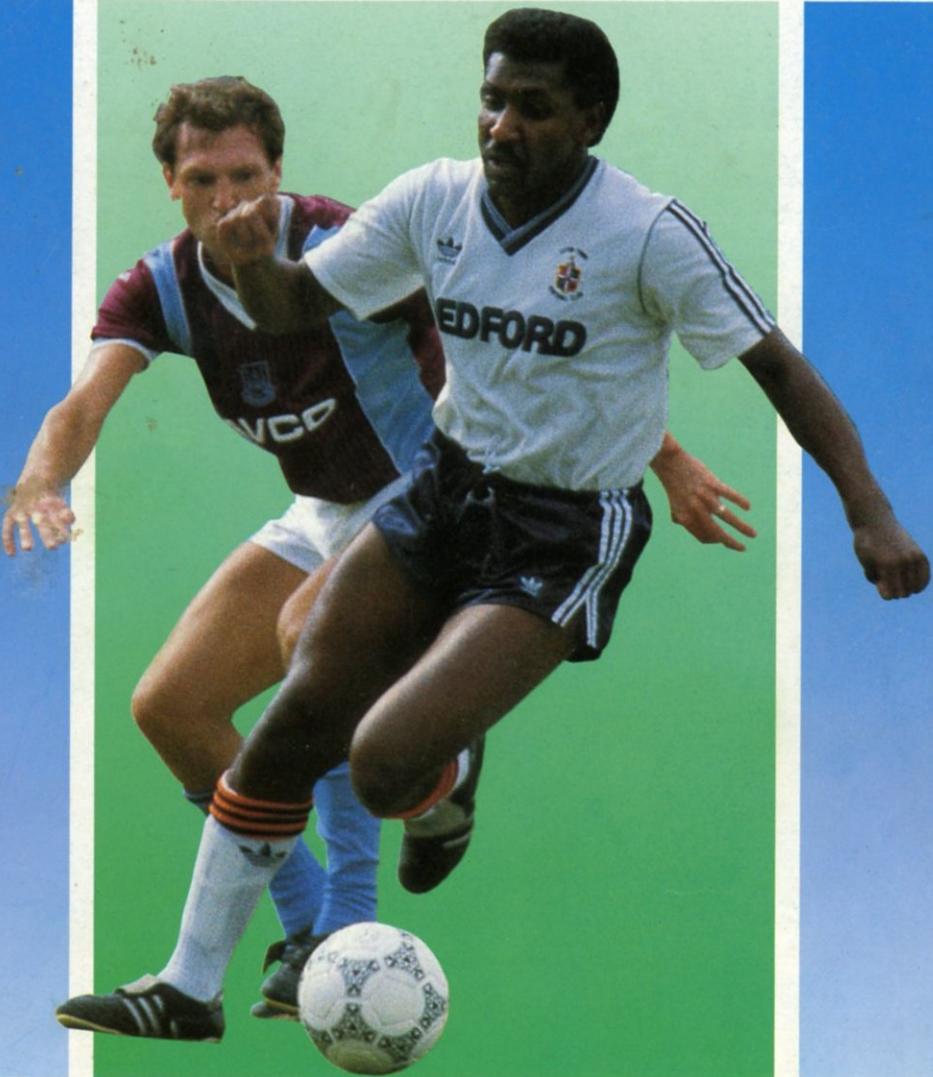


OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.00

Luton v Arsenal

BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



Monday, August 31st, 1987 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

This match is sponsored by: Televised Sport International Promotions Ltd.

ACTION

HAMMERS SHARE THE POINTS



• **On target:** David Preece fires in a shot during our 2-2 draw with West Ham.

INSIDE TODAY

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates
Pictures by: Apex Photography

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• **Air and ground:**
David Preece and
Mike Newell battle
for a way through.



REPLAY

ASTRA LEADS FROM BACKS TO FRONT.



BEDFORD 
TEAM ASTRA

Good luck to all from an established winner.

RAY'S REVIEW



Welcome to Arsenal. Like us they have made an indifferent start to the season in terms of points collected, but they are a big club and they try to play the game in the right spirit. Their manager George Graham is someone I admire and I am sure we shall have a very fine match today. We travelled to London for Saturday's game at Chelsea full of optimism despite our injury and selection problems. Our opening spell against West Ham was full of attractive, entertaining football.

In fact, I thought it was one of the best spells we have produced in my time with the club. We had a lot of shots on goal and were always looking to attack. We held the ball well and played with imagination. It was good stuff and I am sure the fans all felt we had our money's worth from both sides that day. I sincerely hope we were able to reproduce that sort of form at Stamford Bridge and will do so again today.

Injuries

Unfortunately, we have had some problems. Brian Stein has been out with a twisted knee, Darron McDonough has pulled a hamstring and Mick Harford is under suspension. We look forward to their returns and in the meantime are pleased to see Mal Donaghy back and available again. It is difficult to sustain a settled side with so many changes and, of course, difficult for the players to find their best form as a team.

I do not take much notice of league tables at this time of year and do not take them seriously until we have got at least 10 matches under our belt. Then you can see the way things are shaping up. I was very pleased against West Ham too by the way our supporters applauded all the good points in our play and West Ham's. It is good to play in front of a crowd which appreciates good passing football and gives the team plenty of support.

Ray Harford.

LUTON TOWN



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RUNNERS-UP - DIVISION 2 1973-74
CHAMPIONS - DIVISION 2 1981-82



Mailbag

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

Ton up Graham!

Dear Sir,
I have been a Luton supporter since I was 9, my first game being versus Sheffield Wednesday on Boxing Day 1972. I have seen Luton play on 42 League Grounds including Kenilworth Road.

The forthcoming fixture on August 29th against Chelsea will be my 100th consecutive first class first team game. It's a pity the following Arsenal match wasn't the 100th, as I would have liked the 'century' at home. The last game I missed was Newcastle Utd (A) on August 24th 1985. Tonight's game versus Coventry will be my 233rd consecutive home game. The one I missed was versus Mansfield Town on December 17th 1977 as I badly cut my hand and had to go to hospital for treatment.

Would it be possible to put a little note in the Arsenal programme on 31/8/87 to signify the 100th game. If not, perhaps later in the season when my 250th home game on the trot comes up.

Yours faithfully

Graham Martin Sheridan
Member number M.000006
37 Milton Road
Luton
Beds LU1 5JB

Hatters' Convert

Dear Sir,

I was once an avid Chelsea fan and I went to see them play at Stamford Bridge one day against Luton. It was then, that I first realised what a fantastic club you are. The football was tremendous, and the Town were far the better side on the day.

Chelsea always seemed to be a negative side whenever I watched them play. They would always lay back on a one goal advantage, while Luton would never do that. Their style is to attack. I only supported Chelsea because all my family did. It was after the game between Chelsea and Luton that I broke the family sequence.

After this, I began to watch Luton more frequently. I thought they were great, with players of the calibre of Ricky Hill, Brian Stein and Mal Donaghy. I became a staunch Luton supporter. I have supported them for two seasons now and I go to every home game and most away games. Even my Dad comes with me occasionally.

When you introduced the membership card system I thought it would result in a loss of fans and atmosphere, but I was wrong, the atmosphere is

as good as ever and more and more families are turning out to see Luton because of the home fans only policy. If they keep up their entertaining, skilful football, I can only see more and more people, like myself turning out to see 'the Town'!

Yours faithfully
N. Burrows (aged 15)

60 Hunter Drive
Bletchley
Milton Keynes MK2 3LR

P.S. I thank you for reading this letter and hope that it will be published in this Saturday's programme.



•Skilful: Mal Donaghy



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CHIT CHAT



Are footballers – both men and women – really lacking in brains – Emeka Nwajiobi's degree and Brian Stein's 'A' Levels notwithstanding? My reason for asking this is some of the things they shout during matches. "Hold it" is a classic. The player being shouted at usually has not even controlled the ball – let alone got into a position to hold it and even if he was he probably knows himself that's the best thing to do.

"Pass, pass" is another strange shout. Presumably it would be rare for a player not to pass – and, yes, I can remember Bruce Rioch's feat of collecting the ball from Tony Read, dribbling the entire field, and then scoring. But nowadays we have a passing game and most players on the ball are looking to get rid of it. That's not to say they always do so successfully. What's happened to the accurate short pass (it seems cross-field passes are easier) or, better still, a pass into space for a player to run on to?

A call that always confuses me is "man on". Who or what is this man on? Is it a weird form of piggy back or has the sub arrived? And – by the way – "man" is still "on" in the ladies' game! Perhaps, then, it is something to do with the referee. As he's the only man on the pitch in the ladies' game he must be the man "on". And judging by the players frequent failure to respond to each other's calls it's not just me who's confused!

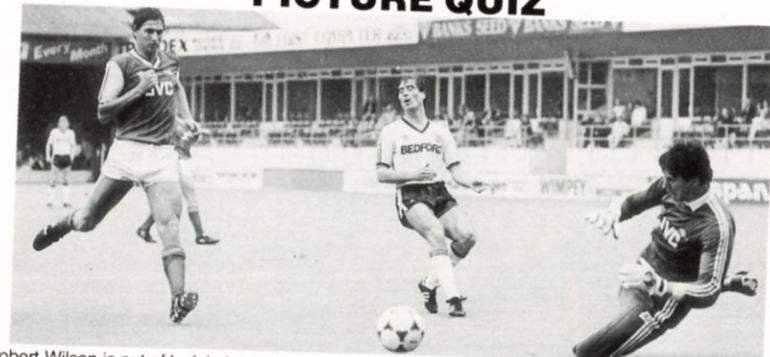
Would the game be better if they were all quiet except the director of affairs, the captain? Of course not. Football is a team sport and for teams to be successful they may play together and communicate with each other. Talking, or shouting, on the pitch is a necessary and vital form of communication. I only wish we could all sound more intelligent when we do it!

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



Robert Wilson is out of luck in last season's game against Arsenal. But you can be lucky and win a fiver in our quiz: Who scored the Town goals in the draw against Arsenal the previous season? 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 from today's game.

THURSDAYS 14p

TOP-CLASS THRILLER

Luton Town 2 West Ham Utd 2

After limp performances against Derby and Coventry, the Town recovered their best form in a scintillating match against West Ham here on August 22. Two goals by Mick Harford, one in each half, were worth at least a point, if not three, on his last outing before starting a two match ban for his harsh opening day dismissal at Derby.

With Brian Stein still absent through injury, Luton began with another reshaped line-up which featured Danny Wilson alongside Ricky Hill in the centre of midfield, Gary Cobb wide on the right – for the first half at least – and David Preece on the left. Mike Newell partnered Harford in attack.

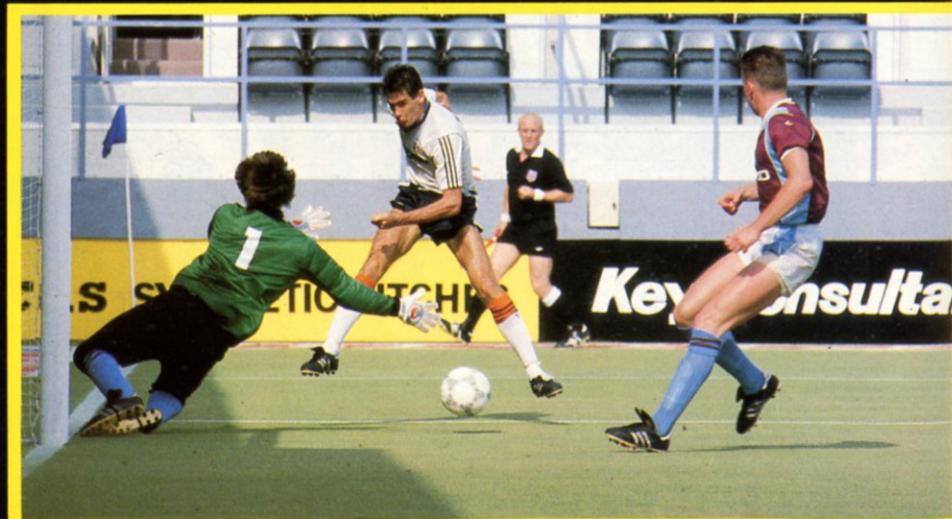
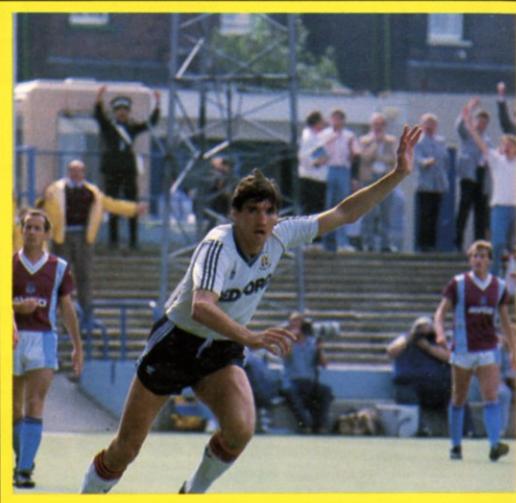
TREMENDOUS

Harford opened the scoring after five minutes with a tremendous far post header to a Tim Breacker cross and, for a while, the Town looked ready to rip the Hammers to shreds. But a deflected shot by Liam Brady brought them level after 19 minutes and a penalty, the second against luckless Darron McDonough in a week, after his foul on Tony Cottee, put them 2-1 ahead, Ray Stewart blasting home.

Harford's second goal came after 50 minutes. A Ricky Hill drive cannoned off the angle and from Mike Newell's cross, Harford slipped the ball in from close range to set up an end-to-end finale.

Teams: Luton – Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Hill, Foster, McDonough (sub. S. North 78), D. Wilson, Cobb, Harford, Newell, Preece.
West Ham – McAlister, Stewart, McQueen, Strodder, Martin, Brady, Ward, McAvinnie, Ince, Cottee, Robson.
Referee – J.E. Martin (Alton).

1st Team ACTION



• **Goalmouth thrills:**
Mick Harford celebrates,
Mike Newell shoots,
David Preece challenges
Liam Brady and Tim
Breacker bursts clear
during our entertaining 2-
2 draw with West Ham
here in our last home
match.
Pictures by Josh Levy of
Apex Photography.

FOOTBALL FOCUS

Jim Ryan

Town coach Jim Ryan is a dedicated student of the game and enjoys watching football played with style and expression at all levels. In Football Focus today, he reflects on the arrival in this country of the first Brazilian international signed by a league club:

Mirandinha Deal Deserves Success

"I have to say I really admire the enterprise of Newcastle United. Mirandinha will be the first Brazilian to play in our First Division and is of course a bit of a risk. You never know how a player is going to react.

"But in trying to sign a player with undoubtedly skills and flair, Newcastle deserve to be well supported and earn success. Foreign players always have so much to offer. And Newcastle have learnt themselves that it is always a good thing to have a very skilful and inspirational player in their team - like Kevin Keegan for example.

Settled

"It may take him a bit of time to get settled in, but he should be good for Newcastle and the game as a whole. Sometimes we get too stereotyped and that is not a good thing at all. I am sure Mirandinha will give Newcastle something different and should be a big attraction for all the fans.

"Whenever I have been involved with foreign players myself, I have found them to be very good to work with. Of course, they are reluctant at first and their feelings are different and strange. But after a while you get used to things and both begin to feed off each other.

"You only have to look at the list of foreign

players who have come to this country to appreciate the good they have done our game. I remember Alex Sabella at Sheffield United, Ricky Villa and Ossie Ardiles at Spurs, Johnny Metgod and so on. I think Nico Claesen is a very exciting player. They are all good for the English game.

"Brazil is the last real football country in the world we have been to sign players though and proves that at last we are taking the whole world seriously. But I don't know if we shall see lots of foreign signings in the future, including Brazilians.

Different

"Mirandinha is obviously going to be very different from the line of traditional British centre-forwards they have had at St James Park - including Malcolm Macdonald, Wyn Davies, and so on. He will be different, lay off, play in a different style and it could be a while before we see the best of him. He has to get used to the Newcastle players and they have to get used to him.

"I just hope he is a success for Newcastle's sake and the sake of the game which needs to have more flair and adventure and provide the unexpected. I am sure that is what the fans want to see. I hope Mirandinha can provide it for them."



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CLUB NEWS

BRIAN STEIN'S FIVES

The next major event in the calendar for Brian Stein's Benefit Year will be the 'Brian Stein's Fives' tournament at Kenilworth Road on Sunday, September 6th. More than 100 youth players from throughout the area will be taking part.

Admission is one pound by programme only at the Oak Road turnstile, kick-off at 10.00 am.

Also taking part are teams from the Chiltern Youth Football League and Royston and District Youth Football League.

Please come along and give the event your support.



•Benefit year: Brian Stein

THANK YOU

Mrs Elsie Bain, widow of John Bain, our former President who passed away last Spring, wishes to thank everyone for the kindness and the good wishes that she has received.

Mrs Bain continues to be an active supporter of the Club, which her husband served for so long.

Mr. Bain became a director of the club in 1967, he spent eight years on the board and became president in June 1985.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Football Combination
Saturday, September 5, 1987
Luton Town v Charlton Athletic
Kick-off 2 pm.

Barclays League Division One
Saturday, September 12, 1987
Luton Town v Everton
Kick-off 3 pm.

MATCH REFEREE

Ray Lewis
(Gt. Bookham,
Surrey)

An operations planning manager, Ray is married with a teenage daughter. He began refereeing in 1962 and progressed via the Isthmian League to the Football League list. He enjoys reading and playing bowls.

COVER STORY

Today's action picture on our front cover shows Ricky Hill in action during our 2-2 draw against West Ham. Barring injury, Ricky will be making his 450th senior appearance tonight.

Match Ball Sponsors



We welcome today as match ball sponsor Mr Reg Kitchener of Clarendon Hats. Reg is an avid Town fan and has supported the club for many seasons. We thank Reg for his continued support this season and hope he has an enjoyable afternoon.

HOTLINE Luton (0582)

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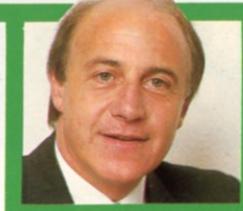
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by BILL TOMLINS

FIRST-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT IN THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST LEAGUE

The entertainment provided in our last home match against West Ham was almost universally declared to be first-class and for that all the players involved, and the managers, deserve all our thanks.

It was a terrific match and the team played with the style and skill we have become accustomed to at Kenilworth Road.

To sit in the ground, in safety and comfort, in our refurbished home, and to enjoy such a fine exhibition by both teams was good for the gut feeling of Luton Town supporters and all lovers of the game.

Headlines

The television, radio and newspaper reporters all obviously felt much the same way as they declared the game a near-classic in bold headlines. After our two previous performances, it was a terrific feeling. Well done, everyone.

The only small blot on the landscape was the partial failing of our electronic scoreboards, put up last season. When I read in our insurance documents about 'acts of God' I never thought that the clause would apply - we have literally been hit twice by lightning. I hope our sponsors of the scoreboards, Wallsman Bedrooms, understand the problem. Also our Oak Road

supporters, as only the board above their heads was operational.

It is a shame that the Kenilworth Road football arena should suffer that way. The lights have worked all summer covering our American Football matches. And, incidentally, the successful Luton Flyers and London Ravens may be playing their big semi-final play-off here soon if it can be arranged without disrupting our fixture list.

We hope the scoreboards will be working again today. I am pleased to say also that we hope too to see the building and fitting of a new SKF clock, with hands. The clock will be mounted on the wall of the Executive Boxes close to where the famous old SKF clock stood for so long.

We are pleased that such an international company as SKF, will be linked with Luton Town once more.

Sponsors

Finally a warm welcome to our match sponsors today who are Televised Sport International Promotions Ltd. Sharron and Harvey Sharpstone established their promotions business six years ago and have grown more successful each year. We hope their guests in the match day boxes today will have an enjoyable afternoon.

BUBBLY MICK



•Champagne winner: Mick Harford scored twice and was man of the match against West Ham. He is pictured with Bedford GM's Eric Fountain.

WINNING SMILES AT THE BETTING SHOP

•Having a flutter: Our betting shops, run by the staff of Worldsport Bookmakers Ltd, were opened at our last home match. They are believed to be the first such shops to be run inside a Football League ground.



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•Boost for our disabled fans: Our chairman David Evans performed the official opening of our new purpose-built area for disabled fans last week. He is pictured presenting our supporters with club scarves.



DISABLED AREA

•Official opening: Mr Evans, the club chairman, is pictured with Luton's Mayor, Cllr Mrs Pauline Wolsey, Eric Fountain of Bedford GM, Cllr Viv Dunnington and club chaplain Mervyn Terrett.



•Inside view: Mick Harford was priced 7-1 to score our first goal against the Hammers. These fans are pictured pondering a gamble.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



Nicko's rash

We have been working on reducing the numbers of 'Taffs' and 'Paddies' at the club recently! It was getting so you could have a choir in the dressing rooms and last week Mark Walton left for Colchester on loan and a few weeks earlier, of course, another Welshman, Peter Nicholas, left for Aberdeen.

Now we are down to about seven and nine respectively and it is not quite so bad. I see Peter Nicholas has made a great start in Scotland - scoring a goal and going top of the league with Aberdeen. He must have broken into a rash when he got into the penalty area! Seriously, though, he has done well - we knew he would and we wish him and Mark all the best.

Shots

Last week's match against West Ham was a good one to enjoy and I am sure we all did. We had a lot of shots and made a lot of chances. It was nice to get the appreciation of the crowd.

Today, we face Arsenal. I know we are in for a tough match - they all are in the First Division - and we could be up against Kevin Richardson, recently signed from Watford. I am sure we can do well if we get your support and play with confidence and skill. Enjoy the game.

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The Hatters **HAT TRICK** **WORLDSPORT**
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THE BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE
LUTON TOWN v ARSENAL

1 Name Today's Final Score

LUTON TO WIN	ARSENAL TO WIN	DRAW	ODDS	STAKE	SCORE	ODDS	STAKE
P	P	P	6/1	1-0	7/1	6/1	P
P	P	P	8/1	2-0	11/1	1-0	13/2
P	P	P	8/1	2-1	9/1	2-0	13/2
P	P	P	16/1	3-1	29/1	3-2	66/1
P	P	P	28/1	3-2	29/1	3-1	66/1
P	P	P	40/1	4-0	66/1	4-0	100/1
P	P	P	56/1	4-2	86/1	4-1	100/1

2 Who Will Score The First Goal Of The Match?

B Stein	3/1	P	R Wilson	14/1	C	P	Thomas	40/1	C
Nicholas	2/1	C	P Williams	16/1	C	P	Brescier	50/1	C
Newell	8/1	C	P D White	16/1	C	P	O'Leary	50/1	C
Smith	8/1	C	P Davis	20/1	C	P	McNamee	50/1	C
Groves	16/1	C	P Preece	20/1	C	P	No Goal Scored	6/1	C
Hayes	18/1	C	P Foster	22/1	C	P	OTHER PLAYERS NOT LISTED		C
Hill	12/1	C	P Caesar	25/1	C	P	PRICES ON APPLICATION		C
Nwajobi	12/1	C	P Adams	33/1	C	P	OWN GOALS DO NOT COUNT		C
M Stein	12/1	C	P Donaghy	40/1	C	P			C
Rocastle	14/1	C	P Grimes	40/1	C	P			C

3 IN TODAY'S TOP NINE MATCHES

Select the Total No. of goals Scored by Half Time

TODAY'S MATCHES		NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED BY HALF TIME	
Luton v Arsenal	1	P	1
Man Utd v West Ham	1	P	1
Portsmouth v Coventry	1	P	1
Sheff Wed v Coventry	2	P	2
Aston Villa v Man. City	2	P	2
Bournem th v Barnsley	2	P	2
Leeds v Birmingham	2	P	2
Oldham v Huddersfield	2	P	2
Swindon v Hull	3	P	3

Matches changed to morning or evening. X.O. counts as 1 goal

CLIENTS NAME	TOTAL STAKE	RETURNS
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PHOTO FILE



• Flashback: August 18, 1987. Coventry paraded their FA Cup winners and beat the Town 1-0 with a penalty. Ashley Grimes is pictured (top) and David Preece (below) Pictures by Josh Levy of Apex Photography.



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IN PROFILE.... **RICKY HILL**



•**Midfield maestro:** Ricky, centrally involved in the engine room this year, pictured in action against West Ham.

Another landmark for our midfield ace



•**Happy man:** Ricky Hill.

Close readers of this programme will already know from the statistics published in the Luton v Coventry programme that Ricky Hill is the longest-serving player on the Town's staff as well as the club's first full England international since the 1950's. Since joining in the days of Harry Haslam, more than 11 years ago, Ricky has clocked up a total of 450 appearances for the club - a figure he will reach tonight barring unexpected injury in the last six days.

"It has been a great club for me," he said after shining during the exciting 2-2 draw with West Ham. "I am very happy to have signed a new contract and settled my future after all the speculation at the end of last season and feel delighted to have the chance to be part of the new set-up with the new manager. I am sure we can do well again."

Although Ricky was linked with various other clubs during the close season, including Spain's famous Atletico Madrid, but finally chose to stay at his only club where he is a fine example to the youngsters. All in all, it was a hectic summer for Ricky who is now keen to make the most of his new central midfield role and help steer the Town towards another successful season.

RICKY HILL



HATTERS IN GEAR



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DRESSING ROOM TALK

with David Preece

Last season David Preece made only 15 full appearances in the Town's first-choice line-up. It was a big disappointment for the midfielder signed from Walsall in December 1984 as injuries constantly interrupted his bid to maintain a regular place in the First Division. Now fully-fit again, he is looking forward to another exciting season at Kenilworth Road, but with a realistic view of what the future may hold.

Rarin' to go

"I am feeling fit and well and really keen this year. Last season was a nothing season for me. I find it tough to be injured and out of the side and I couldn't get excited about the great run. I don't mean I didn't want the lads to do well – just that I find it difficult to enjoy watching matches I really wanted to be playing in.

"Anyway, the new season has come and I am back and enjoying it. I have a slightly different role too with a bit more space. The manager wants more goals from the midfield four this season and has encouraged us to go forward more.

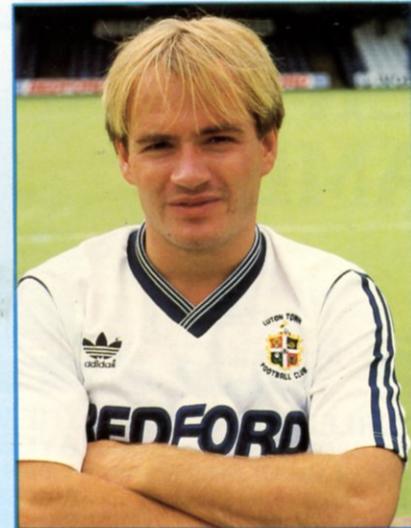
"That doesn't always mean I shall score more goals, but I will be trying to. I'm not really saying I'm a goal-scorer because I don't go in where it hurts often enough – I leave all that to Ricky and Danny! But I shall be popping up a bit more.

Dividends

"The new system we use is difficult to evaluate after only a few games, but I think it will pay dividends for us when everyone is fit. We have been without some really important international-class players – like Mal Donagh, Brian Stein and Mick Harford – and that is bound to make a difference.

"I mean, we played well at Derby with only 10 men and were unlucky to get nothing and were just out of luck completely against Coventry. Then against West Ham, when we played well, they played well too and although we felt we should have won and taken all three points it could also have ended 5-5. Maybe with a full squad, some of the results might have been different.

"I re-signed on a two-year contract with the club and was very happy to sign. The club has got great players and a good chance of doing very well when everyone is



• Hunting goals: David Preece.

fit. The only trouble is the small squad. We really do have to take each match as it comes.

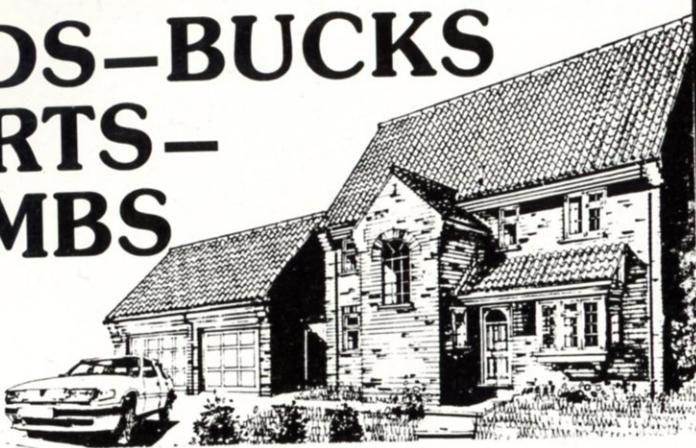
"I mean, Liverpool, for example, have allowed their standards to drop and are beatable, but still no-one can catch them up – it is much more even altogether and everyone has a chance. At least six or seven different teams could win the league.

Opportunities

"People often talk about the levelling out and a lot of it is due to players going abroad. I say good luck to them because football offers only a short life to the players and they have to take their chances. Of course, no-one wants to see good players leaving their own team or club but if they have an opportunity, they must be allowed to take it.

"Everything happens so quickly it is difficult to keep up sometimes with all the changes. You never know what lies around the corner... It makes sense to take good offers when they come along. And that is why I am happy to stay at Kenilworth Road. I think we have an excellent chance to challenge at the top again – especially if we have a kind run without injuries. But then, only time can tell."

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

For Your Diary

Barclays League

Our next First Division fixture is this Saturday, September 5th, when we play Oxford United at the Manor Ground.

The following Saturday, September 12th, we are at home to Everton.

And on September 19th, we travel to Selhurst Park, where we play Charlton Athletic. In each case, kick-off is 3.00 pm.

For all your ticket information please call our Ticket Office on Luton 30748 or (24-hour-service) Luton 423293/4. Our ticket supervisor is Cherry Newberry.

Remember, Everton is a Star Match. Don't forget to keep the Star Match Voucher at the bottom of this page, to save £2 on admission.

TICKET OFFICE



•Ticket Supervisor: Cherry Newberry is Luton Town FC Ticket Supervisor, following in the footsteps of Bev Tyler who has taken over as the Souvenir Shop manager. The Ticket Office is at the top of Kenilworth Road (telephone Luton 30748 or 423293/4) and the Souvenir Shop is on the corner of Oak Road (telephone Luton 412418).

Football Combination

Next Saturday September 5th, the Reserves are at home to Charlton Athletic, who finished midway up the Combination Table last season.

On Wednesday, September 9th, they are away to Oxford United with whom we always have enjoyable and entertaining tussles.

On September 12th they are away to Arsenal who always field a very strong reserve side. Last season, the reserves enjoyed a spectacular 2-1 win at Highbury and they will be keen to repeat that feat.

All the matches kick-off at 2 pm. Please come along and give the youngsters your support.

HALF PRICE BUS FARES

From today, Luton Town FC supporters can take advantage of an exclusive new arrangement between ourselves and Luton and District Transport.

On matchdays, membership card holders and holders of matchday tickets will be able to travel to and from the match for half the price of the normal stage fares, on all Luton and District buses. This does not apply to senior citizens who already have their own reductions.

Planned for the future are further special services to tie in with Luton Town FC supporters Pubs and Clubs agencies in outlying areas.

Forty pubs have already linked up with Luton Town to bring groups of supporters to matches at special rates. If you fancy watching Luton with the lads from the local and saving money – ask your landlord to contact Colin Moore on Luton 411622.

Another way to save money is to travel here by train. Saturday parking is free at most Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire stations on the Bedford to St Pancras line.

And, from Bedford, you can save £1.05p on the return fare by buying a British Rail Network Card.

Sample Network card fares are: Return from Bedford £2.05, from Flitwick £1.15, from Harpenden 80p, and from St Albans £1.20.

Of course, the £10 annual network card also provides cheaper travel throughout the South East.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

On Tuesday, the Juniors are away to Birmingham City in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, kick-off 7.30 pm. We won this trophy in tremendous style last season, beating Chelsea convincingly in the Final – so this will be our first defence.

Next Saturday, September 5th, they are away to Brighton, kick-off 11 am.

The next home fixture is on Saturday, September 12th when the visitors are Bristol City. Kick-off 11 am at the Renault Dodge Sports Ground, Houghton Regis.

STAR MATCH VOUCHER
Exchange for £2 discount on any Star Match ticket,
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does not apply to juniors or senior citizens.
VOUCHER NO. 3



CLUB COMMENT

John Smith, Chief Executive THE CUP COMPETITIONS – WHERE WE STAND

Much has been written in the course of the last 12 months about our club's position in regard to the two major English cup competitions. I felt it was correct to put the up-to-date position forward to our members so far as Luton Town are concerned with the F.A. Cup and the Littlewoods Cup.

In the F.A. Cup, we are not permitted to play at home on our synthetic pitch. If we are drawn at home, then of course we shall have to play either on a neutral ground or away from home. Under the Football Association regulations, we are not allowed any appeal against this. There is no procedure. We have, therefore, taken the matter to court.

It is likely that our case will be heard in November. If we are successful, then we may be able to play our F.A. Cup ties at home, if drawn at home. Of course, the F.A. might appeal again. Or the F.A. might win. So, the position will remain unclear until the case is resolved on way or the other.

It does seem that it would be sensible if a moratorium could be brought in for this season at least until all is sorted out. The Football League have agreed to just such a moratorium until 1990-1991 to allow the use of synthetic pitches to continue and be studied properly.

As to the Littlewoods Cup, we shall be playing in this competition. If we are drawn at home, we shall be allowing visiting supporters into the ground. We did request the Littlewoods Cup committee to assist us in the matters of safety by restricting entrance to our own members, but they did not agree to do so. Therefore, if there are any crowd problems at the Littlewoods Cup games, we shall hold them responsible.

If we are drawn at home, we shall seek the cooperation of the visiting club in not asking for tickets. However, if they make a claim for their full allocation of 25 per cent of the accommodation, it will be extremely difficult for us to comply with the request and, in such circumstances, we may have to play elsewhere. We plan to accommodate visiting supporters in the K1 section of the Kenilworth terrace.

On the whole point of playing on neutral grounds, I have to feel concern about possible crowd disorder. There are three sets of supporters to consider and one only has to recall the incidents at certain F.A. Cup ties last season on neutral grounds to see what sort of problems there could be.



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RESERVE



•Two for Ricky: Midfielder Ricky McEvoy scored twice at Reading.

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
Portsmouth	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	3-1	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 4	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 mark: David Oldfield scored for the reserves at Reading.

COACHES' CORNER



RESERVES ROMP TO FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON

After making a winning start at Crystal Palace, the Town youth team suffered their first defeat when they were beaten 2-1 by Tottenham on August 22. On the same day, however, our young reserves side – featuring six youth team players – came back from Reading as 3-1 victors, Ricky McEvoy scoring twice and David Oldfield once.

"We played very well. We were well on top and should really have scored more goals," said a delighted Jim Ryan after the reserves side had returned to Kenilworth Road. "We had such a young team out, but they all played tremendously well and we were deserved winners."

The Town reserve side at Reading was: Andy Dibble, Neil Poutch, Mark Penbridge, Ian Scott, Julian James, Marvin Johnson, Ricky McEvoy, Aaron Tighe, David Oldfield, Paul Gray, Jason Rees and Darron McLean.

Aiming for goals

Having enjoyed a high-scoring season last year, when they had a regular sprinkling of experienced players, the reserves are confident of having a crack at another big total in the goals for column.

The youth team, who begin their defence of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup shortly (see Box Office Information for details) have begun the season in reasonably confident form and after three matches have won once, drawn once and lost once. They have scored four and conceded four.

The youth team line-up at Tottenham was: Edworthy, Shanley, Hughes, O'Brien, Allpress, Husband, McGonagle, O'Sullivan, Nogan, Crawshaw, O'Sullivan, Brown, Rothwell. A. O'Sullivan scored the goal.

RESERVES & YOUTH

INTRODUCING...

ARSENAL

Arsenal arrive at Kenilworth Road this afternoon following a relatively unimpressive start to the season before their fixture against Portsmouth at Highbury on Saturday and, like the Town, were left with only one point from their opening three games.

Last season, the Gunners finished fourth in the First Division, but since then manager George Graham – whose first term was marked with a Littlewoods Cup triumph over Liverpool at Wembley – has added striker Alan Smith and left-back Nigel Winterburn to his squad from Leicester City and Wimbledon respectively.

"Nigel knows that Kenny Sansom is our regular left-back and England's number one. He's accepted the position and he's ready to fight for his place. That's the sort of competition I want throughout the squad," said Graham, who last week added Watford's Kevin Richardson to his squad.

Last season's results were a 0-0 draw at Kenilworth Road and a 3-0 Arsenal win at Highbury.

Players likely to be on duty today:

John Lukic – John took over from Pat Jennings two years ago and has since settled down to become the established first-

choice goalkeeper at Highbury. He joined Arsenal from Leeds United in the summer of 1983. Born Chesterfield.

Kenny Sansom – One of the finest attacking left-backs in the First Division, Kenny is the Arsenal captain and proved his position among the world's leading defenders with his England performances during the World Cup finals in Mexico.

Michael Thomas – Michael has taken over from Viv Anderson at right-back. An England Youth cap with pace, skill and big ambitions.

David O'Leary – Arsenal's longest serving player, stopper David is an Eire international and former captain of the Gunners. His experience will be an asset to them this afternoon.

Tony Adams – Essex-born Tony made his debut as a 17-year-old against Sunderland in November 1983 and is now in as first-choice alongside O'Leary. An England under-21 star, he has a big future.

David Rocastle – A promising young midfielder with thrilling speed and great all-round skills, David forced his way into the Arsenal side while still only 19 and is now a regular.



Standing left to right: John Lukic, Perry Groves, Paul Merson, Martin Hayes, Alan Smith, Niall Quinn, Tony Adams, Steve Williams, Nigel Winterburn, Rhys Wilmot. Seated left to right: Theo Foley (Assistant Manager), Michael Thomas, Graham Rix, David O'Leary, Charlie Nicholas, George Graham (Manager), Paul Davis, Kenny Sansom, David Rocastle, Gus Caesar, Gary Lewin (physiotherapist).



George Graham – A member of the famous Arsenal double team of 1970-1971, George was known as stroller for his elegant and educated style of play. But as Arsenal manager now, after a spell at Millwall, he has instilled energy and discipline and last season led them to Wembley and a Littlewoods Cup triumph against Liverpool. He succeeded Don Howe in the hot seat at Highbury when Howe resigned in 1986. Determined and eloquent, he is building up a strong squad and hopes to see Arsenal bidding for the league title this term.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY BRIAN STEIN

BACK IN TRAINING AND RARING TO GO

They were two good goals Mick Harford scored last week! But it was a pity that we only managed to get one point against West Ham and not three.

Some of the players have been on the treatment table this week with some injuries. I have been out with a knee strain. It is coming along nicely now as I am back training and looking forward to being back in the first team.

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership

number is A050385. The winning member should contact Bev Tyler in the Sports Shop at Oak Road with his or her membership card for two free tickets to one of our home games.

Today we welcome Arsenal to Kenilworth Road. They have had a few changes in their team this season, as they sold Viv Anderson to Manchester United in the close season.

Have a good time and I will see you all at our next home game when we play Everton.

ESCORTS



Kenneth Greensmith



John English

MASCOT



Andrew Dudbridge

ESCORTS



Roy Ayles



Michael Ellis

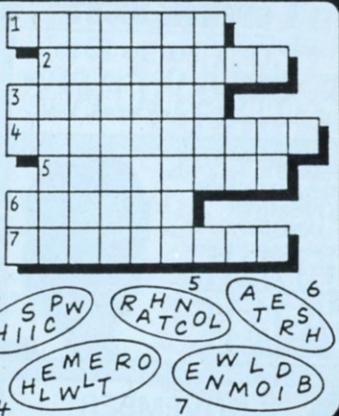
KENILWORTH THE CAT



QUIZ TIME

STAR IS BORN!

SORT OUT THE SEVEN TEAMS AND PUT THEM INTO THEIR CORRECT PLACES. YOU WILL THEN FIND THE BIRTHPLACE OF FORMER ENGLAND STAR, JIMMY GREAVES, READING DOWN.



For the answer to this puzzle, see the programme for our next home game.

WARNING TV SURVEILLANCE

This ground is equipped with

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

Installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust.

It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police.

Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

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CAESARS PALACE

Views from the media

TWO GOAL MICK GRABS THE GLORY

The fine entertainment provided during our 2-2 draw against West Ham produced much praise in the national newspapers with striker Mick Harford grabbing most of the headlines for his two goals before starting a two-match suspension. Here is a selection of the comments from the national media:

Mail on Sunday: "Mick Harford, sent off at Derby last week, yesterday applied his physical prowess in far more acceptable fashion with two typically opportunist goals. Luton marginally deserved to win ... The draw leaves both sides still searching for their first victory. Yet, on this evidence, neither deserve to struggle for long. Luton boss Ray Harford said - 'We were probably too cavalier. And my back four complain because they don't get enough protection. But I believe in playing that way, even if we make mistakes."

Vibrant form

Sunday Telegraph: "Striker Mick Harford scored twice to earn Luton their first point of the new season at Kenilworth Road. Harford who now starts a two-match ban, was in vibrant form and scored in each half. Luton began with urgent enthusiasm and Harford put them ahead after five minutes. Brecker's deep cross was met by Harford's head."

The Sun: "Steve Foster reflected on the battle of the strikers and then pronounced Mick Harford a clear-cut winner. Luton centre-half Foster said: 'If Frank McAvinnie is valued at £1.5 million, then Harford should fetch at least £3.5 million."

The Star: "A soaring far-post header and then an opportunist tap-in after Ricky Hill hit the woodwork earned Harford a bottle of bubbly as Luton's man of the match."



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LUTON TOWN Golden Oldies

PAUL FUTCHER - AND A YEAR OF STRUGGLE, SWEAT AND TEARS

The summer of 1974 was a good time to be a Luton Town supporter. In winning promotion the previous season the Town had become the first side to go from the First Division to the Fourth and back again - and in only 14 years to boot!

Manager Harry Haslam's pre-season signings included Paul Futcher from Chester for £100,000, closely followed by his twin brother Ron for a nominal fee. We all regarded it as a silly amount to pay for a teenager but Haslam was, of course, proved right in his judgement, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Overshadowing this transfer however was Secretary Bob Readhead's flight to Australia to sign World Cup star Adrian Alston. This long-distance trip took the public's imagination and guaranteed plenty of headlines for the Hatters as they embarked on what was to be a momentous season.

Butlin opener

The first game could not have been better stage-managed for then, as now, Liverpool were the team you had to beat if you expected to win anything and although the Town scored first through Barry Butlin, the 21,062 crowd was silenced as the Red know-how won through on the day 2-1.

The First division was proving tough, for after seven games the Town had yet to win and a 4-1 home defeat by Ipswich on September 14th was perhaps even more comprehensive than the scoreline suggested.

The long awaited first win came in game 10 when Carlisle were beaten 3-1 at Kenilworth Road, but the victory was soured by the news that leading scorer Butlin had been transferred to Second Division Nottingham Forest for £120,000.

It was soon revealed in a Sunday newspaper that Butlin wanted to move while at the same time Haslam was aware that Ron Futcher would eventually prove to be a bigger crowd favourite.

Haslam was obviously keeping his cards close to his chest as a run of eleven games which produced only two points left the Town hopelessly adrift at the bottom of the table as Christmas approached.

Rejuvenated

With exactly half the season gone, future champions Derby visited Kenilworth Road and were surprisingly beaten by a suddenly rejuvenated Town. The only goal came when mid-season signing Peter Spring was brought down in the penalty area, breaking his toe in the process. Current Town coach Jim Ryan stepped up to give Luton a morale-boosting victory.



• **A hand up:** Jim Ryan helps a one time Arsenal goalkeeper to his feet - Bob Wilson.

Spring's replacement in the following game was Ron Futcher who joined his brother, a veteran with three games under his belt, in a highly improbable win at League leaders Ipswich. In true "Roy of the Rovers" style Ron scored the winner with the seconds ticking away in a game that the home side should have won at a canter.

Two days later a crowd of 19,642 came to Kenilworth Road partly to look at the Futchers and partly to see if the Town's luck had really turned. Visitors Wolves were taken apart as Ron Futcher scored a hat-trick in a memorable 3-2 win which took Luton off the bottom of the table for the first time in two months.

Confidence came flooding back personified by the slightly indisciplined play of Paul Futcher whose party piece was to juggle the ball in his own penalty area facing the goalkeeper the, when attackers converged, he would flick the ball over his head and play an inch perfect pass to his brother.

Three straight defeats in early March proved a setback and when mighty Leeds visited Kenilworth Road on March 22nd, the Town were still in one of the relegation positions. Leeds were seen off in a thrilling encounter and when Arsenal were literally destroyed at home three days later hopes were running high.

Easter crash

Unfortunately, Easter, so often a problem period for Luton teams over the years, saw three away defeats. Roger Davies of Derby scored all his side's five goals at the Baseball Ground, in a terrible Town performance, but worse was to come as Wolves won 5-2 at Molineux.

The third reverse turned out to be a make-or-break game at struggling Tottenham who won with a late goal scored by Alfie Conn who was so blatantly offside that Paul Futcher was sent off for arguing and it appeared at one stage that the whole Town team were about to walk off in protest.

Surprisingly, three straight wins followed but it was rather too late as Tottenham gained an improbable 4-2 win over Leeds in the last match to send the Town, Chelsea and Carlisle into Division Two.

It was therefore a season of two halves for if the Town had performed in the first half of the season as they did in the second they would have finished sixth and perhaps qualified for Europe!



• **Painful clash:** Barry Butlin goes in to challenge Oxford goalkeeper Roy Burton in 1974.



• **Diving to it:** Ron Futcher in the thick of the mud against Coventry in 1975.

FIRST TEAM

UPDANE

1987-88 SEASON

BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1987-88

HOME					AWAY						
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	APs	
3	1	1	0	3	1	Queens Park Rangers	1	0	0	3	0
3	1	1	0	1	0	Nottingham Forest	1	0	0	2	1
3	1	0	0	2	1	Chelsea	1	0	1	3	1
3	2	0	0	4	1	Tottenham Hotspur	0	0	1	1	2
3	1	0	0	2	1	Coventry City	1	0	1	2	3
3	1	0	0	4	2	Oxford United	0	2	0	2	2
3	1	1	0	2	0	Manchester United	0	1	0	2	2
3	0	1	0	2	2	Southampton	1	1	0	3	2
3	1	0	0	1	0	Everton	0	2	0	1	1
2	1	0	0	1	0	Derby County	0	1	0	1	4
1	0	0	0	0	0	Liverpool	1	0	0	2	1
3	1	0	1	3	2	Norwich City	0	0	1	0	1
2	0	0	0	0	0	Newcastle United	1	0	1	2	3
3	1	0	0	1	0	Watford	0	0	2	0	3
3	0	2	0	2	2	Wimbledon	0	0	1	0	1
3	0	1	1	2	3	LUTON TOWN	0	0	1	1	0
3	0	1	1	1	2	Sheffield Wednesday	0	0	1	1	2
2	0	0	1	0	3	West Ham United	0	1	0	2	2
3	0	0	1	1	2	Arsenal	0	1	1	0	2
3	0	1	1	1	2	Portsmouth	0	0	1	2	4
1	0	0	1	1	2	Charlton Athletic	0	0	0	0	0

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1987/88)

League		FA Cup		League		FA Cup	
Aps	Gls	Aps	Gls	Aps	Gls	Aps	Gls
Tim Breacker	3	-	-	Mike Newell	2	-	-
Gary Cobb	1	-	-	Stacey North	(1)	-	-
Mal Donaghy	1	-	-	Emeka Nwajiobi	(1)	-	-
Steve Foster	3	-	-	David Preece	3	-	-
Ashley Grimes	3	-	-	Brian Stein	1	-	-
Mick Harford	3	2	-	Les Sealey	3	-	-
Ricky Hill	3	-	-	Danny Wilson	3	-	-
Darron McDonough	2(1)	-	-	Robert Wilson	2	-	-

• Two against
the Hammers:
Mick Harford



Luton Town

F-A Att Pos 1

Aug 15	Derby County	0-1	17204	-	Sealey
Aug 18	Coventry City	0-1	7506	-	Sealey
Aug 22	West Ham United	2-2	8073	16	Sealey

Aug 29	Chelsea				
Aug 31	Arsenal				
Sept 5	Oxford United				
Sept 12	Everton				
Sept 19	Charlton Athletic				

Sept 26	Queens Park Rangers				
Oct 3	Manchester United				
Oct 10	Portsmouth				
Oct 17	Wimbledon				
Oct 24	Liverpool				

Nov 7	Newcastle United				
Nov 14	Sheffield Wednesday				
Nov 21	Tottenham Hotspur				
Nov 28	Nottingham Forest				
Dec 5	Norwich City				

Dec 12	Watford				
Dec 18	Southampton				
Dec 26	Everton				
Dec 28	Charlton Athletic				
Jan 1	Chelsea				

Jan 2	West Ham United				
Jan 9	FA Cup Round 3				
Jan 16	Derby County				
Jan 23	Coventry City				
Jan 30	FA Cup Round 4				

Feb 6	Oxford United				
Feb 13	Arsenal				
Feb 20	Q. Park Rangers (FAC 5)				
Feb 27	Manchester United				
Mar 5	Wimbledon				

Mar 12	Portsmouth (FAC 6)				
Mar 26	Liverpool				
Apr 2	Newcastle United				
Apr 4	Sheffield Wednesday				
Apr 9	Tottenham Hotspur (FAs/C)				

Apr 23	Nottingham Forest				
Apr 30	Nottingham City				
May 2	Watford				
May 7	Southampton				
May 14	FA Cup Final				

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Breacker Breacker Breacker Grimes Grimes Hill Foster Foster Donaghy D. Wilson B. Stein Harford (R. Wilson) (Preece) (M.N.D.M. Nwajioibi S. North

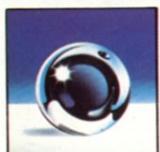
EYES UP AND HOLD ON!



• A handful of trouble: Mark Stein, his arm firmly held in place, is pictured in action during our pre-season friendly at Edgware.

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Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town

1	Les Sealey
2	Tim Breacker
3	Ashley Grimes
4	Ricky Hill
5	Steve Foster
6	Mal Donaghay
7	Danny Wilson
8	Brian Stein
9	Mike Newell
10	Gary Cobb
11	David Preece
Subs	

Arsenal

1	John Lukic
2	Michael Thomas
3	Kenny Sansom
4	Steve Williams
5	David O'Leary
6	Tony Adams
7	David Rocastle
8	Paul Davis
9	Alan Smith
10	Charlie Nicholas
11	Martin Hayes
Subs	

Referee: R.S. LEWIS (Gt. Bookham, Surrey)

Linesmen: D.J. GALLACHER (Red Flag) R.W. PELLANT (Yellow Flag)



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