

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.00

Luton v Coventry

TODAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



Saturday, April 18th, 1987 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

Today's match is sponsored by: Shorey's Travel

ACTION

STALE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DONS



• **Under control:** Brian Stein shows his skill as he rounds a defender during our 0-0 draw with Wimbledon two weeks ago.

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates
Pictures by: Sportswide Photography

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• **Out of luck:**
Mike Newell (top) and
Brian Stein (below) are
blocked out again as they
bid to find a way through.



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BEDFORD GM

MOORE ABOUT FOOTBALL

A warm and congratulatory welcome to Coventry City today. Their wonderful achievement in reaching the FA Cup final at Wembley for the first time in their history is a great example to everyone and a fine reward for the loyalty and hard work of their staff, players and supporters. I am very pleased for them and in particular for George Curtis and John Sillett. They were written off before the season, but have proved their critics wrong in the best possible way and set an example to every other so-called unfashionable club in the country.

It would be absolutely wrong for us to assume Coventry might relax today and it will be vital for us to get our own attitude right. I hope we can produce the sort of form we showed when we played Tottenham - not the form we showed against Wimbledon. We know Coventry are a difficult side to beat and have been one of our 'bogey' teams for many years. We broke one of our sequences when we won at Highfield Road on New Year's Day, but we will do our utmost to do it again today. We are aiming to finish as high as possible in the First Division.

Missed chances

At Queen's Park Rangers last week, I felt we played some very fine football in the first half, but failed to take advantage and score the goals we could have done. We might have been three goals up, not just one, and paid for it in the second half when we had to fight hard to come back and take a point. With three senior players missing however in Steve Foster, Mick Harford and Ashley Grimes, and David Preece returning in his first game, we were fielding a much-changed team. It will take David two or three games to get back into his stride after such a long layoff.

Richard Harvey has done very well for us in his three appearances in the team to date and has set a fine example to the other youngsters at the club. He is only 17 and last Saturday made his away league debut for the club. I hope many young players respond to his example. Earlier this week, a meeting was held between our chairman, myself and Ricky Hill. We are still in discussion with several players. Enjoy the game today.



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CHAMPIONS - DIVISION 2 1981-82





Mailbag

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

Help, please

Dear Sir,
My programme collection of Luton Town homes and aways continues to grow. My ambition is to collect all Luton homes and aways from 1946/7 season. I am well on my way now, with over 1,000 homes and over 1,000 aways in my collection. In fact the only homes I need now are: 75/6 v Dunkirk (friendly) 72/3 v Bedford (Beds Prof Cup Final)

51/2 v Doncaster (single sheet)
49/50 1st Practice Match v Leicester (friendly)

48/9 2nd Practice Match
46/7 v Nottingham Forest

Incidentally, I have one other home programme of a match never actually played. I believe the match was called off late due to bad weather, and was not re-arranged - v Slavia Praha (friendly) - 18/12/68.

I have been watching Luton since the lean year of 1966, and enjoyed many memorable matches, and much attractive football. John Moore was my favourite player, and is proving to be a good manager too. My connection with Luton Town is through my Great Grandfather, Charles Green who was secretary of the club for many years, earlier this century.

Several years ago, John



•Favourite: John Moore

Wilkinson (the secretary) invited me over to look through some of the clubs archives/records, as I expressed an interest in the history of the club. Needless to say, I thoroughly enjoyed my short stay sifting through nostalgia.

I understand that a large quantity of my Great Grandfather's programme collection was thrown away upon his death - just imagine the value of 20's/30's programmes these days. My Great Grandmother can be thanked (or otherwise) for that! Thanks again.

Yours sincerely
N H Slater

3 Havenshaw Close
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Well done, Richard!

Dear Sir,

I do not think that Luton Town need worry any further about the left back position following the superb professional performance by seventeen year old Richard Harvey in only his second first team game. At Luton we continue to unearth new talent and show by our league position that money does not necessarily buy success. It can only improve players like Richard Harvey, Stacey North & Mark Stein to have experienced first team runs as long as we don't lose them to other clubs like we did with Gary Parker.

Yours faithfully
L. Skinner (Mr)

41 Driftwood Avenue,
Chiswell Green,
St Albans, Herts.

Thank-you

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity, through the programme, to thank everybody for their floral tributes and messages of sympathy received during my recent bereavement. Thanks also must go to the club for their support during Fred's stay in hospital.

Mary Bunyan

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GIRL TALK



'WALK FOR LIFE' strides out for £1 million

The 'WALK FOR LIFE' will be a nationwide demonstration of unity, friendship and goodwill. Its aims are to raise in excess of £1 million pounds to continue the fight against cancer, whilst improving the image of football and its supporters.

The organisers hope to involve over 100,000 walkers to participate in the event on SUNDAY 26TH JULY 1987 - the equivalent of the entire capacity crowd of an FA Cup Final, taking to the streets to raise money for cancer related charities. Those participating will include football supporters clubs, many voluntary organisations, school, colleges, hospitals, factories, offices, pubs, clubs... in fact anyone who wants to become involved.

The 'WALK FOR LIFE' will consist of a series of sponsored walks linking neighbouring football clubs with many events happening nationwide, and is being organised by the fans for the fans (with the support of the majority of clubs and players, and a number of celebrities including Ian Botham, Bryan Robson, 'Bomber' Graham and Tommy Cannon).

Already organised are open days, charity matches and street entertainments in the Midlands, American Football and pop concerts in the North, celebrity cricket and fun days in the South. There will also be a number of publicity events leading up to the day.

But how can you help, I hear you ask? We are looking for help in the following ways: most importantly, we want to form a regional committee to organise events in this area; sign up to take part and get your family and friends to walk with you; sponsor the event, make a donation or ask your employer about payroll giving; publicise the event; or even help on the day.

Application forms are available from the club shop and office in Dunstable Road. If you would like further details please contact me, Angie Schram, 6 Thurlow Close, Lewsey Farm, Luton, LU4 0RU - Tel: Dunstable 64319.

Cancer Kills... Help Fight It... Join The WALK FOR LIFE... It's A Step In The Right Direction.

Angie Schram

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

HILL GOAL SAVES A POINT

Queen's Park Rangers 2 Luton Town 2

A Ricky Hill goal in the 87th minute saved the Town from a defeat they fully deserved to avoid at Loftus Road last Saturday. Hill danced through two tackles with perfect close control to strike the final goal on an afternoon when the Town had started brilliantly and threatened to run riot in the first half.

Brisk, neat and accurate passing had put the Town well on top before Mark Stein opened the scoring in the 21st minute, moving first to find the net from the long throw in by Stacey North. Gurthier good moves promised goals, but the Town had to settle for one goal for their superiority.

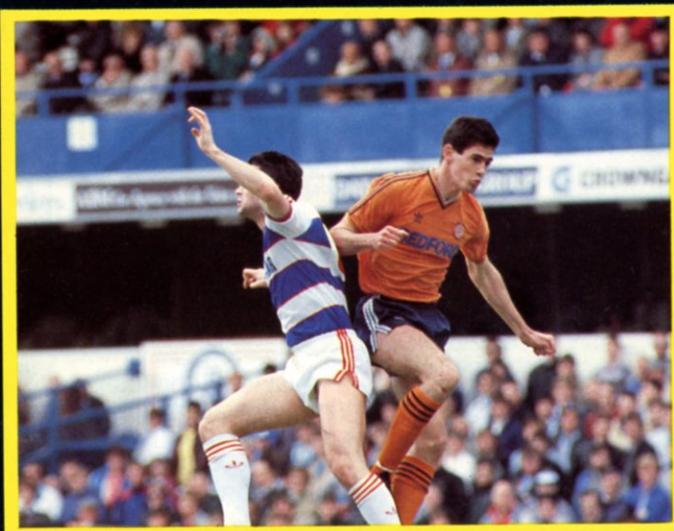
Powerful drive

In the second half, Rangers came alive and John Byrne struck twice to level the scores and almost stole a hat-trick when his powerful drive was ruled out because a Rangers forward was in an offside position. For a time the Town seemed to struggle.

But, with the minutes ticking away, they came right back into the game when Hill carved out the equaliser with his own skill to ensure a point on a sunny and entertaining afternoon.

Teams: QPR - Seaman, Neill, James, Lee McDonald, Maguire, Resenoir, Fillery, Bannister, Byrne, Fereday.
Luton - Sealey, Breacker, Harvey, Nicholas, S. North, Donaghy, Hill, B. Stein, Newell, M. Stein, Preece.

1st Team ACTION



• Deserved share of spoils: Goals by Ricky Hill and Mark Stein secured the point the Town deserved at Queen's Park Rangers last week. In an entertaining game on a bright spring afternoon, the Luton players produced plenty of flowing and skilful football without snatching victory. Today's action pictures by Sportswide Photography.

VIEWS from the BENCH

John Faulkner



Youth team coach John Faulkner hopes as many Town fans as possible will turn out to support the youth team when they meet Chelsea in the two-legged final of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup on April 21 and April 28. Chelsea's fixture congestion means the first leg clashes with our first team match at Watford, so he particularly hopes the youngsters get well supported for the second leg at Kenilworth Road when they will be bidding for the club's first major trophy of the season. Today, in his Views from the Bench, John reflects on the talented and successful teams now representing the club at youth level.

Hunting for glory in Southern Junior Floodlit Cup Final

"We are very fortunate to have a particularly talented and dedicated group of youngsters at the club and they are able also to get a lot of good experience playing for the reserves team in the Football Combination. For the cup final against Chelsea we will have several players eligible in the age group who have already obtained considerable experience of playing in the Football Combination.

"That means they are well-adjusted to the rigours of professional play and should be able to withstand it. I can call on, for example, players like Marvin Johnson, Richard Harvey - who has also gone on to win three appearances in the first team this season, Colin Barker, Ian Scott, Aaron Tighe, Gary Cobb, Sean Farrell, John Kennedy and Mark Walton.

"With Mark, for example, we have been so confident of his ability that we have allowed Andy Dibble to go on loan to give Mark the experience he needs of the Football Combination. It gives him a chance to really prove to us what he can do and not do.

Strong team

"We also have a good group of first year apprentices too and they are also available to play in the youth team for the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup final. So we should field a strong team and it should be a really good contest over the two legs. I have seen Chelsea in action in their semifinal against Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and I thought they looked the better side that day. They are a powerful team, physically very strong. Their results prove Chelsea are a good side as they have also won the South East Counties League Cup in convincing style.

"They had a good run in the FA Youth Cup too and that is a competition our lads thought they should have

done better in. They felt they let themselves down a bit and I think they may feel they have a chance to make up for that by winning the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup which is the second most important and prestigious trophy we play for. To begin with of course, they have to get a good result at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday to set us up for a great night in the second leg here.

"That is where our fans can come in. A lot of people have come and told me how well they thought we played in the earlier round when we beat Spurs and I hope they will all come again. We try to encourage our team to play football with a bit of style in the Luton tradition and I hope we can do it on the night. Finals are one of the great attractions in football and it can only do the players good.

No nerves

"David Rocastle said recently that, when he was asked if he felt nervous about playing in the League Cup semi-final against Tottenham, it was no different from all the other big matches he had played in when he was in the Arsenal youth team. That was great because it proves the value of these matches for young players.

"I want to see our team play some progressive football and to please the crowd. For them, it will be a last chance for most of them to prove they have something to show for their early career as youth players. A medal is the best thing to show for it. I know they will be keyed up for it and I hope they enjoy it.

"Cup football is so different from league football and this gives everyone a chance to give the club a boost. There is nothing like travelling to the big clubs knowing you have won a competition and beaten another big club to do it!"

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CLUB NEWS

NOT JUST FOOTBALL

Cherry Newberry, Stadium Sales Administrator and Programme Distributor for the club, was missing from our home match against Wimbledon. As one of the country's senior table officials, Cherry was chosen to officiate at the Carlsberg National basketball Championships at Wembley Arena on April 3rd and 4th.

On Sunday, 5th April, Cherry was again officiating - this time at the National Schools Finals at Bricketwood.

A fortnight earlier, Cherry had passed the E.B.B.A.'s Grade Three Referee award. She can now officiate in the local leagues where she plays.

Netball also figures in her sporting activities. She is an intermediate referee, and last week she played goal-shooter for the team Whitbread!

Football, however, is a major part of Cherry's life and, when asked, she said Luton Town always came first!



• Cherry recording the tally.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Football Combination
Thursday, April 23, 1987
Luton Town v Reading
Kick-off 2 pm.

Today League Division One
Saturday, April 25, 1987
Luton Town v Sheffield Wednesday
Kick-off 3 pm.

MATCH REFEREE

HOWARD TAYLOR (Leicester)

A finance and administration director, Howard is married with two daughters. He began refereeing in 1956 and progressed through the Football Combination to the Football League list. He enjoys golf and music.

Cup finals at Kenilworth Road

Many local leagues are holding their Cup Finals on our ground. A few of the finals are: 22nd April, kick-off 7.30 pm South Beds Sunday League. 27th April, kick-off 7.00 pm Whitbread Cup Final. 3rd May, kick-off 10.00 am North Home Counties Finals. 19th May, kick-off 7.30 pm Luton & District South Beds William Pease Trophy. 25th May, kick-off 10.30 am Bovis Homes Chiltern Youth League - Nafta Trophy.

Match Ball Sponsors



This afternoon's match ball is sponsored by Clarendon Hats, a 5-year-old Luton business established by Reg Kitchener. We hope they enjoy a successful afternoon and a good result!

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THE TOWN

COVENTRY'S SUCCESS MAKES GREAT TELEVISION AND PROMOTES THE GAME TOO

By Bill Tomlins

On behalf of our chairman, directors, staff and players, congratulations to today's visitors Coventry City on winning through to the FA Cup final at Wembley for the first time in their history.

It is a great achievement for them after 104 years and I am sure everyone at Kenilworth Road would agree they fully deserved their reward after such an exciting victory over Leeds United last weekend in the semi-finals.

That match made compulsive television viewing for the footballing public. It was full of action and excitement and the drama was, of course, extended to two hours by extra time. It was an ideal platform for promotion of the game.

Pioneers

Television is obviously a very powerful medium and one that we here at Luton have always been keen to use for the best interests of the club whenever it has been possible. For example, we have recently pioneered a scheme which is the envy, in its quality, of many other clubs by recording all our home games on video.

The product made available to our members is excellent thanks to the work of Brian Harper of Thames Television and Derek Sando, 'The Big Match' producer, whose work with Luton Town Video has been most professional.

The experiment has been such a success we are now considering producing a video of highlights of our successful season and have also introduced already a pre-match programme of highlights and news for members of our club suites and executive boxes around the stadium.

This programme, shown on a closed-circuit system, gives all the latest team news, helps to build up the match and shows highlights from recent matches. I understand several other clubs are now planning to follow our lead. These programmes provide us with a new opportunity to acknowledge our sponsor's contribution.

Sponsors

This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to our match sponsors Shorey's Travel and Executive Sponsors D F Bennett and Son. Jim Shorey has been in the transport business for 15 years and a Luton Town fan for just as long.

He and his wife Gwyn run one of the region's most successful transport organisations with a fleet of luxury coaches providing travel throughout Britain. The 'coal merchant' fleet services the local area while their general haulage vehicles transport goods to all parts of Britain. Thanks to both Jim and Gwyn for their continued support.

CAPTAIN LES



•Number one: Les Sealey took over as the Town's captain at Loftus Road last week when Mick Harford was suspended. Well done, Les.

TOWN ENTER ELECTRONIC INFO AGE

CLUB NEWS

We welcome WIMBLEDON to Kenilworth Road for the first time.

Today's team sees the inclusion of 17 year old RICHARD HARVEY who replaces ASHLEY GRIMES. This will be his second outing for the first team, his debut being against Queens Park Rangers in the league.

Richard comes from Letchworth and has represented his country 9 times at schoolboy level.

DAVID OLDFIELD is also included in today's squad.

MORE >

•Private screening: Members of our executive suites and boxes are given pre-match information with our own 'teletext' service.

The latest team news and background keeps everyone fully informed on the latest news at Kenilworth Road in the big build-up to kick-off.



•Face in the crowd: Peter Nicholas joined our young fans in the Oak Stand before the Wimbledon match. Among the crowd was a party from the Lakeside special school in Welwyn Garden City.



•Honeymoon kick-off: Trevor and Joy Woodruff began their honeymoon with a visit to our match against the Dons. Trevor has been a fan for over 40 years. The couple wed in Belford before the match.



•Ball presentation: Mal Donaghy and Richard Harvey present an autographed ball to sponsors Ron Maith and John Shaw after the Dons match.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



MICK HARFORD

A tough act to follow

Taking over from Steve Foster on the pitch is one thing – but taking over his column is even more daunting. A really tough act to follow! Particularly as Steve has done such a terrific job. But I am happy to have a go and, like taking over from Steve, feel it is a privilege to have the chance.

Last Saturday, I went down to watch the lads at QPR. Unfortunately, I was suspended and not able to play. I thought they played brilliantly and were very unlucky not to win. In fact, I don't even know if I will get myself back in the team this weekend against Coventry. Les did a great job as skipper and remains unbeaten!

Not oldest

The team spirit is great. When I was made captain everyone had a bit of a laugh in the dressing room but I was proud to do it. I am not the oldest in the team and with all the internationals we have I felt humbled to take on the job!

Today, we play Coventry. They have done brilliantly to reach the Cup final. I am very pleased for them and especially for Trevor Peake who is an old friend of mine and really deserves it. He has played a lot of his football in the lower divisions and is a great player and a great pro. We beat them away this season to break our bogey against them and hope to do it again today. Enjoy the match.

Graham



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PHOTO FILE



• Flashback: April 19, 1986. Coventry, with a Nick Pickering goal, beat the Town 1-0 at Highfield Road. Our pictures show Mike Newell and Ricky Hill in action in that match.



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IN PROFILE..... INTERNATIONALS



•Top quality: Peter Nicholas (left) and Mal Donaghy (right) in action against West Ham and Bristol Rovers.

Trio who have been on national duty this term



•Great recovery: Ashley Grimes has regained top form after injury.

Three of our first team squad have enjoyed continued international involvement this season - central defender Mal Donaghy with Northern Ireland, midfielder Peter Nicholas with Wales and left-sided full-back or midfielder Ashley Grimes, who has earned a recall to the Republic of Ireland squad after a long absence. All three deserve the praise and recognition they have earned through consistently high performances in the First Division with the Town while Ricky Hill has been unlucky not to join them after being called up to join England's squad but then being forced to withdraw through injury.

Mal's consistency and reliability has become a byword, an assumed quality, in the Town defence for nearly a decade since he joined from Larne in 1978 and Peter has proved equally valuable in his position with high-quality performances in the last two years. As manager John Moore remarked recently, both have proved themselves in quiet and unfussy styles. Ashley, enjoying a second run this season, after a period of injury problems, has recovered the form which earned him a dozen caps with Eire earlier in his career.

All three would be quick to praise the equally consistently high form of the players around them in the team as the Town strive for their best league position in their 101-year history. Their example may prove to everyone that the club has a squad bristling with international talent.



INTERNATIONALS

HATTERS IN GEAR



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• Sports tops from	£16.99	• Teddy bear	£ 5.00
Ski hats (club colours)	£ 2.00	• Luton Town F.C. coats	£22.50
Peak caps (club colours)	£ 2.00	• Baby's Bib	£ 1.50
Straw boaters	£ 2.50	• Babygrowers	£ 4.99
• Woollen scarves from	£ 2.00	• Sweatshirts from	£10.99
Club holdalls from	£ 5.50	• Towels from	£ 2.60
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Sweat bands	£ 1.00		

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DRESSING ROOM TALK

with Mike Newell

At the start of this season Mike Newell would have laughed if he had been told he would become a regular in a team challenging for the title, consistently staying in the top six of the league table, and that he would not only score a hat-trick against his boyhood heroes Liverpool in a First Division match but also help knock them out of the FA Cup in a midweek thriller at Kenilworth Road. But for Mike, the joke was no laughing matter and has turned out to be true – and he has become one of the most consistent members of the Town's championship-chasing team. Today he reflects on the most satisfying season of his career to date:

"At the start of the season, there were one or two people who did not think I would be playing each week for the team and it has been a bit of a fairy tale really... especially the games against Liverpool. Mind you, after knocking them out of the FA Cup, it was a big disappointment to go out in the next round to Queens Park Rangers. The wins over Liverpool were definitely the highlights of the season for me.

"Winning the match ball against Liverpool after scoring a hat-trick was a magical sort of experience as they were always my team. Back on Merseyside I got a bit of good natured stick for it of course, but the following week when we beat Everton it was the other way round. First the Reds' fans were groaning and the Blues' were pleased – then it changed.

"It has been a great season so far and we are still going for an even higher position. Strangely, we know we could have done better than we have. There have been some frustrating games when we have let points slip away – days when we should have won, but only drew. Overall, though, it is a fantastic achievement for us with our squad to be so high. We just don't have the depth of the big clubs.

Changing partners

"I have had a lot of different partners up front during the season – Mark Stein, Emeka Nwajiobi, Brian Stein, Mick Harford and so on, but I have always tried to get on with my own game. I am still learning about the game and am only 22 and there is a lot to learn when you play week in and out in the First Division.

"One of the big differences I have noticed in the top league is that there are not as many chances to score as there are in the lower divisions. You have to be much quicker.



• Spectacular season: Mike Newell.

Chances only come now and then. It has helped me a lot to have Mick back in the side – even when he came back at less than full fitness – because he takes so much weight off. It has been great to play alongside him.

"I am working on building up my fitness and strength all the time. Last season I won four under-21 caps with England and I am now ineligible so I have got to keep on improving myself if I am to gain any further recognition.

"I always felt the championship might finish as a two-horse race between Everton and Liverpool this season. I'm not saying it has worked out that way yet, mind you, as I think we can still push our way in with a shout, but they both have so much strength in depth and experience. It has been a really open season though with Forest, Arsenal, Norwich and Wimbledon also up at the top at different times and Tottenham still in with a chance of the double – though I think they have too many games now to play.

"Overall, I have been very lucky to arrive at the club when we have such a strong team and seem to be getting better all the time. John Moore and Ray Harford have done a great job this season by keeping everything going well and working to make real progress. I am very pleased and we are still going to work hard for an even higher position.

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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 Tuesday, April 21st, we are away to Watford in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 7.45 pm.

This will be an all-ticket game. Tickets are available from the Oak Road ticket office.

On Saturday, April 25th, we are at home to Sheffield Wednesday in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 3 pm.

On Saturday, May 2nd, we are away to Charlton Athletic in a Today League Division One fixture. Kick-off 3 pm.

For all your 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.



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.

Southern Junior Floodlit Cup Final

The first leg of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup Final is at Stamford Bridge where our youth team will meet Chelsea on Tuesday, 21st April, kick-off 7.00 pm.

The second leg will be at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, 28th April, kick-off 7.30 pm.

On Saturday, April 24th, the youth team are away to Bournemouth in a South East Counties league game, kick-off 11.00 am.

On Saturday, May 2nd, the youth team are away to Reading 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, April 25th, the reserves are away to West Ham in a Football Combination game. Kick-off 2.00 pm.

On Saturday, May 2nd, the reserves are at home to Oxford United in a Football Combination game. Kick-off 2.00 pm.

On Saturday, May 9th, the reserves are away to Bristol Rovers in a Football Combination game. Kick-off 2.00 pm.

Watford v Luton Town

This is an all-ticket match. Luton Town supporters must obtain a ticket in advance from our Oak Road ticket office. It is open after today's match and from 9am to 1pm on Bank Holiday Monday. There will be no cash admission at vicarage Road.

Vauxhall Motors v Luton Town

April 29, 1987, kick-off 7.30 pm. This friendly match will be played at Branche Estate.

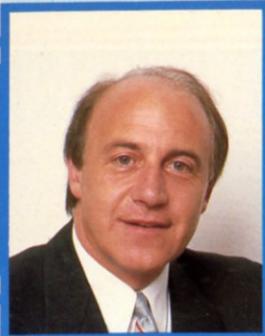
Executive Sponsors

Today's Executive Sponsors are D F Bennett and Son. They are a Bedford-based company, distributors and fabricators of formica products. It is their first Executive Sponsorship and we hope they have an enjoyable afternoon.

Lottery agents



Promotions Executive John Gornall (above) is seeking lottery agents. Successful agents will receive a centenary medallion of the club and an attractive commission on sales and may win complementary match tickets. Ring John on Luton 416976.



CLUB COMMENT

Bill Tomlins, General Secretary

OUR MEMBERS SCHEME AND GUEST TICKETS

This season, we have often highlighted the success of our membership scheme, so it is only fair to comment on its occasional frustrations too. Card-holders like to bring guests to Kenilworth Road, but the guest facility has annoyed some supporters. Initially, many people predicted thousands of visiting fans would besiege the ground – so we thought it would be unsafe to sell guest tickets on match days. Unfortunately, we did not get the message across well enough and several supporters and their guests were disappointed.

When the visiting fans failed to arrive, we felt able to relax the rules. As a result, guest tickets may now be bought on the day as well as in advance, and many supporters take full advantage to invite up to three friends to a match. Often these friends are supporters of the visiting team. We don't mind that – providing they are vouched for by the card holder.

Our recent home fixture against Tottenham proved the success overall of our guest system when 1,500 guest tickets were purchased. A high proportion of these were clearly Spurs fans who integrated without any problems.

Unfortunately, as the following letter from Mr B. W. Grantham explained, these arrangements leave our local police with a difficult decision to make. He wrote:

"Two weeks ago, I obtained four guest tickets for the Manchester United game. As suggested in a recent programme article, any guest you are willing to obtain a ticket for must be trustworthy as you also put your own ticket on the line. I happily did this for two of my employees, their 50-year-old father plus his friend.

They did not get to see the game, being stopped by

police on the London outskirts and being told to return home. I was given no opportunity to vouch for their good behaviour which I happily would have done had they been given the chance to even get within two miles of the ground.

It seems to me to make a real joke of the article encouraging us to obtain guest tickets. I wouldn't even trouble to try in future as I couldn't guarantee they would get past the police checkpoints which appear to exist."

We have received several similar letters. Contrary to what Mr Grantham says, it is not Luton Town's policy to sweep such complaints under the carpet. Instead, we try to learn from our experiences. Though disappointed and concerned, I am relieved that only a few visitors have been upset.

We will make what amends we can, although we cannot wipe the slate clean. Unfortunately, these visitors have suffered as the result of our successful experiment to prevent hooliganism at Kenilworth Road. Without interfering with policing policies, established in the early stages of our member's scheme, a special meeting is planned. The police are as concerned about these frustrations as we are.

On the credit side, there has been no trouble or arrests here this season, and supporters know it is safe to bring their families. We are working closely with the police to ensure the system works as smoothly and efficiently as possible in future. It was introduced solely with the safety of supporters in mind and your views – even if critical – will help us achieve this.



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A warm welcome to all our guests this afternoon.

ACTION



• **Scoring touch:** Ian Scott found the net for the reserves during their 7-1 win over QPR.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION TABLE
1986/87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	33	22	6	5	72	32	50
Tottenham Hotspur	30	20	7	3	72	27	47
Chelsea	32	19	8	5	71	27	46
Watford	32	17	8	7	64	36	42
Queens Park Rangers	31	17	6	8	65	49	40
Norwich City	31	17	5	9	72	55	39
Luton Town	31	16	4	11	75	46	36
Southampton	30	14	5	11	54	46	33
Swindon Town	30	15	2	13	77	68	32
Ipwich Town	32	14	4	14	45	55	32
West Ham United	29	13	5	11	54	43	31
Charlton Athletic	27	11	7	9	41	42	29
Fulham	33	10	7	16	43	59	27
Crystal Palace	30	7	9	14	43	58	23
Oxford United	31	8	7	16	52	70	23
Reading	27	8	3	16	35	71	19
Portsmouth	29	6	6	17	34	65	18
Millwall	32	5	6	21	36	76	16
Bristol Rovers	31	6	3	22	44	86	15
Brighton & Hove Albion	31	6	2	23	37	76	14

FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1986/87

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

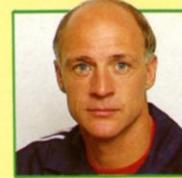


• **In the air:** David Oldfield jumps to challenge. David scored twice last Saturday in the reserves' big win.

Reserve & Youth



JIM RYAN



JOHN FAULKNER

RESERVES IN FORM WITH HIGH-SCORING WINS

The Town's reserves have bounced back to their best form after going down at Watford at the end of March and have recently scored 16 goals in three successive wins much to the delight of coach Jim Ryan. The latest win came last weekend when Queens Park Rangers were hammered 7-1 at Kenilworth Road with the goals shared throughout the team.

That big triumph followed a 6-1 victory over Crystal Palace and a 3-0 win over Oxford in two successive away games, as a result, the Town have climbed to a more than healthy position in the Football Combination table and offer the club the prospect of an extremely successful league season at all three playing levels with the youth team in with a chance of lifting the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. They meet Chelsea over two legs in the final starting with the first leg at Stamford Bridge on April 21.

Goal's flowed

The goals have flowed with Emeka Nwajiobi leading the way with one at Palace, one at Oxford and two against QPR. David Oldfield has weighed in with five as well - a hat-trick at Palace and two last weekend when Ian Scott, John Kennedy and Robert Wilson were also on the scoresheet. After 31 games, the reserves have now scored 82 goals in the 32 games played.

Jim Ryan said: "Our performance at Oxford was particularly good in terrible conditions. We played with only Emeka Nwajiobi up front and always looked in control." In the last two weeks, the youth team have beaten Bristol Rovers 5-2 and drawn 1-1 with Wimbledon. John Faulkner said: "We had a young team out on a bumpy pitch and I was not too disappointed. It was a difficult game."

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES 1986/87

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

REPLAY

INTRODUCING...

COVENTRY

Coventry City arrive at Kenilworth Road this afternoon as proud winners of a place in the FA Cup final where they will meet Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley on May 16. Last weekend they clinched their appearance in the showpiece match of the English soccer programme with a 3-2 extra time victory over Second Division Leeds United at Hillsborough, Keith Houchen, Micky Gynn and David Bennett scoring the vital goals.

The achievement of a Wembley FA Cup final is the highest point in the club's 104-year history and is worthy reward for their efforts this season when they have finally shrugged off their unwanted reputation as the Houdinis of the top flight. Notable victories and a very consistent run of results have kept the Sky Blues high in the table all season - much to the delight of their management team of George Curtis and John Sillett who took over last year.

Coventry's home record has been particularly good this season. They have lost only three games at Highfield Road - one to the Town on New Year's Day when a Brian Stein goal snatched the points. On their travels they have won only twice, drawn six and lost nine of their 17 league matches away from home.



Back Row from left: Paul Culpin, Cyrille Regis, Andy Williams, Graham Rodger, Keith Houchen, Brian Kilcline, Trevor Peake. Middle row: Michael Gynn, Ian Painter, David Phillips, Steve Ogrizovic, Jake Findlay, Lloyd McGrath, Gareth Evans, Micky Adams. Front row: Brian Borrows, Greg Downs, George Dalton (Physiotherapist), John Sillett (Chief coach), George Curtis (Managing Director), Wayne Turner, Dave Bennett, Nick Pickering.

Players likely to be on duty today:

Steve Ogrizovic - Born Mansfield, September, 1957. Steve is 6ft 4in and one of the tallest keepers in the league. Joined Chesterfield from school before moving on to Liverpool, Shrewsbury and Coventry. A well-known cricketer with Shropshire.

Brian Borrows - Born Liverpool, December 1960. Brian, a right-back, first played for Everton (27 appearances) before moving on to Bolton. He moved to Coventry for an £80,000 fee in 1985.

Greg Downs - Born Nottingham, December 1958. Joined Norwich straight from school and, after making his debut as a centre-forward, developed into an attacking left-back. Made 200 appearances for the Canaries before moving to Coventry in 1985.

Lloyd McGrath - Born Birmingham, February 1965. A highly-rated central defender who won England youth caps. Made Coventry debut in 1984 after a dislocated shoulder had delayed his career.

Brian Kilcline - Born Nottingham, May 1962. A tall centre-half, Brian is 6ft 4in tall. A schoolboy striker, he became a defender at Notts County. He joined Coventry from them for £60,000 in 1983. England under-21 cap.



George Curtis was a strong defender as a player in his days with Coventry and had a reputation as a never-say-die player who always gave 100 per cent. Now manager of Coventry City, he has given the same sort of attitude and commitment to the club and the team. He would, however, be the first - as he was last weekend - to say that chief coach John Sillett deserves much of the praise heaped on the club following their fine run to Wembley in the FA Cup. Both men stress character and grit as vital qualities and this has been borne out by the success of Coventry City this season.

Trevor Peake - Born Nuneaton, February 1957. Started career with Nuneaton, moving on to Lincoln. A top central defender, he joined Coventry from Lincoln for £100,000 in 1983. Player of the year last season.

David Bennett - Born Manchester, July 1959. Played 52 games in First Division for Manchester City before joining Third Division Cardiff. A goal-scoring forward, he joined Sky Blues in 1983 for £100,000.

David Phillips - Born RAF Wegberg, West Germany, July 1963. A full Welsh international midfielder with a powerful shot. Began career at Plymouth and went on to Manchester City before joining Coventry in May 1986.

Cyrille Regis - Born Mariapousula in French Guyana, February 1958. A big and powerful striker, he joined WBA from Hayes and went on to win four England caps. Joined Sky Blues for £250,000 in October 1984.

Keith Houchen - Born Middlesbrough, July, 1960. A tall striker with an eye for vital goals, Keith scored 117 goals in 36 matches for York City, Hartlepool, Orient and Scunthorpe before arriving at Coventry for a £60,000 fee in 1986.

Nick Pickering - Born Newcastle, August 1963. A left-sided midfielder with a delicate left foot and skill, he has won England full caps and under 21 caps. Joined Coventry from Sunderland for £120,000 in 1986 after playing 192 games for the Rokerites.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY PETER NICHOLAS

CONGRATULATIONS TO COVENTRY CITY

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is 1010. 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.

Last Saturday, we played Queen's Park Rangers at Loftus Road in a league game and kept up our good record of not losing on their ground in the league.

Today we give a warm welcome to

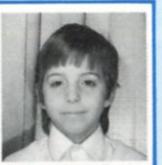
Coventry City at Kenilworth Road. I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating them in reaching the FA Cup final at Wembley. I watched them on TV last Sunday - and they looked a good team, playing some fast football - so we should be in for an entertaining match this afternoon.

Next Saturday, we are at home to Sheffield Wednesday. I will see you all then - have a good day and enjoy yourselves.

ESCORTS



Wayne Jakins



Jason Norman

MASCOT



Barry Neale

ESCORTS

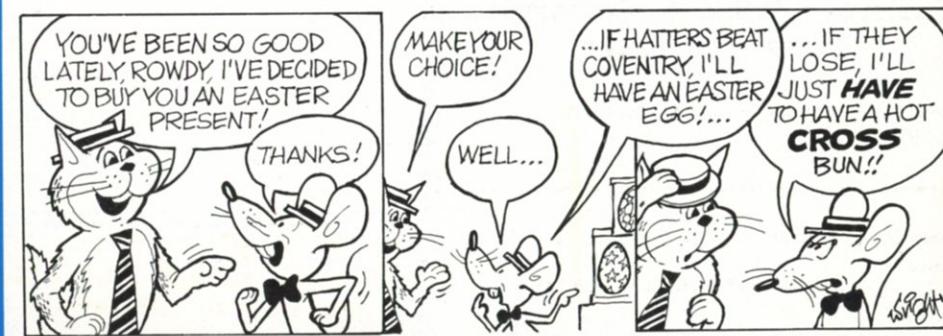


Clive Wilson



Andrew Hickey

KENILWORTH THE CAT



QUIZ

First Eleven

B	M	O	R	N	I	Y
G	A	T	R	E	B	R
Y	R	R	A	B	P	R
D	T	E	O	E	E	A
N	I	B	O	R	T	L
A	N	O	H	P	E	T
O	K	R	A	M	R	N

Look at these soccer surnames and find the eleven matching first names hidden in any direction in the square - cross them through as you do. Get a goal if the uncrossed letters spell out a club.

Elkjaer Friday Gray
Jol May McDonald
Millichip Nicholas Nightingale
Rivelino Venison

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

Answers to Soccer Ninety-Niner No. 11

Across

1. David Smith 7. nil 8. Rudge 9. Burns 12. Tyler 13. Lee

14. Andy Dibble

Down

1. Dynamite 2. Vale (Port -/- Park) 3. Don Murray 4. Marangoni
5. Todd 6. set-piece 10. Alan 11. Club

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Views from the media

Mark and Ricky please the critics

The Town's good first half showing and general poise during their 2-2 draw at Queen's Park Rangers last week drew some praise from the national newspapers on a weekend when the FA Cup semifinals dominated the headlines. Here is a selection of the comments from the media:

Daily Telegraph - "When Luton lost their momentum in the second half after riding roughshod over Rangers for 45 minutes, a wag in the crowd said "The trouble is they are not used to real plastic, only the artificial stuff." I have always been an old-fashioned grass man myself, but I must admit that this plastic pantomime was thoroughly entertaining with enough skill and pace to please the most discerning spectator."

"Luton's brisk, neat football stretched Rangers almost to breaking point in the early stages and it was no surprise when Mark Stein put them in front, following North's long throw from the right in the 21st minute. They could have been three or four up at the interval, but Luton manager, John Moore admitted: "We let them off the hook."

Torn apart

Daily Express - "Mark Stein is seven inches shorter than brother Brian, but he is still as much of a handful - just ask Queen's Park Rangers. Only in the Luton side because of striker Mick Harford's suspension, the 5ft 3ins Mark tore Rangers apart in the first half of their 2-2 draw at Loftus Road. Said Mark: "I am only on the fringe of the team, but I am enjoying the season - as well as playing alongside my brother. He is over eight years older than me so this is the first team we have played in together."

Today - "Ricky Hill's 87th-minute equaliser in Luton's 2-2 draw at Loftus Road was a reminder that the club could be about to lose their best player. Hill is listed... but insists he would like to finish his career with the club which signed him as a schoolboy."



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LUTON TOWN GOLDEN OLDIES

MEMORIES OF JOE PAYNE AND BIG CROWDS AT 1930's PROMOTION CLASHES

We welcome Coventry City once again to Kenilworth Road for our 50th league meeting and hope to improve on our record of only one win here against the sky Blues since 1951-52, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

We must be confident however as a notable duck was broken this season with our first win at Highfield Road since 1930-31.

In the side in that win at Coventry on 8th November,



• **Not this time:** Brian Lewis is beaten to the ball by the goalkeeper. Brian, signed from Coventry, was a goalscoring forward here in the late 1960's.



• **Basher in the tackle:** Kirk Stephens, a great Town favourite who moved on to Coventry, moves in to challenge Mick Harford at Kenilworth Road.

1930, and forming a useful goalscoring partnership with ace striker Andy Rennie was George McNestry. McNestry, signed from Sunderland the previous close season started off his Town career by playing on the right wing but then moved inside when the goal supply dried up.

He enjoyed two successful seasons at Luton before joining Bristol Rovers and from there he linked up with Coventry who employed him back in his old wing position where he became a crowd favourite as City surged up Division Three South in 1935-36.

We had an interest in the proceedings however being up with the leading group for most of that season and following the 12-0 crushing of Bristol Rovers over Easter 1936 we found ourselves in second position with four games to play, two of which were against leaders Coventry.

A record crowd of 23,142 turned up at Kenilworth Road on 25th April, 1936, partly to watch scoring sensation Joe Payne and partly to see if the Town could overhaul Coventry at the top.

The game was an anti-climax with an early Payne goal cancelled out by City's Clarrie Bourton in the second half from an opening created by McNestry but the fans were obviously anxious for more as 42,975, another record, turned out at Highfield Road two days later for the rematch.

This one ended 0-0 and with Coventry set to play Torquay at home in their final game and the Town matched against QPR away, City were obvious favourites.

McNestry tried to help his old pals by missing a penalty against Torquay but two late goals saw City up as

the Town could only manage a scoreless draw at Loftus Road.

The Town did not have to wait long for promotion however as they clinched the top spot in the final game of the following season co-incidentally against Torquay.

After several meetings in Division Two, Coventry were relegated in the early 50's and it was not until 1963-64 that paths crossed again.

It was during that season that John O'Rourke made his debut for the Town and almost single handed prevented a drop to Division Four.

After signing just before Christmas 1963, O'Rourke scored an incredible 22 goals in 23 games including four in a 6-2 win at Brentford which set up a sequence of six wins and two draws in the final eight games to avoid the drop at the death.

O'Rourke was unfortunately badly injured at Brentford on the opening day of the following season and was never at his best as the town sunk to Division Four.

He regained his scoring touch, however, as the Town almost clinched promotion at the first attempt in 1965-66, but with tempting offers coming the Town's way he was reluctantly transferred to Middlesbrough in the summer of 1966.

Something of a lucky omen, O'Rourke was in the Middlesbrough side that clinched promotion in 1966-67, the Ipswich team that was promoted to Division One in 1967-68, and the Coventry side that won a place in Europe in the early 1970's.

After a successful term at QPR, where he was in the squad that was promoted to Division One in 1972-73, he finished his playing days at Bournemouth where he now lives.

Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town

2

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

Sub

Coventry City

0

- 1 Steve Ogrizovic
- 2 Brian Borrows
- 3 Greg Downs
- 4 Lloyd McGarth
- 5 Brian Kilcline
- 6 Trevor Peake
- 7 David Bennett
- 8 David Phillips
- 9 Cyrille Regis
- 10 Keith Houchen
- 11 Nick Pickering

Sub

Referee: H. TAYLOR (Leicester)

Linesmen: G.T. PEARSON (Red Flag) M.J. WALKER (Yellow Flag)



The new Belmont SRi. Great end to end stuff.



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