

LUTON TOWN



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ARMSTRONG

LUTON TOWN

FOOTBALL AND
ATHLETIC CLUB
LIMITED

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HARRY HASLAM



Today we welcome Middlesbrough for our final Second Division game at Kenilworth Road this season, an Easter-time farewell to a campaign which, looking back, had everything for this club except the one priceless commodity . . . luck.

From my point of view, the lads have done a proud job for me in my first season as a manager, and if anyone had said at the start of the season that Luton would still be on the Cup trail at the sixth round stage, claim one of the best records away from home in the four Leagues, and consistently be ranked as highly as any club in the Division, I would have viewed their optimism with a measure of suspicion.

Yet, these are the firm credits which the lads fought so magnificently well to achieve. Considering that none of us in the background knew too much about each others attitudes and outlook on the game in general, we have, I think, put together a formative term that spells out every reason for doing so much better in 1973-74.

At a time when the team needed a vital boost and incentive to crack the pressure of the big occasion, we had the misfortune

to suffer the set-back of serious injuries to key players. We approached the critical encounter against Sunderland knowing full well that Barry Butlin would not be leading the attack, and that Keith Barber was only a longshot.

Though we may not have realised it at the time, it must have gnawed away at the lad's confidence and when your mind is not properly on the job in hand, for any reason, you cannot expect to produce a masterpiece.

I think things went sour after the Sunderland defeat, a normal reaction, I suppose, after suffering the biggest set-back from a team you have already beaten twice in a season. It burst the bubble for the side and was the last straw, perhaps, in a season which has continually produced results and incidents to torment the consistency out of the most placid individual.

Only last week we ran into the luck barrier yet again, at Q.P.R., when an incredible—that is the polite word for it—refereeing performance prevented Luton from taking three points from a promotion team over the season. We had three goals disallowed, two for offside, and Q.P.R. also



JOHN ASTON



Alan Garner's goal puts Luton Town in the Cup's Quarter-Final.

lost one for a similar reason. There seemed no real justification each time and I can only console myself by believing that someone is saving all our better days for next season.

In our first season together, we have gathered a lot of knowledge and I am convinced that we are on the right track to being geared with a great side in the future.

I said at the start of this term that it is my intention to see the lads reach the peak in goals production. Clearly, I am disappointed that we did not score often enough, particularly at home, to compliment the outstanding form the team showed on visiting grounds. I have played two wingers whenever possible to be as effective as possible in attack. But though the openings were created, the side appeared lacking the experience at the best way of reaping the rewards.

The attack created the openings, but never took them. Our policies and ideas mastered all the top sides, Burnley, Q.P.R., success at Newcastle in the Cup convinced me that we had a great formula. But when the opportunities failed to bear fruit, as happened in so many home games, it forced issues back on the defence, who were quite naturally a little frustrated at seeing the team on top—but with no goals to show for it.

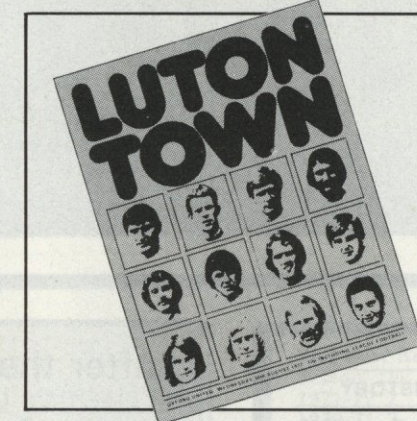
Over a season, many managers can brush off disappointments and failures by saying that the side did not take the chances. Supporters, rightly so, think this

is a cover-up job and I must stand in line for such criticism. But, in my mind, I know this is the truth and if the team masters this problem—and only match action can bring the real split seconds of pressure and tension for the player who can make or break the match for his team—I am sure our ambitions will bring sweeter results next season.

Generally speaking, I have been very pleased with the defence, considering the extra amount of industry that they have produced in order to keep the attack boiling. If there has been a 'bad apple,' it has been our inability to cope with set-pieces, because I have noted a number of goals resulting from dead-ball situations. It may be just coincidence, but it's something that myself and coach Roy McCrohan will be doing some homework on.

I would like to thank Roy for his unswerving loyalty and dedication which fires his enthusiasm for a very difficult job and, I might add, a very hard one from a physical sense. He is as disappointed as I am that Luton have not more to show but he remains confident that better things are ahead.

The reserve-team have done so well under Ken Whitfield, that no more could be asked of them over a season, and the club's juniors will start next season with Ray King and a squad from which Luton will proudly be drawing senior players in a couple of years time.



John Aston's goal in the Cup victory against Newcastle United.

There are an awful lot of people who make Luton 'tick' and without their efforts over the season the team would never get off the ground. They are, of course, Eddie Hartley, who with his own little team, has kept the pitch in perfect condition, and the faithful band of enthusiasts such as the gatemen and the ladies in the tea bars.

Finally, though they have had to stomach many frustrations and disappointments, I would like to say that no manager could have expected more from his supporters, without whom the club wouldn't exist. We are aware of you, particularly on away trips, and all I hope is that we shall earn your support even greater in 1973-74.

Another pleasing feature of the season has been the recognition of the new club programme as one of the best in the Football League. The British Programme Collectors Club placed Luton Town's magazine in ninth place and nominated us and Hull City as the best programmes selling at 10p. It's worth thinking of the clubs we defeated in the poll—Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal and Leeds United, to name but a few.

So we congratulate our programme team—Editor Phil Critchley, Reporter Norton Jones, the printers, Peerless Press Limited, West Bromwich and thank the Luton News and Evening Post for the loan of wonderful pictures.

END OF TERM REPORT

Twenty seasons outside the First Division is too long for a club of Middlesbrough's potential. So you can imagine their frustration in getting so near to promotion in recent years and fading in the last stages.

Up until this campaign, the Ayresome Park club had averaged 48 points through five years following promotion from the Third Division. You don't need to show much improvement on that figure to claim one of the two top places, but, instead of finding the extra lift this term, 'Boro are likely to finish in their lowest position since that one year in Division Three.

Amidst the disappointment on Teesside, Stan Anderson, manager for seven years, announced his resignation in January and the team has since been in the charge of England trainer Harold Shepherdson.

Gates have also dipped alarmingly, with 10,000 crowds now something of a rarity on a ground which used to be full of the traditional North-East atmosphere.

The decline in interest probably stems from two sources—the club's failing to get in the promotion race, and the success now being enjoyed by neighbouring Newcastle, almost certain to qualify for Europe next season, and of course, Sunderland, the sensational F.A. Cup Finalists.

Middlesbrough's experience over recent seasons shows the danger of being trapped in the Second Division web for too long. Promotion seems to get harder with each year.

Last season, they splashed out over £200,000 to sign former World Cup star Nobby Stiles, centre-half Stuart Boam from Mansfield, and full-back John Craggs from Newcastle. Each player has undoubtedly added strength to the side and they have also gained from the introduction of promising young players.

Jim Platt, the Irish goalkeeper, must be one of the best in the Division and unlucky to have Footballer of the Year Pat Jennings ahead of him in the queue for an international place. Another outstanding arrival is defender Willie Maddren, capped by the England Under-23 team two months ago and the subject of £100,000 interest by First Division clubs.

When you add the names of players like John Hickton, three times the Second Division's leading scorer since joining 'Boro, and Irish international Eric McMordie, you surely have the nucleus of a side heading for the First Division.

But it just hasn't worked out that way and the depression of so many 'near

TALKING ABOUT MIDDLESBROUGH



misses' eventually led to the departure of Stan Anderson. This seemed a great pity, for the former England wing-half was rated one of the best younger managers after leading 'Boro out of the Third Division in his first season.

Middlesbrough have not been quite so busy in the transfer market this season, restricting their spending to modest cheques for Alan Foggan, the Cardiff winger, and Graeme Souness, a talented young Scot who had little opportunity of League football at Tottenham.

On the outgoing side, they took a useful sum for Johnny Vincent, who moved to Cardiff, and a small figure for Alan Moody, now at Southend. In addition, former skipper Gordon Jones said 'goodbye' after more than 400 games for the club and joined Darlington on a free transfer.

The season started brightly enough when 24,145—easily their best attendance—saw them beat Sunderland 2-1 with two goals from local youngster Malcolm Smith, but they lost the next three games and have not found any true consistency over the last eight months.

They have never won more than two League games in succession and the Cup competitions have offered little consolation. There was hope of a shock result in the League Cup when they forced Tottenham to a second replay, but they lost the toss for the choice of venue for the meeting and went down 2-1 in another match at White Hart Lane.

In the F.A. Cup, there was a disastrous Third Round exit at Plymouth—a result which came just before Mr Anderson announced he was leaving the club.

Since Mr Shepherdson took over as 'caretaker' in January, 'Boro have maintained a steady but unspectacular record. Apart from a 4-0 tumble in the prestige match at Sunderland, the defence has played with commendable tightness, but goals have remained a source of worry.

Hickton seems to have lost his old form in this department and was left out of the side for a brief spell. He came back with a goal as substitute against Villa in March—his tenth of the season and enough to make him leading scorer once again.

Middlesbrough 1972-73... (Back row): G. Jones, W. Maddren, S. Boam, P. Creamer, P. Cuff, J. Platt, A. Moody (now Southend), J. Vincent (now Cardiff), W. Gates, J. Hickton. (Front row): E. McMordie, J. Laidlaw (now Carlisle), F. Spraggan, D. Mills, J. Craggs, D. Armstrong, N. Stiles.

MIDDLESBROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY...

Founded: 1876. Elected to League Division Two: 1899. Ground: Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough, Teesside. Record Attendance: 53,596, against Newcastle United, December, 1949. Division Two Champions: 1926-27, 1928-29. Runners-up: 1901-02. Division Three Runners-up: 1966-67. Highest League Placing: Third in Division One, 1913-14.

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Ten-Year Record

Season	Div	Pos	Won	P
1971-72	2	9th	19	46
1970-71	2	7th	17	48
1969-70	2	4th	20	50
1968-69	2	4th	19	49
1967-68	2	6th	17	46
1966-67	3	2nd	23	55
1965-66	2	21st	10	33
1964-65	2	17th	13	35
1963-64	2	10th	15	41
1962-63	2	4th	20	49

Luton v Middlesbrough

Summary of past League results

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Home	7	6	1	0	20	9	13
Away	8	4	2	2	11	6	10
Total	15	10	3	2	31	15	23

Best win: 6-1 (h) 1960-61

Worst defeat: 1-2 (a) 1960-61 and 1970-71.

MANAGER CAPTAIN

Harold Shepherdson, England's trainer in four World Cup competitions, had his mind firmly fixed on our chances of qualifying for the Munich Finals when he returned to his post as Middlesbrough assistant manager following the game against Wales at Wembley in January.

The loss of a point to the gallant Welsh raised the question whether England would, after all, win a ticket to the 1974 tournament in West Germany.

As much as Mr Shepherdson wanted to prepare for important Middlesbrough affairs, the England situation was very much in his mind . . . until he checked into Ayresome Park and discovered that Stan Anderson had resigned as manager that morning.

Mr Shepherdson was immediately placed in charge of the team while the club advertised nationally for a new manager. "My spirits were pretty low after the Wales international," Mr Shepherdson recalls. "But I didn't have much time to brood when I discovered the changes at Ayresome Park."

When we went to Press with this programme, 'Boro had still not made any announcement about the new boss and Mr Shepherdson was continuing to keep the team in a steady position in the League table.

His extra duties meant that he had to give up his England post for the Scotland match in February—the first time since October, 1957, that he had not taken his usual seat on the bench.

He formed a tremendous alliance with Sir Alf when the England manager was appointed in 1963 and says: "I shall be eternally grateful to Alf for allowing me the privilege of working with him."

Mr Shepherdson received the M.B.E., before the Mexico World Cup—an honour which also reflected credit on Middlesbrough for their part in assisting the England effort.



NOBBY STILES

Nobby Stiles, the man the world loved to hate during England's progress to capturing the 1966 World Cup, still plays with the enthusiasm that has annoyed opponents and delighted colleagues over 16 years.

Sir Alf Ramsey has twice revealed his esteem for Nobby's competitive spirit—first, when ignoring pressure to drop the Manchester United half-back after worldwide criticism of Nobby's methods in the World Cup, and, second, when he restored him to the England squad for Mexico in 1970.

The latter decision was taken while Nobby was still battling for complete recovery from a cartilage operation during the 1969-70 season. Sir Alf made it known that Nobby's infectious good humour was needed in the England camp when they tackled the problems in Mexico.

It was for much the same reason that Middlesbrough agreed terms with United in the summer of 1971 for the transfer of a man who won nearly every honour the game had to offer in the famous red of the Old Trafford club. They saw him as the kind of inspiring character who could lift them towards the First Division.

This has not been the case so far, but Nobby has created new popularity in the North-East and he reckons that there is still plenty of time for him to make a memorable return to his old Division One battleground.

Many players with Nobby's pedigree would not have considered dropping into the Second Division. He did because he saw it as a new challenge.

His honours list shows the full quality of one of post-war soccer's most enthusiastic players . . . five England Schools caps, appearances in the England Youth-team, three games for the Under-23's and 28 full England caps. At club level, he played in two League Championship sides and helped Manchester United win the European Cup.

POINTS ON PLAYERS

JIM PLATT—goalkeeper. A former Irish amateur international, he joined Middlesbrough after playing for Ballymena in the 1970 Irish Cup Final. Displaced Scottish regular Willie Whigham last October and was an ever-present for the rest of the season. Even before his League debut against Blackpool, he had won recognition from Ireland, who selected him as reserve for the European Nations' Cup game against Russia in September, 1971.

PAT CUFF—goalkeeper. A local prospect who signed for 'Boro in May, 1969. With the departure of Whigham, he became reserve choice to Platt and gathered his first League experience with a couple of games on loan for last season's Fourth Division Champions, Grimsby Town.

JOHN CRAGGS—defender. Durham-born defender who left school to take up a career with Newcastle United. He developed into an excellent prospect with the Magpies, but was hard pressed to take the right-back spot away from Irish international, David Craig. He managed a total of 50 League games before Middlesbrough persuaded Newcastle to part for a £60,000 fee in August, 1971.

FRANK SPRAGGON—defender. Born Marley Hill. He joined Middlesbrough as a junior in 1962 and progressed through the youth and reserves to make his senior debut in 1963-64. He held down the number six spot for several seasons, but was set back by injury in 1971 and was out of the game from August to April.

STUART BOAM—defender. Middlesbrough are delighted with the success of their £50,000 signing from Mansfield Town during the summer of 1971. Born at Kirkby, Notts, six feet tall Stuart made quite a reputation in 175 League games with Mansfield, where he became club captain. He was still only 23 when moving into the Second Division. It took him a few games to settle down, but he is now regarded among the best of the country's young centre-halves.

BILL GATES—defender. 'Boro had to beat off competition from a number of clubs when they signed the Feryhill-born all-rounder in September 1961. It was soon evident that they had a special prospect, for Gates made his debut at 16 and had built up 246 League appearances by

the end of last season. A former England Youth international, he has been especially valuable with his ability to play in a number of defensive or midfield roles.

PETER CREAMER—defender. A 19-year-old prospect from Hartlepool who joined 'Boro in June, 1970, and came through to make his League debut this season.

WILLIE MADDREN—defender. Born Billingham and joined Middlesbrough as a junior inside-forward. He turned professional in 1968 and won his League debut as a teenager. Since then, he has made around 100 League appearances—split between attack and defence—but it now seems that his best spot is in the middle of the back-four. He has attracted a number of First Division clubs and Ipswich Town were reported to have failed with a six-figure bid. Won his first England Under-23 cap last month.



ERIC McMORDIE—midfield. A former schoolboy pal of George Best, he actually accompanied the Old Trafford star for trials with Manchester United. Both boys left because of home sickness, but George went back to United, while Eric played in Ireland with Dundella. Then, in 1964, he was tempted to join 'Boro and has proved his original promise in over 200 games for the club. A clever ball player he has won over 20 Irish caps.

GRAEME SOUNESS—midfield. Born in Edinburgh and went to the same school—Carrickvale—as Dave Mackay and followed the great Scotman's path by joining Spurs as an apprentice in April, 1969. A former schools international, Graeme graduated to the national youth-side while with Tottenham, but never got a League chance and was transferred to Middlesbrough for a five-figure fee in January this year.

BRIAN TAYLOR—midfield. Born at Hodthorpe. Promoted from the apprentice staff in July, 1971, and came through the juniors to make his debut this season.

JOHN HICKTON—forward. 'Boro's top scorer for the past five seasons, he had piled up 118 goals in 236 League appearances for the club by the end of last season. He has headed the Second Division scorers three times since his transfer from Sheffield Wednesday in 1966—yet, at one time he, was regarded as a centre-half and played many times for Wednesday in that position. Middlesbrough have rejected a £100,000-plus offer for his scoring skills.

DAVID MILLS—forward. Born Whitby, he was groomed as a striker in 'Boro's reserve-side and came through for his first-team debut in 1970-71. Now rated one of the club's most promising forwards, having scored several useful goals this term.

DAVID ARMSTRONG—forward. Durham-born youngster who graduated from the apprentice staff and made such progress that he was introduced for five senior games towards the end of last season. Still only a teenager, he looks set for a bright future.

HARRY CHARLTON—forward. Born in Gateshead. Joined Middlesbrough in July, 1968, and built up a good reputation in the junior sides. Made his debut two seasons ago, but was dogged by injuries which prevented further progress.

MALCOLM SMITH—forward. Born Stockton. With only one appearance as substitute on his record at the start of the season. Malcolm made a sensational introduction this term with two goals in the opening-day victory over Sunderland. He has since had several more senior games.

PETER BRINE—forward. Born London. Another youngster to have progressed through the apprentice staff, Brine also made his League bow this season and scored his first goal in the win against Cardiff City on 10th March.

ALAN FOGGON—winger. Durham-born. Now back in his native area after spending a season with Cardiff City in which he appeared only a dozen times in their League side. Alan's first club was Newcastle United and he reached a career highspot when scoring one of the winning goals in the 1969 European Fairs Cup Final against Ujpest Dozsa in Budapest. Joined Middlesbrough in October 1972.

MAN ON THE SPOT

ROGER DUCKWORTH'S VERDICT



AND MATCH REPORT EVERY SATURDAY

SPORTS POST

POINTS ON PLAYERS



TOP MAN ABOUT TOWN

It was anyone's guess when they started counting the votes last week. But there was a popular swing in one particular direction and after the final check had been undertaken, Mike Ogden, joint Supporters Club-Bobbers Club secretary, announced Luton Town's Player of the Year... BOBBY THOMSON.

The supporters vote sealed a remarkable transformation which has overtaken the former England defender in just one short season at Kenilworth Road, a campaign which has convinced this player he would have been better off joining the club three years earlier.

After receiving the award—"Which I shall proudly place next to my most treasured possessions, my England caps"—Bobby, who beat off a strong challenge for the trophy from John Aston, told us: "It is one of the happiest moments of my career, because I really don't have to prove any more to Birmingham City that they were wrong when they rejected me last year.

"I have always maintained they almost ruined my career in top-class soccer and, by getting away, it has taken me less than a year to do it. I have a lot to thank manager Harry Haslam for in this respect because he gave me the chance.

"He also gave me a further incentive and encouragement by trusting me with the skipper's job and it's been a pleasure to pick up the threads again with such a great bunch of lads." Of course, Bobby is an old hand in the captain's chair because he fulfilled the same responsibilities with Wolves, Blues and the Under-23 international side.

"Really, I have to pinch myself to believe that it's all real. This time last year I was struggling with odd games for Walsall. Now I have been recognised twice with my new club, the team got through to the last eight in the F.A. Cup and have done well in the domestic League programme."

It is the reward for the true dedicated professional which Bobby has been ever since he pulled on a Wolves shirt for his debut in 1962. He still lives in the Wolverhampton area where he is in business in a partnership with professional golfer David Fereday. Bob's business, of course, is a sports and leisure wear shop. "I should be classed the silent partner, because football takes so much time that Dave is virtually run it on his own so far."

Bob echoed the opinion of all true Luton fans that team boss Harry Haslam has done a great job in his first season as a Football League manager. "I can speak on behalf of the team when I say that I have found him fair on all accounts. I only wish we could have claimed a more positive reward to spotlight the respect we have for him and for all the hard work he has put in."

The Supporters Club showed their appreciation at the same function, for after the main award, they called on Harry Haslam to receive a smart presentation pen-set in recognition of his first season's service. There was also a bottle of champagne waiting for Reg Game and Roy McCrohan for their vital contribution behind the scenes.



TOWN TALK

ANGLO-ITALIAN BROCHURES

There are still a few copies of the Luton Town Anglo-Italian Tournament Brochures available at the Pools Office, 231 Dunstable Road, Luton. Price: 15p (postal applications: 18p). This attractive 32-page supplement contains all the facts, figures, reports, history and pictures on both English and Italian teams in this years tournament. An impressive souvenir brochure to add to your collection.

Back numbers of any of this season's Luton Town programme are available at the Pools Office. Price 10p, including 'League Football'.

THE LUTON LOTTERY

We have just made the draw for this weeks prizes at the Development Offices, in the company of the majority of our Agents. We chose Easter Monday so that they could all take part in making the draw, and in fact attempt to draw out their own numbers. I can't tell you if they were successful or not, at the time of writing, but you can rest assured that they had a great time doing it!

In future weeks, we intend making the draw on each Monday at 12 noon, at different venues in Luton, visiting factories offices, shops and public houses and generally 'showing it off' in front of members of the general public, as well as to our members and Agents. We will be delighted to bring 'the drum' to you, just give us a ring. Nothing is too much trouble for our staff.

Now that this football season is coming to a close, you can rely on us working like 'beavers' during the summer so that when you come back to your familiar 'spot' at Kenilworth Road for the 'curtain raiser', we shall have made *The Luton Lottery* grow even bigger so that the total value of the prizes and also the number of prizes which **must be won every week**, has been greatly increased. What a way to start a new season, with financial success assured before we even 'kick a serious ball'. Have a wonderful holiday, don't forget to keep paying your 10p's every week, and we won't forget you either. If you are flying out of Luton, don't forget to look down for the black, white and orange.

YOUR ROAD ROUTE TO OXFORD

Saturday, 28th April 1973

Leave by Dunstable Road (A.505). Dunstable, leave by West Street (B.489). At junction of road, turn left (B.488). At junction of roads, turn right (A.41). Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Leave by Hartwell Road (A.418). Hartwell, turn right. Thame, Aylesbury Road, turn right, Bell Lane at end. Bear right into High Street, at end, turn left and at three-quarters of a mile on, bear right. Tiddington (*Fox Inn*). Junction of roads, (A.40). Keep left along the Wheatley by-pass. To Oxford. Total distance: 45 miles.

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

BEDS YOUTH CUP Under-16's Final

JUNIOR HATTERS v STAR JUNIORS

Listen to the P.A. system before today's game for details of this Final.

Whatever the outcome of today's final a new name will appear on the Bedfordshire F.A. Under-16 Youth Cup for both Junior Hatters and Star Juniors are making their first appearance in a County Cup Final.

The semi-finals saw both teams involved in games that went to extra time with

Junior Hatters defeating Bedford side Kempston Lions 7-3 while Star Juniors caused a surprise in beating the favourites Dynamos B.C. 5-3.

Star Juniors were formed in 1970 by a group of parents who formed a team for lads in the Runfold area and have become a well administered club now running several teams. Junior Hatters are in their first year of existence and were formed from the Junior Section of the Hatters club. The side has strengthened as the season has progressed and they are now a far more formidable side than their League position suggests.

TEAMS . . .

Junior Hatters (red shirts, white shorts)

- 1—GLEN FORD
- 2—PETER MEAD
- 3—DAVID JANES
- 4—ART SAMUAL
- 5—STEPHEN HALLOWAY
- 6—EDIO SARNO
- 7—MARTIN NEIL
- 8—ALAN BILEY
- 9—MARTIN CHALMERS
- 10—EDDY JOHNSON
- 11—ALEX MANZAL
- 12—GRAHAM JONES

Star Juniors (white shirts, red shorts)

- 1—DAVID SMITH
- 2—GARY CASWELL
- 3—JOHN DEARMAN
- 4—JOE SMITH
- 5—IAN HERRINGTON
- 6—PETER NEWINGTON
- 7—DAVID VASS
- 8—SANDOR SIMON
- 9—JESS HARROP
- 10—GERRY MEAD
- 11—JOHN BASCON
- 12—ADRIAN TAYLOR (or) STEPHEN DOYLE

Referee Mr J. TEW (Dunstable)

Linesmen Mr H. WILKINSON (Luton) (Red Flag)
Mr R. SIMMS (Biggleswade) (Orange Flag)

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 Monday, 16th April, 1973

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

*League Games Only

HOME		AWAY		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	
38	11 6 2 38 18	10 7 2 25 16	55	BURNLEY	22,896	13,769	Fletcher 15, 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
35	10 6 3 32 13	4 4 9 20 29	38	SUNDERLAND	39,930	20,885	Hughes 16, Halom 15, Tuart 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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Wednesday
May 9th 1973



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PLAYER OF THE YEAR NIGHT

Players, staff, management and supporters of Luton Town celebrated a successful season at the annual Player of the Year night last week. While Bobby Thomson was the star of the evening—he is pictured (left) with manager Harry Haslam and the Prized trophy—other club personalities received presentations in recognition of their efforts during the last nine months.

Mr Haslam accepted a pen-set and is pictured (above) with coach Roy McCrohan and trainer Reg Game, who each received a bottle of champagne. Mrs Trudi Haslam (right) was presented with a bouquet by John Smylie on behalf of the Supporters' Club.



MEMORY MAN

Last week's news that the certainly legendary figure of Bobby Charlton was hanging up his boots rang a bell to revive the past for one of Luton's gallant 1959 Cup Final men, Tony Gregory.

Twenty years ago St. Albans-born Gregory was a goal-hunter in the same Youth International side which set Charlton chasing and capturing just about every honour football has to offer.

"Bobby played at inside-forward and it was his job to create, while I basically was employed to put the finishing touches. We had some great games together, especially in the squad that reached the semi-finals of the 'Little World Cup'. The side was a good one that year, but obviously it became stronger in the following year, because they went to Germany and won it."

The earlier memories of Tony's attachment to the country's biggest sport still linger on strongly, because being only the same age as Bobby Charlton, he is still actively involved on the weekends—an enjoyable 90-minute bonus for his weekly coaching role with a local club in the Leighton Buzzard area.

"My ten years shared between Luton and Watford in League football cultivated a lifetime's interest in the game which I still want to be part of. I had my sights on the future at 26 when a position with an International Oil Company came along, so I decided there and then to be satisfied with the benefits I had enjoyed between the two clubs."

Tony trailed his career through half-a-dozen Southern League clubs, Bexley, Bedford, Hastings, Dover, Barnet and Stevenage—where he had the responsibilities of player-manager—before the point in his career was reached when he had gone the full cycle and was, once again, playing without cash incentives.

A Luton Grammar Schoolboy, Tony took steps to safeguard the years ahead by concentrating on an engineering apprenticeship. He was successful in this respect and also in becoming recognised in the First Division at the age of 17. "That was a great day when Dally Duncan told me I was in the first-team. It was reckoned



TONY GREGORY

a big risk by any manager to test a player in the top League lacking experience. Even the greatest goal-poacher of my time, Jimmy Greaves, did not get his chance that early. But I don't think I let anyone down and I remember finishing that first season as Luton's First Division centre-forward."

In all, Tony made about 120 senior appearances when Luton were skippered by the well-remembered figure of Sid Owen. It was also during Tony's time that Luton were recognised as the first club to go 'Continental' with round neck shirts and short sleeves. "My times covered some great matches, principally the hammering of Sunderland 7-2 and beating the daylights out of Wolves 5-1."

By some standards of service, Tony's term with Luton was brief. But it shaped up as being a sensational spell, for he played in every round of the

1959 Cup trail to earn his spot for the Final against Nottingham Forest.

It turned out, as we all know, one of the biggest anti-climaxes any team has suffered. "For me, it was the most painful knock-out of my career. Unlike Sunderland, who go there to meet Leeds United in a couple of weeks time, Luton were the king-pins of this encounter, basking in the confidence of beating Forest quite comfortably only a short time before in the League.

"For me and the best part of the lads, the Cup Final came as a bonus for all the hard work we had put in to get there. The semi-final had been the vital hurdle. We had cleared that and the thought of losing had not crossed our minds until we had to face up to the fact that Forest were off to a flier and we were suddenly two goals down.

"In defeat, we earned little sympathy because Forest lost Roy Dwight with a broken leg and beat us with ten men. But I feel, in the back of my mind, that we might have had a better chance of recovering if they had not lost a player because we endeavoured to play on this fact by changing our game and banging the ball straight down the middle.

"It never came off and we tropped off very sad 2-1 losers. I was doing my National Service at the time and I avoided much of the misery the rest of the team had to suffer by going back to Germany away from it all."

But, as one swallow does not make a summer, one defeat does not wreck a sincere love for the game and Tony Gregory tucks the Cup Final memory into its proper place which implies a measure of prestige to a record which covers duty in Rumania, Bulgaria Italy, Switzerland, Holland and a four-month exercise in Canada.

About 65 First Division goals in four seasons stamped Tony as more than a useful forward to have around the penalty box, and at present-day demands, that kind of production would qualify for a six-figure valuation.

"I had a good time and I have no regrets apart from missing a cut of the big wage boost, which came along after I had left the top." Still, Tony, perhaps the players of today don't really enjoy the game quite so much as the men of your era.

SCORES

LIST ONE

Birmingham v West Ham	A	
Chelsea v Coventry	B	
Liverpool v Leeds Utd	C	
Man Utd v Sheffield Utd	D	
Southampton v Arsenal	E	
Wolves v Norwich	F	
Brighton v Portsmouth	G	
Hull v Huddersfield	H	
Millwall v Aston Villa	K	
Orient v Fulham	L	
Sheffield Wed v Carlisle	M	
Sunderland v Cardiff	N	

LIST TWO

Notts Co v Scunthorpe	A	
Plymouth v Watford	B	
Rochdale v Grimsby	C	
Bradford City v Doncaster	D	
Exeter v Chester	E	
Gillingham v Crewe	F	
Reading v Aldershot	G	
Southport v Hartlepool	H	
	K	
	L	
	M	
	N	

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TEAMS

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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

Middlesbrough

Red Shirts and Shorts

- 1 JIM PLATT
- 2 JOHN CRAGGS
- 3 FRANK SPRAGGON
- 4 NOBBY STILES
- 5 STUART BOAM
- 6 WILLIE MADDREN
- 7 BILL GATES
- 8 DAVID MILLS
- 9 JOHN HICKTON
- 10 DAVID ARMSTRONG
- 11 ALAN FOGGON
- 12

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		MIDDLESBOUGH	
HALF TIME		HALF TIME	
FULL TIME		FULL TIME	

Referee: T. D. SPENCER, Wootton Bassett, nr. Swindon

Linesmen: K. J. UNDERWOOD, Romford, (Red Flag)
P. HOLNESS Croydon (Orange Flag)

Mascot: Russell Swan

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