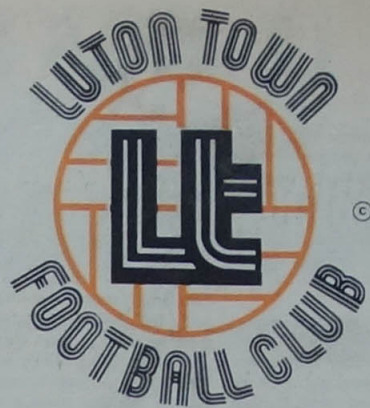


# THE HATTER

Issue No. 10

Price 10p.

December 1975.



## DIDN'T THEY DO WELL



ONCE again we reach the festive season which gives us the opportunity to look back over the season so far.

After a good start and a rather indifferent centre piece, the results are now beginning to flow in the right direction. The climax to the first half of the season has obviously been the changes behind the scenes at Kenilworth Road.

I am sure that if we can sustain and reproduce the kind of football the lads are now turning out, I believe we can look forward once again, to a very good end to a dramatic season.

I feel that the lads have rallied around tremendously they have done the club proud and I would like to thank them for taking eight from eight over the last four games, it is this spirit that makes it all worthwhile.

It heartens me to see everyone pulling in the same direction and I feel that all of us at Kenilworth Road can look forward to 1976 with a good deal of optimism.

May I, on behalf of the Directors, Payers and Staff of Luton Town Football Club wish one and all a very successful and prosperous New Year.

HARRY HASLAM.

*WE WISH ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND READERS  
A VERY HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL 1976.*

**Featuring Oxford United & Bristol Rovers**



# 12 GOALS IN THREE DAYS

Saturday, December 13th.  
**Chiltern Premier League**  
**Luton Town 6 Hertford Town 0**  
Team: Roberts, Morgan, McHugh, Smith, Jones, Coyne, Howson, Hill, Perna, Whitbread, Donnelly. Subs: Judge, McCrohan. Scorers: Smith 3, Donnelly 2, o.g.  
Although we did not have much information about this side—only that they had won a couple of games and drawn a couple—we had to treat the match like any other. Regardless of the opposition, we must always do our best.  
We got off to a brilliant start with **Tim Smith** scoring after eight minutes with a very good shot from the right that, after hitting the bar, went into the back of the net. Four minutes later, **Smith** scored his and the Hatters' second goal with a similar shot which was well set up by Howson. After 24 minutes, a corner from the right taken by Smith, produced our third goal with help of a **Hertford defender** on the line. **Ian Donnelly** put us

well clear with a fourth goal after 33 minutes—a well-taken header.  
In the second half we increased our lead to 5-0 in the 62nd minutes with **Ian Donnelly** scoring a great goal with a full volley inside the box. **Tim Smith** scored our final goal and his hat trick after 83 minutes with a good shot.  
Summarizing, Ricky Hill, although he did not score, tried his hardest and always looked in command in the middle of the field. Young Whitbread, Judge and Howson gave good performances. Tim Smith, who scored three goals, played really well. In his first game for the Hatters, McCrohan, although playing for only one half, did well.

Monday, December 15th  
**Chiltern Premier League**  
**Luton Town 6 Cheshunt 0**  
Team: Roberts, Morgan, McHugh, Smith, Jones, Coyne, Simon, Hill, Johnson, Russell,

Donnelly. Subs: Ingram, Whitbread. Scorers: Donnelly 3, Ingram, Johnson, o.g.  
On paper, this was one of our most difficult games. We had already played Cheshunt twice, winning 2-1 at home in the quarter finals of the Cup, and drawing 1-1 away—the only point we have dropped so far, so we had good reason for believing that it was not going to be an easy game. We therefore went into the game fully prepared not to make any concessions and determined to win—and win well.

After 20 seconds **Ian Donnelly** took advantage of a mistake in their defence and scored. He then **added another** in the 12th minutes after hitting the bar twice and the post once. We continued to put Cheshunt under tremendous pressure and didn't manage to score until the 42nd minute when Steve Russell did well on the left, got to the bye line and his pass inside was knocked into

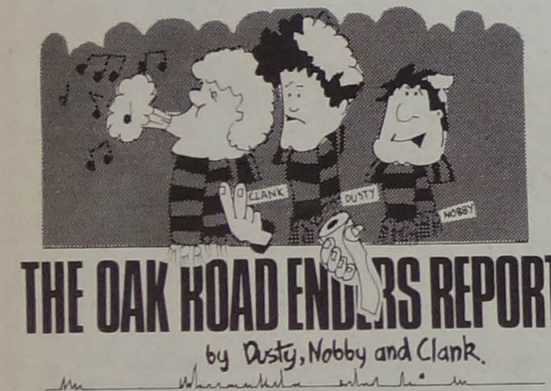
the goal by a **Cheshunt defender**. Although 3-0 down, Cheshunt continued to fight but they were completely outplayed, only troubling us on a couple of occasions.  
In the second half, Ingram came on for Simon and Whitbread substituted Russell. We continued on top, perhaps even more so than in the first half. As a result, **Ingram** scored after 57 minutes, **Donnelly** adding a fifth in the 70th minute. **Johnson** completed the scoring with a left footed goal following a ball through the middle. On two occasions we hit the bar and the goalkeeper made a couple of very good saves, especially one from a shot by Ricky Hill.

This was a quite convincing performance as a team, although in the second half—due to the tremendous difference not only in the sides but in the score sheets—we lost a bit of discipline and we started trying to do things more as individuals than as a team.

## CHELSEA HIT FINE FORM

Saturday, December 20th  
**Football Combination**  
**Luton Town 1 Chelsea 3**  
Team: Knight, Mead, Malcolm, Pollock, Carr, Price, Russell, Spiring, Seasman, Fuccillo, Hindson. Sub: Simon. Scorer: Hindson, pen.

After a fine first half display against a good Chelsea side, we fell away in the second period and Chelsea snatched a dramatic victory with three goals in the last eight minutes.  
We began the game in fine style with Fuccillo, Price and Seasman all having splendid efforts brilliantly saved. As the half progressed, we got even more on top but could not put the ball in the net until Seasman was brought down. **Hindson** slotted in the penalty. *Chelsea pushed forward*



BEIN' as 'ow it's Christmas, we want to come up wiv something special; something not quite as serious and knowledgeable as our usual column. So we got Clank to write a poem. Not many people know about Clank's literary bent. They might know 'e's bent, but not many know 'e's literary. It all started when 'e wrote a nice little piece on a wall under Chelsea's new stand, and then 'e went on to bigger things and wrote a poem about Cloughie's mouth called: "Gone wiv The Wind". Anyway, 'e's written a Christmas poem what 'e thinks could be set to music and sung by Elton Toilet or Max Near-tombs—(think about that) . . .

Here then, for the first time in any publication, is a poem by Clank.

BRING ON THE VANKERS (misprint)  
by Clank

When I was just a little lad with not much strength or guts, I went to a football match and got a kick in the —  
I lost all interest in the game, I know not if we lost—  
'cost all the ninety minutes my blinkin' eyes were crossed.

But as I got a bit older and started to use my brain, I wore a pair of hobnail boots and carried a lavatory chair, I rampaged up and down the Land wiv bopper in my 'eart, but then I came to understand it wasn't a—worth it.

I used to run out on the pitch—especially when playin' Chelsea, armed I was wiv Tithe Farm bricks and a great big roll of Delsey. What a laugh I thought it was; funnier than Partick Thistle; chasin' the ref all round the park and tryin' to grab 'is whistle.

## Matt Sinks The Gunners

Saturday, December 13th  
**Football Combination**  
**Arsenal 0 Luton Town 1**  
Team: Knight, Mead, Malcolm, Pollock, Carr, Price, Russell, Spiring, Seasman, Fuccillo, Hindson. Sub: Simon. Scorer: Pollock.

This was a fine team performance built around everyone's efforts at cover and double cover, never allowing Arsenal space to use their skills. At the same time, when we gained possession, we always looked to have more ideas and imagination. As a unit, the back four were first class, never allowing Arsenal one clear opportunity in 90 minutes.

However, Knight was not completely idle and made one fantastic save from a 20 yard

drive by Ross through a crowded goalmouth.  
After the first 20 minutes we put our game together and should have been at least two up at the interval, Russell screwing his shot wide and Fuccillo hitting the bar after some good footwork.

In midfield, Fuccillo and Pollock made some fine runs forward into space to help Russell and Seasman who did a fine job against Litt (our player on loan to Arsenal) and Mancini.  
Our goal came when **Pollock** cleverly flighted the ball over Parker after some intense pressure.

Although Arsenal had experienced players such as Mancini, Cropley, Radford and Rostorn, our lads gave scant respect for reputations and fully deserved this fine victory.

Once, I charged down Dunstable Road and terrorized the shoppers and then I 'eld the traffic up, until they called the coppers. I jumped about and yelled and screamed; it really made my day—then someone came and told me: "Town are playin' away".

So now I'm not an 'ooligan see?—I'm a good fan when I choose; these days I duff me mum up, whenever Luton lose. You might not think that's very nice, you'll report me to a constable but then you've never met my mum—she cleans the drains in Dunstable.

I cheer the Town politely now, which is 'ow it all began, when I was just a little lad, and a keen McDonald fan. But the other week I got kicked again when we were playin' Oldham.

so I'm back where I started, see?—and cross eyed still, I 'old 'em. so Merry Christmas Luton Town and our two-and-a-half directors, we think you'll win promotion still, 'cos being' broke won't affect 'us.

'Cos with 'Arry 'Aslam, Roy McCrohan, and with Danny, and David Pleat, and all the players goin' like 'ell, the championship's easy meat.

### Connie's Hot Pies

We promised to tell you 'ow Nobby got on wiv 'is bit of stuff what he picked up in Sainsbury's a while back. It'll also give us the chance to tell you about Connie's Hot Pies, which are famous throughout the footballing world—'cos, Nobby took 'is bird Ear-rings to the Bobbers Club & treated 'er to one. There are a lot of legends flyin' about concernin' Connie's Hot Pies. But we can say that there's no truth in the rumour that the players use 'em as shin pads, or that the season ticket holders use 'em as cushions on their seats. It is true though, that Steve Buckley puts a Connie's Hot Pie in each boot before he goes out onto the field to give a bit of power to 'is shootin'. And if you notice Lobber Chambers's beard, that came about through his eatin' dozens of Connie's Hot Pies. They also make Westy's 'air curl. And Keith Barber's brilliant form this season is due

### University Challenge

We predicted that Town would be in the top five by Christmas, and if they beat off the challenge of Oxford this afternoon, give or take the odd point and starter for 10, we'll be there. And a couple of points at Bristol would see us

## COMBINATION TABLE

Table of results to Monday, December 15th, 1975 (not inclusive).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham City	22	15	4	3	31	11	34
West Ham United	21	15	1	5	57	24	31
Ipswich Town	21	13	4	4	38	22	30
Bristol City	22	12	5	5	45	17	29
Southampton	22	10	8	4	34	23	28
Chelsea	23	10	7	6	46	30	27
LUTON TOWN	21	10	5	6	35	22	25
Plymouth Argyle	22	9	6	7	28	27	24
Arsenal	21	8	7	6	26	18	23
Tottenham Hotspur	20	7	6	7	35	30	20
Leicester City	21	7	4	10	32	31	18
Norwich City	20	7	4	9	24	25	18
Queens Park Rangers	20	7	4	9	27	31	18
Reading	21	6	6	9	23	36	18
A.F.C. Bourmouth	19	4	9	8	23	26	17
Cardiff City	19	7	3	9	26	30	17
Swindon Town	21	7	3	11	24	48	17
Fulham	18	3	10	5	18	26	16
Crystal Palace	21	5	5	11	24	42	15
Oxford United	20	5	4	11	21	36	14
Orient	21	1	10	10	22	42	12
Bristol Rovers	21	3	3	15	27	68	9

## A lesson for Reading

Wednesday, December 10th.  
**Football Combination**  
**Reading 0 Luton Town 1**

Team: Horn, Mead, Thomson, Pollock, Carr, Price, Jim Ryan, Spiring, Seasman, Fuccillo, Hindson. Sub: Simon. Scorer: Jim Ryan (pen).

The Hatters gave Reading—a rough and determined side—a lesson in football during the first 30 minutes, on a very uneven pitch, and although we were unable to score the vital goals, Jim Ryan, Hindson and Spiring all went close.

Reading's determination began to show before half-time, a couple of sharp raids

and a lucky bounce giving them goal chances which, fortunately, Horn was equal to.

We regained our composure after the break and an effort from Peter Spiring from close range was handled on the line. Reading gave us one or two problems with their long ball methods, hard chasing and tackling and, at the end of the game, we had several players with cuts and sore ankles.

We managed to finish the game well in command, despite the referee playing almost eight minutes over time.

## MIDWEEK TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	16	10	3	3	24	16	23
Peterborough United	12	7	3	2	27	17	17
Cambridge United	12	6	5	1	20	13	17
Charlton Athletic	10	7	2	1	32	16	16
Southend United	13	6	2	5	23	17	14
Brighton & Hove Albion	13	5	4	4	19	19	14
LUTON TOWN	14	4	6	4	21	24	14
Millwall	13	4	3	6	26	34	11
Gillingham	12	3	3	6	22	20	9
Orient	7	4	0	3	16	13	8
Portsmouth	12	3	2	7	16	24	8
Brentford	13	2	4	7	12	26	8
Colchester United	13	3	2	8	20	36	8
Northampton Town	12	2	1	9	19	32	5

Up to and including December 16th, 1975.

makin' the runnin', like of which Bamby Gaspipe ain't never seen.

So come on, Town, we're right behind yer—us and Roger Duckpond.

### In Reserve

Me and Nobby and Clank—wearin' pin stripe suits and carrying executive brief cases 'cos we're gonna buy a Luton Town Share between us—bowed along to see the Reserves playin' Chelsea last Saturday. There was only us and two coppers at the Oak Road End, but the Bobbers Stand was packed wiv about 10 people—which is more than it gets for 'ome games. The Main Stand 'ad quite a crowd though, but it wasn't enough to drown the talkin' what goes on between the players. 'Cos, generally speaking' you don't get to 'ear what the players are shoutin' to each other. Without bein' biased, we can say that Town players are very polite—sayin' things like: "I say old chap, slip the old ball over here" and "You missed an open goal you unfortunate fellow" . . . while Chelsea players shouted things like: "Gi't it yer greedy burke"

### Hither Page

We'd like to wish page 3 a Merry Christmas and a 'Appy New Year, along wiv page 8 and 9. Our regards to the centre page spread and the Fixtures on page 11. And to all the other pages in **The Hatter** what 'ave to compete wiv us on page 2 . . . may your New Year be full of misprints.

See yers . . .

## THE HATTER

The Hatter is published by the proprietors Barwell Gurney Advertising in conjunction with Luton Town Football Club and Luton Graphics & Marketing. All administrative and advertising queries should be directed to Keith Barwell, Barwell Gurney Advertising, Herald House, Church Street, Luton, who are part of the Barwell Gurney Tel: 413570 or 415061 (10 lines). group of companies.



OVER the last few weeks, myself and everyone connected with Luton Town have been in a whirl over the way people have rallied round and supported the Hatters from places as far afield as the North-East, Devon, Scotland and Ireland, and sent in donations, applications for shares and letters offering their support. Many of these people are exiled Lutonians and it is amazing how far they have travelled. Perhaps this is

the reason for our falling gates—all our supporters are moving away!

You may have read in the national newspapers that the people in the North East have very kindly arranged one or two functions from which they are hoping to raise some funds for Luton. By the time you have read this column, no doubt I will have travelled up the country to the North-East to receive the money they have raised. When things

like this happen, they make all the hard work and the disappointments worthwhile and nothing seems quite so bad after all. This is one side of football that nobody sees until a Club is in a position such as we find ourselves in at the moment.

Also rallying round, of course, are my players and staff who have really began to produce the goods. This creates confidence in many other people and encourages them to come

in the First Division will certainly be better than a struggle in the Second.

Success being the key word, I am sure, as I have said repeatedly, that Luton Town will come through the dark patches to prove to one and all that the fight is on and we aim to win. With your backing, whether it be by donations, shares, or through the turnstiles, our burden will get lighter.

On Boxing Day we welcome to Luton, Oxford



Powerful drive from Steve Buckley leaves Osborne stranded and takes the paint off the West Brom post.

## DAVID PLEAT'S QUIZ CORNER WIN TWO CUP FINAL TICKETS!

In each edition, our Assistant Coach will test your soccer knowledge with three questions. You are invited to send in your answers each week and at the end of the season the person with the most correct answers will receive two tickets for the 1976 F.A. Cup Final. Please enclose the voucher with your answers.

The weekly winner will receive two centre stand tickets.

1. What is the relationship between: Jim Iley (Barnsley manager) and Colin Grainger (ex Sheffield United and England)? Nobby Stiles (Preston North End coach) and John Giles (West Brom. manager)?

2. Who scored the fastest recorded League goal? When and against whom? Name three of this former player's several League clubs?

3. What is the record number of players supplied by one club for an England team? Name the players, club and the game.

4. Who played at Highbury one Saturday, White Hart Lane the following Saturday and were back at Highbury the week after? (Careful!)

5. Who do the following play for: Geidmntis? Marinello? Fuschillo?

6. In season 1967/68 a Third Division club had three goalkeepers on their books who all subsequently went on to play for first Division clubs. Name the goalkeepers and the clubs they went to.

### Answers to Quiz No. 6.

1. (a) Oxford United. (b) Plymouth Argyle.  
2. Peter Swan — player/manager, Watlock Tn.  
3. (a) Dumbarton. (b) Falkirk. (c) Wokington.  
Winner: Mr. D. J. Mardle, 79 Manor Road, Caddington, Near Luton.

forward and help. All we require now is the additional turnstile clicking on match days to make things brighter than ever.

To save the Club is one thing, but to get people to help the Club is another matter entirely. However, I do feel that the public will always rally round something that still aims for success and here I can assure you all that this is predominantly the aim of everyone at Kenilworth Road and if promotion becomes available we will take it because a struggle

United, our close rivals, and a Club that have also seen some changes recently. Mick Brown, now in charge at the Manor Ground, will know doubt be coming to Kenilworth Road hoping for a good Christmas. Being a Club renowned for its generosity I hope this is one occasion when we don't give any presents away!

So, once again, may I say Merry Christmas to you all, particularly those of you in hospital who are unable to join in with the festivities.

# Joke of the Month

This month's Joke of the Month competition for two boomerang-shaped season tickets for Accrington Stanley (don't try to throw them away), will be judged by the Chairman of Burnley F.C., himself one of the greatest jokes in the game. The two runners up will receive a guided tour of Tommy Trinder's mouth. As usual, me and my beard will make sure that the right decision is reached. We will give action replays and analyse each joke in detail to make certain that the build up and the actual final punch is not below the belt. My decision will be final and I advise all supporters of Fulham and Coventry to send in plenty of entries. I may remind you that last month's winner was Mrs. B. All-sup, Flat 36-42, 1 Field Road, Coventry.

Study the jokes carefully put your answers on a postcard and send to me, Fanny Hill, at the big Joke Studio, Fulham.

(a) **State of the Game**  
*Supporter of struggling league club:* "I'm thrilled to bits. I've saved up for four seasons to buy a stand ticket and today I shall be watching my first game from my new seat—centre stand, row F, seat 10."

(b) **Today's Man in the Middle**  
*Man in ticket office:* "Well that's just great. I hope you enjoy the match. Will you be staying to the end?"

(c) **The Fanatic**  
*Supporter:* "Of course I will."

(d) **Doctor's Orders**  
*first player:* "What's the matter with you?"

(e) **Question of Terms**  
*Manager:* "What experience have you had?"

(f) **Heaven and Hell**  
*Manager:* "You've never played before and you want £40 a week to start?"

(g) **Football without Tears**  
*Young Fred was the junior school's star forward.*

(h) **Sex without Fear**  
*Dizzy blonde:* "I've dated every member of the United football team and I haven't made love to one of them."

(i) **Dizzy blonde's dizzy girlfriend: "I bet it's that shy goalkeeper."**

she will leave me if I don't give up following football."

*Mate:* "Oh, I am sorry to hear that."

*Supporter:* "So am I, I shall miss her."

*Manager:* "What experience have you had?"

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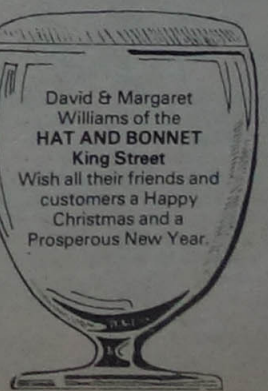
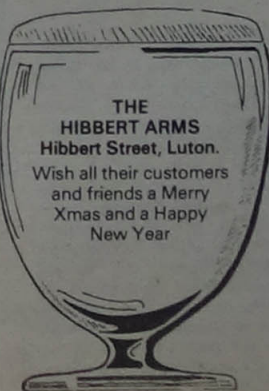
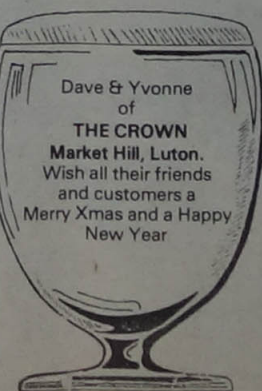
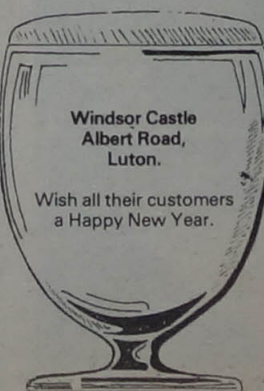
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# Happy Christmas Mine Host





# Half Way Look at 2nd Division

## Hatters Back In With Chance?

A HEARTENING run of four consecutive victories—just the sort of morale-booster we had been seeking all season—took us to the half way stage of the League programme with a tally of 23 points, only five fewer than third placed Bristol City. And Luton fans were beginning to ask themselves: Are the Hatters back in with a promotion chance?

It's a valid point. For most of the leaders have suffered set backs and, though Sunderland, Bolton and Bristol City are beginning to open up a lead over the rest of the field, there is really very little in it at the moment.

If Bristol City suffer another four game spell without a win, as they did recently, and Sunderland continue to falter away from home—they went down 0-4 at Southampton, and it could so easily have been 0-7!—then the chance will arise for Luton to step in.



Johnny Giles gets his marching orders

certain satisfaction. Yet this is one man who will not allow complacency to creep in.

### IDENTICAL

At the same time last year the Roker side was in an almost identical position, everyone's favourites to go up. Then they went into sharp decline, finally missing their prize on their last game. Sunderland, Bolton and Bristol City are certainly the in form teams of the



Jimmy Husband scores against Orient

London—1-0 at Chelsea, 2-1 at Fulham.

Bolton's magnificent rise to the top has been interrupted by only one defeat—at home to West Bromwich. Ironically, that followed an unbeaten run of 16 League games when this old established club needed just one more to set up a new club record.

Bolton must undoubtedly be the most accomplished side in the division. With Roy Greaves probing so superbly in mid-field and their dual strikers Neil Whatmore and Garry Jones looking so sharp, the Trotters have been quite devastating at times.

At Fulham they should have been four up after only 10 minutes! Whatmore had what appeared a perfectly good goal disallowed, saw a flashing header go only narrowly wide and then coolly lifted the ball over Mellor's head to give Bolton the lead after eight minutes. Another minute later and Mellor had to dive at Whatmore's feet to save another one.

Whatmore's form should be no surprise to readers of The Hatter. For in our preview of the season, in our first issue, we noted Whatmore as a youngster to hit the highlights this season—even though he was only in the reserves at the time!

Sunderland boss Bob Stokoe looked back on the first half of the season with a

moment. The club no one—just no one—considers is Oldham Athletic. Yet the Latics led by the dedicated, yet unheralded, Jimmy Frizzell could shock them all.

### APPALLING

Oldham, despite the liability of an appalling away record, have crept to within four points of the third club.

They've achieved that by playing quite ordinary football with an average bunch of players. Who can immediately spin off the names of more than a couple of Oldham players?

### THREAT

Nevertheless, Jimmy Frizzell's threat should be taken very seriously. After all, he lifted the club out of the Fourth Division and then brought them up into the Second.

This is the sort of man Jimmy Frizzell is. At Christmas 1973, when Oldham were eighth in the Third Division and nine points behind the leaders, Frizzell said to his players—"I've booked us all tickets to watch the F.A. Cup final at Wembley. And when we go there we are going as Champions of the Third Division!"



Andy King scores the season's first

## Top 2nd Div Crowds

31,356 Sunderland v Bristol Rovers
31,227 Sunderland v Nottm. Forest
28,689 Sunderland v Chelsea
28,338 Sunderland v LUTON
28,327 Sunderland v Orient
28,220 Sunderland v Oldham
28,185 Sunderland v Carlisle
27,565 Sunderland v Notts. Co.
25,450 Sunderland v Fulham
25,159 Sunderland v W.B.A.
24,480 Blackburn v Bolton
23,576 Sunderland v Blackpool
22,921 Fulham v Chelsea
22,841 Chelsea v Oxford
22,501 Sunderland v Oxford
22,307 Charlton v Sunderland
21,227 Southampton v Chelsea
21,023 Chelsea v. Nottm. For.
28,896 Chelsea v Bolton
20,096 Chelsea v Plymouth

West Bromwich . . . even Chelsea and Nottingham Forest.

Southampton have all the skills to win promotion—if only they could produce them away as they do at The Dell. Only two of the remaining 92 clubs have a worse away record than the Saints. On the other hand only two clubs anywhere have a better home record.

### CLIMAX

Looking forward to the second half of what is certain to be an exciting climax, then, Luton's chances of sharing the promotion prize must be as good as most of our rivals'.

## The Transfer Trail

ACTIVITY in the transfer market has been quieter than usual this season, due to the game's uncertain financial state. The following are the major deals involving Second Division clubs:

JOHN BURRIDGE Blackpool to Aston Villa	£100,000
PETER ANDERSON Luton to Antwerp	£80,000
TERRY CURRAN Doncaster to Nottingham Forest	£75,000
DAVID JONES Nottingham Forest to Norwich	£65,000
CLIFF CALVERT York City to Sheffield United	£35,000
ADRIAN ALSTON Luton to Cardiff	£25,000
BOBBY SVARC Colchester to Blackburn	£25,000
GEOFF HURST Stoke to West Bromwich Albion	£20,000
DENIS PEACOCK Nottingham Forest to Doncaster	£20,000

The following were believed to have been transferred for fees below £20,000

ARTHUR HORSFIELD Charlton to Watford.
IAN MILLER Nottingham Forest to Doncaster.
BOB SAXTON Plymouth to Exeter.
PETER ASHWORTH Blackburn to Bournemouth.
MICK HICKMAN Blackburn to Torquay.
STUART LEE Bolton to Wrexham.
KEVIN RANDALL Notts. County to Mansfield.

## INTO THE SECOND HALF

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland . . . . .	22	14	3	5	35	18	31
Bolton . . . . .	22	12	7	3	38	21	31
Bristol City . . . . .	22	11	6	5	38	20	28
Notts County . . . . .	22	10	6	6	23	18	26
Bristol Rovers . . . . .	22	1	11	4	25	19	25
Southampton . . . . .	21	11	2	8	38	28	24
Oldham . . . . .	22	9	6	7	31	32	24
West Bromwich . . . . .	22	8	6	8	21	23	24
Fulham . . . . .	21	8	7	6	27	19	23
LUTON TOWN . . . . .	22	9	5	8	30	23	23
Chelsea . . . . .	22	8	7	7	26	25	23
Blackpool . . . . .	22	8	6	8	22	26	22
Nottm. Forest . . . . .	22	7	7	8	23	20	21
Hull . . . . .	22	8	4	10	23	25	20
Orient . . . . .	20	6	7	7	16	17	19
Blackburn . . . . .	21	5	9	7	19	21	19
Plymouth . . . . .	22	7	5	10	23	30	19
Charlton . . . . .	21	7	5	9	24	34	19
Carlisle . . . . .	22	6	7	9	18	27	19
Oxford . . . . .	22	5	6	11	20	30	16
York . . . . .	21	3	4	14	16	38	10
Portsmouth . . . . .	21	2	6	13	12	33	10

## A Look Back

Top and bottom club each week:

Leade		Bottom Club	
Aug 16. Southampton	1	2 West Bromwich	1 0
Aug 23. Fulham	3	4 Charlton	2 0
Aug. 30 Southampton	4	7 Carlisle	4 1
Sep 6 Notts Co.	5	8 Carlisle	4 1
Sep 13 Notts. Co	6	10 Carlisle	6 3
Sep 20 Notts. Co.	7	12 Oxford	8 4
Sep 27 Sunderland	10	15 Oxford	9 4
Oct 4 Sunderland	11	16 Portsmouth	9 6
Oct 11 Sunderland	12	18 Portsmouth	10 7
Oct 18 Bristol City	13	19 Carlisle	12 7
Oct 25 Sunderland	14	20 York City	13 7
Nov 1 Sunderland	15	22 York City	14 7
Nov 8 Sunderland	16	24 York City	16 7
Nov 15 Sunderland	17	26 Portsmouth	17 8
Nov 22 Sunderland	18	27 Portsmouth	18 8
Nov 29 Sunderland	19	29 Portsmouth	19 8
Dec 6 Sunderland	20	29 Portsmouth	20 8
Dec 13 Sunderland	21	31 Portsmouth	21 10

## THREE MANAGERS GO

ONE Second Division manager has been sacked this season, another resigned over frustration at his team's performances and one more moved up to a better job in Division One. First to go was Oxford United's Gerry Summers, following his team's run of six successive defeats. Assistant manager Mick Brown took over but it wasn't long before Summers found new employment with Third Division Gillingham.

A couple of weeks later Alan Ashman walked out on Carlisle because he felt the players were not giving their best. Ashman took Carlisle from the Fourth to the First Division and had felt his side was good enough to be in a promotion challenging position. Instead, they found themselves in deep relegation trouble. Carlisle gave the job to their loyal coach Dick Young who has been guaranteed a job until he is due to retire in a year's time.

"If things don't go so well, or Dick decides the job is too much for him, he will be found another job of at least the status of chief coach—his old job—until he is due to retire," said a club spokesman.

No worries for Jimmy Sirrel when he left Notts County for the lure of the First Division with Sheffield United. But he took on a few problems at

Bramall Lane! In this case, too, the club didn't go outside for a new appointment. Assistant manager Ronnie Fenton was put in charge.

## Horswill's Horror

WHEN Plymouth's Mick Horswill studied the table at the half way mark he felt a sudden flush of guilt. For Argyle were only two points clear of the relegation zone and in danger of making an immediate return to Division Three.

As Mick has the dubious distinction of being the Second Division's leading own goal scorer we can understand his feelings! Mick has put two past his own goalkeeper, one of his slips costing the club a valuable point.

And Horswill can't help wondering if that might be the all-important one in the final reckoning.

Talking of own goals, the club to benefit from opponents' mistakes is Oldham. Three rivals are included on their scoring list—Peter Aitken (Bristol Rovers), Bob Goldthorpe (Charlton) and Horswill.

# PLAYER'S PORTRAIT

JIM HUSBAND, who has been in sparkling form in recent matches, was anxious this week to put Hatters' fans minds at rest. "The club's tremendous off-field problems have in no way affected the players' spirits," he assured everyone. "I don't think any of us was aware of the full extent of the problems but we're glad it's all out in the open now."

"When the news first hit me my immediate reaction was — 'there's nothing that I can really do about it. If the club folds, it folds. That's our bad luck. Once it had sunk in, I think most of us players simply resolved to put in that extra bit of effort. Now I am quite sure that, if everyone in the club pulls together, the club will live on."

Luton are only one of many clubs severely hit by the current economic crisis which is likely to force dramatic changes on the game. Jim Husband reckons that the present League set-up will undergo drastic changes in the next decade.

"If you had asked me 15 years ago I saw that the future of football I would have said that there would be a gradual trimming down of the leagues over a very long period. But everything is changing so quickly now. I cannot possibly see the present set-up of four leagues, and 92 full-time professional clubs, surviving for much longer," he said.

Ironically, football generally is facing its gravest crises at the very time Jim is enjoying what he describes as "the happiest days of my career".

"I'm a different person since leaving Merseyside," explained Jim. "For the first time in my life I feel really relaxed and able to enjoy the game properly. I'm a far more contented person now."

"In Liverpool I could never go out anywhere without being pestered. Maybe pestered is not the exact word, for many of the people I met were intelligent and interesting people. The trouble was it was football, football all the time. I could never get away from it."

"Now I live in a beautiful little village called Clophill, about 10 miles from Luton. It's great because hardly anyone there knows anything about football and I can get right away from it all at the end of the day.

"Some people don't realise that to us football is a job which we need to escape from.

A bank manager, for instance, does not want everyone coming up to him in the pub to discuss financial problems all evening. Similarly, a footballer likes to forget about the game at times."

Now for the first time in his life, Jim can retreat after training to his village home really to enjoy life fully with his wife Val and 4½-year-old son Jamie.

"I'm a great reader," says Jim. "Not novels. More reference books. At this particular time I've developed a great passion for studying the production and origin of wine. I'm reading everything I can on the subject, which I find fascinating."

Jim, who joined Luton from Everton in a £70,000 deal two years ago, can reflect upon an action-packed career. What does he consider the highlights?

"One of my best memories is of Everton's F.A. Cup semi-final against Leeds at Old Trafford in 1968. Probably because I had gone down with 'flu during the week and I was doubtful until just before the kick-off. I finally made it but didn't really expect we could win as Leeds were hot favourites. It was a chip in by me that forced Jack Charlton to palm the ball over the bar for the penalty which Johnny Morrissey converted to take us to Wembley.

"The final itself was a disaster. Nothing went right for us and, without doubt, that was the most bitter disappointment of all for me."

Jim still retains fond memories of his days in the Everton youth team which won the F.A. Youth Cup in 1965.

"They were fabulous days," he confessed. "There were no cash incentives then. We were all earning about £5 per week and there were no bonuses. It was the nearest thing, in professional football, to the old schoolboys tradition that I have ever known."

"I still remember all the details of the final, played in two legs. We drew the first 0-0 at Highbury before about 9,000 spectators. The return was played on a dreadful night; it literally tipped down buckets and we didn't expect more that about five thousand to turn up to watch us."

"But do you know what the gate was? A fantastic 37,000."

"We won 3-1. And do you know what our reward was? A weekend in Scotland!"

That wasn't the first big highlight in his career, though. Back home in Newcastle he was such an outstanding schoolboy player that he won five England caps at that level. One game was at Wembley with 90,000 fans. "Do you know that game is a complete blank for me now. I can remember nothing about it and I can't even recall who were our opponents!"

After joining Everton, Jim won four England youth caps and he eventually earned his chance in the under-23s, playing five times.

"It was a wonderful experience playing under Sir Alf Ramsey. He always made you feel so important. You never felt you were on trial. He gave you the impression that, anyone he picked, had already proved themselves and could cope with the job he was asking them to do.

"He was a strange man, Sir Alf. He was greatly misunderstood by most people. According to his image, he was a cold man with no feelings. In fact, he was the exact opposite, being very close to his players.

"To understand the sort of man he is, I can tell you that, until a couple of years ago, I received a Christmas card from him every year."

Jim Husband looks back with pride, and pleasure, over an eventful career. Does he intend to stay in football when his playing days end?

"No!" he boomed emphatically. "You see I'm not at all technically minded on football. I don't think I would fit in as a coach or anything like that. Even now, when I get the chance, I get right away from football. I can't watch football."

"When we had the weekend off a couple of weeks back I went back to Liverpool. But it would never have entered my head to go and watch Everton play Ipswich. I spent the afternoon playing snooker! "Of course, when I've finished playing I may think differently. When I'm no longer involved with the game I may well turn to it as a form of relaxation. I don't know. But I'm quite certain I will not continue to earn my living from it."

Jim's immediate ambition? "I'd like to help Luton get into the First Division, if possible, and enjoy perhaps another three or four seasons before packing away my boots."

## Jimmy Husband



	64/5	65/6	66/7	67/8	68/9	69/70/1	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	75/6	Total
Orient									1(3)		1(1)	2(4)
Oxford									2			
Plymouth										1(1)	1(1)	
Preston									1(1)			1(1)
Q.P.R.				2(2)					s	1		3+s(2)
Sheff. Utd.	1(1)	1					1	1				5(1)
Sheff. Wed.			1	2(2)	1				1(1)			5(3)
So'ton	1	1	2(2)	2		1	1+s			1		9(2)
Stoke	1	1	1	1(1)	1(1)	1			2			7+s(1)
Sunderland	2(1)	2(1)	1	2				1(2)				8(4)
Swindon								1				1
Tottenham	1	1	2	2	2	1+s			1			8+s
W.B.A.	1	1	2	1	1(1)	1(1)	1	2				11(2)
West Ham	1(1)	1(1)	2(2)	1(1)	1(1)	1			2			9(6)
Wolves			s	1(1)	2	1				4		5+s(1)
York											1(1)	1(1)
	1	4	19(6)	19+	36	30	15	25+	8+s	23+	33	8+s 221+
			s(5)	(19)	(6)	(6)	2s(1)		3s(9)	(3)	(7)	8s(62)

### F.A. Cup

	66/7	67/8	68/9	69/70/1	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	Total
Birmingham									1
Blackburn					1(2)				1(2)
Bristol Rov.									1
Burnley	2								2
Carlisle		1(1)							1(1)
Colchester				1(1)					1(1)
Coventry			1						1
C. Palace						1			1
Derby					1				1
Ipswich			1						1
Leeds									1
Leicester			1(2)						2(2)
Liverpool	1				s				1+s
Man. City				1					1
Man. Utd.				1					1
Mid'brough						1			1
Newcastle									1
Nottm. For.		1(2)							1(2)
Port Vale							1		1
Southport									1
Tranmere									1
W.B.A.									1
Wolves		2(2)							2(2)
	6(4)	7(3)	5		4+s(3)	1	2	1	26+s(10)

### League Cup

	68/9	69/70/1	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	Total
Arsenal		1					1
Bristol Rov.						1	1
Darlington		1					1
Derby	1						1
Luton	1(1)						1(1)
Norwich					1		1
Sheff. Utd.						1	1
Tranmere	1						1



# Introducing this week's visitors - Oxford

## INJURIES TO STRIKERS HINDER OXFORD

OXFORD United's proud record of never having suffered relegation is in considerable danger at the moment. Though they are currently keeping pace with the other clubs around them in the danger zone, they have not yet been able to produce the surge needed to hoist themselves clear.

Following a string of early defeats, the club sacked manager Gerry Summers, thus breaking another proud Oxford boast. They had never previously dismissed a manager since they were elected to the Football League and they were the only club to have that distinction.

Assistant manager Mick Brown was appointed to take over and he received a tremendous boost when the team collected five points from their first three games under his command. That lifted the club out of bottom place and gave them sporting chance of

ultimate escape from the clutches of relegation.

Oxford's biggest problem is in attack, as it was last season. Then they earned high praise for the quality of their play and had it not been for that one big failing they would have made an even more serious bid for promotion. As it was, they kept on the fringe of the promotion battle until the closing weeks of the season.

Like most clubs, Oxford had their financial problems which forced them to sell two key international players—defender Dave Roberts (Wales) to Hull and striker Hugh Curran (Scotland) to Bolton—in order to placate their bank manager.

In spite of this, they maintained a worthy place in the table and eventually finished 11th.

The sale of those two players did, however, enable

Mr. Summers to put in the first bid for Chelsea winger Peter Houseman when he became available for transfer at the end of last season.

Houseman has proved an inspiration in midfield, his accurate passes and crosses causing opposing defences an awful lot of bother.

Injuries to two key strikers have not eased Oxford's worries. Andy McCulloch has only just recovered full fitness after undergoing a cartilage operation and, even before he returned to the side, Oxford lost Brian Heron with a broken leg.

The Oxford side is packed with several promising young players and Mr. Brown knows that, providing they can escape relegation this season, they have an excellent chance of maturing into an outstanding team in one or two years from now.



Back row. Left to right: Mick Tate, Mick Lowe, Roy Burton, John Milkins, Keith Barker, Andy Bodel, Jimmy Light, Billy Jeffrey. Centre: Ken Fish (Trainer), Colin Duncan, Roger Gibbons, Colin Clarke, Andy McCulloch, John Shuker, Peter Foley, Vic Lucas, Fred Ford (Chief Scout). Front row: Hugh McGrogan, Peter Houseman, Les Taylor, Gerry Summers (ex Manager), Mick Brown (Manager), Derek Clarke, Steve Aylott, Max Briggs, Brian Heron.

### Goalkeeper

**Roy Burton.** Ever present two seasons ago, and a first teamer for three years, Roy lost his place to John Milkins last season though he was later recalled to the team and is now re-installed as first choice. Roy joined Oxford as a junior, was later given a free transfer—and then re-signed.  
**League record:** Oxford 130 aps.

### Defenders

**Les Taylor.** Les has taken over the right back position this season. One of many young players in the Oxford side, Les made his League debut at Orient last March.  
**League record:** Oxford 19 aps.

**Colin Clarke.** It was at Arsenal that Colin learned his game, but in those days he was never considered good enough for

their first team. Oxford game him the chance to play League football in 1965/66 and for the past nine years he has been a fixture in their defence.  
**League record:** Oxford 360 (1) aps, 18 goals.

**Nicky Lowe.** Nicky served his apprenticeship at the Manor Ground and has enjoyed quite a few senior outings since his debut in 1972/73. Last season, when Welsh international Dave Roberts was sold to Hull, Nicky got the chance to take over at the centre of the defence after he had spent a few weeks on loan to Halifax.  
**League record:** Oxford 35 aps, Halifax (loan) 9 aps.

**John Shuker.** John has now long settled into the left back spot but there was a time when he would flit about all over the team. He has filled eight different positions for Oxford and in 1968/69

he was their top scorer! John broke the Oxford club record for League appearances last season.  
**League record:** Oxford 424 (6) aps, 43 goals.

**Andy Bodel.** Andy served his apprenticeship at the Manor Ground and has been given a couple of games in the senior defence this season. His first League game was at Bristol City in September.  
**League record:** Oxford 2 aps.

### Midfield

**Peter Houseman.** Peter ended his long association with Chelsea to join Oxford last summer on a £35,000 transfer. In some 15 years at Stamford Bridge, he played in the F.A. Cup final—scoring one of their goals against Leeds at Wembley in 1970—and in the European Cup Winners' Cup final a year later. Considered to be one of the best crossers of the ball in the

game, Peter also turned in some good performances for Chelsea at left back.  
**League record:** Chelsea 252(17) aps, 20 goals. Oxford 17 aps.

**Mick Tait.** Mick is Oxford's leading scorer with eight goals. He completed his apprenticeship with Oxford and made his first League appearance against Blackpool last February.  
**League record:** Oxford 20 (3) aps, 8 goals.

**Billy Jeffrey.** A Scottish lad who served his apprenticeship with Oxford, turning professional in October 1973 after he had already made several first team appearances.  
**League record:** Oxford 53 aps, 2 goals.

**Hughie McGrogan.** Hughie made a tremen-

dous impression when given his chance in the Oxford team last season. Still only 18, he has good ball control and tremendous energy.  
**League record:** Oxford 11 (8) aps, 1 goal.

**Steve Aylott.** Steve did not manage to make the senior teams at Orient or West Ham but he has been on fairly regular duty for Oxford since his transfer in 1971.  
**League record:** Oxford 133 (7) aps, 7 goals.

### Strikers

**Derek Clarke.** Derek opened his League career with Walsall but was snapped up by Wolves in 1968 at the end of his first season in the senior team. Chances became rare at Molineux, though and he moved on to Oxford in 1970. He was joint top scorer last season.  
**League record:** Walsall 6

aps, 2 goals. Wolves 2(3) aps. Oxford 152(7) aps, 33 goals.

**Peter Foley.** Peter made his League bow against Oldham towards the end of last season and has been a regular member of the attack for much of this season.  
**League record:** Oxford 13 (2) aps, 1 goal.

**Andy McCulloch.** Andy has only recently resumed his first team place after recovering from a cartilage operation. Last season he was the club's level top scorer, justifying the club record £70,000 fee they paid Cardiff for him in 1974. Andy was top scorer in both his seasons at Cardiff. Queen's Park Rangers originally discovered him playing for Waltham & Hersham, signed him for a nominal fee then sold him to Cardiff for £45,000.  
**League record:** Q.P.R. 30 (12) aps, 10 goals. Cardiff 58 aps, 24 goals. Oxford 31 aps, 9 goals.

## MICK BROWN MANAGER

MICK Brown was flung into the managerial lion's den earlier this season when Oxford were almost bottom of the table. He quickly boosted the player's morale, the team won its first two games under his control and, though they are not yet clear of trouble, he has instilled a new confidence which promises to take the club into a position of safety.

Until now Mr. Brown had spent most of his soccer life as the loyal number two. Even as a player, he did not get an awful lot of luck in his early days. He spent some 10 years with Hull City where, as a defender, he had the misfortune to be a contemporary of the so consistent Andy Davidson.

It was a frustrating time for Mr. Brown. For Davidson was ever present for

one spell of five out of six seasons and he eventually set-up the existing Hull record of 511 League appearances.

Mr. Brown got in only on the rare occasion when Davidson was injured and, as Davidson looked like going on forever, Mick Brown eventually transferred to Lincoln City where he at last came into his own as a League player.

In 1968 he went non-League with Cambridge United, initially as a player. It wasn't long before he was taken onto the coaching staff as assistant to manager Bill Leivers. Mr. Brown remained for two seasons, Cambridge winning the Southern League championship both times, before linking with Oxford as assistant manager in 1970.

### Back Check

Past League results versus Oxford.		
	Home	Away
1970/71	4-0	1-2
1971/72	1-2	1-1
1972/73	0-1	1-2
1973/74	0-1	1-1

SUMMARY										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Home	4	1	0	3	5	4	2			
Away	4	0	2	2	4	6	2			
	8	1	2	5	9	10	4			

### OXFORD RECORD

Founded: 1896.  
Elected to Football League: 1962.  
Third Division Champions: 1968.  
Record victory: 7-1 v Barrow (Division Four, December 1964).  
Worst defeats: 0-5 v Cardiff (Division Two, February 1969) and 0-5 v Cardiff (Division Two, September 1973).

## PLAYERS PEN PICTURES

### Probable line up

BURTON

TAYLOR LOWE CLARKE(C) SHUKER

TAIT HOUSEMAN AYLOTT JEFFREY

CLARKE (D)

McCULLOCH  
(or Foley)

## LUTON LOTTERY

### HIS WEEK'S LUCKY WINNERS

Weeks 46, 47 and 48. Wednesday, December 17th, 1975. Winners drawn at United Counties Bus Garage, Castle Street, Luton.  
£100 CE575 Agent 168. Mr. A. Hunt, 44 Milestone Road, Hitchin.  
AI 740 Agent 76. Mr. D. Jones, 119 Norman Road, Barton.  
AR 289 Agent 43. Mr. S. Kavanagh, 80 Dallow Road, Luton.  
E50 AQ 759 Agent 121. Mrs. Y. Thompson, 6 St. Olam Close, Luton.  
AQ 061 Agent 134. Mr. N. Frazer, 16 The Lane, Charlton, Beds.  
BE 360 Agent 271. Mrs. I. Szivos, 279 Beechwood Road, Luton.  
E25 CE710 Agent 204. Mrs. E. Long, 20 Ashton Road, Luton.  
AQ 131 Agent 96. Mr. G. Clarke, 167 Devon Road, Luton.  
AI 461 Agent 248. Mrs. Hodgkin, 16 Partridge Road, St. Silbans.  
E10 AH 159 Agent 64. Mr. C. Davidson, 5 Bedford Street, Hitchin.  
CA 964 Agent 170. Mr. Dillingham, 21 Dunstable Close, Luton.  
CD 390 Agent 149. Mr. P. Beswetherick, 15 Highwood Close, Luton.

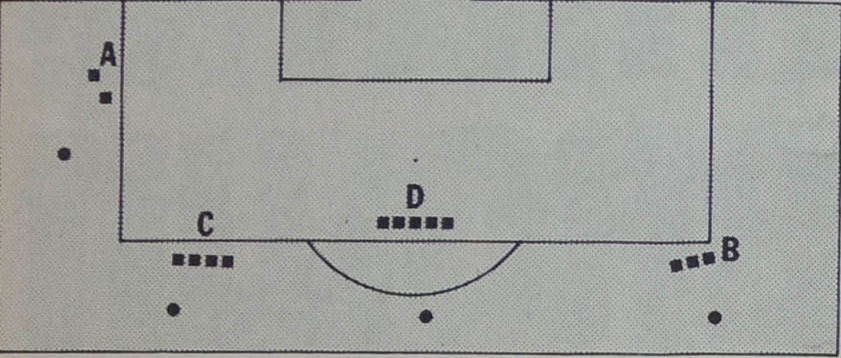


# POSITIONAL PRIORITIES

## THE DEFENSIVE WALL

The object of forming a defensive wall is to deny your opponents a direct shot at goal. The wall should be organised without fuss and quickly. I always nominate one of our forwards to be responsible for lining up the wall. We do

this because if the goalkeeper is on one post lining players up for a wall, there is always the possibility of the opposition taking a quick one and shooting into the unguarded area of the goal. The number of players needed to form a wall depends on the position of the kick in relation to the goal.



### Free kicks against, on the edge of the box.

A rough guide for lining up against free kicks given in the defensive third may be as follows:

#### Position A

Free kick between the by line and edge of the 18 yard box—two players in the wall.

#### Position B

Free kick between the angle of the 18 yard box and half way to the edge of the "d"—three players in the wall.

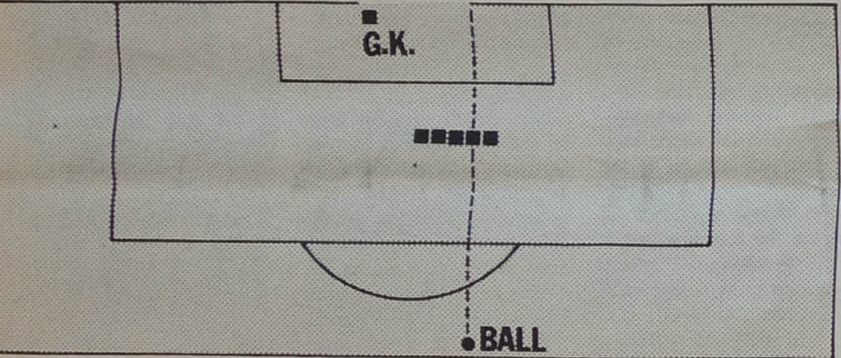
#### Position C

Free kick between the edge of the "d" and half-way to the width of the box—four players in the wall.

#### Position D

In front of goal within the "D" (the straight shot)—five players in the wall.

Always remember, if the opponents have a particularly good "bender" of the ball, always exaggerate the wall by including one extra player.



The wall protects one half of the goal. The goalkeeper must protect the other half and he must always be in a position so that he can see the ball. The end man of the wall must be wide of the near post to prevent the shot which is bent

around the wall. The second man in the wall should be in line between the post and the ball as shown.

In the next edition I shall deal with a couple of worked free kicks which can defeat a defensive wall.

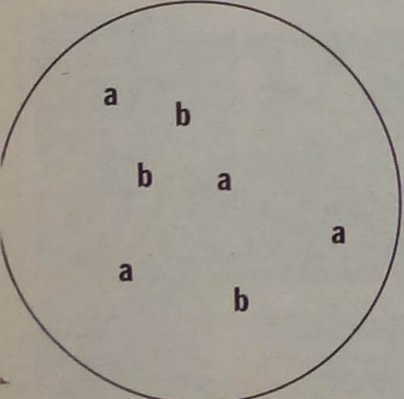
# Centre Circle Possession

Using the area of the centre circle four attackers attempt to keep possession from three defenders. We overload the

in case the ball gets diverted out of the circle. The ball must be returned quickly to keep the paractice flowing. After three minutes, the players could have a minute break and then have another spell with the players changed around so each player gets an opportunity in the group keeping possession. This, of course, depends on the players' fitness. If a team squad of about 14 players are training, the ideal situation would be seven on, seven off and then change round when the coach decides. When players improve, a man-against-man situation can be arranged (3 v 3).

This practice encourages one of the most important aspects of the game—one which, generally speaking, continental players work harder at and are therefore more superior: shielding the ball. Players, when confronted with an opponent and with no passing opportunities, should be encouraged to put their foot on the ball and ensure that their body gets into a position between the opponent and the ball.

In the next edition we will discuss the technique of shielding the ball.



ttackers in order to give them the advantage of the extra man. In theory they should be able to use the extra man as an outlet for passing possibilities. The aim of ne defenders is to make as many interptions as possible in three minutes. Conversely, the attackers' sole aim is not o allow the defenders any touches of ne ball in the time period. Players not involved in the centre circle act as fielders

# IMPROVE YOUR GAME WITH DANNY AND DAVE

Probably one of the most effective skills in football, I am devoting the next three issues to volleying the ball. This week, I shall deal with volleying with the side of the foot. This skill is most effective in attack for placing balls into the goal for instance in the 6 yard area. It is also most effective in laying balls off or passing in quick succession i.e. centre forward if he is being covered by centre half behind him and uses side volley to lay off the ball so that he can run into a better forward position.

## NEXT WEEK VOLLEYING WITH THE IN-STEP

# VOLLEYING THE BALL

The most important thing to remember with volleying the ball is to be in the correct position to make the volley. In order to do this you must be on the toes of your non-kicking foot (fig. 1) so that you can check your position in assessing the flight of the ball. In fig. 2, you have got into the correct position to side volley the ball, note that the eyes are always watching the ball, also the position of the arms for balance. The kicking foot is at right angles to the ball.



## GOALS! GOALS! GOALS! ACTION

Gareth Owen's revue of 1975.

Andy King v Portsmouth

Peter Anderson v Chelsea

John Ryan v Southampton

"Aussie" v Newcastle

John Seasman v Dunkirk

Brian Chambers v Oldham

Brian Chambers v Fulham

# HATTERS AWAY BRISTOL ROVERS

# BRISTOL ROVERS SHOCK 'EM ALL



Back row. Left to right: David Williams, Stuart Taylor, Jim Eadie, Paul Lewis, Lindsay Parsons, Wayne Powell. Middle row: Peter Aitken, Martyn Britten, Phil Bate, Dave Stanforth, Wilf Smith, Frankie Prince, Kenny Stephens. Front row: Trevor Jacobs, Gordon Fearnley, Alan Warboys, Bruce Bannister, Tom Stanton.

BRISTOL ROVERS'S bold bid for promotion has shocked a lot of soccer folk for last season they only narrowly missed relegation. But manager Don Megson is a man who plans for the long-term and he began plotting for today's success as long ago as 1972 when he was appointed. It is no surprise to him.

Mr. Megson spent almost as much time with his youth squad as he gave to the seniors. And, while Rovers were working their way out of the Third Division, the manager already had his sights on the First. "I've always tried to produce players and teams who play attractive and entertaining football," he said. "You might get away with clogging in the lower divisions but you would very quickly get found out in the first."

In three years, Megson's juniors have developed to the point where the best of them are now ready for Second Division football. Defender Alan Williams and forwards Andrew Evans, Tony Pullis and Wayne Powell have all been given their chance this season, while Phil Bate and Graham Day (defenders) and Martyn Britten (forward) were blooded for a few matches last season.

Obviously, Mr. Megson has retained experience in all departments. Centre back Stuart Taylor and left back Lindsay Parsons, for instance, both have more than 300 games behind them to compensate for any immaturity in David Williams—who has switched from left back to the centre—and right back Graham Day.

In goalkeeper Jim Eadie, Rovers have one of the best keepers in Division Two. He

once played 708 minutes without conceding a goal. Rovers' midfield comprises Frankie Prince, a Welsh Under 23 international, Tom Stanton, the former Arsenal and Mansfield player, and Wilf Smith, one time England Under 23, Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry man, who opened the season at right back.

This is the strength of Rovers' side, providing a continual back up for those two prolific scorers Alan Warboys and Bruce Bannister.

Warboys, in fact, hasn't been scoring so consistently this season. He has only three to his credit. But Bannister is top scorer with nine goals.

The third front player is either Gordon Fearnley or Ken Stephens, both men of experience. But Andrew Evans was preferred in early games.

We visit Eastville on December 27th in the knowledge that Rovers are by no means invincible at home. Carlisle (1-0) and Chelsea (2-1) have both beaten them there, while Charlton (0-0), Bolton (2-2), Blackburn (1-1), West Bromwich (1-1) and Plymouth (0-0) have all drawn there.

Rovers chalked up victories over York (2-1), Nottm. For. (4-2) and Sunderland (1-0) in the League.

Rovers have won their lofty position largely on account of outstanding away performances.



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**LUTON v MILLWALL** Monday January 5th 1976 Kick off 7.30 p.m.

5 UPPER GEORGE STREET LUTON 31261



# LOOKING FORWARD TO 1976



Here's looking forward to more goals like this in the New Year.

**JOHN OSBORN** looks horrified as **John Aston's** power drive catches him completely unaware, his despairing hand diverted the ball into the net making it 2-1 against **West Bromwich Albion**.

Although Albion were reduced to 10 men through the sending off of Giles they fought and played like dervishes and the game must surely rank as the best this season at Kenilworth Road. **Johnny Giles** and his side must

be rated highly in the promotion stakes.

The two points taken from this game therefore endorse **Harry's** statement that we will be right in the promotion hunt if we continue to fight as against **West Brom**. One player

we should all shout for against Oxford is **Steve Buckley**, he has been desperately unlucky recently with shots from 40 yards that have taken the paint off the post, he must get one in soon. Good luck to all the lads in their holiday programme.

## TRIALS

On December 31st at Laporte Sports Ground, the Club are holding trials for boys over the age of 16. These boys are those who have written to the Club over the last 12 months for trials and, in keeping with our policy of never turning a boy away, we have invited them all to have the opportunity of taking part in trial games. If any local boys aged 16 or over, would like to come along, would they please report to Laporte Sports Ground, Skimpot Road, Luton with a towel and their kit at 11 a.m. on December 31st.

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