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HARRY HASLAA

I HOPE you've all had a good Christmas so far, and that today we shall give you something else to enjoy to put the icing on the cake for all supporters.

It seemed very odd to be without a match on Saturday, and the change in routine has meant that the players haven't had much of a Christmas break

This is one of those times when the socalled glamour of professional football has to take second place to those involved, and for all of us at Kenilworth Road the holiday has had to be only a brief interruption to the business of preparing for three vital

Our last home match, against Mansfield, was typical of the topsy-turvy way things have been going recently. We knew that Mansfield would be difficult to beat, and we know just as surely that we didn't play anything like as well as we can.

I thought we were well worth our point, but I also gave credit to Mansfield for the way they battled to smother us, particularly in the first half.

We weren't creating as many chances as we should, and we paid the price for our anxious attacking when Mansfield hit us



on the break to take the lead.

And I don't blame the supporters for feeling frustrated. We know you want us to do well, and we know you want us to score goals and win matches.

The trouble is that the frustration on the terraces can be felt on the field. Nothing lifts a team more than a crowd getting right behind them. Fans can help to make or break a team's performance, and they can make or break an individual player by their attitude to him.

You pay your money and have the right to voice your opinions. For our part, we want to give you something to cheer about. The days of big crowds seem to have vanished for all but a minority of clubs, and at Luton Town we have some of the best supporters in the land. We've no grumbles when you have a bit of a go when the team isn't doing as well as we want them to. But please, don't forget supporters can be part of the team as well.

We've had our ups and downs lately, but on the whole I think we are getting out of our bad patch, and our aim today will be to pick up some more points, and to try to entertain you as we do it.

R.C.O.G.

LUTON

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Cover photo by courtesy of Gareth Owen - Sportswide Photography

SHEFFU

JIM BROWN, Signed from Third Division Chesterfield and quickly established himself as one of the best Scots-born keepers in the game. Named in the Home International Squad in 1974 and won his full can for Scotland in Rumania in June, after Under 23 experience.

STEVE CONROY. Joined Sheffield United in July, 1972 as apprentice professional. Signed full time forms in December 1974 and has been regular second team keeper for all of last season.

CLIFF CALVERT. A versatile player signed from York City in September 1975 and since then has made frequent first team appearances in either full back or midfield position.

EDDIE COLQUHOUN. Had experience with Bury and West Brom. before United signed him in October, 1968. Missed an appearance in the F.A. Cup Final with West Brom, because of injury but with United gained full Scottish honours and holds eight caps.

JIM CONROY, Signed as a Contract player in August, 1976, A sound and useful defender was a regular member of the Club's Central League team during 1976/77.

JOHN CUTBUSH. Joined Sheffield United from Fulham on loan in

March, 1977. Signed as a Contract player April, 1977. A very guick and sound player, also a very useful cricketer.

STEVE FAULKNER. Tallest player in the Club at 6' 3". He is another local product, having graduated from the Sheffield Boys team. Plays regularly in the Central League and has made several league appearances. JOHN FLYNN, Signed by United from Workington and had a promising cricketing career with a County Trial. Established himself in the back four at the beginning of last season, but a very bad injury in October kept him out of the side for most of the remainder of the season.

COLIN FRANKS. Usually plays in defence but has played at Centre forward. A regular first team player last season.

PAUL GARNER. Joined United initially on a month's loan from Huddersfield Town, but in December, 1975 signed permanent forms. Has been regular choice full back and has on several occasions deputised as Team Captain.

GARY HAMSON. Joined United as an apprentice player and quickly matured and was signed as a contract player. A left sided midfielder. TONY KENWORTHY. Signed apprentice professional after playing for



Leeds Schoolbovs and Yorkshire Boys. Just one year after signing he made his first team debut at Norwich on 3rd April and has since been a regular member of first team squad. Current England Youth International and captained side in recent Tournament in Monaco.

DENNIS LONGHORN. An experienced midfield Contract player signed from Sunderland in November, 1976. Has had previous league experience with Mansfield Town. A regular first team player last season.

MICK SPEIGHT. An outstanding discovery since his decision to sign schoolboy forms and then apprentice professional in December, 1967. Has played regularly in first team. Last season unfortunately had a series of bad injuries and had a cartilage removed. Now fully fit and challenging for a regular first team place.

KEITH EDWARDS. Made his first team debut at Leicester in the FA Cup game in January, 1976. Now a regular first team player, he created a new post-war goal scoring record of 11 goals in eight consecutive league matches. Total league goals scored last season was 18.

CHRIS GUTHRIE. United's most expensive signing, reported to have cost £100,000 when signed from Southend United at the end of 1974/75 season, Originally with Newcastle and Southend.

IAN HAMILTON, Signed for United in July, 1976 from Aston Villa. Can play midfield or striker. Has previous league experience with Southend and Cheisea. A very good player and was a regular member of the first team last season scoring 7 goals.

JOHN McGEADY. Made his league debut against Middlesbrough on Boxing Day, 1975, but in March he sustained a fractured knee cap which kept him out of action for the remainder of season 1975/76. Is still undergoing remedial treatment.

STEVE McKEE, Joined the Club as a Contract player December, 1976 previously playing in Northern Ireland. An exciting left sided forward who in time should make quite an impact in League football.

SIMON STAINROD. Promising forward played for both Sheffield and Yorkshire boys. Made his first team debut at Tottenham in March. 1976 and in his second match against Norwich City, scored a goal, Has since been a regular member of the first team squad.

ALAN WOODWARD. Woodward is one of the most consistent scorers in the League. Made his first team debut at 17 against Liverpool and scored his 100th league goal at Tottenham in September, 1973. Appointed Team Captain in June, 1976. Broke Doc Pace's goal scoring record for the Club during Season 1976/77.

Left to Right

BACK ROW Cec. Coldwell (Trainer) Cliff Calvert: John Flynn: Dennis Longhorn: Chris Guthrie: Steve Conroy: Jim Brown: Eddie Colguhoun: Colin Franks:

Tonv Kenworthy:

FRONT ROW Gary Hamson: John Cutbush: Mick Speight: Alan Woodward (Captain): Ian Hamilton: Simon Stainrod:

Steve McKee: Paul Garner: Keith Edwards.

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LUTONLATEST

TODAY WE welcome the Directors Players, Officials and Supporters from Sheffield United who, like ourselves currently occupy a mid-table position. The Yorkshire club have performed extremely well of late having risen from 21st place early in the season to eighth position at the time of writing and we hope that today's encounter will provide a feast of football. Assuming you can stand another feast after the past few days.

LAST SEASON we achieved the double over our visitors scoring five times without reply. In fact we managed to take four points off all three clubs relegated from the First Division the previous season - the others being Wolves and Burnley. However this made up for our harsh treatment at their hands two years earlier when they took three 1st Division points from us and for good measure also eliminated us from the League Cup at the 3rd round stage.

PRIOR TO the two league matches in 1970/71 at the end of which season United were promoted to Division 1, one has to go back to 1960/61 to discover another league encounter. That season also produced promotion for the Sheffield Club whilst The Hatters, newly relegated, ended in 13th place in the Second Division. Since league football re-commenced in 1946/47 our visitors have had no fewer than seven changes of status and all of them between the top two divisions in sharp contrast to their earlier record when they can boast

league from 1893 until 1934. Early Turner's name has been added to that the league were therefore limited to two seasons, 1937/38 and 1938/39 when United managed to regain their senior status by a single point from their neighbours, Sheffield Wednesday.

ONE OF the many problems that Football Clubs have to face at Christmas is the preparation and printing of programmes. This year it has entailed producing three home programmes in the space of a few days and in some cases we must apologise for the fact that our news is not as generous or as up to date as we would like. However we will try very hard to return to what we hope you regard as our normal high standard in the New Year.

MANY HAPPY returns of the day to Apprentice Richard Eaton who is 17 today. Richard recently played his first full Combination game and had the "good fortune" to be up against full England internationals Gerry Francis and Dave Clement. As David Pleat reported in our last issue Richard came out of this rather tough baptism with a lot of credit and as with our other very good first year apprentices should reap a great deal of benefit from the experience. He was also selected to represent the Chiltern Premier League in a match against an army team at Aldershot recently and was one of the eleven heroes of the 3-2 win over Ipswich at Portman Road in the F.A. Youth Cup.

an unbroken occupation of the premier WE ARE delighted to learn that Wayne advice.

meetings between our two clubs in of Gary Sisman in the F.A. Youth team to play against the Public Schools XI at Roehampton, Wayne who is not seventeen until next March has been a regular member of our Combination side this season and in the absence of Graham Jones, Jim McNichol and David Carr was appointed Captain for the match against Leicester City recently. We are not necessarily claiming this as a record but there cannot be many occasions when a sixteen year old has captained a Football Combination side.

> WE CONSIDER ourselves very fortunate at Luton to have the services of Dr. Peter Burrows, the England Doctor as our Chief Medical Officer. As well as being extremely well qualified in Sports Injuries. Dr. Burrows is a very popular figure with both players and other staff at Kenilworth Road and we invited him some time ago to contribute an article on his speciality to our programme. Having read his offering and knowing his interest and expertise in foreign language we wondered whether he had straved from the native tongue but he assures us that all the terms used can be found in good, contemporary, medical journals and dictionaries and that none are his own invention.

> When Peter's England duties and holidays prevent him from visiting the Club we are very grateful to his colleagues Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Melville for their kind attention and expert

LUTON LATEST

SPORTS MEDICINE

P.J. Burrows, M.A. M.B. B. Chir. General Practitioner. Medical Officer to the Luton Town Football Club the Football Association and the England Team.

THE PROFESSIONAL athlete or the serious amateur is not an average N.H.S. patient He is far more stoic about his injury and his main concern is how long he will be out of sport. The worst advice that he can be given is to go away and rest. An external otitis to a swimmer is near disaster and a common cold to a miler is a loss of 10-20 yards. Neither of these conditions hamper a footballer. In order, therefore, to practise sports medicine a knowledge of the sport concerned is essential. The aims of the sports doctor are to ensure complete anatomical restoration of the injury, preservation of normal articular mobility, avoidance of loss of muscle power, maximum speed of recovery and minimum loss of fitness to the athlete. A 5% loss of function, movement or power to a sportsman will prevent his performing, but to the non-sportsman it is of no consequence as he can compensate

A sports injury, like any other injury, is a disruption of tissue continuity in which there is traumatic bleeding and swelling, Concern about the degree of swelling is to lose sight of the real problem as it may be a very minor injury in which a small vein is involved. On the other hand, it may indicate extensive tissue damage as demonstrated by pain, spasm, functional loss and instability. Treatment is first directed at controlling bleeding and minimising swelling. The application of cold is ideal because it causes vasoconstriction, due to the axon reflex it can be maintained for as long as required and it has a numbing effect which reduces pain. Simultaneously, local external pressure is applied for 48 hours in order to ensure haemostasis and the organisation of intravascular clots. The treatment plan is I.C.E.: i.e. ice, compression and elevation: all equally important. When the bleeding has stopped the stage of resolution begins, the inflammatory absorption of blood leading

to fibrous deposition. The first stage of bleeding and swelling is associated with very little pain. The stage of resolution is characterised by increase in local heat and tenderness leading to the palpable thickening and induration and rapidly becoming painless. Early rehabilitation has a salubrious

effect upon resolution and overall condition-

ing. It is essential that the remainder of the body and the injury should "peak" at the same time. An uncomplicated laparotomy scar following early ambulation will be soft and mobile, but the same wound will be tight and uncomfortable for months following enforced inactivity post-operatively. Rylander stated that exercise is the most important modality in the promotion of healing and restoration of function. It is begun on the second day following injury. When the leg has been injured, for example, back, abdomen and arm exercises are given and the sound leg is worked. Treatment of the injured leg is started with non-weightbearing exercises, progressing to weightbearing and then resistance exercises within the limit of pain. A static bicycle is used. followed by jogging on a level grass surface with particular attention to starting and stopping. Turning in a circle of some 20 yards is then introduced with an increase in pace. The injured sportsman will try and hide his pain and produce trick movements. such as carrying one leg. Should this occur. he must be given other leg movements which do not involve the joints concerned. If he limps he must shorten his stride. As soon as this regime is accomplished, the athlete is brought into the gymnasium to rebuild his muscles. High load, low repetition for muscle hypertrophy, and low load. high repetition for endurance. The muscle is exercised throughout the whole range and isometrics are not used. Muscle power should be balanced as a 3-4% imbalance will show a higher injury rate later on. Before training sessions and competitions, all athletes are encouraged to perform stretch exercises which prevent muscle injuries. The stretch must be steady and not jerky. Match fitness can only be decided on the field of play and not in the treatment room. To sum up,

exercise treatment should be employed wherever feasible from the second day onwards. Injuries to joints are first treated with non-weight-bearing exercises and injuries to tendons are treated with rest initially sinde, by reducing the metabolic demand of movement upon the injured tissue, all its rather poor resources can be directed towards the construction of adequate scar tissue

Drug treatment of sports injuries has been disappointing. In the Huskisson trial (1973) and other trials, no benefit was obtained by the use of Indocid or placebo. Chymoral (trypsin and chymotrypsin) has been shown to increase esterase activity with the production of fibrinolytic agents such as plasmin. However, the use of this agent remains under review since its action on the organisation of intravascular clots is the exact opposite to which nature is directed. The anti-inflammatory drugs must be used with caution because of the risk of side-effects. Since the normal healing process is inflammatory the use of these drugs is thought to be unphysiological. The use of hydrocortisone has recently been discussed in this journal (M. Foss). It has been shown to reduce the tensile strength of tendons (Wienn) and the Case trial on Achilles tendons demonstrated its dangers. Bass pointed out that the phosphate (Codelsol) is safest because it is hydrolysed quickly, whereas the insoluble forms such as the acetate remain in situ for many weeks. Whichever preparation is used, the athlete must be prevented from training for two days and no competition permitted for at least a week. Its mode of action is not vet fully understood. As an anti-inflammatory agent it inhibits healing and one theory suggests that an auto-immune condition is produced with increased tissue sensitivity. preventing the completion of the normal healing process and leading to a state of chronic inflammation. Hydrocortisone suppresses the weak attempts of healing. performing, in effect, a medical tenotomy.

In conclusion, the mnemonic for sports medicine is "ICEDREX-P", standing for ice, compression, elevation, drugs, remedial exercises and a good physiotherapist.

PLAYER PROFILE



FULL NAME - James Husband HEIGHT - 5ft. 8ins. WEIGHT - 11st, 5/bs. BIRTHPLACE - Newcastle-on-Tyne BIRTHDAY - 15th OCTOBER STAR SIGN - Libra . FIRST SIGNED AS PRO - 1964 SIGNED FOR LUTON – 1973 PREVIOUS CLUBS - Everton and occasionally Cesars Palace FAMILY - Wife Val & Jamie & Jilly HOBBIES — Being a Wine Snob FAVOURITE FOODS - Sea Food and Cornflakes in the Summer CAR - Chrysler Alpine S **FAVOURITE RECORDING ARTIST --**Wings, Eagles and Byrds

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REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS -England Schoolboy, Youth, Under 23

MOST ADMIRED PLAYER -Trevor Francis

GREATEST FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE -

Winning a League Champions Medal AMBITION - To witness Paul Futcher passing his advanced driving test.

BEHND THE SCENES From the Secretary's Office

LAST MONDAY the manager and myself travelled to Wrexham to attend the Wrexham Centenary Club dinner at which he was the quest of honour. Paul Futcher also attended and as he is staying in Chester at the moment recovering from his car crash, he didn't have so far to travel as we did. I have been to many functions with Harry but this was the first one that I have seen the audience give him a standing ovation at the end of his speech. Other guests present included Mr. Bill Bothwell, Chairman of Tranmere Rovers. members of the Welsh Football Association. the Board of Directors of Wrexham Football Club, the Wrexham Players, Bill Cawdwell the Glamorgan County Cricketer just to name a few. All the proceeds of the dinner went to the Welsh Football League and they

went home with nearly £500 in their pockets. A football autographed by the two Manchester Clubs was raffled and raised £100. It was nearly 2 o'clock in the morning before we returned to the hotel and we were on our way home again at 6 am., arriving back in Luton at 9.30 am, just in time to start the day's work.

In the last programme I mentioned that Bobby McDonald had joined us from New Zealand. In fact Bobby got so homesick that he left for home again just one week after his arrival. I can understand him as it must be quite an ordeal for a lad of 17 away from home for the first time and in a strange

Cup football is nearly with us again and by the time these notes are printed we

should know who our opponents are in the 3rd Round. Our run of away games still continues as the Youth Team have again been drawn away. This time at Peterborough. I don't know what it is but I think that every time those little balls hear the name of Luton Town they move over to the away side. Perhaps this time our luck will have

May I at this time wish all our supporters a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Why not make a New Years Resolution now, bring a friend with you to all our home matches, then at least you will know that you are doing your bit to help the club. Enjoy the match.

John Wilkinson

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LAST HOME MATCH ACTION...

LUTON TOWN 1 MANSFIELD 1

THE MYSTERY of why we cannot find our away form on our own pitch continued against Mansfield when we had to wait for the last five minutes for a point-saving goal from Ronnie Futcher.

With Mansfield, including John Aston, wearing a Luton Town away kit, supporters who follow the Town home and away must have experienced some difficulty in remembering which side was which.

We certainly found it difficult to hit the target, and when Ronnie finally got the equaliser Mansfield defender Ian Wood was desperately close to clearing off the line.

The picture on the right shows just how close it was: behind the net is Lil Fuccillo, who had headed John Faulkner's cross back across goal. Ronnie Futcher, out of shot, beat goalkeeper Rod Arnold with something to spare, but Wood headed clear. Referees take a lot of stick for decisions they have to make in a split second, but the picture shows that Brian Daniels had got into a perfect position to judge that the ball had already crossed the line before Wood headed it.

Far right: John Faulkner, who was outstanding in defence, proves that he is head and shoulders better than opponents, even when they too are wearing Luton Town colours.

Pictures: LUTON NEWS.







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CLUES - ACROSS Crewe manager (5,5)

7 Fulham chairman (4)

8 See 15ac

- 9 Flemming ... (Fortuna Düsseldorf & Denmark) (4)
- 14 See 12dn
- 15 & 8ac. He went from Blackpool to Everton in 1966 in the first £100.000 transfer (4.4)
- 16 Former Watford half-back Walter ---, now with Barnet (4)
- 17 Practice match that would suit, say, a first-team pool (5-1-4)
- CLUES DOWN
- 2 & 13dn. Former Notts County player and F.A. Director of Coaching for the last fifteen years (5,4)

- 3 Manchester City bought him for £200,000 at Christmas 1974 (5)
- 4 Last season's Irish League champions and winners of the Ulster Cup and the Hennessy Gold Cup (9)
- 5 Joint top-scorer in Division One last season (4)
- 6 In 1905 --- Common went from Sunderland to Boro in the first £1.000 transfer (3)
- 10 He followed Graham Taylor to Watford (5)
- 11 Former Blackburn Rovers and Sheffield United winger now with Cosmos (5)
- 12 & 14 ac. Roger (IF.C. Köln & Belgium) (3.4)
- 13 See 2dn.

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Solutions to Crossword No. 11

Across 1. Jansen, 4, & 13ac, Team Hawaii. .7. Howell, 8. Erik, 9. goalkeepers, 12. Eric, 13. See 4ac., 14. Grey, 15. Yorath. Down 1. John Greig, 2. Steel, 3. nil, 5. Earle, 6. Mike Smith (Wales), 10. Abide (With Me), 11. Power, 13. Hay

YESTERDAYS

A look back at Luton Town a decade ago. By BRIAN SWAIN, Sports Editor, Luton News,

THE BEST Christmas present any Town supporter could wish for seemed to be on the cards a decade ago today. On the field the team was going well, and off it manager and directors were promising that more class players were on the way.

Manager Allan Brown was sent out Christmas shopping. and his first call was at Loftus Road. He agreed to pay Queen's Park Rangers £10,000 for winger Mark Lazurus, but the player then decided not to come and for several days Kenilworth Road abounded with sick jokes about a footballer who comes back from the dead, looks around for a couple of days, and then changes his mind and goes back to Queens Park Rangers . . .

The Town manager then turned his attentions to Merseyside, and agreed with Liverpool's Bill Shankly to pay £11,000 for winger Dave Wilson. He had been in Preston's 1964 Cup Final team, but was being kept out of the Liverpool side by lan Callaghan and Peter Thompson. Once more the deal fell through because the player concerned didn't fancy the move to Luton.

At the same time, transfer rumours abounded about Bruce Rioch, and on Christmas Eve 1967 Bill Anderson, assistant manager of Nottingham Forest, was having his third close look at the Town's brilliant midfielder

The occasion was a Fourth Division promotion battle at Barnsley. Both sides fancied their chances of winning the championship and Barnsley were defending an unbeaten home

It turned out to be a cracking game, with neither team deserving to lose. Ian Buxton headed against the bar as the Town produced a blistering opening. Barnsley were pinned back, but broke clear to go ahead through Hamstead. Rioch equalised with a spectacular first-time pile-driver a minute before half time, and a minute after the break winger John Ryan, recently signed from non-league Wigan, put the Town ahead with his first league goal. Bettany equalised two minutes after that and despite a lot of action in both goalmouths that was the end of the scoring.

Today's visitors, Sheffield United, were then struggling in the lower reaches of the First Division, entertaining Coventry. Addison put them ahead in the first half, with his first goal since his transfer from Arsenal, and United wrapped it up in the second half with another goal. It was scored by Alan Woodward. who has been knocking them in regularly ever since, even though we hope he fails to hit the target today.

Some of the other names from the league score-sheets make interesting reading today, ten years on: Alan Ball, Joe Royle and Jim Husband scored in Everton's 3-0 home win over Sunderland and Denis Law and Bobby Charlton gave Manchester United a 2-2 draw at Leicester.

YOUTH

By George Rogers

AFTER our success in the 2nd. Round of the F.A. Youth Cup at Ipswich, we hoped for a home game in the next round but once again came another away fixture v. Peterborough. This has been arranged for Wednesday 3rd. January at 7.30 and a win will take us into the last 16 of the competition

On Thursday 13th December the Youth team visited Corby in the Eastern Junior Cup. Godfrey Ingram being away with the F.A. Youth party at Everton, Danny Bergara decided to play Driver, Pacey and Johnson up front. During the first half play was fairly even but Luton's finishing stopped at the edge of the penalty area. After 10 minutes in the second half Corby went ahead when Harriott failed to clear and minutes later the same player handled in the area and from the resulting penalty Corby went 2 up. Substitute Pearson came on for Luton in place of Currie in the 60th, minute and at once the extra forward paved off Nigel Johnson scoring, then with 15 minutes to go Martin Conquest came on for Pacey and immediately went past a defender to equalise. In the closing stages Luton had all the play but the game ended 2-2. Replay at Kenilworth Road sometime in January. In this competition as well as the Chiltern Youth League 2 substitutes are allowed but in the F.A. Youth Cup only one. Team: A. Judge, A. Currie, T. Murphy, A. Wilkinson, T. Stewart, L. Harriott, N. Johnson, M. Pacev, G. Sisman, P. Driver, A. Pearson and M. Conquest.

Two more games in local football to watch are the inter league games between Chiltern Youth and Bedford Youth at A.C. Delco and Waterlows, Dunstable, Sunday 1st. January K.O. 2.15 p.m. These games are at Under 16 and Under 14 level.

With the School holidays taking place once again a number of boys will be invited in to take part in trials during the next 2 weeks. The boys taking part have either written or been recommended to us by our many friends, or they may play locally where their progress is watched week by week.

KNOW YOUR YOUTH PLAYER.

This week we focus on a boy who came through one of these trials, and was then invited to sign forms for Luton Town. His name is Martin Conquest who lives at Leighton Buzzard, Martin still attends Brooklands School and he hopes that when he leaves School next summer that he will be offered a place on the staff of Luton Town F.C. He plays for Leighton Pioneers on Sundays and was chosen to represent Bedfordshire F.A. at Under 16 level. During his 6 appearances he has scored 7 goals.

We also focus on Richard Eaton. Richard comes from the Hitchin area. One of the players who only gets one present a year as his birthday falls on December 27th. He played for Icknield Harts last season as well as his School and Herts County. He attended Bessemer School, Hitchin. His other interests are Music, (especially Queen and Pink Floyd) and painting

COMBINATION

THIS SEASON we expected to improve our league points total from last season and this I believe we can do. However our results have shown an inconsistent pattern. This may not be so surprising when one considers we have never fielded the same team twice and on most occasions we have included no more than five or six professionals.

We began the season in style winning comfortably at Reading (5-1) but it was the next game that caused more satisfaction when we came back to equalise against West Ham (1-1). Eight youth (under 18 Sept. 1st) players were in this side and their Reserve experience though not rewarding in terms of winning games has been beneficial for their efforts in the Youth Cup. A feature of the first five games was Godfrey Ingram's goalscoring, a goal in each game.

After disappointments at home against Swindon (1-2) and Bristol Rovers (0-1) we pulled ourselves off the floor with a splendid victory at Palace (1-0). Ten days later we gave a disjointed performance at Fulham (0-3) to illustrate clearly the inconsistencies of a group of young players lacking experienced heads on the field to quide them.

When Martin Sperrin and Brian Stein igined the club it reduced the heavy responsibility of the young front runners Ingram and Johnson, Probably our best performance came soon after at Norwich (2-0) with Wayne Turner and Brian Stein scoring. Seven days later we were hustled and bustled by an aggressive Hereford (1-3) whose strength outdid our skill. We completed a double over Reading (2-1) after losing an early goal and then lost in the last seconds at Oxford (1-2). Two goals by Ingram were enough to defeat Orient (2-0) and Brian Stein got two in a good team performance against Plymouth (2-2). Southampton visited Luton on the 29th November and looked the strongest side we have met to date winning easily 4-0.

It is interesting to note that five of our seven victories have come away from home. Several of the 16 year old first year boys have become regular Reserve players, namely Les Harriott, Alan Gurrie, Gary Sisman and Wayne Turner. We have

attempted to 'feed' other youngsters in for odd games. It would be ideal for these boys to learn their apprenticeship in the youth team but our economies have necessitated these moves.

The supporter's crowd at our Reserve games must be and have been patient with these boys. Assuming the boys themselves have the mental attitude to take their early promotion in their stride I am sure in the long run everyone at the club will benefit.

THIS SEASON'S standards in the Chiltern Youth League have been pleasantly surprising. Although our Youth Team remain unbeaten we have been impressed by the improved performance of several sides compared with last season.

There is a danger of making comparisons with the South East Counties League, a league which caters for Youth teams of other professional clubs. However smaller club staffs have necessitated youth players emerging in Reserve teams that much quicker and consequently many schoolboy players are playing in the South East Counties. Danny Bergara and I have watched several games in this league so far this term and only a powerful and skilful Ipswich side has impressed us.

Our Chiltern side have pitted their skills against teams who are physically stronger as opponents are fielding sides who although under the age limit (under 18 on Sept. 1st.) are the Reserve sides of their club. Teams such as Harlow, Hertford, Letchworth and Cambridge City come into this category. Consequently our lads are finding there is a strong competitive element — this stands the apprentice schoolboy or trialist in good stead if he is promoted to the Reserve team for a game in the Combination.

In a recent FA Youth Cup game Hertford Town of the Chiltern League defeated Southend United a South East Counties club with a reputation for encouraging and developing good youngsters. It will be interesting to note their progress.

There can be no doubt that the standing of the Chiltern Youth League has improved

considerably over the last three seasons. If some of the senior League clubs in the London area note this improvement there could well be further clubs applying for League membership next season

It has an efficient and enthusiastic organising team ably led by retired local Referee, Paul Mockett. All clubs are within an hour and a half's travelling time so the expense of travelling is minimal and the grounds are generally first class (there is no better playing surface in England than at Cambridge United and City).

We at Luton have set a high standard rarely suffering the ignominity of defeat. Consequently this makes us the team that everyone has to beat and therein lies the pressure on our boys. Opponents raise their game, it is good experience for skilful boys of 16 faced with this determined approach by players a little older.

"NEWS FROM THE POOLS"

Isn't it amazing how time flies when you are enjoying yourself? We are about to commence our 6th year of operating the fund raising for Luton Town F.C. Our targets have always been set high, and our "Goal" during 1978 is to achieve a total donation of £150,000 in all! With the continued help of everyone of our full-time and part-time staff, plus our army of agents, we are certain to reach our target, but we are always needing more and more people to sell our exciting merchandise, and therefore we do ask most sincerely, if in your own small way you can give us any further assistance, please call into the Pools Office (next to the main offices) anytime, on any day, between 9-5 including lunch hours, and we will be happy to "start you off". I can assure you that any assistance will be welcome, and after all, it is better than going to work. I can vouch

A Happy and Successful 1978 to you all. From: - Mike Hardwicke and all the army of agents etc of "The Pools Office".

UNITED

SHEFFIELD UNITED was founded in 1889 and up to Season 1973/74 was known as Sheffield United Cricket and Football Club. However, ambitious plans for the football aspect has led to many changes and the Club's name was officially changed following the departure of County Cricket from Bramall Lane at the end of the 1973 Cricket Season.

For the first game of the season at Bramall Lane on 16th August, 1975, when United entertained Derby County, the new £750,000 stand at the former cricket end of the ground was opened. The new South Stand which seats 8,000 spectators will eventually house the administration and dressing rooms.

Another stand, the Bramall Lane stand, holding 3,000 was opened for the local derby game with Sheffield Wednesday on 4th February, 1967, Sheffield United's ground capacity is now 49,000 of which 15,250 is seating. Some 35,000 spectators can be accommodated under cover in bad weather.

Cec Coldwell - First Team Coach/Trainer, Cec has been an excellent servant of Sheffield United and joined the Club as a youth from Norton Woodseats in September, 1951, Qualifed F.A. Coach.

David Turner - Central League Trainer/Coach, David has played for Newcastle United, Brighton and Blackburn Rovers, Qualified

John Short - Youth Team Manager. Prior to reverting to this role. John was assistant to the Manager with emphasis on scouting. Has been with the Club for over 16 years, Qualified F.A. Coach and as a player played for Leeds United and Millwall.

The Chief Scout of the Club is Neville Briggs, who has considerable expertise in this highly specialised area of the game. Nev. previously employed by Aston Villa and Rotherham United Football Clubs.

League honours include Championship 1898, Division 1 Runners-up 1897-1900, Division 2 Champions 1953, Division 2 Runners-up 1893, 1939, 1961 and 1971. The F.A. Cup was won in 1899, 1902, 1915 and 1925 and they were finalists also in 1901 and 1936.

They have played in ten semi-finals.

United were the first club to part with two players for the sum of £100,000 in two months. Mick Jones went to Leeds United and Alan Birchenall to Chelsea in September and November, 1967. On 9th July, 1974, Geoff Salmons who came up through the Juniors and had been a first team player since 1967 moved to Stoke City for a fee of £180,000. In May, 1975. the Blades purchased striker Chris Guthrie for a fee of £100,000 from Southend United. In June, 1976, the club sold England Midfield Star Tony Currie to Leeds United for a fee of £245.000. Back in 1904 there were 12 internationals on the Club's books. The present playing staff includes Alan Woodward who is surely regarded by many as the best and hardest kicker of a ball with the Club, he was appointed Team Captain in June, 1976. On 18th December, 1976 against Bristol Rovers Alan created a new Club goal scoring record when he passed Doc Pace's total of 140 league goals for Sheffield United. Top goalscorer during the

JUNIOR HATTERS CLUB

BIRTHDAYS

Many Happy Returns of the day to member 73. Martin Hanley, from 1 Meadow Lane, Toddington in Bedfordshire.

WATCH THIS COLUMN AT THE NEXT HOME MATCH v. BRIGHTON FOR DETAILS OF THE NEXT COMPETITION.

NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

Membership subscriptions are now due for all members who joined in January this year. Please contact us at the ticket office in Kenilworth Road, or write to us giving your name, address, date of birth, favourite player, a subscription fee of 40p and a stamped addressed envelope.

UNITED (continued)

1976/77 season was Striker Keith Edwards who scored 18 goals. he also created a new post-war record of scoring in eight consecutive matches a total of 11 goals. Scottish Internationals Jim Brown (Goalkeeper) and Eddie Colguhoun, who was s few years ago the regular Scottish pivot. Free Transfers at the end of the Season 1976/77 were given to Ted Hemsley, Jimmy (Jinky) Johnstone and Steve Goulding,

Firsts which can be claimed by United include, Alf Common who created the first record transfer fee of £1,000. United's first division game with Arsenal at Highbury on 22nd January, 1927. was the first game to be broadcast in this Country. The first close circuit television screening was made by A.T.V. of the Birmingham City match at Bramall Lane on 7th December, 1966. The first electric floodlights in Britain illuminated a match at Bramall Lane on 14th October, 1878. Another first game was when Sheffield United became the first British Club to visit Algeria in 1974 and have also blazed a trail into Tunisia in July 1975. They have first-hand knowledge of the development of football in North Africa where no expense is being spared to provide facilities for an attack on the European/South American domination of the game.

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нігг	2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,0	Our Ball Donors for this afternoon's match are our American friends from the Chicksands Bobbers Club and we would like to take this opportunity of, sending our best wishes to the members, their families and all at the base for a Happy and successful New Year. TEAM MASCOT Today's Mascot is Martin Hanley of 1 Meadow Lane, Toddington. Martin is 11 years old today and we hope that he has a very Happy Birthday. He is a member of the Junior Hatters Club and his favourite player is Paul Futcher.
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DIVISION

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As at 19.12.77

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GOALSCORERS --"Cup "spand E Futcher R." Buckley Hill

7-10000 Football Combination
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Bowen 2 Johnson
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Ipswich Town West Ham United **Orient**

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Ipswich Town
Swindon Town
Arsenal
Chelsea

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Swindon Town Chelsea Bristol Rovers Tottenham Hots

4 Sat 11 Sat 14 Tues 25 Sat

Hereford United Bristol Rovers

Queens Park Rang **Leicester City** Bristol City

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Football Combination Fixtures

Dec 3 Sat

Dec 10 Sat

Dec 17 Sat

Reading West Ham United

v. BRIGHTON Division Two Sat. December 31st Kick-off: 3.00pm

Cardiff City Fulham Birmingham City Bristol City

4 Sat 11 Sat 18 Sat 25 Sat

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Birmingham City Arsenal

Tottenham Hot Crystal Palace Cardiff City Fulham

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v. OLDHAM FA Cup - 3rd. round Sat. January 7th Kick-off: 3.00pm v. OLDHAM Division Two Sat. January 14th Kick-off: 3.00pm

Norwich City
Plymouth Argyle
Southampton
Oxford United
Leicester City
Crystal Palace
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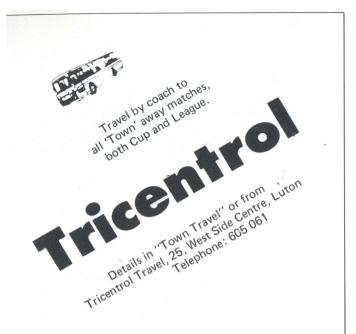
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Reading
Oxford United

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5 Sat 12 Sat 15 Tues 19 Sat 22 Tues 26 Sat 29 Tues

Plymouth Argyle Southampton

Result: Chiltern Premier League Cup Luton Town 5 (Ingram 2 Johnson 2 Stewart) Vauxhall Motors 1



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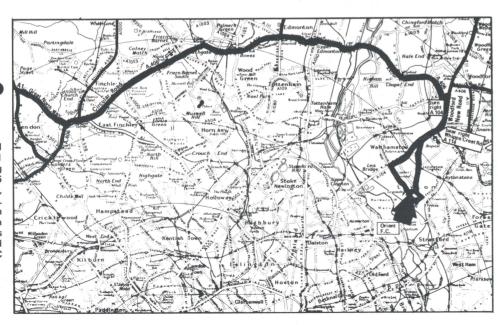


TOWN

Orient v Luton Town Mon. 2nd. January Kick-off: 7.30pm

Leave Luton via the Dunstable Road towards the M1. Proceed south on M1 until A1 intersection. Continue along A1 Great North Way and along A406 North Circular Road, through Finchley, Southgate, Edmonton and Chapel End. Turn right (see map) at junction with A104 (Woodford New Road) and then bear right at junction of A104 Whipps Cross Road along Lea Bridge Road (A194). Follow signs for Orient FC (see map).

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4	ALAN WEST		TONY KENWOR
5	JOHN FAULKNER	Etheos Mark	EDDIE COLQUE
6	GRAHAM JONES	MALINA	JOHN FL
7	JIMMY HUSBAND	THE CHILL	ALAN WOOD
8	RICKY HILL	TO AM	BOB CAMP
9	RON FUTCHER		SIMON STAIN
10	PASQUALE FUCCILLO		GARY HAN
11	PHIL BOERSMA		IAN HAMII
12			

JOHN CUTBUSH	2
CLIFF CALVERT	3
TONY KENWORTHY	4
DDIE COLQUHOUN	5
JOHN FLYNN	6
ALAN WOODWARD	7
BOB CAMPBELL	8
SIMON STAINROD	9
GARY HAMSON	10
IAN HAMILTON	11
	12

OWN

Referee: Mr. Ken. G. Salmon (Barnet, Herts.). Started refereeing in 1963 and progressed via the Mid.-Herts., West Herts. and Herts. County Leagues on to the Isthmian and Football League list. Refereed the Hertfordshire Senior Cup Final in 1972, and lined the England v. Wales Amateur International in 1970, a Football League Cup Semi-Final (1974), and a U.E.F.A. Cup match in Sweden (1975). Was reserve official for the England v. Wales World Cup Qualifier at Wembley in 1973. A married man, with three children, he is a Road Safety Officer in local government. His interests are junior football and stamp collecting.

Linesmen: Mr. E. N. Day (Red Flag); Mr. D. G. Mitcham (Yellow Flag).

Mansfield.