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Luton v Coventry

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Tuesday, August 18th, 1987 Kick-off 7.45 p.m.

LUTON TOWN

This match is sponsored by: Martin Groves Engraved Glassware

ACTION



• **First action:** Brian Stein, in his Benefit Year, is pictured in action at Barnet in the Town's opening pre-season friendly. Mick Harford scored the only goal.

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Edited by: Robert Alexander Associates
Pictures by: Apex Photography

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• **On the ball:**
Ricky Hill (top) and
Mal Donaghy (bottom) in
action at Barnet.

REPLAY

ASTRA LEADS FROM BACKS TO FRONT.



BEDFORD GM
TEAM ASTRA

Good luck to all from an established winner.

RAY'S REVIEW



Welcome to the new season at Kenilworth Road. I was very happy to be offered the chance to take over as manager during the close-season and will be working hard to try and produce a team which entertains and scores goals. After last season, when the team recorded Luton Town's best-ever finish in the Football League, I shall be aiming to try and top that and to win one of the trophies available. But I want to see the team playing fluently and scoring goals too.

We have worked hard in pre-season. The West German tour was fine, with tough opposition and good facilities, but probably came a little bit early for us. We had four games in eight days. The German teams were well into their training and were just a few days from the start of their season. They were very fit and straining at the lease.

Since then, we have lost Peter Nicholas to Aberdeen. It was a good deal. I was obviously disappointed. I gave him the opportunity to talk to them and would have been happy if he had stayed. In my mind, I had already thought of using Ricky Hill in the centre of midfield. We had talked about it when we discussed the renewal of his contract. He will be able to orchestrate the team from there. It means we don't have an orthodox ball-winner in the Peter Nicholas mould, but I think we will get forward more and score more goals playing indirect football – with the ball going through the team and not over the top.

Unfortunately, we shall be without Mal Donaghy tonight against Coventry as he is suspended for the first two home matches. It is untimely as we are sorting our style of play but I shall be looking to see us produce some flowing play. Coventry are obviously going to be on a high after winning the Cup. They really put a smile back on the game of football and their win was great for one of the so-called smaller clubs. I hope you see an enjoyable and entertaining game.

Ray Harford

LUTON TOWN



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Mailbag

Write to The Editor, Luton Town F.C., Kenilworth Road, Luton by Tuesday a.m.

Brave stance

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your generosity in providing tickets for my lads last Saturday. In the mid 60's I took a party of boys to Wembley for the Oxford v Cambridge match. The behaviour of some sections of the mainly schoolboy crowd was so bad (hooligans in the making no doubt) that I vowed never to take boys to a soccer match again. Having read so much about Luton's brave stance against the thugs it was a joy to visit Kenilworth Road and savour the friendly family atmosphere which you have developed in such a short space of time; so different from the wonderful Ninian Park atmosphere of my youth (1st Division then), yet equally pleasing.

The lack of goals didn't spoil our day out, indeed Martin Hodge's one spectacular save made my goalkeeper's day, and there was plenty of skilful play to enjoy.

How I sympathised with the views expressed by Mr Kirkham in your programme, I watched your performance against Liverpool on TV when you beat them by sheer skill. How different was the commitment shown by Sheffield - they appeared to come to play football on equal terms, not to moan and complain about the pitch.

Thank-you

Dear Sir,

I am writing to say thank you for picking me as an escort for the game against Sheffield Wednesday. I enjoyed it very much. Thank you for my kit and thank you to the players for signing my autograph book.

From

Wendy Skinner (aged 6)
41 Driftwood Avenue,
Chiswell green,
St Albans, Herts.

Running in!

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you once again for giving me the Luton Town football shirt to run in the London Marathon with.

I have collected around £500 for the handicapped children so it was worth the effort.

Many thanks once more.

Your faithfully
Peter Bedford

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CHIT CHAT



My holiday day-dreams

Hot sun, cooling breeze, sea gently lapping the shore: as I lay back sun bathing wet and windy England seemed a long away. And Luton Town Football Club, if the English press I saw was to be believed, didn't even exist.

I read that Coventry were shopping at Harrods (in the Food Hall?), Liverpool weren't releasing players for the Football League XI, nor was Terry Butcher being allowed to play for the Rest of the World: Brian Clough wanted his son to go to University because an education is useful (but only in Sports' Studies!) and Alan Ball is such a personality that Portsmouth cannot fail.

What I didn't read was whether Ricky Hill was going to Atletico Madrid, Paris St. Germain or staying at Luton, or Mark Stein was signing again, or how the team were performing in Germany. Why the silence on reporting events concerned with Luton Town?

Have the FA and League "persuaded" our nation's media to report on Luton only when something controversial is happening? Or is it that we're still

considered too insignificant to feature in the daily and Sunday papers?

Pioneers

Silence concerning Luton Town is continuing as the season begins. Neither the daily papers I saw nor Teletext informed us of Brian Stein's testimonial match at Edgware, and I never did find out the result of that game. Even in feature articles we're not mentioned; an item on the introduction of membership schemes in a Sunday paper made no reference to us, the pioneers of the scheme.

I think newspapers should stop creating stories in order to concentrate on the 'big clubs' and controversial figures. After all, it is the media which were responsible for making the clubs well known in the first place. Perhaps Luton Town and other poorer clubs might get a fairer hearing in 1987-88. Who knows?

Gale Waller

Anyone wanting to contribute to *Chit-Chat*, please write to: The Editor, Luton Town F.C., Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds.

Luton News

PICTURE QUIZ



Mike Newell scores on Coventry's visit last season. Just for fun – and to win a fiver if you're lucky – try our quiz: Who scored the other goal, and why was it a case of revenge being very sweet? Answers to the Sports Editor (Comp), Luton News, Grosvenor House, Alma Street, Luton LU1 2PL by noon on Saturday. The first correct entry drawn out will win £5, so don't forget to include your name and address. Results will be published in the Luton News, along with all the best match coverage and pictures

THURSDAYS 14p

PRE-SEASON DRAW

Hull City 1 Luton Town 1

After the tour matches in West Germany and a pre-season friendly at Barnet, the Town met league opposition for the first time when they visited Hull City at Boothferry Park two weeks ago. The result was a 1-1 draw in which the team managed by formers Hatters' favourite Brian Horton had most of the chances, but the Town were impressive in their approach work.

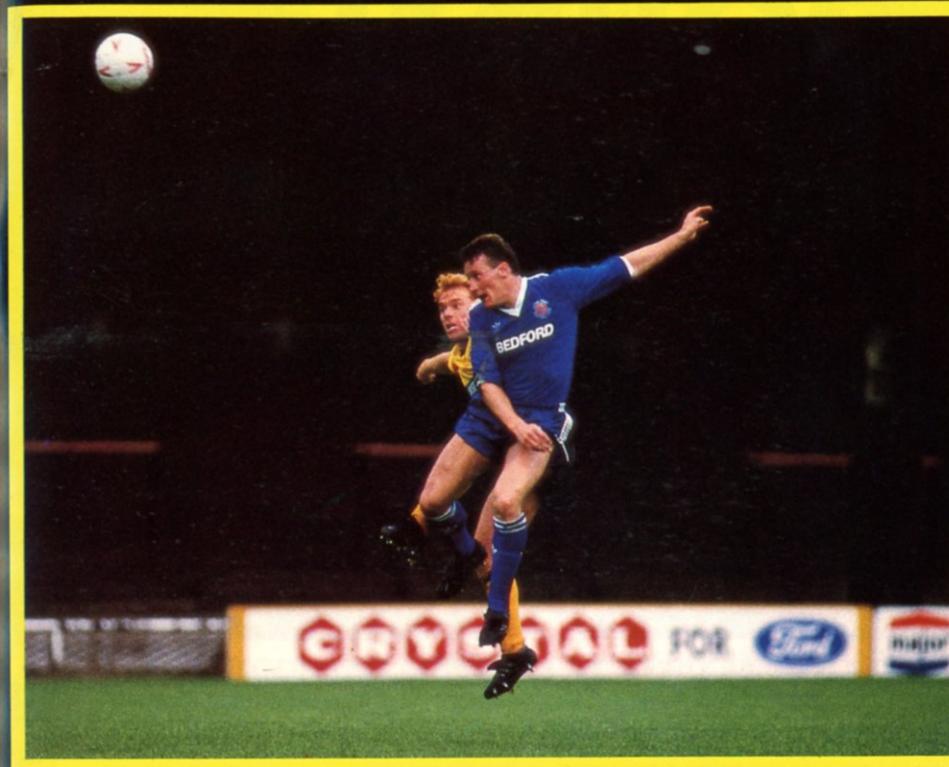
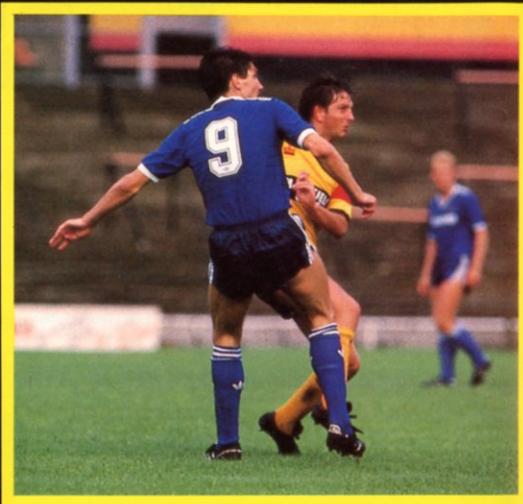
With Ricky Hill missing, and following the departure of Peter Nicholas to Aberdeen, there was an inexperienced look about the midfield line-up with Rob Johnson joining Danny Wilson, David Preece and Robert Wilson in that department. Hull's team included a sprinkling of former Town men including Frank Bunn and Ray Daniel.

The first half was goalless, but after the interval each team found the net once. Brian Stein scored for the visiting Luton side and Bunn for the home team. But it was rarely a fully-competitive match and team manager Ray Harford indicated as much afterwards when he said he was satisfied with what he saw as part of the general build-up for the opening match of the season in the First Division.

Teams: Hull – Norman, Palmer, Heard, Jobson, Skipper, McEwan, Roberts, Bunn, Dyer, Askew, Daniel.

Luton – Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Wilson D., North S., Donaghy, Johnson, Stein E., Harford, Wilson R., Preece.

1st Team ACTION



• All square at Boothferry Park: The Tigers and the Hatters fought out a 1-1 draw in their pre-season friendly at Hull City's ground 12 days ago. Brian Stein scored for the Town with his former team-mate Frank Bunn keeping things level with a goal for Hull. Tonight's action pictures show Danny Wilson, Brian Stein, Mick Harford and David Preece in the thick of the action. Pictures by Apex Photography.

FOOTBALL FOCUS

John Faulkner

Youth team coach John Faulkner had only a few weeks' summer break in which to disappear to France for a family holiday with friends near Bordeaux after leading the highly-successful young Town youth team on three tours in Holland at the end of last season. But, as he reports in the first Football Focus of the new season, the tours were a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile experience with another trophy to add to the youngsters' growing collection of silverware:

Great performance by the youngsters

"We went on tours to three tournaments. We only really wanted to go on two, but the organisers of the first one, the Den Haag tournament, were so keen to get us at the last minute as replacements for Coventry City that we felt we had to go. It was very impressive for us to be rated so highly – and we didn't let them down as we went on to win the tournament, beating Honved Budapest from Hungary in the final. A very fine win and a great achievement. It is a nice habit to start collecting trophies after winning the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup last season.

"Our second tournament was the Feyenoord one. We had won it the year before so were going there to defend our record and the trophy. We were up against it, particularly as we had just won the other tournament at Den Haag and so I think we did well to finish third. The third tournament was the Blau Wit one which we have been going to for many years now.

"We came third again in that one which is very good too. So, our record in the three was good and very satisfying after a long hard season. We used much the same squad of players for all three tournaments and might have been able to use a few of the younger senior lads, but they had already gone away with the first team for their tour of Cyprus at the end of the season. We used a few

trialists to boost the squad up a bit as floaters. But basically it was the same group.

"The trialists were lads from Liverpool, Ireland and Scotland and they like all the lads had to adjust to the different interpretations of the laws abroad. In Holland, for example, the biggest thing I noticed was that the referee did not allow any physical contact. That was a big thing for our lads to adjust to and I think they did very well. They had to be very disciplined.

"The game there is more Continental with more emphasis on passing, but it is still like our own league game too. There is always something to learn and I am sure our lads will have gained a lot from the experience. Just going away together is a great thing. It brings togetherness. And for many of the lads it was quite something to go to stay at a hotel or with foster families.

"Julian James became good friends with the family he met and a Dutch friend of his has been over to join us in training pre-season this year. They speak perfect English of course, so we have enjoyed having him and hope he has had a good time. He has tried hard to join in and the lads have accepted him well.

"After such a successful year last time, we are looking to do well again and I hope all our fans will get behind the teams at the club at all levels. Enjoy the football and have a good season."



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CLUB NEWS

FOOTBALL'S FUN RUN TO GIVE HOSPITAL CASH BOOST

Luton Town FC has teamed up with Luton and Dunstable Hospital's League of Friends in a bid to raise £10,000 towards equipment for the mother and baby unit.

The Club has chosen this project for the Football League Centenary Fun Run being organised as part of the Mercantile Credit-sponsored celebrations. Two national charities providing sports opportunities for disadvantaged children, Goaldiggers and Sparks, will also benefit.

All League clubs are arranging 2.5 mile runs to start simultaneously at noon on Sunday, September 20. Luton's will be the focal point of a family day out in Wardown Park, with the museum, boating lake, playground, sideshows and a car boot sale among other attractions.

The run will be led by Luton Town players and other celebrities. As it is strictly for fun, there will be prizes for fancy dress and the oldest and youngest participants, plus certificates for all.

Application forms are available from Luton Town FC, Mercantile Credit's office at 8 Bute Street, Luton, Luton Council offices, and from race organiser Mary Biswell at 22 Friars Walk, Dunstable.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES AT KENILWORTH ROAD

Football League Division One
Saturday, August 22, 1987
Luton Town v West Ham United
Kick-off 3 pm.

LUTON'S AWARD

On a beautiful Summer evening in June, I sat in the Great Hall of Mentmore Towers eating a superbly arranged vegetarian banquet. It was the seasonal Award Ceremony held by the World Government for the Age of Enlightenment, an international group dedicated to the promotion of Transcendental Meditation and the encouragement of excellence.

Those responsible for drawing up the list of award winners had chosen to make an award to Luton Town Football club for two reasons – first, because the 1986-87 season saw the club finishing higher in the Football League than ever before in its 100 year plus history and second, because of the new trouble-free atmosphere brought about by the membership scheme.

In my award acceptance speech, I explained that much of the credit for these happy achievements was due to the Chairman, David Evans, who was at that time no doubt practising his own speeches to be heard in another Chamber following his recent election to Parliament. **Mervyn Terrett – Hon Chaplain**

COVER STORY

Tonight's action picture shows action from our pre-season friendly away to Brian Horton's Hull City. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

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MICK'S BABY



•Happy family: Mick and Sue joined in our photo-call with their newly-arrived baby girl. Congratulations Mick – and to Ricky Hill for the safe arrival of his son.



BACK IN TIME FOR A NEW LOOK

•**New official badge:** The Town have reverted to the Borough coat-of-arms as the club's official badge this season. It replaces the football logo designed 15 years ago.

"Our decision reflects our pride in being the Town's team and its representative in the First Division," said General Secretary Bill Tomlins. The badge was worn by the Town for many years previously including the 1958-59 Cup Final season.

by BILL TOMLINS

THE TOWN

POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE RUNNING THROUGH THE CLUB

After our best-ever league season last year, there is a tide of optimism and excitement running through the club as we approach the new season. We may have experienced another change of team management, our second in successive close-seasons, but since Ray's appointment we have succeeded in re-signing all the players whose contracts were up for renewal and creating a positive atmosphere which now runs through the club from top to bottom.

For the General Secretary, this has naturally meant a great deal of work, but I am happy to be busy in such a progressive and bubbling environment. Peter Nicholas has left us for Aberdeen in exchange for a £315,000 fee, Steve Foster has taken over the role of player-coach and under Ray's command of the team I have been involved in my first signing for Luton Town – Danny Wilson's arrival from Brighton for £150,000. A Northern Ireland international, Danny is warmly welcomed.

Loyalty

I wish Danny and all the players and coaching staff the very best of luck in the coming nine months. Many of the players are now approaching or passing the 10-year mark with Luton Town – a remarkable mark of the loyalty and consistency. In recent seasons, this has seen Paul Price enjoy a testimonial season, Ricky Hill last year, Brian Stein, who is now in his Benefit Year, Mal Donaghy will join the group next season and several

others are on the fringe.

While we are disappointed to lose Peter, we are pleased to look forward to Brian Stein's Testimonial Match against them. This may be early in the New Year.

Our membership scheme enters its second season tonight. It has been a great success with the police, local residents, traders and our own supporters and we are pleased the benefits outweigh the disadvantages. Season-ticket sales prove this in that, by July, we had sold more than we did in all the first half of last season up to and including January. That is some achievement, but Luton Town continue to break new ground with this season's introduction of betting shops, and the improvements in facilities for the disabled.

Sponsors

Finally, a warm welcome to tonight's match sponsors Martin Groves Engraved Glassware. Martin, who is a local football fan, has recently scored a big hit by designing the official presentation glassware for the 100th anniversary of the Football League. Now available to football fans throughout the country after being presented to Pele and other international football VIP's during last week's official centenary celebrations.

Martin is also producing commissioned glassware for Luton Town Football Club and a lot of other sporting bodies.



•**Treble-top:** Brian Stein, in his Benefit Year after 10 successful years at Kenilworth Road, is flanked by his brothers Edwin and Mark after our recent pre-season friendly at Barnet.



•**Signing on:** Northern Ireland international midfield player Danny Wilson joined the club during the close season from Brighton. He is pictured with General Secretary Bill Tomlins and team manager Ray Harford. Welcome to Luton, Danny!



•**Champions:** Congratulations to the Luton Flyers on their great success in winning the Budweiser National League, Eastern Conference. American Football is a tough game as our picture shows!

CAPTAIN'S DIARY



Tennis triumphs!

Hello everyone and welcome back to the new season. Although I have been made player-coach, I am going to stay on as captain and continue to do my column. And to start with, let me tell you about our pre-season tour to Germany where we really felt the strain as we had only been back in training for three days before leaving. It was long and tough.

While we were there we held a tennis tournament. Mark Stein and Ray Harford were the winners in the doubles. They beat Mal Donaghy and Brian Stein in the final – but I reckon Mal was crooked.

I was acting as the official bookmaker and taking bets. And, yes, you've guessed it, Mal had a bet on Mark and Ray to win. They had to chase me all the way round the hotel to get me to pay up!

Pocket dynamo

Since last season, we have lost Peter Nicholas, who has joined Aberdeen, and welcomed a new signing Danny Wilson. I know Danny well from my Brighton days. He is another pocket dynamo in our pint-sized midfield. When we played at Hull, without Ricky, we had Danny, Rob Johnson and David Preece together.

Nicko's move to Aberdeen was a good move for him and will give him European football. We were sad to see him go, but this is a professional game. We sent him a telegram before his first match for them, which they drew 1-1.

At Hull, where we drew 1-1 pre-season, it was nice to meet up with some old friends with Ray Daniel and Frank Bunn in their team.

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PHOTO FILE



• Pre-season action: Gary Cobb and Tim Breacker are pictured in action during our 1-0 victory over Barnet. Mick Harford scored the winning goal.



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IN PROFILE.....

BRIAN STEIN



•**Danger man:** Brian Stein, in his Benefit Year, challenges for the ball at Hull.

Brian refreshed by holiday in the sun



•**Ready to go:** Brian Stein.

After a summer holiday in Spain, striker Brian Stein is all set to help lead the Town's charge on the First Division in our first home match of the season against Coventry City, the FA Cup holders, here tonight. "It was a good holiday, right down on the south coast near Funegirola," said Brian, who is looking forward to his testimonial season with extra relish. "I really enjoyed it, but it was especially nice for the children. We spent most of the time at the swimming pool where they loved all the water chutes and so on."

Brian will have completed a decade at Kenilworth Road this season and looks back with pleasure on his career with the Hatters. "They have been really happy years," he said. "The injuries and the FA Cup semi-final were the only down-times really. Playing for England was a marvellous experience too. It really seems an age since I first came into the team. I remember playing when John Faulkner was captain and he has been the youth team coach for the last couple of years now!"

As to the future, Brian says he is not sure about coaching, but would like to give it a try. "I would like to do a bit, but I would want to see adventurous football. I think there is too much fear in the game."

BRIAN STEIN



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DRESSING ROOM TALK

with Steve Foster

Captain and centre-half Steve Foster became the club's player-coach during the close season, a step up in duties and responsibilities he had not expected this time last year. Today in Dressing Room Talk, he reflects on the new job he has and how it might change his role at the club:

"I never seriously thought about it before. A year ago I did not think I would stay in the game and go coaching, but the opportunity arose and I want to have a go now. The club have been very good for me and with me and I have been happy.

"To be honest, I don't think it will change me much at all. I shall keep on playing and that is the main thing so far as I am concerned and so far as the club is concerned too. I have got a lot to learn about coaching and for me it is clearly going to be a learning stage at first, but I feel it is a bonus.

"Of course, I get a lot of stick from the lads about it. Just as you would imagine. They have started calling me the assistant. I like it though when I walk into the dressing room and it all goes quiet - 'here comes the assistant again' gets whispered first I think!

"We have a very experienced squad though, to be serious, and it makes my job much easier. I don't have to worry a lot about inexperienced lads. We are in the habit of winning and that is a good thing to have. You don't want to get beaten. It makes you fight for good results.

More goals

"I think the team will play differently this season. Peter has gone and Ray wants to use Ricky in the centre of midfield. We will hope to score more goals. We should get forward a lot more and add a bit extra to our game. The defence has been pretty stable. Of course, we are likely to get more exposed this season but that is all part of it.

"My experience should be some help. I have got over my injury from last season



• **Player-coach:** Steve Foster.

weights and so on. But on Wednesdays, and it feels really fine. Pre-season is always a hard time and difficult to use as a basis for judgement. But I think we can do well again.

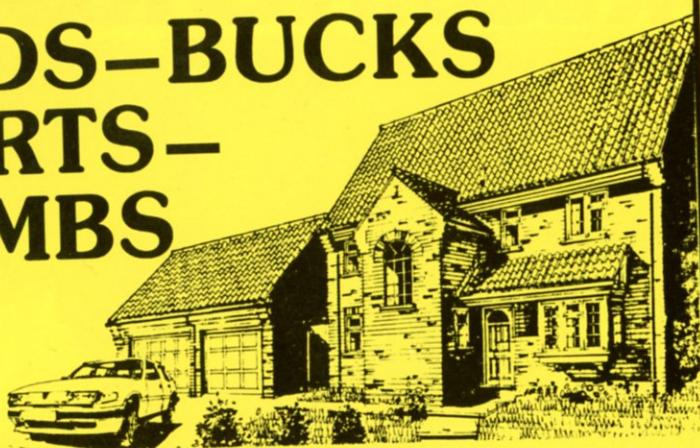
Competitive

"I know Danny Wilson well from my Brighton days and he is a very competitive and skilful player who should do well for us. We've also still got Ricky Hill and that is vital as we did not want to see him or any other players go.

"Looking at the First Division, I can see it will be much the same, but I should think Spurs and Arsenal will be really hard to beat. And Liverpool and Everton. Liverpool, even without Rush, will be a force. They always recover when they lose a player.

"It should be another good season. I am looking forward to it. And, no, I am not going to get involved in picking the team. That is the bosses job. If I did, then I can't imagine the stick I would be getting."

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Ticket Office Transfer

As most supporters will know, our ticket office has moved back to Kenilworth Road, where we have completely renovated the old information kiosk in the turnstile area.

We shared the Oak Road premises last season because of all the demolition and building work at Kenilworth Road.

Now this gives us more space to work in while allowing the souvenir shop to expand too. I'm sure the new working arrangements will allow us to provide an even better service.

Motorists will find the new office more convenient, because there is plenty of parking space on the forecourt outside, although parking will be restricted on match days.

Anyone writing or ordering tickets for the Oak Road end of the ground might still prefer to collect their tickets from the souvenir shop. This can be arranged on all bookings made before the day of the match.

JUNIOR HATTERS



• Brian Stein has taken over as the president of the Junior Hatters in succession to Peter Nicholas. Brian's first column is on page 32.

SMART CARDS

Our new-style membership cards are smart in more ways than one.

Obviously, they look terrific in our stadium colours of blue, white and green and they also help juniors and senior citizens to ensure they qualify for reduced price admission.

But equally smart is the statistical information these cards can give the club, so we can match ground facilities to spectator requirements.

The important part of the card is the black stripe on the reverse, which operates in exactly the same way as a bank's cash card. Last year, we used a bar code system which is a familiar sight on grocery packaging these days. The reason for the change is that magnetic stripe readers have turned out to be more suitable for outdoor use.

This should mean an end to those irritating delays caused when the readers got damp last winter.

LUTON FLYERS

Playing at Kenilworth Road in the summer have been the Luton Flyers American Football Club who posted yet another successful season, led by American Coach Mark Schrater. Last season, the Flyers were promoted to the Budweiser National League, Eastern Conference after successfully being crowned Champions of the British American Football League in 1986.

To meet this challenge the club has stepped up a gear not only on the field by employing an additional three US coaches but also off the field where they now have an office.

On the field, the team has backed up the organisation by reaching the Playoffs of the National League (the equivalent of the First Division in Soccer). The Flyers posted a record of 8 wins and 2 losses this year which was enough to clinch yet another Conference Title beating clubs like Northants, Glasgow and Chelmsford.

"Playing at Kenilworth Road this year has certainly helped us develop into one of the top sides in the country", explains Coach Schrater. "Our record of two Conference Championships in as many years speaks for itself, with such an organisation and facilities at our disposal we can only be destined for greater things."

SOUTH BEDS DIAL-A-RIDE

IF YOU CAN'T USE THE BUS - DIAL US is the motto of South Beds Dial-a-Ride, a Charity which operates a door-to-door mini bus service for the elderly and handicapped residing within South Bedfordshire and the Borough of Luton.

South Beds Dial-a-Ride started some two years ago and was the brain-child of visually handicapped Bob Mumford, who until he lost his sight four years ago was connected with a local Transport Company. A small group of disabled, OAPs and able bodied interested parties came together to form the Charity.

The Charity has two vehicles at present, each one is specially adapted to carry wheelchair passengers, as well as seated clients. The Charity are pleased to be associated with the new disabled enclosure, thus adding to the facilities available in this truly family Football Club.

Any elderly/disabled person wishing to attend Luton Town home fixtures, and who would like to avail themselves to the door-to-door service, should contact the Dial-a-Ride office at 264 Leagrave Road, Luton, Telephone Luton 580055, application forms are available for registration.

If any local business would like to sponsor the charity in any way, please contact Bob Mumford at the Dial-a-Ride office at 264 Leagrave Road, Luton. (Tel: 580055). PLEASE SUPPORT US IN THIS VERY WORTH WHILE PROJECT.

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VOUCHER NO. 1



CLUB COMMENT

David Evans, Chairman

LOOKING AHEAD WITH EXCITEMENT

"The new season is here and we look forward to it with excitement and enthusiasm, not only for Luton Town but for the game itself.

"As you can see we have continued our programme for the development of the stadium – in particular the re-building at the back of the main stand due to commencement of the works on the new relief road. This, together with the new area for the disabled, sponsored by the Sun Life group, the relocation of the ticket office and the new faster computerised turnstiles which should make entry to the ground easier, has complemented the appointment of our new manager, Ray Harford, and chief coach, Steve Foster. I am sure that you would want me on your behalf to wish them every success for the coming season.

"We have signed Danny Wilson from Brighton who we are sure will secure goals from midfield and although the departure of Peter Nicholas came as a surprise we feel that in view of his commitment to the club, and to the game, when Aberdeen offered him a chance to play in Europe, we could not stand in his way. I am sure you will be pleased to know any revenue raised from the sale of players is for the manager's disposal. The manager is

determined to play open, fluent football and we all hope this will produce more goals, particularly at home, during the coming season.

"Although there has been some criticism of our increase in prices, I cannot emphasize sufficiently the need for the club to be seen to balance its books.

"If we are to attract and keep our best players, then we, the public, have to make up our minds whether we wish to have First Division football at Kenilworth Road or return to the dark days of the Second, Third and Fourth divisions. We all know you get what you pay for!

"I would like to place on record my appreciation of John Moore's efforts in his first year as manager – the results speak for themselves.

"I would take this opportunity of wishing you a happy and successful season. The directors, the management, the team and all the staff are working hard to produce a club that becomes a name well-known around the world and to this end we shall not forget that you, the fans, come first. Without you, there is no club and I would urge you all to bring a friend with you to Kenilworth Road."



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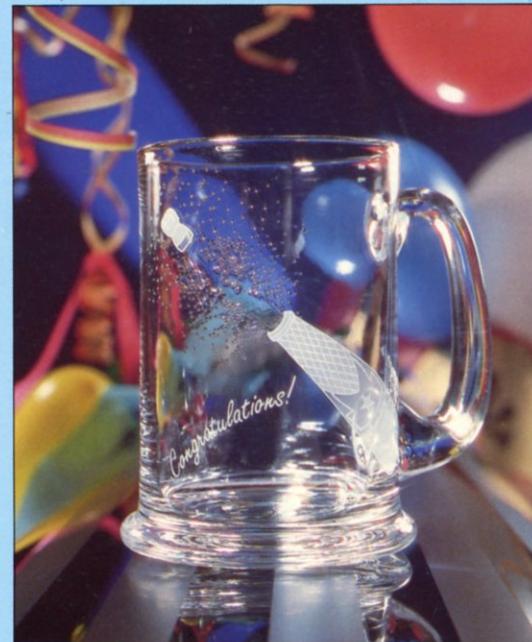
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RESERVE



•Tough tussle: Paul Gray fends off a challenge during the reserves' friendly at Barton Rovers last week.

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1986/87

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur	38	25	8	5	87	38	58
Chelsea	38	24	8	6	87	33	56
Arsenal	38	23	7	8	77	42	53
Watford	38	22	8	8	81	40	52
Luton Town	38	21	6	11	95	53	48
Norwich City	38	20	6	12	82	63	46
Queens Park Rangers	38	19	8	11	78	69	46
West Ham United	38	19	6	13	79	58	44
Swindon Town	38	19	5	14	100	87	43
Charlton Athletic	38	15	10	13	59	59	40
Ipswich Town	38	17	5	16	56	64	39
Southampton	38	16	5	17	66	68	37
Fulham	38	14	8	16	58	66	36
Oxford United	38	10	9	19	63	79	29
Portsmouth	38	11	7	20	50	80	29
Crystal Palace	38	8	11	19	52	73	27
Reading	38	10	4	24	42	95	24
Millwall	38	6	8	24	41	82	20
Bristol Rovers	38	6	5	27	49	104	17
Brighton & Hove Albion	38	6	4	28	44	92	16

FOOTBALL COMBINATION 1987/88

Date	Opponents	Result	Date	Opponents	Result
1987			1988		
Aug 22	Reading		Jan 9	Reading	
Aug 29	Ipswich Town		Jan 12	Ipswich Town	
Sept 5	Charlton Ath		Jan 19	Charlton Ath	
Sept 9	Oxford		Jan 30	Oxford	
Sept 12	Arsenal		Feb 6	West Ham	
Sept 19	West Ham		Feb 13	Arsenal	
Sept 26	Chelsea		Feb 16	Chelsea	
Sept 29	QPR		Feb 27	QPR	
Oct 6	Portsmouth		Mar 2	Bristol R	
Oct 13	Bristol R		Mar 5	Portsmouth	
Oct 20	Fulham		Mar 16	Fulham	
Oct 31	Swindon		Mar 19	Swindon	
Nov 4	Millwall		Mar 22	Tottenham	
Nov 14	Tottenham		Apr 2	Millwall	
Nov 20	Norwich City		Apr 9	Norwich City	
Nov 28	Crystal Palace		Apr 13	Crystal Palace	
Dec 5	Watford		Apr 23	Southampton	
Dec 12	Southampton		Apr 30	Watford	
Dec 16	Brighton		May 7	Brighton	



•Feeling the strain: The look on striker David Oldfield's face tells its own story as the Town faced a stern test at Barton.

COACHES' CORNER



LOOKING AHEAD FOR GOALS

After the youth team team's successful entry into three close-season tournaments in Holland – winning the Den Haag competition by beating a very strong Honved Budapest in the final on penalties – and the reserve team's great season last year when they went close to scoring 100 goals, coaches Jim Ryan, John Faulkner and their new colleague Steve Foster are full of anticipation for the new season.

But, as Jim Ryan warned, success yesterday does not guarantee any success again today. "After getting nearly 100 goals last year, I am not going to go out and say we must do is straight away this season. I am not going to set any targets like that.

Goals will come

"It is more important to get the team to play properly. Not setting up targets. I want to see good football. If I wanted to, I could play nine forwards and just pump the ball forwards all the time. But that is not right. We got goals last year because we played well. If you do it properly, the goals will come."

The young reserve team has shone in pre-season already and looks likely to make Jim think again about that 100-goal target, particularly if they can keep on finding the net regularly.

In their opening friendly at Amersham, they won 6-0 with goals from Gary Cobb, David Oldfield (2), Emeka Nwajiobi, and Sean Farrell (2). They followed that with a good 4-2 win at Potton with goals from Farrell, Oldfield, Nwajiobi and Ian Scott and more recently drew 1-1 at Barton Rovers, Julian James scoring the goal.

& YOUTH

INTRODUCING...

COVENTRY CITY

A very warm welcome tonight to FA Cup holders Coventry City who thrilled both the nation and the watching millions around the world with their emotional and sporting victory over Tottenham Hotspur last May. The memorable occasion was made all the more delightful because the Sky Blues had waited so long for their first major honour. All in the game were agreed that the managerial team of George Curtis and John Sillett deserved their recognition.

Since then of course Coventry have appointed Sillett as team manager with sole charge of the playing side of affairs at Highfield Road and they have also made significant additions to their squad, in particular by signing the unsettled Scottish international David Speedie from Chelsea. The fee was a club record of £780,000 and obviously went some way to proving that Coventry meant to build and not rest on their laurels.

Last season the results between the two clubs were most satisfying for the Town with a rare 1-0 success at Highfield Road ending a long run of poor results in Coventry and a 2-0 home victory later in the season completing the double. Our England Striker Brian Stein scored in each match, with Mike Newell also finding the net in the Kenilworth Road fixture.

Players likely to be on duty for the Sky Blues:

Steve Ogrizovic – Born Mansfield, September, 1957. Steve is



Back Row from left: Trevor Peake, Graham Rodger, Keith Houchen, Brian Kilcline, Kevan Smith, Cyrille Regis, Paul Culpin. Middle row: Mick Coop (Youth Team Coach), Neil Sillett (Assistant Physiotherapist), Brian Borrows, Steve Sedgley, Steve Ogrizovic, Jake Findlay, Nick Pickering, Martin Lane, Mick Kearns (Reserve Team Coach), George Dalton (Physiotherapist). Front row: David Phillips, Dave Bennett, Michael Gynn, John Sillett (Team Manager), Greg Downs, Lloyd McGrath, David Speedie.

6ft 4in and one of the tallest keepers in the league. Joined Chesterfield from school before moving on to Liverpool, Shrewsbury and Coventry. A well-known cricketer with Shropshire.

Brian Borrows – Born Liverpool, December 1960. Brian, a right-back, first played for Everton (27 appearances) before moving on to Bolton. He moved to Coventry for an £80,000 fee in 1985.

Greg Downs – Born Nottingham, December 1958. Joined Norwich straight from school and, after making his debut as a centre-forward, developed into an attacking left-back. Made 200 appearances for the Canaries before moving to Coventry in 1985.

Lloyd McGrath – Born Birmingham, February 1965. A highly-rated central defender who won England youth caps. Made Coventry debut in 1984 after a dislocated shoulder had delayed his career.

Brian Kilcline – Born Nottingham, May 1962. A tall centre-half. Brian is 6ft 4in tall. A schoolboy striker, he became a defender at Notts County. He joined Coventry from them for £60,000 in 1983. England under-21 cap.

Trevor Peake – Born Nuneaton, February 1957. Started career with Nuneaton, moving on to Lincoln. A top central defender, he joined Coventry from Lincoln for £100,000 in 1983. Player of the year in 1985-86.



John Sillett took charge at Coventry in the summer after working in tandem with George Curtis last season. An enthusiastic and happy man, he has a fine reputation as a coach following his lengthy connections with the Sky Blues and Hereford where he was appointed manager. He has the ability to get the best from his players and his team and to create interesting, skilful football which excites the fans. Nowhere was this more apparent than at Wembley last season where the Coventry performance really put a smile back on the face of the English game – and produced a broad grin across Sillett's face as well.

David Bennett – Born Manchester, July 1969. Played 52 games in First Division for Manchester City before joining Third Division Cardiff. A goal-scoring forward, he joined Sky Blues in 1983 for £100,000. Scored against Spurs at Wembley. **David Phillips** – Born RAF Wegberg, West Germany, July 1963. A full Welsh international midfielder with a powerful shot. Begun career at Plymouth and went on to Manchester City before joining Coventry in May 1986.

Cyrille Regis – Born Mariapousoula in French Guyana, February 1958. A big and powerful striker, he joined WBA from Hayes and went on to win four England caps. Joined Sky Blues for £250,000 in October 1984.

Keith Houchen – Born Middlesbrough, July 1960. A tall striker with an eye for vital goals, Keith scored 117 goals in 36 matches for York City, Hartlepool, Orient and Scunthorpe before arriving at Coventry for a £60,000 fee in 1986.

Nick Pickering – Born Newcastle, August 1963. A left-sided midfielder with a delicate left foot and skill, he has won England full caps and under 21 caps. Joined Coventry from Sunderland for £120,000 in 1986 after playing 192 games for the Rokerites.

David Speedie – Scottish international striker signed from Chelsea in July for a club record fee of £780,000. Aggressive style earned him many goals during a partnership with Kerry Dixon. A former coalminer before he joined Barnsley and Darlington.

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JUNIOR HATTERS!

BY BRIAN STEIN

GOOD LUCK AND THANKYOU TO PETER NICHOLAS

I was pleased when I was asked to be the new president of the Junior Hatters. Peter Nicholas said he was very sad to leave as Luton are a smashing club, and he enjoyed being involved with the Junior Hatters.

He told me the thing that made him consider the move was that it gives him a chance of playing in European football.

I am sure that you will join me in thanking Peter for the good job that he has done for the Junior Hatters, and wish him good luck with his new club Aberdeen.

ESCORTS



Barbara Mowat



Richard Betts

MASCOT



Samuel Turner

ESCORTS



Scott Feenan



Mark Newman

KENILWORTH THE CAT



QUIZ TIME

SOCcer GIRL

CROSS OUT THE ELEVEN TEAMS HIDDEN IN THE GRID AND THE REMAINING LETTERS WILL SPELL OUT THE CLUB THAT SOCCER GIRL SUPPORTS.



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R	A	I	T	H	E	U	I
I	A	Y	R	S	M	R	M
E	V	E	R	T	O	N	B
N	D	N	E	O	R	L	L
T	Y	O	R	K	T	E	E
S	E	O	Y	D			
D	A	N	Y	O			
W	I	G	A	N			

SOCcer GIRL IS A WEDNESDAY SUPPORTER. -: ANSWER :-:



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DUNCAN NORVELL

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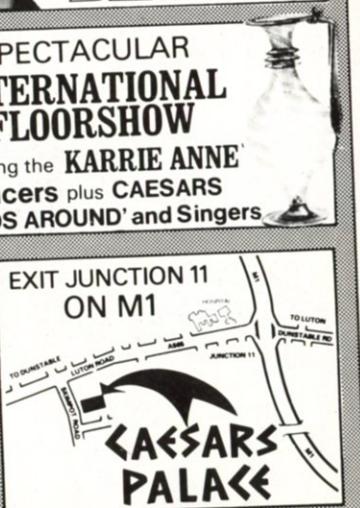
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CAESARS PALACE

Views from the media

OUR VERY OWN 'ROY OF THE ROVERS'

Pre-season friendlies and the transfer of midfielder Peter Nicholas to Aberdeen have been the chief items of interest to the media as the Town prepared for the new season. When the team visited Edgware to play in a testimonial match for long-serving striker Brian Stein, the programme contained a tribute to the England international. Here is a selection of comments from the media:

Edgware programme: "The White Lion ground could hardly be a more appropriate venue as Brian Stein's testimonial season kicks off tonight. For the striker with the whiplash shot is a living monument to the way non-league football can start a man on the 'Roy of the Rovers' road. And the health authority clerk who played for Edgware Town ten years ago has come a long way since his first appearance at Kenilworth Road left Luton Town fans scratching their heads... Within a month Brian Stein had graduated to Second Division pace and fitness and he has been a regular in the team ever since. His record speaks for itself – 360 league matches and 120 goals."

European chance

Luton News: "A few days after posing for the new Luton Town FC squad picture, Peter Nicholas was in Aberdeen to tie up his £350,000 transfer to the Scottish club. Nicholas, 27, agreed terms with Aberdeen at the weekend and went back yesterday with his wife to have a look around the city. The couple have three young children and Nicholas was willing to move only if his wife agreed. 'We'll be very sad to leave,' he said. 'We have a nice home and Luton are a smashing club. The thing that made me consider the move was that it gives me a chance of playing in European football."



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LUTON TOWN GOAL'DEN OLDIES

A THRILLING FINALE AS THE TOWN AND COVENTRY TUSSLE FOR PROMOTION

Season 1935-36, like the current campaign, opened full of optimism for Luton Town supporters. After the complaints of the previous season, when Sam Bell and Bill Brown were sold to Spurs and Huddersfield respectively, the Towns' directors had backed their words with action in obtaining players to strengthen the squad still further, writes club statistician Roger Wash.

Jack Ball, Fred Roberts, Bill Fellowes, Jock Finlayson and John Nelson were all signed as immediate first team men and resplendent in the first change of playing strip since 1920 great things were expected.

Time needed

Unfortunately, as so often happens when wholesale team changes are made, it took time for the new players to "gel" and it was not until the sixth game that a win was recorded. The first three games all ended in defeat away at Clapton, Orient and Bournemouth and at home to Southend where a 13,992 crowd, the biggest League attendance for 13 years, watched in disbelief as the relatively expensive Town side was torn apart.

Following the 2-2 home draw with Cardiff, on 5th October, and with the Town drifting near to the bottom of the table, further swingeing changes were made and in a remarkable transformation the team went through a 15-match unbeaten run which saw them challenging the leaders.

The alterations to the team were not, however, of the manager's doing as Harold Wightman, under pressure from the board and supporters, reluctantly resigned on 10th October, leaving chairman Charles Jeyses and secretary Archie Wickson to "ring the changes".

Seven wins

Whether by luck or sound judgement the new formation immediately came to grips with the earlier problems and seven straight wins saw the crowds return in droves culminating in a record League crowd of 17,835 witnessing the 1-0 win over Notts County on Boxing Day.

The remarkably injury free team also had success in the FA Cup drawing away to Second Division West Ham before a crowd of 42,000, which included 5,000 from Luton, and then winning handsomely in the replay.

The Fourth Round draw saw the Town away to First Division Manchester City where the game was unluckily lost 2-1 and in a fit of anti-climax the next league game, at Crystal Palace, was lost 5-1.

Form was decidedly patchy after this point and approaching Easter it looked almost certain that Coventry would take the single promotion place.



• **Les Sealey:** The Town's number one started his league career at Coventry. He is pictured enjoying last season's win at Highfield Road.

Joe Payne then entered the scene, scored ten goals in the 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday 1936, re-wrote the history books and set the Town up for a thrilling finale to the season.

Record crowd

As if stage-managed, two of the Town's final three League games were against Coventry and on 25th April 1936 a record crowd of 23,142 came to Kenilworth Road partly to look at Joe Payne and partly to see if Coventry could be overtaken.

The game finished 1-1 with Payne scoring the Town goal, but the disappointment did not deter the Luton faithful who trudged up to Coventry two days later to swell the crowd to another record, 42,975, to see another draw – this time 0-0.

Promotion therefore hinged on the final game, Coventry winning at home against Torquay, whilst the Town could only manage a draw at QPR. The Second Division would have to wait until the end of the following season.

The excitement was obviously too much for the Towns board as a "proper" manager – Ned Liddell – was appointed in August 1936, but full praise must be given to the chairman and secretary although they did have 36 professionals to choose from!



• **Kirk Stephens:** 'Basher' was a firm Town favourite before moving up the motorway to Coventry.



• **Jake Findlay:** Big Jake was between the posts during our promotion year in 1982 and is now on the staff with the Sky Blues.

FIRST TEAM

UPDATE

1987-88 SEASON

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FINAL TABLE 1986-87

HOME	AWAY				
	W	P	D	L	F
42 16 4 1 49 12	Everton	10	4	7	27 20 86
42 15 3 3 43 16	Liverpool	8	5	8	29 26 77
42 14 3 4 40 14	Tottenham Hotspur	7	5	9	28 29 71
42 12 5 4 31 12	Arsenal	8	5	8	27 23 70
42 9 10 2 27 20	Norwich City	8	7	6	26 31 68
42 11 5 5 32 22	Wimbledon	8	4	9	25 28 66
42 14 5 2 29 13	LUTON TOWN	4	7	10	18 32 66
42 12 8 1 36 14	Nottingham Forest	6	3	12	28 37 65
42 12 5 4 38 20	Watford	4	11	29	34 63
42 14 4 3 35 17	Coventry City	3	8	10	15 28 63
42 13 3 5 38 18	Manchester United	1	11	9	14 27 56
42 11 5 5 44 24	Southampton	3	5	13	25 44 52
42 9 7 5 39 24	Sheffield Wednesday	4	6	11	19 35 52
42 8 6 7 30 30	Chelsea	5	7	9	23 34 52
42 10 4 7 33 28	West Ham United	4	6	11	19 39 52
42 9 7 5 31 27	Queens Park Rangers	4	4	13	17 37 50
42 10 4 7 33 29	Newcastle United	2	7	12	14 36 47
42 8 8 5 30 25	United	3	5	13	14 44 46
42 7 7 7 26 22	Charlton Athletic	4	4	13	19 33 44
42 9 7 5 39 24	Leicester	2	2	17	15 52 42
42 8 6 7 28 24	Manchester City	0	9	12	8 33 39
42 7 7 7 25 25	Aston Villa	1	5	15	20 54 36

LUTON CAREER TOTAL LEAGUE AND CUP APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

(To end of 1986/87)

League	FA Cup	League Cup	Total'		
			Aps	Gls	Aps
Les Sealey	144	-	22	-	5
Peter Nicholas	102	1	12	-	2
Tim Breacker	99(3)	1	14	-	5
Rob Johnson	51	-	10	-	1
Steve Foster	88	6	20	2	3
Mal Donaghy	372	15	30	3	24
Ricky Hill	380(6)	49	32	6	27
Brian Stein	350(10)	118	25	5	25
Mike Newell	58	18	5	1	-
Robert Wilson	16(5)	1	-	-	-
Emeka Nwajiobi	49(11)	15	5(2)	1	4
Ashley Crimmins	42(1)	2	6	-	2(1)
Darron McDonough	10(8)	1	0(1)	-	-
Andy Dibble	21	-	-	-	-
Richard Harvey	5	-	-	-	-
Mark Stein	21(8)	8	3	2	-
Gary Cobb	2	-	-	-	-
Mick Harford	77	41	20	7	2
Marc North	11(7)	3	4(1)	1	1
Stacey North	24	-	-	1	-
David Preece	75(1)	4	8	1	2
Ricky McEvoy	0(1)	-	-	-	-

*Substitute appearances amalgamated.

Luton Town F-A Att Pos 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Aug 15 Derby County 0-1 17204 - Sealey Breacker

Aug 18 Coventry City 8-5 8 29 26 77 Grimes

Aug 22 West Ham United 7-5 9 28 29 71 Hill

Aug 29 Chelsea 9-3 10 27 23 70 Foster

Aug 31 Arsenal 10-2 12 28 31 68 Donaghy

Sept 5 Oxford United 11-1 13 27 23 68 D. Wilson

Sept 12 Everton 12-1 14 27 23 68 B. Stein

Sept 19 Charlton Athletic 13-1 15 27 23 68 Harford

Sept 26 Queens Park Rangers 14-1 17 27 23 68 (R. Wilson)

Oct 3 Manchester United 15-1 18 27 23 68 (Preece)

Oct 10 Portsmouth 16-1 19 27 23 68 M.N./D.M.

BRIAN STEIN'S BENEFIT YEAR



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Vauxhall Teamcheck.

Luton Town	O	Coventry City	I
1 Les Sealey		1 Steve Ogrizovic	
2 Tim Breacker		2 Brian Borrows	
3 Ashley Grimes		3 Greg Downs	
4 Ricky Hill		4 Lloyd McGrath	
5 Steve Foster		5 Brian Kilcline	
6 Darron McDonough		6 Trevor Peake	
7 Danny Wilson		7 David Bennett	
8 Brian Stein	Newell	8 David Phillips	
9 Mick Harford		9 Cyrille Regis	
10 Robert Wilson		10 David Speedie	
11 David Preece		11 Nick Pickering	
Sub		Sub	

Referee: D.A. HEDGES (Oxford)

Linesmen: R.D. PEARCE (Red Flag) C.J. PROUD (Yellow Flag)



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