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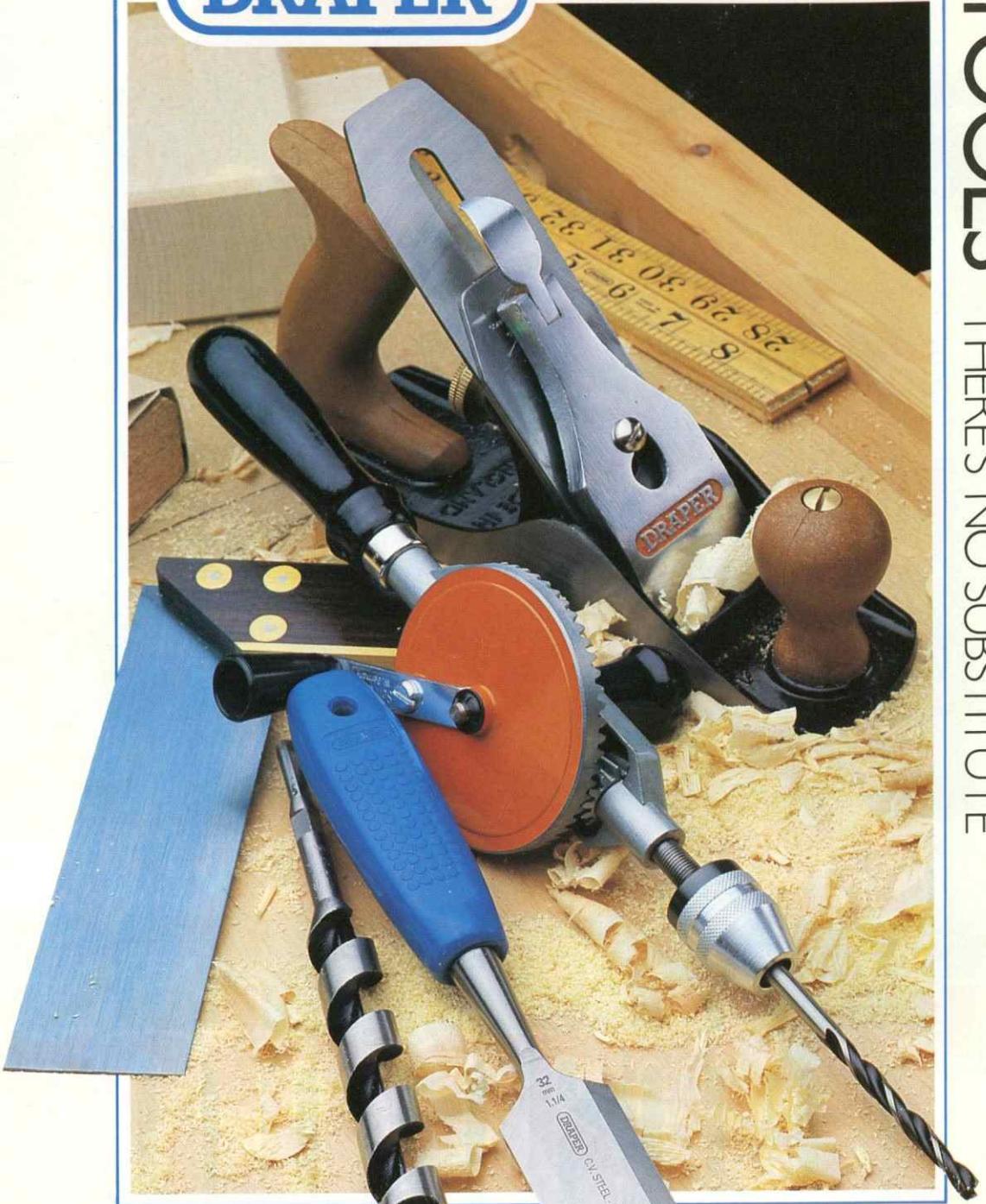


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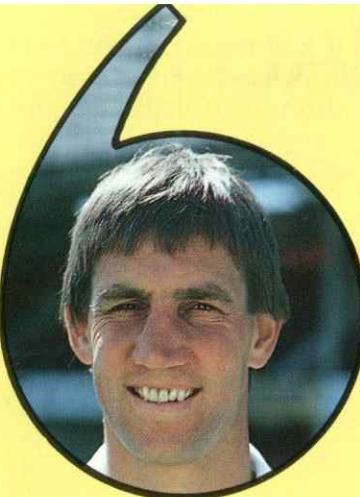
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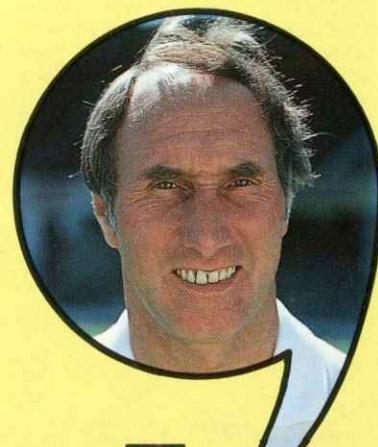
Like Villa, the Hatters are one of my former clubs and I will never forget that day last season when they beat us 7-0!

Luton have shown good form this season and in spite of losing their defensive kingpin Steve Foster recently have maintained a high position in the table.

A large part of their success is due to the form of a former colleague of mine in the Irish team, Mal Donaghy. He must be one of the most underestimated defenders in the game. Luton are known for their free, fluid style, they are good passers of the ball and are very dangerous at set-pieces. In welcoming Luton's chairman, directors, players and fans, I extend an especially big welcome to another old friend, their manager John Moore.

Clearly, we will have to be at our best tonight, but with full backing from you supporters we aim for another three points.

Chris Nicholl



Southampton

FOOTBALL CLUB

SOUTHAMPTON Football Club Ltd

The Dell, Milton Road, Southampton, SO9 4XX

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reflect the views of the club.

What a magnificent season this has been for Luton! It's almost certain that they will smash a club record by achieving their highest-ever placing in the First Division. Indeed, the Hatters still have a chance of winning the League Championship.

Their previous best was eighth place back in 1958 and on current form they will improve upon that. Luton's success has surprised many people in view of the many upheavals that have taken place at Kenilworth Road over the past year. Manager David Pleat left to become Spurs' manager last summer taking left-back Mitchell Thomas with him. The Hatters also had the disadvantage of playing the first half of this season without last season's top scorer, 25-goal Mick Harford, who was injured.

The club also decided to ban all away supporters this season, introducing a members-only scheme. Strangely, the Hatters found themselves heavily criticised from some quarters even though they won their battle against hooligans at a stroke.

Mr Pleat's former assistant John Moore took over as manager and saw no reason to change the policy which, in just over six years, has

LUTON TOWN

Welcome to the Dell

lifted the club from its modest Second Division surroundings to become a power in Division One. Luton have won three away games in the League — at Chelsea (3-1), Wimbledon (1-0) and Coventry (1-0). They drew at Leicester (1-1), Tottenham (0-0), Nottingham Forest (2-2), Newcastle (2-2) and Manchester City (1-1) but were beaten at Aston Villa (1-2), West Ham (0-2), Manchester United (0-1), Sheffield Wednesday (0-1), Oxford (2-4), Arsenal (0-3) and Liverpool (0-2).



Back Row (l to r): Marcus Tuite, David Preece, Mark Stein, Emeka Nwajiobi, Mark North, Ricky McEvoy, Rob Johnson.

Middle Row (l to r): Jim Ryan (Coach), Tim Breacker, Les Sealey, Mick Harford, Stacey North, Andy Dibble, Mike Newell, John Faulkner (Coach).

Front Row (l to r): Ray Harford (Coach), Ricky Hill, Mal Donaghy, Steve Foster, John Moore, (Manager), Peter Nicholas, Brian Stein, Ashley Grimes, Dave Kirby (Physio).

Manager John Moore is expected to name his side from:

LES SEALEY (Goalkeeper). Les served his apprenticeship with Coventry and made his League debut for them at Q.P.R. in 1977. He made more than 150 League appearances for the Sky Blues prior to his £120,000 transfer to Luton in 1983. During 1984/85 he spent a brief loan period with Plymouth.

TIM BREACKER (Defender). Tim is a former Luton apprentice who got his chance in their First Division side in 1984. He had been holding a regular place at full-back for two years until recently suffering an injury.

MAL DONAGHY (Defender). Mal was ever-present in N. Ireland's World Cup squad in Mexico and he picked up his 47th cap against Turkey this season. Luton signed him from Larne Town in 1978 and he recently celebrated his 350th League appearance for the club.

ROB JOHNSON (Defender). Rob, who can play in both full-back positions, is a former Luton apprentice. He actually first played League football for Lincoln City, whilst on loan, in 1983. He returned to Kenilworth Road to make a couple of appearances in Luton's First Division side and has won a regular place this season.

ASHLEY GRIMES (Defender/Midfield). Ashley, who made a successful come-back this season at left-back, returned to his old position in midfield when Hill was injured. Manchester United signed him twice from Irish club Bohemians. On the second occasion he cost £35,000 but he soon won international recognition and he now

has 15 Republic of Ireland caps. After making 90 appearances in United's League eleven, Ashley was transferred to Coventry for £200,000 in 1983 and Luton signed him a year later.

RICKY HILL (Midfield). Ricky rose from the apprenticeship ranks to make his League debut in 1976. It took him a couple of years to earn a regular place but he now looks back on well over 350 League appearances for the Hatters. Ricky was capped by England on three occasions.

PETER NICHOLAS (Midfield). Peter has played for Wales on 46 occasions. He started his career with Crystal Palace and, after four years in their senior side, he was transferred to Arsenal for £500,000 in 1981. He held his place in the Gunners' side for two years before returning to Palace. Luton signed him for £150,000 two seasons ago.

DARREN McDONOUGH (Midfield). Darren served his apprenticeship with Oldham and made his first League appearance during 1980/81. Luton signed him for £85,000 a few weeks ago.

ROBERT WILSON (Midfield). Robert is enjoying his first spell of First Division football following his recent transfer from Millwall. He developed in Fulham's junior teams and made more than 150 League appearances for the Cottagers before joining Millwall in the summer of 1985.

BRIAN STEIN (Forward). Brian was bloodied in Luton's first-team in 1977 and led their scoring list for the first time in 1980/81 with 19 goals. The following term, when they won promotion, he led the way again

with 21. Brian has played once for the full England team and also has three under-21 caps.

MARK STEIN (Forward). Mark is Brian's younger brother and he made his League debut in 1983/84. Further opportunities were rare and, after a loan spell at Aldershot last season, Mark was anxious to establish himself. He went on the transfer list this season but later got his long-awaited chance to play regularly in the Luton first-team.

MIKE NEWELL (Forward). Mike was signed from Wigan towards the end of last season and scored six times in 16 matches. He began his career with Liverpool as an amateur but turned professional with Crewe Alexandra. After only three games in their League eleven, he was transferred to Wigan in 1984.

MICK HARFORD (Forward). Top scorer with 25 goals last season, Mick has only just returned after a long injury lay-off. Once a top scorer with Lincoln, he commanded a then record fee of £200,000 for a Fourth Division player when he joined Newcastle in 1981. He later had a short stay at Bristol City before joining Birmingham in 1982. Luton signed him for £250,000 two seasons ago.

DAVID PREECE (Midfield). David made a successful return to the side, after missing many weeks through injury, for last Sunday's televised Cup tie against Liverpool. A one-time Walsall apprentice, David made his League debut for the Saddlers in 1981. Luton signed him for £150,000 two seasons ago.

PATRICK
L'avance technique



Birthday Honours List

Greetings and Best Wishes from all at The Dell to the following members who have birthdays before our next home game.

Wednesday, 25th March: 965 Jay Gammon 9; 1262 Benjamin Stuttard 12; 1320 Dean Hurst 11. **Thursday, 26th March:** 819 Alan Snow 8; 1088 Richard Thomson 11; 2131 Martin Brett 14. **Friday, 27th March:** 702 Alfred Rodway 9; 1315 Scott Robinson 11; 2086 Dale Bartlett 5; 2204 Phillip Jolley 12; 2318 Rory Dunleavy 11; 2484 Matthew Forbes 13; 2524 Matthew Sheppard 14. **Saturday, 28th March:** 910 Craig Hooper 8; 2476 Nicola Sellar 12; 2136 John Richardson 12; 2392 Victoria Redman 6. **Sunday, 29th March:** 2296

Dominic Smylie 9. **Monday, 30th March:** 779 Simon Dawson 14; 900 James Wheddon 10; 2192 Kevin Travis 11; 2206 David Spratt 9. **Tuesday, 31st March:** 2456 Andrew Crotty 12; 1030 Daniel Sharpe 12. **Wednesday, 1st April:** 650 Edward Higdon 12. **Thursday, 2nd April:** 2374 Geoffrey Chubb 9. **Friday, 3rd April:** 711 Paul Ashford 8; 1042 Simon Cooper 13; 1050 Bruce Evans 12.

With special greetings to the following whose birthdays are today.

808 Sean Furnidge 11; 815 James Biddlecombe 12; 2508 Paul Powell 14; 2434 Matthew Hassell 9; 1122 Greg Gulliver 8; 1177 Philip Hooper 9; 1261 Paul Weems 10; 1370 Lewis Early 8.

QUIZ? Summer of '66

We add the final three questions to those printed in last Saturday's programme to complete our special World Cup 66 quiz where winning entrants may win an Autographed copy of the book titled *Boys of '66*. If you missed the previous 9 questions, copies may be obtained by contacting the Junior Saints Club. Tel No. 220505 Ext. 217.

List the answers to all twelve questions on the coupon below or from tomorrow's Evening Echo and send them to:- Boys of '66, The Dell, 145 Milton Road, Southampton, SO9 4XX by the closing date of this Saturday, 28th March. The first ten all correct entries will receive copies of the book autographed by former Saints player and star of England's victory, Alan Ball.

10. What is the proper name of the cup that England won?
11. Which country has the cup now?
12. Who presented the cup to England's captain?

THE BOYS OF '66 ENTRY COUPON

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2..... 8.....

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6..... ADDRESS

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SAINTS LOSE UNBEATEN RUN TO THREE SLOPPY GOALS!

Saints Reserves have a home match against Charlton on Thursday night, having just lost for the first time in 11 Football Combination outings.

But George Horsfall, who is in charge of the Reserves, was loath to criticise his team after the 3-2 defeat at Swindon.

"They gave away three sloppy goals from set-pieces," says Horsfall, "But at the end of the day they worked so hard I couldn't have a go at them."

"The pleasing thing was the workrate and attitude. If they keep that up they won't go far wrong."

Indeed, Swindon swept into a 2-0 lead, ex-Portsmouth striker Dave Bamber scoring goal No. 2 early in the second half.

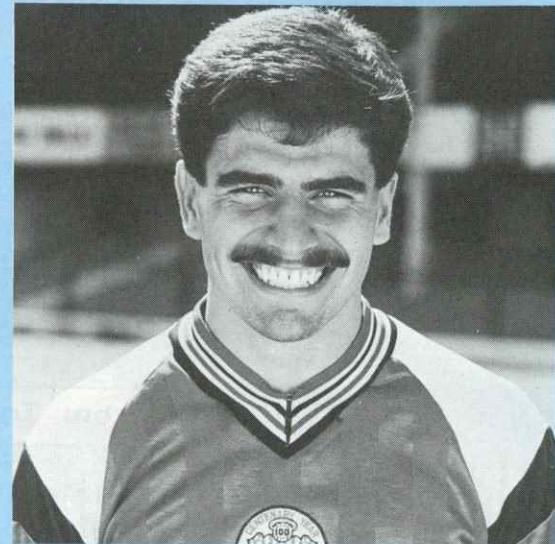
But Saints, having struggled in a high wind before half-time, then got their game together against a side which also contained Chris Ramsey, Brighton's right-back in the 1983 FA Cup final at Wembley.

With two wide men, Craig Maskell and substitute Andy Cook, Saints began to look menacing. And when Cook got away and squared the ball back, Francis Benali helped it on for Maskell to score.

Then, from Ian Hamilton's corner-kick, centre-half Mark Blake equalised with a far-post header.

But Swindon, rocking by now, came back to scramble in an 89th-minute winner.

Even then Saints nearly saved the day. Straight from the kick-off, Gary Bull went past three men to lay on a chance for Benali, but his first touch let him down. "We did so well to claw our way back into the match," reflects George Horsfall. "Swindon had gone in those closing stages."



This week Saints Youth have been celebrating after retaining the South-East Counties League Division 2 title. They made sure — with two matches left — by beating Tottenham 3-0 at Cheshunt on Saturday.

"We took the match by the scruff of the neck and played as well as at any time this season," says Youth team manager Dave Merrington. "It was good to win the League with a bit of class."

"Having finished top last year, teams have gone out of their way to stop us winning the title again. But we've picked up the gauntlet, done things in style and scored a lot of goals while giving away very little at the back."

Saints Youth led Tottenham 2-0 at half-time and afterwards manager Merrington singled out for special praise defender Steve Davis, midfield player Peter Spargo and front two Francis Benali and Leroy Whale. Without injured top scorer Alan Shearer, Saints went ahead with a superb volley by Benali after a corner-kick had been flicked on. The lead was increased by a move straight off the training ground, Rodney Wallace heading back across goal for Whale to head in.

Goal No. 3 was also a coach's delight. Whale held the ball up for Wallace to take on the overlap, beat two men and cut in from the right to score just inside the far post.

Saints Youth's penultimate match is at Brentford on Saturday. They finish at home to Reading a week later.

CAN YOU HELP?

At Easter, Saints will decide which youngsters to take on as trainees (formerly apprentices) from July 1.

Bob Higgins, Saints' Youth Development Officer, is now on the look-out for accommodation for the next batch of trainees, as well as players arriving at The Dell for trials.

Anyone interested in providing accommodation should write to Bob Higgins at The Dell.

HAMPSHIRE IS BACK ON THE SOCCER MAP

From: Tony Pullein

Southampton is the oldest professional club in Hampshire and for much of its 100-plus years it has been the leading light in this part of the country. Portsmouth, of course, had their glory years when they won the F.A. Cup and two League Championships but who had ever taken Bournemouth or Aldershot too seriously in soccer terms — until just now?

Aldershot have usually resided in the lowest available division of the Football League. When there were only three divisions, they played in the old Third Division (South). Then a Fourth Division was formed and the Shots were very soon mixing at that level.

Now they have a wonderful chance of becoming the first Fourth Division club ever to appear in a Wembley Cup final!

Aldershot are through to the Southern final of the Freight-Rover Trophy and, if they beat Bristol City over two-legs, they will go to Wembley. The first final at Wembley, two seasons ago, drew 40,000 fans. Last season's event attracted more than 54,000.

That's more than they get to see most England games these days!

So, though sophisticated folk may look down their noses at the Freight-Rover, the final does provide a wonderful day out for supporters of less fashionable clubs who could not otherwise expect to see their favourites at Wembley.

And, of course, there is a fat financial pay-out to the competing clubs. And Aldershot could do with a cash injection.

Aldershot have been enjoying the sort of luck needed by any team with its eyes on Wembley. After winning their qualifying group, they achieved a 2-0 home win over Swansea City, one of the Fourth Division's leading clubs.

They were then held at home to 1-1 after extra-time by Third Division Fulham and ultimately won a nail-biting penalty shot-out by 11-10.

It seemed their run would end away to Swindon, an outstanding Third Division side. The Shots went 0-2 down soon after the interval and that seemed to be that. Then the Swindon goalkeeper was sent off for

arguing with the referee. Aldershot scored three times to win 3-2.

They have a very tough tie against the trophy holders Bristol City who would welcome a return to Wembley. But, judging by their luck in earlier rounds, Aldershot could pull off another surprise.

If the Shots do get to Wembley they will meet the winners of the Northern Final, in which Mansfield meet either Wrexham or Chester.

Aldershot could still finish high enough in the Fourth Division — among the top six — to qualify for the end-of-season promotion play-offs.

Whilst Aldershot are no more than rank outsiders for promotion, Bournemouth are now hot favourites to win promotion from Division Three and reach the Second Division for the first time in their history.

Strictly speaking, of course, Bournemouth is now in Dorset but we still think of them as "one of us" in football terms. The Cherries' 3-0 win at Doncaster last Tuesday was their fifth win in a row and it gave them a six-point lead over their closest challengers at the top of the table.



Tony Sealy, the latest ex-Saint to join Bournemouth's promotion push to the Second Division.



Portsmouth's Vince Hilaire and Saints Danny Wallace chasing First Division status next season.

Many Bournemouth fans contend that this is the best team in club history and, if that is the case, it is a tremendous compliment to manager Harry Redknapp and his coaching staff for no fewer than seven members of their current side only joined them this season.

This includes former Saint Mark Whitlock who scored the winning goal against Bury recently.

David Puckett, sadly, has been out of the side through injury though he remains their leading scorer with 16 goals.

Bournemouth have been playing in the Football League since 1923 and will not believe they have finally made it to the Second Division until it is mathematically certain.

There have been near things in the past. In the days when only one club was promoted from the Third Division, Bournemouth once finished second. Later, when they increased the number of promoted clubs to two, the Cherries once managed third place. The quota was later raised to three promoted clubs but Bournemouth had dipped into the Fourth Division then and now that the definite number of promoted clubs has been reduced to two, the horror for Bournemouth fans is that they could finish third and then fail in the play-offs.

We must hope not after such a fine season.

Portsmouth, of course, know what it is like to be in a position of power as Liverpool enjoy today. They played in the Wembley F.A. Cup finals of 1929, 1934 and 1939, winning the trophy on the latter occasion with an astonishing 4-1 victory over hot favourite Wolves.

Just after the way, in the vintage days of Jimmy Dickinson, Reg Flewin, Jimmy Scoular, Reg Harris, Dougie Reid and their mates, Pompey won the League Championship two seasons in succession. The came those dark years when they disappeared right down into Division Four. Following their welcome

recovery, Portsmouth missed promotion on goal-difference two seasons ago and by three points last year.

Saints' fans remember Alan Ball very much as a winner. He hated to lose. His feelings as a manager are much the same. He was absolutely shattered when Portsmouth missed for a second time last season. But now, surely, they must be about to return to the First Division for the first time since 1959?

They have been leading the Second Division for weeks and look good for one of the two certain promotion places. I rang Fratton Park to see what Mr Ball's feelings might be now.

But I was warned off before I got anywhere near him. "I shouldn't if I were you," I was advised. "He just refuses to talk about promotion. The word is not in his vocabulary. I think if you were to approach him now he would probably bite off your head."

So I made an excuse, and hung up.

Given the great rivalry between supporters of the Saints and Pompey, I think it is fair to say that all football fans in Hampshire would love to see Portsmouth back at the top after all these years.

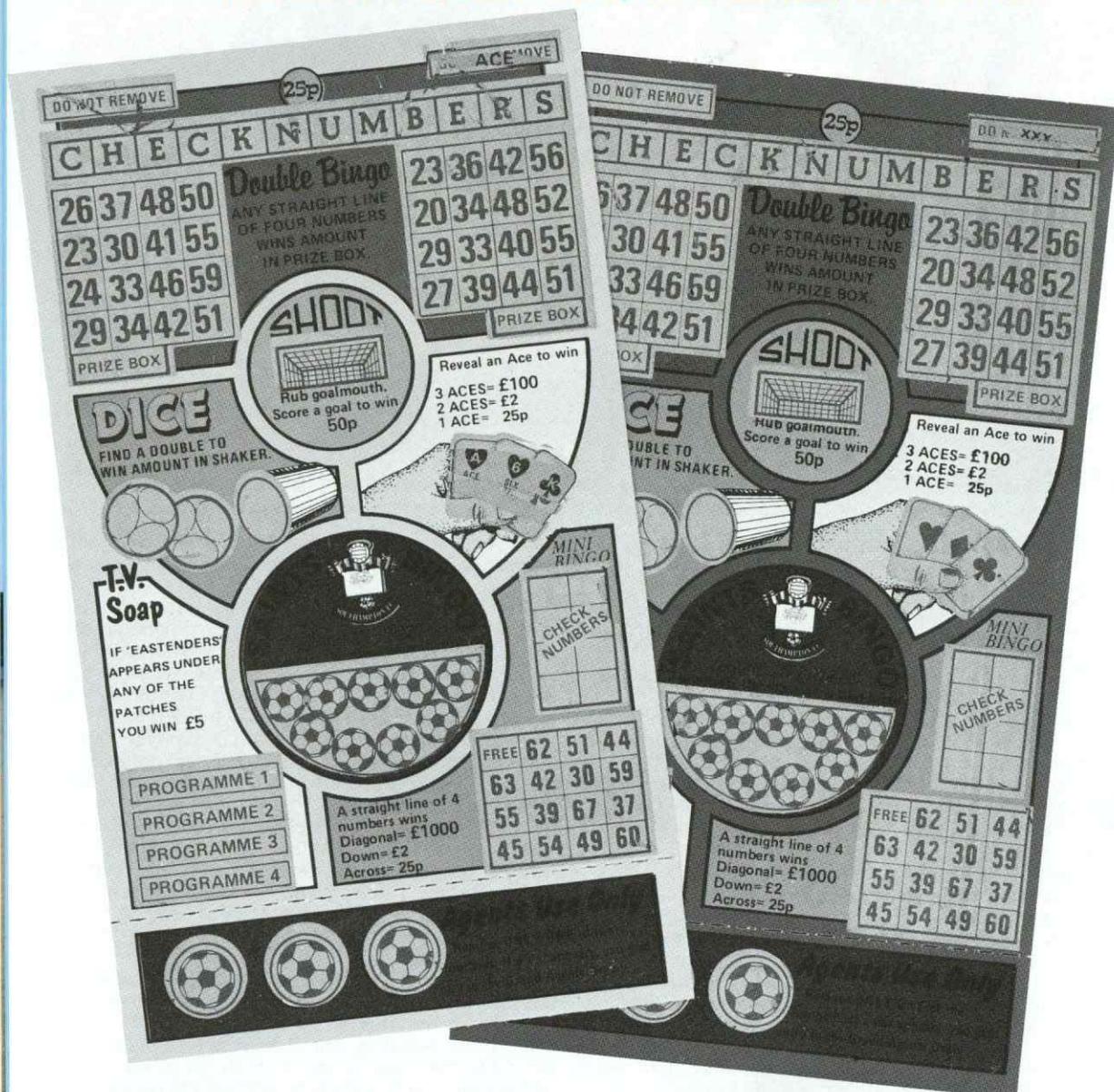
And, when recording one of Hampshire's most successful soccer seasons, let us not forget the wonders of Fareham Town who are through to the semi-finals of the F.A. Trophy and who are themselves on the threshold of Wembley.

They, too, have a tough game against Kidderminster Harriers but I'm sure that thousands of Saints' fans would like to come along and swell the crowd when they stage the second-leg of that semi here at The Dell on Sunday April 12th.

It would be quite something, wouldn't it, to see Aldershot and Fareham at Wembley this season. And to welcome Portsmouth back to the First Division next season and see Bournemouth tread new ground as a Second Division club.

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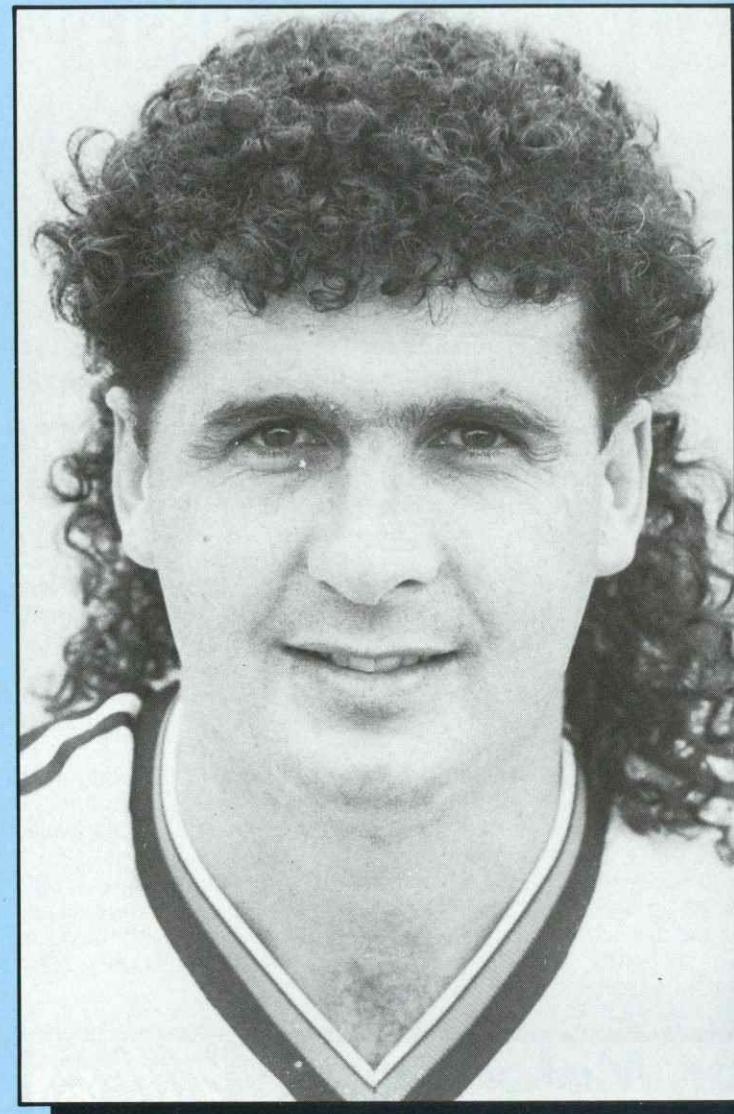


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front to back success for STEVE FOSTER

Steve Foster started out in soccer determined to win fame as a top goalscorer. But he switched roles at a fairly early stage of his career and went on to play for England as a central defender.

He played his first game for Portsmouth in August 1975 and during the course of that season made a total of 11 appearances in attack and as substitute. But Portsmouth

shirt in November 1976 — and hasn't really looked back since then.

Brighton paid £130,000 for him during the summer of 1979 and that move gave Steve what is believed to be one of football's off-beat records. During a period of just three years and five months, he played in all four divisions of the Football League.

After winning under-21 honours, Steve won his first full England cap against N. Ireland in February 1982. He won a total of three caps. Brighton shocked everyone by reaching the F.A. Cup final in 1983 but Steve had received a caution in one of the League games leading up to Wembley and took his total of penalty points to the limit. The cold truth hit him — he would miss the F.A. Cup final.

In spite of vigorous Brighton appeals to get the decision changed, Steve had to watch from the stand as his colleagues played splendidly to hold Manchester United to a 2-2 draw.

Steve was then free to play in the replay so he did get an unexpected chance to savour the Cup final atmosphere. Sadly, Brighton had given their all in the first game and were well beaten 0-4 in the replay. Brighton were relegated shortly after that and Steve was transferred to Aston Villa for £200,000 the following season. Luton signed him in 1984 and now he is skipper of this season's successful team.

ENGLAND	Aps	Gls
1981/82	3	
ENGLAND U-21		
1979/80	(1)	
LEAGUE RECORD	Aps	Gls
Portsmouth	8(3)	—
1976/77	28(3)	1
1977/78	30(1)	3
1978/79	35(1)	2
Brighton	38	1
1980/81	42	1
1981/82	40	2
1982/83	35(1)	1
1983/84	16	1
Aston Villa	7	1
1984/85	8	2
Luton	25	1
1985/86	35	2
1986/87	22	1
	369(9)	19

"I'M KEEPING MY FINGERS CROSSED"

— PETER OSGOOD

Peter Osgood, the former Southampton favourite, is keeping his fingers crossed for a Saints-Portsmouth clash next season in the First Division.

"I had five very happy years at The Dell and fell in love with the place," says the man now working just along the South Coast as Portsmouth's Youth team coach.

"I'm disappointed to see Southampton in trouble this season. But they mustn't panic and I'm sure things will work out alright."

"It would be great to see Saints and Pompey together in Division 1 next season. And though I'd obviously want Pompey to beat them, I'll always have a feeling for Saints."

Under manager Alan Ball — another Dell old boy — Portsmouth are once again pushing hard for promotion from Division 2 after missing out narrowly for the past two years.

"Alan Ball is destined to be a great manager," declares Ossie. "He's got a superb football brain, has kept us in the top four for three years and has brought credibility and respect back to Fratton Park."

Peter Osgood, centre-forward in Saints' 1976 FA Cup-winning team, was re-introduced to the game this season after a four-year absence during which he and one-time Chelsea team-mate Ian Hutchinson ran a pub-restaurant at Windsor.

"After 18 years as a player I'd become stale," explains Ossie, "but then Bally got me involved in coaching at holiday camps — and the buzz was back."

"Portsmouth then took me on and this is an experimental year. But I'm making progress and love working with the kids."

Now 40 and living at Maidenhead, Ossie made his Chelsea debut as a precocious 17-year-old and went on to win FA Cup and European Cup-winner's medals while becoming the idol of Stamford Bridge. In 1974 he joined Saints in a sensational quarter-of-a-million pound move. But the big man with exquisite skills — he was capped only four times by England — is scarcely enchanted with today's robust game.

"Football shouldn't be all running, bustling and knock-downs," he insists. "It should be about passing and creativity — things I always tried to achieve."

"The game has changed out of all recognition over the past few years and teams favouring the long-ball game, Watford, Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon, have done really well."

"But I tell you at Portsmouth we won't change our ideals. We'll go on trying to play football and eventually I think the tide will turn with the game reverting to a situation where skill is once again the main factor."

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SAINTS NEWS



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£2 OFF the normal fare to all members who have travelled to 15 or more away games this season. For further details please contact the Travel Club offices or telephone Alan Smith 220505 Ext. 217.



Glenn Cockerill, the Saints midfield player, presents an autographed ball to John Ward, guest of match-day sponsors Rentco, after Saints' 5-0 win over Aston Villa. Cockerill scored goal No. 2.



Joe's back at The Dell! Ex-Saint Joe Jordan, who joined Bristol City recently, presents Aston Villa's Steve Hunt with the Away Man-of-the-Match award. Hunt's consolation for his team's 5-0 drubbing was a Draper Tool's Cumbria crystal presentation set.



Travelling support! Forty members of the Birmingham and Midlands branch of the Saints supporters Club, travelled to The Dell for Saints' 5-0 demolition of Aston Villa. Branch member Chris Reeves, from Leicester, receives an autographed ball from Away Man-of-the-Match Steve Hunt.

Cocktail winner! Bitterne-based Saints fan Joe Allen, who won the club's Alcohol-Free Cocktail Competition, receives his prize, a £30 hamper of healthy foods, from ex-Saint Joe Jordan.



Double celebrations . . . Glenn Cockerill presents an autographed football to newly engaged couple, Rita Van Der Zijden and Warren Ackerman, owner of The Flower Shop in Eastleigh, who were one of the Mini-Matchday Sponsors at the Saints v Aston Villa match.

Fixture Reminders:- Rearrangements at The Dell
Today League Division One v Wimbledon
— Tuesday 7th April (kick-off 7.30 p.m.)
Football Combination v Charlton
— Thursday 26th March (kick-off 7.30 p.m.)
(brought forward from Saturday 28th March)

International Match — A
For the Rous Cup
England v Brazil
Tuesday 19th May 1987 (kick-off 8 p.m.)
The Dell Box office will be ordering tickets for the above match — Prices:-
Seats £21, £15, £9
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Applications enclosing the correct remittance and a s.a.e. should be forwarded to
International Match — A
The Box Office
The Dell
Milton Road
Southampton SO9 4XX
Last date for acceptance
is 27th March.

STAR PROFILE

SAINt Jim

Tim Flowers, Saints' talented young reserve goalkeeper, has only one regret about joining the club. He has yet to taste victory in the senior side! "Saints are a really good club and my game's improved a lot," he says. "Mind you, constant tuition from a fellow like Peter Shilton helps considerably". Tim remembers ruefully the second of his three appearances when he smashed his cheekbone against Arsenal at The Dell in mid-November. "It was like being hit by Mike Tyson, the pain was terrible.

And to make matters

worse I conceded a

penalty in the same

incident!"

Earlier this season the former England Youth international – he made his Wolves debut at 17 – was called into the England Under-21 squad.

Facts: Age 20

Place of Birth:

Kenilworth,

Warwicks

Height: 6ft 2in.

Weight: 13st. 7lb.

Previous clubs:

Wolves

Hobbies: Fishing,

reggae music,

most sports.



BEHIND THE



SCENE

Norwich City and crack teams from Iraq and Italy are among the early entries for the 1987 Sotonia Cup, to be held between August 2-8.

"The news that a First Division club such as Norwich are in so early is great," says organiser Bob Higgins, Saints' Youth Development Officer.

"We've also received a telex from the Iraqi president confirming their entry. We're delighted about that, too, because they're obviously very strong."

Indeed, the widely-travelled Iraqis will arrive for their first visit to England with an impressive track record. They have won the Dallas Cup in America, Gothia Cup in Sweden, Dana Cup in Denmark and Helsinki Cup in Finland.

The Italians, always strong competitors in this event, will be represented by Adesso Poligno, from Carpentato. In 1986 an Italian club, Scuola, lost in the Under-14 and Under-11 finals.

Run by Southampton Football Club, the Sotonia Cup will include two Saints Youth teams in the Under-18 section which was won last year by the Northern Ireland side Star of Ireland. They piped a local team, Wellington Juniors, after a penalty shoot-out in the final.

Hundreds of youngsters including girls will descend on Southampton for the week's football festival. A procession through the city centre will kick things off and the itinerary includes coaching, lectures, discos and visits to Southampton.

Last year's record entry of 36 teams looks certain to be broken in this fifth annual event. "The tournament has become firmly established and

1987 SOTONIA INTERNATIONAL CUP

is on the up and up," claims Ted Bates, chairman of the organising committee.

"People everywhere now seem to know about the Sotonia Cup. We're looking with confidence for an entry of 50, as against 18 when it was launched in 1983.

"The whole object is to develop goodwill and a large family atmosphere. We want everyone to enjoy themselves and go away having made a lot of friends."

Ted Bates, Saints' former long-serving manager and now a director, adds, "Personally, this has brought me back to the grass roots level of the game and made me realise how hard people work. And if something is done correctly it develops itself.

"We're not talking about professionals here. A team which loses every match is as welcome as one which wins every match."

Main sponsors are Panini, the world's largest sticker manufacturers, with Southampton-based Day-Raven Trophies donating Cups and medals. Support sponsors include TVS, Ocean Sound, Southern Evening Echo, Southampton's Wessex Hotel, Hendy-Lennox, Medisport International, DER Ltd and the City of Southampton.

The tournament is split into seven sections, Under-11, 12, 13, 14, 15-16, 18 and a Ladies Open. The finals are scheduled to be staged at The Dell.

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SAINTS SEEM TO BE ON COURSE FOR SAFETY

If the Saints, and all our relegation rivals, maintain current form we should finish eighth from the bottom of the table and seven points clear of danger. Yet, manager Chris Nicholl will be quick to impress upon his players that the latest form table in no way gives his team licence to relax.

At the moment the Saints are keeping marginally ahead of the real strugglers solely upon form here at The Dell. A few more away points will be needed to give peace of mind and, of course, we are going to have to battle all the way at The Dell as we face relegation rivals Sheffield Wednesday, Oxford and Charlton during the closing weeks of the season.

This form chart, based upon each club's last three home and last three away League matches, was compiled before last Saturday's games.

SAINTS	Home					Away					
	W	D	L	For	Ag	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
Leicester	2	0	1	7	2	0	0	3	0	6	6
Oxford	2	0	1	4	3	0	0	3	3	13	6
Charlton	0	2	1	2	4	1	0	2	1	6	5
Newcastle	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	3	2	7	4
Aston Villa	0	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	5	3
Man City	0	1	2	2	4	0	1	2	1	4	2
Sheff. Wed.	0	2	1	2	3	0	0	3	0	5	2

If all clubs continue to collect points at the same rate, Aston Villa and Manchester City will finish in the bottom two places with Charlton and Newcastle level on 37 points above them. The one with the inferior goal-difference would go down automatically with the other going into the play-offs.

Obviously, all clubs are not going to amble along at the same rate. All eight clubs are making a determined bid to make a last-ditch escape so that form table could well be turned upside down.

Manchester City, for instance, last week signed Blackpool's scoring sensation Paul Stewart and finalised plans to loan Republic of Ireland international Frank Stapleton from neighbouring United. There is a spot of neighbourliness going on between the two Manchester Clubs.

A United official declared last Thursday: "We don't want City to go down under any circumstances and we shall do everything in our power to help them." Oxford and Charlton have both been active in the transfer market and, with so many of the bottom clubs still to play each other, it is going to be an exciting finish to the season.

On paper, the Saints certainly look to be in a better position than most rivals. We do not have to meet any

of the clubs involved in the Championship chase though, of course, clashes with relegation rivals will prove every bit as difficult.

Newcastle have one of the most difficult fixture lists, having to travel to Arsenal, Everton and Nottingham Forest among the leaders plus relegation rivals Oxford. And Charlton's away list looks formidable with trips to Arsenal and Spurs and relegation battles here at The Dell and at Newcastle.

It now seems certain that the survival battle will be won by the clubs producing the best home results. Our own away record is certainly in need of repair but it can be seen that all the relegation-haunted clubs have exceedingly poor away records. Indeed, Oxford are the only one among the eight to have recorded a recent away victory.

A look at the Saints' forthcoming home games does

not make daunting reading, particularly in relation to the away form of clubs like Sheffield Wednesday and Charlton.

Charlton seem to have a reasonable remaining list of home games, as do Leicester City. Manchester City appear to have the toughest task of all, with some tricky encounters both at home and away. But, as we have mentioned, certain action has been taken to try and avert disaster even at this late stage.

In reality, of course, every remaining fixture — for each of the clubs in danger — will be difficult. At the end of the day it will be the clubs who best cope with the tension who will survive.

The first objective is to avoid the bottom three positions. Each of those clubs will go down automatically. The fourth-from-bottom club will have to meet the club that finishes fifth in the Second Division in home-and-away games. The winner on aggregate will then play the winners of a similar play-off between the third and fourth clubs in Division Two in another two-legged nail-biter.

The winners of that game will next season play in the First Division.

It all looks pretty exciting. But that's one bit of excitement we could well do without!

The aim must be to finish at least fifth from the bottom.

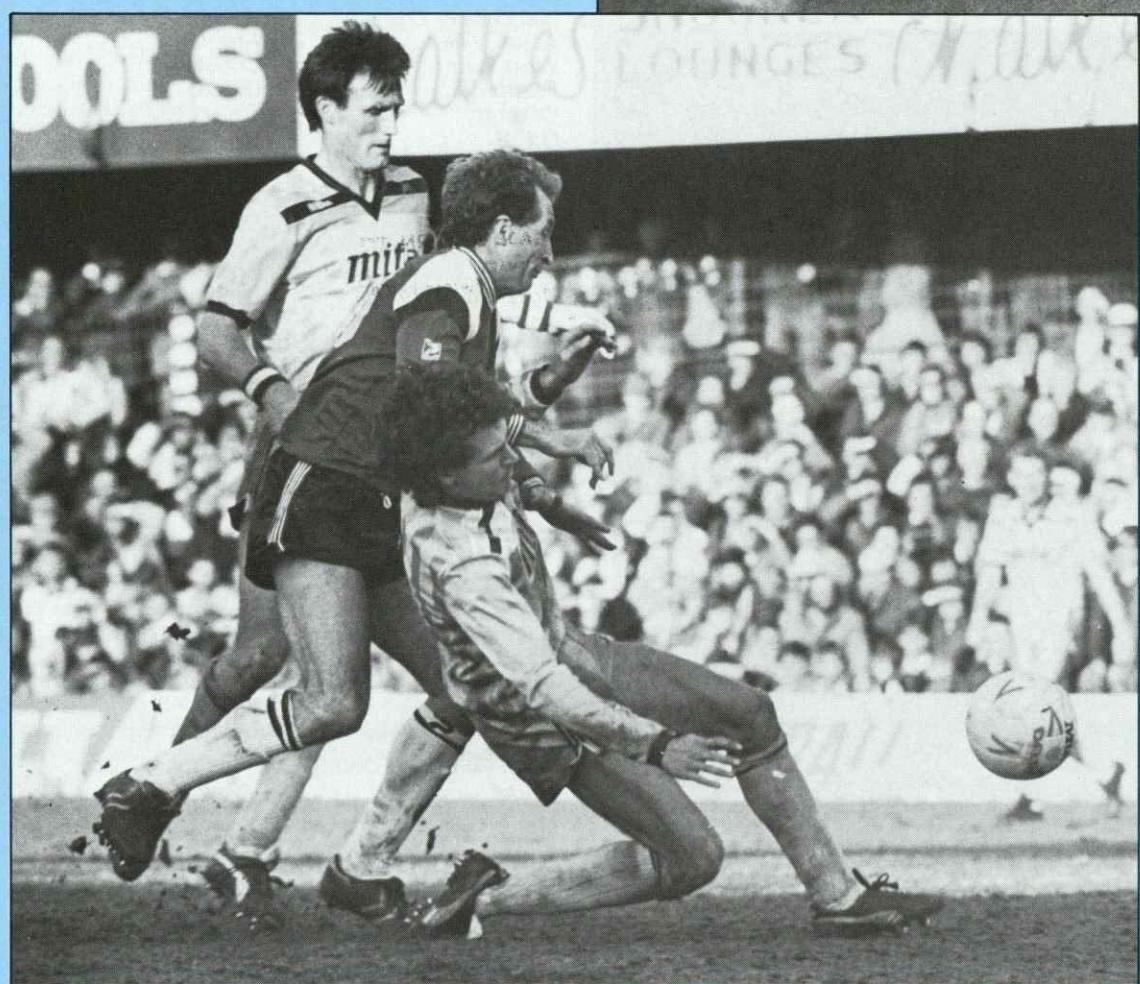


REMAINING FIXTURES

SAINTS	Away
Home	Newcastle
Sheffield Wednesday	Manchester City
Wimbledon	Chelsea
Oxford	Watford
Charlton	Coventry
West Ham	
ASTON VILLA	Away
Home	Leicester
Coventry	Charlton
Manchester City	Arsenal
Everton	Manchester United
West Ham	
CHARLTON	Away
Home	Arsenal
Chelsea	Tottenham
Watford	Saints
Aston Villa	Newcastle
Luton	
Q.P.R.	
Oxford	
LEICESTER	Away
Home	Newcastle
Manchester City	Arsenal
Aston Villa	Chelsea
West Ham	Oxford
Watford	
Coventry	
Q.P.R.	
MANCHESTER CITY	Away
Home	Leicester
Saints	Aston Villa
Watford	Sheffield Wednesday
Arsenal	Everton
Nottingham Forest	West Ham
Tottenham	
NEWCASTLE	Away
Home	Oxford
Saints	Arsenal
Leicester	Everton
Manchester United	West Ham
Chelsea	Nottingham Forest
Charlton	
Tottenham	
Norwich	
OXFORD	Away
Home	Manchester United
Sheffield Wednesday	Newcastle
Newcastle	Wimbledon
Wimbledon	Norwich
Norwich	Leicester
Leicester	
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	Away
Home	Oxford
Nottingham Forest	Saints
Manchester City	Norwich
Q.P.R.	Luton
Wimbledon	Aston Villa
Tottenham	West Ham

SOUTHERN EVENING

ECHO Action Replay



Suddenly, Luton Town have become a bogey team to the Saints. We have lost our last three League games against the Hatters — including that massive 0-7 reverse at Kenilworth Road last season.

We had an outstanding home record when Luton came to The Dell in February last season, having been beaten here only once in the League. Mike Newell gave the Hatters an interval lead but David Armstrong's 65th minute leveller seemed to have earned us a point. But, with the referee looking at his watch, Brian Stein nipped in to grab Luton's winner.

Earlier in the season we had suffered our heaviest-ever defeat by Luton. Chuck Nwajiobi started the ball rolling with a goal after only five minutes. Brian Stein completed a hat-trick with a last minute penalty whilst Ricky Hill, David Preece and Ray Daniel all scored singles as Luton ran up a 7-0 victory.

When we returned to Kenilworth Road soon after the start of the current season, we were a goal down after only three minutes — Robert Wilson registering his first goal for his new club. Brian Stein increased their advantage after 58 minutes and, though Colin Clark later netted for the Saints, we lost 1-2.

So the incentive is there for us to end this poor sequence and go for our tenth home League win over Luton this evening.

The Saints' biggest wins of the series were all by a three-goal margin — two of them in the same season. In September 1961 George O'Brien scored a hat-trick at Kenilworth Road with Harry Penk adding another before Gordon Turner scored a consolation for Luton close to the end.

When Luton came to The Dell in February, O'Brien scored again and efforts from Derek Reeves and Tommy Mulgrew made it 3-0 to The Saints.

We equalled those victories when we went to Kenilworth Road in October 1976. A penalty from David Peach set us for a win and the same player scored again to make it 2-0 by the interval. Brian Chambers pulled one back for Luton but Ted MacDougall and Nick Holmes both scored in the later stages of the game to make it 4-1.

PREVIOUS LEAGUE MEETINGS

	Home	Away	1975/76	3-1	0-1	
1920/21	1-1	1-1	1976/77	1-0	4-1	
1921/22	2-1	0-0	1977/78	0-1	2-1	
1937/38	3-6	3-1				
1938/39	0-4	2-6	1982/83	2-2	3-3	
1946/47	1-3	2-2	1983/84	2-1	1-3	
1947/48	3-1	2-0	1984/85	1-0	1-1	
1948/49	1-1	1-1	1985/86	1-2	0-7	
1949/50	2-1	1-1	1986/87		1-2	
1950/51	1-1	1-0				
1951/52	2-3	1-2				
1952/53	1-3	2-1				
					SUMMARY	
			P	W	D	
			Home	21	9	5
			Away	22	7	7
				70	35	36
				78	42	25*
1960/61	3-2	1-4		43	16	12
1961/62	3-0	4-1		15		
1962/63	2-2	2-3				

*3 pts for win from 1981/82.

LUTON ARE NEW BOGEY TEAM



Our last meeting at The Dell:
Saturday February 8, 1986.

SAINTS (0) 1 LUTON (1) 2
Armstrong Newell
Stein (B)

SAINTS: Shilton, Forrest, Dennis, Case, Wright, Bond, Holmes, Cockerill, Moran, Armstrong, Wallace.

LUTON: Sealey, Brecker, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, Newell, Preece.

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A	Charlton v Oxford	L	Rochdale v Wrexham
B	West Ham v Sheffield Wed.	M	
C	Wimbledon v Coventry	N	
D	Blackburn v Bradford	O	
E	Shrewsbury v Crystal Palace	P	
F	Swindon v Bolton	R	
G	Walsall v York	S	
H	Wigan v Notts County	T	
J	Aldershot v Halifax	U	
K	Cardiff v Orient	V	

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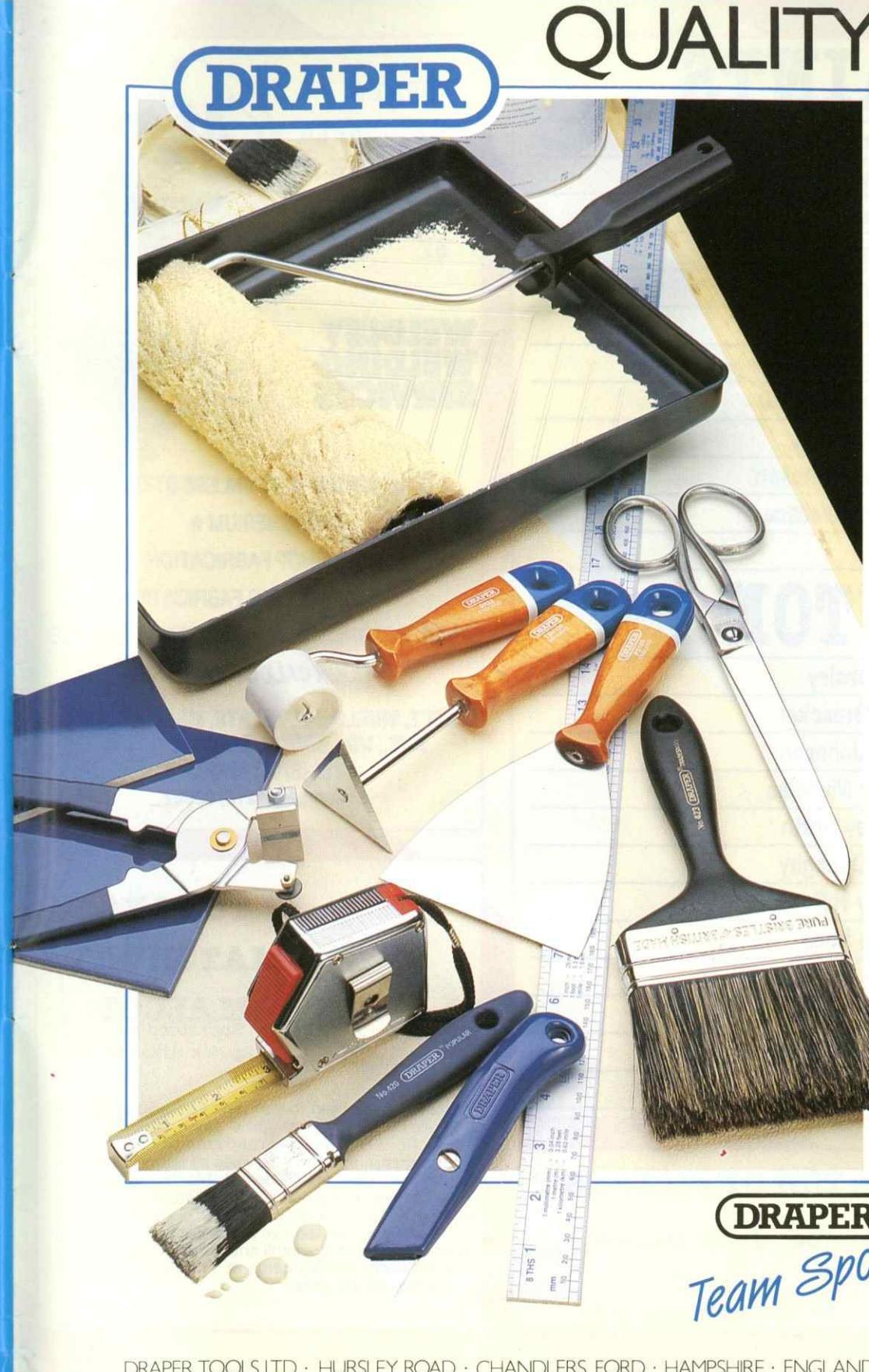
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SAINTS

- 1 Peter Shilton
- 2 Gerry Forrest
- 3 David Armstrong
- 4 Jimmy Case
- 5 Mark Wright
- 6 Kevin Bond
- 7 Matthew Le Tissier
- 8 Glenn Cockerill
- 9 Colin Clarke
- 10 Gordon Hobson
- 11 Danny Wallace
- 12

LUTON

- 1 Les Sealey
- 2 Tim Breacker
- 3 Rob Johnson
- 4 Peter Nicholas
- 5 Stacey North
- 6 Mal Donaghy
- 7 Ricky Hill
- 8 Brian Stein
- 9 Mike Newell
- 10 Mick Harford
- 11 Ashley Grimes
- 12

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: J. C. Deakin

Linesmen: R. E. Budden (Red Trim)
D. T. Morgan (Yellow Trim)

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TODAYS MATCHDAY

MASCOT
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We are very pleased to welcome Chris Bulley to The Dell as mascot for tonight's game against Luton Town. Chris is 13 years old and attends Bitterne Park Comprehensive School, he likes all sport but mainly football and plays for Mansel U '14s "B" team in the Tyro League. Chris has been a Saints supporter for as long as he can remember and has been to every home game for the last five years. His favourite Saints players are Glenn Cockerill and Jimmy Case. Also he attends every reserve game at The Dell and overall thinks Saints are great!