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Football League Division Two

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Blackburn Rovers

v. LUTON T.





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Smith Speaks

Today we welcome Luton Town in what is a vital game for both clubs as was last Saturdays game against Notts. County. Luton are on the fringe of the promotion race and a defeat today would completely rule them out, but for ourselves it is another step to climb out of safety. In fact with the 2 victories of last week we have now caught up with teams like Carlisle, Plymouth and I am sure that a victory today would bring us nearer to a few more clubs.

Last week saw us have a lucky break in so much as the two penalties; both put away splendidly by Kevin Hird. Kevin took the responsibility upon himself to take these penalties which showed tremendous confidence and I was delighted to see a young inexperienced player showing this character and professionalism when cracking two vital goals in.

John Waddington was the disappointed one as he thought he was going to take them. This confusion came about from the weeks previously when we had no recognised penalty taker and Gordon Taylor said he would do the job. The following week John and Kevin were both in the side, and both decided on Kevin to take the penalties.

John was delegated for both the Bolton and Charlton games. Kevin forgot this and thought he was the penalty taker, as he had scored earlier in the season at Southampton. Kevin told John that it was his job, and got on with it in no uncertain manner.

I am hoping it will not take penalties to win the game today, and I am sure if we can get the support we got in the last 10 minutes at Notts County, throughout, it will be a great boost to us all.

Press Digest

**NEWS, VIEWS AND
OPINIONS FROM
THE NATIONAL PRESS**

SUNDAY PEOPLE 22/3/1976

Keith Peacock celebrated his 400th League game for Charlton with his first goal in Division Two this season. But Colin Powell stole the glory from him with a remarkable winner as the Rovers had victory snatched from them.

Powell's stunner came seven minutes from time with a 25-yard shot into the top corner of the net after a run from inside his own half.

The winner came minutes after Peacock had equalised with a diving header from Hale's cross.

But manager Andy Nelson wasn't impressed. He moaned: This was our worst home display of the season! I didn't think we'd ever score and yet we got two class goals in the end. There will definitely be changes for Tuesday's game against Orient."

Nelson even had to admit, as he bumped into Blackburn boss Jim Smith in the corridor afterwards: "You threw it away".

The most pleasing thing for the Valley boss was the impressive debut of 17-year-old schoolboy David

Campbell, who came on for the injured Bowman in the first half.

Only goal average now keeps Blackburn's noses above the relegation flood water. But they are not a side who have been particularly well endowed with luck this season.

They started this match with over half their team missing through injuries and suspensions. And they lost midfield man Metcalfe with an ankle injury.

Metcalfe, spraying seemingly effortless 20- and 30-yard passes across the pitch, was their one player of real class. Even so, Blackburn played well enough to deserve the lead given them by Beamish soon after half time.

Hawkins was a tower of strength at the heart of the Blackburn defence and it was a tragedy that he had no reward.

Smith said afterwards: "I'm sick with the way we went down! I couldn't see any way we could lose after taking the lead. It's going to be a tough fight to avoid the drop now, but it's in our own hands."

SUNDAY MIRROR 22/3/76

Two superb late goals by Charlton plunged Blackburn into deeper relegation trouble.

Rovers had looked in with a chance of both points as sluggish Charlton struggled to find their rhythm.

Kenny Beamish rocked the home side with a neat goal in the 54th minute. But then came the Charlton revival.

Keith Peacock headed in the first goal 13 minutes from the end. It was the 90th goal of his career in his 400th league game for the club.

Five minutes later, Colin Powell, deep in his own half, set off on a run that ended with a magnificent 25-yard left-foot shot into the top corner of the net. It was a goal fit to win any game.

Charlton chief Andy Nelson later accused some of his players of "not trying." But he was full of praise for 17-year-old schoolboy David Campbell, who played with real class after coming on as a 34th minute substitute for injured midfield man Richie Bowman.

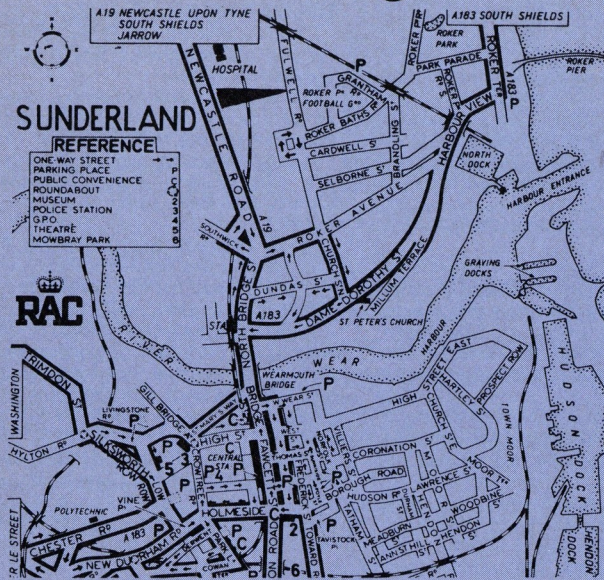
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Sunderland AFC ground (Roker Park) is one and a half miles north of Sunderland town centre, off the A183 (South Shields Road). See town plan.

Info-Desk

GET WELL SOON

Chief Scout Fred O'Donoghue, collapsed recently, and is at present in Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston where his condition is 'fair'. Fred of course to anyone who knows him, was always on the move, and he takes great pride in his position of Chief Scout, a job in which he hopes to have laid the foundations for future Rovers teams. Sincere Best Wishes for a speedy and complete recovery Fred, from the Staff and Fans of Blackburn Rovers F.C.

BOBBY'S PROGRESS

Following his recent successful cartilage operation Bobby Svarc is doing exercises to build up the wasted muscle, which occurs as a direct result of this operation. Whilst he still has a pronounced limp, it should improve quite rapidly over the next fortnight. He will shortly be moving into a house in the Wilpshire area.

r.a.t.c. Coaches to Sunderland

Saturday, April 10th. Depart Foundry Hill 9.30 a.m.

Price **£2.15 Adult**
£1.45 Children.

Bookings can be made at any Ribble/Ribblesdale agency or at the Rovers Development Office on production of valid R.A.T.C. Membership Card.



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THE QUEEN'S AWARD
TO INDUSTRY

1970



THE QUEEN'S AWARD
TO INDUSTRY

1971

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**Action
v.
CHARLTON**

Above: Ken Beamish falls as he scores the Rovers only goal.

Above right: Charlton 'keeper intercepts as Gordon Taylor challenges

Left: Steve Downes is foiled by the safe hands of Wood.



BLACKBURN TIMES



more
sport
than
ever
before

Who will be Miss Blackburn Rovers '76?

Current holder of the title is the vivacious Jill Hargreaves, of Buncer Lane, Blackburn. Pictured here with the fabulous trophy awarded by one of the Sponsors of the event Matthew Brown & Co. Lion Brewery.



So come on girl's it's a title well worth winning. ENTER NOW!!

Blackburn Rovers Development Association

Miss Blackburn Rovers 1976

RULES OF COMPETITION

1. No employee or close relative, e.g. sister, daughter or an official of Blackburn Rovers Development Association, or parent club, or any of the adjudicators may enter.
2. Competitors must be female.
3. Competitors must be 17 years of age.
4. The Final of the Competition will be held at the Golden Palms on Tuesday 4th May, 1976.
5. Judging at all stages will be on—
 - a) Charm
 - b) Personality
 - c) Poise
6. The Competition will be judged on a points system, in the event of a tie the Chairman of the panel shall have the casting vote.
7. Having taken part in the heats, if any, competitors must undertake to participate in the finals if required to do so, and no person having signed the documents can withdraw from the contest for any reason except by genuine illness. Any breach of this rule shall result in disqualification necessitating the return of prize money or awards.
8. The B.R.D.A. Committee shall have the full and free right to use the name and photograph of any contestant in connection with any advertising or publicity purposes for one year from the date of the contest.
9. Should the winner of any of the heats or at the final contest be disqualified, the organisers reserve the right to promote the runner-up or to hold another contest.
10. **THE DECISION OF THE ORGANISERS IN ALL CASES IS FINAL.**
11. Competitors may only enter one heat.
12. Competitors must reside permanently within a 15 miles radius of Blackburn.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO ADDRESS ABOVE WITH RECENT PHOTOGRAPH

ENTRY FORM

SURNAME CHRISTIAN NAMES

ADDRESS

AGE..... YEARS..... MONTHS.....

DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH

NATIONALITY OCCUPATION

AMBITION HOBBIES

DAY DRESS OR EVENING DRESS MUST BE WORN

I have read, understood and agreed to the rules and conditions of the Miss Blackburn Rovers 1976 contest as above.

Signed Date.....

Take 2

by Alf Thornton

All the Second Division leaders maintained their promotion challenges last Saturday, with Bristol City, solidly entrenched at the top, gaining a useful but unimpressive 1-0 win at Carlisle with a penalty from Gerry Gow after 16 minutes. There-after, Bristol retreated into their defensive shell, but Carlisle had little menace in attack, their leading scorer, Richie, missing two easy chances from clear-cut openings.

Sunderland, still firmly in second place, were too good for FA Cup semi-finalists Southampton at Roker Park, and thoroughly deserved their 3-0 success, with goals from Roy Greenwood (2) and Holden.

West Brom had a goal from Len Cantello early in the second half to thank for their 1-0 victory at Portsmouth—a defeat which almost certainly means relegation for "Pompey".

Oldham Athletic went down by a similar margin at Fulham, where Jim Conway was a first-half scorer.

Bolton returned to winning ways against Chelsea at Burnden Park, but it was a remarkable match, with the Londoners responsible for all the three goals scored.

Bolton were trailing to a goal from Ian Britton until the 63rd minute, when, under great pressure, Dave Hay, Chelsea's Scottish international, helped a header from Roy Greaves past his own goalkeeper.

Then, five minutes from the end, "Butch" Wilkins, the Chelsea captain, also put through

his own goal when he hit a back pass past Peter Bonetti.

Blackpool had Alan Ainscow sent off in their goalless draw at Bloomfield Road against Plymouth, and there were four other bookings during the match. The East Yorkshire "derby" between Hull City and York City finished at 1-1 with Hull scoring first through Peter Daniel and Mike Cave getting the equaliser. Football League attendances last week-end totalled 567,602, but Easter fell at the corresponding period last year, so a comparison would be meaningless.

In the Second Division, total attendances were 127,100.

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Following the installation of a new Public Address System we are able to operate a Record Request Service, send your request on a postcard please to:

Radio Ewood,
Blackburn Rovers F.C.

Please Note: Requests must be received no later than Wednesday prior to a Saturday game or Monday for a mid-week game.

BLACKBURN ROVERS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

GRAND NATIONAL DRAW 1976

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THE DIKLER	F2347	BLACK TUDOR	D4447
GLANFORD BRIGG	E7316	NEREO	A1622
MONEY MARKET	A6654	COLONDINE	E3463
HIGH KEN	D0813	HUPERADE	C9958
RAG TRADE	G3716	OTTER WAY	B1753
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NOTIFICATION	G4465	MERIDAN II	D9282
ROMAN BAR	F3854	SANDWILAN	G1528
GOLDEN RAPPER	C0267	TUDOR VIEW	E3245
EYECATCHER	B6320	STRAIGHT VULGAN	B7079
BARONA	B5485	VULGAN TOWN	B0261
CEOL-NA-MARA	G3457	BALLYBRIGHT	F3962
CHURCHTOWN BOY	G2694	SPITTIN IMAGE	E0629
PERPOL	C8758	INDIAN DIVA	H1997
PROLAN	E4208	THOMOND	E0744
CREDIT CALL	D2788	BOOM DOCKER	E4937
JOLLY'S CLUMP	F9122	ORMONDE TUDOR	H3215
MERRY MAKER	D8002		

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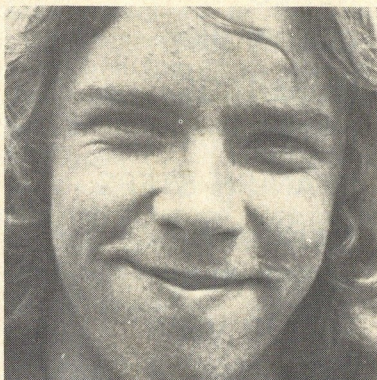
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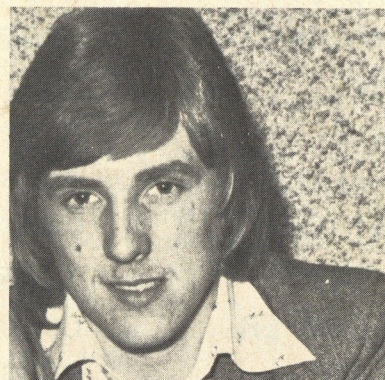
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Player of the Year Competition 1975/76

If your player of the year is shown on these two pages. Complete the voting form on opposite page and return to the Development Association. Prime considerations when making your choice should include the skill, effort, and enthusiasm, displayed by the Player of Your Choice throughout the season.



PAUL BRADSHAW



MICK WOOD



NEIL WILKINSON



STUART METCALFE

The Closing Date for Votes is April, 24th and the presentation of Awards will take place at the ANNUAL PRESENTATION DANCE to be held at the "Golden Palms" on Tuesday May 4th, 1976. Tickets Price 50p will be available shortly from the Development Association.

Previous winners K. Knighton 69/70. R. Jones 70/71. J. McNamee 71/72. Tony Field 72/73, Derek Fazackerley 73/74. D. Martin 74/75.



BOBBY SVARC



JOHN KENYON



MICK HEATON



JOHN WADDINGTON

PLAYER OF THE YEAR 1976

My choice is

Return this coupon to The Rovers Development Association, or place in the special box provided in The Development Association Offices.

Plain paper votes accepted, if name and address given.



Back Row: Mead, West, Hindson, Ryan, Anderson, King, Fuccillo, Chambers, Coyne, Pollock.
First Row: Bergara (Coach), Malcolm, Carr, Thomason, Fatcher, Faulkner, Barber, Horn, Litt, Buckley, Price.
Second Row: Pleat (Coach), Aston, Fatcher, Spiring, Haslam (Manager); McCrohan (Coach), Alston, Husband, Seaman, Game (Physiotherapist).
Seated: Jones, Morgan, McHugh, Donnelly, Knight, Roberts, Simon, Stewart, Russell, Smith.

Luton Town who are our opponents at Ewood today, are finding it difficult to adjust to life in Division 2 after their brief interlude of one season in Division One. They were sliding down to the relegation zone at an alarming rate, and disclosed that because of debts totalling £700,000 were in danger of extinction, from that moment, their fortunes changed, and they proceeded to shoot up the League, with no less than seven consecutive wins, and are now only just outside the fringe of the leading promotion candidates. As with our last weeks visitors Notts County, The Hatters' which is Luton's nickname where in the no mans land of Division 4 in the late 60's and gained promotion in 1968-69 from that Division and followed it by finishing as runners up the following season in Division 3, thereby gaining promotion, their climb back was as spectacular as their descent down, but that of course is what Football is all about.

It is a well known fact that Malcolm McDonald played for the club, and that Luton received a club record fee for him of £180,000 in May of 1971, and that they themselves have twice entered the £100,000 market with Alan Best signed from Burnley; and more recently Paul Fatcher from Chester.

Graham Horn. 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. Luton made a £25,000 offer and Graham made his debut for the Hatters at Blackpool in March 1973.

JOHN RYAN. 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.

STEVE BUCKLEY. 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, thereafter, former England International Bobby Thomson was unable to regain the left-back position.

JOHN FAULKNER. 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. 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.

PAUL FUTCHER. 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

Welcome to Luton

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 lightening summing up of every situation made him a big success in First Division football and how he is strongly tipped for representative honours. Paul is the identical twin of striker Ron who joined Luton at the same time.

PETER ANDERSON. Peter had looked little farther 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.

ALAN WEST. Alan took over as skipper of the Hatters mid-way 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.

JIMMY RYAN. 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.

BRIAN CHAMBERS. 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.

JOHN ASTON. 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.

ADRIAN ALSTON. 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.

PETER SPIRING. 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.

RON FUTCHER. 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.

JIMMY HUSBAND. 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 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.

JOHN SEASMAN. 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 Seasman, who, in my opinion, has far greater prospects."

A to Z

An alphabetical breakdown complete with Pen Pictures of Players who have played with Blackburn Rovers FC down the years. Specially prepared by Harry Berry Author of *Century of Soccer*.

Albert 'Nobby' Clarke. Born Sheffield. Ht. 5-7 Wt. 10-0 Previous club Birmingham.

A cut price signing by Bob Crompton during the close season of 1938, Clarke emerged as one of the most voracious scorers the club ever possessed. In 38 games he scored twenty one goals, a total more remarkable because he only obtained one goal between January 23rd and the end of the season.

App. 38. 1938/39 goals 21.

Ronnie Clayton. Ht. 5-10 Wt. 11-4 Born Preston. Subsequent clubs Morecambe, Great Harwood.

It would be impossible to adequately express the debt the club owes to Ronnie Clayton, who made his debut at the age of sixteen in 1950/51 and went on to make a record number of appearances for the club. An energetic wing half, strong in the tackle and a brilliant timer of the ball in the air, he became an automatic choice for his country succeeding Billy Wright as captain. His career in all spanned nineteen seasons and even at the end he was a formidable opponent in the centre of the back four.

App. 577. 1950/1 to 1968/9 Goals 15.

John Connelly. Ht. 5-8 Wt. 11-2. Born St. Helens. Previous clubs Burnley Manchester United. Subsequent club Bury.

A fast penetrative winger, Connelly joined the club in 1966. He had already had an illustrious career with the Lancashire first division clubs Burnley and Manchester United, during which he gained practically all the honours the game has to offer.

App. 148. 1966/7 to 1969/70. Goals 36.

Jock Crawford. Ht. 5-11 Wt. 12-0. Born Stirling. Previous club Alloa.

Crawford, a stylish, agile goalkeeper joined the club in 1925, but did not become an immediate regular due to the presence of the great Ronnie Sewell. Eventually his form earned him preference over the ageing Sewell and in his first regular season he gained a cup winners medal.

App. 155. 1924/5 to 1931/2.

Bob Crompton. Born Blackburn. Previous clubs St. Peters.

No individual is more synonymous with the Rovers than the immortal Bob Crompton. During nearly half a century he served the club as a magnificent full back, capped forty-one times for England, a director, and a successful manager whose football acumen brought the club promotion in the 1938-9 season. A strong, immensely powerful man, he was a tough tackler, but was always scrupulously fair. Captain of both championship winning sides, his one regret was that he never obtained a cup medal. Even at the age of thirty-nine he was fit enough to turn out for the club in the season following the first World War, but then retired and was rewarded for his services with a seat on the board.

App. 529. 1896/7 to 1919/20.

Eddie Crossan. Ht. 5-6 Wt. 10-0. Born Derry. Previous club Derry. Subsequent club Tranmere.

Signed soon after the Second War, Crossan gave the club immense service as a gifted, creative inside forward. One of the most talented ball players the club has ever known, he was often criticised for his unpredictable shooting yet even this facet of his play was sufficient to bring him 73 league goals. Strangely his county capped

him only sparingly, though they must have been extremely well off for inside forwards if they could afford to ignore this little man with the touch of genius in his twinkling feet. His younger brother John who played for Manchester City and Sunderland also became an Irish international.

App. 287. 1947/8 to 1956/7. Goals 73.

Chris Crowe. Ht. 5-7 Wt. 10-10. Born Newcastle. Previous club Leeds.

Subsequent clubs. Wolves, Notts Forest, Auburn (Australia) Bristol City.

Signed to take over the inside forward role left vacant when Roy Vernon was transferred to Everton. This blond, dashing player proved one of the most enigmatic players the club ever possessed. Fast, and tricky with a powerful shot he was too similar in style to Peter Dobing and never satisfactorily fitted into the forward line.

App. 51. 1959/60 to 1961/2. Goals 6.

Arthur Cunliffe. Ht. 5-6 Wt. 10-8. Born Blackrod. Previous club Chorley.

Subsequent clubs Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Burnley, Hull.

A flying left winger discovered with Chorley, Cunliffe had a sensational start to his career scoring nine goals in his first seven games.

App. 129. 1929/30 to 1932/3. Goals 45.

Walter Crook. Ht. 5-8. Wt. 10-9. Born Whittle le Woods. Subsequent club Bolton.

Tough tackling and indestructible Crook was born in Whittle but lived most of his life in Blackburn. Captain of the 1939 promotion side, Crook was just approaching the peak of his career when the War claimed a large slice of it. His record of maximum appearances in four consecutive seasons is one that is unlikely to be broken in the conceivable future.

App. 218. 1931/2 to 1946/ goals 2.

Other Players

Sam Clark. FB. App. 1. 1935/6.

Ken Clayton. WH. App. 73. 1952/3 to 1958/9.

Tommy Cleghorn. WH. App. 47. 1894/5 to 1895/6.

Joe Clennel. IF. App. 26. 1910/11 to 1913/14. Goals 12.

Tommy Clinton. FB. App. 6. 1955-56.

A E Clough. FB. App. 1. 1919/20.

John Coddington. CH. App. 72. 1967/8 to 1969/70. Goals 3.

Brian Conlon. CF. App. 43. 1970/1 to 1971/2. Goals 7.

Ernest Coombs. CF. App. 6. 1933/4.

Les Cook. FB. App. 76. 1946/7 to 1948/9.

Harold Cope. GK. App. 25. 1926/7 to 1929/30.

F. Coupe. GK. App. 1. 1899-1900.

Arthur Cowell. FB. App. 280. 1905/06 to 1919/20.

Gary Coxon. FB. App. 10. 1966/7 to 1967/68.

James Crabtree. GK. App. 12. 1913/14 to 1919/20.

James Crabtree. GK. App. 12. 1913/14 to 1919/20.

Bobby Craig. IF. App. 8. 1961/2 to 1962/3. 3 goals.

Bobby Crawford. WH. App. 5. 1934/5 to 1935/6.

Frank Crawley. App. 24. 1921/2 to 1922/3. 24 Goals 1.

Jack Crisp. W. App. 97. 1922/3 to 26/7. Goals 18.

Ellis Crompton. CF. App. 35. 1906/7 to 10/11. Goals 21

Cunliffe. LW. App. 1. 1905/6.

Crook. RW. App. 6. 1899/1900.

Wilf Crompton. RW. App. 20. 1929/30 to 30/1. 5 goals.

Fan of the Week

This week features Bill Isherwood who lives in the Sunnyhurst area of Darwen. Bill is mill manager at the Crown Decorative Products, Belgrave Mill, Darwen, and is also Chairman of Darwen Cricket Club.

Anyone who knows or has met this fan extraordinary will know how close the Rovers are to his heart. A supporter for fifty one years Bill does not feel that the changes that have occurred in the game over this period, have not been, on the whole beneficial, particularly when one considers the demise of town club's over the period commencing with the abolition of the maximum wage, and that the 'Freedom of Contract' will also affect the finances of the "Townies" and reduce the number of players.

Bill is hoping that the club win their fight to stay in Division 2, not so much from the point of view of the present first team pool strength, but because of the tremendous improvement he has seen in the Reserve side the last twelve months, and is convinced that some of these youngsters will shortly be ready to challenge for a regular place, and if its in Division 2, a better overall player will be the outcome. After the poor show by the Reserve side over the past two or three season's, it is obvious that someone has put in a tremendous amount of work to bring about such a radical change. Well done! !

Looking into his crystal ball Bill sees the Rovers as an average Division 2 team with the occasional flash of consistency which could take them back to the Premiere Division, but basically we will have to settle for second



best, and ensure that our gates allied to the ever increasing commercial activities will enable the club to run efficiently, and economically.

Being connected with Darwen Cricket Club, Bill realises how important the social side of any club is, and was very disappointed that the club's effort to start a 'Sportsmans Club' was rebuffed by the local council.

I asked Bill to name his personal choice for his all time Rovers team, and here are his selections, the choice was difficult said Bill, taking into account the changes namely mid-field, back-four, strikers etc., but he finally came up with this twelve, Jones, Fazackerley, Eckersley, Clayton R. M. Woods F. Chivers Douglas, Dobing, Briggs, Quigley, Langton Sub. England.

Bill rates 'Duggie' as the greatest thing he has ever seen on a football ground, and regular relives in his memory the highlights of the magic moments provided by Bryan Douglas. Few will argue with this choice and that surely is a great note to close on.

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Looking Back

It was well for the prestige of the Rovers and First division football in general that the visiting players to Burton should cause an excited crowd of 10,000, who had gone to see the mighty humbled, to change to generous recognition of a better class team. After the first ten minutes the issue was never in doubt, even though the home players lashed themselves once more into making furious attacks prior to the Rovers' fourth goal, which was the coping-stone of their ready-built structure.

When the spice of adventure in cup-tie football takes a team to an unknown ground, there to find they have to strip in a transformed stable, and be greeted by a record crowd, roused to the highest pitch of enthusiasm by the home side's successes in six earlier rounds anything can happen. But even if there will be considerably less than £200 as the Rovers' net share of gross takings of £511, something has been gained. A right perspective of the qualities of two unequal sides was set by the result. Burton had counted on the Rovers' wingers being upset by their nearness to the crowd, but, seeing that Bruton and Cunliffe equally shared the four goals, that kind of reckoning was all wrong. They had both experienced such conditions in their earlier association with the Lancashire Combination and West Lancashire League.

SOON MASTERS

It was a pleasant surprise for the Rovers that the playing pitch was worthy of a First Division club. What threatened most was the early rush of the home side before some of the visitors—Britton in particular—had found their bearings. That phase passed when Groves produced the first bit of real football. The inside left's ability to make position, often by employing a body swerve, and serve his partner to advantage, was followed by the whole front line coming into form that bewildered Burton's defence and made goal scoring simple.

The support of a strong half-back line, with Healless cool and calculating, kept the game running sweetly, until a commanding lead had been established. If there had not been a tendency to ease up in the second half, or if Cunliffe had made full use of his chances—he was constantly menacing goal—the victory would have assumed far bigger proportions. Though Imrie relaxed, after blotting out Boswell, the scorer of 32 goals this season. Gorman and Hutton remained firm and Binns showed, every time he was called upon, masterly ability as a goalkeeper. Reid, an ex-Burnley back. Neil Harris, and Causer were Burton's best players.

ROVER.

1931-32

Commanding praise for their brisk attacking methods, the element of surprise in which brought them five goals, the Rovers at home brushed aside a trim side from Portsmouth, whose 10 weeks' run of immunity from defeat ended, though they scored three times. It was one of those games that ought to have produced a mammoth score, so freely did the attackers of both sides threaten. The advantage of a soft, slippery turf lay with the forwards, but whereas Portsmouth's defence was more heavily hammered it came out with slightly more credit than the Rovers.

In a sense, the Southerners beat themselves. They built up their advances on either flank with sparkling and accurate ground passing. Worrall, the ex-Oldham winger, who has improved an already clever front line, gave Hutton an unhappy time, and Cook, on the other flank, was altogether too elusive for Gorman. Yet, despite the very fine scheming of Jack Smith, the brilliant wing-half play of Thackeray, and the snap of Easson, who scored all their three goals, Binns' task in the Rovers' goal was light compared with that of Gilfillan.

ROVERS' VARIED ATTACKS

Why so many beautiful approaches should have petered out when they ought to have been crowned with goals was not, I afterwards learned from Mr. Jack Tinn, as much a lapse into the old fault of over-elaboration, though that did occur, as a state of leg weariness consequent upon two gruelling Cup-ties with Middlesbrough. Weddle's usual bustling methods were missing, but this might have been due, to some extent, to the domination of Imrie, who also went up in the attack to recover the lead before the side turned round against a strong wind.

Th understanding that was further developed between Bruton and Healless for interchanging positions on the run brought more danger on the home right flank than the excellent forcing game of Groves and the speedy raiding of Cunliffe on the left. Because of the way he is now served by his partner Cunliffe, with his swiftness should be riddling any defence in the country, goal included. Even if he put many passes wrong McLean pointed the way to success with well-directed if speculative shooting. One of the novelties of the game was the amount of fair shoulder charging which the referee permitted.

ROVER.

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Dear Sir,

I notice through the press & media that you are struggling somewhat to make ends meet. Though not being rich myself I hope once again I can offer a token donation to help club funds. I therefore enclose a cheque for £50 and hope the clubs fortunes (which are dear to my heart) take a turn for the better. Please pass on my thanks to Mr. Smith & Mr. Bancroft for their continued good management in the present difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. Woodburn

Dear B.R.D.A.,

I enclose £1.25 cheque payable to the Progress Association and Grand National Draw counterfoils.

I hope you will invest the money wisely on a pair of spectacles for the use of the more short-sighted referees who visit Ewood Park.

Forever a rover
Chris Dugdale

Sorry Chris due to inflation, £1.25 is not enough for a pair of **Rose coloured specs**, but thanks for your support with the Grand National Draw.

Many thanks Mr. Woodburn, for your very generous donation. I am sure the Board will thank you personally, when you take up their invitation to be a guest of the club, as soon as your occupation permits. **Every little helps** in our present financial plight.

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QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. They didn't have one.
2. Syd Owen who joined Luton in 1947 from Birmingham.
3. Duncan was player-manager and Soo was coach.
4. Luton beat Bristol Rovers 12-0 in a Division 3 (South) game, 13 April, 1936.

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- 7 Gordon TAYLOR
- 8 Steve DOWNES
- 9 Ken BEAMISH
- 10 Tony PARKES
- 11 Kevin HIRD
- 12

LUTON TOWN Late
Changes

1. Keith BARBER
2. John RYAN
3. Steve BUCKLEY
4. Pasquale FUCCILLO
5. Paul PRICE
6. Paul FUTCHER
7. Jimmy HUSBAND
8. Peter SPIRING
9. Ron FUTCHER
10. Alan WEST
11. John ASTON
12.



PETER RICHARDSON (Lincoln). Promoted to the full list after serving on The League line and the supplementary list. Previously refereed in the Lincolnshire, the Midland Counties and North Midlands Leagues. Senior linesman for last season's Texaco Cup Final (Newcastle United v. Burnley) and on the line for England v. Young England in 1968. A works manager, he is married and his main hobby is golf—he is secretary of his local club.

Linesmen:

Red Flag:
J. W. LANCASTER
Yellow Flag:
M. G. PECK

Lucky Number

2337

Scoreboard

SECTION ONE

- A Man. Utd. v. Derby Co.
- B S'ampton v. Crystal P.
- C Arsenal v. Spurs
- D Birm. City v. Aston Villa
- E Coventry v. Leicester
- F Leeds v. Burnley
- G Liverpool v. Everton
- H Middlesboro v. Ipswich

- J Newcastle v. Q.P.R.
- K Norwich v. Sheff. Utd.
- L West Ham U. v. Wolves

SECTION TWO

- A Blackpool v. Bristol C.
- B Bolton v. Notts. For.
- C Bristol R. v. Orient

- D Hull C. v. Charlton
- E Notts Co. v. Sunderland
- F Oxford U. v York C.
- G Plymouth v. Oldham
- H W.B.A. v. Carlisle
- J Colchester U. v. P.N.E.
- K Gillingham v. Bury

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