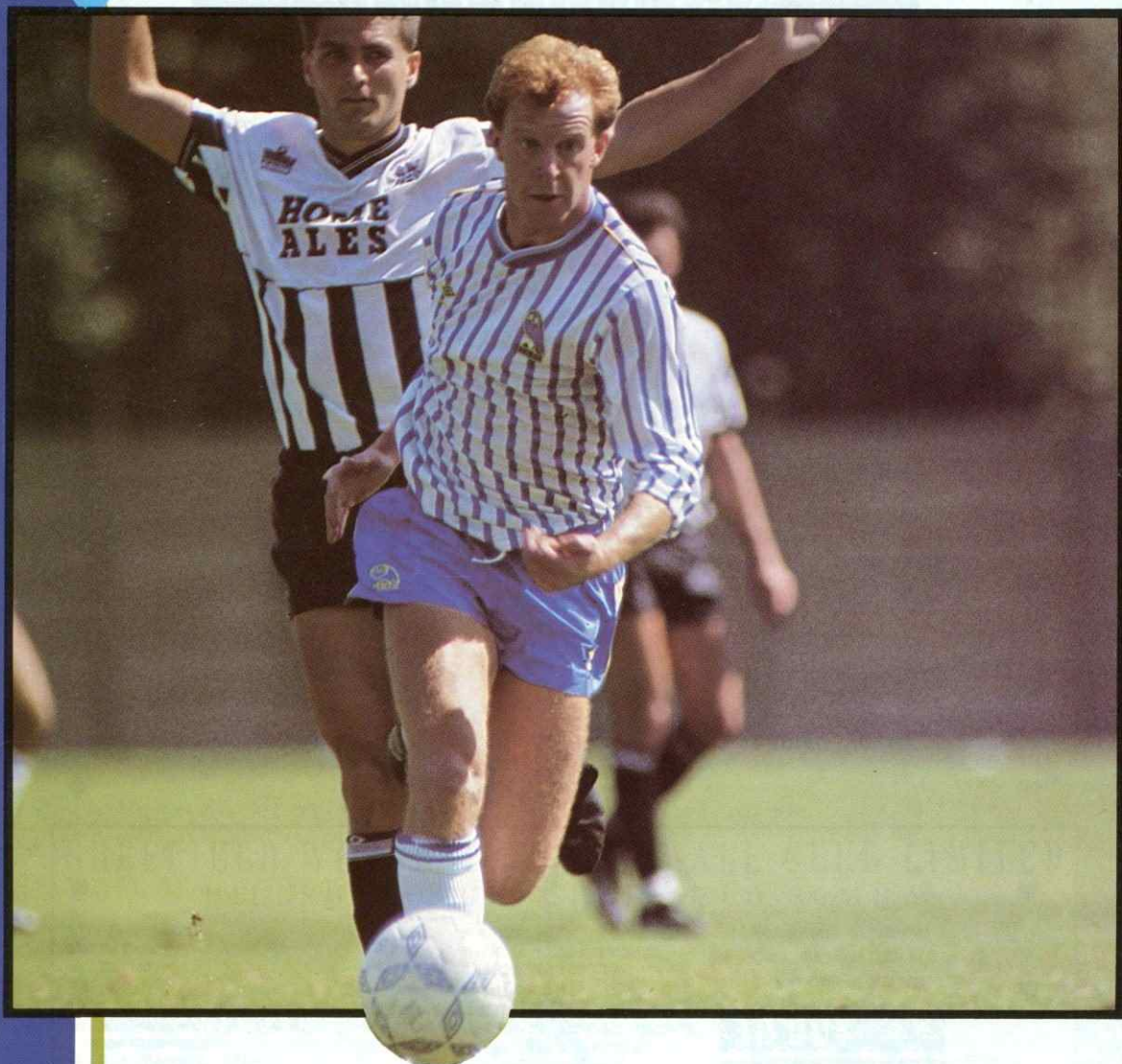


# SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY



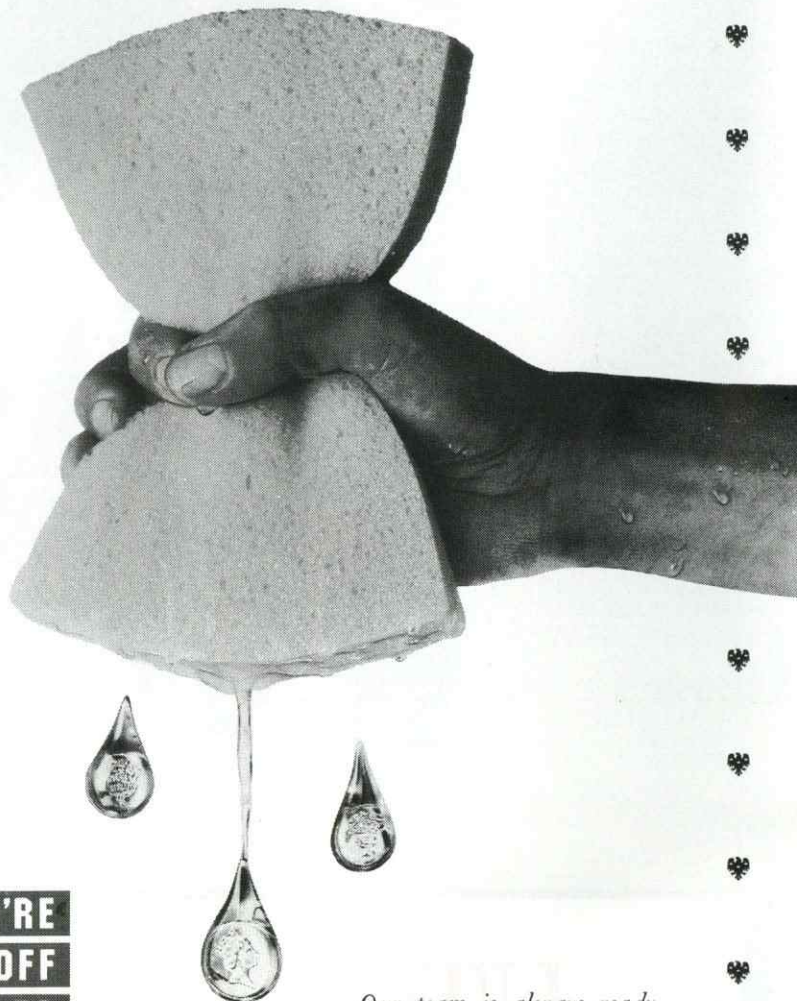
v LUTON TOWN

Saturday, 27th August, 1988 kick-off 3.00 p.m. Barclays League Division One

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# WILKINSON

The start of a new season is always a bit special. Optimism is at a peak, and a fresh beginning always inspires high hopes. And this season is extra special in that the kick-off almost exactly coincides with the 100th Anniversary of the launching of the Football League in September 1988.

I wonder if those 12 founding clubs knew what they were starting! After all, the game has become a national institution and plays a very significant part in the lives of millions. No doubt the league's founding father, William McGregor, would be astonished if he was aware of the developments which have occurred since 1888.

As the events of the summer emphasised, changes are still occurring. We can only hope these will be for the benefit of the game, and that those responsible for initiating them will take great care to push football in the direction it really needs to go.

In the final analysis, football is still essentially about two teams, each seeking to establish superiority, the object being to score more goals than the other side.

Our visitors today, Luton Town, won the Littlewoods Cup last season, and their success served to remind us of the bonus that cup competitions offer to those clubs the bookmakers refer to as "outsiders", by providing a massive cash windfall which can be a springboard to better things.

But the league is different. Cup favourites at the outset seldom make it to Wembley, but The First Division favourites at the start of the race are

almost invariably among the front runners at the finish. In the First Division over a long, hard campaign the inequalities that can be overcome in a series of one-off cup games are often cruelly exposed. It's the clubs with the best and strongest squad of players that lasts longest in the chase for the Championship.

We go into the new season knowing we have to make the best use of the players we have, aware that we must suit our style to the abilities of those players; and our pre-season work has been geared to this end.

As always, we have our short and long term targets. Obviously the first is a good start, for if we don't achieve that the others can become meaningless. After last autumn's experience, we know the price of a lean beginning, and I'm convinced we can't have a repeat of the ill-luck we had then, especially with injuries.

Thankfully, we are starting off with a fully fit squad. The return to fitness of Knight, Pearson and Cranson, plus the fact that Sterland and Worthington have finally overcome long term niggles, ensures ample cover at the back. I'm especially pleased to have obtained Alan Harper, who will bring experience and variety to our midfield; while David Hodgson, who has also joined us, I see as a "bonus" signing.

The summer has not been without its disappointments. Generally speaking, I am happy with our squad of players, but I know certain positions need strengthening. Unfortunately, my efforts to recruit the couple more players I wanted have so far been without success for reasons beyond our control.

## SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED HILLSBOROUGH, SHEFFIELD S6 1SW

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**Division 1 Champions:** 1902-03,  
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**Runners-up:** 1960-61

**Division 2 Champions:** 1899-1900,  
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**Runners up:** 1949-50, 1983-84.

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**F.A. Cup Winners:** 1896, 1907, 1935

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Clyde Road, Sheffield  
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The views expressed by the individual contributors are not necessarily the views of Sheffield Wednesday F.C. plc., the Editor or J. W. Northend Ltd.

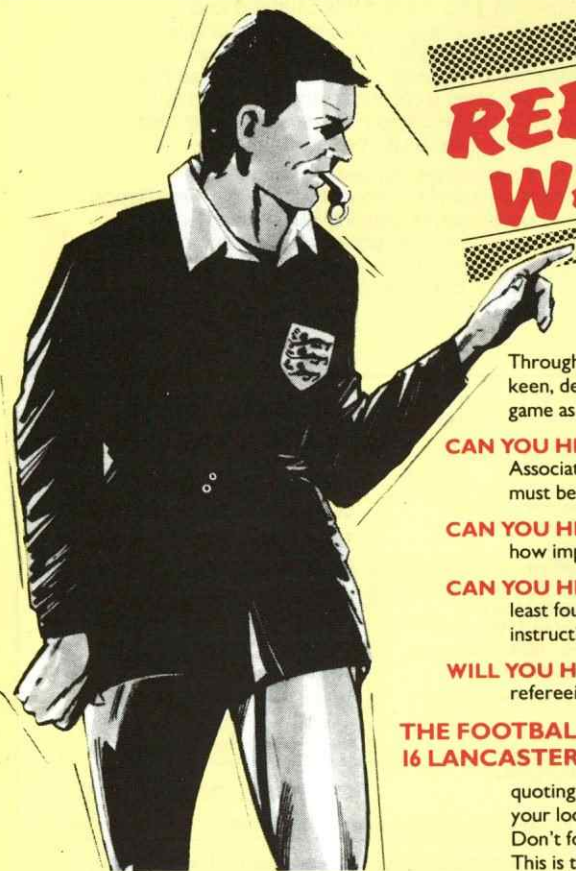
**Cover Picture:** Gary Megson in action during our pre-season friendly against Notts. County.



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Full-backs Mel Sterland and Nigel Worthington give our new away colours their approval . . . we hope you do too.

# TALKING POINTS

## NEW BOY ALAN MEETS OLD PALS

New signing Alan Harper met up with a few old friends when he joined the Owls in a £275,000 move from Everton this summer.

Alan already knew Martin Hodge and Gary Megson; he played in the same England Youth side as Steve McCall and Mark Proctor, and he and David Hodgson were club-mates at Liverpool.

Alan, a Scouser, will be remembered for scoring against Wednesday in the 1986 F.A. Cup Semi-Final.

He has played in almost every position for Everton but sees himself mainly as a midfielder, and it is in this position where he looks certain to kick off his league career at Hillsborough.

Howard Wilkinson sees Alan as a good, value-for-money signing, and was impressed by the newcomer's showing during pre-season work.

He should bring extra depth to the midfield department, which was of course depleted by the release of Gary Owen at the end of last season.

Gary, we hear, has gone to Cyprus, while there have been several other departures.

Des Hazel has gone to Rotherham for £45,000, Mark Chamberlain to Portsmouth for £200,000, and Lee Chapman to French club Niort for a fee to be fixed by a U.E.F.A. tribunal.

All three were at the end of their contracts and free to sign for other clubs.

Alan Harper was at the end of his agreement with Everton, and David Hodgson was out of contract having split with Spanish club Jerez de Cadiz.

David and Mark Proctor are also buddies — David was best man at Mark's wedding.

## JOHN HARRIS

It has been an eventful summer, with the arrival of satellite television hotting up the negotiations over T.V. coverage and resulting in a far bigger pay-out for football, and for the First Division clubs in particular.

And there have been those crazy transfer fees to keep fans talking.

But the saddest event for Wednesday was the death of John Harris after a long illness.

John was appointed chief scout at Hillsborough by Len Ashurst and

served under two other managers, Jack Charlton and Howard Wilkinson.

It was John who marked Howard's card about several things at Hillsborough when Howard was appointed manager in 1983.

John's wisdom, knowledge and friendliness earned him the tag "Gentleman John", and this is how he will always be remembered.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

Tomorrow afternoon at 3.15 p.m. the Sheffield Eagles tackle Bramley and on Wednesday evening at 7.30, Wakefield are the visitors in a Yorkshire Cup-tie.

Both matches are at Owlerton Stadium, and Wednesday supporters are most welcome.

*New boy Dave Hodgson.*



## WEDNESDAY STRIP ALL AT SEA

Sailors of the famous H.M.S. Sheffield are now the proud owners of a Sheffield Wednesday strip.

The Owls handed over the kit when they were in the South West last week for their pre-season friendlies against Exeter and Torquay.

The seamen will be able to wear it when they play their own friendly matches, but somebody will have to change when they take on Wednesday on a visit to Sheffield next month!

## A SAD LOSS

We were saddened to hear of the death of 17-year-old Andrew McGuigan in a road accident during the summer. Andrews, a fervent Wednesday supporter, was the grandson of the late Jimmy McGuigan, former manager of Chesterfield and Rotherham United. Our sincere condolences go to Andrew's family.

## BEST WISHES FROM THE USA

Amongst the 'good luck for the new season' messages was one from Michelle Parkin and her dad Stephen in California. They moved to America just over a year ago and although they keep in touch with events at Hillsborough Michelle tells us that there is no substitute for being there on match day.

## BEFORE AND AFTER

Keith Farnsworth, well-known to Wednesday fans as the author of two books on the Owls, has just produced a cricket book. His fourth book, but the first he has published himself, *Before and After Bramall Lane*, reveals that it was one of the founders of The Wednesday Cricket Club, W. H. Woolhouse, who was the pioneer of first-class cricket in Sheffield.

The book costs £4.95 and is available from local bookshops, or direct from Keith at 205 High Greave, Sheffield S5 9GS (postage 60p).

By the way, Keith tells us he has a book on Yorkshire football coming out later in the year — and, obviously, it features the Owls prominently.

## WELL DONE DAVE AND HIS LADS

Anybody looking at the pitch today will agree that groundsman Dave Barber and his staff deserve a vote of thanks.

It is only three months or so since the pitch was stripped of its old turf and was just soil. The idea was to sow a new surface to improve drainage, and things seem to have gone perfectly.

Nature has played its part with helpful conditions as the new grass grew, so with Dave and company carefully tending the new pitch, the result has been impressive.

## NEW AREA FOR THE DISABLED

As well as the new pitch, there is another change at Hillsborough today. At the front of the North Stand is the Westfield Health-sponsored section for the disabled. Taking up the first three rows of the stand, and about 35 yards long, it has an access ramp leading up alongside the side of the stand, and a rail at the front.

Wednesday have always been keen to improve facilities for spectators and this is the latest example.

## NEW KIT READY TO BE UNVEILED

Owls fans will soon be getting their first look at the club's new away strip.

The shirts are green and white hoops, with a narrow blue strip as well. The shorts are mainly green, with a blue patch on the side, and the socks continue the green-and-white theme.

The club will also revert to using blue shorts with their blue-and-white home kit this season, partly because supporters seem to prefer these to the white ones.

## MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Referee George Tyson, a well known and respected official, is a director of Works and Leisure and achieved full Football League status in 1977 after progressing through the local Tyne and Wear Leagues. George is married to Christina and they have two children. He enjoys running and golf and is Chairman of the Sunderland Referee Society.



## SUMMER WEDDING

Congratulations to Nigel and Nicky Pearson who were married during the summer at Shrewsbury Cathedral.

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## WORLD CUP QUALIFYING MATCH ENGLAND v SWEDEN

19th October, 1988,  
kick-off 8.00 p.m. (at Wembley Stadium)

Seats £17.50, £15.00, £12.50, £8.00;  
Standing £6.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets for the above game should apply to Sharon Lane, at the Box Office, enclosing remittance (cheques payable to S.W.F.C.) and S.A.E. no later than 5th September.


## INTERNATIONAL MATCH ENGLAND v DENMARK

14th September, 1988,  
kick-off 8.00 p.m. (at Wembley Stadium)

Seats £15, £12.50, £10, £8;  
Standing £5.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets for the above game should apply to Sharon Lane at the Box Office, enclosing remittance (cheques payable to S.W.F.C.) and S.A.E. no later than 2nd September.

# KIT SPONSORSHIP

MARTIN HODGE	TONY GALVIN	MARK PROCTOR	COLIN WEST	NIGEL PEARSON	CARL BRADSHAW
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	1. 2. 3. C. Rhodes/D. Ramsey 4. 5.	1. 2. 3. T. Breslin 4. 5.	1. 2. 3. T. Breslin 4. 5.	1. S. Howden 2. R. Walters 3. S. Howden 4. 5.	★
MEL STERLAND ★ Filter Serv.				SIGGI JONSSON 1. 2. M. Deakin 3. M. Deakin 4. 5.	
LARRY MAY 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.				IAN KNIGHT ★ Sheffield Trophy Centre	
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STEVE McCALL 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.				ALAN HARPER ★ Terry & James Stables	
GARY MEGSON ★ Mosboro' Supporters Club				GREG FEE 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	
NIGEL WORTHINGTON ★ T. Staniforth				DAVID HODGSON 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	
DAVID HIRST ★ J. Wetzel	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shirt £15</li> <li>2. Shorts £10</li> <li>3. Socks £5</li> <li>4. Boots £20</li> <li>5. Tracksuit £30</li> <li>★ Full Kit £75</li> </ul> 	 <p>FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BOB GORRILL 343122</p>	KEVIN PRESSMAN 1. The Designers Republic 2. 3. 4. 5.		

# MEL STERLAND

Welcome to Hillsborough for the start of a new season.

I've been asked to write this column this season and I'd like to start by saying how nice it is to see you all back at Hillsborough.

Let's hope it will be a successful year.

Personally, I can't wait for the season to start. I look forward to it every year.

All the players want to do well and we know that you want us to be successful. It would be great if we could win a trophy, and that is what we shall be trying for.

I'd like to welcome the new lads, Alan Harper and David Hodgson, and wish them all the best in their new careers here.

Ian Knight is almost like a new lad too — it is nice to see him back training with the lads after his broken leg. I hope he keeps on making the fantastic progress he has made so far.

It is good for the squad that Ian Cranston and Nigel Pearson are fit too.

I've had a bit of a problem myself pre-season with a knee injury and lost 2½ weeks' training, the same as Nigel Worthington, but I'm a lot better now.

Alan Smith has done a marvellous job with the injuries again, and I know that Knighty really appreciates what he has done for him.

Good luck to those players who have left us during the summer. Lee Chapman, Mark Chamberlain, Gary Owen and Des Hazel.

I welcome the new area at the North Stand for the disabled; the new pitch looks impressive, and we're out to do the business on it.

It is important that we get a good start this time — we should be able to do a lot better than last season.

It is also an important year for me personally, because it is my



The cricketers line up after our game at Bradford (we lost).

testimonial year. There have already been a couple of functions — cricket at Thorpe Hesley and Bradford — and I'd like to thank everyone who made them a success.

Today the only thing that matters is beating Luton, though I don't think it will be easy. They are not a bad side, and they have signed Steve Williams from Arsenal, Roy Wegerle from Chelsea and John Dreyer from Oxford.

At home, they have the advantage of playing on their artificial pitch, so I am glad we are playing them at Hillsborough and not at Kenilworth Road in the first game of the season.

## MEL'S TESTIMONIAL DIARY

On Tuesday night 30th August, Sheffield Sports Stadium are holding a sponsored Greyhound night in aid of Mel's Fund.

First race is at 7.30 p.m. at the greyhound stadium on Penistone Road, why not come along and meet Mel and most of the payers who will be in attendance, and try and win some cash as well!!!

Coming out soon is a superb Brochure to mark Mel's 10 years with the club. Included in the 32 page brochure is a colour poster of Mel in action, and the story of Mel's rise from Walthoof school to the verge of a full international cap for England. Watch this space plus the local press and radio for details.

## J W N O R T H E N D

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# LUTON TOWN

It may be difficult for Luton to emulate what they achieved last season — by far the most successful in the Hatters' long history. They won their first major trophy when coming from behind to snatch a late victory over Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley.

Luton also made two other trips to Wembley during the season. They were surprisingly beaten by Reading in the Simod Cup Final and they also qualified for the Mercantile Credit Centenary Festival in April.

The Hatters looked set for a record-breaking four Wembley trips when they took the lead against Wimbledon in the semi-final of the F.A. Cup. But they allowed that to slip and lost 1-2.

At one point they appeared to have a chance of improving upon their best-ever placing of seventh in the First Division — achieved a year earlier — but a sequence of drawn games at the end killed off those hopes.

It was a memorable season but their success was very much deserved for Luton played a pleasing brand of attacking football which won many hearts.

At the end of the season manager Ray Harford repaid his long-serving former England forward Brian Stein by giving him a free transfer. He is now playing in France.

Another departure was goalkeeper Andy Dibble, who pulled off that dramatic penalty save at Wembley when Luton were trailing 1-2 to Arsenal. He has moved on to Manchester City where he is more likely to command a regular first-team place.

At Kenilworth Road he had been understudy for Les Sealey, getting his Wembley chance because of Sealey's injury.

Mr. Harford filled that void by signing goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain from Everton.

One key signing was that of Steve Williams, the former England midfielder who is relishing his new challenge at Kenilworth Road. Forward Roy Wegerle was signed from Chelsea and full-back John Dreyer came from Oxford.

If Luton are to improve upon last season's performance in the First Division, they will need to show more consistency away from home. Their only away victories were against the relegated pair, Oxford and Watford, and up here at Hillsborough last November.

Since winning at Watford shortly before Christmas, Luton have failed to win away from home in 11 league attempts though they have achieved away successes in cup football.

It is now six years since Luton returned to the First Division as Second Division Champions. After a couple of years of struggle, the Hatters have been establishing themselves among the more successful clubs. In 1984/85 they finished 13th in Division One, the following years achieving ninth and seventh positions. Last season they were ninth.

Luton, clearly, is a club that is going places and they have set new trends in several areas.

Their exclusive membership scheme solved their hooligan problem overnight and they have been busy in recent years encouraging local firms to take an interest in the club.

The Hatters are particularly proud of the family atmosphere they have developed at their Kenilworth Road ground. The club has spent over £1-million on ground improvements in recent years and they can now offer every one of their supporters either a guaranteed seat, or viewing position, or a special 20 per cent discount for watching from their family enclosure.

It is not only the field that Luton have been achieving outstanding success.

#### ALEC CHAMBERLAIN

(Goalkeeper)  
Alec was signed from Everton for £150,000 during the summer. Once a reserve player at Ipswich, he made his league debut for Colchester in 1983. He remained ever-present for four seasons before joining Everton in 1987. At Goodison he remained in the reserves but he did play league football while on loan to Tranmere last season.

#### LES SEALEY (Goalkeeper)

An injury caused Les to miss the Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley but he is hoping to resume his place now. Les started his professional career with Coventry City, making around 200 senior appearances before joining Luton for £120,000 in 1983. He later spent a loan spell with Plymouth.



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**TIM BREACKER** (Defender)

Tim completed his apprenticeship with the club and has been holding a first-team place for the past four seasons. In 1985/86 he won two England under-21 caps.

**STEVE FOSTER** (Defender)

Steve started as a striker with Portsmouth but soon switched to defence and commanded a £130,000 fee when he was transferred to Brighton in 1979. He did well enough to win three full England caps and he played for the Seagulls in the 1983 F.A. Cup Final replay. Aston Villa signed him for £200,000 in 1984 and he moved on to Luton a year later.

**MAL DONAGHY** (Defender)

With 56 games for N. Ireland, Mal is now the most-capped player in Luton's history. He joined them from Larne Town for a mere £20,000 in 1978 and has not been out of the side since.

**JOHN DREYER** (Defender)

John was signed from Oxford for £140,000 this summer. He developed in the junior teams at Oxford but made his league debut, as a Torquay player, while on loan, in 1985. He later served Fulham on loan before gaining his place in the Oxford side two seasons ago.

**ASHLEY GRIMES**

(Defender/Midfield)  
Ashley spent several years as a Manchester United player and was capped by the Republic of Ireland on 13 occasions. Coventry signed him for £200,000 in 1983 but he moved on to Luton a year later.

**ROB JOHNSON** (Defender/Midfield)

Rob developed in the junior teams at Kenilworth Road and, during his early days, he played a couple of league games for Lincoln City. He eventually won himself a firm place in the Luton side two seasons back.

**RICKY HILL** (Midfield)

Ricky joined Luton from school, graduated to league duty in 1976 and now looks back on more than 400 league games for the Hatters. He played for the full England team on three occasions.

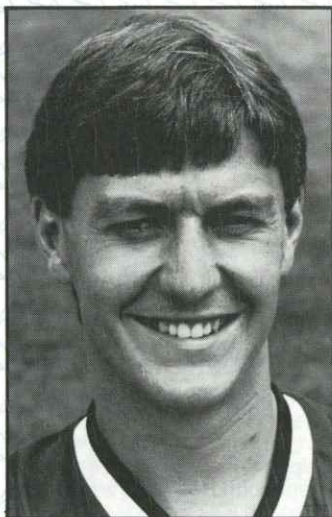
**DANNY WILSON** (Midfield)

Danny played in all of N. Ireland's internationals last season and now has nine caps. He opened his league career with Bury in 1978, moving on to Chesterfield for £100,000 in 1980. He was on the move to Nottingham Forest three years later but his stay at The City Ground was brief. Danny linked up with Brighton where he remained until transferring to Luton during the 1987 close-season.

**DARREN McDONOUGH** (Midfield)  
Darren quickly established himself in the Oldham side after making his debut in 1981, remaining a fixture in the Latics' side until moving on to Luton for £85,000 two seasons ago.

**DAVID PREECE** (Midfield)

David grew up with Wallsall, winning a fixed place about two years after being introduced to the side in 1980. When he moved on to Luton in 1984 a £150,000 fee changed hands.

**STEVE WILLIAMS** (Midfield)

Steve, signed from Arsenal for £300,000 this summer, has played for England at under-21, "B" and full international levels. He has six full caps. He learned his game with Southampton, entered league football with them in 1976 and completed more than 300 games before transferring to Arsenal for £500,000 in 1985.

**MICK HARFORD** (Forward)

Mick was the Hatters' top scorer with 21 goals last season, his splendid form at last winning him a brief appearance in the full England team.

He began as a top scorer with Lincoln, moving on to Newcastle for £200,000 — then a record for a Fourth Division player — in 1981. After a brief spell with Bristol City, he moved on to Birmingham in 1982 and he arrived at Luton two years later. He has on two occasions been the Hatters' best marksman.

**IAN ALLINSON** (Forward)

Ian made his name as a goalscorer with Colchester and it was after he had led their scoring list in successive seasons that he was signed by Arsenal in 1983. After enjoying two successful campaigns with the Gunners, he lost his place. He joined Stoke in 1987 but left for Luton within a few weeks.

**ROY WEGERLE** (Forward)

Roy was signed from Chelsea for £75,000 this summer. He was recommended to Chelsea by Tampa Bay Rowdies in 1986 but he got only occasional outings in Chelsea's First Division side.

**KINGSLEY BLACK** (Forward)

Kingsley enjoyed a meteoric rise last season. Soon after making his debut he played in Luton's Littlewoods Cup winning side at Wembley and, before the campaign was over, he was capped twice by N. Ireland.

**MARK STEIN** (Forward)

Mark has been on a weekly contract and it could be that he will have left Kenilworth Road by now. He followed his older brother Brian into the Luton side in 1984 and later served Aldershot on loan before winning himself a regular place in the Luton side last season.

**GOALS POWER (Luton Town)**

Luton are never beaten until the final whistle blows! Two goals in the closing seven minutes transformed the Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley and the Hatters have notched some vital late goals in the league.

Defensively, they are most vulnerable during the first 30 minutes of the second-half.

Our chart covers their closing 10 games of last season.

	SCORE AT:			MINS		
	15	30	HT	60	75	FT
Manchester United (a)	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-3	0-3
Q.P.R. (H)	0-0	1-0	1-0	2-1	2-1	2-1
Arsenal (n) LC Final	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-2	3-2
Norwich (a)	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-2	2-2
WATFORD (H)	0-0	0-0	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1
Tottenham (a)	0-0	0-1	1-1	1-2	1-2	1-2
Southampton (a)	0-0	1-0	1-0	1-1	1-1	1-1
Liverpool (a)	0-0	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-1
NOTTINGHAM F. (H)	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-1	1-1	1-1
Nottingham F. (a)	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-1	1-1

No. of goals scored between:

1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
3	3	3	1	0	4

No. of goals conceded between:

1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
0	2	2	5	6	0



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# PASSING BACK

WITH KEITH HOWARD

## PASSING BACK

A piece of indelible history concerns today's teams in that they were opponents at Kenilworth Road in the very first Football League match played after the Second World War. Luton had beaten the Owls 3-0 in the first match of the 1939 season and were early leaders of the Second Division when hostilities took a hand.

The Football authorities decreed that the pre-war fixtures list should be identically repeated for the first season after war, and again the home team achieved victory by a three goal margin (winning 4-1 on this occasion) with the Owls goalscorer being the only Wednesday player to turn out in the two fixtures separated by seven years of war — Jackie Robinson.

The Wednesday side on that auspicious occasion in August 1946 included only three players who had appeared in Wednesday's colours before the war - Jackie Robinson, Goalkeeper Derek Goodfellow and full-back Frank Westlake — which meant — of course that the remaining eight were making their league debuts, probably making Luton the side against who more Owls players have made their first appearance than any other. Since this match, the list of debutants against today's opponents has included Eddie Kilshaw in December 1948 (then a record £20,000 signing from Bury) and John Quinn (in September 1959), the popular Mr. Versatility who played in almost every outfield position.

The first ever meeting with Luton was on 2nd December, 1899 at Owlerton and resulted in a 6-0 win for Wednesday - still the record victory to date between the two sides. The darling of the Olive Grove era, Fred Spiksley hit a hat-trick to record the first such feat at Wednesday's present ground. Another hat-trick which will still be easily recalled by today's fans was that scored by Andy Blair in the Milk Cup Fourth Round Tie on 20th November 1984. Blair's goals all came from the penalty spot — a feat not only unique to Wednesday but the first-ever in the particular competition.

## 5 YEARS AGO

Howard Wilkinson's first game in charge of Wednesday brought a highly satisfactory 1-0 win away to John Toshack's Swansea City thanks to a Mick Lyons goal on the half



Lawrie Madden . . . debut day.

hour. The decisive goal, in fact, owed everything to dogged persistence with the ploy of a near post corner. After five attempts at the routine — Wednesday had 11 first half corners - Megson got it right at the sixth attempt and his neatly curved cross was judged perfectly for the unmarked Owls skipper to send a powerful header into the top corner.

The first game of the season saw Wednesday find a new ruthlessness in a watertight defence bolstered by a fifth man, the uncompromising Lawrie Madden, and although the attack lacked the ultimate sharpness needed, there were good efforts from Bannister, Morris and substitute new signing Varadi, which were well saved and augured well for the future.

Team: Hodge, Sterland, Williamson, Shirtliff, Lyons, Madden, Morris, Megson, Bannister, Pearson (Varadi), Shelton.

In a First Division game with near-London rivals Arsenal at Highbury, Luton lost 2-1, Arsenal's Stewart Robson putting through his own goal.

## 10 YEARS AGO

A drab goalless draw at Hillsborough against Colchester United no doubt spelt out the problems facing Manager Jack Charlton — a lack of skilful forwards. This was Wednesday's fifth league and cup match of the new campaign which had resulted in only two goals scored and one of those was put in by an opponent.

Although the Owls were very solid at the back and never in any danger of losing, they appeared to have a surfeit of defenders who were too tentative to push forward.

Consequently the visitors goalkeeper was rarely tested - but his side were just as dull creating only one chance in the game. With Sabella and Co. grabbing all the glory across the City, it was all very frustrating for the fans.

Team: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Rushbury, Dowd, Smith, Mullen, Johnson, Tynan, Porterfield (Leman), Owen.

Our visitors today travelled to Newcastle and lost by the only goal of the Second Division Game.

## 20 YEARS AGO

The earliest start to a league season in Wednesday's history (10th August) meant that when they met Chelsea it was already their sixth match and they travelled to a rain-soaked Stamford Bridge undefeated. However, a momentary lapse of concentration immediately after half-time thrust the first defeat on a very gallant Owls side. In that moment — the 46th minute of a match divided into two distinct phases — Wednesday fell victim to the lethal shooting power of Bobby Tambling, the man who had grabbed more goals than any player in Chelsea's history — Jimmy Greaves included. Tambling's 30-yard drive skidded past Springett, who dived late enough to suggest his view was impeded, to give the home side their single goal victory.

This signalled a superb but unsuccessful effort from Wednesday, though Chelsea were not content simply to sit on their lead — all this was in stark contrast to a keenly-contested but tame first half.

Team: Springett, Smith, Megson, Ellis, Moble, Eustace, Fantham, McCalliog, Warboys, Ford, Whitham.

Luton had a very convincing 5-1 home win in Division Three over our near-neighbours Barnsley.

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Sheffield Wednesday 1988-89 Season. Back row: Nigel Pearson, Larry May, Colin West, Kevin Pressman, Martin Hodge, Ian Knight, Ian Cranson, Lawrie Madden. Middle row: Peter Eustace (Assistant Manager), Michael Hennigan (Coach), Tony Galvin, David Hirst, Greg Fee, Siggi Jonsson, David Hodgson, Carl Bradshaw, Alan Smith (Physio), Clive Baker (Chief Scout). Front row: Gary Megson, Alan Harper, Mel Sterland, Howard Wilkinson (Manager), Nigel Worthington, Mark Proctor, Steve McCall.

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# SIDELINES

In a summer largely dominated by Super-league talk, a rapidly soaring transfer market and unexpected European Championship dismay, there was a couple of minor transfers that in their own way provided a timely reminder of how much things have changed in football inside the last ten years.

The two moves weren't a significant part of a transfer bonanza that one newspaper estimated as approaching thirty million pounds. The two players who were changing clubs were former Wednesday favourites, moving to new clubs unlikely to have a great deal of spare cash: Rodger Wylde left Barnsley for Stockport and Huddersfield's Brian Cox agreed to sign for Mansfield.

Wednesdayites will remember them for different reasons.

Wylde, an elegant striker who often seemed to be carrying alone the hope of Third Division respectability, scored 54 league goals for the Owls before going to Oldham in 1980.

Cox kept goal for the Owls in just 22 league games, but although he did come up with a few good saves (he denied Brentford a goal with a penalty save at Hillsborough in 1979) he is most remembered for being the Huddersfield hero when in October 1983, he hept a clean sheet to stop Wednesday making it seven wins out of the first seven home games on the way to promotion.

Wylde and Cox — both Sheffield lads — last played together in a Wednesday league team on 27 October, 1979. The venue was Plough Lane, where the Owls defeated Wimbledon 4-3 in front of a crowd of 6,009.

It was a useful win and a stepping stone on the way to promotion. For the Dons, it was another slip on the path down to the Fourth.

Wednesday's manager for that game at Plough Lane was of course Jack Charlton, who had

a summer to remember this year as manager of Ire and the mastermind behind the Irish surge to the European Championship Finals in West Germany.

Charlton's tactical planning (with the aid of his former Hillsborough number two, Maurice Setters) played a big part in Ire's shock win over England though it should be said that little comment was made at the time of the part that Wednesday's Tony Galvin played in the build-up to the decisive goal. Indeed, Galvin's socks-down style on the left was important to the Irish in their three group games just as ex-

Owl and Celtic star Chris Morris was at right back.

Europe figured for Wednesday this summer too. Lee Chapman finally settled for a move to the continent but opted for a little-known French second division club, Niorte, while on the incoming side was David Hodgson, who left Spanish football behind to return to this country.

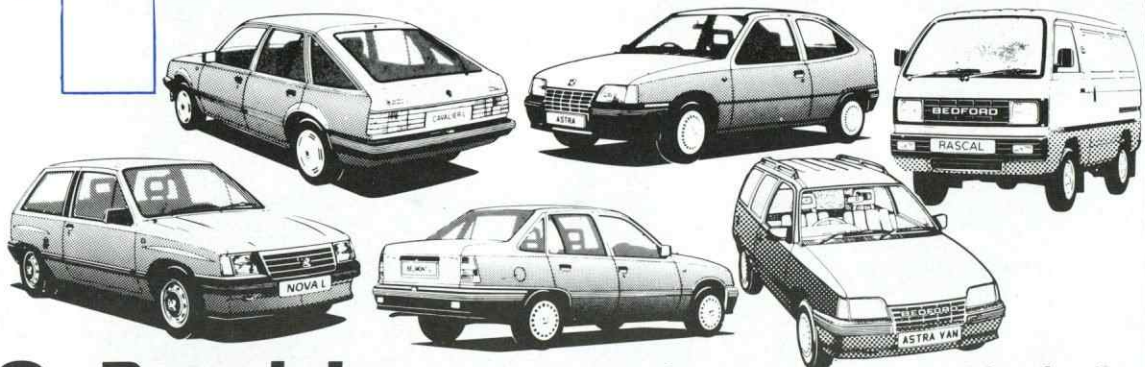
On 27 October, 1979, Hodgson was playing for Middlesbrough at Ipswich, alongside Mark Proctor. Hodgson eventually went to Anfield, and Proctor moved to Forest.

Now they are team-mates again in the First Division with a club that nine seasons ago was working hard to get out of the Third Division. For some teams, players and managers, a lot has changed.

Tony Galvin



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# INTER CITY OWL & YOUNG OWLS

## YOUNG OWLS

### SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

Competing in a tournament at four age levels last Sunday, the Young Owls had winning teams at U-9 and U-12. The U-13 lost in their final, whilst the U-11 lost in the semi final on penalties.

A special mention is perhaps due to the U-9 team who scored 25 and conceded 0 goals during the tournament. Not bad for their first games! Boys interested in this age level should note our U-9 sessions mentioned on this page.

We would like to thank the hosts, Sheffield Rangers for an enjoyable day.

### FOOTBALL SQUAD VACANCIES

Vacancies exist in the following squads.

- U-14, phone Jim Hinch (Sheffield 698571)
- U-15, phone Brian Brooke (Rotherham 360759)
- U-16, phone John Hinde (Sheffield 335148)

Boys interested must be of ages specified on 1.9.88, and not already be registered with another G.T. Sports League club.

### SPONSORED WALK TO NOTTINGHAM

The Young Owls under 14's football team are holding their fifth annual sponsored walk on 2nd/3rd September, this years destination being Nottingham.

The boys should complete their walk before the Forest v Wednesday game next Saturday.

Proceeds of the walk are shared between the Young Owls and Sheffield Childrens Hospital.

A total of over £2,000 has been donated to the Childrens Hospital over the last four seasons.

The money raised is through sponsorship and donations in collecting tins. Anyone wishing to sponsor the boys may do so through the Young Owls office.

Donations will be gratefully received en route to Nottingham and at the ground itself.

## U-9 FOOTBALL

As during recent seasons, we will once again arrange football sessions for U-9's in the Sports Hall.

These will take place approximately once each month on the Saturday of a home first team game. The next one will be on Saturday, 10th September. Please meet at the S.W.F.C. Sports Hall gates at 10.20 a.m. and arrange to be picked up at 11.45 a.m. We regret there are no spectator facilities.

## BALLBOYS/BALLGIRLS

Applications are invited from Young Owls aged 13 or over, to the Young Owls office. Once your application is received you will be put on the waiting list and we will write to you shortly before your allocated matches. Please don't forget to mention your membership number.

## YOUNG OWLS SALE

Monday, 29th August, 2.30 p.m. in S.W.F.C. Sports Hall, admission 20p.

**New S.W.F.C. goods will be on sale . . .**  
Tracksuits, sweatshirts, jumpers, T-shirts and 100's of fancy goods, all at rock bottom prices.  
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*Happy Young Owls on the completion of last season's walk to Derby.*



## INTER CITY OWL

### NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Saturday, 3rd September  
Coach fare £3 or £2 Young Owls. Depart at 12.30 p.m. expected back approx. 6.30 p.m.  
Open until 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, two days before game.  
Book on or before Thursday, 1st September, to ensure a ticket.

## MATCH TICKETS

### NOTTINGHAM F. (Away)

Saturday, 3rd September 1988  
Tickets now on sale:  
Seats £7.00; Standing £4.50 (pay at turnstile).

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### COVENTRY CITY (Home)

Saturday, 10th September 1988  
Tickets now on sale.

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Non-Match Saturdays 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

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# FIXTURES 1988/89

## BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Aug.	27	S	<b>Luton Town</b>
Sept.	3	S	Nottingham Forest
	10	S	<b>Coventry City</b>
	17	S	Queens Park Rangers
	24	S	<b>Arsenal</b>
	27	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (2 Round 1 Leg)
Oct.	1	S	<b>Aston Villa</b>
	8	S	Manchester United
	11	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (2 Round 2 Leg)
	15	S	<b>Wimbledon</b>
	22	S	Southampton
	29	S	Charlton Athletic
Nov.	1	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (3 Round)
	5	S	<b>Everton</b>
	12	S	Norwich City
	19	S	<b>Tottenham Hotspur</b>
	26	S	Middlesbrough
	29	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (4 Round)
Dec.	3	S	<b>Derby County</b>
	10	S	West Ham United
	17	S	Millwall
	26	M	<b>Newcastle United</b> (12 noon)
	31	S	<b>Nottingham Forest</b>
Jan.	2	M	Coventry City
	7	S	F.A. Cup 3
	14	S	<b>Liverpool</b>
	17	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (5 Round)
	21	S	Arsenal
	28	S	F.A. Cup 4
Feb.	4	S	Aston Villa
	11	S	<b>Manchester United</b>
	14	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (S-F, 1 Leg)
	18	S	<b>Southampton</b> F.A. Cup 5
	21	Tu	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (S-F, 2L)
	25	S	Wimbledon
Mar.	4	S	<b>Charlton Athletic</b>
	11	S	Everton
	18	S	Luton Town (F.A. Cup 6)
	25	S	<b>Queens Park Rangers</b>
	27	M	Newcastle United
April	1	S	<b>Millwall</b>
	8	S	Liverpool (11.30)
	9	Sun	Littlewoods Challenge Cup (Final)
	15	S	<b>Norwich City</b> (F.A. Cup S.F.)
	22	S	Derby County
	29	S	<b>West Ham United</b>
May	6	S	Tottenham Hotspur
	13	S	<b>Middlesbrough</b>
	20	S	F.A. Cup Final

## CENTRAL LEAGUE

Aug.	31	W	<b>Sheffield United</b>
Sept.	7	W	Blackburn Rovers
	13	Tu	<b>Nottingham Forest</b>
	21	W	Huddersfield Town
	28	W	Aston Villa
Oct.	4	Tu	<b>Everton</b>
	11	Tu	<b>Newcastle United</b>
	18	Tu	Manchester United
Nov.	1	Tu	<b>Liverpool</b>
	8	Tu	Sunderland
	16	W	West Bromwich Albion
	22	Tu	<b>Leicester City</b>
	29	Tu	Derby County
Dec.	6	Tu	<b>Leeds United</b>
	13	Tu	<b>Coventry City</b>
	21	W	Barnsley
Jan.	3	Tu	<b>Blackburn Rovers</b>
	11	W	Sheffield United
	17	Tu	<b>Derby County</b>
	24	Tu	Manchester City
	31	Tu	<b>Aston Villa</b>
Feb.	7	Tu	Everton
	14	Tu	<b>Manchester United</b>
	22	W	Newcastle United
Mar.	1	W	<b>Sunderland</b>
	7	Tu	Liverpool
	15	W	<b>Huddersfield Town</b>
	21	Tu	Coventry City
	29	W	Nottingham Forest
April	4	Tu	<b>Barnsley</b>
	12	W	Leeds United
	18	Tu	<b>West Bromwich Albion</b>
	24	M	Leicester City
May	2	Tu	<b>Manchester City</b>
			Home kick-offs 7.00

## N. INTERMEDIATE

Aug.	20	S	<b>Halifax Town</b>
	27	S	<b>Barnsley</b>
Sept.	3	S	Middlesbrough
	10	S	Bradford City (L.K.O. Cup)
	17	S	<b>Grimsby Town</b>
	24	S	Sunderland
Oct.	1	S	<b>Hull City</b>
	8	S	Scunthorpe United
	15	S	<b>Hartlepool United</b>
	22	S	Doncaster Rovers
	29	S	<b>Sheffield United</b>
Nov.	5	S	Leeds United
	12	S	League K.O. Cup
	19	S	<b>Bradford City</b>
	26	S	Rotherham United
Dec.	3	S	<b>Scarborough</b> (11.30)
	10	S	Huddersfield Town
	17	S	<b>York City</b>
Jan.	7	S	Halifax Town
	14	S	Barnsley
	21	S	<b>Middlesbrough</b>
	28	S	Grimsby Town
Feb.	4	S	<b>Sunderland</b> (12.00)
	11	S	Hull City
	18	S	<b>Scunthorpe United</b>
	25	S	Hartlepool United
Mar.	4	S	<b>Doncaster Rovers</b>
	11	S	Sheffield United
	18	S	<b>Leeds United</b>
	25	S	Bradford City
April	1	S	<b>Rotherham United</b>
	8	S	Scarborough
	15	S	<b>Huddersfield Town</b>
	22	S	<b>Newcastle United</b>
	29	S	Newcastle United
May	6	S	York City

Kick-off at 11.00 a.m. unless stated and all Northern Intermediate League Home games are played at Middlewood Road

NOTES: L.C. Cup = Littlewoods Challenge Cup  
F.A. Cup = Football Association Cup  
Home games in **heavy** type.  
Kick-off 3.00 p.m. unless stated.



# GENTLEMAN JOHN

## A TRIBUTE FROM HOWARD WILKINSON

Sheffield football lost a good friend with the death of John Harris in late July, and while the start of a new season is traditionally a time for looking forward it is not inappropriate in the circumstances to take a moment to look back and reflect on a man who will always hold a unique place in local football history.

John, the quiet Scot from Glasgow, spent 18 years of his managerial career with our city rivals at Bramall Lane, but his final years in the game were at Hillsborough, and during his time here he made a significant contribution as we began the long climb back from the Third Division. He knew the game better than most, and he had a keen eye for talent and for assessing character, and Len Ashurst, Jack Charlton and myself greatly appreciated his knowledge, experience and influence.

His great tragedy was that his last four years saw him increasingly debilitated by a painful illness which he knew to be fatal; but even in this period he set us a wonderful example of courage and self-reliance as he drew upon his deep religious beliefs, gritted his teeth, and battled to the bitter end.

John, of course, was always a fighter; the nice, honest guy about whom nobody ever had a bad word, but ever a man of great determination.

"Gentleman John" (which is how we shall always remember him) was a credit to the game, an example to everybody connected with football management: a man of principle who, despite his public image as a silent man, could speak with passion and poetry about what he always called "a funny game".

Yet he was a modest chap. You never heard him boast about a playing career during which he was capped by Scotland and helped Chelsea to two wartime Wembley finals and captained them to a League Championship triumph. He was, according to



many, the best manager Sheffield United ever had, leading them to promotion twice and building teams which created excitement and enjoyed much success in the 1960s and early 1970s. His great achievement was that he did it with limited resources; and the Press dubbed him the star finder who shopped at Woolworth's rather than Harrod's.

He was born into football and the game was his life. His father, Neil, was a Scottish international centre-forward who later became a manager, and Neil's travels took John from Scotland to Ireland and then to Wales before he was 17. At Swansea his father made him a

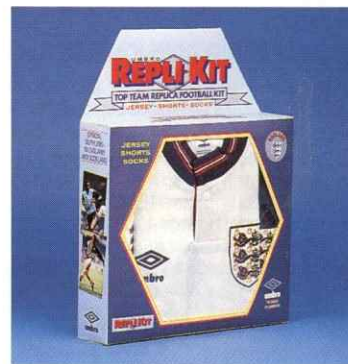
professional and later sold him to Spurs. Neil was a hard taskmaster and John often took "stick" from his old man (including once after he missed a penalty against Wednesday!), but his father's influence was always apparent in John's philosophy of football.

It was not entirely surprising that Neil never wanted John to make a career in football, and he was particularly emphatic in advising his son never to become a manager. John himself often said he was reluctant to step into management. But he did — and a lot of people had reason to be grateful for that.

Thanks, John!



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# GAMES & GOALS

## BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	40	26	12	2	87	24	90
Manchester U.	40	23	12	5	71	38	81
Nottingham F.	40	20	13	7	67	39	73
Everton	40	19	13	8	53	27	70
Q.P.R.	40	19	10	11	48	38	67
Arsenal	40	18	12	10	58	39	66
Wimbledon	40	14	15	11	58	47	57
Newcastle U.	40	14	14	12	55	53	56
Luton Town	40	14	11	15	57	58	53
Coventry City	40	13	14	13	46	53	53
WEDNESDAY	40	15	8	17	52	66	53
Southampton	40	12	14	14	54	55	50
Tottenham H.	40	12	11	17	38	48	47
Norwich City	40	12	9	19	40	52	45
Derby County	40	10	13	17	35	45	43
West Ham U.	40	9	15	16	40	52	42
Charlton A.	40	9	15	16	38	52	42
Chelsea	40	9	15	16	50	68	42
Portsmouth	40	7	14	19	36	67	35
Watford	40	7	11	22	27	51	32
Oxford United	40	6	13	21	44	80	31

## COMPLETE DIVISION ONE AND CUP APPEARANCES 1987/88

	League	Owls Career	'87/88 L/Cup	'87/88 FA Cup
KEN BRANNIGAN	—	1	—	—
CARL BRADSHAW	6+14	2	15+14	4
MARK CHAMBERLAIN	15+6	1	32+34	8
LEE CHAPMAN	37	19	147+2	63
IAN CRANSON	4	—	4	—
GREG FEE	7+9	—	7+9	—
TONY GALVIN	12+6	—	12+6	—
TONY GREGORY	—	—	13+2	1
DES HAZEL	5+1	—	5+1	—
DAVID HIRST	19+5	3	32+13	9
MARTIN HODGE	29	—	197	5
WAYNE JACOBS (Hull)	5+1	—	5+1	—
SIGGI JONSSON	10+2	1	33+5	3
IAN KNIGHT	—	—	19	—
STEVE MCCALL	5	—	5	—
LARRY MAY	18+1	1	31+1	1
LAWRIE MADDEN	37	—	153+1	2
BRIAN MARWOOD (Ars' all)	17+2	2	126+3	27
GARY MEGSON	37	2	214+1	24
GARY OWEN	12+2	—	12+2	—
NIGEL PEARSON	19	2	19	2
KEVIN PRESSMAN	11	—	11	—
MARK PROCTOR	35	2	35	2
CARL SHUTT (Bristol C.)	1	—	36+4	16
MEL STERLAND	38	8	249+8	31
COLIN WEST	23+2	7	23+2	7
NIGEL WORTHINGTON	38	—	139+1	2

Goals in bold

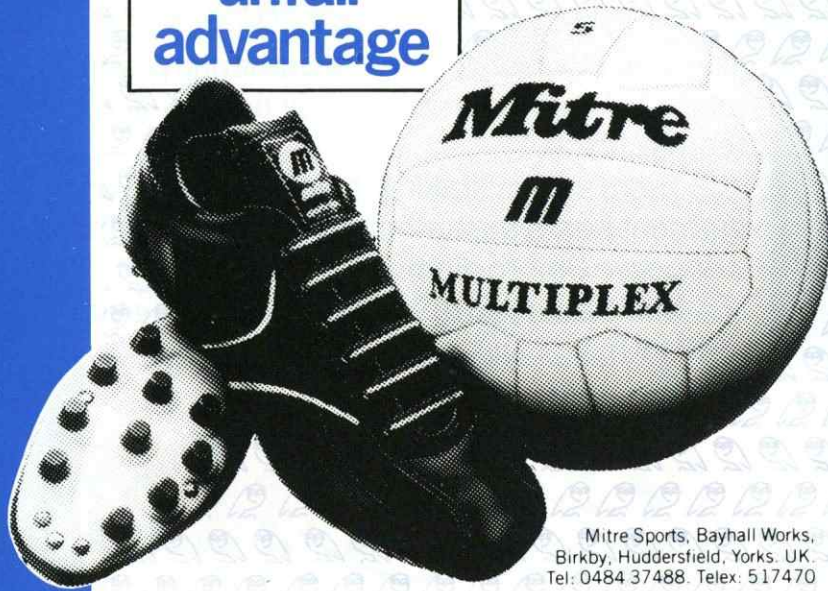
2 own goals

## LEADING DIVISION ONE SCORERS 1987/88

(Total 87/88 Littlewoods Cup goals + F.A. Cup goals in brackets)

Arsenal	Smith 11 (5), Thomas 9 (2)
Charlton A.	Crooks 10 (2), Jones 6 (—)
Chelsea	Durie 12 (4), Dixon 11 (1)
Coventry C.	Regis 10 (2), Kilcline 8 (1)
Derby C.	Gee 6 (—), Gregory 6 (—)
Everton	Sharp 13 (7), Clarke 9 (1)
Liverpool	Aldridge 26 (3), Barnes 15 (2)
Luton T.	M. Stein 11 (1), Harford 9 (9)
Manch' ter U.	McClair 24 (7), Robson 11 (—)
Newcastle U.	O'Neil 12 (—), Mirandinha 11 (1)
Norwich C.	Drinkell 12 (—), Fleck 7 (—)
Nott' ham F.	Clough 18 (3), Webb 13 (2)
Oxford U.	Saunders 12 (8), Foyle 10 (1)
Portsmouth	Dillon 9 (—), Quinn 8 (5)
Q.P.R.	Bannister 8 (2), Coney 7 (—)
Wednesday	Chapman 19 (3), Sterland 8 (—)
Southampton	Clarke 16 (1), D. Wallace 11 (—)
Tottenham	C. Allen 11 (2), Claesen 10 (2)
Watford	Blissett 4 (1), Allen 3 (6)
West Ham	Cottee 13 (2), Rosenior 5 (—)
Wimbledon	Fashanu 14 (7), Wise 10 (2)

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Month	Day	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Score	Player	Goals	Player	Goals
AUG	15	Chelsea	1-2	21,929	Hodge	Sterland	—	McCall	—
	18	Oxford United	1-1	17,868	Hodge	Sterland	—	McCall	—
	22	Newcastle United	0-1	22,031	Hodge	Sterland	—	McCall	—
	29	Everton	0-4	29,649	Hodge	Sterland	—	McCall	—
	31	Coventry City	0-3	17,171	Hodge	Sterland	—	McCall	—
SEPT	5	Southampton	1-1	12,526	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	12	Watford	2-3	16,144	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	19	Derby County	2-2	15,869	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	22	Sheffsury (LC2, 1L)	1-1	4,368	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	26	Charlton Athletic	2-0	16,350	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
OCT	3	Tottenham Hotspur	0-2	24,331	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	6	Sheffsury (LC2, 2L)	2-1	8,572	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	10	Manchester United	2-4	32,779	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	17	Nottingham Forest	0-3	17,658	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	24	Norwich City	1-0	15,861	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	28	Barnsley (LC3)	2-1	19,439	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	31	Portsmouth	1-1	13,582	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
NOV	7	West Ham United	2-0	16,277	Hodge	Jacobs	—	Worthington	—
	14	Luton Town	0-2	16,980	Hodge	Jacobs	—	Worthington	—
	18	Asion Villa (LC4)	2-1	25,302	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	28	Queens Park Rangers	3-1	16,933	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
DEC	5	Arsenal	1-3	23,760	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	12	Wimbledon	1-0	14,289	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	19	Liverpool	0-1	35,383	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	26	Watford	3-1	12,026	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	28	Derby County	2-1	26,191	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
JAN	1	Everton	1-0	26,433	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	2	Newcastle United	2-2	25,503	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	9	Everton (FAC3)	1-1	33,304	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	13	Everton (FAR)	1-1	32,955	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	16	Chelsea	3-0	19,859	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	20	Arsenal (LC5)	0-1	34,555	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	23	Oxford United	1-1	37,414	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	25	Everton (FAR)	0-5	38,953	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	30	(FAC4)	2-1	14,769	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
FEB	6	Southampton	0-3	14,382	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	13	Coventry City	1-3	4,517	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	20	Charlton Athletic	0-3	18,046	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
MAR	5	Nottingham Forest	0-1	19,509	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	12	Manchester United	1-4	33,318	Hodge	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	19	Portsmouth	1-0	13,731	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	26	Norwich City	3-0	13,280	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
APRIL	2	West Ham United	2-2	18,435	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	4	Luton Town	2-2	7,337	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	23	Queens Park Rangers	3-0	5,727	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	30	Arsenal	3-3	12,531	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
MAY	2	Wimbledon	1-1	16,681	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—
	7	Liverpool	1-1	7,854	Pressman	Sterland	—	Worthington	—

# A T C L O S E R A N G E WITH A L A N B I G G S

Sheffield Wednesday can feel confident of parading one of the best back-lines in the First Division this season — as a direct result of last year's defensive disasters.

Dark clouds and silver linings can seldom have had a starker contrast.

It never rained but it poured during the past 18 months. Four key defenders were scuppered and Wednesday's rearguard shipped 66 goals in 40 league matches.

But such has been the salvage work of physio Alan Smith that Wednesday might reasonably expect to concede only about half that number this time.

Three defenders, bought for a combined total of over £1 million, are heading back into commission. And Smith's flagship, Ian Knight, on whose potential as an England Under 19 defender it was impossible to put a price, has been miraculously saved from the scrapyard.

So, by a mixture of accident and skilful retrieval, Howard Wilkinson has gathered about him a defensive blockade of truly formidable proportions.

Each setback has been met with a positive response producing a measure of good. The bargain find of Nigel Pearson, dredged from the backwater of Shrewsbury, came as an indirect result of Knight's personal tragedy.

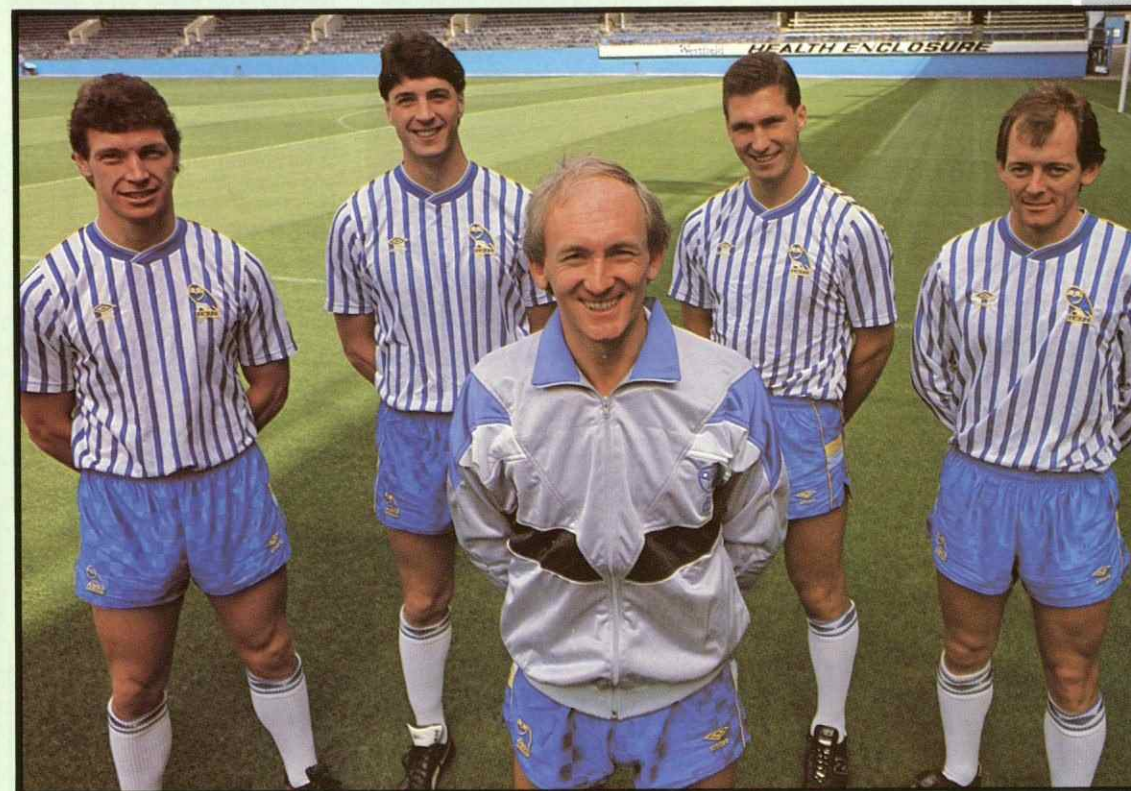
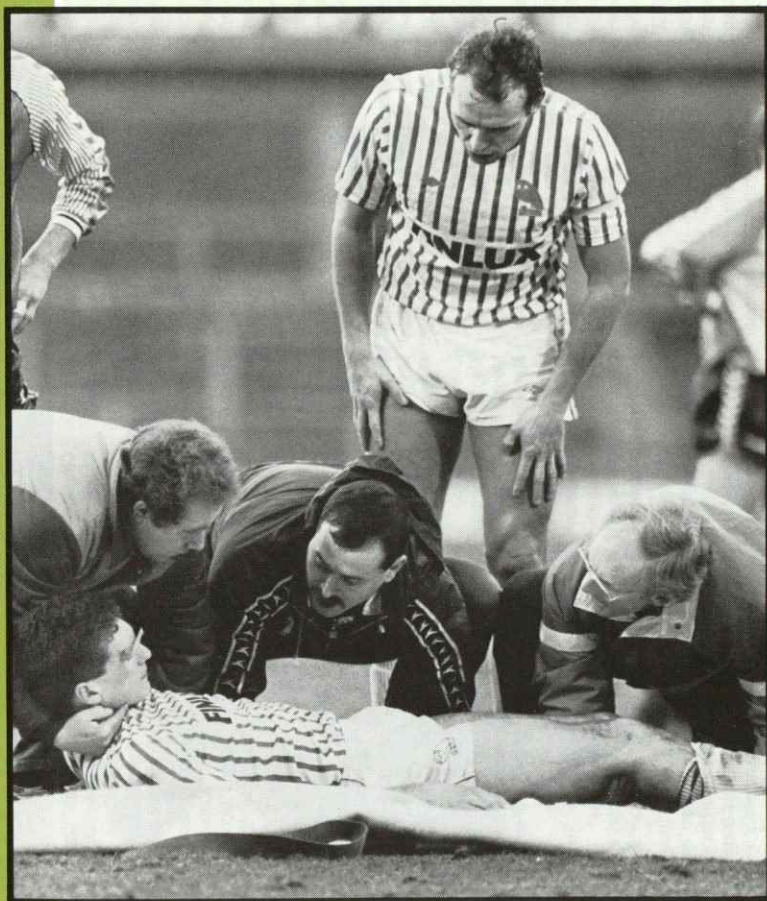
And it was Pearson's broken ankle that then hastened the arrival from Ipswich of Ian Cranson, among the best young centre backs in the country.

Cranson suffered the traditional welcome — ligament damage to add to the three fracture cases already occupying Smith's Hillsborough "surgery."

But all, including full-back Steve McCall, who picked up a knee problem just as he had recovered from a broken leg, are ready to play more than a walk-on part in the new season.

And that is a tribute to Smith's dedication and professionalism during his busiest-ever summer. Knight's injury was enough of a challenge on its own. Indeed, the 21-year-old's rehabilitation from a right leg smashed in seven places has been astonishing.

*Nigel Pearson is lifted onto the stretcher after sustaining an injury against Southampton.*



*Ian Cranson, Ian Knight, Nigel Pearson and Steve McCall line up behind Physio Alan Smith.*

Smith would prefer to talk in medical rather than emotive terms but claims: "Ian's leg fracture was the worst injury of its type ever experienced in football. It was absolutely horrific."

Knight's courage has been highlighted — and rightly so. But not enough has been made of his dignity and self-control.

The publicity surrounding his predicament gave Ian countless opportunities to condemn Chester's Gary

Bennett, the man whose savage late challenge almost rendered him a cripple.

Yet he resisted all such pressure and temptation, sorely though it must have been felt.

Probably, the anger remains too deep for words. Maybe, too, the sinister silence from Hillsborough has dealt Bennett a more lasting and meaningful punishment than a furious but fleeting response.

Whatever the reason for Knight's decorum, he is worthy of still more respect for keeping his peace.

"I channelled all my feelings into getting fit," he told me. "I didn't want to dwell on what happened. The main thing was to prove that an injury like mine could be overcome and I'm obviously delighted that all the hard work has paid off."

Certainly, Ian's recovery is an inspiration to fracture victims in every sphere of life.

"I've passed on tips to people with similar injuries," he reveals. "The big lesson is not to rush things and to deal with each hurdle separately."

# BOB GORRILL'S NOTICE BOARD



## CONTACT BOB

Advertising, sponsorship, programme subscriptions, kit sponsorship, competitions, social functions and many more things at Hillsborough all come under the jurisdiction of Commercial Manager Bob Gorrill. For further details give him a ring on 343123.

## THE OWL SHOP

Why not call into the Owls Shop and see our new range of clothing? — There's something to suit everyone from babygrows to boxer shorts! 'On Tour' T-shirts £5.99... new range of T-shirts assorted colours and designs, childrens £4.25 and £4.99, adults £5.99. Pique shirts — jade or turquoise, S-XL, £12.50. Rugby style sweatshirts £15.99. Rainjackets, childrens £14.99, adults £17.99. New away colour caps and T-shirts. Football League Yearbook 88/89 £7.95. S.W.F.C. sweets and rock.

Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday 10.00 to 4.45  
Saturday 10.00 to 12.00  
Saturday (match day) 10.00 to 5.15 (closed during match).

Access and Visa welcome.

## LATEST YOUNG OWL

Congratulations to Brad and Belinda Tate on the birth of their son Ashley, who becomes our latest Young Owl.

## NEW CARS FOR ALAN AND PETER

Mike Wylie and Ian Bailey of Brook Shaw's hand over the keys for two brand new sponsored Fords to Wednesday's Alan Harper and Peter Eustace.

## MISS S.W.F.C.

The Miss Sheffield Wednesday Competition this season will be held on Wednesday 12th October. Anyone wishing to enter should obtain an entry form from Bob. Entrants should be over 17.



## TODAY'S MASCOT

Our mascots for today's big kick-off are Stephen and Richard Fyfe. Stephen, aged 9 attends Dore Junior School, enjoys football and tennis and his favourite player is Mel Sterland. Richard, aged 6, is a pupil at Dore Infants, he's also a big football fan and names David Hirst as his hero.

## GENTLEMAN'S EVENING

Bernard Manning will provide the cabaret at our 'Gentleman's Evening' on Thursday 8th December.

It's sure to be a good night, so contact Bob Gorrill for tickets (£15).

## SUPPORT FROM LANCÔME

Many thanks to the Lancôme Perfumery Dept., in the House of Fraser, High Street, Sheffield for their support on the clubs recent trip to Scarborough.

## RECORD REQUESTS

Don't forget to keep those requests rolling in to our match day D.J. Steve Claxton, 71 East Bawtry Road, Brecks, Rotherham S60 4BX.

## SENIOR OWLS

Anyone over 50 who would like to join the Senior Owls Club for this season can do so by contacting Bob at the ground. Membership fee is £5 and meetings and functions will be held throughout the season.

## HELP YOURSELF

Help yourself and the club by selling Owls Lottery tickets. Agents are wanted in all areas, for further details contact Iris Whitham on 337235.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMME OFFICE

Anyone wishing to contact the Community Programme Office at Hillsborough can do so by phoning 313262.

## GILDERS SCORE CHECK

- A** ASTON VILLA v MILLWALL
- B** CHARLTON A. v LIVERPOOL
- C** DERBY COUNTY v MIDDLESBROUGH
- D** EVERTON v NEWCASTLE UNITED
- E** MANCHESTER U. v Q.P.R.
- F** NORWICH CITY v NOTTINGHAM FOREST
- G** SOUTHAMPTON v WEST HAM UNITED
- H** TOTTENHAM H. v COVENTRY CITY
- J** WIMBLEDON v ARSENAL
- K** HULL CITY v MANCHESTER CITY
- L** LEEDS UNITED v OXFORD UNITED
- M** OLDHAM ATHLETIC v BARNSELY
- N** CHESTERFIELD v ALDERSHOT
- P** READING v SHEFFIELD UNITED
- Q** ROTHERHAM U. v DONCASTER ROVERS



## HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettors and spends it all on projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.

Since 1979 it has been committed to the development of the game at every level and its broad and varying initiatives have ranged from essential safety work at Tottenham to social work at Toxteth; refurbishment at Wembley to repairs at Welling; closed circuit television at all League clubs to community facilities at Oldham Athletic; transport improvements at Sheffield Wednesday to storm damage in the South East of England; from policing costs at Hull City to an artificial pitch at Hyde United.

1988-89 will see The Football Trust increase its commitment by investing further sums in closed circuit television, transport facilities for supporters and projects to bring Football League clubs closer to their local community.

## WARNING

At the beginning of the season more than 110 League grounds in England, Wales and Scotland will be equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION which has been funded by The Football Trust.

It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

## CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

## SAFETY FIRST

Football grounds in England and Wales have reached their highest ever level of safety thanks to the £23,671,425 invested by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust since 1975.

Almost every League club has been assisted with essential safety work and further substantial sums have been spent to enable them to improve facilities. In the past year alone FGIT grants to Football League clubs totalled:

	£
Safety Improvements	2,254,723
	770,561

In addition to its safety programme, FGIT has also allocated £1.5 million to build or improve family and disabled facilities at League grounds during 1988.

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# WEDNESDAY

# LUTON TOWN

1	KEVIN PRESSMAN
2	MEL STERLAND
3	NIGEL WORTHINGTON
4	NIGEL PEARSON
5	LAWRIE MADDEN
6	ALAN HARPER
7	GARY MEGSON
8	MARK PROCTOR
9	COLIN WEST
10	DAVID HIRST
11	TONY GALVIN
12	CARL BRADSHAW
14	SIGGI JONSSON

1	LES SEALEY
2	TIM BREAKER
3	JOHN DREYER
4	STEVE WILLIAMS
5	STEVE FOSTER
6	MAL DONAGHY
7	DANNY WILSON
8	ROY WEGERLE
9	MICK HARFORD
10	DAVID OLDFIELD
11	KINGSLEY BLACK
12	ASHLEY GRIMES
14	IAN ALLINSON

Referee G. M. Tyson Linesmen K. Hughes (Yellow/Red Trim) S. Race (Yellow)

Mascot Stephen and Richard Fyfe

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