

ROVERS

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Blackburn Rovers
v
Luton Town

Saturday, February 11, 1978



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We both have one thing in common attack!



LIKE the Rovers, Luton Town have had their ups and downs in recent years. We have both known what it is like to be relegated and promoted, and we have both known the difficulties of operating within stringent financial limitations.

The Rovers and Luton share something else in common: both teams have a reputation for being able to play good football, and I believe that today we can look forward to one of the best games at Ewood Park this season, if the teams turn on the style as they can.

One of best

I remember particularly one or two of the matches the Rovers have played against Luton during my time as manager here. One was a game just over a year ago, when we went to Kenilworth Road and played on what was virtually a skating rink.

As the Rovers' players gathered around and tried to keep their footing on an ice-bound pitch, Luton slipped in to take a two-goal lead. Then the referee abandoned the match at half-time. Luton, no doubt, considered that justice was done when they won the replayed game.

I remember also, a match at Ewood Park when we were in the bottom four and Luton were going well. We ran out the winners by a 3-1 scoreline and I still rate that one of the best



By manager Jim Smith

performances the Rovers have given during my spell as their manager.

In League games at Kenilworth Road Luton have the edge, for they have beaten us once and drawn twice, and knocked us out of the FA Cup there. At Ewood Park, it's been a somewhat different story, for we have won both times.

I'm referring, of course, to the times we have been in opposition over the past three seasons — and I'm hoping, naturally, that we can make it a hat-trick of victories in the League at Ewood today.

Luton have just lost manager Harry Haslam, and though there was plenty of speculation about his successor, they lost to time in offering the job to David

Pleat. I am sure that he will try to maintain that Luton tradition of playing good football, and that the club will also continue to produce good players, whether they are groomed through the ranks or imported from other clubs.

Record

Luton's record has been a good one, so far as producing players is concerned. They have also wheeled and dealt to good effect in the transfer market. The Fulcher twins, for instance, Jimmy Huland, John Faulkner and Phil Boersma, to name three more.

And when it comes to selling, the names of Peter Anderson (who went to play in Belgium), Don Given (now with Queen's Park Rangers), John Ryan

(now at Norwich City) and Steve Buckley (recently signed by Derby County at a reputed £170,000 fee) spring readily to mind.

We have done our own wheeling and dealing in the transfer market, too, and I think it can be said that we have effectively produced our own players, while spending judiciously as and when necessary.

Any manager will tell you that there is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing you have made a good way, because that means your judgment has been vindicated. At the same time, there is equal pleasure, if not greater pleasure, in seeing youngsters who have been groomed in the junior and reserve sides breaking through to League football and showing they are capable of making the grade.

Future

Luton have had their share of success in both respects, and so have the Rovers, and I feel it is a credit to both clubs that they have managed to compete successfully in the Second Division, and I encourage those that before long, they will be competing in the First Division status.



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SAVIOUR OF LUTON

Haslam's shrewd transfer deals paid off



Harry Haslam... wheeling and dealing.



Malcolm Macdonald... discovered by Luton.

THE upheaval which resulted in Harry Haslam quitting to join Sheffield United and coach David Pleat taking the manager's job at Luton provided more gossip for the Town's fans than the club's outside chance of promotion.

Rumours of a board-room row between director David Evans and Haslam led the Luton manager to ask for a new contract. "If people are talking about me getting the sack, I want a new contract," Haslam said.

His current contract, due to expire until June and the directors, perhaps understandably, were reluctant to discuss the issue prematurely.

Meanwhile, Millwall were given permission by Luton chairman Denis Mortimer to talk to Haslam, and the London club eventually offered him their vacant manager's job in addition to a five year contract.

Haslam said he wanted time to think about it and, eventually, rejected the offer. "I have never said I want to leave Luton," he said. "All I want to do is to ensure the future for my family."

But that wasn't the end of speculation surrounding Haslam's future. Manchester United were reported

to be interested in offering Haslam their chief scout's job and Sheffield United, without a manager since Jimmy Birrell quit last October, were also rumoured to be interested.

Haslam confided to his close friends that if his Luton contract did not materialise, he had another job to go to.

Suddenly

But the Luton directors suddenly announced they were prepared to give Haslam a new contract for four years. "I'm happy to sign," said Haslam. "I'm glad all the fuss is over."

But when Haslam examined some of the details closely, there were a couple of points he didn't like and, although he had never seen the contract, directors later claimed it had been adjusted and was

ready to be delivered to him. Sheffield United, however, were still not beaten and when their chairman John Hassall returned from holiday he contacted Mortimer and asked: "Has Haslam signed his contract yet?"

The Luton chairman told him he hadn't and promptly agreed to Hassall's request to talk to Haslam. The Luton manager travelled to meet United's board and returned to inform Luton he wanted to accept Sheffield's offer of a five year contract.

Haslam stayed with Luton for only another three days. Before leaving after their friendly match against the Italian under-21 side.

As soon as Haslam announced his resignation, Mortimer offered the job to chief coach David Pleat

who, four weeks earlier had been coaching the reserves but was given promotion when Roy McClellan quit to join American club Detroit Express.

Mortimer asked assistant coach Danny Bergara to join Pleat as assistant manager.

It took Pleat 24 hours to accept his chairman's offer, but Bergara decided to join Haslam at Sheffield United as assistant manager and chief coach.

Shock

These sudden developments left Luton supporters in a state of shock. But Mortimer was adamant Pleat was a good choice for the job.

"I am a firm believer in promoting from within the club and I think Pleat deserves his chance. He

has been responsible for attracting some of our best young players to the club and for pushing them into the first team," he said.

But there is little doubt that Luton owe Haslam a vote of thanks, after he rescued them from liquidation two years ago when the board announced they had liabilities of £140,000.

With shrewd buying and selling, Haslam has reduced that to £150,000, and only two weeks before he quit, sold full-back Steve Buckley to Derby County for £170,000.

He was responsible for bringing Paul Fulcher and Malcolm Macdonald to Kenilworth Road, but, in his five years as manager, he has raised almost a million pounds in transfer fees.

We must close the 'gate' again



William Bancroft, Rovers chairman

WE ARE greatly obliged to the Lancashire Evening Telegraph for their sponsorship of today's game. It gives us an opportunity to express our continued thanks to them for their daily coverage of happenings at Ewood, and although it is inevitable that both of us tend to have differing views of some events, it is true to say, in general, that they take a gentle and sympathetic view of our affairs, as befits the town newspaper.

Their reporters have a public responsibility to discharge and we sometimes differ as to its extent and direction, but we have never seen able to complain that we are ignored.

Manager

Recent speculation on our manager's future was very harmful. The Press appears to have much more information available to them than the Board, but, on the other hand, were ready to publicise the facts when the affair was settled.

It is also Press speculation that we are to strengthen the first team by buying two new players, but up to present no firm decisions had been taken. Let me announce publicly that three weeks ago the directors had to find

the money to pay two weeks' wages and bonuses to the entire staff at Ewood.

The same directors still take in good part chants of "You'll have to buy" directed weekly at them. Our bankers are not merely lovers of choral music, and have intimated most strongly that the well has run dry, if all goes to prove that the club can go nowhere without support.

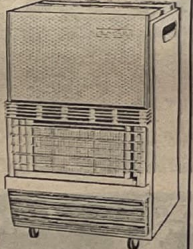
Winning team

So far this season, we have given the town a winning team and one that is being talked about in the national as well as the local Press. In doing so, we have achieved an average gate of just over half what we need to pay our way. We average 11,000 and we need 16,000 at every home match. Unless the gap is closed, no plans that the Board can make are worth putting on paper.

To all those of you who are reading this magazine, my thanks for buying it. You have evidently heeded the invitation so kindly printed in the Telegraph to "see you at Ewood Park." It only remains for me to say that I hope you will follow this good advice for the rest of the season, and perhaps bring along a new friend to close that gap in our gates.

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Alf Thornton looks at the Division 2 scene

Rovers—shock side in promotion race

THE happenings this season in the Second Division have surprised a lot of the pundits who were reading their crystal ball before it started.

Not many put Blackburn Rovers as promotion candidates, and, in fact, a lot of dyed-in-the-wool Rovers fans have been agreeably surprised by the progress the team has made, considering the shortage of cash which stopped manager Jim Smith exploring the transfer market last summer as closely as he would have liked.

Rovers finished last season in 12th place and Luton were sixth. Despite Luton's pressing financial problems — more pressing even than Rovers — most pundits would have made Luton a better bet for

promotion this time than Rovers. It has not worked out like that.

The task in front of the Rovers — to catch up with the front runners Bolton Wanderers, Spurs and Southampton — is a daunting one, but Mr Smith is still very confident it can be done.

This afternoon's game has a lot of importance for the Rovers, therefore.

Luton may be too far behind the pacemakers to entertain any hope of promotion for themselves, but they are certainly not going to make it any easier for the Rovers on that account.

Shoestring

Mr Smith, and all the Rovers' players have a lot of time and respect for Luton, who have achieved a great deal on a shoestring.

They were dreadfully unlucky when they lost the services of Paul Fletcher, the classy England under-21 defender, three months ago in a car crash which nearly killed him. He played his first League game since that accident at Charlton on

January 21 when Luton forced a goalless draw.

More recently, to everybody's surprise, Harry Hirst left Kenilworth Road to take over as manager of Sheffield United.

Happy Harry is the man who discovered Malcolm Macdonald and, after taking over at Luton from Alec Stock six years ago, he pushed through a series of spectacular transfer deals.

CASH CRISIS

It was he who steered Luton through their vicious cash crisis with a number of sales and, despite forced selling, he contrived to make a poorly-supported side one of the most attractive, from a soccer point of view, in the Second Division.

The news of Haslam's departure from Luton, where he had seemed a fixture, came as a particular shock because he turned down the chance of a very lucrative job as Manchester United's chief scout only a fortnight before deciding to move to Bramall Lane and take over a club which has his played his first League game since that accident at Charlton on



Noel Brotherton who has become a firm favourite since joining Rovers from Spurs.

Martyn is the match mascot

TODAY'S Rovers' mascot is 11-year-old Martyn, Hogkate of Lynton Road, Great Harwood.

Martyn is a pupil at Great Harwood Primary School where he plays football for the school team. His hobbies are swimming and, of course, football and his favourite Rovers player is Dave Wagstaffe. Paul Bradshaw was another favourite, but because of his transfer to Wolves, perhaps he doesn't count any more.

But whoever are Martyn's individual favourites, it is hoped that he brings luck to his favourite team this afternoon.



Happy memories of my soccer debut at Luton

By ALF THORNTON

I HAVE always had a lot of time for Luton Town, because I reported my first Blackburn Rovers match at their Kenilworth Road ground, where you used to get into the old Press box (no longer there) by ladder.

It was on a bitterly-cold Saturday afternoon, December 23, 1950. The Rovers had travelled by train via Manchester and stayed at an hotel in Bedford overnight. The Rovers drew 1-1 with Les Graham setting the goal.

The Rovers' line-up was: Patterson; Stuart, Higgins; Campbell, Holt, Bell; Wharton, Crostan, Graham, Todd, Fenton — not a bad side at all.

I was at Luton on April 15, 1960, that Peter Dobing's goal earned a 1-1 draw which made the Rovers' place in the First Division secure. They had been near the top just after Christmas, but then they got on the wendyway trail and seemed to concentrate more on Cup glory and cash than League and butter.

Had they been relegated to the Second Division while winning the Cup, the fans would not have forgiven them; as it was, they stayed up but lost to Wolves in the Cup Final, the ghost of that disaster still haunts Ewood Park.

TRAUMATIC

Daily Luton was the Rovers' manager in those traumatic days of 1960, and the board had gone to Luton for him after John Carey had the Rovers to take on the job as Everton's manager.

Daily was a great winner with Derby County and Scotland and he achieved a good deal of success as Luton's manager. But for a variety of reasons, he didn't last long with the Rovers.

My most vivid memories of Luton,

however, are of the hidings the Rovers have taken there in the FA Cup and the League.

I was there for the Cup third round game on January 10, 1955 when Luton won 4-1 with a hat-trick from Jessa Pyle, an England international forward who also played and scored a lot of goals for Wolves.

The Luton were already three goals up when George McLuckie scored Rovers' goal.

HAMMERED

This was really troubling things in with a vengeance, for Luton a couple of months before had hammered the Rovers 6-0 at Kenilworth Road in a Second Division match. Just how good Luton (or rather Pyle) were at this time can be judged from the Rovers' line-up: Gwy, Stuart, Eckersley, Clayton, Kelly, Bell, Campbell, Crostan, Briggs, Quigley, McLuckie.

This was the Luton side; Baynham; Jones, Agharaj; Mortin, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pyle, Watkins, Taylor.

There was another resounding triumph for Luton on November 27, 1954, in a League game, when the Rovers were trounced 7-2. At the end of that season Luton gained promotion to the First Division for the first time in their history.

Luton's League record at Ewood is not a convincing one. Their first win in the Second Division on March 19, 1953, when it was a 2-0 draw.

Since then they have visited Ewood 13 times, in all, in the First and Second Divisions, and the record shows three to the Rovers and just one to Luton, with three draws.

Last season loan player Peter Silvester gave the Rovers the points with the only goal of the game.

SUDDEN DEATH SOCCER

Drawn games not for us, says Americans

By DAVID ALLIN

HOW would you react if at the end of 90 minutes this afternoon, Rovers and Luton had fought to a goalless draw and had to face extra time with those two vital points going to the team that scored first?

Or if at the end of extra time the match was still goalless and the teams had to face a penalty kick and the lines of the Arthur Fryer competition here at Ewood at half-time.

The general reaction of today's spectators would I suspect, be one of "no thanks, we like it the way it has always been."

But certainly if the points were decided on that basis I doubt that we would have the wild spectacle of hundreds streaming away from the ground with 10 minutes to go.

And that is the experience of Luton Town club captain Alan West who has played "sudden death" soccer for the United States with Minnesota.

Pointless

"It keeps the crowds on tenterhooks right to the end and they go home knowing that they have seen one side win and one lose. I don't know whether the idea would catch on here but I think it would have a different culture — they can't see the point of two teams sharing the points — a draw to them is a pointless bore."

But 26-year-old Alan who was transferred from Spurs to Luton in 1973 for £100,000, says he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the Americans for soccer.

"They are desperate to learn all about it — the children out there have actually started kicking a ball about in the streets instead of swinging a baseball bat."

"Over them another 20 years and the rest of the world will have to watch out for the American team in the World Cup."

The showbusiness angle to the game is a bit of a fact. The players are on the field for at least 20 minutes before the game when they are introduced personally to the crowd along with almost every detail except their bank accounts.

But there will be none of this sameness at Ewood this afternoon where both sides will be going for a result without the help of extra time or penalty kick competition.

It should be a great game, says Alan, who broke an ankle at Oldham last month.

Then I'm sure we would have been up there with Bolton and Spurs.

"We have lacked consistency but things started to go right when present manager David Plead was appointed first team coach in December and we are desperate to keep the Centre halves, know they have been in a game when they come up against Ron.

"There's a lot at stake but both teams have the talent to make it a thriller, although I must say a point will do us nicely," added Alan.



Alan West... two summers in the USA

Respect

"We have every respect for the Rovers but they will need to have a little respect for us too."

"I reckon that we are particularly strong in midfield where Graham Jones, Pasquale Fucillo and Ricky Hill have combined well. They are strong fit, enthusiastic lads and take

well to a game when they come up against Ron.

"And then not many clubs have the style and class of a player like Paul Fletcher at the back. He really is top class."

Desperate

"Rovers have shown that they have matured into a very promising outfit indeed but we at Luton are also convinced that we have the talent available for a concerted effort to succeed."

"We had a great start to the season but then we seemed to lose our touch for a while. If we hadn't



Ron Fletcher... a bustling forward in the old style.

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THE 'HATTERS' ... IN FOCUS



MILIJIA ALEKSIC (goalkeeper). Luton paid Plymouth £30,000 for Aleksic two years ago after he had completed a successful month on loan. Joined Plymouth from Stafford Rangers, after the Northern Premier League team had had a good cup run a few seasons ago.



PAUL PRICE (full-back). Made a successful comeback after twice breaking his right leg. Price is a product of the club's youth policy and fought his way back to successfully become a regular member of the team.



DAVID CARR (full-back). Had the difficult job of making a success of replacing Steve Buxby. Luton signed him as an apprentice professional after discovering him playing junior football in Marylebone.



JOHN FAULKNER (central defender). Luton's longest serving professional after being signed from Leeds for £400 in 1972. He was featured in the Sutton team which played Leeds and Don Revie was so impressed with his performance, he signed him immediately.



PAUL FUTCHER (central defender). Cost Luton a record £100,000 when he was signed from Chester, but was almost killed in a car accident three months ago. His recovery amazed specialists and he made his first team comeback at Charlton on January 21. A regular in the England under-21 team.



GRAHAM JONES (midfielder). Signed as an apprentice in 1975, and made his League debut when he was 17. Originally played in back four when Futcher was left, but now filling the gap left by Alan West's absence.



LILLY FUCILLO (midfielder). The son of Italian parents, joined Luton as an apprentice in 1975. He marked his debut with a goal, and has been a regular scorer since—a fact which led Ipswich to watch him earlier in the season.



RICKY HILL (midfielder). Another of Luton's Youth products, he joined the club from schools football in North London and made his debut a year later, capped by England after scoring a goal. He has been youth level.



JIMMY HUSBAND (striker). Joined Luton in 1973 with a string of honours already collected at Everton. Capped by England at schoolboy, youth and under-21 level. He cost Luton £70,000.

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Man-of-the-Match to be selected by a representative of Blackburn Rovers. Presentation to be made in the Ewood Suite.

Golden Goal competition is sponsored for the match by the Lancashire Evening Telegraph. Tickets for each are available on the ground. All proceeds to the club. Prizes for first three goals are: £25, £10 and £5.

WIN A BOTTLE OF WHISKY—A coupon for Cross the Ball is in this souvenir special. This is the normal weekly coupon, but the 18 nearest entries using this coupon will win a bottle of whisky—and still have the opportunity to win the Jackpot prize.

● Founded in 1885, Luton Town turned professional in 1890 and have been members of the Football League since 1897. They are of course still striving to add a First Division title to their honours (their best placing was eighth in season 1957/58) they have won two titles in lower divisions and were beaten Cup finalists in 1969.

● They were champions of Division Three South in 1936/7 and Division Four champions in 1969-70. After four years in Division Two they were runners-up in 1973/74 season and went into the First Division for one unhappy season before taking the drop back down again.

● Luton are a club who have never been afraid to pay big money for the stars that they want. In October 1973, they paid out a record club fee for Burnley midfielder Alan West and six months later equalled that amount when they signed Paul Futcher from Chester in a package that included his brother Ron. But the most significant transfer move involving the club was the sale of Supermac, Malcolm Macdonald to Newcastle United in 1971 for £100,000.

● Known as the Hatters, Luton play at Kenilworth Road, the club's third ground in the club's history. The ground capacity is now 23,000 and of that 17,000 can be accommodated under cover. The record attendance was in 1959 against Blackpool in the FA Cup 6th Round replay when the match was watched by 30,000.

For the record

David Allin talks to Luton's new boss

THESE really is something about the air around Kenilworth Road. Perhaps nearby is a factory manufacturing laughing gas. Certainly the atmosphere around Luton Town is spiced with a healthy sense of humour.

Of course, any club that had Eric Morecombe on the board for a number of years would need a sense of humour. Not, it must be said, that anyone connected with Luton Town treats football as a joke—far from it—they are deadly serious.

But it seems they have found the knack of keeping things in perspective. Former manager Harry Haslam had a rare turn of wit. The press nicknamed him "Happy Harry."

His successor of 19 days, 33 year-old David Pleat is following in Harry's footsteps.

When I spoke to him this week I recalled that his predecessor had told me the "greatest joy of being in the First Division."

David Pleat anticipated what I was going to say.

"It was the changing rooms at Highbury and Old Trafford — we always said that they were bigger than our ground", he laughed.

Certainly much that was Harry Haslam had rubbed off on the young professional — and David admitted that David has much for which to be thankful.

"I owe Harry a great deal — it was he who gave me a job here a year before Luton were promoted. It was a small job on the commercial side until he could find me an opening on the coaching staff."

"And of course it is Harry who by the way me indirectly given me the ultimate chance of management," he says.

Indeed David Pleat's appointment as manager of Luton Town was in direct of Eric Coldwell, the manager of Luton who was overthrown at the club.

After taking over from Jimmy Sirrel, Eric Coldwell had taken Luton into the promotion hunt with a tremendous run ended by three five goal defeats prior to Haslam's appointment. Until those three disastrous defeats Coldwell had looked set for the managerial appointment but he should have had the chance.

And he is determined to repay them.

"This is a great little club with some tremendous players," he told me. "And he said this war-

A place in the First Division is Pleat's ambition...



David Pleat... "We have skill and ambition."

The Sheffield United directors thought otherwise and their appointment of "Happy Harry" led to David Pleat, who bear in mind had only had control of Luton's first team since December 22, being appointed Luton supreme.

Loyalty

But Luton Town, loyalty to their coach was by no means a sentimental about in the dark. Since his appointment to first team responsibility and before his acceptance of the managerial chair Luton had lost only one of nine matches — at Oldham.

It was an impressive record and Luton's directors, refreshingly talking about loyalty and internal promotion thought it was good enough to give David Pleat the job.

He is grateful and knows that many other clubs would have gone for a "name" and disregarded the Luton recovery over Christmas.

And he is determined to repay them.

"This is a great little club with some tremendous players," he told me. "And he said this war-

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Deserved

But isn't he just a little bit overpriced by the responsibility? "No."

Not just a little bit worried? "No."

But what about the possibility of failure?

"I don't want to say too much because football has a funny habit of making people walk flat on their faces. But of course I am as ambitious as the next man and so is the club and players I have been given a wonderful opportunity and I just want to make the best of it."

Ups and downs

David Pleat's career has already had its ups and downs. From school, he joined Nottingham Forest and was an England school-boy international and youth international outside Great Britain.

He was transferred to Luton in 1963 for £3,000.

I see so David Pleat a manager, comedian AND a philosopher?

"No, really," he said laughing. "Harry told me that one."

Which seems to be where we came in—with one of football's "wise guys" who deserves success if only for his attitude to life. I hope he gets it—provided he doesn't get much to smile about this afternoon.

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Rovers' players Derek Fazackerley, Kevin Hird and Glen Keeley are given a close-up of Ron Fletcher's striking power.



LUTON TOWN FC—1977-78. Back row, left to right: Roy McCrohan (now with Detroit Express), Graham Jones, Jimmy McNichol, Gary Heale, Ricky Hill, Tony Knight, Milija Aleksic, John Faulkner, Paul Price, Alan West, Ron Fletcher, Steve Buckley (now with Derby), Reg Game (physiotherapist). Front: Tim Smith, Jimmy Husband, David Carr, Harry Haslam (former manager now with Sheffield United), Paul Fletcher, Lilly Fucillo and Phil Boersma.

ROVERS AND LUTON—CLUBS WITH GREAT TRADITION



BLACKBURN ROVERS FC, 1977-78—Back row (from left): Norman Bodell, (chief coach), Paul Round, Derek Fazackerley, John Lowey, Paul Bradshaw (now with Wolves), John Butcher, Glen Keeley, Graham Hawkins (now with Port Vale), Billy Riley, John Pickering (coach). Middle: Joe Witherington (commercial manager), John Howarth (secretary), Noel Brotherton, David Wagstaffe, Mick Wood, John Bailey, Lance Challoner, John Curtis, Rod Taylor, Jack Marshall (physiotherapist), Bob Cooper (groundsman). Seated: Bobby Svare (retired), Kevin Hird, Alan Crompton, Mr William Bancroft (chairman), Tony Fakes, Jim Smith (manager), Bobby Mitchell, Stuart Metcalfe, Mark Shanks. Front: Chris Johnson, Simon Garner, Mark Shipley, Brian Moran, Brian Morley.



Many supporters feel that Rovers' wonder winger Dave Wagstaffe "walks on air"—and here he is proving it as he takes on Charlton's Les Berry!



Winner of the first Rovers £1,000 lottery, Miss Christine Hampson (third left) with her family and Mr Bill Fox, the promoter, and agents.

Commercial Comment . . . new lottery

THE WINNER



JOE WITHERINGTON Commercial Manager

THE success of the 100 Club's new lottery was assured from the moment it was launched last month... 40,000 tickets for sale... 40,000 tickets snapped up.

And as there were prizes in cash totalling £4,000, with a top prize of £1,000, there were plenty among places around Blackburn and district!

Rovers' super lottery - it's just the ticket!

The prize money ranged from 50p to £100, with the draw for the major prize of £1,000 being made by a former favourite of Rovers fans, Mick McGrath.

In showbiz... comedian Eric Morecambe, and the Morecambe and Wise show is a favourite with everyone and we had a big welcome ready for the Morecambe 'half' of this winning team to Ewood Park as a guest of the Rovers and the Telegraph.

The game itself provides plenty of interest, but the half-time draw for the £1,000 prize will add the excitement for the person who turns out to be the jackpot winner.

Our £1,000 winner of the first lottery jackpot is pictured, and today the members of the Chorley branch held a dinner dance at the Pines Hotel on Thursday, January 19.

Chorley branch hunt 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'

THE Chorley branch of the Rovers Supporters' Club are looking for 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!'

They are not letting the cat out of the bag—that's all they are disclosing at the moment. But if you are a keen Rovers fan and live in the Chorley area we are assured that if you turn up at the annual meeting on Monday evening you are sure to enjoy yourself.

The meeting is being held at the Royal Oak Hotel in Chorley and starts at 7.30 p.m.

The Great Harwood branch is holding a disco supper-dance at the Great Harwood Cricket Club tonight, starting at 8 p.m.

The Clitheroe branch is holding a disco-dance at Clitheroe Cricket Club on Friday, February 17, admission 50p. Bar extension until 1 a.m. Tickets from any committee member or pay at the door. A big welcome to everyone.

The Accrington branch is holding a buffet dinner on Monday, February 20, at Kings Street Workingmen's Club, Kings Street, Accrington, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are £1.50 and can be obtained from members of the branch or at the Development Office.

A new supporters' branch is being formed in the Blackburn area. As was explained in the last home match programme, the initial meeting with the acting committee has taken place and it is hoped to have information available about the first general meeting within the next few days. We are looking forward to a tremendous response from the Blackburn fans.

Junior Rovers The Junior Rovers rated the recent disco at St. Bartholomew's School Her a great success and there were many requests for more to be held.

Their thanks are extended to Mr John McLoughlin of Central Bingo, Mincing Lane, Blackburn, for kindly sponsoring the first and highly successful disco.

If any more people are interested in sponsoring any activities of the Junior Rovers, they are asked to contact the acting committee at the Development Office, 100 Church Street, Blackburn, BB2 3JZ.

There will be more news of coming events soon.

... news from the branches ... sponsorship scheme

THE JACKPOT

BLACKBURN ROVERS are bringing supporters more and more into the picture, with the formation of new branches and the expansion of those already in existence.

Why? Because we want Rovers supporters to feel that they have a very real part to play in our plans for progress as the club strive to regain their place in the First Division.

The success of our team on the field this season has been matched by the success of our efforts off it in the shape of new supporters branches and exciting projects for the future.

We now have thriving supporters' branches in Accrington, Chorley, Clitheroe, Great Harwood and Rossendale, and our aim is that before long Blackburn and Darwen will also form an integral part of this "chain".

The enthusiasm of these supporters' branches has been heartening indeed to everyone at Ewood Park and I don't feel I am overstating the case when I say that there are even bigger and better things to follow.

The various branches have already been active in providing support in many ways, not least in fund-raising efforts. For instance the members of the Chorley branch held a dinner dance at the Pines Hotel on Thursday, January 19.

Tonight the members of the Great Harwood branch are holding a supper-dance

FANS CAN PLAY A MAJOR PART

Branch lines

The Accrington branch has plans, too, for presenting the club with a cheque, and for holding a function in aid of Stuart Metcalfe's testimonial fund. Stuart, I might add, is the president of the Accrington branch and other Rovers players had accepted a similar offer at other branches.

One of the big features of the season will be a sponsored walk on Good Friday - this will be an event where all the branches combine - and it is hoped that it will prove a most fund-raising effort for the club.

If you wish to join in, you can obtain a sponsorship form from any of the Development Offices of the club. The details of the full itinerary for the sponsored walk will be published shortly.

Another major effort by the branches concerns raising the money to buy a mini-bus for the club to supplement the transport available for taking the players to training, and so on.

Donations

We have already received several donations for this project, including one of £100 from Mrs Catherine Howarth, whose late husband was one of the Rovers' staunchest supporters. Mrs Howarth recently came out of hospital, and although she cannot get down to the matches, she maintains her interest in the Rovers.

Here again, though, we are still looking for more and more agents, as our activities expand, and if you want to become an agent, you need to do so in contact me and I'll put you in the picture.

On behalf of the club, I should like to thank her for the generous donation, and express the hope that she has continued good health. I would also like to thank others who have donated towards the mini-bus, and if you feel you would like to play your part in this project, just contact me at Ewood Park.

We are not neglecting the younger end either, and the Junior Rovers section has been thriving indeed, with membership increasing all the time.

Events In the past few months, we have had several events for the Junior Rovers, and the response has been extremely gratifying - not least the donation which they recently handed over to the club.

On the bingo side, we are continuing to sell tickets, and shortly we hope to be able to increase the prize money, and restore the bingo ticket. Our agents do every valuer's job, and their work is really appreciated.

On the bingo side, we are continuing to sell tickets, and shortly we hope to be able to increase the prize money, and restore the bingo ticket. Our agents do every valuer's job, and their work is really appreciated.

Togetherness makes a bit of history...

BLACKBURN ROVERS are extremely appreciative of the support of our fans, and this will be a continuous feature of our long-term programme as we forge an ever-increasing link with the people and firms in Blackburn and district.

The commercial side of things is more and more important these days, and the Rovers are keen to play their part in this aspect of football. We are anxious that firms and firms alike should feel we have a common interest. Mention of the fans brings me to a second point - the opening of our new super club shop at Kings, Bolton Road, adjacent to Ewood Park. The club shop will offer all kinds of sports wear, Rovers souvenirs for supporters, and we believe that it will provide the best possible answer for fans, and is looking for ideas on how such a scheme can operate, and our slogan is this: 'WY NOT MATCH IT?'

The new club shop will open six days a week, as well, and it will form a new headquarters for the Development Office of officers, because it will incorporate a host of other facilities. We intend to have a gala opening event at the club shop shortly, and there will be some fabulous bargains for Rovers supporters.

We are also working on other ideas involving sponsorship, and this will be a continuous feature of our long-term programme as we forge an ever-increasing link with the people and firms in Blackburn and district.

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2. How many times have the Rovers won the F.A. Cup? **Answer**

3. Who beat the Rovers in the League War Cup at Wembley in 1917? **Answer**

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Employees of the North Western Newspaper Company Limited, their relatives or anyone directly connected with this competition are not eligible to enter.
The solution and winner will be published in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.



Two minds but with one thought . . . Derek Fazackerley and Ron Futcher in a headlong dash for the ball.



The pictures we don't often see—the Rovers on the receiving end of shots from Luton's Ron Futcher (above) and Lilly Fuccillo (below).



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RECORD FEE 'KEEPERS

Goalkeepers always have been cheaper buys than outfield players but five of the 27 Football League clubs paid their existing record fee for a keeper.
Stoke City and then Nottingham Forest did so in signing Peter Gillon and the others are Wolves, who bought Paul Bradshaw from Blackburn Rovers, Lincoln City (Peter Grottel) and Reading (Steve Duffell).

It's harder for English clubs to win an away European competition match in Italy than in any other European country. Since Birmingham City won a Fairs Cup tie in Milan in season 1960-61, English teams have made 26 visits to Italy and the record is nine draws and 17 defeats.

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Backroom boys with a vital job

By Rovers' coach Norman Bodell



TEAMWORK off the field, as well as on it, is important in soccer, and as it happens, the Rovers have three men on the backroom staff who were together at the same club as players. I'm referring to manager Jim Smith, reserve-team trainer John Pickering and myself, for during the late 1960s we all played for Halifax.

Our careers took different turns, for Jim left to join Lincoln, then he was the team boss at Boston United and Colchester before arriving at Ewood. John moved from Halifax to Barnsley and I became manager at Barnsley then coached at Wolves under Bill McCarty and at Preston when Bobby Charlton was there.

But our paths were destined to cross again, as we joined forces at the Rovers, and after 25 years of full-time employment in football, I think I can fairly claim to know when you have got a good team together. I believe we have a good side at the Rovers, and I also feel that the backroom team is working in complete harmony.

My job during the week lies in coaching the first team and I said another job at the weekend when I direct scouting operations — a vital part of any club's activities when it comes to finding and grooming young talent for the future.

In a sense, I'm the chief scout as I direct operations and give our scouts or so part-time scouts the briefing week by week. Four of them cover the Blackburn area, which includes Bolton, Preston, Chorley, Accrington and Leyland, and their task is to spot local lads who look like making the grade in professional football. Despite the obvious competition from the bigger clubs, we are keen to ensure that the Rovers do not miss anyone who looks a likely lad. In addition, we have two scouts covering the Merseyside area, one in

the North-East and another in Scotland — all of them, of course, prolific areas for recruiting soccer talent.

We have yet another scout in the London area, one each in Northern Ireland and the Republic, one in Yorkshire, and yet another in the Midlands.

All these scouts are people who seldom achieve public recognition. They do their jobs largely unseen and unseen by the fans who go to the big games on match days, and often they brave bad weather to check on players. In addition, they also cover League matches as and when the occasion demands.

When you glance through the Rovers' first-team squad, you quickly realise how, through the years, a system such as we have developed can pay dividends. Paul Bradshaw was recommended to us by a part-time scout in the Manchester area, and John Butcher was another player who was spotted.

Tony Parkes cost a nominal fee — I think it was around £2,000 — when we spotted him playing for Buxton, and Noel Brotherton was the player who gave me personally the greatest surprise . . . not because I didn't rate him, but because I never visualised he would be freed.

I went to watch a certain player in a game, and my attention was taken by Noel, who was in the Buxton side that day. Once was enough to make me feel he was worth signing, and we got him after another scouting check.

Frankly, I felt that if he were a Coakley, he wouldn't want to move to Lancashire, and I also felt that if he did become available, he would cost real money. When I found he was from Northern Ireland, and that he was being given a free, I was delighted to be able to claim him for the Rovers.

Our part-time scouting network has also found youngsters such as Paul Hound and Simon Garner, and we shall continue the job of trying to find the best possible young talents for the club. I think our efforts so far have paid dividends.

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Luton obviously realise the danger Noel Brotherton can cause as he is crowded out here by Lilly Fuccillo and Phil Boersma in the match at Kenilworth Road.

The Line-up

ROVERS	LUTON
1 John BUTCHER	1 Mella ALEKSIO
2 Kevin HIRD	2 Paul PRICE
3 John BAILEY	3 David CARR
4 Stuart METCALFE	4 Ricky HILL
5 Glen KEELEY	5 John FAULKNER
6 Derek FAZACKERLEY	6 Paul FUTCHER
7 Noel BROTHERTON	7 Jimmy HUSBAND
8 John WADDINGTON	8 Graham JONES
9 David HARGREAVES	9 Ron FUTCHER
10 Tony PARKES	10 Lilly FUCCILLO
11 David WAGSTAFFE	11 Phil BOERSMA
12 Gordon TAYLOR	12 Brian STEIN

Referee: Mr C. L. Newsome (Broseley, Shropshire)
 Linesmen: Red—Mr K. Emsden
 Yellow—Mr N. L. Wilson

Scoreboard

A Bolton v Sunderland	H Stoke C v Hull C
B Brighton v Burnley	J Tot'nham v Blackpool ...
C Bristol R v Orient	K Aston v v Notm F
D Crystal P v Sheff U	L Chelsea v Man U
E Mansfield v Cardiff	M Liverpool v Ipswich
F Notts C v Fulham	N Man C v QPR
G South'pton v Millwall ..	P Norwich v Everton
	R Hereford v Preston

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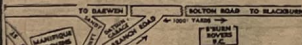
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