

LUTON TOWN

Official
Programme

20p

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

F.A. Cup
Third Round

Saturday 7 January 1978
Kick-off: 3.00pm



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WELDING PRODUCTS

HARRY HASLAM

WELCOME back to Kenilworth Road for our first match of 1978. I hope you all had a happy holiday. As you will see from the results, we did. We've now gone six games without defeat, and we didn't concede a single goal in the last three of them.

All things considered we have done very well, although I must admit that Monday's match at Orient wasn't the most entertaining I have ever seen.

Orient used the long ball consistently, with the result that the chance to do things in midfield was cut out. I don't blame Orient — they had a job to do and they did it well enough.

The same goes for us, and we were delighted to earn another away point. It was a hard game and a long battle, especially for the defence. I couldn't understand the

penalty decision that went against us. Their man was pulling David Carr's shirt as they both went for the ball, and it never should have been a penalty for them. Still, that's the way football goes sometimes, and in the end justice was done when Kitchen put the spot kick into the terraces.

When people complain about poor games I can understand their feelings. As a manager there are lots of things I would like to see in football — like gates of 20,000 for every match on our ground. But you have to accept that some things won't measure up to your ideals, and do the best you can.

When I look at my staff, I can only say that Luton Town has been given sterling service. It's the smallest squad of players we have had for years. Our players are younger than the average. And we have had to keep going despite injury problems.

Jim McNichol came in to deputise for Paul Futcher, and he did a tremendous job. Then he got injured and Graham Jones was brought in. He too settled quickly to play a man's part in defence. Then John Faulkner was hurt, which meant that I had to make another change, and once more David Carr has given everything to help the team.

With spirit like that, we can still go places, and the Christmas and New Year holiday games have done nothing to shake my belief that Luton Town could have a say in the promotion places when the season

ends, what's more it would be nice for David Pleat and Danny Bergara who have now taken over the coaching duties from Roy McCrohan who has left us to go to America. Good luck Roy and I am sure everybody would love me to convey to you their best wishes for you and your family.

Bolton's gallop at the top has been halted, and it only needs two or three results to go the right way for us and once more there will be anything up to half the teams in the division thinking that they have a chance of promotion.

And the fixture list serves only to underline the point: Bolton still have to come to Kenilworth Road, and it's beginning to look as though they might yet make a mess of things for the third consecutive season.

Spurs also have to visit us, and so have Southampton, and with the benefit of home support we could easily play a major part in shaking up the leading positions.

In the meantime, cup-ties can provide a little extra excitement in mid-winter, and while we welcome Oldham Athletic to Luton today, we all look forward to starting off the 1978 soccer programme with a victory.

Whatever the future holds — and my crystal ball has been a bit cloudy recently — I hope that you all have a happy and prosperous New Year, and that Luton Town will give us all something to celebrate.



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WELCOME



OLDHAM

CHRIS OGDEN (Goalkeeper) Signed professional in July 1971 after progressing through the junior ranks. Came in for the injured John Platt last season. He is following in his father's footsteps, his father being the Oldham Goalkeeper in the early fifties.

JOHN PLATT (Goalkeeper) Ashton born aged 23 years, played regularly in the 1st team until injury. Signed as a boy from Ashton United. A player full of promise and of high calibre.

IAN WOOD (Full Back) 28 years old, signed from Radcliffe F.C. 11 years ago and considered an outstanding capture. A firm favourite with the fans, he has just completed his testimonial year. Consistent play has made the right back position his own.

MAURICE WHITTLE (Full Back) Signed from Blackburn Rovers as a Wing-Half in May '69 and successfully converted to Full Back. A lethal left shot has made him number one penalty taker having not missed from the spot in four seasons.

ALAN GROVES (Winger) Signed from Bournemouth four seasons ago

for a fee of £10,000. Was previously with Shrewsbury and Southport. One of the most exciting and skillful players in the Second Division.

KEITH HICKS (Centre Back) A local boy who again came through the junior ranks. Aged 23 and is an established First Team player. Gained youth international honours in 1972. A player with a great future.

PAUL EDWARDS (Centre Back) Ex-Manchester United and England under 23 International signed by Athletic after a loan period for £12,000. Strong and commanding at the back, with a flair for notching goals.

RON BLAIR (Midfield) Signed from Coleraine as a boy, then left the club to join Rochdale. He came back to Oldham four years ago. An Irish international with great determination.

GRAHAM BELL (Midfield) Another Oldham produced player whose father also played for Oldham for many years. Signed professional forms four years ago. One of the most exciting midfield players in the Second Division. A player who should go far in the game.

DAVID HOLT (Centre Back) Signed from Bury for £22,000 in November '74. One of the best young central defenders about, at 24 years of age a bargain buy for Oldham.

LES CHAPMAN (Midfield) In his second spell with 'Latics. Signed from Huddersfield as part of the exchange deal involving Colin Garwood. Began his career as a winger, now a tireless midfield player.

ALAN YOUNG (Striker) Age 21, represented Scotland four seasons ago at schoolboy level before joining Oldham. This tall clever striker has been unlucky with injuries last season, but has great ability to re-establish himself as Oldham's centre forward.

DAVID SHAW (Striker) Aged 29, in his second spell with Oldham, having previously been with Huddersfield Town. Left Oldham to join W.B.A. for a club record transfer fee of £80,000. Re-joined Oldham from W.B.A. on a free transfer in the middle of the '76/77 season. A quick and popular striker for Oldham.

VIC HALOM (Striker) Aged 28, signed from Sunderland in the close season of '76 and in the 76/77 season was Oldham's top scorer. A strong player who has the ability to destroy defences both in the air and on the ground.

DAVID IRVING (Striker) Aged 25, started his career with Workington Town and then moved to Everton for £40,000 where he gained first team outings before joining Oldham a season ago.

JOHN HURST (Midfield) Started from school to Everton, where he was a consistent member of the Everton first team. Also had 12 England under 23 international caps and was also with the England first team squad on many occasions but did not play for his full cap. A commanding player whose experience is invaluable in the Oldham defence.

CARL VALENTINE (Winger) Signed from Manchester schools. An outside left with great speed, skill and courage. In his first full season as a professional, he turned in some fine first team performances, and should mature as a player to challenge Alan Groves for his first team place.

MIKE BERNARD (Midfield) Signed from Everton this close season. Was previously with Stoke but was transferred to Everton for £140,000. He is able to fit in comfortably in either midfield or in a Full Back position. Height 5' 9" Weight 11½ st.

STEVE GARDNER (Midfield) Signed at the beginning of December for a fee of £10,000 was previously with Ipswich Town. A player of tremendous skill and promise. Height 5' 11" Weight 11½ st.

★

Left to right:

Back row: David Shaw, Chris Ogden, Gary Hoolikin, John Platt, John Hurst, Ron Blair.

Middle row: Bob Jay (Physio), Walter Griffiths (General Manager), Paul Edwards, David Holt, Alan Young, Keith Hicks, Jimmy Frizzell (Manager), Andy Lochhead (Coach).

Front row: Carl Valentine, Mike Bernard, Graham Bell, Alan Groves (now with Blackpool), Les Chapman, Ian Wood.



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LUTON LATEST

ONCE AGAIN it is time for the third round proper of the Football Association Challenge Cup and today we extend a very warm welcome to the Directors, Manager, Players, Officials and Supporters of Oldham Athletic Football Club.

Our visitors reached the 5th round last season before losing to Liverpool 3-1 and this was the furthest they had progressed in the competition since 1913 when they lost 1-0 to Aston Villa in the semi-final.

Our own record is, by comparison quite impressive, although from 1961 to 1973 when we reached the 6th round before falling to the eventual Cup winners, Sunderland, we plumbed the depths and Bedford Town could normally be relied upon to progress further. The Eagles actually made two 4th Round appearances in 3 seasons, losing 3-0 to Carlisle in 1964 and 3-0 to Everton in 1966. In this latter year Luton possibly suffered their worst F.A. Cup humiliations. After being taken to a replay by Romford in Round 1 and only winning 1-0 at Kenilworth Road, we drew at Corby 2-2 and lost the replay 1-0.

The following season our hopes ended in Round 2 at Bristol Rovers after having led 2-0 through goals by ex-England striker Derek Kevar.

In 1967/68 a narrow 2-1 victory over Oxford City in Round 1 was followed by defeat at the hands of Swindon two of whose goals were scored by Don Rogers. However, winning the championship of the 4th Division more than made up for the disappointment.

In 1968/69 at last we got back with the 'big boys' but found one just too big in Round 3. At Maine Road, City beat us 1-0 but only through a Francis Lee penalty.

The final disaster in this bleak Cup period came in December 1969 when, having survived a replay at Bournemouth in Round 1, the Town travelled to Hillingdon Borough and succumbed 2-1 to Jim Langley's lads. However once again consolation came in the shape of promotion — this time to Division 2.

Having covered the gloomy period in the Club's F.A. Challenge Cup history we turn to the successes and of course pride of place

must go to the 1958/59 side who reached Wembley only to have the cherished prize snatched away by Nottingham Forest — whatever happened to them?

On three other occasions Luton have reached the last eight of the competition and the round of the last sixteen has been achieved no fewer than nine times. The best pre-war performance was by the 1932/33 3rd Division side who, following victories over Spurs (2-0) and Halifax (2-0) in Rounds 4 and 5 met the mighty Everton at Goodison Park for a place in the Semi-Final. Unfortunately the dream ended predictably with the Toffeemen cruising home 6-0. This of course was the Everton of the legendary Dixie Dean who scored one and made one of the goals. Everton then followed up by thrashing Manchester City 3-0 at Wembley to take the Trophy.

In 1927/28 Dixie Dean created the all time record of 60 league goals in a season and again in 1931/32 was the 1st Division's top marksman with 44. Even this more modest target has never since been exceeded in the premier league and only once in the 2nd Division. This was in 1951/52 when a young man called Derek Dooley burst upon the scene with an incredible bag of 46 goals. Derek's promising career was cut tragically short when he lost a leg but he retains his football connections as Commercial Manager to Sheffield United and we were delighted to see him at the game on December 27th.

In the 3rd and 4th Divisions goals have generally been more plentiful and the record here is shared by two players with 55 goals, our own Joe Payne and Harston of Mansfield Town. By a strange coincidence both achieved the feat in the same season (1936/37) but whereas Luton's total of 103 goals won them the championship of the Southern section, Mansfield could only finish in ninth spot in the North despite scoring a total of 91 goals in 42 games.

Manchester City is a name that crops up with monotonous regularity in our F.A. Cup and League Cup history. In 1937/38 they defeated us 3-1 at Kenilworth Road in the 5th Round. We redressed the balance with a 5-1 Fourth Round replay win in 1953 but went out at the next hurdle to

finalists Bolton Wanderers. City again stopped our progress in Round 5 in 1954/55 by 2 goals to nil and there was the 1969 match referred to earlier. It is strange that some clubs who have been in existence for nearly a century have avoided each other in Cup competitions whilst the paths of others seem to be continually crossing. Today's visitors come into the first category and despite some diligent research we can find no trace of a Cup encounter between our two clubs.

Other epic Cup matches involving Luton include the 6th Round game in 1952 when Arsenal who went on to Wembley only managed to get through at Kenilworth Road by the odd goal in five.

In 1949 Luton were involved in two 5th Round F.A. Cup matches with Leicester City which would have driven modern T.V. commentators delirious with excitement. The teams shared ten goals at Kenilworth Road and went on to record a further eight at Filbert Street. Once again Luton had lost to a team destined to reach Wembley, this time by the margin of 5-3. Of the ten Leicester goals Lee accounted for 6 whilst our scorers were Brennan 3, Kierman 2, Small, Watkins and Arnison. In the first match Luton led 5-4 with one minute of extra time remaining but allowed Lee to score his fourth goal following a corner. A member of the Leicester side in both matches was Don Revie who later took part in our match with Manchester City referred to above which we won 5-1.

To sum up, Luton have lost twice in the 6th Round to Cup Winners, Everton (1933) and Sunderland (1973) and once to finalists, Arsenal (1952). In the 5th Round we went down to one Cup Winner, Wolves (1960) and to four losing finalists, Burnley (1947), Leicester (1949), Bolton (1953) and Manchester City (1955).

With this sort of record any major club with aspirations of reaching Wembley this May must surely hope that they are paired with Luton at some stage of the competition. However they will have to beat us first and if we can produce our best form this will not be an easy task as Manchester City will certainly testify.

COACHING PROFILE

DAVID PLEAT

FULL NAME — David Pleat
BIRTHPLACE — Nottingham
BIRTHDAY — January
AGE — Between 30 and 40
PLAYING CAREER — Tremendous in terms of satisfaction and excitement which is never appreciated until one has to finish.

PREVIOUS CLUB — Nuneaton Borough F.C. — Player/Manager/Coach/Part-time Secretary, an impossible task but enjoyed some success and gained wonderful experience

MOST RESPECTED DEFENDER — Graham Taylor (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Lincoln)

MOST ADMIRER PLAYERS — Roy Sproson, (Port Vale), Jimmy Dickinson (Portsmouth), Peter Bonetti (Chelsea)

GREATEST SATISFACTION — Seeing several players emerge in the first team whom I had helped to introduce to the club

PET DISLIKE — Biassed football reporting, egotistical people and mud slinging within the game

IMMEDIATE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE — Success for Luton. Also that Danny Bergara will eventually pass the ball to a colleague (even me) in a charity game.

BIGGEST THRILL — Twenty to five on a Saturday when we have played

well and won well

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT — Being bugged by injuries whilst playing
WHAT ANNOYS YOU MOST ABOUT THE GAME — Very little. The occasional player lacking dedication

WHOM DO YOU RESPECT MOST IN FOOTBALL — Anyone with something constructive to say

BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON MY COACHING CAREER — 1. The wisdom of Jimmy Sirrell's "Be Yourself", 2. Gordon Lee's encouragement, 3. Brian Clough's advice "If you're good enough you're young enough", 4. And Harry's philosophy.

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE AT LUTON — Spectators locked out regularly

AMBITION — To be happy and smiling and still in the game like the boss when I have his experience

The Editor
Luton Town F.C. Programme
Dear Sir,

I would like to apologise to readers of the Luton Town F.C. Programme for the article on "Sports Medicine" which appeared in the issue of December 27th. The article was expressed in medical and biochemical terms and was a synopsis of a lecture I had given to Doctors at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital and which later appeared in the hospital journal. It was not intended for publication in the football programme and its inclusion was due to a misunderstanding. I am sorry for any embarrassment that might have been caused.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Burrows
(Club Medical Officer)

DANNY BERGARA

FULL NAME — Alberto Daniel Bergara
HEIGHT — 5' 7"
WEIGHT — 11st. 10lbs.
BIRTHPLACE — Montevideo - Uruguay
BIRTHDAY — 24th July
STAR SIGN — Leo

FIRST SIGNED AS PRO. — March '57
SIGNED FOR LUTON — September '73
PREVIOUS CLUBS — Racing (Uruguay) Mallorca, Seville, Tenerife
FAMILY — Wife Janet, Simon and Elena Jane

HOBBIES — Study the game as much as I can

FAVOURITE FOODS — Steak
CAR — Volvo 144

FAVOURITE RECORDING ARTIST — Bee Gees, Abba

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT — Mallorca

MOST RESPECTED DEFENDER — Santa Maria

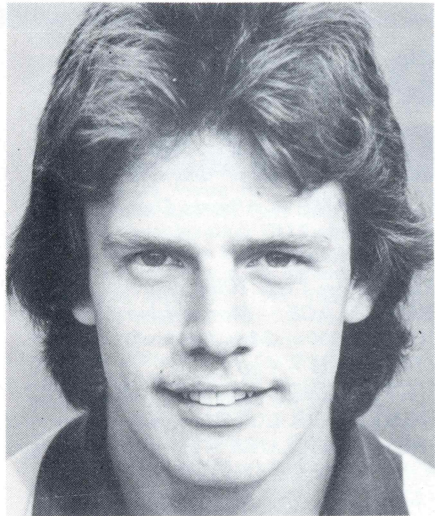
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS — International Youth, Uruguay

MOST ADMIRER PLAYERS — Miguez and Pele

GREATEST FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE — Scoring the only goal when Seville beat Real Madrid 1-0 and scoring 7 goals in 3 games against Spain's most capped player — Goalkeeper Iribar

AMBITION — To become team Manager with one of the top clubs.

PLAYER PROFILE



FULL NAME – *Graham Jones*
HEIGHT – *6' 1½"*
WEIGHT – *12st. 6lb.*
BIRTHPLACE – *Manchester*
BIRTHDAY – *June 2nd*
STAR SIGN – *Gemini*
SIGNED AS PRO – *June 1975*
PREVIOUS CLUBS – *None*
LEAGUE DEBUT – *24/4/75 at home against Blackpool*
FAMILY – *Mum, Dad and Fiancee Beverley*
HOBBIES – *Listening to soul and funky music, reading*
FAVOURITE FOODS – *Steak, egg, chips and sausages*
FAVOURITE RECORDING STARS – *Stevie Wonder, James Brown*
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT – *Manchester*

BEST COUNTRIES VISITED – *Belgium, America*
MY GREATEST MOMENT – *Making my first League appearance*
AMBITION – *To play regular first team football and be happy.*

Signature

BEHIND THE SCENES

LAST SATURDAY Paul Futchter completed stage one of his extraordinary return to fitness when he played for our Youth team against Cambridge United in the Chiltern Premier League. This is traditionally one of the key matches of the season and also one of the hardest fought and Coach Danny Bergara had warned Paul that he was not including him just for the ride. In fact, it is doubtful whether any player on the field that morning took the game more seriously than Paul who has been eagerly awaiting the chance to play a competitive game again ever since his accident.

IN OUR last issue we said farewell to Roy McCrohan and paid tribute to his efforts over the past five years. Fortunately, because of the very close co-operation and team work amongst the three coaches in

recent years, Roy's two colleagues, David Pleat and Danny Bergara have been able to assume their new responsibilities without the serious dislocation which often accompanies this sort of change. Although David will be responsible chiefly for the 1st team with Danny looking after the Reserves and Juniors it is very much a team effort with everyone training and playing together with just one aim in mind – the future of Luton Town Football Club. This refusal to departmentalise has resulted in several young players taking the considerable strides from Youth Team to Reserves, to 1st Team without suffering too much initial reaction. As if to emphasize this team approach we have added to our normal Player Profile today with a joint one of David and Danny and with it goes our best wishes to both of

them for a successful 1978.

THE F.A. Cup draw has interfered with our plans to play Peterborough in a 3rd Round F.A. Youth Cup match on January 4th. This will now take place at Peterborough on Monday next, 9th January, with replay if necessary on Wednesday 11th January at Kenilworth Road. Kick-off in both instances will be at 7.30 p.m. If successful our boys will have made the last sixteen of this prestigious tournament for the first time and after three successive away draws perhaps we shall have a change of luck. The date of the replay against Corby in the Eastern Junior Cup has still to be announced.

IF TODAY'S game is drawn the replay will take place at Oldham on Tuesday, 10th January at 7.30 p.m.

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

OUR CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Luton Town 4 Sheffield United 0

AFTER SCORING only one goal in each of our ten previous league games, things improved nicely for us over Christmas, with three going into the Crystal Palace net on Boxing Day and four crushing Sheffield United the day after.

Sheffield held us to a one-goal lead at half-time, but were then killed off by two in a minute ten minutes into the second half, and another just before the end as we notched our best win since the 7-1 thrashing of Charlton.

Ronnie Fitcher set us on the road to success with his ninth goal of the season — and a real Christmas cracker it was too. Our picture shows just how high he got to rise above the United defence to power his header into the top of the net. Steve Buckley, who provided the far post cross that made it possible, is just visible through the rigging, on the far touch-line.

The game was a personal triumph for Brian Stein, who was making his home debut in the league. At Crystal Palace he was robbed of a goal by a goal-line clearance, but he made no mistake against Sheffield, scoring two beauties.

The picture on the far right shows how he carved out his first league goal: Alan West, in the background, had robbed Flynn of the ball, and Brian did the rest, dribbling round goal-keeper Jim Brown to make space for his shot.

Pictures: LUTON NEWS



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tonight

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DANNY LA RUE



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

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

HOPES OF F.A. Cup glory flourished at Kenilworth Road ten years ago this week as brightly as they do this afternoon. But here at least is one case where we hope history doesn't repeat itself.

On January 6, 1968, the Town travelled to Swindon for a Second Round tie. Challenging for the Fourth Division championship, they had every hope of holding the highly-placed Third Division side to a draw at the very least.

Pre-match planning was disrupted by injuries and illness, and the spies who had watched Swindon came back with the news that the man to watch was their promising left winger, Don Rogers.

Town boss Allan Brown decided that the man to take care of Rogers was Tom Hare, whose task would be to mark the winger out of the game. Rodney Green, only recently recovered from a cartilage operation, was rested from the attack. Hare was brought in, with Max Dougan being moved from defence to mid-field, and Alan Slough going from the middle into the attack. Bruce Rioch was still out of action with a knee injury.

The game turned out to be a typical cup-tie, with the Town taking a following of 2,000 to swell the gate to over 18,000. Turnstile takings were £4,545.

The scouts' warnings about the pace and shooting power of Rogers turned out to be only too true.

Hare was under orders to stick close to him, but as Swindon got on top Hare fouled the winger in the box. Rogers himself took the penalty, but to the Town's delight triallist goalkeeper Billy Taylor, standing in for Tony Read, dived to his left to pull off a great save. Delight turned to disgust when the referee ruled that Taylor had moved before the ball was kicked. Rogers tried again, and this time fired his shot past Taylor's right to put Swindon one up in the 17th minute.

Four minutes before half-time Rogers wriggled through the Town defence to make it 2-0, and Town's chances looked dead and buried.

But then came a dramatic reversal, with two goals in three minutes putting the Town level. Keith Allen headed the first after Ray Whittaker centred accurately just over Downsborough's hands, and then John Moore was brought down in the box and Whittaker scored from the penalty.

That left 30 minutes to play, and the Town looked well worth a second chance until disaster struck in the 83rd minute. Whittaker lost possession in midfield to Butler, and his through-pass sent Heath clear to snap up the winner.

"We never deserved to lose", grumbled manager Brown on the way home, and most of the Town's followers said similar things in less polite terms. The consolation was drawn from an old soccer cliché - "Not to worry, now we can concentrate on winning the league title".

YOUTH

By George Rogers

ON SATURDAY 31st. December we entertained Cambridge United in a Chiltern League fixture, winning by 5 goals to 1. Our goalscorers being A. Pearson 2, W. Turner, T. Stewart, and N. Johnson. In this league we are allowed to play one, over age, player and this allowed Paul Futchter to return to competitive football after his car accident. It was pleasing to see him come through O.K. and also pleasing on the number of supporters who came along to wish him well. Team:- A. Judge, A. Currie, L. Harriott, W. Turner, T. Stewart, P. Futchter, A. Wilkinson, M. Conquest, N. Johnson, M. Pacey, A. Pearson, N. Madden and R. Eaton.

As we start the New Year we are thinking of what we would like to take place during 1978. At Youth level I am sure we hope all our young players on the staff to progress and make the 1st. team, another thing which I would like to see is a closer co-operation between the various football bodies at all levels, enabling our standard of football to improve.

At the moment, no schoolboy is allowed to be coached at a football league club unless he is 14 years of age and only then if he has signed Association Schoolboy forms for that club. He also cannot play until he is 15 and only then with the headmaster's permission. If any Schoolmaster sees any talented youngsters he can, with most sports, put them in touch with expert coaches thereby improving their performance. The top Coaches in football are with the League clubs so why not use the video equipment available to them, to show the schoolboys how their hero does it. A tape with the basic skills such as Heading, Kicking and developing control of the ball etc., could be loaned out to the schools, assisting the sportsmaster or sportsmistress in teaching the basic skills at an early age.

Know your youth player:-

Today we focus on Tom Stewart. Born Thomas Lee Stewart in Belfast. Tom signed apprentice forms for Luton Town after coming over last season and playing in a reserve game. He will be 17 years of age on the 27th. June and has already got International Caps at Schoolboy level, playing for Northern Ireland against Wales and Scotland, also played for Glengormley Secondary School and E. Antrim representative side. Likes Table Tennis and Reading and listening to Eagles and Elton John records.



"You should get on well with dad - he likes football".

CROSSWORD No.14

SPONSORED BY ANGLIA TELEVISION

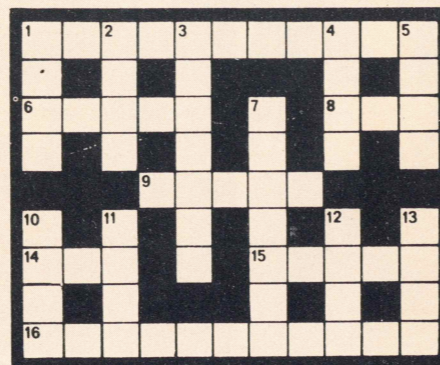
CLUES - ACROSS

- 1 Football magazine (5,6)
- 6 Chelsea front-liner (5)
- 8 & 9 Former long-serving manager at 7dn and now chief executive there (3,5)
- 14 ... Rasmussen (Hertha Berlin & Denmark) (3)
- 15 ... time (5)
- 16 One of the World Cup favourites (11)

CLUES - DOWN

- 1 Former Burnley man at Luton (4)
- 2 Former Luton man at Norwich (4)
- 3 Irish club eliminated from this season's European Cup-Winners' Cup by Hajduk Split (7)
- 4 Lincoln or Leicester (4)
- 5 Nickname of Nottingham Forest (4)
- 7 Division Two ground (3,4)

- 10 Swindon or Shrewsbury (4)
- 11 Former West Ham striker who turned out for Feyenoord this season (4)
- 12 Doncaster defender ... Brookes signed for a side in Belgium this season (4)
- 13 Nickname of Dunfermline Athletic (4)



SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD No. 13

Across 1 & 7ac. Roger Fry, 3 boss, 6 McGrain, 7 See 1ac., 8 David, 10 car, 11 Thurles, 12 Shay, 13 Queen, Down 1 Rafferty, 2 Gary, 3 Baggies, 4 Saab, 5 Anderson, 9 & 6 Hugh McAuley, 10 Cave.

COMMENT

IN ANY discussion over declining standards since the '66 World Cup the importance of football tactics cannot be ignored. However some men of the media claim that we have faded because of over emphasis on tactical formations 4-3-3, 4-4-2 etc. Make no mistake systems of play cannot make bad players good players, or average players appreciably better players.

Slavish obsession to a system rather than skills has caused many misplaced ideas and intentions particularly at schoolboy and amateur level. One of the side effects has been the dearth of the raiding winger who can hug the touchlines with skill and speed, excite spectators and open up defences. There are some players with skill and speed who could be encouraged to do this but they are more than likely to be helping out 'restricting midfield space'. In fact they are merely causing more 'midfield mash'. Fortunately the two Manchester clubs have had the foresight and good fortune to have the cash available to buy three top-class wingers (Hill, Coppell and Tuart) who with Barnes have ensured they will always have outlets on the flanks to destroy, cover and balance.

I believe that we are slowly turning full cycle as we re-emphasise the importance of total mastery of the ball as opposed to any other facet of play. The skilful youngsters will reemerge. I do not believe that players before the age of 18 or 19 should be discussing or getting involved with the tactical side of the game. It is during these teenage years that players develop physically and improve on basic techniques. Applying these techniques in competitive match situations requires total concentration. Burdened with too much tactical information their game suffers. Provided young players have a basic idea of what is expected of them within the team, then, this is sufficient.

Young players should be allowed to develop naturally, once they have mastered the learning they should be encouraged to make the most of their abilities within the team pattern.

How many teams choose a system without regard for their own players abilities? Their assets should always be the

THE DAVID PLEAT PAGE



first consideration. Exploit your own players strength to the full, that is good coaching. Do not get bogged down in a system which may suit 'Chipping Sodbury Rovers' but not necessarily your side. A coach or Manager who can 'see' something new and be brave enough to persevere always has chances of being successful.

Consider the case of Ipswich Town as they stormed to the Second and First Division championships under Sir Alf Ramsey. Ipswich played with a deep lying outside left who, despite being almost 40 years old (Jimmy Leadbetter), had the ability to play accurate passes into space behind the opposition full back for his front players Crawford and Phillips.

Remember Don Revie's brains and skill being used by Manchester City as a deep

lying centre forward. This had the opposing No. 5 scratching his head as he pondered the question "How far do I go and commit myself?" or "do I stay put and allow Revie the freedom of the field?" A problem which has been faced and solved many times since but initially something new which brought success.

Recently Jack Charlton's Middlesbrough employed tactics which gained a runaway Second Division Championship and a good first season in the First Division. Their style was simple and effective. Using a good strong runner timing his runs well (Foggon) they constantly probed to get him into space created by their front runners (Mills and Highton) splitting into wide positions. Balls played accurately into space was the key and they had confidence in their providers such as Craggs, Murdoch and Souness. Once again assessing and exploiting the capabilities of your players!

The majority of the public, through the media, have condemned certain ways of playing as being defensive minded. 4-3-3 and 4-4-2 have been regarded as a negative way of hiding overall deficiencies. Any system can be made defensive it is true, but by the same token can also be made attack conscious and positive.

The effect of playing a sweeper (usually a central defender) whose job is to cover the defence is regarded as a defensive gesture. This is misguided thinking. The most successful club sides and international sides in the world play this way. Using a spare player at the back releases the back 4 players to push forward into supporting attacking positions when in possession. The sweeper then pushes in tight to the immediate danger. Also the sweeper himself (Beckenbauer, and Piazza are top examples) can see space and exploit it themselves with runs from the back - it is very difficult to mark players coming from this deep.

Sounds complicated? Well not really but it does prove that for young players learning to play parts within systems is not that easy. Far easier to encourage the kids to practice techniques and improve skills as opposed to trying to fit into some system which they find difficult to understand anyway.

JUNIOR HATTERS CLUB

BIRTHDAYS

Many Happy Returns of the day to the following members

Clint Watts 1st, Martin Shaelbolt 2nd, Sean Watkiss 2nd, Paul Walker 3rd, Paul Brett 6th, Andrew Johnson 7th, and Tony Walker, whose birthday was on Christmas Day.

COMPETITION

The answers to our last competition were as follows.

Peach, Channon and McCalliog were the missing names from Southampton's 1976 F.A. Cup winning team.

The first all correct entry picked out was

member 1, Allen Baxter, from 141 Bradey Road, Luton, who wins a scarf.

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

If you would like to join the Junior Hatters Club, then write to Wayne Morgan, Luton Town F.C., Kenilworth Road, Luton, giving your name, address, date of birth, favourite player, a subscription fee of 40p and a stamped addressed envelope.

WASN'T IT A REAL HAPPY HARRY CHRISTMAS?

The happiness that "The Boss" generates is well known throughout the country and in particular at Luton Town Football Club (it is not reserved for Xmas either) and as a small mark of appreciation to him, bearing in mind that for the past three years he has personally provided every player with a turkey, hamper, or a slap-up meal in celebration of Xmas, "The Pools Office" staff decided

to turn the tables on him! (Actually it was an empty box . . . but, the two turkeys plus joints of ham and pork would not have gone in anyway). We understand that the whole contents were delivered by "The Boss" personally on Xmas eve to needy senior citizen supporters. Well done "H", We Loves Yer Baby!

In the picture with Harry and Roy are Mike Hardwicke, Managing Director Hatters Pools (MFH) Ltd., Secretaries Mrs. Mingay and Julie Ruckert, "our latest signing", and Mick Kitchener and Bob Powell, Sales Executives. Picture: Evening Post



FACTS & FIGURES ~ 1977-78

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	Aug 27	Sept 3	Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24	Sept 27	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Oct 29	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 31	Jan 7
8,061	1-0	1	2	3-1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	12	6	2	11	9	9																									
7,579	0-1	1	12	3	12-1	5	6	7	8	9-1	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
14,682	3-1	1	3	3-1	12	5	6	7-1	8	9-1	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
9,061	7-1	1	3	3-1	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
5,940	2-1	1	3	3-1	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
9,149	0-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
32,700	0-2	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
25,132	2-3	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
7,593	2-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
9,119	1-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
8,369	4-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
12,736	1-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
12,167	1-2	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
16,443	1-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
20,113	1-2	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
28,254	0-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
8,936	1-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
13,024	2-3	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
7,522	1-3	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
9,384	1-2	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
26,915	1-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
6,921	1-2	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
19,909	1-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
6,401	1-1	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
22,027	3-3	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
10,885	4-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
13,200	1-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										
9,270	0-0	1	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8		2	11	10																										

Bold figures indicate scorers
 (Aston played first 2 games at No. 11)

BALL DONORS

Our Match Ball today has been kindly donated by two gentlemen who have supported the Club for many years, Mr. Walter Cole and Mr. Stanley Cole of Hyde Mill Farm, East Hyde, Nr. Luton. They have asked us to say that they have taken this action to thank the Club for all the pleasant hours which they have enjoyed following Luton Town Football Club both at home and away.

MASCOT

Today's team mascot is Scott Farquhar of 9 Macaulay Road, Luton. Scott is a member of the Junior Hatters Club and he will be 12 on 9th. February. His favourite player is Paul Futcher. Scott's uncle, David Gilmour, wrote to us recently to tell us that his nephew had lost all his treasured Luton Town souvenirs as a result of a disastrous fire at his home in November, and we hope that being our mascot today will help to compensate him for the loss.

DIVISION TWO

Table of Results - As at 4.1.78

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Tottenham	24	8	4	0	33	7	5	4	3	16	14	34
Bolton	24	10	1	1	26	12	5	3	4	13	11	34
Southampton	24	9	2	1	21	7	4	4	4	14	15	32
Blackburn	24	9	2	1	21	8	3	5	4	13	20	31
Brighton	24	6	5	1	22	14	4	3	5	11	11	28
Luton	24	7	3	2	21	7	3	3	6	16	19	26
Crystal Palace	24	5	3	4	20	16	4	5	3	16	15	26
Oldham	24	6	5	1	18	10	3	3	6	12	18	26
Sheffield U.	24	8	3	1	22	11	2	3	7	16	28	26
Sunderland	24	6	4	3	21	12	1	7	4	17	23	24
Blackpool	24	4	4	4	15	13	5	2	5	17	17	24
Fulham	24	6	4	2	24	12	3	1	8	10	17	23
Charlton	23	8	1	2	27	16	1	4	7	9	23	23
Stoke	24	5	2	3	20	11	1	4	7	6	17	22
Orient	24	5	2	18	14	1	5	6	7	13	22	
Notts. C.	24	6	5	1	21	12	0	3	9	10	26	21
Bristol R.	24	6	5	2	22	12	0	3	8	12	34	20
Hull	24	4	3	5	15	12	1	5	6	7	15	18
Cardiff	23	6	4	2	17	15	0	2	9	10	32	18
Mansfield	24	4	2	6	17	20	1	5	6	13	22	17
Millwall	24	2	6	3	9	13	1	4	8	11	21	16
Burnley	24	3	5	4	11	11	2	0	10	9	30	15

COMBINATION

Table of Results - As at 3.1.78

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Southampton	21	14	2	5	43	19	30
West Ham	22	12	5	5	42	20	29
O.P.R.	22	11	6	5	36	16	28
Norwich City	24	10	8	6	30	27	28
Chelsea	23	10	7	6	41	18	27
Ipswich Town	21	11	4	6	36	21	26
Tottenham	22	8	10	4	40	26	26
Crystal Palace	22	10	6	6	30	21	26
Leicester City	24	11	4	9	32	26	26
Hereford U.	22	11	3	8	39	34	25
Plymouth A.	19	10	3	6	29	20	23
Arsenal	22	8	7	7	26	21	23
Birmingham C.	23	5	11	7	20	23	21
Fulham	20	6	8	6	25	25	20
Bristol City	20	5	9	6	27	29	19
Luton Town	25	7	5	13	38	52	19
Bristol Rovers	20	6	6	8	22	33	18
Orient	21	4	6	11	16	34	14
Oxford U.	23	4	6	13	20	41	14
Swindon Town	19	5	4	10	20	45	14
Cardiff City	21	3	6	12	19	42	12
Reading	20	3	2	15	16	52	8

GOALSCORERS - League/Cup	
Futcher R.	9
Husband	8
Buckley	4
Boersma	5
Hill	4
Fucillo	3
Football Combination	
Ingram	10
Stein B.	4
Heale	3
Bowen	2
Smith	2
Boersma	2
West	1
Chiltern Youth League/Cups	
Ingram	16
Pacey	12
Johnson	14
Pearson	8
Stewart	5
Conquest	4
Turner	4
Eaton	3
Currie	1
Beach	1
Rowland	1
Champan	1
Williams	1
Dool	1
Harriott	1
Sisman	1
Wilkinson	1



OUR NEXT HOME GAME

v. OLDHAM
 Division Two
 Sat. January 14th
 Kick-off: 3.00pm

v ORIENT
 Combination
 Sat. January 21
 Kick-off: 3.00pm

Football Combination Fixtures

Date	Time	Home	Away
Dec 3 Sat	1-4	Queens Park Rangers	
Dec 10 Sat	1-3	Leicester City	
Dec 17 Sat	P	Bristol City	
Jan 2 Mon	3-5	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 Tues		Crystal Palace	
April 29 Sat		Queens Park Rangers	

Result: Chiltern Premier League: Luton Town 5 (Pearson 2, Turner, Stewart, Johnson) Cambridge United 1



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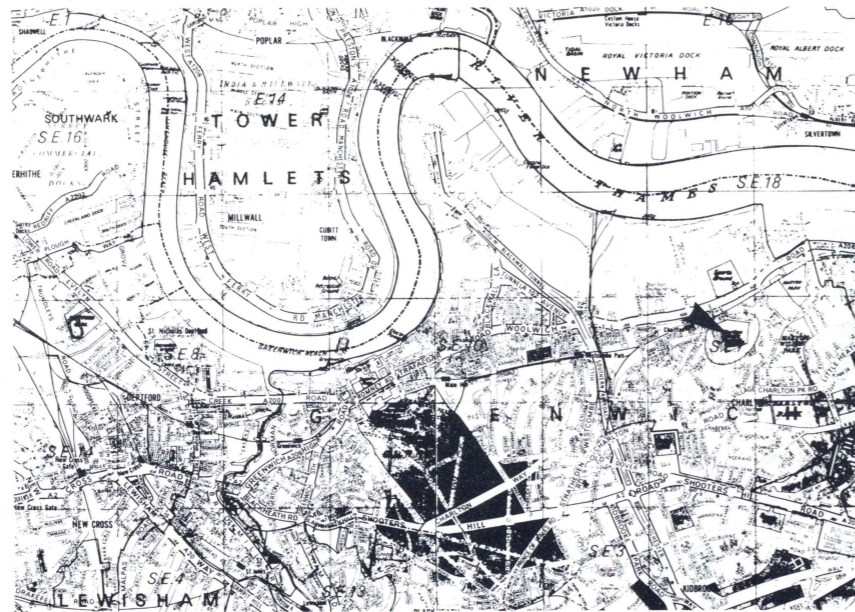
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Sale, Cheshire.
Tel: (061) 973 - 8721

275, Kiln Road,
Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex
Tel: (0702) 559373/4

TOWN TRAVEL

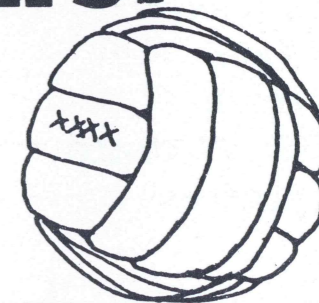
CHARLTON ATH. v LUTON
Sat. 21st January 1978
Kick-off 3.30pm.

Leave Luton via the Dunstable Road towards the M1 Motorway. Proceed South on the M1 until the end of the motorway at the junction with the A1 Great North Way. Proceed along the A406 to North Circular Road. Continue along the North Circular through Finchley, Edmonton and Chapel End to Woodford. Turn right along the A11 (Wanstead) and join the A116 and A117 through East Ham and Beckton to Woolwich. Cross the river via the Woolwich Ferry and immediately turn right along the A206 Woolwich Road. The football ground is situated in Floyd Road which is the second turning, on the left along the A206.



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- 6 GRAHAM JONES
- 7 BRIAN STEIN
- 8 RICKY HILL
- 9 RON FUTCHER
- 10 PASQUALE FUCCILLO
- 11 PHIL BOERSMA
- 12



OLDHAM ATHLETIC

- JOHN PLATT 1
- IAN WOOD 2
- DAVID HOLT 3
- GRAHAM BELL 4
- KEITH HICKS 5
- JOHN HURST 6
- CARL VALENTINE 7
- STEVE TAYLOR 8
- VIC HALOM 9
- LES CHAPMAN 10
- ALAN YOUNG 11
- STEVE GARDNER 12

SCORE BOARD

Brighton	.....
Scarborough	.....
Burnley	.....
Fulham	.....
Cardiff	.....
Ipswich	.....
Charlton	.....
Notts Co.	.....
Chelsea	.....
Liverpool	.....
Everton	.....
A. Villa	.....
Exeter	.....
Wolves	.....
Leeds	.....
Manchester City	.....
Mansfield	.....
Plymouth	.....
Nottingham Forest	.....
Swindon	.....
Q.P.R.	.....
Wealdstone	.....
Sheffield United	.....
Arsenal	.....
Sunderland	.....
Bristol Rovers	.....
Tottenham	.....
Bolton	.....
W. Ham.	.....
Watford	.....

OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr. Ronald C. Challis, (Tonbridge, Kent). Commenced refereeing with R.A.F. in Singapore (1952) then progressed via Kent League, Southern League - referee for 10 seasons - Football League line to full list in 1968. Has refereed F.A. Challenge Trophy Final and a European Competition Final in 1976. Lined the Football Association Cup Final in 1975, also twice in Inter-Cities Cup matches. Married and with two sons is a Magazine Production Officer. Keen member of Referees' Association who enjoys visiting societies for talks on Laws of the Game. Hobbies are photography and playing squash. Is Chairman of Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen.

Linesmen: Mr. E. J. Scales (Red Flag); Mr. P. W. Albert (Yellow Flag).

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