

Luton

THE MATCH DAY MAGAZINE

£1.50



LUTON TOWN V SHEFFIELD UNITED
Barclays Football League Division One
Saturday, February 22, 1992, kick-off 3.00 pm

David Pleat



"I think it was Brian Clough who commented 'it only takes a second' and Graham Taylor who said 'if you blink you will miss it'. They make one appreciate the pace of the game especially in the First Division. It is this pace which sometimes catches the officials out"

Once again because of our away disappointments, we return to Kenilworth Road desperately needing to take three points. Our rivals today, Sheffield United, have made a fine recovery following the return to fitness of Brian Deane and it would appear that they have already got enough points in the bag. Whatever happens today, we wish them well for the rest of the season and give a warm welcome to their players, supporters and officials this afternoon.

It is sometimes difficult to hide one's disappointment when over a period of 90 minutes several crucial decisions have affected a game. Last Saturday's action at Manchester City will have left many supporters grasping for comparisons with other games with so much 'incident'. We had - and it may be a record for us - 22 attempts on Tony Coton's goal. This compares with Manchester City's total of 14. These figures alone would keep the neutrals happy. But I felt there was a muted atmosphere in the first half as we took the game to our opponents but failed to score from some outstanding positions.

Brian Stein's excellent approach play led twice to Mark Pembridge being in front of goal and failing. Brian, like the other 22,000 onlookers, was amazed by Coton's 'save'.

Those who were there will recall that stop as one of the best they will ever see. Trust Mick Harford to say in the Manchester City programme prior to the game that Coton was the best goalkeeper in Division One. Harford himself did not test Coton as much as he would have liked, but once again he led his line with a maturity and class only seen at the highest level.

I think it was Brian Clough who commented 'it only takes a second' and Graham Taylor who said 'if you blink you'll miss it'. They make one appreciate the pace of the game especially in the First Division. It is this pace which sometimes catches the linesmen and officials out. They have a far more difficult job than any avid supporter would realise. It was unfortunate at Maine Road last Saturday that on five occasions - and I say this after studying the video and confirming my judgement - they made vital, but, I am sure, totally honest mistakes. That two of these resulted in goals only intensifies our headaches.

As a traditional long-time resister of professional officials, I have now had to review my thoughts. Truth is that the rewards and

Answers to the posers in my last column are printed on page 4 of this magazine.



John Dreyer and Brian Stein are pictured in attack at Maine Road last Saturday.

pressures and stakes at the highest level of professional football are too great and there needs to be a method of problem solving and recourse. Why referees and linesmen are discouraged from speaking to explain a point at the end of a game to the waiting press, I am uncertain? But for sure we have to reduce their suspicion of our profession.

Furthermore, as representative of the managers on the Football League Liason Panel, I am able to deliver some of the recommendations and discussions that the League Managers Association have had regarding developing overall relationships and standards. I must say I find these meetings stimulating as much because, in common with

many managers I am sure, there is much to learn and understand about a referee's role. But one thing is for certain - there are always three teams on the field and linesmen-referee relationship has to be made clear and understood in the sanctuary of the referee's room long before the game. This is vital as we saw during a recent League Cup semi-final when controversies were stirred.

This week we have had some players away gaining the benefit of early junior international experience. Mark Pembridge, with Wales, and Darren Salton and Paul Telfer, with Scotland, have been in representative company. Our aim is to build a group of young footballers whose ability is such that

there will be many such similar calls. I hope that the early league steps of the likes of Scott Oakes, Philip Gray (now sadly in plaster), Ceri Hughes (now recovering his fitness) and the promise of Jamie Campbell will accelerate to fruition. It has not gone unnoticed that the reserves have won five of their last six games.

Against Norwich, your support was fantastic and it continued at Manchester. Let us see if we can make it a hat-trick of performances this afternoon. Do not lose heart. We know we have a battle on our hands - life is never easy - but we have the heart and the will to survive these difficulties. Thank-you for your support.

Luton

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



1991

1992

Kenilworth Road Stadium,
1, Maple Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW.

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Matchday Programme

Editorial: Robert Alexander Associates, PR and Media Consultants, Hitchin. (Tel: 0462 452241/Fax: 0462 452286)

Pictures: Apex Photography, Milton Keynes. (Tel: 0908 221010)

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News Update

Welcome United

□ This afternoon we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Sheffield United to Kenilworth Road. We hope you enjoy your short stay here and have a safe journey back to Yorkshire.

New date for Palace game

□ The twice postponed Barclays League match with Crystal Palace will now take place at Selhurst Park on Tuesday, February 25, kick-off at 8 pm. For ticket information, see page 13 of today's programme.

Gray out for at least six weeks

□ Unlucky striker Philip Gray is expected to be out for at least another six weeks after undergoing a cartilage operation last week. Gray, who had just returned to action following a knee tendon injury, received his latest set-back in a private friendly game against Arsenal.

Three on international duty

□ Paul Telfer and Darren Salton, representing the Scotland under-21 side and Mark Pembroke, representing Wales A were all on international duty this week. Paul and Darren were named in a 17-man squad which faced Denmark on Tuesday night and Mark was due to play against Ireland in Dublin the same evening.

Hooligan Hotline

□ Do not hesitate to use the National Football Intelligence Unit Hooligan Hotline on (071) 230 5340 in strictest confidence.

For the record

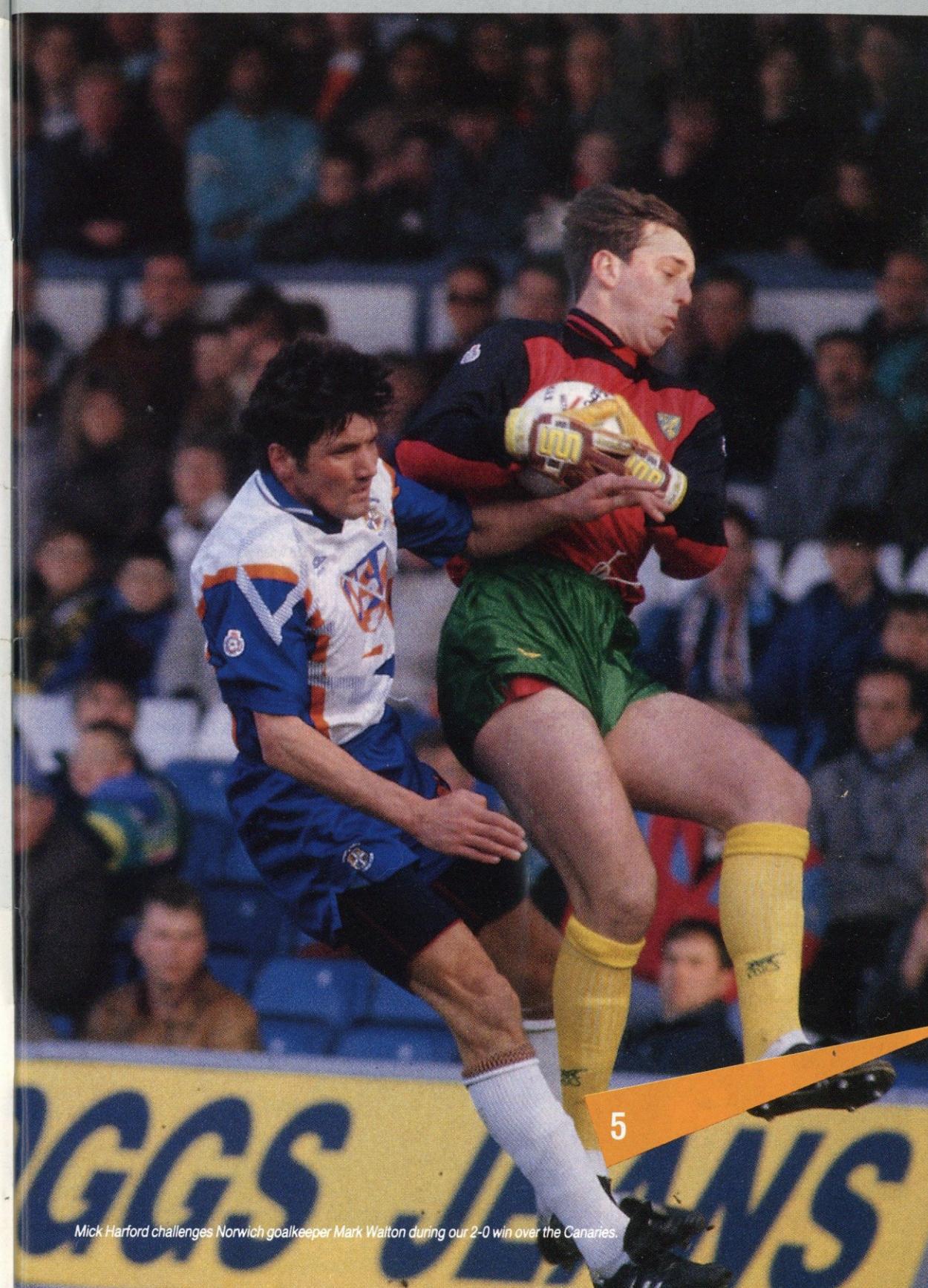
□ Division One: Highest gate: 47,185 Manchester United v West Ham United. Lowest gate: 3,121 Wimbledon v Sheffield Wednesday. Best average: 44,464 Manchester United. Lowest average: 7,152 Wimbledon. Top goalscorers: Leeds United 49 (1.88 goals/game). Top stoppers: Manchester United (19 goals in 25 games). Best home record: Liverpool/Manchester United (13 games, 30 points). Best away record: Manchester United (12 games, 25 points). The average Division One attendance is 22,224 compared with 23,080 at the same stage last year, down a total of 3.7 per cent.

Jim McNichol Testimonial

□ Former Luton Town defender Jim McNichol is to have a testimonial this year. Jim, who has been forced to retire through injury, will benefit from a match between Exeter City and West Ham United in April. He made his Football League debut for the Town in 1977 and also played for Ipswich Town, Brentford, Exeter City and Torquay United.

Pleat's posers

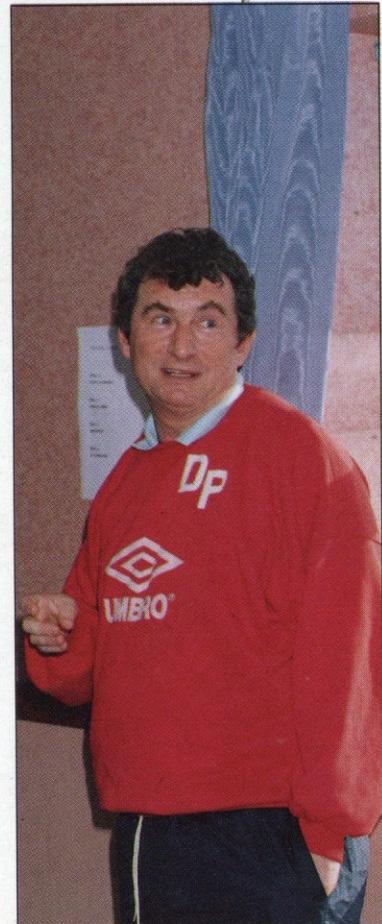
□ 1. All these men were directors who sat on Football League Committees only a few years ago but are longer involved. 2. All these players began their careers at Luton before being sold. 3. These three clubs are leaders of their league competitions.



Mick Harford challenges Norwich goalkeeper Mark Walton during our 2-0 win over the Canaries.

Inside view

By Bill Tomlins



Our manager David Pleat (above) is pictured talking football to our match sponsors before the match against Norwich. Steven Goodridge (right) receives a commemorative cut-glass bowl from David on his selection to the England Schoolboys squad.



Television hint works as Manchester United clash is pencilled in for 'live' Easter broadcast

enables shoppers to make the most of the close proximity of Sainsbury's before the game!

Curiously, our youth team's recent game against Crystal Palace, due to be played at our training ground, was also postponed because of a waterlogged pitch. This would have been an interesting clash with our youngsters doing so well recently.

Over the years, we have had some exciting and close games with Sheffield United and I am sure this afternoon's fixture against Dave Bassett's team will belong to that tradition with enough action to keep everyone happy. Naturally, we hope the points stay at Kenilworth Road.

It has been a pleasure this week to see players from all levels of the club earning international recognition. Mark Pemberton, as I reported in our last match day magazine, was this week with Wales for their visit to Dublin while Paul Telfer and Darren Salton were in Edinburgh with the Scottish under-21 squad.

At the junior levels, two of our young Associate Schoolboys, Andrew Dukes and Neil Watkins, were selected for the Welsh under-16's for their fixture in Ireland later this month when, at the third time of asking, we are hoping to finally play our outstanding twice-postponed Barclays League Division One fixture against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

This game, which was originally scheduled for Sunday, December 15 last year, is now expected to go ahead on Tuesday, February 25, kick-off 8pm (for ticket details please turn to page 13). The late kick-off time once again

enables shoppers to make the most of the close proximity of Sainsbury's before the game!

In my last notes, I mentioned the visit of the television cameras from Anglia for our fixture with Norwich and wondered when it would be that we, or the Norfolk club, might be considered for a live game again. Well (and this shows the power of this influential column), it is nice to report that we have been short-listed for the live match on April 18 when we are due to entertain Manchester United. If this fixture on Easter Saturday is chosen for television, it will mean the kick-off being put back to 5.15 pm that evening.

By then, of course, the season will be in its final passage and we may have been joined by Niclas Nylen, the Swedish international forward, for whom we have this week been granted a one-year work permit. Niclas, as you know, had a successful trial with us in Tunisia last autumn and we are delighted that after waiting 17 weeks, we have now obtained the necessary paperwork.

Talking of possible future arrivals, congratulations and best wishes are due to Wendy Grzybowska, our Commercial Manager, who will be taking maternity leave next month. We wish her all the very best and at the same time extend our good luck greetings to Andy King who has established himself well since joining Wendy's commercial team this season.

Andy has always been a popular, bubbly and successful character on and off the pitch and he has brought all these same qualities into his new work as he did to his playing. I am sure everyone who has been contacted by Andy has enjoyed the experience.

From time to time, there is always something unusual which catches my eye in the sports pages of the national newspapers and this happened recently when I read an article by Ian Wooldridge in the Daily Mail earlier this month.

It was an interesting and nicely-written piece about the 1780 Profanation of Sunday Act, passed in the reign of George III. According to Ian, this obviously anachronistic law, which deems any place of entertainment a 'disorderly house' if it imposes admission fees on the Sabbath, has never been repealed in the 212 years since its creation.

Personally, though I enjoyed it very much, I could not see Ian's point in drawing attention to an out-of-date and clearly forgotten law which, he advised us, we should be attempting to have removed from the statute books. He suggested we – that is to say football clubs in general – needed to lobby our Members of Parliament "before someone less meek, humble and unassertive" than him came along.

Well, of course, we have frequently had our MPs – and others – here for Saturday and Sunday fixtures in the past and many of our fans are aware of this anomaly in the law, though none would ever want to take advantage of it, I am sure. It is, like Sunday trading in general, just one of those things which cannot be ignored.

Finally, do you recall during the Norwich game when David Preece's boot came off...and he quickly improvised by trying to keep it involved in the game! Well, after the game, I spoke to the referee Peter Jones and asked him about the incident. He admitted it had caused him a dilemma. Strictly speaking, you see, David was improperly attired when he lost his boot – but throwing it at the ball was ungentlemanly conduct! Who would be a ref? At least this incident will make a great "What happened next?" for BBC's *A Question of Sport*.

Captain's diary

By Trevor Peake



Scoreline flattered the opposition

It was pleasing to get our first win of the year under our belts against Norwich City a fortnight ago. We thoroughly deserved the win and David Preece took his goal very well.

Finally moving off the bottom of the table gave us a big lift and we went into the game at Manchester City last Saturday feeling that we could put all our bad luck behind us and win away for the first time this season.

The events which followed left us all bitterly disappointed and annoyed. Our first-half performance was one of our best away from home this season and we had enough chances to go in at half-time with the lead. But some fine goalkeeping from Tony Coton kept us at bay with a couple of point-blank reaction saves....It just was not going to be our day.

The two dubious 'offside' decisions went against us and that just about summed up the day. The second decision – David White's goal – which caused a lot of controversy, killed the game. It was very disappointing to lose 4-0 again away from

home, but this time the scoreline really flattered City. It was interesting to read in the newspapers the following day that Tony Coton was the Man of the Match.

We have a difficult month ahead of us, starting with today's game against Sheffield United. Like last season, they seem to be pulling away from the relegation area with a string of impressive wins. They have proved that, on a limited budget, results can be obtained, so it is up to us to follow their example.

We then have two away games at Crystal Palace and Leeds United. I have experienced the intimidating atmosphere at Elland Road before and we know it will be a hard game, but I have every confidence in the side and there is not a better stage on which to prove where we should really be in the league.

The run-in to the end of the season is sure to be exciting for all our supporters. This time we aim to leave everyone with more hair and safety secured long before the final kick of the season! Enjoy the game and keep up the loud support for the team.



Scott Oakes receives the Man of the Match award on Mick Harford's behalf after the Norwich City fixture on February 8.



Universal Salvage Auctions

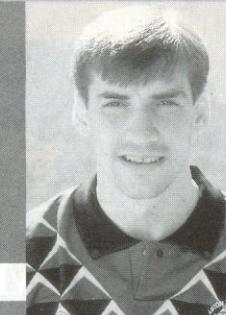
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Junior Hatters

With Alec Chamberlain.



9

Today we give Sheffield United a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road. The "Blades" have been playing some good football recently, so we will have to be on our toes today if we are to win all three points.

We will be entertaining Crystal Palace on Saturday, March 7, and will play football with them in the morning. If you would like to play for the Junior Hatters, turn up at the Training Ground in Oakley Road at 10.30 am. It was good to hear that we had a large turnout when we played the Junior Canaries of Norwich and that everyone had a good time. Keep up the good work!

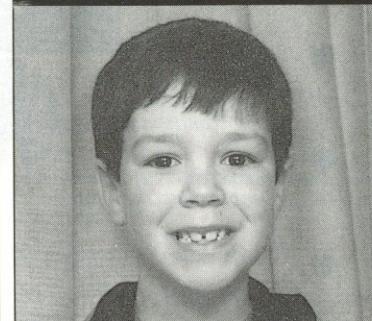
This Monday we have our monthly meeting for all Junior Hatters. It will be held in the Club Room at the Training Ground in Ely Way, off Oakley Road, Luton (near the Electrolux Factory). It starts at 7 pm and the guest speaker

will be former Luton and Everton footballer Andy King. Let's have a good turnout and remember, entry is free.

Our twice-postponed away game with Crystal Palace will now take place on Tuesday, February 25, kick-off 8 pm. For the third time of asking, I will be running a coach for this game. It will leave from Oak Road at 5.30 pm and the price will be £5.00 for Junior Hatters and £6.00 for parents. If you have booked on this trip previously, can you let Bev Tyler know if you still wish to have your name on the list. This game coincides with your school half-term.

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is 0278.....DAVID MORLEY. David wins two free tickets to one of our home games. To claim your prize, David, please call into the Oak Road Sports Shop and bring your membership card with you.

Match Mascot

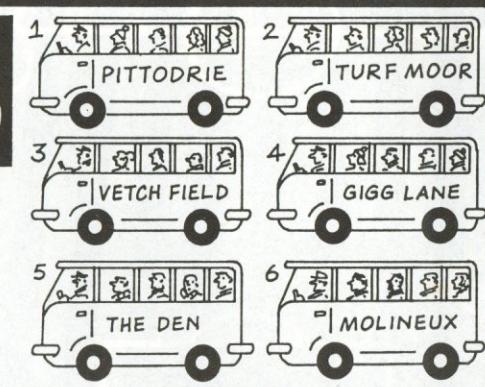


Today's mascot is James Miller. He is seven years old and goes to Whitefield Junior School in Luton. He is interested in swimming and football and his favourite player is Mark Pembridge.

junior spot

no.
5

ALL THESE COACHES ARE TRAVELLING TO DIFFERENT MATCHES BUT WHICH TEAMS ARE THE FANS GOING TO WATCH?



1. ABERDEEN 2. BURNLEY 3. SWANSEA 4. BURY 5. MILLWALL 6. WOLVES. -:- ANSWERS

QUIZ TIME

1. Who were the recent winners of the African Nations Cup, held in Senegal?
2. Chelsea signed Tony Cascarino earlier this month. Can you name all his previous clubs?
3. Former Hatter striker Sean Farrell now plays for which Third Division club?
4. Which team won last season's Zenith Data Systems Cup?

ANSWERS

1. IVORY COAST
2. GILLINGHAM, MILLWALL, ASTON VILLA AND CELTIC.
3. SEAN FARRELL.
4. CRYSTAL PALACE.



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Fans' view

Mad as a Hatter...



Name: Neil Slater
Occupation: Sales Executive
1st Luton Town home game: v Crewe 1966/67, won 2-1
1st Luton Town away game: v Brentford 1966/67, lost 0-1
Favourite player (past): John Moore
Favourite player (present): Mick Harford
Number of league grounds visited: 72
Favourite away ground: Stoke City
Most memorable Luton Town match: I have two, v Mansfield in 1968/69 (won 4-2) and the 1988 Littlewoods Cup Final v Arsenal
Most memorable goal: Graham French v Mansfield, 1968/69.
All-time Town team: Sealey, Stephens, Buckley, Slough, Foster, Moore, French, Horton, MacDonald, Riach, Moss.
Subs: Harford, Hill.

A pleased Junior Hatter

Dear Sir,

I have been a Junior Hatter now for the past five years and it is only since I have moved to Luton that I have been able to do more things with the club. I moved here nearly two years ago now and have been to all the away games arranged by the Junior Hatters, took part in the sponsored walk, went to the American Theme Park and have been to all the meetings arranged by the Junior Hatters.

I would just like to thank Bev Tyler and anyone else involved in arranging these trips and activities because I'm sure that they must have worked hard to arrange such things. Without the Junior Hatters, I'm sure I wouldn't have such a good time.

Wendy Skinner (11),
21 Elvington Gardens,
Barton Hills,
Luton LU3 4ET.

Souvenir exchange

Dear Sir,

I am a Bulgarian football fan, born and living in Sofia. I am a keen supporter of British football and I think that the English League is the most interesting in the world.

I would very much like to correspond with British football supporters. My hobby is to collect football souvenirs such as badges, programmes, magazines etc. I have a favour to ask of you. If it is possible, could you publish my address in your programme as I would be very happy to correspond with Luton Town F.C. supporters and to exchange such souvenirs with them. I have a lot of East European souvenirs in particular, to exchange.

I wish you, the staff, the manager and the players of Luton Town F.C. much health, success everywhere and many, many wins in the football year 1992.

Krasimir Stameenov,
UL.HR. Chernopeev BL. 141-A,
1113 Sofia, Bulgaria.

Want to air your views?

Please write to: The Editor, c/o Luton Town FC., Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW.

Pen-pals wanted

Dear Sir,

I am a 15-year-old boy and I would like to write to English football fans between the ages of 12 and 16, male or female, who go to football matches regularly and would like to swap things like football programmes.

My favourite teams are Rangers, Derby and I'm beginning to like Luton Town. I also like music and taking photographs of football matches and grounds.

Good luck to Luton for the rest of the season and I hope that they stay in Division One next year.

Craig Beveridge,
30 Rallies Avenue,
Largs,
Ayrshire KA30 8QY.

Programme wanted

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in the hope that one of your supporters may be willing to sell me the following programme:

Luton Town v Bristol City 1963-64

I will pay £3.00 + postage for a good condition issue.

Mr S Lovell,
20, The Laurels,
Mangotsfield,
Bristol BS17 3BS.

Programmes still for sale

Dear Sir,

A short while ago I wrote asking you to print a letter in your programme, stating that I had some bundles of programmes for sale. However, despite the letter, I still have a small number of programmes remaining in bundles of 100, priced £7.00.

The bundles are all assorted with no emphasis on any specific club. If you are interested, please contact me at the address below:

Phil Daniels,
77 Darley House,
Wallace Close,
Oldbury,
Warley B69 1HT.

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Box office

Barclays League Division One Re-Arranged Fixture

CRYSTAL PALACE V LUTON TOWN

Tuesday, February 25, 1992, kick-off 8.00 pm.

Although this is not an all-ticket match, supporters are requested to purchase their tickets before travelling. Those supporters who hold tickets for the original fixture are advised that they are valid for the re-arranged date. Seats £10.00 (no concessions) Standing £7.00 (no concessions) Tickets are available until noon on Tuesday, February 25, from the Ticket Office in Kenilworth Road. Supporters travelling without tickets must purchase them from the Away Supporters Ticket Office at the ground on the night.

Barclays League Division One

LEEDS UNITED V LUTON TOWN

Saturday, February 29, 1992, kick-off 3 pm.

THIS IS AN ALL-TICKET MATCH FOR ALL SUPPORTERS. Terrace tickets only are available for this match, priced at £7.00 (no concessions). Tickets are available from the Ticket Office in Kenilworth Road until 4 pm on Friday, February 28.

Barclays League Division One

LUTON TOWN V CRYSTAL PALACE

Saturday, March 7, 1992, kick-off 3 pm.

Tickets for this match will go on sale after today's game. Normal league prices and guesting facilities apply.

Barclays League Division One

LUTON TOWN V TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Wednesday, March 11, 1992, kick-off 7.45 pm

(subject to a possible replay in the Rumbelows Cup).

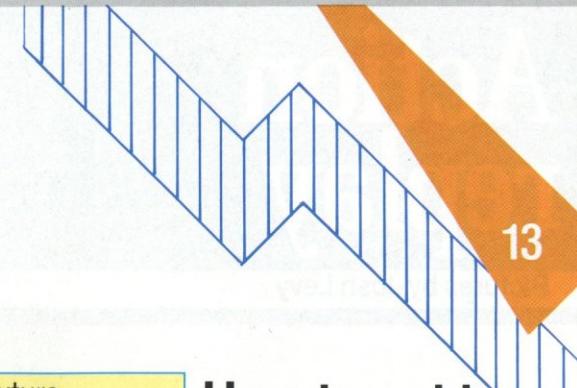
THIS IS AN ALL-TICKET MATCH FOR ALL SUPPORTERS.

Tickets go on sale on Wednesday, February 26, 1992 until 5.00 pm on the day of the match (subject to availability). Normal league prices and guesting facilities apply.

Please note - The Ticket Office will be open from 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday, February 29.

Ticket Office Hours

The Ticket Office is open from 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays and from 10 am to 1 pm on non-match Saturdays. On match Saturdays, it remains open for the afternoon. For all Ticket Office and Membership inquiries, please call Cherry Newbery, Ticket Office manager, on 0582-411622 or 30748. The Credit Card Hotline is available 72 hours before a match on 0582-30748.



How to get to...

CRYSTAL PALACE

By road: Once in London, take the A406 (North Circular Road) to Chiswick, then follow the A205 (South Circular) to Wandsworth. Take the A3 to the A214 and follow signs to Streatham joining the A23. After one mile, turn left for the B273 and at the end turn left into the High Street then straight on for Whitehorse Lane.

Nearest railway: Selhurst, Norwood Junction or Thornton Heath (all B/R).

There is a car park for 600 cars as you enter the ground, otherwise there is street parking available.

LEEDS UNITED

By road: Take the M1 north, then the M621 until the junction with the A643. Leave the motorway and take the A643 at roundabout for Elland Road.

Nearest railway: Leeds (B/R).

There is a car park in Wesley Street, one minute walk from the ground, which has spaces for 1,000 cars.

Travel Club

Bookings for the Bobbers Travel Club can be made in any of the following ways:

1. From the ticket kiosk at the Kenilworth Road turnstiles before any first-team game at home between 2pm and kick-off, or
2. On the return journey from the previous away game with the Travel Club, or
3. By telephoning Paul Deason on Bedford (0234) 750996.

Fares

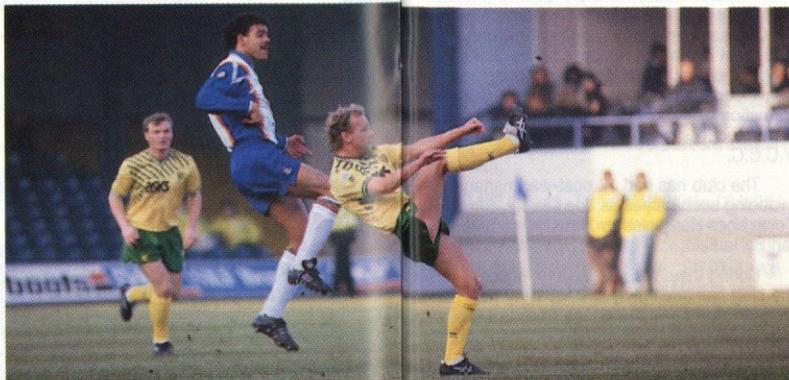
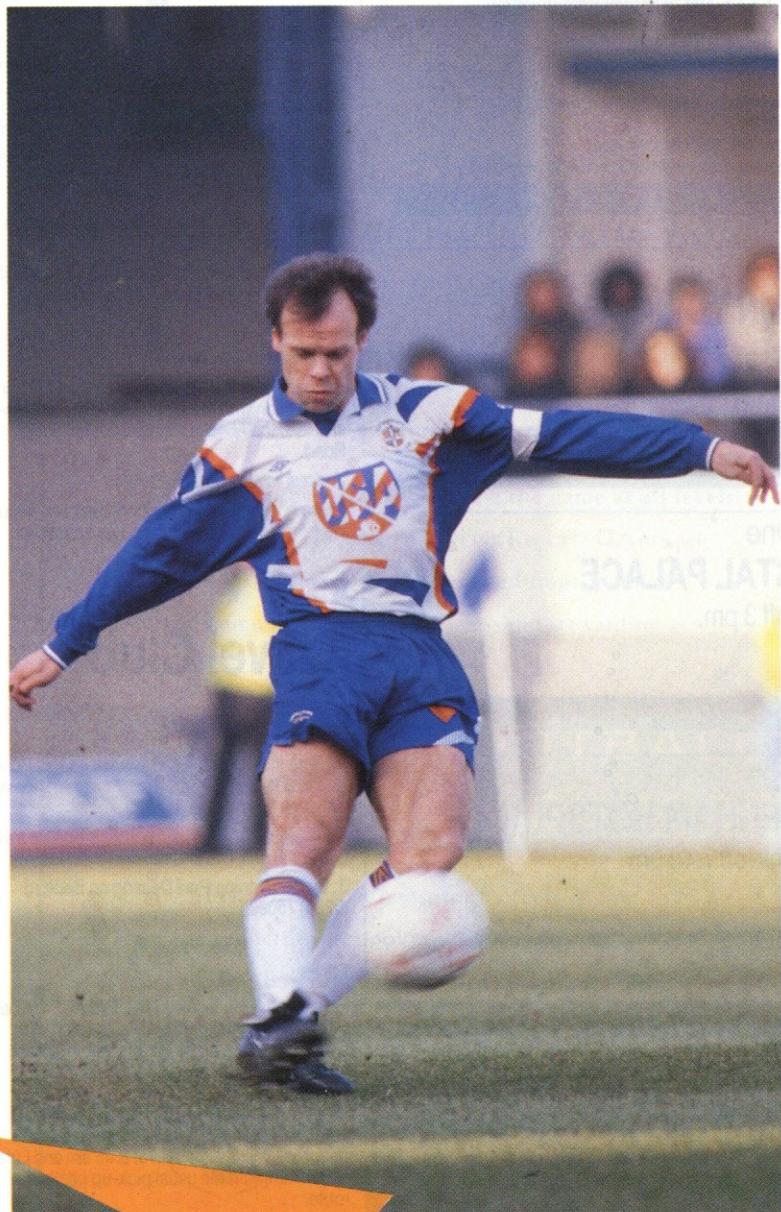
Fares for the trip to CRYSTAL PALACE will be £4.50 adults and £3.50 OAP's/children. For coach departure times for this match, please telephone Paul Deason on 0234-750996.

Fares for the trip to LEEDS UNITED will be £9.50 adults and £7.50 OAP's/children, with coaches leaving Cranfield at 8.45 am and Luton at 9.45 am, with the usual pick-up points en route.

Action replay

Pictures by Josh Levy

From Kenilworth Road
February 8, 1992
Luton Town 2 Norwich City 0
Attendance: 8,554
Referee: P. Jones
(Loughborough)



The Town picked up maximum points for the first time this year, after goals from David Preece and Mick Harford ensured a 2-0 victory against Norwich City. Pictured in action are Trevor Peake, who had a commanding game in defence, Chris Kamara and Mick Harford.

Today's visitors

By Luke Nicoli

Welcome to Sheffield United

SHEFFIELD UNITED F.C. 1991/92



Back Row (left to right): Ian Bryson, Mike Lake, Brian Gayle, Brian Deane, Phil Kite, Bob Booker (now Brentford), Paul Beesley, Glyn Hodges, Jamie Hoyland.
Middle Row (left to right): Derek French (physio), Carl Bradshaw, Chris Wilder, John Pemberton, Simon Tracey, Charlie Hartfield, Colin Hill, Tony Agana (now Notts County),
Geoff Taylor (Assistant Manager).
Front Row (left to right): Dane Whitehouse, John Gannon, Richard Lucas, Dave Bassett (Team Manager), Clive Mendonca, Mitch Ward, Tommy Cowan.

Once again it looks as if Sheffield United are producing their New Year 'Houdini' act in a bid for First Division survival and a place in the Premier League next August.

Last season, despite the influential signing of Vinnie Jones from Leeds United, for a club record fee of around £700,000, and Brian Marwood from Arsenal, United looked doomed. Anchored at the foot of the table with just four points at Christmas and no wins to their name, they looked odds-on relegation favourites. But a 3-2 victory over Nottingham Forest gave the whole club a lift and the revival began...

Backed by a vociferous and loyal support, the team won seven consecutive games through January and February - the best run by any club in the First Division. They secured their top-flight survival for this season with four matches to spare and left their fans believing a better season was in store for 1991/92...

Despite two encouraging draws at the start of this season at Norwich (2-2) and against West Ham (1-1), the Bramall Lane

faithful were again to witness the familiar pattern of last season as the side slipped to the foot of the table after losing their next five league games in succession.

After releasing striker Tony Agana to Notts County in November, thus easing the financial situation at the club, and with former Manchester City defender Brian Gayle settling in to steady the back-four, the Blades looked a more balanced and determined side come Christmas 1991. Could manager Bassett turn around a dismal start once again? It looked a definite possibility.

Wins against neighbours and rivals Wednesday (2-0), Tottenham Hotspur (1-0), Aston Villa (2-0), Southampton (3-2) and very impressive victories against Nottingham Forest (5-2) and Manchester City (4-2) more recently, have, at the time of writing, seen the club move from the bottom of the table in November to the comparative safety of 17th place with 30 points and some breathing space. Last weekend the club took a break from the rigours of First Division football as they set out again on the FA Cup trail at Chelsea in the fifth round. Unfortunately, their Wembley dreams were shattered after a fine Graham Stuart strike sent the Blues through to

a possible sixth round clash with West Ham United.

As the season enters its final third, Mr Bassett will be the first to point out that the job is not even half done. League results can turn against you just as fast, but he will be hoping the experience gained in last year's struggle will have its benefits this time around.

In March 1889, Yorkshire County Cricket Club formed Sheffield United six days after an FA Cup semi-final between Preston North End and West Bromwich Albion. Charles Stokes, a member of the cricket club, was finally convinced after seeing the match that the formation of a professional football club would prove successful at Bramall Lane, the home of Y.C.C.C.

The club has had 12 post-war managers, including such names as Joe Mercer, former Town boss Harry Haslam, Martin Peters and Ian Porterfield.

During their 103-year history, success for the club has been fairly limited. They won the Division One title in 1898, the Second Division championship in 1953 and the Division Four crown in 1982. They have also won the FA Cup four times, in 1899, 1902, 1915 and 1925.

Blades on Parade

SIMON TRACEY (goalkeeper) - Simon began his league career as a trainee at Wimbledon and signed professional forms in 1985. He made his league debut for the Dons in 1988, but unfortunately let in five goals at home to Arsenal. He teamed up with his former boss Dave Bassett a year later and has been first-choice keeper ever since.

DAVID BARNES (defender) - David has done well since coming into the side earlier in the season. Playing at left-back, his steady performances have meant that he is now a regular in the Blades defence.

JOHN PEMBERTON (defender) - After four seasons playing alongside David Platt and Geoff Thomas at Crewe, John moved to Crystal Palace in 1988. He spent two years at Selhurst Park, including the 1990 FA Cup final against Manchester United, before joining United on their return to the First Division. His first season at the club was interrupted through injury, although he made 21 appearances.

TOM COWAN (defender) - An attacking full-back, Tom was signed from Glasgow Rangers for £300,000 in 1991. He started his career at Clyde before a dream move to Rangers in 1989. He made only seven appearances last season for the Scottish champions and headed south last summer.

BRIAN GAYLE (defender) - Brian started his career at Wimbledon under his present boss Dave Bassett, before joining Manchester City in 1988. He never really settled at Maine Road and was transferred to Ipswich the following year. He joined United earlier in the season for a club record fee of £700,000 and has since gone on to become a leading influence on the side.

PAUL BEESLEY (defender) - Paul started out playing non-league football for Marine before joining his home-town club Wigan Athletic. A short spell at Leyton Orient confirmed his potential and he joined the Blades for £300,000 in the summer of 1990. His composed and consistent play last season made him a firm favourite at Bramall Lane.

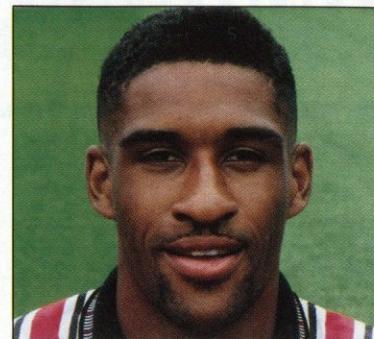
COLIN HILL (defender) - Colin had First Division experience with Arsenal in the early eighties before spending a season in Portuguese football with Maritimo. He returned to England in 1986 with Colchester United before joining United in July 1989. His form last season earned him full international honours with Northern Ireland.

GLYN HODGES (midfield) - Glyn is another player with Wimbledon connections and he made nearly 250 appearances for the Dons before brief spells at Newcastle, Watford and Crystal Palace. He initially joined United on loan before joining the club for £410,000 last April.

JOHN GANNON (midfield) - Wimbledon-born John joined United initially on loan, scoring on his debut v Blackpool in February 1989. Soon afterwards he signed permanently and went on to establish himself as captain, and a regular in the team.

MIKE LAKE (midfield) - Brother of Manchester City's Paul Lake, Mike's career at Sheffield United has been plagued with injury. A broken leg soon after forcing his way into the first team, halted his progress following a £40,000 transfer from Macclesfield two seasons ago. Last season was again punctuated with injury and he made just seven appearances. His luck seems to have changed recently and is now enjoying an extended run in the team.

BRIAN DEANE (forward) - Brian has gone from strength to strength following his £40,000 move from Doncaster Rovers in 1988. He has hardly missed a game in United's climb from Division Three and notched over 70 goals in the process. A successful debut in Division One was climaxed with an England cap on the summer tour to Australia and New Zealand.



Brian Deane

Meet the Boss



Dave Bassett

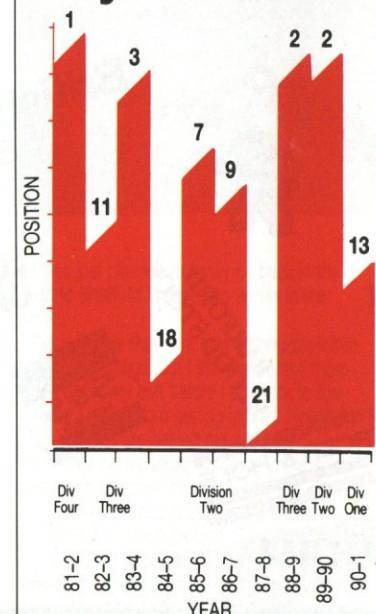
Born in Watford in 1944, Dave started his footballing career playing non-league with Walton and Hersham. An England amateur international, he joined Wimbledon for their first season in league football in 1977 before later making the step-up to coaching and full management with the club.

Taking over from Dario Gradi, Dave Bassett transformed Wimbledon from a mediocre club in the Fourth Division to one of the game's leading and most feared top flight sides, within the space of nine years. Mr Bassett left the club with a firm basis on which to build, and set out to expand his managerial talents elsewhere.

In 1987 he joined troubled Watford, who had themselves made an impressive jump from the Fourth Division to the First, before sliding back into Division Two. The move never really worked out for "Harry", so in 1988 he replaced Billy McEwan at Sheffield United as the club were relegated to the Third Division.

Amazingly, Mr Bassett, on a limited budget, has spearheaded United from the Third to the First Division in successive seasons and has become one of the most respected managers in British football. Although their first season back in Division One since 1975 was a struggle, they survived with some style and ease, and Mr Bassett will be asking for plenty of the same this time around...

10 year record



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Player profile

Ceri Hughes

The past 14 months have been a time to forget for unlucky midfielder Ceri Hughes. After establishing himself as a regular in the Town midfield and gaining international recognition, a severe knee ligament injury left him facing months of rehabilitation and uncertainty about regaining full fitness. To add insult to injury, he picked up a calf injury shortly after his comeback and has only recently returned to the side. Many Hatters fans are now looking forward to seeing the Ceri Hughes of old as we enter a crucial phase of the season.

"Funnily enough, the knee injury happened against today's opponents Sheffield United on Boxing Day, 1990. After being taken to hospital and having an operation to repair the damage, I spent six weeks in plaster to give the ligaments time to heal. From then on the long, hard struggle began.

"I spent a time at Lilleshall on a rehabilitation course, using all their "high-tech" equipment, which was an experience and also Brian Owen, our physio, made sure I received the correct treatment and didn't damage myself further. The muscles in my leg had wasted away completely, so I had to do a lot of swimming and cycling to build myself up again, but the most worrying part was wondering whether I could kick a ball without feeling any pain."

Luckily for Ceri, he had made a full recovery and played his first full game this season against Ipswich Town in the Zenith Data Cup. But joy at getting back into action soon turned to despair again when, not fully match fit, he picked up the calf injury which has sidelined him for the past three months.

"I felt absolutely gutted, and the injury had nothing to do with my knee. I spent three months working my way back to fitness again



and was just pleased to finally be back in the squad at Sheffield Wednesday earlier in the month.

"I would say that I am now getting back into the swing of things, but I still need a few more games under my belt before I am back to the standard I was before getting injured. Hopefully all the troubles are behind me and I can concentrate on regaining my place in the side and helping the team to safety.

"I have no doubts at all that we will be playing First Division football again next season - we are just too good to go down. Lately there has been a lot of talk about us throwing away points late in the game, but I think that is now behind us, especially after the win against

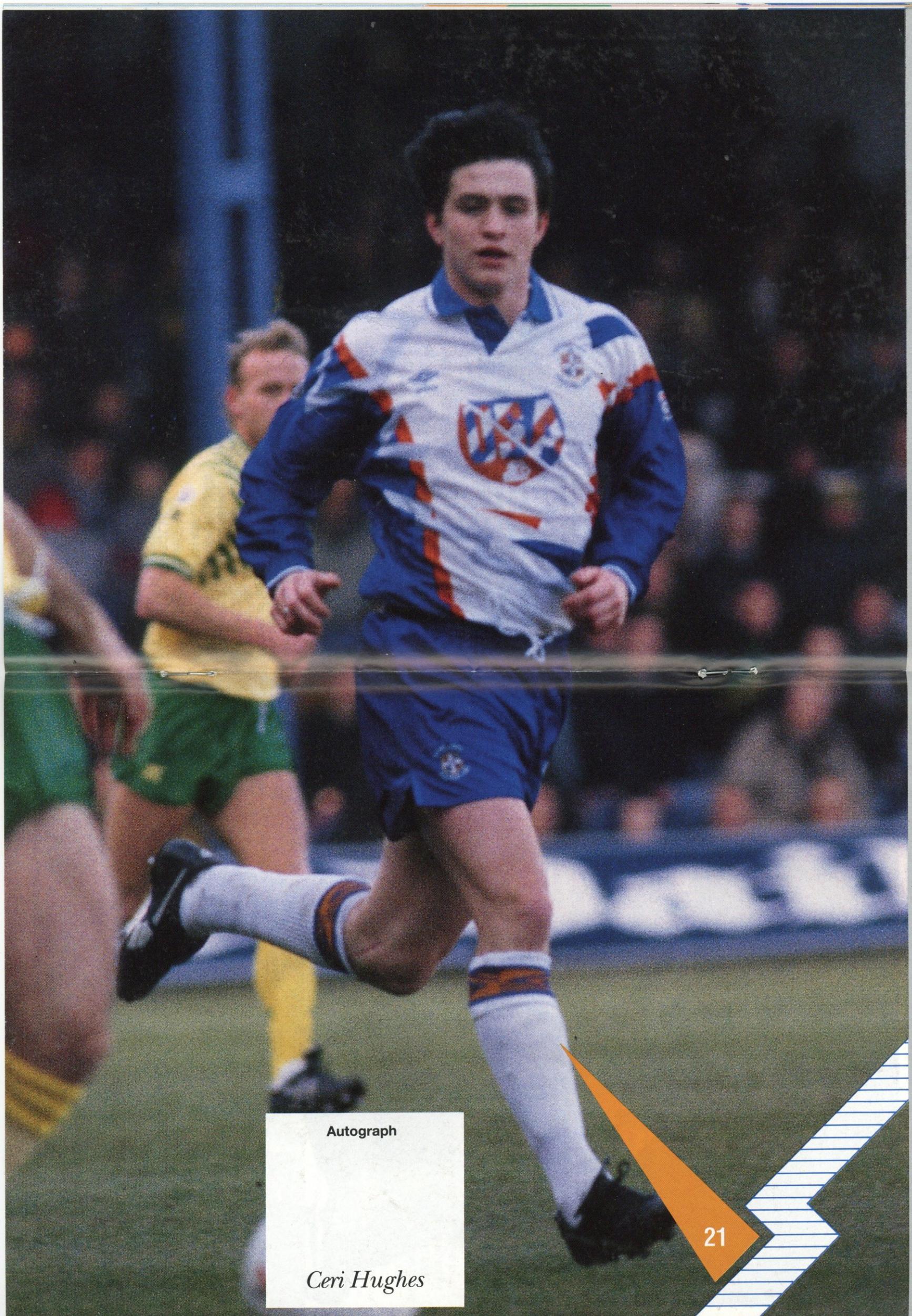
Norwich when we scored at the end. We know it will be hard, but we are confident."

Today's game against Sheffield United has added interest for Ceri, not because he picked up his knee injury playing against the Blades, but because three of their players were at Lilleshall at the same time, recovering from similar ligament injuries.

"I got to know Carl Bradshaw, John Gannon and Mike Lake during my stay and I am looking forward to playing against them all today. Apart from their FA Cup defeat last weekend, United have been going very well of late in the league, but we will win - we are the better team."

CERI HUGHES FACT FILE

Born: Rhondda Valley
Previous clubs: None
F.L. debut: Aston Villa (away 10.3.90)
Joined Luton: 1989
LTFC league career: 25 (4 apps, 1 goal)



Autograph

Ceri Hughes



Mick Harford beats Norwich defender Ian Butterworth to a header in the recent clash with the Canaries at Kenilworth Road.

GOALKEEPERS: ARE THEY REALLY ANOTHER BREED?

Watching Les Sealey perform his antics on television for Aston Villa last Sunday at Swindon Town served as a reminder that goalkeepers have always managed to attract extra attention in the game. They are the last line of defence. They are the characters. And they are often the most influential players in a team. But are they footballers, like all the rest? Timothy Collings ponders the question.....

Nothing attracts attention and raises excitement quite like the sight of a fizzing long-distance shot, well-struck from outside the penalty area, drawing an acrobatic diving save from a goalkeeper. The crowd are up on their feet. There is a hum. It could be a point-blank reflex save. Or it could be a brave dive at an oncoming forward's feet. Or even a penalty saved. We have seen them all.

Who can forget Gordon Banks' dive to flip Pele's header away during the 1970 World Cup finals? Who can forget Andy Dibble's dive to stop Nigel Winterburn's spot-kick against Arsenal in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final at Wembley? Who can forget that crazy day at Anfield nearly a decade ago now when the Town used three goalkeepers in one afternoon and came away with a 3-3 draw?

'There's only one Shakin' Stephens, There's only one Shakin' Stephens' chanted the Kop as Kirk came out for the second half, as substitute custodian for Mal Donaghy, who had earlier replaced the injured Jake Findlay. What a day that was!

Jake, of course, was a great character. A larger-than-life personality in many ways. So, too, were so many of the other Town 'keepers. I can vividly recall Ron Baynham, under a muddy cloth cap, shaking his fists and moaning at his defenders...a forerunner, if you like, to Les Sealey in later years.

Ron played for England and, when last tracked down by the club, was working as a paint-sprayer for Britannia at Luton Airport.

Then there was Tony Read. In goal and on the pitch, he always made his presence felt. Tony once scored a hat-trick in a Fourth Division clash with Notts County in November 1965 (strange, to think, both sides are now in Division One).

He was a powerful strong man who had arrived at the club from Peterborough as a goalkeeper with a broken foot. But in 1968, he won a Fourth Division medal after making 42 appearances in a triumphant season.

Then there was Sandy Davie, a Scot who performed between the sticks like an Englishman, Keith Barber, Alan Starling, Alan Horn, Milija 'Elastic' Aleksic and Alan Judge, all characters to be remembered in their own way.

Barber, in my personal recollections, was always getting injured or splitting his shorts; Horn had a droopy moustache which would earned him a role in a spaghetti Western; Elastic really was elastic...and always a popular man at Kenilworth Road.

Substitute goalkeepers stick in the memory too. Do you remember Brian Lewis, that imp of a player who could tackle, dribble, dive and score goals, going from inside-forward to left-back to goalkeeper in one crucial Easter promotion

clash with Southport back in the old days with Alec Stock? The goalkeeper's jersey drowned him and he had to roll up the sleeves....and his clearances barely reached the half-way line. If he had put one of Ron Baynham's caps on, he would not have seen a thing!

They say goalkeepers are a breed apart because they get kicked on the head so often. That may have been truer in the old days when shoulder charging and heavy pitches led to some horrendous melees, with the boots flying, but is less obvious today. Bob Wilson, that Englishman who went and played for Scotland, was outstanding at advancing from his goal to spread his long body across the area; he does not seem to have suffered for it. It might be wise to wait a few years to see if Andy Dibble, who was also very brave in diving at feet (remember the FA Cup semi-final against Wimbledon at White Hart Lane) suffers from recurring double visions of John Fashanu and Vinnie Jones on the gallop.



Andy Dibble is pictured in action against Everton in 1988. Who could forget his fine penalty save in the Littlewoods Cup Final that same year?

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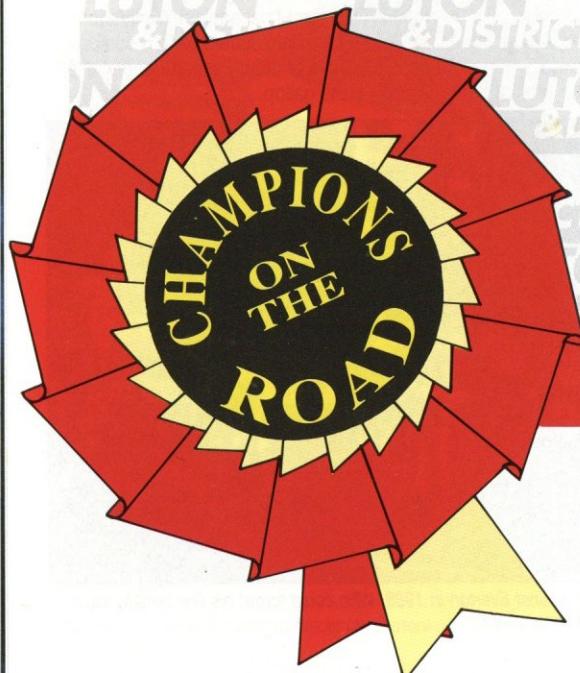
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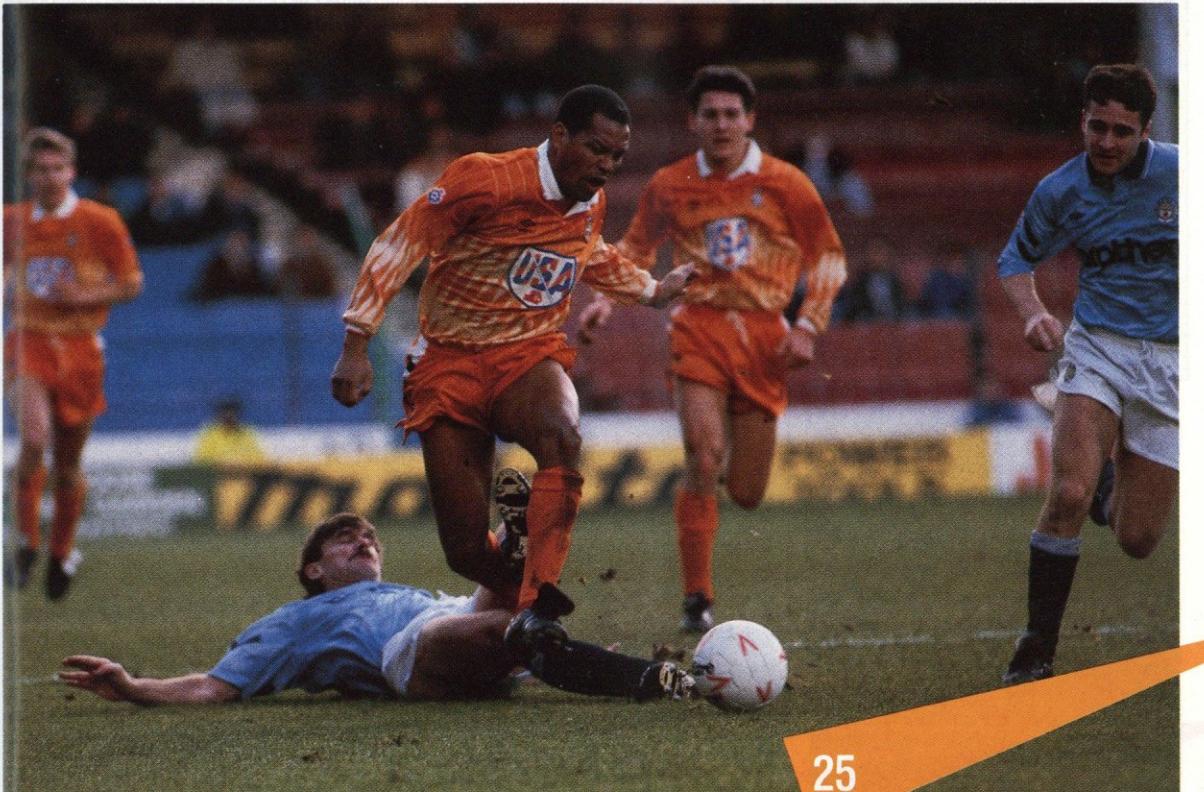


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Paul Telfer (above) returned to action after injury at Maine Road last Saturday while Brian Stein (below) is pictured in action in the same match



Looking back

By Roger Wash

The Last Time We Met...

January 4, 1992 (FA Cup, third round)

Sheffield United 4 (Hodges, Deane, Lake, Whitehouse)
Luton Town 0

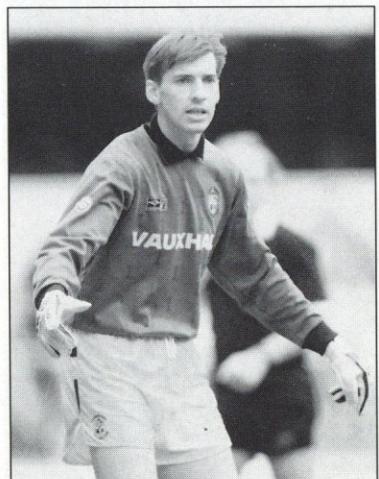
Referee: K. Barratt (Coventry)

Attendance: 12,201

Luton Town – Chamberlain, James (Campbell), Harvey, Kamara, Dreyer, Peake, Telfer, Stein, Oakes, Pembridge, Preece.

Sheffield United – Tracey, Gage, Cowan, Gannon, Beesley, Hill, Hodges, Lake, Bryson, Deane, Whitehouse.

Despite some enterprising play in the first-half, the Town, looking to capitalise on their 1-1 draw at Bramall Lane two months earlier, had little answer to United's power play. With Mick Harford out injured and Steve Sutton cup-tied, United scored three goals in the final fifteen minutes which ended any hope the Town had of reaching the 'twin towers' this season.



Alec Chamberlain returned to first team action at Bramall Lane on January 4.

Town find cutting edge with victory over Blades in 1952

Season 1952/53 in Division Two opened disastrously for the Town with a defeat at Plymouth, followed by a home reversal against our "bogey" side of the time, Birmingham City.

Many supporters saw parallels with the side that narrowly avoided relegation two years previously, but an early reshuffle of the team, which saw the dropping of Hugh McJarrow and Dave Sexton, was reflected by a 2-1 home win over Rotherham in the third game.

By the time league leaders Sheffield United visited Kenilworth Road in October, Luton had limped to a position just below mid-table. But now the fans were becoming a shade more optimistic, despite a 3-0 defeat at Huddersfield the previous week, where reports indicated that the Town were the best side seen at Leeds Road all season.

The classy Sheffield United team drew a crowd of 18,158, eager to see the Blades powerful forward line, but it was the Town who took up the early running and decided that attack was the best form of defence.

It came as no real surprise when Charlie Watkins opened the scoring with a shot from the edge of the box in the 13th minute and the Town looked set for a surprisingly easy victory when Bernard Moore increased the lead 20 minutes later, following clever play by Jesse Pye.

The half-time whistle came as a relief for United who could have been several more goals down, with only good goalkeeping from Burgin keeping the scoreline respectable.

The second-half ploy by the Blades was, obviously, to throw caution to the wind in an effort to secure an early goal. The plan worked a treat, with McNab netting soon after the re-start and it was suddenly the Town defender's turn to earn their money as United swarmed round the Luton goal, to provide an uncomfortable 15 minutes.

United did everything but score in this period and a goal seemed inevitable, but with 20 minutes remaining, Pye scored the Town's third goal on the break and completely against the run of play.

Before the crowd's cheers had died down, Bert Mitchell was up-ended in the box and his resultant spot-kick put the game beyond the Blades.

Fired by this win, the Town proceeded to emerge victorious from twelve of their next fifteen games and by mid-February were in third position, hot on the heels of both United and Huddersfield.

Disaster then struck with lowly Southampton, the visitors to Kenilworth Road, escaping with a 2-1 win following an early injury to Bud Aherne. The next week saw Huddersfield the visitors, and a best-of-the-season crowd of 25,831 saw the away side win 2-0 following a couple of, as the impartial club programme notes put it, half-chances!

The return trip to Sheffield was therefore a bit of an anti-climax, as although the Town were still third, the gap between themselves and the leading pair was now too great and the chance of promotion was gone.

The Town put up a creditable display at Bramall Lane where a crowd of 39,086 witnessed United go 1-0 down thanks to a Gordon Turner strike with eleven minutes remaining, only for Brook to equalise at the death.

The season then on petered out, but the final position of third was certainly more than the supporters could have expected after the dismal start.

First game:

Town – Stretton, Dunne, Aherne, Morton, Owen, Shanks, Davies, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

United – Burgin, Furniss, Shaw (G), Brook, Latham, Shaw (J), Ringstead, Hagan, Browning, McNab, Hawksworth.

Second game:

Town – Baynham, Jones, Pemberton, Morton, Hall, Owen, Cullen, Turner, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

United – Burgin, Furniss, Shaw (G), Brook, Latham, Shaw (J), Ringstead, Hagan, Browning, Toner, Hawksworth.



Ron Fletcher (above), scored both goals against Charlton 15 years ago, while Brian Stein (below), scored five years ago against Manchester City and ten years ago against Watford.



Did you know?

The first time we met Sheffield United in the league was in 1937/38 following our promotion to Division Two. Unfortunately both games ended in defeat – 3-2 at Kenilworth Road and 2-0 at Bramall Lane.

It happened five years ago

21/2/87 – A Brian Stein goal secured a 1-1 draw at Manchester City, maintaining the Town's fifth position and extending an unbeaten run to seven games.

It happened ten years ago

20/2/82 – The promotion showdown at Vicarage Road watched by a crowd of 22,580 saw Wilf Rostron open the scoring for Watford, but Brian Stein (again!) levelled before half-time.

It happened 15 years ago

19/2/77 – Another promotion battle, this time at home to Charlton, saw the Town end up comfortable 2-0 winners with both goals coming from Ron Fletcher.

It happened 20 years ago

19/2/72 – A rare goal by Chris Nicholl was the only bright spot in a dismal 2-1 defeat at home to Sunderland, watched by a crowd of 10,994.

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Kick-off 3.00 pm

CRYSTAL PALACE

A season which promised so much has delivered very little for Steve Coppell's Crystal Palace.

Last term the Eagles came to the forefront of English football after securing third spot in the league and winning the Zenith Data Systems Cup, 4-1 against Everton. Ian Wright, John Salako and Geoff Thomas became household names and all worked their way into the England set-up. A real push for the championship was therefore expected from the south London club in 1991/92.

Events have not gone to plan, however, and the 'Eagles' are, at the time of writing, placed tenth in Division One with 34 points, 23 points adrift of leaders Manchester United.

Salako, an England regular since the summer tour of Australia and New Zealand,

has not kicked a ball since September. A cruciate knee ligament injury, sustained in a 0-0 draw with Leeds United, has meant that his valuable supply of pin-point crosses have been missing all season and he is unlikely to play again until August.

Wright is another player who has been missing from the Palace front line this term, but for very different reasons. North London giants Arsenal came in with a £2.5 million package for the highly-rated striker, an offer the Palace board could not refuse. Wright went on to become an instant success at Highbury, but left an ominous void behind him at Selhurst Park.

£1.8 million of Wright's transfer fee was almost immediately spent on Sunderland's Marco Gabbiadini. But after scoring only nine goals in four months - during a period in

which Palace crashed out of the FA Cup in the third round at Leicester 1-0 and the Zenith Cup against Chelsea - Gabbiadini was sold to Derby for a fee of £1.2 million.

A positive side, however, has arisen from their average season, and that has been the emergence of Gareth Southgate, Simon Osborn and David Whyte from the youth ranks at Selhurst Park. Whyte scored in a 1-1 draw with Chelsea earlier this month and appears to be forming a good partnership with Mark Bright in attack.

With little to play for except a place in the top ten come May, the emphasis will be on the Town to collect all three points when the two sides meet. Come to Kenilworth Road on March 7 with as much vocal support as possible as we enter the final run-in to what we all hope will be a successful climax to a testing season.



Ian Dowie celebrates his equalising goal in last season's opening match against Crystal Palace.

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The dress requirements are collar and tie. Number of members is 80.



THE CLUB 82 SUITE

CLUB 82

Membership to this facility allows a member to use the Club 82 Suite for all league and cup matches.

The bar is complimentary and a buffet for members is available at half-time and full-time.

Match day programmes, reserved car parking together with a seat in the Club 82 balcony situated in the main stand is included in this package.

There is also a limited guesting and luncheon facility at an additional charge available, booked on a per match basis.

The dress requirements are collar and tie. Number of members is 44.



THE CENTURY CLUB SUITE

CENTURY CLUB

Membership to this facility allows a member to use the Century Club for all league and cup matches. There is a pay bar facility for all matches.

A buffet is supplied prior to the game and after the final whistle. Match day programmes and reserved car parking together with a seat in the Century Club balcony situated within the main stand is included in this package.

There is a limited guesting facility at an additional charge on a per match basis.

The dress standard is smart/casual however, jeans are not allowed. Number of members 141.



Apply to: THE COMMERCIAL MANAGER, LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB,
KENILWORTH STADIUM, 1 MAPLE ROAD, LUTON LU4 8AW. TEL: (0582) 411622



David Preece (above) and Mick Harford (below) are pictured scoring the two goals against Norwich on February 8.





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Guest spot

With Brian Owen

Brian Owen, Luton Town's hard-working physiotherapist, doesn't just run on to the pitch on a Saturday with bucket in one hand and 'magic sponge' in the other. For Brian, being the physio of a First Division club is a very demanding seven-day-a-week job, as he goes on to explain...

The work starts in earnest for me on the coach home after a first-team game on a Saturday," said the former Watford and Colchester professional who was appointed physiotherapist at Luton last summer. "The lads who are injured are packed in ice or strapped up and told to report to the club the following morning. It is usually a busy weekend for me as I get home to Ipswich late Saturday night and have to be back at the club the following morning to treat the injured players.

"The Sunday morning clinic runs from 10 a.m. to 12 o'clock. The players I have are obviously the injured first-team players, and also the youth teamers who also play their matches on a Saturday. Sunday afternoons are spent relaxing, re-charging my batteries ready for the week ahead...

"Monday mornings are spent assessing the weekend injuries, continuing with treatment and setting-up players, who are on their return to

fitness, on rehabilitation programmes. This usually starts at about 10 a.m. and involves cycling, circuit training, body and general fitness programmes. Players fit enough to run will do so, and will continue their programme in the afternoon.

"The club doctor also calls in on a Monday to see how all the players are, and I end the day writing-up a diary on the progression of all injured players. If there is a reserve match, I will attend that as well.

"The rest of the week is basically the same, except on Fridays we finish early in preparation for the games which are played the following day. The doctor also calls in for his second visit of the week to check on the health and fitness of all players.

"If I can get to a youth team game during the week I will, but it can be difficult with the first-team and reserves taking priority. But my interest with football doesn't stop with Luton. I try to watch as many other games as my schedule permits".

33

As you can see, Brian's job requires much dedication and is very demanding, but how did a professional footballer become a physiotherapist?

"I studied a physio course while I was playing at Watford. When I moved on to Colchester I carried the interest with me. Not only was I playing for the team, but also acting as physio as well. By then I had a sound knowledge of physiotherapy and was later fortunate to be appointed physiotherapist of the England Youth team, and later at Wolves, Peterborough, Ipswich, Crystal Palace and again at Colchester.

"I would encourage more players, who are unsure of a career to follow after football to take a look at physiotherapy. That way they are still involved with the game they've played all their life and remain part of a club on a day-to-day basis. It is a demanding job, but a job which is essential to all football clubs."

Keeping track - your day-by-day football diary

Feb 8 – The Town beat Norwich City 2-0- to move off the foot of the First Division table.....Leeds United lose only their second league game of the season, 2-0 at Oldham.....Manchester United move back to the top after a 1-1 draw with Sheffield United.....Kevin Keegan's first game in charge at Newcastle ends with a 3-0 victory over Bristol City.....In Scotland, Ranger's Ally McCoist equals the league's goalscoring record of 168 goals, jointly held by Bobby Lennox, following a 2-1 win at St Mirren.

Feb 9 – In Italy, the most important match of the season so far sees AC Milan hold on to top spot in Serie A, following a 1-1 draw with second placed Juventus.....Barri's David Platt is carried off with a twisted ankle, following his side's 1-1 draw with Parma.....Marseille and Monaco remain in first and second place of the French league, respectively, while the surprise team of the season has been Brian Stein's former club Caen. The Normandy side moved up to third in the league despite a 0-0 draw with Montpellier.....Feyenoord move level on points with PSV Eindhoven following their 1-0 against Dordrecht in Holland. PSV draw 0-0 with Roda JC.....In Spain, Real Madrid move five points clear of their nearest rivals Barcelona following a 1-1 draw with Cadiz. Barca lose at Real Sociedad.

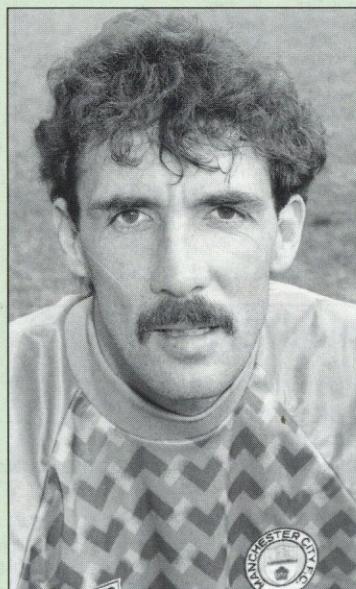
Feb 10 – Airdrie sign Bristol City's former Arsenal defender Gus Caesar for £75,000.....Reading's former Tottenham winger David Leworthy joins non-league Farnborough Town on a free transfer.

Feb 11 – Liverpool win their FA Cup fourth round replay with Bristol Rovers 2-1 at Anfield. They now meet Ipswich Town in round five.....Debt-ridden Aldershot are still in operation following a financial deal with local businessmen.....Bobby Robson is rushed to hospital in Eindhoven after complaining of stomach pains.....Blackburn extend their lead to five points at the top of Division Two following a 2-0 win against Derby.

Feb 12 – Middlesbrough progress to the next round of the Rumbelows League Cup following a 1-0 win against Peterborough. They now face Manchester United in the semi-final....Chelsea draw 1-1 with Southampton in front of just 7,148 fans, their lowest league gate since the war....Liverpool announce a £4 million sponsorship deal with brewers Carlsberg.

Feb 15 – The Town lose 0-4 at Manchester City after some inspiration saves from City keeper Tony Coton.....Arsenal record the highest league win of the season so far, beating Sheffield Wednesday 7-1....In the FA Cup, fifth round, Chelsea beat Sheffield United 1-0, Portsmouth and Middlesbrough draw 1-1, as do Sunderland and West Ham while Norwich beat Notts County 3-0.

Feb 16 – Over 26,000 fans see Ipswich draw 0-0 with Liverpool in the Cup, while Aston Villa progress through to the sixth round, following a 2-1 victory at Swindon.



Tony Coton halted the Town's progress at Maine Road last Saturday.

Reserves and youth



Neville Ovenden Football Combination 1991-92

Tues 20 Aug	Charlton Athletic	2-1
Wed 28 Aug	Ipswich Town	0-3
Mon 2 Sept	Arsenal	0-1
Mon 9 Sept	Charlton Athletic	1-0
Fri 20 Sept	Norwich City	0-1
Mon 23 Sept	Millwall	0-1
Tues 1 Oct	West Ham United	1-0
Mon 7 Oct	Oxford United	2-2
Sat 12 Oct	Tottenham Hotspur	3-3
Mon 14 Oct	Norwich City	2-1
Sat 19 Oct	Arsenal	1-0
Mon 21 Oct	Millwall	2-2
Fri 25 Oct	Leighton Town	1-0
Mon 28 Oct	Chelsea	0-2
Sat 2 Nov	Portsmouth	0-2
Mon 11 Nov	West Ham United	0-0
Mon 18 Nov	Tottenham Hotspur	4-1
Mon 25 Nov	Wimbledon	1-1
Thurs 28 Nov	Potton (BPC)	3-5
Mon 2 Dec	Brighton & Hove Albion	2-1
Mon 16 Dec	Fulham	0-2
Mon 6 Jan	Ipswich Town	3-2
Wed 15 Jan	Wimbledon	3-0
Mon 20 Jan	Crystal Palace	2-4
Mon 27 Jan	Queens Park Rangers	1-0
Mon 3 Feb	Watford	2-1
Mon 10 Feb	Reading	7-1
Wed 12 Feb	Oxford United	0-1
Wed 19 Feb	Swindon Town	
Tues 25 Feb	Queens Park Rangers	
Mon 2 Mar	Crystal Palace	
Tue 10 Mar	Watford	
Mon 16 Mar	Southampton	
Mon 23 Mar	Reading	
Tues 31 Mar	Chelsea	
Mon 6 Apr	Swindon Town	
Sat 11 Apr	Southampton	
Mon 13 Apr	Portsmouth	
Wed 15 Apr	Fulham	
Wed 22 Apr	Brighton & Hove Albion	

Please note all home fixtures up to and including January 1992 will be played at Dunstable Football Club, Creasey Park Ground, Brewers Hill Road, Dunstable. After this, they will be played here at Kenilworth Road.

NEVILLE OVENDEN FOOTBALL COMBINATION

	1991-92						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Goals
Southampton	23	16	5	2	47	16	53
Q.P.R.	26	17	1	8	55	31	52
Arsenal	28	15	6	7	58	39	51
Chelsea	24	15	5	4	54	24	50
Crystal Palace	26	14	7	5	47	30	49
LUTON TOWN	26	12	5	9	38	33	41
Portsmouth	28	13	2	13	54	60	41
Norwich City	22	12	2	8	46	25	38
Wimbledon	26	10	6	10	39	30	36
Swindon Town	23	11	3	9	39	37	36
Tottenham Hotspur	25	10	5	10	41	36	35
Fulham	25	10	3	12	29	35	33
Ipswich Town	25	8	6	11	42	53	30
Oxford United	25	9	2	14	40	57	29
Watford	24	9	1	14	35	46	28
Charlton Athletic	23	7	5	11	32	40	26
West Ham United	25	5	6	14	35	52	21
Brighton & Hove Albion	25	5	3	17	33	56	18
Reading	26	4	2	20	36	90	14

RESERVES - APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

Football Combination	Bedfordshire Premier Cup		Football Combination	Bedfordshire Premier Cup		Football Combination	Bedfordshire Premier Cup	
	App	Goals	App	Goals	App	Goals	App	Goals
Allpress	19(1)	-	McDonough	7	-	Murray	5(4)	-
Beaumont	2	-	McDonough	7	-	Newman	(1)	-
Brittain	1	-	Murray	5(4)	-	Nogan	14	9
Campbell	20(3)	1	North	1	-	Oakes	7(1)	2
Chamberlain	4	-	Oakes	7(1)	2	O'Brien	2(1)	-
Dreyer	2	-	Petterson	15	-	Petress	5	-
Elliott	(1)	-	Rees	23	7	Rees	23	7
Farrell	8(4)	4	Rodger	5	-	Rodger	5	-
Gillard	10(1)	1	Rogers	(2)	-	Rogers	(2)	-
Goodfellow	(1)	-	Salton	21	-	Salton	21	-
Gormley	4(6)	1	Shanley	9(1)	-	Skelton	5(4)	1
Gray	1	1	Smith	1(2)	-	Smith	1(2)	-
Greene	4(1)	-	Sommer	7	-	Telfer	4	-
Glover	1	-	Stein	4	3	Thompson	1	-
Harvey	6	-	Sutton	1(1)	-	Tighe	2(3)	-
Holsgrave	12(1)	1	Tighe	2(3)	-	Williams	22(2)	5
Holtam	4(6)	2	Williams	22(2)	5			
Howard	1	-						
Hughes	10	2						
Jackson	2	-						
James	5(1)	-						
Johnson	2	-						
Linton	7	-						

Match Digest

Fixture: Oxford United v Luton Town

Venue: Oxford

Date: 1.2.92

Competition: South East Counties League

Result: 1-1

Scorer: Ryan

Team: Hancock, Holtam, Skelton, Ryan, Philip, Greene, Murray, Rogers, Hartson, Newman, Elliott. Subs: Goodfellow, Sutton.

Coach's comment: This was a tough match in which at times we played some very neat and constructive football. We deservedly went a goal ahead, but missed opportunities to increase our lead. A bad defensive mix-up in the opening 30 seconds of the second half let Oxford in, but we battled on to earn a point.

Fixture: Brentford v Luton Town

Venue: Brentford

Date: 8.2.92

Competition: South East Counties League

Result: 3-2

Scorer: Sutton (3)

Team: Hancock, Holtam, Skelton, Greene, Philip, Elliott, Sutton, Rogers, Ryan, Hartson, Newman. Subs: Smith, Brittan.

Coach's comment: This was a first-class performance by all team members in a tough match. In the end, our passing game came out on top rather than Brentford's long ball tactics. All players stayed with the game and Robert Sutton scored a fine hat-trick. Well done boys.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES DIVISION TWO SEASON 1991-92

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Goals	Pts
Crystal Palace	19	14	2	3	55	16	30	
Wimbledon	19	12	3	4	62	16	27	
Brentford	20	12	3	5	39	24	24	
LUTON TOWN	20	12	3	5	41	28	27	
Bristol City	3-0							
Maidstone United	0-7							
Swindon Town	1-2							
Bournemouth	3-1							
LUTON TOWN	20	12	3	5	41	28	27	
Sat 17 Aug	Bristol City	3-0						
Sat 24 Aug	Maidstone United	0-7						
Sat 31 Aug	Swindon Town	1-2						
Sat 7 Sept	Bournemouth	3-1						
Sat 10 Sept	Norwich City (SJFC)	3-3						
Sat 14 Sept	Aldershot	2-0						
Sat 16 Sept	Norwich City (SJFC R)	1-0						
Sat 21 Sept	Brighton	4-2						
Sat 28 Sept	Oxford United	1-3						
Sat 1 Oct	Birmingham City (SJFC)	3-2						
Sat 5 Oct	Brentford	1-0						
Sat 12 Oct	Crystal Palace	0-1						
Sat 19 Oct	Tottenham Hotspur	4-0						
Wed 23 Oct	East Thurrock Town (FAYC 1)	5-0						
Sat 26 Oct	Bristol City	1-2						
Sat 9 Nov	Southampton	1-1						
Sat 16 Nov	Bristol Rovers	5-1						
Sat 23 Nov	Southampton	1-1						
Tues 26 Nov	Aston Villa (FAYC 2)	1-0						
Sat 30 Nov	Tottenham Hotspur	4-1						
Sat 7 Dec	Wimbledon	0-2						
Tues 17 Dec	Norwich (FAYC 3)	1-1						
Sat 4 Jan	Maidstone United	2-1						
Wed 8 Jan	Norwich (FAYC 3R)	1-4						
Sat 11 Jan	Swindon Town	3-0						
Sat 18 Jan	Bournemouth	2-1						
Sat 1 Feb	Oxford United	1-1						
Sat 8 Feb	Brentford	3-2						
Sat 22 Feb	Tottenham Hotspur							
Sat 29 Feb	Reading							
Sat 14 Mar	Bristol Rovers							
Sat 21 Mar	Aldershot							
Sat 28 Mar	Wimbledon							
Sat 4 Apr	Brighton							
Sat 11 Apr	Reading							
Sat 25 Apr	Bristol City							

Gatorade Sports Beverage is the Official Sports Drink of Luton Town F.C.



Fixture: Luton Town v Watford

Venue: Kenilworth Road

Date: 3.2.92

Competition: Neville Ovenden Football Combination

Result: 2-1

Scorers: Hughes, Gray

Team: Chamberlain, Linton, Johnson, Salton, Allpress, McDonough, Williams, Hughes, Gray, O'Brien, Rees. Subs: Oakes, Holtam, Skelton.

Facts and fixtures



BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

18th February, 1992

P	W	D	L	F	A	Home		Away		W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
						W	D	L	F							
27	9	4	1	25	8	—	1.	Manchester United	.....	7	5	1	23	13	+27	57
28	8	6	0	25	12	—	2.	Leeds United	.....	7	5	2	27	11	+29	56
29	9	3	3	22	13	—	3.	Manchester City	.....	5	5	4	20	20	+9	50
28	9	3	2	23	13	—	4.	Liverpool	.....	3	9	2	12	11	+11	48
28	9	3	2	30	19	—	5.	Sheffield Wednesday	.....	4	5	5	14	21	+4	47
29	8	5	2	32	15	—	6.	Arsenal	.....	3	5	6	18	19	+16	43
29	5	7	3	25	21	—	7.	Chelsea	.....	5	3	6	14	20	-2	40
27	5	3	5	16	19	—	8.	Crystal Palace	.....	5	6	3	22	25	-6	39
28	8	2	4	22	13	—	9.	Aston Villa	.....	3	3	8	12	20	+1	38
29	7	5	3	31	26	—	10.	Oldham Athletic	.....	3	2	9	14	22	-3	37
28	6	6	2	21	10	—	11.	Everton	.....	3	3	8	15	23	+3	36
27	4	1	8	16	16	—	12.	Tottenham Hotspur	.....	6	3	5	19	19	-	34
28	6	5	3	19	16	—	13.	Norwich City	.....	2	5	7	14	22	-5	34
29	2	8	4	12	16	—	14.	Q.P.R.	.....	5	5	5	17	19	-6	34
26	6	4	3	26	22	—	15.	Nottingham Forest	.....	3	2	8	15	19	-	33
28	6	4	4	19	17	—	16.	Sheffield United	.....	3	2	9	24	31	-5	33
27	5	3	5	16	10	—	17.	Coventry City	.....	4	2	8	12	19	-1	32
27	6	4	4	21	15	—	18.	Wimbledon	.....	1	6	11	19	19	-2	31
27	5	2	6	17	19	—	19.	Notts County	.....	2	4	8	11	19	-10	27
26	3	5	5	12	15	—	20.	West Ham United	.....	3	4	6	13	23	-13	27
28	6	4	4	15	12	—	21.	LUTON TOWN	.....	0	3	11	7	39	-29	25
27	2	4	7	10	24	—	22.	Southampton	.....	3	4	7	17	21	-18	23

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 1991-92

League	Rmblws Cup		ZD Cup		FA Cup	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Tim Allpress	—	—	—	—	—	—
David Beaumont	—	—	2	1	—	—
Kingsley Black	6(3)	—	—	—	—	—
Jamie Campbell	4	—	—	—	—	—
Alec Chamberlain	1(4)	—	—	—	—	—
John Dreyer	17	—	2	—	1	—
Sean Farrell	28	2	2	—	—	1
Lee Glover	3(1)	—	—	—	—	—
Philip Gray	9(2)	3	2	3	—	—
Mick Harford	17	8	1	—	1	—
Richard Harvey	19(1)	2	1	—	—	1
Paul Holsgrove	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—
Ceri Hughes	4(4)	—	—	1	—	—
Matthew Jackson	7(2)	—	2	—	—	—
Julian James	14(3)	—	—	1	—	1
Chris Kamara	14	—	—	—	—	—
Desmond Linton	2(1)	—	—	—	—	—
Darron McDonough	9	—	—	—	—	—
Kurt Nogan	6(9)	1	—(2)	1	1	—
Scott Oakes	8(6)	1	—	—	—	1
Trevor Peake	24	—	1	—	—	1
Mark Pembridge	28	1	2	—	1	—
David Preece	20(4)	1	2	—	1	—
Jason Rees	1	—	—	—(1)	—	—
Graham Rodger	11(1)	—	1	—	1	—
Darren Salton	—(3)	—	—(1)	—	1	—
Brian Stein	21(4)	—	1(1)	—	—	1
Steve Sutton	11	—	—	—	—	—
Paul Telfer	17(3)	1	2	—	1	1
Steve Thompson	5	—	2	—	—	—
Martin Williams	—	—	—	1	—	—

Luton Town

F-A Att Pos

Aug 17	West Ham United	0-0	25,079	-
Aug 21	Coventry City	0-5	10,084	-
Aug 24	Liverpool	0-0	11,132	19
Aug 27	Arsenal	0-2	25,898	22
Aug 31	Chelsea	1-4	17,457	22
Sept 4	Southampton	2-1	8,055	19
Sept 7	Wimbledon	0-3	2,321	20
Sept 14	Oldham Athletic	2-1	9,005	17
Sept 17	Queens Park Rangers	0-1	9,085	20
Sept 21	Manchester United	0-5	46,491	21
Sept 25	Birmingham City (RLC-2-1)	2-2	6,315	21
Sept 28	Notts County	1-1	7,629	20
Oct 5	Aston Villa	0-4	18,722	21
Oct 8	Birmingham City (RLC-2-2)	2-3	13,252	21
Oct 19	Sheffield Wednesday	2-2	9,401	21
Oct 22	Ipswich Town (Z.D.S. Cup)	1-1*	7,750	-
Oct 26	Norwich City	0-1	10,514	21
Nov 2	Everton	0-1	8,022	21
Nov 16	Tottenham Hotspur	1-4	27,543	22
Nov 23	Manchester City	2-2	10,031	22
Nov 30	Sheffield United	1-1	21,804	22
Dec 7	Leeds United	0-2	11,550	22
Dec 20	Coventry City	1-0	7,533	22
Dec 26	Arsenal	1-0	12,665	22
Dec 28	Chelsea	2-0	10,738	20
Jan 1	Nottingham Forest	1-1	23,809	19
Jan 4	Sheffield United (FAC 3)	0-4	12,201	-
Jan 11	Liverpool	1-2*	35,095	20
Jan 18	West Ham United	0-1	11,088	22
Feb 1	Sheffield Wednesday	2-3	22,291	22
Feb 8	Norwich City	2-0	8,554	21
Feb 15	Manchester City	0-4	22,137	21
Feb 22	Sheffield United	—	—	—
Feb 25	Crystal Palace	—	—	—
Feb 29	Leeds United	—	—	—
Mar 7	Crystal Palace	—	—	—
Mar 11	Tottenham Hotspur	—	—	—
Mar 14	Everton	—	—	—
Mar 21	Southampton	—	—	—
Mar 28	Nottingham Forest	—	—	—
Apr 4	Wimbledon	—	—	—
Apr 11	Oldham Athletic	—	—	—
Apr 12	RLC FINAL	—	—	—
Apr 18	Manchester United	—	—	—
Apr 20	Queens Park Rangers	—	—	—
Apr 25	Aston Villa	—	—	—
May 2	Notts County	—	—	—
May 9	FA CUP FINAL	—	—	—

*1-2 on penalties

^oown goal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
Chamberlain	Beaumont	Harvey	McDonough	Rodger	Dreyer	Farrell	Preece	Stein	Pembridge	Black	[Gray]	James
Chamberlain	Beaumont	Harvey	McDonough	Rodger	Dreyer	Gray	Preece	Stein	Pembridge	Black	[Gray]	Farrell
Chamberlain	Beaumont	Harvey	(McDonough)	Rodger	Peake	Gray	Preece	Stein	Pembridge	Black	[Jackson]	[Farrell]
Chamberlain	(Beaumont)	Dreyer	(McDonough)	Rodger	Peake	GRAY ¹	Preece	Stein	Pembridge	Black	[Nolan]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	(Jackson)	Dreyer	(McDonough)	Rodger	Peake	GRAY ²	Preece	Stein	Pembridge	Black	[Telfer]	[Telfer]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(GRAY) ¹	(Harford)	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(GRAY) ¹	(Harford)	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(GRAY) ²	(Harford)	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(Harford)	Pembridge	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(Harford)	Pembridge	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(Harford)	Pembridge	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	Rodger	Beaumont	Preece	(Harford)	Pembridge	Pembridge	Black	[Hughes]	[Nolan]
Chamberlain	Jackson	Dreyer	(Telfer)	R								

Business scene

By Wendy Grzybowska and Andy King



KIT SPONSORSHIP

The opportunity has arisen for 24 individual kit sponsorships of our 1991/92 season first-team squad. The scheme has the advantage of being both attractive to companies wanting to gain publicity or for the staunch fan wishing to support his or her favourite player.

Included in this package is the chance to meet the full squad at a special presentation dinner at the end of the season where YOU will receive your player's match shirt. In addition, each match programme will contain a full colour page advert of kit sponsors alongside their named player.

If interested please contact the LTFC commercial department on (0582) 411622.



A guest of our ball sponsors, Gary Oliver of W.S. Tyremasters, is pictured with David Preece after our recent match with Norwich City.

Joint match sponsors at today's game

We extend a warm welcome to today's joint match sponsors National Westminster Bank P.L.C. and G. Farr & Sons Ltd. We also give a big welcome to our ball and matchday sponsors News of the World and J.J. Kelly & Sons Ltd. We would also like to extend greetings to the directors and guests from Electrolux, who are entertaining in one of our executive boxes today.

J.J. Kelly & Sons Ltd have been in the construction industry for the past 25 years and are based at Woodbury Hill Path, Luton. John and Anne wish their guests Michael and Nancy Keating, Noel and Maura Sheehy, Ken Walsh, Judith Jono and Helen and Tom Maher an enjoyable day at Kenilworth Road.

Incidentally, Michael (Babs) Keating is the manager of Tipperary, Hurling champions of Ireland, and Noel is his full-back. They all wish Luton the very best today.

The News of the World, with the brightest match reports, sharpest comments on major topics and ahead of its rivals with the top interviews, is the best Sunday newspaper. Make sure you buy it tomorrow.

The National Westminster Bank has four branches locally and has been represented in the town for over 150 years. There are also branches in Dunstable and Houghton Regis, and many business customers deal with Corporate Bank Group which was established in Luton in 1988.

Valued customers

A full range of banking services are available at all branches including house mortgages, insurance and pensions. Today, Paul Denton, senior branch manager of the Dunstable branch, is entertaining a few of his valued customers.

G.F. Farr & Sons Ltd were founded in 1909 and were based on the hatting and engineering industry for many years. They later diversified to include heating and electrical work and also garden centres.

The current business involves the franchising of garden centres and the selling, in Europe and the Middle East, of a portable steamer aimed mainly at the clothing, hotel, car and upholstery industry. They also act as a consultant in the garden industry.

THE COM'PLEAT PACKAGE

This new and exciting package is being offered on a trial basis for the remainder of the season at a special discounted rate.

We feel that the package encompasses the requirements of both the business and family man.

- 1. VIP DAY** – Inviting four people to enjoy the match facilities at Luton Town Football Club. Incorporating catering, drinks, competitions, a tour of the ground taking in the pitch, dressing room, medical and boot room, and involving player participation.
- 2. VIP AWAY DAY** – Four people joining Luton Town Football Club at Goodison Park, home of Everton Football Club on March 14th for lunch, drinks, matchday tickets, a tour and also a souvenir signed football.
- 3. TEAM PHOTOGRAPH** – A framed, signed photo of the Luton Town 1991/92 squad.
- 4. CHOICE** – Half-page programme advertising or perimeter advertising board for the remainder of the season.
- 5. A DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE** – Allowing you to join our squad for the morning at our training ground, watching them prepare for our next First Division match, then joining the players for lunch.
- 6. REPLICA KIT** – One complete Luton Town F.C. replica kit.

The price of this package is £1,975. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact the commercial department.

LUTON TOWN HOTLINE

Match Tickets, Match inquiries, Membership:

Cherry Newbery, Ticket Office Manager (0582) 411622/30748

Credit Card Hotline – 0582 30748 72 hours prior to match

Ticket Office Hours – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm weekdays and 10.00 am – 1.00 pm on non match Saturdays

Advertising and Match Sponsorship

Wendy Grzybowska, Commercial Manager Tel (0582) 411622

Umbro Sportswear/Souvenirs & Junior Hatters

Bev Tyler, Retail Manager Tel (0582) 411622

Conference & Banqueting Facilities

Peter Saul, Catering Manager Tel (0582) 411622

Promotions and Lotteries

John Gornall, Development Executive Tel (0582) 411622

News and Information

Soccerline Tel 0839 664466 (48p per min peak/36p off-peak)

Club Office Hours

are 8.45 am to 5.00 pm on Mon to Fri and 8.45 am to 12 noon on non-match Saturdays.



The Dawson Group, our joint match sponsors for our match with Norwich, are pictured before the game two weeks ago.

Team check

VOUCHER NUMBER 16



Official kit sponsors



Official ball sponsors

2 LUTON TOWN

Team Manager:
David Pleat

White/blue shirts, blue shorts.

Steve Sutton
Julian James
Richard Harvey
Chris Kamara
John Dreyer
Trevor Peake
Scott Oakes
Geri Hughes
Mick Harford
Mark Pembridge
David Preece

BRIAN STEIN

SHEFFIELD UNITED

Team Manager:
David Bassett

Red, black and white striped
shirts, white shorts.

1 Simon Tracey
2 Kevin Gage
3 David Barnes
4 John Gannon
5 Brian Gayle
6 Paul Beesley
7 Glynn Hodges
8 Mike Lake
9 Ian Bryson
10 Brian Deane
11 Dane Whitehouse
12
13
14

The Men in Charge

Referee - Terry Holbrook (West Midlands)

Linesmen: J.E. Clarke (Red trim)

D.C. Madgwick (Yellow trim)

GREAT AT TAKING CORNERS



VAUXHALL Once driven, forever smitten



VAUXHALL IS BACKED BY THE WORLDWIDE RESOURCES OF GENERAL MOTORS. CAR SHOWN CALIBRA 16V