

# LUTON TOWN PROMOTION SPECIAL



LUTON TOWN FC

PROMOTION 81-82



BACK IN  
THE FIRST  
DIVISION

COME ON  
YOU HATTERS





# WINNERS WHO DID IT IN STYLE

JUST A YEAR ago I drove home from Bolton after seeing Luton Town finish as also-rans who had just missed out for the second consecutive season. They had won 3-0 at Burnden Park, yet pleasure was swamped for me by the knowledge that it might have brought promotion if we had collected some of the daft points that had been thrown away earlier in the season.

The Town finished sixth the previous season and fifth that time, and I remember thinking with disgust that even if West Ham were worthy champions, we shouldn't have finished below the likes of Notts County, Swansea and Blackburn.

It was quite obvious that if promotion was not achieved next time round, the team and its manager would come under close critical attention from supporters.

I count myself as one of the supporters — I paid my money and had

my shout long before I was lucky enough to drop into the job that now gives me the pleasure of watching football for a living.

I've enjoyed a few very good seasons watching the Hatters. I've suffered some disastrous ones, particularly in the sad slide down from First to Fourth Divisions in the 1960s.

But even if it's presumptuous to speak for others as well, I fancy every supporter who loves Luton Town would like to say this: "Thanks a million, Hatters".

All promotion seasons live in the memory for years, but I have the feeling we have seen something special this time round.

I always want to see my team win. But just as important, for the good of the game as well as for clubs within it, I want to see Luton Town win with style.

And skill, talent and sheer entertainment have been the extra ingredients that put the icing on the cake for supporters this season. Even the defeats, with the exception of the home failures against Sheffield Wednesday and Cardiff, produced football to enjoy.

And in fairness to Jack Charlton's team, I couldn't help but admire the tactics and the talent they displayed on an afternoon when their side clicked and ours didn't.

When you realise that you might have been unlucky enough to have been born to support carthorse teams like Cambridge or Shrewsbury, you can appreciate just how fortunate Luton Town customers have been this season.

I doubt if we shall ever forget the two five-goal thrillers against Newcastle, or the fantastic 4-3 battle at Barnsley.

Or the joys of seeing six scored without reply against Grimsby... and four against Watford. There are a dozen or more goals you can recall with extra special delight.

But most of all, the deep satisfaction is that David Pleat and his men got there by concentrating on football as a game of flair and enterprise. Thanks, lads, we're all more than happy to be following a First Division side again.

Harry Haslam took the Hatters back to the First Division in 1974, but they survived for only one season.

One fan's personal view — By Brian Swain

## The record

IN ALL matches below, the Town's score is given first each time, including at away matches.

Date	Match	Result	Town scorers	League posn
Aug. 28	Charlton (H)	3-0	Donaghy, McAllister OG, White	—
Sept. 1	QPR (A)	2-1	Aizlewood, Hill	1
5	Bolton (A)	2-1	Stein, Aizlewood	2
12	Sheff Wed (H)	0-3	White 2	3
19	Leicester (A)	2-3	Saxby, Antic	4
22	Cardiff (H)	4-1	Moss 2 pens, Stein 2	2
26	Watford (H)	3-0	Aizlewood, Hill, White	1
Oct. 3	Orient (A)	1-1	White	1
10	Oldham (A)	6-0	White 4, Moss pen, Fucillo	1
17	Grimsby (H)	2-0	White, Donaghy	1
24	Wrexham (A)	1-0	Moss pen	1
31	C. Palace (H)	3-2	Moss, Goodyear	1
Nov. 7	Derby (H)	1-0	Moss pen	1
14	Blackburn (A)	2-3	Moss pen, Donaghy	1
21	Newcastle (A)	2-0	Stein, Moss	1
28	Bolton (H)	3-1	Donaghy, White, Stein	1
Dec. 5	Rotherham (H)	2-2	White, Donaghy	1
12	Shrewsbury (A)	3-1	Antic, White, Stein	1
19	Norwich (A)	0-0		1
Jan. 19	Charlton (A)	0-0		1
30	Leicester (H)	2-1	White, Donaghy	1
Feb. 6	Sheff Wed (A)	3-3	White, Moss pen, Stein	1
20	Watford (A)	1-1	Stein	1
27	Oldham (H)	2-0	Moss 2 (1 pen)	1
Mar. 3	Cambridge (H)	1-0	Horton	1
6	Grimsby (A)	0-0		1
12	Wrexham (H)	0-0		1
16	Barnsley (A)	3-4	Stein 2 OG Law	1
20	C. Palace (A)	3-3	Moss pen, Antic, Stein	1
27	Derby (A)	0-0		2
30	Orient (H)	2-0	Moss pen, Hill	1
3	Blackburn (H)	2-0	Stein, White	1
April 10	Cambridge (A)	1-1	Turner	1
12	Norwich (H)	2-0	Stein, Jennings	1
17	Newcastle (H)	3-2	Stein 3 (2 pens)	1
20	Chelsea (H)	2-2	Antic, Donaghy	1
24	Rotherham (A)	2-2	Fucillo, Money	1
30	Shrewsbury (H)	4-1	Stein, Hill, White, Moss	1
May 8	Chelsea (A)	2-1	Antic, Stein	1
11	QPR (H)	3-2	Hill, White, Moss pen	1

THE CHAMPIONS' LAST GAMES: Barnsley at home on Saturday, Cardiff away on Monday.



## HOPING TO GET TO 500

JUST one soccer reporter has watched every Luton Town match since before their previous spell in the First Division — Luton News Sports Editor Brian Swain.

A lifelong Hatters' supporter, he took over as our eyes and ears at Luton Town from the late Eric Pugh nearly ten years ago, and has not missed a match since.

He is now also the voice of football for many people, as Chiltern Radio's match reporter on Town games, home and away, by arrangement with the Luton News.

Saturday's final game of the season will be Swain's 443rd consecutive Luton Town league and cup match covered and reported in the Luton News, and he is looking forward to clocking up the 500th... still in the First Division!



● RICHARD MONEY

## SAME AGAIN WILL DO

PLENTY of football fans in Luton hope that when the new season's fixture lists appear history will repeat itself. League champions Liverpool came to Kenilworth Road to kick off the season the last time the Hatters were in the First Division.

And one player more than any other wants an early meeting with the club that is the epitome of consistency and football excellence. For defender Richard Money has a point to prove, and Luton's return to the First Division may well give him more satisfaction than it does any other player.

The unkind elements around 'The Kop' are likely to call him a Liverpool reject, but he still looks forward with eager anticipation to going back.

Fortune may well have smiled on Money and on Luton Town a couple of months before this season ended. The 26-

## Match winning sub

THE THIRD Luton Town player with experience of the First Division is striker Billy Jennings, who made his name at West Ham before moving on to Orient. He signed for Luton on a free transfer in March and without getting a full game soon made an impact — he went on as sub and scored the crucial second goal in the 2-0 home win over Norwich.

A Londoner, he began his career with Watford and after 92 league games for them he appeared in 99 league matches for West Ham, where his career included winning an FA Cup-winners' medal. He was in the Hammers' team that beat Fulham 2-0 in 1975.

## HAPPY RETURN FOR THE SKIPPER

# It's like a dream

A GAMBLE THAT paid the jackpot has confirmed that skipper Brian Horton took the right decision a year ago when he was faced with a new challenge at a time when most footballers of his age are thinking of taking life easy.

He was bought for £100,000 from Brighton to do a specific job — put a little extra bite into midfield, and chivy his team-mates.

He has done it so well that today he is celebrating the third promotion success of his career, and relishing the prospect of proving that he can still play well at top level. Early next season he can expect to play his 500th league game in a career which has spanned all four divisions of the Football League.

He won promotion twice with Brighton, leading them from the Third to First Divisions, and gave the South Coast club sterling service. He had played more than 200 league games for Port Vale before joining Brighton, and passed his next 200-match milestone shortly before his transfer to Luton.

David Pleat's interest in him a year ago came as a surprise, and those of us who wondered about the wisdom of swapping 24-year-old Tony Grealish for a man past 30 soon understood what Pleat was up to.

It looked a bit of a gamble at the time, and Horton had the same feeling about his own decision. He was leaving a First Division club to join one that had missed the promotion boat in the Second for two seasons.

Pleat convinced Horton that with him leading the side Luton Town could make it at the third attempt. And Horton, by example and inspiration, has proved that Pleat's judgment was spot on.

He rates Luton Town a better side than Brighton were when they went up.

"It's a dream, almost too good to be true," he said. "When the boss first talked to me about the potential at Luton he mapped out what might happen if things went right. And the season went almost exactly to plan."

But reserve soccer as a full-time living, even with a top club, is not every footballer's dream. In two years at Liverpool he had only 14 league games, and knew he had no real future there once they had bought Mark Lawrenson from Brighton.

Luton manager David Pleat knew that for once even mighty Liverpool were feeling financial twinges as gates actually dropped below a regular 50,000.

Pleat wanted an extra defender, and the man who was rated at over £250,000 barely a year ago was snapped up for less than half that sum.

Money slotted into the side smoothly, scored a cracking goal to earn a point for the Town in a vital match at Rotherham, and now more than most looks forward to the opportunity of proving himself in the First Division.

Liverpool for the first fixture would suit him nicely, he says. And he believes Luton Town will do well next season.



● ON THE BALL: Brian Horton in action.

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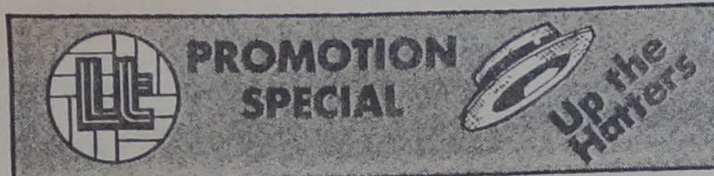


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● TOP HATTERS: The Luton Town playing staff line up for the start of the season that was to take them into the First Division. David Moss was absent, playing in the USA. In the back row, left to right, are: Raddy Antic, Brian Stein, Steve White, Frank Bunn, Clive Godyear, Alan Judge, Mike Saxby, Jake Findlay, Lil Fuccillo, Paul Keys, Mal Donaghy, Brian Horton and Mark Aizlewood. Front row: Neil Madden, Rob Johnson, Wayne Turner, Ray Brammer, Godfrey Ingram, Kirk Stephens, Seamus Heath, Mick Small and Ricky Hill.

## Magic sponge man— and hands to match



TRAINERS and physiotherapists are known throughout soccer as the men with the magic sponges.

But at Kenilworth Road, Town physio John Sheridan was given the title of "The man with magic hands" by manager David Pleat this season as the boss highlighted the unseen talents of one of his backroom staff.

The physio was already a good friend to local football before he took his present job three years ago, having wielded miraculous sponges for Vauxhall Motors, Tring and Co-op Taverners.

A quiet optimistic man—he has been saying ever since he arrived that Luton Town are on the way to promotion — most of his work is done in private, in the treatment room deep below the main stand.

His responsibility is to give the final verdict when players take late fitness tests, and the job he likes least is the sort of mission pictured on the left.

## THE LAST TIME . . .



● HAPPY MEMORIES: The last Luton Town team to win promotion pictured after clinching the prize with a 1-1 draw at West Brom just over eight years ago. Back row, left to right: Jim Husband, Bobby Thomson, Gordon Hindson, Alan Garner, Barry Butlin and coach Roy McCrohan. Front: Alan West, John Ryan, Peter Anderson, John Aston, Graham Horn, John Faulkner and Jimmy Ryan. Manager Harry Haslam has his arms on the shoulders of physio Reg Game, who died two years later.

## AND THE BACK-UP TEAM



DAVID COATES is a coach who shares manager David Pleat's view that attractive attacking football will win points and friends in the First Division as successfully as in any other grade.

"We have got where we are with an attacking formation and have instilled into the players the need to play the sort of football spectators want to see. We attack at home and away, and see no reason to change our approach in the First Division," he said.

Coates has been in soccer for 30 years, but Luton's rise to the top flight is the highlight of his career. He started as an inside forward with Hull in 1952 and later played for Mansfield and Notts County, where he first took up coaching. He became a full-time coach at Aston Villa in 1967, and two years after that he went to Leicester City where he had nine years as reserve team coach before his move to Luton in 1978.



JOHN MOORE, who has special responsibility for spotting and bringing on promising youngsters among his general coaching duties, has helped the Town rise from the depths to the top of the tree.

He first joined the Hatters as a hard-tackling half-back from Motherwell in 1965 when they were in the Fourth Division.

But three years later he was enjoying his first taste of champagne celebrations at Kenilworth Road as a member of the team that turned the tide of decline by winning the Fourth Division Championship.

Nine years with the club as a player ended when he was given a free transfer to Northampton Town.

After a spell in non-league football as manager of Dunstable, Moore was brought back to Kenilworth Road as coach in February 1978.



TREVOR HARTLEY, who completes the three-man coaching team, joined the club two years ago, but his contact with manager David Pleat goes back 14 years to the time when they were both on the final course for their FA coaching qualifications.

He spent four years as director of coaching for the Singapore FA and had managerial experience at Bournemouth.

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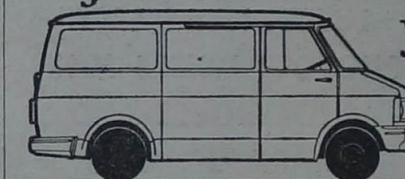
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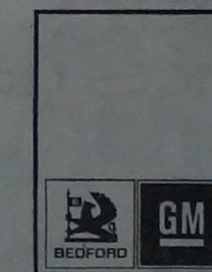
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# CONGRATULATIONS... AND

*And goals flowed right from the season's start*

THE SEASON was barely a month old when Luton Town's supporters got their first whiff of promotion scent. The Hatters were on top of the first league table published, slipped briefly after shock home defeats against Sheffield Wednesday and Cardiff, then steamed away as everyone's promotion favourites for the rest of the campaign.

And the supporters were treated to the best goal-scoring record in the Second Division as the Town found the target almost from the first whistle.

And as the goals poured in rival managers went away from Kenilworth Road consoling themselves that if they had been beaten, their conquerors were the best team in the Second Division. Time and again David Pleat could stand quietly in the Press room and listen to managers, most of them far more experienced than him, telling the world that Luton Town were too good for the Second Division, and near-certainties for the First.

Mr Pleat's team, and its brand of soccer, proved them all right and only twice all season did a league match at Kenilworth Road end with the Town failing to score — against Sheffield Wednesday in September, when Jack Charlton's men hit the high spots, and against Wrexham in March, when the Welshmen were fighting to avoid defeat to try to stave off relegation.

The rest of the season saw goals galore, starting from the 22nd minute of the very first match.

Mal Donaghy got that one, with a diving header from a corner by Brian Horton.

The most satisfying goals came a month later, when David Moss and Brian Stein each got a couple against Watford in a 4-1 local derby win.

Both Moss goals were penalties, and on another memorable afternoon last month, two from the spot completed Stein's hat-trick when the Town came back from two down to beat Newcastle 3-2.

But the greatest personal scoring triumph of the season was Steve White's four-goal spree in the 6-0 thrashing of Grimsby in October.

ACTION PICTURES BY  
LUTON NEWS STAFF  
PHOTOGRAPHERS JOHN  
SHORTHOUSE AND  
MARK RICHARDS



● HISTORIC: Ricky Hill lets rip with the shot that produced the Town's winner at Loftus Road in September. The 2-1 success gave the Town the distinction of being the first team in England to win a Football League match on an artificial surface.



● ABOVE: One for our rivals to remember. Brian Stein hammers in one of the most satisfying goals of the season at Kenilworth Road — the first of two he scored in the 4-1 demolition of Watford. They came back to win promotion as well, but they still haven't beaten Luton Town for more than ten years.

● RIGHT: Steve White completes the season's best individual scoring effort — this was his fourth goal of the game in October when the Town thrashed Grimsby 6-0 at Kenilworth Road.

SPORT  
NEWS 1

'LUTON TO GO UP  
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—Derby  
manager's  
forecast

● FLASHBACK to the Luton News six months ago when Derby Manager Colin Addison joined the chorus we heard throughout the Second Division this season.



● HAPPY: Fans dance on the pitch after the victory over Shrewsbury made Luton Town sure of a return to the top flight after a seven-year absence.



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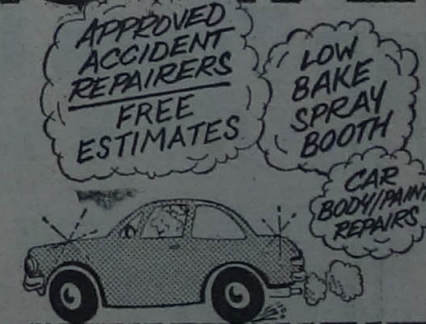
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● **GOAL-SCORERS** are the men who take the eye and grab the headlines in any team, successful or not.

Luton Town have been lucky enough to have consistent marksmen in all three attacking positions this season, and a catalogue of goals by Brian Stein, Steve White and

David Moss would fill far more space than is available.

Just a flavour of their skills is captured here, but as every fan knows soccer is still very much a team game.

Luton Town's good fortune this season has been that every man, from No 1 to 12, has been a winner.



● **SPOT-ON:** David Moss is the man they can rely on to take penalties, and his consistency from the spot has kept him near the top of the Town's scoring lists since he was recruited four years ago. He hurt a lot of old friends with this one — scored against Swindon in an FA Cup-tie in January.

**GOAL!**



● **TOP PLAYER:** Brian Stein, the former health authority clerk who now makes defenders sick, leaps high for another goal—this one the only goal of the game against Crystal Palace in October.



● **EASY DOES IT:** Steve White has battled through a season in which some of the supporters have been less than enthusiastic about his performances. His answer is to keep hitting the net, and then they love him. This goal was the start of the Town's 3-1 home win over Rotherham in November.



● **HANDS UP** if you think this man's brilliant . . . Ricky Hill proving the point against Derby.



● **LIL Fuccillo**, above, once feared that he might not play in the Third or Fourth Divisions, let alone the First. It took two painful years to overcome two broken legs.



● **SUPER-SAVER:** Jake Findlay in action.



● **RADDY ANTIC**, not always first choice, but capable of first-class goals and ball skills.



● **ON THE BALL:** Kirk Stephens, plucked out of non-league soccer with Nuneaton Borough four years ago, and now a genuine First Division full-back.

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## WORLD CUP THE NEXT TARGET

EXTRA MILESTONES beckon for one of the Town's most consistent and versatile players this summer. Mal Donaghy, a bargain buy from Larne for £20,000 four years ago, will be on the world's soccer stage next month.

Falklands crisis permitting, he plays for Northern Ireland in the World Cup to continue a career which has already brought him 11 international caps.

He can play anywhere. He has turned out at right back, left back, central defender or midfielder for club and country alike. "I don't mind what position I'm given," he said, "Except that I'm not too keen on playing in goal."

He was joking, of course—but Town fans loved him as emergency goalkeeper when Jake Findlay was injured at Cambridge last season.



ALAN JUDGE, above, has one of the most frustrating jobs at Kenilworth Road—understudy to Jake Findlay. But the 22-year-old reserve goalkeeper fully proved his value to the promotion drive this season.

One of his rare chances came at Rotherham, where he completed a man-of-the-match performance with a dramatic injury-time penalty save against Gerry Gow to rescue a vital point.

One of Mr. Pleat's first purchases, Donaghy joins Findlay, Ricky Hill, Kirk Stephens, Lil Fuccillo, Brian Stein and David Moss in the nucleus of the Town side which has progressed from the depths of the Second Division to the top of the bunch. They have all played well over 100 league games in the past three seasons.

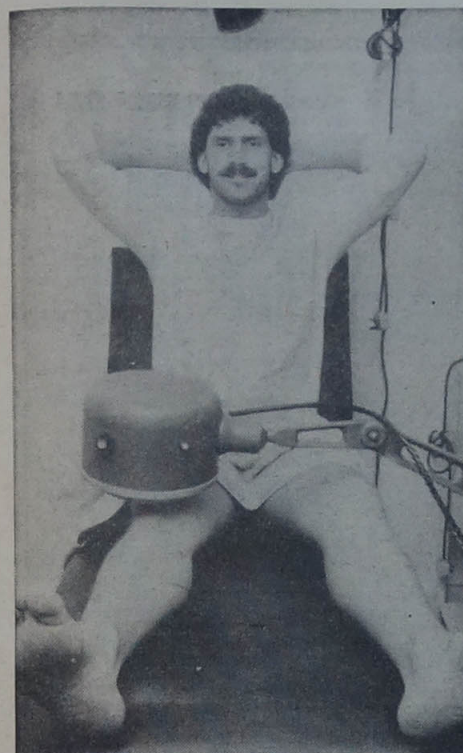
Happily settled in Luton with his Irish wife and a young son, Donaghy is set to make his 200th appearance for the Hatters late next season.

And at the age of 24 he looks a certainty to be a regular in his national team, which means that another Luton Town record could soon be within reach.

He needs nine more international appearances to become the most-capped player in Luton Town's history. His 20th cap will overtake the record of George Cummins, star of the 1950s First Division side, who earned his caps playing for Eire.



● MAL DONAGHY leaves another attacker stranded.



● MIKE SAXBY: Under treatment, but still smiling defiantly, and looking forward to returning next season . . . in the First Division.



● HAPPIER DAYS: Mark Aizlewood in one of his most vital appearances for Luton Town. Glenn Roeder and Gerry Francis are stranded as the Town defender scores the equaliser on the plastic pitch at Loftus Road in the game against QPR in September. His other memory of the night is less pleasant—leaving the ground he walked through a plate glass door without opening it, and spilled a lot of blood as a result.

● LEFT: Clive Goodyear the reserve who stepped in when Mike Saxby was injured, and has earned a championship medal to mark his first season in the league.

## They're not all lucky!

WHILE Kenilworth Road has been alive with almost total delight for the past couple of weeks, two players have found it difficult to share every minute of the celebrations.

Defenders Mike Saxby and Mark Aizlewood are the two whose luck deserted them at critical times, and forced them to sit sadly on the sidelines as promotion was achieved after they had played a major part in it.

Injuries forced them out of the side, and both admit that they are very poor spectators. Aizlewood's consolation is that he will win a championship medal, having chalked up 26 league games before his misfortune brought Richard Money into the team.

Saxby played a dozen league games before a knee injury put him out of action for the rest of the season in late October, and the Football League insists that 14 games must be played before a player can receive a medal.

He shares his team's pleasure at seeing

First Division soccer brought back to Luton—although he didn't actually see it happen.

"On the night we beat Shrewsbury to clinch it I just couldn't bear to be at the ground," he said. "I was choked with emotion. I stayed at home and listened to the Chiltern Radio reports and even there I was full of laughs and tears."

Saxby now faces a third operation on his knee and hopes to train through the summer to be fit to contest his place for the First Division kick-off.

His misfortune has been Clive Goodyear's lucky break. An unknown reserve a year ago, the 22-year-old defender who was rejected by his home town club Lincoln City may be poised to take the perfect stage in 1982/83 to remind them how wrong they were.



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# NOW WHO'S THE TOP MANAGER?



● **WAITING FOR THE CALL** — and surely it must be to the Second Division manager of the year.

ONE OF the scandals of this season has been the astonishing stupidity of those who choose the Manager of the Month.

Only once was David Pleat given the Bell's whisky award for the Second Division, despite leading a team which has topped the league table since early October save for a three-day interruption while a game in hand was being played.

But whoever makes the choice, it will be Bells to the lot of them in a couple of weeks when the Second Division manager of the year is named. Who else can it possibly be?

We couldn't realise how important it was to be to Luton Town in 1965 when 20-year-old right winger David Pleat joined the club from Nottingham Forest for £8,000.

There was hardly a class player on the books in those days as the club tried to pick up the pieces after sliding from First to Fourth Division in five unhappy years.

To be honest, Pleat the player wouldn't get into his own team today. He was one of the many who passed through Kenilworth Road at a time when if you could play a bit it paid you to move. He might not like to remember it, but he was even dropped once.

With a back injury hampering him, his future clearly lay elsewhere, and it was Luton Town's good fortune

By BRIAN SWAIN

that while he was here he fell in love with a local girl and got married.

It was the start of a love affair with a town and its football club too, and is one of the reasons Luton Town FC have a dedicated manager today — he's as much a supporter as any of us who have ever paid our money at the turnstiles.

## CHOSE TO STAY

He could have left to go to Sheffield United four years ago, but chose to stay in his adopted home town.

His arrival in the manager's office saw an immediate change of style and outlook. Players he turfed out called it ruthlessness, and perhaps it was.

But the achievement of the past nine months is not just the result of three years solid hard work by a manager and a good team, on and off the field.

He hasn't only built a side that looks good enough to survive in the First Division — he's done it while making a profit of around £300,000 on transfer dealings.

## BACKING

Luton will always need money, but I hope that if times are going to be hard in the next few months the manager's amazing ability to get the transfer market deals just right is given the financial backing it deserves.

And if Bell's don't send their manager of the season award to Kenilworth Road, I'll buy Mr Pleat a gallon of scotch myself!

## FOLLOWING A PATTERN

DAVID PLEAT is Luton Town's ninth manager since the last war—and the fifth to take the top job at Kenilworth Road after being a player with the club.

George Martin, Dally Duncan, Syd Owen, Sam Bartram, Bill Harvey, Allan Brown, Alec Stock and Harry Haslam were the other post-war managers. Martin, Duncan, Owen and Brown, like Pleat, also played for the club.



**Former boss is happy about chances**

A HUNDRED miles away from Luton, one of football's happiest faces beams with delight every time its owner hears of another Luton Town victory.

For Harry Haslam, manager at Kenilworth Road last time the Hatters went into the First Division, sums up his feelings as the club goes back after a seven-year absence—“I'm really chuffed—for Luton, the supporters and for David Pleat.”

And he thinks that this time the club is better set up than it was in 1974, when the glory of promotion turned to the despair of relegation in 12 short months.

Haslam, who will be 60 in the summer, is living in semi-retirement in the Derbyshire Peak district, but still watching plenty of football in a sort of freelance consultancy business. Clubs hire him to look at players and give his opinion on them, and the job suits him perfectly.

He watches lots of games, meets lots of old friends, and sees a wide range of teams.

And he rates Luton Town, 1982 vintage, as among the best sides in the country.

“They're a good unit, and they've done very well, and they've got a good manager in David. I wanted to take him with me to Sheffield United when I left Luton, but the offer he got to stay on was too good for him to miss. I always thought he had a good chance of making it in management.”

Haslam hopes that the lessons he and Luton Town learned in 1974 will not be forgotten this time. In an appalling first half of the season the Hatters were anchored at the bottom of the table, and although they staged a marvellous recovery from Christmas onwards the leeway proved just too much to make up.

“If we had survived we had probably got things ready to consolidate in the First Division,” he said. “But I think Luton Town are better equipped now than we were then.”

“We were under tight financial restrictions, and we didn't have an army in the offices to back us up.”

“I can remember wanting to buy a goalkeeper and being told the money wasn't available. But once we had changed the side during the season we got things right, and I must say I like the look of the players David has gathered together this time.”

“I'm sure he knows he might need a couple more good players to do well in the First Division next season, and I just hope that he never has to face the sort of problems we had in late 1975 when we had to sell Peter Anderson to save the club.”

“It's lovely to see Luton Town going up again, and I wish the club and its supporters the very best of luck for next season.”

● **DAVID PLEAT** writes exclusively every week in the Luton News. For his latest thoughts on a memorable season, see SportsNews 4.

● **THIS WEEK'S** match reports and picture coverage of the Town's games: SportsNews 1.

● **THE BEST** coverage of the local soccer scenes: SportsNews 2.

● **HERE COMES SUMMER:** And for the most comprehensive coverage of local club cricket see SportsNews 3.

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