

LUTON TOWN

Official Programme 20p

✓ **ORIENT**

Football League
Division Two

Saturday 20th August 1977
Kick-off: 3.00 p.m.



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HARRY HASLAM



HELLO again, and welcome back for the new season. I'm glad to welcome the new campaign, and we're all looking forward to it. It has been a shorter than usual close season for us because we went on tour to America, New Zealand and Fiji.

We learned a lot from those games, and for me it was particularly pleasing to see the way young players are developing. Lads like Graham Jones, David Carr, Jim McNichol, Peter Mead, Tony Knight and Gary Heale are now all close to the first team and doubtless some of them will have their big chance in the new season.

We have to kick off without Alan West and Paul Price, and when they do return in a week or two they will find there is keen competition for first team places. Needless to say they will get a big welcome back, and we as a club have reason to be grateful for what they have done - apart from the transfer fee for Ronnie Futcher, we were also in pocket through the summer reduction in wage bills. Our finances are getting better all the time, and even if there is a long way to go yet on that score it's no longer the big worry it used to be.

We welcome Phil Boersma to the team and hope he has a successful first game for us today. He's settling in well, getting to know our players and style, and I am convinced that he will become a big favourite with the supporters. I know you will all help him, and in the same vein I would like to thank all of you for the way you gave us support in the game against Arsenal last week.

We know it's going to be a hard league to get out of, but I reckon the Second Division can produce some of the best football you could see any-

where. There must be a dozen clubs who think they have a chance of winning promotion, and I include Luton Town in that category. With a reasonable amount of luck we won't be far off the top at the season's end.

I thought the players proved against Arsenal that they are fully fit and eager for the action. They were a credit to the work of coaches Roy McCrohan, David Pleat and Danny Bergara and with the right attitude going through all sections of Luton Town we have every reason to look forward to the new season with confidence.

We welcome Orient this afternoon, and I have a particular regard for them and their manager George Petchey. He did well last year to keep his team in the Division. He's a good friend of mine and it's always a pleasure to welcome him to Kenilworth Road. But the friendship doesn't run to giving presents of points, and I hope we shall get off to the best possible start by beating Orient today. We follow up with a visit to Brighton on Tuesday, and if we can get something there as well we shall be well pleased.

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WELCOME

PETER ALLEN

Born Hove, Sussex. Orient's longest serving player. Joined the Club as an amateur, turning professional in July, 1965, having been associated with Spurs as a schoolboy. Made his League debut in September, 1965 v Portsmouth. Testimonial season in 1975-6 when he set a new "O's" League appearance record of 376 matches. Club skipper for several seasons. Now a part-time player involved in a South Coast removal firm. 456 appearances 5 sub. 30 goals.

PETER BENNET

Born Hillingdon, Middlesex. Joined Orient from neighbours West Ham United in October, 1970. "Les" was a member of the "Hammers" F.A. Youth Cup winning team in 1963. Won five England Schoolboy caps in 1960-61. After 39 first team appearances for West Ham, he moved to Orient and became Club Captain. A pelvic injury kept him out of the side for almost a year some seasons ago but he has since become a regular again and although usually performing in midfield, has occasionally been converted to a striking role. 189 appearances 7 sub. 11 goals.

JOHN CHIEDOZIE

Born Owerri, Nigeria. John made a rapid rise to senior football last season, when after signing as an apprentice in July, 1976, he later found himself in the League side at 16! A product of East London Schools' football, he signed professional on his seventeenth birthday last April. League debut v Millwall, March, 1977. 6 Appearances 9 sub. Club's "Young Player of the Year", 1977.

DEREK CLARKE

Born Willenhall, Staffs. Joined Orient from Oxford United in August, 1976. One of four Clarke brothers playing League football. He began his career with Walsall and after a spell with Wolves moved to Oxford United in 1970. 180 League matches prior to coming to Brisbane Road, 37 goals. Suffered a severe leg injury and missed the second half of last season. 18 appearances 1 sub. 3 goals.

BOBBY FISHER

Born Wembley. Former apprentice who signed professional in August, 1973 and made his League debut at Sunderland in the same month. Awarded the "Hawes Cup" as the outstanding player in the S.E. Counties League in 1973-4. A midfielder player, he switched to fill the full-back vacancy in the League side three years ago and has missed very few games in the past three seasons. 137 appearances 8 sub.

ALLAN GLOVER

Born Laleham, near Staines. A product of the Queen's Park Rangers Youth teams, he played only a handful of League games for them before signing for West Bromwich Albion in 1969. After 126 appearances for the Midlands club he was transferred to the "O's" last March along with Joe Mayo and likewise scored on his debut at Blackburn. 16 appearances 2 goals.

ORIENT

TONY GREALISH

Born Paddington. Another product of West London Schools' football. A schoolboy player with "O's" prior to signing apprentice in June, 1972. Graduated through the youth scheme and made his League debut against Sheffield Wednesday in September, 1974, as substitute and scored in his first full-game, against Nottingham Forest, two months later. Gained Youth caps for Eire in the summer of 1975 and two full caps during 1976. The Club's "Young Player of the Year" in 1976. 112 appearances 1 sub. 5 goals.

PHIL HOADLEY

Born Battersea. A former Youth International, gained First Division experience with Crystal Palace before moving to Orient in September, 1971, for a then record fee of £30,000. Full-back or centre-back, he formed an ever-present partnership with Tom Walley during the "O's" near promotion season of 1973-4. Orient debut v Blackpool, October, 1971. A groin injury kept him out of the second half of last season's League campaign. Now in his second season as Team Captain.

BILLY HURLEY

Born Leytonstone. An Associated Schoolboy before signing apprentice when he left the local Leyton County High School in July, 1976. A Schoolboy International, he signed professional in May, 1977, after making his League debut v Hull City in April. 1 appearance. 1 sub.

JOHN JACKSON

Born Hammersmith. Joined Crystal Palace from school after representing English Grammar Schools. Signed professional for Palace in 1962 and made his first appearance in August, 1964. Over 350 League games and represented the Football League while at Selhurst Park. Joined Orient in October, 1973 and played his first League match v Luton Town. Voted Orient's "Player of the Year" two years ago. Ever-present during the past three seasons. Spent the Summer with American club St. Louis Stars. 171 appearances.

PETER KITCHEN

Born Mexborough. Joined Doncaster Rovers from school and made his League debut against Exeter City early in the 1971-2 season. 98 goals in 228 appearances for the Belle Vue club. Moved to the "O's" during the close season.

BILL ROFFEY

Born Stepney. Former Crystal Palace apprentice, made 19 First Division appearances for his former club in 1972-3. Transferred to Orient in October, 1973, making his debut the following month v Preston. Last season he was a regular member of the defence, making 43 appearances. 92 appearances 5 sub. 3 goals.



Back Row: Peter Kitchen, John Smeulders, Tony Grealish
Middle Row: Peter Angell (Coach), Derek Clarke, David Payne, Joe Mayo, Nigel Gray, Allan Glover, Bill Roffey, Terry Long (Coach)
Front Row: Bobby Fisher, Peter Allen, Phil Hoadley, Glenn Roeder, John Chiedozie.

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LUTON LATEST

ALTHOUGH the season officially gets under way today as far as Luton's league programme is concerned the players have already sampled ninety minutes football on several occasions, culminating in the extremely attractive fixture with the Arsenal last Friday. The Gunners fielded a very powerful side indeed and certainly gave the impression that a good result was imperative to them. With regular first team players still in America and Ricky Hill injured, the Town side lacked experience at the back and in midfield but so well did the whole side perform that our visitors must have been satisfied with the draw as well as the match itself as a warm-up to the sterner tasks ahead. The attendance of 6,300 was a pleasant surprise for some of us and the atmosphere very much livelier than one associates with pre-season friendly matches.

We hope that you will like the new, larger match programme which we have produced this season. Last year, although placed high in the 'ratings' we felt that there was insufficient space for all the news which we wanted to bring you. Financially we were breaking even on the programme and, faced with another increase in paper and printing costs we had either to reduce standards and stabilise our price or produce a better magazine that would be worth the extra five pence. Knowing how many supporters treasure their programmes for several years we chose the latter course.

At the birth of a new season it is particularly sad to have to record the

passing of friends of the Club and we would like to offer our deepest sympathy on the death of Lady Pearson, the wife of one of our senior Vice-Presidents, Sir Reginald Pearson. Sir Reginald has supported the Club over many years, in very practical ways and has not only been a regular attender at our matches but also at various fund raising events. We all hope that we shall continue to enjoy his company for many more seasons.

A few days ago we received a letter from two young supporters asking us if we would dedicate our opening league match to their friend, John Cubis, who was tragically killed in a car accident on 9th July at the age of eighteen. We are happy to accede to that request, Steve and Alan and we are also re-printing your excellent letter in full as a further tribute to John's memory.

"Dear Mr. Haslam,

Our friend, John Cubis was a loyal Luton Town supporter. Together we have travelled many miles to see the Town play.

But Tragically John was killed in a car accident on July 9th.

He was extremely athletic, and was a very good sportsman. A short while ago he broke his leg playing football, and was told to give up sport. But two weeks after his leg had healed he took part in the British Junior Athletics Championships (At Crystal Palace) and won the Triple Jump event. As well as this he was a good scholar with 8 'O' levels, 3 'A' levels and an award for the best six form student at Sherrards-

wood school in Welwyn Garden City.

There were many things that John got enjoyment from, but the thing he liked most was seeing Luton Town play and win.

We are writing to you to ask if you could perhaps dedicate the first match of the season v Orient, to John, through the Club Programme.

A friend who will be badly missed, John lived in Woodgreen Rd., Stopsley.

Thankfully,

Steve Toyer, 22 Dellcot Close, Luton, Beds. Alan Adair, Ashcroft Stopsley, Luton Beds.

P.S. Good luck in season 77/78"

A Welcome to the New Season from Danny Bergara – Youth Team Coach.

I extend a warm welcome to everyone who has come to Kenilworth Road today to celebrate the start of a new season for the 'Town'. I hope that as the year progresses we shall share the satisfaction of seeing the Club establishing itself in one of those coveted top three places and that this situation will continue until May 1978. It would also be pleasant to think that we could fill the ground under these circumstances without the fear of violence and vandalism. The fact that this happened on September 18th last when Fulham were the visitors indicates that a large crowd does not automatically lead to crowd disturbances. My main responsibility is not the first team however but those young players who represent the future of our Club and it is upon their achievements and prospects that I wish to comment today.

LUTON LATEST

Last season, for the second year running we won the Chiltern Premier League our record being as follows:— Played 20, Won 18, Drawn 2, Lost 0, For 90, Against 15, Points 38.

In the three Cup Competitions, the F.A. Youth Cup, the Chiltern and East Anglian we were knocked out by Arsenal, Cambridge United and Norwich respectively, losing the last two at the Semi-Final stage. Although we all like to collect trophies and enjoy winning, our main priority at Youth level is in the development of skills that can help the young player when he takes his place in the Reserves and eventually one hopes in the First Team. As a result of last season's good work we have been able to sign nine apprentices all of whom are very good prospects indeed. These lads had the opportunity of competing against very strong teams at the Pontin's 6-a-side Football Competition at Hemsby. They produced some excellent performances against players in most cases three years older than themselves, winning two, drawing two and losing two. Last year's apprentices, Godfrey Ingram, Nigel Johnson and Philip Driver have now graduated to the professional ranks whilst other former members of the Youth Team have begun to make their presence felt in the First Team Squad, namely, Peter Mead, Tony Knight, Jim Smith, David Carr, Ricky Hill, Jim McNichol, Gary Neale and Graham Jones. Former apprentices now well established seniors include Fuccillo and Price.

With your help and support we will maintain this youth policy and hopefully, one day, you may see a Town team comprised exclusively of players who have come up through our own ranks.

Commercial Comments

Although the attendance was somewhat disappointing the exhibition of Professional Snooker at the Regional Sports Centre on May 15th was both a financial success and an enjoyable evening for those who made the effort. For our success we are indebted to the many kind people who sponsored the various frames and who donated such excellent prizes for the Tombola. I would also like to thank the players who participated, Paul Futcher, John Faulkner, David Carr and Jim McNichol some of whose remarkable shots had Graham Miles and Dennis Taylor distinctly worried at times.

Two very good friends of the Club, Mary and Mike Talbot are again staging an equestrian cross-country event at their farm this Autumn. More details nearer the event but make a note of the date – September 25th. Entry forms can be obtained from the Ticket Office in Kenilworth Road.

A number of Match Sponsors have already booked their games for this season but there are still many attractive fixtures available. If you know of a Company who would like to support the Club in this way (for as little as £250) or through a Ball Donorship please contact Doug Lygo on Luton 411622.

David Pleat's Quiz Ball

All answers enclosing a question voucher must be sent to the Programme Editor to arrive not later than the first post five days following the game. The person or persons with most correct answers at the end of the season will be offered a choice of prizes which will be worth at least £10.

1. Name (a) the Football League's Record Goalscorer, (b) the number of goals he scored (c) his last club as a player (d) the Clubs which he managed.
2. Which manager last season managed two different clubs, one gaining promotion and one relegation. Name (a) The Manager (b) The Clubs.
3. Boundary Park, Burden Park, Bloomfield Road, Boothferry Park. Which is the odd one out? Answers in Programme No. 3



Mascot

The mascot for today's match is Richard Baynham, 17 Cuffley Close, Luton. Richard is 10 years of age and attends Norton Road Junior School, his favourite player is Paul Futcher.

Ball Donor

Today's match ball has been kindly donated by Stanley Brown Electrical Contractor, 17 Sherwood Road, Luton Telephone Luton 595595.

PLAYER PROFILE



PHIL BOERSMA

Full Name: Philip Boersma, Height: 5' 11", Weight: 11½ st., Birth Date: 24.9.49, Birth Place: Liverpool, Star Sign: Libra, Signed as Pro: 1969, League Debut: Liverpool v W.B.A. 1969, Previous Clubs: Liverpool & Middles-

brough. Family: Parents and three sisters, Hobbies: Tennis, Water Skiing, Deep Sea Diving, Favourite Recording Stars: Beatles, Favourite Holiday Resort: Hong Kong, Biggest Disappointment: Being left out of Liverpool Cup Final side (1974), Football Idol: Bobby Charlton, What I would like to see in Football: Elimination of the offside law up to the penalty area, and reduction in number of league matches per season.

Although he played his first game at Kenilworth Road in Town colours only last Friday, Phil will be remembered by many as making an outstanding contribution to Liverpool's victory over us in the opening game of our season in the First Division three years

ago. On that occasion Phil wore the No. 9 shirt and, although he did not score, his speed and ability to take on opponents impressed Harry Haslam who became even more determined to bring the tall striker to Kenilworth Road.

Unfortunately his continued success at Anfield caused his price to remain beyond the Hatter's reach until, at last, three years later, Harry got his man. In the meantime Phil had spent a period at Middlesbrough where his attacking skills had been on a tight rein, operating mainly in mid-field whereas his role at Luton should enable him to demonstrate once again those talents which made him a favourite with the 'Kop'.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Although Phil Boersma is the only major close season signing at the time of going to print, the Club has recruited its largest ever squad of new apprentices. However, it is the quality rather than the quantity that has given so much pleasurable anticipation to the coming season and it should be added that there were several other excellent youngsters to whom it has not been possible to offer contracts at this stage but whose chances may still come. These boys will still form an important part of our Youth Team in their attempt to achieve a hat trick of championships in the Chiltern Premier

League. The new Apprentice Professionals are England Schoolboy International Gary Sisman and Richard Eaton both from Hitchin, Irish Schoolboy Internationals, Tom Stewart and Alan Currie from Belfast, Tony Wilkinson, Leslie Harriott, Wayne Turner and Michael Pacey from Luton and Andrew Pearson from Newmarket. In addition to these nine the Club has engaged Alan Judge from Welwyn Garden City as a junior professional. Alan, an extremely promising goalkeeper, was offered an apprenticeship last season but wished to continue at school for a further year. Last year's

apprentices, Godfrey Ingram, Philip Driver and Nigel Johnson gave such a good account of themselves in the Football Combination side that they have all been offered professional contracts. These thirteen players together with those on Schoolboy and Non-Contract forms represent a considerable and an exciting investment in the future of our Club and it will be a rewarding experience to watch them either in the Football Combination or the Chiltern League in the coming months. Why not come along and give them your support.

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

By Brian Swain, Sports Editor, Luton News.

THE HOPE that dawns anew with the start of every soccer season carried an even brighter hue than usual at Kenilworth Road ten years ago today.

Manager Allan Brown, starting his first full season had turned the side upside down in the biggest re-shuffle of players Luton had seen for years. Behind the scenes other big changes were brewing, with Tony Hunt joining the Town as a director in the summer of 1967. Wealthy boss of an insurance company, he was going to revolutionise the Town's finances while manager Brown looked for a revolution on the field.

As things turned out, both revolutions were to take place, although not entirely along the lines we all expected.

Brown had inherited one of the worst teams most of us could remember at Kenilworth Road. The season just ended had been a misery, and ended with the Town narrowly escaping the relegation zone of Division Four.

But in the summer of 1967 Brown wielded the axe. Only 12 players and three apprentices were retained, with eight being given free transfers. The men who were paid off were Bobby Thomson (ex-Liverpool, not the player of the same name who was here later), David Pleat, Gerry King, Frank Conboy, Alan Rivers, Ron Swan, Terry Adamson and John Nicholson.

The retained list was Keith Allen, Max Dougan, Graham French, Freddie Jardine, Brian Johnson, Bruce Rioch, Alan Slough, Ray Whittaker, John More and Tony Read.

Trainer/coach Charlie Watkins also left after nearly three years, replaced by Denis Evans from Arsenal.

The Town then went into the transfer market, although at that time money was still short and they had to shop carefully. And Brown's first signing of that summer turned out to be one of the best possible: he recruited Northampton centre-half Terry Branston on a free transfer, and immediately made him captain. Branston, aged 28, had helped Northampton win promotion to the First Division in 1965, and was soon to become a firm favourite at Kenilworth Road.

Brown went to Leicester to sign full-back Billy McDerment, and brought attackers Micky Brown from Millwall and Rodney Green for £7,000 from Charlton.

Full-back Tom Hare came from Southampton, and the only problem at the start of the season a decade ago was a shortage of goalkeepers. Tony Read had fought his way back into the first team, but Ron Swan had been paid off and the Town had no reserve keeper until they re-signed Colin Tinsley. He had been first choice after the retirement of Ron Baynam, but had left after three seasons in 1965, and gone into non-league football with Kettering.

But Tony Read got the job for the Town's first match of the new campaign, at Wrexham, on August 19, 1967, and the game turned out to be sensational.

McDerment was out with an injury, and Alan Slough, just recovered after a cartilage operation, played in the back four. He was injured and replaced by sub Johnson, but he also was injured, and left the field after 56 minutes. It was a bruising, bad-tempered game, with Read's brilliance in goal saving the Town time and time again. Wrexham went ahead through Smith a minute after the interval, and the Town looked beyond hope when they were reduced to ten men.

In the 65th minute the game boiled up into violence. Graham French and Wrexham's Bradbury swapped punches, and both were sent off — French's second dismissal of his Luton Town career.

But the Town's nine men grabbed a point from Wrexham's ten, two minutes from time when Green scored from a pass by John Moore — the Town's first goal at Wrexham in four visits. It was the Town's first point in a season which was to become historic for them, the start of the long climb back to the top.

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LAST HOME MATCH ACTION...

THE story of two goalkeepers provided one of the highlights of our last pre-season game, against Arsenal. Before kick-off, major attention was focussed on Pat Jennings, who was playing his first game for Arsenal after being transferred from Tottenham Hotspurs for a fee reported to be £40,000.

The Northern Ireland International played well, but our own Milija Aleksic outshone him with a stupendous penalty save from Malcolm Macdonald.

A long-range view of "Elastic's" great dive is shown in the picture at bottom left. Macdonald aimed to put the ball past the keeper's left, and "Elastic" stretched the right way. Arsenal full-back Sammy Nelson has his back to the camera.

In the lower picture on the right, the camera reveals the wide open space John Faulkner found for himself to head our second-half equaliser. He ghosted round the back of the defence to get onto the end of a cross by Graham Jones, and £40,000 worth of debut goalkeeper was sent the wrong way. Top left: the expression on Jennings' face says it all as he sees the ball zip into the net.

Top right: our new signing Phil Boersma is beginning to fit in with his new surroundings. Two views show him in action against the Arsenal, running at the defence with the ball at his feet, and taking part in a little aerial ballet in a contest with Willie Young.

Pictures: Luton News.



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Top Teams Train On



LUTON LATEST

On the 22nd June 1977 the Chairman announced that Mr. David Evans had been appointed to the board and we would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Evans for his first home league match as a director of the Club. A former county cricketer with Gloucestershire and Warwickshire he also captained the club cricket conference on 38 occasions and led them on their first tour of Australia in 1975. He won 6 England Youth Soccer Caps and later played for Aston Villa and Bristol Rovers. Mr. Evans, who is married with 3 children, lives at Mackerye End, Harpenden and is Chairman of the Brengreen Group of Companies.

YOUTH

September 4th. is the target day for over 1000 local youth players. This is the date when the Chiltern Youth League starts its season 1977/8. All these players are hoping that their team can win the League or win one of the many cups that are available to them, and individually to gain representative honours. Luton Town Youth play in the Chiltern Premier Youth League along with Cambridge U., Stevenage, Ware, Bedford, Barnet, Cambridge C., Letchworth, Cheshunt, Harlow, Vauxhall M. and Hertford. Luton Town Youth commence their season with an away game at Barnet on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August followed by a home game v Stevenage on September 3rd.

On Sunday Mornings the 10-12 year olds play and I am sure many a late Lunch is taken as the number of Mums and Dads who follow this age group is most gratifying. Sunday afternoons sees the Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 leagues in action. If any one is saying, "What can I do", my advice to you is come along to the local parks, either to watch or help in the running of these teams, even to help with the transport would be greatly appreciated. If you do come along, you will find a number of Football League scouts watching these games, as this is where next year's apprentices are found. Last Season, the Under 16 teams were exceptionally strong, winning most of the competitions they entered and it was no surprise when 8 of these boys were invited to become apprentice professionals with Luton and Millwall.

There are also many boys in the younger age groups who show exceptional talents. These will no doubt be invited to come to the Football League Club grounds for Coaching providing they are willing to sign the necessary Schoolboy form.

So to all the boys who are playing, "YOU ARE BEING WATCHED", with a view to being selected to represent your County or League team or to start the first rung of the ladder to professional football.

COMBINATION

Combination Report

by

David Pleat

'That's what the game is all about' is an over used expression created by the media. It is used ceaselessly by interviewed players, officials etc. about almost anything and everything connected with the game so that in the end the expression tends to lose its meaning and impact.

I would like to use the phrase to emphasise the unpredictability of our great game. By mid-October last season our Football Combination side had the unenviable distinction of having the following record – Played 9, Won 0, Drawn 1, Lost 8, Goals for 8, Goals against 24, Points 1.

Although we knew we had technically good youngsters, the power factor of stronger, more experienced opponents was too great a handicap. We had problems 'up front', 'at the back' and in fact all over. Indeed we had the headache of looking at the league table. I told the lads to stand on their heads so that they would get a better view of our position! At this time I was asked to write some notes for the programme summarising the Reserves position and prospects. I was cautiously optimistic, feeling certain that, as we added vital months and gained in stamina and strength we would be able to hold our own. We might even begin to draw games by Christmas and by the end of the season we would perhaps have a chance of winning matches.

The challenge was accepted by the players and we collected a further seventeen points from twenty-three games up to 21st March when the bottom of the league table stood as follows:—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
ORIENT	22	7	6	9	29	31	20
PALACE	25	6	6	13	27	44	18
LUTON	32	5	8	19	38	65	18
BRISTOL R.	28	8	1	19	31	67	17

Only a very brave man would have predicted an end of season position avoiding the indignity of having to apply for re-election. Palace had seven games in hand and Orient had nine, so John Wilkinson had already constructed a letter to the League on the assumption that we would finish either 21st or 22nd.

We Kept plugging away and finished in stirring fashion with two away victories in two days. Typifying our youngsters determination, they came from behind in both games. In the second match at Orient we included schoolboys, Wilkinson, Turner and Sisman all of whom have now joined the staff as apprentices. The details of these games are as follows:—

12/5/76 v Swindon (away) Won 3-2.

Team: Knight, Mead, Driver, Jones, P. Fitcher, McNichol, Simon, Carr, Johnson, Ingram, Heale. Sub: Brown. Half Time 0-0. Scorers: Johnson (68), Ingram (73), Heale (76).

13/5/76 v Orient (away) Won 3-2.

Team: Barber, Mead, Driver, Wilkinson, Turner, Sisman, Simon, Smith, Ingram, Johnson, Heale. Sub: Brown. Half Time 1-2. Scorers: Ingram (17) Mead (70) Heale (81).

These were splendid victories but still Orient and Palace had several games left to overhaul our final effort and we just watched and waited as they played out their fixtures. Below is the final table, we had escaped and our lads deserved our congratulations.

'That's what the game is all about'.

SUMMER TOUR

The Summer Tour

by

John Wilkinson

This being the first programme of the season gives one the opportunity of telling our supporters about our recent tour of the States, New Zealand, New Caledonia & Fiji. First stop from Heathrow was Los Angeles where we had a 3hr. wait for a connection to St. Louis, so we took the opportunity of having a 2hr. taxi ride to see some of the sights. Hollywood, Sunset Strip, the Chinese Theatre where the film stars have their autographs in the pavements, and Beverly Hills, were all taken in. Some of the houses there have to be seen to be believed.

Eighteen hours after leaving London we arrived in St. Louis where, the next day we played the St. Louis all stars which included players like Ray Evans, the former Spurs player, Peter Burnett formerly Orient, and Fred Binney formerly with Brighton, and are coached by John Sewell the former Charlton player. We quickly went 2 goals up through Jimmy Husband and an own goal, and just on half time Ricky Hill hit a special to make it 3-0. It wasn't until late in the 2nd half when the travelling caught up with the lads that the All Stars pulled 2 goals back late in the game. Next stop on the tour was Auckland in New Zealand. After basking in temperatures of 85 degrees in St. Louis it was just above freezing point in Auckland, and rain, well we had never seen rain like it. Just as if someone had turned on a tap. The ground where we were due to play the New Zealand World Cup side was very wet but we said that we would play having come so far. Then for some unknown reason the groundsman there decided to put 30 tons of sand on the pitch straight down the centre. Talk about Southend beach when the tide is out, that had nothing on this pitch. They had no alternative but to cancel the game. In the meantime a bulldozer was brought to shift the sand (sorry mud) you can imagine what that did to it. Anyhow we did play the next day and it was the survival of the fittest and we went

down 3-2, with the home side scoring dead on full time. We played the same team again the following day in windy Wellington. The match again was played in pouring rain and gale force wind and this time we won 3-2. From there we flew to Dunedin. This was sheep country. Everywhere you looked you could see sheep. The town itself was very quiet and we were told that every shop closes on Friday night and doesn't reopen until Monday. Anyway we played Otago who incidently were coached by Allan Wright who had a short spell at Luton. We won the match 3-1 and in the last 15 minutes we had the unusual sight of Meliji Aleksic playing as a striker and he still talks about his flying header, but we all said he should stay between the posts and forget about scoring goals. Next port of call was the capital Christchurch where we played Canterbury on a very cold foggy night. The floodlights were very poor, well below anything I have seen in this country. What was expected to be a hard match for us turned out to be a bit of a training stint and we ran out 3-1 winners. From the cold of New Zealand it was back to the 90's when we arrived in New Caledonia. The people there couldn't do enough for us and we played their World Cup Side twice, winning both matches by 1-0, and 3-2. The standard of football there wasn't very high but I am sure they learned something from our visit. One afternoon the whole party was invited out to lunch by our host, to a hotel way out in the countryside. On arrival we found a marvellous beach and gardens at our disposal. Suddenly one of the lads (I think it was John Faulkner) came across some oysters in the water, and the lads had quite a feast on them. It wasn't until later we learned that these were special oysters kept by our host for his rich customers. By that time it was too late to return them. Nevertheless he still gave us quite a meal. On our arrival in Fiji we were met by the F.A. officials and had a ride in a windowless coach. We were still in the 80's but the humidity was awful. You could cut the air with a knife. The hotel we stayed in had massive grounds and at night the frogs came out in hundreds. In fact the chairman had to have a couple of them removed from his room before he could move in. They weren't all small ones either. The manager and I were confronted by one, one night sitting on the path which was at least eight inches in height. The people there had a carefree way of life and did things at a very leisurely pace. Breakfast

one morning – the manager waited 1½ hours and still he didn't get his cup of tea. On arrival at the ground (by the way we had to fly across to the other side of the island) we were amazed at the pitch markings. It was marked out with creosote but with no penalty spot, no half circle on the edge of the box and no corner markings, and at our request they put them in. The dressing rooms had no glass in the windows, no electric light and no locks on the door. They oppologised for no lock on the door saying that they hoped to build a new stadium in two years time. Harry was asked to do a radio broadcast before and after the match from the broadcasting box. What he didn't know was that the box was at the top of two coconut trees which we fastened together and he had to climb a rope ladder to reach it. Some feat. The Fiji National side whom we were playing had recently drawn with New Zealand and beaten Australia, and what they were going to do to us was no body's business. Even their manager offered to take penalty kicks against Harry if the teams were level at the finish. Harry agreed provided they used coconuts with the milk removed instead of footballs. He didn't know what to make of that and dropped the subject. Anyhow the game was very one sided in our favour and we ran out comfortable winners 3-0. We didn't see their manager again after the game and when we scored the 3rd goal the spectators left the ground in hundreds. The Fijians had plenty of skill and pace but had no idea how to use the two together. They are well behind our standards but are very keen to learn. Our journey back to England took 31 hours and by the time we reached Luton we were out on our feet. Looking back now it was a fabulous tour seeing parts of the world that you only read about in books and if this report ever gets back to the people we met I want to thank them warmly for the wonderful hospitality we received wherever we went. Two people I have forgotten to mention were our former goalkeeper Sandie Davie who was with us during our stay in Auckland New Zealand and for older football followers Jasper Kerr the former Everton full-back who played in the days of Dixie Dean. Both send their best wishes to all their friends in this country. Sandy by the way is still playing and is well thought of in his new country. All told we travelled nearly 33,000 miles but I still say there is nowhere like England.

FACTS & FIGURES ~ 1977-78

ALEKSIC
JONES
BUCKLEY
CARR
FAULKNER
FUTCHER P
HUSBAND
SMITH
BOERSMA
FUCILLO
ASTON
HILL
McNICHOL
PRICE
FUTCHER R.
WEST

Goals
F A

Aug 20	Orient	
Aug 23	Brighton & Hove Albion	
Aug 27	Oldham Athletic	
Aug 31	League Cup 2	
Sept 3	Charlton Athletic	
Sept 10	Bristol Rovers	
Sept 17	Blackburn Rovers	
Sept 24	Tottenham Hotspur	
Oct 1	Notts County	
Oct 4	Millwall	
Oct 8	Cardiff City	
Oct 15	Fulham	
Oct 22	Blackpool	
Oct 26	League Cup 3	
Oct 29	Bolton Wanderers	
Nov 5	Hull City	
Nov 12	Mansfield Town	
Nov 19	Stoke City	
Nov 26	Sunderland (1)	
Nov 30	League Cup 4	
Dec 3	Burnley	
Dec 10	Southampton	
Dec 17	Mansfield Town (2)	
Dec 26	Crystal Palace	
Dec 27	Sheffield United	
Dec 31	Brighton & Hove Albion	
1978		
Jan 2	Orient	
Jan 7	F.A. Cup 3	
Jan 14	Oldham Athletic	
Jan 18	League Cup 5	
Jan 21	Charlton Athletic	
Jan 28	F.A. Cup 4	
Feb 4	Bristol Rovers	
Feb 8	League Cup SF	
Feb 11	Blackburn Rovers	
Feb 15	League Cup SF	
Feb 18	Tottenham Hotspur (5)	
Feb 25	Notts County	
Mar 4	Cardiff City	
Mar 11	Fulham (6)	
Mar 18	Blackpool (LCF)	
Mar 21	Bolton Wanderers	
Mar 24		
Mar 25	Sheffield United	
Mar 27	Crystal Palace	
Apr 1	Hull City	
Apr 8	Sunderland (SF)	
Apr 15	Stoke City	
Apr 22	Southampton	
Apr 26	Millwall	
Apr 29	Burnley	
May 6	F.A. Cup Final	

DIVISION TWO

Final Table of Results - Season 1976-77.

	P			W			D			L			Goals			
	P	W	D	F	A	W	F	A	W	L	F	A	Pts	F	A	Pts
Wolves	42	15	3	3	48	21	7	10	4	36	24	57				
Chelsea	42	15	6	0	51	22	6	7	8	22	31	55				
Nottm. Forest	42	14	3	4	53	22	7	7	7	24	21	52				
Bolton	42	15	2	4	46	21	5	9	7	29	33	51				
Blackpool	42	11	7	3	29	17	6	10	5	29	25	51				
Luton	42	13	5	3	39	17	8	1	12	28	31	48				
Charlton	42	14	5	2	52	27	2	11	8	19	31	48				
Notts Co.	42	11	5	5	29	20	8	5	8	36	40	48				
Southampton	42	12	6	3	40	24	5	4	12	32	43	44				
Millwall	42	9	6	3	31	22	6	7	8	26	31	43				
Sheffield U.	42	9	8	4	32	25	5	4	12	22	38	40				
Blackburn	42	11	6	4	37	23	3	4	14	15	41	38				
Oldham	42	9	8	4	31	17	1	9	11	14	36	37				
Bristol R.	42	8	9	4	32	27	4	4	13	21	41	37				
Burnley	42	8	9	4	27	20	3	5	13	19	44	36				
Fulham	42	9	7	5	39	25	2	6	13	15	36	35				
Cardiff	42	7	6	8	30	30	5	4	12	26	37	34				
Orient	42	4	8	9	18	23	5	8	8	19	32	34				
Carlisle	42	7	7	7	31	33	4	5	12	18	42	34				
Plymouth	42	5	9	7	27	25	3	7	11	19	40	32				
Hereford	42	6	9	6	28	30	2	6	13	29	48	31				

COMBINATION

Final Table of Results - Season 1976-77.

	P			W			D			L			Goals			
	P	W	D	F	A	W	F	A	W	L	F	A	Pts	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	42	26	12	4	96	32	64									
Plymouth Argyle	42	17	16	9	71	51	50									
Tottenham	42	20	10	12	53	41	50									
Birmingham C.	42	17	15	10	49	37	49									
Ipswich Town	42	20	8	14	78	52	48									
Arsenal	42	19	10	13	54	41	48									
Norwich City	42	17	14	11	56	48	48									
Oxford United	42	17	13	12	54	52	47									
Q.P.R.	42	19	8	15	60	41	46									
Bristol City	42	18	10	14	60	49	46									
Fulham	42	17	11	14	56	56	45									
Leicester City	42	14	14	14	71	57	42									
Reading	42	14	14	14	55	68	42									
Southampton	42	15	10	17	57	75	40									
Hereford United	42	14	11	17	58	64	39									
West Ham	42	13	19	19	46	61	36									
Cardiff City	42	10	13	19	37	57	33									
Swindon Town	42	10	13	19	37	57	33									
Orient	42	10	12	20	47	72	32									
Luton Town	42	11	9	22	52	74	31									
Crystal Palace	42	9	12	21	48	70	30									
Bristol Rovers	42	10	2	30	40	98	22									

Appearances Division 2
League & Cup

Aleksic	27	Goals	—	11
Aston	37(1)			
Barber	16			
Buckley	45			3
Carr	1(5)			3
Chambers	40			—
Faulkner	43			1
Futcher P	43			13
Futcher R.	32(4)			6
Fucillo	45			4
Geddis	9(7)			4
Hill	10(11)			13
Husband	36(5)			—
Jones	4(5)			—
Knight	2			1
Price	44			—
Ryan	10(3)			3
West	35			

Football Combination Fixtures 1978

Jan 2	Mon	Ipswich Town
Jan 14	Sat	West Ham United
Jan 21	Sat	Orient
Feb 4	Sat	Swindon Town
Feb 11	Sat	Chelsea
Feb 14	Tues	Bristol Rovers
Feb 25	Sat	Tottenham Hotspur
Mar 4	Sat	Cardiff City
Mar 11	Sat	Fulham
Mar 18	Sat	Birmingham City
Mar 25	Sat	Bristol City
April 1	Sat	Norwich City
April 8	Sat	Plymouth Argyle
April 11	Tues	Southampton
April 15	Sat	Oxford United
April 22	Sat	Leicester City
April 25	Sat	Crystal Palace
April 29	Sat	Queens Park Rangers

Combination Appearances

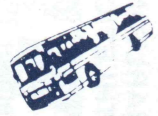
	P			W			D			L			Goals			
	P	W	D	F	A	W	F	A	W	L	F	A	Pts	F	A	Pts
Aston	3															
Barber	16															
Brown	12(7)															
Carr	35															
Chambers	5															
Driver	12(7)															
Faulkner	1															
Futcher R.	3															
Gregory	19(4)															
Heale	21(7)															
Hill	26															
Husband	2															
Ingram	22(6)															
Johnson	20(6)															
Judge	1															
Jones	33															
Knight	25															
McNichol	40															
Mead	40															
Mawhinney 1(1)	1															
Ryan	13															
Simon	26															
Sisman	3															
Smith	38															
Turner	5(1)															
West	1															

OUR NEXT HOME GAME

League Division
Two

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3rd
September 1977
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TOWN TRAVEL



Oldham v Luton Town
Saturday 27th August 1977
K.O. 3 p.m.

By Car:— Leave Luton on the M1 going North. Passing Service
stations Toddington, Newport Pagnall and Watford Gap. At
junction 17 take the M6 fork, passing Service stations Corley,
Hilton Park, Keele, Sandbach and Knutsford. At junction 21a
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20 go on to the A627M to Oldham. Distance from Luton 174
miles. Ground is situated on the right in Boundary Park.

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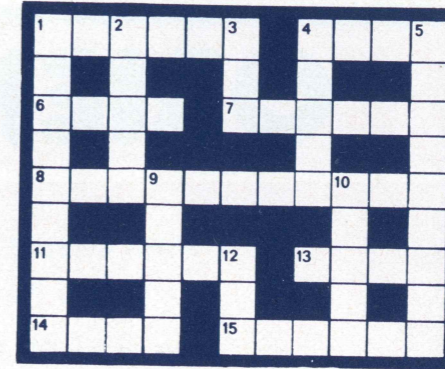
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it is little wonder that over £100,000 has been handed
over during that time!

CLUES — ACROSS

- 1 First winners of the European Nations Cup (6)
- 4 He performed for Fulham last season (4)
- 6 Exeter striker (4)
- 7 Dave Mackay's predecessor at Walsall (6)
- 8 Cup-winning manager last season (3, 8)
- 11 Old Notts County, Wednesday, Villa and England star (6)
- 13 Former weekly soccer magazine (4)
- 14 John Motson wrote a book called "Second To Great Teams Of Post-War Soccer" (4)
- 15 Nickname of Sheffield United (6)

Crossword NO.1



CLUES — DOWN

- 1 The managers' "Player of the Year" for Division Two last season (9)
- 2 Manager often seen on TV soccer panels (5)
- 3 Old Liverpool, Bury and Rochdale forward: ... Arrowsmith (3)
- 4 Last season he set up a new record aggregate of League goals for Notts County (5)
- 5 One of West Bromwich Albion's nicknames (9)
- 9 Aylott or Aizlewood (5)
- 10 Blackburn's Park (5)
- 12 The shot to beat a keeper off his line (3)

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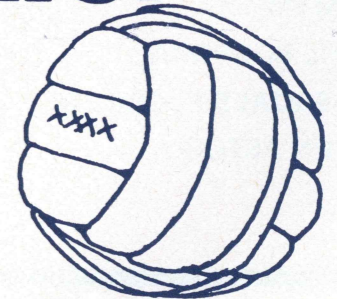
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- 7 JIMMY HUSBAND
- 8 TIM SMITH
- 9 PHIL BOERSMA
- 10 PASQUALE FUCCILLO
- 11 JOHN ASTON
- 12



ORIENT

- 1 JOHN SMEULDERS
- 2 BOBBY FISHER
- 3 BILL ROFFEY
- 4 PETER ALLEN
- 5 PHIL HOADLEY
- 6 GLEN ROEDER
- 7 JOHN CHIEDOZIE
- 8 ALLAN GLOVER
- 9 JOE MAYO
- 10 PETER KITCHEN
- 11 TONY GREALISH
- 12 PETER BENNETT

SCORE BOARD

- Birmingham
- Man. United
- Bristol
- Wolves
- Everton
- Notts Forest
- Ipswich
- Arsenal
- Man. City
- Leicester
- Middlesbro.
- Liverpool
- Q.P.R.
- Aston Villa
- W. Brom.
- Chelsea
- West Ham
- Norwich
- Millwall
- Crystal Palace
- Southampton
- Brighton
- Spurs
- Sheffield U.
- Bradford C.
- Cambridge U.
- Blackpool
- Oldham
- Burnley
- Bolton W.
- Fulham
- Charlton
- Hull
- Sunderland

OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr Ray Toseland, (Kettering). Commenced refereeing in 1957 then progressed through the Kettering and District Amateur and United Counties Leagues to the Football Combination and Football League Full List. Refereed the 1975 F.A. Vase Final at Wembley and was Linesman for the F.A. Challenge Trophy Final the previous year. Has also officiated in matches in Holland and Italy. He is a married man with one daughter, and is an Office Manager for a shoe manufacturer. His hobbies are gardening and walking.

Linesmen: Red flag - Mr P Stoakley (Solihull); Yellow flag - Mr H V Thomson (Tamworth).