The Official Match Programme

Season 1976/77

Price 15p.



League Division Two

Saturday, 30th October, 1976

BLACKBURN ROVERS
v.
LUTON TOWN

Smith Speaks

Today gives us every opportunity to erase the disappointment of last Saturday's result against Chelsea. A result all the more sickening by the fact that we had the biggest gate of the season. I'm sure that all the spectators who do not normally come to Ewood, enjoyed the game. I only hope they give us another chance by attending today, I am sure they will see another attractive game, for Luton our opponents are one of the most attacking sides in the league. It is to their great credit, home and away, they try to play open football.

Looking at Eddie McCreadies statement after the Chelsea game, where he feels in two years time that Chelsea will be a tremendous force in the football league. If this is so, on the evidence of Saturday, there is no reason whatsoever that the Rovers cannot steal some of the glories off them in the coming seasons. The one thing that gives me confidence for the future is the development of our players this season, I am particularly pleased with our younger players, in Kevin Hird, John Bailey, and Paul Bradshaw, I am sure we have three of the brightest prospects in football today. These players must



realise that to succeed they must never stop working at their game.

If one thing impressed me about Chelsea's voungsters was the tremendous willingness to run and work for one another. This is the type of spirit we have at Ewood, along with our skills, which will, I am sure, keep us up in the promotion race.

MATCHBALL

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Mar. 12th Orient - Graham & Brown Ltd. Mar. 26th Millwall - Hobkirks (Sewing

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April 9th Carlisle Utd. - Niall Malone.

April 16th Wolves. - Arnold Eatough & Sons.

April 30th Charlton - Roy Higginson.

May 14th Fulham - Blackburn Students

TWO'S COMPANY by Alf Thornton

Burnley became the latest team to feel the force of Nottingham Forest's scoring power in front of their own fans at the City ground when the Clarets lost 5-2 after going into a 2-1 lead early in the second half.

It is a reminder of the stiff task we face when we travel to meet Brian Clough's fine side next Saturday.

Burnley's defence simply fell apart late in the game and John Robertson's penalty equaliser after Malcolm Smith and Brian Flynn had replied to an early Forest goal for Eddie Curran. was followed by further goals to Forest from Barry Butlin and Martin O'Neill (2).

Sheffield United's John Flynn, the former Workington player, had to be carried off with a broken leg at Charlton, where the home side's Derek Hales, the League's top scorer, was one of six players booked as the London club recovered from a half-time deficit of 2-1 to win 3-2.

Hales, whose winning goal was his 14th in the Second Division this season, was involved in the incident in which Flynn was injured.

This win put Charlton level on 13 points with Wolves, who were helped to a convincing home win over Carlisle by a hat-trick for Alan Sunderland.

New signing Derek Spence from Bury, scored a late equaliser for Blackpool at Cardiff both Cardiff goals against the Seasiders were scored by Tony Evans, who was given a free transfer by Blackpool last year.

Notts County completed a successful day for Nottingham when they won 4-1 away at Hereford, whose sixth successive defeat cost them the chance to hand back bottom place to Orient, left idle because their water-logged pitch was unfit to play against Millwall. Improving Southampton won by the same margin at Luton and Hull City, our next visitors to Ewood, did well to prize a point out of Fulham at Craven Cottage.

Bolton recovered from a two-goal deficit to force a useful draw at Oldham, while Brian Hall, ex-Liverpool, grabbed Plymouth's late leveller against Bristol Rovers at Eastville.





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Caught by the CAMERA

Above: Peter Silvester chases in vain for a loose ball in the Chelsea penalty area.

Below: This time it's Chelsea defender Ron Harris who gets in the way of an attempted attack by Tony Parkes and Glen Keeley. Right: Chelsea keeper Peter Bonetti wins this one against a group of Rovers raiders lead by Bobby Scarc.







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BLACKBURN TIMES

magic moments by Peter White

With so many Lancashire derby games to enjoy this season, it's perhaps appropriate to look back on a derby between old rivals Rovers and Burnley, from one of their many clashes in the top flight. It is always a special pleasure to get the better of your neighbouring rivals and any win over the "old enemy" must count as a magic moment.

The game in question came towards the end of February 1962 when Burnley lead the way in the First Division and were looking for another title triumph to follow their championship success of two years previously. They were, however, eventually pipped for top spot by lpswich.

Unbeaten for more than two months, the Clarets came to Ewood eager to consolidate their place at the head of the division, but they were in for a shock.

Ewood had its best League attendance of the season, 33,800, to see a clash that not only had vital championship points at stake for the visitors but which was also important to Blackburn pride. No side likes losing a derby match.

Things didn't go too well for Rovers in the first half and Burnley had their tails up after 27 minutes when blond striker Ray Pointer grabbed what looked like an all-important goal. Trailing at the interval, Rovers fans could only hope that their team could find the strength and skill to fight back and that's just what they did.

Within a minute of the restart, lan Lawther, who hit some fine goals in his time at Ewood, had levelled the scores with a glorious right foot shot that set the terraces buzzing. Then, in the 63rd minute, Rovers were in front and the fans were roaring.

It was Lawther again who did a lot of the damage, sending over a pinpoint cross for Fred Pickering to plant a superb header in the back of the net. For local boy Pickering, steeped in derby match traditions, it was a moment of delight.

Although Burnley finished much higher than Rovers at the end of the season, Ewood followers went home happy that day.

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Youth Scene

by Tom Howarth

Manchester Utd. "B" (1) v. Rovers "B" (1).

Today we played some of our most entertaining football of the season. When we do come to United's ground we are always sure of a good hard game, but today we must have had 80% of play and came away with a 1-1 draw which was a bit of an injustice considering how well all the team played. Everyone in the side played hard and only the sound defensive work in the United defence saved them from a real drubbing.

We went ahead in the 55th minute with a fine goal from Morley, Pouncing on a half clearance from the United defence he volleyed the ball home from just inside the United penalty area.

Rovers "B" (1) v. Manchester City (0).

This was a fairly even game that could have gone either way, both defences were on top and there was very little given away in either of the teams mid-field's.

As the game progressed we just managed to get the edge over them but the chances that we created just wouldn't go in the net. It was left to Garner in the 88th minute to head our only goal

from the edge of the city goal area. After Waddington had outjumped the rest of the players at the far post and directed the ball back into the centre onto the head of Garner. Due to the second team having no game we had quite a strong side out but we didn't really put it together till half way through the second half.

Rovers "B" (0) v. Everton (1).

We lost this game with a goal against us in the first couple of minutes when our defence was caught napping, a series of bad clearances. let in the Everton No. 9 who gave Crawford (our new goaler) no chance with a close range shot.

After the give away goal, Everton never looked like scoring again, and during the last twenty minutes or so of the game we were hardly out of their half, Morley especially having some really bad luck with his scoring attempts, one in particular, when he took the ball through the Everton defence rounded the goalkeeper and side footed it towards the centre of the net only to see it come to a dead stop in a puddle of mud right on the Everton goal line.



HERE TODAY ... LUTON TOWN

KEITH BARBER: After five years of competing for the position, Barber established himself in 1975/76 season as Luton's regular first choice goalkeeper, and at the age of 28 had his bestever season, winning the supporters club's "Player of the Year" award, the first time it had ever gone to a goalkeeper. He joined Luton in 1971 after being spotted by a scout playing local soccer in Vauxhall, London.

STEVE BUCKLEY: He was a free-scoring left winger with Southern League club Burton Albion when Luton stepped in to buy him for the bargain price of £2,000 in the summer of 1974. Within six months he had been converted into a First Division full-back, and has been Luton's left back ever since his impressive debut.

JIMMY McNICHOL: The long friendship between Luton manager Harry Haslam and Bobby Robson — they were at Fulham together — helped Luton secure the services of full-back McNichol. They grabbed the bargain when lpswich, prolific producers of young players, gave him a free transfer in the summer of 1976.

PAUL FUTCHER: Luton equalled their record transfer fee when they paid £100,000 for Futcher in the summer of 1974. He was still only 17, and with only a handful of Fourth Division games behind him with Chester, his home town club. But the big league clubs had already seen his potential, and Luton nipped in to beat them all. He has since become one of the most popular players with Luton's supporters: a cool, elegant centre-back, with a marvellous football brain.

RON FUTCHER:' Twin brother of Paul, and identical in looks. When Luton paid £25,000 for him, it was generally reckoned that he had been transferred from Chester just because the boys wanted to stay together. But Ron soon made his mark: he was thrown in at the deep end when Luton were struggling in the First Division and marked his debut with a winning goal. He followed up with a hat-trick in his second First Division game, and has since established himself in Luton's front line.

JOHN FAULKNER: Don Revie was the first man to give Faulkner his league chance: he was the centre-half in the Sutton United team that played Leeds in an FA Cup-tie, and did so well that Revie, then Leeds boss, immediately bought him. He joined Luton for £6,000 in March '72, and has been a regular member of Luton's defence ever since.

GRAHAM JONES: Watched by a Luton scout while playing in schoolboy football in his native Manchester, Jones was signed as an apprentice in the summer of 1975. A big, tenacious defender, he made rapid strides through Luton's reserve and youth teams, and made his League debut, at the age of 17, in Luton's last Division II game of last season.

PAUL PRICE: Another player snapped up as a youngster, defender Price has had to fight harder than most to break through — he broke a leg early in the 1974/75 season, fought his way back to fitness, then broke it again. His determination overcame his atrocious luck, and he came back to make his debut in Division II last season. Still only 22, he comes from Welwyn Garden City.

PASQUALE FUCCILLO: Son of Italian parents who settled at Bedford, players and supporters at Kenilworth Road give this strong midfield player the nickname of "Lil" to overcome their difficulties with his tongue-twisting nickname. But there is no mistaking his footballing ability: he joined Luton as a 16-year-old apprentice in the summer of 1973, and worked his way through to the League side. He scored on his debut in February 1976, and shows every sign of being a regular marksman on his thrusting runs from the middle of the field.

BRIAN CHAMBERS: A Geordie, Chambers made his name and reputation as a midfield player at Sunderland, and they collected £70,000 for him when he was transferred to Arsenal in 1973. But he never broke through to the First team at Highbury, and Luton got him for £30,000 only a year later, when he was 25. He had a patchy start at Luton, flitting in and out of the league side, but finally established himself last season when he became a regular member of the Kenilworth Road team.

JIM RYAN: No relation to full-back John Ryan, Jim was a winger in the Manchester United squad which won the European Cup in 1968, but unable to hold down a regular place at Old Trafford. A Scot, he joined Luton at the age of 24 in the summer of 1970 in a four-player package deal which also took Don Givens from Manchester United to Luton Town, at a total transfer price of £35,000. It must rank as one of the best bargains ever because Luton later recouped £60,000 by selling Givens and Ken Goodeve, and they still have the considerable talents of Jim Ryan. He operates either in midfield or as a winger, and packs a useful shot.



Top (left to right): Gregory, Buckley, Smith, Wassel, Deans, Hill, Simon. Middle (left to right): Jones, Futcher, Faulkner, Knight, Barber, Ryan, Price, McNichol, Game (Physio). Front (left to right): Fuccillo, Chambers, Carr, McCrohan (Coach), Haslam (Manager), Husband, Aston, Mead.

ALAN WEST: Luton broke all records when they splashed out £100,000 to buy West from Burnley in October 1973, and he and Jim Husband, who was signed a few weeks later, helped the club to win promotion to the First Division within six months. An England under-23 international, West is one of the many stars to emerge from Burnley's "football production line." He comes from Hyde in Cheshire, and almost went to Sunderland. Luton stepped in after that deal fell through, and West has become a mainstay of their side. Brilliant in his use of the ball, he has been club skipper since early 1975,

JIM HUSBAND: Joined Luton in November 1973 with a string of honours already collected with Everton. A Geordie, he was capped by England as a .choolboy, as a youth, and at Under-23 level. He went to Goodison Park as soon as he left school, and became a Merseyside favourite in a ten-year stay there in which he hit 75 goals. Luton paid Everton £70,000 for his services and he was their leading goal-scorer last season.

RICKY HILL: A 17-year-old midfield player, Hill exploded into league soccer as Luton's season looked as though it were fading away quietly at Easter, 1976. An apprentice, signed by Luton after impressive displays for Cricklewood School-

boys, Hill was an unknown reserve when he was named as substitute. An injury gave him his big chance: he made his debut with 22 minutes to go in a match against Bristol Rovers, and made one goal and scored a cracker to become an instant sensation with supporters and Fleet Street.

JOHN "DIXIE" DEANS: Luton Town's major close-season signing, they paid £20,000 to bring Deans over the border after he had had four spectacular seasons with Glasgow Celtic. His sharpness in front of goal soon earned him the inevitable nickname of Dixie at Celtic, where he scored 83 league goals in 110 appearances. He has a lot of experience of European football behind him, as well as two Scottish caps.

JOHN ASTON: Like his famous father before him, also named John Aston, John broke into professional football with Manchester United, and achieved international fame with an out-of-this-world performance on United's left wing in their European Cup Final triumph against Benfica at Wembley in 1968. Aston destroyed their defence, but a broken leg interrupted his career at Old Trafford. He was 25 when Luton manager Harry Haslam, a former Manchester United player himself, stepped in to secure his services for £30,000 in July 1972.

in by the post

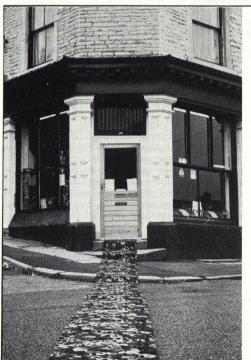
51, Walsingham Rd., Orpington, Kent.

Dear Sir, I would be very grateful if you would kindly print this letter in your programme. I am a loval Chelsea supporter, who follows Chelsea everywhere, and last Saturday I visited your excellent ground. I am writing to praise, very highly, the Blackburn Police, who in my opinion were the best police I have met anywhere this season. At almost every other ground I have been to, the police (who have a hard task to perform) have found great hardship in being able to differentiate between loyal supporters, and hooligans. But last Saturday was an exception where I felt the police were absolutely tremendous. Whilst

being escorted to the ground, and even during and after the game. I found all the police to be friendly and pleasant people. Even though they had had to deal with a few morons who sadly masquerade as Chelsea Fans.

I hope Blackburn Rovers continue to do well, and I thank the officials and supporters of the Club for making my visit a very enjoyable one, and last, but not least, a very special THANK YOU to the POLICE of Blackburn.

> Yours Sincerely, Colin Crawford.



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A to Z by Harry Berry

MIKE HARRISON, Born Ilford, Ht. 5ft. 10ins. Wt. 11st. 8lb. Previous club Chelsea. Subsequent clubs Plymouth, Luton,

Already an Under 23 international when signed in 1962 for a large fee, Harrison was an extremely good orthodox left winger who played a notable part in the successes of the early sixties. Noticeable for a high knee action when running, he was strong, fast, and possessed one of the hardest shots in the game. As a penalty taker he has many claims to be the finest the club ever had, certainly only Billy Bradshaw and Tony Field could reasonably dispute this argument.

160 app. 1962/63 to 1967/68 40 goals.

JOE HAVERTY, Born Dublin, Ht 5ft 31/2 ins Wt. 9st 9lb. Previous club Arsenal, Subsequent clubs Millwall, Celtic, Shelbourne, Chicago Spurs.

Haverty a bundle of left wing trickery came to the club in 1961 with a considerable reputation as a crowd-pleasing entertainer. Although popular with the crowd, he was alarmingly inconsistent, and seldom displayed the form that had earned him a legendary reputation with the Eire national team. It was not long before he moved on, though he continued to gain international honours as he moved around the soccer globe.

27 app. 1961/62 to 1962/63 1 goal.

GRAHAM HAWKINS. Born Darlington. Ht 6ft. Wt. 13st. 1lb. Previous clubs Wolves, Arsenal and Preston.

It is yet premature to be concluding any summary of the career of Graham Hawkins for he is still an integral part of the Ewood scene. Already his form over the two and a half seasons, since being transferred from Preston. rank him for inclusion among the club's greatest ever signings, and subsequent events may make his claims paramount. Many Preston supporters believe he was the sole reason why the club bounced straight back to Division Two in 1972, and certainly the herculean job he performed for the Rovers in 1974/75 enhances that supposition. However it is not solely on his abilities as a footballer that Hawkins should be judged. He has always conducted himself on the field of play with immense dignity, and composure, and his influence on those around

him has been extremely welcome to his team-mates, manager and those spectators who relish the cool, composure of a good professional.

71 app. 1974/75 to 1975/76 2 goals.

ERNEST HAWKSWORTH, Born Rochdale, Ht. 5ft 71/2 ins. Wt. 12st. Previous club Rochdale.

When the First World War decimated the greatest side the club has ever had, it placed an intolerable burden on many young players who were required to step into the shoes of past giants. One of these novices was Hawksworth a goal-scoring inside-forward who with Percy Dawson, ensured the club scored sufficient goals in the seasons after the league resumed. Although his worth tends to be obscured by the brief but extraordinary prolificacy of Rodgers. Hawksworth's contribution should not be overlooked, for he scored regularly over a far longer period, when goals were sorely needed. After his playing days were over he returned to his old occupation as a master-tailor, keeping in touch regularly with the club.

96 app. 1919/20 to 1923/24 35 goals.

STAN HAYURST. Born Leyland. Ht. 5ft. 10ins. Wt. 10st. 9lb. Subsequent clubs Tottenham, Barrow, Grimsby.

Unlike many players who receive any amount of chances, Stan Hayhurst can look back and contemplate a career of unparalleled bad luck. A promising goalkeeper when football recommenced soon after the Second World War, he was too inexperienced for the Rovers to count on, and so Eddie Hapgood signed the experienced George Marks. A splendid spell as deputy for Marks brought Hayhurst to prominence, but the Rovers still preferred an experienced goalkeeper and signed Tottenham's Welsh International Bill Hughes. Impressed by the form of Havhurst the Londoner's asked for him in part exchange, a disastrous move for the player since he became understudy to the ultra-consistent Ted Ditchburn. After many frustrating seasons in the reserves, Hayhurst was allowed to leave for football in the lower reaches of the League, yet there is little doubt that he was during his better years a far superior goalkeeper to many playing in the First Division.

27 app. 1946/47 to 1948/49.



Stephen Corrigan had a surprise visit from Rovers Star Tony Parkes, Stephen who plays for Holding Athletic, was involved in a car accident. In the picture with Stephen and Tony Parkes are Keith Sedgwick and Mark Holding.

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NEXT HOME MATCHES

Wednesday, 3rd November, 1976 Central League ROVERS RES v EVERTON Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 6th November, 1976 Central League ROVERS RES v NOTTS FOREST Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 13th November, 1976 League Division Two ROVERS v HULL CITY Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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Commercial

Dear Supporter,

Having now been in the 'Hot Seat' so to speak for some eight days, since taking up my duties as Commercial Manager for this famous Club—an honour of which I am justly proud, may I add, I have been tremendously impressed by the friendliness, interest and enthusiasm which I have encountered.

May I first of all thank our Chairman, members of the Board, the Rovers Staff, Supporters and workers, who have wished me well and promised their help in the task of maintaining and improving the financial well being of this historic Club.

Constantly rising costs which affect us all, fall very heavily on professional football clubs, in their efforts to improve the standard of facilities and entertainment. This situation hits Blackburn Rovers no less and it is my goal to achieve the maximum financial support possible for

A LETTER FROM OUR NEW COMMERCIAL MANAGER

the parent club.

I realise that this is a great personal challenge, which I face with eager anticipation and I feel sure that with your support and co-operation, we can reach the targets I have set. Our catch phrase 'Rally Round the Rovers' says everything Rally round and become a member, or better still an agent for one of our great weekly competitions. There are first class Cash prizes to be won and good expenses to be earned. Whatever you can do to assist the Development Association would be welcomed. My staff and myself are available at all times, so do not hesitate to call or telephone if you wish to join the team.

Thank you all once again for your kind wishes. I feel confident that together we can do a great job for Blackburn Rovers.

Yours sincerely'

JOE WITHERINGTON

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Chelsea	11	8	1	2 19 14 1/
Blackpool	12	6	2	4 19 13 14
Wolves	11	5	3	3 26 14 13
Charlton	11	5	3	3 26 24 13
Notts Forest	11	4	4	3 26 17 12
Bolton	11	5	2	4 19 16 12
Hull City	11	4	4	3 14 12 12
Oldham	11	4	4	3 16 17 12
Plymouth	11	3	5	3 18 16 11
Fulham	10	3	5	2 13 12 11
Bristol Rovers	11	4	3	4 12 12 11
Southampton	11	4	3	4 20 20 11
Notts County	11	5	1	5 16 20 11
Millwall	10	4	2	4 14 11 10
Rovers	11	4	2	5 13 14 10
Luton	11	4	2	5 15 16 10
Sheffield Utd	11	2	6	3 14 18 10
Carlisle	11	3	4	4 15 23 10
Cardiff	11	3	3	5 17 20 9
Burnley	11	2	4	5 16 21 8
Orient	10	2	3	5 9 13 7
Hereford	11	2	2	7 14 26 6

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Slalom Lager

by Matthew Brown

Line-up

BLACKBURN ROVERS

- 1 Paul BRADSHAW
- 2 Derek FAZACKERLEY
- 3 John BAILEY
- 4 Stuart METCALFE
- 5 Glen KEELEY
- 6 Graham HAWKINS
- 7 Kevin HIRD
- 8 Peter SILVESTER
- 9 Bobby SVARC
- 10 Tony PARKES
- 11 David WAGSTAFFE

12

LUTON TOWN

- 1 Keith BARBER
- 2 Paul PRICE
- 3 Steve BUCKLEY
- 4 Brian CHAMBERS
- 5 John FAULKNER
- 6 Paul FUTCHER
- 7 Jim HUSBAND
- 8 Alan WEST
- 9 John DEANS
- 10 Pasquale FUCCILLO
- 11 John ASTON
- 12 David CARR



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D. T. KEIGHLEY (Vice-Chairman).

D. BROWN.

A. L. FRYARS.

W. I. HUBERT.

W. FOX.

Dr. M. JEFFRIES, T.D.

E. PICKERING (Vice-President).

J. M. SMITH (Manager).
JOHN HOWARTH (Secretary).

JACK MARSHALL (Physiotherapist).

SCOREBOARD

A-Leeds U. v. Arsenal

B-Liverpool v. Aston Villa

C-Manchester U. v. Ipswich T.

D-Norwich C. v. Manchester C.

E-Blackpool v Wolves

F-Bolton Wanderers v. Fulham

G-Chelsea v. Southampton

H-Oldham A. v. Notts. F.

J-Plymouth A. v. Burnley

K-Wrexham v. Bury.

Referee Eric R Garner (Liverpool). Commenced refereeing in 1954 and has progressed through the Ormskirk and District, Lancashire and Northern Premier Leagues to the Football League line and later (1972) to the full list.

He is a Senior Clerk and married, with three

Linesmen: Red Flag, P. J. Burrows, Yellow Flag K. G. Fawcett.



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