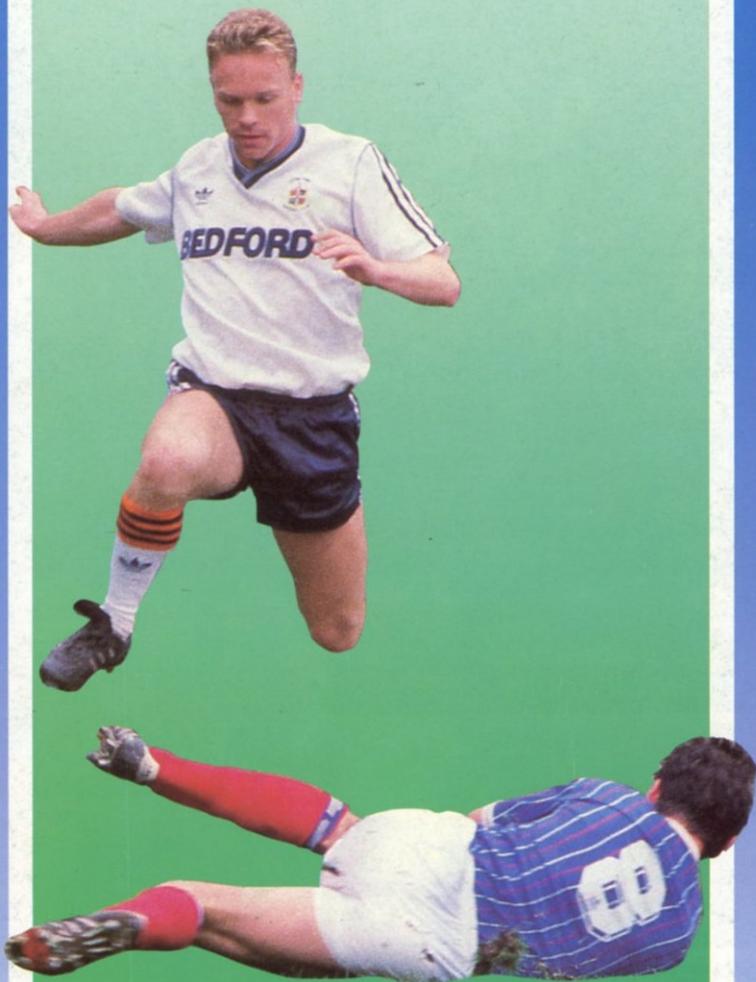


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This match is sponsored by: Connolly Homes

ACTION

NO LUCK AS SAINTS TAKE A POINT



● **On the ball:** Ian Allinson breaks away on the attack during our 2-2 draw with Southampton.

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates
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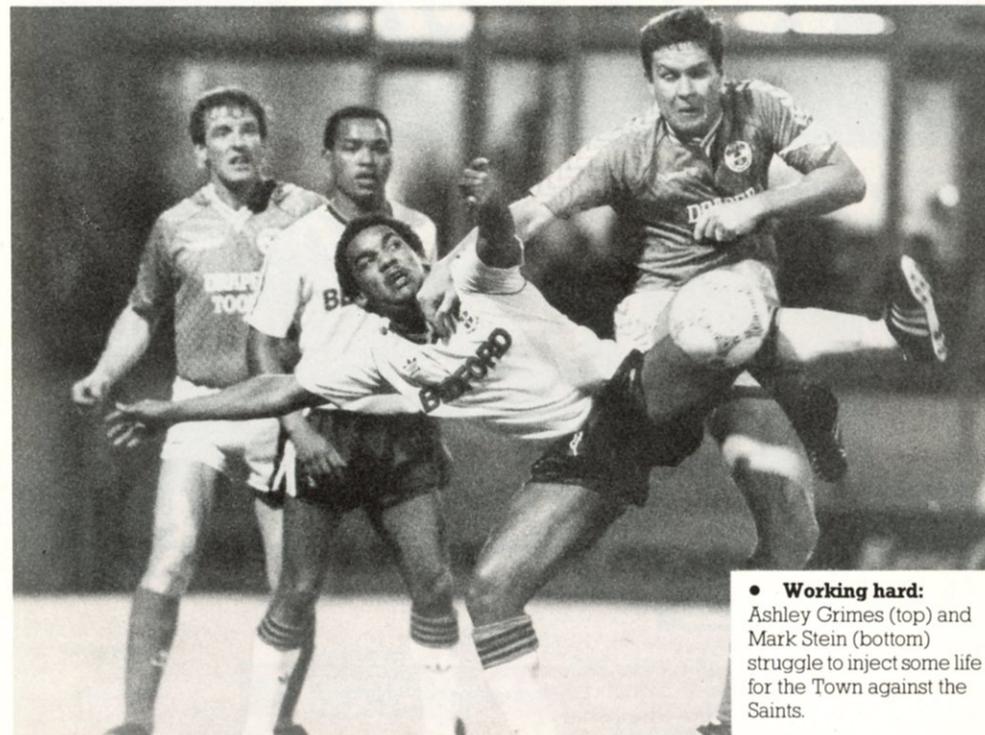
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● **Working hard:**
Ashley Grimes (top) and
Mark Stein (bottom)
struggle to inject some life
for the Town against the
Saints.

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RAY'S REVIEW



Good morning and welcome to Chelsea. We can expect a tough match from the London club as they have a habit of performing well against us, but we shall be doing our best to take three points and hopefully maintain our push up the league table. As I write these notes, with deadlines requiring them to be completed before our holiday programme, we were hoping for a much-improved injury situation within the first team squad. Mick Harford and Ricky Hill should be back from lengthy spells out and only David Preece and Emeka Nwajobi remain out with long-term injuries.

Christmas special

Both players will be missing the action and the fun of the Christmas and New Year programme. Most of the lads will have missed out on the sort of family Christmas I hope all our supporters have enjoyed, but will have had a camaraderie of their own. I personally have always tried to be at home on Christmas Eve with my wife and son. And I like to enjoy Christmas Day in the morning at home too. But from then, for a professional footballer, it is back to business. The lads were all away on Christmas night and would have been late back from Everton on Boxing Day. We prepared for this game with a night - New Year's Eve - at Henlow Grange where everyone could relax and get their minds on the job.

I hope they and all our supporters will be in fine form this morning for an early start to the 1988 fixture list in the First Division. Good luck to everyone. Enjoy the match and have a happy New Year.

Ray Harford

LUTON TOWN



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The Editor
Luton Town FC
Kenilworth Road
Luton

Mailbag

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



FROM THE EDITOR

The editor and all the staff who help to produce the club programme wish to thank everyone who has written in and/or contributed during the last year. Without the support and interest of our readers, we would feel less satisfied by issue, but the response has always been good and a stimulus to us all. Keep the letters pouring in. Thankyou. Best wishes for 1988 to all correspondents and to all our readers.

NO HALF MEASURES FROM DARRON

● **Flying in to tackle:** Darron McDonough (below) is virtually airborne as he moves in to tackle Michael Phelan of Norwich. Since taking over the number four shirt in October, Darron has settled in and become one of the Town's most consistent and influential players.

HATTERS FUN SPOT

● **Long distance fan:** Chris Jones (pictured above) could claim to be the Town's most distant fan - he lives in Brevard, North Carolina, in the United States. He is so stuck on the club he has even had his car number plate personalised to show his support! Chris was a season ticket holder for several years while serving with the United States Air Force based at Chicksands. He lived in Mepershall at the time. He also served in Vietnam and while there he used to telephone the club for the Town's Saturday results.



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CHIT CHAT



The 'trendy' fan

The anatomy of the 'trendy' fan: he (she is only there to have her posterior fondled) drinks in a pub near the ground. The art deco local, perhaps, with "House of the Rising Sun" playing in the background, is a favourite. He is decked in a football shirt of latest design - blue or red with white over-check, blue denims (or Levi 501 if he's super cool) and blue loafers. He might wear a woolly hat or, if he's not quite up to the mark, two-tone Italian trousers. There is a definite second-grade fan; one who doesn't quite aspire to "The Kop". He is identified by his last season's shirt or shorts topped by green "designer" - but not Lacoste shirt. But whether he is second or first-grade he has a programme emerging from a hip pocket.

Lord Kitchener, with a juvenile face, stares down from the pub wall telling fans "Your Club Needs You", and urging them to "Support the Team". A child walks around carrying a bottle to

collect for the campaign; all fans dig deep in their pockets.

This fan so far described is not aggressive; except in his passion for his team. He moves politely from the bar to allow me to be served and apologises when he leans across me to reach his glass of lager balanced on the frame of the pinball machine.

But why is it that the 'trendy' fan should choose to be so easily identifiable? Few adult Luton fans wear Luton shirts to matches home or away, and it's only in Cup semi-finals that straw boaters are seen in abundance. Perhaps it's because some clubs are seen as glamorous show biz clubs, and by overtly associating with it this glory rubs off! We are just plain mad about the Hatters!

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



• Defenders attacking and attackers defending during last season's visit by Chelsea. To win a fiver in our free fun quiz, why does the Chelsea Number 9 like playing at Luton?

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.

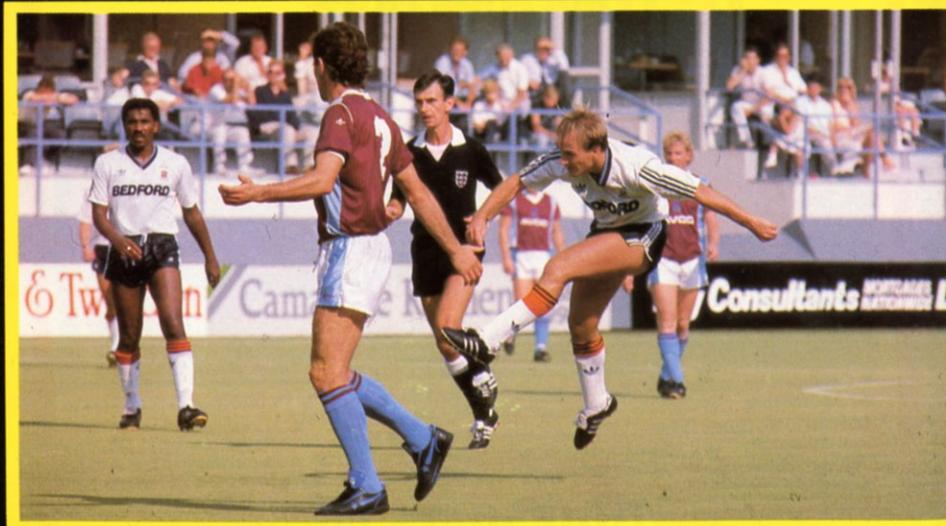
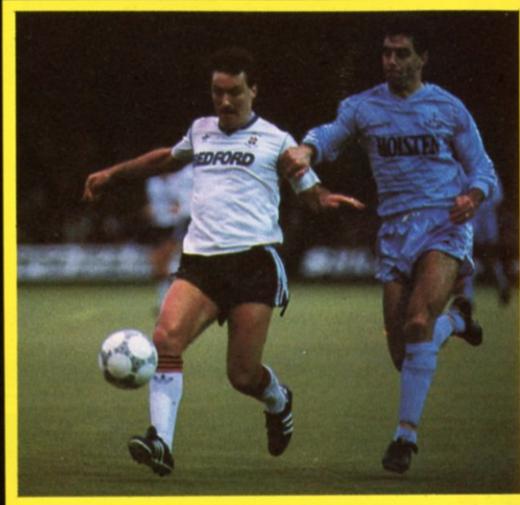
THURSDAYS 14p

WELL DONE LADS!

Last year, 1987, was quite definitely one of the best in the history of Luton Town Football Club in terms of results achieved on the pitch. And all credit for that goes to the management and the players, who lifted the club to its highest-ever finish in the First Division last Spring and then, under the new management of Ray Harford following John Moore's resignation, proceeded to march through to the quarter-finals of the Littlewoods Cup. The Town meet Bradford City at home on January 9.

All the lads deserve praise because not only is the English league arguably the toughest and most demanding in the world, but also it stretches the resources of small squads and clubs with limited support to the limit. Yet, under these conditions, who could forget such marvellous results as the FA Cup win over Liverpool last year? It is almost taken for granted that any team in the bottom half of the table should be beaten...by the fans, at times, whose demands and expectations can be too high. The odd stumble is only to be expected – and our pre-Christmas run of only two defeats in 10 matches should have been enough to keep everyone happy!

1st Team ACTION



• Flashback to 1987: Ian Allinson in action against Spurs, David Preece against West Ham, Michael Weir against Manchester United and Brian Stein at Derby – all memories of Ray Harford's first half term in charge. Pictures by Josy Levy of Apex Photography.

FOOTBALL FOCUS



Ray Wilkins

Back in British soccer after a long spell away in Italy and then France, Ray Wilkins has joined Graeme Souness' Glasgow Rangers team which is bidding for the European Cup. Former Chelsea favourite Ray began his league career at Stamford Bridge and was often a popular and respected visitor to Kenilworth Road with the Blues and later Manchester United. In Football Focus tonight, he tells Adrian Curtis of Match why he has returned to Glasgow:

European experience a boost to cup hopes

"Rangers have got a very talented young squad with the ability to win the European Cup and I hope my experience of European football will help them achieve that.

"I think that was part of Graeme Souness's thinking when he made his bid for me. Rangers can only go from strength to strength and no team in the world will want to come and play us at Ibrox in the European Cup.

"I believe I'm going to play the best football of my career for Rangers. I played for England once after the episode in Mexico and I suppose my move to Paris jeopardised by international future.

"But when Bobby Robson left me out he told me I still had a future within the squad. Now it is up to me to show him that I'm capable of taking that place.

"I realise that time is running out. And I know we have got a super young England squad. But I am only 31 and my attitude to international football is that there is no age limit.

"Moving to Rangers is a great incentive for me and I couldn't have come back to a better club. I was definitely coming back to Britain at

some stage, but I was prepared to honour my two-year contract with Paris St Germain.

"And it is nice when a guy of the standing of Graeme Souness comes and offers to buy you. That is a feather in my cap to start with. I felt I was in limbo in France, and, although I wanted to play first team football, I've had just one game in five weeks this season.

Graeme has done exceptionally well as a manager. He's bought wisely and spent money on quality players like Chris Woods, Terry Butcher and Graham Roberts. And he went out and bought Richard Cough from Spurs when everyone else was dithering over the money.

"He's very fortunate to have the backing of a great chairman, but it still takes guts to go out and do it. He's shown the same aggression in managerial terms as he did when he was a player.

"Rangers have got a fanatical following which I was always told about. But I didn't realise how fanatical it is until I got here. The club's supporters are second to none."

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CLUB NEWS

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.

All ticket enquiries to the Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, in person, or by post to Ticket Office, Luton Town FC, 179-185, Dunstable Road, Luton LU1 1BT. Telephone applications on 1582 30748.

FA CUP THIRD ROUND Luton Town v Hartlepool United Saturday, January 9, 1988

This will be an all-ticket match.
Details on page 25.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

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

Barclays League Division One
Saturday, January 16, 1988
Luton Town v Derby County
Kick-off 3.00 pm.

MATCH REFEREE

John Key
(Rotherham)

An electrical clerk of works, John is married with two boys. He began refereeing in 1970 and progressed via the Yorkshire and Northern Premier Leagues to the Football League list. He enjoys all sport, photography and keeping fit. He was senior linesman for a European Cup tie in 1981.

EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

This afternoon's executive sponsors are local company Allglaze Windows based in Marsh Road, Luton. We welcome them warmly to Kenilworth Road. They offer a 5-star service in windows and doors. Managing-director Barry Bolton will entertain his clients here today and we wish them a happy morning and successful 1988.



When the club required a new blazer and trousers they turned to Geoff Souster Menswear Ltd. They designed a new blazer to reflect a club with First Division status. We hope the players and officials have as much pleasure with the garments as we had creating them: Geoff Souster Menswear - a local company with international connections.

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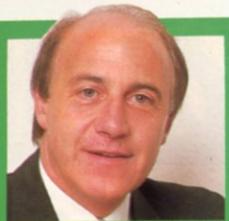
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by BILL TOMLINS

THE TOWN

SIGNING YOUNGSTERS ON FULL CONTRACTS FOR OUR FUTURE

One of the most satisfying feelings I have experienced in my position as general secretary of Luton Town has been the signing on of young apprentice players on full professional terms. It is a great feeling to see them starting their senior careers and fulfilling their first ambition in the game.

Overall, few of us get the chance to go into full-time professional sport. These lads, like many of us have had a desire to join a league side since they first kicked a ball.

Exciting

Last month, I was happy to enjoy the feeling when two of our youth players Neil Poutch and Mick O'Brien were offered full professional contracts. It was very satisfying for them and us - in many ways more exciting than a big transfer deal with a well-known and established player.

These two are just starting on the road and their targets are to hold on to regular places in the reserves and then to aim for a place in the first team. I hope they both succeed, prove our manager's judgement, and give us all plenty of enjoyable and successful football at Kenilworth Road.

With these notes being written before the onset of our Christmas programme in order to meet the tight printing deadlines, it occurred to me that our office and programme staff, and club photographer, deserve our thanks. It is a nerve-racking period when there are three home matches and all the arrangements and programmes to prepare at a time of a busy holiday period.

Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome this morning - and I hope none of us are too much the worse for wear after seeing in the New Year - to our match sponsors Connolly Homes of Luton. They are the county's largest house builders and they celebrate 25 years in business during 1988.

Connolly's have grown strongly and build hundreds of homes on acquired land in Beds, Bucks, Herts and Cambs with work in progress or planned at Luton, Amptill, Linslade, Aylesbury, Hemel Hempstead and many other sites. A Happy New Year to everyone.

MICK'S BACK



● **Scoring sub:** Mick Harford came on and equalised against Southampton when he returned from injury. Welcome back, Mick.

DARRON IN CHARGE AND ON THE BALL AGAIN

● **Ball sponsors:** Darron McDonough presents Keith Harvey and his son Richard with an autographed match ball after our 2-2 draw with the Saints. Darron had another storming game in a match we were very unlucky not to win.



● **Forecast winner:** Mark Stein returned against the Saints and was out of luck in front of goal. He is pictured presenting an autographed ball to the winner of our match forecast competition.



● **Man of the match:** Mal Donaghy receives a bottle of bubbly from Graham White of Scotts Commercial Vehicles Southampton match.



● **Ready for kick-off:** Kevin Bond and Steve Foster line up with the officials and mascot Richard Beesley before our game with the Saints.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER

Happy new year

It was disappointing not to go into our Christmas fixtures with a win over Southampton, but we shall be doing our best to change our luck in all the other games, you can be sure! As I write, hours after the draw with the Saints, I am unable to reflect on any of our Christmas action.

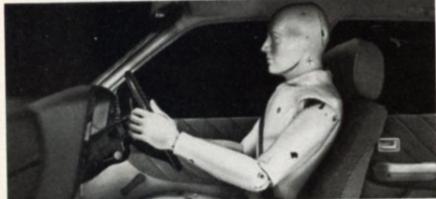
As usual, however, I know it will have been a busy time for the lads with a lot of travelling and time spent away from their homes and families. I hope everyone will have enjoyed the games.

Every start

Today, we are kicking off the New Year early with a clash against Chelsea. We want to get our own back on the Blues if we can because they inflicted a 3-0 defeat on us at Stamford Bridge last August.

A lot has happened since then, of course, and I think we have settled down after an inconsistent start. Give us plenty of support today - and a Happy New Year to everyone.

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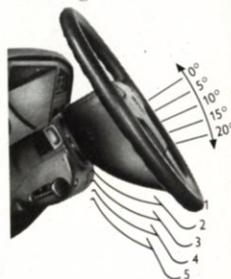
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PHOTO FILE



• Stamford Bridge flashback: Gary Cobb and Emeka Nwajiobi in action at Chelsea in August.



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IN PROFILE.... LES SEALEY



● **Happy Hatter:** Les Sealey.

Clean sheets please our number one



● **Number one:** Les Sealey.

After signing a new contract earlier this season which will keep him at Kenilworth Road until 1990, Les Sealey has settled down to justify our manager Ray Harford's faith and judgement with a string of top-quality goalkeeping displays. Indeed, between October 10 when the Town went down 3-1 at Portsmouth and the week before Christmas, when Southampton were due to visit, Les had conceded only four goals in nine matches.

"I don't know what makes the difference really," said Les, "but the lads have been playing well and I am happy and settled. This is a happy club to play for and I hope to have a good long run. We can aim as high as anyone when it comes to honours in the league and the cups too."

LES SEALEY



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DRESSING ROOM

TALK

with Darron McDonough

Darron McDonough went into the Christmas fixtures at Kenilworth Road in a settled and happy frame of mind, enjoying his most consistent and successful spell since he joined the club from Oldham Athletic early last season. In Dressing Room Talk today, he explains why:

Settled spell

"I'm enjoying my game more than at any other time since I've been at Luton and a lot of the reasons why are down to the fact that I am having a settled run in the same position. I am doing the job Peter Nicholas used to do for the team, playing defensively in midfield, in front of the back four, but also trying to get forward in support and to get some goals as well.

"Until I was first put into the position, I had only done it once before really and that was at Oldham more than three years ago, so it took me a while to settle down.

"Now I am used to it and really enjoying it. The results seem to be pretty good and as of now – a long time before our fans will read this programme – we have only lost two of our last 10 matches. This is not a bad run and it coincides with my move into the number four shirt so you can imagine how pleased I feel.

"I know the fans here can be a bit hard to please at times, but I feel our crowd have got used to seeing me and what I am trying to do for the team now. I am feeling a lot more comfortable and relaxed than I was when I first came in and I hope that is beginning to show in my performance.

"It is a tough job to do in the First Division where I had never been asked to play in this position before. But I like it a lot. I think midfield is one of my favourite positions. But I would like to score a few more goals of course!



Anchor man: Darron McDonough.

On target

"It was a bit of a joke among the lads that Peter Nicholas had so much trouble finding the net for us and it seems to be a little the same this year in the midfield...although we have all managed to get on target so far!

"Another thing that may have contributed to my form has been that I feel more settled now that we have been at the club for a year – my wife Alison and me, she hires out the cushions on match days so we both feel involved – and have bought a house.

"These things all add up in the end. The main thing is that the team are happy together and playing well. I shall be happy as long as I can keep my place and keep reproducing my form. I enjoy the job in the anchor position and hope to stay there."

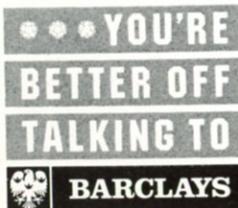
WE'RE TALKING FOOTBALL.

"Blimey, the ground looks a bit different to Watford. Where's the dog track?"

LUTHER BLISSETT,
at Milan's San Siro Stadium, 1983.

"If ye dinnae score, ye dinnae win."
JIMMY SIRREL,
Notts County manager, 1983.

"No footballer of talent should play in the back four."
MALCOLM ALLISON, 1975.



"All visiting teams complain about the pitch - but they all seem to win."
ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS,
to Dunfermline players visiting Cyprus, 1968.

SOURCE: THE BOOK OF FOOTBALL QUOTATIONS. PETER BALL AND PHIL SHAW (STANLEY PAUL, AN IMPRINT OF CENTURY HUTCHINSON LTD).

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

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
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

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).

FA CUP THIRD ROUND Luton Town v Hartlepool United Saturday, January 9, 1988. Kick-off 3pm

Tickets are now available from the ticket office in Kenilworth Road, priced at £3 for standing and £4 for seats.

In the event of a replay, the match will take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, January 12, 1988, kick-off 7.45pm.

Season ticket holders can claim their ticket on Sunday January 10 at the ticket office from 9am to 5pm.

Tickets will go on general sale to members from 9am on Monday, January 11. Prices: Main stand £7 (juniors and pensioners £4), Enclosure £6 (£3), Oak Road £6 (£3), Kenilworth End £4 (£2).

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.

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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 mementoes 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.



CLUB COMMENT

John Smith, Chief Executive VISITORS WELCOME FOR FA CUP

We are pleased that not only are we able to accommodate visiting supporters for our Littlewoods Cup tie against Bradford City later this month, but also in the Football Association Cup, should we be fortunate enough to gain a home tie in the fourth round or a later round or to take Hartlepool United to a replay.

The Football Association have agreed to continue to support our proposals for the accommodation of visitors to Kenilworth Road this season and we shall be able to house a maximum of 2,000 visiting supporters. This figure is larger than the original 1,500 fans we would normally accommodate from any visiting club in the K1 section of our Kenilworth end. The expansion of K1 was made for the Bradford City tie.

We shall, of course, be taking each match as it comes and judging the merits of the situation depending upon which club we are drawn against. We have held talks with the

Football Association and the police on this matter and both seem to be very satisfied.

The FA's Challenge Cup committee have considered all the possible proposals and points and agreed that ticket allocation can be varied according to the conditions prevailing for each match. This will mean that a club with a large travelling support but without an unblemished reputation will be looked at differently from a club with a travelling support well known for its good behaviour and sportsmanship.

I believe that this decision is in the best spirit of the FA Cup itself as it means we are able to enjoy our luck of the draw as much as anyone else. It also shows the FA are prepared to go on supporting our experiment which will lead to the reintroduction of visiting supporters on an integrated basis at an opportune time in the future.



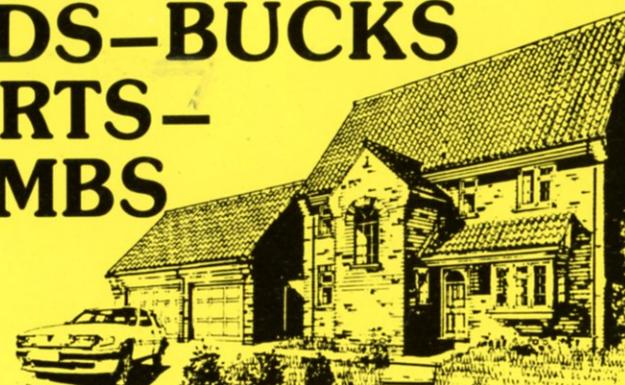
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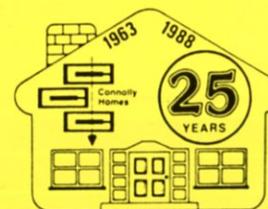
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CONNOLLY HOMES
HOMES TO BE HAPPY IN



●Pushing forward: Town youngsters press to create another attack.



●Under control: Aaron Tighe on the wing.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	17	14	1	2	41	12	29
Tottenham Hotspur	16	11	2	3	37	17	24
Arsenal	17	11	1	5	38	16	23
Queens Park Rangers	16	11	1	4	34	18	23
Norwich City	16	9	4	3	38	21	22
Southampton	18	9	3	6	37	21	21
Portsmouth	14	9	2	3	34	23	20
Luton Town	16	8	3	5	35	27	19
Chelsea	17	7	4	6	31	21	18
Millwall	16	6	5	5	28	18	17
West Ham United	16	7	3	6	27	26	17
Ipswich Town	16	3	6	5	29	25	16
Oxford United	16	7	2	7	34	40	16
Charlton Athletic	16	4	4	8	17	29	12
Swindon Town	15	5	2	8	22	37	12
Brighton & Hove Albion	17	5	1	11	17	44	11
Fulham	14	3	3	8	23	48	9
Bristol Rovers	18	2	2	14	24	47	6
Reading	18	2	2	14	22	47	6
Crystal Palace	15	2	1	12	9	36	5

SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION 1987/88

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

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	14	13	1	-	68	11	27
Tottenham Hotspur	17	13	1	3	35	19	27
Northampton Town	16	10	3	3	60	27	23
Wimbledon	14	8	3	3	35	16	19
Swindon Town	18	7	3	8	41	36	17
Oxford United	16	7	1	8	34	32	15
Colchester United	17	5	5	7	34	39	15
Brentford	17	6	3	8	30	43	15
Bristol City	16	7	1	8	29	50	15
Luton Town	15	6	2	7	30	27	14
A.F.C. Bournemouth	18	3	7	8	27	45	13
Crystal Palace	16	5	2	9	28	41	12
Reading	17	4	4	9	19	48	12
Bristol Rovers	16	2	7	7	17	29	11
Brighton & Hove Albion	17	3	3	11	24	48	9

COACHES' CORNER



COACHES' CORNER YOUTH TEAM EARN A DRAW AGAINST TOUGH OPPOSITION

After seizing their place in the semi-finals of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, in which the Town are holders, the youth team met Bradford on December 19 in London. The result was a 1-1 draw with O'Sullivan scoring for the Hatters in the second half.

Coach John Faulkner said: "It was not a particularly inspiring game, but we had some good spells and some good moments, particularly in the first half. We more than deserved a draw as it was a tough match for our lads against a large and physical team."

The Town's goal followed a spell of good passing and a well-worked move which ended with a cool finish. The Brentford equaliser followed a defensive mistake.

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

Richardson & Bottoms Ltd.
Building Contractors of Luton.

In the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, Luton will meet Charlton Athletic or Aston Villa. The ties are to be played on or before March 4.

Finally, on behalf of all the young and senior players, the coaches and the reserves, thank you very much to all the fans who supported us throughout 1987. We hope to see you all again often in 1988!

INTRODUCING...

CHELSEA

Today we welcome a Chelsea side currently in the top ten in what is their fourth season back in Division One. Games here have been extremely close in recent seasons with two draws and two single goal wins by us in the last four meetings here.

Founded in 1905 on the initiative of a Mr A.H. Mears, who became the owner of Stamford Bridge, Chelsea appointed Scottish international John Tait Robertson as manager and got together a team that included heavyweight goalkeeper Willie Foulke from Sheffield United. Though the new Chelsea failed to secure election to the Southern League, they did gain admittance to the Second Division in 1906 so that their first-ever league game of any kind was in the Football League.

'Chelsea drew a near 78,000 crowd for a Cup-tie'

After just two seasons, they won promotion to Division One and though relegated again in 1910, they reached the FA Cup semi-final a season later, having attracted a gate of 77,952 for a quarter final win over Swindon Town.

They returned to Division One in 1912 and in 1914-15 reached the last FA Cup final to be played before the First World War caused the competition to be suspended. Just under 50,000 were present at Old Trafford (the lowest attendance for 20 years at an FA Cup final) to see them go

down 3-0 to Sheffield United in what has come subsequently to be known as the 'Khaki final'.

They had another six-season spell in Division Two in the twenties but once they had returned to Division One they held on to their place. In the thirties, they had two Scottish international forwards, Andy Wilson and Hughie Gallacher banging in the goals and the Second World War arrived at a time when England international Vic Woodley was in goal with Scottish international Johnny Jackson in the reserves.

By this time, our ten-goal hero Joe Payne had also linked up with them and he banged in 40 goals in 1944-45 when they won the League (South) Cup.

Inconsistency was the most prominent characteristic of the 'Pensioners' as they were then known, but things came together in 1954-55 when they chalked up their First Division One title with a side captained by Roy Bentley and managed by Ted Drake.

Though slipping to Division Two in 1962, they bounced straight back up again with Bobby Tambling and Peter Bonetti to the fore.

With Tommy Docherty as manager, from 1962 to 1967, Chelsea won the League Cup in 1964-65 and with young talent in their ranks they threw off the 'Pensioners' tag and with Dave Sexton succeeding Docherty, went on to win the FA Cup in 1970 and the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1971.



Back Row: Eddie Niedzwiecki, John McNaught, Colin Pates, Steve Wicks, Joe McLaughlin (Captain), Kerry Dixon, Roy Wegerie, Micky Bodley, Roger Freestone. Middle Row: Ernie Walley (Coach), Jerry Murphy, Gareth Hall, Darren Wood, Steve Clarke, Gordon Durie, John Coady, Tony Dorigo, John Bumstead, Norman Medhurst (Physiotherapist). Front Row: Pat Nevin, Colin West, Clive Wilson, John Hollins (Manager), Billy Dodds, Mick Hazard, Kevin Wilson.



John Hollins endured a tough time from sections of Fleet Street last season when Chelsea struggled, but he has hung on to his job and kept the Blues well up in the First Division. A dedicated manager, Hollins is a popular figure with the Chelsea followers.

As a player, in the swinging 60's, Hollins was a regular in midfield for Chelsea and regarded as one of the best wing-halves in the First Division.

Since then, they have had two short spells in Division Two, emerging from the Second in 1984, under John Neal, and going on to finish 6th, 6th and 4th respectively in the last three seasons. Last season, they made a remarkable recovery after winning only three of their first 20 games and going out of the Littlewoods Cup at Cardiff.

This season they kicked off with three successive wins including a 3-0 success over us and, though they have lost seven away games, they are still unbeaten at home at the time of writing. Their two away wins have been achieved at Portsmouth and Watford though they went out of the Littlewood Cup 3-1 at Reading.

'on his day, Nevin is a world-beating winger'

Gordon Durie (from Hibernian last season) is currently among the leading scorers in Division One while Kerry Dixon has this season added to the century of goals that he has got since moving from Reading.

Former Clyde man Pat Nevin has continued to be a world-beating winger on his day. Clive Wilson (ex-Manchester City) is in his first season linking attack and midfield where Jerry Murphy is in his second season since moving free from Crystal Palace and Mike Hazard in his second season since costing £300,000 from Spurs.

In defence, home-grown Colin Pates has played over 300 games and links up in the centre with Joe McLaughlin (from Morton four years ago) with Steve Clarke (from St. Mirren last season) and Tony Dorigo (from Aston Villa this season) on the flanks and Roger Freestone (from Newport last season) in goal. Substitute recently has been local lad Garety Hall, who made his debut near the end of last season.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY BRIAN STEIN

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

I would like to wish a happy New Year to all Junior Hatters, parents and friends.

We have got a lot of events coming up this year. We will be playing a game of football against some of the Junior Saints of Southampton when we play Southampton away and Junior Hornets when we play Watford at home at the end of the season.

We hope to have more than one team by the end of the season so we can include as many Junior supporters as we possibly can. I will let you know more about these games, and how we can pick the teams to be fair to everyone.

We will be entering a team in 'Its a Knockout' at Hemel Hempstead in June with teams from Junior Hornets and Junior Gunners and many more.

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is J050690. 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 matches. Have a good day and I will see you at our next home game when we play Derby County.

ESCORTS

MASCOT

ESCORTS



Chris Arnold



Roy Ayles



Paul Carroll



Steve Bailey



Nigel Little

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 TOP BRITISH GOALKEEPER.

STAR IS BORN

UNSCRAMBLE THE NINE FOOTBALL TEAMS AND PUT THEM INTO THEIR CORRECT PLACES. YOU WILL THEN FIND PETER BEARDSLEY'S PLACE OF BIRTH READING DOWN.

Spot the Difference 5

Can you spot the 10 differences between the two pictures?

The answers to the last Quiz Time are:
Junior Spot: The cheer-leaders should spell Sunderland.
Soccer Girl supports Chelsea.
The Mystery Star was Kenny Dalglish.
 The answers to today's Quiz Time will appear in our next home game programme.

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Views from the media

LATE EQUALISER EARNS GLORY

Mick Harford's brief appearance as a substitute against Southampton when he scored a late equaliser was enough to earn him most of the headlines following our 2-2 draw shortly before Christmas. Here is a selection of the reports from the newspapers:

Daily Express: "Southampton goalkeeper John Burridge was left pounding the Kenilworth Road artificial pitch in frustration after handling Luton a late equaliser. After producing a string of fine saves, throughout the match, Burridge fumbled Mick Harford's powerful header over the line with four minutes to go.

He said "It hit me in the chest and as I was about to collect it our fullback Gerry Forrest kicked me in the ankle. I lost it. But that sort of thing happens a lot on artificial pitches."

Off the line

Daily Mail: "Southampton were lucky to get a draw in the end, but they might have won had Danny Wallace not strained a groin seconds before halftime... Most of the second half was played in Southampton's half, but Ray Harford said: "We were too rushed. We were in charge of the game, but were never comfortable. Saints defender Derek Statham cleared off the line from a Brian Stein effort in the 64th minute... It would have been an injustice if Harford had not scored near the end."

Daily Telegraph: "Mick Harford, Luton's centre-forward, returned to action for the first time in nearly two months last night and earned his team a late equaliser at Kenilworth Road. The England B striker who had missed seven games because of a knee injury came on with 20 minutes remaining and four minutes from time headed his 11th goal of the season."



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



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Tel: 0582 29666.

LUTON TOWN GOLDEN OLDIES

CROWDS FLOCK TO SEE PAYNE AND THE WINNING TOWN TEAM IN ACTION

Midway through the 1936-37 season, the Town won 8-1 at home to Cardiff to avenge an early season defeat, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

This win had put Luton back into top position after a poor Christmas that started so well with a home win over fellow challengers Notts County but finished with defeats at Southend and in the return at Meadow Lane, Nottingham.

It was at this time that manager Liddle realised that Joe Payne was best suited to the centre-forward position and that despite his clever promptings Jack Ball needed replacing.

'Dawes was recruited and soon responded with goals'

The Crystal Palace top scorer Albert Dawes was therefore recruited and he responded by scoring in the big win over Cardiff and again the following week in the 4-0 win at, ironically, Crystal Palace.

In that game Payne scored another two but missed a penalty in a game made one-sided by the early injury to a Palace forward who eventually had to leave the field of play with half an hour left.

The crowds were now flocking to watch Luton and more especially Joe Payne with 16,361 watching the away win at Bristol City and a then ground record 27,461 witnessing the 3-1 victory at Watford - Payne inevitably scoring in both games.

The next home game saw the visit of fellow promotion hopefuls Brighton and with the home crowd swelled to 19,093 with three trainloads from the South Coast a classic was anticipated.

Although the game was played on a quagmire it was a thrilling end to end affair and Luton took a first half lead from a header by Joe Payne which

was cancelled out immediately after the interval. Payne then went off for 20 minutes injured, returned to inspire the forward line again, and saw George Stephenson net with two minutes to go.

The thrills were not over yet as Brighton scored straight from the restart but the goal was disallowed through offside. From the resultant free kick Dawes went away and slammed a shot against a post - all this happening within 90 seconds.



• **Malcolm Macdonald:** Another great Town goalscorer who hit the net regularly during his spell at Kenilworth Road before leaving for Newcastle, Arsenal and England.

The Luton faithful were now beginning to believe that it was going to be their year and despite a disappointing 2-1 defeat at Bournemouth the crowd figure reached 19,196 for the visit of Northampton in the next home game.

This game had the crowd shouting for a different reason as "needle" crept in after Luton took an early lead through Payne and Fred Roberts. Tom Mackey was left a limping passenger on the wing after one tackle and the referee has to continually talk to players of both sides for "persistent rough play".

Disaster struck the Town a minute from the interval when Billy Fellowes put through his own goal and this was followed six minutes after the break when Tolland levelled the scores for the Cobblers.

Luton attacked in earnest and their play was rewarded when John Parris was upended in the box and Payne scored from the resultant penalty. The kick took several minutes to take as the Northampton players argued so vehemently but the boot was soon on the other foot as, shortly after, Nelson was adjudged to have fouled the Cobblers forward Lauderdale but this time the penalty was a yard wide.

The referee felt that something had to be done to calm matters and called all the players to the middle of the field to administer a lecture but when Fred Roberts was fouled by ex Town player Billy Thayne shortly afterwards the unfortunate centre-half was sent off - an extremely rare occurrence before the War.

'Luton were a bag of nerves in the final game'

The scene was now set for the run-in with both Luton and Notts County neck and neck at the top of the division. A 4-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers did not do the Town chances any good but goalkeeper Humphrey Dolman was injured early on and was limited with his movements and unable to prevent goals being scored that he would normally have saved.

With eleven fit men the Town won 2-0 at Clapton Orient the next week and followed this up with a 5-0 home win over Millwall on Easter Saturday before beating Clapton 2-0 in the return on Easter Monday.

Home wins of 5-2 over Gillingham and Aldershot came within three days in early April with Payne scoring six, but Notts County could not



• **Joe Payne:** Our greatest-ever centre-forward? Not only did Joe hit 10 goals in one match, but he also became the scourge of defences everywhere before moving on to join today's visitors Chelsea.

be shaken off and when the Town lost 1-0 at Gillingham with County winning it looked as if the Hatters might be pipped at the post as they had the previous season. Both teams had three games to play - all relatively easy - but County were two points ahead albeit with an inferior goal average. Swindon were easily beaten 5-1 at Kenilworth Road with Payne scoring yet another hat-trick but County also won. Newport went the same way seven days later but this time the news soon rang round the ground that Notts County had been beaten at home by Brighton and it was soon realised that if the Town won their final match - at home to Torquay - a promotion place would be theirs.

Luton were a bag of nerves in the final game and the 20,355 crowd suffered many scares before Joe Payne scored twice to calm everyone down.

At the final whistle the crowd refused to go home until the players had acknowledged the fans and the biggest cheer was reserved for Payne who had succeeded in netting an amazing 55 league goals. A record never likely to be broken.

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	Pts			
21	10	1	0	30	3	Liverpool	6	4	0	21	8	53
20	6	2	1	23	5	Nottingham Forest	7	2	2	21	11	43
22	7	1	3	22	9	Arsenal	5	3	3	13	11	40
21	6	4	0	18	9	Manchester United	4	4	3	17	13	38
22	8	2	1	22	5	Everton	2	5	4	10	10	37
22	6	3	2	16	10	Queens Park Rangers	4	3	4	11	17	36
22	5	5	1	18	10	Wimbledon	4	2	5	13	15	34
22	6	4	0	18	10	Chelsea	2	1	9	13	26	29
21	5	4	3	18	11	LUTON TOWN	3	0	6	9	14	28
21	4	3	3	15	13	Southampton	3	4	4	16	18	28
22	6	1	4	15	12	Tottenham Hotspur	2	3	6	7	14	28
22	5	5	1	14	16	Sheffield Wednesday	3	2	6	11	20	27
22	4	4	4	14	15	West Ham United	2	4	4	11	14	26
21	3	3	4	9	12	Newcastle United	3	4	4	15	21	25
21	3	3	5	10	10	Derby County	3	3	4	9	15	24
21	2	4	4	10	17	Coventry City	4	2	5	12	15	24
22	5	1	5	17	19	Oxford United	1	3	7	7	20	22
22	3	5	4	13	14	Norwich City	3	1	8	6	15	21
22	3	5	4	13	15	Portsmouth	1	3	6	6	24	20
22	3	4	5	12	16	Charlton Athletic	1	2	7	9	18	18
21	3	2	5	8	12	Watford	1	4	6	6	16	18

Aug 15	Derby County	0-1	17204	-	Sealey
Aug 18	Coventry City	0-1	7506	-	Sealey
Aug 22	West Ham United	2-2	8073	-	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	0-2	32242	11	Sealey
Dec 28	Charlton Athletic	1-0	7243	9	Sealey

Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	(R Wilson)	(Preece)	◆M.N/D.M
Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	McDonough	D Wilson	Harford	Newell	(R Wilson)	Preece	◆Nwajobi
Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	(McDonough)	D Wilson	Cobb	Harford ²	Newell	Preece	◆S North
Breacker	Crimes	Donaghy	Foster	R Wilson	Hill	Cobb	Newell	Nwajobi	Preece	K.B./S.N
Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson ^P	B Stein	(Newell)	Nwajobi	Preece	◆M Stein
Breacker ¹	Crimes	Hill ¹	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	(B Stein) ¹	Harford ¹	Nwajobi ¹	(Preece)	◆M.S./R.J
Breacker	Crimes	Hill ¹	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	(Nwajobi)	(Preece)	◆M.S./R.J
Breacker (McDonough)	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	M Stein	(Preece)	(Preece)	◆M.W./R.J
Breacker	Johnson	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	Weir ¹	(Preece)	◆Nwajobi
Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	Black	Preece	R.J./E.N
Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford ¹	(Black)	(Weir)	◆M.S./D.M
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough ¹	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford ³	Black	Weir	M.S./R.J
Breacker	Crimes	Hill	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford ^P	(Johnson)	(Weir)	◆D.McD./E.N
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson ¹	B Stein ¹	Harford	(Black)	Weir	◆I.A./E.N
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	Allinson	Weir	M.S./R.J
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford ²	Johnson	Weir ¹	M.S./R.H
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Nwajobi ¹	M Stein ²	Allinson	R.J./R.H
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Nwajobi	M Stein ¹	Allinson ¹	R.J./R.H
Breacker	Harvey	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	(D Wilson)	B Stein ¹	Nwajobi	(Johnson)	M Stein	◆K.B./D.O
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	R Johnson	B Stein	Nwajobi	M Stein	Allinson ²	R.H./M.W
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein ¹	(Nwajobi)	Weir	Allinson	◆R./R.H
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough	Foster ¹	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Hill	Weir	Allinson	R.J./K.B
Breacker	Crimes	McDonough ¹	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Hill	M Stein	(Allinson)	◆M.W./M.H. ¹
Breacker	(Crimes)	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson	B Stein	Harford	(Hill)	Allinson	◆R./M.S
Breacker	Johnson	McDonough	Foster	Donaghy	D Wilson ¹	B Stein	Harford	M Stein	Allinson	K.B./D.O

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1987/88)

Player	League		Litt Cup		Player	League		Litt Cup	
	Aps	Gs	Aps	Gs		Aps	Gs	Aps	Gs
Ian Allinson	9(1)	3	-	-	Mike Newell	4	-	-	-
Kingsley Black	3	-	1(1)	-	Stacey North	(1)	-	-	-
Tim Breacker	21	1	4	-	Emeka Nwajobi	8(3)	2	1	-
Gary Cobb	2	-	-	-	David Oldfield	-	-	(1)	-
Mal Donaghy	19	-	4	-	David Preece	9	-	1	-
Steve Foster	21	1	4	-	Brian Stein	18	5	4	1
Ashley Grimes	19	-	2	-	Mark Stein	6(5)	3	1	-
Mick Harford	14	6	3	5	Les Sealey	21	-	4	-
Richard Harvey	-	-	1	-	Michael Weir	6(1)	1	3	2
Ricky Hill	14(1)	2	-	-	Danny Wilson	19	3	4	-
Rob Johnson	3(4)	-	3	-	Robert Wilson	3	-	-	-
Darron McDonough	13(3)	1	3	1					



Div One Hot Shots

Aldridge (Liverpool)	15
Clough (Forest)	14
McClair (Man Utd)	14
Durie (Chelsea)	13
Fashanu (Wimbledon)	12
Harford (Luton)	10
Jones (Charlton)	10
Sharp (Everton)	10
Claesen (Spurs)	10

● On target: Darron McDonough

* This fixture played at Leicester. © The Football League. FAC = F.A. Cup. † indicates player substituted. ◆ indicates substitute used. Home fixtures in **Bold**. Scorer's name in **Bold**. P = Penalty. † denotes own goal.



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VAUXHALL TEAMCHECK.

Luton Town 3

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

Chelsea 0

- 1 Roger Freestone
- 2 Steve Clarke
- 3 Tony Dorigo
- 4 Colin Pates
- 5 Joe McLoughlin
- 6 Darren Wood
- 7 Pat Nevin
- 8 Mike Hazard
- 9 Kerry Dixon
- 10 Kevin Wilson
- 11 Clive Wilson
- Subs

Referee: J.M. KEY (Rotherham) Linesmen: A.J. BUNCE (Red Flag) D.J. ELEY (Yellow Flag)

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