

LUTON TOWN F.C. v MIDDLESBROUGH

Match Day
£1.50
Magazine

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 8,
1994**

**KICK-OFF
7.45 pm**

**Tonight's match is
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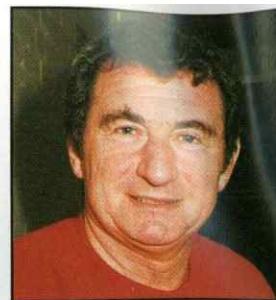


ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE



**Sponsors of
Luton Town F.C.**

Juergen's sending off: Inconsistencies need to be stamped out



ON THE BALL WITH DAVID PLEAT

Welcome to this evening's game with Middlesbrough. The fixture congestion caused by our cup progress has resulted in a seven games in 21 days spell. This is an important time and we cannot afford to be either casual or unprepared in any way for a game even though we know it is a strain on our resources.

Our visitors tonight are particularly warmly welcomed. We sat alongside each other during our pre-season preparations at Stirling where we both played Scottish teams. We exchanged information and advice and there were some genuine friendships made between players. Lennie Lawrence himself has always been the embodiment of common sense in management. He knows how to look after a club under stressful conditions. But he also knows that when success comes it is always more satisfying.

Our game last Saturday was disappointing. With respect to Forest, I thought they were a little dozy although the wind and pitch were difficult conditions—but we were more dozy and, sadly, Juergen Sommer has to suffer the indignity of missing games after genuinely trying to stop a goal. I quote the respected Peter Schmeichel on the subject: "It's alright if you are outside the box and you bring a player down. You deserve to go. But if you are in the box and the player goes around you and you try to get the ball with your hands, it is so easy to bring a player down by accident as you are trying to get the ball. He can just take a little touch and fall over and then you are off. This is a stupid rule. What it says is 'leave the player and let him score' and I don't think that's fair to the goalkeeper. If you bring a player down down, they'll get a penalty awarded anyway so I think a yellow card is alright." Mr Dilkes was correct in his interpretation of the law, but unfortunately there have been recent similar

incidents with different consequences.

At Nottingham, we were disrupted by the absence of Trevor Peake and Scott Oakes and I was delighted to welcome, so that we can take a closer look, Mark Burke on loan from Wolves. Earlier in the week, we had failed to sign a cover forward and we have to bear in mind that March 24 is this season's transfer deadline date. Fortunately, our super run has given us a little breather and although it is unwise to set targets, it looks as if 50 points will be the safety net this season. We would

"MR DILKES WAS CORRECT IN HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS WITH DIFFERENT CONSEQUENCES"

like to achieve it as quickly as possible so I can give some of the promising youngsters a chance to prove they are able to cope with league football.

It is to this club's tremendous credit that of the 14 nominated players at Nottingham Forest, only three were bought for a fee — John Dreyer, David Preece and Des Linton. Can any of our supporters recall seeing an earlier Luton side in which so many players were home-produced?

The cup-tie has been on everyone's minds



Substitute John Hartson fires in a shot during our 2-1 win against Sunderland on February 26.

and we trust that you will use your vocal chords to their maximum on Monday evening at Upton Park. It is a big game for us and our only chance of glory this season. It is a reward for some hard work and application on the training ground. Now we must believe not only that we can win, but that we can go to Wembley.

Tomorrow evening Ceri Hughes looks like receiving his first full international cap on his home soil for Wales. He will join a list on the honours board in our boardroom. It was my great pleasure in the mid-1980's to see such names as Hill, Walsh, Stein and Harford inscribed there for England. We had others at that time too: Nwajiobi (Nigeria), Greash and Grimes (Republic of Ireland), Aizlewood and Nicholas (Wales) and Donaghy (Northern Ireland). It is my ambition to see

more of our present crop gain caps. That would give me immense satisfaction. We will be doing our best tonight to gain a terrific eighth successive home win. You can help us do it. Enjoy the game.

On behalf of all the players and playing staff, a particular thank-you to the friends of the late Mike Wolstenholme, our sponsors tonight. I personally knew Mike, he was a true supporter of our football club. Also to our ball sponsors the Daily Star. We are grateful for your support and wish you all a pleasant evening with us.

Juergen's World Cup ambitions move a step closer

AROUND THE TOWN



BORA KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE



USA '94 coach Bora Milutinovic was present at the Hatters' game against Sunderland on February 26 to keep a check on Town keeper Juergen Sommer. Bora had a lengthy chat with David Pleat after the game and stated that he has been pleased with Juergen's progress so far. "He told me that there are three goalkeeping places up for grabs, and four goalkeepers in with a shout," said Pleat. "The other three keepers are Freidle (the favourite), Meola and Keller, but Juergen is definitely in the running which will give his confidence a nice boost."

AUNGER TRAINS WITH PLYMOUTH

The Town's Canadian international striker Geoff Aunger spent last week training with Peter Shilton's Plymouth Argyle. The Pilgrims are currently third in the Second Division table, with a definite eye on promotion.

RE-ARRANGED DATES

Remember, the Town's outstanding Endsleigh Insurance League Division One home fixture with Millwall has been re-

arranged for Tuesday, April 26, kick-off 7.45 pm. Our away game at Bolton has been arranged for Wednesday, March 16, kick-off 7.30 pm and our trip Bristol City takes place on Tuesday, April 19, kick-off 7.45 pm.

BABY JOY FOR HOUGHTON

We extend our congratulations to Scott Houghton and his wife Debbie on the birth of their first child. Topaz Jade weighed in at 7lbs 14 oz on Wednesday, February 23.

VAUXHALL SOCCER SCHOOLS FOR EASTER

Youth Development Officer Paul Lowe is running a two-day soccer school on Monday, March 28 and Tuesday 29 at the Electrolux Training Ground in Oakley Road, Luton.

From 10.00 am - 3.00 pm on both days, the course will be run by qualified FA coaches and will include:

- * Prizes for players with the best attitude.
- * An opportunity to join one of the Vauxhall/LTFC Centres of Excellence.
- * Guest appearances by Luton Town players and staff.

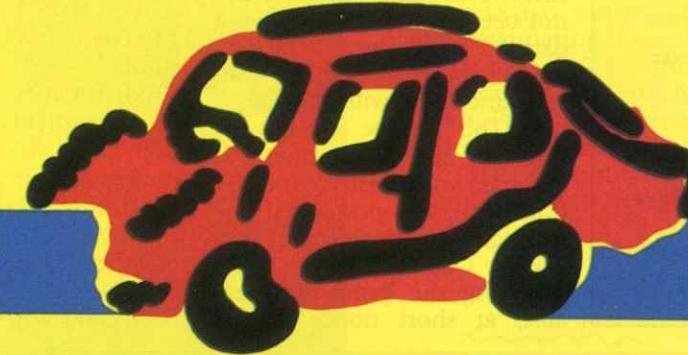
For further information, please contact Paul on (0582) 411622 or collect an application form from the club reception.

SCHOOLBOY SIGNING

The club have signed 14-year-old centre-forward Gary Docherty on associate schoolboy forms. Gary attends the Cardinal Newman School in Luton and has represented Luton Schools since the age of 11. During that time, he has trained at the Vauxhall/LTFC Centre of Excellence in Luton and has also played for the Bedfordshire County Schools team.

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Bolton Wanderers away fixture re-arranged

ON THE INSIDE BY JOHN SMYLINE



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Fax: (0582) 405070.
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Secretary: John Smyline

Manager: David Pleat

Coaches: John Moore,
Wayne Turner, Terry Westley

Physiotherapist: Andy McDade

Youth Development Officer:
Paul Lowe

Scouting: Les Shannon

Commercial:
Kathy Leather (Manager),
Cherry Newbery (Admin Manager),
Gary Hooper (Executive)

Medical Officer: Dr Bill Berry

Club Dentist: A. Chris BDS (Syd)

Honours

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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

Editorial:

Collings Communications,
PR and Media Consultants, Hitchin, Herts.
Tel: 0462 441068 Fax: 0462 441069

Pictures:

Apex Photography (0908) 221010/Luton Herald & Post
McLeod Warner Limited, Luton. Tel: 0582 38389

SAFETY NOTE

The Chairman and Directors of Luton Town Football Club undertake to ensure as far as humanly possible that all activities that take place at the Kenilworth Stadium are conducted in such a way that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of everyone working at or attending the stadium is assured.

The club's primary responsibility through the Safety Officer, Officials, Staff and Stewards will be to ensure the reasonable safety of those attending the stadium.

Keeping our heads down and our minds on the job

CAPTAIN'S COLUMN BY TREVOR PEAKE



With our recent, impressive form, many fans have been talking about a possible play-off place this season. However, the players and staff here are not looking that far ahead and as the old cliche goes, we are taking one game at a time.

Apart from my own silly mistake, which gifted Sunderland their consolation goal last Saturday, I was pleased with yet another dominant performance from the team as we made it three wins in succession. The feeling now is that we have the talent and experience to beat any side in this division and I think that is showing in our play. We seem to be creating chance after chance at the moment and Scott Oakes can't stop scoring!

We have certainly been value for money at Kenilworth Road during the last four months or so, and I am sure you all appreciate the strides we have made since our indifferent start to the season. Although we are only three wins from a play-off place, we must also remember that we are three defeats from the relegation places as well. As the boss says, play-off talk is premature.

These notes are written prior to our game at Forest on Saturday, but we went into the fixture believing we had more than a fighting chance. Middlesbrough will be another stern test for us tonight. After an excellent start, they have fallen away as the season has progressed, but will be looking to make a final push towards the play-off places. I recall, they won at Derby County a couple of weeks ago, so there is no way we will be underestimating them.

The next time I write these notes we will know our FA Cup fate, so if you are going to Upton Park next Monday, enjoy yourselves and make as much noise as humanly possible. We are only two steps away from Wembley. Anything is possible...



Scott Oakes nets another free-kick, and our second, against Sunderland. "He can't stop scoring," says Trevor.

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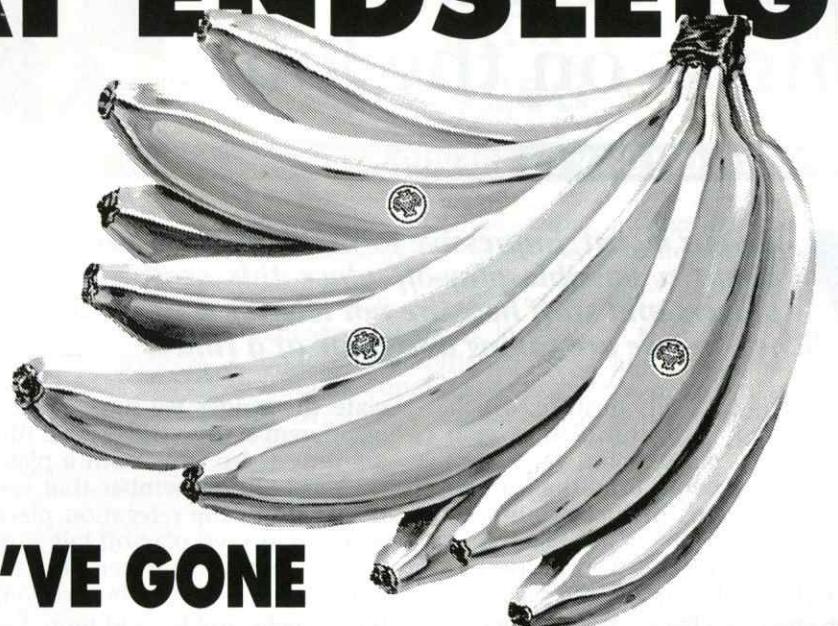
Enjoy the game.



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PLAYER INTERVIEW WITH CERI HUGHES

A call-up to the full Wales side has been the icing on the cake for Ceri Hughes, after his best season to date in Town colours. He is looking forward to challenges which lie ahead, and has one eye firmly focused on the European Championships in 1996.

If you spoke to Ceri Hughes last season, he would admit that he had not been the luckiest of players. Serious injury after serious injury, in a nightmare 18-month spell, ensured a long battle back to full fitness and form. However, this season that has all changed. Our midfield man from the Rhondda Valley has stayed well clear of the attentions of Andy McDade, and that is the reason behind his call-up to John Toshack's first Wales squad, which faces Norway tomorrow.

"Without any injury problems to halt me, I have been able to enjoy a full season in the first-team," he said. "I have therefore reached a peak fitness level and can last the whole 90 minutes, which I struggled to do on my comeback during the back-end of last season. Playing in midfield involves a lot of running and you need to be fit to do an effective job. Being part of a confident team also helps. Then there are players like David Preece and Alan Harper, who are on hand if I want to surge forward and try different things."

Such pulsating runs and strikes at goal have been Ceri's hallmark this season. Who could forget his five-star performance in the 5-0 demolition of Barnsley back in October, or his goals against Crystal Palace, Oxford and Portsmouth? It is such form that has elevated his name back into the spotlight, and he is now ready to make the next step by staking a claim for a regular place in the new-look Wales set-up.

"The first I heard of the call-up was on teletext last week," he recalled. "It came as a bit of a shock, but a very pleasant one. I knew John Toshack's assistant Mike Smith had watched Luton on a couple of occasions, but I had not spoken to him. It is a great feeling to be named again, and I am just hoping I have done enough in recent weeks to warrant a place in the starting line-up."

Ceri's last game for Wales came against Holland, as substitute, two years ago. He admits that experience was 'an overpowering occasion', but he believes he now has the experience and ability to push for a long-term place in the side, starting with this week's game against Norway, and the venue.....Ninian Park.

"I am just hoping the crowd show a bit more compassion than on my last visit there!" he said.

"Seriously though, with a new manager in charge, places are up for grabs so it is up to me to stake my claim," he continued. "If selected, it is important to make an early impression on John Toshack. I am looking forward to working with him. He has a great track record in the game and has had his fair share of success.

"Norway will be hard test for us all. They proved that by qualifying for the World Cup finals. We have seen them quite a bit on TV in the last year, and we are hoping to succeed where England failed!"

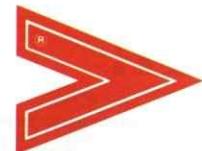
With the likes of Dean Saunders, Gary Speed, Ryan Giggs and Ian Rush in the squad, Ceri believes his country have a great chance of making the finals in England in two years time. He is desperate to be a part of that set-up but he knows that he must sustain his form with the Hatters, helping them to greater heights along the way, to stand a greater chance.

"Luton is my bread and butter and everything counts on how well I play for them. If we continue to be successful, we are kept in the spotlight, which can only help my chances. Our FA Cup run this season has been an added bonus, and the way the team are playing at the moment, I can see us going all the way.

"We fancy our chances against West Ham next week and, after playing at St James' Park and Ninian Park, we have nothing to fear.



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Fans' Forum



TRAVELLING TO BOLTON?

The local authority in Bolton has recently introduced a By-law creating an Alcohol Free Zone in the vicinity of the ground and Bolton town centre. Drinking alcohol from glasses, bottles or cans, whether purchased within licensed premises or from elsewhere, is prohibited within the zone.

Please be aware of this restriction if you are travelling to the game on March 16. For ticket and travel details for this match, please see page 15 of tonight's match day magazine.

BIG FIGHT DETAILS

We have been asked to remind Town fans that the Michael Bent v Herbie Hide W.B.O. Heavyweight title fight takes place at Millwall Football Club on Saturday, March 19, 1994. Ringside ticket prices are: £150, £100, £75, £50. Under cover: £50, £40, £30, £20. Hospitality packages are also available by calling 071-237 5407. For extensive coach pickups throughout the UK, call 0487-843333.

AN EDUCATION IN ITSELF

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank Community Liaison Officer Gary Hooper for organising the visits for our year six and year five classes, to come and work at Luton Town with Mr Dawson. The children really enjoyed their visits. Many rated it the best school visit they had ever been on.

I would also like to thank Gary for organising arrangements for our match day visit against Oxford United. All the parents and children were very grateful. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable day which was complemented by the scoreline.

Graeme Russell, Headteacher, Tennyson Road Primary School, Tennyson Road, Luton LU1 3RS.

THE FOOTBALL PROGRAMME DIRECTORY

Dear Sir,

I would like to remind your readers that the Football Programme Directory is now in circulation. Available on a monthly basis, our

circulation at present is approximately 1,000 and copies are sent abroad too. However, there are still many programme collectors in the UK who are not aware of our organisation.

For details on subscription and other offers, I can be contacted at the address below.

With kind regards,
David Stacey, 66 Southend Road, Wickford, Essex SS11 8EN. Telephone (0268) 732041.

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Action Replay

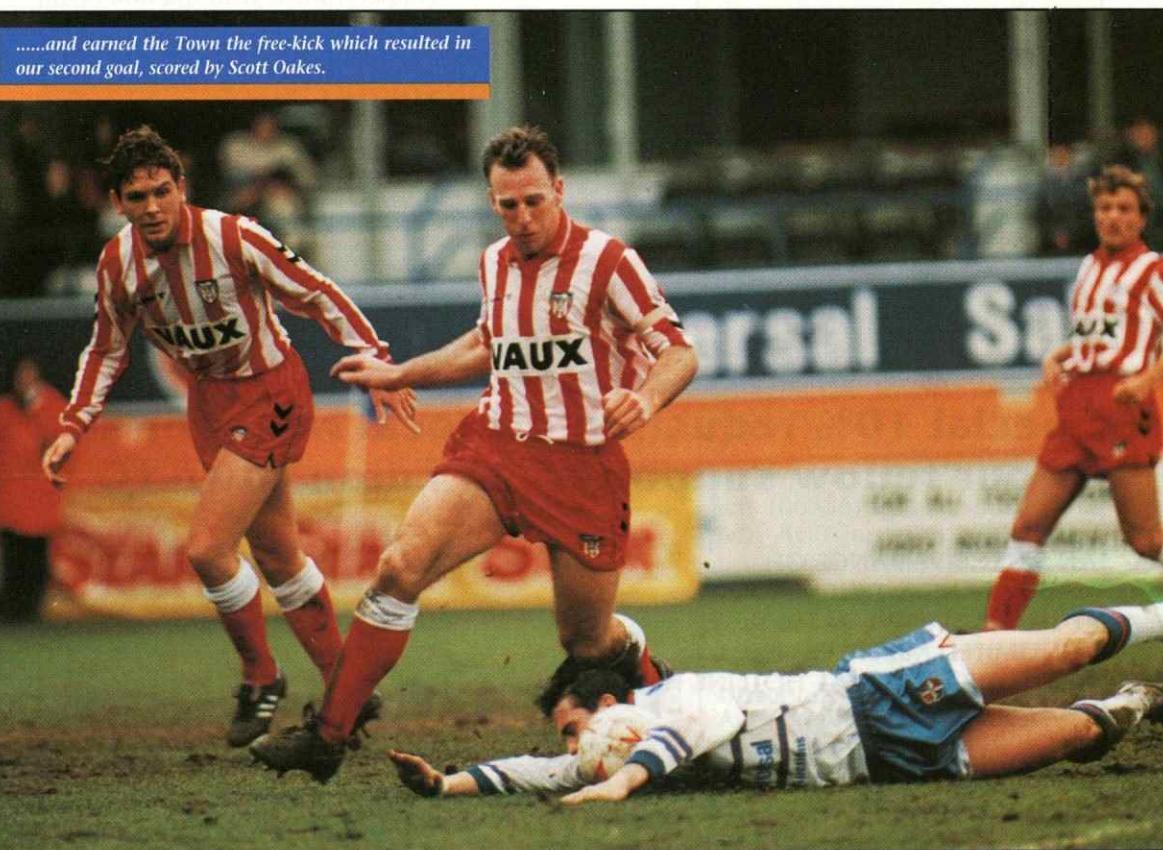
PICTURES BY JOSH LEVY

From: Kenilworth Road
Date: February 26, 1994
LUTON TOWN 2
(Hughes, Oakes)
SUNDERLAND 1
(Howey)
Attendance: 9,367

John Hartson breaks free from the Sunderland defence.



Ceri Hughes celebrated his 23rd birthday and a call-up to the full Wales squad with a goal.....



.....and earned the Town the free-kick which resulted in our second goal, scored by Scott Oakes.

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Ticket Office news update



BY CHERRY NEWBERY

Bolton Wanderers v Luton Town

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
Wednesday, March 16, 1994 - kick-off 7.30 pm

Tickets for this match are only available at Bolton on the day of the match. Seating is priced at £10.00 (no concessions). Standing £7.50 (no concessions).

Luton Town v Birmingham City

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
Saturday, March 19, 1994 - kick-off 3.00 pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale. Normal league prices and guesting facilities apply.

Luton Town v Wolverhampton Wanderers

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
Tuesday, March 22, 1994 - kick-off 7.45 pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale. Normal league prices and guesting facilities apply.

Barnsley v Luton Town

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
Saturday, March 26, 1994 - kick-off 3.00 pm

Tickets for this match are only available on the day of the match from Barnsley. Seating is priced at £10.00 (no concessions). Standing £6.50 (no concessions).

Ticket Office Hours

Monday - Friday 10 am - 5 pm
Non-Match Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

Match Saturdays 9 am - kick off, after the match 4.45 pm - 5.15 pm

For bookings, membership and enquiries, ring the Ticket Office on (0582) 416976. Supporters wishing to order by credit card can do so by using the 24-hour Credit Card Hotline on (0582) 30748.

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Take the M1 south to join A406 (north circular road). Then follow signs (A104) to Leytonstone. Then take the A114 to Forest Gate Station. Turn left at the T-junction then right into Green Street for the Boleyn Ground.

Bolton Wanderers

Address: Burden Park,
Bolton BL3 2QR.
Telephone: (0204) 382334.

Take the M1 north to junction 19. Branch left to join M6 (signs The North West then Preston) to junction 21A. Branch left to join M62 to junction 14. Branch left again (signs Bolton) to join M61. In 2.1 miles leave motorway (A666). In 1.8 miles branch left (B6536) and at end, turn left. At T-junction turn right into Manchester Road then right again into Croft Lane for ground.

Directions courtesy of the
Automobile Association.

Spotlight on tonight's visitors

MIDDLESBROUGH F.C. 1993-94

■ Following relegation from the Premier League, Middlesbrough made a wonderful start to their 1993-94 First Division programme. Four straight victories elevated the club to the top of the table and a goal ratio of 13:5 pointed towards immediate promotion back into the top flight. Victories over promotion hopefuls Derby County (H, 3-0) and Wolves (A, 3-2) thrust the spotlight on Lennie Lawrence's men.

■ Opposition defences started to pay more attention to the Middlebrough attack and the goals began to dry up. Allied with injury problems and a lack of confidence, Boro endured a worrying slide which they have failed to halt ever since. Six league games followed without a win and was only halted by an emphatic 4-1 victory over Sunderland in mid-October. That game was seen by the Ayresome Park faithful as the point to kick-start their season back into action. However, such ambitions did not materialise.

■ Four wins in their next 17 league games resulted in a slump to 16th place in the league table. A 1-0 win at Derby County a fortnight ago



Back row (left to right): Craig Fleming, Nicky Mohan, Paul Wilkinson, Alan Kernaghan (now Man City), Richard Liburd, Derek Whyte.

Middle row (left to right): Robbie Mustoe, Chris Morris, Stephen Pears, Ian Ironside, Jamie Pollock, Graham Kavanagh.

Front row (left to right): Mark Nile (physio), Alan Moore, Lennie Lawrence (manager), John Hendrie, John Pickering (assistant manager), Tommy Wright, Tommy Johnson (physio).



VISITORS ON PARADE

STEPHEN PEARS (goalkeeper) - Stephen started his career with Manchester United, before signing for Middlesbrough for £80,000 in 1985. He was ever-present in Boro's promotion seasons of 1986-1988 and was player-of-the-year in 1991/92. Injury ruled him out of an England call-up that season.

CURTIS FLEMING (defender) - Curtis started his career with Irish side St Patrick's, before his transfer to Boro in August 1991. He established himself in the first-team last season, making 27 appearances at full-back.

RICHARD LIBURD (defender) - A player who was rejected by Nottingham Forest, Richard was spotted playing Sunday football by non-league Eastwood Town. He joined them last season and was recommended to Boro. Two trial games were enough to convince Lennie Lawrence of his potential and he joined the club for £20,000.

STEVE VICKERS (defender) - Steve was offered the chance to join Boro as a youngster, but instead signed for Tranmere Rovers. He made nearly 400 league and cup appearances for the Birkenhead club before moving to Ayresome Park for £700,000 in December 1993.

DEREK WHYTE (defender) - Derek joined Celtic from the club's junior side, Celtic Boys Club in 1985. He has represented Scotland at all levels and was a member of the 1992 European Championship Finals squad. He was persuaded south by Lennie Lawrence, joining the club last year.

JAMIE POLLOCK (midfield) - A former club YTS trainee, Jamie made his debut in 1991 at the age of 17. An England youth international, he toured with the national side for last season's Under-18's World Championships in Australia.

ROBBIE MUSTOE (midfield) - Robbie signed for Boro in a £375,000 move from Oxford United

in 1990. He emerged through the ranks at the Manor Ground and during his time there, made the England under-21 squad. His appearances last season were limited by injury.

ANDY PEAKE (midfield) - Andy was signed by Lennie Lawrence from their previous club Charlton Athletic for £150,000 in November 1991. His previous clubs include Leicester and Grimsby and he should clock up 500 league and cup appearances by the end of this season.

JOHN HENDRIE (forward) - John joined Boro for £500,000 in 1990 from Leeds United. He started his career with Coventry City and has also served Newcastle United and Bradford City.

PAUL WILKINSON (forward) - A former apprentice with Grimsby Town, Paul's career took him to Everton, Nottingham Forest and Watford, from where Lennie Lawrence bought him in a £500,000 deal in August 1991. In his first season he notched a personal record of 24 goals to finish as Boro's top scorer.

ALAN MOORE (forward) - Alan was spotted playing for his local club Rivermont. A Republic of Ireland schoolboy international, he has since gone on to represent his country at youth and under-21 levels. He scored two goals on his full debut for Boro this season.

CRAIG HIGNETT (forward) - Craig started his career as a trainee with Liverpool. He was released and joined Crewe Alexandra, where he was leading goalscorer last season. Boro signed him for £500,000 in November 1992 after he had scored 15 goals in 19 games.

TOMMY WRIGHT (forward) - A former Scottish youth and under-21 international, Tommy started his career with Leeds United, and has also served Oldham and Leicester City, from where Boro signed him for £650,000 in July 1992.

MEET THE BOSS



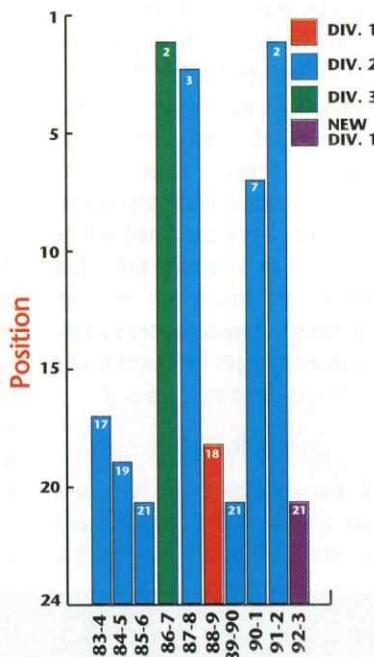
Lennie Lawrence joined Boro in July 1991 after the departure of Colin Todd. He had previously spent nine years at Charlton Athletic, where he was the third longest-serving manager behind Brian Clough and Joe Royle.

He took the Addicks into Division One in 1986, after a 29-year absence, which was the icing on the cake after the club had petered on the brink of bankruptcy. However, they were relegated in 1990 and Lennie resigned shortly afterwards.

He started his Boro career in explosive fashion, taking the club into the Premier League in his first season at Ayresome Park and to the semi-finals of the League Cup. A year later the smiles had turned to sadness as Boro were relegated back into Division One, where they have since struggled to recapture former glories.

Lennie is one of the few modern day managers not to have played professional football. The former school master appeared for Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton United in the Isthmian League.

10 YEAR RECORD



PUTTING THE FANS FIRST FOR EURO 96

THE EVENT

In June 1996 the European Championship Finals will be held in England for the very first time. With sixteen nations competing for the trophy, dramatically won by Denmark in 1992, the tournament will not only be the largest European Championship ever, but will also be the greatest sporting event held in England since the 1966 World Cup. Hosting the tournament is a great honour for the English game after some challenging times and is a great reward for all genuine football fans in this country.

TICKETS

Euro 96 will offer a feast of football from many of the world's best players. The ticketing strategy for Euro 96 breaks new ground in terms of both availability and pricing and provides a great opportunity for football supporters throughout the country. Unusually for a major international football tournament, it will be possible to buy a ticket for an individual match. Previously supporters have had to buy packages of tickets for several matches. However, tickets for the knock-out stages of the tournament (Quarters, Semis and Final) will be allocated on a 'loyalty' basis. This means that priority will be given to fans who have supported Euro 96 in its early stages (by buying tickets to at least three group games).

PRICES

A single match ticket to witness the excitement of Euro 96 can cost as little as £15. It is also possible



to see, for example, six matches during Euro 96 (three group games, a Quarter-Final, a Semi-Final and the Final) for just £160. This is good value by any standards and exceptional when compared with a similar package on offer at this year's World Cup currently costing more than £300.

A direct debit scheme specially created for Euro 96 will also enable football fans to spread the cost of tickets over a period of six months.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION

Ticket application forms for Euro 96 are available now from all FA Premier League Club and Football League Club ticket offices for season ticket holders and club members. For further information telephone Euro 96 on 078 274 1996.

EURO 96 is a department of The Football Association



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22 Kerry Dixon

8 Scott Oakes

SUBS

14 John Hartson

15 Tony Thorpe

1 Andy Petterson

Andy Collett

16 Tommy Wright

11 Craig Hignett

SUBS

1 Stephen Pears

15 Curtis Fleming

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HARRY OF THE HATTERS



JUNIOR HATTERS

Tonight we welcome all young supporters of Middlesbrough who have travelled down to be with us tonight. We hope you enjoy your short stay at Kenilworth Road and have a safe journey home.

If you travelled to Nottingham Forest on Saturday, I hope you had a great time playing the Junior Reds at 5-a-side before the game and watching the first-team in action afterwards. I hear there were a number of budding Kerry Dixons and Scott Oakes' in our side for the 5-a-side games. We always have great days out on our organised trips to opposing grounds and, as you can see below, we will be visiting Barnsley soon, so book your place now by telephoning (0582) 416976.

On Thursday, March 31, Pizza Hut (UK) are holding a national charity evening to raise funds for the 'Whizzkids' charity, who are an organisation which help children with mobility problems. If you buy a meal at any Pizza Hut branch within the UK on that evening, a donation will be made to Whizzkids. At

MATCH DAY MASCOT



Name: Jennifer Mitchell
Date of Birth: 31.3.82
School Attended: Norton School
Hobbies: Football and most sports
Favourite Luton player: David Preece

Who accompanies you to Luton matches: My Dad

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our local Luton and Dunstable Pizza Hut branches, Luton Town players will be present to lend their support, so come along yourself for a fun evening in which you be helping a worthwhile cause at the same time.

Prior to our home game with Birmingham City on Saturday, March 19, we will be holding a soccer skills demonstration on the pitch, in association with Soccer PAL. If you are interested in taking part, we have 12 places on offer for those of you who can answer the following question: Which country won the first World Cup final in 1930? Send your answers to Junior Hatters World Cup Competition, Luton Town FC, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds LU4 8AW. Closing date for entry is Monday, March 14.

JUNIOR HATTERS TRAVEL

Travel arrangements for the away game at Barnsley is as follows:

26.3.94 Barnsley - depart Kenilworth Road forecourt: 11.00 am.

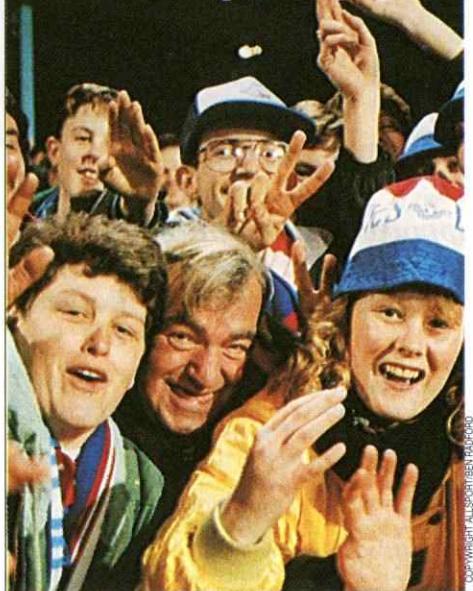
Arrive home approximately 8.15 pm.

The price for all matches this season has been fixed at £5.00 for Junior Hatters and £8.00 for accompanying adults (price includes tickets for the match). Booking and payment can be made via the Ticket Office up to four days prior to the match.

JUNIOR HATTERS' BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

March 11 - 18: Gavin Couper, Alan Downes, Jonathan Cook, Billy Moffat, Mark Franklin, Ashley Robinson, James Folan, Kirk Scrivener, Ricky Strapp, Stephen Bolster, Matthew Boast, Michael Kinloch, Emma Cooke, Scott Truman, Christopher Plumb, Paul McCrory, Michelle Whitehead, Laura Beechey, Rhiannon Morgan, Paul Flattery, Daniel Everitt, Ross King, Thomas Underwood, Matthew Wilde, Paul O'Hara, James Mead, Rebecca Hudson, Gareth Fossey, Ben Craft, Oliver Froom, Paul Wigger, Andrew Barracough, James Walker, Adam Tiley, Lee Petryszyn, Simon Petrosillo, Martin Read, Karl Drew, Richard Wade, Tracey Lawrence, Scott Ingram, Robert Pay, Amy Hanifin, Neal Barrett, Benjamin Holland, Carl Linton, Gavin Taylor, David Malia. Happy Birthday to you all!

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Football is much more than a game of 90 minutes. Every day clubs throughout Britain are providing recreational and sporting opportunities for their local communities.

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OUR PULSATING SHOW IN THE SNOW

Town fans who managed to beat the bitter weather conditions were treated to a goal feast against Portsmouth at Kenilworth Road on February 22. An opening header by Paul Telfer was only the start as David Preece, Scott Oakes and Ceri Hughes sent the Town on their way to an emphatic 4-1 win. Preece (above) is pictured netting his 20-yard effort, while Oakes (below) shoots narrowly wide.



Neville Ovenden Football Combination Season 1993-94

Wed	18 Aug	West Ham United	4-1
Wed	25 Aug	Queens Park Rangers	4-2
Wed	1 Sept	Watford	5-1
Wed	8 Sept	Wimbledon	1-1
Thu	16 Sept	Norwich City	2-3
Wed	22 Sept	Tottenham Hotspur	1-2
Mon	27 Sept	Langford (BPC)	2-1
Wed	29 Sept	Oxford United	4-3
Wed	6 Oct	Portsmouth	4-2
Wed	13 Oct	Swindon Town	2-1
Tue	19 Oct	Watford	2-4
Wed	27 Oct	Southampton	1-3
Mon	1 Nov	Queens Park Rangers	1-3
Wed	10 Nov	Southampton	1-1
Wed	17 Nov	Arsenal	1-1
Wed	24 Nov	Portsmouth	0-1
Mon	29 Nov	Oxford United	0-4
Fri	3 Dec	Crystal Palace	0-1
Mon	6 Dec	Stotfold (BPC2)	1-0
Tue	14 Dec	Arsenal	3-2
Fri	17 Dec	Norwich City	1-4
Mon	17 Jan	Barton Rovers (BPC3)	1-0
Wed	19 Jan	Bristol Rovers	1-0
Mon	24 Jan	Chelsea	1-5
Wed	2 Feb	Ipswich Town	2-2
Wed	9 Feb	Brighton & Hove Albion	1-1
Mon	21 Feb	Millwall	1-2
Thu	3 Mar	Ipswich Town	2-3
Tue	8 Mar	West Ham United	
Wed	16 Mar	Bristol Rovers	
Wed	23 Mar	Millwall	
Mon	28 Mar	Charlton Athletic	
Tue	5 Apr	Crystal Palace	
Tue	12 Apr	Bristol City	
Mon	18 Apr	Swindon Town	
Sat	23 Apr	Tottenham Hotspur	
Thur	28 Apr	Chelsea	
Mon	2 May	Bristol City	
Wed	4 May	Charlton Athletic	
T.B.A. Wimbledon (a), Brighton (h), Bedford Town (BPCF)			

Neville Ovenden Football Combination League Table

(up to and including 26.2.94)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	24	16	6	2	55	23	54
Swindon Town	22	13	1	8	33	25	40
Southampton	25	11	7	7	41	38	40
Millwall	25	10	7	8	45	42	37
Norwich City	26	10	7	9	46	44	37
Arsenal	27	10	5	12	49	51	35
Ipswich Town	21	10	4	7	41	34	34
West Ham United	20	9	6	5	30	23	33
Bristol Rovers	23	8	9	6	30	28	33
Q.P.R.	23	10	3	10	36	34	33
Tottenham Hotspur	22	8	6	8	38	27	30
Crystal Palace	24	7	9	8	30	31	30
Oxford United	25	7	8	10	40	43	29
LUTON TOWN	24	8	5	11	43	50	29
Wimbledon	23	6	10	7	25	32	28
Brighton & H.A.	21	6	8	7	24	23	26
Portsmouth	25	6	8	11	27	41	26
Bristol City	21	5	6	10	23	44	21
Watford	21	5	6	11	32	44	20
Charlton Athletic	18	4	2	12	17	31	14

RESERVES

TURNER'S MEN FALL TO SUCKER PUNCH

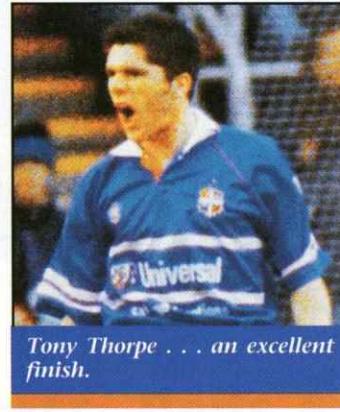
Ipswich Town 3
Luton Town 2
Neville Ovenden Football Combination, Thursday, March 3, 1994.

In a closely-fought game against a very strong and experienced Ipswich Town outfit, Wayne Turner's reserve side were narrowly defeated at Bury St Edmonds last Thursday. In a high quality game which was dominated by crisp, sharp, passing movement, the Town looked well beaten as they trailed 2-0 after half-an-hour.

However, the sending-off of Ipswich's Steve Whitton turned events upside down and the Town battled back. "The dismissal proved to be the turning point," said Wayne. "We came into the game then and the pressure paid off as we scored two brilliant goals. The first came from Tony Thorpe, who took on four players before beating the keeper, and the second was a curling effort from Scott Houghton.

"To our credit, we kept the pressure on and looked the more likely to score a winner."

The Ipswich line-up included



Tony Thorpe . . . an excellent finish.

Guentchev, Yallop, Goddard, Gregory and Johnson. They made it extremely difficult for the young Hatters - which included a complete back four of under-19 players - to net a winner. Then disaster struck. As both sides looked likely to pick up a point each, Ipswich crashed home a 25-yard shot which had Andy Petterson well beaten. It was a disappointing end to an otherwise entertaining game for Wayne. "It was sickening to lose so late into the game, especially after we had done so well to get back on equal terms," he added. "I think a draw would have been a fair result, and talking to the Ipswich staff afterwards, they agreed, we put up a good fight against a team who had the best movement I have seen in the Combination this season."

Team: Petterson, Maskell, Riach, Thorpe 1, Greene, Philp, Williams, Campbell, Hartson, Aunger, Houghton 1. Subs: Ryan, Gentle.

Youth forward Jamie Woodsford is out of action for seven weeks after damaging ankle ligaments for a second time this season. The injury happened during a 5-a-side training session last week and he therefore missed, along with Paul McLaren, the England under-17 game at Marlow yesterday. Goalkeeper Kelvin Davis was due to play in the game.



. . . likewise Scott Houghton.

and



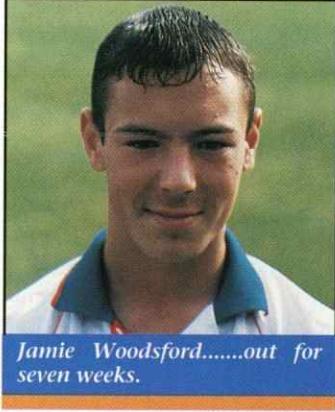
YOUNG TEAM BATTLE AGAINST THE ODDS

Southampton 2 Luton Town 1
South East Counties League Division Two, Saturday, February 26, 1994.

With a view to next season, Terry Westley continued to pack his side with schoolboys for the game with Southampton last week. In the absence of injured centre-half Paul McLaren, Terry was able to give trialist Ben Maskell a run-out in the side and he was pleased with his progress.

"I saw Ben play for an England representative side last season, although at the time he was on Brentford's books. He then picked up a serious groin injury and was released. We thought we would put him in our side to see how he would get on, and I must say he did quite well. We will now have a look to see how he handles playing in our reserve side."

The young Hatters faced an uphill struggle after leaking two goals in two minutes in the first-half. The manner in which the goals were conceded disappointed Terry. "Both goals were



Jamie Woodsford.....out for seven weeks.

YOUTH

BY WAYNE TURNER AND TERRY WESTLEY



Danny Power.....impressive display.

identical," he added. "They came from long throws into our box we we failed to deal with them.

"We woke up after that and clawed our way back into the game. A superb Matthew Woolgar strike from outside the box kept us in with a shouting chance at half-time, but a second goal just did not materialise. We had Kelvin Davis to thank in the second-half on a couple of occasions, so I suppose the scoreline was a fair reflection on how things went."

Terry's man-of-the-match was young Danny Power, who he singled out for special praise. "Danny was our best player last Saturday," he stated. "He competed well and passed the ball quickly and effectively. He is a quiet lad, but we are hoping he is starting to come out of his shell now."

Team: Davis, Jukes, Maskell, Simpson, Chenery, Palmer, Woolgar 1, Power, Goodridge, Issott, Woodsford. Subs: Turner, Wilmott.

South East Counties League Division Two Season 1993-94

Sat 14 Aug	Swindon Town	1-1
Sat 21 Aug	Crystal Palace	1-1
Sat 28 Aug	Reading	1-2
Sat 4 Sept	Wimbledon	1-0
Sat 11 Sept	Tottenham Hotspur	0-1
Wed 15 Sept	West Ham United (SJFC1)	1-1
Sat 18 Sept	Charlton Athletic (SECLC1)	3-1
Sat 25 Sept	Brighton & Hove Albion	2-3
Sat 2 Oct	Oxford United	1-1
Mon 11 Oct	West Ham United (SFJC1R)	3-1
Sat 16 Oct	Brentford	1-1
Sat 23 Oct	Chelsea (SECLC2)	2-5
Tue 26 Oct	Derby County (FAYC1)	1-1
Sat 30 Oct	Bournemouth	2-1
Thu 4 Nov	Cambridge City (EJC1)	4-1
Sat 6 Nov	Southampton	2-1
Sat 13 Nov	Colchester United	5-3
Tue 16 Nov	Derby County (FAYC1R)	1-1
Sat 20 Nov	Bristol Rovers	1-0
Tue 23 Nov	Arsenal (SJFC2)	1-2
Wed 1 Dec	Derby County (FAYC1, 2R)	0-1
Sat 4 Dec	Bristol Rovers	0-5
Sat 11 Dec	Swindon Town	2-0
Sat 18 Dec	Crystal Palace	2-1
Sat 1 Jan	Reading	2-1
Sat 22 Jan	Brighton & Hove Albion	1-4
Sat 29 Jan	Oxford United	1-4
Sat 5 Feb	Bristol City	4-0
Mon 7 Feb	East Thurrock (EJC2)	2-1
Sat 12 Feb	Brentford	1-4
Sat 19 Feb	Bournemouth	3-2
Sat 26 Feb	Southampton	1-2
Sat 5 Mar	Colchester United	
T.B.A. Bristol City, Wimbledon, Tottenham (all away)		

South East Counties League Division Two Table

(up to and including 26.2.94)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	21	12	1	8	53	38	25
Crystal Palace	19	10	5	4	41	26	25
Swindon Town	19	10	4	5	36	20	24
Oxford United	19	10	4	5	45	26	24
Brentford	21	9	6	6	33	25	24
LUTON TOWN	22	10	4	8	35	38	24
Bristol Rovers	21	8	4	9	35	39	20
Reading	16	7	5	4	29	24	19
Brighton & H.A.	21	7	5	9	32	39	19
Southampton	19	6	5	8	22	23	17
Tottenham Hotspur	21	7	3	11	30	41	17
Colchester United	23	6	5	12	31	50	17
Bournemouth	20	7	1	12	32	42	15
Bristol City	18	3	4	11	20	38	10

Alan Harper: Luck and confidence goes a long, long way



PLAYER INTERVIEW

The pitch of the voice and the look in his eyes tell you that Alan Harper is a happy man. And so he should be. In 29 appearances for the Hatters, since joining the club in September, he has been on the losing side only nine times and has played a big part in the consistent run since December.....

"My first game for the club was the away match at Tranmere Rovers. We lost 4-1 and afterwards I wondered how. I just could not believe it. We never deserved to lose the game, let alone 4-1. So, I just put it down to luck. We had no luck then. Now we have and the change in our fortunes has given everyone a lot of confidence."

So said Alan Harper, the man whose consistency in a holding job in midfield has helped transform all that early season promise into a series of good results. Modest, as he is, he deflects all praise for his own contribution to the group of men around him.

"I am just enjoying playing with such a talented group of youngsters," he said. "I am the old man now at 33 and I am happy to leave them to do the running. It suits me. Just like the club suits me. I can honestly say I am enjoying my football more than at any time in my career since the days when we had a successful side at Everton.

"It is not just that we have a talented group of players. It is that they are a confident bunch of lads. They have been that way all the way through. I am glad for them because they had no luck at all in those early games when I first came down."

But surely it is not all down to luck? "No, not at all," agrees Alan, who has kept a home on Merseyside and travels down to be with the team two days before each match. "It is all sorts of things. But sometimes a team can get into a run and it is difficult to break out of it.

"You can see that in cup competitions. Some teams seem to have things going their way. But if you get a good run going, it is because of talent and consistency. You don't go 14 games with only one defeat unless the quality is there. It speaks for itself really.

"We have got a system here which suits me. Everyone around me seems to love to go forward — David Preece, Paul Telfer, Scott Oakes and Ceri Hughes — so it suits me to be the man left behind at my age! After all, I was brought up at Liverpool and

Everton to get hold of the ball and to pass it straight-away. If you didn't you got clobbered.

"People ask me about the differences between the big clubs in Liverpool and playing here and it feels much the same really. The only difference is the size of the ground. The club is very close and friendly with a good family atmosphere and I like that.

"I am relishing the recent run of form and success because I know how well the team is playing and I can enjoy that."

Alan's career has seen him playing in many different positions. He started as a centre-back at Everton, but was moved to right-back and has played all over the defensive and midfield positions, including a successful role as sweeper. He said he likes his current position the best.

"I am enjoying centre-midfield. It is my favourite position and I feel it suits me well. I can see the game and read it and it gives me a chance to pace myself a little. But I have to say that if we are thinking about age, then only one man really deserves a tribute and that is Trevor Peake.

"He has been the most consistent player in the team in my time here. He is a magnificent player and a great example to everyone else. And he makes me feel young too!"

For Alan, who is married and has three children, it has been a strange season. Unwanted at first, after being released by Everton, he was approached by Stoke and Sunderland without any offer resulting before his arrival at Kenilworth Road. "It was a really pleasant surprise," he recalled. "I saw the team's league position and expected the worst but everything was much better than I anticipated. I was right too. Just look at the results.

"Now I think we have every chance of more success. Anything can happen in the Cup and after going to Newcastle and Cardiff, we have no reason to be worried about West Ham. It will be nice to be the underdogs again too!"



Gordon Turner: Scourge of the 'Boro



BACK TRACKING BY ROGER WASH

Considering the respective histories of the Town and Middlesbrough, it is surprising that the teams have not met frequently over the years. Indeed, until the early 1960's, we had crossed paths only four times.

Season 1960/61 saw the Town back in Division Two after suffering relegation. By the time of the visit of Middlesbrough on November 19, we had hardly set the league alight and were holding a mid-table position.

Manager Sam Bartram decided to recall Allan Brown to the side and it was the ex-Scotland international who laid on goals for Les Spencer and Mike Tracey, and then scored himself, in the first 15 minutes.

Record Town marksman Gordon Turner then scored two, and missed a penalty, as the Middlesbrough defence was given a complete runaround. Brown was on target again for number six with Ben Waldock scoring a consolation for Boro with just about their only telling shot of the afternoon.

In the return - a meaningless end-of-season fixture Brian Clough, who was well looked after by John Groves at Kenilworth Road, netted twice to counter a solitary strike from Roland Legate. The scoreline could have been graver, but for the goalkeeper exploits of veteran Ron Baynham.

Thankfully, by the time of the next meeting, Clough had been transferred to Sunderland. At Ayresome Park on September 20, 1961 it was the Town who looked more likely to score in the early stages, with Harry Walden and Jim Fleming missing early opportunities. It was, therefore, against the run of play when Alan Peacock put Boro into the lead in the seventh minute, but justice was done when Turner equalised with a delicate shot shortly afterwards.

Arthur Kaye beat Baynham with ease to give Boro an interval lead, but the Town fought back in the second period and scored three goals without reply, to complete an emphatic and unexpected victory: Tom McKenchie hit two - one a mis-hit and the other a bullet header - while Turner smacked home the other from the penalty spot for his 200th goal in league football.

In the return the following week, Boro defender Mick McNeil was absent on England duty, and his place was taken by 17-year-old debutant Bill Gates

whose job was to mark Turner. The Town went in at the interval 3-0 up after a sparkling performance, and goal, by Turner. Alec Ashcroft and McKenchie were also on target. Unfortunately, the Town relaxed a little too much in the second-half and Peacock hit two opportunist efforts just before the end to give the scoreline an unrealistic look.

Season 1962/63, which eventually saw the Town suffer further relegation, opened with only one win in 13 games. A visit to Ayresome Park on October 27 was not looked on as a game to break this sequence, but a 2-0 victory was a pleasing shock result.

In truth, it was a 'smash and grab' raid by the Town. Alwyn McGuffie set the tone by scoring from 35 yards and the second was scored by that man Turner who pounced on a through ball from man-of-the-match McGuffie.

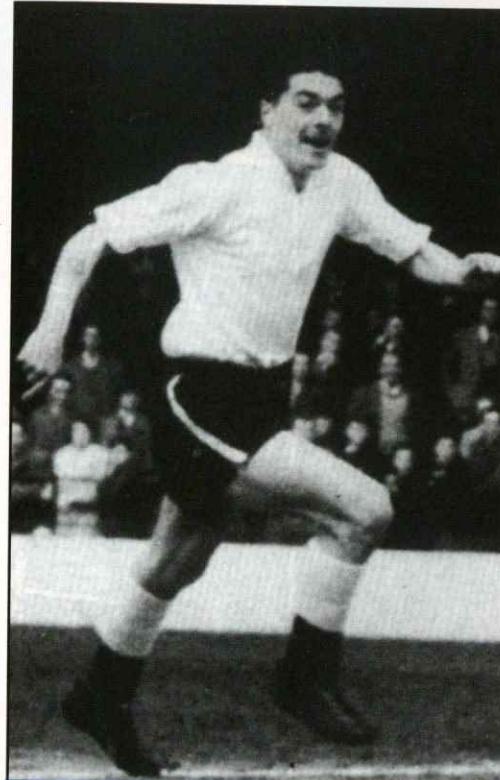
By the time of the return, we were dead and buried in the league. However, it was clear that the Town and in particular Turner, enjoyed playing Boro. In a rip-roaring display we were 3-0 up at half-time, cheered on by a 6,431 crowd.

Walden was in top form, setting up goals for Jim Goldie, Jack Lornie and Turner before having to leave the field after a clash with uncompromising Boro defender Ray Yeoman. Against ten men, Middlesbrough took the upper hand to equalise through Bryan Orritt and Peacock (2), only for Turner to score an unlikely winner with an unstoppable winner just before the end.

How Boro must have enjoyed the Town's relegation!

Previous Encounters

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	11	7	1	3	21	12
Away	12	4	4	4	14	11
Total	23	11	5	7	35	23



Gordon Turner: a handful for any defence, particularly Middlesbrough's.

DOWN THE YEARS

5

A second-half penalty converted by Danny Wilson was not enough as the Town went down 2-1 to Millwall at Kenilworth Road. (11.3.89).

10

On a bitterly cold night, two goals from Trevor Aylott saw off a disinterested Ipswich Town at Kenilworth Road. (13.3.84).

15

Goals from Chris Turner and Ricky Hill ensured the customary home victory over Orient, in front of a crowd of 6,003. (10.3.79).

20

Another cold day and another victory, this time at Hull. The Luton goalscorers in a 3-1 win were Alan West, Peter Anderson and John Aston. (9/3/74).

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LUTON TOWN?



When did Luton Town chase Middlesbrough, with Charlton the eventual winner?



Who played for Luton Town and managed Middlesbrough?

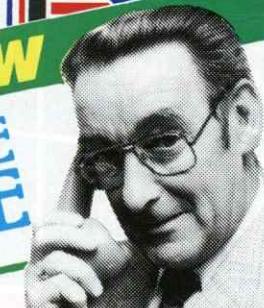


Who was the Luton Wembley wizard who played for Middlesbrough?



For the full Match Report, read —

Brian Swain's SPORTSVIEW
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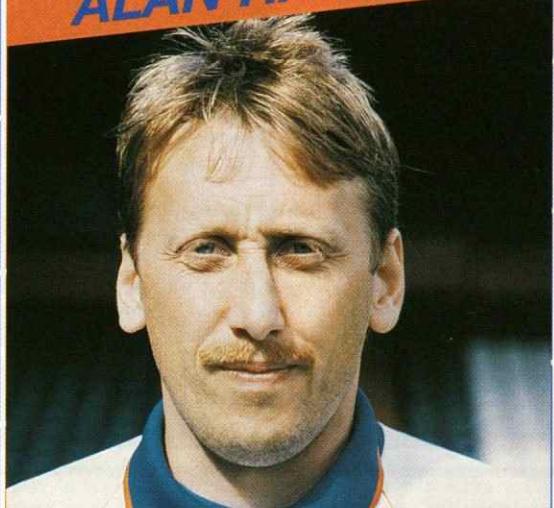
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Offside or onside? Not an easy decision...

TALKING POINT – BY TIM COLLINGS



Have you ever been a linesman? Standing on the touchline, trying to read the play, one eye on the last defender, one on the centre-forward and trying to concentrate while all around are doing their best to distract you? Easy? No way....

I know. I have been there. Done it. Heard it all before. 'Make sure you raise your flag when the ball is played forward,' the referee said. Well, it is easy for him to say that, but out there on the touchline, with the sun in your eyes, or someone barracking behind your back, or the defence and the forwards switching positions like dancers at an old-fashioned party, it is very difficult.

I know. I have done it. In fact, a few weeks ago, while officiating at a local district cubs' league match, on a Saturday morning, I even managed to point my flag in the wrong direction when a throw-in had to be awarded. I was lucky. The biggest player on the losing team was only 11 years old! But I learned my lesson — do not coach, wave to a friend and talk to the supporters all at the same time.

Luckily, of course, my attempts at masquerading as a man in black (or green) are only voluntary, strictly amateur and just for pleasure. (Exactly whose pleasure I shall leave open to doubt — no suggestions this week, thanks). But if I were doing it seriously.... Well, that is another matter, isn't it? As those two incidents a couple of weeks ago showed us.

One came at Selhurst Park where Manchester United imperiously hammered Wimbledon out of the FA Cup and the other at Ninian Park, where David Preece's outstanding, near-telepathic reading of the game and athletic surge of pace and skill and silky left foot and (...that's enough of that, Ed.) ...created our winner against Cardiff.

Both were said to be controversial goals. At least, that is what some of the television pundits believed — and talked about — and, of course, some of the losing players, managers and chairmen. Well, I've got news for them all....Both goals were okay and legal. And

everyone would know they were too if they had read the latest circulars from the Football Association.

To re-cap, briefly. When Eric Cantona volleyed his goal for United, Andrei Kanchelskis had moved into an offside position — but was adjudged not to be interfering with the play. (Much to the chagrin of the home supporters, the linesman, poor chap, did not flag). And when Minnie skipped clear to slide his little beauty into the net, Ceri Hughes was running in the opposite direction from an offside position — again without interfering or seeking to gain an advantage.

So what did the circular from Ken Ridden at the F.A. actually say (the one these linesmen had read)? The relevant passage said: "To contribute fully to the enjoyment of all games by spectators and players alike, referees and linesmen are expected to co-operate fully to consistently apply this law so that unnecessary halts and unfair punishments are avoided. Recently, referees have been reminded to insist that their linesmen should indicate with the flag only for offside offences and linesmen themselves have been reminded not to raise the flag merely because a player is located in an offside position.

"Their rules are not easy ones. They have the onerous responsibility of deciding quickly and fairly whether a player is interfering with play or with an opponent or is seeking to gain an advantage, specifically at the precise moment the ball is passed to a colleague of the attacker. They therefore have to read the pattern of play, follow players' movements and remember the Law's requirements, all at the same time. It is not an easy task!"

Too right, Ken. I think I'll take up something else on Saturday mornings....



David Preece nets the Town's totally legitimate
winner against Cardiff City.

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Rovers' cup dream ends in tears

NEWS ON ONE BY TIM COLLINGS

It may have ended in tears at Villa Park, but didn't Tranmere Rovers do the Endsleigh League Division One proud? You simply could not have asked for a more entertaining or dramatic cup-tie than their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg meeting with Aston Villa. It had just about everything.....

"We should have had it all sewn up in the first quarter of an hour," said John King, the dignified Tranmere manager, after the game. "We opened them up like a tin of sardines and a goal then would have killed them off.

"My boys battled and they did me proud. But unfortunately, you get nothing for that. We were just one kick from Wembley. Instead, all we've got is big men crying...It is a real tear job. It is almost as if someone has died. It is very hard to say the right things when your boys are in tears."

Mr King was even fair and reasonable when it came to reflecting on the first-half decision when Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich brought down John Aldridge. "Everyone in our dugout thought the keeper would be sent off.

"But I am not complaining. The referee made his decision and we will abide by it. I am not going to call anyone a cheat. I've not asked the referee for an explanation. I was more concerned with looking after my players — they were in tears afterwards. It was a brilliant cup-tie but it really hurts."

So, Merseyside's team-of-the-season failed to make it to Wembley and it is now down to those us left carrying the Endsleigh League flag to make the most of our turn in next weekend's FA Cup quarter-finals. And, after seeing West Ham's performance against Manchester United, we know it will not be easy.

But enough of idle cup chatter. Let us concentrate on what has been happening in this tightest of tight and unpredictable leagues with some special mentions for Oxford United, West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City.

All three had been struggling until the Saturday before last when they surprised most observers with their results. Birmingham, Barry Fry's sleeping giant, stirred themselves to take a point off Derby at the Baseball Ground with a goal from Steve Claridge

which, in one newspaper I read, seemed sufficient to elevate the former Hatters' striker into the £1 million class.

West Brom succeeded with something just as unlikely in travelling to the wonderful new Molineux and winning 2-1 against Wolves in front of a 28,039 crowd. Yes, 28,000 to see the Black Country derby between two traditional big clubs now fallen on hard times.

The result was good for West Brom, helping them climb away from the relegation zone while for Wolves it was their third defeat in a revival run of 26 games. Wolves boss Graham Turner was not too happy. "We've got to make up for this defeat by beating Ipswich and then finishing in the top six," he said.

And Oxford? Having shaken Leeds United and then so nearly repeating the treatment for Chelsea, after which their league form plummeted, they recovered to beat much-fancied Nottingham Forest 1-0. (Yes, I tipped Forest, didn't I, a couple of weeks ago; definitely the kiss of death).

A goal from unsung makeshift full-back Alex Dyer did the trick, two minutes from time, leaving even Stuart Pearce admitting that the Nottingham team deserved their defeat and the barracking they were given by their own fans.

"We let the fans down," he said. "But there is still a long way to go and all the players feel we will be playing Premiership football again next season."

Oxford, by contrast, are working simply at staying in the First Division, but are enjoying it. "Our recent FA Cup run against Leeds and Chelsea has created a buzz," said winger Chris Allen, a player tipped for the top. "We're starting to have confidence in ourselves." He could say the same for a lot of teams moving upwards in our highly-competitive division this year.

New ventures: the way ahead for local businesses



COMMERCIAL FOCUS BY KATHY LEATHER

Over the past few weeks, we have introduced new faces into our department who have brought new ideas and a fresh outlook to the commercial activities at the club.

We intend to be more forward planning for future events, especially in today's market when competition is high for new business.

Luton Town, like any other business, need to compete in the commercial world and are currently looking at new and exciting ventures to be held at the various hospitality suites at Kenilworth Road.

We are currently looking at holding business luncheons at the club, with a variety of speakers from sports personalities to local business celebrities.

We envisage these to be held every two or three months and will enable local businesses to make new contacts and witness

the excellent facilities on offer for conferences and seminars at Kenilworth Road.

We currently have a few executive boxes available between now and the end of the current season. For further details, please contact the commercial department on (0582) 411622.

In box 11 today we are pleased to welcome five visitors from Queensland, Australia: John Davies, Donna Luxton, Catherine Oxenham, Malcolm Pollock and Steven Wallace. They are in the Luton area on a Rotary International Educational Exchange, and are being looked after by the Luton North Rotary Club.



Gary Hooper, in the company of Graham Vail, John Wadsworth and James Morrison, is presented with a cheque, from British Gas, for £1,750. The donation will help fund the development of our Learning Through Football programme.

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Tonight's match is sponsored in memory of Mike Wolstenholme.

Mike Wolstenholme was born on April 23, 1926 in Sheffield - a born and bred Sheffield Wednesday fan. However, he later moved to the Rectory Farm in St Neots, where he farmed for 40 years. His great interests were his family, football and farming.

Although born in the north, Mike succumbed to the attractions of Luton Town, a side he liked for their style and imagination.

Mike was a constant companion of Richard Banks (a former Luton Town director) at nearly all away games as well as being a Century Club member. Richard and Mike shared many memorable moments, with the victory at Maine Road in 1983 most notable.

Mike continued to support Luton with a passion tempered with intelligence until his death last year. He is missed by all those who knew him and who watch our wonderful game.

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ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIV. 1

	F-A	Att	Pos
Aug 14 Watford	2-1		
Aug 17 Cambridge United (CCC11)	0-1		
Aug 21 Portsmouth	0-1		
Aug 24 Cambridge United (CCC12)	0-1	16	
Aug 28 Nottingham Forest	1-2	16	
Aug 31 Watford (A/C)	1-2	22	
Sep 7 Southend United (A/C)	1-1	2	
Sep 11 Bolton Wanderers	0-2	24	
Sep 14 Tranmere Rovers	1-4	24	
Sep 18 Middlesbrough	0-0	23	
Sep 25 Birmingham City	12,487	23	
Oct 2 Barnsley	0-2	11,081	
Oct 5 Bristol City	5-0	21	
Oct 9 Derby County	0-2	21	
Oct 16 Notts County	1-0	24	
Oct 20 Sunderland	0-2	21	
Oct 23 Oxford United	1-0	19	
Oct 30 Leicester City	0-2	21	
Nov 2 Crystal Palace	2-3	10,925	
Nov 7 Charlton Athletic	1-0	18	
Nov 13 Southend United	1-2	18	
Nov 27 Stoke City	6-2	16	
Dec 4 Charlton Athletic	0-1	17	
Dec 11 Tranmere Rovers	0-1	7,121	
Dec 19 Watford	2-2	7,953	
Dec 27 Peterborough United	0-0	21	
Dec 29 Grimsby Town	2-1	7,234	
Jan 1 West Bromwich Albion	1-1	16,138	
Jan 15 Notts County	2-1	6,589	
Jan 18 Southend United (FAC3)	1-0	17	
Jan 22 Derby County	2-1	9,371	
Jan 29 Newcastle United (FAC4)	1-1	32,216	
Feb 5 Oxford United	3-0	17	
Feb 9 Newcastle United (FAC4B) 7.45 pm	2-0	12,503	
Feb 15 Leicester City (FAC6)	1-2	16,149	
Feb 20 Cardiff City (FAC5)	2-1	17,296	
Feb 22 Portsmouth	4-1	6,533	
Feb 26 Sunderland	2-1	17	
Mar 5 Nottingham Forest	1-2	9,367	
Mar 8 Middlesbrough 7.45 pm	1-2	14	
Mar 14 West Ham United (FAC6) 8.00 pm			
Mar 16 Bolton Wanderers 7.30 pm			
Mar 19 Birmingham City			
Mar 22 Wolverhampton Wanderers 7.45 pm			
Mar 26 Barnsley			
Mar 30 Peterborough United			
Apr 2 Grimsby Town			
Apr 4 West Bromwich Albion			
Apr 9 Crystal Palace			
Apr 16 Bristol City			
Apr 19 Wolverhampton Wanderers			
Apr 23 Middlesbrough 7.45 pm			
Apr 26 Southend United			
Apr 30 Stoke City			
May 7			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Av. Att	Leading League Goalscorers
Crystal Palace	33	18	8	7	57	37	62	15,065	Armstrong 17, Salako 8, Southgate 8
Charlton Athletic	32	16	7	9	43	30	55	7,640	Nelson 9, Leaburn 7, Pardew 7
Leicester City	32	15	9	8	52	39	54	15,029	Speedie 11, Thompson 7, Roberts 7
Nottingham Forest	32	15	9	8	51	34	54	22,668	Golymore 13, Gemmill 8
Millwall	31	14	10	7	42	34	52	10,466	Rae 10, Verner 5
Derby County	33	15	6	12	51	47	51	15,838	Gabbiadini 13, Pembridge 9
Stoke City	33	14	9	10	43	44	51	15,681	Orlygsson 8, Regis 7
Notts County	33	15	4	14	48	54	49	11,394	McSweegan 12, Draper 8
Tranmere Rovers	32	14	7	11	44	39	49	7,170	Aldridge 10, Brannan 8, Malkin 8
Wolverhampton W	32	11	13	8	46	32	46	25,322	Bull 13, Kelly 9
Bolton Wanderers	33	12	10	11	43	40	46	12,057	McGinlay 15, Coyle 6
Bristol City	33	12	10	11	34	37	46	9,165	Allison 12, Baird 5, Tinnion 5
Southend United	33	13	5	15	47	47	44	4,913	Otto 10, Jones 6
Middlesbrough	30	11	10	9	40	31	43	9,936	Moore 8, Hendrie 7, Wilkinson 7
Sunderland	32	12	6	14	33	38	42	15,443	Gray 9, Goodman 6
LUTON TOWN	31	12	5	14	42	40	41	7,913	Dixon 7, Oakes 7, Hughes 6
Portsmouth	33	10	11	12	36	45	41	11,295	Durnin 6, McLoughlin 5, Walsh 5
Grimsby Town	31	8	14	9	38	37	38	6,116	Mendoza 12, Groves 6
West Bromwich Albion	33	9	10	14	45	50	37	16,973	Taylor 13, Hunt 10
Watford	33	9	7	17	49	65	34	8,231	Furlong 14, Porter 8
Barnsley	31	9	7	15	40	48	34	6,995	Redfearn 11, Rammell 5
Peterborough United	32	7	10	15	30	40	31	7,167	Adcock 8, Charley 5
Birmingham City	34	7	9	18	33	54	30	14,834	Peschisolido 8, Saville 7
Oxford United	32	7	8	17	34	59	29	8,139	Cusack 6, Dyer 5
(up to and including 6.3.94)									

Endsleigh Insurance League Division One Table 1993-94

Luton Town F.C. Appearances and Goalscorers 1993-94

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

MICHAEL PIERCE

(Portsmouth)

An electrician, Michael is married with two children. He commenced refereeing in Portsmouth in 1987 and progressed via the Hampshire and Football Combination Leagues, to the full League list in 1989. He lists his hobbies as cricket and most sports.

Endsleigh Insurance League Division One Table 1993-94

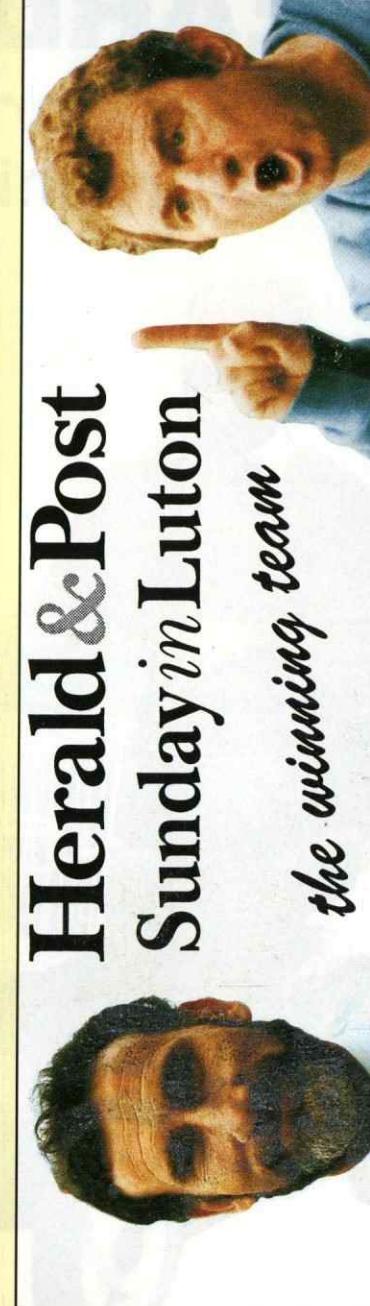
Luton Town F.C. Appearances and Goalscorers

League Apps	C C Cup Apps	Al Cup Apps	Gls	FA Cup Apps	Gls
3	1	1	-	-	-
Geoff Aunger	2(1)	1	2	-	-
Ian Benjamin	-1(1)	-	-	-	-
Mark Burke	-	-	-	-	-
Jamie Campbell	4(8)	-	-	-	-
Paul Dickov	8(7)	1	-	-	-
Kerry Dixon	20(1)	7	-	-	-
John Dreyer	28	1	2	1	2(1)
David Greene	-	1	-	-	-
Alan Harper	26	1	-1(1)	2(1)	1
John Hartson	12(8)	3	1(1)	2(1)	1
Scott Houghton	6(8)	1	1(1)	-	-
Ceri Hughes	29	6	2	2	4
Julian James	14(4)	2	2	1	4
Marvin Johnson	17	3	2	1	1
Des Linton	22(1)	-	-	-	-
Scott Oakes	23(3)	7	1(1)	-	-
Trevor Peake	-	2	-1(1)	-	-
Ceri Hughes	-	2	2	2	2
Julian James	-	2	1	1	4
Marvin Johnson	-	2	-	1	1
Des Linton	-	1	-	-	-
Scott Oakes	-	1	-1(1)	-	-
Trevor Peake	-	2	2	2	2
Andy Petterson	-	-	-	-	-
David Preese	16	3	2	1	1
Jason Rees	7(1)	-	-	-	-
Juergen Sommer	31	2	-	-	-
Paul Telfer	29(1)	5	1	-	-
Tony Thorpe	14(4)	1	-	-	-
Mitchell Thomas	9	1	-	-	-
Martin Williams	4(9)	1	-1(1)	-	-
Matthew Woolgar	-	-	-	-	-



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