

WALSALL



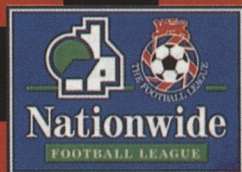
Saturday 28th March 1998

LUTON TOWN

Kick Off 3.00pm.

Matchday Programme £1.50

Match Sponsor: AUTOGLASS.





WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED
Bescot Stadium,
Bescot Crescent,
Walsall WS1 4SA.
Telephone: 01922 22791
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http://www.saddlers.co.uk
Email:wfc@saddlers.co.uk

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Saddlers' News



Home again on Tuesday

Having been starved of home matches in the early part of the year, we are suddenly fixed with a glut of them.

After today's match against Luton Town, we will be in First Team action again on Tuesday evening with a home fixture against Gillingham (7.45pm).

Pontins League action on Wednesday

There is more action at Bescot Stadium on Wednesday evening when we entertain Bury in a Pontins League Division Three match (7.00pm). Admission is £2.00 for Adults, £1.00 for Juniors, and Free for Season Ticket Holders.

Awayday to Blackpool next Saturday

We can look forward to one of our most popular away trips on Saturday, when we travel to Blackpool for a Second Division game.

There is traditionally a big following at Bloomfield Road, as many Saddlers Supporters take the opportunity to make a weekend of it at Blackpool.

For those of you who just want to travel to the game, the Walsall F.C. Away Travel Service will

be running coaches. Fare is £9.50. Departure details are:

Bescot Stadium: 11.00am.
Bridgeman Street 11.05am.
Bloxwich High Street 11.15am.

Coach places can be booked from Bescot Stadium and The Football Shop.

Trip to Craven Cottage re-arranged

Our away match at Fulham, postponed on Tuesday evening due to the London club having three international call-ups, has been re-arranged for Tuesday 7th April (7.45pm).

For those supporters who booked to travel to Craven Cottage on 24th March, their tickets are valid for 7th April or they can have a refund.

Fare is £9.50 and departure details are:
Bescot Stadium: 3.30pm.
Bridgeman Street: 3.35pm.
Bloxwich High Street 3.45pm.

Stadium matchday catering

The Club has received a number of letters from supporters about the problem of having to stand in long queues for the catering kiosks.

We are aware of this problem and have taken

steps to remedy the situation.

More staff are being employed for the catering kiosks, and a lot of thought is being given to ways to speed up the cooking of food in the kiosks.

For supporters in the Gilbert Alsop terrace, we have now opened up the Bescot Bar at half time for serving hot drinks and snacks. The Bescot Bar can be entered via the vomitory from inside the Stadium.

Also, season ticket holders in the H.L. Fellows Stand will be able to use the Savoy Lounge before and after the game for alcoholic drinks, and at half time for tea and coffee, for the remainder of this season.

Annual sale in The Football Shop

It is sales time in The Football Shop in Walsall Town Centre and at Bescot Stadium.

There are some great deals on offer, with a £10.00 reduction on Walsall F.C. replica shirts, and £5.00 off the price of shorts.

Similarly there is a £10.00 saving on goalkeepers shirts with the splash design, and £5.00 off the goalkeepers thick padded shirt style.

There are fantastic savings on the price of top brand football boots.

A pair of Campeon SI

boots cost just £10.00.

For £15.00 you can choose from Amaro, New Balance Classic Astro, Mitre Boca SI, Mitre Mondia Junior, Patrick Nemesis, Reebok Quest RS and Reebok Defiance Junior.

In the £20.00 price range are Mitre Mondial SI, Patrick Titan SI, Reebok Sidewind Giggs, and Reebok Defiance MS.

You can also buy a pair of Reebok Super Giggs for £30.00 and Asics Gel Pro Boot for £50.00.

These offers are subject to availability, so don't miss out, get along to The Football Shop now. The outlet at Bescot Stadium is open tomorrow, Sunday, 10.00am to 3.00pm, and in Walsall Town Centre, throughout the week, except Wednesday, 9.00am to 5.30pm.

Live Boxing at Bescot

We have live boxing in the Bonser Suite on Thursday 16th April, when we stage an Amateur Boxing Dinner Show.

Top of the 12 bouts bill will be British A.B.A. Light Middleweight Champion, Bobby Wood, from Walsall, who will be fighting Russa Singh from Leicester.

Tickets £25.00 each, inclusive of 5 course meal, are now on sale for this event from Bescot Stadium, or with credit card on our Ticket Hotline (01922) 651412.

Jimmy Greaves booked for Bescot

Arguably England's finest goalscoring genius, now TV personality and newspaper columnist, Jimmy Greaves, will be celebrity speaker at our next Sporting Dinner, held in the Bonser Suite, on Thursday 23rd April 198.

Also appearing on the same bill will be a fantastic comedian, from Manchester, Austin F. Knight.

Tickets £27.50, inclusive of 5 course meal, are now on sale from Bescot Stadium, and with credit card on our ticket hotline (01922) 651412.

Star Cabaret Show at Bescot

Our first Showtime Spectacular Cabaret Evening in the Bonser Suite will feature one of Britain's best loved set of entertainers, **The Barron Knights, on Friday 1st May**. Also, appearing will be our resident showband, Garry Allcock and his 'All Stars' Band and Singers.

Tickets £10.00 each, are now on sale from Bescot Stadium, The Football Shop in Walsall Town Centre, Mike Lloyd Music, Queen Square, Wolverhampton, and with credit card, by telephone, on (01922) 651412.

The show starts at 8.00pm, meals will be served to 9.15pm, and a licensed bar will operate until 11.45pm.

Other shows lined up for later in the year include The Searchers, and Joe Brown and the Bruvvers. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, keeping you up to date with forthcoming events at Bescot Stadium, telephone Walsall 651412 with full details of name, address and telephone number.

50/50 Matchday Draw News

Results of the 50/50 draw competition from the match versus Wigan Athletic were:
1st Prize: £173.50. No. 1571
Winner: Ian Allen, Cannock.
2nd Prize: £25.00. No. 0253.
Winner: Samantha Turner, Walsall.
3rd Prize: £25.00. No: 2722.
Not claimed.

The competition continues today. Tickets, 50p each, will be on sale inside and outside the Stadium. Results are announced at half time, and winnings can be collected from the Ticket Office immediately after the game today.

Enjoy the game. Thank you for your support.
Roy Whalley

INSIDE Today

MANAGER JAN SORENSEN

PAUL MARSTON
Looks at Luton Town

MEMORIES
Geoff Allman remembers our visitors

WALSALL TO WARSAW
Around the continent with Neil Morris.

CENTRE FOLD
Didier Tholot

VISITING BESCOT
Four pages looking at Luton Town

BACK IN TIME
Looking back, 30, 20 and 10 years ago, and season by season with The Saddlers.

SOCCERZINE
Charlie Bamforth in Japan on the Sumo trail.

REWIND
A game by game review of The Saddlers' games this season.

NATIONWIDE
Geoff Allman takes a look at recent games.

LADIES LINE
Bianca Middleton give a women's point of view.



Saddlers on the attack against WIGAN ATHLETIC

today

the hatters fighting against the drop

Quite a lot of people in football thought Luton Town would be pushing for promotion at this stage in the season. But here they are, second from bottom of Division Two and fighting desperately to avoid relegation.

In Lennie Lawrence they have a manager who, over the years, has been something of an expert at missing the drop, so beware, Walsall.

Last Saturday they looked dead and buried at Kenilworth Road when Alan Buckley's stylish Grimsby Town strolled into a two-goal lead.

But what happened? Lennie switched battling central defender Steve Davis up front and he soon had the Mariners' shipping water. The Hatters pulled one back through Sean Evers then big Steve equalised with a header five minutes from time.

Grimsby striker Jack Lester protested that skipper Davis should have been sent off before staging his rescue act. He claimed it should have been a red card, not yellow, when Davis pulled him back as he burst clean through with only the keeper to beat.

Well, whatever the truth about that, tough guy Davis stayed on to grab a point for Luton, and who knows how important that will be, come May. Steve is certainly the kind of player you need in your side if you are in trouble. Just keep an eye on him today, and judge for yourself.

One man who won't be threatening Walsall's defence

today is striker Tony Thorpe, sold to moneybags Fulham for about £800,000. But the Saddlers will be trying to keep him out on Tuesday April 7 when they face Fulham in a re-arranged game at Craven Cottage.

Tony had hit 19 goals for Luton this season, and since his transfer he has scored twice for Fulham.

The Hatters come to Bescot on the back of three successive draws - 2-2 with Grimsby, 1-1 with Burnley and 0-0 with Wycombe Wanderers.

Luton have lost only one of their last seven games - at Preston North End - and they had one very good away win at Plymouth, 2-0, and Argyle have been doing much better, lately.

Remember big Ian Feuer? The 6ft 7ins tall goalkeeper, brilliant against Walsall at Kenilworth Road last season, has been sold to the American club, New England, for about £200,000, but he was being kept out of the first team by Kelvin Davis, a former England Under-21 keeper.

One important Luton player who could be missing this afternoon is striker Phil Gray, a Northern Ireland international. He has been receiving treatment for a strained hamstring, and he did not play in the Grimsby match, and another is certain to be missing, that is David Oldfield, who is suspended.

Walsall fans who travelled to Kenilworth Road on November 22 will remember the game with the Hatters well, because the Saddlers

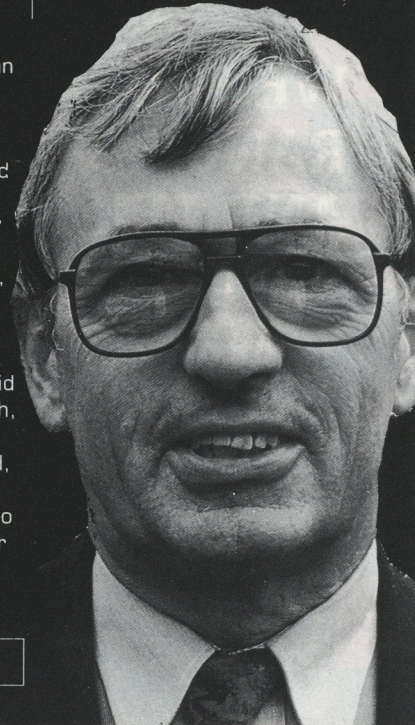
recorded their first away League win, 1-0. John Hodge grabbed the 60th minute winner with a magnificent volley.

That victory was absolutely vital, because it sparked an immediate improvement in Walsall's Second Division form.

Having not won in their previous six League matches, Jan Sorensen's lads went on to win the next three - beating Blackpool, Millwall and Bournemouth, then drawing at Oldham Athletic.

Walsall have won 2, lost 2 and drawn two of their last six League games. Now they are determined to finish strongly in the final 10, starting by putting the lid on the Hatters today.

See you next Tuesday for the visit of Gillingham.



Paul Marston - Birmingham Post, Evening Mail & Sports Argus

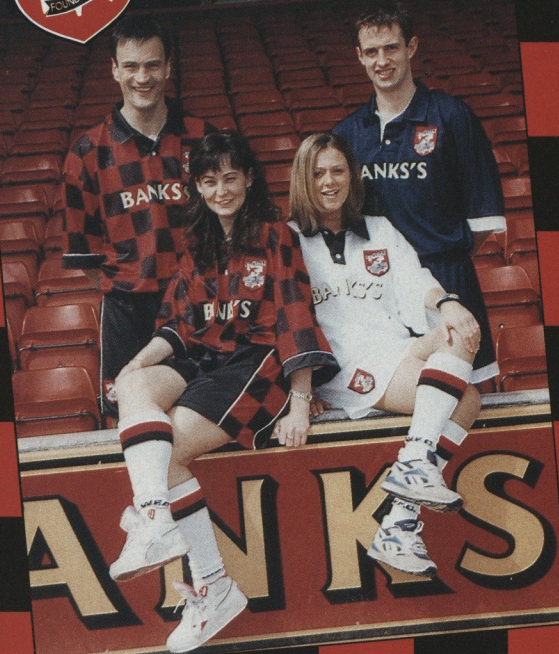
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Walsall.
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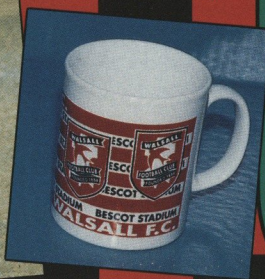
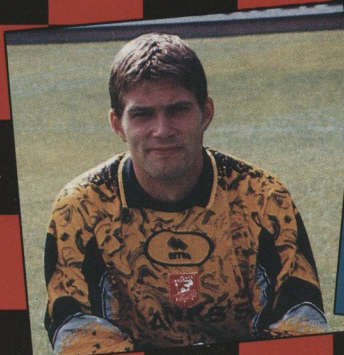
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Jan



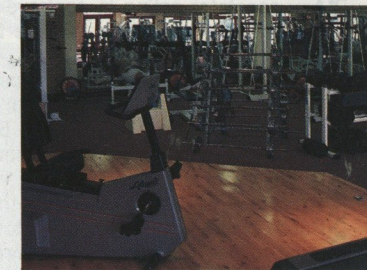
David Lloyd

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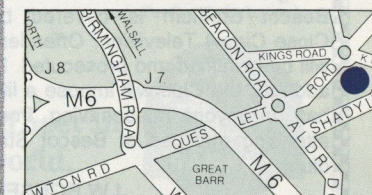
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After the disappointment of nervously missing out on a Wembley final, it was always going to be a matter of concern how our players would respond on their return to League duty.

In the event we need not have worried. There was a lot of character and determination shown by the players in a very tough encounter against Wigan Athletic.

It was one of those games when the result was more important than the way we played. We had not won at home since 10th January, and were starting to look at the teams below us. Wigan were just one point ahead of us, and were looking to stretch that lead.

It was vital for us to get a result, and we did not let ourselves down with a hardworking performance, and a first goal for the Club from Jeff Peron, that clinched the points.

Everyone at the Club has been wondering when Jeff would open his account for us, and although it was a long time coming, it has to be said that it was a fine strike, and could not have come at a better time.

That win created a 5 point gap between ourselves and the bottom four. We now have two home games in four days to add to our points tally, and move ourselves towards the security of a mid table position.

I know that we have 10 games left, and that we have games in hand over most teams. What I am interested in however, is points in the bag.

Another couple of wins and we are almost there. The sooner we can do this the sooner we can start to think and plan ahead for next season.

Don't think it will be easy however. Today's opponents Luton Town are in even greater need of points than ourselves. It is going to be another very hard game today, so we have got to apply ourselves, be prepared to work and graft for a result, that would be a major step towards safety.

A pat on the back for a very young reserve team that took on a Newcastle United team, in the Pontins League, that included 5 internationals including John Barnes. I believe that we gave them a very good game, despite losing 0-2 and there were some very encouraging performances.

Included in the team at Newcastle was a 16 year old recently signed on YT forms, Gary Birch. He is a strong lad who scores lots of goals. Watch out for him, he could have a bright future in the game.

Thank you for your support today. Enjoy the game.

Jan Sorensen

Saddlers Hotline

For all the news from Bescot

0891 555 800 All calls 50p per minute.

**SAFETY NOTICE
SAFETY OF SPORTS
GROUNDS ACT
1975 and 1987**

In the interests of spectator safety the following conditions apply at Bescot Stadium and must be observed at all times:

- * Glasses, bottles, drink cans, canisters, knives, darts, tools, fireworks, cameras, flagposts or any other article likely to cause injury are not permitted to be brought into the stadium.
- * Encroachment onto the playing area is forbidden.

Any spectator acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to arrest or ejection.

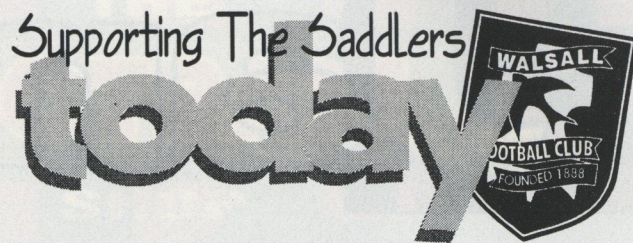
Close Circuit Television is in use and any spectator seen acting in a disorderly manner is likely to be arrested or ejected from the ground. In the event of an emergency, instructions will be given over the Public Address system. Spectators must follow the instructions given, in a calm manner. You will be assisted by Stewards/Police Officers. The Banks's Stand and an area of the H.L. Fellows Stand have been designated as NO SMOKING areas. Compliance with the NO SMOKING area signs is requested. The conditions mentioned above are intended to improve your enjoyment of the game in a safe and secure environment.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO ALL
SUPPORTERS**

Spectators are reminded that it is a criminal offence to run on the pitch, to use abusive language or threatening behaviour.

Bescot Stadium is covered by Close Circuit Television. Offenders will be identified and prosecuted. In addition, the Club will impose a life ban on anyone misbehaving, from attending matches at Bescot Stadium.

J.W.BONSER
Chairman.



**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCH
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WE HAVE A GREAT AFFINITY WITH TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS, AUTOGLASS.

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ALTHOUGH THEY ARE SHIRT SPONSORS FOR CHELSEA THIS SEASON, AUTOGLASS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME TONY NIGHTINGALE AND HIS GUESTS BACK TO BESCOT STADIUM TODAY.

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AND HOPE OUR GUESTS FROM AUTOGLASS HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON AT BESCOT STADIUM.

**A WELCOME TO OUR MATCHBALL
SPONSORS - AVON DIECASTING**

ANOTHER WARM WELCOME TO GERRY KEANE AND HIS GUESTS FROM AVON DIECASTING, TODAY'S MATCHBALL SPONSORS.

THIS BIRMINGHAM BASED COMPANY HAVE GIVEN GREAT SUPPORT TO OUR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN RECENT SEASONS, BOTH AS STADIUM ADVERTISERS AND SPONSORS.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THAT SUPPORT AND HOPE THAT THE PARTY FROM AVON DIECASTING HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON AT BESCOT STADIUM.

**WARM WELCOME TO OUR MATCHDAY
MASCOT - SCOTT JONES**

TODAY'S MATCHDAY MASCOT FOR THE SADDLERS IS 11 YEAR OLD SCOTT JONES FROM QUINTON IN BIRMINGHAM.

SCOTT IS SPONSORED BY HIS PARENTS MR & MRS JONES.

TODAY'S MASCOT SPONSORSHIP IS IN THE FORM OF A BELATED BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR SCOTT.

HE ATTENDS THE WOODHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN QUINTON. SCOTT ENJOYS SOCCER, BASKETBALL AND ICE HOCKEY.

HIS FAVOURITE WALSALL PLAYER IS ROGER BOLI, AND SCOTT'S MOST MEMORABLE MATCH IS WALSALL'S COCA COLA CUP TRIUMPH AGAINST NOTTINGHAM FOREST EARLIER THIS SEASON.

WE HOPE THAT SCOTT ENJOYS HIS ROLE AS MASCOT TODAY, AND THAT HE PROVES TO BE LUCKY FOR THE SADDLERS.

**WE ALSO GIVE A
WARM WELCOME TO
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Nationwide Action

LOOKING AT RECENT RESULTS

What a relief to see Jeff Peron's shot fly into Wigan Athletic's net last Saturday to bring our skilful midfielder his first goal in our colours and to end our run of four and a half home games without a goal. This was our worst run since the first season at Bescot when we failed to score in five successive games there against Cardiff City, Rochdale, Maidstone, Gillingham and Hartlepool United in March and April 1991. Our win also kept Wigan Athletic in the danger zone since it was their second defeat in succession after winning two and drawing two of their previous four games.

Like ourselves Burnley came within one game of Wembley this season, losing out to Grimsby Town in the Northern final of the Auto Windscreens Shield, but they are in serious danger of relegation, being 10 points below us in bottom place after losing at Millwall on Saturday to extend their winless spell to eight League games. In the course of their last nine home games Millwall have now won 1-0 on four occasions and lost 1-0 on three occasions and they are one of the few clubs who have neither any real hope of a playoff place or any real danger of relegation.

Talking of Grimsby Town a late goal by Paul Groves earned them three valuable points against Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday to lift them above Wrexham into third place and with two games in hand of second place Bristol City they could yet earn an automatic promotion place. If not, they have every chance of being at Wembley twice in quick succession for the Auto Windscreens Shield final and for the playoff final.

Today's visitors Luton Town pulled back from a 2-goal deficit to draw with Grimsby Town on Saturday, but they are now without a win in their last six home games and in serious danger of slipping into Division Three just 20 years after climbing out from their only previous spell there in 1968 when it was labelled Division

Four.

Bournemouth are the team to watch if one wants to see goals at both ends at the moment. In the course of the last six games they have scored 12 goals and conceded 17 and on Saturday they lost a remarkable game 5-3 at Southend United to a team showing plenty of spirit as they try to climb out of the bottom four. In their previous game they had won 3-1 at Wigan Athletic and on Saturday their spectacular win came after a goalless first half, no fewer than 8 goals coming in the last 32 minutes.

Leaders Watford were pegged back to their fourth successive draw away from home on Saturday when substitute Mark Allott netted his first-ever League goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time for Oldham Athletic. Earlier our former winger Adnan Littlejohn had scored on his Oldham Athletic debut after his recent move from Plymouth Argyle, this being the 39th goal of his career, the first of them being scored for us against Darlington in September 1990.

Still well up in the playoff stakes Northampton Town kept their third successive clean sheet in Saturday's goalless draw at Brentford who have lost only one of

their last ten games as they struggle hard to stay up. They are just one place and one point above the bottom four but suffered a blow on Saturday when substitute Bob Taylor, their leading scorer this season, was sent off for two bookable offences just 22 minutes after coming on.

Six games without a win has seen Bristol Rovers slide just below the playoff bracket though Barry Hayles got his 21st goal of the season in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Preston North End. They are now six points behind sixth place Fulham, who won with a Paul Peschisolido goal at York City on Saturday to leave them with two wins in their last two away games but only one win in their last three home games.

Six wins and a draw in their last seven games is the current record of Wrexham who are well in contention for an automatic promotion place if Bristol City do not improve on their current record of three wins in their last 12 games. On Saturday Wrexham beat Cynlle Regis' Wycombe Wanderers who have failed to win any of their last eight away games but have won four and drawn two of their last six home games.

Geoff Allman.

NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO TABLE & GATES

DIVISION TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	GATES		
							P	Highest	Lowest
Watford	39	21	13	5	58	34	76	16072	8096
Bristol City	38	21	9	8	60	31	72	17086	4903
Grimsby Town	37	18	11	8	51	29	65	6725	4267
Wrexham	38	17	12	9	48	42	63	5338	2039
Northampton Town	39	16	14	9	44	30	62	7373	5183
Fulham	38	17	9	12	48	34	60	12318	5086
Gillingham	38	16	9	13	46	44	57	8383	4774
Bristol Rovers	39	15	9	15	56	59	54	7386	4289
Millwall	38	14	9	15	39	44	51	10291	4647
Chesterfield	39	12	15	12	36	37	51	7406	3879
Oldham Athletic	37	12	14	11	50	43	50	8732	4520
Bournemouth	38	13	11	14	49	47	50	7256	3545
Blackpool	38	14	8	16	48	56	50	8342	3682
Wycombe Wanderers	39	12	14	13	46	49	50	8090	3635
York City	39	12	14	13	46	50	50	7093	2631
Preston North End	38	12	10	16	45	47	46	12263	7448
WALSALL	36	12	10	14	36	41	46	6634	2599
Wigan Athletic	37	12	8	17	50	57	44	5647	3017
Plymouth Argyle	39	10	12	17	47	60	42	9469	2992
Brentford	39	9	15	15	41	59	42	6869	3424
Carlisle United	39	11	8	20	51	59	41	8010	3591
Southend United	39	11	8	20	45	68	41	5705	2716
LUTON TOWN	38	9	14	15	43	54	41	9041	4403
Burnley	37	8	12	17	41	50	36	13809	8576



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memories

YES - I remember Luton Town

When I first saw Luton Town in the last season of wartime football in 1945/46 people were still talking of Joe Payne's amazing feat in scoring 10 goals in a game against Bristol Rovers on Easter Tuesday 1936 when he was brought back into the team as a striker after his handful of previous games had been in midfield. Joe moved on to Chelsea but Hugh Billington kept up the goalscoring tradition (though he scored in hat-tricks rather than tens). Frank Soo the prewar Stoke City player and the first Chinaman to play League football was also in the Luton team just after the war, as was Alan Driver a skilful inside forward destined to join us a few years later, and prewar Derby County and Scotland winger 'Dally Duncan'.

Luton Town also had some interesting defenders such as Horace Gager before his move to Nottingham Forest in 1948 and Syd

Owen who joined them from Birmingham City in 1947 and led them to the FA Cup final in 1959. Meanwhile Bud Aherne was an outstanding Irish international fullback and both Bernard Streten (who joined them from Shrewsbury Town after wartime games for us) and Ron Baynam kept goal for England while with the 'Hatters'.

Up front Jesse Pye had two good seasons with them after being swapped by Wolves for Jack Taylor in 1954 while in the engine room was George Cummins the Republic of Ireland international. Wally Shanks had some good years in midfield but none had quite the consistency of that great striker Gordon Turner who got 276 League and cup goals for them up to 1964, several of them against us.

Former Blackpool and Scotland man Allan Brown did well with Luton Town as a striker in the early

sixties and even better as a manager in the late sixties while another international Ireland's Billy Bingham got the goal that took them to the FA Cup final in 1959. John O'Rourke averaged almost a goal a game between 1963 and 1966, often netting the centres provided by David Pleat who has of course made an even greater impact as manager in more recent times.

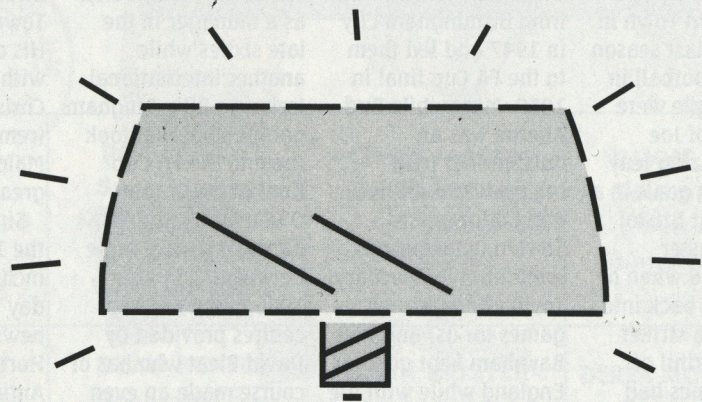
Tony Read was another great Luton Town man of the late sixties being one of the few goalkeepers ever to score a hat-trick when playing up front while no-one hit a ball harder than Bruce Rioch, who moved on to even greater fame with Aston Villa, Derby County and Scotland. Nor must we forget winger Graham French, applauded at Fellows Park for his skill as a winger in the late sixties but sadly jailed after a shooting incident only months later. Even after that he fought his way back

briefly into the Luton Town team of 1972/73. His career overlapped with that of defender Chris Nicholl (remember him?) and Malcolm McDonald, a great striker on his day.

Since then players of the 1980's have included two present-day managers in the news recently, Brian Horton and Raddy Antic and powerful defender Steve Foster while Brian Stein (helped for a time by brother Mark) brought back memories of the tremendous contribution made by the Futcher twins Paul and Ron in the mid-seventies. Then there was of course Mick Harford, who was a key figure in the League Cup win of 1978 and their appearance in the final of 1989. And bridging the 1980's and 1990's was that great little midfielder David Priest who joined them from us in 1984 and played 394 games and scored 27 goals.

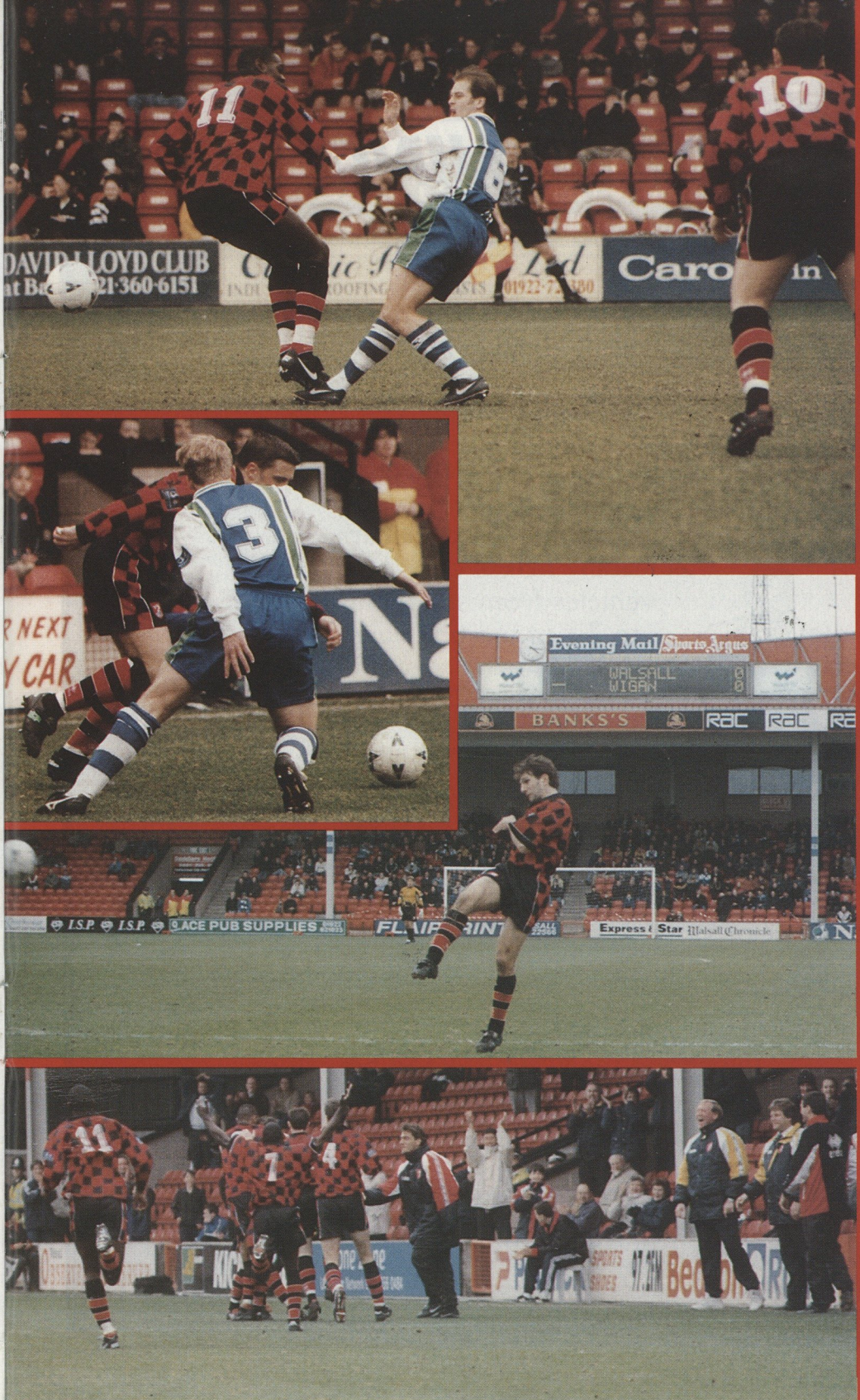
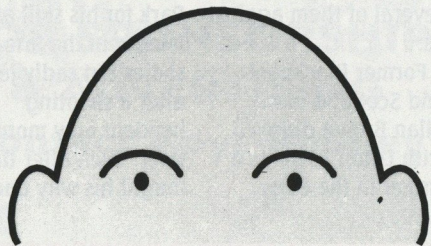
Geoff Allman

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SADDLERS' ALPHABET

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players - results - managers - clubs

W is for Walters. No fewer than three players of this name have made their mark in our history. **Fred Walters** was an outstanding utility player who played for Shrewsbury Town in the Birmingham League before coming to us in 1924 and making his debut up front. His best season was 1926/27 when he formed a dual spearhead with **Bert White** and scored 11 goals in 31 games. Then after injury had slowed him down he played for three seasons in the defence, playing opposite Charlie Houldey in the famous FA Cup tie at Villa Park in 1930. He later worked for the Sports Argus and lived until his early nineties.

Albert Walters (often known as A.V.) played up front for us after Fred Walters had moved into the defence. He came to us together with Tommy Roe from Luton Town in 1929 and in his first full season scored 29 goals in 45 games including a hat-trick in an FA Cup tie at Newport County. A keen fisherman, he moved to Shrewsbury Town in 1931. More recently **Henry Walters** was one of the many players who came to us from Wolves just after the war. He gave us great service as a busy constructive midfielder and occasional fullback, as when he

moved into that role for the FA Cup tie which we won against the odds at Fulham in 1949. After 266 games for us he moved on to Barnsley in 1953 and had several good seasons with them. He played in charity games until well into his forties after making a career at Cortonwood Colliery.

W is for Webster. **Walter Webster** was a splendidly consistent defender in our early Third Division days and formed an excellent partnership playing opposite Ben Timmins. After 137 games he moved to Lincoln City in 1925. He was made captain of the Imps before being signed by FA Cup holders Sheffield United. He later had spells with Scunthorpe United, Torquay United, Rochdale, Stalybridge and Barrow for whom he played at the age of 39. He lived in Sheffield until his death at the age of 85 in 1980.

W is for White. **Bert White** was a lively striker who had already scored 40 goals for Arsenal and 18 for Blackpool before joining us in 1925 after a short spell with Fulham. He had also made 32 on his county championship debut for Warwickshire. He got 26 goals in 29 games for us in 1926/27 including a hat-trick in a 5-3 win at Accrington and then

after moving to Nelson before the end of that season returned briefly in 1927/28. He later played for Stafford Rangers and ill-fated Football League club Thames and after the war was groundsman at Brentwood school, following in the footsteps of his father who had been head groundsman at Lords for over a quarter of a century.

W is for Wiles. Brothers **George** and **Harry Wiles** both played for us in the 1930's. Wing half George came to us from QPR in 1933. He scored his first goal in a thrilling 5-3 win over Tranmere Rovers and later moved to a defensive role, first alongside Jack Bennett and later alongside the young Jack Shelton. After 185 games for us he moved to Halesowen in 1938. His brother Harry was a striker who also came to us from QPR, having scored 28 goals in 49 games for them up to 1933. With Gilbert Alsop leading our first team attack he had few chances in our League side but got no fewer than 64 goals in reserve games in 1933/34. Though he played only 11 games in Division Three he still managed to score five goals.

*Continued in Tuesday's programme with Gillingham.
Geoff Allman.*

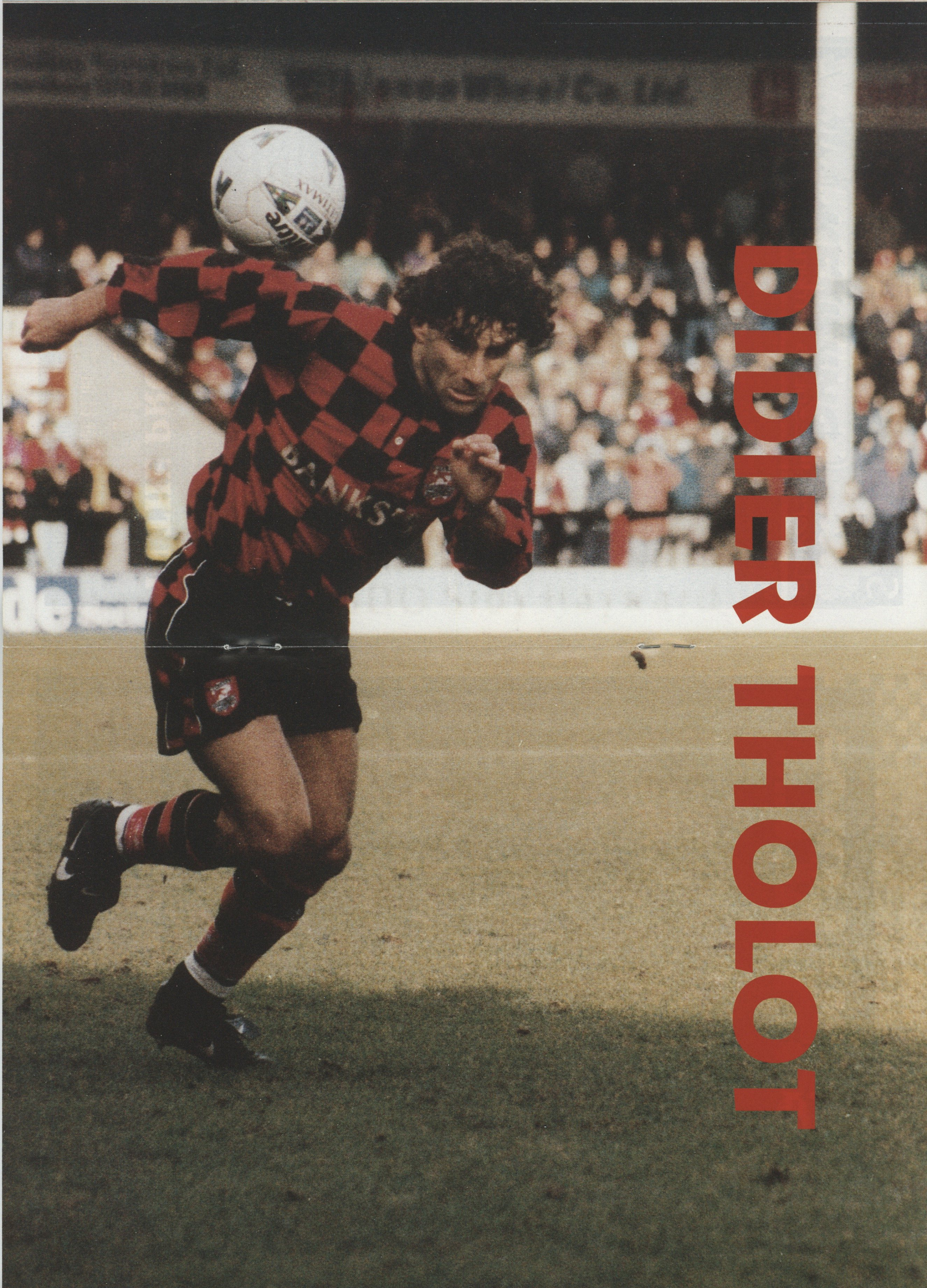
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30, 20 & 10 YEARS AGO & SEASON BY SEASON

back in time

SEASON 1996/97

Could we improve on the eleventh position of the previous season in this, our second season back in Division Two. After keeping us waiting for some time Chris Nicholl eventually decided to stay in charge, but during the summer Martin O' Connor and Scott Houghton had both moved on to Peterborough United and our only new signing was Mark Blake who had seen service with Aston Villa, Portsmouth and Leicester City.

The season certainly didn't start auspiciously. We went out of the Coca Cola Cup to Watford and after only one win in 8 League games we were in 22nd place. Then John Hodge arrived from Swansea City at the end of September and we began to look livelier up front. A 4-0 win over Peterborough United early in November tuned us up for the FA Cup win which we beat Northwich Victoria in a replay, snatched a lastminute equaliser in the second round against Burnley and seemed to be coasting home in the replay at Turf Moor when the floodlights failed at halftime.

The game had to be replayed and we were 1-1 after extra time but lost 4-2 on penalties. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given for the floodlight failure but it almost certainly robbed us of a moneyspinning third round tie at Liverpool. January saw a further disappointment with a 2-0 Auto Windscreens Shield defeat at Peterborough United, but fears that the season would fade were allayed when our lads rolled their sleeves up and won four games in a row.

Continued in our programme on Tuesday against Gillingham.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

We lost a Friday evening game at Fellows Park, 1-0 to Oxford United on March 29th, 1968 with David Sloan (later to move to us) getting the winner in the first half. While we were now almost out of the promotion race Oxford United were still very much in it five points ahead of us and level on points with Bury and Shrewsbury Town and three points behind Third Division leaders Torquay United
WALSALL: Wesson; Gregg; Harris G; Bennett; Jones; Atthey (Harrison); Watson; Baker; Biggs; McMorran; Taylor.
OXFORD UNITED: Barron; Smithson; Lloyd; Atkinson R; Kyle; Clarke C; Sloan; Atkinson G; Bullock; Shuker; Hale.
Attendance: 11,004.

Luton Town beat Aldershot 3-1 at Kenilworth Road on the following day and were now four points ahead of Southend United at the top of Division Four. Bruce Riech (2) and Mick Brown having got their goals. It was also the day of the F.A. Cup quarter finals in which Birmingham City beat Chelsea with a Fred Pickering goal, West Bromwich Albion drew 0-0 with Liverpool before winning through in a second replay, Leeds United beat Sheffield United with a Paul Madeley goal and Everton won 3-1 at Leicester City with Howard Kendall on the mark. Meanwhile Manchester United strengthened their grip on the top of Division One with George Best on the mark in a 4-2 win at Stoke City.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

April 1st, 1978 saw us go down 2-1 at Cambridge United as we suffered a further blow to our fading promotion hopes, this being our fourth game in a row without a win. Captained by Colin Harrison and with Alf Wood playing in a defensive role (the position he occupied for most of his time with Shrewsbury Town) we held our own for much of the first half but then went one down just before the break. Dave Serella dived to turn a Steve Fallon shot round a post and Alan Biley netted from the spot. Happily the rule that a player is sent off and thereby punished twice for the same offence happily did not operate in those days. Graham Watson got another in the second half and Alan Birch pulled one back for us, the teams being:
CAMBRIDGE UNITED: Webster; Howard; Buckley; Stringer; Fallon; Watson; Steele; Spriggs; Biley; Morgan; Finney.
WALSALL: Kearns; Macken; Caswell; Wood; Serella; Harrison; Dennehy; Evans; Austin; Buckley; Birch.
Attendance: 5,849.
We were now sixth in Division Three, 12 points behind leaders Wrexham and 8 behind second place Cambridge United while Luton Town were seventh in Division Two 14 points behind leaders Spurs (after a 1-1 draw at Hull City with Alan West getting the goal). In Division One Birmingham City strengthened their chances of staying up with a Trevor Francis matchwinner against Wolves at Molineux, his seventh goal in six games.

TEN YEARS AGO

We had a battle all the way for three points to keep us in the promotion frame when beating Chester City 1-0 at Fellows Park on April 2nd, 1988. Phil Hawker got the only goal of the game after 25 minutes with a spectacular flying header from an inch perfect cross from Paul Jones after great work by Mark Taylor had sent the winger away. In a rugged second half Gary Bennett was lucky to stay on the field after crunching tackles on Graeme Forbes and Kenny Mower.
WALSALL: Barber; Mower; Taylor; Shakespeare; Forbes; P.Jones; Hawker; Hart; Christie; Kelly; Naughton.
CHESTER CITY: Stewart; Glenn (Butler); Lowey; Fazackerley; Abel; Lightfoot; London; Barrow; Bennett; Croft; Graham.
Attendance: 4,978.

We were now level on points with second place Notts County and three points behind leaders Sunderland in Division Three while Luton Town were thirteenth in the old Division One after crashing 4-0 at Newcastle United. Michael O'Neill got a hat-trick for Newcastle United and Paul Goddard the other while Luton Town had Les Sealey in goal and Mark Stein up front.

Geoff Allman.

back in time

LUTON

Town



Today we welcome a Luton Town side currently struggling a little in their second season back in what



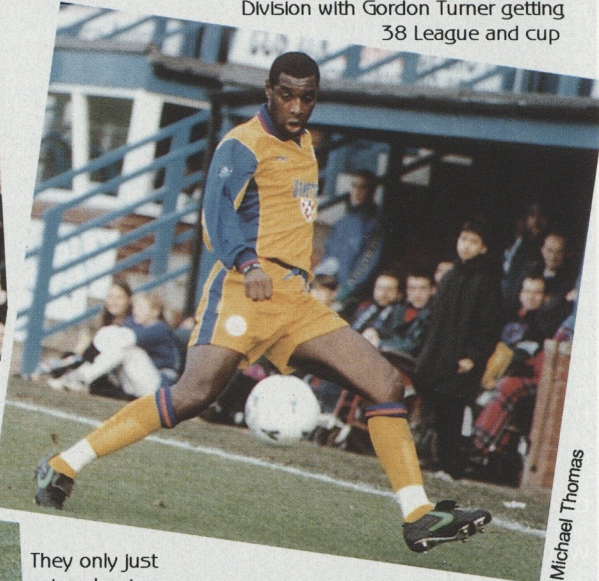
Phil Gray

is now Division Two after missing out in the playoffs last season as they tried to bounce straight back into Division One.

Founded in 1885 Luton Town played us a few times in our early Second Division days exactly a hundred years ago and they met us a number of times in Division Three (South) between the wars. It was after hitting the national headlines with Joe Payne's famous ten goals against Bristol Rovers in 1936 however that things really took off for them. They were promoted to the old Division Two a year later and just after the war they established themselves as a strong Second Division side. It was during this period that we visited

them in the FA Cup in January 1949 and went down 4-0 with Bobby Brennan getting a hat-trick.

Rotherham United on goal average in a very tight finish. 1957/58 saw them as high as eighth in the top Division with Gordon Turner getting 38 League and cup



Michael Thomas

They only just missed out on promotion in 1953

when former Wolves man Jesse Pye was banging home the goals, but in 1955 they did go up when they and Birmingham City pipped

goals and a year later they reached the FA Cup final after Billy Bingham had got the winner in a midweek semi-final replay win over Norwich City at St. Andrews. They then went down 2-1



Steve Davis

to Nottingham Forest at Wembley with a Dennis Pacey goal keeping their hopes alive in the second half.

Things seemed to decline then after the retirement of central defender Syd Owen who was less successful as manager than he had been on the field. They were relegated a season later and in 1963 accompanied us down from Division Two. We recall an unhappy 1-1 draw at Fellows Park on a windy day near the end of the season and in fact in the very last game of the season they lost 2-0 at Stoke City with 46 year old Stan Matthews getting the decisive goal that took Stoke up to Division One and sent Luton Town down to Division Three.

Our first game back in Division Three the following season saw us losing 1-0 at Luton Town but it was they who slipped to Division Four in 1965 to become only the second club (Brentford were the first) to have played in all four divisions. Luton Town came back strongly however with promotion in 1968 as Bruce Rioch banged home 27 goals and again in 1970 with Malcolm McDonald on the mark 28 times. By this time Alec Stock was at the helm after succeeding Allan Brown and in due course Harry Haslam took over and steered them back to Division One in 1974 with Barry Butlin leading scorer.

1975 saw them relegated but in 1982 they bounced back into Division One under David Pleat and in a magnificent run in the late eighties finished 9th, 7th and 9th again in the top Division and beat Arsenal in the League Cup final in 1988.

In 1990 however they slipped back to the old Division Two to find that it had been relabelled Division One and after several near misses they slipped into the new Division Two in 1996.

LAST SEASON

Last season began disastrously with three successive defeats in the League but they put Bristol Rovers out of the Coca Cola Cup and then gained a magnificent second round win over Derby County before going out to Wimbledon. This spurred them on in the League and after

only one defeat in 14 games they were fifth early in November.

Wins over Torquay United and Boreham Wood put them in the third round of the FA Cup in which they went out 6-2 in a replay at Bolton Wanderers and by this time they were third in the table. An automatic promotion place beckoned but they lost a little momentum in April. Only three games in eight were won, that thrilling 3-2 defeat here didn't help and they ended up in fifth spot.

In the playoffs they lost 2-1 at Crewe Alexandra and were then pegged back to a 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road. Even so they had enjoyed a lively season with Tony Thorpe banging home 31 goals and American goalkeeper Tony Feuer playing in every game.

THIS SEASON

Several players moved during the close season including midfielder Ceri Hughes to Wimbledon and Lennie Lawrence in his second full season in charge saw them lose their opening game at Blackpool 0-1 but won at Colchester 1-0 in the Coca Cola Cup and went through to the next round when they drew 1-1 at home. In the meantime they beat Southend United at home and drew 0-0 with Fulham at Craven Cottage. Another draw, at home to Oldham Athletic 1-1 was followed by a home defeat at the hands of Millwall when they lost 0-2. They then lost at Northampton Town (0-1) and drew 1-1 at Bournemouth. In the next round of the Coca Cola Cup they were at home to West Bromwich Albion and drew 1-1 but when visiting The Hawthorns in the return they went down 2-4. They lost at home (2-5) to Wrexham and Watford (0-4) and 0-3 at Bristol City. October saw them beat Plymouth Argyle at home

PREVIOUS LEAGUE MEETINGS

DIVISION TWO

1897/98

Walsall 5 (Devey 2, Holmes, J.Aston 2) Luton 0
Luton 6 (Stewart 4, Little 2) Walsall 0

1898/99

Walsall 6 (Dean 2, Aston, Vail 2, Martin) Luton 0
Luton 3 (McInnes, Hewitt, Durrant)
Walsall 2 (Pratt, Vail)

1899/1900

Walsall 7 (Griffin, Moffett 3, McAuley 3)
Luton 3 (Dimmock, Eckford, Draper)
Luton 4 (Brock, Fairgrieve, Monk, McInnes) Walsall 0

DIVISION THREE (SOUTH)

1927/28

Walsall 4 (Lane 3, Robson) Luton 1 (Rennie)
Luton 4 (Rennie 2, Yardley, Dennis)
Walsall 1 (Hughes)

1928/29

Walsall 0 Luton 0
Luton 3 (Rennie 2, Woods) Walsall 1 (Lane)

1929/30

Walsall 1 (Walters A) Luton 0
Luton 2 (Rennie, Yardley)
Walsall 3 (Murphy, Eyres, Harris)

1930/31

Walsall 0 Luton 1 (Brown)
Luton 0 Walsall 0

DIVISION TWO

1961/62

Walsall 2 (Wilson 2) Luton 0
Luton 2 (Turner 2) Walsall 0

1962/63

Walsall 1 (Pelin) Luton 1 (Murton)
Luton 4 (Davies 2, Walden, Jardine)
Walsall 3 (Meek 2, Taylor)

DIVISION THREE

1963/64

Walsall 4 (Wiggin 2, Foster, Fincham) Luton 0
Luton 1 (Turner) Walsall 0

1964/65

Walsall 0 Luton 1 (Phillips)
Luton 1 (Phillips) Walsall 3 (Clarke 2, Taylor)

1968/69

Walsall 2 (Murray, Morris) Luton 0
Luton 1 (Rioch) Walsall 0

1969/70

Walsall 1 (Taylor) Luton 3 (Tees 2, Collins)
Luton 3 (Busby, Collins, MacDonald) Walsall 0

DIVISION THREE

1996/97

Walsall 3 (Lightbourne 2, Hodge)
Luton 2 (Kiwomya, Davis)
Luton 3 (Thorpe, Showler, Fotiadis)
Walsall 1 (Lightbourne)

1997/98

Luton 0 Walsall 1 (Hodge)

VISITING

the Hatters, draw

by three clear goal and draw with Wigan Athletic 1-1 and win against Carlisle United 1-0 on their travels. A 2-0 home win over Brentford was then followed by a 2-2 draw at Wycombe Wanderers but then they lost four home games, Burnley 2-3, Preston North End 1-3 and in the FA Cup to Torquay United 0-1 and then by the same score to us.

A visit to York City saw them win 2-1 and as December dawned the drew 2-2 at home to Gillingham and drew again, 0-0, at Chesterfield, but lost at home to Bristol Rovers 2-4 and drew on Boxing Day 2-2 with Northampton Town and then beat Millwall 2-0 at The New Den.

This year started well, with a 2-1 win at Southend, home wins over Blackpool 3-0 and 2-1 over Brentford in the Auto Windscreens Shield. At Oldham Athletic they went down by the odd goal of three and lost 1-4 at home to Fulham, but then beat them at Craven Cottage three days after in the Auto

Windscreens Shield 2-1 and the last day of January lost to Bournemouth 1-2 at home. February saw them lost at Wrexham by the same score and share two goals at Watford before losing at Bournemouth in the Area Semi-final of the Auto Windscreens Shield, but before this game was played they lost the services of their leading goalscorer Tony Thorpe who moved to Fulham.

Since then their form has improved slightly with two home draws against Bristol City 0-0 and Wigan Athletic 1-1 and then winning at fellow strugglers, Plymouth Argyle 2-0 but losing at Preston 0-1 and have draw the last three. 1-1 at Burnley, 1-1 at home to Wycombe Wanderers and 2-2 last Saturday against Grimsby Town. Tony Thorpe was their leading goalscorer with 19 before he left to join Fulham and their next men are David Oldfield and Steve Davis with 6 each.

THE PLAYERS

GOALKEEPERS.

Currently in between the posts is **Kelvin Davis** who is an England under-21 player having played in the same side as our Stuart Ryder in June 1995. **Ian Feuer** has been contesting this spot with Kelvin. He was signed from West Ham United in December 1995 for a fee that could rise to £580,000 depending on appearances. There is also **Nathan Abbey** who is a Luton schools player but has yet to make his first team debut.

DEFENDERS.

Richard Harvey has made nearly 200 appearances for the Hatters after signing for them in 1986, but has during that time been plagued by injuries. **Julian James** also signed in 1986 as a trainee and he has now nearing the 300 mark. A former England under-21 international. **Marvin Johnson** joined



Manager Lennie Lawrence

the Hatters in 1985 and he also is nearing 300 appearances. **Alan White** was a schoolboy with derby County and was signed by Lennie Lawrence when he was at Middlesbrough before joining Luton last September. **Michael Thomas** is also a former England under-21 player and he made over 100 appearances before moving to Spurs in 1986. He played in the 1987 FA Cup final and then moved to West Ham United. A loan spell for Luton in the 1993/94 season became a permanent one on a free transfer. **Graham Alexander** is in the number two spot currently, having joined the Hatters from Scunthorpe United in July 1995 for a £100,000 fee. **Darren Patterson** who was born in Belfast, joined them in 1995 from Crystal Palace for £150,000. A Northern Ireland international who started his career with Wigan Athletic before moving

BESCOT

specialists of Late.

to Place for £250,000 in 1992. He has had a loan spell at Preston North End in October 1996 but an ankle injury kept him out of the side at the start of this season, but he is now fully fit and has been a regular since Christmas.

MIDFIELDERS.

Sean Evers joined the Hatters in 1994 but has only made a handful of appearances until recent weeks. **Gary Waddock** joined them from Bristol Rovers on a free transfer in December 1994 and has now made well over 100 appearances and this season has only missed a handful of appearances. **Paul McLaren** has missed just three games this term. Signed in July 1993 from school he is an England Youth international. **Simon Davies** joined the Hatters from Manchester United last summer after making 11 appearances for the Reds, in fact he scored in their European Cup game against Galatasaray in December 1994 and also played at Gothenburg. His fee this season was £200,000. **Paul Showler** was signed in August 1996 from Bradford City where he played as Lennie Lawrence as his boss. We will remember him from last season when he scored his first goal against us in the Hatters 3-1 win. Another player who is a regular in the Hatters lineup, **David Oldfield**, but he is under suspension for today.

FORWARDS. **Andrew Fotiadis** joined the Hatters full-time after staying at school to complete his 'A' levels. He has won England honours at Under-15 and 18 levels and he also scored his first goal against us last season in their 3-1 win. **Stuart Douglas** has an impressive record of goals in the Hatters youth side but has only made

a few appearances in the first team to date. **Phil Gray** was signed from Spurs in August 1991 then transferred to Sunderland in July two years later for £800,000 after scoring 26 goals in 59 games. He then played for Nancy in France and Fortuna Sittard in Holland before moving back to Luton in September this season. He has 25 Northern Ireland caps to his name. **Dwight Marshall** is Jamaican born and was signed from Plymouth Argyle for £150,000 in the summer of 1994 but this term has only made 15 appearances to date.

LENNIE LAWRENCE

Lennie Lawrence was appointed manager of Luton Town in December 1995. A player with non-league Croydon,

Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United, he was assistant manager at Plymouth Argyle where he was also caretaker manager and also at Lincoln City before becoming manager at Charlton Athletic in 1982.

Charlton finished runners-up in Division Two in season 1985/86 which saw them in the top flight after 29 years. But the next season saw them in a promotion/relegation playoff with Leeds United and stayed up, but were relegated the next season. He left Charlton in 1991 after being there 9 years. He took over at Middlesbrough and took them into the Premier League in 1992 in his first season, but they return to Division One in 1993. He left in 1994. He then joined Bradford City in May 1994 staying there until November 1995. He is now the 21st manager in the history of Luton Town.



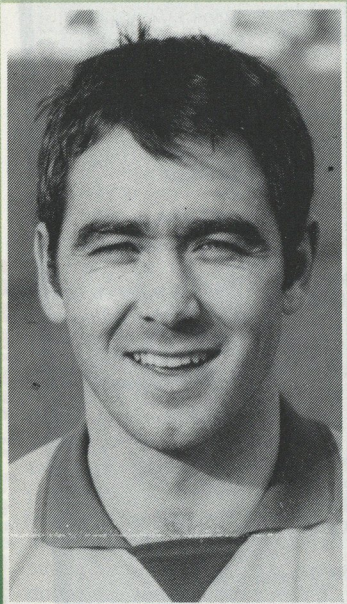
STEVE DAVIS

Steve joined the Hatters for £750,000, in the summer of 1995 after making over 160 League appearances for Burnley and scoring 22 goals.

He joined the Turf Moor side in August 1991 for £60,000 from Southampton after loan spells at both Burnley and Notts County. He was the Burnley skipper during their rise up the League into Division One, and played in both their victories over Luton in the 1994/95 season.

He was a commanding figure for the Hatters in the 1995/96 season, but again suffered the agony of relegation as the Hatters, like Burnley the previous season dropped out of Division One. A regular last season.

This season he has made 38 appearances and scored 6 goals which has now taken him past the 100 appearances for the Hatters.



Darren Patterson

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It was absolutely vital that we beat Wigan Athletic here last Saturday - and that's what we managed to do. If substitute Didier Tholot had put some of his chances away the win could have been much more emphatic. At least he got into those positions in the first place though. He seemed to tear the Wigan defence to shreds.

What a great goal from Jeff Peron. I was thrilled for him as I was beginning to think he'd never score a goal.

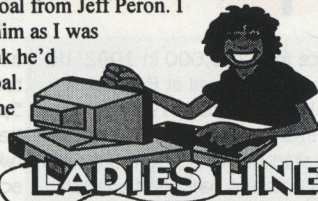
How nice it came at Bescot as well where he is so hugely popular with the fans. I wish I'd backed him as first goalscorer before the game, as I could have become quite a bit better off! Perhaps now Jeff has got off the mark, a few more goals may follow before the end of the season. We really missed him when he was out injured recently with his hamstring.

I was disappointed with Wigan. It was obvious to me that they'd come for a draw, until our goal went in. They've spent a lot of money building their side too - Scott Green cost £300,000 from Bolton, Pat McGibbon £250,000 from Manchester United and David Lee, another ex-Bolton player, £250,000 - to name just three. I must admit with the money they were spending last summer I thought the Latics would be challenging for promotion, but it just shows what a difficult division we are in. Wigan were Third Division champions last May, of course.

Another three points are needed this afternoon against struggling Luton Town if we are to continue our push away from the dreaded relegation zone.

Good luck, Walsall.

Bianca Middleton



- Did You Know About LUTON TOWN**
- Luton Town beat Bristol Rovers 12-0 in April 1936 with Joe Payne becoming the only player ever to score 10 goals in a League game.
 - Comedian Eric Morecambe was a director of Luton Town from 1976 to 1983.
 - Bernard Stretten (who had played for us both as a goalkeeper and a striker during the war years) was capped for England in 1950 while with Luton Town. Bernard eventually lost his place in the Luton team to Ron Baynham (ex-Worcester City) who was capped three times by England in 1956.
 - Luton Town were the first club ever to ban away supporters from their ground when they did so in 1986. As a penalty they were banned from the Football League Cup in 1986/87.
 - Luton Town beat Sunderland 8-2 in November 1955 when the latter were top of the old Division One.

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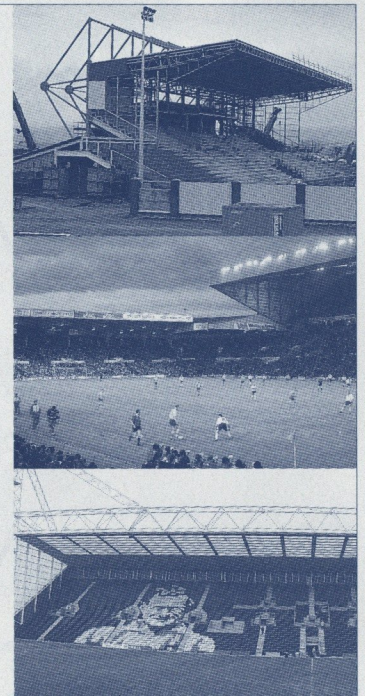
Thanks to the Government and to the FA Premier League, the English Sports Council, the Football Association, the Football League and the Professional Footballers Association, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

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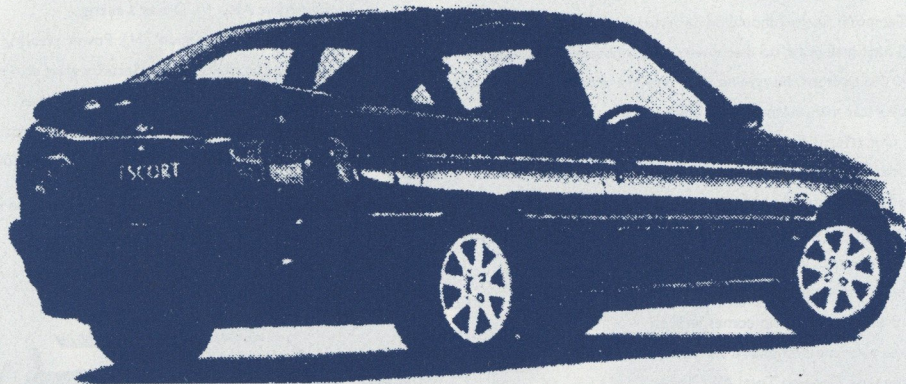
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MAKING CARS AFFORDABLE

WALSALL to WARSAW and beyond

Soccer across the World with Neil Morris

Taking a look at last weekend's action around Europe.

Italy: Serie A leaders Juventus made their fans sweat at Parma as they had to recover from 0-2 down to earn a point. Headers from the Croat Mario Stanic and Massimo Crippa put the home side in charge at half time but two Juve strikes inside five minutes levelled the scores. Alessio Tacchinardi scored the first and Filippo Inzaghi (who had scored a hat-trick at Dynamo Kiev in midweek and had set up Tacchinardi's goal) claimed the second. Second placed Lazio missed the chance to go level with Juventus as they were held 0-0 at home by lowly Piacenza - a result which at least preserved their 15 match unbeaten run. It could have been worse as Piacenza's Renato Busot and Davide Dionigi both struck the post. Elsewhere Oliver Bierhoff scored his 19th goal of the season as 4th placed Udinese beat Brescia 3-1 to keep alive their hopes of a champions league spot next season. Down at the bottom it was a bad day for struggling Napoli who lost 4-2 at home to bottom of the table Lecce and now occupy that position. Their plight was worsened by Atalanta's 1-0 home triumph against Empoli. On Sunday night Inter won the Milan derby, 3-0 at the San Siro.

Holland: Leaders Ajax have a 12 point lead at the top after

two late goals gave them victory at 10 man NAC Breda who saw Jeffrey van As dismissed on the hour after a second yellow card. NAC almost forced a draw through stout defending but on 86 minutes Shota Arveladze broke the deadlock and shortly afterwards the South African Benny McCarthy converted a Peter Hoekstra cross to make it 2-0. Second placed PSV beat Vitesse Arnhem 3-2 in Eindhoven.

England: In Simon Barker's Testimonial match last Sunday a bumper crowd of 16,978 turned out at Loftus Road to see World Cup qualifiers Jamaica beat QPR 2-1. Theodore Whitmore fired the "Reggae Boyz" ahead on 34 minutes but Steve Slade equalised for the R's on 60 minutes. Jamaica were ahead three minutes later as Wimbledon's Robbie Earle scored the winning goal.

Draws: The draws for the three European club competitions semi-finals are: European Cup: 1st & 15th April. Juventus v Monaco. Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund. Cup Winners Cup: 2nd & 16th April. Vicenza v Chelsea. Stuttgart v Lokomotive Moscow.

UEFA Cup: 31st March & 14th April. Atletico Madrid v Lazio. Internazionale v Spartak Moscow.

World Cup: The Sunday Times reported that police had uncovered a plot by Algerian

extremists to mount a bombing campaign during the World Cup finals. It said that World Cup brochures and liquid explosives had been discovered in raids on houses in Brussels, but Belgian authorities denied the claims. Elsewhere German captain Juergen Klinsmann said that he considers Brazil to be favourites for the trophy, but he does not think they are invincible. Speaking before Wednesday's Germany v Brazil Friendly in Stuttgart he said his country could beat the Brazilians. If we meet them in the World Cup as well. Klinsmann also stated he thinks Germany can win the competition on the same theme, UEFA President Lennart Johansson has been quoted as saying he would support Germany's bid for the 2006 finals over England's. My sources say they will be given to South Africa - we shall see.

Shorts: There was a surprise callup to the Belgian squad for Wednesday's friendly against Norway. Uncapped Genk midfielder Philippe Clement was summoned, Belgian coach George Veekens said that Clement is "young, athletic and strong".

Ossie Ardiles has said he plans to return to Europe at the end of his current one year contract with J'League side Shimizu 5-Pulse.

For those of our squad interested, FC Sien drew 0-0 at home to Aarau last week in the Swiss play-off league.

Osaka Hilton, 20.45, Thursday March 19 I have just had dinner, a meal of modest proportions but which nonetheless cost approaching £45, for me alone. Two lagers fetched a tenner.

There is, however, little else to do other than eat when you don't feel like working between meetings. Consequently I now look at myself in the mirror and I look at the Sumo on the telly and I see certain similarities.

For this reason, Paul Gascoigne must never do a Lineker, and ply his trade in the J-League. Within a fortnight he would be an even more fatter, than he is now.

However it does occur to me that Gazza could actually fare rather well at the ancient Japanese sport of Sumo. Figure-wise, he already has a gut start, of course. Of course, the ceremonial antics in and around the sport are weird. But Gascoigne is the only bloke with behaviour so incomprehensible (witness, for example, his flute dance to incite the

Celtic fans) that he would fall quite naturally into the rhythm of it all. Finally there seems to me to be rather less similarity between Japanese and English than between Japanese and Gascoigne.

I suggested to one of my Interpreters over here that the majority of Sumo fans were women and that they found Sumo wrestlers to be rather attractive and eminent marriage material.

"Ugh!" she said, turning up a sweet little nose. "They can't even wipe their bottoms." Yet another good reason why Sumo should receive its first English performer.

The Asahi Evening News before me tells me that Manchester United were knocked out of the Champions Cup by Monaco last evening. I am, of course, mortified. But not as shocked as I was to learn that Arsenal had put West Ham United out of the FA Cup on

penalties. Before I left for the Land of the Rising Yen, I had put a fiver on the Hammers to lift the trophy, at 7-1. This was on the strength of the usually infallible gut feel, which first registered as a 1 sat at the Emley third round game, when the home side were getting the run around, and said to the boy "if West Ham survive this they'll lift the cup". Ah! Perhaps the only gut-feeling I'm fit for now is sumo.

The aforementioned newspaper also tells me that Japan's football team is ranked ninth on the FIFA list. This, frankly, amazes me. For two weeks now I have been patronisingly saying to my hosts that their team has done ever so well to get to the World Cup finals but that, with rather more than gut feel, I could assure them that they'd not get very far in France. I guess I should know better. As I look across Osaka's neon night sky from the thirtieth floor of the Hilton, I am reminded that there

are an awful lot of Japanese, at least three times as many as we English. And very few are built like Sumo wrestlers. They are lithe and supple and it would not surprise me if Japan forms the next hunting ground for young talent after Australia.

The newspapers over here, notably The Japan Times, actually do a very creditable job on the football front. Thus I have been getting all the results within 1-1.5 days of the matches, and key snippets of news. Thus I read that Franny has fanned off; and that Mr Coppel has, once again, vacated the hot seat. I discover that a certain arrogant German 'gentleman' wants a Swiss to roll over. And I wonder if I am really missing all this madness. But then I turn on the Sumo on the telly and I look at the price of a glass of beer, and suddenly feel rather homesick.

Paul Gascoigne wouldn't last a minute.

Charlie Bamforth



rewind

Saddlers' games reviewed by Michael Cheadle & Don Martin

GRIMSBY TOWN 3 WALSALL 0

Nationwide League Division Two
Saturday 14th March 1998

The decline continued with this bitterly disappointing display at Blundell Park. Having survived to half time at 0-0 there were hopes of at least earning a point but the "Mariners" turned up the heat in the second half and Alan Buckley's men gave us a lesson in open attacking play with clinical finishing to run out comfortable 3-0 winners.

The architect of the show was former Albion player Kevin Donovan who made the first goal and scored the other two. The first in the 58th minute saw him sweep past Dean Keates and centre perfectly to the back post where Nogan rose majestically to head home his 12th goal of the season. Donovan drove home the second himself in the 64th minute picking up a pass from Nogan and drill the ball past James Walker. Kevin Jobling squared the ball across the box in the final minute for Donovan to fire home the third.

To add to Walsall's troubles there were bookings for Roper and Hodge and Adrian Viveash had to leave the field with mild concussion in the 64th minute after a clash of heads. Dean Keates and Wayne Evans tried hard at full back to stem the flow of Grimsby attacks, but there was little else to enthuse over with a lack of running off the ball, too many wasted passes and shortage of quality ball for the forwards to exploit. With Peron still out injured and Roger Boli rested, it was left to Clive Platt and Didier Tholot to try and extract some space and time up front but with the home defence in superb form there was nothing for them to enjoy. We must build up our confidence quickly if disaster is to be avoided!!

WALSALL: Walker; Evans; Keates;

Viveash; Roper; Eydelie; Blake; Porter; Platt; Tholot; Hodge. Subs: Mountfield for Viveash (64); Thomas for Eydelie (64); Ricketts for Tholot (76).

GRIMSBY TOWN: Davison; McDermott; Gallimore; Handyside; Lever; Burnett; Donovan; Smith; Nogan; Clare; Groves. Subs: Black for Gallimore (78); Jobling for Nogan (82); Lester for Clare (46).

Goals:
0-1 Nogan. 0-2 Donovan (64).
0-3 Donovan (87).

Attendance: 4,916.

Referee: B. Coddington - Sheffield.

BOURNEMOUTH 2 WALSALL 3

(Aggregate 4-3)

Auto Windscreens Shield
Southern Area Final - Second leg
Tuesday 17th March 1998

The Saddlers were unlucky not to progress to Wembley after this superb second half performance at Dean Court.

With a two goal deficit to pull back after that dreadful Bescot performance in the first leg, Walsall knew what they had to do.

After a goalless first half in which the Cherries had the better chances, including a goal being ruled out for offside as early as the fourth minute, the Saddlers shocked the home side just after the break by taking the lead. The goal came three minutes after the restart when from a poor clearance out of defence the ball fell to Wayne Thomas, who drove it home from 25 yards, his first goal for the Club.

This gave the Saddlers hope and they pushed forward looking for a second goal. This deservedly came five minutes later when Roger Boli was allowed space to fire home from close range in the 53rd minute, to send the travelling Walsall supporters ecstatic.

Walsall were now well on top and looked the likely winner. However,

Bournemouth hit back almost immediately and pulled a goal back in the 55th minute when Wayne Evans could only deflect John Bailey's shot past James Walker.

The Saddlers now had to do it all again and with excellent vocal support from the stand lifting them, they pushed forward. The goal had settled Bournemouth who had tightened up in defence. However, an inspired substitution in the 78th minute gave us the breakthrough. Didier Tholot came on for Michael Ricketts and within ten seconds of the restart, he had shot Walsall 3-1 up on the night from 15 yards.

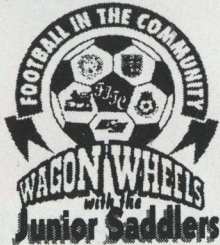
With the scores now level on aggregate again, the match now came end to end, with both sides looking to win the tie in normal time. This led to Bournemouth scoring when the Saddlers defence allowed Franck Rolling space to shoot home in the 81st minute.

Despite intense Walsall pressure in the last nine minutes, the Saddlers found themselves up against a stubborn Bournemouth defence and were unable to score a fourth. However, in a match where ten players were shown a yellow card (8 Walsall, 2 Bournemouth), some of the tackles the homeside made in the latter stages, especially in the penalty area were debatable.

BOURNEMOUTH: Glass; Young; Vincent; Rolling; Cox; Bailey; O'Neill (Howe 54); Robinson; Stein; Fletcher; Beardsmore. Subs: (not used): Brissett; Rawlinson.

WALSALL: Walker; Evans; Keates; Viveash; Roper; Peron (Hodge 67); Boli; Porter; Platt; Ricketts (Tholot 78); Thomas. Sub: (not used): Eydelie.

Scorers:
0-1 Thomas (48).
0-2 Boli (53).
1-2 Evans (own goal 55).
1-3 Tholot (78).
2-3 Rolling (81).
Attendance: 10,923.
Referee: R. Harris - Oxford.



May I extend a warm welcome to the Junior Supporters from Luton Town who are our guests today. I hope they enjoy their day with us and also enjoy the half time shoot-out with our own Junior Saddlers.

Our Schools Programme had this week been out to Staffordshire where we have been coaching at Cheslyn Hay, Chadsmoor and Ridgeway Primary Schools. Chadsmoor and Ridgeway are also venues for the Walsall F.C. Soccer Schools during the Easter holidays as well as the venue here at Bescot. Details of all the Soccer Schools will appear in the Gillingham programme.

Last Thursday we hosted the area finals of the Panini six-a-side competition where all Premier and Football League clubs in the area were represented by schools from these areas. Walsall were represented by Blackwood School, Streetly who had won our local competition. They drew all three games including drawing against the eventual winners Wolves who beat Aston Villa in the final. Congratulations to the Wolves team who if they win the Regional Final will play at Wembley before the Auto Windscreens Shield final.

Recent Junior Saddlers birthdays since my last notes were Alex Roofe 8, Perri Butler 6, Daniel Green 9, Nicky Peace 12, James Cox 12, Andrew Smith 13, Gavin Lord 6, Adam Russell 11, Peter Machin 12 and Luke Rogers who was 9.

Today's Ball Boys are from Woodlands Middle School from Bedford.

The picture shows Jaya Chandola with Jan Sorensen presenting her mother with a bouquet of flowers after winning the Design a Mothers Day card. This competition was open to local schools. Jaya attends Delves Junior School.

Enjoy the match.
Mike Kearns

SOCCER topic

Less seen - more respected

The unhappy events at Newcastle United in recent times have brought home the unfortunate consequences of over-exposure to the media and one thinks of the advice of Henry IV to his son in the play of that name to the effect that the less one is seen the more one is respected by the people. Not that one would wish to see or hear of players and officials only when they are in action on match day but blanket coverage in the media means that sooner or later every fan of whatever club will hear something about one of his or her favourites that would be better not known.

Some of the greatest thrills of my otherwise undistinguished life have been the chance meetings with sporting heroes. As a schoolboy I recall seeing Ron Crutchley the Walsall and Shrewsbury midfielder waiting in a queue for ice cream at a time when that particular commodity was in very short supply. Then much later in life I thought I was dreaming when I saw none other than Alan Boswell the former Walsall and Shrewsbury Town goalkeeper on my doorstep. I had written to him for a few memories of his mercurial career and he had taken the trouble to seek out my abode in order to deliver them verbally - and in a far more restrained form than his instructions to defenders on the field of play usually were.

I remember too the sadness of reading that another player whom I had seen play bravely and skilfully on many occasions had been in some sort of a 'scrape' that had brought him into court. It was like reading that a member of one's family had got into trouble as one hoped against hope that soon one would be seeing him on the field of play again, the place where he was seen at his best.

Yes, at his best is the operative phrase. Another area in which this does not happen is when one reads that a favourite player is haggling over a new contract and perhaps ultimately going somewhere else for more money. If anyone is on the breadline this is of course quite a natural reaction, but that doesn't apply to many even in the lower Divisions nowadays. When one has shared the ecstasy of one's team winning it is hard to believe that a player who has contributed to that success and whose actions when a goal has been scored suggest that his own ecstasy is limitless, could possibly not want to continue playing for that team.

The Newcastle controversy also of course leaves question marks against those fans who blew the whistle by contacting the media. Is there indeed a time to speak but also a time to keep silent? On a happier note the third thrill of my life was when I saw a former West Midland chairman at a place where I did not expect to find him. He was standing amongst fans on the touchline at Darlaston watching a West Midland League game. When someone identified him he just said 'This is where I like to be watching a game from - better than all the directors' boxes'. That man was the late Bill Harrison onetime chairman of Walsall. I shall forever treasure the memory.

Geoff Allman.



Action with WIGAN ATHLETIC

Heads a plenty as the Saddlers attack. Right: Dean Keates gets a bad tackle. Below - Chris Marsh wends his way through the visitor's defence.



SADDLERS' NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO FACTS - 1997/98

HOME GAMES - Away Games - GOAL SCORERS - Substitutes. * + **

OPPONENTS	Score	LP	ATT	V/ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST																		
9-Chesterfield	1-3	-18	5193	1010	Walker	Evans	Rogers	Viveash	Ryder	Donowa*	Boli	Keister	PLATT	Porter	Hodge	Mounfield	Keates	Williams*
16-FULHAM	1-1	16	4418	1060	Walker	Evans	Keates	Viveash	MOUNTFLD	Donowa	Boli	Keister	Platt	Porter*	Hodge	Ryder	Beckford	Watson*
23-Gillingham	1-2	21	5083	204	Walker	Evans	Keates*	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	BOLI	Keister	Platt	Porter+	Hodge	Blake	Watson+	Donowa*
30-SOUTHEND UNITED	3-1	14	3304	362	Walker	Evans	Ryder	Viveash	Roper	Peron	BOLI 3	Keister	Watson*	Porter	Blake	Platt*	Ricketts	Hodge
SEPTEMBER																		
2-NORTHAMPTON TOWN	0-2	19	4435	1221	Walker	Evans	Ryder**	Viveash	Roper	Peron	Boli	Donowa	Watson	Porter*	Blake+	Platt**	Hodge*	Ricketts+
6-Bristol Rovers	0-0	20	6225	187	Walker	Evans	Roper	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Donowa*	Platt	Blake+	Hodge	Watson+	Keates*	Ryder
13-Preston North End	0-0	22	5092	280	Walker	Evans	Rogers	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Skinner	Platt*	Keates	Hodge	Ricketts*	Thomas	Ryder
20-YORK CITY	2-0	20	2972	227	Walker	Evans	Rogers	Viveash	Roper	Peron	BOLI	Skinner	Keates	Watson*	HODGE	Ryder	Thomas	Platt*
27-Plymouth Argyle	1-2	22	6207	219	Walker	Evans	Rogers*	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	BOLI	Skinner	Keates+	Watson	Hodge	Porter+	Ryder	Platt*
OCTOBER																		
4-CARLISLE UNITED	3-1	20	3957	653	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	BOLI 2	Skinner	Keates	WATSON	Hodge*	Porter*	Roper	Platt
11-WREXHAM	3-0	14	4042	669	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	BOLI	Skinner	Keates	WATSON	HODGE p	Porter	Roper	Platt
18-Brentford	0-3	18	4874	386	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Skinner	Porter*	Watson	HODGE+	Blake*	Roper	Platt+
21-Wycombe Wanderers	2-4	19	3884	203	Walker	Evans	Marsh*	VIVEASH	Mounfield+	Peron	Boli	Skinner	Keates	WATSON	Blake**	Hodge*	Roper+	Platt**
25-BRISTOL CITY	0-0	19	4618	1401	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Platt*	Skinner	Keates	Watson	Hodge	Blake	Roper	Ricketts*
NOVEMBER																		
1-Burnley	1-2	20	9293	307	Walker	Evans	Marsh	VIVEASH	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Skinner	Keates	Watson	Hodge*	Blake	Roper	Ricketts*
4-GRIMSBY TOWN	0-0	21	2599	213	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron	Boli	Skinner*	Keates	Watson	Hodge+	Blake*	Ricketts+	Mounfield
8-WATFORD	0-0	21	5077	1582	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron	Boli	Keister	Keates	Ricketts*	Donowa	Porter	Watson*	Mounfield
22-Luton Town	1-0	18	4726	266	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli*	Porter	Keates	Watson	HODGE	Blake	Ricketts*	Ryder
29-BLACKPOOL	2-1	16	3933	778	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	BOLI	Porter	Keates*	WATSON	Hodge	Blake	Ricketts*	Ryder
DECEMBER																		
3-Millwall	1-0	16	4647	111	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Porter	KEATES	Watson	Hodge*	Blake*	Ricketts	Ryder
13-BOURNEMOUTH	2-1	13	3538	232	Walker	Blake	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	BOLI	Keister	Keates*	Watson	HODGE	Ricketts*	Roper	Ryder
20-Oldham Athletic	0-0	12	4677	330	Walker	Blake	Marsh	Ryder	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Keister	Keates	Watson	Hodge	Ricketts	Roper	Platt
26-BRISTOL ROVERS	0-1	15	6634	1632	Walker	Blake	Marsh	Ryder	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Keister*	Keates	Watson	Hodge	Porter*	Roper	Evans
28-Northampton Town	2-3	15	7094	936	Walker*	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Ryder	Peron	Boli	PORTER	Keates	Watson	HODGE	Blake*	Roper	Keister
JANUARY																		
10-CHESTERFIELD	3-2	15	4042	529	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield*	Peron	Boli	Porter	Keates	WATSON 2	Hodge	Blake	Roper*	Platt
17-Southend United	1-0	14	3310	260	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield*	Blake	Boli	Porter	Keates	WATSON	Hodge	Keister	Roper*	Platt
31-PRESTON NORTH END	1-1	14	5377	1045	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield*	Peron	Boli	Porter+	Keates	Watson	HODGE p	Blake+	Ryder*	Platt
FEBRUARY																		
7-York City	0-1	15	2959	323	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Ryder	Peron	Boli	Blake	Keates*	Watson	Hodge+	Mounfield	Thomas*	Ricketts+
14-Carlisle United	1-1	16	4530	222	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron	Boli*	Blake	Keates	Watson	HODGE	Ryder	Ricketts*	Thomas
21-PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	0-1	16	4612	652	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron	Boli	Blake*	Keates	Ricketts	Hodge	Mounfield	Keister	Platt*
24-BRENTFORD	0-0	16	3166	237	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron	Boli	Blake	Keates	Platt	Hodge	Ryder	Keister	Ricketts
28-Wrexham	1-2	18	3622	429	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron*	Boli	Blake	Keates	Platt	Keister	Ryder	Thomas	RICKETTS*
MARCH																		
3-Watford	2-1	16	8096	167	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Eydelie	Boli*	BLAKE	Keates	THOLOT	Ricketts	Mounfield	Keister*	Platt
7-BURNLEY	0-0	16	5212	1155	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Eydelie	Boli	Blake	Ricketts	Tholot	Hodge	Ryder	Porter	Platt
14-Grimsby Town	0-3	18	4916	183	Walker	Evans	Keates	Viveash*	Roper	Eydelie**	Blake	Porter	Platt	Tholot+	Hodge	Mounfield*	Thomas**	Ricketts+
21-WIGAN ATHLETIC	1-0	17	3169	493	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	PERON	Boli	Keates	Platt*	Porter	Ricketts	Thomas	Eydelie	Tholot*
28-LUTON TOWN																		
31-GILLINGHAM																		

APRIL
4-Blackpool
7-Fulham
11-MILLWALL
14-Bournemouth
18-OLDHAM ATHLETIC
21-Wigan Athletic
25-Bristol City
MAY
2-WYCOMBE WANDERERS

**NEXT AT
BESCOT**

Nationwide League Division Two - Tuesday 31st March 1998
GILLINGHAM
Kick Off 7.45pm. - **BE EARLY**

SADDLERS' CUP FACTS - 1997/98

HOME GAMES - Away Games - GOAL SCORERS - Substitutes. * + **CCC - Coca Cola Cup. FAC - FA Cup. AWS - Autowindcreens Shield.

OPPONENTS	Score	COMP	ATT	V/ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
AUGUST																			
12-EXETER CITY	2-0	ccc 1/1	2321	157	Walker	Evans	Keats	Viveash	Mounfield	Donowa	BOLI	Keister	PLATT	Porter	Hodge	Blake	Ryder	Williams	
25-Exeter City	1-0	ccc 1/2	2467	162	Walker	Evans	Ryder	Viveash	Mounfield*	Peron	BOLI	Keister	Watson	Porter	Blake	Donowa	Keates*	Hodge	
SEPTEMBER																			
17-Nottingham Forest	1-0	ccc 2/1	7841	1735	Walker	Evans	Rogers	Viveash	Mounfield*	Peron	Boli	SKINNER	Keates+	Watson	Hodge	Roper*	Thomas+	Platt	
24-NOTTINGHAM FOREST aet	2-2	ccc 2/2	6037	864	Walker	Evans	Rogers+	Viveash	Mounfield*	Peron	Boli	SKINNER**	Keates	WATSON 2	Hodge	Porter**	Roper*	Platt+	
OCTOBER																			
14-SHEFFIELD UNITED og	2-1	ccc 3	8239	1488	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Skinner	Keates	WATSON	Hodge	Porter	Roper	Platt	
NOVEMBER																			
15-LINCOLN UNITED	2-0	FAC 1	3279	259	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper*	Peron	BOLI	Keister	Keates	WATSON+	Ricketts	Mounfield*	Naisbitt	Hodge+	Porter
19-West Ham United	1-4	ccc 4	17463	1935	Walker	Evans	Marsh+	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron	Boli	Keister*	Keates	WATSON	Hodge	Porter+	Ricketts*	Ryder	
DECEMBER																			
6-Macclesfield Town	7-0	FAC 2	3566	978	Walker	Evans	Marsh	VIVEASH	Ryder	Peron	BOLI2*	Porter2	Keates	Watson+	Hodge2	Blake	Naisbitt	Mounfield	Ricketts*
9-Barnet	2-1	AWS 1	754	82	Walker	Evans*	Marsh	Viveash	Ryder	Peron	BOLI	Porter+	Keates	Ricketts	Hodge	Blake*	Roper*	Platt+	
JANUARY																			
6 BRIGHTON og	5-0	AWS 2	2562	129	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield*	Peron	BOLI 2	Porter	KEATES+	WATSON**	Hodge	Blake+	Roper*	Platt**	
13-Peterborough United	2-0	FAC 3	12874	2281	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron*	Boli	Porter	Keates	WATSON 2	Hodge	Blake*	Naisbitt	Roper	Platt
24-Manchester United	1-5	FAC 4	54669	8486	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Mounfield	Peron*	BOLI	Porter	Keates	Watson	Hodge	Blake*	Naisbitt	Roper	Platt
27-Bristol Rovers AWS QF	1-0	AWS 3	4165	228	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Ryder	Roper	Peron	BOLI	Porter	Keates	Watson	Hodge	Blake	Mounfield	Platt	
FEBRUARY																			
17-Peterborough United	2-1	AWS SF	4199	852	Walker	Evans	Marsh	Viveash	Roper	Peron	BOLI	Blake	Keates	Watson	Hodge*	Ryder	Keister	RICKETTS*	
MARCH																			
10-BOURNEMOUTH Area Final - 1	0-2	AWS	6017	937	Walker	Evans	Marsh*	Ryder	Roper	Eydelie	Boli	Porter	Ricketts	Tholot	Hodge	Blake	Mounfield	Platt*	
17-Bournemouth Area Final - 2	3-2	AWS	10923	403	Walker	Evans	Keates	Viveash	Roper	Peron*	BOLI	Porter	Platt	Ricketts+	THOMAS	Hodge*	Eydelie	THOLO+	

MELVILLE MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE - SEASON 1997/98

Sat Aug 9	LINCOLN CITY	4-1	Sat Nov 29	Lincoln City	0-0
Sat Aug 16	Birmingham City	3-0	Sat Dec 6	BIRMINGHAM	6-2
Sat Aug 23	WBA	2-1	Sat Dec 13	WBA	4-0
Sat Aug 30	MANSFIELD TOWN	3-1	Sat Dec 20	Mansfield Town	3-1
Sat Sep 13	GRIMSBY TOWN	0-1	Fri Jan 23	PORT VALE	0-0
Sat Sep 20	Port Vale	2-2	Fri Jan 30	Wolves	1-4
Sat Sep 27	Wolves LC	1-1	Tues Feb 3	Nottingham Forest	0-1
Sat Oct 4	Peterborough United	1-2	Sat Feb 7	PETERBOROUGH	4-0
Sat Oct 11	Aston Villa	1-2	Sat Feb 14	ASTON VILLA	0-1
Sat Oct 18	NOTT'S COUNTY	1-4	Sat Feb 21	Notts County	2-4
Sat Oct 25	Coventry City	2-0	Sat Feb 28	COVENTRY CITY	2-3
Sat Nov 1	NORTHAMPTON	2-1	Sat Mar 7	Northampton Town	0-1
Mon Nov 3	Wolves LC 1st R. Replay	0-3	Fri Mar 13	SHREWSBURY TOWN	5-0
Sat Nov 8	Shrewsbury Town	1-1	Sat Mar 21	Leicester City	1-2
Sat Nov 15	LEICESTER CITY	2-2			

PONTINS LEAGUE - DIVISION 3 - SEASON 1997/98

Wed Aug 20	WIGAN ATHLETIC	3-1	Wed Mar 4	CHESTER CITY	0-1					
Wed Aug 27	Bury	1-1	Mon Mar 23	Newcastle United	0-2					
Wed Sep 10	CHESTERFIELD	1-0	Wed Apr 1	BURY	H					
Thurs Sep 18	NOTT'S COUNTY LC	1-0	Wed Apr 8	Hull City	A					
Thurs Sept 25	SCUNTHORPE	1-2	Wed Apr 22	DONCASTER ROVERS	H					
Wed Oct 1	Scarborough	6-1	P W D L F A P							
Wed Oct 15	Chester City	2-2	Scarborough	15	10	3	2	33	20	33
Thur Oct 23	Derby County LC	1-2	Newcastle	15	8	5	2	20	7	29
Wed Oct 29	NEWCASTLE UNITED	0-0	Chester City	17	8	5	4	31	28	29
Wed Nov 5	LEICESTER CITY LC	4-2	Scunthorpe	15	8	2	5	27	22	26
Wed Nov 12	HULL CITY	1-0	Chesterfield	16	7	1	8	26	23	22
Wed Nov 26	Doncaster Rovers	1-2	Wigan Ath	16	5	4	7	28	28	19
Wed Dec 17	Wigan Athletic	2-2	Walsall	15	4	4	7	20	19	16
Tues Jan 20	Chesterfield	0-1	Hull City	15	4	2	9	15	24	14
Wed Feb 11	SCARBOROUGH	1-2	Bury	14	3	4	7	15	23	13
Wed Feb 18	Scunthorpe United	1-2	Doncaster	16	3	4	9	22	43	13

