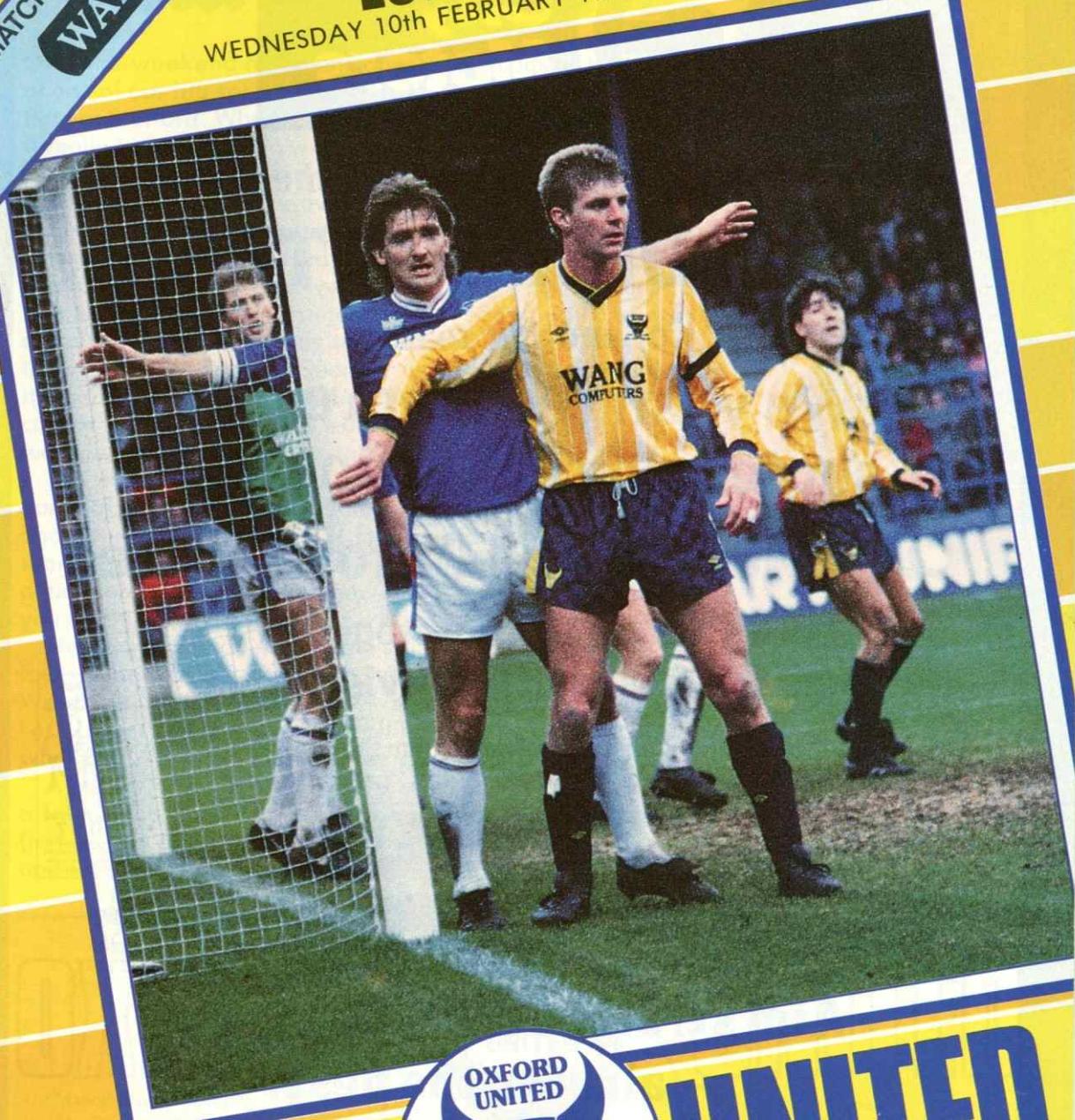


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LUTON TOWN
WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 1988 kick-off 7.30 pm



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Maurice Evans

Over the weekend hooligans once again caused trouble at one of our big sporting events. This time it was the big fight at Stafford. When are the authorities going to learn, it really has little to do with the event that's taking place or in what part of the country it is. Hooligans will always be hooligans until they eventually grow up, or do they ever! In the last ten years standards of behaviour have slumped dramatically. Hooligans can be seen and heard at almost every sporting event in the country. Since a certain tennis player first came to Wimbledon and in front of an audience of millions told the umpire just what he thought of him and was seen by us all to get away with it, sport has started to slip both on and off the field. We cannot tolerate hooligans either on or off the field and we must all do something to help.

The other strange event over the weekend was our game at Luton — unbelievable. Great for the Luton fans and good for the press, but for the man who picks the team and the players it was a nightmare. It's too complex to go into all the problems that we encountered but you don't defend well when you let in seven goals.

I feel sure that tonight's game will be different. The first leg of a game that gives both sides a chance of going to Wembley. Give the players your all and they will respond. Let's forget our problems and all be together. You know what it's like to go to Wembley and it's worth it.

A big welcome to Ray Harford and Luton Town. Ray is a friend and has carried on by doing a great job in his first season at Luton as Manager. May the best side win and let's try to make sure that it is United.



Maurice Evans

OXFORD

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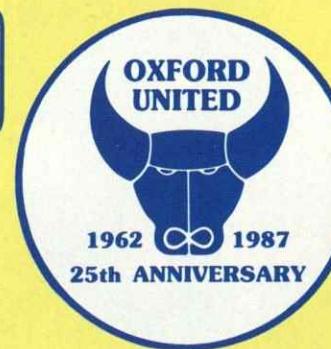
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Members who have yet to renew are reminded that subscriptions were due before 31st January. Subscription rates remain unaltered and are as follows:-

Single	£5.50
Family	£7.50
Senior Citizen	£1.70
Senior Citizen Couple	£2.20

New applicants also welcome — renewal and application forms are obtainable now from the Supporters Club doorman.

FORTHCOMING ENTERTAINMENT — FEBRUARY

Thursday 11th

SPORTSMANS DINNER (Men only)
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3 COURSE MEAL & WINE

7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Tickets £10 each

Saturday 13th

VALENTINE DISCO & Basket Meal
8.00 p.m. Late Bar

Tickets £2 members £2.50 guests

Tuesday 23rd

LADIES HEN NIGHT
3 acts 8.00 p.m. Tickets

LONG DISTANCE

Do you travel a long distance to home matches? Would you be interested in offering a lift and sharing the costs or maybe you live away but would like a lift to enable you to travel to matches more cheaply.

Why not write in to The Programme Editor c/o Oxford United F.C. and we will try and put you in touch. If you do not want your name, address and telephone number printed in the programme, we will just state the area and send any details to you through the club.

OXFORD EXILE IN BOURNEMOUTH

Mark Bumford is an Oxford supporter living in Bournemouth. He would be interested in meeting any other Oxford supporters in the area with a view to travelling to matches together and sharing the costs. Any supporter interested in the above should write c/o Mick Brown, Programme Editor, Oxford United F.C.

DEPARTURE

Derek Tully was released by the club recently and has joined Crystal Palace on a trial for three to four weeks.

Although Derek made the Republic of Ireland youth squad, he did not progress at Oxford as much as we had hoped. Nevertheless, we wish him well at Palace and in the rest of his football career.

AWAY TRAVEL — BOOK EARLY

London Road Club members wishing to travel to away matches are advised to book not later than one week before each match. By doing this the organisers can book extra coaches when necessary. Members should note that away travel is once again being organised from the ticket office and that coach tickets can be purchased during the week from 10am to 4pm. On Saturday home matchdays, tickets will be sold from the booth next to the ticket office by Committee members between 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

Members may book tickets by telephoning Oxford 61503 extension 206, but must pay for these tickets before the day of the match.

Travel details to the 2nd leg at Luton can be found in the ticket information notes on pages 22 & 23 of tonight's programme.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

There are still a few Xmas Draw Prizes unclaimed at the supporters club. If you are listed below, please ring or call in with your counterfoil and collect your prize.

Name	Ticket No.
Mrs. Huggins	28723
R. Holt	20755
K. Hoare	39983
N. Horse	10831
H. Ferrell	29292
T. Fletcher	04068
C. Tomlins	06094
S. K. Jefferies	31222
Debbie Hiley	20533
I. Norley	17261
Paul Buck	20863
E. Hills	13041
L. Pratt	17945
D. Keeys	27362
Mrs. Brain	01107
E. Quaife	30995

RECENT LOTTERY WINNERS

Congratulations to the following who have recently won on the Oxford United lottery.

£1000	C. R. Purbrick — Rose Hill
A. Dixon — Iffley	E. Roche — Donnington
£100	D. Horwood — Buckingham
M. Mundy — Oxford	
£50	T. Lane — Kidlington
D. Rourke — Eynsham	S. Godge — Hinksey
£25	J. Heath — Northway
S. Bowden — Kidlington	J. Dickens — Kidlington

MATCHDAY JACKPOT RESULTS OXFORD UNITED v MANCHESTER UNITED

Wednesday 20th January 1988

1st prize	£36.00	K. Giles, Wolvercote
2nd prize	£21.60	Ticket No. 18207 unclaimed
3rd prize	£14.40	Ticket No. 5560 unclaimed

Littlewoods Cup Review

DEAN SAUNDERS IS ON HIS OWN!

Dean Saunders is hoping to maintain his fabulous Littlewoods Cup scoring sequence this evening. He is now the only player to have scored in every round this season.

We shall be watching the two players with the best chance of topping the competition's scoring list this season. Luton's Mick Harford has scored six times — once more than Dean — and is the leader among players left in the competition though Swindon's Jimmy Quinn remains at the head of the list at the moment with eight goals.

Harford didn't manage to hit the target as Luton set out in the second round away to Third Division Wigan Athletic. Michael Weir, their new signing from Hibernian, scored the only goal of the game. It was his first for the club.

Luton soon gained control in the second-leg against Wigan at Kenilworth Road. Harford scored twice in the opening half and completed his hat-trick after the break. Darren McDonough was also on the mark as Luton ran out 4-2 winners on the night and 5-2 on aggregate.

Though Luton were drawn at home to Coventry City in round three, they had to play the tie at Leicester. Because of their ban on



Brian Stein, scored the only goal to earn Luton victory at Ipswich in the 4th Round.

away supporters, Luton have to play home ties either on their opponents' ground or at a neutral venue — unless they agree to relax their home-only rule.

Nevertheless, the 8,113 crowd at Filbert Street was almost double what they had drawn for the Wigan game at Kenilworth Road. One man who certainly was not worried about the change of venue was Mick Harford who scored twice to give his side a 2-0 lead by the 50th minute. Michael Weir extended the Hatters' lead before Nick Pickering scored a consolation for Coventry.

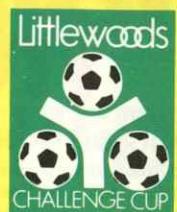
An injury kept Harford out of the next round, a difficult away tie at Ipswich. But Luton had the advantage of a Brian Stein goal after only four minutes and they held on to win 1-0.

Holders Arsenal have been battling desperately to retain their trophy but they had a difficult task when visiting Everton for the first-leg of the semi-final last Sunday.

The Gunners won the trophy for the first time when they came from behind to beat Liverpool 2-1 at Wembley in last season's final. Charlie Nicholas scored both their goals that day but he has now returned to his native Scotland and Arsenal now look to Alan Smith and Perry Groves for their goals.

Both Smith and Groves found the net in their opening tie this season, away to Third Division Doncaster Rovers. Steve Williams got another as the Gunners took a comfortable 3-0 lead into the second-leg at Highbury. Without breaking sweat, Arsenal won that one with a David Rocastle goal.

Second Division Bournemouth



went to Highbury in round three and they put up mere token resistance. Once Michael Thomas had given Arsenal the lead with a penalty, they coasted on to a 3-0 success with Smith and Kevin Richardson scoring the others.

Stoke City, another Second Division side, were their Highbury opponents in round four. Once again the Gunners won 3-0. Richardson scored twice with Rocastle getting the other.

Arsenal had an encouraging stroke of luck in their fifth round tie at Sheffield Wednesday. Facing First Division opposition for the first time this season, the Gunners would have been quite happy to earn a replay. As it was, a horrendous mistake by the usually reliable Martin Hodge, in the Wednesday goal, handed Arsenal the tie.

He allowed the simplest of long shots from former Oxford player Nigel Winterburn to slide through his hands into the net.

Everton had a far more difficult journey to the semi-final, and with their marathon F.A. Cup ties



Nigel Winterburn, his long shot fooled Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper Martin Hodge to earn Arsenal a Semi-Final place.

against Sheffield Wednesday and Middlesbrough, draining their strength, they really had to brace themselves for the visit of Arsenal.

Goals from Ian Wilson and Wayne Clarke (penalty) gave them a 3-2 home win over Third Division Rotherham and they drew the second-leg 0-0.

Everton produced their best performance in their next tie, away to neighbouring Liverpool. There was an element of luck about the long shot from Gary

Stevens, which crept inside the post for the winning goal, but they all count. And Everton had disposed of the favourites.

Second Division Oldham gave them all sorts of trouble at Goodison Park in round four. They were a goal down for some while until Dave Watson and Neil Adams came to their rescue to turn the tie 2-1 in their favour.

Goals from Adrian Heath and Graeme Sharp gave them a 2-0 home win over Second Division Manchester City in the last round.



Gary Stevens, his goal was enough to defeat Merseyside neighbours Liverpool at Anfield in the Third Round.

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OXFORD AND ADIDAS
A GREAT TEAM



Back Row: David Preece, Rob Johnson, Richard Harvey, Stacey North, Darren McDonough, Robert Wilson, Mark Stein. Middle Row: Emeka Nwajobi, Ashley Grimes, Les Sealey, Mick Harford, Andy Dibble, Mike Newall, Danny Wilson, Dave Kirby (Physio), Jim Ryan, John Faulkner (Coaches). Front Row: Peter Nicholas, Brian Stein, Steve Foster (Captain), Ray Harford (Manager), Mel Donaghay, Ricky Hill, Tim Brecker.

Tonight at the Manor

Though Luton have been so close to Wembley in the F.A. Cup competition in recent years, this is the first time they have survived to the semi-final of the Littlewoods Cup.

In 1985 they led Everton 1-0 with only a couple of minutes to go in the F.A. Cup semi-final. They then conceded a goal and lost in extra-time. A year later they led Everton 2-0 in the sixth round but had to settle for a 2-2 draw and then lost the replay.

This season they are through to the fifth round of the F.A. Cup, with a visit to Q.P.R. coming up.

So manager Ray Harford now has the chance of taking the Hatters to Wembley in his first season at the helm at Kenilworth Road. The former Fulham manager succeeded John Moore last summer.

Striker Mick Harford will be hoping to add to his Littlewoods Cup tally this evening. He has scored six times so far. Harford

usually lines up in attack with the Stein brothers, Brian and Mark.

Brian was blooded in Luton's first-team in 1977 and led their scoring list for the first time in 1980/81 with 19 goals. The following term, when they won promotion, he led the way again with 21.

Brian has played once for the full England team and also has three under-21 caps.

Mark made his League debut in 1983/84. Further opportunities were rare and, after a loan spell at Aldershot two seasons ago, Mark was anxious to establish himself. He went on the transfer list last season but later got his long-awaited chance to play in the Luton first-team.

In the absence of the injured Ricky Hill, midfield positions have

been filled by Danny Wilson, Darren McDonough and Ian Allinson but the latter is ineligible today as he has played in the Littlewoods Cup for his former club Stoke City.

Mr Harford has several options open to him. He could use Ashley Grimes or Brian Stein in midfield and switch his side around, possibly recalling Michael Weir in attack.

Wilson was signed from Brighton for £150,000 last summer. He began his League career with Bury, moving on to Chesterfield in 1980. Nottingham Forest paid £100,000 for him in 1983 but he didn't settle at the City Ground so he joined Brighton a few weeks later. Last season he won three N. Ireland caps.

McDonough, signed from Oldham for £85,000 last season, is a versatile player who can also play in defence. Introduced to Oldham's League eleven in

LUTON TOWN

1980/81, he made more than 200 first-team appearances for the Latics.

Weir was signed from Hibernian for £200,000 in September. He was originally spotted playing for junior club Portobello Thistle and was transferred to Hibernian in 1982.

Mal Donaghay and Steve Foster play in the middle of the defence.

Donaghay was signed from Larne Town in 1978 and has built a wonderful record of consistency, missing only seven League games in nine years. He has also established himself in the N. Ireland team winning, his 52nd cap this season.

Foster started as a striker with Portsmouth but switched to defence and joined Brighton in 1979. Whilst with the Seagulls, he won three England caps and also played in the 1983 F.A. Cup final replay. Aston Villa signed him in

1984 and he moved on to Luton about a year later.

Right-back Tim Brecker is a Luton discovery. He got his senior chance in 1984 and has been a regular member for the past three seasons.

Ashley Grimes and Rob Johnson have both filled the left-back spot.

Grimes used to be a midfield player but he seems to have settled again at left-back, a position he has filled in the past. He came into English football when Manchester United signed him from Bohemians and he completed some 100 games for the Old Trafford Club before signing for Coventry in 1983. He moved on to

Luton a year later. Ashley has 13 Republic of Ireland caps.

Johnson, a Luton discovery, was first introduced to League soccer in 1983/84 when he also played for Lincoln on loan.

Goalkeeper Les Sealey developed with Coventry City and held his first-team place for five years before joining Luton in 1983. In a brief period when he was out of the side in 1984/85 he was loaned to Plymouth.

Luton's best previous performance in the League Cup (now known as the Littlewoods Cup) was a run to the fifth round in 1978/79. They were ultimately beaten 1-4 at Leeds.

The Hatters did once play at Wembley in the F.A. Cup final. They were beaten 1-2 by Nottingham Forest in 1959.



SPOTLIGHT ON MICK HARFORD



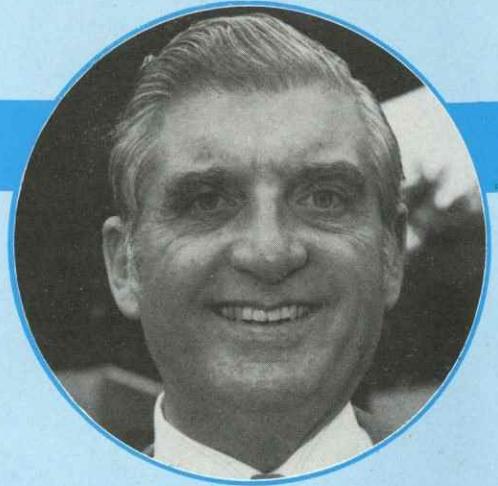
collapsed under the strain.

Indeed, it was by deciding to sell Mick that City managed to carry on for a few more weeks.

Birmingham paid £100,000 for him and he provided a steady flow of goals for the Blues until transferring to Luton for £250,000 in 1984. He scored 16 goals in his first season at Kenilworth Road, adding 25 in 1985/86.

SECRETARY'S NEWS AND VIEWS

BY JIM HUNT



There have been two items of tremendous importance to this club since my last programme notes.

One on the field, when we defeated Manchester United in magnificent style to qualify for the Semi-Final of the Littlewoods Cup, and the other off the field of play when the Football League Chairman decided at an Extraordinary General Meeting that Kevin Maxwell can remain Chairman of Oxford United F.C. whilst his father, Robert Maxwell can own and fill the same position at his club, Derby County.

Our performance against Manchester United was superb and for once it was our lads who took their chances with Manchester United missing theirs.

As a result of this win we entertain Luton Town in the first leg of the Semi-Final tonight and then travel to Luton for the second leg on either Wednesday 24th February, kick-off 7.45 p.m. or Sunday 28th February, kick-off 3.05 p.m. dependent upon which of the second legs will be televised live.

ITV decided to take the Everton v Arsenal tie as their first leg live match and it is unlikely that a decision on the second leg live match will be made until after tonight's game although there is a chance they have decided already to take the other semi-final following the Everton v Arsenal match last Sunday if it turned out to be a close result.

I believe the thinking behind that, as far as the BBC is concerned, is fairly obvious in that should Luton win tonight's match fairly comfortably then in their eyes the second leg would virtually be dead.

My bet is that unless the Everton v Arsenal match finished as a victory for Arsenal or a large win for Everton then the BBC, whose turn it is for the live match, will choose their second leg match at Highbury.

Not that that should worry us unduly for that would then be just another case where history could be repeated because the last time we were involved in the Semi-Final of this Competition, albeit the Milk Cup, both TV Authorities chose QPR versus Liverpool in both legs whilst we went on and won the cup. Let's hope history will repeat itself.

The fact that last Sunday's Semi-Final was live on ITV means that recorded highlights of our match tonight will be shown on BBC later this evening and if BBC go for Arsenal versus Ever-

ton live in the second leg then recorded highlights will also be shown on ITV later on the evening of our match at Luton.

The second piece of good news for the club was the decision at the Football League Extraordinary General Meeting when, although the Chairmen of the other clubs voted the opposite way to the way we voted they nevertheless gave the thumbs up for this club to remain in the custody of the Maxwell family and in particular the hands of our current Chairman, Kevin Maxwell.

Everyone here is delighted and I'm sure the benefit of that decision as far as Oxford United is concerned will be seen in the not too distant future.

SIMOD CUP

Despite travelling to Reading with a much weakened side it was nevertheless a big disappointment to lose to our local rivals in the SIMOD CUP but seeing the position we find ourselves in the First Division table and our involvement in this competition it might just be a blessing in disguise.

IF YOU FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

There are a couple of items I would like to remind all supporters concerning our Membership Scheme.

First, if you forget your membership card on the day of the match, then the only way you can gain admittance to the ground is by going to the Ticket Office for a substitute ticket. It is certainly no good going to the turnstile operator in an effort to get in for he is not allowed to accept anyone's word and it must involve a check on the computer.

All too often someone who has forgotten his membership card at the Beech Road turnstiles does not want to walk round to the Ticket Office due to the distance and time involved but for the scheme to work properly this is absolutely

essential.

Similarly, guest tickets can only be purchased from the Ticket Office some three hours before kick-off in the case of ground membership card holders but up to kick-off for seats and family terrace. Again it is no good going to the turnstile to gain admittance for a friend because this would only defeat the object of the exercise, simply because once through the turnstiles there would be no one held responsible for the non-members behaviour as there is when a ticket is issued against a certain member.

SECTION GATE BETWEEN BEECH ROAD AND LONDON ROAD

The gateman at the gate separating the main stand and the Beech Road terracing from the London Road areas has been taking some stick recently simply because supporters appear to have forgotten that this was introduced at the time we became designated under the Ground Safety Act.

The safety certificate which was issued to the club and for which I am the holder states quite clearly that the ground must be segregated whilst open for any sporting event and clearly this really means until the last supporter leaves.

Consequently the Police are correct when they insist that the gate must be kept closed at the final whistle until 5 minutes after the end of the match.

Many people appear to resent this, as if they have a divine right to obtain their own way despite whether it contravenes the Safety Certificate regulations or not. Let me make it very clear — and it is not a case of the club being petty or awkward as some will believe — THIS FIVE MINUTES WAIT MUST BE ADHERED TO AND THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO LEAVE VIA THE BEECH ROAD GATES.

I know that sounds high handed, non-considerate, miserable, call it what you like but I cannot do anything but to accept the regulations.

The sooner everyone settles for five minutes without argument the better because it is not very nice for the Steward concerned when he has to take the brunt of an unnecessary re-action from our supporters which is always worse when the result has gone against us.

MERCANTILE CREDIT CENTENARY FESTIVAL LEAGUE

It has been my intention ever since promising to do so in my programme notes for our Littlewoods Cup match against Leicester City back on 28th October to give the current position of Oxford United in the mini League table for matches played after 1st November which at the end of February will determine which eight teams from Division 1 will participate in the Mercantile Credit Football league Centenary Festival April 1988.

Unfortunately whereas I had hoped that we

would be in the top eight of this table at some stage it just hasn't materialised and it is virtually impossible to achieve now.

We were once in tenth position after four matches but have declined steadily over the last few weeks and are in twentieth place now with six points from eleven games.

All clubs were asked by the Football League to give this mini-table publicity by printing in club programmes in the hope of creating interest. Naturally it will not cause much interest here occupying the position we do but at least I cannot be accused of not mentioning it at all which I was very tempted to do.

LATE GORDON KITCHEN

Oxford radio has lost one of their best ever contributors to programmes in the late Gordon Kitchen who passed away nearly four weeks ago.

Gordon was a real professional and whether reading the news or introducing one of his varied programmes, like the Big Bands, he always gave a polished performance with an air of complete relaxation.

I remember when I first did one of my many football reports for Radio Oxford back in 1968 when Radio Oxford first opened he always gave encouragement to those of us not so gifted as he was. I also remember he came from National Radio which, if my memory serves me correctly, was the South East News although I would not be sure about the station.

REMEMBERING FACES

I think there are very few of us in the middle aged or over bracket who have not been embarrassed through not remembering the face of someone we have previously known very well.

Let me say it happens to me quite often. By the very nature of my job I meet many people and I am often asked if I remember them.

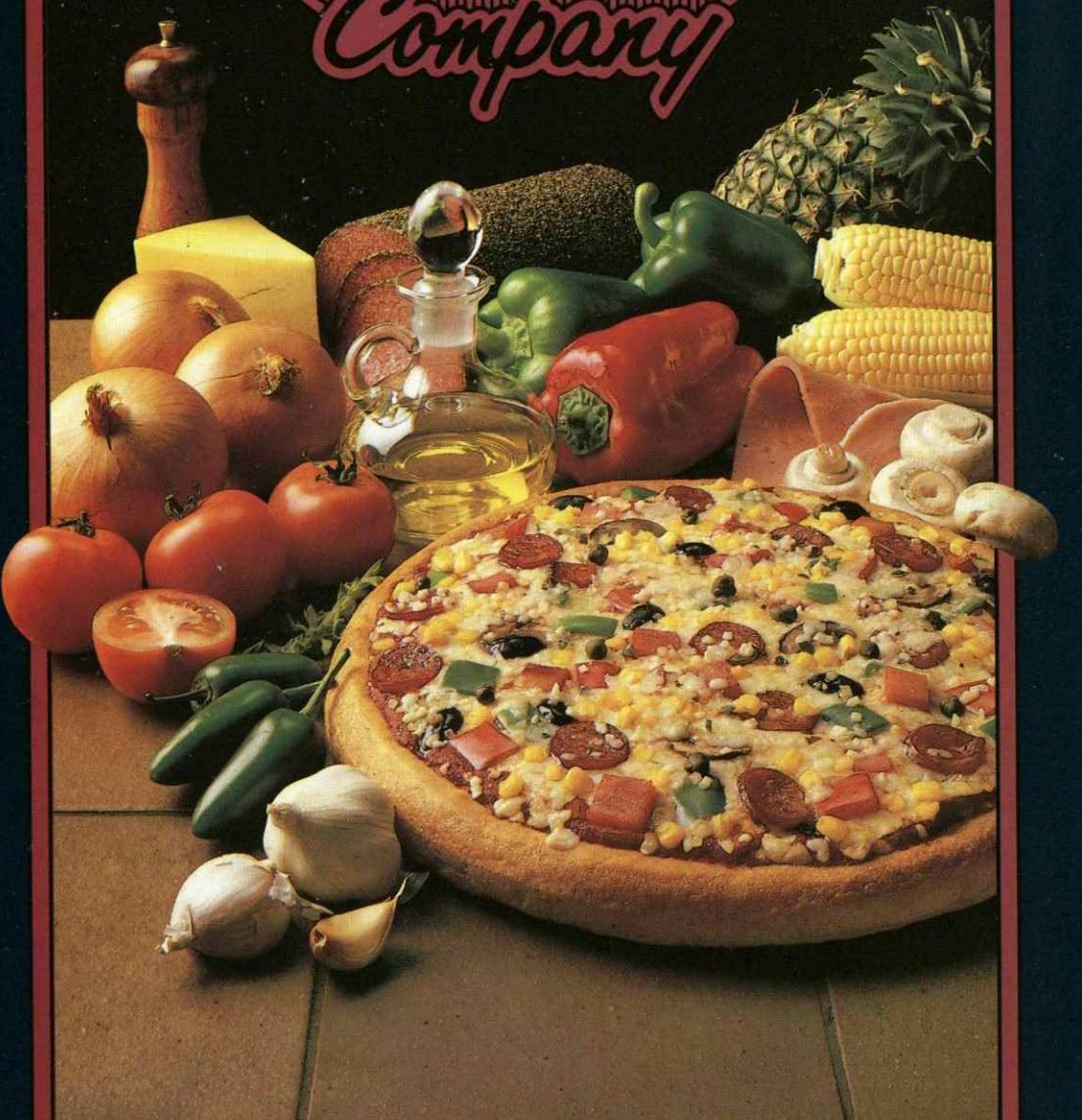
It rarely happens so embarrassing as it did 3 weeks ago when attending our match at Fratton Park, Portsmouth.

I was just leaving the Portsmouth Board Room following half-time to take my seat for the second half when someone said to me "Hello Jim, don't you remember me?" I said "well I know the face but cannot put a name to it". "Your joking" came the reply. "No, I'm sorry" I said. My friend told me who he was and I was extremely embarrassed as it was someone I had known from a very young lad at Kidlington and who had played in the same cricket team as me for many years.

But that is not as bad as what one Director from another Football League club told me the other day. Apparently, he met each Director of the visiting side as they entered the home Board Room and not remembering the name of one said "I've met you before somewhere recently." To which the visiting Director said "Yes, we've just been talking ten minutes or so ago, out in the car park."

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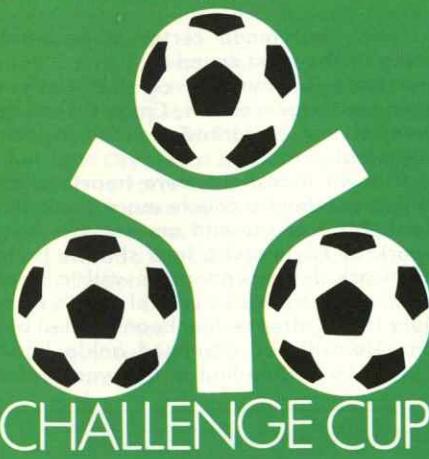
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Littlewoods



THERE have been several similarities between United's run through to the semi-finals of the Littlewoods Cup this season and their successful road to Wembley two years back.

Both times there was little thought given to the twin towers or even these two-legged semi-finals in the early stages of the competition, because on each occasion there was a less than convincing start.

In September 1985 United struggled to overcome Northampton Town of the Fourth Division 2-1 at the Manor in a first leg match, giving grounds for real concern at the possibility of elimination in the second leg at the County Ground.

Two and a half years ago United came through unscathed, however, following a professional 2-0 win in the away leg, and that was repeated against Mansfield Town this season after a shaky home draw.

Mansfield came to the Manor as the last side to win a Wembley Final, having beaten Bristol City on penalties in the Freight Rover Trophy climax.

Managed by former Oxford boss Ian Greaves, they included in their side former Manor favourite Keith Cassells, but it was in defence that they caused United most problems by playing with a sweeper.

Martin Foyle was thwarted time and again by the Mansfield goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock and the 4,561 crowd were stunned into silence when the visitors scored five minutes from half-time.

Tommy Caton fouled the lively 18-year-old Ian Stringfellow and from the free-kick taken by Mike Graham, Steve Charles had a shot which cannoned off the Oxford wall invitingly into the path of Kevin Kent who lashed the ball low past Peter Hucker from 12 yards.

In the second half United laid seige to the Mansfield goal without success. Hitchcock made a brilliant fingertip save from Foyle's header from a Richard Hill cross.

THE STORY SO FAR

Maurice Evans took off striker Billy Whitehurst and brought on Dean Saunders for the final 20 minutes.

Saunders had only been on the pitch for about ten minutes when Hill laid the ball square to him with the goal beckoning. Somehow, though, the Welsh international leaned too far back as he shot and fired over the bar.

But Saunders made amends in the 87th minute after good work by Hebberd who crossed from the left, leaving him to head down and under Hitchcock's body.

It was a very disappointing performance by a United side who had looked so good against the sweeper system when they beat Queens Park Rangers 2-0 only four days before.

It was an important moment for Saunders, though. He had scored his first goal of the season and, although generally unknown at the time, it helped preserve a long unbeaten record at the Manor in the League Cup competition.

Far from being downhearted at only drawing with a side in the lower reaches of the Third Division, Maurice Evans insisted it was only half-time, and he knew Saunders' late goal had helped to give United a big psychological boost for the second leg.

Second Round 1st leg

Wednesday 23rd September 1987

Oxford United 1 (Saunders)

Hucker, Bardsley, Dreyer, Shelton, Slatter, Caton, Houghton, Foyle, Whitehurst (Saunders), Hebberd, Hill.

Sub: Phillips (not used)

Mansfield Town 1 (Kent)

Hitchcock, Graham, Coleman, Lowery, Foster, Kenworthy, Kent, Anderson, Stringfellow (McKernon), Cassells, Charles. Sub: Chambers (not used).

Attendance: 4,561

United gave the type of performance you would expect from a top Division One side in the second leg at Field Mill, soaking up all that Mansfield could throw at them in the opening half, then turning on the style in the second.

It was a thoroughly professional job, and one sprinkled with not a little flair.

The Mansfield public obviously fancied an upset because 6,295 of them turned up to watch. They were to witness Peter Hucker pulling off a couple of important saves and David Bardsley completing a goalline clearance as the home side looked threatening at times in the opening 45 minutes.

continued on page 14

THE STORY SO FAR

continued from page 13

One particular save by Hucker from Steve Charles, arching back to tip it over the bar, raised the roof of a ground from which spectators could watch from three sides only.

United also had their chances in an open first half. Saunders volleyed over and soon afterwards shot wide when put through by a defence-splitting pass by Ray Houghton.

Saunders almost broke the deadlock with a Pele-like instinctiveness. Seeing Hitchcock off his line, he tried to chip over him from 35 yards, got the height just right but the shot narrowly missed the near post.

Tommy Caton and Neil Slatter were outstanding in a back four that was completely watertight in the second period.

Manager Maurice Evans' decision to bring on Saunders in the first leg reaped a reward, and he was proved right again in selecting Les Phillips in the heart of the midfield in place of the injured Trevor Hebbert, for only his second full match of the season.

Phillips put United ahead on aggregate when he met a left wing cross from Saunders to head high into the net, though there may also have been a touch off a defender's head at the last second.

Richard Hill was lying off the field receiving treatment to an ankle injury when United grabbed the

Substitute Dean Saunders celebrates his late equaliser against Mansfield Town Second Round 1st Leg (23.9.87).



second goal that made certain they would be appearing in the third round.

There were 63 minutes on the clock when Houghton sent over a corner, Caton flicked on and Saunders, almost unmarked, headed in from just four yards out.

At 2-0 down Mansfield were heartbroken and United nearly added a couple more goals through some delightful end-to-end moves, one involving good work by Foyle and a final shot by Houghton that Hitchcock did exceptionally well to smother.

The one worry from a successful night's work was the injury to Hill after he had been tackled by Mike Graham. He suffered damaged ankle ligaments which were to trouble him in the weeks ahead.

Second Round 2nd leg

Tuesday 6th October 1987

Mansfield Town 0

Hitchcock, Graham, Ryan, Lowery, Foster, Coleman, Kent, Hodges (Chambers), Stringfellow (McKernon), Cassells, Charles

Oxford United 2 (Saunders, Phillips)

Hucker, Bardsley, Dreyer, Shelton, Slatter, Caton, Houghton, Foyle, Saunders, Phillips, Hill (Rhoades-Brown).

Sub: Whitehurst (not used)

Attendance: 6,295

The draw for the third round of the Littlewoods Cup was kind to United, giving them a home tie against Second Division Leicester City.

But Leicester were never going to be easy opposition. They had held United to a goalless draw in the final match of last season and they were full of experienced players like goalkeeper Paul Cooper, defenders Robbie James and Russell Osman and striker Steve Moran.

United seemed to have developed an unfortunate habit of beginning games very slowly, and they were almost made to pay for their sluggish opening when Moran ran on to an underhit backpass by David Bardsley. But John Dryer was quick to read the situation and dived in to force a corner.

The contest hotted up with a series of fouls and Torquay referee Lester Shapter booked four players, including United's Bardsley, in a 12 minute period.

A rough challenge by Ali Mauchlen on Richard Hill added to the Oxford midfielder's ligaments trouble, and he had to be substituted at half-time.

He was replaced by Peter Rhoades-Brown and Billy Whitehurst also came on in a bid of all-out attack to prevent the tie going to a replay.

Yet it seemed to be one of those nights when the ball just wouldn't go in. Neil Slatter went close with a bicycle kick and then a diving header but the clearest second half chance fell to Moran, whose cross-shot skidded across the face of the goal.

So the 6,171 crowd were deprived of a goal and a clear result, but the game was not without its interest and incident. The second half was full of end-to-end play.

United were not down-hearted, either. They had the consolation of knowing that their defence was playing well.

Third Round

Wednesday 28th October 1987

Oxford United 0

Hucker, Bardsley, Dreyer, Shelton (Whitehurst), Slatter, Caton, Hebbert, Foyle, Saunders, Phillips, Hill (Rhoades-Brown).

Leicester City 0

Cooper, Morgan, James, Osman, Walsh, Ramsay, McAllister, Newell, Moran, Mauchlen, Reid. Subs not used: O'Brien, Jobling.

Attendance: 6,171

After the stalemate at the Manor, no-one could have predicted the drama and excitement that lay in store in the third round replay at Filbert Street.

United picked themselves up off the floor after trailing 2-0 to a brace of goals from former Luton striker Mike Newell, and Gary Shelton emerged as the hero among a superb United 11 who refused to lie down.

Maurice Evans' team looked as good as out of the competition after half an hour, but they clawed their way back to record one of the finest comebacks in the club's history.

There was a recall for Billy Whitehurst for his first full game in six weeks, and his physical presence caused alarm and consternation in the Leicester defence.

Yet most of the action in the first 28 minutes was

at the other end as Moran shot wide and Newell forced Peter Hucker into a good double save.

United fell behind after 21 minutes when Newell turned quickly to shoot home from 15 yards following a corner.

Seven minutes later Leicester were two goals to the good. Newell sold a classy dummy to two Oxford men, ran forward and fired in sweet and low.

United struck back quickly, forcing the bulk of the play in and around the Leicester penalty area, and earning a succession of corners and free-kicks in dangerous positions.

From one such free-kick, taken by Rhoades-Brown and beautifully curled between the keeper and his defence, Dean Saunders ran gently forward to meet it and nod in.

Third Round Replay

Wednesday 4th November 1987

Leicester City 2 (Newell 2)

Cooper, Morgan, James, Osman, Walsh, Ramsey, McAllister, Newell, Moran (Rantanen), Mauchlen, Reid (Ford).

Oxford United 3 (Shelton 2, Saunders)

Hucker, Bardsley, Dreyer, Shelton, Slatter, Caton, Hebbert, Whitehurst, Saunders, Phillips, Rhoades-Brown. Subs not used: Foyle, Mustoe.

Attendance: 10,476

Five minutes after half-time United were level again as Rhoades-Brown and Saunders did the groundwork for Shelton to head in from close range.

Trevor Hebbert prompted majestically from midfield and Shelton and Les Phillips were seemingly everywhere as United took complete control.

Only when Leicester brought on Finnish international Jari Rantanen to replace Moran did United look in any danger. From his first two touches he laid on good chances for Newell, but Newell appeared to have left his shooting boots back in the dressing rooms at half-time.

It was left to Shelton to provide the coup-de-grace to prevent the tie from going into extra time.

Shelton had been receiving treatment for an eye that later required stitches and he had only just returned to his feet when he ran on to a pass by Saunders, shook off a challenge and fired home to send the visiting fans wild.

Research later revealed it was the first time a United side had come from two goals down to win when playing away since they entered the Football League. An historic match, and one that will live long in the memory of every Oxford fan who was there.

A home draw against Wimbledon in the fourth round seemed the perfect reward for such a stirring fightback at Filbert Street.

It was also revealed that United had a long and proud home record in the League Cup competition, so Wimbledon would have to be at their best to stop United going through to the quarter-finals.

Before taking on the Dons they had gone 24 home games without losing in the Littlewoods Cup, and its predecessor the Milk Cup, which, of course, they won in 1986.

continued on page 16

THE STORY SO FAR

continued from page 15

A cup match against Wimbledon was always likely to be an exciting battle, yet disappointingly only 5,516 fans turned up to see the spectacle.

Those who stayed away missed plenty of incident, and two good goals, but most important of all, a 2-1 victory for United.

The home side had the boost of a fine goal in only the fifth minute. Dean Saunders ran on to a long ball from Bardsley, outpaced Brian Gayle and turned sharply to strike a low, left-footed shot past Dave Beasant from the edge of the area.

John Fashanu gave the United defence a few scares and Lawrie Sanchez came close to equalising when he shot wide from 12 yards.

Wimbledon equalised from a well-rehearsed move from Ian Hazel's corner. Substitute Alan Cork peeled off the near post and away from his marker to head in.

The 65th minute equaliser had put the Dons right back in it, but with just a quarter of an hour to go United were back in front.

Rhoades-Brown enjoyed some productive runs down the right towards the London Road end and United were well on top when Gayle failed to clear properly and Saunders laid on a pass to Gary Shelton who in turn passed to Les Phillips, who prodded the ball past Beasant as he rushed out.

Oxford could have had a third in the closing minutes as Beasant saved from Saunders and Whitehurst shaved a post with a header.

But they were through to the quarter-finals and all that mattered now was to pray for another home tie at the last stage in which ground advantage was so important.

Fourth Round

Wednesday 18th November 1987

Oxford United 2 (Saunders, Phillips)
Hucker, Bardsley, Dreyer, Shelton, Slatter, Caton, Hebbard, Whitehurst, Saunders, Phillips, Rhoades-Brown. Sub not used: Foyle, Hill.

Wimbledon 1 (Cork)
Beasant, Goodyear, Scales, Hazel, Gayle, Thorn, Fairweather, Wise (Jones), Fashanu, Sanchez, Gannon (Cork).

Attendance: 5,516

The draw could hardly have been better. It paired United with Manchester United at the Manor on January 20, and there was an opportunity to relax from the excitement of the cup to concentrate on league action because the date seemed a long way away.

For some reason there are sides who always seem vulnerable at the Manor and Manchester United are one of them. They have never won a cup tie here, and their league record has not been too clever either.

Everything was to change with the return of Gary Briggs after injury. There followed an F.A. Cup win over Leicester and an important away draw in the First Division at Portsmouth.

So when Alex Ferguson's men arrived here that mid-January night for the right to be in the draw for the semi-finals, the place was really buzzing.

Saunders and Martin Foyle had started to develop a good understanding up front, and the United defence looked more solid with Briggs and Caton at the heart, and Hebbard acting as sweeper.

Also back was Alan Judge in goal, for only his

Les Phillips prods the ball under the body of Wimbledon goalkeeper Dave Beasant to earn United a place in the fifth round. (18.11.87)

second appearance in 15 months.

Manchester United had the better of the opening quarter of an hour, with little Dane Jesper Olsen laying on two good chances for Brian McClair. But the Scottish striker, with 17 goals to his name, was off target.

After 17 minutes central defender Kevin Moran went off with a pulled hamstring, to be replaced by Graeme Hogg. Hogg had not had a touch when he was outjumped by Foyle from a well-aimed free-kick by Hebbard and Foyle's header went between the static Manchester defence and goalkeeper Chris Turner for Saunders to slide in at the far post to tap in.

continued on page 19





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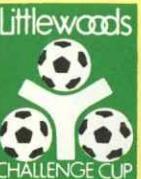
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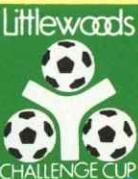
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continued from page 17

THE STORY SO FAR



They had stretched that impressive home run to 26 home games in the competition without defeat, and they were through to the semi-finals for the second time in three seasons.

Fifth Round

Wednesday 20th January 1988

Oxford United 2 (Saunders, Briggs)

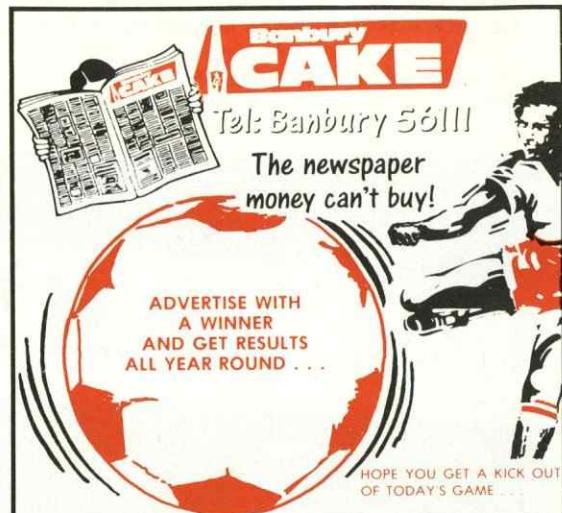
Judge, Bardsley, Dreyer, Shelton, Briggs,
Caton, Hebbard, Foyle (Whitehurst), Saunders,
Phillips, Rhoades-Brown. Sub: Hill (not used)

Manchester United 0

Turner, Anderson, Gibson, Blackmore, Moran
(Hogg), Duxbury, Robson, Strachan
(Davenport), McClair, Whiteside, Olsen.

Attendance: 12,690

Gary Briggs dives in to head Oxford's second goal against
Manchester United and secure a semi-final place (20.1.88)



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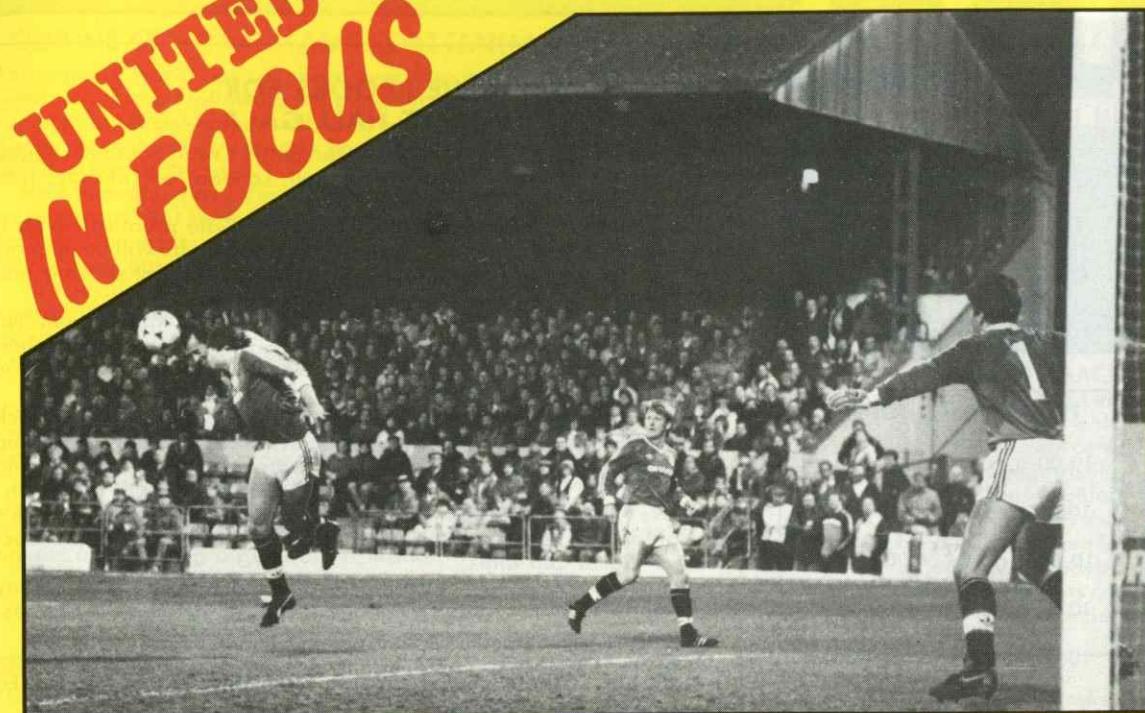
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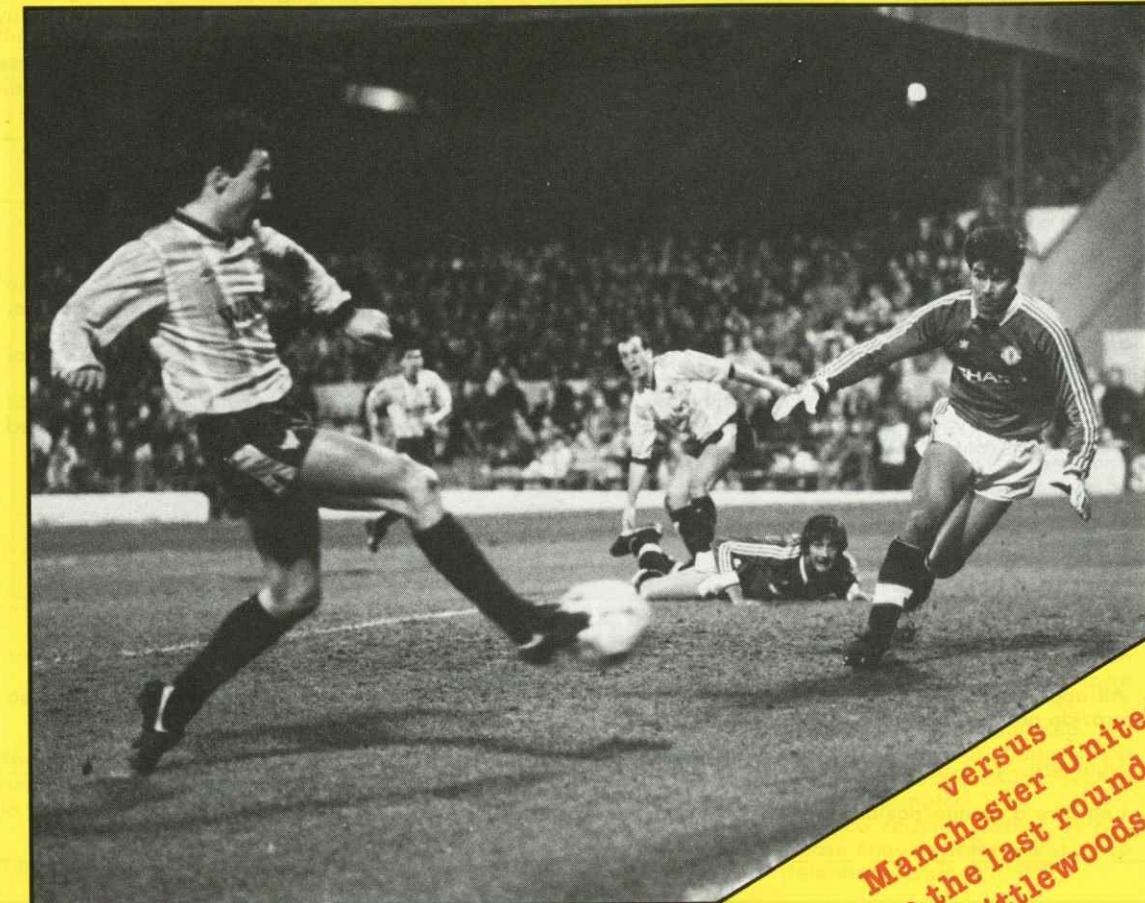
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UNITED IN FOCUS



Martin Foyle gets in front of Graham Hogg to head the ball into the path of Dean Saunders who gratefully accepts the chance and puts Oxford into the lead.



*versus
Manchester United
in the last round of
the Littlewoods Cup*

Ticket Information



TICKET OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
TUESDAY	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
THURSDAY	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
FRIDAY	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
SATURDAY	9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon
ADDITIONAL HOURS	
First Team Matchdays	
WEDNESDAY	5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
SATURDAY	1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
plus 15 mins after final whistle	

ELKIE BROOKS FOR ALBERT HALL GALA

Elkie Brooks will top the bill in the Mercantile Credit Football League Centenary Gala at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Tuesday, 16th February 1988.

A celebration of The Football League, the Gala promises to be a night to remember, particularly for fans of Elkie (who will be appearing with her own band) and also generally for lovers of showbiz and football.

Elkie's set will undoubtedly include songs from her latest album "No More The Fool" — together with a wide selection of established favourites such as "Pearl's A Singer", "Nights in White Satin", "Lilac Wine" and "We've Got Tonight".

Special guest (with his own band) will be the multi-talented Rick Wakeman, keyboard player with the hugely successful 70's super-group Yes, and equally famous for his work with his own band, including the "Henry", "Arthur" and "Journey To The Centre Of The Earth" albums. A former director of Football League club Brentford, Rick's love of football has also come to the fore in his musical scores for successive World Cup films.

Musical performers will also include The Tremeloes, Wings' Denny Laine and The Who's John Entwistle, recognised by many as the best bass guitarist in rock music.

A roster of stars from stage, screen and television will also perform at the Gala, including Robert Powell, Kenny Lynch, Ruth Madoc, Ed Stewart and Dave Ismay.

Elkie's professionalism, charisma and musical quality make her a favourite with many football personalities. But one of her most avid admirers will not be there on the night: England football manager Bobby Robson has a prior engagement in Tel Aviv where England play Israel the following day!

Tickets prices at £9, £11, £13, £14, £15, £17.50 and £19.50 are available via the Royal Albert Hall Box Office on 01-589 8212 (credit cards 01-589 9465), and our own Ticket Office.

COME AND JOIN US



If you are not one of our many Season Ticket holders or Manor Club Membership Card holder, you might like to join us. This enables you to purchase tickets or gain admittance to the 'members only' parts of the ground. These are at present the Osler Road and Beech Road seating and terracing.

The card is also required to allow juniors (under sixteen at 1st August) to obtain the concessionary rates of admission.

All you need to do is fill in the coupon below, enclosing your photo's and £3 membership fee. Your card will then be sent to you in due course. If you require match tickets (or guests tickets) before your card is received then please contact the ticket office who will sell you the necessary tickets.

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Address.....

..... Postcode

Telephone Number Date of Birth/...../.....

All applicants must provide 4 IDENTICAL passport size photographs. Juniors and Senior Citizens must also provide proof of age.

Signature.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £3 to cover the cost of administration.

OUR NEXT HOME GAME: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham's world has collapsed over the past few weeks. The club went into turmoil following the departure of manager David Pleat, a run of nine League games without a win killed off their Championship hopes and they were recently knocked out of the F.A. Cup by Third Division Port Vale.

New manager Terry Venables now feels he has to start rebuilding from scratch. But he is insisting that his players restore their pride so they will certainly be no easy side to beat when they come to The Manor next Saturday.

Striker Clive Allen, who smashed the club record with 49 goals last season, has only just crept up to double figures this season. Fellow forward Nico Claesen, the Belgian international, has achieved a similar tally but is not always sure of his place in the side.

One man who could cause a lot of trouble is winger Chris Waddle. While he was out nursing an injury, John Barnes took over in the England team and the Spurs' man is playing his heart out in a bid to regain his international place.

Through all their troubles, the veteran Argentinian international Ossie Ardiles has been one of their most consistent performers. Though his pace is beginning to desert him, Ossie is still spraying around his passes and proving a general inspiration from midfield.

DON'T MISS IT! BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW

Seat Prices (members only)

Beech Road/Osler Road: £9 Adult, £6 Junior/Senior Citizen
Family Seating: £7.50 Adult, £4 Junior/Senior Citizen

The match is NOT all-ticket although members can purchase Beech Road Terrace, Beech Road Family Terrace and Osler Road Terrace tickets for themselves and their guests in advance.

Non-members can pay at the Luton Road turnstiles on the day of the match.

LONDON ROAD CLUB

LUTON TOWN

Littlewoods Cup, Semi-final Second Leg
Wednesday 24th February 1988

Kick-off 7.45pm

Coaches Depart

Castle Street

5.00 p.m.

Manor

5.15 p.m.

Executive Coaches: £4 one fare

Ordinary Coaches: Adult £3.50, Junior £2.50

or

Sunday 28th February 1988

Kick-off 3.05 p.m.

Coaches Depart,

Castle Street

12.15 noon

Manor

12.30 p.m.

prices as above

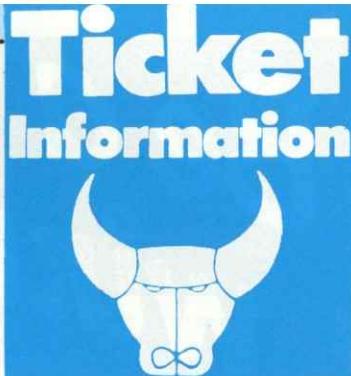
Please note that only London Road Club members may travel on these coaches and membership card/coach ticket must be shown when boarding.

LUTON TOWN v OXFORD UNITED Littlewoods Challenge Cup Semi-Final Second Leg

The match at Luton is all ticket. Tickets are on sale for season ticket holders and from tomorrow (10.00 a.m.) it will be the turn of members to purchase those tickets which remain. The prices are:-

Seats £7, Terrace £5

Tickets are limited to one per member/season ticket holder



BEECH ROAD FAMILY TERRACE

Supporters are reminded that entry to this area is by ticket only. Season ticket holders can come through the Beech Road turnstiles but non-season ticket holders must purchase a ticket in advance from the ticket office. Payment for entry should not come by paying at the turnstile. Guest tickets can be obtained in the usual manner.

PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY

Supporters are advised to take up their position in the ground not later than 30 minutes before kick-off.

Guest Tickets

Members requiring guest tickets for matches are reminded that they must be purchased by the member not later than 3 hours before kick off. The only exceptions to this are seat tickets and tickets for the Beech Road Family Terrace which can be purchased from the ticket office up to kick off.

In order to reduce the queuing times for guest tickets the club have introduced a booking system where MEMBERS/SEASON TICKET HOLDERS can purchase tickets by ACCESS/BARCLAYCARD/VISA by telephone. Requests more than three days before matches will be posted or else they will be held for collection on the day. This is in addition to postal applications whereby supporters can apply by post by including a cheque/postal order and include a stamped addressed envelope. You can apply on the application form below.

Supporters are reminded that guest tickets for games are available two weeks in advance of a home match.

If you require further details please enquire at the ticket office (telephone Oxford 61503).

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RESERVE & YOUTH

OUR youth side had a break from four successive away games — from which they earned three wins and a defeat — when they took on Crystal Palace in the SECL Division 2 at Brasenose College.

The game finished at 1-1, and both goals could be classified as accidents!

Crystal Palace took the lead in the second half when their right winger shaped up to hit a hard cross, miscued, and the ball went in at the near post before goalkeeper Brian Vasey could adjust his position.

Joey Beauchamp hit United's equaliser with a chip from the far side which similarly deceived the keeper.

United had three schoolboys playing, and gave a first game to trialist Damien Dunleavy from Dublin, who had a reasonable first game on the right side of midfield.

Crystal Palace were a stronger and more powerful team, with greater physique, and though they were below United in the South East Counties League table, they have recently enjoyed a good run.

The match became a hard midfield battle for the

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Wednesday 24th February

OXFORD UNITED
versus
ARSENAL
kick-off 7.30 pm

REPORT

SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION

			F-A	
Aug.	19	Tottenham Hotspur	H 2-4	
	26	Bristol Rovers	H 5-2	
Sept.	1	O.P.R.	A 2-4	
	9	Luton Town	H 3-4	
Oct.	15	Portsmouth	A 3-8	
	3	Arsenal	A 0-4	
	7	West Ham United	H 1-1	
	12	Crystal Palace	H 4-0	
	14	Ipswich Town	A 3-2	
	24	Watford	A 0-4	
	29	Charlton Athletic	H 3-0	
Nov.	7	Southampton	A 0-3	
	12	Reading	H 2-1	
	21	Chelsea	A 1-1	
	25	Brighton & H.A.	H 2-1	
Dec.	2	Swindon Town	A 3-1	
	18	Norwich City	A 0-2	
	21	Millwall	A 1-3	
	29	Fulham	H 3-4	
Jan.	9	Tottenham Hotspur	A 0-2	
	12	Bristol Rovers	A 3-5	
	3	Portsmouth	H 2-3	
	9	Fulham	A	
	17	Crystal Palace	A	
	24	Arsenal	H	
	29	O.P.R.	H	
Mar.	2	Ipswich Town	H	
	12	West Ham United	A	
	16	Watford	H	
	22	Charlton Athletic	A	
	26	Reading	A	
	30	Southampton	H	
Apr.	6	Chelsea	H	
	13	Brighton & H.A.	A	
	20	Millwall	H	
	May	4	Norwich City	H

			P W D L F A Pts				
Southampton	17	15	1	1	77	14	31
Tottenham Hotspur	19	13	2	4	37	22	28
Northampton Town	18	11	3	4	62	31	25
Wimbledon	17	9	5	3	40	19	23
Swindon Town	21	9	3	9	52	42	21
Brentford	21	8	5	8	40	48	21
Oxford United	20	9	2	9	44	39	20
Luton Town	18	8	3	7	37	31	19
Crystal Palace	21	7	4	10	37	46	18
Colchester United	20	5	6	9	36	52	16
Bristol City	18	7	2	9	30	58	16
Bournemouth	23	4	7	12	35	60	15
Reading	20	5	5	10	24	52	15
Bristol Rovers	19	3	7	9	20	34	13
Brighton & H.A.	20	4	3	13	31	54	11

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Table of results as at 5.2.88

			P W D L F A Pts				
Southampton	17	15	1	1	77	14	31
Tottenham Hotspur	19	13	2	4	37	22	28
Northampton Town	18	11	3	4	62	31	25
Wimbledon	17	9	5	3	40	19	23
Swindon Town	21	9	3	9	52	42	21
Brentford	21	8	5	8	40	48	21
Oxford United	20	9	2	9	44	39	20
Luton Town	18	8	3	7	37	31	19
Crystal Palace	21	7	4	10	37	46	18
Colchester United	20	5	6	9	36	52	16
Bristol City	18	7	2	9	30	58	16
Bournemouth	23	4	7	12	35	60	15
Reading	20	5	5	10	24	52	15
Bristol Rovers	19	3	7	9	20	34	13
Brighton & H.A.	20	4	3	13	31	54	11

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

			F-A
Aug.	15	Bristol Rovers	A 1-0
	18	Bristol City	H 2-0
	22	Swindon Town	H 3-0
	25	Southampton	A 0-3
Sept.	5	Crystal Palace	A 6-2
	7	Reading	H 2-3
	12	Brentford	A 1-2
	14	Crystal Palace (SJFC1)	A 0-0
	19	Bournemouth (LC1)	H 0-3
	24	Crystal Palace (SJFC1R)	H 3-1
	26	Luton Town	H 1-3
Oct.	3	Tottenham Hotspur	A 2-3
	17	Northampton Town	A 2-6
	31	Brighton & H.A.	H 5-0
Nov.	7	Colchester United	A 0-3
	9	Reading (FAYC)	A 0-4
	14	Bournemouth	H 2-2
	16	Portsmouth (SJFC2)	A 1-2
	21	Bristol Rovers	H 3-1
Dec.	5	Swindon Town	A 2-1
	12	Southampton	A 2-3
	19	Bournemouth	A 5-2
Jan.	2	Reading	A 2-0
	16	Crystal Palace	H 1-1
	30	Luton Town	A 2-4
	13	Wimbledon	A
Feb.	20	Northampton Town	H
Mar.	5	Colchester United	H
	12	Brentford	H
	19	Bristol City	A
	26	Wimbledon	H
Apr.	2	Brighton & H.A.	A
		To be re-arranged Tottenham Hotspur	H

effects.

Luton led 2-0 at half-time through a quality solo goal by Ricky McEvoy and a Mick O'Brien 25 yarder. Paul Gray scored the home sides third and Aaron Tigh made it 4-0.

Richard Hill reduced the deficit with a 20 yard lob in the 80th minute before Gray got his second. Leworthy completed the scoring with a long range goal two minutes from time.

FACING THE CHALLENGE

The Littlewoods Challenge Cup is not just a challenge to the teams competing for this magnificent trophy, but is a challenge to us all.

It is the same challenge that Littlewoods put to itself when it took on the sponsorship of the cup in 1985. That challenge is to restore football to its rightful place in British Society as the traditional family game.

Littlewoods has always kept the family at heart, with its values being reflected in all our three main divisions; Home Shopping, Stores and Pools. We are, therefore, delighted with the progress of the Littlewoods Challenge Cup. We have seen high family attendances at many matches, and the excitement and interest generated by the Littlewoods Junior Challenge Cup, in conjunction with the National Association of Boys Clubs, has been tremendous.

So join Littlewoods in this challenge and help restore the traditions to Football – our National game.



LOOKING BACK

TWO YEARS

IF THERE is half as much drama and excitement from this semi-final as there was from the last semi-final involving United two years ago, fans will have had more than their money's worth.

Supporters had to wait and wait and wait for the semi-final of the Milk Cup to come around in 1986. Three times the first leg at Villa Park was postponed, but when it was underway at last it turned out to be a thriller.

John Aldridge scored after just eight minutes when Trevor Hebbard sent a high pass from his own half to the right flank. Ray Houghton, who had an outstanding match, outstripped his marker Dean Glover and crossed for Aldridge to slam home first time from ten yards.



John Aldridge puts United into an early lead in the first leg at Villa Park.

A quarter of an hour later Aldridge was denied a second by the woodwork and then Villa equalised in the 34th minute.

A long throw-in from Darren Bradley caused trouble and neither Gary Briggs nor Les Phillips could clear. The ball fell to Paul Birch who controlled neatly from the edge of the area and fired into the top right hand corner.

Ten minutes after half-time Villa went ahead. Mark Walters' left wing corner was back headed by Allan Evans and headed by Simon Stainrod.

United were insistent that Paul Kerr had challenged Alan Judge illegally but the goal was allowed to stand, and within 60 seconds United were back on level terms.

Aldridge was fouled by Evans and he picked himself up to send the penalty to the right.

The 2-2 first leg scoreline was a marvellous result for Oxford, and there was a capacity crowd, as you would expect, to see the decisive second leg at The Manor a week later.

The bulk of those fans went home delirious as Les Phillips and Jeremy Charles grabbed the goals that put United through to their first Wembley appearance.

It was a tension-filled first half with not a lot of good football, but it mattered little when Les Phillips drove home for United after 57 minutes to go 3-2 up on aggregate.

The tireless Trevor Hebbard ran from the middle, fed Aldridge and he saw Phillips homing in on the right. Phillips beat the advancing Nigel Spink from about 12 yards.

Fifteen minutes later and United's fans really could see the twin towers of Wembley on the horizon.

They had been furious when Villa defender clearly handled Ray Houghton's corner but the referee said he simply hadn't seen it.



Aston Villa goalkeeper Nigel Spink is well beaten by Les Phillips shot, putting United into the lead in the 2nd leg of the Milk Cup Semi-Final (12.3.86).

Jeremy Charles grabbed that all-important second goal. From a free-kick on the left by Peter Rhoades-Brown, Aldridge tucked the ball forward and Charles stooped in front of Elliott to score.

The United fans became louder and louder as the seconds ticked away and they had just one relapse, when Mark Walters looped a 20 yarder over Alan Judge just before the end.

But there were only 180 seconds between that Villa last hope and the referee's final whistle, and the visitors' effort was too little, too late.

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MANOR Marketing

with
NICK JOHNSON



Good evening and welcome to the Manor for tonight's Littlewoods Cup Semi-Final versus Luton Town.

I'm delighted to welcome back our match sponsors for the evening — United's official Club Sponsors **WANG (UK) LTD.**

Going back to my programme notes in our last 'Semi' versus Villa on the evening of March 12th 1986, I was saying "little did myself or Wang Vice President — Alan Davis think that only months after signing the deal that we were then just 90 minutes away from an opportunity to walk through the Wembley Tunnel, the rest is history — which often repeats itself! I distinctly remember saying to Alan after the Leicester game last season — (when we were discussing the continuation of the WANG sponsorship) 'wasn't the Wembley Day something special — not only for us but also for the Wang staff — guests and customers. I wonder if we'll do it again this season?

Well Mr. Davis — we'll know in the next couple of weeks won't we?

Let's hope that Alan and his 'team' here tonight join with the rest of the United 'crowd' and cheer Maurice and the boys on to a victory that could once again 'take United down the M40 to the Twin Towers at Wembley Stadium'!

Today's **WANG** Mascot

James Pipe
Godstone, Surrey
— 9 years old
Favourite player:
Dean Saunders



One of the 'chores' a match sponsorship party has to do, besides choosing a Man of the Match or guessing the time of the first goal is guessing the score. Versus Wimbledon it doesn't surprise me that this wasn't achieved! The match sponsors of the day **MAYBANK** decided to present local

Charity S.S.N.A.P. with the £31 and **MATTHEW MAJOR** was delighted to present this money to S.S.N.A.P. representative **NORMAN DAVIES**.



BIG MAN WINS OVER AGAINST THE 'WOMBLES'!

Billy Whitehurst was named by match sponsors **Maybank (Oxford)** as their **Man of the Match** for his performance versus Wimbledon. **MIKE STEVENSON** makes the presentation of the plaque and 'Bubbly' to **Billy** in the sponsors lounge after the game. Current leader **DEAN SAUNDERS** received 5 votes, **PETER RHOADES-BROWN** 4, **MARTIN FOYLE** 3, **LES PHILLIPS** 2, **DAVID BARDSLEY** 2, **PETER HUCKER** and **TOMMY CATON** 1 each!

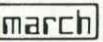
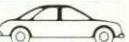
LAWRIE COMES TO TOWN!

LAWRIE McMENEMY the former Doncaster Rovers, Grimsby Town, Southampton and Sunderland Manager is our sporting guest speaker at the forthcoming 'Cup Special Celebrity Sportsmans Evening' held next Wednesday (17th February) at Minchery Farm Country Club, Littlemore.

This mixed function will also see the return of comic **DAVE WOLFE** who brilliantly entertained us at **Billy Hamilton's Testimonial Evening**. Tickets for the 17th are £25 each and company tables are available on a first come first served basis. Ring **NOW** on 61503 or 66440 to reserve your seats for this 'Cup Special' evening with Oxford United!

The **Virgin Megastore** will be sponsoring a lucky programme for every league home match — so look out for the **Virgin** logo on the **Manor Marketing** page in your programme which will entitle the lucky winner to a **FREE** album or cassette (up to the value of £6.49) or **Compact Disc** (up to the value of £11.99). Simply present the lucky programme at the **Virgin Megastore** and choose your prize from the best selection of music in Oxford.

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You know that television programme 'Wish You Were Here', my version this evening is 'Wish I was There'. As you settle down for this semi-final on a February evening in Oxford I will be getting up in Melbourne Australia. Hopefully it will be hot and the sun shining but I'd give anything to be back at The Manor for the game. The thought of going to Wembley again is enough to bring on a real bout of homesickness. I'll be on the phone to Radio Oxford all morning, evening to you, and hoping to be able to crack open a few cans of the famous amber liquid to celebrate a comfortable United victory.

I will be back for the second leg at Luton when the dear old television companies decide what date the game can be played. I understand the battle for viewing figures but it would be easier for all concerned if a final date could be decided.

I totally agree with Jon Murray's piece in the Oxford Mail about the biased BBC television coverage of the Manchester United tie. Everybody is entitled to their own opinions and commentating is a very tough and demanding job. What annoyed

me, after the game, we had to watch an interview with Bryan Robson and not a United player. He was asked questions which he had not the faintest idea how to answer.

The second leg at Kenilworth Road should be a cracker on the plastic pitch which seems to hold no fear for United. I'm delighted Luton will allow 3,500 United fans to the game. They will not let United or the name of football down especially as the national spotlight will be on them.

I will never forget the game at Luton last year with Dean Saunders securing United's first division future with that header in the dying seconds. I lost my voice and composure while commentating when the goal went in. I just thought of the thousands of United fans, who were not allowed to travel, back home in Oxford celebrating the continuation of first division football.

Have a great evening, my thoughts will be with you. Don't worry those cans will be ready to open for a right old celebration in the sun.

BBC Radio Oxford

Radio Oxford follows United's fortunes

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Team news and interviews Fridays 5.50 pm
Mid-week sports specials
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TEAM CHECK

OXFORD UNITED

1	ALAN JUDGE
2	DAVID BARDSLEY
3	RICHARD HILL
4	GARY SHELTON
5	GARY BRIGGS
6	TOMMY CATON
7	TREVOR HEBBERD
8	MARTIN FOYLE
9	DEAN SAUNDERS
10	LES PHILLIPS
11	PETER RHOADES-BROWN
12	BILLY WHITEHURST
14	ROBBIE MUSTOE

LUTON TOWN

1	LES SEALEY
2	TIM BREAKER
3	ROB JOHNSON
4	DARRON McDONOUGH
5	STEVE FOSTER
6	MAL DONAGHY
7	DANNY WILSON
8	BRIAN STEIN
9	MICK HARFORD
10	MARK STEIN
11	KINGSLEY BLACK
12	
14	

OFFICIALS

Referee: K. S. Hackett (Sheffield)
Linesmen: J. L. Godfrey — Red trim flag
C. E. Topliss — Yellow trim flag
Reserve Official: R. J. Bailey

HALF TIME

SCORES

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

A Derby County v Manchester United

SHERPA VAN TROPHY

B Hereford United v Brighton & H.A.

LITTLEWOODS CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG

The match at Luton is all ticket and United have been allocated 2500 terrace tickets @ £5 and 1000 seat tickets @ £7.

Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders now, and from tomorrow it will be the turn of members to purchase those tickets which remain.

Tickets are limited to one per season ticket holder/member.

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OXFORD UNITED

versus

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Saturday 13th February, kick-off 3.00pm

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