

LUTON TOWN



CUMBES



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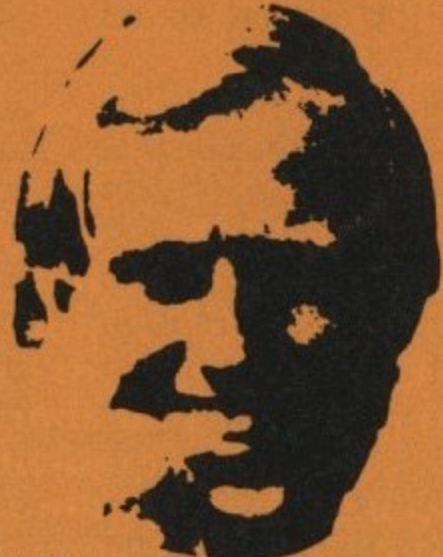
RIOCH (B)



NICHOLL



ROSS



GRAYDON



McMAHON



BROWN



LITTLE



VOWDEN



LOCHHEAD



ROBSON

LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL AND
ATHLETIC CLUB
LIMITED

KENILWORTH ROAD, LUTON,
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HARRY HASLAM



Our Easter programme brings to an end our home games of the 1972-73 season, with only a 48-hour interlude between the attractive fixtures with Aston Villa and Middlesbrough.

At one time during the term it was distinctly possible that in welcoming Villa to Kenilworth Road this afternoon, Luton would be involved in a testing 90-minutes where the two points could have been the key to promotion for either side.

Last November, when the lads deservedly beat Villa, it brought a result which strengthened the belief that we were on the way. Only three sides had taken both points from them and two of them were Burnley and Queen's Park Rangers, good footballing squads, except for a miracle, are now all but back in the First Division.

Luton would surely have been in contention for one of those highly-prized positions if some logical form and results had been forthcoming at home. The exercise against Aston Villa will be an opportunity for us to prove that we have the means and the skill to take on top-ranked opposition before our own supporters, success would go a long way to securing the confidence that we ARE equipped to tackle the job ahead of us next season.

I sincerely hope that Vic Crowe will be able to parade two of his most expensive and talented players, Bruce Rioch and Chris Nicholl. I also understand that Bruce's brother, Neil, is, after being patient for nearly four years, now a more regular member of Villa's squad and perhaps, for all three, it could be something of a re-union.

Talking from the touchline, so to speak, it has struck me that since we stepped on Villa's ambitions, they gradually lost ground in the promotion race and, of course, a few weeks ago lost contact altogether.

In recent matches, they have been without Bruce Rioch, who has been under treatment for damaged knee ligaments. I know, from first-hand experience, what a problem it is to replace a player of such quality. But, with or without, him this afternoon's game should be a very business-like affair, because both teams have pride, and a win for either one will do a great deal to boost the morale.

Back-tracking for a moment, some fans could be excused for considering that our defeat at Hull last week was a reactionary result at the tail-end of a season which was

packed full of promise at one-time. It can happen that a team loses sight of its objectives when they know they have tried so hard for so long. But I do not believe this was the case at Boothferry Park. I prefer to classify it as a day when everything went right for Hull, who, we must remember, had been taking some stick in previous matches.

Another contributory factor, which is not widely known, was the illness which hit Ken Goodeve shortly before the match. He complained of stomach trouble and pulled out on his own decision. Other members of the side were also affected but not so badly.

It's a grand boost for soccer to see a Second Division club booked for Wembley on 5th May. Maybe I did not really think Sunderland would upset Arsenal, but, at the same time, I knew enough about their make-up and character to appreciate that they could—and they did. Good luck to them and they have made quite a few of the so-called experts eat into their own words, destroying the theory that the Cup Final is now only reserved for the 'privileged' top teams.

Luton can feel proud that they reached the Sixth Round and I am convinced that if fate had not decreed that we should suffer an off-colour afternoon, we could well have been in Sunderland's shoes next month. However, I am not a great believer in looking back for consolation, it is the future in which I am more interested.

In the week before the Cup Final, we shall be in Italy trying to uphold the reputation of the club in the Anglo-Italian Tournament when a win over Lazio could lead Luton into the semi-finals. We are bracketed in the same group as Crystal Palace, Hull City and Manchester United and, at the moment, we feel we could come out on top if Fiorentina produce the win that is predicted over Palace. It is likely in view of Malcolm Allison's need to attach greater importance to the battle to survive the fight against relegation.

The methods which the Italians adopt throws up some strange and unfamiliar situations for the lads. But they have now had three games against these operators of the best defensive blanket in the world and though it will, undoubtedly be a tough one perhaps in more ways than one—to beat Lazio, I think the lads have learned enough to conquer these attack-shy signors.

Harry Haslam talking to Norton Jones

BEHIND THE SCENES



Aston Villa, the famous 'barons' of Birmingham, are used to exploiting their skills on billiard table surfaces, so it will be like home, sweet home to them this afternoon, thanks to the relentless pursuit for the perfect pitch by groundsman Eddie Hartley and his industrious team of helpers.

Like the motorist who does not appreciate a good road surface until he is actually on a bad one, players, in this modern world, have the same difficulty in appreciating what the standard of the turf beneath their boots is until they find themselves on a pitch without any.

Ask Eddie the secret of any Wembley-type surface and he will hit you straight out with the reply—'hardwork'. This has been the watchword for the Derbyshire-born character with the Yorkshire accent since he first set foot inside the Stadium four years ago.

"I said to myself there and then that there was a lot to do and because you cannot rush mother nature I estimated I would be lucky to bring it up to my satisfaction within seven years."

The Hartley 'horticulture' programme is now past the halfway mark and it's looking good, so good, in

fact, that after an early-season game had appeared on TV, Eddie got a postbag which made Christmas look a non-event.

Well-to-do people with colour sets wrote and telephoned from Wales, Scotland, Manchester, London and even one dear lady from Bournemouth, who knew nothing about football, wanted to know everything about the pitch and how Eddie Hartley had mown it in circles.

"I did it just as something new for the start of the season. Normally groundsmen apply the traditional square, or shadow cross and length." Eddie's 'dart-board' effect caught the nation's eye, an idea born out of the Hartley pride in his work.

When this season has ended, the pitch will be treated with 140 tons of mixed sand and soil and the Stadium will also have a brighter welcome for fans next term because the club's new 'orange' will gradually be phased in. Assisting the close-season schedule will be son Derek, Freddie Bunyan, Dick Wassal and the veteran of the team, Bill Zastrow. "He is 73," says Eddie, "But he is my type of non-stop grafter and, he must be the best in this club at bowls."

Villa's failure to keep in contact with the cracking promotion pace set by Queen's Park Rangers and Burnley seems to have placed a cloud of gloom over their famous supporters.

Gates dipped from a seasonal average of 30,000 to a mere 15,902 against Oxford United three weeks ago—and that was the club's lowest since the last match before Tommy Docherty swept into Villa Park in December, 1968.

The Docherty era lasted only 13 months and the club were on the way towards relegation to the Third Division for the first time when he departed in January, 1970.

Docherty was the figurehead appointed to revitalise Villa following a Board-room take-over launched by London financier Mr Pat Matthews, now the club's President, and Mr Douglas Ellis, a former Birmingham City Director who went in as Chairman.

The mass changes—plus the inflow of over £200,000 from a new issue of shares—transformed the atmosphere around stately Villa Park. Even though the playing record did not improve, ambition returned and the fans responded by trebling the average attendance.

Docherty's flair for publicity had an incalculable value and many supporters mourned his quick departure. This led the way to a quieter, methodical approach from the new management partnership between two former Villa players—Vic Crowe and Ron Wylie.

They worked steadily to build a sound foundation and, while the fans fretted over spending two years in Division Three, there's no doubt that their policy brought Villa back to the Second Division in a healthy state.

Villa were soon up with the leaders and promotion was still within their compass early in the New Year, but their failure to get points from the top teams finally sentenced them to another year in this section.

It was hard to understand the impatience of the supporters, however. As assistant manager Ron Wylie said: "This season has been much the same as our first in the Third Division. We could see what was missing and gathered enough experience to win promotion easily a year later. I feel the same could be said about this season."

Certainly, few promoted clubs have

TALKING ABOUT ASTON VILLA



enjoyed such comfortable stabilisation as Villa and perhaps their fans should look at the fate suffered by their promotion partners from Brighton.

On the other hand, one must accept the view of followers who regard Villa as being different in terms of potential. Regular crowds of 40,000 await a promotion side and it's true, of course, that Villa's cheque book has given them an overwhelming advantage over Third and even Second Division opposition.

But the fact that it has cost around £700,000 to re-build the club is also an indication of the plight they were in before the Board-room revolution.

Big money has also been poured into sprucing up the ground. Nearly £180,000 went on improvements which brought the seating capacity up to 16,000 and included luxury boxes. Another £86,000 went on developing a fine training ground in the North Warwickshire countryside.

On the playing side, they have bought five players for £70,000 or more—our old friends, Bruce Rioch and Chris Nicholl, the Liverpool pair, Ian Ross and Alun Evans, as well as Derby's Under-23 full-back, John Robson.

All these buys were designed to cater for the day when Villa reach the First Division. They have deliberately set their buying policy against this yardstick—and, in the background Villa have worked up a successful youth policy in a short space of time.

Four members of last season's F.A. Youth Cup-winning team have already seen League action and all of them won youth international caps. A sign of this progress is that 19-year-old Jimmy Brown has recently captained the first-team.

(Back row): Ian Ross, Ray Graydon, Jim Cumbes, Chris Nicholl, Tommy Hughes, Charlie Aitken, Malcolm Beard.

(Centre row): David Rudge (now Hereford United), Brian Tiler (now Carlisle United), Andy Lochhead, Fred Turnbull, Neil Rioch, Keith Bradley, Jimmy Brown, Pat McMahon, Alun Evans.

(Front row): Ron Wylie (assistant manager), Brian Little, Harry Gregory (now Hereford United), Geoff Vowden, Ian Hamilton, Bruce Rioch, Michael Wright, Willie Anderson (now Cardiff City), Vic Crowe (manager).

HISTORY

Ground: Villa Park, Birmingham B6 6HE. Record attendance: 76,588, against Derby County (F.A. Cup) 2nd March, 1946. Founded: 1874. Original members of the Football League: 1888. Division One champions: 1893-94, 1895-96, 1896-97, 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1909-10. Division Two champions: 1937-38, 1959-60. Division Three champions: 1971-72. F.A. Cup winners: 1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913, 1920, 1957 (seven wins—record for the competition). Finalists: 1892, 1924. Football League Cup winners: 1961. Finalists: 1963, 1971. F.A. Youth Cup winners: 1972.

after the match why not visit

CÉSARS

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GENE PITNEY

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THE BARRON KNIGHTS

Dine, Dance or Drink 8 pm—2 am

Telephone: LUTON 51357

TEN-YEAR RECORD

Div	Pos	W	F	A	P	Div	Pos	W	F	A	P		
71-72	3	1st	32	85	32	70	66-67	1	21st	11	54	85	29
70-71	3	4th	19	54	46	53	65-66	1	16th	15	69	80	36
69-70	2	21st	8	36	62	29	64-65	1	16th	16	57	82	37
68-69	2	18th	12	37	48	38	63-64	1	19th	11	62	71	34
67-68	2	16th	15	54	64	37	62-63	1	15th	15	62	68	38

MANAGER CAPTAIN

Vic Crowe, the man charged with the task of lifting Aston Villa back to their former First Division station, celebrates his 21st 'birthday' with the Birmingham club in a few months time.

It was in June, 1952, that he put aside his R.E.M.E. uniform after two year's National Service and signed professional forms for Villa. He spent 12 years at Villa Park as a determined, strong-tackling wing-half and collected 16 Welsh caps—although he had only played twice in Wales before appearing in his first international!

His father, Frank, a 'Brummie', was playing for Merthyr Tydfil when Vic was born in South Wales and the young Crowe returned to Birmingham with the family when he was only two years old.

At one time, he was on West Bromwich Albion's books as an amateur and later had an offer from Manchester United, but once he had formed a link with Villa, they were the only club that mattered to him.

Yet it was Villa's decision to accept a transfer offer from Middlesbrough in 1958, that led to Vic launching an international career and playing in the club's Second Division Championship side of 1959-60.

Vic turned down the move to the North, won his Villa place back immediately, and made his Welsh debut against Scotland at Hampden Park, in November, 1958.

Vic's Welsh career took him to such memorable cities as Madrid, Budapest (twice), Rio de Janeiro and Mexico, among the great players he remembers facing were Pele, Garrincha, di Stefano and Gento.

Before becoming Villa boss in 1970, Vic spent a few years away from his beloved club finishing his League days with Peterborough United and then going to America as coach to Atlanta. Tommy Docherty brought him back to Villa Park as reserve-team coach and in less than a year he succeeded the Scotsman as manager.



VIC CROWE



JIMMY BROWN

At the start of this season, Jimmy Brown was on the transfer list and had played in only 25 League games. He didn't get back in the team until January—and yet by March he had become the youngest captain in the club's history.

Jimmy was 19 in October last year, but even at that tender age he could look back on three years in Villa's first-team pool. He had made club history in 1969 when playing against Bolton Wanderers in a Second Division match when aged only 15 years and 349 days.

He had left school in Scotland only four months before, immediately joining Villa after winning schoolboy international caps and earning a reputation as a potential captain of Scotland.

"Sometimes I felt I suffered for playing in the first-team so early," says the level-headed Scot who was attracted to Villa Park by the persuasion of Tommy Docherty. Once you have tasted the League, you are not satisfied with less. Still, I have not actually regretted playing at 15 and the success and disappointment I have experienced helped me to grow up in the professional sense of the word."

Jimmy, who played for Scotland's Youth-team two years ago, was a member of the Villa side which won the F.A. Youth Cup last season, though he wasn't the skipper. He became unsettled with his failure to win a place in the Third Division promotion side and went on the transfer list.

"I thought my days at Villa Park were numbered," he says. "But everything was resolved soon after my birthday." He made an immediate impact when recalled to the senior side in January and, when Bruce Rioch handed in the captaincy in March, manager Vic Crowe had no hesitation in naming him as the deputy.

POINTS ON PLAYERS

JIMMY CUMBES—goalkeeper. Jim looking forward to changing sports and getting among the wickets for Worcestershire in the County Cricket Championship. Jimmy's first football League club was Tranmere Rovers and then he jumped into the First Division with a £35,000 move to West Bromwich Albion. He had just over two years at The Hawthorns before moving to Villa in November, 1971. He displaced former Scottish Under-23 goalkeeper Tommy Hughes, who had joined Villa from Chelsea in the summer of 1971.

JOHN ROBSON—defender. Villa did well to attract John from Derby County for an estimated £90,000 fee in December. A regular in Derby's League Championship side last season, John lost his first-team spot to record signing David Nish, but played in County's early European Cup matches. John was first spotted by Derby when playing in North-East youth football. Won six Under-23 caps while with Derby and has added another since joining Villa.

CHARLIE AITKEN—defender. Villa's longest-serving player, Edinburgh-born Charlie has been a first-team regular since 1961 and is well in line to beat Billy Walker's club record of 480 League appearances. He won two Scottish Under-23 caps in 1962 and also played in a full international trial. Has returned an ever-present record in four seasons and took a Testimonial in 1969-70.

BOBBY McDONALD—defender. The fourth member of Villa's 1972 F.A. Youth Cup-winning side to make the senior side, Still only 17, he played for Scotland in last year's European International Youth Tournament.

BRUCE RIOCH—midfield. When Bruce left Luton in 1969 his transfer set two records, for he was the first £100,000 player sold by a Third Division club and the first six-figure buy for Villa. He joined Villa as a striker, but he was not a success in that position and was further handicapped by two cartilage operations in 1970-71. Returned in time to play in the League Cup Final, but it was last season that he really caught the eye when playing in midfield and captaining Villa to the Third Division Championship.

CHRIS NICHOLL—defender. Villa's second big-money capture from Luton, he signed for a reported £90,000 in March last year. Standing six feet two inches tall, he is very strohg in the air, and had made



BRIAN LITTLE

Burnley regret the day they let him leave Turf Moor and join Winsford in the Cheshire League. Halifax Town gave him his first League chance, and after 42 games there, he joined Luton for £30,000.

IAN ROSS—defender. Another expensive buy during Villa's Third Division promotion campaign, the Glasgow-born Scot arrived from Liverpool for £75,000 in February last year. Villa soon received full value from a stylish back-four player who was a regular in the Liverpool side through the first-half of last season.

FRED TURNBULL—defender. Spotted playing in North-East junior football and was taken on the professional staff after a trial in September, 1966. Made his debut a year later at centre-half, but has played most of his 150-plus senior games at number six. Had a spell on loan to Halifax Town in 1970.

PAT McMAHON—midfield. The news that Celtic had given Glasgow-born Pat a free transfer at the end of 1968-69 sent Tommy Docherty rushing North to get his signature on Villa forms in the summer of 1969. Although he had played only three senior games for Celtic, he went straight into Villa's team.

RAY GRAYDON—winger. Villa released Wembley skipper Brian Godfrey to Bristol Rovers in order to sign Ray in an exchange deal in 1971 and they never regretted the decision. Ray scored 13 goals in the promotion season and, while with Rovers, he netted 33 goals in 134 League outings.

ALUN EVANS—forward. Villa's second 1972 signing from Liverpool, he cost £80,000 when bought early last summer. As a boy, he used to train at Villa Park, but he decided to join Wolves after starring in the 1965 England Schools side. He played only 20 League games for the Molineux side before becoming the first-ever £100,000 teenager when moving to Liverpool in September, 1968. He won four Under-23 caps while at Anfield and played in the 1971 F.A. Cup Final.

GEOFF VOWDEN—midfield. Villa invested £13,000 in Vowden's experience when signing him from neighbouring Birmingham City in March, 1971. He has supplied tremendous effort and skill to the midfield section, though he had been a striker for most of his career. He started with four seasons at Nottingham Forest, scoring 40 goals in 90 League games, and was twice Birmingham's top scorer.

ANDY LOCHHEAD—forward. Most valuable member of Villa's promotion team, scoring 19 League goals and being voted West Midlands Player of the Year and Villa's club star of the season. He cost £35,000 when signed from Leicester City in 1970, a year after he had played in their losing F.A. Cup Final side against Manchester City. Previously, the Glasgow-born forward had served Burnley for many years.

BRIAN LITTLE—forward. Yet another graduate from last year's Youth side, he scored on his debut against Torquay United last term and has had plenty of senior experience this season. Won an England Youth cap in 1972.

IAN HAMILTON—forward. Made a dramatic entry into League football when scoring two goals in his first three appearances for Chelsea as a 16-year-old. But he was later allowed to join Southend United for £5,000 in 1968 and after scoring 17 goals in 33 Fourth Division games, he was signed for a second time by Tommy Docherty. Villa paid £40,000 for the former England Youth international.

Be on the winning side every night

READ THE **POST** EVENING

Mark Rd. Hemel Hempstead, Tel: 2211

POINTS ON PLAYERS



MAN ABOUT TOWN

JOHN ASTON

It is not always a good thing to have as a father a player who commanded international claim and respect lingering in the memory of the public. It makes life that bit tougher when a member of the same family steps out into the world to try and fashion a career in the same business.

Luton's top marksman, John Aston, has, of course, a great deal for which to be grateful towards John Aston senior for teaching him the basic principles of soccer at top level. His father, a famous full-back for Manchester United and England, organised an apprenticeship for his son with the same League club.

While John is the first to acknowledge the debt owed to his father for his guidance and wisdom, he will readily admit that, during his initial years as a professional, being John Aston junior did him more harm than good. "I have always considered it a handicap, though still fortunate, to have a famous father. It was difficult at Old Trafford because they remembered him so clearly and when I didn't carry on the full-back traditions, my style came under review and criticism.

It was a big wrench, just the same, for John to vacate a club with the glamour and success which surrounds Old Trafford. But talking to us last week, his outlook on football clearly reflected, perhaps, for the first time, that he is free of his father's shadow.

"The very fact that I have got the goals in my first season with Luton convinces me that I am a more settled player in my eighth season as a professional than I was ever before. From the club's point of view, I reckon they have had a semi-successful campaign which they must be pleased with. They have always been in the top group in the League and only four teams went further in the F.A. Cup. It might have been a coincidence, but I consider it rather significant that Luton's fortunes sagged somewhat at about the same time as the serious injuries to Keith Barber, Barry Butlin and Viv Busby."

Any orthodox winger who rattles in double figures over the season is something special and for much of his success in this respect, happy John pays a tribute to the industry of Barry Butlin at the arrow tip of the attack. "Barry was undoubtedly a key player and I was building a better understanding with him in each match we played before his injury. He is an ideal foil for my style and we can hit it off next season when the boss will have moulded the team into a closer unit. Remember there were others new to Kenilworth Road at the start of the season besides myself."

John's big highlight of the season was his two-goal knock-out in the North on the Cup run when his experience of top occasions carried him through with enough confidence to dash Newcastle United's hopes with a great one-two. This exciting stylist has the skill to create and the power to punish, a lethal combination which we trust will be firing Luton on all cylinders next term.



TOWN TALK

Because of the Easter postal difficulties, we cannot run the 'Guess the Gate Competition' on Monday's game against Middlesbrough. Winners of the last two competitions are listed below and we join the season's successful entrants in thanking *Pickwick International*, of Leighton Buzzard, for their regular donation of six long playing records.

Winners for the competition on the Bristol City game . . . Mr T. W. Paultley, Flat 1, Hall Place, St. Peters Street, St. Albans. Mr P. J. Marsh, 9, Athelstan Road, Hemel Hempstead. Master C. Ayres, 34 Grasmere Avenue, Luton, Mr K. Nicholls, 55 Westfield Road, Bletchley. Master S. E. Pearce, 105 Portland Road, Luton. Mr A. I. Messenger, 256 Hitchin Road, Luton.

Winners for the competition on the Fulham game . . . Mr D. A. Whiting, 94 Grove Road, Harpenden. Mr P. Garner, 40 Napier Street, Bletchley. Mr W. Vann, 14 Corncrake Close, Stopsley, Luton. Mr M. Hann, 7 Barlings Road, Harpenden. Mrs S. Ayres, 34 Grasmere Avenue, Luton. Mr T. W. Paultley, Flat 1, Hall Palace, St. Peters Street, St. Albans.

FORTHCOMING MATCH
Easter Monday, 23rd April 1973.

LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
Kick-off: 3.00 pm

YOUR ROAD ROUTE TO BURNLEY

Tuesday, 24th April 1973

Leave by Dunstable Road (A.505) to M.1

motorway, follow signs 'Birmingham M.1'. Toddington service area, Newport Pagnell service area, Watford Gap service area. Intersection 19 follow signs 'North West, Coventry, Birmingham M.1'. Corley service area, Hilton Park service area, Follow signs 'North West, Stafford M.6'. Keele service area. Follow signs 'Preston M.6'. Knutsford service area, continue on M.6. Charnock Richard service area, continue Preston M.6. Intersection Preston A.59, follow signs 'Blackburn A.59'. Junction of roads, A.677 continue ahead, Blackburn. Leave by Burnley Road (A.678), crossing Blackburn by-pass, continue into Blackburn Road. Clayton-Le-Moors, Altham, Junction of roads (A.671), continue ahead, Padiham. After a quarter of a mile, cross bridge, then turn left. Habergham, Burnley by-pass on the right. Padiham Road, Burnley. Total distance: 208 miles.

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

THE LUTON LOTTERY

At long last, we have found an answer to our financial problems! It is a great relief to us all to know that from now on that part of our success is guaranteed. It has taken a surprisingly short time to achieve that 'goal'. We attribute our success to all the loyal supporters who have become Agents or customers of 'The Luton Lottery'. Each one who has joined has quickly recognised the credibility which is an integral part of the system of winning money honestly, and when you have lost, feel that you have had 'a good run for your money.'

Each week that goes by, more and more people win, and what is just as important, they are nearly always different people. Up to now we have confined our sales mainly to Luton itself, and because of this plan we know that if each of our winners could be identified by a tangerine beret, an aerial view of Luton would begin to look like an orange grove!

On Week Ten we made a lot of people very happy (and a lot of happy agents too, earning 60,000 *Green Shield Stamps* between them), including Mr E. Carroll, 51

Chatsworth Road, Luton (£100). Mr B. Cohen, 43 Kingsdowne Avenue, Luton (£25). Mrs Feeney, *The Melsom Arms*, Luton (£10), as well as Mr Wann and Mr Perkins of *The Eight Bells*, Dunstable, who each won a lovely gold wristwatch. (When Mr Wann calls 'time' in future, they can argue about it being the right time). Plus about another 160 people who won £5 or £1 in prizes, and this does not include all the Agents bonuses, because when the member wins, the Agent automatically wins as well. With so much happiness around Luton these days, it is really a wonderful feeling to be associated with such a magnetic fund raiser.

SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR 1972/73

This weekend the club has virtually reached the end of their 1972-73 playing season and it is with this in mind that we are inviting members to submit nominations for the person who in their opinion has this season been the number one supporter of Luton Town F.C. The person nominated must be a member of the Bobbers Stand and Supporters Club.

The winner will be presented with the handsome trophy which was first initiated and presented to Mrs Molly Miles last season. This year's presentation will be made in the Hatter's Club at a function, the date of which will be announced in a few weeks time through the media of the local press. Printed below is a coupon which should be completed and mailed as soon as possible to John K. Smylie, 44 Wadhurst Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire.

Supporter of the Year

I nominate

as my supporter of the year.

Name

Membership Number.....

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	8,430	1-0
Nov 4	Swindon Town	10,596	0-1	10	Hull City	5,278	0-4
11	Portsmouth	7,571	2-2	14	Queen's Park Rangers	16,471	2-0
18	Aston Villa	29,144	2-0	21	Aston Villa		
25	Carlisle United	10,091	0-1	23	Middlesbrough		
Dec 9	Queen's Park Rangers	13,670	2-2	24	Burnley		
16	Millwall	11,550	2-2	28	Oxford United		
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, 14th April, 1973

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

*League Games Only

HOME		AWAY		*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		
37	10 6 2 36 18	10 7 2 25 16	53	BURNLEY	16,927	13,262	Fletcher 13, Dobson 11, Casper 10, James 8
37	14 4 1 50 13	6 8 4 23 24	52	Q.P.R.	22,518	14,220	Givens 25, Bowles 15, Leach 12, Thomas 9
38	11 5 4 25 16	6 6 6 21 27	45	ASTON VILLA	38,637	28,049	Evans 11, Graydon 9, Rioch (B) 9, Vowden 8
39	11 6 3 35 17	6 4 9 19 30	44	BLACKPOOL	25,277	10,902	Suddick 13, Ainscow 10, Dyson 9, Burns 8, Rafferty 8
39	14 3 3 40 20	3 6 10 18 30	43	SHEFFIELD W.	30,197	17,735	Joicey 20, Sunley 12, Craig 11
38	11 5 4 32 16	4 6 8 22 27	41	FULHAM	17,576	10,137	Earle 15, Mitchell 11, Mullery 7
39	10 6 3 23 13	4 7 9 16 28	41	MIDDLESBROUGH	24,145	10,669	Hickton 11, Mills 7, Foggon 6
38	13 1 4 33 14	4 5 11 15 25	40	OXFORD UNITED	13,412	9,094	Curran 14, Cassidy 8, Clarke (D) 7
39	7 7 4 27 16	7 5 9 29 33	40	BRISTOL CITY	20,490	13,163	Gould 14, Gow 13
38	6 8 5 24 22	9 2 8 19 25	40	LUTON TOWN	15,799	10,861	Aston 12, Butlin 5, Jimmy Ryan 5
34	10 6 3 32 13	4 4 8 20 27	38	SUNDERLAND	39,930	20,885	Hughes 16, Halom 15, Tueart 14
38	12 3 3 31 15	3 5 12 21 29	38	MILLWALL	13,207	10,065	Bolland 18, Wood 17, Cripps 8
37	9 6 4 39 20	4 5 9 21 33	37	HULL CITY	13,580	9,093	Pearson 16, Holme 12, Houghton 9, Knighton 7
38	11 5 4 31 18	2 6 10 12 28	37	NOTTINGHAM F.	18,082	9,875	Galley 15, McKenzie 12
39	7 9 4 26 22	2 6 11 18 36	33	SWINDON TOWN	15,304	10,115	Treacy 14, Peplow 7
38	6 6 7 19 20	5 4 10 20 34	32	PORTSMOUTH	16,419	9,512	Hiron 10, Piper 9
38	10 4 5 38 21	1 5 13 9 27	31	CARLISLE UNITED	17,842	7,756	Laidlaw 13, Owen 13, Martin 8
37	9 5 4 28 15	1 6 12 14 31	31	ORIENT	10,532	6,100	Queen 10, Downing 7, Fairbrother 7
38	5 7 6 16 22	5 4 11 17 37	31	PRESTON N.E.	18,822	9,837	Bruce 10
39	6 9 5 19 20	1 7 11 14 32	30	HUDDERSFIELD T.	13,689	8,124	Gowling 16
36	10 2 5 27 17	0 6 13 9 34	28	CARDIFF CITY	16,364	11,191	McCulloch 14, Woodruff 7
38	7 6 6 29 28	1 5 13 14 47	27	BRIGHTON H.A.	18,699	14,352	Robertson 15, Beamish 10, Murray 9



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TOWN IN ACTION

Fulham manager Alec Stock, on his first visit to Kenilworth Road since leaving the Hatters last year, admitted that Luton fully deserved to record a double over the Londoners in less than fortnight.

Having won with a single goal by Rodney Fern at Craven Cottage, we repeated the scoreline at home when Jimmy Ryan got the vital score. Fulham were never relaxed against a lively Luton attack, featuring a top-form Graham French, and our pictures (left) show goalkeeper Peter Mellor making a desperate save from Rodney Fern.

Early that week, the Anglo-Italian tournament had again provided an interesting diversion from domestic activity, Gordon Hindson clinching our second victory in three games. Pictures from the Fiorentina match show . . . (Bottom left): Defender Bryi making a goal area clearance. (Bottom right): Graham Horn coming out bravely to break up an Italian raid.

Pictures: 'Evening Post'.

TOWN IN ACTION



MEMORY MAN

The day Luton crucified Bristol Rovers 12-0 the goalkeeper who lived through that nightmare had a blinder. Hard to believe? Well, maybe so, but it is not something to scoff at when the player to whom this opinion is attributed, is none other than the chief tormentor of that afternoon, Luton's ten-goal gunner, Joe Payne.

The scoring legend of the 'Thirties, a proud memory for Luton that remains a League record for the number scored by an individual in a single match, turned the clock back for us last week and came up with the amazing confession.

"Time blurs the memory—but I recall the Rovers goalkeeper making at least as many good saves as the goals he let in. There was no particular reason why Luton went on a scoring rampage. It just happened. The chances just kept coming my way and after the first five, I had that much confidence that I was beginning to think I could do it with my eyes shut, especially after the freak of them all when I fell over on my backside to fool everybody—but the ball still went in."

Certainly Joe, now one of several Luton stalwarts who still fashion their livelihood in the area where they built their football reputations, lays no more blame on the goalkeeper than the rest of the Rovers side. They disintegrated before one of the most devastating exhibitions of goal-crazy determination ever witnessed at Kenilworth Road.

It brought jolly Joe all-time fame, particularly as he stacked-up his double fugure haul on his debut at centre-forward. It has earned him the privilege of being one of the few goal-masters to get in the *Guinness Book of Records*—a proud and lasting piece of satisfaction for any sportsman, but that is where Joe's 'awards' stop dead.

His *Guinness* claim is one of which he is proud—but he regrets that it is about the only positive acknowledgement which records his scoring feat. "I was presented with the actual ball at the time. But my youngster eventually took a fancy to it when footballs were not found on every shop shelf and, in the



JOE PAYNE

end, he kicked it to bits. But I am happy he got some use out of it because it would probably have rotted by now."

Joe's Easter Monday escapade in 1936 is now a long way behind him as he fulfils his duties as a boiler room attendant with an electrical appliance company in the Town. But he still enjoys recounting his active days, even though they were sadly cut short by the War and injuries.

The man who burst on the scene in the wake of Dixie Dean's 60 goals in a season, himself cracked in 55 the term following the Bristol bombardment. How much the War damaged Joe's potential of being the all-time great in the number nine shirt is impossible to assess.

But it certainly cut down the goal rations of the one-time raw recruit from a Chesterfield mining family who was put through a month's trial by manager Harold Whiteman before Luton finally agreed that young Payne

was good enough to have a chance.

A couple of years later, they were fighting off the big-name clubs who were chasing the signature of the bargain star who had become universally known as 'Ten-Goal Payne'.

The start of the 1937-38 campaign found Payne's name being linked with Arsenal, Manchester United and Aston Villa, with 'fortunes' in the region of £12,000 being thrown about like confetti. Luton were being hard-pressed to hold on to their former 'emergency wing-half' and when they came under some financial pressure in 1938, Joe's sensational skills were swapped for a £15,000 grandstand and Chelsea became his new stage.

But the following year football broke down and Joe's talent was, in common with all the famous War-time names, scattered far and wide. Playing during the conflict, Joe twice cracked his ankle and when he was able to step out of isolation in 1946, he found it tough to win his place back.

Chelsea manager Billy Birrell gave Joe his first games in the Combination side and by a remarkable coincidence one of them was against Bristol Rovers, whom Chelsea reserves walloped 10-0—but Joe only managed four of them.

Perhaps it reflected the passing of time which had not been kind to the master of the goalmouth. Though clubs all over the country kept making tentative enquiries about Payne after the War, Joe eventually moved on to West Ham—but in no blaze of glory.

"I was nagged by injury problems and I reckoned it might help if I had a change of scenery. But it did not help and when I later moved on to Millwall, it was only because one of the Directors thought that they could clear up my problems.

Sadly, they failed, and Joe Payne, who had a romantic rise to fame with Luton, was thrust on soccer's scrap heap. Six years of aggression and successive injuries undoubtedly combined to rob football of a great character, a player who stands ten feet tall in the goalscorer's roll of honour.

MEMORY MAN

SCORES

LIST ONE

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

LIST TWO

Burnley v Brighton	A	
Cardiff v Huddersfield	B	
Hull v Sunderland	C	
Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed	D	
Millwall v Q.P.R.	E	
Orient v Swindon	F	
Oxford v Carlisle	G	
Portsmouth v Fulham	H	
Preston v Nottm Forest	K	
Bolton v York	L	
Bournemouth v Swansea	M	
Notts County v Blackburn	N	

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TEAMS

Luton Town

White Shirts, Black Shorts

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- 2 DON SHANKS
- 3 BOBBY THOMSON
- 4 PETER ANDERSON
- 5 JOHN FAULKNER
- 6 JOHN RYAN
- 7 JIMMY RYAN
- 8 GRAHAM FRENCH
- 9 VIV BUSBY
- 10 GORDON HINDSON
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12

Aston Villa

Claret & Blue Shirts White Shorts

- 1 JIMMY CUMBES
- 2 IAN ROSS
- 3 JOHN ROBSON
- 4 JIMMY BROWN
- 5 CHRIS NICHOLL
- 6 NEIL RIOCH
- 7 PAT McMAHON
- 8 BRIAN LITTLE
- 9 ANDY LOCHHEAD
- 10 GEOFF VOWDEN
- 11 IAN HAMILTON
- 12

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		ASTON VILLA	
HALF TIME		HALF TIME	
FULL TIME		FULL TIME	

Referee: M. V. SINCLAIR, Guildford

Linesmen: B. L. UZZELL, Stratton St. Margaret
(Red Flag)
C. C. SMITH, East Croydon (Orange Flag)

Mascot: Graham Winterbone

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