



OFFICIAL
MATCHDAY
MAGAZINE 50p

CANON LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
Monday 8th April 1985

**STOKE CITY v
LUTON TOWN**

STOKE CITY

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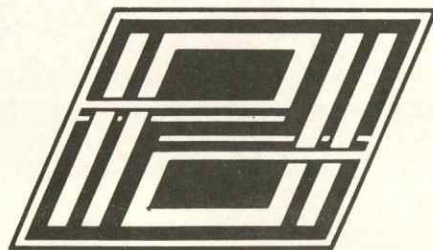
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MY VIEW



'At the end of the day soccer hooliganism is a social problem.'

Asking Football League clubs to each spend £40,000 on improved fencing to combat soccer hooliganism is not what I had expected from the Government.

It is incredible to me — when they know the financial situation of the game today — they should suggest clubs putting the fences up against the louts.

At the end of the day soccer hooliganism is a social problem and everyone has to do their bit to fight it, not just the football clubs. There is no discipline any more; no respect for law and order and fences will make little difference to the problem.

Some of the best fenced grounds include Chelsea and Leeds. But both clubs have had major problems with violence from their so-called fans. A couple of years ago when Leeds played West Brom I saw them pull down the fences. Now that was nothing to do with alcohol consumed at the ground — a group of hooligans just started to pull and shove and once the fencing swayed they pushed it over.

Following the fences the Government suggest a ban on alcohol at certain grounds. But most clubs do not get trouble from drunks, and fans do not have enough time to get drunk at the match and some of our supporters rush straight from work and want a pint before the match or at half-time.

A similar ban is reported to have been a success in Scotland. But last weekend only 40,000 saw the entire programme north of the border and Manchester United get that on their own.

Policing of grounds is a major item of expenditure but often clubs find it is not adequate cover inside the grounds.

Yet recently when I was in London there was some kind of talk-in at Piccadilly and there were masses of police everywhere. They were sitting in vans and buses getting overtime for Saturday afternoon and there was always plenty of police on the picket lines in the miners' dispute. Yet football clubs are expected to stop hooligans smashing shop windows in town and also keep control inside our grounds. We cannot do it on our own.

Violence has always gone on but has escalated to mammoth proportions in recent years and at the moment people are looking for hooks to hang up their hats. I was appalled to hear a magistrate on TV the other evening say that they were issuing out enough punishment or words to that affect. That I think sums up the apathy that prevails throughout the problem.

BILL ASPREY



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STOKE CITY MATCH DAY MAGAZINE

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Around the City

first half and a lucky in-off goal by Peter Withe diverted off George Berry's knee finally breaks Stoke's resistance. Didier Six adds a second near the end. Bill Asprey praises work of Berry and Paul Dyson in setting example to his younger players.

28 Sammy McIlroy turns down chance of joining Sunderland just before transfer deadline. Peter Fox, pleased with his training progress under Birmingham remedial specialist Tony Ford, asks to turn out in reserves against Nottingham Forest. Stoke go down 2-0 but Fox is pleased with his outcome despite some stiffness in his back.

29 Injury log starts to clear as Maskery and Hudson are declared fit to face Arsenal.

30 First win of year as Stoke beat Arsenal 2-0 in determined, hard running approach despite a heavy surface following first half deluge. Painter makes no mistake from penalty spot after Heath is brought down and Paul Dyson adds a second with a diving header to notch three goals for the first time in his career. 'Our best performance of the season,' enthuses Bill Asprey. His one regret is that he declined Alan Hudson's Grand National tip, a 50-1 winner. Hudson, delighted to be back in action, admits he is some way below fitness but says: 'At least I was there to help bring out the best in the lads. Their confidence has been knocked back too often this season.'

APRIL

1 Former Wrexham manager Bobby Roberts helps out on the coaching side.

MARCH

18 Hospital X-ray check-up for Maskery. Advised to rest a few days.

19 Sammy McIlroy named in Northern Ireland squad for friendly against Spain in Majorca next week but is promptly pulled out by Bill Asprey owing to rear-ranged game at Villa Park.

20 Keith Bertschin receives two-match ban to add to Stoke's injury problems.

21 Former Tranmere manager Bryan Hamilton at Victoria Ground for training session and chat with Mr Asprey. 'Just a friendly visit,' says Mr Asprey.

22 Chris Maskery ruled out of tomorrow's home game with Forest along with Mark Chamberlain and Alan Hudson.

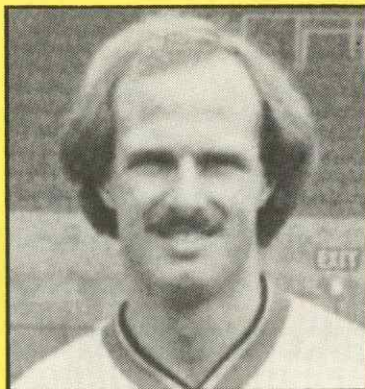
23 Steve Parkin ends goal drought with first goal of year to open scoring but Ian Painter has a spot-kick saved and Forest storm back with four goals.

26 Stoke set to ask Painter and Phil Heath to team up in new strike force at Villa Park tomorrow.

27 Teenagers Chris Hemming, Aaron Callaghan, Carl Beeston and Parkin all included in squad against Aston Villa at Villa Park. Painter and Heath team up brightly but Villa escape a few scares in



PETER FOX



PAUL DYSON

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Supporters Talk



NICHOLAS J. MANSFIELD
Secretary
Stoke City Supporters Club

FINE WIN

Last week's win over Arsenal, despite being our first victory of 1985, proved just how well we can play against the top teams in the country. The overall team effort was marvellous, providing a most entertaining match. With the match being shown on television, football supporters from all over the country had a chance to see how well we played against the team which were many peoples favourites to win the title, at the beginning of the season.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON

Supporters Clubs members are invited to pick up a voting card and nominate their choice for 'Player of the Season'.

Strong candidates for this season's 'Players' award are: Paul Dyson (scorer of last week's brilliant second goal); Sammy McIlroy; top scorer, Ian Painter; Steve Bould (last

season's winner); George Berry and Philip Heath. Obviously everyone has their own favourite, but it is aimed to determine the Supporters choice of player who has contributed the most throughout this season. Voting cards must be returned before Tuesday 7th May and any received after this date will not be included in the poll.

SCOTLAND MATCH

The Supporters Club are at present considering running a coach to the England v Scotland match, now to be played at Hampden Park on Saturday 25th May.

The coach will only be ordered if sufficient interest is shown by Supporters, and it is therefore very important for anyone who would like to travel with us to contact Ken Marek as soon as possible, either at the Programme Stall on the Butler Street car park, or by telephoning 812388.

Due to various problems which are expected in relation to travel to Hampden, and the obtaining of match tickets, it is strongly advised that Supporters travel on an organised trip to this match.

GOVERNMENT RULINGS

This week has seen a number of government rulings concerning the prevention of football violence, which followed the recent disturbances at matches involving Chelsea and Millwall. The proposed measures include the banning of alcohol at matches; the introduction of 'passport' type membership cards, and the encouragement of family enclosures within grounds. No doubt the much publicised measures will provoke discussion amongst supporters of all ages, and we would welcome opinions from all those concerned with the game. As always a prize will be awarded to the sender of the best letter on this subject.

CORRESPONDENCE

The new address for all correspondence concerning the Supporters Club is 11 Westland Street, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7HE (please enclose SAE with all enquiries).



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COMMERCE

by Dudley Kernick

THERE IS A 'NICE' SIDE TO SOCCER

There is no doubt that for every time one hooligan who interferes with the enjoyment of others at football games then the press, radio and television all jump on the band wagon and accuse football clubs for not doing this and not doing that. But there are a lot of good things that go on in football that our 'friends' in the media would never dream of giving the slightest publicity. So we are delighted to publish here just a few of the nice things that people do find to write to us about.

You will remember the story of the 11-year-old fan who had his hat stolen. Well here is the happy sequel in letters received from the boy and his dad.

Dear Mr Kernick, Thank you for replacing my hat which I had taken during the West Bromwich Albion versus Stoke City match. I was very surprised when I received the parcel today and was very grateful to you for replacing it for me.

Thanks again. Nathan Reynolds.

Reynolds Road, Bedworth, Warwickshire

Dear Mr Kernick, I am most impressed by your kind gesture, and by the article in the programme v Nottingham Forest. I shall take a special interest in Stoke City FC's results in future and wish you and the club every success. Many, many thanks. Neil Reynolds.

North Staffordshire Health Authority

Dear Mr Kernick, On behalf of the Health Education Department may I thank you for all your co-operation and assistance in the organisation of the Donor Card distribution at the game on Saturday 2nd March 1985.

Not only was your help practical, but also you and the club were very generous and I was made to feel very welcome. Thank you once again. Victoria Barron-Berringer.

Ricoh UK Products Ltd.

Dear Dudley,

Re: *Sponsored Match Stoke City v Arsenal*
Further to our visit to your ground last Saturday

for the above match, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all concerned for the well organised and entertaining afternoon. The hospitality of the club was first class and very much appreciated.

I would further like to compliment the club on the condition of the Victoria Ground. It was very refreshing to see everything so clean and well cared for.

Please express our gratitude to the players for a very entertaining game and congratulate them on their success.

Yours sincerely Roy Evans, General Manager.

Victoria Theatre

Dear Mr Asprey, Thank you very much for your help in getting the four players to help in the launch of our Oatcake Recipe book. The occasion was a great success and I think the lads enjoyed themselves.

Sincerely, Peter Cheeseman, Theatre Director.

Peter Dalby Cars Ltd.

Dear Dudley, On behalf of myself and all my guests on Saturday, may I thank you for a very enjoyable and interesting day. The organisation of the day was first class.

I hope the near future brings everyone a change in current trends, and the club go from strength to strength, you certainly deserve to.

Once again, I thank you for a very pleasant day.

Yours faithfully, P. T. Dalby, Director.

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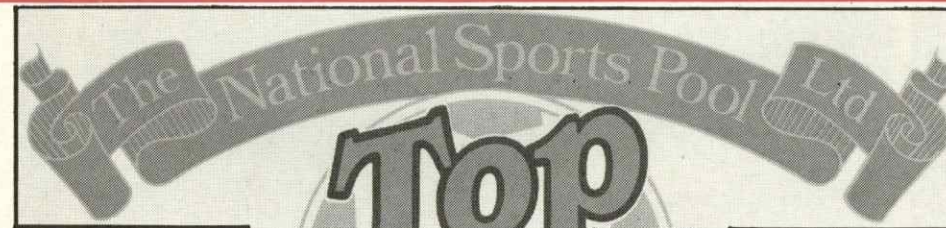
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26	32	47	57
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20	37	43	50

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REPLAY
CITY 2
ARSENAL 0



Alan Hudson had the better of Talbot in this midfield clash as indeed did Alan throughout the match.



IT'S A PENALTY! No doubt about it Phil Heath is floored unfairly by O'Leary.
INSET: Ian is spot on with this penalty which gave City the lead against Arsenal.



Paul Dyson City's 'Man of the Match' meets the ball with his head and scores City's second goal against the 'Gunnars'.



IT'S THERE! Paul Dyson certainly knows his header was successful with this worm's eye view of the ball and the beaten keeper Lukic.

Pictures by Chris Doorbar

FOCUS STEVE PARKIN

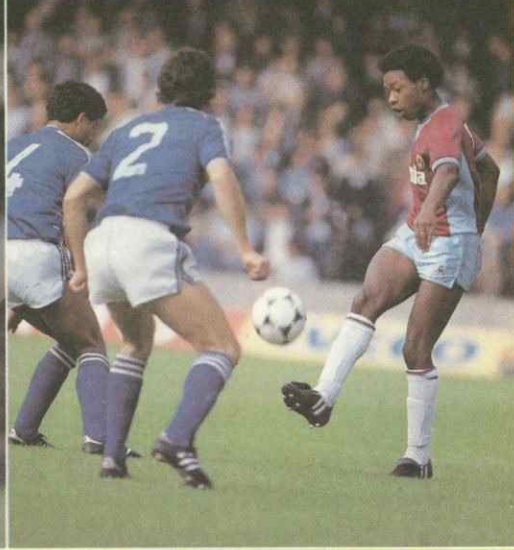
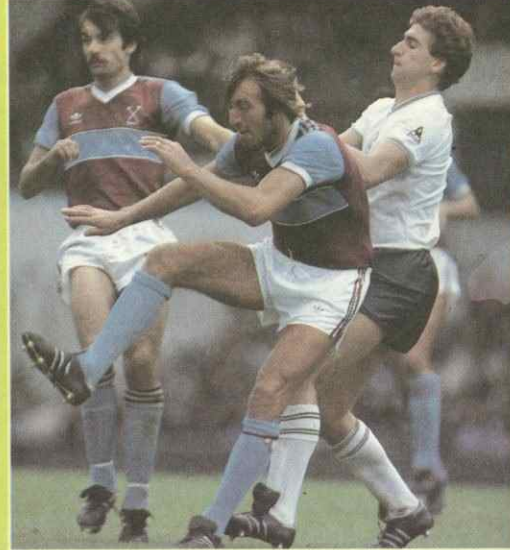
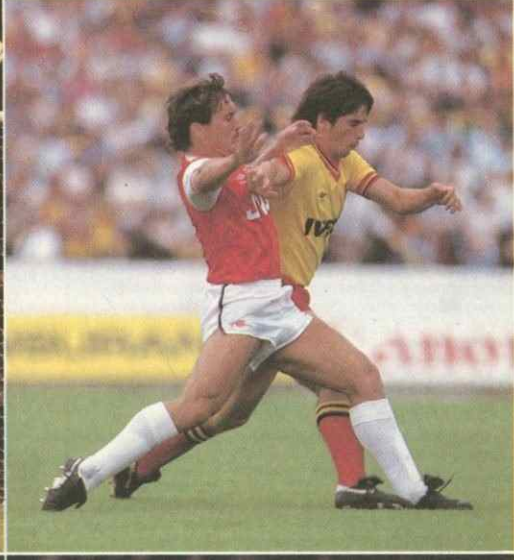
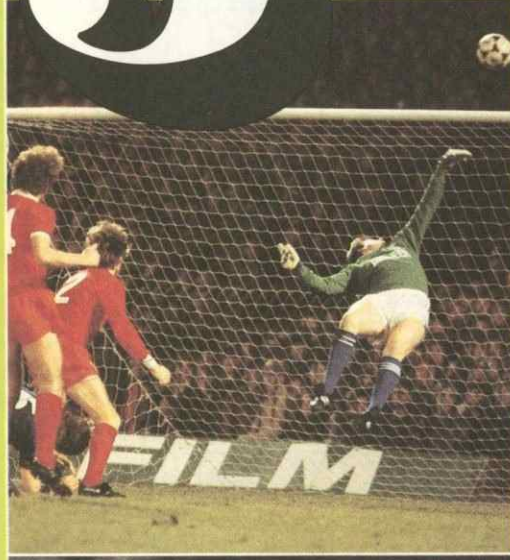
A strong contender for a permanent place in City's midfield is our former Youth and Reserve team 'general', Mansfield-born Steve Parkin, who is now in his third year at the club which he joined as an apprentice straight from school.

Although 19-year-old 'Bill' has several representative honours to his name, including nine caps for England Schoolboys. He rates the semi-final of last season's FA Youth Cup as his most memorable moment in football as the team's 3-0 victory versus Arsenal, which saw them through to a final appearance. It was a just reward for the magnificent team-work and for the efforts of Tony Lacey, who Steve says has had the biggest influence on his footballing career. Outside football, he likes to play snooker and golf whenever possible and when at home he can usually be found watching TV comedy programmes like 'The Young Ones' or listening to pop music — Phil Collins is his favourite singer.

A natural and strong right-footed player even at schoolboy level, Steve attracted attention from both Nottingham and Sheffield clubs but chose to sign for Stoke 'because of the very friendly atmosphere' at the Victoria Ground, to which he travels from his home in Worksop in a smart Vauxhall Nova. All Potters' fans no doubt hope the youngster is successful in his major ambition: to play regularly for Stoke and help the club to top-level honours.



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A strong contender for a permanent place in City's midfield is our former Youth and Reserve team midfield 'general', Mansfield-born Steve Parkin, who is now in his third year at the club which he joined as

Canon in a league of their own.



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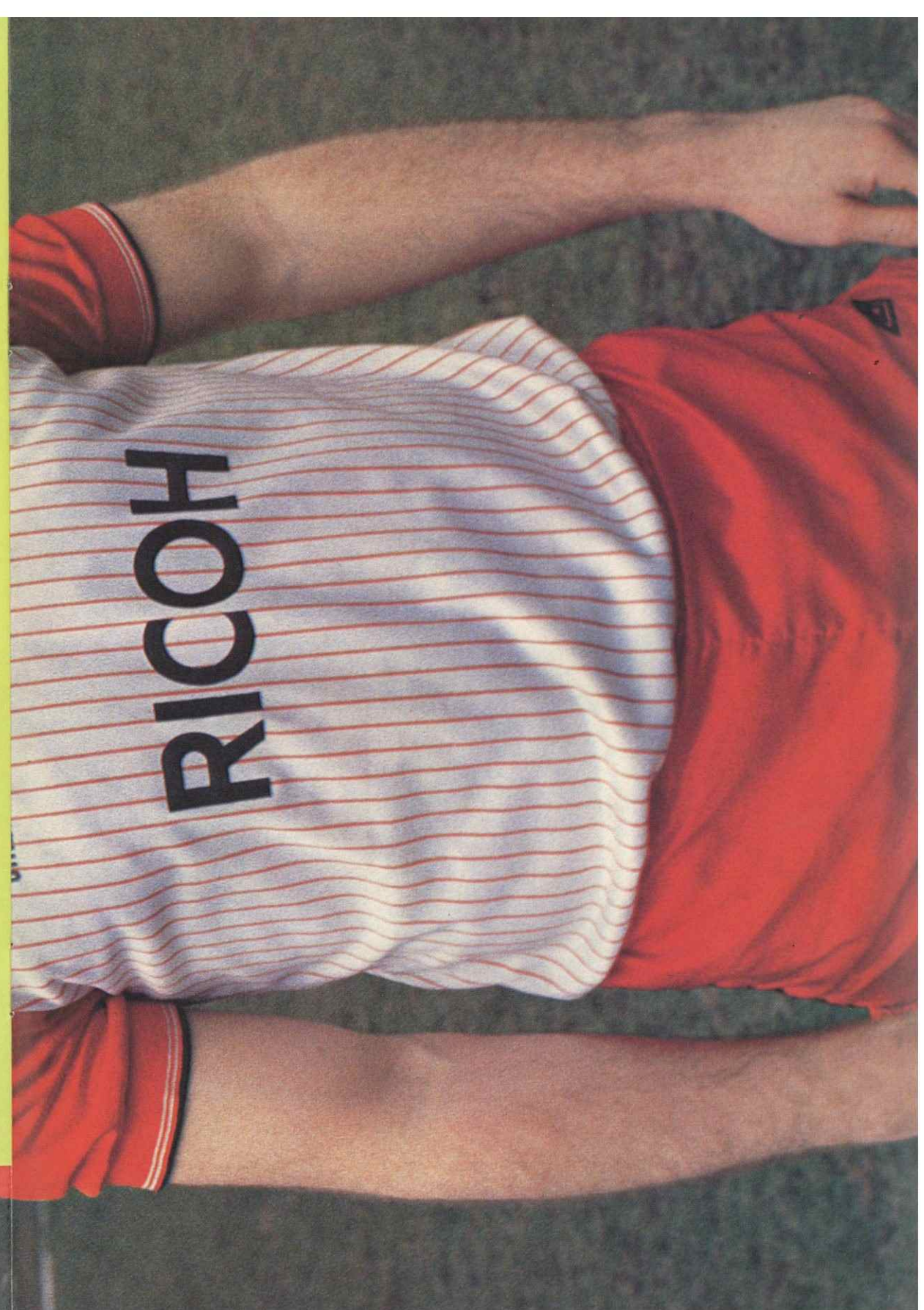


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GEOFF ALLMAN

Introducing....

LUTON TOWN

FA Cup semi-finalists Luton Town pay us their second visit of the season after quite a hectic series of incidents which led to this quickly arranged fixture. Coventry City our scheduled opponents for this Bank Holiday game have illness problems and the Football League allowed them to cancel their games with Luton on Saturday and with us today. Luton had arranged to play a game with Everton tomorrow but with Everton's involvement in Europe that game was postponed! So the Hatters visit us today in a game which means a lot to both clubs, with the Bedfordshire side only two places above ourselves.

Founded in 1885 the 'Hatters' became the first team in the south of England to turn professional when they did so in 1890. They had a short spell in Division Two from 1897 to 1900 before returning to the Southern League and waiting for the foundation of Division Three in 1920 before returning to the Football League.

They climbed into Division Two in 1937 and then in 1955 reached Division One for the first time ever. Four years later they reached the FA Cup Final for their one and only time, going down 2-0 to Nottingham Forest at Wembley, but decline set in almost immediately afterwards. They slipped to Division Two in 1960, to Division Three in 1963 and to Division Four in 1965 to become only the second team (Brentford were the first) to slip all the way from Division One to Division Four.

To their credit they climbed back up to Division One by 1974, but stayed up for only one season in the midst of severe

financial problems. Again they weathered the storm and in 1981-82 they topped Division Two by a clear eight points, losing only four games all season.

In their first season back in Division One they held on to their place after a rare old scramble, finally getting clear of danger when winning 1-0 at Maine Road in their very last game to send Manchester City down. Then last season they were as high as third at Christmas, having won 4-2 here in the midst of a good run, but then came only three wins in their last 23 games and a final position of 16th. A feature of their season was their seven away wins so that 25 of their 51

points were picked up away from home.

THIS SEASON

This season they picked up only two points from their next seven League games after the opening day win over us, but then came a win at QPR and a Milk Cup success over Leicester to add to a home win over Watford. After a spate of drawn games at Kenilworth Road they have recently beaten Aston Villa and Coventry and South African BRIAN STEIN (over 100 League and Cup goals for the club) has been in good scoring form recently.

Midlander FRANKIE BUNN, who netted against us on the

opening day, is also likely to be up front today together with long-serving former Swindon man DAVID MOSS. New signings MICK HARFORD from Birmingham up front and DAVID PREECE from Walsall in midfield are others to look out for today together with young midfielder RAY DANIEL, who recently netted against Coventry.

RICKY HILL has of course been capped by England in midfield while in defence TIM BREACKER and WAYNE TURNER are local lads on the flanks with new man STEVE FOSTER (ex-Brighton and Aston Villa) and Northern Ireland cap MAL DONAGHY in the centre and ex-Coventry man LESSEALEY in his second season in goal. Welsh international PETER NICHOLAS another new signing from Crystal Palace is likely to bolster Luton's midfield.



DAVID PLEAT



IN RETROSPECT

DIVISION TWO

	Home	Away
1953-54	1-1	1-0
1954-55	0-0	1-3
1960-61	3-0	1-4
1961-62	2-1	0-0
1962-63	2-0	0-0

DIVISION ONE

1974-75	Stoke 4 (Hudson, Robertson, Greenhoff 2) Luton 2 (Anderson, Garner) Luton 0 Stoke 0
1982-83	Stoke 4 (Berry 2, Bracewell, O'Callaghan) Luton 4 (Walsh 2, Stein, Donaghy) Luton 0 Stoke 0
1983-84	Stoke 2 (James 2, 1 pen) Luton 4 (Walsh 3, Daniel) Luton 0 Stoke 1 (Painter)
1984-85	Luton 2 (Elliott, Bunn) Stoke 0
FA CUP Third Round	Luton 1 (Foster) Stoke 1 (Painter) Stoke 2 (Painter pen, Chamberlain) Luton 3 (Hill, Harford, Donaghy)

Teams for last League game here, 10th December 1984:
STOKE: Fox, Boul, Hampton, James, Berry, McAughtrie, Maskery, McLroy, Painter (Maguire), Thomas, Chamberlain.
LUTON: Sealey, Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Aylott, Daniel.
Attendance: 10,329

Reserve & Youth Focus



By Tony Lacey

STOKE CITY RES 0 NOTTINGHAM FOREST RES 2

Stoke had Peter Fox back after a long absence, with Chamberlain and Maskery using the game to test match fitness.

After a bright start in which Chapman narrowly missed and Shaw scored only to be given off-side, Stoke came under pressure against a fine Forest side. The back four held fine until the 32nd minute, when Fox, having blocked one effort, saw Campbell chipping home a very weak shot to give Forest the lead.

The second half followed a similar pattern, and it was no surprise when a fine cross from Carr saw Mills easily head home. Very little was seen of the Stoke attack with Rowland and Chapman failing to disturb a tight defence and Chamberlain failing to show any form in a disappointing game.

STOKE CITY 'A' 3 COVENTRY CITY 'A' 2

Coventry shook Stoke when a hesitant Stoke

defence allowed the visitors forward to snatch an early lead. With the wind at their backs Coventry looked dangerous, and in the 30th minute increased their lead with an untidy goal. Little had been seen of Stoke's attack in a disappointing first half.

Following the interval the home side took advantage of the conditions and completely dominated the game with Beeston and Adams dictating in midfield. In the 50th minute a fine cross by Mountford saw Shaw score at the far post. The equaliser was inevitable, and it came through the dangerous Shaw, whose shot was deflected in to the net. Stoke continually pressed forward and in the 75th minute took the lead when Beeston headed home a fine Shaw corner. With the Stoke defence looking resolute, with Howells and Ward outstanding, the home side retained the lead to win 3-2 and showing tremendous character in coming back from 2-0 down.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE JUNIOR POTTERS

For an enrolment fee of £5 each member receives:

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- 2) Quarterly newsletter
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6) Reduced price admission in special section of Butler Street Stand

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Enrolment forms are available from the Stoke City Box Office.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNIOR POTTER

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TOUR OF WEMBLEY

On Wednesday of this week, a party of approximately 100 Junior Potters and their families will visit Wembley Stadium for a guided tour. Two coaches will leave the Victoria Ground at 10.00 am. During the tour our party will walk up the players' tunnel, visit the changing rooms, climb the steps of the Royal Box and watch an interesting film about the history of our National Stadium.

FIVE-A-SIDE COMPETITION

On Friday of this week, 50 Junior Potters and Family Club members will be involved in a Five-a-Side football competition in our gymnasium. This is just one of the many exciting events we hold for our youngsters. If you are not already a Junior Potter, why not join now.

VERDICT by the Mediamen

Sunday Mirror

Dyson the Stoke ace

By TED MACAULEY

STOKE 2 ARSENAL 0
THIS has got to go down as the shaming of Arsenal's super stars.

If Don Howe's men had any of the spirit and only a fraction of the pride that Stoke value so highly then Arsenal's surrender would not have looked so humble.

The disgrace Arsenal's collection of high priced current internationals brought on the famous name of the club could all be pinpointed as a lack of stomach full of fight.

In contrast, on the muddy acres of the Victoria Ground, the strolling and the scurrying urgency of Sammy McIlroy let Arsenal know what spirit was all about. But if one man could be spotlighted as an example of what heart and pride is all about it was Stoke City's great defender Paul Dyson.

DAILY EXPRESS

STOKE PLAY THEIR AGE OF HEARTS

By John Bean

THE patient is visibly willing but Dr. Don Howe refused to accept that ARSENAL'S shock 2-0 crash at STOKE had anything to do with weak hearts or sagging heads.

The England coach, who has built a career around the work ethic, still has some ex-

plaining to do about the abject failure of his multi-million pound side in the Posties.

On Grand National Day Bill Asprey's rank outsiders not only had the legs and lung to stride out for their third win of a horrific season. They had the hearts too.

FRANK FEARLESS FREE Sunday People

Stoke humble the star Gunners

By IAN DAVIDSON

Stoke City 2, Arsenal 0
STOKE'S defiant anthem "We shall not be moved" rang out round the Victoria Ground after this famous victory.

They haven't had much to shout about this season, and they probably WILL be moved—into the Second Division—when it ends. But they can look back with pride at the day they humbled the millionaires of Arsenal.

The swaggering Londoners arrived in fourth place in the first division, still with hopes of a late title being made to look footballing paupers by Stoke's lowly battlers.

It took a penalty to break the ice. Painter banging it home early in the second half after O'Leary had three up by then.

The second goal was a gem. The brilliant McIlroy, who had run the show like an Oscar-winning director, teased Anderson out on the left.

Then he crossed superbly. For Dyson to launch himself bravely for a thunderous header.

FORM REPORT
STOKE: Siskel 7 — Reid 8, Dyson 8, Barry 7, Maskery 7 — Parker 7, Dodd 7, Hudson 8, McIlroy 8 — Painter 8, Heath 7, ARSENAL: Smith 8, Anderson 8, O'Leary 8, Cain 8, Samsom 6 — Malone 8, Williams 8, Hill 8 — TALBOT 7, Williams 8, Hill 8 — Nicholls 8, Siskel 8, Allison 8. Ref: P. Willis (Co. Durham) 8.

Daily Mail

STOKE SLAM STEVE

By JIM HAWKER
Stoke 2, Arsenal 0
STOKE boss Bill Asprey hit out at England midfielder Steve Williams after the First Division strugglers sent the Gunners packing. Asprey was overjoyed by his side's third win of the season but furious at some of the tackles dished out by Williams.

Booked

Williams was booked in the final minute by Cup final referee Peter Willis for a challenge on Ian Painter, who followed him into the notebook for having a kick back. Asprey said, "Williams went over the top on my players two or three times." Stoke skipper Sammy McIlroy admitted: "I expected a lot more from Arsenal. They were very disappointing." McIlroy (Stoke-9). Patted all the strings in midfield.

VERDICT on the Mediamen

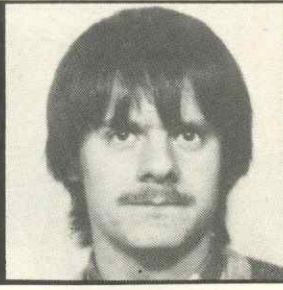
The People	8	The Sun	9
Sunday Express	7	News of the World	6
Evening Sentinel	7	North Staffs News	5
Sunday Mirror	9	Advertiser	8
Daily Mail	7	Radio Stoke	4
Daily Express	8	Signal Radio	5
Daily Mirror	7		

Our marks are given in the same style as some newspapers mark football players.

10	Out of this world
9	Excellent
8	Very Good
7	Good
6	Average
5	Below Average
4	Poor



TALK BACK



STEVE BOULD

ANDREW MORRIS

This week the feature player in our 'Talkback' is young full-back Steve Bould who reflects on City's first win in 13 games with our reporter Andy Morris

MORRIS: It took a long time in coming, and is probably too late in the season to save the club from relegation into Division Two, but victory over Arsenal certainly gave Stoke's fans a much needed cause for celebration. It was an exciting match and no-one had to be on your best form to deny them a couple of early chances and Berry and Dyson had outstanding games in defence — as well as 'Dyce' turning out to be the unlikely creator and converter of those all important goals!

BOULD: I think everybody had an excellent game that day, and obviously Dyce was the hero. Sammy McIlroy played superbly and his cross for the second goal was inch perfect — it seemed that Alan Hudson's presence had an enormous effect on the whole team, and he brought the best out of our midfield, so much so that the Gunners with their nine full internationals looked very predictable and we looked anything but relegation candidates. Arsenal were a very different proposition when we tackled them in September on their own ground, and I didn't think they were too bothered about winning on Saturday. The win really pleased all the lads and it was without doubt our best performance of the season.

MORRIS: The match was notable for the weather which undoubtedly played a part in the kind of football played. It seemed that the heavy pitch was much more suited to City's game, with hard, honest endeavour winning the day over the supposedly more skilful international set from London.

BOULD: We never gave the Gunners much room to play their usual style of football which has brought them success this term, and we were prepared to go out and enjoy ourselves and entertain the fans. I noticed the Arsenal side were in fact just 'going through the motions' for a lot of the time. We are in a desperate League position, but that means that when we go out onto the pitch for a game we have nothing to lose and can afford to play a more natural style of soccer. Confidence is an important factor, and one which I think is to blame for our struggle this season, but now we have Huddy back in the team and Alan Dodd contributing from midfield this has improved.

Fans will have noticed that only once in the last few matches have we been beaten convincingly, and that was when the Nottingham Forest team drained our confidence.

MORRIS: Yes, even when the team got beaten 2-0 versus Aston Villa there were many encouraging signs, and I think with Bertschin and Huddy in the side the lads can definitely save face with a few wins before the end of the season, even if you do go down. Possibly Bill Asprey will try a few of the youth team members of last season in a first team shirt if and when relegation is certain, as they all looked promising but couldn't be risked so far because of the threat of the drop.

BOULD: Obviously I can't comment on the manager's future policies, but I agree that the situation this season has prevented one or two of the lads from breaking into the first team because they would need a few games to settle down, and we need a mixture of youth and experience to achieve any degree of success. There is no compensating for experience, and Hudson, Sammy Mac and the like have performed vital roles this season — even when they have been sidelined, their encouragement to the younger lads has been valuable. I know how hard it is to come into a First Division side, particularly if you're asked to play in an unaccustomed position, because when I had the job of taking over from Derek Parkin it took me a few months before I'd got used to the positional play necessary for a full-back.

MORRIS: On the subject of the players in the Arsenal side who were below par in the last game here at the Victoria Ground, you said yourself that Nicholas, Rix and Mariner had all appeared more of a threat at Highbury earlier on in the season. Nicholas has been much talked about since his arrival in England, and you're also faced top marksmen like Ian Rush and Kerry Dixon. What is your opinion, as a defender on the receiving end of attacks of these strikers?

BOULD: When we visited Highbury, I was so impressed by the likes of Nicholas that I tipped them to take the title this term and the match at Chelsea gave me an indication of the talent of Kerry Dixon inside the penalty area. However, I have to say that the hardest opponent I've faced this season has been Sunderland's Clive Walker, the man who'll unfortunately be remembered for missing a penalty at Wembley in the Milk Cup Final this year.

GIRL TALK



ONLY ONE CAP

In a season when too many of the so-called 'stars' of the game have been more renowned for missed penalties, long term injuries and driving licence deprivation, it isn't as surprising as it would otherwise have been to find a team astride the Football League (as I write) who have only recently been able to boast even one England cap in their side.

DON HOWE WOULD CONFIRM

It is marvellously exciting to see great footballers, players who can quicken the heartbeat upon merely receiving the ball — and the crowds will undoubtedly come along to watch talent even if it happens to be wearing opposition boots at the time.

There are disadvantages, however, apart from the obvious one that any team which is dependent on individual skill will suffer self-doubt when that talent is sidelined through injury or suspension. The abolition of the maximum wage and the greed which followed inevitably in its wake, together with freedom of contract, have bequeathed a veritable minefield of obstacles. The bread-and-butter players, a vital part of the team effort, must

inevitably resent the crumbs proffered to them after the financial cake has been gorged by the few. Nor is it only cash which is being lavished on the stars for they demand too much of the manager's time and nervous energy, too. As I'm sure Don Howe for one would confirm, for too many of their ilk these days, talent is inversely proportional to stability. Good on Everton that they have proved that a team can not only do without stars but can do very well indeed.

Confidence, communication and competitiveness can work wonders for the spirit and ensuing success helps to raise the game of the most (erstwhile) ordinary player.

HOW ABOUT A HANDICAPPING SYSTEM?

On a lighter note! Writing this on the eve of the Grand National, I ask in my ignorance why it is that the horses are handicapped. 'Because some are so much better than others!' retorted a contemptuous husband. Eureka! Excuse me a moment. 'Dear Graham Kelly, as a long suffering Stoke City supporter who finds it most unfair that the rest of the Division is so much better than us, I am writing to suggest

... But no, you couldn't really put weights on Ian Rush, could you? Then why not just a little extra help? A two goal start, perhaps. An extra player. A Potteries ref. Dear God, ANYTHING to make a game of it ... ' Happy Easter, folks!

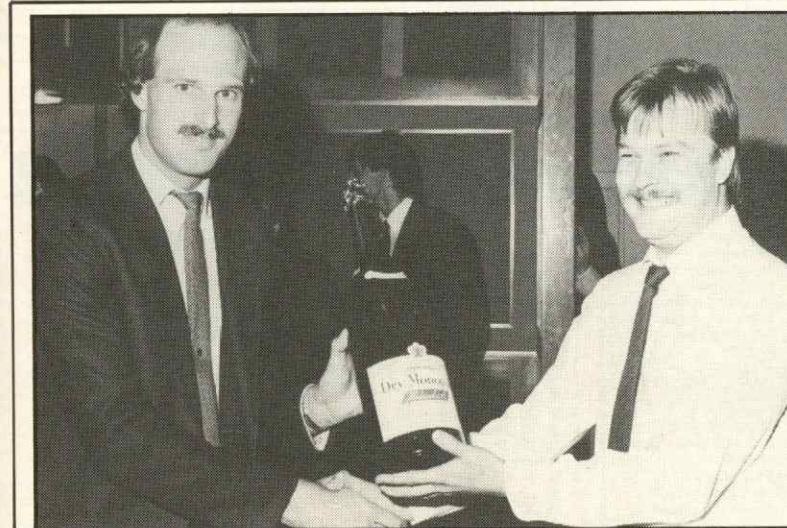
Cheers!

Monica

MONICA HARTLAND
Chairman of Stoke City Supporters Club, London, South and West. An avid supporter (home and away) since 1948, Monica makes a round trip of 350 miles travelling to a HOME game.



George Berry and Paul Dyson have been playing well as a defence duo. Here they are seen as an attacking twinsome at Villa Park.



Paul Dyson receives his 'Man of the Match' award from Ricoh's Marketing Service Manager Don Allen after the game against Arsenal.

CITY STATS

ATTENDANCES & CANON LEAGUE DIVISION ONE TABLE 84-85

Home League Games			Home				Away							
Highst	Average		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
40,769	29,515	Everton	30	10	3	2	41	15	9	3	3	24	18	63
42,918	30,222	Tottenham	31	8	3	3	35	17	10	3	4	25	15	60
56,638	44,383	Manchester United	32	10	4	2	36	10	7	4	5	24	25	59
50,006	33,334	Arsenal	34	11	4	2	32	13	4	3	10	19	29	52
45,545	34,893	Liverpool	31	8	4	5	23	11	6	5	3	22	14	51
48,246	27,111	Sheffield Wednesday	31	9	7	1	33	18	4	5	5	15	14	51
25,902	17,235	Nottingham Forest	32	10	3	4	29	17	5	2	8	18	23	50
22,183	18,501	Southampton	32	8	3	4	17	15	6	5	6	25	25	50
42,197	24,712	Chelsea	31	9	2	4	28	15	3	8	5	19	21	46
37,132	19,337	Aston Villa	33	8	6	3	25	16	4	4	8	20	32	46
23,840	14,191	Leicester City	32	8	4	5	35	22	4	2	9	18	32	42
26,401	14,610	WBA	32	8	3	4	26	17	4	3	10	18	32	42
22,005	16,003	Norwich City	30	9	4	3	26	17	2	4	8	12	26	41
27,404	13,633	OPR	33	8	6	3	31	22	2	5	9	9	30	41
36,821	27,027	Newcastle United	33	8	4	4	27	21	1	7	9	20	41	38
33,218	18,293	West Ham United	29	5	5	5	19	17	4	4	6	18	26	36
27,073	19,285	Watford	31	5	4	5	30	25	3	6	8	23	34	34
27,694	18,631	Sunderland	31	7	4	4	19	16	2	3	11	16	27	34
18,482	12,192	Coventry City	31	8	3	5	22	17	2	1	12	13	34	34
17,511	10,834	Luton Town	30	7	5	3	25	17	1	3	11	12	35	32
24,508	17,130	Ipswich Town	29	5	5	4	18	16	1	4	10	9	27	27
21,013	11,442	Stoke City	32	3	3	9	16	29	0	5	12	4	33	17

CENTRAL LEAGUE 1984-85

Date	V	Opposition	F	A
Aug 28	A	Manchester City	0	4
Sep 11	A	Huddersfield Town	0	3
Sep 20	H	Bradford City	1	3
Sep 25	A	Everton	0	5
Oct 11	A	Nottingham Forest	2	2
Oct 17	H	Liverpool	0	2
Oct 24	H	Barnsley	4	0
Oct 31	A	West Bromwich Albion	6	1
Nov 7	H	Aston Villa	1	3
Nov 9	H	Blackburn Rovers	1	1
Nov 13	A	Manchester United	1	1
Nov 20	A	Notts County	6	0
Nov 28	H	Newcastle United	2	1
Dec 4	A	Derby County	1	2
Dec 13	H	Coventry City	3	2
Dec 19	A	Sheffield United	0	3
Jan 3	H	Sheffield Wednesday	0	1
Jan 29	A	Bradford City	1	4
Feb 20	H	Manchester United	1	0
Feb 22	H	Manchester City	0	2
Feb 27	A	Aston Villa	3	2
Mar 6	H	West Bromwich Albion	1	5
Mar 19	A	Liverpool	0	1
Mar 28	H	Nottingham Forest	0	2
Apr 3	H	Notts County		
Apr 10	A	Newcastle United		
Apr 13	A	Barnsley		
Apr 15	H	Derby County		
Apr 25	H	Sheffield United		
Apr 30	A	Coventry City		
May 7	A	Blackburn Rovers		
May 9	H	Huddersfield Town		
May 15	A	Sheffield Wednesday		
TBA	H	Everton		

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 1984-85

	Lge App	Cups App	Gls
Barron	1	—	—
Berry	24(1)	—	1
Bertschin	17	2	—
Bould	29	4	3
Callaghan	1(1)	—	—
Chamberlain	24	4	2
Corrigan	9	—	—
Dodd	8	—	—
Dyson	27	4	3
Ebanks	10	2	—
Fox	11	2	—
Heath	25	—(1)	2
Hemming	11	1	1
Hudson	12(1)	3	—
James	8	2	—
Maskery	24	3	—
McIlroy	24	2	2
O'Callaghan	20	4	—
Painter	29	3	8
Parkin	8(4)	4	—
Roberts	3	2	—
Saunders	10(5)	2(1)	2
Siddall	8	—	—
Spearing	9	—	—

(Figures in () denote substitute appearances)

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIV ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	27	17	7	3	52	26	58
Aston Villa	28	16	6	6	49	24	54
Manchester United	26	16	2	8	54	25	50
Nottingham Forest	27	12	9	6	56	42	45
Manchester City	27	13	4	10	44	42	43
Blackburn Rovers	26	12	6	8	45	34	42
Sheffield Wed	23	12	3	8	37	31	39
Everton	25	12	1	12	59	47	37
Sheffield United	24	11	3	10	39	33	36
Huddersfield Town	27	9	7	11	43	45	34
Derby County	23	9	4	10	31	39	31
Bradford City	27	8	3	16	38	58	27
Notts County	26	7	5	14	30	59	26
Coventry City	24	7	4	13	28	38	25
WBA	23	7	3	13	21	34	24
Stoke City	24	7	3	14	34	50	24
Barnsley	21	5	6	10	23	35	21
Newcastle United	22	5	3	13	28	49	19

FIRST TEAM RECORD

Date	V	Opposition	F	A	Pos
Aug 25	A	Luton Town	0-2	8,626	—
Aug 27	H	Aston Villa	1-3	12,605	—
Sep 1	H	Sheffield Wednesday	2-1	13,032	20
Sep 15	H	Leicester City	2-2	11,579	21
Sep 19	A	Norwich City	0-0	13,591	20
Sep 22	A	Arsenal	0-4	26,758	21
Sep 26	H	Rotherham Utd (MC 2/L)	1-2	8,221	—
Sep 29	H	Sunderland	2-2	8,882	21
Oct 6	A	Nottingham Forest	1-1	14,129	21
Oct 9	A	Rotherham Utd (MC 2/L)	1-1	6,896	—
Oct 13	H	Southampton	1-3	9,686	22
Oct 20	H	West Ham United	2-4	9,945	22
Oct 27	A	Tottenham Hotspur	0-4	23,477	22
Nov 3	H	Liverpool	0-1	20,576	22
Nov 10	A	West Bromwich Albion	0-2	12,258	22
Nov 17	A	Everton	0-4	26,705	22
Nov 24	H	Watford	1-3	10,564	22
Dec 1	A	Newcastle United	1-2	21,135	22
Dec 4	A	Queens Park Rangers	0-2	8,403	22
Dec 8	H	Ipswich Town	0-2	7,927	22
Dec 15	A	Chelsea	1-1	20,534	22
Dec 22	A	Sheffield Wednesday	1-2	19,799	22
Dec 26	H	Manchester United	2-1	21,013	22
Dec 29	H	Queens Park Rangers	0-2	10,889	22
Jan 1	A	Coventry	0-4	9,829	22
Jan 5	A	Luton Town (FAC3)	1-1	7,720	—
Jan 9	H	Luton Town (FAC3R)	2-3	10,094	—
Jan 12	A	Leicester City	0-0	10,111	22
Feb 2	A	Sunderland	0-1	14,762	22
Feb 23	A	Liverpool	0-2	31,368	22
Mar 2	H	Tottenham Hotspur	0-1	12,553	22
Mar 12	H	West Brom. Albion	0-0	6,885	22
Mar 16	A	Southampton	0-0	14,608	22
Mar 23	H	Nottingham Forest	1-4	7,453	22
Mar 27	A	Aston Villa	0-2	10,874	22
Mar 30	H	Arsenal	2-0	7,371	22
Apr 6	A	Manchester United			
Apr 8	H	Coventry			
Apr 20	H	Everton			
Apr 24	H	Norwich City			
Apr 27	A	Watford			
May 4	H	Newcastle United			
May 6	A	Ipswich Town			
May 11	H	Chelsea			
May 14	A	West Ham United			
TBA	H	Luton Town			

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AWAY TRAVEL

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RESULTS · ATTENDANCES · APPEARANCES · GOALSCORERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Fox	Bould	Maskery	James	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	McIlroy	Heath	Hudson	Parkin	—	—
Fox	Bould	Maskery	Parkin	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	McIlroy	Heath	Hudson	Hemming	—	—
Fox	Ebanks	Maskery	James	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	McIlroy ¹	Heath ¹	Chamberlain	Hemming	Parkin	—
Fox	Ebanks	Maskery	James	Bould ¹	O'Callaghan	Painter	Hudson	Heath ⁺	Chamberlain	Hemming ¹	Saunders	—
Fox	Bould	Hemming	James	Berry	O'Callaghan	Painter	Ebanks	Saunders	Hudson	Chamberlain	Heath	—
Fox	Bould	Maskery	James	Dyson	Berry	Painter	Ebanks	O'Callaghan	Hudson	Chamberlain	Saunders	—
Fox	Bould	Maskery	James	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	Ebanks	Saunders ¹	Hudson	Chamberlain	Hemming	—
Fox	Bould ¹	Hemming	James	Dyson ¹	Berry	Painter	Ebanks	Saunders	O'Callaghan	Chamberlain	Parkin	—
Fox	Bould	Hemming	James	Dyson	Berry ¹	Painter	Ebanks	Saunders	O'Callaghan	Chamberlain	Parkin	—
Fox	Bould	Hemming	James	Dyson	Berry	Painter	Ebanks	Heath ¹	O'Callaghan	Chamberlain	Parkin	—
Fox	Bould	Hemming	Ebanks	Dyson	Berry	Painter	Hudson	Heath	O'Callaghan	Chamberlain	Parkin	—
Corrigan	Bould	Maskery	Ebanks	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	McIlroy	Heath	Hudson	Chamberlain	Berry	—
Corrigan	Bould	Maskery	Saunders	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	McIlroy	Heath	Hudson	Chamberlain	Parkin	—
Corrigan	Maskery	Spearing	McIlroy	Dyson	Bould	Painter	Bertschin	Heath	Hudson	Chamberlain	Parkin	—
Corrigan	Bould	Spearing	Maskery	Dyson	O'Callaghan	Painter	McIlroy	Heath	Bertschin	Chamberlain	Berry	—
Corrigan	Bould	Spearing	Maskery	Dyson	Berry	Painter	McIlroy ¹	Heath	Bertschin	Chamberlain	Saunders	—
Corrigan	Bould	Spearing	Maskery	Dyson	Berry	Painter	Saunders	Heath	Bertschin	Chamberlain	—	—
Roberts	Bould	Spearing	Maskery	Dyson	Berry	Painter						

TEAMCHECK

The Ball Boys are provided by DALES SPORTS OF HANLEY

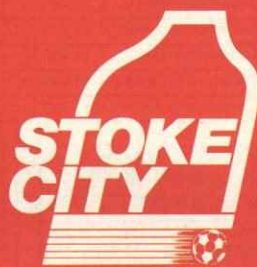
STOKE CITY

LUTON TOWN

BARRY SIDDALL	1	LES SEALEY
STEVE BOULD	2	TIM BREACKER
CHRIS MASKERY	3	MITCHELL THOMAS
ALAN DODD	4	PETER NICHOLAS
PAUL DYSON	5	STEVE FOSTER
GEORGE BERRY	6	MAL DONAGHY
IAN PAINTER	7	RICKY HILL
SAMMY McILROY	8	BRIAN STEIN
PHILLIP HEATH	9	MICK HARFORD
ALAN HUDSON	10	EMEKA NWAJIOBI
STEVE PARKIN	11	DAVID PREEÇE
	12	

Referee: N. MIDGLEY, Salford, Lancs.

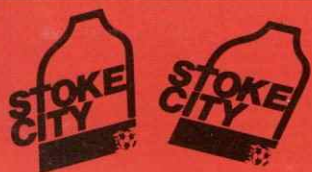
Linesmen: K. J. BREEN, Maghull, Liverpool (Red Flag)
J. F. MANN, Nottingham (Yellow Flag)



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