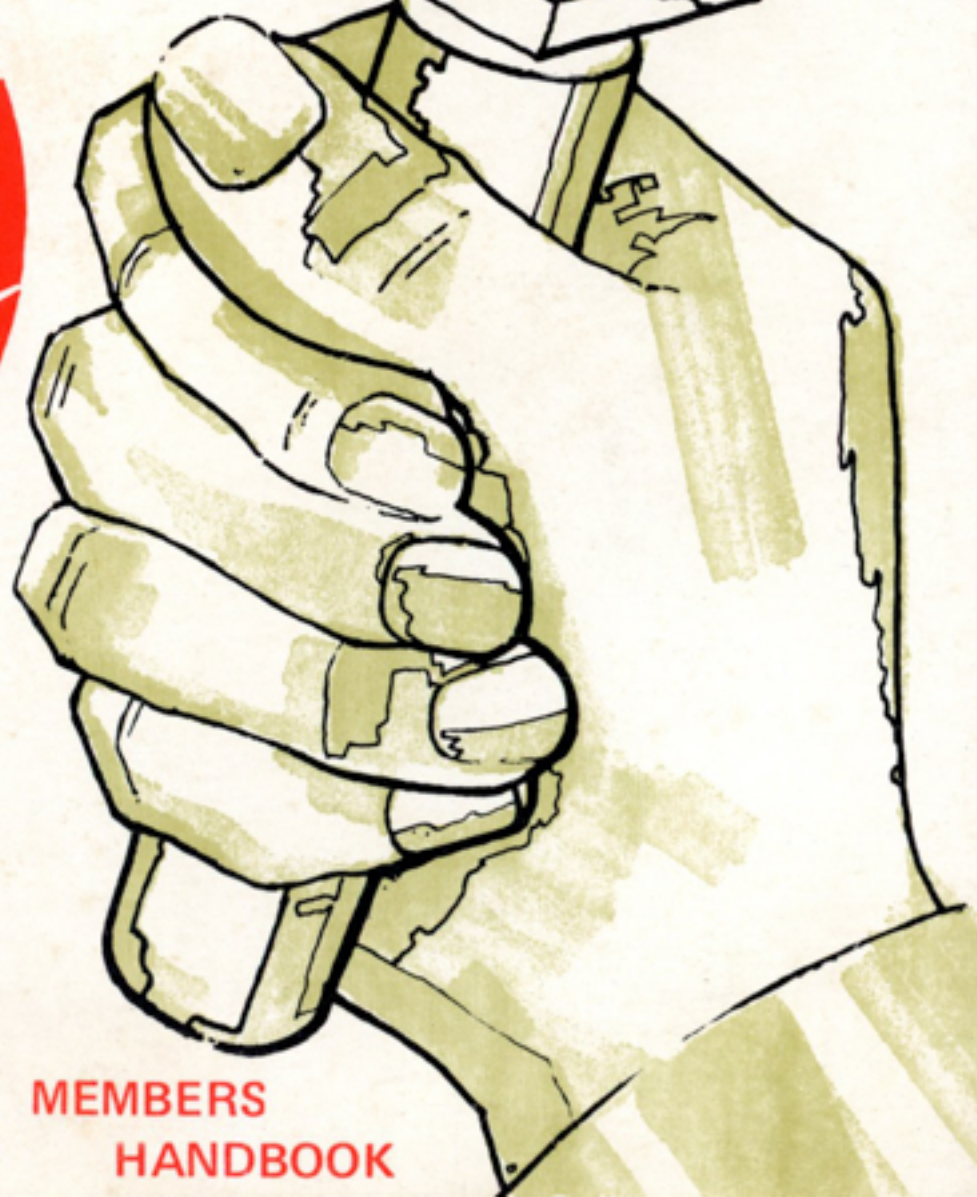


Luton Town

SEASON
1971-1972

Supper Club



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We're aiming high... But we need 100 per cent effort by all



THE rapid advancement of the club over the past four years has seen us finish in first, third, second and sixth positions in our respective League tables. During this time we have also had two promotions.

Our position of respectability in the Second Division brings us numerous problems especially on the playing side and with regard to accommodation.

Our ultimate aim, of course, is First Division status; this is our final ambition. We want a first class team and a first class stadium. We are finding ourselves in a situation which all the directors, the staff, the players and the supporters can take tremendous pride.

I feel that all connected with the club have thrilled at the progress that has been made. I know that everyone down at Kenilworth Road is girding his loins for further great efforts in the name of Luton Town.

To further this cause no effort will be spared by the staff and players to provide first class entertainment during the coming season. In saying this I feel justified in pointing out that the players have the right to demand the fullest backing and support from their supporters.

At all times the Luton Town supporter must remember that the team is his or her personal property and that therefore it is his or her job to support the team to the full. Without 100 per cent effort from everyone, and fervent support, the club could wither and die.

So here we go again, into another hard and relentless season. We go into it in the firm knowledge that we can count on you, our supporters. When we cross that final bridge it will be with tremendous harmony and dignity.

I wish you all, as supporters of Luton Town Football Club a most enjoyable and successful 1971-72. May all your dreams in relation to the club come true.

All the photographs in this handbook are reproduced by kind permission of the Evening Post.

Luton's Board of Directors



1



2



3



4

- 1 Robert Keens
(Chairman)
- 2 Len Hawkins
(Vice-Chairman,
- 3 Reggie Burr
- 4 Eric Morecambe
- 5 Tom Hodgson
(President)
- 6 John Bain
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5



6



7

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MORECAMBE & LUTON



Eric Morecambe may be better known for his success in the entertainment world and as a director of Luton Town but when he can find the time he is a very keen golfer. Here he is seen in action on the Harpenden (Hammonds End) course.

Morecambe & Luton. I suppose you could call it a new double-act. But, unlike my association with Ernie Wise, comedy is out. As a director of Luton Town FC I take my responsibilities seriously. And I sincerely hope that the rest of the board, the players and the fans take me seriously also.

You see, football is a sort of therapy for me. After a week spent in stifling television studios I find it a marvellous relaxation. I have always been keen on soccer. In fact, I formed the Showbiz XI team with fellow comedian Stan Stennett way back in 1956 — although I now no longer play in the side.

Naturally I enjoy watching Luton play. But I also want to be part of the club's success. It was great when we gained promotion to Division Two at the end of the 1969-70 season. Now I want to see us up there with the big boys.

I have a yearning to learn everything there is to know about football, so that in time I will be able to contribute my thoughts to current situations.

Luton is a happy club and there is a tremendous spirit among both players and directors. We're lucky to have a man such as Alec Stock as our manager and I'm sure he is the man to get us into Division One.

The coming season will be my second on the Luton board. Of course I would like to see promotion to Division One, but I shall be happy as long as the team plays well and gets consistent results.

As I am often heard to yell from time to time, 'Luton For The Cup', I don't care which cup it is as long as we get one in the next season. That's why the club needs the very best support during the coming season.

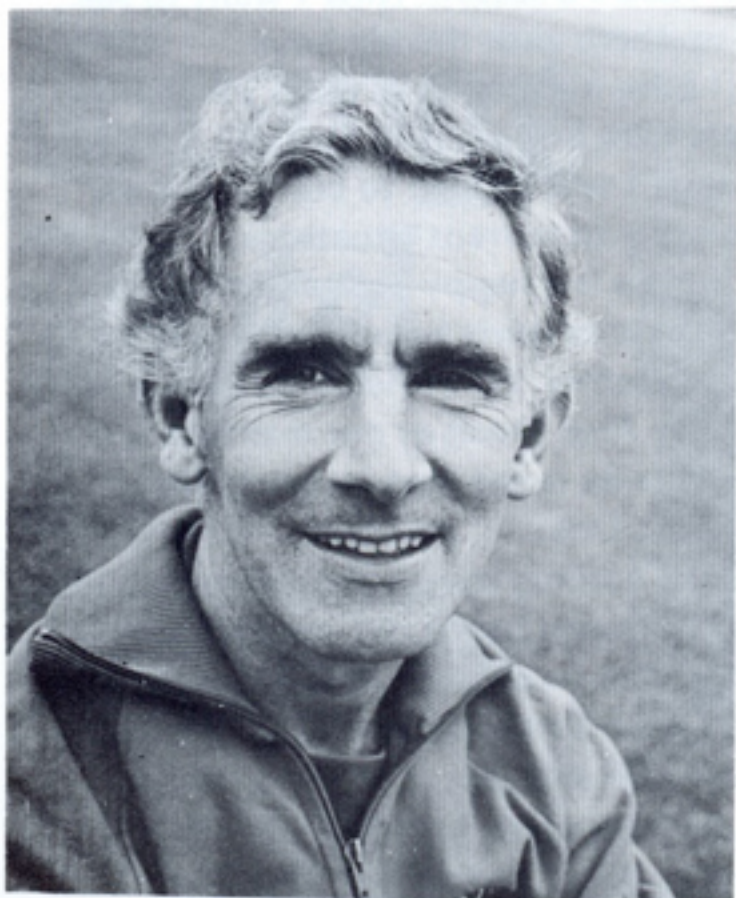
→ STAFF line-up at



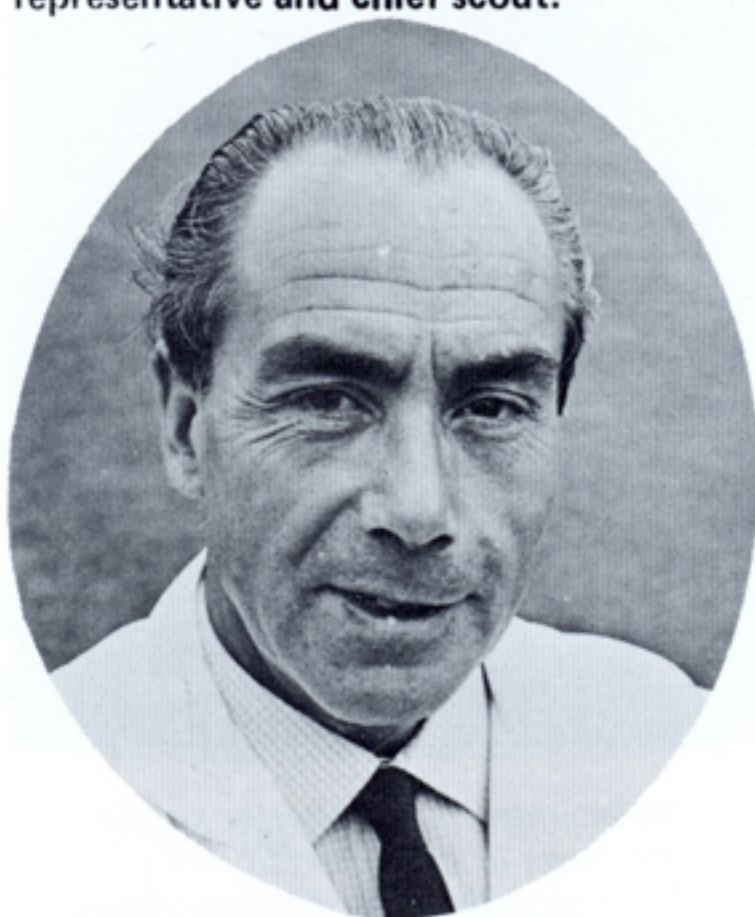
Bob Readhead, the Town's long serving secretary



Harry Haslam, who came to Luton as entertainments manager and is now chief representative and chief scout.



Jimmy Andrews who joined Luton soon after Alec Stock was appointed. Is now assistant manager.

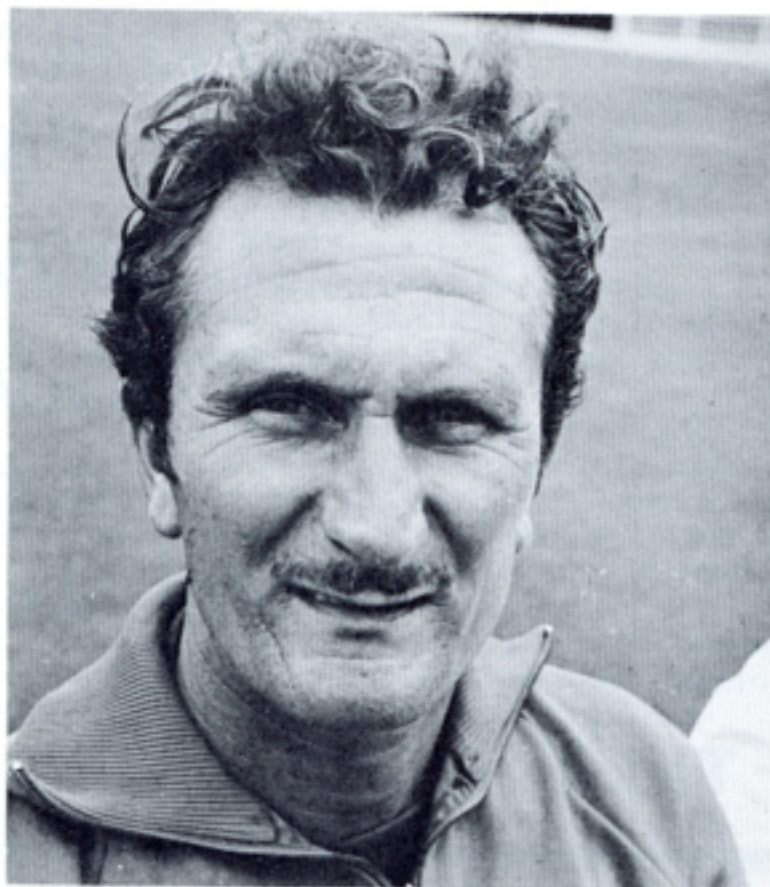


Reg Game, one of the club's busiest backroom boys in his job as physio-therapist.

Kenilworth Road



Terry Newman, assistant to Bob Readhead.



Ken Whitfield, assistant to Jimmy Andrews.



Eddie Hartley, club groundsman. He and his team of helpers are responsible for the superb condition of the Kenilworth Road pitch.



Fred Bunyan, one of Eddie Hartley's team.

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Referees have to be tough



Jim Finney.



Norman Burtenshaw.



Gordon Hill.

By Tony Pullein

THEY'RE both vital links in the game, yet players and referees share perhaps only one common experience — both are booed, abused and often ridiculed when they make a mistake. But, whereas players enjoy more than adequate compensation from the cheers and hero worship which accompany a brilliant feat, the poor old referee gets not so much as a solitary clap when he makes a good decision.

Only the very best work their way up to the Football League list anyway. It's rare for a man to make it in less than 10 years' in the rough of junior soccer. And, once he is on the list, he has to maintain a high degree of consistency to avoid rejection at the end of each season.

Above all, League referees must number among the toughest men in the game. Take **Keith Walker**, the Kent referee who was involved in two controversial Midlands' decisions within days — one concerning the sending off of an international star. He was severely criticised on television, following re-runs of the incidents, the Press had a go at him and in the wake of all this adverse publicity he suffered the cruellest cut of all — his landlord turned him out of his flat, the one place where he might have expected to find peace and quiet.

Fortunately, most of us don't have to suffer such shattering experiences but it says much for Keith Walker's courage that, when he returned to handle another Midlands First Division game a fortnight after the incidents, he did not lose his nerve in face of the 30,000 crowd. And at the end of the game he was cheered off by the fans!

He has refereed over 600 professional games, including matches in France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium and Eire. And he has officiated on all 92 League grounds. That's some experience. He knows what he's doing. So next time you see him make what looks like a controversial decision, think twice before you boo. For it will probably be you, rather than he, who is in the wrong.

Norman Burtenshaw, who runs a sweet shop in Great Yarmouth, is another man who has fought bitter disappointments to resurface at the top. A few years ago he was nearly seriously injured at Millwall when the crowd sought his scalp. He survived badly shaken. A year ago he was told he had lost his place on the FIFA list. "I really thought I would pack it in after that", he said. "But, don't ask me why, I decided to carry on."

Continued on page 36

GONE but not



In a little more than three seasons at Luton Tony Branston engraved his name in the Club's history. Former manager Allan Brown brought him from Northampton to captain the side that won the Fourth Division title in 1967/68. He then played a big part in steering the club to it's present place in the Second Division before being transferred early last season to Lincoln. During a 13-year career Terry has played in every one of the League's four divisions.

FORGOTTEN



Little remains to be said about Malcolm Macdonald. He came to Luton two years ago as an £18,500 defender. This summer he was sold to Newcastle as a £180,000 super-striker. His exciting brand of play will be long remembered at Kenilworth Road — as will the fact that the fee he brought the Club helped balance the finances. He scored several League hat-tricks for Luton, two of the most memorable being those at Sheffield Wednesday this season — and the one against Cardiff in his very last match for Luton in the last match of last season. They dubbed him supermac. He certainly was to Luton.

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CLUB INFORMATION

Luton Town Football and Athletic Co. Ltd.
70/72 Kenilworth Rd., Luton, Bedfordshire.
LU1 1DH.

Chief Executive and Manager: Alec Stock

Assistant Manager: Jimmy Andrews

Chief Scout: Harry Haslam

Assistant Coach: Ken Whitfield

Trainer: Reg. Game.

Telephone: Luton 23151/2

Secretary: R. Readhead

Assistant Secretary: T. Newman

Accountant: J. Whiting.

Telephone: Luton 23151/2

Pre. Match Information and Match Scores:

Luton 33010

Box Office for Match and Rail Bookings:

Luton: 23151/2.

Luton Town Development Association

231 Dunstable Road, Luton Bedfordshire.

Manager: Mike Skinner

Sales Reps.: Ted Payne and John Symonds

Telephone: Luton 30748

Luton Town Sports Centre

231 Dunstable Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.

Manager: John Wilkinson

Telephone: Luton 22957

Town Supporters Club

231 Dunstable Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.

All Enquiries: Luton 30748

The Hatters Club

Maple Road, Luton, Bedfordshire

Manager: Les Richardson

Enquiries and Bookings: Luton 21726.

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A POOR START!

A glance back at Roger Duckworth's Notes



Luton Town 4, Oxford United 0

Attendance 16,173

Sept. 1, 1970. HT 3-0

IT TOOK four matches for Luton to record their first win. And when it came it was in grand style against a team who had surprised everyone by taking up the running in the Second Division.

After promising plenty in previous matches, Luton eventually came up with the goods, and two goals from Tees and one from Macdonald gave them a comfortable three-goal half time lead.

Twelve minutes into the second half Macdonald popped up with another, and the Town were able to cruise home to the delight of their patient followers.

Luton provided all the entertainment. Hoy was replaced by Jimmy Ryan at half time.

Luton Town 0, Norwich 0

Attendance 16,110

Aug. 22 1970.

LUTON'S second match of the season, their first at home, did not give their followers much to cheer about. There was a fair amount of intelligent football, but the side's failure to score did little to suggest that they were soon to be up there challenging the leaders.

Tony Read was brought back, and Chris Nicholl replaced Branston at centre half.

Jim Ryan was also brought in after a week of wholesale changes, and he was substituted by Busby, the man he had displaced.

All in all this was an anonymous performance, but Luton more than held their own against a well-fancied Norwich side.

Bolton Wanderers 4, Luton Town 2

Attendance 11,350

Aug. 15, 1970. HT 2-1

OH DEAR! What a start to the new season. Luton were well and truly whacked by the club that ended the season at the bottom of the table.

It began in the 18th minute when Wharton was awarded a penalty by referee John Yates (Redditch) against Alan Slough.

Mike Keen hit back for Luton with a good long shot, but before the interval Greaves gave the Trotters a somewhat lucky lead.

Two more goals by hat-trick hero Wharton, one of them a second penalty, put the Town in dire straits, and a penalty goal from Malcolm Macdonald in the last minute did little to raise the Town's spirits.

It was the last time former skipper Terry Branston played for Luton. He later signed for Lincoln. It was goalkeeper Alan Starling's only appearance of the season.

Birmingham City 1, Luton Town 1

Attendance 30,141

Aug. 29, 1970. HT 1-0

AFTER a disappointing start to the new season, this was the first sign that Luton might have something to offer the Second Division.

Although trailing to a Vowden goal, scored in the 24th minute, they played some fine football, often winning the applause of the huge crowd.

Alec Stock was still looking to add punch to the forward line, and he brought Matt Tees in. Shortly after the former centre forward had been replaced by Jack Bannister, Luton were awarded a penalty in strange circumstances, that was to give them a share of the points.

After a terrific mix-up in the City goal-mouth, Hoy netted. But referee Ron Challis (Tonbridge) had spotted a foul on Macdonald, and had blown before the ball crossed the line.

He had no option but to make Luton take the penalty, and it is one of the most vivid memories of the season to recall Macdonald ignore the deafening din that was aimed to put him off, and thump the ball calmly past goalkeeper Kelly.

CHANCE FOR GUILD



Luton Town 1, Middlesbrough 0

Attendance 16,018

Sept. 5, 1970. HT 1-0

THE FIRST of the big guns came to Kenilworth Road, and Luton were expected to be given a real fight by highly-fancied Middlesbrough.

With Hoy out of the running, Alec Stock gave Alan Guild the chance to make his League debut.

Strangely there was a slightly smaller crowd for this potent thriller than for the two previous home matches, and it is interesting to note that Luton's three initial games had attracted almost identical gates.



As expected Luton were given a hard fight, and they won with a single goal, scored by Don Givens, in the 16th minute.

Leicester City 1, Luton 0.

Attendance 24,226

Sept. 12, 1970. HT 0-0

EVEN BACK in September Leicester, who are now to be congratulated on winning the title, were well-fancied. But Luton went to Filbert Street with the confidence of a couple of victories behind them and indeed, they gave the champions a real fight.

Hoy came back into the side at the expense of Guild, and for the first time in the season Macdonald moved to centre forward, his favourite position.

Luton gave a confident performance, and from the start they showed Leicester they were not afraid to attack. For long periods they pushed the Blues back, and were well worth their even status at half time.

Leicester eventually won with a good goal from Alistair Brown in the 79th minute, but Luton will never forget a magnificent effort from Givens which hit the post with Shilton well-beaten only a minute earlier.

Luton Town 4, Orient 0.

Attendance 16,711 Sept. 19, 1970. HT 2-0

TWO GOALS in the first half by Alan Slough and two in the second by Malcolm Macdonald helped Luton to their second four-goal win of the season.

And it was easy. After the game Orient's manager Jimmy Bloomfield said: "This is the biggest defeat we have had since I took over. Luton are a good side."

The Luton side was beginning to settle down, but Givens had to be left out with an injury. Busby was brought back in his place.

Luton still had memories of that one-goal defeat the previous Boxing Day against the side that accompanied them to the Second Division, but they took their revenge in the proper manner.

Swindon Town 0, Luton Town 0.

Attendance 18,698.

Sept. 26, 1970.

CONSIDERING there were no goals, this match was a cracker, with both sides going all out for the winner. But it was disappointing that Luton could not progress after their recent good results.

Swindon always give Luton a good game, and as ever, this was a difficult one for the Town.

Busby came off with 16 minutes left, and his replacement, Givens, had hard luck, laying on a fine centre for Jimmy Ryan to head into the net. But the effort was disallowed for a pushing offence by Runcorn referee Roy Darlington.

QPR 0, Luton Town 1.

Attendance 19,273 Sept. 29, 1970. HT 1-0

AFTER Luton's encouraging away performance, their first win on another ground had to come soon. It was won for them after only 90 seconds when skipper Mike Keen crashed a tremendous free kick past Parkes from well outside the penalty area.

From that minute, Luton's task looked a mammoth one — to hold out for almost 90 minutes against a then-fancied Rangers.

But hold out they did, and in terrific style. Busby was again substitute, and he was given a chance to face his brother, Martyn, who played for Rangers, for the last 20 minutes.

It is interesting to note that the referee that night was Mr Ray Tinkler, the Boston official who has been in the middle of the Leeds controversy recently.

MAC'S THREE



Sheffield Wednesday 1, Luton Town 5.

Attendance 15,189

Oct. 10, 1970. HT 0-3

THIS IS the match in which Malcolm Macdonald really made his name. He blasted in a brilliant hat-trick, and the fact that the match was televised pushed his scoring ability into millions of homes that weekend.

This was a match that Luton really regarded as a tough one when they left Bedfordshire by train that morning. They need not have worried. After 14 minutes, Wednesday fell to pieces and Macdonald slammed home his first superb goal of the afternoon.

Just before half time Givens rattled in the second, and while Wednesday were waiting for the whistle to give them a much-needed break, Macdonald smashed in a third.

In the 64th minute Givens added the fourth, and with eight minutes left, a jubilant Macdonald beat Grummitt all ends up. The fact that Sinclair had sneaked one back in the 68th minute was purely incidental

Luton Town 2, Bolton Wanderers 0.

Attendance 19,055

Oct. 17, 1970. HT 2-0

AFTER the previous week's goal-rush at Sheffield, Luton were hoping for their first 20,000 crowd of the season. They were disappointed when they didn't make it, but this was not reflected on the field, and goals by Chris Nicholl (9 mins) and Don Givens (22 mins) gave them another victory. It was revenge for Luton's



defeat at Burnden Park in the first match of the season. Unfortunately Luton gave a rather untidy performance.

The game is best remembered for a fine performance by Roger Hoy and for Givens' goal, which came from a spectacular flying header in the goalmouth.



Luton Town 3, Bristol City 0. Attendance 15,992. Oct. 3, 1970. HT 2-0

TWO first half goals by Macdonald gave Luton the start they needed. Luton played some fine football, and thrilled a disappointingly small crowd. Court and Hoy both had good matches, as did Slough who smashed home Luton's third goal in the 55th minute.

Attendance 16,372.

Luton Town 2, Blackburn Rovers 0.

Oct. 20, 1970. HT 1-0

A GOAL in the first minute from Don Givens gave Luton a grand start, but they did not have things all their own way against the lively Lancashire lads, who gave as good as they got for much of the match.

It took Luton until the 72nd minute to clinch their victory through Macdonald.

When their second goal was scored Busby was sent on in place of David Court in an effort to add more punch to the attack.

Rovers got a special cheer from the Luton fans for their skill and spirit and Luton were thankful to collect another two points to boost their bid for the Second Division Leadership.

Charlton 1, Luton Town 1. Attendance 12,928 Oct. 24, 1970. HT 0-1

HAD Charlton not been allowed to score through Ray Treacy four minutes from the end of this match, Luton Town would have been proud leaders of the Second Division on the night of Saturday, October 24.

As it was Luton had to be satisfied with being second to Hull City.

After only six minutes Givens, who was in great scoring form, hit home a crisp, low shot from well outside the penalty area, leaving Charlie Wright no chance at all.

And for 80 minutes the Town did well to hang on to their lead. Givens had taken an ankle knock, and had to be replaced by Viv Busby in the 74th minute.

But Luton were just not good enough to hang on, and instead of being top of the table, they had to settle for a frustrating second.

LUCKY SUNDERLAND



Luton Town 1, Sunderland 2.

Oct. 31, 1970. HT 0-1

UNLUCKY LUTON. In the first half the Sunderland goal had a charmed life, but the Hatters could do everything but find the net. And their followers were stunned in unbelievable silence in the 40th minute when former international Joe Baker slipped in an easy looking goal for the visitors.

Luton fought like tigers to get back on terms, and 12 minutes from the end Macdonald thumped a terrific volley past Montgomery to put the Town back in with a chance of at least a share of the spoils.

But five minutes later slack marking by the Luton defence let in Jimmy Kerr to head a neat goal past Read. It turned out to be the winner, and Luton suffered their first home defeat.

Busby, having difficulty in getting back into the side as a regular, was again substitute.

Attendance 19,202

Luton Town 3, Carlisle 3

Attendance 14,837 Nov. 14, 1970. HT 0-2

THIS WAS the outstanding match of the season at Luton last season. What a thriller it was.

With 17 minutes to go Luton were trailing 3-0. They had been knocked sideways by goals from Hemstead, Balderstone and Martin.

Rain kept many supporters in front of their fires, and how they must have been kicking themselves.

Jimmy Ryan sparked Luton's revival by netting after Macdonald had hit the crossbar. Before the cheers had died Alan Slough burst into the picture and hammered a memorable goal past Alan Ross.

And with just one minute left Macdonald gave the match a fairy-tale finish by smacking in the equaliser.

Luton Town 2, Portsmouth 1.

Attendance 16,876 Nov 21, 1970. HT 1-1

LUTON were not in their best of form for the visit of Pompey on November 21, but they did enough to take both points, the winning goal coming from Don Givens early in the second half.

Right back John Ryan had put Luton ahead after eight minutes, but a minute later McCann had made equalising look easy.

John Moore was not fully recovered from an ankle injury, and had to stay in the dressing room for the second half. He was replaced by Jack Bannister who put in a workmanlike performance.

Luton experimented in this game by switching from a 4-3-4 line-up to 4-2-4.

Hull City 0, Luton Town 2

Attendance 18,343 Nov 7 1970. HT 0-2

AFTER their setback of the previous week Luton put on a superb show at Boothferry and came away with both points. Givens and Macdonald had emerged as the most feared pair of strikers in the Second Division, and they grabbed a goal apiece in the first half to give Luton a real promotion boost.

Hoy, Keen and Court were in fine form in the middle of the field, and Luton were able to withstand some heavy pressure in the second half from those dangerous forwards Houghton, Chilton and Wagstaff.



Cardiff City 0, Luton Town 0.

Attendance 26,689. Nov. 28, 1970.

THIS DOUR battle in the Welsh mud will be remembered for the fine display of goalkeeping by Tony Read than for its pure football. And the fact that so big a crowd saw the match can be partly attributable to the fact that City were putting tickets for their European Cup Winners Cup match against Real Madrid on sale.

Read came to Luton's rescue with a string of fine saves, and skipper Mike Keen had a fine match in midfield.

Ken Goodeve was given the substitute's position for the first time.

Sheffield thriller



Luton Town 2, Sheffield United 1.

Attendance 19,665

Dec. 5, 1970. HT 1-0

LUTON'S biggest crowd of the season turned up to see the side everyone fancied for the title at that stage of the proceedings. They ended up as runners-up to Leicester and in this match they certainly looked First Division material.

It was a real thriller with Macdonald snatching a first-half lead for Luton after the Town crowd had really got behind their team. But it was far from easy for Luton, and Read had to make some fine saves to keep them in with a chance.

Two minutes after the interval Jim Ryan made it 2-0, and it took a Tony Currie penalty, for a trip on Dearden by Bannister, to keep the Blades in the game. He scored despite the Luton crowd's off-putting tactics. Right to the end the match was a cracker.

Luton 0, QPR 0

Attendance 22,024

Jan 9 1971

AFTER A lay-off caused by bad weather a big crowd turned up for this match. And it was a bit disappointing.

There were a few moments of Rodney Marsh magic, but even so, neither side could break the defensive deadlock.

But Luton were not too worried. The point they won put them on the top of the table, ahead of Leicester on goal average. And they had a game in hand at that stage.



Watford 0, Luton Town 1.

Attendance 24,456

Dec. 12, 1970. HT 0-1

THIS LOCAL derby match is one Luton always like to win. And though they got the points there was little to shout about from either side apart from a fine header by Mike Keen in the 28th minute which gave Luton the match.

John Collins replaced Roger Hoy, but even this failed to give the match the lift it deserved. It must have been a disappointing afternoon for a big crowd. But those from Luton were happy — they took the points back home with them.

With 21 matches played, Luton were one point behind leaders Leicester after this match. Luton had 30 points to their credit.

Norwich City 1, Luton Town 1.

Attendance 17,038

Dec. 19, 1970. HT 0-1

LUTON really claim they were robbed of a victory here. The match was a long, long way into injury time when the unfortunate Jack Bannister was forced to punch an Anderson header against the crossbar.

Foggo took the penalty. It was the last kick of the match, and he scored. Luton had been put ahead in the 13th minute by a sharp-looking Macdonald who must have impressed Sir Alf Ramsey who was sitting in the stand.

Again Ken Goodeve was sub, but again he was not called upon.

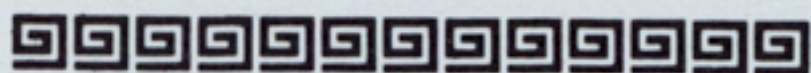
Blackburn 1, Luton Town 0

Attendance 8,385

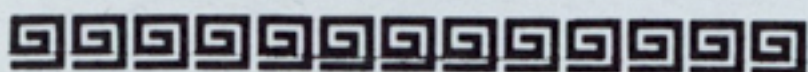
Jan 16, 1971. HT 0-0

WHAT a grim start to the new year travels. For most of the match Luton lacked punch in attack, and it was only when Russell scored in the 71st minute that they really began to attack.

But it was too late. Busby went on for Hoy after 70 minutes, and despite a real barrage on the Luton goal in the closing stages, Luton could not level the score. This was perhaps the turning point in their promotion bid.



RIVALS!



Luton Town 1, Watford 0.

Attendance 20,139

Feb. 13, 1971. HT 1-0

A Macdonald goal after 10 minutes gave Luton both points and the double over rivals Watford.

This was not the thriller everyone had been expecting, but Luton were grateful for the points after their reverses at Blackburn and Sheffield United.

Peter Anderson made his debut as an amateur for the Town.

Portsmouth 0, Luton Town 1.

Attendance 13,661

Feb. 20, 1971. HT 0-1

PORTSMOUTH disappointed their own crowd who gave them the slow handclap. But it was a fine display by Jimmy Ryan on Luton's right wing which really sank Pompey.

Givens, who also had a good match, scored Luton's goal a minute before the interval with a well-timed jump to a Ryan centre which fooled goalkeeper Milkins.

It was Peter Anderson's first match as a professional for Luton.



Carlisle 1, Luton Town 0.

Attendance 13,681

March 13, 1971. HT 1-0

THIS WAS another nail in Luton's coffin, and a match they should never have lost. Goal-ace Macdonald missed a penalty in the 11th minute, and five minutes before the interval Luton paid for their mistake when Bobby Owen scored the only goal of the match.

There was some controversy as to whether Alan Ross, the former Luton keeper, had moved before Macdonald had hit the ball, but it was a brilliant save all the same.

Luton's failure to steal a point left them in sixth position in the League table. They then had 38 points from 30 games.

Sheffield United 2, Luton Town 1.

Attendance 30,986

Feb. 6, 1971. HT 0-0

IT WAS obvious to everyone who saw that match at Bramall Lane that this Sheffield side was on course for promotion to the First Division. They rocked Luton with a powerful display, and their man of the match Alan Woodward scored twice in the early stages of the second half to win the match for them.

Jim Ryan pulled one back for Luton, but the Town were out-gunned by a fast, attacking United. Macdonald was well held by Eddie Colquhoun, and Hockey had a grand match in midfield for the Yorkshire side.

Luton's second defeat on successive weeks put them back to fifth place. After 25 matches they had 32 points, three less than leaders Hull.

Sunderland 0, Luton Town 0.

Attendance 12,471.

March 1, 1971

A COLD, bleak day and a dour match were poor rewards for the hundreds of Luton fans who travelled to the north east. But Luton's point was described as "precious" after the match.

It left Luton in fifth position with 37 points from 28 matches and still in with a good chance of going into the First Division at first go.

Luton Town 1, Charlton 1.

Attendance 15,262

March 6, 1971. HT 0-0

MOST OF this match was memorable for it's boring play. But it livened up 22 minutes from the end when Paul Went scored from the penalty spot for the visitors.

During this incident Hoy had to leave the field with his face covered in blood, and he was replaced by Viv Busby, who scored Luton's equaliser with a neat header in the 74th minute.



THE HOPE



Back row (left to right): Graham Stewart, Terry Robinson, Gerald Jones, Peter Woods, Steve Baker, Paul Price, Michael Gilchrist, Jimmy Ryan, Don Shanks, Nicky Sparks.

Middle row (left to right): Ken Whitfield (assistant coach), Roger Hoy, Alan Garner, Charlie Sorbie, Don Givens, Chris Nicholl, Tony Read, Robin Wainwright, Tony Castiello, Viv Busby, Peter Anderson, David Court, Reg Game (physiotherapist and trainer).

FUL HATTERS



Front row (sitting, left to right): Harry Haslam (chief representative), John Moore, Mr. J.A.C. Bain (director), John Ryan, Mr. Robert Keens (chairman), Mr. T. Hodgson (president), Mr. L.S. Hawkins (vice chairman), Alan Slough, Mr. Alec Stock (Manager and chief executive), Ken Goodeve, Mr. Jimmy Andrews (assistant manager).

OH! MACDONALD



Luton Town 3, Hull City 1.

Attendance 19,566

March 20th, 1971. HT 1-0

THE AGONY of Malcolm Macdonald was there for all to see when he missed his second penalty in two weeks. He blasted wide after Busby had been hauled to the ground by goalkeeper McKechnie on the edge of the area.

This was early in the second half. Luckily for Luton John Moore had given them the lead right on half time with a terrific shot.

Butler equalised for Hull, who were still up with Luton in the title chase, but Busby regained the lead with a 74th minute goal which underlined his title of man of the match.

Macdonald was rewarded with a goal 10 minutes from the end.

Middlesbrough 2, Luton 1.

Attendance 19,579

March 27th, 1971. HT 0-1

A GOAL up from Macdonald at half time, Luton were beaten by a terrific performance by second half substitute Hugh McIlmoyle. Macdonald lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Whigham from well out in the 13th minute.

And Luton looked like hanging on for a good win. But they reckoned without McIlmoyle — and the big-hearted Middlesbrough crowd who got behind their team and roared them home.

The referee was the popular Jim Finney of Hereford.

Luton Town 1, Millwall 1.

Attendance 17,758

March 30, 1971. HT 1-0.

THE return to midweek football was not a particularly happy one for Luton. The home point they dropped to Millwall was one they just could not afford.

Mike Keen gave Luton the lead after half an hour, but this was a scrappy, disappointing match. Luton's hopes took a nose-dive when Brown equalised for the Londoners with only three minutes left.

Luton Town 3, Birmingham City 2.

Attendance 25,172.

April 3, 1971. HT 2-2

This was a thriller that the Luton fans deserved after a rather disappointing period. Two goals down after 22 minutes, Viv Busby netted twice, in the 36th and 43rd minutes to put Luton back in with a chance.



Latchford and Summerill had scored for Brum. The Midlands had brought a terrific following down, and Luton's gate swelled to 25,172.

With Jimmy Ryan having a fine match, this was one of the better matches of the season at Luton. Alan Slough, who also had a good match, slammed in Luton's winner three minutes after the interval to end Birmingham's winning run — and their promotion hopes.

Bristol City 3, Luton Town 2.

Attendance 18,846

April 9, 1971. HT 0-2

TWO GOALS up at half time, it looked as if Luton could not lose this match. But goals from Rooks (60 mins) and Garland (65 and 66) put paid to Luton's promotion hopes.

The match was played on a quagmire, and Luton's early goals came from Busby (22 mins), and Macdonald (42).

Ken Goodeve replaced Anderson in the 67th minute, but Luton could not get over their earlier setbacks.

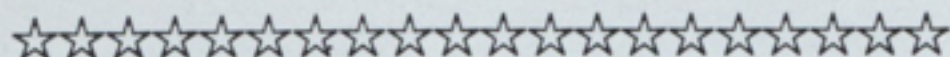
Millwall 4, Luton 0.

Attendance 13,864

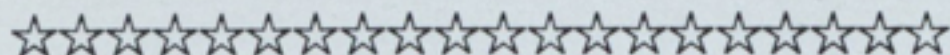
April 10, 1971. HT 3-0

LUTON'S black Easter continued when they were over-run at The Den. They had no answer to some direct football from the Dockland side, and after Possee had given Millwall the lead in the 19th minute, it was a sad story for Luton.

Bridges added another after 25 minutes, and Possee his second to give the Londoners a three-goal interval lead. Full-back Brown, who had scored his only other League goal at Luton a few weeks previously, added the fourth.



LEICESTER TOPS



Luton Town 1, Leicester City 3.

Attendance 24,405

April 12, 1971. HT 1-1.

LEICESTER showed Luton, their promotion rivals for most of the season, that they were worthy of the First Division, with a fine performance. They threw off the disability of an own goal in the second minute by Sjoberg, and equalised in the 37th minute through Manley.

Second half goals from Farrington and Brown gave them the points and put them clear at the top of the table.

These three goals put Luton's Easter deficit to ten. This woeful record blasted them right out of the promotion scene.

Orient 1, Luton Town 2

Attendance 6,339

April 24, 1971. HT 0-1



AGAIN Busby was Luton's man of the match. He gave them a first half lead and added a second in the final minutes. This second one was a fine solo effort which will be long remembered by all who saw it.

Orient's goal came from Brabrook with

only seconds of injury time remaining. For Luton Anderson went on as sub for Givens six minutes from the end.

Luton Town 1, Swindon 1.

Attendance 10,205

May 1, 1971. HT 1-0

AFTER Macdonald's two previous misses, Givens took a penalty for Luton a minute before the interval, and gave the Town the lead they had been looking for from the start.

In the 58th minute Jones equalised. Anderson had a promising match for Luton before being replaced by Jimmy Ryan.

Luton Town 2, Sheffield Wednesday 2.

Attendance 12,608

April 17, 1971. HT 1-1

PETER ANDERSON scored his first goal for Luton in the second minute, but Sinclair equalised before the interval.

When Givens gave the Town the lead for the second time in the 52nd minute, it looked as if they might shake off their bad spell. But their joy was brief. Two minutes later Sunley equalised, and Luton had to settle for a share of the points.

As a result they dropped to seventh place in the table. They had 44 points from 38 games. Leicester, at the top, had 53 from 39.

Keith Barber made his debut in Luton's goal.

Oxford United 2, Luton 1

Attendance 9,531

April 28, 1971. HT



LUTON received a bit of a shock at Oxford, when they found the University City side in fine form. Keith Barber was put under severe pressure from the start, and Derek Clark put them ahead.

Cassidy, who had a fine match, added another, and Busby scored

for Luton. After the match Town manager Alec Stock announced that Alan Guild, Jack Bannister and Peter Phillips were all being transferred to Cambridge United.

Luton Town 3, Cardiff 0.

Attendance 10,784.

May 4, 1971. HT 1-0

THIS was Malcolm Macdonald's night. It was also his last match for the club. Luton needed three goals to qualify for the Watney Cup. Mac obliged with a brilliant hat-trick.

Just to add suspense to the night he saved his last goal for the club for the 90th minute. It was a fitting end to a great season for Mac, whose other two goals were scored in the 20th and 82nd minutes.

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DON GIVENS, who scored 13 League and Cup goals for Luton last season, is the Republic of Ireland's regular centre forward. As well as being a great asset to his country, Don has proved his worth to Luton in no uncertain way.

A fearless, well-balanced and skillful footballer, he can play equally well as either a striker or midfield man. He has a flair for scoring spectacular goals, and last season was second only to Malcolm Macdonald in the scoring stakes.

He has played 14 times for his country, several of these while he was at Manchester United with his Luton colleagues Jim Ryan, Ken Goodeve and Peter Woods.

Don's hobby is golf, and while the team was on tour in Portugal he and full back John Ryan spent most of their time playing the famous Vale de Lobo course on the Algarve coast.



DON SHANKS is one of Luton's brightest young prospects. Although he still has to make his Football League debut, he has already a distinguished international career behind him.

Before this season started he had played seven times for the England Youth team, starting in March in Spain. He then played in the return international at Luton before being picked for his country in the Little World Cup in Czechoslovakia, where he played in all five matches as England swept to victory over their European opponents.

In the tournament he played against Yugoslavia, Sweden, Poland, Russia and, in the final, Portugal.

In the semi-final Luton's Don scored the goal which gave England a 1-1 draw at full time against Russia. England won a penalty play-off 4-2, with Don scoring yet again.



Supporters Club Round Up

Last season was a thrilling one for all the players, officials and supporters of the Club, and despite the disappointments over Easter, it is with fresh hopes and ambitions that we embark on what should be another exciting season, for everyone connected with the Club.

But the excitement of the 1971 — 1972 season will not be confined to the playing field. History may show that this was one of the most significant years in the Luton Town story. In an all out effort to give our fans one of the best supporters clubs in the country, the newly elected Steering Committee have already got down to the task of planning our next year's activities.

Top of the list is the drive to recruit members into the Club. Already two branches have been formed; in the Luton area and at Letchworth. We are now intending to form a new branch each month during the season, in the Club's catchment area, which will take in Bedford, Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard, Harpenden, Flitwick, Ampthill etc.

We want you to have pride in both your team and your Supporters Club. It is hoped that we shall have a special Supporters Club column in the Sports Post each week, where you will be able to find all the news of the Supporters Club activities, including travel to matches social functions, regular features and details of all the special privileges that we are intending to provide for you.

In conclusion may I ask all our members to encourage their friends and work-

mates to join the Supporters Club. Our future depends on the strength of our membership. The greater the number, the greater will be the success of the Club.



Mike Skinner (Promotions Manager)



Mike Agden (Secretary), Colin Ball (Chairman), Malcolm Aubrey (Vice-Chairman)



Raymond Page (Committee Member)



Brian Raggett (Committee Member)

'At home
or away
travel by'

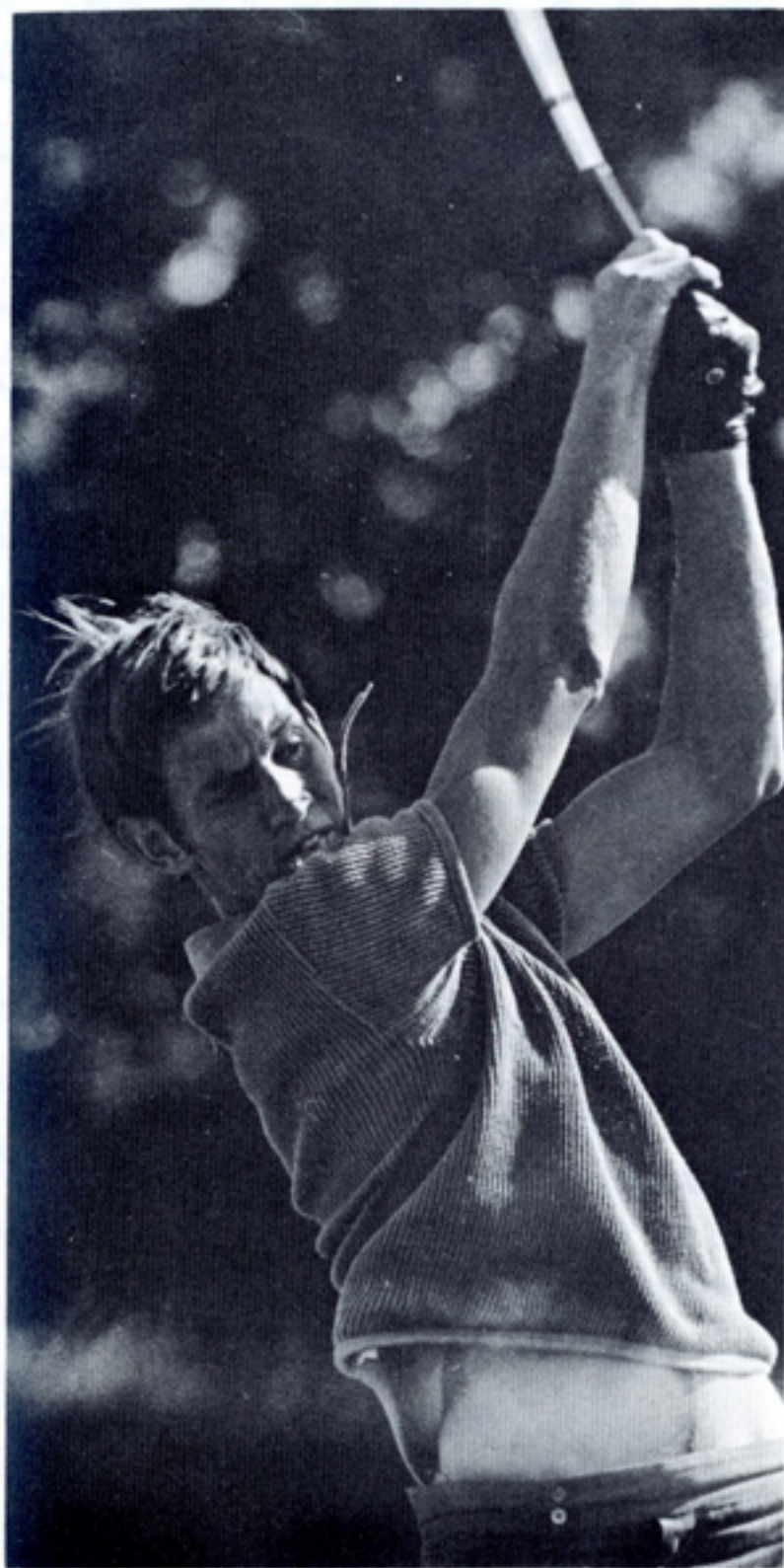


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ON COURSE With the Hatters



FOOTBALLERS are renowned golf addicts. As well as keeping them in shape during their leisure hours, it gives them another sport to play and helps take their minds off the rigours of their job — soccer.

The lads at Luton are no exception, and our two pictures here show two of them in action during the recent match between the club and the Mid Herts Golf Club at Gustard Wood. The Luton footballers lost to the golfers — but it was a good day out.

And it all helps the club to make friends outside their own particular field.



OOH! The concentration of it all. Tony Read (above) the Town's first choice goalkeeper, grimaces as he plays a fairway wood shot. And right centre half Chris Nicholl shows that he's got real style on the golf course too.

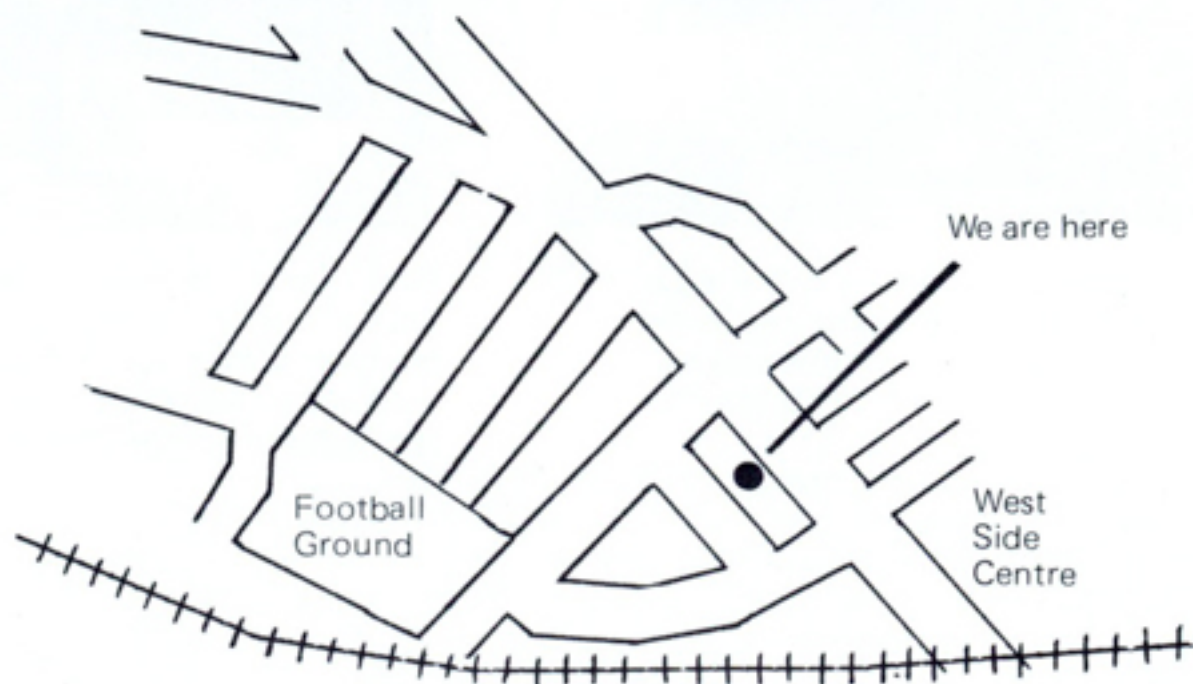
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Goals slump-but Hatters' fans don't suffer

THE SECOND Division scoring rate last season dropped to 2.47 goals per game, the lowest since 1924/25 -- the season before the offside law was changed. But Hatters' fans didn't have to suffer this goal-famine for our home games averaged out at 2.76 goals per match.

I don't think there's any cause for real alarm, though. As long ago as 1900/01 the rate was down to 2.35 -- and that during the era still described as the Golden Age of Soccer! The graph will undoubtedly tend to rise again soon.

The Hatters were among the goals home and away. Our 5-1 victory at Sheffield Wednesday equalled the best away win in the division last season; Sheffield United won by a similar score at Portsmouth, while Oxford (at Bristol City), Millwall (at Watford) and Cardiff (at Sunderland) all won by 4-0 margins.

Best win of all was Carlisle's 6-0 thumping of Portsmouth at Brunton Park.

In spite of the general lack of goals, the Second Division produced more hat-tricksters than any other division: 18, compared with 11 in Division One, and 17 in each of the Third and Fourth Divisions. Malcolm Macdonald, Rodney Marsh (Q.P.R.) and Mike Trebilcock (Portsmouth) all scored two hat-tricks.

Finest individual match feats came from Bob Hatton (Carlisle), Alan Warboys (Cardiff) and Birmingham City's 16-year-old boy wonder Trevor Francis who each hit four goals in a game.

Francis claimed the section's best individual run of scoring in six consecutive games. That particular run, incidentally, brought him a fabulous total of 11 goals. Birmingham's other striker, Phil Summerill, came level second with a sequence of scoring in five games on the trot, something also achieved by Don Rogers (Swindon), Chris Chilton (Hull), Chris Balderstone (Carlisle) and John Hickton (Middlesbrough).

Malcolm Macdonald was the division's top scorer:

	Lge.	L.C.	FAC	Total
MACDONALD (LUTON)	24	2	4	30
Hickton (Middlesbrough)	24	2	—	26
Chilton (Hull City)	21	—	2	23
Hatton (Carlisle)	17	4	2	23
Marsh (QPR)	21	1	1	23
Summerill (Birmingham)	16	4	1	21



Only four other players in the whole country topped Macdonald's goals tally -- Ted MacDougall (Bournemouth) 49, Martin Chivers (Tottenham) 34, Ray Crawford (Colchester) 33 and Paul Aimson (York City) 31.

The longest run without defeat was credited to champions Leicester City who remained unbeaten in their final 17 matches; Sheffield United enjoyed one successful spell of 16 games without a reverse. Worst run went to Bolton who failed to win any of their last 16 games, but Bristol City suffered the worst losing run -- seven consecutive defeats.

If you remember, we ran up five successive victories during September and October. Well, during the whole campaign, only one club managed to better that feat, Birmingham City winning six on the trot.

Charlton's Peter Reeves was the country's top own-goal scorer. He scored three times for the wrong team. Altogether, 19 own goals were recorded in Division Two, nine of them affecting results.

Biggest crowd was 49,025 for the Birmingham v Cardiff game; lowest was 3,941 for the end-of-season Orient v Portsmouth clash.

If you're a pools fan anxiously awaiting the new season, I suggest you watch how Middlesbrough kick-off. If they carry on where they left off, they'll be a banker for the treble chance -- they drew each of their final eight games of the season!

The Town

FIRST-HALF CHAMPS

IF LAST season's Second Division games had all ended at half-time, Luton would have won the Second Division championship! We were by far the most impressive "first-half" team in the division, scoring most goals and most points.

Alas, we tended to fade after the interval when we were no better than average. A similar failing cost Cardiff City promotion.

The following table is compiled by dividing all last season's Second Division games into two periods, awarding two

points for a "win" and one for a "draw" on first-half scores; and similarly on scores for the second-half.

Hull City showed the greatest second-half improvement, rising ten places in the table. Leicester City's improved second-half form gained them promotion but Sheffield United, the runners-up, showed a general consistency over both halves.

Here's how the full table looked:

FIRST HALF						SECOND HALF					
		Goals						Goals			
		P	F	A	Pts		Comp. with 1st half	F	A	Pts	
1.	LUTON	42	38	17	57	Leicester	+ 5	29	14	54	
2.	Cardiff	42	36	14	55	Hull City	+10	35	21	52	
3.	Carlisle	42	30	16	52	Millwall	+ 6	33	21	52	
4.	Sheff. Un.	42	29	11	41	Sheff. Un.	—	44	28	50	
5.	Swindon	42	31	22	50	Mid'brough	+ 3	30	18	49	
6.	Leicester	42	28	16	48	Carlisle	— 3	35	27	47	
7.	Birmingham	42	30	21	47	Birmingham	—	28	27	45	
8.	Mid'brough	42	30	25	46	QPR	+ 3	33	23	44	
9.	Millwall	42	26	21	43	Oxford	+ 5	22	23	43	
10.	Norwich	42	25	26	43	Norwich	—	29	26	43	
11.	QPR	42	25	30	43	Cardiff	— 9	28	27	41	
12.	Hull City	42	19	20	41	LUTON	—11	24	26	41	
13.	Charlton	42	21	21	40	Swindon	— 8	30	29	40	
14.	Oxford	42	19	25	40	Sunderland	+ 1	29	30	40	
15.	Sunderland	42	23	24	39	Watford	+ 5	24	32	40	
16.	Sheff. Wed.	42	25	32	37	Portsmouth	+ 1	28	34	38	
17.	Portsmouth	42	18	27	36	Sheff. Wed.	— 1	26	37	37	
18.	Bristol City	42	17	28	36	Blackburn	+ 3	26	36	36	
19.	Orient	42	13	24	34	Orient	—	16	27	36	
20.	Watford	42	14	28	32	Bristol City	— 2	29	36	35	
21.	Blackburn	42	11	33	29	Bolton	+ 1	25	37	33	
22.	Bolton	42	10	37	25	Charlton	— 9	20	44	28	

TOP CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1. Old Trafford 6. Devon (Plymouth Arg.) 8. Edu 10. Ove 12. trip 13. AS (Alan Suddick) 14. nil 16. AD (Alan Durban) 17. slip 18. tip 20. Les 21. ninth 23. Third Lanark.

DOWN: 1. Oslo 2. tie 3. fan 4. Overath 5. do up 6. de Sisti 7. van 9. Didi 11. & 19. Vale Park 15. Len 17. slot 19. see 11 21. nod 22. ten

BOTTOM CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1. Nobby Stiles 7. on (side) 8. Real (Madrid) 9. Else 11. laws 14. QPR 16. off 17. Ards 20. Ivor 22. Pele 24. El 25. transferred.

DOWN: 1. Nordquist 2. one 3. Ball 4. Shaw 5. ice 6. Sheffield 10. Leo 12. Asa 13. Sid 15. Rio (1950) 18. roof 19. Spur 21. Ron 23. Lee.



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ACROSS

1. Northern ground (3, 8)
6. The Pilgrims' county (5)
8. Brazilian substitute (3)
10. - - Kindvall (3)
12. Foul action (4)
13. Initials of Blackpool winger (1, 1)
14. No score (3)
16. Initials of Derby/Wales player (1, 1)
17. Give a short pass (4)
18. Finger away (3)
20. Managers Shannon and Allen (3)
21. Birmingham's league position last season (5)
23. Former Glasgow side (5, 6)

DOWN

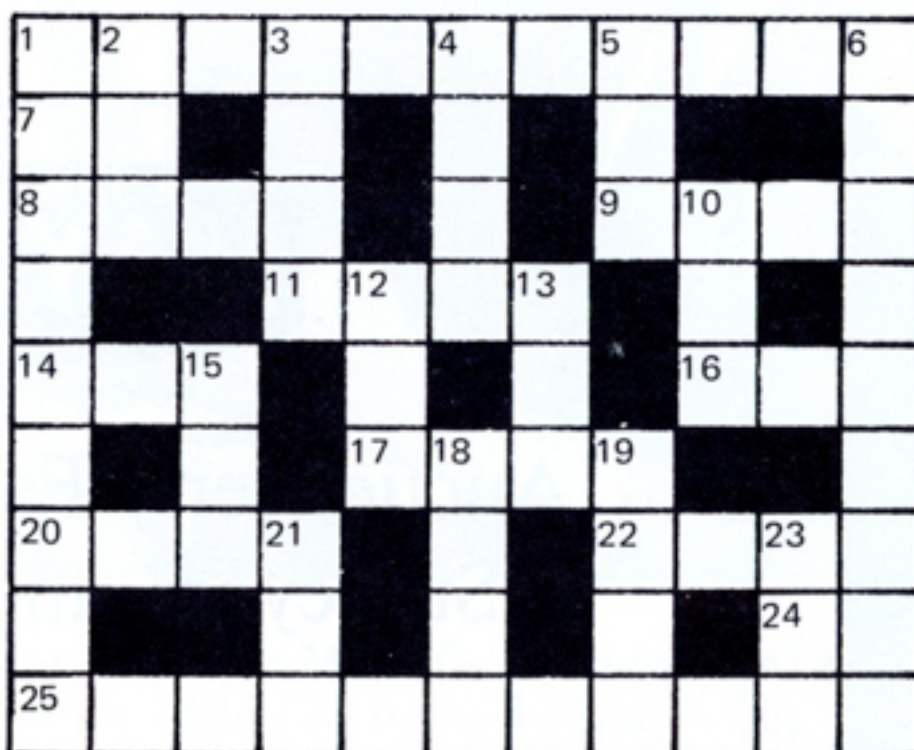
1. Leeds - - (see 22) v. Lyn - - 0 (69/70 Euro. Cup) (4)
2. Cup match (3)
3. Supporter (3)
4. West German star (7)
5. Fasten, as a lace (2, 2)
6. He played on 21 June 1970 (2, 5)
7. Paul - - Himst (3)
9. Manager of Peru (4)
11. & 19. Ground named after Midlands club (4, 4)
15. Shackleton or Glover (3)
17. Place a penalty (4)
19. See 11
21. Head down (3)
22. Leeds score at 1 down (3)

ACROSS

1. Former England star (5,6)
7. This side is the position to score from (2)
8. Genuine Spanish team? (4)
9. Former Blackburn goalkeeper (4)
11. What every footballer should know (4)
14. Initials of London club (1,1,1)
16. The unruly player may be sent this! (3)
17. Irish team (4)
20. Broadis or Allchurch (4)
22. He collected four goals in Mexico (4)
24. - - Salvador (2)
25. Switched to another club (11)

DOWN

1. Swedish World Cup player (9)
2. Celtic's score in 1970 Scottish Cup Final (3)
3. PNE manager (4)
4. Famous old player with the red team of 6 (4)
5. Half-time coolant (3)
6. Two-team town (9)
10. Referees Callaghan and Horn (3)
12. - - Hartford (WBA) (3)
13. Owen of England (3)
15. Where largest-ever crowd assembled (3)
18. Top of the net (4)
19. Any player at home at White Hart Lane (4)
21. Davies or Flowers (3)
23. Current England star (3)



DON'T look yet. If you want to cheat a bit the answers are on page 33. But give it another think. Ask your pals. The crosswords are not as hard as they first appear. All you need is to bring into action your know-how of the game.

Life became miserable again in April when he allowed Leeds' last-minute winner from Jack Charlton to stand in the vital championship game against Arsenal, the Gunners' claiming it to be offside. He, too, was hounded by the Press. Eventually, after a dozen or so replays on television, it emerged that Mr. Burtenshaw was right after all. But, what the public at large failed to appreciate was that it took the television pundits and us public critics a couple of days to decide the goal was good. His decision — and it could have affected the whole championship issue — had to be made in a split second.

Jim Finney, just coming up to his 13th season as a League referee, has carried star quality for many years. He was only 23 when he handled his first game in the Herefordshire League and he rose through the Birmingham League and the Southern League until making the Football League in 1959.

He went onto the FIFA list in 1962, has handled World Cup games by the score, the FA Cup Final and dozens of European club games.

The price Finney paid for the love of soccer was the loss of his job as a brewery representative. The company reckoned he devoted too much time to football and gave him the boot. He was out of work for a year.

Mr. Finney will be missing from early games this season, though. He was badly injured in a car crash towards the end of last season and is not expected to be match fit until the end of August.

Pat Partridge of Middlesbrough is, at 37, one of the youngest League referees. He's about to start his fifth season. Yet, when handling some temperamental stars last season, he was experienced and big enough to combat their time-wasting tactics by adding on several minutes extra time, as any referee is entitled to do. That action caused him some adverse criticism yet he had struck a blow for the fans — who want soccer skills, not time wasting, in return for their hard-earned cash — by meting out punishment to fit that particular "crime".

Gordon Hill is a Leicester headmaster who knows how to handle young boys. But when he's refereeing a League game he treats the players as men. Maybe he'll swear at them. And they'll swear back. So long as they get on with the game he couldn't care less. In a recent poll, he was voted the most respected referee by top players.

Hill is one of our top six referees. They make mistakes, of course. But not many, really. Think back on the number of controversial incidents played back on television and I'll wager that nine out of ten times the referee is proved right.

The tragedy is that the one mistake attracts mammoth publicity while the nine correct decisions are accepted as a matter of course. It's a most unrewarding pastime. That's why only the toughest — and those who can laugh at themselves — survive at the top.



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Well Done Luton



"Well done Luton", says Watney Mann chairman Mr. F.G. Mann (centre) as he hands over a £4,000 cheque for Luton qualifying in the brewery's Cup competition. Admiring it on the right is Town president Mr. Tom Hodgson. On the left is Vice Chairman Mr. Len Hawkins.

FIXTURES 1971-72

Division Two Fixtures

Aug	14	NORWICH	home	1-1
	18	League Cup (1)		1-2
	21	Burnley	away	1-1
	28	PRESTON	home	1-1
Sept	1	Oxford United	away	0-0
	4	Orient	away	0-0
	8	League Cup (2)		
	11	BIRMINGHAM	home	2-0
	18	Millwall	away	2-2
	25	MIDDLESBROUGH	home	2-2
	28	FULHAM	home	2-0
Oct	2	Hull	away	0-0
	6	League Cup (3)	away	
	9	SWINDON	home	0-0
	16	Norwich	away	1-3
	19	QPR	away	0-1
	23	CARLISLE	home	0-2
	27	League Cup (4)		2-2
	30	Sunderland	away	1-2
Nov	6	CHARLTON	home	1-2
	13	Watford	away	0-1
	17	League Cup (5)		1-2
	20	Blackpool	away	1-0
	27	PORTSMOUTH	home	3-2
Dec	4	Bristol City	away	0-0
	8	League Cup Semi-final		
	11	CARDIFF	home	2-2
	15	League Cup semi-final		
	18	ORIENT	home	2-0
	27	Sheffield Wed.	away	2-2
Jan	1	MILLWALL	home	2-1
	8	Preston	away	
	15	FA Cup (3)		
	22	Fulham	away	
	29	QPR	home	
Feb	5	FA Cup (4)		
	12	Carlisle	away	
	19	SUNDERLAND	home	
	26	Charlton (5)	away	
March	4	WATFORD	home	
	11	Swindon	away	
	18	BURNLEY (6)	home	
	25	Birmingham	away	
	31	Middlesbrough	away	
April	1	SHEFFIELD WED.	home	
	4	HULL	home	
	8	BLACKPOOL	home	
	15	Portsmouth(s/f)	away	
	22	BRISTOL CITY	home	
	25	OXFORD UTD	home	
	29	Cardiff	away	
May	6	FA Cup Final		

London Mid-week League Fixtures.

Aug	17	SOUTHEND UTD	home	
	25	Millwall Ath.	away	
	31	MILLWALL ATH	home	
Sept	8	Orient	away	
	14	CAMBRIDGE UTD	home	
	21	ALDERSHOT	home	
Oct	6	Brighton & H.A.	away	
	12	WATFORD	home	
	20	Southend Utd.	away	
	26	BRIGHTON & HA	home	
Nov	2	COLCHESTER UTD	home	
	9	ORIENT	home	
	16	NORTH'TON T.	home	
	29	Peterborough Utd.	away	
Dec	8	Watford	away	
	15	Colchester Utd.	away	
Jan	4	Northampton Town	away	
	12	Cambridge Utd.	away	
	18	CHARLTON ATH	home	
	25	Charlton Ath.	away	
Feb	8	PETER'BRO UTD	home	
	22	WATFORD (L.C.)	home	
March	8	Millwall (L.C.)	away	
	22	Aldershot	away	
	28	MILLWALL (L.C.)	home	
Apr.	12	Watford (L.C.)	away	

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