

## United's visit set to be cash record-breaker

MANAGER David Pleat was "absolutely delighted" when he learned that his team's victory over Peterborough will bring Manchester United back to Kenilworth Road on January 29 for the fourth round of the FA Cup.

It will be an all-ticket match, and is likely to set a new ground receipts record for Luton Town. The highest ever was £42,870 for the visit of Ipswich last year.

Manchester United will have 900 seats and the whole of the Kenilworth Road terrace, holding 8,600, and more tickets will be available for sale at Old Trafford on Monday.

### ATKINSON STIRS IT UP

The game is the match of the day in the Fourth Round, and Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson is already started firing up his players for a fixture he just relish less than David Pleat.

In October, when the Town pulled back to earn a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road, Atkinson showed every sign of being peeved at the loss of two points.

And this week he was quick to recall a joke Town boss Pleat made after that game. He was talking about the prices Luton could afford for players compared with Manchester United, and said he had to look at the programme to make sure some of the million-pound men were on the pitch that day.

Mr Atkinson is now using that to goad Bryan Robson and Frank Stapleton, presumably to get a little value for money out of them on January 29.

### 'NOT AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK'

Mr Pleat said: "I'm glad that the tie will be on our ground, and it should be a lovely day out for all our supporters. When we played United in October we gave them a goal start but could easily have won the game in the second half."

"It's not an impossible task to face them again. It will be a difficult match, but there is no reason why we couldn't win, and then who knows what might happen? We might even be able to start dreaming of Wembley..."

Old Trafford was not exactly delighted to learn that only 900 seats were available to them for the match, although that is the full allocation under FA rules. Assuming all Luton season ticket holders take up their seats, 900 seat tickets will be available for general sale.

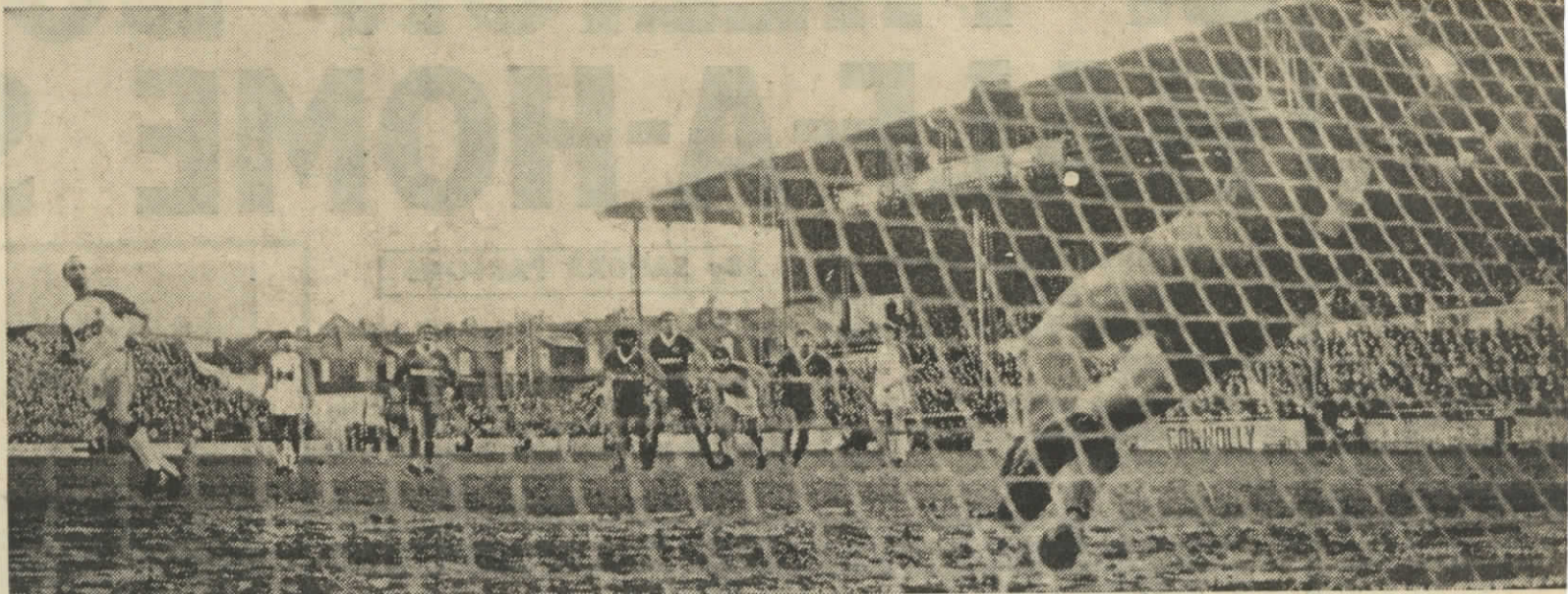
### TICKET SALES ARRANGEMENTS

Tickets for the match will go on sale at Kenilworth Road on Monday, at 9 am. If you don't have a season ticket, the only available cup-tie standing room is in the Oak Road end, at £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for juniors and pensioners.

The same prices will be charged for the Enclosure, but for those tickets season ticket books, complete with a Cup voucher No. 2, must be handed in.

Vouchers and books will also be necessary for season ticket holders wishing to buy their seats in the stands, where prices will be £5 for the centre and Bobbers stands, and £4 for wings.

Season ticket holders will have until noon on Tuesday week, January 25, to claim their match tickets. The ticket office is open each week day from 9 until 5, and will be opened for an extra session on Sunday week, from 10 to mid-day.



● ON THE WAY: Brian Horton's 15th-minute penalty goal begins Peterborough's downfall.

# POSH BEATEN BY A QUALITY FINISH

Report by Brian Swain  
Pictures: Mark Richards

CONTENT to have avoided a real pasting, Peterborough manager Martin Wilkinson accepted that First Division quality had outplayed Fourth Division enthusiasm at Kenilworth Road to send the Hatters into the Fourth Round of the FA Cup.

Only for the first ten minutes did a shock look remotely possible. Peterborough carved out three good chances, failed to convert them, and were second best for the rest of the match.

"The big difference between the teams was that Luton took their chances and we didn't," said Wilkinson. "And in the second half we were never in it."

Peterborough believed that midfielders Mick Gynn and Trevor Quow were their best chances of unlocking the Town's defence, but Wilkinson confessed: "They were never allowed to play like they can."

For Town boss David Pleat the match provided a bucketful of happiness, including the satisfaction of seeing a gamble come off.

David Moss tore an abdominal ligament in training the day before the game. Mark Watts, 17, a Hatfield lad on a government work experience scheme, with only ten reserve games behind him, was pitched into the side.

He had been in bed with a heavy cold for two days, and went back for Friday training to be told he would be sub for the reserves on Saturday. By Friday afternoon he had been promoted to the sup-tie squad.

And on a day he will never forget, he showed common sense as well as talent. He concentrated on doing the simple things and trying not to waste the ball, and fitted into the team without a hitch.

Mitchell Thomas, again preferred at left back to Richard Money, has shown that the most unlikely route to football fame can lead to the First Division, and Watts could well be the second Town player to do it. After being on £25 a week from the government for six months, he is about to be signed on full-time.

The cup-tie turned out to be the perfect occasion to give him his debut. After their early threats

Peterborough were all but swamped as the Town took a grip in all departments.

But Jake Findlay had to keep them in the game before the Town stamped their authority on the proceedings. A burst forward by Gynn gave Robbie Cooke the first real chance of the game, and Findlay dived full length to save his shot.

A mistake by Brian Horton allowed Gynn to set up another chance, and this time Colin Clarke shot wide when he should have done better, and soon afterwards Findlay had to make a desperate smothering save at Clarke's feet from Quow's low cross.

Between times Paul Walsh had hammered a couple of shots just over the bar, and his trickery caused continual problems for centre-backs Neil Firm and Trevor Slack.

Firm was tempted into a clumsy tackle in the 15th minute to give the Town their opening goal. Horton took the penalty in the absence of Moss and Brian Stein, and scored so comprehensively I think he should keep the job.

Peterborough never looked like getting back into it after that, and Ricky Hill tormented them in midfield.

I often think he should score more goals than he does, but he seems to have the knack of producing something special when he is on target. His killer goal for the Town, a few seconds before the half-time whistle, was as good an effort as you could hope to see.

He took a pass from

Kirk Stephens about ten yards outside the penalty area, juggled the ball on his head and knee as he took it past two defenders, then cracked a low shot into the far corner.

Peterborough knew they were beaten after that, and hardly showed in the second half.

The Town seemed to be strolling through them in midfield, where Wayne Turner's solid tackling added the final ingredient to the combined talents of Hill and Horton.

The visitors were lucky to go home with only three goals against them, because from a run and cross by Watts Walsh headed against the top of the bar, then saw a low shot saved.

Frank Bunn burst through the middle and did well to leave two defenders beaten for pace, but then hurried with the shot and sent the ball over the bar with only the goalkeeper to beat, while Hill also put in a solo effort and was stopped by goalkeeper David Seaman.

Further goals had to come, and Walsh made it 3-0 in the 78th minute. Hill took the ball to the goal-line and crossed to give Walsh the chance to nip in for a near post header.

Seaman made a flying save from Turner, and Clive Goodyear headed into the net from a far post cross by Stephens, but was adjudged to have pushed an opponent as he did so.

It didn't really matter—Peterborough had known for an hour that they were losers, and they went home with no complaints at all about the result.

They even enjoyed their day out. Considering their next engagement was against Hartlepool in the Fourth Division last night, who can blame them?



● DISCOVERY: Mark Watts, the 17-year-old who made an unexpected debut, takes on Peterborough right back John Winters.



● NEARLY: There is a look of disbelief on the face of Frank Bunn as he slides in but just fails to connect with a cross.

## Match Details

LUTON TOWN 3 PETERBOROUGH 0  
Half-time: 2-0

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Thomas; Hill, Horton, Turner; Walsh, Bunn, Watts. Sub: Kellock, not needed.

PETERBOROUGH: Seaman; Winters, Firm, Slack, Collins; Gynn, Rodaway, Benjamin, Quow; Cooke, Clarke. Sub: Chard, not used.

THE GOALS: Brian Horton, penalty, 15 minutes, after Neil Firm tripped Paul Walsh; Ricky Hill, 44 minutes, brilliant solo run and shot; Walsh, 78 minutes, near-post header from Hill's cross.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town five saved, 11 wide, one hit the bar, one netted but disallowed; Peterborough six saved and five wide. Corners: 8-7 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 11,151, including a big following from Peterborough. Hundreds of Town season-ticket holders left their seats empty rather than be over-charged.

REFEREE: John Martin Alton, Hants: had very few problems from either side except when he got too close to the action. One involuntary return pass to Ricky Hill was near-perfect.

ENTERTAINMENT: No complaints from the Town's followers, with First Division quality the decider.