



Y YEAR

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CENTENARY YEAR CENTEN

Official Matchday Magazine of Coventry City F.C.  
Saturday 5th May, 1984 k.o. 3.00 p.m.

**LUTON  
TOWN**

CENTENARY 40P

# THE SKY BLUES



# NEW OFFICES

Clarendon Road

# WATFORD

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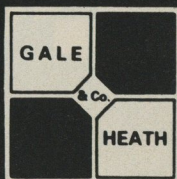
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# TODAYS TEAMS

## COVENTRY CITY

- 1 Perry Suckling
- 2 Ian Butterworth
- 3 Stuart Pearce
- 4 Gerry Daly
- 5 Sam Allardyce
- 6 Steve Jacobs
- 7 Dave Bennett
- 8 Ashley Grimes
- 9 Mick Ferguson
- 10 Terry Gibson
- 11 Nicky Platnauer
- 12

## LUTON TOWN

- 1 Les Sealey
- 2 Kirk Stephens
- 3 Mitchell Thomas
- 4 Brian Horton
- 5 Paul Elliott
- 6 Mal Donaghy
- 7 Gary Parker
- 8 Brian Stein
- 9 Paul Walsh
- 10 Frank Bunn
- 11 David Moss
- 12

**Todays Front Page Picture:** Mick Ferguson leaps high against the Nottingham Forest defence. Picture by Ian Davies of Clive Shayler Photography.

## referee

### TODAY'S REFEREE

Ron Bridges (Deeside) is married with two sons and works as a distribution manager. His interests are gardening and keeping fit. He started refereeing in 1958 and has officiated in several international matches.

Yellow Flag  
**D. Shadwell**

Orange Flag  
**D. Redshaw**



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Derrick H. Robins

### Team Manager

Bobby Gould

### Company Secretary

Graham Hover

### Manager Sky Blue Connexion

Mike Taylor M.Inst.B.R.M.

### Coach

John Sillett

### Youth Coach

Brian Eastick

## club officials



### Youth Recruitment Manager

Bert Edwards

### Medical

George Dalton, Physiotherapist

### Medical Officers

Dr. Tom Baird M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. John Keenan M.B., Ch.B.

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### Magazine Editor

Mike Dale

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# WE MUST HEAL THE WOUND

At the beginning of this season everyone said that by this stage we would be certain of relegation. The pundits were taking odds that we would scrape the least number of points ever in the First Division.

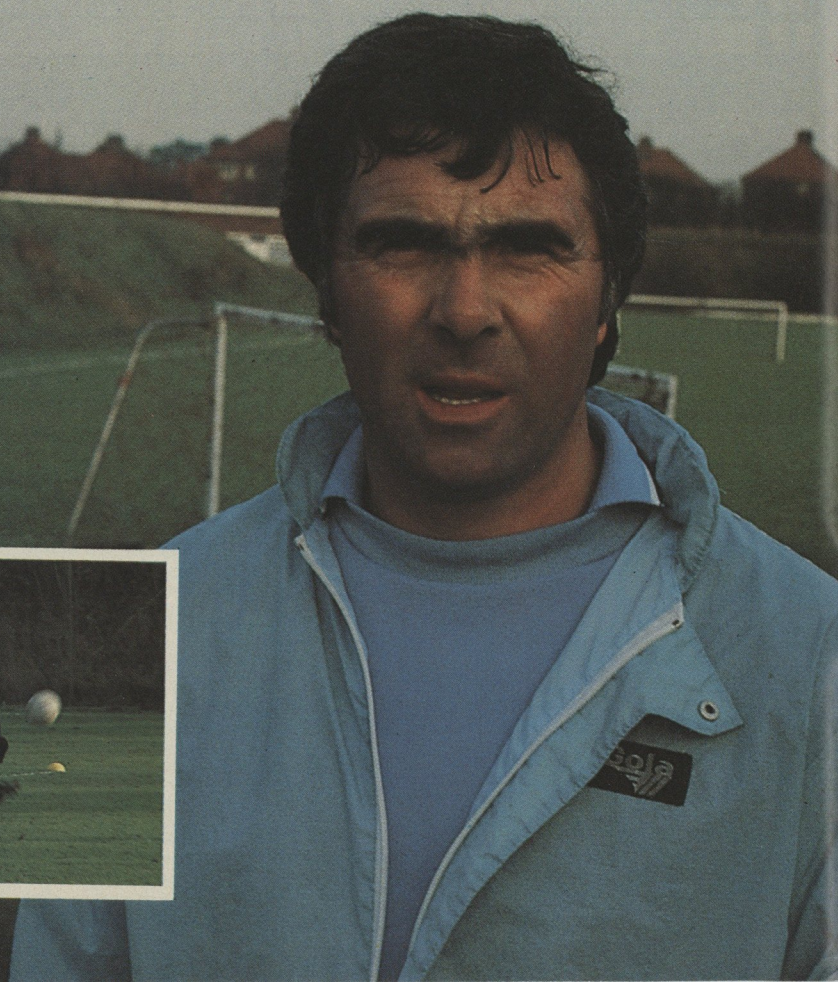
People I know in Coventry were taking bets that we would be relegated and the wise boys from the tabloid sensational papers were leadings the witch hunt.

After last Saturday's disastrous result at Southampton many of these people were raising their heads once again.

That result was a severe wound but it won't kill off my team. Today we have a chance to apply soothing cream to that wound and to regain our pride.

We all learn from tragedies and as I have often said in my career, both as a player and now as a manager, in this game you have to be a quick learner.

Our lives are still in our own hands.  
BOBBY GOULD



## ODD HAPPENINGS

By Geoff Allman

It is just ten years since on April 27, 1974 Manchester United met Manchester City at Old Trafford needing a win to keep alive any hopes of staying in Division One. If they won and Birmingham lost to Norwich then they would have to win their last game at Stoke to grab safety.

Even before the game tension ran high. A crowd of youths invaded the pitch and left a great deal of litter when they were dispersed. United

could have been ahead at half-time when with Joe Corrigan out of position Jim McCalliog missed a seeming open goal as Willie Donachie raced back to clear.

News that Birmingham were a goal down to Norwich caused United to redouble their efforts, but there was still no score by half-time and as they trooped off they learned that Birmingham were in fact by that time 2-1 up.

Things went from bad to worse in the second half as United became more and more frustrated in their efforts to score and with five minutes to go and the United defence in a tangle Denis Law, who was back with City after spending the peak years of his career with United, backheeled the ball past Alec Stepney to seal his former club's fate.

Law hated the experience and slunk back towards the centre circle while the crowd invaded the pitch. Referee David Smith took the players off the field and, with no sign of the pitch being cleared, a few minutes later abandoned the match.

The score of 1-0 stood and just about the only First Division match to last just 86 minutes was over. 56,996 were there to see it.



# News 'N' Views

## SKY BLUES OFF TO NORWAY

The Sky Blues head for Norway later this month to play a match as part of the country's Independence Day celebrations.

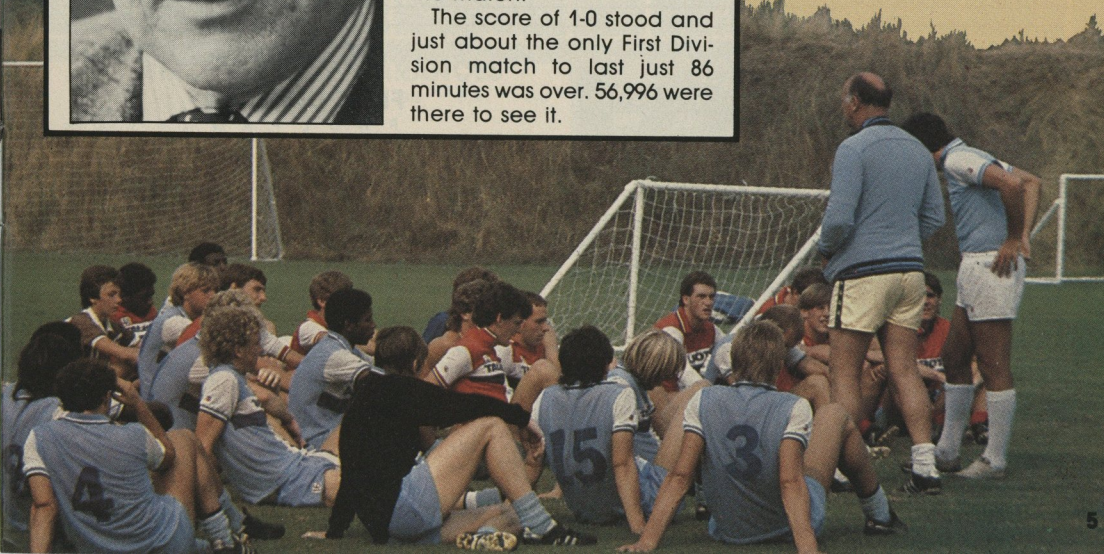
A first team squad led by Manager Bobby Gould will leave for Aalesund, which is 300 miles north of Bergen, on May 15 returning on the 18th.

"I went there as a coach in four successive Summers in the mid-seventies and I found it to be a marvellous place," said Bobby.

"I first went there in 1974 when I was still with West Ham, because they wanted an English coach. I returned with my family in 1975 and 1976 for a few weeks, but in 1977 we spent five months there and loved every minute."

The Norwegian football season runs from April, May and June, they take July off, and then carry on through August, September and October.

The Sky Blues trip takes in May 17 which is Norway's Independence Day and is always marked with festivals and carnivals. As part of the celebration the Sky Blues will play a match against Aalesund F.K. the club which was coached by Bobby in the 70s.



DATE	MATCH	GATE	SCORE	LAST YEAR	1	2	3	4
Sat Aug 27	Watford	15,533	W 3-2	D 0-0	Suckling	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Grimes
Tue Aug 29	Tottenham	35,854	D 1-1	L 0-4	Suckling	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Grimes
Sat Sep 3	<b>Everton</b>	12,532	D 1-1	W 4-2	Suckling	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Grimes
Tue Sep 6	<b>Notts Co.</b>	10,912	W 2-1	W 1-0	Suckling	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Grimes
Sat Sep 10	West Ham	22,195	L 2-5	W 3-0	Suckling	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Grimes
Sat Sep 17	<b>Leicester</b>	12,377	W 2-1	-	Avramovic	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Butterworth
Sat Sep 24	Sunderland	11,612	L 0-1	L 1-2	Avramovic	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Butterworth
Sat Oct 1	<b>Ipswich</b>	10,492	L 1-2	D 1-1	Avramovic	Hormantschuk	Roberts	Grimes
Tue Oct 4	Grimsby T. (M.Cup 2nd Rd. 1st Leg)	6,088	D 0-0	-	Avramovic	Roberts	Jacobs	Grimes
Sat Oct 15	Arsenal	20,290	W 1-0	L 1-2	Avramovic	Butterworth	Roberts	Singleton
Sat Oct 22	<b>W.B.A.</b>	13,441	L 1-2	L 0-1	Avramovic	Roberts	Butterworth	Singleton
Tue Oct 25	<b>Grimsby T. (MC 2nd Rd. 2nd Leg)</b>	8,705	W 2-1	-	Avramovic	Roberts	Gynn	<b>Grimes</b>
Sat Oct 29	Stoke City	11,836	W 3-1	W 3-0	Avramovic	Roberts	Singleton	Grimes
Sat Nov 5	Birmingham City	16,169	W 2-1	L 0-1	Avramovic	Roberts	Gynn	Grimes
Wed Nov 9	Everton M.C. (3rd Rd)	9,080	L 1-2	-	Suckling	Roberts	Gynn	Grimes
Sat Nov 12	<b>Queens Park Rangers</b>	11,755	W 1-0	-	Suckling	Roberts	Pearce	Grimes
Sat Nov 19	Wolves	11,419	D 0-0	-	Suckling	Roberts	Pearce	Grimes
Sat Nov 26	<b>Southampton</b>	11,579	D 0-0	W 1-0	Suckling	Roberts	Pearce	Grimes
Sat Dec 3	Luton Tn	10,698	W 4-2	W 2-1	Suckling	Roberts	Pearce	Platnauer
Sat Dec 10	<b>Liverpool</b>	20,586	W 4-0	D 0-0	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	<b>Platnauer</b>
Sat Dec 17	Norwich City	16,646	D 0-0	D 1-1	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	* Daly
Mon Dec 26	<b>Manchester U.</b>	21,453	D 1-1	W 3-0	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	Platnauer
Wed Dec 28	Nottm Forest	22,169	L 0-3	L 2-4	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	Daly
Sat Dec 31	Everton	13,659	D 0-0	L 2-1	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	Daly
Mon Jan 2	<b>Sunderland</b>	13,249	W 2-1	W 1-0	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	Platnauer
Sat Jan 7	<b>Wolves (F.A.C.3)</b>	15,817	D 1-1	-	Avramovic	Roberts	Adams	* Daly
Tue Jan 10	Wolves (F.A.C.3 Replay)	19,204	D 1-1	-	Avramovic	Roberts	* Adams	Gynn
Sat Jan 14	<b>Watford</b>	13,307	L 1-2	L 0-1	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	Gynn
Mon Jan 16	<b>Wolves (F.A.C.3. 2nd Replay)</b>	18,003	W 3-0	-	Avramovic	Roberts	Adams	Gynn
Sat Jan 21	Leicester City	16,262	D 1-1	-	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	<b>Daly</b>
Sat Jan 28	Sheffield Wed. (F.A.C.4)	26,154	L 2-3	-	Avramovic	Roberts	* Adams	Daly
Sat Feb 4	Ipswich Town	13,406	L 1-3	D 1-1	Avramovic	Roberts	* Pearce	Gynn
Sat Feb 11	<b>West Ham</b>	13,271	L 1-2	L 2-4	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	Daly
Sat Feb 18	<b>Stoke City</b>	9,752	L 2-3	W 2-0	Avramovic	Roberts	Pearce	• Gynn
Sat Feb 25	W.B.A.	10,900	D 1-1	L 0-2	Suckling	Roberts	Adams	Gynn
Sat Mar 3	<b>Birmingham C.</b>	13,705	L 0-1	L 0-1	Suckling	Roberts	Adams	* Withey
Sat Mar 10	Q. Park Rangers	10,284	L 1-2	-	Suckling	Roberts	Adams	<b>Daly</b>
Tue Mar 13	<b>Aston Villa</b>	11,098	D 3-3	D 0-0	Suckling	Jacobs	Adams	<b>Daly</b>
Sat Mar 17	Notts County	6,564	L 1-2	L 1-5	Suckling	Jacobs	Adams	Daly
Sat Mar 24	<b>Tottenham H.</b>	12,803	L 2-4	L 1-2	Suckling	Butterworth	Pearce	<b>Daly</b>
Sat Mar 31	<b>Arsenal</b>	10,550	L 1-4	L 0-2	Suckling	Butterworth	Pearce	Daly
Sat Apr 7	Aston Villa	15,318	L 0-2	L 0-4	Suckling	Butterworth	Pearce	Daly
Sat Apr 14	<b>Wolves</b>	8,246	W 2-1	-	Suckling	Butterworth	Pearce	<b>Daly</b>
Tue Apr 17	<b>Nottm. Forest</b>	9,848	W 2-1	L 0-3	Suckling	Butterworth	Adams	Daly
Sat Apr 21	Manchester U	38,524	L 1-4	L 1-2	Suckling	Butterworth	Adams	• <b>Daly</b>
Sat Apr 28	Southampton	16,746	L 2-8	D 1-1	Suckling	Butterworth	Pearce	Daly
Sat May 5	<b>Luton Tn</b>			W 4-2				
Mon May 7	Liverpool (k.o. 3 p.m.)			L 0-4				
Sat May 12	<b>Norwich City</b>			W 2-0				
Sat May 19	F.A. Cup Final							

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Butterworth	Jacobs	Gynn	• Daly	Bamber	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Thompson	Platnauer
Peake	Jacobs	Singleton	• Platnauer	Bamber	Gibson	Adams	<b>Withey</b> (1)
Peake	Jacobs	Singleton	• Daly	Platnauer	Gibson	<b>Adams</b> (1)	Withey
Peake	Jacobs	* Singleton	• Daly	<b>Platnauer</b> (1)	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Adams	Withey
<b>Peake</b> (1)	Jacobs	Butterworth	Withey	<b>Platnauer</b> (1)	Gibson	Adams	Singleton
Peake	Jacobs	Withey	Daly	<b>Platnauer</b> (1)	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Thompson	• Bennett
Peake	Allardyce	Withey	* Daly	Platnauer	Gibson	Thompson	• Bennett
Peake	Allardyce	Withey	Daly	Platnauer	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Bennett	Hendrie
Peake	Allardyce	Withey	Singleton	Platnauer	Gibson	Bennett	Hormantschuk
Peake	Allardyce	* <b>Bamber</b> (1)	* Gibson	Platnauer	Grimes	Bennett	Withey
• Peake	Allardyce	Grimes	Gynn	Bamber	Gibson	* Platnauer	<b>Withey</b> (1)
(1) Peake	Allardyce	<b>Bennett</b> (1)	Singleton	Bamber	Gibson	■ Platnauer	Withey
Peake	Allardyce	<b>Bennett</b> (1)	Gynn	<b>Bamber</b> (1)	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	* Platnauer	* Pearce
Peake	Allardyce	<b>Bennett</b> (1)	Singleton	Bamber	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	• Platnauer	Hunt
Peake	Allardyce	* Bennett	Hunt	<b>Bamber</b> (1)	* Hendrie	• Platnauer	Singleton
Peake	Allardyce	Bennett	Gynn	<b>Bamber</b> (1)	Hendrie	• Hunt	Platnauer
Peake	Allardyce	Bennett	Gynn	Bamber	Gibson	• Hunt	Platnauer
Peake	Allardyce	Bennett	Gynn	Bamber	Gibson	• Hunt	■ Platnauer
(1) Peake	Allardyce	<b>Bennett</b> (1)	<b>Gynn</b> (1)	Bamber	* <b>Gibson</b> (2)	Hunt	Butterworth
Peake	Allardyce	Bennett	Gynn	Bamber	• <b>Gibson</b> (3)	Daly	Withey
Peake	Allardyce	* Bennett	Gynn	Bamber	* Gibson	Platnauer	Butterworth
Peake	Allardyce	* Bennett	Gynn	Bamber	<b>Gibson</b> * (1)	Daly	Grimes
Peake	Allardyce	* Bennett	Gynn	Withey	* • Platnauer	Grimes	Butterworth
Peake	Allardyce	Bennett	Daly	Withey	Platnauer	Grimes	Adams
Butterworth	Jacobs	Bennett	<b>Daly</b> (1)	<b>Withey</b> (1)	Grimes	• Hunt	Gynn
Peake	Allardyce	Bennett	Daly	<b>Withey</b> (1)	Gibson	Platnauer	Gynn
Butterworth	* <b>Peake</b> (1)	Bennett	Hunt	Withey	• Platnauer	Gibson	Daly
<b>Peake</b> (1)	Butterworth	Bennett	Hunt	* Platnauer	Gibson	• Adams	Daly
Peake	Butterworth	Daly	<b>Hunt</b> (1)	<b>Withey</b> (2)	Thompson	Platnauer	Gibson
(1) Peake	Butterworth	* Bennett	Hunt	Withey	Platnauer	Adams	Gibson
* Peake	* Butterworth	Bennett	Hunt	Withey	• <b>Gibson</b> (2)	* Platnauer	Bamber
• Peake	Butterworth	Bennett	* Hunt	Bamber	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Adams	* Platnauer
Peake	Allardyce	* Bennett	<b>Hunt</b> (1)	Bamber	Gibson	Grimes	Gynn
Peake	Allardyce	* <b>Bennett</b> (1)	Hunt	Thompson	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Grimes	Withey
• Peake	Allardyce	* Grimes	Hunt	Bennett	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Singleton	Withey
Peake	Butterworth	Grimes	Hunt	Bennett	Gibson	* Singleton	• Bamber
(1) Peake	Butterworth	Grimes	Bamber	Bennett	Gibson	* • Singleton	Withey
(1) Peake	<b>Allardyce</b> (1)	Bennett	Thompson	• Bamber	<b>Gibson</b> (1)	Grimes	Hunt
• <b>Peake</b> (1)	Allardyce	Bennett	Grimes	Bamber	Gibson	Thompson	Butterworth
(1) Peake	Allardyce	* Bennett	* Jacobs	<b>Withey</b> (1)	Langley	Grimes	• Adams
* Peake	Allardyce	<b>Bennett</b> (1)	* Singleton	• Platnauer	Gibson	Adams	Withey
Peake	• Jacobs	* Bennett	Singleton	Langley	Gibson	Platnauer	Grimes
(1) Allardyce	Jacobs	Adams	Grimes	<b>Ferguson</b> (1)	Gibson	Platnauer	Withey
Allardyce	Jacobs	Grimes	<b>Platnauer</b> (1)	<b>Ferguson</b> (1)	Gibson	• Bennett	Gynn
(1) Allardyce	Jacobs	Bennett	Grimes	Ferguson	Gynn	Platnauer	Gibson
McGrath	• Jacobs	Gibson	<b>Grimes</b> (1)	Ferguson	<b>Gynn</b> (1)	Platnauer	Hendrie

# Factsheet

# Factsheet

# Factsheet

# Factsheet

● Substituted  
★ Booked  
■ Sent Off  
Goalscorers in Bold  
Goals in brackets

## FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Liverpool	38	13	4	2	44	11	8	7	4	23	20	74
2 Man Utd.	38	14	3	2	42	16	6	9	3	26	19	72
3 Q.P.R.	39	14	3	3	36	11	7	3	9	26	22	69
4 Southampton	37	14	4	2	39	17	5	5	7	16	19	66
5 Nottm For	38	12	4	3	40	16	7	4	8	26	25	66
6 Arsenal	39	10	4	6	38	26	7	4	8	29	28	59
7 West Ham	38	10	4	4	38	20	7	4	9	18	28	59
8 Tottenham	39	10	3	6	28	23	6	6	8	33	36	57
9 Aston Villa	39	14	3	3	34	20	2	6	11	23	37	57
10 Watford	39	8	6	5	34	30	7	2	11	31	41	53
11 Everton	38	8	8	3	17	10	5	5	9	20	30	52
12 Luton Town	39	7	5	8	30	32	7	3	9	21	28	50
13 Norwich	38	9	7	4	33	19	3	6	9	12	2	49
14 Leicester City	39	10	5	4	38	27	2	7	11	25	37	48
15 Sunderland	39	8	4	6	25	18	4	4	11	14	34	48
16 W.B.A.	38	9	4	5	26	20	4	4	12	17	36	47
<b>17 Coventry</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>
18 Birmingham	39	7	5	7	19	18	5	4	11	19	31	45
Stoke City	39	10	3	6	25	22	1	7	12	13	40	43
Notts County	37	5	6	6	26	30	4	3	13	19	36	36
Wolves	38	3	8	9	14	28	2	2	14	12	44	25

## FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

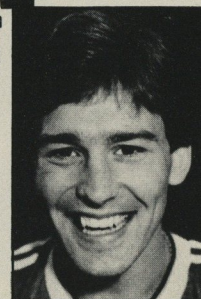
	Lge	Gls	M.C.	Gls	F.A.	Gls
Suckling	21	-	1	-	-	-
Hormantschuk	8	-	-	-	-	-
Roberts	30	-	3	-	4	-
Grimes	28(2)	1	3	1	-	-
Butterworth	19(2)	-	-	-	3	-
Jacobs	15	-	1	-	-	-
Gunn	18(2)	2	2	-	2(1)	-
Daly	24(1)	7	-	-	3(1)	-
Bamber	18(1)	3	2	1	(1)	-
Gibson	32(1)	16	2	-	3	2
Thompson	6	-	-	-	1	-
Platnauer	26(5)	5	3	-	4	-
Peake	33	3	3	-	4	1
Singleton	12(1)	-	2(1)	-	50	-
Adams	16(1)	1	-	-	4	-
Withey	10(10)	4	1	-	4	3
Avramovic	18	-	2	-	4	-
Bennett	29(2)	5	3	1	3	-
Allardyce	25	1	3	-	1	-
Hendrie	1(2)	-	-	-	-	-
Pearce	20	-	-	-	-	-
Hunt	13(2)	1	-	-	4	1
Langley	2	-	-	-	-	-
Ferguson	4	2	-	-	-	-
McGrath	1	-	-	-	-	-

(Appearances as substitute in brackets)

# snap shot

**Bryan Robson**  
(Manchester United) rated the best midfield player in Britain and his worth to United is shown by his goals tally of 16 — more than many front line strikers have achieved.

Born in Chester le Street he began with West Bromwich Albion but United paid £1½ million for his considerable services. Now he is reported to be wanted by Italian clubs.





At ease on the ball, Mick Ferguson and Sam Allardyce prepare for a corner kick in the match against Wolves. Pictures by John Bassett of The Coventry Evening Telegraph

# up front

## LEARNER NICK WANTS TO STAY

It seems an age to Nicky Platnauer, but in a little over two years he has gone from being a bank clerk with ambitions to play professional football to being a near automatic choice in the First Division.

The blonde haired utility player has embodied all that Manager Bobby Gould has demanded in terms of determination, effort and fighting spirit and it has earned him appearances in 38 Sky Blue matches this season — his first at Division One level.

Yet the modest Nicky says: "I don't don't consider myself a regular first teamer by any means. I could only say that if I was being picked week after week in one position, but I have been filling-in a variety of different roles."

In fact he has donned seven different shirts in the season's kaleidoscope and he frankly admits: "I do not know which is my best position."

"I have played up front, midfield, wide on the left and at left back but I suppose I shall probably end up as an attacking midfield player, so you could say that it is my best spot. But I would play anywhere for the good of the team."

Nicky's astonishing rise to prominence began a couple of years ago when he was playing for non-League Bedford Town which at the time was managed by Bobby Gould's brother Trevor — another former Sky Blue.

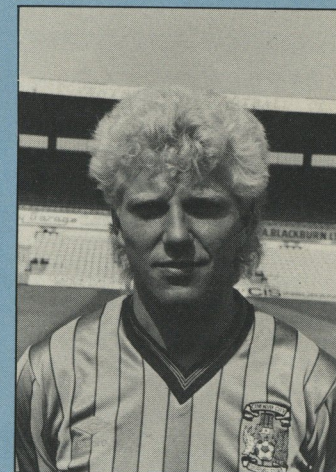
When Bedford sadly went out of business Bobby stepped in to sign the non-stop young man who always seemed to be in the thick of the on-field action, and took him to Third Division Bristol Rovers.

He wasted no time in demonstrating to the Bristol folk his aptitude for hard work. It bought him 7 goals in 21 League matches last season and virtually guaranteed that Bobby Gould would bring him to the Sky Blues when he

was appointed manager here last Summer.

He got his chance early, going on as substitute in the opening match of the season at Wafford when he brought delighted smiles to the faces of the Sky Blue fans with a series of determined forays deep into the Watford defence.

He has been involved in virtually every match since, apart from an 8 week lay-off with a pelvic injury, from which he has thankfully fully recovered.



Nicky Platnauer

He has much to reflect on with satisfaction. His best all-round performances of the season he believes were in the 4-0 defeat of Liverpool at Highfield Road and the 2-1 defeat of Sunderland. His great strength to any team is that he probably shows up in both penalty areas more than any other player on the pitch, and he has weighed in with a useful 5 goals for the Sky Blues.

"The one I enjoyed most was the winner against Forest a couple of weeks ago. We knew we badly needed the points from that match and we produced a great all round team effort on the day," says Nick.

But for all his massive effort this season he says: "I am still very much learning the game at this level. I want to stay with Coventry City. I have bought a house here and I have one year of my contract to go. I hope to produce enough next season to convince the club to keep me on. I hope to be a better player next season as a result of what I have learned this-year."



Nicky Platnauer

# CENTRAL LINE CENTRAL LINE

## "HODGIE'S" BOYS

The Sky Blues could have three players in action for different countries in the European Youth Tournament in Russia at the end of this month, and two of them are goalkeepers, which is a remarkable tribute to the coaching skills of Alan Hodgkinson.

"Hodgie" the former Sheffield United and England goalkeeper has emerged as the leading coach in his specialist field in this country. He is goalkeeper coach to the England Youth squad and it is no coincidence that the Sky Blues have two such talented teenagers as Perry Suckling and Tim Dalton between the posts.

Alan will be in Moscow with the England Youth team for the championships and he expects Perry to be England's goalkeeper to add to the 12 youth caps that the youngster has already won.

Tim Dalton is almost certain to be the Republic of Ireland's goalkeeper in the championships, but there are no favourites where "Hodgie" is concerned.

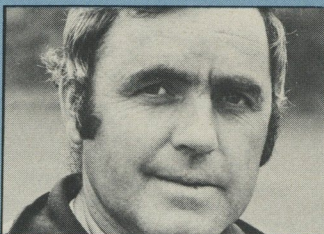
"That is one of the great things about him," enthuses Perry. "He is just as pleased whichever of us does well. He is like a second Dad to Tim, myself and 17 years old Paul Whittington, but like any Dad he treats us all the same. Young Paul has come on 100 per cent under Alan's coaching and things are really looking good for the club for years ahead on the goalkeeping side of things. Goalkeepers do not peak until they are 26 or 27 years old so we have all got a lot of improving to do and 'Hodgie' is the man to get the best out of us.

Perry and Tim are approaching their maximum heights at the age of 18, and now they can expect to build muscle on to their sturdy frames. Perry confesses however to being surprised at just how massive rival goalkeepers are.

"I know goalkeepers are usually bigger than outfield players, but it shook me to see Mervyn Day for example at Aston Villa. I had seen him on television and I thought he was quite slight, but when I stood next to him he was absolutely massive. It was the same with Nigel Spink



Perry Suckling



Alan Hodgkinson

and Gary Bailey — they are huge and I felt quite puny. I realised that you need bulk to command the penalty area and that's what these fellows have. Day for instance had enormous shoulders, but I suppose all that will come with a few years of our twice weekly training sessions under 'Hodgie.'

Today Perry finds himself lining up at the opposite end to his schooldays idol Les Sealey. They went to the same school — Leyton High in Essex, although Les had left when Perry arrived there. "Les' picture was on the wall of the school hall and it was always my ambition to emulate him and play in the First Division," says Perry. "I never dreamed it would be at the same football club."

The Sky Blues' third representative at the European Championships will be winger Jim McDonald, who has already been called by Scotland. It should be a championships to make 'Hodgie' proud.



Tim Dalton



# CENTRAL LEAGUE 1983/84

### August

30 Bradford City (h) L1-2 McDonald

### September

13 Notts County (h) W 1-0 Bennett  
20 Middlesbrough (a) W 3-0 Singleton (2) Kelly  
27 Wigan Athletic (h) W 2-0 Conroy (2)

### October

4 Manchester City (a) D 2-2 Bamber, Kelly  
11 Barnsley (h) W 4-1 Hendrie 3, Kelly  
18 Preston N.E. (h) W 3-0 Gynn, Kelly, Thompson  
25 Blackpool (a) W 2-1 Hall, Hendrie

### November

1 Rotherham (a) W 4-0 Hendrie (2), Withey,  
8 Grimsby Town (a) D0-0 Matthews  
14 Wolves (h) L 1-2 Butterworth

23 Port Vale (a) D0-0

29 Oldham (h) W 5-0 Platnauer (2), Withey,

### December

6 Chesterfield (a) L 0-2

13 Huddersfield Town (h) W 1-0 Evans

### January

31 Wigan Athletic (a) L 1-2 Jacobs

### February

15 Bradford (a) W 2-0 Spring (2)

21 Preston N.E. (a) L 0-1

28 Grimsby Town (h) W1-0 Kelly

### March

6 Blackpool (h) L 1-2 Kelly

20 Rotherham (h) W 2-1 Butterworth,

26 Wolverhampton (a) D 0-0 Hendrie

### April

3 Port Vale (h) D 0-0

10 Oldham Athletic (a) L 0-1

18 Chesterfield (h) W 5-1 Withey 2,

Gethfield, Langley, Hendrie.

27 Manchester C. (h) L 1-7 Doyle

30 Barnsley (a) D 1-1 Hendrie

### May

3 Notts Co. (a)

14 Middlesbrough (h)

## CENTRAL LEAGUE APPEARANCES

A			S			A			S		
Apps	Gls		Apps	Gls		Apps	Gls		Apps	Gls	
Dalton	8	-	19(2)	2		Kelly	15	6	Doyle	6	1
Hendry	1	-	24	-		Polack	3	-	Bamber	5	1
Anderson	3	-	17	1		Whittington	3	-	Hormantschuk	9	-
Hendrie	23	8	5	1		Jacobs	13	1	Gynn	9	1
George	1	-	20(1)	1		Daly	8	1	Hunt	4	-
Thompson	12(1)	1	2(3)	2		Pearce	4	-	Gould	2	-
Avramovic	9	-	13	3		Platnauer	2	2	Evans	1(2)	1
Singleton	16	2	13	5		Adams	3	-	Grimes	1	-
Bennett	1	1	8	-		English	3	-	Gethfield	5(1)	1
Allardyce	3	-	3	-		Langley	6	1	Gibson	1	-
						Hillson	2	-	Mahan	1	-

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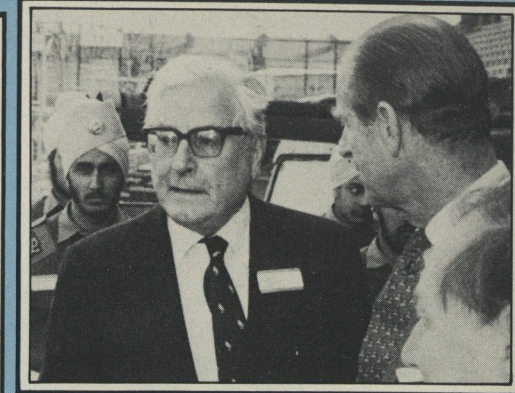
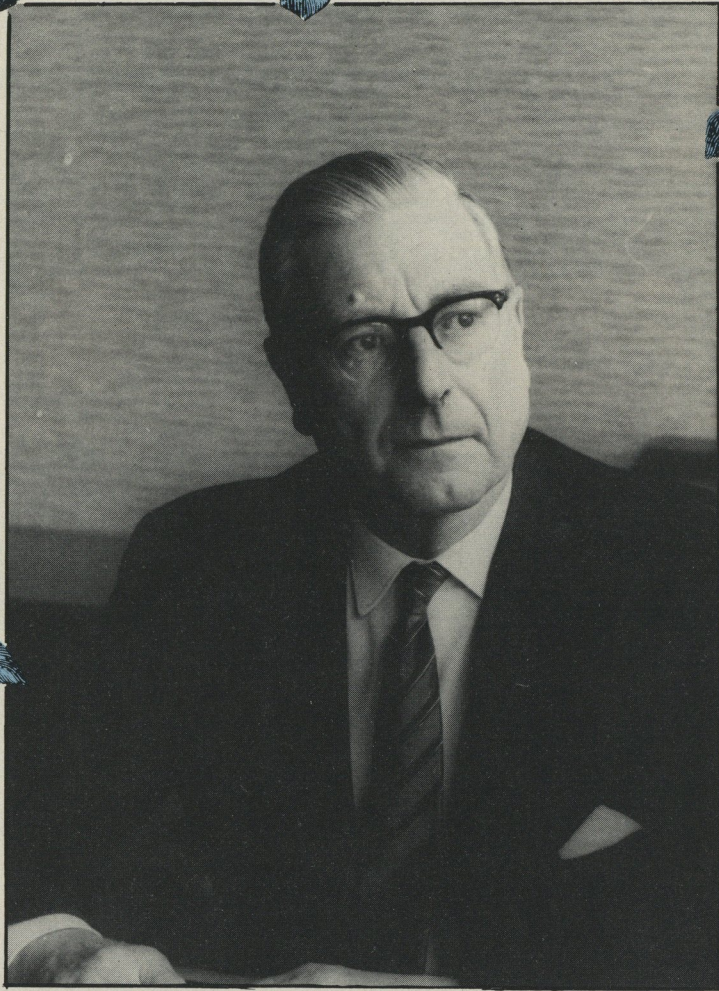
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# CENTRAL LINE

## In memory



*We mourn today a very good friend of Coventry City Football Club and of the city of Coventry.*

*Mr Phil Mead, a director of this football club for 35 years, was tragically killed in a road accident last week.*

*He was 76. Everyone connected with this football club extends their deepest sympathy to his widow Muriel and their two sons, Tony and Roger.*

*Mr Mead was christened James Reginald, but was known throughout the sporting, financial and business worlds simply as "Phil". It was a nickname*

*he acquired in his hometown of Brighton after the famous England cricketer of that name. His influence and friendship in this city extended far beyond the football club. He was a chartered accountant who became a partner and later consultant with Daffern & Co. He was a magistrate.*

*He helped to form the Engineering Industries Association after the war, he was a former treasurer of the University of Warwick and he played a leading role in persuading this country's major orchestras to perform at the university concert hall. Many people benefited from Phil Mead's friendship.*

*There were those he helped directly and those he assisted through his many anonymous donations to worthy causes. He aided Coventry Boys Club and West Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled in Coventry.*

*He was also closely linked in helping pupils of drama at Sidney Stringer School in Coventry to make trips to Russia and America.*

*This Summer he was to have been honoured by Warwick University which was to have conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. He loved to be involved in his local community and it was typical of him that on the night of his death he had just left a meeting to help organise his local village fete in Stoneleigh. George Curtis, Executive Director of Coventry City Football Club said: "Mr Mead will be sadly missed.*

*He was always smiling, always ready to help and always talked commonsense. He was a friend not only to this club, but to this city." There will be many people in this stadium this afternoon with their own personal memory of Phil Mead. One minute's silence will be observed prior to the match.*



Gerry Daly scores the Sky Blues' first goal against Wolves by sending John Burrige the wrong way from the penalty spot.

▲ Anatomy of a goal. Mick Ferguson signals to Gerry Daly where he wants his freekick.



Pictures by John Bassett of The Coventry Evening Telegraph

# FACT PAC

**FULL NAME:** Thomas William Langley

**Birthplace:** Lambeth **Birthday:** February 8th

**Height:** 5ft 11½ ins. **Weight:** 12st 4lbs

**Previous Clubs:** Chelsea, Q.P.R. C. Palace, AEK Athens

**Joined Coventry City:** March 1984 **Transfer Fee:** Nil

**Wife's Name:** Ann **Children's Names:** Benjamin

**Hobbies:** Racing, Golf, Snooker

**Favourite T.V. Shows:** Last of Summer Wine **T.V. Actor:** Bill Owen (Compo)

**Favourite Singer:** Marvin Gaye **Favourite Music:** Jazz, Funk

**Favourite Film Actor/Actress:** Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman, Jack Nicholson

**Favourite Holiday Haunt:** Barbados, Fort Lauderdale

**Favourite Film:** One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest

**Favourite Food:** Italian, Indian

**Favourite Car:** Mercedes Sports

**Car Owned:** Ford Escort XR3

**Greatest Finisher in Your Position:** Paulo Rossi

**Greatest Past Player in Your Position:** Peter Osgood

**Favourite Overseas Player:** Michel Platini

**Favourite Other Team:** Chelsea

**Best Country Visited:** U.S.A.

**International Caps - England 'B':** 3

**Youth:** 4 **Schoolboy:** 4 **Under-21:** 1

**Forecast - Division 1 Champions:** Liverpool

**Division 1 Top Scorer:** Ian Rush

**F.A. Cup winners:** Everton

**Favourite Other Ground:** Stamford Bridge

**Ambitions:** To get a contract for next year

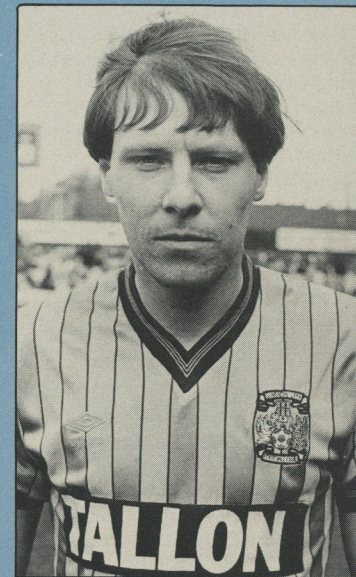
**Biggest Influence on Career:** My family

**Favourite Other Sport:** Horse racing

**Likes:** Hot days and winning

**Dislikes:** Losing

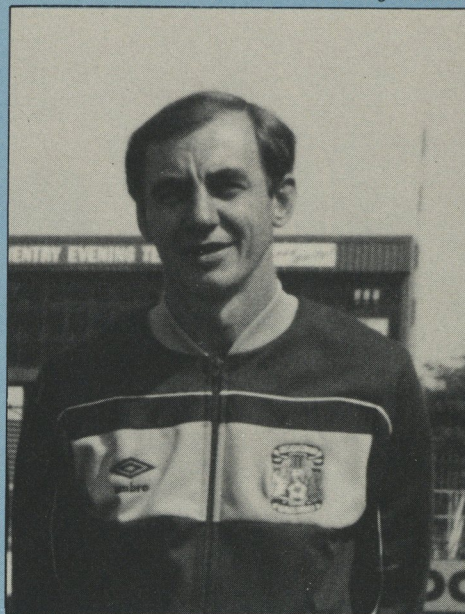
**Greatest Sporting Moment:** Scoring the goal which got Chelsea promoted in 1977





SKIPS SNIPS  
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 SKIPS SNIPS  
 SKIPS SNIPS

George Dalton



## A MIXED BAG

It has been a mixed couple of weeks for the club and all of us involved in it.

We helped our cause with two victories in four days to lift some of the gloom from people's faces, but then we suffered those defeats at Manchester United and Southampton.

I thought we turned in a magnificent team performance to beat Nottingham Forest at Highfield Road then we let ourselves down at Old Trafford. United never should have won by so many goals because we had played well for half an hour and had matched them. But we conceded bad goals to give the scoreline a false look.

We need three points at least to be certain of staying in the First Division and we shall be hoping for another Forest-type performance against Luton this afternoon. We played well against them at Kenilworth Road to win 4-2 so here we are looking for our first double of the season. I must say I never thought it would get to this stage of the season without us having done the double over another side.

Things have not been easy recently because of a long list of injuries and George Dalton, the club physio, has been doing a great job on the walking wounded. At one point there were about 12 players having medical treatment of one sort or another and George was kept busy.

It has made it difficult for the Boss to select teams because

he has not known from one match to the next which players would be available. We know we have lost Trevor Peake, Micky Adams and Keith Thompson for the remainder of the season and our sympathies go out to them, but those of us with less serious injuries have been battling hard to be ready for today's match.

We all appreciate that it is one we need to win.

When the season is over the club is leaving for a short trip to Norway, a place I visited one pre-season when I was a Sunderland player. My main memory is of a beautiful country full of mountains, pine forests and lakes and I remember sunbathing beside a mountain lake. The people are very friendly and they love English soccer which is regularly shown on their television.

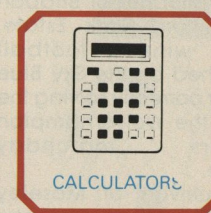
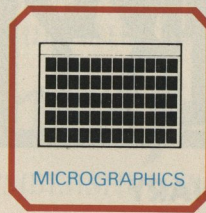
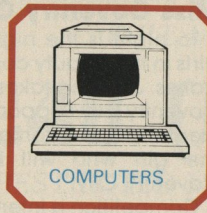
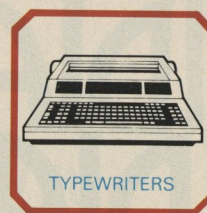
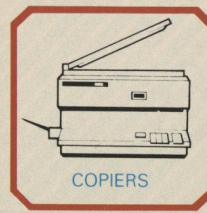
On the debit side I recall that beer in Oslo was £2 a pint.

Finally, as captain of the club on behalf of the players, I would like to extend condolences to Mrs Mead and family on the death of her husband Mr Phil Mead, the club president. He will be a great loss to everyone at Coventry City.  
 SAM ALLARDYCE



Phil Mead

Canon



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We hope you enjoy today's game.

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# DIARY DIARY DIARY

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Scot Christopher of Bridport Close, Clifford Park Estate, Coventry wins a football autographed by the Sky Blue players for correctly solving the puzzle in the Wolverhampton Wanderers matchday magazine.

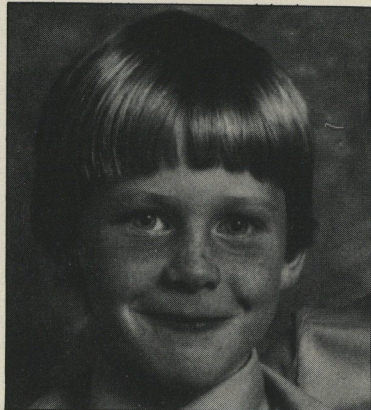
Gary Sullivan of Moseley Avenue, Coundon, Coventry was the winner of the puzzle in the Nottm Forest magazine.

## SEASON TICKET HOLDERS' BALLOT

Mr A. Skudder of Headington Avenue, Whitmore Park, Coventry wins a voucher worth £21.50 to be spent within one month at The Vaults Restaurant, Regent Hotel, Leamington Spa. The winner for the match against Nottingham Forest was Mr L. Collins of Hipswell Highway, Coventry.

## HIT MEN (Including all major cups)

**42** Rush (Liverpool) **25** Archibald (Spurs) **22** Woodcock (Arsenal), Moran (Southampton) **21** Lineker (Leicester), Christie (Notts Co.), Johnston (Watford) **20** Withe (A.Villa), Falco (Spurs) **19** Mariner (Arsenal), Cottee (W.Ham) **18** Gibson (Coventry C.) **17** Heath (Everton) **16** Smith (Leicester), Robson (Man.Utd), Stapleton (Man.Utd), Deehan (Norwich), Walsh (N.Forest), Stainrod (Q.P.R.), Barnes (Watford)



**Young Scott Blyth**, son of Jim the former Sky Blues' goalkeeper, who is at this afternoon's match as a treat to celebrate his 7th birthday by appearing as one of the Sky Blues' pre-match mascots. Scott will be shown around the stadium and then will watch the match. Jim says: "Both lads have remained Sky Blues fans even though I transferred to Birmingham City 2 years ago."

## Miss Coventry City

To night is the night for the girls in the beauty competition stakes. Judging takes place in Coventry City Supporters Club, Freehold Street tonight to find the girl who will be "Miss Coventry City."

Competition is intense for this prestigious title. Last year's winner Julie Cooke won from 30 rivals and the organisers are looking for a similar entry. Previous winners have included Pat Stanley, Pru Porretta, Jenny Lee Harris and Nikki Thomas.

## MYSTERY MAN WINNERS

The Mystery Man in the Matchday Magazine against Wolverhampton Wanderers was Roger Van Gool and Andrew Leavers of Batsford Road, Coundon, Coventry wins two stand tickets for knowing that.

In the magazine for the Nottingham Forest match the Mystery Man was Trevor Gould. The winner of two stand tickets is Mr R. Bradbury of Cliff Way, Warwick.

## Results Run Down v Luton Town Division One

	HOME	AWAY
1983-84	W 4-2	W 4-2
1982-83	W 4-2	W 2-1
1974-75	W 2-1	W 3-1
Division Three		
1963-64	D 3-3	W 3-1

## ON TARGET

Errington Kelly, on loan to Peterborough United from the Sky Blues has been among the goals for the Fourth Division club. He has scored eight since he joined them last month.

## CITY DIARY

Mon May 7  
Sky Blues v Liverpool  
at Anfield (k.o. 3 p.m.)

Sat May 12  
Sky Blues v Norwich  
at Highfield Road  
Monday May 14  
City Res v Middlesbrough  
at Highfield Road

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FOR DETAILS



**Les Sealey** (Goalkeeper) - Born Bethnal Green. Age 26. Joined Coventry City from school and played 178 Cup and League matches after his debut in 1977. Transferred to Luton last Summer.

**Kirk Stephens** (Defender) - Born Coventry. Age 29. Luton manager David Pleat went back to his old club Nuneaton Borough to take Kirk into League football. Now heading for 200 first team appearances.

**Mitchell Thomas** (Defender) - Born Luton. Age 19. Was given the opportunity to join the club through a Manpower Services scheme and did so well he was offered a contract. Now an England Youth international.

**Brian Horton** (Midfield) - Born Hednesford. Age 35. Began with non-League Hednesford Tn. and has now played nearly 600 League games for Port Vale, Brighton and Luton.

**Paul Elliott** (Defender) - Born London. Age 20. Started with Charlton Athletic where he played 80 matches. Signed for £100,000 last season. Holder of 8 England Youth caps.

**Mal Donaghy** (Defender) - Born Belfast. Age 26. Northern Ireland international. Signed from Larne in 1978 and can play midfield or in defence.

**Gary Parker** (Midfield) - Born Oxford. Age 18. Spotted playing for Oxfordshire Youth team in 1978. Was included in England's Youth squad tour to Denmark.

**Brian Stein** (Forward) - born South Africa. Age 26. Recently won his first England cap. Started with Edgware and has now played over 200 games for Luton, his only League club. Club's top scorer last season.

**Paul Walsh** (Forward) - Born Plumstead. Age 21. Played 85 League games for Charlton before joining Luton for a £400,000 fee. Capped by England at Under-21 and senior levels.

**Emeka Nwajobi** (Forward) - Gained a pharmacy degree at Cardiff University before entering professional football. Transferred from non-League Dulwich Hamlet in December 1983.

**Trevor Aylott** (Forward) - Born London. Began with Chelsea and then moved to Barnsley and joined Luton after a brief loan spell with Q.P.R. Got his first team place when Brian Stein was injured last season.

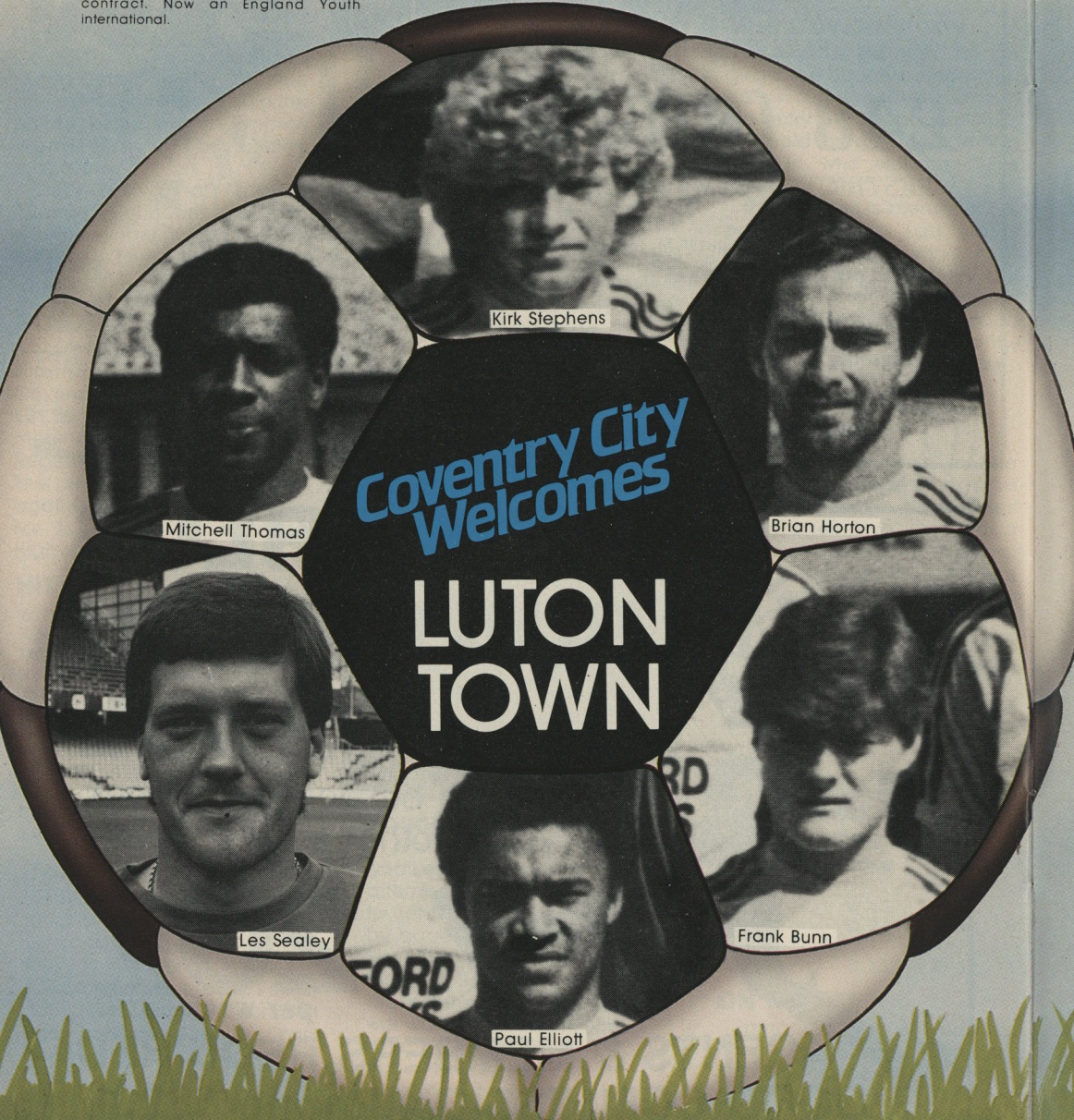
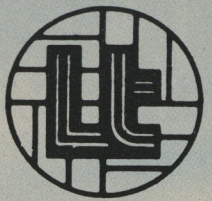
**Frank Bunn** (Forward) - Born Birmingham. Age 21. Signed from school and played five senior games last season. Prolific goalscorer in the reserve side.

**David Moss** (Forward) - Born Witney. Age 32. Began with non-League Witney and then played 200 League games for Swindon before being signed by Luton for £110,000. Has scored over 130 goals in League football.

**Back Row L to R:** Rob Johnson, Wayne Turner, Ray Daniel, Tim Breacker, Andy Beasley, Stacey North, Mitchell Thomas, Gary Parker, Cahal McConville. **Middle Row L to R:** John Moore (YOUTH TEAM COACH) Richard Money, Clive Goodyear, Les Sealey, Paul Elliott, Mike Saxby, Jake Findlay, Trevor Aylott, Frank Bunn, Trevor Hartley (RESERVE TEAM COACH). **Front Row L to R:** David Coates (1ST TEAM COACH) Kirk Stephens, Ricky Hill, Mal Donaghy, David Moss, David Pleat (MANAGER) Brian Horton, Raddy Antic, Brian Stein, Paul Walsh, John Sheridan (PHSIO.)

Four draws during March and four defeats during April have plunged Luton Town back down to mid-table just when it seemed that in this, their second season back in Division One, they might well end up with a place in Europe for next season.

Even so their attractive style of play allied to a remarkable recovery from the brink of financial ruin a few years ago make this little club popular with football fans in general and if today's game produces as many goals as the corresponding one last season or the one at Kenilworth Road in December then we are in for a treat.



Founded in 1885, the 'Hatters' turned professional in 1890, the first team in the south of England to do so and had a short spell in Division Two from 1887 to 1900 before having to wait twenty years before becoming founder-members of Division Three (South) when that was formed from the Southern League.

They remained until 1937 when climbing to Division Two and then 1955 they climbed into Division One for the first time ever. Four years later they reached the F.A. Cup final, going down 2-1 to Nottingham Forest at Wembley, but then came a decline. They slipped to Division Two in 1960, to Division Three in 1963 and to Division Four in 1965 to join Brentford as the only clubs at that time to have slipped all the way from Division One to Division Four.

Incredibly they had climbed back up to Division One again by 1974, but they stayed up for just one season in the midst of severe financial problems. They weathered the storm and in 1981/2 topped Division Two by a clear eight points after losing only four games all season.

Last season they began well enough, but a poor home record with only seven wins at Kenilworth Road all season let them down and it was fitting that their sixth away win of the season (at Manchester City in the very last match) served to keep them up.

**THIS SEASON**

There have been no such problems this season for manager DAVID PLEAT (now in his sixth season at the helm) even though there has been a tendency to play their best football away from home. The 4-2 home defeat by us followed one by a similar scoreline at the hands of Spurs and yet during the same period they chalked up four successive away wins at Q.P.R., Watford, Stoke and Notts County. Their best performances recently have been draws at Aston Villa, Birmingham and Norwich while a 3-2 win over Notts County ended a lean spell at Kenilworth Road.

Former Charlton striker PAUL WALSH is currently leading scorer for the second successive season with support up front from DAVID MOSS (ex-Swindon) and young striker GARY PARKER, who made his debut last season. BRIAN STEIN, now in his seventh season and RADDY ANTIC, who got the goal that kept them up last season, may also be pressing forward from midfield where they link up with skipper BRIAN HORTON, now in his third season at Luton and a player who has given tremendous service in the Football League since being released by Walsall in 1966.

PAUL ELLIOTT (from Charlton last season) and Northern Ireland World Cup hero MAL DONAGHY are likely to be the heart of the defence with KIRK STEPHENS (from Nuneaton in 1978) and MITCH THOMAS (who made his debut last season) on the flanks and our old friend LES SEALEY in goal.

### SKY BLUES NEW 'B' TEAM

Calling all school leavers who have dreamed of becoming professional footballers. The Sky Blues will form a team to play in one of the local amateur leagues next season.

Manager Bobby Gould says: "Any boys leaving school at the age of 16 this Summer who want to try and make the grade in football should contact our Youth Recruitment Manager Bert Edwards at the Sky Blue Connexion.

"We shall be looking for 12 or so boys who will be given their own coach and they will play in Sky Blue colours and be known as Coventry City 'B'. We are in the process of contacting a local league suitable for boys of

this age to play in. It will be a good grounding for any young lad who might be able to break through into the professional ranks at a later stage."

The telephone number to contact Bert Edwards is Coventry 306155.

### DIDN'T HE DO WELL?

Donny Gethfield who joined the Sky Blues on a Youth Opportunities Scheme has done so well that he has been signed as an apprentice professional. Donny, who is nicknamed 'Frank Bruno' by his Sky Blue clubmates, is a centre-half who has already had a taste of Central League football.

Manager Bobby Gould said: "It gave us great pleasure to sign Donny and it just shows what can be achieved if a person works hard enough."

### SKY BLUES PLAYER OF THE YEAR

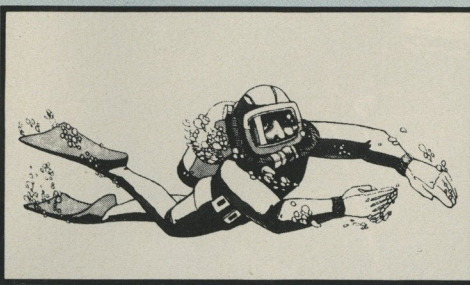
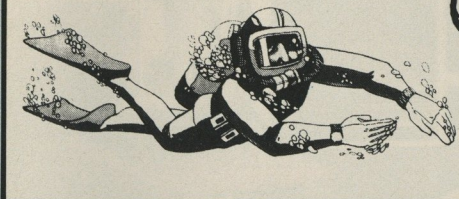
It is virtually your last chance to vote for the man you rate as Sky Blues' Player of the Year. All you need to do is to fill in this coupon and send it, or take it, to the address on the coupon. The closing date for entries is Monday May 7 so time is short.

You can vote for any Sky Blue player but which ever you choose it will mean a new name on the trophy. Last year's winner Gary Gillespie has moved on to Liverpool so will it be Terry Gibson perhaps, or Trevor Peake or Gerry Daly or Nicky Platnauer's name to be inscribed on the trophy, or have you someone else in mind?

I wish to vote for .....  
as Coventry City "Player of the Year"

Signed .....

Please return this coupon to Coventry City Football Supporters' Club, 50, Freehold Street, Coventry CV1 5BH, marking the envelope "Player of the Year" in the top left-hand corner. Closing date for votes is May 7.



### M&B Picposers

#### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Find six differences between the two pictures and you have a chance of winning a football autographed by the Sky Blue players. Send in your solution to Coventry City F.C. as soon as possible. The first correct entry wins the football.

### Mystery man

Guess the identity of the mystery man described below and send your answer along with your name and address to C.C.F.C., King Richard Street, Coventry. The first correct solution drawn from the hat will receive two stand tickets for the next home game.

Sky Blues costliest signing but he stayed only 9 months before moving on to America.

### Scorecheck

A Birmingham City v Liverpool	<input type="text"/>	J West Ham v Aston Villa	<input type="text"/>
B Everton v Manchester Utd	<input type="text"/>	K Barnsley v Oldham	<input type="text"/>
C Ipswich Tn v Sunderland	<input type="text"/>	L Cardiff v Brighton	<input type="text"/>
D Leicester v Nottm Forest	<input type="text"/>	M C. Palace v Swansea	<input type="text"/>
E Notts Co. v Q.P.R.	<input type="text"/>	N Fulham v Cambridge	<input type="text"/>
F Stoke City v Southampton	<input type="text"/>	O Grimsby v Blackburn	<input type="text"/>
G Tottenham v Norwich	<input type="text"/>	P Leeds v Carlisle	<input type="text"/>
H Watford v Wolves	<input type="text"/>	Q Middlesbrough v Charlton	<input type="text"/>
I W.B.A. v Arsenal	<input type="text"/>	R Newcastle v Derby Co.	<input type="text"/>
		S Portsmouth v Huddersfield	<input type="text"/>
		T Shrewsbury v Sheff. Wed.	<input type="text"/>

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