

blues news

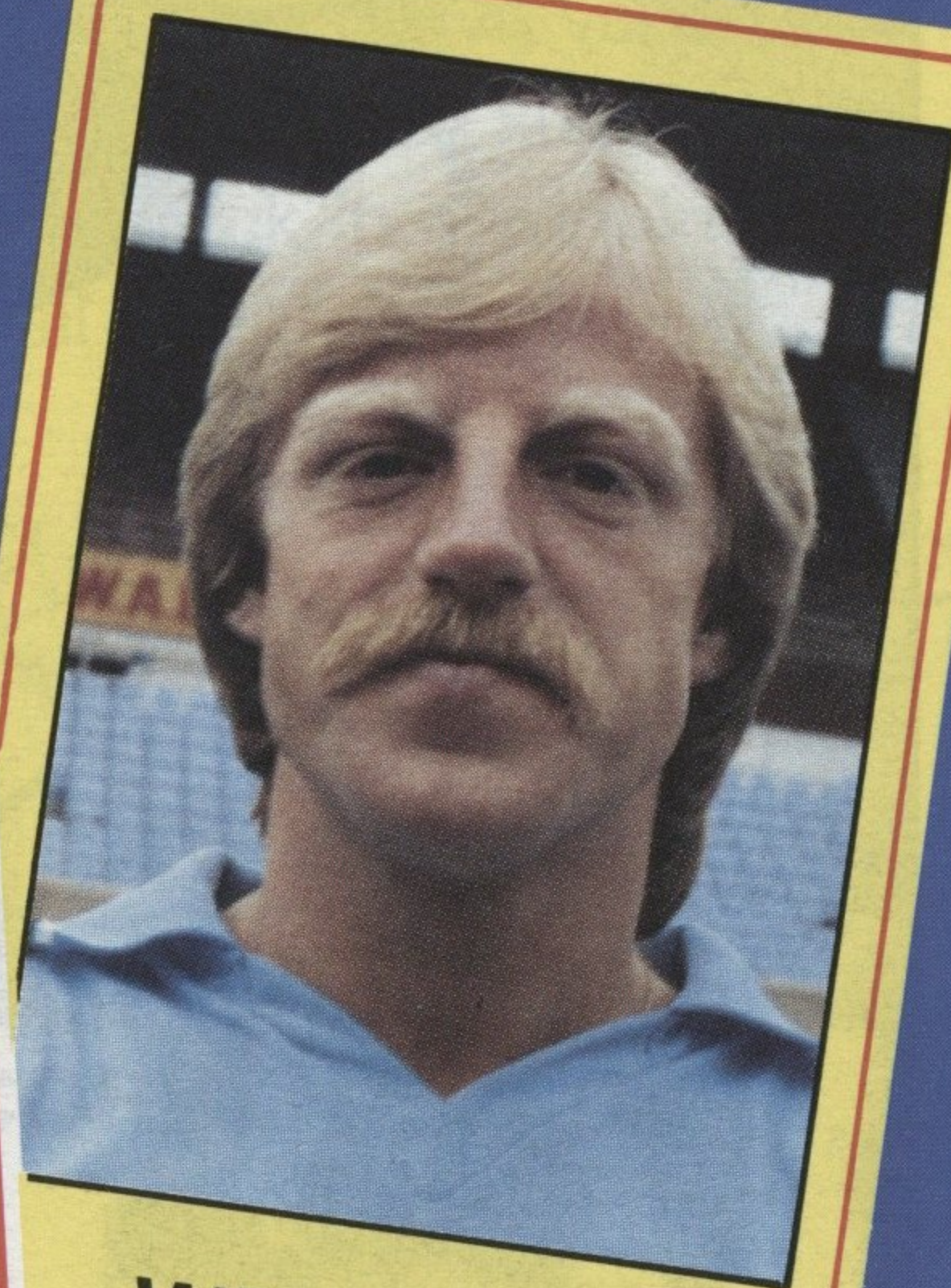


**JIM HAGAN
IS TONIGHT'S
SPOTLIGHT
FEATURE**



**BLUES v
LUTON TOWN**

**Tuesday 20th March 1984
CANON LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE**

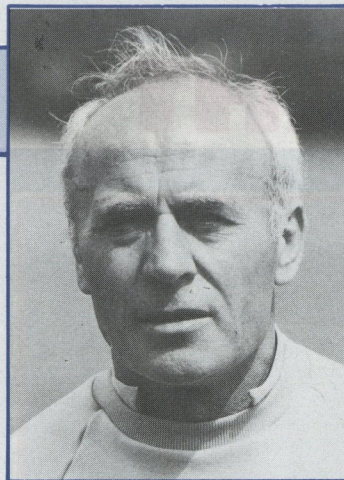


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BLUES PHOTO FILE

Howard Gayle wins this aerial duel against Watford's Wilf Rostron.



RON SAUNDERS

Good Evening Ladies & Gentlemen.

Our defeat by Watford in the sixth round of the FA Cup left a bitter taste in our mouths because on the day we were not at our best and afterwards could only look back with regret and wonder what might have happened if we had played the way we know we can. It would appear that the disappointment from this game was carried over somewhat into our match at Stoke on Saturday when again we did not play anything like we can and showed a certain amount of frustration; however as I have said before, the development of any team is like the tide coming in — each time the waves come forward they then retreat but the more it comes in the more they go forward and the less they go back. Anyway, when things are not quite right in a game the only way is to get it out of your system and we are fortunate in this matter that tonight we have a quick opportunity to sort our problems out. Tonight's visitors Luton Town have an exceptionally good away record and will once again prove very stiff opposition. The players will need your support more than ever to help them get back in a winning vein and I look forward to us all tonight producing the right result.

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HALF-TIME SCORECHECK

Division One

A Everton v Leicester
B Watford v Sunderland

Division Two

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Division Three

D Brentford v Rotherham
E Hull v Preston
F Plymouth v Millwall
G Wigan v Bournemouth

Division Four

H Northampton v Blackpool

CITY SPOTLIGHT



JIM HAGAN

● Jim Hagan felt he had run into a right hander from Frank Bruno when he finished up on the deck in December at Highbury. 'I could hear this terrible rendering type of noise in my ears while I was trying to work out what the heck had happened and how to get up.'

Birmingham's quiet, unassuming full back, of course, failed to beat the count after he had collided with Raphael Meade's head and bowed out after 18 minutes of the 1-1 draw with a depressed fracture of the cheek bone.

Now Birmingham City FC require a new team picture to incorporate the new character that has crept into Jim's facial features since the operation job. 'My wife says its altered my looks that way — but I don't think she reckons it's given me any film star appeal.'

Jim's happy to joke about the painful incident now which measures up the worst of his injuries, though it was difficult to crack a smile at the time. The accident which put him out of action coincided with a week when his wife was confined to bed. 'It quickly ended Christmas for the Hagan household and brought the New Year in, in a way that's best forgotten.'

Young Jamie Hagan, of two months, did not quite to have exactly fend for himself while mom and dad were off the normal domestic scene, but it was probably a good thing Hagan junior liked what Santa Claus had left in his first ever Christmas stocking to keep him occupied.

The first team involvement for the former Coventry player, which had covered both shades of Birmingham's form and results in the first four months of the season, suddenly came to an abrupt halt — and it wasn't until skipper Kevan Broadhurst was hit with influenza, at the end of the last month, that Jim reappeared in a first team shirt.

'It just goes to show how football is full of the unexpected. I remember the cross into the goalmouth, a straightforward heading clearance I thought, but the split second I made contact I felt this bang and that was it.' When the swelling went down about four days later, I saw the specialist on the Saturday and he told me that there was also a chipped jawbone just below the ear and that an operation, there and then was necessary.'

After two or three weeks, Jim was feeling right as rain again, thirsting to be back in his No. 2 shirt that he had virtually worn through — through, that is, a spell of 27 games disturbed by a two match absence in September.

'It was frustrating to be training but banned from playing in anything that could bring physical contact to complicate the healing process.'

'It was six weeks before I was given the all clear to put the boots on for real business again, a Football Combination affair that came as the first step back to a challenge for my old place.'

Jim knew it probably would be later rather than

sooner, the way the team was shaping, but he was wrong because after a couple of more warm up affairs he was drafted in and, by coincidence, it led him back to London where he had been KO'd a dozen games earlier.

However, it was a happy return, albeit initially tentative, at Tottenham where he was given the pre-match brief to make himself a big nuisance where Glen Hoddle was concerned.

'It sounded straightforward enough, but for the first half hour I wasn't quite sure whether I was coming or going in one of two situations.'

Only those who know the pace and intense demands of a competitive First Division game from the inside will know exactly what Jim Hagan means by that. Fortunately nothing detrimental occurred during that crucial half hour and the Hagan man was back in the second half joining the Blues bid for the winner which they eventually earned when Mick Harford cracked another three pointer.



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THE BLUES REPORT

● Remember this time last year? Cor Blimey, what a mess Birmingham City and Luton were in with relegation staring them in the face! How fortunes change so quickly . . . thanks to Ron Saunders and David Pleat.

Let me take you back to about a year ago when on 26th March Luton were fourth from the bottom of the First Division with Birmingham lying just one place below them.

It was a sad picture indeed with about 10 games remaining. These were the horrible statistics:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	31	8	10	13	50	64	34
B'ham	32	7	12	13	30	44	33

Norwich and Brighton were the teams below and looking in very serious trouble.

A week later after more disastrous results Blues, Luton and Brighton were filling the bottom three places all on 34 points. Norwich had started their climb to safety.

Then by 14th May and the last Saturday of the season Blues needed to make sure that they did not lose by a high score at Southampton, and Manchester City and Luton had a date with destiny at Maine Road. City needed only a draw to stay up. This was how the table looked at kick-off time:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	41	13	9	19	46	55	48
B'ham	41	11	14	16	39	55	47
Man City	41	13	8	20	47	69	47
Luton	41	11	13	17	64	84	46

Already relegated were Swansea and Brighton and Coventry could not be caught.

Coventry lost 4-2 at home to West Ham, but it did not really matter. Birmingham, who took a first-half beating without conceding a goal eventually beat Southampton with a late winner from Mick Harford.

But it was all happening at Maine Road. With the score at 0-0 with four minutes to go City



**BY IAN JOHNSON
Birmingham Evening Mail**

looked home and dry. Then substitute Raddy Antic struck. He had gone on as substitute and then scored a dream winner. This is how the table finally looked:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B'ham	42	12	14	16	40	55	50
Luton	42	12	13	17	65	84	49
Coventry	42	13	9	20	48	59	48
Man City	42	13	8	21	47	70	47

(Swansea had 41 points and Brighton 40)

In a strange way Birmingham have Luton to thank for stinging them into the necessary action to get out of trouble.

With just eight games left Blues looked dead and buried. They took a pasting at home against Norwich with former Blues striker Keith Bertschin getting two of the four goals and then were belted 3-1 by Luton at Kenilworth Road.

From then on Blues never looked back. Winning goals came in the 88th minute. Bringing successive victories against Coventry Everton and

Sunderland. They were then held 1-1 by Brighton at St Andrew's. That was followed with

a crucial home win against Spurs and then victory at Southampton.

Blues had worked a miracle and so had Luton whose boss David Pleat said after another minor miracle in Manchester: 'I am delighted for the team for it would have been an injustice if we had gone down playing attacking football all season.'

Although there has been very little change in the personnel at both clubs since they faced each other at the end of last season there is a very different atmosphere at St Andrew's and Kenilworth Road.

Luton's rise has been personalised through the selection of Paul Walsh and Brian Stein, who both won their first caps for England against France. Stein did not do too well but there was a lot of promise in the performance of Walsh.

At the same time Blues keeper Tony Coton's displays have not gone unnoticed by our international hierarchy and Mick Harford has also made his mark whenever Bobby Robson has been around.

That has all come about by the hard work and dedication put in by the players and the manager. No matter what happens here on in with Blues it has been a successful season.

Good runs in the Milk and FA Cups and good runs in the League have rekindled a great deal of interest. There is a buzz about St Andrew's now that has been missing for a long time.

The emergence of Howard Gayle is causing a lot of excitement and there is still a lot to come from him. Teamed up with Mick Harford and Robert Hopkins who has more dart and drive than a ricocheting pin-ball there is still a bundle of good football to watch at St Andrew's for the rest of the season.

A European place doesn't look possible . . . but survival last season didn't either.

TONIGHT'S VISITORS . . .

●When the Blues statistics were giving cause for concern during the so-called festive part of the season at Christmas, Luton had every reason to toast the arrival of 1984 with a smile and more optimism at Kenilworth Road.

Luton were riding high and had both Liverpool and Manchester United as the only sides between them and the top of the First Division after they celebrated a Boxing Day win over Notts County.

Manager David Pleat's all footballing outfit, with the breezy reputation of a side whose first love is attacking soccer, were in a lofty situation in the League that had not been enjoyed for a good 25 years.

As Birmingham City moved into the New Year with a challenge of a different order, Luton were in a position where, if they could maintain their results from the first-half of the season, a place in European competition might be the least of what they would finish with in May.

Though the respective circumstances of the clubs were of contrasting variety, the foundation fight for success or survival both required hard, honest graft



PAUL ELLIOTT

for 90 minutes and, since the first day of 1984, the records make it only too obvious which team has come out best.

While Birmingham have enjoyed a rainbow spell that has made them one of the most successful sides in Division One, Luton's promising fortunes have gone into reverse gear by comparison, a regrettable loss of momentum for a much admired side that threatens to undo all their earlier impressive work.

The flamboyant nature of their football saw them sail close to the wind last season, the first in the premier table again after winning the 1981-82 Second Division Championship. They plastered Division One defences throughout last term to crack in 65 goals — and only four other sides bettered that — but it was at the expense of conceding 84.

At the finish, 10 months ago, they went into a cliff-hanger against Manchester City when it was a 'them or us' crunch encounter and, with nerves stretched to breaking point, manager Pleat saw his side saved by a winner from Yugoslavian substitute, Raddy Antic.

The same kind of formula, with little modification, was the basis for Luton's new ambitions and despite an immediate setback against Arsenal in the opening match, they quickly got down to business and the goals flowed to get them underway in characteristic style with 3-0 and 4-1 wins over Leicester and Sunderland.

It's every manager's dream to have the scoring responsibilities well spread in the side for obvious reasons and it must have been a quiet source of satisfaction for the Luton boss to see how and where those goals came from. They were hit by Walsh, Hill, Bunn, Moss, Horton and Stein, and in 13 strikes, no player scored more than a single goal per game.

The Town shot six past City in the previous season but were below Blues when the final points were counted, a typical example of how adventurous the Luton style can be but, perhaps, not apparently all that successful at the end of the day.

When it was mentioned that Luton will never be on terms with the best while they stick out their chin, the manager replied with his usual honesty — 'Provided we score more than the opposition, we will continue to stick out our chins.'

The policy suffered a hic-cup in the League Cup when they failed on aggregate against Rotherham, met defeat by a wide margin at Anfield, followed by upsets against Spurs and Coventry. Yet, overall, it clearly functioned to their benefit until Christmas.

Since that time Luton have been on a winter slope when they have slipped away from an enviable spot in the League and have wrestled with a hangover that has proved very costly in terms of points.

They stumbled out of 1983 with defeats against West Ham and Sunderland and there was no joy on the New Year Bank Holiday affair against Nottingham Forest when a typical 90 minutes saw them earn nothing out of a five-goal thriller.



PAUL WALSH

Their local derby in the third round of the FA Cup against Watford took two games and embraced 11 goals — but once again, despite Luton's applaudable policies, they were left to reflect on another expensive piece of misfortune.

Four days later the odd goal in three saw Arsenal clear the table, yet, there was a brief respite with a three-point result at Molineux before the goals seemed to dry up in a period of matches that include the painful memory of a 5-0 hammering by Manchester United.

One of the reasons why the results have turned against them could be the prolonged absence of David Moss, a key man in the elite standard when it comes to pure football skills. Moss, of the silky control and positive finishing, is now fighting for match fitness again five weeks after his trip to hospital for an operation to rectify a torn stomach muscle.

A player on whom such as Stein, Walsh and others rely on for a supply of the ball from the wing, Moss has been out of contention since late October and, with last season's England cap Ricky Hill also missing a number of games in the last six weeks, it has meant a big loss of true Luton firepower.

Ricky Hill represents the jewel of the Kenilworth Road Youth policy, an ever present in last season's 42 League games with nine goals and recognition from Bobby Robson to go with it.

Luton's London-born midfielder got the international breakthrough when called off the subs bench against Denmark and was then picked afterwards for his first full game against West Germany.

More recently he has been followed by the arrival of both Paul Walsh and Brian Stein, gifted front line colleagues who picked up their debut England caps against France, when the result was an obvious disappointment but it certainly served as an opportunity for both to broaden their experience in top class football.

Walsh has been the subject of much transfer speculation this term, a player with magic control whom Mr Pleat reportedly spent £400,000 on acquiring from Charlton for the start of the previous season.

No manager wants to swap such a talented player for a sack of sterling

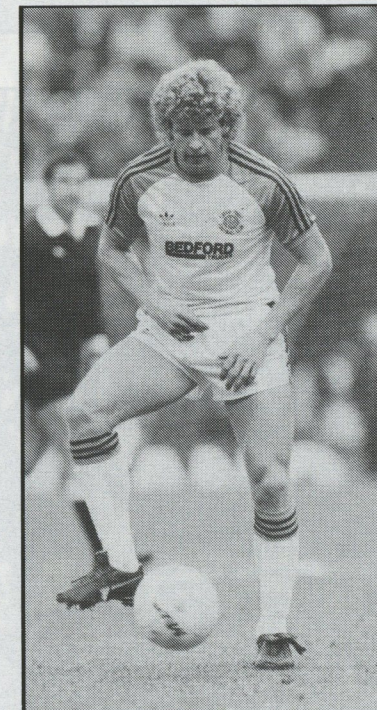
LUTON TOWN

when times are going well — but Walsh, who could reasonably be sold for a handsome profit, might become the centre of a situation that is not rare in football — Bob Latchford and Trevor Francis were similar affairs for Birmingham City.

Last season ex-Aston Villa keeper Jake Findlay featured between the posts in the majority of League games but, after four goals went past him at Highbury, in March, he lost his place to the on-loan Tony Godden, presently Albion's second choice goalkeeper.

The Luton boss placed a priority on giving his defence more security in this position after the narrow escape from Second Division football and he plumped for Coventry's Les Sealey, one of the 'old brigade' that left last summer when Bobby Gould took over to re-shape the Sky Blues.

Sealey was on the end of six at Anfield and five before his own supporters in February when Ron Atkinson's side took their chances, but three goalless draws against Villa, Liverpool and QPR in recent weeks suggest a heavier net of safety has been pulled around his goalmouth.



KIRK STEPHENS

One of the initial investments made by Luton's manager since he took over in January 1975 was Kirk Stephens, a £5,000 full-back, born in Coventry and signed from non-League Nuneaton in 1978.

This 29-year-old full-back has proved a splendid buy with over 200 senior appearances now on record for Luton and, also bought at the same time by the club, was Mal Donaghy, a central-defender who cost £20,000 from Irish club Larne FC.

Mal has been undisturbed in the defence this season and has taken his Northern Ireland caps to the 25 mark to underline the consistency of his professional work.

Alongside him is the equally ever-ready companion, Paul Elliott, just 12 months a Luton player after being captured from Charlton for a reported fee of £145,000. Paul, 20 on 18th March, is highly respected as a first class pivot prospect and more experience is certain to push this six-foot plus defender into a future candidate for an England cap.

The skipper and anchor man of midfield is 35-year-old veteran Brian Horton, a Hednesford born man of many League campaigns who came to Luton for £100,000 via Brighton and Port Vale. A shrewd link player between defence and attack, Brian is now nearing his 600th senior game.

Former apprentice, Mitchell Thomas has added more than a dozen additional first team games to a record that showed only four prior to the start of the season. He is emerging into a solid man in the full-back role and, also making his contributions in the defensive area again, has been Clive Goodyear, a 23-year-old Lincoln born player who filled the No. 5 shirt on the majority of occasions last season before the arrival of Paul Elliott.

Birmingham born Frank Bunn has made significant advance to have his most active first team season in midfield and former apprentice Gary Parker is an 18-year-old who spotlighted his growing challenge for regular senior games with his first League goal in February against Wolves.

Trevor Aylott, a £55,000 buy from Millwall last season, missed the early games but was amongst the goals in regular fashion from October until Luton's striking rate first began to dry up at the turn of the year.

BLUES BEAT COVENTRY



AND MOVE UP THE TABLE



Blues recently gained revenge for an earlier defeat in the season with a 1-0 win over Coventry at Highfield Road. Our pictures from the match show: (left) Howard Gayle losing out to Perry Suckling . . . and Robert Hopkins firing a shot past the Coventry goalkeeper. (Above) Mick Harford and Howard Gayle both want the ball with Coventry's Steve Hunt ready to challenge. Pictures courtesy of the *Birmingham Post & Mail*.

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BIRMINGHAM CITY

- 1 Tony Coton
- 2 Brian Roberts
- 3 Jim Hagan
- 4 Noel Blake
- 5 Billy Wright
- 6 Kevan Broadhurst
- 7 Howard Gayle
- 8 Martin Kuhl
- 9 Mick Harford
- 10 Pat van den Hauwe
- 11 Robert Hopkins
- 12

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: ERIC READ
Bristol
Linesmen:
J. HILDITCH, Stoke
(Red Flag)
A. FENN, Nuneaton
(Yellow Flag)

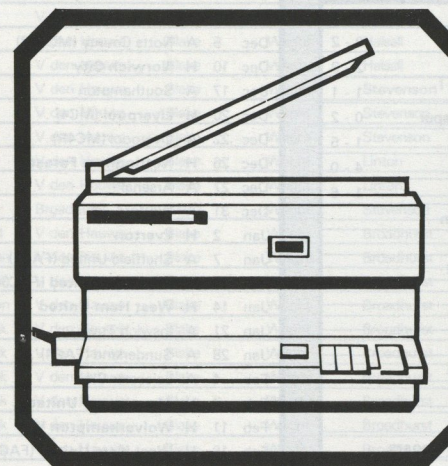
LUTON TOWN

- 1 Les Sealey
- 2 Kirk Stephens
- 3 Mitchell Thomas
- 4 Raddy Antic
- 5 Paul Elliott
- 6 Clive Goodyear
- 7 Mal Donaghy
- 8 Brian Stein
- 9 Paul Walsh
- 10 Trevor Aylott
- 11 Frank Bunn
- 12

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STATISTICS... A Look At The Blues Facts And Figures

ATTENDANCES AND DIVISION ONE TABLE 1983-84

Home	Away	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	32	12	2	3	37	15	6	8	1	26	16	64	64
Liverpool	32	11	3	2	33	9	7	6	3	18	15	63	55
Nottingham Forest	32	10	3	3	32	14	7	2	7	23	21	56	55
Southampton	30	11	3	2	24	12	5	4	5	15	13	55	55
West Ham United	32	9	3	3	33	16	7	3	7	18	20	54	54
QPR	32	10	3	3	27	10	5	2	9	20	19	50	50
Luton Town	31	6	4	4	26	25	7	2	6	18	19	45	45
Aston Villa	32	11	3	3	27	18	1	6	8	20	31	45	45
Watford	31	7	4	4	31	26	6	1	9	27	32	44	44
Tottenham	32	7	3	6	23	21	5	5	6	25	28	44	44
Norwich City	32	8	5	4	24	15	3	5	7	11	20	43	43
Arsenal	32	6	4	6	26	21	6	2	8	24	26	42	42
Coventry City	32	5	4	6	22	20	5	6	6	21	25	40	40
Everton	30	6	6	3	13	9	4	4	7	14	24	40	40
Birmingham City	31	6	2	6	15	13	5	4	8	17	23	39	39
Leicester City	31	8	4	4	31	23	2	4	9	21	30	38	38
Sunderland	31	6	7	3	21	14	3	4	8	10	27	38	38
WBA	31	6	3	5	18	19	4	3	10	16	30	36	36
Stoke City	32	8	3	5	20	19	1	5	10	10	32	35	35
Ipswich Town	32	7	2	6	24	20	2	3	12	14	30	32	32
Notts County	31	4	5	6	25	30	3	2	11	15	30	28	28
Wolverhampton	31	3	7	7	14	24	2	2	10	10	35	24	24

FOOTBALL COMBINATION FIXTURES 1983-84

Date	V	Opposition	F	A	Date	V	Opposition	F	A
Aug 30	H	Crystal Palace	6	0	Feb 14	H	Swansea City	0	2
Sept 3	A	Arsenal	0	1	Feb 18	A	Reading	2	3
Sept 9	A	Bristol Rovers	2	2	Feb 21	H	Watford	1	1
Sept 21	A	Leicester City	0	5	Feb 28	A	Tottenham Hotspur	0	2
Sept 27	H	Ipswich Town	2	3	Mar 1	H	Leicester City	1	5
Oct 1	A	Watford	1	5	Mar 6	H	Millwall	4	0
Oct 4	H	West Ham United	1	0	Mar 13	H	Chelsea	1	6
Oct 11	H	Fulham	4	2	Mar 27	H	Swindon Town		
Oct 18	A	Swindon Town	3	0	Mar 31	A	Swansea City		
Oct 22	A	Oxford United	2	2	April 3	H	Oxford United		
Oct 27	H	Tottenham Hotspur	1	0	April 7	H	Arsenal		
Nov 1	H	Charlton Athletic	3	0	April 10	H	Luton Town		
Nov 10	H	Brighton & Hove A.	5	0	April 14	A	Southampton		
Nov 22	H	Southampton	4	1	April 16	H	Bristol Rovers		
Nov 30	A	Queens Park Rangers	2	1	April 25	A	Fulham		
Dec 6	H	Norwich City	1	2	April 28	H	Reading		
Dec 13	A	Chelsea	1	0	May 1	H	Queens Park Rangers		
Jan 3	A	Charlton Athletic	5	1	May 9	A	Luton		
Jan 10	A	Brighton & Hove A.	1	3	May 12	A	Norwich City		
Jan 28	A	Ipswich Town	1	3	TBA		Crystal Palace (a)		
Feb 11	A	West Ham United	1	6			Millwall (a)		

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE & CUP FIXTURES 1983-84

Date	V	Opposition	F	A	Date	V	Opposition	F	A
Aug 27	H	Coventry City	1	1	Jan 7	A	Mansfield Town	2	1
Sept 10	H	Derby County	6	4	Jan 14	A	Wolves	0	5
Sept 17	A	Notts County	1	1	Feb 4	A	Shrewsbury Town	0	1
Sept 24	H	Aston Villa	1	2	Feb 11	H	Walsall (LC)	1	2
Oct 1	H	Shrewsbury Town	1	4	Feb 18	H	Stoke City	1	2
Oct 8	A	Walsall	7	0	Feb 25	H	Walsall	2	4
Oct 22	H	Leicester City	3	4	Mar 3	A	Derby County	0	8
Oct 29	A	Nottingham Forest	1	5	Mar 10	H	Nottingham Forest	0	5
Nov 5	H	West Brom. Albion	8	0	Mar 17	A	West Brom. Albion		
Nov 12	H	Mansfield Town	4	1	Mar 24	H	Notts County		
Nov 19	H	Wolverhampton	1	0	Mar 31	H	Port Vale		
Nov 26	A	Coventry City (LC)	2	4	April 7	A	Shrewsbury Town (LC)		
Dec 3	H	Wolverhampton (LC)	0	0	April 14	H	Stoke City		
Dec 17	A	Leicester City	2	2	April 21	A	West Brom. Albion (LC)		
Dec 31	A	Coventry City	1	2	TBA		Aston Villa		
							A Stoke City		

Please Note: Home matches played at Emdon Training Ground kick-off 10.45 am.

FIRST TEAM RECORD

Date	V	Opposition	F	A	Att	Pos
Aug 13	H	Aston Villa (Senior Cup)	1	0	11,763	—
Aug 27	A	West Ham United	0	4	19,729	—
Aug 30	A	Notts County	1	2	11,031	—
Sept 3	H	Watford	2	0	11,931	17
Sept 6	H	Stoke City	1	0	13,728	14
Sept 10	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers	1	1	15,933	10
Sept 17	H	Ipswich Town	1	0	13,159	10
Sept 24	A	Everton	1	1	15,253	12
Oct 1	H	Leicester City	2	1	15,212	—
Oct 5	A	Derby County (MC2-1L)	*3	0	13,114	—
Oct 15	A	Aston Villa	0	1	39,318	13
Oct 22	H	Tottenham Hotspur	0	1	19,016	15
Oct 25	H	Derby County (MC2-2L)	4	0	7,786	—
Oct 29	A	West Bromwich Albion	2	1	20,224	13
Nov 5	H	Coventry City	1	2	16,169	14
Nov 8	H	Notts County (MC3)	2	2	10,484	—
Nov 12	A	Luton Town	1	1	11,111	14
Nov 19	A	Queens Park Rangers	1	2	10,824	15
Nov 22	A	Notts County (MC3R)	0	0	8,268	—
Nov 26	H	Sunderland	0	1	11,948	16
Nov 29	H	Notts County (MC3R2)	0	0	9,678	—
Dec 3	A	Liverpool	0	1	24,791	17
Dec 5	A	Notts County (MC3R3)	3	1	7,361	—
Dec 10	H	Norwich City	0	1	9,971	17
Dec 17	A	Southampton	1	2	15,248	17
Dec 20	H	Liverpool (MC4)	1	1	17,045	—
Dec 22	A	Liverpool (MC4R)	0	3	11,638	—
Dec 26	H	Nottingham Forest	1	2	14,482	19
Dec 27	A	Arsenal	1	1	25,642	19
Dec 31	A	Watford	0	1	14,359	19
Jan 2	H	Everton	0	2	10,004	19
Jan 7	A	Sheffield United (FAC3)	1	1	17,202	—
Jan 10	H	Sheffield United (FAC3R)	2	0	10,888	—
Jan 14	H	West Ham United	3	0	10,334	19
Jan 21	A	Ipswich Town	*2	1	12,900	19
Jan 28	A	Sunderland (FAC4)	2	1	21,226	—
Feb 4	A	Leicester City	*3	2	13,770	19
Feb 7	H	Manchester United	2	2	19,975	19
Feb 11	H	Wolverhampton W.	0	0	14,319	18
Feb 18	H	West Ham United (FAC5)	3	0	29,570	—
Feb 25	A	Tottenham Hotspur	1	0	23,564	15
Feb 28	H	West Bromwich Albion	2	1	16,780	15
Mar 3	A	Coventry City	1	0	13,705	14
Mar 10	H	Watford (FAC6)	*1	3	40,220	—
Mar 17	A	Stoke City	1	2	13,506	15

Mar 20 H Luton Town

Mar 24 H Notts County

Mar 31 H Aston Villa

April 7 A Manchester United

April 14 H Queens Park R.

April 21 A Nottingham Forest

April 23 H Arsenal

April 28 A Sunderland

May 5 H Liverpool

May 7 A Norwich City

May 12 H Southampton

* Own Goal

1983-84 RESULTS · ATTENDANCES · APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Coton	Hagan	Stevenson	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst	Handysides ¹	Gayle	Harford	Phillips	Harford	Phillips	V den Hauwe
Coton	Hagan	Stevenson	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst	Handysides	Phillips	Harford	V den Hauwe	Hopkins	Rees	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst	Rees +	Phillips	Harford ¹	Halsall	Hopkins	Handysides	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst	Rees	Phillips	Harford	Halsall ¹	Hopkins ¹	McCarrick	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake ¹	Wright	Broadhurst	Rees	Phillips	Harford	Halsall	Hopkins	McCarrick	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright ¹	Broadhurst	Rees +	Phillips	Harford	Halsall	Hopkins	Gale	
Coton	Mumford	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst	Gayle ¹	Phillips	Harford	Halsall	Rees +	Stevenson	
Coton	Mumford	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst+	Gayle ¹	Phillips	Harford	Halsall	Rees	Stevenson	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Rees ¹	Gayle	Phillips	Harford ¹	Halsall	Hopkins	Stevenson	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Rees ¹ +	Gayle ¹	Phillips	Harford	Halsall	Hopkins	Stevenson	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Broadhurst+	Gayle	Rees	Harford	Halsall	Hopkins	Stevenson	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Rees +	Harford	Halsall	Hopkins	Phillips	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle ¹	Phillips	Harford ³	Halsall	Hopkins	Muir	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle ¹	Phillips	Harford ¹	Halsall	Hopkins	Rogers	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake ¹	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Phillips	Harford+	Halsall	Hopkins	Rogers	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Phillips ¹	Handysides ¹	Halsall	Hopkins	Kuhl	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Phillips	Kuhl	Handysides	Hopkins ¹	Rogers	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Phillips	Harford ¹	Handysides	Hopkins	Kuhl	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Phillips	Harford	Kuhl	Hopkins	Halsall	
Coton	Hagan	V den Hauwe	Blake	Wright	Stevenson	Gayle	Phillips	Harford	Handysides	Hopkins	Kuhl	

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£20,000
£16,000
£15,000
£10,000
£5,000

Up to Monday 5th March

More names in our next programme.

BLUES ROLL CALL

WORTHINGTON, Frank S. (Striker)

Born Halifax, November 1948. Began his striking with Huddersfield Town as an apprentice on leaving school in 1964, turning professional in November 1966. After appearing in 192 competitive games for the 'Terriers' (49 goals) he was transferred to Leicester City for £70,000 in August 1972. For the 'Filberts' he amassed 239 League and Cup outings (78 goals) and then moved to Bolton Wanderers in September 1977 for £87,000.

At Burnden Park he became an instant success and in 88 matches he hit another 38 goals, taking his tally to way past the 150 mark in serious competitive soccer.

He left Bolton in November 1979 signing for Blues in a £150,000 transaction, and at St Andrews he continued to upset the defences, claiming 34 goals in 88 major outings. His next move — in March 1982 — took Frank to Leeds United in a player/exchange deal involving Byron Stevenson, and £100,000 cash. For Leeds he netted 15 times in his 35 outings before going to Sunderland for £50,000, in December 1982. And then during the last close season he made another switch — this time from the North East to the immediate south — when he joined Lawrie McMenemy's Southampton.

Called eight times by England while with Leicester, Frank also collected two Under-23 caps and represented the Football League XI. During the summer of 1979 — prior to his move to Blues — Frank assisted Philadelphia Fury in the NASL.

His record in League Football up to the end of the 1982-83 campaign, looked like this: appearances 591, goals 195. A wonderful striking rate in any form of football.

WRIGHT, Patrick D. (Full-back)

Born Oldbury, November 1940. Played in the Handsworth League with Springfield Boys Club before signing apprentice forms for Blues in 1957, turning professional in November 1959. Made his League debut v Blackburn Rovers (A) during that same month after just seven Reserve team outings. Added two more League games to his tally before leaving St Andrews for Shrewsbury Town in September 1962. At the Gay Meadow Pat's career took off, and in five years he played in well over 200 games, scoring three goals. He then tried to improve his status in senior football by joining Derby County in October 1967 but appeared in only 14 first team fixtures for the 'Rams' who sold

him to Rotherham in September 1970 following a stint on loan with Southend earlier in the year. Pat came out of League soccer in England in 1972 and went over to play in the States, returning to this country in 1981.

WRIGHT, William (Defender)

Born Liverpool, April 1958. Nephew of the former England and Everton right-back, Tommy Wright, Billy spent almost eight years at Goodison Park before joining Blues in readiness for the start of the 1983-84 season.

He became associated with Everton on leaving school in 1974 and turned professional in August 1976, making his debut in League football against Leicester (H) in February 1978. That was the first of 166 in Division One for Billy during his days with the Merseysiders. He also appeared in 26 domestic Cup-ties and represented England 'B' and the Under-21s (6 caps).

Billy made his League debut in a Blues shirt in the opening game of this campaign against West Ham United at Upton Park, after having played in the pre-season friendlies.



BILLY WRIGHT

WYLIE, Ronald M. (Midfield)

Born Glasgow, August 1933. A former Scottish Schoolboy international, Ron played for Clydesdale Juniors prior to joining Notts County in 1949 at the age of 16. He turned professional in September 1950 and made his League debut in 1951.

Appeared in well over 250 games, 227 in the League, and scoring 40 goals. All his time with County was spent playing in the Second Division, and in 1956 he had the misfortune to break a leg.



RON WYLIE

County, in fact, were relegated in 1958 and Ron was transferred to Aston Villa in the November of that year for a fee of £9,500, manager Eric Houghton, who had been at Meadow Lane with Ron, completing the appropriate forms in a Birmingham Hotel.

At Villa Park, Ron weathered a shaky start to go on and appear in a total of 250 League and Cup games for the club, winning a Second Division Championship medal in 1960, a League Cup winners tankard in 1961, and collecting a runners-up prize in that competition in 1963 (when Villa met Blues).

He was voted Villa's 'Terrace Trophy' Player of the Year in 1965 and in that very same season was named 'Midland Footballer of the Year'.

He left Villa for St Andrews in June 1965 — £15,000 exchanging hands for his services.

With Blues he continued to create in midfield and before announcing his retirement from the professional scene in the summer of 1970, aged 37, Ron had added a further 149 appearances to his massive tally.

On leaving St Andrews he went back to Villa Park where he became coach, assisting in the team-work which gained Villa promotion from the Third Division in 1972. He left Villa in 1974 and joined Coventry City.

From 1976 to 1981 he was assistant-manager at Highfield Road under Gordon Milne, and afterwards had a spell as coach in Cyprus and managed the Hong Kong club, Bulova, before signing a three-year contract as manager of West Bromwich Albion in July 1982.

In his career Ron played in a total of 551 League matches for County, Villa and Blues, scoring 51 goals.

CUP RUN COMES TO AN END

● Action from Birmingham's Cup defeat against Watford . . . (left) Mick Harford challenges for possession with Watford's Kenny Jackett and Steve Terry. Birmingham's only goal of the match is put in by the outstretched leg of Watford's Steve Terry. Paul Franklin takes off — supported by Robert Hopkins.



Monday 26th March

TRUE BLUES NEWS

EVENING EVERYONE!

If you have not yet completed your crossword in the Watford programme, now is the time to do so as all correct entrants will receive a prize from THE BLUES worth £2. Please forward all entries to me at the ground to arrive not later than the 31st March — I will, of course, return your programmes to you, but if you do not wish to send them in just forward your answers.

WEST HAM WINNER

I only received one all correct entry to the above competition which was from Ian Wilkins of Sutton Coldfield. Congratulations Ian, you will be receiving a super prize from THE BLUES.
WELL DONE IAN.

It appears that a number of you got most of the answers right and just so that you know where you went wrong I have listed below the correct answers:

1. Players who have played for both West Ham United and THE BLUES include Joe Gallagher and Alan Curbishley.
2. The correct name for West Ham's ground is Boleyn Ground.
3. The first Wembley Cup Final was in 1923 when the result was Bolton 2 West Ham 0.
4. The last time THE BLUES were at Wembley was in 1956 when we lost 3-1 to Manchester City.

'KNOW THE BLUES' PRIZE QUIZ:

All correct entries to the following five questions will receive a prize

from THE BLUES worth at least £2. The closing date for entries is the 31st March.

1. What was THE BLUES original name?
2. Name the ground THE BLUES played on immediately prior to St Andrews.
3. What is the telephone number of THE BLUES information service?
4. When did THE BLUES win the League Cup and what was the result?
5. Name THE BLUES most capped player.

Looking forward to hearing from you with both the Crossword and the Quiz entries together with anything else you may wish to write about. Keep right on!

BOBBY BLUE



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BLUES SPONSORKIT

You can sponsor an item of players kit for as little as £30 and your contribution will be acknowledged in every issue of the *Blues News* for the remainder of the season.

Workers at Times Newspapers Ltd in London are the latest addition to our Sponsorkit list. Times FC (midweek evening) have contributed to Pat Van den Hauwe's tracksuit because Pat's younger brother, Rudi, plays for the paper's midweek football team!

The Sponsorkit Scheme is an ideal way to play your part in the Blues revival — apply today and help build a better Blues.

A list of players, kit items and costs is reproduced on this page, along with names of sponsors that have joined the scheme so far.

If you wish to join our Sponsorkit scheme please write to the Secretary at Birmingham City FC and enclose the correct remittance with your application. Cheques should be made payable to Birmingham City FC plc, and sent to: The Secretary, Birmingham City FC, St Andrews, Birmingham B9 4NH.

It is advisable to state an alternative item of kit or player in case your first choice is already sponsored.

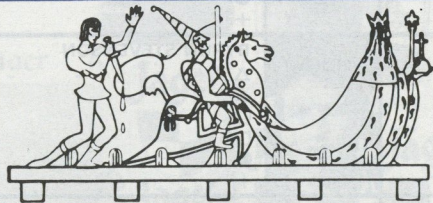
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 MARK McCARRICK ▲ ○ □ ● +	 WAYNE MUMFORD ▲ ○ □ ● +	 LES PHILLIPS ▲ ○ □ ● +
 TONY REES ▲ Gary Owen ○ □ ● +	 KEVIN ROGERS ▲ ○ □ ● +	 BYRON STEVENSON ▲ ○ □ ● +
 PAT VAN DEN HAUWE ▲ Birmingham City London ▲ Area Supporters Club ○ Boozers Corner D Club □ ● + Times FC (midweek evening)	 BILLY WRIGHT ▲ N. Firkins Quinton ▲ K. M. Lunn, Bromsgrove ○ Kidderminster Blues (Parker Arms) □ ● +	▲ £125 complete kit sponsor ▲ £30 Match Boots sponsor ○ £30 Match Kit sponsor □ £30 Training Boots sponsor ● £30 Training Kit sponsor + £30 Tracksuit sponsor

CITY CHAT...



FREIGHT ROVER AND P. J. EVANS TRUCKS HELP BLUES

Our recent home match against Albion, jointly sponsored by P. J. Evans Trucks and Freight Rover, turned into more than a special occasion when the match sponsors presented the club with a Freight Rover transporter to carry our young players and Reserve team to away matches. Blues Director Harry Parkes was on hand to receive the vehicle and is pictured above shaking hands with Sandy Matthieson (Marketing Director of Freight Rover) who made the presentation along with Tom Kitchen, the Managing Director of P. J. Evans Trucks Ltd. Our sincere thanks to both companies for their valuable assistance and sponsorship.



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by David Mamet

12 April - 12 May
British Premiere of
LAST SUMMER IN CHULIMSK
by Alexander Vampilov

Special rates for students, senior citizens, schools and parties

CITY CHAT...

IN MEMORY OF ALAN

Another special occasion that took place at St Andrew's when Blues met Albion was the unveiling of a plaque in memory of the club's former secretary Alan Instone. The plaque has been erected in the D Club and Alan's wife Phyllis was invited to perform the unveiling ceremony. Phyllis is pictured below alongside the club's chairman Keith Coombs and his wife Celia.

BLUES QUEEN

There are just under three weeks to go before the City Supporters Club Queen competition gets underway. Any girls that would like to enter the competition are asked to contact Miss L. A. Goodman at the

Supporters Club or ring 743 8716. Entrants must be over 16 years of age.

PEN-PALS WANTED

From Peter Dawson, 21 Manor Avenue, Burscough Town, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 7TH.

Peter Dawson is looking for a Birmingham City pen-friend aged 17 to 22. You can write to Peter at the above address.

From: Keith Barron, 37 Aldborough Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2RP.

I wonder if you can help me by mentioning me in your programme because I am a West Ham fan and would like a pen-pal who supports Birmingham City. My age is 24.



ATTENTION ALL PROGRAMME COLLECTORS

The 2nd Annual Blues Programme Fair will be held on **SUNDAY 1st APRIL 1984** 10.30 am to 1.30 pm In the 'D' Club, St Andrews Admission 25p True Blues admission free (Card Holders) Thousands of League and Big Match programmes for sale. Including many Blues, Wolves, Villa and WBA.

Blues at HOME

CANON LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE

**BLUES v
NOTTS COUNTY**

Saturday
24th March 1984
Kick-off 3.00 pm

BLUES NEWS VOUCHERS

A 'City Coupon' will be published in every issue of the Blues News this season. The coupon may assist you in obtaining priority on special match tickets or discount offers. Be sure to save them — they could prove valuable. A special voucher sheet will appear in a future issue of the Blues News for you to attach your City Coupon. Keep your collection going by purchasing a copy of Blues News at every home match.

CITY COUPON

BLUES v LUTON TOWN
Tuesday 20th March 1984

NUMBER

23

Cut out and
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coupon.



“George Heath not only offer an all-star line-up of new cars, but also one of the largest selections of used cars in the area—cars that have been inspected and serviced in their own workshop by trained technicians. What’s more, because business is so good, they can afford to offer the very best prices and part-exchange deals, plus a 12 month ‘no quibble’ Motorguard guarantee.



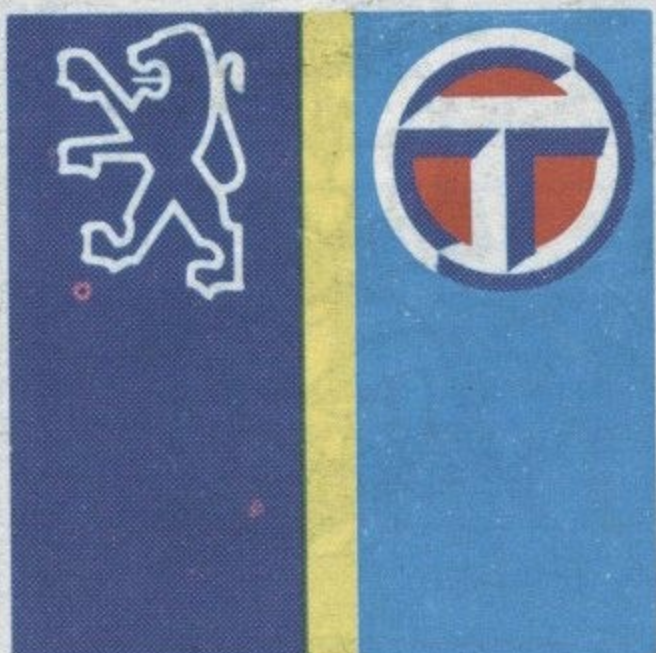
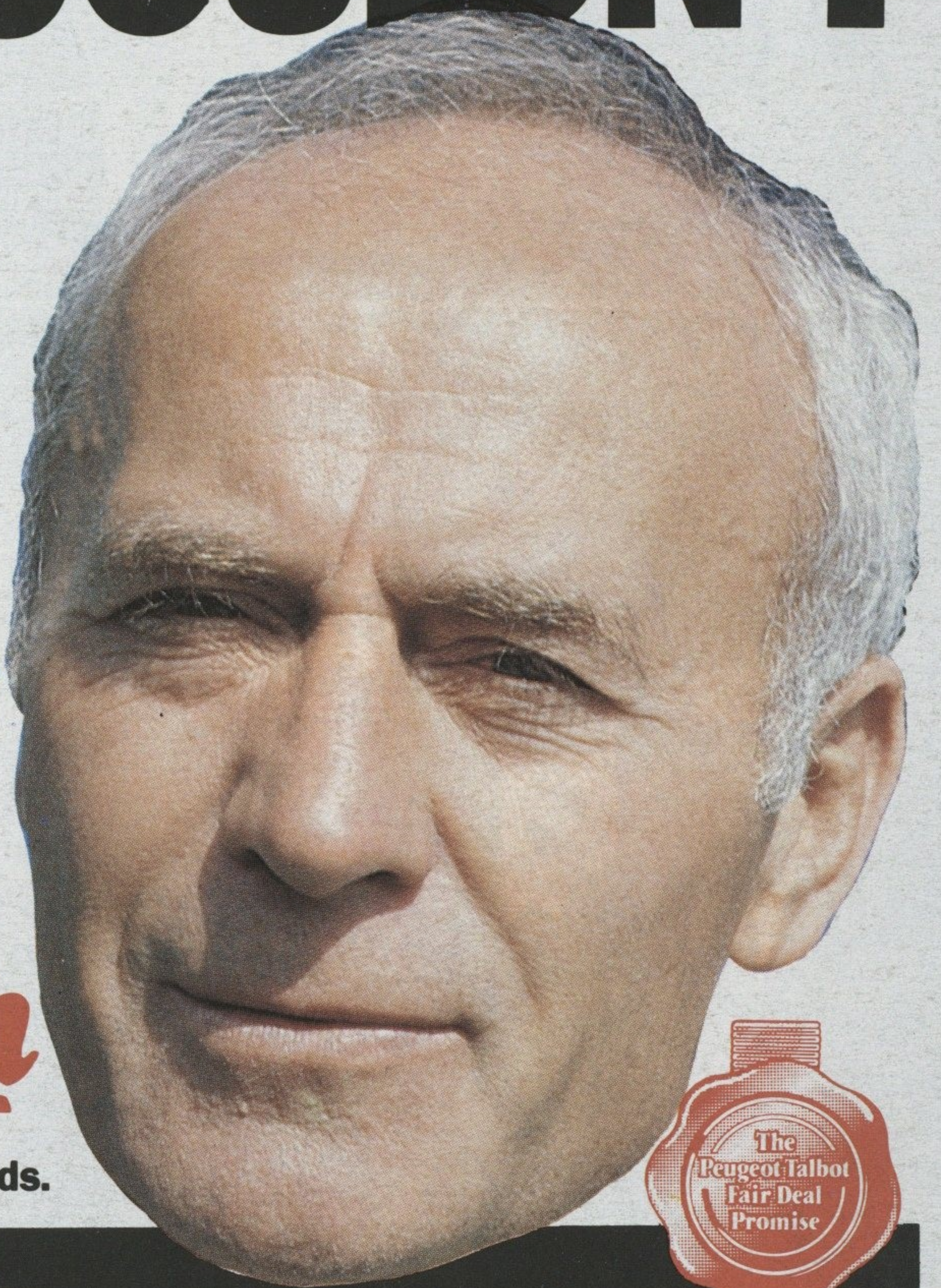
They also have a Motoquip Discount Shop (open daily), and an excellent Lease and Rental service—no wonder people say they’re top of the league when it comes to a better deal.”
 Discount on parts and labour. Priority treatment on production of this programme at any of George Heath’s locations below.

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