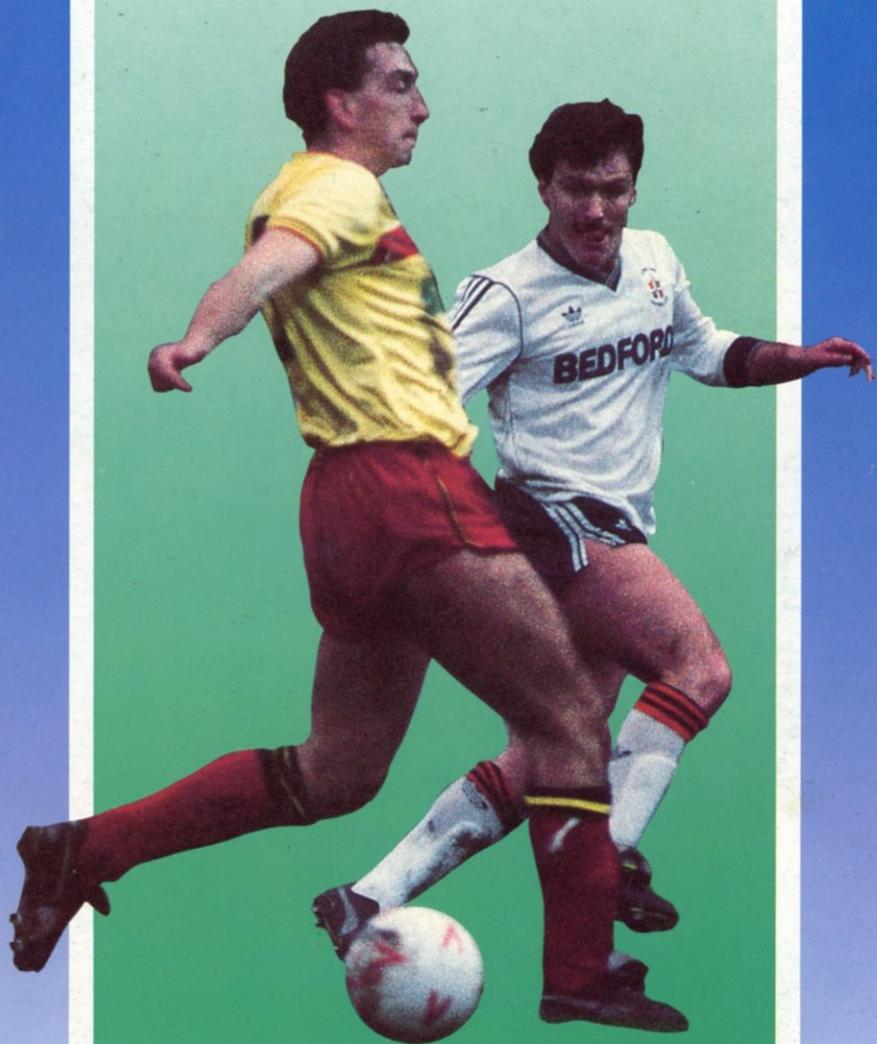


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# LUTON TOWN

This match is in aid of our Local Children's Homes



● **On the move:** Danny Wilson evades Peter Reid during our 2-1 win over Everton last September.

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates  
Pictures by: Apex Photography

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● **Tight tussles:**  
Brian Stein (top) and Ricky Hill (bottom) in action against the champions. The Town were hoping for a 'double' on Boxing Day.



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# RAY'S REVIEW



Welcome to Charlton Athletic, a club for which I shall always hold a special affection, but from whom we hope to take three points this afternoon. Charlton was my first club as a young professional. I spent five years at Charlton from arriving as a 15-year-old schoolboy to playing my first Football League games. I made my debut for Charlton in a Football League match against Manchester City. I played left-back against them when they had the team containing Mike Summerbee, Francis Lee, Colin Bell and Co which went on to win the Second Division title that season. It was a great start to my playing career!

### Looking forward

That, however, remains past history now as we look forward to this afternoon's Christmas clash, and hopefully, a result to launch us into the New Year in the right spirits. I write, as you probably know, long before we can even begin thinking about the team for Boxing Day's match at Everton, let alone the match here today. It is always a busy time of year for everyone in the professional game and, after all these years, I must say my own family has grown used to it.

We have enjoyed our football during the first half of this season and I hope we shall continue to enjoy it in 1988. A happy football team will play happy football. I started out this season trying to get more away wins than last year as one target and to score more goals as the other. Last year we only won four away games, but this season, including our three Littlewoods Cup ties, we have already won six. And I think we are attacking a little more freely.

I hope our supporters are enjoying it. And I wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year. Enjoy the match and give the lads your support.

*Ray Harford*

## LUTON TOWN



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# Mailbag

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

## ODE TO THE "HATTERS"

Luton are the team to watch... To watch in 88' They're gonna' wipe the board you know They're gonna' clear the slate.

With **Les** (the loud one!) at the back And the form he's hit just now He's not letting much go past him Though some we wonder how!!

Then there's **Breacker** and **Grimes** - Double trouble Running up and down the wing With Ashley's tackles and Timmies speed it's enough to make any crowd sing.

**Ricky Hill** needs no introduction Let's just say he's one of a kind But we mustn't forget our **Dazmo** Who stands in just as well you will find.

**Fozzie** well he's just a fridge! Take him on and in trouble you'll land "Rambo" we call him because of his build And, of course that dazzling head band.

**Mal** he's just class through and through Consistent every day His hearts in the game, his souls in the team And his boots in the oppositions way!

**Danny Wilson's** just as mad as they come His game is furious and quick He'll take on the best, and leave all the rest To hang up their boots feeling sick!

Aha! the anchor man **Bruno** himself Our number eight **Mr Stein** He doesn't mess about on the field Up front is where he'll be seen.

**Harford**, well I must confess Is my favourite with all his style So hear my plea, and listen to me When I beg you to stay a long while!

**Micky Weir** is our golden boy He scored on his debut - that's flash Players keep out of his way When for the ball he makes a dash



•Rambo: Steve Foster.

**Mark Stein** - a star of the future Nimble and Quick our strike Ace But be careful Mark when you leave your mark On someone else's face!!

**Allinson** the hero of late Three goals to his credit so far We hope you will stay for many a day And for the Tottenham Two - Ta!!

**Meka**, well we love your play You personalise a game With your little touches here and there The pitch becomes signed with your name.

There's lots I haven't listed **Preece, Johnson** and the ones young of age You don't go forgotten you know I've just run out of page!!

But just before I sign this off A note to our main man **Ray Coz'** without your dedication and management We'd have a terrible Saturday

So thanks to all at Luton For wiping away early fears Please try to hang on to big **Mick** And I'll be a true fan for years.

THANKS.....and good luck for the rest of the season!

Lynne Sharpe (Miss)  
Old School House, Hockliffe,  
Leighton Buzzard,  
Beds.

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# CHIT CHAT



## My Xmas gifts!

I hope all of you reading this had an enjoyable Christmas and Santa Claus brought you just what you wanted. Giving gifts is an important part of this time of year and I've been thinking about the presents I might give people at the club if I could.

The diminutive Rob Johnson would receive a hat like the one sported by Luton fan Mitchell Thomas at our recent match against Watford. He could do with the height! To our impressive keeper Les Sealey I would give a volume control for his voice-box. I realise his players need to hear his calls but I don't think people in Dunstable need to know his instructions as well.

Our Captain would receive a year's supply of headbands with coloured trim; orange and navy for Luton and red and blue for his England re-call. David Preece would receive a video on how to play football. The poor man's been injured so long that he must have forgotten by now. The video would be wrapped in all my sympathy. Whilst on the subject of injured players, I'd give Mick Harford knee protectors, a cross between shin pads and a cricketer's box, and hope

they'd make his luck change, as well as protecting him from further injury.

I'd give Micky Weir the confidence to trust his own ability so he doesn't feel he has to rush around like a mad thing and can occasionally stand on the ball. Luton supporters would receive two gifts; tea and coffee that is both hot and tastes of what it's supposed to be, for their half-time refreshments; and entertaining football where passing is appreciated.

The Chairman would receive sympathy from the football authorities for his experiments in crowd control here at Kenilworth Road, and his other innovations. My Christmas present list wouldn't be complete, as regular readers of this column know, without a gift for Ricky Hill. It would have to be a new hair-do; as his hair's grown he's lost his matinee idol looks

And for myself? a new picture to head this column - one that is up-to-date and actually looks like me!

**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



• Ouch... that hurt. A moment from our game against Charlton earlier this season. We lost, but it was a special day for one Town player in the picture. To win a fiver in our free fun quiz, who? - And why? 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**

## HORNETS STUNG

### Watford 0 Luton Town 1

A majestic first half header from captain Steve Foster, his first goal of the season, earned the Town all three points when they travelled to Vicarage Road on December 12. Foster scored when he timed his run perfectly to score with ease from Danny Wilson's free kick. It was a well-rehearsed set piece goal and it left the Watford defence in tatters.

Earlier, the Town were unlucky not to have gone ahead when Ian Allinson powered in a shot which rebounded off the bar and appeared to cross the line. The Town refused to allow the disappointment to upset their game however and produced a cool and controlled performance.

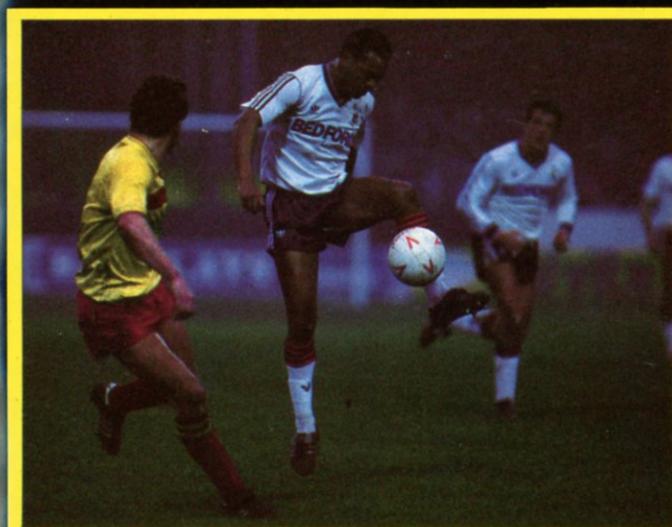
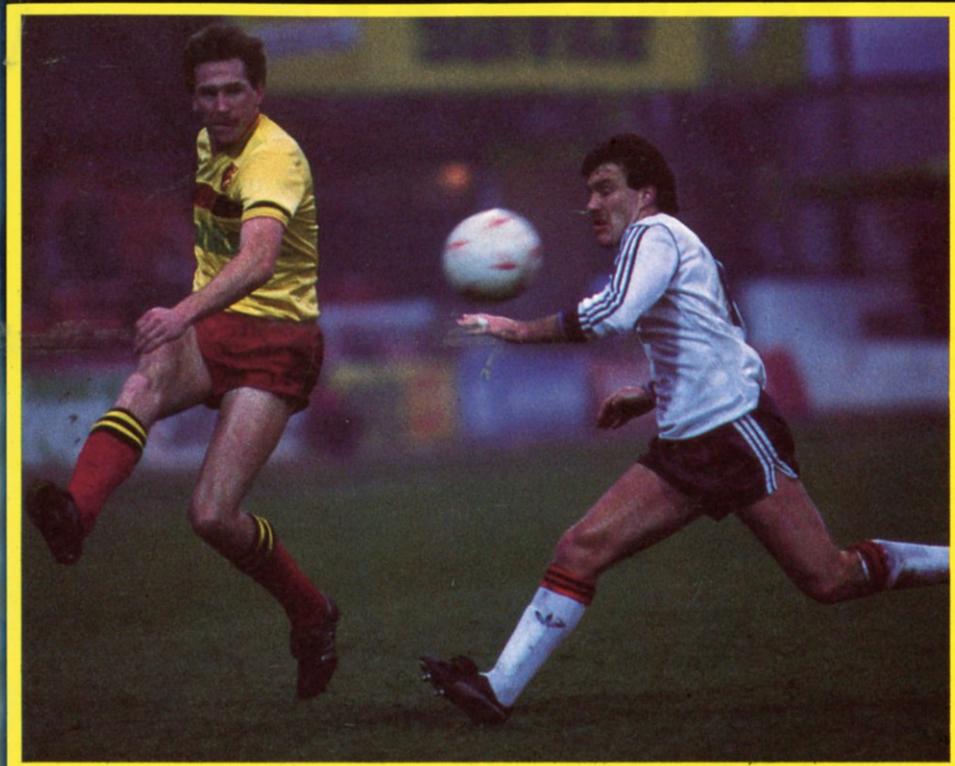
The defence was solid and the midfield and attack always full of running and careful accurate passing. "We were able to take the local derby atmosphere out of it," said manager Ray Harford, obviously pleased with the result afterwards.

Watford produced little in reply and the Town were able to coast to their sixth win in seven games.

*Teams: Watford - Coton, Chivers (Sterling), Rostron, Jackett, Morris, McClelland, Blissett, Allen, Senior (Holdsworth), Porter, Hodges. Luton - Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein, Hill, Weir, Allinson.*

Referee: P. Tyldesley (Stockton).

# 1st Team ACTION



• **Away winners:** Captain Steve Foster was our marksman with the only goal in a 1-0 win at Watford on December 12. Our action pictures today capture the best of that clash with Michael Weir, Ian Allinson, and Brian Stein putting pressure on the Hornets' defence. Pictures by Josh Levy of Apex Photography.

# FOOTBALL FOCUS



## Bruce Rioch

**Former Town inside-forward Bruce Rioch has been making a name for himself as one of the brightest young managers in the game since he took over at Middlesbrough in 1986. He has led them back from the brink of extinction to the threshold of the First Division, Robert Alexander reports:**

### Rioch rescues 'Boro from oblivion

Less than 18 months after standing on the brink of apparent oblivion, Middlesbrough are chasing a place in the top flight of the toughest league in the world for the first time since 1982. And much of the credit must be due to our own former favourite Bruce Rioch who has taken the club by the scruff of the neck and not only rebuilt the team but also prepared the club for the big time again.

At the end of the 1985-86 season, Middlesbrough fell into the Third Division for the first time in their history. It seemed to be a black period for the club – and no time for Rioch, whose fierce shooting lit up stadiums all over the world after he left Luton for Aston Villa, Everton, Derby and Scotland.

The worst moment came when it was announced that the 110-year-old club had debts totalling more than £2 million and might not be able to fulfil its fixtures. But Rioch, drawing on his reserves of

experience as a coach, motivator and marketing man after long years in sport on both sides of the Atlantic, refused to let the club die.

And as leading scorer Bernie Slaven says, it was soon clear a big revival was on the cards under Rioch. "If anybody could have got us out of the Third Division, I thought it was Bruce," he said. "We all felt the team had the potential – he proved it for us."

The Boro came back up as runners-up to Bournemouth and playing a brand of football that soon had the fans pouring back to Ayresome Park in droves. "It all just needed to get started," said Bruce. "It needed discipline and planning and a bit of thought. I had learned a lot from my time in the States and I was determined not to let the club go. I knew we had a lot of good young players so I just worked hard and we hope it will pay off."

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# CLUB NEWS

## SEASONS GREETINGS

THE DIRECTORS, PLAYERS  
AND STAFF OF LUTON TOWN  
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THE CLUB'S FRIENDS AND  
SUPPORTERS  
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND NEW YEAR.

### LITTLEWOODS CUP QUARTER-FINAL Luton Town v Bradford City

Luton Town have announced plans to accommodate up to 3,500 visiting Bradford City supporters for their Littlewoods Cup tie at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, January 19 (kick-off 7.45pm).

It will be strictly an all-ticket match, with no sales on the day. Arrangements will be similar to the visit by Wigan Athletic, with up to 2,500 Bradford supporters in the K1 section of the Kenilworth Stand. A further 1,000 seats have been allocated in Blocks F and G of the Main Stand, with exclusive access via the Maple Road turnstiles for visiting supporters.

### FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Barclays League Division One  
Friday, January 1, 1988  
Luton Town v Chelsea  
Kick-off 11.00 am.

Sunday Mirror Combination  
Saturday, January 9, 1988  
Luton Town v Reading  
Kick-off 2.00 pm.

### MATCH REFEREE

**Ian Borrett**  
(Harleston, Norfolk)

A self-employed bricklayer, Jim began refereeing in 1971. He progressed through the Eastern Counties and Football Combination leagues to the Football League list. He is chairman and training officer for his local Referees Association. He was a linesman for a UEFA Cup tie in 1982.

### COVER STORY

Ian Allinson is pictured on page one this week in action during our great 1-0 win at Watford.

### SPARE OUR SEATS



Seats often get broken at matches because people use them as stepping stones. Please help us by sitting on seats and saving them from damage.

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by BILL TOMLINS

# THE TOWN

## AN EXEMPLARY RECORD WAS OVERLOOKED LAST MONTH

In my last notes, I made some reference to our feelings of disappointment earlier this month when our manager Ray Harford was overlooked as the First Division manager of the month.

Now I would like to expand a little on that reference while at the same time stressing that I wish in no way to embarrass Ray who would never give such thoughts any time at all!

The award, as everyone well knows, went to Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool. An obvious choice some would say. I feel, however, that Ray's record in November was exemplary. We won every match, kept four successive clean sheets and did everything right.

My remarks are no personal reflection on Kenny. Liverpool's league position tells its own story.

### Deserved

In the same period, Liverpool dropped points with draws, I believe. And that fact, together with a feeling that the Merseyside club gets plenty of recognition for being on top of the league, made me feel that Ray's achievement at Luton Town

deserved to gain him the award.

I understand the award is supposed to go to the teams with the best records. Ours could not be improved upon, could it? Yet the various pundits and media-men who make the choice seemed to think differently, a shame, it would have been a great piece of recognition for the club at Christmas-time.

Now, Ray and the lads will doubtless be concentrating on putting together another faultless run in the hope of not only climbing the league and winning trophies, but also of seeing me gain some satisfaction if Ray's work is recognised!

### Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome to this afternoon's match, which is our last fixture of 1987, to the 60 children from local children's homes whose visit is sponsored by a group of many local companies.

This is very much appreciated, especially at this time of year and we wish them and all our supporters a very Happy New Year.

## CAPTAIN HEADBAND!



•**Player-coach:** Looking back over the year, the appointment of Steve Foster to his new job was one of the biggest steps up. Well done, Steve.

## ALL THE BEST TO EMEKA FOR 1988

•**Unlucky striker:** Emeka Nwajobi, pictured during our 5-2 win at Oxford in September, was unlucky to break his fibula against Norwich. He is out of action for three months, but we wish him all the best for the New Year.



•**Happy days:** There were smiles all round when the Mayor of Luton was joined by Bedford GM's Eric Fountain and our chairman David Evans in October.



•**Special presentation:** Town director Brian Cole, who joined the board early in the year, is pictured with Ron and Iris Unwin.



•**Match sponsors:** Tim Wootton of Anglia Television, sponsors of our recent match with Norwich, is pictured with chief executive John Smith after the match.

# CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER

## Happy new year

Hello everyone. I hope you have all enjoyed a great Christmas and wish everyone all the very best for the New Year, starting with a couple of good victories in our home matches against London opposition from Charlton and Chelsea.

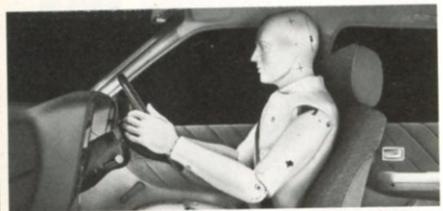
We have all had a great time in the dressing room in the lead-up to Christmas with plenty of hard work and lots of laughs too. Obviously we all enjoyed the players' own Christmas party and the Junior Hatters' parties, but we also had some fun with the apprentices when they gave their annual carol-singing reictal.

## Sing-song

It is always a highlight for everyone to hold the carol-singing and has become one of the youngsters least favourite days! I cannot let on who is a good singer and who is not in the club...it might lead to a few arguments!

You can make your own guesses - and listening to who does all the shouting on the pitch is not always an accurate method of judgement. Les and I, by the way, are not yet considering forming a harmony duo! Enjoy the match and give the lads your full support.

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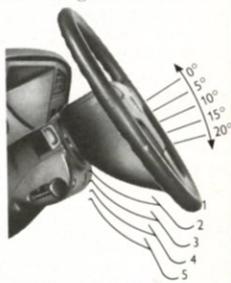
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# PHOTO FILE



• **Charlton flashback: Steve Foster and Tim Breacker are pictured in action at Selhurst Park in September when the Town lost by the only goal.**



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# IN PROFILE....

## ROB JOHNSON



• **Determined and skilful:** Rob Johnson.

### Dedicated fighter and born survivor



• **Hard-worker:** Rob Johnson.

Versatile defender Rob Johnson has fought his way back to top level form and fitness in the demanding world of the First Division after experiencing two injuries which might have put a lesser man out of the game.

Bedford-born Rob, who has been unable to hold down a regular place in the team this season, suffered ligament injuries which many experts believed would end his career – not once but twice.

Yet his courage and hours of dedicated hard work kept him in the sport and profession he loves. "I have always loved the game and I could not really see myself doing anything else," said Rob, who became a full professional with the Hatters in August 1979.

Rob prefers to play right-back to left, but has spent long spells in both positions and has also turned out in midfield for the Town. He always gives 100 per cent to the team effort and deserves his popularity with the knowledgeable Kenilworth Road fans.

# ROB JOHNSON



# HATTERS IN GEAR



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# DRESSING ROOM

with Mick Harford

*After another lengthy spell on the sidelines with injury, Mick Harford was hoping for a return to duty with the League side during the Christmas programme. Today in Dressing Room Talk he explains why he likes the holiday fixtures in particular and does not mind extra games when everyone else is on a Christmas and New Year break:*

## Special atmosphere

"I always like playing and always have. There is nothing like it. And I always feel there is a special atmosphere at holiday matches around Christmas and the New Year. All the players feel it. There is just a good feeling in the ground.

"I've always enjoyed the holiday games all the time I've been in the game. But when you have been out injured they are even better. For me though, it is a bit like last season – but not so bad – because I might be able to make my comeback at Christmas-time after injury.

"Last year, after missing all the opening half of the season, I came back in the game at Nottingham Forest which we were unlucky not to win. This year, I have already been able to get among the goals and the good form of the team has been a bonus too.

## Satisfaction

"It is a strange thing how luck works out in football though. I had been playing pretty well and scoring a few goals when I went out of the team. I had also made my England international debut playing and scoring for England 'B'. That was very satisfying for me.

"Then I was out injured. I had to be philosophical about it. You've got to be haven't you? I just keep on working and hoping and waiting for it all to work out again. I might not be so relaxed at home, of course, but I've found I've been okay really now that I have a little baby boy to keep me occupied!



• **Goal-scorer:** Mick Harford.

"The squad we have this year has proved it is a strong one with the way the team have played despite so many injuries. If everyone is fit I am going to find plenty of competition for places, especially up front. Emeka has been unlucky because he had just got back in and settled down again. It always takes a bit of time.

## Run of wins

"Only David Preece is still out long term I think. He must feel sick at it. With the team getting into some good runs and putting a series of wins together, you feel more left out, but pleased at the same time.

"I hope I am back in action and playing today – or at least fit and available for selection. Playing is the main thing – even at Christmas and New Year holiday time. It is always great."


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# BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

## FA CUP 3rd ROUND HARTLEPOOL v LUTON TOWN January 9, 1988

This will be an all-ticket match.

Tickets are expected to be on sale today.

Price: Standing – £3  
Seating – £4

### TICKET OFFICE



•**Ticket Supervisor:** Cherry Newbery is Luton Town FC Ticket Supervisor, following in the footsteps of Bev Tyler who has taken over as the Souvenir Shop Supervisor. 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).

### Dates and times of opening over christmas

December	
Sat 19th	9 am – 12 pm
Mon 21st	9 am – 5.30 pm
Tue 22nd	9 am – 5.30 pm
Wed 23rd	9 am – 5.30 pm
Thur 24th	9 am – 12 pm
Fri 25th	CLOSED
Sat 26th	CLOSED
Sun 27th	9 am to 2 pm
Mon 28th	Charlton Athletic 9 am to 5.30 pm
Tue 29th	9 am to 5.30 pm
Wed 30th	9 am to 5.30 pm
Thur 31st	9 am to 5.30 pm
January	
Fri 1st	Chelsea
Sat 2nd	9 am to 12 pm

### Barclays invites students to design League Championship Trophy

Students of 18 and under are to be given the opportunity to design the Barclays League Championship Trophy by the sponsors. The winner will win a video and camera and computer equipment for his school plus the chance to appear on television's top football programme, ITV's The Saint & Greavsie Show. There will be three age categories; 16-18, 12-15 and under-12s, with a winner in each category.

Entry forms can be obtained from any of the 2830 Barclays branches in the UK. The trophy design should reflect the famous traditions of The Football League and should be 'classic' in feel. At the same time it should try to be original and imaginative. The design should also feature an eagle, the symbol of Barclays Bank. But the way you represent the eagle is up to you.

### 1988 GIANT NEW YEAR PROGRAMME FAIR

For anyone interested in football programmes, there is a treat in store on Sunday, 3rd January 1988, when around 1,000 collectors will descend on The Great Western Royal Hotel in Praed Street, Paddington, W.2 for the 11th 'Giant New Year Programme Fair'.

Collectors of all ages will be sorting through thousands of programmes, ranging from valuable pre-war examples worth many pounds each to recent bargains from just a few coppers, displayed by many of Britain's leading dealers.

There will also be a fascinating exhibition area with rare programmes, famous players' caps, shirts and other items of memorabilia. Taking pride of place will be the shirts worn by Alf Baker in the 1927 and 1930 FA Cup Finals, together with other momentoes from the late Arsenal star's collection.

The huge range of programmes on display at the Giant New Year Fair ensures that there is something for the newest to the keenest collector – even programmes from the previous day's games are likely to be on sale.

The show starts at 10.30 am until 4.30 pm and admission is just 50p.

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# CLUB COMMENT

**John Smith, Chief Executive**

## **PUBLIC CRITICISM CAN ONLY BE BAD FOR THE GAME**

The controversy surrounding Mr Robert Maxwell's deal to buy Watford from Elton John led to considerable discussion. But it seemed that, in the same week that the nation was also debating the sportsmanship of our cricket captain Mike Gatting, one important issue was being overlooked – the public criticism and virtual bringing of the game into disrepute which came forth from members of the management committee.

It would be normal to assume that most committees would like to discuss matters of controversy and so forth in private, in committee, and not in public, but in this case the criticism of the President of the Football League took place in public and prior to the meeting which settled the matter, with the League asking Mr Maxwell to sell off his interests in his other clubs if he was to proceed with his Watford takeover.

I wonder if all the public criticism can possibly be in the best interests of football. Such public outcries, particularly when they are critical of the man who is not only the

chairman of the League management committee, but also president of the Football League do nothing but damage to the game.

The whole business must have been thoroughly embarrassing for Mr Carter, the League president, and has certainly been of little assistance to football in general. At a time when the game needs to be seen to keeping its house and home in order and in a harmonious state of mind, this sequence of events is unhelpful in the extreme.

It is the same principle as on the football or cricket pitch. The rules are there to be respected and obeyed and anyone who breaks them is wrong to voice dissent in public. In this case, the criticism should have taken place behind closed doors. Not in public.

One is only left to wonder if certain members of the management committee with ambitions to be president themselves were taking the opportunity to criticise in order to advance their own claims.



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# RESERVE



•**Equaliser:** Kingsley Black scored our goal at Brighton.

## THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	15	12	1	2	35	11	25
Arsenal	14	10	1	3	34	11	21
Tottenham Hotspur	14	10	1	3	35	16	21
Queens Park Rangers	14	10	1	3	31	12	21
Norwich City	13	8	2	3	34	19	18
Southampton	15	8	2	5	31	18	18
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>
Millwall	15	6	5	4	28	17	17
Chelsea	15	6	4	5	30	19	16
Portsmouth	12	7	2	3	30	22	16
Ipswich Town	14	4	6	4	26	22	14
West Ham United	14	6	2	6	24	24	14
Oxford United	15	6	2	7	31	39	14
Charlton Athletic	14	3	3	8	15	28	9
Swindon Town	12	4	1	7	18	32	9
Fulham	14	3	3	8	20	42	9
Brighton & Hove Albion	15	4	1	10	12	34	9
Reading	16	2	2	12	20	47	6
Crystal Palace	13	2	1	10	7	31	5
Bristol Rovers	16	1	2	13	17	45	4

## SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION 1987/88

Date 1987	Opponents	Result	Date 1988	Opponents	Result
Aug 22	Reading	3-1	Jan 9	Reading	
Aug 29	<b>Ipswich Town</b>	<b>3-2</b>	Jan 12	Ipswich Town	
Sept 5	<b>Charlton Ath</b>	<b>2-0</b>	Jan 19	Charlton Ath	
Sept 9	Oxford	<b>4-3</b>	Jan 30	Oxford	
Sept 12	Arsenal	<b>1-1</b>	Feb 6	West Ham	
Sept 19	<b>West Ham</b>	<b>1-0</b>	Feb 13	<b>Arsenal</b>	
Sept 26	<b>Chelsea</b>	<b>0-2</b>	Feb 16	Chelsea	
Sept 29	QPR	<b>0-4</b>	Feb 27	QPR	
Oct 13	<b>Bristol R</b>	<b>7-0</b>	Mar 2	Bristol R	
Oct 20	Fulham	<b>3-3</b>	Mar 5	<b>Portsmouth</b>	
Oct 31	<b>Swindon</b>	<b>PP</b>	Mar 16	<b>Fulham</b>	
Nov 4	Millwall	<b>3-2</b>	Mar 19	Swindon	
Nov 14	<b>Tottenham</b>	<b>0-1</b>	Mar 22	Tottenham	
Nov 20	Norwich City	<b>1-3</b>	Apr 2	<b>Millwall</b>	
Nov 28	<b>Crystal Palace</b>	<b>5-0</b>	Apr 9	<b>Norwich City</b>	
Dec 5	Watford	<b>1-4</b>	Apr 13	Crystal Palace	
Dec 12	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>1-1</b>	Apr 23	Southampton	
Dec 16	Brighton	<b>1-1</b>	Apr 30	<b>Watford</b>	
			May 7	<b>Brighton</b>	



•**Back in action:** Mick Harford was back for 45 minutes with the reserves.

## SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	13	12	1		65	9	25
Northampton Town	14	10	1	3	55	22	21
Tottenham Hotspur	14	10	1	3	30	18	21
Wimbledon	11	7	1	3	28	13	15
Swindon Town	15	6	3	6	39	30	15
<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>
Oxford United	14	6	1	7	30	28	13
Colchester United	14	5	3	6	27	31	13
Bristol City	14	6	1	7	27	46	13
Brentford	15	5	2	8	25	39	12
Reading	16	4	4	8	18	46	12
A.F.C. Bournemouth	15	2	7	6	24	41	11
Brighton & Hove Albion	14	3	3	8	23	43	9
Bristol Rovers	13	1	6	6	16	28	8
Crystal Palace	14	3	2	9	22	39	8

## COACHES' CORNER



## COACHES' CORNER

### HARFORD HITS THE COMEBACK TRAIL AS RESERVES DRAW 1-1 AT BRIGHTON

With bad weather affecting the youth team's fixtures, all attention was focused on the reserves before Christmas when they drew 1-1 at Brighton on December 16.

The match marked the comeback of Mick Harford to competitive action after missing a series of six first team matches.

Mick played 45 minutes before making way for Paul Gray at the interval, but by then both goals had been scored.

*The club wish to thank  
our youth team sponsors -*

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Southampton signed first when they converted one of two penalties they were awarded in the opening 10 minutes. The referee was not popular with our lads!

Andy Dibble brilliantly saved one of the penalties.

Kingsley Black grabbed the Town equaliser and they went on to dominate the second half without reward.

# & YOUTH

# INTRODUCING...

## CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Welcome today to Charlton Athletic. Their recent 1-0 win at Tottenham reminded everyone that they are again prepared to battle all the way in an endeavour to hold on to the First Division place that they won against all the odds two seasons ago and hung on to so bravely last season.

The fact that they have lost on each of their last six visits and have scored only one goal and that they have won only three league games up to the time of writing this season may not be a direct indication of what to expect today.

### 'the players had to carry their own goalposts in the early days'

Founded in 1905, from a group of players who had originally called themselves the Charlton Reds, Charlton Athletic joined the Lewisham League Division Three in 1906. At one stage, they had to carry their goalposts a mile each game to a pitch on Woolwich Common.

They topped the Southern Suburb League (Eastern Section) in 1912-3 with 19 wins in 20 games and in 1919 they moved to The Valley.

They turned professional a year later and after one season in the Southern League they secured election to Division Three (South) in 1921.

They won promotion in 1929, stayed in Division Two until 1933, but then under Jimmy Seed's management, they won promotion again in 1935, climbed into Division One in 1936

and proceeded to finish 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the seasons before the Second World War.

They were fortunate in having a remarkably unchanging team in those seasons and several of them such as goalkeeper Sam Bartram, defenders John Oakes and Jim Shreeve, midfielders Bert Turner and Don Welsh and winger Maurice 'Tadman' and striker 'Sailor' Brown survived to the first two post-war seasons when they reached the FA Cup final and then won the trophy with a Chris Duffy goal against Burnley a year later.

Present day FA Secretary Ted Crocker and his brother Peter were also in the Charlton teams of the early post-war years and they held on to their First Division place until 1957. They slipped into Division Two and after struggling to hold on to their place there on a number of occasions, slipped to Division Three in 1972.

They were there for three seasons and slipped back again for the single season of 1980-1, but then began quite the most remarkable chapter in their history.

They almost went out of existence in 1983-4, but still managed to finish in 13th place in Division Two. They were 17th in 1984-5 and then despite moving from The Valley to share Selhurst Park in the midst of 1985-6, they won promotion to Division One. Last season, back in Division One, they battled bravely to hold on to their hard-won place and survived by dint of two late goals in a play-off replay against Leeds.



Back Row: Paul Williams, Andy Peake, Mark Stuart, John Humphrey, Micky Bennett, Ralph Milne, Mark Reid. Middle Row: Garth Crooks, John Pender, Carl Leaburn, Nicky Johns, Bob Bolder, Paul Miller, Steve MacKenzie, Robert Lee. Front Row: Colin Walsh, Steve Gritt, Peter Shirliff, Lennie Lawrence, Steve Thompson, Alan Curbishley, Jim Melrose.



Lennie Lawrence is a rarity among modern football managers – a former schoolmaster! He took charge in November 1982 and has established himself as one of the most able and honest bosses in the First Division.

He began his playing career at Croydon and also played for Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United, so spending all his playing career outside the Football League. He became assistant-manager at Plymouth Argyle under Malcolm Allison and then at Lincoln City, under Colin Murphy. Later he moved to Charlton as reserve team coach before stepping up in 1982. In 1986, he led Charlton back to the First Division after an absence of 29 years.

This season, they drew at Portsmouth in September and at West Ham in October, but did not pick up another away point until winning at Tottenham recently.

They did however hold the lead at Anfield before losing 3-2 and only three times all season have they lost by more than single goal.

Their two home wins up to the time of writing have been against ourselves in September and Norwich in November. They have also drawn against Coventry, Southampton and Everton.

Former Stoke, West Brom and Spurs man **Garth Crooks** got the winner against us in September and another threat up front is Welsh international **Andy Jones**, signed from Port Vale this season.

Local lad **Mark Stuart** completes the likely front-runners today, while in midfield, recent signing **David Campbell**, from Nottingham Forest, links up with another ex-Forest man **Colin Walsh**. **Andy Peake** (ex-Leicester and Grimsby) and **Steve Gritt**, a remarkable free transfer signing from Bournemouth.

### 'Bolder took over in goal in mid-season and was player of the year'

**Michael Bennett**, a young Londoner, and ex-Dundee man **Ralph Milne** both made their Charlton debuts last season and are amongst the other midfield resources. In defence, **Peter Shirliff** (signed from Sheffield Wednesday last season and scorer of the goals that kept Charlton in Division One) links up with **Steve Thompson** (from Lincoln two years ago) in the centre with **John Humphrey** (from Wolves in 1985) and **Mark Reid** (from Celtic in the same year) on the flanks.

**Bob Bolder**, after spells with Sheffield Wednesday, Liverpool and Sunderland, took over in goal from Nicky Johns last season to become Player of the Season.

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# JUNIOR HATTERS!

**BY BRIAN STEIN**  
**WELCOME TO JUNIOR REDS - AND A**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**

I trust you all had a very good Christmas with plenty of Christmas pudding. I hope that you received all the presents that you wanted. I know that a lot of you had our new football kits this year. I think it looks good for junior supporters to have the same shirt as the first team are wearing.

On Monday, 14th December, we held our second Christmas party for the over 11-year-olds. We started this party with a sports quiz of a team from the Junior Hatters pitting their wits against a team of Luton players.

The Junior Hatters won by 25 points to 20 points to the players.

This wall followed by a disco and games. A good time was had by one and all.

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is J005479. 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 give a warm welcome to Charlton Athletic to Kenilworth Road and we give a warm welcome to Junior Reds of Charlton at today's game as guests of our Junior Hatters Club.

## ESCORTS



John Dawkins



Ryan O'Dell



## ESCORTS



Benjamin Walker



Angela Walker

# KENILWORTH THE CAT



# QUIZ TIME

### MYSTERY STAR

PUT THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH OBJECT INTO THE SPACE ABOVE IT AND THEN RE-ARRANGE THE LETTERS TO FIND A BRILLIANT SCOTTISH FORWARD.

### SOCCER GIRL

CROSS OUT THE ELEVEN TEAMS HIDDEN IN THE GRID AND THE REMAINING LETTERS WILL SPELL OUT THE TEAM SOCCER GIRL FOLLOWS.

N	C	D	E	R	B	Y	W
E	X	E	T	E	R	O	O
W	H	B	H	A	Y	R	L
P	U	V	E	D	L	K	V
O	L	R	A	I	T	H	E
R	L	Y	S	N	E	A	S
T	R	A	N	G	E	R	S

### junior spot no. 7

THESE CHEER-LEADERS ARE SUPPOSED TO SPELL OUT THE NAME OF A FAMOUS OLD CLUB BUT THEIR LETTERS HAVE GOT MIXED UP. CAN YOU WORK OUT WHICH CLUB IT IS?

The answers to the last Quiz Time are:  
**Soccer Girl was a Hearts supporter.**  
**Spot the difference: 1. Player's badge 2. Stripe on shorts of No.5 3. Sock of No.3 4. Cuff of No.2 5. Stripe on boot missing 6. Corner of roof 7. Line on ball 8. Collar of No.7 9. Line on floodlight 10. Line on sock of No.7.**  
**Trevor Francis was born in Plymouth.**  
 The answers to today's Quiz Time will appear in our next home game programme.

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CARROTT



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# Views from the media

## STARTING A FIRST-CLASS SELECTION

For a change, today's views come from Football Today magazine in which David Stacey of the Football Programme Directory wrote the following:

In the late 1940's and early 1950's when folk began to go back to the game after the Second World War. It was long awaited and crowds used to flock to the matches. Lots of fun, everyone cheered and the game was played with a healthy atmosphere. Clubs printed programmes for 1d, 2d and 3d each according to size and pages.

Nobody bothered to keep these programmes and nobody realised what value they could be in later years.

If a programme sold out it didn't matter - to see the game was more important. A Wembley Cup final was 1/- (5p to you!)

It was in the latter '50's that the hobby of programme collecting began to be born and collectors used to write to the clubs for one or two of their spare programmes - many clubs were only too pleased to get rid of this unnecessary "rubbish" that was taking up space at the club.

A popular line to commence was 10 programmes for 2/- (now 10p) and this continued for many years and gradually the youngsters began to catch on to what is now the game's most popular pastime, but on a much different scale.

The nation went decimal in the 1970's, and at first this did not make any difference to the prices and the interest in collecting. But I well remember that the 1971 Arsenal v Liverpool Cup final was 10p and when it went up to 15p for Arsenal v Leeds the following year, there were many complaints. Now that programme can cost around £2.00-£2.50 to purchase!



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# LUTON TOWN GOLDEN OLDIES

## LITTLE ARRIVES AND RINGS THE CHANGES

After making do without a manager for half a season, the Luton Town board decided to appoint someone to that position in the summer of 1936, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Ned Little, late of West Ham, was the man chosen from fifty applicants and it was regarded as a great coup that a person with his knowledge of, and general held esteem within, the game should be coming to Kenilworth Road.

He had the nucleus of a good side to play with and as promotion had only been lost the previous season due to the dropping of some silly home points high hopes were held amongst the supporters that the Town could gain promotion from a Division where only the champions went up each year.

### 'Joe Payne was on target as usual in the opening game'

A crowd of 14,353 gathered at Kenilworth Road for the first game of the season against Southend and witnessed a dull 1-0 win with the goal being scored by Joe Payne.

Little was not happy with the performance and immediately dropped Wilf Crompton and Bill Godfrey – never to play for the Town again – as well as new signing Bert Lutterloch. The re-shuffled team played rather better in winning 1-0 at Walsall courtesy of a George Stephenson goal before a dismal 3-0 reverse at Cardiff forced Little into more team changes.

This time old favourite George Martin was left out together with Hugh Mills who Little had brought with him from West Ham.

The team now began to put some good

results together as firstly Walsall were beaten 2-0 at Kenilworth Road followed by Crystal Palace 5-2 and then Reading 4-0. The week before the Reading win the Town travelled to Exeter and were 2-0 down after only a few minutes play. The fightback, however, was



• **Joe Payne:** Ten goals against Bristol Rovers made him a legend at Kenilworth Road.

relentless with Luton eventually winning 4-2 through Jack Ball, George Stephenson and a pair from Joe Payne.

Payne was now reaching the attention of the national press through his goalscoring exploits. Those who thought his previous season feat of scoring ten against Bristol Rovers was merely "one of those games" were being proved wrong as he had now scored 11 goals in only 6 games.

He scored again the following week in a 2-1 defeat at QPR but surprisingly did not find the net in the next game as the Town beat Bristol City at home 4-0. He was back, however, with a vengeance at the next home game with a hat-trick in a 4-1 win over near neighbours Watford.

Watford opened the scoring through Devan early on before Jack Ball equalised. Tempers became frayed and Watford goalkeeper McLaren was spoken to for "appearing to push Payne's face into the ground" and Luton skipper Jack Nelson received a blow in the face which prevented him from coming on the field at the start of the second half.



• **Derek Hales:** A former Town favourite who left for Charlton to become a deadly goalscorer.

Nelson did eventually re-appear and immediately helped set up Payne who duly put Luton ahead.

The Luton forwards were now rampant and Payne put the Town further ahead from a pass by John Hodge before Stephenson hit a post. Payne duly completed his hat-trick having been set up by Ball to send the 20,569 crowd in raptures.

This game proved the high spot for a few weeks as a couple of away defeats – at Brighton and Northampton – brought the team back to earth but with home wins still the norm the Town were still bubbling around the top of the table.

### 'an easy win for the Town was overshadowed by an incident spotted by Rous'

Away form obviously needed to improve and the next away game – on 21st November 1936 – was at Millwall who also had claims for promotion. A crowd of 33,000 was present to witness a rather easy 2-0 win for the Town, but the performance was overshadowed by an incident between Nelson and Millwall's Dave Mangnall.

The pair had a stand-up fight not properly seen by the referee who decided to book them in any case. The match was, however, watched by Stanley Rous who had recently been appointed to the FA Council and his report of the incident was instrumental in Nelson receiving a suspension. The arguments raged for weeks as to whether a "spectator" should have the power to influence the authorities in situations where the referee had missed the offence.

But a suspension Nelson had to face and the game he missed was at home to Cardiff on 2nd January 1937, with the Town winning 8-1 to avenge their early season defeat. Veteran Hugh McGinnigle was called out of semi-retirement in the reserves to take Nelson's place and he must have enjoyed himself in what was to be his last first team game in a Luton career stretching back to 1930.

# FIRST TEAM UPDATE 1987-88 SEASON

## Luton Town F-A Att Pos 1

## 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

### BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1987-88

HOME					AWAY							
P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A	APts			
19	9	1	0	26	3	Liverpool	5	4	0	18	8	47
20	7	1	2	22	7	Arsenal	5	3	2	12	8	40
18	5	2	1	19	4	Nottingham Forest	6	2	2	19	11	37
19	5	4	0	16	8	Manchester United	4	4	2	17	12	35
20	7	2	1	20	5	Everton	2	5	3	9	8	34
20	5	3	2	13	8	Queens Park Rangers	4	2	4	10	16	32
20	4	5	1	15	9	Wimbledon	3	2	5	11	14	28
19	6	3	0	17	9	Chelsea	2	0	8	11	21	27
20	4	4	3	13	13	West Ham United	2	4	3	10	12	26
<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>
20	3	3	3	13	12	Southampton	3	4	4	16	18	25
18	3	3	3	8	6	Derby County	3	3	3	8	13	24
20	2	4	4	10	17	Coventry City	4	2	4	11	11	24
19	5	1	4	13	11	Tottenham Hotspur	1	3	5	4	11	22
19	2	3	4	8	12	Newcastle United	3	4	3	15	17	22
20	5	1	4	17	16	Oxford United	1	3	6	5	17	22
20	4	1	5	12	15	Sheffield Wednesday	2	2	6	8	19	21
20	3	4	4	12	14	Portsmouth	1	3	5	5	22	19
19	3	2	4	7	9	Watford	1	3	6	5	15	17
20	2	2	5	10	14	Norwich City	2	1	8	4	14	15
<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Charlton Athletic</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>

### APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1987/88)

Player	League		Litt Cup		Player	League		Litt Cup	
	Aps	Cls	Aps	Cls		Aps	Cls	Aps	Cls
Ian Allinson	7(1)	3	-	-	Mike Newell	4	-	-	-
Kingsley Black	3	-	1(1)	-	Stacey North	(1)	-	-	-
Tim Breacker	19	1	4	-	Emeka Nwajobi	8(3)	2	1	-
Gary Cobb	2	-	-	-	David Oldfield	-	-	(1)	-
Mal Donaghy	17	-	4	-	David Preece	9	-	1	-
Steve Foster	19	1	4	-	Brian Stein	16	5	4	1
Ashley Grimes	18	-	2	-	Mark Stein	5(4)	3	1	-
Mick Harford	12	6	3	5	Les Sealey	19	-	4	-
Richard Harvey	-	-	1	-	Michael Weir	6(1)	1	3	2
Ricky Hill	13(1)	2	-	-	Danny Wilson	17	2	4	-
Rob Johnson	2(3)	-	3	-	Robert Wilson	3	-	-	-
Darron McDonough	11(3)	1	3	1					

### Today's action

- Liverpool v Newcastle
- Man Utd v Everton
- Norwich v Chelsea
- Notts Forest v Coventry
- Portsmouth v Watford
- QPR v Oxford
- Sheff Wed v Derby
- Tottenham v West Ham
- Wimbledon v Arsenal



• On target: Steve Foster

Date	Opposition	F-A	Att	Pos	Player
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	0-3	16075	19	Sealey
Aug 31	Arsenal	1-1	8745	18	Sealey
Sept 5	Oxford United	5-2	6804	14	Sealey
Sept 12	Everton	2-1	8124	16	Sealey
Sept 19	Charlton Athletic	0-1	5003	12	Sealey
Sept 22	Wigan Athletic (LC2R 1L)	1-0	5018	14	Sealey
Sept 26	Queens Park Rangers	0-2	11175	14	Sealey
Oct 3	Manchester United	1-1	9137	14	Sealey
Oct 6	Wigan Athletic (LC2R 2L)	4-2	4240	14	Sealey
Oct 10	Portsmouth	1-3	12391	16	Sealey
Oct 17	Wimbledon	2-0	7018	14	Sealey
Oct 24	Liverpool	0-1	12452	14	Sealey
Oct 27	Coventry City (LC3R)*	3-1	11448	16	Sealey
Nov 7	Newcastle United	4-0	7638	17	Sealey
Nov 14	Sheffield Wednesday	2-0	16960	16	Sealey
Nov 17	Ipswich Town (LC4R)	1-0	15643	12	Sealey
Nov 21	Tottenham Hotspur	2-0	10091	12	Sealey
Dec 5	Norwich City	1-2	7002	13	Sealey
Dec 12	Watford	1-0	12152	9	Sealey
Dec 18	Southampton	2-2	6618	9	Sealey
Dec 26	Everton				
Dec 28	Charlton Athletic				
Jan 1	Chelsea				
Jan 2	West Ham United				
Jan 9	F A Cup Round 3				
Jan 16	Derby County				
Jan 19	Bradford City (LC5R)				
Jan 23	Coventry City				
Jan 30	F A 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/)				
Apr 23	Nottingham Forest				
Apr 30	Norwich City				
May 2	Watford				
May 7	Southampton				
May 14	F A Cup Final				

\*This fixture played at Leicester. © The Football League FAC = F.A. Cup

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Apr 2	Newcastle United				
Apr 4	Sheffield Wednesday				
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Apr 23	Nottingham Forest				
Apr 30	Norwich City				
May 2	Watford				
May 7	Southampton				
May 14	F A Cup Final				

( ) indicates player substituted ♦ indicates substitute used Home fixtures in **Bold** Scorer's name in **Bold** P = Penalty + denotes own goal



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Voucher No. 13

# VAUXHALL TEAMCHECK.

## Luton Town

- 1 Les Sealey
  - 2 Tim Breacker
  - 3 Ashley Grimes
  - 4 Darron McDonough
  - 5 Steve Foster
  - 6 Mal Donaghy
  - 7 Danny Wilson
  - 8 Brian Stein
  - 9 Ricky Hill
  - 10 Michael Weir
  - 11 Ian Allinson
- Subs

## Charlton Athletic

- 1 Bob Bolder
  - 2 John Humphrey
  - 3 Mark Reid
  - 4 Steve Gritt
  - 5 Peter Shirliff
  - 6 Steve Thompson
  - 7 Andy Peake
  - 8 David Campbell
  - 9 Paul Williams
  - 10 Andy Jones
  - 11 Garth Crooks
- Subs

Referee: I.J. BARRETT (Harleston, Norfolk)

Linesmen: R.G. TAYLOR (Red Flag) L.L. WATSON (Yellow Flag)

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