



LUTON



FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CLUB LTD.

Kenilworth Road Luton Bedfordshire Phone: 0582-23151

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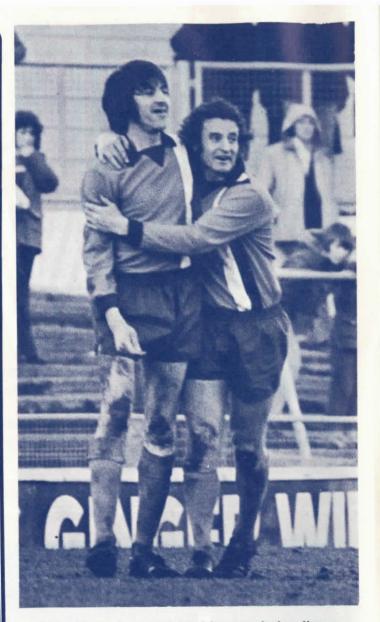
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Barry Butlin, is congratulated by new signing Jimmy Husband, after scoring the winning goal in our match against Millwall.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

MALCOLM SINCLAIR (Guildford). On The League referee's list since 1966 following three years as a linesman. Began refereeing in the Isle-of-Wight and progressed through the Surrey Senior League and Football Combination after moving to Guildford. Refereed the 1968 F.A. Cup Semi-Final (Everton v Leeds United) and was a linesman for the 1970 F.A. Cup Semi-Final (Chelsea v Watford. Refereed England v Northern Ireland Amateur international in 1970 and officiated in the Anglo-Italian Tournament a year later. Married with two young daughters. He is chairman of Guildford's Referee Society and a bricklayer by trade. His main interest outside the game is cricket.

HARRYS

The visit of an Aston Villa side never fails to stir a rare kind of magic in the atmosphere here at Kenilworth Road.

While we might be enjoying a happier share of the current promotion-chase environment, we would be fools to expect anything but a real hard and difficult encounter with our rivals from Birmingham.

Mentioning that City, though it may be completely out of context with this afternoon's fixture, brings my mind round to that saga between Newcastle United and Birmingham City, two clubs with top reputations who had the misfortune to become tangled in one of the biggest controversies of the season.

A twist of fate brought these two teams together six times in seven weeks, embracing a freak programme of League Cup, Texaco Cup and League fixtures.

No one could foresee such a string of matches. But it was no surprise to me when the publicity media got in at the finish. They played their normal game of giving maximum release to the rare indiscretions of individuals who are not so

fortunate as the people who can criticise them, for they often act on impulse and in a split second.

To earn their wages they do not sit back in a comfortable chair and compose their thoughts. I do not condone any act of behaviour which sparks an ugly chapter in English football. But I think it is a typical outlook of the press to seize upon the exception and give it the frontpage dressing.

In my managerial world, we are sick to the teeth of the way such incidents are considered far and above so more important than the game itself.

The way some papers have talked it would appear that English soccer is at crisis point—in danger of being destroyed by having been infiltrated by an army of hatchet men.

I wish for a moment they would afford just as much space to getting football best organised for the hard months which seem to lie ahead because of entirely different problems. I stuck my neck out, so to speak, last week on TV when I said that clubs should be able to agree to

play their fixtures when it suits them best, obviously from a financial angle. It's no good opening your doors to do business and finding that there is no one to do business with.

I want the press to try and understand the pressures under which the players are put every 90 minutes and if anyone of them has played football they will know how easy it is to get the wrong side of someone in just one game.

The Birmingham/Newcastle affair built up over six games and, unavoidably, certain players must have felt there were minor scores to settle. The tragic injury to Tony Want was never intended because I know footballers and it's more likely that the Newcastle player involved will suffer a great deal of pain psychologically in every game he plays and for a long time.

Footballers are at the mercy of the preying 'eye', the TV camera, which can so often distort an incident. In this case for me it served, from what I am told, that a bad foul had been committed. What policies the Newcastle or Birmingham clubs may have within their framework to cover such irregular behaviour, I do not know.

But action which I took against one of Luton's players last year is a constant reminder to my players that I will not tolerate anything that may have wicked overtones and they know they will be fined if I see them so act.

If it was standardised throughout the country for managers to discipline players severely, a repetition of what came to a head last week-end would possibly never occur again and what is more important never create the 'meat' for the media to feed on so spectacularly.

HARRY HASLAM

Money, money, moneythat's all Lyn Riches thinks about...

... which isn't suprising, really. With a name like Riches, she's just right for her job as Cashier at Shaw & Kilburn, Dunstable Road. She's there from Monday to Saturday in S & K's Service Department, making bill-paying as pleasant as possible for all customers. These include Luton Town players like Bobby Thomson, Jimmy Ryan, Peter Anderson—as well as hundreds of Luton Town supporters. All of them know where to get the best Vauxhall service in Vauxhall's home town

Show& Kilburn Dunstable Road, Luton. 55944

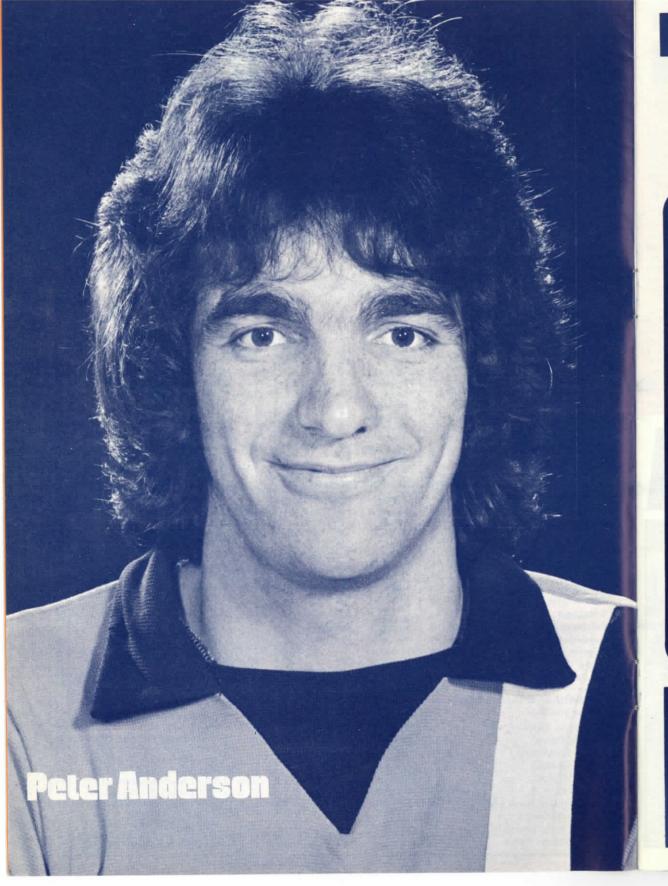


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Leicester City	18	10	5		30			Butlin 1 —
Birmingham C					20	13	22	Cruse 8 7
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Oxford United	16	7	5	4	16	12	19	Finney 6 4
Tottenham H	16		5		19			French (1) —
Crystal Palace			3		23			Fuccillo 8 1
Swindon T	17		4		26			Garner 1(1) — Goodeve 13 2
Arsenal	18		6		21			Gordon 4
Q.P.R.	15		5	0.7	30			Hindson 13
Ipswich Town	17		5		30			Holmes 14
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Bristol Rovers	19	5			23			Litt 20 2
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Swansea City	17		3		22			Moore 20 2
Southampton	19	-	-		20			O'Connor 17
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Brighton H.A.	11	5	2	4	23	15	12	Bergara 5 2
Watford	11	5	2	4	14	12	12	Bevis 7(2) — Bilev 9(2) 2
Peterborough	13	5	2		20	22	12	Biley 9(2) 2 J. Brenan 2 —
Portsmouth	10	4	3	3	14	12	11	C. Bufton 1 —
Southend U	10	3	4	3	16	13	10	Carr 9 —
						25	10	Chalmers 2(5) —
Northampton		5						Coyne 11 —
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Cambridge U	10	3	3	4	17	15	9	Finney 1 —
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Sep		Fulham	A	2-6
	5 Wed	Tottenham Hotspur	н	2-0
	8 Sat	Arsenal	Н	1-0
	12 Wed	Tottenham Hotspur	A	2-2
	15 Sat	West Ham United	A	1-1
	22 Sat	Queen's Park Rangers	H	5-1
	29 Sat	Ipswich Town	A	7-1
Oct	3 Wed	Chelsea	Н	3-1
	6 Sat	Bristol City	H	3-1
	13 Sat	Swansea City	A	0-3
	20 Sat	Bristol Rovers	н	7-0
	31 Wed	Cardiff City	A	2-4
Nov	3 Sat	Swindon Town	H	2-0
	10 Sat	Southampton	A	4-2
	21 Wed	Oxford United	H	0-0
	24 Sat	Leicester City	A	0-3
	28 Wed	Norwich City	H	1-1
Dec	5 Wed	Reading	A	4-1
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FOOTBALL COMBINATION FIXTURES



Peter Anderson, an ever-present in the first three completed months of a high-flying season for Luton, has, like other members of the dressing room, to prepare himself for a Christmas existence of a 'Monk' compared to the rest of society.

No pre-Christmas flings, no saturation on Christmas Day for a bachelor who has everything going for him, and not even a grand New Year's Eve function to make up for it.

Fresh from an afternoon's relaxation before Wednesday's 'generator' game against Cardiff City, Peter tried to put the record right as far as a footballer's life is concerned at a time when everyone else seems to be enjoying themselves.

"People tend to think my kind of job is a very easy one. I would like to see their reaction if this Christmas they were told cut out the fun and games on 24th December, report for work on the 25th, and be back again 24 hours later as sharp as a knife.

"I have experienced a few Christmases as a professional. But this year it's really going to be a test of character for every individual. Luton have three ultra-important games to play in six days, three games and six points that can prove golden at the end of the season.

"No player dare wreck the system which is strictly imposed to make sure we are as fit for these fixtures as we would be for any one during the season."

When the team have played on Boxing Day against Fulham and against

Bristol City three days later they will have just Sunday to sort themselves out before re-grouping on the Monday to travel to Carlisle.

Carlisle! That will be the location for Peter Anderson and his team-mates for their New Year's Eve. 300 miles from home and surrounded by orangeade.

But, as Peter told us: "It will be a small price to pay if the right results come along to crash us into the First Division at the end of the season's long, hard road."

Strange how things can change if they are tackled properly. For all everyone knew, a real uphill battle to organise a successful campaign mushroomed in front of Luton after the very first game when Nottingham Forest bulldozed early dreams to one side with a 4-0 defeat.

"In my opinion, it was this bad start which did the trick. It shook us rigid, cleared out any complacency and was a blessing in disguise. I cannot remember a match being analysed so thoroughly at Luton before or since that Forest hiding.

"It mean't re-starting the season again. But subsequent results arrived to inspire the team to forget their failures and all of a sudden the side began to understand one another better than ever before."

Luton danced merrily through the next eight games before the credits stopped piling in. The secret, in Peter's opinion: "It takes time for players to fit in together. What stock the boss gathered last season needed time to familiarise with each other's

style. We have clicked in this respect now, particularly as far as John Faulkner and Alan Garner are concerned. The team's efforts revolve around their work and while they produce the waves of confidence which they do, Luton will lose no time in reaching their target."

We suppose it's natural that footballers are expected to buy presents for their young admirers that are connected with their job. But let's hope Harry Haslam doesn't get to know that the footballers strip which Peter is pressed into getting for his nephew this year is in . . . Chelsea colours!

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name: Peter Thomas Anderson Born: Hendon
Birthday: 31st May, 1949
Height: Five feet, ten inches
Weight: Ten stone, Twelve pounds
Colour of Eyes: Hazel
Colour of Hair: Dark Brown
Educated: Woodhouse Grammar
School, Finchley
Biggest Break: Qualifying for
Accountancy profession
League Debut: February, 1970
Hobbies: Racing and the Cinema
Favourite Artistes:
Male Singer: Neil Diamond

Fortballer: Bobby Charlton

Composer: Lennon and McCartney

Group: Moody Blues

Food: Fillet Steak
Drink: Bacardi and Coke
Car: M.G.B.

Edinburgh-born left-back, is scheduled to equal the club's League appearance record of 478 matches if he maintains this season's ever-present chart today.

After spending 14 years with Villa, serving under five managers, the former Scotland Under-23 defender takes up a place in the history of Birmingham's most famous club. He has already played in more first-team games than any of Villa's international stars of the past and is now poised to take away the record of Billy Walker, the former England forward.

With Villa's Centenary Year starting on 1st January and Aitken taking his position in the club's 'Hall of Fame', there is nothing more important to Villa than returning to the First Division.

Aitken's personal file is riddled with the disasters which have overtaken Villa since when managed by Joe Mercer in the early Sixties. Aitken was one of the numerous 'Mercer Minors' who promised a great

future, but Villa's world slowly fell apart and relegation in 1967 was followed three years later by the drop into Division Three. Even then, Villa, founder members of the League in 1888, had spent only six seasons out of the top section and, to this day. Everton are the only club with more points at First Division level.

Aitken must feel desperately unlucky for his dedicated career to have fallen on hard times. A Third Division Championship medal in 1972 is the only winner's award on his sideboard, although he appeared in two League Cup Finals—both on the losing side and the last against Spurs at Wembley

Villa finished third on their Second Division comeback-but well adrift of the promoted teams-and were obviously hopeful of making the step up this season. But despite their big spending over the last five years, they are showing signs of cracking.

Yet, even if their demanding supporters they climbed into the First Division's top six feel that only the First Division is good enough, a lot of credit should be attached to the work of manager Vic Crowe, a former Villa player and Welsh international, and

his assistant, Ron Wylie, who also played for Villa as well as Birmingham City.

Crowe took charge after the turbulent 15 months' reign of Tommy Docherty, who, nevertheless, takes much of the praise for reviving the enthusiasm of Villa's fans. Gates that had crashed to an all-time low of around 12,000 immediately stabilised at around 30,000 while the Scotsman vainly tried to keep Villa away from Division

Relegation was almost inevitable when Crowe was offered the job after a year as assistant to Docherty and previous experience with the North American club, Atlanta. He almost achieved safety, but the work involved in leaving Division Three illuminated the size of his task.

Over two years he slowly dovetailed a new-look side. Former Luton favourite Bruce Rioch 'survived' from the previous administration and became captain of a promotion side which included such expensive buys as Chris Nicholl, also from The Hatters', defender lan Ross, who cost £70,000 from Liverpool, goalkeeper Jim Cumbes, a £30,000 capture from West



(Back row): Ray Graydon, Brace Rioch, Chris Nicholl, Keith Leonard, Neil Rioch, Alun Evans, Ian Ross. (Centre row): Frank Upton (youth-team coach), Melcolm Seard, Brian Little, John Robson, Roy Stark, John Findley, Jim Cumbes, Tommy Hughes, Fred Turnbull, Charlie Altken, Sammy Morgan, Leo Crowther (reserveteam coach), Fred Pedley (physiotherapist), (Front row): Ron Wylie (assistant manager), Alan Little, Tony Betts, Jimmy Brown, John Gidman, Vic Crowe (manager), Jan Hamilton, Geoff Vowden, Trever Hockey, Bobby MeDonald, Michael Wright.

Who are the car people? Who are the truck people? Who are the coach people? Who are the travel people? Who are the heating people? Who are the plumbing people? Who are the garden people? Who are the engineering people? Who are the exploration people?

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Bromwich Albion and winger Ray Graydon, But despite Little's skill and useful scoring valued at £50,000 when leaving Bristol ability, Villa still suffer from a goal-

last 18 months. Andy Lochhead, top scorer in the promotion line-up, has moved on to Oldham, leaving the number nine spot in contention between Alun Evans, for whom Villa paid Liverpool £80,000, and Sammy Morgan, the Northern Ireland international who has struggled for a place since leaving Port Vale last summer.

John Robson, a £90,000 purchase from Derby County a year ago, has also lost his place this season despite experience of winning Second and First Division Championship medals with Brian Clough. His right-back position is held down by John Gidman, a member of England's 1972 Youth-team who helped Villa win the F.A. Youth Cup against his old club, Liverpool. Brian Little, another youth international, also came from that successful junior side and is now a regular member of the attack.

Further alterations have taken place in the The problem reared itself when they recently dropped from second place after losing away games at Portsmouth and Swindon without scoring a goal. In these games, they were without Rioch and Graydon, the two main scorers, and Villa immediately lost the form which had given them eleven points from the previous six

> Even so, Villa still have a deep playing strength. Midfield is a particularly strong area, displaying the aggression of Welsh international Trevor Hockey, who came from Norwich City in the summer, and Jimmy Brown, the former Scottish Schools and Youth cap who is Villa's youngest-ever first-teamer (at 15 years and 349 days) and then the youngest captain, when appointed at 19 last season.

> Villa can also call on experienced men such

as Geoff Vowden, a heavy goal-scorer with Nottingham Forest and Birmingham City, lan Hamilton, a former Chelsea apprentice who came from Southend United for £40,000, and Pat McMahon, a free transfer signing from Celtic who has played in over 100 League games in four seasons.

HISTORY OF **ASTON VILLA F.C.**

Secretary: A. K. Bennett. Manager. V. Crowe. Ground: Villa Park, Birmingham B66HE. 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. Runners-up: 1888-89, 1902-03, 1907-08, 1910-11, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1930-31, 1932-33. Division Two Champions: 1937-38, 1959-60. Division Three Champions: 1971-72. F.A. Cup Winners: 1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913, 1920, 1957 (seven times a record for the competition). Finalists: 1892, 1924. Football League Cup Winners: 1961. Finalists: 1963.

Most goals in a season: 128 (Division One record), 1930-31. Highest League score: 12-2 against Accrington Stanley, 1891-92. Record League scorer: Pongo Waring (49), 1930-31.









Town Talk

Today sees yet another sponsored game at Luton. The sponsor being TRICENTROL. I would personally like to thank everyone for the wonderful efforts that they have put into this sponsorship. And, I would like to add, that I wish them, on behalf of the Directors and Staff of the club, every success for the future. Luton Town F.C. acknowledge, with thanks, the kind donation of a de-luxe Car Radio and the West End Theatre tickets presented by Tricentrol Car Group. Dave Roberts, Commercial Manager.

TOP OF THE Tricentro

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Arrive Bedford—21-38 Luton—22-01

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Souwenir Shop

The new souvenir shop near the main stand is now open.

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FINGER RINGS					40p
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KEY FOBS .					40p
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'SEW-ON' BADO					40p
SATIN SCARVES					65p
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'HATTERS' CAR		KERS			25p
'HATTERS' NEW					201
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The Directors, Players and all Staff

at

LUTON TOWN F.C.

would like to wish all their supporters

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS

and a

Very Prosperous NEW YEAR

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action



Peter Anderson gets the better of this heading duel with Alf Wood, the Millwall centre-forward and Doug Allder, the Millwall left-half.



As Christmas comes around again it's probably the most important time from a footballers point of view.

In addition to the normal programme and pressures, there are the added games to be accommodated during this period which means, all round, extra duties, responsibilities understanding and co-operation. We shall, for example, forget the traditional overflow of luxury on Christmas day by having the first-team squad of players in for training, so, of course, the helpings of Christmas pudding and so forth will most definitely be out in preparation for our match against Fulham on Boxing Day.

I think we should have a thought at this time of the year for the wives and families of management and players. They probably see less of their menfolk at a time of the year when custom demands otherwise. Behind every good player, it's said, there is a good woman and it is because they are just so, that they can, and do accept it as part of a way of life.

Therefore, a special bouquet today for all the

fair ladies involved in the yearly ritual of keeping the bird and the pudding hot until the lads have done their stint. Rest assured. Harry Haslam and his managerial team appreciate you 100% and we understand the problems football brings you

On the football scene generally, it seems at the present time, that the mountain is getting higher and higher. In addition to the normal work-load that a successful club expects. It's now a test of good management and good administration to overcome a test of character. The National problems of a shortage of fuel, power, energy, etc, all combine to create just one massive headache. We at Luton have planned, and intend to cover every eventuality, no matter what emergencies may arise. We believe the clubs who come out of the present testing situation will be those who show the most foresight and ability.

Luton sense that this year is the year when Kenilworth Road can crown its ambition to reach the First Division again. We can assure our supporters that the biggest Christmas present of all that we want our fans to have is this prize, the reward they deserve at the end of the season for contributing and playing their part in our push for promotion.

We feel that with your mutual cooperation and help in a very difficult situation, we shall be able to harness the driving force behind the lads on the field for them to achieve our long term aim. The Christmas message must be that we all believe in promotion to the First Division to create that energy source which can fire the team towards such a goal.

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Dine, Dance or Drink 8 pm-2 am

Telephone: LUTON 51357

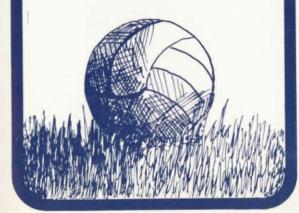
Visiting officials and players alike take their hats off to the 'Hatters' at the lush green look which ECLIPSALL gives to the Kenilworth Road pitch all season through!

Be like Luton and use **FCLIPSALL TURF COMPOUND** on your lawn. It feeds as it weeds and a single application will bring that winning look to your grass.





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Through rain or spray, saltwater or slush you drive confident with Viva.

Confident because of the full factoryapplied underseal and the special 11-stage anti-corrosion treatment we include in the basic price of every Viva.

With Viva you get six 'extras' at no extra cost. Factory applied underseal, fitted front seat-belts and alternator on the Viva Standard and those plus powerassisted front discs, wall-to-wall carpets and heated rear window on all other

Get on the winning side-test drive a Viva at your Vauxhall dealer soon.





TEAMS SCORES

LIITON TOWN

- 1 GRAHAM HORN
- 2 DON SHANKS
- **3 BOBBY THOMSON**
- **4 PETER ANDERSON**
- **5 JOHN FAULKNER**
- **6 ALAN GARNER**
- 7 JIMMY RYAN
- **8 JIMMY HUSBAND**
- 9 RODNEY FERN
- 10 ALAN WEST
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12 JOHN SIMS

Colours:

Shirts: Orange with White and Navy Vertical Stripe.

Shorts: Navy. Stockings: Orange.

ASTON VILLA

- 1 JIMMY CUMBES
- 2 JOHN GIDMAN
- **3 CHARLIE AITKEN**
- **4 TREVOR HOCKEY**
- 5 CHRIS NICHOLL
- 6 IAN ROSS
- 7 GEOFF VOWDEN
- **8 JIMMY BROWN**
- 9 ALUN EVANS
- 10 IAN HAMILTON
- 11 BRIAN LITTLE

12

Colours:

Shirts: Claret with Light Blue Collar and Sleeves.

Shorts: White. Stockings: White.

GOALS	CORERS					
LUTON TOWN	ASTON VILLA					
HALF-TIME	HALF-TIME					
FULL-TIME	FULL-TIME					

Referee:

M. V. SINCLAIR, Guildford

Linesmen:

M. J. HOLLAND, Epsom—Red Flag T. S. PAGE, Boston—Orange Flag

LIS	TONE	SCORE
Α	Birmingham City v West Ham United	ALTER N
В	Burnley v Arsenal	11.1
С	Chelsea v Leeds United	
D	Everton v Sheffield United	
E	Leicester City v Q.P.R	115
F	Man. United v Coventry City	
G	Newcastle United v Derby County	10
Н	Norwich City v Liverpool	
K	Southampton v Ipswich Town	
L	Stoke City v Wolverhampton W	
IVI	Tottenham Hotspur v Man. City	
N	Bolton Wanderers v Swindon Town	
LIS	T TWO	SCORE
A	Cardiff City v Bristol City	
В	Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest	
С	Millwall v Sunderland	
D	Notts County v Hull City	
Е	Orient v Carlisle United	
F	Oxford United v Blackpool	
G	Preston North End v Crystal Palace	
-	Sheffield Wed. v Fulham	
H		
K	WB Albion v Portsmouth	
	WB Albion v Portsmouth Northampton Town v Bristol Rovers	
К	TI D TILDION TO TOTAL	7

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

		Home		Away	
Teams	P	WDLF	A	WDLFA	Ρ :
Middlesbrough	19	6 2 1 12	5	5 5 0 13 7	29
Orient	20	5 3 2 15	8	4 5 1 18 12	26
Luton Town	18	5 2 1 20	11	4 3 3 11 13	23
West Bromwich Albion	20	5 4 1 13	8	3 3 4 9 12	23
Nottingham Forest	19	6 2 1 18	4	1 6 3 8 10	22
Sunderland	19	4 4 1 14	5	4 2 4 11 9	22
Blackpool	20	5 2 3 15	8	4 2 4 11 12	22
Notts County	19	4 4 2 16	16	4 2 3 14 12	22
Hull City	20	6 4 0 14	3	1 4 5 7 16	22
Aston Villa	19	5 4 0 18		2 3 5 5 11	21
Bristol City	20	5 2 3 13		3 2 5 10 12	20
Carlisle United	19	6 2 2 19		2 2 5 8 16	20
Preston North End	19	5 4 1 17	12	1 4 4 8 14	20
Fulham	20	5 3 2 8	6	1 4 5 5 14	19
Portsmouth	18	5 2 3 14	11	2 2 4 10 18	18
Cardiff City	19	3 4 3 10	7	1 4 4 11 22	16
Millwall	19	4 1 5 13		2 2 5 10 16	15
Bolton Wanderers	19	5 1 3 10	8	1 1 8 4 14	14
Oxford United	19	3 4 2 10	9	1 2 7 4 15	14
Sheffield Wednesday	19	4 3 3 15	10	1 0 8 5 16	13
Swindon Town	20	4 3 3 10	100	0 2 8 6 21	13
Crystal Palace	20	1 3 6 13	19	1 3 6 5 16	10

Up to and including Saturday, 8th December, 1973

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