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BARRY FRY

Writes

So everything comes down to the wire and the visit of Luton Town today! One thing about Southend United I gather is, that the season rarely ends on a dull note one way or another and that's certainly true this time.

You'll no doubt have read my views, which I think would be shared by most of our fans who made the trip to Cambridge last week. I won't therefore dwell on that except to say that I expect a totally different performance today. Southend - and Barry Fry - expects! The team has to deliver, it's as simple as that.

My view on taking over, that four wins out of nine games would keep us safe looks optimistic now and victory today is required, subject to others performances, to secure Division One status for next year.

I can assure each and every one that there is no-one more dedicated to ensuring that than I am - and I believe, despite Cambridge, the players. I know

from my short time here how much the fans want to stay here and I know that we shall not be short of support today.

We need to have both patience and passion in our play and discipline within us to make sure we use them at the right time, in the right way and in the right mixture. Too much undisciplined passion is no good as we saw last week at times. 100% commitment in a disciplined, professional manner is the way to a result and safety.

So whatever will be, will be, as the old song goes, but whatever the outcome is, there's one thing I'll tell you here and now and that's I can't wait for August to come round so we can start level with the rest once again. I'll hope to see you here armed hopefully with a season ticket, because I'll tell you, also, we won't be in the same position come next May or my name's not Barry Fry!

Enjoy the game, the summer and be lucky till August.

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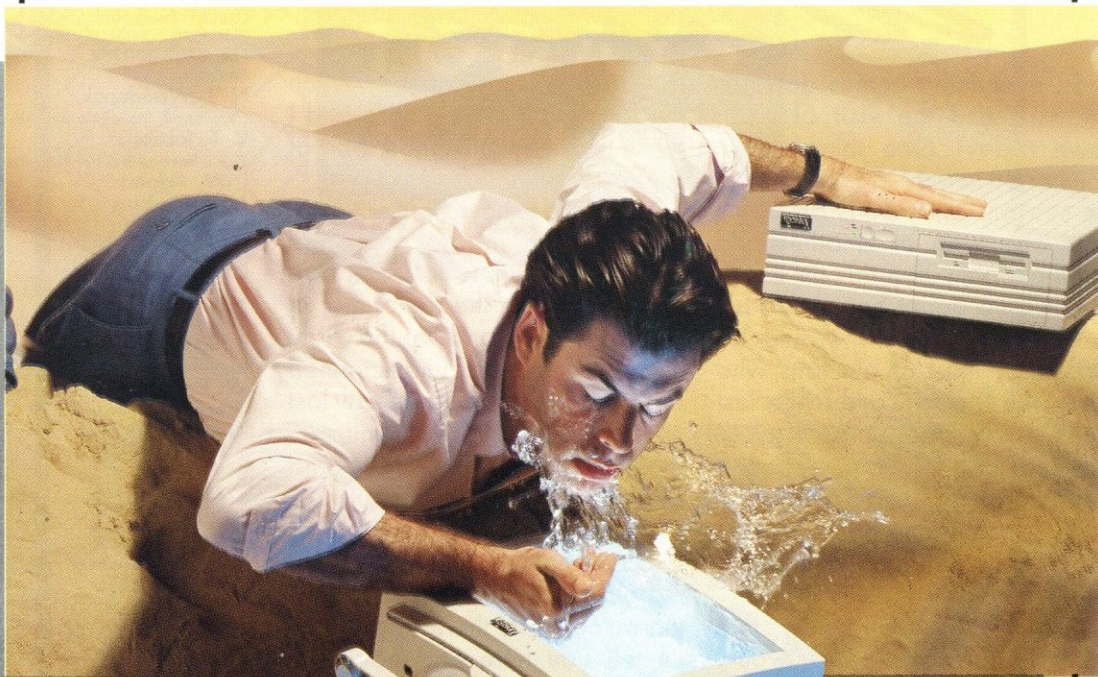
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C.M.88 v Red Star

K.O. 1.30pm

South Cliff Res v Hanningfield

K.O. 4.30pm

Admission: Adults £2.00 Under 15's 50p

Wednesday 12th May Mid-Week Charity Cup Final

Chemico v Basildon Post Office

K.O. 7.00pm

Admission: Adults £2.00 Under 15's £1.00

Thursday 13th May Walton Cup Final

Hamlet Court v Aviation Trading

K.O. 7.15pm

Admission: £2.00

Friday 14th May Charity Cup Final

Ecko v Stambridge

K.O. 7.15pm

Admission: Adults £1.50 Under 15's 50p

Sunday 16th May Sceptie Sunday League

Castle Rangers v Amward

K.P. 3.00pm

Admission: Adults £1.50 Under 15's 50p

Monday 17th May Veterans Cup Final

Greenline v Stambridge

K.O. 7.00pm

Admission: £2.00

Thursday 20th May French Cup Final

Admiral Jellicoe v Charlo Sports

K.O. 7.15pm

Admission: £1.00 Under 15's 50p

Saturday 22nd May American Football

K.O. 5.00pm

Admission: £3.00 by progame purchased on the day.

Sunday 23rd May All Day Finals

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Last Games K.O. 6.00pm

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Blues Welcome

The Hatters were formed in 1885 and pioneered professionalism in the South of England in 1890. They were then based at the Excelsior Ground but seven years later, when they were elected to Football League Division Two, moved to Dunstable Road. However, three seasons later Luton finished 17th out of 18 clubs and had to apply for re-election along with the bottom club, Loughborough. Both were unsuccessful and were replaced by Blackpool and Stockport County.

In 1905 the Hatters moved to their present home ground, Kennilworth Road. They were then members of the Southern League, the First Division of which basically became Football League Division Three in 1920-21. After 17, largely undistinguished, seasons in Division Three, Luton won promotion to Division Two in 1936-37. They finished as champions, 2 points ahead of Notts County and scored 103 goals in the process.

Eighteen years later the Hatters were promoted to Division One for the first time. The battle for promotion from the Second Division in 1954-55 was extremely close. At that time only two clubs were promoted and Birmingham City and Luton, who both finished on 54 points, were the successful clubs. Rotherham United missed out in third place because they had an inferior goal average, which was then used to decide such matters. Leeds United and Stoke City were also close behind with 53 and 52

points respectively.

Luton only lasted 5 seasons in the top flight but they did reach the F. A. Cup Final in 1958-59. During their cup run a record 30,069 crowd crammed into Kennilworth Road for the 6th round tie against Blackpool. The other finalists Nottingham Forest, had only just survived a third round tie at Tooting & Mitcham where they came back from 0-2 down to force a replay at the City Ground which they won 3-0.

Forest dominated the early stages of the Final and led 2-0 before one of the scorers, Dwight had to leave the pitch with an injury. Forest became the first team to win the F. A. Cup with a depleted team (no substitutes were then allowed) although Pacey pulled one goal back for Luton.

The Hatters were relegated the following season after finishing bottom of Division One - 5 points behind Forest who survived ahead of Leeds United. Three years later Luton finished last in Division Two and by 1965 they went further down to Division Four.

They almost went back up to Division Three at the first attempt in 1965-66. They ended with 56 points but Tranmere and Colchester, who finished on the same points total, had better goal averages and it was Colchester who went up.

In 1966-67 Luton struggled for much of the season against finishing in the relegation zone but eventually finished out of danger. Their end of season form continued

into the following campaign as they won the Fourth Division championship, 5 points clear of second placed Barnsley.

The Hatters only just missed out on a second successive promotion in 1968-69 when they finished third in Division Three but they went one better in 1969-70 by finishing runners up to Orient. In 1970-71 they enjoyed a generally successful return to Division Two. A Malcolm MacDonald hat trick in their last game of the season and his last game for the club against Cardiff City gave them a 3-0 victory and 6th place in the table.

After a few seasons of consolidation Luton made it back to Division One as runners up to Middlesbrough in 1973-74. They started the 1974-75 season badly, taking 10 games to register their first win. There was a substantial improvement in the second half of the season and after a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester City in their final game they were just above the relegation zone. However, Tottenham, the team below them still had one game left and two days later beat Leeds to save themselves and Luton went down.

Seven years later, the Hatters were promoted again as they won the Second Division championship in 1981-82. They were convincing winners as they lost only 4 league games all season and another last game victory over Cardiff City left them 8 points ahead of their main rivals, Watford.

The following season was almost a carbon copy of the 1974-75 campaign. Again Luton's last fixture was against Manchester City, although the venue was City's Maine Road ground. City were also in trouble and Roddy Antic's late goal secured a 1-0 victory for Luton. City went down, Luton stayed up and David Pleat 'invaded' the pitch, unable to curb his excitement.

Luton settled down in Division One, where they remained until relegated last season. In 1984-85 they reached the F. A. Cup semi-finals in which they lost to Everton. Unfortunately they gained more publicity over the events before, during and after the 6th round tie with Millwall which led to the club's highly controversial decision to ban away fans.

In the close season of 1985 another controversial decision was made to introduce a plastic pitch, which remained for several seasons. With no away supporters and the new pitch, Luton had two successful seasons.

In 1985-86 they finished 9th in Division One and reached the F. A. Cup 6th round (where they lost to Everton again) and the following season's 7th position is their highest ever. The club's continued ban on away fans lost them their place in the Littlewoods Cup, Cardiff City progressing at

LUTON TOWN



Left to Right, Back: Darren Salton, Jamie Campbell, Des Linton, Alec Chamberlain, Marvin Johnson, Juergen Sommer, David Greene, John Dreyer, Chris Kamara.
Middle Row: John Moore (first team coach), Julian James, Paul Telfer, Tim Allpress, Kurt Nogan (now Brighton & H.A.), Richard Harvey, Trevor Peake, Bran Owen (Physio, now Cambridge).
Front Row: Steve Claridge (now Cambridge), David Preece, Phil Gray, David Pleat (manager), Ceri Hughes, Jason Rees, Scott Oakes.

their expense after a Football League ruling.

Luton lifted the ban for cup matches in 1987-88 and promptly went on to win the Littlewoods Cup, beating Arsenal 3-2 in the Final. They also reached the Simod Cup Final, but lost 1-4 to Reading. That match attracted 61,740 fans although the two clubs' average home game combined was less than 15,000. In a season in which they played 58 games they also reached the F. A. Cup Semi-Finals where they lost 1-2 to Wimbledon.

In 1988-89 the Hatters were at Wembley for the second year running in the Final of the Littlewoods Cup. In a repeat of their previous F. A. Cup Final their opponents were Nottingham Forest who also repeated their previous victory.

The following three seasons were all relegation struggles. In 1989-90 victories in their last 3 matches and in 1990-91 a final game victory saw them to safety. Last season also went to the last game but defeat at Notts County prevented a third successive escape.

The present campaign has also been a struggle following the departure of the team's main assets. A defeat here today might result in relegation again for the Hatters if other results go against them. It is therefore likely to be a tense occasion with so much at stake for both clubs.

Star Visitor DAVID PREECE

David Preece is one of those vital members of any side - a busy little player setting up constructive moves who can also score a fair number of goals.

Born in Bridgnorth in 1963 he graduated via the Walsall junior ranks to make his debut in a Third Division game at Barnsley at the end of December 1980. He won a regular place when still in his teens and played a major part in Walsall's dramatic run to the Milk Cup semi-final in 1983/84 when they beat Arsenal at Highbury and drew 2-2 with Liverpool at Anfield.

In the following season he was transferred to Luton for a substantial fee plus striker Steve

Elliott with 11 goals and 136 games behind him. The Hatters were then in Division One and David has made a major contribution to their achievements of not only completing ten seasons in a row in Division One but also winning the League Cup in 1987/8 when David after a spell out with injury reappeared for the final in which they beat Arsenal 3-2.

Last season he was rarely out of the side which battled bravely but unsuccessfully to stay in Division One. He has continued as good as ever this season and his goals in successive away games at Sunderland and Derby recently have taken his career tally to 27 in close on 450 League and cup games. He is now 29, an age at which midfield players are often at their best.

Meet The Manager: David Pleat



The man who appears on TV and Radio more times, it seems, than Desmond Lynam but still manages to keep a strong hand on the tiller at Kenilworth Road.

Like ourselves, the season has been tough for Luton and hopefully today will see us both secure for next season in Division One, so to fight another day. However, whether that is obtained after the game or not, you can be sure that Pleat's team will combine skill with stamina and application as they have done from Nuneaton to Tottenham, Leicester to Luton over a long and varied Managerial career.

The Travelling Team

ANDY PETERSON

Goalkeeper - Andy originally came to Luton on trial from the Australian Institute of Sport, and was offered a contract at the beginning of season 1988/89. He had spent time on loan at Swindon Town and Ipswich Town before making his Football League debut on the opening day of the 1992-93 season at Leicester City. Andy is an Australian Youth International.

ALEC CHAMBERLAIN

Goalkeeper - Alec was signed from Everton for £150,000 in July 1988 and took over in the Luton goal towards the end of the following season. He was a reserve player at Ipswich, but soon stepped into League soccer with Colchester United after his transfer in 1982. Everton signed him for £75,000 in 1987 as cover, but after a loan spell with Tranmere, he moved to Kenilworth Road. He spent the early part of this season on loan at Chelsea.

JULIAN JAMES

Defender - Julian joined Luton as a trainee and was introduced to First Division football four seasons ago. An England Under-21 international, he spent the early part of last season on loan at Preston North End before re-

establishing himself at right-back on his return. Has been club captain in Trevor Peake's absence this season.

RICHARD HARVEY

Defender - Richard is a former England Youth International who made his Luton debut as a 17 year old in 1986. He made the left-back spot his own last season and has been a regular first-team squad member for the past three seasons. Unable to gain a place in the starting line-up this term, Richard spent a loan spell at Blackpool in November.

TREVOR PEAKE

Defender - Club captain, Trevor started his career at Lincoln in 1979 before moving on to Coventry City in 1983. He enjoyed eight full seasons at Highfield Road, winning an F. A. Cup winners' medal in 1987. He joined Luton for £100,000 in August 1991.

JOHN DREYER

Defender - John was an apprentice with Oxford but played league soccer for both Torquay and Fulham on loan during 1985/86, before getting his chance in the Oxford side the following season. He joined Luton in 1988 for £140,000 and he has been an ever-present member of the side for the past

three seasons.

DARREN SALTON

Defender - Darren made his League debut for Luton last season in a 0-2 defeat at Leeds United. He joined Luton Town from Salvesen Boys Club in Edinburgh and is a Scottish Under-21 International. Darren has also represented his country at schoolboy and youth levels.

MARVIN JOHNSON

Defender - Marvin made his Football League debut against Wimbledon in 1988 and quickly established himself as a regular in the Town defence. A player who can play anywhere along the back line, he missed all of the last season with a ruptured Achilles tendon, but is now back in the squad.

DAVID PREECE

Midfield - David made his league debut for Walsall in 1981, winning a regular place two years later. Luton invested £150,000 in his signature in 1984 and he later played in two League Cup finals for the Hatters. David has been capped three times by England 'B'.

CHRIS KAMARA

Midfield - Much travelled Chris joined Luton Town from Leeds United in October

The Travelling Team

1991 for his first extended spell in Division One. He started his career at Portsmouth in 1975 before joining Swindon Town two years later. In 1981 he returned to Pompey for a season before joining Breniford. In 1985 he returned for a second spell at Swindon and spent a further three seasons at the County Ground before spells at Stoke and Leeds.

JASON REES

Midfield - Jason is an ex-trainee who made his League debut on New Year's Day 1990, as a substitute against Everton. He made his debut for the Wales Under-21 the same season against England and has gone on to establish himself as a first team regular this season at Kenilworth Road.

CERI HUGHES

Midfield - Another young Luton Town Welshman, Ceri is tipped as having a very bright future in the game. He made his Town debut v Aston Villa in 1990 and is a Wales Youth, Under-21 and full International. Last season, and the early part of this, has been wrecked for Ceri after a series of long injuries.

SCOTT OAKES

Midfield - 20 year old Scott joined Luton in October 1991 from Leicester City, along with Des Linton, and made

his debut for the Hatters later that month. He developed in the junior teams at Filbert Street and made his League debut in 1990. Scott made an impressive impact on the right wing last season until injury ruled him out of the final stages.

PAUL TELFER

Midfield - Paul is a former Luton trainee who had made his debut at Everton, as substitute, towards the end of season 1990-91. Last season he established himself on the right side of the Hatters midfield before the Luton injury jinx ruled him out for the last four months of the season.

AARON SKELTON

Midfield - A player who has made tremendous strides in the past year, 18 year old Aaron has been drafted into the first team squad on occasions this season. He was first selected in the 2-0 home victory against Watford in November, this coming after only two reserve team appearances.

JAMIE CAMPBELL

Forward - Jamie is a former Luton Town trainee who turned professional in July 1990. He made his debut in a Zenith Cup tie at Ipswich last season and scored his first senior goal for the club on the opening day of the 1992-93 season at

Leicester.

PHILIP GRAY

Forward - Phil developed in the junior ranks at Tottenham, making his debut in 1987. However, he found first team openings limited and spent a loan spell at Barnsley. He joined Luton for £275,000 in August 1991, but missed most of the season through injury. He has since hit a goal-scoring purple patch, prompting a recall to the Northern Ireland side to face Denmark in November 1992.

IAN BENJAMIN

Forward - Needs no introduction at Roots Hall which Benji left earlier this season to join the Hatters. A much travelled player, Benji was already well known here from his Northampton and Peterborough days. He scored the all important winning goal at Bury to secure promotion to the old Division Two and many other important goals during his spell here. Has not been a regular at Kenilworth Road.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

Forward - Another produce of the club's successful youth set-up, Martin had a prolific season in the Hatters reserve team last season. His form prompted a call-up to the first team, making his debut as a second half substitute at Southampton last March.



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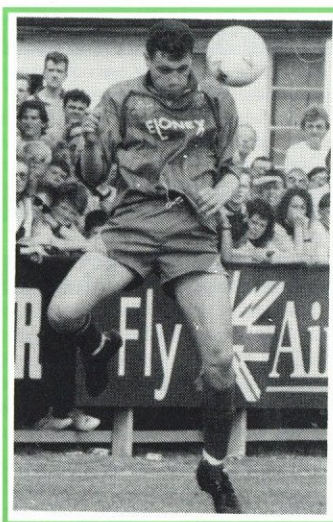
One Vision with Nick Alliker

CORNWELL STUNNER BUT BLUES BLUNDER

to put them 3-1 up with his first touch. Prior to this, Trevor Morley had put United ahead just before half time, but Micky Hazard pulled one back as he followed in a Brian Marwood shot.

Portsmouth's march on the Premier League went horribly wrong at Roker Park. Sunderland smashed four past them, and both Guy Butters and Paul Walsh sent off.

Butters was dismissed for handling on the line in the first half, while Walsh could face a lengthy ban after a shameful elbow to a Roker face. Following Butters'



blunder, Don Goodman opened the floodgates netting the resultant penalty, and he was on target again from the spot in the second period after he was brought down by Kit Symons. Sunderland, without a win in eight matches and staring relegation in the face, made it three through Gray, while Gordon Armstrong converted the fourth after Walsh's moment of madness. Nine-man Pompey ended

brightly enough with Guy Whittingham grabbing his 46th of the season but it was Sunderland left clinging on to their First Division lives with a 4-1 win.

Deadly John Aldridge, having returned from injury, blasted Tranmere into a certain play-off place with an early drive and a last gasp penalty in their 2-1 victory over Watford. But Millwall finally crashed out of the promotion race, going down 3-1 at Wolves. Bradbury was the star man as far as the Midlands were concerned, he netted two goals, and was a danger throughout a hugely competitive match. His first was a screamer from 25 yards, his second slotted home from nearer in. Burke rounded off a three goal first half for Wolves, and despite Malcolm Allen reducing the arrears, it's First Division football for the Lions next season.

Leicester City, certain of a play-off place, stuttered to a goalless draw at home to Bristol City, while two teams who promised much - and delivered little, Charlton and Derby battled it out at the Valley. Charlton eventually won 2-1 thanks to a last minute strike from Gorman.

Luton Town are still not out of the woods, only managing a 0-0 draw with Peterborough, while Notts Co. fans remain nervous as their team shared the points with Oxford (1-1). Brentford gave themselves hope with a surprising 3-1 home win over Barnsley, while Birmingham gained a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw at, already relegated, Bristol Rovers.

Today sees Cambridge go to West Ham in a tough game, Brentford go to Bristol City, while Birmingham are at home to Charlton. The battle royal is up at Roker Park where Sunderland and Notts County meet, but the match that matters is here at Roots Hall. Southend's future rests in their own performance this afternoon against Luton - We wish them well!

John Cornwell hit home one of the goals of the season last Saturday, but not before a lacklustre Blues side had conceded three.

Southend now have to beat Luton this afternoon to secure their First Division status for next season.

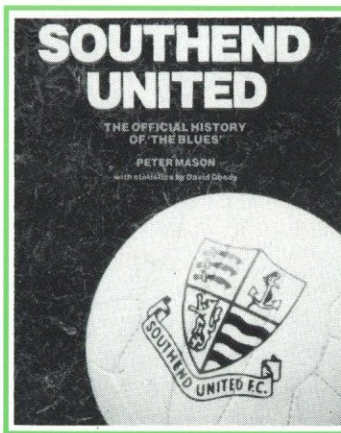
The trip to Cambridge was never going to be easy, as Ian Atkins men were also desperate for points to escape the drop, but Blues gifted the home team two soft goals, and another from 30 yards, to set up this nail-biting climax.

Steve Claridge set Cambridge on their way, converting from close range unmarked on the far post following a corner on the right. Chris Leadbitter grabbed the second after 34 minutes with a fine drive drilled past keeper Simon Royce from well outside the box. But his second, and Cambridge's third, was a whole lot closer as the defence failed to clear the ball, and Leadbitter poked in from a couple of feet.

John Cornwell netted the consolation, and in fairness, it could prove to be a vital strike as it adds to Blues' goals scored total, which could be so important at 4.45 today. We wish Blues all the luck in the world for today's game!

Meanwhile at the top of the table, West Ham moved back into second place thanks to a 3-1 Sunday win at Swindon, and Portsmouth's debacle at Sunderland.

Inspirational skipper Julian Dicks set up two goals as the Hammers overpowered Glen Hoddle's men. In the 61st minute he freed substitute Clive Allen who celebrated his return from a 20 match injury lay-off to put the East London club 2-0 ahead. Twenty minutes later Dicks crossed for fellow sub Kenny Brown



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MATCHDAY MAGAZINE 1993-94

We are now at the planning stage for next season's issue. Firstly we hope you have enjoyed this season's magazine and found it reasonable value for money.

It is hoped to improve the layout and content and use more colour (although unfortunately colour photographs are expensive).

We would like your help with planning by writing to The Editor, Kevin O'Donnell c/o S.U.F.C. Roots Hall, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea with your ideas for new features.

We would also like to know what features presently contained in the magazine you would like to retain, remove or alter. Please let us hear from you by the end of this month.

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Pub Talk - Pub Talk

Promotion and relegation issues, not to mention those affecting the destination of major honours such as the Premier League Championship and the F. A. Cup, loom so large at this stage of the season that it is almost unbelievable that anything else in the soccer world could compete with them for top billing. Yet the retirement of Brian Clough has dwarfed anything and everything else and one will long remember the scenes at Nottingham Forest's City ground last Saturday when the home side's relegation and its attendant agonies for fans was at least for that day overshadowed by the adulation shown by them for their hero in his last home game in charge.

Sadly both the result of the game and Brian Clough's later media interview underlined that he is no longer in charge in any real sense. Nottingham Forest's football was at times neat and accurate, but they never really looked like scoring. They lacked that vital spark that in the 1970's changed them from a nondescript Second Division side to one of the top club sides in the world. The Clough interview also lacked sparkle. The quick wit and ability to wrong foot even the most experienced of interviewers was



no longer there. Now it was the interviewers trying to bring out something positive from the old master who looked more than his 58 years and seemed able only to speak with any conviction of his much loved family, the same family that even in his prime Brian Clough set on a pedestal even higher than the pedestal on

which he placed football.

Maybe there is a health problem. Maybe the problem is more one of mental and spiritual weariness. Somehow Clough looked like the grandfather of the tremendous opportunist striker who netted over 200 goals at almost a goal a game in the 1950's

and 1960's and the father of the inspirational manager who took two different sides to the First Division Championship in the 1970's.

Hopefully after a rest Clough may loom large again. Maybe he will go back to a team from the lower Divisions and inspire them as he did Hartlepool in the mid-sixties. Maybe he will become a radio or TV pundit who will be compulsive listening to soccer fans and non-soccer fans alike. One hopes we have not seen the last of this all-time soccer legend.

In any event something of Brian Clough will live on in the ongoing career of son Nigel who, in most difficult circumstances, conducted himself in so dignified and modest a way in post-match interviews. Until very recently Nigel did not give interviews. He let his own football and his father's charismatic handling of the media do the talking for him. Hopefully Nigel still has many years left as an England player and perhaps after that he will be a top manager. Perhaps in 20 years or so we shall be asking the question of which was the greater of the Cloughs, Brian or Nigel? Only time will tell.

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QUIZ TIME

Spot the Difference no. 3



Can you spot the 10 differences between the two pictures?

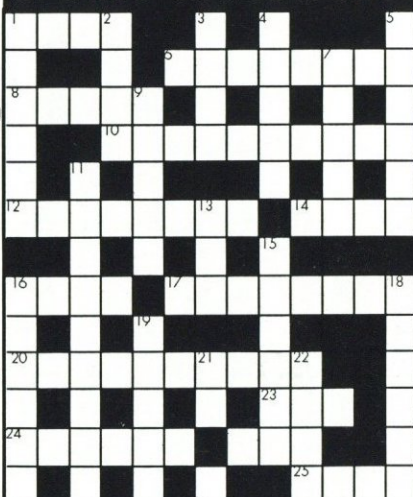
ACROSS:

- 1 Brick Defence (4)
- 6 A VILE CAN [anag] Spanish side (8)
- 8 Littlewoods cup winners 1988 (5)
- 10 Home of a South Wales club (6 & 4)
- 12 In between East & Shire (8)
- 14 Rowel worn at the heel of Tottenham (4)
- 16 Jimmy TV soccer pundit (4)
- 17 Sport orientated players at Oldham or Charlton (8)
- 20 At testimonials players are asked to make a guest one (10)
- 23 Attire for the side (3)
- 24 A thrush at The Hawthorns (8)
- 25 Pleasant french side (4)

DOWN:

- 1 1960 FA Cup winners (6)
- 2 Millwall beast of a player (4)
- 3 Villa sold Platt to this Italian side (4)
- 4 Roy young Forest player (5)
- 5 English defender who missed the European Championship through injury (6)
- 7 Physical complaint common in extra time (5)
- 9 - - - - Quinn (5)
- 11 Home ground of the European Cup Winners 1982 (5)
- 13 Striker aims to hit this (3)
- 15 Robert Scottish International (5)
- 16 attacks not wanted for this Scottish club (6)
- 18 Not a league match (3 & 3)
- 19 Paul - - - - ? the player. Mike - - - - the manager (5)
- 21 Macleod Scotland's ill fated manager (4)
- 22 Handy boss at Huddersfield Town (4)

SPORTS CROSSWORD



HALF TIME QUIZ

1. In which season did Manchester United last play in the Second Division?
2. Which team sent Celtic spinning out of this year's Scottish Cup?
3. Which former England manager captained Arsenal's F. A. Cup winning side of 1950?
4. Billy Bonds began his long league career with which club?
5. What did the Football League Cup become in 1982?
6. Which 'Rolling Stone' did Carlton TV choose as studio summariser on their first football programme this year?
7. Who was Brazil's 'Black Diamond' of the 1930's?
8. Which club's supporters have a fanzine entitled 'What a Load of Cobblers'?
9. What nationality is Foggia's Brian Roy?
10. Apart from David Platt, who else scored for England against San Marino in February?

Answers on page 34

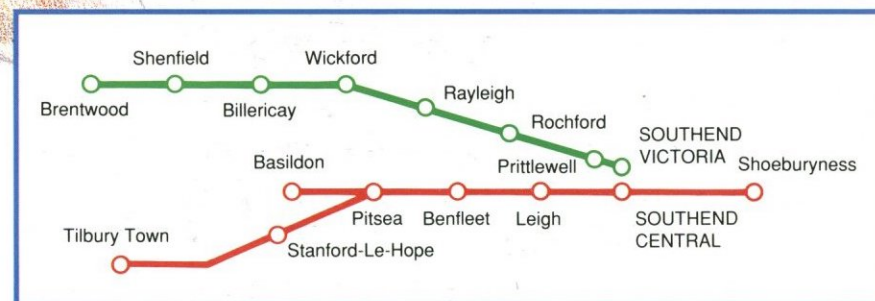
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**On the Table
with
ALAN RAW**

Hello and welcome to today's game, our last of the season. At the time of writing these notes (Wednesday) we have a fully fit 1st team squad with the exception of one player, who I'll talk about later. It's obviously vital for the manager to be able to select his strongest team for this very important game. That hasn't happened on many occasions this season, otherwise this game may not have been so important.

So as I say no injury headaches for this final and what could be our most important game of the season.

The only player out of action is Adam Locke, who on Tuesday went into theatre to have some torn cartilage removed from his left knee. I am happy to tell you that the operation was successful, and with the reasonably new technique of Arthroscopy, Adam should be back in training in 4 weeks time. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Two YTS players under the care of specialists are Ben Thake and Jamie Southon. Ben will be seeing Mr Gilmore next week, who is a specialist in Hernia operations. Again through modern Theatre techniques, should Ben need an operation would also be back in training within 4-5 weeks.

It is suspected that Jamie may have some nerve damage, we will be visiting a top neurologist in London this week for some further assessment. Jamie is one of our top YTS boys who will be signing pro this year so know your thoughts and wishes will be with him over the next few weeks.

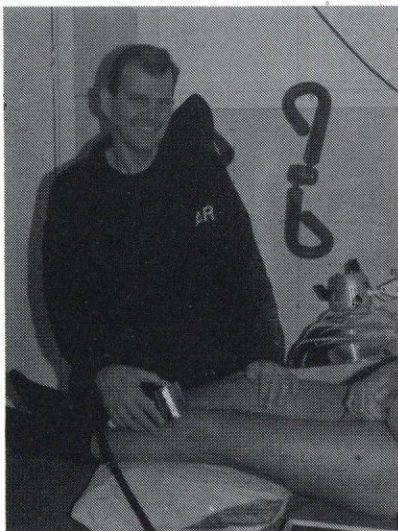
Don't forget we need that extra cheer today and I am sure that with your help we can get the result that we all desire so much. Up the Blues!

Up the Blues!

Around The Ground

**ROOTS HALL STALWART FAREWELL
"KNOW WHAT I MEAN 'ARRY"**

As the season ends, so draws to a conclusion the 10 year career at Roots Hall of Harry Stobart. Generally known around the building as "Harry the Hood", no doubt due to his arrival in 1983 during the great upheaval at the Club, he has, over the years become quite often "Harry the Good" by his efforts in extracting sponsorship and advertising revenue for the Club from businesses in the area.



Harry is leaving the Club to join Messrs. Booth White as their Corporate Hospitality Organiser. He will be returning on many occasions as his new Company are great supporters of the Club.

In 1983 Harry arrived as "Assets Manager" when, in all truth, there weren't many assets to manage. He looks at Roots Hall now and marvels at the developments which have taken place - development which his efforts in the Commercial Department have played their part in making a reality.

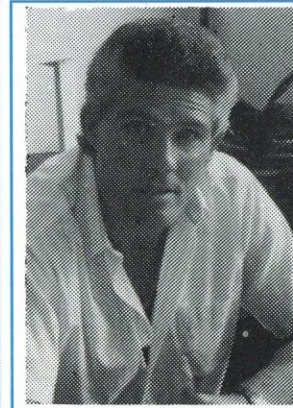
No longer will the club reverberate to the sound of him attempting to break his own "personal best" for sneezing (24 continuous blasts have been recorded!), nor shall we be regaled with bulletins of his bad feet! What is for sure, is that like the creaking gate, he'll go on giving an honest service to his new employer as he has for the Blues over the last decade. We wish him well and look forward to receiving him with his new employers in his new capacity come the start of next season.

**BLUES IN THE COMMUNITY
WITH FRANKIE BANKS**

Hi everyone!

The last game of the season is finally upon us. Last Saturday's defeat at Cambridge means it's down to the wire on this game. Although the season is almost over the community side of things still keeps chugging along.

First things first I would like to welcome John Corke to the fray. John will be assisting me along with Terry Peacher in hopefully making the Football in the Community project more successful. As promised I said I would give you full details of how Friars Primary School of Shoeburyness got on in the schools N.C.P. 6 - A - S i d e



Competition at the J.V.C. Centre, Arsenal. Friars' first match was against Charlton, they lost 3-2 but missed two penalties. The next game was against Spurs and Friars absolutely pulverised them 8-3. What a result! The next match was against Orient and Friars won 4-0. Their last game was against West Ham and with a draw would have made the semi-finals. But they lost 3-2 again missing a penalty. Spurs actually got through to the finals losing to Arsenal 2-1 and they had beaten Spurs 8-3 in the preliminary games. As they say it's a funny old game. The boys were disappointed but they enjoyed their day.

Changing the subject completely on the 12th May we are holding a tour of the ground, a meal in the Far Post Restaurant and an afternoon bingo session in the Far Post Club for our old age pensioners. The cost just £5.50. If you are interested give me a call on 341351 for further details. I would also like to thank all the kind people who

donated bingo prizes. They are: Safeways (Western Approaches - Chocolates and Wine), Southern Alarms (Temple Farm Ind, Est - 2 x Smoke Alarms including fitting), Perry's (Kent Elms - Gold Star Service), Home Bakers (Leigh Broadway - a cake), Essex Heating Supplies (Temple Farm Ind Estate -

Mystery Prize), A & J Supplies (Kent Elms - Another Mystery Prize), Smiley's Restaurant (Palmeria Parade - A meal for four), Headquarters (Hadleigh Branch - Free haircut or perm), Cherry Tree (Stambridge - two free meals).

Another soccer school has been arranged for the Whitsun School Holiday at Crays Hill School, Wickford. It runs from the 1st-4th June, 10am - 3pm daily at a cost of £25.00. For further details ring me on 341351. Due to the size of the school numbers will be limited so get your application form in early.

Finally to all those people who have helped with the community project, I would like to say a big thank you. I am most grateful to you all, enjoy your summer break and come back refreshed to cheer on Southend United "Up the Blues".

God bless till we meet again.

Our School Guests today are: THORPE SCHOOL with their teacher Steve HAMSTEL SCHOOL with their teacher Andy May ST HELENS SCHOOL with their teacher Mr. Wilkins.

I would also like to say "Happy Birthday" to Graham-Francis' son, whose first name I don't know, sorry. I hope you all enjoy the game.



MATCHDAY MASCOT

Today's mascot is 11 year old James Fogarty from Tallaght, Dublin.

James attends Drimnagh Castle School and plays football for a junior team.

James is a member of the Junior Blues together with his 22 friends who are with us from Ireland for the weekend.



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Sunday 18th July v LEICESTERSHIRE
(Axa Equity & Law League - 12 noon start)

Blues In Action



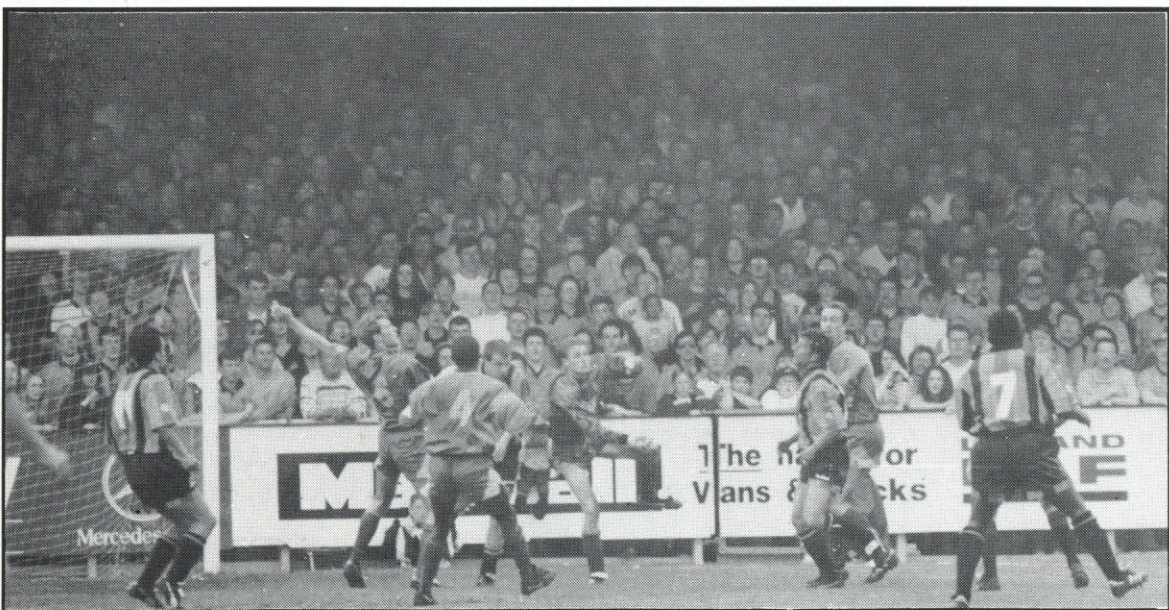
Photo; Nicky Hayes/Ande Ward

Mark Hall on the ball at Cambridge



Photo; Nicky Hayes/Ande Ward

Stanley wins the air



Photo; Nicky Hayes/Ande Ward

Simon Royce punches clear at the Abbey



Photo; Nicky Hayes/Ande Ward

So near, so far for Brett



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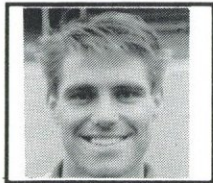
Andy Sussex
Col. John Borman
Full Kit



Brett Angell
Dave Cooper
Full Kit



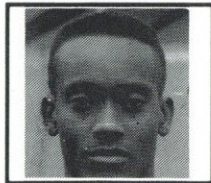
Keith Jones
* = Dave Burgess



Steve Tilson
* = Britanic Security Systems
● = Techzone Mobile Tuning
▲ = Tina Martin



Stan Collymore
Progressive Printing U.K.
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Andy Anshah
* = Chris & Marion Cave



Francisco Cagigao



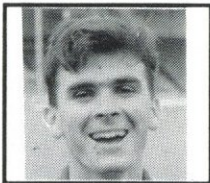
Andy Edwards
* = Weir Enquiry
Agency (0268) 745120



Chris Powell
* Nick, Debbie & Robyn



Adam Locke
Alison & David
Full Kit



Pat Scully
Medico (U.K.) Ltd
Full Kit



John Cornwell
* = Steve Redburn
▲ ★ ● ■ = James Clark
of Steeple Bumpstead - Suffolk



Spencer Prior
Septer Sunday League
- Full Kit -



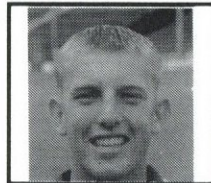
Mark Hall



Chris Hyslop



Kevin O'Callaghan



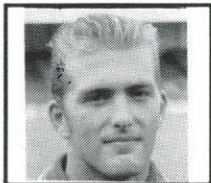
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Coventry	v	Leeds
Ipswich	v	Forest
Liverpool	v	Spurs
Man. City	v	Everton
Middlesbr'	v	Norwich
Oldham	v	Southampton
Q.P.R.	v	Aston Villa
Sheff. Utd.	v	Chelsea
Wimbledon	v	Man Utd

DIVISION ONE

Barnsley	v	Swindon
Birmingham	v	Charlton
Bristol C.	v	Brentford
Derby	v	Wolves
Millwall	v	Bristol R.
Notts. C.	v	Sunderland
Peterborough	v	Tranmere
Portsmouth	v	Grimsby
Watford	v	Oxford
West Ham	v	Cambridge

THE OFFICIALS

The Referee - John Carter -

Today's referee John Carter is married to Vicki with two grown boys Richard and Philip. He lives in Christchurch, Dorset, working as an administrator for the Bournemouth Football Association. He commenced refereeing in 1971 in the Bournemouth Hayward League progressing through the Hampshire and Southern League, when he was appointed to the Football League Linesmans List in 1976 and on to the Football League Referees List in 1987.

He has officiated as Referee for England v Spain under 19's in 1991 and as Linesman for the Football League and Rest Of The World in 1987 and Trophy Final in 1982.

He loves gardening and Bowls in his spare time and is keen on Country and Western Music. Kenny Rodgers and Dolly Parton being his favourite "Pair".

The Linesmen

Red/Yellow Flag -
G. H. Bargery
Yellow Flag -
G. T. Pearson

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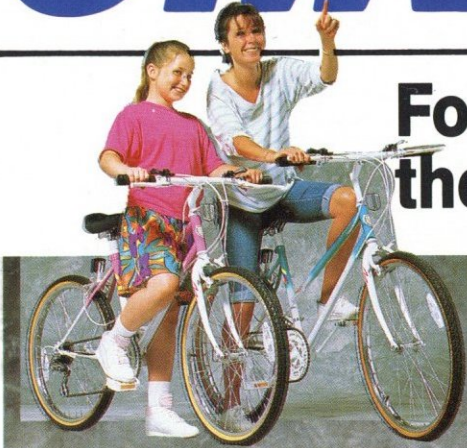


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TEAM CHECK

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Michael Munro
Matthew Wells
Andrew Potter
Matthew Jackson
Kris Thompson
James Andrews
Barry Vickory
Rory Durant (Capt)
Philip Walker
Lee Shearer

Ian Fazacherley
Martin Punt
Joseph Minchin

U15 REPT TEAM

SOUTHEND

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

S
U
B
S

SEFTON FOOTBALL

CLUB LIVERPOOL

David Woods (Woodsy)
Lee Sayers (A kick boxer)
Ian Wynne (Winnie)
Neil Lawler (Like Alan Hanson)
Stephen Mathieson (Matty)
John Malone (Mal)
Jon Shepherd (The Joker)
Steven Marshal (Liverpool F.C.)
Martin Rimmer (A Peter Reid)
Kevin Pyhbus (The Quiet One)
Stephen Niblock (Nibber
Bury F.C.)

Stephen Howard (Everton F.C.)
Mark Rae (Mr. Versatile)
Gregory Smith (Smithy)

MATCH
BALL SPONSOR
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KIT SPONSOR
Bell Sports

Referee:
Steve Finn

Linesmen:
John Ledger (Red/Yellow Flag)
Stan (the man) Reed (Yellow Flag)

Passing Back

years **30** ago

Because of the many postponements during the severe winter the season was still going on in mid-May and we forced a goalless draw at Bournemouth on May 18th 1963, the teams being:

BOURNEMOUTH: Best, Gladstone, Jones, Standley, Gater, Bolton, Bumstead, Archer, Coughlin, Singer, Coxon.

SOUTHEND: Goy, Costello, Neal, Bentley, Watson, Bradbury, Woodley, Jones, Smith, McNeill, Kellard.

Attendance: 7,074.

We were now ninth in Division Three with Northampton and Swindon now certain of promotion while Luton were certain to be coming down from Division Two after a 2-0 defeat at Stoke with 49 year old Stanley Matthews getting the home side's second goal. In Division One Geoff Hurst got two of the goals in West Ham's 6-1 win over Manchester City but Everton who were without a game were now certain of the championship being five points ahead of second place Spurs.

years **20** ago

Our season ended with a 3-2 defeat at Rochdale on April 28th 1973 after Billy Best had given us a half-time lead. Terry Johnson got another for us after the break but goals from Malcolm Darling, Leo Skeete and Bill Atkins won the game for the home side, the teams being:

ROCHDALE: Morrith, Smith, Renwick, Blant, Kinsells, Marsh, Skeete, Gowans (Bebbington), Skeete, Darling, Atkins.

SOUTHEND: Bellotti, Smith, Ternent, Elliott, Barnett (Horsfall), Moody, Johnson, T. Booth, Moore, Best, Taylor.

Attendance: 2,081.

We ended the season in fourteenth spot in Division Three with Bolton and Notts County promoted. Luton lost 2-1 at Oxford with Alan Slough on the mark as they ended up twelfth in Division Two with Burnley and QPR promoted. Manchester United, who had just avoided relegation from Division One, lost 1-0 at Chelsea in Bobby Charlton's last game before retirement and from the same source came news that Denis Law had been given a free transfer.

years **10** ago

Our season ended disappointingly with no win in our last nine games and three successive defeats right at the end to cause us to slide from ninth to a final position of fifteenth. We suffered a 2-1 defeat here in our last game against Oxford on May 13th 1983 with Warren May netting for us in the first half and our visitors getting a goal in each half from Neil Whatmore and Andy Thomas respectively, the teams being:

SOUTHEND: Cawston, Pennyfather, Stead, Clark, May, Moody, Pountney, Phillips, Mercer, Walker, Nelson (Owers).

OXFORD: Hardwick, Fogg, Smithers (Jones), Train, Briggs, Shotton, Lawrence, Whatmore, Vinter, Hebberd, Thomas.

Attendance: 1,954.

Portsmouth, Cardiff and Huddersfield were the teams going up from Division Three and Luton dramatically stayed in Division One with a Raddy Antic winner at Manchester City to send the latter into Division Two.

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Billy Blue's Bulletin

WHO WILL BE BLUES' PLAYER OF THE YEAR? VOTE BY PHONE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYER



Blues & Soccerline have got together to give every fan a chance to vote in our Blues' Player of the Year poll.

Listed below are players who have made over 20 1st team appearances this season. Simply dial the number opposite the name of your choice and you'll get confirmation of that choice. Your call will cost only about 10p by the way, so you won't break the bank by voting. With the cost so low we hope to get a truly representative vote (it's cheaper than a stamp).

So look at the list, then dial and register a vote for your favourite "Blue Of The Year" right away. The lines are open until midnight May 17th and the result will be announced on Soccerline a week later and also in the local press.

0839 333 121	Andy Ansah	0839 333 128	Chris Powell
0839 333 122	Stan Collymore	0839 333 129	Spencer Prior
0839 333 123	John Cornwell	0839 333 130	Paul Sansome
0839 333 124	Andy Edwards	0839 333 131	Pat Scully
0839 333 125	Keith Jones	0839 333 132	Andy Sussex
0839 333 126	Adam Locke	0839 333 133	Steve Tilson
0839 333 127	David Martin		

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Those Were The Days Kevin O'Donnell recalls bygone days

Luton Town are long-standing opponents going back to both clubs' Southern League days. Both clubs were also founder members of Football League Division Three in 1920. Luton were members of the Southern Section, as of course were Blues, until they won promotion to Division Two in 1937.

Consequently the clubs met every season until 1937, Luton having the better record during that time. The first Football League match between the clubs was at the Kursaal Ground in February 1921 which ended 1-1, Tommy Nuttall scoring the Blues goal.

In the return fixture at Kennilworth Road in May (just over 72 years ago) Blues crashed 0-4, not a great surprise as they had only won one away match all season.

Kennilworth Road continued to be the graveyard of Blues' hopes as they failed to win in any of their first nine league matches there. During those matches they only managed six goals and four of those were scored in one match which finished 4-4. Blues also lost 1-5 at that venue in the first round of the 1928-29 F. A. Cup competition.

However, Blues finally broke their duck at Kennilworth Road in 1929-30 with a 3-0 victory. John Borland scored twice and Freddie Baron (believed to be Blues' eldest surviving ex-player) once. Since then Blues have managed three more victories.

After Luton's promotion in 1937 the clubs did not meet again until the 1963-64 season in Division Three. Blues' poor form at Kennilworth Road continued from before the War as they went down 1-4 in October 1963. Terry Bradbury scored the only Blues goal from the penalty spot.

Luton completed a double with a 1-0 victory at Roots Hall in their first visit here in the return fixture in March 1964. The following season Blues returned the compliment with a resounding 5-0 victory at Roots Hall and a 1-0 win at Kennilworth Road.

Andy Smillie scored the only goal of the game at Kennilworth Road on the 28th November 1964 to reverse the scoreline at the same ground from two

weeks earlier when Blues once again went out of the F.A. Cup at Luton's hands in the first round.

At Roots Hall, John McKinven scored twice with Bobby Giffillan and Tony Bentley adding one a-piece. An own goal made it 5-0 to Blues and Luton were on their way down to Division Four.

Blues joined them a year later but had to wait towards the end of the 1966-67 season before meeting up once again. Luton were fighting a battle to keep out of the re-election zone and Blues were going for promotion but the first meeting in April ended 1-0 to Luton

in the early part of the season. The first meeting of the season was at Roots Hall and Blues maintained their unbeaten start with a 3-0 victory. Andy Smillie scored twice and John Baber got the other goal before a crowd of 11,083.

Just over three weeks later the clubs met again at Kennilworth Road and 13,332 fans were there to watch Luton inflict Blues' first defeat of the season. Jackie Ferguson scored for Blues but it was not enough to stop the home side running out 3-1 winners. Luton went on to maintain their promotion challenge as they went on to take the Fourth Division Championship. For much of the season Blues were well on course to accompany them. However, after a dreadful run in to the end of the season in which Blues took only four points from their last nine games they eventually missed out in sixth place for the second season running.

After that season the clubs did not meet at senior level again until the present campaign. Luton had not won at Kennilworth Road when Blues visited there at the end of October. Early in the second half it seemed that they were going to put that to rights as they were leading 2-0 with a large part of the Blues' travelling fans more interested in barracking the manager and the chairman than supporting the team.

That all changed dramatically with an injury to Andy Ansa who was carried off. It seemed to spur the team into action and the fans certainly got behind them as Chris Powell fired in the first goal and Kevin O'Callaghan the equaliser as Blues came back to draw 2-2.

The clubs had met at junior level in 1982-83 when Luton were the visitors to Roots Hall in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup. Their team was packed with players who are now well known including Tim Breacker, a recent visitor here with West Ham, Mark Stein, Mitchel Thomas and Richard Cadette who scored the first of his many goals at Roots Hall as Luton won 4-1. The team-sheet from that game is reproduced herewith.

at Kennilworth Road.

Eleven days later Blues beat Luton 2-0 at Roots Hall. Both the goals came in the second half from Ray Smith and Andy Smillie. That was Blues' last victory of the 1966-67 season as they failed to score in the last three matches and managed to gain only one point with a scoreless draw at home to Rochdale. Consequently they missed out on promotion as they finished in 6th place.

In 1967-8 both Blues and Luton were early pace-setters and both League fixtures between the club were played

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LAST DAY BLUES

This afternoon's match brings to an end Blues 66th season in the Football League since becoming founder members of Division Three in 1920-21. Of the 65 last games of the seasons completed so far Blues have won 22 drawn 10 and lost 33, scoring 95 goals and conceding 119. In the 19 seasons between Blues' entry to the League and the Second World War Blues lost 15 times.

The Football League was suspended during the War but Blues lost the last game of the first full season after cessation of hostilities 1-5 at Port Vale. Since then the record has improved, which is just as well as since 1975-76 the last game of the season has been vital to either promotion, relegation, re-election or championship situations on 9 occasions including 6 of the last 8 seasons.

It was not until 1975-76, Blues' 49th season in the League, that the last game was of significance to relegation or promotion. Unfortunately in 1975-76 it was a relegation decider with the loser of the match at Hillsborough between Blues and Sheffield Wednesday facing demotion to Division Four.

In Wednesday's case they were attempting to avoid a first ever relegation to the basement and at that time Blues had had only one spell there between 1966 and 1972. The significance of the game was such that 25,802 people, the vast majority of whom were Wednesday fans, turned up. Mike Prendergast and Eric Potts both scored to give Wednesday a comfortable 2-0 lead at the interval.

Alan Moody reduced the arrears in the second half but a draw was only of use to Wednesday, who held on to win in any event. Blues went down as did Aldershot who would also have stayed up if Blues had managed a victory.

Blues went back up two years later but by the end of 1979-80 were back in trouble. They travelled to Boothferry Park for their last game at Hull who still had Bury to play at home. Both Blues and Hull were on 38 points, but Blues had the better goal difference. Despite its importance, the game attracted only 3,823 fans. Keith Edwards scored the only goal of the game to put Blues down and save the Tigers despite losing to Bury two days later.

The following season Blues gave credence to claims that they had been too good to go down by winning the Fourth Division championship to return to Division Three at the first attempt. Promotion was already assured by the time Blues faced Rochdale at Roots Hall in their last game.

However, Lincoln City, who were then managed by Colin Murphy, still had a chance to overhaul Blues on goal difference if they were to win both their remaining fixtures. Before a crowd of 10,668 Blues started nervously against a Rochdale side with nothing other than pride to play for.

Alan Jones scored for the visitors to give them a 1-0 lead at half time and Blues' nerves were not settled until Tony Hadley's goal in the second period. A 1-1 draw was the result and was good enough to secure the Blues' only championship win in the League so far. It also meant Blues remained undefeated at home in the League for the first ever time, a feat they have been unable to repeat in subsequent years.

By the 1984-85 season Blues were back in Division Four and the last game of that season was vital for vastly different reasons. After struggling all season Blues faced Torquay at Roots Hall needing at least a victory to go above Halifax,

who had already completed their fixtures to avoid the necessity of a re-election application.

Even that might not have been enough if Stockport managed a victory in their last game at Darlington. In the event Stockport lost and Steve Phillips' penalty secured a 1-0 win for Blues before an attendance of only 1,704.

Blues fortunes began to improve and two seasons later Blues travelled to Stockport, then managed by Colin Murphy, for their last game needing a victory to be certain of promotion to Division Three. On a Friday night Blues won 2-0 with goals from Richard Cadette and Glenn Pennyfather. The atmosphere in the ground was strange as the crowd of 2,853, Stockport's third highest in the League that season, was boosted by about 500 travelling Blues fans and a number of Wolves (Blues rivals for 3rd place) fans who went to support the home side.

The following season Blues needed to win their last game to be certain of avoiding going straight back down. Blackpool were the opponents at Roots Hall where Blues' second highest attendance of 1987-88, 5,541, saw an emphatic Blues victory. Peter Butler burst through the middle to settle Blues' nerves in the first half. In the second period Martin Ling scored twice and David Crown once as Blues ran out 4-0 winners.

Another year later Blues again needed to win their last game to stay up. They also needed other results to go their way. Blues got the victory they required, Spencer Prior heading the only goal of the game against Chester City at Roots Hall. However, Reading came back from 0-2 down to win 4-2 at Chesterfield and Blackpool also overcame a half time deficit to win at Swansea and Blues were relegated, their 54 points being the highest ever total for a relegated club from Division Three.

Once again Blues bounced straight back, by virtue of another last game victory. London Road, Peterborough was the venue on a very hot day in May 1990. David Crown, in his last game for Blues, scored twice in the first half. Peterborough pulled one back early in the second half but Blues clung on desperately for the victory they required to the great joy of about 1,500 travelling fans.

As Blues continued on their upward surge in 1990-91 they had already secured a first ever promotion to Division Two by the time they faced Brentford at Roots Hall in their last game. A crowd of 9666 watched a frustrating 90 minutes (although the referee appeared to blow up early following crowd disturbances), for Blues who went down 0-1 to a determined Brentford side which then included Keith Jones. Blues' defeat allowed Cambridge United, 2-0 winners over Swansea City, to go to the top of the table for only the first time that season. However, cliché as it may be, it's where you finish that counts not where you are after 10, 20 30 or even 45 games.

And so to today for a match which is as vital to both clubs. Luton are themselves no strangers to drama on the last day of the season. It all adds up to an afternoon of high drama and tension to decide whether or not Blues kick off next season in Division One.

SUPPORTERS INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP AND SEASON TICKETS 1993-94

Details of Season Tickets for next season will be announced shortly, including the price concession deadline.

Existing Season Ticket holders will receive their notification through the post.

Season Ticket holders in the East Stand where existing seats will not be available next year will also be notified directly and invited to selected alternative seats at their convenience.

There will also be new details relating to Car Parking to improve upon this year and information relating to price advantages for Members, Family and Senior Citizens for the West Stand.

Full details will also be advised on Soccerline, Information Line and via local media for those not currently Season Ticket or Membership holders.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you all again in August.

50 YEARS A REFEREE AND NOT YET TIME FOR THE FINAL WHISTLE

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Players and Supporters of Southend United F.C., wish to extend their sincere congratulations to Len Forge of Essex County F.A. and who is of course, "Mr. Borough Combination".

This year marks Len's 50th as an active referee at the age of 72 which is an incredible achievement, if not a record. Today we are pleased to mark that record in our own Southend United way with a special Presentation along with our congratulations and best wishes for many matches to come.

The Presentation will be made before today's kick off by Club Chairman Vic Jobson accompanied by Officials from the Football Association and Essex County Football Association.

LUTON TOWN'S MATCHDAY MASCOT

Tonights mascot representing Luton Town is Lee Forrester who is a member of the Junior Hatters and lives in Dunstable. His favourite player is Kerry Dixon

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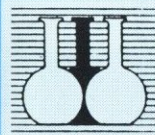
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Junior Blues

supplying us with our coaches, also to Mr. Bill Kelleway for his kind donation towards our club. Most of all thank you to all Junior Blues members and parents for being so supportive, we have had a brilliant season,

here's hoping for an even better one next year.

Yours in sport
Pam Appleton

Happy Birthday to (including summer birthdays):

Darren Jack
Michael Oakshot
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Rahim Lakhoo
Edward McIntosh
Callum Greenaway
Matthew Sammons
Christopher Cleaver
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For up-to-date Junior Blues News and other information you can telephone Southend United's Information Line Number is 0839 66 44 43 please note that calls cost 36p per minute peak rate and 48p per minute at all other times. Please remember that you must ask your parents' permission before using this service.

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Hello Junior Blues,
Welcome to Roots Hall this afternoon. Especially to Ben Taylor from Luton with his Junior Hatters, we hope that you all enjoy your day here with us at S.U.F.C., we also welcome Brian Sheridan with our Irish members who have made the long journey to England to be with us this weekend. We hope that you enjoy your stay here with us and have a very safe journey back home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsor Mr. Ali for his most generous support over the past season and also a big thank you from the Junior Blues and Frankie Banks.

Also thanks go to Mr. John Bridge for helping us on our trips around the country

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"Buxton Says" Roger Buxton of Breeze A.M. puts pen to paper

So this is it. You don't need me to tell you how important this match is. The last game of the season and First Division survival lies in the balance.

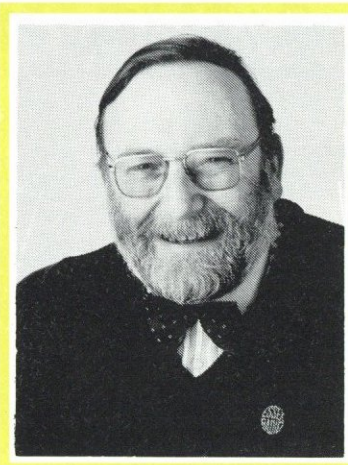
Manager Barry Fry says it's the most important game in Southend's history. Victory will see us safe and another season in Division One. Anything less and it could be back to Division Two.

For what it's worth I think we are going to win ... and like us all I certainly hope so ... if we lose and if we go down it's not the end of the world.

It's the final game of what I'm sure for all supporters has been an exhausting season. In a sense we have never recovered from a dreadful start to the season when we lost our four opening games. It was the worst start to a league season the Blues have ever had and set the pattern for a backs to the wall season with the constant threat of relegation just over our shoulders.

The problem was simple enough ... lack of goals ... and the problem that Brett Angell, top scorer for the last two seasons, was unable to play as he was slowly recovering from a long term injury.

All of which was very tough on him and particularly depressing for Blues' goalkeeper Paul Sansome who enjoyed the best start to a season in his career ... but nobody noticed as the results went against us.



On the plus side of course was the signing of Stan Collymore. This hugely exciting player has lifted himself into being one of the most talked about men in the game at the same time lifted us all with his breathtaking pace and resulting goals.
It's intriguing to realise he was manager Colin Murphy's only signing. A tremendous scoop

... and of course not the first time Blues have signed an unknown winger and turned him into an out and out striker. Collymore has had around 18 appearances for Crystal Palace ... mainly on the wing. It was a similar story with Richard Cadette ... who came to us from Orient as winger ... cut inside and the rest is history.

Also this season we have had the joy of the F.A. Cup. A pulsating win over Millwall and then for me that never to be forgotten night when thousands of Blue and Yellow balloons in the stand at Hillsborough as Southend went out to Sheffield Wednesday.

I'm sure you too have your own good memories of this season not least being the new life breathed into the team by the arrival of manager Barry Fry.

One of the great things about "staying up" would be that it would give him more time to put together his squad of players for the First Division ... a pretty obvious statement that ... but I'm sure you know what I mean.

However if it all goes wrong today ... it's not the end of the world. The important thing is that the club exists ... and of course without supporters there is no club ... and that is you and I ... and whatever happens will still be here for us to cheer next season.

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1922-23	Reading	Home	3-1	Goodwin, Halley (pen), Slater
1923-24	Aberdare Athletic	Home	1-1	McClelland (pen)
1924-25	Gillingham	Away	1-3	Bissett
1925-26	Bristol City	Away	4-1	Shaw (2), Hick (2)
1926-27	Bristol Rovers	Away	1-5	Morris
1928-29	Merthyr Town	Away	1-2	Donoven
1929-30	Exeter City	Home	1-0	Jones
1930-31	Northampton Town	Home	2-1	Shankly, Allon (Own Goal)
1931-32	Exeter City	Home	0-1	
1933-34	Exeter City	Away	0-2	
1935-36	Cardiff City	Home	3-1	Oswald, Lane, Morfitt
1936-37	Bournemouth	Home	0-0	
1937-38	Queens Park Rangers	Away	0-1	
1946-47	Watford	Away	0-4	
1948-49	Norwich City	Away	0-3	
1950-51	Bournemouth	Home	6-1	Wakefield(2), Stubbs(2), Sibley, Tippett
1951-52	Walsall	Away	0-2	
1953-54	Watford	Away	2-2	Lockhart, Dicker
1954-55	Norwich City	Home	4-1	Baron (3), Hollis
1956-57	Northampton Town	Away	2-2	McCrory, Barker
1957-58	Millwall	Home	2-0	McCrory, Hollis

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Only 2 players have managed to score in more than one Xmas Day game, these being Roy Hollis and Sammy McCrory. Kevin Baron is the only player to have managed a hat-trick, in 1954 against Norwich City.

We have played Exeter City on three occasions on Xmas Day, the most meetings with one club.

Xmas Day games always seemed to produce goals to entertain what was normally a bumper Xmas Crowd. 69 goals were scored in the 22 games Southend were involved in, an average of more than 3 a game, with only 1 game ending in a 0-0 draw.

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9. **STEVE TILSON**
10. **STAN COLLYMORE**
11. **BRETT ANGELL**
12. **MARK HALL**
14. **JOHN CORNWELL**

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:

J. M. Carter

Linesmen:

G. H. Bargery
(Yellow & Red)

G T. Pearson
(Yellow)

LUTON TOWN

MANAGER: DAVID PLEAT

1. **ALEC CHAMBERLAIN**
2. **JOHN DREYER**
3. **JULIAN JAMES**
4. **MARVIN JOHNSON**
5. **CERI HUGHES**
6. **TREVOR PEAKE**
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