

OXFORD UNITED

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



Sat. 28 April 1973 v. Luton Town Div. 2



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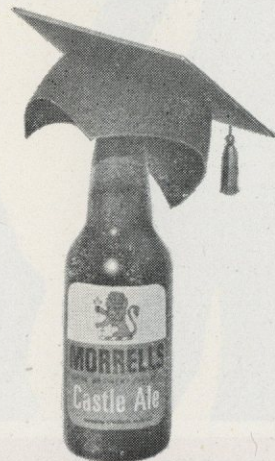
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MORRELLS

* M.A. (Oxon)



* (Master of Ales)



EDITOR'S NOTES

Good Afternoon Ladies & Gentlemen,

After what appeared to become a dismal Easter period for us the lads retrieved some of our lost prestige by gaining both points at Preston. We could now finish in the top six of the League. In a game up to the standard of the Second Division scene, the Reserves succumbed to Ipswich in the Combination by 0-2. Ipswich are now Combination Champions and have scored over 90 goals, we could finish in 5th position.

Most disturbing of all was the extremely poor "gate" on Saturday for the Carlisle game — 4627, the lowest since we have been in the Second Division. I would attribute the main factors to be not so much resting with the football, the lack lustre of the opposition, or the Good Friday result, but because the cost of football to-day is becoming prohibitive, especially two matches in two days, and being the Easter holiday there are more attractions to whet ones appetite. As it happened "wet" should be the operative word. We cannot hope to compete for attendances with the larger industrialised areas, in fact only 17,177 came to see Manchester United earlier this season, and with the team resting in the top half of the table for most of the season, even the most avid critic cannot put the blame on to its overall performances. No, there are so many reasons why "gates" all over the country are consistently dropping, and we in Oxford are no exception to the rule. However, an outstandingly successful team will always draw support, as evidenced by the Villa who have dropped from grace this past few months, and to Sunderland who by reaching the Final of the F.A. Cup have more than doubled their League attendances in a matter of weeks. So obviously it has got to be a promotion chasing or Cup winning side to attract large attendances, football is too costly to follow an ordinary "run of the mill" team, and as Bill Beckett rightly said our "faithful 4,000" saw us play Carlisle last week.

On Wednesday next we entertain Comco in the Anglo Italian Competition, for an 8 p.m. kick off, and although our chances of gaining any honours are slim, we still could come into the reckoning for the "Best Behaviour" Award.

The following Monday will see the visit of Coventry City for the Graham Atkinson Testimonial match, kick off at 7.30 p.m. Graham has been a good servant to the Club over many years, and has been with us through our rise from the Southern League. A special programme will be on sale, and we hope you will come along and pay a tribute to Graham for his many years of service to us. Graham has been beset with an injury this season which has prevented him from showing us the skill he possesses, and we hope he will soon recover fitness again.

This being the last League programme, I would express the thanks of the Directors for the invaluable assistance given over the season by the Police, whose task at times has been very difficult, to the St. John's Ambulance staff, to the Stewards, and to the many others who help to make match arrangements run as smoothly as possible.

To you all, an enjoyable summer, remember the next season commences on 25th August next, one week earlier than planned. See you then.

EDITOR



**OXFORD
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FOOTBALL CLUB
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Gerry Summers TEAMTALK

I WOULD like to thank the loyal core of fans for their support during the last season, the Carlisle game really showed what our crowd potential is. I can partly understand the disappointment after the Burnley game. We didn't do ourselves justice on the day, but the only time Burnley, who are undoubtedly the best side in the League, breathed easily and played comfortably was when they had scored their second goal. I also realise that we must try if possible not to have two home games in two days. But when Kettering of the Southern League can on the same day as our Carlisle match get as many spectators as we had there must be thoughts for doubts amongst players, management and Directors of Oxford United.

But I sincerely thank the real supporters who try and help lift the players when they really need it and come to all our home matches and quite a few of the away ones. These are the true supporters they are not the ones who jump on the bandwagon when things are going right. Not the people who pass comments to me personally when usually I'm just out of their range. If only those so called supporters would wait until I was face to face with them I would be far happier and possibly they wouldn't.

If you think these notes show frustration you are quite correct. We have had the best season the Club has had in the Second Division, obtained the highest points and scored the most goals. The Reserves have done magnificently to keep in the top six and we have some undoubtedly talented young players to go along with the experienced ones. Yet our gates are abysmal. You can change the ground, change the players and the Manager, but one thing it looks as if it's impossible to change, and that's the Oxford's public's attitude to professional support and to Oxford United.

Today we welcome Luton Town in their last League game and we will be trying to take the opportunity to record another double, we beat them way back in August 1-0 with Cassidy getting the goal at Luton.

Please make an effort to see the Anglo-Italian match next Wednesday kick-off 8 p.m. versus Como, if we win this game and Blackpool and Newcastle lose theirs and they happen to be playing the strongest Italian sides in the competition, we could still qualify. Whatever the outcome, my players have done remarkably well in this competition. We are undefeated and have had no disciplinary problems on the field, and all gained invaluable experience. Before the Como match we are having an Under 14 years of age school-boy game between Oxford Boys and Berkshire Boys kick-off 7 p.m.

Come early and see some of the players of the future.

Records supplied by Harlequin Record Shop 36a Cornmarket St, Oxford,
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Four

ANGLO-ITALIAN COMPETITION

OXFORD UNITED v COMO

WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY 1973

Kick-off 8.00 p.m.

All seats will be numbered and reserved price 75p in Beech Road Stand Blocks B, C, D, E, F, and Blocks A & G in addition to all Dressing Room Stand Tickets will be 65p each with concessions for Senior Citizens and Juniors in the normal manner.

Season Ticket Holders will have until Monday 30th April 1973 to claim their

usual seat upon production of Cup Voucher 5 from their season ticket book and these may be collected from the Club Offices.

Ground admission will be through the turnstiles upon the evening of the match in the normal manner, prices 40p and 20p Senior Citizens and Juniors.

ANGLO-ITALIAN COMPETITION SOUVENIR HANDBOOK

AN excellently produced souvenir handbook is available to commemorate this season's Anglo-Italian Inter-League Clubs competition.

Printed in English the Handbook's 52 pages are packed with information and pictures.

Every Club competing in the tournament is featured. Illuminating editorial profiles, extremely well illustrated with both team and individual star players' pictures, alone makes this handbook a fine souvenir of Oxford United's first appearance in a European competition.

The handbook is also a complete guide to the 1973 tournament with extracts from the rules and the full team squad line-up of the sixteen teams.

The records of previous season's competitions and last year's final are highlighted together with articles by the Presidents of both Leagues.

Finally the organizers have this year decided to award a trophy and financial incentive to the Club from each country which in the opinion of a specially formed committee, has the best record of player and crowd behaviour and this good behaviour award is fully explained in the handbook.

The handbook is on sale whilst stocks last from the Club shop at 15p and will appertain to both Oxford United's home matches in the tournament.

As a limited number of these handbooks only are available, supporters are urged to make their purchase as soon as possible from the Club Shop, 118 London Road, or today from the Club caravan.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

ANGLO-ITALIAN INTER-LEAGUE CLUBS

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

OXFORD UNITED v. COMO

WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY 1973. KICK-OFF 8 p.m.

GRAHAM ATKINSON TESTIMONIAL MATCH

OXFORD UNITED v. COVENTRY CITY

MONDAY MAY 7th 1973

KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.



Malcolm Gamlen's MANOR CHATTER

On April 28th 1971, two years ago today, we played Luton Town on this ground and those of you who were present may recall that we won by two goals to one. It was not our final home Football League match of the 1970-71 season as Bolton Wanderers visited us on Saturday 1st May 1971 for their last match in the Second Division before relegation to the Third Division. Happily Bolton Wanderers have now regained Second Division status and our congratulations are extended to them. We ourselves have made further progress and today's visitors Luton Town have an excellent away record, this campaign including some fine F.A. Cup wins notably at Newcastle United and Bolton Wanderers. Earlier this season on 30th August, our team visited Kenilworth Road and won 1-0, thereby returning with both points which means that today we have the chance to complete our fourth double in the Football League this campaign.

Our three Football League "doubles" to our credit were achieved at the expense of Hull City, Sheffield Wednesday and Swindon Town. This afternoon we play our last home Saturday match of the season and conclude our Football League programme. Although no vital issue is at stake today, our aim is to finish as high on the Second Division chart as we can and attain the most respectable position in our Football League history.

There are still two evening fixtures to be played on this ground, the first of these being our Anglo-Italian Inter-League Clubs Championship Match against Como on Wednesday 2nd May next, kick-off 8 p.m. It had been intended that a ticket notice should appear in our two previous Official Club Programmes to remind Season Ticket Holders that they have until Monday 30th April 1973 to claim their usual seat upon production of Cup Voucher Number 5 from their season ticket book and to state that Ground admission will be through the turnstiles upon the evening of the match in the normal manner, prices 40 pence and 20 pence for Senior Citizens and Juniors.

The reason for our kick-off time with Como being at 8.00 p.m. is that as from

the 18th March English time has been the same as Central European Time and in Italy matches kick-off at 9.00 p.m. Our co-operation in changing the kick-off time to 8.00 p.m. will allow the Italian radio to broadcast soccer minute by minute and follow the progress of every match live. In fact the central point in Milan will be linked to all the grounds where the Anglo-Italian matches will be played and a team of top commentators will cover the matches in detail for Italian radio. Prior to the Como match it is proposed that a match will take place between Oxfordshire Boys Under 14's versus Berkshire Boys Under 14's and will be of 25 minutes duration each way.

Once again it is time to record appreciation to all the people who have assisted the Club and myself. It would not be fair to single out individuals or to forget the members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade who in their black and white uniform, are a familiar sight on match days at the Manor Ground, and, indeed, at other sporting events. The stewards, gatemen, Manorettes, programme and jackpot sellers, pools personnel, the Supporters' Club and all the Office Staff work hard to ensure the smooth running of the Club throughout the season and the Public Address Announcer and Hospital Broadcaster together with the Public Relations Officer attempt to keep the public happy. The playing staff under the direction of the Manager Mr. Summers have made further excellent progress and naturally we hope that a continued improvement to our fortunes will be experienced in season 1973-74 when we trust we shall continue to have your support. In the meantime we hope you will all attend the Como match on 2nd May and the Graham Atkinson Testimonial versus Coventry City on Monday 7th May next kick-off 7.30 p.m.

M. H. Gamlen

SECRETARY

BALL DONORS

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GROUPS of supporters, firms or individual supporters are invited to provide the match ball for future home games. Our Secretary, Mr Malcolm Gamlen, will be delighted to receive your £12. The Directors of the Club wish to express their thanks to the following donors.

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MR. W. H. REEVE

2 September v. Cardiff City
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7 October v. Sunderland
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21 October v. Bristol City
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4 November v. Portsmouth
SLATTERS COACHES

25 November v. Aston Villa
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16 December v. Swindon
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6 January 1973 v. Nottm Forest
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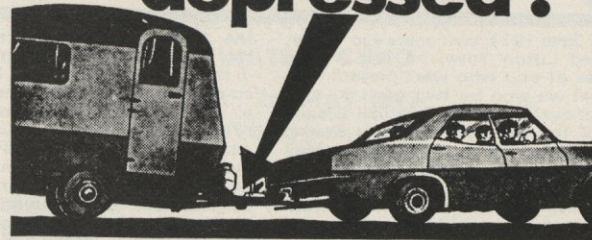
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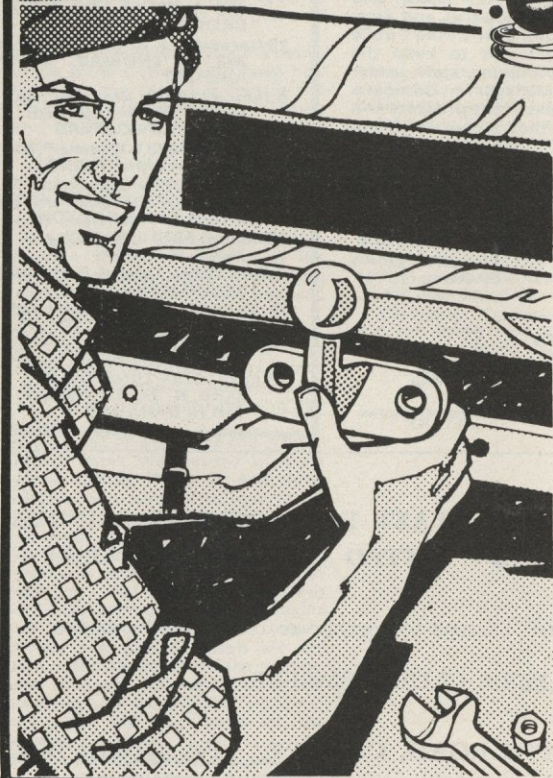
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The World of SOCCER

BRAZIL have been invited to Hampden Park on June 30 as part of the Scottish F.A.'s centenary celebrations. The match will be included in a special film being produced as a permanent record of Scotland's contribution to soccer over the past 100 years.

While Scotland are marking 100 years of organised football, four countries are preparing to celebrate 70 years' unbroken membership of F.I.F.A., the world's ruling body. Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland have all remained in constant membership since the organisation was set-up in 1904.

Austria and Italy joined a year later, while Czechoslovakia (1906), Hungary (1906), Sweden (1907), Finland (1908), Norway (1908), France (1910) and Luxembourg (1910) will all be coming up to the 70-year stage in the near future.

Our own Football Association has on two occasions withdrawn from F.I.F.A. because of disagreements on policy. That's why we did not enter the World Cup until 1950. We initially joined F.I.F.A. in 1905, withdrew in 1920 and rejoined four years later. After dropping out again in 1928 we remained outside until 1946.

The Belgian F.A. has amended its disciplinary rules to permit a suspended player to play in friendly games or international matches. In future, suspensions will only apply to Belgian League and Cup games.

The African Champions Cup — the equivalent of our European Cup — has been won for the first time by Hafia F.C. have been crowned champions of Guinea every year since 1967.

Guinea almost made it a glorious double but their national team was beaten 0-2 by Nigeria in the final of the African Nations Cup. Egypt beat Ghana 2-1 in a play-off for third/fourth place.

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We're for you United All the Way
We're for you United All the Way
When you're out there shootin' You'll hear us rootin'
For Goal Blast Away

We're on our way We're on our way!
We cheer for Oxford every Saturday.
Old Gold and Black Old Gold and Black!
The London-Roaders are behind every attack.

Get the ball amovin' down the wing
Get the ball amovin' down the wing
Now you've got 'em runnin' just keep on gunnin'
And you'll hear us sing

We're for you United All the way
We're for you United All the way
When you're out there shootin' you'll hear us rootin'
For Goal Blast away
For Goal Blast away
For Goal Blast away

It is hoped to have a record of the team singing this soon

JACKPOT RESULTS FOR THE BURNLEY MATCH ON FRIDAY APRIL 20th

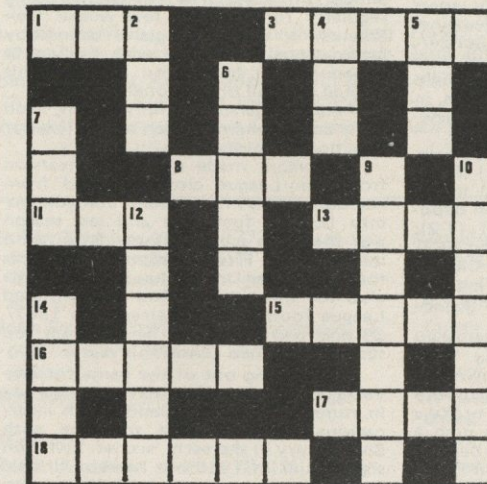
1st	10053	£31.60	Mr. R. Green, Bigwood Park, Sugworth Lane, Radley.
2nd	13634	£18.96	Mr. A. Harvey, 12 Jackson Road, Cutteslowe, Oxford.
3rd	10302	£10.02	Mr. E. Bargas, 6 Stanway Road, Headington, Oxford.

JACKPOT RESULTS FOR THE CARLISLE UNITED MATCH SATURDAY APRIL 21st

1st	51463	£16.50	Mr. P. Flaxman, 7 New Road, Kingham, Oxon.
2nd	56523	£ 9.90	Mr. T. H. Morris, Marsh Gibbon, Oxon.
3rd	55370	£ 6.60	Mr. M. McCluskey, 18 Silkdale Close, Cowley, Oxford.

SOCCER CROSSWORD

No. 24



ACROSS

- Sometimes known as Albion (3)
- Previously with Leicester (5)
- The . . . stimulates giant-killing (3)
- Was once Arsenal's physio-therapist (3)
- Transferred to Birmingham from West Bromwich Albion (4)
- England played them in the European Championship 1970-72 (5)
- The Hatters (5)
- This in the eye could make a striker miss an open goal (4)
- One-time Fulham and Nottingham Forest winger (6)

DOWN

- Sir . . . (3)
- Scottish League Club (3)
- Aston, referee (3)
- Will have your name taken for too many (5)
- Whittaker, one-time manager of Arsenal (3)
- Ian . . . of Ipswich (7)
- Results in a goal? (7)
- 'The Grecians' (6)
- Most football companies describe themselves thus (4)

Answers to Crossword No. 23

Across: 1. Todd, 3. Roy, 5. Oxford, 6. Ref, 8. Hotel, 13. Jim, 14. Roberts, 15. Mel, 16. England.

Down: 1. Thomas, 2. Duffy, 3. Rod, 4. Rofe, 7. ITV, 9. Steel, 10. Small, 11. Loan, 12. Stan.

Answers on page 15

LUTON SAG AFTER CUP DEFEAT

DEFEAT at Sunderland, in the sixth round of the F.A. Cup, lowered an atmosphere of anti-climax around the Luton camp. With promotion beyond their grasp, Luton had set their sights on Wembley and it was a bitter disappointment when they fell at Roker.

The Hatters lost three of their next four League games and had an unhappy Easter so, after a grand season, it seemed this late slump would see them finishing quite well down in the middle of the table.

Yet, when viewed in another context, Luton's achievements this season have been considerable. When the club last summer released such outstanding players as David Court, Don Givens and Chris Nicholl — following the departure, a year earlier, of Malcolm Macdonald — it appeared that the Hatters might be in for a bit of a struggle.

But manager Harry Haslam also went into the transfer market as a buyer — and came back with some astute new signings. He bought two defenders, Bobby Thomson and John Faulkner, and two new forwards, John Aston and Rod Fern. More recently he purchased a new goalkeeper, Graham Horn. He also paid a club record £50,000 for striker Barry Butlin who has, unfortunately, been ruled out for several weeks by injury.

Ironically, Mr Haslam's "new" Luton side has not always shown its best to their own fans. In fact, the Hatters have one of the worst home records in the Second Division yet they have a magnificent away record.

They have won more away matches than any other club in the country, apart from Burnley — at Orient (1-0), Nottingham Forest (1-0), Swindon (2-0), Sunderland (2-0), Bristol City (1-0), Aston Villa (2-0), Middlesbrough (1-0), Huddersfield (2-1) and Fulham (1-0) in the League, in addition to F.A. Cup victories at Newcastle (2-0) and Bolton (1-0).

The Hatters also drew away to Portsmouth (2-2) and Blackpool (1-1) in the League and at Birmingham (1-1) in the League Cup. Their only defeats on opponents' grounds were at Cardiff (1-2), Sheffield Wednesday (0-4), Preston (0-2), Brighton (0-2), Millwall (2-3), Carlisle (0-2), Hull (0-4) and Q.P.R. (0-2) in the League and Sunderland (0-2) in the F.A. Cup.

Keith Barber has now re-established himself in goal. He was signed from Southern League Dunstable Town in April 1971 and was quickly plunged into the bustle of League football. He broke a leg a few weeks ago but made such a remarkable recovery that he was back in the team within six weeks. Graham Horn, who was bought from Arsenal as Barber's replacement, has now had to settle for reserve team football again. Luton paid Arsenal £25,000 for him and, though he had not played in the Gunners' first-team, he played several League games for Portsmouth while on loan to them this season.

A permutation of any four from seven seems to be applying to the back four positions, John Moore, John Faulkner, Alan Garner, Bobby Thomson, John Ryan, Don Shanks and Ken Goodeve being the men concerned.

Moore arrived at Luton from Motherwell in 1965, holding a regular place until this season when he joined Brighton on loan. But he returned to reclaim his place. Faulkner first sprang to national fame as the centre-half of amateurs Sutton United who met Leeds United in the F.A. Cup three seasons ago. He played so well that Leeds signed him shortly afterwards. When he dropped out of the reckoning for a first-team place he linked with Luton last season.

Garner made his League debut for Millwall against Blackburn in October 1970 but he got only one further chance in the Lions' team. Luton signed him in 1971 and this season he has been a regular member of the defence.

Thomson won eight England caps, and made 15 appearances for the under-23s in his Wolves' days. It was in 1961/62 that he made his way into the Molineux club's senior eleven. He joined Birmingham City in 1969 and towards the end of last season he spent a few weeks on loan to Walsall.

John Ryan, a Fulham regular in their First Division days, joined Luton in 1969 and was ever-present for two years until missing a couple of games this term. Goodeve was unable to get into the first-team at Manchester United so transferred to Luton in 1970. After waiting for almost three years he has been playing regularly for the past few weeks. Don Shanks, a former England schoolboy international, was once with Fulham as an apprentice but Luton gave him his chance as a full professional in 1970.

Peter Anderson, Jimmy Ryan, Rod Fern and Graham French are in line for selection in midfield.

Anderson, made a quick conversion from non-League circles. Signed from Hendon in 1971, he went immediately into Luton's first-team and last season was their top scorer. Jimmy Ryan, who made several First Division appearances for Manchester United, has been with the club for three years. Rod Fern entered League football with Leicester in 1967/68 and two years later he was their top scorer. He joined Luton this season.

After being out of the game for two years, French believed that his career lay in ruins. A former England youth international, Graham rose to fame with Shrewsbury in the early 'sixties. Swindon signed him in 1963 but he soon drifted into non-League circles with Wellington Town. Luton signed him in 1965 and he was for five years a regular member of their League team. Came an enforced absence, followed by a triumphant return — he scored in his first match after his return, against Millwall in December.

Viv Busby's recent recall to first-team duty has increased the pressure for places in the striking line. Gordon Hindson, Derek Hales and John Aston also have ambitions to keep in the team in this department.

A Luton discovery, Busby had hoped to move into the First Division last season after a successful loan period with Newcastle. At the last minute, Newcastle decided against signing him permanently so now he has settled in again at Luton.

Hindson developed with Newcastle United but his chances in their senior team were limited. Last season, after joining Luton, he became accustomed to a regular game in League football. Hales rose from the amateur ranks with Luton to sign professional last March. He got his first taste of League football earlier this season.

Luton paid £30,000 for left-winger Aston, who had starred in so many games for Manchester United — none more so than in the 1968 European Cup final. After breaking his leg, John never really re-established himself in the United side but is certainly enjoying his new lease of life at Kenilworth Road where he is currently top scorer with 12 goals.

A Nigel Cassidy goal was sufficient to give us both points when we visited Luton in August. This is how we stand with them in League games:

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
Home	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Away	3	2	0	1	3	5	4
	5	3	1	1	6	7	7

Luton Town F.C., formed in 1885, first entered the Second Division in 1897. But they dropped out three years later and didn't return to the League fold until becoming a founder member of Division Three (South) in 1920.

They had to wait until 1937 before they regained Second Division status which they held until a fantastic finish to the 1954/55 campaign saw them scrape into the First Division on goal-average. Contrary to most people's expectations, Luton made a good impression in the highest sphere and by 1959 they were good enough to earn themselves a Wembley visit to meet Nottingham Forest in the F.A. Cup final. Unfortunately, they struck a complete off-day and, though Forest played most of the game with only ten men, Luton were still defeated, by two goals to one.

Luton's fortunes took a dramatic turn from that day at Wembley. Twelve months later they were relegated to the Second Division, in 1963 they sank into Division Three and two years later — disaster, disaster! — they plummeted into the Fourth Division.

They won the Fourth Division championship in 1968 and two years later gained promotion to Division Two.



LUTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Back row (left to right): Derick Hales, Les Harfield, Gordon Hindson, Bob Hatch, Vic Halom, Bobby Thomson, John Faulkner, Paul Price, Peter Anderson, Jimmy Ryan, Gerry Jones

Middle row (left to right): Alan Garner, Robin Wainwright, Ken Goodeve, Keith Barber, Willie Carrick, Tony Read, John Moore, Alan Slough, Steve Litt, Mick Gilchrist.

Front row (left to right): Ray McCrohan (Coach), John Ryan, John Aston, Harry Haslam (Manager), Rodney Fern, Viv Busby, Ken Whitfield (Asst Coach)

LUTON PLAYERS' STATISTICS

League appearances and scorers (up to and including Easter Monday)

Goalkeepers

Keith Barber Luton 53 appearances

Graham Horn Portsmouth 22 appearances; Luton 4 appearances.

Defenders

John Moore Motherwell 4 appearances; Brighton 5 appearances; Luton 266 (9) appearances; 13 goals.

John Faulkner Leeds 2 appearances; Luton 27 appearances; 1 goal.

Alan Garner Millwall 2 appearances; Luton 37 appearances, 1 goal.

Don Shanks Luton 43 appearances, 1 goal

Bobby Thomson Wolves 277 appearances; 2 goals; Birmingham 62 (1) appearances; Walsall 9 appearances, 1 goal; Luton 40 appearances

John Ryan Fulham 41 (4) appearances, 1 goal; Luton 162 (1) appearances, 6 goals.

Ken Goodeve Luton 7 (6) appearances

Midfield

Peter Anderson Luton 78 (3) appearances, 12 goals.

Jimmy Ryan Man. United 21 (3) appearances, 4 goals; Luton 79 (8) appearances, 7 goals.

Rod Fern Leicester 132 (17) appearances, 27 goals; Luton 23 (4) appearances, 4 goals.

Alan Slough Luton 264 (10) appearances, 27 goals.

Graham French Shrewsbury 27 appearances, 1 goal; Swindon 5 appearances, Luton 180 (2) appearances, 21 goals.

Strikers

Viv Busby Newcastle (loan) 4 appearances, 2 goals; Luton 64 (13) appearances, 16 goals.

Gordon Hindson Newcastle 7 appearances, 1 goal; Luton 40 (2) appearances, 1 goal.

Derek Hales Luton 4 (1) appearances, 1 goal.

John Aston Man. United 139 (17) appearances, 25 goals; Luton 36 appearances, 9 goals.

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TONY PULLEIN'S PAGE



SKILL AND ENTERTAINMENT GAIN PROPER REWARD

If, nine months ago, you were a subscriber to the belief that everything good in football had disappeared and that professional football in this country had become a playground for thugs, both on and off the field, then the events of this season just closing must have been refreshing in the extreme. For, though the disciplinary system has been the cause of some abuse, the tough guy has generally been put in his place. And, once again, skill and entertainment is reaping the top awards.

A look at the League table reveals that it is the footballing teams which have come out best.

Leeds United — to my mind the most exciting and entertaining club team English football has produced in my lifetime — have yet again participated up to the very late stages of every competition they have entered. Liverpool, who may lack the finesse of Leeds but who nevertheless play some stimulating football, were set up to take the League Championship for a record equalling eighth time.

And West Ham, who have enjoyed one of their best League seasons in club history, have been intoxicating their fans with some real vintage play which suggests that the League championship, or some other top honour, could be no more than twelve more months delayed. Alas, as those loyal Hammers' fans know too well, this club has promised as much in the past only to disappoint when least expected, so one now tends to reserve one's judgment.

How pleasing, too, to find Ipswich Town so near the top. Manager Bobby Robson had to take some cutting criticisms over the years, because of the

club's difficulties. But where a lesser man might have opted for cut-throat safety-first tactics as a means of temporary salvation, Robson the idealist has always looked to the long-term, believing that it is his duty to create a team which would entertain as well as succeed. This season his patience has paid off. And his team is one of the most attractive sides in the First Division.

Skill has come out on top in other divisions, too. Few could argue that Burnley and Queen's Park Rangers were not the two finest teams in Division Two. They left the remainder of the field scrambling over the jumps and in the ditches well before they entered the straight.

Even in the Third Division, Bolton Wanderers — under the astute management of Jimmy Armfield — have earned high praise for the quality of their play.

The depth of talent in English football is exciting. Whereas it was once feared that the removal of the maximum wage limit would concentrate all the best talent within a privileged few clubs — to the detriment of the game as a whole — English football today is, in fact, producing an abundance of outstanding club teams.

The clubs have spent most heavily, Manchester United and Crystal Palace, have been struggling most of the season to avoid relegation!

That money cannot necessarily buy success is as true today as it was in the early post-war years when Sunderland gained notoriety as the "Bank of England" club. Britain's finest players were drafted into the Roker team. It was all very exciting but, for all their investments,

Sunderland didn't win a thing.

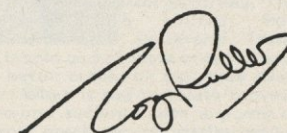
How ironical then that now, in a season which opened with this once-famous club facing bankruptcy, Sunderland — with a largely home-produced team of unknowns — have reached the F.A. Cup final for the first time since 1937!

Where else in the world could you find a club, which has spent most of the season fighting against relegation to the Third Division, within 90 minutes of possible F.A. Cup triumph?

This week we were assured of at least one place in a European final and, if Leeds and Derby also succeeded, England will be represented in all three European finals for the first time. As it is, we have broken all records in the UEFA Cup by providing a finalist for the seventh season in succession.

Season 1972/73 may well go down as the year in which English football has been re-born. The future looks bright.

And I, for one, cannot await the opening of 1973/74 without some sense of excitement.

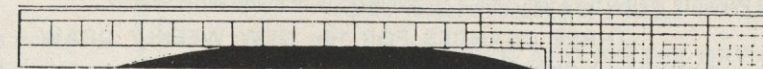


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The "Easter Parade"

Surely it is time the Football League ensured that clubs such as Oxford United are not subjected to two home matches in two days over Easter. In fact, come to think of it, why should they have to play three games over Easter at all?

Let us take the questions of two home matches first. Last year we were at home to Birmingham on Good Friday and drew a gate of 18,740. On the very next day, with Watford our visitors, the crowd was down to 6,388. This year Burnley were here on Good Friday which brought in 13,740 customers, whilst the next day only 4,627 turned up to watch Carlisle.

Obviously the fact that in both cases the attraction on the Good Friday far outweighed that of the Saturday accounted for several of the lost thousands but I am convinced that many people just cannot afford football two days running.

Neither, in this day and age, are the menfolk allowed complete freedom of choice over a holiday period like they were in days gone by. They now have the choice of one day out of two and naturally they plump for the better attraction.

With regard to point number two, should any club have to play three games over Easter at all? I say, not if they do not think it beneficial to do so. Surely, in Oxford's case, our last Wednesday evening League Division II fixture was as far back as September 27th when we played at Portsmouth. This really is ridiculous!

Incidentally, only six teams in the four divisions of the Football League were asked to play at home both on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. These Clubs were Oxford United, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Southend, Tranmere and Lincoln and of these only Portsmouth had a better crowd on Saturday over Friday.

What is sad to relate however is that no-one suffered such a slump as we did. How much can be attributed to Friday's result is a matter of conjecture.

SECRETARY

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For 18 | Against 11

Corners

For 100 | Against 63

Goals scored at CUCKOO LANE end

For 21 | Against 10

Corners

For 58 | Against 54

Total Attendances to Date

Home 220159 | Away 271669

Home Gate last Match
4627

Best Home Gate this Season
17,177

STATISTICS

DIVISION TWO SCORERS

Player	Lge	F.A. Ang		Total	
		Cup	Cup		Ital
Givens (Q.P. Rangers)	23	1	2	-	26
Joicey (Sheff. Wednesday)	15	1	4	-	20
Bolland (Millwall)	19	-	-	-	19
Hughes W. (Sunderland)	15	-	4	-	19
CURRAN (OXFORD)	15	-	-	2	17
Gowling (Huddersfield)	17	-	-	-	17
Wood (Millwall)	13	2	2	-	17
*Galley (Nottm. Forest)	13	1	2	-	16
†Halom (Sunderland)	15	-	1	-	16
Pearson (Hull)	16	-	-	-	16

*includes 7 goals for Bristol City
†includes 11 goals for Luton

Up to and including Monday, April 23, 1973.

SECOND DIVISION SCENE

As the Easter programme drew to a close it looked almost certain that Huddersfield Town would accompany Brighton down into the Third Division. With only two victories in 22 games behind them, Huddersfield could not really have hoped for anything better yet it is a fact that at this time last year they were a First Division club.

The first club ever to win the League Championship three years in succession, Huddersfield were once the greatest club in England, particularly during the 'twenties. Now they face a spell of Third Division football for the first time in their history — a situation of which Huddersfield fans could not possibly have dreamed even in their most fearsome nightmares.

Yet Huddersfield's fate must strike a warning for today's giants. If Huddersfield can fall into the third grade — as other famous clubs like Blackburn, Bolton and Aston Villa have done in recent years — then maybe one day Arsenal, Leeds and Liverpool will follow?

Brighton's magnificent late bid for safety was virtually killed by their tough Easter programme which included visits to both the promoted clubs, Burnley and Aston Villa. They were well beaten 0-3 at Burnley, then threw away the chance of victory in their home match with Portsmouth when they missed a penalty.

Even if Brighton had gained maximum points from their last two games, it seemed certain that they would go down.

Sunderland, who at one stage were in grave danger of relegation, could not have ended the season on a higher note. On Monday night they looked back on a League run of only one defeat in nine games, with crowds rising from around the ten-thousand mark to 30,000. And, of course, next Saturday they go to Wembley for the first time since 1937.

TOP TEN ATTENDANCES

Rank	Team	Aggregate	Average
1.	Aston Villa (1)	560,028	28,002
2.	Sunderland (2)	400,491	21,079
3.	Sheff. Wed. (3)	363,601	17,314
4.	Brighton (4)	288,236	14,412
5.	Q.P. Rangers (5)	270,190	14,221
6.	Burnley (6)	279,218	13,961
7.	Bristol City (7)	259,342	12,967
8.	Cardiff City (8)	215,577	11,346
9.	Blackpool (9)	226,364	10,779
10.	Luton Town (10)	223,518	10,644
19.	UNITED (19)	182,435	9,122

For Second Division games only, up to and including Monday, April 23, 1973.

(Figures in brackets denote position in last chart.)

LEAGUE TABLE

Season 1972-73 Division II

Team	—HOME—					—AWAY—					Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A		
Burnley	41	13	6	2	44	18	11	7	2	27	16	61
Q P R	40	15	4	1	52	13	7	9	4	24	24	57
A. Villa	41	12	5	4	27	17	6	8	6	22	28	49
Blackpool	41	2	6	3	17	17	6	4	10	19	33	46
Middlesbro	41	11	6	3	26	13	5	7	9	17	28	45
Fulham	41	11	7	4	32	16	5	6	9	26	31	44
Bristol C.	41	9	7	4	32	17	7	5	9	29	33	44
Sheff. Wd.	42	14	4	3	40	20	3	6	12	19	35	44
Oxford	41	13	2	5	34	17	5	5	11	16	25	43
Sunderland	38	11	6	2	34	14	5	4	10	22	30	42
Millwall	41	12	4	4	32	17	4	5	12	22	29	41
Luton	41	6	9	6	24	23	9	2	9	19	28	41
Notts F.	41	12	5	4	32	18	2	6	12	13	32	39
Hull	40	9	7	5	39	22	4	5	10	22	35	38
Swindon	42	8	9	4	28	23	2	7	12	18	37	36
Orient	40	11	5	4	32	17	16	6	13	14	32	35
Portsmouth	41	7	6	8	21	22	5	5	10	21	35	35
Carlisle	41	10	4	6	38	22	1	7	13	10	28	33
Preston	41	6	7	7	18	24	5	4	12	18	39	33
Cardiff	39	11	3	5	31	18	0	6	14	10	36	31
Huddersfield	41	6	9	5	19	20	1	8	12	15	36	31
Brighton	41	7	7	6	30	29	1	5	15	14	52	28

AND FIXTURES 1972-73

DIVISION TWO FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
1972				
August				
12	Orient	A	1 1	7,249
16	Peterborough (FLC 1)	H	4 0	5,049
19	Middlesbrough	H	4 0	8,428
26	Nottingham Forest	A	1 2	9,591
30	Luton Town	A	1 0	10,891

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
September				
2	Cardiff City	H	2 1	8,087
6	Man. Utd (FLC 2)	H	2 2	17,177
9	Huddersfield Town	A	0 2	7,356
12	Man. Utd (FLC 2 Replay)	A	1 3	21,486
16	Millwall	H	2 1	8,928
20	Sheffield Wed.	H	1 0	11,333
23	Brighton & Hove A.	A	2 2	15,455
27	Portsmouth	A	0 1	7,385
30	Preston North End	H	0 2	8,850

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
October				
7	Sunderland	H	5 1	8,881
14	Blackpool	A	1 2	11,589
21	Bristol City	H	0 2	9,936
27	Hull City	A	1 0	13,426

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
November				
4	Portsmouth	H	1 3	8,714
11	Sheffield Wed.	A	1 0	13,164
18	Carlisle United (1)	A	1 2	5,919
25	Aston Villa	H	2 0	13,412

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
December				
2	Queens Park Rangers	A	0 0	9,790
9	Fulham (2)	H	0 0	8,346
16	Swindon Town	H	1 0	9,159
23	Burnley	A	1 1	12,781
26	Brighton & Hove A.	H	3 0	9,730
30	Middlesbrough	A	0 1	9,069

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
1973				
January				
6	Nottingham Forest	H	1 0	8,836
13	York City (FAC 3)	A	1 0	8,116
19	Cardiff City	A	0 2	7,026
27	Huddersfield Town	H	2 0	7,882

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
February				
3	Queens Park Rangers (FAC 4)	H	0 2	16,057
10	Millwall	A	1 3	9,213
16	Orient	H	2 1	7,021
21	Bologna (A.I.T.)	A	0 0	
24	Swindon Town (5)	A	3 1	11,712

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
March				
3	Sunderland (LCF)	A	0 1	39,222
10	Blackpool	H	0 1	7,911
17	Bristol City (6)	A	0 0	11,177
23	Hull City	H	5 2	6,477
28	Torino (A.I.T.)	H	1 1	8,202
31	Aston Villa	A	1 2	15,902

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
April				
4	Roma (A.I.T.)	A	2 0	
7	Queens Park R. (SF)	H	2 0	12,144
14	Fulham	A	0 2	6,359
20	Burnley	H	0 2	13,174
21	Carlisle United	H	1 1	4,627
24	Preston North End	A	0 1	7,792
28	Luton Town	H		

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
May				
2	Como (A.I.T.)	H		
5	F.A. Cup Final			

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COMBINATION FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
1972				
August				
12	Southampton	H	3 3	745
19	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1 1	
22	Queens Park Rangers	H	1 0	2,302
30	Bristol City	H	1 1	4,026

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
September				
2	Birmingham City	A	0 1	
16	Swindon Town	A	1 1	
23	Norwich City	H	2 0	773
30	Chelsea	A	0 0	

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
October				
4	Fulham	H	2 0	860
11	Reading	H	2 0	911
18	Leicester City	A	1 3	
25	Bournemouth	H	1 1	901
28	Fulham	A	1 0	
31	Queens Park Rangers	A	1 3	

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
November				
11	Crystal Palace	A	0 1	
15	Cardiff City	H	1 0	570
25	West Ham United	A	0 0	
29	Swansea City	H	3 2	558

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
December				
13	Crystal Palace	H	1 2	549
20	Bristol Rovers	H	4 1	460
27	Southampton	A	3 1	

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
1973				
January				
3	Tottenham Hotspur	H	2 2	2,317
10	Birmingham City	H	1 1	1,059
13	Ipswich Town	H	1 2	806
24	Reading	A	0 0	
31	Swindon Town	H	2 0	1,007

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Score	Att.
February				
3	Bristol Rovers	A	1 1	
13	Swansea City	A	1 0	
17	Norwich City	A	2 0	
23	Chelsea	H	2 1	1,11

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 - 2 JIMMY LIGHT
 - 3 JOHN SHUKER
 - 4 DAVID ROBERTS *
 - 5 COLIN CLARKE
 - 6 ~~JOHN EVANSON~~ ^{ATKINSON}
 - 7 KEITH GOUGH
 - 8 ~~JOHN FLEMING~~ ^{DEREK CLARKE}
 - 9 NIGEL CASSIDY *
 - 10 ~~DEREK CLARKE~~ ^{CURRAN}
 - 11 ~~GRAHAM ATKINSON~~ ^{AYLOTT}
- Sub. **SKEEN**

REFEREE

Mr R. E. RABY
(Leeds)

ROBERT RABY began refereeing in the Sheffield and Hallamshire F.A. in 1951/52 and then officiated in the Yorkshire League, going on the League line in 1963/64. He was appointed to the supplementary Referees list in 1969/70 and the full list the following season. He was a linesman for the 1968 Charity Shield game (Manchester City v. West Bromwich Albion) the 1969/70 League Cup semi-final (West Bromwich Albion v. Carlisle United), the 1969/70 Anglo-Italian Cup, the 1970 Charity Shield (Chelsea v. Everton) and the U.E.F.A. Cup match last year, Lierse v. PSV Eindhoven.

LINESMEN

Mr E. A. Read (Red Flag)
Mr D. W. Lloyd (Orange Flag)

^{HORN}

- ~~KEITH BARBER~~ 1
 - DON SHANKS 2
 - BOBBY THOMSON 3
 - ~~PETER ANDERSON~~ ^{SLOUGH *} 4
 - JOHN FAULKNER 5
 - KENNY GOODEVE 6
 - ~~JIM RYAN~~ ^{ANDERSON} 7
 - JOHN RYAN 8
 - VIV BUSBY 9
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A	Birmingham C v. West Brom. A.
B	Chelsea v. Manchester United
C	Derby County v. Everton
D	Ipswich T. v. Sheffield United
E	Liverpool v. Leicester City
F	Manchester City v. Crystal Palace
G	Southampton v. Leeds United
H	Tottenham H. v. Newcastle U.
J	West Ham United v. Arsenal
K	Wolverhampton W. v. Coventry C.
L	Brighton v. Nottingham Forest
M	Bristol City v. Hull City
N	Carlisle United v. Aston Villa
P	Huddersfield T. v. Portsmouth
Q	Middlesbrough v. Orient
R	Millwall v. Cardiff City
S	Preston North End v. Burnley
T	Queens Park Rangers v. Fulham
U	Sunderland v. Blackpool
V	Northampton T. v. Peterborough



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