

SEASON 1969-70

STAGS REVIEW

1/4

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIV. III



MANSFIELD TOWN v LUTON TOWN

MONDAY
20th APRIL
Kick-off 7.30



FIELD MILL GROUND
QUARRY LANE
MANSFIELD

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF THE MANSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



Mr. A. F. Patrick

An exciting season for 'Stags' writes chairman

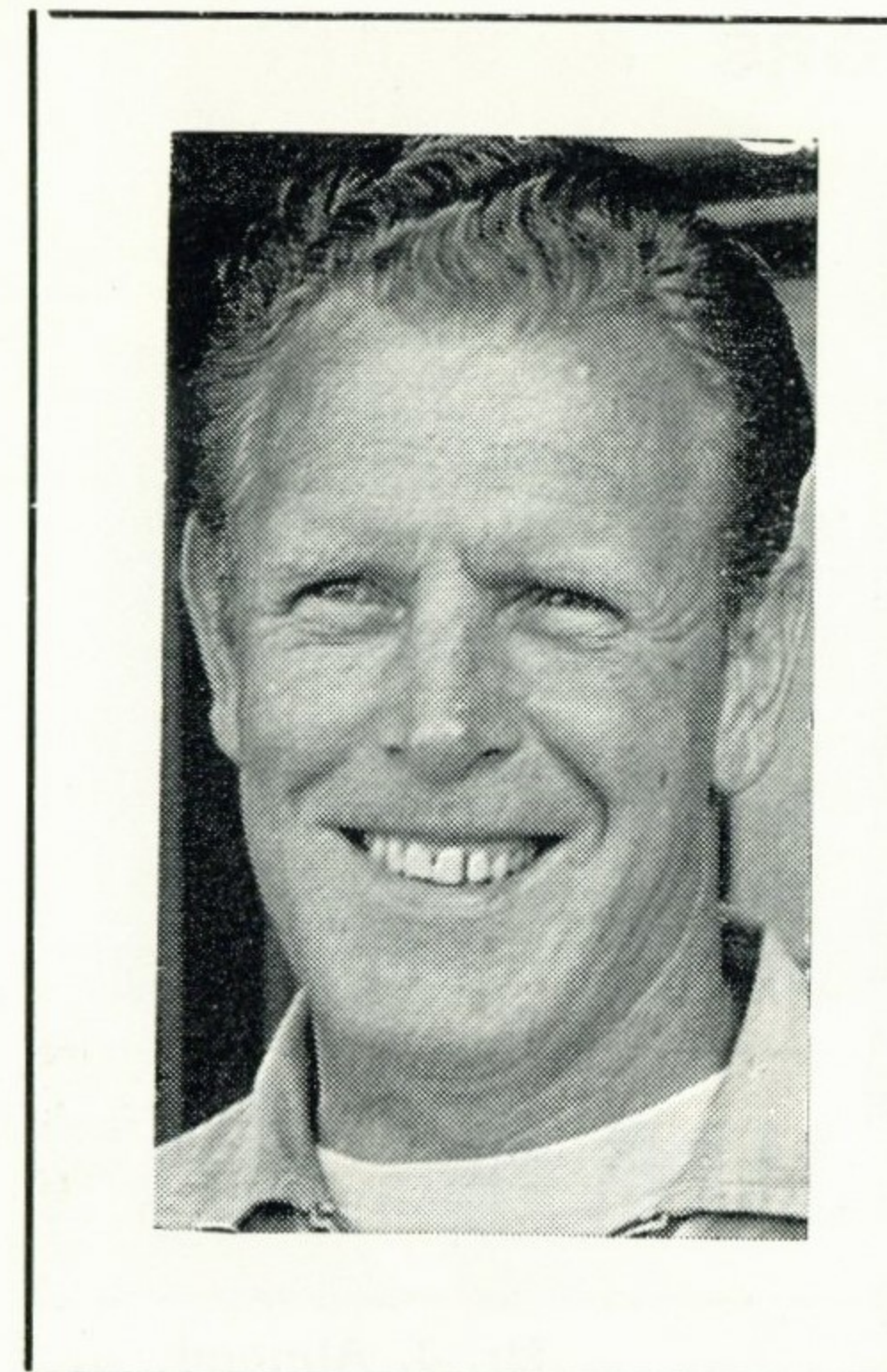
Looking back over this 1969-70 season, I am sure we all feel it has been a memorable one, and for the greater part of it a successful and exciting season, and at this our last home game I feel it is fitting that I should publicly congratulate our manager, Tom Eggleston, coach Jock Basford and the entire playing staff for their wonderful efforts. Their success has been the result of a great team effort and spirit by all, backed by sheer hard work.

It took the might and skill of the great Leeds United to halt our second successive cup run at the 5th round ; a game to be remembered and proudly talked over for many years to come. The challenge for promotion has once again just fallen short, just one or two more points in the early season and we could well have been in Division 2.

Nevertheless I am sure we shall be a big factor in the promotion race next season, and I can assure you every possible effort will be given not only by the manager and his players, but by everyone at Field Mill to achieve the goal of Second Division football in Mansfield. Yet none of this can be won without the backing and support of the whole town and district and at this juncture I want to say a big thank you for your support through this season, and I hope you can encourage your friends to come along and make it even greater next season.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate and thank all who took part in the 'Stags' Walk, indeed a wonderful effort. At the time of writing these notes I have no idea what the final proceeds will amount to, but I can tell you it will be a great help to our constantly over-strained financial resources. It is with this kind of support and spirit that we can go from strength to strength in the future at Field Mill.

A. F. PATRICK.



'We have created a much sounder basis on which to work' says Tom Eggleston

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, With but two remaining fixtures—this evening's game with Luton Town, and our away match at Bradford City on Wednesday—we come to the end of yet another football season. A season, which on reflection, I cannot speak too highly of the team's achievements and of the excellent progress that has been accomplished.

In the F.A. Cup competition, the team deserve the finest praise for once again providing yet another memorable giant-killing cup-run, which I feel was comparable to last season's wonderful cup success, when one considers that 4 of the 5 ties were played on opponent's grounds. The team displayed great courage and disciplined team-work in every game, and showed tremendous strength of character.

In the league programme, one can say we failed in our ambitions for promotion, but I am sure a great number of our performances must have given a lot of pleasure to many people, and I am extremely pleased that supporters have been coming along in

increasing numbers to show their appreciation of the team's efforts to provide entertaining football, even though it wasn't all winning football.

Yet we must never feel self-satisfied or in any way complacent. We must always be looking to improve on past performances and on past results. Good teams can become great teams, if dedication and effort is given by all concerned.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your loyal support, and for the great encouragement you have given the team throughout the season.

Quite a lot of hard work goes on constantly behind the scenes at every football ground, and I should like to compliment our "back-room boys" for a good job well done, in what has been a very difficult season.

I am sure that the efforts and progress made by the team this term, has created a much sounder basis on which to work and prepare for the fresh challenge that lies ahead of us next term.

MANSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB LTD

FIELD MILL GROUND

M A N S F I E L D

Tel. 23567

Chairman : Mr. A. F. PATRICK

Vice-Chairman : Mr. G. BUNTING

Directors :

J. B. ALMOND

B. CHAMBERS

J. W. PRATT

Secretary : Mr. J. D. EATON

Team Manager : Mr. T. EGGLESTON

Hon. Medical Officer :

DR. T. J. O'DONOVAN

Public Relations Manager :

Mr. FRANK MILFORD

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Mansfield

MANSFIELD TOWN DIRECTORS & STAFF



Mr. B. Chambers
Director



Mr. G. Bunting
Vice-Chairman



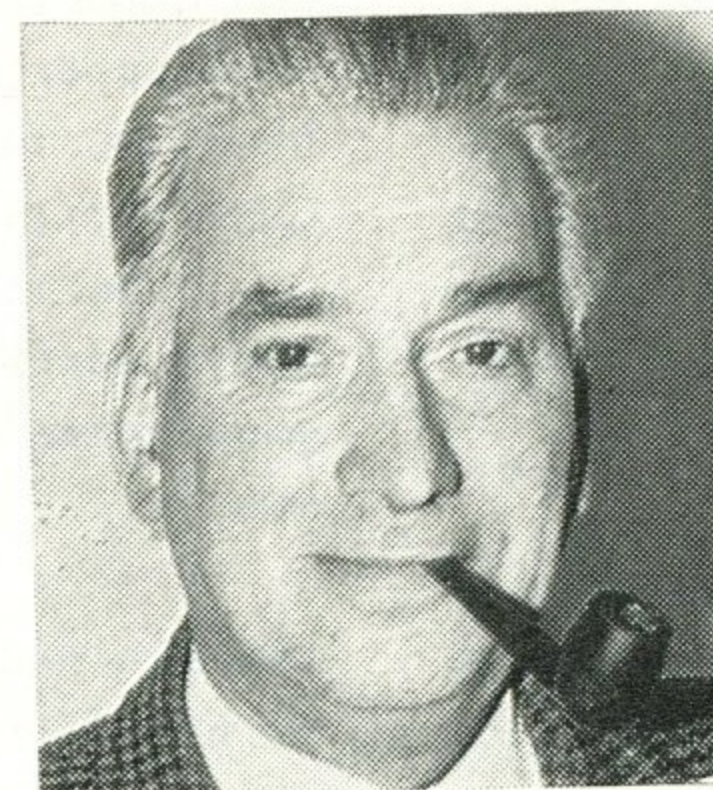
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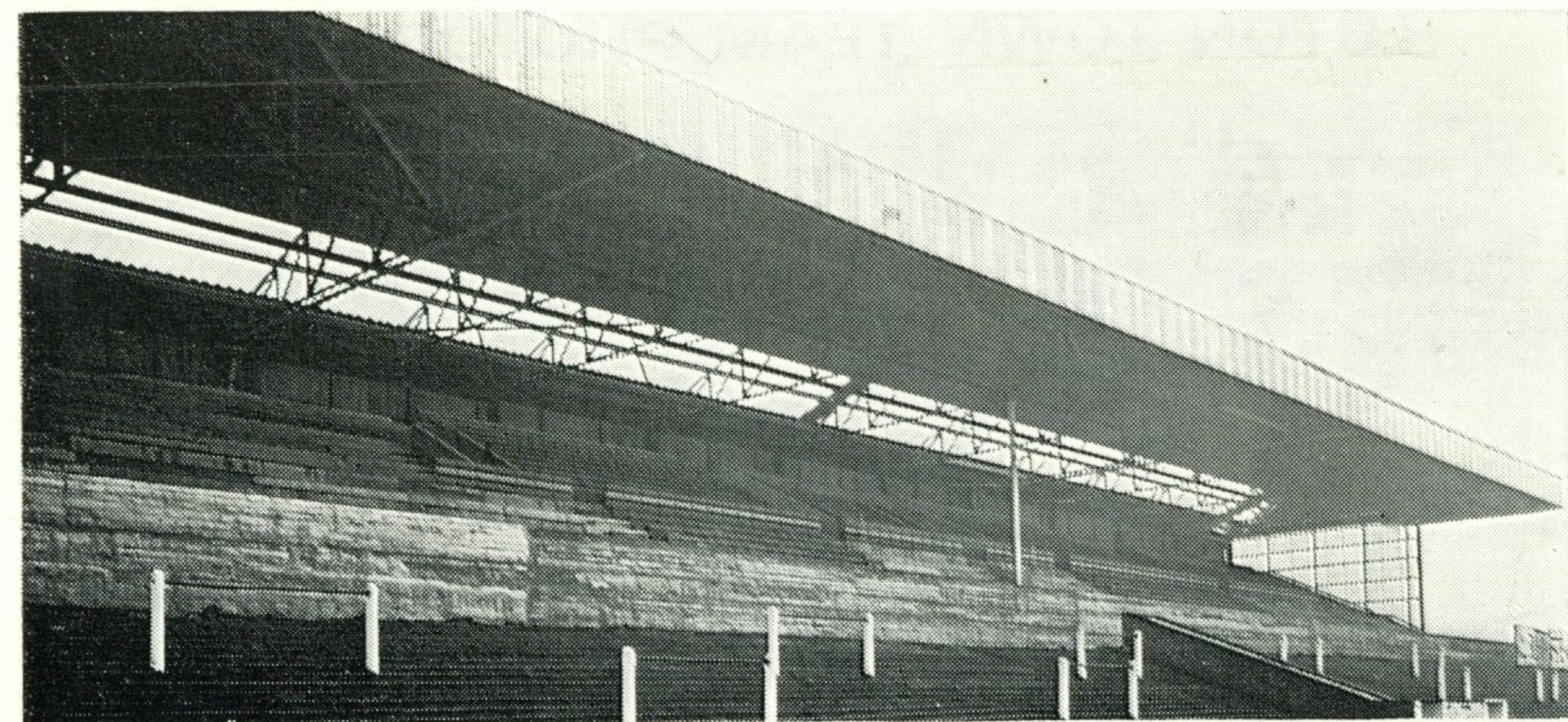
Mr. W. (Jock) Basford
Coach



Mr. Sam Weaver
Chief Scout



Mr. J. D. Eaton
Secretary



FIELD MILL TOPICS BY FRANK MILFORD

At last we reach our final home game of the season and I find myself thinking of what has happened in my first season with the Stags. I feel sure that you will agree that the standard of Football seen at Field Mill has been of excellent quality. Our team has done us all proud and in return your support has been of fine quality, though at times it could have been better in volume. I am confident that the people of Mansfield really do want high grade League Football and I know that everyone at Field Mill is doing his best toward this aim. Let us not forget this when season tickets come on sale. Let us renew our interest and together aim for our goal.

A special thanks to all of you who have written to me giving your views on improving facilities and putting Mansfield Town really on the map. 'Thanks' to all of you who made the Sponsored Walk so successful. 'Thank you' to our wonderful Dolly Girls who apart from brightening up the area have raised well over £700 by their efforts.

You will of course have noticed this new programme on sale to-day. This is the type of programme which I hope to present to you next season. Please write and give me your views on any additional items which you think should be included.

I would also like to thank all the player's wives who allowed me to interview them during the season. I trust that the facts were interesting for you and gave an insight into the player's family and his life



apart from football. Don't forget the "Ten Questions to Players" feature which I will introduce next season, I still require more questions.

I have used up my space now. I have just enough left to say "Thank you" for making my first season with the Stags so enjoyable. Cheerio and good luck until we meet again in August.

LUTON TOWN TEAM PHOTOGRAPH



Back Row : (left to right) : Morris Stevenson ; Freddie Jardine ; Graham French ; Mike Keen ; Keith Allen ; Peter Phillips.

Centre Row (left to right) : John Ryan ; Alan Guild ; Neil Rioch (now with Aston Villa) ; Sandy Davie ; Tony Read ; Max Dougan ; Terry Branston ; Robin Wainwright.

Front Row (left to right) : Brian Lewis (now with Oxford United) ; Alan Slough ; John Moore ; Keith Bannister ; Mike Harrison ; Bruce Rioch (now with Aston Villa) ; Laurie Sheffield (now with Doncaster Rovers). Picture by Home Counties Newspapers Ltd.

PEN PICTURES

DAVIE, Sandy (Goalkeeper). Former Scottish under 23 goalkeeper, for whom Luton paid an £8,000 fee last October, 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.

READ, Tony (Goalkeeper). Was first choice until a dislocated finger early last season put him out of the game for several weeks and eventually necessitated an operation. Came back to play in the last five matches in which he conceded only three goals. Began his career with Sheffield Wednesday, and joined Luton from Peterborough United. Has also played at centre-forward and has done the hat-trick in a League game.

DOUGAN, Max (Right Back). Signed for £7,000 from Leicester City 2½ years ago as a centre-half, but was converted into a right back on the advent of Terry Branston. Missed only nine matches during the last two seasons and the majority of those through injury. A Scot, he earned several amateur caps whilst with Queens Park. Has also played at right half.

RYAN, John (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.

Pen Pictures continued

MACDONALD, Malcolm (Left Back). 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.

JARDINE, Freddie (Left Back). Luton's longest serving player because he is beginning his ninth season with them. Originally joined them as an outside left from Dundee, but achieved only moderate success in that position, and proved to be much happier in a defensive position. Had much bad luck with injuries last season, but is thoroughly fit again now.

KEEN, Mike (Right Half). 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 III to Division I 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.

SLOUGH, Alan (Centre Half). This 21 years-old is Luton's most valuable asset now that Bruce Rioch has gone to Aston Villa, 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 intend him for the pivotal job where he played brilliantly last season.

BRANSTON, Terry (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 which means that his future service may be mostly among the Reserves. Was with Northampton for nine years and helped them to promotion on three occasions.

GUILD, Alan (Centre Half). Will probably be used in this position or as a defensive wing half in the back four. Aged 22, he played regularly last season as an amateur for East Fife and accepted Luton's professional terms after graduating as an M.A. at St. Andrew's University.

BANNISTER, Jack (Left Half). 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 midfield role. Vastly experienced, he played in over 100 League games for the Palace and saw previous service with West Bromwich Albion and Scunthorpe United.

MOORE, John (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.

FRENCH, Graham (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.

WAINWRIGHT, Robin (Inside Right). A local who was outstanding in schools football and who was offered full-time terms after a spell as an apprentice. Is still only on the threshold of his career, but is showing much promise as a clever ball player.

ALLEN, Keith (Centre Forward). 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.

PHILLIPS, Peter (Centre Forward). Another University graduate who gained a B.A. and a soccer Blue at Cambridge. Played for Corinthian-Casuals and then moved to Athenian League club, Bishops Stortford with whom he won two England amateur caps last season. Is now a full-time professional.

STEVENSON, Morris (Inside Left). Is now beginning to make his presence felt following a disappointing time after joining Luton from Morton early last season. Was given just one chance in the first team—at Hartlepool last December. Now he is regarded as likely to do a thoroughly capable midfield job.

HARRISON, Mike (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.

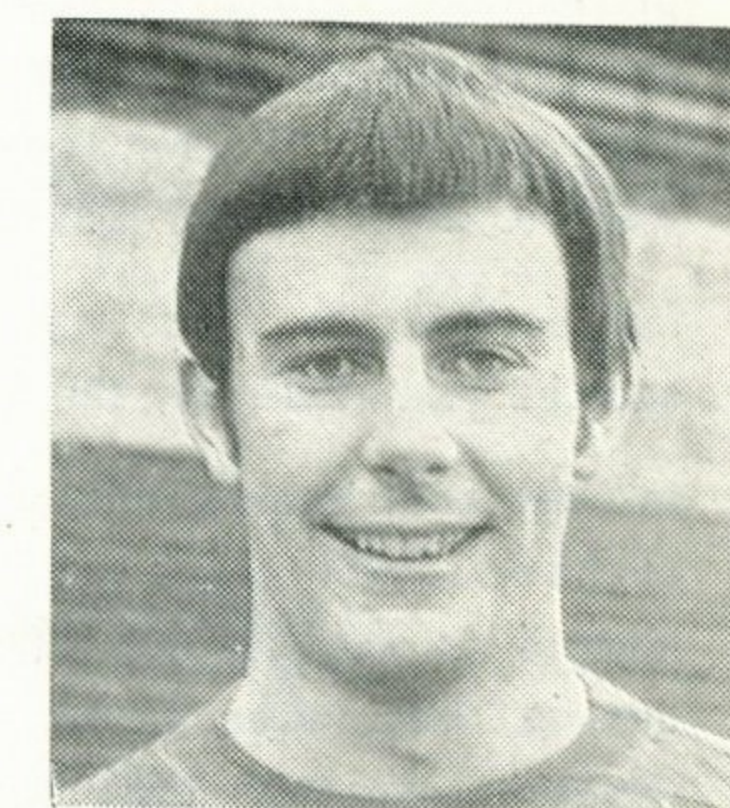
MANSFIELD TOWN



FOOTBALL CLUB



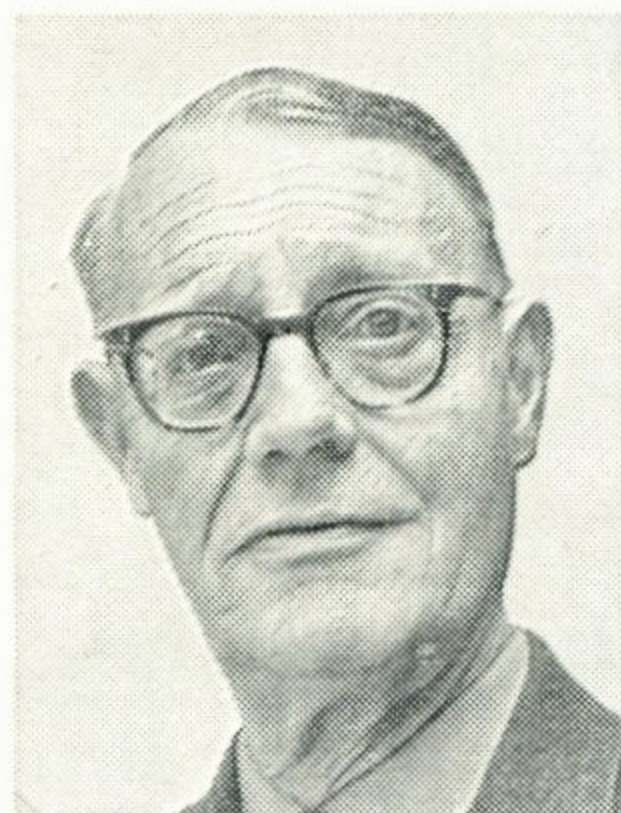
DUNCAN MCKENZIE



GRAHAM BROWN

Back row left to right: Sid Carter, Trevor Carr, Bill O'Hara, Sandy Pate, Clive Walker, Ray Keeley, Brian Bates, Maurice Ball, Ian Wright, Albert Hodgkinson
Middle row left to right: Mick Hopkinson, Bob Ledger, Malcolm Partridge, John Saunders, Desmond Finch, Dave Hollins, Stuart Boam, Phil Waller, Dudley Roberts, John Stenson, Jock Basford (Coach)
Front row left to right: Frank Milford (Public Relations Manager), Nick Sharkey, John Quigley, Mr. J. Almond, Mr. George Bunting (Director), Mr. A. F. Patrick (Chairman) Tom Eggleston (Team Manager)
Mr. J. Pratt (Director) David Jones, Jimmy Goodfellow, Sam Weaver (Chief Scout)
Seated front: Colin Foster, Kevin Flynn, Phil Annable

LUTON TOWN - 'THE HATTERS'



by
Eric Pugh
Sports Editor
Luton News

Claim of Luton Town that they were the first professional club in the South to employ professional players has never been disputed. That happened in 1890 when they decided to give 5s. a week to three of their players.

Full professional status was entered into on 1891 and the gate money for the first match was £3-0-1d.

In 1894, they became one of the original members of the Southern League and, three years later, were elected to the Second Division of the Football League, but, after three seasons, the financial situation was such that it was thought wise to return to the Southern League.

In that they continued until the formation of the Third Division (South) in 1920, and stayed there with varying success until winning promotion to Division II in 1937.

In 1955 came the crowning of Luton's ambitions when they gained a place in the First Division and four seasons later, they won through to the F.A. Cup Final in which they were beaten 2-1 by Nottingham Forest.

However, that seemed to start the rot because 12 months later they were relegated, found the slope a slippery one and, after spending two seasons each in the Second and Third Division, slipped right through to the Fourth Division basement.

This is their second season in their fight to regain their lost status and they finished third last season, their first in the Third Division.

Again this season, they have made a brave bid for promotion and have averaged around 15,000 in home attendances, the biggest being 18,065 against Bournemouth and the lowest 11,368 against Tranmere Rovers.

Ground record stands at 30,069 when Blackpool were the visitors in March 1959 in a sixth round Cup replay. Over the years, Luton have had a big reputation as Cup-fighters, but they disappointed this time, going out by 2-1 to non-League club Hillingdon Borough in the second round after having accounted for Bournemouth at the second attempt.

Their nickname, "The Hatters," stems, of course, from what used to be the staple straw-plaiting industry which has now been left far behind in importance by the big car manufacturing firms, but the straw hat is still incorporated in the club's insignia.



Alec Stock
Luton Town
Manager

	DIVISION III.						AWAY			Goals		Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
ORIENT	42	14	5	1	38	11	8	7	7	23	21	56
BRISTOL ROVERS ..	44	15	5	2	50	24	5	11	6	27	28	56
LUTON TOWN	43	12	8	2	45	15	9	5	7	29	27	55
BRIGHTON	45	16	4	2	36	14	7	5	11	20	27	55
BARNSELY	45	14	5	3	42	23	5	9	9	25	35	52
READING	44	15	3	4	44	29	5	8	8	23	42	51
FULHAM	43	10	9	2	39	24	7	6	8	37	28	49
MANSFIELD T. ..	43	14	3	5	46	22	6	7	8	23	26	50
ROCHDALE	43	11	6	4	38	21	7	4	11	29	33	46
BRADFORD CITY ..	43	11	6	4	37	20	6	6	10	20	27	46
DONCASTER R. ..	45	13	4	6	31	19	4	7	11	20	34	45
TORQUAY U. ...	45	8	9	5	33	22	5	8	10	26	37	43
HALIFAX T. ...	43	10	9	3	31	24	4	6	11	15	34	43
ROTHERHAM U. ..	45	9	8	5	33	18	5	6	12	26	35	42
PLYMOUTH A. ..	44	10	7	6	32	23	6	3	12	27	36	42
SHREWSBURY T. ..	42	8	12	1	30	17	3	6	12	27	42	40
BURY	45	13	3	6	46	28	2	7	14	28	51	40
WALSALL	42	10	2	8	27	28	5	8	9	20	36	40
TRANMERE R. ..	41	8	7	5	32	27	3	7	11	16	42	36
BOURNEMOUTH ..	43	7	9	6	27	27	4	5	12	20	42	36
SOUTHPORT	41	10	4	7	29	21	3	5	12	15	32	35
GILLINGHAM	40	6	5	10	26	33	4	5	10	19	28	30
BARROW	46	7	9	7	28	27	1	5	17	18	54	30
STOCKPORT C. ..	44	4	7	11	17	29	2	3	17	10	41	22



Lutons leading scorer with 27 goals
20 years old Malcolm McDonald in white shirt in typical dashing action

CUP FINAL REPLAY

WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL
kick-off 7.30 p.m.

We can't offer you a ticket . . .

BUT

you can see the whole match LIVE on a 25" COLOUR TV if you come to the ANTLERS CLUB and enjoy a grandstand seat.

The set has been kindly installed specially for this match by . . .

REDIFFUSION LTD., Regent Street Mansfield and Aerial Erection by S. Davidson 45 Belvedere Street Mansfield.

NO CHARGE - BUT COME EARLY
kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Jock Basford's Tips for the Youngsters

Stag's Coach has written his 'Tips' in the programme throughout the season and we have received so many requests for these to be re-printed that we take pleasure in repeating extracts from them below . . .

Another new season is on its way, and no doubt this means for you, the young player, an early visit to the local Sports Outfitters for your new football gear.

Take care in your choice of boots (there is a very wide selection nowadays), make sure they fit you, neither too small and certainly not too big, either can be very uncomfortable and certainly affect your ball control and kicking.

Don't forget your shinguards, or "pads," nowadays, they're very light, no trouble to wear, and certainly can prevent many a bad knock or cut.

One final point, take care of your boots, clean them after the match, let them dry naturally, then polish or dubbin them, check the stitching, the laces, and particularly the studs; remember they could make all the difference to you and your team's success in the next game.

As the local football competitions open up their league programmes, many of you will be playing your first games of the new season, and no doubt a lot of effort will go towards getting the first win.

Effort, hard work, or work rate, is a vital part of any successful team's make up—the ability of the players to keep trying from start to finish. Remember, football is a team game, and team work is a vital part of success. To win the ball, we are all defenders, and having got it we are attackers. It is what we do 'on' and 'off' the ball as players that determines what success we achieve.

Once we have possession of the ball we must dictate the play. A team playing well will often have 2 or 3 players moving into position to receive a pass and carry on the attack. Remember, all players are important to the team's success, so help each other, all of the time.

We have already discussed the high value of team work in football, both in getting possession of the ball and in attack play. Once a team is in possession we hope to make progress down the field by "good use of the ball!"—in other words good passing!

This ability or skill is a very important part of the game. To be able to pass the ball accurately to a player whether he is stationary or on the run with the right amount of power so it gets there at the right time over a short or long distance. But this, like so many skills, can be developed by regular practice if you're willing to work at it.

Simple practices in pairs, on the move; **control, look and pass**, varying the distances from 10-25 yards, moving forward interpassing on the run, finishing with a shot at goal, making sure the passes are made so your partner can take it in his stride. 2 v. 1 keeping possession in a 10 yard area, which needs steadiness or composure "on the ball," and accurate use of it to your partner, develops your passing skill, and all the other vital skill of putting yourself into a position where your partner can give you the ball; this is "off the ball play." If you have a group of players, try **NUMERICAL PASSING**, each player has a number, No. 1 always passes to No. 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4, 4 to 1, etc., all players are on the move so now we have to find a particular player, its surprising how our passing skill develops.

Small area games of football, i.e., 5 a side is a wonderful way of improving our use of the ball; but, football, like everything in the world, if we want to be successful, we must work hard at it! Practice, Practice! Practice!

Following our previous "ideas" on the constructional side of the game, one or two hints which can be a help to you in your game.

"Calling"

Often a little call to a player to hold the ball, helps a player to decide his next move, stops him kicking the ball away in a hurry when he has time and space to control and make a good pass.

"Man On"

is another call to assist the player not to be caught in possession. A call from a Goalkeeper can be a big help to a defender in the penalty area to decide his next move, to clear his lines, or let his Goalkeeper collect the ball. Once again we talk about "calling for the ball," this assists the player on the ball to make good use of it. Often you hear a call of a "square ball" or pass to a player in a supporting position, the well known "thro' ball," the pass which is played past an opponent for a player moving forward.

Many people feel this calling in the game by players is over done, but it is a big help towards good constructive team work. It is often said "if you don't call for the ball you don't want it." but remember, be constructive in your call, good calling can be an asset, but bad calling is no help at all.

The ability to play the ball with the head has nothing to do with the size of a player, there's no reason why a small player cannot achieve a good standard of performance of this particular skill.

One thing we must have is **confidence**, many young players fear they may be hurt. We can gain that confidence, working in pairs with a light ball. Remember watch the ball and meet it with your forehead, you can't get hurt, it's only when we take our eyes off it and drop the head that the ball hits the top of the head and we get "problems."

Practice individually, continuous heading, try to improve the number of "plays" of the ball as you move freely under it. A suspended ball, to develop your timing and ability to jump to head a swinging ball.

Continuous heading on to a high wall will gradually improve your power, start from a short distance and as you improve, increase your distance from the wall.

Another practise is continuous heading in pairs sitting down, approx. 3-4 ft. apart, this will make you use your body and neck muscles, and its surprising how your skill improves.

Once again in pairs standing 6-8 ft. apart, try "1 Touch," control a head to your partner, in other words "cushion the ball" and then pass it.

Head Tennis is another means of improving your heading ability, played similarly to tennis, its very popular among our own players.

But like everything, if we want to be good at it we must practice regularly.

There are many times during a game when the ball is dead. And the game has to be restarted, i.e., kick-offs, free kicks, corner kicks and throw-ins, etc. In the professional games these are called "dead ball situations" or "restarts" and teams will go to a lot of trouble to practise moves to be able to gain some advantage from these positions.

Tips for the youngsters . . .

The "throw-in" the commonest of all these positions, could I feel, be used to greater advantage at junior level. Space, or lack of it, is one of the big problems; young players will "crowd" the thrower and make it difficult to receive a ball, or to use it. So remember give the thrower room to make his pass, because that's what it is after all. The simplest way to maintain possession of a ball is to throw it to a partner and for him to pass it back to the thrower, and we are in play. A simple operation, if the thrower has the space we have talked about. A lot is required of the player who make the throw, be accurate, a ball thrown direct to your partners head is easy to play back and is seldom intercepted. A ball thrown to feet can be challenged by an opponent. There are many ways of gaining greater advantage from a throw-in, but all need a good understanding between players, which can be gained from discussing a "move" together and then practising it on the field. Ideally at a throw-in we need a player up the line, one square to the thrower and one the defensive side or "deep" as we say. These are ample to gain the possession we need. Sometimes each player including the thrower is marked by an opponent, making the pass back difficult, now we must have movement from our players thus creating a space into which the ball can be thrown.

Often, during the course of a season, we receive letters from young players asking for advice on training and playing matters. Several recently were for advice on "speeding up their play."

Apart from the fact of being quicker in running, which can be gained by regular sprinting practice over distances of 10-30 yards, which concentrate at getting the very necessary "sharpness off the mark," "speed of thought" is very vital. "Go to meet the ball" don't wait for it to come to you.

"Control the ball and move away in one movement," rather then stop it and then restart it.

Don't carry the ball up the field, "Play it," and support your pass, in other words, "make the ball do the work." Keep it rolling!

To be able to kick the ball with accuracy and power must be one of the more sought after skills in the game. Like any other skill, this can only be achieved by constant practise, but try and make that practice as near realistic as possible. If its shooting at goal after the basic work with a dead ball, go on to hitting the moving ball; simply push it forward and shoot; hit the ball coming in from the wing position, or coming through from behind, and one important point, **DON'T TRY TO BURST THE BALL**, hit it clean. Defenders, work at your clearances, the volley kicking you need to get the ball away out of the danger areas, practice in 3's, triangular formation, playing the ball, coming from the right angle, away to the left. You must be confident to play this ball away, over the top of oncoming forwards.

"Our wall" we've talked about before, once again comes in very useful for kicking practice, mark target areas to aim at, work in pairs or 3's, but once again always playing a moving ball. Keep the tow down and concentrate! even 5-10 mins. practice a day works wonders.

We have been very lucky so far this season in having almost ideal conditions for our games, but no doubt, in the near future, we shall be faced with more wintry conditions and we shall have to look to our playing gear.

Make sure your Boots are properly studded. Fit the longer studs for the softer grounds, but save the short ones you remove, they will come in useful when the grounds "firm" up again on the occasional Saturday.

Rubber studs can be used on the icy grounds, but whenever you fit new studs, grease the threads, it makes the fitting or removal easier next time. In cold weather, make sure your feet are warm to start the game, by rubbing well with a rough towel, there's nothing worse than trying to kick a ball with frozen feet!

Rub some warming oil over your back, shoulders and chest, to prevent the cold and damp getting in. On your few minutes before the kick-off get thoroughly warmed up, with a few sprints and exercises, don't stand around getting cold, maybe in the early minutes of the game you may have to spring to make a clearance, or race through to score, it isn't easy if you're not warmed up to it, and it may be harder still, if you can't hold your feet, through bad studding!

It would no doubt, be a real "eye opener" for any young player to see the activity in a "Boot Room," before senior games. They would soon realise how important it is for a player to have the correct boot, and length and type of stud for the ground conditions he is going to play on. This is even more so, during the next few weeks when a ground can

be soft and in a matter of hours can be frozen hard. Of course, the soft grounds demand a long stud, and the harder surface, a short or rubber stud.

The rubber multi-studded boots, are good on hard dry grounds, but the most difficult surface is the frozen one. At the professional level results can depend on the ability of a player to keep his feet. Some clubs have even used canvas basket ball boots on a frozen surface. I personally feel the boots with varying angle rubber bars on the sole are the best means of helping you to retain your balance on these conditions. Remember you'll enjoy your game much more if you can move freely on the ground and proper studding is largely the answer.

A first line of a team's defence is its forwards, the men nearest to the opponent with the ball. Their job is to try and delay the "build up" of attack and gain time for the defence to organise their marking and covering. By their hard work and harrassing efforts, defenders jobs are made easier.

At my previous club, Charlton, this vital part of a forward's job of harrassing the opposing players was always emphasised in pre-match talks, with a fair measure of success.

To the extent that, after losing 2 to 3 games in succession, I was surprised to see an extra set of playing gear hung up in the dressing room prior to the game. When I enquired about it, I was told by the players "**Harris is back in the side again.**"

They had realised what had been missing from their game, and what a difference it made!

In any team, no matter at what level it plays, a good captain is a great asset, yet often he's taken for granted. He's the player who leads the team on to the field, and tosses for choice of end; but when you start to look at his job, there's much more to it than that.

Ideally, he must be able to get the best collective results out of his team, by raising their efforts when its required, yet can steady the side when things are going wrong, possibly the latter is the most difficult of the two, and obviously he must be a very dedicated boy.

A good "skipper" is a "natural" at his job and, although, ideally he may be the best player in a young side, he certainly can be the means of making a very average team, a successful one.

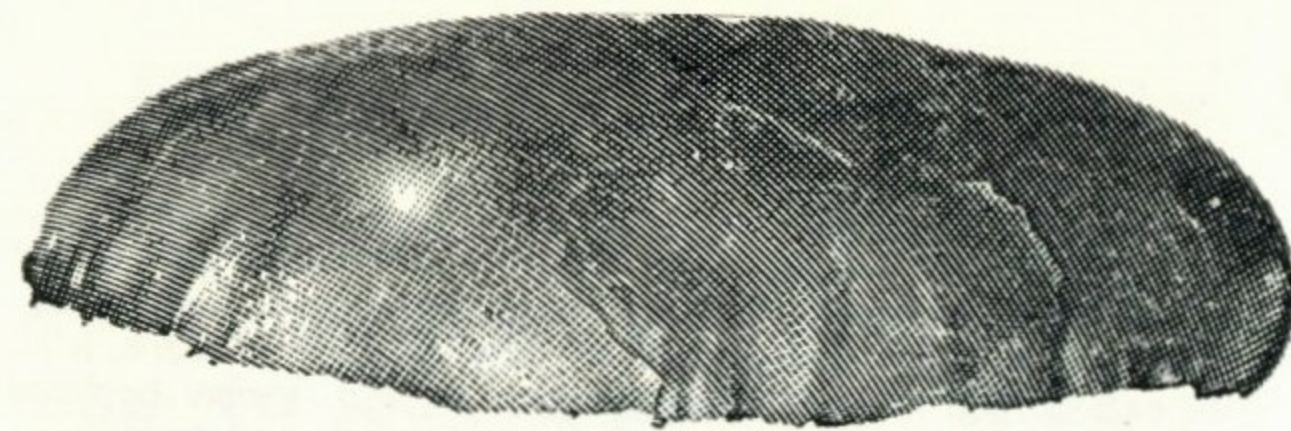
Ball Control

The ability to receive a ball from any angle, control it and either move away or make a good pass.

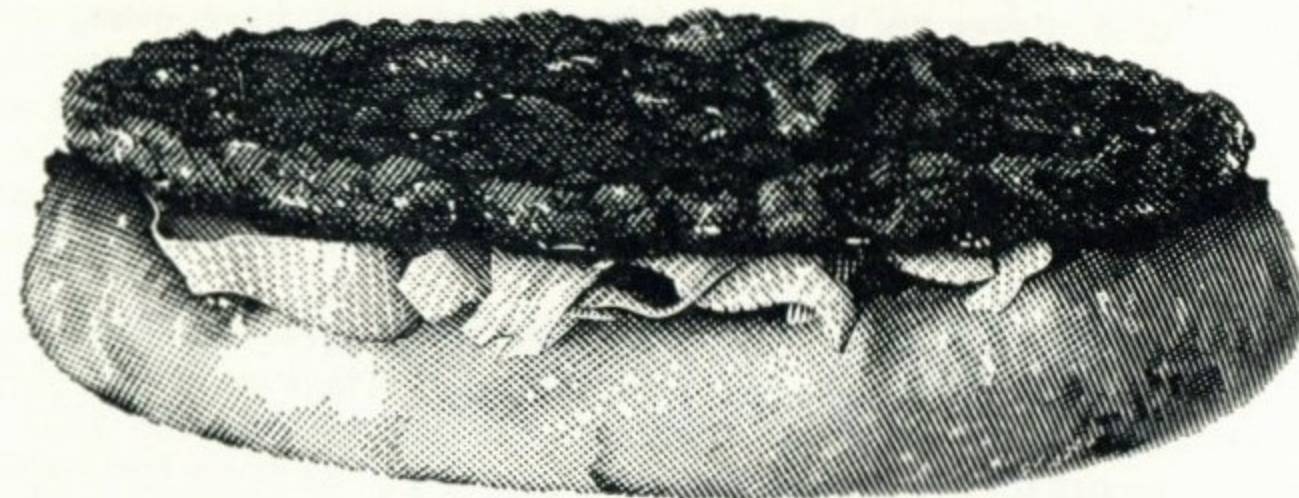
Once again, this, like any skill, improves with constant practise. Regular playing with a ball, will give you that "feel" of control. Practice keeping the ball up off the ground using either feet, knee, head, chest, etc. The light plastic footballs are ideal for this purpose.

But although we will gradually develop a finer touch, don't overdo this "playing with the ball" in the actual game, use your extra skill to accept the ball and move away or use the ball.

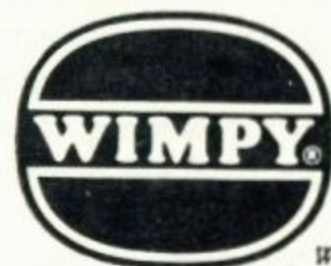
Your improved "**Touch**"—**Control**—or **Feel** of the ball, call it what you will, can make your team job easier, don't mis-use your skill by over elaborating. **DON'T TAKE THE LACE OUT OF THE BALL**, as we say, **MAKE YOUR SKILL PAY OFF.**



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**STAGS'
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WALK**

One of the outstanding fund raising events of this season was the Sponsored Walk which aroused considerable enthusiasm in the Town and proved to be very successful. In the middle of a period of miserable weather, Sunday, March 22nd, turned out to be a pleasant sunny Spring day, and about 800 people, including the Mayor of Mansfield, turned out to take part.

The behaviour of the walkers was exemplary and for this the Club is indeed grateful. It is interesting to note that other Football Clubs from various parts of the country have contacted me to ask my views on such an event.

At the time of writing the income from the walk is over £1,500 and I know that there is more money yet to come. If you have not paid your money in yet would you please do so at the Club Offices as soon as possible.

Listen to the public address system this evening for details of the Cine Film showing all the walk.

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**Ernest Wass and "Helen" ask
for your continued support of
the Blue & Amber Development Fund
in the close season.**

Tonight when the match is over and the Referee blows his final whistle—for many of you it will be the end of football until the next season. But for a small band of stalwarts their work and much needed help will carry on—these and the Agents of the "Blue and Amber Bonanza Development Fund" who help to keep the interest alive through the closed season by selling the "Bonanza" Tickets which brings in the much needed revenue.

Over the last six months the Development Fund has raised well over £3,600 which helped greatly towards the heavy running costs of the football club.

To all the Agents who sell, and supporters who buy the weekly tickets a very sincere "Thank You"—please continue your interest and support during the closed season when the Football Club's running expenses go on just the same, but without any revenue from the Turnstiles.

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MANSFIELD TOWN (O)

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- 1 **Graham BROWN**
- 2 **Sandy PATE**
- 3 **Clive WALKER**
- 4 **John QUIGLEY**
- 5 **Stuart BOAM**
- 6 **Phil WALLER**
- 7 **Duncan McKENZIE**
- 8 **John STENSON**
- 9 **David JONES**
- 10 **Dudley ROBERTS**
- 11 **Jimmy GOODFELLOW**
- 12 **SHARKEY**

Scorers

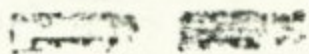
10301

Referee
Mr. A. P. Oliver
Leigh-on-Sea



Linesmen
Mr. E Conery
Red Flag

Mr. G. Trout
Orange Flag



Scorers

LUTON TOWN (O)


White & Black strip

- 1 **Tony READ**
- 2 **John RYAN**
- 3 **Jack BANNISTER**
- 4 **Alan SLOUGH** *KEEN*
- 5 **Terry BRANSTON**
- 6 **John MOORE**
- 7 **John COLLINS** *SLOUGH*
- 8 **Vyv BUSBY**
- 9 **Malcolm McDONALD**
- 10 **Mick KEEN** *ALLEN*
- 11 **Graham FRENCH**
- 12 **Keith ALLEN** *COLLINS*

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