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Luton v Liverpool

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP, THIRD ROUND



Sunday, January 11th, 1987 Kick-off 3.05 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

Today's match is sponsored by: Bedford GM.

ACTION

BRIAN STEIN GOAL BEATS COVENTRY



• **Muddy victory:** Peter Nicholas, Rob Johnson, Ashley Grimes, Steve Foster and Brian Stein defend in depth at Highfield Road.

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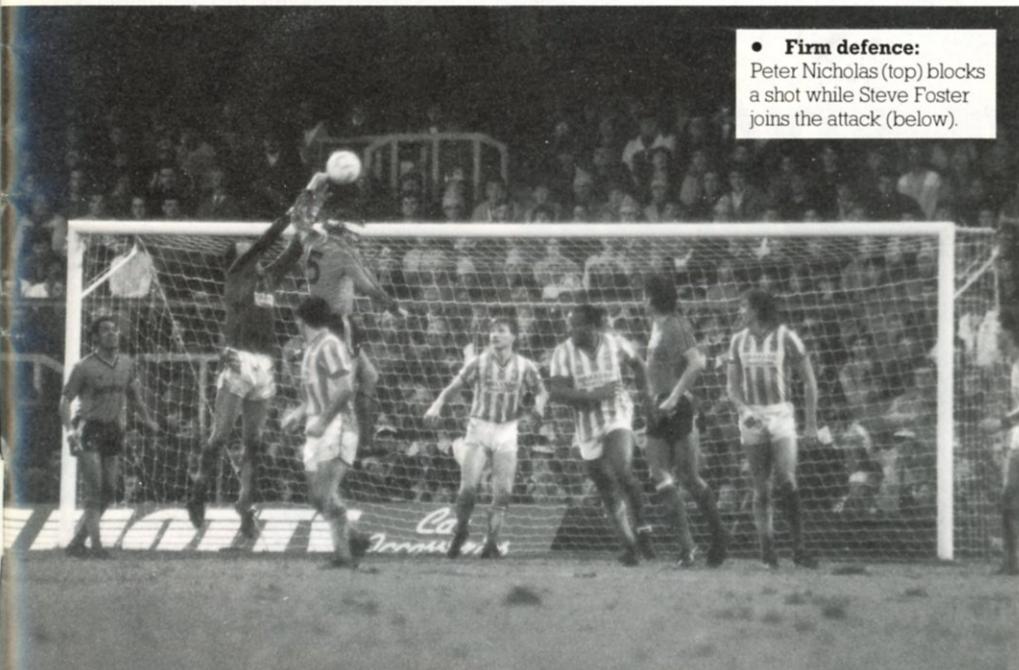
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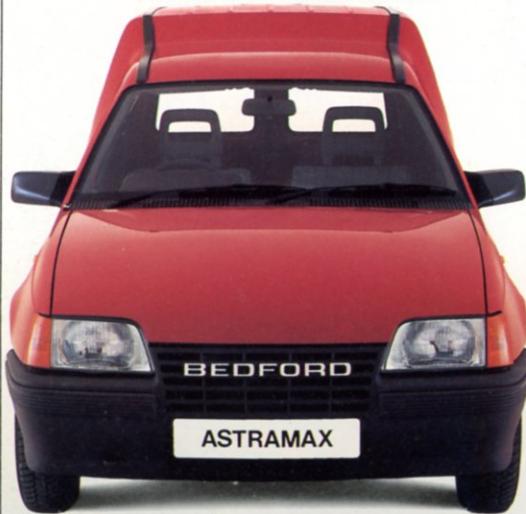
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• **Firm defence:**
Peter Nicholas (top) blocks a shot while Steve Foster joins the attack (below).

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MOORE ABOUT FOOTBALL

Welcome to Liverpool for what promises to be a tremendous occasion and, I hope, an entertaining F.A. Cup tie. When we met them in the league last October we enjoyed a famous victory. Naturally, I shall be hoping for another win today and I am sure we will all take confidence from that result against the club which has proved to be the benchmark of quality in the First Division for more than a decade.

Last week, I was happy to see us achieve a workmanlike victory over Chelsea. Unfortunately, despite our efforts to create a family atmosphere and our chairman's generous gesture over Christmas in supplying mince pies and refreshments, some supporters on the Kenilworth Terrace persisted in using bad language during the match. This is a disappointment and I hope our loyal supporters at that end of the ground will try to help us in our continuing efforts to make Kenilworth Road a safe and civilised family club of which we can all be proud.

First-class efforts

Overall, despite the natural disappointment in losing our unbeaten home record to Watford on Boxing Day, I was satisfied with the final outcome of our Christmas and New Year holiday programme. The away performances – a draw at Nottingham Forest, where they equalised in injury time, and a victory at Coventry, our first there for many years – were particularly satisfying. In those games, the team's all-round efforts were first-class.

Our injury situation has improved. Although we remain without Andy Dibble, Darron McDonough is recovering from his facial injury suffered against Watford and both Ricky Hill and David Preece came through unscathed when they played for the reserves last weekend. Mick Harford, as everyone will be well aware, made an extraordinary comeback in forcing his way into the team which played at Nottingham and then going on to complete three full games in six days after more than six months out. His has been a fantastic effort.

Today we will be hosts to the nation as the match is to be broadcast on BBC television. I hope all our supporters enjoy the afternoon and help us show that Luton Town offers a top-quality product and environment for family entertainment. We shall do our best to supply the result. Enjoy the game.



LUTON TOWN

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RUNNERS-UP – DIVISION 3 1969-70
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.**

A credit

Dear Sir,

Last week I phoned your football club enquiring about tickets to watch Luton play on January 10th 1987 during a short visit to England. Although I was aware of your clubs policy, it seemed a worthwhile investment to phone from my home in Sydney!!

The end result of the conversation was NO as it was an F.A. cup match etc etc. I omitted to get the young ladies name in your ticket office - (but she will surely remember an Australian 'booking'!).

Sir, she is a credit to your club and went out of her way to try and secure tickets for me (even to the extent of offering to accept us as her membership guests).

Please pass on my sincere thanks to her for her help and courtesy (a rare treat today).

I salute your policy and the positive steps taken by your progressive club to eliminate the rat bag 'supporters'(?).

Unfortunately my timetable doesn't permit anymore than the aforementioned w/end in Luton I wish you every success in the F.A. Cup and continuing good fortune in the League.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and prosperous New

Year - could I perhaps watch a match on my next trip? around 1992!

Good luck

Ian D Bentall

36 Forest Road,
Heathcote NSW,
Australia.

Welcome back, Mick

Dear Sir,

How good it is to see 'Big Mick' Harford back in a 'Town' shirt once again. His display at Forest was remarkable considering he's had such a long lay off with so many operations and no match practice.

All the 'touches' were there and he gave the highly-rated Chris Fairclough and Des Walker a torrid time with his ability in the air and his 'deft' touches on the ball - he played as if he'd never been away.

I think the club owe Mick Harford the luxury of playing with a pacey 'wide man' to give him the service his aerial talents deserve. If Mr Evans and his colleagues could delve deep into their resources to purchase a winger such as Bradford City's John Hendrie, Leeds United's John Buckley or John Chiedozie or Tony Galvin of Spurs, I'm sure we'd see even more devastating results from the Geordie 'wonder'.

Geoff Evans

10 Portland St.,
Whitwell,
Worksop,
Notts.



•Rob Johnson



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SYNAPSE

GIRL TALK



Yes, it must be cup fever!

One thirty on a chilly Monday afternoon. I'm walking along a corridor at work. An administration officer stops me. "Do you know who you've got in the Cup?" she says. "It's Liverpool!" Is it Cup fever, or my one-person Luton Town promotion at work, that made her notice and remember who we'd drawn when she had her car radio on that lunchtime? I don't know, but the third round of the F.A. Cup is always exciting.

As the First and Second Division Clubs become involved, the minnows who've won through earlier rounds have a chance of fame – and fortune. We all, secretly, hope to see the final won, if not by our own club, then by one of the smaller unfashionable outfits. And so this year we watched, with interest, the progress of Maidstone, for example.

Big club special

The media, however, are more concerned with the 'big names', as if having crowds of over thirty thousand and apparently limitless money makes a team entertaining. How often have Liverpool or Manchester United featured as one of the teams seen

live on television, or been involved in Radio 2's commentary match? And even the third round of this year's F.A. Cup televised match will feature the 'Big Club' – this time Liverpool. We, of course, are the opposition.

Heavy pitches

On this occasion, with our ban on away fans, it is good that the Liverpool fans will be able to see the match. I only hope the T.V. commentators don't keep criticising our playing surface. We beat Liverpool in the league earlier this season not because of some unfair advantage. In fact, their Kop could be seen as an advantage to them in their home games just as Chelsea's or Watford's heavy pitches are to them. We beat Liverpool because we were better than them on the day – let's hope we will again! And let's show the television-watching public how sporting we are by applauding any good moves, even those from Liverpool.

Gale Waller

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



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Luton News



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THURSDAYS 14p

Luton Town 1 Chelsea 0

A 68th minute goal from Mike Newell was enough to beat Chelsea at Kenilworth Road last week and lift the Town to fifth in the First Division after a hectic Christmas holiday programme which saw the team play four matches in nine days.

Newell hit his eighth goal of the season when Chelsea goalkeeper Eddie Niedzwiecki failed to hold on to a low shot from Mick Harford following a right-wing corner by Peter Nicholas, touched on by Steve Foster.

Brilliant save

A few seconds earlier, Newell had been foiled by the 'keeper when he produced a brilliant save low to his left to turn the striker's shot round a post for the flag-kick which led to the breakthrough.

The town had the majority of the possession, particularly in the second half, and Chelsea were frequently at full stretch to defend their goal both before and after Newell's goal. But a lack of clinical finishing and the efforts of the Chelsea defence kept the score down.

In reply, Chelsea came back strongly in the last 12 minutes when John McNaught hit a post with a powerful drive from outside the penalty area, but Les Sealey was otherwise little employed on a day when neither side produced their best football.

Teams: - Luton - Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein, Newell, Harford, Grimes. Sub: M. Stein. Chelsea - Niedzwiecki, Wood, Dublin, Pates, McLaughlin, McNaught, Nevin, Spackman, Dixon, Speedie, Wegerle (sub Durie 72).

Referee - J.E. Bray (Hinckley).

1st Team ACTION



• Narrow win: Mike Newell's goal was the second-half winner last week when the Town beat Chelsea 1-0. "I asked the players to be more positive and get in better crosses at half-time," said manager John Moore afterwards.

Pictures by Sportswide Photography.

VIEWS from the BENCH

Dave Kirby



After six months experience as first team physiotherapist Dave Kirby is settling into his own routines and applying his own ideas in the Town treatment room. He has had a busy first spell and today he looks back on the injuries he has treated as the Town have maintained their position amongst the title challengers:

Winning the war in the treatment room

"It has been a very busy first six months, especially in the last couple of months when we have had a lot of senior players injured. Earlier this week, it seemed to be just as busy as ever although, I am pleased to say, most of the players were in for remedial treatment to help them back to full fitness and into training.

"Mick Harford, for instance, has had a little treatment on soreness after playing three games in a short period of time. He just needed some light remedial work and rehabilitation exercises to make him feel more comfortable.

Ankle problem

"We also had Ricky Hill, Richard Harvey, Darron McDonough and Marc North in for treatment. Ricky had a slight ankle problem after turning on the hard ground early in the morning when we trained at Vauxhall earlier in the week. It is quite a common thing at this time of the year in all levels of football and has to be treated.

"Richard Harvey also had an ankle injury, Darron McDonough is recovering from his broken nose - which was re-set last week - and Marc had a slight groin strain. With Darron, the only real treatment is rest for the nose itself and that means no heading while it settles down and heals. He will be back in training next week I hope.

Complications

"One of the trickiest injuries has been David Preece's knee. He first injured it against Queens Park Rangers, but there were complications which

set him back. I am very glad to see him back in full training now. He had trouble with both knees at one point and was a worry.

"Mick Harford's recovery is nothing short of fantastic really and we are all delighted to see him playing again. I don't anticipate him or Ricky or any of the lads failing to be fit for full consideration for matches this weekend.

"We had a bit of a problem with Steve Foster when he had flu because he is allergic to penicillin. That is just a typical problem when you are at a busy time of the year and he is an important player whose fitness is threatened at Christmas-time. But Steve is now fit again thankfully and my treatment room is looking less like a casualty clearing station than it was earlier in the season.

Local players

"Of course, many local players will also be suffering injuries at this time with ankles hurt on hard or heavy ground. The first rule for the treatment of such injuries is ICE - which means ice, compression and elevation. It is easy to remember. The injured ankle should be put into ice to bring down the swelling and then rested for 24 to 48 hours with compression applied through bandaging.

"I hope it is a useful piece of advice. But if anyone does get injured and is in any doubt about what to do, please see a sports physio or doctor and don't play on the injury if at all worried about it."



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CLUB NEWS

TICKET OFFICE NEWS

On Saturday, January 17th, we are away to Southampton in a Today League Division One fixture, kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, January 24th, we are at home to Leicester City in a Today League Division One fixture, kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, January 31st, it is the 4th round of the F.A. Cup. The draw for this round is on Monday, February 2nd. If we win today, please watch the local press for details of a 4th round tie.

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 provided by the Bedford and Kempston Drum and Trumpet Corps. They are making their first appearance at the stadium. Please give them a warm welcome.

Match day tickets

Starting from January 24, when we entertain Leicester City, guest tickets and tickets for seats will be available to be purchased by members at the club ticket office on match days. This relaxation of the previous rules follows the success of the members' scheme. But, as the best available seats always sell first, we advise our supporters to try not to leave their decision to buy too late.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

F.A. Youth Cup third round
Tuesday, January 13, 1987
Luton Town v Watford
Kick-off 7.30 pm.

MATCH REFEREE

Allan Gunn (Burgess Hill)

Allan is a purchasing manager. He is married with two daughters. He started refereeing in 1965 in Sussex and progressed via the Football Combination to the Football League list. He enjoys swimming and squash. He was in charge of the 1980 F.A. Youth Cup Final.

Cover story

Our cover picture today shows Rob Johnson in action against Craig Johnston. Rob is enjoying a tremendous season and we wish him and the lads good luck today.



Registered Office:
179-185 Dunstable Road, Luton

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by BILL TOMLINS

MERSEY STANDARD-BEARERS' VISIT CAPS A GREAT START TO AN EXCITING NEW YEAR

BRAVE MAN



•Fearless keeper: John Kennedy enjoyed the Christmas spirit and went in goal when our sponsors' held a penalty shootout last week. A brave act, John!

OUR CHAIRMAN'S GESTURE IS A CHRISTMAS WINNER



•Festive feeling: Our chairman David Evans helped to spread the spirit of warmth and goodwill on Boxing Day when he toured the ground ensuring our supporters enjoyed the occasion. He is pictured chatting with some of our disabled supporters.

What a start to 1987! Two wins in the league and then a visit from the double champions Liverpool for a televised glamour tie in the F.A. Cup. The Merseyside team are more than welcome today. As the standard-bearers of English quality, they are still the most respected club on and off the field in the First Division.

Their chairman John Smith is also the chairman of the Sports Council, their chief executive Peter Robinson is also one of the most respected administrators in the league and their manager Kenny Dalglish remains one of the top players.

Having said that, we shall be hoping to more than match them on the pitch today when we also welcome BBC Television, their producer John Shrewsbury and match commentator John Motson, and the rest of the team.

Visitor

John is a more than welcome visitor to Kenilworth Road as a regular supporter of our efforts and a highly-professional match commentator. He frequently lends his support to our activities when he can and I can only hope we provide him with action today of the quality provided

last week when Arsenal visited Tottenham. Good televised games are good for the game at large.

Another good game is in prospect here on Tuesday when Watford are the visitors for an F.A. Youth Cup tie which deserves a good crowd in attendance. Last week the youth team beat Birmingham 3-0 in a Southern Junior Floodlit Cup tie.

Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome to today's executive sponsors Anachem Ltd and match and official club sponsors Bedford Commercial Vehicles. Bedford are delighted to be so closely involved in what promises to be one of the most testing matches of our season.

We fully value their support. Their sponsorship programme is now in its fourth year and I know they are pleased with the high profile which has come from their connections with our top-class campaign in the First Division.

Many of Bedford's employees and those of associated GM companies, are among the growing band of Town supporters enjoying their sport here in peaceful surroundings at Kenilworth Road.



•Lucky draw: Our manager John Moore draws the first winning ticket in our £500 Christmas raffle. E.H. Cribb of Luton was the winner.



•Tucking in: Our match sponsors Wallspan Bedrooms enjoyed a Christmas party on Boxing Day to help soothe the disappointment of our Wat-



•Star man: Our captain Steve Foster was man of the match against Everton before Christmas. He is pictured receiving his prize from Bedford Trucks' Eric Fountain, OBE, who was honoured in the New Year list.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



Cup-tie cracker!

Hello everyone. We could not have asked for a bigger cup-tie today than a match against Liverpool. I am sure it will be a tough game, but after our last match against them and our successful Christmas holiday programme we shall be full of confidence.

As usual, we have been preparing for the match with our normal sort of routine and a visit to Henlow Grange where, as you know, I always enjoy the wax bath. We find it relaxing to get away for a while from time to time and it helps build up the right kind of team spirit for big matches.

Big boost

After four matches in such a short space of time, a lot of the lads needed a rest - especially Mick Harford, whose return to the team has been a big boost. It is great to have him back and I hope he is able to hit top form today.

I thought we did tremendously well in the holiday games and I was pretty satisfied with the results overall. Two wins, one draw and one defeat which we would rather forget is not bad really... especially as it means we have started the New Year with two wins and not conceded a goal. Enjoy the game.



NIKE NEWELL



CLUB COMMENT

John Smith, Chief Executive.

After playing 12 home matches in the Today Football League Division One, it is interesting to note that our overall attendances compare well with those for comparable fixtures played last season and show an increase in the numbers of home supporters coming to matches at Kenilworth Road.

Unfortunately, only 10 of the fixtures played offer direct comparisons - both Norwich and Charlton were in the Second Division last season - but all show a general upward trend in the number of home fans.

This must be as a result of increased confidence about personal safety and the more peaceful atmosphere in the stadium as a result of the introduction of the home members only scheme.

The figures clearly show home support is up from an average of 9,463 last season to 10,380 - a rise of 9.69 per cent.

The following is a breakdown of the attendance figures so far this season with comparisons with last season:

MATCH ATTENDANCES

Opposition	1986/87	1985/86	
	Home	Away	Total
Southampton	8,777	8,372	8,876
Newcastle	9,254	9,335	10,319
Arsenal	9,876	8,616	10,012
Man City	9,731	9,218	10,096
Norwich	10,022	-	-
Liverpool	13,140	12,534	15,503
QPR	9,085	8,154	9,508
N Forest	11,097	10,055	11,381
Charlton	9,373	-	-
Everton	11,151	9,369	11,039
Watford	11,140	9,710	11,810
Chelsea	10,556	9,263	10,720



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Team Astra vans are the most modern, aerodynamically-styled on the street. Their good looks alone speak volumes about your business.

But apart from being street-smart they're street-credible.

The 'Good Van Guide' wrote in a comparative van test report, "By far the best (engine) though just has to be Astramax. Its engine is silky, pushing forwards smoothly and effortlessly".

'Commercial Motor', in their van comparison test, also noted how a

*Source: SMMT registration data. Light commercial vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes. Jan to Sept 1986 v. 1985.



laden Astra diesel beat similarly laden Ford Escort and Peugeot 305 GL diesel vans, by returning 48.19 mpg.

In a similar test a laden, petrol-engined Astramax gave 36.25 mpg overall: the best of the bunch. One reason for such good fuel efficiency is the cross-flow cylinder head design.

Loadspace	Astra Van	Astramax
Height (max)	34 1/2"	42"
Width (max)	53 1/2"	63"
Length (max)	70"	68"

'Good Van Guide' also had good words about driving the Astramax "... very quiet, very refined, very civilised. You can almost forget you're driving a van". They added, "Astramax must become new light vans leader

BEDFORD GM
TEAM ASTRA



Bedford Commercial Vehicles, Division of General Motors Overseas Commercial Vehicle Corporation, P.O. Box 3, Luton, LU2 0SY.

ACTION



SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	15	13	1	1	60	9	27
Oxford United	16	8	5	3	41	30	21
Crystal Palace	14	9	2	3	40	25	20
Tottenham Hotspur	15	7	6	2	40	26	20
Luton Town	14	8	2	4	34	19	18
Brighton & Hove	15	7	4	4	31	23	18
Colchester United	18	7	3	8	37	37	17
Bristol Rovers	14	6	3	5	20	18	15
Northampton Town	16	6	3	7	32	39	15
Swindon Town	16	6	2	8	41	44	14
A.F.C. Bournemouth	14	4	4	6	27	24	12
Wimbledon	13	4	3	6	17	23	11
Reading	17	4	2	11	29	66	10
Southend United	18	3	1	14	26	60	7
Brentford	15	2	1	12	18	50	5

FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1986/87

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1986			1987		PP
Aug 23	Arsenal	2-3	Jan 3	Portsmouth	
Aug 26	Ipswich Town	1-2	Jan 10	Arsenal	
Sept 5	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 24	Fulham	
Nov 8	Crystal Palace	1-2	Mar 28	Watford	
Nov 22	Portsmouth	5-1	Apr 1	Crystal Palace	
Dec 6	Millwall	9-2	Apr 11	QPR	
Dec 20	West Ham	6-1	Apr 14	Millwall	
			Apr 25	West Ham	
			May 2	Oxford	
			May 6	Fulham	



• **Friendly winners:** Marcus Tuite (above) was one of our scorers in a friendly 4-3 victory at Southampton last weekend. David Preece (left) and Ricky Hill also played.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES 1986/87

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1986			1986		PP
Aug 23	Northampton	3-2	Dec 27	Oxford	PP
Aug 27	Brentford	3-0	1987		
Aug 30	Brighton	1-2	Jan 3	Chelsea	
Sept 2	Bristol R (SJFC)	3-0	† replay		0-4
Sept 5	Crystal Palace	0-0	Jan 7	Birmingham (SJFC)	3-0
Sept 13	Tottenham	1-1	Jan 10	Bournemouth	
Sept 20	Cambridge Ut	1-0	Jan 13	Watford (FAYC)(3)	
Sept 24	Ipswich*	1-0	Jan 13	Colchester	
Sept 27	Oxford	5-0	Jan 24	Charlton	
Sept 29	Colchester*	5-2	Feb 7	Brighton	
Oct 4	Northampton	1-2	Feb 14	Crystal Palace	
Oct 11	Southend	5-1	Feb 21	Southampton	
Oct 18	Wimbledon	2-0	Feb 28	Bournemouth	
Oct 25	Colchester	3-1	Mar 7	Swindon	
Nov 1	Northampton†	6-1	Mar 14	Oxford	
Nov 8	Reading	5-2	Mar 21	Swindon	
Nov 11	Charlton (SJFC)	3-3	Mar 28	Southend	
Nov 29	Bristol R	3-1	Apr 4	Bristol R	
Dec 3	Wolverhampton (FAYC)(2)	5-1	Apr 11	Wimbledon	
Dec 6	Southampton	1-2	Apr 18	Brentford	
Dec 13	Tottenham	1-5	† League Cup		
Dec 20	Chelsea	2-2	Eastern Junior Floodlit Cup		

Reserve & Youth



JIM RYAN



JOHN FAULKNER

YOUTH TEAM EXPERIENCE CUP WINS AND DEFEATS WHILE RESERVES REST

While the first team have been busier than ever during the Christmas and New Year holiday period, the reserve and youth teams have enjoyed a rest. The reserves had only one match between December 20, when they beat West Ham 6-1, and yesterday, when they visited Arsenal, and that was a friendly at Southampton last weekend. The scheduled match at Portsmouth was postponed.

The game on the south coast gave an opportunity for Ricky Hill and David Preece to return to action after their long layoffs through knee injuries. Both played in a Town team which won 4-3 with goals from Emeka Nwajiobi (2), Sean Farrell and Marcus Tuite.

Disappointing

On the same day, however, the youth team went down 4-0 to Chelsea in a South East Counties League Cup third round replay, a disappointing result they made up for in beating Birmingham City 3-0 on Wednesday night in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup.

Youth team coach John Faulkner said of the Chelsea defeat: "They wanted to win collectively and individually more than we did. They gave themselves the initiative and possession of the ball by attacking it hard with a lot of determination."

Incident packed

In the original game at Chelsea, goals from Sean Farrell and Paul Gray in an incident-packed first half – marred by the dismissal of Farrell late on – earned a well-deserved draw. "Against the strongest team Chelsea could put out, we matched them totally throughout. We fully deserved our result," said Faulkner.

REPLAY

INTRODUCING...

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool arrive at Kenilworth Road today busily chasing hard on the heels of Arsenal and Everton at the top of the Today First Division and keen to progress in the F.A. Cup in defence of the second part of the historic double they won last spring. After a week in which they have been busy in the transfer market, seeking John Aldridge and Ian Snodin, their ambitions are apparent.

Last weekend, Liverpool were forced to play all out to gain a 1-0 victory over West Ham at Anfield, a result which kept them in step with the leaders. That victory will surely add to their confidence today as they aim to gain some revenge for the 4-1 defeat inflicted by the Town here in October.

A Jan Molby goal was all they had to show that day against a hat-trick by Merseyside-born Mike Newell and a goal from Ricky Hill, but since then with Ian Rush back to top form, they have reeled off several good results, although they have found goals much harder to come by in recent weeks.

During the Christmas period they were beaten at home by Manchester United, won by the only goal at Sheffield Wednesday, drew 0-0 at Nottingham Forest and then beat the Hammers.

Players likely to be on duty today:

Bruce Grobbelaar – One of the game's great characters. Zimbabwean-international goalkeeper Bruce has made

more than 300 appearances for Liverpool but missed the start of the season with stomach muscle injury.

Gary Gillespie – Signed from Coventry in 1983, Gary is a tall and quick Scottish central defender who has settled down to become one of the most reliable men in the Liverpool team.

Barry Venison – Signed from Sunderland on the eve of the season, versatile defender Barry is an England under-21 international and was captain of the England youth team earlier in his career.

Mark Lawrenson – One of the most accomplished defenders in the league. Mark is a full Eire international with skill, pace and composure. Joined Liverpool from Brighton in August 1981.

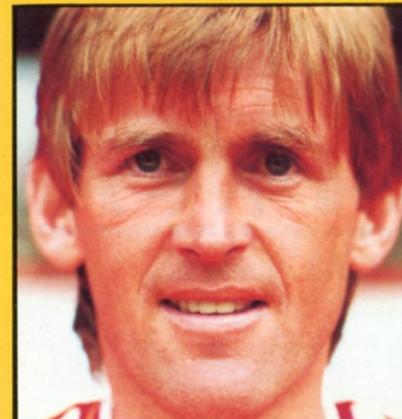
Ronnie Whelan – Another Eire cap with a skilful approach on the left side of midfield, Ronnie can open up defences with his runs and passes. Signed from Dublin club Home Farm seven years ago. Made more than 230 appearances.

Alan Hansen – Scottish international central defender Alan is one of the most elegant back four players in the league. Became club captain in season 1985-86. Vastly experienced.

Kenny Dalglish – Scotland's most-capped and most-honoured player, Dalglish is the player-manager and one of the best players to have pulled on a red Liverpool jersey. Hit



Back Row from left: **Mark Lawrenson**, **Jan Molby**, **Mike Hooper**, **Gary Gillespie**, **Bruce Grobbelaar**, **Kevin Macdonald**. Middle row: **Roy Evans** (Trainer), **Steve Nicol**, **Steve McMahon**, **Jim Beglin**, **Barry Venison**, **Paul Walsh**, **Ronnie Moran** (Coach). Front row: **Ronnie Whelan**, **John Wark**, **Bob Paisley** (Team consultant), **Kenny Dalglish** (Player/Manager), **Alan Hansen** (Captain), **Craig Johnston**, **Sammy Lee**.



Kenny Dalglish has made himself a reputation in his own time at Liverpool by leading the club to an historic double triumph in the Football League and F.A. Cup in only his first full season in charge as player-manager. Together with former manager Bob Paisley, who has continued to act as a consultant to the club, Dalglish took over from Joe Fagan following the ill-fated and tragic 1985 European Cup final against Juventus.

In recent months, he has reduced his own appearances as a player in the team and remained more often on the substitutes' bench. He has used himself cleverly in isolated bursts. Injury prevented him playing in the Mexico World Cup finals last summer but he has since returned to the Scotland team and remains their most-capped player.

the European Cup-winning goal in 1978 and the title decider last season.

Steve Nicol – A defender or midfielder, Steve is a big-hearted club man who was signed from Ayr United in 1981-82. He soon developed into a top-class player and won Scotland under-21 caps and then became a full international.

Ian Rush – Reknown as Europe's most dangerous striker, Ian is a full Welsh international with a killer instinct in front of goal. Joins Juventus next season in the Italian league. Leading scorer in the First Division.

Jan Molby – A supremely-skilled and powerful defender or midfielder, Jan is a full Danish international and played in the Mexico World Cup finals. He has a deadly shot and last season won 'double' honours. Born Kolding, Jutland.

Steve McMahon – Former Aston Villa powerhouse Steve was given the old Graeme Souness-style job in Liverpool's midfield. A former ball-boy and player at city rivals Everton, he returned to Liverpool to sign at Anfield in 1985.

John Wark – Former Ipswich midfielder John has returned to the first team scene at Liverpool after several periods of injury and uncertainty. A strong midfielder with a goalscoring record, he is a full Scottish international.

Jim Beglin – Irish international left-back Jim has plenty of admirers in the First Division for his determined but composed play since succeeding Alan Kennedy in the Liverpool team.

Paul Walsh – Needs little introduction to Town fans. An England cap with tremendous skills and pace, Paul enjoyed two good seasons at Kenilworth Road before moving to Liverpool in a £750,000 deal.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY PETER NICHOLAS

WELCOME TO SPECIAL MAGIC OF F.A. CUP

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is nine. The winning member should contact Bev Tyler in the ticket office at Oak Road, with his, or her, membership card for two free tickets to one of our home matches.

Today we meet Liverpool as we challenge for a place in the fourth round of the F.A. Cup.

There is always something a bit special about the F.A. Cup - lets hope that today's game is as good as it was

when we played them in October. I am sure Liverpool will present tough opposition today.

It is good to see so many Junior Hatters attending football with your family now that our membership scheme is in operation.

Our next home game is when we play Leicester City. I hope to see you all there. Have a good day and cheer us on to victory.

ESCAPES



Dean Westrope



Ben Tommey

MASCOT



Mark Seller

ESCAPES



Lee Fox



Christopher Arnold

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Views from the media

Secure defence takes the eye

Last weekend's victory over Chelsea concluded a satisfactory Christmas holiday programme for the Town during which only the home defeat by Watford blotted the copybook. The result also lifted the Town to fifth in the First Division. Here is a selection of the comments in the press during the last two weeks:

Mail on Sunday - "The defence is secure, but in the absence of the injured Ricky Hill, they are lacking the kind of player who will lend imagination to the midfield. But imagination was hard to come by in that corner of Bedfordshire yesterday..." (Luton v Chelsea).

Last-gasp Bowyer

Daily Mail - "It looked like the match was Luton's with the electronic clock at the City ground showing 90 minutes, but then Bowyer stepped in. It was the perfect way to mark the 100th league goal of his career..." (Nottingham Forest v Luton).

Luton News - "Christmas generosity was unbounded as Luton Town made a present of their unbeaten home record to Watford on Boxing Day. They gave away two early goals, missed a penalty, and were so lethargic that long before the end fans were streaming away, after sporadic outbursts of slow handclapping. It was one of those days when nothing the town tried came off." (Luton v Watford).

Harford's comeback

Luton News - "One sight above all others gave Luton Town fans at Nottingham huge pleasure as football 1986 reached its final whistle. Mick Harford made his first appearance of the season in the First Division and is now looking for a much happier New Year.

I know that football is a team game, but for once an individual deserves more good wishes than most as the traditional compliments of the season are handed out."



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LUTON TOWN GOAL'DEN OLLDIES

BILLINGTON OUT OF LUCK AS TOWN GO DOWN

This afternoon's game will be our third with Liverpool in the F.A. Cup and, we hope it will be a case of 'third time lucky' as our previous clashes have resulted in wins for the Reds writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Following the First World War we re-entered the Southern League where, to be truthful, we struggled. Season 1919-20 saw more success in the F.A. Cup, however, with qualifying round wins over Chesterfield Municipal and Brighton. A replay win at Coventry in the competition proper then placed us in the hat for what, today, would be the equivalent of the fourth round.

A First Division club at home was hoped for as the Town had not witnessed a top-class side in action since the visit of Sunderland in 1907. The wishes were granted when it was learned that we were to

entertain Liverpool who were destined to finish 4th in the top division that season.

Potent attack

Despite poor showings in the southern league, we still had a fairly potent forward line which on its day could match the best. Ernie Simms, soon to be capped for England, was a prolific goalscorer and Sid Hoar, who had been gassed whilst fighting in France in the Great War, was back to his best.

The great provider in the team was Irish international Louis Bookman, signed from West Bromwich the previous close season, for a large fee which the club could not afford on its own. The Town supporters had a 'whip round' to assist his purchase.

High anticipation was therefore in the air and a record crowd of 12,640 gathered on 31st January 1920 to witness a game that was killed off by an early goal



• **Winning feeling:** Ricky Hill, Mike Newell and David Preece celebrate while Jan Molby sits it out.



• **In the net:** Mike Newell puts the Town two goals up against Liverpool here last October.

from Liverpool's Billy Lacey. A second goal from the same player after 68 minutes sealed the issue.

We had to wait 19 years for a chance of gaining revenge when as a Second Division side, we were drawn to play at Anfield in a third round tie on February 7th, 1939.

Solid defence

Although Joe Payne had recently left the club we had a ready-made replacement in locally-born Hugh Billington who was appearing in his first cup-tie. The Town team of the time, which is generally reckoned to be one of the club's finest, was challenging for a promotion place which was only narrowly missed.

The defence had a solid look about it with newcomers Tom Dunsmore and Gordon Dreyer fitting in well with the more seasoned Jock Finlayson and Fred Roberts. But it was the attack about whom 'rave reviews' were written with George Stephenson still providing chances for the likes of Billington and clever inside-forwards Bill Redfern and Eddy Connally.

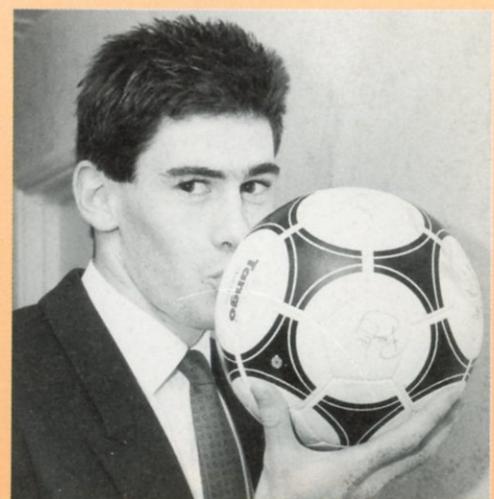
Liverpool then, as now, were riding high in the First Division. They were greeted by a crowd of 40,431 but received a shock when Luton took the game to them and continued to miss chance after chance with Billington the chief sinner, once hitting the ball over the bar from two yards range with an empty goal yawning before him.

Liverpool were extremely fortunate to go in at half time with the score still level, but as so often happens when a team has had all the play the Town were to be caught by a 'sucker punch'. This happened in the 54th minute when a free-kick floated in by Berry Nieuwenhuys was headed in by Jack Balmer.

Luton continued to dominate, but by now it was Stephenson's turn to squander chances going

through twice on his own only to hit the ball past a post. With Luton pushing up further goals from George Paterson in the 83rd minute and Balmer again in the 89th gave the scoreline a totally unbelievable look.

An aftermath of this game was that the national press took notice of the team being built by Neil McBain and, but for the war, who can tell what the Town would have achieved?



• **Happy memories:** Mike Newell enjoyed our last meeting with Liverpool here in the First Division. He scored a hat-trick and took home the match ball.

FIRST TEAM

UPDATE

1986-87 SEASON

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(Up to and including 4 January 1987)

HOME						AWAY						
W	P	D	L	F	APts	W	D	L	F	APts		
23	9	3	0	22	4	Arsenal	5	3	3	17	8	48
24	8	3	1	28	8	Everton	6	2	4	19	12	47
24	7	3	2	24	9	Liverpool	5	3	4	18	15	42
24	7	5	0	25	9	Nottingham Forest	4	1	7	21	23	39
24	7	3	1	15	6	LUTON TOWN	3	3	6	11	17	39
24	7	4	1	19	13	Norwich City	3	5	4	14	20	39
23	5	3	3	16	11	Tottenham Hotspur	6	2	4	21	16	38
23	8	2	2	18	10	Coventry City	2	4	5	8	14	36
24	6	2	4	17	13	Wimbledon	5	0	7	16	19	35
24	6	2	4	24	10	West Ham United	3	5	4	13	21	34
24	7	3	2	24	10	Watford	2	3	7	16	21	33
24	6	5	1	25	13	Sheffield Wednesday	2	4	6	13	24	33
24	6	2	4	22	13	Manchester United	1	6	5	9	15	29
24	6	4	2	21	14	Oxford United	1	4	7	7	24	29
24	5	3	4	17	15	Queens Park Rangers	2	3	7	7	16	27
24	6	3	3	18	13	Manchester City	0	5	7	6	21	26
23	5	2	4	20	17	Southampton	2	2	8	17	29	25
24	3	3	6	13	22	Chelsea	3	4	5	15	21	25
24	3	4	5	15	15	Charlton Athletic	3	2	7	10	20	24
24	4	5	3	22	16	Leicester	2	1	9	9	27	24
24	5	3	4	16	18	Aston Villa	1	3	8	14	32	24
24	4	2	6	17	20	Newcastle United	1	4	7	8	22	21

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

(1986/87)

League		League			
Aps	Gls	Aps	Gls		
Tim Breacker	15	-	Mike Newell	24	8
Mal Donaghy	24	-	Peter Nicholas	24	-
Steve Foster	22	1	Marc North	2(3)	-
Ashley Grimes	18	-	Stacey North	2	-
Mick Harford	3	-	Emeka Nwajobi	6	-
Richard Harvey	1	-	David Preece	7	-
Ricky Hill	14	1	Brian Stein	22	9
Rob Johnson	23	-	Mark Stein	14(3)	5
Darron McDonough	7(4)	-	Les Sealey	24	-
Ricky McEvoy	(1)	-	Robert Wilson	12(3)	1

Top Scorers

	• Brian Stein
	• Mike Newell

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FAC = F. A. Cup

(*) indicates player substituted

(♦) indicates substitute used

Home fixtures in **Bold**

Scorer's name in **Bold**

P = Penalty

† denotes own goal

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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 Mick Harford
- 11 Ashley Grimes

Subs

Liverpool

- 1 Bruce Grobbelaar
- 2 Gary Gillespie
- 3 Jim Beglin
- 4 Mark Lawrenson
- 5 Ronnie Whelan
- 6 Alan Hansen
- 7 Paul Walsh
- 8 Craig Johnston
- 9 Ian Rush
- 10 Jan Molby
- 11 Steve McMahon

Subs

Referee: A. GUNN (Burgess Hill)

Linesmen: P. ALCOCK (Red Flag) R.P. DODGE (Yellow Flag)

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