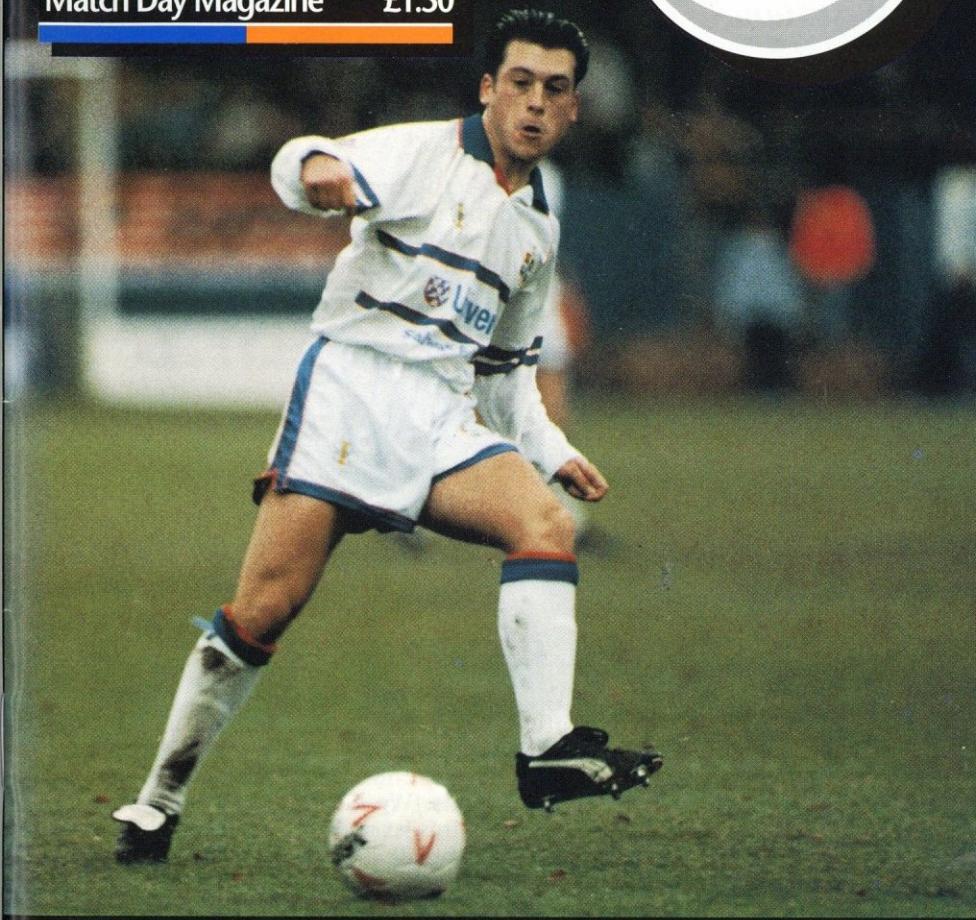
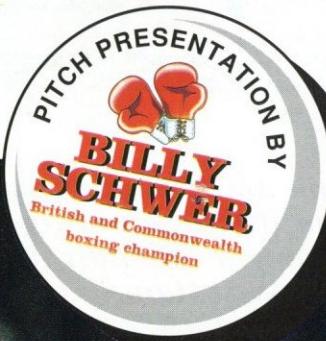


Luton

Town Football Club

Match Day Magazine £1.50



Millwall

**Saturday 21st November 1992
Kick-off 3.00pm**



BARCLAYS

LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

We can become a force again



MANAGER'S VIEWPOINT BY DAVID PLEAT

Welcome to this afternoon's game with Millwall who have begun the season in good form. Last Sunday I enjoyed the company of Mr Burr, the Millwall Chairman, as his club deservedly beat West Ham.

It is a tribute to the hard work behind the scenes at Millwall that they can now face the future with optimism. Next season they will be playing in a new stadium.

Last Saturday's result at Oxford was most disappointing but I do believe that the effort was there. John Durnin's fourth effort was borne out of supreme confidence. We should also give credit to the fine skill of Beauchamp that led to Durnin's crucial first goal. At times we defended naively and our goal attempts did not reflect the territorial supremacy we had. For sure, 4-0 was a cruel reflection, but that is the only fact that counts. It is now that one looks for confidence, support and motivation.

I could not have asked for a better reference than the old warrior Brian Horton, who wrote in his programme column, "It was a super club with a good set of players and a manager for whom we both (David Moss) have a great deal of regard and respect. David and I both learned an awful lot under him. We played in a very good side which always played good football and I still believe that they try and play today. I think his ideals and

his knowledge of the game are second to none." Much appreciated. He was referring to our club.

Luton can become a force again and it is down to the ambition of the people working for the club in whatever capacity. But it is vitally important that the majority of our

"It is vitally important that the majority of our honest supporters try and lift our players, particularly the younger ones in these difficult times"

honest supporters try and lift our players, particularly the younger ones in these difficult times. We know the extent of the challenge - it is far greater than many understand. In football there is no place for pessimism and I was hugely encouraged last week by the efforts of the younger elements in the club.

The reserve side completed three games in a five-day spell in solid fashion and the youth team had a victory against Tottenham which few would have witnessed. The 2-1 win



Steve Claridge and Julian James are out of luck in a goalmouth scramble against Grimsby Town a fortnight ago.

emerging young talent who will get 100 per cent support and projection if worthy.

After this particular game we were further encouraged by under-21 calls for David Greene and Darren Salton, Phil Gray was recalled to the Northern Ireland squad. Youth players John Hartson and Neil Watkins sacrificed an international game against Holland to help us succeed against Tottenham. Neil Ryan made a decision not to accept a shadow squad place with England Youth for future consideration with Scotland.

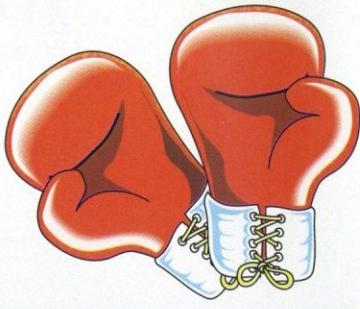
I would like to be writing about the first team performances. Changes have to be

made, but in our position they can only be made slowly. Provided we understand the task and know the demands, then I can assure our supporters that whatever age or experience, players in a Luton shirt will be giving their best.

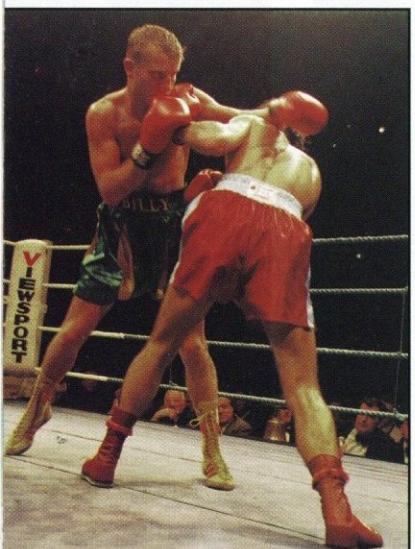
Get behind the players today and let's hope for a return of some good fortune.

Drug taking not for champions

EUROPEAN DRUG PREVENTION WEEK



Before this afternoon's game, the new British and Commonwealth lightweight champion Billy Schwer will be presenting trophies to the winners of the Luton Town Football Club Drugs Prevention 5-a-side Football Tournament.



Billy in action against Carl Crook.
Picture by Herald and Post.

As you may be aware, this week has been European Drug Prevention Week and to promote this worthy event and show local children the dangers of taking drugs, L.T.F.C. and the Luton Borough Council Leisure and Amenities Department joined forces on Thursday night to present a unique 5-a-side tournament.

Sixteen teams aged 11-14 and 16 teams aged 9-11 gathered at the Lea Manor Recreation Centre in Luton to participate in the tournament, which not only provided

teams with exciting games to play in, but it also promoted drug awareness via talks and posters which were displayed in the Recreation Centre.

The winners and runners-up will be our guests for the afternoon, as will Luton lad Billy, who is also keen to spread the anti-drugs message. "It is very important that the dangers of drugs are made aware particularly to children, some who are easily influenced," he said. "If you are ever going to be successful in life, you are only going to do it by living a clean lifestyle. It is very encouraging to see our town taking a leading role in Drug Prevention Week and the football tour-

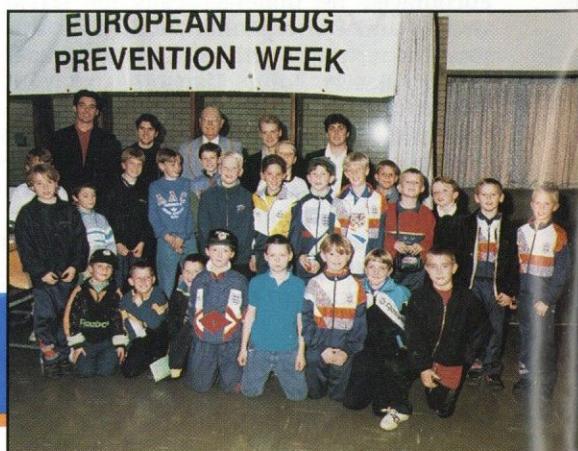
David Greene, Tony Thorpe, Ken Gillard and Chris Brooks are pictured with Luton Mayor, Councillor Raymond Sills at the draw for the 5-a-side tournament. Picture by Mike Pierce.

nament was an excellent idea by Luton Town and the Council."

Luton Town Community Liaison Officer Gary Hooper was one of the brainchilds behind the event, and speaking before the tournament he was confident it would be a success. "Hopefully we will see some good football being played, but the main reason we have organised the tournament is to promote drug awareness. If the children return home on Thursday night knowing of the dangers of drugs, then the whole event would have been a success."

Billy joins us today fresh from his success at the Royal Albert Hall last month when he defeated title-holder Carl Crook with millions watching on BBC Television to claim the British and Commonwealth title. Supported ringside by over 1,000 fans from the Luton area, Billy floored Crook three times in the ninth round to take the crown.

"At the moment I feel on top of the world," beamed Billy. "I have had hundreds of cards saying well done and the calls have been flooding in. Although I am now the champ, I still have a lot to learn and the fight against Carl was part of that process. The fans who came to support me were brilliant, and if there are any in the crowd today, I would just like to say thank-you."



Universal Salvage Auctions

Welcome to the 'family club'

Our guests this afternoon are the players from the Luton and Hackney under-11's who have already been through a tough match today before joining us at Kenilworth Road. They are here by courtesy of our community programme sponsored by Universal Salvage Auctions (USA), the league leaders in motor salvage auctions, and we sincerely hope they enjoy their afternoon with us.

We will also be entertaining further young footballers as our guests today as the players from the Gosport under-13's, under-14's and under-15's will also be with us at the 'family club' for this afternoon's Barclays League Division One match. Like the Hackney team, they too have been playing against opposition from Luton schools this morning. Puffed out or not, we hope they all enjoy their day at Luton Town.

The visit today from all these young players continues the series of visits from various schools — and



Members of Bushmead Junior School are pictured with Bev Tyler and Gary Hooper after our match with Grimsby Town on November 7.

Town community programme, please contact The Community Liaison Officer, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1, Maple Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW.

TELEPHONE: 0234 766500 • FAX: 0234 766200
WOBURN ROAD • WOOTON • BEDS • MK43 9EJ



Prestige game to be held at Kenilworth Road

ON THE INSIDE BY JOHN SMYLINE

Kenilworth Road Stadium,
1, Maple Road, Luton, Beds
LU4 8AW.
Tel: (0582) 411622
Fax: (0582) 405070.
Clubcall: 0898 12 11 23 (48p
per min peak, 36p off peak)

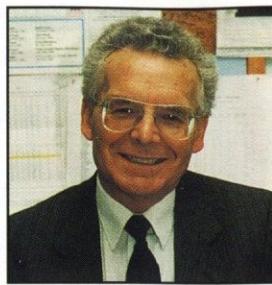
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Chairman: R.J. Smith
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Secretary: John Smylie
Manager: David Pleat
Coaches: John Moore,
Wayne Turner, Terry Westley
Physiotherapist: Brian Owen
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Paul Lowe
Scouting: Les Shannon
Commercial Executive:
John Buttle
Commercial Sales: Andy King
Medical Officer: Dr Bill Berry
Club Dentist: A. Chris BDS (Syd)

Honours

Littlewoods Cup winners 1987-88
FA Cup finalists 1958-59
Littlewoods Cup finalists 1988-89
Simod Cup finalists 1987-88
Champions - Division Three (S) 1936-37
Champions - Division Four 1967-68
Champions - Division Two 1981-82

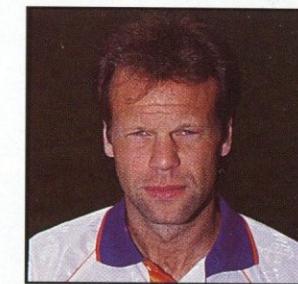
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Supporters deserve a lot better

CAPTAIN'S LOG BY TREVOR PEAKE

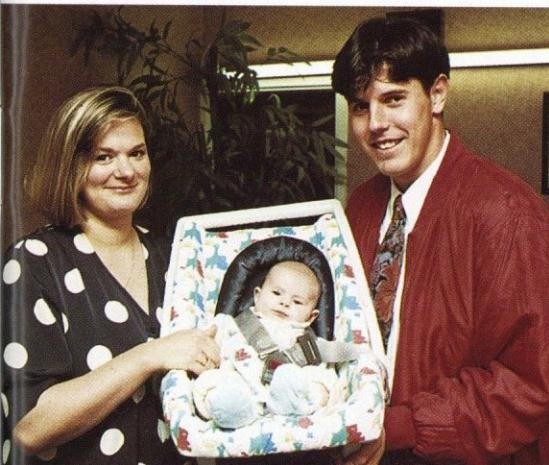


We have not had a lot to shout about in recent weeks. After hitting rock-bottom, there is now only one way to go, and that is up...

Our last two performances against Grimsby Town and Oxford United have been very poor, against teams we should be doing a lot better against. We know that it is not good enough and we know you loyal supporters who pay every week to watch, deserve much better.

We know that the Club has the potential in the side to do well, but it is time that we started to show it. We have shown in spells just what we are capable of, such as at Peterborough and the first 70 minutes at Cambridge United, but we must continue this form on a regular basis.

Many of the mistakes we have been making have been due to slack marking and some top-quality finishing from the opposition. John Durnin obviously hit the peak of his form last weekend, as did Wayne Biggins at Barnsley and Guy



Even when injured, goalkeeper Andy Petterson shows a safe pair of hands, holding his new arrival Ellen Sheila, alongside girlfriend Paula.

Whittingham for Portsmouth.

However, in all the gloom there are some bright spots. It is very pleasing to see Phil Gray return to form with a bagful of goals. His partnership with Steve Claridge can be very fruitful for us this season and the pair often work overtime in training to help their partnership gel more smoothly. Hopefully Phil's form of late was rewarded with him seeing some action in midweek with Northern Ireland.

Ceri Hughes will hopefully be in contention again before too long. He can give us an extra option in midfield and once he and Paul Telfer get over their injuries and put together a run of games, I am sure our midfield department will once again look promising.

One player I feel for during our present bad run is Alec Chamberlain. Playing his first league games since last season, he has not had the best of cover from the defence, so we are all pulling together to tighten up.

Today's game against Millwall will provide us with a difficult task. They are flying at the moment with a string of fine results. We will have to take the game to them and stamp our own authority on the match. If we can do this for the full 90 minutes, we can take all three points and finally send you all home happy from Kenilworth Road at last!

Paul Telfer returned to the starting eleven after injury, at Oxford United last Saturday.



Charlton's last game overshadowed by Magpie rollercoaster

1

NEWS ON ONE

Charlton Athletic return to The Valley on December 5 for their first league game at their south-east London home for seven years. Their last match as tenants at Upton Park was anything but a party as Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United marched on to the First Division title.

Two goals from England candidate Gavin Peacock and one from teenager Gary Howey secured all three points as the Magpies won 3-1 - their seventh league win away from home already this season. Charlton co-manager Steve Gritt could only admire the way the men from the north-east took the game to Charlton, who have now lost five of their last seven matches.

"Their work-rate was tremendous," said Gritt. "Every time the ball went loose they had three players trying to win it back. You can see why they are top of the table." Newcastle boss Keegan was also full of praise for the way his side played. He said: "We played too much football for them; I thought 3-1 was the least we deserved."

A 2-1 defeat for Sunderland at home to Leicester City last Sunday left manager Malcolm Crosby clinging to his job. Since leading the Rokermen to the FA Cup Final against Liverpool last May, the side have struggled to come to terms with the new First Division this season and are currently fourth from bottom in the table. They have now lost nine league games this season, although goalkeeper Tony Norman believes that the

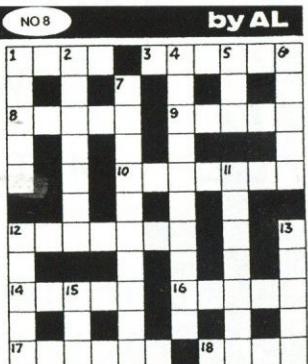
crowd's bitter chanting towards the end against Leicester did not help. "If we had a new manager at the helm for today's game, the crowd would have gone away saying that we were unlucky. But at the moment, they seem to be on the bandwagon, putting pressure on us all. We need the crowd on our side if we are to reverse the situation."

Tranmere Rovers continued their quiet climb up the table with a 3-2 home victory against Brentford, who themselves have been going well of late. Trailing by two goals with 32 minutes remaining, two Pat Nevin strikes secured the points for Rovers which left manager Johnny King obviously delighted. "We showed

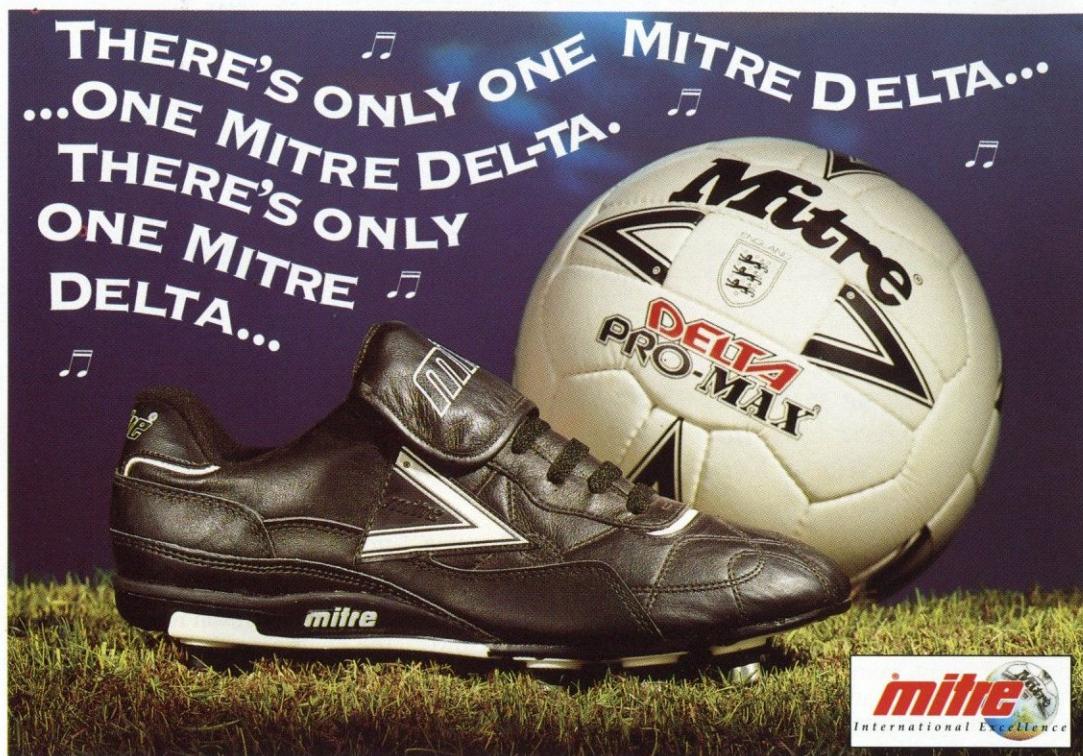
tremendous character to turn the situation around against a very determined side," he said.

Malcolm Allison returned to the English football scene last Saturday, to take temporary charge of a Bristol Rovers side who are reeling at the foot of the table with just nine points. Allison stepped in after the dismissal of Denis Rofe and although Rovers lost to an improving Derby County side 2-1, there were signs of a revival. "If they go on playing like that they will stay up," said Allison. "The officials here have asked me to continue to look after things while they think about appointing a new manager. Whether they want me to stay or not I have no idea."

SOCCERSWORD



Solutions will appear in our next home programme



Mitre Sports International Ltd., Bay Hall Works, Birkby, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 5AJ. Tel: (0484) 537488 Fax: (0484) 530042

The Flower Shop
Flowers for all occasions
34 STUART STREET, LUTON BEDS.
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"Say it with Flowers"

Fans' forum



AN AMAZING MEETING

Dear Sir

Thank you to David Kohler for making time to discuss the clubs various problems with Adrian, Alan and myself. We all felt amazed at some of the things we learned.

We also appreciate the difficult position that you are in and can only suggest that you inform the fans, by way of the match day programme, of the current financial situation. This could show how also a player's transfer can cost a selling club a considerable sum in loyalty bonuses. We are sure the average fan does not realise these facts.

Regarding the Supporters Club F.C., I would like you to know we are a totally self-financing team. I will inform our squad of the current situation and also of your willingness to talk to fans. I hope other supporters will take the opportunity to meet you and perhaps change their views.

I wish you all the best for the future.

B.R. Mugridge, Manager, L.T.S.C.F.C.

COACHING COURSE AN EXCELLENT DAY OUT

Dear Sir

On behalf of Lewsey Youth Football Club, I would like to say a big thank-you for the one-day coaching course that you recently provided for us. All of the youngsters who attended the session had a brilliant time.

The standard of coaching was first-class and it was very pleasing to see the boys and girls having fun as well as learning the technical side of the game. We hope to arrange a similar day with you in the future. Once again many thanks.

Charlie Evans, Football Coach, Lewsey Youth Under 10's 'A' squad

Note:- Any clubs interested in hosting a similar course of any kind, please contact Paul Lowe at Luton Town Football Club.

A BELATED THANK-YOU ANDY

Dear Sir

A couple of days ago I was going through some of our club's paperwork and there staring me in the face was evidence that a letter of thanks had not been sent for arranging for Andy Petterson to attend our presentation evening held back in May.

Please accept my sincere apologies for this oversight and allow me to redress this by way of this letter. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and it was a pleasure to have Andy along.

On behalf of Icknield Athletic I wish you all the best for the remainder of the season.

Peter Caswell, Chairman of Icknield Athletic F.C.

UNIFORM HELP

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Bedfordshire Schools Football Association I would like to express our thanks to David Pleat, John Moore and Luton Town Football Club for your generosity and assistance in providing uniforms for the U19 County Schools side. I assure you they will be much appreciated.

Jan Piotrowski, Bedfordshire Schools Football Association

BIRTHDAY TREAT COME TRUE

Dear Sir

I would like to thank Mr Pleat for allowing my Dad and myself to see the Luton Town players personally for my birthday.

I had a great day and enjoyed myself very much. Thank-you again.

Steven Willatts, 80 Graham Garden, Luton.

97.6 FM
Chiltern Radio

**The Station with
More Winning Ways**
The Hot FM

ACTION REPLAY

From: The Manor Ground
Date: November 14, 1992

LUTON TOWN 0
OXFORD UNITED 4
Attendance: 5,760

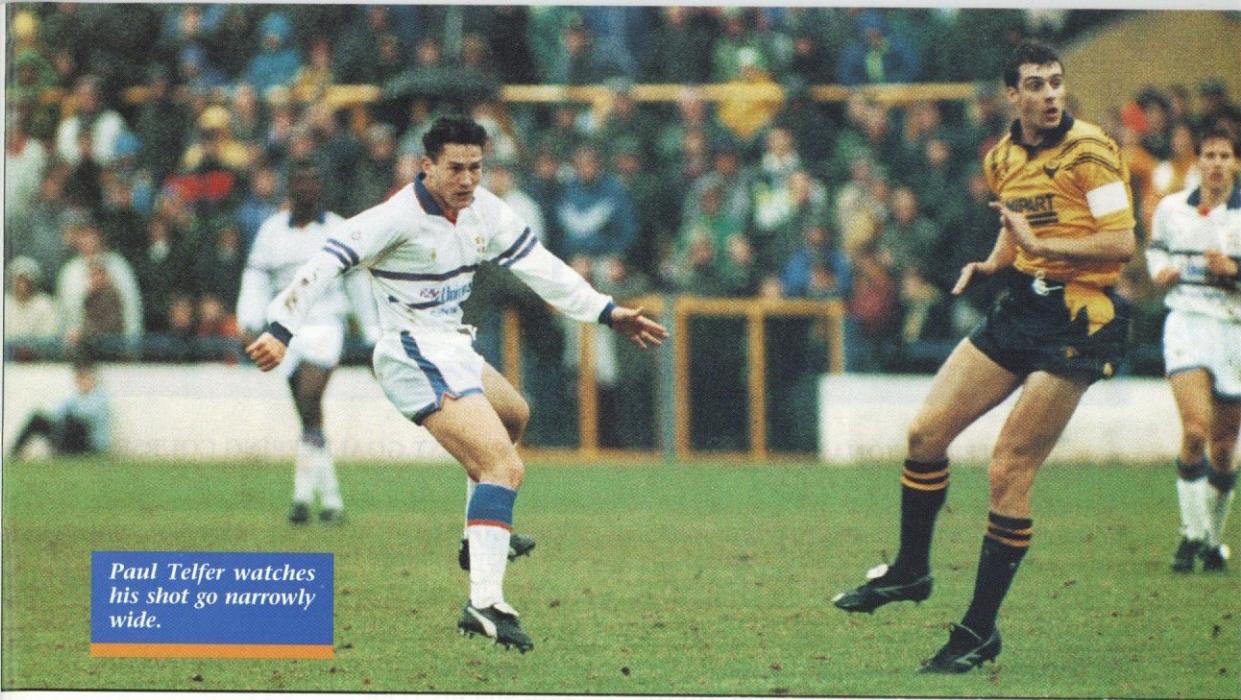
PICTURES BY JOSH LEVY



Our leading goalscorer Phil Gray could not celebrate his call-up to the Northern Ireland squad with a goal last Saturday.



Steve Claridge pulls away from two Oxford challenges.



Paul Telfer watches his shot go narrowly wide.

Gray earns Northern Ireland recall



AROUND THE TOWN

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TOWN TRIO

After some impressive performances in front of goal for the Hatters in recent weeks, striker Phil Gray has been recalled by Northern Ireland boss Billy Bingham and was due to play a part in Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Denmark in Belfast.

Reserve team defenders David Greene and Ken Gillard were also on international duty in the week, representing the Republic of Ireland in a European under-21 match against Spain in Seville.

CHAMBERLAIN GLAD TO BE BACK

Goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain was recalled to the Town from his loan spell at Chelsea, to face Grimsby Town a fortnight ago and despite the disappointing result, was pleased to be back playing at Kenilworth Road again. "Although it feels strange after being away for so long it is nice to be back. I played six reserve games for Chelsea and was also a part of the first team squad because of the new substitute goalkeeper ruling. They have now signed the Russian Kharin and with Andy injured and Juergen on loan my chance came again at Luton."

ANDY the penalty KING!

Andy King is pictured with Juergen Sommer and Chiltern Radio's Paul Burrell shortly after Andy had victoriously beaten Paul in a charity penalty shoot-out competition during the Town's half-term football funday. Andy proved that there is no substitute for experience and as the loser, Paul donated £50 to the Drug Awareness charity.



SPECIALIST GOALKEEPING COURSE

Paul Lowe is organising a specialist course for goalkeepers which will take place at the Brache Arena, Luton on Monday and Thursday evenings throughout December.

The Monday evening courses are on November 30th, December 7th and December 14th. The Thursday evening sessions will take place on December 3rd, the 10th and the 17th.

Three one-hour sessions will cost only £7.00 and there is an opportunity to be invited the Club's centre of excellence. There will also be guest appearances by some Town players. Further information can be obtained by calling Paul on (0582) 411622.

LUTON LADIES PROGRESS IN CUP

Luton Town Ladies are through to the last 32 in the WFA Cup after beating local rivals Milton Keynes 7-0 at Langford F.C. They now face Ipswich Town from the National League Premier Division in the fourth round on Sunday, December 6 at Langford F.C. Leaguewise, the Ladies are still on course for the Premier Division title after inflicting the first defeat of the season on second-placed Canary Racers 4-0. Goals from Whittick, Fensome and Lake mean that the Town now have a four-point lead at the top of the table.

Latest Ticket Office news



BY CHERRY NEWBERY

Luton Town v Watford

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sunday, November 29, 1992 - Kick-off 3.00 pm

Please note that this match is being played on Sunday 29th, due to the match being televised.

Tickets are on sale at normal league prices. Normal guesting facilities apply.

Bristol Rovers v Luton Town

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, December 5, 1992 - Kick-off 3.00 pm

This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton supporters. Tickets are only available from the Ticket Office in Kenilworth Road until Friday, December 4 at 5.00 pm. None will be available at Bristol.

Terracing only £6.50 (no concessions)

Wolverhampton W. v Luton Town

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, December 12, 1992 - Kick-off 3.00 pm

This is an ALL TICKET match for Luton supporters. Tickets are only available from the Ticket Office in Kenilworth Road until Friday, December 11 at 5.00 pm. None will be available at Bristol.

Terracing only £6.00 (no concessions)

Luton Town v Sunderland

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, December 19, 1992 - Kick-off 3.00 pm

Tickets for this match go on sale after today's game at the discounted price. Normal guesting facilities apply.

Season Tickets 1992-93

Season Tickets are still available for all areas of the ground at pro-rata rates. Supporters who are interested are asked to contact the Ticket Office on their direct line Luton 416976.

Travelling to...

Bristol Rovers (Twerton Park, Bath)

Address: 199 Two Mile Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AZ (office). Telephone: (0272) 352303. Take the M4 and then the M5 to junction 18. Then follow the A46 into Bath and follow the ring road to Twerton Park. There is limited street parking available. Nearest railway: Bath spa.

Wolverhampton Wanderers (Molineux)

Address: Molineux Ground, Wolverhampton, WV1 4QR. Telephone: (0902) 712181. Take the M5 to junction 2. Then follow the A4123 towards Wolverhampton. Take the next right and then left onto the ring road. Turn left into Waterloo Road, then right into Molineux Street for ground. Street parking is available. Nearest railway: Wolverhampton.

Bobbers Travel Club

Coaches for the trip to BRISTOL ROVERS will cost adults £8.50 and children/OAP's £7.00. Coaches will depart from Cranfield at 9.00 am and Luton at 10.00 am with the normal pick-up points en route.

Coaches for the trip to WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS will cost adults £6.50 and children/OAP's £5.20. Coaches will depart from Cranfield at 10.30 am and Luton at 11.30 am, again with the normal pick-up points en route.

All bookings and further information can be made by telephoning Paul Deason on (0234) 750996.

Alternatively, you can book by seeing Paul or any other BTC member at the Ticket Kiosk in Kenilworth Road or on the return journey from the previous match.

Promotion a distinct possibility for McCarthy's men

MILLWALL F.C. 1992-93



■ Millwall visit Kenilworth Road this afternoon pushing for a play-off place after an impressive run of results which has seen the south London club win five of their last six matches. It is a sequence which has delighted manager Mick McCarthy, although he has urged his players to keep their feet firmly on the ground. "Obviously I am pleased with our results, particularly with the style of football we are playing," he stated. "However, I have been in football long enough now to know that things turn against you just as quick."

■ Victory this afternoon would be the Lions' ninth, following home wins against Oxford (3-1), Swindon (2-1), Notts County (6-0), Wolves (2-0) Bristol City (4-1), West Ham (2-1), and away at Charlton (2-0) and at Derby County (2-1). It could elevate the side into an automatic promotion spot and back into the Premier League after a three-year absence. Then under manager John Docherty, the Lions were one of the most feared sides in the then First Division, peaking at the top for a period of time with names such as Sheringham, Cascarino and Carter grabbing the headlines for the first time.

■ The Millwall faithful believe those glory days are on the way back, but with the names Cooper,

Allen and Rae now taking the applause. Another important factor in the Millwall revival is the support the fans have been giving, both home and away and Mr McCarthy is quick to point out their part in the club's success. "We want to keep the fans on our side, and that means extending our winning run," he continued. "It is lovely to have such partizan following and I wouldn't have it any other way."

■ Millwall F.C. were formed in 1885 as Millwall Rovers by employees of Morton and Co, a jam and marmalade factory in West Ferry Road. The founders, predominantly Scotsmen, set up headquarters in The Islanders pub in Tooke Street, Millwall and played their first game in an East End Cup match in 1887. Founders members of Division Three, they played their first league match in 1920, defeating Bristol Rovers 2-0. A member of the side that day was Jack Fort who also became the first Third Division player to be capped for England.

■ Despite their long existence, success for the Lions has been fairly limited. They won the Division Two championship in 1988 and the Division Three (S) crown in 1928 and 1938. The Club also won the Football League Trophy in 1983.



Back row (left to right): Paul Holsgrove, Etienne Verveer, Keith Stevens, Chris Armstrong (now Crystal Palace), Mark Foran, John McGlashan, Tony McCarthy, Paul Stephenson, Tony Dolby.

Middle row (left to right): Keith Johnstone (physio), Paul Manning, John McGinlay, Jon Goodman, Brian Horne, Aidan Davidson, John Donegan, Kasey Keller, Carl Emberson, Ken Cunningham, Brian Lee, John Humphrey, Peter Meville (physio).

Front row (left to right): Andy May, Andy Roberts, Ian Bogie, Alex Rae, Mick McCarthy (manager), Ian Evans (first team coach), Phil Barber, Colin Cooper, Ian Dawes, Malcolm Allen.

LIONS ON PARADE

KASEY KELLER (goalkeeper) – Born in Washington, USA, Kasey is a highly-rated American goalkeeper who joined Millwall in January 1992. Understudy to Tony Meola in the 1990 World Cup finals, he is favourite to claim the jersey for the 1994 tournament.

KENNY CUNNINGHAM (defender) – Signed from Irish side Tolka Rovers, Kenny is a promising young full-back who claimed a regular first team spot towards the end of last season. He has represented the Republic of Ireland at under-21 and B levels.

IAN DAWES (defender) – Now in his fourth season at The Den, Ian started his career at Queens Park Rangers before joining Millwall in a £150,000 deal. He has made nearly 400 league appearances in a career which started in 1982.

COLIN COOPER (defender) – Successfully converted by Mick McCarthy from full-back to central defence towards the end of last season, Colin was last season's Junior Lions Player of the Year. He was signed from Middlesbrough for £300,000 in July 1991 and made his debut against his former Club.

ANDY ROBERTS (defender) – A versatile youngster, 18-year-old Andy broke into the Millwall side in April 1992. A product of the Club's youth scheme, he was a member of the F.A. Youth Cup winning side in 1991.

ANDY MAY (midfield) – A former team-mate of Mick McCarthy at Manchester City, the Lions boss brought him to The Den from Bristol City in June 1992 in exchange for David Thompson. He has also served Huddersfield and Bolton and is a former England under-21 international.

ALEX RAE (midfield) – Scottish under-21 international, Alex cost £100,000 from Falkirk in August 1990. Top-scorer last season with 11 goals, he attracted attention from Premier League clubs and would command a

sizeable fee if allowed to leave The Den.

JAMIE MORALEE (midfield) – Jamie joined Millwall as part of the exchange deal which took Chris Armstrong to Crystal Palace. He made his Football League debut for the Eagles at Southampton last season and has made a first team spot his own this term with Millwall.

PHIL BARBER (midfield) – An experienced left-sided midfielder, Phil also joined Millwall from neighbours Crystal Palace. He made two F.A. Cup Final appearances in 1990 and has been a consistent performer since his arrival at The Den in August 1991.

TONY DOLBY (forward) – 18-year-old Tony has been included as a substitute this season after impressing in the reserve team at Millwall last term. He is another product of the Club's successful youth team policy.

MALCOLM ALLEN (forward) – Welsh international, Malcolm started his career with Watford before joining Norwich City in 1988. It was at Carrow Road that he won the first of his twelve international caps. He joined Millwall in 1990, but missed much of last season through injury.

JON GOODMAN (forward) – John was signed from non-league Bromley in 1990 for £30,000 and has been a regular first team squad member since his arrival. A pacey forward, he reached the final of the Rumbelows Sprint Challenge last season.

JOHN BYRNE (forward) – A prolific goalscorer for Sunderland in the FA Cup last season, John arrived at the Den from Roker Park just over a month ago. He started his career at York City, before joining Queens Park Rangers. He has also played for Le Havre in France and at Brighton and is a Republic of Ireland international.

MEET THE BOSS

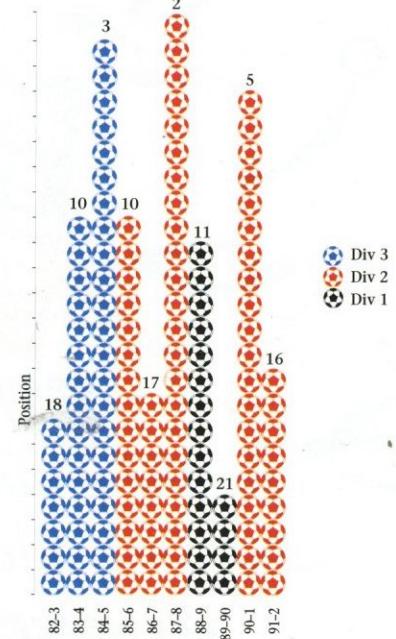


In 1983.

He helped the Blues into the First Division and became club captain before moving north of the border with Celtic in 1987 and later joining Lyon. He was officially appointed player/manager of Millwall F.C. in April 1992 after a period as a player, then as caretaker boss.

He skippered the Republic of Ireland in the 1990 World Cup Finals and has made over 50 appearances for his country, the latest caps coming during the Republic's tour of the U.S.A. in May/June 1992.

Millwall
10 year record





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Meet the real Des Linton



THE PERSON BEHIND THE PLAYER

Name: Des Linton

Birthplace: Birmingham

Date of birth: 5.9.71

Height: 6ft 1in

Weight: 13 stone

Signed from: Leicester City, October 1991

Previous clubs: none

Luton Town debut: v Tottenham Hotspur (away) 16.11.91

International honours: none - yet!

Car: Renault 5 GT Turbo

Starsign: Virgo

Top television programmes: I like comedies best and that means shows like Blackadder, Cheers and so on. Anything which makes me laugh.

Top television commentator: I do not really have one. I try not to listen to them!

Best recent film/video seen: Goodfellows. It is a mafia film, a real thriller with plenty of action and a good story line.

Hobbies: I like a game of snooker whenever I have the time and I also like listening to music. I prefer soul music or funk and sometimes I go to discos.

Who did you support as a boy: I always liked to go to see Aston Villa. They were the team to watch in Birmingham when I was young and I still follow their results. I always look out for the Leicester result too.

Favourite away ground and why: Old Trafford, Manchester, is my favourite. Not for the playing surface or anything like that, but for the atmosphere. It is a fantastic place to play. I've also played at Liverpool, but I prefer Manchester.



Boots worn: Nike. They are so comfortable. I always like to wear the boots which fit my feet well. They feel just right.

What qualifications did you get at school? What would you be doing now if you were not a footballer?: I managed to get three 'o' levels and if I was not a footballer I think I would probably be an electrical engineer or maybe a salesman.

What has been the highlight of your career so far in football: Scoring my first goal for Luton against Tranmere Rovers earlier this season. It was a very special day for me — and it was also my birthday.

Who are your favourite players, past and present: From the past, I suppose Pele is my greatest favourite. I remember watching the things he did on television and he had fantastic all-round ability. From the present-day players, my favourite would be another 'older' generation player, Glenn Hoddle. I like people with flair, real ability and the skill to play even in today's high-speed game.

What single piece of advice would you give to any young footballer hoping to make the grade: Listen to all the advice and coaching you receive, take it in and work hard.

Which young Town player do you tip to make the grade in the coming seasons: Aaron Skelton. He has ability and a good temperament and looks as if he will become a very good player.

What are your main ambitions in football: I want to become an established league player, make progress and hopefully go on to gain some international honours.

Des Linton



Autograph

Des Linton

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Christmas party is coming up soon

JUNIOR HATTERS WITH
RICHARD HARVEY



MATCH MASCOT

Today's mascot from Luton is RICKY FOX. He is nine years old and attends Walaud Junior School. Rickey plays football for St Josephs F.C. and is also enjoys swimming. His favourite player is Phil Gray.

Welcome to this afternoon's game with Millwall and a special welcome to the Millwall's Junior Lions who have been playing football with us this morning. I hope you all had a great time.

The Junior Hatters Christmas Party takes place on Monday, December 14th, at the Holy Ghost Church Hall, Westbourne Road, Luton. Tickets will be available after today's game from the Kenilworth Road shop. The party is for Junior Hatter members only, so please bring you membership card with you.

This year, we are having a karaoke party so start practising your favourite songs and have a go. Maybe we have some hidden talent amongst us. As this is always well supported by Luton Town players, you might have a chance to sing with your favourite player. Each Junior Hatter who attends the party will receive a present from Father Christmas to take home with him or her.

Next Sunday, we have our live TV game against Watford. Let us see all you Junior Hatters wearing your scarves for the game and showing your colours and giving the team your best support.

Today's lucky Junior Hatters membership number is 1075..... JAMES GIBBONS. James wins two free tickets to one of our home games this season. To claim your prize, please call into the Oak Road Sports Shop with your membership card.

Today's mascot from Millwall is DANNY WHELAN. He is seven years old and attends Southwark Park Primary School. His favourite players are Kasey Keller, Jon Goodman and Andy Roberts. Danny's favourite hobby is football, but he enjoys all sports.

JUNIOR HATTERS SPOTLIGHT

Membership No: 1097
Name: Paul Newbery
Date/Place of Birth: 29.12.79/Luton
School: Putteridge High
First Luton game: v Liverpool in 1986
Favourite player: Andy Petterson
Favourite ground: White Hart Lane
Number of League Grounds visited: 15
Favourite goal: every Luton goal
Hobbies: Computers, football
What do you like about football: Most things
What do you dislike about football: People who are not fair
Who accompanies you to Luton matches: My grandparents and sister
Ambition on leaving school: To be successful and happy

(If you would like to go under the spotlight please see Bev in the Sports Shop.)



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Hempstead - Watford

Des Linton challenges
Grimsby Town's Tony Rees
during our clash with the
Mariners on November 7.



Fortunes finally change for Turner's men

RESERVES AND YOUTH BY TERRY WESTLEY & WAYNE TURNER



Neville Ovenden Football Combination 1992/93 League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	11	8	2	1	21	11	26
Chelsea	11	7	3	1	29	15	24
Q.P.R.	11	6	3	2	22	11	21
Wimbledon	11	5	4	2	19	13	19
Arsenal	12	5	3	4	23	12	18
Southampton	11	5	3	3	17	13	18
Tottenham Hotspur	11	5	2	4	23	11	17
Crystal Palace	11	4	5	2	24	16	17
Watford	11	4	5	2	18	21	17
Brighton & H.A.	12	5	2	5	16	24	17
Oxford United	12	4	5	3	15	22	17
Ipswich Town	12	5	1	6	17	20	16
Norwich Town	11	3	4	4	20	21	13
West Ham United	11	3	2	6	17	17	11
Charlton Athletic	11	3	2	6	11	18	11
LUTON TOWN	10	2	3	5	12	19	9
Portsmouth	10	2	3	5	14	23	9
Fulham	12	2	3	7	8	22	9
Bristol City	11	1	4	6	12	20	7
Swindon Town	9	2	1	6	10	18	7

Neville Ovenden Football Combination Fixtures Season 1992/93

Mon 17 Aug	Millwall	1-2	Tue 29 Dec	Arsenal
Mon 24 Aug	Fulham	2-1	Mon 4 Jan	Bristol City
Mon 31 Aug	Queens Park Rangers	0-0	Mon 11 Jan	Chelsea
Mon 7 Sept	Crystal Palace	1-4	Mon 18 Jan	Arsenal
Mon 14 Sept	Tottenham Hotspur	1-4	Wed 27 Jan	Ipswich Town
Wed 23 Sept	Wimbledon	Postponed	Mon 1 Feb	Charlton Athletic
Mon 28 Sept	Portsmouth	Postponed	Fri 12 Feb	Norwich City
Wed 7 Oct	Brighton & Hove Albion	1-1	Mon 15 Feb	Fulham
Mon 12 Oct	Oxford United	2-3	Tue 23 Feb	Watford
Tue 20 Oct	Queens Park Rangers	Postponed	Mon 1 Mar	Swindon Town
Mon 26 Oct	Brighton & Hove Albion	1-2	Tue 9 Mar	Oxford United
Thur 29 Oct	Stotfold (BPC)	4-0	Mon 15 Mar	Ipswich Town
Wed 4 Nov	Portsmouth	2-2	Mon 22 Mar	Watford
Mon 9 Nov	Wimbledon	1-0	Mon 29 Mar	Millwall
Thur 12th Nov	Portsmouth	1-1	Mon 5 Apr	Oxford United
Mon 23 Nov	West Ham United		Wed 14 Apr	Southampton
Wed 2 Dec	Bristol City		Mon 19 Apr	Chelsea
Mon 7 Dec	Crystal Palace		Wed 28 Apr	Charlton Athletic
Mon 14 Dec	Southampton		Mon 3 May	West Ham United
Mon 21 Dec	Swindon Town			

Match Report

Portsmouth 2 Luton Town 2
Neville Ovenden Football Combination, Wednesday, November 4, 1992.

The reserves halted a run of two successive league defeats with a hard-earned draw at Portsmouth. After a scrappy opening half, the Town began to dominate with some flowing football in the second period. "After changing our system at half-time, our passing football helped us get back into a game we looked in danger of losing," said coach Wayne Turner. "We deserved our equaliser and in the end, could have taken all three points."

Team: Chamberlain, Allpress, Gillard, Rees, Greene, Dreyer 1, Thorpe, Williams, Campbell 1, Hughes, Flain. Subs: Murray, Brooks.

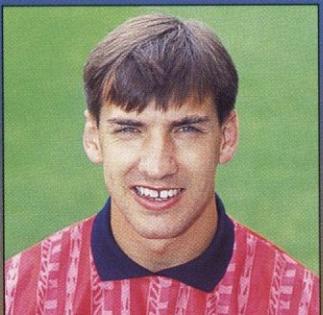
Luton Town 1 Wimbledon 0

Neville Ovenden Football Combination, Monday, November 9, 1992.

Following the draw at Portsmouth, the reserves' revival continued on November 9 with a victory against a very strong Wimbledon team. Wayne Turner said: "We came into the game feeling confident, having a settled and balanced team. Our commitment and passion was evident and Williams scored the only goal with a great strike. We must now continue improving..."

Team: Chamberlain, King, Gillard, Thorpe, Greene, Dreyer, Williams 1, Hughes, Campbell, Brooks, Flain. Subs: Allpress, Murray.

Alec returns to steady reserve side



Goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain returned to Kenilworth Road earlier this month from Chelsea, following Juergen Sommer's loan move from Kenilworth Road to Torquay United. His first two matches have seen our reserve team remain unbeaten and it also prompted his recall to first team duties against Grimsby Town.

South East Counties League Division Two Fixtures Season 1992/93

The remainder of the South East Counties League fixtures will be announced in December.

Sat 15 Aug	Bristol Rovers	8-0
Sat 22 Aug	Reading	4-1
Sat 29 Aug	Colchester United	1-2
Sat 5 Sep	Tottenham Hotspur	2-0
Thu 10 Sept	Chelsea (SJFC 1)	1-1
Sat 12 Sept	AFC Bournemouth	0-2
Sat 19 Sept	Charlton Athletic (SECLC 1)	0-3
Sat 26 Sept	Brentford	0-2
Thu 1 Oct	Chelsea (SJFC 1R)	3-2
Sat 3 Oct	Oxford United	1-2
Sat 10 Oct	Southampton	0-1
Sat 17 Oct	Crystal Palace	0-3
Wed 21 Oct	Southend United (EJC)	4-2
Sat 31 Oct	Wimbledon	1-3
Wed 4 Nov	Port Vale (FAYC 1)	4-1
Sat 7 Nov	Swindon Town	3-1
Tue 10 Nov	Tottenham Hotspur (SJFC)	2-1
Sat 14 Nov	Bristol City	4-1
Sat 21 Nov	Brighton & H.A.	
Sat 28 Nov	Swindon	
Sat 5 Dec	Brighton & H.A.	
Sat 12 Dec	Bristol Rovers	
Sat 19 Dec	Reading	
Sat 2 Jan	Colchester United	

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS No. 7

ACROSS: 1. Canaries; 7. Mineral; 8,12. The Whip; 9. Losses; 10. A pea; 14. Dimmed; 17. Lot; 18. Insured; 19. Rochdale.
DOWN: 2. Annes; 3. Agrees; 4. Isle; 5. Set up; 6. Herald; 7. Millwall; 11. Missed; 13. Inter; 15. Moral; 16. Disc.

Youth Team Appearances and Goalscorers 1992-93

	S.E.C.L.		S.J.F.C.		S.E.C.L.C.	
	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls
Brittain	6(3)	—	2	—	1	—
Butler	11	3	3	2	1	2
Campbell	3(4)	—	-(1)	—	-(1)	—
Davis	2	—	—	—	—	—
Draper	2(1)	—	—	—	—	—
Gibb	2(5)	—	-(2)	1	—	1
Goodfellow	3(2)	—	1	—	—	—
Hartson	8	11	3	3	1	1
Jukes	10	—	3	—	1	—
Kuntz	7	—	—	—	-(1)	—
McDonagh	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—
McLaren	11	—	3	—	1	—
Norman	-(1)	—	—	—	—	—
Philp	11	1	3	—	1	—
Power	-(2)	—	-(1)	—	1	—
Rioch	11	2	3	—	1	—
Ryan	6	—	2	—	1	—
Simpson	3	—	—	—	—	—
Skelton	10	1	3	—	1	—
Watkins	2	—	3	—	1	—
Woodsford	1(1)	1	1(1)	—	—	—
Woolgar	11	1	3	—	1	—

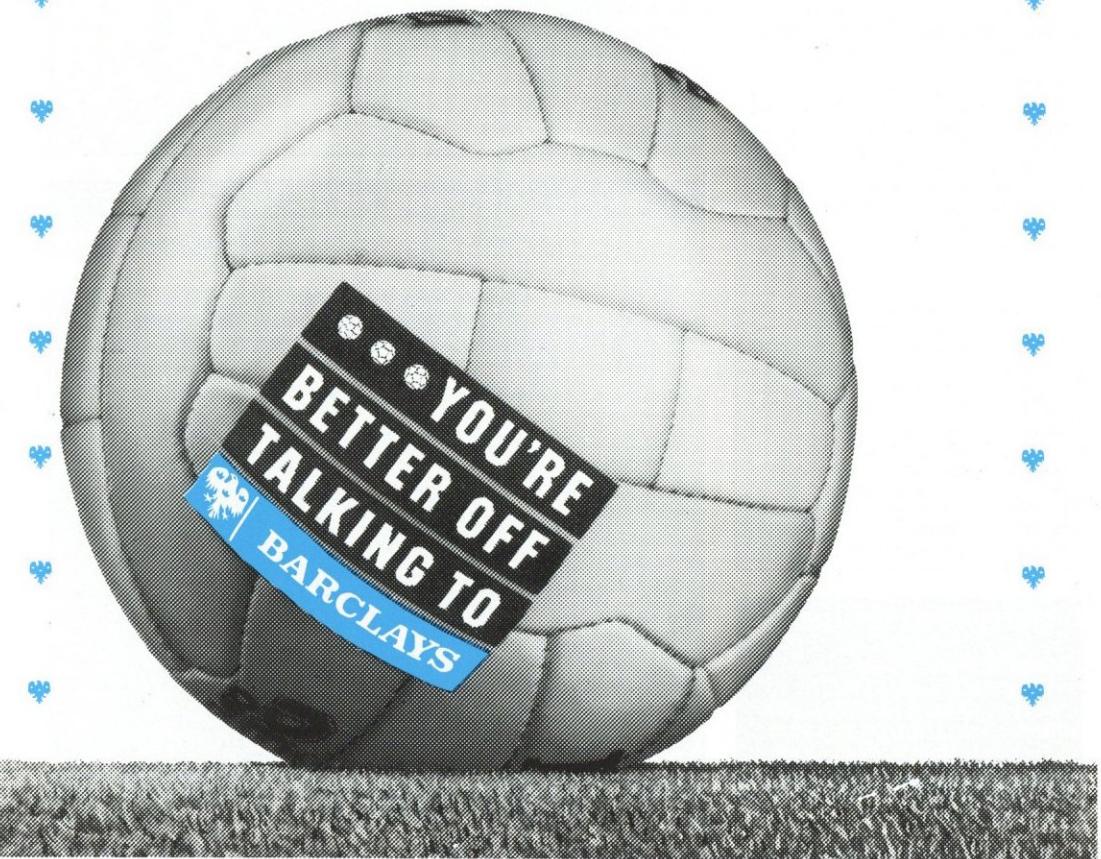
South East Counties League Division Two 1992/93

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	9	7	1	1	23	6
Bristol City	10	8	1	1	27	9
Wimbledon	11	8	1	2	27	10
Brentford	10	6	3	1	21	11
Brighton & H.A.	10	5	2	3	26	12
AFC Bournemouth	10	4	4	2	14	13
Southampton	11	3	4	4	11	15
Bristol Rovers	10	3	3	4	18	9
LUTON TOWN	11	4	0	7	20	17
Tottenham Hotspur	10	4	0	6	19	8
Colchester United	9	4	0	5	11	16
Swindon Town	11	3	2	6	13	23
Crystal Palace	10	3	1	6	15	17
Oxford United	11	2	3	6	18	25
Reading	10	2	2	6	15	27

Reserves - Appearances and Goalscorers 1992-93

	Football Combination App	Goals	Beds Premier Cup App	Goals
Allpress	5(3)	—	1	1
Brooks	5(4)	2	1	1
Campbell	7	3	-(1)	—
Chamberlain	2	—	—	—
Claridge	1	—	—	—
Dreyer	6	1	1	—
Flain	5	—	1	—
Gillard	5	—	—	—
Greene	8(1)	—	1	1
Harvey	6	—	—	—
Hughes	2	—	1	—
Johnson	4	—	—	—
King	2	—	1	—
Linton	1	—	—	—
Matthew	2	—	—	—
Murray	3(4)	—	1	—
Nogan	4(1)	—	—	—
Oakes	4	—	—	—
Peake	1	—	—	—
Philp	2	—	—	—
Rees	3	—	1	1
Salton	2	—	—	—
Skelton	-(1)	—	—	—
Sommer	8	—	1	—
Telfer	2	—	—	—
Thorpe	9	4	—	—
Williams	5(2)	—	1	—
Wright	6	1	—	—

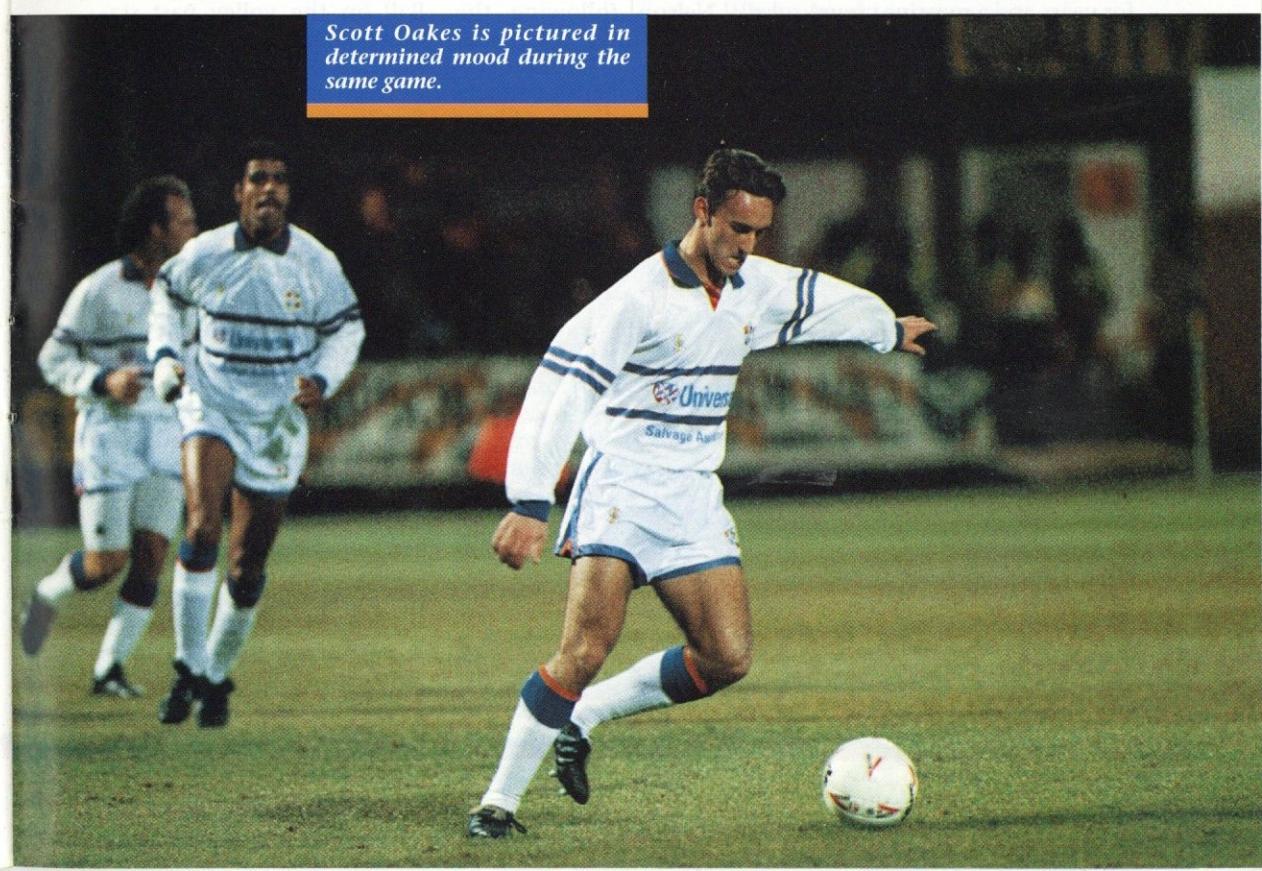
Whatever your
goal...



Phil Gray makes certain of winning this challenge during our 3-3 draw at Cambridge United on November 3.



Scott Oakes is pictured in determined mood during the same game.



Double delight helps the Hatters clinch promotion



BACK TRACKING BY ROGER WASH

During the Town's promotion season from Division Three (South) in 1936/37, two of the most exciting and important games were played against today's opposition, Millwall.

Although early season home form was superb, the away record was nothing to shout about. By the time of the visit to The Den on 21st November, three defeats in succession on their travels had prevented the Town from making a real push for the top.

Millwall on the other hand were having their best season for years and a massive crowd of 32,504 turned up to see if the Lions could go clear at the top. But the Luton players had other ideas by winning the game 2-0.

John Aston was on target against Aston Villa 20 years ago.



"Chiltern" reporting in the Luton News confirmed that the Town played "with a relentlessness and determination hitherto unknown in their away games this season and ran the home side to a standstill." The Town defence soaked up a fair amount of pressure but kept the Millwall forwards at arms length with Luton skipper Jack Nelson following the dangerous Dave Mangnall everywhere.

With swift counter-attacking causing endless problems to Millwall it came as no real

surprise when Fred Roberts put the Town into the lead with an unstoppable shot a minute from the interval. The second half mirrored the first with the Town emphasising their superiority and doing more of the attacking. The game was eventually settled ten minutes from the end when Joe Payne hit a centre from Jack Ball on the volley past stationary Duncan Yuill in the Millwall goal.

The home crowd were finally given something to get excited about when Mangnall, presumably out of frustration, engaged "in a bout of fisticuffs" with Nelson. The referee did not have a clear view of the incident and decided to book both players rather than send them off, but a large crowd gathered outside the ground afterwards to have a word with Nelson as he made his way to the coach.

Mangnall defused the situation, however, by escorting Nelson up the steps and shaking his hand. Unfortunately, the matter did not end there because Stanley Rous, then Secretary of the F.A., was attending the match and sub-

sequently arranged for both players to attend a hearing where they received lengthy suspensions.

The ramifications of this "underhand" punishment reverberated around Fleet Street for weeks afterwards.

By the time of the return fixture, on 27th March, both teams were still in the promotion frame but Millwall were the talk of the country as they had become the first Third Division side to reach the F.A. Cup semi-final.

Whether Millwall had one eye on their forthcoming semi-final or were missing the injured Mangnall we can never tell. But the Town certainly did their promotion hopes no harm at all in winning 5-0 with a sparkling display against a previously unrelenting mean defence.

Although only 1-0 up at half-time, the Town had only been prevented from running up a cricketscore by the excellent play of Millwall goalkeeper Burke. Even he was powerless to prevent Roberts, Payne, George Stephenson and Jock Finlayson from running riot and adding further goals to send the crowd of 18,262 wild.

With eight games to go, six of them at home, the Town never lost their grip and went on to eventual promotion while Millwall lost their semi-final to Sunderland, but made up for it by winning the championship the following season.

Town Teams: 1st game - Dolman, Mackey, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Rich, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

2nd game - Coen, King,



Ian Allinson helped himself to two goals against Tottenham in 1987.

Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Rich, Payne, Hancock, Roberts, Stephenson.

5 **It happened five years ago:**
21/11/87 - A 2-0 home win over Tottenham with both goals scored by Ian Allinson. This was the Town's third win in a row pushing us up to 11th position.

10 **It happened ten years ago:**
20/11/82 - The Town went down 4-2 at Coventry with all the goals coming in the second half. Brian Horton and Brian Stein were the Luton scorers.

15 **It happened fifteen years ago:**
19/11/77 - A 2-1 defeat at Kenilworth Road by Stoke with the only highspots being solid home debuts by Jim McNichol and Brian Stein.

20 **It happened twenty years ago:**
18/11/72 - A fine 2-0 win at Aston Villa watched by a crowd of 29,144. Rodney Fern and John Aston were the Luton scorers in this the sixth away victory of the season.

PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	24	10	10	4	42	23
Away	24	5	7	12	25	49
Total	48	15	17	16	67	72

Luton Town F.C.

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Deportivo continue to impress in Spain

SCENE AROUND EUROPE



With the European leagues now in full swing, we take our latest look at the big stories and big names grabbing the headlines across the continent.

It is not only the English Premier League that has seen unfancied teams vie for league leadership in the opening four months of the season. In Spain, Deportivo De La Coruna – who finished last season fourth from bottom – have led the table since the third week of the season and show no sign of surrendering their charge. "They have brought a breath of fresh air to Spanish football in general," said Johann Cruyff, manager of rivals Barcelona, "However, I still believe the resources and team strength of the bigger clubs will show through in time."

Last weekend, Deportivo maintained a two-point lead over 'bigger clubs' Barca and Real Madrid following a 2-1 victory against Sporting Gijon. Barcelona beat bottom-placed Logrones while Real won 1-0 at Real Zaragoza.

Nantes, who finished mid-table in the French first division last season have been impressing across the Channel and are currently leading the table after losing only one of their opening 12 matches. They are proving that youth is the best policy, having seven players aged 23 or under in the side which beat champions Olympique Marseille 1-0 and sent the side to the top of the league. Paris St Germain lost the top spot, losing 3-2 at lowly Nimes. Marseille are having an indifferent season by their own standards and are currently fourth.

With no matches in the Italian League last week, Paul Gascoigne's Lazio travelled to Spain for a prestige friendly with Diego Maradona's Seville. However, only 2,000 fans turned up to watch a game which saw Gazza score a fine individual goal in a 1-1 draw.

"I was very impressed with Paul," said Maradona after the match. "I believe he can go on to achieve great things in Italy and do for Lazio what I was able to do for Napoli."

In Holland, PSV Eindhoven predictably look in control after 10 weeks of the season and are four points clear of Feyenoord after winning 2-1 at F.C. Twente. Ajax, so often PSV's main rivals look decidedly out of sorts this season and are currently in fifth position. Their inconsistent form could have much to do with the increasing speculation that their star player Denis Bergkamp could be on his way to A.C. Milan.

The Dutch striker has scored 86 league goals in 165 league games in Holland, and Milan have reputedly put in an offer of £20 million!

In Portugal, Porto maintained their two-point lead at the top of the Portuguese First Division after defeating Forense 3-0. Arch-rivals Benfica could only manage a 1-1 draw at Gil Vecente and responded promptly by sacking their coach, the Croatian Tomislav Ivic, after less than three months in the job and with the side still remaining in third place!

German captain Lothar Matthaeus has led a revival at German giants Bayern Munich. After the disappointments of last season when the side finished 10th, the arrival of the former European Player of the Year from Inter Milan has lifted the side, and they currently lead the Bundesliga by two points from Bayer Leverkusen. However his return to the national team after seven months out injured was not nearly as promising. He gifted Mexico a late equaliser in a friendly match last month.



Paul Gascoigne – earning the praises of Diego Maradona.

Maintaining magazine sales is vitally important

COMMERCIAL FOCUS BY ANDY KING AND JOHN BUTTLE

Today we take a look at our match day magazine and the important role it plays as regards to income at our Club.

Whilst the Commercial Departments' main responsibility is to provide much-needed revenue for the Club via all the activities that have been featured in these pages over the season so far, we are very conscious of achieving our objectives by endeavouring to give as good a value for money as possible, whether it be for a full match sponsorship or making this magazine as interesting and action-packed as we can.

In this direction, whilst not wishing to sound too conceited, compared with other match day magazines we have seen on our travels this season, ours is undoubtedly one



of the best, both for content and presentation. Judging by the number of Town fans who have told us they like it, most of you are in agreement. However, improvements can still be made, so you can be assured all who are concerned with its production will not get complacent.

As we have to set production levels at the start of the season, maintaining as high a level of sales as we can is vitally important. Like so many things we do, the more we sell, the more money the club makes. While we thank you for buying our match day magazine, please keep up the good work. Why not buy one for a friend?

In our continuing effort to improve facilities for supporters, we hope to be able to announce very shortly something of particular interest to season ticket holders. *Watch this space*

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My oldest son Ricky is today's mascot for the game against Millwall.



LUTON TOWN HOTLINE

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CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS:
(24 hour service) 0582 30748.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT:
Match sponsorship, Hospitality and Advertising 0582 411622.

CLUB SHOP:
Sportswear and Souvenirs 0582 411622.

CATERING:
Banqueting and Conferences 0582 411526/411622.

PROMOTIONS OFFICE:
Lotteries 0582 411622.

NEWS AND INFORMATION:
Clubcall 0898 12 11 23 (48p per min peak,
36p per min off-peak).

CLUB OFFICE HOURS:
Weekdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Saturdays Match 9.00 am - 12.00 pm
Saturdays Non-match 9.00 am - 4.45 pm

Andy Pettersen presents the match ball to Ashley Bennett and son Alex after our match with Grimsby Town on November 7.



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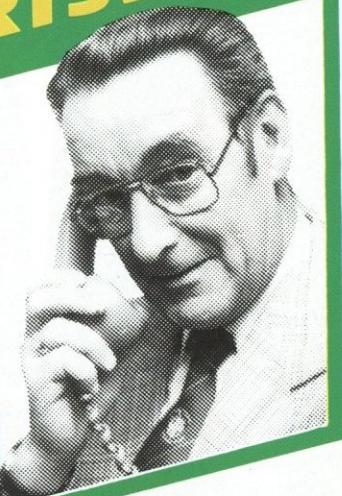


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Ceri puts injury nightmares behind him



PLAYER INTERVIEW WITH CERI HUGHES

I t has been a year to forget for talented midfielder Ceri Hughes. After missing much of last season with a knee ligament injury, Ceri was looking forward to the 1992-93 campaign with fresh optimism — that was until disaster struck again.

As planned, Ceri featured in the Town's opening three fixtures and was looking well on the way to regaining full match fitness, playing a leading role in midfield. However, as the Town prepared for a midweek trip to league leaders Newcastle, he found himself back on the physio's couch, looking ahead at more weeks of rehabilitation.

"We were having a friendly game in training when I was tackled by one of our younger players and I felt my ankle go straight away," said Ceri. "It was obvious that I had done some serious damage and when I found out that the ligaments were damaged, I was devastated. It was a real kick in the teeth after what I had been through the previous season."

Once put in plaster and after a couple of weeks rest, the lonely road to regaining match fitness began again. "During the early stages while I was in plaster, all I could do was work on the muscles in the top half of my body," he said. "As the damage began to heal, I was able to use the mountain bike at

the training ground to build my legs up again although I was still in the cast. It was about eight weeks in total before I could play again."

The game which saw the return of Ceri to action in a Town shirt came at Stotfold in the Beds Premier Cup at the end of October. Ceri played the first 45 minutes, but was brought off as a precautionary measure as the Town coasted to a 4-0 victory.

"I was a little weary at first of playing, but it was important that I came through without any problems. I followed up that game with a reserve team outing against Portsmouth and managed a whole game.

"With each run-out I am feeling fitter and stronger and now feel I am well on the way to making a return to first team action."

With the Town's current

lowly position in Division One, the return of Ceri to the squad is sure to give fans and players alike a big lift, but Ceri is playing down his return to the first team.

"I am not guaranteed a place in the team as I believe we have a solid midfield unit at the Club. However, when my chance does come along again, I will be desperate to make an impression and help the Club back on the winning track. After all, I have a lot of time to make up."



LUTON TOWN

Colours: White/Blue Shirts,
Blue/White shorts

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Alec Chamberlain
Des Linton
Julian James
Darren Salton
Marvin Johnson
Trevor Peake
Paul Telfer
Steve Claridge
Jason Rees
Phil Gray
David Preece

MILLWALL

Colours: Blue/White Shirts,
White Shorts

Manager: Mick McCarthy

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2 Kenny Cunningham
3 Ian Dawes
4 Andy May
5 Colin Cooper
6 Keith Stevens
7 Alex Rae
8 Jamie Moralee
9 Malcolm Allen
10 John Byrne
11 Phil Barber
12
14

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