

LUTON TOWN v BIRMINGHAM CITY



**SATURDAY,
MARCH 19,
1994
KICK-OFF
3.00 pm**

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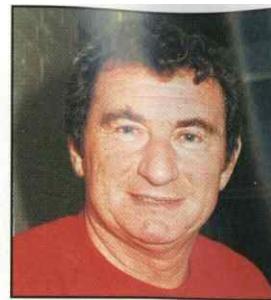


ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

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Keeping our feet on the ground, to the maximum effect

ON THE BALL WITH DAVID PLEAT



A very warm welcome this afternoon to our visitors from Birmingham City, their directors, players, supporters and management. Barry Fry, a man of Bedfordshire, has had a chequered and exciting management career and now faces another challenge.

I am sure Barry will succeed and I hope he can preserve Birmingham's status for no other reason than that provided by the tremendously brave support he has received from his chairman since taking office. We have no intention, of course, of being gracious today and it is up to our players to dismiss any mental excitement or weariness and get on with the job of accumulating league points.

The tremendous challenge we faced at West Ham was met by great determination and our board and players would like to thank our supporters who raised their voices high against the West Ham bubbles. It is encouraging to know there is such enormous backing for our team. I am more aware than anyone that nothing has been achieved yet and that next Wednesday we will be flying the Endsleigh League flag and will need to be at our very best to come through.

When the Bolton fixture was stamped by the Football League we did not envisage another important Cup game a week later. As a result, the Wolves game has now to be rearranged and there is a danger of a fixture backlog. My immediate thoughts are to gain nine or 10 points as quickly as possible so that I can continue the theme of introducing younger players for odd games to see how they react to the pace and pressure of league football.

"IT IS UP TO OUR PLAYERS TO DISMISS MENTAL EXCITEMENT OR WEARINESS AND GET ON WITH THE JOB OF ACCUMULATING POINTS"

His professionalism is an example to all the younger players.

Alan Harper has taken over the captain's armband with a real flourish. Alan does not attract the plaudits with flamboyant displays but is always covering and available to set our attack in motion. His contribution in midfield has been crucial to us in our post-December improvement.

Like all our supporters, deep down, I



Kerry Dixon is still on course to meet his old club Chelsea in this season's F.A. Cup semi final.

look at the way ahead with bright eyes, but after all my years in football I always tend to veer on the side of caution. You never know what lies around the next corner. It is my job to make sure everyone keeps their feet on the ground and we all, both on and off the pitch, keep working hard to maximum effect. Like Liverpool in the 1960's, 1970's and the 1980's, we cannot believe it will go on and on. We all have to work and prepare for every tomorrow.

It is important now that all our energy is directed to helping the club progress and to bring more support in. The challenge now is to take the club on and that effort very much depends on gaining an

improved hard core of support. This brings confidence into the boardroom and that is vital to us all. Let us hope that we can continue to enjoy some pleasurable afternoons.

Finally, a very warm welcome to our sponsors for today's match Lucozade Sport and C.P. Contracts. We hope you both have an enjoyable afternoon with us.

Enjoy the game.

Ceri stakes an international claim

AROUND THE TOWN

HUGHES IN TOSACK'S PLANS



Ceri Hughes staked his claim for a place in John Toshack's European Championship squad, with a competent 45 minutes for Wales against Norway last week. He earned his second cap, despite playing for the Hatters against Middlesbrough the previous night.

Despite the result - a 3-1 reverse - at Ninian Park, he was pleased with the way things went. "It was an honour to be involved and to get 45 minutes under my belt was great," he said. "I was a bit tired towards the end, but hopefully this is only the start. I feel I have a chance of making a regular place in the side for myself, but I must keep my Luton form going."

DAVIS ON ENGLAND DUTY

Youth team goalkeeper Kelvin Davis represented the England under-17 side, which faced an Independent Schools XI at Marlow, on Monday, March 7. Jamie Woodsford and Paul McLaren, who were also selected for the squad, missed the game through injury.

INJURY UPDATE

Town physio Andy McDade reports that Aaron Skelton has started training again after picking up a groin injury during our reserves' game at Millwall. Youth team captain Paul



McLaren is likely to be out of action for another week after his cartilage operation.

Following our home match with Middlesbrough on March 8, the needle and cotton ran out at Kenilworth Road! Julian James had eight stitches in his left ear and Alan Harper had four stitches in a shin injury. They both joined Scott Houghton who had ten stitches inserted in an ankle following our reserves' game at West Ham that same night!

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We extend our congratulations to Julian James, who will be 24 on Wednesday. Belated greetings are also sent to Darren Salton, who was 22 last Wednesday. Darren is still in high spirits and battling back to fitness.

SCHOOLBOY SIGNING

The latest of our associated schoolboys signed for the club in the past week. Paul Beverstock, from Waltham Cross, has been attending the Vauxhall/LTFC School of Excellence in Stevenage for three years and regularly plays for our under-14 side. A mid-field player, he has represented Hertfordshire County schools and attends Turnford Secondary School.

TODAY'S REFEREE

Paul Durkin, from Portland in Dorset, is a fitter and is married with one son. He commenced refereeing in 1974 and progressed via the Dorset and Western Leagues, to the full League list in 1987. His main hobby is playing golf.

FIRST DIVISION FIXTURE LIST

This weekend's other First Division fixtures are: Bristol City v Portsmouth; Crystal Palace v Charlton; Derby v Notts County; Leicester v Barnsley; Middlesbrough v WBA; Millwall v Peterborough; Nottingham Forest v Bolton; Oxford v Tranmere; Southend v Stoke; Sunderland v Watford; Wolves v Grimsby.

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Dates arranged for reserve and youth fixtures



ON THE INSIDE BY JOHN SMYLINE

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Bygrave, R. Safranek,
J. Hudson, D. Ludlow,
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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)

■ Following our F.A. Cup sixth round draw with West Ham United last Monday, the replay will take place here at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday (March 23), 1994. For details of ticket arrangements and ticket office opening hours, see page 15 of today's match day magazine.

■ Please note the following dates for your diary: our outstanding Neville Ovenden fixture with Brighton & Hove Albion has now been arranged for Friday, April 6, kick-off 2.00 pm. Meanwhile, the quarter-final of the Eastern Junior Cup will be played at Cambridge United's Abbey Stadium on Thursday, April 21, kick-off 7.30 pm. The winners will then be at home to Ipswich Town in the semi-final.

■ Dates have also been agreed for the two legs of our Bedfordshire Premier Cup final against Bedford Town. The first leg will be played at Bedford on Thursday, April 7, kick-off 7.30 pm with the return here at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday, April 13, kick-off 7.30 pm.

■ This year the Bedfordshire Football Association are celebrating their centenary. Various events have been organised, including a knockout football competition with representatives from clubs and leagues under their jurisdiction. The final will be played here at Kenilworth Road on Thursday, May 5, kick-off 7.30 pm.

■ We welcomed to the club this week, our latest signing to the administration staff - Joanna Pool. She will be carrying out secretarial work for both myself and David Pleat. Joanna is no stranger to the football scene as she previously worked as a secretary at Leicester City. We are sure she will quickly settle into her new surroundings and will enjoy working in our friendly environment.

■ Remember, the Bobbers Travel Club are running coaches for our next away game at Barnsley. The cost will be £9.00 adults and £7.20 children/OAP's. Coaches depart from 9.30 am and from Luton at 10.30 am, with the normal pick-up points en route.

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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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.

Another game, another chance on our road to Wembley



CAPTAIN'S COLUMN BY TREVOR PEAKE

My own personal disappointment soon disappeared during our magnificent display against West Ham United on Monday night. We now have a good chance on home soil next week, as Wembley beckons for the winners...

It had been 50-50 in the run-up to the game on Monday whether I would make it or not. I had no trouble running, but kicking the ball was another matter. Although the injury had cleared up sufficiently enough to be in with a chance, it was decided that the risk to play me was too high, particularly in such an important game. It was a huge blow to me, but I wished David Greene all the best.

I am a terrible spectator and at Upton Park I was itching to be out there playing, and as the game swung one way and then the other, it made watching unbearable at times. But all credit to the lads, they stuck in there



Kerry Dixon is the centre of attention during our F.A. Cup press day last week.

and matched the Hammers in every department on the pitch. In the second-half, we looked to more likely winners and I thought Des Linton's effort was goalbound.

I must congratulate Greenie on the way he played. You would never have thought that it was only his third start in professional football. A couple of early tackles settled his nerves and he looked accomplished throughout. I might even have trouble getting back in the team now!

Back to today's game. We are expecting Birmingham to be tougher opponents than many people think. They are desperate for the points to get out of trouble and will bring a large following to back them all the way. We too are not out of the woods yet, so we will want to pull clear as soon as possible to give ourselves some breathing space.

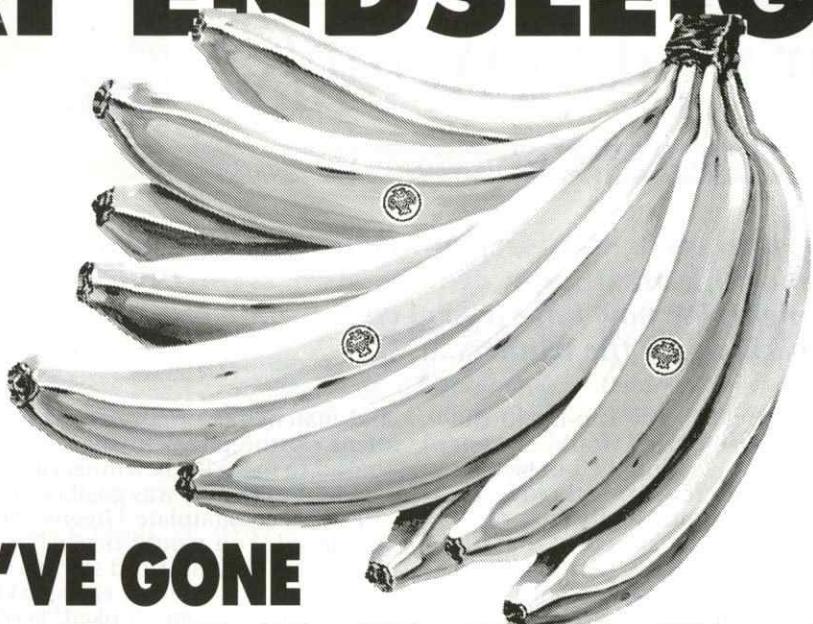
Finally, a big thank you to all the supporters who travelled to Upton Park, and to those very loyal fans who made the trip up to Bolton on Wednesday night. Your support really is appreciated and does not go unnoticed by the players.

See you on Wednesday!

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Endsleigh

The football coach: an Oscar for creative genius?

TALKING POINT BY TIM COLLINGS

Professional football is part and parcel of the entertainment industry and we should have no qualms about being compared with the film and theatrical world, says the general secretary of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Sepp Blatter. But is he right?

Once upon a time a footballer's only responsibilities were to do his best and play to win once he crossed the white line on to the pitch. And a trainer/coach's job was to make sure his players were fit and to pick a team. Today, it is very different.

A professional at the top of his form will be expected to perform with high standards on and off the pitch and to entertain crowds not only in the stadia of his league, but also in front of television sets up and down the country.

He is an ambassador for his club and has a duty to remain responsible in his actions, so far as possible, at all times. That means not only wearing a club tie, looking smart and tidy, talking positively about his club and his club's sponsors and commercial partners off the pitch, but also ensuring he obeys instructions and plays within the philosophy of his club's coach when he is on the pitch.

At Sheffield United or Wimbledon, that may mean looking for long balls into the channels or running hard and competing for everything; at Tottenham it may mean weaving pretty patterns across midfield; at West Ham it may mean firing in firm ground passes and early crosses to the near post; for England, it could mean playing within a rotating and free-moving midfield structure. Each system, of course, mirrors the vision of the coach and the traditions of the club.

"Is it really the players who direct the course of play in football? Would it not be truer to say that this is the role of the coaches on the sidelines?" said Blatter. "They are the ones who dictate the team's strategy on the pitch, who decide whether tactics will concentrate on defence or attack and how much creative liberty each player may take.

"The influence of the coach during the actual 90 minutes of play is not very significant. It is

what he impresses on his squad before and after training sessions that makes or breaks them. Coaches are football's true philosophers, breathing inspiration into the flow of play with their constructive comments (or, occasionally, destruction with destructive diatribes)."

Blatter, well-known within the corridors of international football for his enterprising vision for the future of the game, has announced that the introduction of a football 'Oscar' for the most artistic director on the coaching benches during this year's World Cup finals in the United States. It is an intriguing idea.

Blatter explained: "The duty of the coach is to mould the game into a spectacle like his counterpart, the film director. This responsibility will be particularly decisive at the forthcoming World Cup in the USA where a positive trend must be cultivated for the years to come.

"FIFA has now created a new football 'Oscar' for the most artistic director. This year in the USA, not only will the best team be showered with honours but the selection with most entertaining football will be awarded a prize as well.

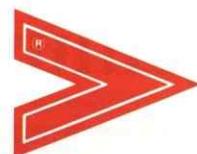
"It would be a dream come true if both awards were presented to the same selection. If a team were to triumph on the strength of a spectacular display, then surely the ideal squad will have been crowned kings of football."

How right he is! The Brazil of 1982 certainly deserved some reward for their part in the tournament which ended with Italy as World Cup winners. But the Brazil of 1970 would have swept the board in Mexico and deservedly so. It would have been a rarity, however. For the entertainers are so seldom the overall winners when trophies are collected.



David Pleat, from the group of 'football's true philosophers'

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Fans' Forum



CAR CRIME - CAN MORE BE DONE?

Dear Sir,

My father and I follow Luton Town. I have been watching the club for sevens years, while my father has been attending matches for over 30 years.

This season we have followed them regularly and have enjoyed the team's success in the Cup. We watched the 1-0 win against Southend United and parked our car safely under a lamppost, but when we returned we found our passenger side lock had been drilled off, the back window smashed and the radio taken.

Then a few weeks on, we eventually got tickets for Newcastle United. We decided this time to park safely on Dunstable Road. We watched the Hatters overcome Newcastle and after the celebrations, we headed back.

As we approached our car, we saw people looking and discovered our other back window had been smashed, along with the front windscreen. The next day we asked the police if there was any way of avoiding this petty crime and they told us "stop watching Luton", which I found disgusting.

With the amount of police controlling the - as always - well behaved fans, surely some of them could be on the surrounding streets preventing crime?

John Cobb, 9 Rayners Close, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts SG8 7TF

A TRUE AMBASSADOR FOR LUTON

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Queensmen Football Club, we would like to thank Juergen Sommer for attending our recent football forum.

Juergen proved to be a good ambassador for your club. He won over the audience with his pleasant, genial manner and his thoughtful answers to the many questions.

I have had many favourable comments from people who attended the event.

May I wish Luton Town FC continued success.

Mick Baron, Queensmen Football Club, 81 Dunstable Street, Ampthill MK45 2NQ.

ELECTRONIC HATTERS

I am looking for people to join our LTFC mailing list. Basically, this is a group of people who communicate with each other via computer (email). Exchanging usual rantings, along with the latest news, we try to keep each other up to date with what's going on at the club, this being a great help to those living many miles away (the US for example).

On another matter, there are two Luton supporters desperate for lifts from Oxford to Luton, rather than taking the train in and out of London! Any offers would be greatly appreciated.

Ralph Highnam, 84 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6JT.

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Action Replay

PICTURES BY JOSH LEVY

From: Kenilworth Road
Date: March 8, 1993
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(Dreyer pen)
MIDDLESBROUGH 1
(Mustoe)
Attendance: 6,741



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Ticket Office news update



BY CHERRY NEWBERY

Luton Town v West Ham United

FA CUP SIXTH ROUND REPLAY

Wednesday, March 23, 1994 - kick off 7.45pm
This is an ALL TICKET match - no tickets are available on the day of the match. MEMBERS (subject to availability) - may claim one ticket each from Friday, March 18 to Sunday, March 20 inclusive. GUEST TICKETS (subject to availability) - season ticket holders and members may purchase one guest ticket each (not for Kenilworth Seating or Terracing) on Monday, 21st and Tuesday, 22nd March.

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).

Millwall v Luton Town

Wednesday, March 30, 1994 - kick-off 7.45 pm

Seating is priced at £10.00 (no concessions). Pay at the turnstile on the night of the match only. Use North Stand turnstiles 28 to 36.

Luton Town v Peterborough United

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE Saturday, April 2, 1994 - kick-off 3.00 pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale at the discounted price. Guesting facilities apply.

Ticket Office Hours

Saturday, March 19: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm and after the match as required (Members)

Sunday, March 20: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm (Members)

Monday, March 21: 10.00 am - 9.00 pm (Guest tickets on sale)

Tuesday, March 22: 10.00 am - 9.00 pm (Guest tickets on sale)

Travelling to...

Barnsley

Address: Oakwell Ground, Grove Street, Barnsley.
Telephone: (0226) 295353.

Take the M1 north to junction 37. Follow signs Barnsley (A628). At Barnsley, bear left into Shambles Street (one-way) then at T-junction turn left, then right into Regent Street (one-way). At end turn right into Eldon Street (one-way) then left into Kendray Street. Continue under bridge and bear left into Bala Street, then right into Grove Street for ground.

Millwall

Address: The New Den, Zampa Road, Bermondsey SE16 3LH.
Telephone: (071) 232 1222.

Take the M1 south to junction 2. Leave main motorway (signs North Circular Road, East) and join the A1. Follow A1 (signs City) into Holloway. At Highbury Corner follow signs Shoreditch (A1200) then in 1.5 miles join City Road (A501). At roundabout, take 1st exit (Shoreditch) then turn right onto A10 for Whitechapel. At Whitechapel follow signs ring road to Tower Bridge. At roundabout, take 1st exit A2 (signs Dover) then in 1.6 miles turn left into Ilderton Road then right into Zampa Road for ground.

Directions courtesy of the Automobile Association.

Spotlight on today's visitors

BIRMINGHAM CITY F.C. 1993-94

■ An indifferent start to the season saw Terry Cooper's Birmingham City fail to live up to the expectations placed on them at the start of the 1993-94 campaign. Only two victories (3-2 at Barnsley and 3-0 home to Derby County) in their opening ten league matches plunged the club back into the relegation zone, an area they fought so hard to escape from last season. Cooper was eventually dismissed, and Barry Fry was prised away from high-flying Southend United in a bid to halt the slide.

■ His ability to work against the odds, at Roots Hall and earlier Barnet, was the primary reason why City managing director Karren Brady brought him to St Andrews. Allied with the financial input of owner David Sullivan, things looked bright for 1994.

■ However, an injury crisis, combined with a number of new signings, brought into the team within a short space of time, has not helped matters since. At the time of writing, City lie in 23rd position in the league table, with 30 points from 34 games. They have not won a league game since the defeat of West Bromwich Albion on December 28.

■ Chris Whyte and Danny Wallace are two such players who have been missing this term.



Back row (left to right): Kenny Lowe, John Frain, Keith Downing, Jason Beckford, Paul Harding, Richard Scott, Ben Sedgemore, George Parris, Adam Wratten, Darren Rogers, Steve Claridge.
Middle row (left to right): Phil Edwards (physio), Dave Howell (coach), Paul Tait, Roger Willis, Andy Saville, Paul Moulden, Louie Donowa, Peter Shearer, Ted McMinn, Chris Whyte, Richard Dryden, Paul Fenwick, Liam Daish, Edwin Stein (coach), Lil Fuccillo (chief scout).
Front Row (left to right): Steve McGavin, David Smith, Paul Peschisolido, Scott Hiley, Danny Wallace, Ian Bennett, Barry Fry (manager), Kevin Miller, Gary Cooper, Lyndon Hooper, Vasili Kalogeracos, Steve



VISITORS ON PARADE

KEVIN MILLER (goalkeeper) - A £250,000 signing from Exeter City last year, Kevin had enjoyed four successful seasons at St James' Park. Despite the signing of Ian Bennett from Peterborough earlier in the season, Kevin has kept his place in the side.

RICHARD HUXFORD (defender) - Richard recently joined the Blues on a one-month loan spell from Millwall. Unable to gain a regular place in Mick McCarthy's side, he has been a regular at right-back since his arrival at St Andrews.

JOHN FRAIN (defender) - City's longest serving player, John has been an ever-present in the side for the past four seasons. He worked his way through the junior sides at St Andrews and his loyalty has been rewarded with the club captaincy this season.

CHRIS WHYTE (defender) - A highly-experienced centre-half, Chris started his career with Arsenal and has had spells with the LA Lazers, West Bromwich Albion and Leeds United, with whom he won a First Division championship medal two seasons ago.

LIAM DAISH (defender) - A recent signing from Cambridge United, Liam started his career with Portsmouth in 1986. After making only one appearance for Pompey, he joined Cambridge on a free transfer in 1988. His form at the Abbey Stadium prompted a call-up to the full Republic of Ireland team.

JOSE DOMINGUEZ (midfield) - A £150,000 signing from Benfica last week, Jose was also being chased by Blackburn. A small and skilful midfielder, he shone during his first game for the Blues, in the reserves, against Swansea, and will be looking for a regular first-team place.

GEORGE PARRIS (midfield) - George was signed from West Ham United last season, having made over 300 appearances for the Hammers. He was made club captain last season and played an influential role in the Blues' escape from relegation.

GARY COOPER (midfield) - Gary was signed by Barry Fry on a free transfer from Peterborough United earlier in the season. He started his career with Q.P.R. before joining Maidstone United in 1989. He joined Posh for £20,000 in 1991.

PAUL PESCHISOLIDO (midfield) - City's leading goalscorer this season, Paul was signed from Toronto Blizzard for £33,000 in December 1992. A current Canadian international, he has been tracked by a number of Premiership clubs.

ANDY SAVILLE (forward) - Andy scored seven goals in nine games towards the end of last season which saved the Blues from relegation. He joined the club from Hartlepool United, where he was a prolific scorer, and has also served Hull City, Walsall and Barnsley.

PAUL MOULDEN (forward) - Recently returned to action after injury, Paul started his career with Bristol City. He scored only one goal in 33 appearances for the Robins and was transferred to Birmingham for £65,000 in 1991. His career has since flourished at St Andrews and his return to the side will be a welcome boost for Barry Fry.

STEVE CLARIDGE (forward) - Steve started his career with Portsmouth, and he also had spells at Bournemouth and Crystal Palace, before his career took off at Cambridge United. He led them from Division Four to Two, before joining the Hatters for 1992/93. Later that season he re-joined United, before signing for the Blues in a £500,000 deal a few weeks ago.

KENNY LOWE (midfield) - An experienced midfielder, Kenny has had spells with Hartlepool, Scarborough, Barnet and Stoke. He joined the Blues in December and scored a stunning 25-yard goal on his debut in a 1-0 win against Charlton.

MEET THE BOSS

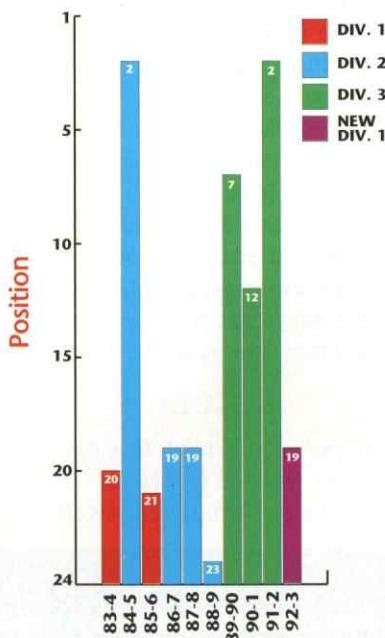


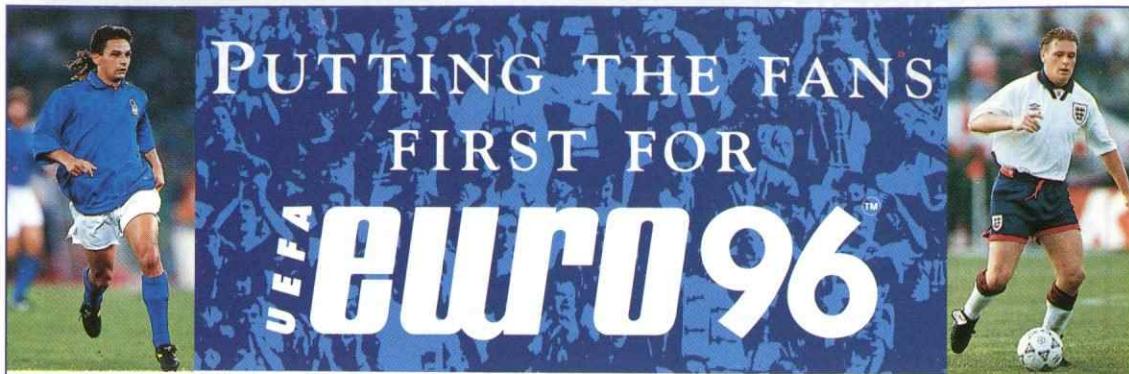
A former Hatter, Barry started his managerial career with Dunstable Town, where he signed the likes of George Best and Jeff Astle. He later served Hillingdon, Bedford and Maidstone before joining Barnet in 1986.

He guided the Bees into the Football League in 1991 and last season helped in their progression to Division Two, before leaving for

Southend United in the final few weeks of the season. He saved the Shrimpers from certain relegation and had guided them to third place in the Division One table this term before he joined Birmingham in December. Despite the indifferent results since his arrival, Barry's sense of humour and personality have been like a breath of fresh air at St Andrews.

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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.

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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).

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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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6 John Dreyer

4 Julian James

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27 Alan Harper

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15 Ceri Hughes

22 Kerry Dixon

8 Scott Oakes

Kevin Miller



Richard Huxford



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HARRY OF THE HATTERS



JUNIOR HATTERS

Awarm welcome to the junior supporters of Birmingham City who have joined us this afternoon. We hope you enjoy your time at Kenilworth Road and we look forward to seeing you again.

Have you heard about mini-soccer? Well, it is an excellent introduction to association football for boys and girls under the age of 11. It is a simplified version of the game you will see at Kenilworth Road this afternoon, the main difference being less players in each team. Mini-soccer helps you learn to play a team game, play to the rules and to understand playing football. We are pleased to inform you that we are running our own mini-soccer courses on Saturday mornings throughout May, June and July. Starting on May 7, it will run from 10.00 - 11.00 am (for the under 6's and 7's) and from 11.30 am - 12.30 pm for the under 8's and 9's. The cost for ten sessions will be £20, so contact Paul Lowe on (0582) 411622 for an application form and get playing!

Remember, the Easter holidays are coming up and

we are running a soccer course at Lea Manor on Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday 7th. The cost will only be £10.00 and from 10.30 am - 2.30 pm on both days, you can enjoy top coaching, fun, games prizes and a certificate at the end of the course. You will also receive a ticket for a forthcoming Luton Town home match. To book, please contact Gary Hooper on (0582) 411622.

Finally, keep an eye out for our Soccer PAL skills demonstration on the pitch at half-time today. Children from Hillsborough Junior School, along with our programme competition winners, will be taking part. The competition we set was: Which country won the first World Cup final in 1930? The answer: Uruguay. Did you get it right?

MATCH DAY MASCOT



Name: Mark Colleran
Date of Birth: 7.5.83
School attended: Edlesborough
Hobbies: Football, tennis, rugby
Football team you play for: Leighton Foxes
Favourite Luton player: Scott Oakes



Who accompanies you to Luton matches: My dad

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JUNIOR HATTERS TRAVEL

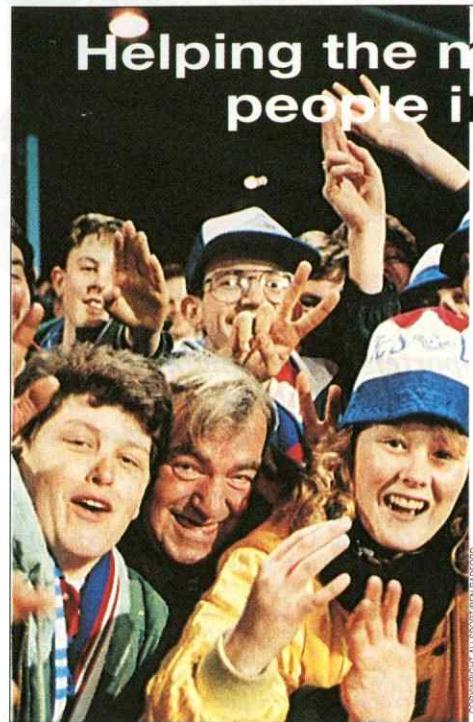
Travel arrangements for the away game at Barnsley is as follows:

26.3.94 Grimsby - 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 19-March 21: John Farquharson, Laura James, Paul Davis, James Harrison, Lorraine Taylor, Darren Orpen, David Minney, Hannah Singleton, Gavin Taylor, Stephen Bibby, Darren Lambury, Kevin Ferdinand, Philip Lockley, John Nolan, Martin Burley, Kris Sharpe, Chris Raynor, Colin Stevens. Happy Birthday to you all!



Helping the most important people in football

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.

Much of this has been achieved with the help of the Football Trust. As part of its commitment to Football, The Trust has granted £4M to set up the National Football and Community Development Scheme.

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- Artificial pitches for local teams
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The last time we met the Blues

The Hatters came away from St Andrews back in September with one point, when it looked a definite three would be in the bag. With the scoreline at 1-1 and with only a minute of normal time left to play, Ceri Hughes found himself clean through and couldn't quite believe his luck when he fired wide from eight yards.

Paul Telfer had drawn the Town level on 77 minutes, after the side had spent much of the second period in their own half. The goal came seconds after John Hartson (below), playing in a lone role in attack after the midweek departure of Ian Benjamin to Brentford, had a fine header cleared off the line.

Earlier Carl Shutt capitalised on a slip by Julian James to head the Blues in front after 32 minutes. Other notable Town efforts in the match came from headers by Marvin Johnson and James, and a 25-yard effort by Scott Oakes (above). "We have got to keep working," was John Moore's reaction after the game. "We worked hard for the point and have got to keep playing for each other. After the first 25 minutes we let our game drop, but in the last ten minutes I thought we were the more likely to score."

Town team: Sommer, James, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson, Telfer, Oakes, Rees, Harper, Hughes, Hartson. Subs: Williams, Campbell, Petterson.

Blues team: Miller, Hiley, Whyte, Dryden, Frain, Tait, Smith, Donowa, Saville, Shutt, McMinn. Subs: Peschisolido, Mardon, Steadman.

Attendance: 11,081.



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	Stofford (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	0-1
Wed	16 Mar	Bristol Rovers	
Wed	23 Mar	Millwall	
Mon	28 Mar	Charlton Athletic	
Tue	5 Apr	Crystal Palace	
Fri	6 Apr	Brighton & H.A.	
Thu	7 Apr	Bedford Town (BPCF1)	
Tue	12 Apr	Bristol City	
Wed	13 Apr	Bedford Town (BPCF2)	
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. Wimbleton (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

LATE GOAL HALTS TURNER'S MEN AGAIN

West Ham United 1

Luton Town 0

Neville Ovenden Football
Combination,
Tuesday, March 8, 1994.

For the second game running, our reserve side were beaten by a late goal, this time at Upton Park by a very strong West Ham United side. The Hammers included first-teamers Butler, Gordon, Gale, Brown, Boere and Jones in their side, although the Town matched them nearly every step of the way.

What made the performance all the more encouraging was the fact that many reserve team regulars had been called into the full squad that day for the match with Middlesbrough, so Wayne had to field a very young side.

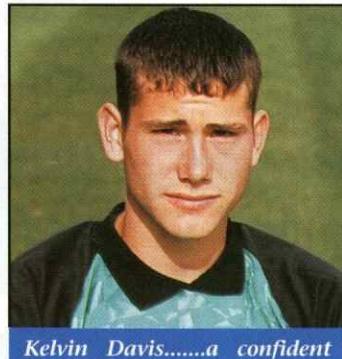
"In that respect I was pleased with the performance," he said. "Kelvin Davis in goal and Gary Simpson in defence were not overawed and coped very well against

the experience of West Ham. They showed their potential. Not having a settled side is something you have to come to terms with being the reserve coach, but we have the players here to deal with it."

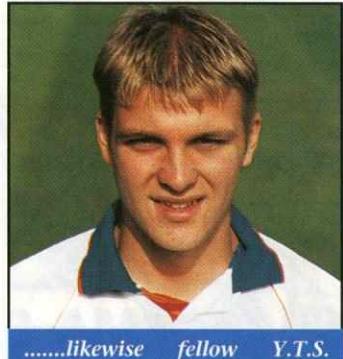
The Town could have taken the lead in the first-half when a Geoff Aunger header hit the post. From the reaction of our side, the ball looked to have crossed the line, but the referee thought otherwise.

"We thought it was a goal, but that is just one of those things," Turner added. "What did disappoint me was that we created a number of similar chances, but did not take any of them. We showed that we could cope playing against experience but we must not sit on our laurels there. I want to see our players rise above that and go on to achieve even more and turn narrow defeats into draws or wins. Remember, we set very high standards at this club."

Team: Davis, Philp, Simpson, Johnson, Rioch, Ryan, Thorpe, Campbell, Gentle, Houghton, Aunger. Subs: Woolgar, Jukes.



Kelvin Davis.....a confident performance.



.....likewise fellow Y.T.S. team-mate Gary Simpson.

"We looked solid throughout the team and centre-half Andrew Jukes added stability at the back. He is gradually returning to fitness after his lengthy injury lay-off and we expect good things from him next season."

The youngsters included left-midfielder Robert Sharpe, who has come to Luton from Chelsea. He gave the side an

and



BY WAYNE TURNER
AND TERRY WESTLEY

SKILL OVERCOMES STRENGTH AT COLCHESTER

Colchester United 0

Luton Town 3

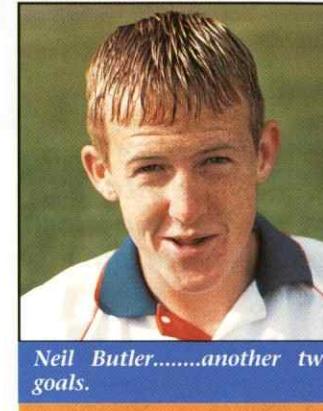
South East Counties League
Division Two,
Saturday, March 5, 1994.

The Town's youth side, which included a number of schoolboys in preparation for next season, overcame a strong and experienced Colchester United side at Layer Road. The result left Terry beaming, as all the boys put in a first-class performance.

"I was delighted, especially when you consider Colchester had nine second-year boys in their team," he said. "They had all the strength and power, but we overcame that with a good passing display on a very good pitch.

"We looked solid throughout the team and centre-half Andrew Jukes added stability at the back. He is gradually returning to fitness after his lengthy injury lay-off and we expect good things from him next season."

The youngsters included left-midfielder Robert Sharpe, who has come to Luton from Chelsea. He gave the side an



Neil Butler.....another two goals.

extra dimension and Terry is looking to sign him up for next season.

"Robert was one of four boys we had in the side who we hope to sign on YTS forms next season," he added. "The others being Sean Evers, Sam Turner and Chris Wilmott. I was delighted with all four of them, and I must also mention Kelvin Davis, who looked accomplished in goal. I was delighted that he was called up to do so well for the reserves against West Ham as well. Remember, he is only a first-year boy."

With three league games left this season, there is still a chance that the Town can win the Second Division title. However Terry's policy will still be to bring on the schoolboys in those games, and not go for the glory. "The youngsters will still be included," he continued. "But I will keep one eye on the other results. It is nice to be in the running, but my main concern is getting the squad ready for next season."

Team: Davis, Wilmott, Jukes, Simpson, Chinery, Goodridge, Evers, Power, Woolgar 1, Sharpe, Butler 2. Subs: Turner, Issott.

YOUTH

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
Thu 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	3-0
Sat 12 Mar	Bristol City	1-5
Sat 26 Mar	Wimbledon	
Sat 9 Apr	Tottenham	
Thu 21 Apr	Cambridge United (EJCQF)	

South East Counties League Division Two Table

(up to and including 5.3.94)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	22	13	1	8	56	39	27
Oxford United	20	11	4	5	43	27	26
Brentford	22	10	6	6	36	25	26
LUTON TOWN	23	11	4	8	38	38	26
Swindon Town	20	10	5	5	36	20	25
Crystal Palace	19	10	5	4	41	26	25
Brighton & H.A.	22	8	5	9	33	39	21
Reading	17	7	6	4	29	24	20
Bristol Rovers	22	8	4	10	35	42	20
Southampton	20	6	5	9	22	24	17
Tottenham Hotspur	21	7	3	11	30	41	17
Colchester United	24	6	5	13	31	53	17
Bournemouth	21	7	1	13	33	45	15
Bristol City	19	3	4	12	21	41	10

Mark Burke: back in first-team action again and out of the First Division wilderness

PLAYER INTERVIEW



Wolves striker Mark Burke joined the Town on loan earlier this month. He believes a chance in the Hatters' first team will kick-start his career back into action after long spells on the sidelines at Molineux. From what we have seen so far, Mark should walk into most teams in the First Division, but as we learned, that has not been the case...

Mark Burke has the football background to shine in most sides. He learned his trade as a youngsters at Aston Villa, enjoyed a spell at Ayresome Park with Middlesbrough, before joining Wolves for a cut-price fee in 1991.

The former England youth international has, however, found his route blocked at Molineux. Firstly he had to contend with the potent strike-force of Steve Bull and Andy Mutch, and more recently David Kelly and Cyrille Regis. Once Guy Whittingham had joined the club on loan from Villa last month, he knew his chances of running out at a packed Molineux were remote. He therefore jumped at the chance of joining the Hatters.

"I had been stuck in the reserves at Wolves for quite some time and didn't see it doing my career any good at all," he said. "The squad is big at Wolves, there are about five or six of us kicking our heels in the reserves at the moment, and I don't seem to be in the boss's plans. I was delighted to come down to Luton. It is important for me to be playing First Division football again. There is no substitute for first-team football. Ten reserve games do not compare to one game in the league."

Mark made his Town debut, as a substitute, in the recent defeat at Nottingham Forest. Injuries halted our progress that day in a poor performance, but the one bright spot was seeing Mark make his first appearance in Hatters colours.

"I was fairly happy with my performance but obviously not with the result. It would have been wrong for me to go straight into the side because Wolves and Luton play a slightly different way to each other. That helped me when I did get on the pitch."

Three days later he made his full debut against one of his former clubs Middlesbrough. Showing a number of fine touches and strikes on goal, the crowd took to him almost immediately. He couldn't crown his performance with a goal, but was satisfied with the way things went nevertheless.

"After being out of things for a while, it is obviously going to take me three or four games to find the pace again," he added. "But I enjoyed myself and I think I fitted in quite well. It was important to get a few early touches and make Pearsy work for his money in the Middlesbrough goal!

David Pleat has given me plenty of advice and he is a good manager to work for. He knows the game inside out and likes the game played on the deck.

"When I arrived here I didn't know the lads, but they have made me feel welcome. They are a good bunch, and skilful with it. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead. Let's hope it is a successful period for both the team and myself."

So what does the future bring for the 25-year-old? He is at Kenilworth Road for a month, but will he be wearing the blue and white for a more definite period?

"I don't know. We'll just have to wait and see," was his honest answer. "My Wolves contract is up at the end of the season so who knows what will happen then?"

"I have signed for a month, but it could be longer depending on how things work out. I just want to concentrate on my football, get in a good run and hopefully score a few goals. We'll then take it from there."



A rare double scored over the Blues



BACK TRACKING BY ROGER WASH

It has been well documented in this column before that Birmingham City have long been regarded as one of our 'bogey' clubs. A win over the Blues used to provoke wild rejoicing in the streets, while the double was unheard of until the 1980's.

In overall results, our first double was achieved in 1982/83 with a 3-2 win at St Andrews followed up by a 3-1 home victory as relegation threatened both clubs. The two clashes the following season both finished as sterile draws as the pattern seemed to be slipping back to the old routine, but in 1985/86 it was back to winning ways for the Town.

By the time of the visit of Birmingham to Kenilworth Road in early November 1985 the Town were sitting fairly comfortably in mid-table while the Blues were just below the half-way mark after suffering four straight defeats. We had won our last home game 4-0 against Southampton to set our season alight but had followed it up with a narrow 3-2 defeat at Anfield and a shock 2-0 home defeat against First Division Norwich in the Milk Cup.

Both Peter Nicholas and David Preece returned to the Town side after injury and Mitchell Thomas was recalled after suspension. The early exchanges did not bode well as it soon became obvious that Birmingham were playing for a point in a bid to halt their losing run. In a poor first-half, the Town were lucky to survive a penalty appeal as Andy Kennedy was sent tumbling in the area by Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey.

The game sprung into life two minutes into the second-half when Preece dropped an accurate corner on to the head of Emeka Nwajiobi who, in turn, flicked the ball on to Brian Stein. He accepted the chance with ease at the far post to put the Town ahead. It was now a different game as the flowing football started to show. It came as no surprise when Mick Harford, playing against the club that sold him to Luton the year before, controlled an accurate cross from Tim Breacker, and turned to shoot past the bemused David Seaman all in one movement.

The remainder of the game was played out at a canter and it was only a succession of five

saves from Seaman that prevented a rout.

By the time of the return, five months later, both teams had played a further 21 games but whereas the Town had picked up 37 points to see them up to sixth place, Birmingham had only gleaned 13. They seemed doomed to relegation to Division Two, the league they had only left the previous season.

A crowd of only 8,836 gathered on a cold afternoon for the first league game to be played at St Andrews on a Sunday but this time, with the Blues desperate for points, the Town were under pressure. But for sterling work by skipper Steve Foster and goalkeeper Sealey, we could have been going in at the interval looking defeat in the face.

As in the home game, however, the Town took the lead early in the second period when Harford, being watched by England manager Bobby Robson, who was still undecided as to his World Cup finals squad for Mexico, coolly took a headed pass from Mal Donaghy in his stride and beat Seaman from ten yards.

With Birmingham chasing the game Harford made sure of the points in the closing seconds when he expertly headed home a cross from the overlapping Tim Breacker to give the scoreline a slightly flattering look, and perhaps put the bogey to rest.

Previous Encounters

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	23	6	6	11	28	31
Away	24	4	7	13	24	49
Total	47	10	13	24	52	80



Brian Stein - netted against the Blues in 1985.

DOWN THE YEARS



It was four defeats on the trot when fellow strugglers Sheffield Wednesday came to Kenilworth Road and escaped with all three points in a disappointing 1-0 win. (18.3.89)



A first-half strike from Brian Stein secured a 1-1 draw at Birmingham City in front of a crowd of 9,592. The result pushed the Town up to seventh position in Division One. (20.3.84).



Promotion-chasing Crystal Palace came to Kenilworth Road and boosted the crowd to 11,008. Unfortunately, a professional performance, and a first-half goal, ensured all three points for the away side. (24.3.79).



The Division Two promotion race heated up when second place Luton met Orient, one place below, at Kenilworth Road. A crowd of 17,045 turned up to see Jimmy Husband net all the Town goals in a famous 3-1 win. (16.3.74).

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LUTON TOWN?



Who was the partner of Trevor Francis at Birmingham City before he came to Luton?

The Town beat Birmingham 3-1 a month before the great Man City match in 1983. Maine Road has a connection today - the scorer of a Town penalty. Who is he?



One of his best mates, then and still today, scored in the 3-2 win at St. Andrew's that season. Who is he?



For the full Match Report, read —

Brian Swain's SPORTSVIEW
IN THE **Luton News** AND **DUNSTABLE GAZETTE**



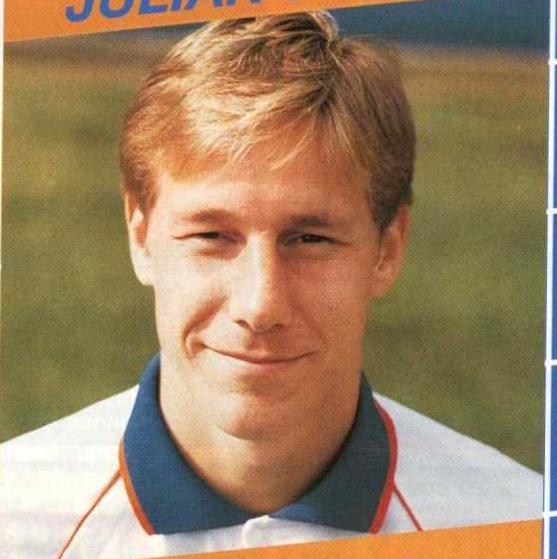
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to Harry Haslam

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? BY ROGER WASH

One of the most popular players to turn out for the Town over the years was 'play anywhere' John Ryan. His swashbuckling style was a regular feature of the Luton side for seven years.

Born in Kent, John first came under the watchful eye of future Town manager Harry Haslam when appearing as an amateur for the Tonbridge reserve side. He made an immediate impression and, out of the blue, Haslam arranged for the young outside-left to have trials at Arsenal.

"When I travelled to Highbury I was staying away from home and in an hotel for the first time in my life," he said. "I soon settled down though and graduated through the youth team to the reserves. Unfortunately, I played a stinker at the end of the season in a game against the Metropolitan Police when the manager, Billy Wright, was watching. The upshot was that I was given a free transfer that summer."

Wright did come back to John admitting that he had been a bit hasty, but by then it was too late as Haslam had arranged for Fulham to step in and sign him. After playing several reserve games alongside the mercurial Rodney Marsh, a First Division debut was won in a game at Stoke in 1965/66.

"A bout of glandular fever set me back a bit at Craven Cottage and two seasons went by before I regained a first team place," he added. "I came back into the side in defence after deputising for John Dempsey in a pre season tour of Germany. I had a good run as we, unfortunately, dropped out of the First Division."

At the end of the 1968/69 season and with Fulham just about to drop once more, new manager Bill Dodgin decided on a complete shake up and John was given another free transfer. He was just about to sign for Ipswich when Harry Haslam appeared again and asked him to come to Kenilworth Road.

"To tell the truth I was not sure which division Luton were in but I trusted Harry and after meeting him and Alec Stock I was sold on to the club - a decision I never regretted.

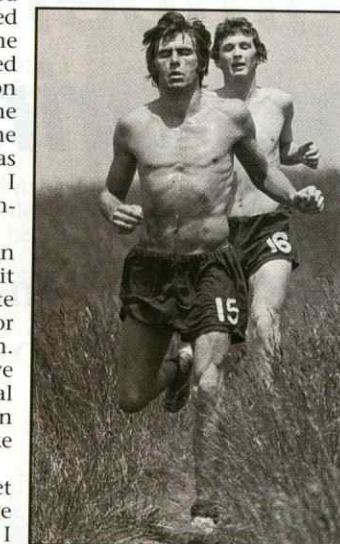
"I enjoyed 286 league games for the Town during a bubbly period in the club's history. We had the two promotions, in 1970 and 1974, and the disappointment of relegation in 1975. That final run-in still leaves me bitter though. Tottenham could not win a raffle that season yet beat Leeds, of all teams, 4-2 in their final game to send us down."

Being one of the players in the side worth money and with the club short of funds, John was transferred to Norwich in 1976 where he had considerable success in Division One before leaving four years later for Sheffield United.

"I then had two summers in the USA playing for Seattle Sounders and was voted on to the NASL 'All-Star' side along with the likes of Johann Cruyff," he pointed out. "Back in England I was asked, in the twilight of my career, to play in Division One again by one of my old managers, John Bond, who was suffering an injury crisis at Manchester City. I was signed as cover and ended up playing 19 games!"

After being told that his legs had gone and that he should retire John had further spells at Stockport and Chester before finishing up at Cambridge United where he eventually ended up as manager, albeit unsuccessfully.

"The job fell into my lap at Cambridge but finances meant that I had to play kids who were not quite ready and so I turned my back on football. About two years ago, however, I was tempted out of retirement by the set-up at Sittingbourne and am now working seven days a week in an attempt to get the club into the Conference".

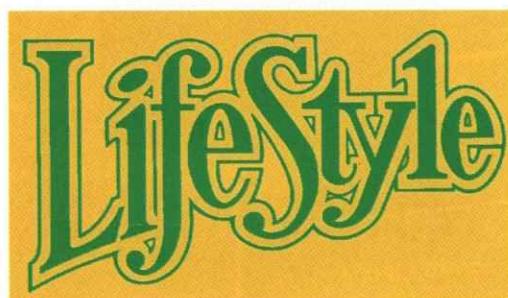




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The Foxes unveil their play-off trump card

NEWS ON ONE

Julian Joachim is gradually emerging at Leicester City as the fans' greatest favourite in years. Yet boss Brian Little is playing sensibly and keeping him under wraps in the hope that he will explode when the play-offs come around.....

Middlesbrough boss Lennie Lawrence saw his team concede the goal he felt was the "best scored against us in the entire season" last Saturday at Filbert Street. The scorer? Yes, Julian Joachim. The kid with pace and skill who is making everyone sit up and take notice.

Last weekend, he played from the start after starting more than half of Leicester's fixtures on the substitutes' bench. It was a good decision by manager Brian Little. Joachim scored a wonderful goal for himself and made another for David Speedie. And Leicester won 2-0 to move up to second place behind Crystal Palace.

For his goal, Joachim latched on to a flick from Speedie and then effortlessly tore away from all challenges before coolly beating the goalkeeper. "No other player on the park could have done that," said Little. "He was like lightning. That is what he is — an out-and-out goalscorer."

Little's problem is that Joachim is still a teenager and could be more valuable to Leicester in the play-offs, if he is nursed along carefully, than he is now in the hurly-burly of the league campaign. But the way he is playing, he might make any talk of the play-offs redundant anyway.

"He is still learning. We have to be very careful," he said. "We have to choose very carefully which games we pick him for. I brought him in today against Middlesbrough because he had a good break last week with the England under-21 team.

"He had a change of atmosphere. Someone rewarded him for his performances this season and that gave him a lift. People expect so much of him. But he cannot do something incredible everytime he gets the ball. Over 90 minutes, though, you do expect one or two flashes of something very special."

Up in Leicester, they call the way Joachim is being handled — Little wraps him up in cotton wool after every game — the RGS. This is better known as the Ryan Giggs Syndrome and means the teenage hot shot is being kept out of trouble and out of the limelight.

That is something that did not happen to Terry Hurlock when he made his return to Millwall's colours the previous weekend against Leicester. The tough midfielder was sent off — but bounced back brilliantly to help inspire Millwall to a 0-0 draw at Derby last weekend.

"I have a point to prove now because I let down myself, the fans and the club last week," he said. "I also need to pay back Mick McCarthy who has been brilliant."

Millwall's points meant they remained ahead of Derby in fifth place and Derby manager Roy McFarland said he was worried by "promotion jitters" creeping into his team. "There were spells when we were almost frightened to play," he said.

Just behind them are Notts County who last weekend inflicted Watford's fifth defeat in six games. Gary Lund's 15th goal of the season secured the points and left Watford, minus transferred Bruce Dyer who is now at Crystal Palace, staring at the possibility of a serious struggle to avoid relegation.

Dyer, who cost Palace £1.2 million, was on the bench as Palace beat West Brom 1-0 to stretch their lead at the top to eight points. The goal came from Paul Stewart, on loan from Liverpool who could release him permanently for a fee of £1.2 million.

While Palace prosper, Tranmere have slumped since their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final defeat by Aston Villa. Last weekend, they slipped further away from the leaders with a 1-0 defeat at battling Barnsley.



Julian Joachim: wrapped in cotton wool.

BBC personality heads the first of our business luncheons

COMMERCIAL FOCUS BY KATHY LEATHER



We mentioned in our last Match Day Magazine that we have several new ventures planned for Luton Town. The first is a business luncheon, which we are sure will greatly benefit those who attend.

On Thursday, April 28 we will be holding the first in a series of business luncheons here at Kenilworth Road. The luncheons will be based on a variety of themes, the first of which will be 'Business in Sport' with Match of the Day commentator John Motson as guest speaker.

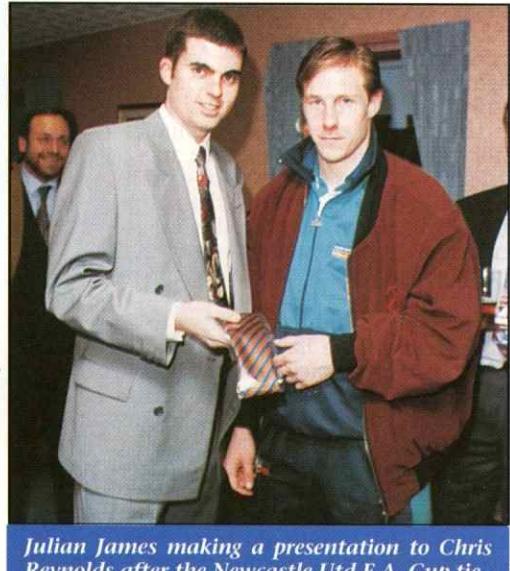
The luncheon will also include a tour of the ground and tickets will cost only £25.00 a head. To book your table, contact the Commercial Department on (0582) 411622.

We would like to welcome the following people who are with us today in our Executive Boxes:

Box 8 - Colin White and Nick Owen

Box 4 - Jonathan Cook, who is celebrating his birthday with his family and friends.

A limited number of executive match day boxes are still available for the remainder of the season. For further details again contact (0582) 411622.



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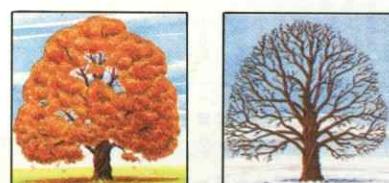
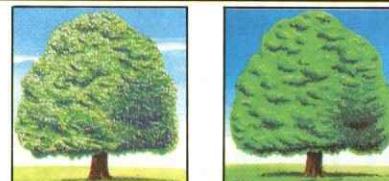
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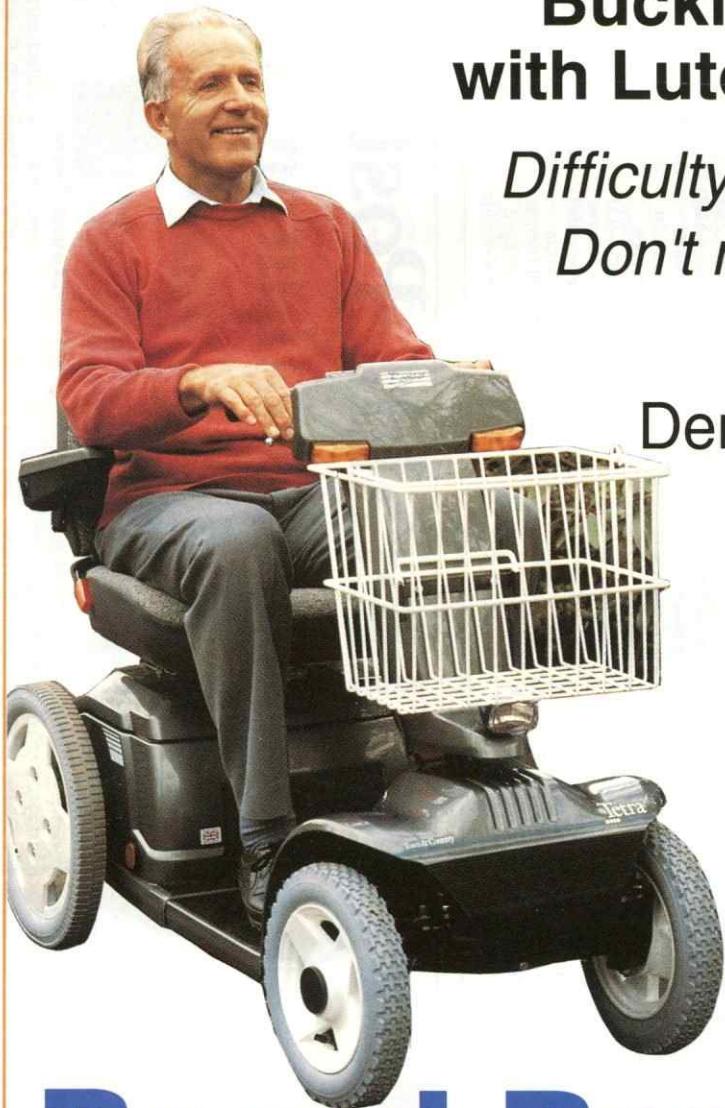


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