

sports scene

ISSUE 27. SATURDAY APRIL 17TH 1976

PRICE 10p

Official Match Day Programme
Football League Division 2

OXFORD UNITED V

LUTON TOWN

SATURDAY APRIL 17TH 1976
KICK-OFF 3.00PM

OXFORD UNITED

- 1 Roy Burton
- 2 Les Taylor
- 3 John Shuker
- 4 Nick Lowe
- 5 Colln Clarke
- 6 Max Briggs
- 7 Peter Houseman
- 8 Peter Foley
- 9 Derek Clarke
- 10 Roger Gibblins
- 11 Mick Tall
- 12 Steve Aylott

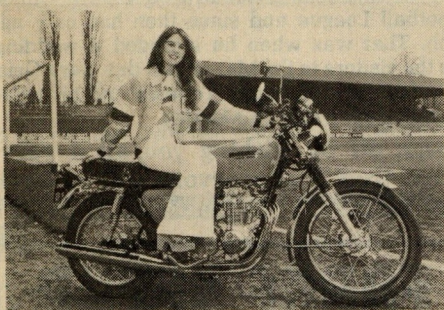
LUTON TOWN

- 1 Keith Barber
- 2 John Ryan
- 3 Steve Buckley
- 4 Pasquale Fucillo
- 5 Paul Price
- 6 Paul Futcher
- 7 Jimmy Husband
- 8 Brian Chamber
- 9 Ron Futcher
- 10 Alan West
- 11 John Aston
- 12 Peter Mead

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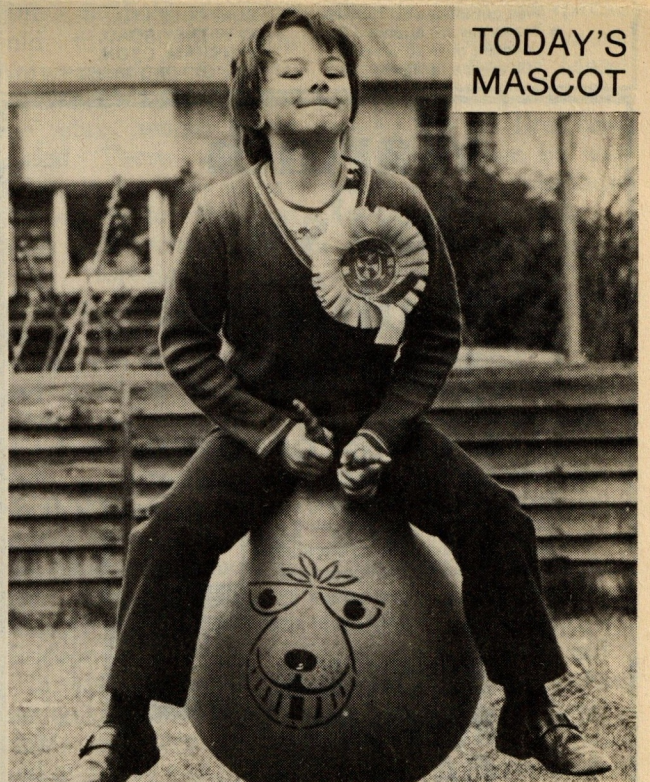
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Linesmen: Mr P. Totney - From Dudley - Red Flag
Mr T. Maber - From Middlesex - Orange Flag

**TODAY'S
MASCOT**



AT SIX years old Giulio Barresi from Church Cowley Road must be one of United's youngest supporters. He will also be United's mascot for the match against Luton Town.

Giulio who attends Larkrise school has been a United supporter for over two years. Along with his father he is a regular supporter at the Manor ground.

Giulio is a keen footballer himself even though he is too young for his school team. Giulio's enthusiasm for football is no doubt shared by a friend of the family. . .ex-United player David Sloan.

CC12938

'No-one could have given more than Mick Brown he has been superb in very difficult times'

THANKS, GENTS!

SUPPORTERS NOTES BY JIM HUNT

Today at 2.30 p.m. out on the pitch, we make the Super Easter Draw and I would like to thank everyone who has given their support.

At the time of compiling these notes I have no idea of how we have fared but I am confident that when the last ticket has been placed in the drum it will all have been worth while.

We were hoping to obtain a celebrity to make the draw but I cannot promise anything because you will appreciate we did not particularly want to spend hard earned money in this respect and we were hoping to persuade some-one to perform this duty out of the kindness of their heart.

On behalf of all supporters, and especially for members of the Supporters' Club, may I say a sincere Thank you to all the players of Oxford United Football Club. Again it is too early to even say with any certainty whether we will or will not stay in Division 2 but I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking everyone.

And in everyone I mean Mick Brown, Fred Ford and Ken Fish and not forgetting those regular supporters who in recent weeks have excelled in their vocal support both home and away.

Let me now have the pleasure, from the inside, of paying a special tribute to our three front runners named in the previous paragraph.

No-one could have given more than Mick Brown, he has been superb in very difficult times, and no praise can be too high. Mick would be the first to admit that in turn Fred and Ken could not have given him more support.

Fred has performed miracles on the field with his youngsters and I can assure you Ken almost performs them in his medical domain. The majority of 5 day workers would squirm at the very thought of working just half the number of hours in one week that either Mick, Fred or Ken work. Thank you gentlemen.

Easter Monday is a big day in the life of Oxford United Football Club Boardroom Commissionaire Jesse Gee and his wife Beatrice, for it is their Golden Wedding day.

80 year old Jesse Gee, a member of the Supporters' Club, became Boardroom Commissionaire on Oxford United's entry into the Football League and since then has only missed one home match. That was when he attended a wedding and he remembers the visitors to the Manor that day were Orient, when they were in fact Leyton Orient. To Jesse and his wife Beatrice we wish a very happy day on Monday.

I will sign off by wishing you all a very happy summer and trust that everyone will be back at the opening home match next season. Up the U's.

THE CLUB THAT ALMOST DIED

ITS SELL, SELL, SELL AT LUTON

LUTON TOWN, who visit Oxford on Saturday, have had a big dipper of a season. They have been as up and down as the spring weather.

Having dropped from the First Division last summer, they expected to go straight back whence they came this term. They had the same team that sparked a revival that almost saved them leaving the top flight.

But it never happened. In fact they had a most mediocre start to the season, and did not start

their promotion push until November.

Then they had a superb run. They beat Orient at home, and then went to Charlton and won 5 - 1. West Brom, Hull, Oxford, Bristol Rovers, and Portsmouth all fell to Luton before the Hatters stumbled at Bolton.

Whatever their form

on the pitch, the overriding factor at Kenilworth Road this season has been their financial crisis. They were a reported £740,000 in the red, and there were meetings of the club's shareholders and major creditors.

Fortunately people gave the club breathing space, and creditors agreed to take half of what they were owed in the club's new shares. Peter Anderson, the club's midfield star was sold to Belgian side Antwerp for £60,000. Had he not agreed to go, the club would have folded. There was no money in the bank to pay the wages for the last week in November.

A fortnight ago another young midfield player, Andy King, went to Everton for £40,000, and another economic crisis was avoided. A clutch of players have been exported to the North American League to cut the club's wage bill. These include skipper Bobby Thomson, Jimmy Ryan and Gordon Hindson.

In spite of all the background worries, the club's good form continued and they can still be called outsiders for promotion.

Star of the side is undoubtedly centre back Paul Fitcher. He and his identical twin brother

Ron, the town's centre forward, went to Kenilworth Road for £110,000 from Chester last season. The bulk of the fee was for Paul who is rated as one of the best sweepers in the Second Division.

Brother Ron and Jimmy Husband have shared the goalscoring burden, with considerable help from the now departed King.

With the club being forced to release so many players, the chance has arisen for several youngsters to emerge from the ranks of the youth teams. Defender Peter Mead was included in the squad for the first time last week when he was Luton's substitute against Notts County.

And "Lilly" Fuccillo, a Bedford lad of Italian descent has been a regular in the side this year. He is only 19.

Ever present this season have been goalkeeper Keith Barber and right back John Ryan, the club's longest-serving player.

Rugged centre half John Faulkner has been unlucky with injuries, but Luton have found a capable deputy in Paul Price, another 19-year-old, who has twice recovered from a broken leg.

While there may not be any cash in the coffer at Luton, they have a rich array of talent.


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Second half collapse sends Brown's not so merry men scuttling back humiliated



UNITED'S full back Les Taylor (2) fires a cracking left foot shot which beat the outstretched leg of a Forest defender and into the net for what at the time Les thought was his first goal in the second division.

But his joy was soon over, as his effort was ruled off side.

The player supposed to be off side was Derek Clarke, who is in the centre of the pic, the two other United players are Roger Gibbins and John Shuker.

OXFORD'S second half collapse which brought four Forest goals in the final 16 minutes once again sends up the danger signals for Second Division survival.

There were high hopes before this game that Oxford would maintain their recent improvement and if they had picked up a point this would have been a big boost.

With four successive wins behind them United at one time looked set to shock Brian Clough's side but after facing almost total pressure in the second half the Oxford defence were forced into submission.

The visitors might have felt they were desperately unlucky to finish with such a heavy defeat but they had to admit that Forest were the more composed and aggressive side.

Oxford were only kept in the game by a brave performance from goalkeeper Roy Burton who produced magnificent saves to foil Marten O'Neil, Ian Bowyer, Sammy Chapman and John O'Hare.

Irish International O'Neil said: "I thought Burton was going to keep us out yet again. He always has a great game against Forest and some of his saves were superb."

Burton's praise was fully deserved but when the Oxford defence folded like a pack of cards under a wave of Forest attacks the goal keeper had no chance to perform more miracles.

He was beaten in the 76th minute by a header from Barry Butlin and soon after O'Neil hammered in the second from 18 yards, the best goal of the game.

Colin Barrett was sandwiched by two defenders for Terry Curran to his — the third from the penalty spot and a minute from time John Robertson grabbed the fourth. It gave Forest the double over Oxford after their 1 — 0 win at the Manor Ground in September.



SECOND half action with United's Peter Foley hits fine shot which went just over the bar.

SPECIAL SPORT SCENE REPORT/Photos Malcolm Rouse

Poor Oxford never knew what hit them and they were left to reflect on two crucial incidents in the first half which might have given the game a different complexion. Les Taylor burst through to hit the ball home, only for Derek Clarke to be given off side, and soon after Roger Gibbins beat goalkeeper Peter Wells but defender Frank Clarke scooped off the line. Peter Roley and Derek Clarke missed two useful second half openings but by then Forest had their sights on the goal and United disappeared from view.



Take that! Derek Clarke hammers a shot at goal, but Forest's Sammy Chapman gets in the way and the ball cannons away.

John Tagholm's end of season view

MANCHESTER UNITED FANS STILL WELCOME

Most people seem to have forgotten now, but last season's biggest topic of conversation was provided by Manchester United fans. Their march through Second Division territory was illuminated by the media spotlight.

"Rampant fans", "Cage the Animals", "Red Hoardes Strike Again", ran the headlines and the outrage was widespread.

And, of course, some of it was justified. As this season draws to a close, however, it is worth looking back and re-examining those events, and more particularly the reaction to them, in the light of the behaviour of Manchester United fans on their return to more familiar stamping grounds in the First Division.

Some Second Division clubs last season were quoted as saying "we don't want them". Many made great play of the fact that military style precautions were being taken to quell the expected riot.

In short, Manchester United supporters were regarded, particularly by the press, as a thoroughly bad lot.

Tommy Docherty, bless him, while admitting exasperation at the events, never once criticised the fans en masse, but merely labelled a few hundred as the trouble makers.

This was the view we took at Oxford. But we went even further than that.

From a genuine belief that most of what Manchester United stood for was good for football and that the behaviour of a small proportion of the fans was often a reaction to press and public hatred of them, Oxford positively welcomed their visit to the Manor.

Certainly we took precautions, but buses from the station to the ground, for example, were just as much a special facility for the supporters as a means of keeping the worst elements off the streets.

Lots of police were on duty, but that would have happened anyway.

At the end of the day the worst fears of Oxford had not been met. There was some damage done, windows broken and fences pushed over, but it wasn't of Attila the Hun that many had prophesied.

For the damage both clubs were indeed sorry but in the final reckoning the day was a success. The match was splendid, the incidents few. As a spectacle it was the best thing to happen at the Manor

for some time.

The emphasis on the good things in football, which has been marked in the press this season, is an important step in the right direction. The praise showered upon the type of football played by Manchester United, Derby and Queens Park Rangers, and particularly on their attitude to the game, has seeped through to all levels, including the terraces.

The publicity gained by Manchester United fans this season has been virtually the opposite of last season's. Their loyalty and their sheer weight of numbers has silenced the knockers; their style and behaviour has brought only praise.

Manchester United the team, and Manchester United the supporters are welcome at the Manor anytime, just as they were last season. We said it last season when nobody wanted them, and we'll say it this season, when everybody does.

JOHN TAGHOLM

OXFORD UNITED'S newest supporter is Victoria Emma Makelow who is just two and a half weeks old.

She is the daughter of Supporters' Club committee man, John Makelow and his wife Carol. Carol is a member of the Supporters' Club ladies darts team.

Victoria was born on 31 March at the John Radcliffe Hospital and she is John and Carol's first baby.

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VIEW FROM THE TERRACE by H. Irvine



IT CAN give a real supporter no satisfaction to criticize his team but, in all honesty, if United are prepared to take praise for recent performances they must also be subject to criticism when it is due.

Fellow supporters who made the trip to Nottingham were, undoubtedly, as disappointed as I was, as the 4 - 0 scoreline speaks for itself.

Although all the goals came inside the last fifteen minutes I thought that a home result was inevitable from the start. Apart from a brief period when 'Little Ginge' had what looked like a good goal disallowed and a Forest defender, acrobatically, cleared off the line when a goal looked certain, it was all Nottingham, and I hate to say it, but we seemed a division behind them.

Without taking anything away from Forest's performance I think that United have saved their worst two games of the season for the matches against Nottingham (remember our diabolical performance against them at the Manor?)

I realise the tremendous strain that Mick Brown's boys are under but if that is the way that we respond to pressure then we deserve to be relegated!

Thus United's players walked off the field with heads

drooping, John Tagholm's miserable prediction was proved right, and even some of United's loyal veteran supporters who make every away game and were regulars at the Manor before 'yours truly' was born, were talking in terms of Third Division football next season; am I the only one who sees any hope for the club?

Alright, so we lost two vital points and can barely afford to drop another couple in the last four games, but the situation, although difficult, is not desperate.

I want to see United go onto the Manor against Charlton and Luton, and play with the skill and, just as important, the confidence of a team on the top of the world for pressure is only what you make it; and I want to see the London Road, and hopefully the rest of the ground, get behind United with all the vocal vigour that it is capable of.

If that is the case then I am quite confident that Easter for United and the supporters could turn out to be a very profitable one.

Finally, a word of thanks to all the supporters who have travelled the country this season following United. It's been great seeing familiar scarves and faces in the most obscure corners of England.

All I can say folks is, 'Keep up the good work next season be it at Wolverhampton or Lincoln.'

HARRY IRVINE



UNITED'S Roger Gibbins plays the ball over the body of the Forest keeper Peter Wells to what seemed an open goal, but as the ball seemed to have crossed the line, Frank Clarke who is on the left rushed into the goal and with a spectacular overhead scissors kick he cleared the ball back into play, and rob United of what seemed a very good goal.

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INTRODUCING UNITED'S 'FOOTBALLING VICAR'

ON THE BALL

WITH THE air as blue as it often is on a Saturday afternoon at the Manor its not the sort of place you would normally expect to find a clergyman.

But the Rev Michael Chantry takes it all in his stride. For the past seven years he has been Chaplain to United and has been watching them play for eight years before that.

Its an interesting position and one that he combines with being a full-time teacher in High Wycombe, and chaplain to Hertford College. Sometimes even he wonders how he fits all his duties in and still finds time to lead a happily married family life at his Marston home.

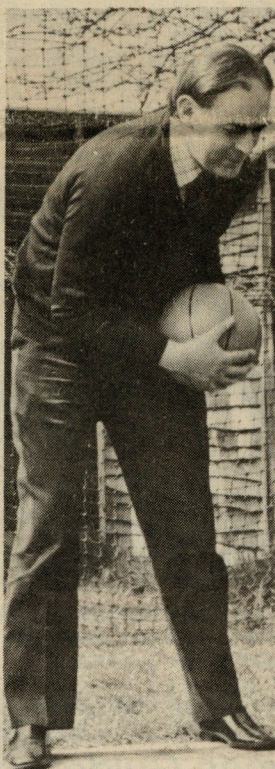
Handful

Oxford United's "footballing vicar" is one of only a handful of club chaplains around the country. But those that have one, including Wolves and Leeds, find them of real value.

Mr Chantry hates being referred to as "The Rev." He believes his place is among people, not stuck in a church. God, he says, is as much a God of the traffic warden as the church warden, the trades union as the mothers union, and the Oxford City Council as the Church Council.

The tie-up between the club and the church extends beyond the soccer field — and the same good natured relationship

goes with it. Last autumn when club chairman Tony Rosser was reading the lesson at the annual sportsmen's service at St Aldate's, the Rector, Canon Michael Green, altered the running order of the hymns to include "Lead Us Heavenly Father, through this vast



and barren land." A timely tribute Mr Green said to the difficulties the club were having then.

Mr Chantry, a lifelong soccer fan, used to referee a lot of matches in Oxfordshire, and at-

tends every home game the club play. He always sits with the players who aren't on the field, in order to meet them and be on hand for any occasion.

Hurled

One such incident was when Colin Clarke was substituted shortly before the end of a game. He took off his shirt and hurled it at Gerry Summers, and then stormed off to the baths. "He was furious" said Mr Chantry, "the air was blue". He followed the player into the changing room "and let him talk to me. I'm not an official, so they know if they sound off at me nothing goes back to the directors or anybody."

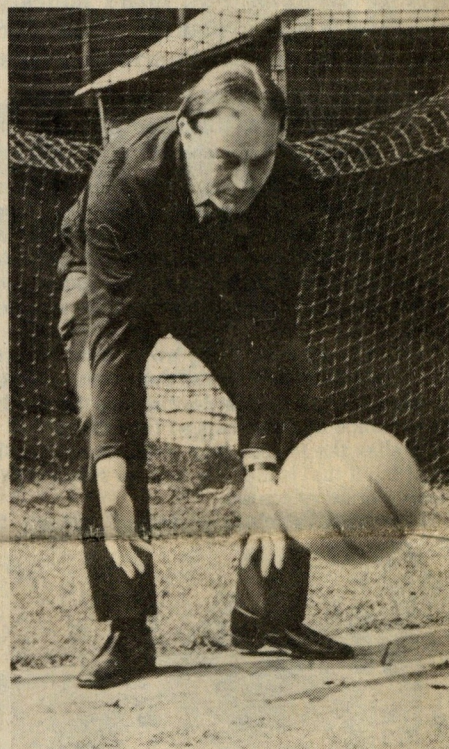
The pressures are very great on footballers, says Mr Chantry, because their professional lives are so short.

Players and directors are always calling on him for help and advice. Once he had half the first team at his house — rewiring it.

Problems

He says he prays for individuals when they have problems, but not for the club as a whole. But he is a great believer in loyalty. It is very important — especially at the moment.

He will never bring up the subject of religion. He lets others do that because he is very wary of being accused of ramming it down people's throats.



HALF TIME SCORES AT THE MANOR

A	Blackburn v York City	
B	Blackpool v Carlisle	
C	Bolton v Oldham	
D	Bristol R. v Southampton	
E	Chelsea v Orient	
F	Hull City v Sunderland	
G	Notts C. v Fulham	
H	Portsmouth v Charlton	
J	West Brom. v Nottm. F.	
K	Arsenal v Ipswich	
L	Birmingham v Tottenham	
M	Coventry v Wolves	
N	Derby C. v Leicester	
P	Leeds v Man. City	
Q	Liverpool v Stoke	
R	Man. Utd. v Everton	
S	Newcastle v Burnley	
T	Norwich v Q.P.R.	
U	West Ham v Aston Villa	
V	Cardiff v Swindon Town	