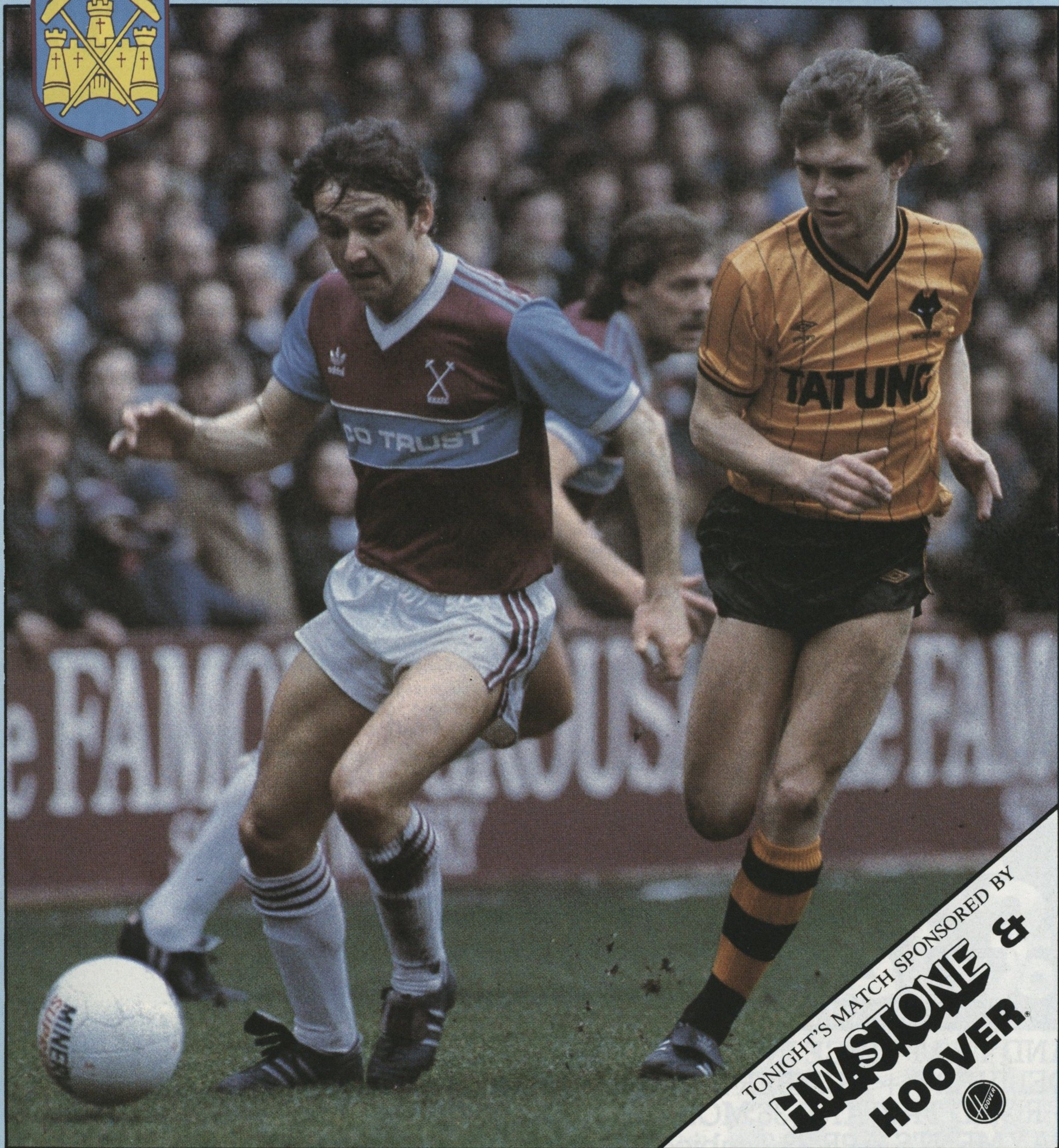


HAMMER



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Canon League Division One

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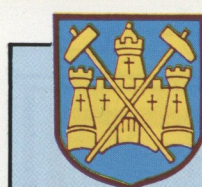


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Semi-Finalists 1963-4, 1966-7,
1971-2

Football League (Div. II):
Winners 1957-8, 1980-81
Runners-up 1922-3
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Joint Holders 1964
Runners-up 1975, 1980
Football Association
Youth Cup:
Winners 1962-3, 1980-81
Runners-up 1956-7, 1958-9,
1974-5
Semi-Finalists 1952-3

Address: Boleyn Ground — Green Street — Upton Park — London E13

Rounding the Corner

The championship of the English League has often been likened to a race... albeit a lengthy one. Perhaps, in that sense, it is better to compare it with the Grand National (with its multitude of hurdles to be overcome) rather than the Derby (which is over a shorter distance and more like the FA Cup).

However, if one does compare the soccer season with the Derby, it would be reasonable to say that the runners are about to round Tattenham Corner and prepare for the final run-in up the finishing straight.

After tonight's encounter we have half-a-dozen games remaining — three each at home and away. Although these notes were penned before last Saturday's fixture, we were well aware that the concluding month of our schedule was a vital period in our endeavours to qualify for European competition next season. That has been one of our prime targets during 1983-84, and we will be extremely disappointed if all the hard work put in by the players and coaches did not reach fruition.

It is well-known that we have suffered many setbacks through injury, so we will not dwell upon that point. The old saying that "it never rains, but it pours" has also been applicable to our administrators.

On the last day of March manager John Lyall was taken ill, and it was last Wednesday before he made a re-appearance at Chadwell Heath to supervise the training and playing schedule at first hand.

Administration-wise, our Chief Executive/Secretary, Eddie Chapman, has had a prolonged spell of physical set-backs, which are hopefully now resolving themselves to bring him back to complete health.

At such times it is comforting to know that competent deputies have been on hand to tide the club over this difficult period.

HARRY MEADHURST, RIP

Hammers' fans of the late 1930's and early 1940's will remember Harry Meadhurst as one of our goalkeepers in a "between the sticks" squad which included Jack Weare, Herman Conway, George Taylor and Ernie Gregory.

Ernie is now the sole survivor of that quintet, as Harry passed away on April 8 at the age of 68.

Born at Byfleet, Harry joined the Hammers in 1936 from Woking FC. He never lost his Surrey brogue, and was known to his more intimate friends and family as "Tink".

Harry served his "apprenticeship" in the Reserves, but his progress as a senior 'keeper was interrupted by World War II as he was in our group of Essex Territorials. However, he was able to play in numerous war-time League matches, and after demobilisation returned to take over a regular spot. Of course, the immediate post-war matches did not count as official League appearances, but records credit Harry with 24 League and nine FA Cup games for us.

Harry transferred to Chelsea in 1947, and played 145 League games for them before moving on to Brighton and Hove Albion. His PT experience in the Army (as a sergeant-instructor) helped him obtain the post of trainer and physiotherapist for Chelsea when he retired from playing, and he served the Blues until a few years ago when his son Norman took over those duties.

As one who served with Harry for a couple of years in the Army I considered it a privilege to count him as a good friend.

J.F.H.

A CONTACT WITH THE PAST

The hobby of tracing "family trees" has gained increasing interest during recent years, and we have received a number of enquiries requesting information about relatives who have been connected with West Ham United and its predecessors.

There are names in the Hammers' 80-odd years of history which do not appear in the lists of players; these are of administrators, etc, who served the club in varying capacities or who had other special connections.

We were recently contacted by Mr. Thomas Alexander Mead, a friend of one of our directors, who was enquiring about his father — Mr. Thomas Adam Mead. Research took us back to the year of formation of West Ham United FC — 1900 — and there were two entries in which Tom Mead, snr., featured.

Mr. Mead was also a journalist as well as a Hammers' fan, and the club handbook of our first season (1900-01) included a brief history of the old Thames Ironworks Club from which

West Ham United developed. Mr. Mead was also connected with the legal documents that brought about the formation of the company, and Mr. T. A. Mead (Junior) retains the link as a shareholder — though now in his 70's.

Tom Mead, Senior, developed his journalistic career and became a soccer reporter with national newspapers. We eventually unearthed an original copy from a 1914 newspaper which covered a Hammers' match v Sheffield United; it was given the by-line of "T.A.M.", the pseudonym of Mr. Mead and by which nickname he was known — "Tam". In those, and even after, World War One days, it was usual for sports reporters to use similar titles; we can recall such as "Arbiter" (the famous Frank Carruthers in 1939) and the like.

The senior Tom Mead passed away during the early 1940's, but there still remains one of the family connections which have been so much a feature of Hammers' history.

JACK HELLIAR

It's a hard life at times.



Here Dave Swindlehurst receives medical attention after a dramatic aerial collision with Peter Hucker.

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versus

LUTON TOWN



Upton Park News

FANFARE



This young lady is Gail Galatola from Windsor in Berkshire, and she makes the two-hour trek from her home to Upton Park for most of our home games.

In fact Gail is so devoted to the Hammers that she will not even let love interfere with her following of her favourite team. While her boy friend watches Chelsea, Gail cheers on the boys in claret and blue.

"My uncle used to come and watch the Hammers and I have just followed in his footsteps," she explains. "It is expensive by train but well worth it."

Gail, 20, works in the offices of Calor Gas at Slough and she is very dedicated to keeping fit and swimming.

"I have never had any problems with hooligans at West Ham's games," she says. "The seats are good but I would like to see a scoreboard for the half-time scores. Sometimes you can't hear a word that is coming out of the public address system."

"My favourite player is Trevor Brooking. He is a nice person as well as a good player. When he goes I don't know what we will do."

PROGRAMME FAIR

The Annual Programme Fair of the West Ham United Supporters Club will be held in the Club House, Castle Street, E.6. (next to the Boleyn Ground) on Easter Monday (23 April) from 10.30 a.m. Admission 25p. Any communications and further information from Mike Levy at the Supporters Club.

Canon League: Division One
v **ASTON VILLA**

Saturday 5 May — Kick-off 3 p.m.

Advance seat tickets for this match are on sale at the Ticket Office, Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., also First Team Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Postal applications are also accepted.

Seat Prices: £4.50, £5.50, £6.00 and £6.50.

We now accept Access and Barclaycard/Visa for payment of seat tickets purchased in advance.

Canon League: Division One
v **NOTTINGHAM FOREST**

Saturday 12 May — Kick off 3 p.m.

Advance seat sales for this match commence from Tuesday 24 April.

Applications may be made in person to the Ticket Office, Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. also First Team Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Seat Prices: £4.50, £5.50, £6.00 and £6.50.

We now accept Access and Barclaycard/Visa for payment of seat tickets purchased in advance.

SEASON TICKET WAITING LIST

We have commenced a waiting list of applicants for Season Tickets for next season. Applications can be made as from now to be placed on this list for East and West Stand Seating and East Terrace Standing. Please apply in writing to our Ticket Office stating for which area of the ground you require a ticket.

Ticket Office opening hours

Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. also First Team Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

SEASON TICKETS FOR 1984/85

Current Season Ticket Holders can renew their season tickets at the same rates as the final price for season 1983/84 provided applications, together with remittance, are received by **FRIDAY 4th MAY 1984**.

After this date, in line with inflation, there will be an average increase of 4½%. The closing date is 8th June 1984.

Prices are as follows:-

	Up to 4th May 1984	From 5th May to 8th June 1984
WEST STAND		
(Upper Tier)		
'A' Block (full)	£ 95	£100
'B' Block (full)	£105	£110
'C' Block (full)	£116	£120
'D' Block (full)	£105	£110
WEST STAND		
(Lower Tier)		
Category 1 (full)	£116	£120
Category 2 (full)	£105	£110
Category 3 (part)	£ 84	£ 90
EAST STAND (full)	£116	£120
EAST STAND (part)	£105	£110
EAST TERRACE (full)	£ 63	£ 66

To assist with administration, when renewing please enclose a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** (together with remittance) for the return of tickets. The First Class postal charges are:

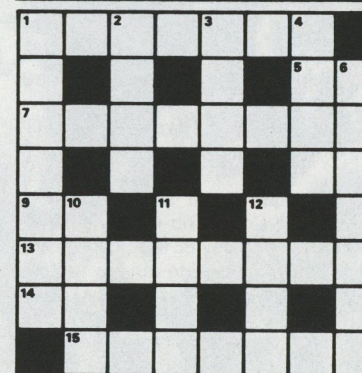
One ticket 16p; Two tickets 23p; Three tickets 29p;

Four or Five tickets 36p; Six tickets 43p.

Exostomg Season Ticket holders could also take up the option of purchasing their season tickets at the prices stated **AFTER 4th May 1984** on a three year basis on payment of the full amount for three years.

AVCO Trust are offering a loan scheme which you might be interested in. Particulars of this will be forwarded to existing season ticket holders very shortly.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- Across**
1. They make head apparel in Luton! (7)
 5. Short non-drinker (2)
 7. In charge of church or government department (8)
 8. Brief physical education (2)
 9. The Spanish (2)
 13. Put on disc (8)
 14. South eastern direction (2)
 15. The chap with the whistle (7)

- Down**
1. Familiar name for West Ham (7)
 2. Mr. Cottee at home (4)
 3. Or besides (4)
 4. Pest on a ladder (anag) (4)
 6. Rate led to work on pedal (anag) (7)
 10. Horrible look (4)
 11. Sometimes seen in sheep's clothing! (4)
 12. Rode over German river (anag) (4)

Answers

Across: 1. Hatters; 5. TT; 7. minster; 8. PE; 9. el; 13. recorded; 14. SE; 15 referee. Down: 1 Hammers; 2. Tony; 3. else; 4. step; 6. treadle; 10. leer; 11. wolf; 12. Ode.

FRONT COVER ACTION — Hammers' midfielder Paul Allen on the ball during our First Division game at Upton Park against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

SUNDERLAND'S EURO BLOW

Sunderland's shock 1-0 victory here on Saturday came as a severe blow to our aspirations of a place in next season's UEFA Cup. On the day luck was not with us. Trevor Brooking was oh so close with this header (pic 1), while Alvin Martin (far right) sees his header strike the bar (pic 2). Tony Cottee was sent sprawling by goalkeeper Chris Turner (pic 3) but no penalty was awarded and in pic 4 Trevor Brooking knocks in a fine cross as former Hammer 'Pop' Robson (right) closes in . . . Afterwards John Lyall said: "Tonight's game against Luton is vital — we must win to stay in contention for Europe."



Pictures by STEVE BACON "Newham Recorder".

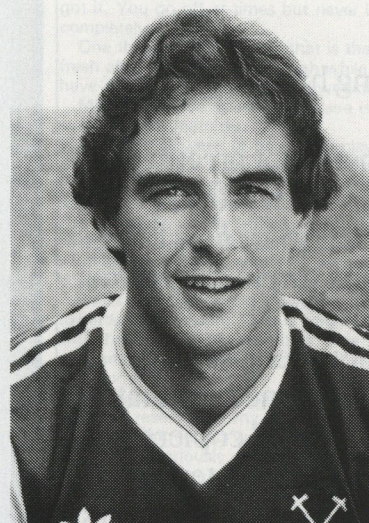
Match Review

by JACK HELLIAR

Football Combination

It was "slaughter in the afternoon" when Reading Reserves visited us at Upton Park on Tuesday 10 April. The Biscuitmen had already conceded 104 goals in 31 Combination fixtures this season, and we increased the average by knocking in eight without reply. The scoring details are sufficient to describe the match; we led three-nil at half time; Paul Goddard and Bobby Barnes netted two apiece (one of Bobby's was a penalty conversion), and it was one each to Terry Baker, Paul Brush, Greg Campbell and Paul Goyette.

There was no Combination fixture last Saturday (April 14), but we have a re-arranged home date with Southampton next Saturday (April 21).



PAUL BRUSH put his name on the scoresheet against Reading.

S.E. Counties League Senior Division

Our opponents in the Final of the Senior Division Cup will be Chelsea, who beat Arsenal by 4-1 in their Semi-Final at Highbury.

Junior Division

We met Brentford in the Junior Division Cup Semi-Final at Upton Park on April 9. The only goal was scored by Steve Fletcher during the second half. We thus qualified to meet Wimbledon in the Final; the Dons defeated top-of-the-

MATCH FACTS

Football Combination

March 10, 1984

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 1

WEST HAM UNITED (1) 3

Team: Vaughan; Spiers, Brush, Donald, McPherson, Martin, Skinner, Schiava, Campbell, Pike, Parris. Sub: Bickles. Scorers: Parris, Pike, Skinner.

March 17, 1984

LUTON TOWN (0) 1 WEST HAM UNITED (1) 5

Team: McAlister; Potts, Brush, Donald, McPherson, Martin, Parris, Goddard, Campbell, Keen, Schiavi. Scorers: Goddard 2, Campbell, Martin, Parris.

March 24, 1984

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0

WEST HAM UNITED (1) 3

Team: McAlister; Potts, Brush, Donald, Martin, McPherson, Whitton, Schiavi, Campbell, Dickens, Pike. Sub: McGiven. Scorers: Whitton 2, Pike

March 27, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 1

LEICESTER CITY (1) 2

Team: McAlister; Spiers, Brush, Parris, Martin (Parr 42), McPherson, Whitton, Schiavi, Campbell, Dickens, Pike. Scorer: Dickens.

April 10, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (3) 8 READING (0) 0

Team: Lake, Parris, Brush, Donald, Baker, Hilton, Goyette, Goddard, Campbell, Dickens, Barnes. Sub: Matthews. Scorers: Barnes 2 (1 pen), Goddard 2, Baker, Brush, Campbell, Goyette.

South East Counties League (Senior Division)

March 10, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (2) 5 GILLINGHAM (0) 1

Team: Lake; Potts, Crumpton, Doyle (Parr), Baker, Timson, Keen, Pye, Matthews (E. Dolan), McMenemy, Goyette. Scorers: McMenemy 2; Keen, Matthews, Parr.

March 17, 1984

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (1) 2 WEST HAM UNITED (1) 2

Team: Powell, Attwood (M. Doyle), Crumpton, Spiers, Baker, Bickles, Parr, Goyette, Matthews, McMenemy, Pye. Scorers: Baker, McMenemy.

March 24, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 1

IPSWICH TOWN (1) 3

Team: Lake; Attwood, Spiers, Doyle, Bickles, Timson, Parr, Keen, Mayes, E. Dolan, Goyette. Sub: Sims. Scorer: Dolan.

March 31, 1974

WATFORD (2) 5 WEST HAM UNITED (0) 1

Team: Lake; Spiers (M. Doyle), Timson, Parr

(Reed), Baker, Bickles, Potts, Keen, Matthews, McMenemy, Pye.

Scorer: Potts.

April 7, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (2) 4 MILLWALL (0) 0

Team: Lake; Potts, Timson, Keen, Baker, Bickles, Parr, Ince, Matthews, McMenemy, Goyette. Scorers: Ince 2, Matthews, McMenemy.

South East Counties League Cup Semi-Final

March 12, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (2) 2 NORWICH CITY (3) 4

Team: Lake, Spiers, Crumpton (E. Dolan), Potts, Baker, Bickles, Keen, Skinner, Matthews, McMenemy, Goyette. Scorers: McMenemy, Goyette.

South East Counties League Cup Semi-Final

April 2, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 2 WATFORD (0) 1

Team: Lake; Potts, Spiers, Parr, Baker, Bickles, Keen, Skinner, Matthews, McMenemy, Goyette. Subs: Timson, E. Dolan. Scorers: Matthews, Potts.

South East Counties League (Junior Division)

March 10, 1984

OXFORD UNITED (0) 2

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 1

Team: Overall; Winder, Webber, Attwood, Harper, Reed, Fletcher (Dutton), Meredith (Walker), Mayes, Ince, Paterson. Scorer: Mayes.

March 17, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 3 READING (1) 4

Team: Lake; Winder, Patterson, Timson, Reed (Wilkinson), Dutton (Ablitt), Fletcher, Keyes, E. Dolan, Ince, Mayes. Scorers: Mayes 2, Dolan.

March 24, 1984

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (2) 3

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 2

Team: Overall, Walker, Webber, Winder, Harper, Keyes, Reed, Ince, Fletcher, Dutton, Pye. Sub: Ablitt. Scorer: Dutton 2.

March 31, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (2) 4 LUTON TOWN (1) 2

Team: Powell; Harper (Walker), Keyes, Attwood, Winder, Ince, Fletcher, Dolan, Dutton, Mayes, Henry. Scorers: Dolan, Fletcher, Ince, Mayes.

South East Counties League Junior Cup Semi-Final

April 9, 1984

WEST HAM UNITED (0) 1 BRENTFORD (0) 0

Team: Overall; Spiers, Crumpton, Fletcher, Bickles, Timson, Ince, Parr, Mayes, McMenemy, Pye. Scorer: Fletcher

table Swindon Town by 4-2 in their Semi-Final at the County Ground.

The Unexpected

There were two unexpected events here last Saturday.

The first was the re-appearance of "Pop" Robson on the playing-pitch of Upton Park; the 38-year-old ex-Hammer had a wealth of experience to draw upon, and he used it to advantage in the endeavours to raise his present club from the relegation zone.

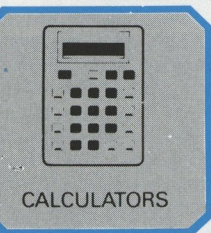
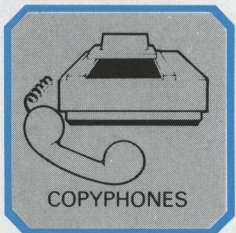
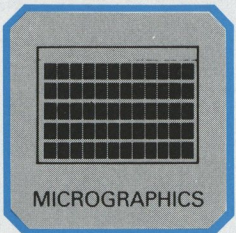
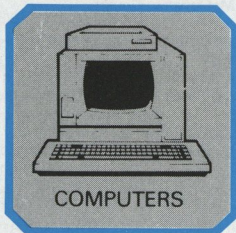
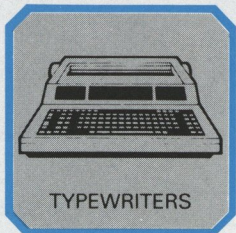
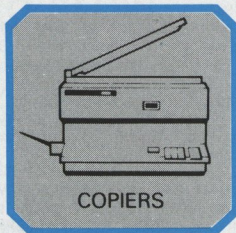
The second unexpected occurrence was Sunderland's victory. Their solitary goal was a somewhat haphazard affair, but it was sufficient to earn them the vital three points that they needed so desperately.

Overall it was a series of rather scrappy exchanges that took place on a glorious sunny afternoon that merited a more joyful performance. Unfortunately events took a turn that left us dejected at the end of the day, and we can but hope that tonight's events will be of a happier nature.

S.E. Counties League — Senior Division

At one stage of last Saturday's game at London Colney we led Arsenal by three-nil, Paul McMenemy having scored twice and Eamonn Dolan once. The Gunners reduced their arrears before the interval and netted another in the second half, but we staved them off to gain a deserved 3-2 victory.

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Canon has a long-standing tradition of involvement with the international sporting community – backed by a well-earned reputation for quality and reliability as a manufacturer of cameras and copiers.

Canon expertise in precision optics and electronics extends to other areas as well: Calculators, Copyphones, Computers, Typewriters and Micrographics.

Canon products are designed to make work more productive and leisure more exciting! The Canon tradition coupled with the excitement of football – a winning combination!

We hope you enjoy today's game.

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THERE is no doubt about it this has been a very bad season for me personally. Injuries and more injuries have just limited me to four first team outings so far.

I wouldn't say it has been a waste of time but it has been very frustrating. I am not a good watcher where West Ham are concerned, I want to get in there and lend a hand, but it is from the stand that I have seen most of my football this year.

I seem to have had more comeback attempts than Frank Sinatra. Just as it seemed I had got over my most serious injury – which resulted in an operation on my toe – I twisted my ankle and so followed another three weeks or so of recuperation.

I hope that is the end of it now . . . I don't think I could take any more to be honest but you never know in this game. Touch wood my ankle is feeling a lot stronger and it did me a power of good to score two goals against Reading reserves last week.

I miss playing football whether it is on Hackney Marshes or West Ham. I just love playing and I would play in the local park on a Sunday if I could, so being unable to kick a ball has a great effect on me.

At the moment I don't know whether I will get a few games in the First Division before the end of the season or not. I am feeling quite good and would hope that I can get back to full fitness before the end of the campaign but as to whether I shall get back in the side that is another question.

The goals have been coming but Reserve team football is a lot different to the big league . . . I don't think I have failed to score in a reserve game yet and scored one or two good goals, but you can't compare that football with the First Division.

You never loose the knack for scoring if you have got it. You go off at times but never loose it, completely.

One thing is for sure and that is that I should be fresh after this lay-off, although while being injured I have done more training than I would normally do.

Mind you I love training but there is really no substitute for matches.

You train all week to be able to play the match on Saturday, there is a good reason for doing it. When you train all week and don't get a match at the weekend it is a bit hard.

But I haven't really got anything to complain about. It is a great life working every day to make yourself fit, there are plenty of people who would change places with me.

Realistically I suppose I have got to be looking towards next season. Time is running out this term and I have just got to take it as it comes. At this moment I am not anticipating anything or expecting anything.

The main thing is to keep on playing whether it be in the reserves or any other side. It was suggested to me last week that this catalogue of injuries had seriously dented my England career. My answer was that I haven't got an international career. International football is the furthest thing in my mind right now, it has got to be, until I have proved myself back in the First Division.

The priority is fitness, then match fitness and selection for West Ham United.

Paul Goddard



LUTON



PAUL WALSH

LUTON TOWN, a team full of fresh hope following their narrow escape from relegation to the Second Division last May, have firmly shown this season that they are not only capable of holding their place in the top sphere but of making an impact as well.

Adventurous and entertaining, they might not be the most efficient side in the First Division, but despite some deficiencies in their defensive record they have managed to string together some fine results and when they beat Notts County 3-0 last Christmas, it was enough to push the Hatters into third place in the League table.

Since then they have lost their way a little with just one victory in 12 games but the selection of strikers Paul Walsh and Brian Stein for the England team which met France in Paris last February is an indication of the quality of the players at David Pleat's disposal.

The Luton boss has issued a stern "hands off" warning to the likes of Liverpool and Manchester United as speculation follows the fortunes of the brilliant Walsh.

Walsh and Stein, a proven success at England Under-21 level, found the elevation to full international status a little hard going. It was perhaps unfortunate that their selection should come at a time when they were experiencing a lean time in front of goal. No doubt they will be afforded further opportunities to show their paces on the international stage.

At Luton they have no restrictions. Manager David Pleat tried last season to tighten up the Hatters' defence but in retrospect believes that was the cause of their demise.

He explains: "We scored 25 goals in our first 10 League games last season and I then tried to improve our overall standard by tightening up at the back. We did not concede as many goals as before but we lost our power up front and stopped scoring. Before we knew it we had dropped into the relegation battle."

THE MAN IN CHARGE

DAVID PLEAT — Soccer thinker and fully qualified F.A. Coach, has quietly earned an enviable reputation in this his first job as a Manager of a League side.

Promoted to the Manager's office in the spring of 1978, he inherited a team on the slide, and it took two years to turn it round.

After going close in season 1979/80 and 1980/81, Pleat finally achieved an ambition of taking Luton to the 1st Division as Champions after a record season in which they lost only four games in season 1981/82.

His loyalty to Luton stretches back to the mid-sixties. After playing for England at Youth level, he joined Luton from Nottingham Forest and played on the wing for three seasons.

A back injury finished his playing career at Peterborough United, but he stayed in the game as a Coach and learned the hard business of management on a limited budget as boss of Nuneaton. He rejoined Luton as Reserve team coach in 1975 and succeeded Harry Haslam as Manager three seasons later.



So Luton's young boss is playing to his team's strengths and that means going forward.

Last close season he made only one addition to the playing staff, that of goalkeeper Les Sealey from Coventry City. It cost £70,000 but Sealey has taken over from Jake Findlay who missed the latter part of last season through injury.

The defence in front of Sealey comprises of Kirk Stephens and Thomas at fullback with Paul Elliott and Clive Goodyear in the central defensive positions, although recently Mal Donaghy has been preferred to Goodyear.

At the start of the season Northern Ireland international Donaghy occupied the No. 3 shirt but the emergence of young Thomas resulted in the former Larne player being pushed into midfield where he did a ball winning job.

There was much relief last summer when skipper Brian Horton eventually put pen to contract and signed after speculation as to the former Brighton midfielders' future. It seemed at one stage that he wanted to seek a fresh challenge.

Horton's influence extends well past the barrier of the playing field and his experience is needed to stabilise the young players around him.

Partnering him in midfield will be David Moss, who plays wide on the left and teenager Tim Breacker who is covering for the injured Ricky Hill. Hill, a first team regular for six years, became an England international last season. However he has missed the last seven matches after a hamstring operation but resumed light training last week and hopes to make a 25th birthday return at Coventry next month.

Other players to appear this season have included midfielder Wayne Turner, who can also play at fullback; and Yugoslav international Raddy Antic who finds himself on the substitutes bench more often than not. Chukwuemeka Nwajiobi, made quite

an impression as a striker with delicate touch and Frank Bunn, who has emerged through the apprentice ranks has also been in contention.

The Luton squad:

LES SEALEY. Freedom of contract and a major team rebuilding job resulted in Luton changing their goalkeeper last summer. Jake Findlay, decided not to accept a new contract after 5 years with Luton, while at Coventry new Manager Bobby Gould was making changes. Les Sealey was happy to leave the Sky Blues after well over 100 League appearances for them, and Luton signed him for £70,000.

KIRK STEPHENS. David Pleat went back to his old club Nuneaton to sign this right back. It wasn't long before he was a regular in the side. Not very tall but his speed, tackling and accurate passing have made him a vital link in the Club's success.

MITCHELL THOMAS. Was given the opportunity to join the Town through the Manpower Services scheme and made such an impression that he was offered a contract. Aged 19, a local boy, has all the attributes that a full back needs. Made his first team debut in the Milk Cup match at Charlton last season and has also won England Youth Team Caps.

MAL DONAGHY. One of Pleat's first signings from Larne, Northern Ireland in the summer of 1978. The classy defender is now a regular in the Northern Ireland side. Can play either in defence or midfield. Scored eight goals during record breaking promotion season.

PAUL ELLIOTT. Manager Pleat went to Charlton with a £100,000 cheque to buy Paul Elliott and plunged him straight into the team. A Londoner, Elliott's height and pace marked him out as an outstanding prospect when he joined Charlton straight from

THE HATTERS' LEAGUE FORM GUIDE

Opponents	F	A	Scorers
Arsenal	1	2	Own goal
Leicester City	3	0	Bunn, Moss, Hill
SUNDERLAND	4	1	Hill, Walsh, Stein, Own goal
NORWICH CITY	2	2	Elliott, Stein
Manchester Utd.	0	2	
WOLVES	4	0	Walsh, Stein, Moss, Horton
Nott'm. Forest	0	1	
ASTON VILLA	1	0	Moss (pen)
Everton	1	0	Walsh
SOUTHAMPTON	3	1	Aylott 2, Stein
Liverpool	0	6	
Queens Park R.	1	0	Elliott
BIRMINGHAM C.	1	1	Stein
TOTTENHAM H.	2	4	Stein, Walsh
Watford	2	1	Stein, Bunn
COVENTRY CITY	2	4	Aylott, Own goal
Stoke City	4	2	Walsh 3, Daniel
WEST BROM. A.	2	0	Horton (pen), Aylott
Notts County	3	0	Aylott 2, Daniel
WEST HAM UTD.	0	1	
Sunderland	0	2	
NOTT'M FOREST	2	3	Walsh, Nwajiobi
ARSENAL	1	2	Own goal
Wolverhampton W.	2	1	Parker, Walsh
Aston Villa	0	0	
MANCHESTER U.	0	5	
LIVERPOOL	0	0	
Southampton	1	2	Donaghy
QUEENS PARK R.	0	0	
IPSWICH TOWN	2	1	Aylott 2 (1 pen)
Norwich City	0	0	
Birmingham City	1	1	Stein
LEICESTER CITY	0	0	
Ipswich Town	0	3	
EVERTON	0	3	
Tottenham Hotspur	1	2	Parker

Scorers: WALSH 9; Stein 8; Aylott 8 (1 pen); Moss 3 (1 pen); Bunn 2; Daniel 2; Elliott 2; Horton 2 (1 pen); Hill 2; Parker 2; Donaghy 1; Nwajiobi 1; Own goals 4.

school, and he holds eight England Youth international caps. Age 19.

BRIAN HORTON. On joining Luton from Brighton he was immediately made Captain. Played a big part in the Second Division promotion season and only missed two games through injury last term. This campaign is his third at Luton and he seems destined for a coaching/managing post when he bows out.

PAUL WALSH. David Pleat gave Charlton a big cheque with Luton's standards to secure this lively forward. A regular England U21 player and gained a first full cap against Australia during England's summer tour this year. A fast mover with excellent ball control. Stands only 5ft 7ins tall. Missed only one game last season and scored 13 goals including three hat-tricks.

FRANK BUNN. Born in Birmingham, is a reliable goal scorer for the reserve side. Made only 5 League appearances last season. Signed pro forms in May 1980 after being an apprentice for twelve months. Strong forward with good skill and ability to shield the ball.

BRIAN STEIN. Was playing for Edgware Town when Luton persuaded him to try his luck as a full time pro in October 1977. Within a month he made his 1st team debut against Manchester City in the League Cup.

OUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(Hammers' scores first)

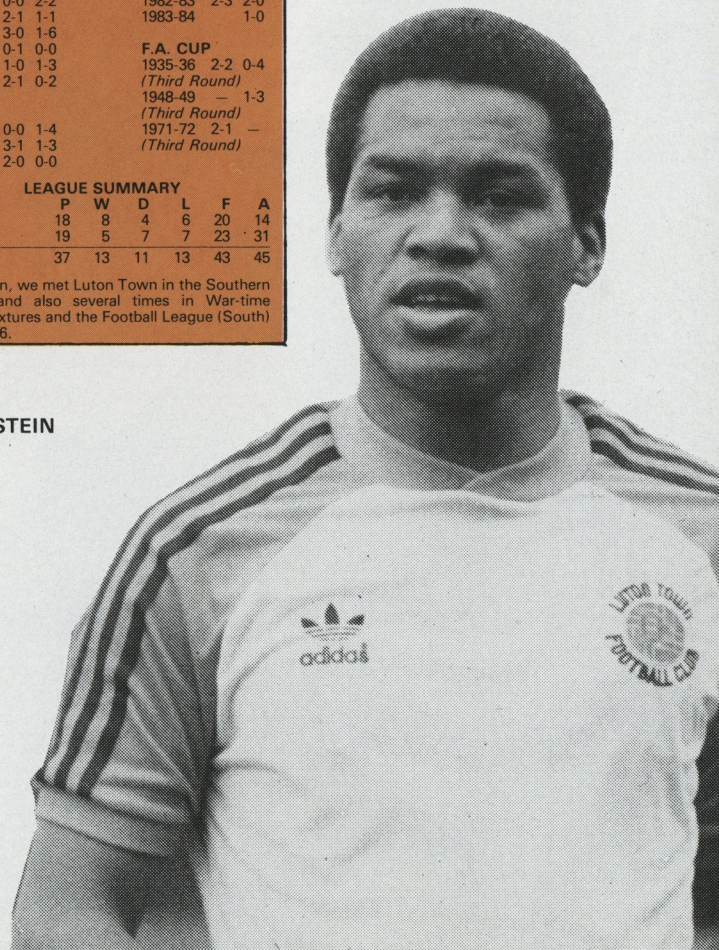
DIV. II	H	A	DIV. II	H	A
1937-38	0-0	2-2	1978-79	1-0	4-1
1938-39	0-1	2-1	1979-80	1-2	1-1
1946-47	2-1	1-2	1980-81	1-2	2-3
1947-48	0-0	0-0			
1948-49	0-1	1-0	DIV. I		
1949-50	0-0	2-2	1982-83	2-3	2-0
1950-51	2-1	1-1	1983-84		1-0
1951-52	3-0	1-6			
1952-53	0-1	0-0	F.A. CUP		
1953-54	1-0	1-3	1935-36	2-2	0-4
1954-55	2-1	0-2	(Third Round)		
			1948-49		1-3
			(Third Round)		
DIV. I			1971-72	2-1	-
1958-59	0-0	1-4	(Third Round)		
1959-60	3-1	1-3			
1974-75	2-0	0-0			

LEAGUE SUMMARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	18	8	4	6	20	14
AWAY	19	5	7	7	23	31
TOTAL	37	13	11	13	43	45

In addition, we met Luton Town in the Southern League and also several times in War-time League fixtures and the Football League (South) of 1945-46.

BRIAN STEIN



Last time here in the League

WEST HAM UTD. (1) 2
LUTON TOWN (1) 3
January 4, 1983

West Ham Utd: Parkes, Stewart, Gallagher, Dickens, Martin (Morgan 88), Devonshire, Van der Elst, Cottee, Clark, Allen, Pike (Capt.).
Luton Town: Findlay, Stephens, Thomas, Horton (Capt.), Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Bunn (Kellock 86), Walsh, Turner, Moss.
Scorers: Cottee (20), Walsh (38, 75, 89), Clark (67).
Referee: T. Spencer (Salisbury).

Missed nearly half of last season after breaking a bone in his foot. Was capped by England against France in February.

RADDY ANTIC. Luton's first continental signing. They got him for a bargain price after he had played for Zaragoza in Spain. Born in Yugoslavia, he is the holder of 5 caps. Effective in defence and midfield, has the ability to bend shots both ways.

DAVID MOSS. Played for nine seasons for his local club Swindon Town mainly in the 3rd Division. Cost £110,000. Makes goals and takes them and is well over the 130 total in the League. Nearly 30 he is the penalty taker.

TREVOR AYLOTT. A Londoner, began his career at Chelsea and then moved to Barnsley after a brief loan spell at Q.P.R. Big, strong and brave, he was with Millwall when Luton signed him for £50,000 fee late last season.

THE
Paul
Hilton
FILE



When Paul kicked off this season with Bury in the Fourth Division he had no inkling that by the turn of the year he would be a First Division player.

Born in Oldham on October 8, 1959, he found that he did well in schoolboy football and at the age of 15 was signed as an Associated Schoolboy by Blackpool. However, although they released him a year later, he went on to play three times for the England Schoolboys Under-18 team as a centre forward.

At the age of 17 he signed for Bury and made his senior debut for them in a League Cup (First Round) tie against Wrexham in August 1978.

Paul then made his League debut at Swindon Town in the opening game of that season (19.8.78) but injury intervened and he finished what had promised to be a great season with only 9 appearances.

The following season Paul scored five goals in 28 outings but in 1980-81 crowned his best season yet by finishing as the 'Shakers' second highest scorer in the Fourth Division, with 13 goals.

Even so manager Jim Iley had some misgivings about him as a striker and when injuries forced a reshuffle Paul found himself at the heart of the defence. He was so impressive there that he played centre-half in all but two of his 41 games that season, and from then on was never really considered for a front-line role although he was drafted into midfield on occasions.

In 1982 Paul was named as the Fourth Division's outstanding centre-half in the PFA Awards, a title he retained the following year.

He was in the Bury team that played us in the Milk Cup Second Round in October but when manager Jim Iley told him that the Hammers were interested in signing him last February Paul says "I was stunned."

There were no complications and he made his senior debut for us in midfield against Watford, at Upton Park on Tuesday February 21st.

Full Name: Paul Hilton
Birthplace: Oldham
Height/Weight: 6ft 2ins/12st 6lbs
Nickname: None
Family: 3 brothers, Graham 33, Brian 26, Colin 22
Trade before turning pro: None
Hobbies: Cricket, snooker
Favourite meal: Steak
Favourite TV Show: Minder and most sports programmes
Musical taste: Various
Biggest influence on career: Father
Personal Ambition: To earn a regular place in the first team.

PAUL'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD

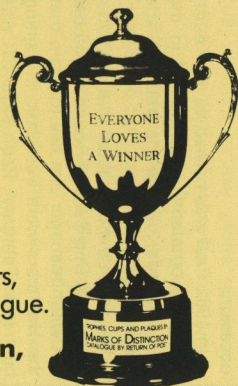
Season	Club	League		Goals			
		App	Sub	FL	FLC	FAC Total	
1978-79	Bury	6	3	1	0	0	1
1979-80	Bury	27	1	5	0	2	7
1980-81	Bury	24	8	13	0	2	15
1981-82	Bury	41	—	7	—	—	7
1982-83	Bury	19	—	7	0	1	8
1983-84	Bury	19	—	6	—	—	6
	West Ham	3	—	1	0	0	1
Totals		139	12	40	0	5	45

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DAILY MIRROR — at the West Ham United versus Queens Park Rangers game, Big Three bingo cards were given, and a considerable amount of prize money was made available to West Ham United football supporters.

We are pleased to say that on the day people made direct claims prior to half time and were presented with their cash — these winners were:

Ivan Peoples of 13 Queen Gardens, Rainham, Essex.

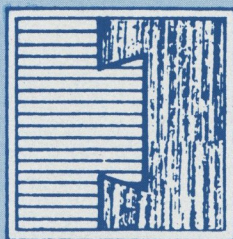
P. Cox of 84 Highland Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

C. Blanking of 52 Northington Road, Leyton, E.10.

L. Strom of 9 Coniston Gardens, Redbridge, Ilford, Essex.

R. Chalklin of 5 Highbrooms Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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Commercial NEWS

BY
**BRIAN
BLOWER**

JOIN OUR TEAM — CANVASSERS WANTED

Due to the expansion of our Commercial Department's Lottery operations, we require door-to-door canvassers and canvassers to call on shops in the following areas — Brentwood, Romford, Barking, Dagenham, Ilford and Newham. If you feel that you would like to join our team, earning good commissions, then telephone our Commercial Office on 472 5756. It pays to be part of our team.



TONIGHT'S MATCH-BALL SPONSOR

Best Wishes to the Hammers for today's game from all at

JACEY FUNDRAISERS

Printers of West Ham lottery tickets



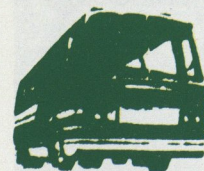
IRONS' TRAVEL CLUB — AWAY TRAVEL TO SOUTHAMPTON



On Saturday 21st April we are away to Southampton. Unfortunately for this game we will be operating only coach travel —

Departing Upton Park 10.30 a.m.
Return fare £4.00.

No rail travel will be run by West Ham United F.C., Irons' Travel Club, due to restrictions imposed by Southern Region British Rail.

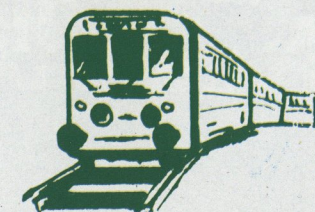


IRONS' TRAVEL CLUB — AWAY TRAVEL TO MANCHESTER UNITED

On Saturday 28th April we are away to Manchester United.

For this game we will be operating two forms of travel —
By Rail — Departing Euston 10.43 — arrive Warwick Road 13.55.
Depart Warwick Road 17.36 — arrive Euston 20.53 —
Return fare £8.00.

By Coach — Depart Upton Park 8.30 a.m. — Return fare £7.00.



IT'S NEW ★ IT'S HERE SUPERMATCH LOTTERY



PLAY SUPERMATCH

How would you like to win £1,000 in cash or a host of other exciting prizes? Well — from now on — all readers of 'The Independent' get a great chance in the new West Ham United/Independent Supermatch Lottery game. It is great fun, so easy to play — all you have to do is buy a ticket from a 'Supermatch' lottery agent, and match it up with the grid published each week in 'The Independent' (Free newspaper). If your symbols match up — Bingo — you have won one of the top prizes. It's as easy as that!

Each week a full list of agents will be published alongside the grid. A number of local newspapers will also be selling the tickets, and stocking copies of 'The Independent', and in the near future we will be commencing a regular door-to-door service where the 'Independent' is delivered — so if you receive the free 'Independent' newspaper, make sure you don't miss the chance of winning one of the super prizes, by buying a Supermatch ticket from the Commercial Office tonight. So look out for your local West Ham United Supermatch agent and the 'Independent' each week, together we make a winning team for you.

If you live in the area where 'The Independent' is delivered, and would like to become a 'Supermatch' agent, contact Phil Coultridge at West Ham United on 01-472 7352 and join our winning team.

IN RESERVE



Greg Campbell wins the ball cleanly in the air during our Football Combination match against Leicester City.

BRENTFORD HAMMERED 8-0



Paul McMenemy rises above the Brentford defence.



Glen Bickles is the young Hammer holding off this challenge.

Pictures by Steve Bacon "Newham Recorder"



Letters from our Supporters

PEN PALS

I am a Newcastle United fan but I used to live in Boleyn Road, Forest Gate and so I am interested in West Ham United as well. Through your programme I would like to seek a female pen-pal aged 20-plus and would be grateful if you would publish this letter.

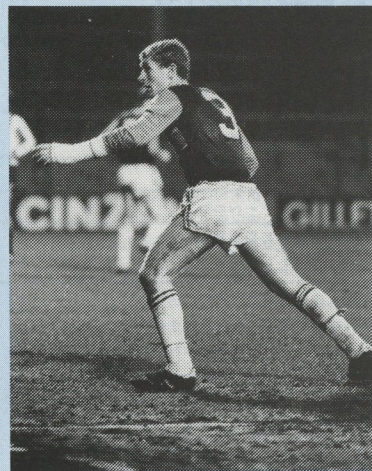
Philip Rose,
19 Ravensdale Grove,
Blyth,
Northumberland.

If you are interested then please write to Philip direct.

BONDS AND BROOKING

Now that Billy and Trevor are in the 'Autumn' of their careers — although Bonzo would doubtless strongly dispute this — it seems an appropriate moment to pay tribute to their immense contribution to West Ham Football Club, comparable to that of Moore, Hurst and Peters in a previous era.

Whilst Trevor Brooking was the magnet that first enticed me to Upton Park it took a little longer to appreciate



Young Dean Crumpton is not going to let a little thing like a broken wrist stop him playing football. Dean is seen here, with his wrist still in plaster, in his usual No. 3 shirt, playing for the Youth team against Brentford, in the replay of the South East Counties League Junior Cup semi-final, at Upton Park.

the sterling qualities of Billy Bonds. The F.A. Cup semi-final tie versus Everton at Villa Park in 1980 changed my thinking radically; there, Bill played the game of his life, literally covering every blade of grass and at the end of the match had sufficient energy to lead his team 'at the double' towards the Witton stand to thank the Hammer fans congregated there.

Trevor has provided so many magical moments — here are just two that come to mind. A demonstration of his complete two-footedness with two superb scoring shots, both swerving just inside the far post, in a League match versus Chelsea in the 1980/81 season, the second a mirror image of the first. Also, a goal 'set-up' for Billy Bonds in a third round F.A. Cup tie versus Everton in 1982; a feint, quick turn and precision centre, all executed in a trice, to make the finishing header a formality.

The contrast in playing styles is strongly marked; Trevor's play is always thoughtful and imaginative while Billy performs in a full-blooded, passionate manner similar to Ian Botham's approach to cricket; what a rugby player he would have made — in the mould of Welshman Ray Gravell.

In addition, their international careers have been very different. Trevor's has been a distinguished one with nearly 50 caps to his name. Unfortunately, Billy, when he has earned squad selection has always ultimately been injured. Indeed, he is arguably the unluckiest player never to win an England cap. A measure of this ill-fortune is the record of a contemporary player and captain of similar accomplishment, Emlyn Hughes, who totted up 61 appearances for his country. Still, the 'oldest teenager in London' has had the satisfaction of outlasting Emlyn on the First Division stage. This has no doubt been due to his determination to make light of injuries and illness — only recently he recovered from jaundice in half the normal time. Trevor, as an articulate and diplomatic football ambassador, has been the perfect successor to Bobby Charlton.

One common factor emerges; a happy family life to sustain them during their careers. Hopefully, players of similar stature will emerge to take their place when they finally hang up their boots.

J. H. Goldsmith,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk.

F.A. CHALLENGE VASE

On Saturday April 28, we are playing Manchester United at Old Trafford but for those Hammers' supporters who can not make it there is an interesting game on in London.

The FA have asked us to bring to your

notice the F.A. Challenge Vase Final at Wembley Stadium that afternoon which features Stamford v Stanstead.

Tickets priced £5, £4, £3 (seats) and £2 (standing) can be obtained from the Football Box Office, Wembley, or by payment at the turnstiles on the day.

Here's one for your diary



**The Pat Holland Testimonial Match
West Ham Utd v
Tottenham Hotspur**

Friday May 18th Kick-off 7.30 p.m.
Standing admission for the North and South Banks will be £1.50 for adults and £1 for children; For the East Terrace: £2. All seats are priced at £5 each. Season Ticket holders have until May 4th to apply for their normal seats.

THE HAMMERS A to Z

Tony Hogg continues his fascinating series on the players who have worn the claret and blue of West Ham United since the war. The figures in brackets signify the year in which the player made his first and last (where appropriate) senior appearances. Appearances include substitutions, and Cup appearances incorporate the F.A. Cup; Football League/Milk Cup; European Cup Winners' Cup and the Anglo-Italian Cup.

BEST, CLYDE (1965-75): A great striker, but didn't quite realise his full potential. Deceptively fast for his size, he possessed a lethal shot and fearsome heading ability. Signed pro in April 1969 and made his full debut against Arsenal in August the same year. A full Bermudan international, he was still playing in the North American Soccer League last season. League appearances: 186. Goals: 47. Cup: 32. Goals: 11. Born Bermuda.

Junior HAMMERS



(Sponsors: Tate & Lyle Refineries) Organiser: BILL ELLIOTT, J.P.

Good evening Junior Hammers and of course other interested supporters!

I am now in the process of preparing our second News Letter setting out our plan of activities and events over the next few months — if you have any constructive suggestions or ideas, please write to me as soon as possible, or even better, come and see me at the ground in my office — Thursday (4.30 p.m.-6 p.m.) or Sundays (10 a.m.-12 noon).

Don't forget you artists — let me have your designs for our club badge — try to be original and set it out neatly on drawing paper. Also, don't forget the SCRAP BOOK — the competition is open to all members aged 8 to 15 years, and remember I will be awarding prizes for each age year.

At this stage of the season I think it is important that I remind all Junior Hammers and those intending to apply for membership, of the main objects of our club, so here goes:

1. To promote support for West Ham United F.C. among the young people of the community.
2. To form a link between the Junior Hammers and the officials, players and staff of West Ham United F.C.
3. To build up from within the Junior Hammers Club supporters worthy of the good name of West Ham United F.C. with an appreciation of good sportsmanship.

With our membership now well over 500 really keen young people, and with continued support of parents, it would seem to me that a solid foundation has been set, and nothing need stop us from achieving our objectives.

During the past few months we have been involved in numerous activities — meetings with officials and players, autograph sessions, talks from players and referees, tours of the ground, and now, competitions for scrap books and the design for a club badge. I have visited a number of schools to talk about our club, and I have taken one or two parties of primary school

children round the ground.

Throughout, I have had the support of my wife Kathleen, and my teacher friends Stuart Williams, Ivor Thomas and Alice Langford together with school secretary Christine Wilson and her husband Peter — to them I am extremely grateful. I have also had the full support of Eddie Chapman (chief executive/secretary), Allen Smith and staff (ticket office), ground staff, also Bob, Peggy and Edna from the administration office, and Mrs. Fury of the catering department. I have received much cooperation from Martin Cearnis (director), John Lyall and staff, and all the players — many thanks!

This evening I send special birthday greetings to the following Junior Hammers — Steven Challenger, David Ball, Ricky Matthews and Stuart McNamara — the last two have birthdays tomorrow. I hope you have all received your birthday cards?

The Junior Hammers displaying our club banner on the pitch tonight are Nicholas DOWSETT, James WILLIAMS, Scott MASKELL, Steven DICKINSON, Andrew and John RILEY, each of these members will have a seat in the Lower West Stand, with nothing to pay at all — see what you get for being a Junior Hammer!

Last Wednesday at the ground we held the final quiz for the 10-13 years age group, and the following four Junior Hammers emerged as winners and each received two tickets in 'E' Block for the Sunderland game — Brian PARISH, Paul RYAN, Martin JOHNSTON and Justin GRANT. These four members will represent the Junior Hammers Club in the Quiz Competition on Thursday 26th April at the Spurs' ground, against teams from Q.P.R., Norwich, W.B.A., Spurs and Arsenal. On this day, in the morning, I have planned to take a small party and the team to tour the Arsenal ground and the Spurs ground.

Good luck — see you soon!
BILL ELLIOTT

OFF THE RECORD by BILL REMFRY Hammers Commentator & D.J.

I always find that Programme Fairs are interesting, because one can browse through the items on display and make some wonderful "buys". Here are three events taking place in the near future that I can recommend for your attention.

The Fulham Programme Fair is on Easter Sunday (22 April) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Riverside Suite, Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road SW6.

The Eighth Annual West Ham United Supporters Club Fair takes place in the Club House, Castle Street on Easter Monday, 23 April from 10.30 a.m. Admission 25p. All enquiries to Mike Levy, c/o the Supporters Club. This is definitely "one on the doorstep" for Hammers' fans.

The Ipswich Programme Fair is on Sunday 29 April from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Centre Spot Restaurant Bar under the Main Stand at the Portman Road ground, Ipswich.

There are only three more home games for the League side, but we shall have some other fixtures involving the Reserves and possibly the Youth teams. I like those matches as they give us the opportunity to watch the up-and-coming youngsters in action. Come and join us!

Please send your record and other requests to Bill Remfry, c/o West Ham United FC, Boleyn Ground, Green Street E13.

TALKING SHOP...

EASTER-NEXT WEEK

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Whether or not you already have a bank account, you'll find that Avco have a lot more to offer. For instance, we pay you 5% interest as long as your cheque book account is in credit. We're also open at hours to suit you: 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

And if you could do with some extra cash, we have a choice of loans to suit your needs.

Avco's 'Cash Now' Plan

Perhaps there's something you've always wanted but don't have the cash to buy - such as a car or video recorder.

Well with our 'Cash Now' Plan, you

can get hold of some extra cash without any fuss or bother. And usually on the same day.

Our Plan for Homeowners

Owning your own home puts you at a real advantage. It entitles you to join our special Homeowners 'Cash Now' Plan. This allows you larger sums of cash on highly favourable terms.

It's easy to find out more.

You'll always find us friendly and helpful, and ready to deal with any queries you may have.

So if you'd like to find out more, just post the coupon to Avco Trust, Freepost, Reading RG1 1BR.

Please send me more information on:
tick the appropriate box(es).

Banking Services 'Cash Now' Plan
Homeowners 'Cash Now' Plan

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Hammers through the years

By Jack Helliar

Ten Years Ago: April 1974

The Easter period was a busy one for the Hammers, with three games to be played in the space of four days. It was also an anxious time, as we were seeking points to ensure First Division survival.

The series began with a home game on Good Friday (12 April) with Southampton as the visitors to Upton Park. The teams were:

West Ham United: Day, Coleman, Lampard, Bonds (capt), Taylor T., McGiven, McDowell, Paddon, Robson B., Brooking, Best. Sub: Gould.

Southampton: Martin, McCarthy, Mills S., Fisher, Bennett, Steele, Paine (capt), Channon, Osgood, O'Neil, Stokes. Sub: Gilchrist.

There was a bumper attendance of 34,163 but some disappointment for all but the Saints' fans when the Hampshire club went ahead in the 24th minute as Mike Channon converted a penalty.

The visiting contingent's joy was short-lived, as "Pop" Robson equalised within a couple of minutes, and from thence onwards the opposing defence began to wilt under our attackers' onslaught. It kept us at bay until after the interval, but further goals by Clyde Best (49 mins.) and Robson (53 mins.) made the remainder of the proceedings somewhat of a formality. Best added his second counter with eight minutes to go, and the Hammers' supporters went home to Good Friday lunch (or to the "local") with happy hearts. It is unlikely that the Southampton squad looked back upon the morning's events with any satisfaction.

Our team against Wolves on the following afternoon (Saturday 13 April) was unchanged. The visitors line-up was: Parkes, Palmer, Parkin, Bailey (capt), Munro, McAlle, Powell, Hibbitt, Sunderland, Kindon, Daley. Sub: Dougan.

The sun shone brightly on the East Stand that afternoon, but a chill east wind made it less enjoyable for those in the West Stand who were among a near-30,000 gate.

Unfortunately the game never appeared likely to reach expectations. Each side struck the woodwork once, and the goalkeepers had some fairly routine work; but overall the press had really nothing to enthuse about. We had expected to see a higher standard from the League Cup holders, but were sadly disappointed that they appeared to be content to share the points from the goalless draw.

We went to the Dell on Easter Monday for the return engagement with Southampton, and 26,515 turned up for what was described as an "eyeball to eyeball" confrontation. Our starting line-up was the same, but we had a real set-back in the 27th minute when Mick McGiven sustained an injury that kept him out of action for the remainder of the season.

Bobby Gould took Mick's place in a re-shuffled XI, and a remarkable angle on that event was that Bobby was making his 12th successive appearance as a substitute.

Clyde Best scored a minute before the interval, but eight minutes after the resumption Bobby Stokes put his team back on level terms. It remained at 1-1 until the end. The point proved invaluable to the Hammers, as we finished the season with a total of 37 whilst the Saints had an eventual total of 36. They went down under the new ruling of "three to be relegated" whilst we stayed up. Such was the margin between failure and success, especially as we had only two more games left after the Easter session.

Twenty Years Ago Friday 17 April 1964

This was our concluding home match of the 1963-64 campaign. For the Hammers it was a fixture of no great consequence, but the visiting Birmingham City side was deeply involved in relegation problems.

Nevertheless, we were anxious to regain winning form, as the F.A. Cup Final was only a fortnight away and we had sustained three successive defeats (0-3 at Stoke City, 2-3 at home to Bolton Wanderers and 0-2 at Fulham).

The team could hardly have given a better response, and visiting manager Gil Merrick had the bitter experience of seeing his team concede five goals with hardly the semblance of a reply. Our counters came from Peter Brabrook (4 and 53 mins.), Geoff Hurst (35 mins.), John Sissons (58 mins.) and Johnny Byrne (63 mins.). For the concluding near half-hour goalkeeper John Schofield was the hero who kept the score within those limits of 5-0.

A remarkable statistic that week was that on the preceding Monday evening there were 5,000 fans at Upton Park to see our Colts team play Arsenal in the semi-final of the London Youth Cup. We won 3-1, and one of the goals was scored by John Sissons (later to figure so prominently in that season's F.A. Cup Final); Martin Britt netted the other two.

Thirty Years Ago Saturday 17 April 1954

Second Division fare at Upton Park with Oldham Athletic as opposition. There had been 15,000 here on the previous morning for the Good Friday visit of Plymouth Argyle, but the gate declined to 13,000 on the Saturday.

This could have been due to the fact that we were held to a 2-2 draw by the Pilgrims after John Arnott had put us two up; those were John's first goals in the Football League. The point helped Argyle to avoid relegation, and they ensured their survival by beating us 2-1 at Home Park in the return engagement on Easter Monday (they netted their two in the 87th and 89th minutes).

The game v Oldham was one of those "non-events". Our programme notes summarised it thus: "The 90 minutes must rank as one of the duller ever seen at Upton Park; it seemed incredible that two experienced sides could play so badly, and when Bob McIlvenny scored the Athletic's solitary goal half-a-minute from time the gloom descended even deeper." . . . but it did not save Oldham from relegation.



John Sissons figured prominently in both Cup competitions.

THE TEAMS



WEST HAM UNITED

LUTON TOWN



1 PHIL PARKES

Has kept 16 clean sheets in competitive matches so far this season, including one against Luton at Kenilworth Road last December.

2 RAY STEWART

Stylish right-back who strikes the ball well. Cool under pressure he is an expert penalty taker and has been an ever-present in the side this season.

3 FRANK LAMPARD

Came back into the side against Sunderland last Saturday after serving a two match suspension. Great competitor and is as enthusiastic now as he was when he made his debut in 1967.

4 BILLY BONDS (capt.)

Holds the record number of appearances for the Hammers. Made his League bow in our colours in August 1967 against Sheffield Wednesday.

5 ALVIN MARTIN

Stylish footballing centre-half. Born in Liverpool but has played all his football since leaving school with West Ham. Full England international.

6 NEILL ORR

This will be Neil's 60th League appearance for the Hammers. Signed from Morton in January 1982 for £400,000.

7 PAUL ALLEN

Has now completed 105 Football League appearances although still only 21, and it would have been far more had injury not taken a great slice out of his career.

8 TONY COTTEE

It was Tony's goal which earned us a 1-0 victory at Kenilworth Road last Christmas. One of the best young strikers in the business, he is still only 18.

9 DAVE SWINDLEHURST

Strong forceful target man with 13 League goals to his credit so far this season, bringing his career total to 114.

10 TREVOR BROOKING

Enjoying a great season — his last as a professional footballer. This will be Trevor's 520th League appearance since making his debut in August 1967.

11 GEOFF PIKE

Has missed 15 games this season through injury but has still pushed his aggregate appearances up to 291. A one club man, Geoff first came into the senior side in March 1976.

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1 LES SEALEY

London born — Bethnall Green, it was with Coventry that he emerged as a pro footballer. Made 178 senior appearances for them before his £70,000 move to Luton last summer. Age 26.

2 KIRK STEVENS

A bargain buy from Nuneaton he has developed into a top rate First Division player. Made his League debut 19th August 1978 against Oldham Athletic. Age 29.

3 MITCHELL THOMAS

Gangling six-footer, nicknamed 'Viv' by his colleagues because of his likeness to England and Forest defender Viv Anderson. Age 19.

4 BRIAN HORTON (capt.)

Injury has cost Brian a few appearances recently but his record is impressive. Highly competitive, is a truly inspirational captain. Age 35.

5 PAUL ELLIOTT

Very talented young defender. Made his Luton debut against W.B.A., 5th March, 1983, following his £100,000 transfer from Charlton. Born in London he is 19.

6 MAL DONAGHY

Solid defender who can also play in midfield. Is a regular in the Northern Ireland side (28 caps). Had ambitions as a goalkeeper when he started his career. Age 26.

7 TIM BREACKER

Has emerged through the apprentice ranks. Still only 18, made his League debut at Ipswich on 31st of last month. Born at Bicester, is a strong tackler.

8 BRIAN STEIN

Plucked out of non-League football at the age of 20, Brian reached the top of his trade when he was selected for England against France last February. Age 26.

9 PAUL WALSH

Luton placed a £1 million price tag on Paul's head. Born in Plumstead he started his career with Charlton, making 100 senior appearances for them. Full England international. Age 21.

10 TREVOR AYLOTT

Another Londoner, this burly striker started his career at Chelsea. Good in the air he has scored eight League goals this season. Age 26.

11 DAVID MOSS

Likes to hug the left touchline. Has good balance and control and is a natural goalscorer. Has just recovered from injury.

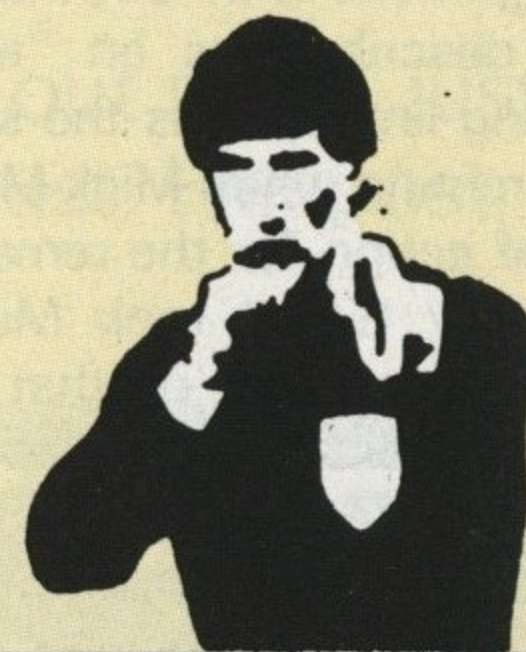
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REFEREE: DARRYL L. REEVES (Uxbridge)

Commenced refereeing in 1961 and progressed via local leagues through the Spartan and Isthmian Leagues to the Football League List. Refereed the 1973 Oxford v. Cambridge University match at Wembley and has officiated in the Home Championships.

A married man, with two children he is a sales office manager in the textile trade, whose home interests are interior decorating, gardening and listening to popular music. He also enjoys coarse fishing.

LINESMEN: D. A. DAUGHTERY (Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex) Red Flag
C. GRADY (Lightwater, Surrey) Yellow Flag



TONIGHT'S MATCHDAY MASCOT is Neil Baron aged 10 years, of Eastwood Road, South Woodford E18. Neil attends Churchfield Junior School, Churchfields E18. His hobbies are Boys' Brigade and football. He at present plays football for the Boys' Brigade in goal or as a forward. His favourite player is Trevor Brooking and his favourite team West Ham United. His family have been lifelong supporters at Upton Park, and we wish them all an enjoyable evening.



TONIGHT'S MATCH-BALL SPONSOR

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