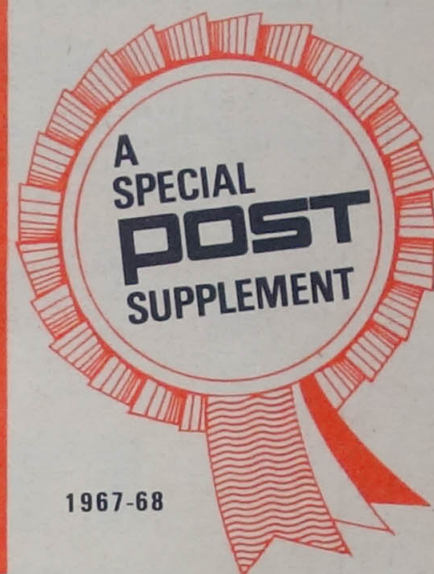


we are the champions





This is why I've enjoyed my job

WHEN THE Evening Post was born on September 11 last year the football season was in its infancy. But everywhere I went in Luton and its surrounding villages I found a tremendous sense of excitement and anticipation. Even at that early stage of the season it was as if everyone already knew that Luton Town were going to win promotion with Allan Brown at the helm.

Covering Luton Town this season has been an exciting and rewarding experience for me. Reporting success is always a happy business.

Looking back over a memorable season many incidents remain in the mind's eye. Some of these have played a direct part in the Town's tremendous success story this season. Others have been less important. All combine to make up the splendid promotion story of Luton Town.

One of my first — and most vivid — recol-

lections of the season dates back to a hot summer's day last year before it all happened. I met manager Allan Brown for the first time and asked him: "What are your ambitions for the club and what do you think its immediate future will be?"

No hesitation

Without hesitation the gently spoken Scot replied: "We are going to win promotion. That is something I am sure of."

Then there was the first match of the season

at Wrexham. The team bus was caught up in holiday traffic but arrived at the North Wales ground just in time after a late dash. Luton were one down just after half-time but Rodney Green equalised with only two minutes to go.

A fortnight later Rodney was carried off at Southend with a knee injury. He ended up in Luton and Dunstable hospital for a cartilage operation.

The centre-forward who cost the club £7,000 did not play for the first team again until Christmas, at Bradford, where he put the Town ahead before they finally went down to the bottom of the table.

Three weeks later Town had their revenge on Southend and beat them 3-1 at Kenilworth Road in front of a Wednesday night crowd of 13,332 — the biggest so far.

That night was another milestone in the success of the club. For it heralded the arrival of inside-forward Ian Buxton from Derby County at a fee of £11,000. Buxton turned out to be an extremely shrewd buy, adding skill and strength to the attack.

In October an unknown lad from Wigan signed for Luton. He had played in Allan Brown's side when the Luton boss was manager of Cheshire League side Wigan Athletic.

Star debut

John Ryan made his debut for the Town on a miserable, wet day at Exeter and proceeded to dazzle the Devon side with some bewildering ballplay and so many accurate centres that the Exeter goalkeeper was left cross-eyed at the end.

Unfortunately Ryan did not quite live to that early promise, and after a spell of experimenting, Graham French burst back on to the scene and produced some match-winning performances.

Unquestionably the highlight of the season was Luton's 4-0 whipping of Crewe Alexandra on Wednesday night, April 24 to clinch the Fourth Division title.

Not one of the 18,900 people who saw the match, and who took part in the celebrations afterwards, will ever forget that night.

But before I talk about the ultimate success of the team, I want to



ROGER DUCKWORTH (above), The Evening Post's Soccer reporter who covers Luton Town FC, looks back on a successful season

mention a match on a dull December afternoon in Yorkshire. Two days before Christmas Luton visited Barnsley.

Luton were third in the table and Barnsley were sixth. And what a match it was! This will remain in my memory as the outstanding 90 minutes of sheer excitement and entertainment of the whole season. The result was a 2-2 draw, with three goals coming in four minutes around the interval.

On February 17 Luton won 2-0 at Brentford to go to the top of the Fourth Division table. They were never displaced.

Coincidental with this step to the top was the arrival at Kenilworth Road of new trainer Doug Davidson who replaced Dennis Evans. Another devoted Scot, Doug's strength of character and deep knowledge of football, coupled with his skill as a physiotherapist, injected even more spirit and determination into the team.

In fact Doug did not experience defeat at Luton until April 27, when the Town's proud, undefeated home record

was crumpled by Bradford City.

Any review of the season must not be allowed to pass without a few words about Luton's fans. For 1967-68 was the season the crowds came streaming back to Kenilworth Road.

Let us not kid ourselves that Luton's success has always been accompanied by good play. Sometimes the Town have played badly and won. But the fans have always come back for more. Always, they have given the team their whole-hearted support.

And after having long chats with the players on long, dreary coach trips to away matches, I know that the players are really grateful for this support. I know that they love to hear the songs and chants from the Oak Road end "choir". And I know it inspires them to greater efforts.

Allan Brown is the first to admit that much of the club's success is due to his pre-season signing of Terry Branstom from Northampton.

Terry came on a free-transfer, and has been a tower of strength. I will

remember him for his fearless tackling, his ability in the air and, most of all, for the way he has shouted, cajoled, bullied and begged his side to success.

But all the Town's glory has not come from League matches. In the first round of the League Cup they beat Second Division Charlton Athletic at The Valley with two fine goals from Bruce Rioch. This followed a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road.

Then little Luton were suddenly faced with the impossible. They were drawn against mighty Leeds United in the second round. And they had to play the tie at Elland Road.

Glory in defeat

How well Luton played that night. They lost 3-1 after containing Leeds, the side of the year, 0-0 at half-time. At the time I wrote: "It speaks well for the lower ranks of English soccer when a Fourth Division side visit a First Division club and are applauded off the field after playing first class football."

Peter Lorimer scored a

The modest man who plotted it all says 'thank you'

No doubt about it... Town FC manager Allan Brown is Luton's footballing hero of the hour — these are his thoughts today...



WHEN I was asked to write for this souvenir supplement my first thoughts were that this should be a tribute from me to the staff at Kenilworth Road.

The Division IV title is ours... promotion to the Third Division is ours... dreams and plans of winning through to Division II next year are ours. And the key word is "ours."

No one person wins a championship. The best manager in the world, the best goalkeeper in the world, the best centre-forward in the world, the best supporters in the world. These are commodities that every club would like, but at the final reckoning the team's the thing.

You need eleven good, big-hearted players on the field in every match, each man playing for his side and not for himself; each man, even when he is physically exhausted, trying to find a little bit extra for the team.

That is what I was lucky enough to have. Maybe I helped a bit, but I am very conscious of the fact that when the record books are consulted in the future they will say: "1967/68, Fourth Division champions: Luton Town."

They won't say that Mr Allan Brown won the title, and that is why I give every credit to my players.

And not only the players. Everyone in the club this season has done his bit (and a little bit extra). The board of directors have been magnificent, the administrative

staff, headed by secretary Bob Readhead, have weathered all the storms that have come their way; the gatekeepers, the stewards, the ground-staff. Yes, EVERYONE connected in any small way with the club has worked magnificently, and I thank them all most sincerely.

Next season

Obviously, this has been a most happy and exciting season for me. To win promotion in his first season as boss is the dream of any manager, and I look forward now to planning for the next campaign.

I know that the job of football manager is one that every football supporter thinks he could do, and I have had a fair share of letters this year telling me just where I was going wrong. Some of them have been rude, but most have been constructive, and, believe me, I never mind getting letters because at least it shows that people are alive and taking an interest in the club — and that's what my job depends on.

There have been several peaks to my season, culminating, of course, in that wonderful Wednesday night when we beat Crewe 4-0 to clinch the title, and this afternoon, when Luton Town FC received the Division IV trophy.

I have had worries (plenty of them) and disappointments.

During the season I was offered the job at Plymouth (how glad I am that I didn't leave the job unfinished here!). I have had transfer deals that seemed "sewn up" fall down at the last moment. I have had players injured or fall ill just before key matches (though I must honestly say that I have been relatively lucky so far as the injury problem goes) but all those problems, decisions and disappointments seem so insignificant now, that they are hardly worth mentioning!

The ladder

We have climbed one rung of the ladder back to where I honestly believe the Luton club belongs — Division I. You see, my earliest memories of Luton Town are when they were a First Division club, when I was transferred here in the fifties. If they were good enough for the First Division then (and they most certainly were) they are good enough to get there again.

That is what I believe; that is what I try and impress on all players at Kenilworth Road... from the most experienced to the youngest apprentice.

I began this article with a tribute to my staff; I end it with a promise that we at Luton Town FC will look only upwards and onwards... towards our 1968/69 goal which is, of course, PROMOTION.

from one successful team...

League Champions and promotion too. Congratulations to Luton FC on this achievement. Great teamwork!

to another

In 84 years our team has built the Luton Co-operative Society into Luton's leading retailer including the foremost "under one roof" shopping Super Store in New Bedford Road and Bridge Street, with two gigantic sales floors it offers complete "one stop" shopping for the whole family. Apart from being a comprehensive modern department store it also has a modern food hall with cut price wines and spirits.



The store also offers unbeatable credit services including personal budget account, and adjacent to the store is a free car park for personal shoppers. The Society also has a large processing dairy, solid fuel service, housewarming centre, radio and TV service, footwear repairs, furniture discount house, catering, food shops throughout Luton and Dunstable, etc. All these plus dividend on purchases. Altogether another very successful team!




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ON RECORD — 1967-68 HIGHLIGHTS



A civic welcome — and a justly deserved one — as the triumphant players wave from the balcony of the Town Hall.



Champagne all round in the dressing room after the vital Crewe game. And it's John Moore's head being anointed



For skipper Terry Branton a chair on the shoulders of his exultant colleagues with the trophy now won



Manager Allan Brown congratulates Ian Buxton, Freddie Jardine and Alan Slough



Arms raised in salute, the gladiators of Luton Town receive the cheers of the crowd



And the crowd itself — going wild as one of the four goals against Crewe goes in

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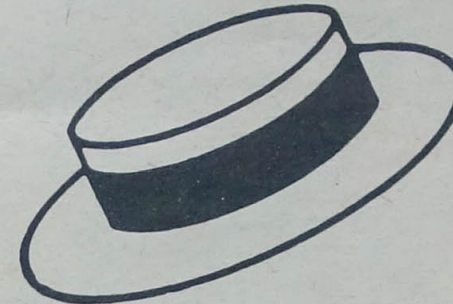
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HOW THEY GOT THERE

Line for line record
of a successful season



| Opponents | Venue | Result | Score | | Attendance | Goalscorers |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|---|------------|--------------------|
| | | | F | A | | |
| Wrexham | A | D | 1 | 1 | 9,321 | Green. |
| Barnsley | H | W | 2 | 0 | 7,887 | Rioch, Allen. |
| Swansea | A | D | 2 | 2 | 6,674 | Brown, Rioch. |
| Southend | A | L | 0 | 3 | 11,083 | |
| Hartlepool | H | W | 1 | 0 | 8,347 | Rioch. |
| Newport County | A | D | 1 | 1 | 4,635 | Slough. |
| York City | H | W | 3 | 1 | 7,977 | Rioch (2), Whit- |
| Southend | H | W | 3 | 1 | 13,332 | taker (pen). |
| Rochdale | A | D | 2 | 2 | 2,004 | Moore, Branton, |
| Doncaster | A | L | 0 | 2 | 5,529 | French. |
| Chester | A | W | 3 | 1 | 3,957 | Buxton, Rioch. |
| Chesterfield | H | W | 1 | 0 | 10,440 | Buxton, Allen (2). |
| Exeter | A | W | 5 | 0 | 3,434 | Buxton. |



| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|--------------------|
| Doncaster | H | W | 5 | 3 | 13,925 | Buxton (2), Allen, |
| Workington | H | W | 4 | 0 | 10,935 | Slough, Rioch. |
| Swansea | H | W | 4 | 0 | 14,973 | Slough, Whittaker |
| Lincoln | A | W | 3 | 2 | 6,052 | (2), Rioch. |
| Halifax | H | W | 2 | 0 | 11,572 | French, Buxton |
| Bradford C | A | L | 0 | 2 | 7,957 | (2), Rioch. |
| Wrexham | H | W | 2 | 1 | 9,598 | Whittaker (pen) |
| Barnsley | A | D | 2 | 2 | 8,530 | Allen, French. |
| Bradford | H | W | 2 | 0 | 16,599 | Buxton, Moore. |
| Bradford | A | L | 1 | 2 | 3,674 | Rioch, Branton. |
| Hartlepool | A | L | 1 | 2 | 4,728 | Rioch, Ryan. |
| Newport County | H | D | 1 | 1 | 10,992 | Branton, Whit- |
| Port Vale | A | D | 0 | 0 | 5,970 | taker (pen). |
| York City | A | D | 1 | 1 | 2,544 | Green. |
| Rochdale | H | W | 4 | 1 | 10,400 | Branton. |
| Brentford | A | W | 2 | 0 | 7,710 | Allen. |
| Lincoln | H | W | 4 | 2 | 11,159 | Allen, Buxton, |
| Darlington | H | W | 3 | 1 | 13,948 | Rioch, Branton. |
| Chesterfield | A | D | 0 | 0 | 14,075 | Slough, Rioch. |



| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|-------------------|
| Port Vale | H | W | 2 | 0 | 12,749 | Buxton, Rioch. |
| Exeter | H | D | 0 | 0 | 12,409 | Rioch, Green. |
| Darlington | A | W | 2 | 1 | 4,336 | Buxton. |
| Aldershot | A | W | 1 | 0 | 9,721 | Brown, Walker |
| Aldershot | H | W | 3 | 1 | 10,618 | (OG), Rioch. |
| Workington | A | W | 1 | 0 | 2,915 | French. |
| Notts County | H | W | 2 | 0 | 16,631 | Allen, French. |
| Chester | H | D | 0 | 0 | 13,266 | |
| Notts County | A | D | 2 | 2 | 7,920 | Allen, Buxton. |
| Halifax | A | W | 1 | 0 | 5,091 | Rioch. |
| Crewe | H | W | 4 | 0 | 18,904 | Moore, Rioch (2), |
| Bradford City | H | L | 1 | 3 | 14,147 | Slough. |
| Crewe | A | L | 1 | 2 | 8,634 | Whittaker (pen). |
| Brentford | H | W | 2 | 1 | 14,643 | Rioch. |



One of soccer's quiet men

DOUG DAVIDSON is one of the quiet men at Luton Town. He arrived in February to succeed Dennis Evans, who left unexpectedly. And for three months the Town didn't lose.

Doug, a dour Scotsman from the same mould as manager Allan Brown, does not have a lot to say for himself. But he is one of soccer's thinkers.

He is a man who is not afraid of saying precisely what he thinks.

When we first met him he said: "I have known Allan Brown for many years. Together I am sure we can see Luton Town back where they ought to be."

"We've got a grand set of lads here and I am sure they know, too, what the whole town is willing them to win."



Giving you local and national sports coverage nightly



The Evening Post presents... This is Luton Town

It takes
more than
just 11 players
and a manager
to win promotion

... it takes an able secretary, an enthusiastic and energetic board of directors.

It takes loyal reserves; it takes keen and enthusiastic administrators. It takes a team of back-room boys who are devoted to the game of football. It takes men and women who are prepared to put in hours and hours of work to keep the club's wheels running smoothly.

This picture, especially posed for Evening Post photographer Tony Mardell, shows the number of men (and women) required to keep

the club going. Included are players, directors, manager, trainer, gatemen, stewards, the ladies and gentlemen responsible for the tea bars, groundstaff, programme sellers, cleaners, hospital broadcasters, members of the Supporters' Club and, because we think he plays a part in the Town FC's "public relations", Evening Post Soccer reporter Roger Duckworth.

Keep it. We think it is a historic picture. It shows in one picture, the TEAM who won promotion from Division IV.





MORE MEMORABLE MOMENTS

IT'S THERE... Goals have been the policy

GOALS have been the Town's aim this season. And they have scored a lot of them.

The Town have hit the back of the net more than any other team in the Fourth Division this term. And most of their goals have come at home. Bruce Rioch has been the biggest menace to opposing goalkeepers, but he has had good support.

Our picture in the bottom left hand corner of the page shows Rioch beating his man in traditional style while Ian Buxton (above right) finds a more difficult way through the defence en-route to goal.

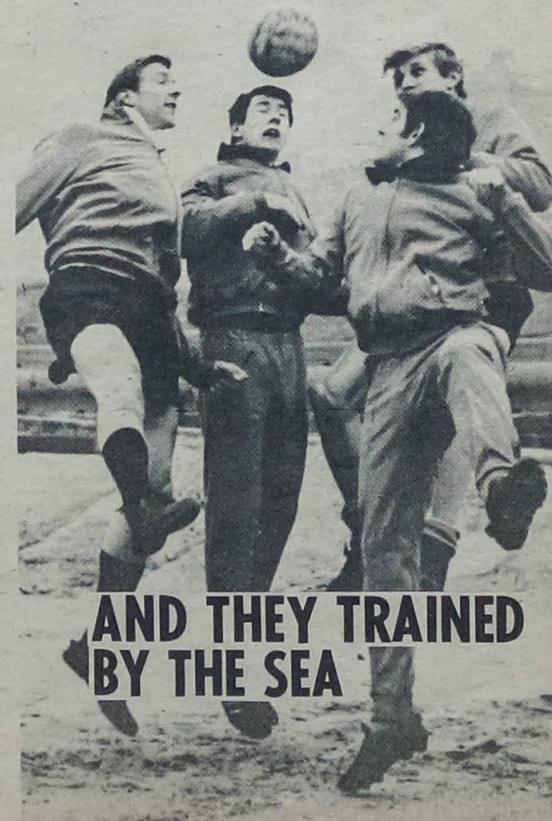
The picture on the bottom right shows goalkeeper Tony Read, Bruce Rioch, Keith Allen and Ray Whittaker training on Blackpool sands, in front of their seaside hotel, before travelling to Chesterfield where they won a valuable point.



... HERE'S THE MAN WHO'S SCORED MOST OF THEM

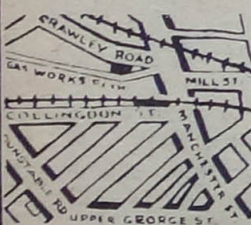


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BY
ALAN
MANLEY
—EVENING
POST
SPORTS
EDITOR



Marching ahead — on the impetus of success

1967-68 will be remembered, in the record books, as a somewhat turbulent season... a season in which Peterborough were demoted from Division III to Division IV, although they finished high in the League table; a season in which Port Vale were severely censured, fined £2,000 and forced to apply for re-election for breaches of the rules; a season in which Second Division Birmingham reached the FA Cup semi-finals; a season in which Manchester City re-emerged as a soccer power; and so on and so on.

But in Bedfordshire and its immediate environs it will also be remembered... as the season Luton Town started on the way back.

And if one has to put the microscope on the Town's success story, I would say now that I remember it as Allan Brown's year.

Allan, in his first full season as manager, came back to the club he had played for in the palmy days of the First Division and found it at rock bottom. The ship that had sailed through the First Division, to Wembley, had foundered. A succession of managers had come and gone without marked success, but Allan Brown, whose only previous managerial experience had been with non-league Wigan, took over and pulled up the club by its own bootlaces.

Undeniable

It is typical of the man that he will not hear of that. "It's not just me, I have had great help and backing from every single member of the club," he says.

"Everyone, from the men on the board to the youngest professional, the entire administrative staff and people like stewards and gatemen (they are easily forgotten, but should not be) have rallied round magnificently. The team spirit just could not have been better," says the Scot who, in his days at Blackpool, when he was a Scottish international of renown, earned the unenviable title: Soccer's unluckiest player.

That is an indisputable fact, but equally undeniable is the fact that Allan has had much to do with the building of that spirit.

Words like "a dedicated man" are hoary old clichés in the football vocabulary. Every

manager has been so described at some time or another.

Unashamedly, I use them of Allan Brown, a man who loves and lives for soccer, a manager of the younger school who can still remember vividly what it is like on the field and who is learning quickly the skills of a successful manager.

Mr Tony Hunt, one of Luton's newest directors, said of him: "I believe he is going to be one of the game's great managers". The Luton boss looks like proving him right.

Now Luton's sights are set on winning promotion from Division III next season. It will be a difficult job, but at least they will have the impetus of success to help them achieve their target.

Division II, the club believes, is the least that a town the size of Luton deserves. They will, as they say, leave no stone unturned in their bid to regain their old status. They are off the ground, they will, if necessary, strengthen their playing staff this summer and will strive to get the Kenilworth Road club back where they believe they belong.

As sports editor of the Post it is particularly gratifying for me that the arrival of our new paper coincided with the new brooms and the wind of change at Kenilworth Road. We have tried to report objectively, brightly and comprehensively on the local sports scene... it has made our job a whole lot easier when we have been able to write about, and help promote interest in, a team that is on the crest of a wave.

To say that Division II is just around the corner would be an absurd over-simplification. It will be a long, hard pull. But we believe that it is possible, and we will continue to help bring about that dream in every way we can.

Like many thousands more Lutonians, I can remember the First Division days, the days when the Arsenal, Tottenham, Manchester United — the glory boys — used to visit Kenilworth Road.

Like many thousands of Lutonians I want to see those days again, but meanwhile the Evening Post offers its sincerest congratulations to the club.

This special promotion supplement has been a labour of love.

All of us on the sports staff hope that we will be called upon to produce another one this time next year — to celebrate promotion into Division II.

LUTON TOWN FC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1967-68



THE UNSUNG men of most football clubs are the directors. But, of course, they play a vital part in the running of a successful (or if it comes to that, unsuccessful) club.

The Luton Town board consists of experienced men who have been connected with the club upwards of 30 years, like Mr Fred England and, at the other end, men like Mr Tony Hunt and Mr Reggie Burr, relative newcomers, who, however, have brought with them ambition unlimited.

Together they form a united and happy board with one goal... to win promotion again.

The Second Division is the aim, and then up, after a reasonable period of consolidation, into the First.

Mr Hunt and Mr Burr may well be considered lucky "omens." In their first full season with the club Luton Town FC won promotion.

In this picture the directors are, back row, left to right: Mr Bob Readhead, club secretary, Mr Jim Richardson, Mr Tony Hunt, Mr Allan Brown, manager, Mr Reggie Burr, Mr Doug Davidson, team trainer. Front row: Mr John Bain, Mr Fred England, Mr Tom Hodgson, chairman, Mr Len Hawkins, Mr Bert England.



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The Vauxhall Breed's got style.



Branston plays in them all

UP TO today skipper Terry Branston had made the most appearances, never having missed a league game.

Luton's team has been most consistent with 11 players making 30 or more appearances.

T. Branston 45, K. Allen, J.

OUR TEAM SPIRIT JUST FANTASTIC SAYS SKIPPER

IF YOU want to know in two words why Luton have won the Fourth Division championship, that's easy. It's team spirit. It's been quite fantastic among the players this season. In fact you can go from manager Allan Brown right through to Nobby, the coach driver — and that includes the Press reporters too — we've just been one big happy gang.

The other thing that has pleased me most has been the big increase in attendances at Kenilworth Road.

Gates will always go up when you are playing well, but the rise at Luton has been terrific. I think I can say that for most of the season we have been playing attractive football.

The lads have done a grand job. I don't like to single out any one player for special mention. But I would like to say that whenever I have asked for it, there's always been extra effort from them all.

You know, some of the spectators must think I am a right so-and-so when they see me yelling at the players. That's what I am paid to do. I came to Luton with the idea of winning promotion, and I have always known that everyone would have to that little bit extra to succeed.

All I have tried to do is to give 100 per cent effort myself, and get 100 per cent out of the other lads.

Shouting

This is what I am doing when I am shouting. And there's never any ill-feeling from the boys. They all know that that is what I am there to do, and both on and off the field we are all good mates.

We have not been a defensive side. You can't be to win promotion. We have scored more goals than anyone else, and these have been spread out amongst the team. I have even netted a few myself! In fact I have been pleased to see that the half-backs have been scoring. This shows we are a good all-round side.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr Brown and to trainer Doug Davidson. When Doug joined us we embarked on a long run without losing. That was a sure sign that he knows his business!

Football has always been full of incident and excitement for me. I was at Northampton for nine years, and every other year we were either going for promotion or trying to avoid relegation! There was always something happening. I played 300 or more League games for them in all four divisions.

Now my ambition is to get Luton into the Second Division. I am sure they are going to do well in the Third next season.

Growing

With the population of Luton and Dunstable growing at its present rate, I am sure there are now enough people in the immediate vicinity to support a First Division side. This is what I want to see. The town is on the

By TERRY BRANSTON

M1 and has a tremendous crowd potential. I am sure that before very long Luton Town will again be a top force in the Football League.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the fans. Through fair weather and foul they have cheered us on. They have been a wonderful fillip to the team, and we all love to hear their chants. They have travelled far and wide to help us and, frankly, I have been amazed to see coachloads of black and white bedecked Luton supporters as far away as Workington, Exeter and Halifax.

It is this sort of spirit, along with the drive of our manager, that has seen us through to the top. You know there is something rather special about leading the lads out on to the turf on the other side of England and receiving a bigger cheer than the home side get. That's fans for you.

ROLL ON DIVISION TWO.

Back on the up and up!

NOBODY can deny that the Hatters were due a bit of luck and success.

Nothing has gone really well for them since they appeared in the 1959 Wembley Cup final against Notts Forest. They lost 2-1.

The following season they were relegated to the Second Division. Then came the descent into Third Division, and in 64-65 down to the depths of the Fourth Division.

In five awful years they had plunged from the top shelf to the bottom. And when you hit the deck at that speed it takes some time to get back on your feet.

But there has been a lot of re-thinking at Luton. First of all Allan Brown gathered round him a staff of both youth and experience. And, above all, he injected hope and enthusiasm vital for success, back into the veins of Luton Town.

Hero of the fans has been Bruce Rioch who, until today, had scored 21 League goals, many of them in a spectacular fashion. There has been all sorts of speculation as to huge transfer fees reported to have been offered by First Division clubs for Bruce's signature.



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POST SPORTS WRITER BOB HARRIS LOOKS AT DIVISION III AND SAYS:

There's no shortage of bright stars

LUTON TOWN'S runaway victory in the Fourth Division championship race has prompted many of their supporters to forecast that they will rise from the depths as quickly as they dropped from the heights. It is a hope shared by the players and staff, too — but let it be said that it will be hard going. There are some good teams in the Third Division.



TOMMY DOCHERTY

The quality of the sides in the top half of Division Three can be seen from the number of clubs who have been interested in the promotion race at one time or another and have gradually fallen away leaving Torquay, Shrewsbury, Bury and Oxford to battle it out.

Walsall, Watford, Reading, Stockport and Swindon have all been likely candidates for promotion. All have slipped behind, all are sure to be there, or thereabouts, again next season.

One thing, however, is certain. Luton fans will see an abundance of star names that should keep the crowds rolling in next season.

Perhaps the best known name in the Third Division next year will not belong to a player at all but to a manager, the volatile Tommy Docherty, the former Chelsea manager who has been unable to halt Rotherham dropping into the Third Division.

However, Docherty is building a new side around two well known ex-First Division men in Johnny Quinn (Sheffield Wednesday) and Jim Storr (Leeds United) and you do not have to be a soccer prophet to see that the men from Millmoor will be challenging for a rapid return to Second Division soccer.

Another side who will be hoping to "bounce back" are Plymouth Argyle, now managed by former Luton favourite Billy Bingham. His return at the head of Argyle to Kenilworth Road is sure to bring back nostalgic memories both to him and the older supporters.

Best gate?

But perhaps the biggest gate of next season will come from Watford. The neighbouring Hertfordshire side were hoping for promotion this season only to fade at the vital time and throw away "silly" home points. Manager Ken Furphy is out to find that little bit of extra zip and the meetings between the two clubs should provide rare tussles.

While Watford have a much-wanted

winger in Stewart Scullion, Swindon have perhaps the most wanted winger in the game, let alone the Third Division, in £100,000 flyer Don Rogers.

After their FA Cup match this season, Luton fans are well acquainted with this Swindon side that includes other stars in former Welsh international Mel Nurse and one of the toughest centre forwards in the game, Pat Terry.

Former England skipper Ron Flowers will also be back at Kenilworth Road for the first time in many years when he leads Terry Branston's former outfit, Northampton Town. Northampton, like Watford, is easy to reach from Luton. There are many old ties between the two clubs and here, too, big gates will be anticipated.

For former First Division stars I doubt if any team in the Third Division can match Midland's club Walsall. With the backing of millionaire chairman Bill Harrison they have lured former Wolves stars Gerry and John Harris and Jimmy Murray. West Bromwich Albion stalwarts Terry Simpson and Stan Jones, Aston Villa inside forwards Jimmy McMorran and Alan Baker plus former Coventry keeper Bob Wesson, and the latest signing Alfie Biggs, from Bristol Rovers.

Valiant attempt

Stockport County, only promoted from Division Four themselves last season, made a valiant but vain attempt to leap straight into Division Two with a side also packed with seasoned campaigners such as goalkeeper Fred Goodwin (Wolves), Len Allchurch (a Welsh international), Bobby Thomson (Birmingham City) and Derek Kevan who briefly played for the Kenilworth Road club last season.

Another side, like Walsall, who have found that a wealthy chairman and a multitude of imported players does not necessarily mean instant success are Oldham Athletic, who promise to provide one of the main attractions in the Third Division.

THIRD DIVISION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Oxford | 45 | 17 | 3 | 2 | 48 | 20 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 20 | 27 | 55 |
| Bury | 45 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 62 | 24 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 27 | 42 | 54 |
| Shrewsbury | 45 | 14 | 6 | 3 | 42 | 17 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 32 | 53 |
| Torquay | 45 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 40 | 17 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 20 | 35 | 53 |
| Watford | 45 | 15 | 3 | 5 | 59 | 17 | 5 | 11 | 15 | 28 | 50 | 50 |
| Walsall | 45 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 46 | 20 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 39 | 50 |
| Swindon | 45 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 51 | 16 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 21 | 32 | 49 |
| Reading | 45 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 17 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 43 | 49 |
| Barrow | 45 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 41 | 12 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 22 | 41 | 48 |
| Peterborough | 45 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 46 | 23 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 28 | 43 | 48 |
| Gillingham | 45 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 35 | 18 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 24 | 44 | 48 |
| Stockport | 45 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 40 | 22 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 21 | 33 | 47 |
| Brighton | 45 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 31 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 24 | 40 | 46 |
| Southport | 45 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 35 | 22 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 30 | 42 | 46 |
| Bournemouth | 45 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 36 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 34 | 45 |
| Oldham | 45 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 34 | 27 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 25 | 33 | 45 |
| Bristol R | 45 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 42 | 25 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 25 | 50 | 41 |
| Orient | 45 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 27 | 23 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 19 | 38 | 41 |
| Northampton | 45 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 40 | 25 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 47 | 41 |
| Tranmere | 45 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 39 | 28 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 22 | 46 | 38 |
| Mansfield | 45 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 32 | 31 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 19 | 33 | 37 |
| Grimsby | 45 | 9 | 7 | 30 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 19 | 48 | 35 | 35 |
| Colchester | 45 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 28 | 35 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 21 | 47 | 32 |
| Scunthorpe | 45 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 36 | 34 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 19 | 51 | 32 |

Starting with brilliant young goalkeeper David Best (from Bournemouth), they also have former Stoke forwards Keith Bebbington, Jimmy Mellorey, and the prematurely balding and much travelled Laurie Sheffield.

That list is surely enough to whet the appetite of the coolest fan, and with the list likely to be added to in the close season as teams search for that elusive winning combination, and with the Luton crowd willing their team to go up one step further, everything looks set for a thrilling season.

MOORE, BRANSTON MEN OF THE YEAR

(Continued from page 11)

magnificent hat-trick, but Luton levelled at 1-1 after a Whittaker penalty. And he scored his third only two minutes from time.

Then came the FA Cup. Luton were laughing when they drew amateurs Oxford City out of the hat in the first round. But what a fright they were to receive. Gallant Oxford went ahead just after half-time and it took goals from Rioch and Buxton to see a somewhat jaded Luton through to the second round at Swindon.

This was a different affair altogether. This time it was Luton who were not given an earthly. And this time it was Luton who almost turned the tables on the Third Division men before going down 3-2 in a thrilling match.

I suppose I should now name my highlights of the year. That's easy — the great goals by Bruce Rioch that have thrilled all who saw them. There have been two "scorers" from outside the penalty area which no goalkeeper on earth would stop when they are hit right. Second: the flashing bursts through the middle ending with a neat flick into the net to fool an out-of-position goalkeeper.

And I must also name my player of the year. I am going to split the bouquet in two and give half to Terry Branston and half to John Moore. As I have already said, Terry has been one of the major inspirations behind the team's success. John Moore has probably given more outstanding performances than any other member of the team.

Anticipation

But they have all earned their salt. Goalkeeper Tony Read for his positional play and safety in the air. Max Dougan for his speed and anticipation, Fred Jardine for his tenacity, Alan Slough for his midfield enthusiasm and shooting.

Graham French for his guile and strength in either foot, Ian Buxton for his ball control, passing and heading ability, Keith Allen for his sheer, dogged determination and skill in the air, and Ray Whittaker for his speed and ability to get a ball across from a seemingly impossible position.

Above all, one player has been more unlucky than any other. He is Tommy Hare. Signed from Southampton at the start of the season Tommy, a terrier-like back, played regularly for the first dozen or so games. Then he was carried off at Doncaster with a leg injury and was never able to reclaim his position. From Max Dougan, who played last season at centre half after being persuaded to move from Leicester by Allan Brown — one of the Town manager's first signings.

Of the first team, irregulars that leaves Micky Brown and Billy McDerment. Both have had several first team games, and both have acted as substitute several times. Both have always done what was asked of them when required.

Peter Denton, a right

winger, was signed from Coventry, but he has not yet really made it, and has spent most of his time in the reserves.

One could write more. I resist that temptation and merely say again what I said at the start: It has been a happy season, a busy season. I only hope, for my sake, for the club's sake, and for the fans' sake, that next season is equally happy.

I believe it might be.



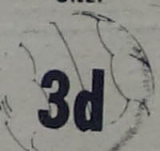
JOHN MOORE

FOURTH DIVISION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Luton | 45 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 53 | 15 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 32 | 26 | 64 |
| Barnsley | 45 | 16 | 6 | 0 | 39 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 25 | 32 | 59 |
| Crewe | 45 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 44 | 18 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 30 | 31 | 58 |
| Hartlepool | 45 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 32 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 26 | 34 | 58 |
| Bradford C | 45 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 41 | 22 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 31 | 29 | 57 |
| Aldershot | 46 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 36 | 19 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 34 | 36 | 53 |
| Chesterfield | 46 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 47 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 24 | 30 | 53 |
| Southend | 45 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 42 | 20 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 32 | 37 | 52 |
| Wrexham | 45 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 44 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 41 | 51 |
| Doncaster | 45 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 34 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 30 | 40 | 49 |
| Halifax | 45 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 34 | 23 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 25 | 46 |
| Newport | 45 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 32 | 22 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 24 | 37 | 45 |
| Lincoln | 45 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 41 | 30 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 30 | 37 | 45 |
| Brentford | 45 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 41 | 24 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 19 | 38 | 45 |
| Swansea | 45 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 38 | 25 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 25 | 50 | 42 |
| Darlington | 45 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 31 | 27 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 26 | 40 |
| Notts Co | 45 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 27 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 23 | 32 | 39 |
| Rochdale | 45 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 35 | 32 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 37 | 38 |
| Port Vale | 45 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 41 | 21 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 19 | 41 | 37 |
| Exeter | 45 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 30 | 30 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 35 | 37 |
| York | 45 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 44 | 30 | 2 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 35 | 36 |
| Chester | 45 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 35 | 38 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 29 | 32 |
| Workington | 45 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 34 | 29 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 19 | 58 | 29 |
| Bradford | 45 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 35 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 45 | 23 |

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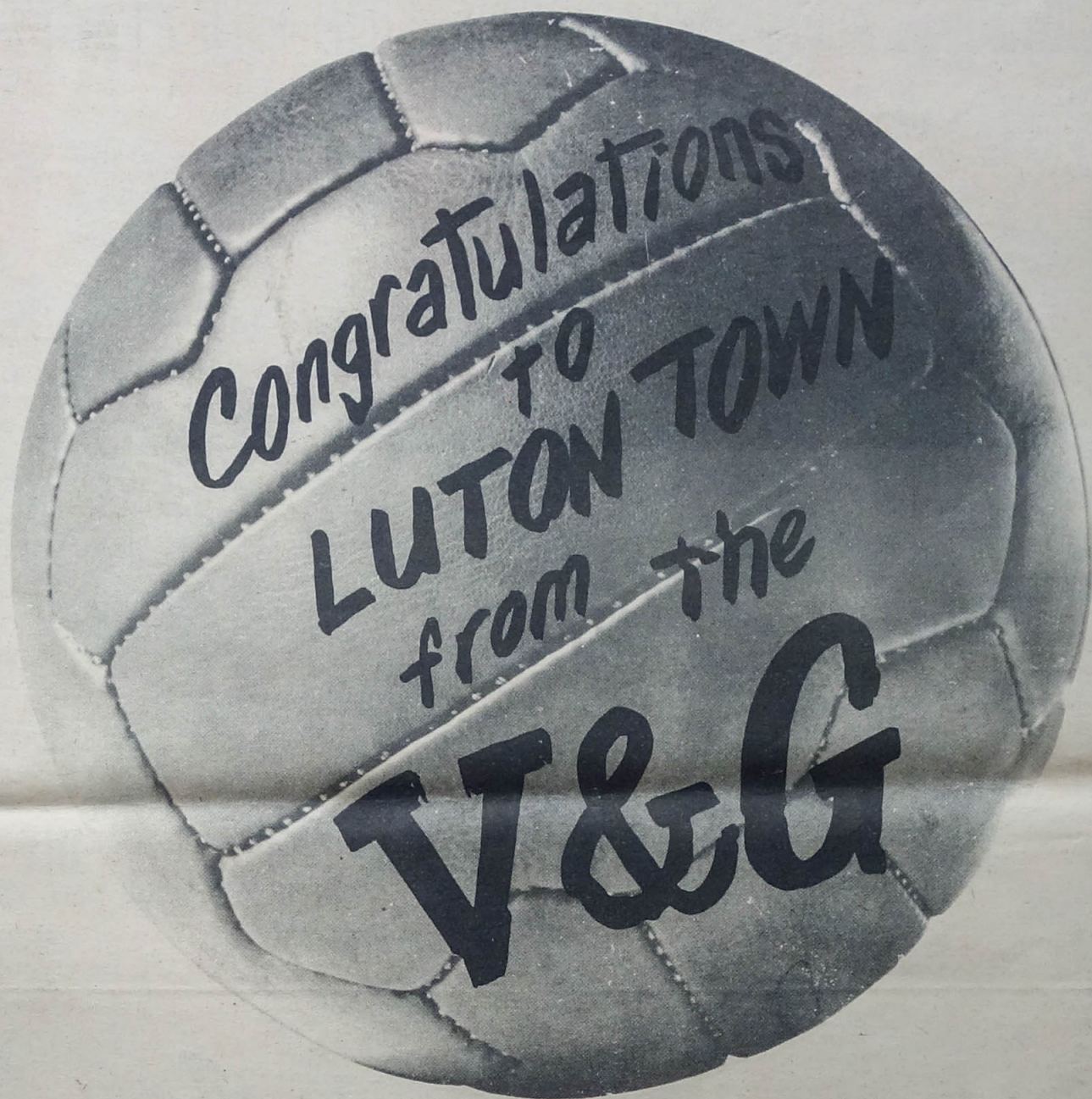
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