

Herald

Promotion Souvenir
Season 1981-82

40p

CHAMPIONS!



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REPORTS OF
ALL THE
42 GAMES



DAVID PLEAT -
HOW WE
GOT THERE



SUPER SKIP
BACK IN
DIV ONE



ALL THOSE
VITAL
STATISTICS



The season's facts and figures

1981	
August	
29 Charlton Athletic	3-0
September	
1 Queens Park Rangers	2-1
5 Bolton Wanderers	2-1
12 Sheffield Wednesday	0-3
19 Leicester City	2-1
22 Cardiff City	2-3
26 Watford	4-1
October	
3 Orient	3-0
10 Oldham Athletic	1-1
17 Grimsby Town	6-0
24 Wrexham	2-0
31 Crystal Palace	1-0
November	
7 Derby County	3-2
14 Blackburn Rovers	1-0
21 Newcastle United	2-3
24 Bolton Wanderers	2-0
28 Rotherham United	3-1
December	
5 Shrewsbury Town	2-2
28 Norwich City	3-1
1982	
January	
19 Charlton Athletic	0-0
30 Leicester City	2-1
February	
6 Sheffield Wednesday	3-3
20 Watford	1-1
27 Oldham Athletic	2-0
March	
2 Cambridge United	1-0
6 Grimsby Town	0-0
12 Wrexham	0-0
16 Barnsley	3-4
20 Crystal Palace	3-3
27 Derby County	0-0
30 Orient	2-0
April	
3 Blackburn Rovers	2-0
10 Cambridge United	1-1
12 Norwich City	2-0
17 Newcastle United	3-2
20 Chelsea	2-2
24 Rotherham United	2-2
30 Shrewsbury Town	4-1
May	
8 Chelsea	2-1
11 Queens Park Rangers	3-2
15 Barnsley	1-1
17 Cardiff	3-2

FINAL TABLE 1981-82

	Home					Away				
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A
LUTON	42	16	3	2	48 19	9	10	2	3	27 88
Watford	42	13	6	2	46 16	10	5	6	30	26 80
Norwich	42	14	3	4	41 19	8	2	11	23	31 71
Sheff Wed	42	10	8	3	31 23	10	2	9	24	28 70
QPR	42	15	4	2	40 9	6	2	13	25	34 69
Barnsley	42	13	4	4	33 14	6	6	9	26	27 67
Rotherham	42	13	5	3	42 19	7	2	12	24	35 67
Leicester	41	12	5	4	31 19	6	7	7	25	26 66
Newcastle	42	14	4	3	30 14	4	4	13	22	36 62
Blackburn	42	11	4	6	26 15	5	7	9	21	28 59
Oldham	42	9	9	3	28 23	5	6	10	22	28 59
Chelsea	42	10	5	6	37 30	5	7	9	23	30 57
Charlton	42	11	5	5	33 22	2	7	12	17	43 51
Cambridge Utd	42	11	4	6	31 19	2	5	14	17	34 48
Crystal Palace	42	9	2	10	25 26	4	7	10	9	19 48
Derby	42	9	8	4	32 23	3	4	14	21	45 48
Grimsby	42	5	8	8	29 30	6	5	10	24	35 46
Shrewsbury	42	10	6	5	26 19	1	7	13	11	38 46
Bolton	42	10	4	7	28 24	3	3	15	11	37 46
Wrexham	42	9	4	8	22 22	2	7	12	18	34 44
Cardiff	42	9	2	10	28 32	3	6	12	17	29 44
Orient	41	5	8	7	20 24	4	1	16	13	37 36

(● After Monday, May 17's game)

HERALD PROMOTION SUPPLEMENT

Edited by
GRAHAM PUNTER

Photographs by
GARETH OWEN

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Division Two appearances and goals . . .

NAME	APP	GLS
Aleksic	4	—
Aizlewood	26	3
Antic	18(12)	5
Bunn	—(1)	—
Donaghy	42	9
Findlay	34	—
Fuccillo	27(2)	2
Goodyear	32	1
Hill	38	5
Horton	41	2
Ingram	3	—
Jennings	—(2)	1
Judge	4	—
Money	13	1
Moss	35	16
Saxby	12	1
Small	—(3)	—
Stein	42	21
Stephens	42	—
Turner	7	1
White	42	19
Own goals	—	2

Sub appearances in brackets



● John Smith

Business brain behind Luton's revival

THE CRUCIAL part of chief executive John Smith's 10-year masterplan has come to fruition seven years early.

"Naturally I am delighted we have reached the First Division," he said. "But the timing from my personal point of view is a little early."

"When I came here three years ago my brief was to create a First Division club. I gave myself 10 years."

"We are now in the First Division but only half-way along the road as far as I am concerned. We still have a long way to go."

Mr Smith arrived at Luton from Leicester City, where he had spent 10 fruitful years and is best remembered for pioneering the tent that protects the Filbert Street playing surface.

Frustrated by having to battle his way through bureaucracy and internal politics before he could put his plans into action, he relished the prospect of joining Luton with a free hand.

"There is no-one else I know of in football who is in my position. I can actually make decisions."

"Football generally is poorly run. Clubs pretend they are businesses but really they are hobbies."

When Mr Smith arrived at Luton he sat down to plan his strategy, noting the club's good points and the weak points.

"Morale was low, relationships with the community were poor. The relationship with the business community was poor. But there were people attached to the club whose goodwill we had."

Mr Smith first set about improving the club's image and getting Luton Town FC noticed locally and nationally.

The electronic scoreboard arrived. Shirts were sponsored.

Mike Beever was brought in as project and advertising manager to generate ties with the community.

Colin Ball, as youth development officer, was put in charge of making contact with youngsters "the hardcore of our future supporters," said Mr Smith.

And there was another crucial objective in the new chief executive's mind.

"I tried to get rid of the image that Luton must sell their best players."

"The more money we can bring into the club through other activities the more we can resist attempts from other clubs to buy our players."

"As far as is conceivably possible we want to retain our players."

"We have the business resources in this town and we have the catchment area to be successful."

With a business-like approach "married up with a very shrewd and able manager" John Smith believes there's a rosy future in store for Luton Town FC.

ACTION REPLAY FOR SUPER SKIP NOBBY



● The start of the partnership. Manager David Pleat watches Brian Horton sign on the dotted line.

PROMOTION to Division One is an action replay for Hatters super skipper Brian Horton.

Nobby led Brighton into the top flight in 1979 before moving to Kenilworth Road last August to do the same for the Town.

Brian rates joining Luton the best move of his career. But it was a transfer that almost didn't take place.

Nobby had reached the First Division late in his footballing life and was the established captain of Brighton.

"When I was told Luton were interested my immediate reaction was 'no'. I didn't fancy coming out of the First Division."

"It's every player's ambition to play in the First Division. But I thought I would listen to what David Pleat had to offer."

"I knew they were a good side and had only just missed out on promotion the previous year. But it was the best thing I have done to move to Luton Town."

Brian believed he had made the right move in the very early days of the season.

By GRAHAM PUNTER

Luton won a string of away matches and people started to take notice.

Even then he thought "deep down" that Luton would end up being promoted.

And from what Brian has experienced first hand of Division One he believes the club will do well.

"Apart from the top half a dozen, what is there? There is no reason to be frightened. That's the feeling among the players."

"There is a difference in class. You get punished more for mistakes in the box. But there's more room in midfield. The better sides give you more room."

"I think we can go into the First playing the sort of football we play now. Ricky Hill will grace the First Division."

Brian rates Luton a far better side than the Brighton team he led to promotion.

"At Brighton there were two or three outstanding players. At Luton there is more all-round ability. We're a good team, we don't depend on a couple of individuals."

At the ripe old footballing age of 33, Brian is relishing the prospect of next season and returning to the likes of Anfield.

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• John Sheridan

Magic touch keeps the squad in action

By GRAHAM PUNTER

LUTON TOWN physiotherapist John Sheridan earned the title "magic fingers" from manager David Pleat this season.

It referred to the way he got injured full-back Mark Aizlewood from crutches to match fitness in just three days.

Modest John has been responsible for numerous remarkable treatment room feats during the promotion campaign that have enabled a small squad to remain in working order.

Fans see John in the traditional soccer sponge-

man role on match days. But behind that apparently simple task lies a wealth of knowledge and qualifications.

He admits he has always been "fascinated by injuries". Once a useful soccer player himself he learned from painful first-hand experience the devastation a serious injury can cause.

He was 15 when he fell down a flight of bus steps and broke a thigh in three places. He has limped ever since.

John qualified as a toolmaker at Vauxhall and in his spare time attended to the works soccer team.

"I was frustrated that I didn't know enough about injuries when they occurred," he said.

John embarked on a gruelling three-year FA physio course, a demanding period of training that has a high drop-out rate. John qualified and was later accepted into the respected ranks of the Society of Remedial Gymnasts.

St John Ambulance work, lecturing for the FA on treatment of sports injuries, representing Bedfordshire in first aid competitions and helping England's schoolboy footballers all added to John's bank of expertise.

He left Vauxhall for Whitbread where he was deeply involved in health and safety at work and was the company's safety officer.

He has experience working in Luton and Dunstable's Hospital casualty department and is still in close touch with the hospital.

Players are taken to the L&D for X-rays and John seeks the advice of surgeons.

"Luton and Dunstable Hospital have played a major part in helping us win promotion," he said. "Their co-operation has been superb."

John joined the Hatters three years ago and is happy to stay at the club.

He rates his most satisfying achievement as bringing Lil Fucillo back to full fitness after the midfielder star twice broke a leg.

"There are times when you work all week on a



• In action. John Sheridan, back to camera, attends to keeper Jake Findlay.

player and it looks a lost cause.

"But then Saturday comes round and the player is fit. That is very satisfying," said John.

They physio is quick to protect players against the demands of big time soccer.

"I try to consider the players' well-being and I would never let a player play where I thought that by playing an injury was likely to become a permanent problem."

"If I say to David Pleat that a player is not fit to play he would accept it. That's the good thing about working with David."

"It would be naive to believe that players never play with knocks. Sometimes they do play when

they are not fully fit. But we do not take risks with their long term health.

"I try never to use pain killers and in fact I've never used pain killers on an out-field player. They must play under their own steam."

Saturday injuries mean weekend work for John and he has had just two days off since the beginning of the football season.

The physio reserved a word of praise for the Bobbers Travel Club, the supporters' organisation responsible for buying medical supplies so John can work his magic.

He also said club doctor William Berry had given him "tremendous" support.



• Ouch! Ricky Hill goes down injured. Another case for physio John.



Chiltern Hotel

Waller Avenue, Dunstable Road, Luton 55911

Mr Hans Bodtenburg, the departing manager of the Chiltern, would like to introduce the new manager, Mr Stuart J. Smith.



Mr Smith

Mr Bodtenburg would also like to wish all success to LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB in the First Division, whilst also saying goodbye and thank you to all the friends he has made in his stay at Luton.

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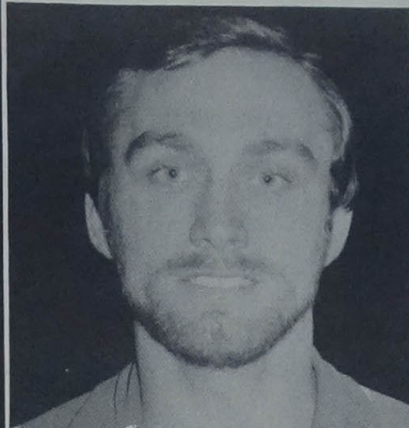
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DAVID'S DEALINGS



IN — Brian Horton



OUT — Paul Price

SKILFUL manipulation of the transfer market has overcome the problems posed by a small first team squad.

After finishing fifth in the Second Division last season manager David Pleat must have been tempted to leave a settled squad well alone.

After all, the young stars were gaining experience all the time and there was every reason to believe the same team would do the trick this year.

But in the close season there were key changes. On June 30 skipper and club stalwart Paul Price left to join Spurs.

It was a sudden departure and one many fans regretted. Price had joined the club from local soccer in nearby Welwyn Garden City.

He had fought back from two broken legs to gain both a regular first team place at Luton and become an established Welsh international.

But £250,000 was enough to tempt Luton to part company.

Following Price's departure Alan West, who had played more games than any other player on the staff, bid farewell to Kenilworth Road on July 2.

The survivor of Luton's last venture into the First Division moved off to join Millwall for £50,000.

The close season dealings continued when on July 24 midfielder international Tony Grealish suddenly left for the south coast and First Division Brighton.

This unexpected move became clear a couple of weeks later when Brighton's skipper Brian Horton joined the Hatters on August 10.

The key piece of Pleat's jigsaw was now in place.

Graham Punter analyses manager David Pleat's transfer market dealings

Horton was widely recognised as a true leader and had led Brighton's charge into the First Division.

He had the experience, the know-how and the proven track record of leading a promotion side.

Luton started the promotion campaign with the previous season's second highest scorer David Moss still in America playing for Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Wayne Turner was deputising but when Moss returned on September 16 Turner was released on loan to Lincoln City on October 29.

It was experience gained in an extended first team run, albeit in the Third Division, that proved so valuable to Luton in the final phase of the season.

A cute piece of management came about towards the end of 1981. Keeper Jake Findlay, a consistent performer who must be in line for a Scotland call-up, was injured.

Reserve Alan Judge had only recently recovered from a cartilage operation and couldn't be risked.

So Pleat went back to Spurs. He had sold Milija Aleksic to the Londoners the previous season. Aleksic had won an FA Cup winners' medal with Tottenham but then lost his place.

Aleksic rejoined the Hatters on a loan transfer from November 13 to December 13 to provide top class cover for Findlay.

Then the transfer market went quiet until the final week before the March 25 deadline.

Luton began to collect injuries and full-back Mark Aizlewood and talented midfielder Lil Fucillo missed games.

Wayne Turner returned from Lincoln on March 19 to cover for Fucillo.

Then on the last day of trading Pleat swooped on Anfield and plucked out brilliant full-back Richard Money on loan.

Later that day he gave his forwards cause to look over their shoulders by signing experienced striker Billy Jennings from Orient on a free transfer. Money's permanent £100,000 transfer from Liverpool was confirmed on April 22.



IN — Richard Money



OUT — Tony Grealish

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DAVID PLEAT'S STORY

HOW WE REACHED OUR GOLDEN GOAL

QUOTE

You don't always get out of life what you put in, but you might if you work hard enough.

1981-82 has been the most stimulating and exciting season for Luton Town Football Club for many seasons.

It has been the reward for players, staff and supporters for three seasons of hard work, patience and loyalty.

The defection of the previous seasons' near misses were all forgotten as we whacked in three outstanding goals against Shrewsbury, as if to personify all that is good about our style of play at its best.

We began with several players feeling deep down that the chance of Division One had passed them by.

However, after much discussion, it was decided to pull together for another season to see if we could finally crack promotion.

Many doubts were raised, not least by supporters who felt we were on the road to nowhere when we allowed Paul Price, Tony Grealish and Alan West to leave for new clubs.

Those moves were made with the knowledge of the undoubted promise below the surface of youngsters

such as Rob Johnson, Clive Goodyear, Frank Bunn and Michael Small.

But we needed also a new man to stabilise and complement the skill and abilities of the players who had earned the Second Division's respect in the previous two seasons.

Such a man was stationed at Brighton, and our one incoming transfer was Brian Horton who, I'm proud to say, came to Luton with a promise from me which I kept.

That promise was that if we stayed clear of too many serious injuries, and had a fair run of the ball, he would be captaining Luton back into the First Division.

The transfers out had enabled the club to run smoothly for another season against the background of the economic recession and its effect on Football League

attendances.

Our pre-season went smoothly with promising performances against newly promoted Swansea and Swindon.

We opened our first game with Godfrey Ingram, later to be transferred to San Jose in the States, deputising for David Moss who was then still committed to Tampa Bay Rowdies, and Raddy Antic playing as a sweeper.

We beat Charlton comfortably, and then faced the "razamataz" of the new plastic surface at QPR.

It was a historic night, made wonderful by the superb second half passing of our team.

Two second half goals claimed the game, and in good heart we journeyed north to beat Bolton 2-1 before Sheffield Wednesday exposed our team to the counter attack with an emphatic 3-0 win.

David Moss returned, Lil Fuccillo was introduced against Watford, Mick Saxby — a giant in early games — suffered an unfortunate knee injury against Crystal Palace; Steve White, confident and progressive, hit four fine goals against

Grimsby, and the side had a settled look as we were wrecked by snow and ice during December.

Raddy Antic joined in the fun on December 28 with a wonderful goal in a classic three-goal performance at Norwich.

Our heads refused to drop after a demoralising FA Cup result against Ipswich.

The visitors were at the time leaders of the First Division, enjoying a splendid run, but we never looked potential winners and lost out 3-0.

Our "bounce back" qualities were amply demonstrated in the next game, when Mal Donaghy, now firmly established as an international player, and

Steve White scored goals to defeat Leicester.

Mal Donaghy's goal was a typical Luton set piece, coming in late at the far post after a decoy movement had made the space.

Subsequent goals were to ensure that Mal has probably scored the record number at this club in one season for a back four defender.

Two tough away games beckoned, Sheffield Wednesday and Watford, but once again we were equal to the task, gaining vital away draws and reminding our friendly rivals that in six attempts in the Second Division, Bedfordshire has come out on top.

Only one new player had arrived when Richard Money joined us from

defeat at Barnsley gave us a jolt, and although 4-3 seems semi-respectable, it was one of the few games when we looked sadly out of touch.

In that game Brian Stein was quite outstanding, and in subsequent games he has kept up his exciting football.

Promotion was clinched in a 20-minute spell against Shrewsbury, where the crowd support generated by our terrace fans was a superb fillip.

Our style of play, based on simple early passing, playing through the mid-field and with every player equally important, had reaped its reward.

Only one new player had arrived when Richard Money joined us from

Liverpool, and we shall now have to reassess again, knowing our standards will have to improve again.

Everyone has played his part. The staff, particularly David Coates, John Moore, John Sheridan and Trevor Hartley, have worked hard, shown loyalty and application.

The chairman and the board have to be thanked for their support and patience.

The supporters have been a valued assistance, and the administration has coped with the increased demands.

You don't always get out of life what you put in, but you might if you work hard enough.

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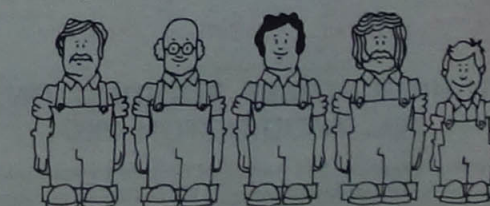


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Cheers!
Time to
bring
out the
bubbly

CHAMPAGNE-swilling Kirk Stephens pranced naked round the dressing room and announced: "This is once in a lifetime."

It was his particular way of expressing emotion the night Luton won promotion to the First Division.

I was among a group of privileged Pressmen invited into the dressing room to taste a very special at-

GRAHAM PUNTER records the dressing room atmosphere the night Luton won promotion.

mosphere.

There can be nothing quite like it. Tension had vanished, inhibitions were down and reservations cast aside.

This was a night to savour, a moment to dwell upon for the rest of your life. Friday, April 30.

Luton 4 Shrewsbury 1. Division One here we come. Managers' post-match Press conferences are generally sombre, analytical affairs with no players present.

This time it was different. A bath full of happy Hatters went through the com-

plete Oak Road End repertoire, each player modestly refraining from chanting his own name when his turn came round.

Cameras poking lenses into the bath area to record the moment were splashed unmercifully.

Liverpool old boy Richard Money held court to tell anyone who was listening how much the lads would enjoy going to Anfield next season.

Jake Findlay can't wait to prove a point at Villa and skipper Nobby Horton is keen to return to the Goldstone Ground.

TV lights trained on a bouncing bundle of Hatters clustered for a group shot.

Hardly anyone had dressed and avoiding an X certificate was a major task.

Some who had bathed and were about to dress were given a champagne shower and had to do it all again.

Brian Stein stood there stunned, trying to take in what had happened.

He grabbed a ground-staff worker by the hand — and then told him he had just played on the worst pitch of his life.

He didn't mean it, of course. It was just one of those daft things that get said at moments such as this.



● We're up! The champagne comes out the night Luton made sure of promotion.

Someone tried to hold players' attention long enough to sign a football. It wasn't easy.

"There's only one Nobby Horton," sang the bath choir. One couldn't help sparing a thought for Shrewsbury. Deep in relegation trouble, whacked 4-1 three days after losing 5-1 at Grimsby.

What must their dressing room be like? There was no time to

ponder as a chorus of "Luton Town are magic" filled the air.

Modest Clive Goodyear, promoted in only his first season in the senior side, seemed too bewildered to join in.

Kirk was leading the merrymaking. "You've been brought here to do a job," he reminded Richard Money, obviously apeing someone, presumably David Pleat. Mr Pleat?

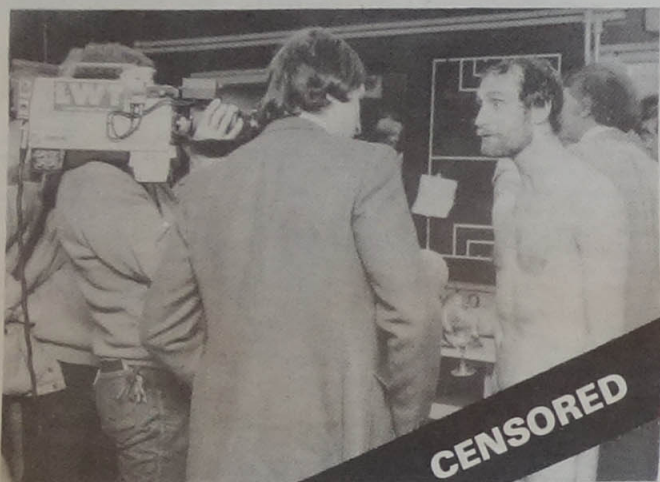
He had taken a back seat on a night when he, perhaps more than anyone, was entitled to let his hair down.

He was there, but you had to look for him.

For these few moments he was giving the floor to his players.

Outside the pitch was now in darkness, the terraces empty.

But inside the home dressing room, the night had only just begun...



● Well, it was like this... An undressed Brian Horton, bubbly in hand, explains his success to a TV crew.

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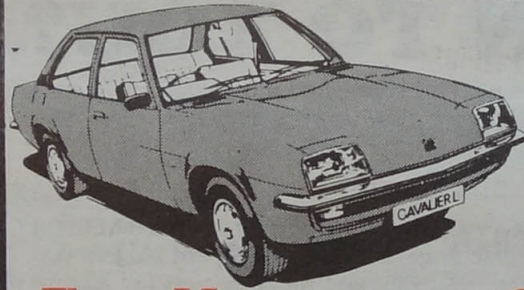
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THE SUPER SQUAD

BRIAN HORTON

BORN February 4, 1949 at Hednesford. Nobby Horton began his professional career with Port Vale, making more than 200 appearances before joining Brighton in 1976. Brian led the south coast club to the First Division and was described as a "natural leader" by David Pleat when the Luton manager brought him to Kenilworth Road. A ferocious tackler and inspiration to his younger teammates, Brian has been a major cause of the Hatters' success. His First Division experience with Brighton should prove invaluable to Luton next season.



BILLY JENNINGS

BORN February 20 1952 in Hackney. David Pleat signed this former England youth international on a free transfer from Orient.



RICKY HILL

BORN March 5, 1959 in London. There would be a queue a mile long to sign this brilliant midfielder if he was ever made available. Ricky joined Luton in May 1976 as an apprentice. He is an England youth international and was picked for two England under-21 squads this season. But demands of Luton's promotion drive, and then injury, cost him both opportunities. Ricky's electric skills have thrilled the crowds all season and the signs are Ricky will become Luton's first full England international since goalkeeper Ron Baynham in the 1950s.

MAL DONAGHY

BORN September 13, 1957 in Belfast. Signed from Irish club Larne in June 1978, Mal has emerged as a defender of true class and quality. The established Northern Ireland international has been a key figure in manager David Pleat's masterplan to take Luton to Division One. His powerful headers from deep positions at corner kicks have scored goals at vital times for the Hatters this season.



CLIVE GOODYEAR

BORN January 15, 1961 in Lincoln. Centre-back Clive is the unsung hero of the promotion side who has been a quiet revelation since being thrown into the team to cover for the injured Mike Saxby. Despite his inexperience he grabbed his opportunity for an extended first team run with both feet and few opposing forwards have made much impression against him.



STEVE WHITE

BORN January 2, 1959 in Chipping Sodbury. Steve found the going tough in the early days following his signing from Bristol Rovers in December 1979. A big money buy for Luton, Steve is a classic example of how perseverance and dedication can bring rewards. He has emerged as a striker to be feared and his goals have been a crucial contribution to Luton's promotion effort.



RADDY ANTIC

BORN November 22, 1949 in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav international was signed by David Pleat from Zaragoza in July 1980. He has proved to be an invaluable member of the squad because of his versatility. He can and has played a sweeper, midfielder and in the front line. Raddy possesses a devastating shot, rich in technique and power, that is a real crowd pleaser when the Yugoslav lets fly.



RICHARD MONEY

BORN October 13, 1955 in Lowestoft. Richard began his career with Scunthorpe before moving to Fulham in 1977. He joined Liverpool in 1980 and moved on to Kenilworth Road on transfer deadline day, March 25, this year. It was initially a loan transfer, later made permanent.



KIRK STEPHENS

BORN February 27, 1955 in Coventry. David Pleat plucked Kirk out of non-league soccer. It proved to be a shrewd move as Kirk has established himself as one of the division's best full-backs. Powerful tackles and surging runs up the right wing are his hallmark.



LIL FUCCILLO

BORN May 2, 1956 in Bedford. Lil joined Luton as an apprentice in 1974 and has fought back from two broken legs to become an established member of the first team. He has been troubled by injury this season but his distribution from midfield has been responsible for much of Luton's success.

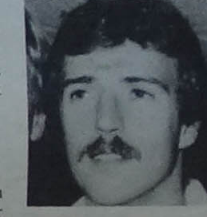


ALAN JUDGE

BORN May 1960 in Kingsbury. A cartilage operation prevented reserve goalkeeper Alan from being able to take advantage of an injury to first choice keeper Jake Findlay. But he has performed well when he has been thrust into the first team.

WAYNE TURNER

BORN March 9 1961 in Luton. Utility player Wayne joined his home town club in April 1978. But limited first team opportunities led to him joining Lincoln City for an extended loan period. Injuries forced David Pleat to recall him.



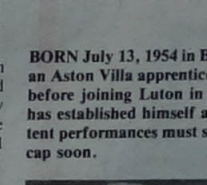
MILIJA ALEKSIC

BORN April 14 1951 at Newcastle-under-Lyme. David Pleat sold keeper Milija to Spurs and then took him back on loan to solve an injury crisis.



GODFREY INGRAM

BORN October 26 1959 in Luton. A talented youngster but Godfrey never quite made the grade with Luton. He played three times this season.



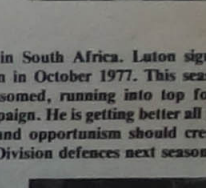
MICHAEL SMALL

BORN March 2 1962 in Birmingham. This promising young striker's appearances have been restricted to a couple of games as substitute.



BRIAN STEIN

BORN October 19, 1957 in South Africa. Luton signed Brian from Edgware Town in October 1977. This season the striker has really blossomed, running into top form towards the end of the campaign. He is getting better all the time and his sharp turns and opportunism should create many a problem for First Division defences next season.



JAKE FINDLAY

BORN July 13, 1954 in Blairgowrie, Scotland. Big Jake was an Aston Villa apprentice, playing 14 times in the first team before joining Luton in November 1978. The blond giant has established himself as a crowd favourite. Solid consistent performances must surely put him in line for a Scottish cap soon.



MARK AIZLEWOOD

BORN October 1, 1959 in Newport, Wales. The former Newport County apprentice was signed in April 1978 and has won under-21 caps for Wales. Aizlewood was a key member of Luton's defence for the first part of the season. But injury cost the left-back his place and he was then kept out of the team by new signing Richard Money.



100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Play the promotion game

HERE'S a super game for all the family where you can actually follow the ups and downs of Luton's promotion season.

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First choose any small objects to use as counters.

Each player first throws a dice to decide the order of play.

When you land on a black square, follow the instructions. The first player to reach square 100 is the winner.

2. Luton start the season with a 3-0 win over

NOTE: The grid printed on this page is for guidance only. Draw up your own, measuring 30 cms x 30 cms. Then, by following our design, fill in the numbers and mark the black squares.

Charlton. Move forward to square 43.

6. The first ever league game on QPR's artificial pitch ends with the Hatters winning 2-1. Go forward to square 28.

30. David Moss returns from America in time for the win at Leicester. Go forward to square 53.

34. Cardiff come to Kenilworth Road and win 3-2, putting the Welsh jinx on the Hatters. Go back to square 16.

36. Big rivals Watford are

thumped 4-1 in the derby clash at Kenilworth Road. Go forward to square 79.

46. Luton thrash Grimsby 6-0. Go forward to square 48.

50. Newcastle end eight match unbeaten run. Go back to square 9.

58. Keeper Jake Findlay misses sequence of five games through injury. Go back to square 40.

60. Succession of drawn games ends with Watford knocking Luton off the

top of the league. Move back to square 20.

64. Luton sign classy full-back Richard Money from Liverpool on loan. Move forward to square 98.

71. Promotion is looking likely but you suffer from badly bitten finger nails and an attack of the jitters as the final run-in approaches. Go back to square 54.

94. Luton beat Blackburn while Watford lose at Cardiff. The Hatters have a four point lead at the top of the division, go forward to square 96.

99. The tension is just too much to bear. Go back to square 80.

Autographs



LUTON TOWN

THIS new team photograph of the Hatters features the squad responsible for taking the club into Division One.

Back row, left to right: Wayne Turner, Brian Stein, Clive Goodyear, Frank Bunn, Michael Small, Billy Jennings, Rob Johnson.

Middle row, left to right: John Moore (coach), Mark Aizlewood, Jake Findlay, Raddy Antic, Alan Judge, Richard Money, Steve White, Trevor Hartley (coach).

Front row, left to right: David Coates (coach), Kirk Stephens, Ricky Hill, Brian Horton, David Pleat (manager), David Moss, Lil Fuccillo, Mal Donaghy, John Sheridan (physiotherapist).

Absent from the photograph was Mike Saxby, still fighting an unusual and complicated knee injury.



Missing from the team line-up: Mike Saxby

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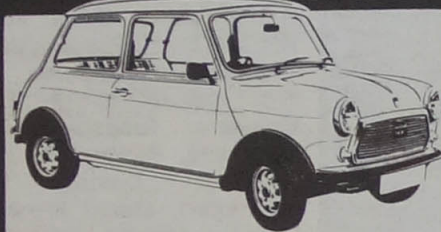
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How the Hatters won promotion



LUTON 3
CHARLTON 0
August 29

STEVE White showed he was a new man for a new season with this opening encounter of the 1981-82 campaign.

The previous season he had struggled to find both his form and acceptance with the Kenilworth Road crowd.

But in the 59th minute of this game he gave notice of the scoring feats to come.

White picked up a ball from new skipper Brian Horton, held off a challenge as he drove into the box and slipped the ball past keeper John Phillips.

It was the goal that secured a new future for White and Luton's first three point victory.

The first goal of the new season came from Mal Donaghy with a diving header in the 21st minute. Ten minutes later Don McAllister sliced the ball in to his own net.

LUTON 1
QPR 2
September 1

ALL eyes of the football fraternity nationwide were turned onto Loftus Road for the first ever league game on the new artificial pitch.

But Luton's fast short-passing game proved better suited to the conditions and the Town ran out worthy winners.

Former Hatter Andy King put the home side in



● QPR v Luton. Mark Aizlewood scores.



● Leicester v Luton. Steve White grabs the winner.

front but after the break Luton ripped into Rangers. A lob from Mark Aizlewood put the Hatters on terms and a 30 yard screamer from Ricky Hill gave Luton the points.

BOLTON 1
LUTON 2
September 5

FULL-back Mark Aizlewood became the hero of Burnden Park.

Four days earlier he had walked through a plate glass window and needed 10 stitches.

But he not only played against Bolton but set up the equalising goal before grabbing the winner himself.

For long spells in the first half it was Luton who had to soak up the pressure.

When Luton did break forward they were thwarted time and time again by Bolton's offside trap.

But as Luton began to look more adventurous in the second half Bolton struck in the 63rd minute when Alan Gowling forced the ball over the line.

This spurred Luton to greater efforts and six minutes later they were level.

Aizlewood romped down the left before blasting the ball across the middle where Brian Stein was waiting to turn it into the net.

The winner came in the 79th minute when Brian Horton miskicked, the ball ran to Aizlewood and the full-back thumped it home.

LUTON 0
SHEFF WED 3
September 12

THIS was the match that brought Luton down to earth with a thump.

Sheffield Wednesday, looking every inch a First

Division side, outplayed the early season pace-setters.

The defensive unit was as tight as one would expect from a side managed by Jackie Charlton.

And up front Wednesday had the temperamental striker Terry Curran who on his day can reproduce flamboyant skills reminiscent of George Best. Unfortunately for Luton, this was his day.

With David Moss yet to return from America Luton lacked a skilful wide player to prise apart Wednesday.

Luck and Jake Findlay kept the visitors at bay until half-time but after the break they deservedly went ahead when Andy McCulloch headed home in the 59th minute.

After 73 minutes a Curran corner was flicked on by McCulloch for Gary Megson to score.

Then with seven minutes remaining Curran rolled the

ball into Gary Bannister's path and Luton were finished.

In the crowd on a spying mission was Watford assistant manager Bertie Mee. He may have seen Luton well beaten but what a shock he had in store.

LEICESTER 1
LUTON 2
September 19

MOSS the cross returned from America to help establish Luton as the country's deadliest away side.

The victory at Filbert Street gave the Hatters an away record that read: Played Three, won three. And Moss provided the crosses that set up both Steve White's goals.

However mistakes by City keeper and skipper Mark Wallington contributed to both Luton goals.

A driven cross from the left should have been cut

out but Wallington fumbled the ball to Steve White who could not miss from six yards.

This was in the first minute of the second half and was a quick reply to City's opener from the penalty spot in the 40th minute.

Steve Lynex scored after Jake Findlay had brought down Jim Melrose.

But in the 52nd minute Wallington was at fault again when he failed to reach Moss's floating cross and White had only to touch the ball into an empty net.

LUTON 2
CARDIFF 3
September 22

HOME sides' Achilles heel this season has been conceding an early goal.

For with three points at stake, it has led to sides storming forward and

neglecting caution in an effort to obtain maximum points.

A dubious eighth minute penalty when Mark Aizlewood was harshly adjudged to have handled the ball led to a match of frenzied attacking by Luton.

Peter Kitchen's goal inspired Luton but the half-hour the Hatters' onslaught was stopped in its tracks when Peter Sayer scored from 30 yards.

Mike Saxby pulled one back for Luton with a header and then right against the run of play Cardiff grabbed a third. A low cross found Gary Stevens who scored in the 62nd minute.

One of the goals of the season, a Raddy Antic free kick that was still rising as it hit the roof of the net, narrowed the scoreline in the 71st minute but Luton finally ran out of time.

● To page 14

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How the Hatters won promotion

**LUTON 4
WATFORD 1**
September 26

THIS local derby was all over by half-time as Luton walked off to a thunderous ovation.

The Hatters were 3-0 up and Watford boss Graham Taylor knew his calculated gamble to play two young wingers had failed.

The demolition derby began in the 32nd minute when David Moss snaked into the box and was pulled down by Gerry Armstrong. Moss sprang to his feet and scored from the penalty spot.

Ian Bolton failed to learn the lesson and four minutes later chopped down Stein.

Again Moss converted the penalty kick.

Tricky Ricky Hill set off on a run which left opponents stranded to set up the third goal. He slipped the ball to Brian Stein who clipped it past Steve Sherwood.

Stein made in 4-0 after 50 minutes when he headed home a Moss cross.

Watford's consolation goal came 25 minutes from time when Bolton's free kick was deflected past Findlay.

**ORIENT 0
LUTON 3**
October 3

LUTON staged a top class performance to run Orient ragged and win with the

greatest of ease.

Even Billy Jennings, later to join the Hatters, failed to make any impression.

It was a day when Luton could have run riot. Twice Luton had attempts booted off the line and on another occasion Mervyn Day saved with his feet.

The first goal came after 19 minutes when Nigel Gray touched Mark Aizlewood's drive into his own net.

Seven minutes later Luton were 2-0 up. A curling cross from Kirk Stephens was smashed home by Ricky Hill.

The third goal came in the 74th minute when Day could only parry Stephens' cross and Steve White slammed the ball into the net.

**OLDHAM 1
LUTON 1**
October 10

A talented Oldham side gave Luton a hard game and it took an opportunist goal six minutes from time to grab a point.

Well marshalled by ex-Hatter Paul Fletcher, the home team brought out the best in Luton's fighting qualities.

They went ahead after 36 minutes when Roger Palmer headed against a post and Roger Wylde tapped in the rebound.

Luton battled well in the second half without making any real impression and in fact Oldham had chances to extend their lead.

But with time fast running out Steve White was able to turn with the ball 20 yards out and hit a dipping shot into the net.

**LUTON 6
GRIMSBY 0**
October 17

THE Mariners were sunk by six-shooting Luton in a game that saw Steve White grab four goals.

It was a demolition job from start to finish and even Grimsby boss George Kerr admitted afterwards: "It was like men playing boys."

White's accurate cross set up Lil Fucillo and the midfielder lashed the ball into the net after 13 minutes.

Ten minutes later Brian Stein set off on a diagonal run when Dean Crombie brought him down in the box.



● Luton v Grimsby. Hat-trick hero Steve White nets one of his goals.

**WREXHAM 0
LUTON 2**
October 24

LUTON'S record against Welsh clubs has been dismal in recent years but they found their feet on a rain-soaked Racecourse Ground.

Mal Donaghy hammered the first goal in the 28th minute from 25 yards.

Steve White notched the second just before the interval when he finished a three man move involving Brian Stein and Kirk Stephens.

Wrexham boss Mel Sutton immediately tipped Luton for promotion after the game.

**LUTON 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 0**
October 31

THIS game is sadly remembered for the serious knee injury that put Mike Saxby out of action for the rest of the season.

The tall centre-back who had been an ever-present up to this point went off after an hour.

His damaged kneecap has caused pain when Saxby has run faster than a jog and he has never been fit enough to consider regaining his first team place.

The matter was settled in the 28th minute when Steve White was pulled down by Steve Lovell and David Moss did his stuff from the spot.

● To facing page

How the Hatters won promotion

**LUTON 3
DERBY 2**
November 7

LUTON completely dominated their opponents but ended up hanging on grimly for the final whistle.

The Hatters had twice as many shots, won twice as many corners and were awarded three times as many free kicks.

The first goal was created by Ricky Hill who had a sparkling match to reinforce his right to an England shirt.

Hill twisted past two defenders to give David Moss a simple chance from six yards in the 36th minute.

Clive Goodyear made it 2-1 21 minutes into the second half with a first time left-foot shot from the edge of the box.

The margin of victory could have been so much greater with steadier finishing.

As it was the Hatters had to rely on a David Moss penalty 10 minutes from time to secure the points.

Ricky Hill gave another first class performance and the whole midfield of Hill, Brian Horton and Lil Fucillo provided Blackburn with plenty to think about.

Justice was done when Rovers' keeper Terry Genoe up-ended Brian Stein and gave Moss the chance to notch the winner.

Two minutes from time a 20 yard volley by John Clayton gave Luton a nervous final few moments.



● Luton v Derby. Mal Donaghy leaps to grasp number three.



● Newcastle v Luton. David Moss slots in a penalty.

**BLACKBURN 0
LUTON 1**
November 14

LUTON'S sixth away win took them five points clear at the top of the Second Division.

The margin of victory could have been so much greater with steadier finishing.

As it was the Hatters had to rely on a David Moss penalty 10 minutes from time to secure the points.

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Two minutes from time a 20 yard volley by John Clayton gave Luton a nervous final few moments.

**NEWCASTLE 3
LUTON 2**
November 21

A LAST minute goal by a Luton fan ended the Hatters' unbeaten away record.

Imre Varadi, once on Luton's books and whose parents still live in the town, scored Newcastle's winner.

The Georgie side were clearly the best team on the day and deservedly asserted their superiority when Varadi set up two goals for Alan Brown.

Luton forced their way back into the match in the 83rd minute when David Moss scored with a penalty.

Luton looked like they were to snatch a point when two minutes from the end Mal Donaghy popped up with a dramatic equaliser. But then came that Varadi clincher.

**LUTON 2
BOLTON 0**
November 24

MILJIA Aleksic the goalkeeper from Harlington will have painful memories of this game.

He was kicked on the neck making a brave save and at first physiotherapist John Sheridan feared he may have suffered a serious spinal injury.

But the symptoms that sparked the scare subsided and Aleksic was able to walk from the field.

The injury was the one sour note in a Luton performance that was more workmanlike than inspired.

A moment of skill by Brian Stein in the 67th minute when the striker turned his marker to crash the ball into the net, lived up a game that was beginning to stagnate.

David Moss' deflected free kick, awarded when Steve White was floored, sealed Luton's supremacy at the top of the league.

**LUTON 3
ROTHERHAM 1**
November 28

THE superb talents of Ricky Hill unlocked a dour Rotherham side drilled by ex-Liverpool skipper Emlyn Hughes.

The defensive-minded visitors managed to hold Luton at 0-0 when the half-time whistle came.

But three minutes after the break Hill steamed into the box, took a through ball over his left shoulder, beat two men and sent over a dipping cross.

Steve White stole in at the far post to bury his 12th goal of the season.

But nine minutes later Rotherham were level when ex-Hatter Rodney Fern got the faintest of touches to send the ball out of Milija Aleksic's reach.

David Moss began to find more space as the game opened up. He won a corner and the deep kick was perfect for Mal Donaghy to connect and head home.

Seconds later Hill was in action again, sending Stein racing into the left-hand side of the box. The striker lashed the ball in the net for number three.

**SHREWSBURY 2
LUTON 2**
December 5

LUTON had to come from behind twice in a thriller at Gay Meadow.

The home side took a fifth minute lead through John Dungworth when

keeper Alan Judge was unable to hold a header from Ian Atkins.

Judge, in the side because of injuries to Jake Findlay and on-loan keeper Milija Aleksic, later kept Luton in the game with some splendid saves.

Ten minutes after that early set-back Luton were on terms. David Moss seized on a defensive mistake to set Steve White up for his 13th goal of the season.

Luton's defence cracked again after 32 minutes when Atkins glanced home a centre from Steve Cross.

The Hatters escaped when David Tong's dipping 25-yarder came back off the crossbar but in the 76th minute the visitors scored their point-saver.

Brian Stein won a corner and Mal Donaghy was on hand to head high into the net.

● To page 16

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How the Hatters won promotion



**NORWICH 1
LUTON 3
December 28**

NORWICH City's Canaries got their Christmas stuffing a little late but it was well worth the wait.

The Division Two leaders gave a cool precise performance that never gave Norwich a look-in.

It was one-way traffic from the outset with three goals in the first 13 minutes killing the game as a contest.

After just two minutes City's rearguard backed away allowing Raddy Antic to smash a drive past Norwich keeper Chris Woods.

Just seven minutes later Antic, only in the side because Ricky Hill was injured, set up the second.

He robbed Mark Barham, cut inside, and sent Steve White away to sidestep Wood and chip in perfectly.

Then Brian Stein killed the game stone dead by accepting Mal Donaghy's pass to score.

City pulled a goal back through John Deehan in the 43rd minute but it was a mere hiccup en route to victory.

In fact Luton could have had a couple more, with both Brian Horton and David Moss having shots coming back off the crossbar.

**CHARLTON 0
LUTON 0
January 19**

A 0-0 draw at the Valley in a midweek game took Luton seven points clear at the top of the division.

It was achieved in an exciting entertaining match that proved goals are not essential for the crowd to enjoy a good game.

Missing from the Town's line-up was Brian Horton, the first time the skipper had been absent since joining Luton from Brighton in the close season.

Behind the scenes physiotherapist John Sheridan was racing to get Horton fit for the following

Saturday's big FA Cup clash with Ipswich.

Both sides had their moments. Findlay raced outside his area to stop Martin Robinson, injuring his shoulder and receiving a booking in the process.

At the other end Brian Stein brought a brilliant save out of Charlton keeper Nicky Johns.

**LUTON 2
LEICESTER 1
January 30**

LEICESTER City dished out some rough stuff at Kenilworth Road — and then got a pasting from manager Jock Wallace for being soft.

Wallace had few words to say in the post-match press conference. He knew his team has been well and truly outplayed.

He may even have been embarrassed at the way his side tried to match Luton's finesse with brutal tactics.

The only amazing aspect of a completely one-sided first half was that Leicester were still in the game.

Constant pressure which took the Hatters close on numerous occasions had City in such a state Tommy Williams brought a brilliant save from his own goalkeeper as he panicked and sliced the ball goalwards.

Luton scored after 13 minutes when Lil Fuccillo put David Moss clear on the left.

A perfectly flighted cross was headed in by Steve White. You could have got odds on a cricket score at



● Luton v Leicester. Steve White scores Luton's first.

this stage and Luton's superiority was overwhelming.

But Leicester suddenly found themselves back on terms when an attempted clearance by Kirk Stephens went off Gary Lineker into the net.

It would have been easy for Luton to go to pieces at this stage as all their endeavour seemed to be ending in poor reward.

But maturity and patience prevailed and eventually a Moss corner was headed home by Mal Donaghy.

**SHEFF WED 3
LUTON 3
February 6**

THE grand setting of Hillsborough was the stage for a fierce, highly-charged promotion encounter.

Jackie Charlton's side, looking every inch First

Division candidates early in the season, had suffered injuries and were now only just hanging on to their promotion dream.

Luton looked the slicker side early on and after 11 minutes went ahead when Steve White squeezed through the Wednesday defence to score.

But after 25 minutes a rare blunder by Kirk Stephens when he hit a tame back-pass to Alan Judge let in John Pearson to equalise.

Luton regained the lead with a controversial penalty when Mel Sterland was adjudged to have felled David Moss. The winger picked himself up to score from the spot.

Wednesday had to wait for the 75th minute before they were back on terms again, this time when Pearson beat Judge to a cross.

Seven minutes later another

Stephens error allowed Gary Bannister to score.

Gary Megson was sent off for a foul on Brian Horton before Brian Stein popped up with a last minute equaliser.

**WATFORD 1
LUTON 1
February 20**

THERE were 22,580 fans packed into Vicarage Road to see this local derby between the Division Two pacesetters.

And they were treated to a superb game of thrilling soccer that even had the referee applauding both sides.

Watford were determined to avenge the 4-1 humiliation at Kenilworth Road earlier in the season and started strongly.

A swerving 25-yarder from full-back Will

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How the Hatters won promotion



Rostron gave the home side the advantage after just eight minutes.

But the early goal simply served to show how disciplined and workmanlike Luton have become.

They set about their task with graft and enterprise and got their reward in the 34th minute.

Kirk Stephens floated the ball in to Brian Stein who showed needle sharp reflexes to hit a drive past Steve Sherwood.

Luton went close to winning in the second half when Ricky Hill got his head to a David Moss cross but the ball came back off a post.

**LUTON 2
OLDHAM 0
February 27**

THIS encounter was as one-sided an affair as is possible between two teams of the same division.

The visitors' response to their opponents' superiority was to dish out strong arm stuff and Darren McDonough was sent off for a crude tackle on Lil Fuccillo.

Oldham also had Kenny Clements and Jed Keegan booked. After seven minutes Luton had a dream start when Hatters' old boy Paul Fletcher brought down Brian Stein, giving the opportunity to David Moss to score from the spot.

Despite their superiority it took a freak goal to clinch the points, goalkeeper Peter McDonnell turning a Moss corner into the net.



● Palace v Luton. Raddy Antic watches the first equaliser go in.

**LUTON 1
CAMBRIDGE 0
March 2**

THE match at lowly Grimsby was to herald a run of five games without a win for Luton.

Manager David Pleat may have described the sequence as a "stutter" but it created much nail biting among the Luton fans who saw their side's comfortable lead at the top of the division gradually being whittled away.

The match was the latest episode in a familiar story — Luton's skilful one-touch football versus grim uninspired determination to salvage a point.

Cambridge looked like succeeding despite a Brian Stein effort saved by keeper Richard Key's legs and a Kirk Stephens drive rattling a post.

But then up popped Nobby Horton.

**GRIMSBY 0
LUTON 0
March 6**

0-0 draws can be entertaining. Both sides had chances to win the game but at the final whistle no-one was arguing with the outcome.

LUTON 0 WREXHAM 0 March 12

LUTON again found themselves up against a club haunted by relegation fears and were unable to break the deadlock.

The Hatters failed to produce the sparkling play that has separated them from the Second Division also-rans this season.

It was difficult to pinpoint exactly what went wrong and manager David Pleat could only say: "We were a bit short in all departments."

This was the fourth time Luton had played Wrexham



● Palace v Luton. Brian Stein demonstrates his acrobatic skills.

**PALACE 3
LUTON 3
March 20**

THE action started in the ninth minute when Neil Smillie scored from an acute angle.

Luton hit back three minutes later through Raddy Antic.

Straight from the kick-off Kevin Mabbutt raced on to a long through-ball to score past the advancing Jake Findlay.

Hatters' dismay turned to delight shortly afterwards when Steve White was tripped in the box and David Moss scored from the spot.

A perfect far post chip by Ricky Hill allowed Brian Stein to give Luton the lead.

But Palace rallied well and equalised through Smillie in the 74th.

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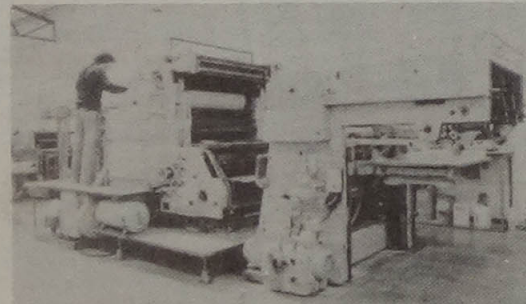
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How the Hatters won promotion

DERBY 0
LUTON 0
March 27

LUTON'S sixth-month reign at the top of the Second Division ended with this draw because on the same day Watford won at home to Bolton.

But there was no cause for alarm as Luton had a high proportion of home games left to play and two games in hand on their big rivals from Vicarage Road.

The game was memorable because it launched the new-look left side of Luton's line-up.

New loan signing from Liverpool, Richard Money, settled in comfortably to the full-back position while

Wayne Turner, newly recalled from Lincoln where he had been on loan, looked secure in midfield.

Luton's best chance in the game came when Brian Stein's glancing header was cleared off the line by ex-Hatter Steve Buckley.

LUTON 2
ORIENT 0
March 30

THE Hatters surged back to the top of the league with this comfortable win.

Orient failed to have even a single shot on target and were not able to force even one corner.

Unlucky bounces, desperate boots and good goalkeeping by Mervyn Day

thwarted Luton and at half-time yet another draw seemed a possibility.

But after the interval they got the break they deserved. Brian Stein went jinking into the box to be up-ended by Day. David Moss scored from the spot.

Ten minutes later Luton scored a brilliant goal when a slick inter-passing move ended with Ricky Hill clipping the ball out of Day's reach.

Orient boss Ken Knighton defended his team's lack of enterprise by saying: "We're third from bottom and Luton are top."

"If you expect us to come here and go forward you must be crazy."



● Luton v Blackburn. Steve White about to slot home the Hatters' second.

LUTON 2
BLACKBURN 0
April 3

THE Hatters established a four point lead at the top of the Second Division.

Victory at home to Blackburn while Watford lost to Cardiff served to ease the anxiety felt by Luton fans.

Unlike recent visitors Cambridge, Wrexham and Orient, Rovers showed purpose and went forward seeking the points that would drive a power of good.

Luton's breakthrough came after 27 minutes when Brian Stein pushed the ball to Steve White. He was given a perfect return and raced on to skip round keeper Terry Gennoe to score.

A Brian Horton free kick set up the Hatters' second. The skipper tapped the ball to Kirk Stephens and the full-back's curling pass picked out White. The striker turned swiftly and flashed the ball into the net.

Just before the final whistle new signing Billy Jennings had the ball in the net but David Moss was deemed to be offside.

CAMBRIDGE 1
LUTON 1
April 10

LUTON were unable to get into their stride in a dull 1-1 draw at Cambridge.

After a hard-fought first half the goals came in quick succession in the 59th and 61st minutes.



● Luton v Norwich. Billy Jennings hits his first for Luton.

Luton's was a gift from Cambridge midfielder man Les Cartwright who passed straight to Wayne Turner about 30 yards out.

Turner accepted gratefully and scored with a spectacular drive.

If Luton could have held on to their advantage for 10 to 15 minutes they might have panicked United, but Cambridge soon hit back.

Cartwright made amends with a well placed corner kick for lanky striker George Reilly to head down through a forest of legs, the ball bouncing into the net.

Luton's reputation as a classy footballing side attracted the biggest crowd of the season to the tiny Abbey Stadium.

But what they saw was a workmanlike performance from the Hatters.

The instinctive talent of injured Ricky Hill was badly missed and Luton attacked mainly on the break instead of through flowing passing movements.

Raddy Antic was used mainly as a sweeper and the tactic was effective rather than attractive.

LUTON 2
NORWICH 0
April 12

LUTON'S biggest league crowd of the season saw two goals in four minutes take the Hatters to the brink of the First Division.

More than 15,000 witnessed Billy Jennings' first goal in Luton colours end Norwich's spirited resistance.

A half-time substitution

gave Jennings his chance when he came on for the injured David Moss.

That gave the Hatters, no longer playing with a traditional winger, more options up front.

The strike force of Steve White, Brian Stein and Jennings switched positions and pulled apart a Norwich defence that had looked sound.

Luton broke the deadlock when the ball was played into the penalty area and Brian Stein seized his opportunity to volley past Chris Woods.

Four minutes later, in the 57th, Hill slipped the ball to Jennings on the left side.

He ran on and showed his experience as a goal scorer by choosing the moment to blast the ball past Woods.

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How the Hatters won promotion

LUTON 3
NEWCASTLE 2
April 17

STRIKER Brian Stein was the hat-trick hero who brought Luton back from the dead.

The Hatters, without injured midfielder ace Ricky Hill and penalty king David Moss, just didn't click and fell two goals behind.

David Mills shot the away side into the lead after 23 minutes.

John Trewick made it 2-0 from the penalty spot after 57 minutes when Mills was sandwiched between two defenders.

But then super Stein turned on the style.

He got Luton back in the game after 64 minutes when he nipped in for an opportunist goal.

Town powered forward and got their just reward with a penalty in the 82nd minute when Mick Martin fouled Luton skipper Brian Horton.

Stein slammed home the spot kick and then with minutes remaining repeated the feat when Martin handled.

LUTON 2
CHELSEA 2
April 20

THE Hatters had to come from behind twice in a pulsating game against a talented and adventurous Chelsea side.

With David Moss still injured Raddy Antic left his usual sweeper role for a

roving commission up front.

And the tactic paid off for manager David Pleat as the Yugoslav gave the Chelsea defence all kinds of problems.

But it was Chelsea who went ahead after 35 minutes when winger Mike Fillery crossed to present Clive Walker with a gift goal.

The Hatters' electronic clock was already showing that half-time had arrived when Antic popped up to sweep a low cross into the net.

Chelsea regained the lead in the 62nd minute with a bizarre goal.

Fillery hit a ball which dipped and swerved into the net, leaving keeper Jake Findlay rooted to the spot.

Chelsea's young keeper Steve Francis was having a blinder but finally Luton's pressure began to tell.

They forced a corner on the right and Mal Donaghy was in a deep position to head the Hatters level again with 13 minutes left.

Town piled on the pressure for the remaining period but could not sneak a winner.

ROTHAM 2
LUTON 2
April 24

A DRAMATIC last-minute penalty save by stand-in keeper Alan Judge gave Luton a reprieve against promotion-chasing Rotherham.

But the Hatters saw the save as justice being done after protesting at the

penalty decision for alleged handball against Clive Goodyear.

Lil Fuccillo gave Luton an 11th minute lead, clipping the ball in the net in nonchalant fashion.

But a Ronnie Moore header put Emlyn Hughes' side on terms and Rotherham took the lead when John Seaman scored in the 63rd minute.

Richard Money lashed a 35 yarder to bring the Hatters level and set the stage for that controversial final minute.

LUTON 4
SH'BURY 1
April 30

THE match that won promotion was far from a classic.

But classics are not usually born of such emotive occasions.

A nightmare backpass by Shrewsbury central defender Colin Griffin let in Brian Stein who lobbed keeper Bob Wardle for the first.

In the 60th minute Shrewsbury looked like they were going to put the champagne on ice when David Tong's long cross was met by Ian Atkins who slammed the ball into the net.

With 15 minutes remaining Ricky Hill looked into his magic box and pulled out a snap volley to send the fans wild.

Two minutes after Hill's goal Steve White banged in a third for the Town.

Four minutes from time David Moss made promotion a certainty.



● Luton v Newcastle. Hat-trick hero Brian Stein scores from a penalty.

CHELSEA 1
LUTON 2
April 8

LUTON'S players were presented with bubbly before the kick-off — and then proceeded to knock the fizz out of Chelsea.

Luton took the lead in the 24th minute with a superb goal by Raddy Antic.

His free kick from 25 yards spun into the net off the hand of young keeper Steve Francis.

Chelsea equalised on the stroke of half-time when Clive Walker slotted home a rebound from three yards.

The winner came in the 64th minute when Stein chipped home from a narrow angle after a fine run.

LUTON 3
QPR 2
May 11

LUTON'S biggest league crowd of the season turned out to watch the Hatters clinch the Second Division championship.

Rangers began brightly but the tide turned against the Londoners when Glenn Roeder was sent off after bringing down Ricky Hill.

It was Hill who opened the scoring with a spectacular lob nine minutes before the interval.

Three minutes into the second half Steve White made it 2-0, scoring from a narrow angle.

After 70 minutes Terry Fenwick pulled a goal back, heading in from a corner.

David Moss restored the Hatters' advantage nine minutes later when he was brought down and converted the resulting penalty.

A spectacular 35-yard goal by Simon Stainrod kept Rangers in the hunt but the Hatters held on for the remaining six minutes to secure the game and the Second Division title.

LUTON 1
BARNSELY 1
May 15

BARNSELY came within three minutes of being the only side to do the double over Luton this season.

The Yorkshiremen looked sharper and Birch's 49th minute penalty gave them

the lead until the 87th minute.

Then Brian Stein took a great through ball from Kirk Stephens to lash an angled shot into the net from 20 yards.

CARDIFF 2
LUTON 3
May 17

LUTON were leading 3-0 by the 81st minute with two goals from Brian Stein and a header by Mal Donaghy.

Cardiff had to win to avoid relegation and their two late goals from Kitchen and Micallef proved useless.

Both sides hit the bar twice in a frenzied assault by Cardiff which left them exposed at the back.

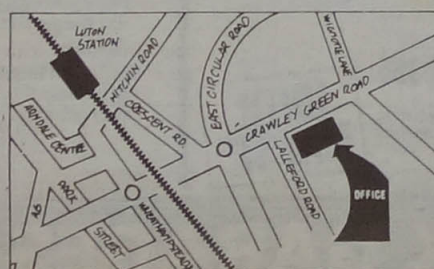
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Ricky Hill: The man with magic in his feet

ASK players and supporters alike who they rate as the top Hatter and it's a fair bet the answer will be Ricky Hill.

Ricky, of the dazzling footwork and bewildering body swerve, has epitomised the flair that has become Luton's hallmark.

This season Ricky has been named in two England under-21 squads only to be denied, first by Luton's congested fixture list and then by injury.

Hatters' skipper Brian Horton, who has already experienced the big time in soccer, says the midfield star's talents will grace the First Division.

And turning on the skill at the top level should lead to Ricky being the first Luton player to become a full England international since goalkeeper Ron Baynam in the 1950s.

FROM ONE LUTON TOWN TEAM TO ANOTHER 'WELL DONE'

The managers of your LOCAL WHITBREAD PUBS are delighted to see Luton Town FC in the First Division. We look forward to welcoming their loyal supporters, to celebrate the achievement . . . to toast the next season . . . and also to share the highspots of the World Cup. . . .



SEE YOU AT THE: BARN OWL, BREWERY TAP, BRICKLAYERS ARMS, BRITANNIA, BUTE ARMS, COCK, DUKE OF CLARENCE, DUTCHMAN, ENGINE, FAVOURITE, FORESTERS ARMS, FOUNTAIN, FREEHOLDER, GRAPEVINE, HERON, KING HARRY, KINGSWAY TAVERN, MAN ON WHEELS, MITRE, PARROT, PLUME OF FEATHERS, RICHARD III, ROYAL OAK, SALISBURY ARMS, SPORTSMAN, STRAWPLAITERS, UNICORN, WHEATSHEAF, WINDMILL, WYVERN.