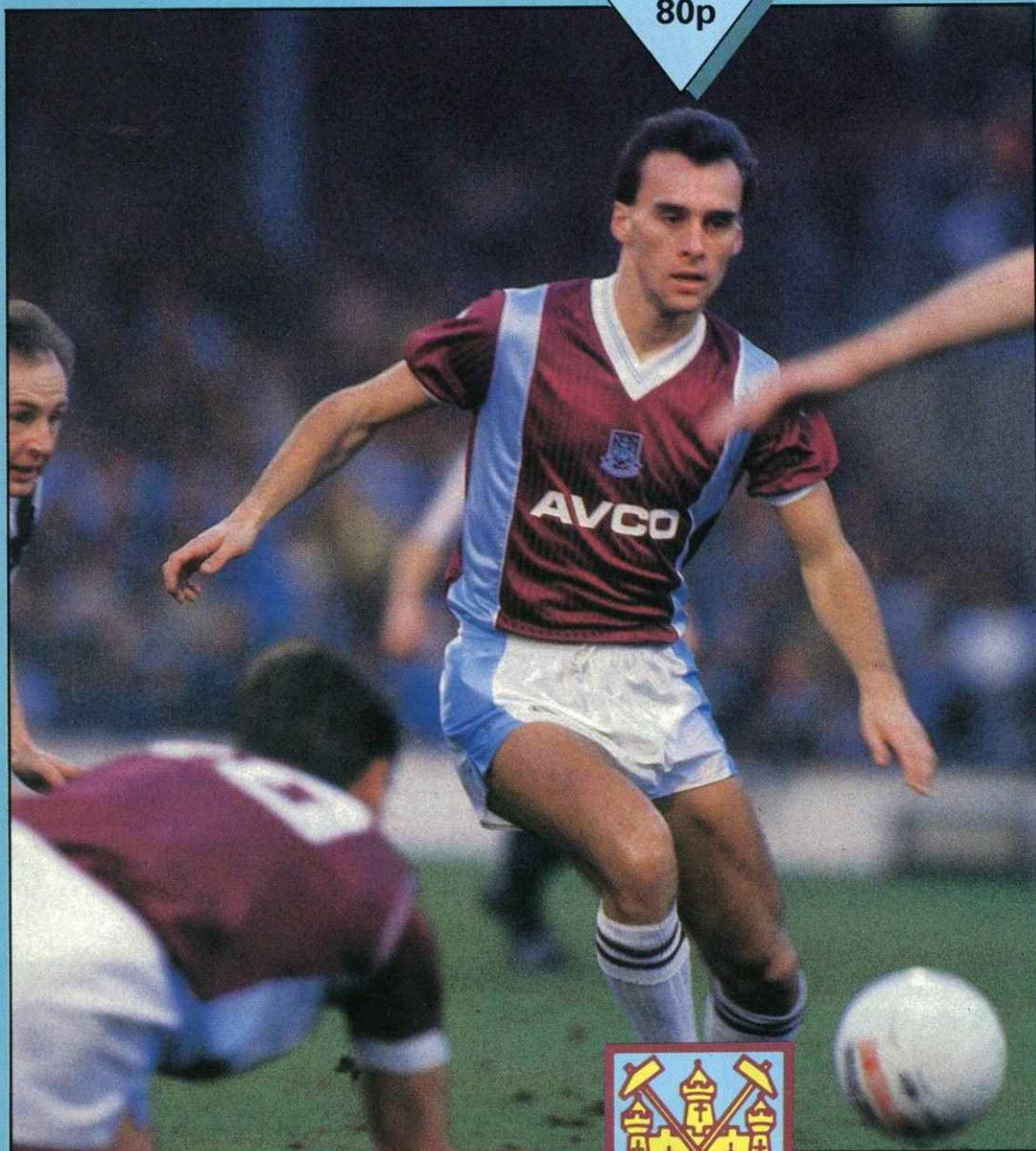


Official Matchday Magazine

Hammer

80p



BARCLAYS League Division One

LUTON TOWN

Saturday 2nd January 1988

Kick-Off 3.00p.m



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NEWS

NO PANIC BUYING

Since the departure of Frank McAvennie to Celtic at the end of September West Ham United have been associated with practically every top class striker in the League, a situation which doesn't particularly worry us but must be disconcerting for the clubs whose players are being linked.

The week before Christmas manager John Lyall and coach Ronnie Boyce were spotted at Plough Lane watching the Wimbledon v Norwich City game. The next day the headlines announced that they were there to check the form of one of the Don's strikers.

Of course this was totally untrue. The management duo were there to assess the form of the Wimbledon team a week before they were due to play us at Upton Park. A common enough practice surely.

Mr Lyall does not disguise the fact that he is looking for a striker but stresses that there is no immediate panic particularly as the team are playing so well at the moment.

He says: "We simply want to get the right player at the right price. It's as simple as that."

The Upton Park backroom staff will continue working on the subject until the right player becomes available and Mr Lyall says: "The nice thing is we are not under pressure because the players at the moment are playing very well and winning matches. That's the important thing."

WHAT A CHRISTMAS BOX

Mr D. W. Coyne of Cranleigh Gardens, Barking was sitting watching TV when he received the news that he had won £1,000 on the Hammers Christmas draw... Mr Coyne didn't attend the draw at Upton Park on Friday 18th December but within seven minutes our Commercial Department had phoned him to give him the glad tidings.

Next first team game at Upton Park
F. A. Cup Third Round
CHARLTON ATHLETIC
Saturday 9th January 1988
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

SEASON TICKETS

We have a number of seating and terrace season tickets available, priced as follows: West Stand Upper Tier "B" & "D" Blocks: £52.

West Stand Lower Tier Category One: £59 (single seats only).

West Stand Lower Tier Category Two: £52.

East Stand: £59 (single seats only).

Family Seating Area: £49 (Adults), £24 (Children under 16).

East Terrace: £33.

Applications can be made at the Ticket Office between 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday or by post.

Telephone enquiries: (01) 472 2740.

FIFTEEN ALL!

When it comes to football things couldn't be closer than they are between us and Luton Town. Just look at the facts. After 45 meetings with them in the Football League the record shows 15 wins for the Hammers, 15 wins for the Hatters with 15 games drawn... And as if that wasn't close enough the goal differences are exactly the same as well with 53 goals each.

A full run-down on our scores over the years can be found on pages 8 and 9.

Front Cover Action — Alan Dickens splits the Newcastle United defence with this attacking run.

Picture — Steve Bacon



NO. Phil Parkes isn't removing these panes of glass to board up his goal. The popular Hammers custodian, who runs his own window company, is seen here on his first assignment at Upton Park, replacing windows for a new kitchen in the Long Room.

YOUR OWN ACTION REPLAY

YOU can relive the thrills, spills, the excitement, and the pleasure of today's game with Luton Town in the comfort of your own armchair. Yes, by buying the West Ham video of today's game you will have all the action at your fingertips.

The West Ham United video will be available from the Club Shop together with those covering all our home matches this season.

In full colour with action replays and commentary they are a bargain at just £12.95 each. Add £1 postage and packing if ordering through the mail.

All our home games, and some of our away fixtures too, are available and provide the perfect record for all football enthusiasts... Make sure you order your copy today!

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Hammer Line	01-475 0555
General Enquiries	01-472 2740
Commercial Office	01-472 5756
Commercial Office	01-472 7352
Hammers Shop	01-472 4214

CUP ACTION NEXT WEEK

It's **F.A. Cup** time next Saturday when we will be home again to entertain South London rivals **Charlton Athletic**.

On paper it may seem that the Hammers are firm favourites against a side struggling at the wrong end of the table and with just one away win in the League this season, but as 1987 drifted away so Charlton's fortunes began to improve.

That away win for example was recorded on December 13th at Tottenham Hotspur. There was no superstitions on the part of **David Campbell** who slipped in the only goal of the match to give Charlton their first win at White Hart Lane for 32 years.

There was further jubilation the following week when a 2-2 draw with Chelsea provided another step up the ladder towards First Division survival. **Lennie Lawrence's** men clawed their way off the bottom rung for the first time since September, and this after being 2-0 down with 16 minutes to go.

Charlton have already held us to a draw here in the League this season and there is no doubt about their spirit and battling qualities. It looks set to provide a rousing cup tie in the best traditions of this most prestigious competition. So make sure you don't miss **WEST HAM UNITED v CHARLTON ATHLETIC** here **NEXT SATURDAY AT 3.00 p.m.**

TICKET INFO

F.A. CUP — THIRD ROUND
v **CHARLTON ATHLETIC**

Saturday 9th January
Kick off 3 p.m.

Advance seat tickets for this match will be on sale at the

Portakabin on the main forecourt before and after today's match, and then from the

Ticket Office this Monday to Friday

between 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m., and next Saturday 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Postal applications also accepted.

Seat Prices: £5.50, £7.00, £7.50, £8.50.

Family Seating Area — £7.00 Adults, £3.50 children under 16.

Please note that Family Seating Area tickets will only be sold to

Junior Hammers Club Members and their families and friends. A

Junior Hammers Club Membership card number should be

quoted when purchasing tickets for these sections.

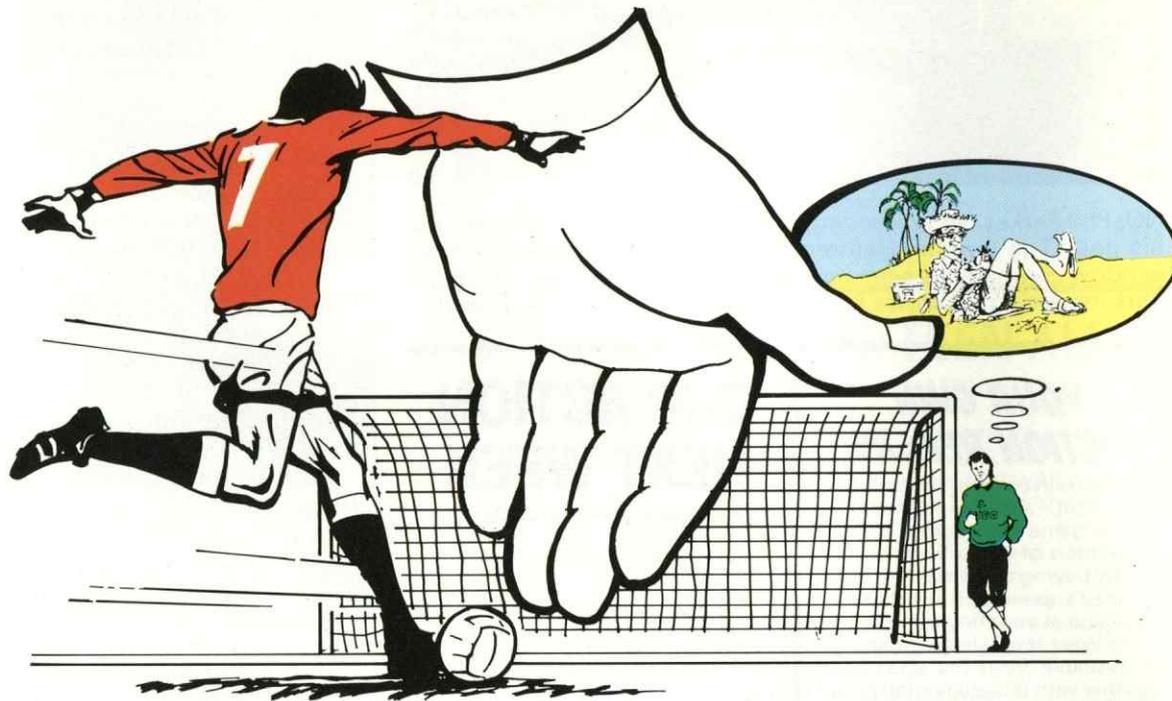
AGENCIES

Seat tickets for all our home Barclays League matches are also

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CROWDED START TO 1988

by JACK HELLIAR

AS FAR as we are aware this is the first occasion on which we have played two League games on the first couple of days of a new year. We stand to be corrected if the statisticians can inform us otherwise, but believe that if so it must have been many years ago.

Soccer matches on New Year's Day have long been a feature of Scottish football and also in some parts of Northern England; but it is only about 10 years, or so, ago that advantage was taken of the public holiday for the trend to spread "south of Watford".

This year New Year's Day fell on a Friday, and as the normal Saturday fixtures are on schedule all but two of the 21 First Division clubs are engaged on successive days. The exceptions are Oxford United (who did not play yesterday) and Charlton Athletic (who are more-or-less local or semi-local derbies, so not a great deal of travelling is involved for visiting teams).

The Hammers were due to meet Norwich City at Carrow Road yesterday. However, as these notes had to be penned several days in advance of that match it was not only impossible to comment upon the outcome but also possible that the vagaries of the weather at the turn of the year could produce a postponement — and hence little information to convey. However, by the time you

read these words, you will have already read and heard of the essential details through the media.

If the match took place at Norwich, it did not give our squad a great deal of time to recover from the strenuous activities of the past week before preparing for this clash with Luton Town; although we did our best to ensure that the squad had a good night's sleep on New Year's Eve.

The Hatters obviously had to take similar steps prior to their home game against Chelsea yesterday; but at the end of 90 minutes there are sure to be some tired legs out there this afternoon — plus after-match thoughts that in a few days' time comes the Third Round of the FA Cup.

When the League fixtures were published last year (yes, it was *last* year in June!) there was a 50-50 chance that today's match might be the only First Team game at Upton Park during the whole of January and the first half of February. FA Cup dates on the 9th and 30th January made a home fixture dependent upon the luck of the draw, and we definitely had an away match on the 16th and a blank date on the 23rd due to being "odd man out" of the 21 contenders.

Fortunately, that situation has been averted and — who knows? — if we can defeat Charlton Athletic in the Cup we may have another Upton Park engagement in four weeks' time.

Finally, a greeting that can always be given in advance: "A Happy New Year to all true football fans everywhere!"



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European Cup Winners Cup:
Winners 1964-65
Runners-up 1975-76
Semi-Finalists 1965-66

Football Association Cup:
Winners 1963-64, 1974-75,
1979-80
Runners-up 1922-23
Semi-Finalists 1932-33

Football League Cup:
Runners-up 1965-66, 1980-81
Semi-Finalists 1963-64, 1966-67,
1971-72

Football League (Division Two):
Winners 1957-58, 1980-81
Runners-up 1922-23

F.A. Charity Shield:
Joint holders 1964
Runners-up 1975, 1980

Football Association Youth Cup:
Winners 1962-63, 1980-81
Runners-up 1956-57, 1958-59,
1974-75
Semi-Finalists 1952-53

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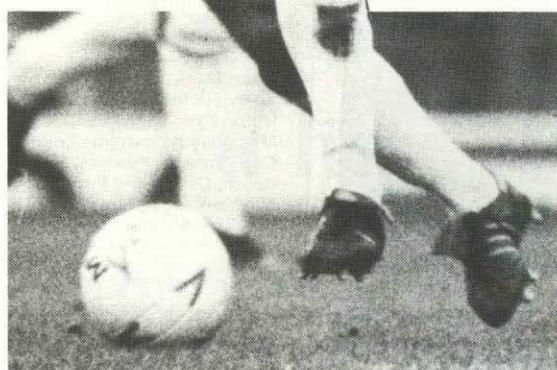
REVIEW



TOM McALISTER
— The only ever-present this season.



BILLY BONDS
— an inspiration to all.



THERE is no doubt 1987 was a bad year for the Hammers. During the past twelve months we have won just 12 games in 40 First Division starts with 11 matches drawn and 17 lost. Not the sort of form to send shudders through the Kop at Anfield.

Here are the figures:*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Ts
HOME	21	9	6	6	26	22	33	
AWAY	19	3	5	11	16	31	14	
Total	40	12	11	17	42	53	47	

The statistics over the past year make far from good reading it is true but as 1988 dawns there is much to encourage us. This is the time of year of course when children of all ages believe in dreams and the hopes and anticipations for West Ham

United certainly have a firm base. For disappointing as our 1987 record is we can take encouragement from the fact that a quarter of those victories have been registered in the last five games. In other words the tide is changing. Our form is looking better.

As manager John Lyall explains the First Division race is a very long one. That victory over Newcastle United lifted the Hammers into ninth place in the table at the halfway stage, and he says: "A few weeks ago we set a target to be in the top half of the table as quickly as possible and we have done that with a run of five games undefeated. That has given us that lift and having achieved one target now we have to look to get into the top six as quickly as possible.

"That means that we will be continuing to build and improve and perform well, which is exactly what we want for our

fans. December though has been particularly rewarding for several factors. The team have worked very very hard, they have produced three very good quality home matches which everyone, including the media, felt were well worth watching, and it is nice to send the fans home happy for Christmas.

"There have been some excellent performances too. Billy Bonds deserves a lot of credit. Young lads like Kevin Keen and Paul Ince have begun to establish themselves within the team and within the club and a number of the other players who have come back from injury have worked hard to get their game going again. All in all it has been a difficult period but I'm sure we've learned a lot from it as has been proved in the last few games."

It is a very thin line between failure and success and John says: "I don't think you call it failure. This game is a game of problems. There were games which we drew here — Derby County is a good example — in which we didn't have a lot of fortune and may have won them having played some very good football without getting the goals. And you have to get goals because that is winning football. We began to get a run going and then lost a couple of games. Everton I thought looked a very good side but against Sheffield Wednesday I felt we were particularly unfortunate to lose 1-0.

"But the attitude and the determination of the players has won through. They have worked exceptionally hard in

training from the first match of the season and have never complained about the results, not made excuses, and their efforts alone have got us through.

"Now they seem to be beginning to get the rewards. The breaks are going for us, the injury situation seems to be improving, so perhaps our good fortune is that we are having a little turn of luck which you need in this game.

"It is noticeable that confidence, which is such a vital factor, is lifting. We can now be pulled back, as we were by Southampton and by Newcastle, and come back to win. Earlier in the season we would have worried about conceding a goal and would have folded. Now we are confident enough to go forward and play.



PAUL INCE — Establishing himself.

"Our policy has always been to be as positive as possible but when you are not playing well and things aren't going for you and you get a goal in front you tend then to try and play safe. It is not a strength because you are giving the opposition possession and therefore the opportunity to create and score.

"So it is nice to see the lads are getting more and more confident and believing in themselves again. It is a key factor. Confident players will show flair, they will look at the game naturally rather than in a restricted pre-conceived way which is the normal reaction when things are not going right and fear of making mistakes restricts their artistic side. The more relaxed the players are the more off the cuff the football."

Despite the results the fans have stuck by us all the way through. "They have been marvellous," adds John who never talks just about winning but how the team play. There has been some tremendous entertainment at Upton Park and this despite an appalling injury crisis which has seen every first team player except goalkeeper Tom McAlister ruled out of games this season.

Now that injury list is getting shorter. Alan Devonshire and Tony Gale are at last playing in the reserves the signs for them and for West Ham United suggest that we can look forward to 1988 with confidence.

*These statistics do not include the games against Wimbledon and Tottenham on the 26th and 28th December.

LUTON TOWN

The return to the side of centre-forward **Mick Harford** provided Southampton a fortnight ago against a welcome boost to Luton Town. It was the England "B" striker's first game for nearly two months following a knee injury, and after being brought on as a substitute with 20 minutes to go he earned the Hatters a late equaliser with a far post header which goalkeeper Burridge could not hold.

Harford's power and leadership had been sorely missed although **Ian Allinson**, a £10,000 signing in the summer from Arsenal, has proved a bargain buy, striking up a fine understanding with former England striker **Brian Stein**.

In midfield Luton have much quality as well with another former England international **Ricky Hill**, calling the shots alongside the very talented Northern Ireland star **Mal Donaghy**, who is also a very accomplished central defender.

At the back big **Steve Foster** imposes his larger than life personality on opposing attackers with former Manchester United fullback **Ashley Grimes** adding his experience to a defence which pushes up quickly to support the attack.

The Hatters have won three of their nine away games in the First Division this season and although they are maybe lacking a little consistency victories at Oxford United (5-2), Sheffield Wednesday (2-0) and Watford (1-0) serve as a warning to all.

MAL DONAGHY — Defender/Midfield. Luton's most capped International, with over 50 to his credit, he has now played in two World Cup campaigns for Northern Ireland. Started his career with Larne. Within months of making his debut for Larne he was being chased by many English First Division sides and it was regarded as an astute piece of business by former Manager **David Pleat** when Donaghy was "stolen" for £20,000 in June 1978. Solid and dependable he forms, with **Steve Foster**, arguably the best central defensive partnership in the country. Ever present last season as he has been for six out of the last nine. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 476 — Goals 20.

ASHLEY GRIMES. Now 30, Dublin born Grimes enjoyed his longest spell in the Luton first team in 1986/87 after almost being transferred to Swindon during the previous close season. He played the early part of his career with Manchester United where he had 90 League games and appeared regularly for Eire. Transferred to Coventry in August 1983 he joined Luton a year later in a straight swap for Kirk Stephens but was then plagued with injuries during his first two seasons at Kenilworth Road. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 52 — Goals 2.

TIM BREACKER. Bicester born Breacker has been a regular member of the first team since his debut at Ipswich in 1984. This England Under-21 International can perform in midfield but his normal position is right back where his surging

runs on the overlap have become a strong feature of his play. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 121 — Goals 1.

STEVE FOSTER. Has been an influential figure at Kenilworth Road since his arrival from Aston Villa in November 1984. David Pleat plucked the former England pivot from Villa's reserve team for just £70,000 and rated the deal the best he'd ever done. Born at Portsmouth, Steve joined his local club as an apprentice and made 109 League appearances for them in four seasons. Brighton invested £150,000 for him in the summer of 1979 and he came to prominence as Albion gained First Division status and reached the 1983 FA Cup Final. In March 1984 Villa paid £200,000 for Steve but he did not figure in Graham Turner's plans when he took control. Won 3 caps with England and played for the Under-21 side.

ROB JOHNSON. Born in Bedford and turning professional for the Town in August 1979 his career was almost over before it started. He suffered two extremely serious knee injuries which would have put most players out of the game but he fought back to make his debut against Birmingham in November 1983. He played most of last season at left-back but prefers the right-side. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 62 — Goals 0.

MICK HARFORD. Luton Town's record cash signing, at £250,000, from Birmingham in December 1984. Sunderland born, Harford commenced his League career with Lincoln where 46 goals in 126 appearances encouraged Newcastle to pay £180,000 for his services in December 1980. He never really settled at St James' Park and the following close season Bristol City took him to Ashton Gate. City were in a parlous financial state and were unable to fully pay the fee so six months later he was re-signed by Newcastle and promptly transferred to Birmingham. He was therefore on the books of three clubs on the same day! He enjoyed some success with Birmingham in a struggling side but was prised away by Luton where he has played the best football of his career and can count himself unlucky not to have won England recognition. He missed the first half of last season following knee operations. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 99 — Goals 48.

RICKY HILL. He joined Luton straight from school and is currently enjoying his 12th full season. He made his League debut at home to Bristol Rovers over Easter 1976 coming on as substitute for current Town coach **John Faulkner**. Layed on a goal with his first touch and scored with his second. Was included in Bobby Robson's first squad in 1982 and made his England debut against Denmark. Still in Robson's thoughts as proved by his call-up against Egypt. An Ambassador for the game who enjoyed a successful testimonial in 1986. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 445 — Goals 57.

DARRON McDONOUGH. Belgian born McDonough scored on his League debut for Oldham against Notts County in December 1980 thereby joining an exclusive club. He signed for Luton early last season in exchange for £87,000 to become a versatile and valuable member of the squad. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 19 — Goals 1.

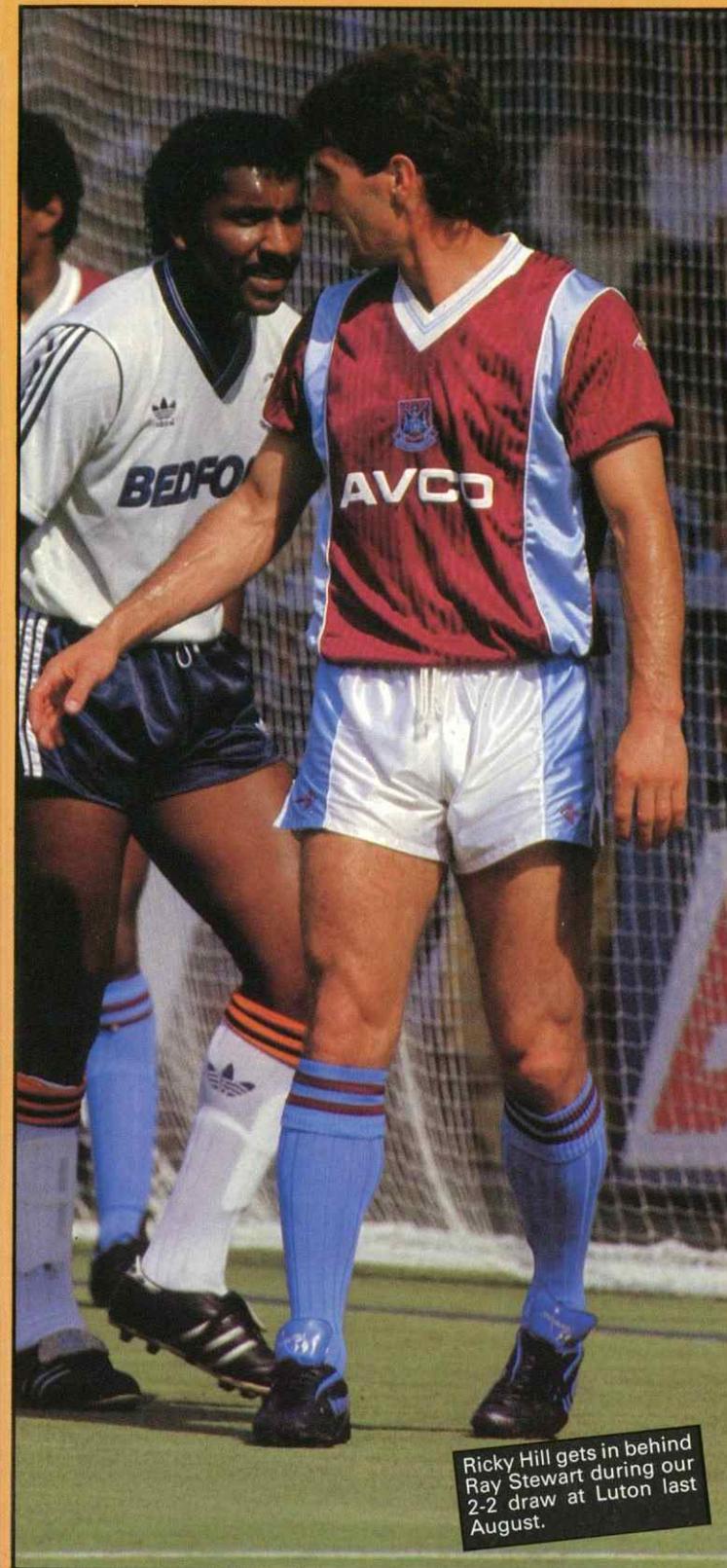
MIKE NEWELL. Born at Liverpool in January 1965 Newell signed on for Crewe in 1983 but after three games was transferred to Wigan where he enjoyed considerable success including scoring in the 1985 Freight Rover Final at Wembley. After signing for Luton in 1985/86 he managed to score on his home debut against Aston Villa. An ever present last season, scoring 12 goals including a hat trick against Liverpool. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 63 — Goals 19.

EMEKA NWAJIOBI. Unpredictable Nigerian International who burst on the scene with a scoring debut against Nottingham Forest on 2nd January 1984 only weeks after transferring from Dulwich Hamlet. On his day a matchwinner who makes goalscoring look easy. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 71 — Goals 17.

DAVID PREECE. Bridgnorth born Preece signed professional forms for Walsall in July 1980 and made 134 appearances for the "Saddlers" before Luton paid £150,000 for his services in December 1984. He made a scoring debut that same month at home to Aston Villa and has since become a firm crowd favourite because of his busy style of play. He appeared in only 15 League and Cup games last term through injury. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 — Goals 6.

LES SEALEY. Although born and raised in the East End of London Sealey made his League bow with Coventry for whom he signed in March 1976. Played 178 times for the "Sky Blues" before transferring to Luton in August 1983 for £100,000. Has found himself out of favour on more than one occasion but has fought back with many superlative displays to become the acknowledged number one. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 171.

BRIAN STEIN. South African born striker who was signed from Edgware in October 1977 and within weeks was appearing for Luton at Old Trafford in a twice replayed Football League Cup tie against Manchester City. He scored twice in his first full League home game and has not looked back since, netting freely in all subsequent seasons. Deceptively fast and difficult to knock off the ball Stein has been extremely unlucky not to have added to his solitary England cap won against France in 1983/84. Currently enjoying a deserved testimonial season. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 410 — Goals 132.



Ricky Hill gets in behind Ray Stewart during our 2-2 draw at Luton last August.

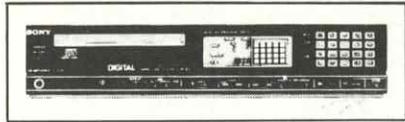
MARK STEIN. Brian's younger brother who signed professional forms for Luton in January 1984 making his debut three months later in a 3-0 home defeat by Everton. He had to wait nearly 18 months for his next League game but has gradually forced his way into the side with last season being his most successful to date as 8 goals in 21 League appearances proved. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton end 1986-87 32 — Goals 10.

ROBERT WILSON. Signed professional forms for Fulham in June 1979 making his League debut the following season in a 3-2 defeat at Preston as the "Cottagers" tumbled to Division Three. In the next five seasons he made 200 appearances for Fulham before being transferred to Millwall for £57,500 in the summer of 1985, where, the following term he scored a creditable 12 goals in only 28 games from midfield. Luton invested £40,000 in him at the start of last season and he scored a goal on his home debut against Peter Shilton's Southampton. Total League and Cup appearances for Luton to end 1986/87 21 — Goals 1.

DANNY WILSON. Ray Harford's first major signing, from Brighton, in the close season. Born in Wigan on January 1st 1960 he made his League debut for Bury in season 1977/78 before being transferred to Chesterfield three years later. His performances for the "Spreites" inspired Brian Clough to take him to Nottingham Forest in January 1983 but things did not work out at the City Ground and he moved to Brighton only ten months later. Qualifies for Northern Ireland through parentage and made three International appearances last season.

OUR LEAGUE RECORD WITH LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL LEAGUE SOUTH						
	H	A				
1945-46	3-4	4-1				
FOOTBALL LEAGUE Division Two						
1937-38	0-0	2-2				
1938-39	0-1	2-1				
1946-47	2-1	1-2				
1947-48	0-0	0-0				
1948-49	0-1	1-0				
1949-50	0-0	2-2				
1950-51	2-1	1-1				
1951-52	3-0	1-6				
1952-53	0-1	0-0				
1953-54	1-0	1-3				
1954-55	2-1	0-2				
1978-79	1-0	4-1				
1979-80	1-2	1-1				
1980-81	1-2	2-3				
Division One						
1958-59	0-0	1-4				
1959-60	3-1	1-3				
1974-75	2-0	0-0				
1982-83	2-3	2-0				
1983-84	3-1	1-0				
1984-85	0-0	2-2				
1985-86	0-1	0-0				
1986/87	2-0	1-2				
1987-88		2-2				
SUMMARY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	22	10	5	7	25	16
AWAY	23	5	10	8	28	37
TOTALS	45	15	15	15	53	53



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IN RESERVE

Sunday Mirror Combination

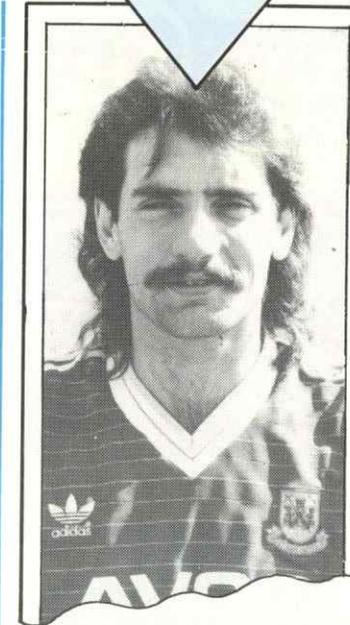
Although defeated 4-2, we had cause for satisfaction after our away engagement against Swindon Town on Thursday 17 December.

The fixture was originally dated for the preceding Tuesday, but the Wiltshire club's First XI were drawn at home in a cup tie that day so the Reserve engagement was put back, and also scheduled to be played on the ground of Forest Rovers FC at Nailsworth in Gloucestershire.

Then, due to heavy rain, the Town's home tie at the County Ground was postponed; so, not having played during the preceding weekend and not being engaged in a League game until the following Sunday, the Robins' manager, Lou Macari, decided to give several of his senior squad a mid-week run out.

The Swindon side was therefore of greater strength than anticipated, and included ex-Hammer Bobby Barnes who had been transferred from Aldershot earlier this season after helping the Shots to promotion at the end of the 1986-87 campaign.

Our side had a leavening of experience with Phil Parkes plus Alan Devonshire and Tony Gale



Alan Devonshire — he made a successful return.

— both the latter continuing their recovery from lengthy injury. The remaining eight players had all come up through the youth squad, so it was a good test for all of them. Conditions were wet and windy

at the enclosure which is considerably exposed to the elements, but it was an interesting game in which we twice held the lead.

Simon Livett opened the scoring, but the opposition responded to make it one each at the interval.

Hammers' second was netted by Tshkedi Rose, following which our youngsters contributed a worthy share of keeping Swindon at bay.

Then the Reds equalised again and this was quickly followed by them taking the lead, and then adding a fourth goal in the closing seconds to make the 4-2 result look more lop-sided than it should have been.

Nevertheless, a worthwhile journey that provided our coaches with an opportunity to assess future prospects of several players... and we managed to stop Bobby Barnes scoring!

MATCH FACTS

Sunday Mirror Combination
17-12-87
SWINDON TOWN (1) 4
WEST HAM UNITED (1) 2
HAMMERS: Parkes; Pask,
Strain, Gale, Pearson,
Devonshire, Rose, Livett,
Slater, King, Harwood.
Sub: Humphries.
Scorers: Livett, Rose.

SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION (RESERVE TEAM)

		F A				F A	
Sat Aug 22	Crystal Palace	5-1		Wed Jan 6	Crystal Palace		A
Tues Aug 25	Queens Park Rangers	0-2		Sat Jan 16	Queens Park Rangers		H
Tues Sept 1	Portsmouth	2-5		Sat Jan 23	Portsmouth		H
Tues Sept 8	Fulham	3-1		Tues Jan 26	Fulham		A
Sat Sept 12	Bristol Rovers	1-0		Sat Feb 6	Luton Town		H
Sat Sept 19	Luton Town	0-1		Tues Feb 9	Bristol Rovers		A
Sat Sept 26	Tottenham Hotspur	2-3		Tues Feb 16	Tottenham Hotspur		H
Tues Sept 29	Ipswich Town	2-1		Wed Feb 24	Ipswich Town		A
Wed Oct 7	Oxford United	1-1		Sat Mar 5	Brighton & Hove A.		A
Sat Oct 17	Brighton & Hove A.		P	Sat Mar 12	Oxford United		H
Tues Oct 20	Charlton Athletic		P	Tues Mar 15	Charlton Athletic		H
Sat Oct 31	Arsenal	2-4		Wed Mar 23	Arsenal		A
Sat Nov 7	Watford	1-1		Tues Mar 29	Chelsea		A
Sat Nov 14	Chelsea	1-2		Sat Apr 2	Watford		H
Sat Nov 21	Southampton	3-2		Sat Apr 9	Southampton		H
Sat Nov 28	Reading	1-0		Sat Apr 16	Reading		A
Tues Dec 1	Millwall	1-0		Fri Apr 22	Norwich City		A
Sat Dec 12	Norwich City	2-2		Sat Apr 30	Millwall		H
Tues Dec 15	Swindon Town		A	Sat May 7	Swindon Town		H

SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION

(Up to and including Saturday 19th December 1987)

	Goals				
	P	W	D	L	F A Pts
Watford	18	15	1	2	43 12 31
Queens Park R.	17	12	1	4	41 18 25
Norwich City	17	10	4	3	40 21 24
Tottenham H.	17	11	2	4	39 20 24
Arsenal	18	11	1	6	39 18 23
Southampton	19	9	4	6	38 22 22
Portsmouth	15	9	2	4	34 25 20
Luton Town	17	8	4	5	36 28 20
Ipswich Town	18	7	6	5	34 27 20
Chelsea	18	7	4	7	31 28 18
Millwall	17	6	5	6	28 19 17
West Ham U.	17	7	3	7	29 30 17
Oxford United	17	7	2	8	34 42 16
Charlton Athletic	17	5	4	8	18 29 14
Swindon Town	16	6	2	8	26 39 14
Brighton & H. A.	18	5	2	11	18 45 12
Fulham	18	3	4	11	24 51 10
Reading	19	3	2	14	27 52 8
Crystal Palace	16	3	1	12	11 37 7
Bristol Rovers	19	2	2	15	25 52 6

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How does she do it? Shirley smiles: "It's just like cooking for the family, you just double up the numbers," she says.

Just imagine. Shirley gets through three sacks of potatoes a week, all of which she peels by hand herself before she arrives at Chadwell. "It takes a half-an-hour each morning. I'm quite quick at it now," she beams.

Shirley who has two married daughters, decides on the menus which follow a basic pattern. The day we talked, sausage pie, mash and roast potatoes, carrots

BOILED BEEF AND CARROTS

By JOHN NOLAN



Shirley Austin

and peas were the dish of the day.

"Roast lamb on a Thursday seems to be the favourite," she says. "I basically keep to the same dishes because I know what most of them like. They are not really difficult to please. Kevin Keen and Stuart Slater don't eat meat, in fact Kevin doesn't seem to eat much at all although he will stuff himself full of Yorkshire pudding and roast potatoes."

It's amazing how everything seems to be done. No matter what time individuals finish their session from 11.30am to 2.00pm the food is there in perfect condition. What is the secret?

Shirley turns to a silver cabinet. "That's the secret my hot cabinet," she says quietly.

A former wages clerk Shirley now prefers to cook the grub instead of the books. She has been catering for our lads for five years now and always seems in perfect control. "It's just practice," she insists dismissing the compliment in a trice. Then after a pause she adds: "I do worry deep down but it always seems to come right."

Well the proof of the pudding as they say is in the eating and there are no complaints on that score.

HAMMERS SPIN

My combined hopes and predictions for 1988, wierd and wonderful as some of them may be: West Ham to win the FA Cup. Ian Crocker to get a show on Essex Radio. BBC Local Radio people to be less hypocritical; fewer people to use Stratford Tube and the Central Line around 8.00 each morning; Hill Street Blues to get a bigger audience; England to win the European Championship; Paul Ince and Kevin Keen to gain England recognition; more people to turn up to reserve matches at Upton Park; Weymouth Football Club to win the GM Vauxhall Conference and thus gain League status. Also, during the coming year I trust you won't be offended by the odd pathetic attempt at mini-humour I sometimes try. Apart from police messages and other important announcements, I generally should not be taken too seriously. Get writing please if you want a dedication for someone celebrating something, A birthday or anniversary, or if you just want to say hello to a friend. Embarrass them! Please write to Ian Crocker, Hammers DJ, West Ham United Football Club, Green Street, Upton Park, London E13 9AZ.



COMMERCIAL NEWS

with

Brian Blower

IT'S WELCOME 1988

Today is a very special day — our first home game of 1988. A New Year and we hope a successful one. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of our Supporters both past and present for their great support and association.

I would also like to take this opportunity of inviting you to join us in 1988. Make West Ham United part of your team for promotion, entertainment and sponsorship. Please feel free to contact me on (01) 472 5756. I will be only too pleased to discuss your needs and how you can maximise the benefits of an association with West Ham United Football Club.

I look forward to your phone call during this coming week and also take this opportunity of wishing you a very Prosperous 1988.

COCKNEY CASHLINE

1988 is going to be a tremendous year for us following the launch of this grand new Cockney Cashline. It's the ideal opportunity for you, our supporters, to win big cash prizes each and every day ... The opportunity to be part of our club and benefit financially.

Speak to your newsagent — if they are not an agent, then tell them to contact our Cashline Hotline on 01-472 5756 ... If you would like application forms, call in at the Pools Office after today's game.

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We are now looking for staff to work for us full and part time on a rewarding incentive scheme. Tremendous amounts can be earned by the right type of people. If you have your own vehicle and have an outgoing personality and would like to work with us, picking your own hours, then this is your opportunity to join a great team. Contact me personally on 01-472 5756.

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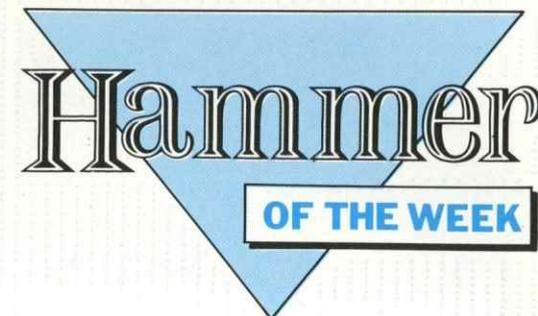
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PHIL PARKES

By COLIN BENSON

THE cheers rose to an almighty crescendo of excited approval as the West Ham goalkeeper flung himself to his right to make another spectacular save. It was the kind of reaction Phil Parkes has been prompting crowds all over Europe to make over the past 20 years but this time it was different. Tom McAlister was the man in green and Phil, sitting in the stand, was joining in the applause.

Yes 1987 finished badly for big Phil. He sustained a graze on his arm last April which turned into something worse and although now fully fit he hasn't played in the first team since keeping a clean sheet against Watford on March 28th.

Phil is not accustomed to playing the supporting role although it happened to him a couple of years ago when injury again cost him his place. Then, like now, when he recovered he found Tom playing so well he could not dislodge him.

There are no sour grapes from the genial giant who has proved the thorn in many a striker's side over the years. The Hammers' goalkeepers have a mutual respect for each other and although he is now 37, Phil still sees a great future for himself at Upton Park.

He says: "I don't think goalkeepers get that much work to do in matches these days, it seems to be less and less. So really if you look after yourself there is no reason why a goalkeeper shouldn't keep on playing to well over 40."

"I think the pattern of the game has changed radically over the last two years and there is no reason why we shouldn't be good enough to carry on. Just look at old-man Bonzo — he gives us all inspiration to keep going and he is an outfield player."

"In the old days we could win 3-0 and I'd be one of the busiest players on the field. It doesn't seem to happen any more. Everything seems to be crammed into the middle of the field and in normal games you can count on one hand the number of shots a 'keeper actually has to deal with."

"It's a shame but it is the way football has gone over the past few years. To my mind it hasn't got better for it but that's the trend and it will stay like this. I think we play good football and give the fans value for money but at most clubs managers can not persevere with trying to play attractive football

because if they don't get the results they are out of a job. It's a vicious circle.

"Football is now played between the penalty areas and it is a sad thing that that is where all the action is when games are won and lost inside the penalty area."

So the game is not as physically demanding for goalkeepers but I suggested to Phil that maybe it is a little bit more difficult for them mentally.

He smiled: "Yes it is, particularly in the reserves where you sometimes have very little to do and have to stop your mind wandering. It is getting that way in the First Division as well. The goalkeeper has long spells of relative inactivity then is suddenly called upon to make a vital save. He has to be mentally sharp to do it."

Phil, who has stood tall in 704 League games for Walsall, Queens Park Rangers and the Hammers, confesses that it is difficult for him to motivate himself in the Combination and with no scheduled fixtures for the holiday period he wound down a little.

He says: "It's not soul destroying in fact I've enjoyed it. It is like being back in my amateur days when football was really for fun. In many ways it is nice to be out of the limelight and away from the pressure of having to win every game. Last time I was out I came back and had one of my best seasons ever so I think that a little spell like this can help re-charge the batteries and get a bit of your enthusiasm back."

"But I'm looking forward now to having a good go again to get my first team place back putting the pressure on John more so than Tom really. Obviously while the side is playing well he can't change it, but after being used to playing top class football I shall get to a situation where I shall not be happy to keep playing reserve team football."

"I'm looking forward to 1988. My priority of course is to get back into League football. I've played nearly 850 senior games and it would be nice to make it 900 — that is my ambition."

The current trend in the game has persuaded this gentle giant to prolong his career.

Phil is sure he can play top class football until he is 40. He laughs: "1988 is when I shall be resurrected."

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Hammer

OF THE WEEK



PHIL PARKES

"Wombles" on Boxing Day

Wimbledon's visit to Upton Park last Saturday was the occasion for their second-ever League engagement at Upton Park, as they did not achieve the top grade of English soccer until the start of last season.

However, they have already become regular Christmas visitors to our ground, as they were here on 27 December 1986 (the day after Boxing Day) and provided the opposition on Boxing Day this season.

The Wombles did not bring traditional

by JACK HELLIAR

MATCH REVIEW

Christmas weather with them, and the stature of most members of their team was far from that of their namesakes the garden gnomes. Indeed, as most of the South London XI were six-feet-plus they could well have been mistaken for an English basketball team as they come out to play.

As far as statistics go this was in the nature of a decider. We won 1-0 at Plough Lane last season, and the Dons were victorious by 3-2 in the return. A one-all count on their ground last September kept the scales evenly-balanced at one win, one loss and one drawn apiece, and just two points separating the teams on the table.

Overall an interesting situation, plus the fact that the visiting manager was ex-Hammer Bobby Gould who took over the reins before the start of the season. The "long game" tactics adopted by the

Blues paid a quick dividend. Under pressure from a couple of successive corners, they made a partial clearance that fell kindly in midfield and left our defence in a "catch 22" situation; a pass to the left and a quick return centre provided Lawrie Sanchez with the opportunity to net from close in, and rather against the run of the play the Dons were one up.

There was some early evidence of spoiling tactics by the visiting defence, and Tony Cottee was badly impeded as he made a telling run towards goal. Mark Ward took the free-kick on the edge of the box, and Wimbledon had a proper "Christmas present" when the ball deflected from a defender on to a post to be scrambled away to safety.

Sanchez went off for several minutes following a head-clash, but his ten colleagues held out as we continued to have the better of the exchanges; the Hammers were fighting hard for the equaliser, but as the minutes ticked away it was frustrating to see no reward for our XI's endeavours. The situation was further complicated as John Fashanu nipped in to make it two-nil at the turn-around with a 44th-minute goal.

The visitors were reduced to some desperate defence as the second half got under way, but skipper Dave Beasant's save of a rasping shot was quality stuff.

The "strong arm stuff" brought disaster for the Dons on the hour: Stewart Robson chased the ball into the penalty-area and the linesman had no hesitation in flagging as the Hammer was "grassed". Ray Stewart's spot-kick sent Beasant the wrong way and we were really back in contention.

Our team was playing a lot of crowd-pleasing soccer, and the Hammers' fans among the 18,605 attendance gave appropriate encouragement to their favourites.

Wimbledon gave indications of their intention of holding on to their slender advantage by pulling off attacker Alan Cork and substituting newcomer Robbie Turner with a quarter-hour to go. John Lyall countered by sending on Liam Brady and Paul Hilton, and the scene was all set for a rousing finale.

The visiting supporters' anxiety was reflected as they whistled for the referee to bring a gruelling match to its conclusion, but they survived their heavy heartbeats as their team left the field with three points in their credit account.

We surely deserved at least one of those three and maybe more.

MATCH FACTS

Barclays League Division One 26-12-87

West Ham United (0) 1

Wimbledon (2) 2

HAMMERS: McAlister; Bonds, Parris (Brady 75), Strodder, Stewart (capt), Keen, Ward, Dickens (Hilton 75), Ince, Cottee, Robson.

Scorer: Stewart (pen 60).

WIMBLEDON: Beasant (capt); Goodyear, Scales, Jones, Young, Thorn, Wise, Cork (Taylor 73), Fashanu, Sanchez, Fairweather.

Sub: Gayle.

Scorers: Sanchez 15, Fashanu 45.

Attendance 18,605

Referee: Allan Gunn (Sussex)



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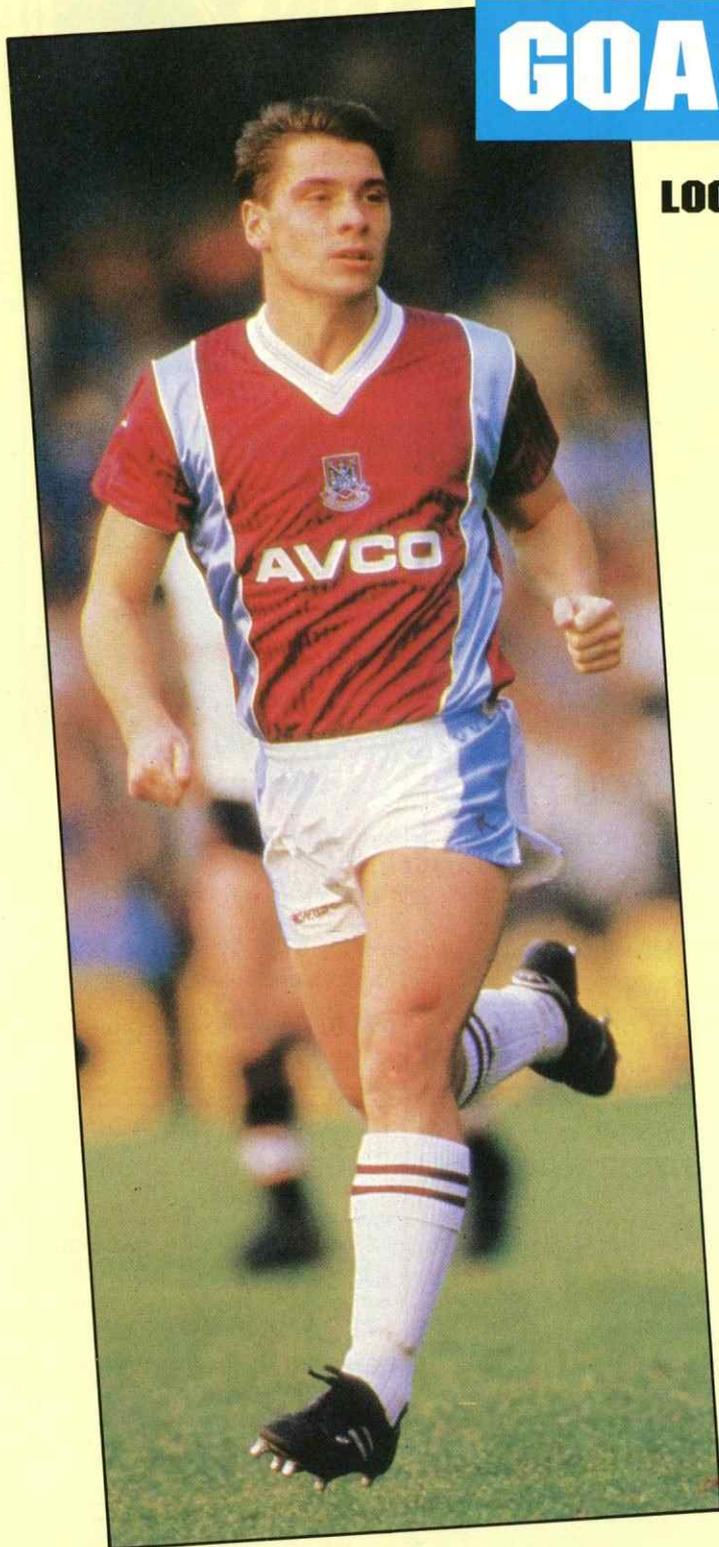
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GERMANY IS TONY'S

GOAL

... TONY COTTEE

LOOKS FORWARD TO 1988



"I am looking forward to 1988 because it has a lot to offer. My main hope is to win a place in the England squad for the European Championship Finals in West Germany next summer.

But you never know in football. Certainly 1987 hasn't gone too well for me there has been more downs than ups so I'm pleased to get that year out of the way.

I have only got one more game of my international ban left and hopefully I shall be able to get into the side for some of the friendly games that are coming up and stake my claim.

Obviously the European Championship squad will provide the basis for the World Cup team and next season we will be looking towards the qualifying tournament for that.

The draw is very good, the worst part being the fact that only the top team goes through to the Finals in Italy, so there will be no room for any slip ups — the teams in the groups of five have a better chance — but overall I think it has been quite a good draw for us.

Obviously we don't know too much about Albania but I would think the way the England team is playing at the moment they could beat any side and must be favourites to beat Poland and Sweden.

We always come good when we have to and I think we can cast off that shadow of Poland hanging over us. Bobby Robson has got a good squad together now, probably the strongest since the 1966 World Cup, and I don't see any reason why we can't do well first in the European Championship and then in the World Cup.

For me to be considered of course I have to get my goalscoring form back. I feel I had a bad passage in our first six games this season but since then I have played pretty well without getting the goals which makes a change because usually I'm scoring without playing too well. It is just a case of battling on. I'll probably get one hit me on the backside which will go in and I'll be off again.

At least the team is winning and playing well which takes the pressure off a little bit."

PRESSURE PLAY

Young Kevin Keen has shone like a diamond in recent weeks to sparkle across the First Division stage.

"At the moment everything is going right, people are patting me on the back, but I still have to stay in there with Dev coming back, Tony Gale and the rest," he says.

"Wardy, Liam and myself are going to be fighting for two places so I have to keep playing as well as I can to stay in the team. That is my worry at the moment."

Does he feel under pressure?

"Not really. Only to the extent that I have to try my hardest at everything I do, be it training or playing. This doesn't only apply to me of course it is the same for all the lads. Hilt's hasn't been able to get a place yet he has been brilliant when he has come in and Alvin's got to come back sometime so there is a lot of competition for places which is good for the team."

Kevin savoured a special moment against Southampton when he scored his first League goal and he says: "It was special for me especially as it was at Upton Park where the fans have been so good to me... As soon as it left my toe I knew it was in. It is something I'll never forget."

"A lot of people have said that I seem to have more confidence now but it is not just me it is running throughout the whole team. Since the Nottingham Forest game we have gone from strength to strength."

"Before that we were a little worried because we hadn't won at home for so long and I think the crowd could sense our apprehension yet they were very good to us. But I think we have paid them off a little bit with three cracking games against Forest, Southampton and Newcastle."

"In all these games I have had chances to score goals which I haven't taken. After the game Boycey, Mick and the manager will say well played but. What about the shots? So I have put in a bit more practice."

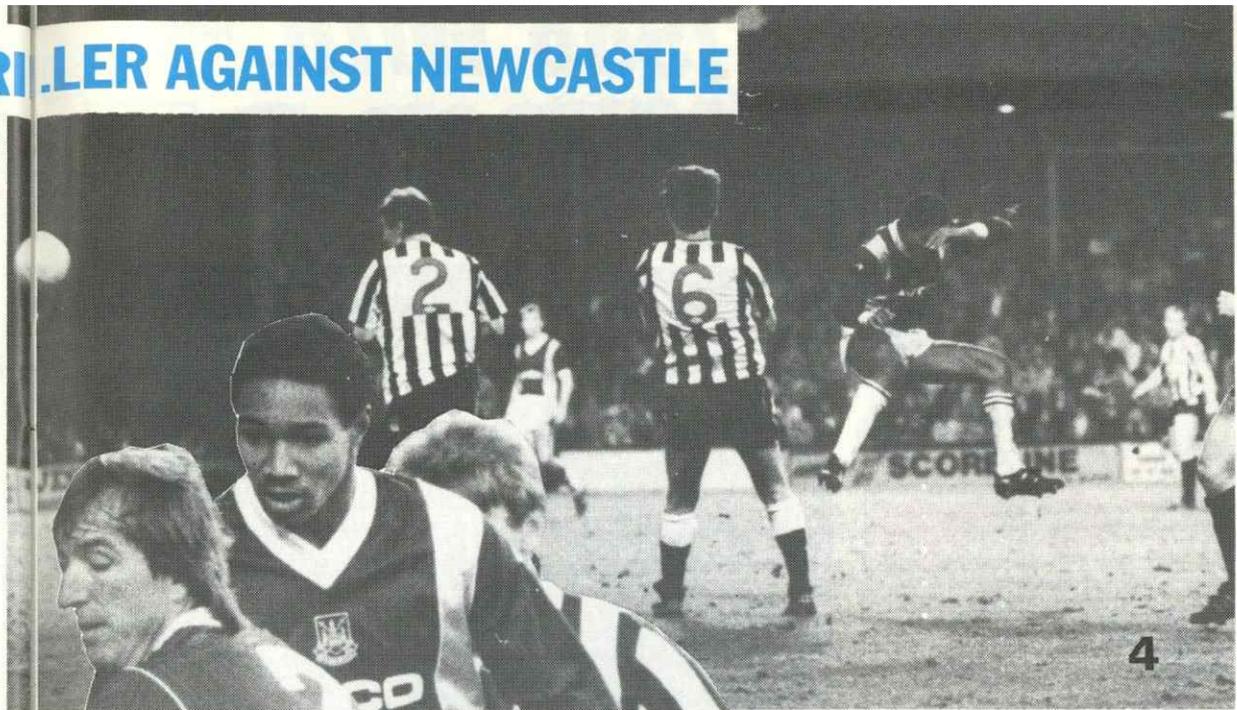
"I am looking forward to 1988 and hope that I can keep doing what I'm doing and keep my place in the team."



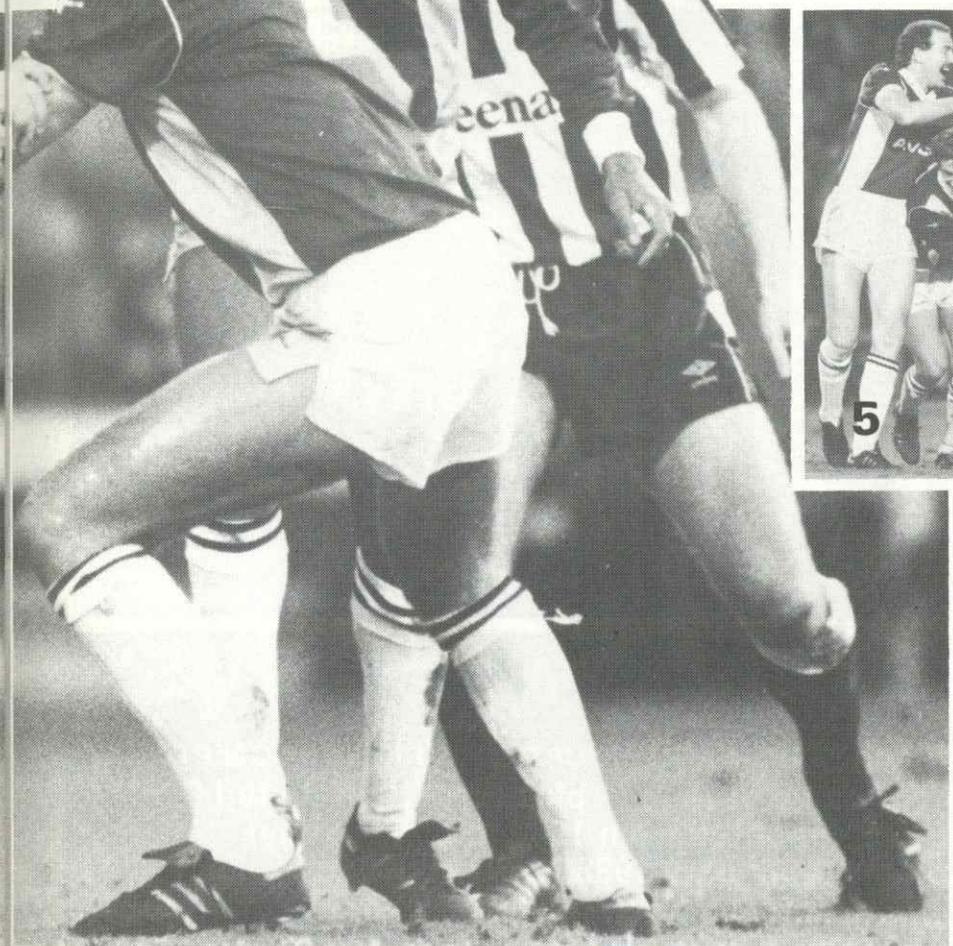
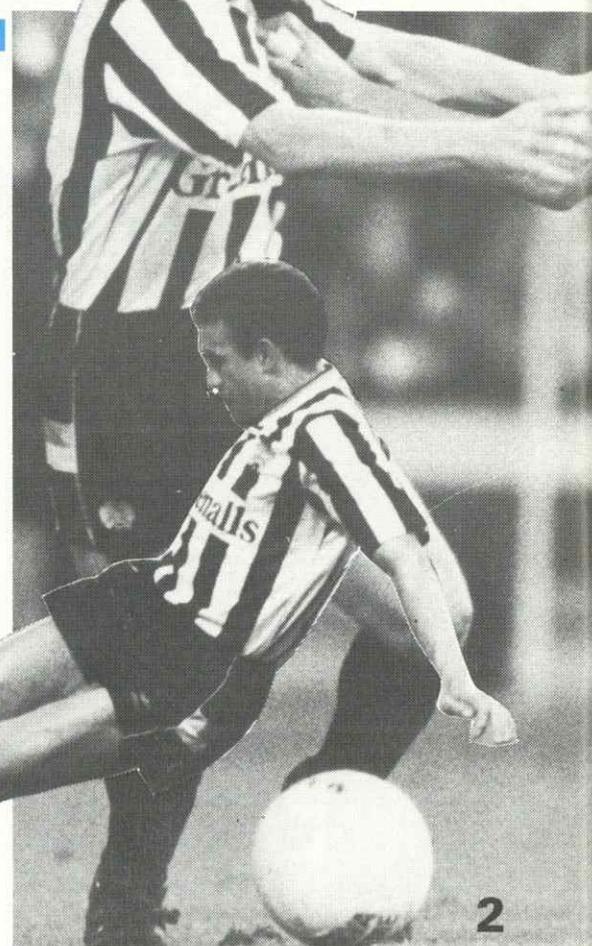
Kevin receives the man of the match award from Avco after the Newcastle game.



ANOTHER THRILLER AGAINST NEWCASTLE



Pictures Steve Bacon "Newham Recorder"



Another action packed thriller provided great entertainment for the fans. Stewart Robson slotted in the opening goal (pic 1), and after that it was arms, knees and... as Billy Bonds grapples with David McCreery (pic 2). This tackle from Mirandinha on Liam Brady (pic 3) earned us a free kick. Newcastle equalised but then came this Christmas cracker from Paul Ince (pic 4), which he apparently can't bear to watch... The smiles (pic 5), tell it all though. It's West Ham 2 Newcastle 1.

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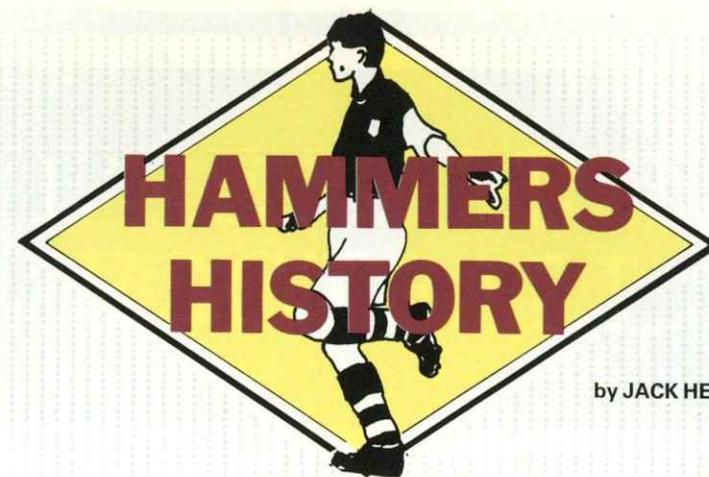
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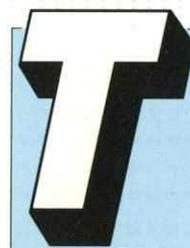
Sunday 17th January 1988. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADMISSION BY PROGRAMME — 30p



by JACK HELLIAR

“THE FAIRBAIRN FRATERNITY”



here are hundreds (indeed, probably thousands) of West Ham fans who as young lads between 14 and 19 were members of the Fairbairn House Boys Club during the years between World Wars I and II and for further decades after its activities were fully restored in the late 1940s.

Alas, modern tendencies among youth have brought a drastic change of fortune, and the premises in Barking Road (near the “Abbey Arms”) are up for sale.

During its halcyon days the magnificent interior was a tribute to the generosity of voluntary helpers and donors; the standards were high, and among the rules was the edict “no admission without a collar and tie and jacket”. In that sense it was like a traditional West End club, but its standards were readily accepted by the lads from East Ham and West Ham who derived so much benefit from the activities.

Football, cricket, boxing and swimming were among the regular sports, and outdoor activities also included memorable camping days at Lambourne End, Essex and Sandwich, Kent. Indoors (especially during the winter) it was dramatics, chess, draughts, snooker and billiards, gymnastics, etc.

We were reminded of those happy times when looking at a couple of Hammers’ programmes dated Monday 29th April 1935 and Monday 19th April 1937. The matches were respectively billed as “West Ham United v Fairbairn House Old Boys” and “West Ham United Reserves v F.H.O.B.”. They were staged for the benefit of club funds, and on both occasions the Old Boys’ XI’s reflected the considerable talent produced in the club, which contained many who had appeared for the local East Ham and West Ham schools teams.

It had been intended that the full Hammers’ First XI would play in the first encounter, but as we were on the brink of promotion in 1935 the strength was

reduced by not including many senior members. The teams were:

West Ham United: George Watson, Arthur Tonner, Tommy Inns, Jim Collins, Len Young, Hugh Boyd, John Foreman, Stan Foxall, Vic Watson, Albert Green, Herbert Gall.

F.H.O.B.: Bill Sherman (Q.P.R.), George Barber (Chelsea), Albert Barrett (Fulham), Billy Brown (Huddersfield), Dick Walker (W.H.U.), Joe Dalton (Fulham), Jim Blaney (Leyton), George Bunce (Colchester), Harold Langford (Dagenham), Jack Leslie (Plymouth Argyle), Albert Allen (Fulham).

Alex Jackson of Chelsea refereed; the linesmen were Jack Townrow (ex-Chelsea and coach to Fairbairn House), and Syd Bishop (ex-W.H.U.).

The Old Boys won the match by 3-2.

For the second game (in 1937) there were new faces in the visiting line-up, although the Bairns were without the services of Harry Darling (Brighton), Brown (who had transferred to Brentford) and Barber. They fielded this XI:

Sherman (Q.P.R.), Bill “Chipper” Fraser (Hitchin), Arthur Richardson (Catford Wanderers), Len Edwards (Fulham), Barnett (Fulham), Dalton (who had transferred to Margate), Albert Tully (Bexley), Mick O’Connor (Clapton), Fred Boatwright (Leyton), Bunce (who had transferred to Leytonstone), Roy Goulden (Chelmsford).

Our team was: Herman Conway, Alf Chalkley, Albert Walker, Len Young, Jim Barrett, Bill Roberts, Gordon Peters, Fred Dell, Peter Simpson, Jimmy “Doc” Marshall, Jimmy Ruffell. What a “reserve team” that was!

The Claret-and-Blues side proved too strong for the “Dark Blue Jerseys with Broad White Hoop, Dark Blue Shorts” of Fairbairn on this occasion, winning another fine game by 3-1.

Just two years after that many of those Fairbairn names were in the Services, and alas, some never played football again.

As an “ex-Bairn” it’s a pleasure to write about the lads I knew as a teenager, whilst recalling two unusual “friendly fixtures”.

STATISTICS

DATE OPPONENTS ATT F A GOALS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Date	Opponent	Att	F	A	Goals
Aug. 15	Queens Park Rangers	22,881	3	2	0
22	Luton Town	8,073	2	0	2
29	Norwich City	16,394	2	0	2
Sept. 1	Portsmouth	16,104	1	1	1
7	Liverpool	29,865	1	1	1
13	Wimbledon	8,507	0	0	0
19	Tottenham Hotspur	27,750	0	0	0
26	Barnsley (LC2 1L)	40,127	0	0	0
Oct. 3	Derby County	12,226	1	1	1
10	Barnsley (LC2 2L)	14,703	2	5	1
17	Charlton Athletic	9,092	-2	1	1
24	Oxford United	14,893	1	1	1
31	Watford	14,897	0	1	1
Nov. 7	Sheffield Wednesday	15,277	2	2	0
14	Millwall (SC 1)	11,307	1	3	2
21	Nottingham Forest	29,206	3	0	0
28	Everton	47,216	0	0	0
Dec. 5	Coventry City	15,710	2	1	1
12	Chelsea	14,075	2	1	1
19	Newcastle United	22,850	2	1	1
26	Wimbledon	18,606	2	1	1
Jan. 2	Tottenham Hotspur	39,456	1	2	2
9	Norwich City				
16	Luton Town				
23	Charlton Athletic (F.A. Cup 3)				
30	Queens Park Rangers				
Feb. 6	F.A. Cup 4				
13	Portsmouth				
20	Arsenal (F.A. Cup 5)				
Mar. 5	Derby County				
12	Oxford United				
19	Charlton Athletic (F.A. Cup 6)				
26	Watford				
Apr. 2	Manchester United				
9	Sheffield Wednesday				
16	Everton				
23	Nottingham F. (F.A. Cup S.F.)				
30	Coventry City				
May 7	Littlewoods Cup Final				
14	Southampton				
21	Chelsea				
28	Newcastle United				
	F.A. Cup Final				

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(Up to and including Monday 28th December 1987)

Team	Goals			Points			Top Goalscorers	Avge. Gates	
	P	W	D	L	F	A			
Liverpool	21	10	1	0	30	3	5	7	39,657
Nottingham Forest	20	6	2	1	23	5	7	2	19,320
Arsenal	22	7	1	3	22	9	5	3	33,955
Manchester United	21	6	4	0	18	9	4	3	43,354
Everton	22	8	2	1	22	5	2	5	30,379
Queens Park Rangers	22	6	3	2	16	10	4	3	13,990
Wimbledon	22	5	1	18	10	4	2	5	7,817
Chelsea	22	6	4	0	18	10	2	1	18,193
Luton Town	21	5	4	3	18	11	3	0	8,303
Southampton	21	4	3	3	15	13	3	4	15,407
Tottenham Hotspur	22	6	1	4	15	12	2	6	29,861
Sheffield Wednesday	22	5	1	4	14	16	3	2	19,325
West Ham United	22	4	4	4	14	15	2	4	19,624
Newcastle United	21	3	3	4	9	12	3	4	16,668
Derby County	21	3	3	5	10	10	3	4	19,370
Coventry City	21	2	4	4	10	17	4	2	8,588
Oxford United	22	5	1	5	17	19	1	3	15,946
Norwich City	22	3	2	5	13	14	3	1	15,718
Portsmouth	22	3	4	5	12	16	1	2	7,789
Charlton Athletic	22	3	4	5	12	16	1	4	14,592
Watford	21	3	2	3	5	8	12	1	

WE'RE TALKING FOOTBALL.

"Football is not a matter of life and death. It's much more important than that."
 BILL SHANKLY.

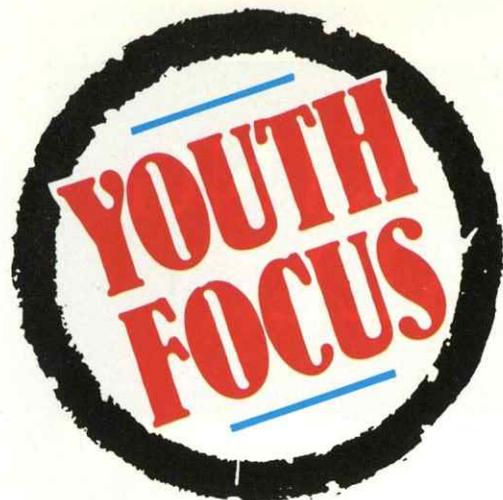
"Soccer is the biggest thing that's happened in creation, bigger than any 'ism' you can name."
 ALAN BROWN,
 Sunderland manager, 1968.

"And they were lucky to get nil."
 LEN SHACKLETON,
 after six goal debut for Newcastle in 13-0 defeat of
 Newport, 1946.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF TALKING TO BARCLAYS

"It is our new tactics. We equalise before the others have scored."
 DANNY BLANCHFLOWER, 1958.

Source: The Book of Football Quotations, Peter Ball and Phil Shaw (Stanley Paul, an imprint of Country Hutchinson Ltd).



CHRISTMAS BREAK

Like our Reserve Team, the youth team has been without a competitive engagement during the Christmas period.

However, they were due to resume South East Counties League fixtures this morning, playing at Shoeburyness against Southend United.

We shall cover the match report of that game in the next issue of "Hammer," but remind those who follow our youngsters' fortunes that there is a home date against Queens Park Rangers next Saturday (9th January) at Chadwell Heath (Kick-off 11 a.m.). There's time to see that game and then travel to Upton Park for the F.A. Cup tie against Charlton Athletic.

Of course, the young Hammers have been far from idle during the past fortnight. Training and impromptu games have ensured that the lads did not get out of touch with football!

WOODWORK SAVES THE U's

Our youth team rounded off its competitive schedule for 1987 by opposing Cambridge United at Chadwell Heath.

The Fourth Division club faces inevitable problems in recruiting youngsters for its teams, and so far this season they had recorded only one victory in 19 South East Counties League fixtures, scoring 17 goals and conceding 65.

The visitors were again on the losing side, with Tony Macklin netting one goal each side of half-time in our two-nil win.

The score should have been much more in our favour, as in addition to hitting the woodwork on three occasions our finishing was below par. However, it was two points gained.

We had one trialist on view — goalkeeper Stephen Banks from Wokingham. He lives near Phil Parkes, which could be a good omen for Stephen's future!

MATCH FACTS

South East Counties League

19-12-87

WEST HAM UNITED (1)

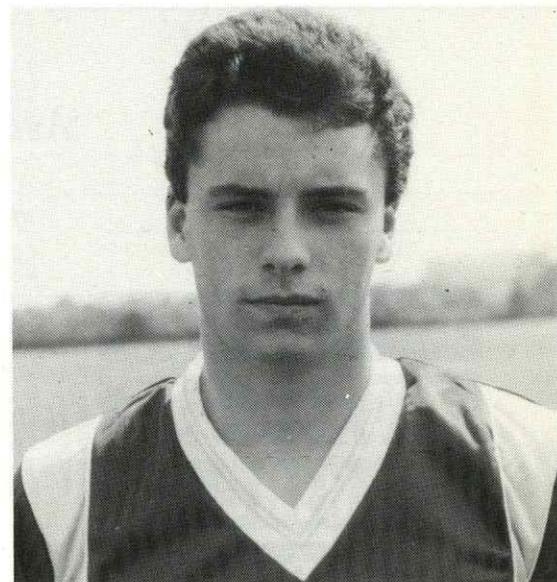
2 CAMBRIDGE UNITED (0) 7

HAMMERS: Banks; Pask, O'Brien, Humphries, Juby (Hyslop 75), Kelly, Rose, Pearson, King, Harwood (Moore 75), Macklin.

Scorer: Macklin 2.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1987/88			
	F	A	
AUGUST			
15 Chelsea	2-4		
17 Leyton Orient	0-0		
22 Watford	0-4		
27 Millwall (3.00pm)	1-1		
29 Southend United	5-1		
SEPTEMBER			
2 Queens Park Rangers	3-1		
5 Tottenham Hotspur	1-1		
12 Fulham	0-0		
19 Southend United (LC1)	2-2		
26 Southend United (LC1R)	1-0		
OCTOBER			
3 Gillingham	4-0		
10 Portsmouth	4-0		
24 Ipswich Town	4-0		
31 Northampton Town (LC2)	0-2		
NOVEMBER			
7 Arsenal	1-5		
21 Chelsea	2-0		
28 Leyton Orient	0-0		
DECEMBER			
5 Watford	1-2		
12 Millwall	2-1		
19 Cambridge United	2-0		
JANUARY			
2 Southend United			
9 Queens Park Rangers			
16 Tottenham Hotspur			
23 Fulham			
30 Norwich City			
FEBRUARY			
6 Gillingham			
13 Portsmouth			
20 Charlton Athletic			
27 Ipswich Town			
MARCH			
5 Arsenal			
12 Cambridge United			
26 Norwich City			
APRIL			
2 Charlton Athletic			

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES DIVISION ONE (Up to and including Saturday 19th December 1987)									
	Goals								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Watford	20	16	2	2	56	18	34		
Tottenham H.	18	14	2	2	44	13	30		
Arsenal	17	11	1	5	55	23	23		
Queens Park R.	20	9	5	6	31	23	23		
West Ham U.	17	8	5	4	32	20	21		
Charlton Athletic	16	9	3	4	32	24	21		
Chelsea	18	8	4	6	41	27	20		
Ipswich Town	19	10	0	9	33	36	20		
Gillingham	18	6	4	8	26	33	16		
Southend United	17	7	2	8	29	38	16		
Portsmouth	16	7	1	8	43	33	15		
Leyton Orient	20	5	5	10	15	34	15		
Norwich City	16	5	4	7	22	31	14		
Millwall	20	5	4	11	31	48	14		
Fulham	17	1	2	14	9	48	4		
Cambridge U.	19	1	0	18	17	67	2		

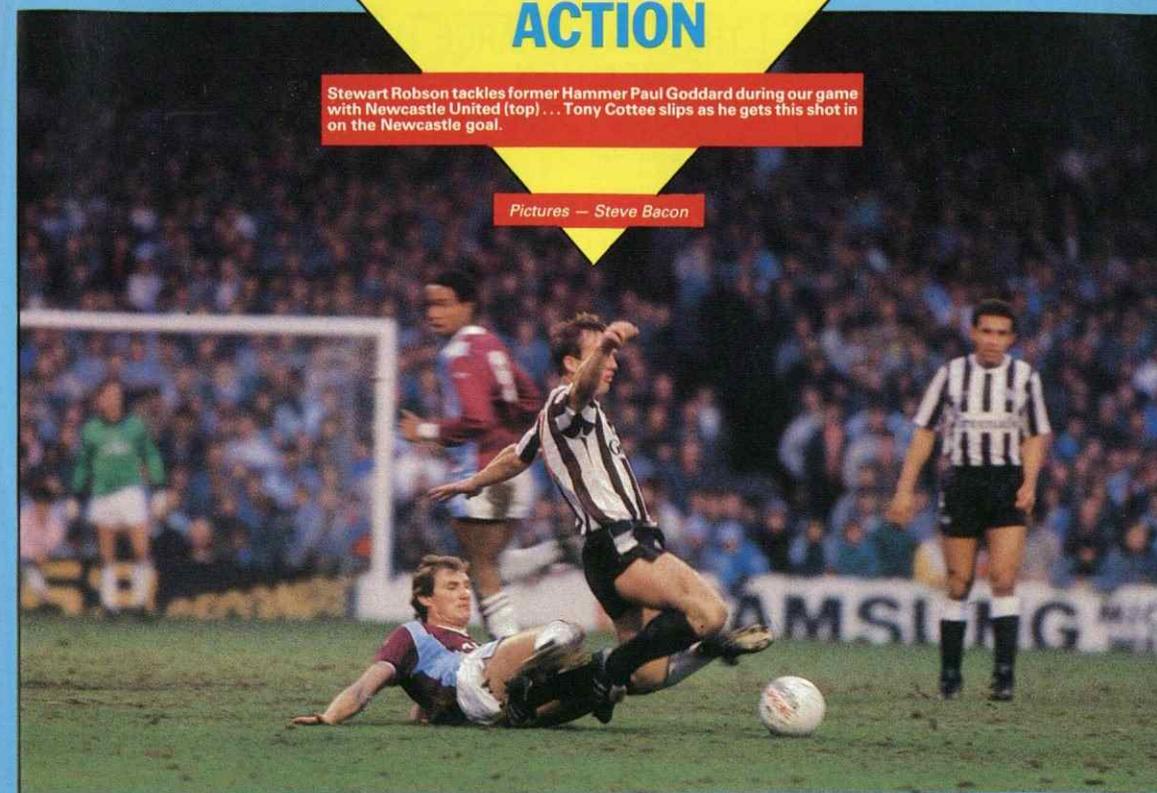


Tony Macklin — scored both goals.

ACTION

Stewart Robson tackles former Hammer Paul Goddard during our game with Newcastle United (top) ... Tony Cottee slips as he gets this shot in on the Newcastle goal.

Pictures — Steve Bacon



MERCANTILE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(Up to and including Sunday 20th December 1987)

	Goals				
	P	W	D	L	F A Pts
Liverpool	9	5	0	4	15 5 19
Luton Town	6	4	1	1	12 4 13
Wimbledon	8	3	1	4	11 8 13
Everton	7	3	1	3	8 4 12
Arsenal	7	3	2	2	11 8 11
West Ham U.	7	3	2	2	9 9 11
Nottingham F.	5	3	1	1	14 4 10
Manchester U.	5	3	1	1	9 5 10
Charlton A.	7	2	2	3	9 8 9
Sheffield W.	6	3	3	0	6 7 9
Newcastle U.	7	2	2	3	8 10 9
Watford	7	2	2	3	6 8 9
Southampton	7	2	3	2	10 10 8
Coventry City	7	1	1	5	7 7 8
Derby County	6	2	2	2	6 7 8
Portsmouth	7	1	3	3	3 9 6
Tottenham H.	6	1	3	2	3 7 5
Oxford United	7	1	4	2	4 12 5
Norwich City	6	1	4	1	4 9 4
Chelsea	6	0	3	3	6 11 3
Q.P.R.	7	0	4	3	4 13 3

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF LUTON

RAY HARFORD after a successful season as First Team Coach, Halifax born Harford's talent and belief in attractive play made him the natural successor to John Moore, as manager of Luton Town and he took over in the close season.

A former half-back he learnt his trade at Charlton making his League debut in 1965. Following a transfer to Exeter in January 1966 Ray made over 350 League appearances for several clubs in the lower divisions before finishing his playing career at Colchester who offered him his first coaching post.

He arrived at Luton in the summer of 1986 following a spell as Manager of Fulham.



Today's Referee: PETER FOAKES (Clacton-on-Sea, Essex)

Peter is a schoolteacher. Was married with two children, but is now divorced. Began refereeing in 1972, progressing through local leagues to the Football League line in 1985 and to the referees list in 1987. Interested in all sports, particularly Cricket, Rugby Union and American Football.

LUTON TOWN'S FORM GUIDE

Opponents	Res	Scorers
Derby County	(A) 0-1	
Coventry City	(H) 0-1	
West Ham United	(H) 2-2	Harford (2)
Chelsea	(A) 0-3	
Arsenal	(H) 1-1	Wilson (pen)
Oxford United	(A) 5-2	Stein B, Breacker, Nwajobi, Harford, Hill
Everton	(H) 2-1	Stein B, Hill
Charlton Athletic	(A) 0-1	
Wigan Athletic (LC21L)	(A) 1-0	Weir
Q.P.R.	(A) 0-2	
Manchester United	(H) 1-1	Harford
Wigan Athletic (LC22L)	(H) 4-2	Harford (3), McDonough
Portsmouth	(A) 1-3	Harford (pen)
Wimbledon	(H) 2-0	Stein B, Wilson
Liverpool	(H) 0-1	
Coventry City (LC3)	(H) 3-1	Harford (2), Weir
Newcastle United	(H) 4-0	Stein M (2), Nwajobi, Stein B.
Sheffield Wednesday	(A) 2-0	Stein M, Allinson
Ipswich Town (LC4)	(A) 1-0	Stein B.
Tottenham Hotspur	(H) 2-0	Allinson (2)
Norwich City	(H) 1-2	Stein B.
Watford	(A) 1-0	Foster
Southampton	(H) 2-2	McDonough, Harford
Everton	(A)	
Charlton Athletic	(H)	



GREAT NEWS FROM PANINI

We all love Christmas at Panini, but we're also looking forward to the New Year, as that's when Panini's FOOTBALL '88 sticker collection is being launched! Of course that's great news for all junior soccer fans, but it's even better news for the junior fans in the Panini Family Enclosure at Upton Park! Why? Well if you're a regular visitor to the Family Enclosure, you can look forward to receiving a copy of FOOTBALL '88 and two packets

PANINI Stickers

of stickers — ABSOLUTELY FREE! What a fantastic way to kick off the year!

Just look at these great features — all exclusive to FOOTBALL '88! ...

**Official team badges in silver foil!

**All players pictured in the clubs' latest official strips!

**The only collection approved by the Football Leagues and Professional Footballers' Associations of both England and Scotland!

**A chance to win a week's holiday at the Bobby Charlton Soccer School!

**Fantastic souvenir football offer!

**Exciting football features on International Superstars, Second Division Heroes, Panini Family Enclosures — and much more!

See you all soon for great football entertainment and PANINI'S FOOTBALL '88! Don't accept substitutes, stick with Panini!

Junior Hammers

Good Afternoon Junior Hammers,

A Happy New Year to you all and your parents, from me and my helpers — Ivor Thomas, Stuart Williams and Christina Wilson. This is, of course, an opportune moment to send good wishes to all our friends with the Junior Hatters Club — particularly to Colin Ball, who, though not now connected with the Junior Hatters, gave me a great deal of advice and assistance when I was first asked to form our Junior Hammers' club. I feel sure we are in for a good game today played in the true spirit of the game.

Membership continues to increase, and we have almost reached 2,400 — I am still aiming for 3,000 by the end of the season, so don't forget to tell your friends about the Junior Hammers — membership is open to Girls and Boys up to the age of 16 years. Application forms may be obtained from the Hammers Shop, Enquiry Office, Ticket Office, and of course my Office. You may telephone 472 1973 any Sunday morning 10 a.m.-11.30 a.m. or Thursdays 4.30-5.30 p.m. and I will send forms to you.

REMINDER

(1) To purchase a seat in the Family Enclosure you must be a Junior Hammer.

Joint Presidents:
Trevor Brooking, MBE, and
Eddie Chapman
Organiser: Bill Elliott, JP

Bank) complained to me about some ADULTS using BAD LANGUAGE during some recent matches. I would remind members and their parents that should they be offended by Bad Language, they should contact a Steward, or the Club Official sitting in the Front of each Family Enclosure — the Police have the authority to remove any person offending.

OUR FAMILY ENCLOSURES HAVE A DEFINITE PURPOSE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF BEHAVIOUR AND TO ENCOURAGE GOOD SUPPORT FOR THE HAMMERS ON A FAMILY BASIS.

Have you visited the PANINI STICKERS SWOP SHOP? — you'll find it at the end of the corridor near the entrance to the Family Enclosure (South Bank End).

Write to IAN CROCKER if you have a special request, or a birthday you would like announced. DO NOT WRITE TO ME.

ENJOY THE GAME.
BILL ELLIOTT.

(2) Proposed Football Coaching Course to be held during the School Holidays next May is open to Girls and Boys — if you are interested get your parents to write to me and I will send details, when I have finalised arrangements.

(3) Don't forget the Barclays Bank Competition for the Design of a new trophy for the winners of the Football League — open to members past and present up to age of 18 years — further details may be obtained from me — CLOSING DATE 21st JAN. 1988.

Recently 2 of our members in the Family Enclosure (near the South

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WEST HAM UNITED

- 1 **TOM McALISTER**
A Scot from Clydebank, Tom has one New Year wish — for the team to maintain its best form.
- 2 **BILLY BONDS**
Incredibly Billy is involved in the New Year fixtures for the 24th year. A magnificent career.
- 3 **GEORGE PARRIS**
George has a New Year wish: "To score a few more goals". The talented full back says: "I don't make New Year Resolutions they go out of the window after a few days."
- 4 **GARY STRODDER**
The likeable Yorkshireman couldn't think of a New Year wish but his team mates did. They suggested he should get a decent hair-cut!
- 5 **RAY STEWART (captain)**
Ray also had trouble but with the help of Phil Parkes resolved: "To give up all my bad habits except one. But I'm not telling you which one."
- 6 **KEVIN KEEN**
Young Kevin is strictly practical. Although he lives at home with his parents he says: "My resolution is to learn to cook — it could come in useful."
- 7 **LIAM BRADY**
Liam has no doubts about what he wants. He says: "I'd like us to have a long Cup run and hopefully, on a personal note, I'll get to play in the European Championships."
- 8 **ALAN DICKENS**
Had to go under the shower to contemplate but then emerged to declare: "I hope we win the FA Cup. I'd love to play at Wembley."
- 9 **PAUL INCE**
"My hopes for 1988 are simple. I just want to stay in the first team and score a lot more goals."
- 10 **TONY COTTEE**
"My immediate target for 1988 is to get back into the England squad and hopefully be included for the European Championships in the summer."
- 11 **STEWART ROBSON**
Stewart makes no resolutions because he hates breaking them — but he is a born winner and it is success for the Hammers that will occupy his 1988.
- 12
- 14

LUTON TOWN

- 1 **LES SEALEY**
Comes from the East End but joined Coventry City as a youngster. Joined Luton in August 1983, the fee £100,000.
- 2 **TIM BREACKER**
Developed through the Luton ranks he made his debut at Ipswich in 1984. Started as a midfielder but has settled at right back.
- 3 **ASHLEY GRIMES**
A Dubliner he came to prominence with Manchester United. Moved to Coventry City in August 1983 and a year later joined Luton. Eire international.
- 4 **DARREN McDONOUGH**
Made a scoring debut for Oldham in December 1980, against Notts County. Luton paid £87,000 for him last season.
- 5 **STEVE FOSTER (captain)**
Former England pivot who made his name with Brighton, but started his career with Portsmouth. Arrived at Luton from Aston Villa in November 1984.
- 6 **MAL DONAGHY**
Was Northern Ireland's star player in the 1986 World Cup Final tournament in Mexico. Can play in defence or midfield.
- 7 **DANNY WILSON**
Another former Brighton player — he arrived at Kenilworth Road last summer. Previously with Bury and Nottingham Forest.
- 8 **BRIAN STEIN**
Prolific marksman for Luton with 138 goals up until this Christmas week. Has one England cap.
- 9 **RICKY HILL**
Another former England star, Ricky has been playing League football since he was 17, making his debut, as a sub v Bristol Rovers (19-4-76).
- 10 **MARK STEIN**
Brother of Brian he has also made his mark on the scoresheet this season with three goals registered before the holiday fixtures.
- 11 **IAN ALLINSON**
Former Colchester United star who entered the First Division arena in Arsenal colours. Has also registered three goals prior to the holiday schedule.
- 12
- 14

TODAY'S MATCHDAY MASCOT

Today we welcome Marc Antony Price, of Harlow Road, Rainham in Essex. Marc is only five and is our first mascot for this New Year. He attends Whybridge Infants School and his hobbies are swimming, model railways and football. Marc trains with Whybridge Infants School and his favourite football team is West Ham United and his favourite player Alvin Martin. We welcome Marc, his family and friends, to today's game and hope that it is a memorable day for him and his guests.



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OFFICIALS

Referee: **PETER FOAKES** (Clacton-on-Sea, Essex)

Linesmen: **R. L. BIGGER** (Red Trim)
J. F. HILL (Yellow Trim)

Reserve Official supplied by the Ilford Referees Society.

WEST HAM PLAY

SCORELINE



West Ham United FC

**VOUCHER
No. 15**