

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1.00

ASTON VILLA

BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



Saturday, December 17th, 1988 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

This match is sponsored by: Vauxhall Bedford GMAC & GMSPO

MICK STRIKES AS TOWN WIN AT DERBY



• **Danger man:** Roy Wegerle in action at the Baseball Ground last Saturday where Mick Harford's goal brought our second away win.

LUTON TOWN HOTLINE

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates

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• **On the attack:** Richard Harvey (above) swings in a cross from the left and Ricky Hill (below) bursts through the Derby defence.



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RAY'S REVIEW



Welcome to Aston Villa for our last fixture before Christmas. Graham Taylor has done a terrific job since he moved to Villa Park and they are now living up to their reputation as one of the biggest and finest clubs in the land. We know we shall be facing a tough match again today, but after our recent unbeaten run we will be looking to make up for the disappointment of the 0-0 draw with Newcastle in our last home match. We missed Mick Harford's presence that day, but I felt that if we had scored once we might have gone on to relax and score even more. It was one of those days.

Last weekend, at Derby, we came away with another good result thanks to a terrific all-round team performance full of endeavour all over the pitch. I was told it was one of the hardest-working Luton Town performances in years and that pleased me. We have been trying to play further forward and work harder in the opposition's half, not allow them to play and come at us, and in recent weeks it has produced results for us. I hope it continues today.

After weeks of work in the transfer market, I felt some satisfaction this week at signing Iain Dowie from Hendon and I am delighted to welcome him to Kenilworth Road. He is a goal-scoring centre-forward with a real hunger to play in the First Division. I was disappointed in my bid to sign another player, but will still be looking for top-quality defensive cover. Darron McDonough is likely to be unfit for some time, but Tim Breacker could be back in training next week.

Next weekend will be a strange one for us as professionals. We shall have only one game in 12 days over Christmas this year - very different from the past - but it will be a nice break and allow us a welcome chance to get players rested and fit. I may even put my own feet up for a day or two. I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Ray Harford

LUTON TOWN



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Mailbag

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

Wonderful Year as a Hatter!

Dear Sir,
I am just coming to the end of a wonderful year as an exchange teacher from Australia. One of my first acts upon arriving was to join Luton Town Football Club, and I would like to thank everyone there for making this such a memorable experience.

Students were very quick to ridicule me when they discovered my passion for Luton, but I stood firm, even through the darkest days of the Simod Cup defeat. My reward was the glorious sensation of being on the terraces at Wembley on 24 April, and being able to wear my cap and scarf to school the next day with pride and say "I told you so!"

Of course the Littlewoods Cup triumph stands out, but so do many other moments, including just standing in line to get tickets and



● Leader: Mick Harford.

soaking up the atmosphere. I have thoroughly enjoyed every one of the many moments I have spent at Kenilworth Road. It's been fascinating to see an exciting young team develop this season, and I feel I'm leaving just as they're starting to put it all together. The game at Norwich showed me just how good they could be under the leadership of Mick Harford up front, and Steve Foster at the back. I'm sure an awful lot more will be heard of Kingsley Black, David Oldfield, Marvin Johnson and the other new talents.

Good luck for the rest of the season. I'm sure this team is capable of getting to Wembley again, and giving me an excuse to sell everything and fly over! In the meantime, thank you everyone for such special memories.
Yours sincerely

Bernie Howitt

92D Ramsons Avenue,
Conniburrow,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire.

Memories of Streten please

Dear Sirs,

May I ask, through the columns of your programme, for some help and information on the career of Bernard Streten.

As most of your readers will know Bernard was a goalkeeper for Luton who also won one cap for England.

Now I know all the obvious statistical details of his career but I would like to hear from anyone who

remembers seeing him play or has any other memories of him.

I hope some of your fans can help me.

Best wishes to all at Kenilworth Road.

Yours in sport

Mike Payne

44 Brooke Road,
Princes Risborough,
Bucks

Sit down please!

Dear Sir,

Those of us who are privileged to sit at all home matches are constantly inconvenienced by those spectators who consistently arrive or depart from their seats during play.

It would be greatly appreciated if more thought was shown to those really interested in watching the game and perhaps more emphasis could be made in the various hospitality and sponsors rooms that the match is about to commence or play is in progress.

Thanking you in anticipation of more regard to those around you.

Yours sincerely

Richard Larkinson

123a Hills Road,
Cambridge.

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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.

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TALK

with Richard Harvey

Born in Letchworth in April 1969, Richard Harvey is one of a current crop of several Town players who have broken into the First Division team after serving their schoolboy and apprentice days at Kenilworth Road. Richard was an England schoolboy international and has won caps with the England under-19 team as well. He made his debut as a 17-year-old at home to Queens Park Rangers in November 1986 and has recently enjoyed a run of four unbeaten appearances in the first team. Today he give an insight into life as a youngster in the First Division:

Lucky run

"I have been very lucky to have played in four of the last five matches when we have been unbeaten and it has helped me to build up my confidence. In fact, I have not been on the losing side in the First team at all this season. For me, it is my longest run since I made my debut and I am very pleased to have the chance.

"It does not get any easier as time goes on at all. But you do learn a lot about little things in the game. Every opponent is difficult in the First Division. No one is easy. But my most difficult match so far was probably against Dale Gordon at Norwich

"He was strong and fast and very good with the ball. It was my first appearance of the season as well so I suppose it was a tricky match. I understand the manager wanted me to try and get forward and use my left foot for attacking purposes.

"It is one of the strengths of my game, but the major part of my job is really defending. I have to be able to both. To stop the opponent and to be able to get forward and create things if I can.

"I have always been a left-back except for a few occasions when I was a schoolboy and wanted to be a left-winger or a centre forward and to score more goals. I played for England schoolboys as a left-back and went on the tour of South America with the England under-19 squad as a left-back as well.

"That was a tremendous experience for me. We were away for 17 days and played against Brazil once and Uruguay twice. We played Brazil in a local team stadium, not in the Maracana or anything like that... but we did drive past it. It is absolutely fantastic.



• **Richard Harvey:** Gaining in confidence

"I have always been a Luton follower as I grew up in the local area and used to know about the team. My family have always followed Luton. But my brother went to Watford as a schoolboy while I was being coached by Luton. I was in John Moore's squad when I first joined.

"A lot of us have come through and playing in the team with so many of the other younger players does help. We've got Marvin, Kingsley and David who have all come through the ranks recently now in the first team squad.

"But it is the experienced players who make the most important moves to help. And in my case that really means Steve Foster and Les Sealey. What are they like? What do they say? Well, Fossie is a great motivator. He is always talking and chatting and encouraging. He is a big influence.

"Les is the same. He makes sure you stay on your toes if you know what I mean. He does not mess about much. But it all helps and of course there are other senior players around as well to make it all much easier.

"When I was a youngster I never really had any particular player I admired or modelled my game on, but I used to like watching Kenny Dalglish and Kevin Keegan the most. Neither of them were left-backs though!"



by BILL TOMLINS

THE TOWN

A WELCOME RUN OF CUP-TIE CONGESTION IS ON THE WAY

After another very busy spell, I am pleased to report that we are now facing up to the same sort of cup-tie congestion we experienced a year ago with the fixtures looming in all three major cup competitions as well as the Bedfordshire Premier Floodlit Cup.

In the local competition, we enjoyed a very pleasant evening on December 6 when we travelled to meet Wootton Blue Cross and won 2-0. A ground record of more than 830 fans turned out and made us very welcome. We await the draw for the next round with interest.

Great effort

That same week, we travelled to Manchester for the Guinness Soccer-6 in which a squad under the stewardship of our Scottish coach Jim Ryan performed very well in reaching the play-off against Norwich. It was a tremendous effort, but a very confident Norwich outfit took full advantage of the boards in the final match of the night.

Kingsley Black, who played in the Guinness Soccer-6, has earned our congratulations again for his call-up to join Northern Ireland for their World Cup clash in Spain – a trip from which Danny Wilson will be barred by suspension.

Kingsley's involvement meant we were not asked to play our Simod Cup tie with Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park in the week before

Christmas thanks to the Football League's arrangement with the Northern Ireland FA. That particular cup-tie is now due to be played on the Tuesday in the week of our possible FA Cup third round replay with Millwall on January 10. Please read our Box Office Information page for details. Or call the Soccerline (0898 700 273).

Everyone concerned – Millwall, ourselves, the FA and the media – all see our cup-tie as an emotive match, but I am confident we will be able to treat it like any other with visiting fans when we require permission, under our Safety Certificate, from the police to admit visitors to Kenilworth Road.

Midweek date

I hope our fans will have noted that the Littlewoods Cup tie against Southampton on January 18 is being played on a Wednesday of that week. This is at the request of television's Midweek Sports Special.

Our Supporters Club meeting held in the Joe Payne lounge this week with our manager Ray Harford answering questions was a great success. It was sold out and the chance to conduct an interviewing session was much appreciated by our fans.

Finally, I cannot allow this column to pass without wishing all our supporters a very merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

ROY STRIKES AT G-MEX!



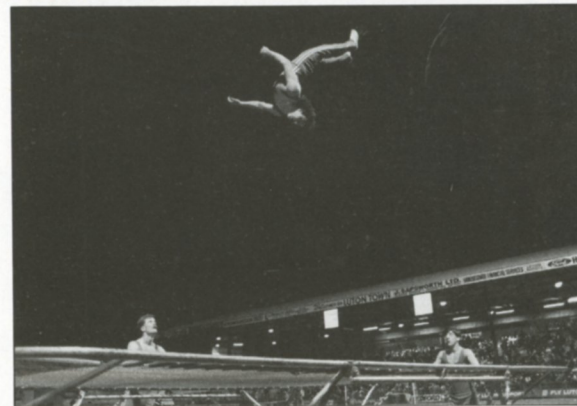
• Nimble scorer: Roy Wegerle showed his skills with three goals in the Guinness Soccer-6.

ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS FOR CHARITY

• **Charity effort:** Our managing director John Smith is pictured with the Luton North Rotary Club president Michael Henman. The Rotary club's sponsorship of the Newcastle match helped raise much-needed funds for local charity.



• **Christmas spirit:** There was a very special atmosphere at Kenilworth Road last Saturday when the club staged the Luton Carol Aid.



• **Flying high:** The 'kangaroo' entertained thousands at the Carol Aid organised by the churches of Luton.



• **In full voice:** There were youngsters of all ages in the ground for the highly-successful Carol Aid which launched the Christmas Season of Goodwill.

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



STEVE FOSTER
Xmas spirit

Hello everyone and welcome to our last home match before Christmas which is against one of my former clubs, Aston Villa. They are currently going through a good spell and like us have begun to find the net freely in the last few weeks. Let us hope it is a good match today.

We managed to gain a good result last weekend at Derby where a great team effort and a well-struck goal by Mick Harford brought us a 1-0 win. It was good to see Mick scoring again. It was only his second goal this season but his all-round contribution has been tremendous.

Sing-song

Everyone has been getting into the Christmas spirit a little bit recently and we have enjoyed hearing our apprentices rehearsing their special carols for the players' annual sing-song in the dressing rooms. I'll tell you more about that next time, but you can guess that the Welsh boys are always among the favourites.

We hope our new signing Iain Dowie will be here with us today. He has joined the club from Hendon and we will be welcoming him properly next week when he starts his new career, but I would like to wish him all the best now from all the lads. I hope all our fans give the team a good round of vocal support again today and I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

RAMS CHARGE REBUFFED Luton Town 1 Derby County 2

A superbly-struck 19th minute goal by Mick Harford secured the Town's second away win in the First Division this season when they won by the only goal at the Baseball Ground against Derby last weekend. Harford thundered home a right-foot shot at the end of a flowing move which was completed by a skilful forward run and pass by Ricky Hill. Harford's England colleague Peter Shilton had no chance with his shot into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area.

With Harford returning to lead the attack after a one-match absence, there was a sharpness and shape about the team which had been missing in the previous week's clash with Newcastle. But they first had to overcome a powerful Derby opening during which the home team forced a series of nine corners in 15 minutes. Les Sealey pulled off two brilliant saves and, with Steve Foster marshalling the defence superbly, the Town gradually took control.

Impressive organisation and accurate passing were the hallmarks of the Town's performance, particularly in midfield, as they dominated the second half, Hill once bursting through but firing his final shot wide when he seemed set to score. It was the Town's fifth successive game without defeat and hoisted them further clear of the bottom of the table.

Teams: Derby County – Shilton, Patterson, Forsyth, Williams, Wright, Blades, McMinn, Saunders, Goddard, Heberd, Callaghan.
Luton Town – Sealey, R. Johnson, Harvey, Preece, Foster, M. Johnson, Wilson, Wegerle (Oldfield 81), Harford, Hill, Black.

Referee: D. B. Allison (Lancaster).

1st Team ACTION



• **Fine win:** Mick Harford's 19th minute goal earned all three points for the Town against Derby last weekend. Our action pictures today show Roy Wegerle, Ricky Hill, Kingsley Black and Danny Wilson in action during that match. Pictures by Josh Levy of Apex Photography, Milton Keynes.

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

LITTLEWOODS CUP FIFTH ROUND

Luton Town v Southampton

Wednesday, January 18, 1989. Kick-off 7.45 pm.

This will be an all-ticket match for visiting supporters only. For our own supporters, the arrangements will be as they were for the fourth round tie against Manchester City on November 29.

Prices for this quarter-final tie will be at the normal pricing structure for our First Division fixtures, as last season. Season ticket holders may purchase their reserved seats after today's match until Monday, January 2, 1989, inclusive. (See Opening Hours).

TICKET OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

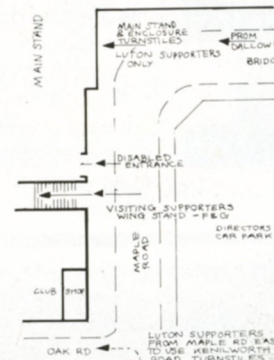
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ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING SUPPORTERS VIA MAPLE ROAD

Visiting supporters will be accommodated in the K1 section of the Kenilworth Terrace and E, F, and G blocks of the Main Stand.

Our own supporters who normally use the Maple Road entrance will be able to do so as usual for this match. We request that they only use the entrance as access and approach the entrance only via the bridge in Maple Road and not via Oak Road.

Thank you for your co-operation.



SIMOD CUP THIRD ROUND PROVISIONAL DATE

Crystal Palace v Luton Town
Tuesday, January 10, 1989
Kick-off 7.45 pm.

This is a provisional date subject to any F.A. Cup replays.

Prices: Seats - £7. Standing - £5.
Senior Citizens and Juniors £3
on the Armadale Terrace.

MAN IN CHARGE

Allan Gunn (South Chailey)

A purchasing manager, Allan is married with two daughters. He began refereeing in 1965 in Sussex and has progressed via the Football Combination to the Football League list. He enjoys swimming and squash. Allan's linesmen today are: Mr. M.D. Dearing of Northolt and Mr. C.J. Proud of Finchley. The fourth official is Mr. S.L. Cooper of Langford.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Barclays League Division One

Monday, January 2, 1988
Luton Town v Southampton
Kick-off 3.00p.m.

Ovenden Papers Football Combination

Saturday, December 31, 1988
Luton Town v Tottenham Hotspur
Kick-off 2.00p.m.

PLAYER PROFILE

STEVE FOSTER

Few players can have proved so influential to a team as Steve Foster has to the Town this season. Despite a near-incredible run of small injuries and cuts, the Hatters skipper has not missed a match and has proved his enduring and proven ability by nursing a youthful and transitional team along at the same time.

Who can forget the night he came off with his shirt crimson with blood against Burnley, or a similar scene against Arsenal in the First Division clash? Few strikers get the better of Fossie, battered or not.

Last season, Steve took on the additional duties of being a player-coach, a position he had to relinquish earlier this term following the arrival of twins and his onerous domestic life. "I could not do the job justice" he said at the time. He has concentrated on playing superbly ever since.

Born in Portsmouth, Steve has played with distinction for his home-town club, Brighton, Aston Villa and the Town, guiding Luton to their first trophy-winning appearance last season in the Littlewoods Cup final, another Wembley appearance in the Simod Cup final and two F.A. Cup semi-final appearances. He has won three England caps and was a member of the England World Cup squad in 1982 in Spain.



●Born Leader: Steve Foster in action against Liverpool.



STEVE FOSTER

HATTERS IN GEAR

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS



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JUNIOR HATTERS!



BY DANNY WILSON

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Today we give Aston Villa a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road. It was good to have a win at Derby last Saturday with Mick Harford making a return to the team after his injury and scoring a goal in the 19th minute.

With this being our last home game before Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your families a Happy Christmas.

Now a reminder that this year's Junior Hatters Christmas Party is next Wednesday, December 21st, at the Holy Ghost Church Hall in Westbourne Road, from 7 p.m. till 9 p.m.

I am looking forward to this year's party as I can remember seeing you all enjoying yourselves at the party last year. Bring your autograph books with you as I am trying to get as many players as I can to attend and make it a party you won't forget.

We still have a few places left, if you have not put your names down you can do so today at the Souvenir Shop in Oak Road.

Today's Lucky Junior Hatters membership number is J0188070283. The winning member should contact Bev Tyler in the Souvenir Shop with his or her membership card, for two free tickets to one of our home matches.

Have a good day and I will see you all at our next Home game when we entertain Southampton in the New Year on Monday January 2nd. The kick-off time for this match is 3.00 p.m.



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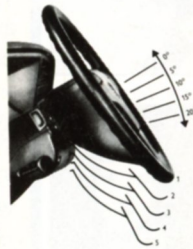
Anyone who drives your car will too. Because it will make it more adaptable to any driver's individual needs.

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So contact your nearest Vauxhall-Opel dealer for a chat.

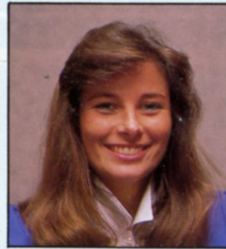
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COMMERCIAL COMMENT BY WENDY GREAVES



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This afternoon we are delighted to welcome our club sponsors Vauxhall Bedford GMAC & GMSPO to Kenilworth Road as match sponsors and ball sponsors. It goes without saying that they have been an integral part of our progress and success in recent years and remain our most valued supporters. We hope they enjoy a great afternoon out and a good result to ensure a happy Christmas next weekend.

Like us, I am sure all our commercial sponsors and supporters will enjoy their seasonal festivities much more if the improvement in results achieved by the team continues. Nothing is more sure to put a smile on a face than another win today as we all prepare to face one of the busiest spells of the year.

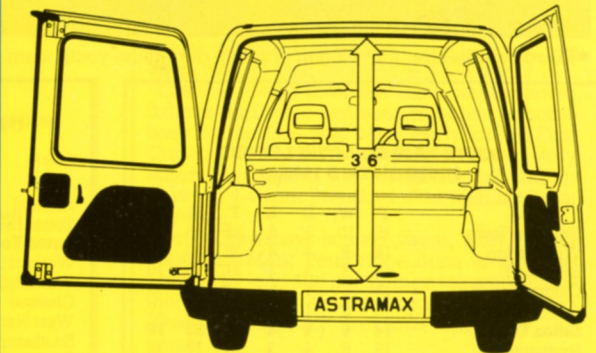
Xmas book

Judging by the early sales figures, our new book 'LUTON TOWN A PICTORIAL CELEBRATION OF THEIR CUP HISTORY' is proving very popular with our fans seeking a souvenir of that fantastic Littlewoods Cup run last season. It is likely to be in plenty of stockings this Christmas and I hope everyone enjoys the opportunity to bask in the warm feelings of that April day over and again.

We are all preparing for an early morning start on Boxing Day - next Monday - when we are due to play Tottenham at White Hart Lane with an 11.30 a.m. kick-off. We hope, naturally, that as many of our fans as possible will make the trip. Enjoy the match and have a very Happy Christmas.

Today's MATCH SPONSOR

Astramax operators consider the loftier aspects of business.



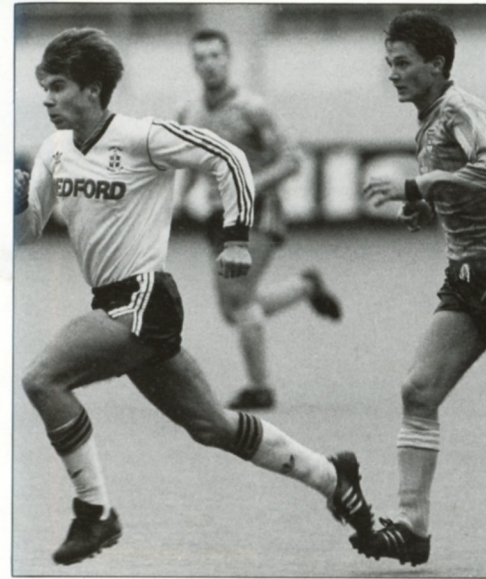
Astramax looks better now than ever. With extra height doors that open through 180° giving easy access to a full 82 cu. ft. of load space, great road holding and a frugal petrol or diesel engine, Astramax adds up to a van that looks good on paper and speaks volumes about your company.

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● **Fierce challenge:** Kurt Nogan in action during the youth team's recent 4-4 draw with Brentford.



● **Racing clear:** Gary Crawshaw who scored twice against Brentford.

COACHES' CORNER



RESERVES PRESERVE UNBEATEN RECORD WITH DRAW AT OXFORD

Our young reserves extended their unbeaten run to seven matches on November 30 then they drew 3-3 at Oxford with Oxford United. Goals by Gary Cobb, Paul Gray and Aaron Tighe secured a point for the Town to maintain their impressive unbeaten record.

Having extended their unbeaten run, the reserves now face a long period with little action until they meet Tottenham at home on December 31. It is a situation reflected in the Ovenden Football Combination table which shows that the Town have played 20 matches while most of their rivals have played only 15.

Our youth team have also been playing fewer fixtures and were last seen in action at home here by the fans who came early for the First Division clash with Newcastle. In a very entertaining game, the youngsters finished up drawing 4-4 with Brentford after leading 4-1 at half-time.

Gary Crawshaw scored twice, Kurt Nogan once and Mark Pembridge once to give the Town a 4-0 lead and put them on top well before the interval, but a defensive slip from a long clearance allowed Brentford back into the game.

In the second half, the Londoners long balls forward into our penalty area began to cause serious problems and they forced their way back onto level terms at 4-4. Coach John Faulkner said: "It was a terrific game for entertainment with some highly-quality play from us in the first half, but disappointing to see Brentford allowed back in. You have to give them credit though for never giving up and overall the match was a credit to youth football."

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1988/89

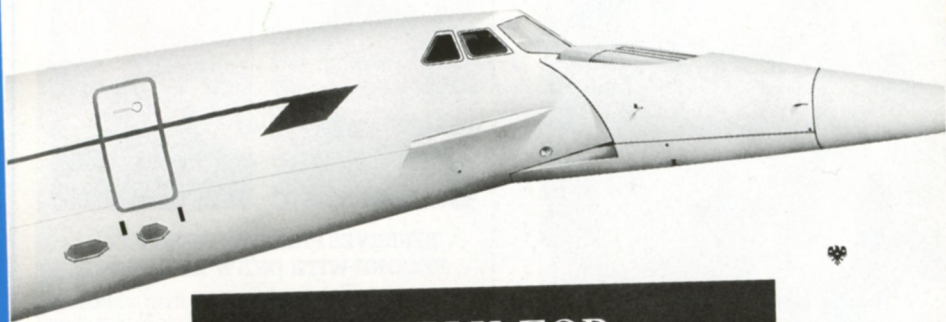
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Town	15	10	3	2	32	19	23
Wimbledon	14	9	1	4	36	20	19
Brentford	14	8	3	3	31	18	19
Oxford United	15	9	1	5	24	23	19
A.F.C. Bournemouth	15	8	1	6	26	21	17
Luton Town	14	6	4	4	36	23	16
Southampton	13	6	4	3	28	17	16
Crystal Palace	14	6	2	6	30	19	14
Bristol City	13	3	7	3	16	16	13
Colchester United	15	5	3	7	25	27	13
Brighton & Hove Albion	15	3	5	7	19	26	11
Reading	16	5	1	10	26	49	11
Northampton Town	13	3	3	7	25	33	9
Tottenham Hotspur	15	4	1	10	21	38	9
Bristol Rovers	15	3	1	11	16	41	7

OVENDEN FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1988/89

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	15	12	3	0	43	17	27
Tottenham Hotspur	15	12	2	1	38	13	26
Luton Town	20	10	6	4	48	28	26
Watford	16	8	5	3	37	23	21
Wimbledon	15	9	2	4	28	15	20
Chelsea	14	9	2	3	28	17	20
West Ham United	17	7	4	6	28	24	18
Southampton	15	6	3	6	26	26	15
Brighton & Hove Albion	15	5	4	6	23	27	14
Oxford United	16	5	4	7	33	46	14
Norwich City	15	6	1	8	28	27	13
Fulham	13	6	1	6	20	19	13
Swindon Town	14	5	3	6	23	26	13
Crystal Palace	14	5	3	6	20	23	13
Charlton Athletic	15	4	3	8	25	29	11
Millwall	12	3	3	6	17	21	9
Ipswich Town	13	3	2	8	19	31	8
Portsmouth	15	3	1	11	17	42	7
Queens Park Rangers	14	2	2	10	10	26	6
Reading	15	1	2	12	12	43	4

OVENDEN PAPERS FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1988/89

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1988			1989		
Aug 27	Southampton	3-2	Jan 4	Brighton	
Sept 6	Norwich City	2-3	Jan 7	Crystal Palace	
Sept 10	Swindon T	1-1	Jan 14	Reading	
Sept 17	Watford	2-2	Jan 17	Chelsea	
Sept 24	Oxford United	7-1	Jan 21	Wimbledon	
Oct 1	Arsenal	2-3	Jan 28	Southampton	
Oct 5	Norwich	2-1	Feb 7	Millwall	
Oct 11	Brighton	3-0	Feb 14	Swindon T	
Oct 15	Watford	4-0	Feb 25	West Ham	
Oct 18	Charlton A	1-0	Mar 4	Arsenal	
Oct 22	Wimbledon	0-2	Mar 15	Crystal Palace	
Oct 29	Reading	4-2	Mar 21	Charlton A	
Nov 1	Fulham	0-3	Mar 25	West Ham	
Nov 5	Ipswich Town	2-1	Apr 1	Fulham	
Nov 9	QPR	1-0	Apr 11	Ipswich T	
Nov 12	Chelsea	1-1	Apr 22	Portsmouth	
Nov 15	Portsmouth	7-0	May 13	Tottenham	
Nov 22	Millwall	2-2			
Nov 26	QPR	1-1			
Nov 30	Oxford United	3-3			
Dec 31	Tottenham				



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COMPETITION CLOSES ON 31ST JANUARY 1989.

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PHOTO FILE



• **No goals: David Oldfield and Steve Foster are pictured in action during our 0-0 draw with Newcastle two weeks ago. Pictures by Josh Levy.**



LUTON TOWN

Goal'den Oldies

AN UNBEATEN RUN WHICH BEGAN 41 YEARS AGO AGAINST VILLA

Our previous encounters with Aston Villa

	Home	Away
1937/38	3-2	1-4
1955/56	2-1	0-1
1956/57	0-0	3-1
1957/58	3-0	0-2
1958/59	2-1	1-3
1972/73	0-0	2-0
1973/74	1-0	1-0
1982/83	2-1	1-4
1983/84	1-0	0-0
1984/85	1-0	1-0
1985/86	2-0	1-3
1986/87	2-1	1-2

Summary

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	12	10	2	0	19	6
Away	12	4	1	7	12	20
	24	14	3	7	31	26

We welcome Aston Villa to Kenilworth Road today after a gap of one season and obviously hope at the risk of tempting fate, that their record here continues, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Our first league meeting with today's opponents was actually our first home game following our promotion to Division Two in 1937. A record crowd of 25,349 turned up on the evening of 1st September to see the Town run out 3-2 winners with goals from Albert Dawes, Joe Payne and Teddy Hancock.

Large crowds were queuing at the turnstiles when they were opened at 5 o'clock and they were closed again a little over an hour later. At a time when cars were still fairly uncommon every road within a half mile of the ground was jammed with vehicles and parking was allowed down the centre of some roads! So much for safety.

**"Every road within half a mile away
jammed with vehicles - at a time when cars
were still a novelty"**

The return was played the following week at Villa Park and a crowd of 30,667 attended to

witness a 4-1 thrashing of the Town with all the goals being scored in the first half.

"Chiltern" reporting for the "Luton News" stated "I do not wish to be over critical" but his report was littered with words such as "abysmal", "inept" and "silly".

Not surprisingly Villa gained promotion at the end of the season and it was not until 1955/56 that paths crossed again following our elevation to Division One.

The 1-0 defeat at Villa Park on 12th November 1955 was regarded as a shock as the Town were going through a "purple patch" at the time which included a 5-1 victory over Wolves the previous week. The defeat proved to be a minor set back, however as the following Saturday Sunderland were walloped 8-2 at Kenilworth Road.

Games throughout the remainder of the 1950's were largely unremarkable apart from the fact that Gordon Turner proved to be a consistent thorn in the side of various Villa teams and it was not until 1972 after both clubs had suffered varying fortunes on the playing field that battle was resumed albeit in Division Two.

When the Town won 2-0 at Villa Park on 18th November 1972 it meant six away victories from nine starts. The only problem was that home games were being lost, usually by the only goal. Luton beat Villa at a canter with goals from Rodney Fern and John Aston and followed it up with a 1-0 win there the following season - Jim Ryan netting a disputed last minute penalty.

We were promoted to Division One at the end of 1973/74 and as we came down again the following season Villa went up and it was not until 1982/83 that meetings were resumed.

The game at Kenilworth Road on 9th April 1983 will live long in the memory for all who were fortunate to be there with David Moss scoring a last minute winner to set up a run-in which saw us narrowly avoid relegation in the final game.

Relegation was also staring the Town in the face when the teams met at Villa Park on 6th May 1985 but a single goal from Brian Stein virtually assured safety after a long and arduous season which included, a cruel defeat on that same ground in the semi-final of the F.A. Cup only weeks before.



• Jim Ryan: His penalty winner over Villa in 1974 helped clinch Luton promotion.

Luton News

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INTRODUCING...

ASTON VILLA

Today we welcome an Aston Villa side who have lost on each of their last six visits, but who are very much part of soccer history and now, under Graham Taylor, appear poised to get among the major honours again during the next few seasons, writes *Geoff Allman*.

Villa were founded in 1874 from members of Wesleyan Chapel cricket team. They first played in the F.A. Cup (or English Cup as it was then known) in 1879/80 and they won the trophy in 1886/7 just two seasons before their committee member William McGregor was instrumental in setting up the Football League.

They were of course one of the twelve clubs with which the Football League kicked off and they won it in 1894, following up with an F.A. Cup win in 1895, the First Division Championships again in 1896 and the 'Double' in 1897.

"A great history which began in the 1880's"

By the outbreak of the First World War, they had chalked up six First Division Championships and five F.A. Cup wins and they won the F.A. Cup again in 1920.

Until 1936, they had never played anywhere but in Division One and, even though relegated then, they bounced back two years later and, by the outbreak of the Second World War, had a side that looked capable of going on to further honours.

By the time 'normal' football was resumed in 1946, however, men like wingers Frank Broome and Eric Houghton and defenders George Cummings and 'Mush' Callaghan were the wrong side of 30 and honours were in general out of their grasp.

They did however win the F.A. Cup in 1957 at a time when Eric Houghton was manager and his successor on the left wing Peter McParland was involved in the controversial injury to Manchester United goalkeeper Ray Wood.

They then won the Football League Cup in 1960/1, the first season of its existence when the final was not

played until the start of the following season.

After several seasons of struggling they lost their First Division place again in 1967 and in 1970 slipped into Division Three. In their first season there they reached the League Cup final and they emerged in 1972 to embark on an excellent run that took them back to Division One in 1975 with the League Cup thrown in for good measure.

They won the latter again in 1977, the First Division Championship in 1981 and the European Cup a year later. Relegation in 1987 was followed by promotion last season to celebrate Graham Taylor's first season at the helm and this was achieved despite failing to win any of their first seven games and only two of their last seven.

"Plenty of goal power in the Villa attack"

So far they have been a little inconsistent this season, but at their best they have won at Highbury and drawn at Old Trafford while at home they have beaten neighbours Birmingham 6-0 in the Simod Cup, Ipswich 6-2 in the Littlewoods Cup and Norwich 3-1 in the First Division.

Alan McInally, a £225,000 signing from Celtic last season, is currently leading scorer while **David Platt**, an opportunist signing from Crewe also last season got four of the six goals against Ipswich. **Tony Daley** is an exciting home-grown winger while in midfield, **Gordon Cowans** has returned this season from Bari, **Andy Gray** came from Crystal Palace last season and **Paul Birch** is an experienced home-grown product with an eye for goal.

In defence there is keen competition in the centre with **Allan Evans** in his 12th season, **Derek Mountfield** settling in well since his close-season move from Everton and **Martin Keown** in his third season since moving from Arsenal.

All are competing for the central places while on the flanks **Kevin Gage** is a former Wimbledon man on the opposite flank from newcomer **Chris Price** from Blackburn.

Home-grown **Bernard Gallacher** may also come into the reckoning while in goal **Nigel Spink**, who first starred in the European Cup win in 1982, has now played nearly 250 games and won one England cap.



Back Row (left to right): **Martin Keown**, **Mark Dillis**, **Alan McInally**, **Nigel Spink**, **Lee Butler**, **Gareth Williams**. Middle Row: **Bobby Downes** (Youth Team Coach), **David Hunt**, **David Platt**, **Warren Aspinall**, **Paul Birch**, **Andy Blair**, **Gordon Cowans**, **Neale Cooper**, **Derek Mountfield**, **Steve Sims**, **Jim Walker** (Physio). Front Row: **Tony Daley**, **Bernard Gallacher**, **Allan Evans**, **John Ward** (Assistant Manager), **Graham Taylor** (Manager), **Dave Richardson** (Assistant Manager), **Andy Gray**, **Chris Price**, **Stuart Gray**.

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FIRST TEAM

UPDATE

1988-89 SEASON

BARCLAYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
1988-89

HOME					AWAY					
P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	
16	3	5	1	13	11	5	1	1	12	7 30
15	3	2	1	12	7	5	2	2	20	10 28
16	4	2	2	11	7	3	3	2	8	6 26
15	2	4	1	8	5	4	2	2	12	6 24
15	5	1	1	15	7	1	5	2	12	13 24
16	4	3	2	16	10	2	3	2	10	12 24
15	4	2	3	11	7	2	3	1	7	5 23
14	3	3	1	12	6	3	1	3	7	8 22
16	1	5	1	7	9	3	5	1	13	11 22
16	3	4	1	11	6	1	5	2	8	8 21
15	3	2	2	7	7	2	4	2	7	8 21
16	5	1	2	14	10	1	1	6	8	19 20
16	4	0	3	10	6	1	4	4	7	10 19
16	3	3	2	12	9	1	4	3	13	16 19
16	2	4	1	8	6	2	2	5	8	11 18
16	3	3	3	17	17	1	3	3	9	11 18
16	1	4	4	10	17	2	2	3	7	11 15
15	2	2	4	7	13	1	2	4	8	13 13
16	1	3	4	9	15	2	1	5	5	14 13
16	2	2	4	7	10	1	2	5	4	18 13

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS (1988/89)

	League		Littlewoods Cup	
	Aps	Gls	Aps	Gls
Ian Allinson	1(3)	-	-	-
Kingsley Black	16	5	4	-
Tim Breacker	2(1)	-	(2)	-
Gary Cobb	-	-	-	-
Mal Donaghy	6	-	2	-
John Dreyer	8	-	3	-
Steve Foster	14	1	4	-
Ashley Grimes	4	-	-	-
Mick Harford	13	2	3	-
Richard Harvey	3	-	-	-
Ricky Hill	11	-	3(1)	1
Julian James	1	-	1	-
Marvin Johnson	10	-	2	-
Rob Johnson	14	-	3	1
Darron McDonough	1(1)	-	-	-
David Oldfield	12(4)	1	4	2
David Preece	6	-	1	-
Les Sealey	16	-	4	-
Roy Wegerle	9(4)	3	2	2
Steve Williams	10	-	3	-
Danny Wilson	16	3	4	1

Luton Town F-A Att Pos 1

Aug 27	Sheffield Wednesday	0-1	-	-	Sealey
Sept 3	Wimbledon	2-2†	8067	12	Sealey
Sept 10	Southampton	1-2	13,214	16	Sealey
Sept 17	Manchester United	0-2	11,010	18	Sealey
Sept 24	Everton	2-0	26,170	15	Sealey
Sept 27	Burnley (LC2)	1-1	6,282	15	Sealey
Oct 1	Nottingham Forest	0-0	15,340	17	Sealey
Oct 8	Liverpool	1-0	12,117	13	Sealey
Oct 11	Burnley (LC2)	1-0	14,031	13	Sealey
Oct 22	Middlesbrough	1-2	17,749	16	Sealey
Oct 25	Arsenal	1-1	10,548	16	Sealey
Oct 29	Queens Park Rangers	0-0	8,453	16	Sealey
Nov 2	Leeds United (LC3)	2-0	19,447	16	Sealey
Nov 5	Millwall	1-3	12,511	16	Sealey
Nov 12	Coventry City	0-1	12,631	16	Sealey
Nov 19	West Ham United	4-1	9,308	16	Sealey
Nov 26	Norwich City	2-2	13,541	15	Sealey
Nov 29	Manchester City (LC4)	3-1	10,778	15	Sealey
Dec 3	Newcastle United	0-0	8,338	16	Sealey
Dec 10	Derby County	1-0	15,228	15	Sealey
Dec 17	Aston Villa				
Dec 26	Tottenham Hotspur (11.30 am)				
Dec 31	Wimbledon				
Jan 2	Southampton (3 pm)				
Jan 7	Millwall (FAC3)				
Jan 14	Charlton Athletic				
Jan 18	Southampton (LC5)				
Jan 21	Everton				
Jan 28	FA Cup 4th Round				
Feb 4	Nottingham Forest				
Feb 11	Liverpool				
Feb 18	Middlesbrough (FAC5)				
Feb 25	Arsenal				
Mar 4	Queens Park Rangers				
Mar 11	Millwall				
Mar 18	Sheffield Wednesday (FAC6)				
Mar 25	Manchester United				
Mar 27	Tottenham Hotspur				
Apr 1	Aston Villa				
Apr 8	Charlton Athletic				
Apr 15	Coventry City (FACs/f)				
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

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Breacker	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	(Wegerle)	Harford	Oldfield	Black	RJ/IA
R. Johnson	Grimes	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	Preece	Harford	Oldfield	Black ¹	JD/RW
R. Johnson	Grimes	Williams	Foster ¹	Donaghy	Wilson	Oldfield	Harford	(Preece)	Black	TB/RW
R. Johnson	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	(Oldfield)	Harford	Hill	Black	[RW]/TB
R. Johnson	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	Oldfield ¹	Harford	Hill	Black ¹	TB/IA
(R. Johnson)	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	Oldfield	Harford	Hill	Black	[TB]/IA
R. Johnson	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	Oldfield	(Harford)	Hill	Black	[IA]/TB
R. Johnson	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	(Oldfield)	Harford ¹	Hill	Black	[RW]/TB
(R. Johnson)	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	Donaghy	Wilson	Oldfield	Harford	Hill ¹	Black	[TB]/IA
(R. Johnson)	Dreyer	(McDonough)	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson ^{1P}	Oldfield	Harford	Hill	Black	[TB]/[RW]
R. Johnson	Breacker	(McDonough)	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	Wegerle	Harford	Hill	Black ¹	[DO]/IA
R. Johnson	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	(Allinson)	Wegerle	Hill	Black	[DO]/RH
J. James	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson ¹	Oldfield ¹	Wegerle	Hill	Black	IA/AG
(J. James)	Dreyer	Williams	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson ¹	Wegerle	Oldfield	Hill	Black	[RJ]/AG
R. Johnson	Grimes	(Williams)	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	Wegerle	Harford	Hill	Black	[DO]/JJ
R. Johnson	Grimes	Preece	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson ¹	Wegerle ¹	Harford	Oldfield	Black ²	RH/IS
R. Johnson	Harvey	Preece	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	Wegerle ²	Harford	Oldfield	Black	JD/IA
R. Johnson	Harvey	Preece	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	Wegerle ²	(Harford)	Oldfield ¹	Black	[RH]/JD
R. Johnson	Harvey	Preece	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	Wegerle	(Oldfield)	Hill	Black	[IA]/JJ
R. Johnson	Harvey	Preece	Foster	M. Johnson	Wilson	(Wegerle)	Harford ¹	Hill	Black	[DO]/JD



HELPING THE GAME

The Football Trust receives £9 million annually from the Spelling 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 Otham Athletic, transport improvements at Sheffield Wednesday to storm damage at 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.

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.

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

() indicates substitute used Home fixtures in **Bold** Scorer's name in **Bold** P = Penalty † denotes own goal

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Voucher No. 10

VAUXHALL TEAM CHECK.

Luton Town

- 1 Les Sealey
 - 2 Rob Johnson
 - 3 Richard Harvey
 - 4 David Preece
 - 5 Steve Foster
 - 6 Marvin Johnson
 - 7 Danny Wilson
 - 8 Roy Wegerle
 - 9 Mick Harford
 - 10 Ricky Hill
 - 11 Kingsley Black
- Subs

Aston Villa


- 1 Nigel Spink
 - 2 Chris Price
 - 3 Stuart Gray
 - 4 Kevin Gage
 - 5 Allan Evans
 - 6 Martin Kearn
 - 7 Andy Gray
 - 8 David Platt
 - 9 Alan McInally
 - 10 Gordon Cowans
 - 11 Tony Daley
- Subs

Referee: A. GUNN (South Chailey, Sussex) Linesmen: M.D. DEARING (Yellow Flag) C.J. PROUD (Red Trim)

ONE SUSPENSION YOU'LL APPRECIATE.



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