	13	5	11	62	46	31
10 Ipswich	26	13	4	9	46	39	30
11 Bristol R.	23	10	4	9	42	45	24
12 Millwall	23	11	2	10	38	43	24
13 Southampton	26	8	7	11	45	58	23
14 C. Palace	26	9	5	12	41	60	23
15 Charlton A.	25	10	2	13	46	55	22
16 Birmingham	26	9	4	13	35	59	22
17 Brighton	27	6	4	17	24	56	16
18 Portsmouth	26	6	5	15	27	40	15
19 Fulham	24	6	2	16	33	63	14
20 Reading	23	5	4	14	26	66	14
21 Swindon	24	3	5	16	41	78	11
22 Swansea	24	3	0	21	17	83	6

Portsmouth has two points deducted for playing an ineligible player against Crystal Palace.
(up to and including Mon. Feb 24th)

APPEARANCES and GOALSCORERS

	App	Gls		App	Gls
Sealey	5		Tuite	8	
Johnson R.	20	1	Berry	1	
Harvey	9		Scott	6	
McEvoy	20	3	Farrell	2	
Elliott	12	1	Black	10	2
Johnson M.	11		Lewis	2	
Cobb	21	2	Daniel	17	4
Stein M.	21	3	Parker	20	3
Oldfield	24	5	Ferguson	1	
Grimes	22	2	North S.	16	
Dibble	20		Farrell	1	
Tighe	1		King	4	2
North M.	15	7	Newell	2	2
Preece	1		Scott	2	

FOOTBALL COMBINATION FIXTURES

A	Oct	2	Oxford United	1-1
A	Oct	9	Brighton & H.A	2-0
H	Oct	12	Queens Park Rangers	1-1
H	Oct	15	Ipswich Town	2-3
A	Oct	19	Southampton	2-2
H	Oct	26	Swansea Town	2-0
A	Oct	31	Swindon Town	5-1
H	Nov	6	Norwich City	1-0
H	Nov	9	Crystal Palace	0-2
A	Nov	16	Watford	4-1
H	Nov	23	Fulham	1-0
A	Nov	26	Chelsea	0-2
A	Nov	30	Tottenham Hotspur	0-3
H	Dec	14	Arsenal	0-2
A	Dec	21	Bristol Rovers	1-1
A	Jan	4	Arsenal	0-3
H	Jan	11	Charlton Athletic	1-0
A	Jan	21	Ipswich Town	2-1
H	Jan	25	West Ham	3-0
H	Feb	1	Bristol Rovers	2-2
A	Feb	15	Swansea	0-1
H	Feb	22	Oxford	1-2

Youth Team

Marcus and Stacey show their skills on the magic carpet



● In training: Marcus Tuite and Stacey North are pictured in action during training on our synthetic pitch at Kenilworth Road this week.



Introducing Arsenal



Since their last visit to Kenilworth Road on February 15th Arsenal have been hit hard by the bad weather and also suffered injuries last Saturday when Republic of Ireland centre-half David O'Leary and England striker Tony Woodcock were injured during their 1-0 defeat at Newcastle.

But with games in hand they remain in a challenging position in the league in eighth place and, of course, retain hopes of reaching the sixth round of the Cup and a quarter-final at home to Tottenham Hotspur, their great north London rivals, or Everton.

Players likely to be on duty tonight:

Steve Williams—Former Southampton star Steve joined the Gunners in a big-money transfer last season but has since fallen out of favour and lost his place in the England squad. Now fighting to reclaim his midfield spot.

Tony Woodcock—England striker Tony joined Arsenal from Cologne after a distinguished spell in West Germany. He previously

played for Nottingham Forest.

John Lukic—John took over from Pat Jennings last season and went on to make 30 appearances. Born Chesterfield, he joined from Leeds in 1983. under-21 cap.

Viv Anderson—Joined Arsenal in 1984 after developing into an England full-back. Missed only one game last season and only two so far this term.

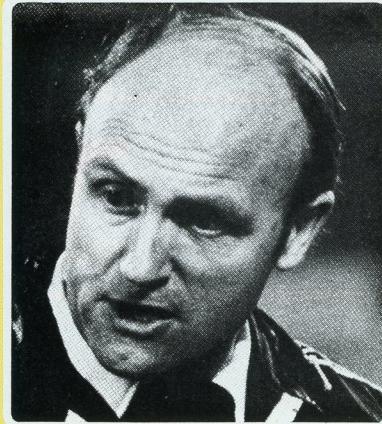
Kenny Sansom—One of the finest attacking left-backs in the First Division, Kenny is the Arsenal captain and a regular England player.

Paul Mariner—Bolton-born Paul, now 32, has played midfield recently after a long career as centre-forward. Ex-Plymouth and Ipswich, he was England leader in the 1982 World Cup. **David O'Leary**—Arsenal's longest-serving player, stopper David is an Eire international and former Gunners' captain.

Martin Keown—Has ousted Caton in recent weeks from the number six shirt. Born Ox-



Back row, from left: John Lukic, Martin Hayes, Martin Keown, Chris Whyte, John Cartwright (First Team Coach), Don Howe (Manager), Roy Johnson (Physiotherapist), Tony Adams, Steve Williams, Tony Woodcock, Rhys Wilmot. Front row: Viv Anderson, David O'Leary, Colin Hill, Paul Davis, Tommy Caton, Paul Mariner, Graham Rix, Charlie Nicholas, Stewart Robson, Kenny Sansom, Ian Allinson.



Arsenal manager Don Howe is also chief assistant to England manager Bobby Robson. Wolverhampton-born, he played for West Bromwich Albion and Arsenal as right-back, winning 23 England caps. He took over as Arsenal manager in December 1983 after previously managing West Bromwich Albion and Galatasaray in Turkey and working as Terry Neill's assistant at Highbury. A believer in the high work rate and competitive qualities of English soccer, he said. "Our youth players are competitive first and foremost. The skill will come out later on. You get nothing unless you compete." His reshaped team has proved him true in recent weeks.

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**Club
Comment**

Why we used to play on grass

WHEN the new Kenilworth Road synthetic pitch was installed last August, it was logical to assume that there would be some doubters. Not as much as the storm that greeted Queens Park Rangers' new pitch, but that was four years ago and opinions have, in theory, become more moderate. As the shock wore off and the pitch's merits became obvious, we hoped a considered attitude would prevail throughout football.

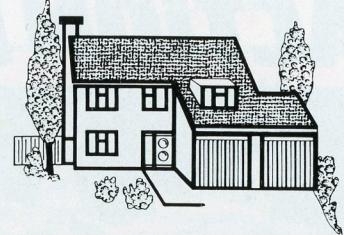
In a way, we were right as our own and visiting players realised just how good "Sporturf Professional" is; as a succession of physiotherapists found that "shock horror" stories of injuries on a synthetic surface just were not so. Visiting managers also found the pitch okay.

But some sections of the media and indeed some senior football figures seem determined to fan the flames of controversy, particularly as there is little else to write about. Even when the "facts" they quote are simply untrue. Could it be that the more entrenched football figures, seeing a growing number of League clubs opting for synthetic pitches are worried that they will be forced into doing likewise by their own supporters, who would rather see fast paced skilful football than mud-wrestling, or risk injury on frozen pitches.

As for the media, the Daily Mail ran two articles in a week recently condemning "plastic pitches". Those articles were stacked with untruths and, perhaps the most irritating to Luton Town, is the lumping together of all synthetic pitches under the same banner.

Once and for all, Luton Town's pitch is the only one of its kind in football; cannot be compared with the first generation surfaces; and is the ONLY pitch that meets the criteria laid down by the Sir Walter Winterbottom Committee on pitch standards for professional football. Our pitch, according to those criteria, matches the very best grass pitches. No other synthetic surface can make that claim.

Come to think of it... how many grass pitches can?



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ACTION REPLAY Extra



ViEWS from the **MEDIA**

On a pitch "as green as lettuce"

Our victory last Saturday over Sheffield Wednesday consolidated our league position and drew praise from the press for our performance on a day when bad weather and frozen pitches once again caused several postponements. Here is a selection of the comments from papers:

The Sunday Times: "The crusade of the Leicester City officials against the perils of plastic will have received no encouragement from this match. The pitch was shorn of its fleece of snow in the morning and emerged as green as lettuce. Ten thousand people paid to watch and two teams managed to ease the League's fixture problems.

"Sheffield Wednesday's hopes of ending in the talent money took another knock its true but after their lucky draw against Third Division Derby in midweek they can hardly blame the pitch for that. Wednesday were ponderous, predictable, and never looked like scoring."

The Sunday Telegraph: "A powerful headed goal by Mick Harford in the 16th minute gave Luton victory over a workmanlike and uninventive Sheffield Wednesday. No pitch, artificial or otherwise, would have done anything to improve their game.

"Apart from the match being played, there was precious little to warm the cockles of anybody's heart. Harford although his 18th goal of the season was an excellent one had a quiet game."

Match-winner Harford

Daily Express: "Match-winner Mick Harford was in the Luton treatment room on Sunday battling to beat a thigh strain that threatened him for the FA Cup replay at Arsenal. His 18th goal of the season was enough to beat Sheffield Wednesday and leave manager David Pleat convinced the beefy striker can force his way into England's World Cup squad."

Anglia Television

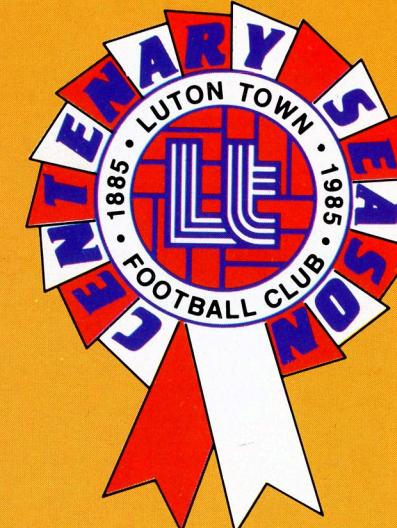
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East of England.



Alec Stock, our manager between 1968 and 1972 when we won promotion from the Third Division and built a powerful Second Division team, was also once on the staff at Highbury where he enjoyed only a brief spell before being lured to Roma in Italy.



THE LUTON TOWN STORY



All Our

IN DAYS OF OLD . . .

A large crowd of about 2,000 enjoying a beautiful fine and mild afternoon greeted the teams who had fought without ultimate reward in an unfinished match the previous week at Colchester. Luton were leading there 3-2 when the match was abandoned and this replay ordered. The Foresters had travelled from Derby, staying overnight at Bedford, and arrived at the Luton ground soon after 1.00 pm. A heavy rainfall had left the turf sodden, but not unplayable and a light wind blew across the pitch.

Strong attack

Luton kicked off and, within three minutes, were in the lead. The goalkick provided them with the chance to gain possession and they made a strong attack on the left. It resulted in a centre from Dimmock and a hard shot by Galbraith which Cragg, the goalkeeper managed to throw out.

Allen however was on the spot and he dashed in to head a clever goal. Enthusiastic applause, which was the order of the day, greeted his goal.

Pressed hard

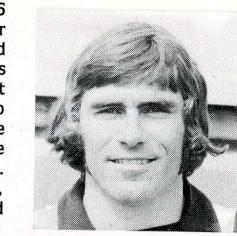
The Luton team then pressed hard, forced several corners and often seemed certain to score. One report describes it thus: "The Luton forwards swarmed around the Foresters' goalposts . . . but the military custodian saved grandly, though down on the ground." Finally, against the run of play, the visitors retaliated and gained some reward.

Brown, Luton's right winger, stopped a ball on the touchline, but was adjudged to have allowed it to go out. It was a decision with which few people in the ground agreed. From the throw-in the soldiers made a dazzling assault and from Potter's centre, Roberts scored with a smart shot under the bar.

Order your copy now to avoid disappointment—it's a book every supporter will be proud to read.

THE LUTON TOWN STORY

John Ryan made 266 League appearances for Luton between 1969 and 1976 after starting his career as a professional at Arsenal. He was club captain and player of the year and a great favourite as an attacking right back. He left for Norwich, Seattle, Sheff Utd. and Man City.



Peter Nicholas joined the Town in the last week of January 1985 and made his debut against Spurs at Kenilworth Road. He began his career at Crystal Palace and joined Arsenal for £400,000 in 1981. He returned to Palace in 1983.



Yesterdays

Half-time 1-1

The Foresters were first to show in attack in the second half. They forced a save from Bee in the Luton goal, before Dimmock centred at the other end for Allen. The forward had a fine chance but narrowly missed.

Luton were inspired for a spell and soon after Gorton was penalised for a foul on Galbraith, dangerous as ever. Julian took the kick, but the ball landed in the net untouched. Then Galbraith had a chance of his own, but just missed the post with his shot.

Disappointment was brief for the centre-forward, however, as

he quickly atoned for his miss with a grand single handed run which completely tricked his opponents and he shot a goal which proved to be a winner. This was only 11 minutes after the interval.

High excitement

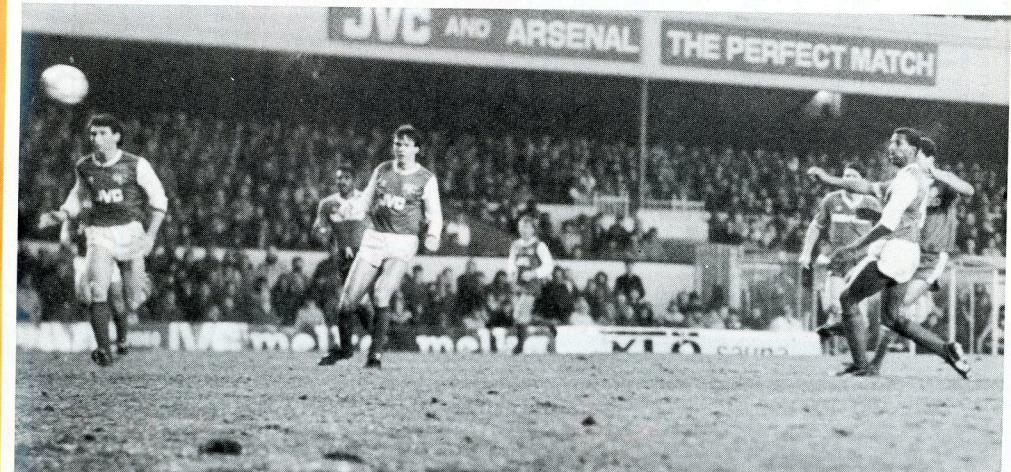
It was high excitement. Luton made further determined assaults on the visitors' goal, one ending with Galbraith offside, then Roberts fouled Finlayson badly and Bourke, the referee cautioned him, at the same time telling all the players he would send off

the next man who used foul tactics.

After this, the Foresters broke away again and Roberts scored, but Potter was ruled previously offside in the move. Luton had to battle through, surviving several scrapes, to qualify for the competition proper with their narrow win.

Luton Town: E. Bee, J. Wilston, W. Chesher, J. Watkins, J. W. Julian, A. H. Taylor, W. Brown, J. Finlayson, H. Galbraith, F. Allen, J. Dimmock.

Match played December 23rd, 1893: FA Cup fourth round replay.



Mike Newell fires in a shot at Highbury when the Town were beaten 2-1 in a fierce match.

First Team

1985-86 SEASON

UPDATE

Canon League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
1	Everton	31	12	2	2	42	15	8	3	4	29	20	65
2	Manchester U.	30	10	3	2	26	6	8	2	5	26	18	59
3	Liverpool	31	11	4	1	36	13	5	5	5	23	21	57
4	Chelsea	27	11	1	2	27	14	5	5	3	18	15	54
5	West Ham	26	9	2	1	28	10	6	4	4	14	14	51
6	Luton Town	31	9	5	1	27	8	5	4	7	21	25	51
7	Nottingham F.	29	8	2	5	28	20	6	2	6	24	22	46
8	Arsenal	27	10	3	1	20	9	3	4	6	12	21	46
9	Sheffield Wed	29	8	4	2	25	22	5	3	7	19	23	46
10	Newcastle	29	8	3	3	26	19	4	6	5	16	24	45
11	Manchester C.	31	7	5	4	21	19	4	3	8	15	22	41
12	Watford	27	9	2	2	30	14	2	4	8	16	29	39
13	Tottenham	30	7	1	7	30	20	4	7	12	18	38	
14	Southampton	30	10	4	2	28	11	0	3	11	10	30	37
15	Coventry City	31	4	4	8	27	30	5	4	6	16	24	35
16	QPR	30	8	3	4	21	12	2	1	12	10	33	34
17	Oxford Utd	30	5	4	5	23	18	2	4	10	22	39	29
18	Leicester City	28	4	7	3	25	22	2	2	10	12	29	27
19	Ipswich Town	28	4	4	6	13	18	3	1	10	9	22	26
20	Aston Villa	29	2	6	6	15	18	3	4	9	16	27	25
21	Birmingham C.	30	5	1	10	11	17	2	3	9	10	25	25
22	West Brom	30	2	4	8	13	27	1	3	12	12	41	16

League table as March 4th, 1986

LEAGUE, and CUP APPEARANCES and GOALSCORERS

League	Milk Cup	App	Gls	Cup	App	Gls	FA Cup	App	Gls
T. Breacker	26		3			2			
A. Dibble	7								
M. Donaghy	31		3			4			
P. Elliott	3(3)								
S. Foster	25	2	3			4			
A. Grimes	2(1)		(1)						
M. Harford	28	16	2			4	2		
R. Hill	28	2	3	1		4	2		
R. Johnson	6		1			2			
P. Nicholas	30		2			4			
E. Nwajobi	17(1)	4	3	1					
G. Parker	4(4)		1			(1)			
D. Preece	30	1	2	1		4	1		
B. Stein	29	14	3	1		3	1		
M. Thomas	30	1	2			4			
M. Stein	1								
L. Sealey	24		3			4			
M. North	9(3)	3	1	1		4	1		
R. Daniel	1(2)	1	1						
A. King	2					1			
S. North	1								
M. Newell	6	3							
Own goal	1					1			

(up to and including March 4th)

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Luton Town	FA	Att	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 17 Nottingham Forest	1-1	11,381	—	Dibble	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill*	Stein B.1	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	
Aug 21 Newcastle United	2-2	21,304	—	Dibble	Thomas	Grimes	Nicholas	Elliott	Donaghy	Parker	Stein B.	Harford1	Nwajobi1	Preece	
Aug 24 West Ham United	1-0	14,104	8	Dibble	Johnson R.	Thomas	Nicholas	Elliott	Donaghy	Parker	Stein B.	Harford1	Nwajobi	Preece	North M.
Aug 27 Arsenal	2-2	10,012	10	Dibble	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Parker	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	Nwajobi1	Preece	Grimes
Aug 31 Aston Villa	1-3	10,524	12	Dibble	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Johnson R.*	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	Parker
Sept 7 Chelsea	1-1	10,720	15	Dibble	Johnson R.	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford1	Nwajobi	Preece*	Elliott
Sept 14 Everton	0-2	26,419	16	Dibble	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster1	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	Parker
Sept 21 Queens Park Rangers	2-0	9,508	14	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford1	Stein M.	Preece	Nwajobi
Sept 24 Sheffield United (MC 2r 11)	2-1	8,943	—	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	Nwajobi1	Preece	Elliott
Sept 28 Sheffield Wednesday	2-3	17,887	15	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas*	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford2	Nwajobi	Preece	Elliott
Oct 1 Ipswich Town	1-0	8,553	14	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	Nwajobi1	Preece	Parker
Oct 5 Manchester United	1-1	17,454	14	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	North M.*	Nwajobi	Preece	Elliott
Oct 8 Sheffield Utd (MC 2r 21)	3-1	5,660	—	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill1	Stein B.	North M.1	Nwajobi	Preece1	Elliott
Oct 12 Oxford United	1-1	10,626	14	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	North M.
Oct 19 Southampton	7-0	8,876	13	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill1	Stein B.3	Harford	Nwajobi1	Preece1*	Daniel1
Oct 26 Liverpool	2-3	31,488	13	Sealey	Breacker	Johnson R.	Daniel	Foster1	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford1	Nwajobi	Preece*	Grimes
Oct 29 Norwich City (MC 3rd)	0-2	8,202	—	Sealey	Breacker	Johnson R.	Daniel	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	Daniel+
Nov 2 Birmingham City	2-0	8,550	10	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford1	Nwajobi	Preece	Johnson R.
Nov 9 Tottenham Hotspur	3-1	19,163	10	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill1	Stein B.1	Harford1	Nwajobi	Preece	Elliott
Nov 16 Coventry City	0-1	9,607	11	Sealey	Breacker*	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	Parker
Nov 23 Watford	2-1	16,107	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas1	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	Nwajobi	Preece	Daniel
Nov 30 Manchester City	2-1	10,096	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Elliott	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.2	Harford1	Nwajobi*	Preece	King
Dec 7 Newcastle United	2-0	10,319	7	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford1	King*	Preece	North M.1
Dec 14 Nottingham Forest	0-2	12,078	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	King*	Preece	King
Dec 21 West Ham United	0-0	14,599	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	North M.	Preece	Johnson R.
Dec 26 West Bromwich Albion	2-1	12,508	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford1	North M.1	Preece	Parker
Dec 28 Ipswich Town	1-1	15,604	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	North S.	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford	North M.1	Preece	King
Jan 1 Leicester City	3-1	10,917	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford3	North M.	Preece	King
Jan 4 Crystal Palace (FAC3)	2-1	9,886	—	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	North M.	Preece1	Johnson R.
Jan 11 Chelsea	0-1	21,102	8	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Newell	North M.	Preece	Daniel
Jan 18 Aston Villa	2-0	10,217	7	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Newell1	North M.	Grimes	King
Jan 25 Bristol R. (FAC4)	4-0	12,463	—	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill1	Stein B.	Harford1	North M.1	Preece	King+
Feb 1 Arsenal	1-2	22,326	7	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.	Harford1	Newell*	Preece	North
Feb 8 Southampton	2-1	13,740	6	Sealey	Breacker	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	Newell1	Preece	Johnson R.
Feb 15 Arsenal (FAC5)	2-2	15,799	—	Sealey	Johnson R.	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill1	Stein B.*	Harford1	North M.	Preece	Parker
Feb 22 Queens Park Rangers	1-1	16,252	6	Sealey	Johnson R.	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	North M.	Preece	Breacker
Mar 1 Sheffield Wednesday	1-0	10,206	6	Sealey	Johnson R.	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford1	North M.	Preece	Daniel
Mar 5 Arsenal (FAC5-replay)	0-0	26,547	—	Sealey	Johnson R.	Thomas	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	Stein B.1	Harford	North M.	Preece	Grimes
Mar 8 Manchester United (FAC6)															
Mar 15 Oxford United															
Mar 22 Everton															
Mar 29 Leicester City															
April 1 West Bromwich Albion															
April 5 Birmingham City (FAC s/f)															
April 12 Tottenham Hotspur															
April 19 Coventry City															
April 26 Watford															
May 3 Manchester City															

MC = Milk Cup FAC = Fa Cup * Indicates player substituted ● Substitute used Home fixtures in bold Scorers name in bold + Own goal

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Scorers name in bold



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Scorers name in bold

+ Own goal

Editor:
Robert Alexander

Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town

1 Les Sealey
2 Rob Johnson
3 Mitchell Thomas
4 Peter Nicholas
5 Steve Foster
6 Mal Donaghy
7 Ricky Hill
8 Andy King
9 Mick Harford
10 Marc North
11 David Preece
Sub

Arsenal

1 John Lukic
2 Viv Anderson
3 Kenny Sansom
4 Steve Williams
5 David O'Leary
6 Martin Keown
7 Ian Allinson
8 David Rocastle
9 Charlie Nicholas
10 Paul Mariner
11 Graham Rix
Sub

Referee: A. GUNN (Burgess Hill)

Linesmen: H. HAMPSHIRE (Red Flag) M. J. TAYLOR (Yellow Flag)



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