

F.A. CUP 2nd ROUND (PROPER)

Saturday, 6th December, 1969

Kick-off 3 p.m.

# HILLINGDON BORO

## VERSUS



Photograph kindly supplied by The Hillingdon Mirror.

# LUTON TOWN

**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 1/-**

Nº 3313 Lucky Programme

No. 15

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## WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

It is not just a pleasure but a PRIVILEGE to receive here today, Manager Alec Stock and his team from Luton Town, we all feel very proud indeed to receive you Sir, to everybody here today from Luton, welcome to the "Leas".

Our visitors as you will see on page 10 of this programme are top of the Third Division and having a wonderful season, I for one firmly believe that next season they will be playing 2nd Division football. We hope for both sides that you the supporters will see a good entertaining game of football and may the best team win.

## BORO' (0) 2 — WIMBLEDON (0) 0

Doesn't that result look great fans, I don't know whether you felt the same as I did looking at the match, but if Dicky and the lads were able to hold the "Dons" against the wind in the first half, then it was our match and through to today's 2nd Round.

This is what actually happened of course, I am sure as we trotted off at half-time they were saying this is it, although of course one can never tell or be really sure.

It was from a Vic Batt free kick that we opened the scoring, the ball went sailing over to Pat Terry who cleverly headed it on to Bill Carter who made no mistake.

This 65th minute goal was followed up by a great goal from Seth Vafiadis in the 77th minute, picking the ball up from the half-way line, taking it down the line, cutting in and placing a fierce drive into the back of the net which the keeper had no chance with.

Well done lads on a good win and against the conditions some lovely football.

## BORO' (1) 1 — TELFORD (1) 1

A very good point away from home, Pat Terry was our scorer, verdict from Jimmy, the lads played well, well pleased with them all. Incidentally Jimmy played Gary Townend and Trevor Watson in place of Johnny Cozens and Bill Carter. Johnny Bishop was Sub.

## CHESHAM (0) 0 — HILLINGDON (UXBRIDGE) (0) 0

The Chairman and Board of Directors of Hillingdon Boro' F.C. would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Tommy Barnard, Chairman of Uxbridge F.C. for helping us by using his side to play the above match for us and in particular for doing so well.

## CLUB COMMENTS

Good afternoon everybody, lets hope its a good afternoon for the "Boro". Fans now is the time to prove yourselves, the players have done their bit, they have proved themselves, are YOU going to prove yourselves this afternoon.

We have a good side in Luton Town, their position shows that, its going to be hard, BUT YOU CAN HELP, YOU CAN HELP A LOT, please give our lads your vocal support, if the result is going the other way give them more support they will need it even more.

Just think how great it could be to hear our name come out for the next round, believe me it can be done, you can help us.

IF THIS MATCH SHOULD RESULT IN A DRAW THEN THE RE-PLAY WILL BE ON TUESDAY EVENING, 7.30 P.M., 9TH DECEMBER AT LUTON OF COURSE.

## WHATS IN THE PROGRAMME TODAY

On Page 4 we have a few words from our Chairman, Mr. A. E. Whittit.

On Pages 5, 11 and 12 we have our Press—Mr. Phil Sugden (Uxbridge Gazette), Mr. Paul Walker (Hillingdon Mirror) and Mr. Graham Sharpe from the (Uxbridge Post).

Page 6 are the Pen Pictures of Luton Town. Page 14—comments from a Boro' supporter. There is of course action photographs and the Leagues, etc.

## TODAY'S BALL

What a nice change, what a nice change it is for me to ring somebody—ask them to present a ball (£8-10-0d.) and in 2 seconds flat they say, yes Geoff, of course, I will.

This Ladies and Gentlemen was the answer I got when I rang the Managing Director of the "Uxbridge Weekly Post Newspapers" Mr. Jones. Sir, on behalf of my Chairman and the Board of Directors take me as being most sincere when I say thank you, thank you very much, lets hope your ball brings us luck.

## RE-ARRANGED FIXTURES

Please study very carefully the numerous alterations to the fixture list on page 7 of this programme, for our away supporters please note : The Hereford match 10th of December, Coaches leaving at 2.30 p.m. return fare 16/-. the Cambridge United match Coaches leaving 12 noon, return fare 9/-. We are then back at home with a Southern League CUP game, here at the "Leas" on Monday evening, the 15th of December we entertain Guildford City.

## LUCKY PROGRAMME WINNER

Make a note of your number on the front of this programme fans, the public address will announce the lucky winner at half-time—if its you please go to the Club Shop to receive your prize.

## HILLINGDON BOROUGH BAND

At last I have managed to get the services of the above band, this is very pleasing because there is nothing like the sound of a brass band at a football match, it adds to the glamour of the occasion.

All I would ask of you all, is that at half-time 4 Boy Scouts will be going round with the blanket, perhaps you will give generously to these men that give up their spare time and receive no pay for our enjoyment, thank you.

Well fans, hope you all enjoy the game, I hope you all enjoy ALSO the mini-skirted Hillingdon Miror DOLLY GIRLS dressed in the Boro' colours? see you all—MONDAY, 15th DECEMBER versus Guildford City.

Cheerio.

GEOFF BROWN, Director.

## Mr. A. E. Whittit writes . . .

Here we are, once again, caught up in the excitement of Cup-ties. This week sees us in the second round proper for the F.A. Trophy, and may luck be with us so that our name comes out of the bag first on Monday. It will not be for the want of trying, as the boys are all fit and well and are ready to go. This is already a milestone in the history of the Hillingdon Borough Football Club, as we have never reached this position before.

The Manager of Luton Town is a well-known friend of ours, Alec Stock, who used to be with Queens Park Rangers and for many years he was the Manager of a Southern League Team, Yeovil.

This has been an exciting and busy time. First of all we had to decide whether it should be an all-ticket affair. We discussed this with Luton and it was agreed that this would be the best proposition. A third of the allocation of tickets had to be sent to Luton and the rest fairly allocated to supporters and if any supporters have been unable to obtain Stand Tickets, then kindly

accept my apologies but there were just not enough to go round.

The Directors have taken turns in selling tickets in the evenings, and our Player/Manager, Jimmy Langley, has been kept busy selling tickets during the day and at week-ends, and I think we have done remarkably well. Of course, our Secretary, Mr. K. Smith, has had a particularly hectic time.

It has been necessary to fit crash barriers at the Ground, as we anticipated approximately 10,000 and the police had set a limit of 12,000. This work has been carried out by Mr. J. Brown and Mr. H. Brown. So you will see, Supporters, that Directors of a Football Club have plenty of things to do and think about when Cup-ties are being played.

Lets hope it is a fine day — please cheer the boys throughout the match and may the best team win.

A. E. WHITTIT,  
Chairman.

## Season Tickets 1969/70

ADULTS (Ground)	£4 4s. 0d.	ADULTS (Stand & Enclosure)	£5 5s. 0d.
BOYS "	£2 2s. 0d.	BOYS "	£2 10s. 0d.
O.A.P. "	10s. 0d.	O.A.P. "	£1 0s. 0d.

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## Graham Sharpe Uxbridge Post Says . . .

As you read this, the time for speculation and theory will be almost over and fact and practice will be taking their place as Hillingdon Borough and Luton Town line up to engage in battle with a coveted Third Round place in the F.A. Cup as their spur and inspiration.

For Hillingdon the occasion is one of the greatest—if not THE greatest—in their short Southern League history. To them this is the chance of fame, and a huge spread on the pages of all the newspapers in the land. A chance to join the ranks of the famous "Giant-killers", the teams who, against overwhelming odds, have defeated sides whose supposed class and fitness should have extinguished the flame of enthusiasm which is all that carries the majority of giant-killers to prominence. And Hillingdon have it all to gain, they stand to lose nothing. After all, they are expected to lose here today, and only the Leas addicts would predict with any conviction one of the major upsets of form for many years.

But for Luton, currently riding high on top of the Third Division, the situation is something quite different. They are expected to win, and to do so with considerable ease. Their fans expect it, the press expect it. In short, Luton stand to lose a great deal on this match if they fail to win, or only just scrape through. Reputation will be blemished, and pride will take a telling blow, their confidence will suffer, and for a team all out for promotion that can do nothing but harm. So Hillingdon cannot expect the professionals to take it easy just because the team they are playing are SUPPOSED to be worse than they. Luton remember Reading who came unstuck at Brentwood in the last round of the Cup.

Hillingdon fans are taking most of their hope from the fact that it is well over fifty games since anyone was able to come to the Leas and leave with a victory in their pockets. However, Alec Stock, the Luton manager is unimpressed, "I suggest they just take a look at our away record this season", he said on Monday. When I spoke to him, Mr. Stock was in a very confident frame of mind, "I haven't seen Hillingdon, but we are quite happy to be drawn away to them

rather than professional opposition, and we are not worried by the danger of "Giant-killing". Neither does the possibility of aquatic conditions bother the Luton boss. But his side will not be taking it easy, he assured me, "After all, what game is easy?" he said.

Borough won't be able to count on the support of the majority of the crowd, either, for several thousand Luton supporters will be journeying down, and the Leas' supporters are not exactly noted for vociferous support of their favourites, although perhaps the big occasion will raise those home supporters present from their almost traditionally staid apathy. Hillingdon will be needing the cheers.

If Borough do win, then the doors of possibility will be well and truly open. The prospects of First Division opponents will confront them, along with national fame and financial reward for the club. And anyway, according to the law of averages it is about time a non-League side made the F.A. Cup Final!

So, the odds seem to be well and truly stacked against Hillingdon. Geoff Brown, one of the Club's directors, and their Press Spokesman offers an optimistic, "Both teams are eleven men, after all. We feel we have a fifty-fifty chance, and the game could easily go either way. "Jim Langley, of course player-manager is slightly more non-committal when asked who will win. "I'll tell you at about twenty to five," he says, which is probably the wisest approach to the game.

Whatever the result it should certainly be an entertaining match, and even if Hillingdon don't reach Wembley in the F.A. Cup, then they still have very bright prospects in the non-League Challenge Cup which also has its final at Wembley.

Let's hope for an exciting tussle, a keen match, plenty of thrills and a fair result with no "might-have-been" stories bandied about once the result is known. Good luck Hillingdon, good luck Luton, go to it boys and may the winners be the side that deserves it on the day.

## PEN PICTURES OF LUTON TOWN

**SANDY DAVIE** (goalkeeper). A few eyebrows were raised when, in October, the Town paid £8,000 for a player who was not at that time commanding a place in Dundee United's first team. However, events since have proved that the Town were taking no gamble because there were few better goalkeepers in the Third Division last season. Before he was signed the club's Scottish scout watched Davie several times and was completely satisfied with his ability. In about seven seasons with the Scottish club, he made well over 100 League appearances, including those in the Fairs Cup against Barcelona and Juventus three years ago. In addition, he represented Scotland at under-23 level.

**JOHN RYAN** (right-back). A 21-year-old who comes here with a considerable amount of experience behind him, made up of 20 appearances in the First Division for Fulham for whom he played 25 times in Division II last season. Despite this, the London club decided to release him and the Town stepped in immediately his contract with the Craven Cottage club expired. In signing him, they beat challenges from Ipswich Town, Millwall and Northampton Town. His first professional experience was with Tonbridge, and he had a short spell with Arsenal before going to Fulham. A strong player, he stands nearly 6 feet and weighs 12½ stone.

**JACK BANNISTER** (left-half). According to Alec Stock, the signing of Malcolm Macdonald was made expressly so that Bannister can be utilised in a midfield role instead of being in the back four, at left-back. This was where he made the bulk of his 30 League appearances last season after the Town paid an £8,000 fee for him to Crystal Palace in October. A neat, but strong player, he is vastly experienced because he made over 100 League appearances for the Palace and also had spells with Scunthorpe United and West Bromwich Albion.

**MIKE KEEN** (right-half). It cost £18,500 to persuade Q.P.R. to allow the player who captained them on their meteoric rise from Division III to Division I, not missing a match in the process, to rejoin his former manager. However, almost from the time he came to Luton, Keen was dogged with ankle trouble, received on his second appearance at Crewe and it was not until the closing weeks of the season that he really began to show his true form. Now, with the benefit of a summer's rest he should be a tremendous asset to the Town. He had 10 seasons with Q.P.R., whom he joined as a junior from High Wycombe.

**ALAN SLOUGH** (right-half or centre-half). Now that Bruce Rioch has joined Aston Villa, Slough is the brightest young star in the Luton firmament, but it has been

made perfectly plain that the Town have no intention of cashing in on his considerable value in the transfer market. In fact, Slough himself, in an attempt to stop rumours that he would be the next to go, recently asked for a new, long term contract. To this, the Town agreed and he has signed one for three years, with the option of a further three. A local, he shows amazing adaptability in that he can switch from being a forceful wing-half with a flair for attack into a solid centre-half without apparent concern.

**MALCOLM MACDONALD** (left-back). In paying £17,500 for this 19-year-old, Manager Alec Stock rather took the football world by surprise, especially as Macdonald has been used mainly as a striker by Fulham last season when he made 10 Division II appearances and scored five goals. In the Reserves, he was even more successful as a marksman, but Stock remembered his display at left-back against the Town Reserves last April and had made up his mind that this player was the one to give him more cover in defence. Like Ryan, he began his career with Tonbridge and was also a Fulham club-mate of his.

**KEITH ALLEN** (centre-forward). Highly useful player who can be used either as a midfield player or a striker and is a particularly good header of the ball. Never gives less than 100 per cent effort and, as a result is remarkably consistent. Came to Luton from Stockport County in exchange for the former England centre-forward, Derek Kevan and £2,000 and the Town got the better part of the bargain. Born in the Isle of Wight, he began his career with Portsmouth and afterwards had a spell with Grimsby Town.

**GRAHAM FRENCH** (outside-right). When really in form he is one of the cleverest wingers in the Division with the ability to beat an opponent in a narrow space. Does not get so many goals as he might, but there is no gainsaying the fact that he lays them on for his forward colleagues. Has had something of a mixed career because he was much sought after when he was a member of England's youth team. Was then with Shrewsbury Town moved on to Swindon Town and then had a spell with Watford before going out of the League with Wellington Town to whom the Town paid around £5,000 for him.

**MIKE HARRISON** (outside-left). If this tall, direct winger can steer clear of the injury jinx that restricted his League appearances last season to only 18 then the Town will be considerably better served in this position than they were for long spells. Twelve months ago, the Town paid Plymouth Argyle a fee of £7,000 for him and, previously, he had spells with Chelsea and Blackburn Rovers.

## FIXTURES 1969/70 SEASON

1969		Gate		Res. 1968/9		Gate Up		Res. 1969/70		Gate Down	
SL	9 Aug.	Yeovil Town	Away	4-2 W	1787	—	—	1-0 W	1904	—	—
SL	13 Wed.	Camb. U. (Cham. Match)	A	—	—	—	—	0-1 L	1792	—	—
SL	16	<b>POOLE TOWN</b>	Home	2-1 W	925	415	—	2-1 W	1340	—	—
SLC	18 Mon.	<b>DARTFORD</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	5-1 W	1178	—	—
SL	23	Nuneaton Borough	Away	1-3 L	4554	—	—	2-1 W	2551	—	—
SLC	27 Wed.	Dartford	Away	—	—	—	—	1-0 W	694	—	—
SL	30	<b>HEREFORD U.</b>	Home	3-1 W	1159	474	—	1-1 D	1633	—	—
SL	1 Sept.	<b>CAMBRIDGE U.</b>	Home	3-1 W	1818	689	—	3-0 W	2507	—	—
SL	6	Kings Lynn	Away	1-1 D	1840	—	—	2-0 W	1555	—	—
SL	8 Mon.	Bath City	Away	—	—	—	—	1-2 L	2544	—	—
SL	13	<b>YEOVIL TOWN</b>	Home	2-1 W	1386	114	—	2-0 W	1500	—	—
FAC	20	<b>TOOTING &amp; M.</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	0-0 D	1553	—	—
FAC	23	Tooting & M.	Away	—	—	—	—	2-1 W	1254	—	—
SL	27	<b>DOVER</b>	Home	2-1 W	1431	—	—	1-0 W	1410	21	—
FL	1 Oct.	Wembley	Away	3-1 W	304	—	—	3-1 W	252	—	—
FAC	4	<b>BROMLEY</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	4-1 W	1552	—	—
FL	6 Mon.	<b>CHESHAM U.</b>	Home	4-0 W	464	316	—	2-0 W	780	—	—
SL	11	<b>CHELMSFORD C.</b>	Home	2-1 W	985	654	—	3-1 W	1639	—	—
FL	14	Haves	Away	3-1 W	650	—	—	0-0 D	1077	—	—
FAC	18	Tilbury	Away	—	—	—	—	2-1 W	1800	—	—
FL	20 Mon.	<b>WYCOMBE W.</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	1-0 W	1205	—	—
FL	27 Mon.	<b>H. HEMPSTEAD</b>	Home	3-0 W	412	563	—	3-1 W	975	—	—
FAC	1 Nov.	Dartford 4th Q.Rd	Home	—	—	—	—	1-1 D	3292	—	—
FAC	5 Nov.	Dartford—Replay	Away	—	—	—	—	0-0 D	4193	—	—
SL	8	Margate	Away	1-2 L	1651	—	—	2-1 W	1709	—	—
FAC	9	Dartford—Replay	Away	—	—	—	—	4-1 W	4431	—	—
FAC	15	Wimbledon 1st Rd.	Home	—	—	—	—	2-0 W	3845	—	—
FL	18 Tues.	Chesham United	Away	2-1 W	223	—	—	0-0 D	345	—	—
SL	22	Telford United	Away	0-0 D	1344	—	—	1-1 D	2011	—	—
FAC	6	<b>LUTON 2nd Rd.</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	10	Hereford	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	13	Cambridge United	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SLC	15	<b>GUILDFORD</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	20	<b>MARGATE</b>	Home	2-1 W	1209	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	26	<b>KETTERING T.</b>	Home	2-0 W	1217	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	27	Kettering Town	Away	1-0 W	1839	—	—	—	—	—	—
1970											
SL	3 Jan.	<b>BATH CITY</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	10	<b>BARNET</b>	Home	5-2 W	2081	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	17	Chelmsford City	Away	2-0 W	2587	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	21	Burton	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	24	<b>NUNEATON B.</b>	Home	2-1 W	1897	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	26	<b>BURTON</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	31	<b>BRENTWOOD T.</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	7 Feb.	Poole Town	Away	2-2 D	651	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	10 Tues.	<b>GLOUCESTER</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	14	<b>KINGS LYNN</b>	Home	3-1 W	841	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	17 Tues.	Barnet	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	21	<b>TELFORD U.</b>	Home	1-0 W	1167	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	23	Brentwood	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FL	24 Tues.	Hemel Hempstead	Away	5-3 W	234	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	28	Wimbledon	Away	1-2 L	2275	—	—	—	—	—	—
FL	2 Mar.	<b>MAIDENHEAD</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	7	<b>WEYMOUTH</b>	Home	1-1 D	1750	—	—	—	—	—	—
FL	10 Tues.	Southall	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	14	Crawley Town	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FL	16 Mon.	<b>WEMBLEY</b>	Home	1-0 W	355	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	21	<b>WIMBLEDON</b>	Home	2-2 D	1961	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	27 G.Fri.	Romford	Away	2-1 W	2043	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	28	Weymouth	Away	0-1 L	1211	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	30 Mon.	<b>ROMFORD</b>	Home	0-0 D	2715	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	4 Apr.	Dover	Away	2-1 W	1347	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	6	Worcester City	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	11	F.A. Challenge C.	Final	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	18	Worcester City	Away	0-1 L	1510	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	25	<b>CRAWLEY TOWN</b>	Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SL	2 May	Gloucester City	Away	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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	P	W	D	L	A	P	W	D	L	A		
	Goals					Goals					Pts	
	F	A	F	A	F	F	A	F	A	F		
Weymth	18	3	5	1	12	5	4	3	2	11	7	22
Hereford	19	6	2	2	18	9	3	2	4	14	17	22
Hillingdn	12	5	1	0	12	3	4	1	1	9	5	20
Wimbledn	18	6	1	2	14	8	1	5	3	10	13	20
Brentwood	17	5	1	2	16	7	3	2	4	9	9	19
Dover	17	4	3	1	13	5	2	3	4	8	10	18
Barnet	16	5	3	1	15	8	1	3	3	7	10	18
Chelmsfd	16	4	1	2	17	12	3	3	3	11	14	18
Romford	17	6	2	1	21	14	0	4	4	3	10	18
Yeovil	17	4	2	2	14	9	2	4	3	8	15	18
Camb U.	14	3	0	3	11	9	5	2	1	14	10	18
Poole	17	3	4	1	12	3	1	5	3	8	11	17
Bath	16	5	2	1	14	7	1	2	5	11	17	16
Worcester	18	3	4	2	12	7	3	0	6	4	11	16
Kettering	19	3	2	4	10	11	4	0	6	11	20	16
Margate	16	5	2	2	21	7	1	1	5	7	17	15
Telford	15	3	5	2	18	14	2	0	3	4	11	15
Gloucester	17	4	2	3	16	12	0	3	5	9	18	13
K Lynn	15	5	0	1	14	6	1	1	7	10	24	13
Crawley	14	3	2	3	12	13	0	3	3	8	11	11
Nuneaton	18	3	4	1	9	5	0	1	9	9	28	11
Burton	18	1	2	5	5	10	0	2	6	3	18	8

	DIVISION III											
	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	A	P	W	D	L	A		
	Goals					Goals					Pts	
	F	A	F	A	F	F	A	F	A	F		
Luton	20	6	5	0	20	7	6	2	1	16	7	31
Rochdale	21	7	1	2	23	13	6	2	3	22	16	29
Orient	20	7	2	1	16	5	3	5	2	12	9	27
Bradfd C	20	8	2	0	16	3	3	3	4	11	11	27
Torquay	22	6	4	2	20	9	3	5	2	14	10	27
Barnsley	20	7	1	2	17	9	3	6	1	12	9	27
Doncaster	20	7	2	1	15	5	3	3	4	10	12	25
Bristol R	21	6	3	1	24	14	3	4	4	14	15	25
Mansfield	21	4	2	4	11	11	4	3	4	11	11	21
Brighton	21	5	3	2	16	11	3	2	6	8	14	21
Reading	20	5	2	2	12	11	3	2	6	20	25	20
Shrewsby	21	3	7	1	11	9	2	3	5	15	21	20
Walsall	21	5	1	4	15	16	3	3	5	10	16	20
Fulham	20	4	5	1	17	14	2	2	6	19	16	19
Bury	20	7	0	3	19	12	1	3	6	17	24	19
Tranmere	21	5	2	4	21	18	2	3	5	10	19	19
Bournmth	21	4	4	3	15	15	2	2	6	8	14	18
Plymouth	21	5	1	4	10	9	2	3	6	11	20	18
Halifax	19	4	4	2	12	15	2	2	5	4	9	18
Southport	20	3	3	4	11	11	3	2	5	13	17	17
Rotherhm	20	2	4	4	12	13	2	4	4	10	14	16
Stockport	22	2	4	5	10	16	1	1	9	2	17	11
Gillinghm	20	2	2	6	12	18	1	1	8	7	15	9
Barrow	20	1	4	5	8	16	0	2	8	4	22	8

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## Paul Walker - Hillingdon Mirror Promotion or nothing . . .

The recent disclosure of plans to form a possible Fifth Division to the Football League recently has been sharing with today's match as the main topic of conversation between Boro's fans in the past weeks.

The Football League and leading non-League administrators have been discussing the possibility of forming what they are calling The Football Alliance in time for next season.

It has been suggested that the top 13 Southern League sides and the top nine Northern Premier League sides should make this new division if the talk comes to anything.

On the surface it looks a great idea. It is virtually accepted that the top Southern League clubs are as good, if not better, than the bottom half of the Fourth Division.

The demands for admittance to the Football League for clubs of Hillingdon's standard has increased considerable in recent seasons as facilities and playing standards outside the League improve.

How anybody can consider such teams as Bradford Park Avenue are worthy of Football League membership with their massive overdrafts escapes most people in the South.

So on face value the new division is highly advantageous. It will provide an escape valve for the cream of non-League football to gain admittance to the most competitive football league in the world.

But will it? Talk of promotion and relegation into and out of the new division has

been very sketchy.

Nobody is really sure whether promotion and relegation will be automatic as it is in the other four divisions. Do the Football League really expect that they are going to get strong support for the innovation of a new division without promotion and relegation?

As far as I, and the members of Hillingdon's board that I have spoken to, are concerned, Hillingdon should not consider entering any new competition unless promotion is assured beforehand.

Without promotion all the Football League will be doing is re-naming the Southern League, and creating extra travelling expenses by bringing Northern clubs into it.

The loss of 13 Southern League clubs will have a major backlash amongst non-League and amateur football in the South. There would be vacancies in the Southern League, and right through the amateur set-up as progressive clubs apply for membership of a higher standard.

To create this mass re-organisation would be a complete waste of time if promotion is not a certainty. There is no point in half measures in this problem.

Non-League clubs must be recognised as worthy of Football League status, and must be allowed to attain it.

So unless promotion is assured, steer well clear Boro!

**Phil Sugden -**

## **Sports Editor Middlesex Advertiser & Gazette**

Sports Editors, as most people know, are—or should be—completely impartial when it comes to watching and writing any sport. Generally speaking they are just that.

They watch every game with an open mind and often write something which does not completely please the home directors or supporters.

Certainly this happens to me quite often as in Hillingdon Boro's last F.A. Cup-tie with Wimbledon when I thought — and wrote — that Boro' could well have been three goals in arrears at the interval but were good winners in the end. That did not please everyone but it was, in my opinion, fairly accurate.

It would, however, but extremely difficult for anyone, including any sports writer who has been close to Boro's fine cup run this season, not to be just slightly biased in their favour as they face their biggest ever test against Luton Town on Saturday.

F.A. Cup fighting so far this season has involved the Boro' club and its players in eight matches and a total of 750 minutes of football against Tooting and Mitcham (twice), Bromley, Tilbury, Dartford (three times) and Wimbledon and these games have been watched by a total of 21,777 spectators.

Today it is everyone's earnest hope that at least half as many of that total will pack into The Leas Stadium to watch what should surely be a thrilling encounter.

On paper, of course, the odds must be on a Luton victory. This fine side has played 20 League Division III games winning 12, drawing seven and losing but one with a goals record of 36 for and 14 against.

My one view of Alec Stock's side this season revealed tremendous strength in depth, great skill in midfield and attacking bursts of such speed and power that many

defences in Division II would be hard pressed to hold such thrust.

Yet the F.A. Cup is a very different kettle of fish from the League and facing a top non-League club on its own ground, before an enthusiastic and vociferous crowd, has often proved unsettling for the bigger boys in the past.

Moreover, Boro' have the skill and ability to take on teams of a higher calibre. They have steadiness, coolness and clarity in defence and thoughtfulness, thrust and occasionally sheer genius up front.

The result, if Boro' can hit their best form early on and are not beset by cup-tie jitters, could be an enthralling struggle which could well go either way.

I, for one, would slightly favour a draw as the result with Luton to win the replay.

This great match has, of course, its other interests. Will it provide a record gate at The Leas? Does this F.A. Cup run bring the club any closer to the Football League?

Finally, of course, the game brings together old friends and two of soccer's fine tacticians and managers in Boro's Jim Langley and Luton's Alec Stock.

Langley, highly regarded in League circles and a top non-League manager is one of nature's gentlemen — admired and respected by directors, players and football followers.

Stock has been a top name around the football scene since shortly after the last war. Having had many dealings with both these managers as a newspaper man, and holding both in high regard, I have only one sad thought.

What a shame one of them has to ultimately lose — although I still not think that will be today.

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## Touch-line View - by Vic Redwood . . .

The great day has arrived and we are here to cheer on our team and urge them on to a great victory which would take us into the 3rd Round of the Cup to rub shoulders with such magic names as Manchester United, Chelsea, Tottenham and Arsenal.

We are already in a record breaking run in the F.A. Cup and our hopes lead us to further heights. We have had some great matches and great wins against formidable opponents and it certainly seems that our forwards bring the best out of visiting goalkeepers. Some saves have been fantastic and if we have felt a little frustrating, we have always been generous in our applause for great saves and good football. We too are well served in goal and what an inspiration to our defence to have Mick Lowe behind them. But I must not single out individuals we all perhaps have our favourites but football is a team game and it can only be by team work that success can come. And our team is a team. We invariably leave the ground feeling satisfied that the boys' have given another good account of themselves.

If that great moment comes when the ball goes into the Luton goal, and we hope it will, let us shout the roof off the stand — the club will put it back for us. It may be

that we shall not have quite so much supporter opposition as might have been, but we shall welcome all those Luton supporters who do come, and can promise them some really good sporting football from our side, so that their journey will be well worth while, and may the best side win, and may that side be ours.

We have a fine ground on which to play fine football, none finer in the Southern League at any rate and here great credit must be due to Mr. Jim Langley and his ground staff. It is fully worthy of the good crowd we shall surely have today — perhaps a record gate, and certainly so if the Luton supporters turn up in numbers.

But the ground and the football is the same for all matches and our home gates could well stand a boosting. May this match be that boost so that those of you who have been delighted today will make up your mind to join the regular body of supporters — a fine body of men and women — and let us see you with us whenever possible. It is only by this support that the directors will be able to run our club on more than a 'shoe-string' and go on from strength to strength.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR TROPHY

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