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Saturday, September 3rd, 1988 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

This match is sponsored by: Luton International Airport

ACTION

CHANCES WASTED AT WATFORD



• **New boy:** Steve Williams takes control at Watford where we lost 3-1 in Luther Blissett's testimonial.

LUTON TOWN HOTLINE

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates
 Pictures by: Apex Photography

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*all the latest news and views from
 Luton Town*



• **Out of luck:** Roy Wegerle (above) and Danny Wilson (below) were unable to find the net at Vicarage Road.



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RAY'S REVIEW



After our success in the Littlewoods Cup last season, it is a pleasure to welcome everyone back for the new season in which we hope to be able to make real progress in the First Division and improve on the club's previous best final position of seventh. As I have often said in the past, the league is the true test of a team and for that reason I am particularly keen to see some improvement in our away form this term. That will not mean, however, that we shall be moving away from the 'passing game' which I believe in and which earned us our success in April.

Since May, there have been comings and goings among the playing staff and I am delighted to welcome four new players to Kenilworth Road as members of the first team squad – goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain, defender John Dreyer, midfielder Steve Williams and forward Roy Wegerle. I hope they will all enjoy playing for Luton Town. Their arrivals have enlarged our first team squad which together with the emergence of some of our own younger players is now providing fierce competition for places.

I am still on the lookout for another player – a striker – to add to the squad who this week were introduced to another new face in Richie Barker, who has joined the club as chief coach. Richie is a very experienced football man and will, I am sure, make a full and valuable contribution to Luton Town. He will be my assistant and I am delighted to welcome him to Kenilworth Road.

Last weekend's opening day trip to Sheffield Wednesday ended pointless but offered me some consolation and encouragement in the way in which the team applied themselves. It was a difficult task and the players showed great effort and commitment despite a testing afternoon which unexpectedly produced five bookings for our lads. We will try to change our luck today. Please give the team your support. Enjoy the match.

Ray Harford

LUTON TOWN



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HONOURS

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FA CUP FINALISTS – 1958-59
SIMOD CUP FINALISTS – 1987-88
CHAMPIONS – DIVISION 3(S) 1936-37
RUNNERS-UP – DIVISION 2 1954-55
CHAMPIONS – DIVISION 4 1967-68
RUNNERS-UP – DIVISION 3 1969-70
RUNNERS-UP – DIVISION 2 1973-74
CHAMPIONS – DIVISION 2 1981-82



Mailbag

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

Thank you Ray!

Dear Sir,
I wish to say many thanks to Ray Harford for visiting my son, David when he was seriously ill in the L and D hospital. His visit was just 4 days after the Littlewoods Cup Final during what must have been a very busy time for Ray, and reflects the goodwill between the club and its supporters. Our thanks also to Danny Wilson who arranged for a signed football and get well card from the players to be sent to David. Their efforts, together with those of many people involved in local football (especially Limbury Boys Club and Pay Grey of Supporters '83) helped us enormously during a very difficult time and are sincerely appreciated.

We are looking forward to the new season and wish the team the best of luck, let's hope for another Wembley appearance as David missed the last one through his illness.

Yours sincerely
M.C.J. Rennie
55 Kingsbury Avenue
Luton LU2 7BU

Youngest fans

Dear Sirs,
I thought you might like to see a photograph of two of your youngest fans - Hayley 2 years and Danielle 6 months. My husband Graham has been a devoted fan of Luton Town for years and I had photographs taken to commemorate our fantastic win at Wembley. Hayley is the only toddler I know who chants "Hatters" and "We love you Luton", instead of

nursery rhymes. I am sure that when they are older, my daughters will be at Kenilworth Road with their father, but in the meantime, it would make my husband very happy to see this photograph in a future issue of a Luton Town Programme if possible

Good luck to you all for the 1988/89 season, we'll be there.

Yours faithfully
Lorraine Jarvis



• Happy young Hatters: Hayley and Danielle.

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WE'VE ALSO MADE SOME CHANGES TO OUR LINE UP THIS SEASON

Kenilworth Road isn't the only place you can see a new line up this afternoon.

Just down the road in the Arndale Centre, and in our showrooms throughout the U.K., you can see the new additions to our own squad.

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SHOWROOMS THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

DRESSING ROOM

with Steve Williams

Steve Williams became Luton Town's most expensive transfer signing when he joined the club in the close season for a £300,000 fee from Arsenal. Steve was born in London in July 1958 and joined Southampton as an apprentice. He went on to establish himself as one of the best midfielders in the First Division and a full England international before moving to Highbury. In today's Dressing Room Talk, Steve explains why he was pleased to move to Kenilworth Road in the summer:



• **New arrival:** Steve Williams.

No choice

"I had a chance to join Alan Ball at Portsmouth, but there was no choice really. I wanted to stay in the First Division and Luton are a successful First Division club. Everyone knows I have the greatest respect for Ballie after playing alongside him, but I was never in any doubt about signing for Luton at all.

"The club showed last season that it was a major force by getting to two cup finals and the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup. That is an achievement.

"And in 10 years with Southampton we were in Europe six times, won the F.A. Cup and reached the final of the Football League Cup. That is why I don't look upon clubs as big or small. I just call them all football clubs.

Family club

"Luton is a very similar club to Southampton, I think. It has got a family-club atmosphere and is well-organised. To be honest, I think we still need to do a bit to become real challengers for the league title, but if we all work together who knows?

"Playing at home on the synthetic pitch is an advantage because we are all used to it and how to perform on it, but it is a disadvantage away from home.

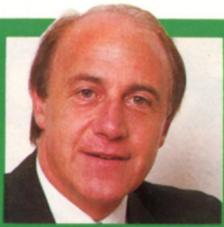
Perfect technique

"At home your technique needs to be spot on. Perfect. And you can lay off players when you are marking by five to seven yards. But when you are away it is different and you need to really close right up on players.

"That means you have to change your game from one week to the other and that is a disadvantage of course.

"But I am not complaining about the pitch at all. I think it will suit my game well. I am the sort of player who should be suited to the surface as it requires a lot of quick passing, crisp movement and one and two-touch play.

"Ballie would have loved it. No-one would ever have seen him. He'd have been on the move all the time on this pitch."



by BILL TOMLINS

THE TOWN

ALL SET TO GO AFTER A BUSY SUMMER AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Welcome to Kenilworth Road again after a busy summer break for a new season in which we shall strive to emulate our historic achievements in 1987-88. Can we do it? You can be assured the club is doing everything possible to continue its progress in the best possible way both on and off the pitch.

As many of our fans will know, our stadium has been the scene of two major events in other sports since the end of last season when we all celebrated the winning of the Littlewoods Cup. During the summer, we hosted Barry McGuigan's international boxing clash with Thomas Da Cruz and, more recently, provided the venue for the Lada International Hockey Classic.

Both were highly successful promotions and the hockey involved the Great Britain team and several others in their final preparations before leaving for Seoul and the Olympic Games.

Good luck

The close season also saw several comings and going with Ray Harford, our team manager, being particularly active in the transfer market. As a result I cannot let this column pass without saying goodbye and good luck to Brian Stein, who has joined Caen in France, his brother Mark, Andy Dibble, who has joined Manchester City, and Emeka Nwajobi, Colin Barker and Ricky McEvoy.

Brian served Luton Town with

exceptional loyalty for more than 10 years and provisional arrangements have been made for his testimonial year to be completed with a match against Aberdeen on December 14.

On the incoming side, we welcome today the four new senior players signed by team manager Ray Harford - John Dreyer, from Oxford, Alec Chamberlain from Everton, Steve Williams from Arsenal, and Roy Wegerle from Chelsea. I hope they all enjoy long and successful careers at the club.

Welcome

Ray has also been strengthening his coaching staff with the appointment this week of former Stoke City and Notts County manager Richie Barker as chief coach. This followed Steve Foster's decision to concentrate on playing after the arrival of his twins in August and his much greater family responsibilities.

Our youth policy is as strong as ever as can be read in the Reserves and Youth report on page 23. We have signed on five new boys and we wish them all a happy and successful career at Kenilworth Road: Richard Watkiss, Darron Salton, Stuart Brown, Mark McConagle and Ken Gillard.

The youngsters will I hope benefit from our plan to play all the youth matches at Kenilworth Road this season with six taking place before first team home matches and six more before the reserves' games.



KNOCKOUT

●Star Winner: Barry McGuigan celebrates his quick win against Thomas Da Cruz here on June 25.

WELCOME TO THE NEW BOYS

●Close season captures: Our Captain, Steve Foster is pictured with new signings Steve Williams, Roy Wegerle, Alec Chamberlain and John Dreyer. We wish them all a long and happy career at Kenilworth Road.



●Putting on a show: One of our young summer visitors pictured here with members of an American Football Team in the closed season.



●Facing the camera: Our club photographer Josh Levy took this different view of the squad at the official phot-call in August.



●Star striker: England hockey star Sean Kerley is pictured at Kenilworth Road before the start of the Lada Classic hockey tournament.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER

Welcome back

Hello and welcome to a new season at Kenilworth Road. After last year's successes, we are hoping to do even better this time and improve our league position and, hopefully, earn a trip to Wembley again.

The manager has been busy in the transfer market during the summer and has signed four new players. This has given us one of the strongest first team squads the club has had with a lot of competition for places.

The four new boys have all settled down quickly and we are already enjoying taking the mickey ... John Dreyer has been nick-named 'Tumble' and Steve Williams is called the 'Silver Fox'. Roy Wegerle has been dubbed 'Prince' and Alec Chamberlain is still waiting for his name - but it won't be long, I can assure him!

They have all been given a warm welcome in the dressing room and made to feel at home. Talking of home life, mine has been pretty hectic recently following the safe arrival of our twins.

Today we expect a tough match at home to Wimbledon. They beat us in last season's F.A. Cup semi-final so we have good reason to try and gain some revenge and also make up for our opening day defeat at Sheffield when we faced a very physically-powerful Wednesday team.

UNLUCKY START

Sheffield Wednesday 1 Luton Town 0

The Town opened the new Barclays Football League Division One season at Hillsborough, Sheffield last week when they were unable to succeed in beating a fighting-fit and physically powerful Sheffield Wednesday team and went down 1-0. Mel Sterland, normally a recognised right-back but playing in attack, scoring the only goal in the second half.

Unfortunately, the Town were unable to create many openings on the day and had to rely on a solid defensive display by centre-backs Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy to survive some heavy pressure from the Owls.

The result was a disappointing start for team manager Ray Harford after rebuilding the team in the summer particularly as he had included both Roy Wegerle and Kingsley Black in his team in a bid to open up the Wednesday defence on the flanks.

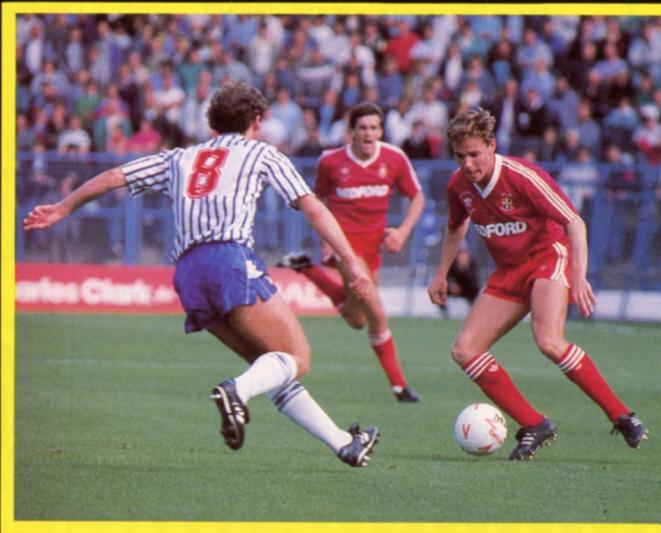
To add to the Town's problems they had five players booked by referee George Tyson including Steve Foster, Tim Breacker, Mal Donaghy, Kingsley Black and Mick Harford.

Teams: Sheffield Wednesday – Kevin Pressman, Mark Proctor, Nigel Worthington, Nigel Pearson, Lawrie Madden, Alan Harper, Gary Megson, Mel Sterland, Colin West, Siggj Jonsson, Tony Galvin (David Hirst 69).

Luton Town – Les Sealey, Tim Breacker, John Dreyer, Steve Williams, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Danny Wilson, Roy Wegerle (Ian Allinson 72), Mick Harford, David Oldfield, Kingsley Black.

Referee: George Tyson (Sunderland)

1st Team ACTION



• **Reds unlucky debut:** The Town players paraded the team's new all-red away strip for the first time at Hillsborough on Saturday when Mel Sterland's goal earned the Owls a 1-0 win. Our action pictures today show Roy Wegerle, Danny Wilson, Mick Harford and Kingsley Black trying to find a way through. Pictures by Josh Levy of Apex Photography.

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR ALL PARTS OF STADIUM

Season tickets are still available for sale in all parts of the Kenilworth Road stadium despite a big increase in pre-season sales during the close season.

Prices are as follows:

Main stand (A-E)

Adult £153.00
Junior/OAP £80.00

Main stand (F)

Adult £119.00
Junior/OAP £51.00

Enclosure

Adult £119.00
Junior/OAP £51.00
B and J blocks £85.00

Oak Stand

Adult £119.00
Junior/OAP £51.00

MAN IN CHARGE

Brian Stevens (Gloucester)

A quality control supervisor, Brian is married with two daughters. He began refereeing in 1963 and progressed via the Stroud youth league through the Gloucs County League to the Western League and the full Football League List. He enjoys youth football and wood turning. He has been in charge of three matches at Wembley including the 1987 Full Members Final between Blackburn and Charlton.

POSTAL PROGRAMME SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Our service guarantees you all match day programmes sent to you directly. Remittances payable to Luton Town FC should be sent to: Cherry Newbury, Programme Distributor, Luton Town Football Club, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maplw Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Ovenden Papers Football Combination
Saturday, September 10, 1988
Luton Town v Swindon Town
Kick-off 2.00 p.m.

Barclays League Division One
Saturday, September 17, 1988
Luton Town v Manchester United
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN 1988-89 PICTURED WITH THE LITTLEWOODS CUP

Back row: David Preece, Mark Stein, Gary Cobb, Ian Allinson, Richard Harvey, Kingsley Black, Rob Johnson. Middle Row: Dave Galley (physio), John Faulkner (coach), Roy Wegerle, John Dreyer, David Oldfield, Les Sealey, Mick Harford, Alec Chamberlain, Marvin Johnson, Ashley Grimes, Darron McDonough, Jim Ryan (coach). Front row: Steve Williams, Danny Wilson, Steve Foster, Ray Harford (manager), Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill, Tim Breacker.



HATTERS IN GEAR



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| ● Luton Town F.C. coats | £36.00 | ● Leisure shirt | £12.99 |
| ● Luton Town coffee mugs | £1.60 | ● Teddy Bears | £5.00 |
| ● Club pennants | £2.50 | ● Pens | £0.65 |
| ● Caps and ski hats from | £2.30 | | |

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JUNIOR HATTERS!



BY DANNY WILSON

HELLO FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

This is your new president speaking – Danny Wilson. I have taken over from Brian Stein who has moved on to play football in France in Caen. I know he did a good job as President and he enjoyed every minute of it, and I hope I will too.

I am sure that you will join me in thanking Brian for the good job that he has done for the Junior Hatters and wish him good luck with his new club.

I am pleased to let you know that we are still going to do a lucky numbers draw for all our home games. Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is H0188091300.

The winning member should contact Bev Tyler in the Souvenir Shop at Oak Road with his or her membership card, for two free tickets to one of our home matches.

Next Saturday we are running a coach to Southampton to play football in the morning with the Junior Saints. We will be fielding two teams, one 11 years and under and 13 years and under.

If you wish to play for the Junior Hatters, contact Bev Tyler in the Souvenir Shop. In the afternoon we will travel to The Dell to see the first team play.

Today we give a warm welcome to the F.A. Cup holders, Wimbledon. Have a good day and do your best to support the team.



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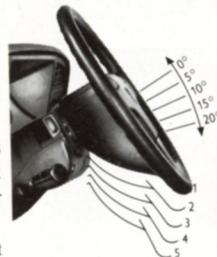
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COMMERCIAL COMMENT BY WENDY GREAVES



Our partnership with Luton International Airport

Welcome to a new season at Kenilworth Road and welcome to a new column, Commercial Comment, in which this afternoon I am delighted to make a third welcome to another major club sponsor Luton International Airport.

This year, LIA was aiming to achieve a number of targets to increase or improve international awareness, customer relations and user relations and the five-year partnership formed with Luton Town Football Club is one in which they will be working towards the achievement of their goals.

Today's match sponsorship is one of the areas in which they will enhance their user relations as they have made a unique day out available to 60 lucky trade customers by running a competition in their own trade newspaper Travel News.

As a result of the competition, we will be joined by the winners today to share the thrills and spills of an exciting First Division home match at Kenilworth Road.

I am sure both the fortunate winning guests and Luton International Airport will feel they are on the winning side today!

MATCHBALL SPONSORS

We also have new match ball sponsors today in John and Christina Cremin and their two boys John and Ryan. They are new and second hand builders who offer competitive prices with no hidden extras to their customers. Telephone Luton 867623 for full details.

Today's MATCH SPONSOR



A GOALDEN OPPORTUNITY TO WISH OUR TEAM EVERY SUCCESS

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•David Oldfield: two goals on tour.



•Sean Farrell: six goals in Holland.



•Kurt Nogan: on target last week.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	28	25	1	2	100	18	51
Wimbledon	28	16	6	6	60	33	38
Northampton Town	28	16	5	7	77	39	37
Tottenham Hotspur	28	15	6	7	50	32	36
Oxford United	28	13	4	11	68	50	30
Swindon Town	28	13	4	11	70	58	30
Crystal Palace	28	13	4	11	55	49	30
Brentford	28	12	5	11	55	59	29
Colchester United	28	7	9	12	47	64	23
Luton Town	28	8	5	15	46	65	21
A.F.C. Bournemouth	28	7	7	14	49	74	21
Bristol City	28	9	3	16	44	89	21
Bristol Rovers	28	4	11	13	29	49	19
Reading	28	5	8	15	27	67	18
Brighton & Hove Albion	28	5	6	17	46	77	16

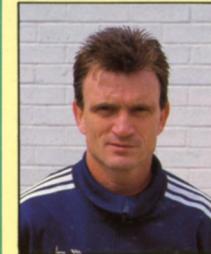
SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION FINAL TABLE 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur	38	25	3	10	92	43	53
Watford	38	21	7	10	71	37	49
Norwich City	38	18	13	7	69	41	49
Southampton	38	16	14	8	76	46	46
Luton Town	38	19	8	11	76	61	46
Ipswich Town	38	17	10	11	67	46	44
Queens Park R.	38	18	8	12	68	54	44
Arsenal	38	19	5	14	77	48	43
West Ham United	38	17	7	14	62	52	41
Chelsea	38	16	8	14	60	54	40
Charlton Athletic	38	16	8	14	58	62	40
Portsmouth	38	16	7	15	64	73	39
Swindon Town	38	15	8	15	64	72	38
Brighton & Hove A.	38	15	8	15	58	72	38
Millwall	38	13	9	16	49	48	35
Oxford United	38	10	6	22	61	95	26
Fulham	38	8	9	21	48	91	25
Reading	38	10	4	24	51	85	24
Crystal Palace	38	8	7	23	38	78	23
Bristol Rovers	38	4	9	25	52	103	17

OVENDEN PAPERS FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1988/89

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1988			1988		
Aug 27	Southampton	3-2	Jan 4	Brighton	
Sept 6	Norwich City		Jan 7	Crystal Palace	
Sept 10	Swindon T		Jan 14	Reading	
Sept 17	Watford		Jan 17	Chelsea	
Sept 24	Oxford United		Jan 28	Southampton	
Oct 1	Arsenal		Feb 7	Millwall	
Oct 4	Norwich		Feb 14	Swindon T	
Oct 11	Brighton		Feb 25	West Ham	
Oct 18	Charlton A		Mar 4	Arsenal	
Oct 22	Wimbledon		Mar 15	Crystal Palace	
Oct 25	Watford		Mar 21	Charlton A	
Oct 29	Reading		Mar 25	West Ham	
Nov 1	Fulham		Apr 1	Fulham	
Nov 5	Ipswich Town		Apr 11	Ipswich T	
Nov 8	QPR		Apr 22	Portsmouth	
Nov 12	Chelsea		May 13	Tottenham	
Nov 15	Portsmouth				
Nov 22	Millwall				
Nov 30	Oxford United				
Dec 10	Tottenham				
Dec 20	Wimbledon				

COACHES' CORNER



YOUNGSTERS A CREDIT TO THE CLUB ON TOUR

It has been a busy and successful close season for our younger players at the club with three major tournaments against international opposition and the build-up to the new season. The youngsters, however, did themselves proud and were a credit to the club at the Blauw Wit and Den Haag competitions in Holland and also at the inaugural Hatters Cup tournament held at Kenilworth Road last month.

Our youth coach John Faulkner reported: "We were away for the two tournaments in Holland from May 20 to May 30 and during those 10 days we played 11 games and remained unbeaten. It was a great achievement.

"The players stayed together and grew stronger throughout the year and also did very well on the pitch. At Blauw Wit, we were within a whisker of reaching the final and also collected the Fair Play trophy. We drew with the team that won the final and were, in my opinion, a superior team.

"At Den Haag, we won the tournament for the second year running. This is a great testimony to the ability and skills of our players. They were a credit to the club."

Overall in Holland, the youngsters played 11 matches, won 6, drew 5 and finished with a goals for and against column reading 22-8. The goal scorers were Sean Farrell with six, Julian James 3, and David Oldfield 2.

A team of Town youngsters also proved itself when it won the Hatters Cup last month in a tournament held at Kenilworth Road involving about 50 clubs from all over the world participating in five different age groups.

Last weekend, the good form was maintained by the reserves and the youth teams when they started the new season. The reserves won 3-2 at home at Southampton in the Ovenden Papers Football Combination and the youth team drew 2-2 at Crystal Palace in the South East Counties League.

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*Our team is always ready
to throw in ideas to help get
your new business on the ball.*

PHOTO FILE



• No joy at Barnet: David Oldfield and Steve Williams are pictured in action at Barnet where we played in a pre-season friendly. The result was a 3-2 win for Barnet.



LUTON TOWN

Goal'den Oldies

DEFENDING AN UNBEATEN HOME RECORD TODAY

We welcome Wimbledon to Kenilworth Road today for only the third time in competitive matches and, with an unbeaten home record to protect, a keenly-fought contest is in prospect between the holders of the two major knockout tournaments, *writes Roger Wash.*

Although our first League meeting was as recent as 1986 we did, in fact, play Wimbledon a year earlier in a pre-season friendly at Plough Lane. A crowd of 635 watched as Mick Harford contrived to miss a 17th minute penalty but when Brian Stein headed the Town into the lead five minutes later justice was seen to be done.

The lead was short-lived, however, as Stewart Evans shot home the equaliser for the Dons in the 30th minute. The Town failed to turn second half superiority into goals leaving Wimbledon feeling pleased that they had matched their First Division opponents.

Flexing muscles

Wimbledon must have liked flexing their muscles against First Division opposition as they won promotion at the end of that season. It was therefore as equals that the two teams met at Plough Lane on 8th November 1986 in a game marking the full Town debut of Darron McDonough.

Mark Stein, with his first ever League goal, won the game for the Town with a shot in the 58th minute, but the majority of the crowd of 5,928 felt that the away side rode their luck to a certain extent.

When the teams met at Kenilworth Road the following April the Town were sitting pretty in third position but the Dons were only four places behind and were fresh from a 2-1 win at Liverpool.

Despite the high positions of the two sides the game was a huge disappointment with Wimbledon's defence in depth blunting the Town's attack and a 0-0 draw was the only outcome.

Last season it was the Town's turn to play hosts to the first game between the sides and on 17th October 1987 with both teams in the lower half of the table a much better game ended in a 2-0 win for Luton.

Brian Stein scored after 20 minutes from a pass by Darron McDonough and after some scares when Wimbledon hit the woodwork three times Danny Wilson secured the points with a goal on the hour capitalising on some good work by Ian Allinson who had come on as substitute for his Luton debut.

The return last March came in the midst of the Town's three Cup runs and a weakened side took to the field at Plough Lane.

A mistake by debut-boy Marvin Johnson let in John Fashanu in the 11th minute and it was generally one-way traffic in the first half. The Town shortened their game in the second period but another goal by Terry Gibson after 48 minutes left them chasing for a result which was not likely to come.

The final meeting last season was, of course, the FA Cup semi-final which gives us even more reason to perform well this afternoon in a bid to avenge that disappointing result.

Our previous encounters with Wimbledon

	Home		Away			
1986/87	0-0		1-0			
1987/88	2-0		0-2			
Summary						
Home	P	W	D	L	F	A
Away	2	1	1	0	2	0
	2	1	0	1	1	2
	4	2	1	1	3	2



● **On for the scrapbook:** Brian Stein, who left the Town for French football with Caen in the close season, is pictured in action against Wrexham in 1978. Bon chance, Brian!

Luton News

PICTURE QUIZ

LUTON TOWN FOR TOP SOCCER

LUTON TOWN FOR TOP COVERAGE

FULL COLOUR PICTURES OF TODAY'S MATCH ON THURSDAY. DON'T MISS IT!

THURSDAYS 14p

INTRODUCING...

WIMBLEDON

'A fairy tale which just can't last' has been the cry every since Wimbledon first shook the football world in 1975 by making light of their Southern League status to first beat Burnley and then draw with Leeds writes *Geoff Allmann*.

Yet Wimbledon have consistently

"Even the critics have been defied"

confounded the critics who are still saying that this will be the season their bubble bursts and they slip back to Division Two.

But, even with a very young team lacking three of their F.A. Cup -winning line-up who have since been transferred, they gave Liverpool a close game in the F.A. Charity Shield, taking the lead and then after conceding two goals, coming close to a last-minute equaliser. Last week, however, they

came down to earth with a bump when they were heavily defeated by Arsenal.

Wimbledon's history goes back to 1889 and their Plough Lane ground to 1912, but although they had won the F.A. Amateur Cup on one occasion they were very much one of many amateur clubs dotted around London until they turned professional in 1964.

Even then they had relatively little success in the Southern League until the mid-seventies when after the Leeds and Burnley successes of 1975 they held Middlesbrough (then a First Division team) for almost two games before going down in 1977.

In the following summer, they were elected to the Football League in place of Workington and then came some see-saw years with promotion in 1979, relegation in 1980, promotion in 1981, relegation in 1982 and



Back Row (left to right): Terry Burton, John Scales, Lawrie Sanchez, Robbie Turner, Eric Young, Peter Cawley Vinny Jones, Carlton Fairweather, Alan Cork, Glive Goodyear, David Kemp Middle Row: Sid Neal, Mark Quamind, Mark Fiore, Ian Hazeel, Dean Blackwell, Simon Tracey, Neil Sullivan, Paul Miller, John Gammon, Andy Sayer, Garry Brooke, Ron Suart Front Row: Denis Wise, Vaughan Ryan, Bobby Gould (manager), Sam Hammam (chairman), John Lelliott, Stanley Reed, Peter Cork, Steve Allen, Terry Phelan, Terry Gibson.

promotion again in 1983.

At this point their league career took off. In 1984 they reached Division Two for the first time and two years later they climbed into Division One where they have defied the critics by finishing respectively 6th and 7th.

Their most impressive league performances last season were wins at Tottenham, Newcastle, and West Ham and a draw at Everton, but all else paled beside their remarkable F.A. Cup win.

They beat West Brom 4-1, won 2-1 at Mansfield, 3-1 at Newcastle and then beat Watford 2-1. This landed them in the semi-final where they overcame the Town 2-1 at White Hart Lane and then went on to beat Liverpool 1-0 at Wembley. Lawrie Sanchez's header and Dave Beasant's penalty save have now passed into soccer legend.

This is another season however, and it will be interesting to see how today's side compare with the Dons we met last season.

"John Fashanu is a rare handful"

Apart from the Charity Shield game they tuned up with a 2-0 win at Hereford in a benefit match for former referee Jim Finney. That splendid warhorse **Alan Cork** (a free transfer from Derby in 1978) and up and coming **Robbie Turner** (a substitute in the Charity Shield) got the goals and both will be competing for places up front today.

All eyes will, of course, be on that rare handful **John Fashanu** (from Millwall in 1986) who scored in the Charity Shield game and he is likely to be battling alongside diminutive **Terry Gibson** (£200,000 from Manchester United, a year ago) with one-time Tooting adn Mitcham man **Carlton Fairweather** giving breadth to the attack.

In midfield **Dennis Wise**, a free transfer from Southampton in 1985, is a delightful crosser of the ball as was seen in the F.A. Cup Final when **Lawrie Sanchez** (from Reading in 1984) headed home.

"Diminutive midfielder"

He links up with diminutive home-grown **Vaughan Ryan** while in defence **John Scales** and **Terry Phelan**, who arrived a year ago from Bristol Rovers and Swansea respectively are likely to be on the flanks with **Eric Young** (from Brighton last summer) and homegrown **Peter Cawley** in the centre and **Simon Tracey** in goal after a promising performance at Wembley a fortnight ago.

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FIRST TEAM UPDATE

1988-89 SEASON

Luton Town F-A Att Pos 1

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

THE BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FINAL TABLE 1987/88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Liverpool	40	26	2	12	87	24	89
Manchester United	40	23	5	12	71	38	81
Nottingham Forest	40	20	7	13	67	39	73
Everton	40	19	8	13	53	27	70
Queens Park Rangers	40	19	11	10	48	38	67
Arsenal	40	18	10	12	58	39	66
Wimbledon	40	14	11	15	58	47	57
Newcastle United	40	14	12	14	55	53	56
LUTON TOWN	40	14	15	11	57	58	53
Coventry City	40	13	13	14	46	53	53
Sheffield Wednesday	40	15	17	8	52	66	53
Southampton	40	12	14	14	49	53	50
Tottenham Hotspur	40	12	17	11	38	48	47
Norwich City	40	12	19	9	40	52	45
Derby County	40	10	17	13	35	45	43
West Ham United	40	9	16	15	40	52	42
Charlton Athletic	40	9	16	15	38	52	42
Chelsea	40	9	16	15	58	68	42
Portsmouth	40	7	19	14	36	66	35
Watford	40	7	22	11	27	51	32
Oxford United	40	6	21	13	44	38	31

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1988/89)

Player	League		Total for Luton Town to end 87-88	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Ian Allinson	(1)	-	32	4
Kingsley Black	1	-	18	-
Tim Breacker	1	-	175	2
Gary Cobb	-	-	9	-
Mal Donaghy	1	-	472	21
John Dreyer	1	-	-	-
Steve Foster	-	-	164	11
Ashley Grimes	-	-	94	4
Mick Harford	1	-	136	66
Richard Harvey	-	-	7	-
Ricky Hill	-	-	463	59
Julian James	-	-	3	-
Marvin Johnson	-	-	9	-
Rob Johnson	-	-	98	-
Darron McDonough	-	-	58	7
David Oldfield	1	-	9	3
David Preece	-	-	101	6
Les Sealey	1	-	214	-
Roy Wegerle	1	-	-	-
Steve Williams	1	-	-	-
Danny Wilson	1	-	52	10

Aug 27	Sheffield Wednesday
Sept 3	Wimbledon
Sept 10	Southampton
Sept 17	Manchester United
Sept 24	Everton
Oct 1	Nottingham Forest
Oct 8	Liverpool
Oct 15	Arsenal
Oct 22	Middlesbrough
Oct 29	Queens Park Rangers
Nov 5	Millwall
Nov 12	Coventry City
Nov 19	West Ham United
Nov 26	Norwich City
Dec 3	Newcastle United
Dec 10	Derby County
Dec 17	Aston Villa
Dec 26	Tottenham Hotspur (11.00 am)
Dec 31	Wimbledon
Jan 2	Southampton
Jan 2	West Ham United
Jan 7	FA Cup 3rd Round
Jan 14	Charlton Athletic
Jan 21	Everton
Jan 28	FA Cup 4th Round
Feb 4	Nottingham Forest
Feb 11	Liverpool
Feb 18	Middlesbrough (FAC 5)
Feb 25	Arsenal
Mar 4	Queens Park Rangers
Mar 11	Millwall
Mar 18	Sheffield Wednesday (FAC 6)
Mar 25	Manchester United
Mar 27	Tottenham Hotspur
Apr 1	Aston Villa
Apr 8	Charlton Athletic
Apr 15	Coventry City (FACs/1)
Apr 22	Newcastle United
Apr 29	Derby County
May 6	West Ham United
May 13	Norwich City
May 14	FA Cup Final

© The Football League FAC = F.A. Cup () indicates player substituted



HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zellers 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	2,254,723
Improvements	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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 - 7 Danny Wilson
 - 8 Roy Wegerle
 - 9 Mick Harford
 - 10 David Oldfield
 - 11 Kingsley Black
- Subs

Wimbledon

- 1 Simon Tracey
 - 2 John Scales
 - 3 Terry Phelan
 - 4 Vaughan Ryan
 - 5 Eric Young
 - 6 Peter Cawley
 - 7 Terry Gibson
 - 8 Carlton Fairweather
 - 9 John Fashanu
 - 10 Lawrie Sanchez
 - 11 Dennis Wise
- Subs

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