



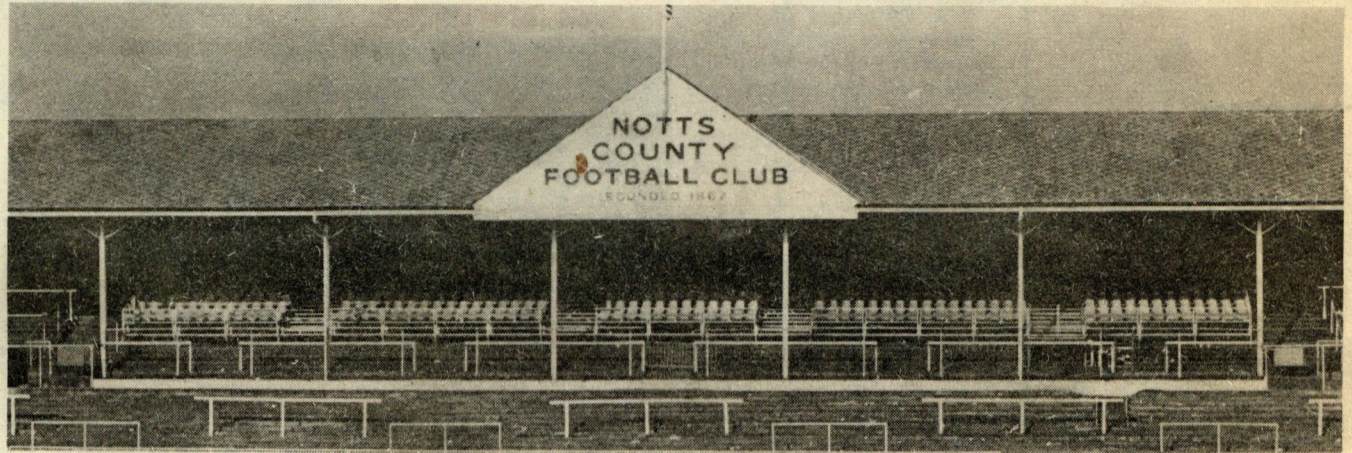
# MAGPIE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4  
SATURDAY SEPT. 20

V LUTON TOWN  
LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

1975/76 SEASON

BUY ONE — GET ONE FREE! (See page 4)



## LET'S FACE FACTS

Most of you who read this paper are enthusiastic supporters of Notts County. But you cannot be more enthusiastic than your Board members, namely Bill Hopcroft and Lou Levin who have supported the Club since they were small boys and Ralph Sweet who lives near Southampton yet hardly misses a match, home or away. Perhaps I can add that I hardly miss a match either, home or away. In addition all four of us, together with John Maitland, who is unfortunately away on business at the moment, have put very considerable sums of money into the Club.

Our purpose is simple: We love football and we intend that Notts County shall reach the First Division one day. When we achieve this must, however, depend to a great extent on our support and our supporters. At the moment, just to make ends meet, we require an average gate of 14,000. Against this our average for our two home League matches was only 8,240 and our support in our match against Sunderland in the League Cup at just over 10,000 was disgraceful. It is not merely a matter of finding money to sign players, as so many suggest, but indeed to survive which is the problem.

Mr. Harry Richards in the Football Post of September 6th said: "Money has been tight for so long there that it has now got beyond a joke. But to Manager Sirrel it has never been a laughing matter. He has nursed Notts with great care from the Fourth Division, into the Third and has established them as a Second Division unit of more than average ability."

What strikes me most forcibly is what could he have achieved if money had been available to him? Perhaps he would not have been so successful. That is one of those imponderables to which we will never know the answer. But chance would have been a fine thing for him and because he has not had it, he and those who believe in him, will never know the heights he could have scaled."

His article is on the whole well balanced and fair, but he did not appear to have the facts, and I accordingly wrote him as follows:

"Dear Mr. Richards,  
I read your article in last Saturday's Football

Post, as always, with considerable interest. In particular my Board and myself are grateful for the very balanced way in which you have put the Directors' point of view.

We affirm once again that our object is the First Division, and that we are prepared to spend to achieve this, but only if there is some prospect of adequate support.



The Board have already shown their good faith. I should perhaps emphasise, despite your comment that no money was available to Jimmy Sirrel, that since he became Manager in November, 1969, he has spent on transfers the sum of £189,400 and save for the Masson transfer last December, we have recouped only £52,000, i.e. a net expenditure of £137,000. It was only because of poor support last year that we had to transfer Don Masson, having given the fullest evidence that we were prepared to back a first class manager.

The future depends now entirely on our supporters."

This letter was published in full in the Football Post of September 13th.

It may surprise some of you that we did, in fact, spend £189,400 on transfers as well as meeting the annual losses which we have incurred. In the Football Post of 6th September Mr. Richards said that he could not follow the mathematics. I have sent him a further letter of explanation but to summarise the position, the Board had at one point spent a net sum of £160,000 on transfer fees a considerable sum for a Club in the Fourth, Third and Second Divisions. This was because we believed that we should show our faith in the Club and we hoped that as a result, promotion would follow and the Gates would return. They did not do so and after many warnings and when our position became desperate, we had with reluctance to transfer Don Masson last December.

Even with this sale our loss carried forward from last season was £167,680.78. But I should also make it clear that the Club still has most of the Masson transfer proceeds which are being used to cover our running losses. The Money was not repaid to the Directors who made it available in the first place. If our gates rise enough to cover our running expenses for the reasonable future this money would be available to strengthen the Team. This explains part of Mr. Richard's confusion.

It would be wrong of me to conceal the critical position in which we find ourselves, and I must appeal to every earnest supporter to persuade at least one other potential supporter to come and watch us. We have not had such a good start to a season for many years, and it behoves us all to support the Manager, the Trainer and the fine Team that they have put together.

Surely a team in top place with 10 points out of 12 and through to the third Round of the Football League Cup is worth supporting?

Jack Dunnett  
Chairman

READ DENNIS  
MARSHALL PAGE 3

### INSIDE MAGPIE

Win match  
tickets in FREE  
competition

# The Magpie

Official Newspaper of Notts County Football Club

Notts County Football Club, Meadow Lane, Nottingham.

(Established 1862)  
Telephones: Information Desk 864152, General Office 868494, Commercial Manager 868177, Pools Office 864718.

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**DIRECTORS**  
Chairman, Jack Dunnett Esq., MP. Vice-chairman, W. A. Hopcroft Esq., Messrs. L. S. Levin JP, R. Sweet, J. W. Maitland.

\*

**OFFICIALS**  
Manager, Jimmy Sirrel; Secretary, Dennis Marshall; Accountant, Chick Heath; Commercial Manager, Stuart Burgan; Trainer, Jack Wheeler; Coach, Ronnie Fenton; Pools Manager, Graham Bradbury; Groundsman, Peter Thompson; 2nd Team Trainer, Fred Curry; Hon. Orthopaedic Surgeon, J. P. Jackson Esq., FRCS; Hon. Medical Officer, Dr. Andrew J. Clarke, MC, MB, ChB.

\*

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday to Friday, 9.0 a.m.-5.30 p.m.; Saturday Match Days, 9.0 a.m.-6.0 p.m.; Saturday Non-Match Days, 9.0 a.m.-12 noon; Mid-week Match Days (1st Team only), 9.0 a.m.-9.45 p.m.

\*

**HONOURS**  
FA Cup winners 1894. League Champions: Division Two, 1896-7, 1913-14, 1922-23; Division Three, 1930-31, 1949-50. Runners Up, 1972-73. Division Four, 1970-71; Runners Up, 1959-60.

\*

**MAGPIE PEOPLE**  
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\*

Anybody purchasing this newspaper automatically becomes a member of "County 75".

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sometimes when you read over and over in the local or national press about something bad — you can tend to get a little blasé about it. To the extent that sometimes you feel that if you ignore it for a while it will go away. I am sure this is true of some people regarding the state of affairs — financially — at Meadow Lane.

I trust that the Chairman's statements of fact, highlighted on the front page of today's Magpie, will once and for all bring home to everybody just how critical our position is.

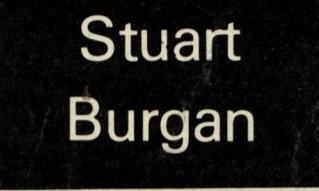
The Directors of Notts County have poured literally thousands of pounds into the coffers in order to keep our Club alive, with, I hasten to add very little chance at this stage of ever seeing a return on their cash.

Alright, so this is their prerogative but, consider the consequences if they didn't...

The Chairman and Board are quite rightly disappointed at the response of the Nottingham public — in terms of crowd support — and quite rightly so. I am sure that every Magpie reader feels as they do especially at this time with a team proving itself capable of premier status.

I believe that the average supporter — the reader of Magpie — would help the Club in any way that he or she is able and I hope that you will be able to support some of the many ways of doing this that I mention below.

It has often been said that in the City the bulk of football support was for the Magpies and that they would go to watch a successful team. I am afraid that this is no longer true, after so many



Stuart Burgan

years in the lower divisions and our neighbours spending ten years in Division One, our old faithfuls are now either passed on or are of an age when watching football is no longer practical.

Believe me I hate to make this comment but do feel that it is the truth. Although I do not like to generalise, Meadow Lane lacks a certain age element — middle to late teens — because when these people first became involved in watching football, most of them opted to see First Division games at the City Ground.

Now when things go wrong, a certain type of supporter stops going to see his favourite team, but seldom if ever does he change his allegiance. I believe that this explains two things; firstly when it seems, because of



the appointment of a new manager, that our friends over the bridge may be 'on the up' 5,000 or so extra people suddenly appear on their terracing. These are not new fans just the old ones re-appearing.

Secondly, when we are obviously continuing our remarkable run of successes over the past few years it seems odd that our crowd doesn't increase by a few thousand, but as explained earlier I believe that our true supporters DO come to Meadow Lane regularly and we do not have this fickle element of supporters to re-appear.

Now that we are becoming established as the top team in the City we are getting our fair share of 'new' supporters, thus gradually building for our future.

But what about now? A future is not possible without a present, so how can you help the club over its present difficult situation?

Well, every time that you pay to see a game at Meadow Lane it helps, every time you buy Magpie, a souvenir, a ticket for away match travel or pay for membership of the supporters club it helps. Anything that you purchase at Meadow Lane, in some way helps the Club. Do you always purchase a Golden Goal ticket, do you buy County 75 Bingo tickets or do you subscribe to the County Treble? Please try, it all helps.

If you are in business and would like to help Notts County, (and yourself, sometimes at no cost) please ring me at the ground any-time. I will be only too pleased to have a chat, hopefully to our mutual benefit.

Season ticket holders can make a very valuable contribution by helping us promote sales of the seating in the County Road stand — full details are to be found on page 00. If you are able to introduce two people to Meadow Lane because of this special offer, we could gain a regular supporter.

A handful of years ago Notts County were down and nearly out — the club managed to exist solely through support from the Board — since that time playing fortunes have gone from strength to strength, a real rags to riches story in terms of on-field ability.

Let's make the story complete — try and bring a friend or two with you to the Bristol City game — give your team vocal support, the players all agree it would help — and then at the end of the season perhaps we can say: "we were down and nearly out — now we are getting up AND GOING UP!!".

## SUPPORTERS SPOT

### Getting you on the right lines

Did you go to York last Saturday? If so, did you travel on our Magpie special charter train? Whether or not your answers are yes you will probably be interested to know the process we go through to set ourselves 'on the rails' to away games.

First, unless you are a newcomer to Nottingham and Meadow Lane, you will be aware that Notts County's official supporters transport organising is entrusted to the Supporters' Club and that last season we arranged more train journeys to away matches than any other club in the Football League except Manchester United, who equalled our efforts.

In the absence of a natural successor to our former transport officer, Syd Pethick, it was decided that a small sub-committee comprising of vice-chairman Claude Bishop, secretary Neal Hook and myself, would initially control matters this season. First task was to obtain quotations and negotiate with both coach firms and British Rail officials.

Quite frankly prices given us by British Rail made us gasp! — in fact we decided that our trip to Charlton of the first day of the season would be a market research exercise: if we managed to 'break even' we would continue, if not we would have to re-think the whole situation.

Since that time we have had many discussions with British Rail officials and gradually have

managed to get a closer understanding of each others problems.

Which brings us to the planning of an individual trip.

To begin I telephone and ask British Rail for a quote (the original 'blanket' quotation given to us at the onset of the season has now been scrapped). Whilst this is being prepared the transport committee try and estimate the number of people likely to travel — this, of course, depends on the length of the journey, attractiveness of the opposition, etc., etc.

We then work out an approximate cost that we feel our supporters would be willing to pay and then wait for the official quotation from British Rail.

On receipt of this the haggling starts.

Agreement should be reached quickly in order to give British Rail time to print the tickets and ourselves two weeks or so to sell them. A word is perhaps due at this point to explain why we no longer allow telephone bookings.

First, we have had the painful (and costly) experience in the past of having to refuse people because we thought that the train was fully booked, only to find on the day of departure that a number of persons who booked by telephone — without laying out cash — did not in the event take their seats. Secondly, the practical problems of using someones private telephone to accept bookings makes it nigh on impossible.

To continue on how we arrange individual trips, the next

stage is that British Rail advise us that the tickets are printed and ready for collection. These are picked up by committee member Claude Bishop and distribution is arranged through the pools office mid-week and from souvenir huts on a match day.

On the morning of an away trip, supporters' club treasurer Tom Lord steps into the picture by arranging for any unsold tickets to be made available at the station for any late-comers.

As departure time draws near, any cash taken is entrusted to British Rail police who are always in attendance and then another Magpie Special hits the trail.

In conclusion supporters can rest assured that we are continually looking for ways of keeping away transport prices to a minimum and any constructive suggestions will be welcomed.

#### ROUND THE BRANCHES

##### BEESTON:

We all join with Beeston members in congratulating their colleague Brian Din, who was married last Saturday, 13th September. We haven't been entrusted with the name of the lucky girl, but we have gained a wife rather than lost a husband! Perhaps we shall meet Brian and the 'better half' at the Three Horse Shoes, Middle Street, Beeston, on Monday evening, 22nd September, when a games evening takes place.

Please note that everyone is welcome, whether you know us personally or not. Don't be shy, come along and enjoy yourself.

##### NEWARK:

We know that Newark is by tradition a strong area of support and a supporters' club branch is currently being formed.

The inaugural meeting to elect officials and plan activities is to be held on Monday next, 22nd September, commencing at 7.30 p.m., at the Worthington-Simpson Social Club, Lowfield Works.

If you are interested in joining but unable to attend this meeting contact Mick Patterson, 27 Acacia Road, Balderton. Tel. Newark 2269. Mick will be pleased to give you any information. Also he has details of special transport arranged from Newark.

##### HYSON GREEN:

It is hoped to re-form a branch here based on 'The Old General', Radford Road. Anyone interested should contact Rod Staunton, 215 Bobbers Mill Road. A 'Sports Quiz' evening between our main committee and a branch committee will be held at The Old General on Monday, October 6th. We hope to have a player guesting on each side, although we aint asked 'em yet!

JOHN RYLEY

**TELL THE ADVERTISER YOU SAW HIM IN MAGPIE**

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**NOTTS. COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**4**

1975/76

# ... we are glad to give the penalty competition our complete support(?)

Can I ask you all a simple question. "Do you see what you read and do you believe what you read?" Think about that whilst you read this.

"The development of youngsters in the skills of the game is essential; that is why we (T. Bailey Forman Ltd.) place so much importance in the Schools Penalty Competition. The Football Post is so convinced that schools football is important because it provides the stars of tomorrow that we are glad to give the penalty competition our complete support. We are presenting the three Schools Associations who run the competition with a cheque for £100 each to help the cause of the game at the levels at which they operate."

These are statements made by the publishers of the Football Post when they gave their generous support to the Penalty Competition last season.

At the closure of the affair they expressed, personally through their Sports Editor Mr. Harry Richards, at a dinner given by Notts County as a thank you to all who took part — and again through the medium of his paper's columns, their "delight at participation and the success of the whole competition." Further he said he looked forward to future association. So far, so good.

Imagine the surprise of the individual schools



Dennis Marshall

who took part, the organising Association and ourselves when the Schools FA's heard briefly and curtly on the 25th July, (quote) . . . "We regret to report that it was decided not to sponsor the event next season."

Now, at once, let us repeat, we all appreciated their help last season. We also respect their right to their decision . . . even though they gave us no reason for it. Puzzling, this aspect, in view of what you read above as a direct support of same.

Notts County initiated the idea, the Schools took it up and the Football Post generously supported it. It appeared . . . **INDEED WAS . . . a success.** They gave no reason for withdrawing sponsorship so, as Secretary of Notts County

## SECRETARY SPEAKING

I wrote to their Editorial Director, Mr. W. W. Snaith and to Harry Richards and asked:

- (1) Was there any chance of them changing their minds in view of their previously published remarks since they initially knew their total financial commitments and obviously they thought they had value for money?
- (2) If not, would they be prepared to lower the extent of their financial support because they knew the Schools would be prepared to accept a lower amount?
- (3) In the event of neither, would they be making an official announcement as to why they now find it impossible to support a competition they had previously announced as important?

Their answers were (1) NO! (2) NO! (3) DEFINITELY NO!

So, it is left to Notts County to present the facts which we do without malice. We are certain the Football Post were fully sincere in their original thoughts and comments but it strikes us and the schools . . . possibly yourselves . . . that their decision to abjure without reason is perplexing to say the least.

There has been a suggestion made that the F.P. decision was made purely on the grounds of finance. We find this hard to believe.

The City's only newspaper seems very soundly based on circulation and revenue from advertising. They would not merely pay lip service to a good idea if they had found the cost more than they anticipated. They had surely done their home work and budgeted for all they paid out.

In any case, we know the cost to them and it was no more than ours and we still think it is worth it.

There are some things anyway on which one cannot place a figure because of the principle involved. Schools football is one of them.

We certainly hope their retraction — for which they must have private reasons — was in no way a reflection on the organisers, on the schools who took part or with ourselves. They had a right to withdraw but equally they had a duty to give everyone concerned their reasons which would have still remained private.

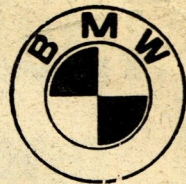
In the last edition of Magpie we paid tribute to their co-operation; this still goes.

Regardless of the Football Post's disavowment, with the total co-operation of the schools we are pleased to say this great competition goes on! It will begin at Meadow Lane next month — watch for further details — with a brand new sponsor who is eager and willing to give support to the lads as a tribute to the enjoyment schools soccer brings to everyone.

### OUR YOUNGEST SUPPORTER?

Mast, S. P. Griffiths of 39 Bramley Road, Strelley, Nottingham, was born on 25th March 1975 and on 27th was officially registered (membership number 321) as a member of the junior section of the Notts County Supporters Club!

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### FREE TICKET FOR A DESERVING FAN

A recent visitor to Meadow Lane was Bill Whyld of Riverside, California. Bill a former Nottingham referee from Beeston and known to many folk in this area emigrated to the U.S.A. over 15 years ago.

He enjoyed his visit but was concerned about the state of the crowd problems these days in other areas of the country, as indeed we all are.

Before he left Bill generously donated some money to the club with the express request it be used to buy, in his name, a season ticket for a supporter who either because he is an O.A.P. or invalid (or both) cannot afford to buy one for himself.

We shall be delighted to do this.

Just one stipulation to those who make the application, we do feel it ought to be strictly for O.A.P.'s in receipt of a pension.

Anyone who feels they would like to take advantage of this generous gift or thinks he knows of a deserving fan, is asked to write in with the details, all cases will be considered on merit.

Once it has been decided which of the applicants will get the ticket, it will be presented to them and then we are sure he (or she!) would want to write to Bill personally and express their thanks.

## FEEL FREE TO LET LLOYDS BANK TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR SHOULDERS.

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Call in at the sign of the Black Horse.

And let Lloyds Bank take a load off your shoulders.



A LOT MORE THAN MONEY  
AT THE SIGN OF THE BLACK HORSE.

# Thanks Eric, for the goal that made it so easy to play the league table game

It was just my luck that I should be returning from holiday on the day when the Magpies were seizing the leadership of Division Two for the first time in more than twenty years. But how was I to know, when I booked the holiday in May, that the first Saturday in September was going to be a bit special for Meadow Lane fans? That was how I came to be driving along the A6 in Derbyshire, impatiently trying to get past a procession of caravans, at just about the time when Eric Probert was heading the Magpies into the top spot.

Thanks to that goal I made a remarkable recovery from the mood of back to work depression which had accompanied me during the four-hour journey.

The five o'clock results brought immediate rejuvenation and the Saturday night League tables went straight to my head like strong liquor. They certainly had that effect on a fellow Magpie fanatic and lifelong friend who rang me from his home near Newark, shortly after midnight. He had been celebrating since opening time and had spent most of the night assuring everybody within hearing distance that the Magpies were virtually certain of promotion.

The first words I heard when I picked up the phone were, "Langley, I jus wanna tell you they're going up. No kidding we've cracked it. Jimmy's put together another promotion side and I jus wanna say you should've been there today t'see

## and another thing . . .

by Roger Langley

it for yourself. I promise you there'll be a celebration to beat all celebrations next April."

I tried to remind him that there were one or two hurdles to clear — like thirty-seven more League matches — before we could attempt to drink his local as dry as we did when the Magpies won promotion from Division Three. But I was wasting my time. As far as he was concerned we were at the top and would stay there until he was ready to start the 1976 cricket season. I must confess that some of his super optimism rubbed off on me. I went to bed thinking "Wouldn't it be marvellous. . . ." The thought was still there on Sunday morning, when I nipped out to buy four newspapers just to make sure they all had the Magpies at the top of Division Two. I have always had League tables with my Sunday breakfast but their flavour had never been better than on that morning when they showed the Magpies pecking at the door to Division One.

I live outside the area covered by the Midlands editions, so there is not always a match report for me to read. But who needs paragraphs when one line of type reads like this:

5-1-1-0-1-0-2-1-0-4-2-8

If like me you have been playing the League table game for most of your life you seldom

have a better starting point than after the Carlisle game. You know the rules you study the League position, weigh up next weeks fixtures in the pools column, and speculate that if the Magpies win at home next week, and so and so just above us lose their away match whilst the team above drop a point in a tough home game, we stand a good chance of climbing two places.

It never quite works out as you predicted but at least you fix yourself an injection of optimism before the harsh or happy reality of next weeks results. What you don't normally get is that tremendous feeling of power and superiority which comes from speculating exclusively how the Magpies can increase their lead.

Like a boy with a birthday toy I returned to the sports pages a dozen times during the day to savour the magic of that League table.

The next two days are best forgotten because none of the national papers had the decency to publish the table that mattered to me, but life was good again on Wednesday when the pools pages appeared. I enjoyed my breakfast.

Towards the end of the week, with an away match looming up I began to get nervous. Almost un-noticed Bristol City sneaked to the top Friday night but they were wasting their time — because nobody published a full League table the next morning! By Saturday night, with York soundly beaten, the Magpies were back in the driving seat again. It was another good weekend.

UP THE 'PIES!



If yours is the face ringed in the photograph — bring this copy of Magpie to the general office after todays game and receive a free copy of Magpie for the rest of the season.

## COMPETITION CORNER

### Win two match tickets

The senders of the first three correctly completed puzzles will each win two tickets to the next Notts County home game.

In this free competition all entrants must complete all three puzzles and send their entries to: Competition Corner, Magpie, c/o Notts County Football Club, Meadow Lane, Nottingham.

#### Puzzle Number One:

Use the letters in the names of 'players' to spell two First Division Sides. BEV ELLIS ROD ORD MILO PUGH

#### Puzzle Number Two:

Many men of soccer have a word linking their first and second names (like KEEN in MiKE ENgland). Find one soccer name for each of these links: GEM FAST LAND

*GEOCASTLE*

#### Puzzle Number Three:

#### Soccer Ninety-niner compiled by David Peck

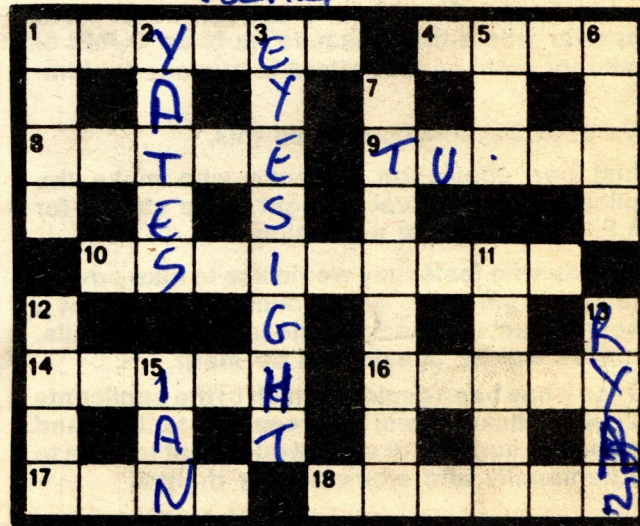
##### CLUES—Across

- Belgium's national stadium (6)
- Feature on badges of, for example, Torquay and Tranmere (4)
- Birmingham's 'big' buy from Wolves (5)
- Tony Book bought him for Christmas last year (5)
- Home of 1920's League club and birthplace of the Charlton brothers (9)
- Stark's Parkers (5)
- Famous old international with Belfast Celtic and Glasgow Celtic (5)
- Southport are the "—grounders" (4)
- Huddersfield striker bought from Blackburn (6)

##### CLUES—Down

- England right-back who made his 23 appearances in consecutive matches (4)
- Redditch referee much noted for his notebook last season (5)

- Referee's faculty much criticised by hard-done-by fans (8)
- Forward Blackburn had from Huddersfield (3)
- Park where Accrington used to entertain (4)
- Where Mike Bamber is chairman (8)
- Newcastle international — Burton had to retire after a bad knee injury (5)
- Wilf McGuinness formerly managed — Salonika (4)
- Hatters' Jim or John (4)
- Robins or Ross (3)



# BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

Any existing season ticket holder seat or standing who purchases one ticket for the County Road stand seating for our match against Bristol City, will be given one free! This will enable you to have two guests at the game one of whom will get in free. This offer is confined to season ticket holders only and will be honoured subject to:

Ticket holders producing their season ticket on application at the general office and

First one hundred applications accepted only. Offer closes on Friday October 3rd.

The seating in the County Road Stand is new, comfortable and affords an excellent view of the game. The rows and gangways are wide and spacious, knee room is generous. In fact this is probably the best seating in the ground (definitely — Editor).

Treat your friends today — they could become regulars . . .

# DAVID GETS SOME SERVICE IN

By Keith Warsop



The days when players spent a whole playing career in the service of one club, clocking up hundred after hundred of appearances may seem part of the dim and distant past . . . but not where David Needham is concerned.

The Magpies centre-half, now in his 11th season at Meadow Lane after making his debut as a very young teenager indeed in 1965-66, is moving up in the Notts appearance records.

His immediate target this season is to step up into third place overall above Billy Flint and behind Percy Mills and the legendary Albert Iremonger. At the start of this season David had totalled 345 League games plus one appearance as substitute. In addition he has played 15 times in the F.A. Cup, 12 x 1 in the League Cup, one in the Watney Cup and 11 x 1 in the Notts County Cup, giving him an overall total of 384 x 3.

He should soon overtake the 365 League appearances of F.P. Emberton (1905-15) and, given form and fitness, Billy Flint's 376 League games and 408 in all competitive matches is also in his sights.

But Percy Mills' 407 League games and 438 overall is just out of reach (although a possibility next season) while Albert Iremonger will demand at least another five seasons at Meadow Lane before his totals (564 League, 602 all) can be beaten!

Here is a list of leading appearances for the Magpies:

Player	Career	Lge	FA Cup	FL Cup	Notts Cup	Oth.	Total
1 Albert Iremonger	1904-5:1925-6	564	37				602
2 Percy Mills	1927-8:1938-9	407	20		3	8	438
3 Billy Flint	1908-9:1925-6	376	31			1	408
4 David Needham	1965-6:1974-5	345x1	15	12x1	11x1	1	384x3
5 Alex Gibson	1959-60:1968-9	344x3	10	16	8x1	1	379x4
6 F.P. Emberton	1904-5:1914-15	365	17				382
7 George Smith	1955-6:1966-7	323	15	14	7		359
8 Aubrey Southwell	1945-6:1956-7	328	28				356
9 Jimmy Montgomery	1898-9:1910-11	316	23				339
10 David Calderhead	1889-90:1899-0	278	28			26	332
11 Les Bradd	1967-8:1974-5	277x12	15	12	7x1	1	312x13
12 George Toone	1889-90:1901-2	265	25			28	318
13 John Sheridan	1957-8:1965-6	287	11	10	6	1	315
14 Haden Kemp	1920-1:1930-1	285	26			1	312
15 Walter Bull	1894-5:1903-4	280	18			9	307
16 Don Masson	1968-9:1974-5	273	11	11	10	1	306
17 S.Haden	1927-8:1937-8	289	11			1	301
18 Gerry Carver	1953-4:1965-6	279x1	12	5	1	1	298x1
19 Reuben Graythorne	1904-5:1913-14	282	14			1	297
20 Norman Dinsdale	1920-1:1927-8	267	26			1	294

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**FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP (Third Round)**

**LEEDS UNITED**  
v.  
**NOTTS COUNTY**

Wednesday, 8th October, 7.30 p.m. at Elland Road, Leeds.

**GROUND ADMISSION PRICES:** 75p adults., 50p. Juveniles.  
**SEATING:** £2.00 and £1.50p. available from the Secretary's Office at Meadow Lane today: on sale to anyone.  
As of Monday, 22nd Sept. tickets will be on sale at Ticket Kiosk, Main Entrance Meadow Lane. Daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. until Tuesday 7th Oct (unless sold out before).

**REPLAY:** If there is a replay it will take place at Meadow Lane on Tuesday, 14th October, at 7.30 p.m. and arrangements for this would be announced on Thursday, 9th October.

**ON SALE NOW AT OUR SOUVENIR SHOPS**

Silk Scarves.....75p	Combs.....12p
Wool Scarves.....from 90p	Rings.....35p
Car Stickers.....10p	Giant size team photo.....30p
Cuff Links.....75p	Other photographs.....from 6p
Badges.....35p	Tee Shirts.....£1.25
Pennants.....35p	Rosettes.....25p
Key Rings.....20p	Bob Caps.....85p
Leather Key Fobbs.....35p	Embroidered Badges.....35p
Beer Glasses.....80p	

*All the above available by mail order from:  
The Souvenir Shops, Notts County F.C.,  
Meadow Lane, Nottingham.*

**SCHOOLS PENALTY TAKING BONANZA!!**

All you lovers of schools soccer and those who were so interested in the Penalty competition we had here for schools last season are invited to Meadow Lane on Tuesday, 30th September, for 7 p.m. The preliminary penalty taking eliminators (to decide who goes through to the actual competition . . . see elsewhere in 'Magpie') will be held here. Over 200 penalty kicks will be seen! Admission is 10p adults and 5p juveniles: entrance Meadow Lane Main turnstiles only. Do come!

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**N°10**

**It's nice to know there's N°10**  
PLAYER'S UNBEATABLE QUALITY WITH 5 VOUCHERS

MIDDLE TAR As defined in H.M. Government Tables published in May 1975.  
**EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING**

PNT 292A

# Magpie

## ACTION



Eric McManus punches clear under pressure from York's Swallow

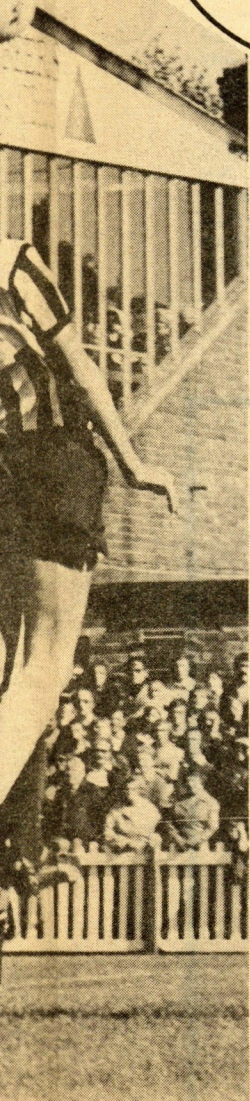


'Power' from Brian Stubbs as he foils a York attack

## Today's visitors **LUTON TOWN**



Left to Right: Back Row — Peter Mead, Alan West, Gordon Hindson, Jim Ryan, Peter Anderson, Andy King, Pasquale Fuccillo, Brian Chambers, Laurence Coyne, Matt Pollock.  
 First Row — Danny Bergara (Coach), Alex Malcolm, David Carr, Bobby Thomson, Paul Futcher, John Faulkner, Keith Barber, Graham Horn, Steve Litt, Steve Buckley, Paul Price.  
 Second Row — David Pleat (Coach), John Aston, Ron Futcher, Peter Spiring, Harry Haslam (Manager), Roy McCrohan (Chief Coach), Adrian Alston, Jimmy Husband, John Seaman, Reg Game (Physiotherapist).  
 Seated — Graham Jones, Wayne Morgan, Barry McHugh, Ian Donnelly, Tony Knight, Andy Roberts, Sandor Simon, Iain Stewart, Steve Russell, Tim Smith.

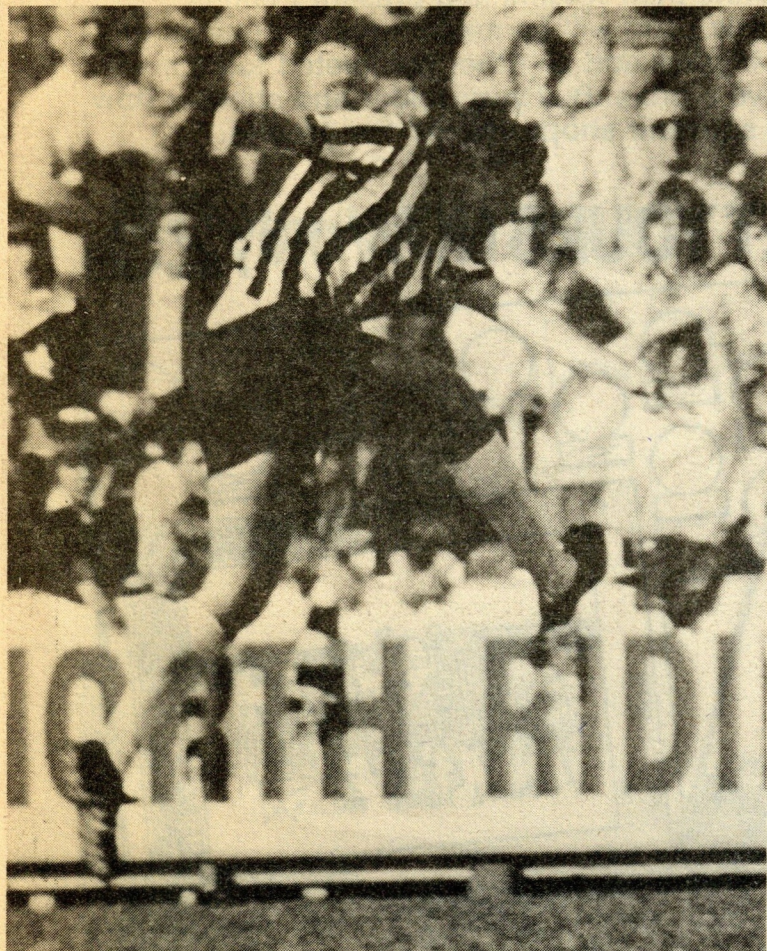


a York attack



Definitely in the area! A York player about to give away a penalty by fouling Eric Probert

# SCENES FROM OUR GAME AT YORK



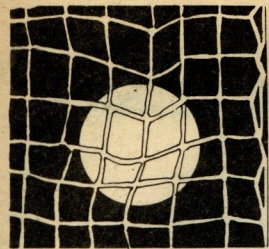
Goal Number Two! Long range blast from David McVay



Les Bradd lets fly at the York goal from outside the penalty area



Steve Carter jinks past full back Dowling of York



# IN OFF the POST

**"In off the post" is a forum through which the supporters of Notts County and the readers of Magpie — many of them overseas — can express their opinion about the club, its playing performances, football in general and, last but by no means least, this newspaper. The editorial staff welcome all forms of constructive criticism — and praise if you think the formula is right.**

Sir,  
Whilst concerned that Notts County are not getting the 'gates' they deserve may I just say that in my opinion the basic admission charge (65p) is too high for Second Division soccer... especially when you consider I can see Manchester United in Division One at Old Trafford for 60p.

Several people I have spoken to share my view that charges are much too high.

H. Goulding,  
Bells Lane,  
Nottingham.

Well Mr. Goulding, our Secretary has fully covered this subject (Magpie v. Carlisle). Briefly however, let us just say that the standard minimum charge for adults at all of the League's 92 grounds is 65p set by the Football League Rules. If your claim that United are charging only 60p is correct then they are breaking these regulations, O.K.? — Editor.

Sir,  
I attended your League Cup game v. Sunderland and was astonished to find you have no gate to admit O.A.P's at a reduced rate. I have visited many stadia in recent years and find this is a well appreciated

facility. Yours must be the only ground in the country where such a gate does not exist. I would be interested to know how you justify this omission.

G. W. Todd,  
Ravenshead,  
Nottingham.

They say it pays to advertise... but looking at Mr. Todd's letter one wonders! We do not need to justify such an omission as he suggests. It is a well known fact that (a) we have such a stile that he claims does not exist (b) we charge less for O.A.P's than any other Club in the League and (c) it is well advertised!! Ah well... — Editor.

Sir,  
As a Sunderland supporter living in the East Midlands I think I ought to congratulate those concerned in the production of Magpie which I have enjoyed reading. I would, however, like to draw your attention to an inaccuracy in your article Spotlight on Sunderland. At the very end you say 'Prior to losing their place in 1970 they had never been relegated from that sphere' (you are referring to the 1st Div.) I would that this were true. Unhappily I think, if you check the record you will find that although it was our proud boast

that Sunderland had never played in any other than the 1st Div., they did in fact drop out in the early 1960's, came back for a season in 1969 (I think) and dropped back again after that one season.

A. Robertson,  
Vicar of Ilkeston

Sorry — the best sort of mistake to make possibly? — Editor.

Sir,  
I enclose a postal order for £1 to help the football club in a small way.

A well-wisher,  
and keen supporter.

Sir/Madam,  
We thank you most sincerely for this fine gesture — Editor.

Dear Jimmy Sirrel,  
I feel I must write to congratulate the team, and you, for a very fine victory over the "Reds".

No other win this season, will bring more satisfaction than this one at the City Ground, I'm sure of that!

Many Forest supporters did not see that late goal; what a beauty it was. Ian Scanlon was the architect, by his persistence and skill. That perfect centre, whilst under pressure, was worth seeing, and of course big Les Bradd finished it off superbly.

What jubilation there must have been in the dressing room, a few minutes later! As a Forest supporter, I don't begrudge the lads their joy; they deserved it.

You were very cautious about County's prospects, when asked on T.V. later. Of course you never boast, and I admire your

plain, sensible way of answering soccer questions. Someone else, without mentioning names, has a far more flamboyant style, though not quite so much in evidence these days. I wonder why?

Well, more on that display against Forest. Your lads Jimmy, were great. Ian Scanlon to me, was easily the best of all the forward men on the field. He had the craft, skill and speed of thought and movement, to make himself always dangerous to the opposition. The more I see of David McVay, the more I like him. Tremendous potential here. Your defence was magnificent, only being caught out occasionally. Those two stalwarts, Brian Stubbs, and David Needham, were like brick walls to Forest, while young "Pedro" just strolled along almost disdainfully. Ray O'Brien did a fine job looking after Forest's newcomer, Terry Curran. In fact, all did a fine job of prizing those precious points from the "Reds". At the risk of looking a "traitor", I say, well done "Magpies".

Every good wish to you personally, to Dennis Marshall, and all at Meadow Lane.

Yours sincerely,  
Harry Durose,  
Newthorpe  
Notts.

This letter, coming as it does from a "real" Nottingham Forest fan says it all and really puts the victory into the perspective that more biased Red supporters (and a number of press men) failed to credit. We thank Harry for his fair comments, his interest and willingness to put into words so succinctly the true picture of that derby game three weeks ago.

P.S. — Harry, Forests Number One supporter, sent a similar letter to the one above to Harry Richards at the Football Post. It did not get printed! We wonder why...?

Sir,  
Thought you would be interested in the contents of a letter I have received from the Secretary of the Football League.

Dear Mr. Gibbs,  
Thank you for your letter and taking the trouble to send me

photographs you had taken of the damage caused by Manchester United fans at Nottingham.

As you know, all Football League clubs are very much concerned about what is going on, but I must make the point that it is not confined now to Manchester United fans. There have been plenty of incidents in which football clubs so-called supporters from Nottingham have caused trouble, and it is the general problem which primarily concerns the Football League.

The Football League Clubs have taken every possible action they can in conjunction with the police, but I still think there is insufficient interest being taken in the problem by Magistrates and people responsible for imposing punishment on offenders who are caught.

Yours sincerely,  
Alan Hardaker,  
Secretary.

We thank you Mr. Gibbs (a season ticket holder from Radford who personally took up the

violence and damage caused by United fans here last April with the League) for allowing us to look at your letter.

We took up part of Mr. Hardaker's letter to you by sending one of our own to him which, in part, said:

"The inference (his remark about so-called supporters from Nottingham giving problems in the past) is that Notts County fans have caused some problems in the past. Have you any records showing how many times this has occurred and where and if so, have you any comparable figures with those of Manchester United or any club in the League?"

We took this step on behalf of Magpie fans because we resented the implication that we have supporters who would cause damage and violence on the scale of United — Editor.

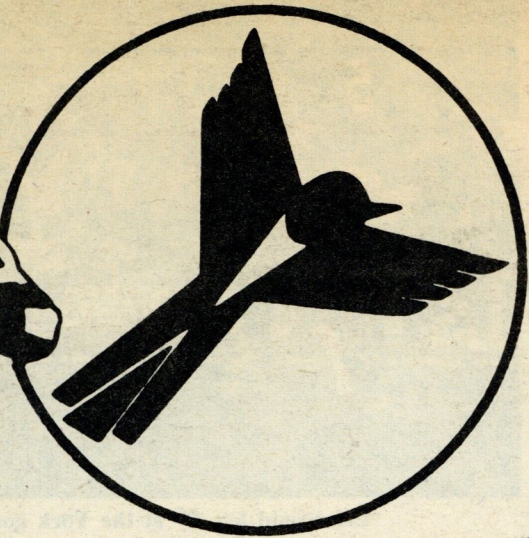


## To A Hooligan

Why do you do it, what do you gain?  
Destroying things over and over again.  
Is it because you are one of the crowd,  
That you feel so safe to shout out loud?  
And spoil for thousands the football season,  
For all wrongdoings there must be a reason.  
Is it frustration or boredom you feel?  
Surely you cannot mean it for real.  
Property wrecked, and people maimed,  
From a boot that is well and truly aimed  
If this really is the case,  
Then the penalties you must face  
Fining is useless, you don't respect money  
Somehow, I think, you believe it's funny  
It must be something to hurt your pride,  
I really think you are cowards inside  
If the answer was up to me,  
I'd shave your heads for all to see,  
**HOOLIGAN** stamped in permanent ink,  
Across your forehead to make you think,  
And whilst you were thinking, community work,  
woe betide, if you dared to shirk.  
You'd repair every bit of damage you caused,  
I'd be ready to pounce the moment you paused,  
I suppose I sound as nasty as you,  
But what else can a mother do?  
When her family doesn't ask for much at all,  
Except to enjoy a game of football.

PAT WADE  
CLIFTON ESTATE

# Be a Guest of the Magpies



Complete this great "LANE LINE UP 1975-1976" and be a guest of the Magpies on a match day. All you have to do is collect the players' autographs and the officials' photographs and stick them in the folder. Then take it along to the office at Meadow Lane. The first six people to complete their folders and present them at Meadow Lane will be made honorary guests of the Magpies and all other completed folders will receive a prize. Buy your folder and stickers now from souvenir shops around the ground.

**GET YOURS NOW only 25p**





# Talking point

# TO ERR IS HUMAN AND SOMETIMES EXPENSIVE

By G. T. ALLMAN

FOOTBALL is a very arbitrary game and to a certain extent this is a vital element of it. Whether to award a penalty as a player crashes to the ground when looking certain to score depends entirely on the referee's interpretation of the incident. Sometimes this clause in the laws that the referee's decision on points of fact is final has ludicrous effects. Only a week or two ago Reading, according to reports, were 'given' a goal against Rochdale when all but the ref felt certain the ball had hit the outside of the side-netting. The occasional mistake is inevitable, but it is the price we pay for order rather than anarchy. Mistakes are made too in the imperious decisions of Managers and Directors as to which players to retain and which to spend up to £300,000 on in the transfer market.

We hear this season, however, of the system of suspension for players sent off being changed. Now if a player is sent off for a violent offence (be it of the tongue or any other part of his anatomy) he will automatically be suspended without the right to appeal. Although it hasn't happened yet, one can foresee a genuine mistake being made by the referee.

### FAILING

As a result, one hears of RODNEY MARSH going almost unnoticed from Fulham to Q.P.R. in the mid-sixties and umpteen

players over the years failing to achieve anything for their new club after costing a huge fee. Again, the arbitrary nature of the judgment of his worth is all but part and parcel of the transfer game.

### DISGRACE

For instance, he may, as has happened in the past, mistake the number on a player's back or completely misconstrue an incident well away from him. It appears that in such cases a player will lose his livelihood for up to a fortnight to add to the punishment of walking off in disgrace and leaving his team to battle on with 10 men.

All this is just a little disconcerting in a country where even the most unspeakable offence is not punished until the supposed offender has had the opportunity of answering for his evil ways. The question too comes into sharper focus with regard to the much publicised suspension of five Scottish internationals. Here again punishment was meted out without any chance being given to the supposed offenders to answer for their offences and a certain amount of sympathy extends to those condemned in such circumstances, particularly the one who is reported as not having been with his four

colleagues on the night in question!

### MARTIAL LAW

Maybe this last problem will be resolved in due course, but one wonders just where this increase in arbitrary aspects of our game will end. Is it really the case that players are so ill-disciplined that conditions of martial law must be imposed? Will the knowledge that a player has no come-back make referees more ready to order offenders off?

Will the increase in their authority breed better or worse referees? Only time will tell.

# NEWS on 2

Our 2-1 win at York on Saturday not only took our away record to four wins and two draws in our last six games, but also retained our outstanding record against York City, who have not won any of their last nine games against us. It was also pleasing to see last season's top scorer IAN SCANLON breaking his duck this season with his first half penalty conversion and DAVID McVAY getting the second League goal of his career, the first being at West Bromwich near the end of last season.

\*

Meanwhile, some of our closest rivals are building up some impressive home records. Southampton, recovering from their midweek League Cup defeat by Bristol Rovers, won their sixth home game in a row, 2-1 against Blackburn and Sunderland with their third successive 2-0 win not only kept W.B. Albion still pointless and goalless in away games this season, but also took their own record to six home wins in a row. Both VIC HALOM and BILL HUGHES got their first goals of the season against Albion on Saturday.

\*

Bristol Rovers, who won only two away games in Football League games throughout last season,

have already equalled that total this season and had particularly successful journeys last week when, in the space of four days, they won at Southampton in the League Cup and Fulham in Division II. This was Fulham's first home defeat since Nottingham Forest won there in January.

\*

DEREK HALES, who was Charlton's top scorer with twenty goals last season, netted for the first time this season in his side's 1-1 draw with Blackpool, whose goal, scored by MICK WALSH, was their first away from home since last March, in fact until Saturday they had scored just twice in their last twenty away games.

\*

Hull also broke their duck away from home in their 2-1 win at Nottingham Forest. This was Forest's second successive home defeat in League games though they are still unbeaten away this season.

\*

After three successive 1-0 defeats, Orient managed to reverse that scoreline in beating Plymouth on Saturday. This was the fourth successive Argyle game to end 1-0 with three defeats and one win. Both teams

have found goalscoring extremely difficult this season and neither has scored more than once in a game. In fact since last October Orient have scored more than once in a game on only two occasions.

\*

Chelsea's visit to Oldham on Saturday was their first in a League match since 1925-6 and their 2-1 defeat was in striking contrast to their 5-0 win there forty years ago. Their skipper, RAY WILKINS, however, did become the first visiting player to score at Boundary Park since March when he netted in the first half. For the home side, defender IAN WOOD's goal was his first since March 1974, whilst GEORGE JONES took his season's tally to five to leave him sharing with Hull's ROY GREENWOOD the position of top scorer in Division II this season.

\*

In general, goals have been more scarce in Division II than in Division I this season and on Saturday the tally from 10 Division II games was 24, compared with 39 from 11 in Division I.

\*

Easily the highest-scoring game last weekend was Bristol

City's Friday night 4-1 win over Oxford with both PAUL CHEESLEY and TOM RITCHIE netting twice in a game for the first time in their careers. This was City's highest score since last December and Oxford's heaviest defeat since last November.

\*

It is rather early to make any realistic observations on the Second Division table, but first impressions are that perhaps the standard of play is higher than many people have tended to think. Certainly the clubs new to Division II this season are finding the going difficult and of those either promoted or relegated at the end of last season only Luton (ninth) and Chelsea (eleventh) are in the top half of the table and Carlisle, who were at the top of Division I just over a year ago, are now right at the bottom of Division II.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Miss Notts County

The competition to elect our Personality Girl for this year is to be held at the Sherwood Rooms on September 30th.

Tickets are available at 75p from souvenir shops on a match day and from the Pools Office in mid-week. Get yours today.

\*\*\*\*\*

We're all going to Leeds — why not come with us?

Notts County Supporters Club have arranged a Magpie Special train to Leeds for our Third Round League Cup Tie on Wednesday October 8th. The cost is £2.20 per person. Book your place today — ask at the souvenir huts for full details.

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# Pen Pictures of Luton Town

## GOALKEEPERS

**HORN, Graham:** Graham served his soccer apprenticeship with Arsenal and, though he didn't get the chance to play in their First Division side, his period at Highbury was not without honours. He was ever-present when the junior Gunners won the F.A. Youth Cup in 1971, defeating Cardiff 2-0 on aggregate in the final. Arsenal agreed to let him go on loan to Portsmouth at the beginning of the 1972/73 season and Graham earned himself a regular place in Pompey's League XI, making 22 appearances. When he was due to return to Arsenal, Luton made a £25,000 offer and Graham made his debut for the Hatters at Blackpool in March 1973.

**BARBER, Keith:** Keith was signed on professional forms in April 1971, when Tony Read was injured, and the Club had to seek special permission from the Football League — the transfer deadline having passed — to play him against Sheffield Wednesday three days later. He played well enough to earn two more games before the end of the season and he has since held the place regularly for lengthy runs, though he was not first choice as 1974/75 kicked off.

## DEFENDERS

**RYAN, John:** John's 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, appearing in 24 games that season and holding his place for much of the following campaign. Shortly before the close of that season, though, he was transferred to Luton where he has always been a member of the senior squad. John has on two occasions (in 1970/71 and 1971/72) maintained an ever-present record. He was a member of the Hatters' team which won promotion to the First Division in 1974.

**BUCKLEY, Steve:** Steve is one of the youngest members of the Luton side and is now into his second campaign as a first-teamer. He was given a trial at Leicester in October 1974 and performed with a coolness which impressed manager, Harry Haslam. A few weeks later, Mr. Haslam decided to give Steve a further run and this time he played so well that, there after, former England International Bobby Thomson was unable to regain the left-back position.

**FAULKNER, John:** John's career has taken many curious turns on an unconventional route to success in the Football League. Once a Charlton

amateur, he left to serve amateur clubs, Bromley, Cray Wanderers and Sutton United. He was Sutton's centre-back when they enjoyed their incredible F.A. Cup run in 1970, his performances earning praise even before their epic battle with Leeds United. Soon after that game, John was invited to turn professional with Leeds United after turning down Arsenal, Tottenham and Crystal Palace. He had the galling experience of putting through his own goal on his League debut against Burnley but it didn't affect his confidence. Leeds' next game was the F.A. Cup final with Chelsea but, having played for Sutton, John was not eligible to play. He was recalled for their match against Manchester City but had the tragic misfortune to break a kneecap. He never made a full recovery at Leeds so when he was offered the chance of a fresh start at Luton in 1972 he jumped at the opportunity and has since been the Club's number one centre-back.

**FUTCHER, Paul:** Paul was only 16 when he made his League debut for Chester against Cambridge in March 1973, but, so quickly did he establish himself in the men's world of professional football, that he was transferred to Luton for

£100,000 little more than a year later! "I couldn't believe it when I was told," says Paul. "I had no idea Luton were interested, anyway". Last season, Paul's robust tackling and his lightning summing up of every situation made him a big success in First Division football and now he is strongly tipped for representative honours. Paul is the identical twin of striker Ron who joined Luton at the same time.

## MIDFIELD PLAYERS

**ANDERSON, Peter:** Peter had looked little father ahead than soccer fun with amateurs, Hendon, in the Isthmian League until Luton spotted him. Then things moved swiftly. Luton signed him in February 1971 and promoted him immediately into their Second Division side. He soon settled and, indeed, the following season he was leading scorer with 10 goals. He has since remained a member of the senior side and has now made almost 200 appearances for the side.

**KING, Andy:** Andy, a Luton-born player, signed apprentice professional forms for the club in October 1972, attaining professional status in July 1974. He made his League debut during the last game of the 1974/75 season as he came

on as substitute against Manchester City at Kenilworth Road.

**WEST, Alan:** Alan took over as skipper of the Hatters midway through last season and it was under his guidance that the team made such a remarkable recovery and was 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 they amazingly turned him down, following a medical. Luton had no such reservations, signed him for £80,000 soon after 1973/74 had kicked off and he hasn't missed a game since.

**RYAN, Jimmy:** As a lad, Jimmy always dreamed of playing for Manchester United and he realised that ambition in 1965/66 when he made his First Division debut. Over the following five years he made several subsequent appearances without quite establishing himself as a regular — for this was the era of Bobby Charlton, Pat Crerand and Nobby Stiles. Scant chance of any youngster ousting those famous Internationals at that time, so Jimmy felt he would be well advised to accept Luton's offer in 1970. He has never regretted the move for he has since been playing regular League soccer and last season he took over as the club's penalty-taker.

**HINDSON, Gordon:** Gordon grew up with his local club, Newcastle United graduating through their junior sides to make his League debut in 1968/69. Over three years he only got seven opportunities to play in their First Division side due to the abundance of International and big-name stars at St. James' at the time; so early in the 1971/72 season he made the move to Kenilworth Road. For two seasons he held his place in the League side, then after dropping out for most of the 1973/74 season, he came back with a bang last season — only to lose his place again mid-way through.

**CHAMBERS, Brian:** Brian is a talented footballer who has not yet fulfilled his full potential. He developed well, at first, in Sunderland's youth team and, after making his League debut for the Roker Club in 1970/71, he held his place for about a year. He began to make a come back in 1972/73 as Sunderland embarked on their epic F.A. Cup run but, though he was getting several League outings during that period, he didn't get the chance to join in the Cup fun. At the end of that season he moved on to Arsenal where he remained for just one season before signing for Luton.

## STRIKERS

**ASTON, John:** John followed in father's footsteps by becoming a big star with Manchester United. Dad had been United and England's left-back during the immediate post-war period and young John followed him into the Reds' side in 1964/65. For several seasons John and George 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. Soon after that he broke a leg and never quite made a full recovery. The presence of his father also tended to prove a bit difficult at times so he moved to Luton on a £30,000 transfer in 1972. Earlier in his career, John played for the England under-23 XI,

**ALSTON, Adrian:** Adrian won world fame as the star of Australia's attack in the 1974 World Cup. After that he could have joined any number of clubs but he decided to accept Luton's approach because he was anxious to return to England and because he had played against the Hatters in 1970 when the Aussies were on a World tour. Adrian was once a Preston junior but, because he considered himself a failure, he emigrated to Australia in 1968 at the age of 19. He signed for Safeway United and within months he was chosen for his first International match. Now he has more than 40 Australian caps and, as he maintains his Australian passport, he could well add to that total. Luton signed him immediately after the World Cup and last season he was top scorer with eight goals even though he played in less than half the Hatters' fixtures.

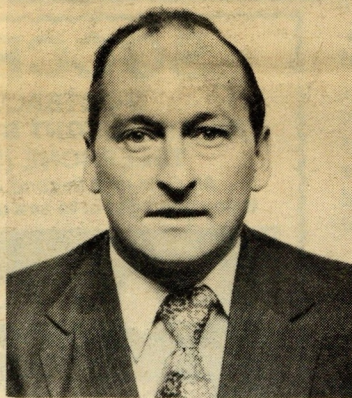
**SPIRING, Peter:** Few players have been more unfortunate with injuries in recent seasons than Peter Spiring, who joined Luton from Liverpool for £70,000 last season. In only his fifth match for the Hatters he broke a toe which kept him out for much of the remainder of the campaign, though he did have a couple of runs as substitute. It has been bad luck for him all the way. His performances for the Hatters in 1971/72 and the following season won high approval and towards the end of the latter campaign, Liverpool paid £60,000 for him. Almost immediately, he damaged his ligaments and spent 24 weeks in plaster. He never did get a first team game at Anfield and he is now hoping good fortune will smile upon him so that he can resume where he left off before his injuries struck two years ago.

**FUTCHER, Ron:** Ron was supposed to have been the make-weight in the deal which took him and his identical twin brother, Paul, to Luton in 1974. In fact, he has 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. He was initially eased in as substitute at Sheffield United in November, but his first complete match was at Ipswich on Boxing Day when he hit the winning goal. Two days later, when Luton beat Wolves 3-2, young Ron claimed all three! He finished with a total of seven and hopes to score many more than that this season.

**HUSBAND, Jimmy:** Jimmy made his name with Everton where he was for several years a first teamer, following his debut at Fulham in April 1965. While at Goodison he won five England under-23 caps to add to his youth and school-boy honours. Jimmy was in the Toffees' League Championship side in 1970 and he was a member of their Wembley side beaten by West Bromwich in the 1968 F.A. Cup Final. When Luton signed him early in the 1973/74 season, they had to pay a £70,000 fee. **SEASMAN, John:** Luton manager had to go under a cloud of secrecy when he signed John from Tranmere last season! "Everyone thought I was after Steve Coppell," smiled Mr. Haslam. "And Manchester United snapped him up when they heard I was going. In fact, my interest was in the young reserve team player, John Seaman who, in my opinion, has far greater prospects." John had played only 17 League games for Tranmere — and had never scored a goal! — when Luton signed him on the strength of his performances in the reserves. But he scored in his first full League game for Luton!

## KNOW THE LAWS

BY  
TONY  
PULLEIN



## Part 4: Number of Players (Law 3)

The laws of the game permit up to 16 players per team — though no more than 11 may be on the field at the same time!

Restriction on substitutions vary from competition to competition and from country to country. The maximum number of substitutes permitted by the laws — for friendly games only — is five per team. For competitive matches the number of substitutes actually used must not exceed two.

### JUNGLE LAW

Football League rules permit the nomination of only one substitute who must be named with the rest of the team at least half - an - hour before kick off. But competitions like the World Cup, and European club competitions, enable five substitutes to be named with a maximum of two to be used.

In the early days of football, under near - jungle law, a form of football would be played in the streets with possibly a hundred or more on each side. By the time a generally acceptable set of rules had been introduced in 1863, it was usual to have 11 per side — though the first F.A. laws made no mention of this.

The first set of rules mentioning a goalkeeper, with permission to handle the ball, was published in 1870. But it wasn't until 1909 that goalkeepers had to wear distinctive jerseys. Then it was decided that they must wear only scarlet, royal blue or white.

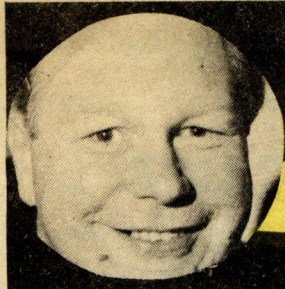
### PENALTY

It was in 1912 that the new favourite colour for goalkeepers in this country — royal green — was introduced. From 1921 it was stipulated that goal-keepers in home international matches must wear yellow.

It is possible for a goalkeeper to concede a penalty by handling in the penalty area! If a player changes place with his goalkeeper *without informing the referee* and then proceeds to handle the ball in the area, a spot kick would be awarded against him.

Next Issue—  
**PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT**





## Colin Slater's Spotlight on

# LUTON TOWN

# HATTERS GIVE YOUNGSTERS A CHANCE

Luton Town paid a heavy price for their home win over Chelsea earlier this month. Mid-field star Alan West sustained injury to shoulder ligaments which has ruled him out of every match since . . . and he is again unlikely to play today. West, a record signing from Burnley at £100,000 in October 1973, is club skipper and — a soccer rarity — a successful left-sided player.

And West, still only 23 years of age, is the mainspring of the Luton side. His absence was not felt immediately following the Chelsea win, for The Hatters achieved an away win against struggling Portsmouth. But since then they have themselves begun to struggle.

They were knocked out of the Football League Cup last week by the Fourth Division's surprise team, Darlington, and then went down at home to Bolton Wanderers by two clear goals. So when on Monday expert medical opinion was that West

should rest completely for a further two days, and was unlikely to be fit by the weekend, the shadows lengthened over Kenilworth Road.

And Alan himself is cross at the possibility of missing the trip to Nottingham, where he has been looking forward to a straight mid-field battle with his old chum Eric Probert. The two of them learned their soccer in the same famous Burnley academy before being allowed to leave.

Luton's Cup blow at Darlington by 2-1 came after they had led by 1-0 at half-time, and the home setback against Bolton

showed how good the Lancashire side are at breaking quickly from defence and augmenting their two front strikers. The defeat cost Luton several places in the Second Division table, and I suppose in the very nature of things Harry Haslam, their manager, has been forced to think extra hard about the formation for today.

It doesn't seem in doubt there will be a place in defence for two players who have had entirely different starts to their soccer careers . . . but starts worth a page in anybody's scrapbook.

Paul Futcher, who gives useful defensive support from midfield, was a youngster with unfashionable Chester who caught the eye of several clubs, but it was Town who nipped in and paid a club record fee of more than £100,000. (Twin brother Ron, a striker, also moved to Luton and is top scorer with three goals for the season).

At the heart of Luton's defence is John Faulkner, whose whole life style was changed when little Sutton United were paired with mighty Leeds United

in the F.A. Cup a few seasons ago. Sutton could not achieve the impossible and oust Leeds but Faulkner, their centre half, created such a hit that he was soon on his way to Elland Road. There he had the misfortune to break a leg and did not, therefore, make the progress he had expected and hoped for. But a move to Luton has given him a chance in the big time which he has eagerly accepted.

In West's absence today expect Faulkner to lead out Luton, but it's to be seen whether those following him out of the dressing room will be a number of experienced players who have recently not been able to find a place in the line-up. These include Peter Spiring (ex-Liverpool), Jim Ryan (ex Manchester United), Brian Chambers (ex-Sunderland and Arsenal) and Jimmy Husband (ex-Everton).

Manager Haslam has not been afraid to give youth a chance, and nobody has justified his faith more than former Burton Albion winger Steve Buckley who has been successfully converted to a full back and now keeps former Wolves and England stylish defender Bobby Thomson out of the side.

Then in midfield there's local boy Andy King, who

has forced his way into the reckoning this season, and in the front line Ron Futcher.

Other strikers are another former Old Trafford favourite John Aston and the one-time Australian World Cup player Adrian Alston.

Like Carlisle United, beaten in the last League match at Meadow Lane, Luton spent last season in the First Division where they did not win any of their first nine matches. At that stage their relegation seemed already assured, but Luton gradually played themselves into a more favourable position. In mid-March, when they achieved successive wins over Carlisle, Leeds and Arsenal they really began to believe in their chances of escaping the drop.

Although they were later to win another three matches in a row, over Everton, Leicester and Birmingham, it is now possible to see that their fate was really sealed when they lost 2-1 at Tottenham on 5th April. For at the final count Spurs had 34 points, Luton only 33 . . . and they accompanied Carlisle and Chelsea into Division Two.

Goalscoring was a problem last season as it threatens to be again, for with seven goals each Jimmy Ryan, Ron Futcher and Adrian Alston headed the scorers' chart.

Despite their disappointment at spending only one season in the top flight Luton may console themselves with the thought that they have come a long long way since they left the Fourth Division in 1967-68.

Of course, in the minds of the Nottingham soccer

## HALF-TIME SCOREBOARD

<b>A</b>	Blackburn Rovers .....	Sunderland .....
<b>B</b>	Blackpool .....	Southampton .....
<b>C</b>	Bolton Wanderers .....	Orient .....
<b>D</b>	Bristol Rovers .....	Carlisle United .....
<b>E</b>	Chelsea .....	Bristol City .....
<b>F</b>	Hull City .....	Fulham .....
<b>G</b>	Oxford United .....	Nottingham Forest .....
<b>H</b>	Plymouth Argyle .....	York City .....
<b>J</b>	Portsmouth .....	Oldham Athletic .....
<b>K</b>	West Bromwich A .....	Charlton Athletic .....
<b>L</b>	Arsenal .....	Everton .....
<b>M</b>	Birmingham City .....	Burnley .....
<b>N</b>	Coventry City .....	Stoke City .....
<b>O</b>	Derby County .....	Manchester City .....
<b>P</b>	Leeds United .....	Tottenham Hotspur .....
<b>Q</b>	Liverpool .....	Aston Villa .....
<b>R</b>	Manchester United .....	Ipswich Town .....
<b>S</b>	Middlesbrough .....	Queens Park Rangers .....
<b>T</b>	Newcastle United .....	Wolverhampton W .....
<b>U</b>	Norwich City .....	Leicester City .....
<b>V</b>	West Ham United .....	Sheffield United .....
<b>W</b>	Gillingham .....	Mansfield Town .....

## 21 Today

Happy Birthday to Alvin Hopkinson, assistant to the groundsman at Meadow Lane.

public they are still thought of as the side beaten by Forest in the classic F.A. Cup final of 1959. But a great deal has happened since then to the club which enjoys the cheery presence of Eric Morecambe as one of its directors. Wonder if he'll be laughing today?

## LANE LINE-UP

### NOTTS COUNTY

- 1 Eric McManus
- 2 Pedro Richards
- 3 Ray O'Brien
- 4 Ian Bolton
- 5 David Needham
- 6 Brian Stubbs
- 7 Steve Carter
- 8 Eric Probert
- 9 Les Bradd
- 10 David McVay
- 11 Ian Scanlon
- 12 Mick Vinter

COLOURS: Black and white striped shirts black shorts.

### MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Today's referee is Mr. C. L. Newsome of Broseley, Shropshire. Mr. Newsome refereed the England v. Wales youth international last year and was on the line for a France v. Spain international in 1961. He has also officiated in Italy after taking up refereeing during Army Service. Reached the League via the Midland Intermediate and Central Leagues. His interests include cooking, gardening, antiques and most sports, especially squash.

### LINESMEN

Red Flag:  
Mr. D. Bray  
of Grimsby.  
Yellow Flag:  
Mr. J. L. Godfrey  
of Brownhills, Staffs.

### LUTON TOWN

- Keith Barber  
John Ryan  
Stephen Buckley  
Jimmy Husband  
Peter Anderson  
John Faulkner  
Peter Spiring  
Andy King  
Paul Futcher  
Adrian Alston  
Ron Futcher  
Jim Ryan  
John Afton  
Brian Chambers

## BALL BOYS . . .

The Ball Boys this afternoon are kindly provided for us by the Claremont Comprehensive School (Nottm. Schools F.A.) and they are all members of the School's Under 13 team.

We welcome them here and mention their names, Calvin Taylor, Christopher Francis, Neagina Singh, Michael McFadden, Frank Riley, Wayne Broadwood, Michael Nuthall and Peter Perrons.

## MATCH BALL SPONSOR

The ball for today's game has been kindly donated by:

**MR. HOBSON**

who is a life-long supporter of the club.  
We thank him most sincerely for his generous gesture.