

LUTON TOWN

Official
Programme

20p

BLACKPOOL

Football League
Division Two

Saturday 18 March 1978
Kick-off: 3.00pm



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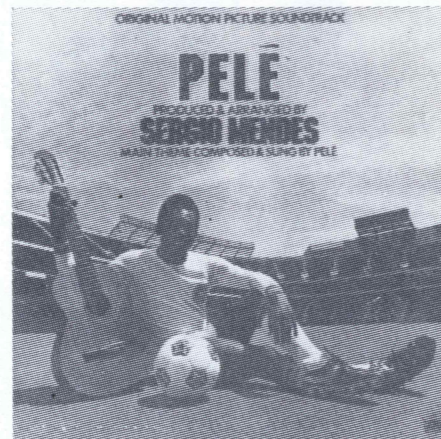
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DAVID PLEAT

Welcome to Blackpool a team like ourselves who have had a change of management. Sometimes it is not easy for players to adapt to new ways and ideas when changes take place.

However, there can never be any excuse for any player who does not give his all on the field. Only players giving 100% effort succeed in football and in life. We are giving that to Luton Town FC and demand the same in return. At Fulham last Friday several players had an apathetic approach and there was a lack of responsibility. In football you only get out of the game what you put into it. Today we have an opportunity to put the record straight.

Last weekend Terry Hayes, a youngster from Linfield made his debut for the reserves and I was



pleased with the all round performance of the side.

They came back from 0-2 down at half-time to beat Fulham 3-2. Hayes scored a goal and showed a determination that rubbed off on the other players. We hope that Terry will have a good career here. The attitude and spirit of the youngsters in the Combination game was first class.

Another move, this time out, was Jimmy Husband's departure to the NASL team Memphis, managed by Eddie McCreadie. Jim has been a loyal player to the club and has scored some vital goals. We all wish him and his family well out there.

Hope you enjoy today's game and we get the spur to look forward to Tuesday's game against Bolton with confidence.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



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Cover photo by courtesy of Gareth Owen — Sportswide Photography

WELCOME

BLACKPOOL



ALAN AINSCOW (Inside Forward) Height 5' 7½" Weight 10st. 2lbs. Joined the club as an apprentice in July 1970. Signed as full time professional in 1971. Has good ball control and is a lively forceful player. 35 Football League appearances in season 1975/6 scoring 2 goals.

TREVOR FINNIGAN Height 5' 10" Weight 11st. 6lbs. Previous club Runcorn. Blackpool is his second league club having had previous experience with Everton. Has a lot of potential and a flair for goals.

PAUL GARDNER Height 5' 9" Weight 11st. 7lb. Chorley lad. Made his debut v Arsenal (League Cup) last season and made great strides until a cartilage put him on the sidelines. Came back late in the season. Strong resolute defender.

STEVE HARRISON (Full Back) Height 5' 9" Weight 11st. 9lbs. Local boy signed in December 1970. 34 Football League appearances in season 1974/5. Has now established himself as a regular First Team player. 30 appearances last season. Non-player of the Tournament award in under 21 Youth Tournament in Italy 1974.

BOB HATTON Height 5' 10" Weight 11st. 10lbs. Signed from Birmingham last season and made 39 appearances scoring 10 goals. Strong forceful attacker. Has struck up good understanding with Micky Walsh.

STAN McEWAN Height 6' 0" Weight 12st. 2lbs. A Scot - Blackpool being his only English club. Commanding in the air, skillful on the ground. Looks to have a good future in the game.

WILLIAM RONSON (Forward) Height 5' 4" Weight 9st. 4lbs. A local lad. Signed for Blackpool in August 1972. Made his first team debut against Notts Forest on March 29th, 1975. Made 17 Football League appearances last season and scored 1 goal.

PETER SUDDABY (Centre Forward) Height 5' 10½" Weight 11st. 12lbs. English amateur formerly of Skelmersdale, signed from Wycombe Wanderers in May 1970. Made 38 Football League appearances in season 1975/6. A school teacher by profession, he has now taken over the Captaincy from Glynn James who has retired from football due to an injury.

DAVID TONG Height 5' 8" Weight 10st. 10lbs. Local lad, was limited to few first team appearances last season due to bad injury sustained at Notts County. A very skillful midfield player who can make and score goals.

MICKY WALSH Height 5' 9" Weight 11st. 9lbs. Another Chorley lad, has made a big impact since coming into 1st team. Eire International. His 27 goals were vital in last seasons promotion bid.

GEORGE WOOD Height 6' 1" Weight 12st. 5lbs. Previous club East Stirling. Was ever present season 1976/77 and voted best goalkeeper 2nd Division by P.F.A. Must surely be considered by his Country shortly.

Left to right:
Back Row: Bob Hatton, Dave Hockaday, Paul Gardner, Stan McEwan, Brian Wilson, Jeff Chandler,
Centre Row: Larry Milligan, George Wood, Ian Hesford, Trevor Finnigan, Peter Suddaby,
Front Row: Steve Harrison, Billy Ronson, Alan Ainscow, David Tong, Mickey Walsh.


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LUTON LATEST

TODAY we welcome the Directors, Manager, Players, Officials and Supporters from Blackpool Football Club. The record of Football League encounters between our two clubs goes back to 1897 when the newly elected Second Division side Luton Town met the Seasiders who had joined the League the previous season. At the end of the campaign the newcomers were in eighth place whilst the Lancashire Club finished three places lower. Whilst the top places in Division Two that year have a familiar ring about them — Burnley, Newcastle and Manchester City, the same cannot be said for three of the bottom four — Burton Swifts, Darwen and Loughborough. The following season both our clubs finished in the last four, Luton at 15th and Blackpool at 16th, and although both Loughborough and Darwen finished lower it was the Seasiders who together with the latter faded into temporary obscurity. However, for Luton and Loughborough the writing was on the wall and one season later they too had gone. Whereas our visitors suffered only one year in the Wilderness, returning at our expense in 1900, the Hatters' exile lasted until 1920 and it was over fifty years before our League paths crossed again. This was in 1955/56 when Blackpool finished runners-up, eleven points behind the "Busby Babes" and Luton a creditable tenth in our first ever season at the top level. In all there had been twenty-four league matches up to the end of the last season including the four in the nineteenth century and the Luton record is as follows. Played 24 Won 9 Lost 10 Drawn 5 Goals for 33 Against 36. However it is likely to be the 6th Round Cup Replay that is best remembered by older supporters. The year was 1959, the Hatters' "Wembley" season and the only goal of the game was scored by Alan Brown who later managed both Luton and Blackpool. The initial tie at Blackpool had been drawn 1-1 with Billy Bingham keeping Luton in the hunt. Notable features of the replay at Kenilworth Road were the fact that the present ground record of 30,069

was established that day and the peerless Stanley Matthews operated on the right wing for Blackpool, six years after his 'swansong' in the final v Bolton Wanderers. Far from being finished Matthews later re-joined Stoke and helped them regain 1st Division status.

NEAHURST Limited are today sponsoring their 3rd match in successive seasons and we would like to thank their Chairman, Mr. Richard Safranek who is one of our Vice-Presidents for their continued support. We hope that Mr. Safranek and his guests will enjoy their afternoon and that the match result will be as good as on their two previous visits (v Carlisle 1975/76 3-0, v Chelsea 1976/77 4-0).

BY THE time these notes are in print we shall know the first winning numbers in our New Giant Town Lottery and in future editions we shall feature the big winners if they are agreeable of course. All the indications were that Draw number one which took place at Bernard Sports in the Arndale Centre was a sell-out and from now on we hope that you will continue to give us your excellent support each week. Those of you who bought tickets in the first lottery should check your numbers with the local press, the match programme or by ringing Luton 412418. Winners must claim within 28 days of the draw. If you did not buy a ticket and would like to join in the second draw please contact the Pools Office in Kenilworth Road where you can also find out how to become an Agent. Tickets are on sale at the ground today and are also

obtainable through hundreds of shops and other agencies.

★
LAST FRIDAY we had our first opportunity to meet our new signing Terry Hayes who has joined us from Linfield in Northern Ireland. Terry, who played for the Irish F.A. Under 21 team on Wednesday made his debut for our Football Combination side last Saturday against Fulham and scored an excellent goal. The young "Hatters" reserves had not won since November 22nd and trailed by two goals at half-time. However, with Godfrey Ingram leading the fight-back with a beautifully struck goal and Terry equalising, the second half belonged almost entirely to Luton, and eventually the Fulham defence succumbed to the pressure, enabling Ingram to score his second and our third and winning goal.

★
AS WE welcome Terry to the staff we say farewell and wish Good Luck to Jimmy Husband as he sets off for Memphis, Tennessee. Jimmy joined us from Everton in November 1973 and played an important role in our promotion team that season scoring some vital goals including a hat-trick against Orient at a crucial stage of the campaign. He made thirty-seven appearances the following season and in 1975/76 he scored eight goals in his first nine full league games for the Club. For much of this season Jimmy has been our leading scorer following his four goals against Charlton in September but has now been overtaken by Ron Futch and Phil Boersma. We know that Jimmy has been happy living in Bedfordshire and that he is keeping his house in Clophill so in wishing him well in his new career and thanking him for his services to the Club we sincerely hope that we shall see him again when he returns to the area.

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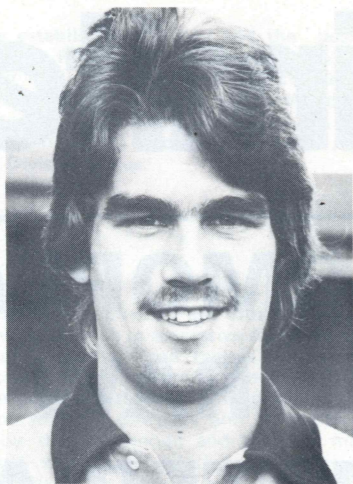
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PLAYER PROFILE

FULL NAME — James Anthony McNichol
HEIGHT — 6ft.
WEIGHT — 12st. 9lbs.
BIRTHPLACE — Glasgow
BIRTHDAY — 9th June
STAR SIGN — Gemini
FIRST SIGNED AS PRO — June '76
SIGNED FOR LUTON — June '76
PREVIOUS CLUBS — Ipswich Town
FAMILY — Mum & Dad 4 brothers & 1 sister
HOBBIES — Golf & Reading
FAVOURITE FOODS — Mince & Totties
CAR — Ford Cortina
FAVOURITE RECORDING ARTIST — Fleetwood Mac & Rod Stewart
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT — Blackpool



MOST ADMIRER PLAYER — Kenny Dalglish
GREATEST FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE — Playing at Old Trafford & winning F.A. Youth Cup with Ipswich
AMBITION — To play for Scotland & be a regular
LEAGUE DEBUT — May '77
BEST COUNTRIES VISITED — United States & Germany
BEST TEAM PLAYED AGAINST — Manchester City
FAVOURITE CLUB APART FROM LUTON — Partick Thistle

Signature

BEHIND THE SCENES

From the Secretaries Office

LAST WEEK I took the opportunity to go to Maine Road, Manchester with Wayne Morgan and Brian Swain to watch Paul Futcher play in the England v Italy match. It was great to feel the atmosphere in the ground and to be able just to sit and watch a game with no pressures on us made a change. I also was able to meet a couple of our ex. staff, Dave Sexton who was in charge of England and our former trainer, Jack Crompton. Both of them send their best wishes to all their old friends still in Luton. Of course I had to bump into Harry Haslam and Danny Bergara, both still looking very happy with life.

This year's Football League Cup Final has brought ticket problems not only to Forest and Liverpool but also to us. I have had letters from all over the country, all saying to the effect that although they like

to watch us when they can, they haven't missed a Forest or Liverpool match for years but have been unable to get a ticket. The best one of all was from Christine Mason of Nottingham who sent us the following poem. *This is serious, I'm not pulling your leg, So please hear my plea as I've something to beg. I'm a true Forest supporter — I'm red through and through, But my only chance now is directed at you. For it's the League Cup Final — and Forest are to be there, But 30,000 tickets only has produced quite a scare. As I realise sadly that whatever I say I just won't get to Wembley to see the "Reds" play. For I've no season ticket and I'm full of woes, As I didn't have the pennies to buy one of those, So I beg, oh I beg, if you've got one to spare,*

To answer my letter in the envelope there, And if you oblige and agree to take part, I'll send you the money with thanks from the heart. So please, please oh please! It'd be so great for me. To see good old Forest, down at Old Wem-ber-ley. Your sincerely, hopefully thankfully, prayingly, Christine Mason.

Unfortunately I couldn't oblige. At this point I would like to give our new signing Terry Hayes a warm welcome and I hope he is with us for a long time and enjoys his football at Kenilworth Road. I was hoping to announce next season's Season Ticket Prices in this programme but unfortunately I am unable to do so but I hope to have some news very shortly. Enjoy the match! — John Wilkinson.

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

LAST HOME MATCH ACTION...

Luton Town 3 Cardiff City 1

ASSISTANT Manager Ken Gutteridge, in charge of the team while David Pleat was away on transfer business, summed up the feelings of a lot of us who have followed the team's fortunes in recent weeks.

In entertainment terms, on a pitch that made intricate football very difficult, the match against Cardiff probably wasn't one of the best. Yet in previous weeks we had produced some prettier soccer, but not the goals, and as Ken said, "The result made the game a good one for us."

And the goal that wrapped it up is pictured alongside: Phil Boersma slides in to beat Ron Healey at close range to make the score 3-1 with ten minutes to go to give us our first league win of 1978 and the first victory since David Pleat became manager.

The goal ended any slight hopes Cardiff may have entertained of getting back into the game. While we didn't look like losing, there is always a fear in football that when you are only one goal up the opposition is always in with a chance of sneaking an equaliser.

Phil's goal, his second of the game, finished off Cardiff, but the whole team played well. On the right, one of the men who kept Cardiff stretched down the flanks — Brian Stein getting down to his job.

Pictures: Luton News.



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CLUES – ACROSS

- 1 See 1dn.
- 4 Kind of pass (4)
- 7 Have a hard shot at goal (3,3)
- 8 Claudio ... (Torino & Italy)(4)
- 9 The first competitive floodlit match in this country was the 1951 Football Combination fixture: ... v. Spurs (11)
- 12 Former Manchester City and Carlisle striker who joined Doncaster this season (4)
- 13 ... Oblak (Bayern Munich & West Germany)(6)
- 14 They're changed at half-time (4)
- 15 Radio soccer man (6)

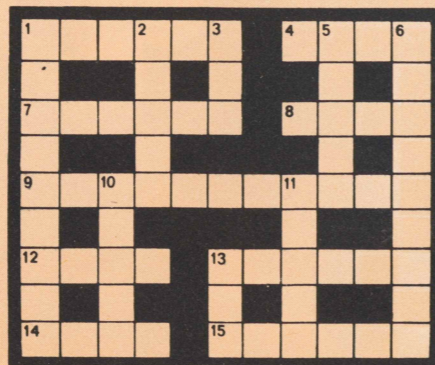
CLUES – DOWN

- 1 & 1ac. Brighton's base (9 6)

- 2 Being this is one reason for not playing (5)
- 3 West Ham regular (3)
- 5 Bob Wall wrote a book called "Arsenal From The ..." (5)
- 6 Torquay's terrain (9)
- 10 Trip (2-3)
- 11 Boro backliner (5)
- 13 One of the four old soccer Shanklys (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD No. 18

Across 1 & 3 dirty play. 6 Bremner. 7 See 3dn. 8 See 3dn. 10 Vic. 11 Blokhin. 12 Atom. 13 guest. Down 1 Dave Webb (Chelsea 1970). 2 Road. 3 & 8ac & 7ac Preston North End (1888/89). 4 Arno. 6 & 5 Bootham Crescent (York) 9 & 10 Port Vale.



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

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

THERE WAS A bit of a shock for Town supporters ten years ago this week – the team actually failed to score in a home match. It happened on March 16, 1968, when the Town were starting to run away with the Fourth Division championship, and Exeter City were the visitors to Kenilworth Road.

Injury problems bedevilled the Town. Alan Slough failed a fitness test and missed the game. In the first minute Ray Whittaker pulled a muscle and a few seconds later left back Fred Jardine did the same. George Potter, on a month's trial from Forfar Athletic, went on as sub for his league debut, but with Jardine a limping passenger on the wing, and Bruce Rioch being marked by two men everywhere he went, the Town couldn't find a way through Exeter's defence. On that day "defence" was perhaps not quite the right word – Exeter spent a lot of the game with all 11 men packed in their own penalty area, and the crowd of 12,409 spent most of the afternoon giving them the bird. It was a frustrating occasion for the team and for the fans, but Exeter's limited ambition was achieved. They got a 0-0 bore of a draw. It was the first time all season that the Town had failed to score at home, and only the second home point of the season to be dropped.

Even so, the top of the Fourth Division table made nice reading – the Town had scored 67 goals in their 48 league games to date, and with 34 points were three clear of the field.

The previous week they had collected their 15th home win of the season when 12,749 watched Port Vale put up a valiant fight before going down 2-0.

Bruce Rioch made the first goal for Ian Buxton after 24 minutes, but the slender lead looked fragile at times as Port Vale battled hard. Chapman had an equaliser ruled out for offside before a Rioch special wrapped up the points for the Town a thundering first-time drive from 25 yards 13 minutes into the second half.

Off the field manager Allan Brown failed in two attempts to beat the transfer deadline. He agreed to pay Spurs £10,000 for wing half Eddie Clayton, but the 30-year-old star decided to end his playing days with Southend United instead. Then Brown went to Coventry with a £15,000 bid for Brian Lewis, a competitive man who had played alongside Brown at Portsmouth. Coventry accepted the bid, but Lewis decided not to move.

We didn't know much about him at Kenilworth Road at the time, but in fact Lewis later changed his mind and was to play a part in the Town's progress up the Third Division table.

YOUTH

By George Rogers



LUTON TOWN youth, by winning their quarter final matches, have reached the semi-finals of the Eastern Junior and the Chiltern Premier League Cups.

On Saturday 4th. March they beat Hertford Town 6-0 in the League Cup. Our goals being scored by A. Pearson 2, A. Wilkinson 2, M. Conquest, and L. Harriott. After the match, the Hertford team came along to cheer us on versus Cardiff. We hope they enjoyed their visit.

Team:— A. Judge, A. Currie, T. Murphy, S. Rowlands, L. Harriott, G. Sisman, M. Conquest, A. Wilkinson, M. Pacey, R. Eaton, A. Pearson, J. Woodward, G. Miles.

On Tuesday evening, the youth team played one of their rare games at Kenilworth Rd., when they entertained Corby in a replay of the Eastern Junior Cup. The first game at Corby resulted in a 2-2 draw but this time they made no mistake – winning by 5 goals to 0. Our goals being scored by N. Johnson 2, M. Pacey, A. Wilkinson and L. Harriott. The youth team was strengthened by the inclusion of several players who are holding down a regular place in the combination side for this game, although having most of the play a Nigel Johnson goal was all they were able to show for their efforts. In the second half they scored 4 times without reply giving them a place in the semi-final. With Norwich and Ipswich still in the competition, we are awaiting the draw with interest.

Team:— A. Judge, A. Currie, R. Eaton, A. Wilkinson, L. Harriott, G. Sisman, N. Johnson, M. Pacey, G. Ingram, P. Driver, A. Pearson, J. Woodward and S. Rowlands.

Schools football is now getting into its final stages of various competitions and one can go to most schools at the end of school lessons and find several games in progress. One idea put forward by the schools is for a penalty competition, at Kenilworth Road prior to the 1st team game. One of the reasons against this in the past is the fouling up of the goal area prior to a league game but I am sure a temporary fold away goal could be used, locating it in one of the corner areas.

On Sunday 19th March, the Bedfordshire Under 16 representative side will be meeting Oxfordshire at Ampthill. In the Oxfordshire side will be several boys who play for Oxford Utd., in the South East Counties League and in the Bedfordshire side will be boys who play in our own youth side. Why not come along to Ampthill Park, tomorrow K.O. 3.p.m.

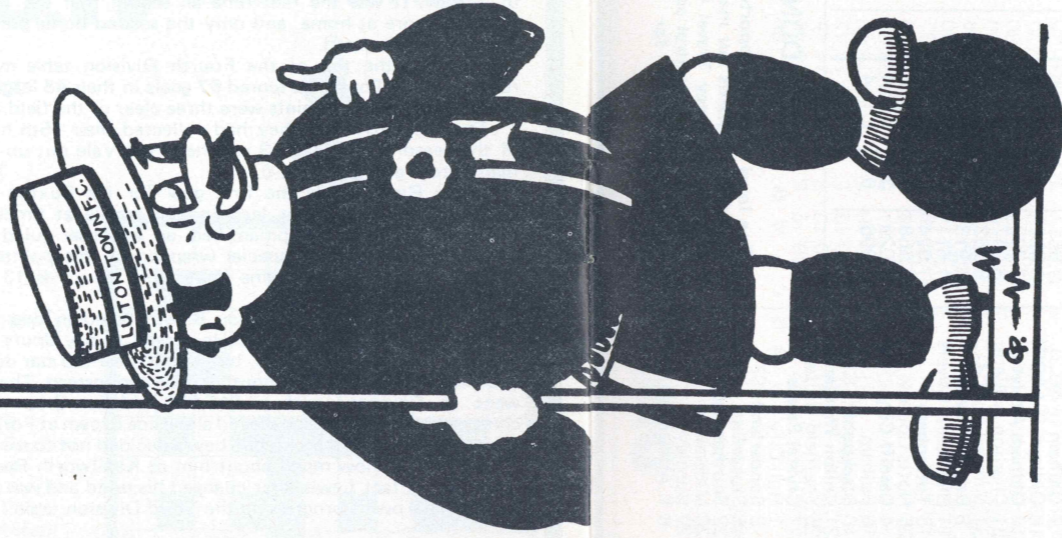


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A cartoon illustration of a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and tie, wearing a wide-brimmed hat with 'LUTON TOWN F.C.' written on it. He is holding a long pole that supports a sign. The sign is a large, dark, rounded rectangle with a white border, and it contains the text 'LUTON TOWN F.C.' in white capital letters. The man is looking towards the right of the frame.

POOLS NEWS

"BE FIRST" has been my personal motto for years. Sometimes though I have had to take second place but not this time! Having just launched our new "Town Lottery" and on the very first week nearly achieved a 'sell-out' situation it appeared we had created a utopia — job done?

No, not by a long chalk (or touch-line). Very soon you will have information on a further exciting, magnetic new enterprise of "The Hatters". This will be called "Moneymaker" and if you love Bingo you can look forward to winning £1000 for a "Full House" or £100 for '777', or in fact any part of £4000 in total weekly prizes.

In the meantime, winning claims are

rolling in from "Town Lottery" winners of Week 6. Why not attend the Week 7 Draw on Wednesday next, 22nd March at 10 a.m. Culverhouse Road Sub-Post Office is the venue and we would love to see you there. Together we shall continue to be financially successful, 'cause we are "The Hatters"

Sincerely, Mike Hardwicke.

CENTURY CLUB CORNER

BY DEREK LUDLOW.

IF TODAY'S match produces a similar result to the last home game we will all be delighted. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing the goals go in again and as a bunch of supporters we send our congratulations to David Pleat and his team.

Our club chairman, Ken Ball, is normally a cheerful chap, and the smile on his face since that victory has been quite something to see. Like a lot of Century Club members he has followed Luton Town since he was a lad. He's a successful auctioneer and currently chairman of the Bedfordshire County Council Finance Committee, but still finds time to do a lot of work for the Century Club and for Luton Town.

Having congratulated David Pleat, we would also like to extend a warm welcome to John Moore. It was nice to see him return to Luton Town, especially as many of us remember him well as a player, particularly in those heady days of almost continuous success when Luton Town shook off the Fourth Division doldrums and stormed out to win promotion twice in rapid time.

The pictures on our Century Club wall include one of the celebrations when the Town won the Fourth Division championship back in 1968, and John Moore then looked as young as he does today!

We are now already making plans for our own end-of-season events for 1978. Members are reminded that tickets for the annual ball on March 23 are on sale, and going well and we expect to be holding our usual end-of-season party at the Hatters Club in late April or early May. For further information on both events, please contact me at the Century Club, c/o Luton Town FC.

KENILWORTH CLUB

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JUNIOR HATTERS CLUB

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings to the following members:—
Timothy Varney (18th), Graham Ashby (19th),

COMPETITION

The answers to our last competition were as follows:—
(a) Tottenham Hotspur is the only Football League Club (other than Liverpool) to have won two of the major European Club trophies.
(b) Liverpool (1973 and 1976) and Leeds United 1968 and 1971 are the two Football League Clubs who have won the UEFA Fairs Cup twice.

There were no all correct entries this week.

THIS WEEK'S COMPETITION IS

(a) What is the name of the stadium where the 1978 World Cup Final will take place?

(b) Which two countries are automatic qualifiers?

Send your entries to: Competition, 70-72 Kenilworth Road, Luton. The first correct entry picked out on Friday 24th March will receive two tickets for our home match against Crystal Palace.

Now for a final note on Memberships. If you have not received an autographed photo from us on your Birthday this is because you have probably forgotten to renew your membership and this will also mean that you will not be considered for the team mascot. Many of our original members have not renewed their memberships which have now expired so let's hear from you — it only costs 40p for a whole year!

TOWN TRAVEL

SHEFFIELD UNITED v LUTON TOWN
Football League Division 2
Saturday 25 March 1978
Kick-off: 3.00pm

Leave Luton towards Dunstable. Proceed north on the M1 until junction 33, passing service stations, Toddington (4 miles) Newport Pagnell (19), Watford Gap (42), Leicester Forest (62) Trowell (87) Woodall (122). Leave junction 33 on the A630 signposted Sheffield Central (5 miles). Distance Luton to Sheffield 137 miles. Bramall Lane is situated a 5 minute walk from City Centre car parks.

TRICENTROL COACHES:

Depart The Square, Dunstable — 10.30am
Depart Maple Road, Luton — 11.30am
FARE £3.00

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- 9 RON FUTCHER
- 10 PASQUALE FUCCILLO
- 11 PHIL BOERSMA
- 12 GRAHAM JONES



BLACKPOOL

- BOB WARD 1
- BRIAN WILSON 2
- LARRY MILLIGAN 3
- BILLY RONSON 4
- STAN McEWAN 5
- PETER SUDDABY 6
- DAVE TONG 7
- JEFF CHANDLER 8
- MICKEY WALSH 9
- ALAN WALDRON 10
- ALAN GROVES 11
- 12

SCORE BOARD

- Liverpool
- Nottm For.
- Arsenal
- Bristol C.
- A. Villa.
- West Ham
- Chelsea
- Newcastle
- Derby.
- Birmingham
- Ipswich
- Coventry
- Leicester
- Norwich
- Man. United
- West Brom.
- Wolves
- Man. City
- Bolton
- Southampton
- Bristol R..
- Tottenham.
- Crystal P.
- Brighton
- Hull.
- Burnley.
- Oldham.
- Cardiff
- Sheffield Utd.
- Millwall.
- Stoke
- Blackburn
- Sunderland.
- Mansfield.

OFFICIALS

Referee: Mr. R. 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.

Linesmen: Mr. J. H Bellamy (Red Flag); Mr. A. D. Cox (Yellow Flag).