

# Cup Final

MARCH/APRIL 1989 50p

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## Ashley's hoping

VETERAN Ashley Grimes is looking for fifth time lucky at Wembley.

The defender has been to the home of football four times — but has played just 13 minutes — for Luton last year.

And he supplied the cross for Brian Stein to net the winner.

## He's got such steely nerves

BOSS RAY Harford will have nerves of steel when he leads out Hatters for the third time in two seasons.

The manager — in only his second term at Hatters' helm — keeps his emotions well hidden.

Few fans will forget Harford's ice-cold mood at the end of last year's final.

He prefers to take a back seat when it comes to celebrations.

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

"I'm not the type that really gets nervous. I have nerves but they are very deep.

"And after the game there's just a feeling of relief.

"The golfer Greg Norman says people who get over excited about a victory, never expected to win in the first place.

"If you are confident when you go in, and you win, it should not be too much of a surprise.

"I think it's a hard thing to be a good winner — it's very difficult because you can get pompous and big-headed — you've got to remember other people's feelings."

# WE'RE NOT THE TEAM WE WERE

HATTERS GO TO Wembley with a weaker squad than the one which clinched the trophy last year — and that's straight from the horse's mouth.

Boss Ray Harford admitted after the semi-final clash with West Ham that the loss of Mal Donaghy and Brian Stein makes the Luton Town of 1989 less of a threat than '88's heroes.

"Yes — we are a little bit less potent," said Harford. "Mal and Brian are superb players and were great servants to the club.

"But I think we have replaced them well now. Roy Wegerle is liable to get a goal from almost anywhere and David Beaumont is proving a great replacement for Mal.

### Qualities

"In fact he's got better feet than Mal. He's a better passer of a football and his clearances are always decisive," said Harford.

And the happy boss believes Hatters have the right qualities to make another Wembley dream come true.

"We have got this cup and do not want to give it up.

### Says RAY HARFORD

"All the way through the cup run there has been a special determination to keep doing well — that's been shown by us winning through in most of the rounds away from home."

The vital Wembley ingredient for trophy-hungry Hatters could be experience.

"Last year we had the edge in that department over Arsenal and likewise Forest have a lot of very young players.

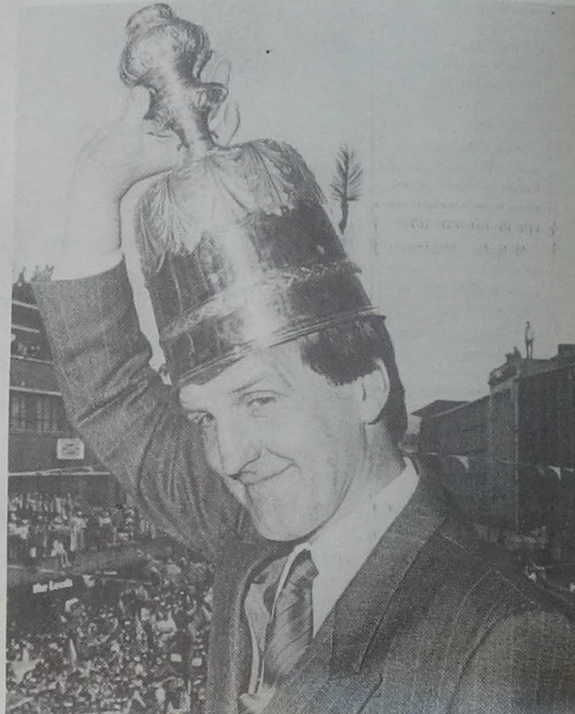
"Nine of the squad of 13 who played against West Ham played at Wembley — they know what to expect."

"But the Simod taught us a lot last year and we got a lot out of our system," said Harford.

He added that Forest's appearance in the Simod Cup final against Everton just before the Littlewoods showdown will serve Clough's men well. "It helped us and it will help them," said Harford.

The manager added that you need experienced, quality players at Wembley and that he has now got the players he needs.

"We played a lot of kids earlier in the year but older players handle the pressure better," he said.



• Cup of joy — delighted Ray Harford gets to grips with the Littlewoods Cup during last year's riotous town centre celebrations.

LUTON are already resigned to losing the Littlewoods Cup!

But don't worry, they're hoping it won't be permanent.

Hatters' general secretary Bill Tomlins explained: "One of the regulations of the competition is that we have to give the cup back to the Football League a week before the final."

HOLDERS Luton go back to Wembley to defend their glittering trophy — as underdogs!

Bookmaking giants William Hill made Forest even money favourites to win in normal time.

While Hatters were 12-5 against to capture the cup before extra-time.

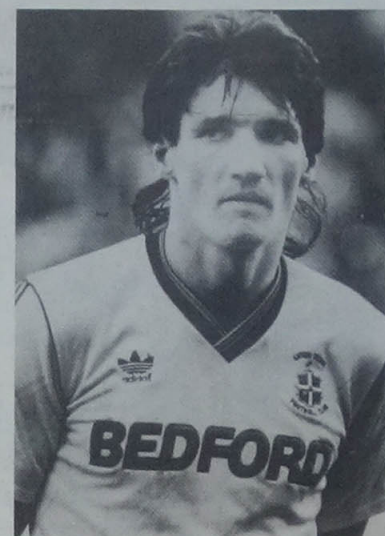
Forest are 7-4 on to win outright and Hatters are 11-8.

WEMBLEY means another cash bonanza for happy Hatters.

The club collected £375,000 from last year's final alone.

The prize money will be the same this year — £75,000 — but admission prices have increased slightly which means Hatters' share — 45 per cent of the takings — should be more than last year.

## Wembley again — but still Harford is ignored by his country ENGLAND SNUB!



• Out in the cold — Mick Harford's face says it all.

LONG-SERVING Hatter Ricky Hill believes he would have played more than three games for England if he had spent his career with a glamour club.

And now he says team-mate Mick Harford is suffering a similar fate.

By STEVE KINGHAM

"If Mick Harford played for a more glamorous team he'd have been an England regular for the past two or three seasons," insists Hill.

"But players from the Arsenal and Liverpool of this world will always have an advantage over our players," said Hill, who turned 30 four days after Luton clinched their Littlewoods Cup final spot.

Even though Luton have become the biggest of the small fish by making an astonishing four trips to Wembley in a year, hitman Harford is still barely on

the edge of the international scene.

But Hill insists the giant Georgie should be number one choice if England want to follow virtually the whole of the First Division and play a long ball game.

"Look at Arsenal. They play in a very direct style to a target man in Alan Smith and now he's got into the England side.

"But if England do want to play with a big man up front then Mick Harford should be in the team."

Hill also believes it's not too late for him to resurrect his international career.

He last turned out in England colours as a substitute against Egypt in 1986 but declares: "It was not too late for Peter Reid so why should it be any different for me?"

"But to be realistic teams that play in our style — like Forest, Norwich and West Ham — never get the international recognition they deserve."

## Mick: I want to stay on!

By HERALD REPORTER

MICK HARFORD not only hopes to help Hatters lift the Littlewoods Cup again — he wants to be on the pitch when the final whistle blows.

The 6ft 2ins hitman was forced to leave the Wembley pitch injured during last year's final against Arsenal with Hatters 2-1 down.

At the time Harford thought he would be blamed if Luton lost — but his problems were solved by their fairytale finale.

"This time I am going to last the 90 minutes — if selected of course," said Harford.

He hopes to add to his one Wembley goal, against Reading in the Simod cup final, and feels he can exploit a weakness at the heart of the Forest defence.

Classy international Des Walker stands just 5ft 11ins tall and his likely partner

Terry Wilson is just an inch taller.

"I hope to do well in the air and that's an area where we could make headway," said the battling centre forward.

Harford is confident his partnership with Roy Wegerle can only improve.

"It's great for Roy because he had a hard time at Chelsea. But he's a good player and has fitted in very well."

## INSIDE

YES folks, here it is — our salute to Littlewoods Cup finalists Luton.

Twenty four pages absolutely packed with stories and pictures about the men who have taken the Hatters to Wembley for the fourth time in a year.

Just take a look at this little lot:  
• Page 2 — Ray Harford admits his side isn't as good as last year.  
• Page 3 — Ricky Hill blasts the England selectors.

• Page 4 — Last year's final hero Andy Dibble says: "Come on you Hatters!"  
• Pages 6 and 7 — The two old mates set for a Wembley battle.

• Page 8 — Fingers crossed for last year's injury victims.

• Page 9 — Starlet Kingsley Black on his wonder year.

• Page 16 — Surprise, surprise for new boy David Beaumont.

• Page 17 — The long dead family who helped Roy Wegerle to Wembley.

• Pages 20 and 21 — Danny Wilson on life under Forest boss Brian Clough PLUS his countdown to zero hour.

PLUS...Hatters' road to Wembley. PLUS...Luton and Forest pen pictures. PLUS...We remember last year's final.

PLUS...Luton's stars in full colour. Yes, it's the biggest and best — as usual.

Written and edited by PAUL SHERWOOD and MICHAEL WEINSTEIN. Additional reporting by STEVE KINGHAM. Pictures by BRUCE RAIDL and JOSH LEVY.

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# Come on you Hatters

IT'S going to be tougher second time around.

That's the verdict of the man who was literally Luton's saviour last year as they won an incredible Littlewoods Cup final — Andy Dibble.

Likeable Dibs wrote himself into the history books with that astonishing penalty save from Nigel Winterburn.

And from 2-1 down Luton were suddenly given the heart to blast back for an amazing 3-2 win.

Andy won't be pulling off any more saves like that this year. For after deciding to give up the fight to permanently displace Les Sealey, the Welsh international is shotstopping for Second Division pacesetters Manchester City.

But he'll still be cheering on his old mates on April 9 — even though he thinks it will be harder for Hatters to keep hold of the trophy than it was to win it.

## Great

"Last year was just a real Roy of the Rovers cup final," Andy told the Herald.

"I would love to see Luton pull it off again. They're a great bunch of lads and I still keep in touch with most of them."

**Says ANDY DIBBLE**

**Interview by PAUL SHERWOOD**

"But I think it's going to be harder this year because they are going back as holders."

"And although I think they will be underdogs again, which can help, I think there will be a lot more pressure."

Andy added: "Last year we'd seen two of our chances of glory go in the FA Cup and Simod Cup. That just made us even more determined to do it right in the Littlewoods."

"Everyone seems to be saying Forest are the top team but I would never write Luton off though."

Although his heart says Luton will win and his head can't decide, Andy is convinced this year's final will be a lot tighter affair than last year's five goal thriller.

"I would like to think it will be a free flowing match but I don't think there will be many goals."

"Last year was a one-off — I'd expect it to be more like 1-0 or 2-1 this time round."

And looking back to last year, Andy just

wishes he could do it all again.

"The main thing I remember about last year is that it passed me by so quickly."

## Dream

"It still seems to me like it must be a dream. So for the players to go back again this year must be brilliant."

While Luton look forward to Wembley, Andy will be trying to slog his way out of Division Two with City.

"We've got a cracking young team up here and I'm really enjoying myself. It would mean so much to the people at Luton if we could go up."

That would of course mean Dibs would be back at Kenilworth Road again next season. And he would also be able to meet Mal Donaghy — now at Manchester United — on the pitch, after seeing him a few times around town since he followed Andy up north.

But Andy will be hoping for better luck at

Kenilworth Road than he had on his last visit down here.

That was with City in November — ironically in the Littlewoods Cup. And there was no fairytale for Dibs this time as his old team mates put three goals past him to march on towards Wembley.

"I wish it was me going to Wembley again," admitted Andy.

"But whatever happens I'll either be there cheering on the lads or watching it on the TV."

"And I really hope they win."



• Fan-tastic — Andy Dibble shows his true colours.

## Barker: My final anguish

**By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN**

COACH Richie Barker agonised over his decision to quit cup-hunting Hatters for crisis club Sheffield Wednesday.

Barker joined the struggling Northerners just days before Hatters booked their Wembley return.

The much travelled coach — who is convinced Luton will lift the cup for the second successive year — said: "Leaving the club caused me a lot of anguish."

"I had been happy at Luton and they were near the final but I thought my long-term future at Wednesday was better."

"I came as a trouble shooter for about six months to help Ray out of a

sticking patch.

"This job came out of the blue and though I would have been happy to stay at Luton till the end of the season, if I had, I might have missed the opportunity of coming here."

"As far as I was concerned, my job was done."

"I brightened Ray's life and made things easier so if ever there was a time to leave it was then."

"The club were great to me and I can hold my head up and say I did some-

thing."

Barker was part of the Wolves management team to capture the cup in 1979 — against Nottingham Forest.

And he's sure Hatters can repeat his success on April 9.

"I desperately want Luton to win. I think they will win it in the middle of the park with David Preece, Danny Wilson, Ricky Hill and Kingsley Black."

"Luton will have to watch out for Nigel Clough but they'll have learned a lot from the 2-3 defeat earlier this year."

"Forest have got a lot of young kids and if Luton play to their potential they'll win."

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Another Herald exclusive — Two old pals get set for a head

# IT'S THE BATTLE

FLYING full back Tim Breacker is all set for a head-on collision with old pal Garry Parker at Wembley, saying: "We'll be the best of enemies."

Right back Tim will be playing directly opposite left sided Forest midfielder Garry.

And when the Herald passed on Garry's good wishes to the former England Under 21 international he grinned: "It's going to be interesting."

"He's on my side of the field, and although he might be dropping a little bit deeper than normal, I'm sure we'll see something of each other."

The duo's careers have run almost exactly on the same lines since they both joined Luton from school.

Explained Tim: "We've always been good mates. We first met when we were apprentices at the club."

"Then when I won my two England Under 21 caps against Italy he was in the same side too."

"And even though he's no longer at the club we're still good mates and I'm really looking forward to seeing him again."

When Garry left Kenilworth Road after not

**Breacker: See you soon Gaz — with your losers medal!**

By PAUL SHERWOOD

being able to get a regular first team place there were no such thoughts in Tim's mind.

He was having no problems getting in the side. And last season the 23 year old Bicester-born star was the only ever present as he notched up 57 appearances.

But after a dream time last term this season rapidly turned into an injury nightmare for Tim.

And after playing in the opening match at Sheffield Wednesday he didn't get another run out until mid January.

Explained Tim: "At the end of last season I needed the break. Then when we started back I felt really good and refreshed."

"But then I started getting a few problems with a bad knee and groin."

"I missed out on a

lot of pre season games and although I was just about fit for the start of the season I wasn't match fit."

"Then after playing in the first game I was laid up in bed for the next match at home to Wimbledon."

"Rob Johnson came into the side, they started winning and I couldn't get in."

"Then I got my chance against Arsenal in October and picked up a hernia injury."

"I was expected to be out until Christmas but although I got fit before then there were no reserve matches for a month so I couldn't get a game."

Then Breacker's run of bad luck finally broke. He was selected for the Simod Cup match at Crystal Palace in January and has made the right back

spot his own again, while ironically Rob Johnson has got a hernia injury.

But Tim's not moaning at his incredible injury nightmare.

"It just showed me that you have to take the highs with the lows," he says.

And he can't wait to get back to Wembley.

"I think it will be better second time around — and hopefully we'll enjoy it even more than last year."



• Here's looking at you pal — but Tim Breacker, pictured above, is looking to kick old mate Garry Parker's hopes into touch.

## Strife for Brian as he hits the

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

OUTSPOKEN Forest Boss Brian Clough has had a season to remember!

The manager — in his 14th term at the City Ground — has hogged the back page headlines as he guns for a host of major honours.

But Clough, pictured left, has hit the front pages as well — for his problems after the final whistle.

He sparked a massive soccer row with his now infamous bust up with his own fans.

Controversial Clough — many peoples' favourite for the England manager's job — lashed out

at fans when they spilled on to the pitch to celebrate Forest's Littlewoods Cup quarter-final win over QPR.

Millions of television viewers watched in horror as Clough whacked at least five fans.

Clough escaped police prosecution for the incident but soccer bosses slapped a £5,000 fine on him and banned him from the touchline for all games except at Wembley.

Amazingly the manager has gained in popularity



to head clash when Luton meet Forest at Wembley . . .

# OF THE BUDDIES

GARRY PARKER loved his four years at Luton — now he's looking to repay Hatters by breaking their hearts.

For midfielder ace Parker will forget all the friendly faces from the past at around 3.30pm on Sunday, April, 9, and instead concentrate on ruining their day.

Because he'll be lining up for Nottingham Forest at Wembley.

By PAUL SHERWOOD

ilworth Road. But there was one thing stopping him — Ricky Hill.

Explains Garry: "I just wasn't getting a regular game."

"Ricky Hill was there and I only seemed to play if he was injured."

"I went to Kenilworth Road straight from school and really enjoyed the four years I was there."

Garry, 23, would have been quite happy to turn the 42 appearances he made for the Hatters into a long and glittering career at Ken-

Garry packed his bags and headed north to Hull for £70,000.

And it was there, under former Luton star Brian Horton, that young Garry's career blossomed.

Dazzling

He forced his way into the England Under 21 side with a series of dazzling performances on the right side of midfield.

And just before the transfer deadline last year Brian Clough forked out £250,000 to take him to the City Ground.

It seemed like a dream move — but things didn't work out that way at first.

Garry managed two appearances last season, but this term he found the form of England international Neil Webb and the return of Steve Hodge kept him out in the cold.

Soccer pundits pre-

**Parker: Sorry mate, but I'm going to be a heartbreaker**

dicted he wouldn't be at Forest for long.

But then Cloughie pulled another of his cheeky masterstrokes, and turned the right footed Garry into a left sided player.

It paid dividends straightaway as Garry slotted into the side — and even scored seven goals in his first 14 games.

And never more so than when he popped up six minutes from the end of extra time in the second leg of their semi final against Bristol City to score the goal which gave Forest a 2-1 aggregate win.

Garry's first to admit it was a battle and a half to get past the Division Three side though.

"I'd had a couple of good chances before the goal but there was no power in the shots."

"But when the goal went in I didn't feel

like going mad or anything like that. I was just pleased it went in!"

Now that the slog of the semis is over, Garry, like everyone else, is hoping the final lives up to all expectations.

Dreaming

"I'm really looking forward to it. Luton are a good footballing side and we believe in playing that way too."

But just as he lines up for the big kick off, Garry will probably give himself a little pinch to check he isn't dreaming.

"There I was feeling very frustrated just before Christmas, then I got in the side — and now this."

"Every game has been like a cup tie to me because competition up here is so fierce that you can't afford to make any mistakes."

"But all this is just unbelievable."



• Here's looking at you pal — but Garry Parker's out to break his old team-mates' hearts.

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# Fearless Fozzie is a bloody marvel!

The road to Wembley



**CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS** Steve Foster needed 11 stitches in a head wound as Luton had a bloody battle against the Division Four pacesetters.

Foster left the Kenilworth Road pitch with his shirt and famous head band soaked in

## LUTON 1 BURNLEY 1 Second round, first leg

blood after a clash of heads with Andy Farrell early on in this tough game.

Fearless Fozzie needed stitches at half time — and another 11 at the end after the wound opened up again.

But even his bravery couldn't stop Luton from making a decidedly shaky

start to their defence of the cup.

With the competition seeded for top teams to play sides from lower divisions in this round, Hatters' should have had an easy passage through to the last 32.

But it was anything but that as the visitors battled away like madmen to prevent the expected rout.

And Hatters' full back Rob Johnson was both hero and villain as the Lancashire side battled to an unlikely draw.

Johnson slammed in his first goal for the club to give Luton the lead.

But minutes later he tripped Paul Comstive in the box and Burnley went back to Turf Moor looking to complete an amazing giantkilling act in the second leg.

**Fighter to the finish!**

• Bloodied — but unbowed. Steve Foster leaves the Kenilworth Road pitch with blood pouring from a head wound.



• Winner — Hill.



## Ricky stitches it up

STEVE FOSTER stitched up the head-lines again and Ricky Hill fluked in his first goal of the season to send Hatters through to round three.

But it was a game Luton could so easily have lost as fired up Burnley, heartened by a 1-1 draw in the first leg, went for the throat.

Hatters' were prepared to give blood to get through though — literally in Foster's case.

He needed another six stitches after gashing his left thigh to add to the 11 he picked up in the first leg.

But with Rob Johnson already off injured Foster bravely carried on to hold Hatters' de-

## BURNLEY 0 LUTON 1 Second round, second leg

fence together.

Burnley huffed and puffed as they tried to keep up their 100 per cent home record in front of the Turf Moor faithful.

But Hatters' held firm and nicked the goal they needed on 53 minutes.

A beautiful move involving Steve Williams,

Hill and Wilson ended in Luton winning a corner.

And in the ensuing scramble Hill knocked the ball in off a defender to take Luton through.

Luton knew they couldn't have had a tougher battle at such an early stage of the competition.



• Winner — Hill.

# DEBUT KID AND BOSS SENT OFF

The road to Wembley



• Off — James.

**TEENAGE** defender Julian James and boss Ray Harford were both sent off as this tie finished with a bang.

Injury hit Hatters had been done proud by the 18 year old local lad — until five minutes from the end.

Then with Luton cruising to victory Leeds' striker Ian Baird broke through in a bid to snatch a consolation goal.

But James — who had played just six minutes as a sub before this game — stopped him with a professional foul.

## LEEDS 0 LUTON 2 Third round

And with the Elland Road crowd screaming for justice, ref Neil Midgley sent the youngster off.

Harford went to console the tearful teenager and was then sent packing himself after running on the pitch to confront Midgley.

And James fanned the flames of controversy a week later when he exclusively told the Herald: "I'd do the same again."

If that was the big story of this tie the

nicer side was that Hatters won it at a canter.

Mick Harford, Rob Johnson and Tim Brecker were all ruled out by injury.

And with Ricky Hill and John Dreyer only half fit, the Yorkshire side fancied their chances.

But Luton stayed solid at the back and with Leeds fairly unimaginative in attack, Hatters weathered the storm.

But if Luton fans were expecting to see their side hang on for a replay they were wrong.

For crafty Hatters hit Leeds with a classic breakaway goal after 29 minutes when Danny Wilson sent a 25 yarder past Mervyn Day.

The second half was more of the same with Luton calmly taking all Leeds could throw at them.

And striker David Oldfield wrapped the match up just after the hour as he slotted home at the second attempt after being put through by Roy Wegerle.

**David's delight**

• David Oldfield killed off the resistance of Second Division Leeds with Luton's second goal.



## Roy's a goalden boy as Dibble dives out!

WIZARD Roy Wegerle hit a brilliant brace to wreck cup hero Andy Dibble's return to Kenilworth Road.

Dibble's never-to-be-forgotten penalty save turned last year's Littlewoods final on its head. But the Welsh international quit Kenilworth Road for Maine Road in the summer.

And there were to be no such heroics against his former team mates as Hatters marched into the quarter finals.

David White gave the visitors an early lead but then the £75,000 signing — who had scored a double days earlier against Norwich — got to

work.

In the 17th minute he completed a powerful run with an equally vicious shot.

And although Dibs got a hand to the ball David Oldfield was following in and knocked it home.

Five minutes later Wegerle broke through again and shot under the unfortunate Dibble.

And five minutes from time Roy the goalden boy wrapped it up as he hooked the ball home.

## LUTON 3 MAN CITY 1 Fourth round

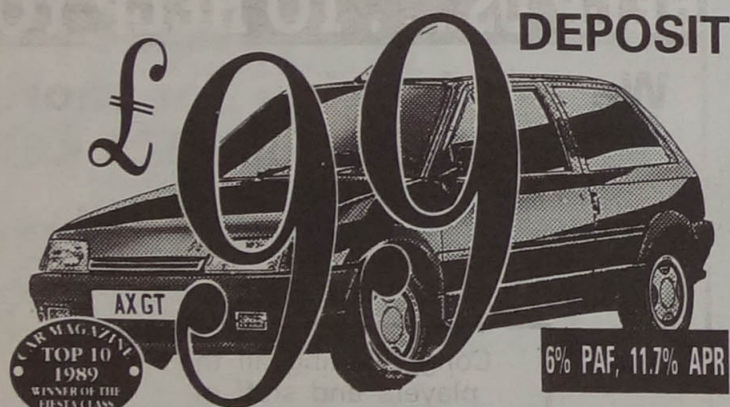


Defeated — Dibble.

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# WE'RE GOING TO WEMBLEY!

## Harford's hit squad are back

THEY'RE back at Wembley — again! Yes, cup kings Luton Town have done it again by reaching the Littlewoods Cup final.

It will be the fourth time in just over a year that Ray Harford's hit squad have fired their way to the home of football. And once again your super Herald has brought you all the big news, reports and pictures.

But here we give space to the men who've made it all happen — the Hatters' first team squad.

So here's how Luton Town line up from left to right.

Back row: David Preece, Mark Stein (now QPR), Gary Cobb, Ian Allinson (now Colchester), Richard Harvey, Kingsley Black, Rob Johnson.

Centre row: Dave Galley (physio), John Faulkner (youth team coach), Roy Wegerle, John Dreyer, David Oldfield (now Man City), Les Sealey, Mick Harford, Alec Chamberlain, Marvin Johnson, Ashley Grimes, Darron McDonough, Jim Ryan (reserve team coach).

Front row: Steve Williams, Danny Wilson, Steve Foster, Ray Harford (manager), Mal Donaghy (now Man Utd), Ricky Hill, Tim Breacker.



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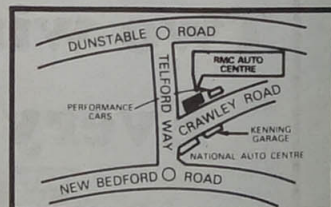
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# Luton feel sick as Cockerill crows!

The road to Wembley



A CRACKER from Glenn Cockerill kept the Saints marching on after Hatters had threatened to sneak home.

With Luton just minutes away from a semi-final spot the Southampton midfielder sent a spectacular long range effort past a bewildered Les Sealey.

And that, plus Ricky Hill's opener, were about the only things of note in this drab game played on a slippery surface.

#### Suspended

Hatters had a reshuffle with Mick Harford suspended, Tim Breacker, Ashley Grimes and new signing Iain Dowie coming in, and Rob Johnson, Richard Harvey and David Oldfield going out.

But Luton couldn't find the form which saw them slaughter the Saints 6-1 in a league match at Kenilworth Road less than three weeks previously.

#### Stalemate

Efforts from Roy Wegerle and Danny Wilson went wide and the stalemate didn't look like being broken.

#### LUTON 1 SOUTHAMPTON 1 Fifth round

Then on 71 minutes David Preece won a free kick, from which he provided the perfect cross for a flying Ricky Hill to head home.

That only sparked Cockerill's cracker though.

And Luton would have been out if Paul

Rideout hadn't missed a simple chance seconds from the end.

But the former Aston Villa and Italian League striker fluffed a simple tap-in to leave things all square and give Luton a replay at The Dell.



#### Dowie's despair

• New boy Iain Dowie was given his big chance in the first match against Southampton as Mick Harford was suspended. But even he couldn't lift lethargic Luton and Saints secured a draw.

## Vets' V for victory

VETERANS Mick Harford and Ricky Hill finally killed off Southampton in an extra time thriller at The Dell.

Hitman Harford missed the previous week's drab draw at Kenilworth Road through suspension.

But he roared back for this replay and made the south coast club pay with the all important first goal.

Unlike the first game, this one was a cracker. And it was amazing that the two attack-minded sides should go 90 minutes without a goal between them.

Luton were often in dire straits at the back as Southampton poured forward to leave Les Sealey

#### SOUTHAMPTON 1 LUTON 2 aet Fifth round replay

alternately pulling off tremendous saves and screaming at his defence.

But Luton had their moments too as both Roy Wegerle and Kingsley Black found themselves in the clear but were unable to find the back of the net.

Hatters had a huge slice of luck though when Saints had what looked like a perfectly good goal ruled out after 61 minutes.

England winger Danny Wallace centred to kid brother Rod who snapped up the chance from close in.

But to the amazement of the near 20,000 crowd ref Tony Ward let Hatters off the hook by deciding Danny had fouled Tim Breacker before putting in the crucial cross.

Harford finally broke the deadlock after 100 minutes. Wegerle flicked on Hill's cross and the big number nine flashed a header home.

Then 11 minutes from time Hill struck the killer blow as he broke free and lashed an unstoppable shot past Burridge from 20 yards.

Rod Wallace ensured a hectic final two minutes when he pulled one back.

But the evening ended in misery for Saints and the Wallaces when third brother Ray was sent off for an injury time foul on Black.



• Miss — Black.

# HAPPY HATTERS IN DREAMLAND!

The road to Wembley



HAMMERS' keeper had a McKnightmare of the worst possible kind as Luton nailed the EastEnders in front of the TV cameras.

Goalie Allen McKnight's blundershow grabbed the headlines as he gifted goals to Mick Harford and Roy Wegerle.

And a Danny Wilson penalty ensured Hatters only had to remember to turn out for the second leg to book a Wembley return.

But although McKnight stole the show for the worst possible reasons, Luton undoubtedly put in their best performance of the season in front of an armchair audience of millions.

#### Inspired

Debut boy David Beaumont had an inspired game in the heart of defence.

The rest of the back four stayed alert to snuff out any feeble threat West Ham could muster.

While the four man midfield of Wilson, Preece, Hill and Black controlled the middle.

And the front men fired the bullets that

#### WEST HAM 0 LUTON 3 Semi final, first leg

lost Hatters into the final.

Luton took the lead just before half time as Mick Harford celebrated his 30th birthday in style by beating McKnight to Wilson's cross and sending a flying header into the net.

Wegerle then made Hatters' dreams of a vital first leg win a reality after 56 minutes — with a little more help from McKnight.

The tricky forward lost the cumbersome Hammers' defenders, and beat McKnight with a thumping low shot that sped home between the keeper and his near post.

And with the West Ham fans chanting "what a load of rubbish" Dicks brought down Wegerle, Wilson obliged from the spot and Luton were as good as back at Wembley.

#### Mighty Mick!

• One nil. Hitman Harford beats blunderboy Allen McKnight to the ball and thunders in Luton's first goal.



## Luton cruise back to Wembley

GOALIE Allen McKnightmare was axed before the second leg but Hatters still sailed through unscathed.

Veteran keeper Phil Parkes took over between the sticks but he still conceded two goals as Luton made the aggregate score 5-0.

Mick Harford and Roy Wegerle netted either side of the interval to earn Hatters a sunshine reward of a holiday in Spain.

West Ham had nothing to lose and the tension

#### LUTON 2 WEST HAM 0 Semi final, second leg

was obvious around a silent Kenilworth Road until Harford pounced on the stroke of half-time.

Midfield workaholic David Preece set up the goal as he first had two screaming shots turned away for corners and then centred for Harford to

steer home.

Hatters made sure of their Wembley place 11 minutes after the re-start when Parkes and Alvin Martin missed Ashley Grimes' cross and Wegerle ghosted in by the post to score.

Thousands of fans poured onto the pitch at the final whistle to cheer their Wembley heroes.

And the players responded by giving the Kenilworth Road faithful a champagne salute from the directors box.

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1987 (D) CAPRI 2.8i Special Turbo. Finished in diamond white, half leather, etc. 23,000 miles from new. FSH, benefiting from a full house turbo charger installation by Turbo Technics, immaculate. Giant killer. £7,395

1984 (A) ESCORT 1.6L Estate 5-speed. Rosso red with contrasting grey interior, an excellent family estate car. £2,895

1986 (C) ESCORT Cabriolet SE (1600i). Fully colour keyed in white including wheels and wheels, electric windows, central locking, expensive stereo and alarm. Immaculate, low mileage. £7,795

1985 (B) ORION 1600L. Finished in red, in very good overall condition and sensible mileage. £3,595

1985 (B) CAVALIER CDI Auto (1800i). This popular family hatchback finished in burgundy metallic, a very high spec car with low mileage. Good condition. £4,595

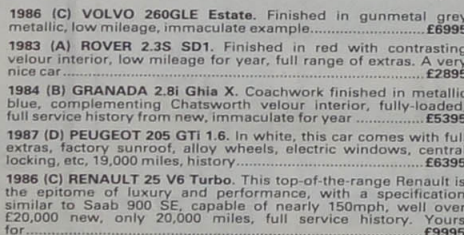
1985 (B) SIERRA 1.8 Ghia Estate. Finished in diamond white, all usual Ghia refinements including alloy wheels, electric windows, central locking, etc. Immaculate, FSH but with above average mileage, bargain at. £4,495

1987 (D) AUDI 100 CD Avant Estate. All CD extras, finished in white, 40,000 miles from new. Immaculate. £7,995

1988 (E) AUDI Montego 2.0L Estate. Brilliant white coachwork with grey cloth interior, built-in roof rack and very low mileage. £6,995

1977 (S) MGB GT. In diamond white, Rostyle wheels, radio etc. A superb investment at. £2,795

1984 (A) TALBOT Alpine LS Series 2. This car is in terrific condition and is finished in burgundy metallic, sunroof and power steering, 50,000 miles from new. Bargain at. £1,595



1986 (C) RENAULT 25 V6 Turbo. This top-of-the-range Renault is the epitome of luxury and performance, with a specification similar to Saab 900 SE, capable of nearly 150mph, well over £20,000 new, only 20,000 miles, full service history. Yours for. £9,995



1986 (C) FORD Sierra 2.8i 4x4. This sports saloon has had two private owners from new, has a full service history to validate including anti-lock brakes. Finished in gleaming black. Yours for. £7,995

1984 (B) CARLTON 1.8GL. This car is finished in deep brown with contrasting velour interior, below average mileage, sunroof, stereo, etc. Immaculate. £3,595

1986 (D) VOLVO 760GLE Turbo Estate. Silver with black leather, every conceivable extra, inc air cond, pas, sunroof, alloys, stereo etc, low mileage and immaculate. £11,995

1977 (S) MGB GT. Blaze orange with grey striped interior, manual/overdrive, Rostyle wheels, radio, etc. A beautiful appreciating classic. £3,195

1985 (B) HONDA Prelude EX 4WLB 2-door Coupe. Finished in metallic blue, this sought after car comes with every conceivable extra including anti-lock brakes, alloys etc. Very good condition, full service history. £5,595

1988 (F) VAUXHALL Astra Merit 1.3. Red with beige check cloth interior, stereo cassette and only 7,000, yes 7,000 miles from new, a terrific saving at. £7,795

1984 (B) NISSAN Silvia Turbo Coupe. Finished in metallic blue, lovely velour interior, power assisted steering, various options. A very clean example at. £5,795

1984 (A) ESCORT XR3i. Immaculate, black, all the extras. £3,795

1986 (D) SAAB 9000 Turbo. Coachwork in wine red metallic, luxury velour interior. All usual extras, immaculate. Heuschmid Super Chip Conversion, very fast! £10,995

1985 (B) VAUXHALL Astra 1.3L 5-door. A two owner car in china blue with grey check cloth interior, a superb vehicle for. £3,495

1986 (C) VOLVO 740GLE Saloon. Metallic silver with complementing burgundy velour interior, 34,000 miles from new. Luxury motoring for. £6,995

1983 (V) JAGUAR XJS V12. In black, this car is in absolutely superb condition, and comes with full service history to substantiate its 57,000 miles. A must at. £10,995

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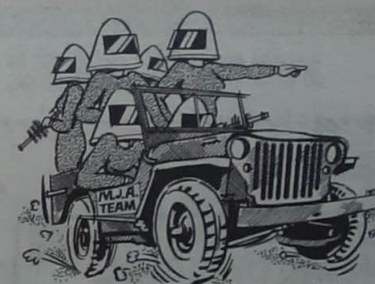
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# Surprise, surprise!

NEW BOY David Beaumont didn't give Wembley a second thought when he signed on the dotted line for Hatters.

The ice-cool defender joined Ray Harford's glory boys from Dundee United just after Christmas.

The £150,000 signing just wanted regular

**Says DAVID BEAUMONT**

Interview by  
**MICHAEL WEINSTEIN**

first-team action with a bug has bitten, Beaumont is dreaming of the big day in April.

"It's unbelievable — a dream come true for me — going to Wembley so soon after joining the club," says David. "Every player's ambition is to play at Wembley — though mine was to do it with Scotland against England."

"Playing there will be better than turning out at Hampden Park because Wembley is more talked about."

"You hear so much about Wembley — it's held in such high esteem."

"It's such a nice stadium and the surface is so good whereas Hampden Park is not such a good stadium."

"I knew Luton were in the cup when I joined but I did not know at

what stage they were at.

"We played Southampton in the quarter-final replay a couple of days after I signed and it was only then that I realised how close they were."

Beaumont came into the team for the semi-final first leg and has not looked back since. The 25-year-old has formed a formidable partnership with skipper Steve Foster but the good news for the Luton faithful is that he's not reached his best form yet.

"I'm still settling in and hopefully the fans have not seen the best of me."

The defender — like Les Sealey — will wear contact lenses during the game but he reverts to more conventional glasses when the 90 minutes are up.

And if Luton win, he's sure not to let the cup out of his sight!



• Look here — David Beaumont jumps to it with former Hatter Mitchell Thomas during Brian Stein's recent testimonial game.

## Fozzie: I didn't expect to go back

INSPIRATIONAL skipper Steve Foster has admitted he didn't think Luton would be going back to Wembley this year.

It was the proudest moment of Fozzie's career when he held the Littlewoods Cup aloft last season after double Wembley misery with Brighton.

He was suspended when the south coast side met Manchester United in the FA Cup Final in 1983.

Then against the odds The Seagulls secured a replay, Fozzie came in and United promptly won 4-0.

But when Fozzie made it third time lucky with Luton last year he thought that was his lot.

"We didn't think at the beginning of the season that we would get back again," admitted the 31-year-old.

"But as the draw went on it looked more likely."

"It's not every team that gets there two years running. It's absolutely brilliant."

Fozzie is looking forward to what promises to be a feast of football when Luton take on Forest on April 9.

"It should be a good match and I think we've got a 50-50 chance of winning," he said.

"Mind you the bookies won't say that!"

Super striker's message to the family that made his dream come true ...

# THANKS A MILLION!



• On the ball — Roy Wegerle.

HOT-SHOT Roy Wegerle wants to thank descendants of the German family that made his million to one chance of a Wembley cup place come true.

The South African born striker arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer via Tampa Bay Rowdies and Chelsea.

But his English soccer career almost died before it had kicked off when the Foreign Office refused him a work permit.

Until the bargain £75,000 signing discovered a German ancestor way down the family tree — took out citizenship — and is now even eligible to play under Franz Beckenbauer for the national side.

**Says ROY WEGERLE**

And now Wegerle wants to trace descendants of that relative and thank them for his passport to glory.

"The link was four or five generations down the line — so finding it was a miracle — otherwise I would have had to stay in the States."

"It's extremely unlikely that I'll find any descendants of that ancestor."

"I'm not even sure how to do it — but I'll try."

Wegerle dreamed of playing at Wembley as he grew up in South Africa.

He moved to America on a soccer scholarship at the tender age of 17 and played with Tampa Bay for four years before going to Chelsea on trial.

Politics

"Because of all the political problems in South Africa, playing in England and at Wembley were just distant dreams — they seemed a million miles away."

"Getting to Wembley is every British player's dream but for a foreigner like me it's very special."

"It's a dream come true for me — most of the players have been down this road — but for me it's a first."

## Factfile

FULL NAME: ..... Roy Connan Wegerle.  
BORN: ..... March 19, 1964.  
BIRTHPLACE: ..... Pretoria, South Africa.  
HEIGHT: ..... 5ft 11ins.  
WEIGHT: ..... 12st.  
PREVIOUS CLUBS: ..... Tampa Bay Rowdies and Chelsea.  
FAMILY: ..... Wife Marie.  
LIKES: ... My family are in South Africa and America so I like to see them whenever I can.  
DISLIKES: ..... Smoking and bad mannered people.  
FAVOURITE FOOD: ..... Pasta.  
FAVOURITE DRINK: ..... Milk.  
FAVOURITE FILM: ..... Comedies.  
HOBBIES: ..... Any sport.  
CAR: ..... Mazda 323.  
PERSON MOST WANT TO MEET: ..... Whoever's handing out the winners' medals at Wembley!  
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: ... To win at Wembley and compete in the World Cup.  
PERSONAL AMBITION: ..... To stay healthy and happy.

"Before the season started I just wanted to get into the first team, get a few games under my belt and score a few goals — so to get to Wembley is unbelievable."

Exposure

For not only can he play for the West Germans — but his American wife Marie makes him eligible to turn out for the hosts

of the 1994 World Cup.

"Obviously I'll get exposure when we play at Wembley."

"I want to push my career and Wembley is the perfect showcase to do it."

"If I have a good game hopefully I will be spotted by the Germans or America."

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## PAUL SHERWOOD LOOKS AT THE 22 PLAYERS LIKELY TO

## Luton's likely lads!

## 1 Les Sealey

An up and down season, which has seen the 31-year-old keeper hand in two transfer requests, and then rip them up. Has made a few mistakes, but with over 200 League games under his belt he's still a top notch goalie who's guaranteed to give 110 per cent effort.



## 2 Tim Breacker

Experienced the highs of Wembley and being an ever present last season. But 23-year-old Tim has come back down to earth with a bump as a loss of form and a hernia operation have kept him out of the first team. Former England Under 21 player.



## 3 Ashley Grimes

The arrival of John Dreyer has limited his chances this term, but when he has come in the 31-year-old Eire star has shown he still has one of the best left feet in the business. Came off the bench to set up Brian Stein's amazing winner in last year's final.



## 4 David Preece

Luton shook off their disappointing start to the season when Preece finally got back into the side. In his very first match the 25-year-old inspired Hatters to a 4-1 League win over West Ham. Since then Preece has made the number four shirt his own.



## 5 Steve Foster

Inspirational skipper who's notched up over 150 League appearances for the Hatters since David Pleat bought him for just £70,000. Fozzie, 31, has literally given blood to get to Wembley — needing more than 15 stitches after two clashes in the second round against Burnley.



## 6 David Beaumont

What a fairytale it would be if David plays at Wembley just a few weeks after signing for Luton from Dundee Utd. The 25-year-old's already shown he won't be affected by nerves though after making a brilliant debut in the semi-final first leg against West Ham.



## 7 Danny Wilson

An absolute steal from Brighton at just £150,000. Midfielder Danny works tirelessly for some of his more illustrious colleagues. The 29-year-old — born on New Year's Day — is no dunce in front of goal either, and he can even take penalties too!



## 8 Roy Wegerle

A South African who's lived in America and has a West German ancestor to thank for the work permit which has meant he can go to Wembley. Eyebrows were raised when the 25-year-old was snapped up from Chelsea. But he soon proved his worth.



## 9 Mick Harford

Hasn't repeated the scoring exploits of last year when he hit 18 goals, but mighty Mick is still more than a handful for any defence. And even though he recently turned 30 he'll still be the man Forest will be scared of most when Hatters are on the attack.



## 10 Ricky Hill

The midfield maestro is still turning it on in his 13th year at Kenilworth Road. Has overcome hideous injuries and at the age of 30 is hoping to repeat last year's Wembley triumph when he recovered from a broken leg just in time to help beat Arsenal.



## 11 Kingsley Black

Northern Ireland regular — even though he's still only 20. Kingsley dramatically leapt into the limelight when boss Ray Harford pitched him into last year's final, where he had a hand in Danny Wilson's equaliser. Gets more than his fair share of goals.



## But don't forget...

Also in the frame at the time of writing were Darron McDonough, Rob Johnson, John Dreyer, Marvin Johnson and Steve Williams. Darron is the one man everyone wants to see playing this year after a heartbreak injury forced him out of last year's final just two days before the big match. Rob Johnson and John Dreyer could push hard for either full back slot, while Marvin Johnson is looking at a berth in central defence. Steve Williams will be hoping for a dramatic Wembley recall after missing out last year, but the 11 likely lads above should take the field.

## BE STEPPING OUT AT WEMBLEY — PLUS THE HOPEFULS

## Forest's final fellas!

## 1 Steve Sutton



One of the best uncapped keepers in the country, Sutton has been one of the major reasons why Cloughie's kids have taken football by storm this season. At 27 was the oldest player in the side last season — but still won player of the year award.

## 2 Brian Laws



Originally a midfielder who has made the right back spot his own since a summer move from Middlesbrough and has a vicious shot too. The only reason Laws could look out of place in this side is his age — at 28 he's one of the old men of Cloughie's baby-faced killers.

## 3 Stuart Pearce



England regular whose even aroused his manager's wrath for some unbelievable tackles which have been later than a number seven bus. The 26 year old is club skipper though, leads by example, and has a fearsome shot which has seen him score some vital goals.

## 4 Des Walker



Has won an England place this year but is having difficulty getting into the Forest side after injury! Classy 23 year old centre back who exerts a cool influence in defence and is equally comfortable on the ball when going forward. Only 5ft 11ins and may be suspect in the air.

## 5 Terry Wilson

Midfielder who has brilliantly converted to centre back after injuries robbed Clough of both Walker and Colin Foster. Only turned 20 in February but Wilson has already appeared for the Scottish Under 21 side and will also be a danger with his skilful forward runs.



## 6 Steve Hodge

Left Nottingham for big money transfers to Villa and Spurs but never really settled. £675,000 took him back to the City Ground at the beginning of this season and now the 27 year old is back to the hard running form which once made him an England regular.



## 7 Franz Carr

Wing wizard whose blistering turn of pace has seen him most of the country's full backs. The only thing missing from the England Under 21 player's game is a controlled final ball. But Luton will have their hands full if Carr, 22, starts motoring at Wembley.



## 8 Neil Webb

England regular who is rated in the £2 million bracket. Webb, 25, was snapped up from Portsmouth for just £250,000 three years ago. Manager Clough successfully converted Webb from a more attacking role to midfield anchor man, but he still managed 16 goals last season.



## 9 Nigel Clough



It's a mystery why Clough, 23, son of old Bigmouth himself, isn't playing for England. Likes to come from deep and knows where the goal is, finishing top scorer at Forest last season with 22 goals. Is devastating at free kicks and recently beat Les Sealey with a peach.

## 10 Lee Chapman



Free scoring striker who hit 22 goals for Sheffield Wednesday last season before a disastrous spell in France. Forest gave him a lifeline, and the 29 year old husband of actress Lesley Ash has repaid them in full, including four goals against QPR in the quarter finals.

## 11 Garry Parker



Cloughie may be a genius but it was sheer luck that kept the former Hatters starlet at the City Ground. Parker, 23, was all set to leave until he got a chance around Christmas, and he's virtually scored a goal a game since including the semi final winner.

## But don't forget...

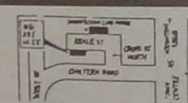
Also in the frame at the time of writing were Steve Chettle, Colin Foster, Brian Rice and Tommy Gaynor. Twenty-year-old utility defender and England Under 21 star Chettle has only just recovered from injury and was on the subs bench for the semi final against Bristol City. Foster is in exactly the same boat after seeing Terry Wilson nab his centre back berth while he was out injured. Rice hasn't had a happy time in midfield since signing from Hibernian three-years-ago. Gaynor, meanwhile, has proved an able deputy for Nigel Clough when required.

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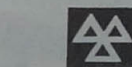
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Another great Herald exclusive — Danny Wilson tells us

# No life with Brian for wizard Wilson



• Dashing Danny boy — but things didn't work out for the midfielder terrier at Forest.

DASHING midfielder Danny Wilson can't wait to pit his Wembley wits against the man who made him the player he is today.

Wilson was plucked from little Chesterfield by Forest boss Brian Clough in 1983.

But the Northern Ireland international failed to make his mark at the City Ground.

"I was playing as a winger and it just never worked out.

"I could not play the way Clough wanted me to so we parted company.

"I was not bitter — Clough improved my game 100 per cent — but I was not in the first team."

Wilson played just nine times for the first team and made only one substitute appearance before joining Brighton in 1985.

"I was sorry to leave Forest — it was a brilliant club — everything was so professional.

"It was a blow to leave such a big club, but I was not going anywhere with them and I was not fitting in, so Clough did well to let

me go to Brighton.

"I never really saw much of Clough — we did not speak much — so I have no idea if he liked me and I suppose I never will.

"I thought he was OK. He is a very straight forward man. He never went behind your back, if you needed telling something, it would always come straight from him.

Wilson — who has passed the 450 games mark — joined forces with Luton skipper Steve Foster and ex-Hatter Tony Grealish when he went to Brighton.

There was no glory with the south coast side as they slipped towards Division Three.

But by then Wilson had become Ray Harford's first signing for Hatters.

• NOW see elsewhere in our super supplement for an interview with the man who quit Luton.

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

## Factfile

FULL NAME: ..... Daniel Joseph Wilson.  
BORN: ..... January 1, 1960.  
BIRTHPLACE: ..... Billinge, Wigan.  
HEIGHT: ..... 5ft 6ins.  
WEIGHT: ..... 11st.  
PREVIOUS CLUBS: ..... Sunderland, Wigan, Bury, Man City (on loan), Chesterfield, Forest, Scunthorpe (on loan), Brighton.  
INTERNATIONAL CAPS: .. 12 for Northern Ireland.  
FAMILY: .. Wife Karen, daughters Laurie, four, and Carrie, eight months.  
LIKES: ..... Days out with the family.  
DISLIKES: ..... Ignorant people.  
FAVOURITE FOOD: ..... Italian, pasta.  
FAVOURITE DRINK: ..... Lager.  
HOBBIES: ..... Snooker, squash, taking the kids out.  
FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME: ..... Cheers.  
FAVOURITE FILM: ..... Any starring Steve Martin.  
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: ..... To play in the World Cup finals.  
PERSONAL AMBITION: ..... To support my family.

about his years at Forest and those final preparations

# MY COUNTDOWN TO ZERO HOUR...



WE stayed at a hotel in Luton last year so there's no reason why we shouldn't do the same again. I sleep really well and tend to follow the same routine for every game so I'll wake up at about 7.30am.

After a good wash I'll go downstairs for my breakfast — I always have cornflakes, toast and tea — and then read the papers. That usually takes me

an hour as I go through at least five or six to see who's doing what.

Interview by  
MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

When I've finished with the papers I'll go back up stairs and watch a bit of television, to catch up on the news, before going for a walk round to see if any of the lads are up. If there's no-one about I'll just go for a walk outside to get a bit of fresh air.

We always start to get ready for our usual pre-match meal at about 11am but we'll sit down to eat now.

I'll have spaghetti on toast and a cup of tea. It's very digestible — it goes through your system really quickly — and it's full of protein, but everyone has their own favourite meal.

We'll sit down for a quick meeting to discuss

general details about Forest. We'll have sorted out any special details on the training ground during the week.

Then it's back upstairs for a bath and a shave. I'm not very superstitious but I always do this at the same time every week.

Fozzie comes down at 12.30pm to borrow my wet shaving gear — because he is very superstitious.

We'll leave the hotel now and the traffic should be fairly quiet on the motorway — apart from our fans — who will be hanging out of their windows and sun roofs shouting and bibbing their horns at us.

That really gets your adrenaline going. The butterflies will start in

my stomach now and I'll be thinking about the game.

We'll come of the motorway at the Edgware turn and the police will give us an escort to Wembley. It always seems like a long journey but it goes really quickly.

We'll pull up at Wembley about now and it's straight onto the pitch after I've picked up a couple of programmes and had a quick look at the changing rooms.

It's a chance to soak up the atmosphere and do a couple of interviews for radio and television.

It's back into the dressing room now to start getting ready. The kit will already be there so it's just a question of finding your peg.

After I've put on my jock-strap I'll tape both my ankles as a precaution. I always do that myself as it's another superstition.

The nerves will start to go now as everyone has a laugh and a joke. I'll put on my socks and a teshirt before doing the last of my warm up exercises. I don't have a set routine — I just do whatever's needed.

The teshirt comes off and I'll have a quick swill around in cold water before putting on my shorts, shirt and shin pads.

We'll join Forest in the tunnel and when the television people give us the nod we'll go onto the pitch.

My nerves will have disappeared completely now and I'll just be excited.

If it's anything like last year there'll be an almighty roar as we go out — which gives you goose pimples — and I'll try and pick out my family in the crowd.

Waiting to meet the dignitaries is an enjoyable moment and the adrenaline starts to flow again. I just hope whoever it is doesn't ask me anything, 'cause I'll be too excited to speak!

After the National Anthem the referee will blow his whistle and we'll have a final warm-up.

Here we go!

• Here we go — Danny, in between Steve Foster and Andy Dibble, walks out for last year's final.



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# THE DAY WE'LL



• We've won — proud Hatters' skipper Steve Foster holds the Littlewoods Cup aloft.

THE HEROES may have left but the memory of Hatters' greatest day still lingers vividly in the minds of every Luton fan.

Goal hero Brian Stein and super keeper Andy Dibble have moved on to soccer pastures new.

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

The legend of Mal Donaghy and pace of Mark Stein have also been replaced.

But who could forget the hugely differing emotions as first Luton, then Arsenal and finally Hatters again traded punches in one of the greatest games ever seen at Wembley.

The sickening feeling of déjà vu — as Arsenal took the lead and Luton looked set for another Wembley disaster — will haunt every fan forever.

But the sheer delight experienced when Brian Stein struck home the winner is firmly engraved in the memory of each and every Luton fan.

And no one will ever forget the wild celebration in Luton town centre the following day.

The pundits said Arsenal would steamroll Hatters and hang onto the trophy captured against Liverpool in the inaugural year of the Littlewoods Cup.

But how wrong they were!

Boss Ray Harford — in his first year at the

helm — took the biggest gamble of his career when he pinned up the team sheet.

Fit again Les Sealey and hot-shot Mark Stein were left out of the line-up.

In came raw teenager Kingsley Black and two midfield stars — Ricky Hill and David Preece — who had only just started their comebacks from serious injury.

But the manager's long shot paid dividends. Stein fired Luton into a 13th minute lead when he latched onto Steve Foster's lob and gave Arsenal keeper John Lukic no chance.

Mighty Mick Harford's ankle injury forced him to retire after 64 minutes and though substitute Mark Stein came close to netting with almost his first touch the tide had turned in Arsenal's favour.

Gunnery's sub Martin Hayes levelled and three minutes later lethal Alan Smith shot Arsenal into the lead.

Hatters looked set for a drubbing akin to the one Reading had inflicted on them in the Simod Cup Final just weeks earlier.

Dibble denied Smith and Hayes and the substitute stunned the massive Arsenal following when he hit the post from two yards.

Arsenal appeared to have tricked their way to glory when David Rocastle fell over thin air and was awarded a penalty for his efforts.

But up stepped Dibble to inspire his teammates with a wonder save low to his left from Nigel Winterburn.

Seven minutes from time Brian Stein centred a rebound from his own shot for Danny Wilson to nod home virtually on the goal line.

And the final whistle was just seconds away when Ashley Grimes — a 77th minute sub for Preece — centred and Brian Stein fired his last touch of the ball in a Luton strip past Lukic.



• Celebration time — Luton players line up for a victory photograph.



• Celebration time — George Street is a sea of Hatters' fans as they celebrate Luton winning a major trophy for the first time in their 103-year history.

# NEVER FORGET



A PICTURE tells a thousand words — and our final special, left, says it all.

Here Herald lensman Bruce Raidl has produced six of the best from the day we'll never forget.

From the top left, super striker Brian Stein fires Hatters into an early lead.

There were just a few minutes gone when Stein broke free, and although Arsenal defender Gus Caesar can be seen appealing for offside his efforts were in vain.

There were just seven minutes left when little Danny Wilson popped up to get Hatters' equaliser, centre.

Then just seconds from time it was Stein who finished off the fairytale as he connected with Ashley Grimes' cross to seal an astonishing victory, top right.

Arsenal keeper John Lukic and the Luton players had differing views of the winner, bottom left and right.

While who could forget the goal that wasn't when Andy Dibble made that brilliant penalty save, bottom centre.

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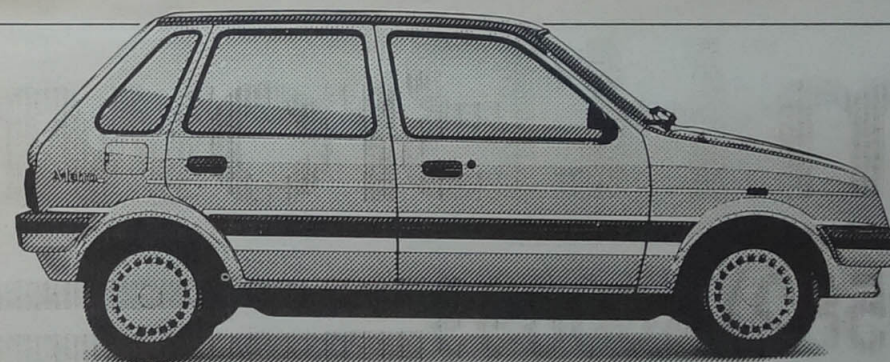


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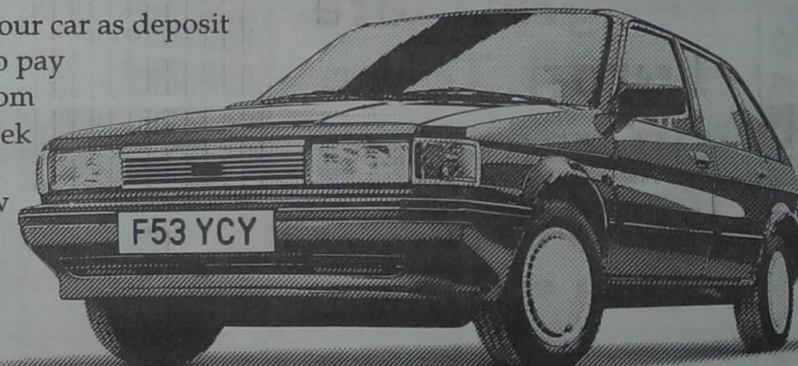
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