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Luton v Aston Villa

TODAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



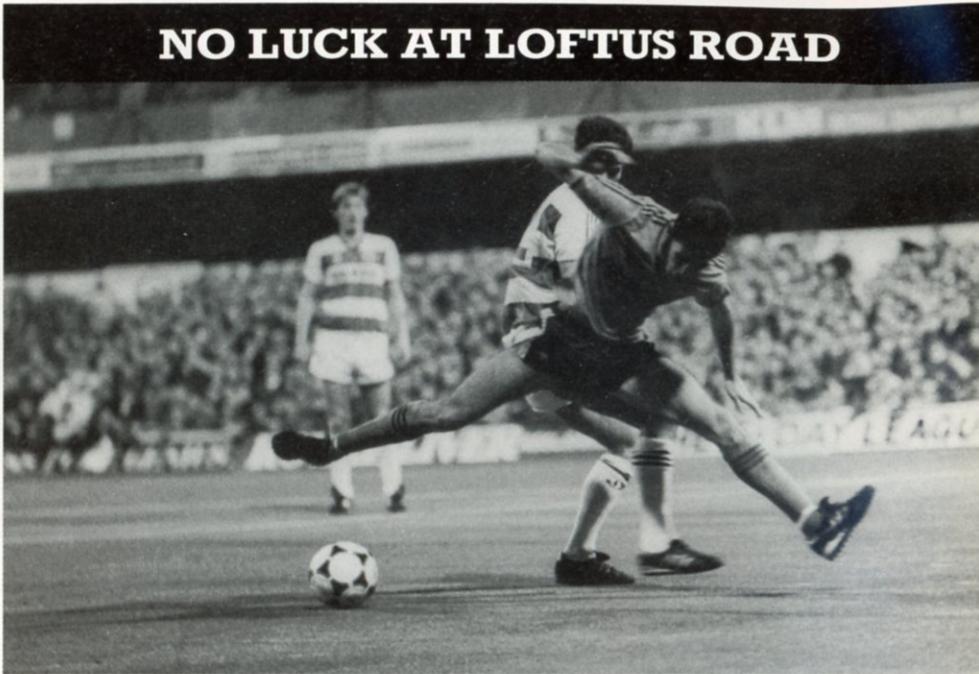
Saturday, February 14th, 1987 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

Today's match is sponsored on behalf of Macmillan Nurse Appeal

ACTION

NO LUCK AT LOFTUS ROAD



- **Not this time:** Mike Newell misses out during our Cup exit last week.

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Edited by: Robert Alexander
Pictures by: Sportswide Photography

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MOORE ABOUT FOOTBALL

Welcome to Aston Villa. I am sure we are in for another very tough match today. Any team in their position is sure to give nothing less than 100 per cent effort and hope that their luck will change. We faced a similarly anxious and frantic team at Newcastle last week when I felt we fully deserved our draw. We were without Ricky Hill for that fixture as he was struggling with a knee problem. I hope the rest will have helped to solve the problem. Ricky played through all our cup ties with the injury and needed the rest. Mention of Ricky also gives me the chance to say that I am still in discussion with him on the subject of any new contract and hope to resolve the situation soon. I am looking to improve the Luton Town team – not lose good players.

Brilliant goal

On the injury front, I hope we will be able to welcome Andy Dibble back to action soon. He was hoping to be able to make an appearance for the reserves in their match at Southampton today. In recent weeks, the reserves have enjoyed successes against some strong opposition and many fans may also have noted that Marc North scored twice last Saturday for Scunthorpe, where he is on loan.

Since my last notes, of course, we have gone out of the F.A. Cup following our replay defeat at Queens Park Rangers. I was disappointed. I felt we did not play our best and that we gave away two sloppy goals, but scored one brilliant goal. Now we must concentrate on building up another good run and scoring some goals in the First Division. People are discussing European soccer again and we must ensure we are in the running for a place in Europe if English clubs can make a return. Our performance at Newcastle was a boost to that dream, as we put in a lot of effort and worked very hard for the draw. The fact that Tim Breacker was in the opposition penalty area to score our equaliser shows how keen we were to take something from the game. I hope today's match here is as eventful and entertaining. Please give the team your support. Enjoy the game.



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Mailbag

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

Dear Sir,
I am writing to say how much I enjoyed being a mascot for the game against Q.P.R.

Thank you for picking me and for my kit. I would also like to thank Kenilworth the Cat for looking after me.

from
Lesley Skinner

41 Driftwood Avenue
Chiswell Green
St Albans, Herts.



Top team

Dear Sir,
We have been supporting the Hatters since the mid sixties. Having resigned ourselves to the fact that we shall continue to be ignored (or overlooked?) by your scouts but euphoric

Foster fan

Dear Sir,
I am a 15-year-old Luton fan, and I cannot make it to as many Luton matches as I would like to. I am in favour of plastic football pitches and banning away fans. I would like to write to any

Steve Foster fans of any age as he is my favourite player.

Thank you
Sharon Swan

10 Hazel Crescent
Kidlington, Oxford.



Pen pal, please!

Dear Sir,
I'm a 16 year old Manchester City fan and I would like to write to any female Luton fans 15-19.

Yours faithfully

Mark Renno

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GIRL TALK



Out of Glasgow

"You can take Dalglish out of Glasgow, but you can't take the Glasgow out of Dalglish," one of our Century Club members informed me the other day. It's obvious what he meant; the will to win transcends everything, even reason. Liverpool's manager criticised first our pitch, then our ban on away fans, then the 'advantage' we had from playing regularly on a synthetic surface - it made our players more skilful, he implied. This was even before the replay at Anfield.

Afterwards he criticised us for not accepting neutral territory for the replay (would he have done if Liverpool had won the toss?) and then claimed we should have been expelled from the Cup because we were snowed-in. All of this because, in four encounters this season, Liverpool have not beaten us and we, as the 'small' club, should crumble before the mighty.

We should consider ourselves lucky to be allowed to compete in the same tournaments as the likes of Liverpool, it seems. Isn't it about time that the 'big' clubs recognised that things change? Not so long ago

Leeds and Derby were First Division leaders, as were Wolves for years. Now where are they? Conversely, Wimbledon and Oxford have made their mark in the First Division. Ten years ago those names would have meant a tennis tournament and a boat race, not Association Football.

Inspiration

Of course it's easier to succeed on the pitch if there's ample money in the bank, but that's not the only criterion of success. The outstanding Liverpool side of the seventies was a blend of skill and team work. That is what we are rapidly developing here, with Steve Foster's leadership during matches an inspiration.

We have beaten Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, and Everton on merit. Our players are beginning to believe in themselves. We fans know the Town are good, and worth watching - it's only the rest of the football fraternity that need convincing; when they are, they might stop making excuses for our victories.

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

DESERVED DRAW

Newcastle Utd 2 Luton Town 2

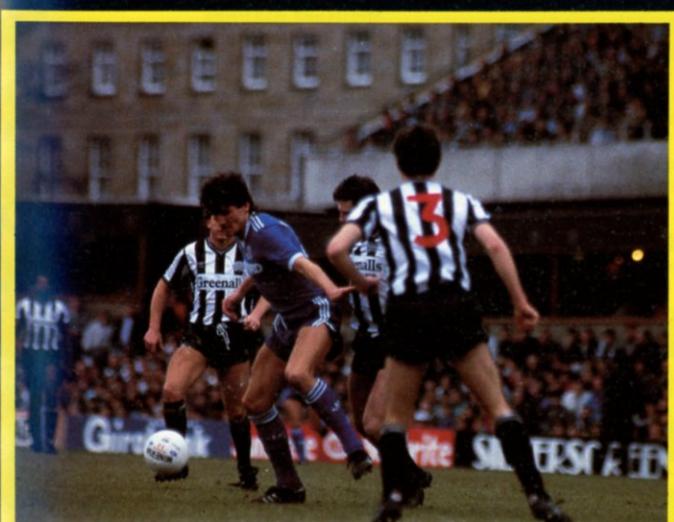
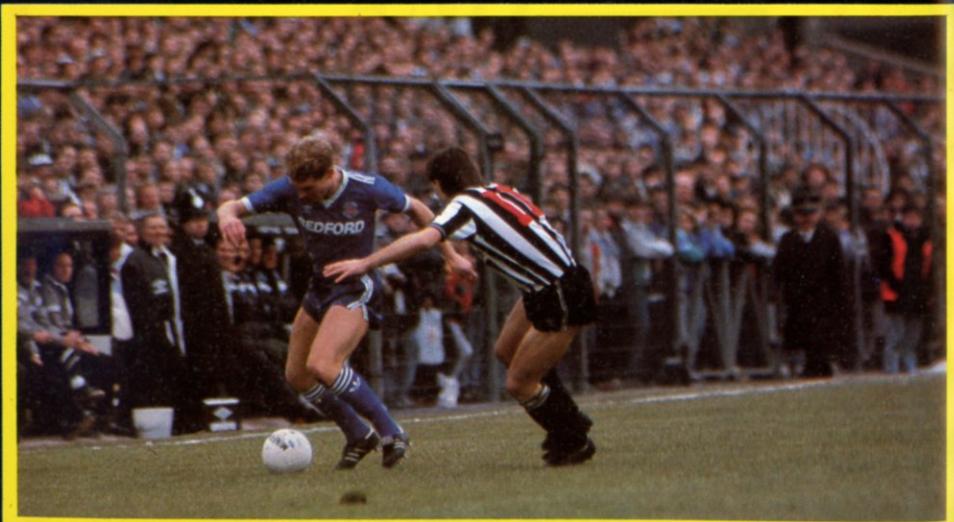
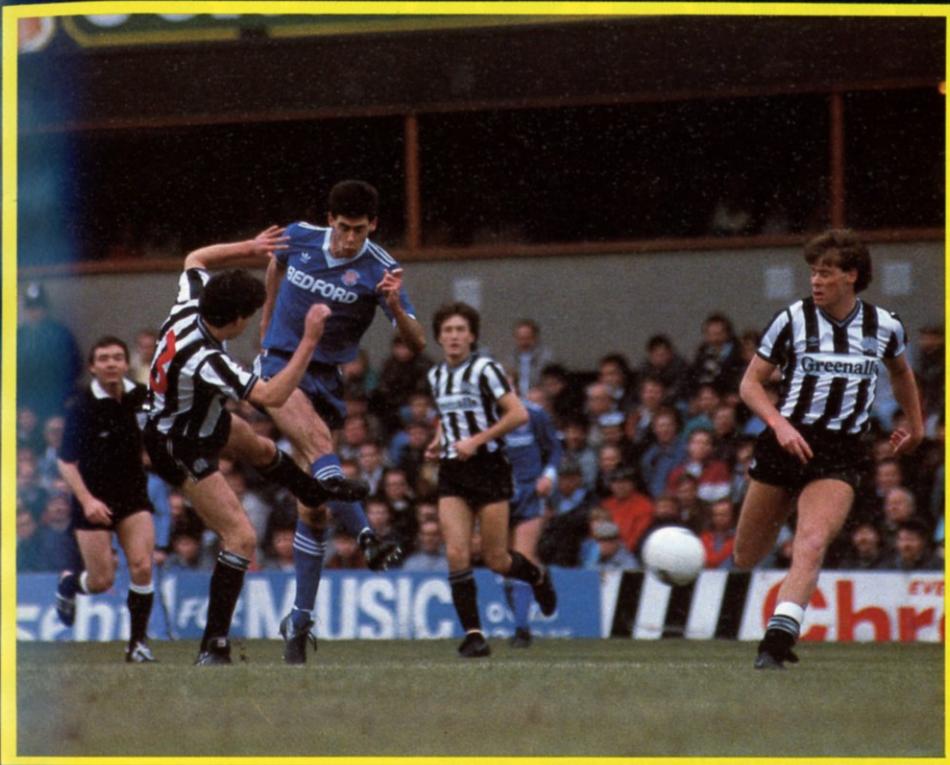
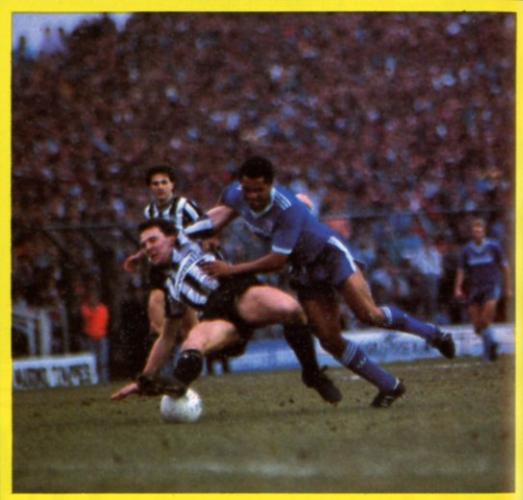
Ashley Grimes and Tim Breacker each scored splendid goals to open their accounts for the Town as they deservedly returned with a point from an open and entertaining match at Newcastle last Saturday. Grimes, from a free-kick on the right-hand angle of the penalty area, scored with a brilliantly-placed curling left-footed free kick and Breacker shot home with another left-footed effort from inside the penalty area 15 minutes from time.

In between, Newcastle had most of the play and created some chances without ever giving the impression they had enough control or guile to break down a Town defence once again ably marshalled by Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy. Peter Jackson scored his first goal for Newcastle with a header from a corner and Paul Goddard added their second to put them 2-1 up in the 31st minute.

In the second half, the Town had plenty of possession and Newcastle seemed to be content to rely on breakaway attacks in defence of their lead, but their policy was caught out when Breacker took advantage of a poor header by Wharton to sweep the ball in. To celebrate the occasion of his first league goal in his 90th appearance, Breacker ordered a video of the match. It will have to provide several slow motion re-runs.

Teams: - Newcastle - Thomas, McDonald, Wharton, McCreery, Jackson, Roeder, Thomas, Cunningham, Goddard, Beardsley, Craig. Luton - Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein, Newell, Harford, Grimes.
Referee - J. Worrall (Warrington).

1st Team ACTION



• Busy strikers: Mike Newell (above) and Mick Harford (below) were unable to find the net at St James' Park last week when Tim Breacker and Ashley Grimes scored their first goals for the club. Brian Stein (opposite top) and Tim (opposite below) are also pictured in action during an entertaining clash. Pictures by Sportswide Photography.

IEWS from the BENCH

Jim Ryan



Reserve team coach Jim Ryan is a former player at Kenilworth Road with long experience of playing on both our old 'grass' surface and our current synthetic pitch. Today, in his Views from the Bench, he discusses the recent criticism of our pitch and some of the broader issues in the game today:

Ill-informed criticism gets under my collar!

"The one thing which has really upset me more than anything recently has been the criticism of both the pitch and the members' policy which has seemed to me to be both ill-informed and gratuitous. It seems sometimes that you cannot mention Luton now on the sports pages without the word plastic appearing next to us.

"I think this is unfair and wrong. Our players have certainly not had the credit they deserve this season for playing extremely well both at home and away to get us to our current position in the League.

"I have played on the old and the new Kenilworth Road and also on artificial pitches in America. I recently read that Kenny Dalglish had said our pitch increased the number of injuries, according to a survey. But this is not true. I know of no survey of soccer players which says this.

"In America, it may be true of American Football, but that is a different game altogether in which injury is almost a deliberate part of it! In fact, I think there are less injuries on our pitch than on grass - or rather the sort of muddy pitch in mid-winter which is used for football. A lot of injuries are caused by studs, but on synthetic pitches moulded studs are normally used so these sort of injuries are eliminated.

Players divided

"It has also been said that the players do not like it.

I think the players seem to be split half and half. Some do like it and some don't. What really annoys me is the comparisons made with perfect grass pitches all the time - they just cannot remember how it used to be here in the old days. I do!

"Not everyone plays at Anfield or Wembley. And sometimes it is as if, after just one bad or poor game, the pitch is to blame. It is not the pitch which makes a game good or bad, but the players.

"As to the ban on away fans, one player recently said that if his team's fans had been here they would have influenced the referee into giving them a penalty. This is a ridiculous position to take and clearly devalues all the achievements of previous teams from his club - suggesting that they obtained a lot of help from the referee because of their support.

Brilliant players

"I get cross about it because added together these issues are often construed as being deliberately introduced by our club to gain an advantage. This is not true at all and is really unfair on the players. Some of them have been brilliant this season without getting any of the credit they deserve.

"They have done well home and away. They played well at Liverpool and still did not get the credit when they won. The pitch did it all again! It is not right at all."



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MATCH REFEREE

Brian Stevens (Gloucester)

A quality control supervisor, Brian is married with two daughters. He began refereeing in 1963 and progressed via the Stroud, Gloucestershire and Western Leagues. He enjoys tennis and he has been in charge of several international matches.

COVER STORY

Our cover picture today shows Mick Harford challenging for the ball during our FA Cup fourth round tie against Queens Park Rangers. We wish Mick and the lads good luck this afternoon.

Match Ball Sponsors



Today's match ball is sponsored by R.H. Marshall, one of Bedfordshire's leading suppliers of fresh-cut flowers and foliage and pot plants for the whole nation. Brian and Mike Marshall run the 50-year-old family business and both are loyal supporters of the club.

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THE TOWN

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE PLAYERS - THEY HAVE EARNED IT By Bill Tomlins

LUCKY LES



•Smiles all round: Les Sealey presented the match ball after our QPR Cup-tie to Anna Green of sponsors V.G. Green & Sons.

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road. Since our last home match in the Today League Division One, we have unfortunately bowed out of the F.A. Cup at the hands of Queens Park Rangers. It was naturally a big disappointment after the great victory over Liverpool, but if you think you felt bad about it, spare a thought for the players who had given a lot over 390 minutes in cup football this season.

The rush of fixtures at that time brought it home to us more than ever on the management side of the club how dependent we are on the team's results, as everything had to be planned according to a win, draw or a defeat.

We can still take pride in our position in the league table however, as we approach the last lap of the season. I think it is always good to put things in perspective and we at Luton have a lot to be proud of this season.

Pleasure

In my new position as general secretary, one of my greatest pleasures has been in taking a closer interest in the reserves and youth team matches. Our youngsters really are a delight to watch and I must urge all our fans to come and enjoy seeing them play. They really are a credit to Jim Ryan and John Faulkner.

At the senior level, we all know how well the whole team has played

this season, but Mal Donaghy and Peter Nicholas deserve special mention for being selected yet again for Northern Ireland and Wales respectively, for their forthcoming internationals. Congratulations Mal and Peter. News too of Marcus Tuite whose contract with the club has been cancelled. Marcus is to join Limerick.

Congratulations are in order also for David Oldfield who has recently signed a two-year contract as a professional with the club, as Richard Harvey had earlier this season.

Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome to this afternoon's match sponsors, the Macmillan Fund Nurse Appeal. All money raised at the match today will be used to help provide a home care service for cancer sufferers and others with similar illnesses.

There are two Macmillan nurses working in our area who aid the terminally ill and their families in their own homes and bring dignity to those concerned. Please support them by giving generously today. It is a more than worthy cause.

We welcome as executive sponsors Camargue Kitchens. The company was established in 1971 and specialises in the manufacture of luxury kitchens and is well known for its quality design and service.

GIRL MASCOT MEETS THE STARS



•Kick off time: Lesley Skinner was our mascot against QPR. She is pictured with the match officials, Steve Foster and Sammy Lee and Kenilworth the Cat. See Lesley's letter on page 6.



•Back in action: Our manager, John Moore, pulled on a Town shirt again last Sunday to appear in a match for an old Luton Town XI in aid of Robin Large, who has been confined to a wheel chair with Friedrich's Atakta.



•Team picture: How many of the former Luton players do you recognise? The team included Ken Hawkes, Ken Goodeue, Alan Garner, John Faulkner, Jim Ryan and Alan Bannister.



•International call-up: Congratulations to Mal Donaghy and Peter Nicholas on their selection for Northern Ireland and Wales.



CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER

Bouncing back

Hello everyone. We were bitterly disappointed to lose at Queens Park Rangers last week and so go out of the F.A. Cup, particularly as we had done so well to beat Liverpool in the previous round. But that is the essence of cup football - you can only take each match as it comes and look forwards.

I was very pleased with the way we bounced back straightaway with a good performance at Newcastle. And it was especially nice to see Ashley and Tim score their first goals for the club. Now we are just waiting to get Peter Nicholas to improve his accuracy a bit and we can enjoy another first.

Challenge

There is still a lot for us to play for this season. Not just pride, but also the chance of taking the club to its highest-ever position in the First Division and maybe even into a high enough position to maintain a challenge for the title. We have to keep on putting the results together. Then it is up to the other clubs to keep winning as well - and we shall be ready if there are any slips.

The support from our fans during the Cup run was great and I want to make sure everyone knows how much we appreciated it. I hope it will be continued in the First Division matches now, as we will keep on fighting to finish in a good position. With Tim and Ashley starting to score, I think it is time Mal and I moved forward a bit more if we get the chance!

PHOTO FILE

Geoff Souster



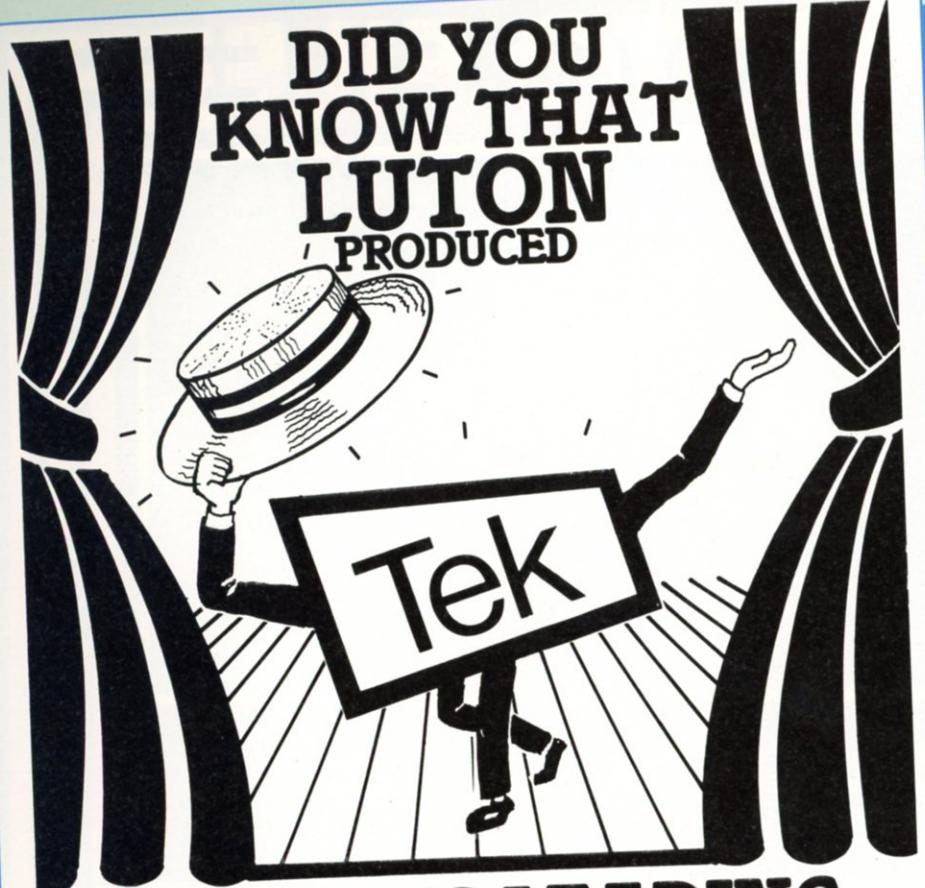
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• Stalemate in the Cup: Ashley Grimes (top) and Rob Johnson (below) are pictured in action during our draw here with QPR two weeks ago.





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IN PROFILE.... DARRON McDONOUGH



• **Versatile player:** Darron McDonough

Utility man who likes to defend



• **Happily settled:** Darron McDonough

Darron McDonough joined the Town from Oldham Athletic in the early stages of the current campaign and has rapidly become a vital member of the first team squad at Kenilworth Road. Although he prefers to play in the middle of the defence, he can perform anywhere in the team and his great versatility has made him a valuable part of the title challenge.

Darron was born in Antwerp, Belgium, on November 7, 1962 and lived in Belgium for the first two years of his life. His father was serving there with the British Army. He broke into football at Oldham Athletic where he was an apprentice and where he made his first appearance in the Football League.

His debut came at Notts County where he played on the left side of midfield and marked the occasion with a goal. "I've played my career equally in attack, midfield and defence," said Darron, "but I prefer the middle of the back four."

Although he does not currently hold down a regular place in the Town first team, Darron is enjoying his first season of life at Kenilworth Road. "I am settled in now and quite happy – but I would be much happier if I could get a regular place in the side!" Darron is married to Alison and the couple are still looking for a home in the area after one near-purchase recently fell through.



DARRON McDONOUGH

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DRESSING ROOM TALK

with Mal Donaghy

Mal Donaghy was one of the most disappointed men in the Town squad when we were unable to reach the fifth round of the F.A. Cup, but he shook off his despair to help the team take a vital point at Newcastle last weekend. Today Mal looks back on the ups and downs of last week and reflects on how the team recovered its spirit on the way to Tyneside:

"After the home game against QPR, I think we all knew we had played below our best and would play better the next time. We were glad to get another go really.

"But in the replay Rangers got their tactics just right on the night and were able to get into a good lead before we could get back at them. Then they defended really well. They did the right thing in playing with two wide players I think and also their central defenders did a good job.

"Obviously after the Liverpool games we felt a bit deflated and it was a big disappointment to go out. That's why it was so important to get a result at Newcastle last Saturday - a ground where we don't usually manage to do very well.

Cold evening

"At Rangers we had been unlucky to meet them in that mood and we also seemed to have a bit of trouble with our footing in the conditions. It might have been the cold evening air or something, but we slipped and fell over a bit more than usual.

"We don't usually travel to the away games up north on a Friday morning, but we did for Newcastle. It was a change of routine. We stopped on the way for lunch too and it broke up our usual way of approaching everything, which was a good thing. We actually had a chat about the game and about the players who had not been scoring goals.

"Strangely, I told Tim I fancied him to score against Newcastle. Needless to say, he did not take me very seriously. Ashley got a bit of stick too, but most of the stick went to Peter Nicholas because he has had quite a few shots without being able to find the net.

Saving goals

"I haven't managed to score myself this season either, so perhaps I shouldn't say too much, but I just say I am saving my goals up and they will come later. I hope they do because I didn't score last season either. Steve Foster has managed one this season so far and might have scored more because he causes so much



• **Defence to attack:** Now Mal Donaghy has set his sights on goal too!

trouble in the opposition box with his strength and power.

"I did manage a volley on target against Queens Park Rangers in the home match, which was saved. I just hit it and shut my eyes. It's a good policy for me I think! But the trouble is all the opposition goalkeepers have been in such brilliant form when we have played against them this season.

"Still, now Ashley and Tim have scored perhaps we shall all have a chance to get some more goals. It would certainly be nice. We are always being encouraged to go forward and have a go so perhaps our luck will change soon and the goals will start to go in.

Targets ahead

"We have to keep our season alive by thinking of finishing in our highest position ever and maybe challenging for the title or a place in Europe, if that became a possibility again. You never know. We have to have targets and we have certainly got them.

"I just hope we can steer clear of injuries. With such a small squad, we have already had our fair share of injuries for the season, I think. It would be really nice to be able to field a settled team for the rest of the season. There are some great games coming up - we have got West Ham, Manchester United and Spurs all at home to come, so it should be very interesting."

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On Sundays, we bring you reports on all the first and second division matches, plus a full round-up of the 3rd and 4th.

On Mondays, Action Replay



shows you the weekend's action in full colour. And everyday, along with colour pictures, you'll get the latest on your team from our team: Bob Harris, Alan Thompson and Roy Collins.

When it comes to soccer coverage, we're in a league of our own. Get the paper that's totally different. Today.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

For Your Diary

On Saturday, February 21st, we are away to Manchester City in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, February 28th, we are at home to West Ham Utd in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, March 7th, we are away to Liverpool in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, March 14th, we are at home to Manchester United in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 3 pm.

For a trial period we are allowing match tickets for members and their guests to be sold on match days subject to availability.



RETAIL SALES

Bev Tyler is the club's retail sales supervisor. He can be contacted at the Ticket Office, 125 Oak Road (telephone 30748 or 42393). Bev is pictured above (right) together with his assistant Andy Brooks.

South East Counties League

On Saturday, February 21st, the youth team are at home to Southampton in a South East Counties League game. Kick-off 11.00 am.

On Saturday, February 28th, the youth team are at home to Bournemouth in a South East Counties League game. Kick-off 11.00 am.

Our youth team play their matches at Talbots Sports Ground, in Luton, off Poynters Road.

Football Combination

On Saturday, February 21st, the reserves are at home to Chelsea in a Football Combination game. Kick-off 2.00 pm.

On Tuesday, February 24th, the reserves are at home to Charlton in a Football Combination game. Kick-off 2.00 pm.

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

Pitch bookings

Due to very heavy demand for the pitch, we are now planning to make it available for hire on certain midweek afternoons at a special off-peak rate of £100 plus VAT.

All evenings and weekends are now fully booked until the end of April. If anyone wishes to play on our synthetic surface and experience the atmosphere of a First Division stadium, please contact the Stadium Sales Manager, Mike Beevor on Luton 411622.

12,000 Players

More than 600 matches have now been played on our synthetic pitch, giving great pleasure to more than 12,000 local footballers.

Guest tickets

We have decided to make things easier for members purchasing guest tickets. You no longer have to fill in forms if you call in to the Ticket Office in person.

Members are still responsible for the behaviour of their guests, however, and can be traced through the number on each guest ticket.

Guests do not require a membership card as the match ticket has a bar code on - the same as the membership cards.

Obviously, if a guest qualifies as a Town supporter and is likely to attend more than once, it is cheaper for him to enroll as a member.

Occasionally, supporters who live some distance from the ground, say it can be difficult to obtain tickets: but it need not be!

The ticket office will accept bookings by post with a cheque, or by telephone with an Access or Visa credit card number.

Best of all why not invest in a Season Ticket?



CLUB COMMENT

John Smith, Chief Executive.

Report from the public meeting

More than 100 people attended a public meeting for supporters and local residents on February 3rd. In fact, it was so popular some supporters were unable to obtain tickets. So here is a report on the main subjects discussed.

THE MEMBERSHIP SCHEME. Plans are under way to improve and streamline its operation, to offer an even better service to supporters next season. It is Europe's largest controlled access system and the first of its kind in Football, so teething troubles were inevitable. Meanwhile, we thank our supporters for their patience over delays at the turnstiles and their help in arriving earlier to beat the rush.

To date, the system has been totally successful in preventing hooliganism inside and outside the ground. The general exclusion of visiting supporters will continue. However, it is the Club's intention to work towards the integration of some visiting supporters, under controlled conditions, when it is safe to do so.

GROUND DEVELOPMENTS. Important changes, including much reduced car parking facilities, will also be forced on the Club during the summer, by the A505 Relief Road construction. But at least we can concentrate on other issues now the compensation negotiations are complete.

On the plus side, we intend to continue the ground improvement programme, finances

permitting, with new mainstand refreshment facilities and a properly designed, under cover area for our disabled supporters.

MATCH ATTENDANCE. Attendances are disappointing, especially when the team is challenging for the League title. David Evans, our Chairman, appealed to supporters to make a point of bringing a friend to every match as a guest. He also asked Bobbers season ticket holders who did not renew when the executive suites were built, to return to their team's support next season.

While recognising their disappointment at the move, income from the suites is essential to maintain our Division One status.

RELOCATION. David Evans repeated the pledge that the Club would not move out of the Luton area. He praised the efforts of the Joint Working Party in helping to identify possible new sites. Stockwood Park seems to be the only feasible place in the town itself but we recognise that such a move would be a sensitive issue. Alternatively, the Club might be invited to move to a proposed stadium development at Sundon, on the town's northern outskirts. No doubt other sites on the outskirts will be identified. Meanwhile the Club will remain at Kenilworth Road and will develop the limited potential of the existing site, as best it can, but life here will become even more worrying.



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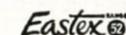
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ACTION



• **In the air:** David Oldfield was in good form for the reserves against Swindon. David has recently signed a contract as a full professional.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION TABLE
1986/87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	24	18	2	4	63	19	38
Tottenham Hotspur	24	15	6	3	54	21	36
Arsenal	24	16	4	4	56	26	36
Queens Park Rangers	24	14	5	5	51	37	33
Norwich City	24	13	4	7	54	41	30
Ipswich Town	24	12	3	9	31	39	27
West Ham United	21	11	3	7	39	30	25
Watford	23	8	8	7	37	32	24
Swindon Town	23	11	2	10	57	51	24
Luton Town	21	11	1	9	54	35	23
Southampton	21	9	3	9	39	35	21
Crystal Palace	22	7	6	9	34	35	20
Oxford United	22	7	6	9	43	46	20
Fulham	21	7	5	9	28	34	19
Charlton Athletic	19	6	5	8	25	32	17
Reading	20	6	2	12	26	53	14
Portsmouth	22	5	3	14	25	52	13
Millwall	23	3	3	17	26	58	9
Brighton & Hove Albion	22	4	1	17	25	57	9
Bristol Rovers	22	3	2	17	28	62	8

FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1986/87

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1986			1987		
Aug 23	Arsenal	2-3	Jan 10	Arsenal	2-1
Aug 26	Ipswich Town	1-2	Jan 17	Ipswich	1-2
Sept 6	Brighton	3-1	Jan 20	Fulham	3-0
Sept 10	Reading	1-2	Feb 7	Swindon	3-0
Sept 20	Southampton	4-1	Feb 14	Southampton	
Sept 27	Chelsea	0-0	Feb 21	Chelsea	
Sept 30	Charlton	1-3	Feb 24	Charlton Ath	
Oct 4	Watford	4-2	Mar 7	Tottenham	
Oct 10	Norwich City	1-2	Mar 11	Bristol R	
Oct 18	Bristol R	3-0	Mar 21	Norwich	
Oct 21	Swindon	3-1	Mar 24	Fulham	
Oct 25	Tottenham	1-3	Mar 28	Watford	
Oct 28	QPR	0-6	Apr 1	Crystal Palace	
Nov 8	Crystal Palace	1-2	Apr 11	QPR	
Nov 22	Portsmouth	5-1	Apr 14	Millwall	
Dec 6	Millwall	9-2	Apr 25	West Ham	
Dec 20	West Ham	6-1	May 2	Oxford	



• **Goal from midfield:** Ricky McEvoy was on the mark for the reserves against Swindon last week.

Reserve & Youth



JIM RYAN



JOHN FAULKNER

THREE GOALS EACH AS THE RESERVES AND YOUNGSTERS KEEP WINNING

The reserve and youth teams both enjoyed good victories last week as they beat Swindon Town and Brighton and Hove Albion respectively. The reserves managed a 3-0 win over the Wiltshire team while the youth team visited Shoreham to win 3-1.

For midfielder Ricky McEvoy it was a tonic to score in the reserves match after his proposed move to Chesterfield on loan fell through due to lack of finances available at the Third Division club.

Young team

McEvoy, Neil Burtch and Emeka Nwajiobi were the Town scorers against Swindon. The Town fielded another very young team as they extended their record for the season to 10 wins and 9 defeats in 20 games. They have scored 52 goals and conceded 34.

The youth team took their record for the current season to 10 wins and four defeats from 16 matches at Brighton. They have scored 41 goals and conceded 23. Saturday's scorers were the prolific Sean Farrell with two and Paul Gray.

REPLAY

INTRODUCING...

ASTON VILLA

Aston Villa arrive at Kenilworth Road today seeking a desperately-needed win to help them claw their way out of relegation trouble at the foot of the table. Last Saturday they went down to their fifth home defeat of the season when they lost by the only goal against in-form Queens Park Rangers.

The goal that day came Rangers' way courtesy of Villa centre-half Martin Keown who is currently keeping the unsettled former Hatters' star Paul Elliott out of the team! When the Town last met Villa, at Villa Park last September, both men were in the side that recorded the Birmingham club's first win of the season by the odd goal in three.

Since then, however, much has changed at Villa Park with former Manchester City manager Billy McNeill taking over as manager in succession to the luckless Graham Turner. A promising run of results followed in the autumn, but since Christmas nothing has gone right and Villa find themselves struggling for survival again.

The team's biggest problem seems to be attack where goals have been in short supply although Villa have been unlucky recently to lose the services of Andy Gray with a serious neck injury.



Back Row from left: Paul Elliott, Martin Keown, Kevin Poole, Andy Gray, Nigel Spink, Garry Thompson, Neale Cooper. Middle row: Tony Daley, Gary Williams, Paul Birch, Steve Hunt, Simon Stainrod, Andy Blair, Dean Glover, Mark Walters. Front row: Steve Hodge, Paul Kerr, Allan Evans, Billy McNeill (Manager), Ron Wylie (First Team Coach), Tony Dorigo, David Norton, Gary Shaw.

Players likely to be on duty today:

Nigel Spink - Joined Villa from Chelmsford. A big goalkeeper with surprising agility. Made his name when he played in the European Cup final in 1982 after coming on for the injured Jimmy Rimmer. Nigel has won an England cap.

Gary Williams - Versatile defender who has become a dependable full-back. Gary made his Villa debut against Everton in 1978. An England under-21 cap, he has won League title, European Cup and Super Cup medals with Villa.

Tony Dorigo - Flew from Australia for a trial, impressed the club and stayed. Now one of the most promising and highly-rated defenders in the First Division. Supporters' Club Player of the Year.

Allan Evans - A veteran of the European Cup winning side of 1982, Allan is a Scottish international centre-half. Vastly-experienced player who has been club captain for several seasons. Joined Villa in May 1977 from Dunfermline.

Martin Keown - A former England youth international defender, Martin joined Villa from Arsenal last summer after making several promising appearances in the Gunners' first team.



Billy McNeill is one of the outstanding post-war figures in Scottish football and took over as manager of Villa earlier this season in succession to Graham Turner. Earlier he had been in charge at Manchester City whom he had led back to the First Division after moving south of the border in 1983. As a player, he was the centre-half of the great Celtic team of the 1960's, leading them to the Scottish title nine seasons in succession, and eight Scottish Cup triumphs. He also won six Scottish League Cup winners' medals and played in the Celtic team which won the European Cup in 1967. He won 29 Scottish caps. After retiring, he left the game briefly but returned to take over Clyde, Aberdeen and then Celtic.

Neale Cooper - A Scottish under-21 international, Neale has had to wait until early this year to make his debut following his transfer from Aberdeen last summer. A versatile and powerful central midfield player, he has a host of medals from his Scottish career.

Tony Daley - Birmingham-born Tony made his debut at Southampton in April 1985 and has since established himself as one of the most exciting players in the club. A dangerous forward.

Garry Thompson - A big, brave and bustling centre-forward, Garry joined Villa for a record £450,000 fee from Sheffield Wednesday last year after playing for Coventry and WBA earlier in his career. An England under-21 international.

Simon Stainrod - Sheffield-born Simon is an experienced striker with swaggering style and skills. Ex-Sheffield United, Oldham Athletic, and Queens Park Rangers. Simon was signed from Sheffield Wednesday for £250,000 in 1985.

Steve Hunt - Birmingham-born Steve is a midfielder who began his career at Villa Park before moving to New York Cosmos and returning via Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion. He won two England caps in 1984.

Mark Walters - Another Birmingham born player, Mark has developed into one of the trickiest wingers in the country in recent seasons. Ex-England youth and under-21 international.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY PETER NICHOLAS

END OF OUR CUP RUN

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is 156. 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.

Well, our run in the F.A. Cup came to an end last week when Queens Park Rangers beat us in the replay at Loftus Road, by two goals to one. Now we must concentrate on our position in the League and keep in the top flight with all the big teams.

ESCORTS



Amanda Lownds



Nicholas Clark

MASCOT



Terence Ward

ESCORTS



Stuart Neale



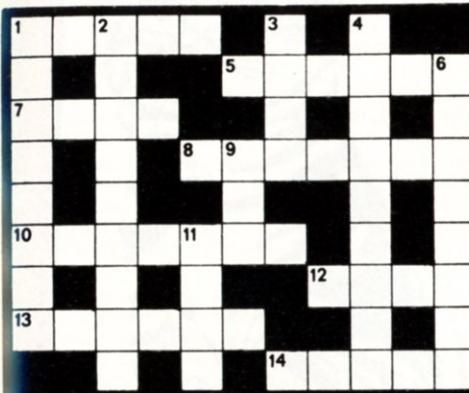
Paul Bloomfield

KENILWORTH THE CAT



QUIZ

Soccer Ninety-Niner No. 9



Across

- Forest, Liverpool and Villa were successive runners-up (1980-82) as — club champions (5)
- Losing (6)
- Financially-rocky clubs are often forced to do this to their best players (4)
- Pops up and scores (7)
- Kelham the keeper (7)
- A regular scorer with Villa and Norwich (though not with WBA in between), he has found the net for Ipswich this season (4,6)
- One who found his fame with Ipswich but who switched to Sunderland in 1985 (5)

Down

- Goalie who idled at Ipswich but became a regular in Reading's promotion squad (8)
- What no club in Scotland's Premier Division was last season (9)
- He went to his second stint as Lincoln manager via Grimsby and Rotherham (4)
- Casual warm-up session with the ball (9)
- Shows an ill-advised reaction to a referee's ruling (8)
- The number of appearances Barnsley have made in FA Cup finals (3)
- A player's temporary transfer to another club (4)

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

Answers to First Eleven Competition No. 8

Roberto	Terry	Richard
Harry	Trevor	Jeff
Ray	Gary	Roy
Bruce	Tommy	
Club: SUNDERLAND		

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Views from the media

Tim Breacker and Ashley Grimes celebrated their first goals for the club as the Town won a deserved point from a 2-2 draw at Newcastle last Saturday. Ashley's goal came from a perfectly-placed free kick while Tim's was a first-time shot to equalise in the second half. Here is a selection of the comments from the press on the match:

The Observer - "Facing a Luton side playing their sixth game in 15 days, and at times showing the strain, Newcastle missed a glorious chance to improve their parlous league position yesterday. Bottom-of-the-table Newcastle were leading 2-1 and looking likely to add to their lead when a badly-directed header by Wharton gave Tim Breacker an easy chance to score his first goal for Luton in the 75th minute."

Mail on Sunday - "Luton manager John Moore insisted afterwards that his side had earned the point. Certainly, nobody could question their will to work in a fiercely competitive game."

Sunday Express - "After the disappointment of their FA Cup defeat at Queens Park Rangers, Luton badly needed an early goal to boost their morale. Grimes provided it when Jackson fouled Mick Harford. A lovely left foot strike had the ball comfortably eluding the outstretched fingers of Martin Thomas - Grimes' first goal of the season."

The Star - "Tim Breacker made sure Mum and Dad didn't miss out on his first-ever goal for Luton - even though they were 200 miles away at the time. Luton's full-back finally broke his duck after three barren seasons with a 75th minute equaliser in the 2-2 draw at Newcastle. And he was so elated he forked out £12.50 for one of the videos Newcastle produce of every home match."



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LUTON TOWN GOLDEN OLDIES

CREATOR STEPHENSON AND ROCKET-SHOT RIOCH

We welcome Aston Villa to Kenilworth Road for their twelfth league visit and, at the risk of tempting fate, hate to say that they have yet to win here, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Our first meeting took place on 1st September, 1937, when the Town, newly promoted to Division Two, took on Villa in our debut home game in the higher division.

The ground capacity had been increased to a supposed 34,000 during that close season but even though the terraces were packed and the gates closed long before kick-off the final tally was only 25,349, albeit a record.

Tide of euphoria

Luton, riding on a tide of euphoria won on the night 3-2, but were brought back to earth with a



• **Bruce Rioch:** Midfielder with a rocket shot who played for the Town and Villa – and captained Scotland at the 1978 World Cup Finals. Bruce is now in charge of Middlesbrough.

war and sadly died in 1964 just at a time when another "hot-shot" was joining the Town.

Scottish ancestry

Bruce Rioch, Aldershot born but with a Scottish father, moved to Luton at an early age and in fact attended school in Stopsley with his good friend Alan Slough.

He made his debut for the Town in a 1-0 League Cup win at Port Vale in September 1964, but it was not until the end of November that he turned out again for the first team in a dismal defeat at Southend.

Rioch made eleven appearances that season, without scoring, in a side that slipped into Division Four. But in the following year he started up a useful partnership with John O'Rourke, which was beginning to bear fruit when a bad injury sustained at Hartlepool effectively put paid to what we Town fans thought was to be the final weight that tipped promotion in our favour.

With O'Rourke departed to Middlesbrough, the goalscoring brunt fell on Rioch's shoulders and he finished with a creditable 10 goals in 1966-67 in a team that at one point looked odds on to seek re-election.

Towards the end of that season the scouts had begun to come to Kenilworth Road to witness the long range power shooting of Rioch but in 1967-68, the Town's promotion season, the trickle became a flood as he banged in 24 goals, few of which were "tap-ins".



• **Paul Elliott:** Athletic defender Paul left the Town for Villa in 1985.



• **Steve Foster:** Our captain came to Kenilworth Road from Villa Park after leaving Brighton.

The goal he scored at Barnsley that season must rank as the most fiercely hit shot ever seen by those lucky enough to witness it.

Stood in silence

Rioch was standing ten yards outside the penalty area when the ball was headed out by a defender following a corner. He hit the ball with such power that even his own team-mates stood in silence for what seemed like minutes before the partisan Yorkshire crowd erupted.

Bids for the player came from such diverse clubs as Glasgow Rangers and Ipswich but Allan Brown resisted all offers and 1968-69 saw a sparkling start with Brian Lewis and Rioch immediately among the goals. The first of Rioch's knee operations had to be carried out mid-season which meant a few games missed, but by the end of that campaign he had raised a good head of steam again and finished strongly.

Tommy Docherty had noted Rioch's shooting prowess from his position as Rotherham manager early in season 1968-69, when the Town ran out 3-1 winners and, following his appointment as manager at Villa Park with money to spend, he slapped in an offer of £100,000 which was too good for the Town to turn down.

With this money, which was a Third Division record, Alec Stock bought such players as Malcolm MacDonald and Chris Nicholl – but that is another story.

FIRST TEAM UPDATE 1986-87 SEASON

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(Up to and including 8 February 1987)

HOME	AWAY									
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F	A Pts
27 10 3 1 33 9	Everton	6	2	5	19	13	53			
26 9 4 0 22 4	Arsenal	6	3	4	19	11	52			
26 8 3 2 26 9	Liverpool	6	3	4	19	15	48			
27 8 5 0 26 9	Nottingham Forest	5	2	7	23	46				
26 9 3 1 16 6	LUTON TOWN	3	4	6	13	19	43			
26 7 5 1 21 15	Norwich City	4	5	4	16	21	43			
25 6 3 4 20 13	Tottenham Hotspur	6	2	4	21	16	41			
26 7 4 2 25 11	Watford	3	3	7	19	22	37			
26 6 2 5 24 21	West Ham United	4	5	4	16	22	37			
27 8 2 3 19 13	Coventry City	2	5	7	9	19	37			
26 6 3 4 17 13	Wimbledon	5	0	8	17	22	36			
27 6 6 1 26 14	Sheffield Wednesday	2	4	8	13	29	34			
26 7 2 4 24 13	Manchester United	1	7	5	9	15	33			
26 6 3 4 19 16	Queens Park Rangers	3	3	7	8	16	33			
26 6 4 3 22 17	Oxford United	2	4	7	8	24	32			
26 4 3 6 15 22	Chelsea	3	5	5	17	23	29			
26 6 2 5 23 19	Southampton	2	2	9	18	31	28			
26 5 5 3 25 17	Leicester	2	1	10	9	28	27			
26 6 3 4 18 14	Manchester City	0	6	7	6	21	27			
27 3 5 6 15 16	Charlton Athletic	3	3	7	11	21	26			
26 5 3 5 16 19	Aston Villa	1	3	9	14	35	24			
26 4 3 6 19 22	Newcastle United	1	4	8	8	24	22			

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1986/87)

Player	League		FA Cup		Aps	Gls	League		FA Cup		Aps	Gls
	Ap	Gls	Ap	Gls			Ap	Gls	Ap	Gls		
Tim Breacker	17	1	4	-	Mike Newell	26	9	5	1			
Mal Donaghy	26	-	5	-	Peter Nicholas	26	-	5	-			
Steve Foster	24	1	5	-	Marc North	2(3)	-	-	-			
Ashley Grimes	20	1	5	-	Stacey North	2	-	-	-			
Mick Harford	5	-	5	3	Emeka Nwajobi	6	-	-	-			
Richard Harvey	1	-	-	-	David Preece	7	-	1	-			
Ricky Hill	15	1	5	-	Brian Stein	24	9	5	1			
Rob Johnson	25	-	5	-	Mark Stein	14(3)	5	-	-			
Damon McDonough	7(4)	-	(1)	-	Les Sealey	26	-	5	-			
Ricky McEvoy	(1)	-	-	-	Robert Wilson	13(3)	1	-	-			

Today League action

Coventry v Chelsea
Liverpool v Leicester
Manchester United v Watford
Norwich v Manchester City
Notts Forest v West Ham
Oxford Utd v Everton
QPR v Newcastle
Sheffield Weds v Arsenal
Tottenham v Southampton

Leading goalscorers

Division One
33 - C. Allen (Tottenham)
26 - Rush (Liverpool)
25 - Cottee (West Ham)
21 - Aldridge (Liverpool)
18 - Clarke (Southampton)
16 - Hayes (Arsenal)
13 - Drinkell (Norwich)



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Voucher No. 17

Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town

- 1 Les Sealey
- 2 Tim Breacker
- 3 Rob Johnson
- 4 Peter Nicholas
- 5 Steve Foster
- 6 Mal Donaghy
- 7 Ricky Hill
- 8 Brian Stein
- 9 Mike Newell
- 10 Mick Harford
- 11 Ashley Grimes
- Sub

Aston Villa

- 1 Nigel Spink
- 2 Gary Williams
- 3 Tony Dorigo
- 4 Allan Evans
- 5 Martin Keown
- 6 Neale Cooper
- 7 Tony Daley
- 8 Garry Thompson
- 9 Simon Stainrod
- 10 Steve Hunt
- 11 Mark Walters
- Subs

Referee: B. STEVENS (Gloucester)

Linesmen: R.G. TAYLOR (Red Flag) A.C. WILLIAMS (Yellow Flag)

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