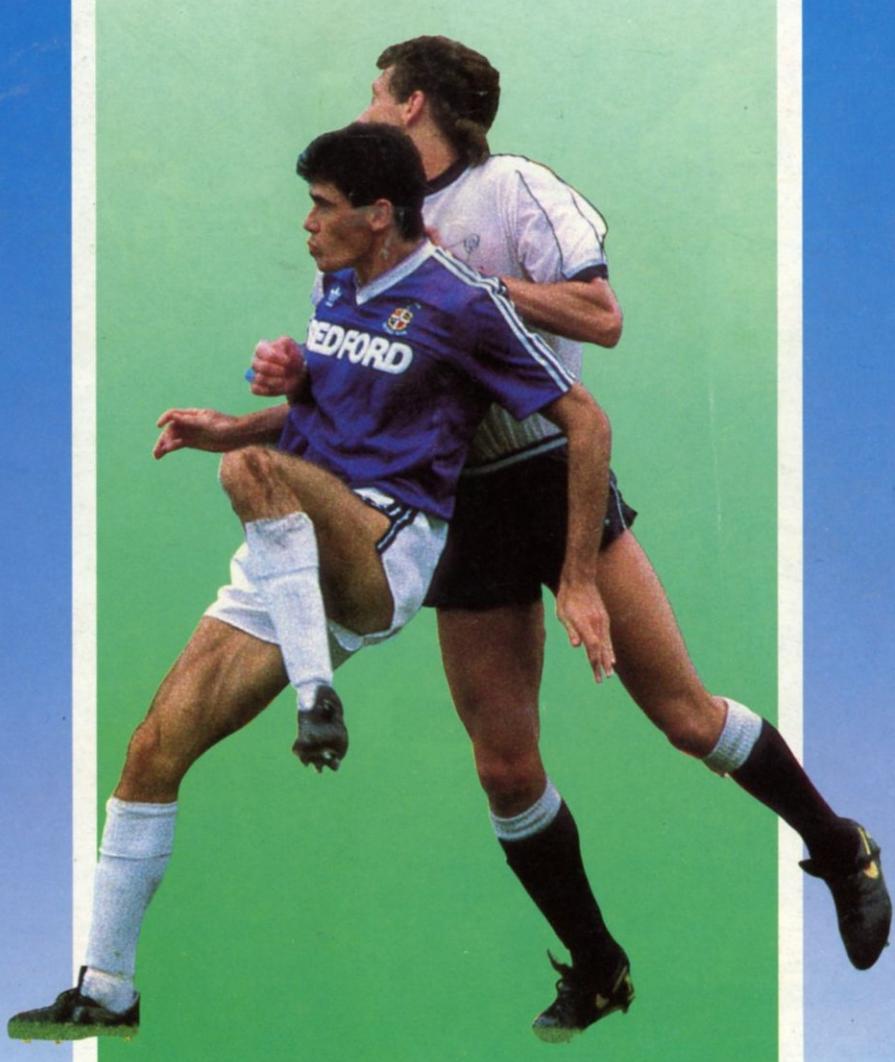


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Saturday, August 22nd, 1987 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

This match is sponsored by: Bedford GM

ACTION

NO JOY AGAINST THE SKY BLUES



• **Eyes down:** David Preece concentrating hard as he tries to set another attack moving against Coventry on Tuesday.

INSIDE TODAY

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates
Pictures by: Apex Photography

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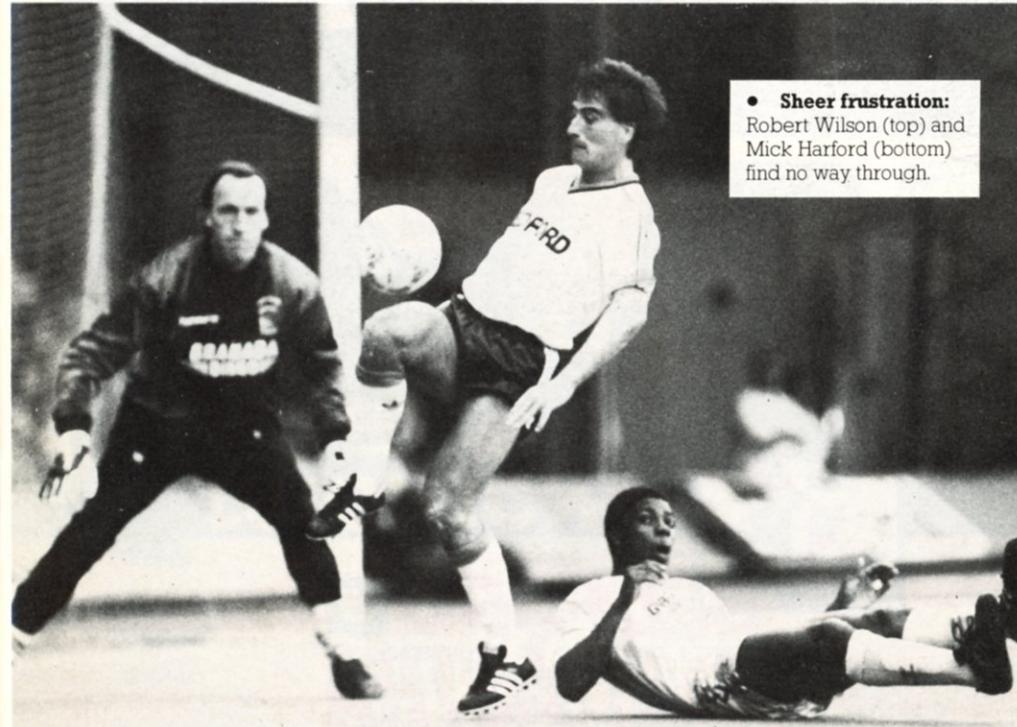
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- **Sheer frustration:**
Robert Wilson (top) and
Mick Harford (bottom)
find no way through.

REPLAY

ASTRA LEADS FROM BACKS TO FRONT.



BEDFORD GM
TEAM ASTRA

Good luck to all from an established winner.

RAY'S REVIEW



A warm welcome to West Ham today as a team who always try to play good open football. I hope they help us to produce a bright and entertaining match – with a good result for us, of course. After two defeats, I am naturally a bit disappointed in our form, but feel we have had little luck so far and that the team needs to find its feet and bed down.

We were especially unlucky against Coventry on Tuesday to be beaten by a penalty. I thought the ball was running out and was very surprised at the decision. That came only a few minutes after we had been unlucky not to score at the other end and shows the sort of turn of fortunes that can swing a game.

Over anxious

We were up against it at Derby last Saturday too and the start of the season has seen us hit by a small run of niggling injuries with the treatment room quite busy. Brian Stein is always a big loss and with Mal Donaghy suspended we have had to make a few extra adjustments. I felt we tried to play too quickly on Tuesday and became over anxious. Sometimes, it is a lot better to slow it down. Always trying to get the ball in quickly and early is not the right thing and I want to see us play a bit more.

With a bit of luck, Brian will be fit and available again today and our visitors may be a little more open in style. That could be a help to us and may make it a more entertaining game to watch. The main thing is that we stay steady and try to keep playing at our pace and in our style. Please give the team your support and enjoy the game.

LUTON TOWN



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Mailbag

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

Publincans' thanks

Dear Sir,
Much has been written and spoken in the past football season, much of it detrimental about your Club's decision to ban away supporters, but we feel it is time to say 'thank you' on behalf of the licensees and our customers and indeed the general public in the town.

As you are well aware in recent years several of our members had been advised to close their premises when certain clubs were playing in Luton, which quite obviously resulted in a loss of trade; the town's shopping centre became a virtual 'no-go' area for families wanting to shop on a Saturday afternoon, and the whole situation was all very undesirable.

But thanks to your policy last season Luton town centre has returned to a normal bustling family orientated shopping area, and I know it has been acknowledged that trade significantly improved in the shopping centre. We wholeheartedly back the Club for having had the courage of their convictions in bringing it into being, especially against such strong opposition from their governing bodies.

Let us hope that when your policy is relaxed in the forthcoming season to allow visiting fans for Cup fixtures that we do

not have a return of our previous troubles in town.

Wishing all members of the Club a successful season in 1987-88.

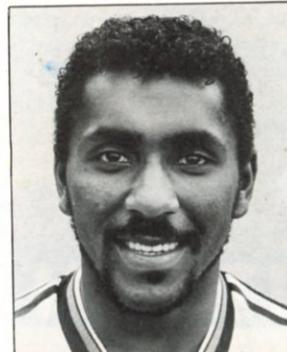
Yours faithfully
Brian J. Minnigan
Chairman, Luton and district
Licensed Victuallers'
Protection Association

Big hopes!

Dear Sir,

I have supported you for two years now and I look forward to joining the Junior Hatters. My favourite player is Ricky Hill and I hope you continue to play well next season.

from Gareth Pedder (aged 8)
11 Bosmore Road,
Limbury, Luton.



•Favourite player: Ricky Hill

Wonderful season!

Dear Sir,

I would very much like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned with Luton Town for a wonderful season.

It was a pleasure to spend an afternoon at a trouble free ground. Having been introduced to the clubs new scheme I fully support the project.

Although I was displeased to hear, earlier in the season, that Luton would not be taking part in the Littlewoods Cup I was proud that Luton have stayed with their principles and their concern for their supporters and public.

I will without hesitation be renewing my membership card and I would appreciate it if you could send me some details of enabling a friend to become a member of the club.

Once again many thanks for the enjoyment my family and I have received at Kenilworth Road.

Yours faithfully
J D Hope (Ms)
7 Merchant Lane, Cranfield,
Bedfordshire.

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CHIT CHAT



Eager - but worried!

As I write, before our opening match at Derby, I have to confess I have not yet seen Luton play this season. Normally I go to the Town's pre-season friendlies, but the timing of my summer holiday severely curtailed my opportunities this year. I therefore find myself in eager anticipation of the season, yet strangely apprehensive. Although there have been only limited changes in playing staff the advent of a new manager must make some difference to our style.

I found myself thinking about playing styles when I watched the League Centenary Match on television. Although Maradona scooped all the headlines it was Platini I would pay to watch - pity we can't tempt him from retirement. And I'm sure we all had a careful look at Liam Brady as he's now with West Ham, our visitors today. It will be interesting seeing our midfield this season as, on paper, it's far less defensive than it's been in recent years. I wonder if Ricky Hill will continue his seal impressions in his new role? His ball-balancing skills are being copied throughout football. I saw a Dulwich Hamlet player in a pre-season friendly use his head to control and balance the ball. He didn't have the

same finesse as our Ricky, of course, but at least he had a go. But he wasn't their best player, a 19-year-old playing just in front of defence was my 'man of the match'.

Decorative pink

On a more feminine note, the Dulwich side had the most interesting kit I've ever seen. The shirts and shorts were Chelsea blue but decorated in pink. There was a wide pink vertical stripe each side of the shirt under the arms. This stripe continued upwards to form a pink piping where sleeve joined shoulder. The shirt cuffs and v-neck were edged in pink and there were three diagonal pink stripes on one leg of the shorts. It was most decorative. My male companion didn't agree - his views are not printable. Therein, perhaps, lies the difference between male and female supporters!

Gale Waller

Anyone wanting to contribute to Chit-Chat, please write to: The Editor, Luton Town F.C., Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds.

Luton News

PICTURE QUIZ



Ashley Grimes beats Phil Parkes in February. Just for fun - and to win a fiver if you're lucky - try our quiz: Who scored the other Town goal, and what was special about it? Answers to the Sports Editor (Comp), Luton News, Grosvenor House, Alma Street, Luton LU1 2PL by noon on Saturday. The first correct entry drawn out will win £5, so don't forget to include your name and address. Results will be published in the Luton News, along with all the best match coverage and pictures

THURSDAYS 14p

GLOOMY START

Derby County 1 Luton Town 0

Striker Mick Harford became the most unfortunate statistic of the new season when he was dismissed after only four minutes of our opening match at Derby last Saturday. Luckless Mick became the first man sent off and also left us with only 10 men to try and match an enthusiastic Derby side, making their first appearance in the top flight for seven years. Mick was shown a red card and given his marching orders for a late and high challenge on Derby full-back Mel Sage.

The incident marred the remaining 86 minutes and left the Town facing an uphill struggle against Derby, who had Peter Shilton making his league debut for them in goal following his reported £1 million move from Southampton. But the Luton team made an effort to play constructive football and play themselves into good positions in spite of their adversity.

Derby scored the only goal of the match after 17 minutes when former Watford winger Nigel Callaghan took a corner. Former England midfielder John Gregory met the ball with a header straight at Les Sealey. The goalkeeper was unable to do more than parry the effort and from the rebound, Gregory found the net to secure three valuable opening-day points for the Midlands team - much to the delight of their Baseball Ground fans who produced a 17,000 crowd in support of their heroes.

Teams: Derby - Shilton, Sage, Forsyth, Williams, Hindmarch, McLaren, Micklewhite, Gee, Davison, Gregory, Callaghan.

Luton - Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Hill, Foster, Donaghy, D. Wilson, B. Stein, Harford, R. Wilson (Newell), Preece (McDonough).

Referee - G. Courtenay (Spennymoor).

1st Team ACTION



• **Fruitless trip to Derby:** There were no Town goals and no Town points after trailing up to the Midlands for a 1-0 defeat at the Baseball Ground last week. The loss of striker Mick Harford after only four minutes and Derby's bubbling enthusiasm in front of a 17,000 crowd helped the home team to victory over 10-man Luton. Today's action pictures show Danny Wilson, Mike Newell, Brian Stein and David Preece in the thick of it as the Rams pressed forward to celebrate their return to the First Division after a seven-year absence.

FOOTBALL FOCUS



Ron Howard

Chief scout Ron Howard has been running his experienced eye over footballers young and old all over the country for a full quarter of a century since first becoming involved in the sport he loves with Queens Park Rangers in the early 1960's. Today, in his Football Focus, he talks about his work as a scout and discusses the state of the game:

The game is as healthy as ever at the grass roots

"In my job, I see a minimum of about eight or nine matches a week - I go to games on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, two on Saturday and two or more on Sunday at least. I see football at all levels from under-12's to top-class professionals and I try to approach each game in a completely fresh way.

"I get a good chance, therefore, to assess the game. And I think it is a lot better now and in healthier shape than it has been for a long time. I have seen only a mere handful of games really so far this season, but I am full of optimism. I know one or two other people feel the same way and have said so in the press. That is why last weekend's unfortunate bad business on the opening day was such a sickener for all of us who love football.

"In addition to the games I go to of course I take in a lot of training games, in which I can run my eye over our youngsters and trialists. I try to approach them all differently, but freshly.

"Sometimes the manager will ask me to look specifically at a certain player or two players. Then, I have to make sure I do not allow any previous fleeting glimpse of him to prejudice me in my judgements. I have to look at what I see on the night and not what I have seen before.

"When I joined the club, I was very lucky

because it had a great reputation for stability in the game. Even though Ray is the third different manager in three seasons, that has not really changed and I am lucky to be able to go on and do my job the same way. Ray and I are on the same wavelength about football and he likes me to carry on as I did last year with John Moore.

"Sometimes people suggest our game is very different from that on the Continent, but I can tell you it is different from the Scottish game, not to mention the Italian, French, Spanish, West German and Dutch! I think our league, however, is the strongest in the world. We have real depth. In most of the others, even in Italy, there are only four clubs at the most who are going to challenge for the title.

"Last season, we had Coventry winning the Cup and the first signs of a crack in the Merseyside domination. It would be a good thing if someone else won the league here - don't get me wrong I've nothing against the Mersey clubs - but it is good for the game if the honours are shared around.

"Some people, I know, say there is not the same amount of skill and character in the game that there used to be. I don't think this is true. I still meet and see youngsters who are very exciting even after all my time. In fact, I think the game is as strong as ever."

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CLUB NEWS

LUTON TOWN'S NEW FACILITIES FOR DISABLED

Luton Town today (Saturday) officially opened a purpose-built area for disabled supporters.

It features wheelchair access from Maple Road, a level viewing area under cover, a special disabled persons' toilet, and seats for helpers.

Allied Building of Stevenage donated their services to part of the project, involving the conversion of the former Junior Hatters Enclosure. It was also supported by a £5,000 donation from Littlewoods, following Luton Town's enforced withdrawal from the Littlewoods Challenge Cup, and by a grant from The Football Grounds Improvement Trust.

The Disabled Area provides 12 places for wheelchairs, plus seats for able-bodied helpers.

Later, the area is to be enclosed with an audio loop, allowing blind or deaf supporters to receive match commentary.

Luton Town's Executive Director, John Smith, said: "We value the enthusiasm of our disabled supporters and have wanted to improve their facilities for some time. Everyone at the club is grateful for the assistance from various sources, which will allow us to provide a first-class disabled area."

LUTON TOWN FANS' BETTING SHOP OPENS TODAY

Luton Town today open what is believed to be the first betting shop inside a Football League ground. Worldsport Bookmakers, who have eight other shops in Luton, St Albans, Hatfield and Watford, will run the service on matchdays.

A main office under the Kenilworth stand will provide both racing commentaries and betting on the home match. Supporters in the main stand can bet at a subsidiary office near the main stand catering units, while a courier service will operate for the executive suites and boxes.

Worldsport offer: Full Football betting on a special home match coupon including the score and the scorer of the first goal.

Full commentary and results on the afternoon's horse and greyhound meetings. Betting on other events such as golf and rugby.

John Smith, Executive Director of Luton Town, said: "We understand we are the first club to have a betting shop actually inside the ground. Many supporters enjoy a flutter and this will add to the entertainment available on matchdays."

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Football Combination
Saturday, August 29, 1987
Luton Town v Ipswich Town
Kick-off 2 pm.

Barclays League Division One
Monday, August 31, 1987
Luton Town v Arsenal
Kick-off 3 pm.

MATCH REFEREE

John Martin
(Alton, Hants)

A credit manager, John is married with one son. He began refereeing in 1958 and progressed via the Surrey Senior League and the Isthmian League to the Football League. He joined the International Panel in 1984. He was in charge of our FA Cup semi-final against Everton in 1984. He enjoys all sport, particularly athletics, badminton and bowls. John is chairman of the Alton Referees' Society and President of the Isthmian Referees' and Linesmen's Association.

COVER STORY

Today's action picture on our cover is taken from last Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Derby County. Picture by Apex Photography.

Match Ball Sponsors



We welcome Bedford GM today as our match ball sponsors. They are our official club sponsors and we wish them and their guests a very pleasant afternoon.

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Luton (0582) 416976



by BILL TOMLINS

IT'S THE TOWN

OUR FIGHT TO COMPETE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

Welcome to our first home Saturday league match of the season. I know Ray and the lads are keen to gain us our first win of the season and I hope we also have a game unhindered by some of the unexpected refereeing decisions which marked our last home game.

These, of course, are early days and I am confident our false start to the season will soon be over and we shall be enjoying the sort of flowing and adventurous football our team manager is encouraging.

Toughest

We are competing in the toughest league in the world and at the top against clubs like Arsenal, who attracted a 55,000 attendance last weekend, on very much smaller attendances at Kenilworth Road. With holidays and the loss of the habit during the close season, our attendance on Tuesday was 7,500.

We are very pleased to have attracted that crowd in view of the hooligans' publicity last weekend and continuing holidays, but would hope to see it grow during the coming weeks. I know many people may question our increased prices, but at this level we are talking of competing with

clubs with much bigger resources.

Investments

I am sure most of our fans enjoyed seeing our smart, clean ground on Tuesday. It bears little resemblance to the condition it was in only a few years ago.

I hope too that our supporters are aware of the large investments made by the club in improvements to the ground and the playing staff in recent years. We are trying to create a friendly environment within the stadium with trained, polite stewards who are ambassadors to the club.

Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome to our match sponsors today - Bedford GM. The Town's official sponsors Bedford GM, are once again supporting the club, by being our match sponsors. Today Bedford GM will be taking advantage of the sponsorship by entertaining some of their most important client customers and prospect customers in the Joe Payne Lounge.

We wish Bedford GM and their guests an enjoyable day and hope it will be a day to remember.

ON THE SPOT



•Healing hands: Physiotherapist Dave Kirby has had a busy week in the treatment room now that the season has started. He is pictured at work with one of our promising youngsters Jamie Husband.

DANGER - BUILDING WORK IN PROGRESS



•Old and the new: A crane lowers sections in place as building work continued this week at the rear of the main stand in the construction of the new A505 relief road. As a result, the club have also been busy in the construction of new buildings and stores at the back of the Hatters Club complex with new entrances, exits, stores and corridors.

AROUND



•Man of the match: David Preece was selected as our sponsors' man of the match after Tuesday's defeat by Coventry. David is pictured with Martin Groves whose Engraved Glassware company sponsored the match.



•Ball sponsors: Brian Stein hands over a match ball to Tuesday night's match ball sponsors Williams and Richardson Contractors. The company installed our original floodlights at Kenilworth Road and have been established for 50 years.



•In the picture: Television presenter Nick Owen is caught in the frame as he hands over engraved glassware to Martin Groves' sales director Jim Williams on Tuesday night.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER

Harsh result

We all felt the same about Tuesday night as I am sure you did and will be doing our best to make up for it today. It is not easy to slip back into top form at any time after a break, but especially when we have made so many adjustments and are missing a few key players like Mal and Brian.

Both opening games produced harsh results for us, I think. Against Derby we were down to 10 men for a long time and then against Coventry we had to fight an uphill struggle after they had scored from that penalty.

Unlucky night

Afterwards, it was nice to see Mitchell Thomas and Chris Waddle in the players' lounge for a drink, and to bump into Kirk Stephens who was doing radio commentary on the game for a local station in the Midlands. I think everyone agreed we had been unlucky to get shaded out of the points after applying so much pressure.

That is a problem we may have to face a lot at home this season - teams coming to stop us playing and pinch a result. With our rejigged midfield built around Ricky, we will need to find a way of making space and staying patient. I hope our luck changes today. Enjoy the game.

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PHOTO FILE



• Flashback to last Saturday at Derby where John Gregory's goal handed the Town a 1-0 defeat: Brian Stein and David Preece (top) and Stein bottom make their presence felt.



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IN PROFILE..... **DANNY WILSON**



•On the ball: New boy Danny Wilson in action at Derby.

From Roker to Luton, all stations...



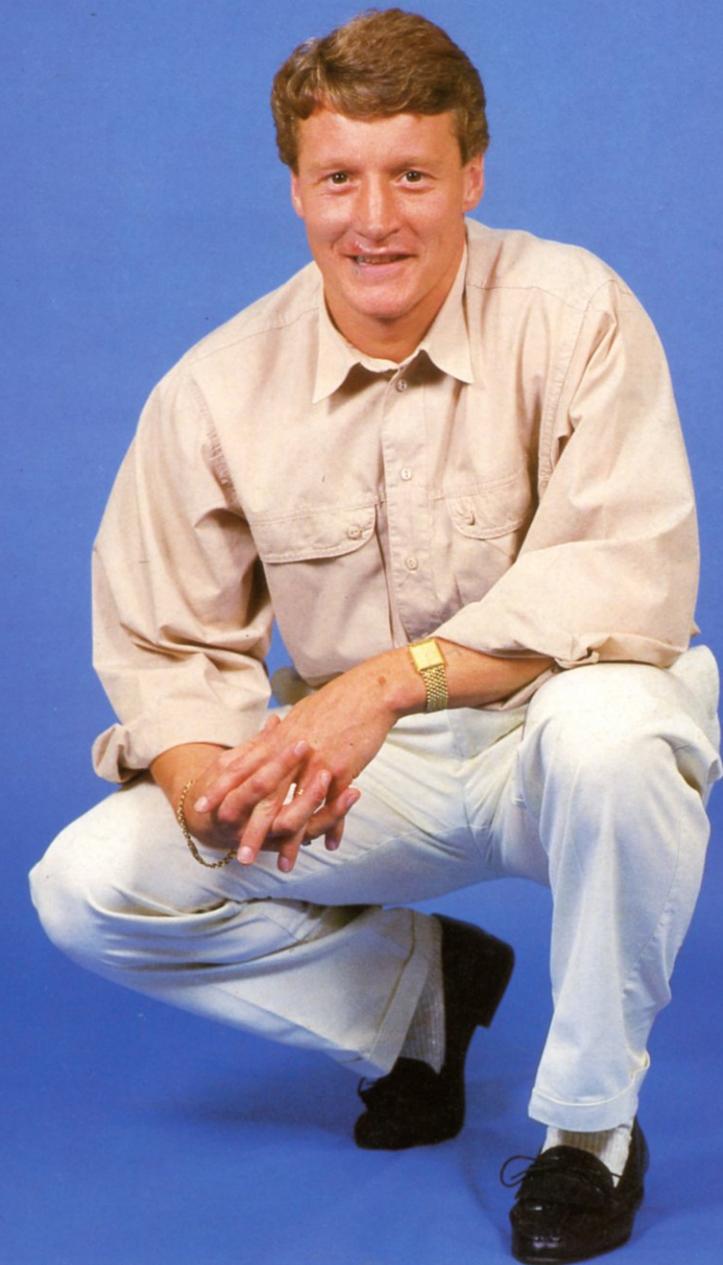
•Big future: Danny Wilson.

Danny Wilson has packed as many clubs into his career as Tommy Docherty, it seems at first glance, but he is still a young man with a bright career in front of him. He has played for Sunderland – where he started as a junior, Wigan, Bury, Chesterfield, Nottingham Forest, Scunthorpe, Brighton on loan and Brighton as a contract player before joining the Town in the summer for a fee of £150,000.

At Forest, he made about 20 league appearances in Brian Clough's team and at Brighton, where he blossomed into a Northern Ireland international winning three caps, he shared 12 months with current captain here Steve Foster. Danny's Irish connection comes from his mother.

Married with two young children, one boy and one girl, Danny enjoys playing in the centre of midfield. He said: "I have been very pleased with the professional atmosphere here since coming to Luton. It is a very friendly club and has a smashing group of players. I am really looking forward to the season."

DANNY WILSON



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• Woollen scarves from	£2.50	• Teddy bears	£5.00
• Club holdalls from	£5.50	• Peak caps (club colours)	£2.00
• Sweat bands	£1.00	• Gloves (woollen)	£1.75
• Football League Yearbook	£6.50	• Pens (club colours)	.65
• Luton Town F.C. coats	£22.50	• Pint tankards	£2.00
• Key rings	.75	• Babygrows	£4.99
• Football money box	£3.20	• Ash trays	£1.80

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DRESSING ROOM TALK

with Darron McDonough

Now starting his first full season at Kenilworth Road, utility man Darron McDonough has set his eyes on claiming a regular first team place...anywhere in the team except in goal. Last season Darron settled in and played in a number of positions without enjoying a full run in the side. Today, in Dressing Room Talk, he ponders his ambitions and surveys the First Division scene for 1987-88:

A regular pursuit!

"Last year I felt as if I was always going to be in and out of the side without ever getting a really good run, but this year I think I have a chance of really making an impact and becoming a regular in the squad. Of course, I would like to have a settled position, but I am quite happy to be used in a lot of different positions – so long as I get a regular place in the team.

"One position I don't want to play though is in goal. Mal is our reserve keeper if we need him during a game and I don't know who the next reserve is – but I hope it is not me. It is bad enough being a specialist in all the outfield positions.

"On Tuesday night I played alongside Steve Foster in the middle of the back four. It used to be my favourite position, but I don't say I have a favourite anymore. I get used to one place and then I can start to enjoy it – and then I probably move again. It was the first time, apart from one pre-season match, I had played with Steve and I enjoyed it...except for the penalty.

Tough decision

"I didn't think it was a penalty at all. I thought I was in front of him and in charge of the situation and the ball when he went down. The referee said I pushed him, but I don't see how I did that. It was very tough. I thought Coventry did not do much but sit around and wait to try and take a point.

"The atmosphere afterwards in the dressing room was pretty bad. We all felt we were being given a tough time by the referees so far. But our luck will change, I am sure.

"We have so many good players. When I first joined from Oldham, I did not fully



• Utility man: Darron McDonough.

realise how many good players there were here at Luton. I think we will be challenging at the top again – but I suspect it will be the usual big clubs up there with us again.

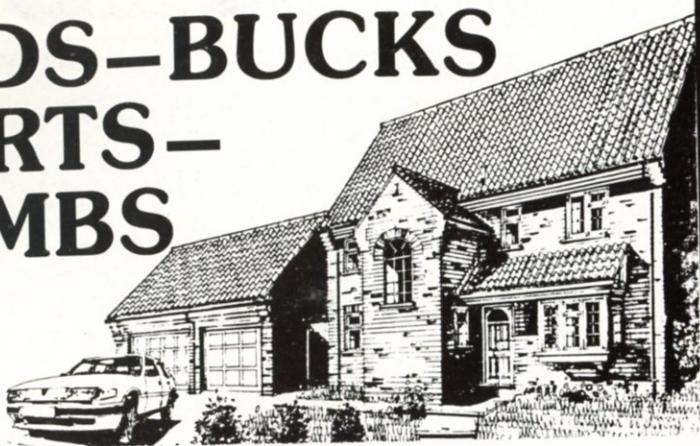
Slow it down

"Our main worry at the moment is to try and settle down and avoid being over anxious all the time. We played too much long ball on Tuesday and we need to play it a lot shorter and slow it down. Maybe we will be able to do that a bit more today.

"I am looking forward to meeting up with one of my old mates today – Mark Ward. He is a great pal of mine from our Oldham days and very quick. Ashley knows what to expect I am sure and must be careful not to be drawn in by him. He has got tremendous pace – Mark, that is! – and a terrific shot. He is a good little player.

"I hope he doesn't show it too much today though and that we can turn it on and grab our first win and three points this season."

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Ticket Office Transfer

As most supporters will know, our ticket office has moved back to Kenilworth Road, where we have completely renovated the old information kiosk in the turnstile area.

We shared the Oak Road premises last season because of all the demolition and building work at Kenilworth Road.

Now this gives us more space to work in while allowing the souvenir shop to expand too. I'm sure the new working arrangements will allow us to provide an even better service.

Motorists will find the new office more convenient, because there is plenty of parking space on the forecourt outside, although parking will be restricted on match days.

Anyone writing or ordering tickets for the Oak Road end of the ground might still prefer to collect their tickets from the souvenir shop. This can be arranged on all bookings made *before* the day of the match.

JUNIOR HATTERS



• Brian Stein has taken over as the president of the Junior Hatters in succession to Peter Nicholas. Brian's column is on page 32.

SMART CARDS

Our new-style membership cards are smart in more ways than one.

Obviously, they look terrific in our stadium colours of blue, white and green and they also help juniors and senior citizens to ensure they qualify for reduced price admission.

But equally smart is the statistical information these cards can give the club, so we can match ground facilities to spectator requirements.

The important part of the card is the black stripe on the reverse, which operates in exactly the same way as a bank's cash card. Last year, we used a bar code system which is a familiar sight on grocery packaging these days. The reason for the change is that magnetic stripe readers have turned out to be more suitable for outdoor use.

This should mean an end to those irritating delays caused when the readers got damp last winter.

CHERRY TAKES OVER



• **Ticket supervisor:** Cherry Newbury is our new ticket supervisor. She is in charge of the office at the top of Kenilworth Road. For all your ticket information, call Cherry on Luton 30748 or (24-hour service) 423293/4.

BEV'S IN CHARGE



• **Souvenir Shop manager:** Bev Tyler has taken over in charge of the club's souvenir shop on the corner of Oak Road. For all your sports wear, and supporters' items, ring Bev on Luton 412418.

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CLUB COMMENT

John Smith, Chief Executive

SUNDON SPRINGS – A SITE FOR THE FUTURE

"As most of our supporters and members will already know, we have been striving for some very considerable time to find a properly suitable future home for our football club and last week a press release was issued in which we made it clear we approved of relocation, probably by the mid-1990's, to the proposed stadium complex at Sundon Springs on the edge of the town.

"This statement was issued on behalf of the joint working party established at the suggestion of Luton Town Football Club to explore the possibility of the club moving out of Kenilworth Road. The working party was set up under the chairmanship of Mr Eric Fountain, director of public affairs at Vauxhall Motors, and comprised representatives of the club, the borough council and many local business interests. Mr Chris Southwell, the council's chief executive, is the working party's secretary.

"The statement explained that a meeting was held on August 6 at which the working party – who have held many meetings since December, 1985 – reviewed all the matters covered in the last 18 months and then concluded that the Brookmount plc plan to develop the disused quarry land at Sundon Springs offered the best site and possibilities for relocation.

"Brookmount propose to seek permission to develop the quarry for, among many other things, the creation of a large covered stadium to take the club into the 21st century. It is an exciting proposal for the club and the town and it has been supported after long examination

by the working party of all the possibilities. It has been an essential part of the progress made that the working party included all elements of the local community.

"The proposed development would include a shopping centre, hotel, leisure complex and stadium. It would have parking for 18,000 cars and 550 coaches. The stadium would be the largest completely-covered arena of its type in Europe. It would have seats for 90,000 spectators and a 'saddleback' roof which would be opened up for Luton Town matches and other sports events.

"Unfortunately, such developments take years to complete and it will be the middle of the next decade before we can move out of Kenilworth Road to our proposed new home which would have its own railway station and motorway link.

"In the meantime, therefore, we shall remain at Kenilworth Road and try to make the best of our present circumstances. As everyone knows, it is not possible to make the club pay at a top First Division level, by relying solely on gate receipts and, as a result, despite tremendous success in other directions, a form of subsidy is always requisite. The Sundon Springs site offers a chance to move forward into the future with all the right accommodation for the club and our supporters.

"We hope sincerely that we can ensure our future with the backing of the whole local community at a site that will be perfect for the next century for Luton Town."



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RESERVE



•**Looking up:** Mark Stein in action for the reserves' at Hitchin last week. The Town drew 1-1.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1986/87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur	38	25	8	5	87	38	58
Chelsea	38	24	8	6	87	33	56
Arsenal	38	23	7	8	77	42	53
Watford	38	22	8	8	81	40	52
Luton Town	38	21	6	11	95	53	48
Norwich City	38	20	6	12	82	63	46
Queens Park Rangers	38	19	8	11	78	69	46
West Ham United	38	19	6	13	79	58	44
Swindon Town	38	19	5	14	100	87	43
Charlton Athletic	38	15	10	13	59	59	40
Ipswich Town	38	17	5	16	56	64	39
Southampton	38	16	5	17	66	68	37
Fulham	38	14	8	16	58	66	36
Oxford United	38	10	9	19	63	79	29
Plymouth	38	11	7	20	50	80	29
Crystal Palace	38	8	11	19	52	73	27
Reading	38	10	4	24	42	95	24
Millwall	38	6	8	24	41	82	20
Bristol Rovers	38	6	5	27	49	104	17
Brighton & Hove Albion	38	6	4	28	44	92	16

FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1987/88

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1987			1988		
Aug 22	Reading		Jan 9	Reading	
Aug 29	Ipswich Town		Jan 12	Ipswich Town	
Sept 5	Charlton Ath		Jan 19	Charlton Ath	
Sept 9	Oxford		Jan 30	Oxford	
Sept 12	Arsenal		Feb 6	West Ham	
Sept 19	West Ham		Feb 13	Arsenal	
Sept 26	Chelsea		Feb 16	Chelsea	
Sept 29	QPR		Feb 27	QPR	
Oct 6	Portsmouth		Mar 2	Bristol R	
Oct 13	Bristol R		Mar 5	Portsmouth	
Oct 20	Fulham		Mar 16	Fulham	
Oct 31	Swindon		Mar 19	Swindon	
Nov 4	Millwall		Mar 22	Tottenham	
Nov 14	Tottenham		Apr 2	Millwall	
Nov 20	Norwich City		Apr 9	Norwich City	
Nov 28	Crystal Palace		Apr 13	Crystal Palace	
Dec 5	Watford		Apr 23	Southampton	
Dec 12	Southampton		Apr 30	Watford	
Dec 16	Brighton		May 7	Brighton	



•**On the move:** Kingsley Black is on the ball as the Town launch another attack at Hitchin.

COACHES' CORNER



OFF TO A WINNING START

The Towns youth team made a winning start to the season last Saturday when they won 2-1 away to Crystal Palace.

A 13-man team, including 12 apprentices and one non-contract player, travelled to Mitcham for the game. Luton were 1-0 down at half time.

Goals by Mick O'Brien and Kurt Nogan turned the tables in the second half as John Faulkner's young team galloped home for victory.

This was a good performance and an excellent result from a young team playing its first league match together.

Team: Edwards, Poutch, Pembridge, O'Brien, James, Allpress, Nogan, Gray, Cranshaw, Rees, McLean, Shanley, Hughes.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1986/87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	28	24	2	2	113	23	50
Crystal Palace	28	18	5	5	77	39	41
Tottenham Hotspur	28	14	9	5	75	47	37
Luton Town	28	14	7	7	69	48	35
Oxford United	28	12	7	9	65	65	31
Wimbledon	28	11	8	9	53	45	30
A.F.C. Bournemouth	28	10	6	12	64	57	26
Bristol Rovers	28	11	4	13	39	44	26
Brighton & Hove Albion	28	11	4	13	49	55	26
Northampton Town	28	10	6	12	47	57	26
Swindon Town	28	11	3	14	67	82	25
Colchester United	28	9	5	14	55	71	23
Reading	28	6	6	16	43	82	18
Southend United	28	5	4	19	38	88	14
Brentford	28	4	4	20	30	81	12

The club wish to thank our youth team sponsors –
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& YOUTH

INTRODUCING...

WEST HAM

West Ham arrive at Kenilworth Road this afternoon determined to make a quick recovery from a heavy opening day defeat last Saturday when they were beaten 3-0 at home by Queens Park Rangers. The result was a shock for the East Londoners with a reputation for open and flowing football and manager John Lyall is sure to have worked extra hard this week in an effort to get the Hammers back on song.

Despite persistent rumours during the close season, West Ham's team today is likely to include Scottish striker Frank McAvennie who was the subject of transfer speculation linking him with Glasgow Celtic during the summer. And the team should also include the gifted Irishman Liam Brady, who returned to London last season, after a long sojourn in Italy with a string of clubs including Juventus, Sampdoria, Internazionale Milan and Ascoli.

Players likely to be on duty today:

Tom McAlister – With Phil Parkes out injured with elbow problems, Tom has been claiming the goalkeeper's jersey. Ex-Sheffield United, Rotherham, Blackpool and Bristol Rovers, Tom has suffered a string of injuries himself and bounced back.

Tommy McQueen – A deadline-eve signing from Aberdeen in March this year, Tommy cost the Hammers £100,000. He won a Scottish title medal in 1984 in his first season with the Dons. Born Glasgow, began with Clyde and

joined Aberdeen in 1983.

Neill Orr – Another Scot, Neill began his career with Morton where his father had been a well-known player before him. Joined West Ham for £400,000 in 1982 and made his debut at Old Trafford. A good sweeper or midfielder.

Alvin Martin – After an injury-riddled season last term, Alvin, an England international centre-half, is hoping for a change of fortunes. Captain of the Hammers. Born Liverpool, he joined West Ham as an apprentice and has become one of their most popular players.

Alan Devonshire – An England midfieler at his prime, Alan has made a wonderful recovery to reclaim his place in the West Ham side after serious injury to his knee had seemed to have ended his career. Born Park Royal, he has made more than 300 appearances for the Hammers since his debut in 1976.

Liam Brady – A call-up for the Football League's team to meet the World XI at Wembley was no more than this gifted Irish international midfieler deserved as a mark of respect for his long and distinguished career with Arsenal, Juventus, Sampdoria, Internazionale and Ascoli before joining West Ham last season for £100,000.

Ray Stewart – Born Stansley, Perth, Ray was captain of Scotland boys. Moved from Dundee United to West Ham in 1979 for £430,000. A full Scottish international defender.



Back Row from left: Paul Hilton, Gary Strodder, Billy Bonds, Lee Bracey, Phil Parkes, Tom McAlister, Tony Gale, Eamonn Dolan, Alvin Martin. Middle row: Alan Dickens, Neil Orr, Simon Livett, George Parris, Alan Devonshire, Ray Stewart, Stewart Robson, Paul Ince, Steve Potts, Steve Walford. Front row: Kevin Keen, Tommy McQueen, Frank McAvennie, Liam Brady, Mark Ward, Tony Cottee, Stuart Slater, John Strain.



John Lyall was born in Ilford and played for Ilford and Essex boys before joining the West Ham office staff and becoming a professional in 1957. He was a very promising youth player and won England youth caps, but injury cut short his career after only 30 league appearances. John became assistant manager in 1971, team manager in 1974 and manager in 1977. He has led West Ham to F.A. Cup glory in 1975 and 1980. In 1981 he led West Ham to promotion. A hard working and loyal West Ham man, he has given his career to the club and maintained their reputation for style and panache.

Mark Ward – Former Everton apprentice. Mark has experienced part time football before breaking through into the professional game. He joined West Ham from Oldham in August 1985 for £225,000.

Frank McAvennie – Born in Glasgow, Frank has always been a prolific scorer and has electrifying pace. Formerly with St Mirren he joined West Ham in June 1985 for £340,000.

Tony Cottee – Born in July 1965 in West Ham. Tony signed as an apprentice in 1981 and has progressed quickly to become an England international and a respected First Division goalscorer.

Stewart Robson – Stewart tipped to be a future England captain, joined West Ham from Arsenal last season for a fee of £750,000. A constructive and quick midfieler, he can also score vital goals.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY BRIAN STEIN

READY FOR TOUGH CLASHES WITH THE BIG 'UNS'!

I hope you have enjoyed the summer break and have had a good holiday.

We played some good teams on our tour in Germany. The results were not what we had hoped – but the games were tough. They should have put us in good shape for some of the games we have got coming up. We play all the big clubs at home in the next two or three months.

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership

number is J006110. The winning member should contact Bev Tyler in the Sports Shop at Oak Road with his or her membership card for two free tickets.

Today we welcome West Ham to Kenilworth Road. We have had some good games against West Ham and today will be no exception. Have a good day and I hope to see you all at our next home game when we play Arsenal.

ESCORTS



Nicholas White



Daniel Denness

MASCOT



Laura Newman

ESCORTS

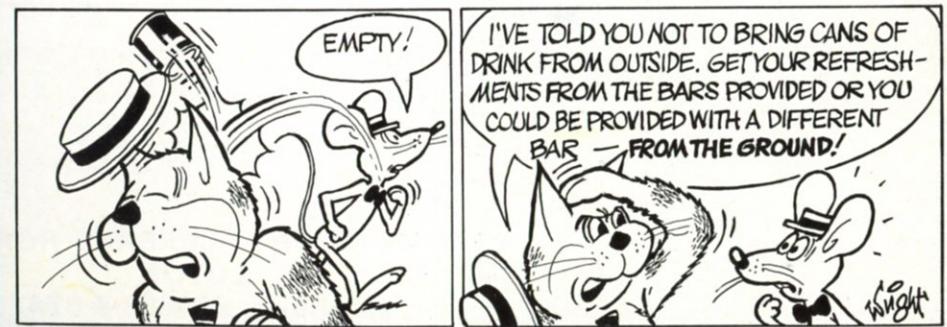


Stuart Barton



Matthew Hall

KENILWORTH THE CAT



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H	L	A	R	X	S	L	U	T	O	N
E	U	Y	H	E	R	E	F	O	R	D
L	D	T	H	E	A	R	T	S		
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CAESARS PALACE

Views from the media

SPEEDIE THRUST ECLIPSES TOWN'S EFFORTS

Our defeat at home to Coventry on Tuesday night, following the opening day loss at Derby County left the Town facing a morning of miserable reports in the national press. Here are a few selected comments from the match reports:

The Star: "David Speedie last night produced some of the raw aggression which persuaded Coventry to smash their transfer record for him — and earn his new club another three points. The Scottish international striker looked worth every penny of the £750,000 which Coventry paid Chelsea for him. And while his livewire energy brought him his first booking of the season, it helped create the goal that sealed Coventry's second successive win."

Dubious penalty

Daily Express: "It was Speedie who was tripped by Dannon McDonough in the 66th minute to give Kilcline his spot-kick. Luton boss Ray Harford said: "The penalty looked a bit dubious. I begrudge them the points. Our goalkeeper Les Sealey didn't have a shot to save."

The Times: "...In contrast, Luton Town, without a point after two games, will ponder the lack of result from so much pressure and forward play and a disappointed first crowd of the season, 7,506. Coventry, the team that the Luton Town manager Ray Harford reckons 'really put a smile back on the game of football last season' showed few signs of adventure. With Regis ruled out by injury, Coventry recalled one of their other FA Cup final stalwarts, Houchen to partner the newcomer Speedie."



WHEN LUTON GET NEAR THE BOX TODAY, WE HOPE THEY'LL BE WATCHING ANGLIA.



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LUTON TOWN GOLDEN OLDIES

INDIAN SUMMER THE SAVIOUR AS HAMMERS' ENJOY A DOUBLE

The summer of 1978 saw a vast clearout amongst the playing staff at Kenilworth Road, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

David Pleat, appointed manager in January of that year, had assessed his playing strength over half a season and decided that changes were needed. Out went John Faulkner and Jim Husband to the USA and the Futchet twins to Manchester City.

With the money received for Paul and Ron rebuilding began in earnest with firstly Mark Singlewood being prised from Newport then David Moss from Swindon for £110,000.

Bob Hatton came from relegated Blackpool for £50,000 and then just before the start of the season Chris Turner a commanding centre-half was secured for another six figure fee from Peterborough via New England Tea Men.

Pleat had also raided his old club, Nuneaton, and brought back Kirk Stephens for a small fee and then upset the chairman of Larne by "stealing" Mal Donaghy from behind his back for £20,000.

A curious crowd of 8043 came to Kenilworth Road for the first game of the season to see the Town field seven new players, a record. Visitors Oldham were not impressed and went in at the interval 1-0 up while the cynics in the crowd were wondering exactly what was new.

A transformed Town team, however, came out for the second half and scored an incredible six goals without reply to send even the cynics home happy.

This home win was the start of a tremendous "Indian summer" at Kenilworth Road for by October 21st when Notts County were beaten 6-0 to send the Town to 4th position in the Second Division 25 goals had been scored in six games.

Plummet

Away form, however, was poor and when inevitably home games were lost the Town began to plummet down the league table until in losing 3-1 at Brighton just before Christmas only three teams separated us from the relegation places.

The game against Brighton marked another turning point for the player of the season at that stage, Wil Fuccillo, had his leg broken following a reckless challenge by Albion's Paul Clark.

After a barren January when only one game was played because of bad weather February saw poor form continue culminating in the loss of David Moss who finally succumbed to a persistent groin strain.



• **David Moss:** One of the new arrivals.

The Towns luck at this stage of the season was summed up in the performances against West Ham. In the home game three late breakaway goals gave the Hammers an extremely flattering 4-1 win whilst at Upton Park an own goal by David Carr secured a rather fortuitous victory with the Hatters complaining about three genuine penalty appeals that were waved aside by the referee.

By now the Town were in a desperate position. Chris Turner never settled and went back to the USA, David Moss was playing again whilst not fully fit and the away form was abysmal.

With the season nearing its end the Towns survival hinged on a run of four games when in each an own goal was scored by the opposition enabling the team to secure points on the scramble away from the bottom.

After safety was gained in the penultimate game David Pleat spoke of his "many sleepless nights". He was not the only one as many of us worked into the small hours examining the League table and planning routes to Colchester and Gillingham.

Although finishing 18th no other team in the Division scored more than the Towns 46 home goals. Thank goodness for that Indian summer.



• **Bob Hatton:** Arrived from Blackpool.



• **Jim Husband:** Left to play in America.

FIRST TEAM

UPDATE

1987-88 SEASON

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
FINAL TABLE 1986-87

HOME	AWAY					APts
	W	P	D	L	F	
42 16 4 1 49 12	Everton	10	4	7	27	20 86
42 15 3 3 43 16	Liverpool	8	5	8	29	26 77
42 14 3 4 40 14	Tottenham Hotspur	7	5	9	28	29 71
42 12 5 4 31 12	Arsenal	8	5	8	27	23 70
42 9 10 2 27 20	Norwich City	8	7	6	29	31 69
42 11 5 5 32 22	Wimbledon	8	4	9	25	28 66
42 14 5 2 29 13	LUTON TOWN	4	7	10	18	32 66
42 12 8 1 36 14	Nottingham Forest	6	3	12	28	37 65
42 12 5 4 38 20	Watford	6	4	11	29	34 63
42 14 4 3 35 17	Coventry City	3	8	10	15	28 63
42 13 3 5 38 18	Manchester United	1	11	9	14	27 56
42 11 5 5 44 24	Southampton	3	5	13	25	44 52
42 9 7 5 39 24	Sheffield Wednesday	4	6	11	19	35 52
42 8 6 7 30 30	Chelsea	5	7	9	23	34 52
42 10 4 7 33 28	West Ham United	4	6	11	19	39 52
42 9 7 5 31 27	Queens Park Rangers	4	4	13	17	37 50
42 10 4 7 33 29	Newcastle United	2	7	12	14	36 47
42 8 8 5 30 25	Oxford United	3	5	13	14	44 46
42 7 7 7 26 22	Charlton Athletic	4	4	13	19	33 44
42 9 7 5 39 24	Leicester	2	2	17	15	52 42
42 8 6 7 28 24	Manchester City	0	9	12	8	33 39
42 7 7 7 25 25	Aston Villa	1	5	15	20	54 36

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS
(1986/87)

	League		FA Cup		League		FA Cup	
	Aps	Gs	Aps	Gs	Aps	Gs	Aps	Gs
Tim Breacker	29	1	4	-	Ricky McEvoy	(1)	-	-
Gary Cobb	2	-	-	-	Mike Newell	42	12	5
Andy Dibble	1	-	-	-	Peter Nicholas	42	1	5
Mal Donaghy	42	-	5	-	Marc North	2(3)	-	-
Steve Foster	28	2	5	-	Stacey North	14	-	-
Ashley Grimes	31	2	5	-	Emeka Nwajiobi	6	-	-
Mick Harford	18	4	5	3	David Preece	14	-	1
Richard Harvey	5	-	-	-	Brian Stein	38	14	5
Ricky Hill	30	2	5	-	Mark Stein	17(4)	8	-
Rob Johnson	34	-	5	-	Les Sealey	41	-	5
Darron McDonough	11(7)	1	(1)	-	Robert Wilson	17(5)	1	-

Luton Town F-A Att Pos 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Aug 15 Derby County	0-1	17204	-	Sealey	Breacker	Grimes	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D. Wilson	B. Stein	Harford	(R. Wilson)	(Preece)	M.N./D.M.
Aug 18 Coventry City	0-1	7506	-	Sealey	Breacker	Grimes	Hill	Foster	McDonough	D. Wilson	Harford	Newell	(R. Wilson)	D. Preece	Nwajiobi



• Top scorer: Brian Stein



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Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town

2

- 1 Les Sealey
- 2 Tim Breacker
- 3 Ashley Grimes
- 4 Ricky Hill
- 5 Steve Foster
- 6 Darron McDonough
- 7 Danny Wilson
- 8 Brian Stein
- 9 Mick Harford 11
- 10 Robert Wilson
- 11 David Preece
- Subs

West Ham

2

- 1 Tom McAlister
- 2 Ray Stewart
- 3 Tommy McQueen
- 4 Neil Orr
- 5 Alvin Martin
- 6 Alan Devonshire
- 7 Mark Ward
- 8 Frank McAvennie
- 9 Stewart Robson
- 10 Tony Cottee
- 11 Liam Brady
- Subs

Referee: J.E. MARTIN (Alton, Hants)

Linesmen: S. MILLIDGE (Red Flag) J. PARKER (Yellow Flag)



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