

READING

FOOTBALL CLUB - OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 9⁰
(INCORPORATING FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIV. III

WEDNESDAY, 12th MARCH, 1969

LUTON TOWN



SEASON 1968/69



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12 March, 1969

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Elm Park Viewpoint

THE inconsistency which has kept Reading in the Third Division for so long has been clearly illustrated in the last three games. The last time we were at home we were in brilliant form, beating Stockport 4—2. This was our first serious try at a more orthodox 2-3-5 system after years of 4-2-4, and it was not only the result, but the high standard of the general performance that night which had everyone supremely optimistic about the future.

It took just four days for any illusions to be shattered. We went to Rotherham in mid-week and played as badly as we had done at any time in the season. We were beaten 4—1, and the score told no lies about the pattern of play.

On Saturday we visited Northampton, and a top priority was that the defence should play better. But there was no sign of improvement, and by half-time we trailed 3—1.

It looked then as though we were heading for absolute disaster, but more determination and tactical alterations saw us dominate the second half so completely that it might well have been us two goals in front by the final whistle.

We pulled back one goal, to make it 3—2, and piled on so much pressure that an equaliser looked certain. Unfortunately the Northampton goalkeeper chose this afternoon for what was later described as the best display of his career.

Showing amazing handling ability and agility, the man concerned, Roger Barron, blocked everything we could muster, and eventually Northampton broke out to wrap it up at 4—2.

So maybe we were a little unlucky to lose—that is if a side which concedes four goals can be called unlucky. There is no excuse for any side conceding the number of goals we have been recently—ten in the last three games. It is especially distressing since the attack is scoring quite freely—12 in the last five games. Let's hope we can rectify the situation tonight.

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LUTON TOWN F.C.

ANYONE who believes in "bogy" teams will be shuddering at the prospect of our having to face Luton Town tonight. Over the years we had so little luck when playing against Luton that the case for us having some sort of jinx on us when we meet them is a very strong one.

In recent years we have lost to Luton invariably by the odd goal, and invariably under circumstances where we could or should have won easily.

Things went true to form when we visited Kenilworth Road a few weeks ago. We had Dick Spiers sent off very harshly and were prevented from drawing 2-2 by a fluke goal-line save in the last minute.

It is fair to say that on the run of play Luton probably just deserved to win—but we could so easily have drawn, and possibly would have done against another side!

Since they were last here three or four seasons ago Luton have had a spell of rebuilding in Division Four, bouncing up last season with a side full of talent.

Thanks mainly to an impregnable home record Luton have kept up their reputation in the Third Division, and, now that they have started playing better away from home, they are up among the leaders.

While Luton make their return here after a few years absence, the same applies to their new manager Alec Stock. Mr. Stock of course, lifted Queen's Park Rangers from Third to First Division before parting company with them.

The side he inherited is a talented one—and none more talented than Scottish goalkeeper Sandie Davie. In front of him Max Dougan and Jack Bannister form a solid full-back pair and half-backs Alan Slough, Terry Branston and John Moore take some getting past.

Particularly at home the Luton attack has been very impressive. Despite the absence of star man Bruce Rioch through injury they are still a unit to be reckoned with, especially ex-Coventry and Pompey man Brian Lewis and winger Graham French.

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- 4 Ernie Yard
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- 7 John Docherty
- 8 John Sainty
- 9 Peter Silvester
- 10 John Collins
- 11 George Harris
- 12

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LUTON TOWN

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- 1 Sandie Davie
- 2 Max Dougan
- 3 Jack Bannister
- 4 Billy McDerment
- 5 Alan Slough
- 6 John Moore
- 7 Graham French
- 8 Brian Lewis
- 9 Laurie Sheffield
- 10 Keith Allen
- 11 Freddie Jardine
- 12 John Ryan

● NEXT HOME MATCH
FRIDAY Next, 14th MARCH, 1969

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Reading v. Plymouth Argyle

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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How they stand . . .

FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION III

Up to and including Monday, 10th March

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Swindon	34	20	7	7	53	27	47
Watford	32	18	9	5	50	19	45
Luton	31	18	4	9	47	27	40
Bournemouth	32	17	5	10	52	31	39
Plymouth	34	15	9	10	39	33	39
Stockport	32	13	11	8	54	46	37
Torquay	32	15	6	11	42	30	36
Tranmere	33	15	5	13	46	47	35
Brighton	36	12	10	14	56	51	34
Northampton	33	12	10	11	41	37	34
READING	31	12	8	11	50	44	32
Barnsley	32	11	9	12	42	47	31
Rotherham	33	11	9	13	39	38	31
Walsall	33	10	11	12	34	33	31
Orient	31	9	11	11	36	43	29
Barrow	31	11	6	14	40	53	28
Bristol Rovers	31	11	6	14	46	51	28
Southport	29	11	5	13	46	48	27
Mansfield	29	9	9	11	37	36	27
Gillingham	33	9	9	15	42	53	27
Crewe	31	10	6	15	38	53	26
Hartlepool	34	6	13	15	29	64	25
Oldham	34	8	7	19	33	61	23
Shrewsbury	30	7	7	16	25	44	21

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Up to and including Monday, 10th March.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Fulham	19	16	1	2	66	24	33
Arsenal	16	12	4	0	49	11	28
Crystal Palace	20	13	2	5	36	24	28
Tottenham	18	12	3	3	48	23	27
West Ham	18	7	9	2	30	20	23
Ipswich	17	9	4	4	46	27	22
Q.P.R.	18	8	5	5	37	33	21
Gillingham	17	7	5	5	18	19	19
Birmingham	20	7	4	9	35	29	18
Bristol Rovers	19	8	2	9	32	41	18
Southampton	17	8	1	8	25	14	17
Norwich	16	5	7	4	35	25	17
Walsall	16	7	3	6	30	24	17
Bristol City	16	8	1	7	33	27	17
Cardiff	18	7	3	8	21	28	17
Plymouth	19	6	4	9	17	27	16
Chelsea	18	6	3	9	30	34	15
Leicester	16	5	4	7	23	29	14
Swansea	17	4	6	7	25	36	14
Oxford	16	5	3	8	19	35	13
Bournemouth	17	3	6	8	20	32	12
Peterborough	17	2	8	7	19	31	12
Northampton	18	4	2	12	21	42	10
READING	20	4	2	14	21	56	10
Luton	16	2	6	8	14	40	10
Swindon	17	3	2	12	13	32	8

Combination Fixtures

Oct. 2—Bournemouth	H	3	0
.. 12—West Ham	A	1	7
.. 23—Peterborough	H	1	1
.. 26—Walsall	A	0	5
.. 30—Plymouth	H	0	2
Nov. 9—Chelsea	A	0	2
.. 16—Queens Park Rangers	A	0	5
.. 23—Norwich	A	0	5
.. 27—Bristol Rovers	H	3	0
Dec. 4—Ipswich	H	3	4
.. 11—Northampton	H	2	2
.. 21—Tottenham	A	1	4
Jan. 1—Leicester	H	1	P
.. 15—Oxford	A	1	2
.. 22—Crystal Palace	H	4	2
Feb. 1—Birmingham	A	0	4
.. 5—Fulham	A	0	2
.. 12—Swindon	H	1	0
.. 26—Swansea	H	1	2
Mar. 5—Bristol City	H	0	6
.. 8—Gillingham	A	0	1
.. 19—Southampton	A		
.. 26—Luton	H		
April 9—Arsenal	H		
.. 16—Cardiff	A		

GOALSCORERS TO DATE

FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Collins 15; Silvester 11; Harris 8; Saintry 7; Allen 2; Meldrum 2; Yard 2; Docherty 2; Thornhill 1; Chapman 1; Own goal 1.

F.A. CUP

Henderson 1; Harris 1; Silvester 1.

COMBINATION LEAGUE

Docherty 3; Saintry 3; Yard 2; Hitchcock 2; Brill 2; Meldrum 2; Allen 1; Henderson 1; Simmonds 1; Silvester 1; Quinn 1; Harris 1; Hopkins 1.

COMBINATION LEAGUE CUP

Silvester 3; Docherty 2; Hitchcock 1; Yard 1; Maciak 1.

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Supporters Club Notes

Chairman: Mr. J. H. Brooks
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Habbitts
 Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. C. Challice

Good Evening All,

Welcome tonight to Luton and their supporters. According to league positions, this should prove a good game. Let's hope the lads can pull out the style and football played in the home game against Stockport. Although our promotion hopes seem lost, we appeal for your continued support.

Our Supporters Club still work hard endeavouring to keep Reading on the map in soccer circles. Our new Money Raising Schemes are going extremely well. We still need more agents in an endeavour to increase prize money. All assistance and help given at our Supporters' Club Offices and don't forget the Blue Streaks Office Tilehurst Road, have a variety of things for sale.

Keep the support and enthusiasm going.

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League Fixtures 1968-69

				Gate
Aug. 10—Stockport	A	2	2	7,381
" 14—Colchester (LC 1)	A	0	2	3,824
" 16—Northampton	H	1	0	7,347
" 24—Plymouth	A	1	3	8,725
" 27—Swindon	A	0	0	16,765
" 30—Hartlepoons	H	7	0	8,793
Sept. 7—Walsall	A	2	2	6,945
" 13—Watford	H	0	1	11,926
" 18—Crewe	A	2	1	6,509
" 21—Shrewsbury	A	3	3	5,769
" 27—Bristol Rovers	H	2	1	10,218
Oct. 4—Gillingham	H	3	2	10,477
" 9—Swindon	H	0	1	17,453
" 11—Tranmere	A	1	2	7,136
" 18—Brighton	H	1	0	7,847
" 26—Barnsley	A	0	1	9,029
Nov. 2—Mansfield	H	2	1	5,522
" 6—Orient	H	0	1	5,393
" 8—Southport	A	1	1	4,409
" 16—Plymouth (FAC1)	H	1	0	7,149
" 23—Torquay	A	0	1	7,180
" 30—Oldham	H	4	1	4,361
Dec. 7—Torquay (FAC2)	H	0	2	8,274
" 14—Tranmere	H	2	0	3,250
" 20—Brighton	A	0	2	6,868
" 26—Gillingham	A	2	2	4,692
Jan. 4—Newcastle (FAC3)	A	0	4	41,210
" 11—Mansfield	A	1	1	6,935
" 18—Southport	H	1	0	4,981
" 25—Orient	A	2	4	4,400
" 29—Barnsley	H	3	2	4,613
Feb. 1—Luton	A	1	2	11,871
" 18—Oldham	A	1	1	2,299
" 22—Barrow	H	P		
" 28—Stockport	H	4	2	5,218
Mar. 4—Rotherham	A	1	4	7,665
" 8—Northampton	A	2	4	6,072
" 12—Luton	H			
" 14—Plymouth	H			
" 17—Barrow	A			
" 22—Hartlepoons	A			
" 24—Rotherham	H			
" 28—Walsall	H			
" 31—Torquay	H			
April 4—Bournemouth	A			
" 5—Bristol Rovers	A			
" 7—Crewe	H			
" 11—Shrewsbury	H			
" 16—Bournemouth	H			
" 19—Watford	A			
" 26—F.A. Cup Final				

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