

# LUTON TOWN v FOREST



## LITTLEWOODS CUP FINAL WEMBLEY 1989



## SAME AGAIN PLEASE DANNY

G-O-A-L! Luton Town score at Wembley, Arsenal's lead has vanished, and the Littlewoods Cup is coming to Luton.

This was one of the golden memories from last year's final: Danny Wilson heading the equaliser in a famous comeback which ended with Brian Stein's late winner.

On Sunday, against all odds, Luton Town will go back to the world's most famous stadium to try to do it again.

Nottingham Forest are the opposition this time as the Town seek revenge for the FA Cup defeat Forest inflicted 30 years ago on Luton's first Wembley trip.

Once more Luton will be the underdogs — small-town strugglers in the First Division, but miraculously transformed into determined cup fighters when their trophy is on the line.

We don't mind who gets the goals on Sunday — all we ask from Danny, and the whole Luton team, is: Do it again lads . . . please. And good luck.

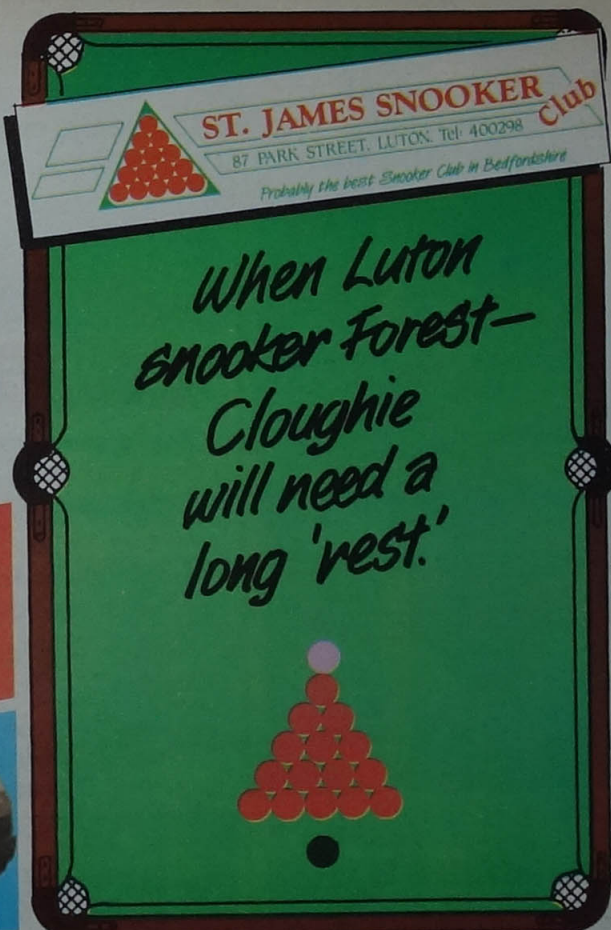
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snooker Forest—  
Cloughie  
will need a  
long 'rest.'*



# THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I HAVE watched with great interest the success of the Luton Town team in the Littlewoods Cup.

It is a wonderful achievement to reach Wembley for the second consecutive year. The whole team are fine ambassadors for Luton and I will be cheering them on to success on Sunday. Good luck.

Audrey Bush  
Mayor of Luton

# INSIDE

- Club statistics page 3
- The managers page 4
- David Pleat...page 4
- Clough's Luton friends...page 4
- Hero Stein...page 4
- Andy Dibble...page 6
- Mal Donaghy...page 6
- David Oldfield...page 7
- Bob's great day...pg 7
- Gary Parker...page 8
- The ticket team...pg 8
- Wembley 1988...pages 9,10 and 11
- Luton's players...pages 12,13,14, and 19
- The road to Wembley...pages 15,16 and 17
- Pub greetings...pg 18
- Team picture...page 19

# OUR TEAM

THE editorial team for this special supplement was John Buckledee (Editor), Brian Swain (sports editor), Eric Norris (deputy sports editor) and Hugh Southon, sub editor.

Photographers included Josh Levy, Sharron Day and Mark Richards.

The advertisement team was Paul Gibson (manager), Mike Richardson, Jane Punnett, Amanda Glacken, Joanna Lee, Denise Coates and Isobel Norris. Artists were Ken Munslow and Pauline Groom.



## David Evans looks forward to another Wembley win

• HOW'S THAT: Town Chairman David Evans, and his wife, Janice are ecstatic as they greet Steve Foster with the Littlewoods Cup at Wembley last year.

CHAIRMAN David Evans has no doubt about Sunday's result. "We will stuff

Nottingham Forest," declares the Conservative MP.

But he is not satisfied yet with the progress Luton Town have made under his guidance.

Wembley a year ago was the greatest day of his life. He says he has often slept with the Littlewoods Cup between him and his wife Janice!

Luton Town, he says, is his mistress, which is why he spends more money on the club than on his long-suffering wife. Fortunately, she too is a Town fanatic.

But for all the delight at beating Arsenal last year, Mr Evans says: "Really, Luton Town have done nothing yet — one big prize in more than a hundred years of trying."

### GREATER THINGS

"I believe we can go on to far greater things. I want us to be one of the big clubs, regular winners of the FA Cup, and of the Football League championship. And it can be done."

In four and a half years as chairman — he is still thinking over the possibility of staying in office at the end of the season — Mr Evans has been outrageous, outspoken and nearly an outcast at times.

He now admits it was a mistake to try to take the

club to Milton Keynes, a plan which provoked huge opposition from supporters and the local authority. But some good came out of that row — Luton Borough Council now wants to help the club find a new ground in or near Luton.

### NEW STADIUM

They own the ground, and a new stadium is planned within the next seven years.

Within football Mr Evans has attracted hostility for the synthetic pitch and the ban on away fans for league games at Kenilworth Road.

Beating Arsenal last year was a symbolic waving of two fingers at the establishment.

Yet Mr Evans hopes Luton Town will be "establishment" before long.

"When the SuperLeague is formed I want Luton to be in it, and not among the also-rans," he said. "And it can be achieved, in a new stadium. We can win the First Division championship, and play in Europe. I think we will."

"Winning the Littlewoods Cup last year was the greatest achievement yet. Now, with everyone kicking towards the same goal, we are destined for still bigger things."

## 'A day for all of us to enjoy'

MANAGER Ray Harford admits that he will find it difficult to really enjoy himself at Wembley because of Luton Town's perilous league position.

But he relishes the chance to get into a different game, go for the trophy, and then settle down to the tail end of the league programme knowing exactly how many points his men must take to keep top soccer at Kenilworth Road for another season.

One point from the last seven First Division games is hardly the sort of form to make fans super-confident on Sunday, but the boss believes it should not affect his team's approach.

"The league results are cause for worry," said the manager. "But cup-ties are completely dif-

ferent. And the team has earned a good day out on Sunday. It would be nice if we were in a comfortable position in the league, but despite that I hope everyone will go to Wembley knowing that it is a day to enjoy, something a bit special for any club."

"That is how the players will approach it. It is a tremendous achievement to get there once, let alone go back again a year later. The supporters can take the same line. Those who went to Villa Park last week did everything they could to lift the team. It wasn't their fault we hit the woodwork twice and the Villa goalkeeper was their man of the match."

"Cup finals really are one-off occasions. My message to everyone is: go and enjoy it."



• Ray Harford

The manager believes that recent results are not a true indication of the team's current form. Aston Villa manager Graham Taylor admitted last Saturday that his team had a little luck in winning the relegation clash 2-1.

## LUTON TOWN



Founded: 1885, 20 years after Forest, and turned professional in 1890. Ground: Kenilworth Road, capacity 14,700.  
Record win: 12-0 v Bristol Rovers, Easter 1936, Div III (S).  
Record loss: 0-9 v Small Heath, now Birmingham City, 1898 Div II.  
Record transfers: £650,000 received from Manchester United, for Mal Donaghy, October 1988. £300,000 paid to Arsenal for Steve Williams, July 1988.  
Football League record: Elected Division II 1897; failed re-election 1900; elected Division II 1920; Div III (S) 1921; Div II 1937-55; Div I 1955-60; Div II 1960-63; Div III 1963-65; Div IV 1965-68; Div III 1968-70; Div II 1970-74; Div I 1974-75; Div II 1975-82; Div I since then.  
Football Honours: Div III (S) champions 1937; Div IV champions 1968; Div II champions 1982. Littlewoods Cup winners 1988.  
FA Cup best season: Runners-up 1959 — to Nottingham Forest. Best First Division season: 7th in 1987.

## HATTERS' HAPPY RETURN

BY SPORTS EDITOR  
BRIAN SWAIN

LUTON had waited a lifetime and more for the night recalled by this picture — the day the Town went wild to welcome home the Littlewoods Cup winners.

More than 20,000 well-wishers jammed the streets to see the team take a bow from the Town Hall during a civic reception.

And the promise from council, police and club is that on Monday, win or lose, the arrangements will be better for everyone.

An army of 30,000 Hatters' fans is booked in to see the game at Wembley. Millions more around the world will see it on TV.

And on Monday evening the team that has done Luton proud will once more go on a triumphant tour from the ground at Kenilworth Road to the Town Hall.

Monday's celebrations will be postponed if there has to be a replay. Otherwise, the players' open-top bus will leave the ground from the Maple Road car park at 6.30 pm. It will go down Oak Road, then into Dunstable Road to head towards the town centre.

The route continues along the inner ring road, into Stuart Street, and then left into Chapel Street.

The plan then is for the bus to turn left into George Street, and drive up to the Town Hall steps, arriving there at 7 pm.

After last year's melee, when the players had to shove their way through the masses of well-wishers as they walked the length of George Street, the police have decided to take the bus all the way this time.

### WELCOME

The Mayor of Luton, Cllr Mrs Audrey Bush, will give a formal welcome to manager and players inside the Town Hall, and then will come the moment everyone outside looks forward to — the appearance of the team on the balcony, hopefully with the Littlewoods Cup once more brandished in triumph. And, with a bit of luck, all in one piece this time!

One major improvement on last year's tumultuous and slightly shambolic reception is that a microphone and loud speakers will be set up so that the crowd can hear what their favourites have to say.

And special arrangements are being made for the Town's wheelchair supporters to be able to attend the celebration.

### Giant killers

ALTHOUGH ARSENAL's return to Wembley as Littlewoods Cup holders last season ended in defeat, Luton can draw consolation from the fact that Forest are the favourites this time.

Fancied teams have not had a happy time of it in cup finals recently.

The run of shock victories by the underdogs began two years ago when Coventry City beat Spurs in the FA Cup Final.

Then last year the Town were on the receiving end when they lost to Second Division Reading in the Simod Cup Final.

They did their own giant-killing by beating favourites Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup, and to round off the bookies' nightmare Wimbledon, who had put Luton out in the semi-final, turned form upside down again by beating Liverpool in the FA Cup Final.

## NOTTINGHAM FOREST



Founded: 1865, turned professional 1889, one year before the Town. Ground: City Ground, capacity 35,417.  
Record win: 14-0 v Clapton, FA Cup first round, 1890-91.  
Record loss: 1-9 v Blackburn Rovers, Division II April 10, 1937.  
Record transfers: £1,250,000, from Manchester Utd for Gary Birtles, October 1980; £1,250,000 to Coventry City for Ian Wallace, July 1980.  
Football League record: Elected to Div I 1892; Division II 1906-7; Division

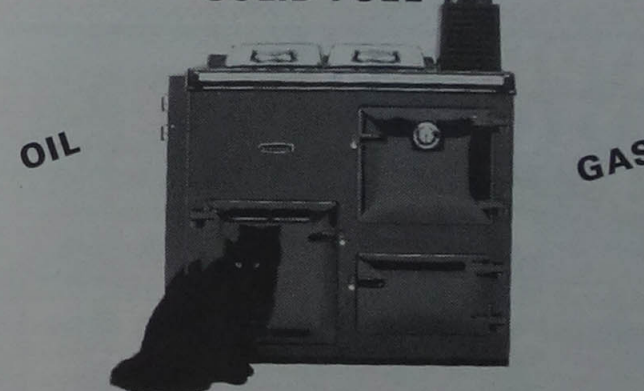
II 1907-11; Division II 1911-22; Division I 1922-25; Div II 1925-49; Division III South 1949-51; Div II 1951-57; Div I 1957-72; Div II 1972-77; Div I since then.  
Honours: Div I champions 1977-78; Div II champions 1906-07, 1921-22; Div III (S) champions 1950-51; FA Cup winners 1898, 1959; Anglo-Scottish Cup winners 1976-77; Football League Cup winners 1977-78; 1978-79; Fairs Cup winners 1961-62, 1967-68; European Cup winners 1978-79, 1979-80; Super Cup winners 1979-80.



• GEORGE STREET JOY: Darron McDonough, striped shirt, is congratulated by a young fan as the players brave the welcoming crush of supporters on their way to the town hall reception last year.

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cooks the lunch,  
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• RAY HARFORD

# Bosses show the two faces of football

THE TWO managers who will lead out the teams on Sunday could hardly be more different.

Brian Clough, once an exciting goallinger England international, has become one of the personalities of football, famous for blunt speaking and not worrying about upsetting soccer's ruling bodies.

He commands big fees for giving newspaper interviews. But he shuns the normal post-match Press conferences. Outrageous comments have been matched by actions, notably when he clouted the odd passing fan on the pitch at Nottingham after a victory which took Forest another step towards Sunday's final.

Ray Harford was a journeyman defender in the

BY BRIAN SWAIN

lower leagues and cheerfully admits that he lacked the pace to become a big star.

He became Luton Town's manager almost by accident. He was taken on as coach by John Moore nearly three years ago, after Moore had been promoted to replace David Pleat.

Moore did not enjoy the public duties of being a First Division manager, and resigned after only one season. Mr Harford took the job, won Luton's first major trophy in his first season, and is now poised to set a record that ought to be an impossible dream for a small town club like Luton.

Mr Clough has the more impressive football



• BRIAN CLOUGH

pedigree, having more experience than the Luton boss.

He was 54 a couple of weeks ago, and perhaps his management career has been tinged by a frustration that followed a glittering playing career ended by injury.

He joined Middlesbrough, his home town club, when he was 20, and moved on to Sunderland, then one of the country's biggest clubs, five years later, in 1960.

He had a phenomenal scoring record — 197 goals in 213 appearances for Middlesbrough and 54 in 61 games for Sunderland. He played for England twice, having previously been capped at under-23 and B levels.

But an injury put him out of football, and started

him on a management career that was to more than match his playing record. He started at Hartlepool, then went to Derby and won the Football League championship for them. Short and unhappy spells followed at Brighton and Leeds before he went to Nottingham Forest in 1975.

John Lyall of West Ham is the only manager with a longer career at one club.

Clough, with the aid of Peter Taylor before the two fell out, produced a remarkable resurgence in Forest's fortunes.

## CHAMPIONS

He led them to promotion from the Second Division within 18 months, and 12 months later, in 1978, Forest amazed everyone outside of Nottingham by winning the championship for the first time in their history.

A year later they won the European Cup, and retained it 12 months after that.

Ray Harford's playing career never got nearer the First Division than a fleeting visit by a Liverpool scout when he was at Charlton. They signed Larry Lloyd instead!

The Luton boss, who will be 44 in June, began his pro career just as Brian Clough was going into enforced retirement.

Born in Halifax, but brought up in South London, his playing career started as a 20-year-old with Charlton. After three league appearances he moved on to Exeter, where he played 55 games before Lincoln City signed him.

After three years and 161 games he was transferred in 1970 to Mansfield. He had seven games for them, and only 20 at his next club, Port Vale, before a 1972 move that was to shape his future. He went to Colchester, made 107 appearances, and started coaching.

He smiles when he talks about his transfers — "I never asked for any of them!"

He retired from playing in 1974 but stayed with Colchester as coach, before taking a similar job at Fulham. There he was assistant to Malcolm Macdonald, and was promoted to manager when Macdonald left after a marriage break-up.

Fulham turned out to be an interesting apprenticeship in management. Ernie Clay ran the club, a chairman who would sell players first, and tell the manager second. When the invitation came to move to Kenilworth Road, Mr Harford took no time in accepting.

Likewise, when John Moore resigned, he was ready for the big step up ... on the road to Wembley.

But the razzamataz left him remarkably cool. Winning the cup, he says, was a bonus for players, directors and fans.

He is much more concerned about safeguarding Luton Town's status as a First Division club. Even so, he thinks that perhaps this year he might be able to enjoy Sunday more than last year's final, when everything seemed to happen too quickly to take it all in.

But he will only enjoy it from the moment Steve Foster clambers up the famous royal box steps to collect the cup again.



• DAVID PLEAT

"They are my two favourite teams, there is no question about that," said the man who started his career as a young winger with Forest before moving to Luton.

"I am delighted they are both in the final, and I think it will be a very close game, finals always are."

"I wouldn't like to predict the winners," he said. "But for Luton, last year's achievement in winning the cup was the pinnacle of everything that has been built up at the club under the chairmanship of Denis Mortimer and David Evans. Hopefully they will continue to be strong."

"Winning the Littlewoods Cup last year was a tremendous achievement, and to get to the final two years running is fantastic. "If fortune smiled on Luton last year, coupled with very good individual performances, who knows if it will not smile on them a second year," he said.

Being in love with both teams in the final probably leaves the Leicester boss sitting on the fence. But he said: "From a neutral point of view it has to be a wonderful game of football."

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NEXT WEDNESDAY

# A family divided when Clough's men march out

BY ERIC NORRIS

THERE WILL be divided loyalties for one Luton family on Littlewoods Cup Final day.

For Luton will be running out against the team managed by an old family friend

of former Luton goal-ace of the fifties and early sixties, Gordon Turner, whose surviving family are happily settled in Luton.

Forest boss Brian Clough and Turner were the hot-shots of the era. When Turner was rattling in the goals that took Town into the First Division for the first time in their history in 1955, Clough was breaking scoring records for Middlesbrough.

The two men vied with each other for top spot in the Second Division goal-scoring table.

The rivalry blossomed into friendship, and in later years the two families holidayed together.

Brian Clough was deeply upset when Turner, who scored 160 goals for the Hatters, died tragically of a wasting disease 12 years ago.

Since then he has kept in touch with Gordon's family and invariably asks about them when Forest are in Luton.

Last season he heard that the brother-

in-law of Gordon's widow, Margaret, Les Slatter, himself a former Town player, was sitting in the invalids' section at the front of the main stand.

The Forest boss left his team shortly before kick-off and dashed round to the front of the stand to meet Les who is confined to a wheelchair after suffering a stroke while playing cricket at Wardown.

Said Les: "It came as a complete surprise to me. "Brian Clough leaned over the railing behind me to say 'Hello.'"

"It is a moment I treasure. He leaned over the wall and said how he enjoyed his holidays with Gordon. He shook hands with me, wished me all the best, and said 'Give me a kiss.'"

Les and Gordon were both playing for the Town when they met their wives, Betty and Margaret, who are sisters.

## Fantastic Luton says David Pleat

LEICESTER CITY BOSS and former Town manager, David Pleat, will be giving his expert opinions to ITV viewers when his two favourite teams battle it out for the Littlewoods Cup.

He would not venture a prediction on the outcome, but thinks the Wembley fans and the television viewers are in for a football treat.

... would like to say Congratulations on reaching the Final and Good Luck

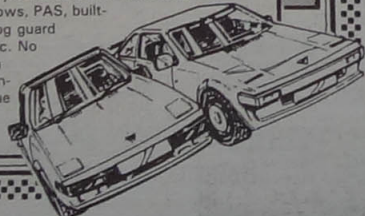
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## Luton help for Forest

LUTON connections were rife as Forest battled their way to the Littlewoods Cup Final.

In the first leg of their semi-final against Bristol City the Forest goal in a 1-1 draw was put into his own net by City defender, John Pender, who was born in Luton.

And of course the winner in the second leg was scored by former Town midfielder, Gary Parker.

## Anniversary

STRANGELY enough Sunday's Littlewoods Cup Final will be played on the 30th anniversary of 5-1 win by the Town over Nottingham Forest at Kenilworth Road.

It was an evening game in Division One and the goals scored by Allan Brown, who got four, and Billy Bingham, gave the Town a false sense of security as they prepared to meet Forest again in the 1959 FA Cup Final which the Nottingham side won 2-1.

There is no worry about complacency this time; Forest came to Luton in the league two months ago and won 3-2. It was 0-0 at Nottingham in October.

## Gunners killer flies in to cheer the lads

BY ERIC NORRIS

TWO to listen to the English results, and obviously the first one I listen for is Luton's," he said.

After hearing how the Town got on, he goes out to play his own game. "We play on Saturday evenings," he said. "We kick off at 8.30. I haven't played many games because I was recovering from an operation on my knee. It kept me out for four and a half months, but I have scored five goals."

He lives with his wife, Yvonne and children Kimberley, five, and Heather, three, in a four bedroomed house in Caen, and says: "The whole family has settled in well and we are very happy."

A year ago he was the Wembley hero, and he says: "Scoring the goals at Wembley was my greatest experience."

"I try not to look back."

I have to look to the future. A lot of my old friends still play for Luton, but they have a new team now."

While Luton are preparing for the Littlewoods Cup Final, Brian has thoughts of his own cup-final.

"We are in the last eight of the French Cup," he said. "And I am hoping we will reach the final."

Last season at Wembley was the biggest day of his life, and he often plays the video of the victory over Arsenal to his French team-mates.

"I particularly like showing it to Graham Rix, who was an ex-Arsenal man," he said. "He looks forward to it!"

At the moment SM Caen are not in action on Littlewoods Cup Final day.

"We have a cup game on the 12th, so I am hoping to get to Wembley to cheer the boys on," he said.

Stein's remarkable career with Luton started and ended in the same competition. His debut 12 years ago was in the League Cup against Manchester City, and his winner at Wembley was at the end of his last game for the team.

## Hatters find the quality of Mersey

LUTON go to Wembley to defend not only the Littlewoods Cup, but also the only unbeaten record in the competition in the country.

In the three seasons since the Littlewoods organisation presented the trophy to the Football League, Luton have never been beaten. Only Liverpool — who won the old Football League Cup four times on the trot — can boast a better record!

In the first year of the competition — when Arsenal won it — Town were drawn at home to Cardiff City in the first round.

But because Luton insisted on enforcing their ban on away fans, which was in its first season, Luton were told they must allow Cardiff supporters to the match, or forfeit their place in the competition.

Luton stuck to their guns, and so didn't appear at all in the Littlewoods Cup in its first year.

Since then they have proved invincible, and we have

all begun to believe that they just can't lose a game played under the Littlewoods' label.

Last season they played in the competition eight times, including the final against Arsenal. This year the unbeaten run has been stretched to 16 games, with a replay necessary against Southampton in the fifth round.

The Town had a severe baptism in the competition when it was first introduced as the League Cup back in 1960.

They were drawn away to Liverpool in the second round and David Brogan got the goal in a 1-1 draw at Anfield.

But the replay at Kenilworth Road saw Liverpool turn on the power to over-run the Town 5-2 with Brogan scoring again and Gordon Turner getting the other goal for the Hatters.

In all Luton have played 88 games in the tournament, under its various names. They have won 41 of them, drawn 21 and lost 26.

The last time they were beaten was in the third round in October 1985 when Norwich City became the first team to beat us on the new synthetic surface at Kenilworth Road.

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• THE LONG: And the short of it, as Brian Stein displays the French style in shorts in his benefit game at Kenilworth Road.

Good luck Luton Town

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## Handy Andy is cheering Town

DON'T WRITE Luton off. That was the verdict of Andy Dibble, whose penalty save when the Town were 2-1 down and struggling, set the stage for their glorious win over Arsenal in last season's final.

The Manchester City goalkeeper believes the Town are going to find it harder against the Forest than they did against Arsenal.

### WATCHING AND CHEERING

But he says: "They will again be the underdogs, but you should never make the mistake of writing Luton off."

He will be at Wembley again, cheering his old mates on from the stand, and says he would dearly love to see Luton pull it off again.

"Being the underdogs can be a big help," he said. "But they will be under a lot more pressure this time."

• **EVER-READY:** Andy Dibble, now with Manchester City, who was a hero of last season's final, in action against Wimbledon in the FA Cup semi-final.

It should be a free flowing match, but I don't think there will be too many goal chances," he said.

The Welsh international goalkeeper, who has played a major part in City's push for promotion in the Second Division, has recently bought a house in the city and has settled down in the north.

Dibble said he would love to be out on the field with the Town at Wembley. "I wish it was me going there again," he said.

"But whatever happens I will be there cheering Luton on."

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Luton. They're a good bunch of lads, and it was always a friendly club."

"It was a career move for me when I left, and I have settled in at Manchester City. We think we can win promotion, so I'm looking forward to coming back to Luton next season in the First Division."

# MIGHTY MAL IS TOWN'S NUMBER ONE FAN

BY ERIC NORRIS

NOTTINGHAM FOREST ended the Wembley dream of former Luton Irish international Mal Donaghy when they knocked Manchester United out of the FA Cup in the quarter-finals.

But Mal hopes, and believes, the Littlewoods Cup Final will be the Town's day — and he will be there in his Hatters' regalia to cheer on his old mates.

"My very good friend, Mr Grimes, has got me a ticket for myself and the wife, so I will not have to get them on the black market," he said.

"And I will be there wearing a Luton scarf and cheering the lads on."

And if Luton win, and he thinks they will, Mal will be the first to start celebrating with the friends he made over ten years at Kenilworth Road.

The quarter-final defeat came as a blow to the man who was Luton's most capped player with 58 appearances for Northern Ireland. But typically, he took it philosophically.

"They say the one we had disallowed was over the line," he said. "But where I was on the pitch, I couldn't really see. It was disappointing, but football's a funny old game, as a certain person would say."

Mal agrees that Forest are one of the best sides around at the moment, but said: "That could work to Luton's advantage."

"Forest are going really well but I think Luton are going to use that to advantage and upset them."

"In the last few years there have been a few upsets at Wembley. It started with Coventry beating Spurs in the FA Cup Final. Then there was ourselves and Reading, we beat Arsenal, and then Wimbledon beat Liverpool."

The experience of being at Wembley last season could be an advantage to the Town he believes.

"I think being the underdogs can work in Luton's favour. Forest have a young side and I think the big occasion is going to get to them, and not to Luton."

Sitting in the stands with his wife Marett is going to be a tortuous affair for Donaghy who would love to have been playing his part out on the pitch.

But it will bring back memories of the biggest day in his life.

### WHAT A CLIMAX!

"Last season's final was certainly one of the most enjoyable days in my life," he said.

"I suppose I have got to say it was the biggest, especially in the last minute when we scored the winner. What a great climax!"

"Then I think the thought that it was all over was what stood out in my mind, and the reception at the town hall the next day was tremendous."

"I am delighted that Luton are in the final again. It is nice for the boys to be going back again to defend it after winning the cup last year."

"It is always nice to win things. I remember when we won the Second Division championship. That was nice. But there was no comparison between that and winning the Littlewoods Cup."

"It is hard to describe the feeling."

Although he has left Kenilworth Road for one of the country's glamour sides, Mal Donaghy has not left the town.

His wife and two children, Ciaran, seven, and Fiona, five, are happy living in Luton and Mal says: "I decided to keep my house in the town because we have friends here and are happy. I will probably buy somewhere small up in Manchester to use when I have to stay there."

"I have been in Luton ten years now and we have a lot of friends here that we don't want to lose."

While he is playing and training for Manchester United Mal stays with a friend in Bury.



• **MAL DONAGHY:** he got a ticket from his friend Ashley.

"I don't go into the city of Manchester at all," he said. "When I arrived some of the players told me that Manchester is a divided city as regards football, and they advised me to stay out of it, and I have taken their advice."

Among his best friends in Luton are his old team-mates at Kenilworth Road, and he still enjoys a night out with Ashley Grimes, Darron McDonough and Mick Harford after doing his stuff for United on a Saturday.

"I have told a lot of people that Manchester United was the only club I would have left Luton for," he said.

"To be honest I thought they had a better chance of winning the First Division championship than Luton."



## David snubs glory trip

BY BRIAN SWAIN

FORMER club secretary Bob Readhead will more than relive his memories when he goes to Wembley on Sunday.

He will go wearing the official club blazer he wore the last time Luton town and Nottingham Forest met in a cup final, in 1959.

"And it still fits!" he said as he brushed down the dark blue serge with its Luton town crest still as colourful as ever on the breast pocket.

He was assistant secretary 30 years ago, and one of the staff members who was issued with the official club "uniform" of blazer and grey flannels.

"We were kitted out at Charles Mares, and I think the blazers cost three guineas," recalled Bob.

"I put it away in the wardrobe as a treasured possession and decided I would only wear it when Luton went to Wembley for cup finals. That's why it's still in good condition. . . . It's lovely material and still feels comfortable and looks smart."

Bob became secretary of the Town in succession to the late Phil Coley two years after he first wore his blazer, and waited in vain for another chance to wear it as the Town slid down the Football League, into the Fourth Division.

He retired in 1975 and then did a stint as secretary and treasurer of the Bobbers Club, and they made him a life member in honour of his services.

And he has now decided that although Forest beat the Town the first time the blazer went to Wembley, last year's Littlewoods Cup victory over Arsenal has turned it into a lucky mascot.

"I think we'll beat them this time," he said, preparing to sort out a new Luton boater to complete his cup final ensemble.

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### ON REACHING WEMBLEY

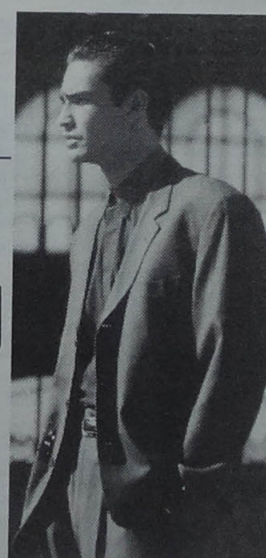
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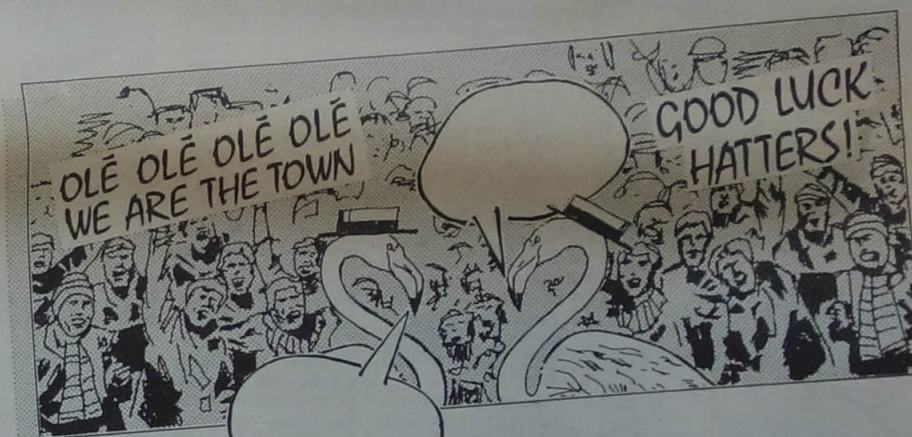
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## The backroom team at Kenilworth Road

IT is not just the players who have to pull out all the stops at Kenilworth Road on the way to the Littlewoods Cup Final.

Headed by managing director, John Smith (pictured right), and general secretary Bill Tomlins, the backroom team of 20 men and women have also been battling away to cope with the extra work involved.

They have learned from last year's experience, and the sales of tickets to supporters went like clockwork this time.

The Town's membership scheme helped. It was used to ensure that every time a supporter who wanted a ticket got one.

Pictured are Cherry and her staff, Sallyanne Bedward and Mark Burrage, in action distributing the 30,000 coveted pieces of paper allocated to the Town.



## Gary faces his old team-mates

LOOKING forward to thwarting the ambitions of his old team-mates in the biggest game of his life is Forest's former Town midfielder, Gary Parker.

He was the hero of the semi-final, scoring the goal that put paid to Bristol City in the second leg.

But before Christmas Parker was unable to get a place in Brian Clough's team.

Always regarded as a right-sided player, he got few chances to make the grade at Luton where Ricky Hill was in possession of the right of midfield.

In February 1986, after playing for Luton in the FA Cup semi-final against Everton at Villa Park, he moved to Hull City for £72,000.

He became homesick for the south, and moved part of the way home when Forest signed him for £250,000 last March.

But he again found himself in a sadly familiar role of being a permanent understudy to Neil Webb and Steve Hodge.

His future at Forest looked bleak until Brian Clough did what nobody had thought of doing before. He converted Gary to a left-sided player with dramatic results.

He scored his first goal of the season to help Forest beat Everton 2-0 on January 2 and has since scored six more.

The one against Bristol City and the goal that beat Manchester United in the FA Cup quarter-finals were the most valuable.

Parker, 23, had to wait nearly nine months to establish himself in the Forest side, but his recent scoring streak coincided with a winning run that lasted 18 games.

Born in Oxford, Parker started his career as an apprentice at Luton nearly seven years ago.

His league debut was not such a happy occasion. It was at Old Trafford where the Town crashed 3-0 to United, five days before returning to Manchester for the great relegation showdown with City.



• The video cameras in action at Kenilworth Road.

## See it again on video

EVERYBODY is going video mad . . . and as the Hatters get ready to go back to their second favourite "home ground" this year's tape will definitely allow you to make your own copy of the big match.

All the thrills . . . all the excitement of the march to Wembley have been recorded and space has been left at the end for you to record the entire ninety — or possibly 120 minutes — of high excitement.

And steps have been taken to avoid last season's last minute panic when it was discovered this was impossible.

What happened then was that the company that processes the tapes automatically removed the little tabs on the cassettes preventing them being recorded over.

Luton discovered the mistake the day before the final and produced replacement tapes, with the final included, for those who got home from Wembley to find their expected recording of the final was blank.

"It will be a four-hour tape with plenty of space to record the final, even if it goes to extra time," said the man in charge, Brian Harper.

He, with Derek Sando, runs ISW Ltd, the company that films every Town home match. "This time the tabs will be left on."

The tape features every goal on the road to Wembley and an introduction by TV personality Nick Owen, a Town fan and president of the Luton Town Supporters Club.

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Best wishes for April 9th from LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE

# HAPPY AND GLORIOUS—THE MAGICAL MEMORY



DRAWING BLOOD: Brian Stein clear of the Gunners' defence to open the scoring.



SHEER JOY: Danny Wilson tries to get a look-in as the Town players show the trophy to their fans.

## WEMBLEY 1988

CUP finals are the most colourful events in football. The atmosphere at Wembley crackles. Players either freeze or scintillate.

And when Luton Town got there a year ago they gave us memories that will live for ever as mighty Arsenal were beaten in the Littlewoods Cup final. The cup-holders and hot favourites were gunned down as "Little Luton" won their first big trophy.

The event is part of local history now, but as the Town prepare to go back to defend the trophy against Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest on Sunday our glorious colour pictures from Wembley '88 remind us of a great occasion.

Mark Richards was the cameraman, and he is looking forward to returning for Wembley '89 this weekend. His Wembley '88 portfolio brings back all the memories — Brian Stein's lovely winner a few seconds before the final whistle, the delight his goal provoked on and off the pitch, and the sight we had waited so long to see — Luton Town skipper Steve Foster clutching one of soccer's glittering prizes.

Other magic moments are captured in this colour section.

Our hope is that they are but a prelude to another series of stunning action shots for this year's scrapbook.

And, as always, next week's Luton News and Dunstable Gazette will carry the best reports, pictures and interviews of the day's excitement. And there will be a bonus too — the paper will be published a day earlier than usual. Get it on Wednesday — first, as well as best.



MAGIC MOMENT: Tears are not far from the eyes of skipper Steve Foster as he hoists the Littlewoods Cup high in the Royal Box.

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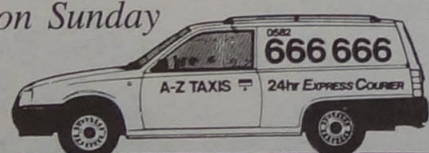
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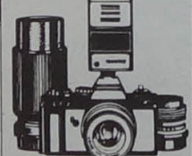
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# Dibble saves!



● WE LOVE YOU: Ashley Grimes gives Brian Stein a plonker on the cheek after he scored the Wembley winner.



● HEADS WE WIN: Steve Foster's head band pops up to clear an Arsenal raid.



● GOT IT: Andy Dibble dives to save Nigel Winterburn's penalty. Arsenal's Kenny Sansom can't bear to look.



● WELL DONE: Luton fans and the players join in mutual applause on the lap of honour with the trophy.



● WE DID IT: Darron McDonough forgets injury to greet Andy Dibble after the match.



● JUBILATION: Ashley Grimes races over in joy as Brian Stein scores the winner after his vital cross.



● SCRAMBLE: Goalmouth action with Lukic stranded and Danny Wilson poised to equalise from Brian Stein's cross.



● SAVED: Goalkeeper Lukic in contention with Brian Stein.

COLOUR PICTURES  
BY MARK RICHARDS

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## MEET THE MEN WHO PLAY FOR LUTON



• Luton captain Steve Foster greets his jubilant fans after last year's cup win.

## Ricky over the hill? Not on your life

IN the twilight of his career, Luton's longest serving player, Ricky Hill, can hardly believe his good fortune in going to Wembley for two cup finals.

Just when it seemed that his reward for being a consistent member of the Town side for 11 years was to be a seat in the stand for the biggest day in his time at Kenilworth Road, Ricky's luck changed.

He recovered sufficiently from a broken left leg sustained at Goodison Park the previous Boxing Day for Ray Harford to take a gamble on his fitness in the final against Arsenal.

He saved his legs and used his vast experience to help the Town to a magnificent victory. But he admits he was not fully fit, and is looking forward to going back to Wembley against Nottingham Forest at the peak of form and fitness.

"I was very fortunate to make the final last year, but I was pleased that I got there," he said.

"I was not as fit as I might have been, but the result was the great thing."

Looking forward to going back to Wembley, he said: "This year I am a lot fitter, and I hope to enjoy the game more."

### IGNORED

He will have been a Luton player for 14 years come November and knows this may well be his last chance to play at Wembley.

He played there once for England, for whom he earned three caps: "But at 29 I think my England days are over," he said.

"I think I am a bit too old now, and England don't seem to look at the likes of Luton, they look to the Arsenal and Tottenham."



• Ricky Hill in action against Arsenal at Wembley.

## Fossie's a born winner

BY BRIAN SWAIN

SKIPPER STEVE Foster has well over 500 games behind him, including three for England. But he has no doubt about the best day of his life: April 24, 1988.

The memories of the intoxicating delight of the victory over Arsenal, he promises, ensure that Luton Town are ready to burst blood vessels to try to do it again.

"I have been lucky to have had a good career in football," said the man who played for Portsmouth, Brighton and Aston Villa before joining the Town four and a half years ago.

"My happiest times have been at Brighton and Luton, similar clubs with outspoken chairmen, both brilliant in their dedication to their people."

The late Mike Bamber ensured Brighton went in style to the 1983 FA Cup final. Foster missed the game through suspension, but returned for the replay which Manchester United won.

"We didn't like losing, but now when I look back on that week it stands out as one of the great experiences of my life. The way Brighton did the whole Wembley thing, including flying in by helicopter, was tremendous."

"Last year Luton topped that, going to Wembley three times. It hurt to lose the Simod Cup final but perhaps it was a blessing."

"It was hard to be favourites. If we had beaten Reading 2-0 everyone would have said it should have been more. To lose was devastating."

• To facing page



• Mick Harford keeps a firm grasp on the cup at Wembley.

## Mick means business

MICK Harford is the man Forest will give special attention to on Sunday. It happens all the time because the centre-forward is probably the most respected member of the Town squad among his fellow professionals.

He is the big man with the gentle touch, frighteningly powerful in the air, yet delicate on his feet. Goals are his business, yet that is barely half the story

of a man who helped revitalise Luton Town and save them from a relegation threat when they paid a then record fee of £250,000 to recruit him from Birmingham four and a half years ago.

By his standards this season has been below par in terms of hitting the net — but his very presence has unsettled better defences than Forest's.

• To facing page

## MEET THE MEN WHO PLAY FOR LUTON



GOALKEEPER Les Sealey will not believe he is playing at Wembley until he marches out on to the pitch 15 minutes before kick-off.

"After what happened last year I'm taking nothing for granted," said the 31-year-old Londoner. He has played over 250 games for Luton since being bought for £80,000 from Coventry nearly six years ago.

He started as one of three competing for No. 1 spot, but saw off the challenges of Jake Findlay and Andy Dibble. But he missed the big one a year ago.

He was injured after suffering the mortification of letting in four goals in the Simod Cup debacle against Reading.

Dibble grabbed his chance to become a star. After being a loser in the FA Cup semi-final against Wimbledon he was a glorious winner in the Littlewoods final, with a man of the match display which included a penalty save that turned the game Luton's way.

Sealey, nursing a shoulder injury, watched in admiration. "Of course I wanted to play in the final. I was very close to being fit for it, but not 100 per cent, and I knew Dibble was a good keeper."

"It's marvellous to get another chance, but I am not there yet, am I? I'll believe it when I walk out on to the pitch."



• ONE man will have to sit it out on Sunday, however well he is playing.

Richard Cooke came to Luton too late to join the Wembley party. When he was signed from Bournemouth a fortnight ago he was already cup-tied, having played for them in the early rounds.

### Steve Foster

• From facing page

"But then we went for the Littlewoods final as underdogs, and there is no doubt that helped us. The Reading experience probably did as well."

"And that moment when the final whistle blew, and when we went up to collect the cup and medals will be the happiest memory of my footballing life."

"We all want to do it again. We're underdogs again. Forest are a very good team, but we will give it everything."

People are already talking of the prospect of two good footballing sides producing a Wembley classic. But Foster said: "If the entertainment is terrific we will be pleased... so long as we win. But we will have our work cut out to hold Forest."

"I couldn't care less if we win 1-0 and people complain that the match was not entertaining."

"I bet that will do for the Luton supporters. It will for the players."

THE FAMOUS headband that makes Steve Foster instantly recognisable is not a gimmick. Continual heading of footballs and occasionally of opposing centre-forwards has produced a mass of scar tissue on Foster's forehead.

Eight years ago at Brighton he was told to protect it. But the padding was difficult to keep in place, so the headband was introduced to do the job.

And to make the point that it is no gimmick, Foster has turned down sponsorship offers from companies willing to pay him a fee to put their name on the headband.



IT WILL be third time lucky if John Dreyer is in the Town squad at Wembley. He had not broken into the Oxford United team on a regular basis when they won the then Milk Cup three years ago.

Last year he was an accomplished and admired defender as Oxford made another determined bid for glory, only to run up against Luton Town in the semi-finals.

"It wasn't exactly the highlight of my Oxford career," he said. "I was injured and missed the game at Kenilworth Road when Luton won 7-4 in the league just before the semi-final first leg. But I played in both semi-final matches, and it was a big disappointment to lose when we were so close to Wembley."

"Little did I think that within a few months I would be transferred to Luton, and get another Wembley chance. Obviously I would like to be in the team, but there is a lot more competition for places here than when I was at Oxford."

"There I was in the team if I was fit. Here, if you go out, you know you have a real fight on your hands to try to win back your place."



• FROM Vauxhall-Opel League part-time soccer to the gates of Wembley is the unlikely journey missile engineer Iain Dowie, 24, has made in four months.

Hendon collected £30,000 when he decided to throw in his well-paid job with British Aerospace at Hatfield and try to achieve his ambition in football.

He is established in the squad, and hoping quietly that he might force his way into the 13-man team on Sunday.

### Mick Harford

• From facing page

At 30, he has developed a crafty ability to drift into unexpected positions. Opponents have to decide whether to go with him and hope they can stop him doing damage. If they don't, he does. If they do, they very often leave gaps for other Luton men to exploit, with Roy Wegerle the latest to benefit.

If he had played for a more glamorous club Harford would have had a long international career, as would Steve Foster. But he has put that personal disappointment aside. Three caps, he says, are more than a lot of players get.

Harford is set to pass 500 games next year, in a career which began at Lincoln and moved on to Newcastle, Bristol City and Birmingham.

He had an image problem at one stage, for being a rumbustious character off the field as well as on it. He still gives 100 per cent in matches and gets into odd little scrapes with referees, but at home he has settled down to be a family man and father.

He has had the pleasure of scoring at Wembley — except that it turned out to be short-lived enjoyment. His header against Reading, a typical Harford goal, put the Town ahead in the Simod Cup final. But the Second Division side came back with four to pull off a shock result.

That, says Harford, was one of the low days of his life in football. The high day in the Littlewoods Cup final more than compensated — and like everyone else at Kenilworth Road he believes the Town can do to Forest what Reading did to Luton last year.



ASHLEY Grimes need never kick another ball for Luton Town to ensure his place in the supporters' affections. At 31 he is approaching the end of a career that started at Manchester United and Coventry before he moved to Kenilworth Road five years ago.

He has played for the Republic of Ireland, and fought back from injuries to beat off challenges from younger men for the left-back spot. Mitchell Thomas, Rob Johnson and Richard Harvey have all ousted him at times. So did a serious back injury for a spell.

But Grimes is the man who always bounced back. Three years ago he was on the verge of leaving to drop into the Third Division with Swindon. The deal fell through, and the Town's happy bonus came in the last minute of the Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal.

### TRUSTY LEFT

The full-back admits to being one-footed. So much so that when he went haring down the right wing at Wembley, after being sent on as sub, few thought he had any chance of getting the ball back from the by-line into the goalmouth.

The cross cried out for a good right foot. Ashley's is limited to standing on, at the most. But somehow his trusty left twisted itself into an impossible position, delivered the cross, and Brian Stein scored the winner.

His 13 minutes as sub are Ashley's only playing experience at Wembley in four visits so far. But he makes no secret of his ambition to be there again on Sunday — and collect another winner's medal.



RIGHT-BACK Tim Breacker looks forward to meeting an old friend at Wembley. He and Gary and Parker were in the Town's junior side which reached the semi-final of the FA Youth Cup in 1983, the nearest the Town have ever got to the final of that competition.

But Breacker was the lad who established himself firmly in the First Division while Parker had to move to Hull and then to Nottingham to make his mark.

The two are still good friends, having played together in the England under-21 side. "It will be nice to see Gaz again at Wembley," said the Town defender. "But I hope he's only going for a loser's medal."

### EVER-PRESENT

Breacker, famous for counter-attacking surges down the right wing, was the only Town man to play in all 58 league and cup matches last season, a club record that is unlikely to be beaten.

But it was a heartbreak change this season, when a hernia operation put him out of action. "Being injured is the worst experience I have had in football so far," he said. "Getting over the op and being back in the squad after six weeks was my best Christmas present."

"Going to Wembley is the best experience any player can have, and we all think we can go back and win the cup again."

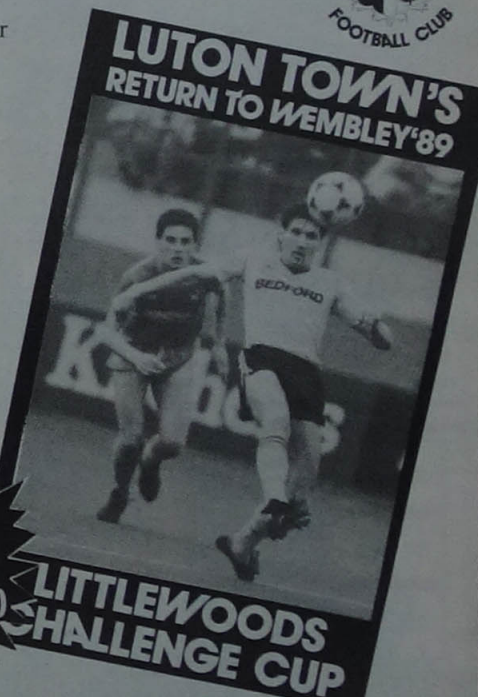
At 23 Breacker has already played his 150th league game for the Town — at Old Trafford last month — after being recruited from schools football at St Neots, where he still lives, eight years ago.

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## MEET THE MEN WHO PLAY FOR LUTON



● ROY WEGERLE, whose goals played a major part in sending Luton Town back to Wembley, thinks he is "The happiest man in football". South African born, he developed his skills in the USA before soccer in the States slumped. He came to London to play for Chelsea, and struggled for consistency.

Ray Harford watched him, saw that a good attacking player was being wasted in a midfield role, and invested £75,000. "He must be one of the biggest bargains of all time," said the Luton boss. Wegerle has an astonishing mix of talent — good control, trickery to bamboozle defenders, an eye for goal and a waspish shot.

"I'm happier here than I was at Chelsea," he said. "Luton let me do what I like doing, and to have the goals going in is something extra. No-one in the game could be happier than I am to be going to Wembley."



● MARVIN JOHNSON is one of the men with a thankless role as the Town prepare for Wembley — waiting on the sidelines, close to the final but unlikely to play in it unless injury to a colleague makes the opening.

Signed as an apprentice five years ago, he understudies central defence, and at 20 is still waiting for his chance to make a career at the top level, having been confined to occasional appearances.



● LUTON'S record in choosing the right youngsters to train is remarkably good, and the latest is Richard Harvey. A Leitchworth boy, he was capped by England Schools nine times, and reached the Town's First Division side a year after joining the club as an apprentice. He can play in either full-back position and will be 20 next week. A place in the Wembley squad would be the perfect present for a boy who has waited patiently for the chance of a regular place in league football.



● KINGSLEY BLACK, an unknown winger until he played a decisive role in the victory over Arsenal, has enjoyed a remarkable year since his big-time debut as a 19-year-old.

Within days of starring in the final he was being courted by England and Northern Ireland, and chose the Ulster connection — through his family — for his international career.

He is now a regular in the Northern Ireland side, and glad that he has had the chance to learn his football with experts at Luton.

Danny Wilson and Mal Donaghy helped to ease him into Billy Bingham's squad, and he said: "If I turn out to be half as good as those two I will be pleased."

Some of us will be surprised if he doesn't turn out to be even better, good as Wilson and Donaghy are.



● ONE OF THE most pleasantly surprised members of the Town's squad is striker Raphael Meade. Three weeks ago he was preparing to play for Dundee United against Glasgow Rangers.

Then he was asked if he fancied going to Luton, who had offered £250,000 for him. Ray Harford had spotted the former Arsenal man while watching defender David Beaumont, who had been signed a month earlier.

Meade came south in such a hurry that he didn't have time to bring his boots — they were in the team skip going to Ibrox while he was discussing terms at Luton.

He accepted Luton's offer, had his boots sent down by Red Star parcel post, and still marvels at suddenly being so close to Wembley. His ambition? To play there, of course.



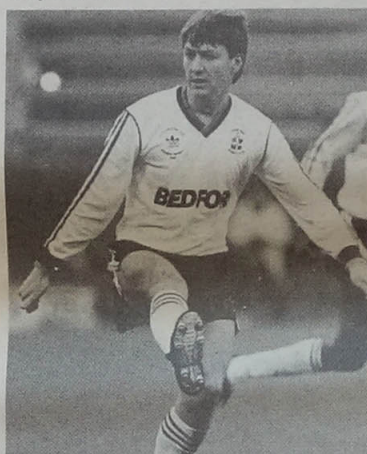
● A CUP-WINNER'S medal for Rob Johnson last year was just reward for a man who has risked his career for Luton Town. He prefers to play at right back but fills in on the other flank when needed.

That is what he did against Arsenal, and his quiet confident display helped the Town through some sticky moments.

He has been at Kenilworth Road for ten years, graduating through the youth and reserve teams, and has twice recovered from knee injuries which have put others out of the game.

"Oh, no, not again," was the general reaction a few weeks ago when Rob developed a hernia problem. If he needed surgery, his Wembley '89 chance had gone.

The 27-year-old defender settled for treatment and training, and if any man deserves special good wishes today it's him.



● IT WILL BE miserable history repeating itself if Steve Williams is still out of the squad on Sunday.

A year ago the former England midfielder was left out of Arsenal's team to play Luton, and he decided to leave Highbury. He cost Luton a club record fee of £300,000, and everyone applauded Ray Harford's bold move for a man known as a brilliant but temperamental playmaker.

It is a mystery why Williams failed to flourish with Luton. After ten appearances he was dropped.

He rejected moves to Middlesbrough and Portsmouth. It says something about his determination that he preferred to stay on, and fight against the odds to try to get back. And manager Harford confirms: "Steve and I disagree about him being left out of the team. But his attitude is still first class."

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## MATCH BY MATCH — THE HATTERS' ROAD TO WEMBLEY

## LUTON TOWN

Second round, first leg: Burnley (H) 1-1 Scorer Rob Johnson  
Second leg: Burnley (A) 1-0 (Hill)  
Third round: Leeds (A) 2-0 (Wilson, Oldfield)  
Fourth round: Manchester City (H) 3-1 (Wegerle 2, Oldfield)

Fifth round: Southampton (H) 1-1 (Hill)  
Replay: Southampton (A) 2-1 after extra time (Hill, Harford)  
Semi-final, first leg: West Ham (A) 3-0 (Harford, Wegerle, Wilson pen)  
Second leg: West Ham (H) 2-0 (Harford, Wegerle)

## NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Second round, first leg: Chester (H) 6-0 (Webb 3, Clough 2, Pearce, Hodge, Gaynor)  
Second leg: Chester (A) 4-0 (Gaynor 3, Crosby)  
Third round: Coventry (H) 3-2 (Foster, Hodge, Clough)  
Fourth round: Leicester (A) 0-0  
Replay: Leicester (H) 2-1 Clough pen)

Fifth round: QPR (H) 5-2 (Chapman 4, Clough pen)  
Semi-final, first leg: Bristol City (H) 1-1 (Pender OG)  
Second leg: Bristol City (A) 1-0 after extra time (Parker)

FINAL, WEMBLEY, APRIL 9, 1989  
LUTON TOWN NOTTINGHAM FOREST

## Battling Burnley made it so tough

SECOND ROUND, FIRST LEG  
Luton Town 1 Burnley 1

THE DEFENCE OF the trophy started at Kenilworth Road in September, when the Town were given an early reminder that league status counts for little in cup games.

In a helter-skelter match Fourth Division Burnley, with nothing to lose, and with 1,000 fans backing them, were happy to indulge in an old-fashioned rousing cup-tie.

Even Rob Johnson's first-ever goal for the first team, in the 39th minute, failed to quieten the underdogs. His 25-yard-potshot caught a deflection to baffle goalkeeper Chris Pearce.

The Town had won 2-0 at Goodison Park in the First Division three days earlier, but were never allowed to

settle into a smooth groove by the Fourth Division side. Burnley's defiance was boosted three minutes before half-time. Johnson and Paul Comstive fell over each other, the ref gave a penalty and Comstive scored.

Les Sealey had to make a finger-tip save from Gary Rowell to prevent a shock home defeat as the Town's frantic attempts to subdue lowly opposition melted in a welter of wasted chances.

Burnley won acclaim for their efforts, but manager Brian Miller was not carried away: "We mustn't kid ourselves that we have done the hard bit by drawing here," he said.

Chris Nicholl of Southampton was to make the same point, and reap the same bitter harvest in a later round.

SECOND LEG:  
Burnley 0 Luton Town 1

TOWN fans could hardly have been super-confident at Turf Moor a fortnight later. Burnley were looking promotion candidates, had a 100 per cent home record, and had scored 15 goals in five home matches.

On a cold October night Burnley re-lived its glorious past. More than 14,000 fans turned up, the biggest attendance for more than two years, expecting to see David Burnley complete the slaughter of Goliath Luton.

They almost got their wish, because for the first half the Town were almost run off the park. The Lancashire roar echoed back from the moors as Burnley went for the kill.

But Steve Foster, stitched up because of a head wound in the first leg, and playing with a gashed shin that needed more needlework in the second, led a stubborn survival battle.

If anything, Burnley had too much of the game for their

own good. They were playing at a hundred miles an hour, delighting their fans for their effort, but not producing the touch of quality that might have turned endeavour into goals.

Instead the Town rode their luck in the first half, then did the business in the second. Ricky Hill got in at the near post after a 53rd-minute corner by Steve Williams and forced the ball into the net. If the goal was a bit scruffy, the Town's calm professional performance after it was decidedly neat and tidy.

Town boss Ray Harford's comment: "We knew Burnley would come at us. In the first half they had more possession than I would have liked. But they were not creating real danger, and I fancied us to do the job at the other end."

"On the night there was more pressure on Burnley than on us. You could feel the crowd willing them on to win, and that helped to make it a good cup-tie."

Mr Miller praised his Fourth Division battlers for giving everything, and added: "Luton did an expert job. I hope they go all the way back to Wembley..."

SPORTS EDITOR BRIAN SWAIN  
reviews Luton Town's run-up to the  
Littlewoods Cup final.

● GOING BANANAS: Roy Wegerle scores against Manchester City.

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to the Hatters

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Whinging City  
sent packingFOURTH ROUND  
Luton Town 3  
Manchester City 1

"PITCH scores three goals!" was the cynical headline in the Luton News when Manchester City went home unwilling to accept that they had been beaten fair and square in the fourth round.

City chairman Peter Swales is one of the loudest critics of Luton Town in general and David Evans in particular.

City brought 2,600 supporters and about 1,000 bananas to see the Second Division promotion favourites strike another blow for Maine Road pride.

Luton Town will never be forgiven for winning in Manchester in May 1983.

And the bananas were waving when David White volleyed City into an eight-minute lead, as good a goal as any we have seen at Kenilworth Road this season.

City had the better of the early exchanges, but unaccountably failed to build on their lead. They chose not to try to increase it, but settled for a reliance on defence kick and rush, and a crude off-side trap.

They paid the price of a manager's mistaken tactics, and might have been hammered even harder. The ball hit their net six times, but three were ruled out for offside.

David Preece, twice, and Roy Wegerle were the unlucky marksmen, in a four-minute spell in the second half.

Andy Dibble, Wembley hero for the Town a few months earlier, took some of the blame for the equaliser in the 16th minute. He was unable to hold a drive by Wegerle and David Oldfield snapped up the rebound.

City had yielded the advantage, and Wegerle, staking a claim for a regular place in the Town side, was unstoppable.

A run and sharp shot made it 2-1 after 21 minutes, and the killer was another Wegerle goal four minutes from time, an expert shot from David Oldfield's head-ed pass.

City boss Mel Machin had a ready-made excuse for defeat. He asked us to print his verdict: "The pitch was crap." City City's football on the night wasn't even that good.

Town manager Ray Harford admitted: "It wasn't much of a spectacle was it? We had to play cup-tie football to win."

If the entertainment was not top notch, the result was sheer delight for Town fans among the attendance of 10,778.

The result put us into the quarter-finals, and when the draw was made a couple of days later we all rejoiced at being asked to play at home again, this time against Southampton.

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## MATCH BY MATCH — THE HATTERS' ROAD TO WEMBLEY

## LADY LUCK RULES OK!

**QUARTER-FINAL:**  
Luton Town 1 Southampton 1

WEMBLEY dreams looked decidedly optimistic the night Southampton came to Kenilworth Road in mid-January and gave us some anxious moments before earning a replay.

Perhaps the silliest thing the Town had done by way of preparation was to thrash the Saints 6-1 in a league game on the same pitch a fortnight earlier.

Mick Harford, with aerial domination of Kevin Moore and Russell Osman, had done most of the damage.

But for the cup-tie he was suspended and Iain Dowie, a £30,000 bargain buy from non-league Hendon, was given a chance after making a debut in a messy 4-1 defeat at Crystal Palace in the Simod Cup.

The Town were already settling into an uncomfortable routine — disappointing in the First Division, but always ready to raise their performance in cup-ties.

But the signs were not too encouraging in the build-up to Southampton's visit. Since the previous one, Town had lost valiantly at Millwall, 3-2 in the FA Cup, slumped at Selhurst Park in the Simod, and then looked pathetic in losing 3-0 to Charlton in the league, also at Selhurst.

We trusted that the traditional determination to do the business in "our cup" would see off Southampton's challenge.

## HIDING TO NOTHING

The Saints were on the slide. A Littlewood's Cup success over Spurs at The Dell a month earlier was their only win in the 11 matches played before they came to Luton.

"They'll have nothing to lose and everything to gain," was Ray Harford's forecast. "We put six past them two weeks ago, and if we win again people will say we ought to anyway."

"And they won't need motivating — if you've lost by six last time you're bound to do a lot better when you get a second chance to put the record straight."

Southampton very nearly more than straightened the record, and perhaps the Wembley luck was on the Town's shoulders in a dreary game.

The Saints sorted out their previous problems with a five-man defence and man to man marking, and the Town were reduced to hitting the long ball and running hopefully.

SPORTS EDITOR BRIAN SWAIN continues his review of the Hatters' run-up to the Cup

The goals were highlights of excellence in a lot of mediocrity, with Southampton creating fewer but cleaner chances while the Town hoped in vain that the inexperienced Dowie could do the job Harford had done so brilliantly a fortnight earlier.

But at least the Town defence looked better, with John Dreyer returning at centre-back and Tim Breacker recalled after illness.

## TACTICS CHANGED

Rod Wallace, one of three brothers in the Southampton side, wasted two golden chances to put his team ahead, and it was a slight surprise when the Town at last found the target in the 70th minute.

Ricky Hill, who wears his experience like a comfortable pair of slippers, rose powerfully at the near post to head in a free kick by David Preece.

Southampton changed their tactics, adopting a more attacking formation, with Paul Rideout reverting to the front line instead of midfield. And within nine minutes Glenn Cockerill had whacked in a stunning equaliser on the volley.

Danny Wallace should have been a winner that night, because he left the Town defence flat-footed with a run and cross, only to see Rideout fluff a chance you would expect your mother-in-law to convert.

## UNLUCKY SAINTS

The 3,000 visitors from the South Coast went home convinced that they were unlucky not to win. Most of the 9,000 home supporters believed it as well.

Some of us thought back to Burnley boss Brian Miller's comments after his team had drawn at Kenilworth Road. He was worried his men would believe they had done the hard bit, and that a home tie was a simple matter of going out and winning.

Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager who was once a Town centre-half, was to spend the next week fretting about the same problem.

He might have known what was coming — Southampton had just gone out of the FA Cup ... in a replay on their own ground after drawing at Derby.



● **SINNER:** But not in the eyes of Town fans, as Mick Harford rises to head home the Town's first goal against the Saints in their extra time victory in a quarter-final replay at The Dell.

## It's the Mickey and Ricky Show, folks

MICK Harford returned after suspension to be the decisive factor in the most exciting contest so far on the Wembley trail.

If Sunday's final is as good as the game at The Dell millions of spectators will be well pleased.

Like last year's Titanic confrontation with Arsenal, it was a game to alternately lift and deflate both sets of fans, with a bit of refereeing controversy thrown into the pot to keep everything on the boil.

Fortunes swung both ways, with 18,872 customers spellbound by two hours of compelling action.

With a semi-final place at stake both teams were pumped up. The Dell crackled with the conflicting emotions from either end as first the Town, then Southampton, enjoyed supremacy.

And like Wembley last year the drama built up to a breath-taking finale, with a late goal producing a crescendo of noise.

Only later did we learn that Southampton's players had made the very mistake their manager feared. A week earlier, at Kenilworth Road, they had celebrated noisily in their dressing room after their away draw. Too noisily — their shouts of delight, "We'll do this lot at our place" carried to beyond the other dressing room door, marked "Home team".

It ensured that a team that needed little motivation to defend its silverware at the best of times was in need of none whatsoever at The Dell.

Southampton, who had chosen to concentrate on defence at Kenilworth Road against a team without Harford, had to be more adventurous at home.

Their fans demanded the traditional "Attack, attack, attack" and the Town, well prepared for it, and by inclination a counter-punch side, were glad to use the extra space they were given on the break.

More than that, they took the game to Southampton for the first 45 minutes, and all but silenced the home crowd. Ricky Hill, Danny Wilson and David Preece, the Wembley heroes against Arsenal, took charge of midfield.

Southampton's huge respect for Harford made him a marked man, but Roy Wegerle and Kingsley Black profited. Each was put clear, but the chances were wasted. At half-time, the worry for the big Town following was that teams who do so well without scoring tend to fall away and pay for their slackness.

The Town nearly did. Southampton switched winger Danny Wallace from right wing to left, with a double benefit.

He put pressure on the Town's right defensive flank, and also stopped Tim Breacker going on overlapping runs that are the hallmark of a good attacking fullback.

The game swung dramatically in Southampton's favour.

QUARTER-FINAL REPLAY  
Southampton 1 Luton Town 2  
(After extra time)

and it looked all over when Danny Wallace whipped past Breacker in the 77th minute and crossed low for brother Rod to volley into the net.

Referee Tony Ward of London had pointed to the centre spot before the Town asked him why the linesman had been flagging from the moment Danny Wallace and Breacker had first tussled for the ball.

My guess was that he had seen a foul, had played the advantage, and that Southampton had scored a classic goal.

Not so — Wallace was penalised, the "goal" was rubbed out, and the temperature in the stadium rose by another degree or two.

Neither manager could see anything wrong with the build-up but Mr Nicholl was more than fair later: "The officials are there to make decisions and we had other chances to make the game safe," he said.

Two hit the outside of the woodwork as Town were forced into a real cup-tie battle for survival. That Wembley luck again?

The 90-minute whistle brought another turnaround, with Southampton the worried men after they had done enough to win in the second half except for scoring.

Extra time saw the Town back to their early mastery. With 100 minutes played Hill crossed, Wegerle back-headed to confuse the opposition, and Harford's soaring header did the rest.

Southampton redoubled their efforts, and three minutes into the second half of extra time were floored by a classic goal on the break.

John Dreyer, Wegerle and Harford inter-passed accurately and Hill's 29-year-old legs miraculously outpaced desperate opponents.

They were still chasing forlornly as Hill rattled in his shot from the edge of the penalty area for his third Littlewoods Cup goal of the season.

It wasn't quite all over. Rod Wallace scored for the Saints with two minutes to go to set up a grandstand finish. The drama lasted into the closing seconds when Raymond Wallace was sent off for a foul, his second bookable offence of the night.

And there was huge satisfaction in the Town camp at a job well done. Southampton had sounded as though they were taking the Mick at Kenilworth Road, thinking they had all but done the job with that draw. "It was a pleasure to prove them wrong," said Danny Wilson.

It was also a pleasure to see the Town make their point so splendidly.

## MATCH BY MATCH — THE HATTERS' ROAD TO WEMBLEY

## HAMMERS ARE NAILED AT UPTON PARK

THE FIVE-star performance at Upton Park underlined again the Town's ability to rise above league form for cup-ties.

In their previous match they had been beaten at home by Nottingham Forest, more convincingly than the 3-2 result suggests.

West Ham were equally Jekyll and Hyde. They were bottom of the First Division, heading for relegation. But in cup games they were a different team ... until they met the Town.

Even mighty Liverpool, the league champions, had been humbled 4-1 in an early round, and the Hammers had disposed of First Division leaders Arsenal in the FA Cup at Highbury.

ITV turned up on February 12 hoping for good entertainment. From their point of view it turned out to be too one-sided from first kick to last.

The Town had bought David Beaumont a couple of weeks earlier, and pushed him into what seemed the wrong match for his debut when John Dreyer became unavailable.

It should have been a high pressure game for him and the rest of the Town players. It wasn't, because they were a dashing cut above the Londoners.

## (SEMI-FINAL, FIRST LEG: West Ham 0 Luton Town 3)

For the first time we wondered if we had found another Mal Donaghy, with the bonus that new boy Beaumont was standing no nonsense from friend or foe. Even Les Sealey, on his home patch, was firmly put in his place when he wanted to be too adventurous and take a free kick a long way from goal.

Nobody had told Beaumont, apparently, that Sealey is living proof that all goalkeepers are crazy and don't know it.

The team display was just as emphatic as Beaumont's. Poor Allen McKnight carried the can for two goals and harassed hothead defender Julian Dicks gave away the third.

As the London press looked for scapegoats — McKnight was the Sun's whopping headline to explain a defeat the national papers found hard to accept — the question was whether it was a day when West Ham had been appall-

ing or one when the Town had been very good.

Probably it was half of each. But there was no dispute about one fact: man for man the Town had all performed better than their opposite numbers.

The away team, happy to mix it on grass, did more attacking and the Hammers were lucky to survive until injury time at the end of the first half.

The dressing room tea was brewing as Mick Harford roared in to meet Danny Wilson's right-wing cross.

The header was despatched a split second before McKnight, a £250,000 summer signing, arrived in Norman's-land. If he had stayed on his line he would have been crucified by home fans who jeered sarcastically when he safely gathered back passes.

Whatever its merits, the goal was a nice 30th birthday present for Harford.

If McKnight was late with that decision, the local

denigration of their own goalkeeper reached new heights in the 5th minute when Roy Wegerle took on two defenders, beat them for pace and control, then shot his tenth goal of the season from an acute angle.

The venomous low drive whistled through the tiny gap between goalkeeper and near post, and West Ham fans howled in despair.

It was left to their manager later to ask why West Ham's defenders had left the goalkeeper so exposed before the shot was hit.

The Town had imposed domination, and Wegerle was denied another goal when Dicks held him back on another run. Danny Wilson calmly put away his third penalty of the season and with 75 minutes played a tie scheduled for a total of three hours was as good as all over.

It was all made to look ridiculously easy, and even John Lyall admitted that the Hammers needed a miracle to repair the damage on the pitch where they had been beaten 4-1 in the league last November.



**BUBBLING:** It was the Town who were enjoying the magic bubbles as Steve Foster pops a bottle in the dressing room after the semi-final win over West Ham.

## Glory, glory, we are back again

SEMI-FINAL, SECOND LEG:  
Luton Town 2 West Ham 0  
(Aggregate 5-0)

IT was all remarkably low key as the Town confirmed their Wembley return by completing the demolition of West Ham at Kenilworth Road.

The attendance was just over 12,000, second only in Liverpool's visit in the league, and at the end of the game skipper Steve Foster and his men went through the ritual of spraying champagne from the directors' balcony to celebrate the second consecutive appearance in the final.

## PUNISHMENT

West Ham were denied the early goal that was their only hope of making a game of it, with Mark Ward missing a sitter after getting past Les Sealey.

He shot into the crowd instead of the net. David Kelly missed another chance, and the Town administered due punishment.

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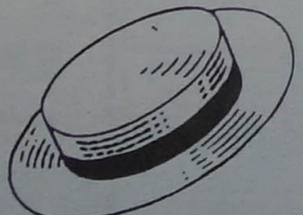
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AND GOOD LUCK IN THE FINAL!**

...from the  
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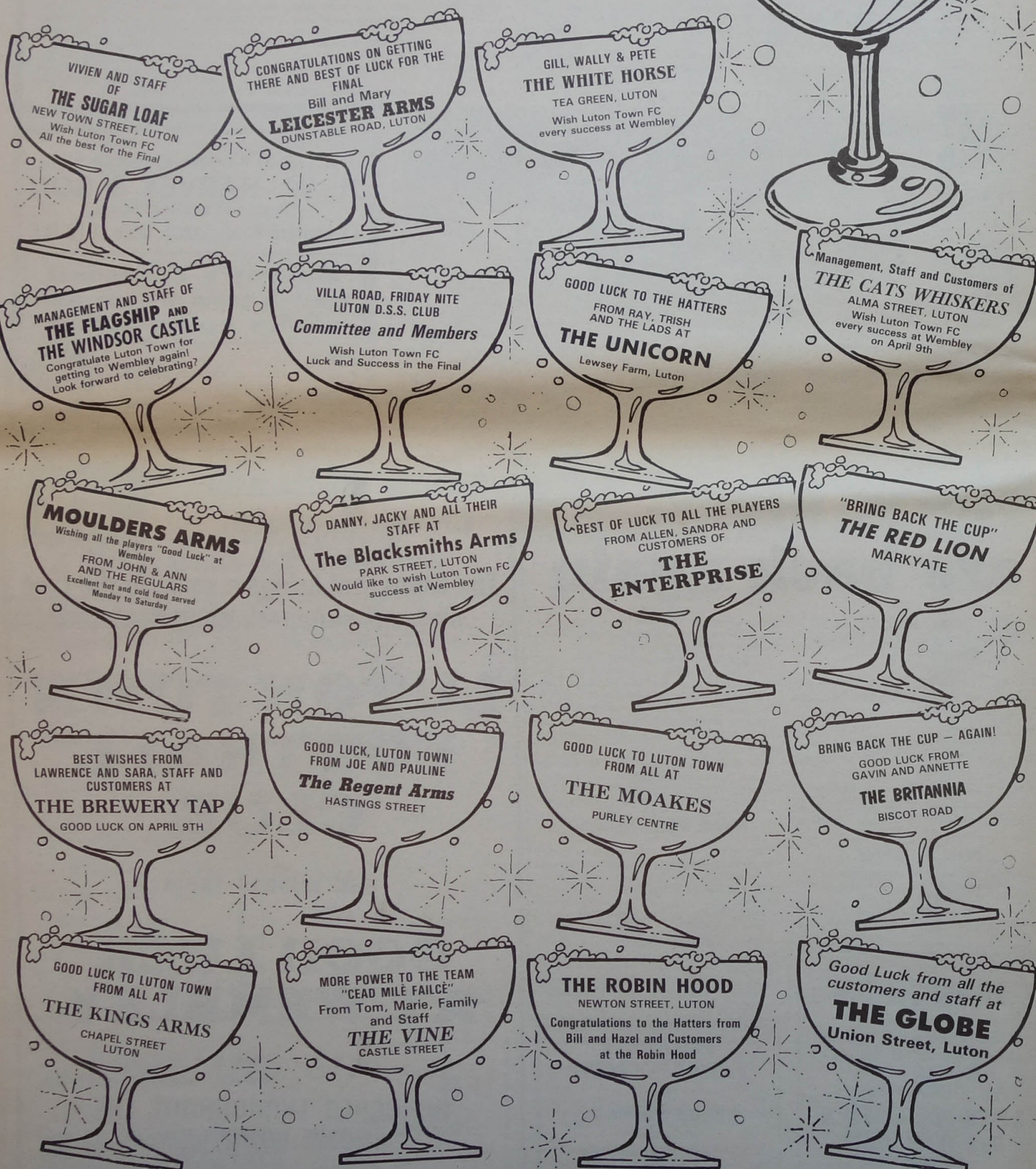




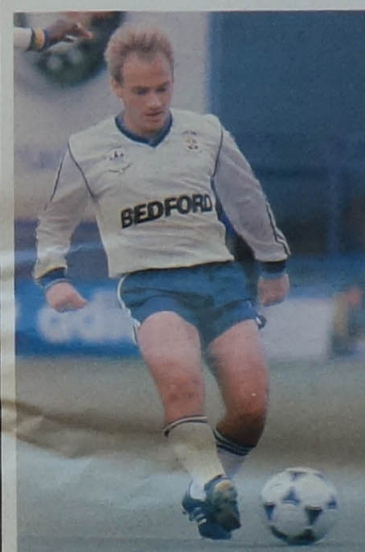
# Cheers!

## LUTON TOWN FC.

### From Your 'Local'



● IT'S OURS: Starting this season, as they hope to begin the next, with the Littlewoods Cup on display: Back row: David Preece, Mark Stein (now QPR), Gary Cobb, Ian Allinson (now Colchester), Richard Harvey, Kingsley Black, Rob Johnson. Middle 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 (captain), Ray Harford (manager), Mal Donaghy (now Manchester Utd), Ricky Hill, Tim Breacker.



● MIDFIELDER David Preece was a lucky late inclusion in last season's team against Arsenal.

He only got the wink the day before the big game when Darron McDonough was injured in a training session.

"I had only played in the first round, and when Darron was injured I was delighted to be picked. "Last year I was just hoping to be included in the 13 man squad for the game. But this year I will hopefully be among the 11," he said.

Preece says: "It will be a harder game than last year. Then Arsenal were the favourites, but we fancied our chances.

"This year we play Forest who are the finest team in the country. We will have to be at our best to beat them," he said.



● DANNY WILSON is the man Brian Clough rejected. But he insists that he has nothing to prove to the Nottingham Forest manager who gave him only 10 appearances before deciding he was not worth keeping.

But Wilson agrees that he would take a lot of pleasure from repeating last year's scoring feat at the expense of Forest.

Wilson was the man who continued the revival sparked by Andy Dibble's penalty save, with an equaliser seven minutes from time. "My most satisfying goal yet," said the Northern Ireland international midfielder, who has hit more than 80 in a career that might have drifted into the lower divisions if the Town had not bought him from Brighton.

#### FIRST SIGNING

He was Ray Harford's first signing nearly two years ago and has been a regular in the Town side ever since.

Brought up in Wigan — his family is Irish — Wilson played for Bury and Chesterfield before Mr Clough signed him for Forest. But he was discarded, sent to Scunthorpe on loan, and happy to rebuild his career at Brighton when they came in for him.

"I have been very happy at Luton," he said. "I like the way we approach football here, and going to Wembley was a great experience. All of us want to repeat it — and we believe we can beat Forest."

## Alec stands by

GOOD MANAGEMENT paid dividends to Luton Town a year ago when they had an excellent goalkeeper in reserve for Wembley.

So when Andy Dibble chose to leave at the end of his contract a few weeks later, and join Manchester City's promotion chase, manager Ray Harford was determined to replace him.

"It's nothing personal about Les Sealey," said the boss. "You need to have someone available in case of injury — and I always want competition for places. Les was number one keeper, but he knew he couldn't rest on his laurels."

Mr Harford paid £150,000 for Everton's Alec Chamberlain, who was being



● DEFENDER David Beaumont had heard of Wembley while he was in the Scottish Premier Division with Dundee United.

"But I have never been there, and never expected to, either as a spectator or player," said the elegant Scot bought by Ray Harford a month ago to replace Mal Donaghy. The £150,000 fee already looks a bargain.

Dundee United were using Beaumont as a top line reserve, and he needed little time to accept the offer from Town manager Harford.

Beaumont's eight years at Tannadice had given him only 36 full appearances in the Premier Division.

Beaumont wears contact lenses during games, and admits that he will blink hard and pinch himself when the Town go to Wembley. "I never thought this would happen," he said. "It feels like a dream."

kept out at Goodison by Neville Southall. The 24-year-old (pictured in the team line-up above) is still waiting for his first league game for Luton — one Simod Cup appearance at Crystal Palace has been his only chance so far.

But he has plenty of experience — 209 matches for Colchester before his transfer to Everton two years ago.

"I was hoping to get into the first team," he said. "But Les is playing well, so all I can do is keep working on my game and do my best in the reserves."

And coach Jimmy Ryan confirms: "Alec is a very good goalkeeper, and a smashing lad. If he is called up I know he will do a good job."



● IF LUCK IN football really does even out over a season, Darron McDonough will be a certainty to play at Wembley.

The 26-year-old midfielder suffered the worst day of his life a year ago. A regular in the Luton side, he was looking forward to playing against the Arsenal at Wembley. But 48 hours before the match he suffered a knee ligament injury in training. He left Kenilworth Road in tears, and went to Wembley on crutches.

His comeback six months later was another personal tragedy. This time an ankle injury that sent him back to the operating theatre.

But he battled back once more, returning to the squad as sub in the semi-final at Upton Park.

**LUTON TOWN F.C.**

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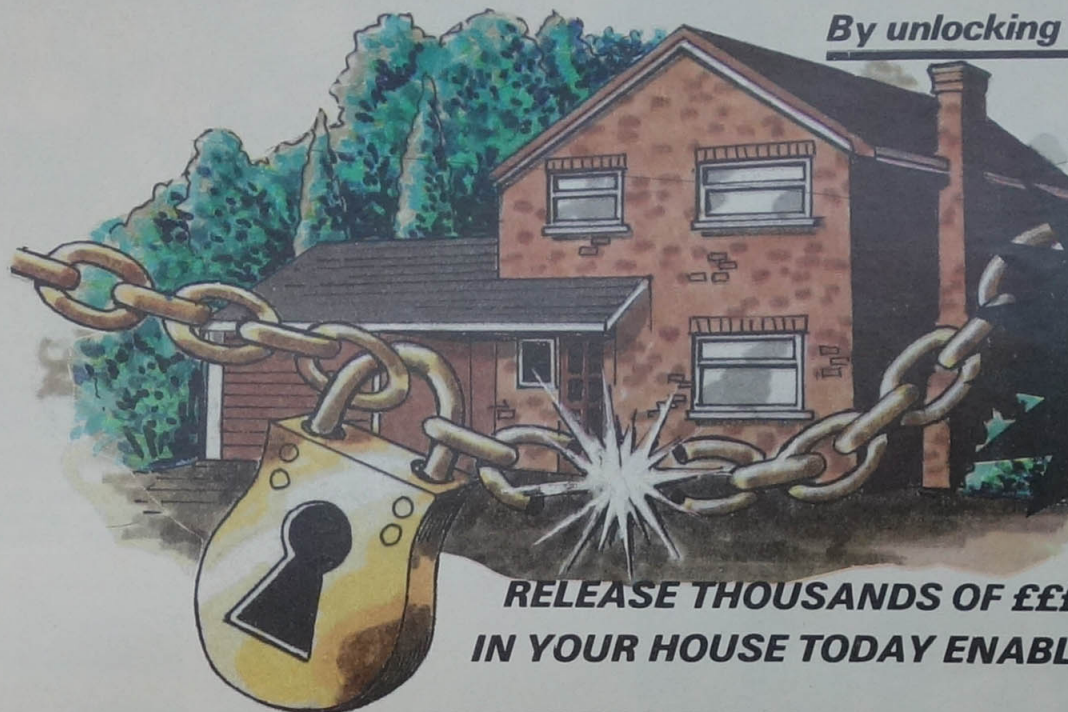
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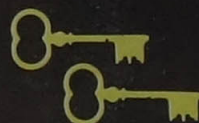
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