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HARRY HASLAM



Leeds United v Arsenal! That is my idea of the proud 22 who will stride out at Wembley in about a month's time.

It is, of course, obviously the most popular choice of soccer pundits and though I appreciate that semi-final ties can quite often be precarious 'cliff-hangers', I think the 1972 finalists are nearer to Wembley now than they were at this time last year.

It is not coincidence that they are technically two of the best-equipped sides in the country. Their knowledge of the prestige occasion and the resistance they have moulded against buckling under the pressures, must give them a major advantage over the sides they meet today.

Though I would love to be in Sunderland's shoes this afternoon at Hillsborough, I must admit that they face, just as Luton would, perhaps one of the biggest obstacles in recent semi-finals in their task of axing Arsenal out of their third consecutive Wembley appearance in an F.A. Cup.

Bertie Mee's men are gunning to be the first team this century to enjoy such fame and they are now so conditioned to controlling these 'pressure-cooker' affairs that it will take some freak of football nature for Sunderland to step over them into the final.

Arsenal, outweigh the Second Division side in every respect, class, pace, power and experience and it is the latter asset which, at such times, is the vital quality. One credit which Sunderland carry will be the element of surprise, the bonus of an early goal which will shake Arsenal, even though they may be a team with the resilience of the rock of Gibraltar.

This, I am sure, is what the Sunderland manager will stress as a must for means of survival against the odds. From what I saw at Roker Park three weeks ago I reckon they will try and succeed in this manner, using centre-half Dave Watson. He is Sunderland's target man when there is a set-piece likely to bring some danger above Arsenal's defence. Watson thrives on these situations and if he pops one in, it will give Sunderland the boost they must have.

But even if this long-shot hope comes off, I still think Arsenal will have the resolution, character and strength to overcome a set-back, a quality they advertised

only as recently as the sixth round when they stunned Chelsea.

Of course, the Maine Road clash between Leeds and Wolves is a tighter affair and perhaps this one might even go to a replay before the outstanding attributes of the Elland Road side march on to try and repeat last year's overdue Cup success.

Wolves are a side much to be admired at the moment, a team full of attacking football built around personality Derek Dougan and his perfect partner, John Richards, the England prospect.

It is possible that such an approach will be difficult for Leeds to stifle because a side with the ability of Wolves when they are on the offensive can throw up problems for Leeds and any team you like to name. In a normal League square-up, I would not be at all surprised to discover Leeds beaten. But today's game is far from that, and this is what will create the invisible gap between the sides.

They have players who now touch the peaks of their profession on the important occasions, whereas the opposition may have certain members who do just the opposite. That is what experience is all about, and because this is part of the wealth that both Leeds and Arsenal enjoy far greater than 99% of other clubs, I think they will be trying to re-affirm their claims as two of the greatest sides in the world once again next month.

We have now completed three of the set of four ties in the Anglo-Italian Tournament and it has been good experience for the players. Coming so quickly on top of our Cup run, it brought a busy time all round—but it is better to be busy than idle.

After the serious nature of the injuries to Keith Barber and Barry Butlin, who is now recovering from a second operation on the knee from which a cartilage was removed while he was with Derby, a crop of generally minor knocks and complaints have piled up over the last week.

One quick check revealed more than double figures on the medical chart which has included our leading marksman, John Aston, who suffered a bout of 'flu. I hope that he will be given the green light for this afternoon's important game against Fulham, who are our biggest challengers to being the best London area club in the Second Division.

Harry Haslam talking to Norton Jones

ANGLO-ITALIAN SCENE



BOB READHEAD

ANGLO-ITALIAN SCENE

Luton are among the favourites to enjoy a reputation of top soccer ambassadors and a healthy refund of around £6,000 from the 1973 Anglo-Italian Tournament.

This is the reward that's waiting for the side from the 16 competing clubs who finish the competition with the highest number of merit marks for behaviour at the games—both on the field and off it. The team that tops this League recovers all its expenses.

Secretary, Bob Readhead, the link-man for the club with the Football League and the Italian organising committee, revealed this week that Luton were high up in the judge's eyes after the first games against Bari and Verona, which served as the club's first taste of competitive European football.

"In the competition bulletin, which followed Luton's 4-0 win over Bari, it was stated that it was a fine advertisement for the best interests of soccer," says Bob. "It ranked as the most sporting and well conducted game in the four years that the Anglo-Italian Tournament has been held."

Initially, our secretary had to fly to Milan for two-and-a-half days of talks round the table with members of all the competing clubs. "Controversy on the pitch may have been associated with this competition outside of Luton—but the business which is conducted with the organisers is done on a most friendly basis."

If there are no material credits for Luton from their first experience of European soccer, it may emerge that they were forerunners of a new control scheme which could break into British League football very soon. Under the terms and conditions of the competition, English referees control the games in Italy—and vice-versa.

But the Italian officials adopt a different system to ours, whereby they operate as a three-man team. For the Bari game, the referee and his linesmen—two of them were brothers—were working together just as they had been for the last three years.

It is easy to appreciate the advantages that such an idea has over our present method. Officials, in charge of perhaps the best standard of football in the world, are virtually strangers to one another and are only able to convey their interpretations in the brief pre-match spell.

The travelling trio from Italy for our mid-week Fiorentina match were welcomed at Luton Airport on Tuesday.

Says Bob: "As a progressive and forward-thinking club, Luton are as anxious as any side in the country to be part of the international soccer scene and we consider our inclusion in the Anglo-Italian Tournament primarily as another stepping stone in this direction."

TALKING ABOUT FULHAM



(Back row): A. Stock (manager), Jimmy Conway, M. Pentecost, F. Callaghan, P. Went, R. Cross (now Brentford), P. Mellor, M. Webster, J. Lacy, J. Richardson, D. Moreline, R. Matthewson, J. Cutbush, R. Woolnough (physiotherapist).

(Front row): P. Medwin (coach), S. Horne, L. Barrett, J. Dunne, A. Mullery, S. Brown, S. Earle, A. Lloyd, W. Taylor (coach).



Fulham have done enough this season to suggest that they could well rank among the sides concerned in the promotion issue next time.

Indeed, there was a time in February when feeling ran high at Craven Cottage that they could put in a challenge this term. They lost only twice in 16 games spread from October to February and were making steady progress on the leaders until knocked back by an away defeat at Nottingham Forest.

That slip virtually compelled them to accept they had too much to do, but, within seven days, they provided ample evidence of their capabilities. Trailing 2-0 at Villa Park, they bounced back to beat the Birmingham side 3-2 and, at the same time, put a stop to Villa's last serious hopes

FULHAM

of catching up with Queen's Park Rangers or Burnley.

Fulham's improvement this season has been linked with two important signing made during last summer. Paul Went, the centre-half bought from Charlton, has given new 'steel' to the middle of the defence, while Alan Mullery, back at his first club after serving Spurs and England so well, has added new authority to the side.

In addition, two young forwards, Les Strong and John Mitchell, currently rivalling Steve Earle for the top scorers' spot, have come through to give the attack a far sharper edge.

As a result, the club is in possibly its most promising playing position since they ended their First Division career in 1968 after years of struggling against relegation. Like Huddersfield this season, Fulham then found that the team was mentally under-prepared for Second Division action and they promptly fell into Division Three a year later.

They spent two years in that section before Bill Dodgin Jnr, brought them back again in 1971. However, the joys of promotion were shortlived and Fulham had many worrying moments before scrambling clear of relegation last year.

It was a surprising situation, really, for Fulham always portrayed a good footballing image. However, the struggles of last season meant the parting of company with Mr Dodgin and ex-Luton chief Alec Stock took over during the summer.

The re-shaped side still had its problems

in the early days of this campaign, winning only once in half-a-dozen League outings and taking three games to put Fourth Division Reading out of the League Cup. But, once Earle and Mitchell got together up front, the results changed dramatically and few Second Division sides did better in the deep winter months.

Skipper Mullery, who had brief experience of last season's struggle while on loan from Spurs, immediately detected a new atmosphere. He said that defeats used to be accepted, but things were quickly altered by "a little bit of success this time."

After so many years of excitement, when they had players like Johnny Haynes, Bobby Robson and Bedford Jezzard, it's understandable how the brighter situation has revived the club's ambition. They confirmed their sights were on Division One by investing in a new stand last year and, now, they have formed an arrangement with Jimmy Hill to look after the promotions business.

If Fulham get the results they expect next season, we can be certain that the master of commercialism will be broadcasting their name from the top of the tree.

It was in line with this enterprise when Fulham arranged a friendly against Pele's club, Santos, a few weeks ago. The 'Cottagers' had their problems with the cash-conscious Brazilians, but the fixture at least displayed their desire to get the best in entertainment to the Thames-side ground.

Fulham have aimed this season to be as



attractive as possible themselves and rewarded their supporters with five-goal home displays against Bristol City and Brighton. They also chalked up three goals on away engagements at Millwall, Preston and Villa.

Yet there has been a reluctance to get the South-West London fans heading toward The Cottage. Apart from 17,000 turnouts against Villa and Q.P.R., very few gates have topped the five-figure mark and the slide from the promotion race was underlined a fortnight ago when they met Sunderland.

The F.A. Cup semi-finalists—about to meet Arsenal remember—could draw only 9,645. So it seems that Fulham really need a genuine promotion bid to get the old enthusiasm bubbling again next term.

FULHAM HISTORY . . .

Founded in 1880.

Elected to Football League Division Two: 1907.

Ground: Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, London SW.6.

Record Attendance: 49,335, v Millwall (Division Two), October, 1938.

Division Two Champions: 1948-49.

Runners-up: 1958-59.

Division Three (South) Champions: 1931-32.

Division Three Runners-up: 1970-71.

F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists: 1908, 1936, 1958, 1962.

LUTON v FULHAM

Past League results . . .

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Home	15	10	0	5	33	17	20
Away	16	2	2	12	18	40	6
	31	12	2	17	51	57	26

Best victory

5-0 (at home) 1930-31

Worst defeat

1-5 (away) 1953-54

SEVEN-YEAR RECORD . . .

Season	Div	Pos	W	P
1971-72	2	20th	12	34
1970-71	3	2nd	24	60
1969-70	3	4th	20	55
1968-69	2	22nd	7	25
1967-68	1	22nd	10	27
1966-67	1	18th	11	34
1965-66	1	20th	14	35

MANAGER CAPTAIN

Alec Stock, one of the country's longest-serving managers with over 25 year's service, returns to Kenilworth Road, under the banner of Fulham—the seventh club he has controlled in an incident-packed career.

A pre-war player with Charlton and Q.P.R., Alec first stepped into the management business with Yeovil Town.

He switched to the Football League circuit with Orient, where he had three spells as manager and won them promotion from Division Three (South) in 1956. Spaced around his association with Orient, Alec joined Arsenal as assistant manager and then sampled European atmosphere when coaching Roma.

Perhaps the most successful period was when he moved to Q.P.R., guiding them from the Third to the First Division in successive seasons and also winning the Football League Cup. But, once again, his link with the First Division was brief and it was then that Alec came to Luton in succession to Allan Brown.

He inherited a club that was already on the upward path after winning promotion from the Fourth Division and fitted in some of his own ideas to help us out of Division Three in 1970. That meant Alec became the first manager to assist three different clubs to promotion.

He spent two more seasons at Kenilworth Road before departing almost a year ago. Within a short time, he received a call from Fulham, where the club has enjoyed a considerable climb up the table in the last few months.

For a manager who has achieved so much in terms of promotion, it seems surprising that Alec has never been associated with success on the First Division 'stage'—but Fulham are hoping that he will put this right in the future.



ALEC STOCK



ALAN MULLERY

Some 11 months ago, Alan Mullery enjoyed a moment that comes to very few footballers. He scored the goal which won the U.E.F.A. Cup for Tottenham and was chaired around White Hart Lane to the echoes of happy supporters chanting his name.

Little did those Spurs fans realise that this was the last time they would see their 31-year-old skipper in the famous Lily-white colours. Only a matter of weeks later, Mullery said 'goodbye' to an eight-year term of service at Tottenham and returned to the club where he started.

Fulham bought him back for a reported £65,000—only £7,500 less than they had received when selling him in March, 1964. In those years away from Craven Cottage, Mullery savoured many great moments—a place in Spur's F.A. Cup-winning side in 1967, a regular spot in England's 1970 World Cup side, captaincy of Spurs League Cup-winning team in 1971, captaincy of his country against Malta last season, and, finally, that U.E.F.A. Cup success.

In all, he collected 35 full England caps to add to the three Under-23 honours he won in his first spell at Fulham. It was a big decision when he decided to leave Tottenham. They had offered him a new two-year contract and, in any case, he could have listened to other First Division offers from Stoke City and Crystal Palace.

Yet he chose to drop down a division. "I have no regrets," he says. "I am not missing Spurs, England or the First Division. I feel that Fulham and I are good for each other."

There will be no disputing that sentiment at Craven Cottage. Fulham showed their admiration of the player when persuading Spurs to loan him for half-a-dozen games last term and are delighted to have him back for keeps.

POINTS ON PLAYERS

LES BARRETT—forward. Born London. Former England Under-23 international, Les first appeared in Fulham's League team in 1965-66 and was top scorer when the club won promotion from Division Three in 1971. One England Under-23 cap.

FRED CALLAGHAN—forward. Born Fulham. A local discovery who made his first-team debut in 1963-64 and has since given the club splendid service, being a regular member of the side for the past six seasons.

DAVID CARLTON—midfield. Born London. Signed for Fulham as an apprentice in August, 1968, becoming full-time in December the following year. Made his League debut last season.

JIM CONWAY—forward. Born in Dublin. Signed by Fulham from Bohemians in 1966, Jim is one of Fulham's chief strikers. 13 caps for the Republic of Ireland.

JOHN CONWAY—forward. Born in Dublin and brother of Jim. John joined Fulham as a professional in August, 1971. Made his first-team debut last season.

JOHN CUTBUSH—defender. Born in Malta. John was released by Tottenham last summer after spending several years at White Hart Lane. He did not manage to get into the Spur's League side but has played first-team football with his new club.

JIMMY DUNNE—defender. Born in Dublin. A former Republic of Ireland Youth and Full international. Jimmy came into English football when Millwall signed him from Shelbourne in 1966. He later played for Torquay, then joined Fulham in July, 1970. One Republic of Ireland cap.

STEVE EARLE—forward. Born Feltham. Fulham's top scorer in two of the past three seasons. Steve hit 14 goals last term. He once scored five times in one match at Halifax.

JOHN FRASER—defender. A former Fulham apprentice who made his League debut against Blackburn last season.

STAN HORNE—midfield. Born Clan-



PETER MELLOR

field. Former Aston Villa and Manchester City player, Stan is now in his fifth season with Fulham.

BARRY LLOYD—midfield. Born at Hillingdon. A former England Youth international, Barry joined Fulham from Chelsea in 1968-69 as part of the deal which took Republic of Ireland international John Dempsey to Stamford Bridge.

REG MATTHEWSON—defender. Born Sheffield. Joined Fulham in 1967-68 after starring for several years in the First Division with Sheffield United.

PETER MELLOR—goalkeeper. Born Prestbury. Fulham signed Peter from Burnley for £25,000 last February. Burnley found him playing for Witton Albion in the Cheshire League and promoted him to their First Division side in 1969-70. He spent a month on loan to Chesterfield before signing for Fulham last season.

JOHN MITCHELL—forward. Fulham signed John as an amateur at the beginning of last season and put him on a professional contract in February. Has proved an outstanding discovery, scoring many goals since making his debut this season.

DAVID MORELINE—defender. Born Stepney. A former Fulham apprentice who made his League debut for the club in 1968-69. He has been a member of the first-team squad for two years.

MIKE PENTECOST—defender. Born Hounslow. Yet another Fulham junior to make his name in the senior side. Mike made his League debut in 1966-67.

JOHN RICHARDSON—defender. Born Ashington. John is now with his third London club. Previously he was with Millwall and Brentford, joining Fulham in the 1969-70 season.

IAN SEYMOUR—goalkeeper. Born Edenbridge. Ian was introduced to the Fulham League team in 1966-67. Two seasons ago, he spent a short period on loan to Brighton, appearing in their senior side.

PAUL WENT—defender. Born at Bromley-by-Bow. Fulham paid Charlton a club record £80,000 for Paul this summer. A former England Schoolboy and Youth international, he first played in the League for Orient when he was 16. Charlton signed him for £25,000 in 1967.

MALCOLM WEBSTER—goalkeeper. Malcolm sprang to fame three seasons ago when, while with Arsenal, he was called up for first-team duty when Bob Wilson was injured. When Wilson recovered, Malcolm joined Fulham on loan. The transfer was completed in June, 1970.

ALAN PINKNEY—forward. Born at Battersea. Former Crystal Palace amateur who studied at St. Luke's College, Exeter, and played for Exeter City. Signed professional for Palace in July, 1969, but made only four League appearances to the start of this season. Joined Fulham on loan in January.

LESLIE STRONG—defender. Leslie was for some time on Crystal Palace's books as a schoolboy. When Palace decided not to pursue their interest, Fulham signed him as a professional in June, 1971. Made his League debut this season.

MANAGER CAPTAIN

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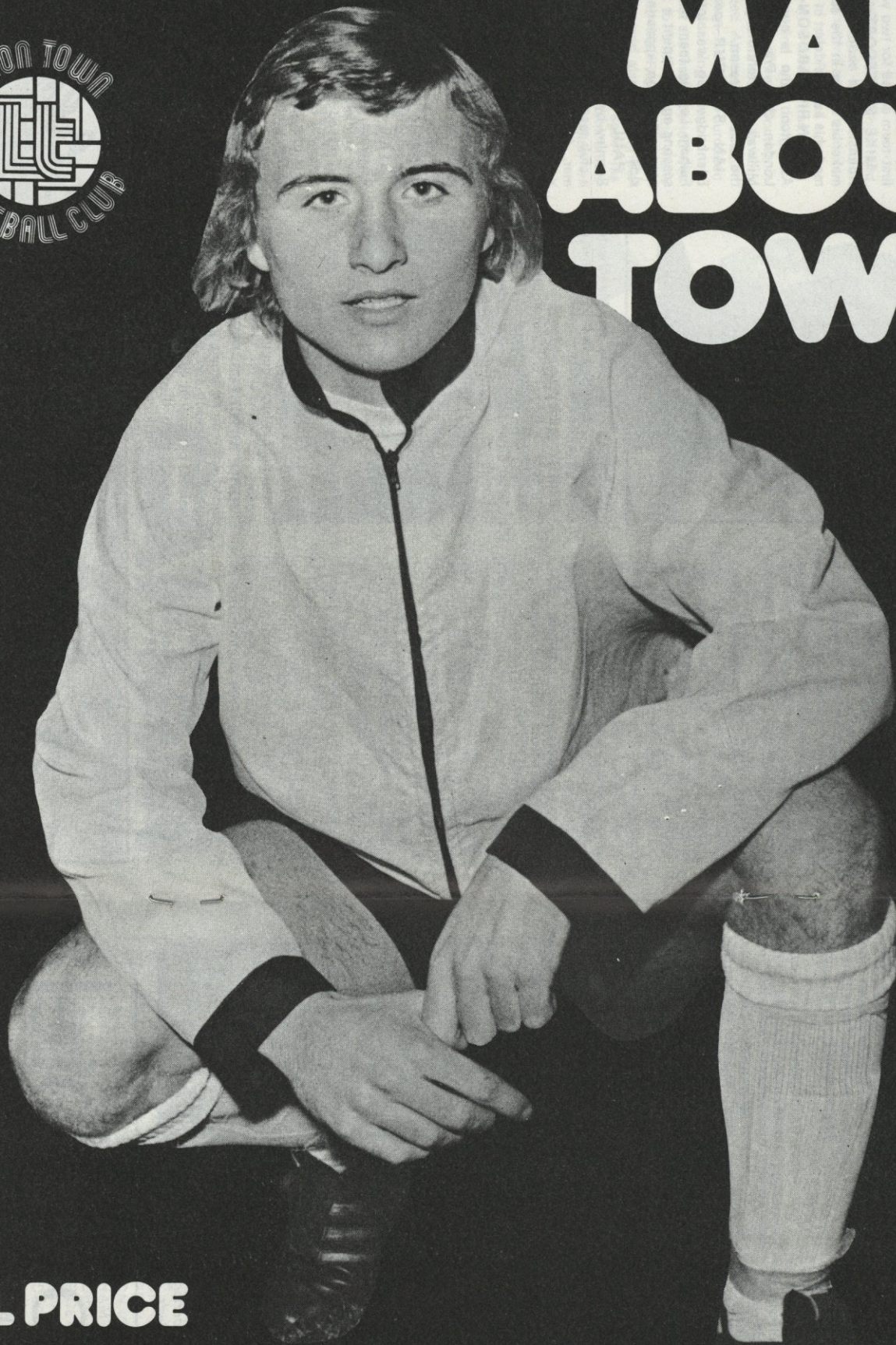


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MAN ABOUT TOWN



PAUL PRICE

One of the less glamorous events of the season at Kenilworth Road, but one of tremendous importance to the future welfare of the club, has been the solid promise of the Mid-week League side. None more so than Paul Price, in the last "furlong" of his second professional year with Luton.

This ever-present member of the "shadow-squad" has made a major contribution to the prosperity of the reserve company who have now virtually sewn up the principal awards on the Mid-week championship. Paul, who was recommended to Luton by a friend of his father a couple of seasons ago, has, so far, not sampled the thrill and enjoyment of taking his place on the field alongside the seniors.

Such an ambition, however, seems only a matter of time and with the present situation revealing a completed programme for the reserve-team, the first-team target is now the exclusive aim between now and the end of the season.

"Unless I dedicate myself to working hard in the last few weeks, with the chance of a lucky break to get my debut in the League side, the tail-end of this term will be something of a boring anti-climax," he said. "The last of the Mid-week League matches were completed three weeks ago and it was great to have a regular spot in the team from start to finish—but the end of the season does appear to have rushed up rather quickly. There may be odd games in other directions before the full season is out officially. But when you have sampled one level of competition, the object is to try and reach higher, not be satisfied with something of less standard."

There are a string of tough games stretching along the run-in for the League side in the bid to settle in behind the two promotion front-runners, Burnley and Queen's Park Rangers, but it is the time of the year when managers exercise a more exploratory outlook and one of the first youngsters whom Harry Haslam might put his confidence in could be Paul.

"I never count my chickens before they hatch and, personally, I think the club may have too much to play for to view the policies of bleeding new players as seriously as they might have done. But in this game, the future is never certain, so I intend to wind up the season as enthusiastically as I began it."

Paul was a member of Welwyn Garden United three years ago when a family friend coaxed Luton to give the 16-year-old defender a trial. "I used to consider myself a half-back until the system caught up with me and when my style was put under the microscope, it analysed my defensive qualities as being greater than my contributions in attack. So back I went, and that is where I have stayed. The right-back position is one which I have now come to like and I think that you can come to terms with virtually any position if you have consistent work in the particular spot and the flair to go with it."

Before Paul agreed to come to Luton on a full-time basis, he had the delicate business to decide whether to continue with his education, for he was bang in the middle of studying for 'A' and 'O' levels when the offer arrived. "It wasn't a difficult choice to make at the time, because I really enjoy football and to someone of 16, it looked a chance in a lifetime."

Paul's first taste of soccer inside the circle of the "giants" was with Spurs when he spent eight months training on Tuesday and Thursday nights with their youth squad. "It was interesting but not progressive, so I moved out and the paths I have followed since suggest I did the right thing."

A first-team spot cannot be far away because manager Harry Haslam has already included Paul in with the League squad on half-a-dozen trips and the best bonus so far was a recent trip to Italy. Paul's idea on Italian football? "Not my cup of tea. They are too defensive and stay cramped until a sudden counter attack—which is all too rare. I believe British football is best and I intend to be a bigger part of it sooner or later."

We know Paul is pressing to make it sooner and we wish him well in his pursuit.

TOWN TALK

Can you guess the gate for our next home game against Aston Villa on 21st April? *Pickwick International*, of Leighton Buzzard, again offer six long playing records for the competition and your entries should reach Luton Town Promotions, 70-71 Kenilworth Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, by mid-day on Saturday, 21st April, 1973.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES . . .

League Division Two
LUTON TOWN v ASTON VILLA
Saturday, 21st April, 1973 K.O. 3 pm

League Division Two
LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
Monday, 23rd April, 1973 K.O. 3 pm

YOUR ROAD ROUTE TO QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS NEXT SATURDAY

Leave by London Road (A.6). After one-and-a-half miles on, roundabout, take the second road. M.1, follow signs 'London M1'. Scratchwood service area. End of motorway, continue on the A.41 Watford Way. Golders Green, junction of A.41 and A.406. Turn right onto the North Circular Road (A.406). After three miles turn left into Harrow Road (A.404), Harlesden. After one-and-a-half miles, turn right into Scrubs Lane, then Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush. At the junction of Wood Lane and Uxbridge Road, turn right into Uxbridge Road. After a quarter of a mile turn right into Loftus Road. Queen's Park Rangers Football Ground. Total distance: 33 miles.

Your nearest R.A.C. office is at: 130 St. Albans Road, Watford, Hertfordshire.

COACH TRAVEL TO QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS NEXT SATURDAY

Coaches will leave the Maple Road Car Park at 1-00 pm for the trip to Queen's Park Rangers (fare: 50p). Stand tickets are also available at the club offices, price: £1 and 75p.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AND SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR, 1972-73

With only a few more weeks remaining of the 1972-73 season the time is once again approaching when the thoughts of the Bobbers and Supporters Club members must turn towards nominating their choice of persons they would like to see become this year's recipients of the PLAYER OF THE YEAR and SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR trophies.

The awards this year are to be presented at two separate functions, both of which will be held in the Hatters Club, Maple Road, Luton.

The first award to be presented will be the PLAYER OF THE YEAR and this will take place during a Buffet Dance to be held on Monday, 16th April. Booked to appear is a first-class band and cabaret artiste and this evening has all the makings of being one of the most memorable yet to be held in the Hatters Club. Tickets which are available to both members and non-members of the Bobbers and Supporters Club are priced at £2 and will be strictly limited in numbers and sold on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to be present are advised to submit their application form as early as possible so as not to be disappointed. This is the evening when not only will you be able to meet the playing staff but also show your appreciation to the winner of the trophy and his teammates for the tremendous efforts they have put in this season and for the success achieved.

All nominations and requests for tickets must be received by first post on Thursday, 12th April.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

I nominate
as my Player of the Year for 1972-73.

Name

Membership Number

Completed forms to: John K. Smylie, Supporters Club Shop, 125 Oak Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR DANCE

I request tickets at £2 each and enclose the appropriate remittance together with a stamped address envelope for reply.

Mail to: John K. Smylie, Supporters Club Shop, 125 Oak Road, Luton, Beds.

The Luton Lottery . . .

It is just ten weeks today since this fantastic fund raiser was launched at Luton, and during this period our sales have gone up and up, likewise, so have our hundreds of happy winners. Our picture shows the latest winner "in orbit" Cecil Harrison, winner of £100 on week seven drawing out the lucky winners for week eight. These included Mr Willis, 40 Ridgeway Road, Luton (£100), Mr Ward, 13 High Ridge, Luton (£25) and Mrs Quelch, 25 Warden Hill Road, Luton, as well as the weekly Gold Watch winners, Ron Franklin, mine host of *The Crown and Anchor Inn*, New Bedford Road, Luton, and Danny Fallon, 8 Felix Avenue, Luton (Agent 124).

With nearly 2,000 winners so far, and our Agents sharing the big bonuses it is no wonder that our supporters are "over the moon" with enthusiasm about the success of *The Luton Lottery*, and with the winners mainly in Luton, it is easy to see why we are inundated with requests to become Agents and Members. As you leave the ground this afternoon, call in at the Development Offices, 231 Dunstable Road, and have a word with Mike Hardwicke and his staff (that is, if you can get a word in!)



FIXTURES...

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO—1972-73

Date	Opponents	Att	F A	Date	Opponents	Att	F A
Aug 12	Cardiff City	16,364	1-2	26	Sheffield Wednesday	15,799	0-0
19	Preston North End	11,507	1-0	30	Preston North End	9,638	0-2
26	Orient	6,494	1-0	Jan 6	Orient	8,344	1-1
30	Oxford United	10,891	0-1	13	Crewe Alexandra (FAC 3)	9,411	2-0
Sept 2	Huddersfield Town	8,133	4-1	20	Huddersfield Town	3,871	2-1
5	Birmingham City (LC2)	20,962	1-1	27	Nottingham Forest	10,083	1-0
9	Nottingham Forest	9,495	1-0	Feb 3	Newcastle United (FAC4)	42,170	2-0
13	Birmingham City (LC2 replay)	13,806	1-1	10	Brighton and Hove Albion	11,404	0-2
16	Brighton and Hove Albion	11,627	2-1	17	Cardiff City	10,442	1-1
20	Birmingham City (LC2 2nd replay)	11,139	0-1	24	Bolton (FAC5)	39,556	1-0
23	Sheffield Wednesday	18,913	0-4	26	Millwall	10,504	2-3
26	Swindon Town	8,469	2-0	Mar 3	Blackpool	6,947	1-1
30	Burnley	12,197	2-2	10	Sunderland	12,458	1-0
Oct 7	Blackpool	12,073	2-2	17	Sunderland (FAC6)	53,156	0-2
14	Sunderland	13,394	2-0	24	Bristol City	7,102	1-3
18	Portsmouth	9,813	2-2	27	Fulham	7,442	1-0
21	Hull City	11,560	1-2	31	Carlisle United	5,517	0-2
28	Bristol City	13,562	1-0	April 7	Fulham		
Nov 4	Swindon Town	10,596	0-1	14	Queen's Park Rangers		
11	Portsmouth	7,571	2-2	21	Aston Villa		
18	Aston Villa	29,144	2-0	23	Middlesbrough		
25	Carlisle United	10,091	0-1	24	Burnley		
Dec 9	Queen's Park Rangers	13,670	2-2	28	Oxford United		
16	Millwall	11,550	2-2		To be arranged—Hull City		
23	Middlesbrough	10,122	1-0				

MID-WEEK LEAGUE FIXTURES—1972-73

Date	Opponents	F A	Date	Opponents	F A	Date	Opponents	F A
Aug 23	Gillingham	7-0	8	Northampton Town	4-2	17	Orient	3-1
30	Brighton and Hove Albion	1-0	15	Southend United	1-1	24	Southend United	0-1
Sept 6	Cambridge United	5-0	21	Charlton Athletic	1-2	31	Charlton Athletic	4-1
27	Cambridge United	1-1	29	Colchester United	5-1	Feb 7	Watford (LC)	1-1
Oct 11	Millwall	2-1	Dec 5	Northampton Town	1-1	14	Watford (LC)	5-1
18	Watford	1-1	13	Colchester United	1-0	28	Northampton (LC)	3-0
25	Watford	1-1	Jan 3	Millwall	3-2	Mar 6	Northampton (LC)	0-1
Nov. 1	Gillingham	1-1	10	Brighton & Hove A	5-0	14	Orient	0-0

Up to and including Saturday, 31st March, 1973

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

*League Games Only

HOME		AWAY		P	TEAMS	*HOME GATES		LEADING SCORERS—League, F.A. Cup League Cup and Other Clubs Goals
P	W D L F A	W D L F A	P			Best	Average	
36	10 6 2 36 18	9 7 2 23 16	51	BURNLEY	16,927	13,262	Fletcher 12, Dobson 11, Casper 9, James 8	
35	13 4 1 48 13	6 8 3 23 22	50	O.P.R.	22,518	14,095	Givens 24, Bowles 15, Leach 12, Thomas 9, Francis 8	
37	10 6 3 33 17	6 4 8 19 29	42	BLACKPOOL	25,277	10,834	Suddick 13, Ainscow 10, Dyson 9, Burns 7, Rafferty 7	
37	13 3 3 39 20	3 6 9 17 28	41	SHEFFIELD W.	30,197	18,092	Joicey 20, Sunley 12, Craig 10	
36	10 5 4 24 16	5 6 6 19 26	41	ASTON VILLA	38,637	28,497	Evans 11, Graydon 9, Rioch (B) 9, Vowden 8	
36	10 5 4 30 16	4 6 7 22 26	39	FULHAM	17,576	10,335	Earle 14, Mitchell 11, Mullery 7	
36	12 1 4 31 14	4 5 10 15 23	38	OXFORD UNITED	13,412	9,067	Curran 12, Cassidy 8, Clarke (D) 7	
37	6 7 4 23 15	7 5 8 29 32	38	BRISTOL CITY	20,490	13,318	Gould 13, Gow 12	
35	5 8 5 23 22	9 2 6 19 19	38	LUTON TOWN	15,799	10,996	Aston 12, Butlin 5	
37	10 5 3 22 12	3 7 9 13 27	38	MIDDLESBROUGH	24,145	10,883	Hickton 10, Mills 7	
36	11 5 3 30 15	2 6 9 12 25	37	NOTTM FOREST	18,082	9,908	Galley 15, O'Neill 6	
36	11 3 3 29 14	3 4 12 21 29	35	MILLWALL	13,207	10,153	Bolland 17, Wood 17, Cripps 7	
32	8 6 2 27 13	4 4 8 20 27	34	SUNDERLAND	39,930	19,516	Halom 14, Tueart 13, Hughes 12, Watson 7, Lathan 7	
34	8 6 3 34 18	3 5 9 20 33	33	HULL CITY	13,580	9,436	Pearson 16, Holme 11, Houghton 8	
36	10 4 4 38 20	1 5 12 8 23	31	CARLISLE UNITED	17,842	7,861	Owen 13, Laidlaw 12, Martin 8, Balderstone 6	
37	7 8 4 26 22	2 5 11 17 35	31	SWINDON TOWN	15,304	10,203	Treacy 13, Peplow 7	
36	5 6 7 18 20	5 4 9 20 32	30	PORTSMOUTH	16,419	9,664	Hiron 9, Piper 9, Jennings 6, Lewis 6, Reynolds 6	
36	5 6 6 16 22	5 4 10 17 35	30	PRESTON N.E.	18,822	9,952	Bruce 10, Young 6	
35	8 5 4 25 15	1 6 11 13 29	29	ORIENT	10,532	6,084	Queen 8, Downing 7, Fairbrother 7	
36	6 9 4 19 18	1 6 10 14 29	29	HUDDERSFIELD T.	12,840	7,831	Gowling 16	
34	10 1 5 26 16	0 6 12 9 33	27	CARDIFF CITY	16,364	11,300	McCulloch 13, Woodruff 7, Bell 6	
36	6 6 6 27 27	1 4 13 13 46	24	BRIGHTON H.A.	18,699	14,330	Robertson 13, Beamish 10, Murray 9	

Official opening
Wednesday
May 9th 1973



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TOWN IN ACTION

Rodney Fern put Luton back in business as the best away side in the League when scoring the winner in our recent re-arranged game at Craven Cottage. Rodney is pictured (top left) heading home despite the challenge of Fulham defender John Cutbush.

This performance came as a tonic after losing 3-1 at home to Bristol City on the previous Saturday. After leading at half-time, we were knocked back early in the second session, but there were still some highspots. (top right)—John Aston's goal-bound shot is deflected by Gerry Sweeney. (bottom right)—Luton's defence in action as Alan Garner heads clear from a City forward. Pictures: Evening Post.



MEMORY MAN

When Chelsea manager Dave Sexton recalled his two-year term as a young professional with Luton, 20 years ago, a quality, which is proving difficult to preserve in football today, was apparent more than anything else—sincerity.

From his raw football days with Chelmsford, upon his departure from National Service in the late 'Forties, Dave Sexton has progressed through soccer's ranks to hold his present position with an internationally-famous club as one of the most respected managers in the country.

Chelsea, who have threatened to emblazon their insignia on every prize in the sport over the last few years, remain a club very much contenders for soccer wealth and while Dave Sexton dictates the Pensioner's policies the stars of Stamford Bridge cannot fail to remain one of football's best attractions.

There are many reasons why Chelsea parade as gifted aristocrats of the London scene, but it is a fact, that their current boss credits the 'education' he enjoyed at Kenilworth Road, at the beginning of the 'Fifties, as one of the key spots in his career.

Dave says: "One of the best things I ever did was to take up the offer to join in with a squad of players who were attending coaching courses at the end of the season at Lilleshall.

"It was only through the enthusiasm of the club to encourage the players under their wing to start thinking early of their future, which attracted me. The club leader in this respect was Luton's great captain, Sid Owen, a real character and a model player by any standards. Sid, Charlie Watkins, Bob Morton, Bud A'herne and Wally Shanks started me thinking seriously about the benefits I might enjoy if I put some time in to furthering my knowledge of football through coaching."

Though it was about ten years later before Dave could voice a qualified opinion in this respect—and it was the club he steers now who gave him his first job as a coach—his determination to succeed in grasping later security in life was born, as Dave readily admits, from the invaluable tuition with Luton Town.

"The days when I used to commute, 20 years ago, from Chingford, via St.



DAVE SEXTON

Pancras, served me well and they are memories which will not fade easily. Luton gave me my chance to prove myself in League football.

"After one-and-a-half years in Greece with the Army, I returned to England with just six months to spend before my demob. That was at Bury St. Edmunds and I progressed through the Eastern Counties League before getting a chance to join Chelmsford on pro-terms. I was over the moon, doing something which had been my ambition since a schoolboy, and getting £7 a week for it."

Dave Sexton, of course, is in a different wage bracket now, and the pressures and responsibilities which surround him no doubt justify it. But though the income has soared, Dave's outlook is still very much that of a man who does not quickly forget the friends who helped him fashion his future.

The break into the big-time as a player arrived after Chelmsford encountered Colchester, a Third Division side, in a Cup-tie. The inside-forward who caught the eye was ex-Serviceman Sexton and for just around a £1,000,

Dave's daily excursions to Kenilworth Road began about 1950.

After a period in the reserves, stylish Sexton was called up by Dally Duncan to make his entrance at number ten, the position which conjours up names of that era, such as Mannion, Steel, Shackleton, Allchurch and many more.

Dave's debut was against Everton—"and it was really enjoyable because Luton won 3-1. I had to wait six weeks for my first goal—but it was worth it."

Though Luton were convinced they had the man for the job, who carried on through the remainder of the season, the opportunities for Sexton to step towards the Shackleton bracket of inside-forwards was cut short when he collided with Birmingham City's defender, Roy Warhurst, and the first of five knee operations, in ten years, was underway.

Four months out of the game is a lifetime for a footballer. But young Sexton had to suffer this before fighting his way to a first-team place. Yet, almost 12 months to the date of his debut, Dave joined the second of his six London clubs, West Ham United.

"It was nice to get nearer home, but if I had to measure my playing success in the terms of medals, I suppose Brighton had to be classified, for I was a member of the side that won the Third Division title.

Four years at Upton Park and a short spell at Orient preceeded Dave's soccer on the South coast, where the air was sufficiently rarified to inspire the Sexton scoring menace of 17 goals in 24 games.

Crystal Palace, ever alert 15 years ago to the possibility of capturing a big name, were the last club to see Dave Sexton in the role of a player because another cartilage injury wrecked all plans in 1959. Dave then fell back on the wisdom and hard work of his earlier years.

After serving at Stamford Bridge, 1965 saw the birth of a new manager at Orient and then he moved across the Thames to help Fulham before Arsenal, back as a coach. Finally, the real door opened at Chelsea when Tommy Docherty departed. A testimony to the popularity of Dave Sexton clinched his present capacity when it was revealed that the entire Chelsea team voted their coach the 'man for the job'.

SCORES

LIST ONE

Arsenal v Sunderland	A	
Leeds Utd v Wolves	B	
Birmingham v Liverpool	C	
Chelsea v Stoke	D	
Everton v Coventry	E	
Ipswich v Man City	F	
Man Utd v Norwich	G	
Newcastle v West Ham	H	
Sheffield Utd v C Palace	K	
Tottenham v Southampton	L	
W. B. A. v Leicester	M	
Bristol City v Carlisle	N	

LIST TWO

Cardiff v Swindon	A	
Hull v Aston Villa	B	
Middlesbrough v Brighton	C	
Millwall v Sheff Wed	D	
Orient v Nottm Forest	E	
Oxford v Q.P.R.	F	
Portsmouth v Blackpool	G	
Preston v Huddersfield	H	
Bolton v Watford	K	
Bournemouth v Oldham	L	
Halifax v Blackburn	M	
Notts County v Grimsby	N	

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TEAMS

Luton Town

White Shirts, Black Shorts

- 1 KEITH BARBER
- 2 DON SHANKS
- 3 BOBBY THOMSON
- 4 ALAN SLOUGH
- 5 JOHN FAULKNER
- 6 KEN GOODEVE
- 7 JIMMY RYAN
- 8 PETER ANDERSON
- 9 DEREK HALES
- 10 GORDON HINDSON
- 11 RODNEY FERN
- 12

Fulham

Sky Blue/Navy Blue Shirts White Shorts

- 1 PETER MELLOR
- 2 JOHN CUTBUSH
- 3 FRED CALLAGHAN
- 4 ALAN MULLERY
- 5 PAUL WENT
- 6 STAN HORNE
- 7 JOHN CONWAY
- 8 JOHN MITCHELL
- 9 STEVE EARLE
- 10 ALAN PINKNEY
- 11 LES BARRETT
- 12

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		FULHAM	
HALF TIME		HALF TIME	
FULL TIME		FULL TIME	

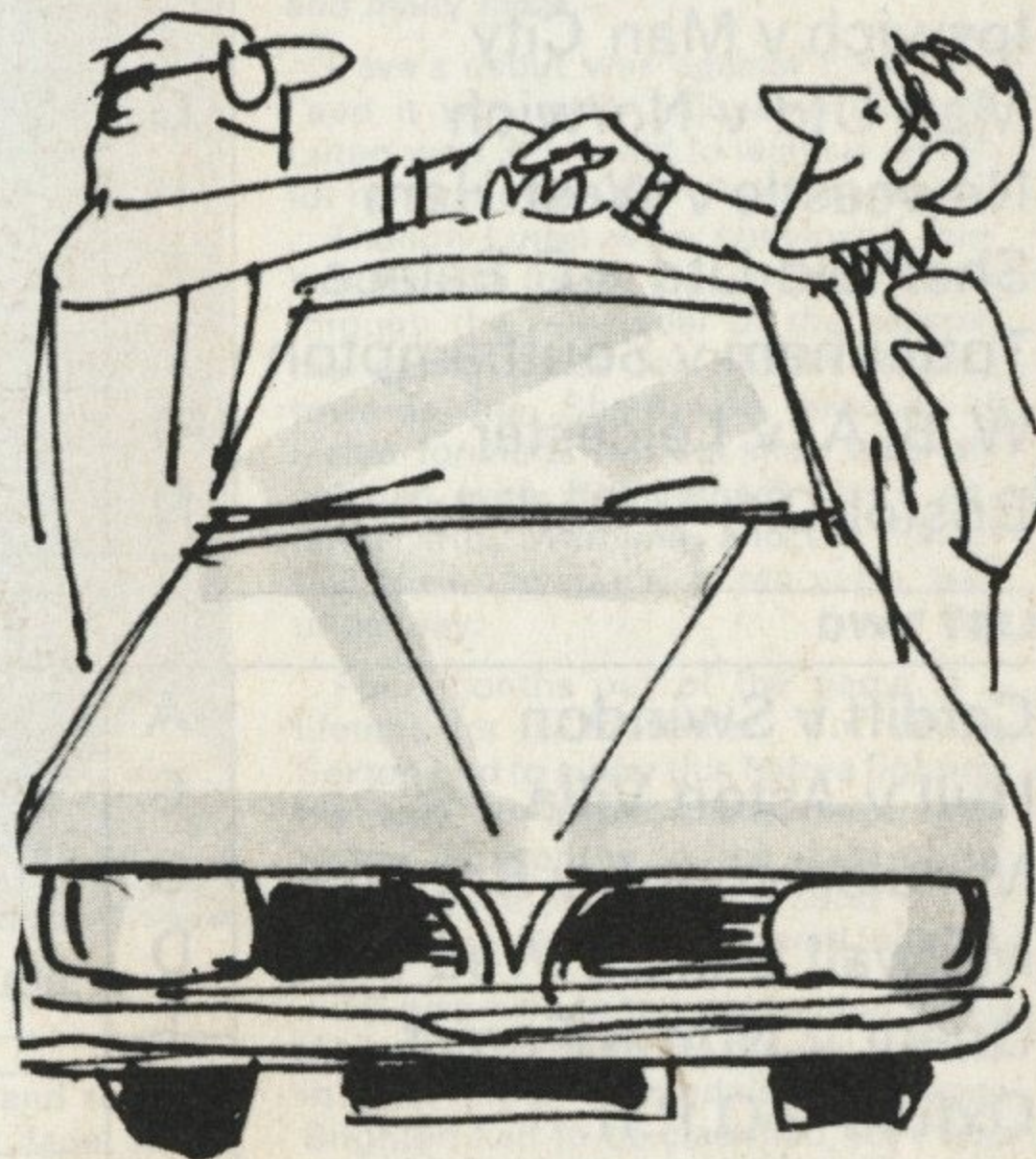
Referee: H. G. NEW, Bristol

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