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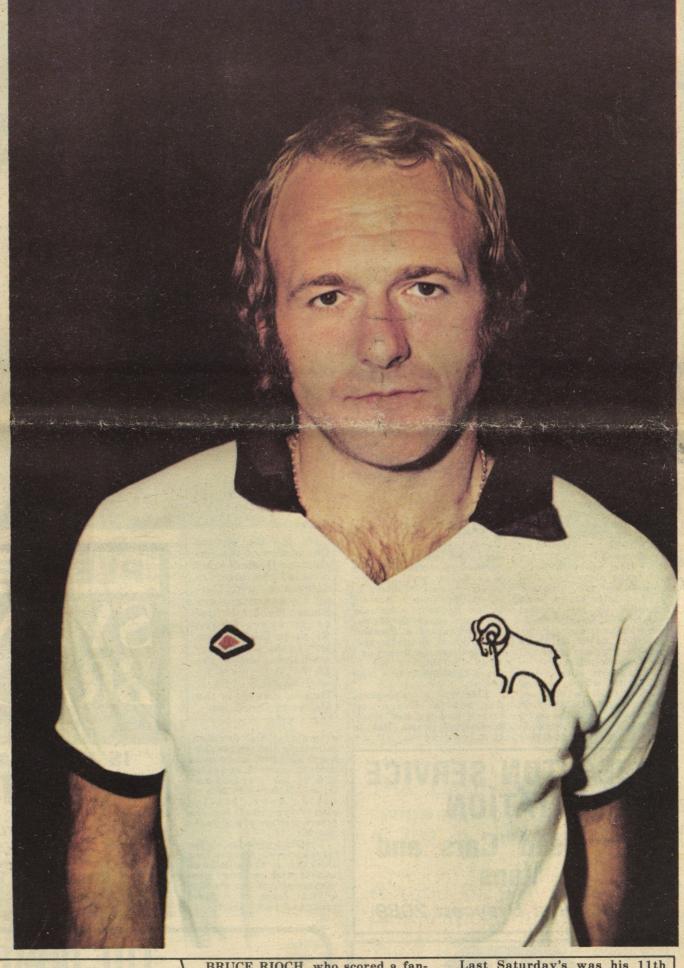
the Official Newspaper of DERBY COUNTY F.C.

Vol. 4 No. 23 (v. Luton Town Saturday, March 29, 1975, 3.0 p.m.) 10p

ARE WE UNLUCKY?

Look at some remarkable pictures on page 7, and then judge whether David Nish was lucky to get the goal Newcastle argued didn't cross the line last Saturday. Picture on page 11.

Luton Team Pic Page 6 Luton Pen Pix Page 10.



Bruce Rioch plays his 350th League game today BRUCE RIOCH, who scored a fantastic solo goal at Newcastle last Saturday, plays in the 350th League game of his career today... against the club where he started

game of his career today...against the club where he started.

At Luton he made 147 Lea ue appearances. Moving on to Villa he made 155 League appearances before his transfer and today's will be Rioch's 48th League game for Derby County.

Last Saturday's was his 11th League goal of the season, only two coming from the penalty spot. Manager Dave Mackay, who bought Bruce to provide some goal-scoring bite from midfield positions, is delighted with Rioch.

"He's great. The goals are coming thick and fast from him now that he is completely adjusted to the First Division". Rams skipper Archie Gemmill, who took over the captaincy when club captain Roy McFarland lost this season with injury while playing for England. The Scottish international took time to adjust to the responsibilities but his form since, has been a revelation. Our Easter thanks to him for a good job done throughout the season. Happy Easter to all our supporters.

YOUR 16 PAGE RAM FOR EASTER TUESDAY (v MAN CITY, 7.30) IN THE SHOPS ON SUNDAY MORNING.

The DERBY COUNTY RAM

Official Newspaper of Derby County F.C.

Derby County F.C. Ltd., The Baseball Ground, Shaftesbury Crescent, Derby DE3 8NB (Telephone: 40105/6/7). Derby

RAMS OFFICERS
President: Sir Robertson King, K.B.E. Chairman and Vice-President: Mr. Sam Longson. Vice-Chairman: Mr. Sydney Bradley. Directors: Mr. 'Bob' Innes, Mr. Jack Kirkland, Mr. Richard Moore, Mr. George Hardy. Hon. Medical Officers: Dr. H. A. Worthy, Dr. G. M. Cochrane.

RAMS MANAGEMENT

Manager: Dave Mackay. Secretary: Mr. Stuart Webb. Assistant Manager and trainer/coach Des Anderson. Reserve Team-Coach: Colin Murphy. Junior coach Ritchie Norman Physiotherapist: Gordon Guthrie. Grounds-man: Bob Smith. Commercial Executive: Stuart Robinson. Club Accountant: John

RAMS HONOURS

Division 1 Champions 1971-72, runners-up 1895-96, 1929-30, 1935-36. Division 2 Champions 1911-12, 1914-15, 1968-69, runnersup 1925-26. Division 3 (North) Champions 1956-57. European Cup Semi-finalists 1973. F.A. Cup Winners 1946, finalists 1898, 1899, 1903. Football League Cup semi-finalists 1967-68. Texaco Cup Winners 1971-72. Watney Cup Winners 1970. Central League Champions

1935-36, 1971-72. Record Attendance 41,826 Tottenham Hotspur (League, 20/9/69). Record Receipts: £65,000 v Juventus. European Cup semi-final, 25th April, 1973. Division 1 (Foundermembers) 1888-1907. Division 2 1907-12. Division 1 1912-14. Division 2 1914-15. Division 1 1915-21. Division 2 1921-26 Division 1 1926-53. Division 2 1953-55. Division 3 (North) 1955-57. Division 2 1957-69. Division 1 Division 2 1957-69. Division 1 1969. Record Victory 9-0 v Wolves (League 10/1/1891) and v Sheffield Wednesday (League, 21/1/1899). Most Goals Steve Bloomer, 297, 1892-1914. Highest in League season 37, Jack Bowers 1930-31, Ray Straw 1956-57. Most League Appearances Jack Parry, 478, 1949-66. Youngest League Debut Steve Powell, 16 years 33 days, v Arsenal (23/10/71). Most Caps with Rams Alan Durban (Wales) 27, Sammy Crooks (England) 26. Record Transfer Fee paid David Nish, £225,000 from Leicester City, August 1972. Record Transfer Fee received John Robson, £95,000 to Aston Villa, December 1972. Managers since Second World War: Messrs. Stuart McMillan (January 1946 to November 1953), Jack Barker (November 1953 to May 1955), Harry Storer (June 1955 to May 1962), Tim Ward (June 1962 to May 1967), Brian Clough (June 1967 to October 1973).

RAM PEOPLE

Managing Editor: Harry Brown.

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DERBY COUNTY REPRESENTED SOCCER AT A DOWNING STREET GATHERING LAST MONDAY

Can sport

BRUCE RIOCH and BRUCE RIOCH and myself were honoured last Monday by representing professional football in a delegation of about a dozen people who lobbied the Chancellor of the Exchequer at a special reception in Number 11 Downing Street, seeking a better financial deal for British sport. sport.

The delegation was led by Olympic Gold medallist Mary Peters and included people like Colin Cowdrey. Its message was the one lts message was the one which Derby County have hammered out in these columns over the past two or three years:

1. VAT takes £1\frac{1}{2}m a year from professional soccer, £40,000 from Derby County alone. The plea for

County alone. The plea for all sport to be given zero VAT rating is one of car-dinal points in a Fair Play for Sport Campaign which is building up throughout the country

the country.
The Arts Council are

The Arts Council are given massive grants more than three times the amount given to sport which aims to develop the minds and bodies of our young people.

2. If the Safety and Sports Grounds Bill goes through in its present form it could mean major spending on stadia and could cripple many League clubs.

The plea of the delegation to Chancellor Healey was: please don't rob us of so much of our own money. We were not asking him to open his purse strings in difficult economic times, but to let us keep more of what we have.

He was given figures which show that the Government takes £16m a year from sport in rates and taxes alone and £8m from VAT.

The delegation was arranged by the Central

The delegation was arranged by the Central Council of Physical Recrea-

Council of Physical Recreation whose secretary, Peter Lawson, said: "Unless something is done sport will face financial disaster."

Afterwards, at the Press Conference, we were joined by Sir Andrew Steven, Chairman of the Football Association, and the point was made to the Chancellor that in most industrial





SECRETARY STUART WEBB'S COLUMN

areas the local league club boosted production when it was doing well. Later, when we met Minister of Sport, Mr. Dennis Howell, in the House of Commons we again sought for the es-tablishment of a Football Levy Board, as that in rac-ing, to boost our future as I ing, to boost our future as I have campaigned for in these columns over a long

period.

This was a tremendous day out for Bruce and myself and we met many fascinating people. But, in the long term, if we



In the top picture Chancellor of the Ex-chequer Denis Healey meets the sports delegation, with Der-by County Secretary Stuart Webb and first team star, Bruce Rioch on the extreme left. In the picture im-mediately above the Derby pair meet up with Minister of Sport Dennis Howell in the House of Commons.

stimulate Government thinking about the crushing burdens forced on sport by modern taxation, and rates, and by the proposed new Ground Safety bill, then we could have started something vital for the future welfare of our young

Britain's prestige on the international field which carries a tremendous weight with ordinary people throughout the world is a vital facet of national pride and well-being.

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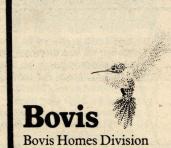
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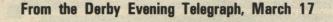
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WORST DAY OF FAN VIOLENCE

WHOSE IS THE



FRONT PAGE headlines in the Derby Evening Telegraph on Monday March 17, after our last home match with neighbouring Stoke City, proclaimed "Worst Day of Fan violence"

With widespread damage done to windows, doors and shops in the Baseball Ground area by people purporting to be supporters of either club, it is no wonder it all made headlines.

Derby County are appalled that some of this was done by a few scores of people who parade in their name. And the club do not intend to put their heads in the sand and pretend it hasn't happened...or that it will all go away if we don't look

But people who blame football, who blame the clubs, for these rampaging young thugs, are evading the real issue. And that is that unrest, indiscipline, violence are part of a national malaise which is showing everywhere.

Derby County cannot be held responsible for the antics of young people with whom they have no connection, and with whom they want no connection. The first place to look to for correction of these ills is in the home. Parents have a terrible responsibility for current standards among the young. So do the schools. So does society.

It is easy to blame Derby, or any other club. It is simple to tag these people "football hooligans" when in fact they are simply hooligans.

Football doesn't come into it except that it offers them a vehicle where they can, in a crowd, meet other young hooligans from other centres with whom to battle.

The pity of it is that property en route to and from the railway station or from bus parks is being damaged as the gangs melee in strength.

Would they have

PERHAPS the lunatic fringe of so-called football supporters from Stoke AND Derby who created trouble would have been ashamed had they seen the friendship and sportsmanship behind the scenes from the players and officials of both clubs.

In the Board Room afterwards the first question from both sides was: has there been any trouble? Yet there was nothing done by the players of either side on the pitch to heat the atmosphere. Cast your minds back. On a terrible surface this was a great game fought in wonderful spirit by two fine sides. There wasn't one dirty foul, few that were hard even. Football was the winner on the pitch, the loser off it.

Football as a whole wants nothing to do with the hooligans. Youngsters who taunt the opposition, seek them out as part of their Saturday afternoon entertainment, have no place with the rest of us at the Baseball Ground.

We have a few who call themselves Derby County supporters. In fact they are the biggest single menace to the future of this club and of the game. We are determined, with the help of our tremendously active and wonderful police force, to root them out for good. One by one.

By and large most of the bother has been extinguished on the ground itself so the louts have now turned to battling on their way to and from a game. This club, like all clubs, take the respon-sibility for paying for enough police to service the ground and the safety of all

in it during games.

But how, by any stretch of imagination, can we or any other football club be expected to be held responsible for the behaviour of people before they enter or after they leave the stadium? Hooliganism has hit the game badly as attendances slump because of it...even though away from Pop side or Kop side areas there is almost never any trouble...without the added burden of hysterical and irresponsible charges that clubs should pay for the damage caused.

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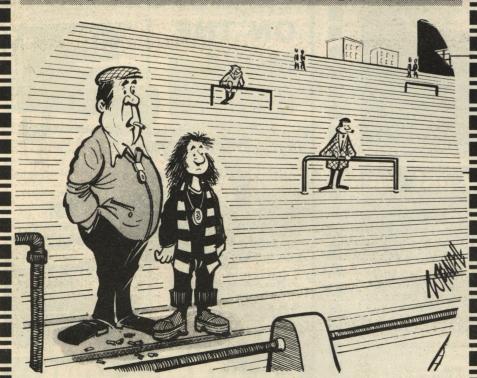
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"Yes, mister, they've all stayed on in town to smash up a few shops and houses. I'm the only one who came for the football."

Thanks a lot!

The Derby Christmas Appeal, 1974, sponsored by the Derby Trader, raised £1,200 in cash and hundreds of gifts in

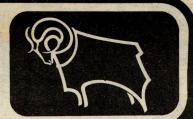
A total of 941 children, 672 aged and handicapped and 32 families benefitted. We'd like to thank everybody who gave and helped.

THIS YEAR'S APPEAL IS NOW OPEN!

Cheques payable to 'The Derby Xmas Fund Appeal', should be sent to the Derby Trader Newspaper Ltd., 5A Irongate, Derby. DE1 3AQ, the sponsors of the Appeal.



RAM TALK



WHY CHARLIE PURRED FOR TODDY

CHARLIE FERGU-SON, purred with satisfaction at New-castle's St. James' Park a week last Saturday. Especially when the press lads told him: "That lad is the greatest England defender since Bobby Moore. And they were talking about Colin Todd.

"I knew he would be from the moment I clapped eyes on him," said the Sunderland chief scout . . . the man who plucked Toddy out of schoolboy football for Roker Park more than ten years ago

ten years ago.
"Every time I see him
play I get a great deal of
satisfaction. He is the
kind of lad who makes
my job worthwhile."

And the Press continue to hurl superlatives at Todd. Said Bob Cass of the Sun: "He is one of soccer's hottest properties. His speed and uncanny reading of an opposition's attacking moves are out of this world." Former Newcastle star Jackie Milburn



Club President, Sir Robertson King, and Chairman, Mr. Sam Longson, present Colin Todd with his PFA Player of the Year Trophy on the pitch before the home match with Stoke . . . and they did it to tumultuous appaluse!

IS COLIN TODD WORTH £170,000?

SHOOT takes a critical look at Derby's new st

Shoot Magazine's headline from years ago.

said of him in the News of the World after this game: "Mighty Colin . . . was magnificent."

We're used to it at Derby. So perhaps John Dougray of *The Guar*- dian sums it up aptly when he writes: "One could go on all day about Colin Todd's qualities, but these are now so widely recognised that it is sufficient to say he played his usual game."

Exactly.
Charlie Ferguson explained: "Perhaps once or twice in a lifetime a

young lady whom you know with absolute certainty is going to make a star.

star.

Not just because of superb natural ability at a tender age, but also because you know he has the character and temperament to keep his feet on the ground, and dedicate himself. Colin Todd was such a lad."

Which makes it opportments to a the supers and the such a the supers and the supers are such as the supers are supers as the supers are sup

Which makes it opportune to recall that, at the time of his signing by Derby, the critics openly asked whether any defender was worth that amount of money. And, remember, that was before the days when inflation really started to hite

We reproduce (left), a typical headline of the time, from Shoot magazine. At least Shoot, give them their credit came out a year later with a second headline: "We Wuz Wrong."

MR. PRESIDENT ago, and were finally



BELATED GREET-INGS from us all to Derby County President, Sir Robertson King, who recently reached his 80th birthday. But who is still attending every home match, and still playing a vital role in the Board Room.

When Derby County fell foul of officialdom five years

ago, and were finally fined £10,000 and banned from Europe, Sir Robertson's wide experience as an arbitrator played a key role in keeping the FA punishment down to manageable level.

"I have served the club for many years, and I hope I may still be able to play a small part," he says.

Sir Robertson has seen many changes in his time and none more significant, he says, than the lifting of the maximum wage. "It brought a great deal of trouble in its wake and none more so than a loosening of players' loyalties which were so evident years ago.

so evident years ago.

"But we at Derby have been much more lucky than most clubs. Of course we have had our problems but I have been most impressed by the loyalty to the club from the dressing room. It is very much in evidence."



Margaret and Garth Phillips.

Now, they're what we really call fans...

OUR MOST TRAVELLED long-distance regular supporters? We've been looking for them for years, but now it could be that our search has ended. Margaret Phillips and Garth Phillips (above), travel to every home match from Newport in Gwent . . . and that's a round distance of 300 miles. Every time.

"We're away from home about 12 hours each time," they say, "and the cost of it has spiralled this past year but we wouldn't dream of stopping." Nor are they fair-weather supporters only. The Phillipses have been doing their 300 miles stint since 1971 but before that they lived in Lincoln and did the trip regularly from there for 11 years

regularly from there for 11 years.

CAN ANYBODY BEAT THAT? We doubt it.

Written by Harry Brown and Marilyn Chapman

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FOLLOW THE RAMS Gerald Mortimer

writes reports and comments regularly in the

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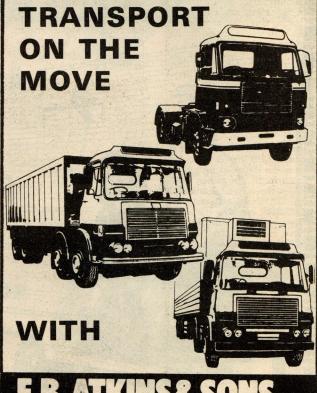
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Rams are travelling

LEE'S BBC Goal of the Month in December during Derby County's 2-1 win against Manchester City at Maine Road, Rams have played five League fixtures away from home and collected six points from three victories and two defeats.

Their points total from away matches this season is 17, which is already two more than the tally from last season's programme and also two more than the season before when Rams were

in the European Cup.

And the final tally could come very near that of the Championship season of 1971-72 when 22 away points were culled from eight wins and six draws. At the moment Rams have the moment Rams have earned six wins and five draws from 18 matches. Only Everton (18) have earned more away points in

earned more away points in Division One this season.

Another significant feature is that the attacking policy implemented by Dave Mackay has borne goalscoring fruit. The season's total so far with three left to play away is 20 compared with 12 last season, 12 the year before that, and 25 in the Championship year. But the goals pionship year. But the goals against column gives rise for concern, in a season in which Roy McFarland hasn't kicked a first team ball, with 28 lost compared with 26 last season and 23 in the title year. But can you have your cake and eat it at

the same time?
Mind, that 28 conceded has been accentuated by four defeats in which Rams conceded three goals and one where four were lost. The only defeat of reasonable proportions was that at Luton where Rams lost by the only goal of the game. Apart from that, and the 2-3 loss at Birmingham, the number of goals conced-ed in defeat has been distrubing and plainly affected the club's chances as far as

goal average is concerned.
Peter Daniel's goal at
Stamford Bridge leaves this as the only ground where Derby have scored in every League fixture since the 1969 promotion, and the victory was their first on that ground for 23 years.

At Newcastle they won their fourth of six fixtures ince returning to Division One, the Geordies failing to score in all the games they lost so the horses-for-courses could help Rams at Leicester who are the only First Division side not to have scored against Derby at home in their current spell in the top flight. Since they came up in 1971 Leicester have lost two and drawn one against Rams at Filbert Street without net-ting once. Let's hope that's a good omen for the last away

FOOTNOTE: Rams have to win all their remaining five home games, including today's, to equal last season's home total of 33 points which was the same as that of the sason before but three less than the Championship year tally of

Michael Wilson.



Kevin Hector scoring the 244th goal of his career against Stoke City here a fortnight ago as he was played on-side by a defender's deflection.

have scored more goals

could see his passing Jack

Bower's total

King Kev hits yet another milestone...

KEVIN HECTOR has passed quite a few landmarks in his career this season. He made his 500th League appearance at Highfield Road, Coventry in August and then scored his 150th goal in all competitions for Derby in the League Cup Second Round fixture against Portsmouth at Fratton Park in September, writes Mike Wilson.

Later that same month Kevin marked his 400th appearance for the Rams with a goal in the 3-2 defeat of Burnley at the Baseball Ground, a match in which Rams players scored all five goals, Colin Todd and Peter Daniel having the doubtful pleasure of scoring for Burnley.

Last Saturday against Newcastle United at St. James Park, Kevin played his 350th League match for the Rams. He has so far scored 131 goals for Derby in the League.

Kevin's consistency has meant that he has topped the Rams' League scoring lists on five occasions out of a possible eight. The other three were the first seasons in Division One after promotion from the Second Division. John O'Hare was tops with 13 goals in each of the first two seasons and in the third, when Derby won the Championship, Alan Hinton came top with 15 goals, eight from the penalty

Hector's League record stands at 244 goals in 526



King Kev shows the power in his left foot.

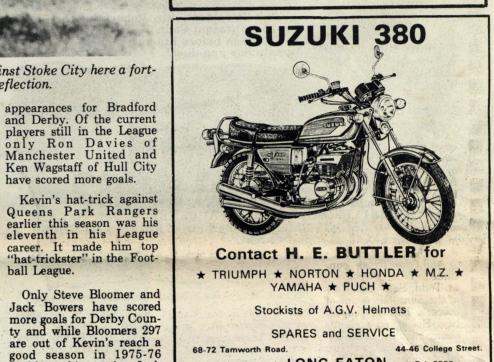
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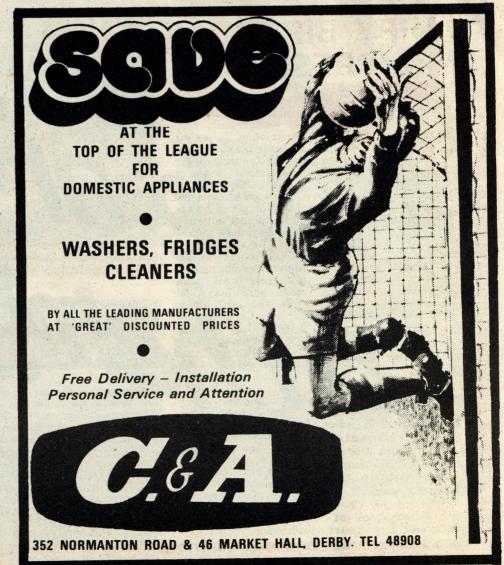
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Back row (left to right): MAITLAND POLLOCK, PETER ANDERSON, JOHN RYAN, PAUL FUTCHER, PAUL PRICE, JIMMY HUSBAND.
Middle row: BOBBY THOMSON, JOHN FAULKNER, KEITH BARBER, GRAHAM HORN, BARRY BUTLIN (now Forest), ALAN GARNER, STEVE LITT. Front row: REG GAME (Physiotherapist), BRIAN CHAMBERS, ALAN WEST, HARRY HASLAM (Manager), GORDON HINDSON, JIMMY RYAN, ROY McCROHAN (Chief Coach).

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ARE WE MAKING EXCUSES?



Stoke keeper Peter Shilton is utterly beaten by a cunningly flighted Bruce Rioch chip that hits the lower part of the bar but rebounds to safety.

The game's less than five minutes old and Kevin Hector has a stranded keeper out of goal and only one defender on the line...but from five yards or so he knocks the ball yards wide with his right foot. "It skidded on to me and off the outside of my boot", he ruefully recalled later.



Shilton's in trouble again as a Hinton shot flashes past his left hand, but also scrapes the outside of his far post.

BARRING MIRACLES, Derby-County's Championship chance for 1975 died with that 2-1 home defeat by Stoke City a fortnight ago today.

It was bad luck that a magnificently fought match, on a cruelly mud-racked pitch, should have escaped Rams in the last quarter of an hour through defensive errors after they had dictated most of the game.

Bad luck...dare we mention the word? After we had asked recently when the run of the ball would go Derby's way this season a letter writer (anonymous yet again, we're afraid) wrote:

"Why bemoan the luck? You make your own in this game and Rams aren't good enough to do that. It's lack of skill, not bad luck".

You pays yer money, and yer takes yer choice, but see what the Guardian newspaper (as just one example) said of the result.

r of their game with Stoke City. They had several chances to secure the result before half-time, but little luck.

The game began after Colin Todd was presented with his

(from the Guardian)

And look at the pictures on this page.

No, Derby's luck was dead out. The ball bobbled wrong more than once, skidded and stopped. Most neutrals agreed that Stoke had more of the unmanipulated breaks,

that last minute goal when Rod Thomas tried a back-pass which got lost.

Right, blame him for that if you will, but players of both sides had used the back ball to their keepers all afternoon without amiss until this one bogged down in the

No. It's our view it's that sort of season for Rams. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

won't apologise, anyway



Shilton fails to touch a Hinton cross as Hector challenges... but the ball drops just wide of his far post. And these are only four examples of a series of near misses.

Derby County record keepers (and

STATISTICIANS

IT'S AMAZING the number of people who keep scrapbooks, programmes and match statistics of Derby County matches. And many who have collected for years applied to us for the record books of former Rams' fan Reg Trueman who died at Christmas.

You will probably remember we published a picture of a page from his records in The Ram a month ago and reported that Mr. Trueman's sister asked Derby County director Mr. Frederick (Bob) Innes to see they went to someone who would value

From the many letters we received Mr. Innes chose that of Steve Stone, 22 Wilmot Street, Ilkeston to receive the Transaction records. Mr. Stone, a teacher, is Chairman of



rams supporters arriving in London for Derby County's 1946 F.A. Cup Final win over Charlton at Wembley. It's a memory saved by "Old Bill," 7 Cheshunt Avenue, Mickleover. thriving group of youngsters who have their own newspaper in which they are able to reproduce cuttings, letters and records from the originals by a special light-sensitive stencil cutter. They also collect

and use extracts in our

newspaper. Put to use in

this way a great number of people would be able to read

them and thus provide an

excellent tribute to the

gentleman who compiled

many young people will benefit from his organising

Said Mr. Innes: "I feel so

He will be invited to meet Mr. Innes at the ground before the Manchester City programmes for distribution among members, put many items of Derby County in-terest on display at meetings, and fill two 100match next Tuesday to be presented with the records and be a guest at the match, as will six other avid collecpaged scrapbooks a month tors allof whom, Mr. Innes with pictures, clippings and felt, deserved some reward news.
"If we get the books we shall put them on display for their enthusiastic records of Derby County.

They are: John Morley, 5 Stenson Avenue, Sunnyhill, Derby who is 27 and has missed only two home missed only two home matches in ten years, and not so many more away games. He has a large collection of magazines, programmes and Rams statistics.

Mr. B. G. Cox, 74
Westfield Road,
Swadlincote is a 46-yearold paddock season ticket holder who has all Rams match results from 1888 programmes from 1943, and every copy of the *Ram*. His mates call him Mr. Derby County and his wife says

he's Rams mad.
Mr. M. Curtin, 37
Leopold Street, Derby is a 19-year-old student and a Pop side season ticket holder, who has hundreds of Derby programmes home and away back to 1942 and hundreds of press cuttings hundreds of press cuttings and newspapers about Rams including the Derby Evening Telegraph Cup winning edition of 1946. His biggest regret is that he can't get a 1946 FA Cup Final programme.

Mr. J. Bowler, 74 Wood Road, Chaddesden has complete records on

has complete records on Rams since 1968 and, a keen statistician, has many league tables, results, scorers and appearances. Spends a lot of time seeking Rams information and recording it.

Andrew Mitchell, 5 Birches Avenue, South Wingfield, Derbyshire is a 15-year-old Osmaston Stand ticket holder who has a collection of 1,270 programmes, mostly home and away, and who has kept statistics on all matches these past two years. Has saved programmes since he was seven and is anxious to get complete Rams records from the start as the years progress. Has every single Ram published, kept in

Ken Smith, manager of North Birmingham Squash Rackets Club at Gravelly Lane, Erdington, Birmingham has been a Rams fan for 15 years but his visits are now restricted by his job. He has the Ram and the Derby Evening Telegraph on subscription and has statistics on Rams going back many

WHO SAID SOCCER PRODUCED ONLY TROUBLE? AS MR. BOB INNES TOLD US: "WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE SUPPORTERS LIKE THESE"

Watch out for this man.



WERE OUR FACES RED! On page 11 of our last edition we urged all fans in Ashby and Loughborough to look out for Derby Coun-ty Promotion Sales Manager Peter Hill last

"They'll be searching out Rams fans to act as Special
Agents. Whether you are in
a club or pub, or walking
down the street," we said,
"don't miss Peter."
Fine so far. But then
came the rub. We went on:
"Beliava us you'll be

came the rub. We went on:
"Believe us, you'll be
glad you saw him. Take
another look at Peter Hill
above . . . and look out for
him."
What's wrong with that,
then? Only that the man's
picture was left out. Right,
so we're trying again. This
time the picture should be

time the picture should be at the head of this story... and if it isn't, then somebody's head is going to roll.

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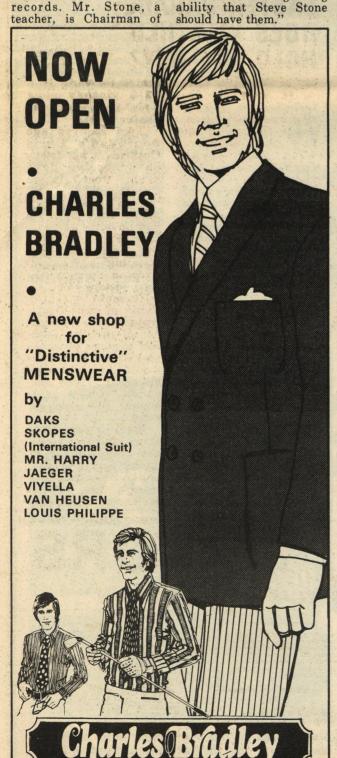
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at Matlock Bath South Peak branch of the Rams' Supporters' Club, are holding their Spring dance on Saturday, April 19, at The Pavilion, Matlock Bath. Ansells Bittermen.





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Drop in for a drink will be appearing in each edition of the

LOOKING AT THE YOUNG RAMS

WHEN GRAHAM HARNESSES HIS SKILLS...LOOK OUT!

GRAHAM FERN, a 17year-old midfield Rams apprentice from Burton-on-Trent, has tremendous natural ability. Perhaps too much.

Members of the Baseball Ground training staff are always careful not to coach natural ability from a player, but it has to be harnessed to team requirements no matter in which class of football, or with what team, a player is appear-

Young Fern can shake off an opposition by a quick move of the hips. He can take on, and beat, a man with grace and he has the ability to find colleagues equally well with short or long balls. He reads situations well.

Everything to commend him, it seems, but his weakness is that he tends to hang on to the ball too long and to do too much individually, as is common in youngsters with great skills. The problem is to quicken up Graham's mental attitude so that, having read situations, he is able quickly to do the right thing to the benefit of the team



as a whole.

Graham is a quick and eager learner, though, and he is ad-justing himself rapidly to the

demands of the correct application of his commendable skills. When he achieves that . . . then

WEATHER could bring the crowds flocking to football this Easter weekend, bringing with it another crowd boom. Yet, if the sun shines, many families might prefer the lure of the countryside to football, yet surely not in Derby where the Championship is still within Rams'

grasp. The tendency has been to reduce the number of holiday fixtures in recent years. Christmas Day games have been completely abandoned. Though, due to the high crowds which turned up last Boxing Day, it possible that Christmas Day games may be re-introduced next term. It would seem that the fans want Christmas foot-

ball after all. Though we cannot really draw any comparison between the Christmas and Easter habits of soccer fans the weather is often a deciding fac-

DOES WEATHER HOLD THE KEY?

tor in the latter case — it will be in-teresting to look at this weekend's attendance figures to see how they compare with the trend throughout the season.

One or two crowd records have been set up this time of the year in the past. It was at Easter exactly 14 years ago that the Fourth Division's record attendance was established, 37,774 people turning up to see Crystal Palace play Millwall. Those who do turn

up for today's games could see more exciting football and enjoy some traditional Easter fun. Many unusual feats have been performed at Eastertide.

Among the big goals hauls at Easter was the Football League record of ten hit by Luton's Joe Payne, on his debut at centre forward, in a 12-0 victory over Bristol Rovers at

Easter 1936. Two Easters ago Southend's Chris Guthrie hit hat-tricks on sucessive days against Port Vale and Chesterfield.

You may have noted that Everton had no home game on Good Friday. This is the result of a long standing agreement. Everton many years ago drew up an agreement with the Vicar of the church which stands on a corner of their magnificent stadium, never to play at such times as would interfere with his Good Friday services. They still honour the arrangement.

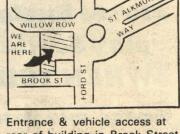
Many a promotion or relegation issue has been settled at Easter and it is certain that the future of several clubs will be decided this weekend.

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rear of building in Brook Street (Blue double gates)

MEN FROM LUTON Two of a kind

LUTON'S FIRST YEAR back in Division One has been hard, but their fair play and their attacking ideas, despite problems, have won them many friends.

Their squad line-up is as follows.

GRAHAM HORN (Goalkeeper). Established himself last season. Former England Youth International, signed from Arsenal for a £25,000 fee. At 19 one of the youngest keepers to play in the First Division. Height: 6' 1½". Weight: 14 stones. Hobby: Golf.

JOHN RYAN (Right Back). Former Arsenal and Fulham with a wealth of experience. One of the quickest defenders in League football, renowned for his overlapping runs. A water-skiing enthusiast of International standard.



Club coach Roy McCrohan.

BOBBY THOMSON (Left Back and Club Captain). Went to Luton on free transfer from Birmingham City. Capped for England while at Wolves, Bobby has proved to be one of the greatest skippers to wear the 'Hatters' shirt.

PETER ANDERSON (Midfield). Signed for Luton when an amateur with Hendon. Last season's Luton's 'Player of the Year'. A qualified Chartered Accountant.

JOHN FAULKNER (Centre-half). Signed from Leeds United for only £6,000, John first hit the headlines when playing in the epic Cup match for Sutton against Leeds. Plagued by a serious knee injury at Leeds, John, now completely recovered, is realising his full potential.

JIMMY RYAN (Forward). One of several Scots in the Club, joined Luton from Manchester United four years ago. Great ball player, Jimmy only missed three matches during the Hatter's promotion last year.

JIMMY HUSBAND (Forward). Well known for his feats with Everton, joined the Hatters midway through last season against opposition from many leading clubs. Scorer of ten goals including two hattricks, last season, Jimmy has settled down as one of the great strikers in the League and is now playing better than at any time in his career. Former International.

ALAN WEST (Forward). Must be one of Manager Harry Haslam's best signings when he joined Town from Burnley. An Under-23 international, Alan is one of the great crowd favourites at Kenilworth Road.

JOHN ASTON (Forward). Now in his second season with the Town, remembered by everyone in football for his great games for Manchester United, particularly in the 1968 European Cup final. One of the few orthodox wingmen left in top football, missed only four matches last season.

GORDON HINDSON (Forward). Signed from Newcastle in 1971. 'Geordie' has now established himself in the first team squad. Although mainly wearing the number twelve last season, his enthusiasm and ability are a great asset to the team whenever he is called on.

PAUL PRICE (Left Back). One of the 'babes' of the squad. Born nearby at St. Albans, Paul is establishing himself as a fine young defender. Finished last season with a broken leg from which he has made a good recovery.

MAITLAND POLLOCK (Midfield). One of the Scots on the club's books, Maitland was signed at the end of last season from Southern League Burton Albion for a small fee. Has enormous enthusiasm for the game and has quickly become a favourite at Kenilworth Road.

STEVE LITT (Centrehalf). Steve's second season with Town after signing from Blackpool. 6' 1" tall, a great young prospect.

BRIAN CHAMBERS (Midfield). Close season signing from Arsenal. Newcastle-born Brian looks forward to establishing

Luton's twins, defender PAUL FUTCHER (left) who is younger by 20 minutes than his twin brother RON, a striker of great potential. These 17 year olds were close season signings from Chester.

himself with the Hatter's first team squad

KEITH BARBER (Goalkeeper). Signed by Manager Haslam from London senior football, now has a wealth of first team experience, having made over 80 appearances since signing. One of the 'characters' of the squad with a terrific sense of humour.

PAUL FUTCHER (Defender). Chester-born Paul was one of the town's close season signings along with his identical twin brother, Ronald. Six feet tall, and with great ability. Joining Chester from school, 17 year old Paul is regarded as one of football's stars in the making. Luton secured his signature despite opposition from many First Division clubs. First season as a Professional.

RON FUTCHER (Forward). Came with brother, Paul, from Chester for £20,000. Already made a big impact in the first team, scoring a hat-trick against Wolves on December 28. Looks to have a great future.

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PLAY FOR

MANAGER DAVE MACKAY has never conceded that Derby County had lost their Championship chance at any stage, just as he claimed even in the early days when Ipswich were ahead, that Everton were the ones to

And before the vital Easter programme began yesterday

programme began yesterday (Friday) Rams were just three points away from second place with two games in hand on Liverpool and one on all the rest, including Everton.

That game in hand is the postponed one against Wolves which will be played on Wednesday, April 9 (7.30). If that had been played, and won, Rams would be second . . . but that two point gap from leaders is really an effective three as they have a much superior goal they have a much superior goal

average.
Can they be overhauled? As the programmes of all eight leading contenders show below they have vital matches at home against Burnley and Sheffield United to come. But Derby have to go to

Middlesbrough and Burnley.
Middlesbrough could provide
the key, and win that title for the first time. All their remaining games at home are against sides in the top eight.

Burnley, Derby, Everton and Liverpool. That's make or break if you like.

Everton must still be regarded as favourites, the bookmakers certainly think so at 5-4 on. Derby, with Liverpool and Ipswich are equal second favourites at 8-1. Middlesbrough, with Stoke, are a surprising 16-1 while Burnley have gone out to 20-1 in figures quoted by Ladbrokes and Corals.

See what you make of it from the remaining fixtures: Everton: HOME: Coventry, Burnley, Sheff Utd. AWAY: Carlisle (today), Luton, New-

Carlisle (today), Luton, New-castle, Chelsea.

Ipswich: HOME: Leicester (today), Birmingham, QPR, West Ham. AWAY: Chelsea, Man City, Leeds.

Midsbro: HOME: Burnley (today), Derby, Liver-pool. AWAY: Man City (yester-day) Wolves Coventry.

day), Wolves, Coventry,

Liverpool: HOME: Bir-

Liverpool: HOME: Birmingham (today), Newcastle, QPR, Carlisle. AWAY: Stoke, Leeds, Midsbro.
Stoke: HOME: Liverpool, Chelsea, Newcastle. AWAY: West Ham (yesterday), Arsenal (today), Sheff Utd., Burnley.
Burnley: HOME: Derby, Spurs, Stoke. AWAY: Carlisle (yesterday), Midsbro (today), Everton, Man City.
Derby Co: HOME: Luton (today), Man City, Wolves, West Ham, Carlisle. AWAY: Burnley, Midsbro, Leicester.
Sheff Utd.: HOME: Leeds, Stoke, Leicester. AWAY:

Stoke, Leicester. AWAY

Coventry (today), Arsenal, Birmingham, Everton, Chelsea.

Rams "A" beat Walsall four-nil in a friendly match at Raynesway last Saturday. Keeper Batch saved two penalties in the

Rams "A": Batch, Thompson, Dimaline, Fern, Webb, Johnson, Woods, Boseley, Bell, Adam.

THERE TO AWA' TH

Newcastle U..... 0 Derby Co. 2

ON A GREASY-TOPPED pitch, and in dismal weather conditions, Rams won their second consecutive away match in convincing fashion despite below-par performances in some positions. Which made the result even more convincing.

Without doubt the unfortunate injury to Henry Newton (manager Dave Mackay condemned the fierce challenge which produced an eight-inch gas in his leg as one of the worst fouls he had seen) upset the balance of the side, but one felt that at David Nish goal kept them slenderly ahead until three minutes from

GOAL? YES!

shot shows the ball going down. All the photographers agree it was over the line... and the picture more than suggests it.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

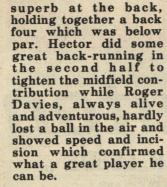
P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts. Everton......35 14 16 5 49 32 44 Liverpool....36 16 11 9 52 35 43

What do you think?

the end when Bruce Rioch scored on of the best goals you could ever wish to see. Picking up the ball some 40 yards out he strode through the middle taking one man, resisting the hard challenge of another, eluding two more on the edge of the box, and then hitting the sharpest of right foot crackers into the net past the advancing home keeper.

It's as well he did. Home fans were pretty angry when Nish picked up a partly-cleared free kick and cracked home a tremendous drive from outside the box which McFaul palmed up on to the underside of the bar and then turned behind him to grab as it bounc-ed down. On the spot, the linesman signalled it had gone over the line.

Colin Todd was



Rams: Boulton, Thomas, Nish, Rioch, Daniel, Todd, Newton (sub. Bourne), Gemmil, Davies, Hector, Hinton.

STOKE'S FINE FINISH

Derby County 1 Stoke City...... 2 ON A DAY when the ball didn't run well Rams were beaten by a last minute goal from a defensive error, when they were already bemoaning the looseness at the back which gave the visitors an equalizer a few visitors an equaliser a few

minutes before.
Stoke, who took over in midfield when Hudson began to shine at last, soon after Hector gave Rams the lead ten minutes into the second half, finished strongly. Earlier they had had their

chances in a match which ebbed and flowed and they looked likely to be well beaten. But they came back well and no-one could really begrudge them their points although over the piece a draw would have been the fairer result.

Rams: Boulton, Thomas, Nish, Rioch, Daniel, Todd, Newton, Gemmill, Davies, Hector,



Newcastle keeper Ian Derby County Reserves lost ground in their championship challenge in the Central League with their surprising 2-nil defeat by Forest Reserves at the Baseball McFaul, his team mates and the crowd protested violently that the David Nish shot which was push-Ground on Monday night. ed on to the bar and bounc A crowd of nearly 3,000 ed down, only to be pulled back by the quickly turning keeper was not a goal. The ref and his linesman agreed it was over the line. Our was bitterly disappointed by their worst display of the

season. They just couldn't string anything together and fell behind midway through the first half. Their cup of woe ran over when Thompson put through his own goal 15 minutes from the end. One to forget, but still poised for a real title bid are the Reserves with games in hand on their fellow challengers.

Rams Reserves:
Moseley, Webster,
Chamberlain, King, O'Riordan, Thompson, Powell,
Macken, Sims, Carruthers, Bourne.

Following their fine 6-nil win over Sheffield United in mid-week, in which Carruthers and Sims each got hat-tricks in a superb display in front of a 3,600

crowd, Rams were pulled back a bit by Newcastle Utd. Res. who drew 1-1 at the Baseball Ground last

Saturday.
Rams fell behind to a penalty given when Moseley had to scramble for a bad back pass but Carruthers equalised.

Roy McFarland started his come-back against Sheffield and has come through the tests well.

Rams 6 Sheff Utd. 0:
Moseley, Webster, Griffin,
King, O'Riordan,
McFarland, Powell,
Macken, Sims, Carruthers,
Bourne. Sub: Langan for

McFarland, 70 mins.

Rams 1 Newcastle Res 1: Moseley, Webster, Griffin, King, O'Riordan, McFarland, Langan, Macken, Sims, Carruthers, Hogan.

'A" REACH CUP SEMI-FINALS

As the Midland Intermediate League table on this page shows, Leicester City are certain Champions with only one game of their programme left. But they went out of the League Cup when Rams "A" beat them two-nil in a great display. MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE

Goals from Egan and Bell rubbed in Derby's superiority in a match which was always a thriller. Derby now meet the winners of a postponed game between Stoke and Port Vale in the Group "A" semi-finals where Shrewsbury Town have already reached the final.

The winners of the Group will meet Group "B" winners in the League Cup final.

FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Grd.		
Aug 17	Everton	42,193	A	0-0
Aug 21	COVENTRY	25,717	H	1-1
Aug 24	SHEFFIELD UNITED	23,088	Н	2-0
Aug 27 Aug 31	Coventry Tottenham Hotspur	18,586	A	1-1
Aug 31 Sept 7	NEWCASTLE UNITED	20,770	Ĥ	2-2
Sept 11	F.L. Cup 2nd Round Portsmouth	13,582	A	5-1
Sept 14	Birmingham City	27,795	A	2-3
Sept 18	SERVETTE (EUFA Cup)	17,311	H	4-1
Sept 21 Sept 25	BURNLEY	21,377	H	3-2
Sept 25 Sept 28	CHELSEA Stoke City	22,036 23,590	A	1-1
Oct 2	Servette Geneva (EUFA Cup)	9,600	A	2-1
Oct 5	West Ham United	32,836	A	2-2
Oct 9	Southampton (LC)	14,911	A	0-5
Oct 12 Oct 15	LEICESTER CITY	24,753	HA	1-0
Oct 15 Oct 19	Sheffield United Carlisle United	21,882 13,353	A	0-3
Oct 23	ATLETICO MADRID	29,347	Ĥ	2-2
	(EUFA Cup 2nd Round)			
Oct 26	MIDDLESBOROUGH	24,036	H	2-3
Nov 2 Nov 6	Leeds United ATLETICO MADRID	24,806	A	1-0
Nov 6	(EUFA Cup 2nd Leg Aggregate score	45,000	A	2-2
	4-4, Derby won 7-6 on penalties	10,000		X 2/100
Nov 9	QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	23,339	H	5-2
Nov 16	Arsenal	32,286	A	1-3
Nov 23	IPSWICH TOWN	24,341	H	2-0
Nov 27 Dec 7	VELEZ MOSTAR (UEFA Cup) Liverpool	24,130 41,058	HA	3-1
Dec 11	Velez Mostar (UEFA Cup)	15,000	A	1-4
Dec 14	EVERTON	24,991	Н	0-1
Dec 21	Luton Town	12,862	A	0-1
Dec 26 Dec 28	BIRMINGHAM CITY	26,121	HA	2-1
Dec 28	Manchester City	40,196	^	2-1
1975				
Jan 4	ORIENT (F.A. Cup Third Round)	12,490 26,501	AH	2-2 2-1
Jan 8 Jan 11	ORIENT (3rd Round Replay) LIVERPOOL	33,463	H	2-0
Jan 18	Wolverhampton Wanderers	24,515	A	1-0
Jan 27	BRISTOL R (F.A. Cup 4th Round)	27,980	H	2-0
Feb 1	Q.P.R.	20,686	A	1-4
Feb 8	LEEDS UNITED	33,641 35,298	H	0-0 0-1
Feb 18 Feb 22	LEEDS UNITED (F.A. Cup 5th Round) ARSENAL	24,002	H	2-1
Feb 25	Ipswich Town	23,078	A	0-3
Mar 1	TOTTENHAM H	23,000	H	3-1
Mar 8	Chelsea	22,644	A	2-1
Mar 15	STOKE CITY	29,985	HA	1-2
Mar 22 Mar 28	Newcastle United	31,010		2-0
Mar 29	LUTON TOWN		н	
Mar 31	Burnley		A	
Apr 1	MANCHESTER CITY		H	
Apr 5 Apr 9	Middlesborough F.A. Cup S/Final WOLVES		AH	
Apr 9 Apr 12	WEST HAM UNITED		Н	
Apr 19	Leicester City		A	
Apr 26	CARLISLE UNITED	WERE STATE	Н	
May 3	F.A. Cup Final	6 348 and	100	

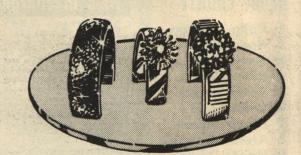
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AN EYE ON OUR VISITORS

LUTON TOWN were founded in 1885 and turned professional five years later. They moved to their present ground, Kenilworth Road, in 1905, where the best gate was 30,069 in a 1959 FA Cup tie. Their highest ever First Division placing was eighth in 1958. They have never been Second Division Champions, either, getting promotion as runners-up in 1955 and 1974. They were Third Division runners-up in 1970 and the 1968 Fourth Division Championship was only their second honour — they were Champions of Division Three (South) in 1936. But they have reached Wembley once, losing to Forest in the FA Cup Final of 1959.

Brave Luton fight on

LAST SATURDAY'S WIN OVER LEEDS PROVES A NEVER-SAY-DIE SPIRIT

THE ODDS have been stacked heavily all season against Luton making a sensational escape from relegation, but manager Harry Haslam and his team are making a brave bid even now to try to avoid the big drop, only 12 months after gaining promotion, writes TONY PULLEIN.

Most Hatters' fans had abandoned all hope by mid-December when, with half their fixtures completed, Luton had managed only one solitary victory. Then, surprisingly and mysteriously, they won three games in a row starting with a shock 1-nil home defeat of the Rams.

Then Luton went on a run of only one defeat in seven

League games.
Hatters still believe they can escape and their fine 2-1 victory over Leeds last Saturday and a 2-0 midweek defeat of Arsenal proves there is still a lot of fight in them.

As one would expect, in

their circumstances, the Luton team has undergone many changes since the start of the season as Mr.

Haslam has tried to adapt it to First Division re-

quirements. Keeper Graham Horn lost his place to Keith Barber for a while, later returned but a while, later returned but then handed back to Barber recently. Youngsters Steve Buckley and Paul Futcher have now been drafted into the back four, with con-siderable success. Buckley has taken over at left back from former England inter-national Bobby Thomson national Bobby Thomson with Futcher and John Faulkner closing things up in the centre. John Ryan

continues in the right back position he has held for six

Up front another youngster Ron Futcher — Paul's brother — has been holding his place since hit-

ting four goals in his first two games at Christmas. He took over from the in-jured Peter Spiring and now usually plays in a striking line with Jimmy Husband

and John Aston.

Luton earned themselves a unique place in football's history books when they gained promotion last year.
The Hatters are the only club relegated from the First to the Fourth Division ever to regain their place at the top. In the early 'sixties they dropped through all

four sections in five years.

The man responsible for creating the new Luton is manager Harry Haslam.



PETER ANDERSON Scored Luton's winner in their 2-1 home defeat of Leeds last Saturday.

Mr. Haslam last season raised the record payout of

raised the record payout of £80,000 when he secured the transfer of Burnley's midfield player Alan West, then expended a further £70,000 in return for the experience of striker Jimmy Husband.

It's scarcely three years since Luton, fearing they had lost their chance of First Division football, started to sell off their best players for economy reasons.

Malcolm Macdonald (Newcastle), Don Givens (Q.P.R.) and Vic Halom (Sunderland) are now scor-

ing goals with gay abandon.
Viv Busby (Fulham) and
Chris Nicholl (Aston Villa)
were other stars to leave.
WHEN PUT INTO ITS

TRUE PERSPECTIVE, LUTON'S PROMOTION ACHIEVEMENT WAS QUITE SPECTACULAR.

Easter printing

Because of the Easter holiday The Ram was printed on Wednesday and does not carry any late

MATCH BALL

Today's match ball donors are Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, who employ approximately 80

people.

The hotel has been established since 1862, and Mr. W. Wainwright is the manager. He formerly managed the Midland Hotel

in Derby.

Mr. Wainwright and his staff wish Derby County all the best in the coming

Ram on sale tomorrow

The Ram for Easter Tuesday's League match against Manchester City (7.30 p.m.) will be on sale in newsagents shops tomorrow (Sunday) morning. It will also be sold on the Ramaway to Burnley on Tuesday.

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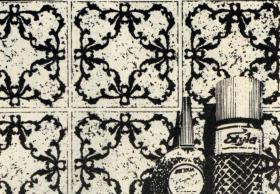
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ALAN WEST Former Burnley star who captains the Hatters.

ROY MCFARLAND admitted in a gripping News of the World article last Sunday that after early fears he might never play again following his Achilles tendon injury last May while playing for England, he now fears a repeat breakdown which might set his career back a further six months or so. "This next week will give me the answer," says Rams' club captain whom the paper described, rightly, as 'Britain's best centre half.' Roy has the best wishes of every Derby County fan, and most football supporters everywhere, that he really has fully recovered.

Roy McFarland's fear

SATURDAY LINE-UP

DERBY COUNTY

- Colin Boulton
- **Rod Thomas**
- **David Nish**
- **Bruce Rioch**
- **Peter Daniel**
- Colin Todd Steve Powell
- **Archie Gemmill**
- Roger Davies
- 10 Kevin Hector Alan Hinton
- 12

He's in charge

Referee: RAY
TINKLER (Boston).
Has been on the League
list since 1961, coming up
through local league and
Southern and Midland
leagues. Started refereeing
while on National Service in
the Army. Refereed a 1969
FA Cup semi-final, the 1966
Youth Cup Final and Texaco Cup Final. Married,
with a daughter, he is company secretary to a group of pany secretary to a group of farming companies. Chair-man of his Referees Association, Ray Tinkler is also a vice-president of the Association of Football League referees and

Linesmen: T. Barnett (Knottingley, Yorks.), red flag; P. Stockley

LUTON TOWN

- 1 Keith Barber
- 2 John Ryan
- 3 Steve Buckley
- 4 Peter Anderson
- 5 John Faulkner 6 Paul Futcher
- 7 Jim Ryan
- 8 Jimmy Husband
- 9 Ron Futcher
- 10 Alan West
- 11 John Aston 12

Half-time Scoreboard

CARLISLE **EVERTON**

IPSWICH LEICESTER

LEEDS NEWCASTLE LIVERPOOL BIRMINGHAM

MIDDLESBRO BURNLEY G

SPURS WEST HAM CHELSEA

WOLVES MAN. CITY BLACKPOOL FOREST

NOTTS CO CARDIFF

CHESTERFIELD **GILLINGHAM** ROTHERHAM

MANSFIELD PETERBOROUGH **SWINDON**

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