

No 1255

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIV. 3

ROVERS

v

LUTON TOWN

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1970

KICK-OFF 3 p.m

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GOOD AFTERNOON!

The scenes that greeted Alan King's match-winning goal against Bradford City on Monday were reminiscent of the night we won promotion to Division Three. Players rushed to congratulate the scorer as small boys swarmed onto the field (not a practice we like but on this occasion excusable). It is hard to see how Alan could have marked his 300th appearance for Rovers more fittingly since his bravely headed goal ended the club's longest run without a League win and raised hope afresh that the plunge into the Fourth Division can be avoided.

Understandably our players had begun to lose heart, although no Rovers' team has played with greater courage or greater effort than the side against Bradford City. It would have been a travesty of justice if so much effort had gone without reward. But now that they have ended that melancholy run of non-success they will be able to go into today's match with greater belief in themselves. All they need is the occasional 'break' for even our severest critics would hesitate to deny that all too often this season the luck has gone against us.

Now, as the well-worn typing exercise has it, is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party. Now, to be precise, is the time when every man jack of you can help the team to fresh victories and to survival. This is no time for shouting abuse at this player or that. It doesn't help him to repair his mistakes and in any case he doesn't need anyone to tell him when he has made a mistake. What every man out there today in a Rovers' shirt needs is encouragement, the knowledge that every man on the spectators' side of the fence is rooting for him.

Bradford City were one of the most efficient teams we've seen here this season, but as the list given on another page shows, only tough matches lie ahead of Rovers and today could be one of the toughest.

At one time it looked as though Luton Town would have the Division championship wrapped up long before Easter. But they have stuttered from time to time and it will take a big effort to see them into the Second Division at the end of the season. That's what makes them all the more dangerous today. For the 'Hatters' as for Tranmere, the chips are down.

It is fortunate for Manager Jackie Wright that for the first time this season he can present a clean bill of health for his players. Even young Trevor Evans, who has been out of the game since early autumn with a badly damaged foot, came back to the 'B' team last Saturday, and although he is still limping slightly, he managed to score. It is unlikely that he will get back to the Cheshire

(continued on page 6)

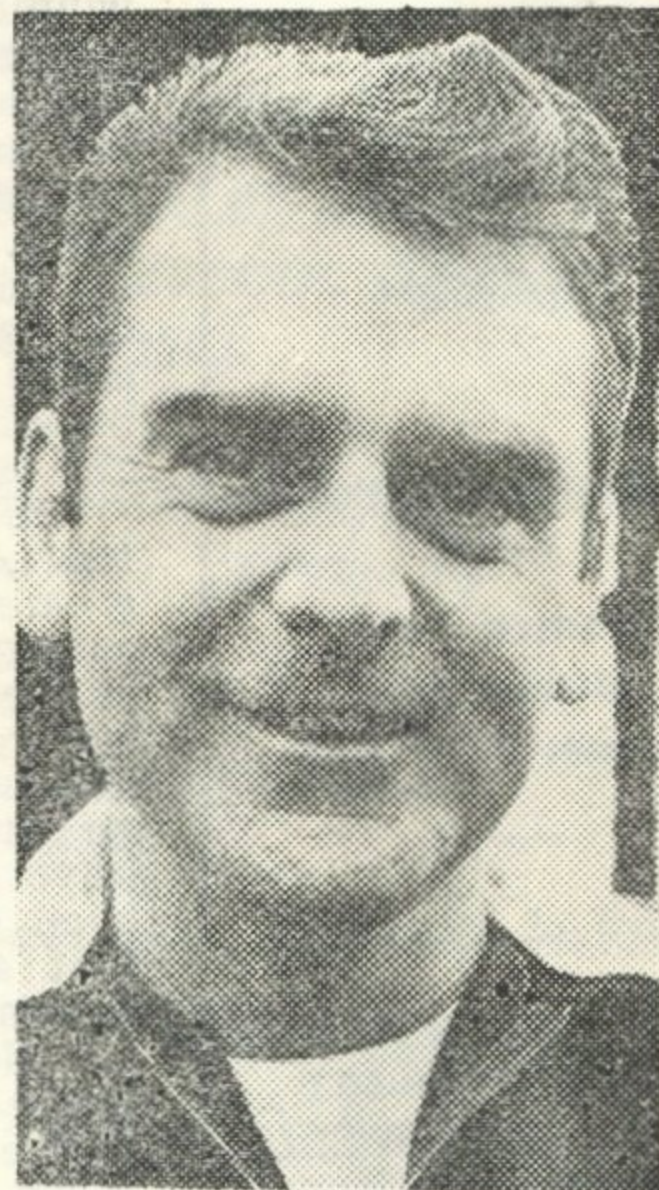
Whistle Stop

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

It is one of the paradoxes of the present soccer scene that Liverpool and Manchester which have dominated — and continue to dominate — have produced few top ranking referees in recent years. Probably the richest seam in 'whistlers' is to be found on Teeside which can claim to have three of the best in Kevin Howley, Peter Baldwin and Pat Partridge, who handles today's game at Prenton Park.

Mr. Partridge has been acknowledged this season as one of the most competent referees in the game and his handling of the recent Liverpool - Leicester City Cup-tie was as near perfection as one could hope for.

It seems certain that he will eventually win the highest accolade — the F.A. Cup Final. Time and ability are certainly on his side.



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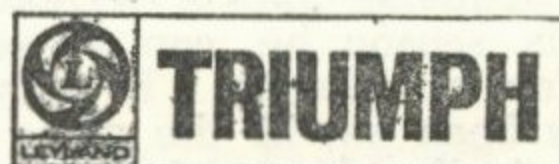
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GOOD EVENING (continued)

League side this season but there are now high hopes that he will be ready next season to develop his full potential. Meanwhile, another of our Reserves has made the League grade. We refer, of course, to Jimmy Hinch, who has twice come into the tea mas sub. Today he gets his full League baptism and while no one can expect the tall Yorkshireman, who was with Portmadoc in the Welsh League when we found him, to do more than play himself in, it is certain that he has the makings of a great crowd-pleaser.

FOR YOUR DIARY

The following are Rovers' re-arranged fixtures.

1st Team		Reserves	
Good Friday. Rochdale	Home	Mon. March 23. Altrincham	Away
Sat. March 28. Fulham	Away	Good Friday. New Brighton	Away
Tue. March 31. Rotherham	Away		11-30 a.m.
Fri. April 3. Torquay	Home	Sat. March 28. Nantwich	Home
Mon. April 6. Plymouth	Home	Easter Monday. New Brighton	Home
Wed. Aprl 8. Reading	Away		11-0 a.m.
Tue. April 14. Barnsley	Away	Sat. April 4. Horwich	Away
Fri. April 17. Bristol Rovers	Home	Mon. April 6. Ashton U.	Away
Mon. April 20. Gillingham	Home	Wed. April 8. Droylsden	Home
Fri. April 24. Stockport	Away	Mon. April 13. Skelmersdale	Home
Mon. April 27. Fulham	Home	Thu. April 23. Mossley	Home

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THE FIGHT IS ON

Although teams like Bury and Plymouth Argyle are only marginally involved it can be said that nine teams are still in the relegation danger area.

For several of those nine teams it is a case of 'dog-eat-dog' since they face each other. But a look at the list of fixtures for 'the nine' leaves little doubt that Rovers have the toughest programme.

Including today's clash with Luton Town, Rovers have to take on four of the six major contenders for promotion, to say nothing of a double encounter with strong-going Fulham.

But Tranmere hearts are high and the players are in the mood to fight every inch of the way to Third Division safety.

BURY (39 games, 34 points). HOME: Plymouth, Shrewsbury, Doncaster. AWAY: Gillingham, Bradford City, Bournemouth, Walsall.

PLYMOUTH (37 games, 35 points). HOME: Shrewsbury, Barrow, Bristol Rovers. AWAY: Orient, Bury, Stockport, Shrewsbury, Walsall, Tranmere.

BOURNEMOUTH (37 games, 29 points). HOME: Walsall, Bradford City, Bury, Mansfield. AWAY: Gillingham, Barrow, Stockport, Doncaster, Shrewsbury.

WALSALL (33 games, 29 points). HOME: Plymouth, Bury, Stockport, Bristol Rovers, Gillingham, Bradford City, Orient, Reading. AWAY: Stockport, Halifax, Rochdale, Luton, Bournemouth.

SOUTHPORT (35 games, 31 points). HOME: Barnsley, Rotherham, Fulham, Halifax, Gillingham, Bradford City. AWAY: Brighton, Mansfield, Luton, Orient, Reading.

BARROW (40 games, 26 points). HOME: Bournemouth, Shrewsbury. AWAY: Doncaster, Plymouth, Orient, Bradford City.

TRANMERE ROVERS (34 games, 26 points). HOME: Gillingham, Fulham, Luton, Rochdale, Torquay, Plymouth, Bristol Rovers. AWAY: Fulham, Rotherham, Barnsley, Reading, Stockport.

GILLINGHAM (34 games, 23 points). HOME: Mansfield, Bournemouth, Bury, Bradford City, Stockport, Halifax. AWAY: Tranmere, Orient, Walsall, Bristol Rovers, Southport, Shrewsbury.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (37 games, 19 points). HOME: Tranmere Rovers, Walsall, Bournemouth, Plymouth. AWAY: Mansfield, Orient, Gillingham, Bristol Rovers, Walsall.

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 - 2 Stan STORTON
 - 3 Ray MATHIAS
 - 4 Dave MOORCROFT
 - 5 Tony KNAPP
 - * 6 ~~Eric BRODIE~~ PRITCHARD
 - * 7 Ken BEAMISH
 - 8 Alan KING
 - * 9. George YARDLEY
 - 10 Jimmy HINCH
 11. Frank GILL
- Sub.: Derek SMITH

Referee—

P. PARTRIDGE
(Middlesbrough)



Linesmen—

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J. JOHNSON
(Yellow flag)

4,035

Luton Town (2)

- 1 Sandy DAVIE
 - 2 John RYAN
 - 3 Jack BANNISTER
 - * 4 Alan SLOUGH
 - 5 Terry BRANSTON
 - 6 John MOORE
 - 7 M. MacDONALD
 - 8 John COLLINS
 - * 9 ~~Matt TEES~~ ALLEN
 - 10 Mike KEEN
 - 11 ~~Mike HARRISON~~ FRENCH
- Sub.: ~~Keith ALLEN~~ TEES

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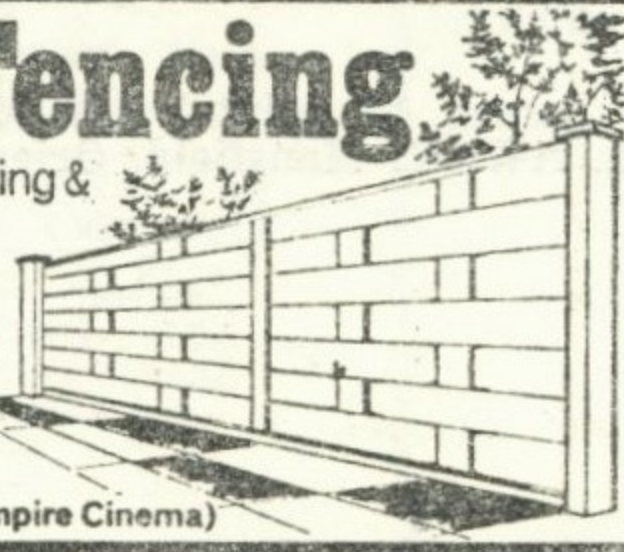
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Welcome to our Visitors

SANDY DAVIE (goalkeeper)

Former Scottish under 23 goalkeeper, for whom Luton paid an £8,000 fee in October 1968 despite the fact that, at the time, he was in Dundee United's reserve team. Went straight into Luton's League side and made 27 consecutive appearances until injury compelled him to miss the last five games last season.

JOHN RYAN (right-back)

Close season signing from Fulham who gave him a free transfer despite the fact that he appeared 45 times in their League side in the two previous seasons. Only 21 and strongly built, Luton regard him as a capture. Started his career with Tonbridge and moved to Arsenal for a short spell before crossing London to Craven Cottage.

JACK BANNISTER (left-back)

Was used mostly at left-back after his arrival last October from Crystal Palace for an £8,000 fee, and the signing of Macdonald was designed to release him for a mid-field role. Vastly experienced, he played in over 100 League games for the Palace and saw previous service with West Bromwich Albion and Scunthorpe United.

ALAN SLOUGH (right-half)

This 21-year-old is Luton's most valuable asset, but he means to stay with his home town club. Worried by rumours that he might be transferred, he asked for a long term contract and has now signed for six years. Most of his first team appearances have been made at right-half, but Luton intended him for the pivotal job where he played brilliantly last season.

TERRY BRANSTON (centre-half)

Has given Luton sterling service in the two years since he joined them from Northampton and was an inspiring captain in their promotion season during which he made the full quota of appearances. Missed 11 games last campaign through injury and has now been given the job of player/coach. Was with Northampton for nine years

and helped them to promotion on three occasions.

JOHN MOORE (left-half)

The brilliant covering of this tall Scot makes him an integral part of the defence and he is beginning his fifth season with Luton. The last one was an unlucky one for him because he received a severe injury in September and was out of the side for a long time. Was previously with Motherwell.

MALCOLM MacDONALD (outside-right)

Another former Fulham player for whom Manager Alec Stock paid £17,500, a stiff fee for a 19-year-old. More than that, Manager Stock surprised the football world by announcing that he would use Macdonald, used mainly by Fulham as a striker, as a full-back where he had played for the London Club's reserve team. Another product of the Tonbridge Club, has reverted to the attack.

GRAHAM FRENCH (outside-right)

When he was the star of England's youth team whilst on the books of Shrewsbury Town, he was much sought after by the bigger clubs. However, the expected glamour move did not materialise and he went to Swindon Town and then to Watford. His next appearance was with Southern Leaguers, Wellington Town, from whom Luton bought him for £5,000.

JOHN COLLINS (inside-right)

A Londoner, who was with Queens Park Rangers and moved to Oldham Athletic. His talents didn't flourish at Boundary Park and he returned South to Reading before rejoining Manager Alec Stock.

MATT TEES (centre-forward)

This tall Scot — he hails from Renfrew — jointed the 'Hatters' in the early part of the season from Charlton Athletic and has proved a fine snapper-up of chances. Came South from Airdrie to Grimsby Town and was bought for Charlton by Bob Stokoe.

(continued on page 18.)

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OUR VISITOR'S (continued)

MIKE KEEN (inside-left)
 An £18,500 signing from Manager Stock's former club, Q.P.R. with whom he spent 10 seasons. More than that, he captained them in their meteoric rise from Division Three to Division One and did not miss a match in the process. Strongly built player who dominates the midfield, he was handicapped by ankle trouble after joining Luton and was not seen at his best until the end of the season.
MIKE HARRISON (outside-left)
 A series of injuries limited this tall winger's League appearances last season to only 18, but he is

hoping for better luck this time. Came to the fore with Chelsea from whom Blackburn Rovers signed him and Luton paid Plymouth £7,000 for his services during the summer of last year.
KEITH ALLEN (Su.b.)
 Has filled a variety of positions for Luton and is equally at home either as a midfield link or a striker. Born in the Isle of Wight, he became a professional with Portsmouth and then reached Stockport County via Grimsby Town. Luton secured him in exchange for former England centre-forward, Derek Kevan.

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- FIRST DIVISION**
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 Chelsea v Man. United
 Derby v Crystal Palace
 Ipswich v Sunderland
 Liverpool v Everton
 Man. City v West Ham
 Newcastle v Stoke
 Sheff. Wed. v Notts F.
 Southampton v Arsenal
 Tottenham v Coventry
 Wolves v Leeds

- SECOND DIVISION**
 Aston V. v Blackburn
 Bolton v Charlton
 Bristol C. v Swindon
 Carlisle v Blackpool
 Huddersfield v Birmingham
 Leicester v Sheffield U.
 Middlesboro v Norwich
 Millwall v Hull
 Oxford v Q.P.R.
 Preston v Portsmouth
 Watford v Cardiff

- THIRD DIVISION**
 Barrow v Bournemouth
 Bradford C. v Doncaster
 Brighton v Southport
 Gillingham v Bury
 Mansfield v Torquay
 Orient v Stockport
 Plymouth v Shrewsbury
 Reading v Fulham
 Rochdale v Barnsley
 Rotherham v Halifax
 Walsall v Bristol R

- FOURTH DIVISION**
 Brentford v Aldershot
 Chester v Peterborough
 Chesterfield v Colchester
 Crewe v Bradford
 Exeter v Northampton
 Grimsby v York
 Lincoln v Wrexham
 Newport v Workington
 Notts C. v Hartlepool
 Port Vale v Darlington
 Southend v Oldham
 Swansea v Scunthorpe

FOOTBALL LEAGUE				F	A	CHESHIRE LEAGUE				F	A
Aug.	9	STOCKPORT COUNTY	Home	3	0	Aug.	9	Sandbach Ramblers	Away	0	2
	13	Port Vale (League Cup)	Away	1	0		13	Witton Albion	Away	4	2
	16	Borrow	Away	3	0		16	ELLESMERE PORT	Home	1	2
	23	SHREWSBURY T.	Home	3	1		23	Stalybridge Celtic	Away	2	2
	27	Torquay United	Away	1	5		27	WTTON ALBION	Home	4	3
	30	Plymouth Argyle	Away	1	2		30	GUINNESS EXPORT	Home	0	2
Sept.	3	TORQUAY (L Cup)	Home	2	1	Sept.	6				
	6	BOURNEMOUTH	Home	1	5		13	Nantwich (Chall. Cup)	Away	1	2
	13	Doncaster Rovers	Away	1	2		24	Winsford United	Away	1	0
	15	BARNLSLEY	Home	0	1		27	MARINE	Home	0	1
	20	BURY	Home	3	2	Oct.	4				
	24	Q.P.R. (League Cup)	Away	0	6		11	ASHTON UNITED	Home	3	0
	27	Walsall	Away	0	0		18	PORT VALE	Home	5	1
	30	Bristol Rovers	Away	0	3		25	Droylsden	Away	4	2
Oct.	4	ORIENT	Home	1	1	Nov.	1	HORWICH R.M.I.	Home	1	1
	6	BARROW	Home	5	0		8	Mossley	Away	0	5
	11	Gillingham	Away	0	0		15	Skelmersdale	Away	0	2
	18	Rochdale	Away	0	4		22	BUXTON	Home	1	1
	25	BRIGHTON	Home	2	0		29	Nantwich	Away	2	0
	29	League Cup (5th rd)				Dec.	6	RHYL	Home	1	2
Nov.	1	Mansfield Town	Away	2	1		13	Ashton United	Away	2	1
	8	ROTHERHAM UNITED	Home	2	2		20	OSWESTRY TOWN	Home	P	
	15	CHESTEFIELD (Cup)	Home	3	0		26	FRICKLEY COLL.	Home	3	1
	22	Halifax	Away	2	2		27	Frickley Colliery	Away	0	3
	24	READING	Home	1	5	Jan.	3	Guinness Export	Away	3	1
	29	SOUTHPORT	Home	0	1		17	L Grlam (Ches. Cup)	Away	1	1
Dec.	6	Port Vale (Cup)	Away	2	2		19	Lostock Grlam (replay)	H	2	1
	8	PORT VALE (replay)	Home	3	1		24	Marine	Away	0	0
	13	DONCASTER	Home	1	3	Feb.	31	WINSFORD	Home	2	1
	20	Bournemouth	Away	2	2		2	SANDBACH R.	Home	5	1
	26	Shrewsbury Town	Away	0	2		7	Oswestry T.	Away	6	1
	27	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	Home	P			9	OSWESTRY	Home	3	2
Jan.	3	Portsmouth (FA Cup)	Away	2	1		21	NEW BRIGHTON (C. S. Cup)	Home	3	2
	10	Bury	Away	0	8		23	STALYBRIDGE	Home	5	0
	17	WALSALL	Home	0	0		28	Port Vale	Away	2	2
	24	NORTHAMPTON (Cup)	Home	0	0	Mar.	14	SKELMERSDALE U.	Home		
	26	Norhampton (Cup)	Away	1	2		21	Rhyl	Away		
	31	Orient	Away	0	2		27	New Brighton	Away		
Feb.	14	Stockport County	Away	P			28	NANTWICH	Home		
	17	BRISTOL ROVERS	Home	P			30	NEW BRIGHTON	Home		
	21	Brighton	Away	0	2	Apr.	4	Horwich RMI	Away		
	28	MANSFIELD TOWN	Home	1	1		18	MOSSLEY	Home		
Mar.	3	Luton Town	Away	0	2		21	STALYBRIDGE C.	Home		
	6	HALIFAX TOWN	Home	1	1		25	Ellesmere Port Town	Away		
	14	Southport	Away	0	2	May	2	Sandbach Ramblers	Away		
	16	BRADFORD CITY	Home	1	0						
	21	LUTON TOWN	Home								
	27	ROCHDALE	Home								
	28	Fulham	Away								
	31	Rotherham	Away								
Apr.	4	TORQUAY UNITED	Home								
	8	Reading	Away								
	11	F.A. Cup Final									
	14	Barnsley	Away								
	22	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	Home								
	24	Stockport County	Away								
	27	FULHAM	Home								

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