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**v LEICESTER
CITY**

INSIDE TOWN TODAY:

Harry Haslam

Action 74

Town Focus

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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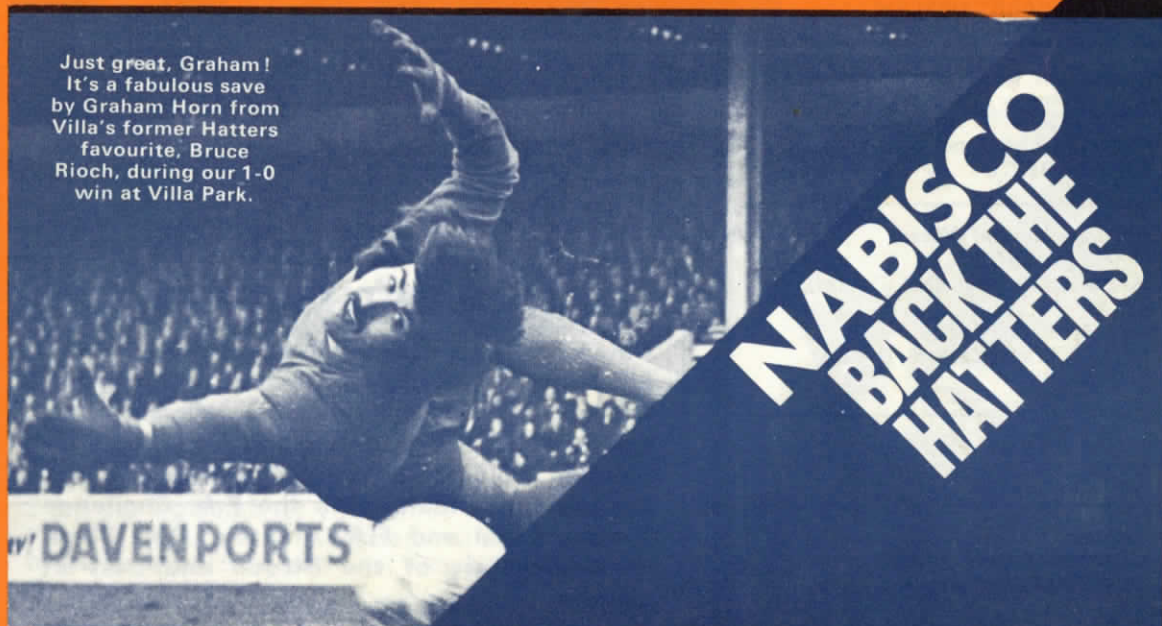


F.A. Cup Fifth Round

Saturday 16th February 1974

Vol 1 No 18

Just great, Graham!
It's a fabulous save
by Graham Horn from
Villa's former Hatters
favourite, Bruce
Rioch, during our 1-0
win at Villa Park.



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BACK THE
HATTERS**

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ACTION



Pressure point at Villa Park... Villa striker Alun Evans cuts into the goalmouth and Graham Horn is grounded without chance of recovering. But, typical of a wholehearted team performance, there was Alan Garner thumping the ball off Evans' toes.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

David Smith, a chargehand linesman for the Midlands Electricity Board, has become one of Britain's leading international officials since his appointment to the League list in 1959. He handled the F.A. Centenary Cup Final and two League Cup Finals, plus the F.A. Challenge Trophy Final and F.A. Amateur Cup Final. Also secretary of the Stroud and District League.

HARRY'S TOWN



It will not have escaped the eye of the more authoritative opinion in football that today's Fifth Round includes, in number, only one less team than which comes from the hallowed grounds of the First Division.

For my second successive season, I'm proud to see Luton grouped in this Cup party once again, a stage in the competition which brings a choice action-point in Luton's programme against a very respected side from the top Division, Leicester City.

Looking at this afternoon's Cup matches reveals the fact that there are six teams from the Second Division and one from the Third still competing when many of the clubs with higher status have come and gone. The balance is only a fraction away from being a 50-50 blend of teams, perhaps a jolting thought for the masses who advocate that there is a long gap between the respective standards of, say Luton and Liverpool.

It was considered a fluke when Sunderland took last year's trophy. But there was a great deal of merit about the Final performance which beat Leeds, and in my mind, it spelt out that modern standards, especially in sudden death competitions, are not so violently different as many would have us believe.

It is not a tragedy for the sport when the best teams lose a crucial and vital game, in fact it's more of a boost for football when the so classified 'underdog' gets the bone.

The Cup produced a shock last year when, at this stage, there were eight teams still competing who did not carry First Division labels. This year there will

be one less, but the chances of a Second Division side getting through to, at least a Semi-Final position, are such that no one would lay big odds against it right now.

Of course, one Second Division side is guaranteed to make the Sixth Round because of the Nottingham Forest Cup-tie and it needs only average success today and average luck in the draw for another Second Division pairing in the Sixth to shoot an 'outsider' through to the last but one hurdle.

As for our chances today, I am confident that the side will be equipped, both men-



tally and physically, to take the game to Leicester and prove what I have been trying to establish. Our approach to this match has been not unlike any other previous League or Cup affair. It's a policy of this management to look only as far as the next game and going into it geared to succeed.

If we are successful, then we know in our own minds that it will be the most important ingredient we can have to use in our preparation for the next one.

The team scaled a mountain a fortnight ago when they soaked up tremendous power and pressure against Villa, remained cool when it would have been easy to snap, and then earn the goal that was as vital as any we have scored so far this season. The press headlined us as lucky, but I don't see how they can justify that. Admittedly, we were forced on the defensive, but the very fact that Villa failed to score underlines what a professional job the defence did.

We had the odd moment of ill luck in attack, just as they did, but I am sure goalkeeper Graham Horn didn't have more than a couple of shots to save. Luton, as much as any club, appreciate that no game is won until the final whistle and it was a direct result of the lads remembering this good advice, which enabled us to pick up the extra point.

In the last few weeks we have built a reputation with Jimmy Ryan's late goals as a team that doesn't stop looking for them until the final whistle. We shall be no different this afternoon against Leicester and I hope all our supporters will convince the team, from the start, that they will be right behind them for the full 90 minutes.

When Harry Haslam needs a check-up he sees Dr. Hanley...

... so does Luton Town Secretary Bob Redhead... and Chief Scout Paddy Sowden... and Coach Roy McCrohan... and Commercial Manager David Roberts... to name just a few. The reason is they all drive Vauxhalls. And when their cars need expert servicing they come to Albert Hanley at Shaw & Kilburn Ltd. Albert is our Service Supervisor—one of the best in the business. He's part of the team that has made S & K the top name for Vauxhall in Vauxhall's home town. Whether you're a big name in local football or one of the fans, you'll get the best Vauxhall service at

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INTRODUCING LEICESTER

Leicester City are known in the trade as a 'Cup team'—the kind of side that always seems to thrive on the atmosphere of the Wembley trail. And this season there is a deep faith within the club that they can land a prize that has so often eluded them.

For the purposes of this afternoon, Luton followers will have little sympathy for Leicester's cause, but, whatever, the result there's no denying that the Filbert Street club have been unlucky when striving for soccer's most glamorous trophy.

To reach the F.A. Cup Final on four occasions since the war, and lose each time, is something which would sicken any club, but it is not manager Jimmy Bloomfield's intention to reflect on previous disappointments. As one of the most astute younger

managers in the game, he has achieved a great deal in developing Leicester from the basics of their 1970-71 Second Division Championship term. Imagination in the transfer market and a conviction for the skilful football, which he purveyed with Arsenal, Birmingham, West Ham, Plymouth and Orient, are attitudes which have spread through the club since he succeeded Frank O'Farrell in time for Leicester's First Division comeback. The first two seasons were hard—aren't they always for promotion teams—and there was a high price to pay for Mr Bloomfield's re-building operation. Some supporters may have felt that the six-figure outlays on skipper Keith Weller (Chelsea), schemer Jon Sammels (Arsenal) and utility man Alan Birchenall (Crystal

Palace) didn't produce instant results. Now they are receiving their answer. Jimmy Bloomfield needed time to place the jig-saw just as he wanted and there was also the question of balancing the accounts. Leicester's support is adequate for First Division football, though not heavy enough to allow extravagant spending without concern for the basic economics.

So Leicester can only be delighted at the success achieved in buying good players, getting most of the money back from outgoing transfers, and building a side which has high hopes for the future—and the present as far as the F.A. Cup is concerned.

It's interesting to study the changes since Leicester's last League visit to Kenilworth Road during April, 1971. While they were good enough to defeat promotion-conscious Town 3-1, the club did not stand still once promotion was clinched.

Top scorer Ally Brown went to West Bromwich Albion for something over £60,000. Midfield general Willie Carlin moved to Notts County for around £20,000. Winger John Farrington recently re-joined Carlin's company in a £60,000 deal with Cardiff City. Rodney Fern came to Luton for another sizeable sum. Bobby Kellard, another midfield influence, was used as half payment for Birchenall.



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LEICESTER CITY—1973-74—(Back row): Dennis Rofe, Alan Woollett, Pat Kruse, Robert Lee, Joe Jopling, Steve Yates, David Tomlin, John Farrington (now Cardiff). (Centre row): George Preston (physio), Malcolm Manley (now Portsmouth), Mike Stringfellow, Carl Jayes, Peter Shilton, Mark Wallington, Alan Birchenall, Malcolm Munro, David Coates (coach). (Front row): Steve Whitworth, Graham Cross, Malcolm Partridge, Jimmy Bloomfield (manager), Keith Weller, Frank Worthington, Jon Sammels.



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GOLDEN NUGGETS

INTRODUCING LEICESTER

Malcolm Manley, though first-choice centre-half last term, fetched a round £60,000 from Portsmouth this season. Centre-half John Sjöberg was 'retired out' to Rotherham for a modest cheque. And, of course, there was the British record bonanza of over £200,000 for David Nish.

Other 'fringe' players departed for small sums and when the final bill was totalled, Leicester had picked up something like half a million pounds. So there's the answer to the club's spending power in the last two and a half seasons.

Following the initial deals for Weller—a 'must' for England according to Mr Bloomfield—Sammels and Birchenall, the shopping went on with £100,000 for Orient full-back Dennis

Rofe, another fee approaching six figures for Huddersfield's England Under-23 international striker, Frank Worthington, and, most recently, about £80,000 for Fulham's top scorer Steve Earle.

The observant football follower will notice the heavy emphasis on attacking players. This makes Leicester an attractive side and has recently brought results which give them hope of qualifying for a place in next season's U.E.F.A. Cup.

Goals are likely to come from any source in this variable outfit, though, at the moment, Worthington is the man in form, after delivering a three-goal salvo during a 5-0 mauling of Ipswich Town. Earle, who didn't arrive until December, 1st has also

found goals quickly, and Len Glover, the former Charlton winger, is rated among the best of his kind.

Mr Bloomfield would perhaps agree that Leicester have been fortunate to escape serious injury, and in a largely-unchanged squad, the back-four have played together with hardly any interruption. Steve Whitworth, a local discovery with England Under-23 caps, forms a young full-back partnership with Rofe and the middle is blocked with the long-serving 'home' product, Graham Cross, and Malcolm Munro, a former Youth international who has made the number five shirt his own in the last twelve months.

Leicester's basic squad is made up by Mike Stringfellow, formerly a goal-scoring winger but now a midfield player, Joe Jopling, a full-back turned striker from Aldershot, and David Tomlin, a promising winger discovered in the East Midlands.

They will prove extremely difficult opposition, but we must take encouragement from previous Cup results this season. Leicester were beaten in a League Cup replay by Hull City, lost to Dundee United in the Texaco Cup, and had quite a struggle to beat Fulham 2-1 during extra time in their F.A. Cup replay. In the Third Round, they had beaten Spurs 1-0 with a late goal from Earle.



FRANK WORTHINGTON



KEITH WELLER



LEN GLOVER



TOWN FOOTS



(Back row): Reg Game (trainer), Don Shanks, Alan West, John Faulkner, Graham Horri, Alan Garner, John Ryan, Bobby Thompson (captain), Roy McCrohan (coach).

(Front row): Jim Ryan, Jimmy Husband, Peter Anderson, Harry Haslam (manager), Barry Butlin, Rodney Fern, John Aston.

First Division . . . here we come! That's the spirit at Luton Town as we enter the final stages of the promotion race in third position and this afternoon's F.A. Cup tilt at Leicester City gives an ideal chance of judging how far we have travelled.

Having reached the quarter-finals of last season's competition, and eliminating Newcastle United on their own ground, we feel suitably 'charged' for another whiff of Cup glory. But it's the League that counts and today's pause in the promotion programme seems an ideal time to look back over the season's achievements.

We stated that Luton were prepared to be pioneers for attacking football believing that goals and good results should go together. That calls for a vital quality called 'faith' and this was tested instantly by a 4-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest. Can there be any doubt that we passed the examina-

tion? And who will forget the sensation of the first home match against Carlisle United—six goals from 'The Hatters' in the first 45 minutes.

Tom Finney the Irish discovery from Crusaders, scored two goals only a few weeks after giving up his job as a Gas Board pipefitter. Tom continued to delight with goals in each of the next three matches and our season really was 'set fair' when we took seven points from consecutive away games at Bristol City, Notts County, Sunderland and Crystal Palace.

But there was never any question of sitting back. Harry Haslam paid a fee in the region of £80,000 for Burnley's England Under-23 midfielder player, Alan West, who has offered considerable craft to the attack since mid-October. Another sizeable sum was forked out at the end of November for Everton's former Under-23 international striker, Jimmy Husband—and so we had developed sharp competition for places.

Graham Horn and Keith Barber are two of the Division's most capable goalkeepers. John Faulkner and Alan Garner have formed a reliable partnership in central defence and skipper Bobby Thomson continues to look the 'scoop' of recent times after leaving Birmingham City on a free transfer in 1972.

John Ryan and Don Shanks, both adaptable players who have also appeared in regular play and Peter Anderson, the side's top scorer, played mainly in mid-park until his recent switch to centre-forward.

With two raiding wingers in John Aston and Jimmy Ryan, both out of the Manchester United 'academy', the accent is always for goals and we have been well served by Finney, Barry Butlin, ex-Leicester City Cup Finalist Rodney Fern and John

Sims, who had three games while on loan from Derby County.

There are many others pressing for first-team recognition—as witness the reserves heavy scoring in the Football Combination—and it's not surprising that Harry Haslam says: "The players we have used in the League—and those we yet to afford the opportunity—constitute a squad which covers all positions in depth and quality. But we have never lost sight of the fact that if players become available, and we need them, then we would have a go for them."

Harry feels that the team have learned to be more professional and is convinced that the initial groundwork of last season has produced its rewards. "Of course, we have had our disappointments," he says. "But moments of failure when dropping odd points at home were still levelled out, I feel, by going to Villa Park and Sunderland and winning."



TOM FINNEY



JIMMY HUSBAND



ALAN WEST



PETER ANDERSON

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You cannot keep the ex-Hatters out of the limelight. Our cover picture shows the result of a Bruce Rioch shot for Villa—and here is Chris Nicholl heading for goal at Villa Park. But the effort was cleared off the line by John Ryan.

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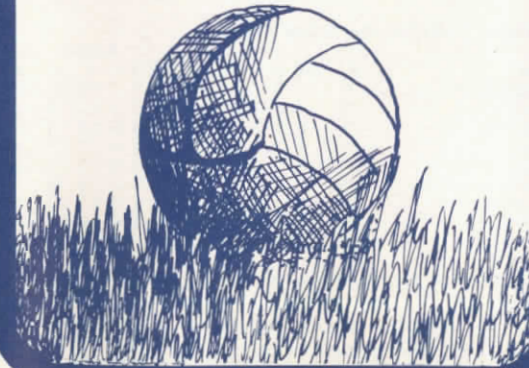
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TEAMS SCORES

LUTON TOWN

- 1 GRAHAM HORN
- 2 JOHN RYAN
- 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 BARRY BUTLIN
- 12 JOHN ASTON

Colours:

Shirts: Orange with White and Navy Vertical Stripe.
Shorts: Navy. Stockings: Orange.

LEICESTER CITY

- 1 PETER SHILTON
- 2 STEVE WHITWORTH
- 3 DENNIS ROFE
- 4 STEVE EARLE
- 5 MALCOLM MUNRO
- 6 GRAHAM CROSS
- 7 KEITH WELLER
- 8 JON SAMMELS
- 9 FRANK WORTHINGTON
- 10 ALAN BIRCHENALL
- 11 LEN GLOVER
- 12

Colours:

Shirts: Blue with White trim. Shorts: White.
Stockings: White.

GOALSCORERS

LUTON TOWN		LEICESTER CITY	
HALF-TIME		HALF-TIME	
FULL-TIME		FULL-TIME	

Referee:

Mr D. W. SMITH, Stonehouse, Gloucs

Linesmen:

Mr D. W. LLOYD, Worcester—Red Flag

Mr A. D. LEWIS, Willenhall—Orange Flag

LIST ONE

SCORE

A	Bristol City v Leeds United	
B	Burnley v Aston Villa	
C	Coventry City v Q P Rangers	
D	Liverpool v Ipswich Town	
E	Southampton v Wrexham	
F	W B Albion v Newcastle United	
G	Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur	
H	Derby County v Manchester United	
K	Sheffield United v Stoke City	
L	West Ham United v Everton	
M	Wolverhampton W v Birmingham C	
N	Blackpool v Cardiff City	

LIST TWO

SCORE

A	Bolton Wanderers v Sheffield Wed	
B	Millwall v Swindon Town	
C	Fulham v Notts County	
D	Hull City v Middlesbrough	
E	Cambridge United v Hereford United	
F	Sunderland v Preston North End	
G	Bournemouth v Shrewsbury Town	
H	Grimsby Town v Southport	
K	Halifax Town v Brighton & Hove A	
L	Plymouth Argyle v Huddersfield T	
M	Rochdale v Oldham Athletic	
N	Watford v Chesterfield	

FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION ONE

Teams	P	Home					Away				
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
Leeds United	29	9	5	0	29	10	5	0	22	6	48
Liverpool	28	13	1	0	25	9	3	6	5	12	39
Ipswich Town	28	8	3	3	29	15	5	3	6	18	32
Derby County	28	9	4	1	27	11	2	5	7	6	31
Everton	28	8	6	1	18	8	3	3	7	12	31
Burnley	27	7	6	2	19	12	4	3	5	15	31
Leicester City	28	7	4	3	22	10	3	6	5	14	30
Queen's Park Rangers	28	5	8	1	22	13	4	4	6	19	30
Newcastle United	28	8	2	4	23	14	4	3	7	16	29

FOOTBALL LEAGUE, DIVISION TWO

Teams	P	Home					Away				
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
Middlesbrough	28	11	3	1	23	6	5	7	1	16	42
Orient	28	8	3	3	21	10	5	7	2	23	36
Luton Town	28	8	5	1	27	15	5	4	5	12	35
Blackpool	29	7	4	3	21	9	4	7	4	17	33
Carlisle United	27	8	4	2	27	12	5	3	5	15	33
West Bromwich Albion	28	7	5	2	19	11	4	5	5	15	32
Nottingham Forest	27	8	3	2	28	12	2	8	4	12	31
Notts County	29	6	4	5	25	25	5	4	5	18	30
Hull City	29	7	7	0	17	5	1	7	7	12	24

Up to and including Saturday, 9th February, 1974

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73-74 HATTERS CUP
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