

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.00

Luton v Charlton Ath.

TODAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



Saturday, November 29th, 1986 Kick-off 3.00 p.m

LUTON TOWN

Today's match is sponsored by: F.R. Cawley Ltd. Furlong Bros. Ltd.
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- **Opening minute:** Mark Stein shot the Town ahead after only 40 seconds against Brian Clough's team.

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Edited by: Robert Alexander
Pictures by: Sportswide Photography

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- **On the run:** Mark Stein (above) shows Ian Bowyer a trick as he weaves his way through while Steve Foster heads our third goal in a 4-2 win.




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MOORE ABOUT FOOTBALL



Welcome to Charlton Athletic who have produced some exceptional results already this season following their promotion from the Second Division last spring. With away wins at Manchester United and West Ham – two grounds on which we have been beaten this season – and a home victory over Everton behind them, they have already proved their mettle in the top flight and we shall be in for a very tough match again today. But, after losing our way after four successive wins when we lost by the only goal at Sheffield Wednesday last week, we will be extra keen to start out on another good run this afternoon. Sheffield Wednesday provided exactly the stern test I expected last week. Overall, I felt they had the best of it both in terms of possession and territorially. They are a very big strong team with a mixture of power and good football and I felt we missed our senior players a little. It was also a heavy ground, the heaviest we have played on this season, and we found it difficult to retain possession. Only in the last 15 minutes, when we gambled a bit, did we start to carry the game to them.

Challenging position

However, we remain sixth in the table and in a good position to start another run and make a strong challenge. There is always a danger, after the wins over Liverpool and Forest, that we could underestimate some of the other teams, but we shall expect Charlton to be every bit as difficult to beat and to fight as hard as any other team in the First Division. They had a thin time recently and Mark Aizlewood, a former player here, is sure to be extra keen to lead them to a good result.

Our injury situation, sadly, has not improved. Ricky Hill and David Preece are still struggling to overcome knee injuries and, at the time of writing, I do not expect to see them figuring in the team for today. Mark Harford, after turning out for 90 minutes in a testimonial match at Barnet for Steve Mahoney, which we won 3-2 incidentally, suffered another setback last Friday when he felt pain in his knee again. He had to drop out of the reserves' team for the following day. Stacey North, however, was fit to return in that game against Portsmouth reserves, which we won 5-1, and Andy Dibble is making good progress now after having his plaster removed.

We shall try to reproduce the form and the entertainment of the Forest match when I felt the match was a real cracker, full of positive things. Enjoy the action.



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RUNNERS-UP – DIVISION 2 1973-74
CHAMPIONS – DIVISION 2 1981-82



Mailbag

Write to The Editor, Luton Town F.C., Kenilworth Road, Luton by Tuesday a.m.

Mascot thanks

Dear Sir,
On behalf of my son Gary (aged 4), the team mascot for the Nottingham Forest match. A big thank-you to Steve Foster, Les Sealey, Kenilworth the Cat and Peter Brown.

After leading out the team with Steve, shots at Les and a present of a new ball and autographs, we were treated to a feast of attacking football.

Well done lads and well done Luton Town F.C.

Thanks again

R. Brown (Mr)

24 Arthur St.,
Amphill, Bedford.

Charlton donation

Dear Sir,
Please find enclosed a cheque for £5 which is a donation to your club.

I greatly admire your stand against 'football' hooligans and would normally have enjoyed visiting your friendly club as I have many times before (even when you beat Charlton 7-1!).

As I will be unable to come on Saturday when you play Charlton Athletic and I would not like to see you out of pocket, please regard my cheque as compensation and an indication of the support you have from the vast majority of real football supporters.

Best wishes for the match and for your brave experiment. I hope you have success with the latter!

Yours sincerely,

Steve Morris

104 Maryon Road,
Charlton, London.

Full support

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my fullest support for the impressive steps which you, as Chairman, and your club, have taken to suppress football hooliganism. There is also massive support here among the general public.

Perhaps a few details of my career may allow an assessment to be made of the value of my comments.

I retired from the Sussex Police 10 years ago, when Head of the CID. Since then I have campaigned relentlessly against soccer hooliganism, both locally and nationally. The Albion ground is situated in the area which I represent as an East Sussex County Councillor and a Hove Borough Councillor.

Carry on with your stand, having lit the torch, see it through, you're on the right lines.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Marshall

49 Goldstone Crescent,
Hove, Sussex.

Pen pal please!

Dear Sir,

I am a Wimbledon fan and have just seen the 0-1 defeat vs Luton Town. I would very much like a Luton fan as a pen pal and would be pleased if you could state this in your programme. I will try to answer all letters from any male or female's aged 15+.

Good luck for the season.

Yours sincerely

Glen Morgan

5 Barnard Court
Mount Nod Rd.
Streatham,
London SW16 2LJ.



• Les Sealey: Shots



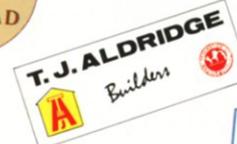
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GIRL TALK



Problem of recognition

The Football Fan: how do we identify him – or her? Cloth cap, belted raincoat, striped scarf and rattle? That might have been true once, but now the fan is far less easily recognised.

The Luton Fan (and why consider anyone else?) appears in a number of guises. First there is the 'traditional'. He or she is bedecked in orange, navy and white: scarf, gloves, hat and even shirt are in Luton's colours. The scarf, or jacket, of this fan is usually emblazoned with football club badges – souvenirs from grounds visited.

Next is 'the family'. This fan is made up of grandma, grandpa, mum, dad, sons, daughters or any combination of these member parts. 'The family fan' is identified by its size – it takes up considerable space on the terraces – and the thermos flask which it conjures from the recesses of its bags at half time.

The lad

Next is 'the lad'. This fan is much harder to categorise. It is impossible to pinpoint his age, save that he's 18-30. He does not come from a particular

social class or racial group. All we can say is that he's male and will gravitate towards other males. He may be smartly dressed or sloppy, have short hair or long. He is exuberant but not violent. He and his multi-racial fellows have caused confusion on the terraces, though, particularly when matches get exciting. 'The lad' considers monkey noises a sign of approbation and encouragement. The national media, understandably, I think, have been known misguidedly to misinterpret this grunting as racist!

The girls

If you ask a woman on the terraces who she's with and she answers, "I'm here with the girls," you'll know you've met 'the female fan'. She is on the terraces solely to enjoy the sport on the pitch. She might chant, occasionally, and she'll certainly clap and cheer. And you can be sure that regardless of the weather, train breakdowns, bus strikes or petrol rationing, she'll always be there, cheering the Town.

Gale Waller

Anyone wanting to contribute to Girl Talk, please write to: The Editor, Luton Town F.C., Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds.

Luton News



Best reports; best pictures

THURSDAYS 14p

Sheffield Wednesday 1 Luton Town 0

A 74th minute goal by midfielder Gary Megson proved decisive at Hillsborough last Saturday when the Town's run of four consecutive victories came to an end. Megson, the son of a famous Sheffield father, struck with a crashing shot into the roof of the net when the Town defence failed to clear a cross by Brian Marwood and a header by Lee Chapman.

On a heavy pitch, the Town were never able to fully grasp the initiative against a strong and determined team who had held Liverpool to a draw at Anfield in a televised match the previous week. The Town did, however, have their chances.

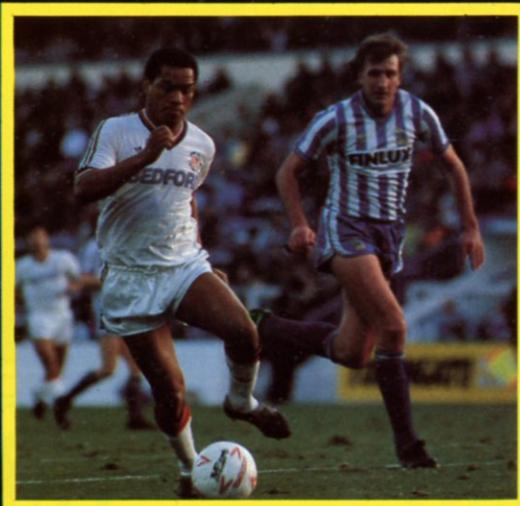
The best fell to Brian Stein and Mike Newell, but neither was able to convert them and a generally uninspiring afternoon for the spectators ended in an unexpected rash of bookings.

Referee Ian Hendrick of Preston cautioned Steve Foster for a foul and then within a three-minute spell added those of Wednesday's Lee Chapman, for dissent, and Paul Hart, for another foul.

The Town looked reasonably compact and capable of survival throughout the game but were never able to do enough to win. Perhaps the most telling statistics came from the offside decisions awarded - Wednesday were caught offside five times while the Town were trapped a total of 15 times.

Teams: - Sheffield Wednesday - Hodge, Sterland, Worthington, Hart, Madden, Jonsson, Marwood, Megson, Chapman, Hirst (sub Snodin 60), Shelton. - Luton - Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, McDonough, B. Stein, Newell, M. Stein, Grimes (sub Wilson 74). Referee - I.A. Hendrick (Preston).

1st Team ACTION



• On the attack: Although we had plenty of play in the last quarter against Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday, we were not able to avoid losing 1-0, our first defeat in five games since October 18 at Manchester United. Our pictures today show Brian Stein (left top), Darron McDonough (above), Mark Stein (left bottom) and Mike Newell (left) searching for an opening. Pictures by Sportswide Photography.

VIEWS from the BENCH

Gary Morecambe



Guest contributor Gary Morecambe will be at Kenilworth Road today to promote a book, *Stella*, half-written by his late father Eric Morecambe and half by himself. As the son of a former Town director, Gary has grown up steeped in Luton Town soccer and has developed a real appreciation of the game. Today, he reflects on his own happy connections with Luton Town – views in truth, from the stands and not the Bench!

Glory of today

Having followed Luton's footballing fortunes since 1968, it's rather pleasant to be writing a short piece in the programme at a time when I cannot recall the team finding such success. I wish my father – Eric Morecambe – was here today. He would have revelled in their glory.

It was my father who first brought Luton FC into our home. When he suffered his first illness he decided he wanted to find a source of relaxation and enjoyment away from showbusiness. He found the enjoyment surely enough, but I don't think he once relaxed between three and four forty five on a Saturday afternoon.

And the success of the club became very important to him. On occasion he even went as far as referring to it on his shows, though I don't quite know what the producers and other writers made of it all.

The 'flick'

Players in those early days of our association still come readily to mind. Laurie Sheffield (who he called 'The Flick' because of his Fossie-style ability in the air); Terry Branston ('The Leaner'); Keith Allen; John Ryan; Bruce Rioch; Allan Slough; Tony Read; Graham French, and, of course, our manager, John Moore.

As well as anticipating a great match against today's visitor's, Charlton, I'm here to promote a book – a novel started by my father up to the time of his death, and completed by me. It's called 'Stella' and hopefully you've already either read or heard something about it.

Severn House Publishers, in cooperation with Luton Town FC, have arranged that any copies

ordered and bought through the club, will raise monies that will directly benefit Harefield Hospital.

That was the hospital that carried out a life-saving by-pass operation on my father many years ago. I hasten to add, therefore, that on this occasion I will not be benefitting from books sold via the club, but a worthwhile cause certainly will.

I do hope you see fit to support myself, the publishers, and Luton Town FC. Without sounding too dramatic, it's a small price to pay for extending someone's life.

Enjoy the game today, and remember my father's words when asked what else he liked other than Luton Town FC: 'There is only Luton Town FC! What more can I say!'



• **Signing session:** Gary Morecambe with Town youth coach John Faulkner.

CLUB NEWS

TICKET OFFICE NEWS

On Saturday, December 6th, we are away to Oxford United in a Today League Division One Fixture, kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, December 13th, we are at home to Everton in a Today League Division One fixture, kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, December 20th, we are away to Arsenal in a Today League Division One fixture, kick-off 3 pm.

For ticket and match information, please call Luton 30748 (daytime) or Luton 423293 (24 hour service) or call in to the Ticket Office at 125 Oak Road, Luton.

Pre-match Entertainment

This afternoons pre-match entertainment is produced by a match between the Luton school's under-16 team and Bedford school's under-16's. This will be followed by another dynamic display of pre-match colour by Fantastic Fireworks.

Crowd packing

Thank you very much for your support this season and not least for the understanding you have shown in making our new systems work.

May we now ask for your co-operation in another important matter – crowd packing at the Kenilworth end. Because of the layout of the stand and the limited access points, the stewards have experienced difficulty in easing everyone in even though parts of the stand are far from full.

To improve our efforts, we ask you to accept direction from the stewards to the most appropriate areas from half an hour before kick-off time. Thank you.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

FA Youth Cup 2nd round
Wednesday, December 3, 1986
Luton Town v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Kick-off 7.30 pm.

Football Combination
Saturday, December 6, 1986
Luton Town v Millwall
Kick-off 2 pm.

MATCH REFEREE

Arthur Robinson (Manchester)

Arthur is an official with a Professional Executor and Trustee Company (William's and Glyn's). He is married with two sons. He started refereeing in 1958 and progressed via the Bolton Combination and the Lancashire Combination. He enjoys all sports, travel, cinema and the theatre.

Disgrace to the club

The behaviour of one supporter has disgraced the name of this Club. Brendan Healy, 19, of Dunstable Road, Luton has been convicted of using threatening behaviour following our match at Wimbledon.

Such behaviour is unacceptable to this Club and our supporters, so Mr Healy's membership card has been invalidated and he has been banned from Kenilworth Road.

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Today's match ball is sponsored by Williams & Richardson Contractors Ltd. The company has been established about 50 years and forged a link with the club by installing our original floodlights.

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by BILL TOMLINS

THE TOWN

PRESTIGIOUS INVITATION TO TELEVISED SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT NEXT MONTH

Good afternoon and welcome to Charlton Athletic and our former player Mark Aizlewood. Early next month, we are taking part in the exciting and prestigious Guinness 'Soccer 6' championships as one of 11 top First Division clubs.

The tournament on December 9 and 10 takes place at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester and will be televised with live coverage on Sportsnight on the Wednesday. Naturally, it is a wonderful opportunity for our club and players.

Strong line-up

Unfortunately, Liverpool will be absent as they are committed to a trip to the Middle East, but the line-up is a strong one - Manchester City, Aston Villa, Arsenal, Forest, Newcastle, Sheffield Wednesday, Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United, Oxford United, Chelsea and ourselves.

We will be playing in a group on Tuesday night with Nottingham Forest and Newcastle United and will need to win to

go through to a final that night to reach the second round.

Disabled fans

I am pleased to report that we have begun planning work for the relocation of our disabled supporters to an area where they will be accommodated in comfort and under cover. Many of our members have expressed concern on behalf of our disabled fans for which I am grateful.

We held a meeting this week and I know many supporters who attended were impressed with the club's attitude.

Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome to today's match sponsors Furlong Bros Ltd, WH Allsop Ltd, Ravenmere Ltd, and FR Cawley Ltd. They have taken a joint sponsorship today.

We are very grateful for their support and I hope Mr David Furlong, Mr Stuart Allsop, Mr Tony Hunter and Mr John Cawley of the four companies enjoy a successful afternoon.

SPECIAL BOOK



• **A double effort:** Gary Morecambe, pictured by a portrait of his father in the Eric Morecambe lounge, has helped complete a novel his father started. Full story - see page 12.

BUBBLY BATHTIME FOR ERIC MORECAMBE



• **Promotion splash:** Eric Morecambe celebrated our promotion in 1974 when he was thrown in the players' bath. Today we are promoting his last book, a novel called 'Stella', which Eric's son Gary completed after his death. All profits go to Harefield hospital. It is a really worthwhile cause and one I am sure all our members will want to support.



• **Birthday treat:** Kenilworth the Cat dropped in to visit Matthew Williams' birthday party at our last match. The idea of the party came from Matthew's father John, managing director of Taylor's estate agents.



• **Bubbly prize:** Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy with Hans Jurgen, and boys James Linder and Matthew Cardell after our win over Forest. Hans' company were our executive sponsors.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER

Unlucky Mick

Hello everyone. We are all feeling for Mick Harford at the moment. Poor Mick is due to have another operation on his troublesome knee - his fourth this year!

It is a tough blow for him after starting on the comeback run with 90 minutes at Barnet the other week. At least his op is not a big one and, we hope, he will be fighting fit in the new year.

Heavy pitch

We could certainly have done with a bit of Mick's experience and strength at Hillsborough last week. It was a heavy pitch and Sheffield Wednesday are a powerful team.

The boss reckons Mick will be out for about two weeks after the operation.

Early next month we will be entering the Guinness 6-a-side tournament in Manchester. Mick scored six goals when it was first held and televised in Birmingham a few years ago - this time though he will not be playing.

I hope you all enjoyed the match against Forest a fortnight ago. We shall do our best to keep up our best form. Enjoy the match.

DANID PREECE





CLUB COMMENT

John Smith, Chief Executive.

Synthetic fixations

Journalists have a thing about ages. You know the kind of thing - "Model, 22, weds pop star, 40". And I am beginning to think they have the same fixation about Luton Town and our synthetic pitch.

In recent reports of our wins against Liverpool and Forest, news of the win was often qualified by the fact it was achieved on our synthetic surface. Curiously enough, the surface is rarely mentioned when we play less impressively.

The journalists seem to be implying, of course, the result would be different if the match had been played on grass. That devalues and demeans all the work put in by John Moore, Ray Harford and their team this season.

It is also the sort of excuse visiting managers do not make, even when their preference is to play on grass.

Scientific standards

It is not often realised just how much care was taken to ensure the pitch would be totally suitable for professional football. When we first looked into it, we discovered there were no established scientific standards by which the playing qualities of pitches could be measured. So we requested a report from Sir Walter Winterbottom, the former England manager.

Identical scientific tests were carried out on a number of pitches, from Wembley to Wigan, covering aspects of ball roll and bounce and resistance to players' movements.

We used these results when specifying the surface required and subsequently carried out the same tests here at the end of last season. The results proved the only real difference is that its playing qualities are much better than the majority of pitches in use by League Clubs.

This consistent quality helps players to develop their skills. It highlights those with good touch and control and gives them the opportunity to show what they can do. At the same time, flaws in technique become equally evident.

We have only to see the great improvement in top-class hockey in this country, which has co-incided with the introduction of synthetic surfaces, to understand how synthetic pitches could benefit football as a whole.

Playing qualities

Furthermore, these same playing qualities are guaranteed in frosty February and muddy March! But no one considers it unfair when we have to play on mud or sand or a bond-hard frozen pitch.

Atrocious weather can make our surface more difficult, though it still looks deceptively good, as those who saw the Southampton and Arsenal matches will recall. As a result, our critics forgot how badly the same weather would affect grass.

We were convinced there was nothing unfair about our synthetic surface, and so it has proved. We compared the results of last season's home matches with our record over the previous 19 years.

On average we won 12 and lost four. Last season, with an exceptional squad we won 12 and lost three.

This record was bettered seven times and equalled three times in the previous 19 seasons - hardly the results you would expect if synthetic had given us an unfair advantage.

Oldham, with a similar pitch, are at the top of Division Two. BUT their record away is better than it is at home, with six wins and two draws compared to four wins and four draws. Again, this does not suggest an "artificial" home advantage.

In fact, there is undoubtedly greater home advantage at Anfield with 40,000 cheering liverpudlians, Oxford with a steep slope, on the wide open spaces at Maine Road or the confines of Highbury.

It is time to accept our results on merit. There is nothing synthetic about Luton Town's football.

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THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION TABLE 1986/87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur	12	9	3	0	39	9	21
Chelsea	14	9	2	3	28	12	20
Queens Park Rangers	13	8	3	2	32	22	19
West Ham United	14	8	3	3	26	17	19
Arsenal	12	8	2	2	25	14	18
Norwich City	13	8	1	4	30	23	17
Swindon Town	14	7	2	5	41	34	16
Oxford United	11	6	3	2	28	14	15
Ipswich Town	11	7	0	4	16	15	14
Southampton	14	5	2	7	21	21	12
Watford	14	3	6	5	20	24	12
Fulham	11	4	3	4	14	15	11
Luton Town	14	5	1	8	25	28	11
Crystal Palace	13	4	2	7	20	22	10
Charlton Athletic	12	3	3	6	13	19	9
Millwall	10	3	2	5	13	19	8
Reading	11	3	2	6	13	27	8
Portsmouth	11	2	1	8	12	25	5
Brighton & Hove Albion	12	1	0	11	11	38	2
Bristol Rovers	12	0	1	11	6	35	1

FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1986/87

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1986					
Aug 23	Arsenal	2-3	Jan 3	Portsmouth	
Aug 26	Ipswich Town	1-2	Jan 10	Arsenal	
Sept 6	Brighton	3-1	Jan 17	Ipswich	
Sept 10	Reading	1-2	Jan 21	Brighton	
Sept 20	Southampton	4-1	Jan 31	Reading	
Sept 27	Chelsea	0-0	Feb 7	Swindon	
Sept 30	Charlton	1-3	Feb 14	Southampton	
Oct 4	Watford	4-2	Feb 21	Chelsea	
Oct 10	Norwich City	1-2	Feb 24	Charlton Ath	
Oct 18	Bristol R	3-0	Mar 7	Tottenham	
Oct 21	Swindon	3-1	Mar 11	Bristol R	
Oct 25	Tottenham	1-3	Mar 21	Norwich	
Oct 28	QPR	0-6	Mar 28	Watford	
Nov 8	Crystal Palace	1-2	Apr 1	Crystal Palace	
Nov 22	Portsmouth	5-1	Apr 11	QPR	
Nov 26	Oxford United		Apr 14	Millwall	
Dec 6	Millwall		Apr 25	West Ham	
Dec 9	Fulham		May 2	Oxford	
Dec 20	West Ham		May 6	Fulham	



• On the ball: Ian Scott is pictured in midfield action during the youth team's 3-1 victory over Charlton in the replay of their Southern Junior Floodlit Cup second round tie here. Pictures by Sportswide Photography.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES 1986/87

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1986					
Aug 23	Northampton	3-2	Jan 3	Wimbledon	
Aug 27	Brentford	3-0	Jan 10	Bournemouth	
Aug 30	Brighton	1-2	Jan 24	Colchester	
Sept 2	Bristol R(SJFC)	3-0	Jan 31	Reading	
Sept 6	Crystal Palace	0-0	Feb 7	Brighton	
Sept 13	Tottenham	1-1	Feb 14	Crystal Palace	
Sept 20	Cambridge U†	1-0	Feb 21	Southampton	
Sept 24	Ipswich*	1-0	Feb 28	Bournemouth	
Sept 27	Oxford	5-0	Mar 7	Swindon	
Sept 29	Colchester*	5-2	Mar 21	Swindon	
Oct 4	Northampton	1-2	Mar 28	Southend	
Oct 11	Southend	5-1			
Oct 18	Wimbledon	2-0			
Oct 25	Colchester	3-1			
Nov 1	Northampton†	6-1			
Nov 8	Reading	5-2			
Nov 11	Charlton(SJFC)	3-3			
Nov 11	Charlton(SJFC) replay	3-1			
Nov 22	Brentford	PP			
Nov 29	Bristol R				
Dec 6	Southampton				
Dec 13	Tottenham				
Dec 20	League Cup 3				
Dec 27	Oxford				

† League Cup
* Eastern Junior Floodlit Cup

Reserve & Youth



JIM RYAN



JOHN FAULKNER

RESERVES BACK ON WINNING TRAIL, YOUTH TEAM WIN FLOODLIT CUP TIE

After three successive defeats, the reserves bounced back to winning form with a 5-1 victory over Portsmouth in a Football Combination match here on November 22.

Kingsley Black scored twice with the other goals coming from David Oldfield, Emeka Nwajobi and Richard Harvey. They were due to play again at Oxford in midweek, but the fixture at Oxford was postponed because the home club could not raise a team.

Traffic jam

The youth team, meanwhile, were without a match last Saturday. Visitors Brentford failed to turn up for kick-off and the game was postponed. They were held up in a traffic jam on the M1 for three hours.

But the youth team can be proud of their 3-1 Southern Junior Floodlit Cup second round replay win over Charlton at Kenilworth Road on November 17.

Strong defence

"We looked strong and always seemed capable of winning the game," said coach John Faulkner. "Our defence played well and was strong in the air. When we were 3-0 up we should have won easily though and not let them back into the game."

John Kennedy, Aaron Tighe and Paul Lewis scored the goals for the youngsters, but the match was generally a hard physical slog in which skill was unable to overcome strength.

INTRODUCING...

CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Charlton Athletic arrive at Kenilworth Road today lying 18th in the First Division following a run of injuries and poor results which have undermined an extremely promising spell. But, with three away victories behind them, they have proved to be dangerous travellers and will be keen to end a disappointing run with a good result here today.

Last Saturday, Charlton went down 3-1 at home to Southampton and had their goalkeeper Nicky Johns sent off. Johns, who injured his ankle during a 4-1 defeat at Watford recently, had only just recovered his place in the side. For manager Lennie Lawrence, it meant another serious worry as he has seen his injury list grow throughout the season and suspensions will only add further to the complications.

Probably the most serious loss to the Charlton team has been that of striker Jim Melrose whose marksmanship inspired the victories at West Ham - where they won 3-1 - and at home to Everton, who were beaten 3-2. Another bad blow to Charlton has been the injury to Colin Walsh, the Scottish midfielder signed from Nottingham Forest earlier this season. He is out with knee ligament strains, but may come under consideration for a place today.

Players likely to be on duty today:

Nicky Johns - A tall and agile goalkeeper whose height has made him a fine catcher of crosses. Nicky was born in Bristol and arrived at Charlton after spells with Millwall, Tampa Bay and Sheffield United. Has made more than 270 league appearances.

John Humphrey - Paddington-born John, 25, came to Charlton from Wolves where he broke through after being signed as an apprentice and went on to make 149 appearances. An ankle injury has recently kept him out of the side, but he played last week against Southampton.

Mark Reid - Mark joined Charlton in 1985 from Glasgow Celtic. Born Kilwinning, he progressed from Celtic Boys Club. He is 25 and has a keen eye for goal.

George Shipley - Newcastle-born George is a midfielder who was an apprentice at Southampton. He made only three appearances at The Dell before moving on after loan spells with Reading and Blackpool to Lincoln City where he made 223 appearances and scored 39 goals.

Steve Thompson - Born Sheffield, Steve provides the defensive strength in the middle of the team. Tall and powerful, he combines well with Peter Shirliff. Steve started his career with Boston United and progressed via



Charlton Athletic manager Lennie Lawrence has quietly earned an enviable reputation as a shrewd mover in the transfer market and as a well-respected coach since taking up his present job in December 1982. A quick-witted and articulate man, he has steered Charlton to the First Division against a background of dissent and falling attendances following the clubs move from The Valley to Selhurst Park. As a player, however, he was strictly a man of the lower orders, playing for Croydon, Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United. Before moving into the manager's office with Charlton, he was assistant manager at Plymouth Argyle and Lincoln City and reserve team coach at Charlton.

Lincoln City to Charlton's new home at Selhurst Park.

Peter Shirliff - Signed from Sheffield Wednesday last summer, Peter is a tall and powerful central defender who was born in Barnsley.

Robert Lee - Born in West Ham, Robert is a fast and skilful forward who is now 20. He is capable of playing as a provider or as a finisher and has proved his marksmanship with 22 goals in only 85 league appearances before the start of this season.

Mark Stuart - Hammersmith-born Mark is a former schoolboy international midfielder with Queens Park Rangers. Only 19, he has performed very promisingly for Charlton this season.

Jim Melrose - Likely to start a game for the first time in several weeks today after a calf injury, Jim was born in Glasgow and has played for Partick Thistle, Leicester City, Glasgow Celtic, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Manchester City.

Mark Aizlewood - Former Luton favourite Mark is likely to be on the left side of midfield today. He was player of the year for Charlton last season when he captained them to promotion. Started career with Newport County and joined the Town in 1978. Left for Charlton in November 1982. A full Welsh international.

Andy Peake - Former Leicester City and Grimsby midfielder Andy joined Charlton earlier this season to bolster the experience and strength of the side. Born in Market Marborough, he has plenty of top flight experience.



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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY PETER NICHOLAS

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE JUNIOR HATTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the Junior Hatters christmas party will take place on Monday December 15th from 7pm to 9pm. It is going to be free to members only for the first 200 applicants accepted, the party will include a disco and a sports quiz. This year I will have to raise a strong team, as the team that I had at last years party beat the junior team. The Junior's team will be picked on the night when

we will also be drawing names out of a drum for the mascot and escorts for the rest of the season. Come along and get your tickets from the ticket office in Oak Road for what should be a really good night. I'm looking forward to it already.

Today, we give a warm welcome to Charlton Athletic. Enjoy the match and have a good day.

ESCORTS

MASCOT

ESCORTS



Stephen Cutting



Simon Huckle



Sean Sherry



Gareth Head



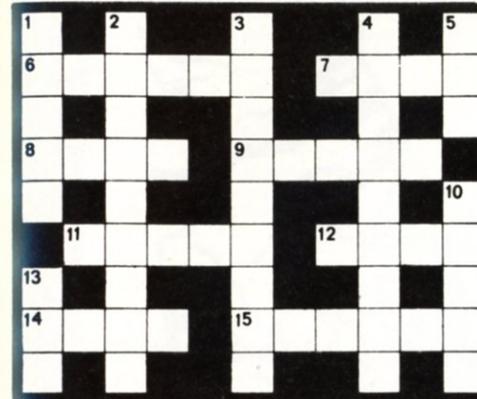
Andrew Jeeves

KENILWORTH THE CAT



QUIZ

Soccer Ninety-Niner No. 5



Across

- Fruity colour associated with, say, Luton (6)
- Beasant, maybe (4)
- Colour favoured by keepers seen in goal for Italy (4)
- Club which collected promotion in 1986 (5)
- Colour seen at 4 down, for instance (5)
- An invoice for the Ayre man? (4)
- The stake for Rajkovic? (4)
- Eire international whose name is an anagram of 6 across (6)

Down

- One of Scotland's representatives in the World Cup finals (5)
- Manager who pulled Plymouth Argyle to promotion in 1986 (4,5)
- Martin —, big forward seen in action with Rangers, Hibs, Leicester, Chesterfield and Port Vale (9)
- Abbey Stadium side (9)
- Could be a change colour for QPR (3)
- Keeley, could be (5)
- The beastly symbol of 9 across (3)

The answers to this crossword will appear in the next programme.

Answers to First Eleven Competition No. 4

Colin	Dean	Simon
Emerson	Gordon	Eric
Ernie	Martin	Barry
Craeme	Lenn	
Club: ARSENAL		



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Views from the media

Winning run ends in Sheffield

Our run of four successive wins came to an end at Sheffield Wednesday last week when Gary Megson's goal earned the Owls a 1-0 win. Here is a selection of the comments of the press after that game:

Mail on Sunday - "Luton's grand little run of four successive wins came up against a solid Wednesday side and the referee's whistle. Mr Hendrick could well have been bidding for an entry into the Guinness Book of Records as Luton were stopped 16 times for offside."

Sunday Telegraph - "Luton failed to convert their chances leaving Wednesday to grab the points with a late Gary Megson goal. Wednesday were at their most ordinary. They supplied their usual barrage of long balls into the area but the Luton defence in which Foster was supreme held firm until Megson struck. They must be kicking themselves for the one lapse that gave the game away after four wins on the trot."

Sunday Mirror - "Luton, with Steve Foster dominant and Peter Nicholas buzzing in midfield, always looked comfortably in control, but Brian Stein was guilty of a couple of bad misses."

The Sun - "Gary Megson, scorer of Wednesday's 73rd minute winner, said: "That was our hardest home game of the season."

Daily Mail - "In the past Megson's effort, with 18 minutes remaining, would have sparked the Luton capitulation and an emphatic Wednesday victory. Not any more. "Luton are the hardest team we've played at Hillsborough this season" Megson pointed out. "They're very well organised and very hard to break down. I can see how they reach fourth in the First Division and if they carry on like this they will not lose many games."



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SAM BARTRAM – A HERO BETWEEN THE POSTS

We welcome Charlton to Kenilworth Road after an absence of five years for our 47th league meeting. Luton hold the upper hand in previous games, winning 22 and drawing 9, with a goal tally of 84 against 65, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Our first meeting took place at Kenilworth Road on 15th April 1922 when goals from Sid Hoar and Allan Mathieson gave us a comfortable 2-0 victory. The return at the Valley a week later was played in a deluge and only 3,000 hardy souls turned up to witness Harry Higginbotham score in a 1-0 win.

The goal was scored after the Charlton keeper slipped in the mud, dropped the ball, and presented the Luton centre-forward with a simple tap-in.

Games tended to go with the home team until Charlton's promotion season of 1934-35, when we lost home and away. The day before the home game, on 8th September 1984, Charlton goalkeeper Alex Wright died while bathing in the sea at Torbay and although his replacement did well in the 2-1 victory at Kenilworth Road a further keeper by the name of Sam Bartram was signed the following week.

Bartram was a fixture in goal by the time the teams met in the return at the Valley and remained at Charlton until 1956. A spell as manager of York followed before he took over at Luton in 1960 at a time when the Town were starting their nosedive to Division Four.

One of Bartram's final games for Charlton was on that historic day 20th August 1955 when the Town went to the Valley for our first ever game in Division One. The largest crowd for the fixture of 28,460 witnessed Gordon Turner and Peter MacEwan score in a 2-2 draw.

Sam Bartram left Luton in the summer of 1962 and by the following spring relegation stared us in the face.

A mini-revival sparked by the goalscoring form of Ron Davies set up a "four pointer" at home to Charlton on May 11th 1963 and a crowd of 10,867, the best since Boxing Day 1962 saw a five star display with Davies and Turner each scoring twice in a 4-1 win.

The win sent Luton up to third-bottom changing places with Charlton, but with the Town losing their remaining two matches and the "Valiants" winning theirs, roles reversed again to send us plummeting out of Division Two.

In more recent times, the 7-1 home win in 1977-78 stands out with Jim Husband scoring four in a game where the Town could do no wrong. It was probably a blessing that Charlton striker Derek Hales had recently left the club as the ex-Town player always seemed to be on the scoresheet when the two teams met as if to prove us wrong in parting with him in the first place.

Recent transfer dealings between the clubs have seen Paul Walsh move here in exchange for cash plus an unhappy Steve White. It is interesting to note that a Charlton spokesman said at the time of the Walsh transfer. "They may have Walsh but we have managed to keep our best player – Paul Elliott!"

Finally a warm welcome back to Mark Aizlewood – David Pleat's first major signing and another player no doubt out to prove us wrong.



• **Paul Elliott:** In action against Aston Villa, who signed him last season.



• **Derek Hales:** Striker who always enjoyed scoring on his return to Luton.

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FIRST TEAM UPDATE 1986-87 SEASON

Luton Town F-A Att Pos 1

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE (Up to and including 25 November 1986)

HOME					AWAY						
P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A	APts.		
16	5	4	0	12	2	4	1	3	11	6	31
16	6	2	0	20	6	3	0	5	15	16	29
16	4	3	1	18	8	4	1	3	16	12	28
16	4	1	3	14	14	3	5	0	12	9	27
16	4	3	1	13	7	3	2	3	11	10	26
16	5	3	0	12	4	2	2	4	6	8	26
16	6	1	1	11	4	1	4	3	5	8	26
16	5	2	1	13	9	2	3	3	11	14	26
16	4	4	0	20	10	2	3	3	10	13	25
16	3	3	2	8	7	4	1	3	11	9	25
16	5	1	2	19	8	1	3	4	11	14	22
16	4	3	1	12	8	1	3	4	5	18	21
16	4	1	3	15	13	2	1	5	15	22	20
16	3	1	4	10	11	3	0	5	8	11	19
16	4	1	3	12	11	1	2	5	3	9	18
16	4	1	3	11	11	1	2	5	10	21	18
16	4	1	3	13	8	0	4	4	4	10	17
16	2	2	4	9	12	3	0	5	9	16	17
16	2	3	3	11	12	2	1	5	7	15	16
16	3	3	2	12	9	0	3	5	3	11	15
16	1	3	4	6	14	2	3	3	11	14	15
16	2	2	4	9	12	1	3	4	6	14	14

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1986/87)

League		League	
Aps	Goals	Aps	Goals
Tim Breacker	8	Peter Nicholas	16
Mal Donaghy	16	Marc North	2(2)
Steve Foster	16	Emeka Nwajobi	6
Ashley Grimes	10	David Preece	7
Richard Harvey	1	Brian Stein	14
Ricky Hill	14	Mark Stein	9(2)
Rob Johnson	15	Les Sealey	16
Darron McDonough	2(4)	Robert Wilson	8(3)
Mike Newell	16		5

Leading goalscorers

Division One

20 - Rush (Liverpool)

18 - Allen (Tottenham)

14 - Aldridge (Oxford)

Cottee (West Ham)

Clarke (Southampton)

12 - McMahon (Liverpool)

Birtles (Forest)

Today's action

Aston Villa v Arsenal

Leicester v Chelsea

Liverpool v Coventry

Man City v Everton

Norwich v Oxford

Q.P.R. v Sheffield Wed

Southampton v Watford

Tottenham v Nottingham Forest

Wimbledon v Man Utd

Aug 23	Leicester City	1-1	9801	-	Sealey
Aug 26	Southampton	2-1	8777	-	Sealey
Aug 30	Newcastle United	0-0	9254	2	Sealey
Sept 3	Aston Villa	1-2	13122	12	Sealey
Sept 6	Chelsea	3-1	13040	7	Sealey
Sept 13	Arsenal	0-0	9876	8	Sealey
Sept 20	West Ham United	0-2	19133	13	Sealey
Sept 27	Manchester City	1-0	9731	10	Sealey
Oct 4	Tottenham Hotspur	0-0	22738	10	Sealey
Oct 11	Norwich City	0-0	10022	11	Sealey
Oct 18	Manchester United	0-1	39927	12	Sealey
Oct 25	Liverpool	4-1	13140	10	Sealey
Nov 1	Queens Park Rangers	1-0(+)	9085	7	Sealey
Nov 8	Wimbledon	1-0	5928	5	Sealey
Nov 15	Nottingham Forest	4-2	11097	4	Sealey
Nov 22	Sheffield Wednesday	0-1	21171	6	Sealey
Nov 29	Charlton Athletic				
Dec 6	Oxford United				
Dec 13	Everton				
Dec 20	Arsenal				
Dec 26	Watford				
Dec 28	Nottingham Forest				
Jan 1	Coventry				
Jan 3	Chelsea				
Jan 10	F A Cup Round 3				
Jan 17	Southampton				
Jan 24	Leicester City				
Jan 31	F A Cup Round 4				
Feb 7	Newcastle United				
Feb 14	Aston Villa				
Feb 21	Manchester City (FAC5)				
Feb 28	West Ham United				
Mar 7	Liverpool				
Mar 14	Manchester United (FAC6)				
Mar 21	Norwich City				
Mar 28	Tottenham Hotspur				
Apr 4	Wimbledon				
Apr 11	Queens Park Rangers (FAC7)				
Apr 18	Coventry				
Apr 21	Watford				
Apr 25	Sheffield Wednesday				
May 2	Charlton Athletic				
May 5	Oxford United				
May 9	Everton				
May 16	F A Cup Final				

© The Football League FAC = F.A. Cup

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Breacker	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein ¹	Newell	(Wilson)	Nwajobi	◆ North	
Breacker	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein ¹	Newell	Wilson ¹	Nwajobi	◆ North	
Breacker	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein	Newell	Wilson	Nwajobi	◆ North	
(Breacker)	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein ¹	Newell	Wilson	Nwajobi	◆ North	
Breacker	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein ¹	Newell ²	Wilson	Nwajobi	◆ Preece	
Johnson	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein	Newell	Wilson	(Nwajobi)	◆ M. Stein	
Johnson	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein	(Newell)	Wilson	Preece	◆ M. Stein	
Johnson	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein ¹	Newell	M. Stein	Preece	◆ Nwajobi	
Johnson	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	M. Stein	Newell	North	Preece	◆ Wilson	
Johnson	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	M. Stein	Newell	(M. North)	Preece	◆ McDonough	
Breacker	Grimes	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein	Newell	(M. Stein)	Preece	◆ McDonough	
Breacker	(Grimes)	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein	Newell ³	M. Stein	Preece	◆ Wilson	
Johnson	Harvey	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	B. Stein	Newell	M. Stein	(Preece)	◆ McDonough	
Breacker	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	Hill	(B. Stein)	Newell	M. Stein ¹	McDonough	◆ Wilson	
Breacker	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster ¹	Donaghy	Wilson	B. Stein ¹	Newell	M. Stein ²	(Grimes)	◆ McDonough	
Breacker	Johnson	Nicholas	Foster	Donaghy	McDonough	B. Stein	Newell	M. Stein	(Grimes)	◆ Wilson	

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• **Official history:** Our official club history the Luton Town Story 1885-1985 is on sale in its second edition. It has full details of the first 100 years of Luton Town and is every fan's ideal reference book.

THE LUTON TOWN STORY 1885-1985

Timothy Collings

() indicates player substituted ◆ indicates substitute used Home fixtures in **Bold** Scorer's name in **Bold** P = Penalty † denotes own goal

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Voucher No. 9

Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town

- 1 Les Sealey
- 2 Tim Breacker
- 3 Rob Johnson
- 4 Peter Nicholas
- 5 Steve Foster
- 6 Mal Donaghy
- 7 Robert Wilson
- 8 Brian Stein
- 9 Mike Newell
- 10 Mark Stein
- 11 Ashley Grimes

Sub

Charlton Athletic

- 1 Nicky Johns
- 2 John Humphrey
- 3 Mark Reid
- 4 George Shipley
- 5 Steve Thompson
- 6 Peter Shirtliff
- 7 Robert Lee
- 8 Mark Stuart
- 9 Jim Melrose
- 10 Mark Aizlewood
- 11 Andy Peake

Sub

Referee: A. ROBINSON (Manchester) Linesmen: J.E. CLARKE (Red Flag) R. COATEN (Yellow Flag)



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