

THE HATTER

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November 1975.



Now For A Home Run

Since the beginning of September the lads have played 11 games with only four at home. The football league fixture computer was really unkind during October with four out of five away. Three of these being very tiring journeys to tough opponents at Blackpool, Carlisle and Sunderland.

The last of the October fixtures saw us at Roker Park where Bob Stokoe's men are enjoying a purple patch. Prior to the kick off they had won every home game this season conceding only four goals. Their constant attacking football and the fanatical Weirside supporters put the lads under tremendous pressure and it was a

feat in itself to go into the break at 0-0. However, the pressure proved too great and with two goals in five minutes shortly after the break our fate was sealed.

In retrospect had Jimmy Ryan put the penalty away at Carlisle we would have finished October with five points and taking all into consideration we could not have complained.

Despite these factors we are still in contention, above the half way mark in the table. Looking ahead at November's fixtures with four home games, we must be optimistic!



Bobby Thomson beats Vic Halom in the air.

Featuring - Bristol City, York City and Southampton

GEORGE HAS
THE BEST NEWS
ON PAGE 10

FRUSTRATED TOWN EARN A TOUGH POINT

Saturday, October 25th
Football Combination
Luton Town 0
Bristol City 0

Team: Knight, Mead, Buckley, Pollock, Carr, Price, Simon, Russell, Alston, Spiring Fucillo. Sub: Smith.

Although we had much of the game against a determined and well organised Bristol side, we failed to take the few

chances that came our way and were not decisive enough in the box.

It would be wrong to give the impression that the game was one sided though; Bristol broke well in a couple of counter attacks and two brilliant saves by Knight denied them a goal. Also, Durrell shot over the bar from a wonderful chance.

Generally speaking, our defence was rarely pulled out of position and this provided the basis for our attacking play. Although mainly in control in midfield, we did not get into shooting positions.

Up front, we failed to capitalise on the chances that came our way or we were thwarted by last minute tackles or good goalkeeping.



Sandor Simon's shot is saved by the Bristol City keeper.

Price makes a great return

Saturday, October 18th.
Football Combination

Leicester City 0 v
Luton Town 2

Knight, Mead, Buckley, Pollock, Carr, Price, Simon, King, Alston, Fucillo, Aston. Sub: Russell. Scorers: Pollock, Price.

This was a good display and we fully deserved the victory which gave us compensation for two home defeats by Swindon and Birmingham.

From the kick-off we dictated the play with the midfield showing good early passing and the back players fully in command. After some clever play by Aston, Pollock went through and steered his shot wide of Leicester's keeper, Crawston. We continued on top until half time and posed plenty of problems for Leicester's experienced defenders which included Cross, Birchenall and Yates.

At half time Leicester substituted Tomlin for a subdued Glover, but Mead handled Tomlin very well in the second half. Luton also made a substitution at half time when Alston, who was playing with bruised ribs, came off and Russell took over up front. Within minutes Russell was unlucky not to score after he hit the post following a brilliant dribble. Although Leicester came more into the game in

the second half, we still held the upper hand and John Aston did splendidly at times, showing all his experience and skill. Within a few minutes remaining, Price got the second goal, which must have

given him great pleasure on his return to the Reserve team defence. It was a fitting reward for he had an outstanding game, but all the players gave very satisfactory performances.



Adrian Alston duels in the air with two burly Bristol City defenders.

ARRY'S talk-in

ONCE again, after playing well enough to bring something home, we left Sunderland with no reward for the long journey.

We were destroyed in five minutes following a free kick and goals from Kerr and Robson. You may have seen some of the game on "Match of the Day" on Saturday evening. As is sometimes the case, the game appears completely different on the screen. However, one good thing about the game was the attendance and the atmosphere created by these incredible fans in the North-East. People in this area live a completely different life from anywhere else in the Country—football is everything to them.

Whilst talking about the North-East I was very pleased to hear that Malcolm MacDonald has been picked for the England team to play against Czechoslovakia on Wednesday night. "Mac" is a legend, a living legend, in and

around Newcastle. They worship him. On Saturday, three taxi drivers asked if they could shake my hand. When I asked why, they all answered: "Because you gave us 'Mac'". Everywhere you go in the North-East you can see his name or hear it. Well, we all wish him the best of luck. He's a strong player, quick, and, although he isn't the most skilful, he is improving his game all the time; and, of course, he scores goals. That is what makes him such a favourite.

Getting back to Kenilworth Road again, we are very pleased to see our schoolboys down here this week. As the young readers—and their parents!—will know, it is half term for the schools, so it is a marvellous opportunity for all our schoolboys to get together for a week's training under the guidance of Danny Bergara. About 40 youngsters will be here including many who have played in the Chiltern Premier League for

us this season: Turner, Whitbread, Sisman, Mawhinney and Howson, to name but a few. The standard of young players is rising every year and by the end of five years I feel that our youth squad will easily be on a level with those of bigger Clubs and, probably, better than some. All these boys, with the exception of a very small minority, are local lads. Obviously, we will lose one or two to other clubs but this is inevitable. These lads are the nucleus for the future success of Luton Town and to see them come through the ranks to the first team, like some of their predecessors, is most rewarding.

Following our long trip to Sunderland, we now have two home games in four days, Bristol City and York City. Bristol, under manager Alan Dicks, have made a great start to the season, whilst York are struggling at the other end of the table. Wilf McGuinness, manager of York, is a great old friend of mine and I hope that his fortunes will soon change for the better.

A short note now for all our young readers. Wednesday night is Guy Fawkes night and I sincerely hope that you are all going to take note of the warnings given by your parents, teachers and people in authority to be extra careful when handling fireworks. They can be dangerous and I don't want to see any of you get hurt by simply being careless. Instead of playing around with fireworks in the street, why don't you ask your parents to bring you along the the Firework Display at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday evening which is being organised by the Bobbers Club? Tickets are still on sale and you can be sure of an entertaining and SAFE evening. Enjoy yourselves, but do please be careful.

Alan West clears at Sunderland.



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DANNY'S OFF TO SPAIN



Danny seen here, proudly wearing his new England coaching badge, with Hatters and England doctor Peter Burrows.

NEXT week, Danny Bergara, our youth team coach, leaves for Madrid with the Derby County party for their return game with Real. Danny's knowledge of Spanish football and the Real players helped Assistant Manager, Des Anderson to compile a report which proved valuable.

Danny could not conceal his delight when Derby stormed to that three goal advantage at the Baseball Ground and after the game he was interviewed on the Spanish Radio network. In Spain Danny had played against Pirri, the skilful mid-field player, many times and he made a studied report of this player, intimating that his breaks from midfield, strength in the tackle and competitiveness would prove the main danger to Derby. This proved to be the case.

After the game, Danny and our Assistant Coach, David Pleat, were entertained by the Derby management and they recorded their thanks to our Club for allowing Danny to help.

Next week Danny will get a deserved break from routine when he returns to Spain with Mackay's men, helping with advice on football, food, the language and, no doubt if Derby maintain their lead, after match entertainments advisers!

Have a good trip, Danny.

Well Done, Lads!

FOUR players, Paul Fletcher, John Seaman, Andy King and Dave Carr, gave up their normal morning walk or rest to help a worthy charity last Sunday.

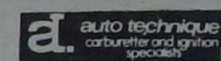
In a splendid exhibition heading tennis match at Harpenden, they provided the large crowd with some brilliant skills and ball control. As a result of their efforts, the

funds for "Guide Dogs for the Blind" will be considerably swelled. The event took place at Aldwicksbury School and just for the record, Seaman and King defeated Fletcher and Carr.

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THE OAK ROAD ENDERS REPORT

by Dusty, Nobby and Clank.

LUTON LOTTERY
THIS WEEK'S LUCKY WINNERS

Tuesday, September 14, 1975.	Tuesday, October 21, 1975.
WEEK 37 Winners drawn at Maieses Shop, Dunstable Road, Studham.	WEEK 38 Winners drawn at United Counties, Aylesbury.
£100 BH391 Agent 185 Mrs. Skinner, 21 Fernmore Cres., Luton.	£100 CA835 Agent 42 Mrs. L. Knightley, 5 Hartsfield Road, Luton.
£50 AT305 Agent 293 Mr. T. Churchman, c/o 'The Admiral' Clifton.	£50 CD622 Agent 158 J. Haughton, 22 Northdrift Way, Luton.
£25 B0324 Agent 157 Mrs. P. Hill, 3 Smithfield Road, Swinbourne.	£25 B0228 Agent 133 Miss S. Follett, 3 Commons Lane, Hemel Hempstead.
£10 C0778 Agent 173 Mr. G. Carrey, 10 Drayton Road, Luton.	£10 AP688 Agent 100 E. Maher, "The Horse & Jockey" Hitchin.

FUNNY seen' old Stockie blowin' is stack after Town beat Fulham. What struck us was the fact that Town weren't even mentioned, and the possibility that the Fulham strikers weren't allowed to do well by the Town defence never occurred to no one.

Bit typical that. Town never has got much credit from the media seems to us. 'Cos, there are team what 'ave a divine right to be successful, and the Town ain't one of 'em 'cos it grew up the wrong side of the railway tracks if you know what I mean. But it never bothered Ipswich or Stoke or Derby and it ain't goin' to bother us. We 'ope.

Brian Chambers' goal against Fulham made up for all the misses in recent games. We 'ad a little laugh at the sketch in The Luton News what described the build up to the goal. The bloke who drew it must 'ave been drunk, and he always draws a birds-eye view, so to be accurate he must be 'overing above the ground at about 500 feet. We'll keep a look out for 'im in future.

CATCH OF THE DAY

Lookin' at TV's version of the Sunderland match there must 'ave been a catch in it. Apart from the odd leg or two coming into shot with a tackle, there was only one team on the field, wearing red striped shirts. We only saw Montgomery once and that was for a back-pass, so if TV's anything to go by Luton didn't 'ave one attack.

Apart from Keith Barber, the only Luton player spotlighted was Jimmy Ryan, being booked.

OK, so perhaps that was the way it was. But that must be the first time in

Town's history that they never got any further than the 'alf-way line for 90 minutes.

WE'VE SNIFFED AROUND

In our first article, we said Luton would sniff around a bit in the Second Division—then make the running. Well, we visited Clank's mum last week (she's a fortune-teller, remember?), and she looked into 'er crystal-ball, and it turns out that the Lads are going to win their next eight matches—startin' wiv Bristol City.

So that's all right then. Only trouble is, she predicted we'd win our first eight matches.

Nice to see Bobby Thomson



back with 'is touch of class, and wiv Steve Buckley waitin' in the wings no doubt, the Town ain't short of good defenders. Now, injuries aside, we just want the forwards to lift their 'eads up a bit—and get us in the top five by Christmas.

That shouldn't be any sort of sweat.

'ALLOW BRISTOL

The likes of you 'ave stolen our thunder a bit this season, what wiv you bein' near the top of the Division and all that, but you should get your come-uppence today. We think you'll 'ave shot your bolt by now, so you'll 'ave to forgive us if we 'ammer you. 'Cos it'd be nice if you did manage to get into the First Division this year, as long as it isn't at our expense. I mean, you were last in the First Division when footballers wore cod-pieces and travelled to away matches by horse and cart. And that was long before Jimmy 'Ill grew 'is beard, or our late great Joe Payne knocked in 10 against your counterparts, Bristol Rovers. 'Cos when you've got two teams in the league, you get two bites of the cherry, see?—and if you're both doin' well, you're just a pair of swingin' Bristols that'd put Wilma Reading to shame.

We ain't quite sure which players you'll be bringin' wiv you today—it could be Micky Umbrella, Keith Fearful, Gerry The Sweeney, or those two ex-savings bank employees, Ray Cashley and Shaun Penny. 'Cos, what you might do is send the team that last got you into the First Division—but we don't want our pitch cut up wiv a lot of crutches and wheelchairs ta very much.

THE HATTER

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PLAYER'S PORTRAIT

"DIRTY work" by Harry Haslam set John Ryan on the road to soccer success! But for Mr. Haslam's initiative John may well have been lost from the game for all time.

John explains: "We were forced to play rugby at school until we were 15 and, in fact, I was threatened that I would be banned from all sports at school if I was caught playing football. They insisted that I play in the school rugby team."

"But Harry Haslam had seen me play in scratch games and he arranged for me to play for the Tonbridge 'a' side when I was 14. It meant having to keep my moves a secret but, as a young lad keen on football, I wasn't too worried if I did get caught."

"I loved playing the Association game best and it was those opportunities to play competitive football for the first time at Tonbridge that really gave me the incentive to try and do well in the professional game."

He was still a boy in a man's game then, of course, but his performances attracted the attention of an Arsenal scout. After a successful trial, he was signed by the Gunners and remained at Highbury for one season.

Though he was freed at the end of the campaign, he learned an awful lot about football at the top level and it wasn't long before he was snapped up by Fulham.

He was at centre forward when he made his League debut for the Cottagers at Stoke in December 1965. His partner in attack was Rodney Marsh, yet, on that occasion, their combined efforts were to no avail because Fulham lost 2-3. After making one further appearance that season as a substitute, John suffered a broken arm and it was almost two years before he got another opportunity in the first team.

"I will always remember my first two games back in the side," recalls John. "The first was up at Leeds and the next at home to Everton—two of the biggest names in football."

"A lot of things have happened since then, of course. In 1969 he left Fulham and signed for Luton where he was to re-unite with the man whose clandestine efforts had helped to shape his career—Harry Haslam!

John's first game for the Hatters was up at Barrow on the opening day of the 1969/70 season. The intervening years have seen him fill many positions for us but now he is firmly established in the right full back position.

Through playing in all the



John takes on Burns of Newcastle.

top three divisions of the Football League, John has played against no fewer than 75 of the 92 clubs. Has he any special memories of any of them?

"It's a job to pick out special teams. I don't think there is any really outstanding club except, perhaps, Sunderland. There's something about the club that excites most players and we have usually done very well against them."

As he spoke, John was about to board the team coach for last Saturday's game at Roker Park. "I hope we can produce our usual form against them," he smiled.

John also looks forward to matches against Bristol City, who come to Kenilworth Road next Saturday. "They've made a tremendous start but we always do well against them. This is one I am really looking forward to."

One of John's regrets is that he has not yet played on Manchester City's ground. "I don't know why, but that's one place where I have always wanted to play. I have been to most of the First Division grounds but somehow I have always missed Maine Road.

The place John wants to avoid like the plague is Blackpool, which has a painful personal memory for him. "Nothing to do with the club or the people," he is quick to point out, "but my visits there seem to be fated. After we had played at Bloomfield Road three years ago I was told my father had died. Then, when we went there a couple of weeks back, I had an S.O.S. to rush to London where my uncle had suffered a very severe heart attack.

"You can understand, then, why Blackpool has unhappy memories for me."

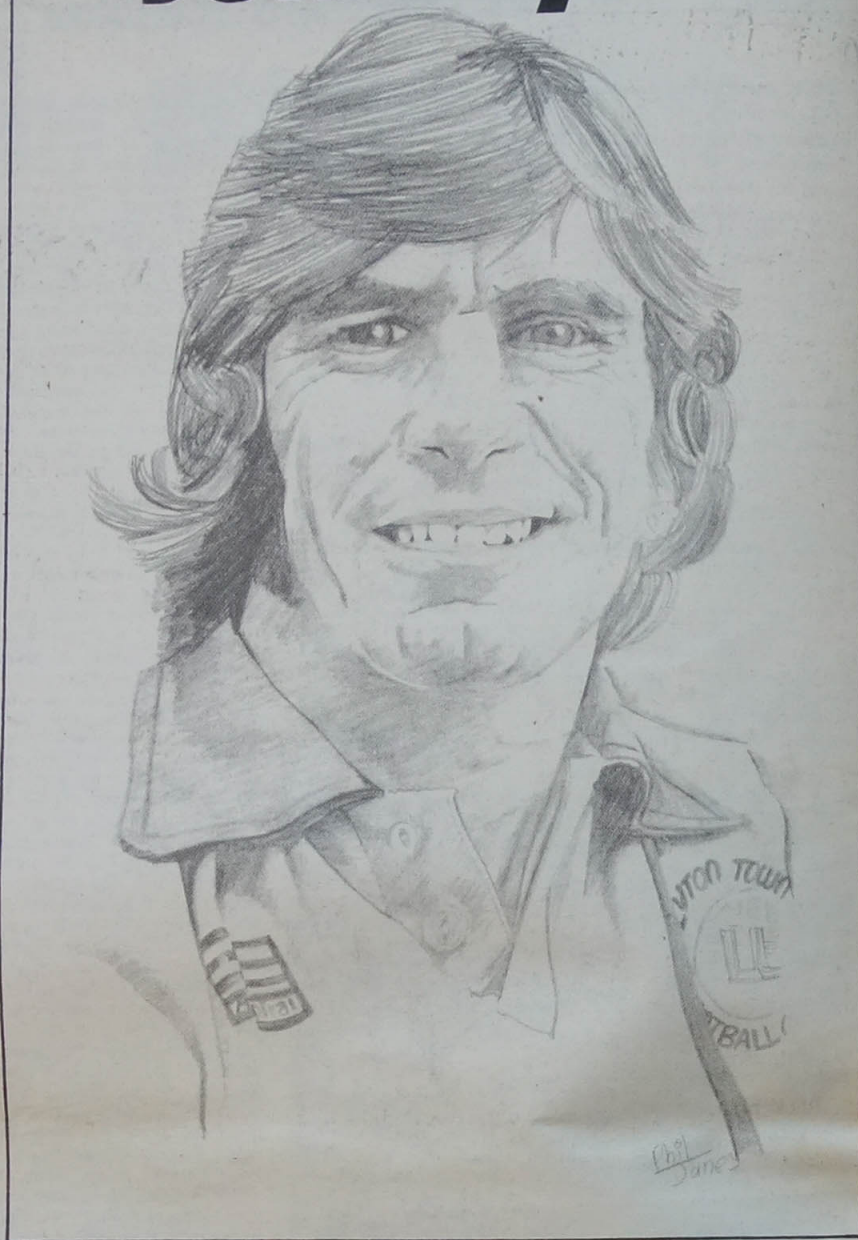
John was married in June 1973 and right now he and his wife, Kay, are busily preparing for the arrival of their first baby, due in April.

Their cottage at Petsoe End, near Olney, is littered with the soft toys they are making for the eagerly awaited newcomer.



John shows Phil Boersma the way.

John Ryan



John Ryan's statistics

Football League

	67/8	68/9	69/70	70/1	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	75/6	Total
Arsenal	1									1
Aston Villa		1								1
Barrow			2							2
Birmingham				2						2
Blackpool	s	1			2	2	1		1	7+s
Bolton		1		2						3
Bournemouth			1							1
Bradford City										1
Brighton										1
Bristol City		2	1		2	2	1(1)			9(1)
Bristol Rovers										1
Burnley	1+s				2	2				7+s
Bury		2								2
Cardiff										1
Carlisle		1		2	2	2				10+s
Charlton			2(1)		2	2	1	1+s	2	6(1)
Chelsea										2
Coventry										1
Crystal Palace										2
Doncaster										2
Everton		1								1
Fulham										1
Gillingham										1
Huddersfield		1								1
Hull										1
Halifax										1
Ipswich										2
Leeds	1+s									3+s
Leicester		2								2
Liverpool										3
Manchester City										2
Manchester Utd.		2								2(1)
Mansfield										1
Middlesbrough		1								1
Millwall										1
Newcastle										1
Nottingham										1
Notts. For.										1
Notts. Co.										1
Oxford										1
Oxford										1
Plymouth										1
Portsmouth										1
Preston										1
Q.P.R.										1
Reading										1
Rochdale										1
Rotherham										1
Sheff. Utd.										1
Sheff. Wed.										1
Shrewsbury										1
Southampton	1+s									1+s
Southport										1
Stockport										1
Stoke										1

Sunderland	2	2	2	2	2	8
Swindon						
Torquay	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tottenham						
Tranmere	2(1)					2(1)
Walsall						
Watford						
W.B.A.	1					1
West Ham	2					2
Wolves						

F.A. Cup

	67/8	68/9	69/70	70/1	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	Total
Birmingham									1
Bolton									1
Bournemouth									1
Bradford City									1
Brighton									1
Bristol City									1
Bristol Rovers									1
Burnley									1
Bury									1
Cardiff									1
Carlisle									1
Charlton									1
Chelsea									1
Coventry									1
Crystal Palace									1
Doncaster									1
Everton									1
Fulham									1
Gillingham									1
Huddersfield									1
Hull									1
Halifax									1
Ipswich									1
Leeds									1
Leicester									1
Liverpool									1
Manchester City									1
Manchester Utd.									1
Mansfield									1
Middlesbrough									1
Millwall									1
Newcastle									1
Nottingham									1
Notts. For.									1
Notts. Co.									1
Oxford									1
Oxford									1
Plymouth									1
Portsmouth									1
Preston									1
Q.P.R.									1
Reading									1
Rochdale									1
Rotherham									1
Sheff. Utd.									1
Sheff. Wed.									1
Shrewsbury									1
Southampton									1
Southport									1
Stockport									1
Stoke									1

League Cup

	67/8	68/9	69/70	70/1	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	75/6	Total
Arsenal										1
Birmingham										1
Bolton										1
Bournemouth										1
Bradford City										1
Brighton										1
Bristol City										1
Bristol Rovers										1
Burnley										1
Bury										1
Cardiff										1
Carlisle										1
Charlton										1
Chelsea										1
Coventry										1
Crystal Palace										1
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Preston										1
Q.P.R.										1
Reading										1
Rochdale										1
Rotherham										1
Sheff. Utd.										1
Sheff. Wed.										1
Shrewsbury										1
Southampton										1
Southport										1
Stockport										1
Stoke										1

Texaco Cup

Bari	72/3	1
Florentina	1	1
Lazio	1	1
Verona	1	1
3+s		

Anglo

Southampton	74/5	1
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GOAL OF THE MONTH!



Brian Chambers beats Mellor with the goal of the month v Fulham

ROVERS CHASE CITY!

Blackpool 1 Bristol Rovers 4

Blackpool's abandonment of their negative defensive policies had delighted their followers—until Saturday! Bristol Rovers, no great goalscorers by any standards, picked holes in an exposed Blackpool rearguard and became the first team to hit four into the Tangerines' net in a League game since March 1973. No sign of a goals rush, however, at half-time when Rovers led only by a Wilf Smith goal. But Gordon Fearnley soon put them two up and, though Alan Suddick pulled one back for the home side, Bruce Bannister converted a penalty for Rovers and Fearnley completed the scoring almost on time.

Gary Jones earns point for Bolton

Hull City 2 Bolton 2
Bolton took an early lead, through John Byrom, but then found themselves struggling against a lively Hull side. Malcolm Lord equal

Welcome to this week's visitors

BRISTOL CITY

YORK CITY

Alan Dicks MANAGER

EVER since Alan Dicks took over as Bristol City's manager in 1967, he has levelled his sights upon the First Division. With shrewd spending, and a continued encouragement of local youngsters, he has now built a great strength in depth at Ashton Gate. It looked as if City might make promotion last season but they fell behind in the final run. Now they are again making a tremendous challenge.

Much of Mr. Dick's own playing career was spent in the top section. Originally, he was an amateur with Millwall but he didn't make the progress he had hoped for at The Den so he decided to leave.

Chelsea signed him as a professional in 1951 and he had to wait a couple of years longer before getting his debut in their First Division side.

He spent the next five years in and out of the team, enjoying several lengthy runs, before he made a further move to Southend. Mr. Dicks established himself as a firm member of the senior squad at Roots Hall for just over three years.

Then he got the chance to join Coventry City as assistant manager, though he continued to play for a while in the reserves at centre half.

Mr. Dicks played an important role in the revival that made the Sky Blues the most talked about club in the land and it was only a matter of time before he was offered full control of an ambitious club. This opportunity came in 1967 when Bristol City offered him his present post.

When he first went to Bristol there was not a great deal of cash to spend on new players so he knew he would have to depend heavily upon the club's own resources to discover the best of local players.

In fact, Mr. Dicks spread his net well outside Bristol, picking up some exceedingly fine players particularly in South Wales.

The biggest fee paid by Mr. Dicks for any player was £62,000 to West Bromwich Albion for Bobby Gould in 1972. Some of his own players have fetched huge fees, though. Notably, Chris Garland who went to Chelsea for £110,000.

BRISTOL CITY RECORD

Founded: 1894.
Elected to Football League: 1901.
F.A. Cup runners-up: 1909.
Division One runners-up: 1907.
Division Two champions: 1906.
Division Three (South) champions: 1923, 1927, 1955.
Division Three (South) runners-up: 1938.
Division Three runners-up: 1965.
League Cup semi-finalists: 1971.
Record win: 11-0 v. Chichester (F.A. Cup, November 1960).
Worst defeat: 0-9 v. Coventry (Division Three South, April 1934).
SUMMARY

	P	W	D	L	Fr	Ag	Pts
Home	15	8	5	2	28	14	21
Away	15	5	2	8	17	32	12
	30	13	7	10	45	46	33

BACK CHECK

Complete list of past League games against Bristol City.

	Home	Away
1922/23	1-1	0-1
1924/25	3-0	0-2
1925/26	4-1	1-5
1926/27	0-0	0-6
1932/33	5-4	2-5
1933/34	3-0	0-0
1934/35	1-1	2-0
1935/36	1-0	2-1
1936/37	4-0	3-2
1963/64	1-4	1-5
1964/65	0-0	0-1
1970/71	3-0	2-3
1971/72	0-0	0-0
1972/73	1-3	1-0
1973/74	1-0	3-1



Back row. Left to right: K. Fear, J. Durrell, L. Bond, R. Cashley, J. Shaw, M. Brolly, C. Whitehead. Middle row: K. Wimbush (Chief Coach), J. Emmanuel, D. Gillies, D. Rodgers, G. Collier, T. Ritchie, P. Cheeseley, L. Bardsley (Physiotherapist). Bottom row: T. Tainton, B. Drysdale, G. Merrick (Captain), Alan Dicks (Manager), G. Gow, G. Sweeney, J. Mann.

City ready to fill 64 year void?

BRISTOL City have made a brilliant start to the season and are currently being strongly tipped for promotion. What's more, their success has been achieved by a switch in emphasis towards attacking football. Their first 13 league games produced 29 goals—a tally they didn't reach until February last season!

Much of the credit for this is due to the success of strikers Paul Cheeseley, now one of the Second Division's leading scorers, and Clive Whitehead who have been returning to Ashton Gate for special shooting sessions. Their over time training is certainly paying rich dividends!

Manager Alan Dicks' decision to place his confidence in the players who took the club into fifth place last season has, clearly, paid off. He did not go into the transfer market in the close season so his team has taken on quite a familiar look.

One unusual positional switch has seen striker Don Gillies move to right back in a back four which otherwise includes Gary Collier, Geoff Merrick and Brian Drysdale. Ray Cashley is in goal.

The midfield players are Gerry Gow, Trevor Tainton and Jimmy Mann, while Tom Ritchie, Paul Cheeseley and Clive Whitehead have been firing the

attack. Whitehead has, however, only recently regained his place—at Mike Brolly's expense—but, with goals in each of his first two games, he seems likely to hold the position.

Bristol City have been grafting for 64 years to regain the First Division place they lost back in 1911. Now, after all those bleak years, the Ashton Gate club really does have an outstanding chance of taking top class soccer back to the West Country.

Last season they were the only team to do the double over divisional champions Manchester United and they finished fifth in the table, at

one stage threatening to join United in the top three.

A bad start, plus another low spot in September and October, left them ground to make up but they then enjoyed a fine winning run and, after registering their first victory over Manchester United in November, they were only one point behind third placed Sunderland.

There was only one point in it at Easter. But disappointing defeats in two of their closing three games meant they missed out on promotion by three points.

City, with almost the same squad, have already indicated that they have the ability to make sure this season.

the Scottish club's scoring list for two seasons. He hadn't been on target so regularly for City until last season when he recaptured his best form.

League record: Morton 45(2) aps, 23 goals. Bristol City 74(10) aps, 18 goals.

Gary Collier. Gary is a City discovery who rose to their League eleven three seasons ago. For the past two campaigns he has held his place confidently at the centre of the defence.

League record: Bristol City 87 aps, 1 goal.

Geoff Merrick. Geoff is skipper of this successful City side and is one of their most consistent defenders. He made his League bow in 1967/68, completed 150th League appearance last term and has been absent only three times in four years.

League record: Bristol City 197(5) aps, 6 goals.

Brian Drysdale. Apart from injuries, Brian has been City's left back ever since his transfer from Hartlepool in 1969. He had enjoyed four seasons in the north east

club's senior side after starting off with Lincoln City.

League record: Lincoln 14 aps, 2 goals. Hartlepool 169(1) aps, 3 goals. Bristol City 240(2) aps, 3 goals.

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Gerry Gow. A Scot from Glasgow, Gerry signed as a City professional in June 1969, breaking into the team in 1969/70. He was once before the City's penalty king, before handing the job over, and three seasons ago he was top scorer with 13 goals. Now he has taken on penalty taking again and has converted two this season.

League record: Bristol City 195(3) aps, 32 goals.

Trevor Tainton. Trevor came into the City team in 1967/68 and has proved quite a versatile player. He has often played at right back when the club was hit by injuries. He expected to make his 250th League appearance for the club last week.

League record: Bristol City 226(23) aps, 15 goals.

Jimmy Mann. After spending

several years as a Leeds' reserve, getting only a couple of first team opportunities, Jimmy won a regular place in City's team last season. He joined City during the 1974 close season.

League record: Leeds 2 aps. Bristol City 41(1) aps, 11 goals.

STRIKERS

Tom Ritchie. Tom joined City as an amateur, getting his chance in the League team against Millwall in August 1972. He has held his place for much of the time ever since. He has scored four goals this season.

League record: Bristol City 108(8) aps, 18 goals.

Paul Cheeseley. Paul's form this season has been something of a revelation. Unsure of his place last term, he has been doing extra training to sharpen up his shooting

—and now he is one of the Second Division's top scorers with 12 goals. This includes a hat trick at York two weeks ago. Paul joined City from Norwich in a £30,000 transfer towards the end of 1973/74. He had enjoyed several runs in

the senior side without quite establishing himself on a permanent basis and there was a possibility that he might sign for Bournemouth at the beginning of this season.

League record: Norwich 10(3) aps, 1 goal. Bristol City 33(3) aps, 15 goals.

Clive Whitehead. Birmingham born Clive celebrated his League debut against Millwall two seasons ago with a goal. Still only 20, Clive appears to have a bright future at Ashton Gate, though he hasn't always been in the side regularly. After his latest recall, however, he scored in successive games against Oldham and Charlton.

League record: Bristol City 21(8) aps, 4 goals.

Mike Brolly. Mike joined City from Chelsea in 1974 after gaining some limited First Division experience with the London club. After holding his place for the opening games of this season, Mick has recently found himself out of the reckoning.

League record: Chelsea 7(1) aps, 1 goal. Bristol City 24(2) aps, 2 goals.

Wilf McGuinness MANAGER

WILF McGuinness's return to English football, to take over as York's manager last season, was warmly welcomed throughout the game. He has given the game so much, as player, coach and manager, that it seemed inexplicable that a place could not be found for him in English football.

Mr. McGuinness was harshly treated by Manchester United, after only a short period as their manager, and after that he took up coaching appointment in Greece.

Leaving Old Trafford was, of course, a tremendous wrench. He had spent most of his life there. He joined the Reds as a 15-year old and rose to their League team in 1955.

He played for England at schoolboy, youth, under 23 and full international levels. Then, when he was blossoming into full maturity as a wing half, he broke his right leg. Complications set in and, at 22, his top class career was over.

For almost two years he trained desperately for a come back, finally to accept defeat at the commencement of the 1961/62 season when he accepted the job of assistant trainer. Five years later, when he felt his leg had strengthened again, he got his boots out again. He played a few games in United's reserve teams—but it was no good. There would be no more glory for him. He sank back into the anonymity of his trainers' job.

Then, at 31, Mr. McGuinness found himself back in the big time. He was, in effect, given the job as Sir Matt Busby's successor though he was not, initially, given the full title. That came later.

Yet, within months of being given complete authority, he was sacked. He was offered another post on the staff but, after due consideration, he did the wise thing and severed his connections altogether.

YORK RECORD

Founded: 1903.
Elected to Football League: 1929.
F.A. Cup semi-finalists: 1955.
Promoted from Division Three: 1974.
Promoted from Division Four: 1959, 1965, 1971.
Record victory: 9-1 v. Southport (Division Three North, February 1957).
Worst defeat: 0-12 v. Chester (Division Three North, February 1936).

BACK CHECK

Previous League games against York have resulted:

	Home	Away					
1966/67	5-1	1-5					
1967/68	3-1	1-1					
SUMMARY							
	P	W	D	L	Fr	Ag	Pts
Home	2	2	0	0	8	2	4
Away	2	0	1	1	2	7	1
	4	2	1	1	10	9	5

PLAYERS PEN PICTURES

Barry Swallow. Barry has done the rounds of northern clubs, starting at Doncaster where he made his initial League appearance in 1960/61. In 1962 he moved to Crewe for two seasons, then linked with Barnsley for another couple of years. He remained a little longer with Bradford City—three years—and signed for York in 1969.

League record: Doncaster 61 aps, 10 goals. Crewe 14 aps. Barnsley 97 aps, 2 goals. Bradford City 79(6) aps, 7 goals. York 256(1) aps, 21 goals.

Chris Topping. Consistent Topping has made well over 200 consecutive League appearances for York, a feat accomplished by only a very small band of players. If all goes well he should be making his 236th consecutive League appearance at Kenilworth Road. A local discovery, Chris made his League bow in 1968.

League record: York 287(2) aps, 8 goals.

Derrick Downing. Derrick spent his early years with Middlesbrough, making some 200 senior appearances before moving to Orient in 1972. Though he usually plays left back these days, Derrick is an accomplished attacking player and he has already scored one goal this season.

League record: Middlesbrough 171 (11) aps, 39 goals. Orient 100(14) aps, 11 goals. York 11 aps, 1 goal.

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Eric McMordie. Eric brings vast experience into the York side. Capped 21 times by Northern Ire-

land, he initially crossed the Irish Sea accompanying George Best as they went for trials with Manchester United. Both returned home after a couple of days but later Eric found himself signing for Middlesbrough. He made his League debut for them in 1965/66 and remained a first team player until Jackie Charlton took over as manager. Last season he spent a loan period at Sheffield Wednesday, ending up as their top scorer with six goals, even though he played only nine games! York signed him during the close season.

League record: Middlesbrough 231 (10) aps, 23 goals. Sheffield Wed. (loan) 9 aps, 6 goals. York 111 aps, 2 goals.

Barry Lyons. Barry is another player of vast experience, having played some 150 games for Rotherham and over 200 for Nottingham Forest. The £15,000 fee was a York record when they signed him two seasons ago.

League record: Rotherham 132 aps, 24 goals. Nottm. Forest 201(2) aps, 28 goals. York 76(5) aps, 11 goals.

Micky Cave. Micky joined York on the eve of last season for a club record £16,000 fee. He had spent three seasons as a Bournemouth player after beginning his League career at Torquay. His first big club was Southern League Weymouth. During 1971/72 he played eight games while on loan to Plymouth. League record: Torquay 106(8) aps, 17 goals. Bournemouth 91(8) aps, 17 goals. Plymouth (loan) 8 aps, 4 goals. York 48 aps, 2 goals.

John Woodward. For so long a midfielder player, John returned to

the side for a while last season at centre back. Now, he has resumed his normal midfield duties. York signed him from Arsenal in 1971.

League record: Arsenal 21(1) aps, York 99 (15) aps, 6 goals.

Dennis Wann. Dennis developed with Blackpool where he enjoyed a few senior games over his last couple of years at Bloomfield Road. His fortunes have varied since joining York in 1972. He has enjoyed several lengthy runs in the side and now, following a spell in the reserves, he is back on first team duty again.

League record: Blackpool 10(6) aps, York 62(1) aps, 7 goals.

Ian Holmes. Ian made several First Division appearances for Sheffield United before joining York two seasons ago. Last season he took York's penalties, converting seven from the spot. He lost his place this season but is often named as substitute.

League record: Sheffield Utd. 4(2) aps, York 73(5) aps, 14 goals.

STRIKERS

Jimmy Seal. Jimmy, top scorer last season with 18 goals, once again leads the way with four to his credit. Two seasons ago he came second with 17. He began with Wolves but got only one League game for the Molineux club. After a couple of loan periods with Walsall, he signed for Barnsley in 1971 and ended up top scorer with 13 goals. York signed him in 1972.

League record: Wolves 1 ap. Walsall 40 aps, 14 goals. Barnsley 43 aps, 12 goals. York 124(3) aps, 39 goals.

Chris Jones. Chris (12 goals last season) is once again keeping pace with Seal in the goals chase. He has three this season. Chris was once with Manchester City but moved on to Swindon in 1968. Four years later he had a snap spell with Oldham before linking with Walsall, for whom he was top scorer in 1972/73. He joined York in 1973, topping their scoring list with 19 in his first campaign.

League record: Man. City 6(1) aps, 2 goals. Swindon 49(19) aps, 20 goals. Oldham 3 aps, 1 goal. Walsall 54(5) aps, 14 goals. York 88(1) aps, 31 goals.

Brian Pollard. A former England youth international, Brian graduated to York's senior team in 1971/72 and the following season he was their level top scorer. League record: York 72(78) aps, 12 goals.

Jimmy Hinch. Jimmy joined York for £11,000 last season after a short spell at Hereford. Tranmere gave him his League chance in 1969/70 but the following season he was on the move to Plymouth where he remained until going to Hereford in 1973. After joining York, he spent a few weeks on loan to Southport. This season's York appearances have mostly been linked to substitute.

League record: Tranmere 38(3) aps, 10 goals. Plymouth 102(5) aps, 28 goals. Hereford 22(5) aps, 7 goals. Southport (loan) 7 aps, 2 goals. York 9(9) aps, 1 goal.



Back row. Left to right: M. Cave, B. Lyons, J. Woodward, B. Hosker, J. Seal, D. Wann, P. Oliver, I. Butler. Standing: W. McGuinness (Manager), C. Jones, C. Topping, I. Robb, J. Neenan, S. Walker, J. Hinch, J. Stone, C. Baker (Coach), R. Spence (Physiotherapist). Seated: E. McMordie, I. Holmes, C. Calvert, B. Swallow, B. Pollard, G. Hunter, D. Downing. Front seated: F. O'Sullivan, P. Taylor, Kevin Pickard. Absent from photo: G. Crawford.

York Fight Relegation Blues

YORK City are currently struggling to keep away from the bottom three relegation places after enjoying a reasonably comfortable ride last season—their first ever as a Second Division club. In a bid to show an improvement this term, manager Wilf McGuinness made two important new signings during the summer—midfield man Eric McMordie and defender Derrick Downing.

McMordie, an Irish international, is enjoying a come back chance in League soccer after losing his place at Middlesbrough and he is now being tipped to win back his international place, Downing, a former forward, has brought a new dimension to York's defensive play with his well timed over laps.

Mr. McGuinness, the former Manchester United and England player and United manager, has naturally been making changes as he seeks a winning combination. So the midfield men to accompany McMordie could be chosen from Barry Lyons, Micky Cave, John Woodward, Dennis Wann and Ian Holmes.

The back four is likely to be John Stone, Barry Swallow, Chris Topping and Downing, with Graeme Crawford keeping goal behind them.

The strikers are Jimmy Seal, Chris Jones and Brian Pollard who are challenged by Jimmy Hinch, a regular substitute these days.

When York gained promotion in 1974 they entered the Second Division for the first time in their history. The club was founded in 1903 and became a professional outfit in 1912. Ten years later they formed into a limited company and it was in 1929, at their fourth attempt, that they were voted into Division III (North).

In 1955 they almost became the first Third Division club to play in the F.A. Cup final. That

year they beat First Division giants Blackpool (away) and Spurs en route to a semi final tie with Newcastle United whom they took to a replay before going down 0-2.

Fortunes swung the other way again in 1958 when they became founder members of Division Four. But they won promotion first time out, only to suffer immediate relegation—a pattern that was to be repeated in 1965, when they went up to Division III again, and 1966 when they reverted to the lower sphere.

By 1971 they were back in Division Three.

controlling a dropped ball

Instant ball control is vital if we are to make maximum time to assess and make a good pass. If a player can kill a ball dead regardless of how the ball comes, then this player will have a distinct advantage against his opponent.

(a) Be Decisive

Make an early decision on the area in which you wish to control the ball and get that surface (either chest, thigh or foot) into position early along the path of the ball.

(b) The Contact

If a thigh control is to be used, the thigh must be brought up into line with the ball. As contact is made the thigh is lowered, providing a cushioning effect to take the pace off the ball.

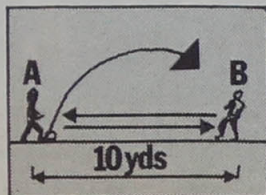
(c) After Control

As the ball is kicked, the ball must be brought quickly to the feet for whatever action is required (shot, dribble or pass). Any practises should be related to this.

PRACTICE

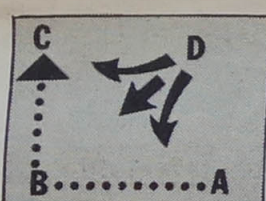
To Master Technique

Player "A" lobs the ball to player "B" standing 10 yards away. "B" controls and dribbles to a change over position. "A" moves to "B" position. "B" then lobs for "A" to control.



Skill

In a grid—10 yards by 10 yards. "D" is a defender against "A", "B" and "C". One of the

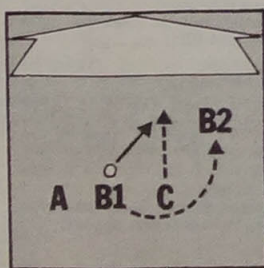


three serves a ball which requires a high control by either of his colleagues. They must then make seven or eight consecutive passes without the defender intercepting or the ball passing out of the grid.

THREE'S NOT A CROWD

Many movements which occur in match play can be practised in groups of three with one ball between the players.

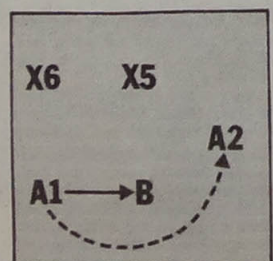
This week we will concentrate on the idea of following the direction of your pass and taking up a position the opposite side of the receiver. This can be achieved by the following simple practice, for which the length of the field can be used. Three players—A, B and C—move off in a line with about five yards between each player and the middle player B in possession.



This practice involves running, timing and weighting of the pass and sprinting for sharpness.

In a game situation when two forwards are faced by two defenders, the advantage of this practice may be seen. Forward A passed to forward B with a short forward pass. He then moves sharply to the right of forward B to be in a position

to receive a further pass. Assuming X5 is marking B, X6 will find it almost impossible to get across to block the space created by A's new position.



By spreading out, the distance of the pass can be varied and therefore the speed of the pass and the speed of the run will have to be increased.

Next Issue: Crossing early balls into the space in front of incoming forwards.

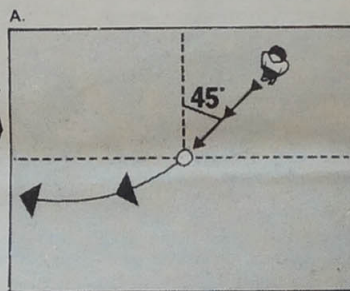
IMPROVE YOUR GAME WITH DANNY AND DAVE

IN the last Hatter, you will remember that we outlined how to swerve a football, kicking with the inside of the boot. This week I want to coach you in the method for swerving the ball with the outside of the boot. If you have practised the methods and movements shown you in the last edition, you will find this week's coaching a bit easier to follow and do.

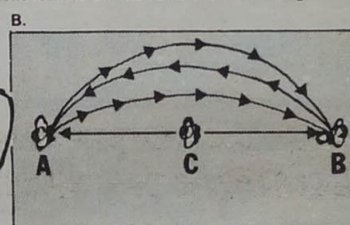
All the movements in the following coaching strip will be for a right footed player, however the movements are vice-versa for a left footed player.

SWERVING THE BALL

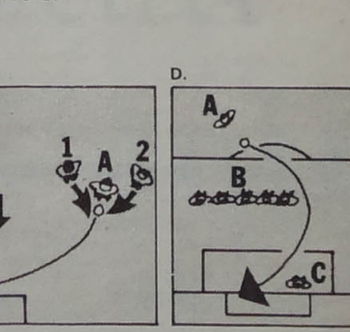
with the outside of the boot.



A. Approach the ball at an angle of 45 deg. to the target, with the non kicking foot (left) one foot to the left and slightly behind. Bring the right foot down with the toes pointing outwards and the foot pointing slightly inwards. Strike the ball about the centre, ankle rigid at contact, and hit the ball with the outer part of the boot just above the toe line. Finish this movement off with a half follow through.



B. The most important part of this skill, once you have grasped the techniques is to practise it until you can not only bend the ball about one yard past player C (see diagram) but you can also bend the ball further and further to the side of player C and still return it to either A or B.



C. In the diagram, player A has two players coming to tackle him, player 1 is running on his outside slightly behind him and player 2 is coming to tackle him and cut him off from the goal. If A takes another stride 2 will tackle him, he therefore swerves a ball with the outside of his right foot, into the path of B who is running at goal unmarked. Johann Cruyff passed a similar ball which led to one of Holland's goals against Argentina in the 1974 World Cup.

D. In this situation A is confronted by a wall of players (B) covering his direct route at goal, leaving only a space at the far post by goalkeeper C. Therefore player A bends a ball, hitting it with the outside of his right foot round the wall as marked to score on the near post, well out of the goalkeepers reach.

TOP OF THE TABLE TOWN

THE Town is sitting well on top of the table but they have some hard matches ahead namely Dunstable and Cheshunt so life is not going to be that easy.

The league are highly delighted that the Football Association has sanctioned the league cup donated by Luton Town F.C. chairman, Mr. Len Lewis.

Len Lewis has always been a keen youth supporter and by this gesture has really given the league a good start.

As Len told league secretary Duncan MacMillan "I hope to see Luton Town F.C. engraved on it first".

The league hope to arrange a proper handing over ceremony at a later date.

It's good to see so many youngsters getting the chance to show their paces in the town's youth policy and we know the lads like it but the league hopes that Luton Town will benefit, that's the main thing.

Money raising scheme

THE League's main money raising scheme is now well underway thanks to the kind donation of the first prize, a trip for two, spending three days in Hamburg. This was donated by an old friend of the league, Kit Carson, of Carson & Gowing Sports International, Newmarket. Kit ran a Bedford Falcon side in the league and when his company moved to Newmarket he said if there's anyway I can help please do not hesitate to ask. Well as League secretary Duncan MacMillan said "This gesture is fantastic, the success of the Christmas draw determines the cost to club's each season

and this sort of first prize should make the tickets go. So if you spot a Chiltern Youth game, ask for a ticket, you might be the lucky one for Hamburg".

Who is going to stop the mighty 14-16 Div 1, Dynamo Boy's Club, that's the question, for some clubs have been on the receiving end of the Dynamo's goal power they must be firm favourites for league and county honours.

The league has just put into action their beat the postal costs plan. They have arranged postal pick up points for club's thereby hoping this will keep costs down.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Wednesday, October 22nd
English Schools F.A. Trophy
2nd round

Dunstable & South Beds 4 v. St. Albans 2

DUNSTABLE dominated the play for the first 15 minutes with St. Albans under pressure, but St. Albans broke away and scored a goal. Dunstable equalised after 25 minutes through Huyllitt J. who scored from a half-chance, the goalkeeper dropping the ball.

Two brothers, James and Simon Huyllitt, both from Northfields school worked well up front and kept St. Albans under pressure.

Half time 1-1.

In the second half, Dunstable continued to press and Bolino, Halling and Joy all played well in the Dunstable attack. Houbie came more and more into the game and Dunstable appeared to get stronger but still failed to score.

With less than 15 minutes to go, Haynes came on in place of Joy and moved up front—within minutes he scored as a result of a good effort by Halling and the Huyllitt twins.

With only minutes remaining, St. Albans equalised with a good goal. The game went into extra time and Haynes scored in the first minute when, once again, the St. Albans goalkeeper fumbled. Halling and Houbie were outstanding in the extra period and good work by them again gave Haynes his second goal. Haynes completed his hat trick to make the final score 4-2.

Dunstable played well throughout and particular reference should be made to the work of the two centre backs, Kefford of Queensberry School and McCarney of Manshead School.

In the next round of the competition, Dunstable meet Watford or High Wycombe.

London Schools' Corinthian Shield Hackney U15 5 v Luton U15 5

This 2nd round Corinthian Shield tie was a fiercely competitive and exciting affair with both sides absolutely refusing to be beaten.

A fine first half display saw Luton round with a comfortable 3-0 lead through well taken goals by Pacey, Dixon and Few. However, early in the second half Luton lost their command of the midfield for a while and some casual play in defence let Hackney back in the game with two goals in a minute. Pacey increased Luton's lead, shortly afterwards, from the penalty spot and they were unfortunate not to go even further ahead when Wilkinson burst through the Hackney

defence, but his shot wasn't quite good enough to beat the keeper.

Late in the game, Luton relaxed once again and this spirited Hackney side punished them with two more goals in as many minutes to make the full time score 4-4.

Early in extra time, obviously elated by their remarkable comeback Hackney went ahead for the first time, but their elation was short lived as substitute Chris Jarvis put Luton back on level terms and made the final score 5-5. Team: Gleasure, Evans, Harriott, Trowsdale, Davie, Few, Pacey, Wilkinson, Mawhinney, Dixon, Turner. Subs: Jarvis, Hylton.

The replay is at Kingsway Recreation Ground on Saturday, November 1st. Kick off 10.30 a.m.

Other Luton Schools results
English Schools F.A. Trophy
Lea Valley 2 Luton U15 4
London Schools Sun Shield
Redbridge 1 Luton U14 5.

Topic

One is for ever reading and seeing on the box the media bemoaning someones cause at the cost of football, cost of players and the list goes on endlessly in the ranks of the professional ranks it would appear that there are too many chiefs and not enough indians. Local football depends on the gallant thousands that give their effort and money free but in this day and age it seems most are out to see who can make the most or spend the most. I feel certain that in common with most industry today, there's an awful lot of wastage goes on in the professional camps, it might do a lot of clubs some good if 'Hachett men' were allowed in to see just how and where the money is spent but I feel this is not likely. I think too much is being wasted, not enough on entertainment and at times down right robbery, so come on you professionals give us value and sort your own camps out.

The league will soon be having its first representative game. This is the 14-18 squad. It's due to take place on November 12th so watch The Hatter for details.

CHILTERN YOUTH LEAGUE

SPOTLIGHT ON WARDEN HILLS FC.



Part of 14-16 Div II and 12-14 Div II squads. 14-16's. Back row. Left to right: Gerard Lannon, Robert Hussey, Paul Sibley, Tom Clark, Phil Allingham. 12-14's. Centre row. Richard White, Nigel Boulton, Wala Bangrove, Hugh Diney. Front row. David Nicholls, Paul Kempson, Nicky Evans, Martin Andrews, Owen James, Francis Fox and Graham Jones. Also in the picture is Mr. Mick Chaney, manager of 12-14's Div II team.

Linslade

Linslade Y.C. 1 Warden Hill 2.

Jarvis opened Warden Hills goal scoring in the sixth minute, but though Warden were on top they failed to press home the advantage, and all of the forwards squandered chances, and Linslade came back into the game, and by half time had won the midfield battle.

In the second half Linslade were given by far too much space and only the hard effort by new signing Harvey White kept the Linslade forwards in check, but in the 72nd minute Chris Jarvis scored to give Warden Hill added effort.

Linslade were rewarded when from a corner, put keeper Smith and defender Robert Hussey got in a mix up to give an own goal.

Icknield Harts

Icknield Harts 0 Bedford Falcons 2

This was an evenly fought game with play swinging from end to end with both clubs' defences well in command, and the strikers getting few chances.

Bedford Falcons broke the stalemate five minutes before half-time

when from a goal mouth scramble, Steve Beard put it in the net from a header.

In the second half Jim Duffield sealed Icknield's fate with a fine goal.

Referee Tony Taylor had complete control to make the game a pleasure to watch by his firm control.

Limbury

Limbury B.C. 3 Letchworth Town 1

The game was played at a cracking pace from start to finish, and the only factor that marred the game was certain Limbury players unable to keep a curb on their tongues, and concentrate on their game.

After five minutes Limbury went ahead from a good run by Dearman for Brian Tompkins to finish off.

Letchworth were constantly on the attack with good display from Ian Strand who was unlucky not to score from a well planned free kick, Limbury keeper Mayles tipping it over the bar.

In the second half Eric Martinis from outside the box hit a well placed cracking shot.

Letchworth hit back with the best goal of the match from 25 yards, Pete Kinnerley scoring.

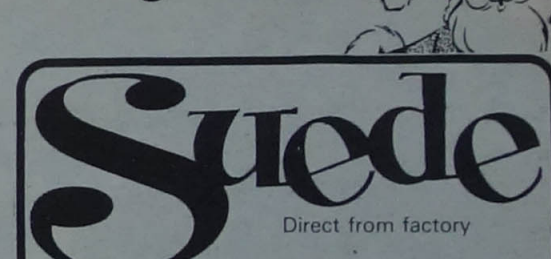
Letchworth's keeper Rod Glaston made a bad error for Brian Tompkins second goal.

Limbury had the chance to go further ahead but John Mullen missed a penalty for a pushing incident.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Town	5	4	1	0	16	5	9
Dunstable Town	5	4	0	1	11	4	8
Cambridge Utd	4	3	1	0	11	5	7
Cheshunt	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Chelmsford City	4	2	0	2	11	6	4
Cambridge City	3	2	0	1	10	5	4
Hertford Town	4	1	0	3	4	8	2
Hoddesdon Town	4	1	0	3	2	10	2
Waldstone	4	1	0	3	10	17	2
Vauxhall Motors	4	0	1	3	4	14	1
Stevenage Ath.	3	0	0	3	5	11	0

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LUTON V PETERBOROUGH UNITED
Monday Nov10th
KICK OFF 7:30pm

COOL IT MR. STOKOE



Keith Barber handles cleanly a shot from "Pop" Robson.

AT least one national paper made reference to Bob Stokoe's touchline comments at Sunderland on Saturday. Whilst it is conceivable that in the electric atmosphere that is Roker Park, one can become a little heated and perhaps carried away.

It does not excuse however a manager behaving in the manner which Mr. Stokoe did. The Sun newspaper in their match report on Monday, November 27th stated that: "if those instructions given from the trainers bench had been carried out, there would not have been a Luton player standing by Monday. Come on Bob, you're not doing yourself any favours.

F.A. Youth Cup

GOOD luck to our youngsters who this week set out on their own trail for glory when they play their first tie in this season's F.A. Youth Cup.

Last season we were shunted out of the competition by an enthusiastic Watford side who were themselves eventually defeated by the runners up West Ham Utd.

This season's side will contain at least five players

who have already played in the Football Combination side. Seven of the team will still be available next season and we are hoping for a good run in this competition to boost their confidence for next year's trophy.

Amateurs, Hill, Ingram and Johnson are likely to be in the side alongside apprentices; Knight, Jones, Simon, Russell, Smith, Morgan, McHugh and Donnelly.

FREEDOM OF CONTRACT

FREEDOM of Contract—what emotive words. The hysterical outpourings of the popular press make good copy if not much sense, but when responsible newspapers like the Sunday Times equate freedom of contract with the freeing of slaves in America it would seem to be taking what should be a serious debate into the realms of Disneyland.

All enlightened administrators in football—and certainly those in authority at Luton—have always sought to ensure that their players have good terms of employment and are well rewarded for their efforts.

In fact, it could be said with some truth that most Club's in the four Leagues overhauled, of which players' wages and bonuses make up by far the largest part, greatly exceed their income. In no other sport or entertainment business (the two descriptions for our game) does such a large proportion of the Companies involved operate at a regular recurring loss.

It is not our intention at this stage to comment upon the actual proposals as set out in the popular press as this would be to pre-judge the results of the discussions in progress between the various parties. In broad terms, however, it would seem that the proposals so far suggested would certainly lead to the destruction of the League system as we know it.

Over a relatively short period of time, the concentration of power amongst the clubs in the major cities of this land would be overwhelming and could well lead to a "so called" Super League of some 12-16 Clubs—it is not too outrageous a thought to suggest that from this follows six to eight matches per Saturday, three to four of which would be regarded for T.V. on Saturday night and the remainder shown on Sunday. Football at the very top would be dominated by T.V. and for the rest of us the spectre of ever-reducing crowds and part-time footballers (with part-time wages) emerges.

In addition, the one spur that keeps most clubs going is the hope that through hard work and effort they may break through to the very top and that this would be denied to them. This removal of ambition would inevitably reduce the general standard of football and ultimately produce sterile play at the top.

Freedom of contract—which is in itself, in our opinion, a misnomer because no club is going to pay compensation to another club unless the player concerned is prepared to commit himself to a lengthy period of service—may be of benefit to some 30 to 40 star quality players (although certainly of greater benefit to the taxman) but it could certainly jeopardise the standard of living and security of the vast bulk of the professional footballers who make up the game we all love.

Whilst we recognise that alteration to the present system may well be necessary, it is to be hoped for the sake of football in general and for the bulk of the players who participate and earn their living from the game that very great consideration be given to this matter before any lasting decisions are reached which may not have the affect desired. Perhaps it would be only prudent that the P.F.A. conduct a referendum amongst all its members to get the "grass roots" opinion of the majority. Whilst at the same time the Football League should consult all its member clubs for their opinions. Both parties might be surprised at the results they obtain.

PRIME MINISTER TO THE RESCUE

WE are glad to see that the Prime Minister has preferred our suggestion of a betting levy on football pools and football gambling to the newly set-up Royal Commission under Lord Rothschild.

Are we correct in assuming that his much publicised visit a couple of weeks ago to his favourite club, Huddersfield Town, at present struggling in the fourth division, and obvious conversations with directors and officials caused him concern as to the future of our national sport?

We are convinced that until this Levy Board is set up and money returned to football in bulk, no stable future for the game is possible.

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