

# **LUTON TOWN**

Saturday, 11th October, 1975



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# VIEWPOINT

by IVOR BROADIS

Newcastle Journal and Sunday Sun Sportswriter

It has often been said that figures can be juggled to make a point which on the surface looks justifiable, but on closer examination doesn't quite stand up. Give half your workers a fifty per cent increase in pay and you can maintain that the average pay increase has gone up twenty five per cent, even though half got nothing.

That's the sort of feeling I have about Carlisle's league position at the moment. If you're a supreme optimist you can maintain that we're only three points off a middle position; but that doesn't hide the fact from the pessimist that the team is in a relegation spot third from the bottom, one of five teams separated by goal average.

Come to think of it even the optimists will view the present position as a cause for some concern. In fact the sort of start that the three relegated clubs Carlisle, Chelsea and Luton have made over the first quarter of the season seems to endorse the long held opinion that the second division is the most difficult league to get out of . . . . if you're going in the right direction.

It's a lot easier the other way when things start to go wrong, when players start losing their appetite for the ball and it becomes red hot when they do get it.

I haven't seen enough of United this season to analyse how far they've gone back, whether the praise in defeat for the quality of their football away from home was a sign of returning form, in time for the meetings against stronger sides than they've met so far.

After Everton on Wednesday night I'll stick with Newcastle and Boro' for my Saturday beat. I didn't expect miracles even before players began to go down with illness on match day . . . as late as a few hours before kick off time, and as Bill Shankly said afterwards . .

"What did you expect, Everton are in the top bracket of the first, and Carlisle are at the bottom of the second."

Frankly I expect to find out whether the Everton goalkeeper was good at anything besides picking up the ball and kicking it out of hand. You don't expect a team of world beaters in the second division but the type of player who does certain things well . . . even if it's only graft and running. Forgetting the intangibles that are usually experienced everywhere like injury and illness, and things will start to come right when the players get back to work on doing the things they can do well and enjoy doing it.

Spare a thought however for young Mike McCartney who was late in his first three tackles on the greasy surface in the first ten minutes and was booked. You can't expect a referee to know that his timing was likely to be all adrift after so little football at this level for so long.

# VISITING CLUB REVIEW

Everyone at Luton has set their heart upon regaining their First Division place at the first attempt. "Confidence couldn't be higher," said manager Harry Haslam as the new campaign got under way. "There's a special mood, a feeling that we can do it if we work together."

Results haven't been quite as well as Mr. Haslam had hoped but the Hatters are in an ideal position to step up their challenge. Some away performances have left something to be desired, particularly their League Cup tie at Fourth Division Darlington where they lost 1-2.

Luton have won only one away game so far—at Portsmouth (2-0). They went down by a solitary goal at both West Bromwich and Notts County and last Saturday they lost 2-3 at Blackpool.

At home, Luton have beaten Hull (2-0) and Chelsea (3-0), drawn with Plymouth (1-1) and Blackburn (1-1) and lost to Bolton (0-2).

The Luton team is more or less the same as the one which finished so well in the First Division last season. Keith Barber, who lost his place mid-way through last season but returned for the closing games, is in goal behind a familiar back four: John Ryan, John Faulkner, Paul Futcher and Steve Buckley.

There was a change in midfield where young Andy King took over from Jimmy Ryan but Ryan was later recalled to play with Alan West and Peter Anderson.

One change in attack saw Adrian Alston establish himself at the expense of Jimmy Husband. Normally Ron Futcher is the centre-forward with John Aston on the wing. When Aston was absent, John Seasman was called up.

Luton appear to have a talented, and well balanced, team which, with the benefit of last season's experience in the First Division, should maintain a strong promotion challenge.

The odds were always stacked heavily against Luton making a sensational escape from relegation last season but manager Harry Haslam and his team made a brave late bid to try to avoid the big drop, only 12 months ater gaining promotion.

Most Hatters fans had abandoned all hope by mid-December when, with half their fixtures completed, Luton had managed only one solitary victory. Then, surprisingly and mysteriously, they won three games in a row!

Then the Hatters went on a run of only one defeat in seven League games. Even though subsequent defeats dimmed their hopes again—they conceded five goals in successive games at Derby and Wolves over Easter—Luton refused to give up hope, their wonderful spirit winning the admiration of us all. They deserved better luck.

In the end it was so close that, when they had completed their fixtures, they had the agony of awaiting the Spurs-Leeds result two days later before knowing their fate. Spurs, who needed one point, won 4-2 — so Luton were down.

Luton recorded their first victory at Brunton Park last season when goals from Adrian Alston and Ron Futcher gave them a 2-1 win. Chris Laidlaw scored our goal. Our League record against the Hatters now reads:

Home Away	6	2	2	2	9	13	6
	12	5	4	3	16	16	14

Luton Town F.C., formed in 1885, first entered the Second Division in 1897. But they dropped out three years later and didn't return to the League fold until becoming a founder member of Division Three (South) in 1920.

They had to wait until 1937 before they regained Second Division status which they held until a fantastic finish to the 1954/55 campaign saw them scrape into the First Division on goal-average. Contrary to most people's expectations, Luton made a good impression in the highest sphere and by 1959 they were good enough to earn themselves a Wembly visit to meet Nottingham Forest in the F.A. Cup final. Unfortunately, they struck a complete off-day and, though Forest played most of the game with only ten men, Luton were still defeated, by two goals to one.

Luton's fortunes took a dramatic turn from that day at Wembley. Twelve months later they were relegated to the Second Division, in 1963 they sank into Division Three and two years later—disaster, disaster!—they plumetted into the Fourth Division.

They won the Fourth Division championship in 1968 and two years later gained promotion to Division Two.

They celebrated their return to Division Two, after a seven year absence, by making a magnificent challenge for further promotion. It didn't quite come off then but in 1974, they made it to complete a unique achievement. Luton are the only club ever to drop from the First to the Fourth Division and then climb all the way back again.



#### LUTON TOWN

**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 Liit; 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 Seasman; Reg Game (Physiotherapist). Seated: Graham Jones; Wayne Morgan; Barry McHugh; Ian Donnelly; Tony Knight; Andy Roberts; Sandor Simon; Iain Stewart; Steve Russell;

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## Fixtures, Results, Attendances, etc.

Date	(	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	F.A.	Pts	Pos'n	Att.
<b>1975</b> Aug.	16 '' 20 '' 23 '' 30	OXFORD UTD. Fulham Chelsea BLACKBURN R.	H A A H	3.00	1-1 0-3 1-3 0-1	1 1 1 1 1 1	 21 22	8505 7333 19165 8721
Sept.	6 " 13 " 20 " 23 " 27	Notts. County PORTSMOUTH Bristol Rovers Sunderland WEST BROMWICH ALBION	A H A H	3.00	0-1 2-1 1-0 2-3 1-1	1 3 5 5 6	22 22 18 19 19	8005 7314 8223 28185 6625
Oct.	4 '' 11 '' 18 '' 25	Plymouth Argyle LUTON TOWN Orient CHARLTON ATHLETIC	A H A H	3.00	1-2	6	20	12875
Nov.	1 '' 4 '' 8 '' 12 '' 15 '' 22	Nottingham Forest OLDHAM ATHLETIC YORK CITY League Cup (4) Bolton Wanderers ORIENT	A H H	7.30 3.00				
Dec.	" 29 " 6 " 13 " 20 " 26 " 27	SOUTHAMPTON  League Cup (5) Bristol City CHELSEA Oxford United BLACKPOOL Hull City	H A H A H A	3.00 3.00 3.00	e e no Le est le	and term let with the solu- term to the solu- terms to the solu-	a de com entra discri de com discri entra di	
<b>1976</b> Jan.	3 " 10 " 14 " 17 " 21 " 24 " 31	F.A. Cup (3) Portsmouth League Cup S.F. NOTTS. COUNTY League Cup S.F. F.A. Cup (4) FULHAM	A H	3.00	ris a. Colon a udef ota - zu colon c			
Feb.	7 " 14 " 21 " 24 " 27	Oldham Athletic York City (5) BOLTON WANDERERS SUNDERLAND Charlton Athletic	A A H H A	3.00 7.30			ecoett d e- elega ede G- e	
Mar.	6 " 13 " 20 " 27	NOTTINGHAM FOREST (6) Luton Town Southampton BRISTOL CITY	H A A H	3.00			ing sa J Lup sa J Lup sa J	
April	3 " 10 " 16 " 17 " 20 " 24	West Bromwich Albion (S.F.) BRISTOL ROVERS Blackburn Rovers Blackpool HULL CITY PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	A H A A H H	3.00 7.30 3.00		ol bens leinbaye Autosca 201 au 3	ercani projesto er oregan ercan	
May	1	F.A. Cup Final	in mon-lay	yata () marijas	innudeí Lio est		es eya Mariny	0
	HER	MATCHES		apisas Chada	No box	D SHA		
Aug. Sept. Oct.	2 '' 5 '' 9 9	NEWCASTLE UTD. Middlesborough Sunderland GILLINGHAM Everton	HAAHA	3.00 7.30	2-0 1-4 1-0 2-0 2-0	A/S Cup A/S Cup A/S Cup F.LCup2 F.LCup3	m na m art w nguya me na asaga	9158 8737 12673 5272



# Men of the Opposition ...

#### By Tony Pullein



KEITH BARBER (Goalkeeper). 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.

#### League record: Luton 94 aps.

JOHN RYAN (Defender). 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.

#### League record: Fulham 41(4) aps. 1 gl.; Luton 239(2) aps. 8 gls.

JOHN FAULKNER (Defender). John sprang to fame in Sutton's fabulous F.A. Cup run in 1969/70 when he was later signed by Leeds. After making his First Division debut, he had the misfortune to break a knee. He never quite made the same impact after that so he was happy to make a fresh start with Luton in 1972

#### League record: Leeds 2 aps.; Luton 112 aps. 3 gls.

PAUL FUTCHER (Defender). 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!

League record: Chester 20 aps.; Luton 27 aps.

STEVE BUCKLEY (Defender). 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. Now he has taken over from former England international Bobby Thomson at left-back.

League record; Luton 33 aps. 1 gl.

ALAN WEST (Midfield). 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, signing him for £80,000 soon after 1973/74 kick-off.

League record: Burnley 41(4) aps. 3 gls.; Luton 80 aps. 2 gls.



STEVE BUCKLEY

PETER ANDERSON (Midfield). Luton signed Peter from Hendon 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.

League record: Luton 170(3) aps. 31 gls.

ANDY KING (Midfield). Andy, a former Luton apprentice, made his first League appearance as substitute in the final game of last season. Now, following good performances in pre-season friendlies, he has earned himself a regular place.

#### League record: Luton 7(1) aps. 2 gls.

JIMMY RYAN (Midfield). Jimmy began his career with Manchester United, making several First Division appearances for them. It

was after signing for Luton in 1970 that his League career really got under way, though. He missed some of the early games this season but has now regained his place.

League record: Man. Untd. 21(3) aps. 4 gls.; Luton 155(9) aps. 21 gls.



**KEITH BARBER** 

RON FUTCHER (Striker). Ron was supposed to have been the make-weight in the deal which took him and his identical twin brother Paul from Chester in 1974. In fact, he has made every bit as big an impression as his brother. How many seventeen-year-olds have hit four goals in their first two full First Division games? That was Ron's achievement last season.

#### League record: Chester 4 aps.; Luton 24(1) aps. 9 gls.

ADRIAN ALSTON (Striker). Adrian won world fame as the star of Australia's attack in the 1974 World Cup. He signed for Luton shortly afterwards and, though born in England, he maintains his Australian passport on the hope of winning further caps. He has more than 30 so far. He was a Preston junior before emigrating in 1968.

BRIAN CHAMBERS (Midfield). Brian developed with Sunderland but had the misfortune to lose his senior place before their

League record: Luton 25 (3) aps. 8 gls.

famous Cup run in 1972/73. He moved to Arsenal at the end of that season but remained only a year before joining Luton. League record: Sunderland 53(10) aps.

5 gls.; Arsenal 1 ap.; Luton 7(3) aps.

JOHN ASTON (Striker). 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. He moved to Luton on a £30,000 transfer in 1972. Earlier in his career. John played for the England under-23 XI.

League record: Man Untd. 139(17) aps. 25 gls.; Luton 112 aps. 20 gls.

JIMMY HUSBAND (Striker). 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 schoolboy honours. Jimmy was a member of 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.

League record: Everton 158(7) aps. 44 gls.; Luton 57(1) aps. 13 gls.

JOHN SEASMAN (Striker). John was spotted by Luton manager Harry Haslam playing in Tranmere's reserve team and he signed him towards the end of last season. he scored on his first full appearance for the club.

#### League record: Tranmere 15(2) aps.; Luton 4(1) aps. 1 gl.

PETER SPIRING (Striker) Peter celebrated his return to the team last Saturday with a goal which gave Luton a 2-1 lead at Blackpool. Unfortunately, the Hatters later let that lead slip. Peter began with Bristol City and was transferred to Liverpool for £60,000 in 1973. Injuries hit him cruelly and he never did get a senior game at Anfield. He made a fresh start after a £70,000 move to Luton last season, yet he has still been plagued by a succession of injuries.

Leage record: Bristol City 57(5) aps, 16 gls; Liverpool nil aps; Luton 7(2) aps., 28 gls.





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# Second Division Scene

Chelsea's teenage skipper Butch Wilkins missed his second successive penalty last Saturday but was still confident enough to declare afterwards: "If we get another this week I'll still take it!" Wilkins could have given Chelsea two valuable points had he not sent his latest kick direct into York goalkeeper Graeme Crawford's arms. The game ended 0-0.

Someone at Fulham was dreaming when they made out the teamsheet for last week's game at Blackburn. Against number 5 they had inserted "John Lacy", last season's centre-back who was injured in the summer and who hasn't played in the League side since

The situation was complicated when current number 5, Ernie Howe, scored the only goal of the game. The referee entered "Lacy" as the scorer on his report.

Manager Alex Stock smiled: "Lacy was playing for our reserves today, a long way from here."

These incidents are a nightmare for compilers of soccer books like Rothmans Year-book. At the end of the season we could have a situation where, according to official League records, Lacy has not played a game, yet has one goal credited to him!

Oxford's new manager Mick Brown, the former assistant who has succeded Gerry Summers, got off to a good start on Saturday when his team beat Orient 2-1 to end a run of six successive defeats. But he had a few nail-biting moments first. Peter Houseman shot hit the bar early on and then Orient took the lead through Peter Bennett. But Derek Clarke and Brian Heron turned things in Oxford's favour.

Mr. Brown said afterwards: "It was good to win but I can't change things over night. We shall just take each game as it comes."

Charlton's impressive run of 10 unbeaten games came to an end with an almighty crash at Bolton who won 5-0. Trotters' manager lan Greaves praised the visitors, though. "Charlton are a good team who play open, attractive football. This result did not do them justice."

It was Bolton's biggest victory for eight years when they beat Hull 6-1.

When Bobby Svarc, Colchester's top scorer for the past two seasons with 25 each time, left on a transfer to Blackburn for £25,000 last week, he must have created something of a record by signing three times in four years for the same manager at three different clubs!

Blackburn boss Jim Smith, who took over this summer, and Svarc were once playing colleagues at Lincoln City. When Smith was given a free transfer in 1971 he took over as player-manager of non-League Boston United. One of his first signings was—Bobby Svarc, who had also previously played for Leicester and Barrow.

When Smith was appointed manager of Colchester in 1973, his first signing was Svarc, for £6,000.

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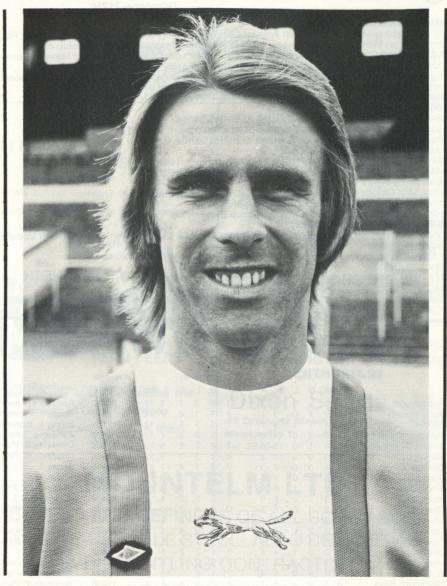
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# In focu/





A relieved Bobby Parker returned to duty last Saturday at Plymouth and is intent on re-establishing himself in the team.



## Supporters Club News

General Secretary, C.M. Barton. Telephone: 21261 Shop Manageress, Mrs. J. Sewell. Telephone: Penrith 3900. Club Manager and Manageress: Mr. & Mrs. S.C. Grubb Telephone: 21250

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the Tenth Annual General Meeting will be held in the Sheffield Room, Brunton Park on Monday 3rd November, 1975 at 7.30pm. Admission by Membership only.

BUS EXCURSIONS. Orient v Carlisle United. Saturday 18th October. A Bus will leave the cresent at 6.00am. Calling at Penrith. Fare £3 or based on the quantity of Members travelling. Nottingham Forest v Carlisle UUnited. Saturday 1st November. Albus will leave the crescent at 9.00am. Calling at Penrith. Fare £1.80 or based on the quantity of Members travelling...

#### CLAIMING DATES.

#### Sheffield Room.

Wednesday 15th October, Private Bowling XI Buffet Dance. Thursday 16th October, Members Private Social Evening.

Wednesday 22nd October, Private Football XI Buffet Dance.

Thursday 23rd October XI Buffet Dance.

Monday 27th October, Members Private 25th Anniversary Reception.

Thursday 30th October, Ladies Night Buffet Dance, (All tickets sold)

#### **Executive Room.**

Saturday 18th October, Members Private Social Evening.

Saturday 25th October, Members Private Social Evening.

Saturday 1st November, Members Private Social Evening.

#### ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CLUB.

Tonight: Ricky McCabe Liverpool presents, Terry Griffins & Les Johnson, Dynamic Girl Vocal and Comedy Impression.

Saturday 18th October, George Graham. Vocal entertainer with big voice.

Sunday 12th October,

Sunday 19th October A Jimmy Dunn, Sunderland presentation:

Please see the Clubs Notice Board.

The Supporters' Club Page is published by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR MEMBERS ONLY and is not an ADVERTISEMENT.

## SECOND DIVISION

		Home									Aw	ay			Average	
		P	W	D	L	F	Α		W	D	L	F	A	Pts.	Attendances	Leading Scorers
1.	Sunderland	11	6	0	0	15	3		1	2	2	2	5	16	26437	Robson 4, Towers 4
2.	Notts County	10	2	2	0	3	1		4	1	1	8	7	15	9619	Bradd 4, Probert 3
3.	Fulham	10	3	1	1	9	2		3	1	1	8	6	14	12131	Busby 4, Howe 4
4.	Bolton	10	2	2	0	11	3		3	1	2	8	7	13	9522	4 Players, 3 each
5.	Bristol City	10	4	1	0	11	2		1	2	2	6	9	13	12248	Cheesley 5, Mann 4
6.	Southampton	9	5	0	0	13	2		0	2	2	3	7	12	16333	Channon 6, Peach 3
7.	Oldham Ath.	8	4	0	0	8	3		0	3	1	4	7	11	7998	Jones 3
8.	Blackpool	10	3	1	0	9	6		1	2	3	3	6	11	8226	Walsh 7
9.	Bristol Rovers	9	2	2	1	8	6		1	2	1	3	3	10	7953	Bannister 4, Prince 3
10.	Hull City	10	3	1	2	6	5		1	0	3	2	5	9	6409	Greenwood 3
11.	Chelsea	11	2	3	0	7	3		0	2	4	3	10	9	19202	Garner 3, Wilkins 3
12.	Charlton Ath.	9	2	1	1	5	4		1	2	2	3	8	9	9464	Hales 2, Wharman 2
13.	Luton Town	9	2	2	1	7	4		1	0	3	4	5	8	11663	4 Players 2 each
14.	Plymouth Arg.	9	3	1	0	5	2		0	1	4	3	8	8	14549	Johnson 2, Rafferty 2
15.	Orient	10	2	3	1	4	3		0	1	3	2	5	8	5102	Bennett 2
16.	York City	9	2	0	2	6	5		0	3	2	4	6	7	4754	3 Players 2 each
17.	W.B.A.	9	1	4	0	5	4		0	1	3	1	10	7	12844	Brown 2, Hurst 2
18.	Blackburn Rovs.	9	1	0	4	5	7		1	2	1	4	4	6	11996	Beamish 2, Parkes 2
19.	Nottm. Forest	9	1	0	4	5	7		1	2	1	4	5	6	13279	Robertson 3
20.	Carlisle Utd.	10	1	2	1	4	4		1	0	5	5	12	6	7782	Barry 3
21.	Oxford United	10	2	1	2	6	6		0	1	4	4	12	6	6260	Clarke 3, Tait 3
22.	Portsmouth	9	0	4	1	3	5		1	0	3	3	8	6	11662	Piper 2



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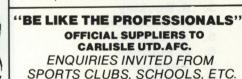
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- 8. E. Prudham
- F. Clarke
- 10. L.O'Neill
- 11. J. Laidlaw
- 12.

# **LUTON TOWN**

- 1. K. Barber
- 2. John Ryan
- S. Buckley
- 4. P. Anderson
- J. Faulkner
- P. Futcher
- 7. Jim Ryan A. Alston
- P. Spiring 9.
- A. West 10.
- J. Seasman 11.
- 12.

# TO-DAYS REFEREE

MICHAEL LOWE (Sheffield). Started refereeing in local Sheffield leagues and went on the Central League list before being appointed to the League line and the full list in the 1971-72 season. A linesman at the 1970-71 Amateur Cup Final, he was also on the line for a European Cup match in Sweden in the 1973-74 season. Married with three children he is a newsagent and enjoys playing tennis during the summer. Trains for his refereeing duties with Sheffield Wednesday and believes the liaison he has with the players help his approach.

#### Linesmen:

K. G. Fawcett (red flag)

J. Kaye (orange flag)

## **Next Home Match**

Saturday, 25th October

#### CHARLTON ATH.

K.O. 3.00 p.m.

Football League

#### SCOREBOARD

Blackburr

W.B.A. Blackpool Portsmouth **Bristol City** Charlton Fulham Hull City

Nottm. forest **Bristol Rovs Notts County** 

Oxford Utd

Oldham York Plymouth Bolton Southampton Chelsea Sunderland Orient

Middlesbrough

West Ham Utd Newcastle Utd