

LUTON TOWN

Official
Programme

20^p

BRIGHTON

Football League
Division Two

Saturday 31 December 1977
Kick-off: 3.00pm



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HARRY HASLAM

WELL, THERE goes another year. We say goodbye to 1977 with a game which I hope will send us all into the New Year full of hope and confidence.

I suppose Brighton feel the same way too, but we're looking for revenge today. When we went down to Hove early in the season Brighton were going through a good spell, and they scraped home 3-2 in a game full of entertainment and good football from both sides.

I hope today's match is as good, and it's nice to welcome to Kenilworth Road a team who have proved that the gap between Divisions can be overcome by the right sort of attitude. It's funny how every year two or three promoted teams find the gap too wide to start with. It happened to us when we got up into the First Division, and it took us half a season to learn all the right lessons.

This year Mansfield have found it hard going in the Second Division, just as Hereford did the year before.



But Brighton have done very well, and whether or not they finally get into the top three they will be able to look back with pride on 1977's achievements.

From my point of view, the year hasn't been quite as good as I had hoped, but like I always say each match gives you a fresh start, and the season still has a long way to run.

New Year resolutions are usually made in fun, but mine isn't — our aim in 1978 is the same as always, to play good football, enjoy our game, and fight until the last kick of the last match to try to put Luton Town back in the First Division.

Other managers, including Alan Mullery, have the same hopes and ideas, and while I wish all football clubs all the best I'm hoping that we round off the old year with another victory.

And to all supporters and friends, all of us at Kenilworth Road offer our thanks for your backing in the past, and our very best wishes for 1978.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



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Cover photo by courtesy of Gareth Owen — Sportswide Photography

WELCOME

BRIGHTON

PETER GRUMMITT. Goalkeeper. Born at Bourne. Made over 300 appearances for Nottingham Forest and gained England-Under-23 recognition. Moved to Sheffield Wednesday and played over 120 times before joining the Albion in January 1974 after a loan period. 5' 10".

STEVE PIPER. Midfielder. Born Brighton. Gained junior honours with Brighton and Sussex Boys. Signed as professional with Albion in December 1970 after amateur service with the Club. Ever present in 1976/77 promotion side. 5' 10".

ANDY ROLLINGS. Defender. Born North Weston. Product of Norwich City youth policy. Joined the Albion April 1974. 6' 2".

KEN TILER. Fullback, Born Sheffield. Joined Chesterfield as an amateur in 1967 and signed professional in 1969. Transferred to Albion in October 1974. 5' 11".

IAN MELLOR. Forward. Born Manchester. Made 40 appearances for

Manchester City before joining Norwich City for large fee. Transferred to the Albion in April 1974. Scored 5 in first game for the Club when on tour. 6' 1".

PETER O'SULLIVAN. Forward. Born Colwyn Bay. Moved to the Albion from Manchester United in April 1970. Represented Wales in Schoolboy-Under-23 and Full International. 5' 8".

TONY TOWNER. Forward. Born Brighton. Product of youth scheme. Signed professional October 1972 after apprenticeship and played regularly in first team after making debut in the Second Division. 5' 7".

GRAHAM WINSTANLEY. Defender. Born Croxdale, Co. Durham. Played seven times for Newcastle United before joining Carlisle United for whom he made 165 appearances and was member of the side which gained promotion to First Division. Joined Albion in November 1974 after loan period. 5' 11".



PETER WARD. Born Derby. Began professional career with Burton Albion and joined Brighton and Hove Albion in May 1975. Made his League debut at Hereford United in March 1976 and scored after 50 seconds. Ever present in 1976/77 promotion side and broke 47-year-old Club goal-scoring record with 32 League goals and four Cup goals.

BRIAN HORTON. Joined Albion in March 1976 from Port Vale for whom he played over 200 games. Not retained by Walsall after apprenticeship and went to non-League Hednesford Town before joining Port Vale. Midfielder. 5' 10".

CHRIS CATTLIN. Born Milnrow, Lancs. Played for Huddersfield Town and joined Coventry City for then record fee for full back. Played over 250 games for the Sky Blues and won England-Under-23 honours. Joined the Albion in May 1976. 5' 11".

ERIC POTTS. Born Liverpool. Joined Albion in June 1977 from Sheffield Wednesday. Made debut as substitute for Wednesday for one minute in October 1970 and made full debut v. Q.P.R. 6th April, 1971. Played for Oswestry Town before joining Sheffield Wednesday in December 1969. 5' 5".

ERIC STEELE. Born Newcastle. Joined Albion from Peterborough United in February 1977 and played in last fifteen games in promotion side. Played for Newcastle United before joining the Posh. Was voted Third Division goalkeeper of 1975/76 season by the Players' Panel. 5' 11".

JOHN RUGGIERO. Born Stoke-on-Trent. Joined Albion from Stoke City June 1977. Had short spell on loan at Workington. Played his way into Stoke City's League side towards the end of 1976/77 season. 5' 10".

MARK LAWRENSON. Born Preston. Signed for Albion while holidaying in Spain June 1977. Cost Albion Club record fee of six figures when joining from Preston North End. Good all-round defender and regular first-teamer after making teenage debut for Preston North End. 5' 10".

GARY WILLIAMS. Born Liverpool. Made his League debut at Preston North End at end of 1971/72 season. Voted "Player of the Year" by P.N.E. fans in 1976. 5' 10".

TEDDY MAYBANK. Transferred from Chelsea to Fulham last season for £65,000 after being on a month's loan.

★

Left to right:
Back Row: Elliott, Philips, Andrews, Smith, Hubbard, S. Ward, Wooley.
Third Row: Tiler, Lawrenson, Mellor, Rollings, Steele, Grummitt, Cattlin, Williams, Morgan (now with Cambridge United), Winstanley, George Aitken (Coach).
Second Row: Ken Gutteridge (Asst. Manager), Geard, Towner, Potts, P. Ward, Horton, Piper, Ruggiero, O'Sullivan, R. Cox, Glen Wilson (Trainer).
Front Row: M. Cox, Ring, Liddle.
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LUTON LATEST

TODAY we welcome the Directors, Officials, Players and Supporters of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club who, under Manager Alan Mullery, are making a brave attempt to gain promotion for the second year running. If successful this would bring First Division football to Sussex for the first time. We hope that, whatever today's result brings, the match will provide the entertainment and excitement of our encounter in September when our visitors got home by the odd goal in five in front of a wildly enthusiastic crowd of over 25,000.

Although our paths have crossed only infrequently in the league in recent years, the last one being in 1972/73, this was not always the case, as the two clubs were founder members of the 3rd Division in 1920, having been together in the Southern League prior to that. In fact our earliest record of matches with Brighton was in 1898/99 when our visitors won 5-0 at home and 5-3 at Luton in the United League, but it is only fair to point out that this was not Luton's first team which was then, as now, competing in the English 2nd Division. A footnote to the United League table of that season informs us that Kettering Town had two points deducted for playing an ineligible man and we wonder whether the Football Association reminded them of this fact when meting out their punishment for the same offence recently. The following season Luton withdrew from the United League and were content to

play in friendlies and one of these must have been against one of the earliest touring sides, The Kaffirs. The Official match card, dated December 4th 1899 and priced at one penny showed that the opposition included such names as Twayi (capt), Lakay, Kortie and Apollis. Luton's colours were Blue Jerseys and White Knickers whilst no mention is made of the visitor's strip, indicating possibly that they did not have one. This must have been a problem in December as would be the starting time of 2.45p.m. Perhaps it was the gathering gloom that explains the extraordinary score-line which reads - Luton Town 8 The Kaffirs 6. The Programme, apart from the teams, league tables and fixtures contained only advertising and one of these makes particularly interesting reading at this time of the year. At W. L. Gates Stores in George Street one was invited to purchase the ingredients for successful Christmas parties at the following prices: Gin, one shilling and six pence per bottle, Whisky, one shilling and eight pence and Brandy one shilling and tenpence. Also recommended as marvellous value was a quart of Pure Tarragona Port for one shilling!

Just imagine having to advertise the stuff at those prices.

★

WE ARE sure that you would all wish to join us in offering our congratulations and best wishes to Roy McCrohan on his appointment as Assistant Manager to the new

American Club, Detroit Express. Roy will be working with Ken Furphy the former Watford and Sheffield United manager who has had considerable experience already in the booming United States Soccer scene.

At 47, Ray has had a varied career in football, starting as a young player in his home town of Reading in 1948. His best spell was as right half with Norwich. He was there for 11 seasons, and was a member of the Norwich side which took us to a replay in the FA Cup semi-finals in 1959. A lot of Town supporters remembered him for a reason that still makes Roy blush - his foul on Billy Bingham just outside the box produced the vital goal that took us to Wembley.

Norwich's disappointment was somewhat mitigated the following season when Norwich won promotion to the Second Division.

Roy moved on in 1962 to Colchester, then to Bristol Rovers.

There followed two years as manager of non-league Crawley before Roy got back into the league as coach at Fulham, where Bobby Robson was manager and Harry Haslam was chief scout. But things didn't work out well there - all three were sacked, and Roy had a spell as coach at Aldershot before Robson invited him to join him as coach at Ipswich.

And when Harry Haslam became our manager Roy renewed their partnership - and friendship - in the summer of 1972.

Roy is married, and a lot of children in Luton know Mrs. Mary McCrohan

well - she runs ballet, yoga and gym classes in Luton. Mary will be remaining in Luton for the time being but will be joining Roy in Detroit later in the year. They have a married daughter who will make them grandparents in the spring. They also have a son Andy, a central defender who is a junior pro. with Ipswich.

Best wishes to Roy have come from all quarters of local football. Chairman Denis Mortimer and everyone at Kenilworth Road all hope that the move works out for Roy and his family.

"We're saying goodbye to a friend as well as a good coach", said Harry Haslam, "And we all hope that Roy has a very successful new career in the states".

★

THOSE of you with an observant nature will have noticed that two new flags are flying over the Bobbers Stand. One is a Luton Town flag replacing the one which disappeared mysteriously after the final match of last season whilst the other, a Union Jack is a great improvement on its predecessor which had seen better days. For both flags we are indebted to a very good supporter of the Club, Richard Larkinson who delivered them personally to us a couple of weeks ago as an early Christmas present. Mr Larkinson who is a member of our Vice-Presidents Suite and an advertiser at the ground also presented the Club with a top class match ball at the beginning of the season.

"NEWS FROM THE POOLS"

£500 "HATTERS POOLS" "CHRISTMAS DRAW"

1st. PRIZE. £100—Mr. F. Wilson, 131, Brook St. Luton—Ref.W.68.

2nd. PRIZE. £75—Mr. P. Bromwich, 24, Northfield Rd., Harpenden—Ref.139.B.

3rd. PRIZE. £50—Mr. Setchell, 113, Heswall Court. Luton—Ref.M.3.

4th PRIZE. £25—Mr. C. Rowe, 3, Glebe Ave. Flitwich—Ref.M.51.

5th PRIZE. £10—Mr. C. Sinclair, 505, Dallow Rd. Luton—Ref.G.43.

The following each receive a £5 prize.

Mr. K. Kirkwood, 93, Bolingbroke Rd. Luton—Ref.W.24. Mr. Thornton, c/o 20, Clarendon Rd. Luton—Ref.B.65. Mr. E. Wilson, 131, Brook St. Luton—Ref.W.68.

Mr. D. Clarke, 17, Russell St. Woburn Sands—Ref.G.36. Mr. C. Hancock, 78, Cutenhoe Rd. Luton—Ref.D.26. Mr. V. Benson, 52, Park Rise. Harpenden—Ref.B.41. Mr. Parton, 8, Ferndale Rd. Luton—Ref.A.1.

Mr. A. Burgess, 51, Seymour Rd. Luton—Ref.B.12. Mr. M. Etteridge, 1, Wexham Close. Luton—Ref.A.1. Mr. M. Shortt, 35, Heywood Drive. Luton—Ref.B.65. Mr. A. Burgess, 51, Seymour Rd. Luton—Ref.B.12.

Mrs. M. Kilby, 267, Birdsfoot Lane. Luton—Ref.C.41. Mr. A. Carr, 4, Clevedon Rd. Luton—Ref.C.79. Mr. R. Morgan, "White Gables" Hill Farm. Sundon—Ref. C.25. Mr. R. Dryden, Grove Farm, Bidwell. Duns—Ref.D.17. Mr. A. Sadler, 41, Mayfield Cres. Lower Stondon—Ref.D.21. Mr. N. Gillman, 15, Mill Lane, Houghton Conquest—Ref.E.4. Mr. T. Holland, 37, Park Rd. North. Houghton Regis—Ref.G.43. Mr. R. Sheral, c/o 12, Priory Orchard, Flamstead—Ref.G.10. Mr. T. Holland, 37, Park Rd. North. Houghton Regis—Ref.G.43. Mr. Cox, 49, High St. Cranfield—Ref.G.36. Mr. S. Talbot, 4, Willow Way. Luton—Ref.G.15. Mr. H. Heathfield, 86, Melbourne Rd. Royston—Ref.H.74. Mr. A. Carter, 23, Hoo Rd. Meppershall—Ref.H.76. Mr. P. Farsome, 25, Icknield Rd. Luton—Ref.H.64. Mr. G. Crawley, 104, Aylesbury Rd. Bier-ton—Ref.K.21. Mr. S. Large, 61, Lime Ave.

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★

We recently received a poem from Andrew Hopkins aged 12½ years from Newport Pagnell, and are pleased to reproduce it here:

*Come on Luton
Come on the Town
We don't want you going down.
Come on Faulkner
Come on Price
In defence you're so precise.
Come on Jimmy
Come on Ron
You knock 'em in like a bomb.
Come on Luton
You're a world-class team
To play for Luton is everyone's dream.*

LUTON LATEST

PLAYER PROFILE



FULL NAME — Ronald Fitcher
HEIGHT — 6' 0"
WEIGHT — 12st. 12lb.
BIRTHPLACE — Chester
BIRTHDAY — 25th September
STAR SIGN — Libra
FIRST SIGNED AS PRO — Jan. 1974
SIGNED FOR LUTON — May 1974
PREVIOUS CLUBS — Chester
FAMILY — Wife Christine
HOBBIES — Game Shooting, Golf
FAVOURITE FOODS — Curries, Steak
CAR — Magnum
FAVOURITE RECORDING ARTIST — Jim Reeves, Four Tops, Leo Sayer
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT — Hawaii, Florida

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS — None yet
MOST ADMIRER PLAYER — Our Kid
GREATEST FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE — Hatrick against Wolves - 1st Division
AMBITION — Master my No. 1 Wood and be happy.

Signature

BEHIND THE SCENES

From the Secretary's Office

F.A. CUP 3RD. ROUND
 LUTON TOWN v. OLDHAM ATHLETIC



SAT. JANUARY 7th 1977



KICK-OFF 3PM.
 NOTICE TO SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

All ticket holders have until Wednesday January 4th to claim their tickets. All applications should include No.31 voucher from the back of the season tickets. Postal applications will be accepted with correct monies and a stamped addressed envelope. Normal league prices will apply.

Block A B & C £2.25
 Block H D E £2.00
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Should a replay be necessary it will be on Tuesday January 10th at Oldham — Kick-off 7.30. Ticket prices will be announced in due course.

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Floral displays in the Vice President Suite this season have been kindly supplied by Raymond Fox of Bishopsgate Road, Luton.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

BEST WISHES FOR 1978
FROM EVERYONE AT
KENILWORTH ROAD TO ALL
OUR SUPPORTERS



ON THE last day of 1977, Manager Harry Haslam and the lads raise their glasses to all Town supporters. The toast is traditional, but none the less sincere: "All the very best for the New Year – and here's to promotion".

The glasses, we hasten to add, contained nothing stronger than lemonade when Harry, coaches Roy McCrohan, David Pleat, Danny Bergara, and the players posed for the picture in the dressing room at the end of a training stint. There are rumours that tonight a very small shandy might be allowed to see in the New Year, but if you're celebrating the midnight hour through an alcoholic haze of merry-making, spare a thought for the boys. They'll be tucked up in bed as part of the preparation for Monday's game at Orient.

Picture: LUTON NEWS.



CESARS PALACE

Luton 51357

tonight

NEW YEARS EVE GALA NIGHT

★
Sunday 1st January for 7 nights
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★
Sunday 8th January for 7 nights
FRANKIE VAUGHAN



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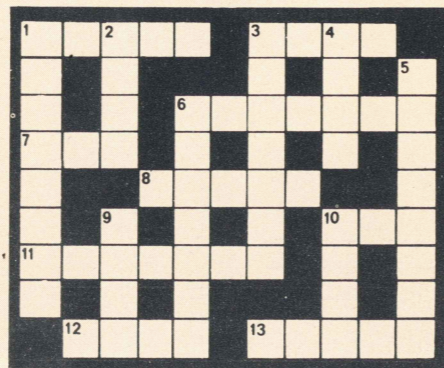
CLUES - ACROSS

- 1 & 7ac. Former Southampton and Walsall full-back who joined Salisbury this year (5,3)
- 3 How a manager is often referred to (4)
- 6 Scotland's "Player of the Year" for 1976/77 (7)
- 7 See 1ac.
- 8 Johnson or Jones (5)
- 10 Derby players have free use of one each from 4dn. (3)
- 11 One of the new clubs in this season's extended League of Ireland (7)
- 12 Old Manchester United and Eire full-back: ... Brennan (4)
- 13 Former regal-sounding striker with Crystal Palace and Orient (5)

- 1 League ever-present and top scorer for Carlisle last season (8)
- 2 ... Rowell (Sunderland) (4)
- 3 Nickname of West Bromwich Albion (7)
- 4 Sponsors of Derby County (4)
- 5 He followed Maurice Setters as manager of Doncaster Rovers (8)
- 9 & 6. Former Plymouth Argyle winger now with Charlton Athletic (4,7)
- 10 Bournemouth forward who played for Seattle Sounders during the summer (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD No. 12

Across. 1. Harry Gregg, 7. Clay, 8. See 15ac., 9. Lund, 14. See 12dn., 15 & 8ac. Alan Ball, 16. Lees, 17. seven-a-side. Down 2 & 13dn. Allen Wade, 3. Royle (ex. Everton), 4. Glentoran, 5. Gray (Villa), 6. Alf, 10. Ellis, 11. Field, 12 & 14ac. van Gool, 13. See 2dn.



CLUES - DOWN

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

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

THE CELEBRATIONS to usher in a happy new year were given a slight shock a decade ago when the Town said goodbye to 1967 with an uncharacteristic failing. But we still had a feeling that 1968 would be a year to remember.

Christmas 1967 had been pleasant enough. Off the field manager Allan Brown set up a transfer deal with Chester to bring to Kenilworth Road Ian Moir, formerly of Manchester United and Blackpool, and said at the time to be the best right winger in the Fourth Division.

Chester and the Town agreed on terms: it would be a part-exchange transaction with Graham French going to Chester along with a cash sum which rated Moir at around £15,000. Moir settled for the Town's terms, and the final agreement was awaited from French, who had lost his place in the Town's league side to John Ryan. But in the end the haggling all came to nothing. French didn't fancy the move, and it all fell through.

But no-one was too worried about it on Boxing Day 1967 when Bradford, bottom of the Fourth Division, provided the opposition at Kenilworth Road.

Anticipating a goal romp, 16,599 customers turned up on a grey damp day, the Town's biggest gate since they had dropped into the Fourth Division.

The Town controlled the first half, and Bradford were rarely able to break out of deep defence as Town attacks swarmed towards the Oak Road end. But the pitch was a mud-heap which led to countless mistakes. Keith Allen, John Ryan and Ian Buxton all missed chances, and Ray Whittaker made a hash of the best of the lot - he slammed a penalty wide.

But skipper Terry Branson came to the rescue, going up to head the Town into the lead in the 52nd minute from a corner by Ryan, and 13 minutes later the Town were awarded another penalty and this time Whittaker scored.

It left the Town with a 100 per cent home record, and it was the seventh time in the 11 home games that the defence had kept a clean sheet.

But the jubilation was knocked four days later when the return match was played at Bradford Park Avenue. The official attendance on December 30, 1967, was a mere 3,674 as the Town were beaten 2-1. It was their fourth defeat of the season, and the second inflicted in Bradford, with City having done it earlier.

Injuries were partly to blame, with Bruce Rioch, Whittaker and goalkeeper Tony Read all unable to play. Rodney Green, returning after a cartilage operation, celebrated by putting the Town ahead with an overhead bicycle kick in the 28th minute, but the Town turned in a wretched performance after Lloyd got the equaliser. Barnes hit the winner in the 60th minute.

YOUTH

By George Rogers

HOPE YOU have all had a Happy Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year. The Youth players did not get as much holiday as most of us due to the Clubs training commitments but they have had a break from playing. They should have got back into action this morning when they entertained Cambridge United at Chryslers Sports ground. On Wednesday they travel to Peterborough in the next round of the F.A. Cup and I am sure we wish them well in their efforts to go into the last 16 of the competition.

Prior to Christmas on Saturday 19th. December they played Vauxhall Motors in the League Cup winning 5-1. Our goals being scored by G. Ingram 2, N. Johnson 2 and Stewart. Feature of this game was that 3 penalties were missed, 2 by Luton and the other by Vauxhall. I am sure a session on the training ground was "How to take a penalty". The Luton team: - A. Judge, A. Currie, R. Eaton, A. Wilkinson, L. Harriott, T. Stewart, A. Pearson, G. Sisman, W. Turner, G. Ingram, N. Johnson, T. Price, N. Madden. On Wednesday 21st they visited Hertford Town in a Chiltern Premier fixture and ran off winning by 3-0. Our goals being scored by R. Eaton, A. Pearson and an own goal. Luton team: - A. Judge, T. Broom, L. Harriott, R. Eaton, T. Murphy, A. Wilkinson, D. Pacey, P. Driver, A. Pearson, T. Vincent, A. Conquest T. Price.

Looking back over the past few months, we are saying "What have we achieved". A glance at the League table will say we are doing tremendous, as well as being top of the league, we are still competing in the 3 Cups entered, the F.A. Youth, East Midlands Junior and the League Cup. The successes at Orient and Ipswich in the previous rounds of the Youth Cup was a triumph for the all round team work. Danny Bergara, Youth team coach playing no small part. The goal tally of 54 goals against 8. Dave Pacey with 14 and Godfrey Ingram with 15 are the top marksmen.

CHILTERN PREMIER LEAGUE

League table up to December 21st. 1977.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Town	13	12	1	0	54	8	25
Bedford Town	13	8	2	3	28	26	18
Letchworth G.C.	12	7	2	3	31	22	16
Harlow Town	13	4	5	4	24	36	13
Ware	12	6	0	6	28	23	12
Barnet	12	5	2	5	24	27	12
Cambridge U.	7	5	1	1	20	11	11
Cheshunt	12	3	3	6	23	26	9
Cambridge C.	13	3	2	8	18	31	8
Stevenage	10	2	2	6	20	38	6
Hertford	10	1	2	7	13	26	4
Vauxhall Motors	8	1	0	7	13	32	2

Continued on page 15

COMBINATION

BARRING unforeseen circumstances (footballing politics are becoming more and more unpredictable) Ken Gutteridge will be on the Brighton bench this afternoon attempting to cajole and plot our downfall today. Everyone has heard of Alan Mullery but how many soccer fans know of Ken, Brighton's first team coach and I'm sure a decided influence in the upturned fortunes of the seaside club during the last three seasons.

Ken is one of a group of coaches loyal and hardworking giving their total commitment to the game but never seeking to capture and exploit headline publicity. Two players on the field today have particular reason to appreciate Ken's help.

When Steve Buckley was asked to sign for Burton Albion he had already been passed over by both senior Nottingham clubs and been allowed to leave Midland League side Ilkeston Town. Ken Gutteridge had faith in Steve. He played him outside left and his powerful shooting and natural crossing ability caught my eye when Nuneaton played Burton in two Southern League Cup ties. When I joined Luton we tracked Steve and it was Ken's character reference that clinched our decision to give him a chance. Another honest player with a big heart, Maitland Pollock was also signed from Burton and it is pleasing to see 'Matt' scoring goals for Portsmouth now.

Before joining Burton Ken Gutteridge was quietly coaching a successful Preston North End 'A' team. Of these Mel Holden and Tony Morley (Barnsley) were sold for big money. At Burton he coaxed a little inside forward to exploit his ability around the box. When he joined Brighton he persuaded Peter Taylor to take a chance with this part timer, a Rolls Royce fitter. Peter Ward has progressed well, he is now considered one of the games top strikers who has been likened by the media to the brilliant Jimmy Greaves.

I hope Ken's feeling fairly miserable at twenty to five this afternoon. I will cheer him up with a New Year drink and then remind him of the games when Nuneaton used to hammer Burton!

It is good to see nice guys doing well.

THE DAVID PLEAT PAGE



THINK ABOUT THOSE CROSSES

MATCH of the Day's Goal of the Month always produces some breathtaking goals. The October collection illustrated perfectly the value of the near post cross. Goals scored by Dalglish for Scotland, Hughes for Derby County and McIlroy for Manchester United were fine examples of getting into the near post area to meet a ball played into this space.

Balls played from wide positions into the centre towards the middle of the goal rarely gives a problem to the competent goalkeeper and the big central defenders. An asset of any central defender must be his ability to deal capably with high balls. So they are usually tall players who are strong at attacking aerial balls.

Their position for crossed balls from the flanks is dictated by the position of the strikers that they are marking. It is the job of these strikers to attempt to drag them away from areas where they are most effective.

The goalkeeper adjusts according to the position from where the ball is crossed. The wider the angle and the nearer the touchline the goalkeeper must be in a position towards the far post so he can cover the cross. If an attacker approaches the goal along the bye line the keeper must try and cover his near post — so his vulnerable spot is the ball played over and beyond him or the ball pulled back.

A player in possession should have an awareness of his position in relation to the goal and judge his cross accordingly. The early cross to the near post slid in towards the corner of the six yard box past the last defender is a goalkeepers nightmare.

When crossing think about the ball bent toward this position or the deep ball beyond the six yard box. Watch for players who use imagination when crossing. Here at Luton look out for Lil Fuccillo and Steve Buckley and Graham Jones uses this skill well when attacking down the right touchline.

JUNIOR HATTERS CLUB

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings to the following members: Clint Watts (1st), Sean Watkiss (2nd), Martin Shadbolt (2nd), Paul Walker (3rd), Paul Brett (6th) Andrew Johnson (7th), Phillip Bonner (8th), and Steven Porter (13th).

THIS WEEK'S COMPETITION IS:—

Can you match these clubs and their grounds?

MANCHESTER CITY — CARROW ROAD

NORWICH CITY — THE DELL

SOUTHAMPTON — SINCIL BANK

CREWE ALEXANDRA — MAINE ROAD

LINCOLN CITY — GREYSTY ROAD

Send your entries to Competition, 70-72 Kenilworth Road, Luton. The first correct entry picked out on Friday 6th January will receive two tickets for our home match against OLDHAM.

WATCH THIS COLUMN AT THE NEXT HOME MATCH FOR THE ANSWERS OF OUR LAST TWO COMPETITIONS.

BALL DONOR

Our Match Ball is once again sponsored by The Chicksands Bobbers Club and we would like to thank the members for their double generosity over the Christmas holiday.

MASCOTS

Today we have two team mascots both of whom are members of the Chicksands Bobbers and Junior Hatters Clubs.

John Townsend is 9 years old and his favourite player is Jimmy Husband.

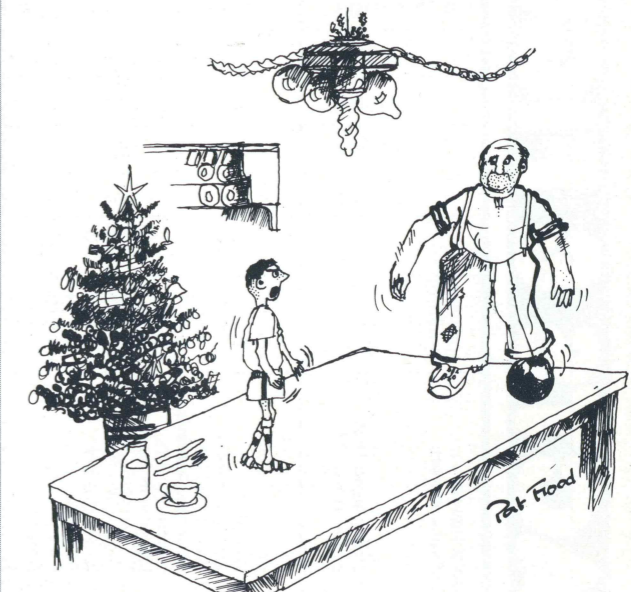
Robbie Steenburgh is also 9 and we have included him as this will be his last opportunity to see the "Hatters" as he returns to the United States with his family on January 2nd. We wish them a safe and pleasant journey home and hope to see them again sometime. Robbie's favourite player is "Lily" Fuccillo.

YOUTH (continued)

Have the Youth team players progressed individually? Some more than others. When a boy is invited to become an apprentice, his ability is known, he has been watched many times, his strengths and weaknesses have all been noted. It is only when he reports to the ground in July that the character and dedication to learn starts to show. Can he accept criticism and what are his reactions from this criticism. Remember our job is not to promote a good youth side (Although we like it to be successful), the 1st. team is the one that matters and the coaching at youth level is geared to this target. A boy coming into the club of small stature and playing in the middle of the back four can still do a good job at youth level but unless he is of outstanding ability at 1st team level his height will be a handicap. Many times we are asked, "Why do you play him there?" It is to bring out his strengths, improve his weaknesses believing that he has potential to be a 1st team player in that position. Youth level is the place to experiment and try out new ideas and our success proves that we are doing it wisely.

KNOW YOUR YOUTH PLAYER.

Today we focus on Alan Currie. Alan is one of the two boys we have from Northern Ireland. Was born in Belfast on the 15th. September 1960. Attended the Dundonald Boys High School. Before coming to Luton as an apprentice last July he has played for Ireland Schoolboys against England, Scotland, Wales and Eire. Has also played for County Down representative side. His hobbies are playing Tennis, Swimming and Badminton. Favourite recording artists are Eagles, Bread, and Linda Ronstadt.



"I know you said I would have table soccer for Christmas dad, but I thought..."

FACTS & FIGURES ~ 1977-78

Bold figures indicate scorers (Aston played first 2 games at No. 11)	Attendance	FA	ALEKSIC	JONES	BUCKLEY	CARR	FAULKNER	FUTCHER P.	HUSBAND	SMITH	BOERSMA	FUCILLO	INGRAM	HILL	McNICHOL	PRICE	FUTCHER R.	WEST	HEALE	STEIN B.	SPERRIN
Aug 20 Orient	8,061	1-0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	12	6	2	11	9			
Aug 27 Oldham Athletic	7,579	0-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	10	8	8		2	11	10			
Aug 30 Wolves (LC2)	14,682	3-1	1	3	3	12	5	6	7	7	9	4	8	8		2	9	10	11		
Sept 3 Charlton Athletic	9,061	7-1	1	3	3	12	5	6	7	7	11	4	8	8		2	9	10			
Sept 10 Bristol Rovers	5,940	2-1	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	4	8	8		2	9	10			
Sept 17 Blackburn Rovers	9,149	0-0	1		3	4	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Sept 24 Tottenham	32,700	0-2	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Sept 27 Brighton	25,132	2-3	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 1 Notts County	7,593	2-0	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 4 Millwall	9,119	1-0	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 8 Cardiff City	8,369	4-1	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 15 Fulham	12,736	1-0	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 22 Blackpool	12,167	1-2	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 25 Man. City (LC3)	16,443	1-1	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Oct 29 Bolton Wanderers	20,113	1-2	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Nov 1 Man. City (LC3R)	28,254	0-0	1	12	3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Nov 5 Hull City	8,936	1-1	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Nov 8 Man. City (LC3R2)	13,024	2-3	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Nov 12 Mansfield Town	7,522	1-3	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Nov 19 Stoke City	9,384	1-2	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Nov 26 Sunderland (1)	26,915	1-1	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Dec 3 Burnley	6,921	1-2	1		3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Dec 10 Southampton	19,909	1-0	1	6	3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Dec 17 Mansfield Town (2)	6,401	1-1	1	6	3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Dec 26 Crystal Palace	22,027	3-3	1	6	3	12	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Dec 27 Sheffield United	10,885	4-0	1	6	3	5	5	6	7	7	11	10	8	8		2	9	10			
Dec 31 Brighton																					
Jan 2 Orient																					
Jan 7 Oldham (F.A. Cup)																					
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 (5)																					
Feb 25 Notts County																					
Mar 4 Cardiff City																					
Mar 11 Fulham (6)																					
Mar 18 Blackpool (LCF)																					
Mar 21 Bolton Wanderers																					
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

Table of Results - As at 28.12.77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Bolton	22	10	1	0	25	10	5	3	3	13	10	34	
Tottenham	22	7	4	0	29	7	4	3	3	14	12	31	
Southampton	22	8	2	1	20	7	5	3	4	13	14	29	
Blackburn	22	8	2	1	20	8	3	5	3	13	16	29	
Brighton	21	6	4	1	21	13	4	3	3	10	8	27	
Luton	22	6	3	2	20	7	3	2	6	16	19	23	
Blackpool	22	4	3	4	15	13	5	2	4	16	15	23	
Charlton	21	8	1	1	27	15	1	4	6	9	22	23	
Sheffield U.	22	8	2	1	20	9	1	3	7	13	26	23	
Crystal Palace	22	4	3	4	19	16	3	5	3	13	14	22	
Oldham	22	5	3	1	19	9	2	3	6	10	18	22	
Sunderland	22	5	3	3	19	12	1	6	4	17	23	21	
Stoke	22	7	1	3	19	10	1	4	6	6	16	21	
Orient	22	5	4	2	18	14	1	4	6	7	13	20	
Fulham	21	5	4	1	22	9	2	1	8	9	17	19	
Notts C.	22	5	3	1	18	10	1	2	8	10	25	19	
Hull	22	4	3	4	13	9	1	5	7	13	18		
Bristol R.	22	5	2	5	2	19	10	0	3	7	10	31	18
Mansfield	22	4	2	5	16	17	1	4	6	12	21	16	
Millwall	21	1	6	3	8	13	1	4	2	8	10	16	14
Cardiff	20	4	4	2	12	14	0	2	6	8	29	14	
Burnley	22	3	4	4	11	11	1	0	10	7	29	12	

COMBINATION

Table of results - As at 19.12.77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	21	14	2	5	43	19	30
West Ham	20	12	3	5	40	18	27
Tottenham	22	8	10	4	40	26	26
Chelsea	21	9	7	5	40	17	25
Leicester C.	23	11	3	9	31	25	25
Q.P.R.	20	9	6	5	33	16	24
Ipswich Town	19	10	4	5	31	16	24
Crystal Palace	20	9	5	6	25	19	23
Arsenal	21	8	7	6	26	20	23
Hereford Utd.	21	10	3	8	36	33	23
Norwich C.	21	8	7	6	21	25	23
Plymouth A.	18	9	3	6	28	20	21
Fulham	19	6	8	5	25	23	20
Birmingham C.	21	4	11	6	19	22	19
Luton Town	23	7	5	11	32	43	19
Bristol R.	19	6	6	7	22	30	18
Bristol C.	18	4	9	5	23	25	17
Orient	20	4	6	10	16	33	14
Swindon T.	19	5	4	10	20	45	14
Oxford U.	20	3	5	12	16	36	11
Cardiff C.	19	2	6	11	18	41	10
Reading	19	3	2	14	15	46	8



GOALSCORERS - League/Cup

Futcher R. 9 Heale 3
Husband 8 Price 2
Buckley 4 Stein B. 2
Boersma 4 Carr 1
Hill 4 Faulkner 1
Fucillo 3

Football Combination

Ingram 8 Carr 2
Stein B. 4 Sperrin 2
Heale 3 Turner 2
Bowen 2 Johnson 2
Smith 2 Hill 1
Boersma 2 West 1

Chiltern Youth League/Cups

Ingram 15 Currie 1
Pacey 14 Beach 1
Johnson 8 Rowland 1
Pearson 5 Chamokan 1
Stewart 4 Williams 1
Conquest 3 Dool 1
Turner 3 Harriott 1
Eaton 2 Sisman 1
Wilkinson 1

Football Combination Fixtures

	24 Wed	5-1 Reading	3 Sat	1-4 Queens Park Rangers
Aug	27 Sat	1-1 West Ham United	10 Sat	1-3 Leicester City
Sept	3 Sat	P Orient	17 Sat	P Bristol City
Sept	5 Mon	3-1 Ipswich Town	2 Mon	Ipswich Town
Sept	10 Sat	1-2 Swindon Town	14 Sat	West Ham United
Sept	13 Tues	1-1 Arsenal	21 Sat	Orient
Sept	17 Sat	0-3 Chelsea	4 Sat	Swindon Town
Sept	21 Wed	3-2 Hereford United	11 Sat	Chelsea
Sept	24 Sat	0-1 Bristol Rovers	14 Tues	Bristol Rovers
Oct	1 Sat	1-4 Tottenham Hotspur	25 Sat	Tottenham Hotspur
Oct	5 Wed	1-0 Crystal Palace	4 Sat	Cardiff City
Oct	8 Sat	1-1 Cardiff City	11 Sat	Fulham
Oct	15 Sat	0-3 Fulham	18 Sat	Birmingham City
Oct	22 Sat	1-1 Birmingham City	25 Sat	Bristol City
Oct	29 Sat	2-3 Arsenal	4 Sat	Norwich City
Nov	5 Sat	2-0 Norwich City	11 Sat	Plymouth Argyle
Nov	12 Sat	1-3 Hereford United	18 Sat	Southampton
Nov	15 Tues	2-1 Reading	25 Sat	Oxford United
Nov	19 Sat	1-2 Oxford United	22 Sat	Leicester City
Nov	22 Tues	2-0 Orient	25 Tues	Crystal Palace
Nov	26 Sat	2-2 Plymouth Argyle	29 Sat	Queens Park Rangers
Nov	29 Tues	0-4 Southampton		

Result: Chiltern Premier League:
Hertford Town 0 Luton Town 3 (Eaton, Pearson, O.G.)

OUR NEXT HOME GAME

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



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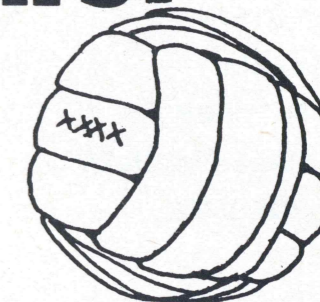
Orient v Luton Town
Mon. 2nd. January
Kick-off: 7.30pm

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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- 11 PHIL BOERSMA
- 12



- ERIC STEELE 1
- CHRIS CATTLIN 2
- GARY WILLIAMS 3
- BRIAN HORTON 4
- ANDY ROLLINGS 5
- MARK LAWRENSEN 6
- TONY TOWNER 7
- PETER WARD 8
- TEDDY MAYBANK 9
- PAUL CLARK 10
- PETER O'SULLIVAN 11
- 12

- Bristol C.
- Notts F.
- Everton.
- Arsenal.
- Ipswich.
- Derby.
- Man. City.
- A. Villa.
- Q.P.R.
- Wolves.
- West Ham.
- Leicester.
- Blackpool.
- Orient.
- Burnley.
- Sunderland.
- Cardiff.
- Charlton.
- Hull.
- Sheff. Utd.
- Mansfield.
- C. Palace.
- Millwall.
- Bolton.
- Notts Co.
- Bristol R.
- Southampton.
- Stoke.
- Spurs.
- Blackburn.

OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr Alex J. Hamil (Wolverhampton). Commenced refereeing in 1959 and via local leagues, Midland Combination and West Midland League reached the Football League line and full list in 1973. Refereed the West Midland Cup (1972) and Birmingham Senior Cup (1973) Finals. Lined the Scotland v. Ireland International in 1974, with other matches in Italy. Married, and with one son, he is a Senior Foreman in Government workshops whose interests - apart from training to keep fit - are playing chess and raising money for charities.

Linesmen: Mr L. A. Bartels (Red Flag); Mr. K. A. Miller (Yellow Flag).

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