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LEAGUE  
DIVISION TWO  
SATURDAY  
AUGUST 23, 1975  
Kick-off 3.00 pm

ALL  
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NEWS

OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME

Luton Town



Price 12 pence

# West Bromwich ALBION Football Club Limited



THE HAWTHORNS, WEST BROMWICH  
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League Champions: 1920

Runners-up: 1925 and 1954

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and 1968

League Cup Winners: 1966

*West Bromwich Albion have appeared in  
17 Semi-Finals and 10 Finals of the F.A.  
Challenge Cup.*

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## STADIUM SNIPPETS

No doubt most of you are aware that a few players left the club at the end of last season, and just for the record we will let you know what has happened to them.

Peter Latchford had an end of season spell on loan to Glasgow Celtic, culminating in him winning a Scottish Cup Winners medal, and subsequently ending in a transfer on a permanent basis.

Also on the goalkeeping front, Pat Regan left us to join Notts County. His appearances were mainly with the two junior sides, although during Peter Latchford's loan period he did make eight appearances in the Central League side.

Billy Bulloch is now temporarily domiciled in South Africa, being on the books of Durban City. Lyndon Hughes has joined the staff of Noel Cantwell at Peterboro, and it appears that he has struck up a midfield partnership with Peter Eustace there.

Roger Minton resisted overtures to stay in the U.K. and has gone over to America to play in the American Soccer League. With their season coming to a close quite soon, no doubt Roger will be shopping around back over here.

Jim Weir has returned to Scotland and is having a spell at Partick.

Incidentally, having served Dunstable well for a season King Jeff Astle has joined Weymouth and is enjoying the sea air.

The Club has received a most generous gift. We are very grateful to Telefusion Ltd the Midlands Radio and T.V. people who have installed a couple of T.V. sets at the Hawthorns for the use of our patrons. It has been mentioned before that we have facilities here for being able to televise each of our home matches for re-running later on the video machine through the television. Now we shall be able to improve on that thanks to Telefusion.

Talking of T.V., Mr Giles and the senior squad were able to have a look at the Leicester Anglo-Scottish Cup match down at the ATV studios last week. It enabled John to see the game from off the field as a Manager might, whilst being on the field too. Hats off to Billy Wright and Gary Newbon for their help.

A close associate of the club, Bob Downing has become a father for the first time. Bob it is who covers our games for the *Express and Star* and also assists by contributing to *Albion News*. However, he flatly refuses to provide cigars for you all today. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs D. and we hope baby Mathew has a good life ahead of him. The Commercial Enterprises committee, along with Gordon, have been meeting frequently to throw ideas about. Amongst those adopted are Executive Car Parking, a sponsored walk and a Sportsmans Association. Alan James, Jim Millichip, Roger Newman, Gordon himself, and of course committee Chairman Cliff Edwards, are the men to speak to for any or all of the Enterprises enterprises. You will benefit, and so too will the Albion . . . and that's what it is all about!

## MANAGERIAL MATTERS



**Preparation is, in my opinion, a vital ingredient in football. Plans worked out in team talks and in training**

**play an important part in the day-to-day working of a football club and I have taken steps to ensure that Albion are adequately prepared for every match we play.**

At every opportunity, a member of the staff will watch our opponents in action just prior to our meeting and with the reports I receive details can be worked out as to how we should tackle the game and to expose their bad faults and keep in check their good points. To be successful in any job, it is important to iron out your own faults and at the same time make sure that the successful points are never forgotten. The same can be said for football and as the season really swings into action it is always advantageous to know everything about your opponents.

Our own performances are, of course, my prime concern and I was disappointed by the defeat at Southampton last week. Watching from the bench because of the hamstring injury I collected at Leicester the previous week failed to heal quickly enough, I made mental notes on parts of our game which needed to be worked upon. I have already spoken to the players about them and I know they are eager to push this disappointment to the back of their minds. But at the same time we must learn from our faults and take steps to ensure they do not happen frequently, if at all.

I said when I joined Albion that the team would play entertaining football and with the game now suffering from the same economic gloom with which the country as a whole finds itself in, I believe entertaining—and successful—football is the one way to bring back the crowds. So much was said in this vein just before last Saturday's curtain raiser and I am sure everyone connected with football is as determined as everyone at Albion that we give value for money.

Gates have gone down in many areas and this is the biggest reason why the transfer market has, for the present, reached a ceiling. I do not think this trend will continue, however. While on this subject many of you will be asking where do Albion stand in this? As you know, I had talks with Huddersfield striker Alan Gowling and was disappointed when he decided to join Newcastle instead. He is a player with goal scoring ability and I felt he would have been a big asset to us. It was also reported that I was ready to make a



move for Billy Hughes from Sunderland. Let's get the picture straight. Never, at any time, did I consider an enquiry for this player. He will command a six figure fee, despite, as I have said, money being tight in the game, and for that price I could get two or possibly three players. But before I move into the transfer market, I will know that he is the right man for the job I want to be done and that there is no-one on the present staff who could carry out the same duties equally as well.

This afternoon, we meet another team looking for quick return to the first division, Luton. They made a successful start to the season on Saturday and I look forward to an exciting game.

JOHN GILES

This afternoon sees us with our first Golden Goal competition which, unlike last season, is a match competition only being simple in operation and understanding. Tickets are 5p each with the top prize of £20 paid to the person having the ticket bearing the correct time of the first goal scored. £2 goes to those having times of other goals and there are consolation prizes. Again unlike in the past the prizes are not shared so if, on listening to the goal time announcements, you have a winning time you know just what you have won.

Talking of the Club Shop, we have received the stock of club and first team pool photographs, black and white or colour, plus one of our Manager in colour in the Blue and White of the Baggies. Nice one John.

Despite not having a letter page in *Albion News* it doesn't mean that your letters aren't welcome so do please write with your news and views. The time to worry is when no one writes or talks about The Albion and judging by the start we have had that time is a long way off.

Keep it up, and remember, if you cannot get away to see the first team play then come to the Hawthorns, or Spring Road, to see the other teams in action and keep up to date with the situation away as it happens.

Our pre-match entertainment today was provided by FUSION. The group are mainly local lads and can proudly boast of being the first group ever to be signed up by Warner Brothers the film people. Other forms of pre-match entertainment will be forthcoming on which I will keep you posted.

GORDON DIMBLEBY

# OUR OPPONENTS

Luton Town, our visitors from Bedfordshire, suffered relegation at the end of last season just like our opponents last Wednesday did, yet following that, the 'Hatters' have been quoted by bookmakers as one of the favourites to finish 1975-76 in the top three of the Second Division, and thus make a rapid return to the premier section.

Their manager, Harry Haslam, sincerely believes this will actually happen. He said in the close season: "We, at Luton, have the same squad of players who did us proud on so many occasions last winter—and I feel sure that the experience gained will see us climb back into Division One." In a way he is right. But looking back, just how many teams have made a quick, one season, return from the Second to the First Division? Not all that many. Manchester United and Norwich did it last season, but prior to them, the last side to pull off a quick return were Chelsea in 1962-63, and it was Aston Villa before them, in 1959-60.

**KEITH BARBER.** Signed professional forms

in April 1971 when Tony Read was injured. The club had to seek special permission from the Football League as the transfer deadline had passed. He played against Sheffield Wednesday three days later and, he played well enough to earn two more games before the end of the season. **JOHN RYAN.** Johns first taste of league football came with Fulham who were in the first division when he made his bow in 1967-68. He enjoyed a long run of 24 appearances that season and he held his place thereafter.

**STEVE BUCKLEY.** One of the youngest members of the side now in his second campaign as a first teamer. He was given a trial at Leicester in October 1974 and he performed with a coolness which impressed Harry Haslam. A few weeks later Mr Haslam decided to give Steve a further run.

**PETER ANDERSON.** Had looked little further ahead than soccer with Hendon in the Isthmian League until Luton spotted him. Then things moved swiftly. He signed in February 1971 and Luton promoted him immediately into the Second Division side.



LUTON TOWN F.C. 1975-1976

Back Row—Alan West, Jim Ryan, John Aston, Peter Anderson, Brian Chambers. First Row—Gordon Hindson, Ron Fletcher, John Faulkner, Keith Barber, Graham Horn, Steve Buckley, Paul Price, Reg Game (Physiotherapist). Second Row—Bobby Thomson, Paul Fletcher, Roy McCrohan (Chief Coach), Harry Haslam (Manager), Steve Litt, Adrian Alston. Seated—Peter Spiring, Pasquale Fuccillo, Andy King, Matt Pollock, John Seaman, Jimmy Husband.

**ANDY KING.** Luton born player, signed apprentice-professional forms for the Club in October 1972, attaining full professional status in July 1974. He made his League debut during the final game of the 1974-75 season, when he came on as substitute against Manchester City.

**ADRIAN ALSTON.** Won world fame as a star of the Australian attack in 1974 World Cup. After that he could have joined any number of clubs but he decided to accept Luton's offer as he was anxious to return to England, and because he had played against the Hatters in 1970 when Australia were on a world tour. Signed for Luton immediately after the World Cup.

**RON FUTCHER.** Was supposed to have been the make-weight in a deal which took him and identical twin Paul to Luton in 1974. In fact he made every bit as big an impression as his brother. How many 17 year olds have hit four goals in their first two full First Division games? That was Ron's achievement last season. Initially eased in as substitute at Sheffield United in November.

**ALAN WEST.** Took over as skipper midway through last season and it was under his guidance that the team made such a remarkable recovery and were so very unfortunate to suffer relegation. Alan won England Under-23 honours in his Burnley days, but, after losing his place in the team which won the Turf Moor Club promotion in 1972-73 he felt he would like to make a fresh start elsewhere. He signed for Sunderland but, amazingly they turned him down following a medical. Luton had no such reservations and signed him for £80,000.

**JOHN ASTON.** Followed in his fathers footsteps by becoming a big star with Manchester United. His father had been a United and England left-back during the immediate post war period. Young John followed him into the reds side in 1964-65. For several seasons John and Best performed on opposite flanks for United. John's finest game probably being the 1968 European Cup Final when he teased and tantalised the Benfica defence into complete submission. Moved to Luton for £30,000 in 1972. Earlier in his career John played four times for the England Under-23's.

**PETER SPIRING.** Few players have been more unfortunate with injuries in recent seasons than Peter. He joined Luton from Liverpool for £70,000 last season. In only his fifth match for the Hatters he broke a toe which kept him out for much of the remainder of the campaign though he did have a couple of runs as substitute.

**PAUL FUTCHER.** Only sixteen when he made his League debut for Chester against Cambridge in March 1973 but so quickly did he establish himself in a mens world of professional football that he was transferred to Luton for £100,000.

## A BRIEF HISTORY . . .

It was on April 11th 1885, that a meeting in Luton Town Hall discussed the formation of a local football club. The enthusiasts, from two minor

soccer organisations, Luton Wanderers and Luton Excelsior, who attended, did not need much persuading, and it was duly decided that 'a Luton Town Football Club' should be established.

At this point, there is an amusing sidelight on the customs of those pioneer days, for the meeting agreed, unanimously, that the club's colours should be navy blue and pink halved shirts and cap, and that the cap should be worn by every member when he was playing . . . and in those days Luton's home was the Excelsior Ground in Dallow Lane which had scaffolding for goalposts!

Actually Luton Town is the oldest football club in the South of England, because in 1891 amateur status was dropped and certain players were paid 5/- (25p) a week, whilst others were allowed 2/6 (12½p) for home games, 6d (2½p) extra for away matches and reasonable time lost prior to 12 noon!

In 1893, Alderman Harry Arnold became tied up with the club, eventually holding the Chairmanship for nearly 40 years. Then, in 1893-94, Luton gained new fame by beating the famous Old Westminsters, and entrance to the Southern League was soon forthcoming. They did well and by 1897, when they moved to the Dunstable Road Ground, Luton found their way into the Football League Division Two, replacing Bolton Wanderers.

The officials, however, soon found that life in the League was not all roses, and after a few disastrous seasons Luton returned to the Southern League (1900-01). Here they remained until the formation of the Third Division in 1920-21, and then, playing in white shirts and black shorts, and with Kenilworth Road their new home, the club got elected once more into the League, occupying a place in the Southern sector.

The Hatters' played in this division right up until 1936-37 when they became champions, with ace marksman, Joe Payne, rattling in a record 55 of their 103 goals scored for. Eleven seasons of Second Division football were then seen at Luton until 1954-55, when, backed by some excellent crowds, Town at last won a place in the First Division, chasing Birmingham City home in second place after a nerve-racking, ding-dong battle with five keen rivals, including Leeds United. Four years later Luton shocked even their own loyalists by vanquishing Leeds, Leicester, Ipswich, Blackpool and Norwich to reach the 1959 F.A. Cup Final, only to lose 2-1 to 'ten-men' Nottingham Forest.

For Luton that Wembley defeat started a tragic year; and in 1960 they went back into Division Two, with Leeds. Three more seasons on and Luton dropped dramatically into Division Three. They stayed there for two winters then grimly tackled the long jaunt back from the lower reaches of Division Four.

Escape was finally achieved from the doldrums in April, 1968; they climbed back into Division Two in 1969-70, spent last season in Division One and are now back in the same spot where the club began its footballing career some 90 years ago. A great game this Association Football!

# PRESS VIEWS

**Albion's new player/manager Johnny Giles was a disappointed man last Saturday. Throughout the pre-season games, he had worked his way to complete match fitness—and then in the dying minutes of the match at Leicester, the last of the five, he suffered a hamstring injury. Despite constant treatment from George Wright, Giles was forced to sit out of the curtain raiser at Southampton and he could only watch as Albion went down 3-0 for the second successive time against the 'Saints'.**

Once again, the man who did the damage was England international Mike Channon, the man who rocked the foundations of the compact Dell ground when asking for a transfer in the close season. He scored two goals after Albion had been put back on their heels as early as the seventh minute when Nick Holmes gave the home side the lead.

Albion could not recover and their hopes of a successful start were dashed but at least there is still plenty of time for them to get their game together. Mr Giles admitted to reporters after the game he was disappointed and told Frankie Taylor of the *Sunday People*: "It would have been nice to get things right straight away but we will just have to work it out match by match." Taylor said in his report "... Cantello worked hard in the middle and Johnston tried to fit in his own brand of individual brilliance," a reason why he made the flying Scot, Albion's best player. John Pyke in the *Sunday Express* also quoted Mr Giles as saying: "It will take a little time to get things straightened out but we will."

He also picked out Johnston for special mention, who he said: "... tried hard and twice in the first-half went close to scoring, shooting just over the bar and then having a fierce shot on the run saved by Steve Middleton in the Southampton goal."

Southampton are becoming something of a 'bogey' for Albion. They beat them last season at the Dell and then, just when Albion had a clear sight of the promotion places, they came to The Hawthorns and collected a 3-0 success. In my pre-season report in the *Sporting Star* I picked out the 'Saints' as one of the dark horses for a promotion place providing they can keep Channon, and another side I fancy to do well are today's visitors Luton Town.

Relegated after only one season with the soccer elite, Luton were engaged in an

almighty struggle for survival at the back end of last season but just failed. Now they are back in Division Two but they have tasted if only briefly the sweet life, and are anxious for another chance. Manager Harry Haslam, one of the well liked men in the game today, watched his side start with a 2-0 home success over John Kaye's Hull City side. Luton have happy memories of their last visit to The Hawthorns. That was the season before last when they played their last match with promotion already assured. I reckon these two clubs could be going the same way at the end of this campaign.

The quest for the striker finally came to fruition with the signing of Geoff Hurst from Stoke City.

Geoff is a player of vast experience having served England well in World Cup and International matches.

No doubt Mr Giles will be looking to draw on this experience, whilst Geoff will be hoping to turn those chances into goals.



**At the start of the new Football League campaign the thoughts of most soccer fans are occupied with news of the first-team stars and their prospects as they begin their search for League and Cup honours.**

Youth development officer Roy Horobin and chief scout Reg Ryan play a major part in helping the young players find their feet but on the playing side the major guiding influence is Albert McPherson.

Albert's experience in the game could not be a more valuable platform for the teenagers to launch their career. To him falls the vital task of introducing these raw recruits to the problems and pitfalls of professional football.

Says Albert: "One of the first things we have to try and do is to give them a more professional outlook. Most of them come straight from school where they have enjoyed all the freedom they want and can run with the ball and think little about teamwork."

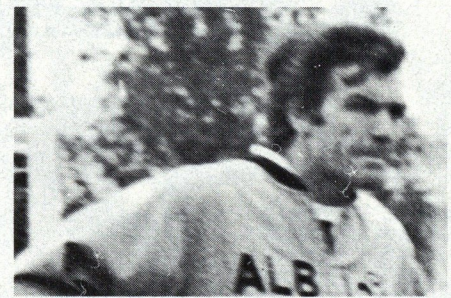
This season Albert has five new apprentices under his wing—several of them local youngsters who made a big impression when they turned out as trialists in the A-team last season.

One of these is Derek Statham, a left-back who was a regular performer in this position in the second-half of last season. A Wolverhampton youngster, he looks a very composed and cultured player with a nice left foot and a keen competitive edge to his tackling and overall play.

Another from Wolverhampton is John Loveridge, a little midfield player with a big heart and a mature brain for such a youngster. He can run and chase all day and has the skill also to match his enthusiasm and appetite for hard work.

The third of the Black Country acquisitions is Kevin Summerfield, a striker who is a natural goalscorer and found the net several times for the third-team last season. Although tall, Kevin is still a little on the frail side but when he fills out physically he will have all the attributes it takes to make a good front man.

Michael Page from Stockport kicks off the season in his new surroundings hoping to make his mark as a back-four player. A speedy player, he has shown some neat



skills and can also play in midfield.

Finally an addition to the 'Geordie' contingent at The Hawthorns is Derek Hood, a powerfully built young man who can play either in the back-four or in the front-three.

As well as for the first year apprentices, the new season is a vital one for those youngsters in their second term. Having tasted their first spell of professional football they must now begin to show the improvement which will mark them out as possible first-team material in the years to come.

Among this group are several who made a big impression last term. The first is centre-half Brian Clarke who has taken a huge step towards the big time by signing as a full-time professional. He will no doubt be looking to show his potential in the Central League in the year ahead.

Steve Lynex will also be aiming to claim a regular reserve-team spot. This fast raiding West Bromwich lad looked to be quite a prospect last season with his speed and eye for an opening.

Young Welshman Wayne Hughes played consistently well both in midfield and the back-four last term and big things are expected of him this time round. I have a feeling a lot will be heard about this powerfully built teenager who is at his best moving forward where his strong running and strong shot are put to good effect.

Tony Cooper is a rather quiet and undemonstrative lad—but one who silently goes about his job in a thoroughly professional manner. A full-back, he is very swift in the tackle and on recovery. Showed a big improvement in his play when overlapping as last season progressed.

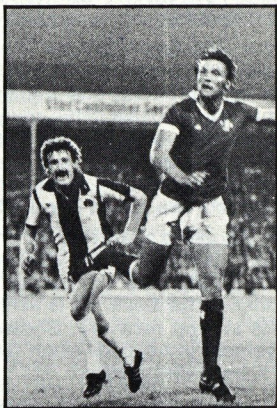
Completing the list of apprentices are Martyn Davies, Mark Trenter and Colin Gregson. Martyn is a steady reliable sort of player who is at home in either the back-four or in midfield. I feel Martyn needs to add a little more aggression and bite to his game before the best is seen from him.

Mark is a big strong striker who is very good in the air and scored some pretty useful goals last season. He is very willing to learn and should improve even further this term.

Finally Colin is a tiny midfield player who can distribute the ball expertly and has very fine vision.

To all the Albion apprentices, may we convey our good wishes and hopes for a very successful start and continuation to their careers.

# PRESS VIEWS



Chelsea action..  
and welcome to Geoff.

Money is'  
WEST BRO



# JUNIOR JOTTINGS

Hello juniors.

To get our new series of short, informative stories about post-war Albion stars under way, we've decided to open with that of a centre-forward who scored in each of his first six Football League games for Albion, and who became one of the first men to notch 100 League goals after the 1939-45 hostilities.

**His name: Dave Walsh a native of Waterford in Eire, who cost Albion just £3,000 when signed from Linfield in May, 1946.**

Dave started his rise to soccer stardom as an outside-right, playing in turn, for the Corinthians of the Waterford League, St. Joseph's Y.C., Glen Rovers, Shelbourne Juniors, Limerick and Shelbourne of Dublin, before joining Linfield for the commencement of the 1943-44 season—a season which turned sour for Dave when he fractured his collar-bone—twice!

He duly recovered, thankfully, and after a couple of 'settling in' seasons, he really got down to bulging the net, hitting 68 goals for Linfield in 1945-46, helping the Belfast club to win the Irish League and Cup double. And he was then only 22! During that same transitional season, following World War II, Dave won the first of 31 international caps, lining up for Ireland against Scotland in Belfast. In fact, Dave is one of only a handful of Irishmen to have worn the Emerald Green strip of both the Eirean and Northern Ireland national teams, making eleven appearances for N.I. and 20 for the Republic.

In his esteemed international career Dave scored 12 goals, and in two outings for the Irish League he netted another three.

Rated as the best 'number nine' in the four home countries in the late 40s, Dave's record with Albion was no less impressive, for he headed the club's scoring list from 1946 to 1950, amassing 88 League and six F.A. Cup goals in the process. In four and a half years with Albion, Dave registered exactly 100 goals, 94 in the League, and made a grand total of 174 senior appearances, all but one as leader of the attack.

He left The Hawthorns and moved the short distance to Villa Park in December 1950 for a £23,750 fee, and with the Villa he did almost as well as he had done with Albion, scoring 37 goals in 108 League games.

In July 1955 he was transferred to Walsall, and he wound down from competitive football with Worcester City in 1957, although he did participate in a few friendly and testimonial matches right up until 1973.

In his 20 year career Dave played in 293 Football League matches (137 goals) and in 18 F.A. Cup ties (12 goals).

Today he runs two very profitable, well established Sports/sweet shops in nearby Droitwich—and he still loves to chat happily about his footballing days.



## HIGH SPOTS in Dave's life:

\*Scored all eight goals for Shelbourne Juniors (of Waterford) in an 8-0 triumph over Woodstown in 1941-42 season;

\*Hit two goals on his debut for Limerick in 1942-43.

\*Scored both Ireland's goals v Scotland at Windsor Park Belfast on his international debut in February 1946.

\*In his first season with Albion—1946-47—he claimed 29 League and cup goals, including a goal in each of his first six League matches.

\*In 1948-49 he scored four goals in Albion's 7-1 home League win over Bradford, and in a home 5th Round F.A. Cup-tie v Chelsea he scored a hat-trick in Albion's 3-0 victory.

\*Recorded his 100th League goal after the war while playing for Aston Villa v Portsmouth at Villa Park in April 1951.

## Competition Corner:-

The first JTC competition of the season gives you a chance to win two seat tickets for Albion's next home game (v York City). All you have to do is name the last Albion player to score against Leeds United . . . . . Send your answers on postcards only to JTC Comp No. 1 WBA F. C. The Hawthorns, West Bromwich. And please include your JTC membership number.

ANSWER TO LAST SEASON'S "SUMMER POSER" WAS JIM PEMBERTON.

Bye for now, Junior

# CLUBS CALENDAR

## Golden Throstle

We had a Jean Forsythe in the Golden Throstle Club recently celebrating her birthday, if she reads this she will be delighted to know that I have been handed a cigarette case belonging to her.

### Entertainment

Tonight, Saturday, 23rd August—The fabulous Maxine Barry (TV and Recording Star), Peter Tennent (Comedian), Jason Wood (Vocalist). Plus the G.T. Set.

Saturday, 30th August—Pete Conway (Comedian), Ron Tinsley (Vocalist). Plus the G.T. Set.

Saturday, 6th September—Star Show . . . with the Linda Collins Duo (Vocalists), Colyn Denis (Comedian), Mervyn and Denise (Vocal Duo).

## Hawthorns

During the close season quite a number of our members celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Congratulations therefore are to hand, so even if somewhat belated our sincere wishes

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Single: 50p — Man and Wife: 75p — Senior Citizen: 25p  
(Includes affiliation to all Throstle Clubs)

## THROSTLE CLUB ORGANISATION APPLICATION FORM

Mr ..... Mrs .....

Address .....

I am over 18 years of age Signature .....

Proposer ..... Secondar .....  
(Member) (Member)

go to the following . . . Birthdays: Mrs Nell Leeson, 2nd June. Mrs Molly Tildesley, 11th June. Mr Arthur Tildesley, 14th June. Mrs Olive Eley, 18th June. Mr Reg Eley, 18th July. Mrs Gert Edwards, 20th June. Wedding Anniversaries: Neta and Fred Stanford, 10th June. Molly and Arthur Tildesley, 17th June. Vi and Alf Meredith, 20th June.

Once again we welcome old and new members to the Hawthorns Club and respectively remind them to renew their membership cards (evenings).

Concerts are still held here on Sunday evenings, a free and easy (no charge) on Saturday nights (dancing and singing).

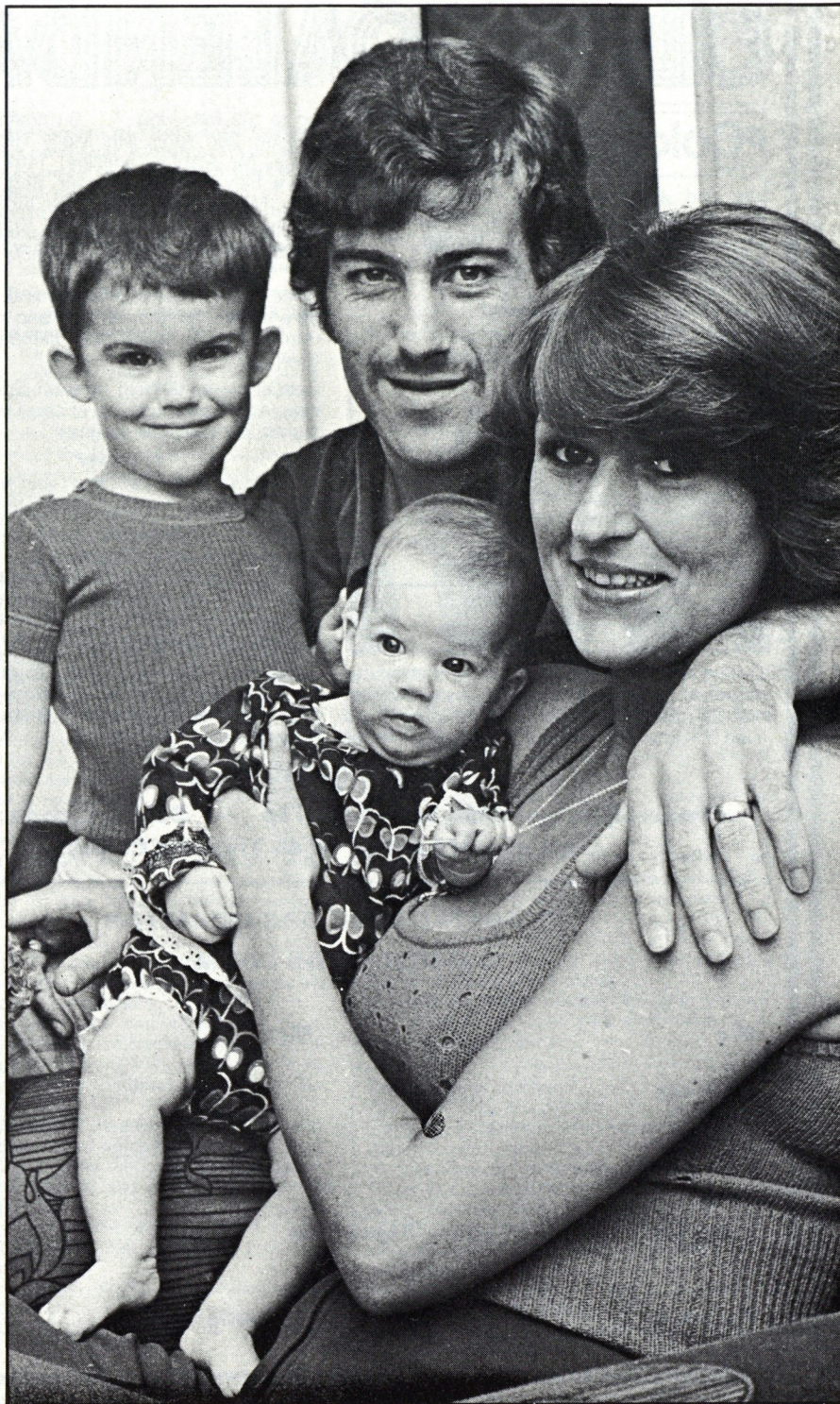
### Travel

Travelling to York? Then see Mr Harold Whitehouse at the club most evenings.

### Entertainment

Tonight, Saturday, 23rd August—'The Astor Show' . . . the one and only Astor (Comedian) no relation to Lord and Lady. With Bobby Gilmour and Terry (Vocal Instrumental Duo) and Debbie Star (Vocalist).

Tomorrow, Sunday, 24th August—Alister Jons (Guitarist) and Nancy Ross (Vocalist). Plus musicians Larry and Brian, compere Roger Baker.



The spotlight this week falls on Alan Merrick, one of the local-born players currently on the staff. Alan hails from Water Orton and joined Albion as an apprentice-professional, making his debut in 1968, against Peterborough United in the League Cup.

In all Alan has played 175 senior games for Albion, scoring five goals, and can be classed as an all-rounder having played in defensive, midfield and attacking positions.

Alan lists as his highlight of the past, the winning of his England Youth caps and secondary to that the time when he played in one position for six consecutive games.

Futuristically, his main ambition is to be able to complete a season playing in a set position.

Alan, wife Lindsay and children Adam, three, and baby Jemma, live in Kingswinford.

Away from football Alan's main hobbies are of the sporty variety, being squash, cricket, golf . . . with gardening a poor fourth!

With Lindsay being very able in the culinary arts, spicy dishes suit his palate, especially steak tartare.

A pet hate of Alan's is playing reserve-team football principally because of the lack of atmosphere and inspiration, although he readily accepts that there is a need for second and indeed third-teams to ensure progress. Alan himself is a first-class example of the footballer who has made his mark from a young raw apprentice to the top flight of first-team, First Division football.

No doubt Alan's admiration for Pelé is shared by many of us, but not perhaps his personal choice of the person whom he would most like to meet: President Idi Amin.

Television is an accepted part of the Merrick's leisure time, young family permitting. Alan's preference is for no particular programme, but documentaries do come high on his list, and also on the lighter side, cartoons.

On the 'Pop' scene the Beatles come out tops, closely followed by Bread and The Drifters.

'Buy British' is the Merrick motto, at least as far as cars are concerned, so Alan can be seen around in his *Ford Cortina*.

Daughter Jemma was so successful in making her appearance last May that Alan and Lindsay were quite unable to take a holiday. However, the time spent in looking after Lindsay, Jemma and Adam during the convalescence period was time well spent.

The photograph taken in the Merrick home will illustrate the affection Alan has for his wife and family.

Maybe the only item missing is a football, for, next to his family, that too symbolises another love of Alan's. We hope he continues to enjoy the game for years to come.



# Alan & Merrick

# FACTS AND FIGURES

Date	Opponents	V	F	A	Gate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Substitute
1975	Southampton	A	0	3	15,246	Osborne	Nisbet	Wilson	Cantello	Wile	Robertson	Merrick	Brown A	Mayo*	Trewick	Johnston	Brown T
Aug 16	Chelsea	H	0	0	18,014	Osborne	Nisbet	Wilson	Cantello	Wile	Robertson	Trewick	Brown T	Hurst	Giles	Johnston	Brown A
20	Luton Town	A															
23	Fulham	A															
Sept 6	York City	H															
10	League Cup-2	A															
13	Blackburn Rovers	A															
20	Charlton Athletic	A															
24	Oxford United	A															
27	Carlisle United	A															
Oct 4	Oldham Athletic	H															
8	League Cup-3	A															
11	Blackburn Rovers	A															
14	Plymouth Argyle	H															
18	Bristol City	A															
25	Notts County	H															
Nov 1	Bristol Rovers	A															
4	Blackpool	A															
12	League Cup-4	A															
15	Hull City	H															
22	Plymouth Argyle	A															
29	Bolton Wanderers	A															
Dec 3	League Cup-5	H															
6	Portsmouth	A															
13	Southampton	H															
19	Nottingham Forest	A															
26	Nottingham Forest	H															
27	Orient	H															
1976	F.A. Cup-3	H															
Jan 3	Sunderland	A															
10	League Cup-S.F.	A															
14	York City	A															
17	League Cup-S.F.	A															
21	F.A. Cup-4	A															
24	Chelsea	A															
31	Chelsea	A															
Feb 7	Bristol Rovers	H															
14	Blackpool	H															
21	Hull City	H															
28	Oxford United	H															
Mar 6	Bristol City	H															
13	Notts County	A															
20	Blackburn Rovers	H															
27	Bolton Wanderers	A															
Apr 3	Portsmouth	A															
9	Carlisle United	H															
14	Charlton Athletic	H															
17	Fulham	H															
20	Orient	A															
24	Oldham Athletic	A															
May 1	F.A. Cup-Final	W															

\*Player substituted  
†Own goal  
‡After extra time

## Football League, Division Two, Saturday, 16th August: SOUTHAMPTON 3, ALBION 0

**Team:** Osborne, Nisbet, Wilson; Cantello, Wile, Robertson; Merrick, Brown (A), Mayo, Trewick, Johnston. Substitute: Brown (T) for Mayo.

## Central League, Saturday, 16th August: ALBION 4, BURNLEY 0

**Scorers:** Edwards (2), Shaw, Gregson

**Team:** Ward; Cooper, Thompson; Glover, Clarke, Rushbury; Lynex, Gregson, Edwards, Robson, Shaw. Substitute: Hughes (W).

## Central League, Tuesday, 19th August: BOLTON WANDERERS 1, ALBION 2

**Scorers:** Glover, Robson

**Team:** Ward; Cooper, Thompson; Glover, Clarke, Rushbury; Lynex, Gregson, Edwards, Robson, Shaw. Substitute: Hughes (W).

## Football League, Division Two, Wednesday 20th August: ALBION 0, CHELSEA 0

**Team:** Osborne; Nisbet, Wilson; Cantello, Wile, Robertson; Trewick, Brown (T), Hurst, Giles, Johnston. Substitute: Brown (A).



# ADVANCE TICKET BOOKINGS

Team	Seating costs	when bookable	Facilities
BLACKBURN ROVERS	£1.20 £1 unreserved	14 days prior	Car park 300 yds from ground
BLACKPOOL	£1.10 £1.90	1 month prior	Car park adjacent
BOLTON WANDERERS	£1.20 £1.10	14 days prior	Rosehill car park adjacent
BRISTOL CITY	£1.50	14 days prior	Very limited parking adjacent
BRISTOL ROVERS	£1.50 £1.40	14 days prior	Car park off M32 exit 2
CARLISLE UNITED	£1.25	10 days prior	Car park adjacent
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	£1.20	14 days prior	No car park
CHELSEA	£2.50 £2 £1.75 £1.50 £1.20 £1	28 days prior	No car park
FULHAM	£2.50 £2 £1.50 £1	At any time	Street parking
HULL CITY	£1.30 £1 85p	At any time	Car park adjacent
LUTON TOWN	£2 £1.50	21 days prior	Car park adjacent (30p)
NOTTS COUNTY	£1.25 £1 90p	14 days prior	Car park Iron-monger Rd (25p)
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	£1.50 £1	14 days prior	Car park rear of East Stand
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	£1.40 £1.10	14 days prior	Car park adjacent (25p)
ORIENT	£1.50 £1.20	At any time	National Car park in Oliver Road
OXFORD UNITED	£1.70	14 days prior	Some street parking nearby
PORTSMOUTH	£1.50	10 days prior	Street parking
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	£1.50	21 days prior	Car park adjacent
SOUTHAMPTON	£1.50 £1.75	14 days prior	Street parking
SUNDERLAND	£1.30	14 days prior	Car park adjacent
YORK CITY	£1.30	14 days prior	Some street parking nearby

Please note all applications for tickets should have the correct remittance and a stamped addressed envelope enclosed therein.



# TODAY'S TEAMS

## ALBION

Navy Blue and White Striped Shirts  
White Shorts

- 1 JOHN OSBORNE
- 2 GORDON NISBET
- 3 RAY WILSON
- 4 ALAN MERRICK
- 5 JOHN WILE
- 6 ALISTAIR ROBERTSON
- 7 JOHN TREWICK
- 8 TONY BROWN
- 9 GEOFF HURST
- 10 JOHN GILES
- 11 WILLIE JOHNSTON
- 12

## LUTON TOWN

Colours: Shirts—Orange with a  
White & Navy Stripe. Shorts—Navy  
Stockings—Orange.

- 1 KEITH BARBER
- 2 JOHN RYAN
- 3 STEVE BUCKLEY
- 4 PETER ANDERSON
- 5 JOHN FAULKNER
- 6 STEVE LITT
- 7 ANDY KING
- 8 ADRIAN ALSTON
- 9 RON FUTCHER
- 10 ALAN WEST
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12

## OFFICIALS

### Referee:

**Mr H. P. Hackney,**

Barnsley

### Linesmen:

**Mr G. T. Cartman,**

Stoke-on-Trent—*Red Flag*

**Mr S. G. Phelps,**

Gloucester—*Orange Flag*

An experienced League referee who progressed through local leagues and the Yorkshire League on to the League line. An administrative officer for the National Coal Board, he is married with two daughters and interested in gardening.

# SCORE BOX

<b>A</b>	BLACKBURN R OLDHAM A .....
<b>B</b>	BLACKPOOL ORIENT .....
<b>C</b>	BOLTON WAND FULHAM .....
<b>D</b>	BRISTOL ROVERS YORK CITY .....
<b>E</b>	CHELSEA CARLISLE UNITED....
<b>F</b>	HULL CITY BRISTOL CITY.....
<b>G</b>	NOTTS COUNTY SOUTHAMPTON .....
<b>H</b>	OXFORD UNITED SUNDERLAND .....
<b>J</b>	PLYMOUTH A CHARLTON A .....
<b>K</b>	PORTSMOUTH NOTTINGHAM F.....
<b>L</b>	ARSENAL STOKE CITY.....
<b>M</b>	BIRMINGHAM CITY EVERTON .....
<b>N</b>	COVENTRY CITY MAN CITY .....
<b>O</b>	DERBY COUNTY QUEENS PARK R.....
<b>P</b>	MIDDLESBROUGH WOLVES .....
<b>Q</b>	NEWCASTLE U LEICESTER CITY.....
<b>R</b>	NORWICH CITY ASTON VILLA.....
<b>S</b>	WALSALL SWINDON .....

Today's match ball  
sponsor is:

**MIDLAND TYRE SALES**

187a Mill Street  
Brierley Hill

To whom we are indebted  
for their generosity.