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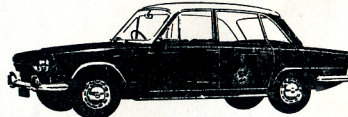
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THIS SPACE TO LET



No. 1

17th August, 1968

Here we are again

Yes, here we are again. New programme, some new faces, some new developments, but the same old Holker Street. The new programme is currently our immediate concern, for some of us have been putting in a lot of thought as to how we might produce something for supporters which was more "with it" than the old, well-tried effort with its blue and white cover.

It has not been easy for many of our really brightest ideas perished on the rocks of economic facts. Some of our less bright but frankly interesting ideas proved to be rather impracticable. With some compromise, a lot of help, any many friends here and there we have devised "OUTLOOK." We aim to try and make it "newsy and viewsy" and we hope that its new cover and rather different presentation of information will make it something sought after by those who come to our games.

We chose the title rather deliberately because we want to be looking outwards rather than inwards and, from game to game, we want to be able to tell you of what is going on rather than what has happened. That may not always be possible, but please bear with us.

Meanwhile, here's to a jolly good season. Welcome back to Holker Street.

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Today's Game

LUTON TOWN

Soccer's close season seems to get shorter and shorter. There has hardly been time to digest all the facts of last year's near miss and cram in a summer holiday—and yet here we are again off on another campaign.

So welcome to Holker Street for the start of what we must hope will be another "promotion" term—and on the strength of last Saturday's 2-3 win at Barnsley I don't see why it shouldn't.

All the signs were there to suggest that last season's good form hasn't deserted the lads—but we should know even more about our long term chances by 4.40 p.m., for today's visitors, Luton Town, ran away with the Fourth Division last season and are being freely tipped to carry on the good work and shoot through to the Second at first attempt.

The Kenilworth Road side will be aiming to live up to those expectations. They will be out to get the club back in the high sphere it use to know for only eight years ago they were beaten FA Cup Finalists—but the next term they were relegated and the slide took them all the way down to Division IV.

Their 4-0 home win over Oldham last Saturday shows they mean business—but I can see their romp being checked today. I believe Barrow have more than enough ability and confidence in themselves to open their home programme with a win.

Obviously it won't be easy and it is difficult to imagine that Barrow will repeat the 3-0 hammering they handed out when Luton last visited these parts. That was in November 1966 and the goals came from Tony Field, who netted in the sixth and the eighth minutes, and Jim Mulholland, who slotted home a 60th minute penalty. Incidentally that win pushed Barrow into the top four.

Last season Luton were the first club to clinch a League honour; picked up more points than any other British League team; and won more games than any other Football League side. That all adds up to an impressive record but reputations mean nothing to the Barrow lads—as they showed by inflicting Barnsley's first home defeat for 16 months—and that's why I can see them putting Allan Brown's boys in their place today.



With method football tending to put the accent on preventing goals rather than scoring them, a man with a flair for finding the back of the net is a rare commodity—and that's why Luton possessed the hottest piece of property in the Fourth Division last season.

The man who was handed that tag, and deserved it too, was Bruce Rioch and he finished the term with 27 goals in all which set a problem for his boss, Allan Brown.

The former Scottish international had the big clubs knocking at his door making inquiries about the 22-year-old who had suddenly shot to prominence. Bids were rejected but the interest hasn't gone and already Rioch is being talked about as being in the £70,000 class.

He likes to lurk deep to look for the ball but when in possession he can sweep forward quickly and round off his runs with a sizzling shot that has had some people thinking he is from the Bobby Charlton mould.

His mid-field colleague in the Luton 4-2-4 set-up is Alan Slough, while the defensive line

is made up of Max Dougan, Terry Branston, Freddie Jardine and John Moore.

Dougan will be no stranger to Bw's ex-Leicester contingent for he was signed from the Filbert Street club about 20 months ago—the first signing by Brown for Luton.

Branston is the club skipper and has been the key player in seeing that Brown's tactics are turned into successful results. The cover has been built round him and the solidarity of the line instilled extra confidence into former Peterborough and Sheffield Wednesday 'keeper Tony Read.

Luton have paid out a lot for forwards in the close season and their "big" buy was when £20,000 was splashed out for inside forward Brian Lewis from Coventry. A further £9,000 went to Oldham for leader Laurie Sheffield and more cash went to Plymouth Argyle for left winger Mike Harrison who picked up an Under-23 cap when with Blackburn.

Right winger Graham French has been to Barrow before and on previous encounters he has shown he can be a real handful to mark and a match winner on his day.

Other contenders for forward places are Keith Allen and Ian Buxton. Derbyshire county cricketer Buxton hit 13 goals last term, one fewer than Allen, a strong runner and a glutton for work who joined Luton in what many of their followers feel was one of the club's smartest ever transfer moves for they got him and a fee from Stockport in exchange for Derek Kevan.

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CHATTER BOX

You will know that Mr. W. D. Opher, C.B.E., former joint managing director of Vickers Ltd., has retired from the service of that company and has relinquished the Presidency of both Barrow football clubs. Well, we decided that we could not let a man who has given us a lot of aid behind the scenes go out on a "free transfer." He has been made a Life Past-President. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Our new President is Mr. Leonard Redshaw, Chairman of Vickers Shipbuilding Group and assistant managing director of Vickers Ltd. More important from our point of view, he is a regular supporter of the club. Both he and Mrs. Redshaw see every game they can. We are delighted that he has accepted office, though we must confess to feeling that, as well as Presidential help we may be getting "Presidential opinions" from time to time.

A number of people have asked us "What- ever happened to 'Zigger'?" A casualty, alas, though we had nothing to do with the untimely end. The blunt truth is that although we had been complimented on the standard of our efforts when it came to the "copy" for the magazine, the publishers were finally unable to honour their commitment to us. "Zigger" succumbed, not to high blood pressure, but to economic pressure.

We are left to mourn both the magazine and some interesting "copy" which we cannot retrieve, including a message from our new President.

The new training pitch has been completed, but the number of stones turned up in levelling operations created quite a problem and, in fact, restricted use after players reported for training. You will have read elsewhere that we called on a volunteer effort to get the pitch into something like shape.

Talking about pitches reminds us that we owe Jim Kendall a hearty vote of thanks for all the effort he put into getting the Holker Street playing area into good condition. There was a time when some of us rather despaired, but Jim's hard work and real concern worked wonders. Repay him by NOT walking on or across the playing area after games PLEASE.

We are not mentioning names, but we would not be surprised if one or two clubs did not follow up their "looking" at Holker Street with some "talking" about players. If they do, then they might find that we are a little choosy on the question of price.

Colin Appleton has made us no promises about the coming season, but he has told us enough to suggest that he is not expecting it to be a disappointment. "We aim to improve things here and tighten them up there," was the way he put it to us in conversation. Fair enough. The season has only just begun.

CHATTER BOX—continued

We had a word with Colin Appleton on the eve of the new season and asked him about policies and things like that. The policy is the same... attractive football and a place among the League leaders at the end of the trail. We agree with him that 50 points from a first season in fresh company is by no means a bad record. That is not to say that it is not going to be improved upon.

"I've learned a lot" is Colin's summary of his first season in management. He does not look upon himself as a manager but as a "player with additional responsibilities". Now his players know him and he knows the players. "Whatever the public might think they are players with ability" was his comment. "I would like to see the 11,000 football followers which I believe we have in this area 'rooting' for them at every game. I'm not just thinking in terms of money; I'm thinking in terms of encouragement. If we get to the Second Division it would be nice to think that we have had all those people in at the start of our success and not just coming when we have succeeded."

It would indeed. We base the figure of 11,000 on the attendance recorded for the Leicester City Cup game after having done our own non-computerised calculations about how many came from Leicester and how many came once just because of the attraction of a First Division side and Barrow's proved ability to give "giants" a shock. We would be satisfied if we had 9,000 'rooting' for us at home matches and we are with the manager in his belief that the greater the support the more encouragement there is for a team to give of its best.

Thank you to all who took part in our first "Operation Stone Pick" on the new practice pitch. Surprising how many stones were found and removed... and how many more are there.

We renew our appeal to supporters at all home games. Please, please, P-L-E-A-S-E do not walk over the playing pitch. Keeping it in good order has its problems, and walking over it as a "short cut" does not help.

Another great day in the Isle of Man on 8th August, blessed by fine weather. There was enough wind to let one know that one was "on the briny". The excursion was a "sell-out".

F.A. Diaries now available, price 5s. 6d. Direct applications please to The Football Association, 22 Lancaster Gate, LONDON, W.2.

Sir Matthew Busby, Manchester United's manager, writing in the first issue of the "Football League Review", explains that the lack of strength of club football in depth in most European countries is one of the reasons why so little is heard these days about a European League.

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Personality Page

The face you see on the right is that of GEORGE McLEAN, native of Paisley and footballer since 1956. He began with Glasgow Rangers and joined us in the close season. One or two raised eyebrows, maybe, when Colin Appleton signed the man who was given a free transfer by Workington Reds, but from what we have seen of George we are sure that our player manager knew what he was doing. He generally does.

After about four years on Rangers' playing staff, George came South to Norwich. He had two seasons there before being transferred to Grimsby Town, and in Grimsby he stayed for 4½ years. Then he moved still further South to spend two seasons with Exeter. After that, a long trek Northwards to play for Workington Reds. From Reds, of course, he came to Holker Street and we hope that his height and style will make him a familiar and popular figure among us.

George is married and has one son. That son is already a big lad and we believe that he follows in father's footsteps in having an interest in football. Off the football field McLean senior has one passion, and, being a Scot, it is not surprising that that is golf. He plays off a seven handicap.



GEORGE McLEAN

Photo courtesy of Fred Strike (Furness Photo Press) Barrow.

We asked him if he liked this part of the world. "Yes," he said, with a wry smile, "It's near home." Who was it told us that Scots never return to their ian land?

Our new forward stands 6 ft. 0½ inch and weighs 12 st. 8 lbs. He scored 18 goals for Workington Reds last season. May he score that total and more for Barrow this. Welcome, George, and good luck.

Next issue: HOWARD RILEY.

THIS SPACE TO LET

BRUCCIANI'S CAFES

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The man
in
charge



Referee for today's game is Mr. Harold Williams of Sheffield. Married with two children, he is 40 years of age and began his career as a football referee in 1954. Two years later he was placed on the Midland League "Line", and, in 1957, his name was on the North Regional League "Line" list.

In 1965 he was promoted to the Football League "Line" and in 1966 his name was entered in the Football League Referees' List.

Mr. Williams was appointed one of the Linesmen for the European Cup Winners' Cup game between BAYERN and APINATHAIKOS (Greece) at Munich in September 1967.

He is Chairman of the Sheffield Referees' Association.



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