

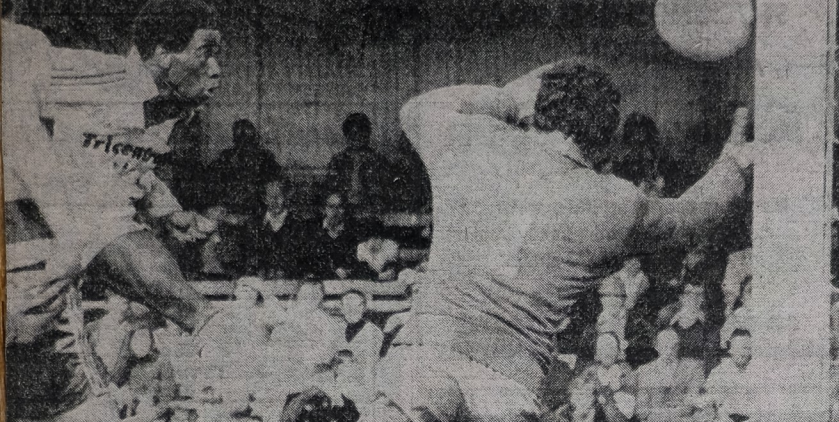
Sports

News

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CLASS TELLS-AND QPR

ADMIT IT



● **HALF-CENTURY:** Godfrey Ingram heads the Town's 50th league goal of the season to put them ahead against QPR.



11-4-81

Match Details

LUTON TOWN 3, QPR 0

Half-time: 1-0

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Saxby, Price, Donaghy, Antic; Hill, Greulich; Stein, Ingram, Moss. Sub: Fucillo, not needed.

RANGERS: Burridge; Shanks, Wicks, Roeder, Gillard (Burke, 64 mins); Currie, Francis, Silkman, Waddock; Flanagan, Sealy.

THE GOALS: Three gems — Godfrey Ingram, 20th minute, header after raking move involving Raddy Antic, Ricky Hill, David Moss and Brian Stein; Stein, 54 minutes, explosive 20-yard shot after turning round Wicks and Gillard from Paul Price's pass; Antic, 56 minutes, free kick bent around the wall from 20 yards after Roeder fouled Hill.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town seven saved and seven wide; Rangers eight saved and seven off target.

Corners: 6-3 to Rangers.

ATTENDANCE: 12,112—highest since the visit of Chelsea on Boxing Day.

ENTERTAINMENT: The Town's best for a long time, with Ricky Hill outstanding. It would have been a five-star show if the Town hadn't cased off to walking pace for the last 20 minutes.

BOOKING: John Burridge for a rugby tackle on Brian Stein—after the whistle had gone for offside against the striker, and the ball was dead. The referee was right in the letter of the law as well as in its spirit.

REFEREE: Peter Reeves, Leicester—hardly noticed, so he must have had a good game.

50 goals up

GODFREY INGRAM's first-half header was the Town's 50th league goal this season, and made him the club's third highest scorer. Brian Stein's goal put him level with David Moss at the top of the list, and Raddy Antic's free-kick cracker was his first-ever goal in the Football League — his other Town goal, also from a free-kick, was in the league cup-tie against Manchester City in September.

Antic became the 11th Town player to go on to this season's scoring sheet.

The full list:

Brian Stein 14 + 1 FL Cup; David Moss 14 + 2 FA Cup + 1 FLC; Godfrey Ingram 5 + 2 FAC; Steve White 6; Ricky Hill 4; Paul Price 3; Mike Saxby 1 + 1 FLC; Raddy Antic 1 + 1 FLC; Frank Bunn 1; Clive Goodyear 1; Lil Fucillo 1.

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● STOP THAT: Brian Stein leaves Ian Gillard and Steve Wicks stranded and slams in the Town's second goal.

HIGHEST PLACE YET IN PROMOTION SCRAMBLE

THE TOWN go into the Easter programme in their highest league position this year, fifth and two points adrift of the nearest promotion place. If both teams keep going, the clash with Swansea on Monday week could be the crunch. Swansea lost third place this week because while they were drawing 1-1 at Orient, Blackburn were winning 1-0 at home to relegation candidates Bristol City.

West Ham wrapped up the championship when David Cross scored four in a 5-1 romp at Grimsby, and Notts County are almost sure of promotion after a 2-2 draw at Derby.

Sheffield Wednesday are faltering — they lost 0-4 at Wrexham on Saturday, and were beaten 2-1 by Preston at Deepdale on Tuesday night. Chelsea are also sinking — their 0-0 draw at Oldham was their 11th consecutive game without a win.

Bristol Rovers, who come to Kenilworth Road on Saturday, draw 1-1 at home to Shrewsbury and have little hope of survival—if the Town beat them they will definitely be relegated. Bristol City look like going down with them and Preston and Cardiff are fighting to try to avoid the third relegation place.

THE TOP TEAMS

Club	P	G	P
West Ham	37	43	57
Notts Co	37	7	46
Blackburn	37	7	45
Swansea	37	14	42
Luton Town	37	10	41
Grimsby	37	6	41
Sheff Wed	37	2	40
Derby	37	2	40
Chelsea	38	12	39
Cardiff	38	13	38

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS weren't just beaten at Kenilworth Road—they were destroyed, second best in every department, and lucky to go home with only three goals against them. And that verdict comes not only from a Town supporter's view—Rangers manager Terry Venables saw it that way too.

An amazing display by Ricky Hill, who played the best game I have ever seen from him since he made his scoring debut five years ago, shattered Rangers' promotion ambitions, and lifted the Town to their highest league position of the season.

They may have left the promotion effort too late, as Town boss David Pleat suggests, but the most gratifying factor in a day of considerable enjoyment for Town fans was that the Town played the sort of football which would take care of First Division opposition, let alone Second.

Venables looked remarkably cheerful. "You can't

REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN

PICTURES BY MARK RICHARDS

be despondent when you see your team beaten by a side like Luton," he said. "We started off quite well, but once Luton had gone ahead they looked winners. I can't have any complaints about defeat — I haven't seen any team put us under the cosh like that before.

"Luton's first two goals were top quality efforts, and the third was as good a free kick as I have ever seen."

Mr Venables is one of the coaching staff for England boss Ron Greenwood, and there is no doubt he went home with Hill's name very much in mind.

Expensive stars like Gerry Francis and Tony Currie looked like donkeys compared to the thoroughbred skills and pace of Hill.

While they tried to thread passes forward to give a two-man attack a 50/50 chance of winning the ball, Hill took control with confidence, carrying the ball easily past opponents, and making the last pass tell.

Tony Greulich was not far behind, doing a lot of ball-winning, and for the first time since the Town's new tactical formation came into use the full-backs consistently got forward into midfield, releasing Hill and Greulich for ever-increasing attacking duties.

It meant that Kirk Stephens and Mal Donaghy were effective without being spectacular, and the three men at the back, Raddy Antic, Paul Price and Mike Saxby, rarely looked troubled.

A long clearance by John Burridge got through to give Tony Sealy an early chance, but he shot weakly, and Rangers could not make any telling openings after that.

They buckled under increasing pressure, and with David Moss fighting his way out of a bad patch

danger threatened every time the Town won possession.

All three goals were memorable, with the second and third coming in a two-minute burst early in the second half to finish the match as a contest.

Godfrey Ingram headed the first, in the 20th minute, putting the final touch to a move which started when Antic won a tackle in the Town's penalty area. He fed Hill and the midfielder man broke forward at speed with the ball.

His pass sent Moss down the left wing, and he beat Don Shanks and crossed to the far post. With the defence spread-eagled Stein headed the ball back across the face of the goal for Ingram to score.

Stein made it 2-0 in the 54th minute with the best goal he has scored for a long time. Price beat Sealy in a tackle on the half-way line and sent Stein on a run down the inside right position. He twisted and turned to leave Ian Gillard and Steve Wicks looking like a pair of matching vases and hammered a cross-shot into the far corner from the edge of the penalty area.

Two minutes later Roeder fouled Hill to halt an attack just outside the box, and Antic produced a free kick goal which amazed Venables, with the ball hit hard but still bending sharply round the wall into the net.

Playing with the temperature in the 70s, both teams looked all-in for the last 20 minutes or so, and the only criticism possible of the Town's performance was that they didn't stick in two or three more goals in that spell.

At walking pace they were more than a match for the visitors, and Moss and Ingram both went close to adding to the score.

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