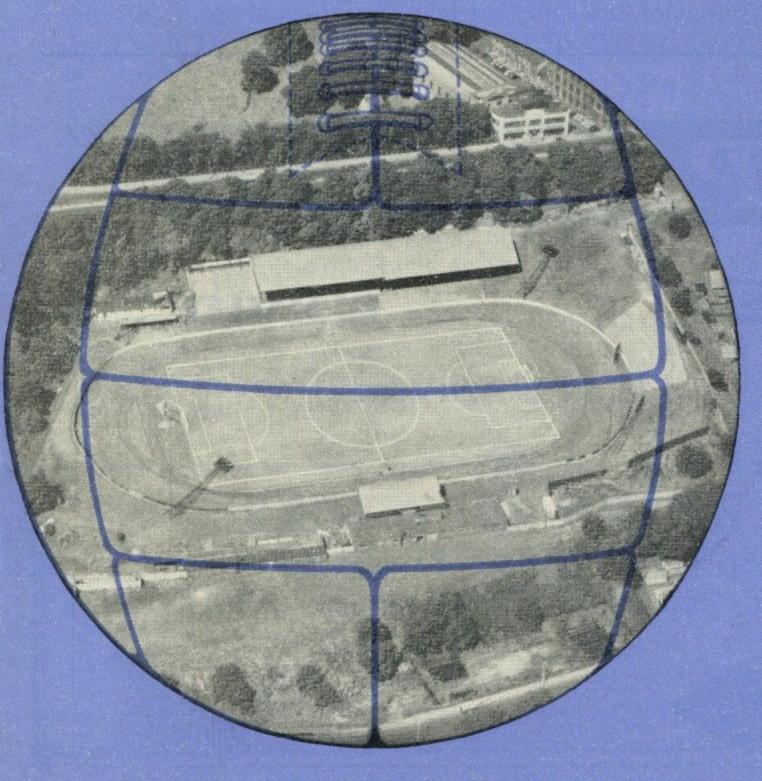


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Football League Div. 3 v. LUTON TOWN SATURDAY 4th APRIL 1970



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Saturday, 4th April 1970

Shay Opinion ...

Only a week after dealing a major blow to the promotion prospects of Brighton and Hove Albion, who lost here by 1-0, we are preparing this afternoon for a home game against another of the sides with a chance of returning to Division Two this month—Luton Town.

The news of our win against Brighton and the memory of a defeat at the Shay four years ago, that cost them one of the four promotion places in Division Four, will have been enough to remind Luton of the challenge for which they must legislate this afternoon.

Our boys, after that 5-0 setback at Rochdale on Monday night and a home draw with Torquay United less than 24 hours later, know that much will be expected of them.

It was, before Brighton's appearance here, and Town responded to a notable occasion. We hope that the side will do so again, although Luton will have very different notions.

A point-a-game average for the 46-match season remains our target. With 42 from 41 games it is attainable, but three of the last four fixtures are away, at Southport on Tuesday night, Fulham and Gillingham.

Walsall will complete our league season with a visit to the Shay on Friday, April 24th.

Still to arrange is the West Riding Senior Cup semi-final match against Leeds United here. Meanwhile we wish them well in the F.A. Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley next Saturday, and also in the second leg of their European Cup semi-final tie with Celtic, which will be on Wednesday,

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Shay Opinion cont.

April 15th—the night our boys play at Fulham.

So extensive are United's commitments that we cannot yet negotiate a date with them. But you can be sure that our manager will do his best to organise the match as well as he did last season, when, in at the same stage of the county cup competition, Leeds brought their league championship-winning team and attracted a five-figure crowd.

Even when the West Riding Senior Cup Tournament ends for us—we won in 1967—football for the Shaymen will not be over. Next month a short tour of Scotland is planned, with a Highlands base, and games against Inverness, Ross and Elgin City.

Before then the retained list will have been compiled. Already its composition is occupying the attention of the manager, whose strategy for 1970-71 will be dictated considerably by financial considerations.

For that reason we are hoping for a good gate today and also for the matches against Walsall and Leeds.

A mid-table position will be satisfactory, only 12 months after saying goodbye to Division Four football, which was our lot for six seasons.

But a promotion challenge from Division Three is wanted next. We know that, and will do our best to give the manager the oportunity to provide it.

Second-team football, in the North Midlands League, is of long-term significance to our progress, and next week there will be more scope for you to note the talent at our disposal in this direction.

Grimsby Town Reserves are due here on Monday night and Doncaster Rovers Reserves on Wednesday, the kick-off time in each case being 7-30. Our reserve side has been showing excellent home form, and delighting the enthusiasts who support them. If you are not yet in that discerning minority, why not join it next week?

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Our Visitors

Luton Town have a special place in our record book at the Shay, following centre-half Chris Nichol's transfer to the Bedfordshire club earlier in the season. The fee, reported in the Press as £30,000, was a record for either club.

Our link with Luton in the thirties was memorable, too. They won an F.A. Cup fifth-round game here in the 1932-33 season by 2-0 after the referee had halted play during a blizzard. That match was attended by a then record Halifax crowd of 29,235.

In 1897 Luton's Football League history began. They were elected to Division Two, lasting for three seasons before returning to the Southern League. The formation of Division Three (South) in 1920 enabled Luton to regain Football League status, and in 1937 they were promoted to Division Two.

After the war Luton progressed steadily, and moved into Division One in 1955, having a better goal average than Rotherham United and an inferior one to Birmingham City, all three clubs totalling 54 points.

The next highlight in Luton's career was a Wembley appearance in 1959, losing 2-1 to Nottingham Forest. Then came the slump. In six seasons Luton slid from Division One to Division Four. The Division Four championship was won in 1967-68, and last season Luton were third, with three points fewer than the promoted clubs, Watford and Swindon Town.

Luton have the distinction of having provided a "player of the year", Syd Owen, now one of Leeds United's backroom experts, being accorded the honour in 1959 when he was their centre half.

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В	Chelsea	V.	Tottenham	L	Blackburn	v.	Hudd'field
C	Coventry	v.	Stoke City	M	Blackpool	v.	Queens P.R.
D	Derby C.	٧.	Wolves	N	Bristol City	v.	Sheffield U.
E	Ipswich T.	v.	South'pton	P	Middlesbro	v.	Cardiff C.
F	Leeds U.	v.	Burnley	R	Millwall	v.	Swindon T.
G	Man.City	V.	Sunderland	S	Rochdale	v.	Brighton
H	Newcastle	v.	Man.Utd.	T	Walsall	v.	Bradford C.
J	Sheff.Wed.	V.	Everton	U	Bradford	v.	Scunthorpe

PEN PICTURES

STARLING, ALAN—A local lad who is only 18, but advanced from the youth team through the reserves.

RYAN, John—Close season signing from Fulham, who started his career with Tonbridge and moved to Arsenal for a short spell.

BANNISTER, Jack—Signed last October from Crystal Palace for an £8,000 fee, he has also played for West Brom. and Scunthorpe United.

SLOUGH, ALAN—This 21 years-old local lad intends to stay with his home town club and has signed a six years contract to prove it.

BRANSTON, Terry—Has given Luton sterling service in the two years since he came from Northampton and is now player/coach.

MOORE, John—A Scott who has been with Luton for five seasons and was previously with Motherwell.

MACDONALD, Malcolm—Another former Fulham player, who started his career with the Tonbridge club.

KEEN, Mike—Signed from Queens Park Rangers, whom he captained during their rise from Division 3 to Division 1.

FRENCH, Graham—Has played for Swindon Town, Watford and Shrewsbury Town before signing for Luton for £5,000.



APPEARANCES AND SCORERS—1969-70 SEASON

	(Substitute appearances in brackets)				
	Div. Three	League Cup	F.A. Cup	Goals	
Smith	38	2	2	TWEET STATES	
Burgin	41	2	2	1	
Lennard	41	2	2	2	
Robertson	39(1)	2	1	3	
Lawther	28(2)	2	2	9	
Hill	25	2	2	00 4	
McCarthy	31	2	2	5	
Wallace	31	1(1)	2	1	
Pickering	38(1)	1004	2	1	
Shawcross	28(6)	2		7	
Flower	8	2		THE REL	
Nichol	. 3	1		-	
Ryden	11	1	2	2	
Lee	21(1)		1	_	
Cullen	— (1)			_	
Turnbull	7	_		_	
Connaughton	3	Lara		MYPOS	
Verity	11(6)			3	
Atkins	18	- 1-16 X	2	8	
Holmes	4		HZ9 -	1	
Chadwick	16		XATEL	4	
Vernon	4	_			
Graham	5		AWOM!	ogrania	

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- Starling
- Ryan
- Bannister
- Slough
- Braston
- Moore
- Collins
- Busby
- McDonald
- Keen
- 11 French HARRISON

Substitute: Nichotl PHILLIPS

Referee W. S. Castle (Sedgley)

Linesmen: T. G. Hewitt Red Flag

J. Rice Yellow Flag

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TEN YEARS AGO

A feature recalling Town's early days in Div. 3 for which they qualified by finishing in the top half of the old Northern Section in 1957-58

Reading took home a point from a 2-2 Shay draw with the assistance of two goals from the penalty spot, each scored by left back Reeves, whose partner was Bernard Goodall, who completed his Football League career with Halifax five years later.

Reeves put Reading ahead in the fifth minute, profiting from a penalty awarded by referee A. Jobling (Morecambe) when Peter Tilley handled.

Town worked hard for an equaliser. Tommy Holmes, Tilley and Doug Fletcher all went close before Fletcher made it 1-1 eight minutes from the interval. Whitelaw and Tilley prepared the opportunity from which the right-winger scored.

The second penalty, 16 minutes after the interval, was awarded less controversially than the first. Roy Lorenson brought down Spiers.

The second equaliser came four minutes later. Intense pressure featured Fletcher and Holmes, who made the opening for George Whitelaw to hit the ball into a corner of the net.

Reading's defence was tested in the final minutes, and Reeves had his name taken for a foul on Fletcher. Large, Tilley and Fletcher went near to earning Town a dramatic victory, but the visitors survived to take a point from a game watched by a 5,767 crowd, including Hull City manager Bob Brocklebank.

Whitelaw and Large were developing into a hostile pair of strikers, and the team was moving with confidence and power that were lacking midway through the season.

But it was too late to challenge the top teams. Eventually Southampton (61 points) and Norwich City (59) were promoted, with Shrewsbury Town in third place, seven points behind Norwich.

The Directors wish to thank the following for the Gift of a Ball during the present season.

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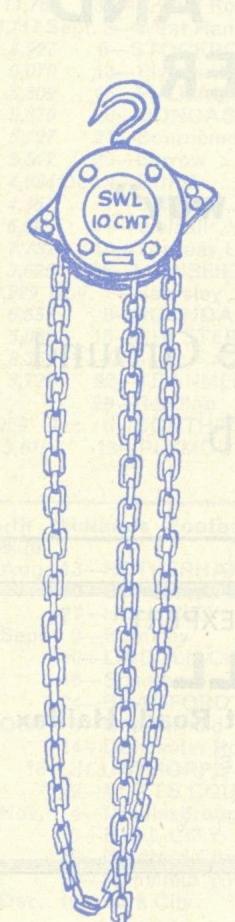
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