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Saturday, September 27

versus

LUTON TOWN

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COVER: Mike Bickle rises skywards above Fulham defender Stan Horne to get his head to the ball at Craven Cottage on Saturday. Trevor Shepherd and Stephen Davey also lurk on the scene.

SPOTLIGHTING LUTON TOWN by TONY PULLEIN

Luton have knocked a few records flying in recent years. Trouble is, they were all the wrong sort-dropping from the First to Fourth Division, etc. But now they are balancing things up. After gaining promotion from the Fourth Division in 1968, they narrowly missed further upgrading last season. At the moment they are firm favourites to regain the Second Division place forfeited in 1963.

The Hatters are the only unbeaten side in Third Division games and, while they have dropped a couple of surprising points at Kenilworth Road, they have failed to win only one of their away League games-that was a tough affair at Bradford City where they did exceptionally well to come away with a 1-1 draw.

They won 1-0 at Bournemouth, 2-0 at Gillingham, and 3-0 at Southport. In the League Cup they drew 1-1 at Peterborough (winning the home replay 5-2) and won 1-0 at Second Division Millwall, after being held 2-2 in the first meeting. They were due at Sheffield United for a thirdround game this week.

Last Saturday Luton dropped their second home point — the first went in a 1-1 draw with Halifax—when, after twice being in arrears, they were held 2-2 by lowly Shrewsbury Town. Alan Slough had the unusual experience of scoring for both sides in that match—the only man to do so in a Football League game so far this season.

With his side now perching happily on top of the table, manager Alec Stock can laugh at those critics who slated him for selling Bruce Rioch to Aston Villa for £100,000 during the summer. Rioch had been their chief goal-getter for three seasons but his absence certainly hasn't been noticed, for Luton now have two men in the top of the Third Division goals chart, and no fewer than 11 players have found the target for themmore than any other Third Division club.

Shrewd Stock pulled off a real scoop in that Rioch deal. He lost one hot-shot but, in his place, he bought three new strikers — Malcolm MacDonald (from Fulham), John Collins (Reading) and Matt Tees (Charlton)-plus a brilliant young centre-half-Chris Nicholl from Halifaxand still had a few bob to spare from that £100,000!

Result: Luton have scored more, and conceded fewer, goals than at a comparable stage last season. Their scoring list, excluding their midweek League Cup-tie, is: MacDonald 8, Allen 5, Collins 4, French 2, Lewis 2, Sheffield 2, Branston

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Spotlighting Luton Town (continued)

1, Keen 1, Nichol 1, Slough 1, Tees 1, opponents 1.

The Hatters haven't got a very impressive past record at Home Park, winning only three times in 23 visits in the League. The situation at the moment is:—

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
Home	 23	15	5	3	50	23	35
Away	 23	4	9	10	31	42	17
	46	19	14	13	81	65	52

Their last trip here was on October 19th last:—

ARGYLE (2) 2 LUTON (0) 0 Burnside, Piper 12,659

Argyle: Dunne; Reeves, Neale; Saxton, Molyneux, Piper; Davey, Bickle, Trainor, Burnside, Maher.

Luton: Taylor; McDerment, Jardine (Brown); Allen, Branston, Slough; Buxton,

Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Whittaker.

When Luton's managerial seat became vacant last season they made a bold move in appointing Alec Stock, one of the most experienced bosses in the game. He was player-manager of the fabulous Yeovil side which got to the fifth round of the F.A. Cup in 1949; he managed Third Division Queen's Park Rangers to win a Wembley Cup final success, and later led the same side from the Third to the First Division in successive seasons.

The Luton club was formed in 1885, playing friendly matches until being accepted by the Southern League nine years later. They maintained a good position, gathering sufficient support to gain admittance to the Second Division

of the Football League in 1897.

Things didn't go so well, though. Serious financial problems arose and, when they finished second from bottom in 1900 they didn't bother to apply for reelection. So it was back to the Southern League where they remained until the first division was taken over en bloc to form the Third Division (South) of the

Football League in 1920.

They had to wait until 1937 before they regained Second Division status, which they held until a fantastic finish to the 1954/55 campaign saw them scrape into the First Division on goal-average. Contrary to most people's expectations, Luton made a good impression in the highest sphere, and by 1959 they were good enough to earn them elves a Wembley visit to meet Nottingham Forest in the F.A. Cup final. Unfortunately, they struck a complete off-day and, though Forest played most of the game with only 10 men, Luton were still defeated by two goals to one.

Luton's fortunes tock a dramatic turn from that day at Wembley. Twelve menths later they were relegated to the Second Division, in 1963 they sank into Division Three, and two years later—disaster, disaster!—they plumetted into the

Fourth Division.

Spirits were so low that no one believed the club could ever pick itself off the ground. But they put their backs to the wall, former manager Allan Brown picked up the fragments and restored some semblance of order about the team. In 1968 they were walk-away champions of the Fourth Division. Oozing with confidence they strode like a Collossus in the Third, only narrowly missing promotion last season.

It is early days yet, it is true, but it seems it is going to take a mighty good side to shift this Luton team from the top two places. Given luck, and freedom from injuries, Luton may well this season complete the second stage in their recovery programme which they hope will eventually take them back to the

First Division.

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The membership fee is £25 which also includes the cost of a centre stand season ticket.

Supporters who have already purchased centre stand tickets can join by paying the difference.

Club secretary Graham Little points out that applications for membership must be proposed and seconded by members and asks that all enquiries be made to him.

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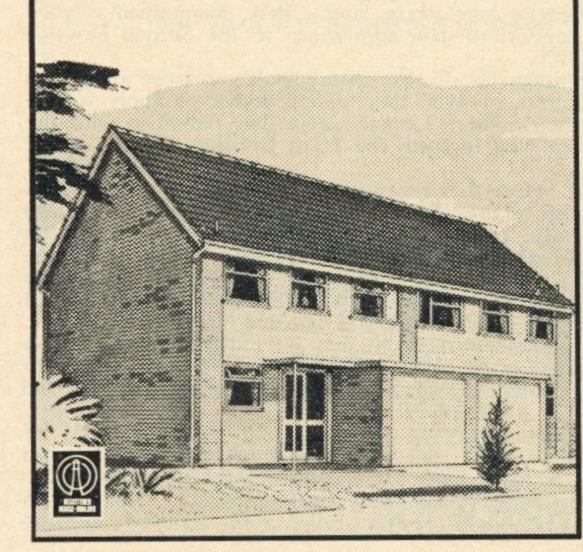
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It's my view

by Billy Bingham

OUR WINNING sequence was bought to a temporary halt at Fulham on Saturday, although on the whole we felt we deserved a draw at least.

Our attacking play was exciting to watch, with our two full backs giving extra support on the overlap. However, moral victories don't get you points and we have to face the harsh fact that we conceded four goals.

It's this happy balance between attack and defence that we have still to find. This game was attractive for spectators, as Fulham played an open type of game, allowing our team to do the same.

The game was a severe trial for young Colin Sullivan on how to deal with a winger of Jimmy Conway's type. Colin got a little bit of a chasing, but as the game progressed, he was getting a better grip of the winger.

This was an experience no amount of coaching in the world can replace. Don Hutchins gave another bright display on the left wing. I feel that Don is now beginning to find his feet in the first team and his change of pace will cause a number of full backs trouble this season.

Today we do battle with my old club Luton Town, who are riding high at the head of the Third Division table. Luton's revival was stimulated by my old colleague Allan Brown, now at Torquay, and is now being sustained by Alec Stock.

How football fortunes fluctuate. Luton are now in the ascendancy while North-ampton, not so long ago, were looking down from a First Division perch at Luton in the Fourth Division, and are now at the bottom of the Fourth Division looking up.

We are looking forward to a tremendous match today and two points will give us great satisfaction.

Finally, congratulations to our young apprentice Paul Chapman, who is becoming a fully-fledged professional. The usual initiation ceremony will, I'm sure, be carried out, by the rest of the player's! Never mind, Paul, it's happened to us all!

Our thanks - and yours

A COLLECTION will be made today for the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

The Brigade provide an invaluable service at all Argyle matches, and this is an opportunity for you to share our gratitude for all their voluntary help. Please give generously.

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Harley Lawer Independent's soccer columnist talks to . . .

. Norman Piper

THE now-familiar name of Norman Piper has figured on Argyle's much-changed team sheets for so long that it's easy to forget that he is still only 21.

Yes, 21 — and still learning. He remains a starlet with a big future — a fact that it's even more difficult to believe after glancing at the foot of this page and finding that he is fast approaching his 200th game for the club.

It seems like only yesterday that Piper trotted out on a wintry afternoon at Portman Road, Ipswich, to make his League debut. But it was way back in January, 1965, and he was just 17 then.

Football has been good to Piper in the intervening years. Indeed, no local discovery since the war has managed to attract so much international attention. He was a regular in the English youth side, and has twice been called up for trips to other countries as a member of F.A. touring parties.

His second trip last summer was an unforgettable experience. It took him right across the world and brought him invaluable experience. He played in six of the 11 matches on tour, and scored seven goals.

His selection certainly dispelled the theory that youngsters in this part of the country are too far away from the big centres to have their talents recognised.

"I don't see it that way at all," says Piper. "I admit that I was once worried about being left out in the cold. Then, out of the blue, came a letter from Sir Alf Ramsey's office breaking the news of my selection.

"I soon found that anything was possible after all. It gave me encouragement to battle on for more honours, and then came notification of my selection for the second tour.

Chances like this make you feel grateful to be in football. I thoroughly enjoyed the travel part of it, too, and am

Career Record

Argyle 182 League appearances

31 goals



Norman Piper with his fiancee, Miss Cheryl Wallace, a hairdresser, who lives in Plymouth

naturally keeping my fingers crossed for the next time."

All this may never have happened if it had not been for that historic freeze-up in 1963 when almost everywhere football came to a standstill. But for the freeze-up Piper may never have got the chance to break into the Second Division.

For conditions were so bad that he spent three months walking round St. Andrew's waiting for a promised trial with Birmingham City. So back he went to his home in North Tawton, North Devon, to resume playing in local football with Hatherleigh.

Eventually reports of Piper's promise reached Home Park, and off went talentspotter Ellis Stuttard to sign him up. Piper had only been to see Argyle once before, but he didn't need to think twice about trying his luck with them.

After appearing in a variety of roles, including a 10-match spell at left-back, Piper finally found his niche—foraging in mid-field and surging forward on those impressive runs.

His greatest strength—as far as Manager Billy Bingham is concerned — is his ability to keep defenders occupied by his persistent chasing all over the field.

It is a quality in his play that Manager Bingham reckons is often greatly under-estimated.



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Meet the Referee

HANDLING this afternoon's game is Mr. Tom Reynolds from Swansea.

Mr Reynolds started his refereeing career in local league soccer in Bristol before moving into Wales for business reasons.

He officiated in local leagues in Cardiff and Swansea before winning promotion to the Welsh League and eventually the Combination and Football League lists.

Mr. Reynolds, who is married, is a building contractor and keeps fit playing squash and tennis. He is also keen on water ski-ing and is a member of the Round Table.

Argyle Appearances and Goals

			G.	R.B.	L.B.	R.H.	C.H.	L.H.	O.R.	ı.R.	r.r.	1:	O.L.	S.
Dunne			9		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		_
Reeves			_	7	_	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	-
Neale			-	2	-	-	_	_	_	-	-	-	-	-
Burgess			_	_	2	1	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-
Molyneux			-	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	_	-	-
Hore			-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shepherd			_			-	-	-	3	1	12	-	_	3
Davey			T	-					4	7		-	_	1
Piper					NAME OF			STATE OF THE PARTY OF	7	'	4	=		1
Burnside Reynolds								2			7	7		
Maher			TO PAGE					_			HELL	'		1
Sullivan					7				163					i
Foster				_		4				_				
Bickle			_		_	_	_	_	_	_	1	2	3	_
Tedesco			_	_	_	-	_	_	_	1	2	_	_	2
Hutchins			_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_		_	5	_
Lean			-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-
TOTALS			9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	P. 9)	W 4	D	. 1	L. 4	F	. 12	A.	12	Pts.	9		
- 1	D.		2 0	1.1	2 0								A Company of	lab.

Goalscorers: Bickle 3, Reynolds 2, Piper 2, Shepherd 1, Tedesco 1, Molyneux 1, Sullivan C. 1, Own goal 1. Total: 12

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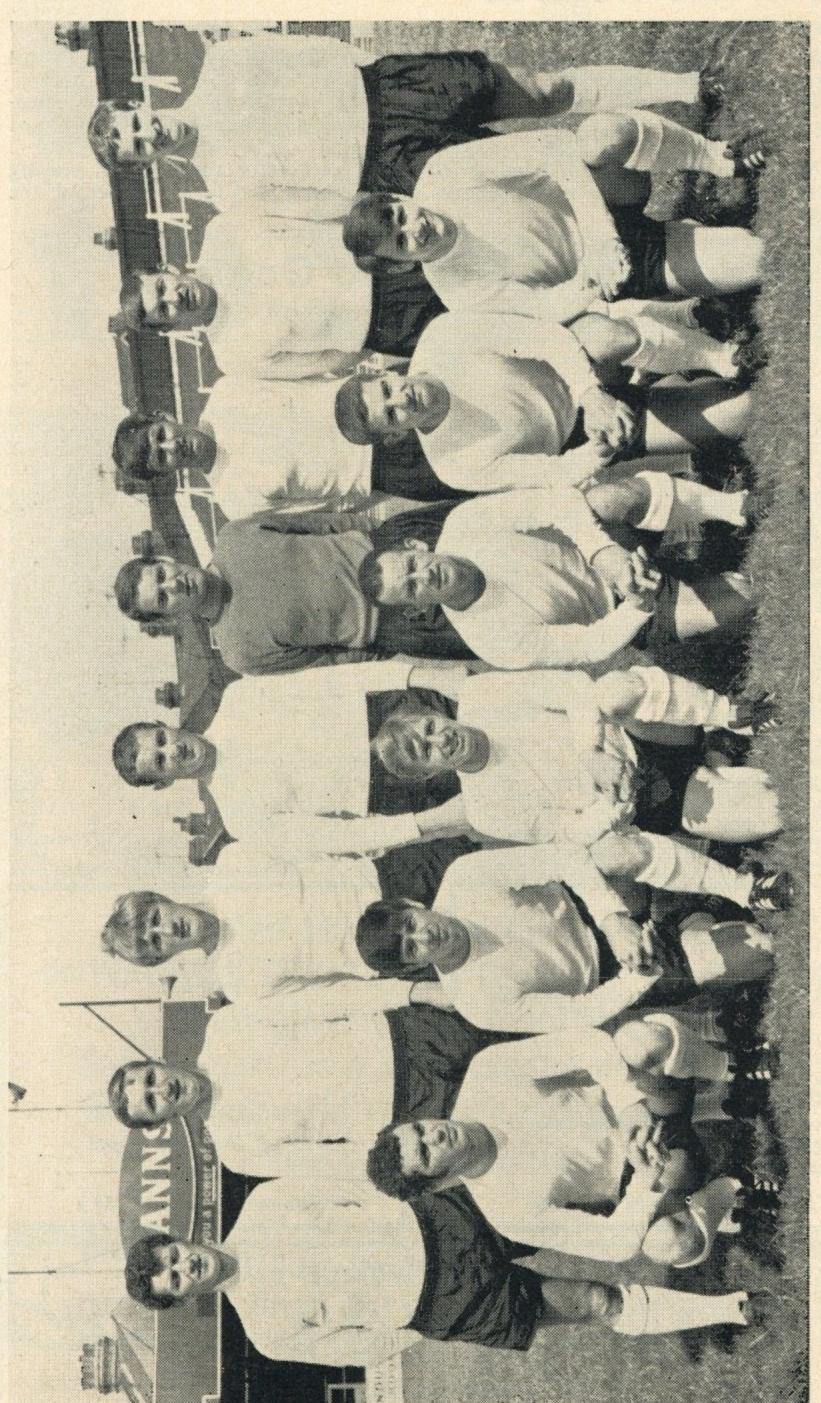
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(Swansea)

TEAMS

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE(1)

- 1 Pat Dunne
- 2 Mike Reeves
- 3 Colin Sullivan
- 4 David Lean HORE
- 5 Fred Molyneux
- 6 John Hore REYNOLOS
- 7 Trevor Shepherd TEDESCO
- 8 Norman Piper
- 9 Mike Bickle BURNSIDE
- 10 Richard Reynolds BICKLE
- 11 Don Hutchins
- 12 John Tedesco LEAN

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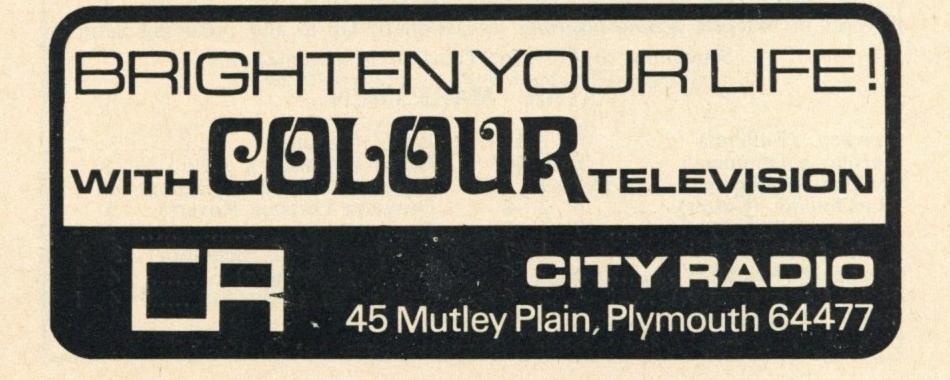
LUTON TOWN(3)

- 1 Alex Davie
- 2 Max Dougan
- 3 Jack Bannister
- 4 Mike Keen
- 5 Chris Nichot (O.G.)
- 6 Alan Slough
- 7 John Collins
- 8 M. MacDonald
- 9. Matt Tees **
- 10 Keith Allen
- 11 Graham French *
- 12 Laurie Sheffield CUILD

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FOOTBALL COMBINATION LEAGUE

Table of results to Monday, 22nd September 1969 (not inclusive)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Ham United	7	6	0	1	17	5	12
Ipswich Town	6	5	1	0	21	3	11
Tottenham Hotspur	6	5	1	0	12	3	11
Arsenal	7	3	3	1	13	8	9
Birmingham City	7	3	3	1	14	9	9
Swansea Town	5	3	2	0	3	0	8
Cardiff City	7	4	0	3	14	12	8
Leicester City	7	3	2	2	14	12	8
Reading	4	3	1	0	8	4	7
Bristol City	6	3	1	2	12	9	7
Southampton	7	3 3 3	1	3	15	12	7
Norwich City	7		1	3	9	7	7
Queens Park Rangers	6	2	2	2	10	11	6
Oxford United	7	3	0	4	9	11	6
Plymouth Argyle	7	3	0	4	9	11	6
Bournemouth and Boscombe	7	0	6	1	10	13	6
Luton Town	5	1	3	1	11	10	5
Chelsea	7	2	1	4	10	13	5
Swindon Town	7	2 2 2	1	4	10	13	5
Bristol Rovers	6	2	1	3	6	9	5
Gillingham	7	1	2	4	7	14	4
Crystal Palace	4	1	1	2	7	9	3
Fulham	5	0	2	2 3 5	2	6	2
Peterborough United	6	0	1	5	4	20	1
Walsall	5	0	0	5	4	16	0
Northampton Town	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

TOP TENS

A new feature giving fans up-to-date news of the top League marksmen and gates in the Third Division.

		Aggregate	Average
1.	Brighton (3)		14,698
2.	LUTON (1)	71,914	14,383
3.	Doncaster (2)		12,071
4.	Bristol Rovers	(5) 41,511	10,378
5.	ARGYLE (4)		10,035
6.	Fulham (6)		9,909
7.	Barnsley (8)		9,360
8.	Bradford City	(-)	8,587
9.	Torquay (7)	50,777	8,463
10.	Rotherham (-) 39,942	7,988

Figures in brackets denote positions in last chart. Up to and including Saturday September 20, 1969, for Third Division games only.

STAR MARKSMEN

Conway (Fulham)	10	2	12	Allen (Luton)	3	2	5
Yardley (Tranmere)	9	1	10	Evans (Barnsley)			
Jenkins (Rochdale)	7	1	8	Gilliver (Brighton)	4	1	5
MacDonald (Luton)	6	2	8	Graydon (Bristol Rovers)	5	-	5
Rudge (Torquay)	7	1	8	Jones (Bury)	5	-	5
Earle (Fulham)				McDougall (B'rnemouth)			
Chappell (Reading)				Smith (Tranmere)			
Hold (Bournemouth)	The state of the state of	-		Welsh (E) (Torquay)			The same
Regan (Doncaster)	-						

(Up to, and including, Saturday, September 20, 1969).

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

FULHAM 4, ARGYLE 3

All credit must go to Argyle, who found themselves twice two goals down in the second half, but they rallied magnificently and only a great display by Ian Seymour in the Fulham goal prevented them from snatching a point.

-ROY HOROBIN (Sunday Express)

Argyle came back with easy goals by Reynolds and Bickle, but Conway settled things with another fine goal. Conway, who played in eight different positions last year, gave the first genuine 10-star performance I've seen all season.

-DREW RENNIE (People)

Trailing 3-1 after 53 minutes, Argyle scorched back to force Seymour to a string of dazzling saves. He could only blink when Reynolds thundered in a 25-yard volley, but Conway added another before Bickle came along with a glorious low drive that left Seymour gasping.

—SUNDAY MIRROR

After so much defensive depression, this match was like a breath of fresh air. It was packed with exciting incidents, and the goals flowed thick and fast.

-HARLEY LAWER (The Independent)

ARGYLE 2, STOCKPORT COUNTY 0

The tonic of the early goal gave zest to Argyle's performance. Not surprisingly, they outplayed Stockport in midfield and took advantage of careless marking to busy themselves with numerous shots.

-RAY HEAD (Western Morning News)

Admittedly Stockport were no great opposition, but how often have we seen poor sides come to Home Park and sneak away with a point or two? Give Argyle credit this time for settling down to a brisk attacking game and securing victory.

-GRAHAM HAMBLEY (Western Evening Herald)

For all the inside stories from Home Park and the most penetrating match reports of Argyle's matches, home or away, read

HARLEY LAWER

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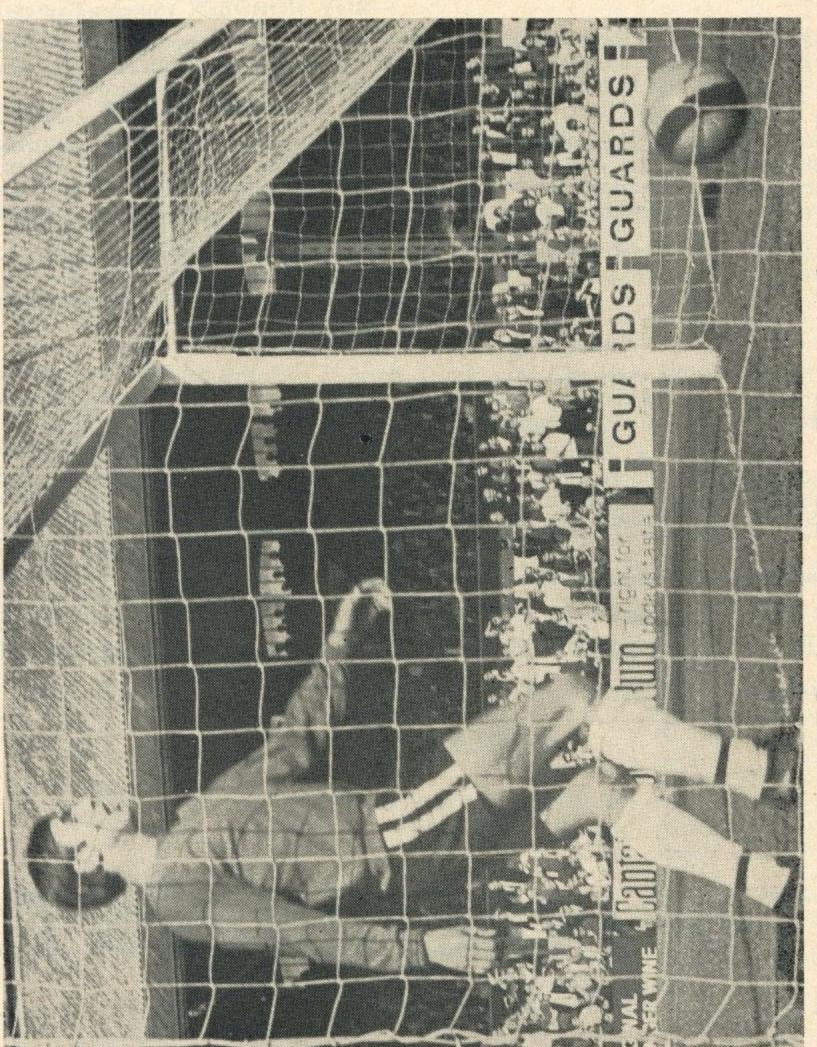
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GIL	LINGHAM	 C	BARNSLEY	
ORI	ENT	 H	TORQUAY UNITED	
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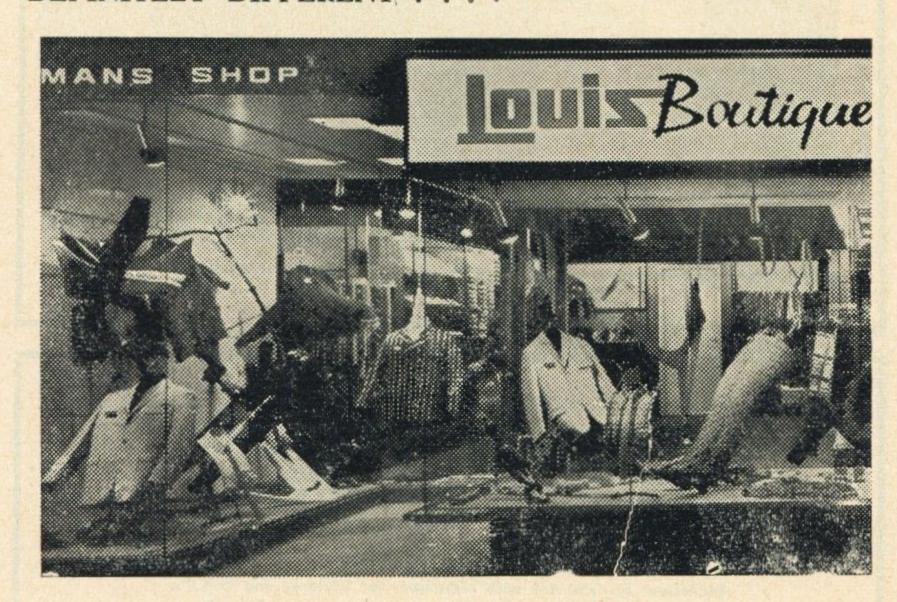
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1969			Result	Attend.	January 1970 3 Crystal Palace	(H)	Result F. A.	Attend.
Dece	mber	126 E	F. A.		10 Arsenal	(A)		
10	Bristol City	(H)			February 10 Bristol City	(A)		
13	Swansea Town	(H)		Alle etc	10 Bristol City 14 Swansea Town 18 Crystal Palace	(A)		E SALE
17	Swindon T.	(H)			March	(A)		
22	Bristol Rovers	(A)			28 Cardiff City	(H)	524	07 × 46

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FOOTBALL COMBINATION LEAGUE FIXTURES

1969 August	Result F. A.	Attend.	December	Result F. A.	Attend.
9 Bristol City 16 Fulham 23 Reading	(H) 2 5 (A) 1 0	1,054	6 Chelsea(H)		
September 10 Arsenal 13 Southampton 20 Swansea Town 27 Ipswich	(H) 1 2 (A) 3 1 (H) 0 1	1,068 785	January 17 Luton Town(H) 28 Crystal Palace(A) February		
October 18 Leicester	(H)		7 Norwich(H) 21 Birmingham(A) March		
12 Tottenham H 19 Oxford 22 Northampton	AHHA AHHA AHHA AHHA AHHA AHA AHA AHA AH		3 Walsall (A) 9 Peterborough (A) 16 Bristol Rovers (H) April 1 Gillingham (A)		

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LUTON TOWN	9	3	2	0	13	5	3	1	0	7	1	15
TORQUAY UNITED		4	1	1	14	4	2	1	1	5	4	14
BRIGHTON	9	3	2	0	9	3	2	î	î	4	3	13
ORIENT	9	3	1	0	5	2	2	2	1	8	5	13
BARNSLEY	9	4	0	1	9	5	2	1	1	6	5	13
FULHAM	9	4	1	0	12	7	1	0	3	11	7	11
BRADFORD CITY	9	3	1	0	7	2	1	2	2	4	5	11
DONCASTER	9	3	1	0	6	2	1	2	2	3	4	11
BRISTOL ROVERS	9	3	1	0	11	6	1	2	2	6	7	11
MANSFIELD	9	3	2	0	5	2	1	1	2	3	5	11
READING	9	3	1	1	7	7	1	2	1	8	7	11
ROCHDALE	9	2	1	2	9	10	2	1	1	7	5	10
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	9	3	0	1	5	2	1	1	3	7	10	9
TRANMERE	9	3	0	2	10	9	1	0	3	6	9	8
WALSALL	9	2	0	2	6	6	0	3	2	1	6	7
SOUTHPORT	9	1	3	1	2	4	1	0	3	4	9	7
HALIFAX	9	2	2	1	3	9	0	1	3	1	5	7
BOURNEMOUTH	9	1	1	2	5	6	1	1	3	6	6	6
ROTHERHAM	9	1	2	2	6	7	1	0	3	4	6	6
BURY	9	2	0	2	4	4	0	2	3	9	14	6
SHREWSBURY	9	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	3	7	12	6
GILLINGHAM	9	1	1	2	4	7	1	0	4	3	7	5
STOCKPORT	10	1	1	2	3	4	0	1	5	1	11	4
BARROW	9											

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Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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Applications should include remittance and stamped addressed envelope which should be marked "U 23" on the bottom left hand corner.

ENGLAND v. PORTUGAL Wednesday, 10th December, 1969 Wembley Stadium

Kick-off 7.45 p.m.

Seats 50/-, 40/-, 30/-, 20/-. Standing 10-/ Applications for tickets to the Secretary, Plymouth Argyle F.C., Home Park, Plymouth, in writing, enclosing S.A.E. with remittance not later than October 25.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, Football League, Kick-off 7.30 p.m.
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE v. BARNSLEY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th, Football League, Kick-off 3 p.m.
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE v. ROCHDALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th, Football Combination, Kick-off 3 p.m.
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE v. LEICESTER CITY

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1969-70			
AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO		-	ı

1969	Result Atte	nd.
August 19 Reading (A) 13 Torquay F.L. Cup (H) 16 Brighton (H) 20 Torquay F.L. Cup (A) 23 Torquay United (A) 26 Bristol Rovers (A) 30 Tranmere Rovers (H)	2 2 15, 0 1 11, 0 1 10, 2 1 10, 1 3 11,	
September 3 F.L. Cup 2nd Round 6 Southport(A) 13 Halifax Town(H) 17 Stockport C(H) 20 Fulham(A) 24 F.L. Cup 3rd Round 27 Luton Town(H) 29 Barnsley(H)	1 0 9,0	Messrs. Ford & Lock, Mayflower Street, Plymouth. E. Dingle & Co., Royal Parade, Plymouth. Whitbread & Co., Burrington Way, Honicknowle. Mr. S. E. Williams, The Bungalow, Wembury Rd., Elburton
October 4 Mansfield Town(A) 7 Brighton(A) 11 Rochdale(H) 18 Bradford City(A) 25 Walsall(H)		Rev. J. J. Ashplant, Plymouth. W. C. Griffiths & Son Ltd, Salisbury Warehouse, Milehouse
November I Barrow (A) 8 Orient (H) 15 F.A. Cup 1st Round 21 Doncaster (A) 26 Gillingham (A) 29 Bournemouth (H)		Clarke, Doble & Brendon, Honicknowle, Plymouth. Goal Football Magazine, Fleet Street, London.
December 6 F.A. Cup 2nd Round 13 Halifax Town (A) 20 Southport(H) 26 Torquay United (H) 27 Tranmere Rovers(A)		Mr. Caston, 170 Exeter Street, Plymouth. The Independent, 55 Exeter Street, Plymouth.
1970 January 3 Barnsley (A) 10 Fulham (H) 17 Luton Town (A) 24 Rotherham U (H) 31 Mansfield Town (H)		Turners of Plymouth, Austin House, Derry's Cross.
February 7 Rochdale (A) 14 Reading (H) 21 Walsall (A) 28 Bradford City (H)		G. T. Crouch Ltd., Builders, Plymouth.
March 4 Shrewsbury Town (A) 7 Doncaster (H) 11 Bury (H) 14 Bournemouth (A) 17 Rotherham United (A) 21 Shrewsbury Town (H) 27 Orient (A) 28 Bury (A) 31 Barrow (H)		An Argyle Supporter.
April 4 Bristol Rovers(H) 8 Gillingham(H) 13 Stockport County (A)		D. W. Fletcher Ltd., Plympton, Plymouth.

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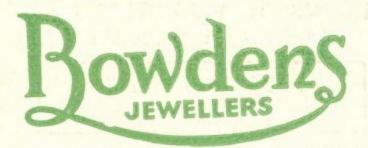
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